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**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Performance Report**  
**Quarter 2 2021/22**

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## 1. Our Borough Strategy 2021-30 Priorities

Performance Management in St Helens Borough Council is focused around achieving the 6 strategic priorities outlined in Our Borough Strategy 2021/30.



**Priority 1 - Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life**

**Priority 2 - Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities**

**Priority 3 - Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all**

**Priority 4 - Support a strong, thriving, inclusive, and well-connected local economy**

**Priority 5 - Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture**

**Priority 6 - Be a responsible council**



## 2. Borough Strategy Priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. Making progress towards the global goals by 2030 depends on local action. SDGs fit with Our Borough Strategy Vision and the Council's approach to Reset and Recovery. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals have been mapped against the 'Our Borough Strategy' priorities and outcomes.

 <p>ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE START IN LIFE</p>	     	 <p>SUPPORT A STRONG, THRIVING, INCLUSIVE AND WELL-CONNECTED LOCAL ECONOMY</p>	          
 <p>PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE AND CARE ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES</p>	   	 <p>CREATE GREEN AND VIBRANT PLACES THAT REFLECT OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE</p>	      
 <p>CREATE SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR ALL</p>	  	 <p>BE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL</p>	       

### **3. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to inform and update on performance against the 6 priorities of the Our Borough Strategy 2021/30 and respective outcomes as set out above. The report covers the period Quarter 2 2021/22 providing the performance position reported over the course of the period. The reporting format splits the report into 2 distinct parts:

**Part 1** of the report is a statistical analysis of the performance position at Quarter 2 2021/22.

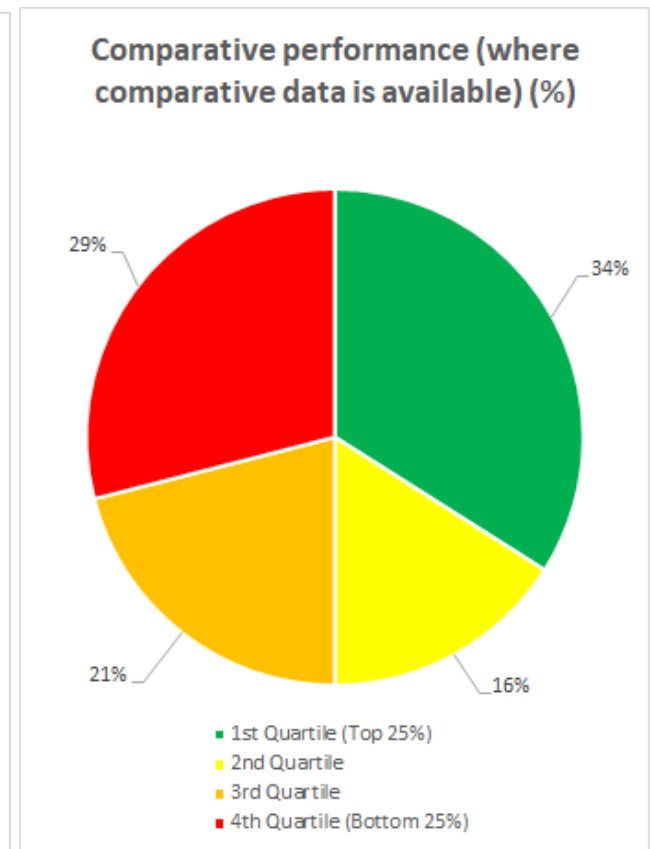
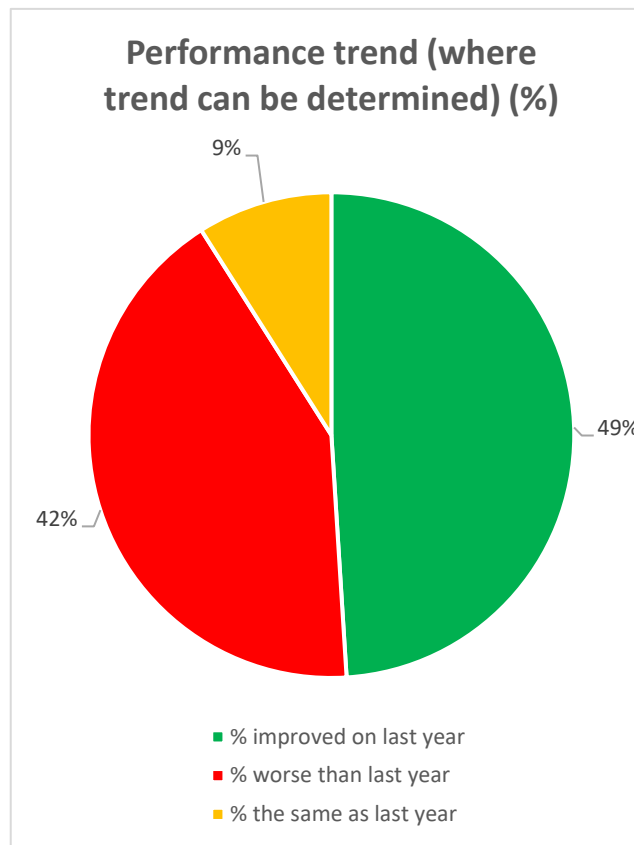
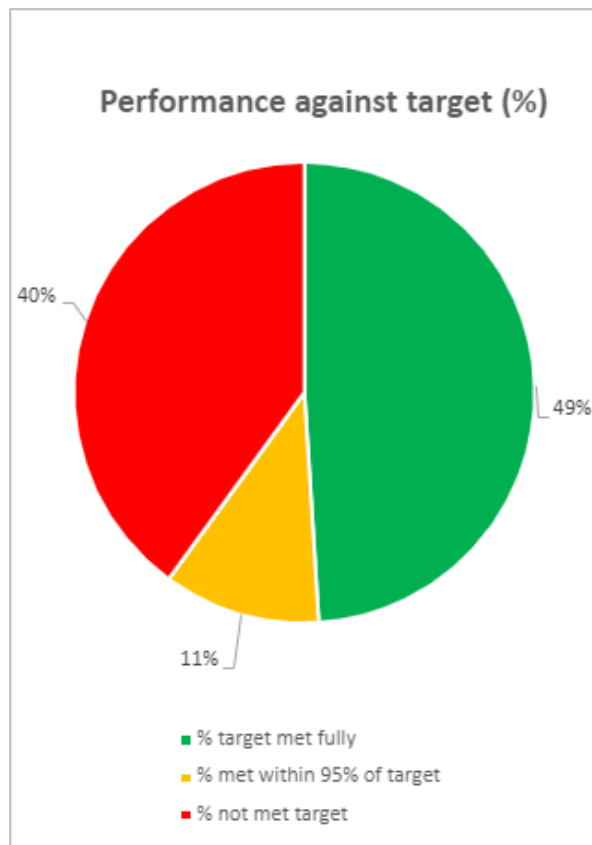
**Part 2** of the report is a commentary on performance against delivery of the 6 strategic priorities and their respective outcomes summarising current performance within the quarter and action being taken to improve performance where required.

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### 3. Executive Summary

The charts below provide an overview position of all performance measures across all 6 Borough Strategy priorities as at Quarter 2 2021/22, examining:

- Performance against target.
- Trend - whether performance has improved / worsened since the position 12 months ago.
- Inter Authority performance - how St Helens' performance compares to that of a family group of authorities similar to St Helens.



## 4. Part 1 - Statistical analysis

To measure performance in Quarter 2 2021/22, the Council is reporting against a total of 80 performance indicators. Additional indicators linked to the outcomes of the 6 strategic priorities will be reported over the course of the year as and when data is available as not all data is available every quarter. The indicators reported are split between Tier 1 and Tier 2:

**Tier 1** – A set of high-level strategic indicators and targets that constitute the Outcomes Framework of the Borough Strategy 2021-2030.

**Tier 2** – A further set of performance indicators and targets to address key priority areas of performance within Directorates / Departments.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority area, this distinction is maintained and both tiers are shown as they are all relevant to an understanding of overall performance.

The Quarter 1 report statistical analysis looks at performance under 3 areas:

1. Performance against targets
2. Trend over 12-months
3. Inter-authority comparison

## 4.1 Performance Against Target

This measure sets out:

- The percentage of indicators by priority where targets have been fully met or exceeded.
- The percentage of indicators by priority that have not fully met target but are within 95% of target.
- The percentage of indicators by priority that have failed to meet the target by more than 5%.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority area, green, amber, and red colours are used to depict indicators in each of the above three bullet point situations.

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
1. Ensure children and young people have a positive start	30	47% (14)	10% (3)	43% (13)
2. Health, independence, and care	20	50% (10)	20% (4)	30% (6)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	13	69% (9)	0% (0)	31% (4)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	5	40% (2)	20% (1)	40% (2)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	7	57% (4)	0% (0)	43% (3)
6. Responsible Council	5	0% (0)	20% (1)	80% (4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>49% (39)</b>	<b>11% (9)</b>	<b>40% (32)</b>

A listing of indicators, which have met or exceeded target, have met within 95% of target, or have failed to meet target by more than 5% are shown within each of the 6 priority scorecards.

## 4.2 The Performance Trend

This measure compares performance at Q2 2021/22 with performance at Q2 2020/21 by setting out:

- The percentage of indicators where performance compared to last year has improved.
- The percentage of indicators where performance compared to last year has declined.
- The percentage of indicators where performance compared to last year is the same.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority a black arrow pointing up, downwards or sideways is used to depict indicators in each of the above 3 scenarios.



NB. There are a total of 9 new indicators for 2021/22, where performance data in 2020/21 is not available and therefore it is not possible to show a performance trend.

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
1. Ensure children and young people have a positive start	27	44% (12)	41% (11)	15% (4)
2. Health, independence, and care	19	42% (8)	47% (9)	11% (2)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	11	73% (8)	27% (3)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	5	20% (1)	60% (3)	20% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	7	57% (4)	43% (3)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	7	57% (4)	43% (3)	0% (0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>49% (37)</b>	<b>42% (32)</b>	<b>9% (7)</b>

### 4.3 Inter Authority Comparison

This measure shows how performance in St Helens compares to the performance of a family group of authorities similar to St Helens. It does this by ranking each authority's performance by quartile. The top performing 25 % are in the first quartile and the bottom 25% in the fourth quartile. Authorities in between are placed in either the 2nd or 3rd quartiles. Comparative national data is only available to be used for 37 indicators.

In the supporting scorecards for each priority, where this measure is used, green indicates that St Helens is in the top best performing quartile, red that it is in the bottom quartile or yellow/amber that St Helens is in either the 2nd or 3rd quartile).

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
1. Ensure children and young people have a positive start	17	35% (6)	12% (2)	18% (3)	35% (6)
2. Health, independence, and care	13	46% (6)	23% (3)	15% (2)	15% (2)

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	0	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	2	50% (1)	0% (0)	50% (1)	0% (0)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	4	0% (0)	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)
6. Responsible Council	2	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34% (13)</b>	<b>16% (6)</b>	<b>21% (8)</b>	<b>29% (11)</b>

The latest available picture of inter authority performance largely relates to the 2019/20 financial year, with some data for 2020/21.

#### 4.4 Summary and conclusion of statistical analysis

- **60%** of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target. This compares to 73% of indicators at Quarter 1 2021/22.
- **40%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 27% of indicators at Quarter 1 2021/22.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months **49%** of indicators showed improvement, **9%** of indicators maintained the same performance and **42%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory. The position is broadly in line with that at Quarter 1 2021/22.
- Approximately a third of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, whilst 29% are in the bottom quartile. The position remains in line with that at Quarter 1 2021/22.
- Annual targets have been set where possible within the context of national, North West, and local authority comparator group data. Equally targets aspire to be challenging but achievable within the context of the available resources. The targets also take account of performance during 2020/21 which was an unprecedented year due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on performance within St Helens whether direct or indirect was highlighted within the 2020/21 Performance Outturn Report.
- The impact of the pandemic in Quarter 2 2020/21 needs to be taken account of when considering the 12-month performance trend in Quarter 2 2021/22. Equally in many areas the impact of the pandemic on performance is yet to be fully realised and understood. However, given the effect of the pandemic on St Helens to date there is the strong likelihood that existing inequalities may be widened. This presents risks for future performance, but particularly in areas such as public health, education and schools and children's services where current performance is already challenging.

## 5. Part 2 - Commentary on performance against priority and outcome

### Priority 1 - Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life



#### Outcomes

- Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve
- Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised
- Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential

#### Overview of Priority Performance

The tables below show provide an overview of performance at Quarter 1 for the indicators reported

#### Performance Against Target

Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
30	47% (14)	10% (3)	43% (13)

#### The Performance Trend

Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
27	44% (12)	41% (11)	15% (4)

#### Inter Authority Comparison

Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
17	35% (6)	12% (2)	18% (3)	35% (6)

## Priority 1 - Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life

### Tier 1

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-01	Percentage of re-referrals into Early Help Services which were within 12 months of a previous early help episode	Quarterly	Lower	19	16	15	17	-6.25%	↑	N/A
	CYP-02	The number of early help episodes that have been closed and stepped down to universal services (or as a % of total closures)	Quarterly	Higher	70	73	64	67	1.52%	↔	N/A
	CYP-03	The number of early help episodes that have been closed and stepped up to social care services (or as a % of total closures)	Quarterly	Lower	24	21	28	21	0%	↔	N/A
	CYP-05	The percentage of early help audits completed that have been graded as good or outstanding	Quarterly	Higher	N/A	50		4	-92%	N/A	N/A
	CYP-06	Rate of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000	Quarterly	Lower	54.3	52.5	57	63.4	-15.27%	↓	3rd Quartile

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Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-07	Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plans (CPPs) for a second or subsequent time within two years of last plan ending	Quarterly	Lower	14	14	10	15.1	-7.86%	↓	N/A
	CYP-08	Children looked after rate (per 10,000 0-17 year olds)	Quarterly	Lower	129.6	116.6	129	127	-0.63%	↑	4th Quartile
	CYP-09	Percentage of All looked after children who are placed with in house foster carers (including Kinship Carers)	Quarterly	Higher	44.0	47	40	39	-13.33%	↓	N/A
	CYP-10	Percentage of All looked after children who are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies	Quarterly	Lower	28	25	28	29.5	-9.26%	↓	N/A
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-11	Percentage former care leavers aged 19-21 years with whom the LA is in touch	Quarterly	Higher	96	96	100	100	4.17%	↑	2nd Quartile
	CYP-12	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	Quarterly	Higher	94	93	97	93	0%	↑	1st Quartile

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Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-13	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 years in employment, education or training	Quarterly	Higher	60.3	60	60.6	53	-11.67%	↓	3rd Quartile
Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised	CYP-14	Percentage of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans completed within a 20 week period	Quarterly	Higher	92	85	100	100	17.65%	↑	1st Quartile
	CYP-15	Percentage of audits where the voice of the child was graded as good/outstanding	Quarterly	Higher	60	65	54	53	-18.46%	N/A	N/A
	E&S-05	Percentage of young people academic age 16-17 not in education, employment or training and not known combined	Quarterly	Lower	4.4	5.2	5.3	17.35	-5.15%	↑	1st Quartile
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-04	Under 18 conception rate per 1000 15-17 year old (single year rate).	Quarterly	Lower	27.8	28	27.8	29	-3.57%	↓	4th Quartile
	SC-01	Number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system who receive their first substantive outcome or court disposal per 100,000 population aged 10-17	Quarterly from Q2	Lower	132	174	N/A	25	42.53%	↓	1st Quartile

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Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	SC-02	Percentage of children re-offending	Quarterly from Q2	Lower	47.4	43	N/A	46.8	-8.84%	↑	4th Quartile

## Tier 2

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-16	% of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (ever)	Quarterly	Lower	25.7	21	15	29	-38.1%	↓	4th Quartile
	CYP-17	Percentage of Children in Foster Care who are placed in borough	Quarterly	Higher	54	58	53	53	-8.62%	↔	N/A
	CYP-19	Percentage of looked after children who have a ratified 'primary' permanence plan	Quarterly	Higher	100	95	99.3	100	5%	↔	N/A

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 2 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-20	Percentage of looked after children who are in their "forever placement"	Quarterly	Higher	66	66		67	1.52%	↑	N/A
	CYP-21	Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year.	Quarterly	Lower	8.3	9	5.7	6.8	24.44%	↑	1st Quartile
	CYP-22	Percentage of social work assessments graded good or better through the Audit process.	Quarterly	Higher	53	60	54	40	-20%	N/A	N/A
	CYP-23	Average number of cases per children and family social worker	Quarterly	Lower	16.7	18	18.3	17.5	%	↓	N/A
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-13	Percentage of infants being breast-fed at 6-8 weeks	Quarterly	Higher	28	29	28.9	31.6	8.97%	↑	4th Quartile
	PH-14	Smoking status at time of delivery	Quarterly	Lower	15.7	13.4	15.7	11.3	20.95%	↑	3rd Quartile



Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	PH-15	Under 18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons	Quarterly	Lower	72.3	79	78.6	72.3	12.89%	↓	4th Quartile
	PH-17	Percentage of children who received a 2-21/2 year Healthy Child Programme review	Quarterly	Higher	77	84	77	84.6	0.71%	↑	2nd Quartile
	PH-18	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 - 21/2 years	Quarterly	Higher	89.1	94	89.1	88	-6.38%	↓	1st Quartile

## Summary of performance against outcome and action for improvement

### Outcome – Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve

#### Current Performance

- Early Help performance indicators show a mixed picture. Positively, the number of Early Help episodes closed and stepped down have increased and Early Help episodes closed and stepped up to statutory services have reduced. Both indicators are meeting target and have shown improvement since Quarter 1. Re-referrals over 12-months into Early Help however are not meeting target having increased marginally by 2% since the first quarter. The majority of Early Help audits are graded as requiring improvement and the indicator requires significant improvement if the target is to be met. Audits are now completed as part of the quality assurance framework, and we have developed and implemented a performance data set which the service did not have. Audits and data now support managers to drive improvement in practice and performance.
- The rate of children subject to a child protection plan and the rate of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, either over 2 years, or ever have all seen increases over the period of Quarter 2. All 3 of the indicators are not meeting target. Local rates are slightly higher than the last published national average and statistical neighbour rates and comparative performance is 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quartile. Practice is being reviewed in relation to these three indicators to better understand the rationale for the increase. Post Covid it could be argued that there was an expectation

that there would be an increase in repeat plans as family's living with Domestic Abuse, mental health problems and substance misuse has been tested by the pressures of the pandemic. Audit currently demonstrates that Domestic Abuse is the key factor within this cohort of families.

- There were 468 children looked after at Quarter 2, compared to 488 in Quarter 2 2020/21. **Although this is positive progress**, rates remain significantly higher than comparators. There has been a small reduction in the rate since outturn 2020/21 equating to 9 fewer children looked after. The annual target is challenging, equating to an in-year reduction of approximately 48 children. COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delays in case progression in all areas of court work i.e., discharges and care proceeding concluding which is impacting on 40 children who we anticipated will exit care via CAO, SGO or adoption. This is reflected in the lower number of children ceasing to be looked after in the last 12 months. We hope as the Courts recover and re-establish the expected 26-week timescale that things will begin to progress, and we are working with the Local Family Justice Board to achieve this.
- All looked after children have a plan for permanence following their second looked after child review and placement stability for looked after children, i.e., those having 3 or more placements over 12 months, continues to be strong and better than the national average. The percentage of children and young people living in their 'forever' homes is also performing above target. 69% of looked after children live in family placements with in-house foster carers or independent fostering agency carers this is slightly below the 2019/2020 published comparator data. We need to enhance the number of internal foster carers as we continue to have fewer internal carers than what is reported in the 2019/2020 comparator data. We have a target to recruit a further 10 fostering households in 2021/2022 to date 86 enquiries have led to the recruitment of 2 new fostering household and a further 6 are going through the assessment process at various stages. Based on these numbers there is a risk we will not reach the target of 10 new fostering households, and we need wider support.
- Performance against 2 of the 3 key outcomes for care leavers is strong, that being care leavers in suitable accommodation and care leavers the local authority is still in touch with. The percentage of care leavers in employment education and training has seen a slight reduction in Quarter 2 and is below target, although in line with the national average. This decline is largely due to the drop-off in employers / training providers during the pandemic and we anticipate with the strategies we have put in place and with the support of Council departments and partners this will begin to recover in the second part of the year.
- The percentage of social work assessments graded Good or Outstanding at 40% requires improvement if the target of 60% is to be met. Performance has reduced since Quarter 1. Workforce pressures resulting in changes of Social Worker and higher caseloads in Social Work Assessment will have some impact on the quality of practice including assessments. Work is ongoing to drive improvement in the quality of assessments which includes a focus on managers who sign off assessments.
- Average social worker case workloads are back on track at Quarter 2 and better than the required target level. However, this needs to be received with a level of caution as it is based on the average caseloads across the service but, caseloads for Social Workers in some areas of the service i.e., social work assessment are currently as high as 31. The strategies in place to address this are beginning to have an impact i.e., more applications and greater stability.
- The Edge of Care service has worked with 81 children (45 families) since July 2020, 10 (this includes a sibling group of 6) (12.5 %) children became looked after and 87.5% (number) children remain at home.

### Action for Improvement

- Early help services need to improve, embedding the things we have put in place will support us to drive continuous development and improvement in practice and service delivery and in time will reduce the escalation of concerns to statutory services.
- We will keep the increase in CP plans under review to determine whether this is a short-term volatility or could lead to repeat issues that could ultimately impact on the looked after children population.
- As outlined, we have a number of children who are delayed in the Court process that we are tracking carefully and there are therefore dependencies between the Court timetable and meeting the target for the reduction in looked after children. Supported by the Council's legal team we will continue to work collaboratively with the Courts to improve this situation.
- Social Work Assessments require improvement, and this will continue to be an area of practice improvement and we are working closely with managers to drive up practice improvement.

## Outcome - Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised

### Current Performance

- The completion of Education, Health and Care Plans to timescale remains at 100%, having improved significantly in the last 2-years.
- The percentage of audits where the Voice of the Child is graded as good or outstanding is currently performing some way below target.
- Whilst the percentage of 16 17-year-olds in Education, Employment or Training was above target for July and August, the percentage of NEET for the month of September is very marginally below target. However, the performance trend is showing improvement on the previous year. The percentage of NEET always increases at the end of Quarter 2 as the authority tracks young people at the beginning of term, as they engage with a post 16 offer and analyse the data from a large number of post 16 institutions or training providers. The latest comparative performance for 2020/21 is better than national and regional averages and now top quartile within the comparator group. The outturn for the September guarantee performance shows that our target for year 12 and year 13 offers were met, with 98% of year 12s and 93% of year 13s with a post 16 offer of education or training.

### Action for Improvement

- Performance remains positive with all new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks for 6 months. This is despite a significant increase in the number of assessments in 2021/22. To date 122 new assessments have been completed and plans issued, compared to 99 in the same period in 2020/21. Whilst performance has not dropped, the performance in respect of partner advice into plans has been a challenge this quarter. This will continue into the next quarter as a number of services experience high demand and gaps in capacity.

- With regard to NEET, there have been improvements in information sharing and more effective planning which has enabled more proactive engagement; however, improvement focus in Q3 will include tracking of young people to ensure that the number of young people for whom destinations are not known is reduced, and link specialist advisers to vulnerable groups for targeted support. Further work is required to reduce the length of time young people are NEET through the re-introduction of a trauma informed approach to those identified as “hardest to engage”. This was suspended due to the pandemic but had shown early promising results.
- Voice of the Child Audits, learning from audits is shared and the key practice emerging in cases not judged to be good or outstanding is linked to impact and records not consistently demonstrated what actions have been taken in relation to the voice of the child. More consistency is required in relation to the nature of the concerns being discussed with children.

## Outcome - Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential

### Current Performance

- Performance within the outcome remains challenging. The latest nationally published 2019 teenage conception data show rates in St Helens remain very high comparatively. There was a total of 75 conceptions in 2019, a rate of 27.8 per 1000 15-17-year-olds. The latest rolling annual rate which includes 21 conceptions in Quarter 1 2020 takes the rate to 29 per 1000, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate in England. This is nearly double the England rate of 15.3 per 1000.
- Performance against several Tier 2 indicators including breastfeeding and under 18 alcohol related hospital admissions have shown improvement within Quarter 2 but remain significantly worse than national / comparator rates.
- The percentage of children receiving a Healthy Child programme review has shown improvement and is now meeting target, whilst the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2-1/2 years is 5% below target. Comparative performance against both indicators however remain relatively strong compared to similar authorities. Provisional data shows the percentage of women smoking at the time of delivery has reduced in Quarter to by 3% to 11.7%. The last nationally published data in 2019/20 showed that St Helens rate of 16.4% was significantly above (worse than) the regional and national averages (12.2% and 10.4%).
- Numbers of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System in St Helens remain low and on target. However, the percentage of children re-offending is higher than target, with a persistent cohort of re-offenders.

### Action for Improvement

- During the pandemic, the partnership continued its efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy through relationship and sex education in schools, access to contraception, providing help and support through the Teenage Advice Zone (TAZ) and supporting young parents. The multi-agency Teenage

Pregnancy Partnership is being re-launched to provide oversight in the delivery of actions and ensure coordination and collaboration. The aim being to work together using evidence based practice to bring down the number of under 18 conceptions.

- Breastfeeding rates at 6 to 8 weeks are steadily increasing, with a provisional rate of 31.6% in Quarter 1, the latest data available. The rates have increased since City Health Care Partnership took over the service. The Infant Feeding Team have returned to the maternity ward for face-to-face visits from September. Halton and Knowsley will continue to fund the St Helens Infant Feeding Team to support their mothers. Work on the Lowe House Hub building is progressing, and this will provide a community provision for mums with the Infant Feeding Team including a lactation clinic.
- Young people's hospital admissions for alcohol continue to fall and are projected to be achieving target. The Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAAT) have looked at the data to understand which young people are most at risk, and then carried out preventative work and engagement with them. This approach seems to be working well. The team are now delivering face to face, group sessions in schools and colleges as they were pre-Covid. The YPDAAT are planning Alcohol Awareness Week, week commencing the 15 of November to further target young people at risk.
- To reduce smoking in pregnancy, the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance smoking in pregnancy pilot will work alongside the NHS Long Term Plan roll out which commits to delivering an 'opt-out' smoke free pregnancy pathway for expectant mothers and their partners. The Opt-out referral will ensure that expectant women who smoke are referred to a specialist advisor within the clinical setting and continued smoking cessation support within the community setting. Local evidence suggests that when women access the smoking cessation service there is a 100% conversion rate to setting a quit date and going on to a 4-week quit. Thus, our emphasis is on making the service as accessible as possible. Work continues in partnership with the midwifery service to ensure accurate recording of smoking status and optimise opportunities for pregnant smokers to quit, including exploration of a Quit incentive scheme.
- In Quarter 1 a risk to deliver the 0-5 core contacts as part of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP) was identified due to Health Visiting capacity and vacancies, and an inability to recruit due to the transfer of the contract to Wirral Community Health and Care Trust (Wirral). Controls were put in place to mitigate the risk. The contract transferred to Wirral on 1st September with improvement and transformation meetings have been established. The percentage of children who received a 2-2-1/2-year Healthy Child Programme review has since seen improvement and is now meeting target.
- Action to increase the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 - 2 1/2 years continues through the Early Years Strategic Partnership to develop and implement plans to maximise a child's opportunity to be school ready. Workstreams include behaviour pathways, speech & language pathway, improving outcomes for boys and Incredible Years training.
- The Youth Justice Service (YJS) has a number of ongoing workstreams, which are designed to address and reduce the level of reoffending in St Helens. These are as follows
  - YJS are working to improve our transitions offer for accommodation and resettlement and from YJ to NPS/CRC. The YJS has updated the Resettlement Policy and ensured that staff have all received resettlement training this year.
  - Service commissioned a Systems and Process Audit on the Restorative Justice approach by an independent consultant to ensure work with children, families and victims has a restorative impact and plans to implement the recommendations are in place.

- Service is working with the charity 'Remedi' to deliver effective Referral Order Panels and Victim Services.
- CELLS, work with our most prolific and complex cohort of children aimed at diverting them from re-offending.
- Service is currently seeking to recruit new community volunteers to be trained as Mentors as part of its in-house mentoring provision.
- Re-Engagement Mentor post is specifically targeting those children in our cohort who are identified as being at risk of exclusion in an effort to stabilise them within their ETE provision and thereby reduce reoffending risks.
- YJS collaborate with the VRP to develop community resilience in relation to reoffending. Currently mapping out 'Safer Knives' project on a regional level to target those children who are identified as being at greater risk of offending in relation to weapons offences.
- YJS implemented 'Operation Inclusion' as part of a regional Merseyside initiative to target children at risk of reoffending in relation to street crime when they have not been in receipt of a previous statutory disposal.

For more information about individual performance indicators that support the achievement of these outcomes please see the scorecard.

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