

QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT 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 Elected Members 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 3 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 3 2021/22.

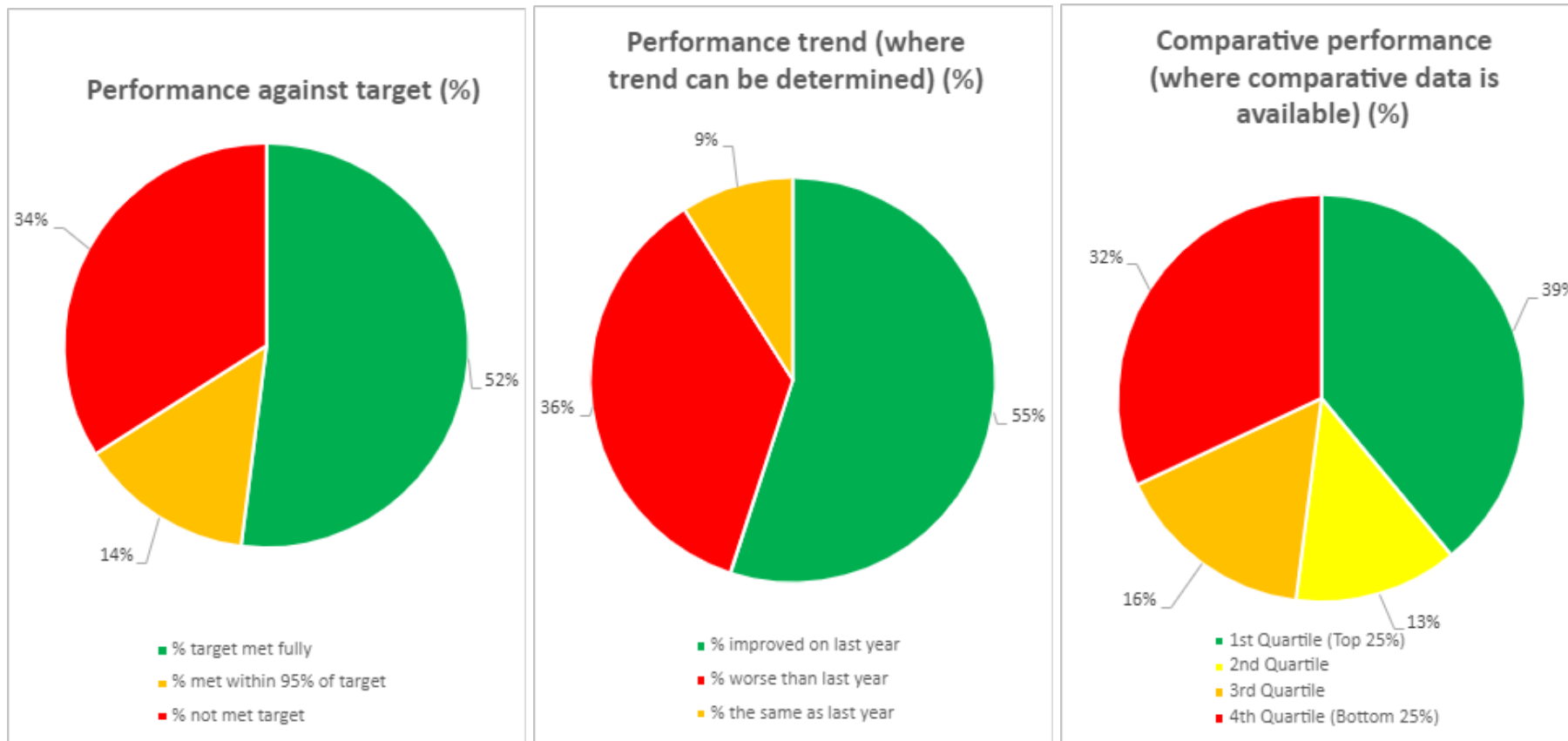
Part 2 of the report is a commentary on performance against delivery of the 6 strategic priorities and their respective outcomes summarising current performance within the quarter and action being taken to improve performance where required.

3. Executive Summary

The charts below provide an overview position of all performance measures across all 6 Borough Strategy priorities as at Quarter 3 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 3 2021/22, the Council is reporting against a total of **79** 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 3 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	31	52% (16)	10% (3)	38% (12)
2. Health, independence, and care	20	40% (8)	30% (6)	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	60% (3)	% (0)	40% (2)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	5	100% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	5	0% (0)	40% (2)	60% (3)
Total	79	52% (41)	14% (11)	34% (27)

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 Q3 2021/22 with performance at Q3 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 11 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	26	61% (16)	31% (8)	8% (2)
2. Health, independence, and care	19	37% (7)	47% (9)	16% (3)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	12	67% (8)	33% (4)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	4	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	5	100% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	7	43% (3)	43% (3)	14% (1)
Total	73	55% (40)	36% (26)	9% (7)

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 **38** 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	41% (7)	12% (2)	6% (1)	41% (7)
2. Health, independence, and care	13	55% (7)	15% (2)	15% (2)	15% (2)
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)

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
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)
Total	38	39% (15)	13% (5)	16% (6)	32% (12)

The latest available picture of inter authority performance largely relates to the 2020/21 financial year.

4.4 Summary and conclusion of statistical analysis

- **66%** of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target. This compares to 60% of indicators at Quarter 2 2021/22.
- **34%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 40% of indicators at Quarter 2 2021/22.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months **55%** of indicators showed improvement, **9%** of indicators maintained the same performance and **36%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory. The position is broadly in line with that at Quarter 3 2020/21.
- 39% of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, compared to 34% in Quarter 2, whilst 32% are in the bottom quartile, compared to 29% in Quarter 2.
- Annual targets have been set where possible within the context of national, Northwest, 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 3 2020/21 needs to be taken account of when considering the 12-month performance trend in Quarter 3 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 3 for the indicators reported

Performance Against Target

Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
31	52% (16)	10% (3)	38% (12)

The Performance Trend

Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
26	61% (16)	31% (8)	8% (2)

Inter Authority Comparison

Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
17	41% (7)	12% (2)	6% (1)	41% (7)

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	Q3 Dec	% 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	15	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	73	8.96%	↑	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	18	10%	↑	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	10	-75%	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	58.3	-7.96%	↑	2nd Quartile

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 3 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% 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	16.6	-18.57%	↓	N/A
	CYP-08	Children looked after rate (per 10,000 0–17-year-olds)	Quarterly	Lower	129.6	116.6	129	127	128.2	-5.95%	↓	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	39	-15.22%	↓	N/A
	CYP-10	Percentage of All looked after children who are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies	Quarterly	Lower	28	25	28	29.5	28	-7.69%	↔	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	99	3.12%	↑	1st Quartile
	CYP-12	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	Quarterly	Higher	94	93	97	93	95	2.15%	↑	1st Quartile

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 3 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-13	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 years in employment, education, or training	Quarterly	Higher	60.3	60	60.6	53	54	-10%	↓	1st 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	97.53	14.74%	↑	1st Quartile
	CYP-15	Percentage of audits where the voice of the child was graded as good/outstanding	Quarterly	Higher	60	65	54	53	50	-23.08%	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	4.1	21.73%	↑	1st Quartile

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 3 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sep	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
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	30.1	-7.5%	↓	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	63	27.59%	↑	1st Quartile
	SC-02	Percentage of children re-offending	Quarterly from Q2	Lower	47.4	43	N/A	46.8	40	6.59%	↑	4th Quartile

Tier 2

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% 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	28	-33.33%	↓	4th Quartile
	CYP-17	Percentage of Children in Foster Care who are placed in borough	Quarterly	Higher	54	58	53	53	54	-5.26%	↔	N/A
	CYP-18	Percentage of children who have been open to the edge of care service who have not become looked after within 12 months of the services ending	Quarterly	Higher	N/A	90		73	83	-7.78%	N/A	N/A
	CYP-19	Percentage of looked after children who have a ratified 'primary' permanence plan	Quarterly	Higher	100	95	99.3	100	100	5%	↑	N/A
	CYP-20	Percentage of looked after children who are in their "forever placement"	Quarterly	Higher	66	66		67	64	-3.03%	TBC	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	7.8	13.33%	↓	1st Quartile

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 3 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-22	Percentage of social work assessments graded good or better through the Audit process.	Quarterly	Higher	53	60	54	40	45	-25%	N/A	N/A
	CYP-23	Average number of cases per children and family social worker	Quarterly	Lower	16.7	18	18.3	17.2	16.4	8.89%	↑	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	30.2	4.14%	↑	4th Quartile
	PH-14	Smoking status at time of delivery	Quarterly	Lower	15.7	14	15.7	11.7	13.7	2.14%	↑	4th Quartile
	PH-15	Under 18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons	Quarterly	Lower	72.3	79	78.6	72.3	67.8	18.31%	↑	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	85.3	1.55%	↑	3rd Quartile

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	PH-18	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 - 21/2 years	Quarterly	Higher	89.1	94	89.1	88	86.1	-8.4%	↓	2nd 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 have shown improvement in Quarter 3. 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 strong improvement since Quarter 1. Re-referrals over 12-months into Early Help have also shown improvement and are now performing better than target. The majority of Early Help audits are graded as requiring improvement and although performance has improved in Quarter 3 the indicator still requires significant improvement if the annual target is to be met.
- The 3 indicators monitoring the rate of children subject to a child protection plan and the percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, either over 2 years, or ever remain below target at Quarter 3. The rate of children in St Helens supported with a child protection plan continues to be higher than the comparable national average (41 per 10,000 children). however, in line with the most recently published, comparable Ofsted statistical neighbour average (58 per 10,000 children). The 3 indicators monitoring the rate of children subject to a child protection plan continue to be tracked through regular auditing. The recent audit completed to understand the rates in St Helens being higher than regional and national average, concluded that the threshold application was appropriate, and all children audited who had recently become subject to CP planning were assessed to be at risk of significant harm. St Helens continues to report a higher than average percentage of children experiencing repeat Child Protection Plans. Repeat planning relates predominately to domestic abuse.
- There were 473 children looked after at Quarter 3, compared to 470 in Quarter 2 2020/21. Rates remain significantly higher than regional and national averages. There has been a small reduction in the rate since outturn 2020/21 equating to 4 fewer children looked after. The annual target is challenging, equating to an in-year reduction of approximately 48 children.
- 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.

- Both fostering indicators remain below target at Quarter 3. 39% of looked after children live in family placements with in-house foster carers, a reduction on the 44% reported at outturn 2020/21. 28% of looked after children are placed with independent fostering agency carers, the same position as reported at outturn 2020/21.
- Performance against the 3 key outcomes for care leavers is strong, that being care leavers in suitable accommodation, care leavers the local authority is still in touch with, and care leavers in employment education and training. The percentage of care leavers in employment education and training remains below a challenging target, however the recently published 2020/21 national data sees St Helens performance well above regional and national averages and top quartile compared to comparator authorities.
- The percentage of social work assessments graded Good or Outstanding at 45% has seen a 5% improvement since Quarter 2 but requires further improvement if the target of 60% is to be met. Workforce pressures resulting in changes of Social Worker and higher caseloads in Social Work Assessment will have some impact on the quality of practice but more particularly the timeliness of 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 have shown further improvement over Quarter 3 and remain 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 percentage of children who have been open to the edge of care service who have not become looked after within 12 months of the services ending stands at 83%, a 10% improvement between Quarters 2 and 3, but below the annual target of 90%.

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. Early Help 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.
- Practice is being reviewed in relation to the three child protection plan 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.
- We will keep the increase in child protection 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? 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.

- 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.
- 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. 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.

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

Current Performance

- Performance for the completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to timescale remains positive with 97.5% of all new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks. To date 162 new assessments have been completed and plans issued, 158 of which were completed within 20 weeks. As anticipated performance is now being impacted by delays in respect of professional advice into plans, in particular Educational Psychology and by professionals who have been required to self-isolate due to covid. A drop against this performance measure is expected into the next quarter as the Service will need to focus on ensuring that the Council meets its statutory requirement to complete all annual reviews for key transition year groups this quarter, alongside new assessments.
- Performance for the percentage of 16 17-year-olds not in Education, Employment or Training or where their status was not known for December 2020 was 4.07%, which was better than target and the previous year's performance. The latest comparative performance for 2020/21 is very strong, top quartile within the comparator group and better than both national and regional averages. NEET prevention, and engagement and tracking services have been able to provide consistent engagement with young people and families during the pandemic and additional investment into NEET prevention has led to more intensive support targeted to vulnerable groups. Underpinning this positive performance has been effective collaboration across a range of partner agencies within the borough and creative approaches from Career Connect to engage young people.
- A key target for Q3, is to ensure our young people aged 16/17 have a guaranteed offer of education or training for September and in 2021, the borough maintained performance in line with previous years: 98% of young people leaving secondary education with a post 16 offer of education or training and year 13 offers at 93.3%.
- The percentage of audits where the Voice of the Child is graded as good or outstanding is currently performing some way below target.

Action for Improvement

- To address the dip in performance in the timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans, the Council has recently engaged an independent Educational Psychology company to develop and implement a new model for the Service. Alongside this a new Principal Educational Psychologist has been

appointed who will join us later in the Spring term and to assist the Council to meet its requirements and address a backlog of assessments, the Council has appointed a number of locum EPs.

- Whilst EET Performance has remained positive, it will be a challenge to maintain this, as restrictions lift and emphasis on face to face interaction, less blended learning, and providing work experience opportunities will impact on vocational programmes and traineeships. Improvements in information sharing and more effective planning and strong relationships with partners and education providers that has made a significant impact, and it will be critical that these continue as the context changes.
- 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 19 conceptions in Quarter 3 2020 takes the rate to 30.1 per 1000, the 3rd highest rate in England. In the same period, the regional and national rates both decreased, with the England rolling annual rate now less than half St Helens rate (13.6 per 1,000).
- Performance against several Tier 2 indicators including breastfeeding and under 18 alcohol related hospital admissions have shown continued improvement in Quarter 3, with the year-end targets being met. However, performance remains significantly worse than national / comparator rates.
- The percentage of children receiving a Healthy Child programme review continues to meet target. However, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2-1/2 years is 8% 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 increased in Quarter 3 to by 2% to 13.7%. Comparatively, in 2020/21 St Helens has the 3rd highest rate in the region and 8th highest rate in England.
- At Quarter 3 numbers of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System in St Helens remain low and on target. Performance against the percentage of children re-offending has improved significantly in Quarter 3 and is better than target.

Action for Improvement

- The Q3-2021/22 indicator has been updated with 19 conceptions for St Helens in Q3 2020. This means the annual rolling rate up to March 2020 is 30.1 per 1000, same as the last quarter, and the 3rd highest rolling annual rate in England (although not as high as a rolling rate of 37.3 in 2019). For the same period the NW rate decreased to 17.4, whilst the England rate decreased to 13.6. Whilst services for young people have continued during the

pandemic, some of the multiagency actions have taken a back seat due some of the public health team and providers being actively involved in the pandemic response. The momentum on tackling under 18 conceptions will recommence before the end of quarter 4.

- Breastfeeding rates at 6 to 8 weeks are steadily increasing, with a rate of 30.2% in Quarter 3. The rates have increased since City Health Care Partnership took over the infant feeding service. Halton and Knowsley will continue to fund the St Helens Infant Feeding Team to support their mothers also. 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 delivering face to face, group sessions in schools and colleges as they were pre-Covid.
- Although we are on target there is a slight increase this quarter as compared to last quarter. To reduce smoking in pregnancy, the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance smoking in pregnancy pilot is working within the remit of NHS Long Term Plan to deliver an 'opt-out' smoke free pregnancy pathway for expectant mothers and their partners. Local evidence suggests that when women access the smoking cessation service there is nearly 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.
- Performance on the indicator of the percentage of children who received a 2-21/2-year Healthy Child Programme review has shown continuous improvement since Wirral Community NHS Trust took over the 0-19s service, Wirral Community Trust in September 2021. The national and regional data has not been published so we don't know how we are performing as compared to other areas; we are currently above our target.
- We have seen a slight decrease in the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 - 21/2 years for the last two quarters. We think this could be in part due to the impact of the pandemic and less opportunities for children to access activities outside of the home. Assessments are now back being face-to-face rather than virtual. Action 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. The improved performance seen in Quarter 3 is evidence that they are having an impact with local children. The Service continues to commission the charitable organisation CELLS, to work with our most prolific and complex cohort of children and commissioned 2 further group programmes on this basis. The first of these began in September 2021 and will run through to December 2021. CELLS focus on addressing issues like criminal exploitation, joint enterprise, knife crime and understanding victim impact. Another cohort will commence in January through to March of 2022. The Service is also currently recruiting a pool of new community volunteers to be trained as Mentors as part of its in-house mentoring provision which aims to ensure that every child worked with has access to mentoring support to desist from offending. The Education 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 the risk of their reoffending. YJ also continues to collaborate with the VRP in an effort to develop community resilience in relation to reoffending and is currently mapping out a '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, The YJS is currently working to establish a procedure for collection of knives in conjunction with their own YYS police officer, which will include collection, storage, and disposal of the swapped knives (knife sleeves/bins).

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