

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in City Hall, (Committee Room 1) on Thursday
11th January 2024 at 5.30 p.m.**

Membership

Cllrs Chapman, Crosby, Curtis, Dunn, Gibson, McDonough (Vice Chair), Samuels (Chair), P. Smith, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon and Thornton

Co-opted Members – Mrs. A. Blakey

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	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
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E. WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,
City Hall,
SUNDERLAND.

3rd January 2024

Item 2

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Samuels in the Chair

Councillors Chapman, Crosby, Gibson, McDonough, D.E. Snowdon and Thornton.

Also in attendance:-

Ms. Nichola Burn, Strategic Service Manager, Family Care and Support, TfC

Ms. Jill Colbert, Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive, TfC.

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Smart Cities and Enabling Services.

Ms. Stacy Hodgkinson, Strategic Services Manager, TfC.

Ms Lorraine Hughes. Public Health Consultant, Health, Housing and Communities

Mr. David Noon, Principal Democratic Services Officer, Smart Cities & Enabling Services.

Ms. Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny, Members and Mayoral Coordinator, Smart Cities & Enabling Services.

Ms Samantha Start, Public Health Lead, Health, Housing and Communities

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Curtis, Dunn, P. Smith and D. Snowdon.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd November 2023

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 2nd November 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

TfC Customer Feedback Six Month Summary Report April to September 2023

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information relating to the compliments and complaints received by Together for Children during the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Stacy Hodgkinson, Service Manager presented the report highlighting the processes involved together with any trends or themes arising and addressed questions and comments from Members.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby, Ms Hodgkinson advised that it was difficult to explain the recent rise in complaints however it certainly reflected the increase in demand both in respect of SEND and Social Care services.

Councillor Gibson praised the report as very encouraging and if anything underrated the performance of the Service. He referred to paragraph 8.6 in respect of stage two complaints and asked if the 8% that could be neither proved or disproved were kept on file. Ms Hodgkinson confirmed that they were not but at the conclusion of the investigation were recorded as no fault.

With regard to an enquiry from Councillor Gibson regarding the payment of a £7,620 financial remedy in respect of a SEND stage 2 complaint, Ms Hodgkinson described the circumstances behind the complaint. The Investigating Officer had upheld the complaint because they found a school should have been consulted as parental preference school for their son. This would have avoided the action taken by the parent to enlist the services of a solicitor and spend a considerable sum doing so. It was a unique case and did not relate to any trends that would give cause for concern.

Councillor McDonough referred to the comment in paragraph 4.2 regarding initial contacts that stated "Through responding to contacts at the outset, we have helped 78 (73%) of our customers to receive satisfactory responses and resolutions" and asked how the phrase "satisfactory responses" was defined? Ms Hodgkinson replied that it meant the customer was happy with the response received and did not want to escalate the complaint.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor McDonough, Ms Hodgkinson advised that with regard to 'abusive, unreasonable, persistent or vexatious complainants' they were generally people who had exhausted the complaints process, remained unhappy and were unable to accept the outcome.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor McDonough, Ms Hodgkinson advised that all recommendations arising from a complaint investigation were logged and the learning disseminated as appropriate. This would either be targeted, if recommendations were service specific, or across the organisation if the learning was more general and useful for all.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon stated that her career as a member of Scrutiny Committees went back a long way and there was a period when the performance reports looked very different and were anything but positive. The improvements over recent years were very good and reflected well on the Team at TfC. She therefore wanted to focus on the compliments rather than complaints and drew the Committees attention to paragraph 3 of the report and the various compliments received. She asked how were these compliments fed back to the staff concerned? Ms Hodgkinson replied that the manager of the member of staff would be made aware of the compliment who would inform the member of staff accordingly. Ms Burn

also informed the Committee of how good practice and compliments were celebrated within TfC generally.

In response to an enquiry from the Chair regarding the support provided for Social Workers during the complaints process, Ms Burn advised that Senior managers were usually aware of potential situations developing prior to a complaint being submitted. Risk management meetings would be held, and security assessed. Often pool cars would be used by social workers in cases that gave cause for concern to prevent the homes of Social Workers being identified via vehicle registration. Expertise from colleagues in Occupation Health would also be used to support staff.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman commended the report and thanked Ms Hodgkinson for her attendance.

2. RESOLVED that the Feedback report be received and noted

Health Related Behaviour Survey Findings – Academic Year 2022/23

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an overview of the findings of the recent Health Related Behaviour Survey conducted in the summer term of 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

To complement the report, Samantha Start, Public Health Lead, provided the Committee with a comprehensive presentation which highlighted the key finding of the survey, comparisons between the results of the 2023 survey and the previous survey undertaken in 2021, action undertaken in relation to the priorities identified following the 2021 survey and how priorities from 2023 would be addressed moving forward.

Ms Smart together with Lorraine Hughes, Public Health Consultant, then addressed questions and comments from Members.

Councillor Crosby referred to a growing reluctance in young people to wear helmets when cycling and asked if there were any plans to tackle this. Ms Hughes replied that there was actually a decline in the numbers of young people cycling however this was offset by an increase in the use of scooters. The importance of wearing a helmet was always picked up in the prevention work undertaken by the service and also tied in with the work undertaken with RoSPA. There were various different cycling schemes operating in the city, including one recently established in the north area, all of which emphasised the importance of helmets.

Councillor Crosby referred to the 35% accident rate and asked why it was so high. Ms Hughes replied that the data contained in the report was self-reported. In terms of accidents the patterns changed with age. There was a greater percentage of trips and falls amongst the very young. Accidental poisoning tended to be highest among young children. With regard to people knocked down in road traffic accidents again this tended to feature young people, with incidents increasing as children grew older

and became more independent. There were also seasonal factors to take into account such as an increase in accidents during the darker nights.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby, Ms Hughes confirmed that lack of access to a dentist was a growing problem for children. The latest data showed a drop of 10% leaving a figure of approximately 40% of children who didn't have access to a dentist. Unfortunately, Public Health had little direct influence in the matter with responsibility lying with the Integrated Care Board.

Councillor Snowdon asked if it was possible that the data could be broken down the level of the wards comprising each of the Council's Area Committees as it would be very useful to the Committees in informing the development of their area plans and driving forward the plan priorities. Ms Hughes confirmed that this would not be a problem.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Snowdon regarding how schools were selected to take part in the survey, Ms Start advised that all schools were invited to take part, however the scheme was voluntary, and some schools chose not to participate. Public Health heavily encouraged take up as did Simon Marshall through his direct contact with schools. Councillor Snowdon stated that it would be useful for school governors to be made aware in advance of the circulation of the survey so they could help promote uptake. Ms Hughes replied that she believed the information was included in the Governors' Handbook however she would check and rectify any omission.

Councillor Snowdon referred to the question "Which statement describes you best? - I am happy with my weight as it is / I would like to lose weight / I would like to put on weight" and expressed concern regarding the wording given the social pressures placed on young people in respect of appearance. Ms Hughes replied that it was a difficult question to ask and to find a satisfactory form of wording, however the service always tried to promote the concept of a positive body image that was not about shape but about being fit, healthy and strong.

Councillor Snowdon questioned the timing of the survey and queried that if it was undertaken in September, wouldn't later in school year be a better time after the children had settled in following the long summer break? Ms Hughes replied that she believed September was the date when the results were published rather than when the survey was conducted. She believed the survey was undertaken late in the summer term once the exam season had concluded, however she would check that this was the case and report back.

With regard to an enquiry from Councillor Gibson regarding priority 4 as detailed on page 58 of the agenda, Ms Hughes confirmed that a member of the team was working with the Special School concerned to develop a bespoke questionnaire that was more tailored to the school's needs. Ms Colbert added that TfC's Stars Group would also be very keen to feed into the discussion.

Councillor Gibson stated that there appeared to be marked differences between the responses from the primary school and secondary school pupils and suggested that perhaps this was down to the effect of covid with secondary pupils already becoming socialised prior to the pandemic whilst the primary school pupils were not. Ms

Hughes replied that this was a possibility however the impact of covid was yet to be fully understood.

Councillor McDonough highlighted that the figures showed a high incidence of vaping among under 16s and asked was the health messaging around this effective and what was the policy on vaping moving forward? Ms Hughes replied that the issues around this were complex and emotive. The facts were that 1 in 3 people who were addicted to cigarettes would be killed by the habit. For smokers trying to kick the habit, vaping was a very important intervention. In such cases it was important to avoid any confused messaging around vaping that would drive people back to cigarettes. Whilst there was concern about the harms from vaping, specifically associated with younger people, currently there was not the body of evidence to prove this. However, it was illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under the age of 18 or for adults to buy them on behalf of under-18s. Therefore, the Team worked in conjunction with Trading Standards colleagues to improve enforcement activity and drive down illegal sales.

In response to concerns outlined by Councillor Chapman, Ms Hughes agreed that smokers with damaged lungs should not be forced to accept vaping as the only alternative. It was only one of a package of measures (eg nicotine patches) that could help smokers to stop. Some people would not be able to quit smoking without using vapes, however no patient should be made to feel it was their only option. Patients should be assessed on a case by case basis taking into account the particular circumstances of the individuals concerned.

The Chair highlighted it was good that the survey showed that the consumption of junk food such as crisps was down however it could also be the case that the consumption of all food was down and suggested that perhaps the question 'Are you getting enough food' was added to future surveys.

In response to an enquiry from the Chair, Ms Hughes advised that the Team were developing a range of ways through which the findings of the survey could be disseminated to parents. The Chair added that it would also be useful if the findings could be sent out via the schools.

The Chair also suggested that it could be useful to establish a focus group of year 10 pupils.

There being no further questions or comments for Ms Start and Ms Hughes, the Chairman thanked them for their presentation, and it was: -

3. RESOLVED that the information be received and noted.

Children In Need and Child Protection - Ofsted Feedback

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with feedback following the recent Ofsted focused visit regarding Children in Need and Child Protection in Sunderland.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Nichola Burn, Strategic Service Manager, presented the report and addressed questions from the Committee.

Members having congratulated Ms Colbert and Ms Burn on the excellent feedback received from Ofsted, it was :-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2023/24

The Scrutiny, Members and Mayoral Support Coordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed members on the development of the Committee's work programme for the municipal year 2023/24 and appended a copy of the programme for Members' consideration.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report and briefed the Committee on the current position regarding those items already scheduled on the work programme and those waiting to be programmed in on a suitable date.

The Chair stated that there had been limited interest in the planned Task and Finish Groups in respect of Covid Recovery and also Apprenticeships and T Levels and suggested that as an alternative, the Committee looked at Government policy changes to provide a phased expansion of existing childcare support for eligible working parents.

Ms Colbert advised that she would liaise with Mr Diamond and Ms Robinson to find a suitable slot in the work programme (potentially the February meeting). With regard to Apprenticeships and T Levels it may be possible to invite Sunderland College to attend the April meeting and that Family Hubs could be included within the Early Years report scheduled for January.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that the work programme be amended accordingly

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny, Members and Mayoral Support Coordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 8th November 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Committee was advised that if Members had any issues to raise or required further detail on any of the items included in the notice, (that were within the purview of the Committee), they should contact Mr Diamond, Scrutiny Officer for initial assistance.

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

There being no further items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked members and officers for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) A. SAMUELS,
Chairman.

Together for Children Meaningful Measures

December 2023

Item 4

together for
children
SUNDERLAND



MM1 - I feel safer and supported.

How many children need help and protection?

- Rate of children subject to an early help episode
- Rate of child in need
- Rate of children subject to Child Protection Plan

Do we intervene early enough?

- % Family Group Conferences escalated to Child Protection or Cared for
- Number of children open to Early Help stepped up to Social Care
- Number of children open to Social Care stepped down to Early Help
- Rate of referrals
- Rate of child in need assessments completed
- % Child in need assessments completed in timescale SM
- Rate of Section 47s
- % Section 47s progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference

How often are worries raised about children that we have already tried to help?

- % Children subject to repeat Child Protection Plans within 2 years SM
- % Re-referrals within 12 months ★

Indicator icon key

✓ At or above target performance

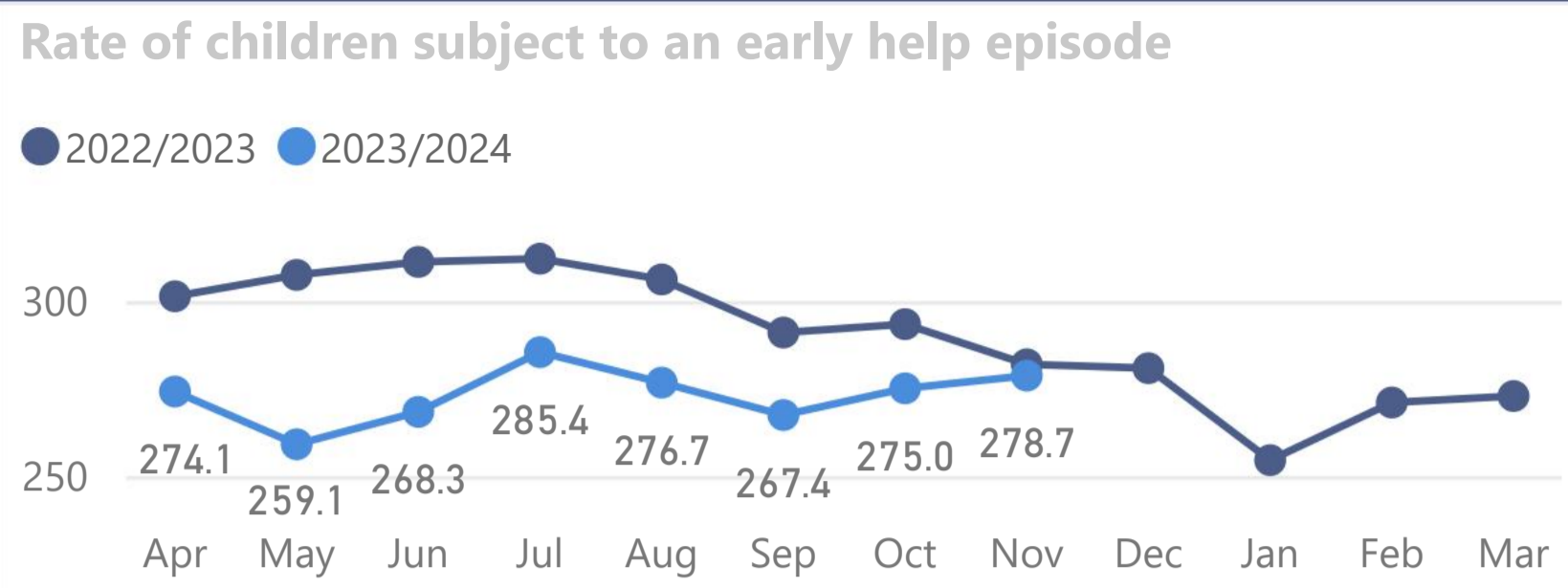
! Below target performance but within tolerance range

✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range

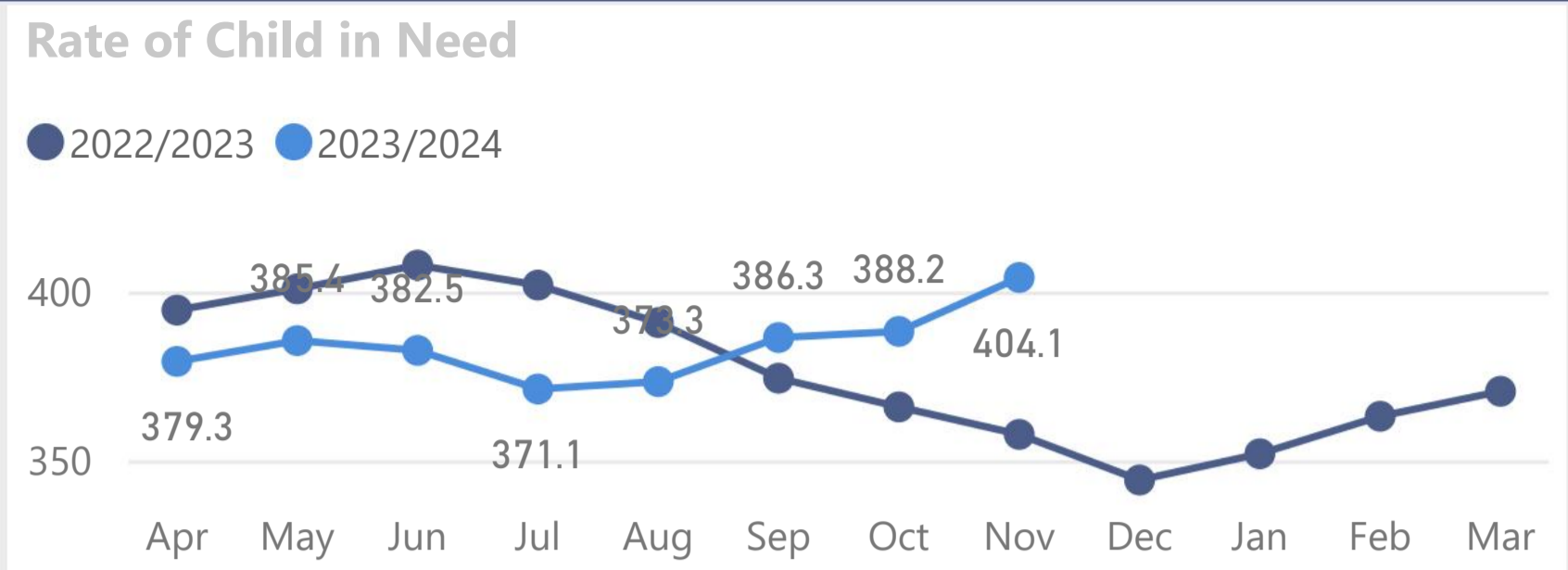
★ Contractual Measure

SM Supporting Measure

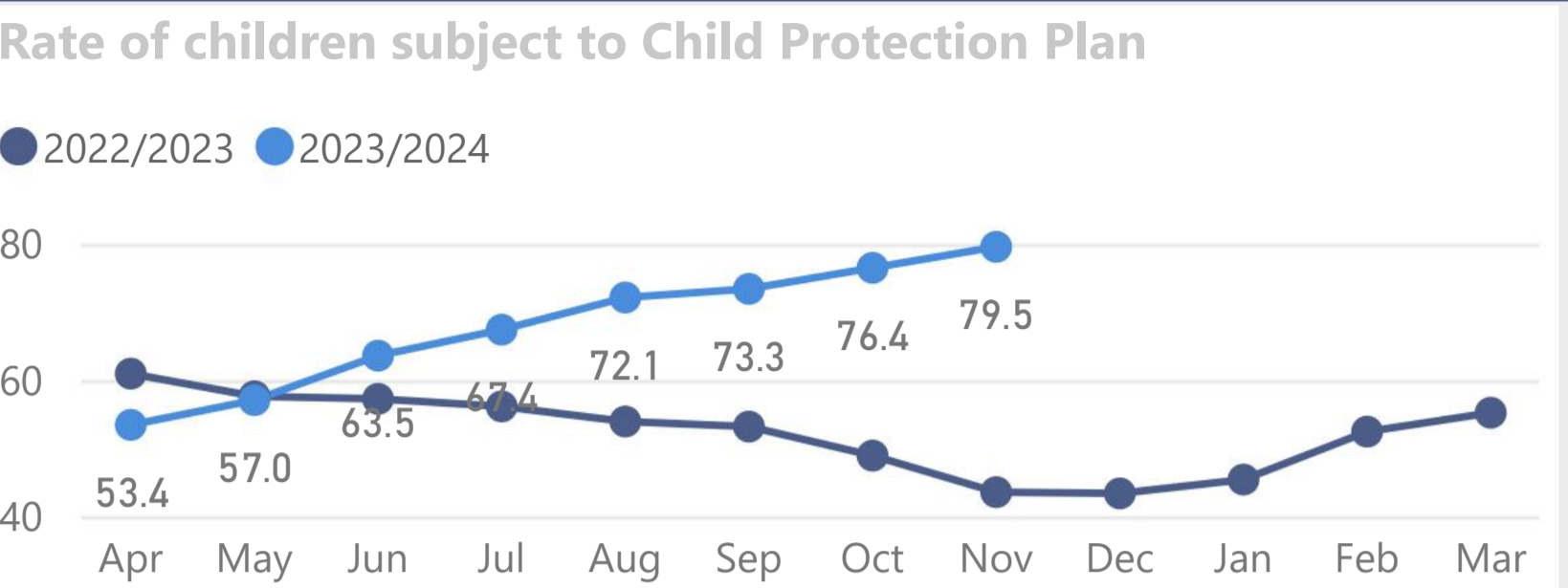




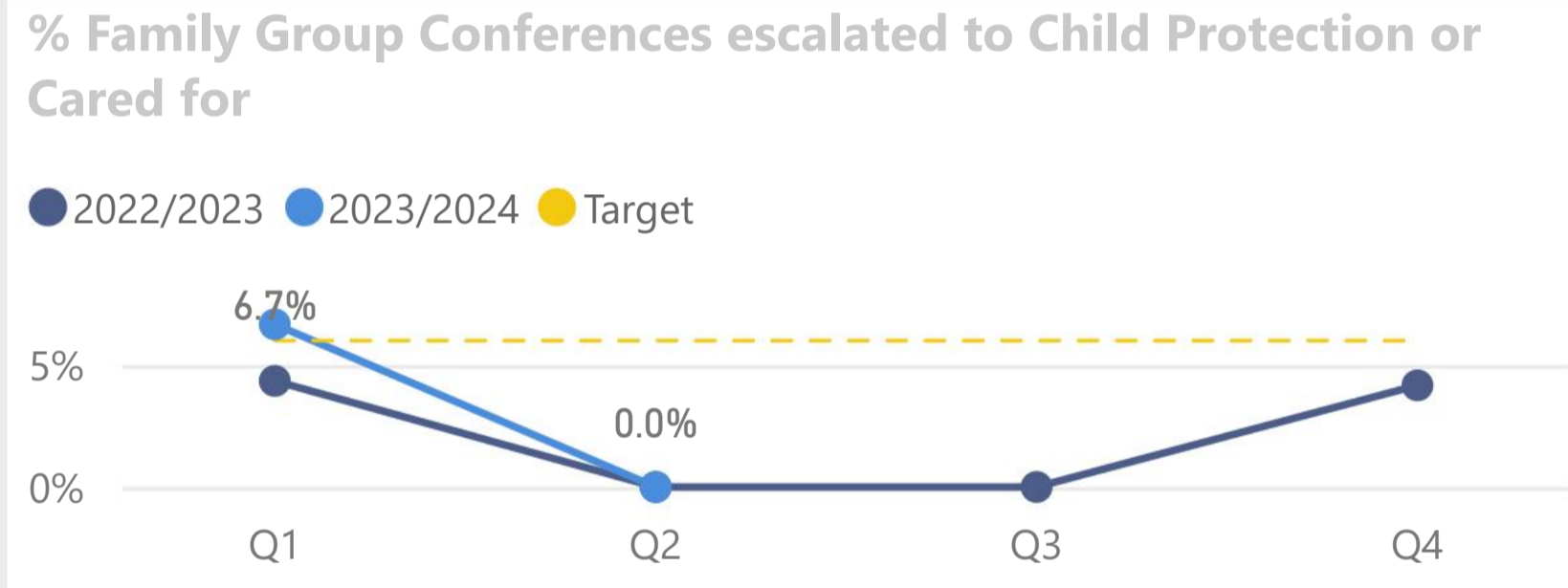
278.7
Latest



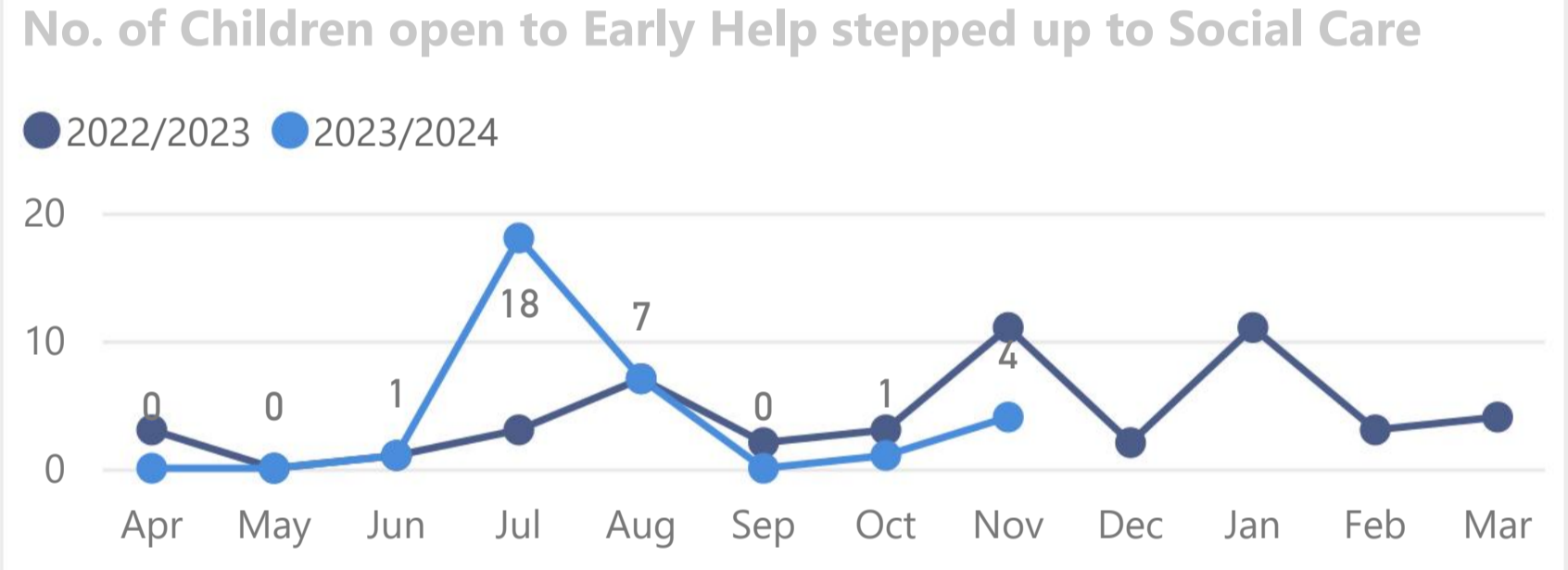
342.7 England
467.4 North East
404.1 Latest



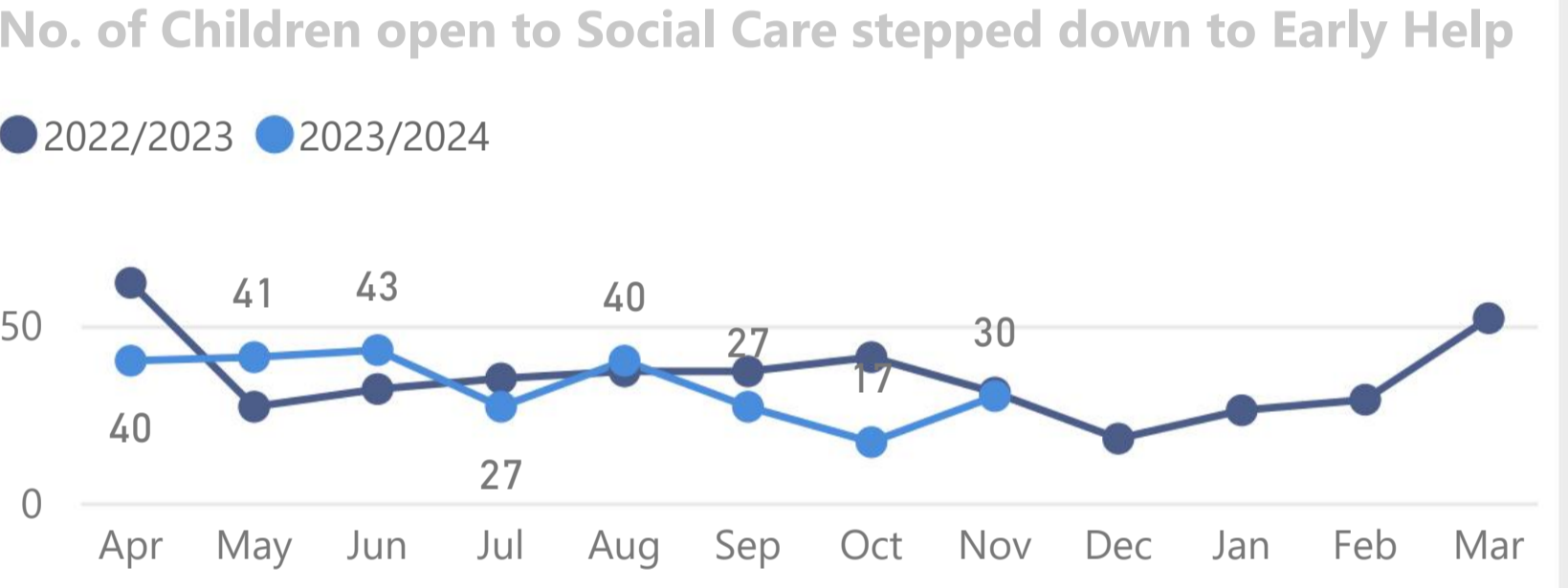
43.2 England
64.8 North East
79.5 Latest



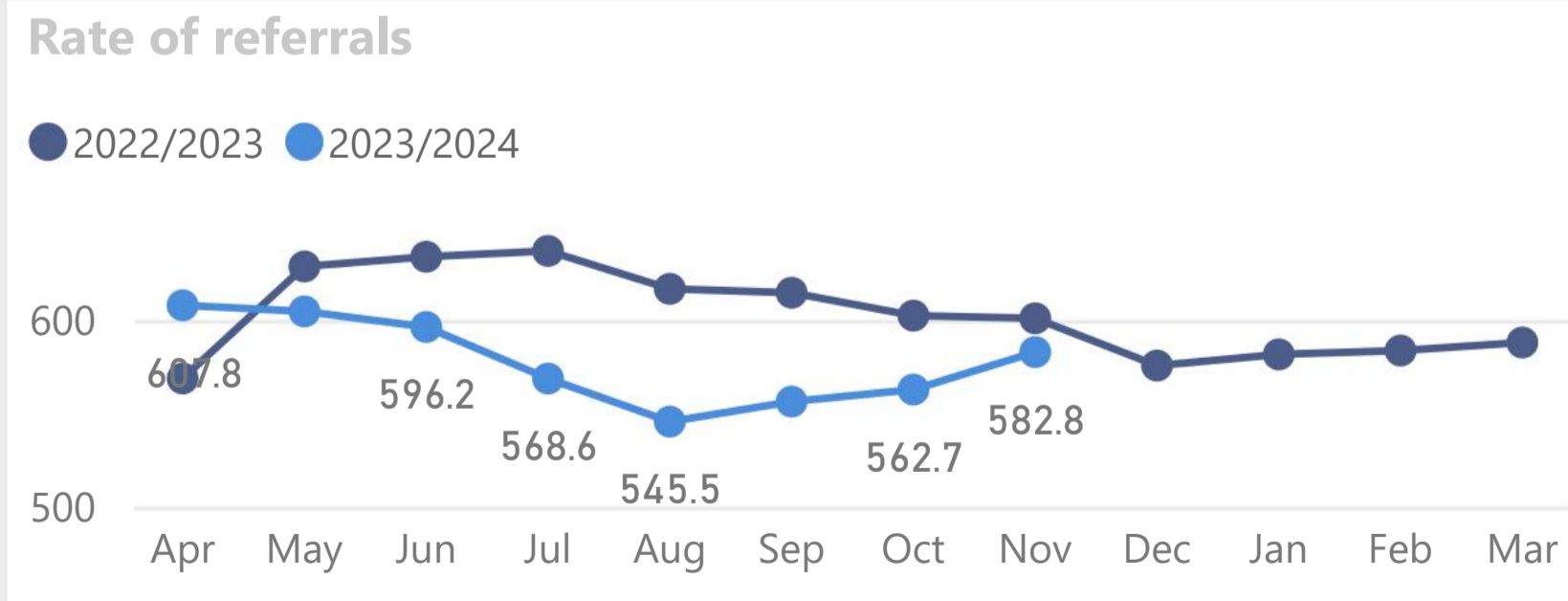
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Latest



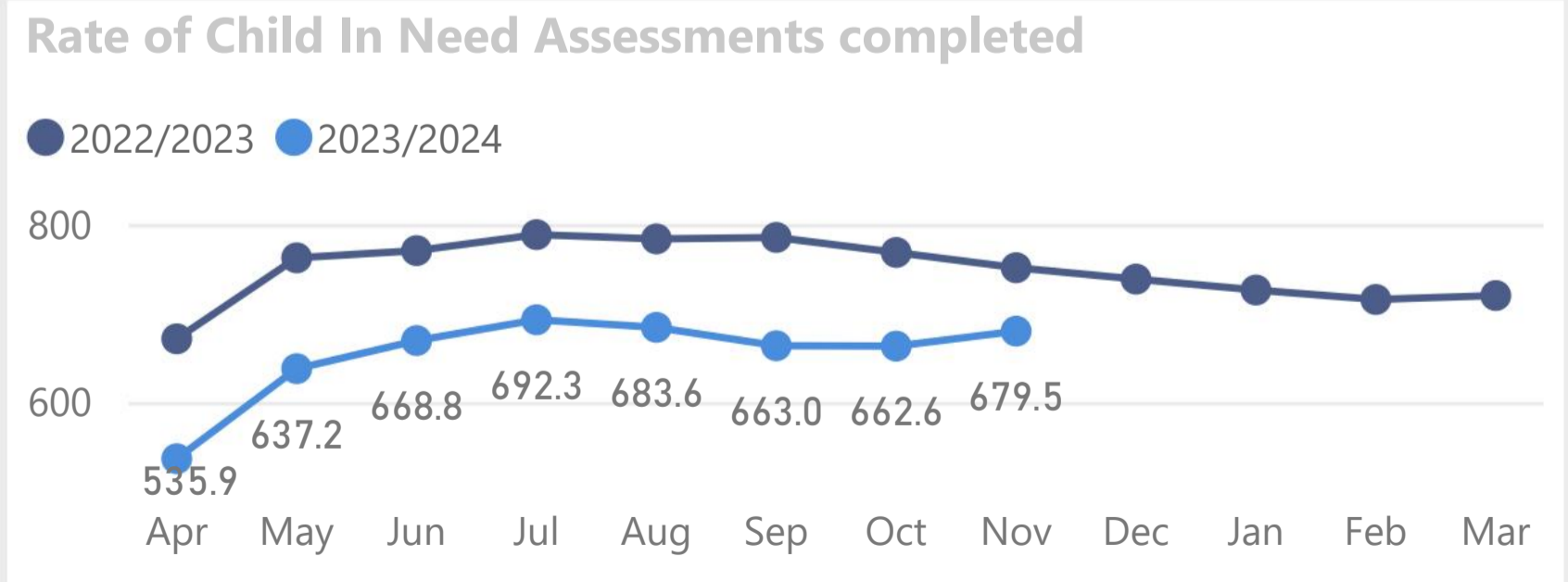
4
Latest



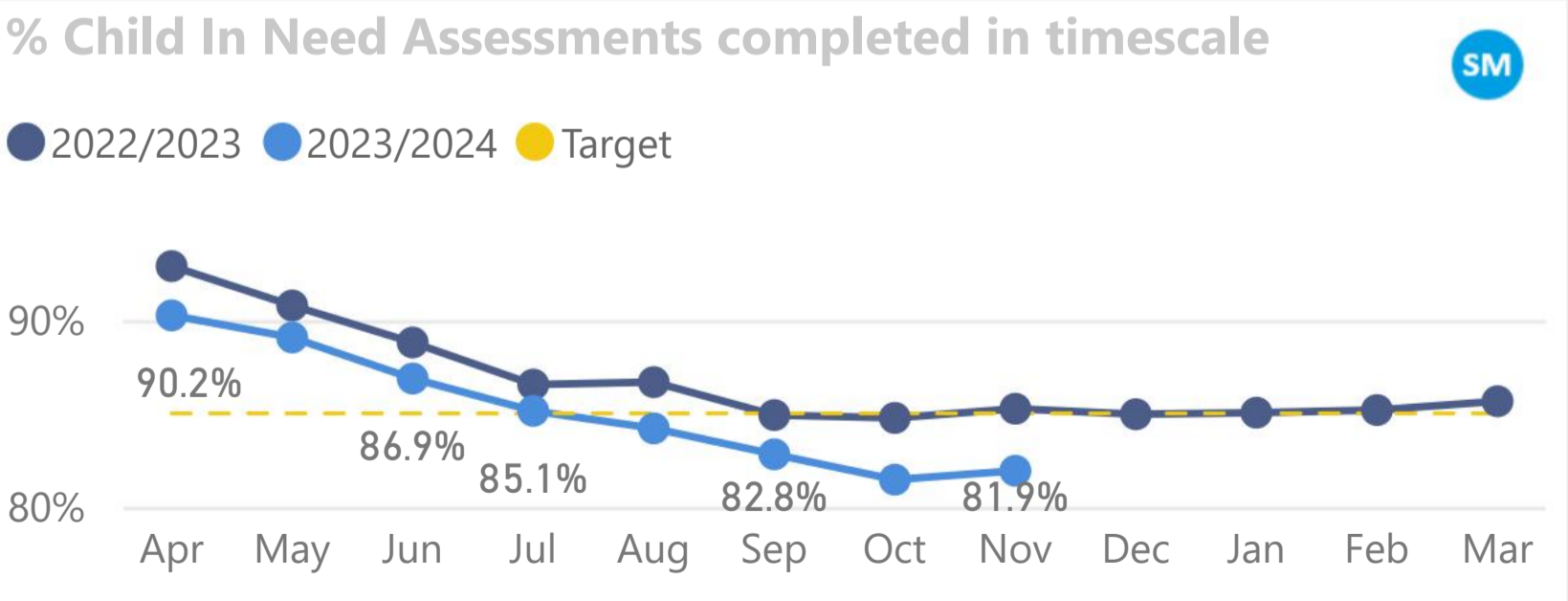
30
Latest



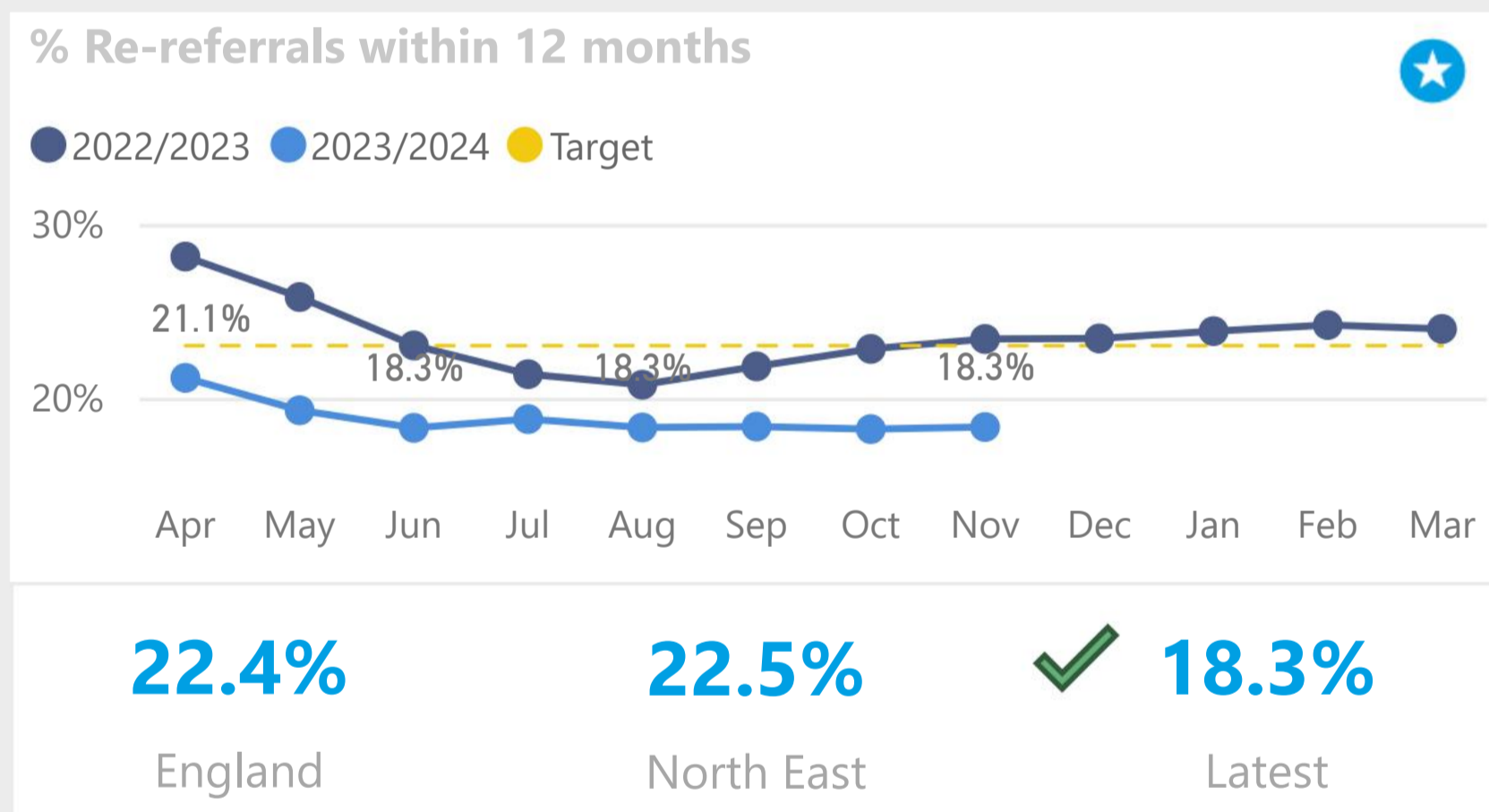
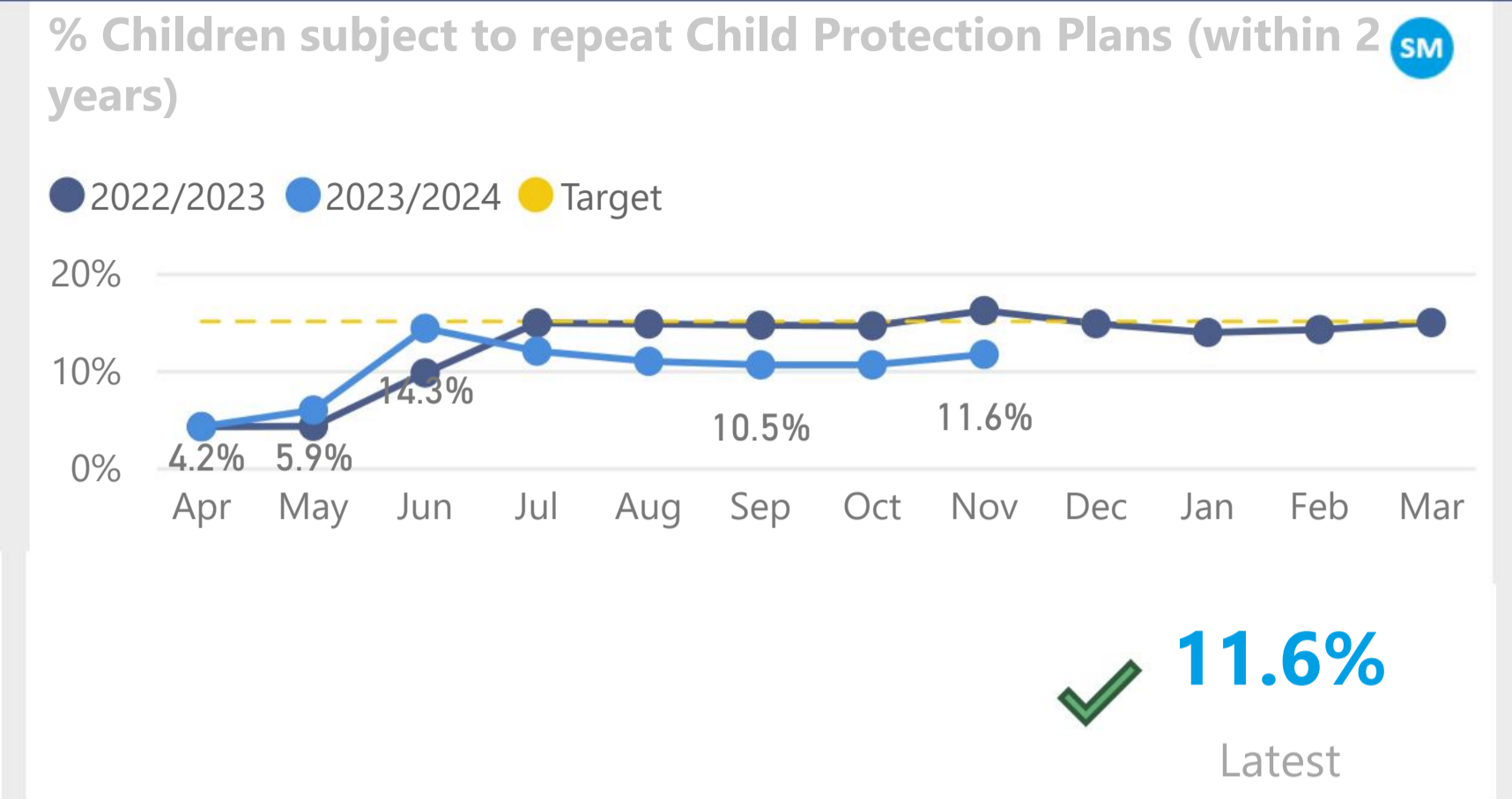
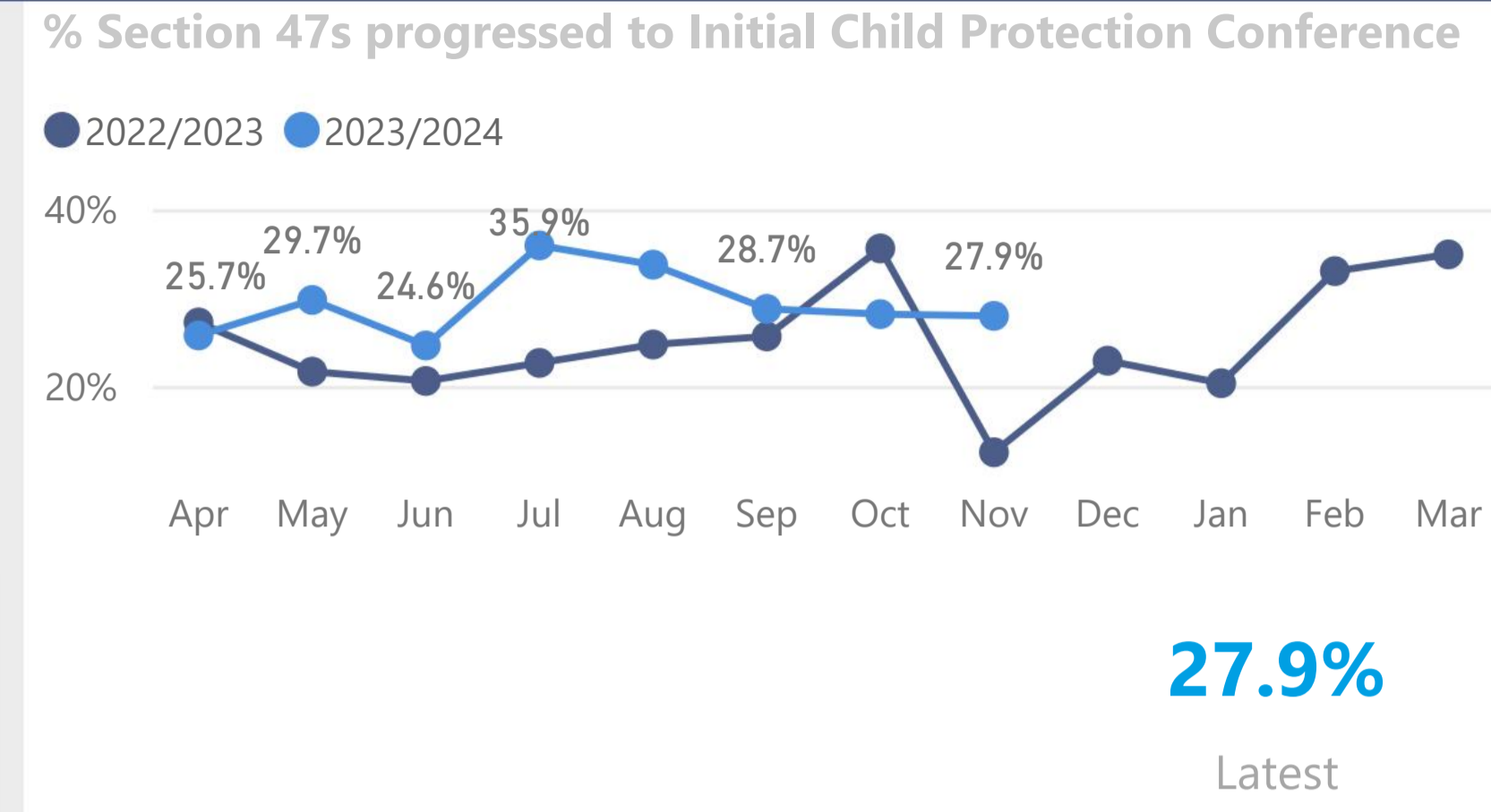
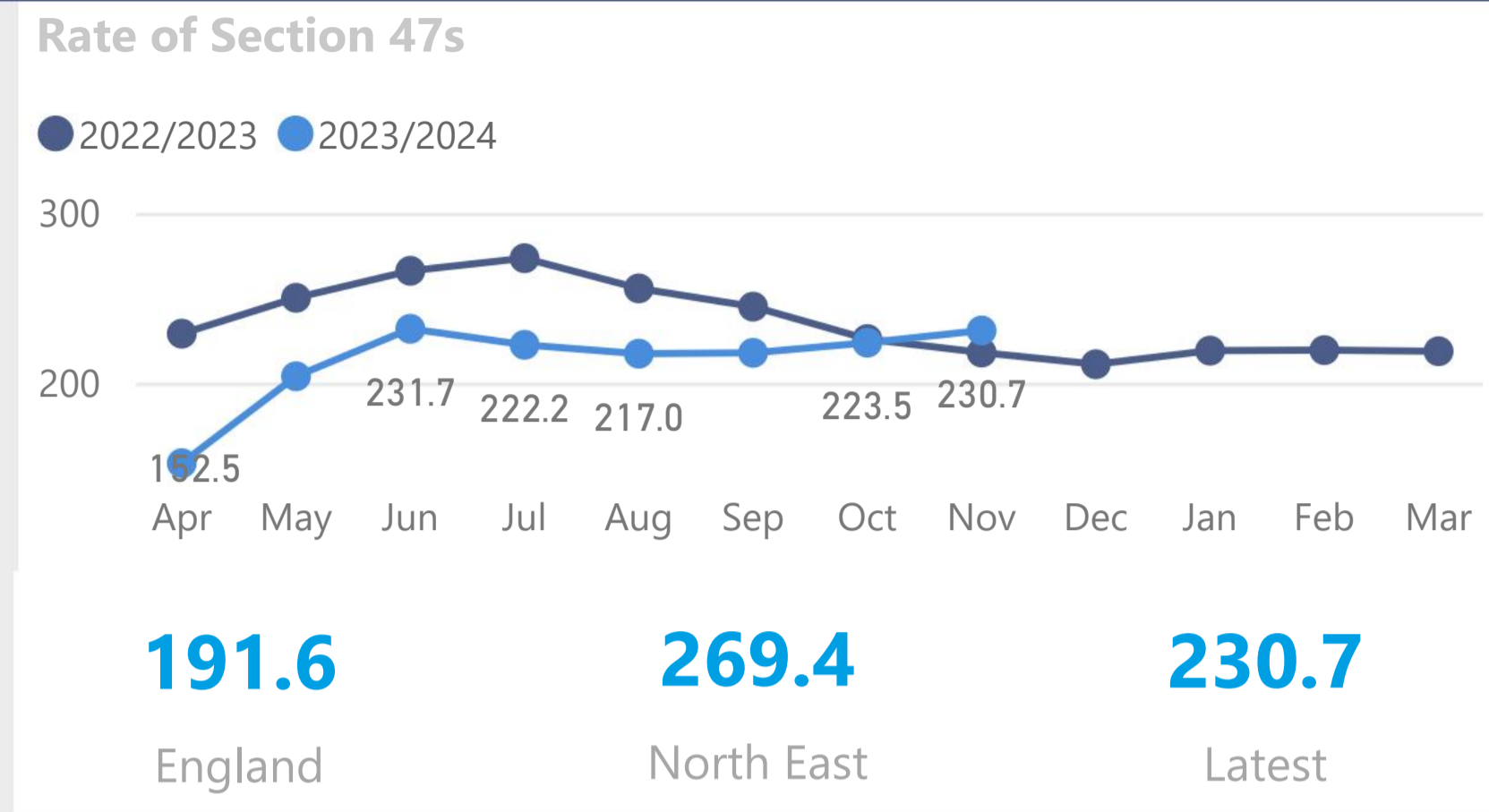
544.5 England
662.8 North East
582.8 Latest



557.4 England
742.7 North East
679.5 Latest



82.5% England
78.3% North East
81.9% Latest




MM2 - I feel happy at home and feel connected to people that matter to me.


How many children are cared for?

- Rate of current Cared for Children
- Cared for Children by age


Do our Cared for Children have a permanent home and how close do they live to where they are from?

- % Cared for Children living in long term foster care
- % Cared for Children with a plan of permanence at second review
- % Cared for Children living 20+ miles from home, outside of the LA boundary 

Do our Cared for Children live with a family member or friend and do they have to move homes?

- % Cared for Children living in kinship care arrangements
- % Cared for Children who have experienced 3+ moves within the last 12 months 
- % Children in care for at least 2.5 years living in current home for 2 years or more

Do children feel happy at home?

- % Cared for Children that have a missing incident 
- Average number of missing incidents per Cared for Children who went missing 

Indicator icon key

 At or above target performance

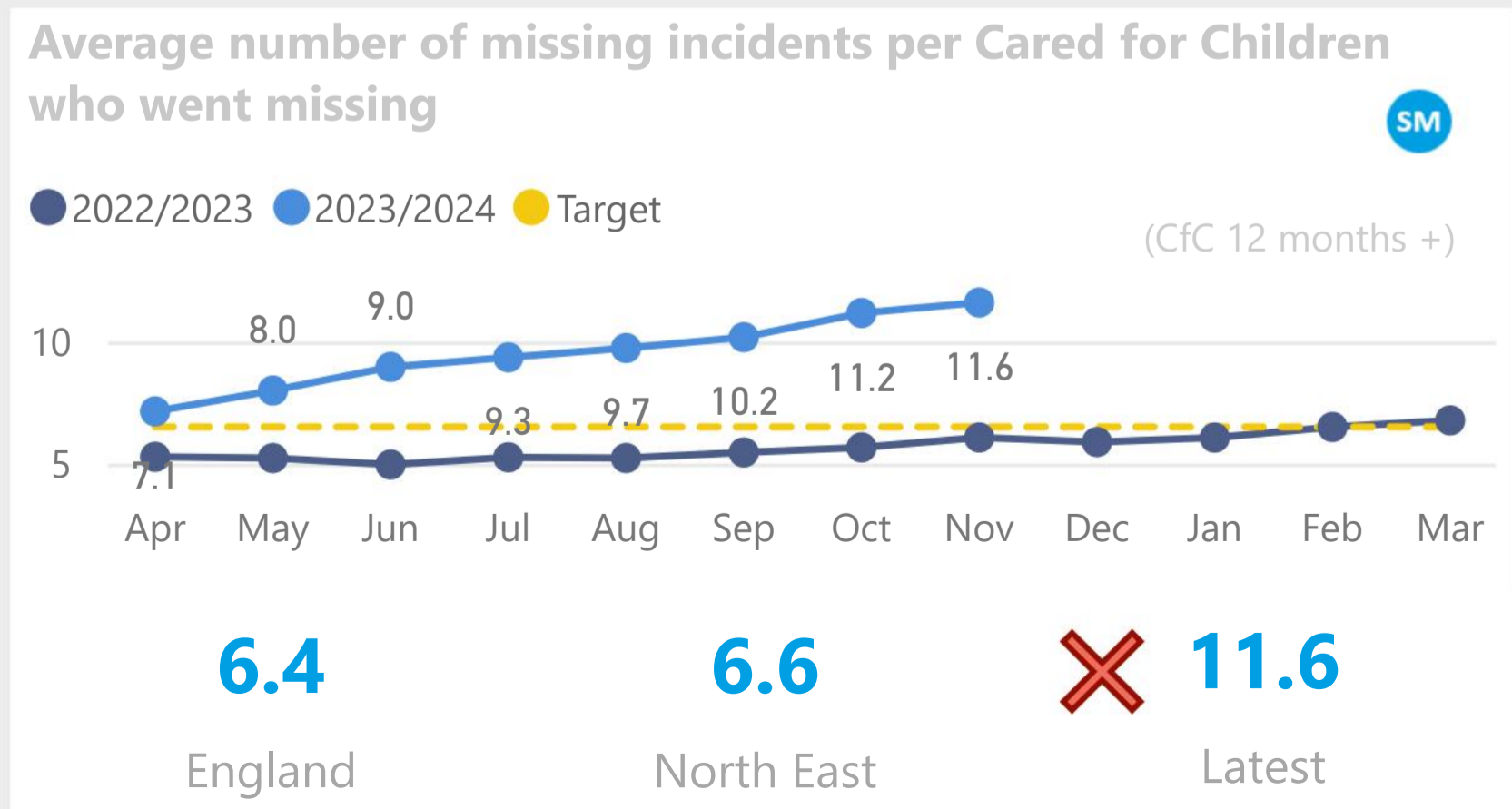
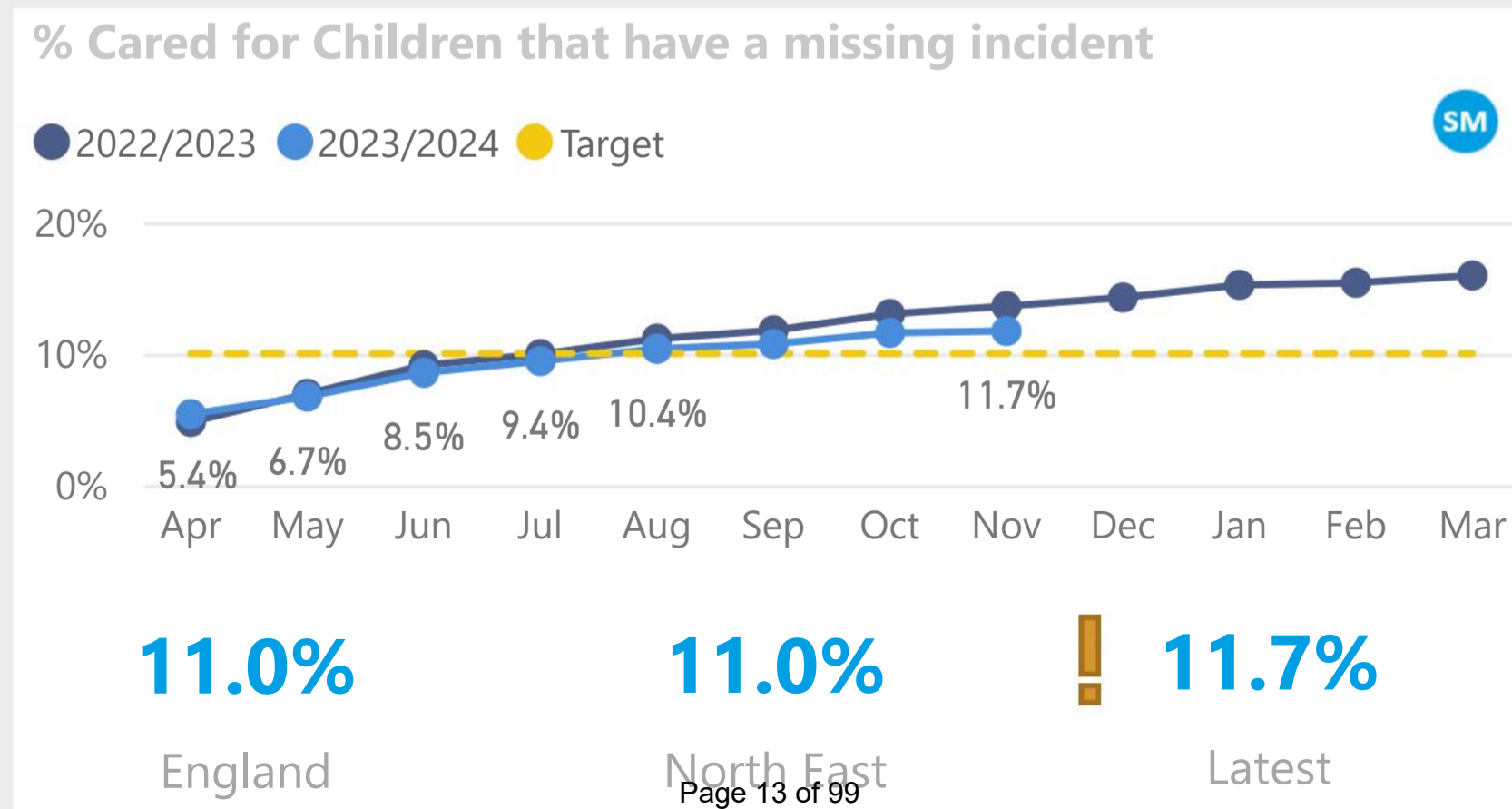
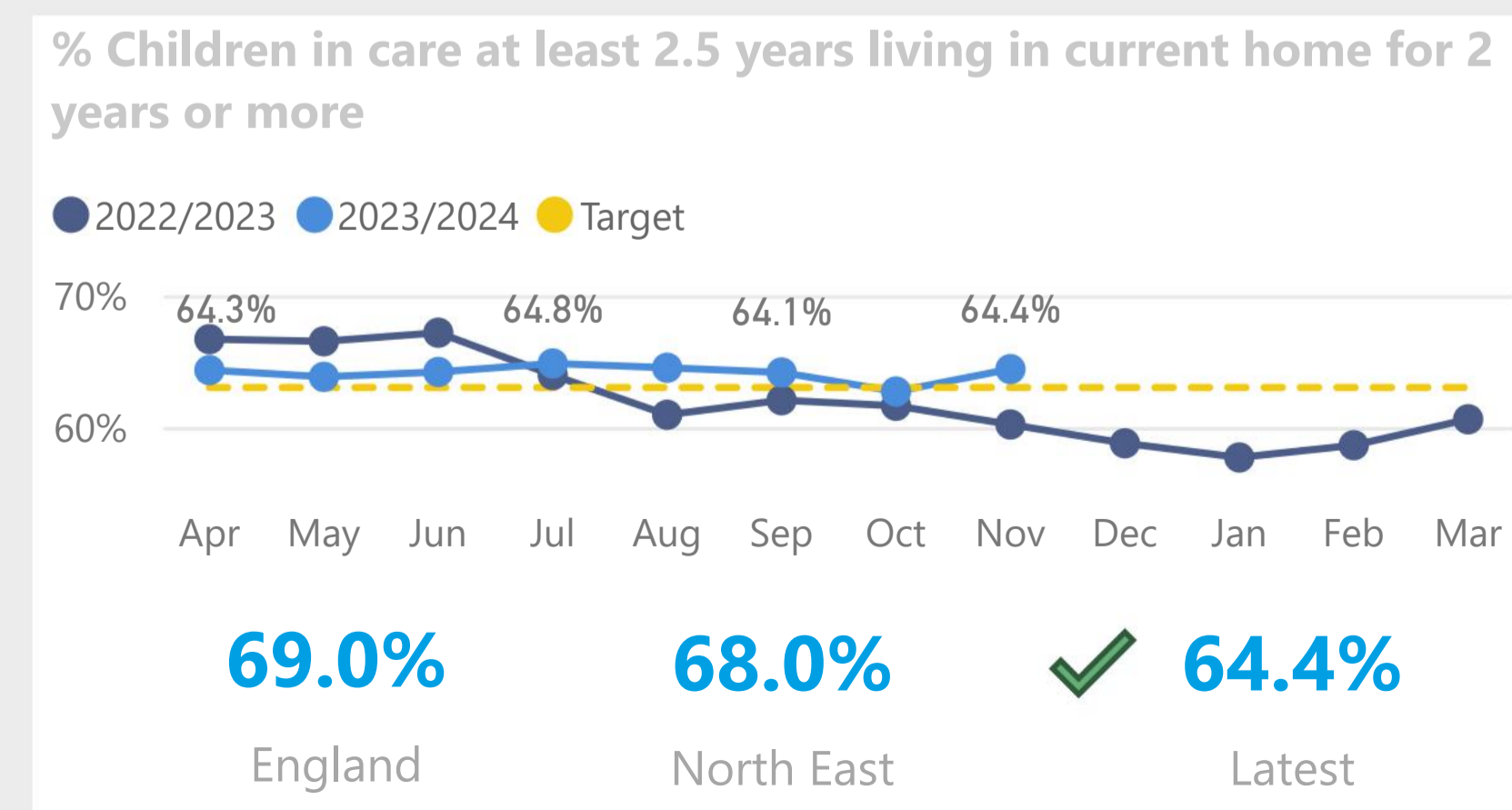
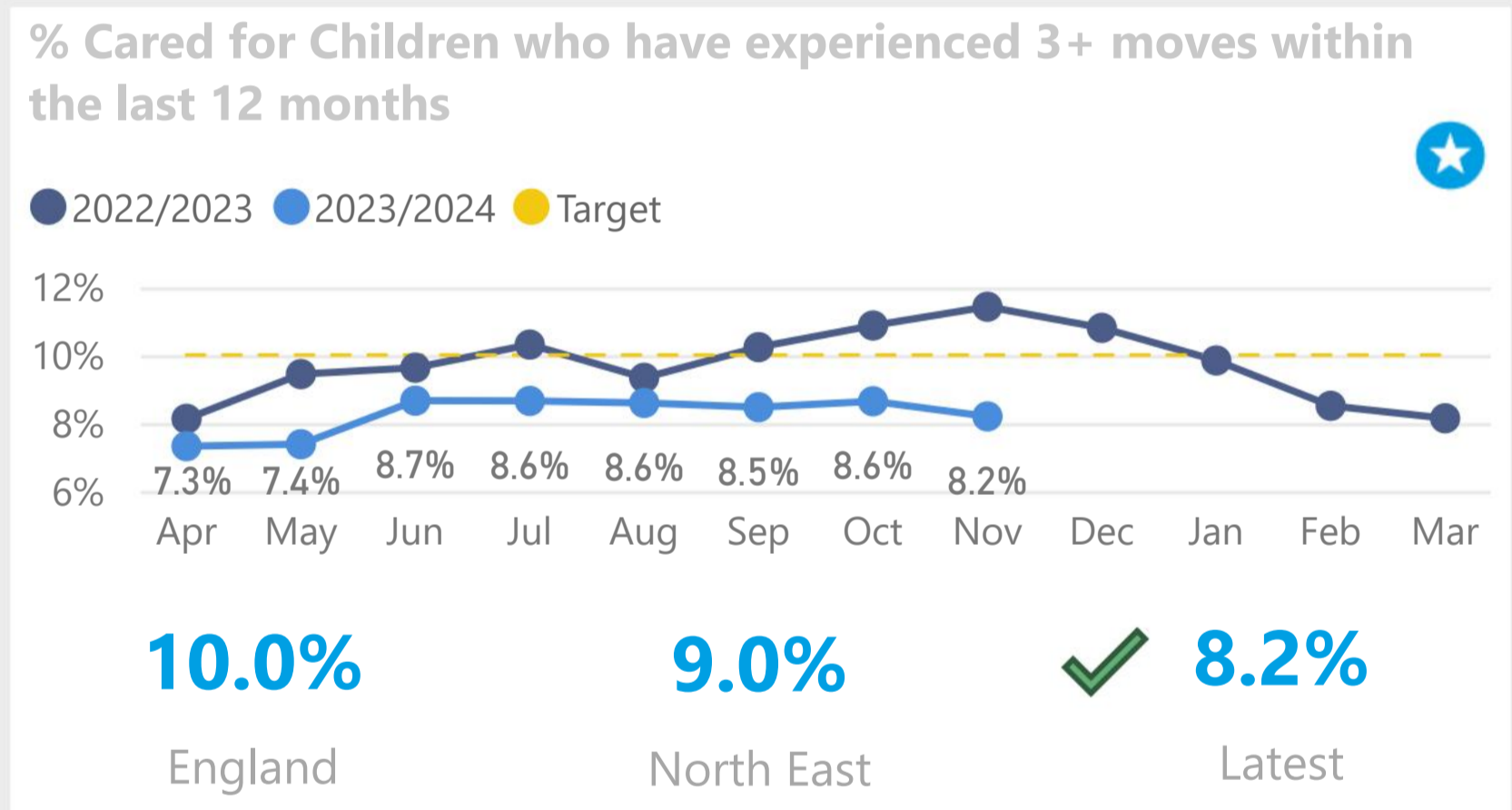
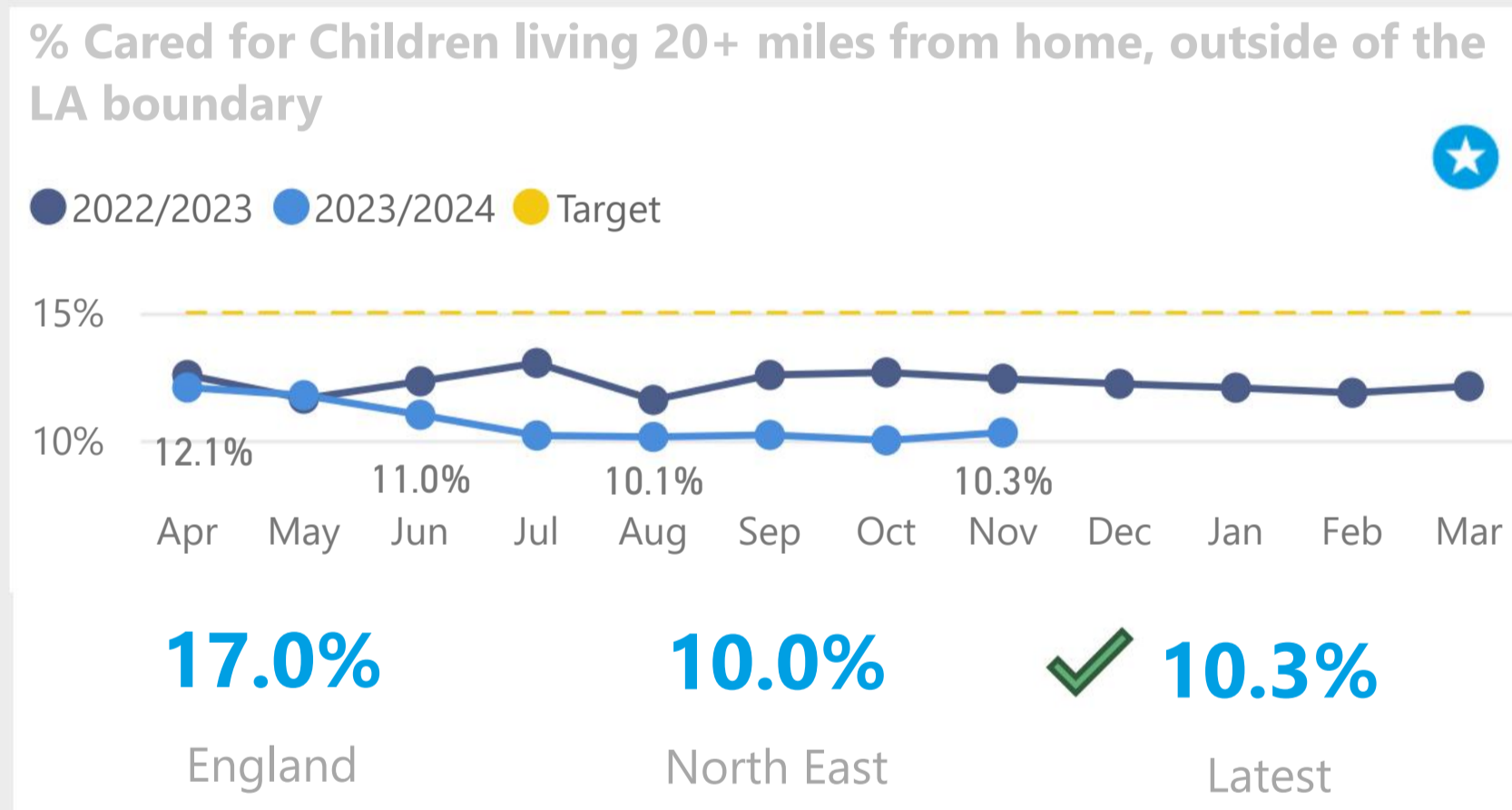
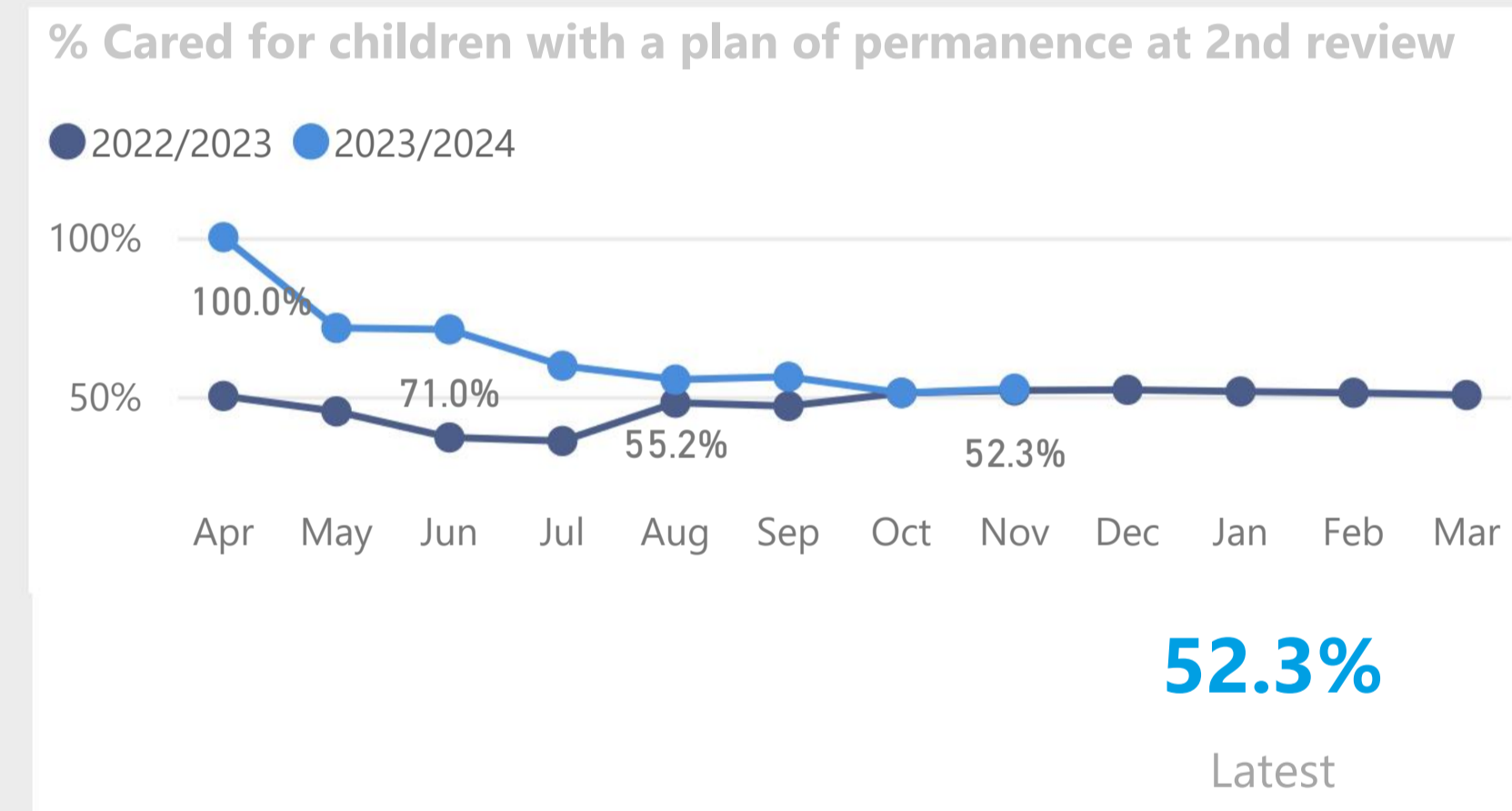
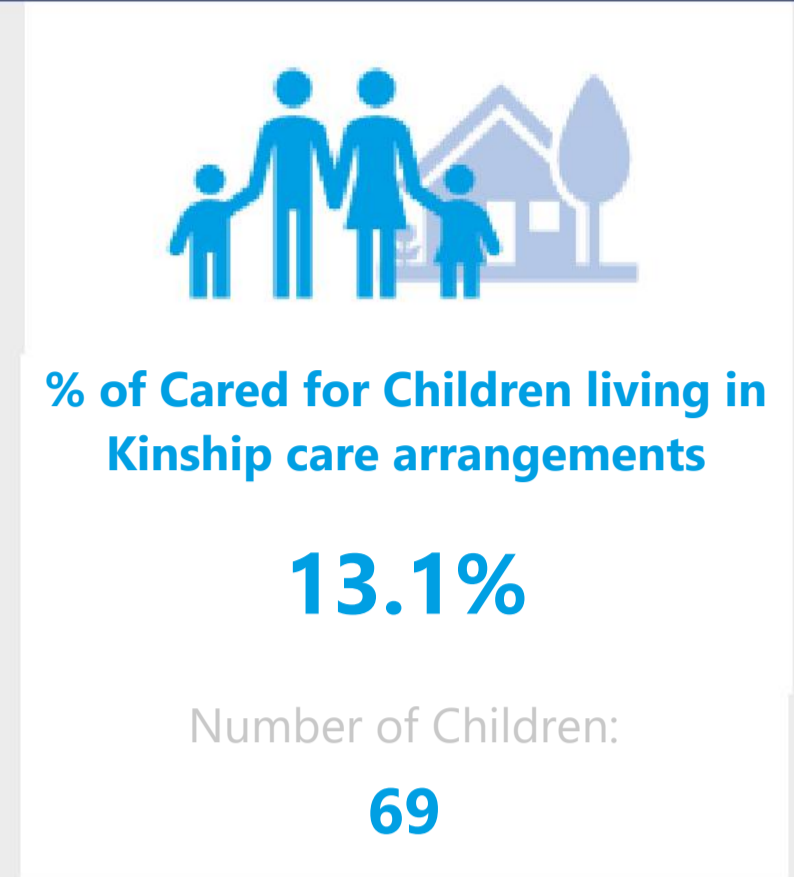
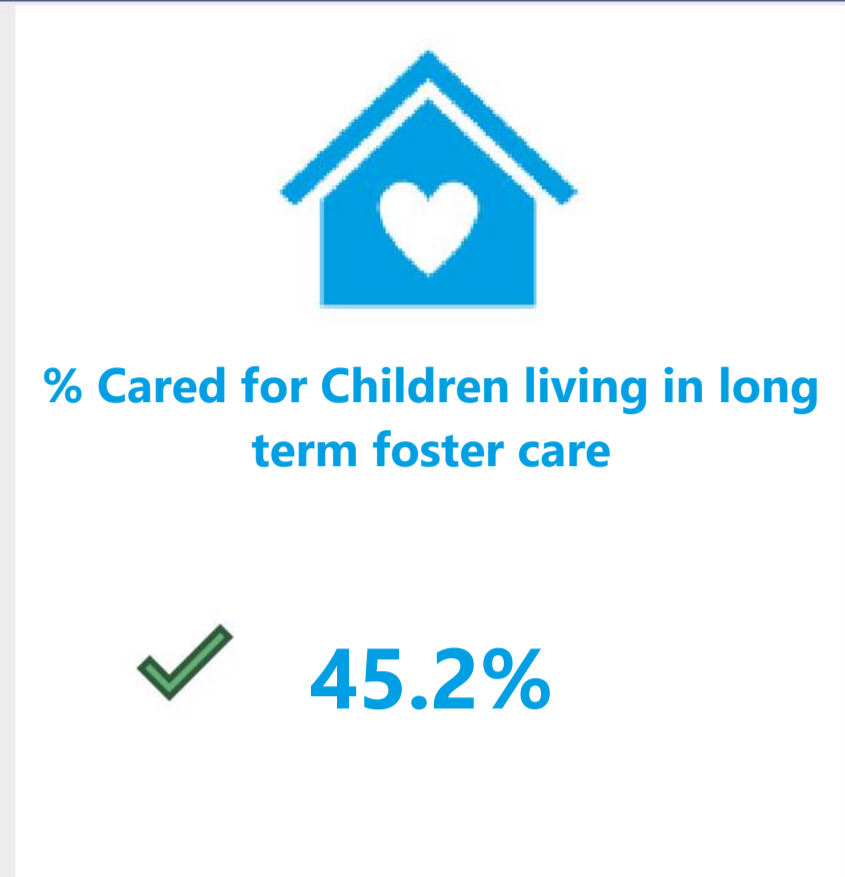
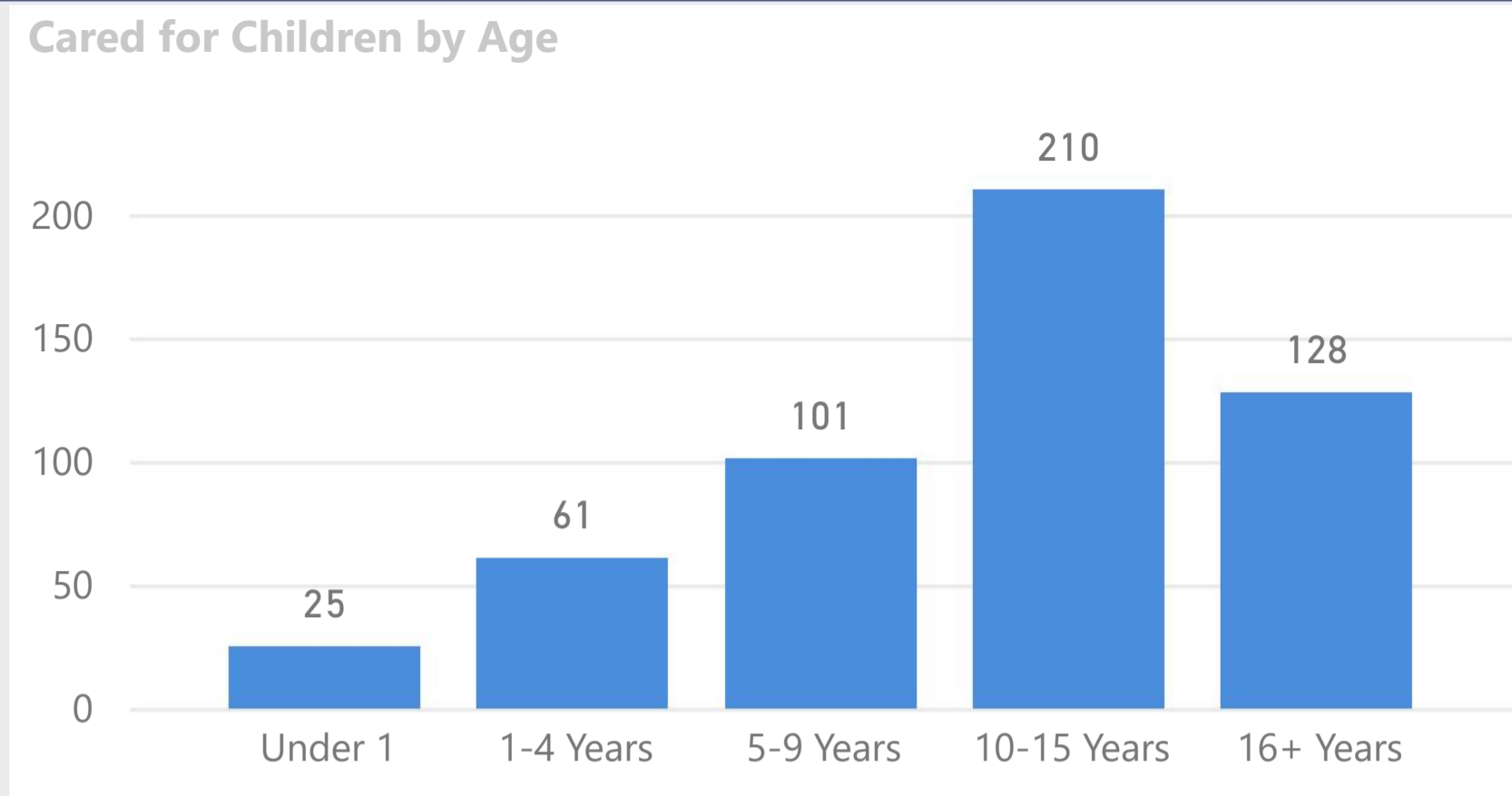
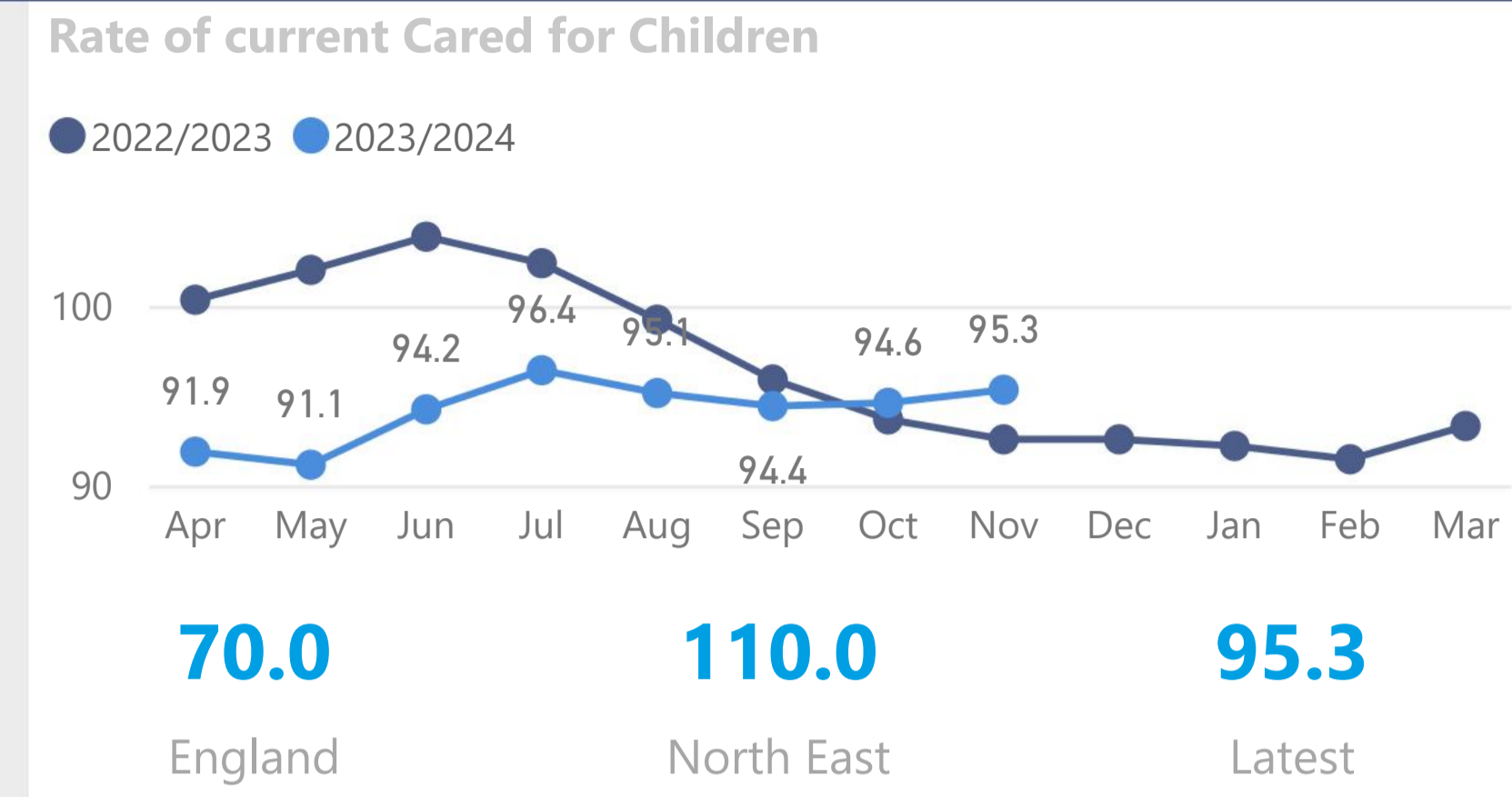
 Below target performance but within tolerance range

 Below both target performance and tolerance range

 Contractual Measure

 Supporting Measure





MM3 - I take the lead in my plans and TfC makes sure workers can support me, and my family.

How many workers do we have to help our children and families?

- % Agency posts in TfC
- % Vacancy rate
- % Annual turnover

Are we hearing from children about their plans?

- % Cared for Children who participated in their statutory review (aged 4 yrs +) SM
- % Family Group Conferences where child's voice was heard
- Number of Mind of my Own Statements sent to TfC

Do children know their workers?

- Number of social worker changes
- % Cared for Children with a change in IRO

Are plans timely and successful?

- % New EHCPs issued within 20 weeks, excluding exception ★
- % Family Group Conferences stepped down to the universal services and/or required no further support
- % Early Help cases closed with successful outcomes - TfC only SM
- % Child Protection plans closed within 2 years
- % Children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan for longer than 2 years SM
- % Special Guardianship Orders granted from care
- % Young people engaged in YOS Prevention Team who successfully completed an intervention plan SM
- % EHCP Needs Assessments and Annual Reviews where the children's views form has been completed

Indicator icon key

✓ At or above target performance

! Below target performance but within tolerance range

✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range

★ Contractual Measure

SM Supporting Measure



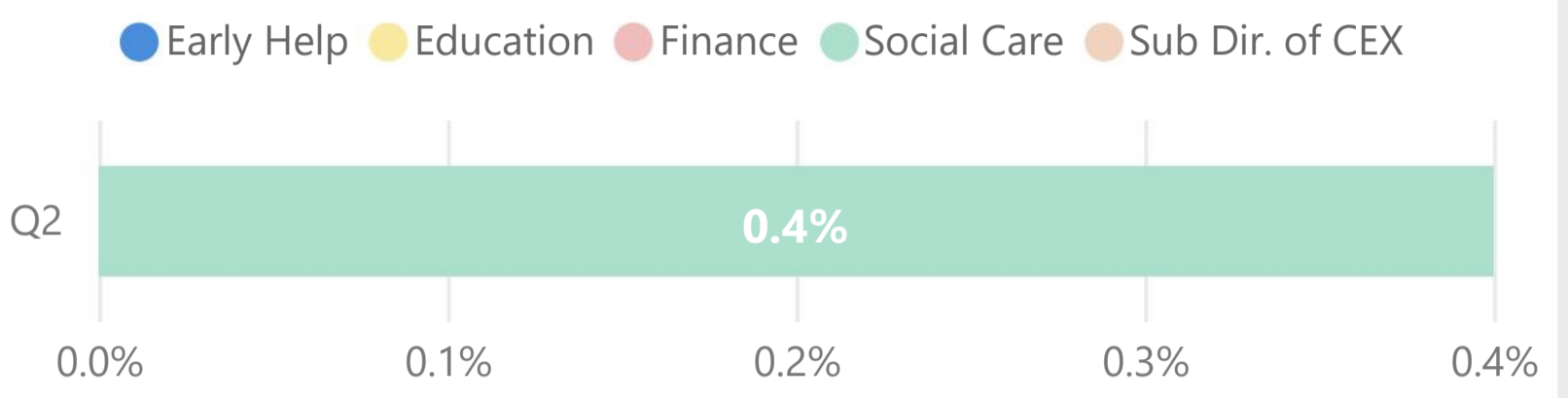
% Annual Turnover

16.3%

% Vacancy rate

13.4%

% Agency posts in TfC



% Special Guardianship Orders granted

24.5%



% Family Group Conferences where child's voice was heard



In Development



% Cared for Children who participated in their statutory review (aged 4 yrs +)

91.8% SM



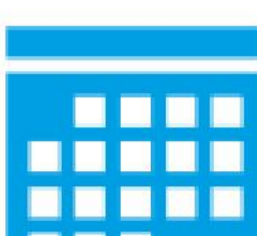
Number of Mind of my Own Statements sent to TfC

154



% Children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan for longer than 2 years

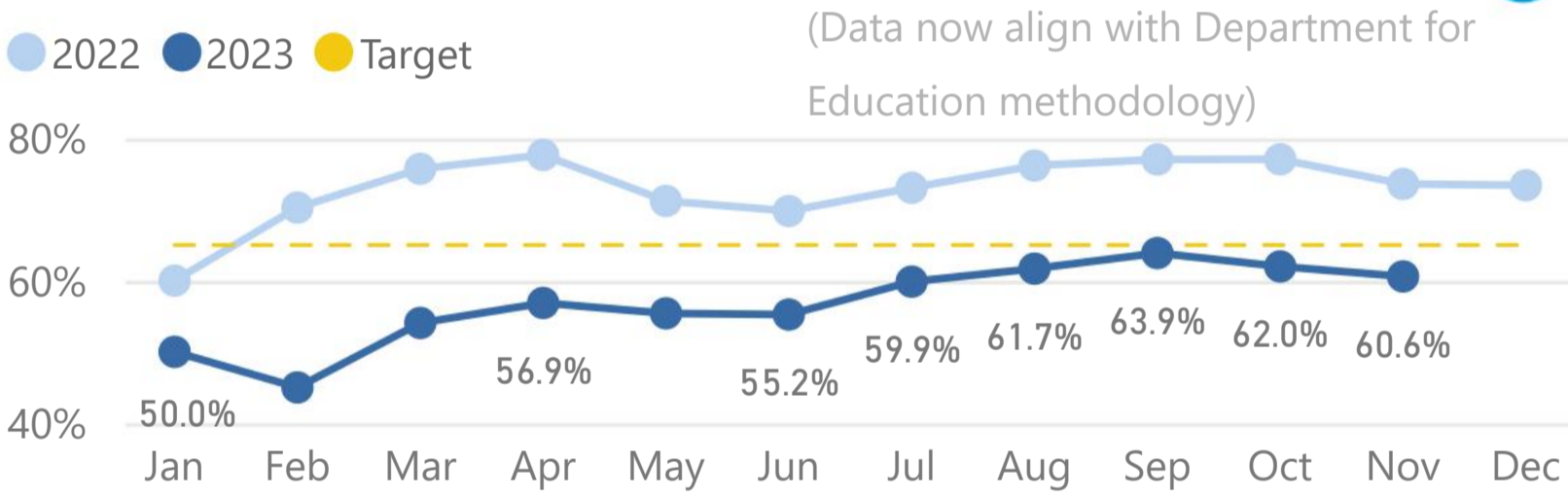
0.0% SM



% Child Protection plans closed within 2 years

100.0%

% new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks, excluding exception



49.2%

England

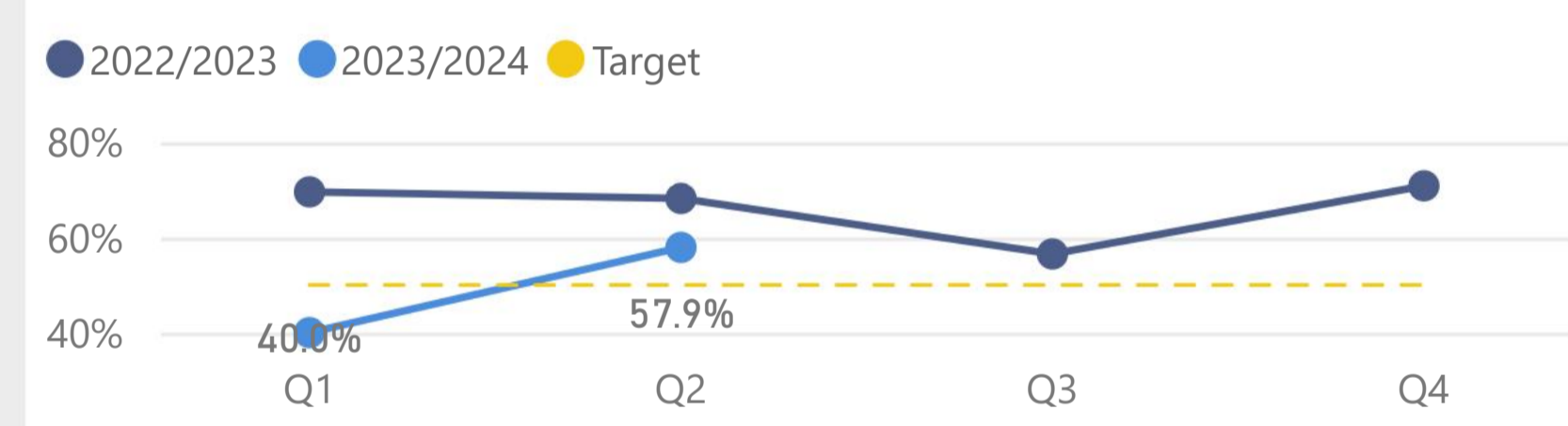
57.8%

North East

60.6%

Latest

% Family Group Conferences stepped down to the universal services and/or required no further support (12 months)



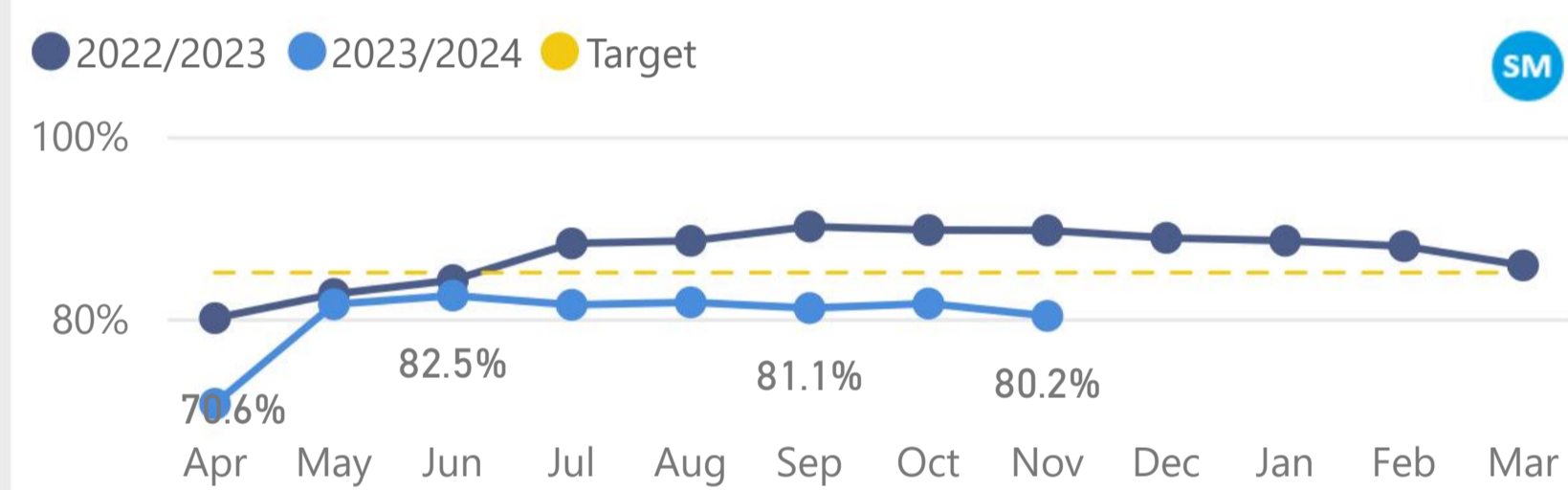
Total number of FGC completed in the 12-month period

19

57.9%

Latest

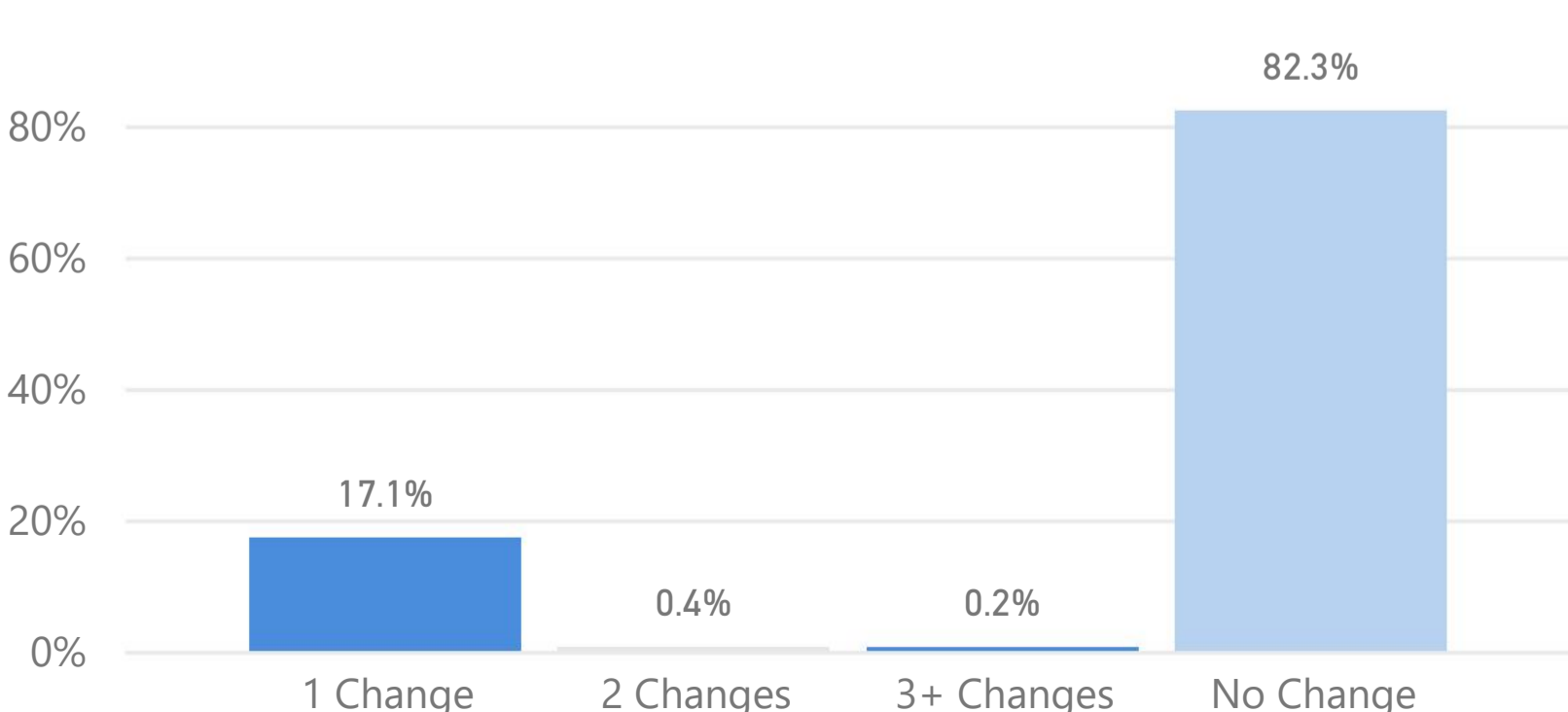
% Early Help cases closed with successful outcomes - TfC only



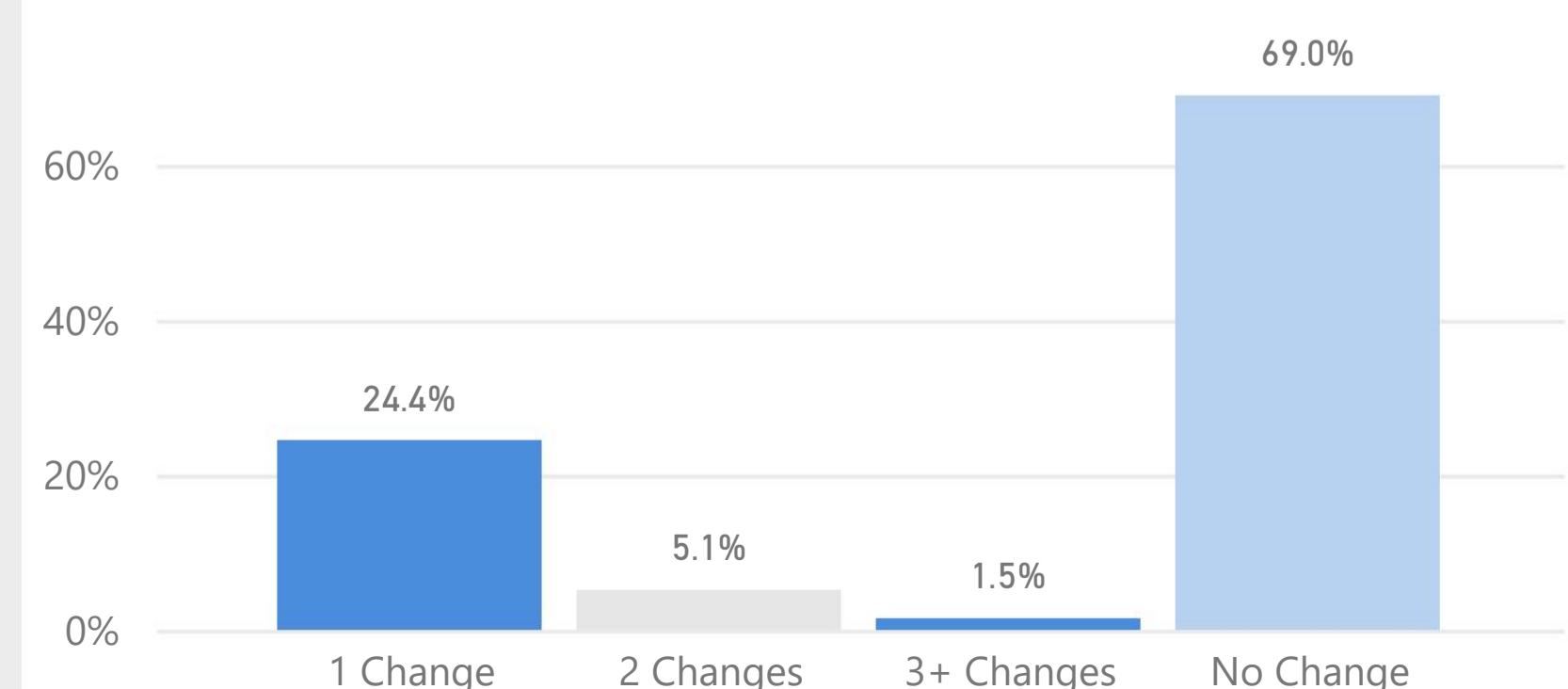
80.2%

Latest

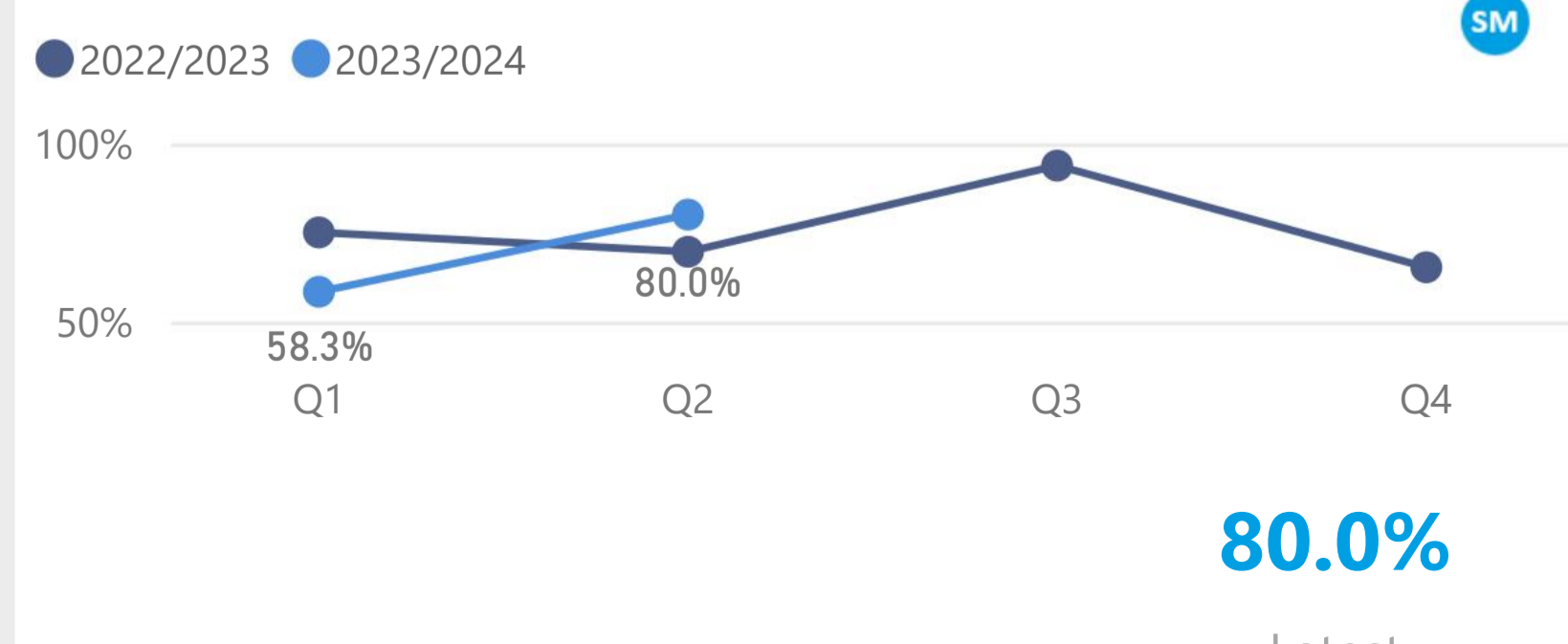
% Cared for children with a change in IRO



% Cared for children with change in social worker



% Young people engaged in YOS Prevention Team who successfully completed an intervention plan



80.0%

Latest

MM4 - I feel healthier, join activities that are fun, and my ideas help TfC to be creative, improve and make changes.

How many children and families are accessing our activities?

- Number of children and young attending prevention and innovation Celebration/Consultant events
- Number of participations by children and young people in participation activity
- Number of children and young people attending a HAF programme

Are children and young people accessing services to help them feel healthier?

- % Cared for Children with up-to-date health assessments SM
- Number of children and young people accessing mental health services or KOOTH
- Overall number of children and young people who have attended a bus session
- % Schools achieving Healthy Schools Award
- % Schools achieving Mental Health Charter Mark
- % Primary pupils eligible for Free School Meals
- % Secondary pupils eligible for Free School Meals

How often do we receive feedback about our workers and services?

- Number of initial customer feedback contacts received
- % Initial customer feedback contacts escalated to stage 1 complaint
- Number of compliments received in period

Indicator icon key

✓ At or above target performance

! Below target performance but within tolerance range

✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range

★ Contractual Measure

SM Supporting Measure





Number of CYP attending P&I Celebration/Consultation

260

Cumulative



Number of participations by CYP in participation activity

47

Monthly



Number of CYP attending a HAF programme

2828

Termly



% Schools achieving Healthy Schools Award

3.4%	16.4%	0.0%
Emerald	Bronze	Silver
0.9%		0.0%
Gold		Platinum

Quarterly Cumulative



% Schools achieving Mental Health Charter Mark

47.7%	16.8%	5.6%
Bronze	Silver	Gold

Quarterly Cumulative



% Primary pupils eligible for free school meals - for information

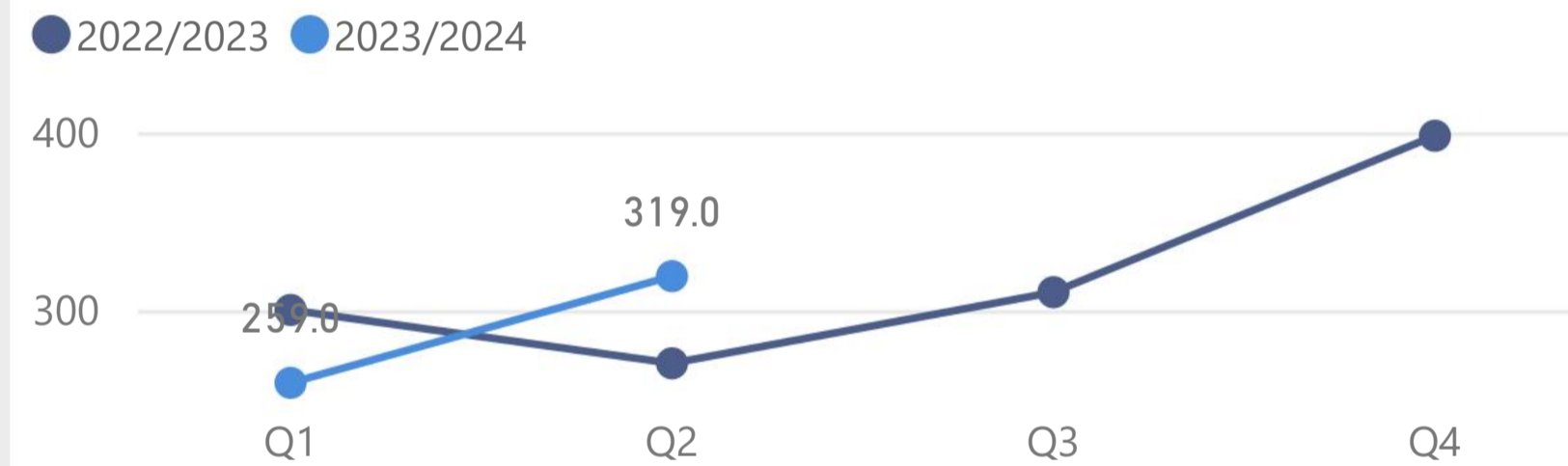
27.8%



% Secondary pupils eligible for free school meals - for information

32.8%

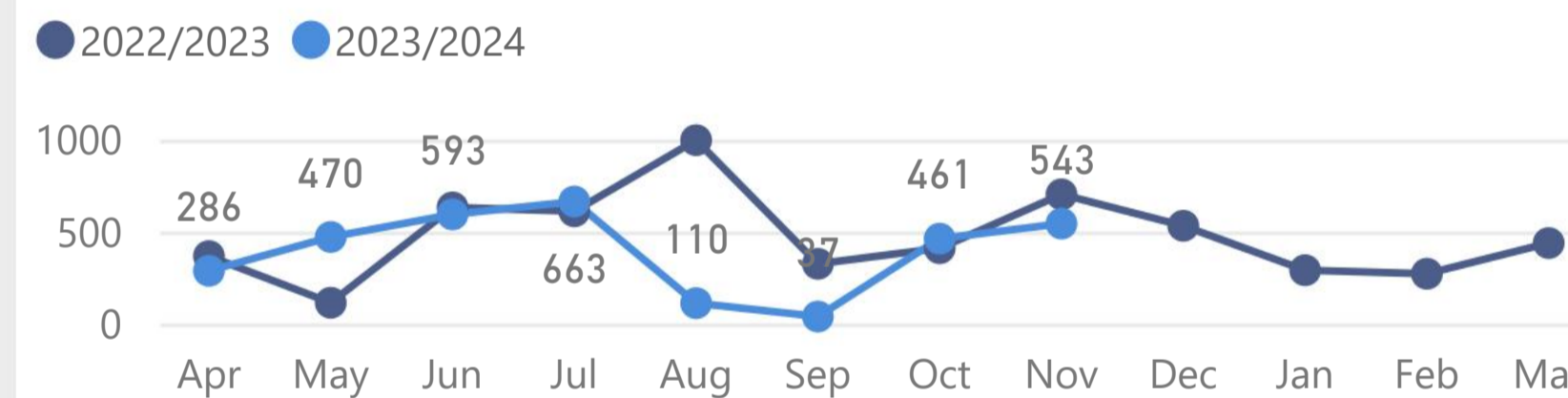
No of CYP accessing mental health services or KOOTH



319

Latest

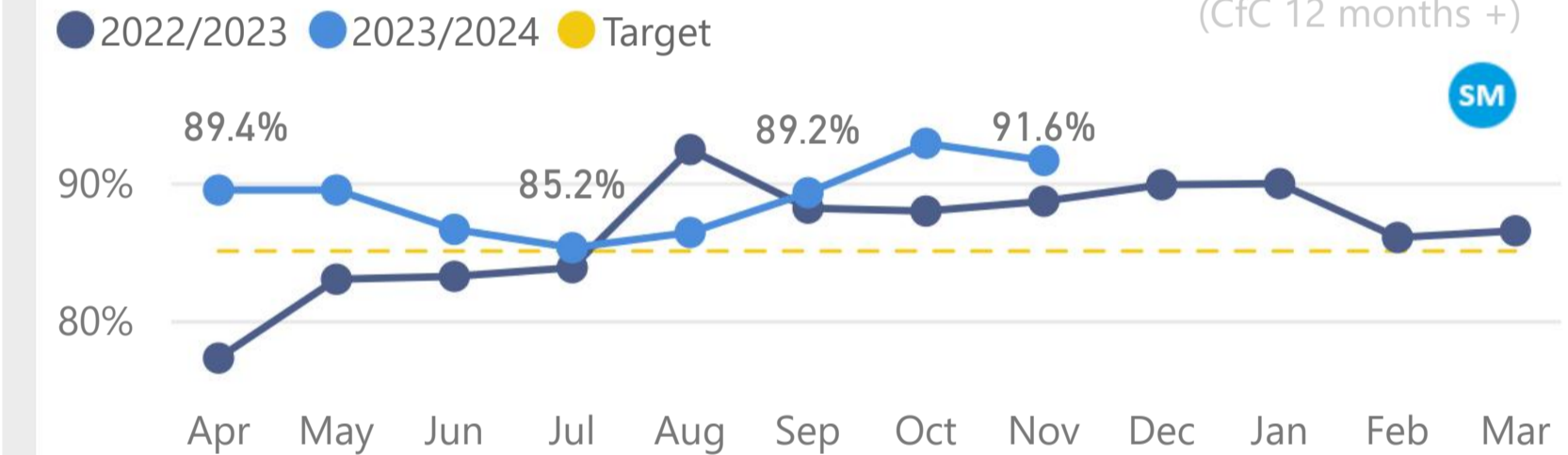
Overall number of children and young people who have attended a bus session



543

Latest

% Cared for Children with up-to-date health assessments (CfC 12 months +)



89.0%

England

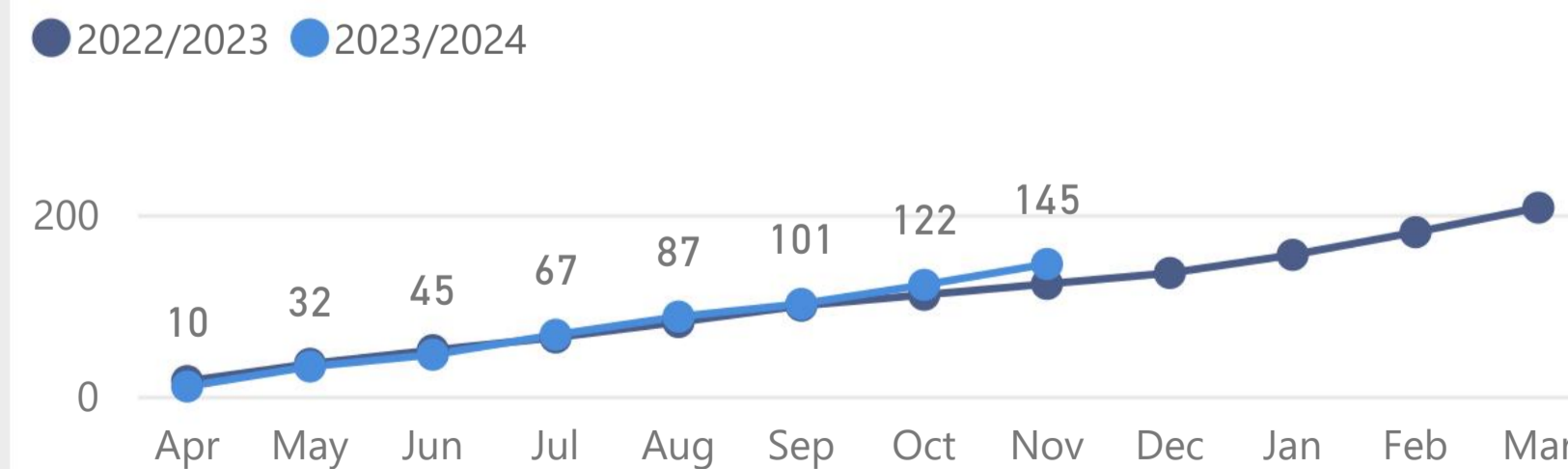
92.0%

North East

91.6%

Latest

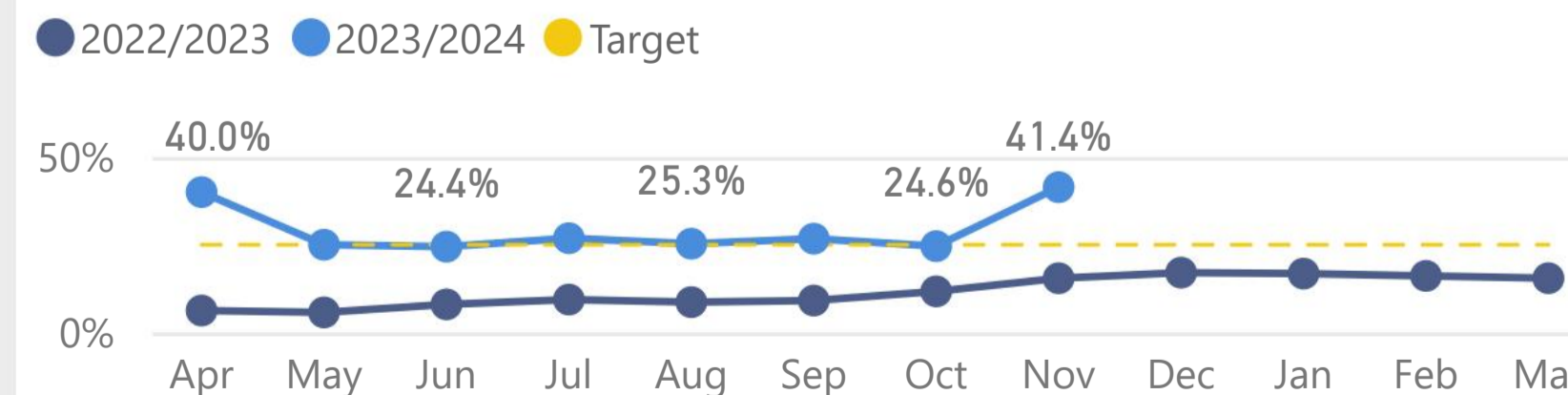
No of initial customer feedback contacts received



145

Latest

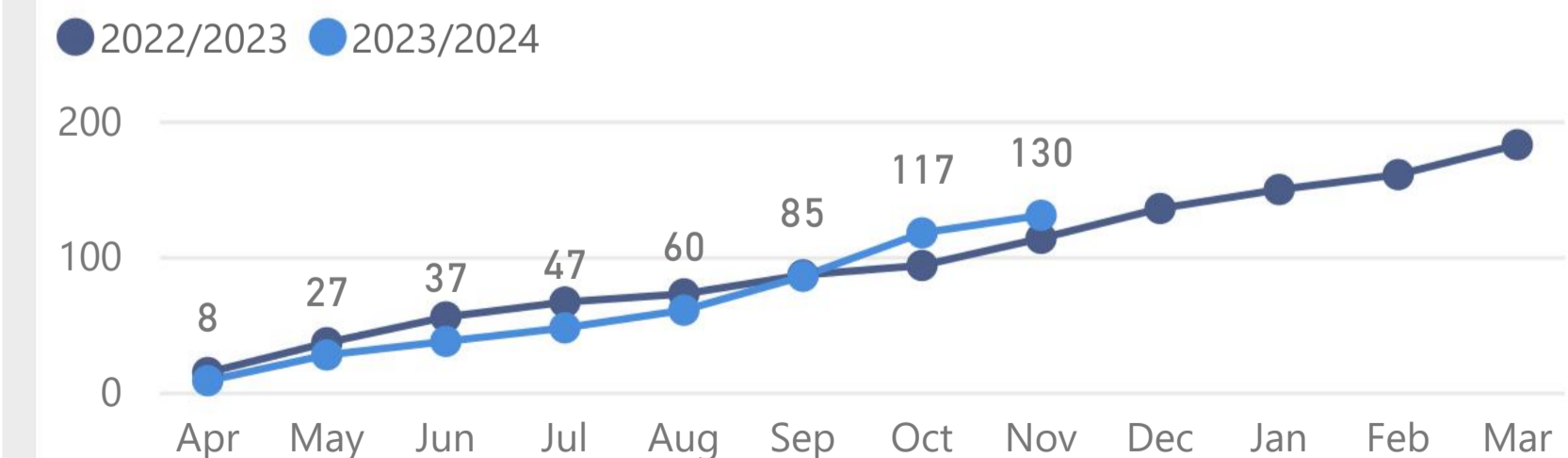
% Initial customer feedback contacts escalated to stage 1 complaint



41.4%

Latest

No of compliments received in period



130

Latest

MM5 - I have opportunities to learn and achieve my goals and I feel positive about my future

How many children and young people are in school?

- Overall absence rate
- Number of children electively home educated
- Number of children missing education
- Permanent exclusion rate
- Persistent absence rate
- Suspension rate

How are children learning?

- % Cared for Children (aged 4 -17) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan SM
- % EYFSP children achieving a Good Level of Development (All, CfC & SEND) P
- % KS2 children achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths (All, CfC & SEND) SM P
- % KS4 children achieving grade 4-9 in English and Maths (All, CfC & SEND) SM P

What are the barriers to young people achieving their goals or feeling positive about their future?

- % Young people who are NEET or whose activity is not known (age 16 - 17) ★
- % Care experienced young people who are in Employment, Education or Training (19-21-year-old) SM
- % Care experienced young people who are in Employment, Education or Training (17-18-year-old)
- Rate of first-time entrants to the Criminal Justice System (per 100,000 population) SM
- % Offending by Cared for Children
- % Young people who worked with YDAP who had a successful outcome SM
- % Young people engaged in YOS Prevention Team who remained out of the youth justice system

Indicator icon key

✓ At or above target performance

! Below target performance but within tolerance range

✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range

★ Contractual Measure


SM Supporting Measure



Below are School & Academy performance measures, including combined measures with TfC for cared for children


Absence – Schools & Academies

Exclusions – Schools & Academies




% Cared for Children (aged 4 - 17) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan

99.6%



Overall Absence Rate - All	Overall Absence Rate - Primary	Overall Absence Rate - Secondary
8.4%	6.6%	10.2%
Persistent Absence Rate - All	Persistent Absence Rate - Primary	Persistent Absence Rate - Secondary
26.0%	20.4%	31.9%



Permanent Exclusion Rate - All	Permanent Exclusion Rate - Primary	Permanent Exclusion Rate - Secondary
0.1%	0.0%	0.3%
Suspension Rate - All	Suspension Rate - Primary	Suspension Rate - Secondary
5.3%	0.7%	11.3%

Attainment – Schools & Academies (combined measures with TfC for cared for children)

EYFS - % Children achieving a Good Level of Development ^P

Comparator	2021/22	2022/23
Sunderland	63.7%	66.0%
Stat. Neighbour	63.9%	
North East	64.1%	66.3%
England	65.2%	67.2%

*Stat neighbour not available

EYFS - % SEND children achieving a Good Level of Development

Comparator	2021/22	2022/23
England	18.8%	19.8%
North East	18.7%	19.7%
Stat. Neighbour	17.8%	
Sunderland	18.6%	17.9%

*Stat neighbour not available

EYFS - % Cared for Children achieving a Good Level of Development

Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	36.4%
North East	40.0%
England	40.0%

*Stat neighbour not available

KS2 - % Children achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths ^P

Comparator	2021/22	2022/23
Sunderland	61.0%	62.0%
Stat. Neighbour	58.6%	59.6%
North East	60.0%	60.0%
England	59.0%	59.0%



KS2 - % SEND children achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths

Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	23.0%
North East	19.0%
England	18.0%

*Stat neighbour not available

KS2 - % Cared for children achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths

Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	42.0%
Stat. Neighbour	36.0%
North East	36.0%
England	31.0%

KS4 - % Children achieving grade 4-9 in English and Maths ^P



Comparator	2021/22	2022/23
Sunderland	62.3%	57.8%
Stat. Neighbour	65.7%	62.6%
North East	65.8%	62.2%
England	69.0%	65.1%

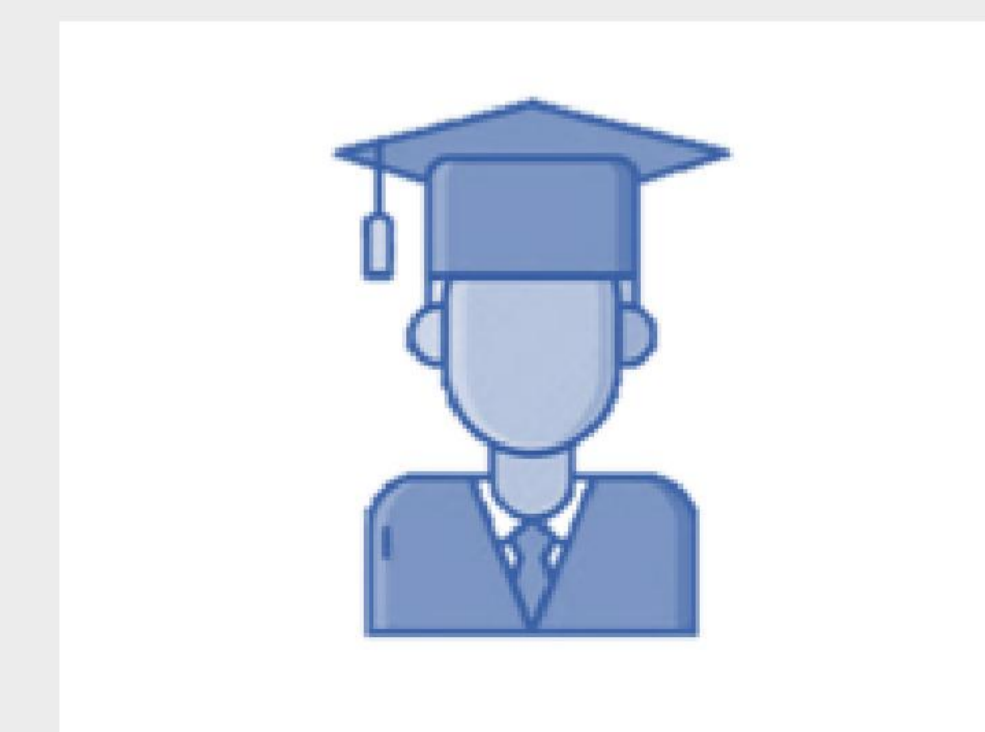
KS4 - % SEND children achieving grade 4-9 in English and Maths

Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	24.3%
Stat. Neighbour	30.0%
North East	28.7%
England	32.2%

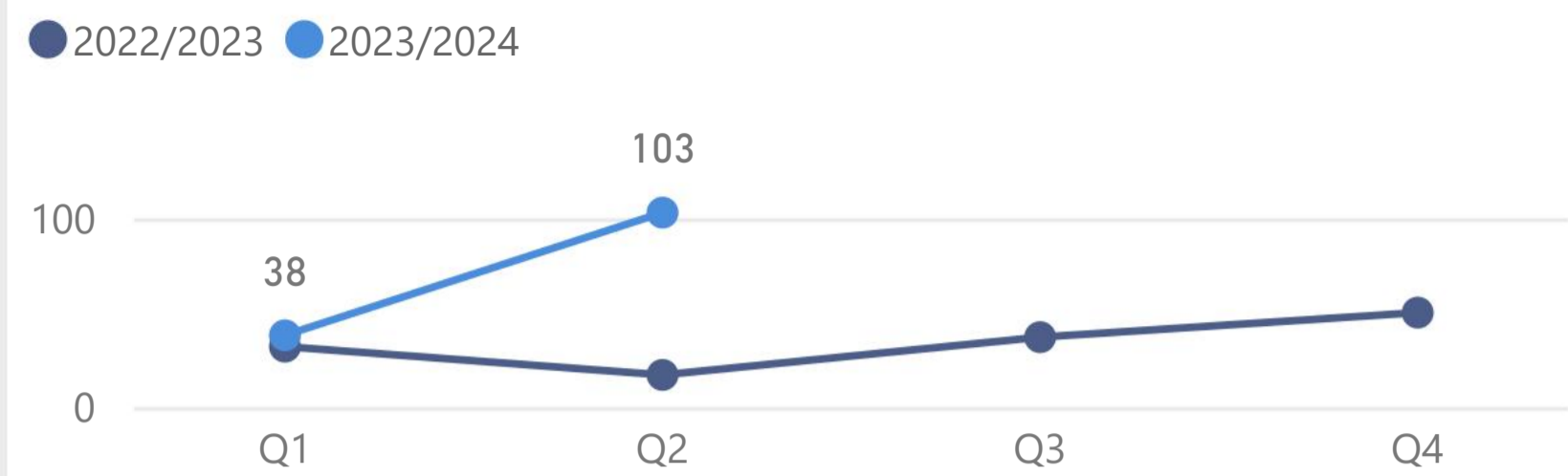
KS4 - % Cared for children achieving grade 4-9 in English and Maths

Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	27.9%
Stat. Neighbour	24.7%
North East	22.4%
England	22.1%



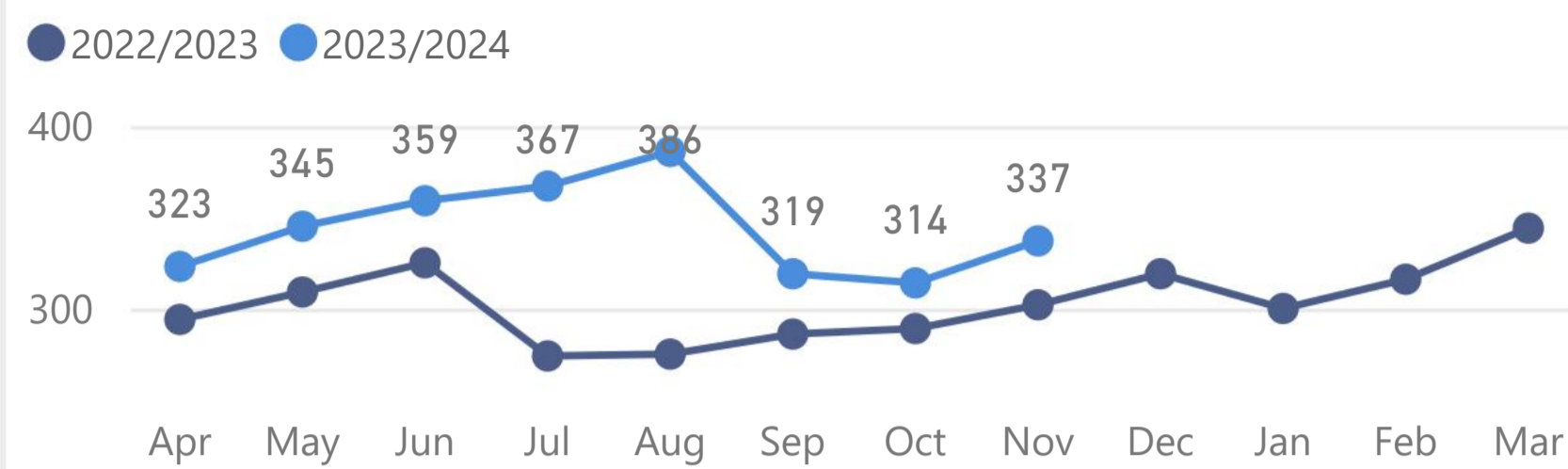
Number of children missing education (CME)



103

Latest

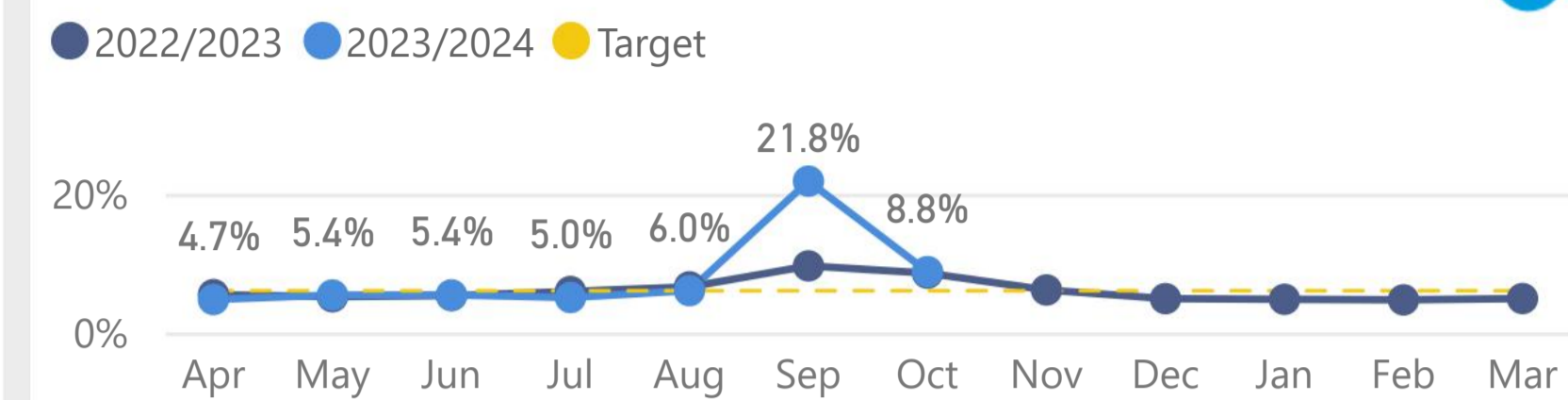
Number of children electively home educated (EHE)



337

Latest

% young people who are NEET or whose activity is not known (age 16 - 17)



2.7%

England

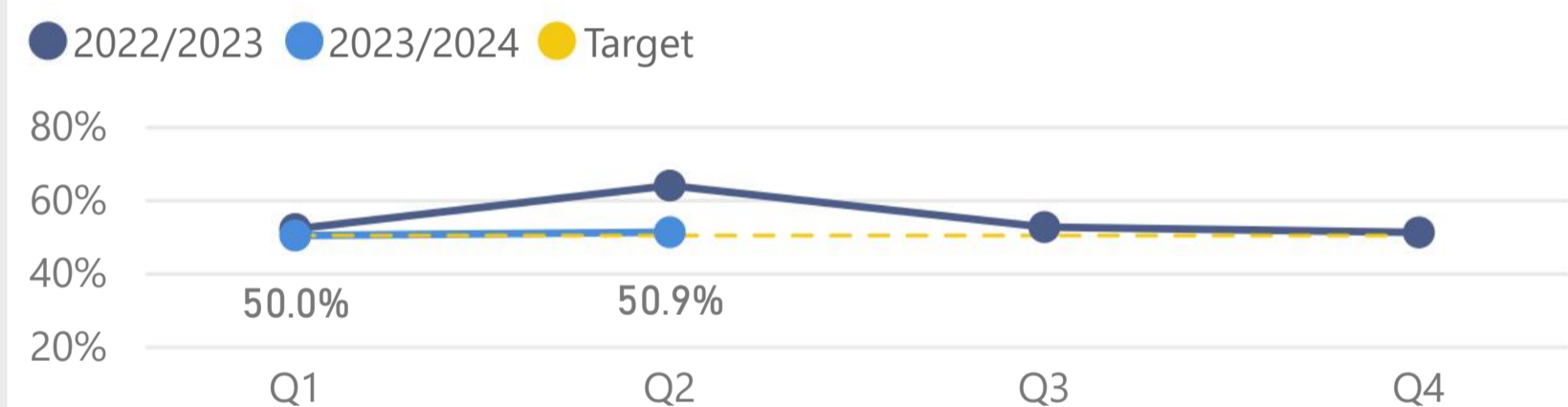
1.0%

North East

8.8%

Latest

% Care experienced young people who are in Employment, Education or Training (17-18-year-old)



66.0%

England

63.0%

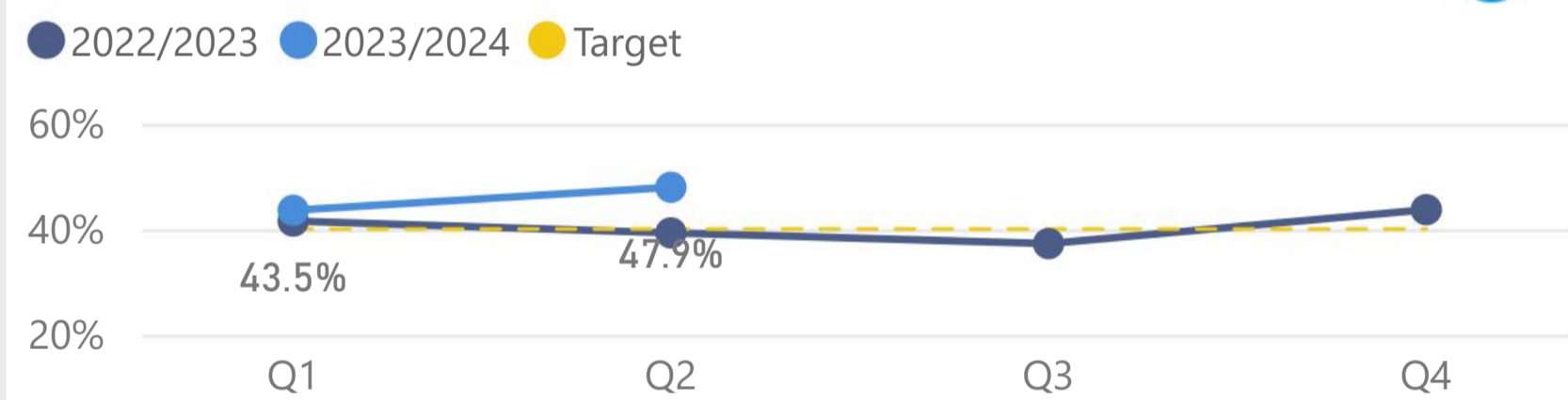
North East



50.9%

Latest

% Care experienced young people who are in Employment, Education or Training (19-21-year-old)



56.0%

England

52.0%

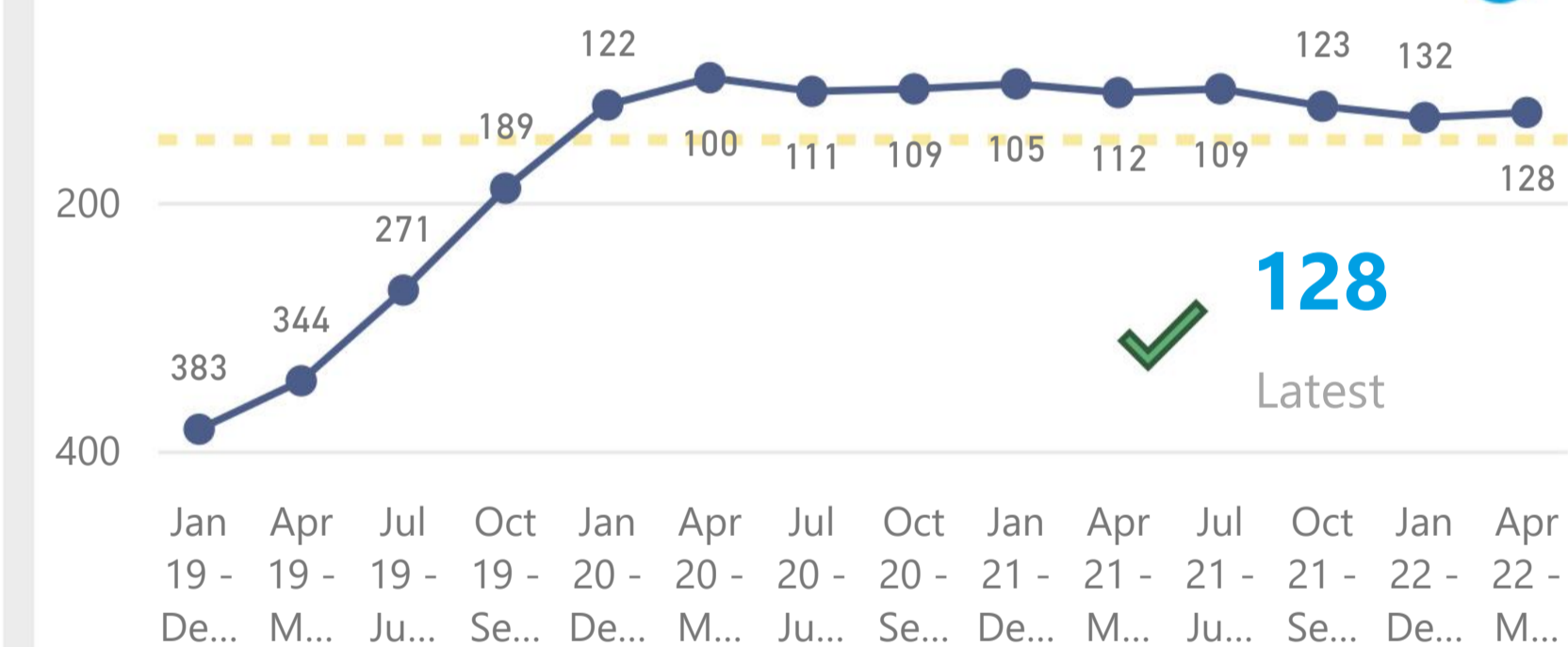
North East



47.9%

Latest

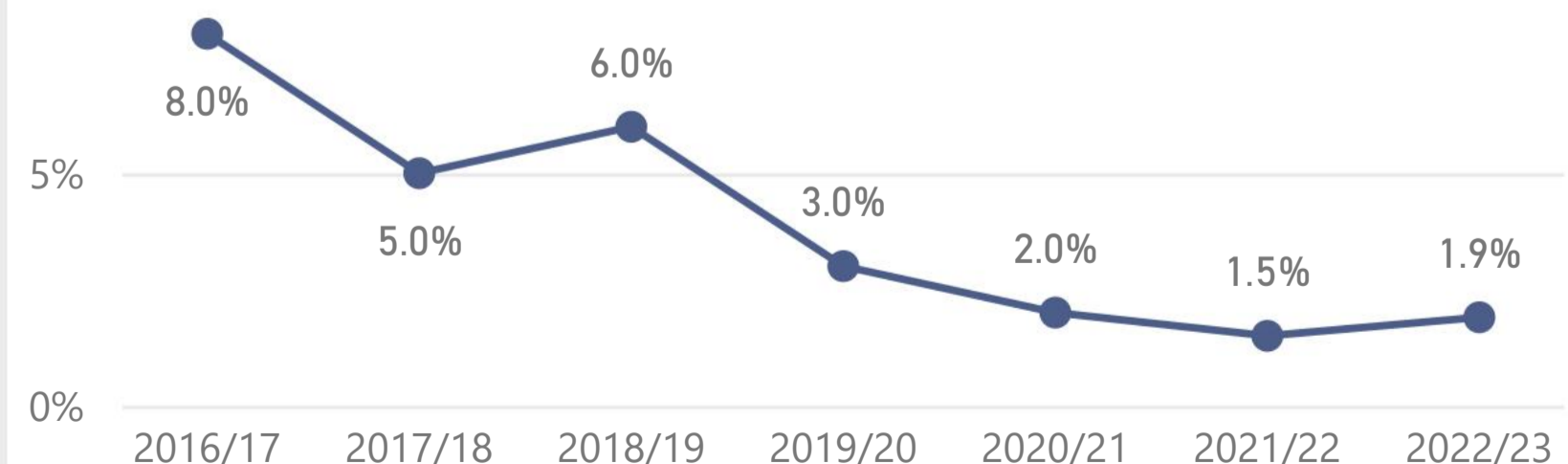
Rate of first-time entrants to the Criminal Justice System (per 100,000 population)



128

Latest

% Offending by Cared for Children



2.0%

England

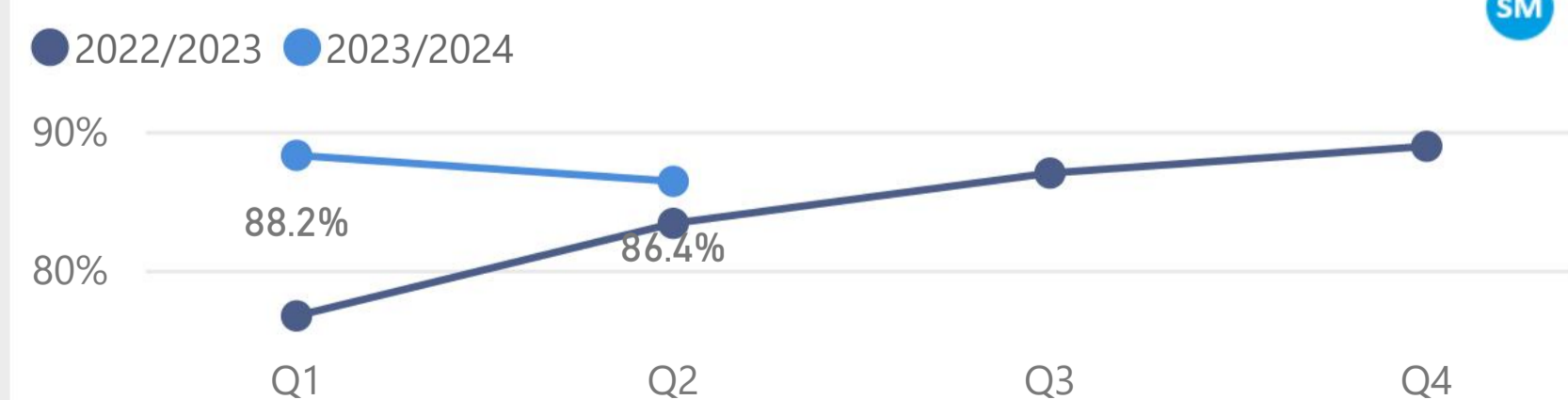
3.0%

North East

1.9%

Latest

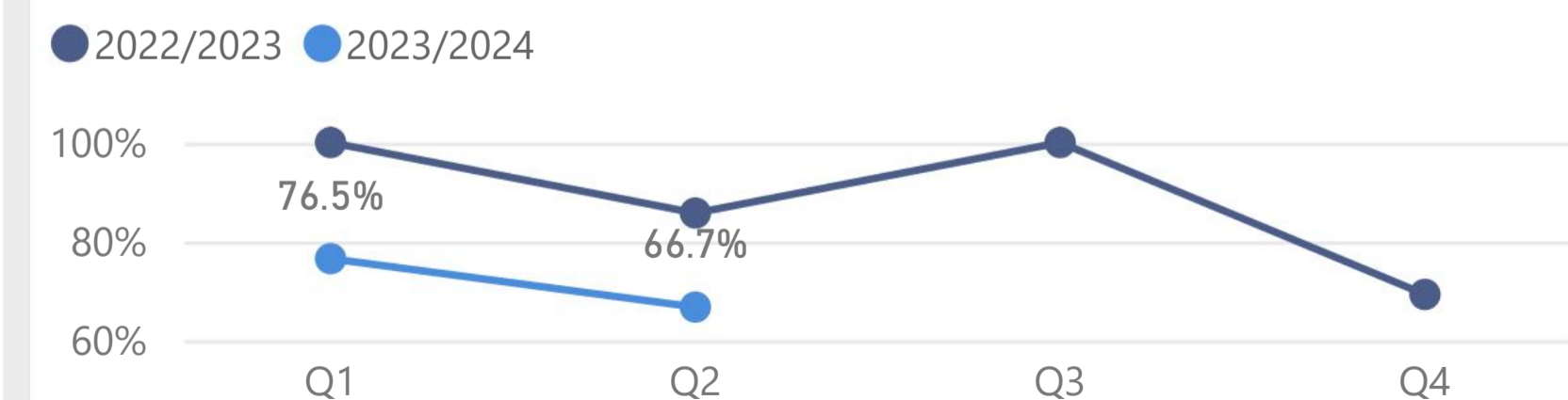
% Young people who worked with YDAP who had a successful outcome



86.4%

Latest

% Young people engaged in YOS Prevention Team who remained out of the youth justice system



66.7%

Latest

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EARLY HELP DIRECTORATE ANNUAL REVIEW 2022/23

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the Early Help Directorate Annual Report for 2022/23 and the operation of the service.
- 1.2 To also receive an update on the current position with regards to Family Hubs.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive an update on the work of the Early Help Service, together with an update on Family Hubs.
- 2.2 The current Early Help Directorate was established on 1 April 2017, to replace the previous arrangements which were known as 'Strengthening Families'.
- 2.3 The Directorate also has responsibility for the Youth Offending Service, Targeted Youth Services, Prevention and Innovation services which include Participation and Engagement, Family Group Conferencing and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). More recently, responsibility for the Government's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme has been added to the areas of responsibility.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Karen Davison (Director of Early Help) will be in attendance to present the report and answer questions with regard to the Early Help Service. A copy of the Annual Review is attached.
- 3.2 Natalie Effard (Early Help Service Manager – Family Hubs and Family Support) will also be in attendance to provide a presentation on the Family Hubs. A copy of the presentation is attached.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.

5 Background Papers

Early Help Directorate Annual Review 2022/23

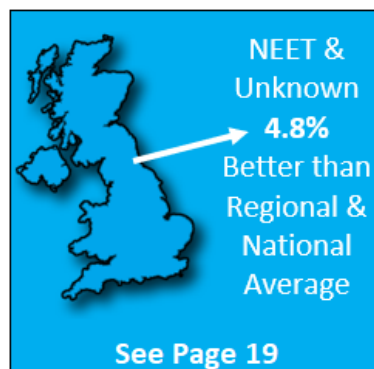
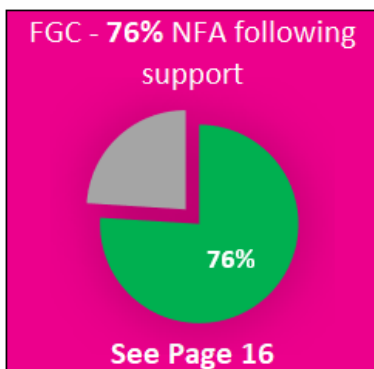
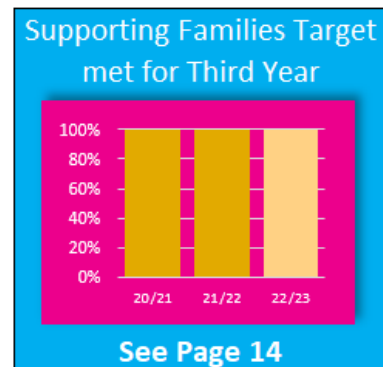
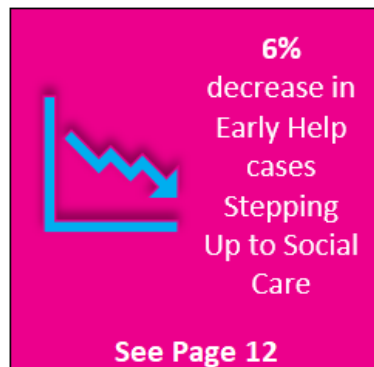
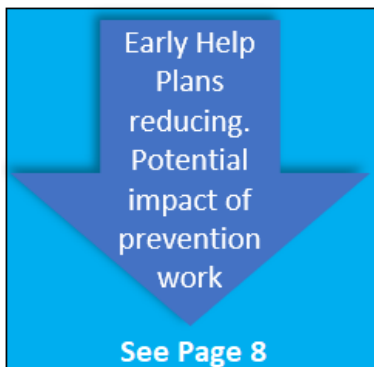


Executive Summary – the Early Help Annual Review 2022/23 in brief

As in 2021/22, this annual review is lengthy and detailed. Apologies that it may take time to read in full. This Executive Summary attempts to lay out briefly the major areas of progress and improvement.

It is difficult to draw a direct line between preventative and early interventions and the reduced need for higher level statutory support. There is no causal link between the provision of or lack of Early Help and a reduced or an increased need for child in need or child protection plans. Expressed mathematically A plus does not equal B minus. It could even be argued that the more we support families early, the more likely we are to uncover unmet need and hidden harm and the more statutory resources we need to deploy as a result. The argument for good Early Help services is not based on cost reduction, or even cost avoidance, but on better long-term outcomes for children and families.

In 2022/23 the services in the Early Help Directorate's portfolio achieved the following:



together for children

SUNDERLAND

12 schools achieved the Healthy Schools Award



See Page 33

1,654 Mind of My Own and Express statements received



See Page 34

7,355 children attended a Holiday Activity and Food session




See Page 36

1,894 Young People supported by the Prevention Bus



See Page 40

89% of young people who worked with YDAP had positive outcomes




See Page 46

WEARKIDS
81% of young people working with Wear Kids (TYS Prevention) remained out of the youth justice system

See Page 46

First Time Entrants increased slightly for the first time in eight years



See Page 47

Offending by cared for children remains low at 1.9%



See Page 47

183 victims of youth offending supported



See Page 48

 See page 49 for details of some of our plans for 2023/24

As Director, I couldn't be more proud of what we have achieved over the last six years. We are starting to develop an evidence base to demonstrate that our Early Help services are having a positive effect on the numbers of children requiring





statutory services, and that our prevention work is actually reducing the numbers requiring targeted early help support. Funding, as ever, remains a challenge, but there is a real commitment in Sunderland to early intervention and family support. Here's to 2023/24 - the year when we will be able to show the clear link between Early Help and better outcomes for children and make the argument once and for all for greater investment.

I do hope you are able to find the time to read the detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KD', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen Davison
Director of Early Help



Background

The current Early Help Directorate was established on 1 April 2017, to replace the previous arrangements which were known as 'Strengthening Families' and in response to the 'Inadequate' judgement of the Ofsted inspection of 2015. The Directorate also has responsibility for the Youth Offending Service, Targeted Youth Services, Family Group Conferencing, the Young Parents' Project (B2b), Prevention and Innovation services which include Participation and Engagement, Anti-Bullying and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), the Government's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme and our preventative outreach service 'Wear here 4 You'. Most recently, Sunderland's implementation of the Family Hubs programme has been added to our responsibilities, alongside management oversight of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP).

Reviews have been completed previously for 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

This review details performance in the financial year 2022/23.

The Directorate

During 2022/23 the Early Help Directorate comprised the following:

- Five multi-agency Early Help Area Teams working out of Family Centres (which became Family Hubs) and community buildings: 1) Washington (Rainbow Family Hub), 2) Coalfield (Hetton Family Hub), 3) Sunderland North (Bunny Hill Family Hub), 4) Sunderland South 1 and 5) Sunderland South 2 (both working out of the Thorney Close Family Hub)
- A Prevention and Innovation Service responsible for our partnership and externally funded work including:
 - Family Group Conferencing and Mediation (which moved mid-year into the Parenting strand of the Family Hubs programme)
 - Careers and NEET work
 - Participation and Engagement
 - Anti-bullying
 - The Supporting Families Programme funded by the DLUHC. This was expanded mid-year to incorporate all quality assurance functions for Prevention and Early Help.
 - The Reducing Parental Conflict programme funded by the DWP (which moved mid-year into the Parenting strand of the Family Hubs programme)
 - The Relationships, Sex and Health Education Strategic (RSHE) Project with schools (funded by Public Health)
 - The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Project (funded by the DfE)
 - The mobile youth outreach and signposting prevention bus 'Wear Here 4 You'
- A central Early Help Advice and Allocations Team (EHAAT) and Families Information Service (FIS) which is co-located with the Integrated Contact and Referral Team (ICRT) at Sandhill. EHAAT and FIS operate as a single point of contact for all information and advice, and the tracking and monitoring of the work undertaken. This team is also responsible for the tracking of Children Missing Education (CME). EHAAT staff moved mid-year to be line-managed by the Early Help Service and the FIS and CME staff moved mid-year to be line-managed alongside the Early Help Quality Assurance function.

- The Youth Offending Team, including restorative justice and victim work.
- Targeted Youth Services, comprising:
 - The Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP) commissioned from TfC by Public Health.
 - Wear Kids Youth Anti-Social Behaviour Team
 - Youth Advocacy and Restorative Justice
- The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Business Unit.

In 2022/23 the remit of the Early Help Directorate was to:

- Develop and embed the concept of Early Help across the partnership
- Brief partners and train staff in the delivery of early help at all levels
- Work with vulnerable and complex families identified as needing support, but who sit below the Level 3 threshold for social care intervention
- Work with families who meet the criteria for the Supporting Families programme
- Work with families who have stepped down from CIN or CP plans to offer a 'soft landing' and try to address the issue of re-referrals
- Deliver parenting interventions for families mandated by the courts (CIN/CP, attendance, youth offending) and for those identified by the Early Help Service, the universal services and those that self-refer
- Support the universal services to deliver early help at Level 1
- Reduce NEETs and Persistent Absence
- Deliver Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance to vulnerable groups
- Track Children Missing Education
- Act as the single point of contact for advice about early help and to track and evidence progress made by families
- Support the step-up and step-down processes between Children's Social Care and Early Help
- Support young offenders and those at risk of offending (reduce the number of first-time entrants and re-offending)
- Support the City's schools and academies to tackle bullying and discrimination
- Support young people with substance misuse issues
- Support young parents and provide childcare for parents of school age
- Deliver support to families experiencing child or adolescent violence or abuse towards parents
- Improve our participation and engagement offer for young people and develop a more universal approach to gathering the 'child's voice' using tools such as Mind of My Own and more widely representative participation groups
- Support young people involved in anti-social behaviour
- Deliver the Reducing Parental Conflict programme
- Support schools and academies to deliver their statutory responsibility for relationships, sex and health education
- Support young people displaying inappropriate sexual behaviours

- Provide age-appropriate access to contraceptive advice for young people
- Deliver the Enhanced Parental Pathway (EPP) in partnership with the 0-19 Service
- Deliver the Holiday Food and Activity Programme for the City of Sunderland
- Work collaboratively with our partners on a youth outreach offer to engage with seldom heard young people and signpost them into appropriate services
- Deliver the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme for Sunderland, including the 'go further, faster' Trailblazer programme

Strategy, Processes and Paperwork

The Early Help Strategy 2017-2020 requires a full re-write and will be informed by the recommendations of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of services for children who need help, which took place in January 2023. The report was published on 16 March 2023. The Early Help Directorate's Improvement Plan 2023/24 will also reflect those recommendations.

The Liquid Logic Early Help Module (EHM) is well established and supports assessment, planning and review. External agencies continue to use paper versions of the documentation built into Liquidlogic.

Review of the Services in the Early Help Directorate

Early Help Service:

In May 2021 Together for Children's services underwent a full Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). This moved the overall grading for children's services including Early Help from Inadequate to Outstanding. The inspection report said this about TfC's Early Help services:

'Early help provision is comprehensive and well embedded. It is making a real difference to children's and families' lives. Since the last judgement inspection, early help has developed into an innovative multi-agency service able to meet an increasingly complex level of need to prevent the escalation of cases to statutory services. Children benefit from a well-coordinated array of services that provide help when needs first arise. The vast majority of children and families get the appropriate level of help and support at the right time delivered by skilled professionals, which makes a difference to their day-to-day lives. Children who met inspectors also reported very positively that early help participation groups had helped them develop new friendships, confidence and strategies for managing their feelings.' Ofsted – August 2021

Joint Targeted Area Review (JTAI) of services for children who need help

This review took place in January 2023 and the report was published on 16 March 2023. The headline finding was:

'Most children benefit from exceptional early help services, which are carefully targeted, innovative and continually evolving, helping families with a wide range of needs, including very complex difficulties. Together for Children (TfC), who are delegated to deliver early help and statutory children's services on behalf of 3 Sunderland Council, work collaboratively and assiduously with partners across the entire service spectrum, providing exemplary services to their vulnerable children and families.'



The full letter can be found on the Ofsted website. The letter made some recommendations which are being monitored by the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership. Those relating to TfC’s Early Help Service have been included in the Early Help Improvement Plan.

HMIP Inspection of the Youth Offending Service

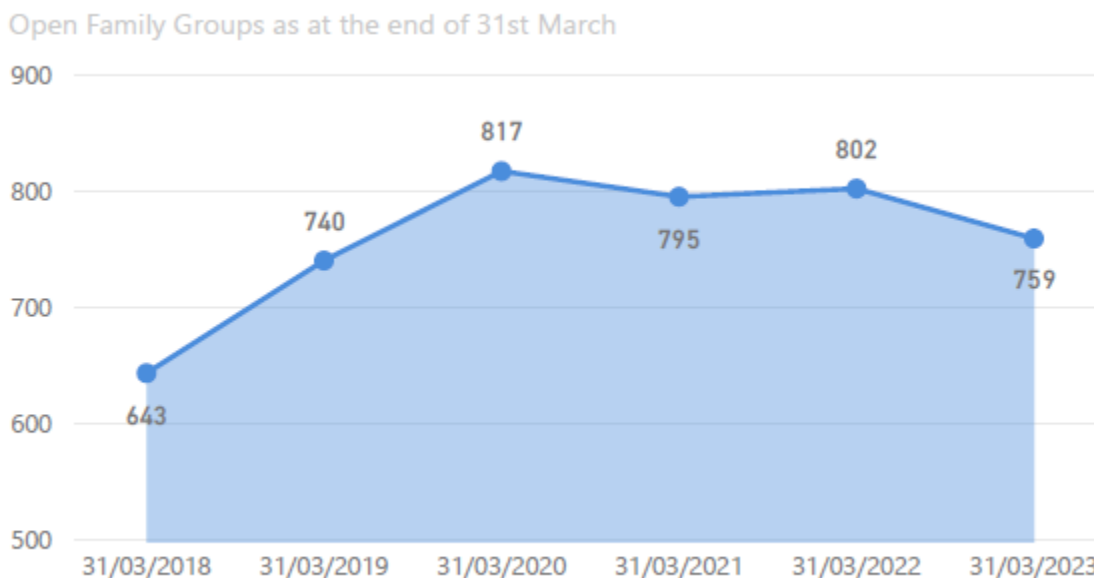
This partnership inspection took place in December 2022. Overall, Sunderland’s Youth Offending Service was rated Good. There were three judgements in the published report:

- Organisational delivery – Good
- Court disposals – Requires Improvement
- Out of Court disposals – Outstanding

The full report can be found on the Ministry of Justice website. The report made some recommendations which are being monitored by the YOS Board. The recommendations have been included in the YOS Plan.

Early Help Plans

At the end of March 2023 there were 759 open Early Help Plans, compared to 803 open at the end of March 2022. This evidenced an overall reduction in targeted Early Help activity in the year. See graph below:



Of these, 406 (53.6%) were being co-ordinated by the Early Help Service and 253 (33.3%) by the Universal Services (this compares to 64.7% being co-ordinated by the Early Help Service and 35.3% by the universal services in 2021/22). A further 84 (11.1%) of episodes were with EHAAT for sign-posting to other universal services.

The breakdown is shown below:

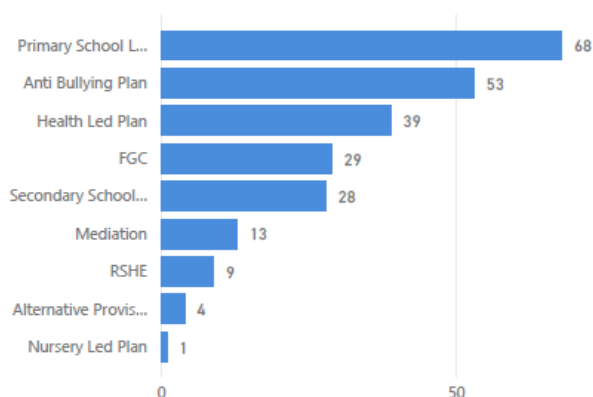
Co-ordinator	Family Groups	%
Early Help	406	53.6%
EHAAT	84	11.1%
Universal Services	252	33.3%
ICRT	12	1.6%
Assessment Team 3	3	0.4%
Total	757	100.0%

Up until 2022/23, the majority of episodes being coordinated by the universal services were led by schools. This is no longer the case. Various preventative services within the Early Help Directorate are holding large numbers of Early Help plans and it is our working hypothesis that this, plus our work with schools (see later), is the primary reason for the reduction in Early Help activity at Level 2.

Below is a breakdown of open Universal Service cases on 31 March 2023:

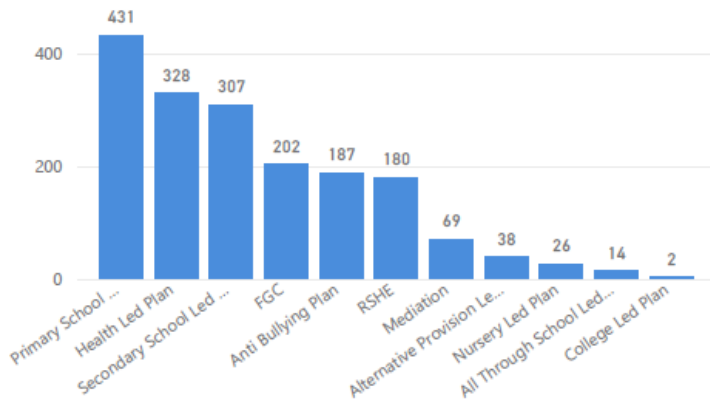
Planned Lead	Family Group	%
Primary School Led Plan	68	27.9%
Anti Bullying Plan	53	21.7%
Health Led Plan	39	16.0%
FGC	29	11.9%
Secondary School Led Plan	28	11.5%
Mediation	13	5.3%
RSHE	9	3.7%
Alternative Provision	4	1.6%
Nursery Led Plan	1	0.4%
Total	244	100.0%

Open Universal Service Family Groups by Plan Lead



The following chart shows the number of cases co-ordinated by universal services where the episode opened in 2022/23. This demonstrates that the percentage of plans opened and managed by schools reduced over the year and that most of those plans stayed open for a short period of time.

Plan Lead Ever Grouped Episodes (incl. Closed Episodes)



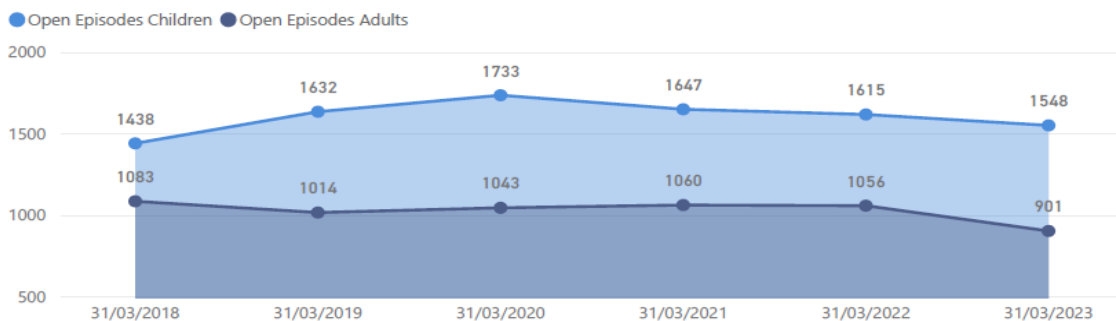
In addition to the open plans the Service closed 459 cases 'outcomes met'¹ during 2022/23. This represented 85.8% of the 535 cases worked to a conclusion by the Service across the year. This was a 20.5% decrease on the number of cases closed 'outcomes met' in 2021/22 (577), however the percentage of successful closures has increased by 2.2%.

242 out of 257 cases (94.2%) held by the Universal Services were also closed 'outcomes met'¹ across the year. This is an increase on the 91.93% in 2021/22.

¹ To qualify as 'outcomes met' two or more of the key presenting issues must have been resolved for a sustained period of at least six months, and for three consecutive terms in the case of school attendance.

In March 2023, there were 1,548 children being supported on Early Help Plans. This is a slightly lower number than that reported in 2021/22 (1,622, adjusted retrospectively to 1,615). This reflects the smaller number of episodes being worked by targeted Level 2 services.

Open Children and Adults in Episodes as at the end of 31st March - Age of people calculated at their episode start date



In 2022/23 an Early Help Worker carried an average case load of 15 families. Typically, this was 13 cases where the worker was the Early Help Co-ordinator, plus two where the worker was completing direct work with a family whose plan was being co-ordinated by the universal services. Based on the

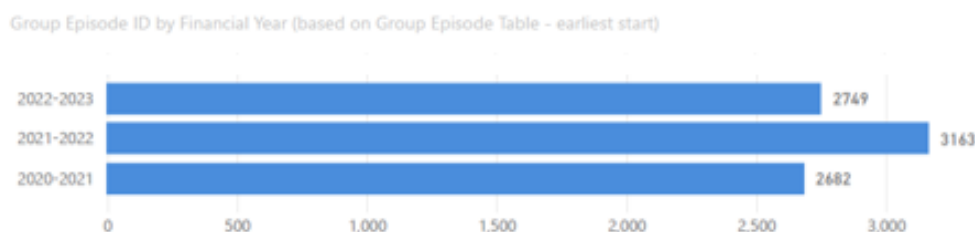




number of children being supported, this equated to an average case load of 35 children per worker. The average case load has remained stable since the end of the pandemic.

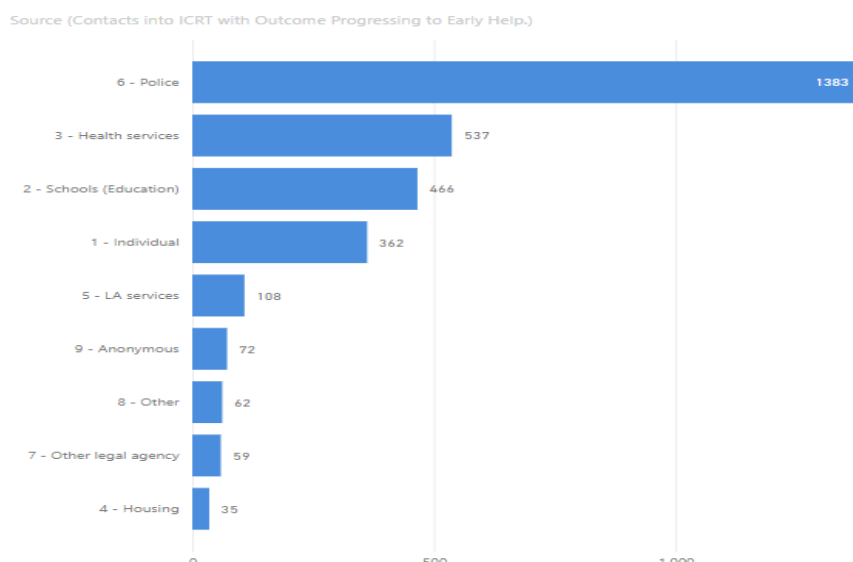
Between April 2022 and March 2023, 2,749 families were opened to Early Help (some families opened more than once). Whilst the number in 2023 was smaller than in 2022, there are still twice as many children and families working with Early Help Services now than in 2019.

The families in 2023 included 6144 children (although the multiple plans meant that 5049 unique children were worked with in total). The variation in the numbers of family plans over three years is shown below:



Current reporting makes it difficult to analyse the source of all requests for support from the Early Help Service. However, we know that approximately two thirds of all cases come from Children’s Social Care (ICRT contacts, MASH assessments, CIN assessments and CIN step-downs).

The table below shows the source of referrals into Early Help which are generated by contacts into ICRT:



Other cases were co-ordinated by the Early Help Service following requests from partners where they identified families with complex needs or where the issue was parenting and work was required in the home. Some were identified directly by the Early Help Service via the Family Centres, DWP workers, YOS, YDAP and Careers & NEET or Attendance Workers. Early Help support directly into schools (30





schools having purchased a Service Level Agreement in 2022/23) was a significant source of identification in 2022/23. Families continue to self-refer.

Referrals resulting in no Early Help Plan

There are occasions where a contact/referral is passed down from Children's Social Care to the Early Help Service, or comes via another agency, which does not result in an open Early Help Plan. These include:

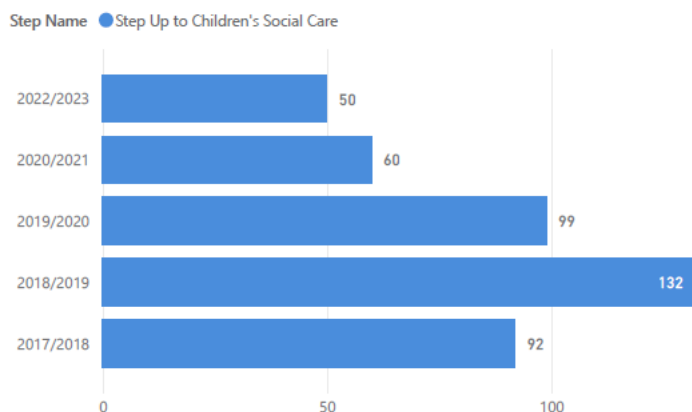
- Instances where signposting to a single-agency is deemed more appropriate.eg to Housing;
- Instances where workers have made multiple attempts to contact a family (phone, text, home visit), but these have been unsuccessful – (where the referral has come from Assessment, the assessing social worker should be informed, a non-engagement protocol is in place);
- Instances where a family has agreed with ICRT or Assessment that they will engage with Early Help, but then decline to engage when contacted – (where the referral has come from Assessment the assessing social worker should be informed, a non-engagement protocol is in place);
- Instances where families have moved out of area very quickly after being referred, or where families already live out of area – these cases are signposted to the relevant local authority service.

We have now moved on to monitor more regularly the timeliness of the completion of assessments but also shifted our focus onto the quality of interactions, interventions and outcomes for children and families using a new Quality Assurance Framework (see Early Help Improvement Plan 2023/24).

Step up and Step down

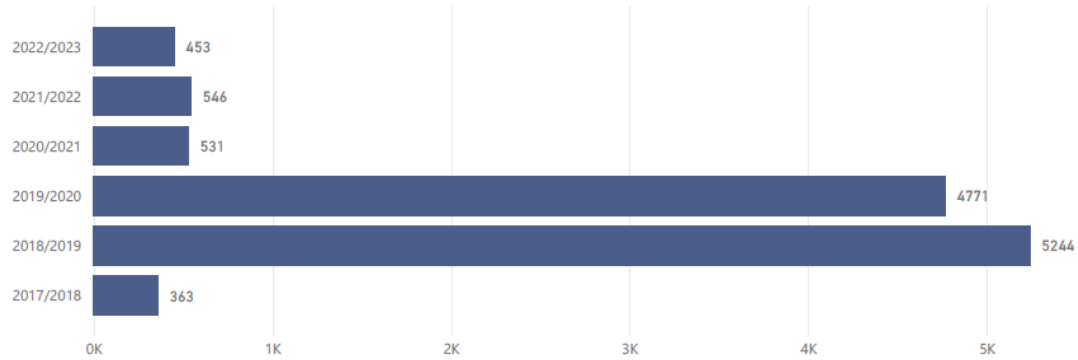
We have now recorded all contacts into the Front Door in the Early Help Module for three years. This has enabled us to monitor accurately the step ups and step downs between the different levels of service. There is now good evidence that the application of the thresholds is consistent, demonstrating clearly the benefits of operating a co-located Early Help and Children's Social Care Front Door since 2019.

Count of Individual Steps - Step up to Social Care - Removing duplicate steps on the same day



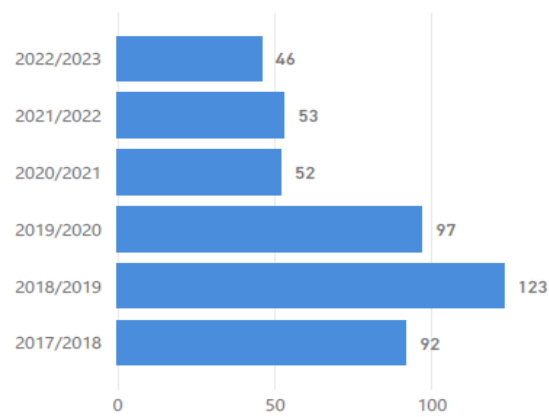
Count of Individual Steps - Step Down to Early Help - Removing duplicate steps on the same day

Step Name ● Step Down to Early Help



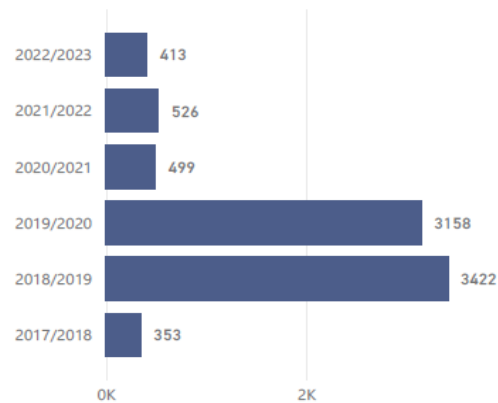
Unique Children Stepping up to Social Care

Step Name ● Step Up to Children's Social Care



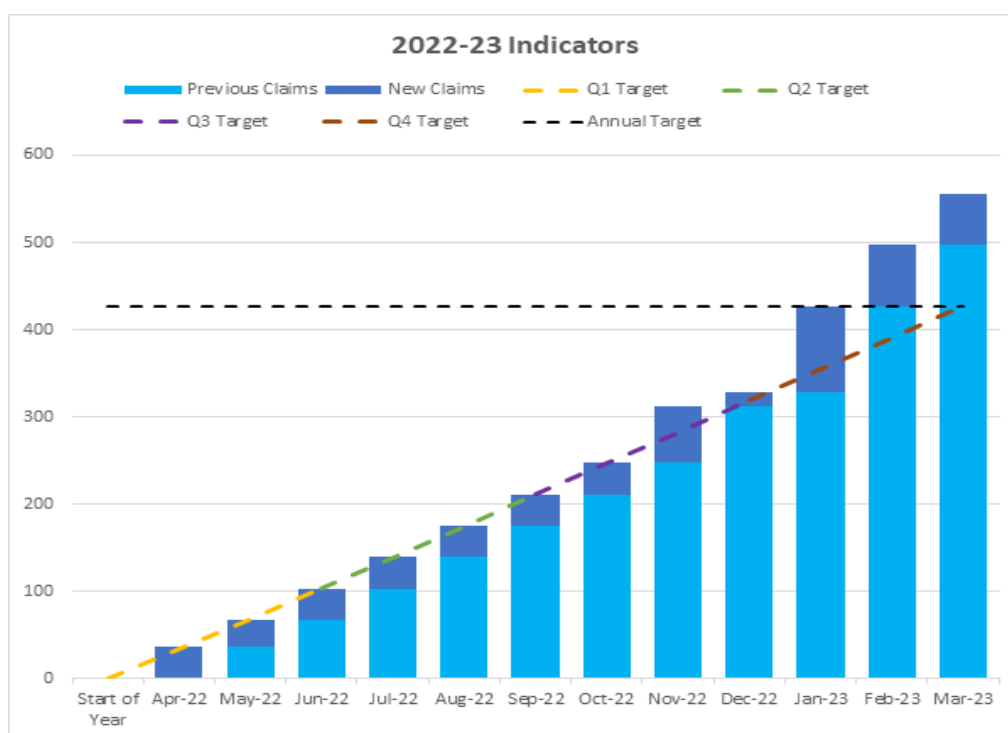
Unique Children Stepping down to Early Help

Step Name ● Step Down to Early Help



Cases closed 'outcomes met' and Supporting Families claims performance

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) set TfC a target to identify and evidence a significant difference had been made to 427 families during the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Claimable funds were therefore capped, although any additional families could be rolled over to 2023/24. We achieved our target of 427 claims by January 2023, claiming the maximum grant available to us that year. An additional 129 claims were identified in February and March 2023, DLUHC authorised TfC to roll these claims over to contribute TfC's 2023/24 target.



Although the year can be recognised as successful due to the annual target being met early a large proportion of claims were based on historic cases which had not been claimed previously. This is a concern moving into 2023/24 as a new way of working is being introduced by central government and limitations on historic claims which are both expected to impact on our claims.

Interventions

Interventions offered in 2022/23 included:

- interventions in Family Centres (designed with our health colleagues to address poor child health outcomes for the 0-4s)
- support in the home with routines, home conditions, behaviour, relationships
- support with school attendance and NEET
- support with housing, debt management, employability, training
- parenting support (groups) for families directed by the courts – ages 0-12
- parenting support (groups and 1:1 in the home) for families identified by partners and self-referrals – ages 0-12 – co-delivered with schools
- parenting support as above for parents of teenagers



- support for young parents (B2b and Young Mums)
- support for children displaying sexually inappropriate behaviours
- support for young people affected by substance misuse
- RISE Groups
- Family Group Conferencing
- Family Mediation
- Support with parental conflict
- Mind of My Own and Mind of My Own Express
- Participation and Engagement groups
- Access to 'YOLO' (anti-knife crime project)
- Support for children missing from education and those electing to home educate
- Knife crime Prevention Programme (KCPP)
- Be Safe Weapons intervention
- One punch intervention
- Driving offences intervention
- RESPECT intervention
- General Offending Behaviour intervention packages which cover consequential thinking, peer pressure, anger management, bullying, victim awareness and ASB
- Brief interventions delivered from our 'prevention bus' – Wear Here 4 You – as required

Demand and Capacity

During 2022/23 the services were largely operating at maximum capacity. Additional staffing and management support has been created in the Early Help and in some of the Participation and Engagement Teams, but we are now at the limit of what the budget will afford. Some elements of the Participation and Engagement Services have been especially pressed in 2022/23 as the effects of the Covid pandemic began to impact on children's mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

To respond to previous demand, the service began to offer a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to schools from April 2018. Schools were offered the chance to purchase a level of support for either Early Help or for Attendance. This was offered in packages of one day per week. In April 2018 four schools were buying one day per week each. By March 2020 this had risen to 13 schools purchasing 23 days between them and in March 2021 this was 20 schools purchasing 33 days between them. By March 2023 we were supporting 30 schools purchasing 39 days. Capacity for this has come from employing some workers on sessional contracts and others on fixed-term contracts.

Early Help Advice and Allocations Team

The Early Help Advice and Allocations Team (EHAAT) is the Early Help Front door and is co-located with Children's Social Care's Integrated Contact and Referral Team (ICRT). This ensures good communication about contacts into our services and that the right level of support is offered.

Mid-way through this year, as part of a restructure, we moved the Children Missing Education (CME) function to the Early Help Aspiration Team to sit with CEIAG and NEET, and the Families Information Service (FIS) to sit with the wider Early Help Quality Assurance function.



Families Information Service

The Families Information Service (FIS) is a statutory function of the Children's Centre offer. Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 FIS sat alongside our Early help Advice and Allocations Team (Early Help Front Door) to support sign-posting into services for families in challenging circumstances. Two of the main functions of FIS are to support and verify claims for Free School Meals and to support families looking for childcare, particularly those eligible for the two-year-old funded offer where the criteria for eligibility are the same as for free school meals.

Free School Meals

In a second challenging year when food poverty has been highlighted in high profile media stories many vulnerable families have struggled. A combination of lower wages, job losses and Covid-19 have seen a continuation of families applying for free school meals. In 2022/23 we received 3269 applications through the dedicated free school meals portal service and added 1590 children to the free school meals list.

Two year funded early education offer

FIS continues to process applications for children to access 15 hours of early education at one of our registered childcare providers throughout the city. A total of 2,267 applications were received between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. Of these applications, 1,378 were eligible while the remaining 889 were not eligible.

This compares to the total applications received during the previous year where 1578 were eligible with 829 not eligible. Eligibility numbers have decreased since 2021-2022 which could be due to a drop in the birth rate however this also could be due to the fact that national or minimum wage levels have increased recently whereas the eligibility threshold for early education places has remained static since the programme's introduction.

111 of the children requiring a check via FIS were eligible for reasons other than household income: cared for children, children who left the care system via adoption or special guardianship or children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or who had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The FIS Team supported 25 eligible families by completing the application on their behalf and intervened to advocate for an additional 34 families who were struggling to navigate the system (either the on-line portal or bureaucracy in settings).

Family Group Conferencing:

A Family Group Conference enables a family, children and young people to plan for their future with help and support as needed. Family Group Conferences are a means of helping families to find their own solutions to problems. In the period of 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 we continued our offer to include referrals from universal services and also self-referrals.

Mediation Referrals

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 108 referrals were received from services. This is on a par with 2021/22.

28 families with 42 children underwent family mediation in that period. This is an 11% decrease on 2021/22.



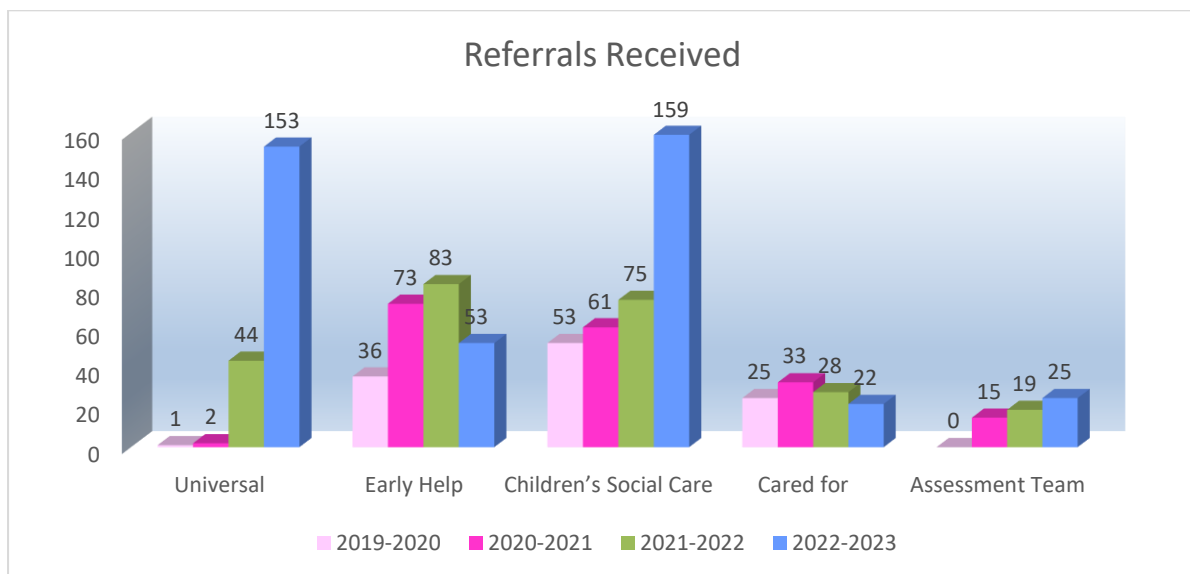
The 56 families that did not undergo mediation were for the following reasons:-

- Consent withdrawn - 21
- Family did not engage - 18
- Refused / declined by family - 15
- Referred elsewhere - 2

Family Group Conference Referrals

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 315 referrals were received from services. This is a 27% increase in referrals from the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 when 248 referrals were received for an FGC.

71 families with 149 children underwent a family group conference in that period.



Performance information suggests that family group conferencing is an effective intervention. Over the six years between April 2017 and March 2023 537 families with 1144 children underwent an FGC.

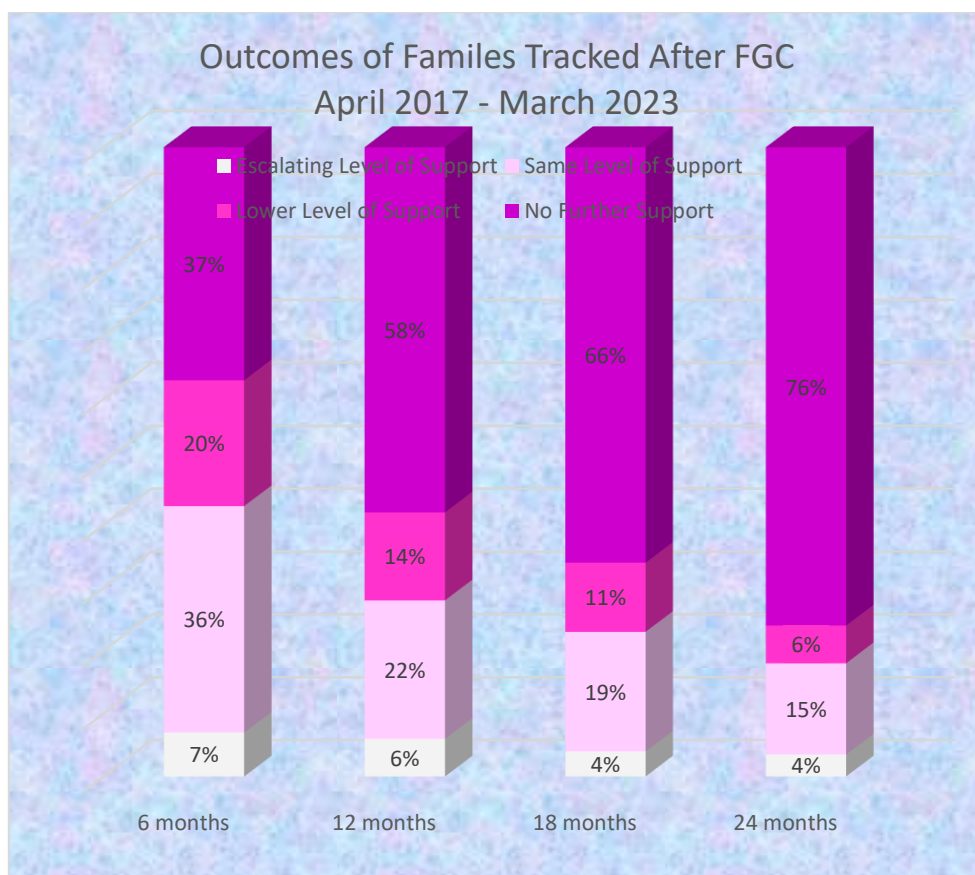
Of the total number of FGCs since April 2017 where it is possible to track progress for six months or more (500 families) 37% stepped down to a universal service or required no further support, a further 20% required a lower level of support, 36% required the same level of intervention six months later, however only 7% required a higher level of need, escalating to a higher threshold of support.

Of the total number of FGCs since April 2017 where it is possible to track progress for 12 months or more (466 families) 58% stepped down to a universal service or required no further support, a further 14% required a lower level of support, 22% required the same level of intervention 12 months later, however only 6% required a higher level of need, escalating to a higher threshold of support.

Of the total number of FGCs since April 2017 where it is possible to track progress for 18 months or more (421 families) 66% stepped down to a universal service or required no further support, a further 11% required a lower level of support, 19% required the same level of intervention 18 months later, however only 4% required a higher level of need, escalating to a higher threshold of support.



Of the total number of FGCs since April 2017 where it is possible to track progress for 24 months or more (367 families) 76% stepped down to a universal service or required no further support, a further 6% required a lower level of support, 14.5% required the same level of intervention 24 months later, however only 3.5% required a higher level of need, to a higher threshold of support.



Quotes demonstrating the impact of Family Group Conferencing:

'A family group conference has helped me as I felt a weight was lifted from my chest as we needed to do something, and we did. I was really pleased and impressed with the structure, the process, and the family privacy. Private family time was the biggest aspect and I valued it so much. We could talk openly and felt our privacy was preserved. I was nervous, but this took the dread away. As a family we achieved a lot. It was empowering for us as we could address our questions. The questions help to bring you back to what you need to focus on. We got a lot out of it. My Coordinator put me at ease from beginning to end. I felt she had the best interest of the family. The way she showed us in, checking on us and showing us out. I felt she wanted to help. She went the extra mile as we were going through such a bad time. Initially the information may have felt repetitive however it needed to be as FGC was a new experience for me and the Coordinator needed to make sure the questions that needed addressing were clear otherwise the conference may not have gone so well'. Mum

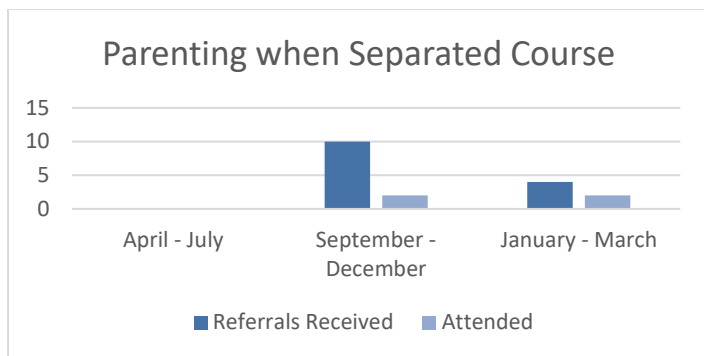
'A family group conference has helped me to tackle problems we had, and I felt I was in a comfortable environment, and everything was safe. I could speak my mind. It was really good. My Coordinator made me feel very comfortable when we initially met one to one. She was very positive. My Coordinator was very kind and friendly. I felt listened to at the conference and at times I haven't felt that. I got my points across, and people acknowledged and understood my words, so I was listened to'. Daughter



Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC)

Together for Children continues to work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme. The RPC programme is aimed at conflict below the threshold of domestic abuse.

Within the period from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 the regional referral gateway was disbanded. The pathway to request the Parenting when Separated course was included within TfC’s Parenting and Relationships referral form. Referrals were received directly from practitioners through the Citywide Parenting Inbox. In addition to this pathway, parents were able to self-refer through the Early Help Advice and Allocations Team (EHAAT).



Early Help Workers received the facilitator training for Parenting when Separated early in 2022. Due to limited referrals the course was unable to commence until the Autumn term.

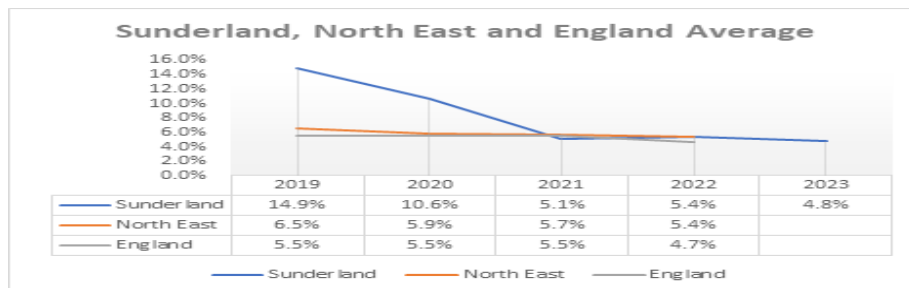
Of the 14 referrals received during this period, four parents attended and successfully completed the Parenting when Separated course. Feedback highlighted parents found the content very supportive and reflective of their situation and highly recommended the course.

Careers and NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training)

The Department for Education measures local authorities’ performance based on combined NEET and Unknown figures.

Sunderland Local Authority reports on both NEET and Unknown figures monthly; its annual performance is judged on a three-month average figure taken from December to February each year.

Figure 1. Comparison Table for 3-month average (Sunderland, Northeast & England)

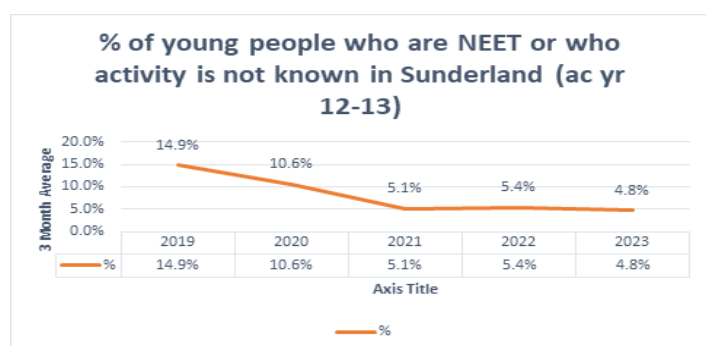




Together for Children’s annual performance for 2022/2023 is a combined figure of **4.8%**, **NEET** 4.4% (281 young people out of a total cohort of 6542) and Unknown 0.3% (23 young people). This betters the England national average (5.2%) and the regional average (5.2%), we were listed 5th out of 12 regional local authorities in 2022/2023.

Our performance is 0.6 percentage points better than last year’s (2021-2022) three-month average and the best it has been in the last five years.

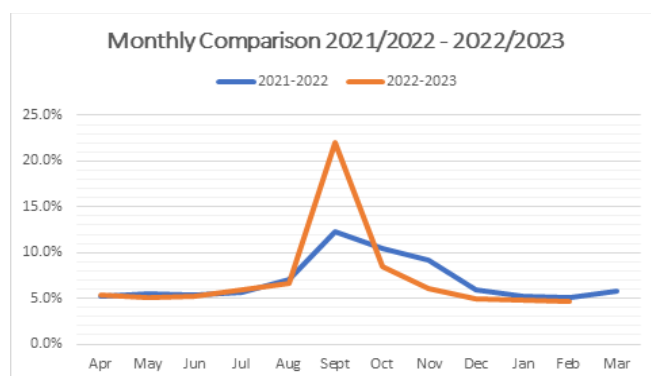
Figure 2. Sunderland Data Table 2019-2023



The NEET/Unknown figure is not a static figure and is not made up of the same young people each month.

Figure 3. below shows the combined NEET and Unknown figures from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023. Although monitored monthly, it is important to note any comparison to previous years as it is useful to show any changes in the group; the figure should not be looked at in isolation.

Figure 3. Monthly Comparison Data – Sunderland



There is always an annual peak during August and September when all year 11-13 are given unknown status, which occurs in every local authority across England. This is a department of education requirement to make these learners unknown as they have ended their learning provision. It is then the Careers and NEET Team’s responsibility to track these young people and update records with new learning provision.



Employment, Education and Training (EET) Work

In the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023, 11,556 interventions were carried out with Year 10 to Year 14 young people and their families by the Careers Team. This is a 4.7% increase in interventions compared to the previous year. (April 2021 – March 2022, 11013 interventions Yr.10 – Yr.14).

Of the 11,556, 1988 (17.2%) of young people received a substantive contact face to face or virtually.

Interventions include providing information, advice, guidance, and support services that are independent, impartial, and confidential and in line with the National IAG Quality Standards, the rest were lighter touch contacts via, text, telephone, or email.

The average percentage of young people in learning over the reporting period of 2022/23 was 95.2%. This is a 4.5% increase from 2021/2022 when the three-month reporting period was 90.7%. The increase in learning is believed to be related to a bounce back following the previous academic year of learning being affected and impacted by the Covid Pandemic.

In 2023, the average percentage of young people in learning in the three-month reporting period is 95.2% (6048 young people), this is an increase 4.5% of young people in learning compared to 2021/2022.

Targeted Careers

The Careers & NEET service delivers high quality careers advice and guidance to targeted and vulnerable cohorts of young people such as:

- Young People with Education, Health and Care Plans at key transition stages
- Children who are cared for or care experienced.
- Children on Early Help Plans who meet the Supporting Families 'financial exclusion' criterion (e.g., from workless households)
 - Children on Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CIN) Plans
 - Young Offenders currently supported by the Youth Offending Service
 - Pregnant Teenagers, teenage mums and teenage dads involved in the upbringing of their child
 - Young Carers (registered with the Young Carers Service)
 - Gypsy, Roma or those belonging to the Travelling Community
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Children who are electively home educated (although parents do not have to take up the offer)

Careers Service Referrals

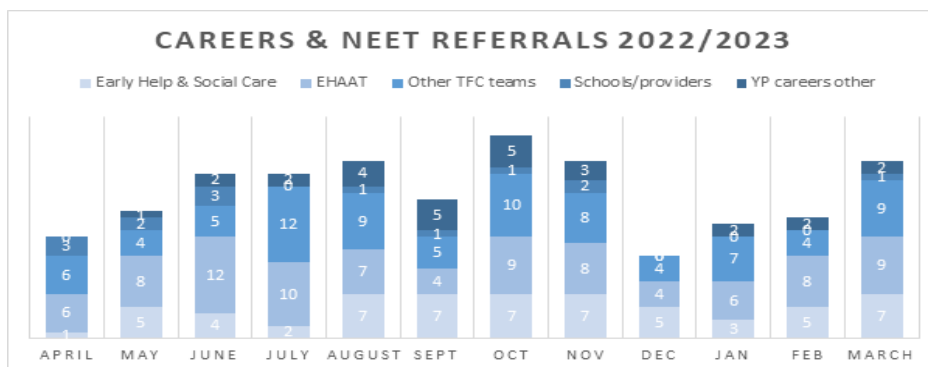
Referrals into the team can come directly from young people, parents and carers and any other agencies or professionals involved in working with young people. The agencies / professionals involved in making referrals include Early Help Workers, Social Workers, YOS, Next Steps, CAMHS / CYPS, SEN team, colleges, schools and training providers and children's homes.

The continued accurate and timely recording of referrals received into the Careers Service shows additional work involved that sits outside of our targeted / vulnerable cohorts. Recording of referrals has enabled the team to identify key areas of concern including an increased number of referrals for SEN young people aged 21+ who are no longer able to remain at college or training and have limited employment or training options due to lack of local provision or supported internships. Increase in the number of young people with mental health concerns who are not attending school, but because they are not working with or known to other teams, they do not meet the vulnerable criteria so are not on the team's radar until the summer and school identifies them as potential NEET.



In the period 1 April 2022– 31 March 2023, the team received 276 referrals. The high number of referrals received in the month of October 2022 were in relation to young people dropping out of college or training and wanting advice. Several referrals were related to SEN support needs and for young people who had been out of education prior to summer.

Figure 4. Careers and NEET referrals 2022 / 2023



Monitoring and Evaluation

Careers and NEET Early Help Workers monitor and contact their NEET young people (between 2-4 weeks) to offer support with EET progression. Advisers record a NEET analysis on each young person. The analysis includes gathering information from other TfC services and previous providers. Reviews their barriers to engagement, levels of current qualifications, external agencies that are supporting them and the young person’s aspirations.

The Team’s NEET analysis has identified several themes for the Team to focus on in 2023-2024 such as:

- the need to improve communication with young people.
- work with employers and training providers to increase and/or improve available provision.
- the continuing need to respond to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people.
- the impact of poor mental health among young people was highlighted. While this was widely seen to have been a problem before COVID-19, it has been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- enhanced networking (across neighbouring councils) and higher levels of collaboration, partnership and co-operation across sectors, with school and colleges, and within councils.
- improvements in data collection and monitoring systems to create better alignment and co-ordination of NEET data.
- reviewing and researching of a specific issue or barrier to aid understanding and response e.g., Gaps in training provision.

September Guarantee 2022

The September Guarantee is a guarantee of an offer, made by the end of September of each year of an appropriate place in post-16 education or training for every young person completing compulsory education in Year 11 and education and training in Year 12.

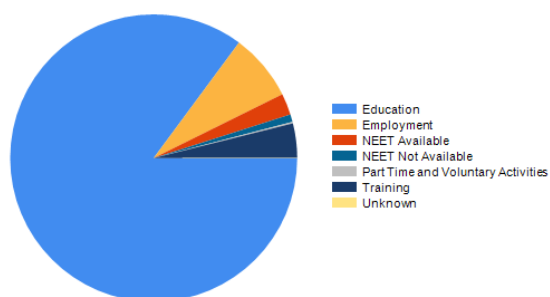
In September 2022 96.4% of young people received an offer of a suitable place in EET. This is a 0.3% increase of the September Guarantee 2021 which was 96.1%.

The continued positive recording of September Guarantee offer's being recorded is due to continued communication and review of data sharing agreements with EET providers and data sharing of offers of learning made to young people being shared with Careers from EET providers in a timely fashion.

Annual Activity Survey – 2022 School Leaver Cohort

Annual Activity Survey (Nov 2022, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023) for 2022 is completed in January looking at the previous year's, year 11 school leaver cohort in November 2022 following their exams.

Annual Activity Survey (AAS) 2022, diagram below, data shows continued improvement from AAS 2021.



This improvement has occurred due to continued collaborative working with School CEIAG partners through sharing of intended destinations information to aide Year 11 tracking, offers of learning and starter lists received.

Data sharing agreements have been established with EET providers including College's, Sixth Forms, Training and Apprenticeship providers. Through these offers being received and recorded we have a much clearer picture of where young people have progressed onto.

Careers and NEET Feedback

"Young person shared with TfC Careers Advisor that they had seen two other private Careers professionals who were engaged within their school, they confirmed that this intervention with TfC Careers Advisor had been the most helpful and that they had been listened to" Young Person.

"Careers are always there for you, offering advice from what career path to take to where to get a bus pass from. The advisers are really friendly and helpful, it's like having a friend in the know" Young Person.

"Careers Adviser was very, very helpful and easy to understand. She explained everything and myself and my mother was greatly pleased with the advice given. Have come out of a meeting feeling enthusiastic and hopeful. No longer feeling alone in attempting to find a job" Young Person.

"The adviser contact is great, I'm just grateful for the help as I'm a bit lost without the advice. Their approach is perfect and very down to earth" Parent.

"Thank you for all your help, I really appreciate it as it helped me overcome my anxiety and start training" young person.

"Young person told me that college had not got her email and Careers had been in contact with her and have sorted all of this out for her and young person couldn't have been more thankful highlighting she wouldn't have been going to college if it hadn't been for Careers Service help. Young person has not always felt supported by X school staff so social worker just wanted to say thank you because at

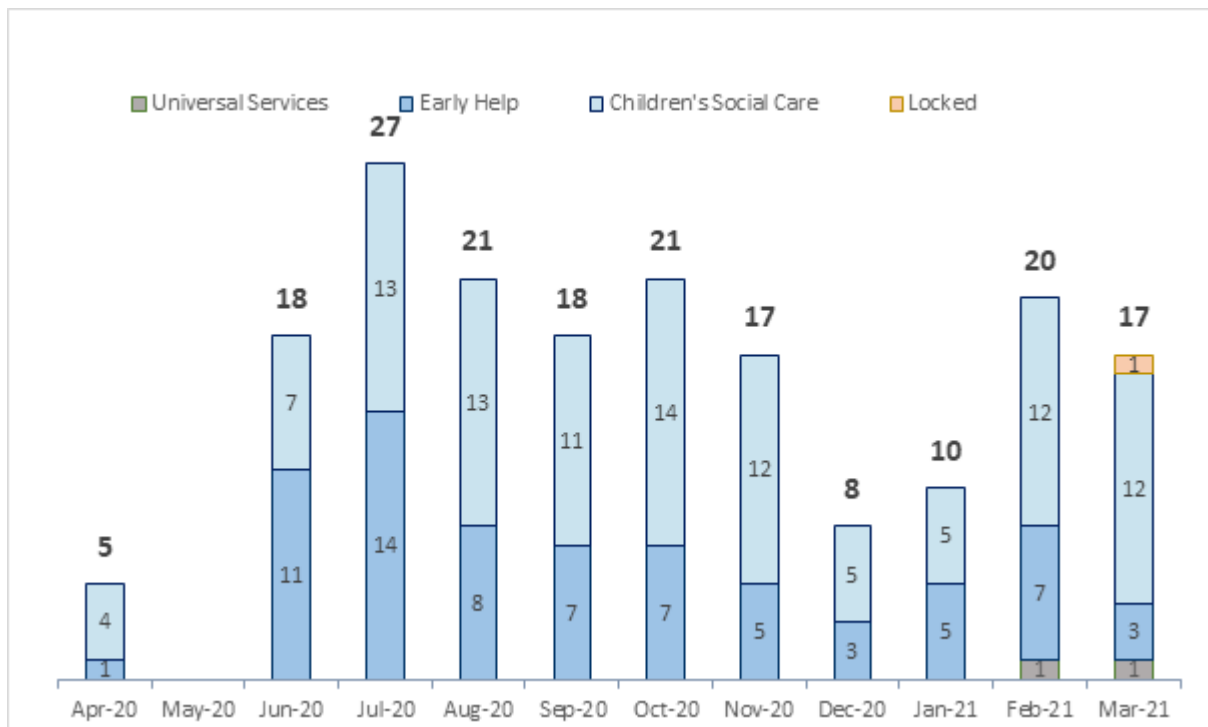


this time in this young person’s life and the pressure she feels from school it would have been easy for her to have lost interest and motivation in accessing additional education despite her clear capabilities”. Social Worker – Next Steps.

“Careers Adviser has worked with several pupils from our school. Careers Adviser has demonstrated a range of strategies to support our pupils with many successful outcomes. I must state that her dedication and professionalism with these young people cannot be really stated in this communication – I am amazed with the amount of personal time she has given to support pupils in crisis – this has been commented on by pupils/parents and carers. Her knowledge and understanding have supported my staff in dealing with issues and all of the student support team are always kept “in the loop “with regards to progress” Deputy Head.

The allocated careers adviser has been especially proactive and has really advocated for the students who he has worked with. There was a lot of students who we said we could not meet needs for, and he has really been their voice and kept on working with the college to arrange meetings etc and we now have placements for the students which is excellent. (Transition officer Sunderland college).

I was so impressed with your engagement and communication with the young people. The communication and presentation of the NEET and Careers worker was particularly impressive, she knew many of the young people, remembered them and their skills and interests really validating the young people. She was really positive with them and gave them lots of “space and time” to respond to her questions. She was upbeat positive and respectful and the interaction with the young people created a “happy vibe” some of the young people required reassurance about being on the bus and this was readily and sensitively given by TfC workers. (EH Area Manager).



Elective Home Education (EHE) and Children Missing Education (CME):

Elective Home Education (EHE)

TFC Children Missing from Education (CME) officer is the first to be notified of young people whose parents have chosen to electively home educate them and processes removal from roll forms from schools, which are then shared with the EHE team at Sunderland Council.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022, Together for Children's Attendance Team, carried out welfare visits for all children taken off a school roll to be EHE. When appropriate, families are sign-posted to support services, helped to re-enrol their children in schools or supported to post-16 pathways. From 1 January 2023, the Prevention and Aspiration team took over completing support visits for all children taken off roll to electively home educated. Careers Advice and Guidance is offered to all electively home educated students in Year 11.

In the period 1 April 2022– 31 March 2023 there were 170 young people who became home educated.

At the end of March 2023 there were 336 children in total in Sunderland who were EHE.

Children Missing Education - Movement of young people in and out of area.

During 2022/23 the Children Missing Education (CME) officer received 3,033 notifications about children requiring tracking as they had moved school or moved into or out of Sunderland. This was an increase of 415 (15%) on 2021/22 figures.

Of these 1,657 (54.6%) were boys and 1,376 (45.4%) were girls, 1,174 (38.7%) were of secondary age and 1,859 (61.3%) of primary age.

553 of the referrals were in respect of children moving into Sunderland LA from outside the area. This is an increase on the 2021/22 figure of 489. These children were tracked until they joined a Sunderland school roll.

841 of the children were tracked to a new school in Sunderland. This is a decrease of the 2021/22 figure of 1,267.

Of the remaining:

- 2 were under the age of 5 (not of statutory school age and referred in error), an increase of 1 on the number as last year.
- 5 had died (an increase on the 2 in 2021/22).
- 170 were removed from roll to be electively home educated (an increase on the 138 in 2021/22)
- 7 moved back to a Sunderland school after a period of elective home education (a decrease on the 18 in 2020/21).
- 726 moved to schools in other local authorities and were tracked to these new schools (an increase on the 489 in 2020/21).
- 79 moved abroad and were tracked to a new school in their new country of residence (e.g. Canada, Australia, Malawi). This is a significant increase on the 30 who made this move in 2021/22.
- 13 moved abroad and could not be tracked (eg to Bangladesh, Jordan, Bulgaria), this is in line with 2021/22.
- 112 were passed to another LA who picked up responsibility to track.
- 16 children were still on roll at their original school, but not attending (so reported as missing from education). This is a slight increase on the 13 in 2021/22. Colleagues worked with these families.
- 28 children remained on the list and continued to be tracked.
- The remainder returned to their original school in Sunderland.



With the exception of those children who moved abroad where there is no reciprocal agreement to track children (e.g. Bangladesh), all children were eventually tracked to a new destination.

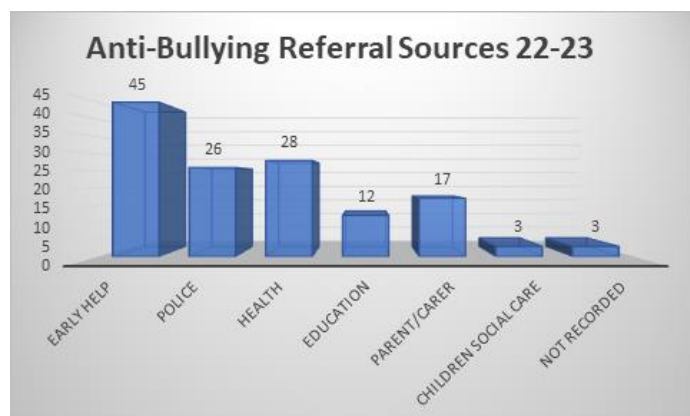
The CME Officer uses all methods at their disposal to find children who have been reported missing from education and out of area.

- *Family went to Bangladesh to visit dying grandmother, they were due to return 6/6/22 but due to flooding they could not return. Flights were booked for 19/7/22 but as this was in the school holidays Southmoor School could not track. CME officer kept in touch with the family over the summer and spoke to mam once they were back in the UK. Child was back on roll at Southmoor in September 22.*
- *New family moved to Sunderland. Social Care involvement. SW informed CME officer BC child is still under Durham LA not Sunderland. Durham confirmed family have returned to Durham. Durham to track. Durham then emailed BC to say moving back to Sunderland temporarily and then moving to Kent. Family moved back to Sunderland. Informed by SW child has moved to Southend. Currently staying in hotel in Southend. Referral has been made to Southend Children's Services by Sunderland. CME officer BC emailed Southend CME. Southend are aware of Child, happy to track. Southend SW will contact CME officer BC when section 17 enquiries are complete. CME officer BC emailed for update - Mum and Child are now looking to relocate to Basildon. Family now living in Essex, awaiting confirmation from Essex LA. Emailed for update - Essex CME to track.*
- *Child moved to Hampshire with Mam and are living with Grandparents and Uncle until they can find own accommodation. Hampshire SW is working with the family. Meeting to take place. Emailed SW in Hampshire. SW replied to say that family have applied for housing but not offered anything as yet. They may be asked to leave grandparents flat as it is for over 50s only. SW thinks Child will not start school until September 2022. Email from SW to say mam may have a property from 22/7/22. Emailed SW for update 26/7/22. BC - email from Head Teacher East Herrington to say she is attending a CP transfer conference on 22/08/22. Family now has a house and 2 schools have been applied for. Head Teacher to update after conference. BC Emailed for update 6/9/22 BC Email from Head Teacher East Herrington, Child is back on roll at East Herrington. BC CME officer closed file September 2022*

Anti-Bullying Service:

Anti-Bullying Referrals

From the period April 2022 – March 2023, 134 referrals were received.





42% of accepted referrals closing with one of more of the following successful outcomes:

- Young person received support with issues they are experiencing
- Direct work was completed around strategies to use to manage any further issues
- Safety plan was put in place and agreed by all involved and reviewed,
- Referrals made to other support services,
- Information shared with schools/services who can provide additional support, communication channels with parents/carers are discussed and agreed.
- Young person feels happier/safe/confident to share concerns.

59% of the young people declined support when contacted and stated that support was no longer required. A review suggests that support was declined due to the extended time period for allocation due to the capacity of the team. For 5% of referrals consent was withdrawn when offered, another 3% were inappropriate referrals, 4% were unsuccessful (we were unable to make contact) and 5% were inappropriate referrals when triaged.

The **Anti-Bullying Charter Mark** now in its 11th year and is well established in Sunderland across schools, children’s homes, and other settings. In the period April 2022 to March 2023, seven schools received a charter mark award one school received a silver award and six schools received the platinum award. The Charter Mark is awarded for a period of two years. Sunderland Youth Council have supported with the moderation of these awards.

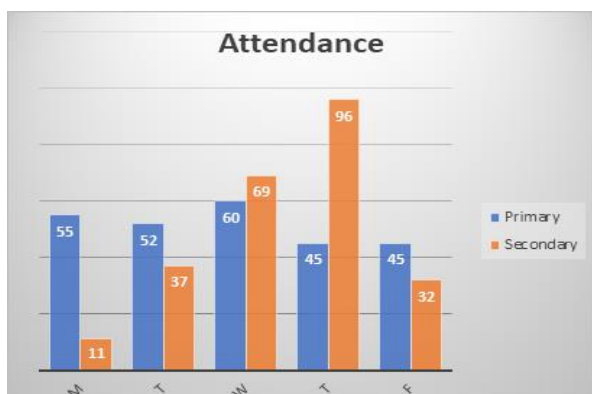
Four of our internal Children’s Homes have a charter mark award. Monument View and Nook Lodge maintained their Gold Award, whilst Columbo and Grasswell House achieved a Platinum Award.

Prevention and Resilience Week – November 2022

Our first Prevention and Resilience Conference took place in November 2022. The theme of the conference was ‘Reach Out’, which will focus on healthy relationships.

There was a primary and secondary school conference in each of the five localities of Sunderland. 502 individual children and young people attended from local schools across the city. The schools that kindly hosted were:

- Washington Academy - Washington.
- Castle View Enterprise Academy - North
- Kepier Academy - Coalfield
- St. Anthony’s - South
- Farringdon Academy - East



There were four workshops delivered to all primary and secondary schools:

	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
Title	What is a relationship/friendship’.	What does a bully look like’	How to say no to peer pressure’	Emotional Resilience’
Content	This was delivered as an interactive session. For primary ages, a ‘Healthy Friendship Recipe’ was created which the young people picked the ingredients from a list to create a ‘Healthy Friendship’. For Secondary ages, scenario cards were read out, this allowed the groups to explore different ways of thinking, emotions and how different scenarios turned out when all information was given.	This was an interactive session that delivered to both primary and secondary. The workshop used ‘Cut the Grass’ and the focus of this is to get the message across that there is no such thing as a ‘grass/snitch’ in the world of bullying and by cutting out this word means people will more than likely come forward to say they are victim of bullying.	This was delivered by two different teams: RSHE delivered to Primary age and used scenarios and situations to get a better understanding of the pupils understanding and thinking. YDAP delivered to secondary age and shared information on different substances, the impact on the body and what to do if they are pressured into this.	School nurses delivered to secondary school pupils and used this time to discuss different emotions, how they impact you and how to deal with them. RSHE delivered to primary pupils and used this as a time for them to create their posters for RSHE around healthy relationships and friendships.
Delivered by	RSHE Team	Anti-Bullying Team	YDAP for Secondary RSHE for Primary	Emotional Resilience Nurses for Secondary RSHE for Primary

In addition, partners took part from YDAP, YOS, Wear Kids, Kooth, Washington/Sunderland Mind, School Nurses, Police Participation and Engagement.

Throughout the week we asked children and young people for their comments:

'It has made me more aware of what bullying can actually do to harm people. In assembly I can't wait to tell everyone what I have learnt'	'I have learnt about how to recognise a good friend from a bad friend'	'There is always someone to talk to'.
'I will help people who are upset, being bullied, being abused and are lonely. I will tell my teacher what we have learnt'.	'It told me how to be safe and who to trust online'.	'I've learnt to make sure not to do something just to please your friends'
'I've learnt how to be safe and act if you feel uncomfortable'	'Some people will not show their feelings and that you need to help them to express themselves'.	'It is always right to tell a responsible adult if a bad thing happens'.



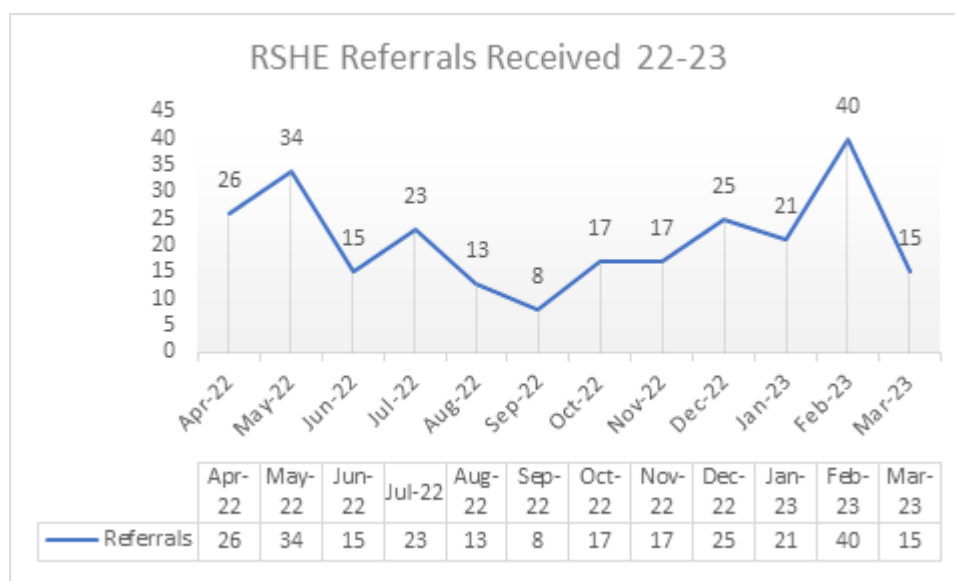
Relationships, Sex and Health Education

RSHE Referrals

The Relationship Sex and Health Education Team, work with Children and Young People aged 8-18 (unless cared experience or SEND then it is up to the age of 25). Referrals are received from Early Help, Children Social Care, Schools, Health or Self-Referrals by young people aged 13+ or their parents.

The RSHE Team offers work around: Healthy Relationships, Sexual Health, Self-Esteem, Internet Safety, Child Sexual Exploitation and grooming. This work can either be completed through direct work, classroom-based learning, groupwork or assemblies.

In the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, 254 referrals were received for direct work. The chart below shows where the referrals came from. This is a 10% decrease in referrals compared to the previous year. We would expect this RSHE Co-Ordinator role delivering training to teachers, teaching assistant and pastoral support, allowing their knowledge and confidence to grow meaning they can deliver the 1-1 support with the young person that they have the relationship with.



Of those closed (201) in the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 44% successfully completed direct work. This means children and young people completed the number of sessions which was agreed at the initial appointment and were not re-referred into the service within this time period. 30% declined support when contacted. A review suggests that support was declined due to the extended time period for allocation due to the capacity of the team. For 16% of referrals consent was withdrawn when offered. 5% were inappropriate referrals, 4% were unsuccessful and 1% closed due to a police investigation.

In addition to the direct work offered to young people who have been referred into the service, the RSHE Team also delivered the following;

- 33 school lessons
- 18 drop-in sessions for example at Farrington Academy - this was part of a wider RSHE day across the whole school in April.
- 24 LGBTQ+ Groups, Cozmic 3piphany which is an engagement group which meets bi-weekly to have young people voices heard around LGBTQ+ issues and campaigns to



make the city more LGBTQ+ inclusive. As June is Pride Month, the young people who attend Cozmic 3piphany also marched in Sunderland's Pride as well as having a stall to promote the group other LGBTQ+ young people.

- 30 June is RSE Day, Farrington Academy asked for the team to deliver RSHE sessions around: exploitation, self-esteem, healthy relationships and LGBTQ+ to young people in Year 8. This was delivered on the Prevention Bus as a 'Round Robin' approach.
- Bi-weekly Drop-in sessions- these were requested by Farrington Academy for Years 9-11, this is part of the SLA offer to schools. The drop-in is covered by RSHE staff.
- Prevention bus sessions. There were reoccurring themes that were noted during the bus sessions:
 - Relationships, Young People seemed to be unsure of what a healthy relationship was and quite often assume if someone was controlling by wanting to know their whereabouts, who they were with and passwords to social media it was because they cared for them.
 - Little understanding of sexual health and myths.
 - Sexualised language, will openly call each other inappropriate names but think that this is fine.
 - Access C-card and wanting to have condoms, some just in case.
 - Consent – texting for consent.

In total 3,405 children and young people completed a brief intervention with the RSHE service in the above period.

"I got some support, I learnt and had fun. We talked about everything"

"When asked about what worked well in the sessions "Everything, I felt that I was in control of the sessions"

"I feel more confident"

RSHE Co-ordinator Role

In September 2020 it became statutory for all pupils who are primary aged to received Relationship Health Education and all pupils who are secondary aged to received Relationship, Sex and Healthy Education. The role of the RSHE Co-Ordinator was funded by Public Health to support schools in their initial implementation of RSHE. This support was given by looking at schools policies, lesson plans and offering both standard and bespoke staff CPD to not only upskill and make staff feel more confident within their RSHE delivery but to ensure they have a clear understanding of why behind why RSHE has been made statutory.

In the period 1 April 2022 to 31March 2023

- 19 schools received a consultation around their RSHE delivery;
- 19 Schools received 'Introduction to RSHE';
- Seven Bespoke Training sessions were delivered;
- One Partnership Conference was supported.

In the period 1 April to 31 March, 82 primary schools, 18 secondary schools, seven schools for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and six pupil referral units and alternative provisions were contacted and informed regarding the RSHE Co-Ordinator role and the training offer via school emails, Education Services Newsletters, phone calls and other professionals.

"Staff feel more confident and comfortable in delivering RSHE sessions"



“Session was planned and delivered excellently covering exactly the content and information that was needed. Staff from a range of different levels of experience were pleased with the training and felt that they had gained new learning that they could instantly put into practise in the classroom. The timing and length of the training was perfect and allowed for the topic to be covered in enough detail. All staff I spoke to after the training were very pleased with the training and said that they enjoyed the manner and style in which the presenters delivered in.”

Participation and Engagement

Together for Children supports the following participation and engagement groups:

- Sunderland Youth Council
- Change Council – 10-15 years
- Change Council – 16+
- Stars
- Cozmic 3phiphany
- Young Commissioners

In the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, 1,402 children and young people participated in a participation activity. This means that one young person may have participated in a number of different participation activities this is an 1% increase from 2021/22.

Below is a summary of the activities and outcomes of our participation and engagement work in the period April 2022 to March 2023 (the full list of outcomes and activities can be found in the annual Participation and Engagement report).

STARS – Voice Matters

Output	Outcome	Impact
<p>6 members went to a Youth Voice Matters conference in Manchester.</p> <p>1 Stars member helped to deliver one of the workshops to share how they got the best from their EHCP.</p> <p>23 participation groups attended from around the country are wanting to make change particularly around well-being, EHCPs, employability and work experience.</p>	<p>STARS attended workshops in collaboration with the department of education and council of disabled children, looking at improving experience around the SEND system and how to get the right educational support.</p> <p>STARS shared their views and own personal experience to allow the DfE when writing policy and to inform future best practice.</p>	<p>Young people felt empowered and optimistic that change will come – albeit they do understand it will take many years.</p> <p>They feel more invigorated to continue their work and encourage more to share their voice.</p> <p>To contact with other participation groups in the Northeast (contact details for North Tyneside were made at the event) aim to set up a regional voice before the end of 2023.</p> <p>To share all that was learned at the conference and plan future directions.</p>

Sunderland Youth Council – Young People’s State of the City Debate

Output	Outcome	Impact
<p>Our annual Young People’s State of the City Debate took place in April 2022.</p> <p>68 young people from 12 schools and two colleges took part in debate</p> <p>Top three topics from Make your Mark debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 voted for health and wellbeing • 22 voted for jobs money and homes • 13 voted for environment 	<p>Young people were recruited to be part of SYC increasing the membership.</p> <p>Health and Well-being was voted as the main issue for children and young people in Sunderland.</p>	

Change Council Protected Characteristic

Output	Outcome	Impact
<p>Care experienced young people campaigned for care experience to be a protected characteristic.</p> <p>A letter was written by members of Change Council 16+ group to Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>Young people were supported by Lead Member Cllr Louise Farthing, this was second by Cllr John Price.</p>	<p>The motion was passed by full council on 25 January 2023.</p> <p>Care Experienced young people will be listened to when developing new policies</p> <p>Increased awareness and support throughout adult life to ensure that being care experienced does not impact on their future.</p> <p>Young Person (20) <i>‘it makes you feel you are not judged for who you are’</i></p>	<p>The Care Experienced status of young people cared for by Sunderland Local Authority will be treated as a protected characteristic until such a time as it may be introduced by legislation.</p> <p>Care Experienced young people will have increased opportunity when accessing EET provision.</p> <p>Care Experienced young people are more likely to express their views.</p> <p>Care Experienced young people feel accepted and not stigmatised.</p> <p>Raises aspirations of young people by giving them new skills, support them into education, employment and training reduces the likelihood of them becoming NEET.</p>

Young Commissioners – Recruitment and Training

<p>Nine young people have been trained as young commissioners</p> <p>Training was split over two days to ensure they were not overwhelmed with the information.</p> <p>Training given on the commissioning cycle.</p> <p>Log created.</p>	<p>Young people have a better understanding of the commissioning cycle.</p> <p>Young people have built professional relationships with other young commissioners from another council and with our own commissioning service. Sharing best practice.</p>	<p>Provide a child/young person perspective, including having input in making the decision on which organisations will be awarded contracts/grants</p> <p>C/YP play a valuable ongoing role by attending regular meetings with key staff to share findings and to allow the Young Commissioners to discuss and contribute actively to those</p>
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	<p>YP discovered how the role will not only benefit others by their input but how they in-turn will build transferable skills and understanding.</p> <p>Ensure that the voice of children/young people is heard and acted upon</p>	<p>findings including quality assurance of services and designing of new services.</p> <p>It supports organisations to have an opportunity to understand children's issues and needs better, because children bring new perspectives and knowledge you can develop more effective policies, services and programmes.</p> <p>By including children's perspectives in design, planning and delivery/implementation we have built a more positive organisation supporting our decision making (like money, people and time)</p> <p>Children and young people are at the heart of decision that affect them at local and national levels in line with article 12 (right to be heard) of the UNCRC.</p>
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Healthy Schools Award

In February 2021 the Prevention & Innovation Team launched the Health Schools Award. The Sunderland Healthy Schools Award has been developed by a local multi-agency group of health, education and social care professionals to support Sunderland schools to establish a positive, healthy school environment.

The award recognises the dedication of schools within the city to the health and wellbeing of their pupils, staff and local communities. Participation in the award will also support schools to prepare for Ofsted inspection as each charter has been developed in line with Ofsted guidance and physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing are all key components of Ofsted's common inspection framework.

The award consists of five criteria which include all aspects of health & wellbeing. Where possible criteria have been directly connected to pre-existing locally developed charter marks. Two new charter marks have been developed to ensure all aspects of health are considered under the Healthy Schools Award:

- Anti-Bullying Charter Mark
- Great Active Sunderland Schools Charter
- Food and Nutrition Charter Mark
- Mental Health Charter Mark
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education Charter Mark

Since re-launching Healthy Schools 12 schools have applied for and achieved a healthy school award:

Emerald Awards:

- Eppleton Academy,
- Gillas Lane Primary,
- New Penshaw Academy,





- Oxclose Primary Academy,
- Ryhope Infant School Academy, and
- Trinity Academy

Bronze Awards:

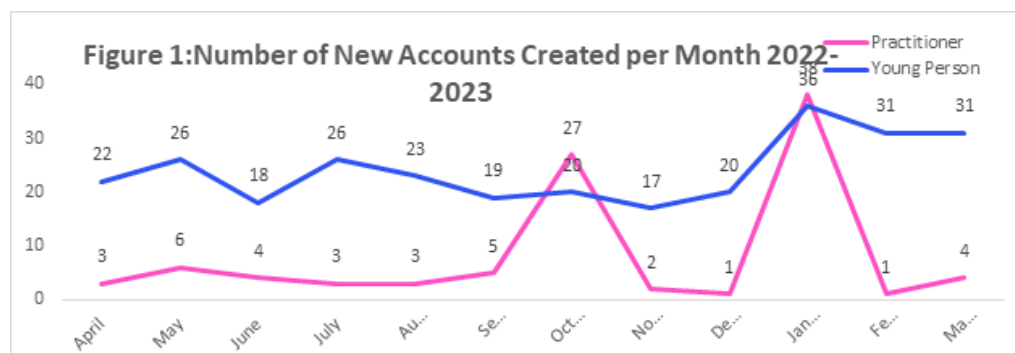
- Burnside Academy,
- East Herrington Academy,
- Fatfield Academy,
- Plains Farm Academy,
- Richard Avenue Primary School,
- Ryhope Junior School and
- Willow Wood Community Primary School

We held our first Healthy Schools Celebration in July 2022 which was hosted at Ryhope Junior School. Children and Young People came along and enjoyed riding the smoothie bike, completing a step challenge and collecting their awards. This allowed a joined-up approach of all five charter marks to offer sign posting and information sharing for schools to ensure they were aware of all the Charter Marks available.

Mind of My Own

We continue to use Mind of My Own to gather the voices of children and young people in assessment, planning and intervention. At the end of March 2023, there were 822 children and young people signed up to use the One app with their own account and 644 practitioners within TfC registered to use both the One app and Express with young people. Although an audit was carried out on historic accounts by Mind of My Own, account sign ups have increased monthly, with practitioner accounts up on the previous year.

There has been an increase of 54% in new young person accounts in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22, whilst staff sign ups have increased 18% since the 1 April 2022. As Figure 1 shows, January saw the biggest increase in both Practitioner and Young Person accounts

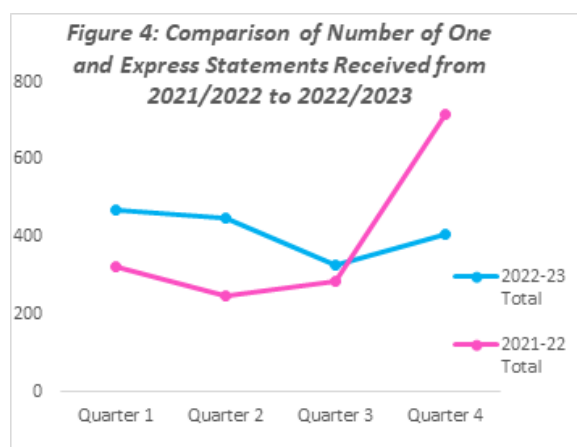
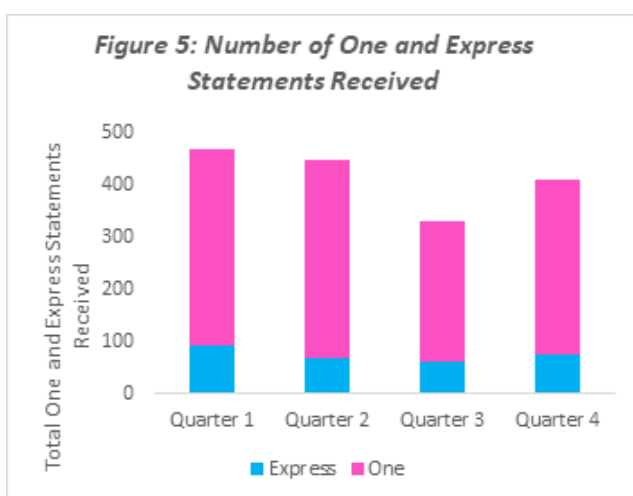


From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 1,654 One and Express statements received. Of those 1,654, 1,360 were One statements and 294 were Express statements. More statements were submitted in the first three quarters of 2022-23 than in the previous year, however, there has only been a 5% increase in statements received overall, due to the peak of usage in Q4 2021-22.



Figure 3: Number of One and Express statements received (2021-22 – 2022-23)

Quarter	Express	One	2022-23 total	2021-22 total	% change
Quarter 1	92	377	469	324	45%
Quarter 2	67	381	448	248	81%
Quarter 3	61	268	329	284	16%
Quarter 4	74	334	408	717	-43%
Total	294	1360	1654	1573	5%

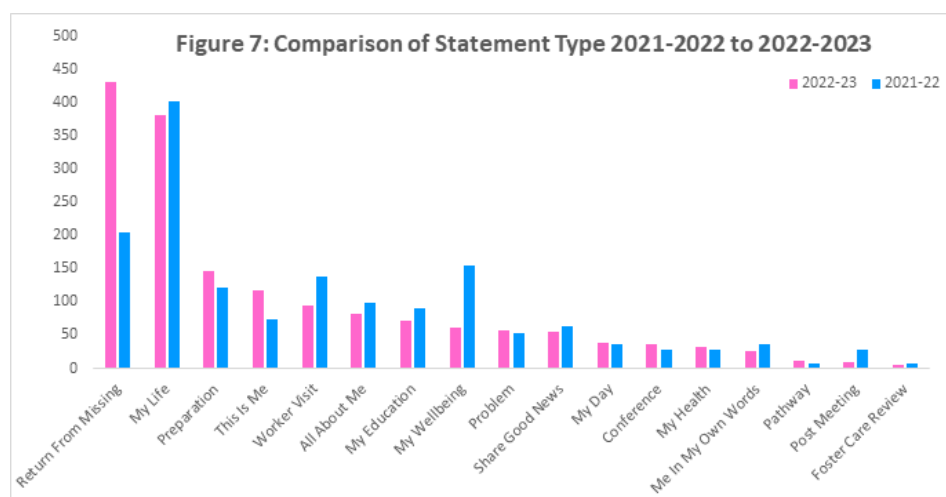


By the end of the 2022-23 financial year, 780 individual children and young people aged between 4 and 22 had used Mind of My Own as a tool to ensure their voice was heard.

We have a wide range of children and young people using both the One app and Express tool, either using their own accounts or via a workers' account and this is highlighted in Figure 6. Because of the high engagement by workers with the tool, more young people submit One and Express statements via a practitioner account. Children aged 7, 11 and 17 were over four times more likely to submit



statements via a practitioner account. in the period and compares to those submitted in 2021-22. For the first time, the most used statement from children and young people was **'Return from Missing'**, which accounted for more than a quarter of statement types. This was closely followed by **'My Life'** which was the scenario found in 23% statements.



Following the introduction of 'Return from Missing' in 2021/22, it has quickly become the most popular statement type used, demonstrating the widening scope of Mind of My Own. Of the 431 Return from Missing statements submitted this year, 82% were assigned to Targeted Youth Services, with the remaining 18% assigned to workers within Family Group Conferencing. 99.5% of Return from Missing statements were opened within 24 hours of being received by a worker, an improvement from 95% in 2021/22.

Most statements in the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 have come from 10-16-year-olds. This age range were the most likely to use the scenarios 'My Life' and 'Return from Missing'. As expected, those in the age group were also the most likely to use Mind of My Own to set the direction of their visits, allowing workers to better prepare for themes raised. 51% statements submitted by young people over 17 use the 'Return from Missing' scenario.

Holiday Activity and Food Programme

The Department for Education recognised that school holidays can be pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. Historically, these financial disadvantages result in many children and young people being:

- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
- more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health
- more likely to experience social isolation

Together for Children delivered their first Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme in 2021 across Easter, Summer, and Winter. In Autumn 2021, the government confirmed £3,988,650 of funding to Sunderland for the next three years.

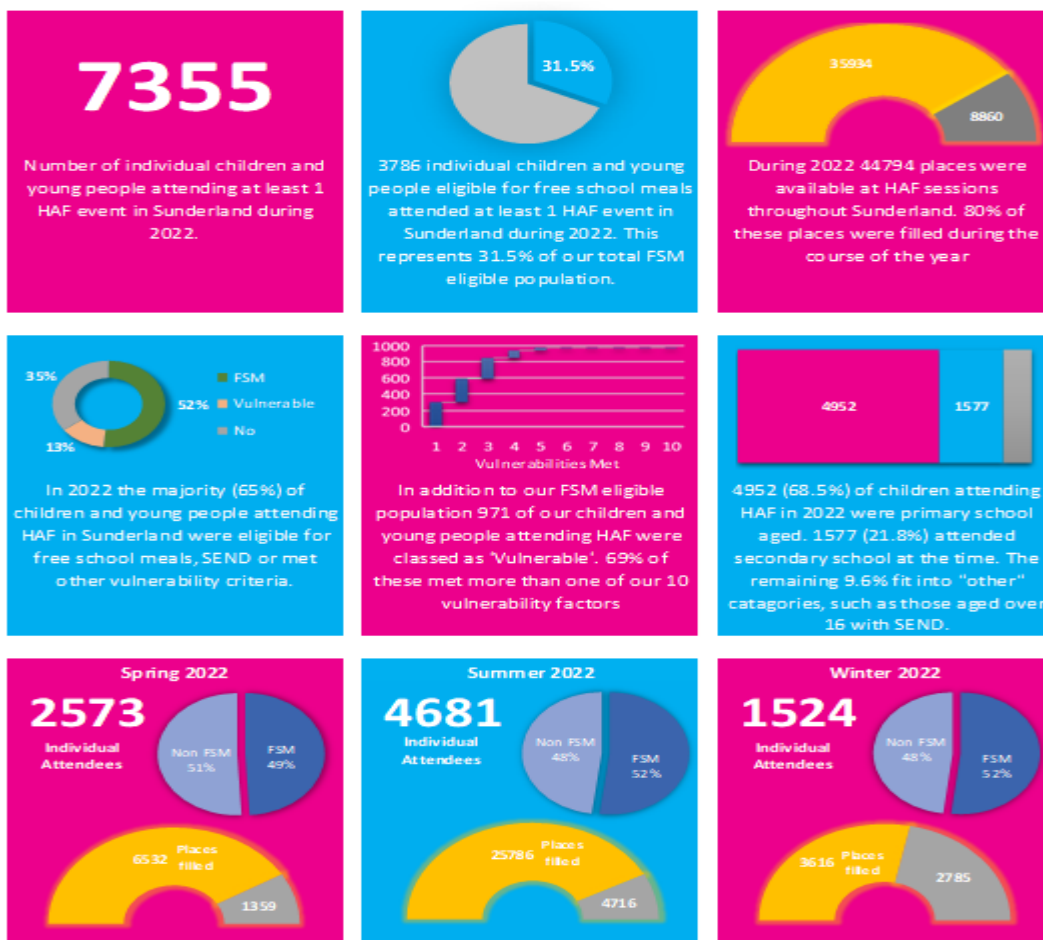
Together for Children will utilise this £1,329,550 per annum funding to coordinate 24 days of provision every year over:

- Easter (Four Days)
- Summer (16 Days)
- Christmas (Four Days)



Since piloting the programme in 2021, the number of children and young people who are registered for means tested free school meals has increased by 12% in 2022.

Highlights



Providers

The Wear Here 4 Spring, Summer and Winter 2022 programmes included a total of:

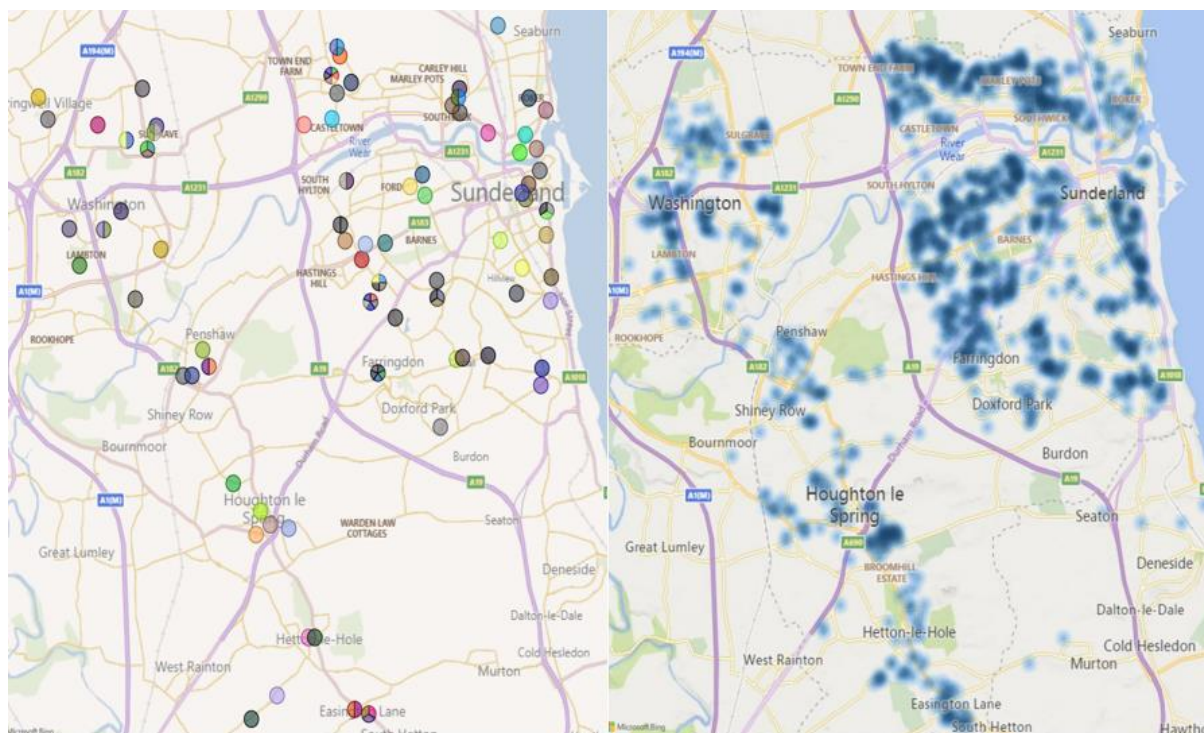
- 36 external providers delivering 191 programmes across the 66 different venues in the city
- 5 internal services delivering 58 internal programmes ran at 25 different venues, delivered by Together for Children.

Providers included sports clubs, community organisations, youth groups, charitable organisations, Together for Children and 13 schools. Our priority FSM areas were Redhill, Hendon, Southwick, St Anne’s and Pallion.

Based on our Winter 2022 Census, our FSM cohort was 12014. During 2022, 3,786 of our FSM cohort attended a HAF programme, while 603 of these children & young people attended a HAF programme during more than 1 holiday period.

Figure 5. illustrates the locations of all providers across the city (left) and the attendance of eligible children in the areas (right). A list of all 2022 HAF providers is located in Appendix 1.





Mobile Provision

In 2021 Together for Children utilised funding to offer mobile HAF sessions in areas of the city where no HAF providers were delivering but high numbers of FSM eligible children and young people live. Building on the success of 2021 mobile sessions, and with the support of partners, Together for Children delivered 19 mobile sessions in Spring and Summer 22 across the city targeting areas with low provision, also offering teen specific sessions to increase engagement with our older children and young people.

Nine day-time sessions for children and young people of all eligible age groups.

- Three sessions specifically for children and young people with SEND
- Seven sunset sessions targeted at older young people.

The mobile provision was another huge success in 2022 engaging with 1894 (1668 unique)¹ children and young people over the period of 19 sessions of which 53% were means tested FSM and 19.5% were SEND. The Wear Here 4 You Mobile Prevention Bus supported the sessions to ensure the signposting element of HAF criteria was met. The mobile HAF provision didn't deliver over Winter 2022 due to weather conditions and also the number of attendees in Winter 2021 was very low.

A wide range of activities, healthy nutritious food and information, advice and guidance support were available to both the children and young people attending as well as their parents and carers. Provision was delivered by Together for Children, Northumbria Police, Change for Life, Phunky Foods, 0-19 service (NHS), Autism Outreach, Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade, The British Armed Forces and North East Ambulance Service.

Activities included Sunderland Climbing Wall and Cave, Battle Archery, Dancing, Skipping, Yoga, Arts and Crafts, Boot Camp, Music production, DJ-ing, boxing, football, adaptable bikes, petting zoo, planetarium, circus skills workshops, meditation and mindfulness activities, Tug of War, smoothie bike. Food was provided by Olivia's Kitchen, Catering by Anita and K and J Catering. Nutritional education was provided by Phunky Foods and Change 4 life.





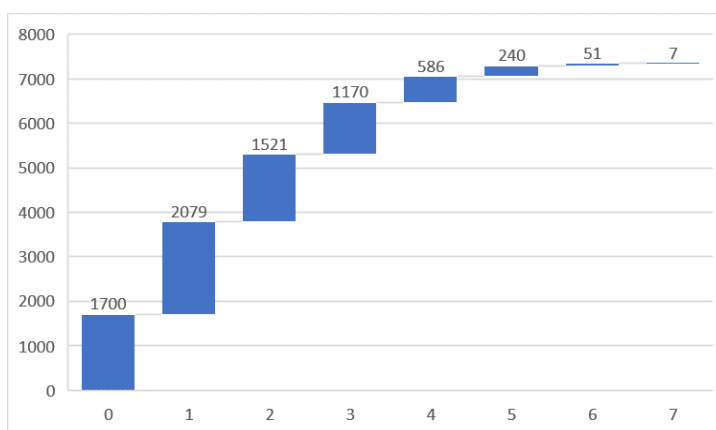
Historically, engaging with older young people throughout the Wear Here 4 Spring, Summer and Winter programmes has proved difficult, so the mobile evening sessions, (named Sunset Sessions), were specifically tailored to engage with young people aged 11+. Sessions took place 4-8pm and included activities and food more appropriate and appealing to the targeted age range. All sessions were co-produced with young people from Together for Children’s engagement groups. The graph below (Fig. 8) shows attendance by age across the sessions. The yellow and pink shows our older age children and as expected these numbers were higher at our sunset sessions.

Vulnerabilities

Children and young people entitled to FSM attended programmes alongside children and young people who did not meet the criteria. We could also use 15% of our overall funding to support ‘vulnerable’ children and young people. With this funding we were able to support SEND young people, cared for and care experience young people, children and young people open to Early Help, Children’s Social Care or our Youth Offending Service, those struggling with education (e.g. excluded or at risk or exclusion) and children and young people living in areas of the city with high levels of deprivation and childhood of obesity. In total 971 children and young people who weren’t eligible for FSMs but had at least one vulnerability attended at least one HAF 2022 session.

In addition, our analysis highlighted that a large proportion of children and young people in Sunderland who attended HAF during 2022 and were eligible for FSM also met at least 1 vulnerability criteria. In total 5654 of the 7355 of HAF attendees met at least 1 vulnerability criteria. Many children and young people met more than 1 vulnerability (as displayed in Fig.9) for example, 7 attendees meet seven of the 10 vulnerability criteria.

Fig. 9 Number of Vulnerabilities met by HAF attendees in 2022



Depending on the activity and setting, there was flexibility for parents to either drop their child or stay for the whole session. This option helped parents to ease their children into the activities, which was especially important for parents of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) children.

Together for Children supported by Sunderland Parent Carer Forum planned three sessions in co-production with Sunderland Stars group specifically for SEND children and young people. 311 individual children and young people attended the three events at Barnwell over summer 2022.

“My child has been coming to active families’ holiday camps for some time now. He enjoys trying new sports and making new friends. He has been given lots of confidence by attending these fantastic camps. The staff have encouraged him to try new healthy foods. The camps have made him an all-



round sportsmanship and have helped me with ideas for healthy meals for the family". **Parent about Active Families**

"We loved making our own food and liked decorating our own water bottles", **Child – Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project**

"These sessions have been life savers as we don't then have to think about food for the kids, it's the hardest part of the school holidays thinking about meals and making something healthy" **Parent – The Box Youth Project**

"The staff was very welcoming and made my children feel welcomed even when one of them was missing me. Having the provision there has been great these 6 weeks especially having a day trip every week has made my children's holidays as I don't drive and can't take them to the places they have been" **Parent - Pallion Action Group**

"It took me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to experience different things, which I would not have been confident to do before. It had been nice making new friends and talking to new people". **Young Person – North East Sports Senior Session**

"This was amazing, staff at the gym were brilliant and children had so much fun, highly recommend" **Parent – Weights and Cakes**

"Me and my mam walk here and then she goes to work. I love seeing my friends and have made lots of new friends. The food is really nice, and everyone is really nice. It's my favorite place to go." **Child – unknown provider**

"Just wanted to say a big thank you for last week's workshop. My grandson attended and he absolutely loved it. He has ADHD and autism and we find it so difficult to find things that he can attend. He was made to feel so comfortable and accepted. He was over the moon to make some friends. He loved every minute he was there. I hope you run more workshops". **Grandparent – Sunderland Empire**

Prevention Bus – Wear Here 4 You

The Mobile Prevention Bus known as WEAR HERE 4 YOU launched on the 16 October 2021. The mobile bus continues to offer children, young people and their families information, guidance and support as part of the signposting element of the DFE funded programme.

- Families reported that they found out about support services that they didn't know about
- Referrals were made into EH services
- Parent/Carers registered for their local Family Centres
- Families were signed up to the Healthy Start Programme
- Advice and guidance were given to children and young people around Careers, Healthy Relationships, Sex, Health and Well-Being, Nutrition and Activity.
- Children and young people joined Participation and Engagement Groups.
- Information was given around nutritional education and healthy eating

In the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 the Wear Here 4 You Prevention Bus achieved the following:

- Engaged with over 5,678 children and young people
- Supported 25 sessions in 13 Sunderland schools and colleges
- Supported the Healthy City Plan
- Raised awareness of preventative support services



- Signed families up to access our Family Centre provision.
- Reacted to need and delivered sessions in targeted areas of the city.
- Delivered brief interventions with young people such as work around healthy relationships, emotional well-being, healthy lifestyle choices, friendships and anti-social behaviour and offending.
- Delivered services to our children, young people and families where they wanted to access them
- Received fantastic feedback from children, young people, families and partners.

The overall impact of prevention is difficult to describe accurately. It is very hard to prove that something did not happen. However, feedback from children, young people and families clearly illustrates that the presence of the bus and the signposting and interventions it offers have had a positive impact on their circumstances. Even the briefest of contacts can make a big difference to families.

In the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 the Prevention completed the following sessions:

	Number of Sessions	Number of Children and young people	Number of parent/carers
School Session (TfC Led)	25	2,384	5
Community Session – Day		1,335	927
Community Session - Evening		1,959	41

Schools

The Prevention Bus delivered 25 sessions across 13 schools and colleges in Sunderland. This is 11% of our overall number of schools.

- Easington Lane Primary School
- Barbara Priestman Academy
- Beacon of Light - Project Choices
- Harry Watts Academy (Redhouse)
- Harry Watts Academy (Harraton)
- Venerable Bede
- Sandhill View Academy
- Farrington Academy
- Redhouse Academy
- St Anthony's Academy
- Southmoor Academy
- Sunderland College – City Campus
- Diamond Hall Junior School
- Barmston primary

School sessions are planned in advance to help identify areas of potential concern with the lead from the Prevention and Participation team and ensure information being shared is age and level of learning appropriate. Year two will formalise this process to allow us to track what is requested from schools, service received and follow up.

Feedback from Children, Young People and Families

*“Hi, I really love the bus I would love for the bus to come back to Sunderland Park Lane because it gives me someone to speak to when I need to speak to someone.” **Young Person***

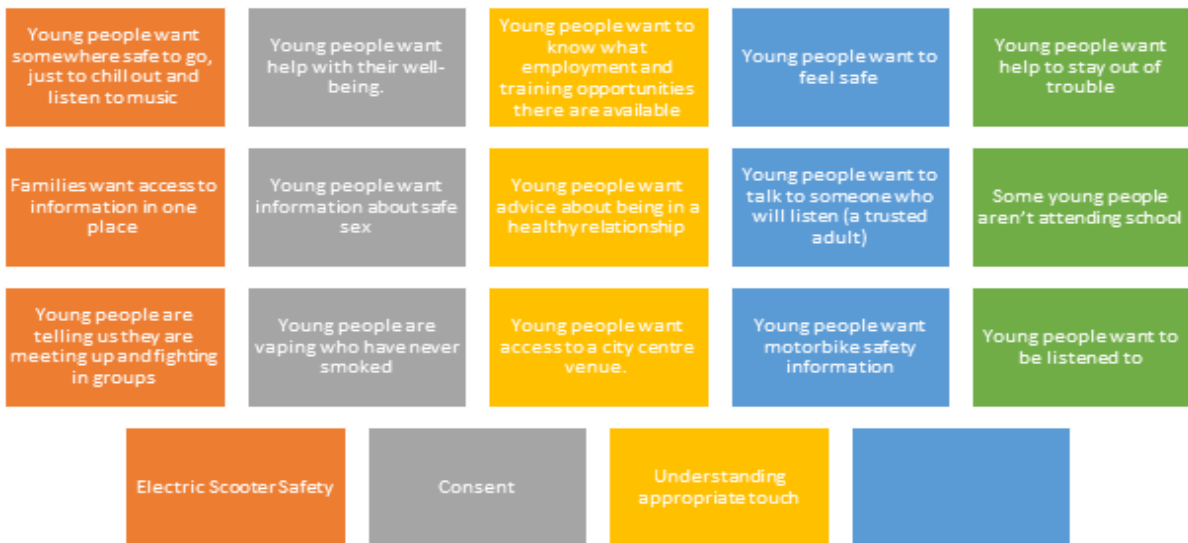
*‘I came to the bus and spoke to a worker (from careers team), they supported me and I am now attending a course at Springboard. They really helped and it was great that they were there for me to drop in and speak to them’ **Young person***

*‘Food is absolutely fabulous on the bus, it’s really good that we get healthy food because we want to stay healthy do offering supports this’ **Young person***

*‘Coming on the bus gave me the chance to speak to someone about the implant, I would not have gone if it was not for the bus’ **Young Person***

Themes

Information and feedback from children and young people is an integral part of the bus sessions. The below frequently occurring themes have come from children and young people at sessions either in the community or school.



Outcomes and Impact

- The Prevention Bus has offered a safe space for children and young people to go to speak with a trusted adult, children and young people can have improved mental health and well-being as a result of having someone to turn to who enables young people to explore issues in a safe environment without judgement. By having a trusted adult it can mitigate effects of abuse and trauma.
- The Prevention bus has Highlighted the support services available across the city for children, young people and their families to ensure families know where to go to get information, advice and guidance (via our Family Hub model) at the earliest opportunity giving every child the best start in life.



- The Prevention Bus has offered one-to-one targeted interventions and evidence-based interventions to children and young people laying the foundations for a healthy life from pre-conception to young adulthood reducing the need for more costly statutory interventions.
- The Prevention Bus staff have directly delivered themed sessions to raise awareness of online safety, cyberbullying and bullying and the impact this has on mental health and emotional resilience
- Children and young people have been signposted to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme ensuing school readiness after a holiday period for eligible free school meal children and young people,
- The prevention bus has directly delivered health interventions to children, young people alongside partners including the delivery and promotion use of C Card (age specific contraceptive advice), smoking, vaping, drugs, alcohol, food and nutritional education addressing the inequalities and social determinants of health.
- Young people have received careers advice and guidance supporting young people to progress into sustainable education, employment and training, they develop a greater range of skills and the likelihood of unemployment is significantly reduced.
- The Prevention Bus has taken provision to geographical areas/wards where there has been difficulty for young people to access it or where a targeted provision is required ensuring an offer to all.
- The Bus has supported children, young people and their families to eat more healthier and engage in physical activity.
- The prevention bus has supported the partnership to work collaboratively, ensuring everyone is playing their part, sharing responsibility and working alongside communities and individuals to gain a greater understanding of young people's situations in order to increase accuracy of intervention across the city, making services fit our families' needs. Families will more likely engage in services that have involved them in the decision-making processes.

Support offered to children and young people has changed the way in which they might respond to vulnerable young people at risk of abuse or exploitation. This includes changes in language, being more proactive in looking for signs of abuse or exploitation, and changing viewpoints of professionals.

As a result of the outcomes achieved above, there is evidence to suggest that the mobile prevention service has

- prevented escalating need or risk improving children and young people long-term outcomes
- Supported children and young people to develop strengths and skills to prepare them for adult life
- Identified children and young people sooner if at risk of abuse or exploitation;
- Children, young people and families have been referred to appropriate support
- Children and young people's voices have been heard and experiences understood;
- Have has access to and receive the right support in a more timely manner
- Children and young people have been protected and are safer
- Supported children and young people to stay healthy when young which can continue into adulthood
- Reduced the need of more statutory costly services



Bumps to Babies (B2b):

B2b Young Parents (Bumps to Babies) is a specialist service for young parents aged 16 – 20 years. B2b offers further education courses, training opportunities and emotional support to mums to be, young mums and their children under 5 years.

The staff team has continued to grow over the past year to support the expanding service, presently there are seven Day-care Practitioners, one Admin Assistant, Manager and assistant team manager. In addition, B2b's nursery provision is offered to statutory school aged Young Mums via Together for Children's Virtual Schools service.

It is our experience that some young parents can be very isolated, having limited or no support network around them. Staff encourage our young parents to attend the services on offer, where they can gain one to one support, participate in varied activities and educational courses tailored to their individual needs and level of learning. Presently education courses include Maths & English, Health & Social Care Level 1, 2, 3 and General Studies.

B2b offers young mothers the opportunity to further their individual education, gaining qualifications and accreditations in a safe and nurturing environment. All courses, groups and activities are developed and planned with full involvement of the young parents. All sessions offer the opportunity to improve personal development and outcomes for children and families, whilst increasing self-esteem, self-confidence, independent living skills, parenting advice and whilst socialising with other young parents in similar situations as themselves. B2b aims to empower young parents to make positive life choices for themselves and their children.

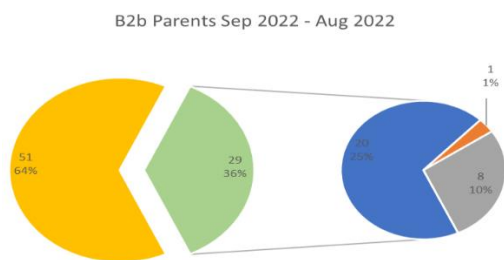
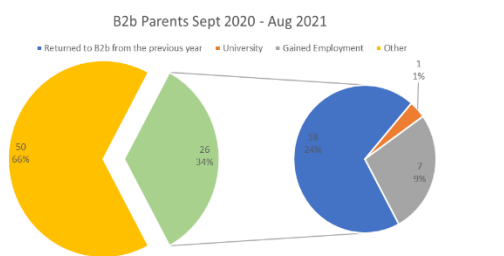
Highly qualified staff can offer advice around pregnancy, childbirth, parenting, breast-feeding, weaning, childhood ailments, baby massage, routines, and boundaries. In addition to supporting with issues such as employment, claiming appropriate benefits, budgeting health start, healthy eating, mental health, sexual health, and smoking cessation.

Quote from a young parent:

"Hi, I'm NB I started attending B2b when I was 17 years old and I had not long had my daughter AJB it wasn't something I wanted to do at first but I didn't really have a choice due to living in Lewis Crescent mother and baby unit having social work involvement due to being in a violent relationship. But looking back it was one of the best things I could have done for myself and my daughter, the women that work there are incredible, every one of them go above and beyond for every girl they work with and their babies. It was like an extended family to me and I was devastated when it came to the time I was too old to attend. I can't thank the girls enough for everything they have done for me, they were there by my side at every meeting with social services, teaching parenting skills, as well as helping you get qualifications. Any young person going to B2b are very lucky. It is and was a vital service, I don't know where I would be without them. I am now in a stable relationship and have been for five years on top went on to have another two beautiful daughters I'm also working part time I like to think we're all doing amazingly well. Thank you B2B for everything love and miss you' s always x"

To enable staff to support our young parents fully, we work closely with services across Together for Children in Early Help, Children's Social Care and Educations Services, and with our partners including Family Nurse Partnership, City of Sunderland College, Sunderland Care and Support, Young Person's Sexual Health Nurse, Health Visitors, Housing and Northeast Young Dads & Lads.

B2b Number of Parents and Under 5's 2020/21 & 2021/22



Whilst young parents access B2b their children are cared for in two fully equipped nursery rooms. B2b provides an environment, underpinned by the EYFS principles, OFSTED Statutory Requirements and Health and Safety Practice.

We offer an inclusive service where babies and children are safeguarded; their happiness and wellbeing for children in our nursery is paramount. Staff use 'quality first teaching' technique to implement a safe, heuristic environment; continually accessing, planning, tracking and reviewing changes and development for their key children.

Working closely with parents and other professionals enables staff to recognise and understand abilities, care needs, likes and dislikes, providing continuity of care between home to nursery. Staff have thorough knowledge of Early Years Foundation Stage and are fully competent of working in accordance with all Safeguarding policies and procedures. The involvement of the parents and carers is regarded as essential in the assessment and early identification process. We recognize the importance of parents as their child's first educator and views on their child's development are sought and recorded as soon as they start nursery. Partnership with parents plays a key role in promoting a culture of co-operation between parents, the nursery, the Local Authority and others. This is important in enabling children with SEND to achieve their potential.



Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP):

The Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP) in Sunderland provides Structured Drug Treatment to young people with complex and problematic substance misuse, as well as providing Brief Interventions to young people with less complex needs.

In the year 2022/23 YDAP received referrals from Early Help, Schools, Health and Social Care, Housing Providers, the Youth Offending Service and parent/carers. 310 referrals were received in total, this is about a 30% increase from the previous year. Sunderland Hospital A&E remained our highest referrers due to our implied consent model.

119 young people progressed into treatment, the majority of these were into structured treatment. 89% of structured treatment cases were closed with a successful outcome. In terms of treatment goals about 50% worked towards abstinence and 50% worked towards reduced controlled use.

Approx 45% of young people YDAP worked with in the last year were in the 0-15 years age bracket, 45% were 16-17 years and around 10% were 18+ years. Male and female gender was evenly represented.

As with previous years, and in line with national data, the majority of young people referred to YDAP during this period were seeking support for cannabis and alcohol misuse. However, many young people also reported using other substances including cocaine, ketamine, benzodiazepines and other prescription medication.

YDAP continues to deliver targeted groupwork within schools and youth groups and training to professionals. In the year 2022/23 targeted groupwork was delivered to 1,592 young people. Drug/alcohol awareness training was delivered to 121 professionals. YDAP staff supported the prevention bus on nine separate occasions reaching a further 741 young people.

During this period YDAP also continued to deliver Basic Drug Awareness Training throughout the local authority – supporting and upskilling the workforce to identify and work with young people regarding their substance use.

In 2022/23 YDAP established connections with the SAIL project ensuring a multi-agency approach to supporting young people on the focus deterrence cohort. A drop-in service for young people attending Springboard Training is now part of our offer, as well as providing support to school nurse drop ins at schools across the city.

Wear Kids Anti-Social Behaviour Service (Youth Offending Service Prevention):

In 2022/23, a total of 97 young people, aged between 9.5 to 15 years, consented to work with Wear Kids. This compares to 58 young people in the same age-range in 2021/22, a 40% increase.

88 of those young people underwent an intervention with one of our workers, a large increase from the 30 in 2021/22. The remaining nine young people were sign-posted to a more appropriate service.

74.2% were male and 25% were female and 99% were White-British. This is on a par with 2021/22.



Of those working with Wear Kids, 75.25% successfully completed an intervention which is a slight increase on 2021/22. An additional six young people completed some work with Wear Kids.

The largest referrer to Wear Kids was the Police (64.9%) by way of direct referrals targeting young people displaying emerging patterns of anti-social behaviour. This figure includes 22% of Anti-Social Behaviour Agreements (ABA) issued.

Early Help Workers made 18.5% of the referrals received. However, school referrals remained low at 9.27% of all referrals. This figure has not recovered to its pre-Covid level.

Prevention data monitoring now captures more detailed reports including specific referral pathways, which has allowed us to target external partners and refine our pathways.

In addition, we have strengthened and relaunched the process with the Police and Sunderland Council's ASB team which has seen an increase in referrals prior to issuing ABAs, to ensure we target the most appropriate young people at the earliest opportunity.

Impact of the service: of the 97 interventions (90 young people) who worked with Wear Kids in 2022/23:

- 19 of the 90 went onto be arrested for an offence (21%)
- Of the 19, 18 received an Out of Court Disposal (Outcome 22/Triage), and one was given a Court Order.
- Overall of the 19, only one young person went on to be criminalised.

The number of young people who consented to the prevention intervention has increased by 200% since 2021/22. However, the percentage of children who went on to be arrested only increased slightly from 20% to 21%. Likewise, only one young person went on to be criminalised.

Youth Offending Service:

	First Time Entrants rate per 100,000 (Jan22 - Dec22)	Binary re-offending rate (Apr 21 - Jun 21)	Use of Custody rate per 1,000 (Apr 22 - Mar 23)
Sunderland	132 (up from 109)	28.6% (up from 22.9%)	0.36 (up from 0.00)
YOT family	177 (up from 165)	30.7% (down from 40.6%)	0.08 (up from 0.07)
North East	155 (no data)	28.6% (no data)	0.11 (no data)
National	148 (down from 154)	31.7% (down from 34.0%)	0.11 (remained the same)

* YOT Family and national figures are the most recent we have

23% of young offenders in 2022/23 were female and 77% were male (on a par with last yer).

56% were aged between 10-14 years (down slightly from 2021/22) and 44% between 15-17 years (up slightly from 2021/22).

96% of young offenders had a recorded ethnicity of White and 4% had an ethnicity of BAME (on a par with last year and reflecting Sunderland's demographic).

Offending by Looked After Children is provisionally recorded as 1.9% which sustains a strong position for this indicator, and is again our lowest recorded figure.



The multi-agency YOS Board meets regularly, and more detailed reports in respect of YOS performance are available quarterly.

Victim Work – Restorative Justice:

In 2022/23 the restorative justice team have engaged with 183 victims of youth crime (down from 221 in 2021/22 but on a par with 2020/21). Onward referrals were made to services to provide additional support and this has include education, mental and physical health. Restorative outcomes included 10 young people taking part in direct reparation, one in shuttle mediation and 77 completed practical reparation.

The team have also completed peer mentor training in two schools.

Recent quotes have included- 'the worker communicates brilliantly and in a supportive manner' and 'thank you so much for a lovely morning. Just that little conversation which didn't centre around xxx too much, really made my day'.

Our reparation team have been working with young people on numerous projects including litter picking, growing fruit and vegetables at the allotment, making bird boxes, hedgehog boxes and tealights. Some of the creations have been gifted to people who have been affected by their offending including wider family members. The young people have taken great pride in this. The fresh fruit and veg is donated to our local foodbanks and presented by our young people. One young person commented that it was 'mint to think homeless people will be having jam on toast made from fruit we have help grow.'

The young people have helped contribute to the development of the allotment, coming up with ideas and helping erect a sheltered work bench that protects our young people and supervisors from the elements.

The team have recently introduced the AQA certificated award scheme so young people can receive recognition for what they have learnt and achieved.

Staffing and Workforce Development

Training delivered to staff in the Early Help Directorate in 2022/23 included:

- Induction for all new staff
- Early Help Assessment training
- Signs of Safety
- Professional Practice Working with Families (Sunderland University 10 masters credits)
- YDAP ecstasy briefing
- YDAP cannabis briefing
- Introduction to CCAMHS
- ASD
- Mermaid training (LGBTQ+)
- Emotional regulation tools
- Trauma-informed practice workshop – shame
- Trauma-informed workshop – relationship templates and re-enactments



- Insights
- Mind of My Own
- C-Card (contraception)
- Personal Development in Health, Social Care or Children's and Young People's Settings (E-Learning)
- On-line safety for learners
- Smoking cessation
- Suicide prevention
- Delivering DAPS Level 2 (DVA)
- Auditing group exercise
- Allocations, update stepdown, dealing with CCN (EHAAT)
- Various shadowing opportunities

Future Plans

We will continue to monitor progress with Early Help and analyse the number of cases that are closed 'outcomes met' and what has made the difference to those families. This will inform our offer and our workforce development programme.

We will focus on our successful submission to establish a Family Hubs Network across Sunderland, grown out of our current Family Centres model. This will require improved integration with our partners and co-location of services across all areas of the City. In addition, we will focus on our successful bid to become a Trailblazer for Family Hubs in the areas of Parenting, Infant Feeding and Relationships & Perinatal Mental Health.

We will continue to look for opportunities to bid for funding to extend the interventions we can offer.

We will continue to offer schools and academies support through Service Level Agreements and use this as an opportunity to promote the value of early intervention 'from within'. It is hoped that by training school staff to lead on plans we can develop a model of early intervention which is sustainable going forward. This offer now includes Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance and Attendance.

We will continue to support neighbourhood initiatives such as the SARA Project in Southwick, the HALO Project in Hetton, the SAIL project in the City Centre and other new community projects as they arise to enhance our locality working.

We will improve our data analysis of projects such as the Holiday Activity and Food programme and Breathing Space to ensure that we are reaching the right young people and that we understand the difference these initiatives make to families' lives.

We will refurbish our new 'Food Truck' to enhance our support to the HAF and work with families, communities and schools to improve nutritional advice to families.

We will work with the Bread and Butter Thing to bring affordable food to families in our communities.

We will analyse the impact of our Prevention Bus and seek funding for a fourth year of operation.





We will work with the Council to support families through the Cost of Living Crisis, with a focus on child poverty and food insecurity. We are using the Rainbow Family Hub in Washington to support The Bread and Butter Thing community food programme and hope to use a new Family Hub in the east of the City once opened in 2023/24.

We will further develop our own Parenting Programme in partnership with the University of Sunderland and train three cohorts of staff to masters level in the delivery of interventions.





Family Hubs Progress

Scrutiny Committee

11 January 2024

Natalie Effard and Karen Davison

Key Activity- Family Hubs

- **Four out of five hubs operating:**
 - **Rainbow Family Hub, Washington**
 - **Bunny Hill Family Hub**
 - **Coalfield Family Hub, Hetton**
 - **Thorney Close Family Hub**
- **Thorney Close has not yet been launched officially, as there need to be some alternations to the access and Reception.**
- **The fifth Hub for the East of the City is located in Lombard Street, Hendon. Some delivery has started. We are consulting upon the name before putting up the branding and holding an official launch event.**
- **Health Rooms are now functional in Bunnyhill, Coalfield and Rainbow**
 - *Booking in appointments*
 - *Review and Development Clinic*
 - *Neo-Natal baby Group - Mini Miracles - in liaison with Niall Quinn Centre staff*
 - *Registrar at Rainbow Centre and Hetton*

Key Activity Family Hubs

- **Additional activity as started in the Hubs as follows:**
 - **Bread and Butter project from the Rainbow Family Hubs on a Thursday. This is now combined with the provision of a Warm Space**
 - **Social Prescribing Team will deliver on two days per week at Thorney Close**
 - **Northeast Autism Society Sessions**
 - **Delivery from community venues as ‘spokes’ to the Hubs:**
 - **the Bangladeshi Centre,**
 - **ELCAP,**
 - **Transformation North-East**
 - **The Top Club, Sulgrave**

Key Activity- Parent Carer Panels



- **Each Family Hub must be overseen by a Parent Carer Panel, made up of volunteers who use the Hubs. In the main, it is expected that these will be people who have children in the 0-2 age-range**
- **Currently we have two PCPs to cover the City**
 - **One for Washington and Coalfield (10 members)**
 - **One for Sunderland North and Sunderland South (nine members)**
- **As we grow, we will expand and create five PCPs, one per Hub**

Key Activity – Parenting

- **Our parents have long told us that the ‘off the shelf’ parenting programmes do not support them well enough. They do not recognise themselves in the materials. So, we have worked with Sunderland University to create our own, and have special permission from the DfE/DHSC to use this**
 - **The ‘ABC Course’ is now complete, and the core modules being delivered – this is a five-week course and there are currently four groups running**
 - **Bolt-on modules for SEND and violent or aggressive behaviours have been written**
 - **Our next modules will be ‘preparing to be a parent’ and ‘extra strategies’**
 - **We have also created three short parenting ‘seminars’ covering the basic content of the core modules – schools purchasing an Early Help Service Level Agreement can access these**
 - **Each Hub offers drop-in sessions to support and sign post parents**
 - **We have expanded our daycare offer at Thorney Close, provided through B2b**

Key Activity- Community Engagement Team

- **12 Family Champions trained**
- **Family Hub Grant funder – five organisations in Sunderland awarded a total of £20,225.00**
- **Training offer for volunteers - seven pathways (in house and external)**
- **TfC has led on the development of the North-East Parent Carer Panel information sharing network – TfC will host a networking event as part of national volunteer week**

Key Activity – Digital Offer

- **Start for Life offer published**
- **My Best Life – launched 30 November 2023**
- **Group Work – an extension of Liquidlogic to support partners**
- **Rebranded social media - Karol Marketing will be developing and posting social media activity, creating family hub videos, delivering staff social media training and supporting with a strategy for seldom heard groups**
- **Parenting Digital offer created – snapshots of seminars ready to be uploaded.**

Trailblazer Activity

- **Sunderland bid for, and was successful in acquiring, Trailblazer status.**
- **This brings additional funding to go ‘further and faster’ with the implementation of the Family Hubs programme and to support other Local authorities.**
- **We were successful in all three strands:**
 - **Parenting (see slide above)**
 - **Infant feeding**
 - **Infant/Parent relationships and peri-natal mental health**
- **There are a range of additional activities ongoing to support these strands**

Recruitment/Staffing

- **The Hubs are now fully staffed with Family Support and Health staff**
- **In addition to the core activity, we have:**
 - **Co-delivery from ante natal services**
 - **Family Peer Supporters (health)**
 - **CAMHS Worker**
 - **Speech and Language support for post-Covid catch-up**
 - **North East Dads and Lads are advertising two posts to work from the Hubs**

Governance and Assurance

- **The Family Hubs programme is overseen by the Early Help Systems Strategic Board which reports to the Starting Well Board, which in turn feeds up to the Health and Wellbeing Board.**
- **In addition, we are scrutinised as follows:**
 - **Ongoing meetings with the DfE**
 - **Formal reporting to DfE colleagues on programme delivery has taken place for Year 2 spend**
 - **DfE data return was submitted in October which looked at Q4 (22/23) and Q1(23/24)**
 - **DfE Feedback has been received from our Early Help Systems Guide submission**
 - **Finance panel in place for Family Hub expenditure**

Key Activity for the next quarter



Plans to be confirmed for Lombard Street and Thorney Close to be officially launched



Profiling of hub localities to be scoped and started – proposal to be written by Wendy Mitchell



My Best Life and Group work to be launched/ Digital offer expanded



Workforce skills audit to be undertaken



Developing Volunteer Pathways and identifying training streams.



More delivery from the hubs – expand spoke delivery sites.



Focus on delivery for older young people – additional workstream to be created and Consultation of YP



Item 6

CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11 JANUARY 2024

PROVISION OF THE SHORT BREAKS SERVICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on the provision of overnight short breaks for children with complex and additional needs in the city.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 2 November 2024, the Committee received an update on plans for the future provision of the short breaks service. It was agreed to receive a further update to the January meeting of the Committee.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 Jill Colbert (Director of Children's Services) and Majella McCarthy (Director of Children's Social Care) will be in attendance to provide a presentation and update on the current position with regard to the planning process and engagement with families.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The report is submitted for information and comment.

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11 JANUARY 2024

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report sets out for members' consideration the work programme of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2023-24.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

Contact: Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny and Members' Support Co-ordinator

REASON FOR INCLUSION	8 JUNE 23 (INFORMAL MEETING)	6 JULY 23	7 SEPT 23	5 OCT 23	2 NOV 23	30 NOV 23	11 JAN 24	1 FEB 24	29 FEB 24	18 APRIL 24
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses										Scrutiny Annual Report – 23/24
Scrutiny Business	Work Programme 2023/24	Fostering Pathfinder (Majella McCarthy)	Respite Care Services (Jill Colbert)	Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help (Jill Colbert) Youth Justice Plan 2021-24 – Update (Linda Mason)	Short Break – Update (Jill Colbert) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Sharon Wills)	Sunderland Healthy Related Behaviour Study Report (Jennifer Green/Ryan Houghton)	Early Help Update/Family Hubs (Karen Davison) Short Break – Update (Jill Colbert)	Schools Attendance/ Missing Education Update (Simon Marshall) Home Schooling (Simon Marshall)	SEND – Update (Pamela Robertson) School Attainment Update (Simon Marshall)	Adult Skills (Sunderland College) Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Scott Watson)
Performance / Service Improvement		Children Services Customer Feedback – Annual Report (Stacey Hodgkinson)		TfC Meaningful Measures Performance Report (Jill Colbert/Stacey Hodgkinson)		Children Services Customer Feedback (Stacey Hodgkinson)	TfC Meaningful Measures Performance Report (Jill Colbert/Stacey Hodgkinson)			TfC Meaningful Measures Performance Report (Stacey Hodgkinson)
Consultation / Awareness Raising		Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	

To Schedule

Extension of Child Care Support
RAAC Update

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY MAYORAL AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda
-

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting: -

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
221006/744	To seek agreement to enter into the Northumbria Road Safety Initiative Partnership and Collaboration Agreement.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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220524/714	To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220712/722	To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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220719/723	To seek approval for the acquisition of Property at Crowtree Road and to grant a lease of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221110/753	To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230428/799	To seek approval for Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2023 - 2030	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230718/828	To agree to enter into Inter-Authority Agreement regarding North East Screen Industries Partnership	Cabinet	Yes	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230818/831	To update Cabinet on the Masterplan proposals for High Street West, Sunderland and to seek approval to appoint a Multi-disciplinary Design Team to progress the feasibility, design and planning work to develop the Project.	Cabinet	Yes	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230927/840	To Seek Cabinet Approval for the Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231107/846	To procure a framework agreement for funeral and coronial services	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/847	Capital Programme Third Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231110/848	Revenue Budget Third Review 2023/2024.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/849	Council Tax Base 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/850	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/851	Revenue Budget 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 – Update and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231110/852	Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/853	Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/854	Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231113/855	To Seek Cabinet approval to the Letting of Space at Sunnyside Leisure	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231116/856	To consider Housing Investment and Delivery Plan Housing Disposals	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231120/857	To approve works to address storm damage to piers	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231121/858	To seek approval to increase housing rents for Sunderland City Council tenants with effect from 1 April 2024	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231204/861	To consider a proposal to commence statutory processes to develop a SEN unit at Mill Hill Primary School and to approve subsequent procurement of required capital works	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231206/862	To seek approval to award grant funding to support the homeless drop in	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231211/863	To provide an update on the former Civic Centre site	Cabinet	Y	During the period 31 January to 31 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231220/865	To seek approval to award a contract to provide support to homeless clients residing in temporary accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231222/866	To consider a report on Investment Zone – Enabling Economic Growth	Cabinet	Y	During the period 31 January to 31 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Note; Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Democratic Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Democratic Services team City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

***Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker and requests for details of these documents should be submitted to Democratic Services at the address given above.**

Who will decide;

Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Claire Rowntree – Deputy Leader & Clean Green City; Councillor Paul Stewart - Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Kelly Chequer – Healthy City; Councillor Kevin Johnston – Dynamic City; Councillor John Price – Vibrant City; Councillor Linda Williams – Children, Education and Skills.

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

2 January 2024