

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES

PERFORMANCE REPORT OUTTURN 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 2022-23 providing the performance position reported over the course of the period. The reporting format splits the report into 2 distinct parts:

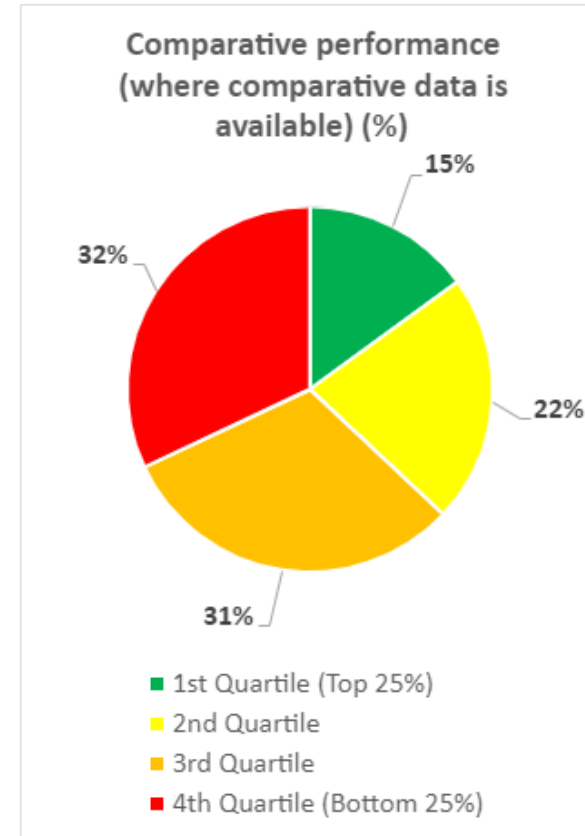
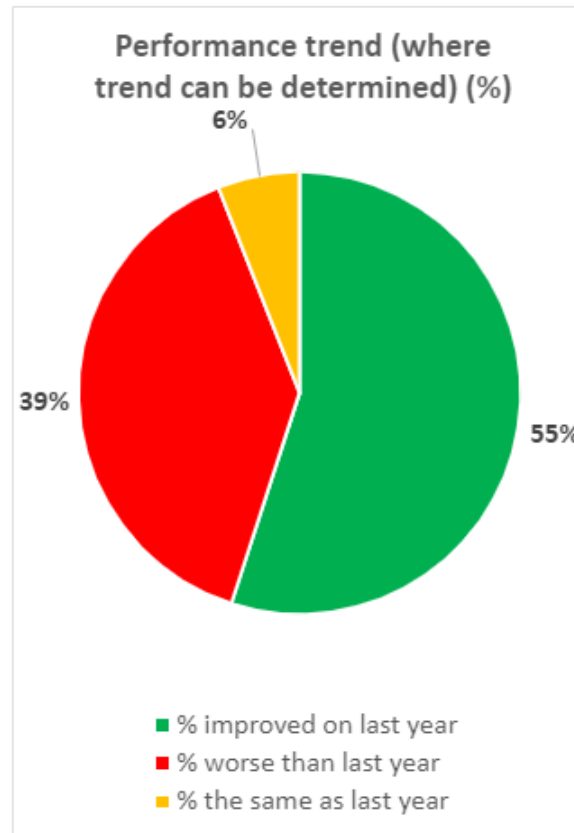
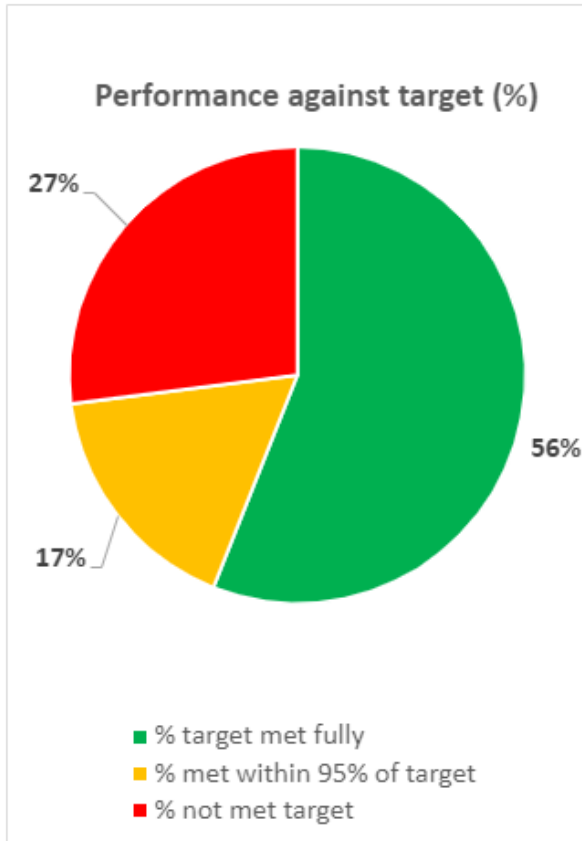
Part 1 of the report is a statistical analysis of the performance position at Outturn 2022-23.

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 outturn 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 Outturn 2022-23, the Council is reporting against a total of **108** performance indicators, where outturn performance against target is available. 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

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	28	50% (14)	29% (8)	21% (6)
2. Health, independence, and care	29	55% (16)	17% (5)	28% (8)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	14	50% (7)	7% (1)	43% (6)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	9	67% (6)	22% (2)	11% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	15	80% (12)	7% (1)	13% (2)
6. Responsible Council	13	46% (6)	8% (1)	46% (6)
Total	108	56% (61)	17% (18)	27% (29)

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 Outturn 2022/23 with performance at Outturn 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	28	61% (17)	32% (9)	7% (2)
2. Health, independence, and care	28	50% (14)	46% (13)	4% (1)
3. Safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods	14	36% (5)	57% (8)	7% (1)
4. Strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected economy	9	67% (6)	22% (2)	11% (1)
5. Green and vibrant places reflecting our heritage and culture	14	71% (10)	29% (4)	0% (0)
6. Responsible Council	11	45%* (5)	45%* (5)	9%* (1)
Total	104	55% (57)	39% (41)	6% (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 **59** 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	26	16%* (4)	19%* (5)	19%* (5)	46%* (12)
2. Health, independence, and care	23	9% (2)*	30% (7)*	43% (10)*	17% (4)*

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	5	60% (3)	0% (0)	20% (1)	20% (1)
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	59	15%* (9)	22%* (13)	31%* (18)	32%* (19)

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

The latest available picture of inter authority performance largely relates to the 2021-22 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 2022-23 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 64% of indicators at outturn 2021-22.
- **27%** of indicator targets were not met. This compares to 36% of indicators at outturn 2021-22.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the last 12 months that **55%** of indicators showed improvement, **6%** of indicators maintained the same performance and **39%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory. The position is similar to that at outturn 2021-22, where 51% of indicators showed improvement, 10% maintained the same performance and **39%** of indicators showed a downward trajectory.
- **15%** of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, compared to 27% at outturn 2021-22. **22%** of indicators are in the second quartile compared to 16% at outturn 2021-22. **31%** of indicators are in the third quartile and **32%** in the bottom quartile, compared to 18% and 38% respectively at outturn 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 outturn 2022-23 for the indicators reported.

Performance Against Target

Number of Indicators with data	% target fully met	% target met within 95%	% target not met
28	50% (14)	29% (8)	21% (6)

The Performance Trend

Number of Indicators with data	% improved on last year	% worse than last year	% the same as last year
28	61% (17)	32% (9)	7% (2)

Inter Authority Comparison

Number of Indicators with data	% in 1st quartile	% in 2nd quartile	% in 3rd quartile	% in 4th quartile
26	15%* (4)	19%* (5)	19%* (5)	46%* (12)

NB - * Percentages rounded to nearest whole number

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	Outturn 2022/23	% Variance from Target (MAR)	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	209.5	-16.2%	↓	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	85%	74%	85.6	86.3	86.5	87	17.57%	↑	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	440.7	-4.93%	↑	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	76.2	-41.11%	↓	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 42 LA Av. 60.6 (2021/22)
	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	75.4	4.72%	↑	N/A

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 4 Outturn, 2022/23

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	Outturn 2022/23	% Variance from Target (MAR)	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-006	Number of looked after children per 10,000 children within the Borough	Quarterly	Lower	128.2	127	126	127.9	129.7	129.3	-1.81%	↑	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	26.8	78.67%	↑	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	95	0%	↔	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	93	-2.11%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 88 LA Av. 90 (2021/22)
	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	61	8.93%	↑	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 55 LA Av. 53.5 (2021/22)

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 4 Outturn, 2022/23

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	Outturn 2022/23	% Variance from Target (MAR)	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	23.74	19.5	-72.14%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 49.1 LA Av. 63.9 (2021/22)
	E&S-001	The percentage of children attaining at least a 'Good' level of development in the Early Learning Goals.	Annual	Higher	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	60.9	N/A	N/A	4th Quartile Eng Av.65.2 LA Av. 64.5 (2021/22)
	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	N/A	N/A	57	N/A	N/A	4th Quartile Eng Av. 59 LA Av. 59.4 (2021/22)
	E&S-003	Average grade attained per pupil in St Helens across 8 subjects at KS4, relative to the national average (Progress 8)	Annual	Higher	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.24	N/A	N/A	3rd Quartile Eng Av. -0.03 LA Av. -0.02 (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	4.30%	4.91%	4.6	17.4	5.14	5.1	-4.08	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 4.7 LA Av. 5.0 (2022)
	E&S-006	Percentage of state funded schools judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted	Annual	Higher	83%	84%	85	87	87	89	5.95%	↑	2nd Quartile Eng Av. 88 LA Av. 84 (Dec 2022)

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 4 Outturn, 2022/23

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	Outturn 2022/23	% Variance from Target (MAR)	Trend	Comparative Performance
	E&S-007	Overall percentage school attendance of Children Looked After	Annual	Higher	92%	93%	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	-1.08%	↔	N/A
Children and young people are healthy, resilient, confident, involved and achieve their potential	PH-001	Hospital admissions for self-harm aged 10-24 years	Annual	Lower	954.3	900	N/A	N/A	N/A	1015	-12.78%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 421.9 NW Av. 497.5 (2021/22)
	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	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	N/A	43.8	-6.83%	↓	4th Quartile Eng Av. 37.8 LA Av. 40.9 (2021/22)
	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	25.9	13.95%	↑	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	186	-6.9%	↓	1st Quartile Eng Av. 169.2 LA Av. 157.5 (2021)

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 4 Outturn, 2022/23

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	Outturn 2022/23	% Variance from Target (MAR)	Trend	Comparative Performance
	CYP-014	The percentage of children re-offending	Quarterly	Lower	41%	43%	44	40	32.2	31.9	25.81%	↑	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	Outturn 2022/23	% Variance from Target (MAR)	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	8	11.11%	↑	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	15	16.67%	↑	N/A

St Helens Borough Performance Report - Quarter 4 Outturn, 2022/23

Outcome	Ref	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Higher / Lower is better?	21/22 Outturn	22/23 Target	Q1 June	Q2 Sept	Q3 Dec	Outturn 2022/23	% Variance from Target (MAR)	Trend	Comparative Performance
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	32.6	3.16%	↑	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	12.7	0%	↑	3rd Quartile Eng Av. 9.1 LA Av. 12.2 (2021/22)
	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	66.1	18.8%	↑	4th Quartile Eng Av. 29.3 LA Av. 40.1 (18/19-20/21)
	PH-008	Percentage of children aged 5 with MMR vaccination (2 doses)	Annual	Higher	87.70%	88.50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	88.1	-0.45%	↑	4th Quartile Eng Av. 85.7 LA Av. 90.1 (2021/22)
	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	64.7	83.4	82.7	-1.55%	↑	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	86.2	3.98%	↑	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

- Overall performance against the outcome at outturn 2023-24 shows some areas of good performance against target, however, some ongoing challenges, notably in the number of children looked after and numbers of children subject to child protection plans.
- A total of 773 children and young people in St Helens were receiving early help intervention at the end of March 2023 delivered either directly by St Helens Council services or local partners, primarily local schools. Performance in quarter 4 improved, however the number of children at year end receiving an early help intervention (209.5 rate per 10,000) has not met the annual target and has reduced by 14% since March 2022, when 910 children were receiving an early help intervention. 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, 87% of early help episodes were closed and stepped down to universal services in the 12-months following closure. These did not subsequently progress to a referral to St Helens Children's Social Care demonstrating effective prevention on those cases. This is an improvement on the previous year's outturn of 85% and puts the Department in a strong position to meet future year's targets.
- There has been a further reduction in the numbers of children and young people open to St Helens Children's Social Care (CSC) at year end. A total of 1,626 children and young people were open to St Helens CSC at the end of March 2023, equating to a Children in Need (CIN) rate of 440.7 per 10,000 under 18-year-olds. This compares to 1,751 children and young people at June 2022. Most children are open to CSC due to Abuse and Neglect (80%.) The indicator remains marginally below target at year end and St Helens rate of CIN per 10,000 (440.7) 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 has not met the annual target. At the end of March 2023, a total of 281 children and young people were supported with a Child Protection (CP) Plan, equating to a rate of 76.2 children per 10,000 under 18 years olds in the borough. Rates have increased over the last 12 months, with an additional 63 children and young people supported by a CPP. 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 subject to a child protection plan who had never had a plan previously met the annual target. Over the year 75% of children subject of a Child Protection (CP) Plan in St Helens had never been the subject of a CP Plan previously. This means that 25% of all CP Plans were repeat plans. Performance has improved since the previous year's outturn. However, performance is slightly above the most recently published statistical neighbour rate (22%), the Northwest average rate (24%) and above the national rate (23%).
- Numbers of children in care remain very high. At the end of March 2023, a total of 469 children and young people were cared for by St Helens Council, however, this is a small reduction on the 473 children in care in March 2022. The rate of 129.3 children looked after (CLA) per 10,000 under 18-year-olds is 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). 345 of our CLA have been looked after for over 12 months which is 73% of the cohort.

- The percentage of children and young people discharged from care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) between April and March 2022-23 was 27% of all children and young people discharged from care. This equates to around 40 children. The indicator has exceeded its annual target and performance is above the most recent 2021/22 national (13%) and regional (16%) averages.
- Placement stability for children in care improved and met annual target. In the 12-month period to the end of March 2023, 36 children and young people experienced three or more placement moves, equating 8% of the total CLA population supported by St Helens, a decrease compared to 9% in March 2022. Current performance is better than the 2021/22 national position (10%) and the regional average for 2021-22 (9%).
- Performance against the three key outcomes for care leavers remains strong; 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 4 there has been a small reduction in the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation but performance remains good. The percentage of care leavers in employment education and training increased to 61% in 2022-23 compared to 55% in 2021-22, above the most recently published national average of 55% and regional average of 52% in 2021-22.
- The average actual social worker case workloads indicator met target at outturn and has improved on the figure reported in the previous year. There was a reduction of in the social worker average case workloads from 18 in March 2022 to 15 in March 2023. 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, and in some teams the volume is higher. Generally, caseloads are reducing across all teams, but it remains volatile and is impacted by both volume and workforce challenges.

Action for Improvement

- The pandemic has led to a reduction in support available to families through Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSEs) organisations. The Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) has completed a review of Early Help and reported the findings. The Early Help Strategy has been 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. New governance and oversight arrangements via an Early Help Board are in progress to strengthen the Early Help partnership offer across St Helens. The Childrens Improvement Board (CIB) has been considering the impact of Early Help and work is being undertaken to better understand earliest help and how we can measure the support / interventions agencies are providing to families without EHATs. This work along with the Supporting Families Programme and the transformation to Family Hubs (with additional funding) will assist in earlier identification of needs and support within communities avoiding more intrusive statutory services.
- Quarter 4 states the number of children receiving Early Help services has slightly improved. However, we recognise that there is much work to do (as described above) to improve our Early Help offer to reduce the demand for specialist services.
- We have seen a reduction in the numbers of children defined as Children in Need (CIN) compared to March 2022. 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. A thematic review of neglect has recently been undertaken by the Children's Safeguarding Partnership (CSP). Neglect remains the primary focus of the CSP. Our aim is to increase the numbers of families receiving services under Child in Need by more effectively managing risk and decreasing the number of children requiring Child Protection.

- We continue to have high numbers of children on Child Protection plans and performance at end of Quarter 4 shows us above statistical neighbours and England average. 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. 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. We are also undertaking a review of the Duty Service at present. This will thoroughly explore decision making and thresholds and the findings will inform the next steps.
- Our CLA (Children Looked After) population is high, and our numbers remain above our comparators. We have put in place robust monitoring to scrutinise decision making when children enter care and have improved our Edge of Care offer. We have plans to further develop our Edge of Care offer over the next 12-months. We have seen an increase in UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children) this now forms 3% of our CLA population and is impacting on the number of Care Leavers. We have developed our tracking systems to ensure permanency is achieved and that exits from care are timely. Some protracted court cases have impacted on this figure during 2022-23 and have carried over into 2023-24. More timely court proceedings will see an impact on this figure as we progress through 2023/24. We are predicted to see a number of children exit care to adoption within the next few months. A peer review of our Children We Look After service has recently been undertaken and an action plan will be produced once we receive the findings. This will help identify any further steps that are necessary to reduce our cohort of CLA.

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

Current Performance

- Performance against the outcome in terms of children and young people's attainment remains challenging in St Helens with performance generally below national and regional averages. It should be noted that no targets were set for attainment indicators in 2022-23 due to the cancellation of nationally published performance tables in the previous 2 years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- At the end of the 2021-22 academic year, 61% of pupils educated in a St Helens schools achieved a 'Good Level of Development' at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS - Reception year), marginally lower than the comparable regional (62%) average but below national average (65%) average. The most recent data is not comparable to previous year's data due to EYFS reforms introduced in September 2021.
- At the end of the 2021-2022 academic year 57% of pupils educated in state funded schools in St Helens achieved the expected standard or 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 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.

- The Progress 8 indicator aims to capture the progress that pupils in a school make from the end of primary school to the end of KS4. The final, validated Progress 8 score for pupils educated in the St Helens state funded schools, in the 2021/22 academic year, is -0.24. The aggregate progress score reported for St Helens (-0.24) is below the comparable regional (-0.16) and state funded national (-0.03) average. The progress 8 outcome reported for St Helens shows that pupils educated in St Helens make, on average, less academic progress than other pupils nationally between the end of primary school to the end of KS4.
- At the end of March 2023, a total of 62 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, equating to 89% of all state funded schools in St Helens. There are 16 schools that are currently judged by Ofsted to be outstanding and a further 46 schools that are judged to be good. The position reported for St Helens is an improvement on the 83% of schools judged to be good or better in March 2022. St Helens performance is now marginally better than the March 2023 comparable national average (88%) and the same as the NW regional (89%) average.
- The indicator measuring the overall percentage school attendance of Children Looked After (CLA) was marginally below target at outturn. The performance reported is based on attendance data in the 2021-2022 academic year for children in care on the 31st of March 2022. The school attendance rate for children cared for by St Helens was 91.6%, marginally below the target of 93% and slightly lower than the comparable regional (92.2%) and national (92.2%) average CLA school attendance statistics. The CLA attendance rate reported for St Helens has, positively, improved when compared to that reported in the previous year (89%). However, as is also the case regionally and nationally CLA school attendance rates continue to be lower than those reported in the immediate pre Covid-19 pandemic period.
- Performance for the completion of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) to timescale has shown a significant dip over the year and the indicator has not met target by some distance, with just 19.5% of plans issued in the year meeting the 20-week deadline. This is a consequence of increasing demand and significantly reduced capacity within the SEND Assessment Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- The performance against numbers of young people Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) and Not Known for December 2022, January and February 2023 was an average of 5.1%, marginally worse than the target of 4.91%. St Helens performance is better than the provisional England average of 5.2% and the North West average of 5.3%. For the last published nationally verified data for 2022, St Helens performance remains top quartile and better than regional and national averages.

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. Since November 2022, the SEND Assessment Service has successfully recruited to 9 vacant posts, substantially increasing the capacity of the team. Cases are risk assessed and prioritised to ensure that the most vulnerable pupils needs are assessed. The challenges are regularly communicated to all partners, including parent carers.
- Those schools judged to be not yet good / in decline 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.
- An enhanced offer has been made to schools to support school governors, e.g., governor challenge sessions, where feedback is given, and a follow up report provided.

- Website compliance checks have been conducted for primary schools and strengths / areas for development shared with school leaders.
- All schools and settings have been offered the opportunity to engage in funded Continual Professional Development sessions as part of The Festival of Learning. These sessions have included curriculum workshops, emotion coaching and a broad range of learning opportunities linked with the power of connection; all delivered by specialists / national leaders.
- TESSA (Triage for all education support and specialist advice) is now fully operational. This service provides support, advice and guidance utilising a multi-disciplinary approach to support young people and their settings.
- Headteacher briefings allow school leaders the opportunity to receive updates from OFSTED, DfE, and LA. Learning Partnership meetings provide opportunities for LA officers and headteachers to work collaboratively to focus on Education and Learning's three obsessions. Specific focus is being given to attendance and use of Alternative Provision.
- Writing moderation has been co-ordinated by the School Effectiveness Team and is on-going across schools.
- The School Effectiveness Team has provided guidance and training to schools linked to the statutory tests, e.g., SATs and Phonics Screening. Local Authority officers are conducting monitoring visits in conjunction with the DfE guidance and reported findings to the Standards and Testing Agency.
- The Virtual School continues to provide support and challenge to schools in relation to young people's outcomes, attendance, suspensions, and wellbeing.
- The Aspirations workstream via the Corporate Parenting Forum is now active and operational.
- The School Effectiveness Team will analyse all data (Good Level of Development, Phonics, KS1, KS2 and KS4) from this academic year and will use this to guide the support / challenge offered to schools for 2023-24. This support will include a core offer to all schools, a bespoke and intensive package for schools not yet judged to be good / in decline and an opportunity to purchase services through the School Effectiveness Team.
- 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. Career Connect conducted the analysis of all 16-year-olds and have been able to identify the needs of all the young people in this cohort. The LA have provided all current providers in the borough with an overview of this analysis which has resulted in new provision offers for September. The lack of engagement provision in the borough and additional support does continue to remain a concern.
 - 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. The current at risk of NEET yr. 11 students have been identified and have offered support over the last academic year from the LA NEET Co-ordinator. The young people that have not engaged or accepted the support will be discussed with Career Connect prior to leaving school, and where necessary Case Conferencing will take place over summer to ensure where possible they receive a September Guarantee offer of education or training.
 - 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. The relationship with DWP disability employment advisers has developed over the last 6 months and a process is in place

for DWP to update on young people that are either classified as NEET or Not Known, this is currently in a pilot phase for those young people with SEND.

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

Current Performance

- At outturn 2022-23, performance within the outcome of improving children's health and resilience remains challenging.
- St Helens has the highest rates of hospital admissions for self-harm for young people aged 10-24 years in England. The most recently published data for 2021-22 shows St Helens rate was 1051.7 per 100,00 which was an increase from the previous year and more than double the regional and national rates (497.5 and 421.9 per 100,000 respectively).
- 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 of year 6 children classed as overweight or obese in the North West and the 14th highest rate in England.
- St Helens teenage conception rates remain very high at outturn 2023. The most recently published (provisional) data relates to Quarter 4 2021-22 and reveals that there were 22 under-18 conceptions for St. Helens. The annual rolling rate has now decreased to 25.9 per 1,000 which is below the target of 30.1. For the same period, the North West rate increased slightly to 16.4, and the England rate increased slightly to 13.1. For Quarter 4 2021-22 St. Helens had the 7th highest rolling annual rate in England, a reduction from 4th highest in Quarter 2 and the 5th highest in Quarter 3.
- St Helens under-18 admissions to hospital for alcohol specific reasons remains high. The latest provisional local data for Quarter 3 2022-23 (3 year rolling average) gives a rate of 66.1 admissions per 100,000 aged under 18, which is below the target of 81.4. The rate of 66.1 relates to 74 admissions and is a slight reduction to the previous quarter rate of 68.8 per 100,000. 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 4 2022-23 for the percentage of children receiving a 2-2.5-year Healthy Child Programme review is 82.7% which is marginally below the target of 84%. An update to the data means that the previous Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 data has changed to 64.7% and 83.4% respectively. This provisional outturn for 2022-23 is better than St Helens last 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 4 2022-23 showed 86.2% 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 annual target for 2022-23 has been met but rates remain comparatively low. The most recent data relates to Q4-2022-23 and reveals that 32.6% of infants were being breastfed at 6-8 weeks in St Helens, this is 1% above the target and an increase from the previous quarter. 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 4 – 2022-23 showed 12.7% smoking at the time of delivery. This is equal to the target 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.
- The latest nationally verified data is for the period 2021-22 and shows that 88.1% of children aged 5 in St Helens received their MMR vaccination (2 doses). This compares to 87.1% in the North West and 85.7% nationally. This represents a small increase in the vaccination rate from the previous year.
- Over the course of 2022-23, 31 young people became first-time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System. This is an increase on the 25 young people who became FTEs in 2021-22. The rate per 100,000 10–17-year-olds is 186, which is above the annual target of 174. Whilst this represents a deterioration in performance, St Helens last published verified data is similar to national and regional averages. The 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 National Crime (PNC) data. The latest data covering the period April 2020 to March 2021 has shown a continuing decrease in the rate of offending to 31%, which is below the annual target of 43%. However, 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

- Self-harm is when somebody intentionally damages or injures their body. Self-harm may be linked to bad experiences which are happening now, or in the past. But sometimes the reason is unknown. Self-harm has been identified as a key focus area within the new suicide prevention strategy due to be launched in July 2023. A new pathway to respond to people who present at A&E for self-harm has been commissioned from Mersey Care NHS Trust. This is due to go live by the 31st of July and a full evaluation is to be carried out by the University of Liverpool. The pathway includes an intensive 12-week support programme, and access to social prescribers to assess and help meet peoples wider social needs. In addition, a multi-agency response to self-harm is being developed following a partnership workshop on self-harm, held in March. This included an in-depth assessment of the local data on self-harm, views of those with lived experience on approaches that would be effective and a sharing of known good practice.
- To address the high levels of overweight and obese pupils in Reception and Year 6, plans are in progress to refresh the Healthy Weight Declaration, and a stakeholder engagement event is planned to be held on 4th July, with a relaunch planned for autumn. A new CYP healthy eating and physical activity group is being established to review provision and support for early years and school settings, using the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data to target and prioritise resources. Six practitioners have been trained to lead 0-5 HENRY (Health Exercise & Nutrition for the Really Young) 8-week parenting courses, with the first course to be delivered in June. St Helens has also been successful in securing 'Why Weight to Talk' training for frontline health and care professionals. The training will help to build confidence and upskill staff to raise the issue and

have conversations with parents/carers about their child's weight. St Helens completed a nationally funded co-production project which sought feedback and views on the NCMP results letter, and we are thankful to the parents who took part in this.

- Teenage conception rates, although still very high, have reduced (slightly) for the third consecutive quarter, which is better than our target. The spotlight review report on Teenage Pregnancy (TP) was presented and the recommendations adopted at the Children's Scrutiny Committee on 24th April. This will help to inform the local TP plan. The Teenage Action Zone team have delivered a social media awareness campaign in March (young people) and April (professionals and parent/carers), and this is being evaluated. Approval has been granted to offer training to our GP practice staff to improve access to a range of contraceptive services, and new partner agencies continue to be trained up to offer support to young people, as part of the condom distribution scheme. Cheshire & Merseyside's Women's Health and Maternity (WHAM) leads have established a sub-regional TP forum to share support and expertise across the network (15th June); St Helens has been asked to present its approach as good practise.
- Young People's alcohol admissions continue a general downward trend, although still high compared with the latest known figures for England and the North West. The council's Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol team (YPDAAT) have reviewed the data in detail to understand which young people are at risk so that they can better target support. At risk groups include those who have already attended hospital, Children Looked After or a child in need, those in contact with the criminal justice system, those suspended or excluded from school, and young people affected by domestic abuse, mental ill health, or the use of alcohol/drugs by a close family member. The YPDAAT are currently co-located with the Youth Justice Service. They engage with young people via group sessions and on a 1-1 basis across school's colleges and various other locations, as well as delivering awareness sessions and training across settings.
- Quarter 3 (83.4%) and 4 (82.7%) data indicates a significant improvement in the number of 2-2.5-year-old health reviews completed within the required timeframe. Wirral Trust 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP) have undertaken service quality improvement work to improve this outcome. Family Hubs resources and working groups are developing plans and reviewing pathways and assessment tools for an integrated 2-year check with Early Years staff, which includes a joint review of Speech, Language and Communication skills.
- The data on the proportion of children achieving a 'good' level of development at 2-2.5-years is now more reliable as the coverage indicator (PH-09) target has almost been achieved for these quarters. When the coverage rates improve to above 85%, it is expected that the proportion of children receiving a 'good' development at their 2-2.5year old review may reduce.
- To support action to increase breastfeeding, we are funding an Infant Feed Co-ordinator through the Family Hubs Funding. Additional education and support groups throughout pregnancy, on the maternity wards, and during the antenatal period which will help increase breast feeding initiation and continuation rates across the borough. An Infant Feeding strategy group has been re-established to prepare and start our UNICEF Baby Friendly journey towards becoming a Breast-feeding Friendly Borough.
- Smoking at time of delivery Quarter 4 data (Jan-April) shows an improvement compared to the last quarter, however our rate remains higher than both regional and national averages, and above our local target. The hospital (STHK) has formed a Smokefree working group to deliver the NHS England funded 'Treating Tobacco Dependency' programme. It includes employing Stop Smoking Advisers within the hospitals setting to support inpatients to quit during their stay, with continued community support on discharge via aligning care pathways and provision. The Smoking In Pregnancy (SIP) Practitioner (Wellbeing Service) contract previously funded by Cheshire & Merseyside Women's Health & Maternity (WHAM) network has now ceased. Alternative community support is now being explored across agendas to pool resources and with a wider remit that will include a range of public health outcomes.

- There has been an increase in the number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System at a local, regional, and national level. We believe this can be attributed to the pandemic and the backlog in the processing of Out of Court Outcomes. Therefore, we remain confident that over time the numbers of FTE's will start to reduce.
- The latest Youth Reoffending data represents a small improvement. 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 began in January through to 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.

