

Thurrock: A place of opportunity, enterprise and excellence, where individuals, communities and businesses flourish

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **15 October 2015**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors James Halden (Chair), Yash Gupta (MBE) (Vice-Chair), Clare Baldwin, Leslie Gamester, Martin Kerin and Susan Little

Reverend Darren Barlow, Church of England Representative
Patricia Wilson, Roman Catholic Church Representative
Myra Potter, Parent Governor Representative
Sarah Sanders, Parent Governor Representative

Substitutes:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell, Andrew Roast and Kevin Wheeler

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	Page
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Minutes	5 - 12
To approve as a correct record the minutes of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 September 2015.	
3 Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	

4	Declaration of Interests	
5	Education Transport - Service update	13 - 28
6	Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2015	29 - 76
7	Pupil Premium	77 - 108
8	School Results/School Performance	109 - 120
9	Child Poverty - Opportunity for Every Child	121 - 212

Exclusion of the Public and Press

Members are asked to consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10	Serious Youth Violence	213 - 224
11	Work Programme	225 - 236

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Jessica Feeney, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **7 October 2015**

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

When should you declare an interest *at a meeting*?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

What is a Non-Pecuniary interest? – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- **Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;**
- **Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and**
- **leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon**

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

Non- pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature

You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

Vision: Thurrock: A place of **opportunity**, **enterprise** and **excellence**, where **individuals**, **communities** and **businesses** flourish.

To achieve our vision, we have identified five strategic priorities:

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity

- Ensure that every place of learning is rated “Good” or better
- Raise levels of aspiration and attainment so that residents can take advantage of local job opportunities
- Support families to give children the best possible start in life

2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

- Promote Thurrock and encourage inward investment to enable and sustain growth
- Support business and develop the local skilled workforce they require
- Work with partners to secure improved infrastructure and built environment

3. Build pride, responsibility and respect

- Create welcoming, safe, and resilient communities which value fairness
- Work in partnership with communities to help them take responsibility for shaping their quality of life
- Empower residents through choice and independence to improve their health and well-being

4. Improve health and well-being

- Ensure people stay healthy longer, adding years to life and life to years
- Reduce inequalities in health and well-being and safeguard the most vulnerable people with timely intervention and care accessed closer to home
- Enhance quality of life through improved housing, employment and opportunity

5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment

- Enhance access to Thurrock's river frontage, cultural assets and leisure opportunities
- Promote Thurrock's natural environment and biodiversity
- Inspire high quality design and standards in our buildings and public space

Minutes of the Meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 September 2015 at 7.00 pm

- Present:** Councillors James Halden (Chair), Yash Gupta (MBE) (Vice-Chair), Leslie Gamester, Martin Kerin and Susan Little
- Apologies:** Councillors Clare Baldwin, Reverend Darren Barlow, Myra Potter and Sarah Sanders
- In attendance:** Saania Ali, Youth Cabinet Representative
James Henderson, Youth Cabinet Representative
Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services
Andrew Carter, Head of Children's Social Care
Roger Edwardson, Interim Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills
Temi Fawehinmi, Contract and Performance Manager
Michele Lucas, Learning & Skills Manager
Neil Woodbridge, Thurrock Coalition
Jessica Feeney, Senior Democratic Services Officer
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Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

11. Minutes

The Minutes of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 14 July 2015, were approved as a correct record.

12. Items of Urgent Business

The Chair informed the Committee that Healthwatch was an independent consumer champion that represented the views of the public on health services. Healthwatch requested a Co-Opted seat on the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was added that this would enable the public's voice at the heart of the decision making processes on services for children and young people. All members felt that a Healthwatch Co-Opted member was a good idea.

Resolved:

- 1. The committee agreed to extend an invitation to Thurrock Healthwatch for a non-voting Co-opted member to join the Committee.**

13. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

14. Nursery Provision In East Tilbury

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider childcare provision in East Tilbury. The Interim Strategic Leader for School Improvement, Learning and Skills explained that there was sufficient provision in East Tilbury, but unfortunately there had been a breakdown in arrangements between East Tilbury Primary School (part of St. Clere's Academy Trust) and the Directors of Little Angel's Day Care who shared the school site. In addition, a new provider had been opened in Linford offering day care to families in the area.

The Committee was informed that the transfer of the landlords responsibilities was given to the Academy Trust; and that the local authority would continue to work to rebuild relationships recognising the responsibility for the land that no longer lies with the local authority. The Interim Strategic Leader explained that since the last committee he had been focusing on rebuilding relationships between the parties but shared how it was proving difficult through the school holidays. Meetings had taken place with the East Tilbury Governor, Chief Executive of the St Clere's Academy Trust, and the Director of Little Angels.

The chair welcomed two public representatives Mr Crabbe and Mrs Clarke to voice their opinion on the nursery provision in East Tilbury. The following points were made to the Committee.

- The 3pm- 6pm nursery timeslot was not appropriate for many parents, due to this some parents chose not to send their child to nursery this year.
- Parents felt that the East Tilbury Primary School Nursery would provide a greater education compared to private sector nurseries.

Councillor Little was disappointed how some children were not in education and stated that Tilbury was a location that should be focused on by the Council.

The Chair of the Committee questioned whether St Cleres Academy could open a nursery; The Director of Children's Services explained that St Cleres Trust could open a nursery however there were detailed arrangements for academy conversions.

Councillor Kerin inquired if there was anything that could be done as a Local Authority to resolve the situation; officers felt that there could be more power and demand from the community. The Chair requested that letters were sent from the Committee to Little Angels Day Care and East Tilbury Primary School to address to the situation.

The chair felt that the Council could reduce pressures on Little Angels Day Care by using East Tilbury School Nursery when the childcare allowances increase to 30 hours a week.

Councillor Gamester queried whether the 75 year lease could be challenged by the solicitors at St Clere's school, the Director of Children's Services said

that they will pass on the message to St Cleres and also look into the matter with lawyers at Thurrock Council.

Resolved:

- 1. The Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented upon the actions taken to date and any further actions which should be taken by the Council to resolve the current situation.**
- 2. That a letter is sent on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to St Cleres and Little Angles to encourage a relationship between the two parties.**
- 3. That a letter is sent to the Procurement team on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urge that similar contracts are not signed in the future.**
- 4. An update at the next Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the current position and the views of Thurrock Councils Lawyers.**

15. Inspire - Alternative models of delivery for Youth Related Activities

Michele Lucas the Learning and Skills Manager explained that Inspire was an opportunity to both protect and provide a range of youth and community based opportunities for young people by removing the current services from Local Authority control and placing them into a staff mutual (charitable trust). It was explained that the report recognised the need to make further savings in council expenditure and provide opportunities to ensure that Thurrock's young people could access the regeneration opportunities that are planned over the next ten years as the Council move from implementation into delivery.

The Learning and Skills Manager informed the Committee of the following points:

- The Cabinet Office was very interested in Thurrock
- The Business Plan was created with the help and guidance of Cabinet Officers
- Thurrock Council liaised with Kensington and Chelsea who ran a similar project called 'EPIC'.

The Youth Cabinet Representatives told members that Inspire would be beneficial to many young people; they had also created a Twitter page advertising the great things that Inspire could offer to the community.

Councillor Kerin congratulated the officers on their good work and questioned if there was a sufficient plan in place to assist the Grangewaters handover. The Learning and Skills Manager ensured members that there was a risks and opportunity section incorporated in the business plan and that Thurrock Council would always be the parenting body of the project. The Director of

Children's Services added that detailed arrangements were still to come from Lawyers and the Finance department.

Councillor Gupta queried if the Inspire project had received any funding from the Cabinet Office, it was confirmed that funding was received for training, planning and also through the development of the business plan.

A concern was raised regarding the staffs negative views from the consultation; the Learning and Skills Manager explained that the consultation was carried out initially, and since then a meeting was held for all staff members which gave them a greater understanding. Members were insured that staff members now had positive views on inspire.

The Church of England representative questioned whether staff would receive the same job benefits once the handover was complete, it was confirmed that existing staff would receive the same benefits, however new employees would not receive a local government pension scheme.

The chair raised a concern regarding the governance and oversight of the project and requested that a report was brought back to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with further detail regarding the trustee.

Councillor Gamester questioned whether the Council would accept lower costing contracts from external companies. The Children's Services Director confirmed that there would be no competition from external companies until the contract expired which would be in four to five years.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Committee supports the development of a staff mutual (charitable trust) to deliver youth & community related activities across Thurrock Council.**
- 2. The Committee recommend to full Cabinet the 'spinning out' of youth & community related services from April 2016 or as soon after as due diligence is undertaken**
- 3. That the Committee supports the recommendation of a four year contract with a break clause in year three for renegotiation.**
- 4. The Committee recommend the funding model which will see a 5% reduction from year two of the contract until the fifth year recognising the need to reduce the overall budget by 20%, subject to budget constraints**
- 5. The Committee support the inclusion of Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre into the staff mutual.**
- 6. An elected member and The Section 151 Officer will form part of the trustee.**

7. The Inspire report to return back to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before final sign off at Cabinet.

16. Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan

The Head of Children's Social Care introduced the revised (CSE) Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 2015-16 and provided an update to the Committee on the CSE actions since the update report went to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th March 2015. In doing so the following points were made:

- A review was completed with SET (Southend, Essex and Thurrock)
- A peer review had taken place between Southend Council and Thurrock Council, the outcome revealed that Southend was impressed with SERIC (South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre).
- The Risk Assessment Group now sits under the LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board)
- A survey that was carried out highlighted Thurrock's ability to record information, since then a new database was introduced called Liquid Logic.
- Returning interviews were being commissioned from the organisation open door and all young people missing were referred for a returning interview; the Police also carried out safe and well checks.

The Chair questioned that with so many different bodies was there a risk that not everyone had the same information. The Head of Children's Social Care explained to the Committee that MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) enabled all parties and professionals to access the same information; he added that the Risk Assessment Group was operational. It was added that health professionals could access the GP's database up to level 1.

Councillor Little questioned how the link is maintained between the Council and young people during the school holidays. The Head of Children's Social Care assured the Committee that they had links with missing people, hotels within the borough and the police; it was added how important it was to have intelligence as to where young people were when contact with schools became challenging.

Councillor Gamester inquired if there was set timescales for external bodies when dealing with Serious Case Reviews. Andrew Carter explained that there is no set timescales, but agencies would be challenged by the authority. It was discussed how the Police had a sixty day timeframe to complete a DBS (Disclosure Baring Service) check. The Chair requested that the Director of Children's Services checked whether there would be implications and issues with initially completing the DBS check.

The chair of the Committee asked officers for an update on the GP, Police and Social workers involved in the Julia Serious Case Review. The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Committee of the following:

- The GP was not referred to the General Medical Council as the case was not sufficient.
- Police followed their procedure appropriately and had no sufficient evidence.
- The Social Workers were referred to the HCPC, and the Council would be updated regarding their outcome.

Resolved:

1. **The committee endorsed the revised action plan and added to the committee's work plan for robust ongoing scrutiny.**

17. Education Transport

The Contract and Performance Manager introduced the report to the Committee. The key points to note were:

- Transport on denominational grounds other than for low income pupils attending secondary school, was not a statutory duty.
- In 2013 Cabinet exercised its discretion and decided to continue denominational transport, but charge for places.
- Pupils accessing the transport prior to the implementation of the changes were offered a 50% discount to reduce the financial impact of the charging regime.
- Once the charging regime had been implemented it became apparent that the number of pupils from families in receipt of benefit entitled to free transport or existing pupils eligible for the 50% discount had increased.
- The number of new pupils applying for a place at the full rate was minimal, which led to a reduction in the overall savings accrued.
- The Council was unlikely to generate income or break even using the current model of service delivery.
- There will be a Consultation in September to measure the impact on families.

Councillor Little felt that transporting children to school should not be determined by faith, it was confirmed by the Contract and Performance Manager that faith was not considered under transport in the equality act.

The Church of England Representative said that many parents may find the impact difficult, however all Committee members supported the consultation.

Resolved:

1. **The amount paid by new and existing pupils accessing denominational transport; £1,117.00 and £550.00 respectively, remain unchanged until September 2016.**
2. **That officers follow the Council protocol for the review of the service including a consultation with the option of discontinuing**

denominational transport in September 2016, subject to Cabinet approval.

18. Work Programme

The Democratic Services Officer explained that there were some new agenda items and that the work programme would be amended then circulated electronically.

The Chair informed members that there was a recommendation update table at the end of the work programme which enabled Members to view the outcomes of actions from previous meetings.

The meeting finished at 9.31 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**

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15 October 2015	ITEM: 5
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Education Transport - Service update	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Yes
Report of: Councillor J Kent, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Education	
Accountable Head of Service: N/A	
Accountable Directors: Roger Harris – Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning / Carmel Littleton – Director of Children’s Services	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

The Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested an update on Education Transport and the progress made with respect to the various aspects of policy reviewed since October 2012 when an Education Transport Project Group was set-up around transport to post 16 facilities, transport for children aged 8-11 years, transport to faith schools, transport for children with SEND, the Travel Training programme and the establishment of the Exceptional Circumstances panel.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Children’s Overview and Scrutiny consider the aspects of transport reviewed in this report and comment upon the progress and/or recommend next steps.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 In October 2012, an Education Transport Project Group was set-up with the aim of reviewing the various forms of transport Thurrock Council delivers to support pupils travel from home to school.

2.2 The Project Group was also tasked with:

- identification of areas where savings might be delivered within the Medium Term Financial Strategy
- preparation of reports on the current position of transport and any innovative proposals for change
- presenting reports to Cabinet, committees and other relevant meetings
- arranging consultations to gauge public opinion on proposed changes

- conducting a full Equality Impact Analysis on each aspect of transport reviewed.

2.3 The aspects of transport under review to be considered in this report are as follows:

- transport to post 16 facilities,
- transport for children aged 8-11 years,
- transport to faith schools
- transport for children with SEND
- the Travel Training programme and
- establishment of the Exceptional Circumstances panel

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The Council has an obligation to provide free education transport for eligible children resident in the borough of Thurrock as defined by Section 508B of the Education Act. However, the Council uses its discretion to provide certain transport above and beyond its statutory requirement. See Appendix 1 for the relevant legislation.

3.2 The discretionary transport considered by the Education Transport Project Group includes certain aspects of Post 16 transport, transport to faith schools (with the exception of secondary school pupils in receipt of benefit) and children aged 8-11 who attend a school less than 3 miles away from their home and are not in receipt of benefit.

3.3 Post 16 Transport

In March 2013, Cabinet agreed to consult on a proposal to review Post 16 Transport. The Medium Term Financial Strategy identified £200k of savings to be delivered through a review of Post 16 transport. Two options were considered as part of the consultation – to increase the charges to full cost recovery or to decommission the service and encourage pupils to take up the offer of the discounted bus pass. A consultation ran for six weeks and provided a range of opportunities for stakeholders to comment on the proposed changes.

3.3.1 There was a fairly even response to the options consulted upon. Choices were heavily influenced by whether a pupil attended a college in or outside of the borough. The take up of the offer of a discounted bus pass by Post 16 pupils within Thurrock has been very popular. It provides better value and greater access to transport across the borough and throughout the day including weekends as opposed to the previous offer of a single journey to and from a post 16 institution.

3.3.2 In 2011, over 1000 pupils accessed post 16 commissioned transport. Today only 108 pupils use the service; all of these are entitled to post 16 transport; 65 because they are from low income families and 39 under SEND. Currently,

the majority of Post 16 pupils attending facilities within Thurrock use the discounted bus pass scheme.

- 3.3.3 An Exceptional Circumstances policy has been established to support Pupils who access colleges outside of Thurrock and pupils who require financial or other support for reasons that align with the set criteria within the policy. Pupils will be required to provide evidence supporting their application. Only one non-entitled pupil has applied under the Policy for financial support to a specialist post 16 facility in London. As there are no equivalent facilities nearer Thurrock the application was granted.
- 3.3.4 We consider support under the Exceptional Circumstances policy for pupils in rural areas far from a bus route. We will consider individual cases where the lack of a commissioned service may prevent pupils from accessing college courses.
- 3.3.5 For pupils who attend out of borough colleges and travel by train the Council negotiates with train operators for a discounted ticket offer. At present we offer 15 tickets for pupils in receipt of benefit.
- 3.3.6 The Council will continue to provide support to families on income support. At present we support 49 Post 16 pupils in receipt of benefits.

3.4 Transport for Children aged 8-11

- 3.4.1 In July 2013, officers led a consultation around the provision of transport to children, aged 8-11, who live less than three miles away from their school. Such transport is discretionary as the statutory distance for this age group to receive free transport is 3 miles. The options for consideration were whether the Council should withdraw such transport or to continue the service, but charge pupils the actual cost of their travel to school.
- 3.4.2 According to the Education Act, primary school children aged 8 to 11 from low income families qualify for free school transport if they:
 - attend their nearest suitable school
 - and live more than 2 miles away

Thurrock Council has exercised a discretionary power for a number of years and transported all children between the ages of 4-11 irrespective of whether they were from a low income family. It should be noted that the transport of 4 year olds is also discretionary as the Council's duty is only applicable to the statutory school ages of 5-16

- 3.4.3 Officers considered the results of the consultation and the possible implications of a charging regime. They also considered the consequences of discontinuing the service as younger children entitled to transport in the same family would continue to access transport while their older siblings would be

ineligible to travel on the same vehicle. In view of the additional administrative support that would be required to administer a charging regime, officers recommended that Cabinet approve the continuation of transport for children aged 8-11 who are not in receipt of benefit.

3.4.4 Finally, the savings to be made from discontinuing the service was minimal in comparison to the cost of the staff resource required to administer a charge for such a small number of pupils.

3.4.5 As at July 2012, the Council spent £1,217,900 on the transport of mainstream pupils. £165,870 was spent on primary school pupils. In 2014/15, the Council spent £984,192 on the transport of mainstream pupils excluding indirect charges. £523,974 was spent on primary school pupils.

3.5 Transport to Faith Schools

3.5.1 Transport to faith schools other than for low income pupils attending secondary school is not a statutory duty and the Council is entitled to use its discretion with respect to such transport. In 2013, following a consultation, Cabinet exercised its discretion and decided to continue denominational transport, but charge for places. Pupils accessing the transport prior to the implementation of the changes were offered a 50% discount to reduce the financial impact of the new charging regime.

3.5.2 Although a significant number of parents said they were prepared to pay, the number of full-paying families has been lower than expected as parents have found alternative ways of transporting their children to school. There have also been a higher number of children whose family are on low income and so attract the full subsidy. As a consequence, although savings have been made, the Council still heavily subsidises the service. The numbers of children using transport and to which school is shown in Appendix 2. In light of the Council's financial position a report has been prepared for presentation during the October sitting of Cabinet. The recommendation is that Cabinet agree to go out to further consultation on the future of the service to Faith schools including possible de-commissioning.

3.5.3 At present, the Council transports 80 primary children aged 4-11 to denominational schools. The Council receives £35,771.73 as payment from 50 of those children. The remaining 30 pupils are in receipt of benefit and travel free of charge at a cost to the Council. Thurrock Council also provides transport for 111 pupils to denominational secondary schools. The cost of primary (denominational) transport is £200,830. The cost of secondary (denominational) transport is £199,205. The total cost of denominational transport is, therefore, £400,035.

3.6 SEND Transport

- 3.6.1 Officers note that transport provided for SEND pupils is statutory. However, the Education Transport Project Group intends to analyse SEND Transport as the fifth stage of the ongoing review. This should take place in December 2015.
- 3.6.2 The cost of SEND transport is covered by the Dedicated Schools Grant and not the general fund. Therefore, savings do not have a direct impact upon the Medium Term Financial Strategy. However, stringent management of the budget is still required to ensure value for money and that pupils receive an effective and efficient service that meets their needs. Officers will look to evaluate the current service and offer innovative alternatives to current process where possible in order to enhance the service. Officers have identified the re-assessment cycle as a key area for review as some pupil's level of need may have decreased enabling a less complex transport arrangement and in some cases the pupil may no longer need transport.
- 3.6.3 At present, the SEND Team deals with 1160 children. Thurrock Council has a legal duty to provide home to school transport across 10 SEND facilities within the borough as well as a wide range of facilities outside of the borough that meet the needs of Thurrock children. The gross cost of running SEND Transport in 2014/15 was £2,124,492. This cost is fully funded from the Dedicated Schools Grants.

3.7 Travel Training

- 3.7.1 'Travel Training' is the term used to describe schemes dedicated to giving practical and tailored instruction on the use of public transport networks and travel by more active modes such as walking and cycling. Many local authorities including Barking and Dagenham and Essex have implemented Travel Training schemes. A Department for Education survey shows that over three-fifths (62%) of schemes across the country are aimed towards children/young people aged 16-19 with Special Education Needs/Disability (SEND).
- 3.7.2 Thurrock Council is in the process of implementing a pilot Travel Training scheme aimed predominantly at young people with SEND. The pilot is expected to commence before April 2016 and run for one year at a cost of £80,000. Research has shown that the cost of supporting individuals between the ages of 15 - 50 is greatly reduced where travel training is offered. Also, the level of independence, and consequently quality of life, is significantly increase
- 3.7.3 Disability legislation, now incorporated into the Equality Act 2010, protects people from 'indirect discrimination' and requires, amongst other provisions, that all public sector bodies seek to promote equality for disabled people, which

includes mobility as a key component. A Travel Training scheme can be developed in Thurrock to assist young people with a variety of SEND

to overcome challenges to their mobility, remove barriers to independent travel and achieve greater access to education, training, employment, health services and places of leisure. There are 12 young people with various forms of SEND (See Appendix3) that would benefit from Travel Training immediately. This is a suitable number for a cohort to commence the training.

3.8 The Exceptional Circumstances Policy

3.8.1 Thurrock Council recognises that families may face hardship; financial or otherwise and that their circumstances may impact upon their ability to transport their child to school. Officers noted that families on low income just below the benefits threshold were most likely to be affected by the introduction of charging regimes and the withdrawal of certain aspects of discretionary transport.

3.8.2 In consideration of the above, the Council created an Exceptional Circumstances policy to consider applications for home to school transport where there are extenuating circumstances that justify Council support. The overriding expectation is that parents should undertake their legal responsibility to get pupils to and from school and as such the Council will need to be satisfied that an applicant provides robust evidence of any social, medical, financial or personal issue(s) preventing them from undertaking this duty.

3.8.3 An Exceptional Circumstances panel is convened to consider applications and supporting evidence. Consideration will be given as to whether the circumstances could have reasonably been foreseen by the parent/carer. For example, moving to temporary accommodation owing to flood damage cannot be foreseen whereas choosing a school other than a child's designated school and realising following this decision that transport is not available could have been foreseen and planned for.

3.8.4 Since the Policy was introduced in September 2014, Thurrock Council has received 85 Exceptional Circumstances applications. 56 have been offered support at cost to the Council and 29 were refused.

4. Reasons for recommendation

4.1 The recommendation was made to enable officers receive comments and suggestions from the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee around the progress of the Education Transport review to date.

5. Consultation (including overview and scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The details and results of the borough-wide consultations undertaken with respect to the aspects of education Transport considered in this report are contained in the Cabinet reports dated 10 July 2013 and 4 September 2013.

5.2 In November 2015 officers will undertake a public consultation involving families, schools and a wide range of stakeholders to seek the views of interested parties on the proposed decommissioning of denominational transport in July 2016.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 Thurrock Council provides free transport to all pupils from families of low income that meet the criteria set by legislation. However, some families' overall income level places them just above the threshold for qualifying benefit and yet they choose to work to support their children rather than rely on benefits and consequently free transport. The discounted rate and exceptional circumstances policy support such families to remain employed and align with the Council priority aimed at encouraging and promoting job creation and economic prosperity.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

The medium term financial strategy includes a targeted budget saving in relation to denominational travel. The detailed financial implications of the current scheme are clearly set out in the report and indicate that the targeted budget savings are not currently being met and hence it is proposed to review the scheme going forwards from September 2016.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Deputy Head of Legal & Deputy Monitoring Officer

This is an update report to the committee in order to assist the committee in assessing progress and / or make recommendations as to the next steps – as such there are no direct legal implications at this stage – but Legal Services will be available to advise on any specific options as the review progresses.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
**Community Development and Equalities
Manager**

As detailed within clause 3.7.3, equality is a key consideration within the Education Transportation policy. Use and take up by different equality groups is monitored regularly

7.4 Other implications

7.4.1 There are no other implications.

8. Background papers used in preparing this report

- Cabinet report – 10 July 2013
- Cabinet report – 4 September 2013
- DMT Report – 20 November 2012
- DMT Report – 7 May 2013

9. Appendices to this report:

- Appendix 1 – Section 508B of the Education Act, 1996
- Appendix 2 – The Denominational Charging Regime
- Appendix 3 – **Categories of Special Need**

Report Author:

Temi Fawehinmi

Contract and Performance manager

Children's Services

Appendices

Appendix 1

Section 508B of the Education Act, 1996:

The criteria for eligible children are outlined below:

- An eligible child is aged between 5 and 16 years old
- Children qualify for free transport no matter what distance they live from the school - if they are unable to walk to school due to Special Educational Needs/ Disability (SEND), disability, mobility or lack of a safe walking route.
- The allowable statutory walking distance is up to 2 miles for pupils under the age of 8 and up to 3 miles for pupils over the age of 8

(Low Income):

- A 'low income' family is one whose children are entitled to free school meals or whose parents receive the maximum Working Tax Credit.
- Primary school children from low income families qualify for free school transport if they:
 - are aged 8 to 11
 - go to their nearest suitable school
 - and live more than 2 miles away
- Secondary school pupils (11 to 16 years old) from low income families are entitled to free school transport if:
 - they go to a suitable school between 2 and 6 miles away from their home address, as long as there are not 3 or more suitable schools nearer to home
 - the nearest school chosen on the grounds of religion or belief
 - and the school is between 2 and 15 miles away from their home address.

Section 508C of the Education Act, 1996:

Section 508C of the Act provides local authorities with discretionary powers to make arrangements for those children not covered by Section 508B

Section 509AD of the Education Act, 1996:

Section 509AD of the Act places a duty on local authorities in fulfilling their duties and exercising their powers relating to travel, to have regard to, amongst other things, any wish of a parent for their child to be provided with education or training at a particular school or institution on grounds of the parent's religion or belief.

This duty is in addition to the duty on local authorities to make travel arrangements for children of parents on low incomes who attend the nearest suitable school preferred on grounds of religion or belief, where they live more than two miles, but not more than 15 miles from that school considered.

Appendix 2 The Denominational Charging Regime

Council charge	Council action
New pupils from September 2014 : Full cost recovery rate – £5.88 per day (£1,117.00 pa)	Will be introduced for all families from next academic year (subject to people on qualifying benefits receiving a free service). This will allow the Council to deliver significant savings on this budget.
Existing Pupils: Discounted rate - £2.89 per day (£550.00 pa)	Offer a fifty percent rebate as families made a decision on their choice of school when the service was free. Numbers will decrease as pupils come off roll.
Exceptional Circumstances rate	Support families on low income who are unable to afford the discounted rate yet not entitled to receive any of the qualifying benefits.
Free transport - £0.00	The Council is statutorily bound to provide transport to families entitled to qualifying benefits.

Appendix 3 Categories of Special Need

ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
BESD	Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
HI	Hearing Impairment
VI	Visual Impairment
SPLD	Specific Learning Difficulties i.e. Dyslexia or Dyspraxia

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15 October 2015		ITEM: 6
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2015		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Michele Lucas: Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills		
Accountable Manager: Michele Lucas, Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills		
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report outlines Thurrock's Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015. It breaks down geographically early years places and identifies areas where we have both a surplus and deficit of places.

This report is part of the statutory duty as set out in the Childcare Act 2006 which states Local Authorities need to ensure that we are meeting the requirements of early years entitlement with due regard to planning and growth across the Local Authority.

It recognises the regeneration opportunities locally and will look to support some of the national drivers around early years education.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 To support further early years & childcare development in Aveley & Tilbury recognising the deficit outlined in the sufficiency report.**
- 1.2 To promote and encourage more schools to consider eligible 2 year old intake.**
- 1.3 To support public village hall use for the increase of early education particularly related to costs associated with tenancy**
- 1.4 To consider early education future needs before decision are taken in relation to capital assets across the Local Authority**

2. Introduction and background:

Local Policy Context

The Annual Assessment links with the following Council objectives:-

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity
2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

National Policy

The introduction of the eligible 2 year old entitlement has seen an increase in demand for childcare places across the country. Thurrock has been working closely with its early years providers to ensure we can support vulnerable 2 year olds into early education. We are currently slightly above the national average for 2 year old take up and we are continuing to work closely with regional colleagues to increase further over the Autumn term, this will strengthen our communication strategy to encourage eligible parents to take up the 2 year old offer.

To further support the national driver in supporting working parents the Government have recently requested expressions of interest for Local Authorities to support providers in offering 30 hours of childcare for three and four year olds of working parents. Thurrock has submitted an expression of interest to the Department for Education to be in the first phase of this pilot recognising that the exciting regeneration opportunities locally will provide a range of employment pathways for Thurrock residents, and ensuring that we have the appropriate childcare pathways will be critical to the success of encouraging residents to take advantage of the local job opportunities.

In relating this back to our Annual Assessment we recognise that this has the potential to impact on the places that will be available to 2 year olds across Thurrock. The Childcare Sufficiency Officer is working closely with early years providers to ensure that we can meet local demand for both 2/3 and 4 year old provision.

Current Support to Early Years Providers from Childcare Sufficiency Officer:-

- Support pathways for new early years providers
- Visits to local sites to support early years providers
- Liaison with planning department and assets team
- Close working with School Improvement Team
- Monitoring new planning applications to ensure early years provision is included in new development as and when required.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

Consultation will take place with parents during the Autumn Term to ensure we have the voice of parents/carers included in any requirements for early education opportunities.

6. Impact on corporate Polices, Priorities, Performance and Community Impact.

6.1 This report contributes to the following corporate priorities:

- create a great place for learning and opportunity
- encourage and promote job promotion and economic prosperity

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

We are currently ensuring that we meet the requirements around 2 year old funding to meet local targets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Deputy Head of Legal and Governance

This report is part of the statutory duty as set out in the Childcare Act 2006 which states Local Authorities need to ensure that we are meeting the requirements of early years entitlement with due regard to planning and growth across the Local Authority.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
**Community Development &
Equalities Manager**

Equality of opportunity is a key principle of all early years' providers, they ensure they meet statutory duties around offering places to all early years children – part of the Ofsted requirement is to evidence how they have ensured equality of opportunity.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

None

Appendices to this report:

Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2015

Report Author

Michele Lucas

Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills

Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2015

Contents

	Pages
Executive summary	3
Introduction	5
Methodology	6
Parental demand survey	6
Childcare provider survey	6
Under pinning rationale used with this report	7
Supply of early education & childcare in Thurrock	7
Early education entitlement	10
Out of school & holiday care (school aged children)	16
Quality of early education & childcare provision	16
Affordability & early education & childcare costs	18
Working Tax Credits	20
Informal childcare	21
Demand for early education & childcare in Thurrock:	22
Population statistics	22
Population projections	22
Projections for future supply & demand	23
Anticipated housing developments	31
Future influencing factors	32
Parental feedback on demand	32
Gap Assessment	33
For 2, 3 & 4 year old places	33
Provision for SEN/disabled children	34
Key findings/challenges/solutions	35
Summary of key findings and solutions	35
Challenges	42
Additional solutions	42

Executive summary

Previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessments were completed every three years. Statutory guidance has been revised so assessments are now annual which enables us to monitor trends more closely.

The results in the National Census 2011 show the population of children aged 0 – 4 years in Thurrock had risen by 20.0%, almost 7% higher than England and 8% higher than the East of England and compared to our statistical neighbours we had the second highest increase in 0-4 year old population. This represents an ongoing and significant challenge for Thurrock.

There are currently 180 providers in Thurrock offering 8995 early education and childcare places. Since 2014 there has been an increase of 1173 early education and childcare places, a significant part of this increase in places can be attributed to the increase in childminders delivering an additional 328 early education places.

Analysis of early education place data as of Spring 2015 shows there was an adequate supply across the Borough (1723 places available) with individual ward pressures impacting on the relatively low percentage of 10% of parents citing place availability as a concern.

This assessment predicts that in September 2016, we will have a surplus of 3175 places across the borough for *early education* and for 2017 see a decreasing surplus of 2987 places *for early education alone* – recognition has to be given to challenging ward pressures as detailed towards the end of the report.

However, these figures do not take into account how providers use these surplus 3175 places in their private business for fee paying places, which fluctuates daily according to demand. Fee paying places are difficult to predict as they are business decisions made by providers but they have an impact on the analysis of the sufficiency of early education places and so fee paying returns are monitored on a termly basis.

Thurrock's take up of three and four year old early education entitlement is 96% compared to a 96 % national take up. Increasing demand for places will follow from Thurrock's continued promotion of, the benefits of early education to parents.

Whilst, therefore, early education place availability is currently sufficient across the borough albeit with individual ward pressures, projections based on data supplied by the Department for Education show there are future pressures on meeting demand for early education when the impact of an increasing birth rate and anticipated housing development materialises.

In addition, the increased provision for two year olds who are eligible through strictly applied criteria, (see appendix one) has added to the requirement to meet the demand for early education places. The target for places as at end of March 2015 was 1003 which was satisfied by the development of 1150 places this is above target, with a total of 727 children placed in the Spring Term 2015. The target places

currently moves just above or just below 1000 places and is mainly dependent on 2 year olds from the bottom 40% low income households, notified to the council by the Department for Work and Pensions on a quarterly basis.

Analysis of this data contained within this report has formed key priorities for the development of early education & childcare places to meet demand and these are detailed at the end of the report.

Whilst Childcare costs in Thurrock are reported to be lower than England (Source: Family & Childcare Trust) 17% of parents in Thurrock stated they struggled to afford their childcare costs.

Significantly, the take up of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit has increased within Thurrock by +0.5%, set against England's decrease of 2.9%. This is positive for Thurrock. The continued promotion of Working Tax Credits is the key to supporting working families to facilitate their children's access to early education and childcare.

The provisional Early Years Foundation Stage data for Thurrock shows a further rise in pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) from the previous two years. Performance was already 6% higher than the national average in 2014 and it looks like this has increased to 7% in 2015 based on data collected from 150 Local Authorities. 30 out of the 39 primary schools in Thurrock are at or above the national estimate for 2015.

There was a significant improvement in GLD performance for boys in 2014 which has been maintained in 2015 with a further 5% rise. Performance for girls has also improved, by 8% in 2015, with GLD results for both genders likely to remain significantly higher than the national average.

The small gap between Thurrock and national for the Average Total Point Score (ATPS) looks to have been closed in 2015 with provisional data indicating a score of 34.3 which is a 0.6 point increase for Thurrock.

The Inequality Gap, which measures the percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20% of achieving children (mean score) and the median score for all children, continues to reduce. In Thurrock the gap has decreased by 0.9% from 28.8% in 2014 to 27.9% in 2015. The gap to national was -5.1% in 2014 so it is likely that Thurrock will remain lower than national this year.

The national measure at the end of EYFS for Good Level of development (GLD) in 2013 was 52%, compared to Thurrock GLD 53%. Since then Thurrock has continued to outperform national statistics by 6% in 2014 and 7% in 2015. Current national; GLD is 66% and Thurrock is 73%.

Whilst there are challenges in terms of delivering a sustainable market combining early education and fee paying places that meet the needs of working parents so Thurrock parents can take advantage of the regeneration opportunities in Thurrock,

there is much to celebrate in terms of Thurrock's achievements on the quality and affordability of childcare.

Introduction

The production of a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment -by all local authorities_ is a statutory duty set out in the Childcare Act 2006. The assessment compares the demand for types of local childcare with its availability. It looks at the supply of childcare and aims to secure early education places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year for every three and four year old child in their area until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday). Local authorities now have a further duty to provide 2 year old early education places for those children who are eligible.

The provision of early education and childcare guidance from the Department for Education September 2014 lays out the statutory duty to English local authorities, their duties under sections 6, 7, 7a, 9a, 12 and 13 of the Childcare Act 2006. This guidance refers to 'early years provision free of charge' as 'early education, and includes the extension of the early education entitlement for 2-year-olds.

The guidance states 'Local authorities **must** have regard to this guidance when seeking to discharge their duties under sections 6, 7, 7a, 9a, 12 and 13 of the Childcare Act 2006. They **should not** depart from it unless they have good reason to do so'.

This guidance refers to the Childcare Act 2006, specifically:

Section 6: places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents.

Section 7 (as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011, fully in force from 1 September 2013), which places a duty on English local authorities to secure early years provision free of charge. Regulations made under section 7 set out the type and amount of free provision and the children who benefit from the free provision.

Section 7a (as inserted by the Children and Families Act 2014) Regulation made under section 7a makes provision about how local authorities should discharge their duty under section 7

Section 9a (as inserted by the Children and Families Act 2014) Regulations made under section 9a limit the requirements local authorities can impose when they make arrangements to deliver early education places for two, three and four year olds.

Section 12: places a duty on English local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents.

Section 13: places a duty on English local authorities to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015 takes into account amendments to the 2013 statutory guidance. New elements are included relating to early education for

two-year-olds from lower income families and the provision of information and changes to the welfare benefits system.

The Assessment supports the Vision for Thurrock Council and its 5 priorities:

- create a great place for learning and opportunity
- encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity
- build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities
- improve health and well-being
- protect and promote our clean and green environment

Methodology

This assessment takes into account previous years' surveys, the introduction of Early Years Pupil Premium, Thurrock Code of Practice revision, Guaranteed Places for 2 year old work, and the introduction of future electronic data collection systems which will streamline data collection particularly from childcare providers and parents/carers and support this work going forward.

Parental Demand Survey

200 parents were consulted in September and October 2013 on the subject of childcare within Thurrock via a face-to-face interview at a childcare provision in Thurrock. A minimum of ten surveys were undertaken in each of Thurrock's 20 electoral wards. On analysing these responses it has become evident that not all parents lived or accessed their children's childcare in the ward that they completed the survey in; resulting in a variation of responses in each ward.

Childcare Provider Survey

An electronic questionnaire was distributed in September and October 2013 to all Ofsted registered private, voluntary and independent Day Nurseries, Preschool's (PVI) and Out of school childcare providers located within Thurrock. The questionnaire focused on the changes in trends they have observed in the past year, the impact of early education provision for two-year-olds from lower income families, future priorities, sustainability and the changes introduced in the early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities published September 2013. 42 providers completed the surveys, along with an additional 13 childminders who supported with the delivery of early education at that time. We continue to work with childminders through mechanisms such as childminder forums, and regular termly network meetings held, that include support, training, development and education, recognising that the recruitment of childminders also provides opportunities for parents to 'get back' into work.

Underpinning rationale used with this report

The early education and childcare market is a combination of early education places and fee paying places and of varying hours. Unlike school places, there is not a “one place, one child” rationale, early education and childcare providers manage their places within their overall registration number daily, so, to monitor this effectively, certain principles are applied:

Childcare places in this report are based on a maximum of 15 hour early education entitlement places. It should be noted that whilst this analysis shows the maximum number of 15 hour early education places that *could* possibly be available for the purposes of early education, it will not always be the case that this number *is* available. This is because providers may choose to use these places for additional fee paying hours/places outside of the early education offer, for example for working parents where 15 hours free early education is not sufficient and full day care is required, or when demand for early education places is low, for example at the start of the autumn term when many 3 & 4 year old children will have taken up places in nursery and reception classes. We have illustrated the impact of fee paying places in the report where possible as a snapshot in time (Spring 2015) but highlighted early education separately towards the end of the report (pages 33 and 34) to give a full analysis on early education entitlement.

It is also the case that the demand for early education for eligible 2 year old children has affected how providers allocate their places.

Reception class early education places have been calculated treating each child as one 15 hour place, allowing for progression into taking a full time place.

It is important to recognise that early education & childcare is not mandatory for children to attend; parents have a choice whether to use early education before their child reaches statutory school age. Statutory guidance places a duty on English local authorities to secure early education provision free of charge for every three and four year old child and eligible two year olds, so to monitor this on a termly basis, we analyse a providers funded early education returns *and* their non-funded returns (i.e. fee paying places) and apply an 85% take up rate as an indicator that demand for places could be a concern and there may be sufficiency issues to address.

The data sources used for future projections of early education places for 2015 are based on the ONS (Office for National Statistics) mid -2014 statistics -population by age and data supplied by DWP for February 2015 for eligible 2 year olds. The same DWP data has been used for the 2 year old projection for September 2016.

Supply of early education & childcare in Thurrock:

The summary of early education & childcare in Thurrock displayed in Table 1 shows the different types of provision including a breakdown of places available and those providers who can deliver early education and childcare places

Table 1: Summary of early education & childcare in Thurrock.

	August 2013			Spring Term 2015			
Type of Provision	Total Number of Providers	**Total Ofsted Registered places per session	Early Education 15 Hour Places	Total Number of Providers	**Total Ofsted Registered places per session	Early Education 15 Hour Places	Loss/Gain places since last Assessment
*Entitlement Childminders (delivering 2yr old places in ()	13	66	24	62	352	581	+557
Childminders, Other	187	863	0	126	627	0	0
Preschool	25	720	1185	26	816	1277	+92
Day Nursery	25	1264	2985	27	1531	3392	+407
School Nursery	22	1334	1334	25	722	1475	+141
School Reception Class	37	2294	2294	40	2270	2270	-24
Breakfast Prov	23	697	0	33 (179)	971**	-	+274
Afterschool Provision	21	635**	0	26 (179)	1262**	-	+627
Holiday Prov	15	541	0	17 (179)	968**	-	+427
	368	8414	7822	383 (188))	9519	8995	

*All Childminders can delivery early education for 3 & 4 year olds subject to signing the current Thurrock Code of Practice for the delivery of early education places.

A number of childminders have yet to sign the agreement. Ofsted rated "Good" or "Outstanding" Childminders are able to deliver eligible 2 year old entitlement places in addition, or in areas of deficit of places for eligible 2 year olds, childminders who are judged "Requires Improvement" may be permitted by the Local Authority to deliver places, who have a Focused Improvement Plan in place.

** Childcare places for children aged 8 years and over, do not have to be registered with Ofsted.

To place into context where existing childcare is located in Thurrock the map on page 9 and Table 2, shows the breakdown of childcare opportunities by ward.

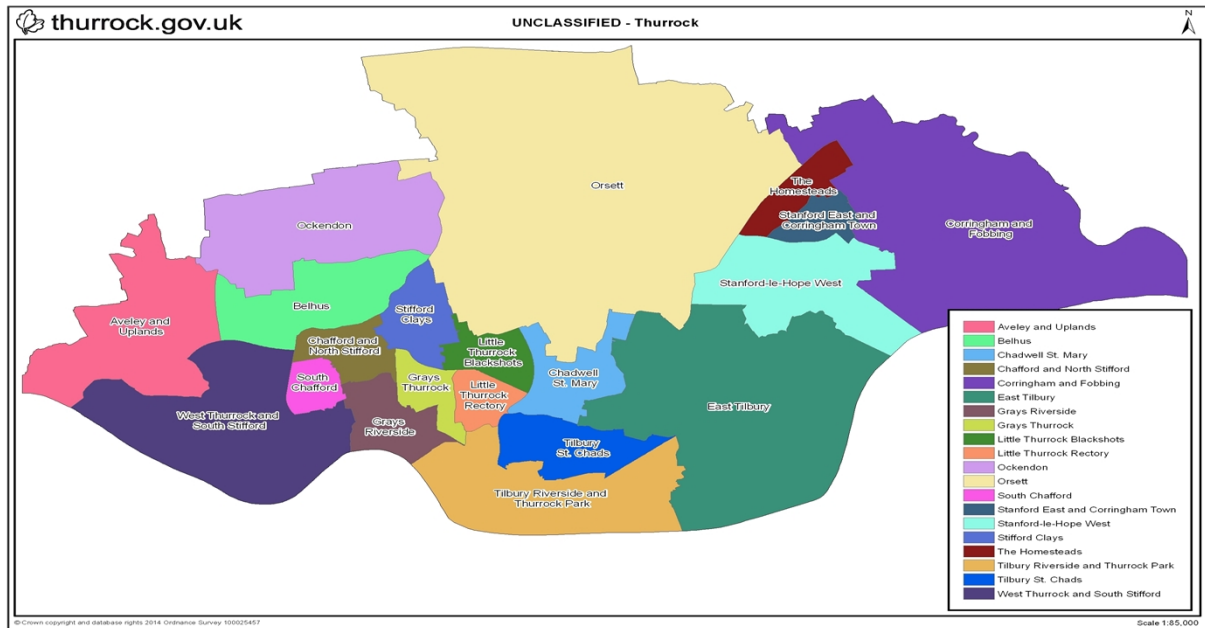


Table 2: Types of early education & childcare provision by Ward (see map for wards)
 Childminder places (shown in brackets) for Breakfast, After School and Holiday Provision, School breakfast provision have also been included.

Wards	Breakfast Provision	After School Provision	Holiday Provision	Child-minders	Day Nursery	Pre-school	School Nursery	School Reception
Aveley & Uplands	3 (8)	1 (7)	1 (7)	8	1	2	1	2
Belhus	1 (10)	- (10)	- (10)	10	2	-	4	4
Chadwell St Mary	2 (7)	- (7)	1 (7)	7	3	1	-	2
Chafford North Stifford	1 (19)	1 (19)	1 (19)	19	1	1	1	1
Corringham & Fobbing	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1	-	2	-	1
East Tilbury	1 (3)	1 (3)	1 (3)	3	1	1	1 ^{^^}	1
Grays Riverside	- (19)	1 (16)	0 (16)	19	3	1	2	2
Grays Thurrock	4 (13)	4 (13)	2 (13)	13	1	5	1	2
Little Thurrock Blackshots	2 (8)	2 (8)	1 (8)	8	-	1+	2 (inc1*)	3
Little Thurrock Rectory	2 (11)	2 (11)	2 (11)	11	1	1	1	1
Ockendon	2 (16)	1 (15)	1 (15)	16	2	2	2 (inc1*)	3
Orsett	1 (4)	1 (4)	0 (4)	5	0	2 ^{***}	-	3
South Chafford	3 (22)	3 (20)	2 (20)	22	2	0	2	2
Stanford East Corringham Town	2 (7)	1 (6)	0 (6)	7	-	4	1 ^{**}	4
Stanford le Hope West	2 (7)	2 (7)	2 (7)	7	4	1	1	2
Stifford Clays	1 (7)	1 (7)	0 (7)	7	-	1	1 ^{**}	1
The Homesteads	- (7)	- (7)	0 (7)	7	-	1	-	-
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	1 (2)	1 (2)	1 (2)	2	1	-	2	2
Tilbury St Chads	2 (1)	2 (1)	1 (1)	1	2	-	1	2
West Thurrock & South Stifford	2 (15)	1 (15)	0 (15)	15	3	1	2	2
	33 (179)	26 (179)	17 (179)	188	27	26	25	40

*Specific to disabled children

**From May 2015 Schools with separate registered 1-3year old provision will be able to absorb the provision within the school nursery provision, without the need for separate registration. This has already been reflected in the above data.

*** Bulphan pre-school closed at the end of the Summer Term 2015 and has not been included in data

+ In addition an Out of school provider relocating from school site to premises where they can offer pre-school sessions combined with wrap around care before and after school

^^ East Tilbury Nursery Class closing Sept 2015

Early Education Entitlement

Early education is available for all 3 and 4 year olds and for eligible 2 year olds for 15 hours a week or 570 hours “stretched” across the year (where offered by a provider). This can only be provided by Ofsted registered providers, including maintained and independent schools, all of whom deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

There are 112 early education & childcare providers in Thurrock, made up of 62 childminders who are able to deliver early education places, 53 private, voluntary (or charitable) independent organisations, 25 school nursery, 3 local authority run settings, with a total capacity of 6725 places. This is in addition to 40 reception classes providing an additional 2270 places as at Spring Term 2015.

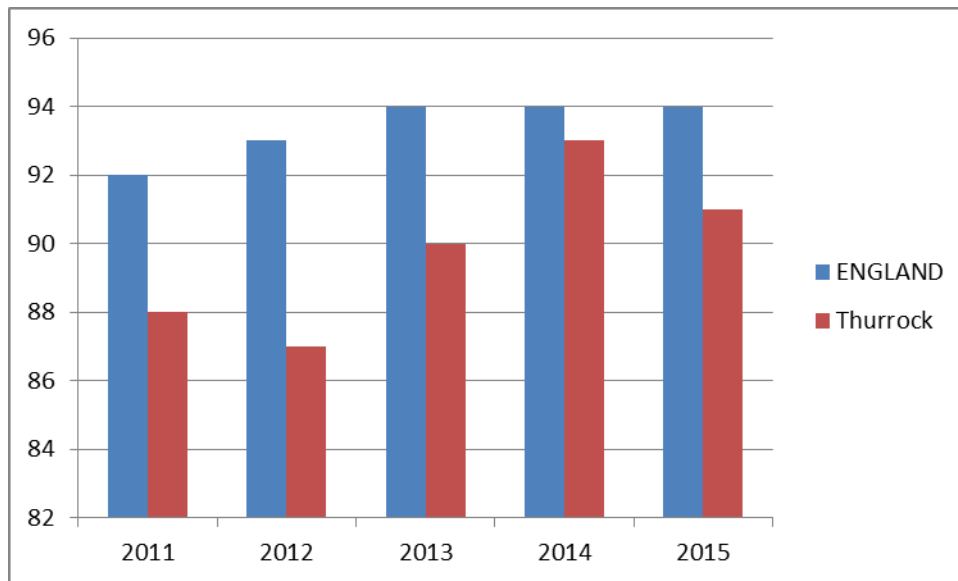
As previously noted, take up of early education & childcare fluctuates throughout the year but taking Spring 2015 data as a snapshot in time, it can be seen from table 1 on page 8, the total number of 15 hour early education and childcare places that were available for Spring 2015 was 8995 places.

There were 5964 eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds in Thurrock, leaving a surplus supply of 3031 places. This surplus is reduced when you factor in the take up of 15 hour fee paying places.

In Spring 2015 there was a total of 1308 fee paying places, therefore leaving an adequate supply of 1723 places for early education places *across* Thurrock *if* all eligible children accessed their early education entitlement.

Tables 3 and 4, shown on pages 12 and 13 details, this by ward.

However, we know from June 2015 Department for Education annual statistical release on the take up of provision of early education for children under five’s that not all eligible children in Thurrock take up their entitlement. This data is based on the Spring Early Years Census return released in January 2015 and shows 96% of three and four year olds are accessing funded early education in Thurrock, compared to 96% in England. The graphs below break this down by ages 3 and 4.



Percentage of three year olds accessing early education 2011– 2015



Percentage of four year olds accessing early education 2011 – 2014

There are a number of the reasons for the variation in the take up of three year olds as opposed to four year olds – in the survey a low percentage of parents (10%) cited lack of places as a concern. What this does indicate is individual ward pressures rather than across Borough pressures and we have detailed this later in the report and set recommendations accordingly. This includes working with parents and highlighting the benefits of early education to encourage take up.

Later in the report we provide projections for early education places. The projection of 1982 early education surplus places shown in table 35 available for September 2014 *does not* include any take up of fee paying places. This is because as previously stated, fee paying places fluctuate daily so projections show the maximum number of 15 hour early education places that *could* possibly be available for the purposes of early education, and it will not always be the case that this number *is* available. This is because providers in the PVI sector may choose to use these places for working parents requiring full day care or other additional fee paying

places. This may particularly be the case when demand for early education places is low, for example at the start of the autumn term when many 4 year old children will have taken up places in reception classes. It is also the case that the demand for early education for 2 year old children will also now affect how providers allocate surplus places.

The table below compares births (as based on data source ONS mid -2014 statistics - population by age and data supplied by DWP for eligible 2 year olds), with the numbers of 2, 3 and 4 year old children accessing early education as at Spring census 2015.

Some wards show higher take up than births in that ward and these additional children are attributed to migration into Thurrock, which of course will not be shown in birth data received from ONS as migration is fluid.

Table 3: 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing early education against total eligible children

Ward	Eligible children				2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing				Number of eligible children NOT accessing early education
	2 year olds (DWP March 2015)	3 year olds (ONS Mid Term 2014)	4 year olds (ONS Mid Term 2014)	Total	2 year olds (at March 2015)	3 year olds (Spring Census 2015)	4 year olds (Spring census 2015)	Total	
Aveley & Uplands	42	140	124	306	31	102	107	240	66
Belhus	81	157	170	408	36	150	163	349	59
Chadwell St Mary	83	139	137	359	56	141	153	350	9
Chafford North Stifford	39	175	146	360	24	109	134	267	93
Corringham & Fobbing	11	43	50	104	13	48	57	118	-14*
East Tilbury	42	92	93	227	42	87	95	224	3
Grays Riverside	110	306	261	677	92	222	253	567	110
Grays Thurrock	51	132	111	294	39	110	116	265	29
Little Thurrock Blackshots	23	63	69	155	19	53	85	157	-2*
Little Thurrock Rectory	24	89	80	193	15	72	64	151	42
Ockendon	63	141	135	339	47	135	136	318	21
Orsett	7	78	70	155	7	55	53	115	40
South Chafford	31	160	163	354	33	116	143	292	62
Stanford East Corringham Town	32	99	94	225	26	91	98	215	10
Stanford le Hope West	22	76	76	174	21	84	66	171	3
Stifford Clays	22	61	64	147	18	79	89	186	-39*
The Homesteads	17	111	81	209	17	99	88	204	5
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	105	148	158	411	54	157	153	364	47

Tilbury St Chads	75	93	84	252	39	99	98	236	16
West Thurrock South Stifford	129	231	255	615	91	204	252	547	68
	1009	2534	2421	5964	720	2213	2403	5336	628

*in this instance a negative figure denotes that more children than the ward population data shows are accessing an early education place

The table below reflects the *impact* on early education places when factoring in fee paying places e.g. working parents requiring full day care.

Table 4: Impact on early education places when including fee paying places.

Ward	Number of 15 hour places (Spring Term 2015)	Total Estimated Children (ONS Mid Term 2014 & DWP (1003) Mar 2015)	*Total Fee paying 15 hour places (Spring 2015 Early Years records)	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places if ALL children accessed early education
Aveley & Uplands	363	306	59	-2
Belhus	630	408	26	+196
Chadwell St Mary	484	359	116	+9
Chafford North Stifford	570	360	137	+73
Corringham & Fobbing	160	104	17	+39
East Tilbury	356*	227	60	+69*
Grays Riverside	792	677	84	+31
Grays Thurrock	597	294	19	+284
Little Thurrock Blackshots	294	155	15	+124
Little Thurrock Rectory	451	193	101	+157
Ockendon	535	339	78	+118
Orsett	159**	155	21	-17**
South Chafford	606	354	231	+21
Stanford East Corringham Town	538	225	29	+284
Stanford le Hope West	555	174	80	+301
Stifford Clays	221	147	8	+66
The Homesteads	68	209	6	-147
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	393	411	31	-49
Tilbury St Chads	450	252	38	+160
West Thurrock South Stifford	773	615	152	+6
	8995	5964	1308	+1723

* East Tilbury Primary Nursery class will close Sept 2015 this has been taken into account in the data above

** Bulphan Pre-school closed July 2015 places this has been taken into account in the data above

2 year old Entitlement

Table 5: Supply of 2 year old early education Places Spring 2015

Wards	Total places offered Spring 2015	Spring 2015 Target based on Feb DWP	Surplus/Deficit in priority	Outstanding developments not yet realised
Tilbury Riverside	26	103	-77	50
Belhus	22	79	-57	0
W Thurrock, South Stifford	77	125	-48	0
Tilbury St Chads	53	76	-23	0
Little Thurrock Blackshots	14	23	-9	0
Grays Riverside	104	110	-6	32
Chafford & North Stifford	42	40	2	0
Aveley & Uplands	46	42	4	0
Corringham & Fobbing	18	11	7	0
Stifford Clays	30	23	7	0
Orsett	15	7	8	0
South Chafford	45	28	17	0
Stanford East & Corr Town	51	33	18	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	47	24	23	0
The Homesteads	43	17	26	0
Grays Thurrock	78	50	28	0
Stanford le Hope West	55	21	34	0
East Tilbury	82	42	40	0
Ockendon	108	63	45	0
Chadwell St Mary	194	86	108	0
Total	1150	1003		82

Place surplus for Spring 2015	147
Total Developments specifically for 2 year old early education places to be realised	82
Place surplus for Spring/Summer 2015 including developments to be realised	229

Addressing the shortfall of 2 year old early education places

The wards of, Tilbury Riverside and Tilbury St Chads, there is scope to encourage schools with capacity within their nursery provision to extend their age range to accommodate eligible 2 year olds. School now longer are required to register their 2 year old provision separately with Ofsted as of 26th May 2015. A new childcare provision is still in process of development for Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park ward.

Belhus ward-discussions have previously taken place with the schools in this ward with mixed response; however, this could now be re-visited as the requirement to register separately with Ofsted for 2 year old early education provision has been removed.

West Thurrock and South Stifford-a new school within the South Chafford ward will provide additional nursery provision which will provide additional capacity for 104 15hr places x 3 and 4 year olds. This development has the potential to free capacity at childcare provision in the West Thurrock and South Stifford ward where some

children resident within the South Chafford ward access childcare. The reorganisation of space to accommodate additional 2 year olds might be an option for childcare provision within the West Thurrock and South Stifford ward as a result. A childcare provision in this ward, which has expanded by a further 24 full daycare places, again will impact on the overall capacity of the ward. A pre-school in Purfleet has the capacity to expand and is considering doing so.

The development of a new nursery class within the Little Thurrock Rectory ward providing 52 x 15hr early education places for 3 & 4 year olds, will impact on the childcare provision in both Little Thurrock Blackshots and Little Thurrock Rectory to enable both providers to offer additional 2 year old entitlement places as a result.

The development of a new provision within the Grays Riverside ward opening in Autumn 2015, will address the shortfall of 2 year old early education places in this ward.

The encouragement of childminders to deliver early education places by signing the “Thurrock Code of Practice for the delivery of early education and childcare April 2015” will also contribute to satisfying the deficit wards and extend parental choice as to where their children access their early education place.

Take up for 2 year old early education places Spring 2015



**Early learning
for two-year-olds**
Thurrock

In February 2015 Thurrock reported take-up of the entitlement to early learning for two-year-olds as 66% or 676 children.

This is a change of -1.9ppts from October 2014.

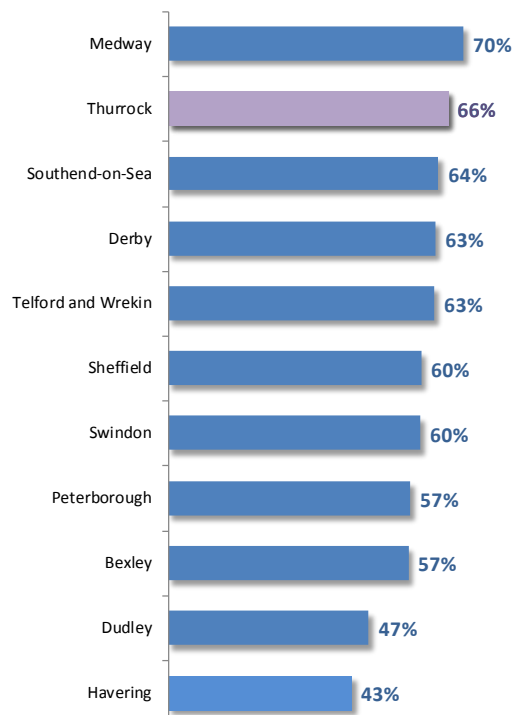
Within the East of England region the average take-up was 65%, placing Thurrock 3 out of 11.

Within statistical neighbours the average take-up was 60%, placing Thurrock 2 out of 11.

Nationally the average take-up was 62%, placing Thurrock 57 out of 152.

Take-up rate based on DWP eligibility list - November 2014

Statistical Neighbour Take-up - February 2015



Out of school & holiday care (school aged children)

After school clubs for children aged 5 to 14 years:

There are 26 after school clubs (including school run provision*) and 179 childminders delivering with a total of 1262 places**. Schools also offer extra-curricular clubs/activities, however we do not count this type of club as childcare within this assessment as they do not necessarily offer all age ranges to suit family need and can be liable for short notice cancellation.

Breakfast clubs for children aged 5 to 14 years:

There are 33 breakfast clubs, including school run provision and 179 childminders offering care before school, with a total of 971 places**.

Holiday clubs for children aged 5 to 14 years:

There are 17 holiday clubs and 179 childminders offering a total of 968** places.

Few providers are open for every holiday period and/or for a full working day, although the proportions of such schemes are open before 8.00am and/or after 6.00pm. Our 2010 - 2013 assessment showed demand for extended opening beyond 6.00pm, 2 provisions have opened since last year with 1 new provider offering operational times of opening at 6.30am and closing at 7.30pm if parents require this.

** for the calculation of school run Breakfast, After School and Holiday clubs that do not indicate numbers in their information the places are calculated as one class size of 30 children..

Quality of early education and childcare provision

Various processes have been developed to include categorising the early education and childcare providers as a result of their RAG (Red, Amber, and Green) with 'The Support to Setting Based on categorisation' document laying out clear guidelines for local authority support to settings. This resulted in a much more targeted and focussed approach to providing support where most needed. The settings causing concern procedure is also linked to the process for specific support to the settings in an inadequate category. Visit notes by local authority officers chart the progress of the EYFS provision, with actions from Ofsted inspection and local authority officers being monitored to ensure progress. Since this time, all processes/documents are reviewed termly to ensure that they are effective and up to date with internal/external changes, with an extensive review since the revised EYFS came in to being in September 2013.

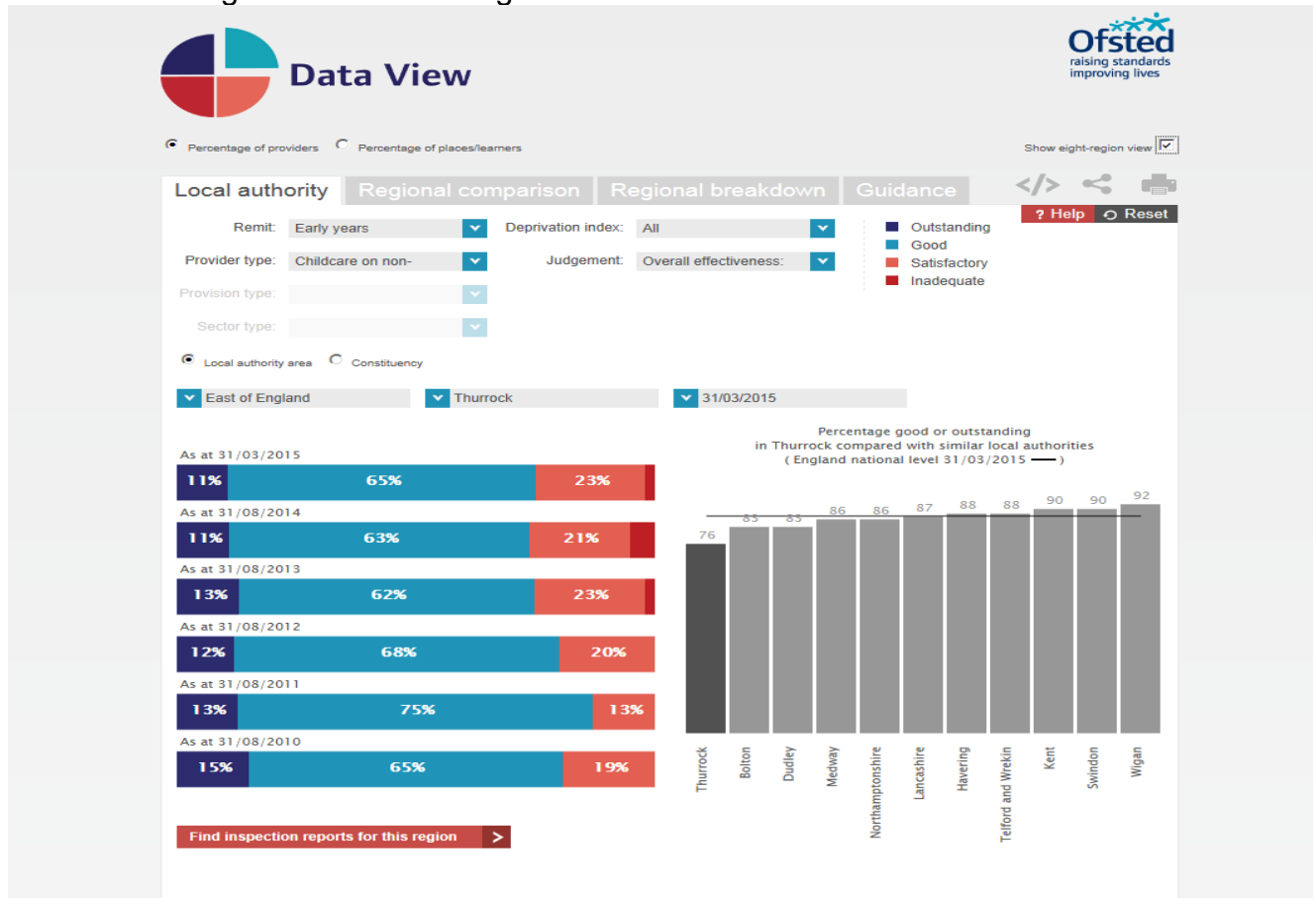
The EYFS Moderation process to support the end of EYFS assessments has also developed substantially since the beginning of 2010, with the School Improvement Team Manager and an EEIO being an Accredited EYFS Moderator. The moderation process, evaluated and progressed every year, has been judged by the Standards and Testing Agency for the second year running to be a robust model. Support to schools has been extensive since 2012 with the changes to the EYFS Profile, with additional support visits provided where need has been identified. 100% of schools attended training on the revised EYFS Profile this year, with informal moderation activities throughout the year being well supported (EYFS Moderation information from EEIO)

In addition, links have also been developed widely with other teams who provide services to EYFS provisions, such as the Child Care Sufficiency Team, data team, LAC, SEN services, NQT support, Children Centre Team, Diversity team, resulting in a more joined up approach and knowledge of effective EYFS practice being shared to improve consistent messages. (Example- 3 step approach to SEN support)

Since 2014, data has shown an improvement in EYFS outcomes as follows:

- The provisional Early Years Foundation Stage data for Thurrock shows a further rise in pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) from the previous two years. Performance was already 6% higher than the national average in 2014 and it looks like this has increased to 7% in 2015 based on data collected from 150 Local Authorities. 30 out of the 39 primary schools in Thurrock are at or above the national estimate for 2015.
- There was a significant improvement in GLD performance for boys in 2014 which has been maintained in 2015 with a further 5% rise. Performance for girls has also improved, by 8% in 2015, with GLD results for both genders likely to remain significantly higher than the national average.
- The small gap between Thurrock and national for the Average Total Point Score (ATPS) looks to have been closed in 2015 with provisional data indicating a score of 34.3 which is a 0.6 point increase for Thurrock.
- The Inequality Gap, which measures the percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20% of achieving children (mean score) and the median score for all children, continues to reduce. In Thurrock the gap has decreased by 0.9% from 28.8% in 2014 to 27.9% in 2015. The gap to national was -5.1% in 2014 so it is likely that Thurrock will remain lower than national this year.
- The percent of settings receiving a Good or better Ofsted Inspection outcome has risen from 60.3% at the beginning of 2010 to 75.5 % in July 2015. For pre-schools and nurseries 84% have achieved a good or better Ofsted July 2015

Table 6: Ofsted inspection judgements for early education & childcare providers for Thurrock and against statistical neighbours



*Ofsted .gov.uk

Affordability & Costs:

While costs represent a significant outlay to parents by its very nature childcare is labour intensive, with considerations to staffing ratios; to maintain safe supervision levels, high quality; including well qualified and trained staff. Childcare therefore cannot be provided “on the cheap”.

Some families rely on informal-unregulated childcare, with over a quarter of families (27 per cent) using grandparents to provide childcare during term time, 4 per cent older siblings, 6 per cent using relatives and 6 per cent using friends and neighbours.

While not a form of childcare, shift-parenting, is another family caring strategy, where parents work different times, although this is not an option for some single parents. Informal childcare and shift-parenting are frequently used where parents have “atypical” work patterns, such as shift work or irregular work patterns, as formal childcare may be difficult to find. (Rutter & Evans 2011)

The Family & Childcare Trust Childcare Costs Survey 2014

Tax Free Childcare

The Tax Free Childcare scheme has been proposed for launch in 2017.

Parents are eligible for the scheme if they earn £50-£150,000. The scheme also gives support to the self-employed and has been adjusted to ensure those working part-time, earning £50 per week and above, those on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, and those

starting their own business who may meet the minimum earning requirement, will be included, giving them government help with childcare costs for the first time. This will mean 20 per cent of up to £10,000 per year which means up to £2000 paid by the government towards childcare costs per child.

www.gov.uk

Table 7: Costs for Early Education & Childcare

Cost of Childcare for 25 hours	Day Nursery	Day Nursery	Childminder	Out of school (15hrs)
	Under 2's	2's and over		
*England regional average	£108.51	£106.52	£ 97.27	£ 49.71
*East of England	£106.55	£104.60	£105.90	£ 50.74
Thurrock	£ 126.10	£ 122.50	£ 100.00	£ 55.00

*Data from The Family & Childcare Trust (formerly Daycare Trust) Childcare Costs Survey 2014

Table 8: Parents views on the affordability of Childcare by ward

	Number of parents completed surveys	How Parents described their childcare costs				
		Affordable	Just about affordable	Struggle to afford it	Have to cut other family expenses	Considering reducing hours of use
Aveley & Uplands	5	0	0	1	0	0
Belhus	12	1	3	3	2	0
Chadwell St Mary	8	1	2	0	1	1
Chafford North Stifford	8	4	2	0	1	1
Corringham & Fobbing	9	1	2	2	0	0
East Tilbury	15	0	6	3	1	1
Grays Riverside	15	4	3	2	0	0
Grays Thurrock	10	1	1	3	1	1
Little Thurrock Blackshots	6	1	1	1	0	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	9	2	3	2	1	0
Ockendon	11	0	1	3	3	0
Orsett	8	0	1	1	0	0
South Chafford	4	0	1	2	1	0
Stanford East Corringham Town	7	0	2	0	0	0
Stanford le Hope West	12	5	1	1	0	0
Stifford Clays	9	2	2	3	1	1
The Homesteads	18	3	3	1	1	0
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	12	1	4	1	2	0
Tilbury St Chads	8	0	3	1	2	0
West Thurrock & South Stifford	11	2	2	4	0	0
Accessing provision who live outside Thurrock	3	0	2	0	0	0
	200	28	45	34	17	5
Responses shown in Percentages		14%	22.5%	17%	8.5%	2.5%

Working Tax Credits

Working Tax Credit statistics published annually from HMRC report Thurrock's take up at 15.2% which shows we are 2.4% above the percentage for England. We have seen an increase of 0.5% over the last two reporting years, a positive achievement set against England's take up, which has decreased by 2.9% and again, the positive outcome, compared to our statistical neighbour average decrease also of 2.9%.

(2013/14 is the latest data set, Working Tax Credit statistics are always issued for the previous financial year).

A factor that may be still be influencing this net downward trend is how the basic element of Working Tax Credit was frozen from 2011/12. The percentage of childcare costs that parents can claim through the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit was reduced from 80% to its previous level of 70%.

Thurrock was included in the first tranche of Local Authorities with a Job Centre Plus Office for the roll out of Universal Credit as of 16th March 2015. Universal Credit will incorporate many previous stand-alone benefits into one assessment. It is not clear at present whether it will be possible to measure this one element of the Universal Credit as before, for the next Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

In relation to affordability nationally, changes to working tax credits meant parents with one child have lost £17.50 in childcare support and those with two children are £30 a week worse off as a result of the change, leaving low-income families paying more in childcare costs.

Couples with one or more children usually have to work for at least 24 hours a week between them, rather than the previous 16 hours, to be eligible for Working Tax Credit. This may have impacted on parents views cited above on the affordability of childcare in Thurrock.

Table 9: Final award tables for NI 118 Take up of Working Tax Credits

England, Thurrock & Statistical Local Authorities Neighbours	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2013-14	Change comparing 2013/14 to 2011/12
England	17.8%	17.9%	17.6%	16.8%	15.6%	12.7%	-2.9%
Bolton	21.6%	21.7%	21.7%	20.2%	19.0%	11.1%	-7.9%
Wigan	20.2%	21.2%	21.4%	20.4%	19.3%	10.7%	-8.6%
Lancashire	22.0%	22.6%	22.5%	21.9%	20.3%	9.6%	-10.7%
Northamptonshire	20.1%	20.2%	19.5%	18.9%	17.7%	11.2%	-6.5%
Telford & Wrekin	19.5%	20.2%	19.7%	18.1%	16.9%	11.0%	-5.9%
Dudley	13.3%	13.4%	12.9%	12.4%	11.8%	16.6%	+4.8%
Thurrock	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	14.5%	14.7%	15.2%	+0.5%
Havering	14.7%	16.2%	16.0%	14.1%	13.9%	14.3%	+0.4%
Medway	15.7%	16.3%	15.9%	15.6%	13.0%	15.1%	+2.1%
Kent	14.7%	15.1%	15.1%	14.4%	13.2%	14.3%	+1.1%
Swindon	18.2%	17.8%	16.1%	16.3%	14.1%	13.0%	-1.1%

*Data source from HMRC annual final awards latest 2013-14 released June 2015

Informal Childcare:

Parents have the choice whether to use early education & childcare before their child reaches statutory school age. Parents may choose to use 'informal childcare' or a mix of informal and/or early education and childcare. Informal childcare is when family members or relatives care for a child, usually for working parents. Ofsted does not require registration if care is for less than 2 hours a day, or when relatives, step parents or those who have parental responsibility care for the child.

Results from the parental surveys showed 40% of parents use informal childcare. With 19% stating it is due to childcare costs, 18.5% have chosen to use informal childcare as a right of parental choice.

Table 10: Parents choice on informal childcare by ward

	Number of parents completed surveys	Use Informal Childcare	Reason for using Informal Childcare		
			Parental Choice	Can not afford costs of Registered Childcare	Lack of Childcare Places in your area
Aveley & Uplands	5	0	0	0	0
Belhus	12	4	1	3	0
Chadwell St Mary	8	1	0	1	0
Chafford North Stifford	8	4	2	2	0
Corringham & Fobbing	9	7	5	2	0
East Tilbury	15	4	0	4	0
Grays Riverside	15	4	2	2	0
Grays Thurrock	10	4	0	3	1
Little Thurrock Blackshots	6	5	3	2	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	9	5	3	2	0
Ockendon	11	2	0	2	0
Orsett	8	5	5	0	0
South Chafford	4	1	1	0	0
Stanford East Corringham Town	7	6	4	1	1
Stanford le Hope West	12	6	5	1	0
Stifford Clays	9	7	2	3	2
The Homesteads	18	8	3	4	1
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	12	4	1	3	0
Tilbury St Chads	8	1	0	1	0
West Thurrock & South Stifford	11	2	0	2	0
Accessing provision who live outside Thurrock	3	0	0	0	0
	200	80	37	38	5
Responses shown in Percentages		40%	18.5%	19%	2.5%

Demand for Early Education & Childcare in Thurrock:

Population statistics:

The results in the National Census 2011 show the population of children age 0 – 4 years in Thurrock has risen by 20.0%, almost 7% higher than England and 8% higher than East of England. With significant housing developments planned for the future in Thurrock this increase indicates a growing demand for childcare. Compared to our statistical neighbours we have the second highest population increase since the 2001 National Census.

Table 11: National Census Population for children aged 0 – 4

	National Census 2001	National Census 2011	% increase
England	2926238	3318449	13.4%
East of England	321612	361269	12.3%
Thurrock	10008	12005	20.0%
Bolton	16779	18765	11.8%
Dudley	17476	18867	8.0%
Havering	12429	13661	9.9%
Lancashire	6127	5998	-2.1%
Medway	16204	17224	6.3%
Northamptonshire	9522	10004	5.1%
Swindon	11392	14083	23.6%
Telford & Wrekin	10507	11344	8.0%
Wigan	17561	19681	12.1%

Data source ONS neighbourhood statistics

Thurrock's birth rate is considerably higher than both the regional and national average. Taking into consideration the number of housing units with building consent or proposed within the next 5 years (see separate table 33) that will draw families into the Borough, demand for early education and childcare in Thurrock will continue to rise. Migration will naturally impact on demand for early education and childcare places.

The 2011 census data shows 12,000 children are 4 years old or younger, and 20,000 are in the age range 5-14yrs.

Population Projections:

The table below shows the projections for early education places for September 2016 in relation to 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Please note, where the end column shows a deficit for 2 year old places, this is because we know from local intelligence that a provider cannot use any surplus places indicated for 2 year old provision specifically, as some of the providers in those wards are not able to accommodate these additional 2 year old children due to Ofsted regulatory or operational issues specific to that provision. It is important we factor this in to give an accurate projection on 2 year old places.

Table 12: Projections by ward for early education & childcare places Sept 2016

Ward	Eligible 2 years 2016 (DWP March 2015)	Estimated 3 years (ONS Jan 2015)	Estimated 4 years (ONS Jan 2015)	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016 (included in the overall Surplus/ Deficit)
Aveley and Uplands*	43	115	144	302	363	+ 61	+4
Belhus	83	170	156	409	630	+221	-57
Chadwell St Mary *	85	127	149	361	484	+123	+108
Chafford and North Stifford*	40	161	159	360	570	+210	+2
Corringham and Fobbing *	11	43	44	98	160	+ 62	+7
East Tilbury *	43	94	113	250	356	+106	+40
Grays Riverside *	112	315	285	712	824	+ 112	-6
Grays Thurrock *	52	123	137	312	597	+ 285	+28
Little Thurrock Blackshots *	23	56	54	133	294	+161	-9
Little Thurrock Rectory *	24	78	82	184	451	+267	+23
Ockendon *	64	152	155	371	535	+164	+45
Orsett	7	55	80	142	159	+ 17	+8
South Chafford *	32	155	160	347	710	+363	+17
Stanford East and Corringham Town *	33	86	87	206	538	+332	+18
Stanford-le-Hope West	22	75	76	173	555	+382	+34
Stifford Clays	22	59	57	138	221	+ 83	+7
The Homesteads	17	76	81	174	68	-106	+26
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park*	107	122	154	383	513	+130	-77
Tilbury St Chads *	77	99	107	283	450	+167	-23
West Thurrock and South Stifford *	132	322	319	773	808	+35	-48
Totals	1029	2483	2599	6111	9286	+3175	

* indicates wards within the 0 – 5 year SHLAA potential net dwelling completions.

Projections for supply and demand

The tables and narrative below indicate the projected surplus and deficit of *early education* 15 hour places by ward for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year old children for the next two years (2016 & 2017).

The data sources used for future projections of early education places for 2016 and 2017 is the ONS mid -2014 statistics - population by age, and data supplied by Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for 2015 indicating the lowest income households which is applied to identifying the lowest 40% as eligible 2 year olds. The

same DWP data has been used for the 2 year old projection for September 2016; however this data is likely to be updated by DWP for 2016, so projections may change in the next annual report. Please note, it does not include any additional fee paying hours as this fluctuates considerably and cannot be used for forecasting purposes.

In wards where the Childcare Sufficiency Officer is aware of any potential new early education development or there are relevant influencing factors, this is included in the ward to explain how any deficits of places are being addressed.

Aveley & Uplands Ward

Table 13: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward.

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	43	115	144	302	363	+61	+4
2017	44	117	147	308	363	+55	+4

Belhus Ward

Table 14: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward.

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	83	170	156	409	630	221	-57
2017	84	173	159	416	630	214	-57

Chadwell St Mary Ward

The provider who was proposing to offer an additional 8 x 2 year old entitlement places has now successfully developed these places since the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014. Another provider has increased capacity by offering the stretched offer, which spreads the early education 570 hours over the total weeks the day nursery is open, by reducing the hours of take up in term time, this frees school term hours for use by additional children.

Table 15: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	85	127	149	361	484	+123	+108
2017	86	130	152	368	484	+116	+108

Chafford Hundred & North Stifford Ward

Table 16: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	40	161	159	360	570	+210	+2
2017	41	164	162	367	570	+203	+2

Corringham & Fobbing Ward

Table 17: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	11	43	44	98	160	+62	+7
2017	11	44	45	100	160	+60	+7

East Tilbury Ward

East Tilbury Primary Nursery class is due to close at the end of the Summer Term 2015; this closure has been reflected in the data. Since 2014 another childcare provider has been registered by Ofsted in the East Tilbury ward, and is sited in Linford.

Table 18: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	43	94	113	250	356	+106	+40
2017	44	96	115	255	356	+101	+40

Grays Riverside Ward

One provider has been successful in developing a 40 place day nursery which offers early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds since the last 2014 assessment and one existing provider is proposing to offer an additional 32 x 15 hour places for eligible 2 year olds. A third childcare provider has expanded with a registration of 30 places and offering 13 2 year old early education places for 2 year olds. A pre-school provider registered with 26 places of which 4 x 2 year old early education places have been allocated.

Table 19: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	112	315	285	712	824	+112	-6
2017	114	321	291	726	824	+98	-6

Grays Thurrock Ward

One pre-school registered for 30 places for 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places in the Summer Term 2015

Table 20: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	52	123	137	312	597	+285	+28
2017	53	125	140	318	597	+279	+28

Little Thurrock Blackshots Ward

The impact of a new nursery class development in the adjacent ward of Little Thurrock Rectory has potential to provide further access to places within the Little Thurrock Blackshots ward childcare provision, as 3 & 4 year olds migrate to school provision locally. Alternatively, an out of school provider who has potential to expand their provision for early education sessions, should the need arise.

Table 21: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	23	56	54	133	294	+161	-9
2017	24	57	55	136	294	+158	-9

Little Thurrock Rectory Ward

The planned development for a 52 place provision for 3 and 4 year old early education for this ward in Summer 2015 has now been completed and has been included in the data for this assessment.

Also a childcare provider in this ward expanded their provision to offer an additional 32 registered places of which 30 x 15hr places have been allocated to 2 year old early education places.

Table 22: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	24	78	82	184	451	+267	+23
2017	25	80	84	189	451	+262	+23

Ockendon Ward

Table 23: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	64	152	155	371	535	+164	+45
2017	66	155	158	379	469	+90	+45

Orsett Ward

There is a small surplus in this ward however it would be prudent to bear in mind that this ward covers a comparatively large rural area consisting of three distinct villages. The pre-school in the village of Bulphan, which is outside walking distance of the other two villages, closed in the Summer Term 2015 due to sustainability concerns and this closure been reflected in the data. The pre-school in Orsett village has limited places and is unable to offer 2 year old entitlement places due to demand for 3 & 4 year old entitlement places. A new preschool in this ward developed 52 early education places since 2014, however due to premises difficulties the provider closed the provision.

Table 24: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	7	55	80	142	159	+17	+8
2017	7	56	82	145	159	+14	+8

South Chafford Ward

A future development of 104 x 15 hour places is proposed for this ward for 2016/17.

A new provider has now developed the equivalent of 80 x 15 hour places since 2014

Table 25: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	32	155	160	347	710	+363	+17
2017	32	158	163	353	710	+357	+17

Stanford East & Corringham Town Ward

A new provider has developed an additional 30 early education places of which 8 x 15hr places for eligible 2 year olds.

A full daycare provider registered for 26 places offers 12 x 15hr 2 year old early education places.

Table 26: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	33	86	87	206	538	+332	+18
2017	33	88	89	210	538	+328	+18

Stanford le Hope West Ward

Table 27: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	22	75	76	173	555	+382	+34
2017	23	77	78	178	555	+377	+34

Stifford Clays Ward

A new provider for 2 year old early education places has developed additional 12 x 2 year old places.

Table 28: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	22	59	57	138	221	+83	+7
2017	23	60	58	141	221	+80	+7

The Homesteads Ward

There is no school site in this ward. There is 1 pre-school as sole early education and childcare provider in this ward.

Table 29: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	17	76	81	174	68	-106	+26
2017	18	78	83	179	68	-111	+26

Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park Ward

A new development proposes to offer 120 x 15 hour which includes 50x 2 year old entitlement places if their planned development and Ofsted registration is successful.

Table 30: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	107	122	154	383	513	+130	-77
2017	109	124	157	390	513	+123	-77

Tilbury St Chads Ward

Table 31: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	77	99	107	283	450	+167	-23
2017	78	101	109	288	450	+162	-23

West Thurrock & South Stifford Ward

In Summer Term 2015, a day nursery expansion of 35 x full daycare places incorporating early education 15hr entitlement where applicable to individual children in West Thurrock has taken place.

A further childcare provider expanded their provision to accommodate a further 16 x 2 year old early education places in this ward.

There is a proposed development of 104 place early education provision in the South Chafford ward 2016/2017 to serve both South Chafford ward and South Stifford area delay has been experienced in delivering this provision as the nursery provision was expected to provide places September 2015.

Table 32: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	132	322	319	773	808	35	-48
2017	134	328	325	787	808	21	-48

Anticipated Housing Developments/regeneration hubs:

Demand for childcare provision will increase with the 4199 potential new housing units to be completed in the next 0 - 5 years from 2015 to 2020 as shown in table 33. This information is from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) July 2014.

The 4219 potential new housing dwellings to be completed in the next 0 - 5 years from 2015 to 2020 in table 33 is displayed in geographical areas, therefore the table below shows all wards collated together within those geographical areas to show the impact of planned dwellings against the surplus or deficit places when families move into the new dwellings.

Table 33: Early education places surplus or deficit shown against potential net dwelling completions 2015 – 2020 years.

Wards	Childcare surplus / deficit places 2015	Childcare place developments yet to be realised	Total surplus / deficit places	Planned 0 - 5 year residential dwellings
Aveley and Uplands	+61	0	+61	325
Belhus	+221	0	+221	262
Ockendon	+164	0	+164	251
Total for South Ockendon area	+446	0	+446	513
Chadwell St Mary	+123	0	+123	61
Chafford and North Stifford	+210	0	+210	24
South Chafford	+259	+104	+363	140
Total Chafford Hundred area	+469	+104	+573	164
Corringham and Fobbing	+62	0	+62	2
Stanford East and Corringham Town	+332	0	+332	45
Stanford-le-Hope West	+382	0	+382	480
The Homesteads	-106	0	-106	21
Total for Corringham & Stanford Area	+670	0	+670	548
East Tilbury	+106	0	+106	301

Grays Riverside	+80	32	+112	309
Grays Thurrock	+285	0	+285	123
Little Thurrock Blackshots	+161	0	+161	196
Little Thurrock Rectory	+267	+52	+319	40
Stifford Clays	+83	0	+83	1
Total for Grays Area	+876	+84	+960	669
Orsett	+17	0	+17	37
Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	+10	+120	+130	82
Tilbury St Chads	+167	0	+167	151
Total for Tilbury area	+177	+120	+297	233
West Thurrock & South Stifford	0	+35	+35	1368*
				4219

*Includes Phase 1 Purfleet Centre 2017-2020 800 dwellings

Future influencing factors: Expansion of the 2 year old early education entitlement and universal credit:

Expansion of the 2 year old entitlement will further increase demand for early education and childcare places and we need to ensure these additional places do not have an adverse effect on the take up on the existing 3 & 4 year old early education places.

Universal credit was launched in October 2013 for people who are looking for work or on a low income. Universal Credit brings together a range of working-age benefits into a single payment and aims to make sure claimants are better off in work than on benefits. It will replace six main benefits with a single monthly payment for people in work or out of work, smoothing the transition from welfare to work.

Universal Credit was launched as a Pathfinder in areas of the North West commencing in April 2013. The four initial Pathfinder offices were Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Warrington, and Wigan. Six further sites are rolling out between October and spring 2014, which started with Hammersmith on 28 October, followed by Rugby and Inverness on 25 November and will expand to Harrogate, Bath and Shotton by Spring 2014 with a national role out aimed to be completed for November 2015.

We anticipate this could have a future impact on early education take up and will be monitoring this closely.

Parental feedback on demand:

Parents reported their experiences in finding early education and childcare in the area of their choice. The table below shows 10% of parents who completed our parental surveys reported they experienced a lack of places in the area they are taking up early education and childcare. With 2.5% of parents stating their childcare is not in their area of choice.

Table 34: Parents feedback on demand for early education and childcare by ward

	Number of parents completed surveys	Childcare is not in the area of my choice?	Experienced a Lack of places	Experienced a Lack of Hours at my preferred provider
Aveley & Uplands	5		1	
Belhus	12		1	
Chadwell St Mary	8			
Chafford North Stifford	8			
Corringham & Fobbing	9		1	
East Tilbury	15			1
Grays Riverside	15	1		2
Grays Thurrock	10	1	1	
Little Thurrock Blackshots	6	1	1	2
Little Thurrock Rectory	9			
Ockendon	11		3	
Orsett	8			
South Chafford	4		1	
Stanford East Corringham Town	7			
Stanford le Hope West	12		1	2
Stifford Clays	9	1	3	
The Homesteads	18		3	
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	12			
Tilbury St Chads	8		2	2
West Thurrock & South Stifford	11	1	2	
Accessing provision who live outside Thurrock	3			
	200	5	20	9
Responses shown in Percentages		2.5%	10.0%	4.5%

Gap Assessment

2, 3 and 4 year old early education places.

Table 35 shows the projected surplus or deficit of early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds for Spring 2016. The demand of early education places illustrated here does not include fee paying childcare places as this fluctuates too much for forecasting purposes.

Table 35: Projected early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Wards	Eligible 2 year olds by DWP Spring 2016	Estimated number of 3 year olds in ward*	Estimated number of 4 year olds in ward*	Early Education places as at Spring 2015	Surplus/ Deficit of Early Education places as at Spring 2016
Aveley and Uplands	43	115	144	363	+61
Belhus	83	170	156	630	+221
Chadwell St Mary	85	127	149	484	+123

Chafford and North Stifford	40	161	159	570	+210
Corringham and Fobbing	11	43	44	160	+62
East Tilbury	43	94	113	356	+106
Grays Riverside	112	315	285	824	+112
Grays Thurrock	52	123	137	597	+285
Little Thurrock Blackshots	23	56	54	294	+161
Little Thurrock Rectory	24	78	82	451	+267
Ockendon	64	152	155	535	+164
Orsett	7	55	80	159	+17
South Chafford	32	155	160	710	+363
Stanford East and Corringham Town	33	86	87	538	+332
Stanford-le-Hope West	22	75	76	555	+382
Stifford Clays	22	59	57	221	+83
The Homesteads	17	76	81	68	-106
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	107	122	154	513	+130
Tilbury St Chads	77	99	107	450	+167
West Thurrock and South Stifford	132	322	319	808	+35
	1029	2483	2599	9286	+3175
* Based on ONS mid-term 2014 estimates.					

Provision for Special Education Needs/Disabled (SEND) children

Local offer

A change in the law means there are major changes to the way support is provided in Thurrock for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) from September 2014.

Education, health and care plans

New education, health and care plans have been introduced for children and young people aged 0 to 25. These replace statements of special educational need, and the learning difficulties assessments for young people entering college.

A new way of working looks at children and young people's needs, bringing together education, health and social care support into a single plan.

It is more family-focused, with emphasis on:

- individual goals for children
- improving their opportunities for education and employment
- introducing the opportunity for personal budgets to support these plans

All PVI providers in Thurrock offer inclusive practice with inclusion policies and 95% of PVI providers have an individual accessibility audit of their premises and are used in conjunction with disabled children's individual care plans.

Support is offered to all childcare providers from the Early Education Improvement Team & an Outreach Support Officer from Treetops Special School. Various Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) training sessions are offered each term with high attendance at Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENco) forums for early education and childcare providers.

Thurrock have two special schools Treetops and Beacon Hill, and The Sunshine Centre is for children aged up to 19 years with a whole range of needs both behavioral and physical. The Centre includes a fully equipped sensory room and is for parents and siblings, as well as the child with a disability or special educational need. Several different groups are run by experienced staff throughout the week, including a Saturday Club and Young Carers group. The family centre workers are provided by Thurrock's team for disabled children.

Many childminders have specified they have various Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) knowledge and experience which helps give parents additional confidence when looking for childcare for their disabled child. The Thurrock Family Information Service is able to provide lists of childminders with specific specialism to parents and carers.

Our 2010 - 2013 assessment showed demand from 26% of parents with disabled children for an after school provision for disabled children. A private Out of school club for disabled children opened February 2013 offering 8 places, unfortunately due to the high ratio of staff required to support disabled children attending, the provision closed in October 2013 citing financial unsustainability.

The provision is now offering limited places for disabled children of working parents to attend the original premises now run by the Sunshine Centre staff, but children must have a referral from a social worker and Common Assessment Framework documentation to support the child and family need to access the provision.

Key findings, challenges and solutions

Our key priority areas for development of early education places to address the projected deficit of the planned 0-5 year residential developments are shown by wards within each geographical area.

Table 36 visually represents the priority of areas for developing early education places according to a Red, Amber, Green grading. The following narrative of key findings complements this RAG below.

Table 36: Priority areas for development of early education places

Wards	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Aveley & Uplands			
Belhus			
Chadwell St Mary			
Chafford & North Stifford			
Corringham & Fobbing			
East Tilbury			
Grays Riverside			
Grays Thurrock			
Little Thurrock Blackshots			
Little Thurrock Rectory			
Ockendon			
Orsett			
South Chafford			
Stanford East & Corringham Town			
Stanford le Hope West			
Stifford Clays			
The Homesteads			
Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park			
Tilbury St Chads			
West Thurrock South Stifford			

In this summary all references to planned housing units are those shown in Table 33 'Potential net dwelling completions' on page 31 and 32. Where a surplus or deficit of early education places are shown, these *do not* include any predicted take up of fee paying places. This is because providers in the PVI sector may choose to use these places for working parents requiring full day care or other additional fee paying places and this varies daily as previously noted in methodology.

Aveley and Uplands Ward

A current surplus of 61 early education places overall in this ward indicates that the ward is sufficient in regard to places for 2 3 and 4 year olds, however, some of the planned 325 housing units for this ward are under already construction.

Solution-School development of places needs to be revisited in this ward, as premises potential is limited for private, voluntary or independent childcare development in the ward currently.

This ward is a high priority ward

South Ockendon Area

Belhus Ward

There are 221 surplus places in this ward, with a deficit of 57 x 2 year old early education places. There are 262 housing units proposed for this ward.

Solution: Development of 2 year old early education places is a high priority for this ward. A childcare provision will be progressing to registration Autumn 2015/Spring 2016, and is likely to allocate 2 year old early education places subject to successful Ofsted registration. The Childcare Sufficiency Officer will also revisit the approach to schools subject to their Ofsted judgement, in relation to allocation of 2 year old early education places by spare capacity use (with agreement of governing body), given they will now longer be required to register separately with Ofsted.

Ockendon Ward

There are 164 surplus places in this ward with a surplus of 45 x 2 year old early education places. Places are available at two preschools in this ward however their location is a barrier for walking parents to access them, however the 251 housing units planned in the next 0-5 years are generally located near the two pre-schools

Solution: Family Information Service gives information to parents/carers in identifying early education provision, they will continue to include the two pre-schools within any list requested by these contacts to inform of local providers, information in regard to available early education and childcare provision, is also included on the website askthurrock.org

This ward is a low priority ward

Chadwell St Mary Ward

There is an overall surplus of 123 places in this ward, of which of 108 are surplus 2 year old early education places. There is a proposed housing development of 61 housing units up to 2020.

This ward is a low priority ward

Chafford Hundred Area

Chafford & North Stifford Ward

There are 210 surplus places in this ward, and a slight surplus of 2 x 2 year old early education places. The 24 housing units proposed up to 2020 will be adequately accommodated by the providers of early education in this ward.

This ward is a low priority ward.

South Chafford Ward

There is a surplus of 363 places in this ward, and a surplus of 17 x 2 year old early education places within the overall surplus. The surplus of 2 year old places can be attributed to the increase in childminders who now offer early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in this ward. One provider does not offer “early education only places” and this may distort the overall surplus and the accessibility of 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places. The recent development of a day nursery offering 2, 3, and 4 year old early education places in this ward has provided parents with further parental choice and access to “early education places only”. Detailed within the Pupil Place Plan 2014 -2018 future provision was identified for a 104 place provision within this ward which is expected to provide 3 & 4 year early education places from 2015/16.

The 140 housing units proposed for the ward will be satisfied by the existing provision.

This ward is a low priority.

Corringham and Stanford Area

The impact of housing development within the Corringham and Stanford area may appear to satisfy the demand for early education places; however those responsible for childcare sufficiency would be advised to monitor the childcare for working families that is available overall, for subsequent assessments and as housing development progresses.

Corringham & Fobbing Ward

There is a surplus of 62 places in this ward, and a 7 place surplus for 2 year old early education within the overall surplus.

This ward is a low priority ward.

Stanford East & Corringham Town Ward

There is a surplus of 332 places in this ward and a surplus of 18 x 2 year old early education places. A development is now complete to offer 60 x 15 hour places in this ward for 2, 3 & 4 year olds. There is a planned 45 housing units within this ward up to 2020.

This ward is a low priority ward

Stanford le Hope West Ward

There is a surplus of 382 places in this ward and a 34 place surplus of 2 year Early Education places. There are 480 proposed housing units for this ward up to 2020. It is also well to note that the Homesteads ward is adjacent to this ward and the only early education and childcare provision in the Homesteads ward is sessional/short day 8.00am-3.00pm. Therefore full time working parents are more likely to access the Stanford le Hope West ward (Railway Station is located in this ward) for full daycare, alternatively the Stanford East and Corringham Town ward if places are not available in this ward.

This ward is a low priority ward

The Homesteads Ward

There is an overall deficit of 106 places in this ward; however a surplus of 26 x 2 year old early education places within the deficit figure. A provider in this ward satisfies the demand for 2 year old early education places. Historically parents have sought early education and childcare places in neighbouring wards. The surplus places available in the wards of Stanford East and Corringham Town, and Stanford le Hope West have satisfied the shortfall of places in the Homesteads ward along with childminders located within the ward. The proposed 21 housing units will impact on future demand for early education places, but any increase in demand for early years education and childcare could be accommodated in the adjacent wards. Lack of suitable, available premises prevents further development of places, particularly due to the absence of any school site.

This ward is a low priority ward

East Tilbury Ward

There are 106 surplus places in this ward and a surplus of 8 x 2 year old early education places. The day nursery adjacent to East Tilbury Primary school offers 3 x 3hour sessions for delivery of the early education places, however, not all parents have taken advantage of the 3pm to 6pm sessions. Although there appears to be an excess of places based on local need, there were a noticeable number of children accessing the provision from outside the ward, which follows the pattern, as in the other wards in Thurrock, of parents exercising their parental choice. Due to the relative isolated location of the ward, parents find it difficult to access childcare provision outside the ward, in numbers which would be compensatory as in other areas of the borough. Consideration needs to be given around a successful planning application for 299 housing units was granted in June 2015 which would potentially give a Nursery class pupil yield of 23 children on current calculating methods. The pupil yield does not take into account 2 year olds, only 3 and 4 year old children, so the number overall could be potentially higher.

This is a medium priority ward

Solution: - Childcare Sufficiency Officer to work with the current childcare providers in the ward to offer early education and childcare places that meet the need of local families.

Grays Area

Grays Riverside Ward

There is an overall surplus of 112 places in this ward and within this figure, a 6 places deficit of 2 year old early education places.

There is a surplus of places in the neighbouring ward Grays Thurrock that should satisfy the current demand of places if parents are able to access nearby provision. An additional development yet to be registered is a nursery proposing to offer 32 x 15 hour places 2 year old places, including 2 year old early education only places. The nursery is due to open Autumn 2015.

There are planned 309 housing units for the ward. Taking into account current pupil yields for 3 and 4 year old only there would be sufficient places in the ward.

This ward is a low priority ward

Grays Thurrock Ward

There is a surplus of 285 places in this ward and a 28 place surplus of 2 year old early education places. 123 housing units proposed will impact on future demand for early education places.

This ward is a low priority ward

Little Thurrock Blackshots Ward

There is a surplus of 161 places in this ward and a 9 place deficit of 2 year old early education places. There are 196 housing units proposed leading up to 2020

Solution the existing preschool provider has the potential to expand their 2 year old early education places offer in response to the opening of the school nursery class development in the adjacent ward of Little Thurrock Rectory ward. Alternatively an out of school provider who is willing to respond to the demand for 2 year old early education places has shown interest in delivering sessional care incorporated within the existing wrap around care offered.

This ward is a low priority ward

Little Thurrock Rectory Ward

There is a surplus of 267 places in this ward including a 23 place surplus of 2 year old early education places within this figure. The development for a 52 place provision for 3 and 4 year old early education is planned for this ward in Summer/Autumn 2015 and has been included in the data, (development was delayed from that stated in the previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment). A private full daycare provider at the farthest extreme of the ward to this development of places, has expanded their provision despite being informed of the proposed development of the above 52 places. 40 housing units are proposed for this ward leading up to 2020.

This ward is a low priority ward

Stifford Clays Ward

There is a surplus of 83 places in this ward and a 7 place surplus within this figure, of 2 year old early education places. There no development of significance in regard to housing units proposed in this ward (1housing unit)

This ward is a low priority ward

Orsett Ward

There is a surplus of 17 places in this ward and a surplus of 8 x 2 year old early education places. It would be prudent to bear in mind that this ward covers a comparatively large rural area consisting of three distinct villages.

There are 37 housing units proposed for this ward up to 2020

This ward is a low priority ward

Tilbury Area

Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park Ward

There is an overall surplus of 130 places in this ward and a 77 place deficit 2 year old early education places within this figure. There is a proposed day nursery development aiming to deliver 120 early education and childcare places subject to planning approval, which required re-submission in Spring 2015 and subsequent Ofsted registration subject to planning approval. If development proceeds this has potential to address the majority of the deficit of places for 2 year old early education (50 places), and demand for further full daycare for working parents, in both Tilbury wards. The 233 housing units proposed for the geographical area of Tilbury will impact on future demand for early education and childcare places.

Solution: - The successful approval of the new provider, though planning application and Ofsted registration and nursery class capacity that already exists in school, would be sufficient to accommodate the additional demand for 3 & 4 year old places. The deficit of 2 year old places within both wards will need to be addressed by working with the local schools (with governor approval), to extend the age range of admissions to 2 year olds.

This ward is a medium priority ward

Tilbury St Chads Ward

There is a surplus 167 places in this ward and a 23 place deficit of 2 year early education places. It is anticipated an existing provider in this ward will be able to facilitate and satisfy the need for the 2 year old early education places. The 233 housing units proposed for the geographical area of Tilbury should not impact on

early education places for 3 & 4 year olds due to the existing surplus of places in this ward.

This ward is a medium priority ward.

West Thurrock and South Stifford Ward

A day nursery provision in Purfleet proposing an expansion to offer 40 x 2 year old entitlement places was declined planning permission since the last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014.

There is an overall surplus of 35 places in this ward and a deficit of 48 x 2 year old early education places.

A proposed development of 104 place early education provision in the South Chafford ward 2015/2016 will serve both South Chafford ward and South Stifford area. The expansion of the existing full day care provider in West Thurrock by an additional 35 registered places will alleviate demand pressure early education and childcare places.

The 1368 housing units (including Phase 1 Purfleet Centre 2017-2020 800 units) proposed for the geographical areas of West Thurrock, South Stifford and Purfleet will significantly impact on the existing deficit of early education places provision and will impact on future demand for 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places.

Solution:- To highlight the need for further school nursery class or pre-school/full daycare provision for working parents, within the Purfleet Centre, particularly, within this, the need for 2 year old early education places. This requires the Pupil Place Planning and Childcare Sufficiency Officers to work in partnership to ensure early education and childcare places are available for families in the ward.

Development of 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places for is a high priority for this ward.

Across Thurrock

To meet the full take up of 1003 2 year old early education places, promotion of the benefits of early education is the key to ensure all eligible 2 year olds, (and all 3 and 4 year old children) in Thurrock access their full entitlement. There has been a significant increase in the number of childminders from 13 to 62 who are able to deliver the early education places (24 to 581 places). The promotion of childminders as a recognised alternative provider of early education places is taking place in the Summer 2015, with the Childminding Support Officer and Family Information Service attending outreach events. The 2 year old early education page on the Thurrock Council website page, gives parents/carers the opportunity to view video footage of childminders who deliver early education places and feedback from parents who have used childminders to access early education places for their children.

Thurrock residents who are considering childminding as a career have access to the Thurrock Council website to access information that will assist them to register with Ofsted.

Challenges

Proposed housing developments in addition to those already proposed in the Local Authority Monitoring Report March 2014 for deliverable housing 2015-2020 will potentially create demand for additional early education & childcare places with families moving into Thurrock.

There is a lack of suitable premises available in Thurrock for potential early education & childcare providers to rent or lease that meet Ofsted requirements. .

The promotion of childminders as a good alternative for parents to access early education and childcare places for their children is one solution to the lack of early education places. Childminders operate from their own homes and have opportunity to link with other childminders which is invaluable for childminder holiday/sickness cover. Some parents for various reasons are reluctant to use this form of early education and childcare, and good promotion is key by the childminders themselves, and the Family Information Service, by discussing the parent/carers needs when they are unable to locate early years provision.

Schools and academies can be an obvious choice for development of early education due to lack of premises available for Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) provision development, however, with the two year old early education there is a need for the most disadvantaged children to access Good or Outstanding provision (as with all early years providers). Some schools will need to improve the quality of their delivery before expansion to the delivery of 2 year old provision. The council's School Improvement Team facilitates this by working in partnership with maintained schools.

Future potential provider growth based within Flood Zones in Thurrock is currently presenting challenges to the development of childcare provision particularly in areas such as Tilbury where the whole area is flood plain.

The increase, to 30hrs of early education and childcare for working parents, proposed by the government for 2017 (pilot local authorities 2016), will undoubtedly have an impact on place availability to what extent at this point is unclear, should this go ahead. This will need to be considered in future assessments. The challenge will include identifying how many children of working parents we have in the Local Authority and whether this initiative will assist parents to work full time rather than part time, take work for the first time since their child's birth part time or full time, or just be a supplement to the household income by not having to pay for the additional childcare over the current 15 hours, or a move from informal childcare to formal childcare?

Additional solutions

Consideration for property developers to allow for community buildings/land, should be part of any future proposed housing planning applications to facilitate a provision suitable for early education & childcare. Additional early education and childcare deficit relating to an area of housing development is now conveyed to the Pupil Place planning Team for inclusion in their feedback on behalf of Education to planning in regard to planning application consultation.

By working with the pupil place planning team, schools places and early education places can be analysed and discussed at regular intervals. Whilst demand from parents and fee paying places impacts on early education place assessments detailed in this report, there will be synergies where by assessments of schools places and early education places can lead to a joined up approach and deliver a sustainable market according to demand for places.

With the regeneration plan taking place in Thurrock, any property that may be suitable for early education & childcare should be highlighted to the Childcare Sufficiency Officer.

Meetings with the Asset Management Team/Lands, in house brings opportunity to highlight any available Local Authority owned premises, that present for rent by childcare providers.

Since 2014 the Thurrock Family Information Service has included information for landlords of potentially suitable premises, on the Thurrock Council website, who may wish to consider offering its use for childcare. The Sufficiency Officer would only take an advisory role in such instances.

The Childcare Sufficiency Officer continues to work closely with Thurrock Council planning department to enable supporting potential providers with planning applications.

To identify all eligible 2 year old children across Thurrock to ensure maximum take up rate is achieved. This challenge has now been largely overcome

The 2 year old entitlement Officer continues to work towards the increase in the take up of the two year old entitlement, through promotion and publicity of the entitlement, through outreach events and working in partnership with health professionals, social care workers, the voluntary community hubs, children centres, and, early education and childcare providers, and local media via the in house communications team. Parents/carers are now advised of their child's potential eligibility through direct communication to them individually. The parent is then able to confirm their child's eligibility with their chosen childcare provider, and this has improved the take up of the 2 year old early education places. However, there is a small amount of reluctance for parents/carers to take the 2 year old place or take the full hours as they consider their child too young.

To continue the work to identify further existing childminders who wish to deliver the early education places by encouraging them to sign the Thurrock Code of Practice for the delivery of early education and childcare places April 2015.

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15 October 2015	ITEM: 7
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Pupil Premium with a focus on the work at Hathaway Academy and Harris Academy Chafford Hundred in regards to mentoring troubled youths	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: All
Report of: Carmel Littleton - Director of Children’s Services Roger Edwardson – Interim Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills	
Accountable Head of Service: Roger Edwardson, Interim Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills	
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children’s Services	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

The report compares the performance of children and young people in receipt of Pupil Premium funding in Thurrock schools and academies for the academic year 2014/15.

At this stage, the data used in the report remains non-validated by the DfE. Final results will be available later in the year. The report does not contain comparisons for GCSE at this stage as the results are subject to a significant number of re-marks of tests specifically in English and mathematics.

As examples of good practice, The Hathaway Academy and Harris Academy, Chafford Hundred have provided detailed information on their use of pupil premium to raise standards and narrow the gap for young people in receipt of the additional funding.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the impact of pupil premium for the academic year 2014-15 in primary schools across the borough and seeks an update for secondary schools when the data is fully validated.**

1.2 Acknowledges the actions taken by The Hathaway Academy and Harris Academy Chafford Hundred

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Pupil Premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

In the 2015 to 2016 financial year, schools will receive the following funding for each child registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years: £1,320 for pupils in reception year to year 6 and £935 for pupils in year 7 to year 11. Schools will also receive £1,900 for each pupil who has left local-authority care following adoption, special guardianship and/or a residence order. Children who have been in local-authority care for 1 day or more also attract £1,900 of pupil premium funding.

The report gives an attainment overview for 2015 with a focus on narrowing the attainment gap for children in receipt of Pupil Premium.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.

EYFSP

		2014	2015	Diff	2014 National	2014 Diff	2015 Nat Prov	2015 Diff	Gap Change
GLD	ALL	66%	73%	7%	60%	6%	66%	7%	1%
	Boys	59%	64%	5%	52%	7%	tba		
	Girls	73%	81%	8%	69%	4%	tba		
Average	ALL	33.7	34.3	0.6	33.8	-0.1	34.3	0.0	0.1
Total	Boys	32.7	33.1	0.4	32.6	0.1	tba		
	Girls	34.6	35.4	0.8	35.1	-0.5	tba		
Inequality Gap		28.8%	27.9%	-0.9%	34%	-5.1%	tba		

2015 National Data is provisional and based on 150 LAs

2014 National data is from published data in October 2014 for state funded schools only

2.2 Overall Performance

- The provisional data for Thurrock shows a further rise in pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD). Performance was already 6 percentage points higher than the national average in 2014 and it looks like this has increased to 7 percentage points in 2015 based on data collected from 150 Local Authorities. 30 out of the 39 primary schools in Thurrock are at or above the national estimate for 2015.

- There was a huge improvement in GLD performance for boys in 2014 which has been maintained in 2015 with a further 5 percentage point rise. Performance for girls has also improved, by 8 percentage points in 2015, with GLD results for both genders likely to remain significantly higher than the national average.
- The small gap between Thurrock and national for the Average Total Point Score (ATPS) looks to have been closed in 2015 with provisional data indicating a score of 34.3 which is a 0.6 point increase for Thurrock.
- The Inequality Gap, which measures the percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20% of achieving children (mean score) and the median score for all children, continues to reduce. In Thurrock the gap has decreased by 0.9 percentage points from 28.8% in 2014 to 27.9% in 2015. The gap to national was -5.1 percentage points in 2014 so it is likely that Thurrock will remain lower than national this year.

2.2.1 Contextual Performance

- 5 out of 6 children looked after by Thurrock Council and educated by Thurrock schools achieved a good level of development in 2015 (83%). This is an improvement on the previous 2 years of 57% in 2014 (7 LAC children) and 17% in 2013 (6 LAC children).
- 37% of pupils with SEN Support (including School Action and School Action Plus) have achieved a good level of development this year, an increase of 16% on last year and 26% on the year before.
- 3 out of 47 pupils with a Statement of SEN achieved a good level of development in 2015 (6%), a drop of 3% from last year. However, this is still double the percentage of Statemented pupils nationally that reached this level last year and the average total points score has increased to 23 from 21.5 in 2014.
- The GLD SEN attainment gap has narrowed from 52 percentage points in 2014 to 47 percentage points this year. This matches the national gap in 2014.
- The GLD Free School Meal attainment gap remains unchanged from last year at 16 percentage points. This is 3 percentage points lower than the national gap in 2014. The Pupil Premium gap has increased very slightly to 13 percentage points from 12 percentage points in 2014. There is no national comparative data available.

- The GLD English as an Additional Language (EAL) attainment gap has increased to 10 percentage points this year compared to 8 percentage points in 2014 and 2 percentage points in 2013. This puts Thurrock in line with the national gap of 10 percentage points in 2014.

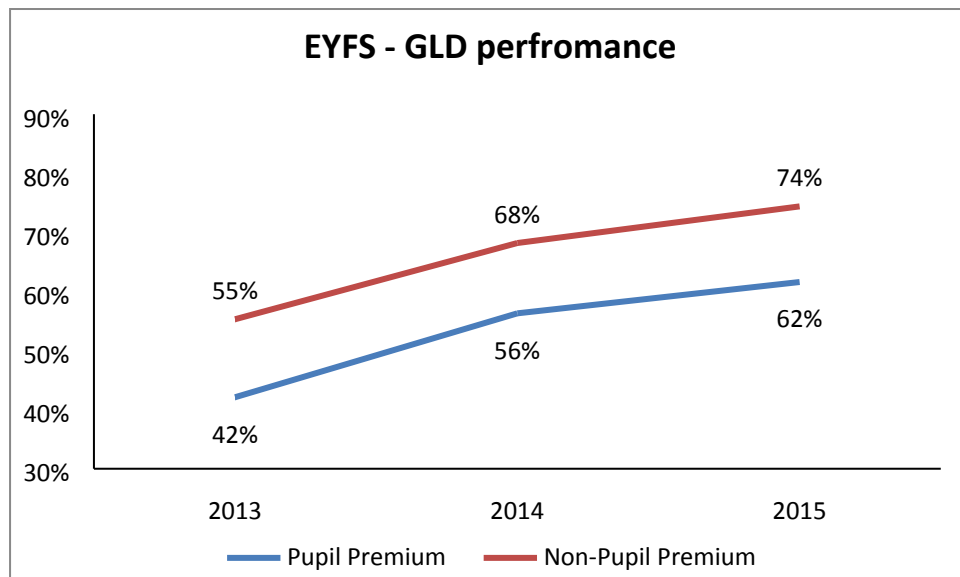
2.2.2 School Performance

A combination of a high GLD percentage and high ATP score is the desired outcome as this shows that pupils have not only achieved the GLD but have done so by exceeding in many areas.

Focus for the greatest impact on improving overall performance

There are five schools in the borough that have the most pupils in the lowest 20% for the ATP score in Thurrock and also low GLD or ATP scores in general. In 2015/16 the focus will be on these schools to improve their results and this will have the biggest impact on improving the inequality gap and overall performance in Thurrock. The five schools are Thameside Primary, Lansdowne Primary, Little Thurrock Primary, Aveley Primary and The Gateway Free School.

2.2.3 Early Years Foundation Stage



2.2.4 Key Stage 1 – 2015 performance for all 7 year olds.

KS1

		2014	2015	Diff	2014 National	2014 Diff	2015 Nat Prov	2015 Diff	Gap Change	
Reading	L2+	91	91	0	90	1	91	0	-1	↓
	L2B+	83	83	0	81	2	82	1	-1	↓
	L3+	29	31	2	31	-2	32	-1	1	↑
Writing	L2+	86	86	0	86	0	88	-2	-2	↓
	L2B+	70	72	2	70	0	72	0	0	→
	L3+	15	16	1	16	-1	17	-1	0	→
Maths	L2+	94	93	-1	92	2	93	0	-2	↓
	L2B+	82	84	2	80	2	82	2	0	→
	L3+	24	26	2	24	0	26	0	0	→
S&L	L2+	90	91	1	89	1	90	1	0	→
	L3+	19	22	3	24	-5	25	-3	2	↑

2015 National Data is provisional and based on 152 LAs

2014 National data is from published data in October 2014 for state funded schools only

2.2.5 Overall Performance

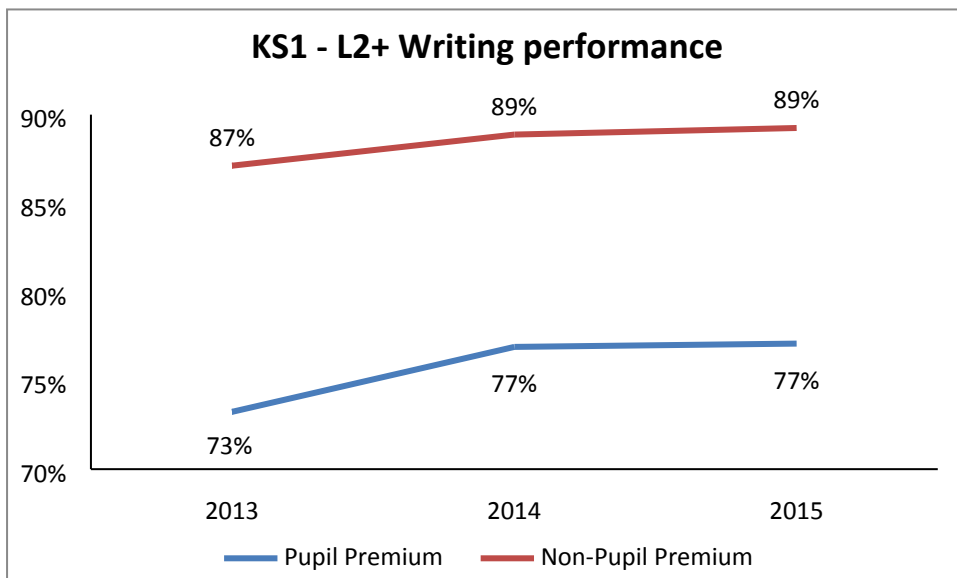
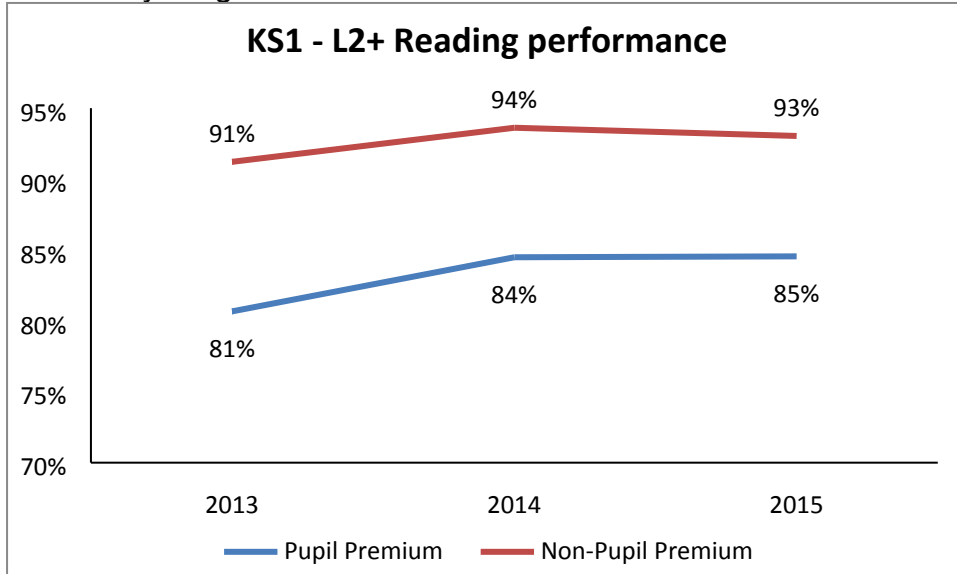
- Thurrock was at or above national in all Key Stage 1 subjects in 2014. In 2015, Performance at Level 2B+ remains in-line or above national and it's at Level 3+ where the gap to national has been closed. Thurrock is now only 1 percentage point below national average for reading and 3 percentage points below for speaking and listening. Girls continue to outperform boys in all subjects.

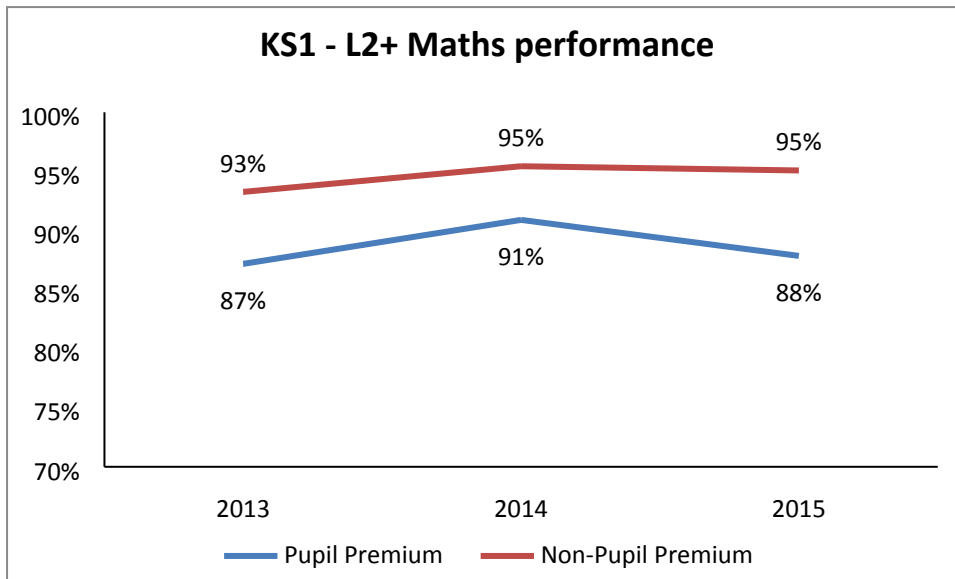
2.2.6 Contextual Performance

- Performance for **pupil premium pupils** has increased over the last 2 years for those achieving L2+ in reading. The gap between those with and without Pupil Premium has reduced from 10.5 percentage point in 2013 to 8.5 percentage points in 2015 - see graph.
- Performance for **pupil premium pupils** has increased over the last 2 years for those achieving L2+ in writing. However, the gap between those with and without Pupil Premium has increased slightly by 0.2 percentage points since 2014 to 12.2.
- There was a drop in maths performance of pupils with **pupil premium** in 2015 at L2+ from 90.1% to 87.8%. This has caused an increase in the gap between those with and without pupil premium from 4.5 percentage points in 2014 to 7.2 in 2015.

Thurrock has been close to or above the national average for Level 2+ in the last 2 years. This year the gap has closed at Level 3+ in reading and speaking & listening but the advantage over national at Level 2+ has reduced. Writing and maths have been the weaker subjects for Thurrock in 2015.

2.2.7 Key Stage 1





2.2.8 Key Stage 2 – Performance of 11 year olds.

KS2

		2014	2015	Diff	2014 National	2014 Diff	2015 Nat Prov	2015 Diff	Gap Change	
Reading	L4+	87	89	2	89	-2	89	0	2	↑
	L5+	43	44	1	50	-7	48	-4	3	↑
Writing	L4+	85	86	1	86	-1	87	-1	0	→
	L5+	30	31	1	33	-3	36	-5	-2	↓
Maths	L4+	85	86	1	86	-1	87	-1	0	→
	L5+	37	38	1	42	-5	42	-4	1	↑
GPS	L4+	73	78	5	77	-4	80	-2	2	↑
	L5+	47	52	5	52	-5	55	-3	2	↑
RWM	L4+	77	79	2	79	-2	80	-1	1	↑
	L5+	20	20	0	24	-4	24	-4	0	→

2015 National Data is provisional and based on 143 LAs

2014 National data is from published data in Dec 2014 for state funded schools inc academies & free schools (not PRUs)

2.2.9 Overall Performance

- In Thurrock performance at Level 4+ and Level 5+ has improved across all of the major subjects at Key Stage 2 – reading, writing, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS). It is encouraging for Thurrock with the national increases estimated to be less or in line in most areas.
- For the key measure of Level 4+ for reading, writing and maths combined, Thurrock looks to have closed the gap to the national average to be just 1 percentage point behind.

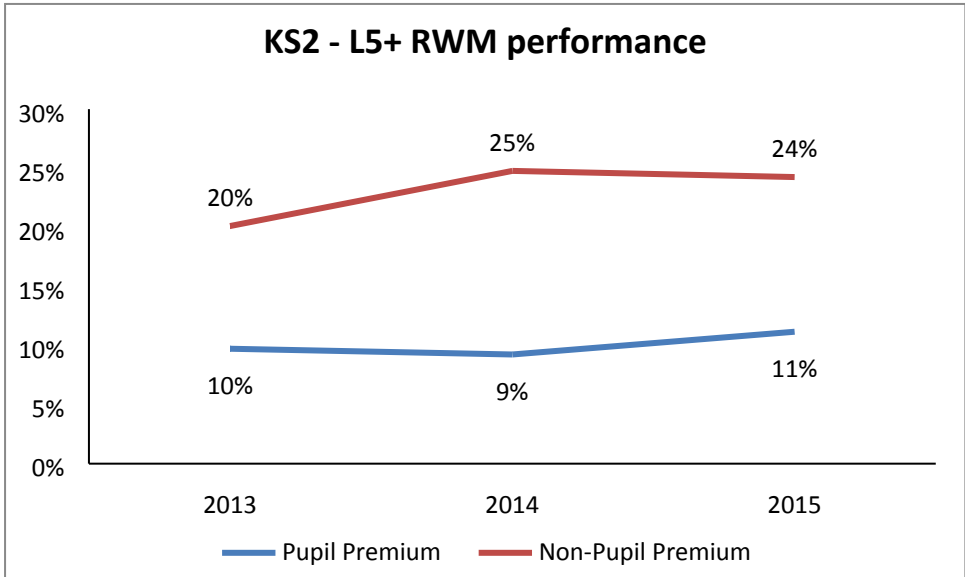
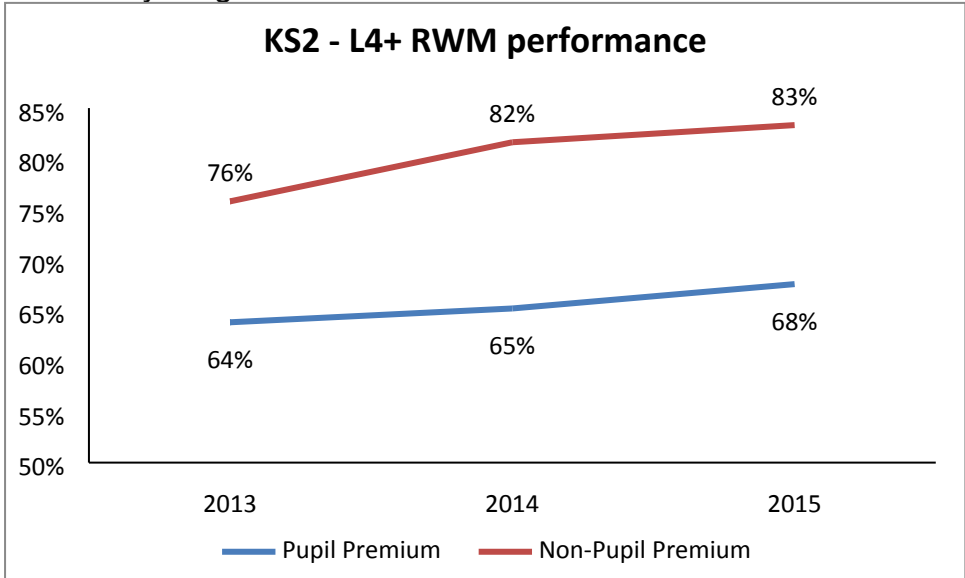
- Reading performance at Level 4+ is currently in line with the national estimate with Thurrock improving by 2 percentage points to 89% with the national average unchanged from 2014. The gap to national at Level 5+ has reduced even further from 7 percentage points in 2014 to an estimated 4 percentage points in 2015. These results are backed up with excellent progress in reading for 2015 with 95.5% of pupils making at least 2 levels progress, a big improvement from last year. 13 schools helped their KS2 cohort to make 2 levels progress in reading compared to 7 schools in 2014.
- Performance at Level 5+ has also improved with reading, maths and GPS all improving and closing the gap to national average. Despite a 1 percentage point improvement for writing at this level, it looks like the national improvement will be greater as it is currently estimated to increase by 3 percentage points.
- Maths is the weakest subject in 2015 with a small increase in pupils achieving L4+. However, the national increase was also small so the gap remains unchanged from last year.

Contextual Performance

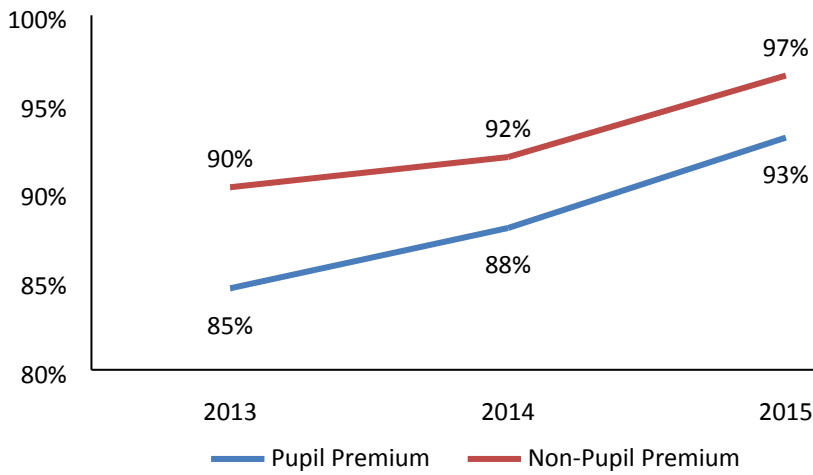
- L4+ in reading, writing and maths for pupils with **pupil premium** support has increased in the last 2 years but pupils without pupil premium have performed better and the gap has opened to 15.7 percentage points. This is a big increase since 2013 but 1.3 percentage points lower than last year. At L5+ performance for pupils with **pupil premium** support has remained fairly static with a slight increase from 9.7% in 2013 to 11.1% in 2015. The gap has decreased slightly from last year to 13.1 percentage points.
- The percentage of pupils with **pupil premium** support making expected progress from KS1 to KS2 has increased since 2013 for reading, writing and maths. The gap to those without pupil premium has closed for reading from 5.7 to 3.5 percentage points (2013 to 2015). For writing and maths the gap has also reduced slightly from 2014.

Schools with the greatest improvements in reading, writing and maths in 2015 are Quarry Hill Academy (22.6% increase L4+, 11.7% increase L5+), Harris Primary Academy (16.1% increase L4+, 18.5% increase L5+), Stanford Le Hope Primary (14.6% increase L4+, 4.9% increase L5+), St Mary's Primary (14.3% increase L4+, 9.4% increase L5+) and Purfleet Primary (12.8% increase at L4+, 31.2% from 2013). Overall, there have been some big improvements for many Thurrock schools over the past 3 years which has helped to close the gap with the national average.

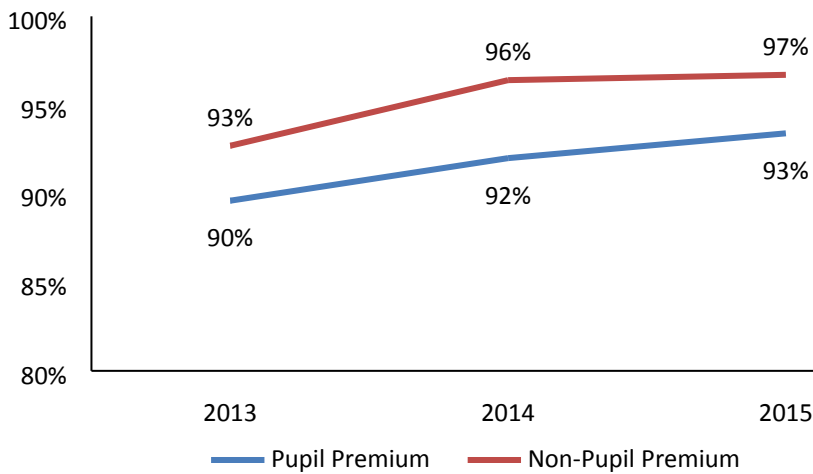
2.2.10 Key Stage 2



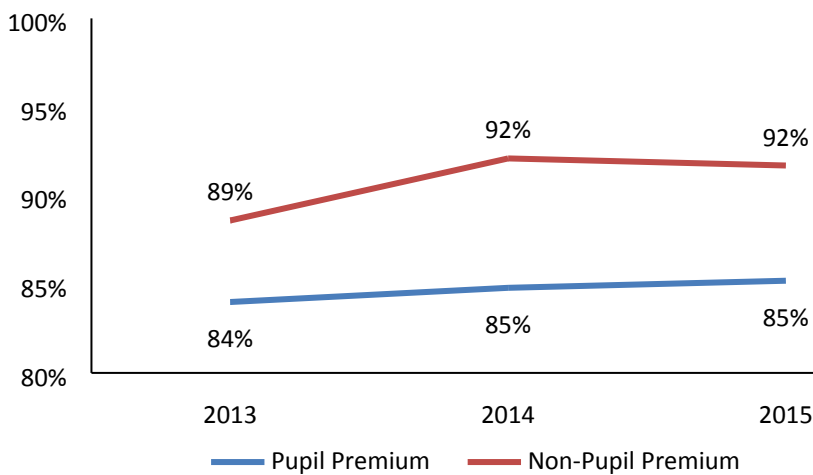
KS2 - Expected Progress in Reading



KS2 - Expected Progress in Writing



KS2 - Expected Progress in Maths



2.2.11 Key Stage 4 – Performance of 16 year olds 2015

It is not possible to compare performance of young people in receipt of pupil premium with their peers at Key stage 4 for the GCE results this summer. Across the borough there are a significant number of papers returned to the examination boards for re-marks in both English and Mathematics. An update report will be presented to committee when all the GCSE results are validated at the end of the Autumn term.

Pupil Premium Plus – this is additional funding for pupils in the care of the local authority attending secondary education.

There was a cohort of 42 Year 11 pupils in the care of the local authority in 2015. Of these pupils almost two thirds were attending alternative or specialist provision. This provision was based upon a mixture of special schools, residential educational placements, specialist therapeutic placements, Pupil Referral Units, Her Majesty's Youth Offending Institute and English as a Secondary or Other Language [ESOL] tuition. 36% attended mainstream provision in schools in and out of borough.

43% did not sit GCSE exams (however, other qualifications were taken). One third, many of whom were unaccompanied asylum seekers or new arrivals did not take a formal qualification other than English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training. These students obtained certificates of ESOL from the courses they attended. This figure also equates to a small number of students who were not able to take exams due to issues affecting their learning, for example, in Her Majesty's Youth Offending Institutions. With every pupil they have a unique individual story which details the varying strengths and difficulties that she/he experienced during their Key Stage 4 educational history. Some pupils exceeded expectations and achieved above original expectations or what could have been expected depending upon their circumstances. Some pupils experienced particular trauma during their Year 11 academic year which affected their performance. Some pupils experienced changes of foster placement or school due to a range of extenuating circumstances. These stories should not be seen as excuses but rather the particular set of challenges that children in care, or those who have recently been placed into care, experience.

In Borough Summary

Thirteen Year 11 pupils looked after by the local authority attended a local Thurrock school, with 2 attending Treetops and one attending Beacon Hill Special Schools. All 13 Children in Care (CiC) were entered for examinations and all achieved a qualification in a range of subjects. Every mainstream school/academy in Thurrock included at least one CiC in their Year 11 cohort and of the five predicted to gain 5 or more GCSE's, two students achieved 5 A*-C grades including English and maths. (40%).

Out of Borough Summary

Fifteen Year 11 pupils looked after by the local authority attended a provision out of borough, of which 12 students were in specialist provision. All 15 Children in Care (CIC) were entered for examinations and all achieved a qualification in a range of subjects. Three out of borough students attended main stream provision and 1 gained 5 or more A*-C Grades including English and Maths (33%).

In total, of the 24 students entered for GCSE examinations in summer 2015, 3 students gained 5 or more A*-C grades including EN and MA (12.5%)

Post 16 Projections

Early figures suggest that only 2 pupils are potentially NEET as of 1/9/15 – 1.4% and effective measures are being taken to ensure that provision is available for them.

Attached to this report are the two school reports supplied by The Hathaway Academy (*Appendix A*) and Harris Academy Chafford Hundred (*Appendix B*).

3 Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

None.

4. Reasons for recommendations

None.

5. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- a. Create a great place for learning and opportunity**
- b. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity.**

6. Implications

6.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

There are no direct financial implications in this report.

6.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell,**
Education Lawyer

The report author requests that the contents of this report are noted only. The Committee is not required to make any decision and there are therefore no legal comments. Committee members are aware of the Council's overarching duties to promote high standards and fulfilment of potential in education for all pupils, the importance in use of and effect of the pupil premium and the general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eradicate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity.

6.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development

Pupil Premium funding is allocated to schools and academies based on criteria issued by the DfE which differentiate and takes account of levels of deprivation, children and young people in the care of the local authority and those who are children of forces families

6.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None.

7. Conclusion

The report seeks to compare the performance of children and young people in receipt of Pupil Premium funding in Thurrock schools and academies for the academic year 2014/15. The data used in the report remains non-validated by the DfE. Final results will be available later in the year.

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None.

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix A – The Hathaway Academy
- Appendix B – Harris Academy Chafford Hundred

Report Author:

Roger Edwardson

Interim Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills

The Hathaway Academy

Report the Pupil Premium & Impact 2014-15

The following table identifies the Pupil Premium spend for the academic year 2014-15:

Pupil Premium 2014/2015					
Number of pupils eligible	252				
	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
	52 (39%)	39 (38%)	53 (42%)	63 (43%)	48 (28%)
Amount per pupil	935				
TOTAL PP allocated	£235,620				

Key expenditure:		
Partial funding of staff		
Literacy leader		£5,742
Numeracy leader		£5,742
Assistant Principal in charge of PPI	Strategic planning and administration	£24,836
LSA costs		£84,261
3 Progress leaders and Principal	Strategic planning	£61,641
Youth Centre Worker		£8,865
Education Welfare Services Liaison home/school	Increasing rates of attendance	£12,000
Total salary		£203,087
Objective 1	Further increase standards of Literacy across the Academy	£13,704
Objective 2 (excluding staffing)	Accelerate rates of progress in E&M to at least National Average	£3,300
Objective 3	Increase Engagement in learning leading to increased progress	£13,325
Total		£233,416

The three key objectives:-

1. Literacy: to establish a reading scheme to improve the reading age of students whose reading age is below national average
2. Increase rates of progress across all subjects but particularly to ensure rates in English are in line with and Maths remains in line with National rates of progress.
3. Engagement: to improve curriculum engagement and academic achievement for FSM* and LAC students.

<p>Objective 1 : Literacy To use Springboard reading programme to accelerate further improvements in Literacy To establish a reading scheme in the Academy – Rapid Reader /Literacy Tool Box To ensure significant improvements in reading and literacy of all students especially those with below age related scores on entry to the Academy.</p>	
<p>Brief Description of Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springboard provides one to one literacy teaching for identified Y7 students with low levels of phonic knowledge and who are below their chronological reading age by more than 2 years. • Rapid Reading is aimed at increasing the reading ages of our SEND students across Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10. • The Literacy Tool Box is targeted at students across Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10 who are below their chronological age and are not part of Spring Board or Rapid Reader. • These reading sessions are part of the school timetable and students spend one lesson a week participating in the programme. • Students also use tutorial time to read through DEAR • The lessons run from September to July. <p>50 students are involved at any given time</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springboard ,Rapid Reader and Literacy Toolbox programme • Laptops and laptop trolley • Licences for students and teachers
<p>Purpose of Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading is key to unlocking texts across all subject areas. • The Springboard, RR and Literacy Tool Box programmes help to track, monitor and improve reading ages so that students can ultimately access the GCSE exam which has a reading age of 15 years and 6 months. • The programmes have also been put into place to inculcate a culture of

	<p>reading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation will also be used to support students' ability to comprehend and decode texts, thereby improving literacy across the school. • The programmes also allows teachers to encourage and instil confidence in students' ability to read large volume of texts.
<p>Desired Benefit(s)/Outcome (s)of Provision</p>	<p>Students are expected to increase the amount of reading done per day. They are also exposed to a larger variety of vocabulary making them more proficient with word recognition and comprehension. Students are also expected to improve their reading ages and book levels.</p> <p>It is important for students to access various genres and types of texts so that they can have a deeper understanding of words in different contexts. The experience with a variety of contexts will help with implicit meanings and fluency.</p>
<p>Evaluation Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the beginning of the academic year students complete a baseline test to create baseline data for their reading and comprehension ages. • For Springboard an Observational Profile captures the progress made each term. For Rapid Reader and Literacy Tool Box book levels are set by teachers. These are evaluated and changed as students' progress. • Students then repeat the reading test every term. This generates sufficient data about the progress of reading ages to evaluate the impact of the programme. • The summary report also allows teachers and tutors to pick up on students who are not making the expected levels of progress and put in further intervention. • The Springboard diagnostic report also

	identifies if a student is struggling with a specific area. Teachers then implement specific strategies to eliminate these.
Cost of Provision :£47,533 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springboard £13,125 • Rapid Reader (Still ongoing) • Literacy Tool Box (Costs due May/June) • Literacy Leader £5,742 • LSA Costs £28,087 • Resources £579 (Dictionaries & Thesaurus) 	

IMPACT: Summer Term Evaluation

Springboard: All students are making progress, 4 students have made significant progress towards closing the gap between their reading and comprehension ages, 2 by over 1 year. One pupil, for example, has made 24 months of progress to reduce the gap from 42 months to 18 months since September.

Rapid Reader: All students have made progress. 7 students (35%) have improved their reading ages by over 1 year. 1 student moved to Springboard due to complex needs. 1 student left. 11 students have moved 2 or more book stages and are expected to complete by summer half term

Literacy Tool Box: Implementation for May. All 28 Pupil premium students on the programme, made progress in both Reading and spelling, raising their individual ages above 1 year. Significantly 19 students (68%) made good progress of over 2 years or above.

Numeracy: Numeracy intervention was a targeted personalised intervention to improve specific fundamental skills in numeracy like addition, subtraction multiplication and division. All 7 students made good progress. This in turn impacted on their end of Summer 2 assessment data

Literacy Tool Box: Implementation for May.

Objective 2	
To increase rates of progress across all subjects but particularly to ensure rates in English are in line and Mathematics are remain in line with National rates of progress.	
Brief Description of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After-school targeted intervention programme with an identified cohort of students across every subject. There is a rolling timetable of provision with subjects based on timing of examinations and controlled assessments which take place throughout the academic year. Priority is given to Y11 and exam groups in Yr. 10. Refreshments are provided. • Saturday School. These sessions are aimed at mainly Year11 students. However on some

	<p>occasions these revision sessions are also held for Year 10 depending whether the cohort will be involved in an external examination immediately after the half term break .They take place on a Saturday morning and involves 80% of the cohort across different departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional intervention and small group work in Mathematics across all years Additional maths teacher employed to support all year groups. Having an extra member of the staff enables more sets to be created which benefits all students. Those PP who are weaker in ability, benefit from small classes where individual support is provided. • Additional classes in English and Mathematics created for Y11 with students removed from option classes <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths sets to ensure access for every child with need on joining the Academy • After school provision of fruit, water and quiet study area • Saturday School -internally produced worksheets and past exams question paper. Students are also provided with snacks. • Subject specific resources –materials needed in product design, art etc. • Staff are paid a fixed hourly rate and funding is also provided for photocopying and purchasing revision guides • Small group intervention in mathematics PetXi style week
Purpose of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-enforce learning that takes place in lesson • Offering a controlled revision environment which many of our students may not have access to at home • Maximising student progress • Support and prepare students for examination. They include useful guidance on exam techniques. In some instances these sessions are aimed at supporting students with their projects or extended task. • Smaller classes are created in all sets with particular benefit to those who are weaker in ability. • Increase capacity in Maths and English in order to maximise the progress of our students in all year groups
Desired Benefit(s)/Outcome (s)of	

Provision	To maximise student potential to ensure that they achieve their predicted grades and expected levels of progress. Students are expected to achieve their target grades and make the expected level of progress between the key stages (Minimum of 3 levels of progress).
Evaluation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation takes place through analysis of progress at middle and senior level via line management meetings • During the course of the academic year • For KS4, evaluation takes place during the Progress Board meetings each half term between the Subject Leaders (SL) and ALT line managers. • At KS3, outcomes of data drops provide valuable data for interim analysis of the outcomes of the provision. Assessments are carried out half termly and students' progress monitored and tracked by the SL. This data will be shared whole school via the data collection cycle. • Regular updates of reading ages through the reading programmes provide an evaluation of the impact of the extra support. • Through the outcomes of external examination results
<p>Cost of Provision:£61,965</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School Intervention including AP costs £24,836 • Saturday Club £3,300 • One to One (Costs to be received Summer term)not available • Numeracy Leader £5,742 • LSA Costs £28,087 	

IMPACT: Summer Term Evaluation

Mathematics Intervention

A number of intervention programmes are being run to improve attainment and progress in mathematics. All the programmes include a high percentage of PPI students. Current attainment shows 100% of PPI students invited attended maths week. They made an average of 143% improvement compared to the whole group who made 138%.

Saturday Study Centre

Over a 12 week period, Year 11 students were offered a 4 hour revision and study time on a Saturday morning. Each week there was at least 1 main focus subject although students were able to select to work independently on other subjects with or without the use of ICT. The number of students attending ranged from 23 to 60.

Subjects covered: English IGCSE, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science GCSE, Science BTEC, Geography, Drama and Performing Arts, Social and Religious Studies, History, Music, and P.E. Following students' feedback from last year we have extended the length of time that this is provided this year to ensure that key times in the assessment programme are mirrored with this provision to support students' preparation for assessments.

Results showed that the gap in performance between PPI and nonPPI students remained static at 5+A*-C grades including English and Maths, with the same results being achieved, pending a number of re-marks 53% non PPI and 33.3% PPI students. Performance in the core subjects showed a significant closing of the gap between these cohorts: English PPI students 47.9% (38.1% in 2014) and Mathematics PPI students 58.3% (45% in 2014) Non PPI students English 66.9% (57.4% in 2014) and Mathematics 70.3% (72% in 2014) The respective gaps being 19% and 12%. This represents a significant closing as the gaps in 2014 were 26% in both subjects.

For both cohorts, achieving 5 passes was the issue with the performance of all students in Core ICT, business studies and science, limiting the number of students gaining 5 passes. The performance of PPI students was better than their peers in Additional mathematics, Drama, PE and Sociology. In Home cooking, music and Travel and Tourism the gaps was 0% and in GCSE ICT it was 1.3%. The average difference across all subjects was that non PPI students did 12.8% better than those in receipt of PP.

Objective 3 : Engagement: to improve curriculum engagement and academic achievement Not PPI or NOT PPISM* and LAC students	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music : to subsidise music tuition to pupil premium students with an opportunity to receive instrumental tuition at a reduced rate • Mathematics :to enable access to numeracy resources across and outside the Academy • Brilliant Club :For FSM students to experience university • Homework Club :study support is provided twice a week • Counselling: Selected students are withdrawn From non-core subject lessons once a week For an hour to attend a 12 week programme. Referrals for KS3 are agreed following classroom observations by the Behaviour Lead, information from Primary School records and referrals from teachers. Referrals for KS4 are made by Progress Leaders

	<p>and/or SLT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Technology: to provide PPI students with resources/ingredients necessary for the practical element of the course • Home School Liaison: weekly contact and targeted work with school and students whose attendance is falling below national average • LAC: students are withdrawn from lessons to work one to one with LSAs and Progress Leaders on a needs basis • Youth Worker: to support raising self-esteem of students at risk of exclusion. <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Tuition • My Maths access for staff and students • Provision of Spare ties, badges etc. to ensure students are not discriminated against due to poor uniform • Motivational Speaker for Y10 students • NOT PPIT ingredients
Purpose of Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music: to help to enrich the students by providing a forum for them to express their creative and social skills. Students have an opportunity to work with professional musicians and build on their ensemble and technical skills. • Mathematics: The provision exists so that students are able to have guidance on how to study maths at home or outside their normal lesson time. • Brilliant Club: To raise pupil expectation and aspiration • Homework Club: to provide a quiet and supportive environment for students who may not have this at

	<p>home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling: The confidence building and emotional resilience gender specific group programme is to help students develop life skills – this includes how to cope with difficult or anxiety producing situations, help them become more confident, emotionally resilience and ultimately increases their self-esteem. The programme is aimed at students with low self-esteem, low confidence levels, specific difficulties such as ADHD, anxiety or shyness, friendlessness, and behavioural or emotional problems. Emphasis is placed on positive thinking, independent emotional strength and resilience, dealing with conflict, and growing in confidence and emotional well-being. • Food Technology: to ensure that all students have the necessary resources to succeed in all aspects of the course • Home/School Liaison: to increase rates of attendance across all year groups • LAC: to support social and emotional needs to ensure engagement with the curriculum • Youth Worker :to raise self - esteem for students at risk at exclusion
<p>Desired Benefit(s)/Outcome (s)of Provision</p>	<p>Music tuition provides the students with an opportunity to build on their musicianship and confidence. Students can be expected to improve their current level if they use My Maths regularly. Greater student engagement and higher aspirations leading to further progress.</p> <p>Emotionally well students have the resilience and confidence to attend all lessons and access learning in an independent and confident manner. All students to be happy in school,</p>

	<p>have a 95%+ attendance and achieving their targets</p>
<p>Evaluation Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music: The instrumental lesson is evaluated on a termly basis .Attendance registers and participation in performances. • Mathematics: Pupil feedback to rate how useful the My Maths has been and statistical data on student access. • Teacher feedback on the use of this in lessons from planning. • Brilliant Club: Student and teacher feedback • Homework Club: Attendance rates and monitoring of homework issues • Counselling: Student feedback and staff feedback via round robins • Food Technology : GCSE entry data and progress data • Home/School Liaison: Weekly attendance data with half termly analysis of trends and patterns • LAC: Meetings with PLs • Youth Worker: Analysis of behaviour, attendance data with feedback from staff.
<p>Cost of Provision:£123,918</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x Progress leaders and Principal £61,641 • Youth Worker £8,865 • EWS £12,000 • LSA Costs £28,087 • Maths Resources £2,769 (Maths Watch & My Maths, Calculators) • FT Resources £6,185 • Literacy Resources (Reading scheme, to be implemented summer term) • Music Resources £2,479 • Uniform £1,892 	

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Harris Academy Chafford Hundred

Summary

In **academic performance, attendance and behaviour** the gaps between Pupil Premium (PPM) and non-Pupil Premium (PPM) pupils are much smaller than national trend. In **academic progress**, PPM pupils outperform their non PPM peers. In contrast to national trends, PPM pupils leaving the academy have been more successful than their non-PPM counterparts in **sustaining further education**.

The **PPM funding** has increased this year over last year due to an increase in eligible pupils. The Academy has systematically improved its processes by which parents are made aware of pupil premium criteria and re informed as to how to apply.

The academy has a **systematic approach** to narrowing the gap of disadvantaged pupils which is in line with its ethos of **focusing on the needs of the individual child**. A statement outlining this approach is at Appendix 2. During the academic year the Academy won a **national award** presented by former Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg for its work with and progress of its pupil premium pupils.

Allocations of funding will remain in line with current principles.

Responsibility for PPM group's progress and accountability remains with a senior staff member

Funding

Funding for 2015/16 amounts to approximately £154,000. (Funding in 2013/14 was around £119,000 increasing to around £128,000 in 2014/15.) The element of funding applicable to looked after children increased from £5,100 in 2013/14 to £17,100 in 2014/15 and has fallen slightly to an estimated £15,000 in 2015/16. The academy has around 150 eligible pupils.

Management of funding

Evidence published by the DfE in November 2012 suggests that in the South East of England 25% of parents eligible for free school meals do not claim them. Our website has been updated to provide a parent friendly guide to eligibility and application for free school meals and a rolling announcement across the website highlights this. In addition, a communications system with parents is being launched to year 7 parents in October 2015 which provides an 'app' for parents by which they can check in seconds whether their child may be eligible.

Allocation of funds

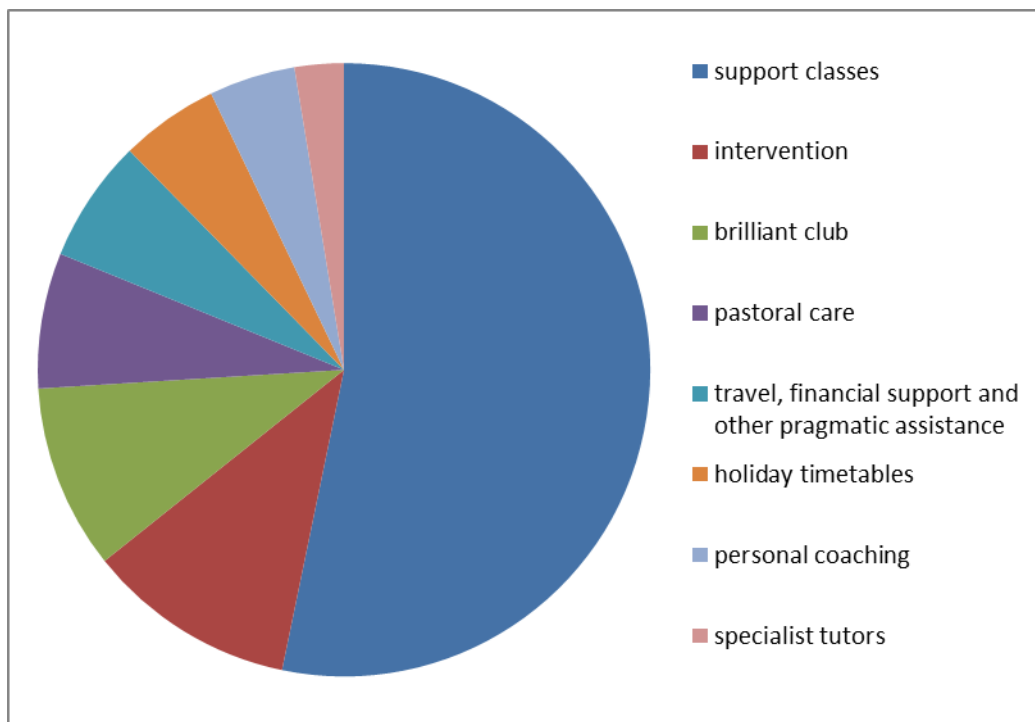
Appendix 1 shows planned allocation of funds.

Due to the current success of the PPM group, the principles of allocation outlined in previous reports will be maintained. The vast majority of funding is allocated to the employment of tutors and teaching and support staff to run

targeted skill and subject specific support, intervention and revision sessions and to provide individualised pastoral care with a view to raising the achievement of the pupil premium group as a whole. Some expenditure is allocated to specialist external support.

One of the newest developments along these lines is the increased focus on reading age. Every pupil with a reading age lower than chronological age (pupil premium pupils nationally feature heavily in this category) will be subject to three hours intervention per week from 28th September 2015 until the reading age gap is closed such that further disadvantage in learning is minimised.

Other spending includes that on specific pupil premium pupils to raise aspirations and self-esteem and to a lesser extent to support financially disadvantaged pupils to access resources such as courses and sports sessions, books and revision guides. A little is expected to be spent on pragmatic expenses such as travel assistance for financially disadvantaged or pupils without support networks to maintain their attendance at school or college. Some very specific items of expenditure are planned to support those pupil premium pupils with learning or speech and language difficulties.



Independent data is published annually in November by the DfE (RaiseOnline) on progress, performance, attendance, destinations and behaviour of PPM pupils.

Data for the 2014/15 year is therefore not yet published but this report will be updated as soon as it becomes available.

Academic progress of PPM pupils

Nationally PPM pupils make less progress than non PPM pupils. This is the 'gap' which features in the press and which is the origin of the policy which gives rise to the pupil premium funding. Nationally in 2013/14, PPM pupils achieved VA of 977.8 compared to an average national progress for all groups of 1000. Non PPM pupils made VA of 1007.9.

In the academy, in 2013/14 the progress of PPM pupils exceeded that of the non PPM group for the second year running with VA of 1072.8 compared to non PPM 1071.4. This is a trend which our internal informal data suggests will continue into 2014/15.

In Maths in 2014/15 progress of PPM and non PPM pupils was broadly consistent with 92% of non PPM pupils made 3 levels of progress compared to 91% of the PPM cohort. In English in 2014/15 PPM pupils outperformed non PPM pupil considerably with 97% of PPM pupils making 3 levels of progress compared to 91% of non PPM pupils.

Destinations of pupils leaving (latest data is 2012)

Data is now available to show the sustained destinations of pupils leaving year 11. Since two years need to pass to be able to assess whether pupils have stayed in further education (rather than joined and dropped out), data represents pupils having left year 11 in 2012.

Nationally PPM pupils are less likely to go on to further education and even less likely to sustain their courses. However, data suggests that in the academy PPM pupils are more likely to sustain further education than the non PPM cohort suggesting that information, advice and guidance throughout KS4 and KS5 have been particularly effective for PPM pupils.

In 2012 92% of PPM pupils in year 11 went on to sustained further education compared to 81% nationally. However, 91% of non PPM pupils from the academy managed to sustain a further education course compared to only 90% nationally. This is a trend which we expect to see continuing.

Attendance gaps for PPM

In terms of attendance there is a tendency nationally and in the academy for PPM pupils to have greater absenteeism than non PPM. However, there is a smaller gap between PPM and non PPM in the academy than nationally. In 2013/14, the percentage of non-attendance for PPM was 5.0% (NA 7.3%) compared to 3.00% (NA 4.1%) for non FSM. This suggests a positive gap in attendance of 31% for PPM in comparison to national average compared to 27.5% for non PPM.

However for persistent absenteeism (non-attendance exceeding 15%,) there was a larger gap; PPM pupils with persistent non-attendance 4.9% (NA 11.5%) compared to 1.8% for non PPM (NA 3.4%).

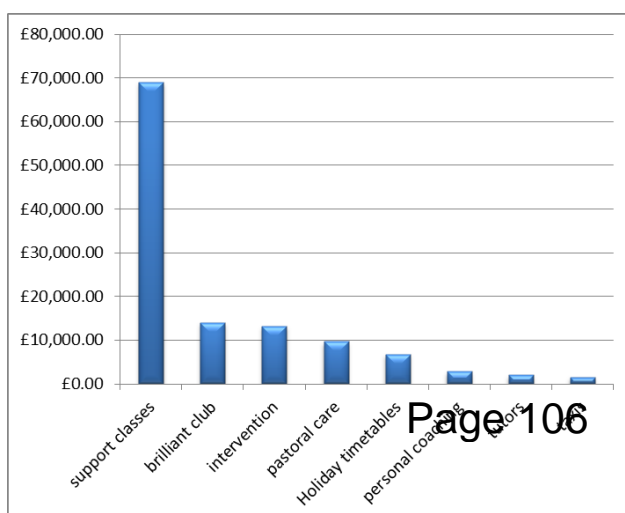
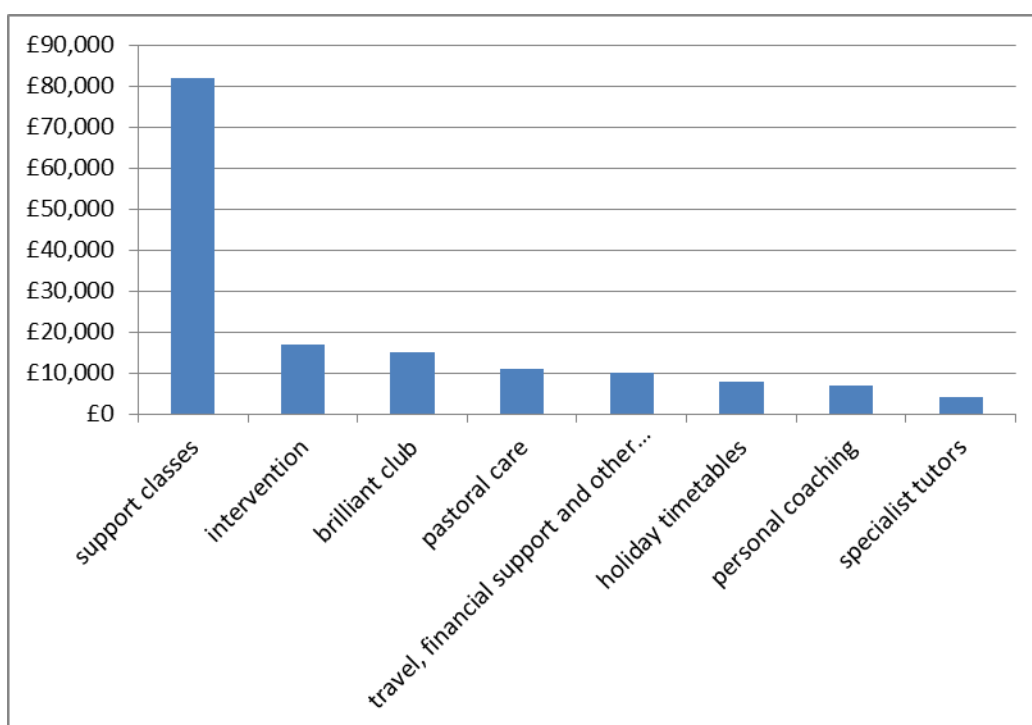
This suggests a positive gap of 57% for PPM pupils compared to national average compared to 47% for non PPM. This is a trend which our internal informal data suggests will continue into 2014/15.

Behaviour of PPM group

Nationally and in the academy there is a tendency for behaviour to be more challenging with PPM group than non PPM. However, there is also a smaller gap between PPM and non PPM in the academy than nationally suggesting that the behaviour, pastoral and other interventions in areas such as self-esteem are being effective in closing gaps.

Fixed term exclusions for PPM pupils amounted to 8.3% of PPM pupils in 2013/14 compared to 2.84% for non PPM suggesting that in the academy PPM pupils are 2.9 times more likely to suffer exclusion. Nationally the equivalent figures are 16.34% for PPM compared to 4.35% in non PPM suggesting that nationally PPM pupils are 3.8 times more likely to suffer exclusion. This is a trend which our internal informal data suggests will continue into 2014/15.

Appendix 1 – Planned allocation 2015/16



Appendix 2

What are the strategies which the Academy uses?

Strategies begin during the pupils' final primary year. Members of our SENCO team visit feeder primary schools to assess the needs of incoming pupils. In order to quickly raise aspirations and promote a culture of high expectation a member of the senior leadership team meets personally during their last primary year the parents of every incoming year 7 pupil.

Pupil, parent and senior leader signs a contract of expectation for specific rigorous targets which include standards of behaviour, attendance and academic performance (4 levels of progress to KS4.) Targets are set the same regardless of need or disadvantage except that in order to account for the learning effects of disadvantage in primary years (research suggests a 15% lack of progress by the time secondary school is reached,) the targets of pupil premium pupils are adjusted upwards. Resources are thus automatically directed towards those who struggle most to meet targets and the academy effectively accepts responsibility explicitly for closing the pre-existing gap. Throughout the school career teaching staff and every senior and middle leader are held to account for these targets via performance management. A dedicated full time pastoral team comprising qualified counsellors assists senior leaders in rigorously monitoring, investigating and addressing non-attendance, low level misbehaviour or perceived changes in attitude. Personal learning guides meet pupils in small groups each week to discuss learning. Extensive training has been supplied for Higher Level Teaching Assistants to deliver literacy intervention. In every year group for every subject, data on progress against target is collated every six weeks and analysed for gaps in progress between groups and interventions put in place.

Underperformance attracts intervention in the form of specialised subject tuition in or out of timetable, after hours extra lessons or holiday timetables. Funds are made available for disadvantaged pupils to experience life coaching sessions and aspirational trips such as 'brilliant club,' attend clubs which may widen perspectives, promote character or develop self esteem (such as kayaking) or purchase basic educational resources such as revision guides or catering ingredients. Extensive use is made of recent leavers; for example in their gap year or at sixth form; to tutor particularly challenging pupils or those with low aspirations. Data evidenced guidance is provided to every pupil and their parents by a senior leader when choosing GCSE or equivalent options. Senior leaders consider aspirations for university, the degree and quality of parental support and academic performance in guiding carefully on options choices. Pupil premium details are central to the process.

Following the collation of choices made, a review is made pupil by pupil by two senior leaders to ensure aspirations are not limited by choices. In year 11, pupil and parent resign a contract of expectation; pupils are allocated a mentor who is a member of the senior leadership team for the purpose of maintaining effort, focus and purpose and also to target support and relevant resources. Data highlighting disadvantaged pupils is rigorously collected and monitored and made available to teaching staff for the purpose of identifying underachievement or highlighting concerns. On exam days, pupils are invited to the academy early where pastoral and teaching staff are available. Breakfast is provided free of charge to exam pupils.

Rationale

The strategies above have been selected because they do not confuse disadvantage with lower ability or lower aspiration. Pupils, whether disadvantaged or not, share the same aspirations and the academy's staff are held equally to account for them. Since these aspirations become expectations the academy's resources are directed most to those whose need in meeting them is greatest.

The strategies recognise the diverse and fluid needs of pupils across groups and subjects and throughout their school careers and do not in any way segregate, excuse, patronise or inadvisably favour the disadvantaged thereby exposing them to the same rigour and learning experiences as their peers. The academy is engaged in a character development plan which is specifically targeted at issues consistent with disadvantage. The plan includes the training of staff in positive psychology and the provision of activities such as Duke of Edinburgh awards and Cadet Force.

15 October 2015	ITEM: 8
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
School Results/School Performance	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: All
Report of: Carmel Littleton - Director of Children’s Services Roger Edwardson – Interim Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills	
Accountable Head of Service: Roger Edwardson, Interim Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills	
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children’s Services	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

Raising achievement in all areas of education remains a key priority and has seen considerable success in the last four years as attainment and progress have risen significantly, particularly in the primary sector. Further strategies have been put in place as a result of the recommendations from the Education Commission Report, the impact of which has been to place the local authority in a strong position when in comparison with other statistical neighbour local authorities. At primary level Thurrock is now rapidly improving and just below the national average for good and outstanding schools nationally. Secondary schools remain well above the national average for good and outstanding school.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the provisional outcomes of the summer 2015 tests and examinations and commends pupils, schools and parents/carers on their achievements.**
- 1.2 That the Committee recognises how the Education Commission recommendations and existing strategies have been best deployed to raise achievement and consider how these will raise still further across all key stages, especially at Key Stage 2.**
- 1.3 This report should be considered in conjunction with the Pupil Premium report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The target for Thurrock Schools and Academies is to be improving year on year and at least above the national average at Phonics in Y1, KS1, KS2, KS4 and KS5 and to reduce the gaps in attainment for vulnerable children.

2.1.1 As a result of a continued support for Early Years teaching & moderation in settings and schools, outcomes for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) are above national for the third year running. The outcomes for age related expectations at KS1 and KS2 demonstrate a three year upward trend and are now broadly in line with provisional national averages.

Early Years – Foundation Stage

KS1 (7 year old)

KS2 (11 year old)

KS4 (16 year old)

KS5 (18 year old)

2.1.2 The Thurrock results published by the Department of Education for KS2 are currently incorrect. This is due to an amalgamation of an infant and junior school to a primary school on 1st April. The DfE have not yet updated their dataset to include this change which means that the published data is currently missing this school's results. The results held by DfE for KS1 are missing one large school's entries, therefore they do not match LA held results. A request has been submitted to DfE to make the changes.

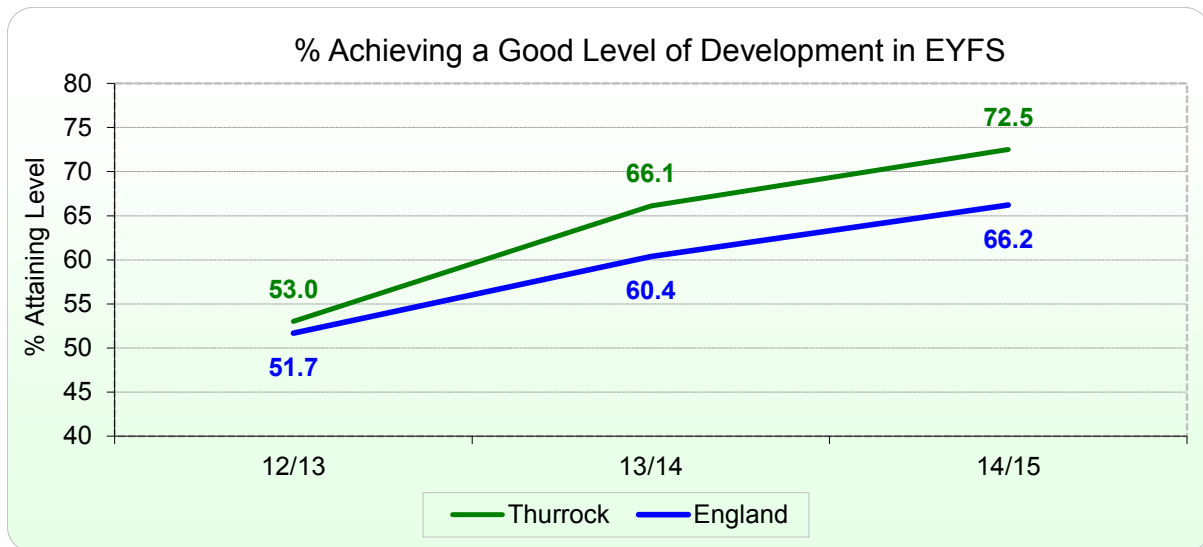
2.1.3 2015 GCSE results cannot be published for all year 11 pupils due to the significant number of appeals pending for English and mathematics.

3 Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS age 5)

3.1.2 The Good Level of Development (GLD) measure is awarded at the end of EYFS when a pupil has achieved at least the expected level in all of the prime areas of learning and in literacy and mathematics.

3.1.3 The GLD has risen by almost 20% over three years and exceeds the national average by just under 7%. The gap to the national average has widened each year.



- 3.1.4 To reach the percentage of children making a good level of development, each child is assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals; whether she/he meets the level, has not yet reached the level or exceeded it and points are awarded accordingly in a range between 17 to 51. If a child meets every Early Learning Goal, she/he will receive at least 34 points.
- 3.1.5 The provisional GLD result for Thurrock is very encouraging as it puts the borough scores above the national and above others in the East of England region. As referred to at 2.1.1, this is an outcome of significant investment in school improvement staff for this phase and expertise in training and supporting staff in schools and settings.
- 3.1.6 The Average Total Points has increased by 0.6 points which has closed the gap to the national average.
- 3.1.7 The inequality gap measures the percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20% of achieving children (mean score), and the median score for all children. Thurrock was 5.1 percentage points below the national average in 2014 at 28.8%. This year has seen the gap close by a further 0.9 percentage points to 27.9%. 2015 national data is not yet available for this indicator. Meaning that vulnerable children in the Early Years – Foundation stage perform better than the national average.

		2014	2015	Diff	2014 National	2014 Diff	2015 Nat Prov	2015 Diff	Gap Change
GLD	ALL	66%	73%	7%	60%	6%	66%	7%	1%
	Boys	59%	64%	5%	52%	7%	tba		
	Girls	73%	81%	8%	69%	4%	tba		
Average Total Points	ALL	33.7	34.3	0.6	33.8	-0.1	34.3	0.0	0.1
	Boys	32.7	33.1	0.4	32.6	0.1	tba		
	Girls	34.6	35.4	0.8	35.1	-0.5	tba		
Inequality Gap		28.8%	27.9%	-0.9%	34%	-5.1%	tba		

2015 National Data is provisional and based on 150 LAs

2014 National data is from published data in October 2014 for state funded schools only

2014/15	GLD	Average Total Points
Thurrock (All)	73%	34.3
- Boys	64%	33.1
- Girls	81%	35.4
National (Estimated)	66%	34.3

3.2 Year 1 Phonics (age 6)

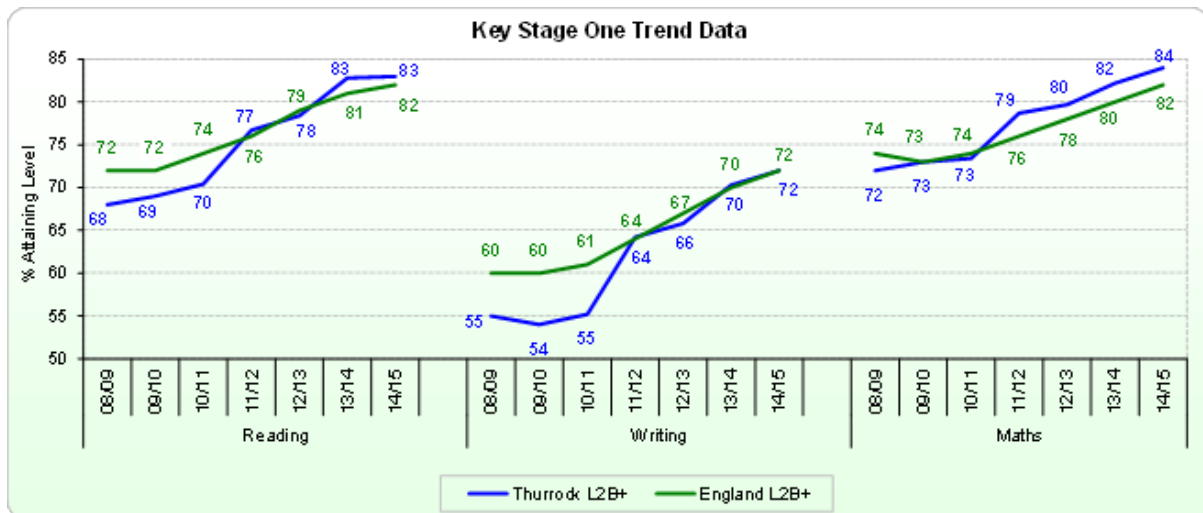
		2014	2015	Diff	2014 National	2014 Diff	2015 Nat Prov	2015 Diff	Gap Change
Year 1	ALL	76	76	0	74	2	77	-1	-3
	Boys	70	73	3	70	0	tba		
	Girls	82	80	-2	78	4	tba		
Year 2	ALL	66	67	1	66	0	66	1	1
	Boys	63	67	4					
	Girls	70	67	-3					

2015 National Data is provisional and based on 152 LAs

2014 National data is from published data in October 2014 for state funded schools only

3.2.1 The year 1 phonics screening check is undertaken in June by all year 1 pupils and those pupils in year 2 who did not achieve age related expectations whilst in year 1. The percentage of children who reached the expected standard remained the same as in 2014, however the national average has risen by 1 percentage point.

3.3 Key Stage 1 (age 7, year 2)



3.3.1 Provisional data was released by the DfE on 24th September 2015. However, there appears to be missing data for Thurrock which affects the performance at level 2+ and level 3+. The DfE has been contacted to correct this issue in a future update. Level 3+ results in 3.3.3 are based on Thurrock calculations rather than this provisional data.

3.3.2 This is the final year pupils will be awarded a national curriculum level. The age related expectation for this year group is a level 2B or above in reading, writing and maths. Thurrock's results for reading at 2B+ demonstrate a three year upward trend and at present is 1 percentage point above the provisional national average. The data for writing is in line with the provisional national average. Whilst the mathematics data is 1.9 percentage points below the national average, it has improved year on year. This remains a focus for a number of our schools.

3.3.3 At Level 3, the level achieved by pupils working above age related expectations, Thurrock data has improved significantly in all areas and is broadly in line with estimated national average. The gap has almost closed in reading, to within 1 percentage point in writing and is in line with the estimated national average for mathematics.

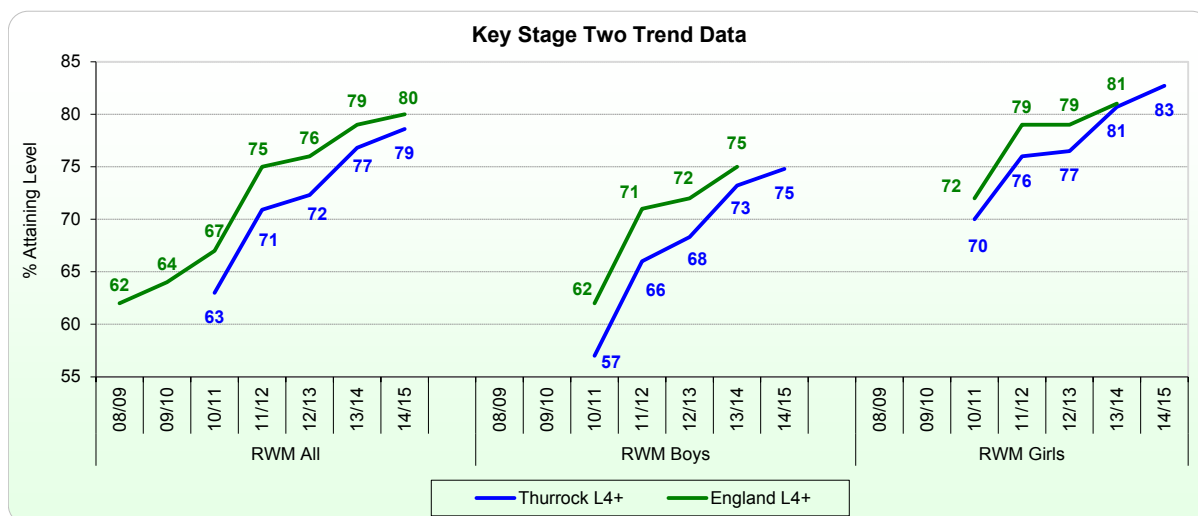
3.4 Key Stage 2 (age 11, year 6)

		2014	2015	Diff	2014 National	2014 Diff	2015 Nat Prov	2015 Diff	Gap Change	
Reading	L4+	87	89	2	89	-2	89	0	2	↑
	L5+	43	44	1	50	-7	48	-4	3	↑
Writing	L4+	85	86	1	86	-1	87	-1	0	→
	L5+	30	31	1	33	-3	36	-5	-2	↓
Maths	L4+	85	86	1	86	-1	87	-1	0	→
	L5+	37	38	1	42	-5	42	-4	1	↑
GPS	L4+	73	78	5	77	-4	80	-2	2	↑
	L5+	47	52	5	52	-5	55	-3	2	↑
RWM	L4+	77	79	2	79	-2	80	-1	1	↑
	L5+	20	20	0	24	-4	24	-4	0	→

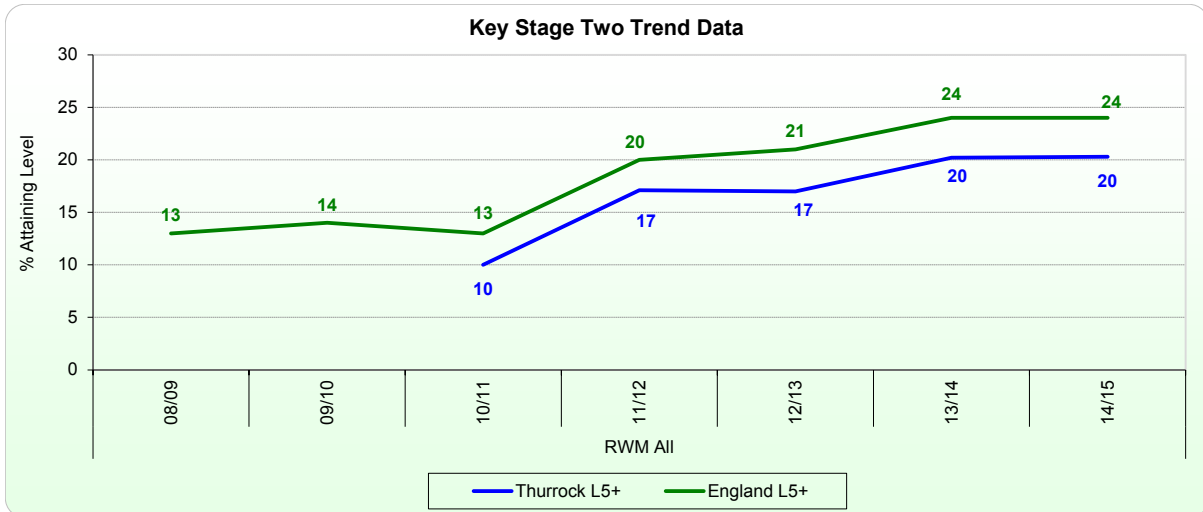
2015 National Data is provisional and based on 143 LAs

2014 National data is from published data in Dec 2014 for state funded schools inc academies & free schools (not PRUs)

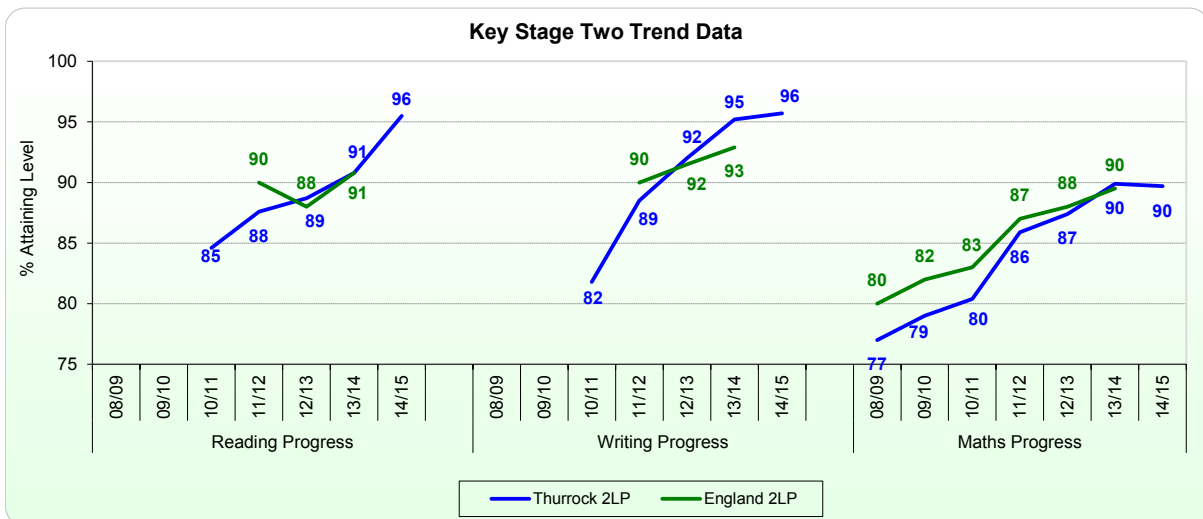
3.4.1 The upward trend for KS2 data continues in all measures. The combined measures of level 4+ (the expected level for the end of year 6) in reading, writing and mathematics increased by 1 percentage point nationally, whilst Thurrock’s data increased by 2 percentage points, resulting in the gap being narrowed to 1 percentage point



3.4.2 Level 5+ remains a focus for Thurrock schools and academies. Whilst Thurrock averages have improved in individual subjects, so have national averages and the gap remains 4 percentage points for reading, writing and maths at level 5+. This is an area which is being referred to the Thurrock Excellence Network.



3.4.3 The Government also monitors the percentage of pupils who make the expected progress from the end of key stage 1 to the end of key stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics. As the national data for this measure is yet to be published for 2015, 2014 national data is used for comparison. In reading, writing and mathematics Thurrock's data for this year is higher than national data for 2014. On average the national data has risen by 1 percentage point per year (2013 & 2014) compared to Thurrock progress data which exceeds the 2014 national average in reading by 5%, writing by 3% and is in line with maths averages.



3.4.4 The percentage of children who make more than expected progress is higher in Thurrock in reading and writing than pupils nationally.

3.4.5 The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test results show that whilst national data improved by 3%, Thurrock data improved by 3.4% resulting in a narrowing of the gap.

3.4.6 Two schools fell below the Government floor standards. In both schools recruitment of teachers was a key issue. The school improvement team is supporting heavily in both schools and has commissioned one of the teaching schools to support.

4 GCSE KS4 (age 16)- Indicative results

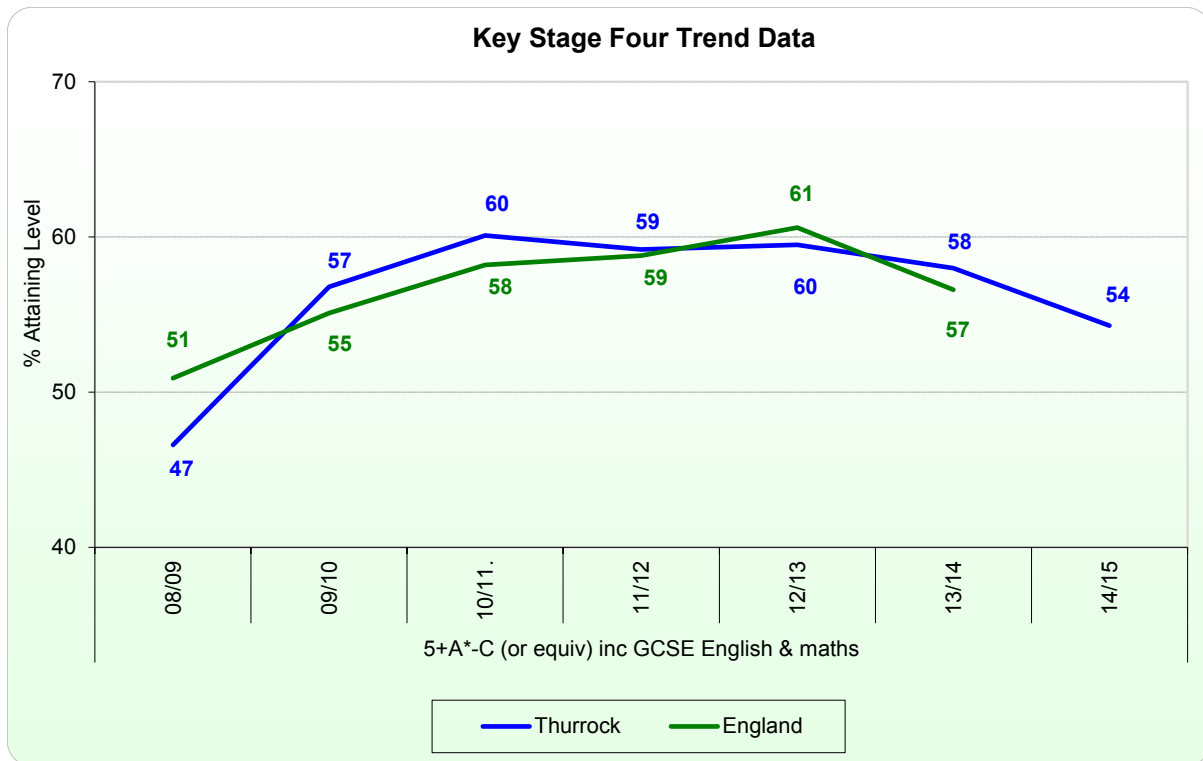
4.1.

Provisional results for Thurrock schools and academies shows a slight decrease from last year when results were over 1 percentage point above the national average for 5+ GCSEs including English and mathematics. This provisional result would show this year's performance is slightly below what is likely to be the new national average. In English and mathematics GCSE there are a number of schools seeking remarks and the above information may well change.

Grays Convent was the most improved school with 70% of pupils gaining 5 or more higher grade GCSEs including English and mathematics. This was 7 percentage points higher than in 2014. Hassenbrook and Ormiston Academies also improved whilst Gateway and William Edwards Academies matched the previous year's performance. These results remain indicative and the first release from the DfE is due in October.

Significant changes to GCSE are now published for use in 2016. The scoring system changes from the current range of A*-E pass grades to a 1-9 framework where 9 is equivalent to the "A*" grade.

The strategic priority for 2015/16 is to ensure young people achieve above the national average and that pupils in receipt of pupil premium make accelerated progress.



5 Children in Care

5.1 Key Stage 2 – 11 year olds

There were 13 children looked after in the total Year 6 cohort that Virtual School was responsible for with 9 pupils attending Thurrock schools which equates to 69% of the cohort. In total 10 pupils took their Standardised assessment tests (SATs) and the following percentages were achieved:-

Reading 70%
 Writing 70%
 Maths 80%
 Combined 70%

5.2 Key Stage 4 – 16 year olds

28 pupils were entered for GCSE from the Children in Care cohort of 42 pupils with 13 attending a local Thurrock school. All 13 were entered for examinations and all achieved a qualification in a range of subjects. Every mainstream school/academy in Thurrock included at least one looked after child in their Year 11 cohort and of the five predicted to gain 5 or more GCSE's, two students achieved 5 A*-C grades including English and maths. (40%)

15 Year 11 pupils looked after by the local authority attended a provision out of borough, of which 12 students were in specialist provision. All 15 Children in Care (CIC) were entered for examinations and all achieved a qualification in

a range of subjects. Three out of borough students attended main stream provision and 1 gained 5 or more A*-C Grades including English and Maths (33%).

In Total, of the 24 students actually entered for GCSE examinations in summer 2015, only 3 students gained 5 or more A*-C grades including EN and MA (12.5%), slightly improved on last year (9%)

The gap between predictions and actuals is 37.5%. Students who were predicted to obtain both English and Maths did not obtain both C grades or above with many narrowly missing their target by 1 grade. 25% achieved either a C grade or above in English or Maths although these students were not always the same. For example – a pupil achieved English but not maths or vice versa.

5.3 Key Stage 5 – “A” level results

A briefing on overall “A” level performance will be provided following the issue of the first indicative results from the DfE released on the 15th October.

6. Reasons for Recommendation

7. Impact on Corporate Polices, Priorities, Performance and Community Impact.

7.1 This report relates to the council priority to improve to create a great place for learning and opportunity.

8. Implications

8.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

There are no direct financial implications in this report.

8.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
Principal Solicitor Children’s Safeguarding.

This report requires the Committee to note its contents only. No decision is required. However, there are relevant general duties on the Council, of which are:-

A duty is imposed on the Council by s13A of the Education Act (EA) 1996 duty to promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential.

S22(3)(a) of the Children Act 1989 imposes a duty on the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of any child it looks after, and this includes in particular a duty to promote their educational achievement.

8.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development

Information on the equality gap appears in section 3.1.7 of this report and says that vulnerable children in the Early Years – Foundation stage perform better than the national average for vulnerable children . The spring term report will present more granulated data regarding the performance of key groups.

8.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

8.4.1 Risks

8.4.2 Schools, including academies, that do not meet the floor standard are at risk of inspection by Ofsted and intervention by the relevant accountable body.

8.4.3 A failure to raise standards will exacerbate recruitment and retention difficulties and make it harder for children and young people to reach age related expectations and to progress to further education, training and employment in the jobs that growth in the borough will generate.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Pupils and those who support them in and beyond school are to be commended for the progress that has been made this year. It is important that the good progress in many areas is now built on to ensure that in every subject, at every age, improvement which outstrips the national standard is made. Forensic analysis of data to target support and extensive use of school-to-school mechanisms in addition to interventions commissioned by

the Thurrock Education Alliance and Excellence Network - School Improvement officers and external consultants has proved effective.

9.1.2 Where schools have found it more difficult to improve standards a number of contributory factors may be identified:

- continuing recruitment and retention issues at all levels
- the quality of leadership and of governance
- further changes to assessment regimes
- achieving a consistently high standard of teaching

9.1.3 In response, a number of strategies are already being adopted, such as working in partnership with and commissioning support from the Teaching Schools and engaging with more schools regionally in a systematic sharing of good practice. Support for governance has been given greater prominence with increased numbers of governors attending training leading to positive comments from Ofsted inspectors in reports.

9.1.4 The school improvement projects funded through the Education Commission budget are regularly monitored and the effectiveness and impact is being measured.

10. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None.

11. Appendices to the report

None.

Report Author:

Roger Edwardson

Strategic Leader School Improvement, Learning and Skills

Children's Services

[Type text]

15 October 2015		ITEM: 9
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Child Poverty – Opportunity for Every Child		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Michele Lucas: Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills		
Accountable Manager: Michele Lucas, Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills		
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Child Poverty Strategy builds upon the work of our previous strategy developed in 2011 (see Child Poverty Strategy 2014-20 see Appendix One). The strategy and action plan we are presenting builds on the work undertaken and looks to provide opportunities for all children recognising and looking to embed the concept of 'Child Poverty Every Body's responsibility'

We are working towards a place where every child has the same chance to achieve his or her potential; where no child lacks food or the basic necessities of family life, or lives in poor housing, or in families where parents are unable to work; where every child attends a good school; and where every child has ready access to a range of leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities.

1. Recommendations

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Child Poverty Strategy 2015-2020 and endorses the strategy and action plan

1.2 That the progress made since the 2011-2014 strategy is recommended

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This strategy and action plan updates and builds upon the Thurrock Child Poverty Strategy 2011-2014, which set the following strategic priorities:

- To increase parental employment and skills by providing access to adult training and skills development through the Wishes adult skills Programme and progression to adult learning opportunities.

[Type text]

- To increase benefit take-up by improving high quality advice and guidance targeted to areas where there is a high prevalence of poverty and workless households.
- To reduce attainment gaps between children living in poverty and those who don't by targeting school improvement to those areas and supporting parents to be able to support their children through, for example, adult learning opportunities.
- To reduce the health inequalities faced by some families by developing a targeted, integrated approach to local delivery of services.
- To support the need to prevent homelessness from occurring by addressing the underlying causes of homelessness through effective partnerships, collaboration and the coordination of services.

2.2 Since 2011, real progress has been achieved through partnership between professionals working with the whole community; however we recognise the importance of continuing with this work and building on our community approach in tackling child poverty.

2.3 Outlined below is an example of how we have been working to address Child Poverty across the Local Authority:

Wishes an adult learning approach to reducing Child Poverty

Wishes is an innovative project aimed at Parents and Carers in Thurrock who have a lack of qualifications, it is specifically aimed at Parents and Carers who have Level 1 or below qualifications. The Wishes Project works with Parents and Carers to remove barriers to learning and can provide support with things such as childcare and transport costs in order for them to take those daunting first steps back into a learning environment.

The Project provides an opportunity for its learners to increase their confidence, recognise the skills that they have, enhance their soft skills and be supported to gain both accredited and non-accredited qualifications. Learners are also supported and encouraged to actively participate in voluntary opportunities to put their learning into practice and gain valuable experience in order to become job ready.

[Type text]

Courses completed by Wishes learners 2014/15

Course Title	Participant numbers
ESOL(English for Speakers of Other languages)	2
Entry Level 2/3 Numeracy	3
Level 1 Numeracy	9
Level 2 Numeracy	2
Entry Level 2 / 3 Literacy	2
Level 1 Literacy	2
Level 1 Childcare	1
Level 2	
Counselling	1
Childcare	1
Health & Social Care	3
Introduction to Learning Support Assistant	2
Keeping up with Children's Literacy & Numeracy L1	2
Supporting Courses	
Business Admin	1
Drug / Alcohol & Mental Illness	1
Soft Outcomes – Cookery	1
Cutting for Beginners	1
Cutting for Improvers	1
Volunteering	3

2.4 Our Strategic principles within the current plan are outlined below:-

- Child poverty is the responsibility of the whole community and we invite employers, faith groups, community and voluntary organisations and local residents to work with us to achieve our vision.
- Deeply embedded inequalities exist in our communities and this plan complements and builds on the work of Thurrock Fairness Review, aiming to reduce inequality and create social mobility.
- Children live in families and we will listen to families about what they need.
- Employment is a main route out of poverty but in order to address the growing issue of in-work poverty we need to ensure that parents receive at least a living wage and have the support to increase their skills.
- Every Council service should have ending child poverty as a key priority and all services should understand their role and contribution to the aims of the plan. Excellence in delivery will be achieved and maintained.

2.5 National Context

[Type text]

The government's approach is set out in the Child Poverty 2014-2017 strategy. It seeks to reduce and end child poverty by:

- supporting families into work and increasing their earnings;
- improving living standards; and
- preventing poor children becoming poor adults through raising their educational attainment.

2.6 Child Poverty Targets

The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets three income-related targets to be met by 2020. These are:

1. Relative low income target of less than 10 per cent Before Housing Costs (BHC), by 2020/21
2. Absolute low income target of less than 5 per cent BHC by 2020/21
3. Combined low income and material deprivation target of less than 5 percent by 2020/21.
4. Persistent poverty target of less than 7 per cent of children living in households in relative low income for at least three out of the last four years by 2020/21.¹

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) publication provides the definitive national measure of relative child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. HBAI is based on data from the Family Resources Survey meaning that the sample sizes are insufficient for analysis at the local level. The proxy measure for local areas is the Children in low-income families' local measure - the proportion of children living in families that are either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60 per cent of national median income.

The government has a number of proposals to support parents to access employment opportunities one of the most recent announcements relates to offer working parents 30 hours of childcare, to ensure we are prepared for this opportunity we have submitted an expression of interest to the Department of Education to pilot this approach thus ensuring that we are well placed to support our parents to benefit from the regeneration opportunities that are available locally. Further examples of how we are working to support the national context can be found in the Strategy with details of how this will be achieved in the action plan which sits alongside the Strategy document.

2.7 Child Poverty in Thurrock – needs assessment

A full needs assessment has been undertaken in Thurrock and can be seen at <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/strategies/key-strategies-and-policies/child-poverty/needs-analysis>.

[Type text]

In summary, the key findings² are:

- A fifth of children in Thurrock live in relative poverty. 7955 children live in families with an income less than 60% of national median income. In broad terms, child poverty has remained at much the same level since 2008.
- The majority, 7210, were aged 0-16, 5435 were aged 0-10; 2760 were aged 0-4.
- Child poverty is slightly above the national average (18.6%) and significantly above the level for Eastern region (15.1%).

To meet the 2020 target of less than 10 per cent of children living in relative poverty we would have to reduce this category in Thurrock, by at least 4,000 children - more to take account of population growth.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

None

4. Reasons for Recommendation

Members of the committee are invited to review the progress made since 2011 when the previous Child Poverty strategy was drawn up, and consider the national global and national economic context which is impacting on family and child poverty. The strategy sets out to avoid or mitigate the impact of child poverty and to offer pathways out of poverty.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

A range of workshops have taken place in Children Centres to discuss with Parents how they feel we can ensure Opportunity for all Children. We have Arranged meetings with a range of directorates across the LA recognising the need for a whole council approach to tackling child poverty.

6. Impact on Corporate Polices, Priorities, Performance and Community Impact

6.1 This report contributes to the following corporate priorities:

- create a great place for learning and opportunity
- encourage and promote job promotion and economic prosperity

[Type text]

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

We are currently ensuring that we meet the requirements around 2 year old funding to meet local targets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Principal Solicitor Children's
Safeguarding.

The Committee is asked to note the report content under the remit of the Committee's terms of reference and powers.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development &
Equalities Manager

Equality of opportunity is a key principle of all early years providers, they ensure they meet statutory duties around offering places to all early years children – part of the Ofsted requirement is to evidence how they have ensured equality of opportunity.

By working with other council directorates we are ensuring that this work supports how we create a fairer society, and supports the ambitions of Thurrock's Fairness Commission wherever possible.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

None

[Type text]

Appendices to this report:

- Appendix 1 - Child Poverty Strategy
- Appendix 2 - Child Poverty Action Plan
- Appendix 3 - Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Report Author

Michele Lucas

Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills

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Opportunity for every child Thurrock Council Child Poverty Plan 2015-2020

Further information about this strategy, including how to become involved in ending child poverty in Thurrock, can be accessed at <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/strategies/key-strategies-and-policies/child-poverty>



Thurrock Council – Key Objectives

Create a place for learning and opportunity

Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

Build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer opportunities

Improve health and well-being

Protect and promote our clean and green environment

Contents

1. Introduction

Child Poverty in Thurrock
Our vision for ending child poverty
Strategic principles
Resources

2. National Context

The government's child poverty strategy 2014-2017
Child Poverty targets

3. Child Poverty in Thurrock- needs assessment

Executive summary
Key findings
Drivers of child poverty
Local distribution of child poverty
Key output areas – LSOAs
Effects

4. Thurrock Child Poverty Priorities

5. Annexes

Annex A: Child Poverty in the UK
Annex B: Performance measures and indicators

Introduction

Thurrock wants every child to enjoy the best opportunities and is firmly committed to ending child poverty. This strategy and action plan updates and builds upon the Thurrock Child Poverty Strategy 2011-2014, which set the following strategic priorities:

- To increase parental employment and skills by providing access to adult training and skills development through the Wishes adult skills Programme and progression to adult learning opportunities.
- To increase benefit take-up by improving high quality advice and guidance targeted to areas where there is a high prevalence of poverty and workless households.
- To reduce attainment gaps between children living in poverty and those who don't by targeting school improvement to those areas and supporting parents to be able to support their children through, for example, adult learning opportunities.
- To reduce the health inequalities faced by some families by developing a targeted, integrated approach to local delivery of services.
- To support the need to prevent homelessness from occurring by addressing the underlying causes of homelessness through effective partnerships, collaboration and the coordination of services.

Since 2011, real progress has been achieved through partnership between professionals working with the whole community, but there is much more which still needs to be done.

Our vision

We want Thurrock to be a place where every child has the same chance to achieve his or her potential; where no child lacks food or the basic necessities of family life, or lives in poor housing, or in families where parents are unable to work; where every child attends a good school; and where every child has ready access to a range of leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities.

Strategic principles

The plan is based on the following principles:

- Child poverty is the responsibility of the whole community and we invite employers, faith groups, community and voluntary organisations and local residents to work with us to achieve our vision.
- Deeply embedded inequalities exist in our communities and this plan complements and builds on the work of Thurrock Fairness Review, aiming to reduce inequality and create social mobility.
- Children live in families and we will listen to families about what they need.
- Employment is a main route out of poverty but in order to address the growing issue of in-work poverty we need to ensure that parents receive at least a living wage and have the support to increase their skills.
- Every Council service should have ending child poverty as a key priority and all services should understand their role and contribution to the aims of the plan. Excellence in delivery will be achieved and maintained.

Resources

The strategy and plan must be cost-effective, sustainable and affordable. The main support will come from public resources for children, families and communities, but a key aim will be to mobilise further resources, including resources in kind, from all sources and sectors across the borough.

National Context

The government's approach is set out in the Child Poverty 2014-2017 strategy.¹ It seeks to reduce and end child poverty by:

- supporting families into work and increasing their earnings;
- improving living standards; and
- preventing poor children becoming poor adults through raising their educational attainment.

To enable more parents to move into employment, the government proposes to improve the qualifications of parents through Adult Apprenticeships; offer tailored support to lone parents to move into work; encourage flexible working and support skills needs so that parents of larger families can have work which fits with their childcare responsibilities.

There are also commitments in the strategy to tackling low pay, through the minimum wage and by reducing the tax burden on poorer families; and to reducing living costs through caps on water and energy bills, free school meals for all infant school pupils, breakfast clubs in deprived areas, free fruit and vegetables at school for children aged four to six, free home to school transport, a freeze on fuel duty and the building of new houses.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/177031/CM-8061.pdf

Child Poverty Targets

The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets three income-related targets to be met by 2020. These are:

1. Relative low income target of less than 10 per cent Before Housing Costs (BHC), by 2020/21
2. Absolute low income target of less than 5 per cent BHC by 2020/21
3. Combined low income and material deprivation target of less than 5 percent by 2020/21.
4. Persistent poverty target of less than 7 per cent of children living in households in relative low income for at least three out of the last four years by 2020/21.²

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) publication provides the definitive national measure of relative child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. HBAI is based on data from the Family Resources Survey meaning that the sample sizes are insufficient for analysis at the local level. The proxy measure for local areas is the Children in low-income families local measure - the proportion of children living in families that are either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60 per cent of national median income.

Child Poverty in Thurrock – needs assessment

A full needs assessment has been undertaken in Thurrock and can be seen at <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/strategies/key-strategies-and-policies/child-poverty/needs-analysis>.

In summary, the key findings³ are:

- A fifth of children in Thurrock live in relative poverty. 7955 children live in families with an income less than 60% of national median income. In broad terms, child poverty has remained at much the same level since 2008.
- The majority, 7210, were aged 0-16, 5435 were aged 0-10; 2760 were aged 0-4.
- Child poverty is slightly above the national average (18.6%) and significantly above the level for Eastern region (15.1%).

To meet the 2020 target of less than 10 per cent of children living in relative poverty we would have to reduce this category in Thurrock, by at least 4,000 children - more to take account of population growth.

² For an explanation of income targets see Annex A

³ HMRC 2014: Children in Low Income Families Local measure for child poverty, snapshot at 31st August 2012

Drivers of child poverty

Unemployment: 86 per cent of children in poverty in Thurrock are living in families in receipt of Income Support or Job seekers Allowance.

Low pay: Average weekly earnings in Thurrock are below that for England. There is a gender pay gap.

Family structure: Three-quarters of poor children live in one-parent families and 43 per cent live in families with 3 or more children. Lone parents and parents with larger families face particular barriers in obtaining and sustaining employment.

Qualifications: Children in families where adults have no qualifications are twice as likely to be in poverty as children overall.⁴ More than a quarter of adult residents in Thurrock have no academic or vocational qualifications.

Disability: Children in families with a disabled adult are over a third more likely to be in poverty than children in families with no disabled adult.⁵ Parents of children with disabilities also face barriers to employment. There are more than 3,000 households in Thurrock with dependent children and at least one person with a long term health problem or disability.

Local distribution of child poverty

Child poverty exists everywhere in Thurrock but is more concentrated in some wards and in particular neighbourhoods (LSOAs).

Six wards account for more than half of all children living in poverty in Thurrock. Child poverty is highest in Tilbury St Chads; Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park; Chadwell St Marys; West Thurrock and South Stifford; Belhus; and Grays Riverside.

Ward	Children in poverty	% rate
Tilbury St Chads	635	33.9%
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	760	33.6%
Chadwell St Marys	740	30.5%
West Thurrock and South Stifford	815	25.7%
Belhus	630	23.2%
Grays Riverside	710	23.1% ⁶

⁴ Households Below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2012/13, Department for Work and Pensions, 2013 DWP 2014

⁵ Ibid

⁶ HMRC Children in low-income families local measure

Child poverty by lower super output area

Wards within Thurrock can be split down into smaller areas – Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Thurrock has 98 LSOAs but just 12 LSOAs account for 31 per cent of all children living in poverty in Thurrock.

The worst affected LSOA, in Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park, has 30 times the numbers of poor children in poverty as the lowest LSOA in Corringham and Fobbing.

Inequality

Those LSOAs with the highest levels of child poverty share a number of common characteristics, including lower average household incomes; higher levels of unemployment; lower skills; poorer health; more one-parent families; more large families; and fewer households with cars.

These structural inequalities, together with the impact of the recession and cuts in public spending, have exacerbated difficulties for families on the lowest incomes.

Some Thurrock families now make use of food banks in order to eat.

Among families which have had their benefits capped, 96 per cent were families with three or more children and two-thirds were lone parents

Data on fuel poverty at parliamentary constituency level show that an estimated 3410 households in Thurrock are fuel poor, with 2637 households in the constituency of South Basildon and East Thurrock.

Effects of living in poverty

There is a clear link between poor health and disadvantage leading to significantly lower life expectancy in deprived areas. Child health in Thurrock is relatively good in relation to a number of national indicators but health is poorer in more disadvantaged wards and LSOAs in relation to:

- Life expectancy at birth
- Infant mortality
- Breastfeeding rates
- Teenage pregnancies
- Childhood obesity

School Attainment

Education is one of the main routes out of poverty and how well poor children do at school has the biggest impact on their future incomes. Thurrock has successfully raised attainment at all key stages and narrowed the gap between disadvantaged children and the rest, but further progress needs to be made and not all children yet go to a good early education and care provider or a good school.

Ofsted, in 2014, noted that in Eastern Region, a child in the most deprived area is three times more likely than a child in the least deprived area to go to a school that is less than good.

Housing

Affordable housing is a challenge for many Thurrock residents and within the housing market there has been a growth in private rental accommodation. A national report by Shelter in 2011 found that close to a third of private rented homes contained children, and more than half lived in households falling below the poverty line, after housing costs.⁷

Family Well-being

In 2012 a joint report by Action for Children, The Children's Society and the NSPCC warned that the most vulnerable families with children were being disproportionately affected by tax and benefit changes and significantly affected by other cuts in spending. The report highlighted a projected doubling of the number of children living in extremely vulnerable families by 2015.⁸

Thurrock has a high rate of children subject to child protection plans, and it has increased by 41 per cent since 2012/13. The number of Looked After Children in Thurrock has been increasing over recent years and is projected to increase further.

Social Mobility

In England, in 2010/11, 35 per cent of young people entered higher education by age 19. In Thurrock, the figure was one of the lowest in England – 23 per cent. Only 5 per cent of disadvantaged young people enter higher education by age 19.

⁷ Shelter Report: Private Rent Watch –2011

⁸:<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/intheeyeofthestorm.pdf>

Thurrock Child Poverty Priorities

Over-arching priority

Our over-arching priority is to reduce and eliminate child poverty. At the heart of our approach will be inclusion and learning. We will support vulnerable families wherever they live, but at the same time work with local communities to develop and implement a neighbourhood approach to child poverty.

We will consult with families within neighbourhoods about the best ways of moving forward, inviting them to be active participants and co-producers. We have already made a good start with this through the creation of community hubs, through our community engagement programme and by recruiting and training parent volunteers to work in our children's centres.

Priority 1 Develop neighbourhood-focused approaches

What we have achieved:

- We are committed to devolving advice services through community hubs in Ockendon, Aveley and Chadwell St Marys. We want to develop these as central points where people can get good quality advice and support about poverty issues, about employment and training and improving coordination at the first point of contact.

What we will do next:

- Community hubs will co-ordinate their anti-poverty work with schools and children's centres. Together, they will provide advice services and education in the community about poverty issues. They will invite other community organisations, housing associations, faith groups and community leaders to become partners in tackling child poverty at neighbourhood level.
- Community hubs and their partners will organise open meetings in the most affected wards, inviting residents to advise on and become involved in the delivery of neighbourhood plans.
- Staff and volunteers working in community hubs, children's centres, schools and other key locations will be trained to offer good quality advice and support around poverty issues and to signpost people to further sources of help where appropriate. We will train at least 50 per cent of those front-line staff in the first eighteen months of this strategy.

Priority 2 Create pathways into employment

What we have achieved:

- Thurrock is a dynamic partner within the Thames Gateway regeneration. Our Community Strategy is committed to equipping people with the skills needed to enter the workforce and maintain employment; delivering new sites for employment to create jobs; creating

quality housing and enhancing the environment; and improving infrastructure to enable delivery of new employment.

- The Thames Gateway delivery plan aims for at least 225,000 new jobs of which the indicative job growth identified for Thurrock by 2021 is 26,000 new jobs. The Thurrock Economic Strategy seeks to achieve this employment growth by focusing on existing core sectors and new opportunities.
- We are committed to reducing unemployment among young people and among those adults who are most marginalised in employment terms, because of disability and ill-health, family structure or poor qualifications. It is essential that all residents are enabled to have full participation in our growing economic prosperity.
- We are already working with a group of local organisations and businesses to create 300 new jobs and 100 apprenticeships in the borough. Through the Social Values Framework, Council contractors are being encouraged to contribute to the creation of new jobs.
- Volunteering and other transitional employment experiences can prepare people for work and help bridge any gap between their work experience and the current requirements of employers. Our Community Engagement Programme currently provides 250 opportunities for local people to volunteer.

What we will do next:

- Lone parents and those with three or more children face particular challenges in combining work with family responsibilities and in finding affordable childcare; challenges which may be exacerbated by low or no qualifications or poor health. Using and extending the Wishes model we will mainstream joint work with Jobcentre Plus and training providers in our children's centres, providing high quality advice and support for jobseekers, Wishes job clubs and tailored support plans to help families make the transition into work.
- We will bring together all of the agencies currently providing support for employment and training to consider ways of radically transforming the take-up of further education and employment preparation opportunities in the most disadvantaged communities. We will charge each community hub to undertake job fairs in their local communities, bringing employers, providers and training agencies together in a venue accessible to local families and other residents. Retired skilled workers will be recruited to act as volunteers, supporting job clubs and mentoring young people and parents who are seeking employment.
- We will maintain and extend our community engagement programme. We recognise also that social enterprises have a role to play in the delivery of public services and we will continue and extend our business support for new social enterprises.

Priority 3 Maximise income and raise living standards

What we have achieved:

- Employment remains the most effective route out of poverty, but to be effective requires fair wages and contractual conditions. As a fair employer, Thurrock has adopted the Living Wage for council employees.
- Thurrock is one of the lead partners of the new Essex Energy Consortium, enabling both the private and public sector housing bodies, to take advantage of the Government's Green Deal and Energy Commitment Obligation funding (ECO) and to reduce energy costs.
- Thurrock Well Homes is a scheme to improve the housing conditions and health and well-being of residents in private accommodation. The pilot is on offer in Grays, Tilbury and West Thurrock and South Stifford. Participating households are visited by an adviser who can put them in touch with health and lifestyle services, or advise on home repairs which may be needed, including faulty gas or electrical installations, and refer clients to sources of energy advice.

What we will do next:

- Through our Social Values Framework we will seek to ensure that our contractors and sub-contractors are also committed to the Living Wage. With business partners, we will consider the extent of in-work poverty among families in poverty and the scope, in particular, for increasing women's earnings.
- We will work with a range of expert bodies and through our community hubs to ensure that people have accurate advice and support in relation to their entitlement to benefits and tax credits. We will also support families to deal with the impact of welfare reforms, particularly one-parent families and larger families who have been most affected by benefit caps. We will develop a protocol for the child and family workforce on responding to families in acute need because of a reduction or stoppage in benefits.
- We will respond to food poverty by supporting food banks and the distribution of Healthy Start vouchers. We will ensure that each of our children's centres offers education about eating and cooking on a limited budget. We will explore other possible actions to counter food poverty e.g. food-buying cooperative.
- We will develop financial capability through our partnership with a range of expert bodies and through our Community Hubs. We will encourage schools to provide financial capability education for young people.

Priority 4 Support parents to upgrade their skills

What we have achieved:

- We aim to support all adults to raise their skills and qualification, but within this, focus on raising the qualifications of poorer parents. Parental education has been shown consistently to be a key factor in predicting children's achievement. By enabling parents to become better qualified, we also raise their prospects of better paid employment.
- We have already made considerable progress in raising the skills of adults in our local communities through the Wishes project, through the devolved Community Hubs, through the provision of Family learning and by developing our children's centres as centres of learning for the whole family.

What we will do next:

- We aim, by 2020, to reduce the percentage of adults lacking any qualifications to at least the English average and to reduce inequalities between wards. We will also try to eliminate barriers for those parents whose highest qualification is at Level 2 who wish to upgrade their qualifications.
- We will work with training providers to ensure that Skills for Life courses and Level 1, 2 and 3 courses are accessible to adults with family responsibilities and that a robust system is in place to collect and monitor participation and achievement data relating to adults with dependent children.
- We will undertake focused research with parents in the twelve most disadvantaged neighbourhoods to overcome the barriers to entering education or skills training.
- We will recruit and train twenty adult literacy and numeracy volunteers to mentor and support adults at the early stages of returning to learning.
- We will encourage parents to share skills through the development of parent-led study groups in children's centres or other groups formed for this purpose.

Priority 5 Continue to narrow the gap in achievement between children on low incomes and children from more affluent families.

What we have achieved:

- Thurrock is now in the top 25 per cent of local authorities in the East of England for the proportion of children achieving a good level of development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and within the region has the highest proportion of secondary schools which are at least good.⁹ At Key Stage 2, the picture is also one of continuously improving results.
- A new service offer is available to vulnerable pupils including new Service Level Agreements for all targeted services to children and young people with SEN/LDD.

⁹ Ofsted2014 East of England Regional report

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- We continue to work to narrow and eliminate the gap between children from all socio-economic groups at each key stage of their schooling and to narrow the current gap between girls and boys.
 - We continue to focus on Foundation Stage (FS), Key Stage 1 (KS1), Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) outcomes with the aim of there being no schools below the floor standard.
 - We continue to increase our capacity to provide high quality early education for two year olds in line with national targets

What we will do next:

- We will ensure that all early education providers and primary schools are helped to achieve at least a good Ofsted judgement. Our first priority in this will be to first ensure that no primary school or early years provider with higher than average numbers of disadvantaged children falls below the standard of good.
- We will work with schools and early years providers to monitor the use of the pupil premium as a means of raising the attainment and aspiration of disadvantaged pupils at the same time engaging their parents in their own learning and support for their children's learning.
- We will ask schools to examine and monitor their admission policies to ensure that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are not unduly clustered or segregated within a relatively small number of schools.
- We will increase social mobility by supporting young people to gain qualifications at Level 3 and 4 and ensure that more young people enter higher education. With our schools, we will develop an effective awareness campaign to encourage children from low-income families to gain Level 4 qualifications and to enter higher education.

Priority 6 Support the health of children affected by poverty and reduce inequalities in health outcomes

What we have achieved:

- Support and delivery to parents in Thurrock focusing on premature babies and low birth weight is delivered through the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP). Thurrock's children's centres also play an integral role in supporting parents both before and after the child is born, and offer a range of supportive services to do this
- Through a Healthy Child Programme, we offer every family a programme of screening tests, immunisations, developmental reviews, and information and guidance to support parenting and health choices. We have robust systems in place to ensure:
 - Improved vaccination uptake
 - Improved screening uptake
 - Improved breastfeeding prevalence

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- We have reduced levels of obesity in Reception age and Year six age children. We have also reduced the prevalence of teenage pregnancies.
 - We have established a range of services for children with disabilities, aimed at supporting them and their families. These include the Early Support Programme, Educational Psychology, Sensory Support, Portage, Sunshine Centre and School for Parents at Beacon Hill School; the Early offer of Help; Social Care services; help with payments and personal budgets and short breaks.

What we will do next:

- We will work with children centres and schools to improve family diets and raise awareness about nutrition and access to more affordable food. We will also work in partnership with schools around raising the awareness of the importance of increasing physical activities. We intend to look at the close proximity of takeaways to schools in Thurrock and work with food outlets within close proximity to schools to promote healthier options.
- We will continue to work with Community Mums and Dads, Parents 1st, Coram and Family Nurse Partnership to promote activities to raise awareness of breastfeeding benefits, reducing inequalities and improving access to breastfeeding support for women in low-income groups. We will be commissioning a new parent breastfeeding service from July 2015.

Priority 7 Provide suitable housing and prevent homelessness

What we have achieved:

- We have an ambitious house-building programme, aiming to create 18,500 new homes in the borough by 2021 and recently secured £4.6 million support from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to fund the building of one and two-bedroom houses and family homes across the borough.
- Through our investment in new homes, we have created a range of employment opportunities including apprenticeships and programmes to offer the long term unemployment job opportunities.
- Homelessness in Thurrock is significantly better than the national average. We have reduced the number of empty homes and have frozen Council Tax.

What we will do next:

- We will continue to deliver high quality housing and services proactively supporting residents to achieve health, wellbeing and employment outcomes.
- Through our housing strategy we plan to create more employment opportunities, at the same time supporting residents to enjoy health and well-being. We will pilot a scheme to enable residents to gain skills through volunteering on refurbishment and redecoration projects.

Priority 8 Remove transport barriers

What we have achieved:

- Thurrock's current transport strategy is pledged to improve accessibility to shops and businesses, education and leisure facilities and other key services in areas of relatively high deprivation, to ensure that those without cars are able to access a wider range of jobs, to upgrade their skills and to enjoy leisure activities on the same terms as residents in other parts of Thurrock.
- Improved access to education is likely to have a positive impact on attendance and achievement rates and may encourage more people to enter further education.
- Core pedestrian and cycle routes, supported by 20mph zones in Tilbury, Grays, West Thurrock, Purfleet and Ockendon will deliver improved accessibility and enhanced health and fitness. Rights of Way improvements will provide access to green space and provide play opportunities for children.
- Improved public transport in deprived wards will create access for non-car owners to hospitals.

What we will do next:

- We will investigate, in the twelve most deprived neighbourhoods the feasibility of recruiting skilled volunteer driving instructors to teach others to drive.
- We will develop car-sharing and volunteer driving schemes to enable residents in the twelve most disadvantaged areas to access further education and training.

Priority 9 Family Well-being

What we have achieved:

- We have established our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as a single point of entry where there is a need for support or where there is a specific concern about the welfare of a child or a young person. MASH will help to ensure early identification of concerns and provisions of help to families; which is vital in promoting children and young people's wellbeing.
- Linked as a function to the MASH is the Early Offer of Help, which is designed to ensure that children and families receive support if they do not meet the threshold criteria for support through statutory social work services, or are stepped down from children's social care services. The aim is to offer appropriate help, which ranges from offering advice and information to parents, carers and partner agencies, signposting families to appropriate services, including parenting support services.
- In our most recent inspections our Youth Offending Service was found to be creditable, and our Safeguarding and our Fostering services were found to be good.

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- The national Troubled Families programme focuses on families with worklessness, poor school attendance and anti-social behaviour as problem features. Thurrock's Troubled Families service is currently working with their 3rd year cohort and the programme is becoming fully embedded into services within the local authority.

What we will do next:

- We will review the implementation of MASH and monitor its impact on children and families. We will also review the provision of services to families and ensure they meet local need and demand. We will implement a strengthening families approach to the child protection conference process.
- We will explore alternative approaches opportunities such as Volunteers in Child Protection, which could be brought into the Early Offer Strategy.
- For children with disabilities we will offer seamless and coordinated support across all agencies, based on early intervention and the prevention of family breakdown.

Priority 10 Work together to share information and maximise impact

What we have achieved:

- As part of the 2011-2014 Child Poverty Strategy we commissioned and provided training aimed at understanding child poverty for staff and managers working in our Early Years, Families and Communities Directorate.
- We have established the Thurrock Fairness Commission to reduce inequalities and make Thurrock a fairer place.

What we will do next:

- With our partners we will develop a shared knowledge of the current support available around poverty issues to enable a consistent and coordinated service at the level of front-line services. We will share developing intelligence about the impact of policy and other events on families most in need to ensure a swift and effective response.
- Through our policy making processes we will ensure that planning, fiscal and other decisions are assessed for their impact on child poverty.
- Through our procurement processes we will ensure that our contractors are aware of our commitment to eliminate child poverty.
- We will provide education for the general public on poverty issues and invite help from the whole community to end child poverty.

Annex A: Child Poverty in the UK

Poverty is the single largest threat to the well-being of children and families and affects every area of a child's development. Child poverty imposes costs on society – estimated to be at least £29 billion a year.¹⁰

2.3 million children in the UK live in poverty; 3.7 million after housing costs are taken into account. The previous government pledged to halve poverty by 2010 and set a target of poverty elimination by 2020. Child poverty in the UK reduced significantly between 1998/9-2011/12 when 1.1 million children were lifted out of poverty. Under current government policies, child poverty is projected to rise from 2012/13 with an expected 600,000 more children living in poverty by 2015/16. This upward trend is expected to continue with 4.7 million children projected to be living in poverty by 2020.

In the UK, as elsewhere, the factors influencing child poverty include family size and structure, the age and educational qualifications of parents, low earnings, ethnicity and lack of employment. One-parent families, larger families and families where no-one is in work are particularly vulnerable to poverty. Poverty in the UK is also intrinsically related to high levels of inequality, especially income inequality.

The HBAI/FRS data shows that children in larger families are almost two-thirds more likely to be in poverty than children in smaller families. Children in one-parent families are over a third more likely to be in poverty than children in couple families and over a third of families who become one-parent families enter poverty.¹¹

Children in families with low qualifications are one and a half times as likely to be in poverty as children overall. Children in workless families are three times as likely to be in relative poverty compared with children in families where at least one adult is in work, and twice as likely as children overall. Children in families with a disabled adult are over a third more likely to be in poverty than children in families with no disabled adult.¹²

Poverty results from a complex interplay of influences, involving factors at the level of the family, local neighbourhood, the employment market and wider society. Within this context, factors which appear to be the causes of poverty can also appear as consequences and vice versa. Poor educational attainment is an example of a factor which both drives and is a consequence of the experience of poverty. Poor housing may be the only affordable alternative for poor families, but through its potential effect on health exerts a negative effect on health and achievement, helping to set up a cycle of deprivation.

Poverty is not synonymous with poor parenting but creates additional challenges through the imposition of stress, poorer health and social exclusion. There is considerable evidence of poverty being transmitted from one generation to another, manifesting its effects in the first few years of life. But the home environment is subject to factors which in many cases are beyond the control of families and cannot, therefore, be addressed in isolation.

¹⁰ D Hirsch, Estimating the costs of child poverty, 2013

¹¹ Households Below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2012/13, Department for Work and Pensions, 2014 DWP 2014

¹² Households Below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2012/13, Department for Work and Pensions, 2014 DWP 2014

Annex B: Performance measures and indicators

As noted, the four Child Poverty Act 2010 targets are

- 1 Relative low income target of less than 10 per cent Before Housing Costs (BHC), by 2020/21
- 2 Absolute low income target of less than 5 per cent BHC by 2020/21
- 3 Combined low income and material deprivation target of less than 5 percent by 2020/21.
- 4 Persistent poverty target of less than 7 per cent of children living in households in relative low income for at least three out of the last four years by 2020/21.¹³

The government has adopted a range of further indicators for the purpose of assessing progress towards meeting its child poverty targets. These include:

Severe Poverty	Proportion of children who experience material deprivation and live in households where income is less than 50% of median household income for the financial year (BHC).
Children in Workless Households	Proportion of children living in workless households
In-Work Poverty	Proportion of children living in families where at least one person works but are still in relative poverty
Transition from childhood to the labour market	Proportion of 18-24 year olds (i) participating in part time or full time education and training (ii) not in full time education or training who are not in employment
Low birth weight	Low birth weight (gap between social classes 1-4 and social classes 5-8).
Child Development	Currently, EYFS Good Level of Development
Attainment at school and in further education	Attainment gap between children receiving free school meals and the rest at Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics
	Attainment gap between children receiving free school meals and the rest in achieving the basics at Key Stage 4 (currently defined as achieving an A*-C in English and Mathematics GCSES)
	Attainment gap between children who were receiving free school meals at age 19 and the rest in achieving level 3, broken down into: (a) achieving two A levels, 20.8 (b) other A level equivalent qualification.
Progression to higher education	Progression of pupils aged 15 to higher education at age 19 (FSM at 15, non-FSM at 15 and gap)
Teenage pregnancy	Conception rates per 1000 for women aged 15-17 years.
Young offending	Number of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction.
Family Structures	The proportion of children living in relative poverty in families by:
	(a) couples who are married/in a civil partnership
	b) couples who are cohabiting; and (c) lone-parents

Measuring child poverty at local level

¹³ For an explanation of income targets see Annex A

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) is based on data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS,) meaning that the sample sizes are insufficient for useful analysis at the local level.

The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is the proportion of children living in families within the UK that are either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60 per cent of national median income. This is the former N116 national indicator.

This measure provides a broad proxy for relative low-income child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010 and enables analysis at a local level, although the differences in methodology means that the figures cannot be compared directly with the HBAI. There is a two-year time lag on the publication of the data and the latest figures are for 2012.

The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is based on administrative tax credits and benefit data Sources. The measure includes children who are living in families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with reported income less than 60 per cent of median income.

The Children in Low-Income Families local measure does not take into consideration families with low incomes that are above the threshold of 60 percent median income, before housing costs but who are on very low incomes after housing costs are taken into account.

Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 1: Develop Neighbourhood-focused approaches				
<p>Local Access Points - <i>Tilbury St Chads and Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park will be focused on in year 1 of 5 years. With subsequent wards in the following years based on ward data</i></p>	<p>All Community Hubs, Children Centres and relevant venues will provide advice services around moving "out of poverty"</p> <p>Mobile Delivery through a multi agency approach will target LSOA's with high levels of CPov to provide advice and sign posting</p> <p>Virtual Neighbourhood approaches explored around access and information online</p> <p>Youth Offer to include advice services across all delivery sites within identified areas</p>	<p>Review of current activities and info. Focus on CPov in those first two areas Sessions, Training and promotion delivered</p> <p>Agencies brought on board. Venues, transport and resources procured Staggered delivery within LSOA's</p> <p><i>Opportunity for Every Child</i> launched on Thurrock Website with appeal for volunteers.</p> <p>Research into online delivery and information. Consultation with families on most accessible access points. Work with local agencies to ensure either promotion or creation of online presence. Youth Cabinet to support yp consultation</p> <p>Youth bus to deliver a roadshow type of service to identified areas?</p>	<p>Dave Petrie, Liz Morrison, Hub Managers, CC Managers</p> <p>Dave Petrie, Department Heads and Agencies</p> <p>D Petrie, Steve Rigden, Pixel Works Community Hubs</p> <p>D Petrie, IT Team, Local Agencies, Youth Cabinet</p> <p>Wendy Warman, D Petrie</p>	<p>6 monthly reviews on info and impact</p> <p>After delivery, Review of initial impact and then 3 month assessment</p> <p>6 monthly reviews on info and impact</p> <p>3 monthly reviews</p> <p>Annual Review of impact and feedback</p>
Local Partner/Public Meetings/Consultations	Departmental Meetings held to launch and advise of CPov strategy and challenge	Departmental Presentation created and delivered with buy in from all senior managers.	D Petrie, M Lucas, Departmental Heads	Quarterly updates and impacts from departments

	<p>Local Partners Meetings held to launch and advise of CPov strategy and challenge</p> <p>Community consultations held in top 5 wards at suitable locations to launch, advise and gain support and guidance on the CPov Strategy and Challenge</p>	<p>Agency presentation created and delivered with buy in from all relevant agencies</p> <p>Public Presentation and consultation created and delivered. Vol group focused on CPov to support consultations and ongoing promotion Youth Cab to support creation of yp consultation in schools etc</p>	<p>D Petrie, M Kelly, Agencies, Businesses</p> <p>D Petrie, Vol Groups, Agencies, Children Centres, Hubs</p>	<p>Annual review and evaluation between partners</p> <p>Ongoing evaluation after each event and review after 1 year</p>
Staff, Volunteers and Young People Trained in CPov	<p>All Front Line Services have trained staff to support/signpost families in CPov</p> <p>All Volunteers are trained to support/signpost families in CPov</p> <p>CPov Training to be integral in all TC and Voluntary Sector Induction Training for staff/volunteers + young people inc Youth Cab</p>	<p>Relevant FL Staff and Volunteers identified. CPov training created and delivered.</p> <p>Training also embedded into induction training where appropriate.</p> <p>Initial targeted delivery of support in top most CPov wards.</p>	<p>D Petrie, Training Department, Heads of Service, Voluntary Sector Heads, Volunteers</p>	<p>Evaluation after each training session.</p> <p>6-12 month Case studies used to look at impact from Vol training</p> <p>Quarterly Feedback group sessions to gauge impact and issues</p>
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 2: Create Pathways into Employment				
Extend the Wishes Programme in partnership with Jobcentre Plus	Lone Parent families with 3 or more children prioritised within the programme based across Children Centres in	<p>Wishes Co-ordinator to identify families and target support</p> <p>Meetings held with JC+ to ensure</p>	D Petrie, Jo Doyle, Job Centre Plus, Children centre Managers	Annual Wishes review to reflect impact and outcomes

	<p>the Borough</p> <p>Each family has a tailored plan to assist transition into employment via JC+</p>	<p>partnership agreement and review current support packages for those families in CPov</p> <p>Link with Thurrock Careers and Social Care to ensure young parents are engaged</p>		<p>6 monthly reviews with JC+</p>
<p>Cross Borough Multi Agency (Employment and Training) Strategy to shape local access for opportunities</p>	<p>Multi Agency Conference convened with clear buy in and actions to consider radical ways of take up of FE and Employment</p>	<p>Agencies/Partners identified. Conference organised and delivered utilising IT to engage and capture feedback and support – repeated to ensure feedback and update</p>	<p>D Petrie, M Lucas, T Bright, K Kozlova-Boran,</p>	<p>Event Evaluation and feedback sessions</p>
	<p>All Community Hubs and Wards have local accessible Job and Training Fairs</p>	<p>Vols to establish best date, time, location, promotion and accessibility for fairs. Carried out over 2 days with CC support</p>	<p>Community Hubs, Volunteers, Job and Training Agencies</p>	<p>Event Evaluation and feedback sessions, Case Studies of impact</p>
	<p>Retired skilled workers acting as volunteer for development clubs and as mentors</p>	<p>Links with Thurrock Council HR/CVS/Time Bank to identify and recruit workers to share skills and promote in relevant areas</p>	<p>D Petrie, HR, CVS, Time Bank</p>	<p>Annual review on take up and skills offered</p>
	<p>Establish and build upon partnership of Thurrock careers and Children's Centres in targeted work with Teenage parents</p>	<p>Identify and initiate CEIAG support to teenage parents in Children's Centres with the aim to reduce NEET teenage parents as well as increase Care to Learn take up</p>	<p>KKB</p>	<p>Monthly reviews</p>
<p>Continue and extend current Community Engagement Programme focusing on Social Enterprise opportunities for public</p>	<p>Successful Transition of Youth Engagement Services into Staff Mutual</p>	<p>Staff Survey, Consultation and validation from new cabinet, Legal and Unions sign off and transition</p>	<p>M Lucas, C Littleton,</p>	<p>Monthly review</p>
	<p>Accessible Promotion, training/support to local start</p>	<p>Establish links with local projects e.g. Princes Trust to establish current</p>	<p>D Petrie, Princes Trust, Banks,</p>	<p>Annual review</p>

services	up businesses with focus on those families in CPov	base line and develop action plan Consider scope for developing key public service social enterprises e.g. accessible crèche service or food-growing projects or community cafes in children's centres and other publicly owned venues	Training providers	
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 3: Maximise Income and Raise Living Standards				
Increase the commitment from employers to the "Living Wage" for those in the Borough	Increased percentage, year on year of companies in the borough adopting the "Living Wage"	Collate data on baseline wages in the borough. Identify employers within the threshold and work with each to adopt Living Wage over next 5 years.	D Petrie	Annual review of percentage increase
	Increased take up of training promoted in businesses to assist those identified as in-work poverty	Utilising above data, to promote current training opportunities and to research current needs of employees to adapt current offer	D Petrie, Training providers, Employers	Annual review of training audit
	All contractors/sub contractors are committed to "Living Wage" as per the SV Framework	Audit all contractors lists within Council and work with each to ensure this element is being abided with	D Petrie, Contracts and Performance, Contractors, Sub Contractors	Inclusion within Annual Commissioning Audit

<p>Clear Local Advice and guidance on impacts of financial capability and benefit caps (particularly one-parent and larger families)</p>	<p>Community Hubs and local venues promoting advice, training and support to benefits, entitlements, tax credits and budgeting</p> <p>Protocol in place for workforce to effectively respond to families in those identified areas with acute needs due to reduction or stoppage of benefits</p> <p>Robust data on the impact of welfare cuts and the benefit cap on families with dependent children.</p>	<p>Review of local and social media promotions (with qualitative research from local families). Promotional strategy adopted by Hubs and Venues highlighting advice and support</p> <p>Staff and volunteers operating in schools, children's centres and community hubs and associations trained to offer advice and signposting</p> <p>Review previous case studies and impacts on their situations. Review current responsive protocols and look to establish effective response</p>	<p>D Petrie, Community Hub and CC Managers, JC+ Online providers</p> <p>D Petrie, Community Hub and CC Managers, JC+ Online providers</p>	<p>Annual review with case studies and feedback sessions</p> <p>Annual review with case studies and feedback sessions</p>
<p>Build upon current food/fuel poverty initiatives through education, support and alternative strategies</p>	<p>Continued support of Food Banks and Healthy Start Vouchers</p> <p>Increased educative offers of cooking and food in more front line delivery sessions</p> <p>Exploration regarding food-buying coops, food wastage from local stores</p> <p>Clear baseline for families identified in fuel poverty and energy conservations issues</p>	<p>Link with Finance Department to ensure continued initiatives in place and link to CPov families</p> <p>Ensure Children Centres and front line workers are promoting one off and on-going events in the borough. Youth Offer to include events as standard delivery each year.</p> <p>Research with Food Banks and other national co-ops to establish borough wide food saving programme</p> <p>Establish organisations that hold data and link. Once established then look at current boroughwide aspect and focus on those high need areas</p>	<p>D Petrie, Finance, Benefits, Children Centres</p> <p>CC Managers, Social Work</p> <p>D Petrie, Food Banks, Super Markets and Shops</p> <p>D Petrie, DWP, Benefits Office, Thurrock council</p>	<p>Annual review</p> <p>Annual review within CC reviews</p> <p>To Be Confirmed</p>

Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 4: Support Parents/Carers to Upgrade their Skills				
Reduce the % of adults without qualifications to at least the national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A robust system is in place to collect and monitor participation and achievement data relating to adults undertaking Skills for Life and Level 1, 2 and 3 courses in key LSOAS <p>Training providers target CPov identified families accessing Skills for Life and Levels 1 and 2 and 3</p> <p>Completed Research in 12 most deprived areas identifying barriers for adults to entering education or skill based learning</p>	<p>Thurrock Community College and other training bodies provide small (LSOA) are analysis (based on postcodes) of enrolments/ retention and achievement among adults for 2012-2015</p> <p>Local employers asked to provide data towards an audit of workplace training opportunities</p> <p>Wishes brand enlarged to include job clubs and all accredited and non-accredited courses in children's centres. Primary schools engaged as partners in the development of Wishes for the parents of school age children. "Light-touch" support for Wishes learners at or above Level provided by volunteers trained for this purpose</p> <p>Children's centres, health clinics, employers and community hubs asked to participate in short surveys in key target areas</p> <p>Wishes project extended to include one to one volunteer literacy support. TACC, Ngage, schools, children's centres and community hubs</p>	<p>D Petrie, TACC, INGEIOUS, SEETEC</p> <p>D Petrie, Employers, Employability and skills Team</p> <p>D Petrie, Michele Lucas</p> <p>D Petrie, Children Centres, Hubs, Health Clinics, Employers</p> <p>D Petrie, Michele Lucas</p>	<p>Nov 2015</p>

	<p>Twenty trained Volunteers in Literacy and Numeracy mentoring Parent-led study groups in or attached to all Thurrock children's centres</p>	<p>approached to help recruit volunteers.</p> <p>Current children's centre parent volunteer group developed as a pilot for parent led study groups or family colleges</p> <p>Youth Offer programmes to include a % of accredited programmes to reduce level of unqualified future adults.</p>	<p>Capacity, Children Centres, Volunteers</p> <p>Wendy Warman, Dave Petrie</p>	
<p>Reduce barriers for parents at Level 2 to upgrade their qualifications</p>	<p>Assessment and action plan completed to identify all those at Level 2 or below</p> <p>Borough wide strategies in place with Local companies and Job Centre + to ensure In work poverty is reduced through training opportunities for those families in need</p>	<p>TACC and other training providers asked to conduct sample survey of adults with dependent children on exit from Level 2 courses/qualifications</p> <p>Establish meetings with all associated companies to discuss individual impact to Child Poverty strategy and how to embed in current business plans</p>	<p>TACC, Ngage, Ingeous, Seetec</p> <p>D Petrie, Various organisations</p>	
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 5: Continue to Narrow the Gap in Achievement between Children on Low Incomes and Children from more Affluent Families				
<p>All children receive good quality early education and childcare</p>	<p>Proportion of childcare providers on non-domestic premises receiving a "good" or "outstanding Ofsted" is at least as good as the national average</p>	<p>Provide high quality and targeted support to achieve continuous improvement</p>	<p>Schools Improvement team, Children centres, Nurseries</p>	<p>Annual review and 6 month updates</p>

Continue to ensure all primary and secondary schools achieve at least a "Good" Ofsted judgement		Provide high quality and timely CEIAG in secondary schools and academies, thus enhancing the schools' offer to the YP and evidencing this for Ofsted	KKB to continue with the same level of Traded Services offer in the borough	Annually
Monitored use of Pupil Premium to ensure disadvantaged students are raising their attainment and aspirations	<p>Increase in the proportion of FSM pupils achieving Level 4 and above At Key Stage 2 and achieving full GCSE Level 2</p> <p>Use of Pupil premium to provide family learning and other home-based support for children's learning</p>	<p>If possible to raise awareness of utilising PP for Youth Offer and wider Inspire activities.</p> <p>Usage of Pupil Premium to support CEIAG activities in Primary Schools across the borough; in some cases looking at providing targeted support to the most vulnerable children in Year 5-6</p> <p>Link with all schools to build on ways like Thameside Primary example</p>	<p>Wendy Warman, Schools, Michele Lucas</p> <p>KKB to establish partnerships with Primary Schools to deliver this piece of work and at the same time to increase traded offer</p> <p>D Petrie, Michele Lucas, Schools</p>	<p>Termly</p> <p>Annually</p>
Examine and monitor Admissions policies to ensure unduly clustering or segregation	Analysis of segregation in Thurrock schools completed	Establish links with administration management to discuss impacts and how we could shape this to allow the reduction in CP	D Petrie, Michele Lucas, Admissions team	Annual review
Increase in Social Mobility	<p>Proportions of young people gaining qualifications at levels 3 and 4 at least as good as the national average.</p> <p>Proportion of young people receiving Free School Meals moving into higher education at least as good as the national average</p>	<p>Poss short training sessions at the Youth Hub.</p> <p>Establish and promote links with HE providers</p> <p>Link with Schools data and Thurrock Careers, Colleges to understand current data and build on this for next 3-5 years</p>	<p>Youth Workers and Thurrock Careers</p> <p>KKB to enhance the partnership work with UEL</p> <p>D Petrie, Thurrock Careers, Colleges, Data Team</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p>

Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 6: Support the Health of Children Affected by Poverty and Reduce Inequalities in Health Outcomes				
Continue to promote and monitor health eating programs in Schools and Children Centres	Schools and Children Centres can show evidence of reduced health related issues in children and families	Youth Offer Health and Fitness programmes as standard delivery. Children's centre volunteer group deliver healthy eating/cooking on a budget programmes	Children Centres, Schools, Youth Workers	6 month reviews of impact after baseline data collated
Working in partnership with close proximity Food Outlets to promote healthier options and information	Food Outlets provide clearer information and support to customers regarding their food choices	Start relationships with small group of traders in those identified areas of obesity and track development and change in families during trial period	D Petrie, Traders, Health	6 months and 1 year reviews
Continue promoting and monitoring Breast Feeding benefits to families on low income	Breast feeding is incrementally increased	Establish link with Children Centres, Nurseries, Health team and Teenage Parents group to ensure current levels and agree cross borough targets	Children Centre Managers, Public Health,	Annual Reviews in line with local data sets
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 7: Provide Suitable Housing and Prevent Homelessness				
Continue to deliver and develop high quality housing and services	Suitable high quality housing is provided to families and young people in the borough	Continue to support families in maximising their income through the work of the financial inclusion services. Support care leavers and vulnerable young people to secure suitable accommodation through the use of the essential living fund.	Strategic Lead Housing	6monthly and yearly reviews

		Joint working with Children's services to ensure adequate provision of emergency and intermediary housing is provided.		
Develop residents skills and networks through Housing volunteering opportunities	Provide access to opportunity to support young people with barriers training, education, and work	Continue to prioritise the delivery of training, apprenticeships and job opportunities through social value obligations.	Head of Housing – Investment and Development	6month and yearly reviews.
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 8: Remove Transport Barriers				
Embed CPov Strategy in the Transport Business plan whilst removing additional family transport barriers	Evidenced outcomes of CPov embedded within plans	Review of Transport Business Plan and links with CPov strategy. Review consultations around transport to ensure access is available and promoted	D Petrie, Transport Head	Annual Review linked with policy update reviews
	Feasibility research concluded on volunteer driving instructor programme	Conduct feasibility research in programme and explore all insurance, safety aspects whilst linking in with local Test centre	D Petrie, CVS, Transport department	6 month review plus case studies to ensure impact
	Car/Minibus Sharing and volunteer programme within 12 most disadvantaged areas	Conduct feasibility research into sharing programme and explore national outcomes to develop local framework	D Petrie, CVS, Transport department	6 month review plus case studies to ensure impact

Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 9: Family Well-Being				
Review of MASH and ongoing monitoring of its impact on those families in need	Identifiable CPov outcomes for those families through MASH and delivery/support altered based on feedback from families	Establish MASH engagement and current CPov families. Establish better link with current Youth Offer activities to reduce CPov Work to embed CPov KPI's within the outcomes of the MASH model	D Petrie, MASH Coordinators, Data Team	6 month review plus case studies to ensure impact
Alternative Opportunities for Volunteers around safeguarding	All Volunteers in the borough have access to all safeguarding and all aspects of "health" training	Establish current opportunities and baseline for all vols and work with a range of training providers to create a set approach for all	D Petrie, HR, CVS, Training Department, Voluntary sector, training agencies	Annual review
Ensure and monitor seamless and co-ordinated support across agencies for Children with disabilities	All families with children with disabilities identified in CPov have a clear time lined plan to address their	Identify CPov families with disabilities and consult on current needs and factors to alleviate them from CPov	D Petrie, Sunshine Centre, Social Care, JC+	Annual Review, linked with the support workers reviews plus case studies
Child Poverty Strategy Objective	Outcomes	Action / Outputs	Resources/Lead	Monitoring
Priority 10: Work Together to Share Information and Maximise Impact				
Develop and share Knowledge Base between Organisations	Collation of all agencies, events and feedback from communities and shared over an online process	Work with all agencies and Communities to look at easiest and most accessible way of sharing knowledge, skills and opportunities	D Petrie, Pixel Works, Agencies, Volunteers, Thurrock Fairness Commission	On-going Review with Annual Updates and on-line feedback
All Policy and Procurement procedures to ensure commitment to CPov Strategy	Review of all Policy/Procedures and embedment of CPov Strategy	Ensure all heads have reviewed their policies to highlight where the CPov strategy is included	D Petrie, Heads of Service, Commissioning team	Annual Review linked with policy update reviews

Develop Strategy and delivery of Public Information packages around CPov issues	Physical and online information with focussed events and trained staff/volunteers providing info packages of support	Review of current online packages. Strategy created through review and consultation with identified families. Creation of "bite sized" infomercial's utilising community to present and promote Youth Offer (Art space) to produce another short film.	D Petrie, Pixel Works, Community, Volunteers Youth Workers	On-going Review with Annual Updates and on-line feedback April 2016
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Thurrock Child Poverty Needs Analysis 2015



Thurrock Council – Key Objectives

Create a place for learning and opportunity

Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

Build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer opportunities

Improve health and well-being

Protect and promote our clean and green environment

Contents

	Glossary	Page 4
	List of tables and figures	Page 5
1	Summary	Page 6
2	Introduction	Page 13
2.1	Child Poverty Act 2010	Page 13
2.2	Needs Assessment	Page 13
3	Defining and Measuring Child Poverty	Page 14
3.1	Measuring child poverty at national level	Page 14
3.2	Measuring child poverty at local level	Page 15
3.3	Methodology for the assessment	Page 15
3.4	Local strategies	Page 17
3.5	National data	Page 17
3.6	Other local data	Page 17
4	Causes and consequences of child poverty	Page 18
5	Growing up in Thurrock	Page 19
6	The extent and distribution of child poverty in Thurrock	Page 20
6.1	Poverty Key Facts	Page 20
6.2	Distribution of child poverty	Page 21
6.3	Free School Meals	Page 23
7	Drivers and risk factors	Page 24
7.1	Work	Page 24
7.2	Unemployment	Page 25
7.3	Disability and ill health	Page 26
7.4	Parents lacking qualifications	Page 27
7.5	Larger families	Page 29
7.6	One-parent families	Page 31
7.7	Structural Inequalities	Page 34
8	Education and attainment	Page 35
8.1	School readiness	Page 35
8.2	Key Stage 2	Page 37
8.3	Key Stage 4	Page 38
8.4	Free School Meals Pupils	Page 38
8.5	Looked after children	Page 40
8.6	Level 2 and 3 at age 19	Page 40
8.7	Entry to Higher Education	Page 41
8.8	Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	Page 41
9	Raising Living Standards	Page 43
9.1	Housing	Page 44
9.2	Transport	Page 45
9.3	Fuel Poverty	Page 45
9.4	Food Poverty	Page 46
9.5	Access to debt advice and affordable credit	Page 47
10	Health and Family Well Being	Page 48
10.1	Birth weight	Page 48
10.2	Breast feeding	Page 49
10.3	Child Obesity	Page 49
10.4	Teenage conceptions	Page 50
10.5	Children in Need	Page 50
10.6	Children subject to a child protection plan	Page 50
10.7	Looked after children	Page 51
10.8	Youth Offending	Page 52

Glossary

AHC	After Housing Costs
BHC	Before Housing Costs
BIS	Department of Business Innovation and Skills
BME	Black Minority Ethnic
CAB	Citizen Advice Bureau
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DfE	Department for Education
DWP	Department of Work and Pensions
ELG	Early Learning Goals
ESA	Employment Support Allowance
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Profile
FRS	Family Resources Survey
FSM	Free School Meals
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GLD	Good Level of Development
HBAI	Households Below Average Income
HE	Higher Education
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
IS	Income Support
JSA	Job Seekers Allowance
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NOMIS	National Online Manpower Information System
ONS	Office of National Statistics
SEN	Special Educational Needs
UK	United Kingdom

List of tables and figures

Page 20.....	Table 1: Children in poverty /Thurrock
Page 21.....	Table 2: Children in poverty by ward
Page 22.....	Fig1: LSOAs by percentage of children in poverty
Page 23.....	Table 3: LSOAs with highest percentages of children in poverty
Page 24.....	Table 4: Average weekly gross earnings Thurrock 2014
Page 25.....	Table 5: Thurrock Claimants Out-of Work Benefits
Page 25.....	Table 6: Children in out-of work benefit claimant households by ward
Page 26.....	Table 7: Children in IS/JSA Families/children poverty
Page 27.....	Table 8: Claimants ESA / Incapacity Benefits by ward
Page 28.....	Table 9 : Residents aged 16 and over: highest level of qualification
Page 28.....	Table10: Residents aged 16 and over no qualifications by ward
Page 29.....	Table 11:Residents aged 16 and over no qualifications/LSOAs highest rates of child poverty
Page 30.....	Fig 2: Families with 3 + children, highest and lowest wards
Page 30.....	Table 12: Children in poverty with 3+children by ward
Page 31.....	Table 13: LSOAs with highest percentages children in poverty in families 3+ children
Page 32.....	Table 14: Children in poverty in one-parent families by ward
Page 33.....	Table 15: Percentage of all children in poverty who are in one-parent families
Page 33.....	Table 16: Lone parents not in work/ out-of work benefit claimants by LSOAs with highest rates of child poverty
Page 36.....	Table 17: Percentage achieving a good level of development/Thurrock / FSM
Page 36.....	Table 18: Percentage achieving a good level of development/Thurrock /gender
Page 36.....	Table19: Percentage achieving a good level of development by ethnic group
Page 37.....	Table20: Eligible children and children accessing early education in Thurrock/Spring2013
Page 37.....	Table 21: Key Stage 2/ Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above, Reading, Writing & Mathematic/Thurrock
Page 37.....	Table 22: Percentage achieving Level 4 or above Reading, Writing & Mathematic/Thurrock /Ethnicity
Page 38.....	Table 23: Percentage pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C including Eng and Math 2010-2014
Page 39.....	Table 24: Free School Meals by ward
Page 39.....	Table 25: LSOAs with highest percentages children in poverty/FSM pupils
Page 40.....	Fig 3: Attainment gap from age 11 to age 19 by eligibility for free school meals, 2012-13
Page 41.....	Table 26: FSM Attainment gap by age 19
Page 41.....	Table 27: Entry to Higher education 2010/11/FSM
Page 42.....	Table 28: NEET by ward
Page 45.....	Fig 4: Car ownership and children in poverty by LSOA
Page 48	Fig 5: Percentage of low birth weight births 2007-11
Page 49.....	Fig 6: Prevalence of breastfeeding in Thurrock
Page 50.....	Fig 7: Obesity prevalence across Thurrock in Year 6-aged children, 2010-13
Page 51.....	Fig 8: Children subject to a CP plan in Thurrock by category of abuse, 2014
Page 51.....	Fig 9: Age Profile of Looked After Children in Thurrock, June 2014
Page 52	Table 29: Offences in Thurrock in 2013/14 by age of offender
Page 52	Fig:10 Youth Offending by ward

1 Summary

- A fifth of Thurrock children live below the poverty line. In 2012, the most recent year for which figures are available 7955 children aged 0-19 lived in low income families, below 60% median income.
- In broad terms, child poverty has remained at much the same level since 2008. Whilst the number of children in poverty in poverty has increased by 8 per cent from 7365 in 2008 to 7955 in 2012, the percentage has only increased from 19.8 per cent to 20 per cent.
- Child poverty in Thurrock is slightly above the national average (18.6%) and significantly above the level for Eastern region (15.1%).
- The majority, 5435 (68%) were aged 0-10; 2760 (35%) were aged 0-4.
- Three-quarters of poor children were living in one-parent families.
- 86 per cent were living in families with a parent claiming Jobseekers Allowance or Income Support.

Distribution of poverty

- Eleven wards have rates of child poverty below the local authority average. The lowest rates are in Orsett (6.5%), South Chafford (7.8%) Chafford and North Stifford (8.7%) and the Homesteads (9.6%).
- Child poverty is highest in Tilbury St Chad's (33.9%), and Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park (33.6%). The third highest rate of child poverty is in Chadwell St Marys (30.5%), followed by West Thurrock and South Stifford (25.7%), Belhus (23.2%) and Grays Riverside (23.1%).
- Six wards account for 54 per cent of all children in Thurrock living in poverty. The ward with the highest number of children is West Thurrock and South Stifford with 815 children, followed by Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park (760) and Chadwell St Marys (740).
- At LSOA level the distribution of child poverty is broadly similar to that identified at the last needs assessment. Twelve LSOAS account for 31 per cent of children in poverty.
- The worst affected LSOA, Thurrock 018D in Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park, has 30 times the numbers of poor children in poverty as the lowest LSOA, Thurrock 001B in Corringham and Fobbing.

Causes and drivers

Low Pay

- Since 2010, in the UK, there has been a large rise in the proportion of poor children who are in families where someone is in work, with two-thirds of poor children now in working households.¹
- Thurrock has a low wage economy relative to nearby London Boroughs and much of the East of England Weekly earnings in Thurrock are below the average for England. There is a substantial gender earnings gap.

¹ State of Nation Report, Social Mobility and Child Poverty in Great Britain, 2013 www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-nation-2014-report

- In 2012, 166 children in Thurrock were in receipt of both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and 960 in receipt of Child Tax Credit with income less than 60 percent median income. Receipt of tax credits is an indicator of low income, but not necessarily of falling below the poverty threshold. In total, 6,400 children in Thurrock in 2012/13 were in families receiving Working Tax Credit.

Unemployment

- Unemployment is a main driver of child poverty in Thurrock. Among children in Low Income Families below 60 percent median income, 6880 or 86 per cent live in families in receipt of IS or JSA.
- Nearly 30 per cent of those children live in the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty.

Disability

- Ill health, including physical and mental illness and disability creates significant barriers to work. Children in families with a disabled adult are over a third more likely to be in poverty than children in families with no disabled adult (22% compared to 16%).²
- There are 3239 households in Thurrock with dependent children and at least one person with a long term health problem or disability. In 2014, 5140 residents of working age claimed Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Incapacity Benefit.

Qualifications

- Children in families with no qualifications are twice as likely to be in poverty as children overall. In England, 22 percent of the working age population have no qualifications, but the proportion in Thurrock is higher. More than a quarter of adult residents have no academic or vocational qualifications.
- Inequalities among neighbourhoods are acute. In three LSOAs, more than 40 percent of adults have no vocational or academic qualifications. In the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty, the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications ranges from 19 percent to 42 percent.

Large Families

- Nationally, more than a third of children in relative poverty live in families with three or more children (800,000) and children in larger families are almost two-thirds more likely to be in poverty than children in smaller families.³
- Families with three or more children represent 16.4 percent of all families with dependent children in Thurrock. Of the 7955 children in poverty in Thurrock in 2014, 3415, or 43 per cent, lived in families with three or more children. More than a third of children in poverty live in larger families in the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty.

One parent families

- Children in one-parent families are more than a third more likely to be in poverty than children in couple families and over a third of families who become one-parent families enter poverty.⁴ Lone-

² HBAI 2012

³ DWP, Households Below Average Income (2011/12)

⁴ HBAI

parents are one of the highest risk groups for persistent poverty, and have some of the highest entry rates into poverty, and lowest exit rates from poverty.⁵

- Among 7955 children in Thurrock in poverty, 75 per cent live in one-parent families. This is higher than the English average of 70 per cent.

Inequalities

- There is a continuum of child poverty in Thurrock. At one end, there are LSOAs with very low or low levels of child poverty, others which cluster around the average and - at the other end the twelve LSOAs identified in this assessment.
- In those twelve LSOAs, there are above average concentrations of families at greater risk of poverty – larger families, workless families, one-parent families and families where parents are disadvantaged in the employment market by lacking qualifications. Many families may experience a combination of these risk factors.

Educational attainment

- Education is one of the main routes out of poverty and how well poor children do at school has the biggest impact on their future incomes. However, poor educational attainment is a both a driver of child poverty and a manifestation of its effects. Poverty is strongly associated with poorer performance, on average, at every Key Stage of schooling.⁶

EYFS

- In Thurrock in 2014, 66 per cent of pupils achieved at least the expected standard in the Early Learning Goals exceeding the English average by 6 percentage points. The attainment gap between children eligible for Free School Meals and the rest was 14 per cent, lower than the English average (19%).
- There is a significant gender gap – 14 per cent in 2014. Whereas Thurrock girls eligible for free school meals achieved scores above the English average for all pupils, slightly more than a third of boys eligible for FSM achieved a good level of development.

Early education and childcare

- In 2013, 422 children aged 2, 3 and 4 years in Thurrock who were eligible but who did not take up any early education
- The quality of funded early education and care is crucial for children's development at the end of the Foundation Stage. Good quality provision is crucial for children in more deprived areas. In 2013, the percentage of settings receiving a Good Ofsted Inspection outcome had risen from 60.3 per cent in 2010 to 69.8 per cent.⁷

Key Stage 2

- Key Stage 2 is the term for the period of schooling up to Year 6 for pupils aged 7-11 years. The picture in Thurrock is of continuously improving results now comparable with the English average. At this stage, the gender gap has narrowed. In 2014, 62 per cent of pupils eligible for free school meals

⁵ Child Poverty Evidence Review⁵ DCSF (2009) Deprivation and Education The evidence on pupils in England, Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4

⁶ DCSF (2009) Deprivation and Education The evidence on pupils in England, Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4

⁷ Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014

achieved Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at Key Stage 2, compared with 80 per cent of other pupils.

- Only three-quarters of primary school pupils in Thurrock attend schools which are at least good. A number of the primary schools which were not judged as good at the most recent inspection are in the more deprived areas of Thurrock.

Key Stage 4

- Thurrock is one of four higher attaining local authorities in Eastern Region with strong GCSE outcomes and is leading the provision of secondary schools which are good or outstanding. In 2014, 57.9 per cent of pupils in Thurrock achieving GCSEs A* to C including English and Mathematics.
- In England, in 2013-14, the attainment gap between FSM pupils and the rest was 27 per cent. In Thurrock, the gap was 31.3 per cent.

Free School Meals

- At all stages of schooling, although the gap between poor children and the rest has narrowed, it remains significant. 3840 pupils resident in Thurrock were receiving free school meals in 2014, representing 15 per cent of all pupils resident in the borough. Proportionately, more FSM pupils live in disadvantaged areas – 63 per cent live in just seven wards in Thurrock.
- Together the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty account for 33 per cent of all FSM pupils in Thurrock. These numbers and proportions reinforce the need for good and outstanding schools within the local areas.

Looked after children

- Looked after children have poorer educational outcomes. In England, in 2013, 15.3 per cent of Looked After children gained 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Mathematics or equivalent. The previous year the figure was 11 per cent. The attainment gap, while large is reducing.
- In Thurrock no Looked After Children achieved 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Mathematics or equivalent, but 30 per cent gained 5 GCSEs A*-C, a slight reduction on the previous year.⁸

Level 2 and Level 3 at 19

- Nationally, attainment of a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 has been rising. In 2013, 86.2 per cent of 19 year olds were qualified to Level 2 or higher, and 59.1 per cent were qualified to Level 3. In Thurrock, 87 per cent of young people had achieved a Level 2 qualification or higher by the age of 19 and 53 per cent were qualified to Level 3 or higher.
- In Thurrock, the gap in qualifications between disadvantaged young adults and others – although improving over time - is wider than across the country as a whole.

Entry to Higher Education

⁸ SFR50_LAT_Tables

- Entry to higher education can advance social mobility. In England, in 2010/11, 35 per cent of young people entered higher education by age 19. In Thurrock, the figure is one of the lowest in England – 23 percent - with only 5 percent of young people who had been eligible for free school meals at 15 entering higher education by age 19.

NEET

- Those who are not in education, training or employment are termed NEET and are subdivided into 'available', that is, looking for work available or 'not available' for example because of pregnancy, illness or being a young carer. In November 2014, there were 242 young people in Thurrock, identified as NEET and available for work and 67 who were not available.

Raising Living Standards

Housing

- At the time of the last Child Poverty Needs Assessment, the average price of a house in Thurrock was £145,171. In November 2014, the average price had risen to £166,352.⁹ Although the cost of buying a home in Thurrock is, on average, lower than across the region and considerably lower compared with London, property is increasingly out of reach for local people.
- With house prices in Thurrock rising, there has been a growth in the private rental market. As a result of benefit changes, 161 families have been subject to a housing benefit cap. The majority were one-parent families and larger families. All of these households had dependent children. The vast majority, 155, had three or more children and almost two thirds were one-parent families.

Transport

- There are gaps in access to further education which may deter those affected from joining college courses, which in turn may prevent low-skilled residents from finding employment. In some deprived wards there is below average accessibility to services and to employment. There is poor accessibility to hospitals for some communities and particularly for non-car owning households.¹⁰
- Across the borough as a whole, 20.1 per cent of households are non-car owning. The wards which have the lowest proportions of households with cars are Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park (65.8%) and Tilbury St Chads, (71.4%). In 10 LSOAs more than a third of households do not own cars.

Fuel Poverty

- According to statistics published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in June 2014, 2.28 million households in England are living in fuel poverty, representing one in ten households. The health implications of living in cold homes are well established, ranging from cardiovascular and respiratory disease to depression. Those living in private rented homes have the highest rates of fuel poverty.
- Data on fuel poverty at parliamentary constituency level show that an estimated 3410 households in Thurrock are fuel poor, with 2637 households in the constituency of South Basildon and East Thurrock.

⁹ Land registry House Price Index 2014

¹⁰ Thurrock Transport Strategy 2016-26

Food Poverty

- Food banks are a service of last resort for people living in poverty. Despite their best efforts, many people cannot earn enough to live on. UK food prices have increased by 43.5 per cent in the eight years to July 2013 and food expenditure as a proportion of total household expenditure has continued to rise.¹¹
- In 2013-2014 Thurrock Food Bank provided around 42,600 meals. Just under a quarter of the vouchers were given to lone-parent families and 20 percent to other families with children. The main reasons people gave for seeking help were benefit delays, low income, benefit changes, debt and unemployment.

Debt

- Unmanageable debt can leave families with insufficient income to meet their most basic needs. It can also act as a barrier to work and increase the risk of family breakdown, the effects of all which are felt by the children in the household.
- In 2013/14 Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau advised 7959 clients with 11552 problems. The main problems were benefits (32%); debt (21%); employment (8%); and housing (11%).

Health

Low birth weight

- Low birth weight is associated with poorer health and poorer life chances. Low birth weight is more common in babies born in more deprived areas; to lone mothers, mothers under the age of 20 or over 40; to mothers in the lowest income groups and to mothers outside the UK.
- The proportion of low weight births in Thurrock is similar to the national average of 7.3 per cent of live and still births. Levels are higher in wards with higher levels of deprivation.

Breastfeeding

- The proportion of mothers initiating breastfeeding in Thurrock and breastfeeding at six weeks was significantly lower than the national and regional averages in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13. Among the factors which appear to influence the decision to breast feed is area deprivation.

Child obesity

- Thurrock has an obesity prevalence in Reception-aged children of 9.6 per cent, which is significantly higher than the East of England average (8.1%), but only very slightly above the England average of 9.3%. Obesity in Year 6-aged children is at a rate of 19.8 per cent, more than double the prevalence at Reception Year. Obesity in Year 6-aged children is significantly higher than the East of England average (17.0%), and is above the England average of 18.9 per cent.
- The concentration of both Reception and Year 6 children who are obese is greatest in the more deprived parts of the borough.

Teenage conceptions

¹¹ www.church-poverty.org.uk/fuelfinance

- Thurrock has dramatically decreased its rate of under 18 conceptions by 51 per cent since the national teenage pregnancy strategy was launched in 1998. This impact is far greater in comparison to national and regional figures that have decreased by 40.6 per cent and 38.8 per cent respectively and is the 6th biggest reduction by a council outside of London.
- The most recent data (2010-12) shows that the wards with the highest rates of conceptions are Tilbury St Chads, Stanford Le Hope West and Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park.

Child protection

- The rate of children subject to child protection plans has been on an upwards curve in Thurrock and continued to rise through 2013/14. The rate per 10,000 children in 2013/14 was 75 (288 children). This compares to a rate of 53 in 2012/13 – an increase of 41 per cent. The rate also placed Thurrock significantly above the national rate. When analysed by category of abuse, the most prevalent category of abuse is neglect (44.5%) followed by emotional abuse (29.8%)

Looked after children

- As of 10th June 2014, there were 297 looked after children in Thurrock. Of the 297 children, 179 (60%) were male and 118 (40%) female. Out of the 110 young people in Thurrock aged 19, 20 and 21 leaving care, 41 per cent are NEET. 75 per cent of the 110 young people are reported to be in suitable accommodation, which is lower than the national average of 88 per cent.

Youth offending

- There were 207 offences committed in Thurrock in 2013/14 that were known to the Youth Offending Team – 174 were committed by males and 33 by females.

2 Introduction

Poverty is the single largest threat to the well-being of children and families and affects every area of a child's development. Child poverty imposes costs on society – estimated to be at least £29 billion a year.¹²

2.3 million children in the UK live in poverty; 3.7 million after housing costs are taken into account. The previous government pledged to halve poverty by 2010 and set a target of poverty elimination by 2020. It is widely acknowledged that this target will not be met. Child poverty in the UK reduced significantly between 1998/9-2011/12 when 1.1 million children were lifted out of poverty. Under current government policies, child poverty is projected to rise from 2012/13 with an expected 600,000 more children living in poverty by 2015/16. This upward trend is expected to continue with 4.7 million children projected to be living in poverty by 2020.

2.1 Child Poverty Act 2010

Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act introduced new duties on responsible Local Authorities to:

- Cooperate to put in place arrangements to work to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area;
- Prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment to understand the drivers of child poverty in their local area and the characteristics of those living in poverty; and
- Prepare a joint child poverty strategy setting out measures that the local authority and each named partner propose to take to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area.

2.2 Needs Assessment

This needs assessment aims to:

- provide a deeper understanding of the characteristics of children and families living in poverty and the areas within Thurrock in which they live;
- establish the key drivers of child poverty in the area and the links with local service provision;
- assess relevant local service provision across the authority and its partners, its suitability, culture and available resources;
- make clear the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to tackling child poverty in the area; and
- provide a solid foundation for the development of the local child poverty strategy

¹² D Hirsch, Estimating the costs of child poverty, 2013

3 Defining and measuring Child Poverty

The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets three income-related targets that the Government must meet by 2020, with a fourth to be set by December 2014. The four Child Poverty Act 2010 target measures are:

1. Relative low income target of less than 10 per cent Before Housing Costs (BHC), by 2020/21
2. Absolute low income target of less than 5per cent BHC, by 2020/21
3. Combined Low income and material deprivation target of less than five percent by 2020/21
4. Persistent poverty target of less than 7 per cent of children living in households in relative low income for a least three out of the last four years by 2020

In 2010-2011 prices, the poverty threshold (60% below the median national income BHC) was:

£414 a week for a couple with two children aged 5 and 14

£317 a week for a lone-parent with two children aged 5 and 14

3.1 Measuring child poverty at national level

The approach to measuring child poverty has changed since the last child poverty needs assessment was completed. The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) publication now provides the definitive national measure of relative child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. Households Below Average Income (HBAI) uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) to measure living standards in the UK using disposable household income and material deprivation. Adjustments are made to take account of the size and composition of households to make the income figures comparable.

In 2012-13:

- 2.3 million or 17%, of children were in relative low income BHC
- 2.6 million or 19% of children were in absolute low income BHC
- 1.8 million or 13% of children were combined low income and material deprivation ¹³

¹³ Households Below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2012/13, Department for Work and Pensions, 2013 DWP 2014

3.2 Measuring child poverty at local level

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) is based on data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS,) meaning that the sample sizes are insufficient for useful analysis at the local level.

The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is the proportion of children living in families within the UK that are either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60 per cent of national median income. This is the former N116 national indicator.

This measure provides a broad proxy for relative low-income child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010 and enables analysis at a local level, although the differences in methodology means that the figures cannot be compared directly with the HBAI. There is a two-year time lag on the publication of the data and the latest figures are for 2012.

The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is based on administrative tax credits and benefit data Sources. The measure includes children who are living in families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with reported income less than 60 per cent of median income.¹⁴

The Children in Low-Income Families local measure does not take into consideration families with low incomes that are above the threshold of 60 percent median income, before housing costs but who are on very low incomes after housing costs are taken into account.

3.3 Methodology for the assessment

The assessment utilises data from the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure, which is available at local authority, ward, and Lower Super Output (LSOA) levels. This is supplemented by other statistical data relating to children in workless households, eligibility for free school meals (FSM) and 2011 census data.

Other material factors contributing to child poverty are local pay levels and the costs of housing and these are included in the assessment of child poverty in Thurrock. In addition and because income poverty is inextricably linked to other forms of deprivation, including poorer health, the risk of debt, poor skills and lack of access to services and resources the assessment includes these as integral to the challenges faced by poorer families in Thurrock.

¹⁴ For the purpose of this assessment the term child poverty is used interchangeably with Children in Low-Income Families below 60% median income.

The government has adopted a range of further indicators for the purpose of assessing progress towards meeting its child poverty targets. These include:

Severe Poverty	Proportion of children who experience material deprivation and live in households where income is less than 50% of median household income for the financial year (BHC).
Children in Workless Households	Proportion of children living in workless households
In-Work Poverty	Proportion of children living in families where at least one person works but are still in relative poverty
Transition from childhood to the labour market	Proportion of 18-24 year olds (i) participating in part time or full time education and training (ii) not in full time education or training who are not in employment
Low birth weight	Low birth weight (gap between social classes 1-4 and social classes 5-8).
Child Development	EYFS Good Level of Development
Attainment at school and in further education	Attainment gap between children receiving free school meals and the rest at Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics
	Attainment gap between children receiving free school meals and the rest in achieving the basics at Key Stage 4 (currently defined as achieving an A*-C in English and mathematics GCSES)
	Attainment gap between children who were receiving free school meals at age 19 and the rest in achieving level 3, broken down into; (a) achieving two A levels, 20.8 (b) other A level equivalent qualification.
Progression to higher education	Progression of pupils aged 15 to higher education at age 19 (FSM at 15, non-FSM at 15 and gap)
Teenage pregnancy	Conception rates per 1000 for women aged 15-17 years.
Young offending	Number of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction.
Family Structures	The proportion of children living in relative poverty in families by:
	(a) couples who are married/in a civil partnership
	(b) couples who are cohabiting; and (c) lone-parents

Some of these indicators are measured by reference to the HBAI and other national data Sources and local data is not therefore available. Where other relevant alternative information is available, this is included.

3.4 Local strategies

The assessment also draws on a range of local strategies and needs analyses which have a bearing on child poverty, including:

- Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014
- Thurrock JSNA 2015
- Child Health Profile Thurrock 2014 – Public Health
- Fairness in Thurrock Review 2014
- Thurrock Health and Well-being Strategy 2013-16
- Thurrock Economic Development Strategy
- Thurrock Transport Strategy 2013-26
- Thurrock Council Homelessness Strategy Delivery Plan 2010-2015
- Thurrock Community Strategy

3.5 National data

The assessment made use of the extensive data available from ONS, NOMIS and GOV.UK and Public Health England pertaining to local authorities, wards and census output areas.

A range of research and other reports relating to child poverty at national level but having a bearing on the local area were drawn on for the assessment. These are cited in footnotes.

3.6 Other local data

Thanks are due to Thurrock staff for additional data relevant to the assessment.

4 Causes and consequences of child poverty

In the UK, as elsewhere, the factors influencing child poverty include family size and structure, the age and educational qualifications of parents, low earnings, ethnicity and lack of employment. One-parent families, larger families and families where no-one is in work are particularly vulnerable to poverty. Poverty in the UK is also intrinsically related to high levels of inequality, especially income inequality.

The HBAI/FRS data shows that children in larger families are almost two-thirds more likely to be in poverty than children in smaller families. Children in one-parent families are over a third more likely to be in poverty than children in couple families and over a third of families who become one-parent families enter poverty.¹⁵

Children in families with low qualifications are one and a half times as likely to be in poverty as children overall. Children in workless families are three times as likely to be in relative poverty compared with children in families where at least one adult is in work, and twice as likely as children overall. Children in families with a disabled adult are over a third more likely to be in poverty than children in families with no disabled adult.¹⁶

Poverty results from a complex interplay of influences, involving factors at the level of the family, local neighbourhood, the employment market and wider society. Within this context, factors which appear to be the causes of poverty can also appear as consequences and vice versa. Poor educational attainment is an example of a factor which both drives and is a consequence of the experience of poverty. Poor housing may be the only affordable alternative for poor families, but through its potential effect on health exerts a negative effect on health and achievement, helping to set up a cycle of deprivation.

Poverty is not synonymous with poor parenting but creates additional challenges through the imposition of stress, poorer health and social exclusion. There is considerable evidence of poverty being transmitted from one generation to another, manifesting its effects in the first few years of life. But the home environment is subject to factors which in many cases are beyond the control of families and cannot, therefore, be addressed in isolation.

These features of poverty are in part qualitative and cannot be captured by quantitative measures of income, but are nevertheless relevant to the assessment of child poverty and its effects, within the locality.

¹⁵ Households Below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2012/13, Department for Work and Pensions, 2014 DWP 2014

¹⁶ Households Below Average Income, An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2012/13, Department for Work and Pensions, 2014 DWP 2014

5 Growing up in Thurrock

Thurrock is a unitary authority situated 25 miles to the east of London on the River Thames. It covers an area of 64 square miles, over half of which is Green Belt and occupies 18 miles of river frontage. It has a diverse economy, including a number of industrial sites and is home to the Lakeside Shopping Centre, one of the largest retail developments in Europe. The Borough is a priority area within the Thames Gateway area, at the heart of major transport infrastructure - ports, roads and rail - and sustainable regeneration. Its key industries include transport, logistics, port functions and retail.

Thurrock has a young and expanding population, which at the time of the 2011 census was of 157,705 people¹⁷ which is projected to grow to 199,200 by 2033. ONS population estimates suggest that the population had grown to 160,854 people by mid-2013.

In 2012, there were 34,615 children under the age of 16 living in Thurrock, representing 22 per cent of the total population and an increase of more than 3000 young people since the time of the last Child Poverty Needs Assessment.¹⁸ Of these, 12,005 children were under the age of five. The highest concentrations of children are found in the south of the Borough, but particularly in wards such as Tilbury Riverside, Tilbury St Chad, West Thurrock and South Stifford, Grays Thurrock and Chafford and North Stifford. More than 21,000 families with children make their homes in Thurrock

The borough is made up of both indigenous local families, and a more ethnically diverse population, resulting from inward migration from London, from Eastern Europe and from other countries, in particular Africa. In 2011, approximately 14 per cent of the population was Black Minority Ethnic (BME). In the 0-4 age group 30 per cent of children were Black Minority Ethnic (BME).¹⁹

Thurrock is in the second quartile of local authorities in terms of deprivation and has enjoyed increasing affluence over the past five years. This overall picture, however, masks some very significant pockets of deprivation.

Of 98 Lower Super Output Areas in Thurrock, 5 are in the 10% most deprived in England, 7 are in the 20 per cent most deprived and ten in the 30 per cent most deprived. The most deprived wards in Thurrock include Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park, Tilbury St Chads, Grays Riverside, Belhus, Chadwell St Mary, Ockendon and West Thurrock and South Stifford.

¹⁷ ONS 2011 Census

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

6 The extent of child poverty in Thurrock

6.1 Poverty Key Facts

The latest available data on children in low income in Thurrock reveals that:

- A fifth of children in Thurrock live in poverty before housing costs are taken into account
- 7955 children (20%) of children aged 0-19 lived in low-income families below 60 percent median (poverty) in 2012. This is lower than the numbers in 2010 and 2011 but closer to the numbers in poverty at the time of the last needs assessment. Thurrock's child population has increased but in percentage terms, child poverty is at the same level as it was 2008.

Table 1: Children in poverty/Thurrock

Year	0-19 in poverty	% 0-19 in poverty
2008	7365	19.8%
2009	8040	21.1%
2010	8160	21.1%
2011	8385	21.4%
2012	7955	20%

Source: HMRC children in low -income families local measure 2014

- Child poverty in Thurrock is slightly above the national average (18.6%) and significantly above the level for Eastern region (15.1%)
- Proportionately more younger children are at risk of poverty. In 2014, 5435, or 68 per cent of children in low income families below 60 percent median income were aged 0-10;
- 2760 or 35 per cent were aged 0-4
- Three-quarters of children in low income families below 60 percent median income were living in one-parent families
- 86 per cent were living in families with a parent claiming Jobseekers Allowance or Income Support.

6.2 Distribution of child poverty

Child poverty exists everywhere in Thurrock but is most concentrated in the deprived parts of the borough. The distribution of poverty among wards is broadly similar to that noted in the last needs assessment. Whilst the number of children in poverty has increased by 8% from 7365 in 2008 to 7955 in 2012, the percentage has only increased from 19.8 per cent to 20 per cent.

At ward level:

- Six wards account for 54 per cent of all children in Thurrock living in poverty.
- At ward level, child poverty is highest - in percentage terms - in Tilbury St Chad's and Tilbury Riverside. The third highest rate of child poverty is in Chadwell St Marys, followed by West Thurrock and South Stifford, Belhus and Grays Riverside.
- Ten wards have percentage rates of child poverty below the local authority average. The lowest rates are in Orsett, South Chafford, Chafford & North Stifford and The Homesteads.
- The ward with the highest number of children in poverty is West Thurrock and South Stifford with 815 children, followed by Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park (760) and Chadwell St Marys (740)

Table 2: Children in poverty by ward

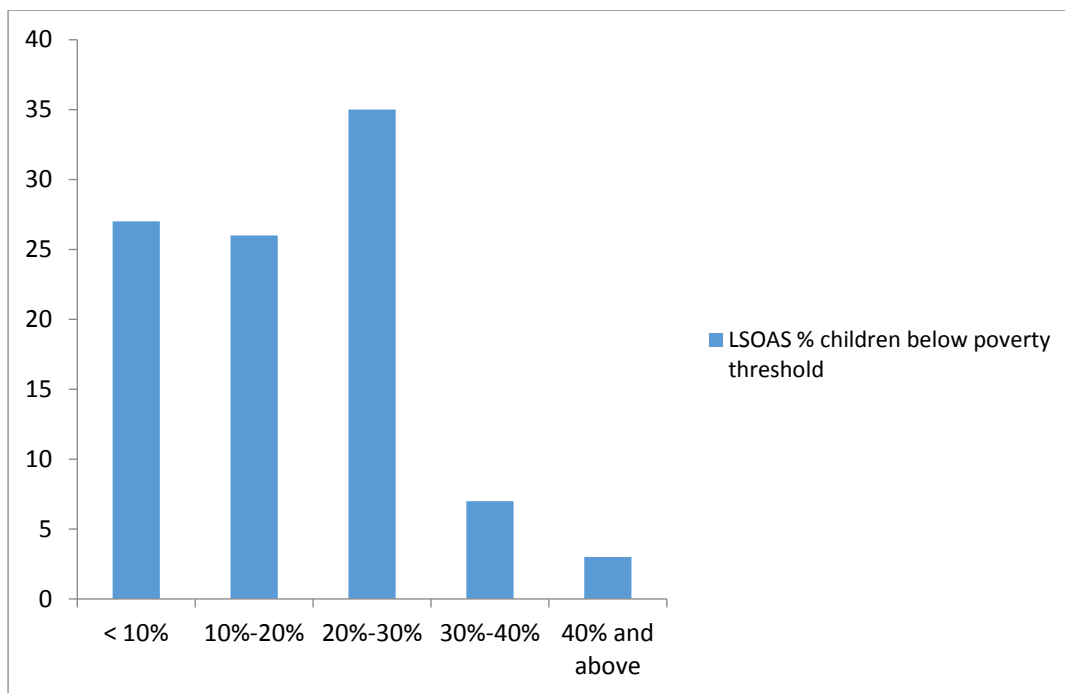
Ward	Children in poverty	% rate child poverty	Ward	Children in poverty	% rate child poverty
Aveley & Uplands	470	21.6%	Ockendon	550	22.1%
Belhus	630	23.2%	Orsett	80	6.5%
Chadwell St. Mary	740	30.5%	South Chafford	175	7.8%
Chafford & N. Stifford	205	8.7%	Stanford East	380	21%
Corringham & Fobbing	105	10.5%	Stanford le Hope West	300	21%
East Tilbury	310	18.9%	Stifford Clays	215	15.1%
Grays Riverside	710	23.1%	The Homesteads	175	9.6%
Grays Thurrock	440	19.7%	Tilbury Riverside	760	33.6%
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	145	12%	Tilbury St. Chads	635	33.9%
Little Thurrock Rectory	135	10%	West Thurrock	815	25.7%

Source: HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

At LSOA level:

- At LSOA level, the distribution of child poverty is broadly unchanged since the last needs assessment. Just 12 LSOAs account for 31 per cent of children in poverty. Nine of those were among the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty at the time of the last needs assessment.
- The worst affected LSOA, Thurrock 018D, in Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park has 30 times the numbers of poor children in poverty as the lowest LSOA, Thurrock 001B in Corringham and Fobbing.
- In 2008, two LSOAs had child poverty rates above 50 per cent or above. In 2012 no LSOAs have child poverty rates above 50 percent. Three LSOAs have rates of 40 per cent or above, seven have rates of 30 per cent or above. The following figure shows Thurrock LSOAs ranked according to the percentage of children living in low-income below 60 percent median.

Fig1: LSOAs by % of children in poverty



Source: HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

- The LSOAs with the highest percentages of children in poverty also have the highest numbers of poor children.
- The LSOAs with highest rates are shown in the following table with comparison figures from the last needs assessment:

Table 3: LSOAs with highest percentages of children in poverty

LSOA	Ward	Children in poverty 2012	% rate child poverty 2012	Children in poverty 2008	% rate child poverty 2008
Thurrock 015C	West Thurrock	240	29.4%	175	34.2%
Thurrock 012C	Chadwell St Mary	125	29.6%	120	28.2%
Thurrock 018G	Tilbury St Chads	145	31.1%	135	29.8%
Thurrock 015E	West Thurrock	285	31.7%	315	40.6%
Thurrock 008A	Aveley & Uplands	130	32.3%	105	27.5%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside	180	32.8%	210	42.3%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	250	35.3%	275	51.1%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	170	36.8%	210	44.9%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	215	37.6%	175	34.3%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	190	40.7%	170	37.3%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	210	42.5%	230	45.8%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside	310	45.9%	335	55%
Total		2450		2455	

Source: HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

6.3 Free School Meals

Eligibility and take-up of free school meals (FSM) provide a further measure of children living in families on low incomes. In Thurrock in 2014, 3840 pupils resident in Thurrock were receiving Free School Meals.

Two thirds of these related to just 8 wards, Belhus, Grays Riverside, West Thurrock, Chadwell St Marys, Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park, Tilbury St Chads, Aveley and Uplands and Ockendon.

7 Drivers and risk factors

The Child Poverty Act 2010 creates a duty in the UK Child Poverty Strategy to consider groups of children disproportionately affected by social-economic disadvantage. Families at the greatest risk of poverty include:

- Families where no-one is in work
- Having low or no qualifications
- Families having three or more children to care for
- One-parent families
- Families living with disability or ill-health.

7.1 Work

The main drivers of poverty are unemployment and low earnings.

According to the Child Poverty Action Group, it costs a minimum of £148,000 in total - around £160 per week - to bring up a child to age 18 and meet the child's minimum needs.²⁰ The minimum necessary cost rose by 4% in 2013, while the minimum wage rose by 1.8 per cent; average earnings by 1.5 per cent; benefits for families and children by just 1%, and child benefit did not rise at all.

Nationally since 2010, there has been a big rise in the proportion of poor children who are in families where someone is in work, with two-thirds of poor children now in working households.²¹

Thurrock has a low wage economy relative to nearby London Boroughs and much of the East of England. Average weekly pay in Thurrock is below the average for England.

There is a substantial gender pay gap which is relevant in the context of high numbers of one-parent families, headed by women.

The labour market in Thurrock reflects many of the patterns between males and females which are evident nationally. Men are traditionally concentrated in full-time work, whereas large numbers of women work part-time.

The figures below include full and part-time employees.

Table 4: Average weekly gross earnings Thurrock 2014

	Average Weekly earnings all 2014	Average Weekly earnings Males 2014	Average Weekly earnings Females 2014
England	£422	£513	£322
Thurrock	£391	£500	£269

Source: Nomis: Annual Survey of hours and earnings

²⁰ The Cost of a Child in 2013, Child Poverty Action Group

²¹ State of Nation Report, Social Mobility and Child Poverty in Great Britain, 2013

In 2012, 166 children in Thurrock were in receipt of both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and 960 in receipt of Child Tax Credit with income less than 60 percent median income. Receipt of tax credits is an indicator of low income, but not necessarily of falling below the poverty threshold. In total, 6,400 children in Thurrock in 2012/13 were in families receiving Working Tax Credit.

7.2 Unemployment

Worklessness is a key factor in child poverty. The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission believes "the best way in which child poverty can be ended is through a strategy which has at its heart getting parents into sustainable employment with *decent earnings*".²²

Between July 2013 and June 2014 the unemployment rate in Thurrock was 7.2 per cent, slightly above the UK average of 6.8 per cent and above the regional average (5.1%).

In May 2014, 10,170 residents in Thurrock were claiming out-of-work benefits, including 1780 lone parents.

Table 5: Thurrock claimants out-of work benefits

	Jobseeker (JSA)	ESA and incapacity benefits	Lone-parent	Other income related benefits
Thurrock	2930	5140	1780	320

Source: DWP: Out-of-work benefits claimants May 2014

In May 2014 – a total of 7860 children aged 0-19 in Thurrock were living in out-of-work benefit claimant households. The ward distribution is as follows.

Table 6: Children in out-of work benefit claimant households by ward

	Children 0-18 in Out-of-work benefit claimant households		Children 0-18 in Out-of-work benefit claimant households
Aveley & Uplands	465	Ockendon	535
Belhus	640	Orsett	75
Chadwell St Mary	725	South Chafford	170
Chafford & N Stifford	200	Stanford East	380
Corringham & Fobbing	110	Stanford le Hope West	300
East Tilbury	290	Stifford Clays	205
Grays Riverside	700	The Homesteads	160
Grays Thurrock	425	Tilbury Riverside	745
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	140	Tilbury St Chads	630
Little Thurrock Rectory	140	West Thurrock	825

Source: DWP Children in out of work benefit households May 2014

²² State of Nation Report, Social Mobility and Child Poverty in Great Britain, 2013

Not all families receiving out of work benefits are below 60 percent median income. Among children in low income families below 60 percent median income, 6880 or 86 per cent live in families in receipt of IS or JSA. Nearly 30 per cent of those children live in the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty.

Table 7: Children in IS/JSA Families/children in poverty

LSOA	Ward	% rate child poverty	Poor children living in IS/JSA families
Thurrock 008A	Aveley & Uplands	32.3%	115
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	40.7%	175
Thurrock 012C	Chadwell St Mary	29.6%	115
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	37.6%	200
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	35.3%	215
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside	32.8%	165
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside	45.9%	295
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	42.5%	200
Thurrock 018G	Tilbury St Chads	31.1%	135
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	36.8%	160
Thurrock 015C	West Thurrock	29.4%	215
Thurrock 015E	West Thurrock	31.7%	250

Source: HMRC Children in low-income families local measure 2014

7.3 Disability and ill health

Ill health, including physical and mental illness and disability creates significant barriers to work. Children in families with a disabled adult are over a third more likely to be in poverty than children in families with no disabled adult (22% compared to 16%).²³

In 2011, 500,000 poor children in the UK lived in families where at least one adult had a long-standing limiting disability.

The 2011 Census identified 3239 households in Thurrock with dependent children and at least one person with a long term health problem or disability.

Statistics relating to Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Incapacity benefit provides an indication of the extent and distribution of adult disability or chronic poor health. In 2014, 5140 people of working age in Thurrock were in receipt of ESA or Incapacity Benefit. The numbers are highest in the wards with higher levels of child poverty.

The following table shows the ward distribution of these disability related benefits.

²³ HBAI 2012

Table 8 : Claimants ESA / Incapacity Benefits by ward

	ESA/Incapacity benefits		ESA/Incapacity benefits
Aveley & Uplands	335	Ockendon	445
Belhus	530	Orsett	90
Chadwell St Mary	450	South Chafford	85
Chafford & N Stifford	115	Stanford East	310
Corringham & Fobbing	120	Stanford le Hope West	175
East Tilbury	190	Stifford Clays	210
Grays Riverside	410	The Homesteads	130
Grays Thurrock	275	Tilbury Riverside	330
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	150	Tilbury St Chads	315
Little Thurrock Rectory	130	West Thurrock	345

Source: DWP Workless Benefits May 2014

7.4 Parents lacking qualifications

Parental educational achievement an important factor affecting children's educational outcomes. Higher qualification levels and skills are also associated with higher earnings and employment prospects for individuals. This reduces the risk of poverty for more highly qualified individuals and their children.

Children in families with no qualifications are twice as likely to be in poverty as children overall (35% compared to 17%). Children in families with low qualifications are one and a half times as likely to be in poverty as children overall (26% compared to 17%).²⁴

Thurrock is a key site for regeneration and anticipates the creation of up to 22,000 new jobs in its core industries by 2021.²⁵ However, the local authority has a low skills base which prevents some local residents from taking advantage of economic growth.

Statistical data is not available at local level relating to the qualifications held by parents, but instead to the qualifications held by people of working age.

The 2011 census provides data on the highest qualifications held by people of working age at national, regional, local authority and MSOA and LSOA levels.

²⁴ HBAI 2012

²⁵ Thurrock Economic Development Strategy

In England, 22 per cent of the working age population have no qualifications, but the proportion in Thurrock is higher, with proportionately fewer people having higher level qualifications.

Table 9 : Residents aged 16 and over: highest level of qualification 2011 Census

Highest Level of qualification	England	Eastern Region	Thurrock
No qualifications	22%	23%	26%
Level 1	13%	15%	18%
Level 2	15%	16%	18%
Apprenticeship	4%	4%	3%
Level 3	12%	12%	11%
Level 4	27%	26%	17%
Other qualifications	6%	5%	6%

Source: 2011 Census

The following table shows the ward distribution of adults lacking qualifications.

Table10: Residents aged 16 and over no qualifications by ward 2011 Census

	% rate Child Poverty	Residents 16+ No qualifications		% rate Child Poverty	Residents 16+ No qualifications
Aveley & Uplands	21.6%	33%	Ockendon	22.1%	29%
Belhus	23.2%	33%	Orsett	6.5%	22%
Chadwell St Mary	30.5%	37%	South Chafford	7.8%	9%
Chafford & N Stifford	8.7%	13%	Stanford East	21%	34%
Corringham & Fobbing	10.5%	29%	Stanford le Hope West	21%	26%
East Tilbury	18.9%	24%	Stifford Clays	15.1%	31%
Grays Riverside	23.1%	21%	The Homesteads	9.6%	23%
Grays Thurrock	19.7%	26%	Tilbury Riverside	33.6%	33%
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	12%	29%	Tilbury St Chads	33.9%	37%
Little Thurrock Rectory	10%	23%	West Thurrock	25.7%	20%

Source: 2011 Census

Adult qualifications in the LSOAs with the highest levels of child poverty are shown in the following table.

Table 11: Residents aged 16 and over no qualifications/LSOA highest rates of child poverty

LSOA	Ward	% rate child poverty	No qualifications
Thurrock 008A	Aveley & Uplands	32.3%	41%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	40.7%	33%
Thurrock 012C	Chadwell St Mary	29.6%	39%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	37.6%	35%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	35.3%	24%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside	32.8%	40%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside	45.9%	36%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	42.5%	42%
Thurrock 018G	Tilbury St Chads	31.1%	37%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	36.8%	42%
Thurrock 015C	West Thurrock	29.4%	26%
Thurrock 015E	West Thurrock	31.7%	19%

Source: 2011 Census and HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

7.5 Larger families

Families with three or more children are at greater risk of being in poverty. Nationally, more than a third of children in relative poverty live in families with three or more children (800,000) and children in larger families are almost two-thirds more likely to be in poverty than children in smaller families.²⁶

Larger families need to achieve higher income levels to avoid poverty, but there is also evidence of higher rates of worklessness among larger families. Poor children in large families are more likely to have parents with low or no qualifications and larger families have childcare responsibilities which may make it more difficult to work. Compared with an only child, a child living in a household with three or more children is over three times more likely to experience persistent poverty.²⁷

Larger families have borne the brunt of the benefits cap. Among families with children who were capped, 86% had three or more children.²⁸

In Thurrock, at the 2011 census there were 3547 families with three or more children, representing 16.4 per cent of all families with dependent children. This is higher than the regional average (10%).²⁹ Eleven of the borough's 20 wards fall within the range of 8 per cent - 16 per cent of families with three or more children. In Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park and Tilbury St Chads 23 per cent of families have three or more children.

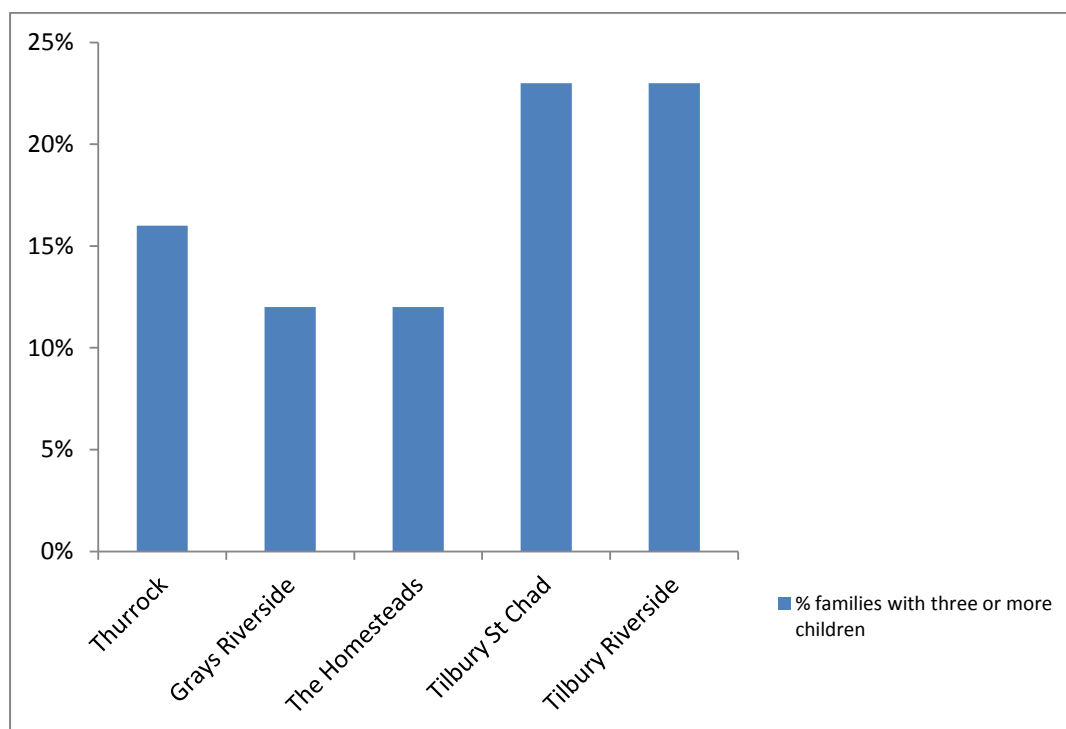
²⁶ DWP, Households Below Average Income (2011/12)

²⁷ Child Poverty Evidence Review 2014 HM Government

²⁸ DWP Housing benefit cap 2014

²⁹ 2011 Census QS118EW_2621_2011

Fig 2: Families with 3 + children, highest and lowest wards



Source: HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

Of the 7955 children in poverty in Thurrock in 2012, 3415, or 43%, lived in families with three or more children. The ward distribution is shown below.

Table 12: Children in poverty in families with 3 + children by ward

	Children in Low-Income Families 3+ children	% of all poor children in ward		Children in Low-Income Families 3+ children	% of all poor children in ward
Aveley & Uplands	230	49%	Ockendon	235	43%
Belhus	255	40%	Orsett	20	25%
Chadwell St Mary	345	47%	South Chafford	55	31%
Chafford & N Stifford	70	34%	Stanford East	145	38%
Corringham & Fobbing	30	29%	Stanford le Hope West	115	38%
East Tilbury	135	44%	Stifford Clays	120	56%
Grays Riverside	200	28%	The Homesteads	55	31%
Grays Thurrock	200	45%	Tilbury Riverside	375	49%
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	45	31%	Tilbury St Chads	345	54%
Little Thurrock Rectory	55	41%	West Thurrock	385	47%

HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

More than a third of children in poverty who live in larger families live in the 12 LSOAs with the highest percentages of child poverty.

Table 13: LSOAs with highest percentages children in poverty in families 3 + children

LSOA	Ward	Children in Low-Income Families 3+ children	% of all poor children in LSOA
Thurrock 008A	Aveley & Uplands	75	58%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	105	55%
Thurrock 012C	Chadwell St Mary	60	48%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	65	30%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	75	30%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside	90	50%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside	160	52%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	130	62%
Thurrock 018G	Tilbury St Chads	70	48%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	90	53%
Thurrock 015C	West Thurrock	140	58%
Thurrock 015E	West Thurrock	145	51%

Source: HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

7.6 One-parent families

Children in the UK have a higher probability of experiencing parental separation, having a lone parent, or being part of a step-family when compared to a majority of other developed countries. Just over two-thirds of children aged 0–14 in the UK live with both their parents, compared to an OECD average of 84 per cent.³⁰

Children in one-parent families are more than a third more likely to be in poverty than children in couple families and over a third of families who become one-parent families enter poverty.³¹ Lone-parents are one of the highest risk groups for persistent poverty, and have some of the highest entry rates into poverty, and lowest exit rates from poverty.³²

There were nearly 2.0 million lone parents with dependent children in the UK in 2011. Lone-parents with dependent children represented 24% of families in England.

In Thurrock, in 2011, there were 4729 one-parent families, representing 22 per cent of all families with dependent children. At ward level, the percentage varies from 11 per cent to 35 per cent. At LSOA level, the percentage of one-parent families varies from 5 per cent to 44 per cent.

³⁰ Child Poverty Evidence Review

³¹ HBAI

³² Child Poverty Evidence Review

Of the 7955 children in Thurrock in poverty, 75 percent were living in one-parent families, higher than the English average of 70 per cent. The following table shows the distribution by ward

Table 14: Children in poverty in one-parent families by ward

	Children in poverty in one-parent families	% of children in poverty		Children in poverty in one-parent families	% of children in poverty
Aveley & Uplands	355	76%	Ockendon	405	74%
Belhus	460	73%	Orsett	60	75%
Chadwell St Mary	555	75%	South Chafford	125	71%
Chafford & N Stifford	165	80%	Stanford East	295	78%
Corringham & Fobbing	80	76%	Stanford le Hope West	230	77%
East Tilbury	250	81%	Stifford Clays	170	79%
Grays Riverside	520	73%	The Homesteads	125	71%
Grays Thurrock	295	67%	Tilbury Riverside	620	82%
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	110	76%	Tilbury St Chads	435	69%
Little Thurrock Rectory	110	81%	West Thurrock	595	73%

Source: HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

At LSOA level, there is even more variation in the numbers and proportions of families which are headed by a lone-parent. Thurrock 014A in Grays Thurrock has the lowest proportion of one-parent families (5.7%), while Thurrock 018D in Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park has the highest (44%).

The following table shows, for the LSOAs with the highest levels of child poverty, the percentage of one-parent families identified at the 2011 census, the percentage of all children in poverty and the numbers and percentage of children in poverty living in one-parent families. All have above average percentages of one-parent families. Together the 12 LSOAs account for 30 per cent of children in poverty who live in one-parent families.

Table 15: Percentage of all children in poverty who are in one-parent families by LSOAs

LSOA	Ward	% lone-parent families	% rate child poverty	children in poverty living in one-parent families	% all children in poverty living in one-parent families
Thurrock 008A	Aveley & Uplands	23%	32.3%	100	77%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	30%	40.7%	140	74%
Thurrock 012C	Chadwell St Mary	27%	29.6%	80	64%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	41%	37.6%	180	84%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	39.6%	35.3%	175	70%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside	41%	32.8%	155	86%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside	44%	45.9%	250	81%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	27%	42.5%	140	67%
Thurrock 018G	Tilbury St Chads	28%	31.1%	105	72%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	28%	36.8%	105	62%
Thurrock 015C	West Thurrock	24%	29.4%	180	75%
Thurrock 015E	West Thurrock	38%	31.7%	195	68%

Source: HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

It is harder to sustain employment as a lone parent. In November 2013, 1720 lone-parents in Thurrock were in receipt of out-of-work benefits. Together, the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of poverty accounted for 30% of lone parents claiming out-of-work benefit. The following table shows the percentage of lone parents out of work and the numbers of lone parent claimants of out of work benefits alongside the highest 12 child poverty rates.

Table 16: Lone parents not in work/ out-of work benefit claimants by LSOAs with highest rates of child poverty

LSOA	Ward	% rate child poverty	% lone-parents not in work: 2011 census	Out-of-work benefit claimants (2014)
Thurrock 008A	Aveley & Uplands	32.3%	58%	25
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	40.7%	57%	30
Thurrock 012C	Chadwell St Mary	29.6%	64%	25
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	37.6%	63%	65
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	35.3%	57%	65
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside	32.8%	59%	55
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside	45.9%	69%	75
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	42.5%	52%	40
Thurrock 018G	Tilbury St Chads	31.1%	62%	45
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	36.8%	45%	35
Thurrock 015C	West Thurrock	29.4%	58%	45

Thurrock 015E	West Thurrock	31.7%	53%	35
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Source: HMRC/DWP/2011 census

7.7 Structural Inequalities

There is a continuum of child poverty in Thurrock. At one end, there are LSOAs with very low or low levels of child poverty, others which cluster around the average and - at the other end - the twelve LSOAs identified in this assessment.

In those twelve LSOAs, there are above average concentrations of families at greater risk of poverty – larger families, workless families, one-parent families and families where parents are disadvantaged in the employment market by lacking qualifications. Many families may experience a combination of these risk factors.

These neighbourhoods are not identical. Thurrock 017D in Grays Riverside has levels of qualifications which are close to the Thurrock average, but still has one of the highest rates of child poverty. In Thurrock 018H in Tilbury St Chads lone parent unemployment is slightly below the Thurrock average but the child poverty rate is still one of the highest.

Nevertheless there is a clear relationship between child poverty and other deprivation factors.

8 Education and attainment

Education is one of the main routes out of poverty and how well poor children do at school has the biggest impact on their future incomes.

However, poor educational attainment is a both a driver of child poverty and a manifestation of its effects. Poverty is strongly associated with poorer performance, on average, at every Key Stage of schooling.³³

At the time of the last Needs Assessment educational outcomes in Thurrock were improving, but attainment was, overall, low compared with the East of England and England as a whole. At the Foundation Stage, only 45% of children achieved a good stage of development, compared with 50% of children in the region and 52% nationally. At Key Stage 2, Thurrock had the lowest results in the East of England.

Since then, the attainment of children at each key stage of schooling has improved and the gap between poorer children and the rest has narrowed. Thurrock is now in the top 25% of local authorities in the East of England for the proportion of children achieving a good level of development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and had the highest proportion of secondary schools which are judged to be at least good by Ofsted.³⁴

Only three-quarters of primary school pupils in Thurrock attend schools which are at least good. A number of the primary schools which were not judged as good at the most recent inspection are in the more deprived areas of Thurrock.

8.1 School readiness

The term “school readiness” does not yet have a nationally agreed definition, but the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) is currently accepted as a measure of children’s preparedness for school. A revised EYFSP was introduced in 2013, and requires practitioners to make a best fit assessment of whether children are emerging, expected or exceeding against 17 early learning goals (ELGs).

Children have been deemed to have reached a good level of development (GLD) in the new profile if they achieve at least the expected level in the ELGs in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language) and in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy. The new Profile’s ‘emerging’, ‘expected’ and ‘exceeding’ scale are different to the previous Profile’s 117 point scale and this, together with a reduction in the number of early learning goals means that the results are not comparable with 2012 and before.

In Thurrock in 2014, 66 per cent of pupils achieved at least the expected standard in the Early Learning Goals exceeding the English average by 6 percentage points. The attainment gap between children eligible for Free School Meals and the rest was 14 per cent, lower than the English average (19%).

³³ DCSF (2009) Deprivation and Education The evidence on pupils in England, Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4

³⁴ Ofsted2014 East of England Regional report

Table 17: Percentage achieving a good level of development/Thurrock / FSM

Year	All	FSM	Not FSM	England All	FSM	Not FSM
2013	53%	42%	55%	52%	36%	55%
2014	66%	54%	68%	60%	45%	64%

Source: DfE, SFR46_2014_National/LA tables

There is a significant gender gap – 14 per cent in 2014. Whereas Thurrock girls eligible for free school meals achieved scores above the English average for all pupils, slightly more than a third of boys eligible for FSM achieved a good level of development.

Table 18: Percentage achieving a good level of development/Thurrock / gender

Year	All	FSM	Not FSM	England All	FSM	Not FSM
Boys	59%	47%	61%	52%	36%	56%
Girls	73%	61%	76%	69%	53%	72%

Source: DfE SFR46_2014_National/LA tables

In Thurrock, 21 per cent of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) but no statement and 7 per cent of pupils with SEN having a statement achieved a good level of development compared with the English average of 21 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

Among children whose first language is not English, 60 per cent achieved the expected standard compared with the English average of 53 per cent. White and BME children achieved above average results, the highest being secured by children of mixed heritage.

Table19: Percentage achieving a good level of development by ethnic group

	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese
England	62%	62%	57%	59%	58%
Thurrock	65%	74%	69%	71%	60%

Source: DfE SFR46_2014_National/LA tables

Take up of early education and childcare varies across the year, but using Spring 2013 data, there were 422 children aged 2, 3 and 4 years in Thurrock who were eligible but who did not take up any early education.

Table 20: Eligible children and children accessing early education in Thurrock/Spring 2013

	2 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	Total
Children accessing Early Education	369	2144	2285	4798
Eligible Children	443	2360	2417	5220
Number of Eligible Children NOT accessing early education	74	216	132	422

Source: Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, 2014 [Data based on ONS mid year estimates 2012, DWP 2013 data and Spring Census data 2013]

The most recent Childcare Sufficiency assessment identified a potential childcare places deficit as a result of both an increasing population and the extension of free funded places for two year olds. Aveley, Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park, West Thurrock and South Stifford, South Chafford and Belhus were all identified as high priority for the development of additional places.³⁵

The quality of funded early education and care is crucial for children's development at the end of the Foundation Stage. Good quality provision is crucial for children in more deprived areas. In 2013, the percentage of settings receiving a Good Ofsted Inspection outcome had risen from 60.3 per cent in 2010 to 69.8 per cent.³⁶

8.2 Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 is the term for the period of schooling up to Year 6 for pupils aged 7-11 years. The picture in Thurrock is of continuously improving results now comparable with the English average. At this stage, the gender gap has narrowed.

Table 21: Key Stage 2/ Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above, Reading/Writing & Mathematics/Thurrock

Year	All	English average	Girls	Boys
2012	71%	75%	76%	66%
2013	72%	76%	76%	68%
2014	77%	79%	81%	73%

Source: DfE SFR50_KS2_Local Authority Tables

In 2014, 62 per cent of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at Key Stage 2, compared with 80 per cent of other pupils.

The breakdown by ethnicity was as follows:

Table 22: Percentage achieving Level 4 or above in Reading/Writing & Mathematics /Ethnicity

	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese
England	79%	80%	80%	77%	89%
Thurrock	75%	80%	82%	85%	100%

³⁵ Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014

³⁶ Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014

Source: DfE SFR50_KS2_Local Authority Tables

8.3 Key Stage 4

Thurrock is one of four higher attaining local authorities in Eastern Region with strong GCSE outcomes and is leading the provision of secondary schools which are good or outstanding.

The following table shows, in a time series, the percentage of pupils in Thurrock achieving GCSEs A* to C including English and Mathematics. NB the methodology for GCSE results has changed, the reforms including new quality criteria and an 'early entry' policy – only a pupil's first attempt at a GCSE is counted. These reforms have had an impact on results.

Table 23: Pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C including English and Mathematics 2010 -2014

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<i>Thurrock</i>	60.1%	59.2%	59.5%	57.9%
<i>England</i>	59%	59.4%	59.2%	53.4%

Source: DfE SFR2_2015_Additional Tables Time series

In England, in 2013-14, the attainment gap between FSM pupils and the rest was 27 per cent. In Thurrock, the gap was 31.3 per cent.

8.4 Free School Meals Pupils

At all stages of schooling, although the gap between poor children and the rest has narrowed, it remains significant. Ofsted, in its regional report noted that in Eastern Region, a child in the most deprived area is three times more likely than a child in the least deprived area to go to a school that is less than good.

Registration for free school meals is widely used as a broad indicator of child poverty or child disadvantage and is used by the Department for Education for the purpose of measuring the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils

As noted above and based on Thurrock Council schools data, 3840 pupils resident in Thurrock were receiving free school meals in 2014, representing 15 per cent of all pupils resident in the borough.

Proportionately, more FSM pupils live in disadvantaged areas – 63 per cent live in just seven wards. The following table shows the ward distribution of FSM pupils as a percentage of all pupils resident in the ward.

Table 24: Free School Meals by ward

	FSM pupils	% all pupils		FSM pupils	% all pupils
Aveley & Uplands	199	18%	Ockendon	307	21%
Belhus	324	19%	Orsett	37	5%
Chadwell St Mary	320	20%	South Chafford	56	3%
Chafford & N Stifford	91	6%	Stanford East	196	16%
Corringham & Fobbing	44	6%	Stanford le Hope West	110	12%
East Tilbury	142	14%	Stifford Clays	114	12%
Grays Riverside	326	17%	The Homesteads	64	5%
Grays Thurrock	190	13%	Tilbury Riverside	429	27%
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	103	12%	Tilbury St Chads	352	28%
Little Thurrock Rectory	61	7%	West Thurrock	375	19%

Source: Thurrock Council

The table below show the numbers and percentages of children receiving Free School Meals in the LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty. In six of those LSOAs, the proportion of children receiving free school meals is double or more than the Thurrock average (15%).

Together the 12 LSOAs with the highest rates of child poverty account for 33 per cent of all FSM pupils in Thurrock. These numbers and proportions reinforce the need for good and outstanding schools within the local areas.

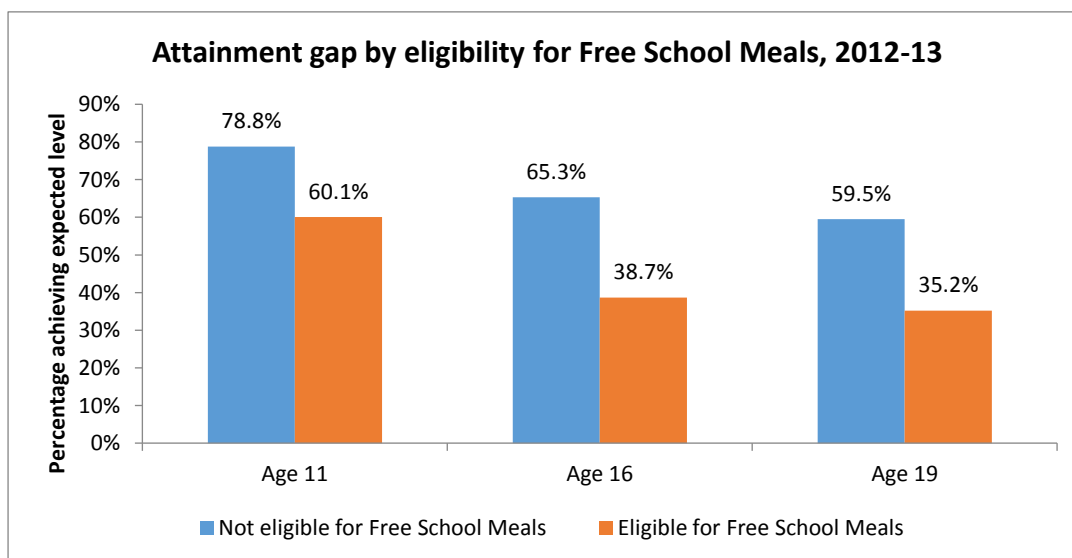
Table 25: LSOAs with highest percentages children in poverty/FSM pupils

LSOA	Ward	FSM pupils	% all pupils
Thurrock 008A	Aveley & Uplands	49	21%
Thurrock 012B	Chadwell St Mary	87	30%
Thurrock 012C	Chadwell St Mary	78	24%
Thurrock 012F	Chadwell St Mary	84	27%
Thurrock 017D	Grays Riverside	129	30%
Thurrock 018B	Tilbury Riverside	126	32%
Thurrock 018D	Tilbury Riverside	168	33%
Thurrock 018E	Tilbury St Chads	124	34%
Thurrock 018G	Tilbury St Chads	90	27%
Thurrock 018H	Tilbury St Chads	96	31%
Thurrock 015C	West Thurrock	108	18%
Thurrock 015E	West Thurrock	128	25%

Source: Thurrock Council and HMRC children in low-income families local measure 2014

A key priority for government is to narrow the gap between FSM pupils and other pupils. The figure below shows the association between eligibility for free school meals and educational performance nationally.

Fig 3: Attainment gap from age 11 to age 19 by eligibility for free school meals, 2012-13



Source: DfE

8.5 Looked after children

Looked after children have poorer educational outcomes. In England, in 2013, 15.3 per cent of Looked After children gained 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Mathematics or equivalent. The previous year the figure was 11 per cent. The attainment gap, while large is reducing.

In Thurrock no Looked After children achieved 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Mathematics or equivalent, but 30 per cent gained 5 GCSEs A*-C, a slight reduction on the previous year.³⁷

8.6 Level 2 and Level 3 at age 19

Thurrock is in the bottom quartile for the proportion of post-16 learners achieving a Level 3 qualification. In 2012/13 and 2013/14 the cumulative percentage of students in England gaining at least two substantial Level 3 qualifications was 88.6 per cent, with an average point score of 213.4. In Thurrock, the average point score was 200.4.³⁸

Nationally, attainment of a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 has been rising. In 2013, 86.2 per cent of 19 year olds were qualified to Level 2 or higher, and 59.1 per cent were qualified to Level 3.

In Thurrock, 87 per cent of young people had achieved a Level 2 qualification or higher by the age of 19 and only 53 per cent were qualified to Level 3 or higher.

³⁷ SFR50_LAT_Tables

³⁸ The average point score per examination entry is calculated as the sum of the points awarded to each 16-18 year old student, divided by the total number of GCE/VCE examination entries.

In Thurrock, the gap in qualifications between disadvantaged young adults and their peers – although improving over time - is wider than across the country as a whole.

Table 26: FSM Attainment gap by age 19

	FSM attainment gap Level 2 qualification by age 19	FSM attainment gap Level 2 qualification inc English and Mathematics	FSM attainment gap Level 3 qualification
<i>England</i>	16.3%	27%	24.3%
<i>Thurrock</i>	20%	31%	29%

Source: DfE SFR10_2014_Tables 15-26 2014

8.7 Entry to Higher Education

Entry to higher education can advance social mobility, but despite the unprecedented growth in higher education since the 1970s, the most advantaged 20% of young people are still seven times more likely to attend the most selective universities than the 40% most disadvantaged.³⁹

In England, in 2010/11, 35 per cent of young people entered higher education by age 19. In Thurrock, the figure is one of the lowest in England - 23 percent - with only 5 percent of young people who had been eligible for free school meals at 15 entering higher education by age 19.

Table 27: Entry to Higher education 2010/11/FSM

<i>Estimated percentage who entered HE</i>				
	FSM	Non-FSM	Gap	All
<i>England</i>	20%	38%	18%	35%
<i>Thurrock</i>	5%	26%	21%	23%

Source: BIS 2013: Widening participation in Higher Education

8.8 Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)

Those who are not in education, training or employment are termed NEET and are subdivided into 'available', that is, looking for work available or 'not available' for example because of pregnancy, illness or being a young carer. In November 2014, there were 242 young people in Thurrock, identified as NEET and available for work and 67 who were not available.

³⁹ Social mobility Commission 2012: University Challenge: How Higher Education Can Advance Social Mobility

The following table shows the ward distribution.

Table 28: NEET by ward

	NEET Available	NEET Unavailable		NEET Available	NEET Unavailable
Aveley & Uplands	24	4	Ockendon	24	4
Belhus	16	7	Orsett	8	0
Chadwell St Mary	19	4	South Chafford	4	1
Chafford & N Stifford	6	1	Stanford East	16	2
Corringham & Fobbing	3	0	Stanford le Hope West	7	4
East Tilbury	9	9	Stifford Clays	13	3
Grays Riverside	14	4	The Homesteads	6	3
Grays Thurrock	18	11	Tilbury Riverside	15	8
Little Thurrock Blackshotts	6	4	Tilbury St Chads	20	3
Little Thurrock Rectory	1	0	West Thurrock	13	4

Source: Thurrock Council

9. Raising Living Standards

For families on low incomes, the cost of basics like food, housing, energy and transport costs can be critical. In 2011 research for Save the Children revealed that poorer families face a 'poverty premium' for basic necessities compared with better off families. Those on low incomes pay nearly £1300 more each year because of expensive energy prepayment systems, higher insurance premiums and steep borrowing rates.

9.1 Housing

A rapidly growing population, with significant inward migration from London and from outside of the UK, has created significant pressures on the Thurrock housing market. In the period 2008 – 2011 Thurrock had the third highest increase in one-person households in local authorities in England and the seventh highest increase in couple households. Between 2001 and 2011, 6,900 new national insurance registrations were issued to non-UK nationals, principally from Eastern Europe and Africa.⁴⁰

At the time of the last Child Poverty Needs Assessment, the average price of a house in Thurrock was £145,171. In November 2014, the average price had risen to £166,352.⁴¹ Although the cost of buying a home in Thurrock is, on average, lower than across the region and considerably lower compared with London, property is increasingly out of reach for local people. Nearly half (48%) of households cannot afford to purchase a flat as a first time buyer on a mortgage at 3.0 times their income, rising to 68 percent of those wishing to purchase a terraced property and 87 per cent for a detached property.⁴²

The pattern of housing tenure varies across the authority. Nearly half of people in Corringham and Fobbing own their property outright (47.3%), whilst three-quarters of people in Chafford and North Stifford own their own home with a mortgage (74.8%). This compares to Grays Riverside and Tilbury St. Chads where the majority of residents rent their property. Tilbury St. Chads has the most Local Authority households at 37.4% and Grays Riverside has the most households renting from a housing association at 5.5% and private landlord or letting agency at 16.4%.⁴³

Among house owners, the recession has affected the capacity to service mortgage repayments. Between 2011 and 2012, Thurrock had the 3rd highest level of possession claims issued by mortgage lenders in England.⁴⁴

In a difficult economic climate, Thurrock Council has, since the last Needs Assessment, acted to reduce the numbers of empty homes, reduced the numbers of residents in temporary accommodations and has secured £4.6 million support from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to fund the building of one and two-bedroomed houses and family homes across the borough. Working with partners in the private and voluntary sector, the Council aims to deliver a target of 18,500 new homes in the borough by 2021. In 2014 the Council agreed to freeze Council Tax.

As an alternative to home ownership and with a declining social rented sector, the private rental market has grown, aided by Housing Benefit. Between 2008 and 2013, the numbers of housing benefit claimants in Thurrock increased from 9803 to 12,423.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Housing Market Trends in England: National Housing

⁴¹ Land registry House Price Index 2014

⁴² Thames Gateway South Essex Housing Market Trends Quarterly Report April 2014

⁴³ Fairness in Thurrock Review 2014

⁴⁴ Housing Market Trends in England: National Housing Federation

⁴⁵ Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Caseload Summary Statistics February 2013 DWP

The growth of private rentals is reflected nationally. In 2011, a million more households rented privately, compared with 2006. In a report in 2011, the national charity Shelter reported that less than half of tenants felt that private renting was a good type of housing tenure and for many, private renting was not a choice but the only type of housing they could realistically access. Close to a third (30%) of private rented homes contained children, and more than half (51%) of those children lived in households falling below the poverty line, after housing costs.⁴⁶

In the same report, Thurrock was identified as a “fairly unaffordable” area, with an average monthly rent of £695 for a two-bedroom, requiring 39% of average monthly take home pay.⁴⁷ In 2014 an analysis of housing trends in the Thames Gateway found Thurrock to be the most expensive with a median weekly cost of renting a one bedroom home of £144.⁴⁸

From 2011, welfare benefits, including housing benefits, have been subject to a ‘cap’ of £500 per week for lone-parents or couples with children. For those in privately rented homes there is a cap according to the number of bedrooms. From 2013, for those renting from the Council or a housing association a cap on housing benefit for ‘under-occupancy’ was introduced – the so-called bedroom tax. In addition and from 2013, Council Tax Benefit was scrapped by government in favour of locally managed Council Tax Support schemes.

Nationally, these benefit changes have been widely identified as creating hardship for poorer families. In May 2013 1400 households in Thurrock were reported to be in arrears with Council Tax payments.⁴⁹ Government statistics show that in Thurrock, between April and November 2014, 161 households had their housing benefit capped. All of these households had dependent children. The vast majority, 155, had three or more children and almost two thirds were one-parent families.

Family Homelessness, at a rate of 1.3 per 1,000 households in Thurrock is better than the English average of 1.7.⁵⁰

9.2 Transport

As noted in the last Needs Assessment, transport links in Thurrock to the M25 and to London are good. Access to local services like the GP surgeries and post offices, is good across the Borough, with 99.35% of households able to access a GP surgery in 15 minutes by walking, cycling or public transport, compared to 84% nationally.⁵¹

However, while access to rail services is good, public transport is relatively costly. There are gaps in access to further education which may deter those affected from joining college courses, which in turn may prevent low-skilled residents from finding employment. In some deprived wards there is below average accessibility to services and to employment. There is poor accessibility to hospitals for some communities and particularly for non-car owning households.⁵²

Across the borough as a whole, 20.1% of households are non-car owning. At ward level, Orsett, Chafford and North Stifford and The Homesteads have the highest levels of car ownership – 93.3%, 92.5% and 91.5% respectively.

The wards which have the lowest proportions of households with cars are Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park (65.8%) and Tilbury St Chads, (71.4%). At LSOA level the degree of variation is even

⁴⁶ Shelter Report: Private Rent Watch –2011

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Housing Market Trends in England: National Housing Federation

⁴⁹ Thurrock Gazette 28/5/2013

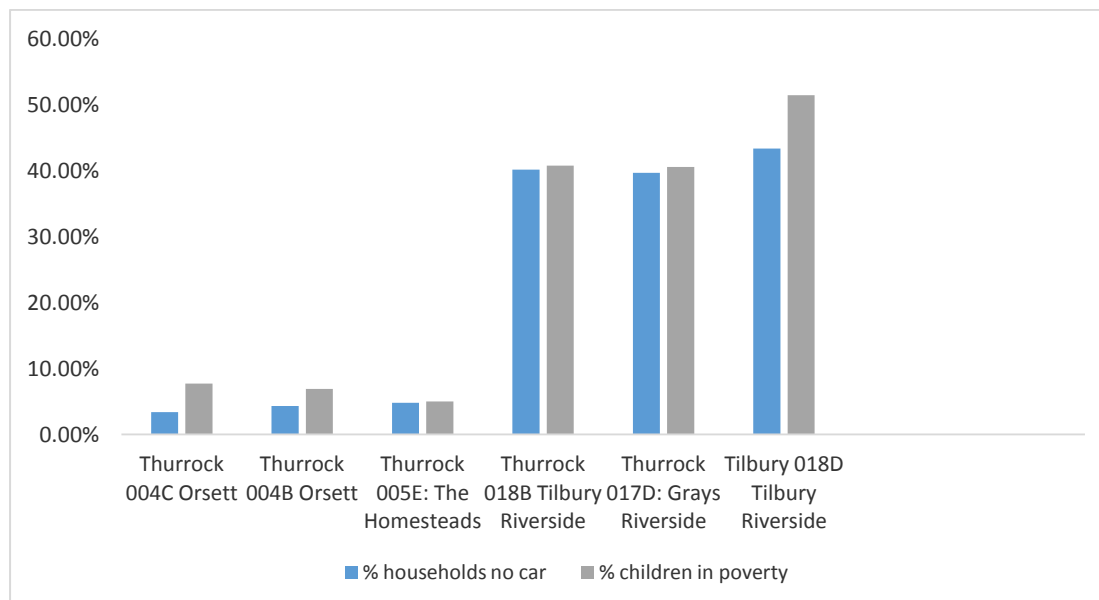
⁵⁰ Chimat 2014

⁵¹ Thurrock Transport Strategy 2008 -21

⁵² Thurrock Transport Strategy 2016 -26

greater; in 10 LSOAS more than a third of households do not own cars. The following figure compares car ownership in the least and most income deprived LSOAS. Corresponding percentages for children in poverty are also provided.

Fig 4: Car ownership and children in poverty by LSOA



Source: ONS

Thurrock’s current transport strategy aims to improve accessibility to shops and businesses, education and leisure facilities and other key services in areas of relatively high deprivation; to ensure that those without cars are able to access a wider range of jobs, bringing more people into the labour market; and ensuring that accessibility for all is incorporated into the decision making process in the delivery of the Local Development Framework.

9.3 Fuel Poverty

According to statistics published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in June 2014, 2.28 million households in England are living in fuel poverty, representing one in ten households.

The health implications of living in cold homes are well established, ranging from cardiovascular and respiratory disease to depression. Those living in private rented homes have the highest rates of fuel poverty.

Data on fuel poverty at parliamentary constituency level show that an estimated 3410 households in Thurrock are fuel poor, with 2637 households in the constituency of South Basildon and East Thurrock.

Struggling households, unable to meet their heating and lighting bills are more vulnerable to debt. In 2012/2013 Thurrock CAB reported advising 2987 clients about money-related matters, including 206 clients who were advised on energy-related consumer problems or fuel debt or both.⁵³

⁵³ Health and Poverty Thurrock CAB 2013

Thurrock Well Homes is a scheme to improve the housing conditions and health and well-being of residents in private accommodation. The pilot is on offer in Grays, Tilbury and West Thurrock and South Stifford in the first year. Participating households are visited by an adviser who can put them in touch with health and lifestyle services, or advice on home repairs which may be needed, including faulty gas or electrical installations, and refer clients to sources of energy advice.

Where client are private tenants, advisers will work with landlords to encourage them to carry out necessary repairs and there is an accreditation scheme for landlords.

9.4 Food Poverty

Food banks are a service of last resort for people living in poverty. Despite their best efforts, many people cannot earn enough to live on. UK food prices have increased by 43.5 per cent in the eight years to July 2013 and food expenditure as a proportion of total household expenditure has continued to rise.⁵⁴

Oxfam and Church Action on Poverty have calculated that 20,247,042 meals were given to people in food poverty in 2013/14 by the three main food aid providers. This is a 54 percent increase on 2012/13.⁵⁵

In 2013-2014 Thurrock Food Bank provided around 42,600 meals. Of the 4266 people receiving the vouchers, 2435 were adults and 1831 were children.

Just under a quarter of the vouchers were given to lone-parent families and 20 percent to other families with children.

The largest numbers of vouchers were given out to the following wards:

- Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park (514 adults, 413 children);
- West Thurrock and South Stifford (309 adults, 277 children);
- Grays Riverside (193 adults, 153 children);
- Grays Thurrock (179 adults, 83 children);

Followed by, Belhus, Chadwell St Mary and Tilbury St Chads.

In 2013/14 the main reasons given by people for seeking help were, in order:

- Benefit delays
- Low income
- Benefit changes
- Debt
- Unemployment

In 2014/15 to date, low income has replaced benefit delays as the main crisis type.

9.5 Access to debt advice and affordable credit

⁵⁴ www.church-poverty.org.uk/fuelfinance

⁵⁵ *ibid*

Unmanageable debt can leave families with insufficient income to meet their most basic needs. It can also act as a barrier to work and increase the risk of family breakdown, the effects of all which are felt by the children in the household.

In 2011, families with children had on average over 20 per cent more unsecured debt than families without children. Lone parent households are three times more likely to have problem debt than other households.⁵⁶

At the time of the last Needs Assessment, Thurrock was one of six urban areas in the region found to have the highest concentration of financial exclusion. The LSOAs with the highest levels of financial exclusion were in the following wards.

- Stanford East & Corringham Town
- Belhus
- Ockendon
- Aveley & Uplands
- Chadwell St Marys
- Grays Riverside
- Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park
- Tilbury St Chads

In 2013/14 Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau advised 7,959 clients with 11552 problems, which is over 6.5% of the local population. The main problems were benefits (32%) debt (21%); employment (8%); and housing (11%).

The main debt problems were:

- Council tax and community charge arrears 19%
- Unsecured personal loan debts 13%
- Credit, store and charge card debts 12%
- Mortgage and secured loan arrears 5%
- Water supply and sewerage debts 4%

⁵⁶ Consumer Credit Counselling Service (2012) Consumer Credit Counselling Service Statistical Year Book 2011.

10. Health and Family Wellbeing

Health in Thurrock is comprehensively assessed in the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA)⁵⁷. Across the UK, poverty is a key factor, determining health outcomes, life chances and family well-being.

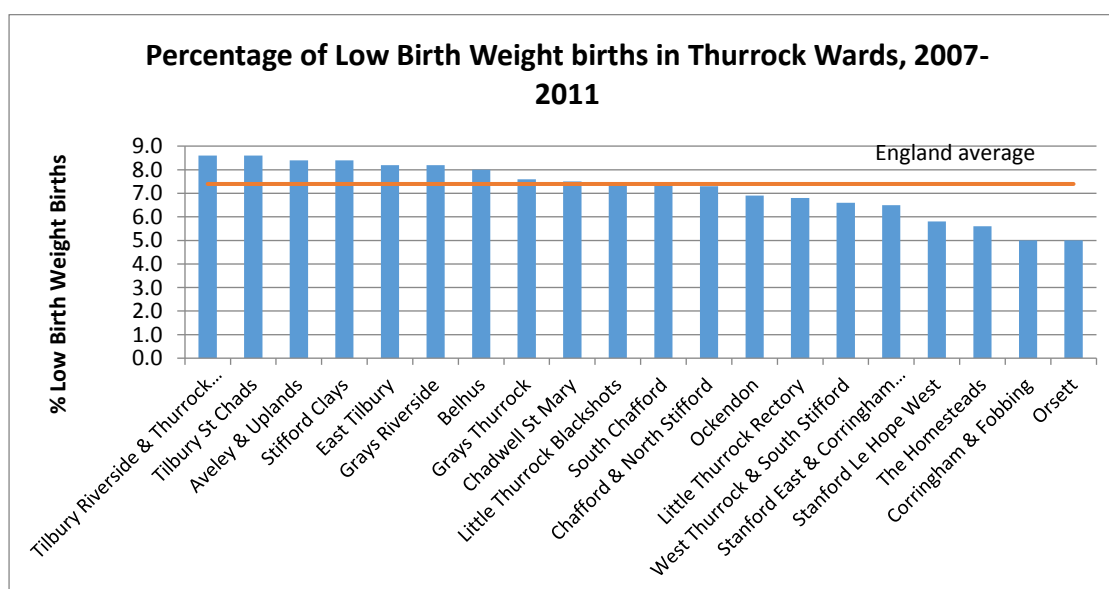
The health related indicators adopted by government for the purpose of monitoring child poverty are relatively limited. Among the basket of indicators only two – low birth weight and teenage conceptions- are directly related to health. In this needs assessment we have selected a small number of health issues affecting children which are directly related to income inequalities, but the fullest and best assessment can be found in the JSNA.

10.1 Birth weight

In the period January – December 2013, 191 low-birth weight babies were born in Thurrock. Birth weight is a good measure of infant health and low birth weight, defined as less than 2,500gm is associated with poorer health and poorer life chances. Low birth weight is more common in babies born in more deprived areas; to lone mothers, mothers under the age of 20 or over 40; to mothers in the lowest income groups and to mothers outside the UK.

The proportion of low weight births in Thurrock is similar to the national average of 7.3 per cent of live and still births. Levels are higher in wards with higher levels of deprivation. The following table shows the distribution of low weight births by wards.

Fig 5: Percentage of low birth weight births (all live and still births in Thurrock Wards 2007-11



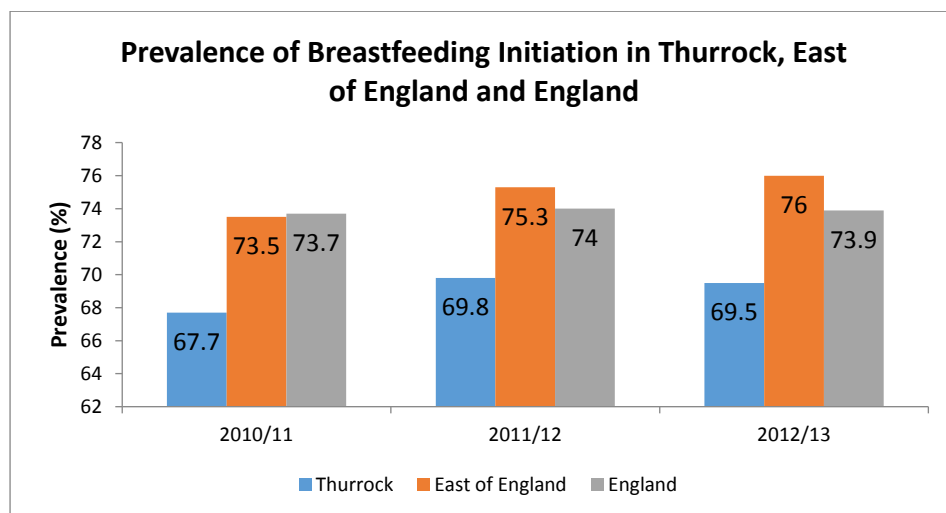
Source: Local Health

⁵⁷ Thurrock JSNA 2015 (draft)

10.2 Breast feeding

The proportion of mothers initiating breastfeeding in Thurrock was significantly lower than the national and regional averages in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Fig 6: Prevalence of breastfeeding in Thurrock



Source: Thurrock JSNA

A similarly lower prevalence of mothers breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks occurred in the same period. A number of factors appear to influence breastfeeding, one of which is areas of higher deprivation.

10.3 Child Obesity

Childhood obesity is a world-wide health problem and in 2010, three out of ten children in the UK, between the ages of two and ten were obese. Evidence from the analysis of data from the National Child Measurement Programme suggests that obesity prevalence among children in both Reception and Year 6 increases with increased socioeconomic deprivation. Nationally obesity prevalence of the most deprived 10% of the population is approximately twice that of the least deprived 10%.⁵⁸

Thurrock has an obesity prevalence in Reception-aged children of 9.6%, which is significantly higher than the East of England average (8.1%), but only very slightly above the England average of 9.3%. Childhood obesity in Thurrock has decreased in line with the regional trend.

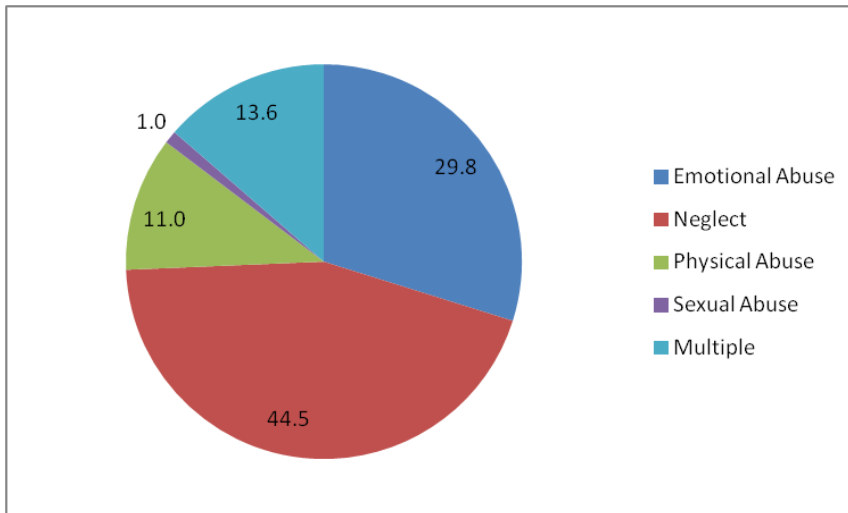
Obesity in Year 6-aged children is at a rate of 19.8%, more than double the prevalence at Reception Year. Obesity in Year 6-aged children is significantly higher than the East of England average (17.0%), and is above the England average of 18.9 per cent.

The concentration of both Reception and Year 6 children who are obese is greatest in the more deprived parts of the borough. The following figure shows, for the latter group how obesity varies across the borough.

Fig 7: Obesity prevalence across Thurrock in Year 6-aged children, 2010-13

⁵⁸ <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

Fig 8: Children subject to a CP plan in Thurrock by category of abuse, 2014



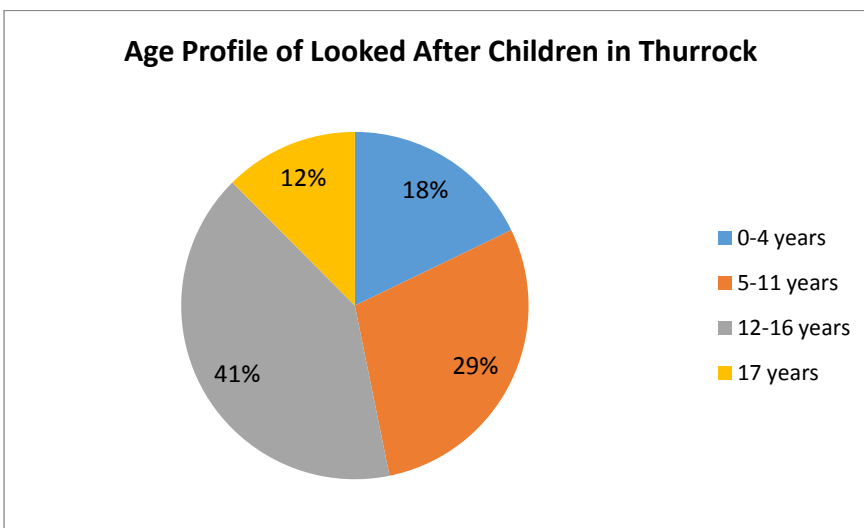
Source: Thurrock Council

10.7 Looked after children

Since its creation as a Unitary Authority Thurrock Council historically had relatively low numbers of Looked After Children. However this profile has changed over the last few years, with a significant year on year rise. As of 10th June 2014, there were 297 looked after children in Thurrock. Of the 297 children, 179 (60%) were male and 118 (40%) female.

The age profile is as follows.

Fig 9: Age Profile of Looked After Children in Thurrock, June 2014



Source: Thurrock JSNA

Out of the 110 young people in Thurrock aged 19, 20 and 21 leaving care, 41 per cent are NEET. 75 per cent of the 110 young people are reported to be in suitable accommodation, which is lower than the national average of 88 per cent.

10.8 Youth Offending

There were 207 offences committed in Thurrock in 2013/14 that were known to the Youth Offending Team – 174 were committed by males and 33 by females. The number of offences increases by age.

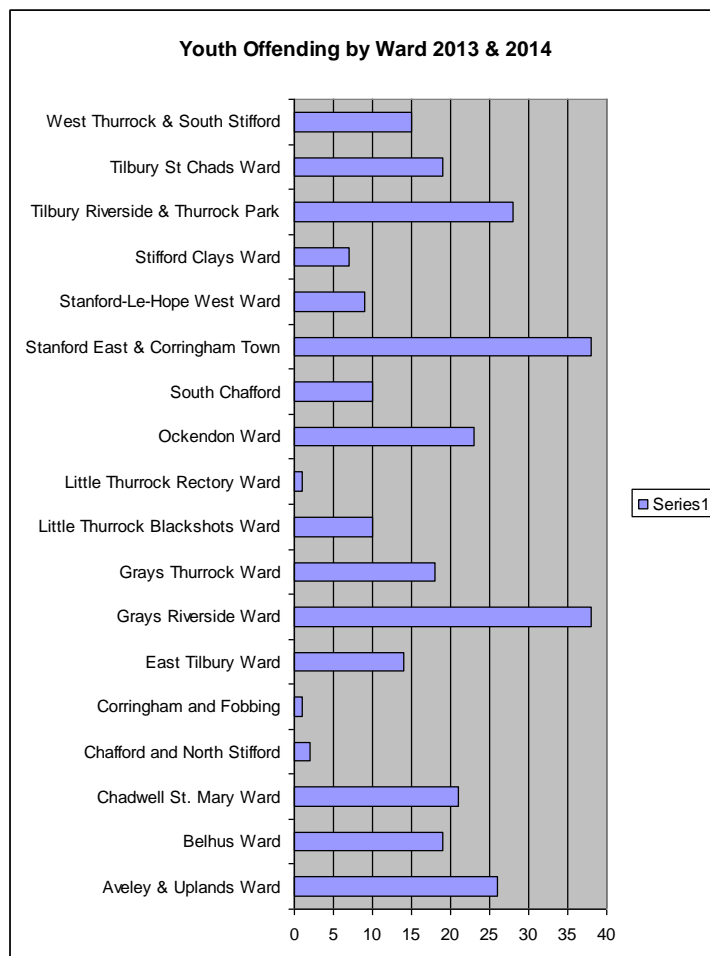
Table 29: Offences in Thurrock in 2013/14 by age of offender

	Number of offences
10-13 years	23
14 years	33
15 years	37
16 years	42
17 years	72
All ages	207

Source: Thurrock Youth Offending Service/JSNA

The following figure shows the rates of youth offending by ward.

Fig: 10 Youth Offending by ward



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WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

Conservative	Independent	Labour	UKIP	Co-opted
Cllr Halden		Cllr Gupta	Cllr Gamester	1. Mrs P Wilson (Roman Catholic Church Representative)
Cllr S Little		Cllr Kerin		
		Cllr Baldwin		
Substitutes	Substitutes	Substitutes	Substitutes	
Cllr Redsell			Cllr Wheeler	3. Myra Potter (Parent Governor Representative)
Cllr Roast				

Meeting Dates: 14 July 2015, 15th September 2015, 10 November 2015, 19th January 2016, 9 February 2016, 8 March 2016.

Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
14 July 2015					
Education Commission Update and Supporting Schools				Carmel Littleton	Member
Youth Offending Service update in Corringham				James Waud	Member
Serious Case Review Update Actions from Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer
Adoption and Permanence Partnership				Sue Green	Officer
Shaping the Council Budget update	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
15th September 2015					
Serious Case Review Update for Megan and Julia				Andrew Carter	Officer

Updated: 27 July 2015

Page 225

Agenda Item 11

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
Grangewaters Alternative Delivery Models	To consider options prior to presenting to Cabinet	To ensure all options have been fully explored	Agreement on recommendations to go to Cabinet	Malcolm Taylor / Sue Green	Officer
Nursery Provision in East Tilbury.				Carmel Littleton/ Roger Edwardson	Member
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable) required	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
Child Sexual exploitation Action Plan				Andrew Carter	Officer
Education Transport – Proposed changes to Denominational Transport.				Temi Fawehinmi	Officer
15 October 2015					
School Transport					Member
YOS Serious Youth Violence				James Waud	Officer
Annual Childcare Sufficiency					Member
Pupil premium	To hear how the pupil premium is being used to improve outcomes, with a focus on the work at Hathaway and Harris in regards to mentoring troubled youths			Roger Edwardson	Member
School Results/School Performance	An update on results at KS1, KS2, KS4 and post 16	To determine the progress of Thurrock schools and academies	Updated information and scrutiny of outcomes of national assessments and relative performance of schools	Carmel Littleton	Officer
Update on the Child Poverty Strategy Outcomes from 2011- 2014				Carmel Littleton	Member

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable) required	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
10 November 2015					
School on School improvement- Scrutinise the impact					Member
Multi Academy Trust Relationships					Member
Work placements and the pathway into work for young people in Thurrock				Carmel Littleton / Kenna-Victoria Martin/ Michele Lucas	
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable)	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
19 January 2016					
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable)	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
Children's Social Care – Statutory Complaints Annual Report				Rhodri Rowlands	
Annual report of the LSCB	An account of the activity and effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board over the past year	To ensure that the LSCB is effectively discharging its duties by contributing council scrutiny to the process	Understanding of the effectiveness of the LSCB in undertaking its safeguarding responsibilities	Alan Cotgrove	
9 February 2016					
EOH, troubled families and MASH intervention update and impact assessment and Troubled Families Initiative Phase 2 Launch	Update on the project Impact and success	To ensure the programme is on track and making a real difference to the lives of families in Thurrock.	Dissemination of good practice from the programme	Sue Green/ Andrew Carter	Officer
Update on the commissioning out of Local Authority day nurseries in Tilbury					Member

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

Topic Name	Description of areas to be explored	Why this should be scrutinised	Outcome	Lead Officer	Brought to Committee by (Officer/ Member/ Statutory Reason)
Changes to Library Provisions					Member
University Attendance Rates					Member
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable)	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
Child Mental Health				Andrew Carter	Officer
Cultural Entitlement				Carmel Littleton	Member
8 March 2016					
Pupil Place Planning				Janet Clark / Carmel Littleton	Member
Supporting Parents returning to work					Member
Shaping the Council Budget update (if applicable)	Details of budget area to be confirmed			Sean Clark / Carmel Littleton	Officer
Admissions Forum Report				Carmel Littleton	Member – requested at meeting on 6 January 2015
Inspire				Michael Lucas	
Youth Cabinet Report				Michele Lucas / Youth Cabinet	Officer

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

Meeting	Pre Meeting
14 th July 2015	6 th July 2015
15 th September 2015	7 th September 2015
15 th October 2015	5 th October 2015
10 th November 2015 (Gable Hall)	27 th October 2015
19 th January 2016	7 th January 2016
9 th February 2016	28 th January 2016
8 th March 2016	25 th February 2016

Additional Meetings	
Meeting	Date
Additional Session for all members to be briefed on "achieving excellence in child social care".	21 st July 2015
Youth Centre visit with the Committee.	August 7 th
Joint session on the budget – all chairs	Feb 2 nd
Task and Finish Group on work experience / employable future	18 th August 2015

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

Page 230

Recommendations update table				
Recommendation		Author	Date	Update
<u>Education Commission Update</u>				
1	Comments on the progress and achievements of Thurrock schools and partners above be noted		14 July 2015	Noted
2	That the currently funded activity and further developments that it would wish to be taken to further the education standards for all children and young people in Thurrock be noted.		14 July 2015	Noted
3	Science and Maths to be included in the School on School improvement report		14 July 2015	Noted
4	A potential for a survey to return to each school of the original questions that the education commission proposed.		14 July 2015	
5	Organise briefing for December for members what's being done for each school to help the improvement journey.		14 July 2015	
<u>Youth Offending Service function and performance</u>				
1	To note the Overview & Scrutiny Committee comment on the function and performance of the YOS and review plans to address the two areas of improvement as set out in the HMIP Short Quality Screening Report dated 20th May 2015:		14 July 2015	The action plan from the SQS in May has now been fully implemented. Please see below.
2	To note that Intervention planning should genuinely involve children and young people and their parents/carers. The plans should be constructed in such a way that they are effective tools to drive successful interventions.		14 July 2015	Referral Orders already use initial panel meetings which involve parents and young people in a restorative process to construct their own intervention plans. It is felt that the quality of the planning in this area does not require improvement.

Updated: 27 July 2015

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

			<p>Youth Rehabilitation Orders use intervention planning meetings at the start of the orders and parents/carers are invited. Paper copies of the intervention plan are now produced and discussed with the young person/ carer and signed accordingly.</p> <p>Detention and Training Orders use community review meetings on release from custody and parents/carers and relevant professionals are invited. Paper copies of the intervention plan and licence requirements are produced and signed accordingly.</p> <p>All YRO and DTO planning meetings are now chaired by operations managers or senior practitioners who ensure that all parties are actively involved in the planning of their interventions. The recording of the meeting on YOIS will now be integral to the existing quality assurance process.</p> <p>Case managers have been briefed to ensure interventions plans are SMARTer, commensurate to length of sentence and risk led. Language used in intervention plans will be age appropriate and in 'Plain English'. Case managers will avoid using 'standard' objectives that seem to have accumulated throughout generic practice.</p>
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WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

				Quality assurance processes have been introduced to ensure intervention plans meet the relevant requirements.
3	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements need to be fully understood by all staff and managers.		14 July 2015	National MAPPA guidance 2012 has been shared and disseminated to all staff. All staff has been fully briefed on offender categories and management levels. Local MAPPA lead has offered to provide further training to all staff if required and provided a training programme which has been shared with the team. Management oversight is now more prescriptive as to whether a referral is required and the recording on Risk of Serious Harm assessments is now clearer. Operations management are satisfied that MAPPA knowledge of case management team is satisfactory. It also felt that the action point arose due to poor recording on YOIS as opposed to limited knowledge.
4	Chair and Director Children's Services to write to the Police and crime commissioner to request to extend the lease for a longer term on the old Corringham Police Station.		14 July 2015	James Waud liaising with PCC
<u>Julia - SCR Action Plan Update</u>				
1	To be noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor progress against the multi-agency action plan with a particular focus on Children's Services		14 July 2015	
<u>Adoption and Permanence Services Partnership</u>				
1	The comments on the development of a partnership by way of a grant agreement to provide an integrated programme of activity to		14 July 2015	Noted

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

	optimise adoption outcomes for children following the decision at Cabinet on 8 July 2015 to be noted.			
2	That it be recommended future reports are brought to the Children's Service's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before being referred to Cabinet for decision, and where this is not possible to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny meeting to enhance the scrutiny process.		14 July 2015	Noted
Shaping the Council Budget Update				
1	To note the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS);		14 July 2015	Noted
2	To note the approach to Shaping the Council and budget planning for 2016/17 and beyond including the establishment of a cross-party Budget Review Panel.		14 July 2015	Noted
15 September 2015				
Nursery Provision In East Tilbury				
1	The Chair requested that letters were sent from the Committee to Little Angels Day Care and East Tilbury Primary School to address to the situation.		15 September 2015	
2	The Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented upon the actions taken to date and any further actions which should be taken by the Council to resolve the current situation.		15 September 2015	
3	That a letter is sent on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to St Cleres and Little Angles to encourage a relationship between the two parties.		15 September 2015	

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

4	That a letter is sent to the Procurement team on behalf of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urge that similar contracts are not signed in the future.		15 September 2015	
5	An update at the next Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the current position and the views of Thurrock Councils Lawyers.		15 September 2015	
Inspire - Alternative models of delivery for Youth Related Activities				
1	That the Committee supports the development of a staff mutual (charitable trust) to deliver youth & community related activities across Thurrock Council.		15 September 2015	
2	The Committee recommend to full Cabinet the 'spinning out' of youth & community related services from April 2016 or as soon after as due diligence is undertaken		15 September 2015	
3	That the Committee supports the recommendation of a four year contract with a break clause in year three for renegotiation.		15 September 2015	
4	The Committee recommend the funding model which will see a 5% reduction from year two of the contract until the fifth year recognising the need to reduce the overall budget by 20%, subject to budget constraints		15 September 2015	
5	The Committee support the inclusion of Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre into the staff mutual.		15 September 2015	
6	An elected member and The Section 151 Officer will form part of the trustee.		15 September 2015	

WORK PROGRAMME
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ITEM 9

7	The Inspire report to return back to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee before final sign off at Cabinet.		15 September 2015	Added to the Work Programme.
<u>Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan</u>				
1	The committee endorsed the revised action plan and added to the committee's work plan for robust ongoing scrutiny.		15 September 2015	Noted.
2	The Chair requested that the Director of Children's Services checked whether there would be implications and issues with initially completing the DBS check.		15 September 2015	
<u>Education Transport</u>				
1	The amount paid by new and existing pupils accessing denominational transport; £1,117.00 and £550.00 respectively, remain unchanged until September 2016.		15 September 2015	Noted.
2	That Officers follow the Council protocol for the review of the service including a consultation with the option of discontinuing denominational transport in September 2016, subject to Cabinet approval.		15 September 2015	Noted.

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