

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:

Early Help Plans reducing. Potential impact of prevention work

See Page 8

6% decrease in Early Help cases Stepping Up to Social Care

See Page 12

Supporting Families Target met for Third Year

Year	Percentage Met
20/21	100%
21/22	100%
22/23	100%

See Page 14

FGC - 76% NFA following support

76%

See Page 16

NEET & Unknown 4.8% Better than Regional & National Average

See Page 19

3,033 Children Missing from Education tracked

See Page 25

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

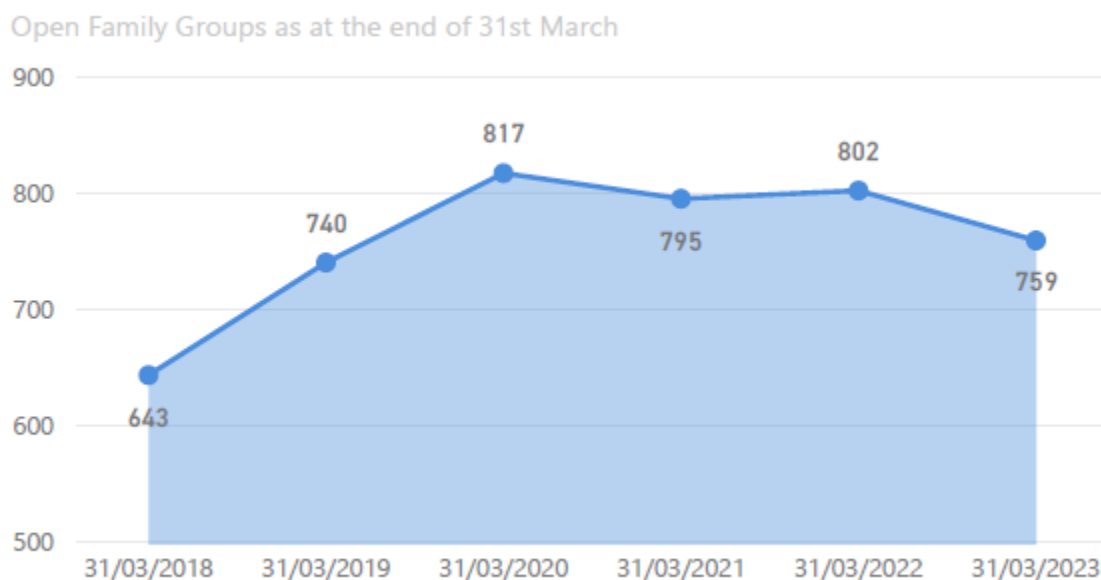
This partnership inspection took place in December 2022. Overall, Sunderland's Youth Offending Service was rated Good. There were three judgements in the published report:

- 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:

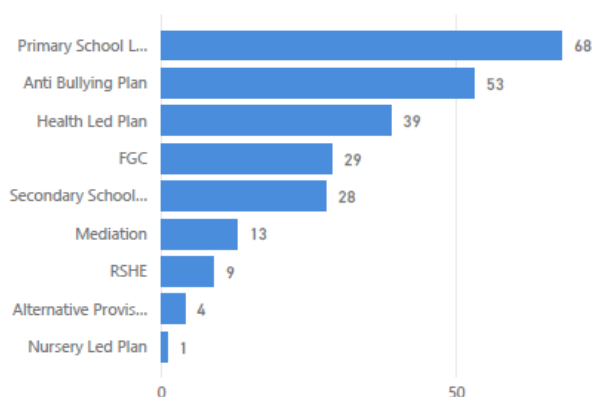
Co-ordinator	Family Groups	%
Early Help	406	53.6%
EHAAT	84	11.1%
Universal Services	252	33.3%
ICRT	12	1.6%
Assessment Team 3	3	0.4%
Total	757	100.0%

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:

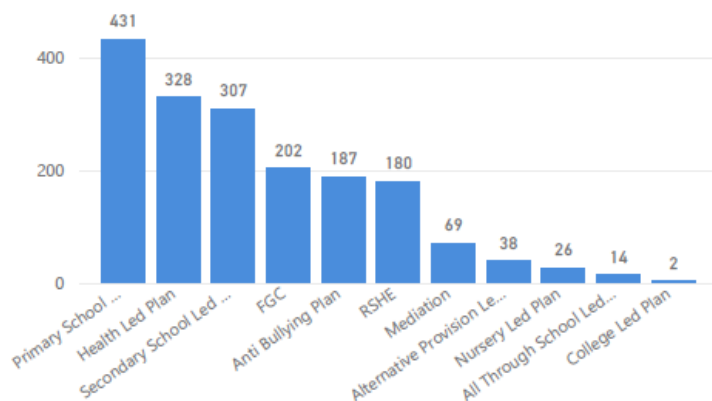
Planned Lead	Family Group	%
Primary School Led Plan	68	27.9%
Anti Bullying Plan	53	21.7%
Health Led Plan	39	16.0%
FGC	29	11.9%
Secondary School Led Plan	28	11.5%
Mediation	13	5.3%
RSHE	9	3.7%
Alternative Provision	4	1.6%
Nursery Led Plan	1	0.4%
Total	244	100.0%

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)



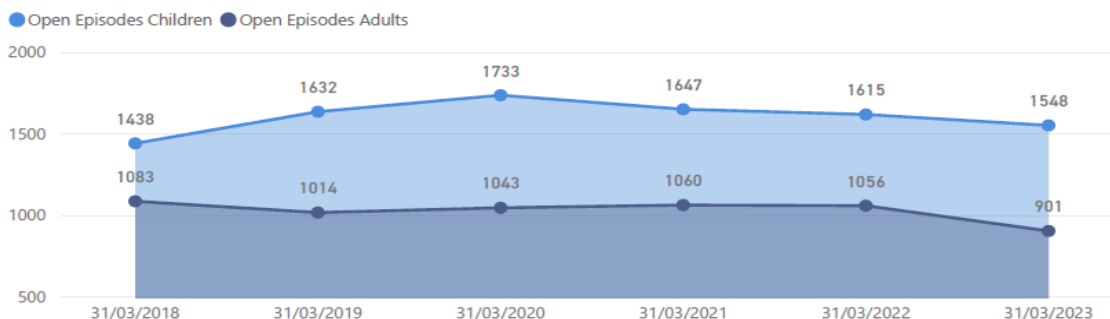
In addition to the open plans the Service closed 459 cases 'outcomes met'¹ during 2022/23. This represented 85.8% of the 535 cases worked to a conclusion by the Service across the year. This was a 20.5% decrease on the number of cases closed 'outcomes met' in 2021/22 (577), however the percentage of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



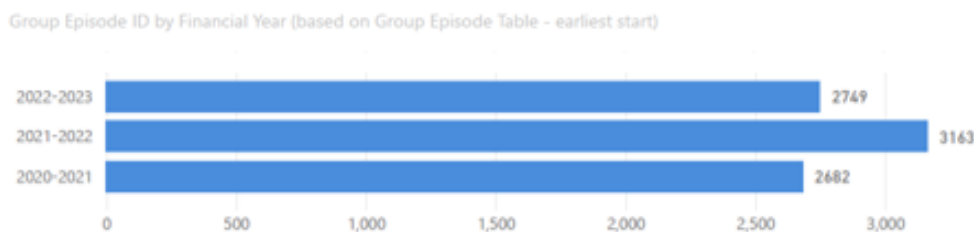
In 2022/23 an Early Help Worker carried an average case load of 15 families. Typically, this was 13 cases where the worker was the Early Help Co-ordinator, plus two where the worker was completing direct work with a family whose plan was being co-ordinated by the universal services. Based on the



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.

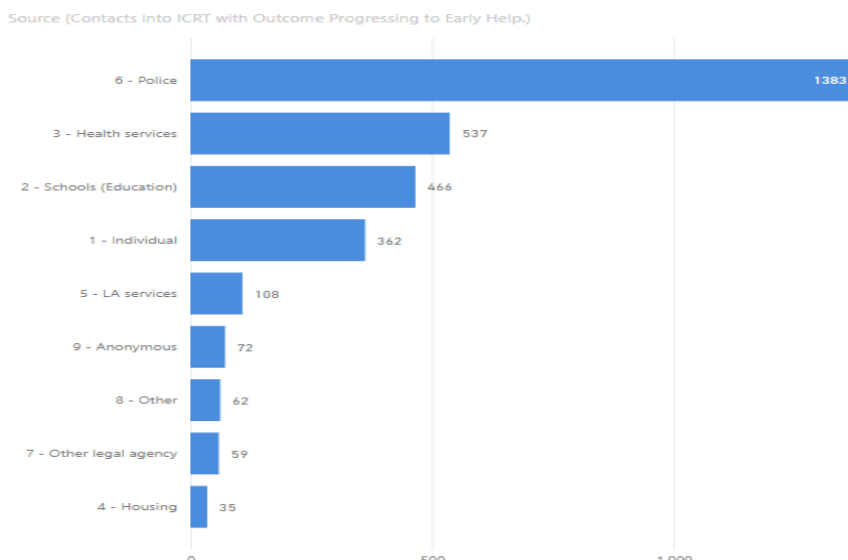
Between April 2022 and March 2023, 2,749 families were opened to Early Help (some families opened more than once). Whilst the number in 2023 was smaller than in 2022, there are still twice as many children and families working with Early Help Services now than in 2019.

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:

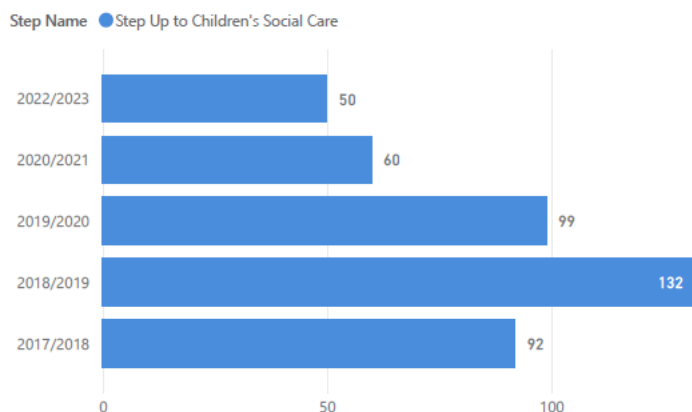
- Instances where signposting to a single-agency is deemed more appropriate eg to Housing;
- Instances where workers have made multiple attempts to contact a family (phone, text, home visit), but these have been unsuccessful – (where the referral has come from Assessment, the assessing social worker 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

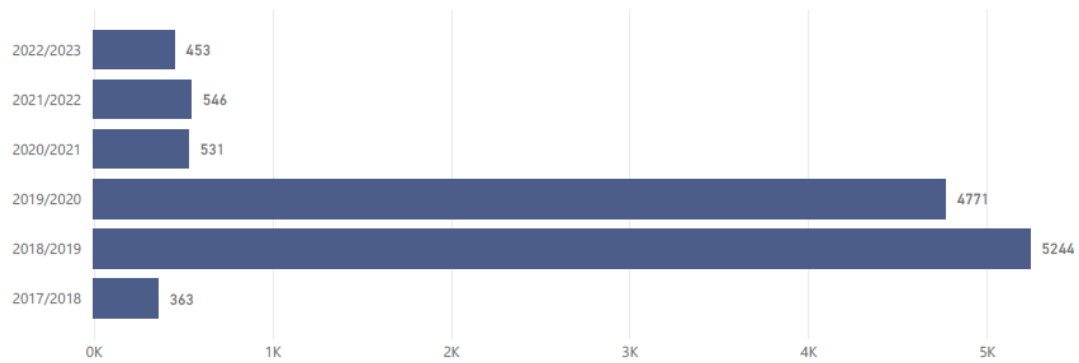
We have now recorded all contacts into the Front Door in the Early Help Module for three years. This has enabled us to monitor accurately the step ups and step downs between the different levels of service. There is now good evidence that the application of the thresholds is consistent, demonstrating 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



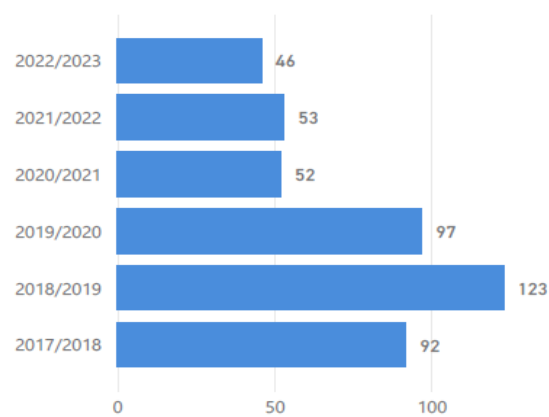
Count of Individual Steps - Step Down to Early Help - Removing duplicate steps on the same day

Step Name ● Step Down to Early Help



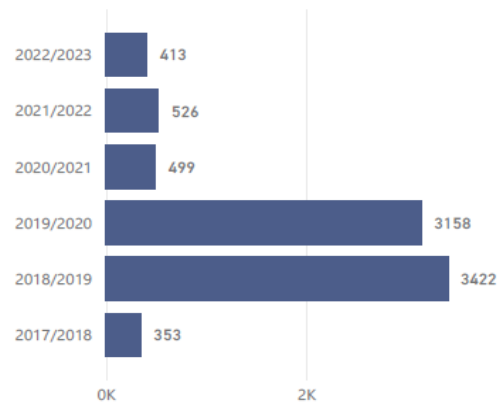
Unique Children Stepping up to Social Care

Step Name ● Step Up to Children's Social Care



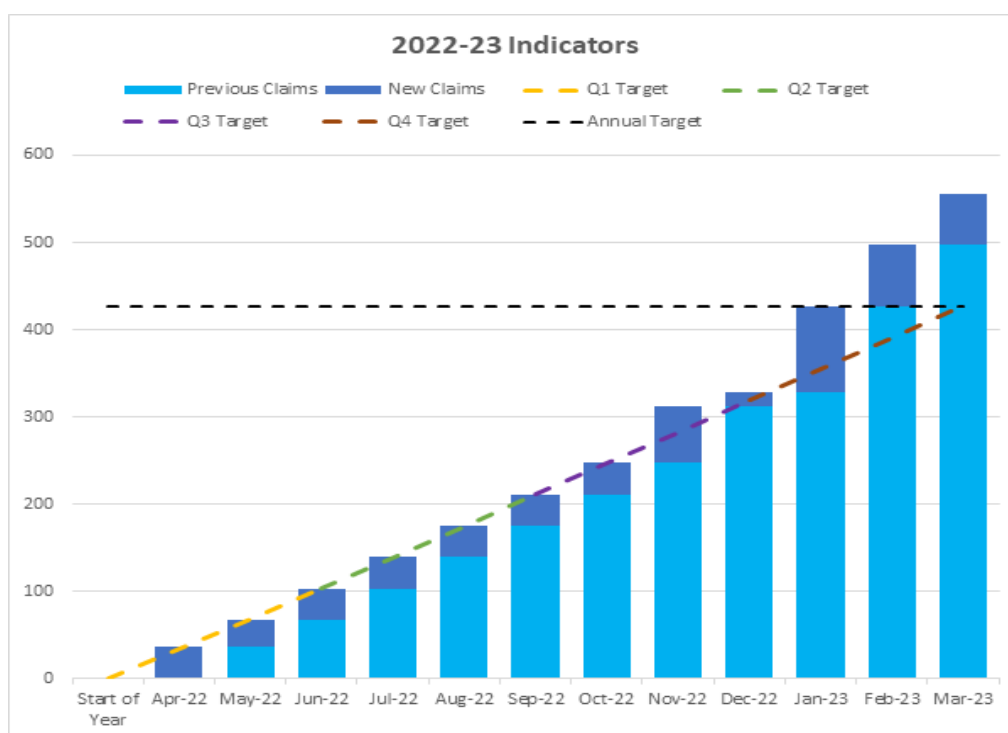
Unique Children Stepping down to Early Help

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.

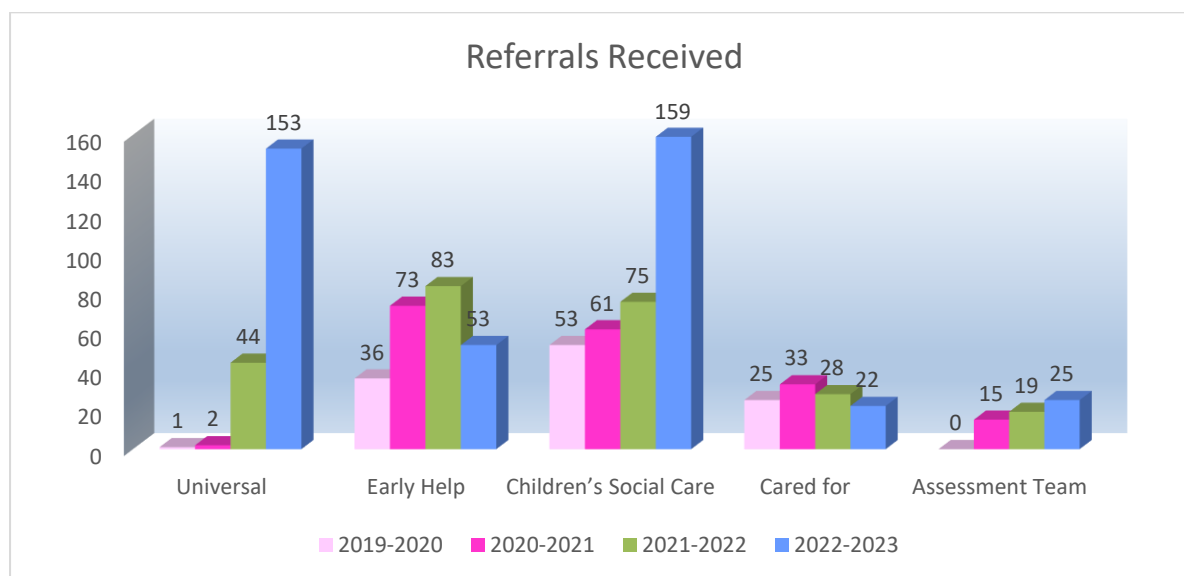
The 56 families that did not undergo mediation were for the following reasons:-

- 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.

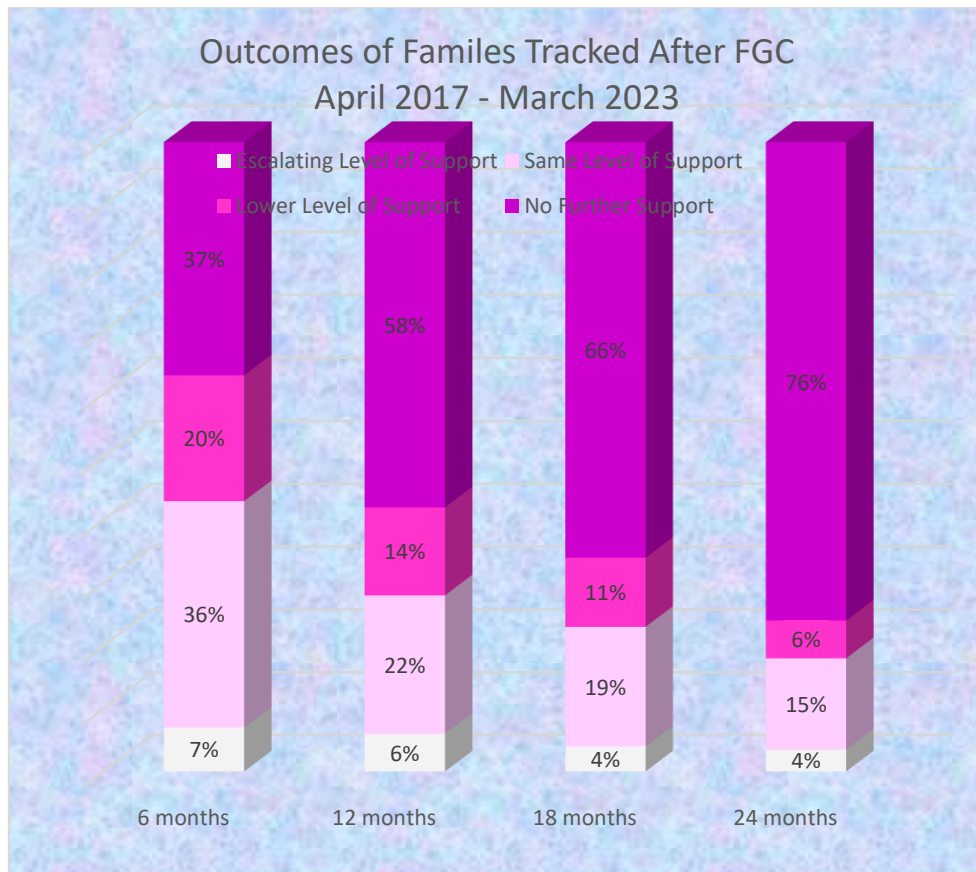
Of the total number of FGCs since April 2017 where it is possible to track progress for six months or more (500 families) 37% stepped down to a universal service or required no further support, a further 20% required a lower level of support, 36% required the same level of intervention six months later,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

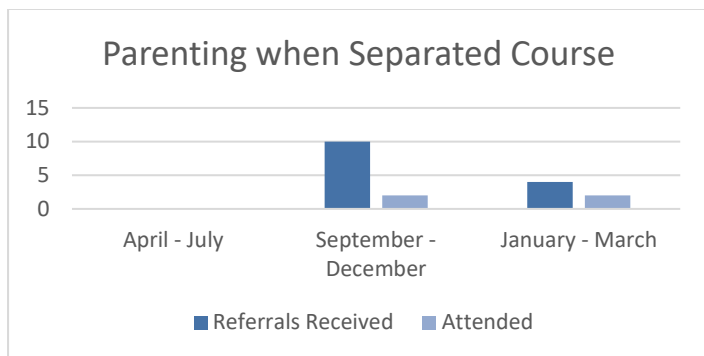
'A family group conference has helped me as I felt a weight was lifted from my chest as we needed to do something, and we did. I was really pleased and impressed with the structure, the process, and the family privacy. Private family time was the biggest aspect and I valued it so much. We could talk 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.

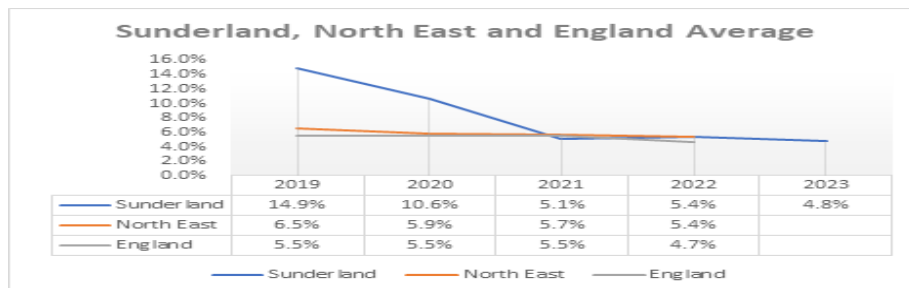
Of the 14 referrals received during this period, four parents attended and successfully completed the Parenting when Separated course. Feedback highlighted parents found the content very supportive and reflective of their situation and highly recommended the course.

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)

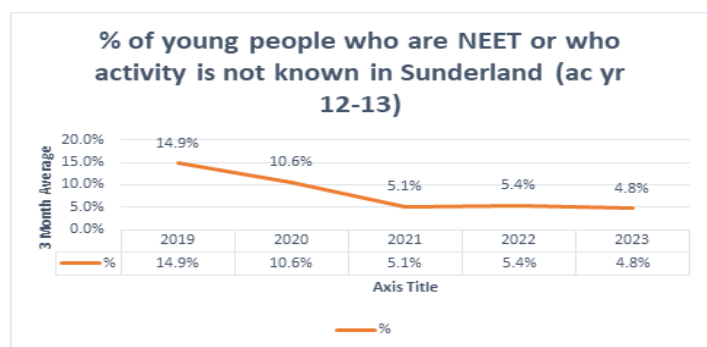




Together for Children’s annual performance for 2022/2023 is a combined figure of **4.8%**, **NEET** 4.4% (281 young people out of a total cohort of 6542) and Unknown 0.3% (23 young people). This betters the England national average (5.2%) and the regional average (5.2%), we were listed 5th out of 12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

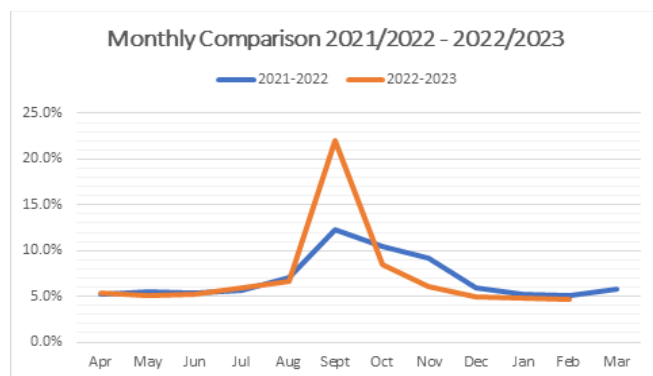
Figure 2. Sunderland Data Table 2019-2023



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)

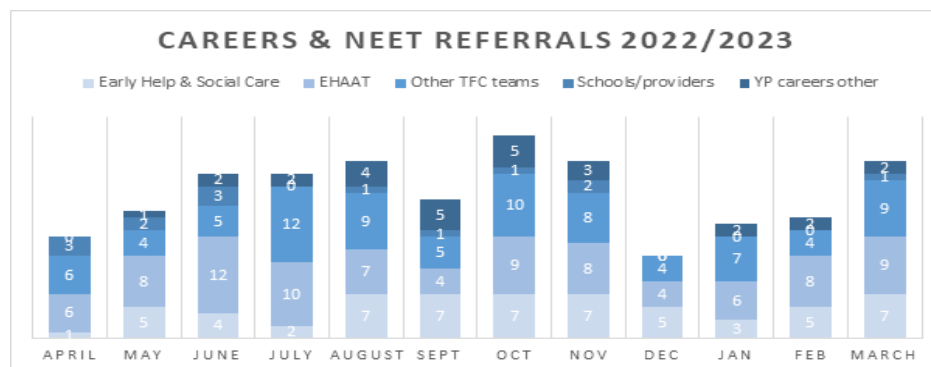
Careers Service Referrals

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.

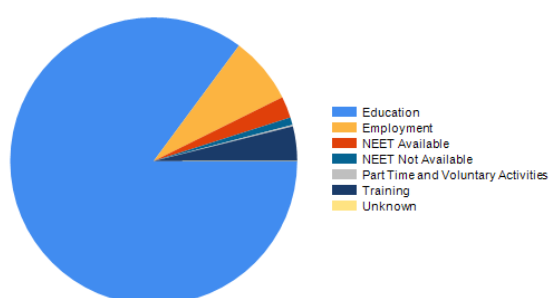
In September 2022 96.4% of young people received an offer of a suitable place in EET. This is a 0.3% increase of the September Guarantee 2021 which was 96.1%.

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.

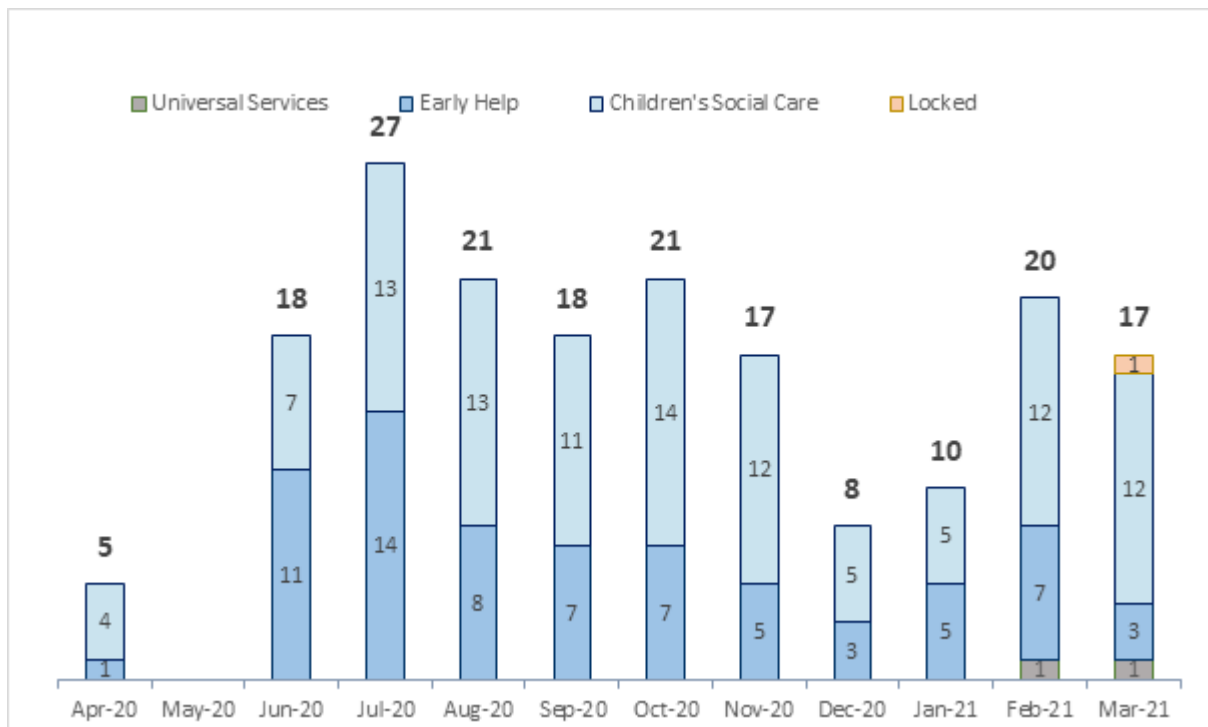
"Young person told me that college had not got her email and Careers had been in contact with her and have sorted all of this out for her and young person couldn't have been more thankful highlighting she wouldn't have been going to college if it hadn't been for Careers Service help. Young person has 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.

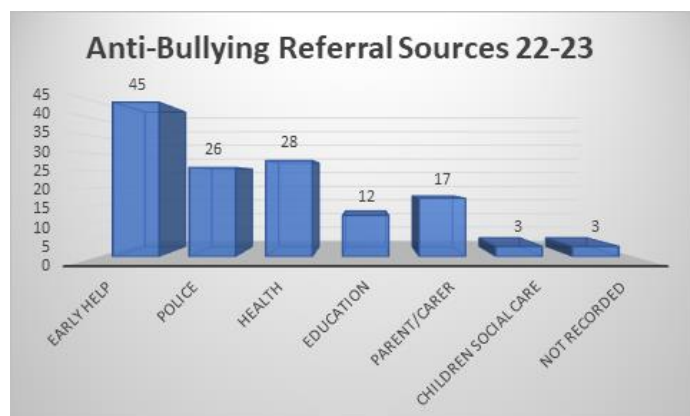
The CME Officer uses all methods at their disposal to find children who have been reported missing from education and out of area.

- *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.

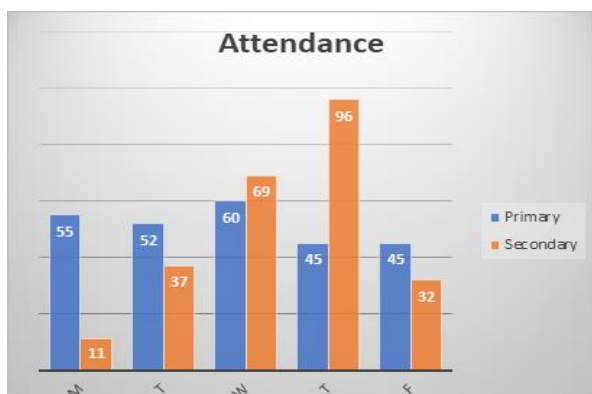
Four of our internal Children’s Homes have a charter mark award. Monument View and Nook Lodge maintained their Gold Award, whilst Columbo and Grasswell House achieved a Platinum Award.

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'.

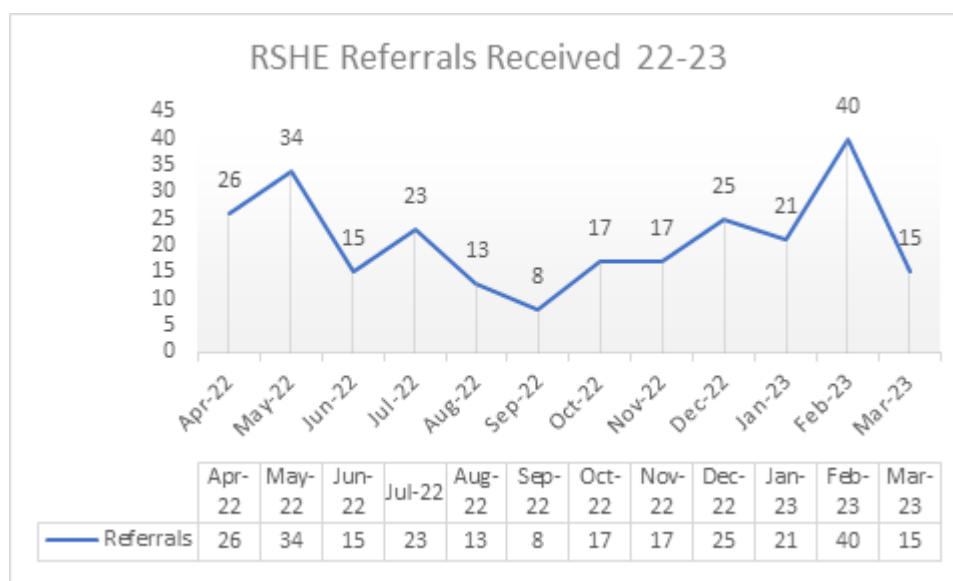
Relationships, Sex and Health Education

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, Farringdon 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 Farringdon 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:

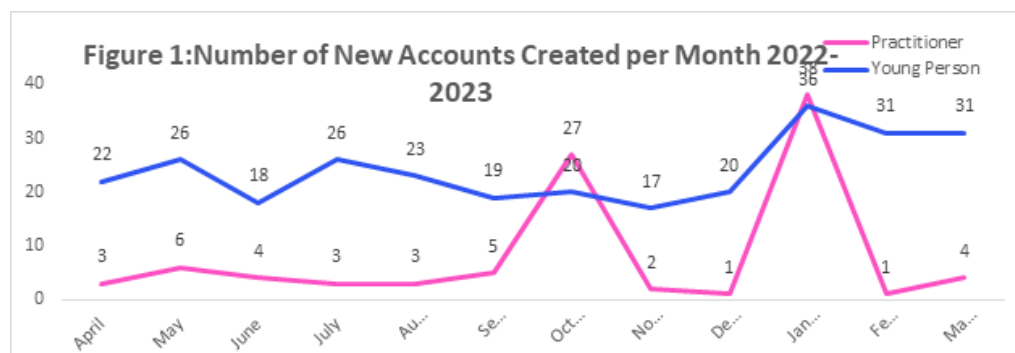
- Burnside Academy,
- East Herrington Academy,
- Fatfield Academy,
- Plains Farm Academy,
- Richard Avenue Primary School,
- Ryhope Junior School and
- Willow Wood Community Primary School

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

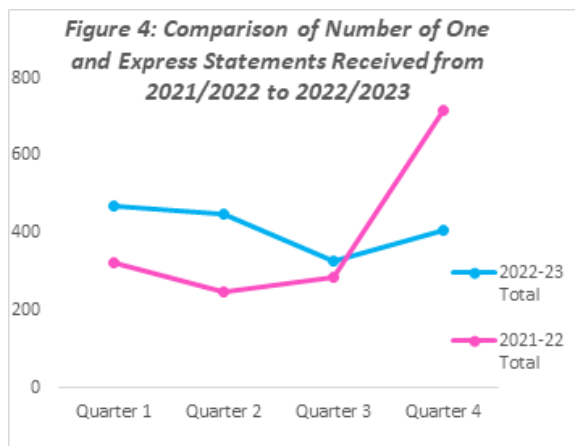
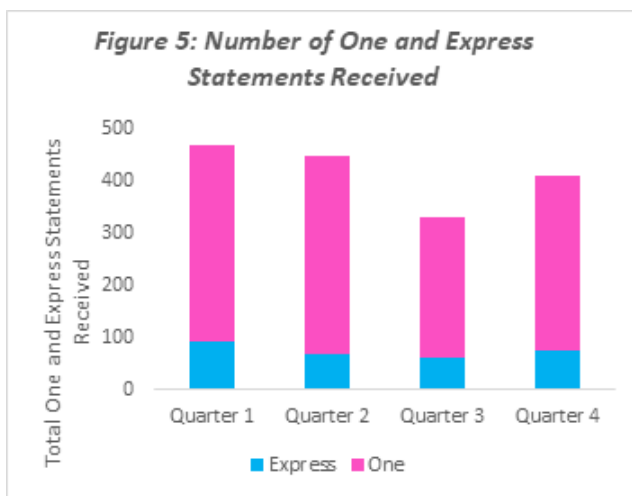


From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 **1,654** One and Express statements received. Of those 1,654, 1,360 were One statements and 294 were Express statements. More statements were submitted in the first three quarters of 2022-23 than in the previous year, however, there has only been a 5% increase in statements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

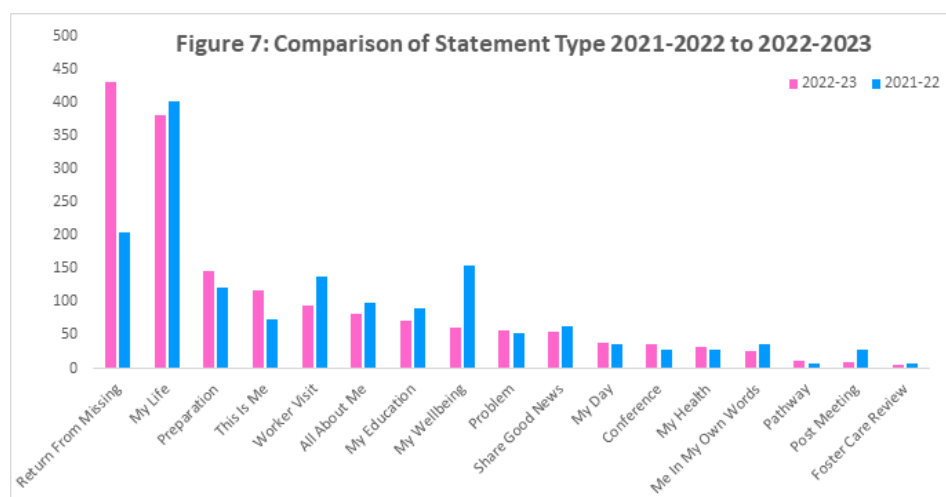
Quarter	Express	One	2022-23 total	2021-22 total	% change
Quarter 1	92	377	469	324	45%
Quarter 2	67	381	448	248	81%
Quarter 3	61	268	329	284	16%
Quarter 4	74	334	408	717	-43%
Total	294	1360	1654	1573	5%



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

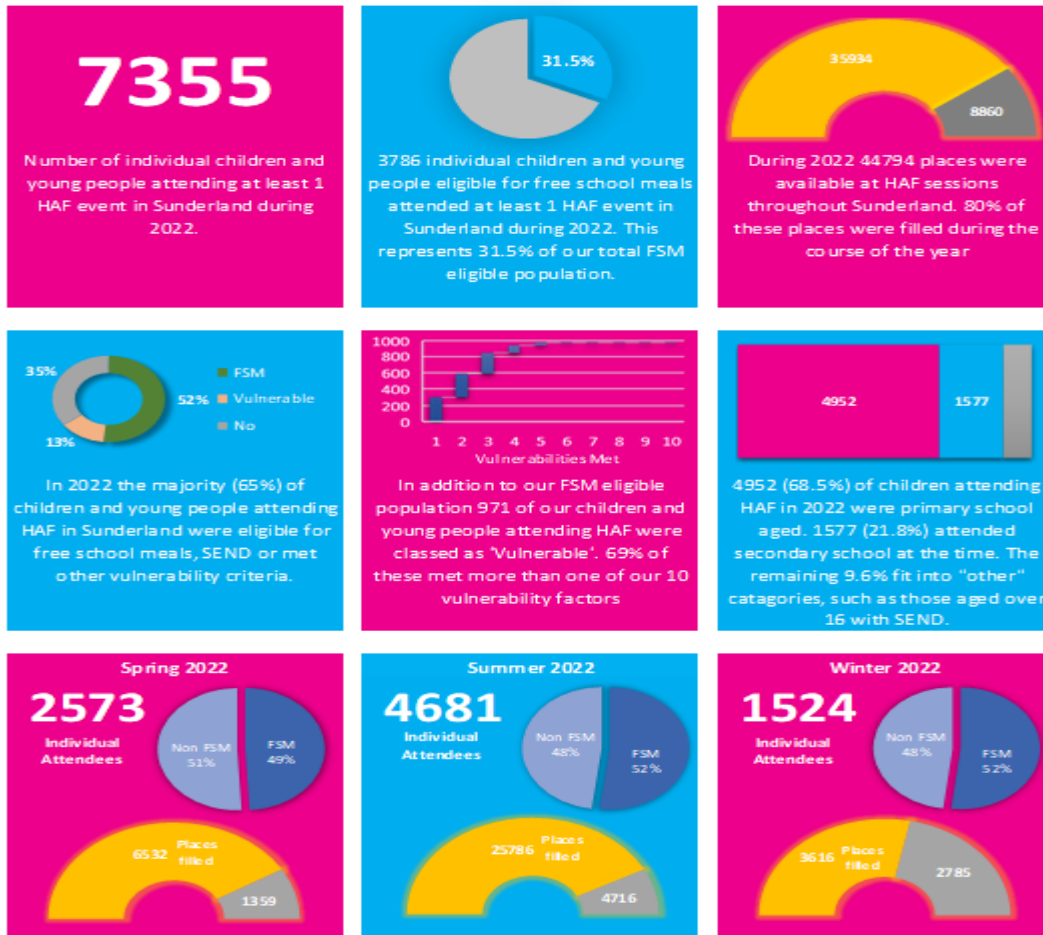
Together for Children delivered their first Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme in 2021 across Easter, Summer, and Winter. In Autumn 2021, the government confirmed £3,988,650 of funding to Sunderland for the next three years.

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:

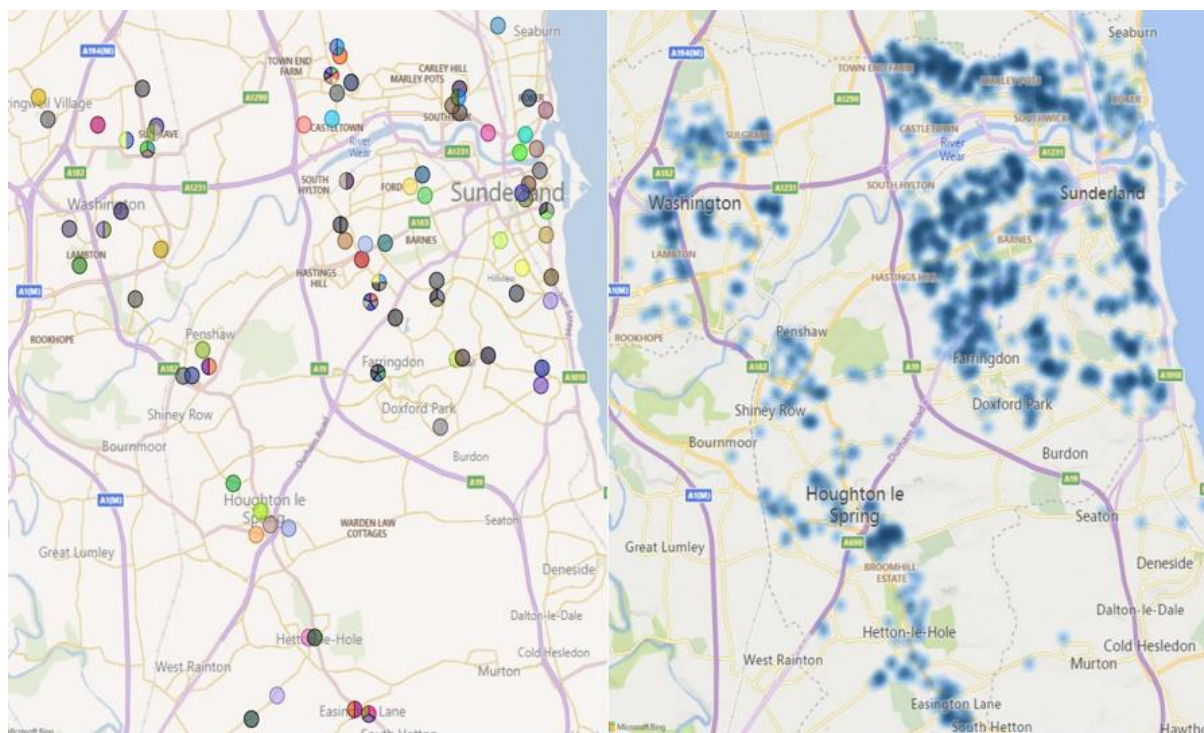
- 36 external providers delivering 191 programmes across the 66 different venues in the city
- 5 internal services delivering 58 internal programmes ran at 25 different venues, delivered by Together for Children.

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.

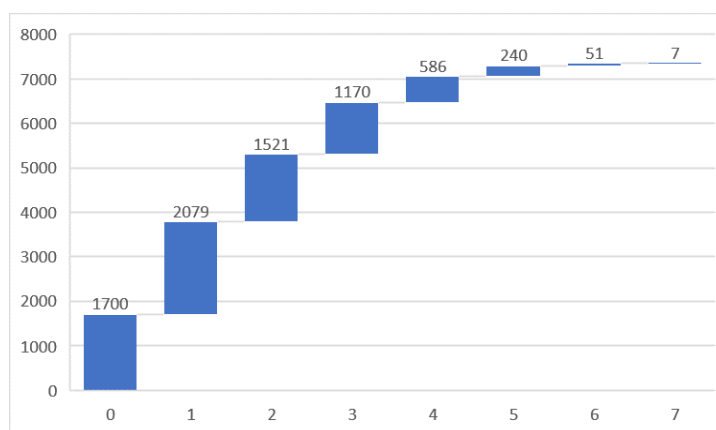
Historically, engaging with older young people throughout the Wear Here 4 Spring, Summer and Winter programmes has proved difficult, so the mobile evening sessions, (named Sunset Sessions), were specifically tailored to engage with young people aged 11+. Sessions took place 4-8pm and included activities 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**

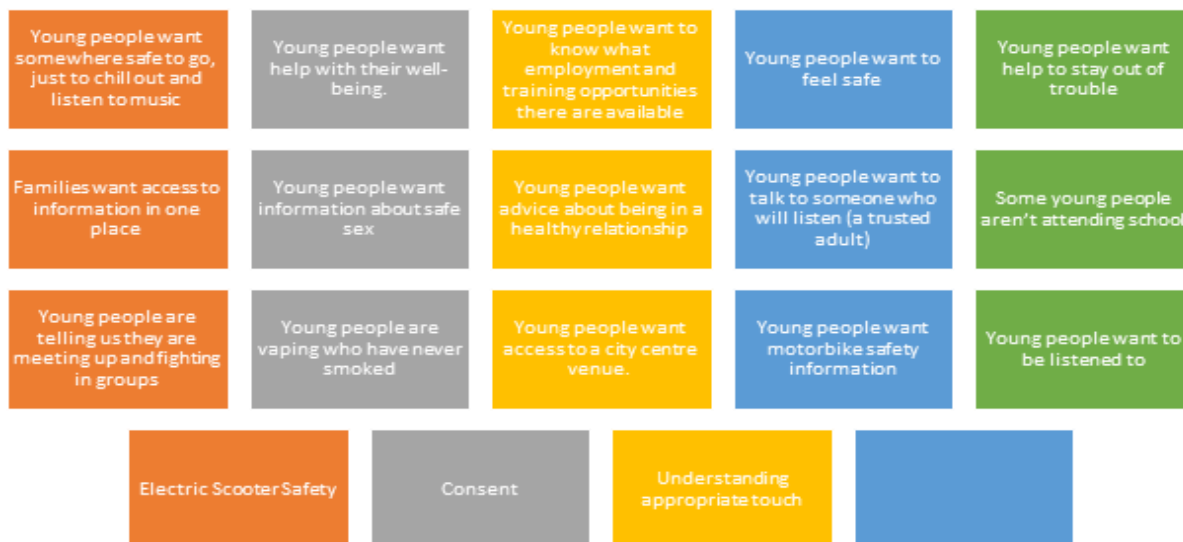
‘I came to the bus and spoke to a worker (from careers team), they supported me and I am now attending a course at Springboard. They really helped and it was great that they were there for me to drop in and speak to them’ **Young person**

‘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.

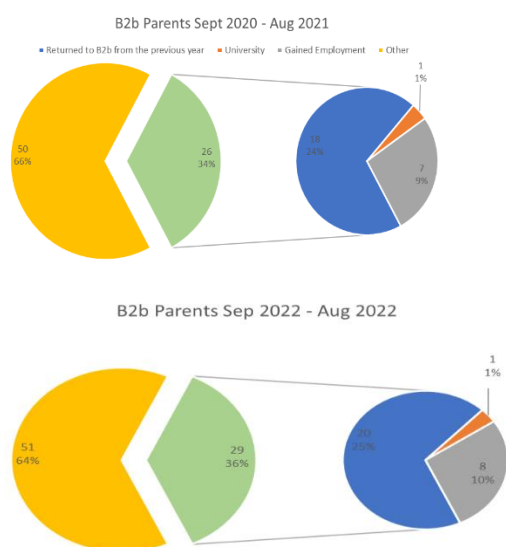
Highly qualified staff can offer advice around pregnancy, childbirth, parenting, breast-feeding, weaning, childhood ailments, baby massage, routines, and boundaries. In addition to supporting with issues such as employment, claiming appropriate benefits, budgeting health start, healthy eating, mental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

