

PERFORMANCE REPORT

QUARTER 2 2022/23



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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

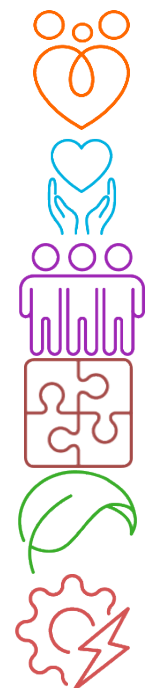
Priority 2 - Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities

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 the Council's 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 2022/23 providing the performance position reported over the course of the period. The reporting format splits the report into 2 distinct parts:

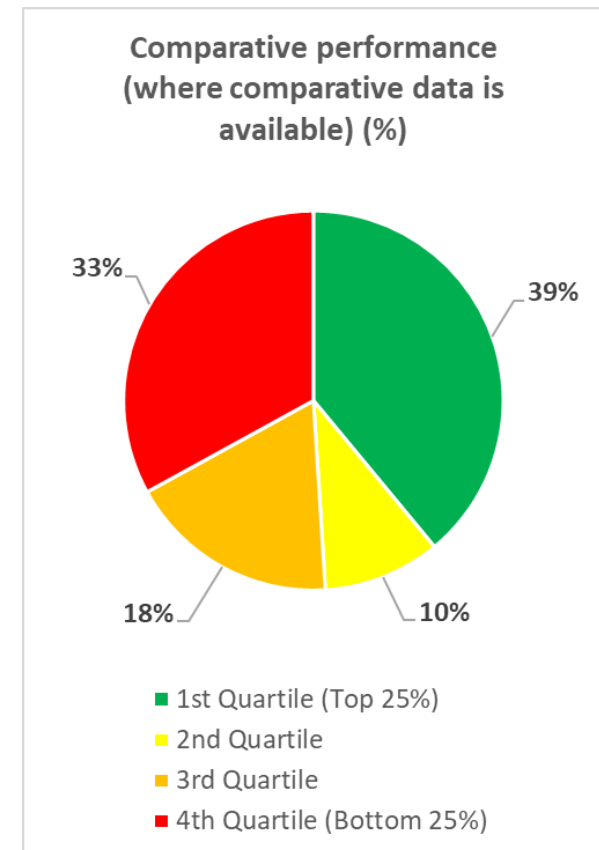
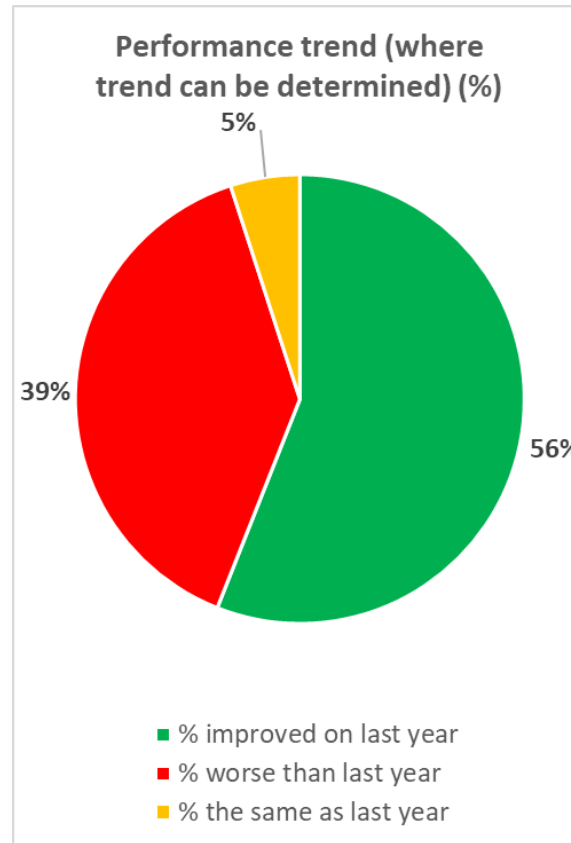
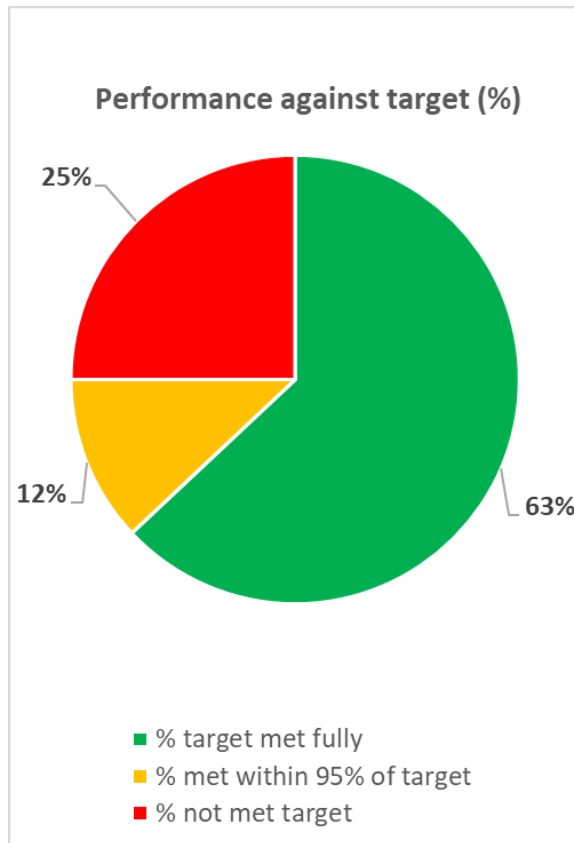
Part 1 of the report is a statistical analysis of the performance position at Quarter 2 2022/23.

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.

4. Executive Summary

The charts below provide an overview position of all performance measures across all 6 Borough Strategy priorities as at Quarter 2 2022/23, 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.



5. Part 1 - Statistical analysis

To measure performance at Quarter 2 2022/23, the Council is reporting against a total of **85** 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 Quarter 1 report statistical analysis looks at performance under 3 areas:

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

5.1 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	21	57% (12)	14% (3)	29% (6)
2. Health, independence, and care	21	62% (13)	14% (3)	24% (5)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	13	54% (7)	23% (3)	23% (3)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	6	67% (4)	17% (1)	17% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	11	82% (9)	0% (0)	18% (2)
6. Responsible Council	13	69% (9)	0% (0)	31% (4)
Total	85	63% (54)	12% (10)	25% (21)

NB – Percentage figures have been rounded to nearest whole number.

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.

5.2 The Performance Trend

This measure compares performance at Q2 2022/23 with performance at Q2 2021/22 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 2022/23, where performance data in 2021/22 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	21	48% (10)	52% (11)	0% (0)
2. Health, independence, and care	21	57% (12)	33% (7)	10% (2)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	13	62% (8)	38% (5)	0% (0)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	6	67% (4)	17% (1)	17% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	9	78% (7)	22% (2)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	7	29% (2)	57% (4)	14% (1)
Total	77	56% (43)	39% (30)	5% (4)

NB – Percentage figures have been rounded to nearest whole number.

5.3 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 **39** 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). The England average figure (Eng, Av) is also now presented, as is the statistical neighbour group average (LA Av.) to provide additional context to comparative performance.

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	19	42% (8)	11% (2)	5% (1)	42% (8)
2. Health, independence, and care	12	42% (5)	0% (0)	33% (4)	25% (3)

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	3	67% (2)	33% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	3	0% (0)	34% (1)	33% (1)	33% (1)
6. Responsible Council	2	0% (0)	0% (0)	50% (1)	50% (1)
Total	39	39% (15)	10% (4)	18% (7)	33% (13)

NB – Percentage figures have been rounded to nearest whole number.

The latest available picture of inter authority performance largely relates to the 2020/21 financial year. Therefore, St Helens position vis-a-vis its quartile position is based on St Helens performance in that particular year relative to its statistical neighbours. Future reports will be updated to reflect the 2021/22 comparative performance position as and when verified data is published.

5.4 Summary and conclusion of statistical analysis

- **75%** of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target. This compares to 73% of indicators in the previous quarter and 60% at Q2 2021/22.
- **25%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 27% of indicators in the previous quarter and 40% of indicators at Quarter 2 2021/22.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months that **56%** of indicators showed improvement, **5%** of indicators maintained the same performance and **39%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory. The position is an improvement on the position in the previous quarter where only 46% of indicators showed improvement. The position is also an improvement on the position in Q2 2021/22, where 49% of indicators showed improvement.
- **39%** of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, compared to 35% at Q2 2021/22, whilst 33% are in the bottom quartile, compared to 30% at Q2 2021/22.
- 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 the last 2 years which has been an unprecedented period due to the onset and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on performance within St Helens whether direct or indirect was highlighted within the Performance Outturn Reports for 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- Performance should therefore be viewed within the context of what has continued to be a challenging operational period for the Council. The continued effect of the pandemic, rising demand for services and the requirement to deliver significant budget savings has impacted the Council's ability to meet targets and demonstrate improvements in performance trends. 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.

6. 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 Quarter 2 2022/23 for the indicators reported

Performance Against Target

Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
21	57% (12)	14% (3)	29% (6)

The Performance Trend

Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
21	48% (10)	52% (11)	0% (0)

Inter Authority Comparison

Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
19	42% (8)	11% (2)	5% (1)	42% (8)

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?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target (Sept)	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-001	The number of open Early Help assessments per 10,000 population (aged 0-17 years)	Quarterly	Higher	240	250	222	196.5	-21.4%	↓	N/A
	CYP-002	The number of early help episodes that have been closed and have subsequently not gone on to have a social care intervention in the following 12 months as a percentage of total closures	Quarterly	Higher	73.80%	74%	85.6%	86.3%	16.22%	↑	N/A
	CYP-003	Number of children in need at 31 March, per 10,000 children aged 0-17 years	Quarterly	Lower	435	420	474.5	461.2	-2.49%	↓	3rd Quartile Eng Av. 321.2 LA Av. 418.9 (2020/21)
	CYP-004	Rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 under 18-year-olds	Quarterly	Lower	58.3	54	66.9	66.7	-17.02%	↓	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 41 LA Av. 58 (2020/21)

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 1, 2022/23

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target (Sept)	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-005	Percentage of children starting a child protection plan (CPP) who had never had a plan previously	Quarterly	Higher	73.80%	72%	72.9%	76.4%	6.11%	↑	N/A
	CYP-006	Number of looked after children per 10,000 children within the Borough	Quarterly	Lower	128.2	127	126	127.9	-0.71%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 67 LA Av. 104.3 (2020/21)
	CYP-008	Percentage of Children Looked After ceased due to Special Guardianship Order (SGO)	Quarterly	Higher	21.20%	15%	20%	21%	40%	↓	N/A
	CYP-009	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 years with whom the LA is in touch	Quarterly	Higher	98%	95%	94%	96.6%	1.68%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 91 LA Av. 93.4 (2020/21)
	CYP-010	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	Quarterly	Higher	95.30%	95%	97%	96.6%	1.68%	↑	1st Quartile Eng Av. 88 LA Av. 91.4 (2020/21)
	CYP-011	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 years in employment, education, or training	Quarterly	Higher	54%	54%	59.4%	57%	1.79%	↑	1st Quartile Eng Av. 52 LA Av. 53.3 (2020/21)

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target (Sept)	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people's aspirations, attainment and opportunities are raised	CYP-012	Percentage of Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans completed within a 20-week period	Quarterly	Higher	86%	70%	24.4%	26%	-62.86%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 57.9 LA Av. 74.7 (2020/21)
	E&S-002	The percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 achieving the national expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Mathematics	Annual	Higher	N/A	N/A	N/A	57%	N/A	N/A	4th Quartile Eng Av. 59 LA Av. 59.4 (2021/22)
	E&S-005	Percentage of young people academic age 16-17 not in education, employment or training and not known combined	Quarterly	Lower	4.91%	4.91%	4.6%	17.4%	-0.29%	↑	1st Quartile Eng Av. 5.5 LA Av. 5.3 (2021)
	E&S-006	Percentage of state funded schools judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted	Annual	Higher	83%	84%	85%	87%	3.57%	↑	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 86 LA Av. 84 (Dec 2021)

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 1, 2022/23

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target (Sept)	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-004	Under-18 conception rate per 1,000 females, 15-17 years (single year rate)	Quarterly	Lower	30.2 (2020)	30.1	30.5	27	3.57%	↑	4th Quartile Eng Av. 12.8 LA Av. 19.1 (June 2021)
	CYP-013	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	Lower	155	174	30	Data time lagged to be reported in Q3	31.03%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 169.2 LA Av. 157.5 (2021)
	CYP-014	The percentage of children re-offending	Quarterly	Lower	41%	43%	44%	Data time lagged to be reported in Q3	-2.33	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 35.6 LA Av. 31.3 (2019)

Tier 2

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target (Sept)	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are safe from harm and the lives of children in care improve	CYP-007	Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year.	Quarterly	Lower	9.10%	9%	10%	10.4%	-15.56%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 9.0 LA Av. 7.9 (2020/21)
	CYP-015	Average actual number of cases per children and family social worker	Quarterly	Lower	16.4	18	16	15	16.67%	↑	N/A
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-005	Percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks	Quarterly	Higher	28.9% (2020/21)	31.60%	32.2%	27%	-14.56%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 47.6 LA Av. 33.6 (2020/21)
	PH-006	Smoking status at the time of delivery	Quarterly	Lower	15.7% (2020/21)	12.70%	11.8%	11.8%	7.09%	↑	4th Quartile Eng Av. 9.6 LA Av. 13.5 (2020/21)

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	% Variance from Target (Sept)	Trend	Comparative Performance
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-007	Under 18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons per 100,000 population	Quarterly	Lower	81.4 (2018/19 - 20/21)	81.4	68.2	68.8	15.48%	↑	4th Quartile Eng Av. 29.3 LA Av. 40.1 (18/19-20/21)
	PH-009	Percentage of children who received a 2-2.5-year Healthy Child Programme review by the time they were 2.5	Quarterly	Higher	90.8% (Provisional)	84.0%	63%	63%	-25%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 72.3 LA Av. 86.6 (2021/22)
	PH-010	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2 1/2 years	Quarterly	Higher	82.9% (Provisional)	82.90%	88.2%	85%	2.53%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 79.3 LA Av. 75.0 (2021/22)

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

- Performance against the outcome continues to show a mixed picture at Quarter 2 with some ongoing challenges in the area of children’s social care.
- A total of 725 children and young people in St Helens were receiving early help intervention at the end of Quarter 2 delivered either directly by St Helens Council services or local partners, primarily local schools. The number of children in September 2022 receiving an early help intervention (196.5 rate per 10,000) is currently not meeting target and has decreased since June 2022, when 820 children were receiving an early help intervention.

The current rate is also below the rate recorded in September 2021 (265 rate per 10,000). The most common reasons for an early help episode being in place for those children related to parenting capacity, SEND, Emotional wellbeing and Child Mental Health.

- The majority of early help episodes cases closed in the last 12-months did not result in a subsequent referral St Helens Children's Social Services. In the period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021 a total of 1,138 early help episodes were closed and stepped down to universal services. Of these early help episodes closed and 'stepped down', 86.3% did not, in the 12 months following closure, subsequently progress to a referral to St Helens Children's Social Care.
- There has been a reduction in the numbers of children and young people were open to St Helens Children's Social Services (CSS) in Quarter 2. A total of 1,702 children and young people were open to St Helens Children's Social Services (CSS) at the end of September, equating to a Children in Need (CIN) rate of 461.2 per 10,000 under 18-year-olds. This compares to 1,751 children and young people at June 2022. Most children open to CSS is due to reasons related to Abuse and Neglect (80%.) Other reasons relate to Family Dysfunction (8%) and Disability (5%), However, the indicator remains marginally below target and St Helens rate of CIN per 10,000 (461.2) remains higher than that reported in September 2021 (429.0) and continues to be higher than the most recently published comparable rates nationally (321), regional (367) and statistical neighbour averages (420).
- The rate of children supported with a Child Protection Plan remains high and is not meeting target. At the end of September 2022, a total of 246 children and young people were supported with a Child Protection (CP) Plan, equating to a rate of 66.7 children per 10,000 under 18 years olds in the borough. This is broadly in line with the rate reported in June 2022, but above the rate reported at the end of September 2021 (63.4). St Helens current rate stands above the most recently published (March 2021) Child Protection Plan rates reported nationally (41.4), regionally (47.0) and for statistical neighbours (58.0). The percentage of children starting to be supported by a child protection plan who had never had a plan previously is meeting target. Over the first 2 quarters of 2022 a total of 161 children and young people have been made the subject of a Child Protection (CP) Plan in St Helens, with the majority of the children (76.4%) having never been the subject of a CP Plan previously. This is higher than the position reported for St Helens in the Quarter 1 period of the previous financial year (70.4%). The proportion of children starting a CP Plan having never been the subject of a CP Plan previously is marginally lower in St Helens than is the case regionally (77.4%) and nationally (77.9%). Effectively this shows St Helens to have a higher proportion of children experiencing repeat CP Plans, which is not the outcome sought.
- At the end of September 2022, a total of 472 children and young people were cared for by St Helens Council, an increase on the June figure of 464. This is a rate of 127.9 children looked after (CLA) per 10,000 under 18-year-olds, marginally above the target of 127. The overall CLA population reported for St Helens continues, to be significantly higher than the 2021 comparable regional (101) and national rates (67). The CLA population rate reported for St Helens at September 2022 (127.9) is marginally higher than the rate reported in September 2021 (126).
- The percentage of children and young people discharged from care as a result of a special guardianship order (SGO) between April and September 2022/23 was 21% of all children and young people discharged from care. A total of 70 children and young people ceased to be cared for by St Helens with 15 of the children and young people discharged from care as a result of a special guardianship order (SGO). Positively, the percentage of children discharged from care in the period is above the most recent 2020/21 national (14%) and regional (17%) averages but below the proportion reported by St Helens during Quarter 2 of the 2021/2022 financial year (23%).
- The percentage of children experiencing short-term placement instability at 10.4% has increased compared to the previous year (9%) and is above the comparable 2020/21 national (9%) and statistical neighbour (8%) averages. In the 12-month period up to and including September 2022, a total of 49 children and young people experienced three or more placement moves, equating 10.4% of St Helens' total CLA population.

- Performance against the 3 key outcomes for care leavers remains 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. St Helens performance compares favourably to regional, national and comparator authorities.
- The indicator monitoring the average actual social worker case workloads met target during Quarter 2 and has improved on the figure reported in Quarter 2 in the previous year. However, the data should continue to be considered cautiously as it is based on the average caseloads across the service and there is variability across social work teams, where in some teams the volume is higher.

Action for Improvement

- The pandemic has impacted on the delivery of some key services and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSEs) organisations with limited support, and business continuity plans having been implemented. The Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) has completed a review of Early Help and reported the findings. In summary work across the partnership is ongoing to ensure the effective delivery of the Early Help service to families to ensure that children are not entering the child protection system without receiving appropriate early intervention and that risks are not becoming more acute. The Early Help strategy is being refreshed and partners are being encouraged to be pro-active in supporting families on the understanding that early intervention is everybody's business. Historically there has been too much emphasis placed upon Early Help Assessment (EHAT) completion. The Supporting Families programme and the transformation to Family Hubs with subsequent funding will assist in early identification of needs and support within communities avoiding more intrusive statutory services.
- However, Q2 states the number of children receiving Early Help services has slightly reduced, this is in contrast to the number of children on CP plans increasing, which evidences the growing levels of complexity, deprivation, and poverty, as the main increase is in areas around neglect and abuse.
- With regard to the increasing number of children in need of protection (CIN), we have identified that our CIN response needs to be more robust, especially recognising and intervening in neglectful parenting. There is a child in need panel and a dedicated co-ordinator. New systems are being put in place to ensure CIN work is being improved to prevent escalation to Child Protection Plans and Children being looked after. There is a thematic review of neglect currently under way by the children safeguarding partnership.
- We will continue to dip sample children entering the Child Protection and care system to better understand the presenting needs and how to support them at the earliest opportunity. It is noted that children and families are becoming increasingly complex, and this is reflected in regional and national trends. The most deprived local authorities are seeing this to a greater extent. Undoubtedly this is linked to causal factors such as poverty, the pandemic, and the greater prevalence of mental health issues for all ages. This is also a contributory factor in the increase in placement breakdowns. This is reflected in Regional Information Group (RIG) data and North West placement data reports.
- The stability rate has increased, this is partly due to the complexity of placements and challenging behaviour resulting in a number of external foster care placement disruptions and therefore children moving into residential care .

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

Current Performance

- The majority of indicators relating to this outcome relate to the attainment of children and young people and are published annually.
- At the end of the 2021/2022 academic year 57% of pupils educated in state funded schools in St Helens achieved the expected standard of above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2). This is the first publication of KS2 attainment statistics since 2019 due to cancellation of 2020 and 2021 assessments during the COVID public health pandemic. These pupils experienced disruption to their learning during the pandemic, particularly at the end of year 4 and in year 5. The percentage of pupils, both in St Helens and nationally, attaining the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths has decreased in 2022 compared to 2019. In St Helens, 57% of pupils met the expected standard in all of reading, writing and maths, down from 66% in 2019. Nationally, 59% of pupils met the expected standard in all three subject areas, down from 65% in 2019.
- At the end of September 2022, a total of 61 or 87% of state funded schools (Nursery Schools, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Special Schools, and Pupils Referral Units) in St Helens are judged by Ofsted to be good or better for overall effectiveness. in St Helens. There are 16 schools that are currently judged by Ofsted to be outstanding and a further 45 schools that are judged to be good. The position reported for St Helens at the end of September 2022 is marginally below the comparable national average (88%).
- Performance for the completion of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) to timescale has shown a significant dip over the first 2 quarters. During the period 108 EHCPs were finalised, 28 of which were within 20 weeks. This is a consequence of increasing demand and significantly reduced capacity within the Educational Psychology Service.
- The performance against numbers of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET) performance continued to hold up strongly in Quarter 1. During Quarter 1 performance was at 4.6% combined NEET for 16 – 17 Yr. olds, (3.8% NEET and 0.8% Not Known). In the previous year performance stood at 5.3%. The percentage represents a total of 189 young people out of over 4,000. Positively, NEET clients in St Helens spent on average 60 days fewer as NEET in June 2022 than in June 2021 However, it needs to be noted that the numbers of pupils in year 11 identified by schools as "at risk of NEET" i.e., those without a post 16 offer of education or training or at risk of disengagement over summer doubled this academic year. Last year 45 young people were referred, this year there have been 90 referrals. The September Guarantee (an offer of education or training for all Yr. 11s was undertaken in Quarter 2.

As with previous years, September represents the most challenging month for NEET data analysis, as young people are tracked as they engage with a post 16 offer, and we attempt to analyse the data from a large number of post 16 institutions or training providers. The 16-17-year-old combined NEET and Not Known performance at the end of September (Quarter 2) was 17.4%. This was broadly in line with the target (17.35%) and an improvement from the previous year's performance (19.30%). NEET for 16-17-year-olds is 3.3%, representing 134 young people, which is an increase of 0.5% from last year of 2.24%. This is made up of 20 (16-year-olds) and 114 (17-year-olds) compared to 21 and 94 respectively which in 2021, which highlights an increase in the 17-year-old cohort.

There is a similar picture in the numbers of young people aged 16/18 in education, employment or learning with those NEET at 4.2% (against 3.8% for the same period last year). There have been improvements in the number where the employment, education, and training (EET) destination is not known at 14.1% of 16 to 17-yr-olds compared to 14.5% in 2021. For young people aged 16/18 Not Known stands at 25.52% (25.53% 2021). Positively, whilst a drop was anticipated as a consequence of the disruption to the education of the year 11 cohort due to Covid, the outturn for September

guarantee performance shows that the target for year 12 offers was met, with 98.1% of young people leaving secondary education with a post 16 offer of education or training and the year 13 offers matched the target of 93.3% with a final figure of 93.3%. This is in line with previous performance. As a result, it is expected that there will be a clearer indication next month of destinations.

Action for Improvement

- The drop in performance on the timeliness of EHCPs has been anticipated largely due to the lack of Educational Psychologists, who are required to ensure that children's needs are thoroughly assessed before an EHCP can be drafted. The new Principal Educational Psychologist started in role on 1st July, providing service leadership capacity to address this situation. In the meantime, the service continues to commission external support from agencies. Three EP posts are currently out for recruitment. The SEND Assessment Service has been reviewed to understand the capacity requirements in light of increasing requests for assessment and the business case is now being considered. However, there is a growing backlog of EHCPs awaiting advice before they can be finalised, coupled with significant gaps in the casework function which will be reflected in the performance figures for next quarter.
- This quarter the Service will be tracking destinations to evaluate the September Guarantee and ensure that all young people are in their year 12 and 13 placements or in employment or training and to engage with those who are NEET to offer support. The NEET Prevention Coordinators will continue to provide support to the young people on their caseload until half term to ensure they are settled in their placement. A review of the Risk of NEET indicator identification process is underway with schools to ensure a timelier identification of young people so that the NEET team have longer to build relationships with this vulnerable cohort. A new post of Education, Employment and Training Coordinator Care Leavers has been approved to strengthen the post 16 offer for care leavers and recruitment is underway for this post.

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

Current Performance

- Performance within the outcome of improving children's health and resilience remains challenging.
- The latest nationally published provisional teenage conception data relates to the 12-month period to June 2021 and shows there were 78 under 18 conceptions for St. Helens, with 16 in the last quarter. This is the lowest quarterly number since September 2016. The annual rolling rate up to June 2021 has now decreased to 27.0 per 1,000 and this below the target of 28.0. However, St. Helens has the 4th highest rolling 12-month annual rate in England, significantly higher than the England average rate of 12.8 and North West rate of 16.0.
- Provisional quarterly data for Q1 2022/23 (3 year rolling average) for under-18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons gives a rate of 68.8 admissions per 100,000 aged Under 18, which is below the target of 83. The rate of 68.8 relates to 77 admissions. However, the latest verified national data for the number of under-18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons, per 100,000 population for the period 2018/19 - 2020/21 gives a rate for St Helens of 81.4 per 100,000 aged under 18, significantly higher than regional (43.6) and national (29.3) rates.

- The latest provisional data for Q1-2022/23 for the percentage of children receiving a 2-2.5-year Healthy Child Programme review is 63.0% which is below the target of 84% and the same as the revised figure relating to Q4 2021/22. This is considerably lower than the last published national and statistical neighbour averages of 71.5% and 88.6% respectively.
- The latest provisional data for Q1-2022/23 shows 85% of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5-years, better than the target of 82.9%. St Helens' performance is above the last published national average.
- Historically, St Helens has had low rates of breastfeeding. The most recent data which relates to Q1 2022/23 shows that the percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks is 27.0%, which is below the target of 31.6%. This is a reduction on the last reported provisional breastfeeding data (Q4 2021/22) which showed that 32.2% of infants were being breastfed at 6-8 weeks. The latest published comparator data for 2020/21 confirms the percentage of infants being breastfed in St. Helens remains well below the National and Regional averages (47.6% and 38.8% respectively).
- The proportion of women smoking at the time of delivery is showing improvement. The latest data (Q4 - 2021/22) shows 11.8% smoking at the time of delivery. This is lower than the target of 12.7% and lower than the published 2020/21 figure of 15.7%. Local rates however remain worse than the latest Cheshire and Merseyside and national averages (11.1% and 9.6%) and the last published national average of 9.6%. In 2020/21 St Helens had the 3rd highest rate in the region and the 8th highest rate in England.
- The latest available data for the total number of first-time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System at Q1 2022/23 remained low and better than target although there has been a small increase in FTEs compared to the same period in the previous year. The continual reduction in FTEs 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. The latest data for the 12 months to June 2020 has seen a small increase in reoffending from 41% to 44%, above the annual target of 43%.

Action for Improvement

- Teenage conception rates remain very high; however, it is positive to see a reduced rate for this quarter but too early to see if this trend will continue. CYP Scrutiny session now confirmed for 5th December, which will be supported by a range of partner agencies. Work is progressing well on obtaining service data which will provide more timely alerts to enable us to better assess effectiveness of interventions put in place. Promotional service posters are to be put up in ward notice boards / neighbourhoods to increase awareness and access to various contraception offers. A link has been established with C&M Inequalities Midwife lead with plans to establish a Teenage Pregnancy network with the aim to raise profile of the issue and action required as a system (10-point plan). Refresher training for GP practices who deliver contraceptive services is about to commence. The TAZ team are working with schools delivering 6 week targeted 'Healthy Body & Mind' sessions. The TAZ clinic continues to provide information, advice, pregnancy tests, and condoms, and signposting for young people - looking to explore more community settings for outreach. The TAZ team are also delivering educational sessions to young people as part of the 'Think Fast' 12-week course with children and young people with additional needs. TAZ have re-engaged with all schools and are now offering RSE support and drop-in sessions together with the 0-19 service.
- Young Peoples alcohol specific admissions continue a downward trend, although still remain high compared with the latest known figures for England and North West. The council's Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol team (YPDAAT) regularly review the data in detail to understand which young people

are at risk and target areas of concern to complete preventative work. At risk groups include those who are looked after or a child in need, in contact with the criminal justice system, those suspended or excluded from school, and young people affected by domestic abuse or the use of alcohol/drugs by a close family member. The YPDAAT engage with young people via group sessions and on a 1-1 basis across school's colleges and various other locations. From 2022 national drugs strategy funding has been made available to improve access to and capacity of treatment services, including the YPDAAT. There will be a renewed focus on support for those young people who are identified as being most at risk.

- In relation to the Healthy Child Programme indicators, this data reporting period very clearly shows how dramatic the negative impacts of the covid pandemic were on our young children. After Christmas 2021, St. Helen's was one of the worst (in top 2-5) affected local areas in the country with the emerging fast spreading Omicron variant (Jan-March 2022). The outbreak resulted in widespread sickness for frontline service staff, and families/households, and the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme service had to operate in business continuity until June 2022. The service has worked hard to ensure any children who did not receive face-to-face visits during Q4 were followed up and seen (with priority given for vulnerable children), in addition to ongoing reviews (doubled workload for depleted workforce). Despite the service's best efforts to recover, we may have to accept the pandemic had a significant negative impact on the development of our youngest children, which will have a lasting legacy on their developmental milestones, school readiness and attainment going forward. There are a number of actions being put in place to help address this, including continued collaboration with Early Years, referrals to the School Readiness program behaviour pathways, speech & language pathway, improving outcomes for boys and Incredible Years training. Additionally, a text messaging service has been introduced to send reminder messages to parents for attending weighing clinics and development reviews.
- Frontline services (maternity) had national restrictions in place to protect hospital infections and business continuity plans were in place to support service recovery extending into Q1. The Infant Feeding Team (Wellbeing Service) were unable to visit the wards during this time so new mothers did not receive timely breastfeeding support. The Infant Feeding Team are now back on the maternity ward and a recovery plan is in place, including awareness raising campaigns, community-based support groups, and enrolling businesses to support baby friendly places to better support mothers and reduce stigma. Halton and Knowsley will also fund the St. Helens Infant Feeding Team to support their mums, meaning that all mums on the ward will receive support. CCG are leading a new co-produced antenatal provision with services users and local partners and there is opportunity to embed breastfeeding support within that. St Helens PH is producing a baby friendly/infant feeding communications encouraging businesses to become baby friendly, this will tie in with World Breastfeeding Week takes place 1st - 7th August. Lowe House Hub building will also provide a community provision for mums with the Infant Feeding Team including a lactation clinic.
- The data continue to show a downward trend in the proportion of pregnant smokers, and we are now achieving target. However, the rates remain high compared with other areas. A standard 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.
- The latest Youth Reoffending data represents a small dip in performance, but this was anticipated in the outturn report based on the impact of the pandemic, which is likely to play out for some time. Indeed, the impact of court closures and police being unable to process offenders for much of the last 2 years has therefore meant that although we are now returning to a 'business as usual' approach in terms of interventions, the unprecedented nature of the time period experienced means that some anomalies in terms of the data are likely to remain. Indeed, the projected impact was largely unknown and as the data continues to come in over the coming financial year, we should get a clearer picture of the overall impact. That said, despite the fact that we are performing less well than our regional counterparts – our YJS is matched by the YJB to a demographically similar area to enable

the service to get a clearer and more balanced view of our current performance. Stockton on Tees is this YJS's match, and we are performing at an equivalent rate to them which is reassuring. The Service has again recently commissioned CELLS to deliver 2 further programmes of intervention designed to target our children most at risk of reoffending. One will begin in August 2022 for 3 months and another will begin in January through until the end of the financial year in 2023.

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

