

CYPS
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
OUTTURN
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 2021/22 providing the performance position reported over the course of the period. The reporting format splits the report into 2 distinct parts:

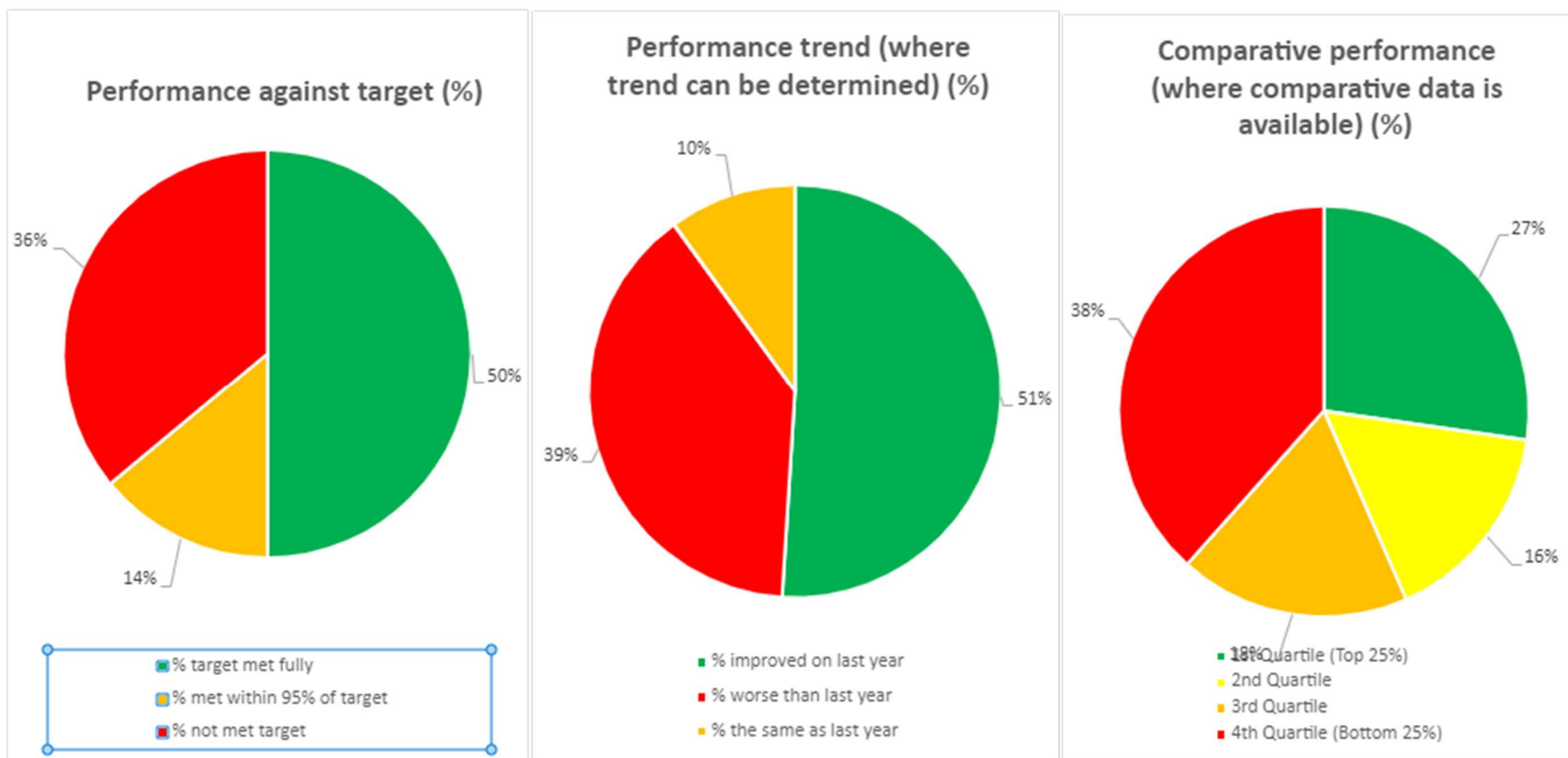
Part 1 of the report is a statistical analysis of the performance position at outturn 2021/22.

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 outturn 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 at outturn 2021/22, the Council is reporting against a total of **105** performance indicators, where targets were set. 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 outturn 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	36	36% (13)	14% (5)	50% (18)
2. Health, independence, and care	31	48% (15)	19% (6)	32% (10)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	16	63% (10)	0% (0)	37% (6)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	8	88% (7)	0% (0)	40% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	9	78% (7)	22% (2)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	5	0% (0)	40% (2)	60% (3)
Total	105	50% (52)	14% (15)	36% (38)

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 outturn 2021/22 with performance at outturn 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 small number of indicators for 2021/22, where performance data in 2020/21 is not available and therefore it is not possible to show a performance trend. Where this is the case N/A appears.

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	32	40% (13)	43% (14)	17% (5)
2. Health, independence, and care	31	45% (14)	42% (13)	13% (4)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	16	56% (9)	44% (7)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	8	50% (4)	38% (3)	12% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	10	90% (9)	10% (1)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	8	50% (4)	37% (3)	13% (1)
Total	105	51% (53)	39% (41)	10% (11)

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	22	32% (7)	9% (2)	5% (1)	54% (12)
2. Health, independence, and care	23	30% (7)	17% (4)	30% (7)	22% (5)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	0	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	4	25% (1)	50% (2)	0% (0)	25% (1)

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	55	27% (15)	16% (9)	18% (10)	38% (21)

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

4.4 Summary and conclusion of statistical analysis

- **64%** of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target. This compares to 71% of indicators at outturn 2020/21.
- **36%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 29% of indicators at outturn 2020/21.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months **51%** of indicators showed improvement, **10%** of indicators maintained the same performance and **39%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory. The position is broadly in line with that at outturn 2020/21.
- **27%** of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, compared to 31% at outturn 2020/21, whilst **38%** are in the bottom quartile, compared to 40% at outturn 2020/21.
- Annual targets were 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. 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 provide an overview of performance at outturn 2021/22 for the indicators reported

Performance Against Target

Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
36	36% (13)	14% (5)	50% (18)

The Performance Trend

Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
32	40% (13)	43% (14)	17% (5)

Inter Authority Comparison

Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
22	32% (7)	9% (2)	5% (1)	54% (12)

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			Q2	Q3	Outturn 2021/22	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
							June	Sept	Dec						
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	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	65	68	64	67	73	70	2.94%	↑	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	22	19	28	21	18	21	-10.53%	↑	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	10	-80%	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	58.3	-11.05%	↑	2nd Quartile		

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Outturn 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Outturn 2021/22	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
							June	Sept	Dec				
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	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	13	7.14%	↑	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	128.2	-9.95%	↑	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	37	-21.28%	↓	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	29	-16%	↓	N/A
	CYP-11	Percentage former care leavers aged 19-21 years with whom the LA is in touch	Quarterly	Higher	96	96	100	100	99	98	2.08%	↑	1st Quartile
	CYP-12	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	Quarterly	Higher	94	93	97	93	95	95.3	2.47%	↑	1st Quartile

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Outturn 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Outturn 2021/22	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
							June	Sept	Dec				
	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	54	-10%	↓	1st Quartile
	CYP-14	Percentage of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans completed within a 20-week period	Quarterly	Higher	92	85	100	100	97.53	86.2	1.41%	↓	1st Quartile
Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised	CYP-15	Percentage of audits where the voice of the child was graded as good/outstanding	Quarterly	Higher	60	65	54	53	50	50	-23.08%	↓	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	4.9	5.77%	↓	1st Quartile
	E&S-06	Percentage of state funded schools judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted	Annual	Higher	81	84	-	-	-	84	0%	↑	4th Quartile
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and	PH-01	Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (10-24 years)	Annual	Lower	1105.4	1200	1105.4	-	-	954.3	20.48%	↑	4th Quartile

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Outturn 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Outturn 2021/22	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
							June	Sept	Dec				
achieve their potential	PH-02	Percentage of children in reception year who are overweight or obese	Annual	Lower	28.7	26	-	-	-	28.3	-8.85%	↓	4th Quartile
	PH-03	Percentage of children in Year 6 who are overweight or obese	Annual	Lower	41	40	-	-	-	41	-2.5%	↔	4th Quartile
	PH-04	Under 18 conception rate per 1000 15–17-year-old (single year rate).	Quarterly	Lower	27.8	28	-	29	30.1	30.2	-7.86%	↓	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	155	10.92%	↓	1st Quartile
	SC-02	Percentage of children re-offending	Quarterly from Q2	Lower	47.4	43	N/A	46.8	40	40.7	5.35%	↑	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	Outturn 2021/22	% 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	27.2	-29.52%	↓	4th Quartile
	CYP-17	Percentage of Children in Foster Care who are placed in borough	Quarterly	Higher	54	58	53	53	54	54	-6.9%	↔	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	N/A	73	83	81	-10%	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	100	5.26%	↔	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	9.1	-1.11%	↓	1st Quartile
	CYP-22	Percentage of social work assessments graded good or better through the Audit process.	Quarterly	Higher	N/A	60	54	40	45	45	-25%	N/A	N/A

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Outturn 2021/22

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	Outturn 2021/22	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-23	Average number of cases per children and family social worker	Quarterly	Lower	16.7	18	18.3	17.2	16.4	17.5	2.78%	↓	N/A
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	E&S-18	Percentage of persistent absentee secondary pupils (10% threshold)	Annual	Lower	N/A	10				19.3	-93%	N/A	
	PH-13	Percentage of infants being breast-fed at 6-8 weeks	Quarterly	Higher	28	29	28.9	31.6	30.2	28.9	-0.34%	↑	4th Quartile
	PH-14	Smoking status at time of delivery	Quarterly	Lower	15.7	14	15.7	11.7	13.7	15.7	-13.77%	↔	4th Quartile
	PH-15	Under 18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons	Quarterly	Lower	72.3	79	78.6	72.3	67.8	81.4	-1.93%	↓	4th Quartile
	PH-16	Percentage of children aged 5 with MMR vaccination (2 doses)	Annual	Higher	87.7	92	-	-	-	87.7	-2.56%	↔	4th Quartile

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	20/21 Outturn	21/22 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	Outturn 2021/22	% Variance from Target	Trend	Comparative Performance
	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	90.8	8.1%	↑	3rd 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	86.1	82.9	-11.81%	↓	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 over the course of 2021/22. Positively, the number of Early Help episodes closed and stepped down have increased. Re-referrals over 12 months into Early Help and the number of Early Help episodes closed and stepped up to statutory services have not met target but have shown improvement compared to the 2020/21 outturns. Most Early Help audits continue to be graded as requiring improvement and the target was not met.
- Two 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 ever are not meeting target and showing a downwards performance trend. Performance continues to be worse than regional and national averages for both indicators and for the indicator monitoring children subject to repeat plans, performance is bottom quartile for its statistical neighbour group. Positively, the rate of children subject to a child protection plan is now in line with statistical neighbour averages. The indicator monitoring the percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time within two years of a plan ending is meeting target and is showing an improving performance trend.

Current Performance

- As at the end of March 2022, there were a total of 473 children looked after by the local authority. This is a rate of 128.2 per 10,000 under 18-year-olds and did not meet the challenging target (116 per 10,000) but is a slight improvement on the 2020/21 outturn (130 per 10,000). Rates remain significantly higher than regional and national averages.
- 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, although narrowly missing the annual target continues to be strong and better than the national average.
- All fostering indicators remain below target at outturn 2021/22. 37% of looked after children live in family placements with in-house foster carers, a reduction on the 43% reported at outturn 2020/21. 29% of looked after children are placed with independent fostering agency carers, a deterioration on performance compared to 2020/21 (28%) and only 54% of children in foster care are placed in Borough, which is 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 was 45% (position as at December 2021) and the target was not met. A total of 360 cases were audited in 2021/22, with 163 (or 45%) judged to be good or outstanding.
- Average social worker case workloads have met target at year end, although performance has deteriorated compared to 2020/21. Also, the data should be considered cautiously as it is based on the average caseloads across the service but, caseloads for Social Workers in some areas of the service e.g., CWLA, Duty Teams 2 and 4 and Innovate Team all have average caseloads of more than 20. 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 81%, which has not met the annual target of 90%.

Action for Improvement

- Ofsted monitoring visits continued throughout the year following the ILACs inspection judgement of Inadequate in 2019. The findings indicate that although significant work has been undertaken to deliver the necessary improvements within some areas, challenges including workforce arrangements and consistency in quality of practice persist which has impeded the pace of improvement. In response the Council undertook a detailed diagnostic led by an independent consultant, which resulted in approval by the Children's Improvement Board and Cabinet in February 2022 of a revised comprehensive [Improvement Plan](#),
- Early help services need to continue 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 a performance data set has been developed and implemented, which the service previously

Current Performance

did not have. Externally commissioned training has been commissioned over the next 12-months. There is a renewed focus on improving the partnership contribution to early intervention and prevention. The Early Help Strategy is currently undergoing revision and the self-assessment of the Early Help Systems Guide is being completed for the DHLUC. Early help and the importance of this in terms of demand management will be a focus of the next children's Improvement board in July 2022.

- Practice is being reviewed in relation to 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 families living with Domestic Abuse, mental health problems and substance misuse have been tested by the pressures of the pandemic. Audit currently demonstrates that Domestic Abuse is the key factor within this cohort of families. Further analysis of activity will review decision making and determine if threshold application is appropriate or if family problems could be managed less intrusively via more effective early support or child in need plans. Our demand strategy seeks to refocus services to earlier support to avoid statutory and acute costly services.
- 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. There are improvements in the timeliness of pre proceedings work. Training on court skills delivered jointly by legal and CSC for staff and managers is commencing from June onwards. Supported by the Council's legal team we will continue to work collaboratively with the Courts to improve this situation. Recent audit activity across Merseyside has confirmed that our performance compares favourably to the other LAs. Recruitment of an additional post within the legal team will give further capacity to focus on applications for special guardianships and the discharge of care orders.
- A whole system review of the Fostering Service and review of the Sufficiency Strategy will include revised targets for foster care recruitment. A communication and marketing strategy will be developed based on the findings. It will also be necessary to re-visit the wider council offer to support this work so that there are greater numbers of internal foster carers and an increased number of children placed with foster carers within the borough.
- Social Work Assessments and plans require improvement, and this will continue to be an area of practice improvement and we are working closely with managers, teams and individuals to drive up practice improvement. Staff have recently had training on assessments and care planning follows shortly from June onwards. Work is ongoing to drive improvement in the quality of assessments, which includes a focus on managers who sign off assessments and embedding consistency of quality across all components of the assessment framework.
- Workforce pressures resulting in changes of Social Worker and higher caseloads in Social Work Assessment has continued to impact on the quality of practice overall. Stabilisation of the social care workforce is being addressed with a strong focus on recruitment and retention. We are seeing some early signs of improvement in caseload reduction, and this will be monitored closely with a relentless focus on recruitment, support to staff and the increasing demand at the Front door.
- To improve education, employment and training (EET) outcomes for care leavers, all care leavers are tracked by the EET worker in conjunction with their personal advisor and work closely with the DWP to explore additional work opportunities with providers in the borough.

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 86.2% of all new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks, which met target, although performance was slightly reduced on last year's outturn of 92%. St Helens was ranked 7th nationally for EHCP performance for 2021. The latest verified comparator places St Helens top quartile for its nearest neighbour group. However, it is anticipated that the level of performance will be difficult to sustain in 2022/23 because of increased numbers of requests for assessment and delays in the timeliness of professional advice. The service currently has a backlog of assessments for the first time since 2019 and their completion will impact performance significantly in 2022/23.
- The final outturn position for the percentage of 16 17-year-olds not in Education, Employment or Training or where their status was not known was 4.91%. Data is based on the average of three months (December 2021, January 2022 and February 2022). Whilst performance has dropped slightly compared to the 2020/21 outturn, the challenging economic climate makes a rise in NEET probable. St Helens 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.
- The percentage of audits where the Voice of the Child is graded as good or outstanding has not met target at year end. Performance has also deteriorated compared to 2020/21. A total of 169 audits were graded good and 11 as outstanding, out of the 360 cases audited in 2021/22.
- The percentage of state funded schools judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted in St Helens, has increased to 84%, which has met target.

Action for Improvement

- Work continues to address the decline in performance in the timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans. The Council has continued to engage the services of an independent consultant and have appointed a Principal Educational Psychologist who will be in post from the 1st of July 2022. Alongside this, the Council is working with Manchester University to identify trainee psychologists to join the service from September and working with Council's marketing team on a recruitment campaign to attract new Educational Psychologists.
- 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. Evidence of referrals to the NEET prevention officer show the impact of 2 years disruption due to covid on our year 11 cohort, with a significant number without a destination for Autumn 2022. A review of the NEET prevention work is underway to assess improvements in the earlier identification of pupils at risk of NEET in year 10, improved advice and guidance for schools as well as improved information sharing, and partnership working between partners and education providers to flex and adapt to meet the needs of young people in the current context.

- 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 2020 teenage conception data show rates in St Helens remain very high comparatively. There was a total of 85 conceptions in 2020, a rate of 30.2 per 1000 15-17-year-olds. St Helens has the second highest teenage conception rate and the highest abortion rate for 15–17-year-olds in England.
- Positively, the latest data showing the rate of hospital admissions for self-harm (10–24-year-olds) has met target and is showing an improving trend. However, St Helens rate is still the highest in the North West, second highest nationally and remains bottom quartile for its statistical neighbour group.
- The latest verified national data for the number of under-18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons, per 100,000 population has met target but is showing a decreasing trend. Data is for the period 2018/19 - 2020/21). At 81.4 per 100,000 aged under 18, St Helens rate is significantly higher than regional (43.6) and national (30.7) rates.
- Data for various public health indicators has not been updated since 2020/21 and 2019/20 for the child obesity data. The latest verified national obesity data shows St Helens had the 4th highest overweight and obese rate in the North West for reception year children and the fifth highest regional rate for children in year 6. Data collection was suspended during the covid-19 pandemic. Data collection for 2021/22 is still ongoing with a deadline for submission of August 2022. Once updated verified data is published a more accurate picture of obesity rates will be available.
- As stated, 2020/21 is the latest verified national data for various public health indicators, including breastfeeding rate at 6-8 weeks, smoking status at time of delivery, MMR vaccination (2 doses) and children receiving a 2-2.5-year Healthy Child Programme review and achieving a good level of development at this age. Performance for these indicators is currently showing as off target based on the latest available data.
- At year end, the total number of first-time entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System remained low and better than target although the performance trend is downwards. The continual reduction in FTE is reflected nationally across most youth offending teams given the increased emphasis on prevention and diversion as a means of improving child trajectories and positive life outcomes. Whilst this is excellent performance in relation to our regional and national counterparts, the small local increase seen here is reflective of the nature of the seriousness of the offences being committed.
- Reoffending continues to be Youth Justice's biggest challenge in St Helens. Reoffending rates are based on 2-year-old PNC data. However, performance for the Borough in this area is currently still below target at 40% for the year, which is good.

Action for Improvement

- The Q3-2021/22 data for under 18 conceptions has been updated with 19 conceptions for St Helens in Q3 2020. This means that the annual rolling rate up to March 2020 has increased to 30.1 per 1000, whilst the rate is same as the last quarter, however we have the 2nd highest rolling annual rate in England. For the same period the NW rate decreased to 17.4, whilst the England rate decreased to 13.6. We are in the process of recommencing the multiagency teenage pregnancy prevention strategy group to develop and implement a wide range of actions. Plans are also in place to help prevent unplanned pregnancies by making access to information and free contraception available in a range of community settings.
- In 2020/21, 29% of babies were still being breastfed at 6-8 weeks. The verified Q3-2021/22 result is 32.5%, 3.5% above target, however, this is still below the Regional and National prevalence of 38.8% and 48.5% respectively. The rate has increased by more than 10% since City Health Care Partnership took over the service, and much work has been done to make sure breastfeeding status is recorded accurately and that pregnant women receive the support they need to breastfeed. At the targeted antenatal contact, birth contacts and 6-8-week reviews, Health Visitors discuss the benefits of breast feeding and mothers are offered referral to the infant feeding team for support.
- Young people's hospital admissions for alcohol continue to fall and are projected to be achieving target. However, in St Helens the rate of 81.4 (2018/19 - 2020/21) remains significantly higher than the regional (43.6) and national (30.7) averages. 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. The team are delivering face to face, group sessions in schools and colleges as they were pre-Covid.
- In Q3 - 2021/22 the proportion of 13% smoking at the time of delivery is lower than the rate at the end of 2020/21 (15.7%); it is improving and is 1.8% better than the target of 14.8%. However, local rates remain above the regional and national averages (11% and 9.6%). In 2020/21, St Helens has the 8th highest rate in England. A smoking in pregnancy pathway is now being adopted across Cheshire & Merseyside which asks about smoking at every contact, monitors carbon monoxide levels and offers an automatic stop smoking support referral for all pregnant smokers. Locally a dedicated stop smoking in pregnancy practitioner has joined the Wellbeing service to work with pregnant smokers identified via midwifery.
- Q3 2021/22 for uptake of the 2-2.5-year check is the latest published regional (82.6%) and national (78.6%) averages indicates that St Helens is performing better at a percentage of 90.8%, and higher than target (84%). However, we may see a reduction in the next quarter due to a shortage of staff, a recruitment drive has been undertaken and new staff employed.
- The 2020/21 St Helens annual outturn for achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5 years (Q4 YTD) was 89.1% which is 5% below target but higher than the latest published regional (82.2%) and national (83.3%) averages. We have seen a decrease in the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2 - 2 1/2 years for the last three quarters, this is the same regionally and nationally. 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. There is a continued collaboration with Early Years to develop and implement plans and criteria to ensure appropriate children are referred to the School Readiness programme to maximise a child's opportunity. Workstreams include behaviour pathways, speech & language pathway, improving outcomes for boys and Incredible Years training.
- Operation Inclusion and the implementation of Outcome 22 by Merseyside Police continues to be utilised wherever appropriate within the service as a means of reducing first time entrants (FTEs) and they continue to be very successful as a means of diverting the most vulnerable children away from the formal Criminal Justice System and offer a robust alternative to those children involved in street crime. Additional funding from the VRU and Operation Stonehaven has also supported the YJS to deliver interventions which should further reduce FTE's going forward.

- The Youth Justice Service continues to deliver a range of interventions in conjunction with partners to further drive down re-offending and going forward there is a plan in place to utilise funding from the VRU to support some new pilot schemes/ interventions in conjunction with the Charity CELLS in local schools and with local police to support those children most at risk of further offending.

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

