

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date and Time	Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 10.00am
Place	Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, 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 and available for repeat viewing, it may also be recorded and filmed by the press and public. Filming or recording is only permitted in the meeting room whilst the meeting is taking place so must stop when the meeting is either adjourned or closed. Filming is not permitted elsewhere in the building at any time. 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 - 8)

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. UKRAINE & UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN - UPDATE

To receive a presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on Ukraine & Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

7. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE POLICY

To receive a presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the following education and children's social care policy;

- SEND Review: Right Support, Right Place, Right Time – Green Paper
- Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child – White Paper
- National Review of Children's Social Care.

8. POST 16 EDUCATION & SKILLS - AN UPDATE (Pages 9 - 18)

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on Post 16 Education & Skills in Hampshire alongside the Skills & Post 16 Education Act.

9. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY PUBLIC CONSULTATION OUTCOMES (Pages 19 - 48)

To consider a report from the Director of Children's Services for pre-scrutiny on the outcome of the public consultation on changes to the Home to School Transport Policy and for Post-16 Transport services for children and young people, including those with special educational needs.

10. UPDATE ON AUTISM SERVICES COMMISSIONING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HAMPSHIRE (Pages 49 - 60)

To receive a regular information update (written only) on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire, from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Groups.

11. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 61 - 66)

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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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

AT A MEETING of the Children and Young People Select Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the castle, Winchester on Tuesday
17th May 2022

Chairman:
p Councillor Kirsty North

a Councillor Neville Penman	Councillor Gavin James
p Councillor Prad Bains	p Councillor Lesley Meenaghan
a Councillor Jackie Branson	p Councillor Arun Mummalaneni
a Councillor Ann Briggs	a Councillor Jackie Porter
p Councillor Christopher Donnelly	p Councillor Jacky Tustain
a Councillor David Drew	a Councillor Malcolm Wade
p Councillor Juliet Henderson	a Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)
a Councillor Zoe Huggins	

Co-opted members

p Robert Sanders, Church of England Schools Representative
Kate Watson, Parent Governor Representative for Special Schools

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following members;

- Cllr Briggs
- Cllr Drew
- Cllr Huggins
- Cllr Withers Lt Col (Retd)
- Cllr Porter
- Cllr Wade

33. 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 Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 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.

34. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee did not receive any deputations.

36. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked the members of the Select Committee for their work throughout the last year, mindful that the Council's AGM may lead to changes in the committee's membership.

37. **YOUTH SERVICES IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of how Hampshire County Council contributes to supporting young people to succeed and achieved through services across the County.

Members heard how The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is used by Hampshire's Children's Trust partnership to identify priorities to support children and young people. This plan has five overarching priorities for all partners to deliver against: My Health, My Relationships, My Future, My Family and My Community.

It was noted that many youth services in the County are not directly provided by HCC, however there are significant contributions made by the Council to facilitate their delivery.

The Committee received an overview of the main youth services in Hampshire, separated into the corresponding priority of the CYPP.

In response to questions members found that:

- The Family Information Service Hub contained all the information on youth services, but this was a resource which needed to be promoted more effectively.
- Local Children's Partnerships provide support for those wishing to create organisations for young people.
- There may be repercussions for youth services as a result of the national care review currently underway.
- All youth services are available for children in children's homes.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the contents of the report.

38. **HAMPSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (HYOT) REPORT**

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of how work of Hampshire's Youth Offending Team (YOT) during 2021/22.

The Committee heard how Hampshire YOT is a statutory partnership which provides youth justice services for the Hampshire Local Authority Area. The team's role is defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1986 to prevent offending and reoffending by children. The four partners with statutory responsibility for youth offending are the Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health (CCGs). The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, part of the Ministry of Justice provides oversight and support.

The Panel noted the staffing structure of Hampshire's YOT and received an overview of the team's performance which was assessed as 'Good' in 2018, with a target of 'Outstanding' at the next inspection in 2024. Members noted the priorities of the YOT going forwards and the expectations of the Youth Justice Plan being confirmed later in the year.

In response to questions members found that:

- There was a variety of preventative work the YOT undertook, such as that focussed on reducing the risk of young people witnessing domestic violence.
- The County had recently had success in Basingstoke tackling a youth gang via a 'Youth Gang Injunction', however these are difficult to obtain due to the threshold of proof required to identify a group as a 'gang'.
- One of the YOT's most important priorities is reducing the racial disparity, which often requires close working with partner agencies.

RESOLVED:

The Children and Young People Select Committee note the positive work of Hampshire YOT during the last 12 months.

39. **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD AND PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children's Services providing a progress update against the priority areas identified by Ofsted in 2019 in relation to the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB). The report also included an update on the progress made to improve and develop the Personal Education Plan process.

The Committee received an overview of the changes made to the CPB to expand its membership and engagement with external agencies. This included a summary of the various outreach activities board members had undertaken and the items considered by the Board at its meetings.

Members also heard how high-quality PEPs were a key tool for promoting the educational outcomes of Children in Care. They noted the project undertaken jointly between the Children & Families and Education & Inclusion branches of Children's Services to review the process alongside the results and actions taken following it.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the contents of this report and the positive progress made in respect of the Ofsted recommendation.

40. **UPDATE ON AUTISM SERVICES COMMISSIONING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HAMPSHIRE**

The Committee received a written update on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire (see Item 9 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

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

41. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's work programme (see Item 10 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the work programme, subject to any amendments made during the meeting, is agreed.

Chairman, Children and Young People
Select Committee

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children's and Young People Committee
Date:	12 July 2022
Title:	Post 16 Education & Skills – An Update
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Phillip Walker, County Education Manager (Skills & Participation)

Tel: 07540 930270

Email: Phillip.Walker@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on Post 16 Education & Skills in Hampshire.
2. The report also provides an update on the Skills & Post 16 Education Act.

Recommendation(s)

3. That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the contents of the report.

Executive Summary

4. The development of Skills, and the acquisition and retention of Talent in the workforce, is of paramount importance to the recovery of the Hampshire economy. This report seeks to provide the Committee with an update on current developments in post 16 education and skills in Hampshire, national developments that are, and will, impact the sectors, and how the Local Authority, providers and partners are responding to support individuals, the community and employers.
 - 4.1. The report also seeks to provide an update on the skills profile of the County, participation by young people, post 16, the pattern of that participation, and curriculum reforms designed to affect those patterns by strengthening Technical and Work-based (Apprenticeship) pathways.
 - 4.2. Finally, the report appraises the Committee of the range of employment and skills programmes and initiatives that the County Council is directly delivering or partnering, how these are supporting individuals and employers, and what further actions are planned.

Contextual information

5. Hampshire has a large and strong education and skills system. It features the largest single area Further Education and Training network in the country, supports one of the largest local economies in the UK and facilitates high levels of participation and achievement by young people, above national levels.
6. For the current academic year, 2021/22, a total of 35,276 16-19/25 FT places were funded in Hampshire-based DfE funded post 16 providers. This is an increased from 33,277 in the previous year (c. 6% increase).
7. Of the 2021/22 total funded places, 977 places (<3%) that were funded as 'High Needs' (HN) places, and 643 T Level places (<2%). The figures for 2020/21 were 890 (HN) and 166 (T Level).
8. Of the total places funded this academic year, 31,528 (801 HN) are in Further Education colleges (note that three colleges, St Vincent, QMC, Farnborough Sixth Form, are designated Academies). The County Council has a direct allocation for 60 full time places.
9. Hampshire is a 'net importer' of learners, post 16, with approx. 25% of all places in Hampshire post 16 institutions taken by young people who reside in other LA areas, particularly the two cities and Surrey. At an individual college level, non-Hampshire learners account for between approx. 5% and 50% of total enrolments.
10. Colleges are independent corporations established by the Further & Higher Education Act (1992). Except for HN funding and SEND provision (part), they are outside of the Local Authority's funding and assurance regime, directly funded by the DfE using a national funding formula and regulated by Ofsted.
11. The Local Authority has a positive and impactful relationship with Hampshire colleges and wider post 16 network. This facilitates effective delivery of our statutory duties to support participation, post 16, and consequently, high level of participation and achievement by Hampshire's young people.
12. Against a 2020 recorded cohort of 28,660 (16/17-year-olds resident in Hampshire), 97.5% were offered a place in education or training under the September Guarantee entitlement. This compared to 94.3% nationally and 90.9% in the SE region.
13. Participation by young people (in recognised education, training, and employment - EET) was high at 96% in May 2022. This figure reduced to 91% when measuring 'compliant' participation, reflecting a growing cohort of young people in work without formal (regulated) training.
14. NEET (not in education, employment, training) figures remain low in Hampshire and in May 2022 were at 2.3% (665 count), whilst unknowns were

1.9% (551 count), 4.1% combined. By comparison, the 2021 national and SE regional combined averages were 5.5% and 6.4%. Note that the higher SE regional average reflects high unknown numbers in some SE LAs.

15. Broadly, and based on year 12 activity data only, in 2021/22, 53% of Hampshire's school leavers progress to a Sixth Form College or School Sixth Form (including outside Hampshire). Approx. 43% attended a FE College, and the balance to Training or Apprenticeship provider. These figures are based on the official designation of the institution to which they have enrolled and are not in themselves determining of the type of programme a student may follow.
16. Again, based on year 12 activity data only, in 2021/22 approx. 50% of Hampshire's school leavers enrolled on a Level 3 A-level programme as their prime learning goal, whilst 22% are following a Level 3 Technical or Vocational programme. A further 20% are studying at Level 2, primarily in Technical and Vocational subjects but GCSE English and Maths, too. The balance of the cohort is undertaking Apprenticeships (3.5%) and Foundation programmes Inc. SEND pathway provision. Note that a proportion of the cohort will follow a combination of programmes, sometimes at various levels.
17. Curriculum reforms and developments continue to apply to the post 16 sector and are intended to impact on standards and the pattern of participation. A key driver for policy is the want to increase participation in technical qualifications, supporting the future skills needs of the economy. To this end, in 2020 the Government licenced the first three of its new flagship Technical education programme, T levels. [T Levels | The Next Level Qualification](#)
18. T levels are intended to ensure that young people (and employers) have access to high quality, credible, and valued technical skills provision that will deliver the future skills needs of the economy. Offered at Level 3 only, they require 1500 hrs study (Inc. 315 hrs work placement), are the equivalent of three A levels and will eventually be available 23 subjects. T level attract between 72 (pass - DDD) and 166 (distinction* - AAA*) UCAS points.
19. T levels has been developed with relevant sector employers and employer representatives and are based on the same standards as Apprenticeships. A key feature of a T level is the requirement for undertake a 45-day work placement (315 hrs over two year) in an occupationally relevant role. This requires significant engagement and commitment by local employers.
20. To support the implementation of T levels, additional capital and development funds has been made available by government, and to which colleges can bid on a competitive basis. Also, the government has commissioned the Education Training Foundation to provide a national CPD programme for providers offering T levels, building the capacity of the FE workforce to implement the reforms.

21. Employers offering T level placements have also been able to access a grant as an incentive to support this flagship initiative. This is due to be withdrawn in 2022/23 but government has signalled that is looking at how it may further incentivise employers to engage.
22. T levels are designed to be 'rigorous and demanding,' as well as practical and relevant. As T levels are rolled out (a phased roll out is in-train, up to 2024/25), government intends to withdraw funding approval for equivalent BTEC and OCR Technical qualifications, leaving T levels as the only Level 3 technical option, post 16 (in England). Whilst recognising the potential benefits of a more coherent Level 3 technical offer, there exists risk around access, both geographically and educationally.
23. In Hampshire, T levels were first available from 2020 at Fareham College, Peter Symonds College, FCOT, and HSDC. A significant expansion of T levels is planned for September 2022 including delivery at Sparsholt and BCOT. T levels are to be made available in Eastleigh, Gosport, and the New Forest, although first delivery is not due until 2023. Access to T level provision therefore will be variable in the next 36-months and possibly beyond. Provision is also being made in the two cities, on the IOW, and in neighbouring LAs.
24. Funded T level places represented less than 2% of total places in Hampshire in the current academic year, 2021/22. However, significant expansion is anticipated in the coming years. Feedback from the first cohorts has been positive and the first set of T level results are due this summer, 2022.
25. Alongside the development of T levels, government has supported the piloting of a 'pre-T' programme. This is designed as a Level 2 transition programme to support progression to a full T level within 12-months. First run in 2021/22, the programme will be expanded across the county in 2022/23.
26. Access to T levels by learners studying at Level 2 and below is a point of discussion, as is the wider pre-Level 3 offer. Like at Level 3, government is seeking to reform (reduce) the technical and vocational offer at Level 2 to create a more coherent and credible suite of qualifications. Again, this represents both opportunity and risk to learners – the opportunity to follow relevant and valued qualifications that will support progression to employment, the risk that access to a narrower range of qualifications may impact on participation.
27. Other key programme developments include the expansion of Traineeships (Level 2 pre-Apprenticeship programme) and Supported Internships (work-based programme for young people with SEND – and core the County Council's post 16 SEND strategy). Both programmes predate the pandemic but have been afforded greater policy priority to address skills challenges, and to bring to bear everyone's talents to support social and economic wellbeing.

28. The above developments – and many related County Council employment and skills initiatives – are premised on strong employer engagement. Whilst we have witnessed and benefited from employers recognising the value of engaging in such activity, the increasing demand for work placements and the emerging economic environment is likely to place pressure on the system.

Finance

29. Funding for 16-19/25 education and skills is managed by the DfE, not Local Authorities. The exception to this is High Needs funding for SEND provision.
30. Total funding associated with the above places was £181m. This is an increase from £167m in the previous year (c.8% increase). The total includes learner support funding, disadvantage uplift, and Element 2 HN funding. It excludes Adult and Apprenticeship funding, Element 3 HN funding, Higher Education funding, and any other commercial and project funding colleges generate. The total estimated value of the post 16 system in Hampshire, excluding Higher Education and Independent provision, is above £250m.
31. A full list of published 16-19 funding allocations is available from gov.uk at [16 to 19 education: funding allocations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-19-education-funding-allocations)
32. Funding for the County Council's participation support activity, and the associated statutory duties, comes from three sources – LA central grant, DSG shared budget, European Social Fund (to 2023).
33. Funding for strategic, capital, curriculum, and statutory developments such as LSIPs and T levels is managed directly by HM Government. These funds do not come to the Local Authority.

Performance

34. In 2020/21, 'whole cohort' achievement by young people in Hampshire was at or above national and regional averages. Performance by those formerly entitled to FSM and/or with a EHCP varies against these averages.
35. The proportion of young people achieving a full Level 3 qualification by age 19 was 60.3%. This compared to 59.8% nationally and 60.6% for the SE region.
36. Level 3 achievement by age 19 by those previously entitled to FSM and/or with an EHCP was 28% and 27% respectively, both below national and SE regional averages.
37. Level 2 achievement (including English and maths) by age 19 was 73.8%, above both the national and SE regional averages of 70.4% and 72.2% respectively.

38. Level 2 achievement (including English and maths) by age 19 by those formerly entitled to FSM and/or with an EHCP was 41.5% and 35% respectively. This is below the national and SE regional averages for the FSM cohort but above for those with an EHCP.
39. Like schools, post 16 exam results, including A levels, have been subject to alternative assessment regimes because of the pandemic. The last full year exam results are available for is 2019. These showed that, at headline, Hampshire outperformed the national average.
- The average awarded A level grade was B- in Hampshire compared to C+ nationally (state funded and 'all'). The cohort size was 8274.
 - The average awarded grade for Level 3 Tech level qualifications in Hampshire was Distinction- compared to Merit+ (state funded and 'all'). The cohort size was 693.
 - The average grade awarded for Level 3 Applied General (Vocational) qualifications in Hampshire was Distinction- compared Merit+ nationally (state funded and 'all'). The cohort size was 1212.
 - The progress score of post 16 learners taking GCSE English and maths in Hampshire in 2019 was +0.18 and +0.10 respectively. Both these are above the national averages of +0.14 and +0.09 respectively (state only). The cohort size was 2541.

Skills & Post 16 Education Act (2022)

40. This spring, the government introduced a new Skills & Post 16 Education Act. At headline, the Act includes:
- Placing employers are the heart of the skills system – including a leading role in a new skills governance model (see below).
 - Statutory requirement for all young people to have access to information on Technical education options, post 16 ('Baker Law').
 - Prioritising 'green skills' to support transition to net zero.
 - New powers to intervene in (failing) FE colleges – and accountability measures to ensure provision reflect local skills needs.
 - Access to lifetime HE loans (from 2025).
 - Illegal to cheat in exams – linked to online assessment services.
41. The Act will also introduce a new skills governance system – Local Skills Advisory Panels (LSIPs). Led by employer representative bodies, e.g., Chambers of Commerce, these will replace LEP Skills Advisory Panels as the preeminent body for articulating local skills needs.
42. LSIPs will be established across England by end Summer 2023. They will follow the geographies of Combined Authorities (CA) or, where they do not exist, LEPs (and until such time at a CA may be formed). In Hampshire, we will initially have two LSIPs – Solent, led by the Hampshire Chamber, and EM3+, led by Surrey Chamber.

Higher Skills and Talent

43. A key challenge in responding to the current skills challenge and future talent demand, is that of higher skills – Level 4 plus, i.e., post A level. Although variable across districts, at a county level, Hampshire has historically performed at or above national and regional averages. However, data collected during the pandemic suggests our position has slipped, in part because of the volume of well skilled individuals leaving the workforce.
44. Whilst 2022/23 data is required to fully validate the position, the need to increase the proportion of people in work with a Level 4 plus qualification remains, particularly in key growth sectors such as marine, digital, low carbon, professional services, aerospace, and life sciences.
45. In response to the above, several initiatives have been developed, or are to be pursued, inc.
- The Solent Institute of Technology (IoT) – operational from 2023, the Solent University-led initiative, working with local FE colleges, will offer Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ) in marine and digital.
 - The County Council, collaborating with providers and the EM3 LEP, intends to develop a proposal for a IoT for Hampshire. It is hoped this can be secured for 2025 or 2026, and will support higher skills development for key sectors, the specifics being determined by the LSIP.
 - Hampshire’s Apprenticeship Levy Programme and Transfer Scheme – the County council is using its Level to support an increasing proportion of corporate and school Apprenticeship starts at Level 4+. For example, a cohort of 50+ will start the Social Work Degree Apprenticeship in 2022/23. Further, through our £3.5m (and then £1m p.a. rolling) Levy Transfer Scheme, the County Council is supporting more Level 4+ Apprenticeship starts in Hampshire employers.
 - The Retrofit Academy – a strategic partnership to develop the domestic homes retrofit skills, supporting the County Council’s climate change programme. Qualifications will be offered at Levels 2-5.
 - Progression to higher education and university by young people – the County Council and Hampshire FE colleges and schools have been partnering the SUN universities UniConnect project, targeting unrepresented cohorts in the High Education system and supporting their progression to Level 4 plus studies. Part of a national project, evaluation is expected to report impact from 2022/23.
46. The backdrop to the above is a reduced and maturing talent pool (workforce) in the Hampshire economy. Nationally, there are c. three—quarters of a million less people in the working age population (ONS class this as 16-64). Many have chosen to retire, often before they may have otherwise been planning, and many more have chosen to change careers and/or reduce their working commitments. At the same time, there are more people on PAYE than before the pandemic, and fewer people registering as self-employed.

47. The profile of the workforce in Hampshire, where 20.9% of those working is above aged 50 (above national and SE regional averages) underlines the importance of talent attraction and retention strategies, as well as upskilling and retraining of the existing workforce to meet skills needs.

Conclusions

48. Hampshire has a strong and high performing skills system– at all phases. It is responsive to policy direction and curriculum changes, particularly in relation to technical education.
49. Participation and achievement by young people in Hampshire, post 16, is also strong – but even more is needed to be done to ensure all cohorts benefit from the aforementioned strong system.
50. The government’s new Skills Act provides a framework to respond to the skills and talent challenges faced by employers, now and in the future – but it is important to develop initiatives in the context of the Hampshire economy.

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:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	No

Other Significant Links

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*

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Front Cover Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	12 July 2022
Title:	Home to School Transport Policy Public Consultation Outcomes
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Martin Goff, Head of Information, Transport & Admissions

Tel: 0370 779 8176 Email: Martin.goff@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for changes to Hampshire County Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
2. The Executive Member for Children's Services is requested, at their Decision Day, to approve the proposals.

Recommendations

3. That, regarding the changes to the Home to School Transport Policy, the Select Committee either:

supports the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Children's Services

Or:

agrees any alternative recommendations to the Executive Member for Children's Services, with regards to the proposals set out in the attached report.

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	12 July 2022
Title:	Home to School Transport Entitlement Policy Consultation
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Martin Goff, Head of Information, Transport & Admissions

Tel: 0370 779 8176

Email: Martin.goff@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on the outcome of the public consultation on changes to the Home to School Transport Policy and for Post-16 Transport services for children and young people, including those with special educational needs and to make recommendations for the implementation of the proposals.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Home to School Transport Entitlement policy is amended to clarify the increased use of safe, co-ordinated pick-up and drop-off points for SEND children.
3. It is recommended that the Home to School Transport Entitlement policy is amended to clarify that transport routes will be organised to serve multiple education settings, including primary, secondary and post-16, including journeys that serve both mainstream and special schools and colleges.

Executive Summary

4. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide home to school transport to certain children where they meet circumstances prescribed in legislation. There is also statutory guidance for Local Authorities to follow. The existing Home to School Transport (HtST) service provides daily transport for 9,000 children and young people every school day; there are approximately 200,000 students at Hampshire schools and colleges. Most journeys to and from school and college are organised by families.
5. Proposed changes to the HtST Entitlement policy (Appendix A) would allow for route planning and vehicle use to utilise the efficiencies provided by increased use of collective pick-up points and multiple destinations. There is no statutory requirement for home to school transport to be a door-to-door

service or to provide for individual establishments. Parents can be asked to accompany their child to and from a collection point.

6. For the HtST Service to deliver savings as part of the Council's 2023 savings programme, permission to consult with the public and affected service users was sought and approved in January 2022. The public's views on two proposals for change were sought. The proposals were to:
 - Increase the use of co-ordinated pick up and drop off points for SEND children.
 - Arrange journeys to more commonly serve multiple schools and colleges and age groups, including journeys that serve both mainstream and special schools and colleges.
7. The changes would improve the efficiency of school journeys as fewer vehicles would be required, with each carrying on average more children. This would provide greater value for money and deliver savings of up to £986,000.
8. The consultation highlighted a lack of support by respondents to the consultation for changes to the current home to school transport service arrangements with a majority not in agreement with either proposal. The mixing of mainstream and SEN children was the least popular option.
9. Many of the concerns raised in the consultation can be mitigated by applying the changes to transport arrangements whilst ensuring that individual children's needs are taken into account and properly supported under the new arrangement. It is therefore recommended that the changes are implemented, and necessary mitigations are put in place.
10. Any changed transport arrangements will take account of the individual needs of children and young people and be in accordance with statutory guidance and the Council's Home to School Transport Entitlement policy.

Contextual information

11. The County Council provides transport assistance for some children to attend school. This statutory service is primarily provided to children who attend their catchment school but live over two or three miles (depending on age) away from school, as well as Hampshire children with Special Education Needs and/or disabilities (SEND). In both circumstances, transport assistance is provided where children meet national eligibility criteria.
12. During June and July 2021, the County Council sought residents' views on ways in which it could balance its budget. £37.5 million (2021-22) is currently spent each financial year on providing HtST assistance to around 12,000 students. Of these, approximately 9,000 attend mainstream schools (at a cost of £10 million per annum) and 3,000 attend schools and colleges that provide for their Specialist Education Needs and/or disabilities (at a cost of £27.5 million per annum). The HtST budget is under increasing pressure as a result

of rising spend.

13. The increase in the cost of delivering HtST services is in part due to the national growth of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) following the change in legislation in 2014. The number of children and young adults with EHCPs in Hampshire has grown from 8,129 in September 2018 to 11,983 in September 2021. EHCPs continue to increase at a rate of over 15% per annum. The growing numbers of children with EHCPs results in increased demand for transport and, in some cases, more complex travel services. EHCP growth, combined with a limited number of local specialist school places are identified as key factors leading to additional costs.
14. Learning and insight has been gained from other local authorities who have been able to deliver HtST services at a lower cost. Other authorities with lower cost per head transport services utilise collective pick-up points and multiple destinations in planning efficient transport. These arrangements can support children prepare for their adult lives where shared transport is the norm.

Finance

15. The full implementation of the recommendations set out in this report could deliver savings of up to £986,000 to the County Council's overall savings requirement of £80m.
16. The savings estimate of £986,000 is calculated as follows;
 - Proposal one – Increased use of safe, co-ordinated pick-up and drop-off points for SEND children:
 - Savings of approximately **£200,000**. There are currently 2,654 SEN children receiving HtST. Initial analysis of need suggests that in addition to the 758 children travelling on routes that include co-ordinated pick-up and drop-off points, an additional 10% of this cohort would be able to use pick-up points.
 - Proposal two - Home to school journeys could, where appropriate, be arranged to serve multiple schools and colleges and age groups, including journeys that serve both mainstream and special schools and colleges.
 - Savings of approximately **£186,000**. SEN schools sharing with other SEN schools: initial analysis suggests that 94 of the current 405 routes, serving 556 children, could be shared.
 - Savings of approximately **£300,000**. Mainstream schools sharing with other mainstream schools: initial analysis suggests that 49 routes servicing 1,023 children, could be shared.
 - Savings of approximately **£300,000**. Introducing journeys that serve both mainstream and SEND schools. The 754 routes serving 9,682 mainstream and SEN children (excluding out of county) could be reduced to 708 (6.5% reduction).
17. It is proposed that the changes to the policy be introduced for new arrangements from September 2022. Existing transport arrangements will be

reviewed during the 2022/23 school year, which would result in the savings being delivered across the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

18. Any changes made as a result of these changes will follow a suitable notice period and will be managed with the child and their family.
19. Savings estimates are derived from analysis and suggest the overall number of routes and children this could be applied to. Implementation of the changes would use this analysis as a starting point but would take account of the individual needs of children in accordance with the Home to School Transport Entitlement policy (paragraphs 4.22, 4.23 and 4.26). The Council's statutory duty to provide suitable transport will continue to be met.

Proposed Home to School Transport Changes

20. To achieve the estimated savings of up to £986,000, it is recommended that the Home to School Transport Entitlement policy is amended with the following points to note:
 21. Proposal One: Consolidation of Pick Up and Drop Off Points
 - It is proposed to increase the number of children with SEND who are collected and returned to a shared designated safe place in situations where there are multiple children who commence their journey in a local area.
 - This type of travel arrangement is more closely aligned to mainstream transport; it can support a strength-based approach for SEND pupils enabling more independent travel amongst young people and can help prepare them for their future lives.
 - More children would join their transport at a designated safe pick-up point. They may need to be accompanied, as necessary, by parents/carers. The pick-up point could be up to a maximum of 1 mile from the home address.
 22. Proposal Two: Increased number of journeys serving multiple schools and age groups, including routes that serve both mainstream and special schools and colleges.
 - At present, most journeys (approximately 1,540 out of 1,600) service a single designated school/college. There are instances where primary, secondary and post 16 schools/colleges are co-located, or are located a short distance from one another.
 - The proposal is for future transport to be arranged based on the geographical origin and destination of a number of children. This could mean that a single vehicle would pick up children who live in one area and are travelling to multiple schools and colleges so reducing the number of contracted vehicles required. The schools and colleges served may be a mix of mainstream and specialist settings.
 - For some service users this may mean the duration of the journey or distance to and from school may change. All journeys would be planned to follow the maximum recommended journey times of 45 mins for a primary age pupil and 75 minutes for a secondary phase pupil.

23. Any changes as a result of the proposals above, will be made taking into consideration the individuals needs and circumstances of the child/ young person and their family.

Legal Implications

24. The Home to School Transport statutory guidance published by the Department for Education states that Local Authorities should consult on changes to policy. The consultation was conducted so that it will meet that requirement and would introduce any agreed changes from September 2022.
25. The Post 16 Home to School Transport Policy Statement also includes the use of pick-up and drop-off points when organising transport for students with Special Educational Needs. The 2022/2023 Policy Statement was determined on 23 March 2022.

Consultation and Equalities

26. The public consultation on Home to School Transport Entitlement Policy changes took place following permission to consult from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 14th January 2022.
27. The consultation was undertaken between January and March 2022 to understand stakeholders' views and gain feedback on the proposed changes. It was an open consultation and therefore respondents were self-selecting. 945 responses were submitted, of which 917 used the Response Form and 27 submitted emails and one letter was received. The consultation was communicated through a range of channels, including emails and messages to stakeholders, including parents, carers, schools, and local Councillors; media releases that were reported in local press; a news article on the County Council website; social media posts; and internal communications at Hampshire County Council. A summary of key points is provided below, and the full consultation report is provided at Appendix B.
28. One in three respondents agreed with the principle of changing the way the HtST service is delivered to reduce the costs whilst serving the same number of users, although half of respondents disagreed. Disagreement was highest amongst respondents who have health problems or disabilities, have a child or young person with SEND or who live in households with incomes up to £30,000 per year.
29. 71% of respondents disagreed with an increased use of pick-up and drop-off points for children and young people with SEND. 69% disagreed with more transport routes serving multiple education settings, including primary, secondary and post-16 students. 75% disagreed with children and young people attending specialist schools and colleges to share transport with children and young people in mainstream education.

30. Respondents felt that, if selecting pick up and drop off points, consideration should be given to shelter from weather (60%), proximity to busy roads (55%) and safe crossing points nearby (55%). Respondents frequently mentioned that using pick up and drop off points would impact on parents and carers, including issues getting other children to school (30%), employment impacts (10%), stress or anxiety (9%) and difficulty preparing child for school (7%). Impacts on service users included stress or anxiety (23%), poor safety awareness (10%), issues dealing with change (9%) and impacts on education (8%).
31. Reasons for disagreeing with children and young people attending specialist schools mixing on transport with mainstream pupils related to how the proposed changes would impact service users, such as: the risk of bullying by other transport users (33%), stress and anxiety amongst service users (24%) and impacts on service users' education as a result of children being too tired for school (2%). Around one in eight comments mentioned benefits of the proposed changes, citing reduced service costs (6%), increased opportunities for children to mix (5%) and for the advantage of shared transport when dealing with schools located in close proximity (2%).
32. A range of questions were raised by respondents, the most frequent of which related to the criteria that would be used to apply the proposed changes (seven questions raised), how wellbeing of children with SEND would be ensured (six questions raised), how pick up and drop off points would be selected (asked three times) and the risk assessment processes that might apply if the changes are introduced (asked three times).
33. Mitigations to the concerns raised include the following:
34. Pick up points will be chosen applying local knowledge to the route and home addresses of pupils. They will meet requirements to be safe for the purpose of waiting and joining the vehicles and where possible will have cover. National Road Safety Guidelines are in place for the assessment of routes. Officers apply the guidelines to ensure the safety of walking routes that are part of a given transport arrangement.
35. The wellbeing of children with SEND would continue to be ensured. All transport arrangements will be organised taking account of the individual needs of children and in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Entitlement policy (paragraphs 4.22, 4.23 and 4.26). The Code of Conduct for Passengers on Home to School Transport is provided to all parents and children (Appendix C); any issues of bullying arising will be addressed by the school and transport team with parents and children.
36. Also, to support the wellbeing of travelling children, passenger assistant's escorts will continue to be deployed where required, supporting either individual children or the group of children on the vehicle.

37. The Council is committed to promoting inclusivity and access for all for pupils to a range of appropriate transport services. The plans recognise a need to support the development of road safety skills of children and young people with SEND to increase awareness of safety and help children accessing collections and drop off points can do so safely. The implementation of a strengths-based approach will help prepare children for adulthood. The exploration of a variety of transport options, and their use in appropriate circumstances, will facilitate increased independence for children, where it is appropriate to do so.
38. Extended rights eligibility will apply to low-income families as set out in the Home to School Transport Entitlement Policy in section 4.7.
39. However, it should be noted that suitable Home to School Transport arrangements are organised with timings that are unable to take account of parental work arrangements or the requirements of other family members (except when a parent must support a journey to school for a primary age sibling attending the catchment school). As per the statutory guidance from the Department of Education, the general expectation is that a child will be accompanied by a parent where necessary, unless there is a good reason why it is not reasonable to expect the parent to do so. Parents can be expected to accompany their child to and from a pick-up point; and therefore parent work arrangements cannot be taken into consideration in transport planning.
40. Also, parents are able to appeal, following the process detailed in the Home to School Transport Entitlement Policy, if they are unhappy with their proposed transport arrangements. The letter advising them of the transport service includes detail of how to appeal.

Equality Impact Assessment

41. There are low or neutral equality impacts for most protected characteristics. Medium impacts have been identified for service users with disabilities. Some children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities may need to be picked up from a central point rather than be collected from their home address. For some children, this may mean an increase in overall journey times and require being accompanied by a responsible adult, parent, or guardian for this portion of the journey. There may be more sharing on transport by SEND and Mainstream pupils. The public consultation has highlighted concerns that SEND children could experience bullying. In mitigation, the changes will not be applied without due consideration regarding the circumstances of the child. The current service uses codes of good conduct with its existing travellers and responds appropriately when there are reports of unacceptable behaviour. All transport arrangements will continue to meet the specifications of the DfE's statutory home to school transport guidance.

42. An Equalities Impact Assessment is provided at Appendix D.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

43. A climate change impact assessment has been undertaken. The Vulnerability Assessment concluded that the proposed changes to Home to School Transport arrangements can be considered to have an overall low level of vulnerability to changing climate indices. Overall, the proposals have a carbon benefit by encouraging more sustainable travel options. The impact assessment is provided at Appendix E.

44. The proposals support Hampshire County Councils' strategic priority: 2. People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives, as they support children and young people access schools and colleges through the provision of home to school transport in accordance with our statutory duties at an appropriate cost.

Conclusions

45. At a cost of £37.5 million in 2021-22 and set to rise further in future years, HtST places a considerable financial pressure on the Council at a time where managing budgets is becoming increasingly difficult. Changes to how the service can be delivered can help meet some of this financial pressure in the face of anticipated increased demand. Changing the policy and subsequently adapting the service experienced by some pupils will help manage the pressures, whilst, where appropriate, also preparing children for adult life where public transport operates from collective drop off and pick up points and is shared by members of the public.

46. The public consultation has demonstrated that many respondents do not support changing current HtST Service arrangements. Whilst it is recommended the HTST Entitlement policy be amended to provide greater flexibility in how the service can be delivered, the Service will continue to operate within statutory guidelines. Further, the policy and its application will ensure that any changes in arrangements will ensure that the needs and concerns of individuals will be fully taken into account.

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:	No
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> Proposed changes to Home to School Transport Policy for Home to School Transport Travel provision (2022) Appendix 1 (hants.gov.uk)	<u>Date</u> 14 January 2022

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	

Appendix A – Home to School Transport Entitlement Policy

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT ENTITLEMENT POLICY

EFFECTIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 2022

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1. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 1.1. The policy sets out the legal responsibilities that Hampshire County Council (HCC) has in order to provide assistance with transport to school or another education setting for children living in the HCC local authority administrative area. It also supports HCC's sustainable school travel strategy ¹.
- 1.2. This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It also complies with the Department for Education's statutory guidance issued in July 2014².
- 1.3. The changes to the previous policy are included as paragraph 4.24 and 4.26 of this version.
- 1.4. Charges for transport arrangements are set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.5. The process for appeals is set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.6. Arrangements for post-16 age (sixth form) student transport are set out in a separate annual transport policy statement that is published by 31 May each year.

2. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRANSPORTING CHILDREN TO/FROM SCHOOL

- 2.1. Most parents/carers take their children to and from school. Where their child has a school place, parents have a legal duty and a responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends school regularly.
- 2.2. Hampshire County Council (HCC) has a statutory duty to make arrangements to provide free of charge home to school transport for **'eligible children' (defined in para 3.1) only.**

¹ <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/school-travel-strategy>

² Home to school travel and transport guidance

3. DEFINITION OF 'ELIGIBLE CHILDREN'.

3.1. Eligible children are defined³ as children of compulsory school age (defined in para 4.3):

- who attend their nearest or catchment school which is beyond the statutory walking distance.
- who, because of their special educational needs, disability or mobility problems cannot reasonably be expected to walk to their school.
- whose route to the nearest suitable school is unsafe.
- children entitled to free school meals or whose parents receive the maximum level of Working Families Tax Credit (subject to a distance requirement).

3.2. All eligible children are entitled to free of charge transport to/from school at the beginning and end of the normal school day.

4. 'ELIGIBLE CHILDREN' - EXPLANATION OF RELEVANT FACTORS.

4.1. As a general rule, HCC will only make provision for free of charge transport for the children referenced set out above.

4.2. The following paragraphs explain the eligibility for free of charge transport for **eligible children only** in more detail.

Compulsory school age

4.3. Children are of compulsory school age from the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday (*or from their fifth birthday if it falls on 31 August, 31 December or 31 March*) until the last Friday in June of the academic year in which they reach 16 years of age.

Statutory walking distances⁴

4.4. For pupils of compulsory school age, transport is provided if their nearest suitable or catchment school, measured from the child's home to the nearest available entrance to the school grounds', is:

- Beyond two miles (if below the age of eight); or
- Beyond three miles (if aged between eight and 16).

³ Schedule 35b of the Education Act 1996

⁴ Statutory walking distance defined in Section 444(5) of the Education Act 1996

- 4.5. An eight-year-old living between two and three miles from their school ceases to be an eligible child on their 8th birthday.
- 4.6. These are the statutory walking distances prescribed by legislation. However, different walking distances apply in respect of children who are entitled to free school meals or whose parents receive the maximum level of working tax credit (see paragraph 4.8).
- 4.7. When determining whether a non-catchment school qualifies as a nearer school distances greater than the statutory walking distances will be measured on 'road routes', passable for a suitable motorised vehicle.

Extended rights eligibility

- 4.7 Children entitled to free school meals or whose parents receive the maximum level of Working Families Tax Credit

The following distance criteria will apply:

- The nearest suitable school is beyond two miles, by the nearest walking route (for children over the age of eight and under 11); or
- The school is between two miles (nearest walking route) and six miles (by road) (if aged 11 to 16 and there are not three or more suitable nearer schools); or
- The school is between two miles (nearest walking route) and 15 miles (by road) and is the nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief (aged 11 to 16).

Unsafe routes

- 4.8. Transport arrangements will be made for children of compulsory school age who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to the nearest suitable school because the nature of the route is deemed unsafe to walk.
- 4.9. National Road Safety Guidelines are in place for the assessment of routes. Officers apply the guidelines to determine the nature – safe or otherwise - of any walking routes.

Special educational needs (SEN), a disability or mobility problems

- 4.10. A child of compulsory school age with special educational needs, a disability or mobility problems who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school, will receive free school transport, regardless of distance.
- 4.11. Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis, which includes the following:
- The child must be attending the nearest designated catchment area school, a nearer school, or the nearest school with a place or is attending the nearest appropriate school as determined by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) service.

- By reason of their SEN, a disability or mobility problem (including temporary medical conditions) the child cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school
- Eligibility will be assessed on an individual basis and any evidence submitted e.g., from a medical practitioner will be taken into consideration.

Primary Age Siblings

4.12. In the case of children with SEN, a disability or mobility problems (see paragraph 4.10), transport will be provided where there is a need for primary age sibling(s) to be taken to other school(s), provided that the school(s) is/are the catchment area school(s), or a nearer school or next nearest school. Also, it would need to be shown that the timing of the school day or the direction of the other school(s) would prevent the parent or carer from accompanying the child(ren).

Accompaniment

4.13. In determining whether a child cannot reasonably be expected to walk for the purposes of 'special educational needs, a disability or mobility problems eligibility' or 'unsafe route eligibility', HCC will consider whether the child could reasonably be expected to walk if accompanied and, if so, whether the child's parent/carer can reasonably be expected to accompany the child. This will take into account the age of the child and whether one would ordinarily expect a child of that age to be accompanied on that journey.

4.14. The general expectation is that a child will be accompanied by a parent or carer where necessary, unless there is good reason why it is not reasonable to expect the parent or carer to do so.

4.15. If a parent or carer submits evidence that they are unable to accompany their child to school this will be assessed on an individual basis and any evidence submitted e.g., from a medical practitioner will be taken into consideration.

4.16. Any transport provision made will be reviewed to take into account the age of the child and the parent/carer's medical condition.

Definition of Home Address

4.17. The home address will be that at which the child resides and spends the majority of his/her time. Occasionally a child will have more than one address, for example, because they live with parents who have different addresses. In this situation, the address used for determining transport will be the one at which the child spends most of their time including weekends and school holidays as well as during the week. When the child lives at the other address, they will not qualify for any transport arrangements other than the one provided from the primary home address.

Qualifying schools

4.18. The schools covered by this policy statement are: -

- community, foundation and voluntary schools including special schools;
- non-maintained special schools;
- pupil referral units (education centres)⁵;
- city technology colleges (CTC), city college for the technology of the Arts (CCTA), or academies, including free schools and University Technical Colleges (UTC); or
- for children with SEN, an independent school if it is the only school named in the child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or if it is the nearest of two or more schools named in the EHCP and is not named on the basis of parental preference.

School choice

4.19. Where parents/carers apply for the designated catchment or a nearer school and the school is unable to offer a place, free of charge transport will be offered to the next nearest school with a place available providing the distance criteria are met.

4.20. The pupil will remain entitled to transport to the next nearest school with a place until they leave the school, or they move address.

Permanent exclusion

4.21. Transport is provided for pupils who have been permanently excluded from school who attend a new school or Education Centre, subject to the statutory walking distance criteria being applied.

Suitability of arrangements

4.22. Transport arrangements will allow the child to reach school without undue stress, strain or difficulty. Shorter journey times are desirable in achieving this. As a guide, maximum journey times should be 45 minutes for primary school age children and 75 minutes for secondary school age children. An escort will be provided on SEN transport when required, based on the needs of the students travelling.

4.23. The most economic form of transport available will be provided, having due regard to the availability of the transport as determined by the Passenger Transport Group (PTG) of HCC and the maturity, health or special needs of the pupil, as determined by the Head of Transport in Children's Services Department.

⁵ Where they are receiving education by virtue of arrangements made under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996

- 4.24 One vehicle may be used to transport children attending different schools. Mixing of children attending special schools and mainstream schools may occur when appropriate.
- 4.25. In certain circumstances, the most suitable arrangement with parents' consent might be for the parents/carers to provide the transport, for which an allowance, currently 35p per mile, will be paid.
- 4.26. Transport will either be provided from designated pick-up and drop-off points or from a child's home address. A decision as to the collection point for transport will be made using the criteria in 4.22 and 4.23. Designated Pick up or drop off points will be no further than 1 mile walking distance from a child's home address.

5. DISCRETIONARY TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS – CHARGEABLE

- 5.1. This section sets out the limited circumstances in which HCC will use its discretionary powers (under Section 508C of the Act) for children who are not entitled to free transport (as set out under Section 4 of this policy above).
- 5.2. Where this discretion is used, there will usually be a charge for the transport provided, as shown in Appendix 1
- 5.3. All arrangements within this section will be time limited. At the end of the specified period, parents will need to re-apply.

Concessionary travel (privilege place scheme)

- 5.4. A spare place on a contract vehicle may be offered to a child who is not entitled to transport assistance. It will be withdrawn if it becomes clear that it is needed by an entitled child or if re-tendering or re-planning changes the route or reduces the number of concessionary seats. A flat rate charge will be made, (set annually by HCC), except where the child being transported is entitled to free school meals or the family is in receipt of the maximum level of working tax credit. Parents must make their own arrangements for the pupil to travel to the nearest existing pick-up point on the route.

Part-time attendance

- 5.5 This will not normally be supported with a transport arrangement. Transport may be provided to facilitate part-time attendance, where a child is convalescing following medical treatment or illness. The child's progress will be reviewed at least on a termly basis. This is a discretionary arrangement and may be subject to the charge in Appendix 1 except when part-time attendance is in place with the agreement of the local authority.

Journey times of more than 75 minutes

- 5.6 Unusually there may be situations where a journey time of more than 75 minutes is required. These may occur in transport:

- to Faith secondary schools;
- to special schools;
- to pupil referral units (Education Centres);
- for pupils attending their next nearest school with an available place because no place available at designated catchment area school or nearest school; and
- for pupils attending out of county residential schools.

Religion or belief

5.7 Under the extended rights eligibility (para 4.7), there is entitlement to free transport for certain children aged 11 to 16 attending the nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief. Where extended rights eligibility does not apply, requests for transport will be considered applying this policy and any grounds for an exceptional arrangement.

6 CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE TRANSPORT WILL NOT BE PROVIDED

6.1 Transport will not be provided in circumstances other than those set out above for eligible children and where discretionary arrangements are made.

6.2 Specific examples of where transport will not be provided are:

- Temporary address. Transport will not be provided from a temporary address to a school that is not the designated catchment area or nearest school for that address.
- Journeys to and from other destinations. Transport is not offered to or from points other than the school/ education centre and home or pick up/drop off points.
- Victims of bullying. Dealing with bullying should be fully explored with the current school. If parents decide to move their child's school due to dissatisfaction with their current school, then there is no entitlement to free school transport
- To or from pick-up and drop-off points. Except as outlined in paragraph 4.25.
- Unacceptable behaviour of a pupil, as determined by the transport provider/operator and/or escort (where applicable).
- To take account of work/business commitments or domestic difficulties of parents/carers.
- To accommodate attendance at after school activities or for arrival at start times other than the usual start time for the school.

7 OTHER ISSUES

Withdrawal of Assistance

- 7.1. Where the home to school transport policy is changed and the level of discretionary provision reduced, transport may be withdrawn from children who are currently receiving assistance. In these cases, a reasonable notice period will be given, i.e., in optimum time to enable parents to make informed decisions about their children's education. Any change of policy will be subject to a period of consultation with those affected.

Delays

- 7.2. Where a delay occurs in providing transport which is over and above the normal operational timescale for doing so and the application for transport has been submitted in good time (with full information), reimbursement may be made to cover expenses incurred (upon production of evidence of expenditure) from the date from which transport would otherwise have been provided. Such reimbursement will be for use of the most cost-effective type of transport.
- 7.3. In the case of entitlement being granted upon appeal, reimbursement may be made of expenses incurred upon production of evidence of expenditure from the date upon which the appeal was lodged or, if this falls within a school holiday period, from the start of the following term or half-term. Such reimbursement will be for use of the most cost-effective type of transport.

Errors

- 7.4 Where assistance is found to have been granted in error, notice of one full term will normally be given that assistance will be withdrawn to allow families to make other arrangements.
- 7.5 Where entitlement has been denied in error, transport will be arranged as soon as possible and consideration will be given to reimbursing parents retrospectively, with a time limit of the start of the academic year in which the error was discovered.

Complaints/Appeals

- 7.6 The County Council takes all complaints seriously and has a complaints procedure to ensure they are investigated and, where possible, resolved. A copy of the procedure is available upon request.
- 7.7 People are encouraged to raise their concerns using the appropriate contacts. Where necessary, complaints will be considered at a more senior level to ensure every effort is made to resolve the issue.
- 7.8 Parents wishing to make an appeal regarding a transport entitlement decision or subsequent transport arrangements should write to the Head of Information Transport and Admissions, Children's Services Department,

Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG.
The appeals process is provided in Appendix 3

Contacts

7.9 Please visit the Home to School Transport page on the County Council's website (Hantsweb) for up-to-date contact information.

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/school-transport.htm>

Appendix 1

Schedule of Charges for Exceptional Arrangements

Concessionary travel (privilege place scheme)

To be reviewed annually:

Distance to travel	Annual charge
Up to 5 miles	£600
5.01 miles to 7.5 miles	£831
7.51 miles to 10 miles	£1,164
Over 10 miles	£1,330

Waived for families when the travelling child is in receipt of FSM on the grounds of low income.


Exceptions to Policy

To be reviewed annually:

The following charges apply based on the price of the arrangement. The arrangement will be time limited and so the charge for exceptional arrangements can be related to the offer. The annual charges presented below can be pro-rata based on the length (in weeks) of the actual arrangement. The charge will be waived for families when the travelling child is in receipt of FSM on the grounds of low income

Distance to travel	Annual charge
Up to 5 miles	£600
5.01 miles to 7.5 miles	£831
7.51 miles to 10 miles	£1,164
Over 10 miles	£1,330

Appendix B - PDF Link to Consultation findings report

 [HtST 2022 consultation \(SP23\) headline findings.pdf](#)

Appendix C – PDF link to Behaviour Code of conduct

Revised April 2020

Home to School Transport Code of Conduct

By boarding School Transport (including public transport), both the student and parent/carer are agreeing to comply with this Code of Conduct. More information and frequently asked questions can be accessed via the Home to School Transport website under Travel Arrangements.

Student Behaviour

- We expect all students to behave responsibly and safely on-board School Transport. Failure to behave to acceptable standards may lead to disciplinary action including written warnings, short or fixed term suspensions and in some cases, complete removal from transport.
- For SEN students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), although challenging behaviour may not always be wilful, it is still unacceptable. A review of transport arrangements may be necessary and may still result in any of the above sanctions.
- During any suspension, it will immediately become the parent/carer responsibility to make appropriate arrangements to transport the student to school.
- Please be aware if the student is misbehaving before boarding any vehicle, the driver or escort may refuse to transport them.
- Home to School transport are not responsible for loss or damage to personal belongings including any electronic devices that students bring onto transport. If the student thinks they have left property on the vehicle, please contact the transport operator directly.

In the interests of safety, the student must:

- o Follow all instructions from the driver or escort
- o Keep noise to a reasonable level
- o Not eat, drink, smoke or vape on board
- o Not play music or games on electronic devices, unless personal earphones are used
- o Queue and board transport in a sensible manner and not push or jostle whilst entering/leaving the vehicle
- o Wear their seatbelt where provided and in accordance with the Law
- o Remain seated unless otherwise instructed by the driver or escort
- o Only travel on the transport they have been allocated to or issued a bus pass for
- o Be ready for transport or at their bus stop 5 minutes before their estimated pick-up time

- o Always give their name if asked by the driver, school or Home to School Transport
- o Ensure school bags are stored under the seat, in the luggage rack, or on the student's lap.

Bus Passes

- Must always be carried. Failure to produce a valid pass may result in travel being refused or the student may be required to pay the fare (public transport only).
- Are only valid on the transport to which the student is allocated. It is not transferrable and may be confiscated if misused e.g., allows another student to use it or travels on a vehicle they have not been allocated to.
- Remain the property of Hampshire County Council and must be returned on request.
- Must be intact, legible, not defaced, broken or damaged in any way or it may be confiscated by the driver.
- **Replacements.** If you require a replacement bus pass, please email school.transport@hants.gov.uk to make your request. There will be a charge for a replacement bus pass, charges vary subject to operator.

Parent/Carer responsibilities

- Parent/carer is responsible for the behaviour of the student whilst they use School Transport. They must ensure the student fully understands what is expected of them whilst on the vehicle and adheres to the Behaviour Code of Conduct.
- Understand that any disruptive, violent, distracting or dangerous behaviour including bullying, fights, use of foul, abusive, sexist, racist and homophobic language, endangers themselves, fellow students or other road users, distracts the driver, refuses to wear a seat belt, behaves in a sexually inappropriate way, views or shares sexually explicit material on a device, or threatens violence during the journey, may lead to transport being withdrawn. (This list provides examples only and is not exhaustive).

Advise Home to School Transport immediately if there are any changes to;

- o Your personal contact details
- o The student's medical condition
- o The student's primary address
- o The student's wheelchair (make or model). Not all wheelchairs are transportable, please check this with your provider before changing wheelchairs
- Please let us know if the student has a medical condition e.g. epilepsy or severe allergies which can affect them on transport. Do NOT assume we are already aware. We may pass information regarding the student's medical condition to their driver or escort where necessary.

- Parent/carer must not board the transport and are not typically able to travel with the student on contract transport.
- Parent/carer should not act in a threatening or abusive way towards the driver, escort, or other students either on or around the bus and report any concerns to the school or Home to School Transport.
- If the student misses either the inwards or return pick-up, no alternative transport will be provided, and parent/carer will be responsible for transporting the student. If your vehicle is continually early or late, please contact the HTST team so that the problem can be rectified.
- Must ensure the student is ready for transport. The vehicle will only wait 3 minutes past the arranged pick up time at home pick-ups before continuing the route and will not wait for late students at bus stop pickup points.
- A parent/carer must be present at the pick-up and drop off point at the correct time. If the student has a home pick-up the driver will get as close to the home as possible, access permitting, but will not normally come onto your drive. If no parent/carer is present at the drop off point, we may instruct the driver or escort to take the student to the nearest Social Services office or Police Station. Repeated reports of this may lead to a withdrawal of contract transport.
- If you are happy for the student to travel unaccompanied you must sign a waiver to confirm they can travel unaccompanied. A form can be requested from school.transport@hants.gov.uk . **This applies to all students with special educational needs and Primary aged students**
- Late transport. If your transport doesn't arrive within a reasonable time (around 20 minutes) and you haven't received a message from your driver, escort or Home to School Transport, please contact your transport operator directly.
- Adverse weather. There is usually a period within most winters where schools consider closing due to the threat of snow and ice. Be 'weather aware' yourselves and check weather reports, local radio, school websites etc. and bear in mind that transport may be cancelled for safety reasons by the operator even if the school remains open. You may even need to collect the student from their school in the event of sudden adverse weather.
- Communication. All forms of transport are prone to unforeseen issues, anything could go wrong, from staff illness, to vehicle breakdowns, severe traffic jams, severe weather, accidents or school closures. In these situations, we will endeavour to communicate with you by phone call or text message (the primary mobile number only will be used). If anything does go wrong, you should have a Plan B of your own. You may need to take the student to school yourselves, or ask a friend or relative, or keep them home for the day. Bear in mind, if you do take to school yourselves, transport may also not be available for the return journey.
- Behavioural difficulties. Please do not put the student onto transport if they are behaving in a very challenging or aggressive manner. The driver or escort has the right to refuse to transport the student if they feel that there is any risk

to themselves, the vehicle or other students on board. This also applies for the return journey. Please be aware that in such cases the parent/carer is responsible for arranging transport to or from school for the day.

- Change of pick-up time. The parent/carer is responsible for any transport required outside normal school hours; no provision is made for exam timetables, work experience or after school activities or if the student becomes unwell whilst at school and needs to go home early.
- One off cancellations. Parent/carer to contact the operator or escort directly if the student doesn't require transport e.g., appointments, timetabling, sickness or any other absence. If a student is poorly whilst at school, the parent/carer will need to collect them.
- Equipment. All equipment provided by Home to School Transport remains the property of Hampshire County Council and should be returned when the student no longer requires it's use.

Appendix D – Equalities Impact Assessment

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

A full equalities assessment is provided below:

[Home to School Transport SP23 EIA - Consultation proposals .pdf](#)

Appendix E - Climate Change Impact Assessment

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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.

A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the proposed changes to Home to School Transport arrangements are considered to have an overall low level of vulnerability to changing climate indices. Overall, the proposals have a carbon benefit by encouraging more sustainable travel options.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	12 July 2022
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 DCO team was requested to provide a regular update to the select committee following the September 2020 committee.
5. Since then, significant financial 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.

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

6. In 2018 a decision was made by the 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.
7. Since then, 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.
8. In November 2020, 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. 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.

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

In early 2021, a revised and improved service specification for a new assessment service was jointly designed 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 provider of this new assessment service is Psicon Ltd who have been commissioned via interim contracts since 2018. The new service went live in October 2021 and the contract expires on the 31st March 2024.

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. The provider offers a flexible service for families which includes weekend and evening appointments through face-to-face venues (Hampshire libraries) 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.

9. The service was predicted to meet national waiting time standards by the end of the new contract. However, based on current predictions due to the

substantial increase in referrals (please see point 27 for further information), the provider is reporting that waiting times are unlikely to be reduced to national standards by the end of the contract.

Commissioners acknowledge that this is less than positive news and are working with the provider and other agencies to endeavour to reduce waiting times going forward. Commissioners are still committed to improving and enhancing pre-diagnostic support services to reduce the reliance on diagnosis to improve waiting times. Further work being undertaken is expanded on throughout this report.

10. 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.

11. 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

The service is freely 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”*
- *“We seem to be on an even keel and managing well now as a result of the support!”*

12. Commissioners have worked in partnership with Hampshire County Council to ensure the long-term future of this service and agreed a new 3-year contract up until 31 March 2025. This agreement includes an expansion to a 44 week a year service (up from 40 weeks) and an increase in funding in line with the costs associated with running the service. This new extended service started in April 2022 and commissioners will work with Hampshire County Council to assess the impact in the early stages of the new contract.

13. Autism Hampshire has been re-commissioned for another year up until 31st March 2023 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 will work to consider longer 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”*
- *“Thank you X you have brought this difficult subject to life and changed so much in the way we think about our son and those who are around him. We have been able to use this knowledge to support him at school and at home already, and this only the beginning. I wish all schools would have this level of understanding when working with any child. The information in this workshop is so helpful and relevant for those with and without Autism. It has honestly changed our lives.”*

14. 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 & Barnardo’s Family Support.
15. A service review of Hampshire paediatric 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 draft service specification and quality workstream to ensure sensory support is included and funded appropriately within the new service.

A new senior transformation manager has been recruited who will be leading on continuing the review and potential procurement of a new service.

Finance

16. 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.
17. 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 across both Hampshire and the Island.

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

18. As of 31st May 2022, 1,475 children and young people are waiting to be booked for an Autism assessment across Hampshire. This is up from 1,288 reported on the last select committee report. However, it is important to note that at the time of first reports to the committee, over, 1,700 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 between 10 months to a year from referral to assessment. This is a significant improvement compared with the projected 35 month waiting time in September 2020. The service reports an overall diagnostic rate of 82.6%.
19. For the financial year 22/23, Psicon are expected to deliver approximately 1526 assessments illustrating their commitment to working at pace.
20. To help assist with further reductions in waiting lists and waiting times, and to also alleviate pressures due to increasing referrals (please see point 27 for further details), further funding has been awarded to Psicon as a waiting list initiative. This will result in approximately 350 additional assessments in the next financial year, including 64 assessments specifically for North East Hampshire.
21. Providers have assured commissioners that young people 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 as well as those admitted to hospital due to crisis or distress.
22. The service reports that 64% of referrals are for children and young people who identify as male, and 36% of referrals identify as female. Less than 1% identify as not male or female.
23. Work is ongoing to implement the NHS England Autism in schools project on the Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth for both primary and secondary mainstream/special schools. 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

Commissioners will apply outcomes from the evaluation of the project and associated learning in these areas when possible. Year 2 funding for the project is currently being discussed, future plans are to be confirmed.

24. Hampshire was successful in an NHS England bid for funding to enhance peer support networks. This funding has been 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.

This project went live in April and has begun helping families access services and provide support.

Networks will expand their reach to include seldom heard groups, sharing learning and best practice with each other. Evaluation of the impact from the project will begin during this financial year.

25. Commissioners have recognised the significant increased pressure on the Barnardo's Specialist parenting support service for ASC and ADHD and have provided additional one-off funding to respond to a peak in demand across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (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 and ADHD and meet the demand and need of the children and young people. A service review is currently underway with a Hampshire and Isle of Wight procurement planned within the next 12 months.

A draft service specification for a new service as part of the procurement has been developed and is now being tweaked based on feedback from important stakeholders.

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 Psicon, the assessment provider, that referrals have been increasing in recent months, which has pushed the average referral rate of approximately 100 per month at the beginning of the contract, now up to over 150 per month on average. As per point 20, additional one-off funding has been awarded in part to help with this increase in referrals. It is hoped that the new streamlined pathway will mean referrals are more staggered and will reduce referrals being received by the provider in large batches. This will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

To help assist with expanding capacity, a framework has been designed for

Autism assessments which allows contracting authorities to award contracts for additional capacity to help reduce waiting times. This is fully compliant with procurement legislation which previously has been a limiting factor on adding additional capacity to services.

Evaluation of providers who have 'bid' to be part of this framework is currently underway.

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 and build confidence in the support services available across Hampshire.
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 contract review meetings are conducted to monitor activity and performance, with quarterly quality focused meetings.
31. Multi-disciplinary/Agency 'Triage' Panels will be established across Hampshire with the aim 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 started in December 2021. The panel which is attended by a range of specialists runs every 2 weeks and currently triages 50 referrals per month. This panel has now been running for 5 months and is seeing a significant reduction in referrals for Autism Assessments with the majority of referrals being sign posted onto intervention services such as occupational therapy, the wellbeing service and other support services. This reduction in assessment referrals will allow the provider to further reduce the waiting list whilst children and young people access the support they need according to clinical evidence submitted.

Commissioners are now working to introduce this panel across Hampshire, with a pilot to be embedded in North East Hampshire.

Discussions with potential members in North East Hampshire have taken place, with feedback taken on board in creating an effective panel.

Estimated start date for North East Hampshire panel is currently September 2022.

32. Commissioners will continue to explore opportunities to embed further multi-disciplinary panels and 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.
33. Commissioners are working with Portsmouth colleagues and commissioners to understand their “ND Pathway” to ensure that there is equity across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICS.

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

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.)

<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 COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date of meeting:	12 July 2022
Report Title:	Work Programme
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Members Services

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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	12 July 2022	22 November 2022	12 January 2023	11 May 2023
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		X		
Overview	Autism Assessment Services	Following an update received on 28 September 2020, 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	X Presentation	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		

Topic	Issue	Reason for inclusion	12 July 2022	22 November 2022	12 January 2023	11 May 2023
Overview	Elective Home Education	To provide an update on elective home education. <i>Last update - January 2022</i>				
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	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	
Overview	Corporate Parenting	To provide an overview of Corporate Parenting within the County, with a focus on the progress made against Ofsted findings and Personal Education Plans. Requested by Cllr Wade & Cllr Porter				
Overview	Post 16 Education and Skills	To provide an overview of the challenges and changes in the provision of Post 16 Education and Skills. Requested by Cllr Porter	X			

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.

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