

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in City Hall, (Committee Room 1) on Thursday 5th October 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

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

Co-opted Members – Mrs. A. Blakey

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 7th September 2023 (copy attached)	1
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	-
	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
4.	Youth Justice Plan 2021-2024	6
	Report of the Director of Children’s Services (copy herewith)	

5.	Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the Multi-Agency Response to Children and Families Who Need Help	33
	Report of the Director of Children’s Services (copy herewith)	
6.	Together for Children Meaningful Measures September 2023	56
	Report of the Chief Executive TfC (copy herewith)	
7.	Annual Work Programme 2023-2024	69
	Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Members’ Support Coordinator (copy attached)	
8.	Notice of Key Decisions	72
	Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Members’ Support Coordinator (copy attached)	

E. WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,
City Hall,
SUNDERLAND.

27th September 2023

Item 2

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL on THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Guy in the Chair

Councillors Crosby, Curtis, Dunn, Gibson, McDonough, Samuels, P. Smith, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon and Thornton together with Mrs A. Blakey.

Also in attendance:-

Elected Members Observing – Councillors Butler, Edgeworth, Fagan, Hartnack, Mason-Gage, A. Smith and Williams.

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

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

Ms. Majella McCarthy, Director of Children's Social Care, TfC

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

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

Together with members of the public and supporters of the 'Give Us a Break' campaign.

Apologies for Absence

All Members were present.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 6th July 2023

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 6th July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Future Provision of the Short Break Service

Ms. Jill Colbert, Director of Children's Services together with Ms. Majella McCarthy, Director of Children's Social Care provided the Committee with a comprehensive powerpoint presentation (copy circulated) which explained the current short break provision, the current and projected need for the Service, planning for the future, the

provision of bespoke support, the availability of external short break care and the search for an alternative short break care home, TfC's position as provider, together with the next steps moving forward.

(for copy report / presentation – see original minutes)

The Chair thanked Ms Colbert and Ms McCarthy for their presentation and invited questions and comments from Members.

Councillor Samuels stated that she appreciated the need to address the shape of the future provision and welcomed the presentation, however questions needed to be asked regarding the decision making process which led to the ending of a contractual arrangement to deliver a statutory service before any alternative was in place. She believed that the issue should have been reported through Cabinet and expressed concern that Councillors were unable to scrutinise the decision-making process.

The Chair replied that he would respectfully decline any retrospective questions in relation to the decision making as the purpose of the agenda item was to consider the future provision of the Service.

Councillor Dunn stated that he found it disgraceful that the families concerned were not permitted to address the meeting. With regard to alternatives for the provision of respite care, he asked how long had TfC been looking at alternative properties and would it comprise one building or two. He expressed concern that no dates or timescales had been mentioned. This was very distressful for parents and carers who needed to understand where they would be once the Grace House provision ceased in November.

Ms Colbert replied that Grace House was never fully occupied and that no other short break facility in the region was of the same size (i.e. provision for 10 children in one space). She informed Councillor Dunn that she could not provide a date as a new building had not yet been acquired. Inevitably the building would require adaptations and property services would make this a priority. It also needed to be pointed out that the construction industry was currently experiencing shortages in respect of building materials. Families would no longer receive a service from Grace House but it was wrong to claim that there would be no service.

Councillor Dunn added that if it was known how difficult securing a new building would be, why was the Grace House contract ended before an alternative was in place? Ms Colbert replied that she did not end the contract, there was no contract in place to end. The Council had been asked to match the cost and terms of an offer Grace House had from a third party for the space used by the respite service.

Councillor Dunn stated that it was likely that foster carers would have to shoulder a greater responsibility in terms of respite care and noted that nationally there was a shortage of foster carers. In response Ms Colbert explained the initiatives being undertaken regionally to tackle the issue of recruitment and encourage take up.

Councillor McDonough reiterated previously raised concerns that parents and representatives from Grace House were not permitted to address the meeting. In addition, he asked for assurances that everything would be in place once the November deadline arrived and asked if the Council's Chief Executive had met with

Grace House earlier in the week. Ms Colbert confirmed that the Chief Executive had met with Grace House however ultimately Grace House had decided to go ahead with their own plans. She could not give assurances that everything would be in place as a new building was yet to be secured, however she could assure the Committee that work was ongoing across the whole of TfC to provide alternative support for all 39 children who used the Grace House service and a whole range of options were being explored.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon informed the meeting that her career as a serving member of a Scrutiny Committee had begun in 2008. Since this time, she had never experienced a position where members of the public had been refused the opportunity to address a meeting if they had asked to do so. There was no automatic right for Members of the public to address the meeting, but the decision to allow them to do so remained within the gift of the Chair at all times.

Councillor Diane Snowdon referred to Majella McCarthy's run down during the presentation of the percentage figures relating to the numbers of Children for whom future options were being provided and asked if the figures could be circulated to the Committee. In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Dianne Snowdon, Ms Colbert confirmed that suitable properties were being looked at, but it would not be appropriate to discuss the matter further in a public meeting given the open nature of the property market. In conclusion Councillor Snowdon stated that if the issue represented a substantial variation, then she believed it should have been brought to the Scrutiny Committee much earlier in the process.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby, Ms Colbert advised that it was planned that the new property would be open 365 days a year, dialogue was ongoing with the NHS and the recommendations arising from the Government report into Winterbourne View would be incorporated into the new building. She accepted that looking into the future more and more children were living with autism and learning difficulties and the design of the new building would attempt to address this.

Councillor Curtis stated that one of his concerns was that many of the young people using the Service will have become attached to the members staff and he was pleased to see that they would transfer to the new property. In addition, Councillor Curtis expressed concern regarding those families who had not responded to Council attempts to discuss the next steps for them and asked what was being done to encourage them to engage? Ms McCarthy advised that each child had a social worker together with a care plan and conversations were ongoing regarding options and creative solutions. In response to a final enquiry from Councillor Curtis, Ms Colbert confirmed that support for staff from the respite service was provided via the SCAS Human Resources team.

Councillor David Snowdon referred to a letter from TfC sent in 2022 regarding the Grace House provision which made reference to two Ofsted reports indicating some staffing issues and that the building was looking tired. He stated that from what he had seen in the current presentation before the Committee, the emphasis on bespoke care for the individual as part of the future provision will result in a better service than in the past. Ms Colbert advised that the letter referred to had contained extracts from a TfC Board report. As commissioners of the service TfC held the responsibility to ensure that the service provision was satisfactory and it had worked with SCAS to improve standards. The new provision would go through the Ofsted

registration process and its performance would be tracked through the Meaningful Measure report that was submitted to both the TfC Board and this Committee.

In response to enquiries from Councillor Gibson, Ms Colbert updated the Committee on the recruitment process which aimed to increase staff members from 9 to 15, and confirmed that parents would be surveyed to obtain their feedback on the new bespoke provision. This information would also be fed back to the Committee via the Meaningful Measures report. Young people also were able to provide feedback through the Mind of My Own App and the Stars Group.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon asked what was 'Breathing Space', was it available only to Year 6 through to Year 11 children and if so what provision was available before Year 6 and beyond year 11. Ms Colbert advised that Breathing Space was a project that supported the whole family, providing space, time and support for young people with additional needs and their parents and carers. The project was aimed at children in Years 3 to 11 and had a preventative focus looking to reduce the risk of education placement breakdowns and potential escalations, by offering positive opportunities for children and joined-up support for their families. It had proven to be a very popular service among parents.

Councillor Dunn referred to the future provision stating that currently 39 children accessed the service at Grace House with 18 on the waiting list. Given this he questioned whether a 5 bed property would be big enough. Ms Colbert replied that that one child had spent 78 nights at Grace House across the course of a year however the demand from most families would not be as great. The size of the property was important as it needed to operate as a home not an institution. Children had many different needs however she was confident that the specifications of the new building would be well designed.

There being no further questions for Ms Colbert and Ms McCarthy, the Chair thanked them for their attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2023/24

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report and briefed the Committee on the current position regarding those items already scheduled on the work programme and those waiting to be programmed in on a suitable date. In response to an enquiry from Councillor David Snowdon, Mr Diamond confirmed that the work programme schedule appended to the report would be amended to show the correct date.

Members of the Committee (as indicated below) made the following suggestions in respect of additional items for inclusion in the Work Programme

- The impact in Sunderland of the national concerns regarding the use of RAAC in school buildings (Cllr Crosby)
- An update report in respect of this evening's item on the future provision of the Short Break Service (Cllr David Snowdon)
- The Sunderland position in respect of the recently reported rise in the number of children missing from school (Cllr P. Smith)
- Home Schooling (Cllr Gibson)

Mr Diamond having confirmed that he would liaise with the Chair and Ms Colbert regarding the most appropriate means to address the issues raised, either by scheduling an item on the work programme and or the circulation of a briefing note, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Members' Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 9th August, 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

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

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

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

(Signed) L. GUY,
Chairman.

Item 4

CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 OCTOBER 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2021-2024

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider and comment on the progress being made in relation to the Youth Justice Plan 2021-24.

2. Background

- 2.1 Targeted Youth Services /Sunderland Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency service comprising of the four statutory agencies of Police, Probation, Health, the Local Authority and Together for Children (TfC) (as TfC is commissioned by the local authority to deliver Children's Services on its behalf).
- 2.2 The service works in partnership with other key agencies such as the area courts and specialist service providers including child mental health, substance misuse and accommodation. Our ethos is to always take a child centred approach in our work.
- 2.3 In December 2022, HM Inspectorate of Probation published the outcome of its inspection of Youth Offending Services in Sunderland. The service received an overall rating of 'Good'. The inspection report was considered by the Committee on 5 January 2023.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Linda Mason (Service Manager) will be in attendance to introduce the report and outline the progress being made. A copy of the Youth Justice Plan 2021-24 is attached as an appendix.

4. Recommendations

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

5 Background Papers

Youth Justice Plan 2021-2024
Ofsted Letter Inspection of Youth Offending Service

Youth Services

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2021-24

OUR VISION

“To work in partnership across the City to offer a holistic service that successfully diverts young people from offending and reoffending and provides effective support to families and victims of those working with the service”

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION VISION AND STRATEGY. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achievements and Innovative Practice• Governance and Service Delivery• Response to Inspection Reports and Effective practice• Child First• Prevention and Diversion• Detention in police custody• Remands, Custody and Constructive Resettlement
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2	GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage wider strategic partnerships• Board development• Children from groups that are over-represented
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3	RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021-24 Budget• Delivery of Youth Justice in 2021-24• Workforce development and Specialist Resources
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4	PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage wider strategic partnerships
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5	RISKS
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6	YOS PARTNERSHIP BOARD APPROVAL
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8	GLOSSARY
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APPENDICES:

A: YOS Structure Chart
B: YOS Staff Profile

Foreword

On behalf of our partnership, I'm delighted to endorse our plan and continued ambition. Our recent inspection reinforced our strengths and pointed to our areas to improve which underpin the plan presented here. Our partnership is resilient and earnestly focused on always doing better for our young people.

Jill Colbert OBE
Chair

1 Introduction, Vision and Strategy

Targeted Youth Services /Sunderland Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency service comprising of the four statutory agencies of Police, Probation, Health, the Local Authority and Together for Children (TfC) as TfC is commissioned by the local authority to deliver Children's Services on its behalf. The service works in partnership with other key agencies such as the area courts and specialist service providers including child mental health, substance misuse and accommodation. Our ethos is to always take a child centred approach in our work.

The role and responsibilities of local Youth Offending Teams/Services (YOT/YOS) was set down by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It also included the requirement for each local area to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan setting out how youth justice services will be delivered in the local area.

The principal aim of the service is **to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people**. In doing so, the service works in partnership to deliver both statutory and non-statutory services to:

- Young people aged 10-17 who, because of actual offending have become involved in the criminal justice system.
- Children and young people identified as at risk of offending.
- Families of children and young people offending or at risk of offending; and
- Victims of young people who have offended

Child First

We have continued to have a focus on a child first approach as we have emerged from the pandemic and young people present with a range of behaviour exacerbated by the experience. Consequently, we have remained flexible and creative in how we worked with and support young people. For example, we have seen a significant increase in permanent school exclusions, school attendance has been lower, and we are noticing a potential trend to online offending.

We have continued to develop our practice to ensure it effectively achieves our strategic priorities and have implemented several thematic audits undertaken with partners to review our practice and identify areas for improvement. We have introduced a new process to request feedback from young people and their families at the end of orders. This utilises technology to allow families to use a QR code and submit short feedback from. This has improved the numbers of families that give us feedback (note this is in addition to formally including the young person's voice at the end of interventions on what they have achieved) To date this has increased the numbers of families

providing feedback and we read these as they are received and will summarise any themes that emerge to improve our services. We will also be going out to recruitment again this year to fill our peer mentor posts to further strengthen the voice of young people as we develop services.

Prevention and Diversion

Our practice in relation to work with young people on Out of Court Disposals was recognised as Outstanding by our recent Inspection report and this diversionary activity has helped maintain our performance in relation to First Time Entrants. We have continued to strengthen our prevention offer; for example, our links with Anti-Social Behaviour teams and Operation Gryphon is to be relaunched in July which will allow us to identify young people in need of intervention to address their behaviour in a timelier way.

We are also strengthening our practice in identifying young people with additional needs through implementation of the Do-It profiler in partnership with Northumbria police. This will also be used with young people excluded, or at risk of exclusion from school.

Turnaround had been embedded and we met our targets for the year end. We are currently targeting the programme at young people at risk of entering into the criminal justice system and therefore either becoming a First Time Entrant or needing to be diverted through an Out of Court disposal. Over time we would anticipate by utilising the programme as a prevention strategy it will further reduce numbers of young people committing offences.

Detention in police custody.

Sunderland provides Appropriate Adult services to custody 24 hours a day. Staff are supported by a manager who is also on call throughout the week for 24 hours. This can support an early response at Court for young people as we may well have supported young people detained in police custody for Court. We developed Operation Harbinger locally with police who now covers the whole of the Northumbria police area. The principles of this are that police call Together for Children to obtain any information that is pertinent to the time they spend in custody such as known vulnerabilities, diagnosed neurodiversity issues and suitability of any proposed bail addresses. Police share monthly information with the service in respect of data on numbers of young people who have been in police custody, average time they were detained if information was obtained from services and their destination. When we undertake any Do-It profiles with young people any concerns about possible undiagnosed issues, or just area of concern that the profile identifies is also shared with police so that any interviews that take place in custody can be adapted to the young person's needs.

Remands, Custody and Constructive Resettlement.

Sunderland has performed well over a number of years with a low rate of the use of remands and custodial sentences. This performance has significantly deteriorated in the past 18 months due to a tragic incident where a young person was murdered in Houghton, and we supervised 9 young people during a period of remand prior to trial and then sentence. The anticipated impact on our performance was reported to the Board should the young people be found guilty which indeed they subsequently were.

This placed significant demands on the service, but we were able to supervise and support all the young people who were remanded to local authority accommodation in partnership with our Social Care colleagues who were able to source placements in community settings that met the young people's needs. This was a significant challenge given bail conditions meant that they were unable to return home. Our experience was also that bail the use of electronically monitored bail within the placements were not responsive to young people's needs in that they often suggested a breach of the conditions even when there was clear evidence the young person had not left the placement. These issues created a great deal of stress for some individual a young people and the issues were escalated to the electronic monitoring service as well as reported to the Board.

We are currently working with these young people who are now serving life sentences and consequently the focus is not on Resettlement but rather a successful transition to the adult custodial placements.

In our Inspection we had no Resettlement cases to inspect However case managers and specialist staff were spoken to as part of a focus group and the Inspectorate recognised that case managers advocated on behalf of children and made timely referrals to specialist and mainstream services such as social care, substance misuse, and mental health liaison and diversion. We believe that the use of RAP (resettlement and prevention) workers, in particular means that we have a good offer at Court for any young people at risk of remand and offers intensive support packages that focus on the young people's needs as well as ensuring they can abide by any court-imposed conditions

Strategic Priorities 2021/24

Priority 1 - A preventative approach to reducing reoffending

Priority 2 - A renewed focus on tracking offending to include Out of Court.

Priority 3 - A Restorative Justice Approach and victim focus

Priority 4 - Tackling Disproportionality

We will be able to judge if we are successful if the numbers of young people coming into formal criminal justice systems do not have a disproportionate percentage of Cared for Children etc. In addition, we would expect to see a fall longer term in the numbers of young people receiving either Out of Court

Disposals or Court Orders and if young people are able to fully realise their potential in school and work.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YOS IN 2022/23

We had an Inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) in September 2022 and were judged Good overall. We were delighted that our work in Domain 3 Out of Court Disposals was judged Outstanding in all areas given this area of work forms the majority of our direct work with young people. The Inspectorate also judged us Outstanding in relation to

1.2 Staff within the YOT are empowered to deliver a high-quality, personalised, and responsive service for all children

The commentary was that staff were supported by managers, there was good training and development for staff, that staff felt able to make suggestions and challenges to managers to improve practice. Inspectors also recognised that this was in the context that managing 9 remands had placed significant demands on the service, but staff said:

“Managers led by example and supported them practically and emotionally throughout this demanding work”

We were judged Requires Improvement in Domain 2 but the marks for the small number of cases in the cohort that were inspected was close to a judgement of Good and we are confident that management oversight in this area will strengthen practice

Progress on previous plan

We have kept focus on our strategic priorities over the last 2 years. We have more robust pathways for partners to our Prevention team and we continue to build awareness of how the team can support young people to make positive changes in their behaviour. We have recently reviewed Operation Gryphon processes (which identified young people who have committed Anti-Social Behaviour) This will allow us to triage and identify young people at risk of further incidents. We have delivered sessions to schools and young people on Anti-Social behaviour to increase awareness as well as how this behaviour can be addressed. Our performance framework will allow us to monitor our success over time and inform how we better target young people at risk and respond to their needs.

Our Restorative Justice staff have worked with our Prevention team and are linked to the SAILL project so that restorative justice opportunities can be identified and acted upon whenever possible.

Multi agency thematic audits have reviewed young people who re-offend after receiving an Outcome 22 to provide reassurance we had a robust assessment and plan in place.

We have trained staff across the service in use of the Do-It profiler which can help us identify approaches school and families can take to understanding and managing young people's behaviour if they have any unidentified neuro diversity concerns and have plans to support partners to use this directly in their work with young people.

Performance against National Indicators

First time entrants (FTE)

Our rate of FTEs is 132 This compares to a regional rate of 155 and a national rate of 149.

Our work on FTE'S Plan over the last three years has shown a consistent impact upon this indicator which has been significantly improved with the introduction by Northumbria police of the use of Outcome 22 as an option within an out of court process. This is now well embedded and in the coming year we intend to look to develop a more child focused model which is integrated with Early Help and Social Care plans in order to avoid young people being stigmatised through unnecessary contact with criminal justice services. Our Inspection judged our work with Out of Court Disposals outstanding and as this also forms a significant percentage of the young people we work with we are confident diversionary activity at this stage through use of Outcome 22 will maintain our low rate of First Time Entrants.

Re-offending

Our binary rate of re-offending is 38.6% compared to a regional rate of 28.6% and a national rate of 32.6%.

Our frequency rate is 6.75 compared to a regional rate of 4.6 and a national rate of 3.86. This represents a decline in performance; however, it represents a smaller cohort of young people measured at a specific period in 2021 and our quarterly Board reports show a variation in each quarter for this performance indicator. It is not an indicator that gives us cause for concern and we continue to monitor of specific cohorts, e.g., prevention, Pre-Court interventions and Court Orders to delve further into our understanding of which outcome and interventions are the most successful at impacting reoffending

Custody

Our custody rate is 0.28 against a regional rate of 0.11 and a national rate of 0.11

Our performance has been strong in this area in previous years but has significantly decreased in the last year due to the arrest and conviction after

trial of 9 young people for murder. They were prosecuted under “joint enterprise “and so reflects one incident. The impact on our performance was anticipated and reported to the Board. Given the specific circumstances of this event we would anticipate a return to robust performance in future years.

1 - A preventative approach to reducing offending.

We have an established prevention team Wear Kids and have worked with partners to encourage referrals for young people at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System as First Time Entrants (FTE's) This is achieved through links with police, primarily neighbourhood teams and schools. In addition to working with individual young people we also deliver sessions in schools on request to explain to young people what Anti-Social behaviour is and potential consequences for the young people including the fact they may be putting themselves in situations where they are vulnerable.

As the service is a voluntary one staff must be very skilled and persistent in engaging young people and their families. The team use the same assessment framework as is used within Youth Offending for Out of Court interventions which can provide continuity should the young person go on to further incidents of ASB or offend. Where possible Wear Kids will retain case management responsibility rather than pas onto a different worker in the YOS for low level Out of Court Orders in recognition of the importance of continuity of existing positive relationships with workers. There is also a performance framework which the last year has seen a rapid increase in initiatives that enables us to identify young people even better and help signpost families into our services.

We began work with the SARA (Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations) project in 2020 in and are now working with the HALO project which is modelled on the success of SARA and was established in 2021. In December 2022 we became part of multi-agency a focused deterrence pilot project within Sunderland Altogether Raising Aspirations ((SAIL) which targets young people at risk of serious violence.

This project runs for three years initiated with monies from the Violence Reduction Unit and we have one and a half posts funded within the YOS for the duration of the pilot in addition to posts in the council. The project looks to identify a small cohort of young people at risk of committing serious violence in Sunderland city Centre. It is a multi-agency approach which sits within the wider SAIL project, The staff sitting within the YOS work directly with the young people identified within the co-hort. These consist of a case manager who will

complete an assessment and plan for all the young people and then deliver appropriate interventions to support the young people, and their families, achieve long term change in behaviour. The other post works part time and the postholder will offer counselling to the young people as well as wider family support. Learning from the evaluation of this project will inform our approach to addressing serious youth violence.

Safer Transport

This project is funded through the Violence Reduction Unit. We initially received funding only short-term funding but in October 2022 received funding of £33,826 for a further 12 months of activity. The scheme operates by deploying staff on transport hubs across Sunderland and South Tyneside. The staff focus primarily on the metro and surrounding locations but are directed to “hot spots” each week through use of local intelligence. We have covered areas such as Houghton, Pennywell, Witherwack, (at the bus turning point) Park Lane and Sunderland City Centre etc.

Staff are deployed three nights a week Fri- Sun from 4 pm to 10 pm. And will proactively approach groups of young people that are either vulnerable, for example having been separated from friends, or who are displaying unacceptable behaviour. We will advise them and signpost to services as appropriate. Given the nature of the scheme the numbers of young people we speak to varies considerably on any given day but to give some idea between January and March 2023 we spoke to an estimated 1,357 young people. We have been recognised as being instrumental in helping reduce incidents of Anti-Social behaviour in Witherwack and our recording of incidents shows we routinely de-escalate situations with groups of young people who are behaving in potentially unacceptable ways on and around metros.

2 - Reducing Re-offending

- The YOS has much closer working relationships with the Early Help service which means the YOS can access a better offer for parenting. A Team Manager sits on our weekly Out of Court panel and will provide information as relevant on new referrals for young people and their families.
- We have amended our assessment document for Out of Court Orders to reflect wider family needs in response to Turnaround and have integrated this into our case management system Child view which will allow better performance reporting. This form has now been embedded

in Child view which will improve our performance reporting from the case management system

- We have maintained our low rate of breach panels through our ongoing successful engagement and embedded practice with children and young people who work with us from out of court disposals through to court orders.
- We have continued to strengthen links with the strategic MSET (missing and exploited) programme which ensures that young people at risk of exploitation are identified and responded to appropriately.
- Staff have been trained in trauma informed approaches

To support further improvement for reoffending, the following additional areas have been identified for further development as well as those noted above:

- Staff in Targeted Youth Services and Early Help have been trained in AIM3. This work need needs to be further embedded across TfC to ensure consistency in identifying and addressing harmful sexual behaviour at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Staff have been trained in Signs of Safety and we have continued to review our processes and paperwork to embed the principles of this approach across all our service.
- Following on from CAMHS training we have commissioned training to equip staff with skills to deliver low level interventions to address mental health and well-being.

3 - A restorative justice approach

Restorative Justice staff work across the service including our Prevention team and are linked to the focused deterrence pilot which will be evaluated to understand what practice effectively addresses serious youth violence. A multi-agency audit of the teams' work was undertaken and reported to the Board.

Tackling Disproportionality in the Youth Justice System

Learning from Inspections

The YOS Partnership is routinely presented with analysis papers and recommendations for action in relation to Inspection Reports and Good Practice Research following their publication as well as exports from audits and case studies presented by staff. The YOS Management Team proactively

reviews good practice and inspection outcomes internally with staff to consider local practice through Team meetings and practice workshops. The thematic report on Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) boys in the criminal justice system was discussed at a Board meeting supported by an analysis of the BAME young people we had worked with. This showed that this was not a feature of the cohort of young people we had worked with in Sunderland. However, practice messages were shared with staff, and it is an issue we remain alert to. We have also looked at the experience of BAME victims and have addressed through the Board the experiences of our victims who have experienced racism from young offenders.

Historically offending by Cared for Children has been above regional and national averages but in recent years this has reduced significantly to a rate that was better than national performance. We continue to monitor this, and we have good relationships with Social Care including staff in the Childrens Homes and are also able to professionally challenge any decisions to charge Cared for young people that come through to us from police.

Our allocation process for the Prevention team recognises that young people with certain characteristics i.e., ethnicity, cared for status are over-represented in the Criminal Justice System. If we are not able for any reason i.e., capacity to allocate all referrals for Anti-Social Behaviour or prevention intervention then we will prioritise young people with these characteristics.

Our colleagues in education have reported a worrying trend in the numbers of young people with EHCP and exclusions. In this school year numbers of young people with EHCP have risen by 30%, suspensions have risen by 40% and permanent exclusions by 86%. We have staff within the service that can support young people experiencing these issues and are exploring how we can work more effectively with schools and education staff to look at how we can target young people at risk of exclusion.

2 STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The service remains within Together for Children in the Early Help Directorate. In the past year we have undertaken a review and have increased capacity through the appointment of additional staff in the Restorative Justice team, our prevention team Wear Kids and a Senior Practitioner. In addition, we have recently appointed a Peer Mentor who is a care experienced young person whose role will be to help us review our services from a young person's perspective and work with young people open to the service.

Since June 2017, the chair of the YOS Board has been the Chief Executive of Together for Children, thereby continuing to effectively support and drive the YOS Partnership in relation to effective services for children and young people. The YOS Management Board meets on a minimum of four occasions each year.

The annual Youth Justice Plan continues to be considered as an article 4 plan and as such is scrutinised and approved on an annual basis by the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. In addition, it is also considered and approved by the Together for Children Board of Directors.

The YOS Management Board receive regular financial, performance and safeguarding and practice reports, including updates on audit compliance and inspection themes that may inform or impact service delivery. The YOS continues to be proactive in terms of reviewing best and innovative practice.

Our Inspection judged that the YOS management board has demonstrated evidence of work to address diversity and disproportionality. Overall, this has been consistent and is explicitly highlighted as a strategic priority in the current YOS strategic plan. We know that our young people have a range of complex needs that will potentially make them vulnerable as well as place them at risk of offending i.e., EHCP/SEND, poor school attendance, trauma, school exclusion and NEET.

We have specialist staff including an education worker and a linked worker from Prevention and Innovation team that provides specialist career advice and guidance that spends a day a week in the team.

In addition, it commented "Strategic partnership arrangements are mature and collaborative. The YOS uses data to inform strategic decisions and to demonstrate the impact of its work on children. All board members are connected to other strategic boards across the wider partnership."

Board members will bring relevant reports from wider strategic partnerships and will also take recommendations from the YOS Board. Through our involvement in SAIL, SARA and HALO including representation on Strategic Boards, we are well sighted on initiatives to address crime hot spot areas.

A Board development day was undertaken in June to reflect on our current situation and if we needed to change or refine our priorities for the year informed by intelligence and information from partners. In addition, the Board in February had an input from the YJB about partner responsibilities.

4 RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

2022/23 Budget

The YOS budget is made up of statutory partner agency funding and in-kind contributions, core government funding from the Youth Justice Board and other grants. The chart below summarises each of the funding sources for the financial year 2021/22.

Within this budget, Sunderland will deliver the core statutory youth justice service as set out by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and other subsequent legislation.

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in kind	Other delegated funds	Total
Police		2 staff		
Police and Crime Commissioner WSiPP			£25000	£2500
Probation		£11,901		£11,901
Health		2 staff one from September		
Local Authority			£627,875	£627,875
Wales Assembly Government				
YJB			£743,992	£743,992
Violence Reduction Unit-Safer Streets and SAIL			£60,552	£60,552
Total				£1,446,820

Delivery of Youth Justice

For 2023/24 the YOS will continue to review and report to the Board our performance in relation to the three key outcomes of preventing offending, reducing reoffending and use of custody.

The three performance targets therefore are:

KEY OUTCOME	OUTCOME TARGET
Entering the Youth Justice System (First Time Entrants)	To maintain the level of First-Time entrants to the Youth Justice System
Reducing Reoffending	To look at introducing a framework to report offending across the YOS and our Prevention Team to better understand the effectiveness of our interventions at diverting and preventing young people from offending.

Maintaining low levels of custodial sentencing	We had a spike in remands in 2021 due to a murder where 10 young people were arrested. As these young people have now been convicted our performance will be significantly worse
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The YOS is confident, based upon its historical performance, that the first two of targets can be achieved. The target on low use of custody has been significantly adversely affected for this year due to a single event. In October 2021 when a young person was murdered in Houghton. The majority of the young people arrested were remanded to the care of the local authority and we were able to successfully support these young people alongside our Social Car colleagues. The impact of this event on our performance after years of maintaining a low use of custody has already been reported to the YOS Board.

In addition to these three key targets the Board receives reports of performance against NEET, offending by Cared for Children and we will be introducing a wider framework to understand how other characteristics such as SEND are overrepresented in our cohort of young people. This will be backed up by multi-agency audits with other agencies such as health and education to better understand and improve our practice.

Service Development Priorities for 2021-24

Sunderland has made considerable progress in diverting young people from formal outcomes and our performance in reducing First Time Entrants significantly improved in 2020/21 Our focus in the next three years is to improve further a prevention offer that target young people at risk of coming to the attention of criminal justice agencies. We will do this by reviewing our prevention offer with partners supported by consultancy from the justice innovation centre and identify more effective approaches to young people at risk of offending. We are also in the process of strengthening our reporting framework to measure the effectiveness of our prevention offer.

To ensure that the service effectively responds to local and national priorities in relation to youth justice and wider key strategic agendas, the service will have a focus in the next three years on the following areas:

- 1 A continued focus on diverting young people from the criminal justice system through an out of Court process**
- 2 A review of how we track offending by young people to reflect the shift to Out of Court panels and use of Outcome 22**
- 3 A Restorative Justice Approach**
- 4 Tackling disproportionality**

The detail of the work programme which underpins how these are driven forward is set out within a separate Delivery Plan for each year which underpins our overarching Strategy.

PRIORITY 1 - Reducing First Time Entrants

1.1	Continue to review Out of Court processes in line with regional developments
1.2	Embed Turnaround and prioritise young people displaying ASB for this programme.
1.3	Undertake an exercise with partners to identify effective practice and referral pathways. This will inform a development plan for the next three years
1.4	Continue to review successes at engaging young people and working towards positive outcomes within Wear Kids
1.5	Work with partners in SAIL (focused deterrence) to engage young people at risk of serious violence

PRIORITY 2 - Reducing Re -offending

2.1	Establish with performance a framework to track all young people who receive an intervention either as an Out of Court intervention or a Court Order
2.2	Develop role of CAMHS post within the service based on analysis of need
2.3	Continue to embed Signs of Safety /Signs of success model across the service
2.4	Strengthen our offer of support to young people with poor school attendance, are excluded or are NEET and utilise Do-It Profiler to establish any unmet neurodiversity concerns.
2.5	Identify and appoint a Probation Officer to vacant post

PRIORITY 3 - Restorative justice

4.1	Support the development of restorative approaches within SAIL project
4.2	Ensure restorative justice interventions are included in our prevention services
4.3	Continue to strengthen the range of community-based projects as we emerge from Covid

PRIORITY 4 - Tackling Disproportionality

4.1	Establish a tracking and reporting framework to identify overrepresented groups in Sunderland
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4.2	Develop a plan with partners to effectively address any identified disproportionality
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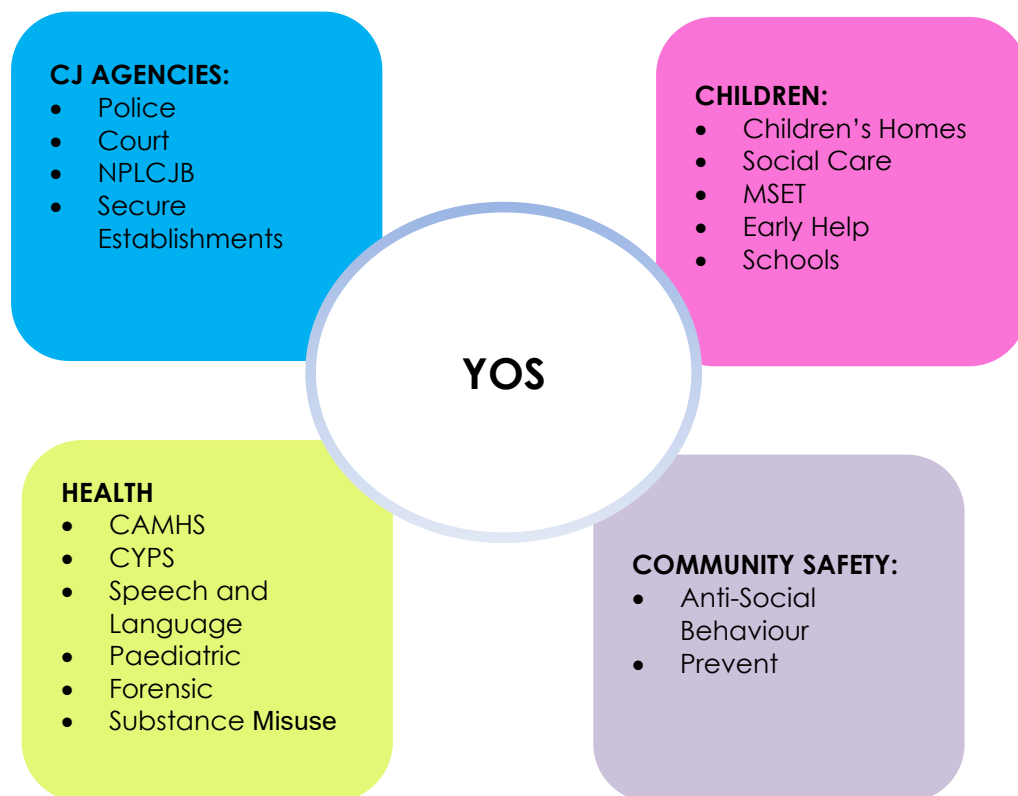
Workforce development and Specialist Resources

Moving into 2023/24 the YOS maintains its core staffing resources in relation to the full-time staff, and most multi-agency secondees, (volunteers and sessional staff) and is therefore compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. We are working with Probation to identify how we can recruit to a probation officer with the right skills to work with young people into the service. In addition to our health worker, we have recently appointed a CAMHS practitioner who will be in post in September, As the post has been vacant for a significant period of time, we will look to develop how this post best meets the needs of our young people including how they might best support workers who are working directly with the young people if this is a more appropriate way to deliver mental health interventions. Having delivered CAMHS training to staff last year all staff will receive further commissioned training in building resilience to young people.

We have also trained a number of staff in a new parenting approach and Early Help and the University of Sunderland are writing bespoke delivery programmes to match the identified needs of our parents. This is a long-term plan to train our workforce to be flexible and responsive emerging issues that parents tell us they require support with.

Included within the appendices to this plan is a structure chart for the YOS alongside a table which breaks down staffing by agency, gender, and ethnicity. All core YOS staff are trained in elements of Restorative Justice relevant to their post. All Referral Order Panel volunteer members have been trained in RJ relevant to their roles. The YOS continues to also provide robust supervision, training and management of its sessional workers who support in the delivery of RJ work, Advocacy and Appropriate Adult responsibilities.

The YOS Restorative Justice Team has two accredited practitioners and the other is undertaking accreditation.



The multi-agency Sunderland YOS Management Board remains as an identified 'significant partnership' for Sunderland, and it also provides the strategic links with other significant partnerships, and their associated strategic plans across children's services, criminal justice, and community safety."

Targeted Youth Services remains committed to working in partnership with others around the key issues affecting young people today including significant and emerging problems around sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, substance misuse and the prevent agenda.

Partnership working continues to be strong in the city and is supporting the service developments being achieved by the service. Specific examples include:

Substance Misuse

The co-location of substance misuse services in the YOS is providing opportunities to embed joint working and improve quality and delivery of brief interventions.

Police

Improved relationship with police at a Team Manager level is supporting regular practice review and a reinvigorated IOM process which is producing

creative solutions to interventions and support. The YOS also works with police through attendance at Safer Schools partnership meetings and Local Multi Agency Problem Solving meetings (LMAPS)

ASB

The partnership with both the ASB Team and sharing of Operation Gryphon lists from the police is enabling Wear Kids to identify families who need a prevention offer. The Gryphon processes are to be streamlined in July 2023 which will enable us quicker access to information and therefore allocate resources to support families. We will also target the Turnaround programme to ASB cases as our main priority to support our prevention work.

Missing, sexually exploited and trafficked (MSET)

The YOS is integrated into this process; a senior practitioner with support from one of the seconded Police Officers who is CEOP trained attend monthly operational meetings.

Children's Services

The LAC/cared for children protocol remains in place and is being successfully delivered. We maintain good relationships with Childrens Homes through having a nominated Restorative Justice worker and ensure that the 10-point checklist is used to inform any decisions on charging cared for young people within the criminal justice system

Prevent

The YOS supports and is a member of the City Council's Prevent protocol and practice which includes channel processes. Staff have been trained in relation to the Prevent agenda.

Probation

Sunderland YOS has implemented national protocol but has lost our seconded PO. We will therefore work to ensure transition work is robust whilst we look to appoint another PO. In the interim we have funding from Probation to backfill the vacant post

MAPPA

The YOS continues to utilise MAPPA arrangements to in relation to those young people who pose significant risks within the community.

6 RISKS

Emerging issues that will potentially impact upon our performance include

- Increase in school exclusions
- Increase in serious violence
- Short term funding for projects

The Board is sighted on these risks and our plan has incorporated actions to address these such as working with schools and Education colleagues in TfC to support young people at risk of exclusion.

7 YOS BOARD PARTNERSHIP APPROVAL**SUNDERLAND YOS BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

CHAIR	Jill Colbert, Chief Executive, Together for Children
Statutory Partners	Kimm Lawson, Sunderland CCG
	Northumbria Police, Angela Hewitt
	National Probation Service Gary Connor
Local Authority Partners	Karen Davison, Director of Early Help
	Linda Mason, Targeted Youth Services Manager
	Councillor Iain Scott
Education	Simon Marshall, Director of Education, Together for Children
Violence Reduction Unit	Claire Sills
YJB	Akram Hussain

ABA	Acceptable Behaviour Agreement
CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
ETE	Education, Training and Employment
FTE	First Time Entrants
HO	Home Office
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
IRS	Intensive Resettlement and Support
ISS	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance
LAC	Looked After Children
LASPO	Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (Act)
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board
L&D	Liaison and Diversion
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
RJ	Restorative Justice
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YRO	Youth Rehabilitation Order
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Sunderland Youth Offending Service's based close to the city centre at the Stanfield Centre

Staff and service user base:

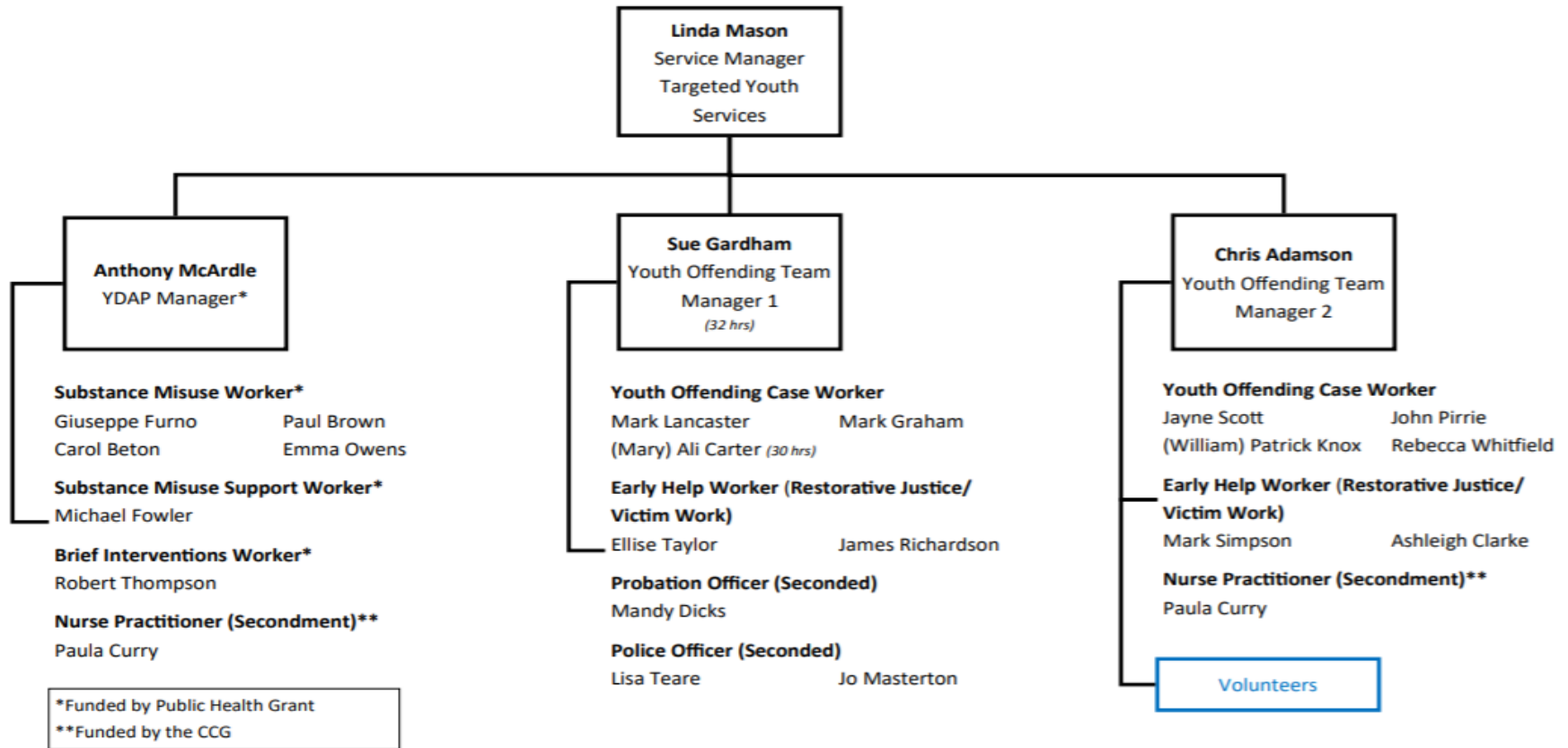
Stanfield Business Centre,
Addison Street,
Sunderland,
SR2 8SZ
Telephone 01915614000

Email: yos@sunderland.togetherforchildren.org.uk

If you would like this document in any other format, please do not hesitate to contact the staff at the base above.

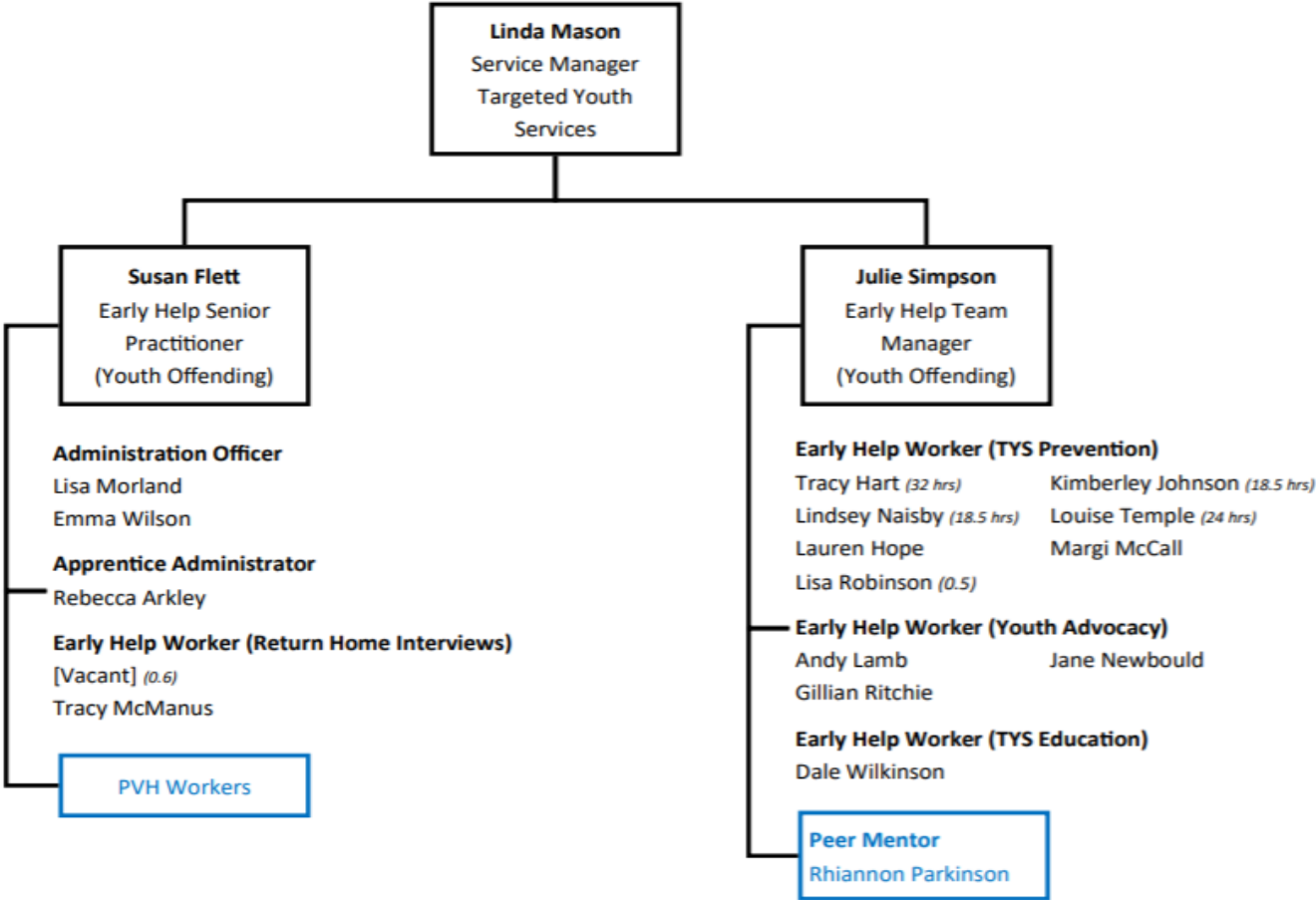
Targeted Youth Services

Structure



Targeted Youth Services

Structure



JMK/Org Charts—Early Help June 2021 - Page 4

Staffing of the YOT by contract type

Type of Contract	Strategic Manager (PT)	Strategic Manager (FT)	Operational Manager (PT)	Operational Manager (FT)	Practitioners (PT)	Practitioners (FT)	Administration (PT)	Administration (FT)	Sessional	Students/ trainees	Volunteer	Total
Permanent		1	0.8	3	4	16		3	25		12	
Fixed term											0	
Outsourced											0	
Temporary											0	
Vacant											0	
Seconded Children's Services											0	
Seconded Police				1.8							0	
Seconded Probation						1					0	
Seconded Health (Physical health)											0	
Other/Unspecified Seconded Health											0	
Seconded Education						1					0	
Seconded Health (CAMHS) From September						1					0	
Disabled (self-classified)												
Total												52.8

Staffing of the YOT by gender and ethnicity

APPENDIX B

Ethnicity	Managers Strategic		Managers Operational		Practitioners		Administrative		Sessional		Student		Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
White British		1	1	3	7	13		3	7	18			5	7	20	47
White Irish															0	0
Other White															0	0
White & Black Caribbean															0	0
White & Black African									1						0	0
White & Asian															0	0
Other Mixed															0	0
Indian															0	0
Pakistani															0	0
Bangladeshi															0	0
Other Asian															0	0
Caribbean															0	0
African															0	0
Other Black															0	0
Chinese															0	0
Any other ethnic group									1						0	0
Not known															0	0
Total	0	1	1	3	7	13	0	3	7	20	0	0	5	7	20	47

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION (JTAI) OF THE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the progress being made following the Joint Targeted Area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help.

2. Background

- 2.1 In January 2023, a Joint Targeted Area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- 2.2 A report setting out the findings of the inspection was published in March 2023.
- 2.3 In response to the findings of the inspection, an action plan has been developed. A copy of the inspection letter and the action plan are attached as an appendix.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Karen Davison (Director of Early Help) will be in attendance to report on the outcome and progress made since the inspection.
- 3.2 It is noted that this was a partnership inspection and the Committee may wish to consider inviting other partners for any future updates.

4. Recommendations

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

5 Background Papers

Letter Regarding Joint Targeted Area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help.

16 March 2023

Jill Colbert, Director of Children's Services, Sunderland Council

Scott Watson, Director of Place, (Sunderland), NHS & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

Kim McGuinness, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Winton Keenen, Chief Constable, Northumbria Police

Marianne Huison, Independent Scrutineer

Dear Sunderland Local Safeguarding Partnership

Joint targeted area inspection of Sunderland

This letter summarises the findings of the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help.

This inspection took place from 23 to 27 January 2023. It was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Headline findings

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSP) arrangements are well established and effective. Leaders have an accurate understanding of the needs of vulnerable children in their local area. They are fully cognisant of the importance of addressing children's needs early. LSP strategic arrangements are closely aligned with local universal and voluntary organisations, ensuring a clear understanding and shared approach to prioritising and meeting children's needs. Partners work persistently and creatively together in an environment of significant and extensive local deprivation to coordinate and deliver an array of multi-agency early help services that are successfully reducing harm and preventing risks to most children receiving services from escalating.

Enthusiastic, experienced early help frontline practitioners provide sensitive and innovative child-centred interventions. Parents receive respectful and thoughtful services, which help them to think differently about how they parent their children. Consequently, many are enabled to provide safer and more confident daily care. Thresholds of risk, need and harm to children are understood, leading to most children swiftly receiving a proportionate level of help that is child-centred.

Leaders accept that more work is needed to ensure that all partner agencies are routinely informed and included in decisions and meetings about the next steps required to help children and families. Staffing capacity is limiting the consistent

inclusion and impact of school nurses, health visitors and mental health professionals working across early help teams. The ethnic identity, cultural heritage and religious needs of children are too often absent from, or not considered enough in, referrals to the integrated contact and referral (ICRT) team and in assessments and plans. The LSP acknowledges that multi-agency audits of early help work need further development as there are delays in progressing multi-agency early help assessments and plans for a small number of children.

What needs to improve?

- Communication with and involvement of all partners in meetings and in decisions about next steps to help children.
- Increased staffing capacity to allow the consistent involvement of health practitioners across the spectrum of early help services.
- Consideration and analysis of children's ethnic identity, cultural heritage and diverse needs in referrals, assessments and plans.
- Timeliness of early help assessments and plans.
- The quality and effectiveness of the LSP's multi-agency audits.

Early help strengths

- The LSP's highly evolved and mature strategic relationships with its key partners and local organisations have led to creative, innovative early help services, ensuring that children swiftly get the right level of help.
- Robust governance arrangements are enhanced by a culture of professional curiosity, accountability and respectful challenge. Leaders know their services well.
- Multi-agency partners' effective and authoritative practice, informed by feedback from parents and children and staff, adds value and leads to reduced harm for children.
- Cogent, well-balanced safeguarding decisions are child-centred.
- Despite high demand, staff who spoke to inspectors felt extremely positive about working for organisations in which they can readily access relevant training, supervision and support, and where their views and needs are important and highly valued.

Main findings

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

Sunderland Council, work collaboratively and assiduously with partners across the entire service spectrum, providing exemplary services to their vulnerable children and families.

A well-articulated, shared multi-agency vision is strengthened by flexible operational service planning and is augmented by the oversight provided by the LSP's independent scrutineer. This enables services to quickly adapt and respond to emerging needs, research and good practice models. A new multi-agency early help family hub model is in development as part of a Department for Education trailblazer pilot. Leaders are building on earlier success to integrate services further. Staff told inspectors that leaders listen to them and act quickly to address gaps in service provision and nurture their talent and expertise. A recognition of the impact of domestic abuse and the need for trauma-informed direct work with children led to the appointment of play therapists working across early help teams.

Examples of pioneering work and good practice initiatives by all agencies are making a discernible difference to the life chances of vulnerable children. Services are provided jointly by numerous partner agencies, demonstrating well-planned, cohesive and seamless partnership arrangements. For instance, multidisciplinary practitioners work together in the Wear Here 4 You bus promoting direct engagement with children, young people and parents on issues that matter to them, delivered across localities after school and during the evening. This has improved relationships and community confidence in accessing services. Early indications are that the impact of these innovative approaches means that fewer children become the subject of more serious statutory social work and police interventions.

Children are appropriately safeguarded from harm when necessary. Thresholds of risk, need and harm to children are mostly understood and applied by experienced and knowledgeable co-located health, education, police, children's social workers and early help professionals in the ICRT. Daily screening of referrals by experienced police officers and social workers ensures that harm thresholds are promptly evaluated. Rigorous management oversight of this work ensures that children's experiences are constantly central to timely decisions about the steps needed to help and protect them from harm. More work is needed to ensure that all partners are routinely informed and included when social work managers take decisions to close referrals about children, and that they are consulted when decisions are made to step children down from statutory services to early help.

Obtaining parental consent for early help services is well understood, sought and recorded. Parents are consulted to gain further understanding of their personal situation and to determine the most appropriate intervention for the family. All decisions are informed by the child's experiences, and any past harm. This enables families to be directed to the right agency and support at an early stage, and so that they are not subject to unnecessary statutory interventions. Families and children

told inspectors that they are listened to by early help professionals who advocate on their behalf to ensure that they receive the right support.

Children requiring targeted early help services are allocated promptly to locality-based early help practitioners. Exceptionally skilled early help practitioners, together with partner agencies, listen to and act on children's views, and provide sensitive, caring and imaginative work that is making a real difference for the majority of children. Interventions with children are evidence-based. Compassionate practitioners are attuned to children's needs, family circumstances and emotional state. They understand the impact that poverty, fuel debt and unstable housing have on families and work alongside charities to support families with these needs. Children are supported to talk about their lives and experiences through age-appropriate and effective direct work using a range of tools. Purposeful intervention means that work is at a pace that affords parents appropriate time to make necessary changes. Subsequently, re-referral rates are low, as interventions result in sustained improvements in children's lives.

Assessments using Sunderland's strengths-based model identify the impact of parental mental illness, domestic abuse, substance misuse and neglect on children. Children receive thoughtful and sensitive multi-agency work during the assessment, which means support for them is timely. A more consistent use of assessment practice tools, however, such as the LSP-approved neglect tool, would strengthen the analysis of impact on children's lived experiences more quickly.

The quality and timeliness of early help assessments and plans can vary. In a small number, the practice is too focused on the needs of the adult; the voice of the child and their individual diverse needs are not identified or assessed by partners. However, for most children the impact and outcomes of sensitive and empathetic individual and group work, using a wide variety of evidence-based therapeutic interventions, are positive. This enables many children to live safer, happier and fulfilled childhoods.

In cases where parents are resistant to engage and withhold consent, multi-agency meetings are not being routinely convened, limiting opportunities to share information. While individual practitioners may be working with these families, insufficient communication between agencies is causing delay in progressing assessment and planning for a small number of children.

In addition, there is a lack of understanding within the early help teams of health roles and responsibilities. Consequently, relevant health practitioners are not consistently invited to early help meetings or to contribute to assessments for a family.

Some education providers do not routinely use the appropriate channels to raise or escalate concerns. This can result in work being either repeated by different agencies

or being missed, leading to a detrimental outcome for a few children with unmet special educational needs. Leaders accept that individual professionals or agencies need to take responsibility for raising concerns and constructively challenge each other if they are concerned about the quality of early help being provided.

Children and young people with emotional well-being and mental health difficulties benefit from a range of services to meet their needs, but there are delays in accessing services. The arrangements are complex, with a variety of providers positively offering different levels of support. Collaboration between multi-agency partners has resulted in innovative and responsive initiatives in the community and in schools. For example, many schools employ early help practitioners who work proactively to ameliorate emotional harm. This increases the opportunity for children to have their needs met by the most appropriate service.

An app is used effectively as an added option by children and young people across early help services and teams to send statements to professionals, or to ask for help. For instance, it is used successfully in return home interviews when children go missing from home. Staff have their own accounts and respond promptly. They also use this tool well when working alongside younger children to include them in planning and to record their views, for example in family group conferences.

Positive relationships between community child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and specialist CAMHS lead to a seamless transition between services if required. Multi-agency professionals requesting emotional and mental health support for children are often unclear whether community or specialist CAMHS is the correct service to meet children's needs. Collaborative working between the leads from each service through weekly meetings to discuss individual children's cases prevents unnecessary additional delay. However, waiting lists for CAMHS are lengthy and at the time of inspection were 39 weeks.

Services across the Sunderland health economy are facing significant challenges with staff vacancies and difficulties with recruitment and retention of frontline practitioners. The partnership is aware of these challenges and leaders have worked creatively together to reduce gaps in provision. There is still more to be done as this has a significant impact on the level of contribution that health practitioners can make to multi-agency work in early help. Consequently, joint working between health services and multi-agency partners is inconsistent and requires strengthening.

Committed professionals work well together to understand the experiences of individual children in the family. Persistent efforts by the multi-agency partnership help to build trusting relationships with children. A 'teachable moments' project provides 'Divert' workers, who engage children when they attend the police station to be questioned about a criminal offence. Skilled neighbourhood police officers have been trained to conduct 'DO IT' profiling with children. This helps to identify children

who may be neurodivergent, and, although this is not a diagnosis, it helps the police to better understand the causes of behaviours, which helps to inform the best response when talking to children. The co-location of police officers within the early help TfC teams supports the identification of children at risk of exploitation. Effective communication between the police and specialist teams, including youth services, is reducing the risk of criminal and sexual exploitation of children.

Headteachers and designated safeguarding leads in schools are key partners in identifying children and families who need help. Well-established systems both within school and across the partnership are supported by the highly valued education safeguarding lead. Children benefit from school staff working diligently together with other agencies to ensure that they receive support swiftly. A headteacher reference group provides an important forum for effective two-way communication between the partners and assists education providers to continually evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency working and identify where it needs to improve.

TfC works closely with the 'Link' alternative provision school to enable children to remain in education when they have either been permanently excluded from their school or are at risk of this happening. Effective early help work by skilled Link teachers enables trusting relationships with the children and their families. This is key to the success of the placement and to the assessment of need, supporting children to reintegrate into their mainstream school more quickly.

Bespoke training ensures that all staff across the partnerships understand the thresholds for levels of need, risk and harm. Regular briefings to schools help to signpost education providers to the range of resources available to children and their families who need early help. TfC has worked closely and effectively with voluntary and community projects to provide training and forums for the exchange of advice and information and to strengthen practice. The extensive range of early help services available and which are easily accessible means that practitioners and police officers identify quickly what the appropriate next steps should be to meet the needs of vulnerable children. For example, all neighbourhood police officers have an SOS app detailing where parents and children can access requisite support.

Skilled multi-agency early help staff are fittingly proud to work in Sunderland. They have access to support provided by highly skilled visible managers who listen to staff and take action to develop services. All staff benefit from supervision and extensive accredited training. They know their children and families very well, and enthusiastically and movingly describe the highly impactful work with children that they routinely undertake. In addition, health and police staff value the support and training they receive from flexible and adaptable safeguarding teams and direct line managers. This strengthens practitioners' ability to identify and respond to emerging and changing needs effectively. For instance, professional curiosity in the emergency

department is strong, leading to early identification of families who would benefit from early help support.

The maternity service is working in collaboration with Sunderland University, the local authority and charities to provide an antenatal service for newly recruited overseas students from West Africa on campus. All partners are committed to this new initiative, which will ensure early support and improve outcomes for these women and their babies. Staff work well together to ensure that children in families who have no recourse to public funds are provided with support and recognise the increasing number of such families.

The LSP demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous improvement. A dedicated performance sub-group scrutinizes, and analyses, shared multi-agency data, enabling the partners to respond quickly to meet the changing needs of children and the demand for services. Practitioner forums function as an important conduit for sharing and improving practice. They use the partnership practice model to evaluate practice and develop action plans that inform the LSP's priorities and business plan. Progress is monitored by the independent scrutineer and by the LSP executive. Leaders accept that more work is required to develop the quality and effectiveness of early help multi-agency audits to ensure that auditors consistently provide evidence that the help provided is making a positive and sustained difference to children.

Practice study: area for improvement

In most children's cases sampled, the importance and impact of individual children's ethnicity and cultural heritage are not consistently considered by all professionals in contacts and referrals and case analysis and case planning. This limits the opportunity for professionals to fully understand a child's background and identity, including opportunities in direct work to address strengths of cultural heritage and the impact of racism they may have experienced. Senior LSP leaders recognise that this is a significant gap and have plans in place to improve managers' and practitioners' understanding of, and consistent reporting on, the impact of children's unique and diverse needs.

Practice study: highly effective practice

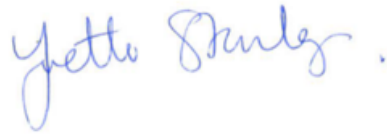
A strong targeted partnership approach to early help at a community level is delivered via three multi-agency community hubs in Sunderland's areas of highest need. Each hub works to tackle community-based issues as early as possible, so includes a focus on supporting adults as well as children, providing a unified response to individual families. Effective governance is provided through individual multi-agency strategic groups, with overall accountability through the community safety partnership. Bespoke priorities are aligned to specific needs and LSP's priorities. Joint successful collaboration between the local authority, TfC early help services, community wardens, the police and social housing providers coordinates and shares information effectively through a daily meeting, providing a wraparound support for vulnerable children and parents. Partners work closely to prevent duplication, conflicting activity or silo working in these communities. Evaluation of impact of this work is being carried out by an external service commissioned through lottery funding.

Next steps

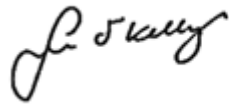
We have determined that Jill Colbert is the principal authority and should prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in this letter. This should be a multi-agency response involving the individuals and agencies that this report is addressed to. The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, when appropriate, individual agencies. The local safeguarding partners should oversee implementation of the action plan through their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The LSP should send the written statement of action to ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk by 23 June 2023. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Stanley
National Director Regulation and Social Care, Ofsted



Dr Sean O'Kelly BSc MB ChB MSc DCH FRCA
**Chief Inspector of Hospitals and Interim Chief Inspector of Primary
Medical Services, CQC**



Wendy Williams, CBE
His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services



Action Plan to address findings from the Sunderland Joint Targeted Area Inspection on multi-agency response to children and families who need help

June 2023 – May 2024



Introduction to this action plan

In January 2023 Ofsted, CQC and HMICFRS undertook a Joint Targeted Area Inspection of multi-agency responses to families who need help (referred to as Early Help in this plan). The letter of inspection findings can be found [here](#).

Overall Inspectors were positive about how effective partners are in providing early help to families:

‘Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSP) arrangements are well established and effective. Leaders have an accurate understanding of the needs of vulnerable children in their local area. They are fully cognisant of the importance of addressing children’s needs early. LSP strategic arrangements are closely aligned with local universal and voluntary organisations, ensuring a clear understanding and shared approach to prioritising and meeting children’s needs. Partners work persistently and creatively together in an environment of significant and extensive local deprivation to coordinate and deliver an array of multi-agency early help services that are successfully reducing harm and preventing risks to most children receiving services from escalating’.

Inspectors talk more in the letter about the extensive range of single and multi-agency early help services that are making a difference to children and could see evidence that those services were helping families to solve their difficulties. As a result, very few come back into the statutory system which is a good measure of success.

As well as explaining what they saw as was working well, Inspectors thought there were five key areas that we needed to improve on which we fully agreed and accepted:

- Communication with and involvement of all partners in meetings and in decisions about next steps to help children.
- Increased staffing capacity to allow the consistent involvement of health practitioners across the spectrum of early help services.
- Consideration and analysis of children’s ethnic identity, cultural heritage and diverse needs in referrals, assessments and plans.
- Timeliness of early help assessments and plans.
- The quality and effectiveness of the LSP’s multi-agency audits

This plan, which we submitted to Ofsted on 23 June 2023, will be monitored by the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership who will ensure that relevant aspects of the plan are reported into other committees as relevant, including the Health and Wellbeing Board and ICB Board.

Importantly we will use our existing Practitioners’ Forum (Diagram 1 shows how this works) to do a deep dive into how well we identify and understand children’s ethnic, cultural and heritage needs. We will include children and young people in this exercise. We will also reach out to other SCP who have strong practice in this area to learn from them.

By June 2024 we will have fully reviewed all the actions in this plan and be able to demonstrate progress in every area.

Diagram 1: Practitioner Forum Process



Phase 1 is to establish and define areas of change through facilitated discussion. Everything is up for debate! Here we create Communities of Practice, ‘groups of people who share a concern or passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as the interact’. Wenger 2007

Phase 2 is an investigation to dig further on what was raised. This phase will take roughly three months with the aim of creating clear, achievable actions from the ideas brought out of the discussions in phase 1.

Phase 3 we will meet and create an action plan based on the findings. This is then presented to our Strategic Leaders to agree and decide finer detail.

JTAI Action Plan

RAG-Rating Key

RED	Action not complete and delayed.
AMBER	Action at risk of not being completed within timescale.
GREEN	Action on target to be completed within timescale.
COMPLETED	Action completed.

Summary of RAG Status as at June 2023

Red	Amber	Green	Completed	Total
0	4	21	1	26

1. COMMUNICATION

What needs to improve?

Communication with and involvement of all partners in meetings and in decisions about next steps to help children.

What did inspector find?

More work is needed to ensure that all partners are routinely informed and included when social work managers take decisions to close referrals about children, and that they are consulted when decisions are made to step children down from statutory services to early help.

In cases where parents are resistant to engage and withhold consent, multi-agency meetings are not being routinely convened, limiting opportunities to share information. While individual practitioners may be working with these families, insufficient communication between agencies is causing delay in progressing assessment and planning for a small number of children.

There is a lack of understanding within the early help teams of health roles and responsibilities. Consequently, relevant health practitioners are not consistently invited to early help meetings or to contribute to assessments for a family.

***RAG: Red, Amber, Green, Completed**

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
1.1	Early Help Managers to be briefed on the need to consider midwifery as a partner when pulling together the team around the family.	Information sought from midwifery to inform level 2 targeted early help assessments. Midwives form part of teams around the family where appropriate.	TfC Early Help	Immediate	Dip sampling will start in July to provide assurance on the progress and impact of the briefings (action 1.3).	Green
1.2	Early Help Managers to be briefed to resume inviting health visitors and school nurses to all team around the family meetings (age appropriate).	Information sought from 0-19 service to inform level 2 targeted early help assessments. Health visitors and school nurses will form part of team around the family where appropriate.	TfC Early Help and 0-19 service	Immediate	Dip sampling will start in July to provide assurance on the progress and impact of the briefings (action 1.3).	Green

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
1.3	Early Help Quality Assurance Team to undertake dip sampling to seek assurances that health practitioners are invited to Early Help meetings and contribute to assessments.	We will know if Early Help teams have a good understanding of health roles and responsibilities, resulting in relevant health practitioners being invited to early help meetings or contributing to assessments for a family.	TfC Early Help	From August 2023	Dip sampling to commence after the implementation of Action 1.2 On track.	Green
1.4	Decisions to close or step-down families from CP, CiN or Early Help to be communicated routinely: a) Following a MASH assessment, if there is a dispute around the decision a multi-agency discussion to be held to discuss the information and agree an outcome. b) Consent form to be updated so parents can consent to information being shared. If parents don't an agreed email will be shared with professionals outlining the relevant worries and safety plan. c) All assessments to be shared with partner agencies when families are in statutory procedures.	Partners will be better informed as to the reasons for closure or step-down and will have a further opportunity to contribute to discussions around safety for the children.	TfC Early Help and Children's Social Care	June 2023	MASH partner agencies updated and multi- agency discussions taking place. Consent form updated and will be shared with all staff within two weeks. Briefing held with all Team Managers to advise that all assessments completed within statutory procedures should be shared with parents and then with partner agencies. Dip sampling will start in July to provide assurance on the progress and impact of decisions and assessments being shared. This will also include a review of any information governance risks if they emerge.	Green
1.5	Undertake a multi-agency audit to evaluate the communication and involvements of partners in	We will know if all partners are routinely informed and included when social work managers take decisions to close referrals about children, and that they are consulted	Head of Service SSCP and partners	October 2023	A % will be identified to review against compliance with the action and the PI from Action 1.6 will contribute to this work.	Green

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
	meetings and in decisions about next steps to help children, particularly referral and step-down decisions.	when decisions are made to step children down from statutory services to early help. We will know if this is making a difference for children in terms of improved outcomes.			On track.	
1.6	Strengthen the monitoring and reporting of agency attendance at key meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy • ICPC & RCPC • Audit • Front Door Operational group 	Improved attendance at key meetings thereby ensuring more holistic approach to the multi-agency work with all agencies contributing and making more informed decisions. Attendance at meetings to be part of Performance Information available to partners which is considered in the relevant SSCP sub-meetings.	Head of Service SSCP and partners	November 2023	This action is related to Action 1.5.	Green
1.7	Increase and monitor agency attendance at Signs of Safety Training to ensure all staff involved with children are using common language, a common way of working and building a shared understanding of strength-based work with children.	All staff in all agencies to fully understand the Signs of Safety model which is key to partnership working in Sunderland.	TfC Director of Social Care & Head of Service SSCP	Ongoing.	Ongoing. The % of staff in each agency trained in Signs of Safety.	Green

2. INCREASING CAPACITY

What needs to improve?

Increased staffing capacity to allow the consistent involvement of health practitioners across the spectrum of early help services.

What did inspector find?

Services across the Sunderland health economy are facing significant challenges with staff vacancies and difficulties with recruitment and retention of frontline practitioners. The partnership is aware of these challenges and leaders have worked creatively together to reduce gaps in provision. There is still more to be done as this has a significant impact on the level of contribution that health practitioners can make to multi-agency work in early help. Consequently, joint working between health services and multi-agency partners is inconsistent and requires strengthening.

*RAG: Red, Amber, Green, Completed

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
2.1	Development and implementation of a skill mix model of delivery, led by an experienced Health Visitor with additional capacity to support appropriate supervision.	<p>Earlier provision of interventions (e.g. parent-infant relationship support, perinatal mental health support, infant feeding support)</p> <p>Increased universal service use by underrepresented demographic groups</p> <p>Improved staff experience (job satisfaction, reduced staff absence, reduced staff turnover)</p> <p>Improved family experience of services</p> <p>Increased quality of the Start for Life service (as perceived by staff & service users)</p>	Health Transformation Lead	<p>Development by December 2023</p> <p>Implementation by June 2025</p>	<p>Proposal submitted to the DHSC Start for Life Workforce Pilot with the outcome expected Summer 2023. Appetite locally to consider how we implement the proposal if unsuccessful with DHSC (although not to the extent of funding requested).</p> <p>December is allocated for the development of the model, with implementation being aligned to the current healthy child programme contract by the end of June 2025.</p>	Green
2.2	Develop and implement a multi-disciplinary workforce development strategy for early help	<p>Training will be coordinated across the system to understand and identify need early, and work in a whole-family way.</p> <p>It will be widely understood locally what workforce diversity, capacity, skills and knowledge is required to impact on the outcomes for children and young people and family</p>	Health Transformation Lead	By June 2025	Detailed plan is in development and relates to Action 2.1	Green

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
		<p>There will be an agreed, high-quality training and supervision offer which supports the family hub network's workforce to apply the latest evidence to their practice</p> <p>There will be a learning culture, feedback to inform future training and practice across agencies.</p> <p>There will be career development pathways for existing and new staff, to support retention and ensure areas are growing the staff they will need in the future.</p>				
2.3	Recruit five Family Peer supporters as part of the Family Hubs (one in each Family Hub). These will be managed by the 0-19 Service.	<p>Easier access to information on infant feeding, parenting and peri natal mental health</p> <p>Increased support to parents on parent/infant relationships and promotion of sensitive and attuned parenting</p> <p>Normalising a breastfeeding culture in communities</p> <p>Increased access to low level breastfeeding support (1:1 and groups)</p> <p>Co delivery of Sunderland Parenting Programmes</p>	Health Transformation Lead/Family Hub Managers	By July/August 2023	All five Peer Supporters have been recruited, awaiting recruitment checks to be finalised.	Green
2.4	STSFT Midwifery STSFT recognise the gaps they have had within their midwifery structure and have been working to address – national shortage has been an influential factor. Their recruitment and retention midwife has	<p>Recruited 3 international midwives. Over recruited to establishment WTE (whole time equivalents), with 18 newly qualified midwives.</p> <p>Improvement in face-to-face patient care.</p>	NENCICB (Central) contracting team / quality team	Completed	<p>Assurance around the workforce is monitored and received at the STSFT QRG with (NHSE and CQC in attendance).</p> <p>There is a good focus on retention levels and supporting the development and health and</p>	Completed

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
	been working alongside the Head of Midwifery to address vacancies.				wellbeing of existing staff to further support this. Trust have also recently advertised for an Assistant Director of Midwifery and recruitment process is ongoing.	
2.5	<p>0-19 and ICRT (front door) team.</p> <p>There are national recruitment issues in relation to both qualified Health Visitors and School nurses.</p> <p>Work is ongoing between the commissioned service provider for 01-19, Harrogate District Foundation Trust (HDFT), HDFT, Sunderland City Council Public Health team, NENC ICB contracting and Integrated Children's Commissioner, to address the capacity issues and challenges.</p>	<p>A review of current contracting and funding arrangement is underway. Potentially the ICRT funding will be separated from main 0-19 contract. However, contracting and governance arrangements will need to be reviewed and contract variations will be required.</p> <p>Increased capacity will significantly improve access to good quality assessment information and outcomes for parents and families.</p>	Sunderland City Council (Public Health) NENCICB (Central) Integrated Children's Commissioner (NENC& TfC)	Work has commenced W/C 12/06/23	<p>Initial meetings have now commenced with the three commissioners.</p> <p>HDFT are recruiting in innovative ways, and have introduced a transformation team which deal specifically with safeguarding processes, freeing up time of mainstream Health visitor and School Nurses. Activity is monitored through the public health team, and NENC ICB attend governance meetings with the Trust.</p>	Amber
2.6	Agencies to monitor workloads to ensure resources match demand	Single agencies know what the average number of families/children individuals are supporting but that information isn't considered collectively. The relevant SSCP will gather relevant workload data and report on any themes, risks and opportunities for more joined up working.	SSCP Head of Service and Independent Scrutineer	To commence Autumn 2023	Reporting tool to be built and agreed by agencies.	Green

3. ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN'S ETHNICITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

What needs to improve?

Consideration and analysis of children's ethnic identity, cultural heritage and diverse needs in referrals, assessments, and plans

What did inspector find?

In most children's cases sampled, the importance and impact of individual children's ethnicity and cultural heritage are not consistently considered by all professionals in contacts and referrals and case analysis and case planning. This limits the opportunity for professionals to fully understand a child's background and identity, including opportunities in direct work to address strengths of cultural heritage and the impact of racism they may have experienced. Senior LSP leaders recognise that this is a significant gap and have plans in place to improve managers' and practitioners' understanding of, and consistent reporting on, the impact of children's unique and diverse needs.

*RAG: Red, Amber, Green, Completed

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
3.1	Multi-agency training offer to be devised and offered to all partners.	Children will be asked sensitively about their ethnic heritage, their culture and lived experience which in turn will inform suitable interventions.	SSCP Training lead	October 2023	Some additional single agency training has already been procured, which will be evaluated before the SSCP purchase a full training package.	Green
3.2	TfC EDI network to share good practice and work with partners to showcase sensitive ways of engaging and working with global majority families.	Clear evidence in contacts, referrals, and assessments of a child's ethnic identity.	Equality, diversity & inclusion policy lead.	From June 2023	The TfC EDI network has already showcased appreciative inquiries that evidence ethnically and culturally sensitive work, creating an environment for shared learning across all practitioners, including multidisciplinary partners based in TfC.	Green
3.3	Practitioners Deep Dive into how well children's ethnicity, culture and identity is understood and responded to.	Multi-agency audits will evidence a strong understanding of ethnic identity.	SSCP Head of Service and partners	December 2023	The process and approach to Deep Dives is well-established and service changes can be seen from previous interrogations of what works.	Green
3.4	A specific collaborative piece of work between Health (NENCICB & STSFT) and Sunderland University to develop a suite of podcasts that will address the culture and heritage of ethnic groups within Sunderland. This will be made available	To generate professional curiosity about culture and heritage which can then be seen in referrals, assessments and safety planning for children.	NENCICB (Central)	Completion of phase 1 by August 2023	Initial meeting held and planning is now in place. Future meetings in place.	Amber

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
	for all agencies internal IT systems for staff to access. A questionnaire is currently being developed to get a better understanding of what front line practitioner would like to know and work is also underway to recruit participants for the pod casts.					
3.5	Better data recording and data capture within all agencies ICT systems of children's self-reported identity.	Audit shows that some children don't have their ethnicity, chosen gender and sexual identity recorded. To allow agencies to understand children, their relationships and lived experience, professional curiosity, accompanied by good recording, is essential. Better overall data will help us to understand emerging communities in Sunderland which will lead to better interaction with families as we understand cultural issues and challenges individual and families encounter.	All agencies. Digital Policing D/Supt Lisa Laverick	December 2023	Audit of cases to ensure information is captured. Northumbria Police were due to move to a new records management system, but this has not been possible, and the force is now engaged in procurement processes for an alternative product. At present, Northumbria Police cannot capture data round ethnic identity, cultural heritage and diversity on current operational systems. The importance of the action is acknowledged so interim options are being explored.	Amber

4. QUALITY AND TIMELINESS OF ASSESSMENTS

What needs to improve?

Timeliness of early help assessments and plans.

What did inspector find?

The quality and timeliness of early help assessments and plans can vary. In a small number, the practice is too focused on the needs of the adult; the voice of the child and their individual diverse needs are not identified or assessed by partners.

*RAG: Red, Amber, Green, Completed

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
4.1	Revise the pathway for Early Help Assessments, Plans and Reviews.	Drift and delay will be reduced to within a 10% tolerance. Disengagement by families will reduce.	TfC Early Help Service	From June 2023	Pathway has been revised (April 2023). Dip sampling will start from June to provide assurance on the progress and impact of the revised pathway.	Green
4.2	Increase management oversight of the progress of Early Help family plans.	Decision making and clearly recorded analysis by managers will be visible in case recording.	TfC Early Help Service	From June 2023	Early Help Practice Week (termly) held w/c 12 June 2023. Workshop to review outcomes and add to Early Help Improvement Plan Monday 19 June 2023.	Green
4.3	Increase spot-checks and dip-sampling of the progress of family plans.	Families will receive a timelier service and family feedback (after step-down or closure) will reflect this.	TfC Early Help Service	August 2023	First dip-sample to take place July/August 2023.	Green
4.4	Ensure case-notes detail any reasons for drift and delay and explanations are clearly visible on the file history.	Justification for any drift and delay (e.g., attempts to engage resistant families) will be clearly visible in case recording.	TfC Early Help Service	From June 2023	Workshop held with Early Help Team and Assistant Team Managers 9 May 2023. Instructions re-issued in respect of expectations, existing practice guidance and timelines. Dip-samples to assess timeliness continue. Follow up workshop to review progress scheduled for 7 July 2023.	Green

5. MULTI-AGENCY AUDITS

What needs to improve?

The quality and effectiveness of the LSP's multi-agency audits.

What did inspector find?

Leaders accept that more work is required to develop the quality and effectiveness of early help multi-agency audits to ensure that auditors consistently provide evidence that the help provided is making a positive and sustained difference to children.

*RAG: Red, Amber, Green, Completed

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
5.1	Appoint a Head of Service to manage the SSCP Business Unit and oversee partnership QA activity.	Greater strategic oversight of the multi-agency audit process which will be reviewed and revised.	SSCP and all statutory partners	From June 2023.	Recruitment is underway - start date circa Sept 2023	Green
5.2	Revise the role of the 'performance & quality assurance sub-committee' to incorporate multi-agency audits (including prevention and early help activity).	Improved multi-agency audit process, which feeds into service delivery, identifies gaps in provision, areas of good practice and areas of weakness, and informs commissioning intentions as a result. Importantly it also shines a light on what has made a difference for children.	Head of Service SSCP and partners	Autumn 2023.	Full audit plan to be in place for 2024.	Green
5.3	Review these improvements (Action 5.2) and the impact upon service delivery and commissioning intentions.	Further improvement in understanding what works for children and how effective interventions are, which in turn informs what is delivered and procured by partners.	Head of Service SSCP and partners	End 2024	The JTAI has already led to improvement activity that is referenced in other parts of this action plan, that contribute to this action.	Green
5.4	Audits need to be prioritised around the areas of improvement in our work identified in the JTAI. Need to be multi-agency and link to the performance framework to evidence partner attendance.	Continual improvement in front line practice across all agencies and a better understanding of what makes a difference for children and families.	D/Supt Lisa Laverick & MASH Manager Paul Goundry	October 2023	Every audit should be revisited after a set period to ensure learning and key messages have landed with front line practitioners.	Amber

No	How will we do it?	What will change as a result?	Lead	Timescale	Progress & Impact to date	*RAG
	<p>There needs to be clear governance for the audits via the most appropriate board. This will link to the findings/recommendations to further improve training and awareness to ensure it is embedded across all agency front line practitioners.</p> <p>Every audit should have a second review audit to ensure the improvements identified have been embedded with front line practitioners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes • Embedded business process • Range of staff and agencies • Data • Outcomes? How do we know? (Framework – agreed with partners) • Voice of the child • Examples of work with children • Recommendations • Are there any service provision gaps? 					

Together for Children Meaningful Measures September 2023

Item 6

together for
children
SUNDERLAND



MM1 - I feel safer and supported.

How many children need help and protection?

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

Do we intervene early enough?

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

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

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

Indicator icon key

✓ At or above target performance

! Below target performance but within tolerance range

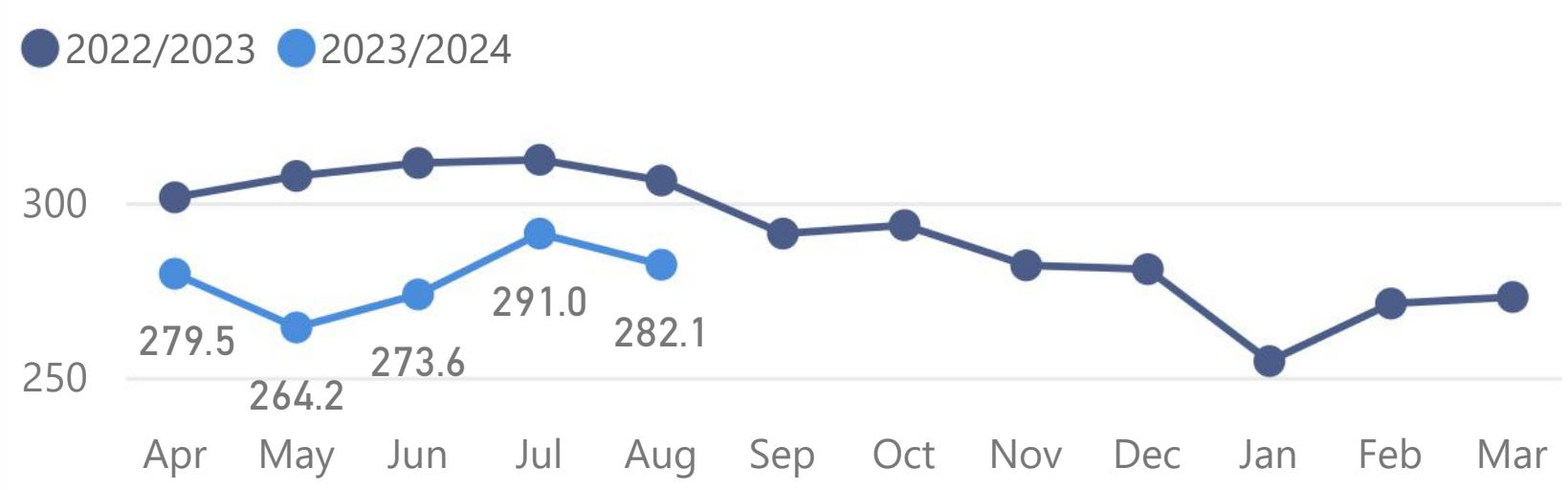
✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range

★ Contractual Measure

SM Supporting Measure



Rate of children subject to an early help episode



282.1

Latest

Rate of Child in Need



334.3

England

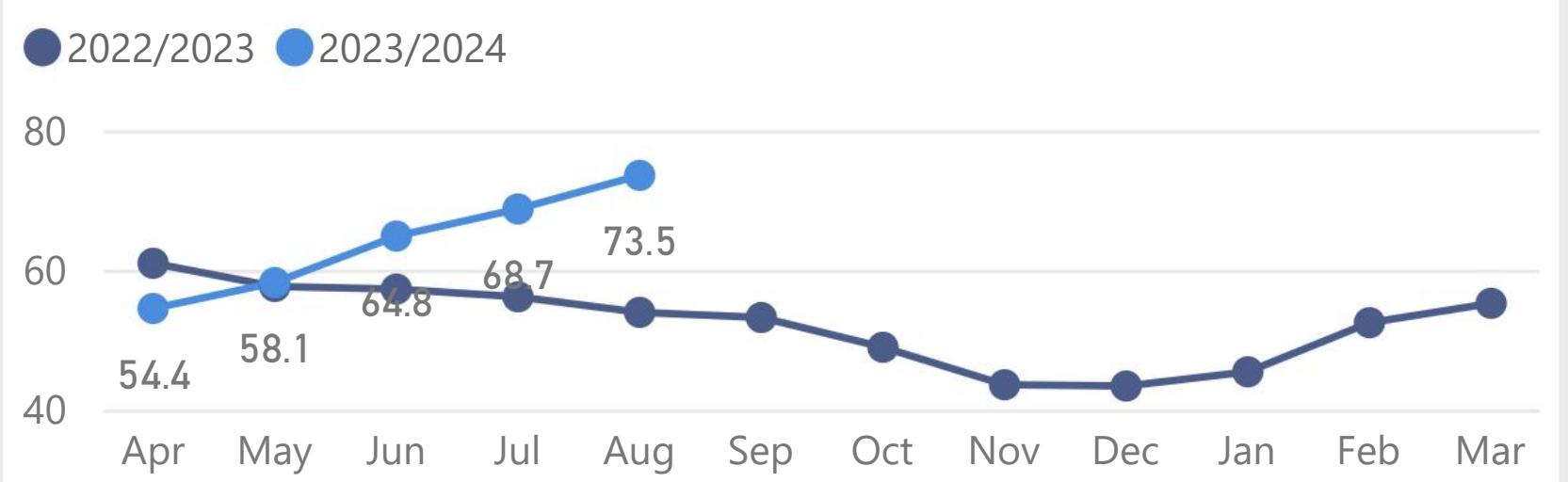
470.7

North East

380.6

Latest

Rate of children subject to Child Protection Plan



42.1

England

62.6

North East

73.5

Latest

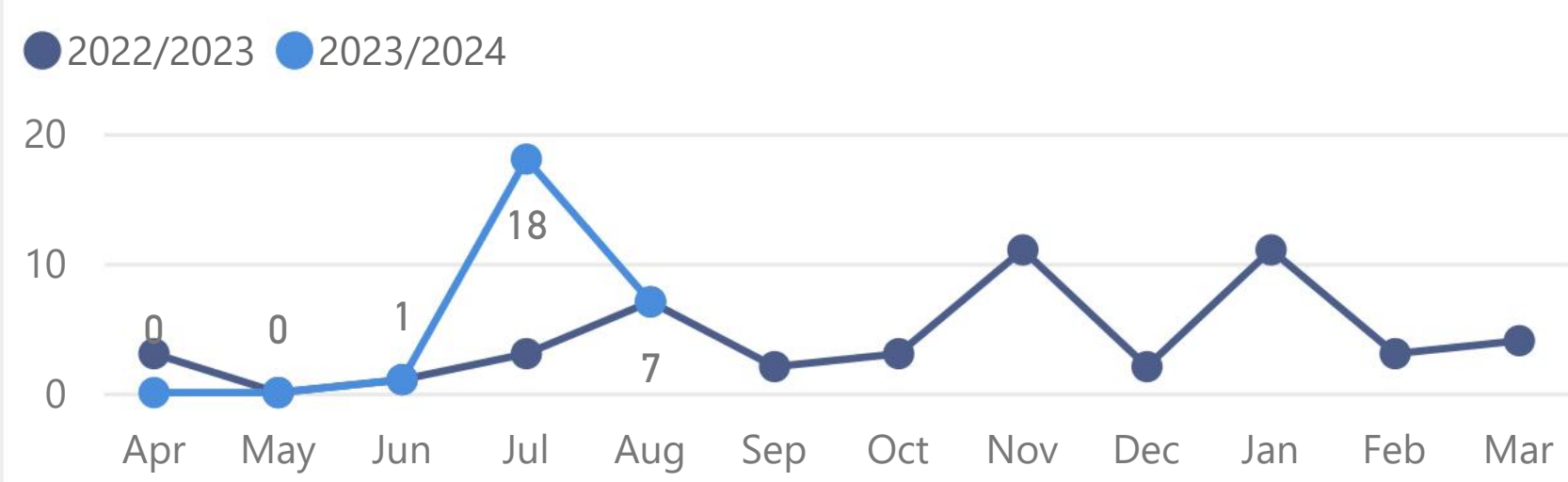
% Family Group Conferences escalated to Child Protection or Cared for



6.7%

Latest

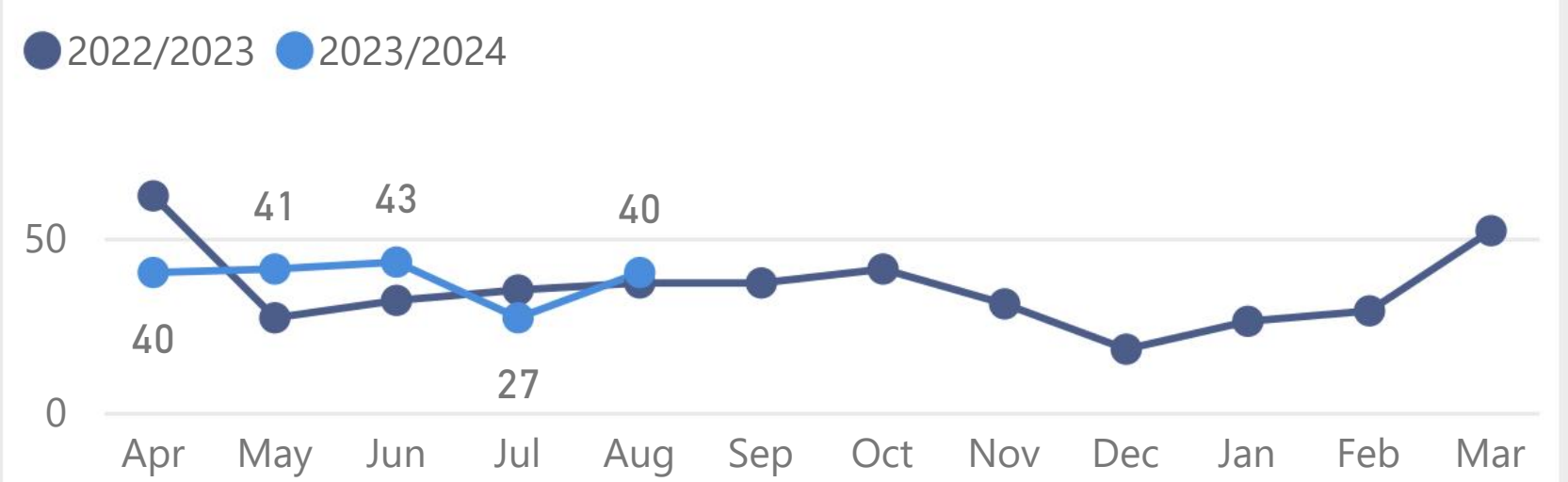
No. of Children open to Early Help stepped up to Social Care



7

Latest

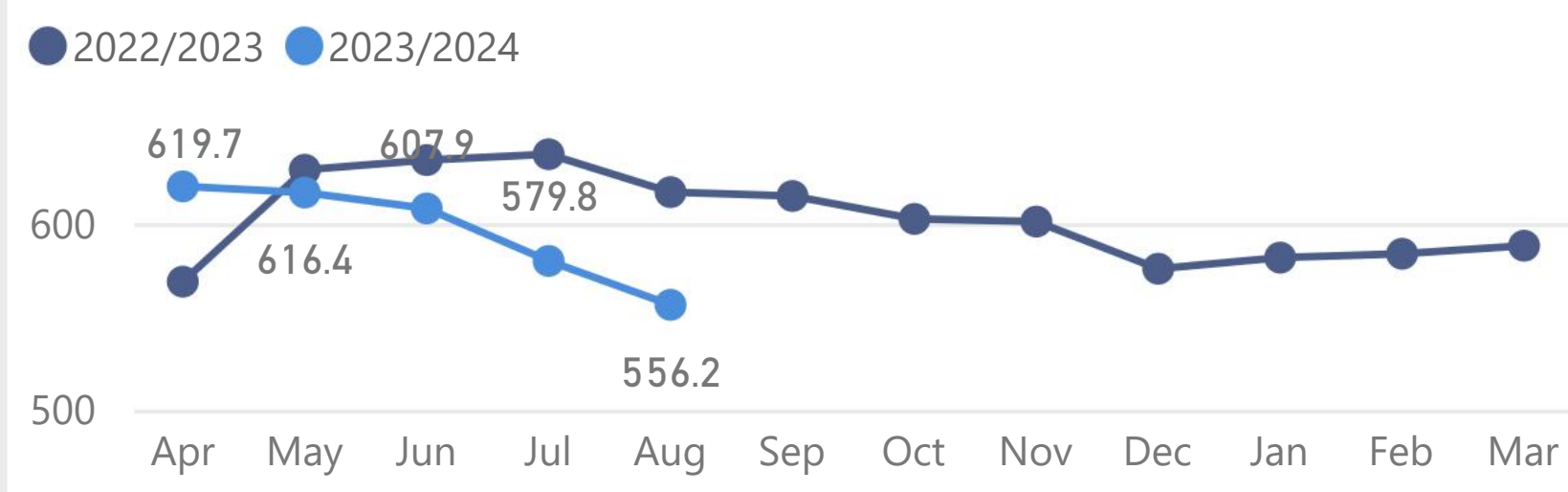
No. of Children open to Social Care stepped down to Early Help



40

Latest

Rate of referrals



537.7

England

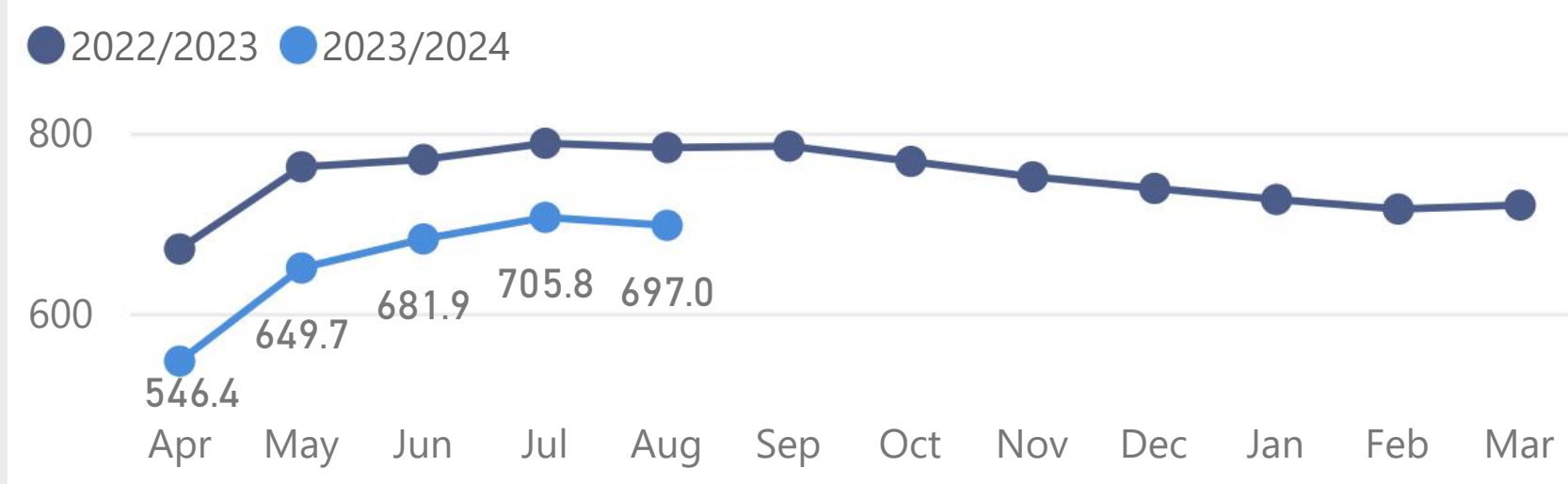
644.4

North East

556.2

Latest

Rate of Child In Need Assessments completed



533.4

England

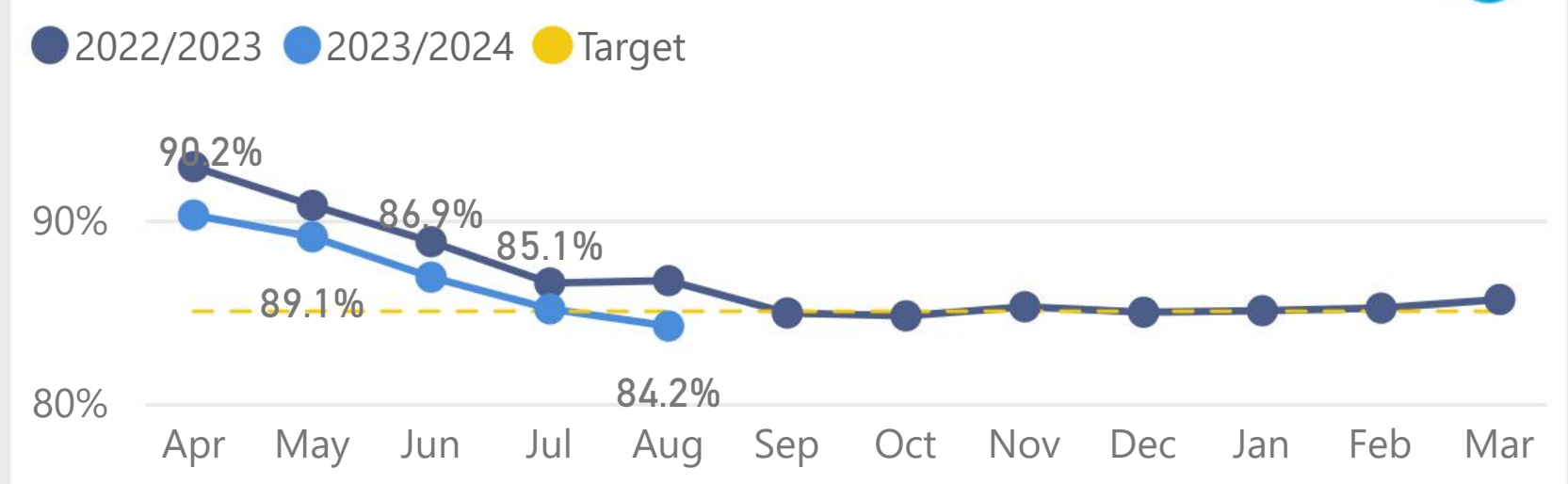
695.9

North East

697.0

Latest

% Child In Need Assessments completed in timescale



84.5%

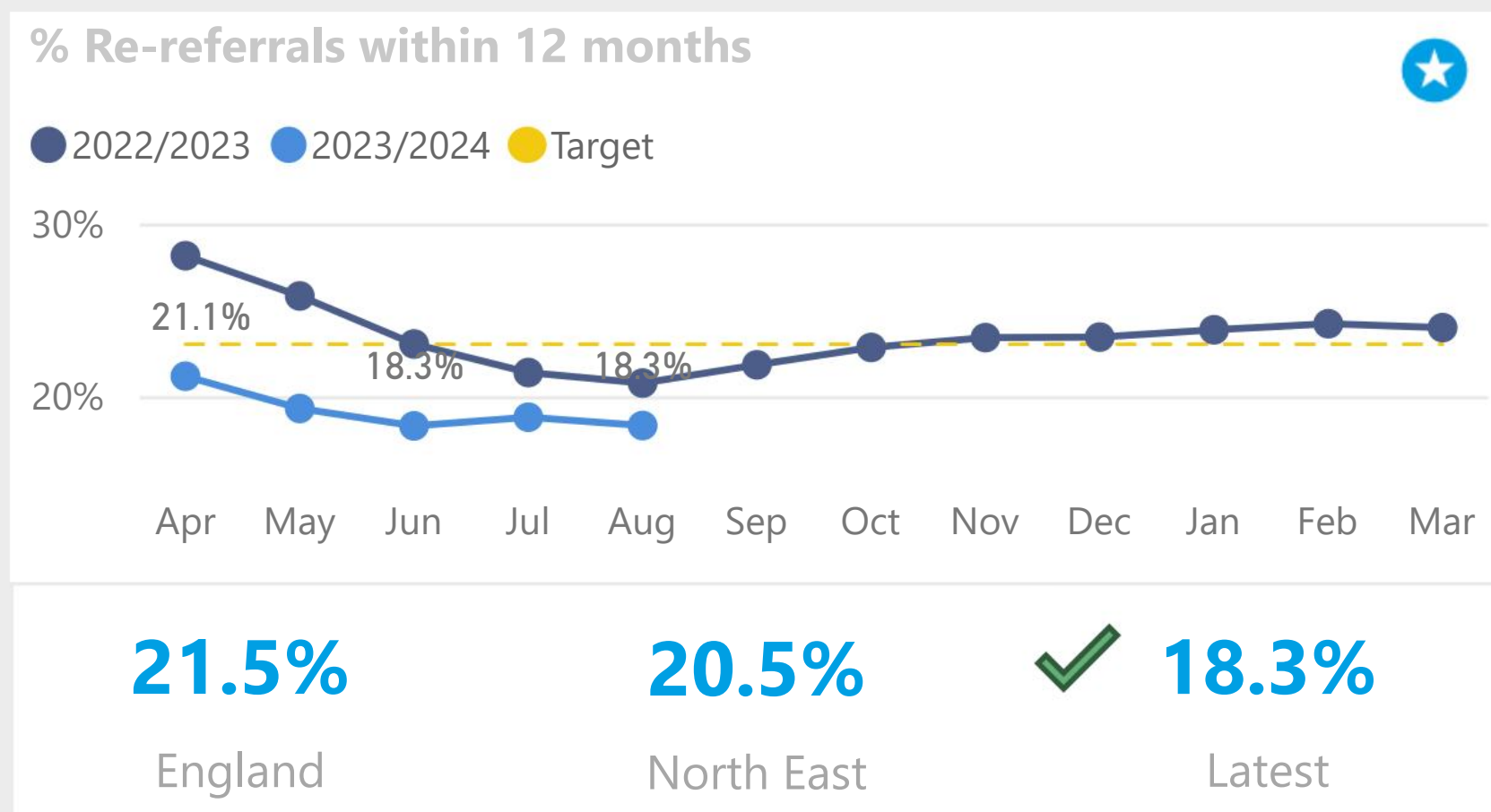
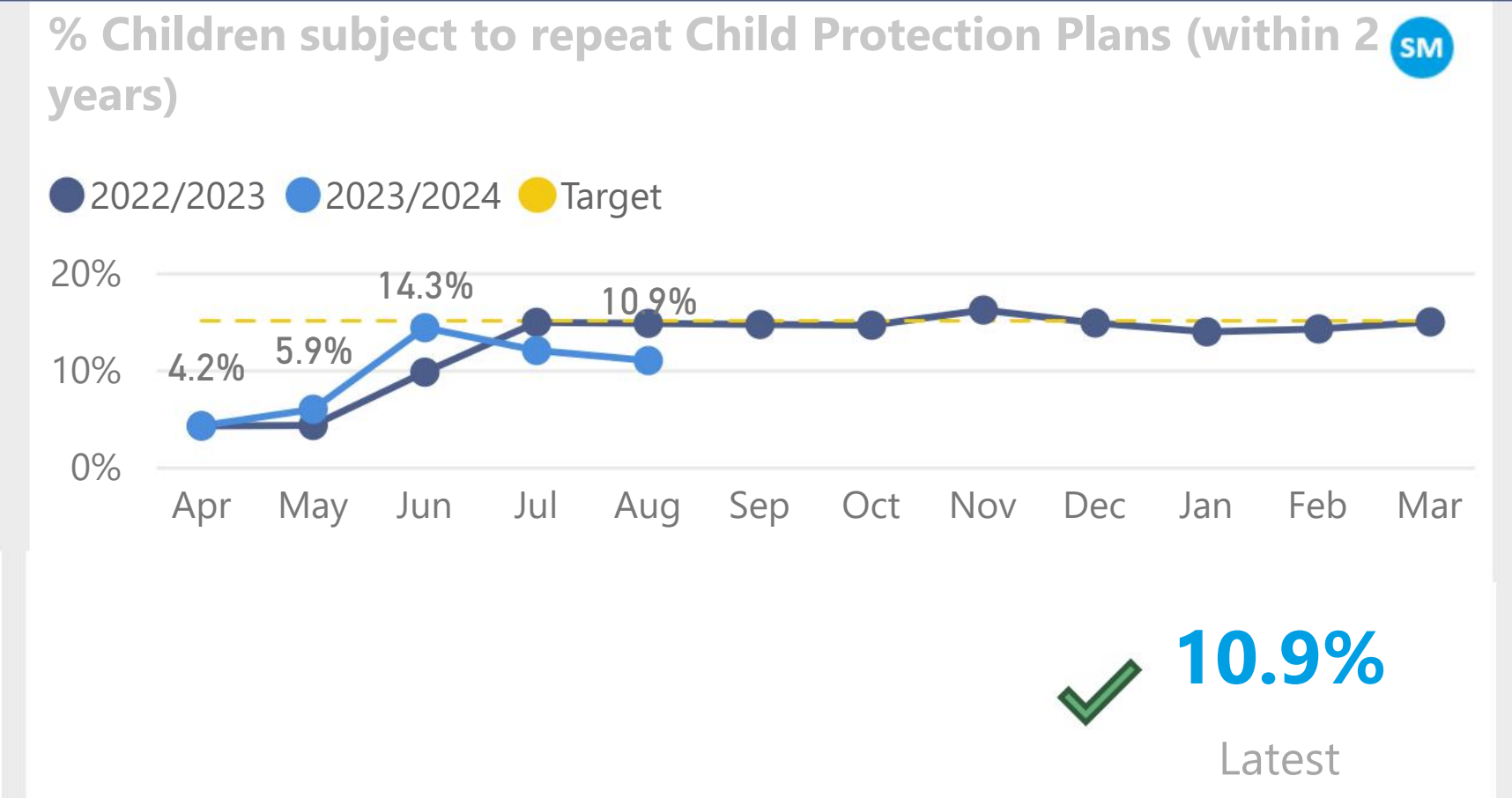
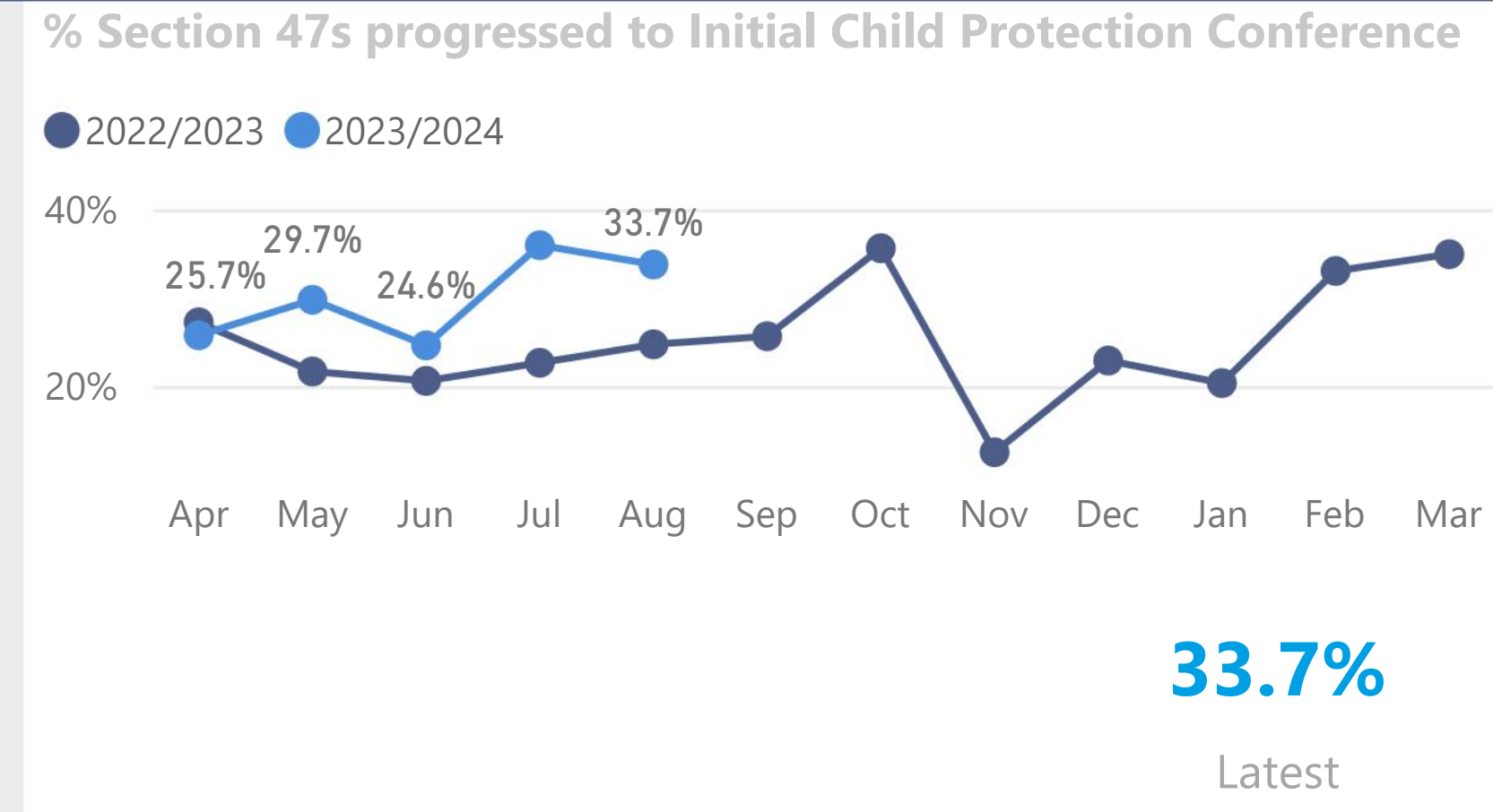
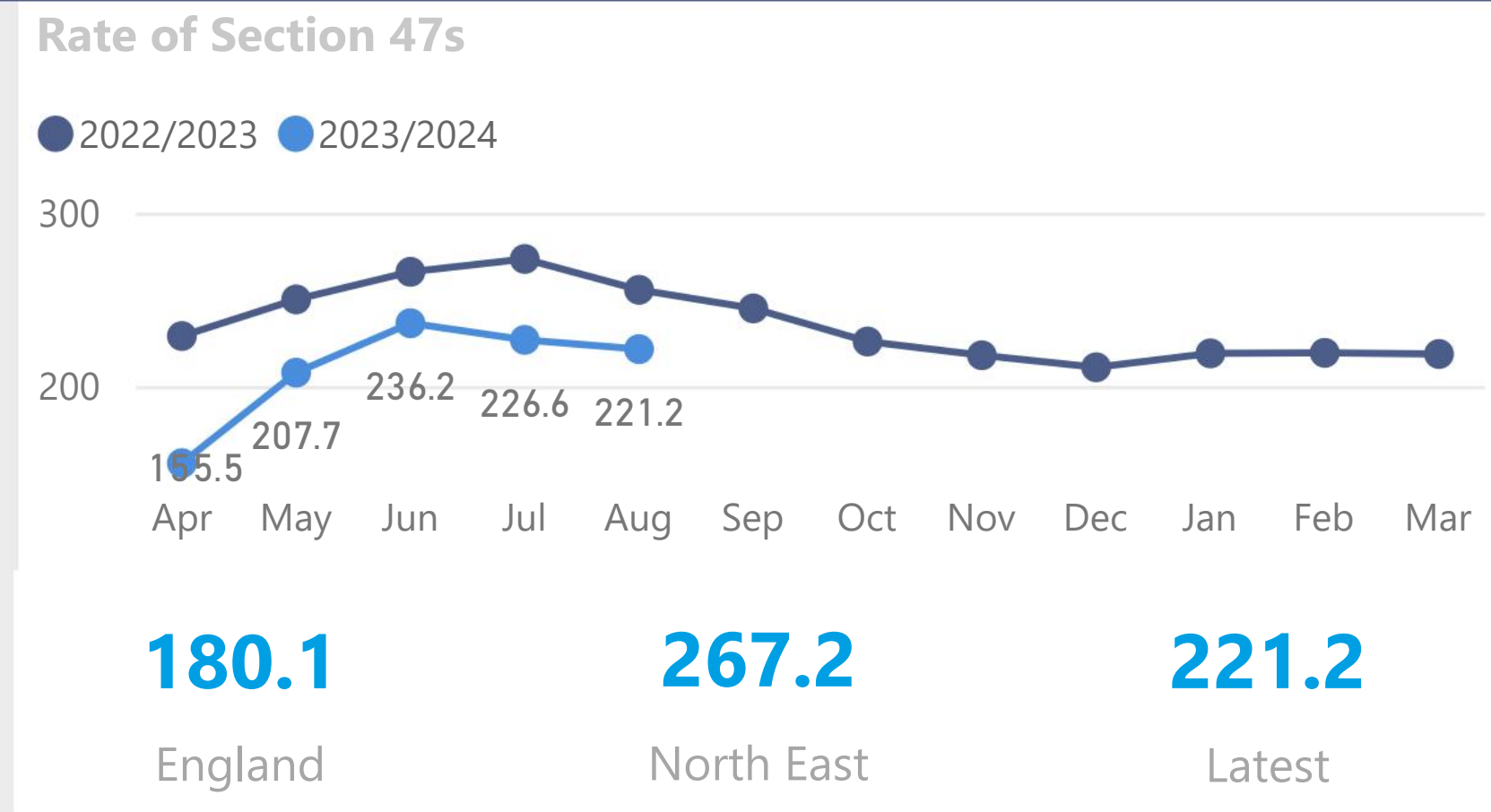
England

83.6%

North East

84.2%

Latest




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


How many children are cared for?

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

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

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

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

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

Do children feel happy at home?

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

Indicator icon key

 At or above target performance

 Below target performance but within tolerance range

 Below both target performance and tolerance range

 Contractual Measure

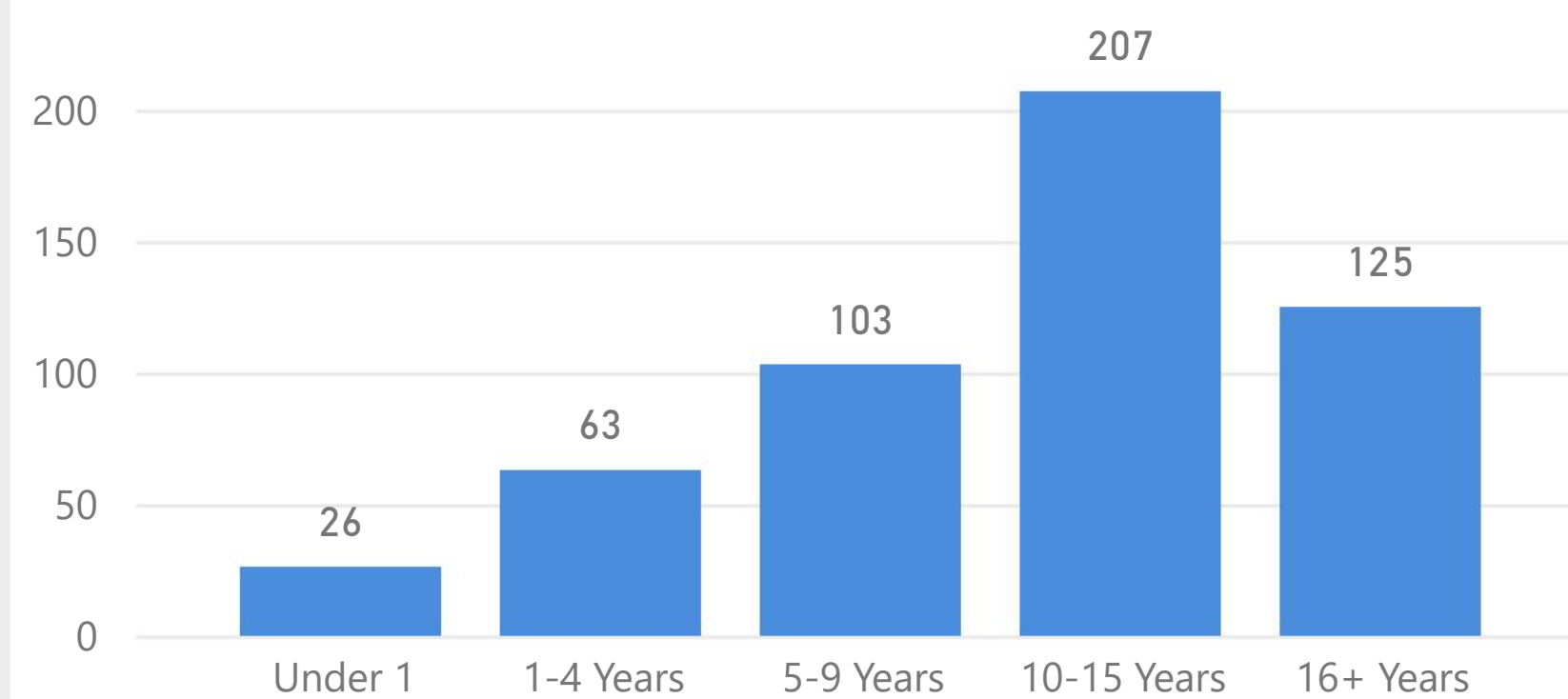
 Supporting Measure



Rate of current Cared for Children



Cared for Children by Age



% Cared for Children living in long term foster care

43.4%

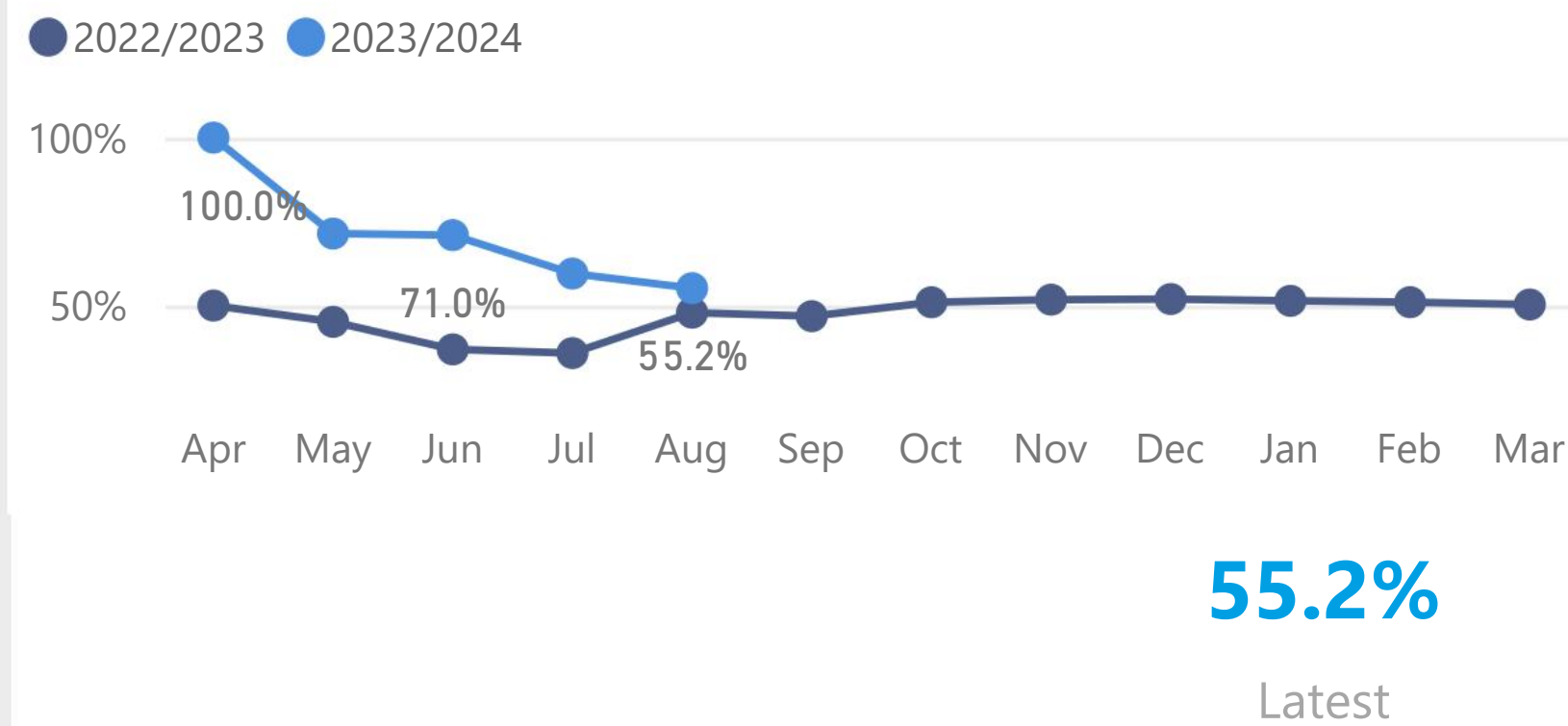
✓

% of Cared for Children living in Kinship care arrangements

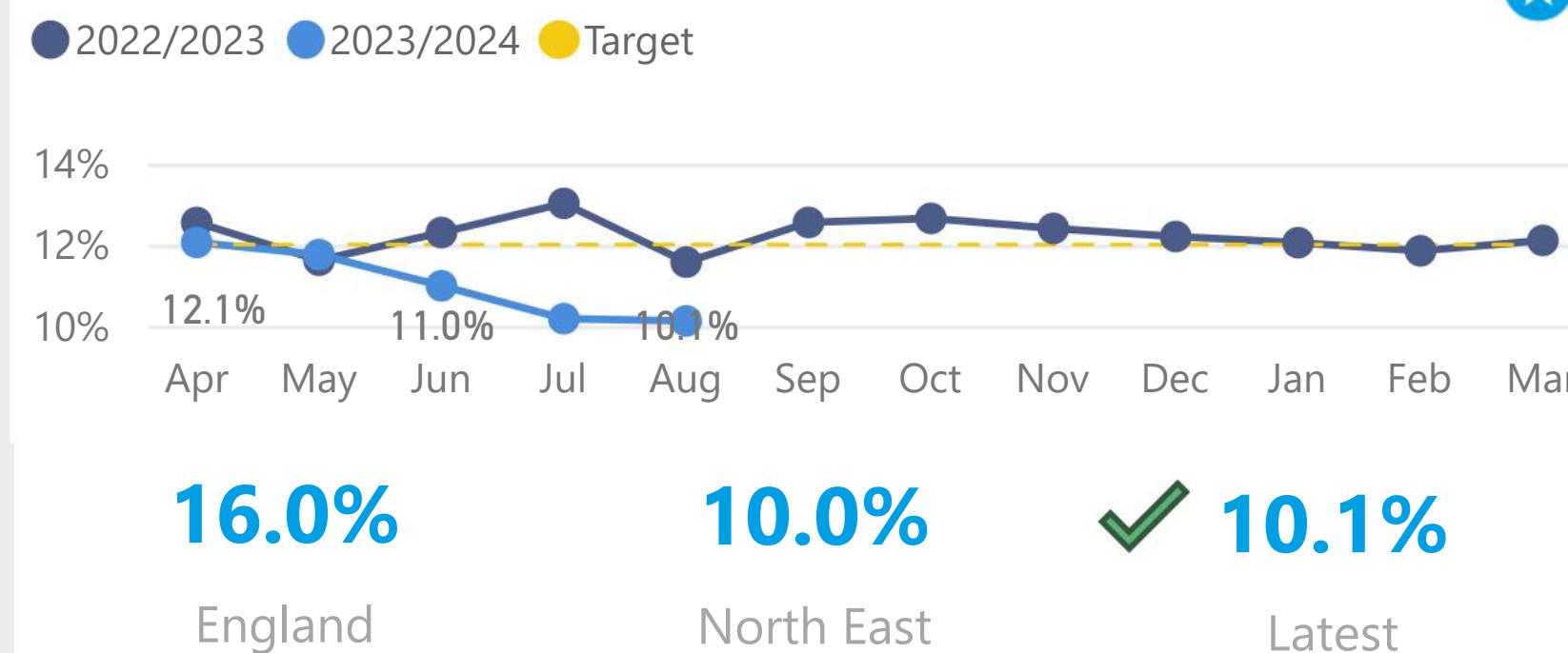
13.5%

Number of Children:
71

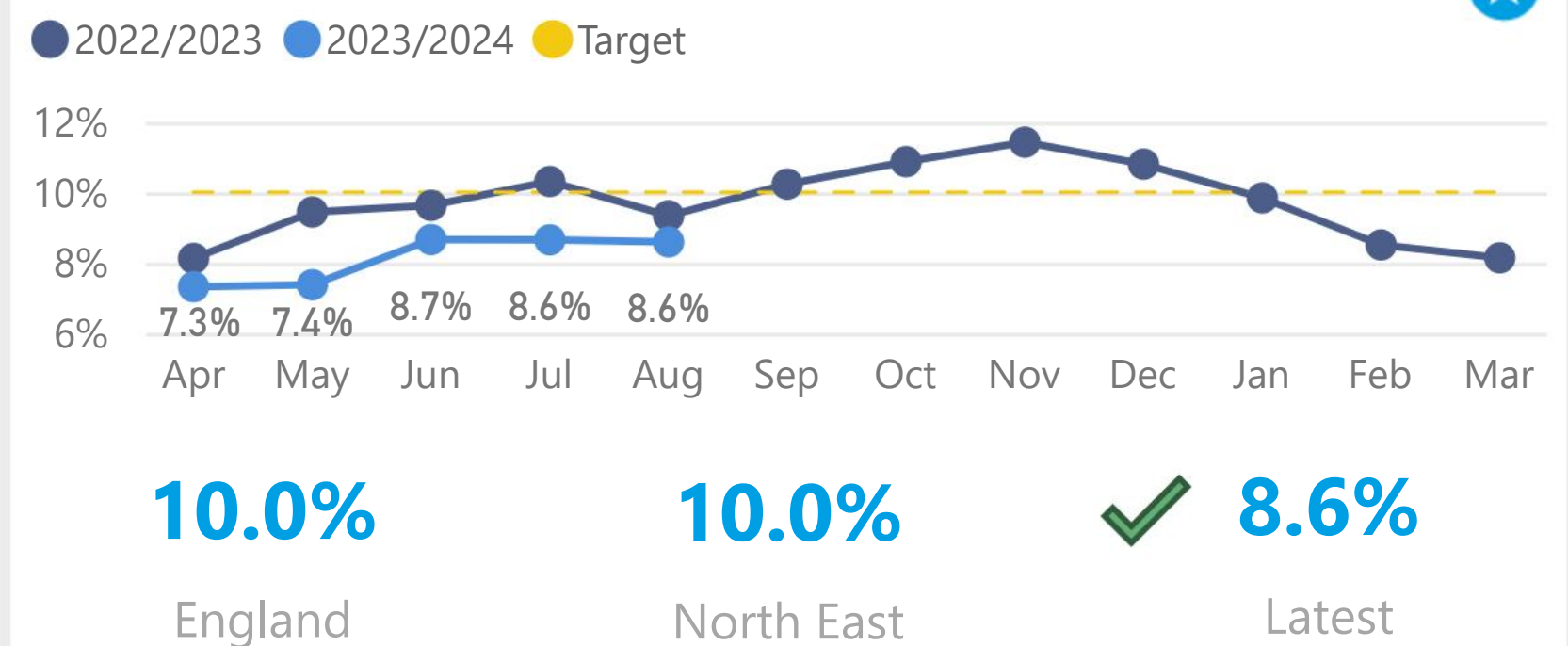
% Cared for children with a plan of permanence at 2nd review



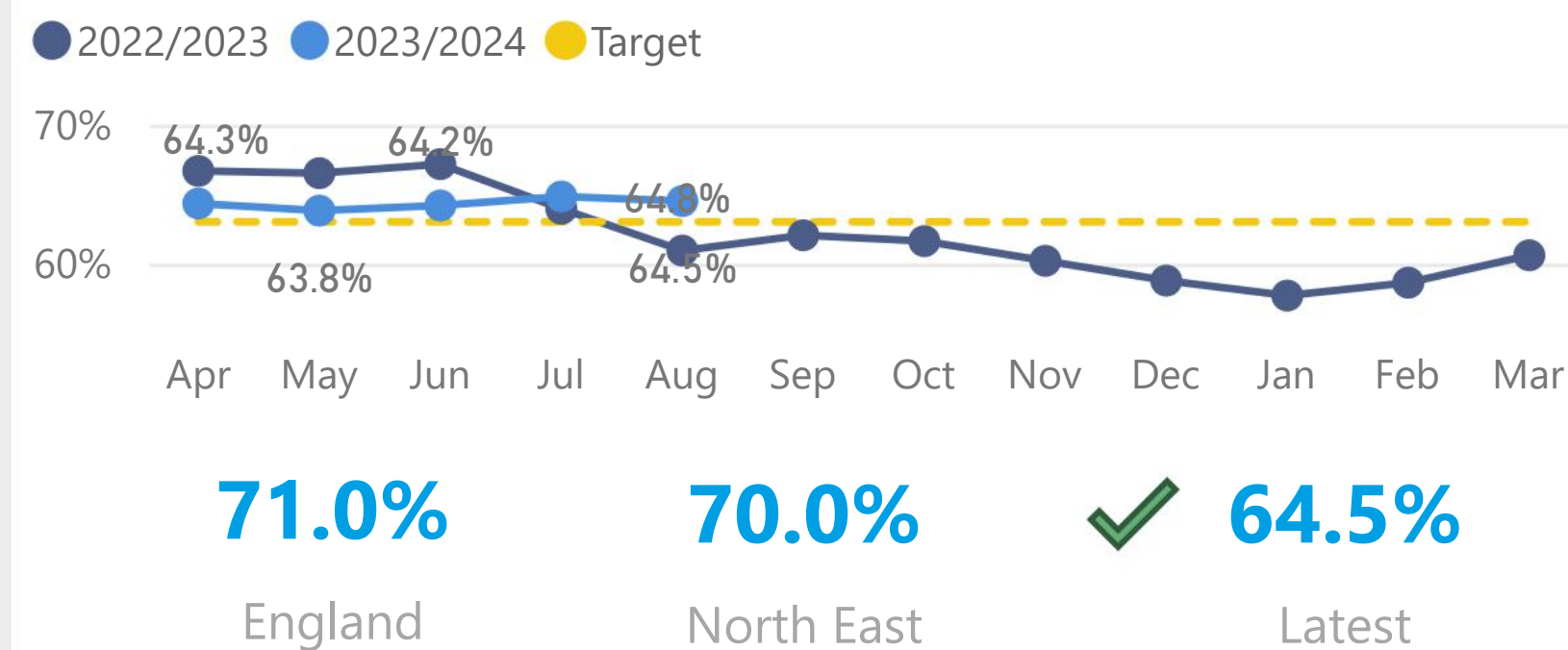
% Cared for Children living 20+ miles from home, outside of the LA boundary



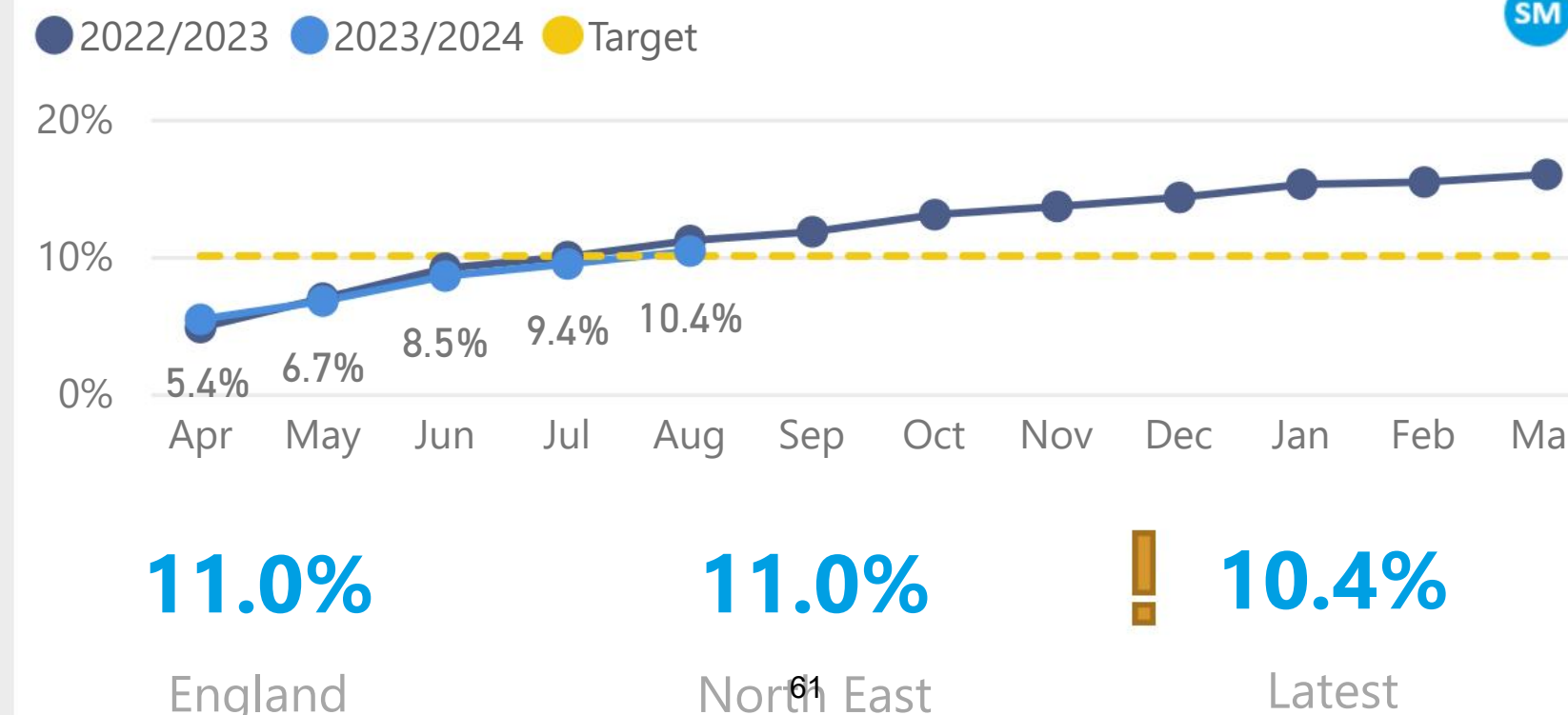
% Cared for Children who have experienced 3+ moves within the last 12 months



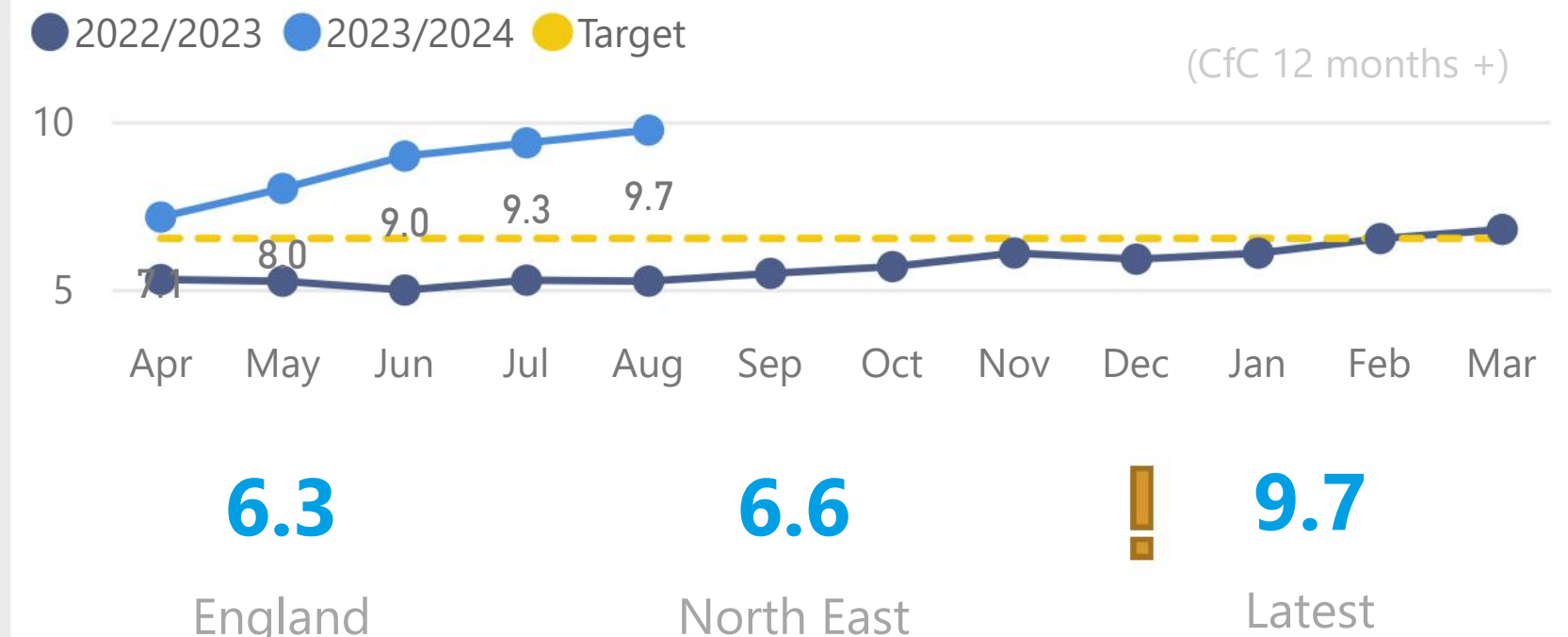
% Children in care at least 2.5 years living in current home for 2 years or more



% Cared for Children that have a missing incident



Average number of missing incidents per Cared for Children who went missing



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

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

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

Are we hearing from children about their plans?

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

Do children know their workers?

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

Are plans timely and successful?

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

Indicator icon key

- ✓ At or above target performance
- ! Below target performance but within tolerance range
- ✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range

★ Contractual Measure

SM Supporting Measure



% Annual Turnover

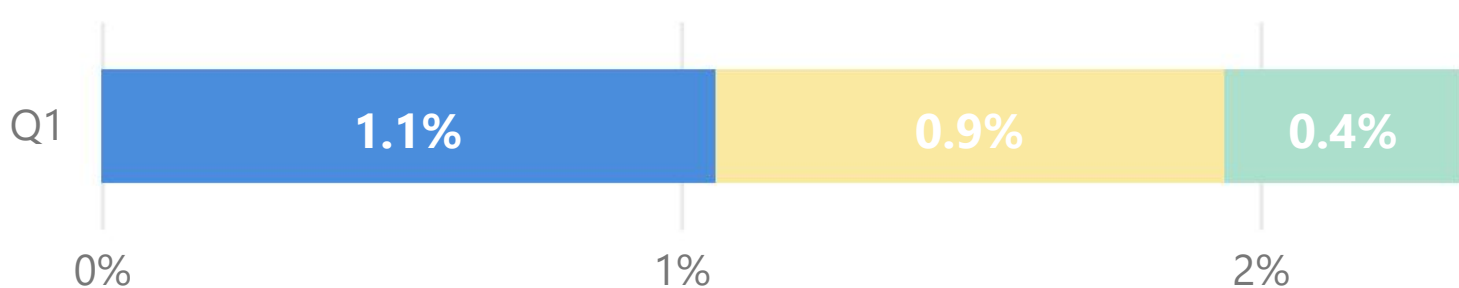
16.3%

% Vacancy rate

12.7%

% Agency posts in TfC

● Early Help ● Education ● Finance ● Social Care ● Sub Dir. of CEX



% Special Guardianship Orders granted

23.2%



% Family Group Conferences where child's voice was heard



In Development



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

91.0% SM



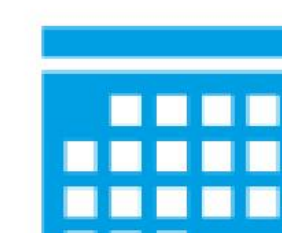
Number of Mind of my Own Statements sent to TfC

64



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

0.0% SM

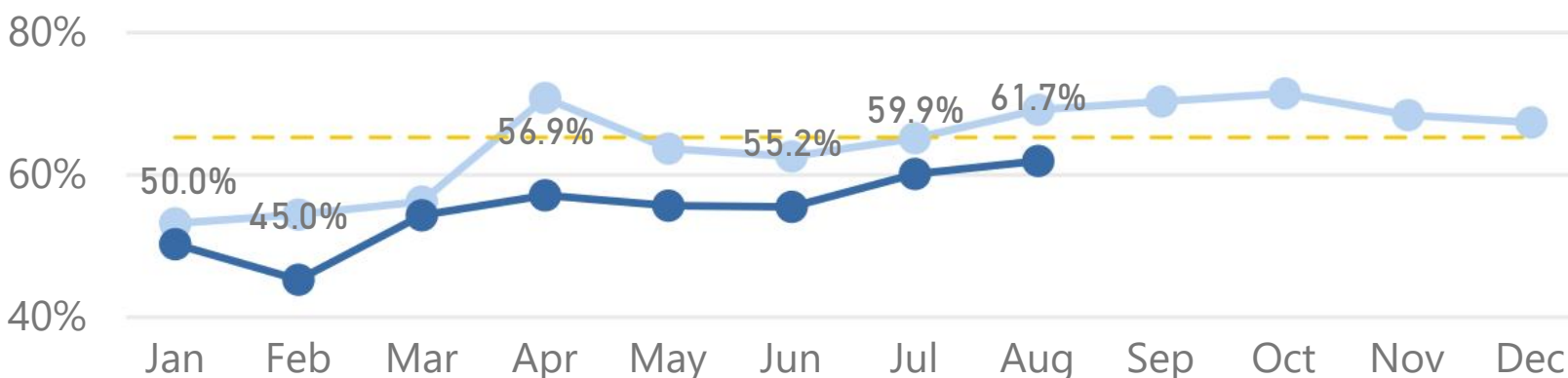


% Child Protection plans closed within 2 years

100.0%

% new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks, excluding exception ★

● 2022 ● 2023 ● Target



50.7%

England

57.8%

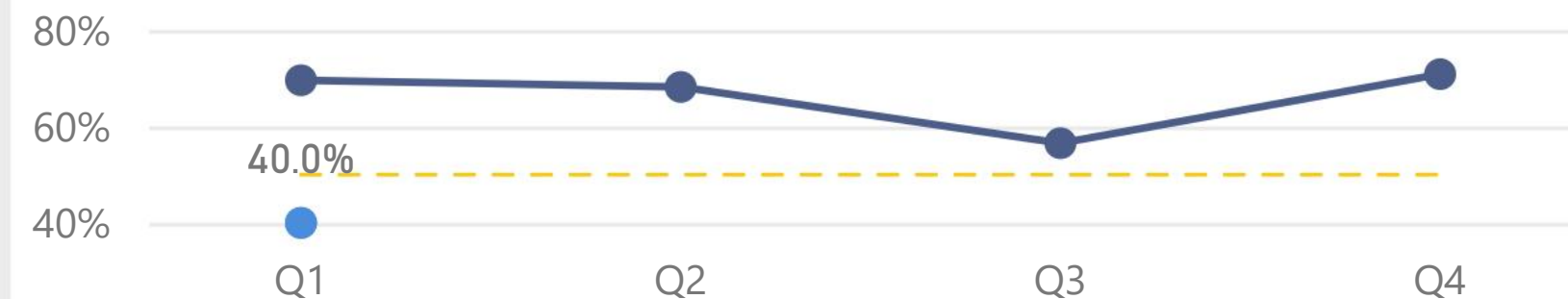
North East

61.7%

Latest

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

● 2022/2023 ● 2023/2024 ● Target



Total number of FGC completed in the 12-month period

15

40.0%

Latest

% Early Help cases closed with successful outcomes - TfC only SM

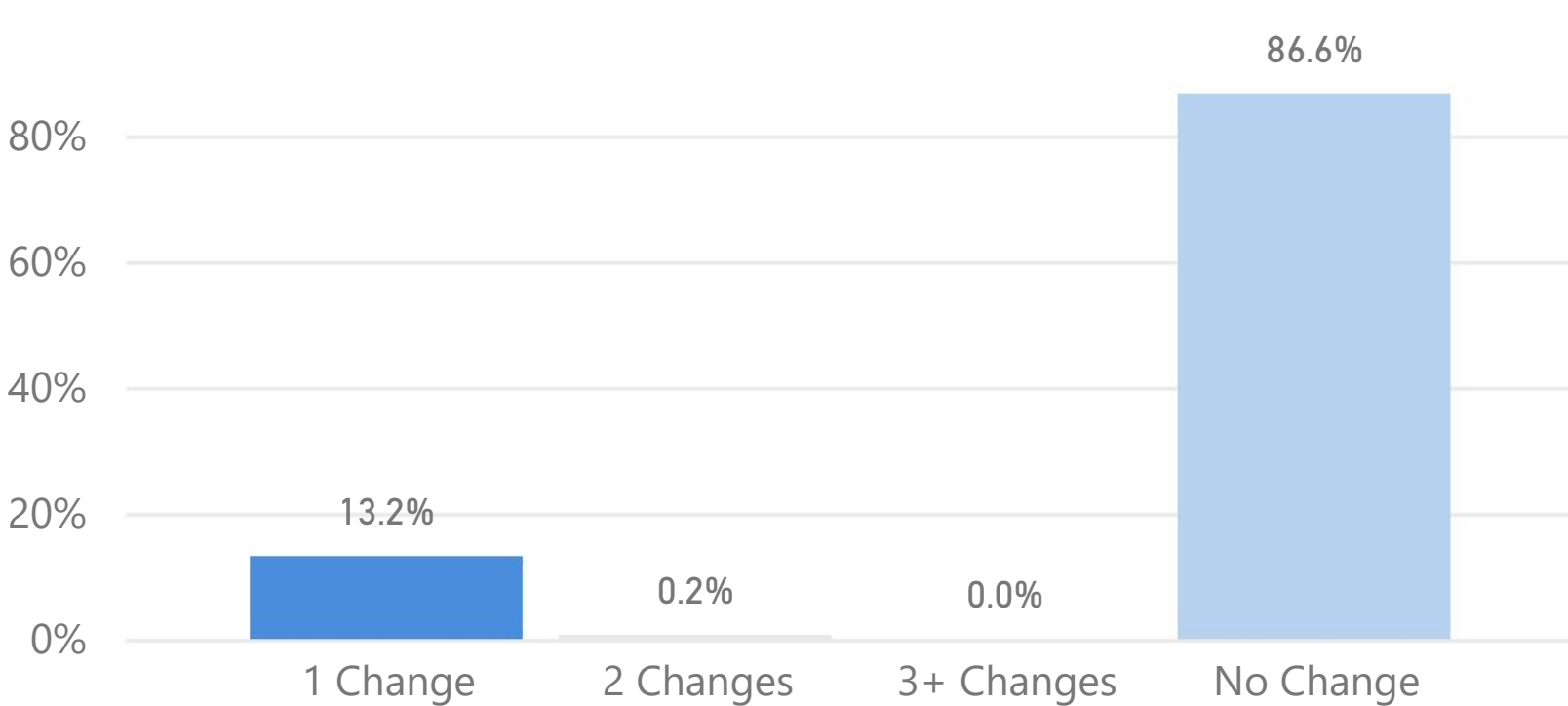
● 2022/2023 ● 2023/2024 ● Target



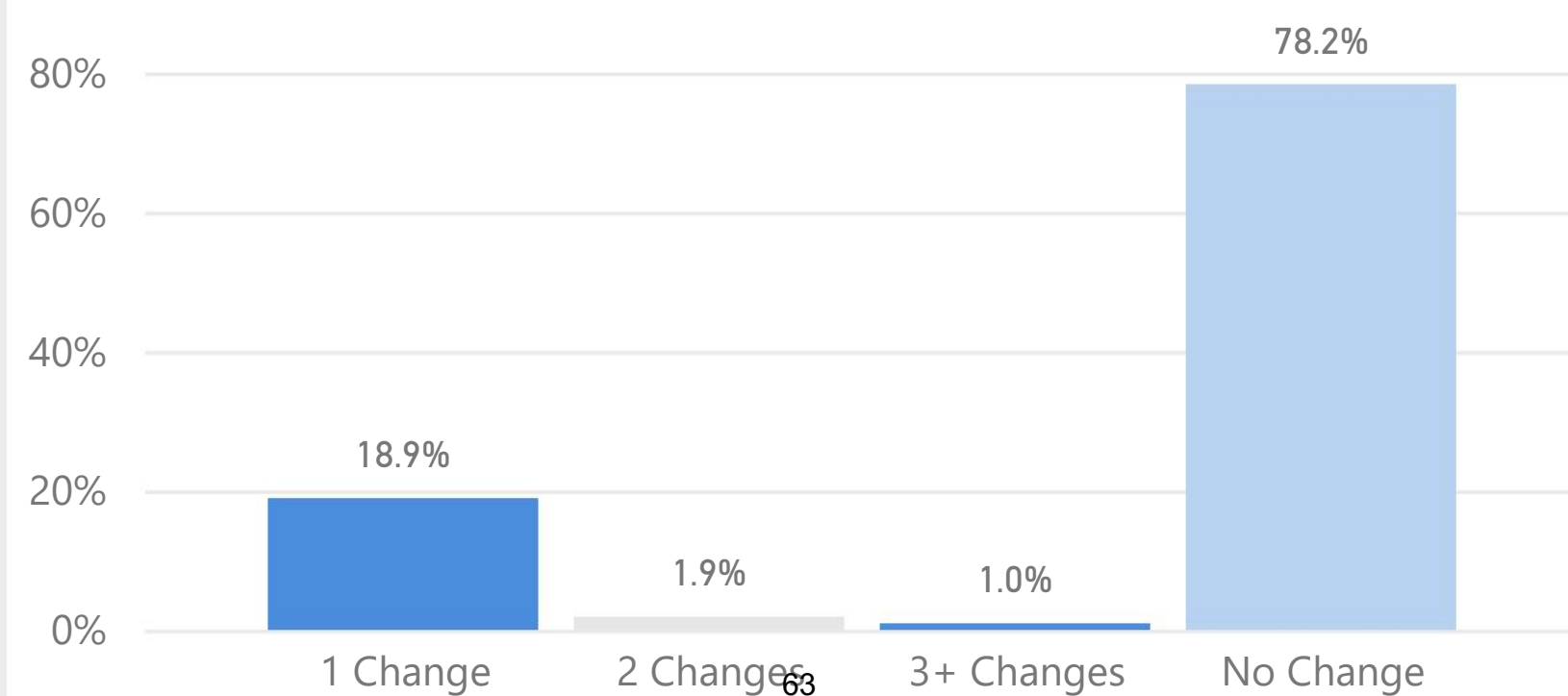
81.7%

Latest

% Cared for children with a change in IRO



% Cared for children with change in social worker



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

● 2022/2023 ● 2023/2024



58.3%

Latest

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

How many children and families are accessing our activities?

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

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

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

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

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

Indicator icon key

✓ At or above target performance

! Below target performance but within tolerance range

✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range

★ Contractual Measure

SM Supporting Measure





Number of CYP attending P&I Celebration/Consultation

260

Cumulative



Number of participations by CYP in participation activity

96

Monthly



Number of CYP attending a HAF programme

2828

Termly



% Schools achieving Healthy Schools Award

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

Quarterly Cumulative



% Schools achieving Mental Health Charter Mark

47.7%	18.7%	5.6%
Bronze	Silver	Gold

Quarterly Cumulative



% Primary pupils eligible for free school meals - for information

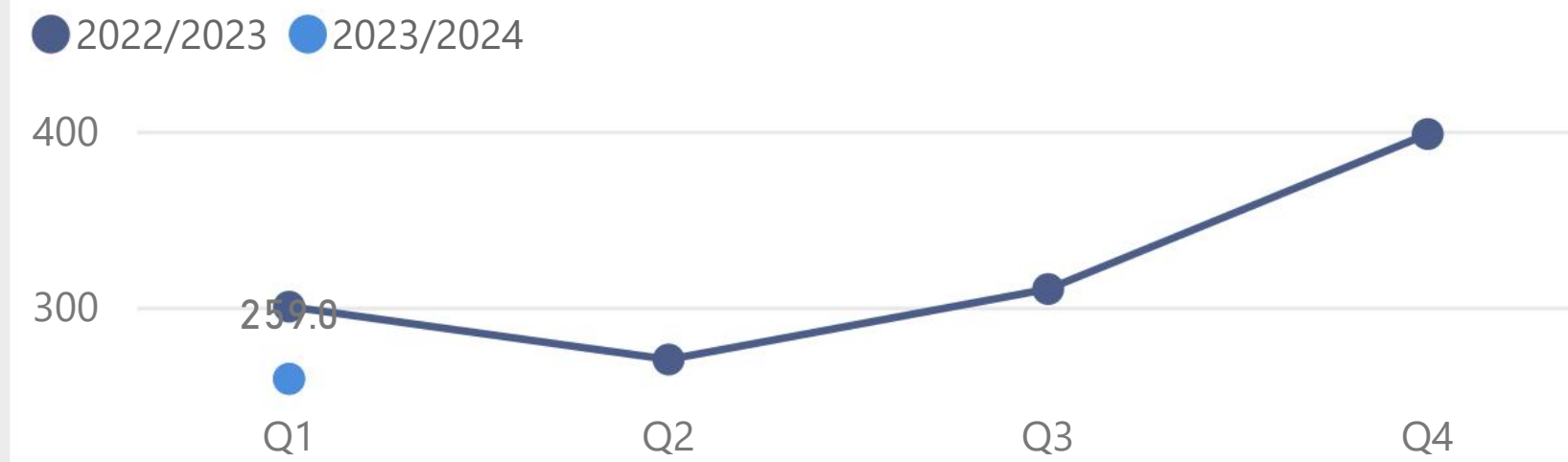
27.8%



% Secondary pupils eligible for free school meals - for information

32.8%

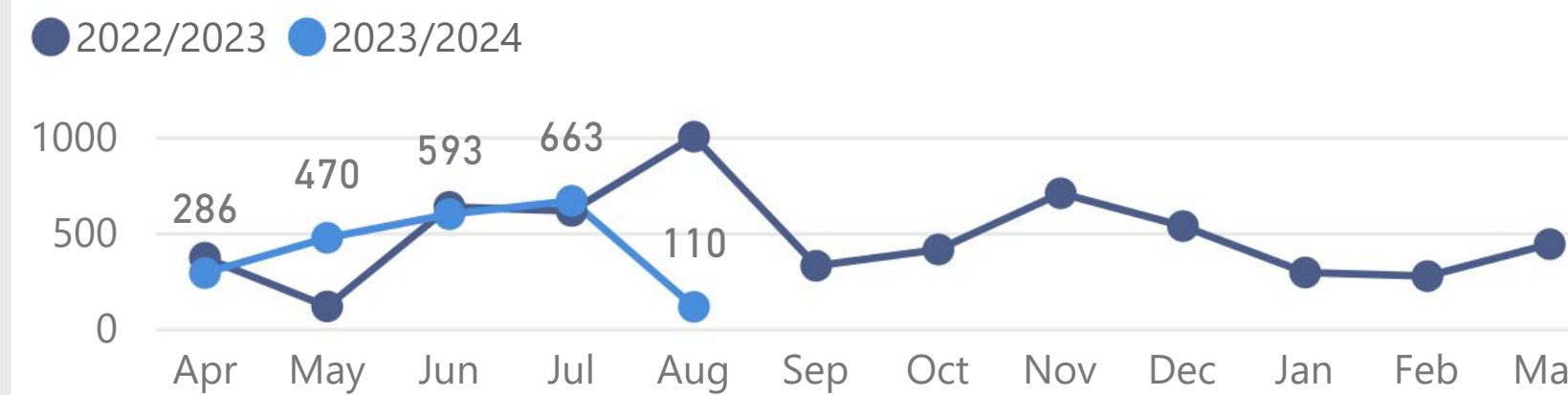
No of CYP accessing mental health services or KOOTH



259

Latest

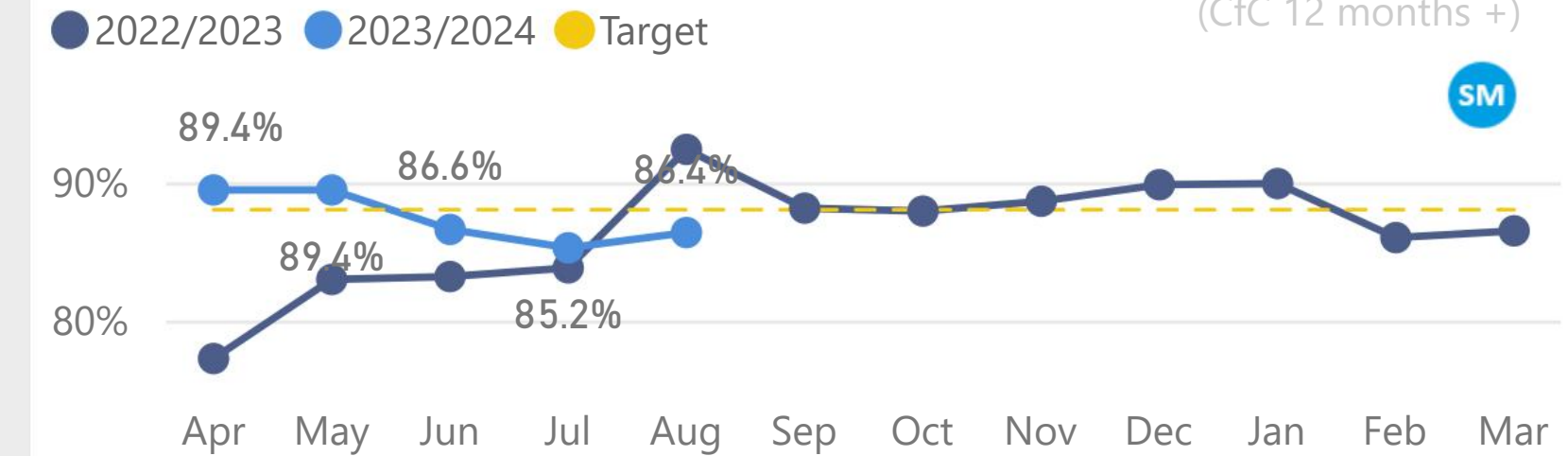
Overall number of children and young people who have attended a bus session



110

Latest

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



89.0%

England

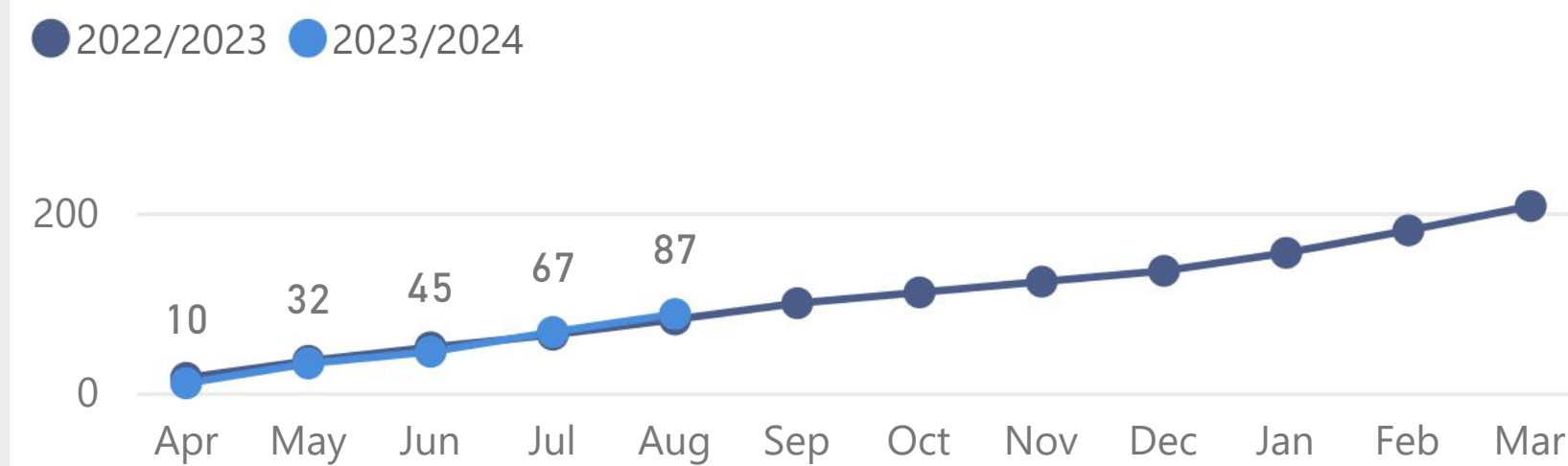
92.0%

North East

86.4%

Latest

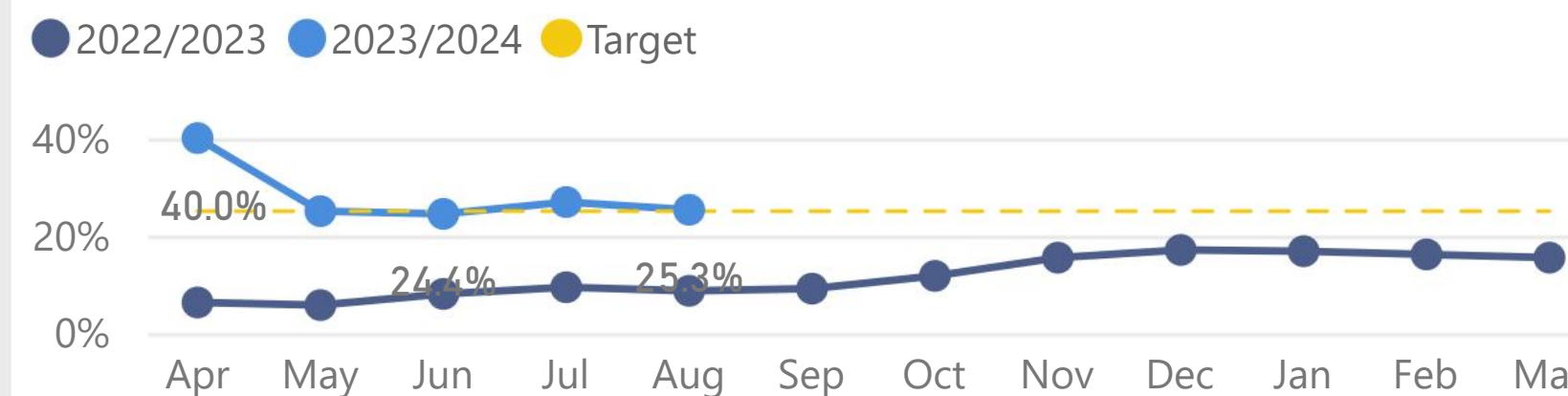
No of initial customer feedback contacts received



87

Latest

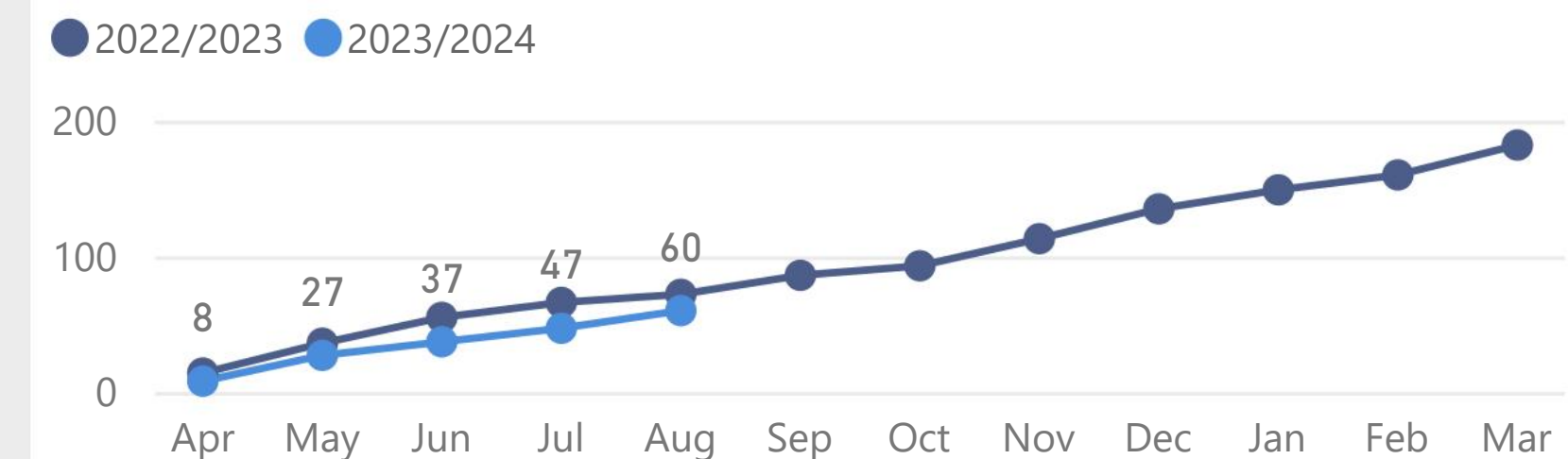
% Initial customer feedback contacts escalated to stage 1 complaint



25.3%

Latest

No of compliments received in period



60

Latest

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

How many children and young people are in school?

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

How are children learning?

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

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

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

Indicator icon key

- ✓ At or above target performance
- ! Below target performance but within tolerance range
- ✗ Below both target performance and tolerance range
- ★ Contractual Measure
- SM Supporting Measure




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

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



Absence – Schools & Academies

Exclusions – Schools & Academies




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

98.2%

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



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

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

EYFS - % Children achieving a Good Level of Development

Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	63.7%
Stat. Neighbour	63.9%
North East	64.1%
England	65.2%

EYFS - % SEND children achieving a Good Level of Development

Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	18.6%
Stat. Neighbour	17.8%
North East	18.7%
England	18.8%

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

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

*Stat neighbour not available

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

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



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

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

*Stat neighbour not available

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

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

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



Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	62.3%
Stat. Neighbour	65.7%
North East	65.8%
England	68.8%

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

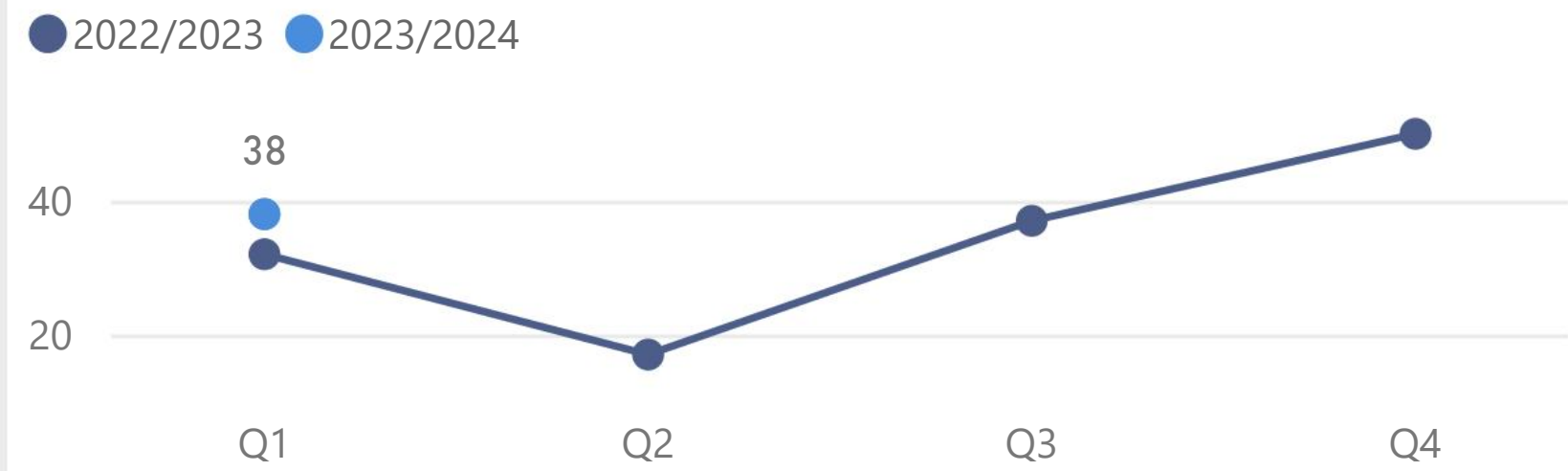
Comparator	2021/22
Sunderland	24.3%
Stat. Neighbour	30.0%
North East	28.7%
England	32.2%

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

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

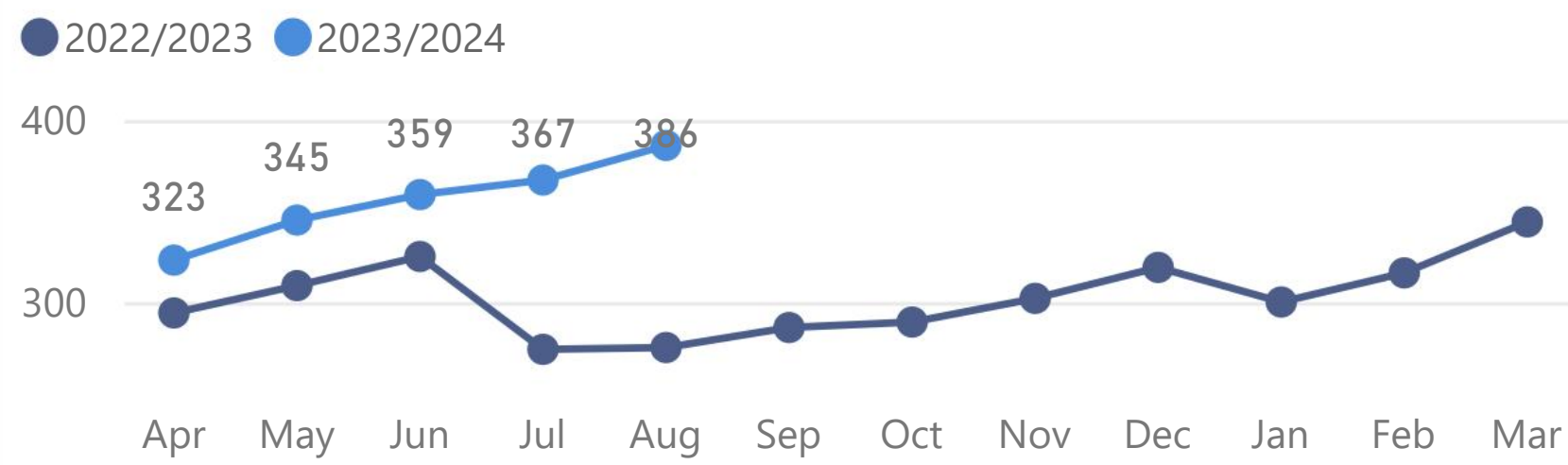

Number of children missing education (CME)



38

Latest

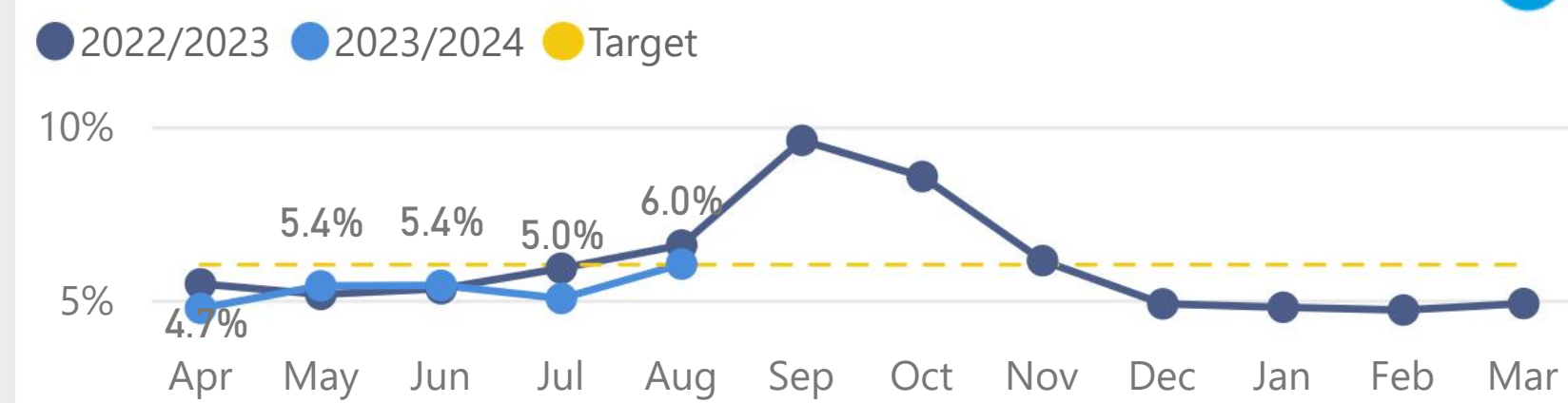
Number of children electively home educated (EHE)



386

Latest

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



2.7%

England

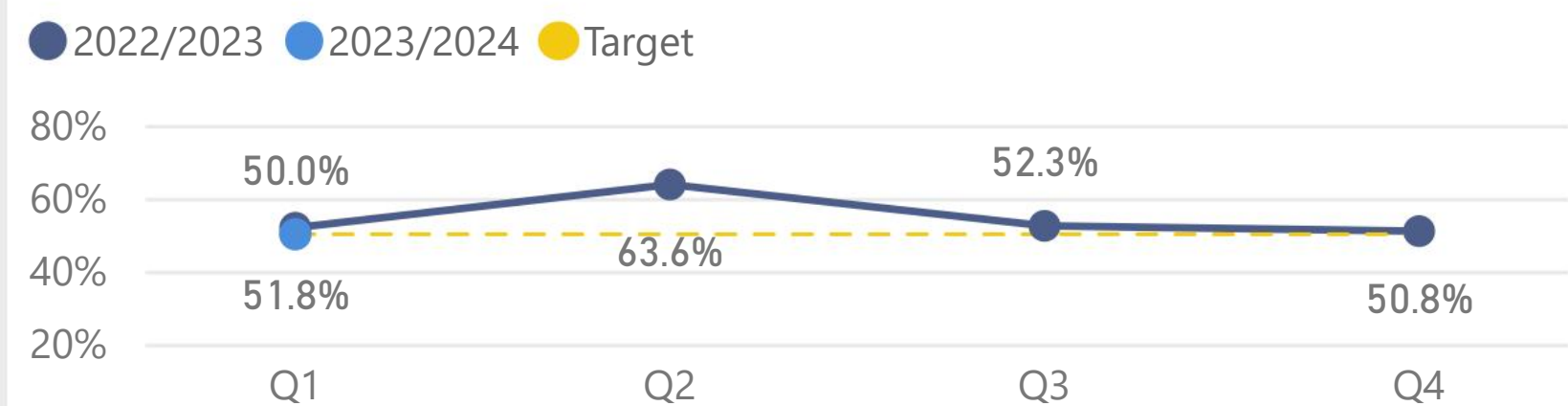
1.0%

North East

5.0%

Latest

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



66.0%

England

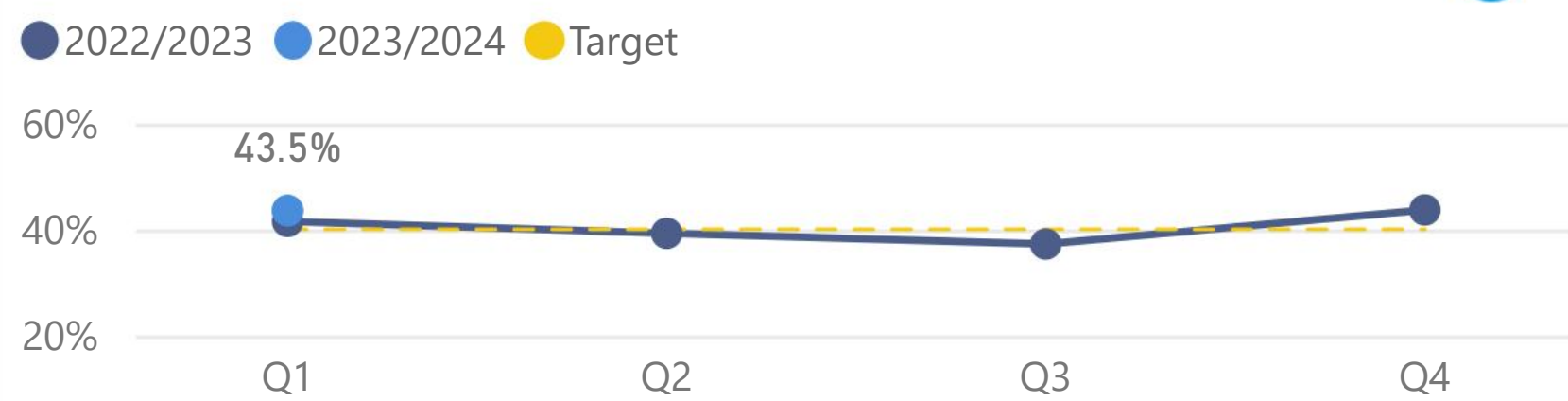
67.0%

North East

50.0%

Latest

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



55.0%

England

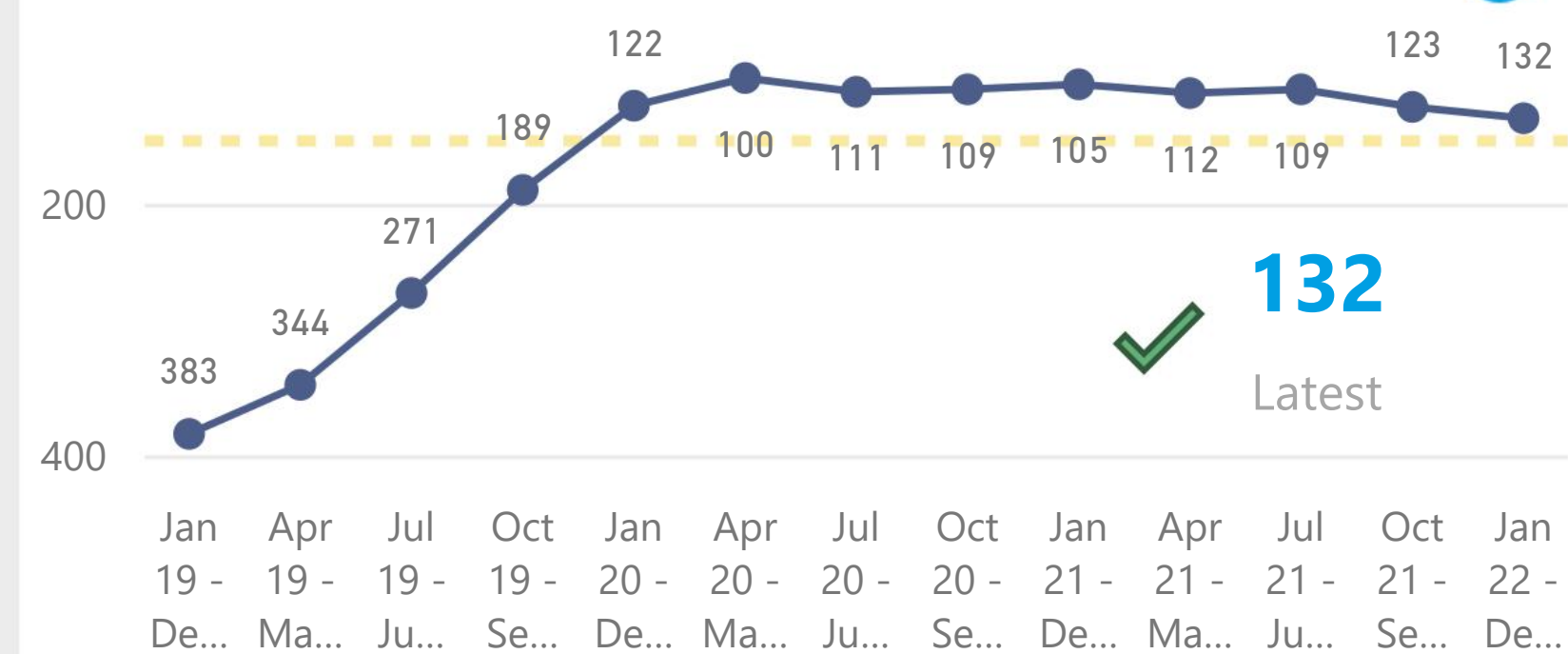
52.0%

North East

43.5%

Latest

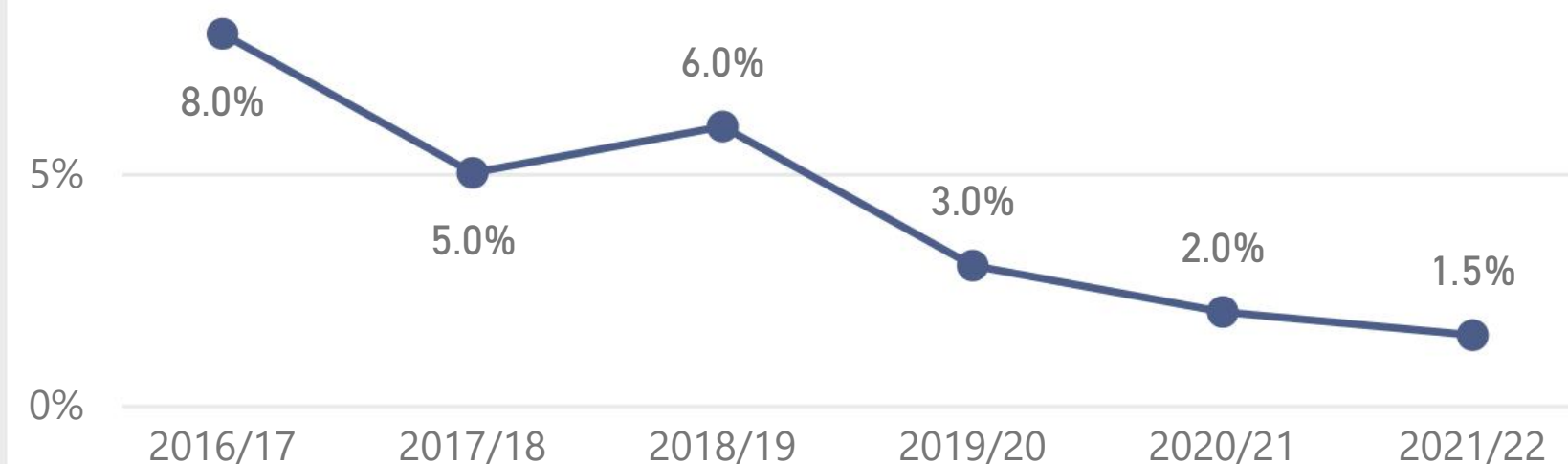
Rate of first-time entrants to the Criminal Justice System (per 100,000 population)



132

Latest

% Offending by Cared for Children



2.0%

England

2.0%

North East

1.5%

Latest

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



88.2%

Latest

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



76.5%

Latest

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 5 OCTOBER
2023**

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Background

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

3. Current position

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

4. Conclusion

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

5 Recommendation

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

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

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

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

3. CURRENT POSITION

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

4. RECOMMENDATION

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

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda
-

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

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

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
221006/744	To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
210709/612	To authorise the Executive Director of City Development to deliver the Washington F-Pit Museum Heritage Visitor Centre and Albany Park Improvement project, including the procurement of consultants and contractors.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220524/714	To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
220712/722	To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220719/723	To seek approval for the acquisition of Property at Crowtree Road and to grant a lease of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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221110/753	To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230428/799	To seek approval for Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2023 - 2030	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230522/808	To approve the adoption of revised Local Wildlife Site boundaries and designations	Cabinet	Y	September – December 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230717/826	To seek approval to publish the 2022/2023 Low Carbon Annual Report	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 September – 31 December 2023	N		Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230718/828	To agree to enter into Inter-Authority Agreement regarding North East Screen Industries Partnership	Cabinet	Yes	During the period 1 September – 31 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230721/829	To seek approval to procure care and support services that enable people to live independently at home.	Cabinet	Yes	During the period 1 September – 31 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230818/830	Section 75 Partnership Agreement between Sunderland City Council and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board	Cabinet	Yes	12 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230818/831	To update Cabinet on the Masterplan proposals for High Street West, Sunderland and to seek approval to appoint a Multi-disciplinary Design Team to progress the feasibility, design and planning work to develop the Project.	Cabinet	Yes	12 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230907/832	To seek approval to provide grant funding in relation to the delivery of new housing	Cabinet	Yes	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230908/833	Approve the recommendations detailed within the report - Winter Maintenance Policy 2023-24	Cabinet	Yes	12 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230909/834	Capital Programme Second Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230909/835	Revenue Budget Second Review 2023/2024	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230909/836	Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230912/837	Purchase of Red Gables, North Street, east Rainton, DH5 9QF	Cabinet	N	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230913/838	To Seek Approval to the Leasing of Land at Crowtree Green, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	12 October 2023	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

Who will decide;

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

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

Elaine Waugh,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

13 September 2023