

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE SERVICES
PERFORMANCE REPORT
QUARTER 3 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 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 2022/23 providing the performance position reported over the course of the period. The reporting format splits the report into 2 distinct parts:

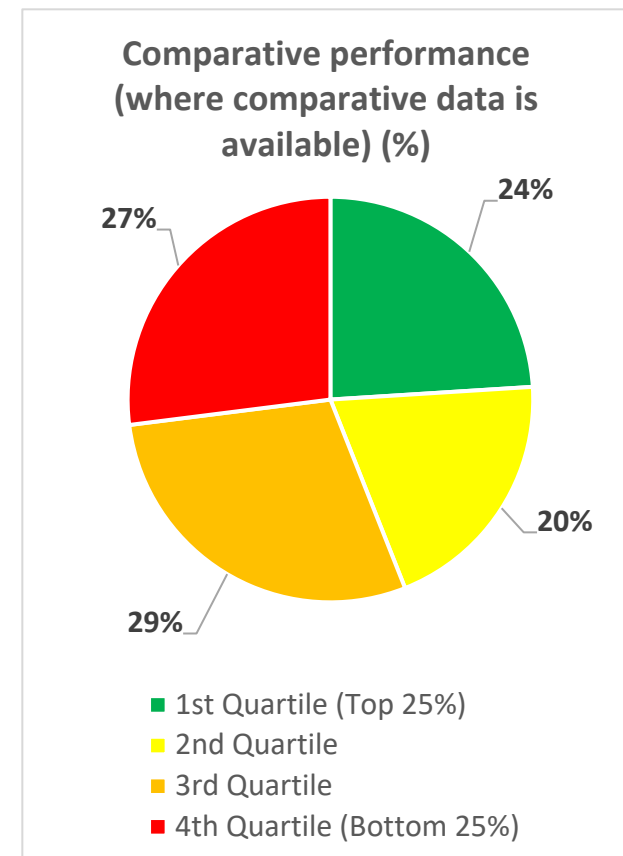
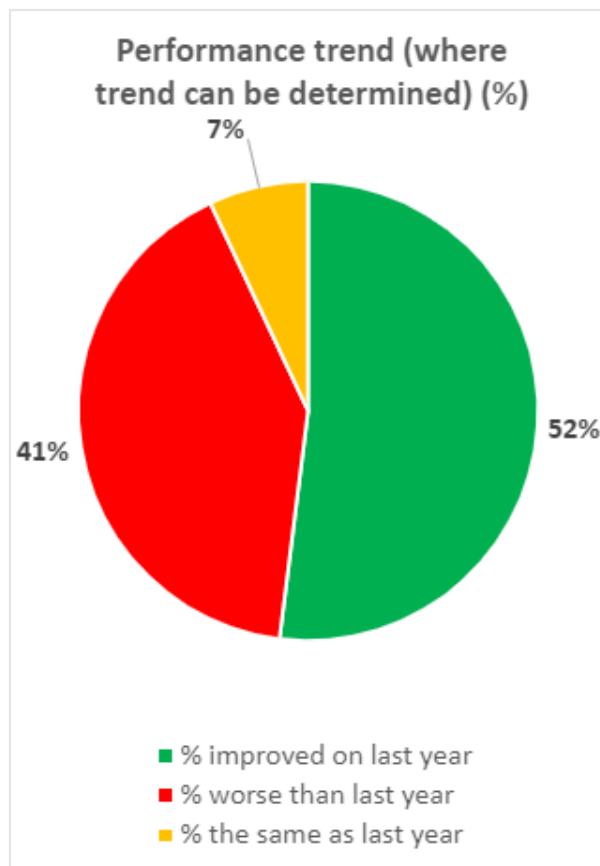
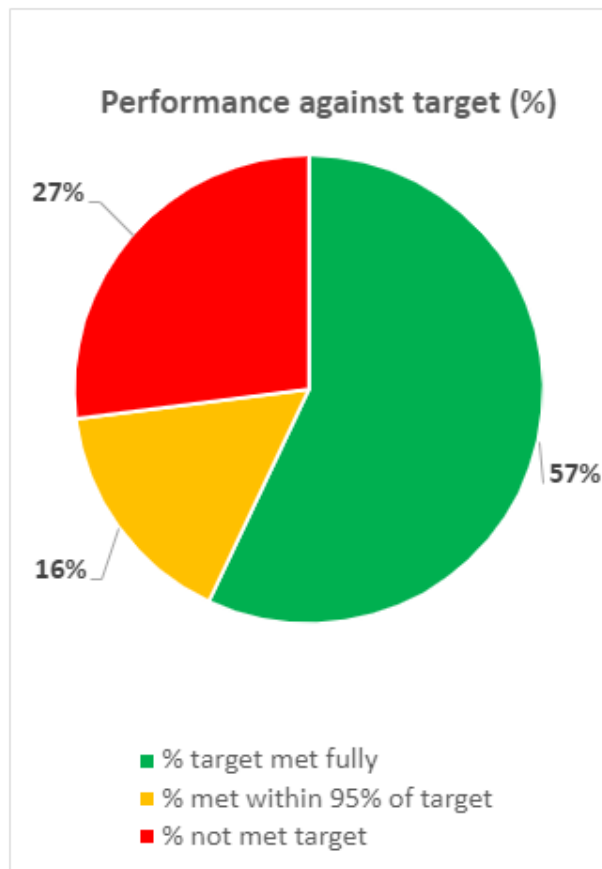
Part 1 of the report is a statistical analysis of the performance position at Quarter 3 2022/23.

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 3 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 3 2022/23, the Council is reporting against a total of **88** 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	25	52% (13)	20% (5)	28% (7)
2. Health, independence, and care	21	62% (13)	19% (4)	19% (4)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	13	38% (5)	24% (3)	38% (5)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	6	83% (5)	0% (0)	17% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	11	64% (7)	18% (2)	18% (2)
6. Responsible Council	12	58% (7)	0% (0)	42% (5)
Total	88	57% (50)	16% (14)	27% (24)

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 Q3 2022/23 with performance at Q3 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	25	36% (9)	56% (14)	8% (2)
2. Health, independence, and care	21	57% (12)	33% (7)	10% (2)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	13	62% (8)	31% (4)	8% (1)
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)	71% (5)	0% (0)
Total	81	52% (42)	41% (33)	7% (6)

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 41 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	21	24% (5)	24% (5)	19% (4)	33% (7)
2. Health, independence, and care	12	17% (2)	17% (2)*	50% (6)	17% (2)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	0	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)

Priority	Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	3	100% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	3	0% (0)	33% (1)	33% (1)	33% (1)
6. Responsible Council	2	0% (0)	0% (0)	50% (1)	50% (1)
Total	41	24% (10)	20% (8)	29% (12)	27% (11)

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

The latest available picture of inter authority performance largely relates to the 2021/2 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

- **73%** of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target. This compares to 75% of indicators in the previous quarter and 66% at Q3 2021/22.
- **27%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 25% of indicators in the previous quarter and 34% of indicators at Quarter 3 2021/22.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months that **52%** of indicators showed improvement, **7%** of indicators maintained the same performance and **41%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory. The position is a decrease on the position in the previous quarter where 56% of indicators showed improvement. The position is also behind on the position in Q3 2021/22, where 54% of indicators showed improvement.
- **24%** of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, compared to 39% at Q3 2021/22, whilst 27% are in the bottom quartile, compared to 32% at Q3 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 3 2022/23 for the indicators reported

Performance Against Target

Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
25	52% (13)	20% (5)	28% (7)

The Performance Trend

Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
25	36% (9)	56% (14)	8% (2)

Inter Authority Comparison

Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
21	24% (5)	24% (5)	19% (4)	33% (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?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target (Dec)	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	189.4	-24.24%	↓	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	86.5	16.89%	↑	N/A
	CYP-003	Number of children in need at 31 March, per 10,000 children aged 0-17 years	Quarterly	Lower	478.4	420	474.5	461.2	458.6	-4.23%	↓	3rd Quartile Eng Av. 334.0 LA Av. 438.2 (2021/22)
	CYP-004	Rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 under 18-year-olds	Quarterly	Lower	57.50%	54	66.9	66.7	71.1	-29.27%	↓	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 42 LA Av. 60.6 (2021/22)

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target (Dec)	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	77.3	7.36%	↑	N/A
	CYP-006	Number of looked after children per 10,000 children within the Borough	Quarterly	Lower	128.2	127	126	127.9	129.7	-2.13%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 70 LA Av. 108.6 (2021/22)
	CYP-008	Percentage of Children Looked After ceased due to Special Guardianship Order (SGO)	Quarterly	Higher	19.00%	15%	20	21	22.6	50.67%	↑	3rd Quartile Eng Av. 13 LA Av. 20 (2021/22)
	CYP-009	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 years with whom the LA is in touch	Quarterly	Higher	97%	95%	94	96.6	94	-1.05%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 92 LA Av. 93.7 (2021/22)
	CYP-010	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	Quarterly	Higher	95.30%	95%	97	96.6	95	0%	↔	1st Quartile Eng Av. 88 LA Av. 90 (2021/22)

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target (Dec)	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-011	Percentage of former care leavers aged 19-21 years in employment, education, or training	Quarterly	Higher	55%	54%	59.4	57	57.7	3.04%	↓	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 55 LA Av. 53.5 (2021/22)
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	86.2%	70%	24.4	26	23.7	-66.09%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 57.9 LA Av. 74.7 (2020/21)
	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	5.14	-14.22%	↓	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	87	3.57%	↑	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 88 LA Av. 84 (Dec 2021)
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-002	Percentage of children in reception year who are overweight or obese	Annual	Lower	28.3% (2019/20)	28.30%	N/A	N/A	28.7	-1.41%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 22.3 LA Av. 25.0 (2021/22)
	PH-003	Percentage of children in Year 6 who are overweight or obese	Annual	Lower	41% (2019/20)	41%	N/A	N/A	43.8	-6.83%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 37.8 LA Av. 40.9 (2021/22)

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Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target (Dec)	Trend	Comparative Performance
	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	26	13.62%	↑	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	67	110	15.71%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 169.2 LA Av. 157.5 (2021)
	CYP-014	The percentage of children re-offending	Quarterly	Lower	41%	43%	44	40	32.2	25.12%	↑	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	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target (Dec)	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	10.3	-14.44%	↓	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 10.0 LA Av. 10 (2021/22)
	CYP-015	Average actual number of cases per children and family social worker	Quarterly	Lower	16.4	18	16	15	16	11.11%	↑	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	31.3% (2021/22)	31.60%	32.2	27	30.3	-4.11%	↑	4th Quartile Eng Av. 49.3 LA Av. 34.5 (2021/22)
	PH-006	Smoking status at the time of delivery	Quarterly	Lower	13.4% (2021/22)	12.70%	11.8	14.6	11.4	10.24%	↑	3rd Quartile Eng Av. 9.1 LA Av. 12.2 (2021/22)

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	% Variance from Target (Dec)	Trend	Comparative Performance
	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	68.1	16.34%	↔	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	81% (2021/22)	84.00%	63	63	64.7	-22.98%	↓	3rd Quartile Eng Av. 74.0 LA Av. 86.4 (2021/22)
	PH-010	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2 1/2 years	Quarterly	Higher	86.1% (2021/22)	82.90%	88.2	85	82.9	0%	↓	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 80.9 LA Av. 80.3 (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 at Quarter 3 shows some areas of good performance against target, but also some ongoing challenges, notably in the areas of numbers of children looked after and numbers of children subject to child protection plans.
- A total of 695 children and young people in St Helens were receiving early help intervention at the end of Quarter 3 delivered either directly by St Helens Council services or local partners, primarily local schools. The number of children in December 2022 receiving an early help intervention (189.4 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 December 2021 (252.3 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 to St Helens Children's Social Care. In the period January 2021 to December 2021 a total of 1,196 early help episodes were closed and stepped down to universal services. Of these early help episodes closed and 'stepped down', 86.5% did not, in the 12 months following closure, subsequently progress to a referral to St Helens Children's Social Care.
- There has been a further reduction in the numbers of children and young people open to St Helens Children's Social Care in Quarter 3. A total of 1,683 children and young people were open to St Helens Children's Social Care at the end of December, equating to a Children in Need (CIN) rate of 458.6 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%.) The indicator remains marginally below target and St Helens rate of CIN per 10,000 (461.2) continues to be higher than the most recently published (March 2022) comparable rates nationally (334), regional (384), but similar to statistical neighbour averages (449).
- The rate of children supported with a Child Protection Plan remains high and is not meeting target. At the end of December 2022, a total of 261 children and young people were supported with a Child Protection (CP) Plan, equating to a rate of 71.1 children per 10,000 under 18 years olds in the borough. Rates have increased over the last 12 months. St Helens current rate stands above the most recently published (March 2022) Child Protection Plan rates reported nationally (42), regionally (49) and for statistical neighbours (61). 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 3 quarters of 2022 a total of 255 children and young people have been made the subject of a Child Protection (CP) Plan in St Helens, with the majority of the children (77.3%) having never been the subject of a CP Plan previously. Performance has improved over the course of the year to date. The proportion of children starting a CP Plan having never been the subject of a CP Plan previously is slightly higher (better) in St Helens than was the case regionally (2021-22) (76%) and similar to the national (77%) average, showing St Helens to have a slightly lower proportion of children experiencing repeat CP Plans, which is the right outcome sought.
- Numbers of children in care remain very high. At the end of December 2022, a total of 476 children and young people were cared for by St Helens Council, an increase on the Quarter 1 figure of 464. This is a rate of 129.7 children looked after (CLA) per 10,000 under 18-year-olds, above the target of 127. The overall CLA population reported for St Helens continues, to be significantly higher than the 2022 comparable regional (97) and national rates (70), and above statistical neighbour rates (107).
- The percentage of children and young people discharged from care as a result of a special guardianship order (SGO) between April and December 2022/23 was 22.6% of all children and young people discharged from care. A total of 106 children and young people ceased to be cared for by St Helens Council with discharged from care as a result of a special guardianship order (SGO). The indicator is better than target and performance is above the most recent 2021/22 national (13%) and regional (16%) averages.
- In the 12-month period to the end of December 2022, 49 children and young people experienced three or more placement moves, equating 10.3% of the total CLA population supported by St Helens. The percentage of children experiencing short term placement instability has increased compared to December 2021 (7.8%) and compared to the outturn in March 2022 (9%). Current performance is similar to 2021/22 national position (10%) but above the regional average for 2021-22 (9%) and above the local annual target of 9%.
- 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. In Quarter 3 there has been a small reduction in the number of care leavers the local authority is in touch with, but performance remains good. A total of 78 Former Relevant care leavers have turned 19, 20 or 21 years old between 1 April and 31 December 2022 and the LA was in touch with 73 of the young people in question at the time of their most recent birthday via its dedicated care leaver service.

- The average actual social worker case workloads indicator met target during Quarter 3 and has improved on the figure reported in Quarter 3 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 variability across social work teams remains, 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, Q3 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.
- Performance for the completion of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) to timescale has shown a significant dip over the first 3 quarters. The 9 months April to December 139 EHCPs were finalised, 33 of which were within 20 weeks. This is a consequence of increasing demand and significantly reduced capacity within the SEND Assessment Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- At the end of December 2022, a total of 61 state funded schools (Nursery Schools, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Special Schools, and Pupils Referral Units) in St Helens were judged by Ofsted to be good or better for overall effectiveness, equating to 87% of all state funded schools in St Helens. There were 16 schools that are currently judged by Ofsted to be outstanding and a further 45 schools that were judged to be good. The position reported for St Helens at the end of December 2022 was marginally below both the comparable national (88%) and the regional NW (89%) average.
- The performance against numbers of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET) and Not Known at December 2022 was 5.14%, marginally worse than the target of 5%. There has been an increase in numbers of 16–17-year-olds who are NEET from 126 (3.1%) young people in December 2021 to 172 (4.21%) young people in December 2022. There were 38 (0.935) young people in the Not Known category in December 2022, a small reduction on the 0.98% in December 2021.

Action for Improvement

- To address the performance challenges in the timeliness of EHCP's, the risk has been added to the corporate risk register and a recovery plan has been produced. Recruitment continues to fill vacancies to the SEND Assessment Team and Educational Psychology Service, and funding for 2 additional posts have been agreed in light of increasing demand. The SEND Assessment Service has successfully recruited to 7 vacant posts and it is hoped that the service will be back up to strength by Easter. Cases are risk assessed and prioritised to ensure that the most vulnerable pupils needs are assessed. The challenges have been communicated to all partners and parent carers.
- The following actions are being taken to address the increase in NEET:
 - Analysis and risk assessment of all the 16-year-olds and development of bespoke support plans.
 - Undertaking Case Conference meetings for young people that continue to find it a challenge to positively engage. This will also identify to providers the gaps that have been left by the reduction in provision.
 - Work with partners to review all available means of tracking addresses and telephone numbers for all young people where the last known contact details are out of date
- Those schools judged to be not yet good are being supported and challenged by the School Effectiveness Team through achievement and improvement board meetings, termly on-site reviews and a bespoke training package. There is only one school presently judged to be RI that is in scope for inspection this year.

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.
- Reducing St Helens rates of children overweight and obese remains a challenge. The latest St. Helens data for the proportion of Reception children in 2021/22, classed as overweight or obese (28.7%) was similar to the figure seen in previous years (28.2% and 28.3% in 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively). However, the North West rate decreased to 23.3% and the National rate decreased to 22.3%. St. Helens now has the highest rate in the North West and the 2nd highest rate in England for Reception age overweight and obese children. St Helens' proportion of Year-6 children classed as overweight or obese in 2021/22 (44%) was much higher than the figure seen in previous years. The NW rate increased to 39%, and the National rate increased to 37.8%. St. Helens has the 2nd highest rate in the North West and the 14th highest rate in England.
- The latest nationally published provisional teenage conception data relates to the 12-month period to September 2021 and shows there were 76 under 18 conceptions for St Helens, with 17 in the last quarter. The annual rolling rate up to September 2021 has now decreased slightly from 27.0 to 26.0 per 1,000, which is below the target of 28.0. However, St. Helens had the 5th highest rolling 12-month annual rate in England, significantly higher than the England average rate of 12.8 and North West rate of 16.1.
- Provisional quarterly data for Quarter 2 2022/23 (3 year rolling average) for under-18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons was a rate of 68.1 admissions per 100,000 aged Under 18, which is below the target of 83 and a small reduction on the previous quarter's figure of 68.8. 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 was 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 Quarter 2 2022/23 for the percentage of children receiving a 2-2.5-year Healthy Child Programme review is 64.7% which is below the target of 84%, but a marginal improvement on the previous quarter. This is considerably lower than St Helens recently published verified outturn for 2021/22 of 81% and the national and North West averages of 74% and 79.9% respectively.
- The latest provisional data for Quarter 2 2022/23 showed 85% of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5-years, better than the target of 82.9%. St Helens' performance has been consistently above last published national averages.
- Historically, St Helens has had low rates of breastfeeding. The most recent data which relates to Q3 2022/23 shows that the percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks is 30.3%, which is below the target of 31.6%. This is an increase on the previous quarter's reported rate of 27%. The recently published comparator data for 2021/22 confirms the percentage of infants being breastfed in St. Helens 31.3% remains well below the National and Regional averages (49.3% and 41.1% respectively).
- The proportion of women smoking at the time of delivery is showing improvement. The latest data Quarter 2 - 2021/22 showed 11.4% smoking at the time of delivery. This is lower than the target of 12.7% and lower than St Helens' published 2021/22 figure of 13.4%. Local rates however remain worse

than the recently published North West average (10.6%) and the national average (9.1%). In 2021/22 St Helens had the 17th highest rate in England, a small improvement from 8th highest in 2020/21.

- During Quarter 3 there were 6 young people who became first-time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System. This brings the total for the period April to December to 18. This compares to a total of 16 FTEs over the same period in the previous year. Although this represents a small increase, comparative performance remains very strong. 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 over the last few years has been the Youth Justice Service's biggest challenge in St Helens. Reoffending rates are based time-lagged Police PNC data. The latest data covering the period January to December 2020 has shown a significant decrease in the rate of offending. The reoffending rate reported in Quarter 1 was 44%, which reduced to 40% at Quarter 2. The reoffending rate at Quarter 3 has reduced significantly to 32%, which is below the annual target of 43%. The data should possibly be treated with caution as the time period for the data coincides with the period of Covid which impacted the Court sentencing across England.

Action for Improvement

- The National Child Measurement Programme data for the academic year 21/22 is the highest recorded level of overweight and obese Reception children (28.6%) on record for St. Helen's. This is the highest rate in the region and second highest in England, which is a cause for concern. The proportion of Year-6 children classed as overweight or obese in 2021/22 (44%) was much higher than the figure seen in previous years. St. Helens has the 2nd highest rate in the Northwest and the 14th highest rate in England. Childhood obesity is strongly associated with poverty, and previous local efforts have focussed on access to food via foodbanks and food pantries. St Helens was hit hard by the pandemic with reduced opportunity or support for being physically active as a consequence of prolonged periods of lockdowns. For this coming year, the focus and efforts will shift to improving the nutritional quality of food available and additional support/information for parents/carers to eat healthier and adopt daily physical activity behaviours for themselves and their children. Plans are in place to refresh the Healthy Weight Declaration, a review of food in schools, active travel plans (to/from school), re-introducing the daily mile, and funded training places for two practitioners to become HENRY 0-5 parenting partitioners.
- Teenage conception rates remain very high; however, we have seen a reduced rates for two consecutive quarters. A spotlight review on Teenage Pregnancy (TP) was delivered for CYP Scrutiny members in December with a follow up session planned for January, which will make recommendations for a range of partners and inform the local TP plan. Teenage Pregnancy data and the need for quality age appropriate RSE was delivered to primary school head teachers during Quarter 3, and a follow up survey to audit RSE provision in all schools will be distributed in Quarter 4. Further engagement work is planned to seek the views of young people on RSE, attitudes and behaviours. The TAZ team are leading a teenage pregnancy campaign for March, which will target parents/carers of teenagers, schools, partners, and workplaces (Council and hospital staff) to access the online DIYRSE training (as parents/carers). Work is in progress to increase access to contraceptive services, via community pharmacies, GP training, and via the sexual health service. A 10 TP point action plan will be updated once local data, views, insights, and intelligence has been collated and analysed.
- Young Peoples alcohol admissions continue on a downward trend, although still 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 to understand which young people are at risk and

target preventative work accordingly. The YPDAAT engage with young people via group sessions and on a 1-1 basis across school's colleges and various other locations. In 2023 the national drugs strategy funding has been made available to improve access to and capacity of treatment services, including the YPDAAT. The prevention of drugs and alcohol harm to young people is a priority within that work along with reducing the stigma of accessing services. A renewed focus will be developed to ensure support for those young people who are identified as being most at risk. The YPDAAT also engage with young people who have already had a hospital admission to reduce the risk of reoccurrence.

- The data for the proportion of children who received a 2-2.5 year check this quarter (July-Sept) shows a slight improvement compared to Q1, however this is significantly below target. The 0-19 Healthy Child Programme service continued prioritising reviews for children who did not receive a face-to-face visit as a result of the pandemic. In addition, a monitoring and reporting error was identified whereby visits were completed but could not be included as outside the time boundaries. A service improvement plan has been put in place to improve reporting for this indicator, which will be monitored by the commissioner. The proportion of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5 years, appears to be better than regional and national averages, however, this data should be viewed with caution. It is expected that as the proportion receiving a check improves to above 85% through focused work to reduce DNAs, it is expected that the number of children receiving a 'good' development at their 2-2.5year old review will reduce.
- This reporting period (July-Sept 2022) for Breast Feeding (BF) rates shows an improvement from last quarter as services begin to recover from the worst of the Omicron wave. Unfortunately, restrictions to the maternity wards continued until June due to enhanced infection and prevention control measures. The Infant Feeding (IF) Team (Wellbeing Service) contacted new mothers quickly when referrals were received for breastfeeding support in the community, and successfully supported 78 (88%) referred mums to reach 6-8 weeks BF continuation. Going forward, the IF team are working to develop their offer via Family Hubs developing plans, and scoping/costing of a full-time IF Co-ordinator is in progress. Once in post, the IF Co-ordinator will lead on implementing the WHO Baby Friendly Initiative quality standards in for community services (Health visitors, GPs, early help/family support workers, volunteers etc). Other action in place includes a campaign to recruit businesses to become Baby Friendly during World Breastfeeding Week and Lowe House Hub building will also provide a community provision for mums with the Infant Feeding Team including a lactation clinic.
- This quarters data (July-Sept) for smoking at time of delivery shows an improvement compared to the last, which is now better than the local target, although still higher than both regional and national averages. The Smoking in Pregnancy (SIP) practitioner, who commenced in February 2022, has worked well to deliver risk perception to pregnant smokers and their partners and families to affect behaviour change. Training and support has been provided to midwives and Healthcare Assistants to improve brief interventions and referrals for stop smoking support. A standard smoking in pregnancy pathway is 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. The 12-month funding for the SIP Practitioner is due to end in February 2023, however we are in discussions with the ICB Beyond programme / Core20 Plus5 inequalities workstream to seek further funding to continue the post given that it is working well.
- The latest Youth Reoffending data represents an improvement in performance 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 began 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.

