

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date and Time	Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 10.00am
Place	Ashburton Hall, EII Court, Winchester
Enquiries to	members.services@hants.gov.uk

Carolyn Williamson FCPFA
Chief Executive
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on the County Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Filming Protocol available on the County Council's website.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

4. DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements the Chairman may wish to make.

6. UPDATE ON AUTISM SERVICES COMMISSIONING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HAMPSHIRE (Pages 13 - 32)

To receive an update on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire, from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Groups.

7. ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT – CHILDREN’S SERVICES 2020-21 (Pages 33 - 56)

For the Select Committee to pre-scrutinise the annual safeguarding report for Children’s Services before consideration by Cabinet.

8. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) 0-25 UPDATE REPORT - SEN PERFORMANCE AND JOINT WORKING (Pages 57 - 88)

To receive a report from the Director of Children’s Services providing an update on SEND performance and joint working.

9. HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME - SUMMER DELIVERY (Pages 89 - 110)

To receive a presentation from the Director of Children’s Services on the Summer Delivery of the Department for Education’s Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme.

10. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 111 - 116)

To consider and approve the Children and Young People Select Committee Work Programme.

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact members.services@hants.gov.uk for assistance.

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

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Agenda Item 3

AT A MEETING of the Children and Young People Select Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Friday,
17th September, 2021

Chairman:

* Councillor Kirsty North

Vice- Chairman:

* Councillor Neville Penman

Councillor Prad Bains	
* Councillor Jackie Branson	* Councillor Arun Mummalaneni
* Councillor Ann Briggs	* Councillor Jackie Porter
* Councillor Christopher Donnelly	Councillor Andy Tree
* Councillor David Drew	* Councillor Jacky Tustain
* Councillor Juliet Henderson	* Councillor Malcolm Wade
Councillor Zoe Huggins	Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)
* Councillor Gavin James	

*Present

Co-opted Members:

* Ian Brewerton, Secondary Schools Parent Governor Representative
Gareth Davis, Primary Schools Parent Governor Representative
* Robert Sanders, Church of England Schools Representative
* Kate Watson, Special School Parent Governor Representative
VACANT Roman Catholic Schools Representative

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman:

Councillor Roz Chadd, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Councillor Pal Hayre, Assistant to the Executive Lead Member

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Prad Bains, Zoe Huggins, Andy Tree and Bill Withers. Councillor Lesley Meenaghan was in attendance as the Conservative Substitute Member.

Apologies were also received from Gareth Davis, the co-opted parent governor member for primary schools.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a

Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 were agreed by the Committee as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee did not receive any deputations.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman commenced her announcements by highlighting the informal briefing which the Committee received on the 7 July which was webcast. Members received updates on Governance, Overview of Children's Services, Department for Education (DfE) Holiday Activities and Food Programme and Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People, which were all very informative.

The Chairman also announced that regrettably this was Ian Brewerton's last meeting as the co-opted parent governor representative for Secondary Schools, due to his four year term of office ending at the beginning of November. The Chairman extended her sincere thanks to Ian for his contribution to the work of the Committee over the last four years. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ian thanked the Chairman and the Committee, and also highlighted the outstanding work of the Director of Children's Services and his officers. It was heard that nominations would be sought for a Secondary School co-opted parent governor, and this will be put forward for formal appointment at the future Council meeting.

6. **CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) UPDATE**

The Committee received their annual update on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (Item 6 in the Minute Book). This further update was at the request of the Committee at their 11 November 2020 meeting.

Representatives from Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group, and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust provided Members with a joint presentation which set out a CAMHS development update. The first part of the presentation highlighted key issues which included the impact of Covid-19 on mental health and emotional wellbeing, and that early intervention was critical. Joint working in this area with partners was also highlighted. Key areas of service development were explained which included

the launch of the new Kooth digital service, community counselling and the development and rolling out of psychiatric liaison services. The securement of funding for the roll out of 5 new mental health in schools teams across Hampshire was also highlighted. Officers highlighted the significant investment into the service this year and the plans for service development, as well as working in partnership to focus on early intervention.

The second part of the presentation highlighted the work of Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust who provide Hampshire CAMHS. Members were led through the slides and it was heard that there were currently an average open caseload of 7,517. The impact of Covid was noted with the CAMHS website receiving 43,000 hits, and there was specific support available on the website in relation to return to school and developing confidence. It was also heard that in November 2020, there was a re-modelling of the forecast based on the latest available tools and research as a result of Covid.

Slide 11 of the presentation slides detailed the investment decisions, and the overall investment from 2021/22 onwards of £6.5 million per annum was highlighted. Areas such as the Clinical Model, Early Help Service, Digital Team, Crisis Care and the Eating Disorder Service were also explained to Members. In relation to the Eating Disorder Service, it was heard that there had been an 150% increase in demand, and a significant number of children and young people were now presenting at a very low weight. The impact of Covid in relation to this was explained, and it was noted that school closures had impacted the ability for eating disorders to be noticed earlier.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that one of the main focuses of the service was on recruitment, and it was heard that the service were looking to recruit 103 additional Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts. The challenges going forward were explained which included the length of waiting times. Members also noted that the increase in demand for the service was an issue nationally.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That officers were confident that with new investment and the new clinical model, waiting times for CAMHS treatment will decrease, and will be in a better position next year.
- That it was difficult for the service to predict the long term impact of Covid on mental health and emotional wellbeing, and there may need to be flex in the clinical model going forward as a result, and possible expansion of the service going forward.
- That in relation to eating disorders, there has been an increase in late presentation to the service as a result of Covid and an increase in those in acute hospitals for treatment of this. At this acute stage, it is essential that physical intervention is undertaken before any therapeutic work.
- That the average length of CAMHS treatment is 12 sessions, with more acute needs, such as eating disorders and trauma being seen amongst children and young people. This can lengthen treatment time as several different interventions will be required.
- That there was continued close working with partnership agencies such as Hampshire County Council's children's services department and the police to ensure early help is available where there is a safeguarding risk.

- That schools have been promoting ‘Kooth’, the new digital service to help with early intervention.
- That a continued challenge was around recruitment to the service and retention, and it was also important to support the welfare of staff. Details about the construction of the CAMHS Academy were also explained.
- That a booklet from Hampshire CAMHS has been circulated to all Hampshire Year 7 children to help in providing support with the transition to secondary school.
- That a more comprehensive pathway would help to ensure that not all children and young people would require specialist mental health services.

It was proposed by Cllr Jackie Porter and seconded by the Chairman Cllr Kirsty North, that a further written update be received when the 103 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts have been filled, if before a year’s time.

This was supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the update and requested a further written update when the 103 WTE additional posts have been filled, if before a year’s time.

7. **SAVINGS PROGRAMME TO 2023 - REVENUE SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children’s Services and Director of Corporate Operations regarding the detailed savings proposals for the Children’s Services Department that had been developed as part of the Savings Programme to 2023 (SP2023) Programme (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Officers led Members through the accompanying presentation and it was reported that the last government spending review was for one year as a result of economic and fiscal uncertainty due to Covid. Forecasting indicated that government funding would not fully meet the financial pressures the County Council faced, therefore there would be a funding gap in April 2023 and the Council would need to make savings of £80 million to balance the budget. This was in addition to £45 million in savings from previous transformation programmes that were yet to be delivered.

It was noted that the savings requirement for the Children’s Services Department under this SP23 savings programme was £21.3 million. Officers highlighted the pie chart on page 8 of the presentation slides which detailed the breakdown of spending for the 2021/22 children’s services budget, and the pie chart on page 9 detailed the proposed SP23 savings in these areas.

An overarching ‘balancing the budget’ consultation had been undertaken in the summer of 2021 and further consultation would be undertaken where appropriate on the savings workstreams which were explained in detail to the Committee. The risks and challenges of the savings proposals were also highlighted, as well as the equality impacts.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the department has considered the savings proposals against the key principles adhered to by the department as set out at presentation slide 6 and paragraph 23 of the decision report.
- That there was more spending now in the department than in 2010 because of demand and price, and work was ongoing by the County Council Network to examine factors for increase in spend, which was primarily due to the increased unit cost per child.
- That in relation to the proposed savings for the Youth Offending Service by way of reduced staffing levels, it was heard that there was good evidence that early intervention was now reducing youth crime, resulting in reducing caseloads and demand on the service.
- That the biggest challenge to the department was unknown risks.
- That in relation to foster care, there was a need to recruit new foster carers, and to look at the support that foster carers are offered, as well as competition with the private sector in this area.
- That short break activities would be aligned with the holiday activity and food programme to ensure efficient use of public funds and reduce duplication.

The Chairman moved to debate where it was heard that there was uncertainty as to what the impact of the savings would be, and it would not be easy to measure deliverability of these. The unknown as to the long term cost of Covid was also highlighted.

The Chairman put the recommendation to the vote and confirmed that the co-opted members were not eligible to vote on this matter. The vote was carried as follows:

For: 9
Against: 4
Abstain: 0

RESOLVED:

The Children and Young People Select Committee considered the detailed savings proposals and:

Supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in section 2 of the report. (To approve the submission of the proposed savings options for Children's Services contained in the report and Appendix 1 to the Cabinet.

8. FOSTERING UPDATE

The Committee received the Fostering Annual Report 2020/21 (Item 8 in the Minute Book). The report was introduced and key headlines were highlighted.

It was noted that Hampshire's Fostering Service had a target to provide 187 additional fostering placements by 31 March 2023, and the marketing strategy around this was explained. Officers presented further information around the recruitment of foster carers, and it was heard that because of Covid, there had been more focus on targeted digital marketing, as well as an increase in on-line

and virtual activity. Members noted that Hampshire has also seen an increase in the conversion rate from enquiry to approval.

Details around fostering support was set out in paragraphs 21 – 31 of the report, and the results of the annual foster carer survey of June 2021 were highlighted. Members attention was also drawn to the increase in foster carer satisfaction with the recruitment process, as well as an increase in satisfaction with the work of the Placements Commissioning Service. Officers also highlighted the work of the six Hampshire fostering panels and it was heard that some training would continue to be held virtually in 2021/22. Statistics relating to timeliness of household reviews, DBS checks and foster carer medicals were explained, and it was heard that there had been some delays with medicals during 2020/21 due to the pandemic.

In conclusion, Members also heard details of the Modernising Placements Programme (MPP) and the development of the Hampshire Hive which was seen as an important development. Details of the new psychological service were also explained, and it was noted that recruitment for the role of clinical psychologist for this service was underway.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the assessment process for prospective foster carers is governed nationally.

Cllr Ann Briggs left at this point in proceedings

- That some children in care have been educated at home during lockdown, and the effect of lockdown on children in care could be looked at further by the Committee.
- That officers do actively seek to recruit from Black, Minority and Ethnic groups.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report were noted by the Children and Young People Select Committee.

9. **UPDATE ON AUTISM SERVICES COMMISSIONING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Committee received a written update report on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire (Item 9 in the Minute Book). At their 28 September 2020 meeting, the Committee resolved to receive a written report for every meeting until the Committee were satisfied that the service had caught up and was providing a timely service for children, parents and schools and proof that the service was making progress. The Chairman highlighted that the Committee would receive a presentation from officers on this item at their 10 November Committee meeting.

The Chairman requested that any questions be either emailed to the Chairman, or the Democratic Services Officer, to be forwarded on for a response, which would be circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee noted the update.

10. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Transformation and Governance presented the Committee's work programme (see Item 10 in the Minute Book).

There were no additions made to the work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee considered and approved the work programme.

Chairman, Children & Young People
Select Committee

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	10 th November 2021
Title:	Update on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire
Report From:	Maternity and Children's Commissioning Team Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG

Contact name: Matthew Powell, Associate Director for SEND/Designated Clinical Officer

Tel: 02380 627599

Email: hsiccg.hiowpartnershipdco@nhs.net

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a regular update as requested by the committee in September 2020, regarding progress made towards improving Autism services for children and young people in Hampshire, in order to provide assurance to the committee and the communities it represents that access to ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition) assessments and supporting services is improving.

Recommendation(s)

2. For the Children and Young People Select Committee to note the following update.

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to provide assurance to the committee on the progress being made on Autism services for children and young people in Hampshire, outstanding issues to solve and the next steps for the project to ensure further success.
4. The CCG team were requested to provide a regular update to the select committee following the September 2020 committee.
5. Since then, significant fiscal investment was identified and secured which enabled a full procurement of a new assessment service to take place and additional support offers for children, young people and their families.

Performance of Autism services since September 2020 has been positive, most notably a significant reduction in the waiting lists for Autism assessments.

6. Further work to monitor the performance and effectiveness of the services commissioned is ongoing, as well as working to ensure long-term supporting services.

Contextual information

7. In 2018 a decision was made by then 5 Hampshire CCGs to transfer a large cohort of children and young people waiting for an ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition) assessment from Hampshire CAMHS to an interim service, in order to clear the backlog
8. Over the last three years commissioning arrangements for ASC assessments have been characterised by short term blocks of activity, defined, and limited by available funding. This approach has not been able to successfully respond to growing demand and has resulted in increased waiting lists.
9. In November 2020, the following recurrent funding (see 19) was identified for Hampshire CCG's areas to implement a new pathway, including the procurement of an assessment service and supporting pre and post diagnostic services. This funding was added to existing recurrent funding in place for children and young people living on the Isle of Wight to enable the procurement of a joint and equitable service.
10. In early 2021, a revised and improved service specification for a new assessment service was agreed. The service specification was built joint with families, clinical experts and relevant professionals across multiple agencies and disciplines. The service specification was then used to commence a formal and competitive procurement process to identify a provider for a long-term contract. The procurement concluded in May 2021.

The provider of this new assessment service will be Psicon Ltd.

Psicon Ltd. was established in 1998 and has been commissioned to deliver neurodevelopmental services for children, young people and adults across Hampshire and Isle of Wight since 2016.

Psicon offers a flexible service for families which includes weekend and evening appointments through face to face and online formats, depending on the needs and preference of patients. The provider has a very successful and proven track record of providing good quality, accessible services for families.

Partnership working with Hampshire County Council's "Hampshire Library Service" has secured venues on library sites across Hampshire for face to face appointments, increasing access for families from across Hampshire. The current locations are Basingstoke, Aldershot, Winchester, Fareham and New Milton.

11. The new service started on October 1st 2021 for 2.5 years until 31st March 2024. The service is predicted to meet national waiting time standards by the end of the new contract. Commissioners acknowledge that this pace of assessment delivery is slower than ideal. However, by investing into the improvement of pre-diagnostic support services, we anticipate that referrals will reduce/be staggered over time and subsequently further reduce the number of assessments required which will ensure that waiting times do not increase.
12. Key improvements and changes for the new service:
 - Expanded age range of 3 years old (originally 5 years) to 18 years (19 years with a learning disability)
 - Ability to offer follow-up session post assessment
 - Provide an accessible and flexible NICE Compliant service which supports patient choice, family life and offers a range of assessment formats including face to face, online and hybrid models.
 - Offer a follow up session with families post assessment, to go through the report and signpost onto helpful local services, both internal and external to the NHS. If a diagnosis is not reached, findings will still be shared with the family via a follow up session offer.
 - Provide a local service, with established local links which ensures joint working with other agencies and services, including clear specific and meaningful signposting to the child and family
 - Ensure that children and their parent/carers are involved in each step of the pathway.
 - Continue to work with Hampshire and Isle of Wight commissioners to develop services for Autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions.
 - A streamlined referral pathway which allows professionals to refer directly onto the Autism Pathway without first being received by Hampshire CAMHS.

Referrals can also now be received from education and social care professionals, who often are able to submit more robust referrals due to their potentially more frequent contact with the child or young person.

13. The DCO team has been working in partnership with Hampshire County Council, specifically the Primary Behaviour Service and agreed a joint

commissioning arrangement with the service which created the Children's Wellbeing Support Service since late 2020.

The service is designed to offer early intervention and support service for parents of children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs as well as Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, Attachment Disorder, anxiety and poor emotional wellbeing.

Families identified as having difficulties such as the above can be referred to the Wellbeing Support Service who will work with parents to identify needs and recommend onward support where appropriate. By providing early, targeted support through a child-centred approach, the service aims to:

- Support parent(s) to enable children to self-manage and maintain good emotional wellbeing
- Reduce inappropriate diagnosis
- Support parent(s) to enable children to get the most from their education
- Promote a healthy home environment and improve family dynamics
- Promote inclusion in schools

A dedicated team of experienced practitioners provide the following services and support for children living in Hampshire:

- Support parents to evaluate their child's needs, behaviour and emotional wellbeing
- Support for parents/carers, including help with developing a positive home/school relationship, as well as direct work with parents/carers
- Support families regarding crisis management and conflict resolution
- Support parents to learn strategies that work for them, so that they can enable their child to self-regulate their behaviour
- Support families to develop their strengths, emotional resilience and independence
- Support families to become better engaged with their child's learning and enable them to access more of the curriculum
- As neurodevelopmental pathways continue to improve the service will become one of the first points of contact providing an early intervention service.

The service is complimentary and available for families with children from Year R to Year 7 through a referral from a health professional. It acts as the first point of the ASC pathway to help reduce unnecessary referrals for assessment by first trying early intervention strategies as mentioned above.

Feedback received from families has been extremely positive, examples below:

- *“Thank you so much for your quick response, you could not have been any better. It has really made such a positive difference for this family. Thank you.”*
- *“Thank you so much. I feel like we are finally getting somewhere now, I have tried to get help for her since she was about 5 and didn’t really get anywhere”.*
- *“thank you for listening and understanding – you are the first person to listen to my needs”.*
- *“We will see if these changes make a big enough impact, as well as using strategies that you have suggested, before making a CAMHS referral”*
- *“Because of the support I had, I have been able to deal with my child calmer and this has reflected in his actions being more positive”*
- *“X is increasingly better able to understand his emotions. We are seeing fewer tantrums and longer periods of calm. This reduces stress on the whole family”*

Referrals remain high and demand for this service has been increasing month on month, creating waiting lists given current staff capacity. These however, are well below NHS national standards but will continue to be monitored.

14. Commissioners are working in partnership with Hampshire County Council to confirm the long-term future of the wellbeing support service.
15. Autism Hampshire has been commissioned up until 31st March 2022 as a pilot to deliver parent support workshops, and school (primary or secondary) staff training focusing on supporting children and young people with traits of autism. Commissioners are now working to consider long term arrangements and review the effectiveness of this service.

Feedback for Autism Hampshire is also overwhelmingly positive:

- *“I have learnt so much and taken away lots of the approaches and implemented them in class, I would love for other teaching staff to have the opportunity to come to a course, I have learnt more from this training than any other.”*
- *“I’ve been telling everyone at school about the course. I need to go through all of my notes as there was so much information and it’s all relevant. Thankyou”*
- *“The content of this course was really engaging and helped me to realise and develop the skills I will need to be able to be fully equipped and efficient at my role. The course was really informative and had given me life-long skills and continuous development strategies to aid me in any future progression in roles supporting children and adults with autism”*

16. A routine suite of advice and support for children, young people and their families across the age range is available including: Hampshire Educational Psychology; Autism Hampshire Workshops; The Hampshire CAMHS website

(for information and resources); HPCN “Futures in Mind” Programme & Barnados Family Support.

17. A re-procurement of Hampshire Therapy (Speech and Language, Physiotherapy, Occupational Health etc.) services is currently underway. Feedback from Hampshire families with children presenting with traits of Autism, has indicated a perceived gap in the current therapies service regarding sensory support. The Therapies Project team has included this feedback into the service specification and quality workstream to ensure sensory support is included and funded appropriately within the new service.

Finance

18. In November 2020, the following recurrent funding was identified for Hampshire CCG's areas to implement a new pathway, including the procurement of an assessment service and supporting pre and post diagnostic services.
19. This funding was added to existing funding in place for children and young people living on the Isle of Wight to enable the procurement of a joint and equitable service.

Agreed funding

Part Year Spend 2020/2021	£1.36m
Full Year Spend 2021/2022	£2.1m
Full Year Spend 2022/2023	£2.1m
Full Year Spend 2023/2024	£2.1m
Ongoing (from 2024/2025 onwards)	£1.5m

Performance

20. As of 30th September 2021, 1,113 children and young people are waiting to be booked for an Autism assessment across Hampshire. One year ago, 1,576 children and young people were waiting to be booked for an Autism assessment in Hampshire.

If a child or young person is referred into the current service today, the approximate waiting time will be 11 months from referral to assessment. This is a significant improvement compared with a 35 month waiting time in September 2020. The service reports an overall diagnostic rate of 85.2%.

21. Since October 2020, the two interim providers (Psicon and Healios) have delivered over 1,500 assessments to children and young people within Hampshire.

22. Providers have ensured that children coming towards their 18th birthdays are prioritised for assessment in order to ensure that they do not have to be transferred to another waiting list through the adult Autism pathway.

Looked after children and children from military families are also prioritised for assessment.

23. Work is ongoing to develop an NHSE Autism in schools project on the Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth. The three elements of the project are:
- Building relationships and networks of support
 - Learning opportunities for schools and parent carer forums
 - Autism self-awareness and skills development, hearing the voice of young people

This will be working with both primary and secondary schools.

Commissioners will apply learning from the project in these areas for Hampshire with the intention of extending this to Hampshire when possible.

24. Hampshire was successful in an NHS England bid for funding to enhance peer support networks. This funding will be allocated to Parent/Carer Forums to enhance their current offer, to include place based peer support, system advice, navigation of the SEND Local Offer, pathway guidance and information regarding Autism; to families living in Hampshire. Networks will expand their reach to include seldom heard groups, sharing learning and best practice with each other. Analysis of the impact from the project will begin early 2022.
25. Commissioners have recognised the significant increased pressure on the Barnados parenting service and have provided additional one off funding to respond to a peak in demand (which were partly caused by the increased investment into assessments) and reduce waiting times, allowing the service to continue to help parents of children with ASC promptly.

Consultation and Equalities

26. *An equality/quality impact assessment has been developed and is under review by the by the CCG Quality team.*

Other Key Issues

27. Commissioners have been made aware from the assessment provider that referrals have been increasing in the past months, which has pushed the

average referral rate of approximately 100 per month up to approaching 120 per month.

It is hoped that the new streamlined pathway that means referrals will be more staggered and will reduce the risk of batches of referrals coming in at once. This will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

28. There are still ongoing issues around the perception of diagnosis being the 'golden ticket' to access services and support. For example, many parents still have the misconception that a diagnosis of Autism is required for an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

The DCO team's participation in engagement events such as Hampshire Parent Carer Networks "Meet the SEN Team" meetings are being utilised to dispel myths surrounding access to services.

29. There are still reports of a wide variance in the inclusiveness of education settings within Hampshire. Ongoing work to ensure all education settings are providing an inclusive environment within the school environment for children with neurodiverse traits. Learning from the Isle of Wight Autism in schools project and also the Autism Hampshire school training are expected to help reduce the number of settings with issues around inclusivity.

Next Steps

30. Commissioners have begun robust monitoring of the assessment service, with the key focus on waiting times delivered by the provider. Monthly meetings will be conducted going forward regarding activity and performance, with quarterly quality focused meetings.
31. Commissioners will be working to secure the long term future of early intervention support services on the autism pathway.
32. Multi-disciplinary/Agency 'Filtering' Panels will be established to review all referrals requesting autism Assessments and agree on the most appropriate intervention to ensure support is offered at the earliest point possible. This is hoped to stagger and/or reduce referral rates for Autism assessment but still provide appropriate support and interventions.

The Isle of Wight referral panel is commencing in December 2021 with learning to be taken to apply to the Hampshire area.

33. Commissioners will continue to explore opportunities to embed further multi-disciplinary, pre and post assessment support for children and young people presenting with traits of Autism. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight ASC Transformation Group, attended by system wide partners and families will

monitor the effectiveness of the current services as well as assessment waiting times and report progress to the Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG Complex Care and Autism Board.

Conclusions

34. Although significant progress has been made to date, commissioners will continue to provide regular updates at Select Committee meetings until committee members are fully reassured.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Children and Families Act [Part 3 SEND] 2014 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted	September 2014
Statutory Guidance: SEND Code of Practice 0-25 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf	January 2015
Local area SEND inspection framework (Ofsted and CQC) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-sendinspection-framework	April 2016

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- (a) *why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) *will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*

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Hampshire Autism Update

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Matt Powell

Associate Director SEND/Designated Clinical Officer

November 2021

Background



**Hampshire, Southampton and
Isle of Wight**
Clinical Commissioning Group

- In August 2018, Hampshire CAMHS highlighted concern regarding long waiting lists and high referral rates for autism assessments. In response, commissioners transferred 824 patients to Psicon Ltd on a short term contract.

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Due to piecemeal investment and interim contracts, Psicon Ltd were unable to deliver at pace. Referral rates continued to increase, resulting in a waiting list of circa 1,750 children and young people by September 2020.

- In November 2020, the CCG identified significant investment which enabled a procurement of a long term assessment service as well as additional support offers.
- Procurement of the new service included a service specification redesign with input from families, clinical experts and relevant professionals across multiple agencies.

Progress



Hampshire, Southampton and
Isle of Wight
Clinical Commissioning Group

- Long term service commenced 1st October 2021. Psicon Ltd were the successful provider.
- Current waiting list has dropped from circa 1,750 down to circa 1,000.
- Current waiting times circa 11 months compared to 35 months in September 2020
- Referral rates continue to be high.
- Additional support services have been commissioned.

New Assessment Service



Hampshire, Southampton and
Isle of Wight

Clinical Commissioning Group

- Service began October 1st 2021, initial 2.5 year contract with option to extend
- Key changes:
 - Expanded age range from 5-18 years to 3-18 years (19 with LD)
 - Referrals sources expanded to include social care, and schools
 - Post assessment sessions are now offered routinely
 - Referral pathways have been streamlined

Other Services



Hampshire, Southampton and
Isle of Wight
Clinical Commissioning Group

- Wellbeing Support Service

- Provides early intervention and support for children with SEMH needs related to Autism, ADHD, Attachment Disorder, Anxiety and Poor Emotional Wellbeing

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Autism Hampshire Workshops

- Deliver parent support workshops and staff training focused on supporting children and young people with traits of Autism

- Barnados Parenting

- Evidence based parenting programmes for parents/carers who have a diagnosis of ASC

Challenges



Hampshire, Southampton and
Isle of Wight
Clinical Commissioning Group

- High referral rates
- Family expectations
- Diagnosis led culture
- Inclusive education settings

Next Steps



Hampshire, Southampton and
Isle of Wight
Clinical Commissioning Group

- Robust monitoring of assessment service with focus on waiting times
- Secure long term early intervention support services
- Develop multidisciplinary referral panel to stagger/reduce referral rates
- Re-establish HLOW ASC Transformation Group



**Hampshire, Southampton and
Isle of Wight**
Clinical Commissioning Group

Any questions?

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Front Cover Report

Committee	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	10 November 2021
Title:	Annual Safeguarding Report – Children’s Services 2020-21
Report From:	Director of Children’s Services

Contact name: Stuart Ashley

Tel: 01962 846370

Email: stuart.ashley@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Children and Young People Select Committee to pre-scrutinise the annual update to Cabinet from the Director of Children’s Services on safeguarding children and young people In Hampshire during the period of 2020/21. The attached report will be presented to Cabinet on the 7 December 2021.

Recommendation

2. That the Children and Young People Select Committee note and support the recommendations being proposed to Cabinet in the attached report.

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**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

REPORT FOR CABINET

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	7 December 2021
Title:	Annual Safeguarding Report - Children's Services 2020-21
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Stuart Ashley

Tel: 01962 846370

Email: stuart.ashley@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update to Cabinet on safeguarding children activity within Children's Services during 2020/21.

Recommendations

2. That Cabinet notes the positive progress and continued consistently high performance with regards to safeguarding children in Hampshire.
3. That Cabinet note the commitment of a wide range of Children's Services officers in achieving this level of performance.
4. That Cabinet receives further updates on safeguarding on an annual basis.

Executive Summary

5. This report identifies key national developments, summarises performance and activity levels, and details a number of key local developments and future priorities.
6. The report provides assurance that whilst demand for children's social care services continues to increase year on year, particularly as a result of the pandemic, the response to the safeguarding of vulnerable children is both robust and timely. New and emerging risks to children are identified and addressed collaboratively with partners and the wider transformation of children's social care will deliver a modern social work service fit for the future challenges over the next decade.

Contextual Information

7. Cabinet will recall under the new Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) introduced in January 2018 and amended in March 2019,

local authorities are subject to standard and short inspections depending on their previous Ofsted judgement.

8. In November 2018, Hampshire was subject to a focused visit, inspecting children subject to a child protection plan, including the quality and impact of pre-proceedings intervention under the Public Law Outline (PLO). Hampshire had received a very positive letter from Ofsted following this visit.
9. In April and May 2019 Hampshire was subject to a 'short' ILACS inspection. Report to Council dated 15 July refers to this inspection. This inspection judged Hampshire to be outstanding overall and across the other three areas of judgement.
10. It is worth noting that each of these inspections were rooted in safeguarding and have fully tested Hampshire's safeguarding practice, alongside testing the front door process within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Finance

11. There are no financial recommendations in this report although the issue of the cost (price) of placements for children in care is a key pressure for the County Council.

National Developments

Covid-19

12. The DfE published updated guidance to inform local authorities and other children's social care providers, of the temporary changes to regulations governing children's social care services, made to support the delivery of services to children and their families during the pandemic. The statutory duties remain the same, however, they allow for very specific circumstances where changes can be made to the use of secondary legislation. Amendments allow for flexibility in some circumstances, only to be used when absolutely necessary, with senior management oversight and consistent with overarching safeguarding principles. A paper went to CSDMT examining the implications for the amendments.
13. Children and Families branch took a three phased approach as detailed in Appendix A. However, it is important to note that throughout the pandemic and despite at times significant staffing challenges, the service has continued to operate as business as usual, albeit with the use of some virtual visits/meetings.

Child exploitation:

14. There are clear links between child exploitation and those children who are trafficked and/or that go missing. The term 'exploitation' includes the following risk areas:

15. Child sexual exploitation (CSE), online exploitation, criminal exploitation including County Lines (CCE), drug related harm, knife crime and serious violence; as well as other forms of exploitation that involve coercion and control such as radicalisation and extremism; forced marriage, female genital mutilation.
16. The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) Child Exploitation Group is a strategic multi-agency group, covering the HIPS areas to meet legislative requirements, governmental guidance and to identify and implement best practice to protect children from all forms of exploitation. The HIPS Child Exploitation Group includes representation from multi agency partners. The group has developed the HIPS Child Exploitation Strategy, which sets out how all agencies will work together to ensure the most effective and coordinated response to identify and protect children at risk of exploitation both within and across the HIPS Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) areas. The group is accountable to the HIPS Executive Group and provides updates to them on progress against the strategy and associated delivery plan.
17. At a local district level in Hampshire, senior children's social care managers lead Missing Exploited and Trafficked (MET) operational meetings. These ensure the local identification, support, safeguarding and diversion of children who are at risk of, or being exploited within Hampshire's districts.
18. The latest available data for children who go missing in Hampshire, be that from home or for those in care, shows a continued improving position. Fewer children are going missing and when they do, there is a robust and effective response from children's social care and Hampshire Constabulary. Each district team tracks and risk assesses their children who go missing to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent repeat occurrences. This is an important area of work and one that Ofsted gives significant scrutiny to.
19. County Lines remains an increasing concern for Hampshire Children's Services and all agencies concerned with children in the area. All agencies and professionals contribute to tackling this form of exploitation, with more specialist work being undertaken by the pan-Hampshire Police MET team and the Hampshire Children's Services specialist Willow team, a multi-agency team consisting of specialist social workers, health professionals and St Giles Trust workers, working closely with Hampshire Constabulary to protect the highest risk children. Together with Hampshire Constabulary there is a coordinated deployment of these specialist resources to identify networks, ensuring the safeguarding of the most vulnerable children and the disruption of County Lines activity.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC):

20. There are two groups of asylum-seeking children for whom Hampshire take responsibility. Those arriving spontaneously, often disembarking from the back of lorries on the M27/M3 corridor, who then legally become looked after children and are the responsibility of the Local Authority. The second

group are through the National Transfer Scheme, as detailed below. Caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children has implications that are wide reaching and complex. Health services and education are impacted as are Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as many of the children are severely traumatised. There are also issues in respect of the availability and cost of translation services alongside a significant national shortage and lack of suitable placements for looked after children.

Hampshire UASC Arrivals

UASC arrivals	Jan - Mar 2018	Apr-Jun 2018	Jul-Sep 2018	Oct-Dec 2018	Jan - Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan - Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan - Mar 2021
Quarterly Data	14	29	31	17	18	7	8	3	13	0	18	4	7

21. As at 30 June 2021 the total number of UASC (under 18 years) looked after by Hampshire is 63.

UASC Care Leavers	Jan - Mar 2018	Apr-Jun 2018	Jul-Sep 2018	Oct-Dec 2018	Jan - Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan - Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan - Mar 2021
Period End	246	247	270	294	308	328	329	327	334	335	341	347	363

22. The second table above shows the number of UASC Care Leavers at each period end. There has been a 164% increase in the number of UASC care leavers since June 2017 (137), which is to be expected given the average age of UASC arrivals is 17.
23. Since July 2016, Hampshire has been accepting children through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). Hampshire have always been proactive in the NTS scheme and have previously been supportive with the closure of the Calais camp and more recently with the large influx of children arriving through Dover. Between August and October 2020 Hampshire took children direct from the Port of Dover as Kent County Council were unable to support more arrivals. The transfer scheme has been on hold until July 2021 and Hampshire's commitment is to take one child per month from the scheme. This is considered proportionate if the transfer scheme was mandated and all local authorities took a fair share of those arrivals. However, some local authorities refuse to receive any children
24. The majority of the children are placed in independent fostering agency (IFA) placements and a significant number are placed outside of Hampshire, in order that we can better meet their cultural and individual

needs. The age range is from 11 years old and the significant majority are males. They will need to be looked after by the local authority until they reach 18 years and will then have care leaver status with continuing support from the local authority until they are 25 years of age. Whilst the Home Office provide set funding for UASC and care leavers there is still a shortfall, particularly for those over the age of 18. It should also be noted that around 30% of UASC will not be given leave to remain in the UK and as such will have 'no recourse to public funds' requiring the local authority to entirely fund all of their living costs until they reach 25 years of age.

Working Together 2018

25. The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) is a mature, robust and effective multi-agency partnership. Drawing on the reflective, proactive and innovative practice of the children's workforce across Hampshire, we continue to develop and improve our services through effective safeguarding, learning and development. Hampshire County Council Children's Services, Hampshire Constabulary, and the five CCGs form the three safeguarding partners. All three lead safeguarding partners hold a strategic role within their organisations and are able to speak with authority, commit to matters of policy and hold their organisation to account. Strong strategic leadership during the pandemic ensured rapid and decisive action to safeguard Hampshire's children and young people at risk of harm or abuse and ensured access to the most appropriate support services to keep them safe.
26. The HSCP has a clear commitment from senior leaders, building on strengths within the strong partnership relationships that exist, our vision is to protect children from harm and prevent them from the risk of being harmed and support their recovery from harmful situations. Key to our success has been a focus on the different safeguarding contexts that exist across Hampshire, with emphasis being placed on children and young people being safeguarded in their lives at home, in their friendship circles, in health, in education and in the public spaces that they occupy both offline and online.

Performance and Activity levels

27. Workloads, as evidenced in contacts, referrals and safeguarding activity, continue to be high with 8,978 cases open to Children's Social Care at the time of writing this report. The table below sets out the trends over the last four years including the source of referrals received via Hantsdirect.

Contacts and Referrals

Contact and Referrals	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2021-21	
	Denom	Value	Denom	Value	Denom	Value	Denom	Value	Demon	Value
Number of initial contacts		87235		106010		117188		125413		126153
Number of referrals		37831		35953		40014		44434		48826
Referral source: Individual	2165	11.10%	1908	11.50%	1906	10.40%	2303	11.39%	2484	11.41%
Education	4559	23.50%	3862	23.30%	4432	24.10%	5007	24.76%	4230	19.43%
Health Services	2603	13.40%	2251	13.60%	3063	16.60%	3656	18.08%	4259	19.57%
Housing	233	1.20%	174	1.00%	188	1.00%	248	1.23%	181	0.83%
Local Authority Services	1606	8.30%	1704	10.30%	1661	9.00%	1600	7.91%	1856	8.53%
Police	5360	27.60%	4265	25.70%	4559	24.80%	4585	22.68%	5803	26.66%
Other legal agency	447	2.30%	388	2.30%	593	3.20%	696	3.44%	884	4.06%
Other	1765	9.10%	1194	7.20%	1248	6.80%	1262	6.24%	1166	5.36%
Anonymous	478	2.50%	384	2.30%	495	2.70%	531	2.63%	643	2.95%
Unknown	219	1.00%	466	2.80%	263	1.40%	332	1.64%	2	0.01%
Not recorded	0	0%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	258	1.19%

28. The total number of contacts as at 31 March 2021 (126,153) is 7.6% higher than the total received at 31 March 2019 (117,188), which was 11% higher than the previous year (77,934). The 2020-21 is a 62% increase on the 2015-16 number. This is indicative of the continuing pressures across the child protection system which is reflected nationally. For 2020-21, education 19.43% have been overtaken as the highest referrer with police increasing to highest referrer (26.66%) which is to be expected in a period which saw school closures due to lockdowns. These contact percentages have remained fairly consistent over the last three years.

Assessments and Child Protection Investigations (s47)

Section 47 and Assessments	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
% of S47 going to initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)	4,211	43.7%	3926	44.9%	4317	40.6%	5035	31.4%	4747	34.7%

Child & Family Assessment (C&FA) Timeliness	19841	89.6%	18496	87.90%	18003	90.9%	19712	92.6%	15924	95.3%
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29. With regards to assessments, as can be seen in the table above, the percentage of child protection investigations (section 47 investigations) which progress to an initial child protection conference over a year, has remained at around the same level compared to previous years. This continues to reinforce the fact that thresholds are being consistently applied by social workers and managers.
30. The timeliness of completing a Child and Family Assessment (C&FA) since their introduction in 2014-15, is a very positive picture given the large number of assessments undertaken over the last year. This has not fallen from the high 80s for the last three years and is higher than the majority of other local authorities in the region.

Child Protection Plans (CPP)

Child Protection Plans (CPP)	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
No of children on CPP		1263		1293		1097		938		1000

31. As detailed above, work within the child protection planning process remains robust with numbers showing a decline from the end of March 2017, but an increase more recently due to the Covid pandemic. More children who were subject to a child protection investigation and were then presented at a child protection conference, were deemed to warrant being made subject to a child protection plan because of the risk of significant harm. The increase is as a result of additional pressures on families as a result of Covid 19 and we have seen a rise in the complexity of risk and issues within some families that social workers are working with. However, as lockdowns ease and life returns to normal we do expect those numbers to reduce again.
32. The number of children subject to a plan for neglect remains in the 60-70 percent (although a word of caution in that categorisation between neglect and emotional abuse can be variable, and neglect while present may not be the main presenting factor). HSCB launched its Neglect Strategy in October 2016 and this continues to help professionals better identify neglect.
33. A low percentage of child protection plans are lasting beyond two years (which is good as it indicates proactive work) and relatively few require a repeat plan within two years. The number of timely visits made within the

required dates remains a significant strength of the service and reinforces that children are being seen and kept safe.

Full Time Children Looked After (CLA)

Full Time Children Looked After (CLA)	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
No of full time CLA	1339	1305	1440	1592	1664	1602	1656

	Apr-Jun 2018	Jul-Sep 2018	Oct-Dec 2018	Jan-Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021
Entering full time care	151	207	168	159	135	155	121	159	158	166	152	157
Leaving full time care	149	148	136	185	161	153	148	166	107	136	184	139
Net increase	2	59	32	-26	-26	2	-27	-7	51	30	-32	18
Of those new into care children PwP	24	18	24	30	32	32	14	8	25	23	24	27
Of those new UASC	29	31	19	18	7	8	3	13	0	20	4	7

34. With regards to children in care, the number has increased by 54 (3%) over the last 12 months. The numbers of CLA is impacting significantly on the financial challenges the Council is facing and the capacity of the service.
35. It should be noted that there is of course significant churn throughout the year of the children in care population. Additionally, changes in court practices are placing more children at home whilst on a Care Order (and thus 'in care') whilst previously such children would probably have remained the subject of support in the community without entering the court (and care) arena. This is primarily due to a complex set of changes relating to the 'Public Law Outline'. A recent review of this practice by the President of the Family Division, and Head of Family Justice, said this practice of placing children at home on care orders should cease, but we are yet to experience that in Hampshire.

36. Nationally the picture of demand continues to outstrip the supply of placements for children in care, and the costs of placements are rising significantly. The increasing complexity of the children coming into the care system has meant additional costs associated with their placements. As above, demand for placements outstrips supply and this is particularly the case with the most complex and troubled teenagers, who frequently require more intensive residential placements. The costs (price) of those placements continue to rise year on year. Significant work is carried out by our Placement Commissioning team (such as working through framework contracts and contract specification) to ensure that Hampshire achieves the best value that it can in what is an 'overheated' market.
37. Our Modernising Placements Programme is aiming to significantly increase the numbers of HCC carers by offering a wider range of support to those carers, thus enabling them to care for children with more complex needs. This, in conjunction with changes to our children's homes, should increase capacity and assist in better managing the costs of some placements.

Local Developments

Recruitment and Retention:

38. The recruitment and retention of children's social workers continues to be a key issue. This is a national problem which is particularly acute in the South East region. In 2018 there was an investment by HCC of £6.5m and over 100 new social work posts to deliver effective sustained change in vulnerable families. Since this investment over 300 qualified social workers have been recruited into HCC's Children's Services. This has included 250 Newly Qualified Social Workers who have joined our Graduate Entry Training Scheme in a planned strategy to grow our own Social Workers for the future. The department is also seeking to maximise other routes to bring social workers into Hampshire through apprenticeships and a national training programme (Step Up to Social Work). In 2021 overseas social workers are also a small but growing element of recruitment activity.
39. Permanent vacancy rates in our front-line teams remains around 13%, although there are four further cohorts of Newly Qualified Social Workers planned to start this financial year. Although social worker turnover stabilised at around 13% during the Covid-19 pandemic this is now starting to increase as restrictions are lifted. To ensure that HCC remains attractive in a competitive recruitment market, pay bench-marking work has been undertaken and pay for our social workers is currently under review. Retention of social workers continues to be supported by social worker Personal Assistants to reduce the administrative burden, as well as flexible working and technology to support mobile working.
40. Due to the need to cover vacancies, the need to support our newly qualified social workers and with rising demand upon services, the number of agency social workers has increased. Through our own employment agency (Connect to Hampshire) the number of off contract workers has been substantially reduced, although there continues to be significant

pressure upon the supply of qualified social workers due to demand within the region.

41. Children's Services continues to invest in a comprehensive marketing strategy to support the recruitment of permanent social workers. This includes published articles through Community Care promoting HCC as an employer, attendance and presentation delivery at national professional development and recruitment events, regular digital recruitment campaigns and delivery of our own Social Work in the South event.

Transforming Social Care (TSC) in Hampshire

42. The Transforming Social Care Programme is now in its second phase and continues to deliver innovative whole system change and continuous improvement to our social work practice. The 2020 Annual Safeguarding Report gave an overview of Phase 1 projects and what had begun to be delivered under Phase 2. This report summarises those projects which have concluded or are ongoing during 2021.

43. Ongoing projects

- Implementation of Family Connections Service – assessment, preparation and support for Family and Friends Carers
- Continuing to embed Intensive and Specialist workers to work with priority families and keep/return more children safely home
- Right Time Right Place – family life isn't 9-5 and so this project is considering how our service could adapt to flexibly meet the demands of families and potentially attract new social workers who wish to work different hours/patterns
- Implementing improvements to the Independent Reviewing Service
- Implementing improvements to the Family Time Service (previously Contact Service)
- Working with health partners to implement Health Assessment improvements
- Trial of virtual reality headsets to increase understanding of the impact of trauma and harmful parental behaviours

44. Completed projects

- Improvements to Early Help and Group Work delivery
 - Improvements to Volunteer Service
 - Applying the Hampshire Approach to family meetings and plans
 - Care Leavers projects (housing, emotional and mental health, health passport)
 - Introduced the Challenging Behaviour programme 'Great Behaviour Breakdown'
45. Appendix B provides further details about each project and its impact.

Youth Offending Service:

46. During the last year Hampshire Youth Offending team (HYOT) has continued to deliver youth justice and youth crime prevention to the children whilst managing the peaks of the pandemic. HYOT has used the period to continue to drive up the quality of delivery and associated outcomes for children. To achieve this, it has focused on the areas for development identified by a self-assessment and improving its key performance indicators. These indicators are those which have a long-term impact on children's lives and achieving their potential in adulthood. They are as follows:
- Reducing the numbers of children who are first time entrants (FTE) into the criminal justice system.
 - Reducing the numbers of children who reoffended whilst under our supervision.
 - Reducing the numbers of children in custody.
47. This has informed HYOTs priorities for 2021/22 These are detailed in our Youth Justice Plan but are broadly as follows:
- Improving assessments including understanding children's diverse needs and taking a trauma informed approach.
 - Implement the improvements identified following the National Standards Self-assessment. In particular, the work done with children who are experiencing a transition.
 - Reducing FTE by working together with the other Hampshire YOTs and Hampshire police to develop a youth diversion programme.
 - Ensuring that HYOT has the correct interventions to meet the needs of children, parents/carers, and harmed people.
 - Develop and improve communication across the YOT to support effective implementation of policies, procedures, and practice to improve outcome for children.
48. HYOT continues to achieve these objectives in partnership with other agencies. These are the local authority, police, probation, health and the Youth Justice Board.

Sector Led Improvement Work

49. Hampshire has been a Partner in Practice (PiP) with the Department for Education since 2016, and as such, has provided social work improvement support and advice to other local authorities across the region and more widely as requested nationally. This improvement work under PiP came to an end in March 2021 when Hampshire, jointly with the Isle of Wight, was successful in bidding to deliver improvement support in the DfE's new

programme, the Sector Led Improvement Programme (SLIP). This started in July 2021 and there is indicative funding for three years for Hampshire to deliver circa 1350 days of support a year. Our work over the past year has supported improvement in several authorities including Buckinghamshire, West Sussex, Southampton and packages of support for Reading and Slough.

50. In addition to the work in 2020/21 under the PiP programme, Hampshire has worked with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to undertake some specific improvement support with the British Overseas Territories. Currently this work is ongoing with St Helena and we are in negotiations to provide some advice and support to Pitcairn Island.
51. Members can be assured that, even with the work of the Director of Children's Services and some of his senior managers in the above authorities, there is no detriment to the oversight and management of Hampshire Children's Services as evidenced by the most recent Ofsted inspection report. Hampshire receives full financial recovery for Sector Led improvement from the DfE or FCDO. A small central team of social work managers has been established with the funding to further support capacity in this area and ensure that the work in Hampshire maintains due focus. As with all work undertaken in other authorities, there is always positive learning gained to further improve services in Hampshire. These benefits to Hampshire are significant and enable both staff and services in Hampshire to be continuously developed. Ofsted commented that, *'Leaders recognise the benefits that come from being an improvement partner, not only in creating income, but also in the learning that is gained from other local authorities and from keeping its own staff stimulated and stretched.'*

Future Challenges and Operational Priorities

52. The future challenges and priorities can be summarised as follows (this is not an exhaustive list and the history of this type of work is that new priorities will emerge such as child exploitation and domestic abuse have done).
53. The full long-term impact of the pandemic is not yet known. Since March 2021, albeit post the time frame for this annual safeguarding report, children's social care have seen a sustained increase in demand of over 20% above pre-pandemic levels. It is not yet known how long that will continue but experience shows us this might now be the new normal level of demand going forward. At this stage the increase in demand has not led to a similar increase in the numbers of children coming into care.
54. Given that the number of children entering the care system remains a challenge, as does the cost (price) of their placements, it is essential that the transformation work as described in paragraphs 7.6 -7.10 becomes fully embedded to keep more children at home, where it is safe and appropriate to do so. Transforming children's social care will deliver a modern social work service fit for the future challenges over the next decade. Where children do come into care, our Modernising Placements Programme,

paragraph 6.15, will ensure children have the right placement to meet their needs.

55. The costs associated with the placements for looked after children will continue to be a significant pressure for the County Council. Significant additional corporate funding has already been given to the department, but as demand increases and the supply of placements comes under further pressure, inevitably costs will rise.
56. Child exploitation, in all its forms, continues to be an increasing area of work, particularly the 'County Lines' issues. Although Hampshire is well placed to meet these challenges, it is important that we remain vigilant and responsive, working in tandem with partners to protect children.
57. The recruitment and retention of social workers will continue to need to be addressed.
58. Tactical changes have been made to the current social care IT system to ensure that the system continues to be fit for purpose. A new system will be implemented in 2022. The new system must allow social workers to work in a modern digital environment, which will free up their capacity and reduce administration.

Consultation and Equalities

59. There is no adverse impact on equalities and no consultation is required.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

60. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
61. This report is essentially strategic/administrative in nature and does not have any climate change considerations.

Other Key Issues

62. None

Conclusions

63. Throughout 2020/21 there continued to be a highly effective strategic response to the safeguarding of vulnerable children and a robust operational response, despite the challenges presented by Covid-19.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	No

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

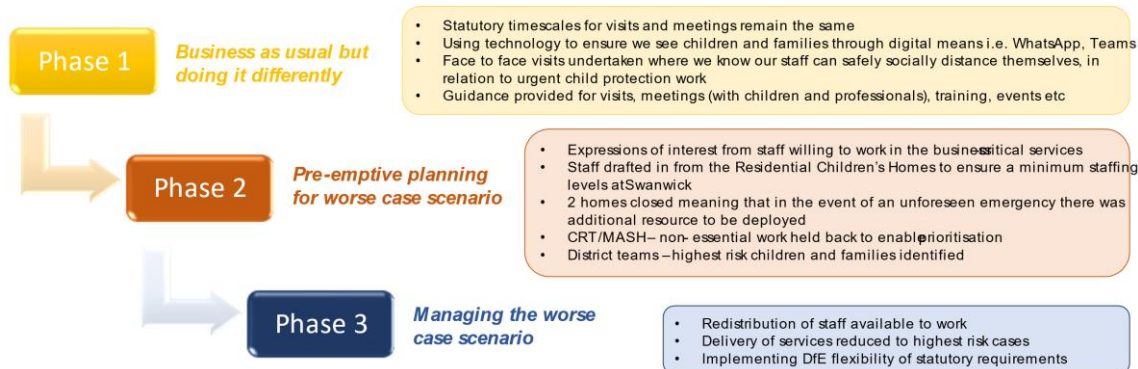
Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- (a) *why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) *will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*

Appendix A – Covid Approach

Our approach through the lockdown:

As part of our contingency planning we developed a phased approach, with each phase based on having fewer staff available to work should the situation worsen



We remained in Phase 1 until Lockdown 3 when some of Phase 2 was implemented



Providing an outstanding service to children and families



Maintaining management grip

It was imperative, from the very start, to respond quickly, be agile, and maintain control:

- Guidance has been issued promptly and updated
- Statutory timescales have been maintained
- Visits have continued – virtually and in person
- Local level management has been enhanced
- Management oversight has remained

... all whilst children have continued coming into care and fewer have been leaving

Throughout lockdown and between lockdowns there has been constant engagement and feedback to understand and capture how teams are responding to the crisis. We have done this through:

- Daily/bi-weekly senior management (CFMT) Covid meetings
- AD log/action tracker
- Weekly/fortnightly Covid specific team and district manager meetings
- BAU team meetings and supervisions
- Q&A process and comms
- Monitoring of staff absence /capacity to enable staff to be deployed differently



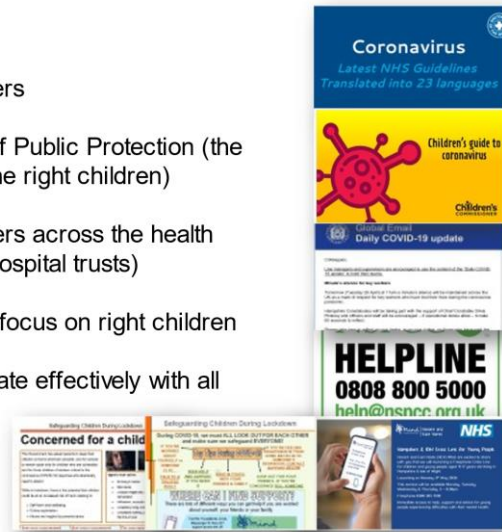
Providing an outstanding service to children and families



Partners

We have maintained a constant dialogue with our partners

- Daily contact between Assistant Director and Head of Public Protection (the police) if needed (shared high risk cases-focus on the right children)
- Proactively sharing our important updates with partners across the health economy (public health, CCG, safeguarding leads, hospital trusts)
- Shared high risk cases with police and vice versa to focus on right children
- Working closely with colleagues in E&I to communicate effectively with all schools



Providing an outstanding service to children and families



Schools

We have maintained a constant dialogue with our schools

- Our schools remained opened during the crisis for children of key workers and those classed as vulnerable
- We have monitored attendance closely for our vulnerable children, and continue to do so
- We have risk assessed each vulnerable child who has not attended school
- We have worked with Education & Inclusion staff and schools to provide laptops to eligible vulnerable children
- Children & Families and Education & Inclusion have worked together in close collaboration



Providing an outstanding service to children and families



Appendix B - TSC

TSC is delivering a whole system change



The PIP (Partners in Practice) Programme was a Department for Education funded initiative which commenced in 2016. Its **ambitions** to transform how we deliver social care to Children and Families across Hampshire. The programme was repurposed from **the PIP Programme** to **Transforming Social Care** in June 2018. This is because we recognise that our journey in Transforming Social Care will go further, in terms of both scope and time.

A **family service** – a system focused on improving outcomes for the **child/family** context

A social work led, **integrated multi-disciplinary service**, from the **front door** to specialist services

An approach supporting social workers to **deliver meaningful interventions** and create lasting change

Improved flexibility for good practice to **flourish**

Children are supported within their **family/community** wherever possible.

Delivered through

A methodology and toolkit that systematically helps us intervene effectively

Lean processes, mobile working and easy to use IT that enhances the way we work

A stable organisational structure that is multi-disciplinary by design and enables & empowers front line staff





Access to the right, shared, information, at the right time to enable informed decision making

Strong, resilient working partnerships that pull in the same direction

Culture & behaviours at all levels that are family and outcomes focused




Phase 2 projects (late 2019 to present)



Project	Objective	Outcomes / Impact
 Family meetings and plans	<p>Brought together 5 planning templates across early help, CIN, CP, CIC and CL planning into two documents: A Family Plan and a My Life My Future Plan.</p> <p>Also introduced Family Meeting Model to support practitioners in engaging wider family in planning meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One plan that travels with the family as they move through our service – increasing ownership, understanding, engagement and achievement of plans One plan travels with children in care through to care leaver and independence. Supports their journey in a holistic way. Further embedding strength based and collaborative working with families by incorporating strength based prompts in documents.
 Early Help	<p>To increase the amount of FSS resource used for direct work with families and reducing delays between referral and service delivery.</p> <p>To increase partner engagement and to reduce barriers/delays to families receiving contiguous and consistent support when they move between thresholds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More FSS resource spent working with families. Partners engage with the process and support early help. Families receive support more quickly. Fewer families have a change of worker and/or interruptions to services received. Families are more resilient and less likely to require further services.
 Volunteer Service Review	<p>Increase in the number of volunteers working with children and families, increase capacity to meet statutory requirements and a reduce admin time to facilitate increased volunteer activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More Mentors and Family Support Volunteers working with children and families across Level 3 and Level 4. More Independent Visitors working regularly with CIC and Care Leavers. More availability and matching of volunteers to children
 Health Assessments for Children in Care	<p>All CLA having their Initial Health Assessments or Review Health Assessments completed on time and the IHA and RHAs will be used to promote health and wellbeing throughout the CYPs journey in care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All CLA will have their IHA/RHA completed on time, annual Ofsted reporting will reflect this. Every CYP will have a clear, strengths-based plan to address and meet their ongoing health and wellbeing needs.




Phase 2 projects (late 2019 to present)



Project	Objective	Outcomes / Impact
Family and Friends Care 	<p>Improving routes into care with consistent messaging for families along with better understanding about process, eligibility and support.</p> <p>Earlier identification of carers, better integration with planning processes. Enhanced support packages for F&F carers and improved ways of working to deliver F&F service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More children placed with Family and Friends carers outside of the care system.
Embedding Reunification across the Service 	<p>Embed a reunification culture across the service, ensuring policies, processes, structure, services and skills are focused on 'thinking reunification' before a child even comes into care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More children are able to return home or to their wider family networks.
Contact Service Review 	<p>Increased Contact Supervisor support for potential reunification cases and all referrals that require Supervised Contact can be allocated.</p> <p>To make contact more family friendly, ensuring families have contact at the appropriate time and place and contact Supervisors have the appropriate training to deliver a high quality service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service directly contributes, through tailored contact sessions, to reunification. • No / minimal waiting lists, reducing our use of third party providers. • A flexible contact team, available at a time convenient to the family. • A clear learning / training pathway for supervisors.




Phase 2 projects (late 2019 to present)



Project	Objective	Outcomes / Impact
IRS Review 	<p>Understand demand and workload, to ensure appropriate allocation of resource, to identify improvements to enhance and develop service quality, performance and impact.</p> <p>To identify cashable and non-cashable efficiencies / improvements (including to confirm what, if any, T19 savings or overspend can be expected within T19 timescales)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on how / if service quality and performance can be improved
Right Time, Right Place 	<p>Prevention is delivered when it can have the greatest impact and crises are responded to quickly, with no difference in approach between 9-5 Mon-Fri and 'out of hours'.</p> <p>Supervised contact is delivered when needed (not only within 9-5 Mon-Fri) along with staff having a better work life balance and hours worked are better supported and acknowledged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escalation of risk is prevented • Crises are responded to swiftly • Children do not miss school / parents miss work in order to engage with services • Relationships are maintained / improved between CLA and their birth families • Staff receive the required support round the clock, and can balance this with their home life
Virtual Reality 	<p>To increase the understanding of the impact of trauma and harmful parental behaviours on a child's development, behaviour and long term outcomes along with improvement in recruitment of foster carers and increased placement stability.</p>	<p>Test and learn outcomes will be measured by a robust report/presentation which articulates the outcomes of the report for Senior Managers to consider further investment.</p>




Phase 2 projects (late 2019 to present)



Project	Objective	Outcomes / Impact
Ongoing specialist worker investment 	Families will receive a specific and specialist intervention to meet identified needs as part of a whole family approach. CS workforce knowledge and confidence will increase in these specialist areas through consultations and learning sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families receive appropriate and specialist interventions earlier and more quickly as part of the IW Teams – threshold is set by CSD Parents are better able to understand the impact of their harmful behaviours on their children's wellbeing and safety Increased number of families are supported to address issues as Soc Wkrs/IWs deliver interventions overseen/coached by a CAMHS Spec Wker More children safely at home
Ongoing intensive worker investment 	An increased number of 'priority cohorts' families will receive evidence based interventions whilst reduced number of parents that will experience recurrent care proceedings. Positive change will be both achieved and sustained by the family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More children will be kept safely at home, through both prevention and reunification Parents with a child removed will be able to address their own needs in order to be better able to safeguard/parent any future children through accessing appropriate services
Challenging Behaviour 	Ensure that Parent/Carers have effective support to manage challenging behaviour and reduce escalation of the behaviour and so preventing child entering the care system and enabling child to stay at home safely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents increase ability to manage child/ren's challenging behaviour Workforce able to provide meaningful support to enable parents to set boundaries; create proactive and reactive strategies to manage behaviour Parents know how to access support and help when required By supporting parents earlier in managing challenging behaviour more effectively this will reduce the likelihood of behaviour escalating to the point of statutory intervention and possible care proceedings

Phase 2 projects (late 2019 to present)



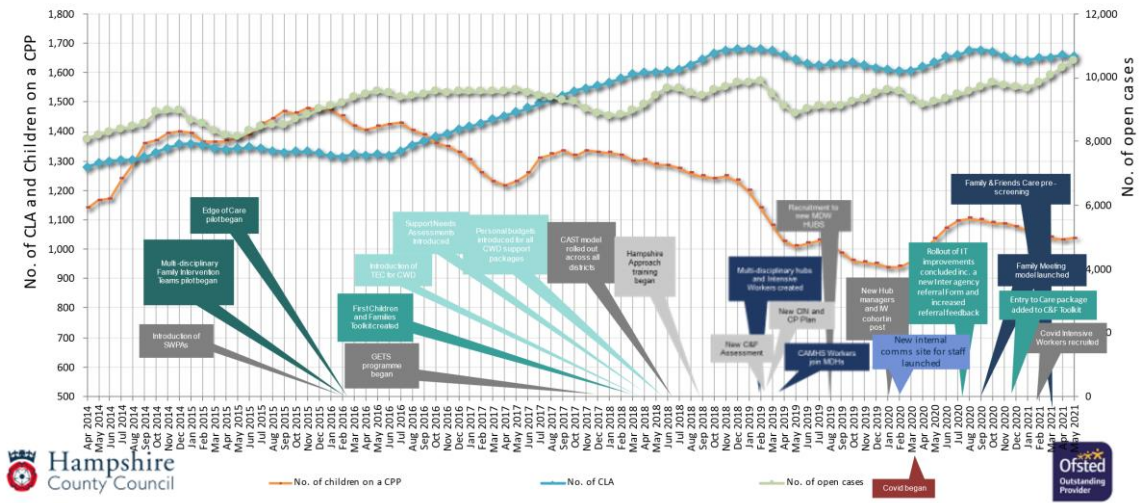
Project	Objective	Outcomes / Impact
Care Leaver Housing 	Supporting embedding of Homelessness Prevention roles within Care Leaver teams, increasing Tenancy Education and skills, addressing gaps in provision (for example where young people fall through thresholds).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CL have specialist support to access housing and sustain tenancies Partners will understand the needs and vulnerabilities of CL and be able to work collaboratively with CL team in the best interest of CL CL will be able to access a robust learning package to support their independency and help sustain accommodation/tenancies By strengthening positive relationships between HCC/ CL teams and housing partners will enable stronger collaboration around solutions that will support CL to build tenancy skills to sustain their tenancies and so reducing vulnerability and homelessness.
Care Leaver emotional and mental health 	Identified a need for Care Leavers, but also considering at cross service improvements. Improving access to universal services, increasing staff skills and confidence to provide low level support and address gaps where identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to universal support is clearly defined and available for families/CYP Staff skills / confidence will improve to enable them to provide meaningful and appropriate support to build resilience and confidence in families/ CYP/ CL Targeted provision for CL is clear By supporting parents earlier in managing challenging behaviour more effectively this will reduce the likelihood of behaviour escalating to the point of statutory intervention and possible care proceedings.
Care Leaver Health Passports 	Improving processes to collate existing health information and present in meaningful way for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All CLA will have their IHA/RHA completed on time, annual Ofsted reporting will reflect this.

Our impact in numbers



Self Interventions Technology CWS Hampshire Approach Internal Comms

Activity Volumes - 3 Month Moving Average From April 2017 to May 2021



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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	10 November 2021
Title:	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25 update report – SEN performance and joint working
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Jayne Howarth, SEN Service Manager, Hampshire County Council

Contact name: Matthew Powell – Associate Director Isle of Wight and Designated Clinical Officer for SEND

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07387 257473

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on progress against the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reforms Implemented in 2014. The Select Committee received the last SEND update report on 28 September 2020.

Recommendations

2. For the Children and Young People Select Committee to note the following update.

Executive Summary

3. This report covers the updates on:
 - Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service Education Health and Care assessments and reviews.
 - Development of the digital Education, Health and Care (EHC) hub.
 - The work of Hampshire Parent Carer Network.
 - SEN Support and Inclusion within mainstream education settings.
 - SEN out-of-county placements.
 - The SEN Capital Place Planning Strategy (specialist provision).
 - SEND Hampshire Area Preparation for Adulthood work.
 - The work of the Independent Futures Team.

- The role of Designated Clinical Officer and Health Services.
- The First-Tier Tribunal and the Single Route of Redress.
- The Hampshire Local Offer <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/localoffer>;
- The outcome of the SEND Ofsted Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection.

Background information

4. The SEND Reforms have been undergoing implementation since September 2014 following the Children and Families Act 2014. This has been a journey for all Local Authorities and in Hampshire the key changes have been:
 - A strengthened focus on parent / carer and children and young people's strategic and individual engagement with all agencies and partners.
 - The introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans) 0-25 for those with the most complex needs, replacing statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments.
 - The establishment of a 'SEND Local Offer' and improved impartial information, advice, and support.
 - A strengthened focus on SEN Support and the graduated response particularly around the early identification of needs and how effectively needs are met to improve outcomes for Children and Young People (CYP) with SEN.
 - Increased joint planning and commissioning of services to ensure close co-operation across education, health, and social care 0-25.
 - A strong focus from Year 9 on preparation for adulthood to ensure that young people can live their lives as an adult as independently as possible. A key element here is raising aspirations around employment.
5. A five-year joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND Inspection framework was introduced from May 2016 to assess how well Local Authorities have responded to the new statutory duties. Hampshire was inspected in March 2020 under this inspection framework. The inspection highlighted numerous areas where the Local Authority has been successful in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and noted that the Local Authority knows itself well and has robust plans in place to progress and improve our work further. The inspection report can be found in Appendix 1.
6. While the reforms have been welcomed in many ways, they have led to a steady rise in the number of EHC Plans maintained within the Local Authority.
7. Between 1 Sept 2020 – 31 August 2021 there have been 2,190 requests for an EHC Needs Assessment, which is a 7.6% increase on the same period last year. In the first quarter of 2021/22 we have seen a 29% increase in requests, compared to the same period last year.

8. There has also been a rise in the number of plans being maintained. As of 31 August 2021, there were 11,744 EHC Plans being maintained, a 19.7% increase on the same time last year. The growth in EHC Plans across the age ranges is varied, with all age ranges seeing a significant rise in numbers and particular growth for the post 16 age ranges. Overall, since the reforms took effect in 2015 there has been a 135% increase in the number of EHC Plans being maintained.

9.

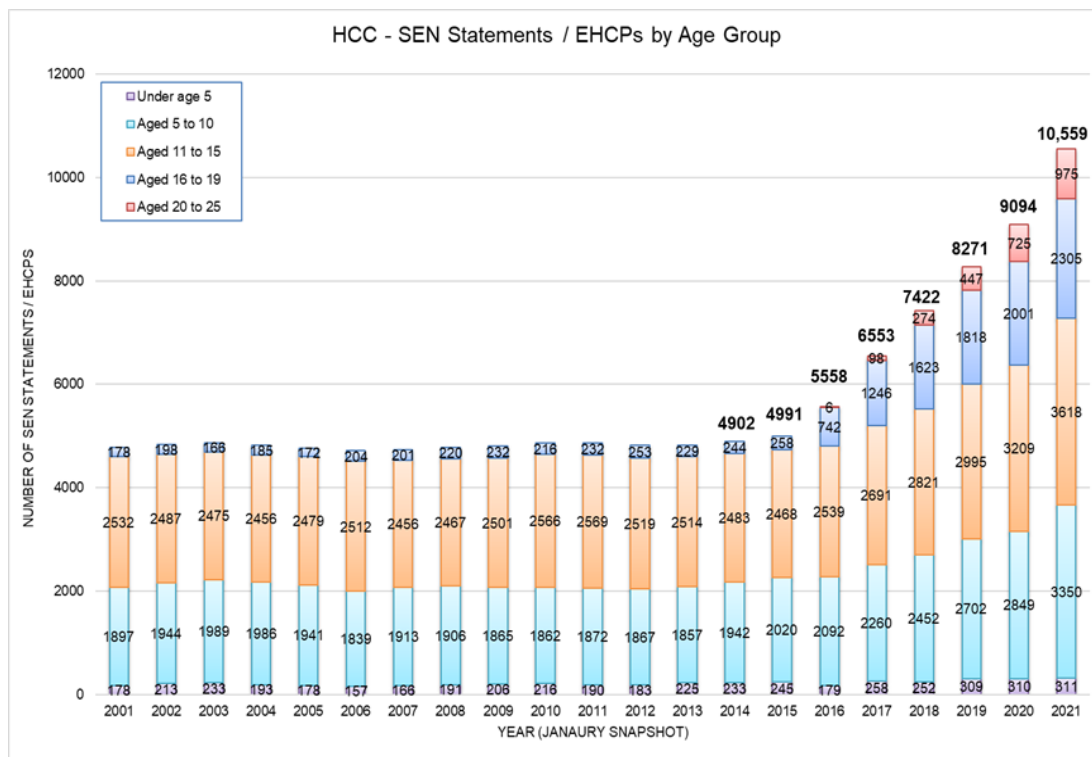


Chart 1: Number of statements/EHC Plans being maintained (as at January 2021 census date) by age group

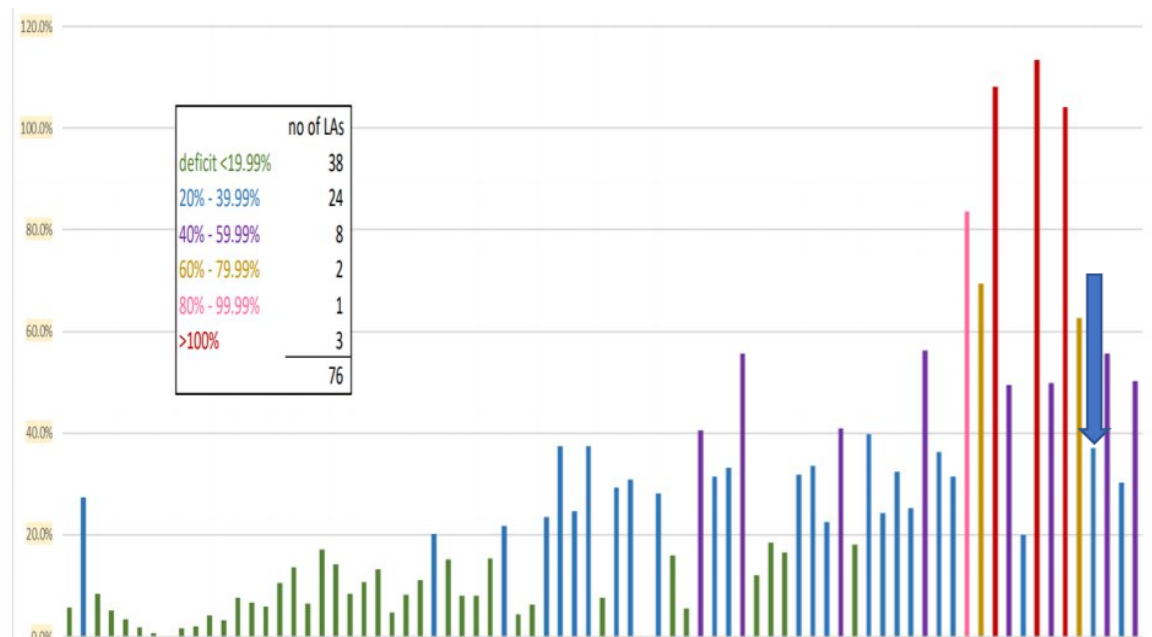
10. The large increase in post 19 young people reflects the extension of the age range from 19-25 years implemented through the 2014 reforms. This means that we will see an increase in plans as the 19-year-old cohort fully evolves by 2025. Typically, around 90% of this cohort stays in education year on year.

11. The increase in plans places a pressure on the high needs budget which is part of the dedicated schools grant funding provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The budget for 2020/21 was £126 million but there was an overspend of £15.8 million from the previous year. The overspend not only reflects an overall increase in plans, which includes post 19 young people (which was not additionally funded by the government). The growth reflects the need to place children and young people in the independent non-maintained sector, which is due to the rise of the number of EHC Plans and the increasing rise in requests for specialist placements.

12. The graph below shows the level of High Needs deficits as a proportion of the LAs High Needs Block based on all the LAs that responded to the f40 survey last year. As you can see, Hampshire is (at this point) not an outlier

however we are at the top end of the following group. Just to note, several of the outliers have been subject to DfE intervention regarding the size and management of their High Needs Budget.

13.



SEN Service Education Health and Care Assessments and reviews

14. The SEN Service should complete all EHC Needs Assessments within a 20-week timescale. The Hampshire performance for 2020 was 1.6% which was lower than that in 2019 (5.9%). This is an average of the performance over the calendar year. The national average for 2019 was 60.4% and for 2020 the national average was 58.0%.
15. As of the 30th of September 2021, the 20-week performance has increased to 28%, in month, with a projected increase to being in line with the national average by the end of this academic year. The number of cases which are out of time (exceeds the 20 weeks) is dropping month on month and it is anticipated that this will be completely cleared by the middle of 2022. Once the out of time cases have been cleared then the % of cases completed in 20 weeks should significantly increase each month.

Month	Number of plans issued
Jan-21	99
Feb-21	97
Mar-21	147
Apr-21	124
May-21	126
Jun-21	210
Jul-21	243
Aug-21	220
Sep-21	225

Table 1: Number of EHC Plans issued per month

16. The service is closely monitoring each element of the 20-week process, to ensure that decisions are being made within timescales. First decisions

should be made within 42 days of the request being received, in January 2021 the average days to make this decision was 45 days, by the end of August this was at 35 days and in mid-September this was at 25 days. Second decisions should be made within the first 112 days with the average now falling from 198 days in January 2021 to 162 days in mid-September. Final plans should be issued within 140 days with the average now falling from 334 days to 274 days in mid-September.

17.

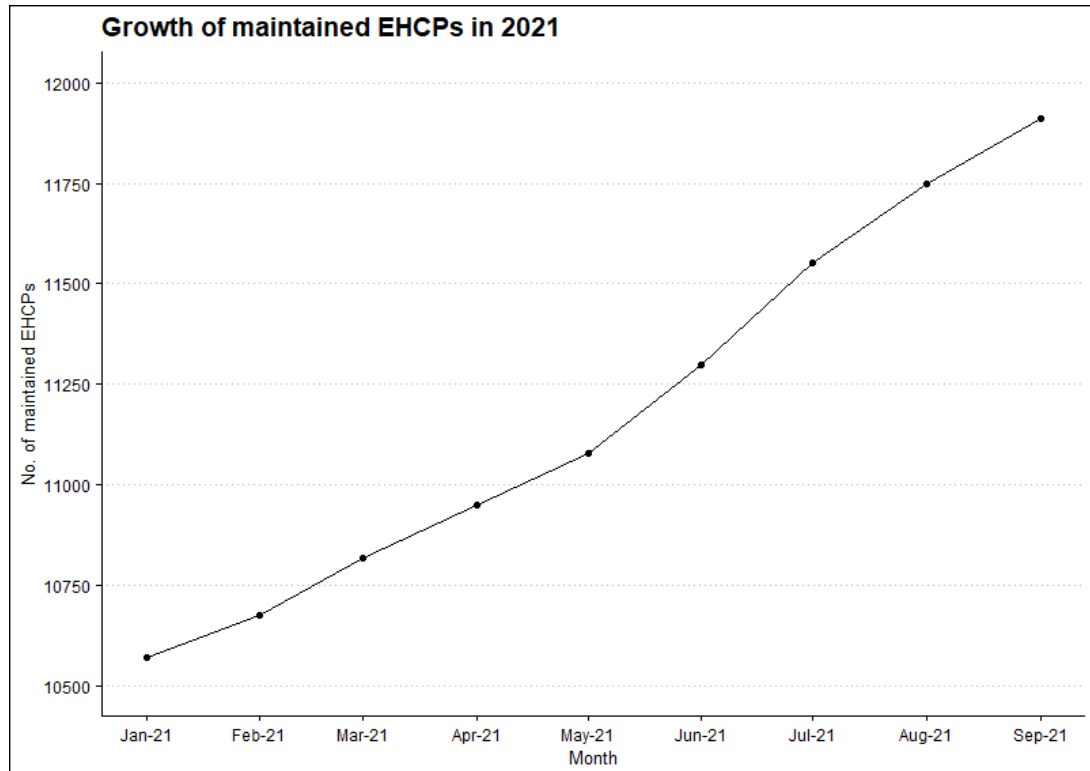


Chart 2: Growth of maintained EHCPs this calendar year

18. The staffing capacity across the SEN Service has been increased through a £1.6m investment in additional staff to cope with the increased level of assessment work but also to ensure that business as usual work is completed in line with statutory deadlines set out in the Code of Practice. Recruitment has been ongoing, and the team is nearing its full capacity of staffing.
19. The impact of Covid and the need to work from home has had a significant impact on the service. The team has needed to recruit many new members of staff during the 20-month period which has meant much of the training has been undertaken virtually and not face to face, although in recent weeks the service has been moving towards more face-to-face meetings with teams starting to attend the office weekly from mid-September. The impact of the additional staff and the training that they have received is now beginning to show an impact as the figures above show.
20. The increase in requests for specialist placements for children and young people is a concern across the service. Increasingly, mainstream schools are more frequently saying that they are unable to meet needs of pupils, citing concerns with funding, difficulties with recruiting support staff or

specialist trained teachers and limited flexibility in their ability to adapt the curriculum or environment.

21. More specialist provision has and is still being developed. Hampshire Children’s Services have instigated two new special schools in Basingstoke (the Austen Academy) and another attached to Samuel Cody in Farnborough. However, it is not possible to build school places at the rate at which EHCPs are increasing, meaning that there is a rise in requests for placements in the independent sector as a high number of pupils have not been able to access a specialist provision in their local community. This means that the service is constantly dealing with high levels of casework, which needs problem solving and often changes in placements.
22. The SEN Service is also required to complete the Phase Transfer process for children in Years -1, 2, 6 and 11 to ensure that the appropriate provision is in place ready for the next stage of their education. The deadline for these to be completed (for Years -1, 2 and 6 is 15 February. 72% of Year 2 reviews and 66% of Year 6 reviews were completed by the deadline. The deadline for Year 11 placements is 31 March, and 15% of the placements had been completed by that deadline. By the end of July 100% of Year 2 reviews, 98% of Year 6 reviews, and 79% of Year 11 reviews were completed. In 2020, the September Guarantee for Hampshire’s SEND (EHCP) cohort in Yr 11 was 97%, in line with Hampshire’s universal cohort performance, itself above nationals (94%) and regional (91%) performance for all young people. The proportion of SEND young people who are NEET (Not in Education or Training) is 6%, below both the regional and national averages of 7%.
23. The DfE will start to monitor the processing of Annual Reviews as part of the SEN2 data collection process from 2022, although the submission of data will not be mandatory until 2023. Therefore, it is a clear priority for the SEN service moving forward to ensure that annual reviews are processed in line with the timeline set out in the Code of Practice.
24. In each section we will summarise our position in a table as follows:

Strengths	<p>A growing workforce, which has a developing skillset.</p> <p>Additional capacity both at management and casework level is already making a difference in the service.</p> <p>Closer working relationships are starting to develop with linked services, schools, and parents due to greater capacity.</p> <p>Virtual meetings aided capacity in the service which has enabled staff to attend more meetings.</p> <p>Moving to being a data driven service with clear targets and expectations for all.</p>
Areas of focus	Recruiting SEND staff until at capacity for budget

	<p>Training gaps to be identified for the SEND service and a training schedule put in place</p> <p>Working with colleagues across education to provide support for children to enable them to remain in their local mainstream school, where appropriate</p> <p>Development of additional specialist provision</p> <p>Continued drive to meet statutory deadlines, including the improvement of the annual review process</p>
What we are doing about it	<p>Rolling programmes of recruitment for key roles and proactive use of agency staff meanwhile</p> <p>Specific focus training to identify gaps in knowledge, embed a full training program between October 21 and March 22.</p> <p>SEN Dashboard is now in place and rolling out to all staff in September. Use of this data at all levels to drive improvement across the service.</p> <p>SEN Digital Hub to be used to process annual reviews starting from 1 October.</p>

Digital EHC Plan Hub

25. The EHC Hub is a software programme which covers the key elements for the workflow of the statutory SEN processes which include:
- Requesting and carrying-out the statutory education, health, and care (EHC) needs assessment.
 - Drafting and finalising the EHC Plan.
 - Conducting and concluding the EHC Plan Annual Review.
26. In September 2018 Hampshire County Council began processing EHC assessment requests in the EHC Hub. The following services have subsequently been brought onto the hub:
- In February 2019 the County Council brought all Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo) onto the EHC Hub, so that they could request EHC needs assessments.
 - In summer 2019 the County Council brought all Educational Psychologists onto the EHC Hub, so that they could provide their advice for EHC needs assessment.
 - In November 2019 Hampshire County Council launched the EHC Hub to families.
 - Bringing Social Care and NHS advice givers into the EHC Hub was interrupted by Covid 19 priorities. With the arrival of the new Assistant SEN Service Manager (Development) starting in March 2021, this work has started afresh with the management team for Disabled Children's Team (DCT) and a discussion with Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

(MASH)/Children’s Reception Team (RCT) about being the initial point of contact for the EHC needs assessment process. The NHS (paediatricians and therapists) have begun to undergo training on using the Hub to submit their assessment information and it is anticipated that these services will be up and running in the Hub by the end of 2021.

- School contact information is being updated within the EHC Hub between September and October 2021, this will allow the service to begin using the EHC Hub to undertake placement consultations, providing greater administrative efficiencies.

27. To complement the digital EHC hub there is a focus on person centred approaches. This is a requirement within the SEND Code of Practice which sets out how professionals should co-ordinate the development of the EHC plan with parents, children and young people being at the heart of the process from the outset as part of the graduated response in education settings.

28. Strengths	Although at a relatively early stage of development, early indications show that the system is improving the timeliness of the completion of assessments. All EHC plans are now being produced from the system and in the recent Ofsted/CQC inspection these were noted to be better quality plans.
Areas of focus	Greater embedding of person-centred ways of working across the SEND workforce and greater satisfaction of families about the quality of plans.
What we are doing about it	Providing person centred planning training, including ongoing support, across the workforce. Monitoring impact over time to triangulate training, person centred working and reductions in requests, complaints, and appeals.

Hampshire Parent Carer Network

29. Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN) is a charitable organisation working throughout Hampshire. Members of the organisation are parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0-25 years, associated professionals, and affiliated groups. The organisation supports and trains parent carer representatives to work alongside the professionals who provide health, education, adult and social services to children and young adults. HPCN representatives sit on many of the groups and boards associated with work within SEND services-across Education, Health and Social Care.

30. HPCN send a newsletter to their membership each month to keep them updated with what the parent / carer forum have been doing and what meetings have been attended. This is in addition to regular social media updates. There is a steering group of 15 parents and carers who support the

parent / carer forum strategically that meets once a month. They are a wide range of parents and carers that have received training on co-production and attend meetings on behalf of the wider voice of parents and carers in Hampshire. As well as the steering group, there are an additional 10 parent representatives who attend strategic meetings but have chosen not to sit on the steering group.

31. HPCN also facilitate 'Meet the SEN Team' meetings three times per term. This has been online, by Zoom, due to covid but now it allows better participation across Hampshire and the sessions are recorded for parents who cannot attend. This gives parents/carers of children and young people with SEND, the opportunity to meet in an informal way with their local SEN Teams, health leaders and other professionals. From these sessions, it was identified that there was a need for a more open session, so we also now run online 'Parent Led Engagement' sessions three times a term alongside Hampshire Special Education Needs & Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) and a SEN Manager. As well as this, HPCN run regular workshops alongside Hampshire SENDIASS on a range of topics such as Annual Reviews and Transitions. Again, they are online to enable the whole county to participate and they are again recorded for those who cannot attend.
32. HPCN also hold 'Get Together' sessions every month covering all areas in Hampshire. During lockdown, these moved to Zoom so they could continue to provide crucial support through the pandemic. Some areas have been temporarily combined and an evening and under 5 sessions have been added, both of which are open to the entire county. Sessions will be online in the current format until at least January 2022, when dependent on Covid they may recommence as face-to-face meetings. These sessions are for parents and carers to come along and meet other parents and carers but also ask for support and feedback on what has been going well and not so well for them. Any feedback is then passed onto the Local Authority. HPCN can signpost families for further support. Hampshire SENDIASS are also present at these meetings and offer support. Future in Mind continues to run and provide vital mental health support, these sessions are also running online temporarily due to Covid.

33.

<p>Strengths</p>	<p>HPCN have not only continued to provide vital support and continued to facilitate participation during lockdown but have expanded the offer with new workshops and sessions.</p> <p>The 'Future in Mind' meetings have been a real success and key support as mental health services reach unseen pressures. At these sessions parents and carers of children and young people who are on the waiting list for a service or intervention from CAMHS are invited to join each month, with regular talks on subjects such as Anxiety, self-harm, ASD/ADHD pathway.</p> <p>Get Togethers have also continued to be a huge support to families in unprecedented times. Although they offer support, they also offer HPCN access to local families and an opportunity to ask their key issues and feed these back to the LA.</p> <p>HPCN, feel they support and empower parents and carers with knowledge and resilience so they can get the best outcomes for their children and young people.</p>
<p>Areas of focus</p>	<p>HPCN want to increase their reach in harder to reach areas such as ethnic minority families or where English is the second language. It has been hard to engage in some areas of Hampshire, namely the New Forest and Havant areas.</p> <p>HPCN have a large piece of work with CAMHS starting in Autumn.</p> <p>HPCN would like to boost the Get Together numbers and reach more families</p> <p>HPCN would like to focus on improving the communication with all parents to advise what work they have been doing.</p>
<p>What we are doing about it</p>	<p>HPCN have a new group of parent representatives purely for the CAMHS work.</p> <p>HPCN are working towards improving their presence in harder-to-reach areas, although this has been challenging during covid.</p> <p>HPCN are continually seeking new ways to make parents aware of the network and growing the membership.</p>

SEN Support and Inclusion within mainstream education settings

34. The SEND Code of Practice is clear in its expectation of services to meet need at two defined 'levels' along the SEND pathway; firstly, SEN Support and secondly, with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan). The latter is for those children and young people whose needs are more significant and often longer term, requiring intervention at a deeper and often more complex level. For most children and young people with SEND, however, additionality and/or adjustments to provision at the SEN Support level can be sufficient to meet their needs very effectively.
35. Provision and outcomes at the level of SEN Support is a priority identified by the Local Authority. There is recognition, supported by data, that provision at the level of SEN Support needs strengthening, to secure consistently strong attainment and broader outcomes relative to the national picture for this group of children and young people. Additionally, stronger, and more effective provision at an earlier stage on the SEND pathway can and should reduce the need for an EHCP for some children and young people and therefore manage demand down.
36. All local authorities are required to have guidance relating to ordinarily available provision, which is a term that applies to SEN Support. Following extensive stakeholder engagement including school leaders and staff, children and young people, parents/carers, and a range of professionals, the SEN Support Guidance for Schools has undergone a significant revision. The new document was shared widely in February 2021 and has been very positively received by a range of stakeholders. The document can be found here: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/HIAS/SEN-Support-Guidance-for-Schools.pdf>
37. A SEN Support Strategy which identifies various workstreams through which the local authority intends to strengthen provision at this level has been shared widely and is now in the implementation phase. Whilst the new guidance is a powerful tool to underpin improvements, it is only part of the wider strategy. The drive moving forward is fundamentally to influence practice in the classroom and inclusive cultures across education settings. All maintained schools receive an annual one-day visit from HIAS (Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service). In the academic year 2021-22, SEN Support will be a key area of focus, whereby current provision, and ways to promote further developments and improvements will be explored.
38. A comprehensive professional learning programme is available through HIAS and wider teams such as HIEP (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Education Psychology) and STAS (Specialist Teacher Advisor Service), to raise the profile of SEN Support and strengthen the skills and knowledge of school leaders and their staff. This includes development opportunities targeted at teachers in the early stages of their careers, SENCOs (special educational needs co-ordinators), new and experienced headteachers, and governors. We are also liaising with local teacher training providers to

influence thinking and deepen knowledge as part of the learning towards gaining a teaching qualification.

39. For settings catering for children and young people who are pre and post school age, similar guidance and strategies are being developed to align to those of the school sector, so there is consistency and continuity through the age ranges.

40. Strengths	<p>A clear focus on SEN Support through the work of the Education and Inclusion Branch and across education settings of all ages.</p> <p>Revised SEN Support Guidance which has received very positive feedback both internally from a range of stakeholders and externally; this can underpin practice moving forward.</p> <p>A clear strategy to implement our intentions and achieve our goals.</p>
Areas of focus	<p>Reaching and influencing all settings and frontline practitioners across a large and complex education system; there are over 10,000 teachers alone that we wish to reach, plus support staff.</p> <p>Realising, embedding, and sustaining changes in both practice and culture across multiple settings.</p>
What we are doing about it	<p>Delivery of the strategy.</p> <p>Working in close partnership with education settings and using existing strong, professional relationships to influence the system.</p> <p>Working positively with parent/carer forums to ensure stakeholder partnership and influence continues, with a shared aim.</p>

SEN Out-County Placements

41. As of September 2021, there were 645 children and young people with SEN placed in independent/non-maintained schools (INMSS) or independent specialist colleges. This was 572 at the same point last year, which is a 13% increase. Many placements are made on a residential basis because of home school distance and all the children and young people concerned have an EHC Plan.
42. The total annual cost 2020/21 to the High Needs Funding Block for the out-county placements was £37.1 million (this includes the SEN funded element of placements joint funded with health and social care). This is £6.77 million more than the annual costs for 2019/20.

43. The total number of children and young people in independent non maintained out-county placements and the average cost of these placements are at the highest levels to date.
44. Independent placements can be very effective and lead to positive outcomes for the child/young person through specialist provision which might not be available through local maintained special provision. However, educating children away from their local community can lead to the fracturing of the child/young person's support networks and the monitoring through annual reviews can be more difficult.
45. Since October 2017, SEN staff have been tasked specifically to attend annual reviews for children and young people educated in independent placements, focusing specifically on Year 9 and above. The aim was to ensure improved transition planning for young people in independent placements and, where it was clearly in the interests of the child/young person, to bring them back to Hampshire provision.
46. In 2017/18 (academic year) 118 annual reviews were attended. There were 46 students identified, where it was in their best interests to cease their education placement, or move to a more cost-effective in-house placement, resulting in a cost avoidance of £2.2m in 2018/19 (academic year). In 2018/19 (academic year), a further 180 annual reviews were attended, and 60 placements were amended as a result. The gross cost avoidance is estimated to be approximately £2m and it is assumed that this work will continue each year. Whilst the number of young people placed in INMSS continues to be high, this is being offset by the work to bring back young people whose needs are better met in their local community.

47.

Strengths	Attending annual reviews to bring young people back into their local community.
Areas of focus	To utilise the additional staffing resource made available to the SEN Service to continue attendance at annual reviews in independent provisions from Year 9 onwards where expectations regarding the long-term plan for the young person are clarified with a view to the out of county placement ceasing and that a properly planned transition plan is in place for when the young person moves into adulthood. Negotiate with out of county providers in respect of more cost-effective placements, for example through block purchasing arrangements.
What we are doing about it	The SEN Service has increased the number of caseworkers with the additional staffing resource enabling improved attendance at annual reviews at out of county placements in partnership with the Independent Futures Team (IFT) in Adult Health and Care Services. A specific workstream is in place to explore and negotiate with independent providers with the intention of securing more cost-effective placements, along with other areas of discretionary spend.

SEN Capital Place Planning Strategy (specialist provision)

48. As part of the statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places, including special school places, a comprehensive analysis of school places and forecast numbers has been undertaken. Forecasting for the growth in demand for specialist provision is complex; appropriately incorporating recent trends in EHC Plan assessments, changes in needs of pupils and how they are best met by an evolving service.
49. The total number of maintained SEND places available in specialist and resourced provision in Hampshire, at the end of the last academic year, 2020/21, is 76 places in maintained nurseries and an additional 90 hours per Early Learning Group, of which there are 3 (this figure doesn't include special schools that take children from 2 years old); 1745 primary places; 2040 secondary places and 936 places in colleges. For colleges students, these range from foundation level (in small bespoke classes) to Level 3 students. This figure doesn't include pupils, aged 16-19, in our maintained schools.
50. The Department for Education (DfE) allocated Hampshire £6.4m SEND capital grant for three years (2017-2020) and a further £6.8m was allocated in March 2021. Plans for this funding were initially published in March 2018 and updated annually and include a range of projects to increase specialist school places across the County at both primary and secondary level.
51. Hampshire's first Free Special School, Austen Academy, opened in April 2021. This is a 125-place school in Basingstoke for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and social/communication difficulties, with Catch 22 being the approved sponsor. Hampshire has also committed £13.5m for a 90-place co-educational provision for pupils aged 10-16 years with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs at Samuel Cody School in Farnborough, which is due to open in September 2022.
52. Specialist places currently being developed are as follows:

Provision	By when	Number of places
Special Schools	2021/22	112
	2022/23	128 minimum
Resource Provisions	2021/22	42 minimum
	2022/23	29 minimum
INMSS	2021 - 2023	130

53. This work will help strengthen our provision offer for the growing number of children with EHC Plans in our local area.

54.	Strengths	Countywide data available on projected growth and therefore strategic planning possible regarding specialist places.
	Areas of focus	To understand the uncertainties in our forecasting model and intelligently apply the daily experience of the SEN service and schools to ensure our forward strategy is responsive to evolving pressures.
	What we are doing about it	Analysing projected growth data against actual data and building in flexibility to adjust agreed place numbers (APN) to reflect need. Joining sufficiency requirements with overall SEN strategy.

SEND Hampshire Area Preparation for Adulthood

55. It is our ambition to ensure that all young people have the aspiration, opportunity, and support to live fulfilling and independent lives, placing a clear emphasis on a strong education and training offer that provides a pathway to future employment. Applying a person-centred, strength-based approach, young people with SEND in Hampshire can – and do - access a broad range of services and provisions that support their successful transition to adulthood. We are making good progress against the following preparation for adulthood themes.
56. **Employment** - We have developed a county wide, joined up and high performing employability offer for SEND young people which focuses on maximising progression into sustained and paid employment. ‘All our Talents’ is the name given to the Hampshire SEND employability plan. It has been developed following direct consultation with young people and reflects what they told us was important to them to lead a fulfilling life. The underlining premise of the plan is that accessing employment (‘a good job’) supports strong outcomes across all four elements of the PfA framework – independent living, good health and wellbeing, and community inclusion.
57. As part of the All our Talents action plan, four SEND Employability Hubs became operational in Autumn 2020. Designed around a strong employment pathway, and premised on employer engagement, the first four hubs are in Eastleigh, Basingstoke, Farnborough, and Alton. Eighty places were made available from September 2020, and 55 learners started. This is regarded as a strong start in the context of the global pandemic and the impact it has had – and continues to have – on employer-based work placements, a core aspect of the offer. Nonetheless, strong economic recovery has given us the confidence to extend the programme and a further four hubs will open in Autumn 2021 – Gosport, Brockenhurst, Totton, and Andover. A supported

employment provider, Ways into Work, has been appointed to support the pilot including employer engagement and Tutor professional development.

58. **Independent Living** – The primary enabler of independent living for young people with SEND is to secure paid employment (a ‘good job’). In addition to the employment hubs the offer includes (but is not limited to):
- Embedded support of life skills within post 16 provision.
 - Person-centred travel training, supporting individuals to access and use public transport, included to access work-placements and employment.
 - Care Leaving team’s PROJECT-I initiative, supporting individuals to explore and address practical barriers that is preventing their transition to independence.
 - Independent Futures key workers attached to each schools/college to support transition to independent living.
59. From Autumn 2022, we will also be opening to four new Independence Hubs in FE colleges (post 16 resource provision). Each Hub will support the needs of young people with complex needs, helping them develop independence skills within the communities where they will live and work. the provision will be an alternative to high-cost independent placements, and the network will be extended to six or eight Hubs by 2025, funding allowing. Each Hub will provide up to 40 places across five-year groups each.
60. **Community Inclusion** – Young people with SEND have the same aspiration as their peers. Again, in the context of supporting them to develop the skills, knowledge, and experiences to live fulfilling and independent lives, we work with a range of organisations to ensure they the same opportunities and experiences as everyone else.
61. **Health and Well Being** – The offer in Hampshire is broad against this theme and includes (but is not limited to):
- Hampshire Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) outreach services and Fit-Fest, a festival-style event for children, young people, parents, and professionals.
 - NHS ‘ready, steady, go’ programme
 - No Limits - targeted emotional health and wellbeing courses, Inc. culture/knife crime, cyber safety, child sexual exploitation and drug/alcohol misuse. LGBTQ+ children and young people will be able to access Breakout Youth.

62. Strengths	<p>Established a strong employability pathway, post 16, for young people with SEND.</p> <p>Significant expansion of the young adult Extra Care supported living accommodation. This has facilitated an increase in supported living placements from x 45 in 2017 to x 91 in 2019. Further development ongoing.</p>
Areas of focus	<p>Further development of post 16 and post 19 data to inform strategic commissioning</p> <p>Clarity of the Post 19 offer, which includes identifying any gaps in provision locally to ensure any development aids keeping more children local.</p>
What we are doing about it	<p>The 'All our Talents' plans will -</p> <p>Eight Employability Hubs operational by Autumn 2021 (200 places) – additional from Autumn 2022</p> <p>Direct HCC delivery (Hampshire Achieves) Supported Internship programme – with plan for a county-wide Supported Apprenticeship offer from 2022 (part funded by the HCC levy transfer)</p> <p>Four Independence Hub (post 16 recourse provision) opening from Autumn 2022 offering 40 places each (Yeats 12- 16) - additional by 2025</p>

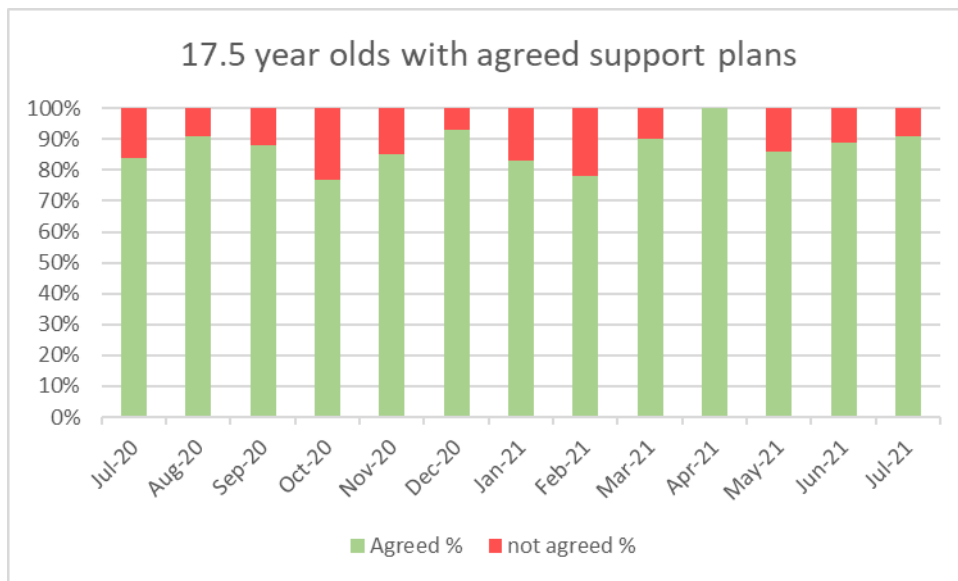
Independent Futures Team (IFT)

63. Adult Social Care provide statutory services to young adults aged 18 – 25. The Independent Futures Team (IFT) support young people and their families who are transitioning to adulthood. Adult Social Care and IFT are responsible for assessing Care Act Eligibility, providing Support plans for those who are eligible and supporting them to transition from Children's to Adult Services. Adult Social Care and IFT provide signposting, information, and advice to those who do not meet eligibility criteria, both through face-to-face meetings and online advice and information service through our dedicated websites Connect to Support Hampshire and The Local Offer.
64. The IFT work with people from age 14 depending on need until they are 25 or settled. Settled is defined as a young person who has a support plan which has been in place for at least three months and that the person is not in residential educational and will not need alternative accommodation in the next 12 months.
65. Hampshire Adult Social Care operates a Hampshire first policy, to ensure that young people maintain links with their networks and communities. This includes a focus on reduction of young people being educated out of county and on ensuring young people are supported to return to their local communities when education has ceased.
66. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected both the young people IFT work with and the capacity within the team. As with all areas of adult social care

following a reduction in demand during 2020, IFT has seen a significant increase in demand for placements during the first part of 2021. This has been caused by increased pressure on family units, caused in part by the closure of services and increased time spent at home. Additionally, there has been a significant increase of young people with severe mental health needs transitioning to adults' services. For the same reasons, there have also been increased incidents of placement breakdowns for those in 24-hour care. Along with other departments in Adults Health and Care resource was reallocated from IFT to pandemic response work in the early part of 2020.

- 67. A strategic decision was taken during quarter 2 of 2020/21 to prioritise the transition team, ensuring capacity was protected from Covid response work. The previous HCC SEND CYP select committee report, identified a key area of focus to consistently meet IFT's key performance indicator, 85% 17.5 years olds known to the service to have an agreed support plan in place for when they turn 18. As a result of the early strategic decision to prioritise this work, this KPI has been achieved for 8 months of the last 13 months, and every month in this financial year.

68.



69.	Strengths	<p>Strong joined up work between the Clinical Commissioning Group and Hampshire County Council for young people. This ensures that those children with the most complex needs benefit from a holistic approach receiving timely support from the agency with the right expertise.</p> <p>Consistently ensuring most 17.5 years olds have a support plan in place for when they turn 18.</p>
	Areas of focus	<p>Developing effective care pathways for young people with significant mental health needs, to transition to adult services.</p> <p>Improved working relationships with education providers to ensure social care and education input is aligned. This will support sustained skill attainment for young people when they transition out of education.</p>
	What we are doing about it	<p>HCC's adult mental health service is delivering in reach support to the IFT, to mentor the team and support the specialist mental health worker. The mental health team is working directly with young people earlier, where needs are complex. A strategic board is being established to oversee this work.</p> <p>Developing the role of link workers with schools in the private and public sector. Building into practise more and extended face to face and observation visits in settings by Social Workers.</p>

Role of the Designated Clinical Officer and Health Services

70. The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the Local Authority (LA) are committed to joining up services where possible, reducing duplication of effort, and improving the experiences of children and young people with SEND.
71. The five CCGs appointed a Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) in November 2019, following a period of no DCO. The post holder is also the Associate Director for SEND. Following the Ofsted/CQC inspection on the Isle of Wight, the capacity of the DCO role has been increased to include a part time Deputy DCO and a SEND Programme Manager.
72. The role of the DCO is a core leadership position within the Directorate Strategy and Partnerships and carries significant responsibility for the delivery of the position portfolio. The areas of responsibility currently include the following:
 - Fulfil the Designated Clinical Officer function across the two local areas
 - Quality assure the health element of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHC Plans)

- Work with community paediatricians, providers, and the Council to ensure statutory timeframes are adhered to
 - Ensure that health providers are commensurate with their duties in early identification of SEND
 - Manage the interface between the NHS and the council so that there is a timely response for Tribunals requests and attend court as directed to represent the CCGs
 - Develop and maintain the Self Evaluation framework and commensurate improvement plans and ensure compliance for Ofsted / CQC inspections
 - Support the delivery of S117 care plans and Care Education Treatment Reviews
 - Lead for Transforming Care Partnership
 - Lead on the Procurement of Integrated Therapies
 - Lead on the Joint Commissioning Boards of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Councils
 - Ensure local placed based commissioning activity is delivered within designated Integrated Care Partnership area.
73. The NHS 10-year plan supports the development of closer working relationships between health and social care and between service providers. The establishment of Integrated Care Systems enables us to deliver our vision of joint working quicker with the leadership of services operating closer together at local delivery system levels. The NHS 10-year plan also re-enforces the ambition of services operating across the 0-25 age range, removing the challenging transition stage at 18, where many traditional services ended.
74. Across all our services there are opportunities for improving the way we deliver our services. The CCGs are keen to strengthen our partnership working with the LA and have been working on several system transformation programmes:
- Aligned procurement programme between health, social care, and education colleagues, we have been re-designing how services are commissioned, such as Health Visiting, School Nursing, immunisation and vaccinations, therapies, and parenting.
 - Health and Social Care are transforming the way we provide Children's Continuing Care Services, integrating the workforce, improving decision making and governance processes and joint funding of packages of care.

75. The NHS 10-year plan provides us with an opportunity to continue our transformation programme and focus on those children who are most vulnerable:
- Children with Learning Disabilities and Autism
 - Children with Eating Disorders
 - Children with Mental Health conditions
76. Covid had minimal impact upon the delivery of the NHS10-year plan and the Maternity and Child Health (MACH) team as they swiftly moved to working wholly in an online manner. The DCO team continued to deliver a full service and worked with partner agencies to ensure all children with EHCP's were able to access education, including rolling out mask-fit training for education staff performing Aerosol Generating Procedures for children with tracheostomies etc. We have successfully re-procured our Autism diagnostic service and are now working on re-procuring our Therapies service with partner agencies and providers. We have also propitiously bid for NHS England funding to support autism projects in schools to better support pupils showing traits of Autism and are currently in process of submitting a further NHS England bid for children with Learning Difficulties to increase their access to annual health checks.

77.	Strengths	<p>Multi Agency Resource and Special Education Needs Panel in place and jointly attended by NHS and Local Authority</p> <p>Joint Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Transformation Plan - priorities of the plan are governed and delivered through joint strategic priorities (Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People in Hampshire 2019-22).</p> <p>The County Council Primary Behaviour Service is jointly commissioned with Hampshire CCGs to identify and support children with distressed behaviour and neurodevelopmental presentations</p>
	Areas of focus	<p>Improve support for emotionally vulnerable children – Mental Health Support Workers</p> <p>Re-procure our autism diagnostic service with an emphasis on reducing waiting times. Further enhancing our service by increasing our pre and post diagnostic offer and removing barriers to accessing services.</p>
	What we are doing about it	<p>Strengthening our approach to improving waiting times for CAMHS through working closely with our main provider and looking at innovative solutions such as the use of technology.</p>

First-Tier Tribunal and the Single Route of Redress: Two-year national trial and implications for Health and Social Care

78. Parents and young people can bring appeals to SENDIST under the Children and Families Act 2014.
79. The SEND Regulations enable the Tribunal to make non-binding recommendations about health and social care needs or provision as part of an appeal by a parent or young person relating to:
- a decision by the LA not to issue an EHC plan
 - a decision by the LA not to carry out a re-assessment for a child/young person who has an EHC plan
 - a decision by the LA not to amend an EHC plan following a review or reassessment
 - a decision by the LA to cease to maintain an EHC plan
 - the description of the child/young person's special educational needs in an EHC plan
 - the special educational provision specified in an EHC plan
 - the school or other educational institution named in an EHC plan
80. On 20 July 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed the extended powers given to the SEND Tribunal to hear appeals and make non-binding recommendations about health and social care aspects of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, provided those appeals also included education elements, will continue. The decision was taken following the conclusion of the independent evaluation of the National Trial.
81. These appeals will be known as 'Extended Appeals'. The independent evaluation considered the impact of the trial on value for money on the public purse; the experiences and outcomes of families; and impacts on Local Authorities (LAs) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)
82. The policy aims of the extended powers remain as they were throughout the National Trial, i.e., to:
- create a more holistic, person-centred view of the child or young person's needs at the Tribunal
 - bring appeal rights in line with the wider remit of EHC plans
 - to encourage joint working between education, health, and social care commissioners and to bring about positive benefits to children, young people, and parents
83. The Tribunal continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Hearings were moved to video or telephone hearings, or (if parties' consent) on the papers. There was an increased availability from the Judiciary to attend hearings due to not having to travel to a physical court. Feedback from parties, LA's and settings indicated that attending a hearing from their own

home or a school setting was far less daunting. For now, hearings will remain as remote hearings and there is an anticipation of a transition period for hybrid hearings.

- 84. As a result of the Tribunal continuing to operate there was no delay to hearings due to Judicial availability /capacity.
- 85. The Number of Appeals Registered in 2020 was 188. To date in 2021 there are 161 registered appeals. In September 2021 the appeal rate is up 7.5% on the previous year. As the SEND team make more decisions, more rights of Appeal are issued to parents.

86. Strengths	Several appeals are being withdrawn by the parent ahead of first response indicating that caseworkers are working with families to come to an early resolution in an Appeal.
Areas of focus	<p>Ensuring that all staff within the SEND team and wider support family (Social care, CCG etc) have a thorough understanding and ability to apply the legislation found in the Children and Families Act(CfA) 2014 in their work accurately, alongside other legislation such as the Children Act 1989. This ensures processes are followed, decision making is robust, and less challenge brought at SENDIST, JR or otherwise.</p> <p>Systems and processes within each service need to be brought in closer alignment to aid decision making and communication.</p>
What we are doing about it	Supporting colleagues in education and social care with their duties in relation to the Extended Powers. Initial training is being delivered by the legal team in September and additional training materials and resources will be made available during the Autumn of 2021

Hampshire Local Offer

- 87. The Hampshire Local Offer provides information and advice about services and support available across education, health and social care for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (0-25) and their families. It is a statutory local authority responsibility.
- 88. Part of the Contact and Engagement Manager role is to ensure that the content is up-to-date, accessible and meets the needs of families, children, and young people. A key part of this work is to undertake quality assurance of the website, and this is through a peer review process with other local authorities.

89.	Strengths	<p>The breadth and depth of content on the Hampshire Local Offer, providing a central source of information from across Children’s Services and our partner organisations, with newly refreshed information on Health and Short Breaks.</p> <p>Engaged Steering Group driving improvements to the Local Offer, comprising of staff from across HCC, partner organisations, parents, and a young person.</p> <p>An established feedback mechanism, whereby feedback from users is received, acted upon, and used to identify gaps or concerns. Feedback is transparent through the Local Offer Annual Report and new information page on the Offer.</p> <p>Accessible information through filter options / search results.</p> <p>Categories and sections of the Local Offer were originally chosen by parents and young people through co-production to highlight the key areas of support they wanted to see.</p>
	Areas of focus	<p>Re-building networks and re-establishing co-productive groups with partners, parents/carers and young people that have been harder to maintain during the COVID-19 pandemic. These groups can then be utilised when making changes and improvements.</p> <p>Establishing a clearer customer journey through the pages, including mapping out pathways of support, to ensure parents and young people can easily find the resources or services they need. Improving accessibility of the pages, particularly for use on mobile devices.</p> <p>Review and development of content on the Local Offer – ensure directory is up to date and that there is useful information available for parents and young people.</p> <p>Continuing to raise awareness and build trust in the Local Offer following a decrease in web hits during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Ensuring continued buy-in from HCC teams and partners and ownership over their information for the Local Offer.</p> <p>Bring the governance and administration of the Local Offer and FISH into line with the wider Children’s Services Contact and Engagement Strategy.</p>

<p>What we are doing about it</p>	<p>Undertaking an in-depth review and revamp of the Local Offer pages with teams across HCC, partner organisations, parents, and young people. This will include in-person focus groups and virtual engagement. The overall outcomes from the revamp will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review of all content from all services • enhancing the customer journey through the webpages so parents and young people can easily find the key information to them • overhaul of the layout, look and feel of the pages to enhance navigation and usability. • Increasing accessibility, including better use on mobile devices. <p>Supporting Hampshire schools and settings in reviewing and publishing details about their inclusive offer and their SEN Information Reports, whilst continuing to promote self-service.</p> <p>Seeking approval to establish a dedicated social media presence on Facebook and Instagram for our Offer in Hampshire to promote services for families and young people, as well as the pages themselves.</p> <p>Creating a new matrix management process for the Local Offer, so that the administration of the pages is resourced appropriately across the Children’s Services department.</p> <p>Ensuring teams across the Council and are partners are aware of what information they hold on the Local Offer so it can be kept up to date.</p> <p>Improving monitoring data around the Local Offer and setting clear KPIs.</p>
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SEND Ofsted CQC Inspection

90. The Hampshire local area was inspected under the joint Ofsted and CQC SEND Inspection framework in March 2020. The outcome of the inspection was that the Local Area was not required to produce a Written Statement of Action. This is a significant achievement as most Local Authorities have received the requirement to produce a Written Statement of Action.
91. The inspection involved services from education, health, and care across a wide variety of agencies including the local authority and the NHS. The five-day inspection took the form of various meetings with professionals, parents/carers and children and young people. In addition, a range of documents were submitted to the inspection team including the self-evaluation summary.
92. Following the successful inspection, the Local Area received a final report in the form of a letter which detailed the strengths of the local area and areas for development. The table below highlights the key points. A post-inspection

action plan is being developed based on the areas for development and input from all those who took part in the inspection, including parents and carers. This will be monitored through the Lead Officers group and the SEND Board will have overall accountability for the plan.

93.	<p>Strengths</p>	<p>Leaders are highly ambitious for children and young people with SEND in Hampshire to succeed. Both leaders and practitioners are passionate about improving the lived experience for children and young people with SEND and their families.</p> <p>Hampshire is an area that knows itself well. Leaders have honestly and accurately identified where improvements are needed and know what they need to do.</p> <p>Professionals work together effectively in the early years to identify young children's needs.</p> <p>There are many examples of strong collaborative working between professionals to support schools and settings to successfully include children and young people with SEND.</p> <p>Positive work is under way to prepare young people for adulthood. There are many strong examples of support for young people to promote employability. Leaders have well considered plans in place to broaden this work and promote wider preparation for adulthood outcomes.</p> <p>Overall children and young people with SEND achieve well in Hampshire.</p>
	<p>Areas of focus</p>	<p>Communication between parents, schools and services need to improve. Ensure that parents are aware of changes made and that they can see the good work that is going on.</p> <p>Improve co-production with parents/carers and children and young people. Although some good examples, it is not consistent and needs to improve in schools too.</p> <p>The number of children and young people with complex needs is continuing to increase. Therefore, it is important that the capacity of the DCO team is subject to regular review to ensure that it can cope with increasing demand.</p> <p>The timeliness and quality of EHC Plans needs to improve and plans are in place for this, but the improvements have not yet embedded.</p> <p>Improve the Local Offer so parents/carers know that it exists and can find the information they require more readily.</p> <p>Produce and deliver on the Joint Commissioning Strategy.</p>

	<p>Children and young people receiving SEN support do not achieve as well as the same group of children nationally in key stages 2 and 4.</p> <p>Some children and young people still waiting too long for neuro developmental assessments.</p>
What we are doing about it	Action plan has been drafted from the identified areas for development. This is being monitored through the Lead Officers group and the SEND Board will have overall accountability for the plan.

94. The DfE and Ofsted are currently drafting a new Local Area Inspection Framework which is due out for consultation. Hampshire will ensure it contributes to the feedback request and once the final framework is published the Self Evaluation Form and Action plan will be updated to reflect the Local Authority's strengths and areas for improvement.

Consultation and Equalities

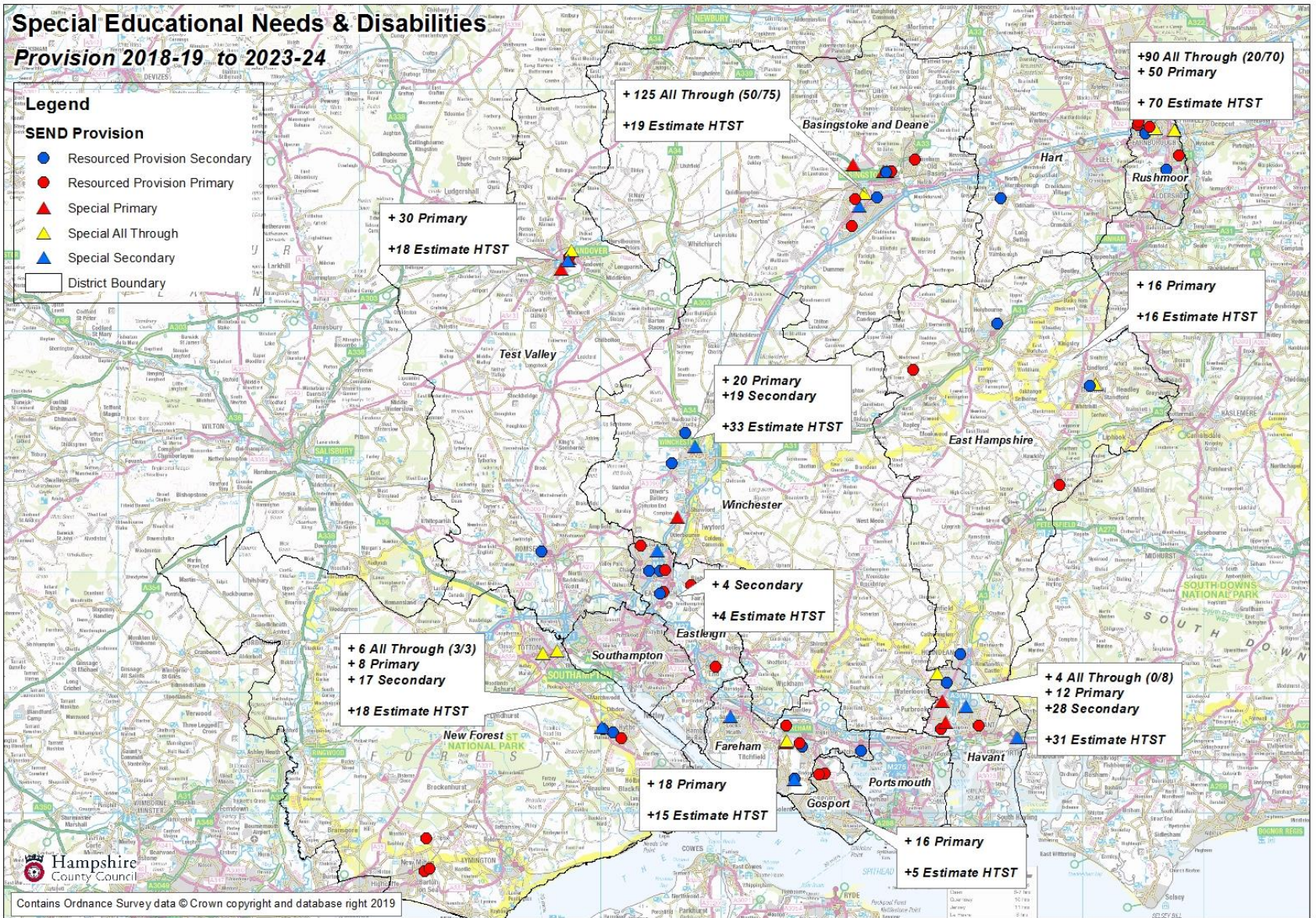
95. No consultation or equalities impact assessments have been undertaken as this is an information update.

Conclusions

96. There has been good progress with the continued embedding of the SEND Reforms across the Hampshire area which was recognised during the Ofsted/CQC inspection in March 2020. As evidenced in this report, there is more work to do particularly with regards to the timeliness of EHCPs but good progress is being made. There is also more development required across education, health, and social care services to ensure that all services are delivering the requirements of the Code of Practice. This work aims to further improve how needs are met and outcomes improved for children and young people with SEND 0-25 in Hampshire.

Appendix One – [Local Area SEND Ofsted Inspection Final Report](#)

Appendix Two - Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Provision 2018-19 to 2023-24



REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> SEND Reforms Implementation	<u>Date</u> 16 Sept 2015
Hampshire SEND Reforms Implementation Programme (Ofsted and CQC feedback)	25 May 2016
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reforms Hampshire area post implementation update	8 Nov 2017
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> Children and Families Act [Part 3 SEND] 2014 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted	<u>Date</u> September 2014
Statutory Guidance: SEND Code of Practice 0-25 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf	January 2015
Local area SEND inspection framework (Ofsted and CQC) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework	April 2016

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation).
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This report is an information update for the Children and Young People Select Committee and therefore no impact has been identified.

3. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

This report is an information update for the Children and Young People Select Committee and therefore no impact has been identified

4. Climate Change:

This report is an information update for the Children and Young People Select Committee and therefore no impact has been identified

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	10 November 2021
Title:	Holiday Activities and Food Programme – Summer Delivery
Report From:	Director of Children’s Services

Contact name: Suzanne Smith, Assistant Director, Children’s Services

Tel: 01962 846270

Email: Suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the overall performance of the summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme.

Recommendation(s)

2. To note the progress made in delivering the HAF programme to benefits-eligible free school meal children and young people across Hampshire

Executive Summary

3. A presentation will be given to the Select Committee outlining operational and financial performance of the HAF programme over the summer delivery period. The presentation contains some typical feedback from participants and their families that gives a snapshot of the beneficial impact of the programme. The presentation also summarises lessons learned and an early indication of the size and shape of the Christmas HAF programme.

Finance

4. The presentation contains no new financial implications.

Consultation and Equalities

5. The presentation is provided for information and contains no new equalities implications.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

6. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

7. The presentation contains no climate change implications.

Other Key Issues

8. None

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
COVID Winter Grants	9 December 2020
COVID Winter Grants – Holiday Activities and Community Grants	2 February 2021
HAF Grant Recommendations	22 February 2021
HAF Grant Recommendations	8 June 2021
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Department for Education: Grants to fund local coordination of free holiday activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children during 2021.	February 2021

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

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Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment: Equalities Impact Assessment:

Name of project or proposal (required): Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Programme

Is this project a Transformation project? (required): Neither

Name of accountable officer (required): Suzanne Smith

Email (required): suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk

Department (required): Children's Services

Date of assessment (required): 05/10/2021

Is this a detailed or overview EIA? (required): Overview

Describe the current service or policy. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

The Department for Education (DfE) has provided every local authority in England funding to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, for children eligible for benefits related free school meals. The programme covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. Hampshire County Council have been awarded a total of £3,319,940. This EIA covers Christmas 2021 provision.

Geographical impact (required): All Hampshire

Describe the proposed change. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

Hampshire County Council is distributing its DfE allocation via two grant streams for Christmas provision;

Grant Type A – For childcare places in existing schemes/clubs or new schemes/clubs being proposed in priority and rural areas;

Grant Type B – For Christmas holiday events, short activities, innovative projects and initiatives targeting priority and rural areas, older children & young people (11–16 year olds), and families.

Who does this impact assessment cover? (required): Service users

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? (required): Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

Market engagement was undertaken with a range of providers and with schools to ensure that they were aware of the opportunity for funding, HAF in general and could apply for a grant, if interested. Particular focus was given to areas with known gaps in provision such as rural areas.

Successful applicants will receive a briefing on the HAF principles and other key topics such as safeguarding.

Age (required): Positive

Impact (required): Children and young people (and their families) will benefit from the HAF grant programme as the funding is directed at school age children and young people.

Disability (required): Positive

Impact (required): Organisations funded by HAF are expected to offer inclusive provision so that children and young people with additional needs can attend.

Sexual orientation (required): Neutral

Race (required): Neutral

Religion or belief (required): Neutral

Gender reassignment (required): Neutral

Gender (required): Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership (required): Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity (required): Neutral

Poverty (required): Positive

Impact (required): The HAF funding is directed at children who are benefits eligible for Free School Meals. The funding will mean that they will be able to access free holiday activities and food during Christmas 2021.

Rurality (required): Positive

Impact (required): The HAF funding is to support holiday activities throughout the county. This includes rural areas where activity schemes may not have traditionally operated. Funding will be used to prioritise these areas to encourage organisations to deliver in pockets of the county where there is a lack of existing provision.

Any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment (optional): N/A

Please confirm that the accountable officer has agreed the contents of this form (required): Yes

April – December 2021

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

The HAF Programme

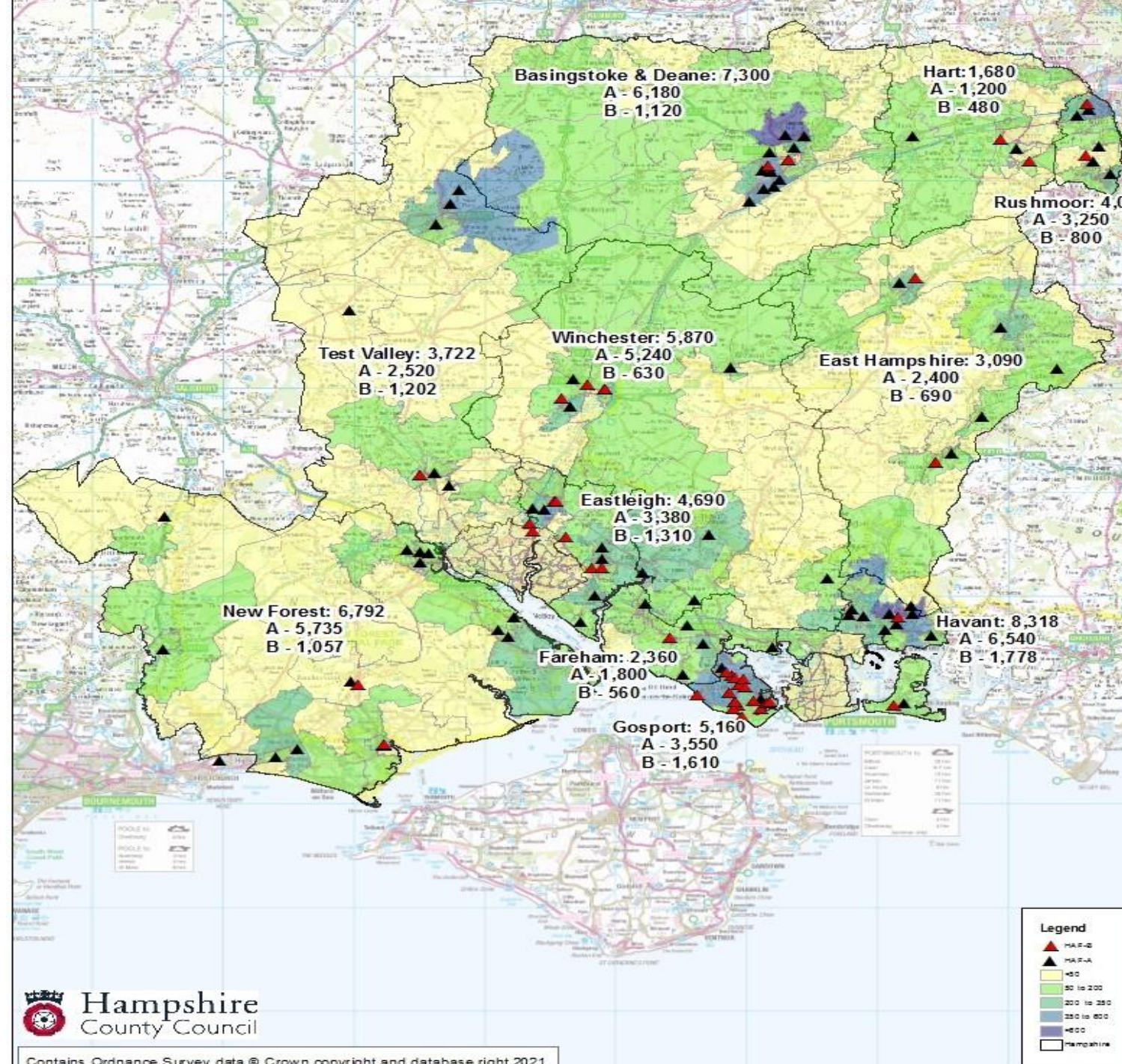
- DfE funding: £3.3M for Hampshire
- To fund holiday activity schemes to include a meal for benefits-eligible FSM children and young people
- Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays
 - one week at Easter
 - four weeks in the summer, and
 - a week at Christmas
- Sessions of at least 4 hours
- Hampshire has c.26,384 FSM eligible children and young people. Aiming to commission 8,000 – 13,000 spaces.

Programme Aims

- To eat more healthily over the school holidays
- To be more active during the school holidays
- To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well being along with their wider education attainment
- To be safe and not to be socially isolated
- To have greater knowledge of health nutrition
- To be more engaged with school and other local services

- On 8 May 2021, Councillor Chadd approved 108 separate grant awards totalling approximately £2.06 million.
- Two types of grant:
 - Grant Type A – Existing or New Childcare Places
 - Grant Type B – Events, short activities, innovative projects and initiatives
- Under Type A applications were received from 40 organisations for 94 projects.
- Under Type B applications were received from 17 organisations for 45 projects.
- The Summer Hampshire HAF Programme through the recommended awards secured 53,032 places, which would provide for 6,778 – 13,556 FSM children to access the scheme.
- There were 59 schools that DFE had informed would be doing Summer Catch up, of which 13 (22%) had HAF projects on site.

Distribution of Benefits-Eligible Free School Meal Children and Young People and Summer supply of places and venues



HAF Performance Summer 2021

	Primary-aged children	Secondary-aged young people
FSM / Non-SEND	8,494	1,093
FSM with SEND	781	100
TOTAL number of HAF-funded attendees	9,275	1,193
Other – paid-for	11,326	1,458
TOTAL number of attendees	20,601	2,651

Provider breakdown

Organisation type	Voluntary or community based	Local Authority	School	Private organisation
No of providers	7	3	6	32

Venue breakdown

Venue type	Number
Post 16	2
Primary	38
Secondary	24
Non school	36

Summer Performance by District

District	Total FSM	Awarded Places	Booked Places	% Booked	Attended Places	% Attended	Spend over Summer
Pan Hampshire (C4S)		2174	2033	94%	1368	67%	
Basingstoke and Deane	4013	7346	6469	88%	5087	79%	£262,669.00
East Hants	1584	2880	2374	82%	1913	81%	£151,729.80
Eastleigh	2990	5390	4932	92%	3735	76%	£194,073.40
Fareham	2073	2387	2672	112%	2314	87%	£129,176.80
Gosport	2480	5830	6479	111%	5761	89%	£201,446.00
Hart	1215	1680	1351	80%	1072	79%	£72,100.00
Havant	4897	8419	8039	95%	7006	87%	£397,814.80
New Forest	3582	5917	5124	87%	4286	84%	£245,443.00
Rushmoor	2056	3670	3757	102%	3228	86%	£117,215.00
Test Valley	2557	2820	3081	109%	2550	83%	£189,438.80
Winchester	1761	4779	4929	103%	4336	88%	£160,640.00
Total	29208	53292	51240	96%	42656	83%	£2,121,746.60

Partners and Signposting

Positive engagement with our partners and offers continually evolving and developing:

Libraries
Book Trust
Southern Health
Public Health
Hampshire CCGs
Job Centre Plus
Citizens Advice
Voluntary Services
Food banks and pantries
HC3S
Police
Schools
Districts and Boroughs



We have made available:

- Contacts for relevant services, e.g. school nurse teams, food pantries.
- Useful information, e.g. the Kooth mental health app for young people
- Links to additional resources, such as Job Centre Plus video clips
- Provider training sessions, e.g. on food and nutrition with Public Health
- Signposting grants awarded, e.g. Winchester youth outreach

Signposting to other services

- ✓ 8 families were helped to seek support through Early Help Services
- ✓ Parents were helped to check eligibility for FSM, Tax Free Childcare and other benefits
- ✓ Hampshire Family Information Service Hub (FISH) sign posted families to local childcare services
- ✓ Book Trust partnered 7 providers across 9 schemes in Havant and Gosport, promoting reading and literacy
- ✓ Parents were able to sign up to employment projects and training
- ✓ Parents of children with SEN were introduced to local support groups
- ✓ Individual families were signposted to get help such as positive behaviour management, encouraging good sleep, bed wetting, emotional wellbeing.
- ✓ 15 referrals were made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and 1 to the LADO
- ✓ 7,000 free toothbrushes and toothpaste were provided to all settings to promote good oral health

Providers also referred families to numerous other services, including: disability advice services; youth clubs; Autism Hampshire; Moving On counselling project; Young Carers; many food banks and community pantries and Fareshare, and many others.

Feedback

My son struggles with childcare and groups of other children but Personal Best have welcomed him and ensured that he is included in all activities in a way that is meaningful to him

My daughter was really apprehensive about attending and the coaches couldn't have been more helpful with her. They settled her, and found "a special job" for her and introduced her to new friends. She runs straight in saying hello to the coach, without a backwards glance now

One child was very shy and nervous to come in, parent asked for more engagement from the coaches. By the end of the week, the child was happy and enjoying club!

It has been a god send having help during the holidays. As a single parent things have been tough but having the kids in your club for a few breaks during the holidays has really helped, you have all been so cheerful and amazing

My children very much enjoyed their time at the camp, so much that my son was upset for days when it finished. Please hold more camps for my sanity (and his)!

Case Studies Summary

A single older mother to 12 year old twins.

- One twin was badly bullied and refused to go to school and family has been working with the school, children's services and CAMHS.
- After amazing activities, great lunches and lots of new friends made she wants to go back to school.

A young girl attended with mum.

- She was very quiet, but soon warmed up to the other children and mixed with them. Mum feels as though she is now getting back on track.

Child A was reported to have possible negative behaviour outbursts.

We agreed a level of behaviour with Child A and Mum and guidelines/rules with the group, so everyone took ownership.

A great week for the young person, who finished with more confidence, a sense of achievement and more maturity, after being integrated into group situations and making new friends.

A Mum who was very anxious when she dropped B to his first session.

- B appeared excited but also nervous, and had a great day. Although he didn't take part in all activities, he did take part in the majority.
- Mum attended the Parent and Carer Hub and spent time with a family support worker, discussing routines at home and the transition arrangements for B accessing secondary school. Mum was able to get further advice regarding her son's needs and what support could be offered to Mum. The pantry is supporting Mum with cheaper shopping bills each week that include support and healthy, nutritious meal recipes.

"My son has absolutely loved it, thank you all so much, considering he really struggles you guys have been amazing with him and with me, thank you again"

A Look Forward to Christmas and 2022

Lessons Learnt from Summer

There were lots of positives with good geographic coverage, a well-received training programme and much improved food and nutritional education.

For Christmas we are looking to:

- Further strengthen the signposting offer through tailored training
- Provide additional training on HAF standards, promotion of the SEND support fund and guidance on inclusion
- Source places for young people, aged 11-16, that are appealing, tailored and appropriately timed

Opportunities

- Christmas-themed activities and programmes are likely to be popular
- Party-type events too
- Dark, colder nights may draw more young people in
- Hot food is a mandatory requirement of all schemes

Challenges

- Uncertainty about the interest of families in taking up places at this time of year
- Fewer providers and reduced capacity due to staff leave
- Adverse weather may limit outdoors activities

2022

- The 2021 Spending Review confirmed continued funding for HAF of £200m per year
- This gives opportunities to commission most providers annually, with small grant rounds for new and innovative schemes, combined with the potential for some spot purchasing.



Any Questions?

In a nutshell I am a single older mother to 12 year old twins who run me ragged sometimes. One twin was badly bullied recently and has become a bit of a recluse and displaying some bad behaviours. She's refused to go to school and we are on an attendance warning. I've tried working with the school, children's services and Camhs. There has been little or no support due to Covid and funding. I found Y services on FB. We always did Play Rangers before. We also signed up to AAA.

So here's our experience. We got pinged by school at end of term so we missed the first week! Lorna was amazing, rang to check we were ok and dropped a bag of food of as we were isolating. It helped so much. It was totally random and unexpected but really appreciated.

So we joined in the second week. The twins loved it. Amazing activities, great lunches and lots of new friends made. I have seen my daughter who was refusing to leave the house absolutely flourish. The youth workers are amazing. They absolutely get it right for each child. It's flexible, some days I negotiated half days with my daughters but when I arrived to collect them I was left waiting in the car park as they wanted to stay.

Now she wants to go back to school as she has made friends there who will be at the same school. Going forward, XXX has signposted us to youth club evenings and we are really looking forward to going to these. The contact is brilliant, regular texts and calls.

Please recognise their efforts. This is a great scheme and I really hope that funding continues. It also gave me a few hours to just re-charge and get balance back after Covid knowing they are in really safe hands.

A young girl (Year 2) attended with mum. She was very quiet, but soon warmed up to the other children and mixed with them.

Speaking to mum, she said how difficult lock down had been for them. Mum lost her job, dad lost his job, mum and dad then split up and are currently going through a divorce. Mum needed to move and then relied heavily on food vouchers from school. She visited the food bank on occasion.

Mum managed to find work as a cleaner during the last lockdown and now has started to work for herself. She feels as though she is now getting back on track. She was signposted to FairShare to assist with easing food bills.

We had heard some concerning reports with regard to Child A and the possible negative behaviour outbursts. Day1 - We agreed a level of behaviour with Child A & mum. Mum was very keen for us to promote good positive behaviour. We then agreed to guidelines/rules with the group, so everyone took ownership & child A could see everyone had a responsibility to behave in a certain manner. Child A had reports of not engaging and ASB & offensive language over the previous week in the community.

We agreed to keep child A very busy and express a very positive attitude towards all the efforts that went into everything they did. We reported back to mum at the end of the day & lavished praise on child A, building up a sense of achievement and pride within them.

Child A engaged in almost all activities but didn't want to really do arty stuff. However Child A made a request to take things home & do with mum, which was great. The next day they told us about what they had done. Child A had a minor melt down after confrontation with other children. They took themselves off to a quiet place & the issue was resolved and forgotten about.

A great week for the young person, who we believe finished with a little more confidence, a sense of achievement and a little more maturity after being integrated into group situations and making new friends. They will also be receiving 1 to 1 support from a youth worker for the next 8 weeks having been referred to our 121 service.

Mum was very anxious when she dropped B to his first session. We had already received a consent form from Mum, so B was discussed in the morning briefing with the staff team on how we would best support B's needs on the activity session. Mum was taken aside as we signed B in to the session.

B initially refused to wear his name badge, so a member of staff said they would wear it and took B in to the main hall for the initial introduction to the session. B appeared excited but also nervous. Mum stated that if there were any issues with B, we would need to call her straight away and she would come and get him. I explained staff were well trained and we had a plan in place for B to have lots of fun and ensure his needs were met. Mum explained about B's ASD, ADHD and Encopresis, what his triggers were and the best way to support him. Mum was reassured and eventually she left.

B had a great day with us, and although didn't take part in all activities, he did take part in the majority. When B did not want to engage a staff member would work with B 121 on activities that he enjoyed. As B had a great first day Mum was comfortable in booking in more sessions with us. B attended 10 of the 16 sessions.

Staff engaged with Mum at the beginning and the end of the day. During one of those engagements Mum explained she was anxious regarding the transition arrangements for BW moving from primary school to secondary school and shared that she often struggled with his behaviours at home, mainly trying to get him off the iPad and doing more active activities together in the community. We discussed Mum accessing the XXX Parent and Carer hub where she would be able to get advice from Family Support Workers on how best to support B at home. Mum attended the following Friday and spent time with a family support worker discussing routines at home and the transition arrangements for B accessing Secondary school.

Following on from this meeting Mum met with SENDIASS and HAMPSHIRE PARENTING NETWORK at the following Parent and Carer hub. Mum was able to get further advice regarding her son's needs and what each organisation could offer Mum. Mum also attended the Family Fun Days, during these days she met with MARVELS AND MELTDOWNS, a Gosport based charity that is run by parents with additional needs for parents of children with additional needs. Mum was also referred to the GOSPORT COMMUNITY PANTRY. The pantry is supporting Mum with cheaper shopping bills each week that include support and health nutritious meal recipes. Mum continues to engage with us and signed B up to our half term Halloween parties next week – we can't wait to see him again!

"My son has absolutely loved it, thank you all so much, considering he really struggles you guys have been amazing with him and with me, thank you again"

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date of meeting:	10 November 2021
Report Title:	Work Programme
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Members Services

Tel: 0370 7791243

Email: members.services@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. To consider the Committee's forthcoming work programme.

Recommendation

2. That the Children and Young People Select Committee consider and approve the work programme.

WORK PROGRAMME – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE – Changes since last meeting

Topic	Issue	Reason for inclusion	10 November 2021	14 January 2022	17 May 2022	July/September 2022
Pre-scrutiny	Consideration of revenue and capital budgets	To pre-scrutinise prior to consideration by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services		X		
Pre-scrutiny	Safeguarding Report – Children's Services	To pre-scrutinise the annual safeguarding report prior to consideration by Cabinet on 7 December	X			
Overview	Autism Assessment Services	Following on from update received at 28 September 2020 Committee, further written updates were requested by the Committee for future meetings on progress made towards improving Autism services for children and young people in Hampshire	X Presentation to Cttee	X	X	X
Overview	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	To provide a regular update on CAMHS in Hampshire, to include progress made to reduce waiting times for access to CAMHS treatment. <i>Last update – September 2021 A further update to be presented in Autumn 2022. At their September 2021 meeting, the Committee requested a further written update when the 103 whole time equivalent additional posts have been filled, if before a year's time.</i>				X (September/November)

Topic	Issue	Reason for inclusion	10 November 2021	14 January 2022	17 May 2022	July/September 2022
Overview	Elective Home Education	To provide an update on elective home education. <i>Last update - November 2019</i> <i>A further update was requested by the Committee.</i>			X	
Overview	Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS)	To receive a biennial update on the Hampshire EMTAS <i>Last update – January 2021</i> <i>Next update 2023</i>				
Overview	Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme Summer 2021	To provide an update on the impact and uptake of the summer scheme.	X			
Overview	SEND	To receive a regular update on SEND	X			
Overview	School attainment	To provide an annual update on attainment of children and young people in Hampshire schools.		X		

Topic	Issue	Reason for inclusion	10 November 2021	14 January 2022	17 May 2022	July/September 2022
Overview	Youth Services across the County	To provide an overview of challenges to Youth Services across the County. Requested by Cllr Porter			X	
Overview	Youth Offending Service	To provide an overview of the youth offending service in Hampshire. Requested by Cllr James			X	
Overview	Personal Education Plans	To provide an overview of Personal Education Plans across the County. Requested by Cllr Wade				

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This is a scrutiny review document setting out the work programme of the Committee. It does not therefore make any proposals which will impact on groups with protected characteristics.