

Thurrock - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **17 November 2022**

Committee Room 2, CO3, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors Adam Carter (Chair), George Coxshall (Vice-Chair), Alex Anderson, Paul Arnold, Martin Kerin and Srikanth Panjala

Sarah Barlow, Church of England Representative
Kim James, Chief Operating Officer, HealthWatch Thurrock
Nicola Cranch, Parent Governor Representative

Substitutes:

Councillors John Kent, Augustine Ononaji, Maureen Pearce, James Thandi and Lynn Worrall

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Minutes	5 - 10
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 13 September 2022 held on 5 October 2022.	
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. To agree any relevant briefing notes submitted to the Committee.	

4	Declaration of Interests	
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Agenda published on: **9 November 2022**

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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.

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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.

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
 - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
 - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
 - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
 - Fewer public buildings with better services

3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
 - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
 - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
 - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

Minutes of the Meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the 13 September 2022, held on the 5 October 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Adam Carter (Chair), Alex Anderson and Augustine Ononaji (Substitute) (substitute for George Coxshall)

Apologies: Councillors Martin Kerin, Srikanth Panjala, Graham Snell and Kim James (Healthwatch)

In attendance:

Jenny Coles, Independent Chairperson & Scrutineer Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership
Daniel Jones, Service Manager for Looked After Children
Clare Moore, Strategic Lead - YOS and Prevention
Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Janet Simon, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Early Help
Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Business Manager
Angela Surrey, Youth Worker, Children's Service Youth Cabinet
Rhiannon Whiteley, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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.

The Chair explained that the meeting would be paused whilst the Committee waited for another member to arrive so that the meeting would be quorate. The meeting resumed at 19.17

10. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

11. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

12. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

13. Youth Cabinet Update Report

The Youth Cabinet Representative provided their update to the meeting. She explained about the wellbeing walk that took place on 25th July where 16 young people walked around the lake and talked about mental health. She also confirmed that the Youth Cabinet are looking to run another walk shortly towards the end of this year.

The Youth Cabinet Representative also told the meeting that a number of youth cabinet members have also had the opportunity to sit on interview panels this year and have found it a valuable experience.

The Chair thanked the Youth Cabinet Representative for the update and queried if the next walk will also be at Grangewaters.

The Youth Cabinet Representative responded that it probably would.

Councillor Anderson asked what the motion was about that the Thurrock MYP presented at the UK Youth Parliament Annual Conference.

The Youth Cabinet Representative confirmed the motion was about drink spiking.

Councillor Ononaji queried what the compilation of the Youth Cabinet was and how members were recruited.

The Youth Cabinet Representative confirmed that this is sometimes through schools. The Youth Worker confirmed that members are often recruited through schools but sometimes young people approach her directly.

14. 2021/22 Annual Complaints and Representations Report - Children's Social Care

The Statutory and Corporate Complaints Manager presented the report. She summarised that overall the report was positive.

The Chair thanked the Statutory and Corporate Complaints Manager for the report, he commented that he was interested to note that on page 25 all representations had gone up this year and asked if this was as a result of a scheme to improve communications about compliments and complaints.

The Statutory and Corporate Complaints Manager explained that during social work visits and at all stages people are advised on the procedure for making a complaint.

The Chair also highlighted that it was nice to see the compliments outweighed the complaints.

Councillor Anderson commented that he was pleased to see the benchmarking against other Local Authorities was included in the report as that was requested by another Member of the Committee previously.

Councillor Anderson queried if there is anything more that could be done with advertising in case residents aren't aware how to complain.

The Statutory and Corporate Complaints Manager confirmed that there is a good section on the website about this.

The Assistant Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help added that they had worked very closely with the Statutory and Corporate Complaints Manager and the Strategic Lead for Information Management to make sure anyone they are working with is aware of how to make a complaint. The feedback is important and helps the service to improve.

RESOLVED:

1.1 That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and note the report.

15. Fostering Recruitment Update

The Service Manager for Looked After Children presented the report to Members. He confirmed that Thurrock Council's offer to foster carers is competitive and they are successful in recruiting foster carers however a lot of foster carer's fostering life at the same time are also coming to a natural end. The Committee were provided with an update that this month two more approvals are coming to the fostering panel.

The Chair commented that he was very supportive of the recruitment campaign and stated that he was pleased to hear that two more foster carers are close to acceptance.

The Chair queried how many of the 7 households whose approval had ended due to standards of care were recruited as part of this campaign.

The Service Manager for Looked After Children confirmed it was only one. He further explained that 'standards of care' covered a wide range of issues, it can relate to a particular incident, a change in circumstances or it might be as a result of something that has happened outside of their role as a foster carer too. He added that foster carers are not expected to be perfect, and they will always try to address any issues, provide support or help them to improve.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Members are updated on Thurrock's Fostering Recruitment Strategy and its impact on the number of foster carer approvals.

- 1.2 Members note the marketing activities being undertaken so opportunities are created to increase the recruitment of foster carers.**

16. The Inspection of the Young Offending Service 2022

The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention presented the report to members. She explained that on the 16th -20th May 2022 YOS was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The service was rated overall as 'good' and it was noted there was outstanding leadership and excellent work being done to help stop re-offending. There were 13 Judgements overall, 6 were rated Outstanding, 4 as Good and 3 as Requires Improvement. The 3 'Requires Improvement' grades were all within the domain of Out of Court Disposals. Work has already commenced to address these areas and the 8 recommendations to improve have been put into a formal action plan which was submitted to HMIP on 16.9.22.

Councillor Anderson requested sight of the action plan.

The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention agreed to circulate this.

The Chair noted the overrepresentation of the BAME community and queried what Thurrock is doing about this and what is being done nationally.

The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention confirmed they monitor their data regarding the overrepresentation of young black males in the criminal justice system and they have set up a task and finish group made up of representatives from across the whole criminal justice system to look specifically at this and the resources Thurrock have. They are also looking at a participation exercise with young black males known to Thurrock YOS to help understand about the services Thurrock provide to meet the needs of that cohort.

The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention confirmed that she is a member of the Essex Criminal Justice Board and they are completing a research project to look at the issue of the overrepresentation of members from the BAME community in the Criminal Justice System which is just moving into phase 2. It is a nationwide issue and there is a need to intervene earlier. A multi-agency approach is required.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Inspection Report of Thurrock Youth Offending Service and provide comment or challenge in respect of the outcomes**

- 1.2 That the areas for improvement and recommendations identified by HMIP are considered by the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and support offered to deliver against these recommendations.

17. Items raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership: Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans

The LSCP Business Manager presented the report to Members.

The Chair queried what the timeline will be for the signed off action plan.

The LSCP Business Manager confirmed that the thematic review plan is due to be signed off in November.

The Independent Chairperson & Scrutineer for Thurrock LSCP confirmed that they are beginning work with the adult safeguarding board on transitional safeguarding.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the Committee note the update on the work of the LSCP and the progress made on Action Plans to date.

- 1.2 Update on LSCP Work

18. Work Programme

The Assistant Director of Children's Social Care & Early Help raised that the Children's Social Care Performance report should be added to the November meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.09 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact

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Children's Services
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting
November 2022
Youth Cabinet Update Report

Purpose of the report:

The Youth Cabinet would like to provide the committee with an update of their work.



1.1 Monthly Meeting

At October's Monthly Meeting our guest speaker was the Head of Thurrock's Music Services. The purpose of the visit was to not only ask the Youth Cabinet for assistance with promotion of Thurrock Music Services work but to also explore members thoughts on how the music services could reach more young people, and how they can broaden their offer to young people of Thurrock.

In response to this, after some discussion, members felt that the Music Service needed to open these questions out further than just the Youth Cabinet. Members proposed that a youth music survey should be put together and shared to Thurrock young people to consult on. Our MYP, is currently taking a lead on this task and is in the process of pulling together a first draft survey in which cabinet members and the Head of Music Services will review and have an input into. We shall feedback our findings at the next meeting.

1.2 Working Group Meeting

At October's Working Group Meeting our focus group guest was Thurrock Council's Local Plan Manager. The aim of the focus group was to begin discussions and give feedback on the emerging local plan which is likely to have a big impact on the lives of all young people living in the borough as it will set out a development strategy for the next 15 years onwards. Therefore, it is important for members to get involved and have a say.

Over the course of the next few months, the Local Plan Manager will be attending our Working Group meetings to run 30-minute focus sessions for us to look at, discuss and

problem solve on various issues relating to the borough. Members are enjoying this work as they feel that their thoughts and views on the future of the borough are being heard, listen to, and included into plans that matter.

1.3 **Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Discovery and Design Project**

To further our work around this year's, Make Your Mark theme on Health and Wellbeing three members of the Youth Cabinet have been supporting a research project on Domestic Abuse. Tonic, a social research organisation, were asked by Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Local Authorities to help gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of people who have been affected by domestic abuse, and to use the findings to shape the design of future support. The three members of Youth Cabinet were particularly keen to help provide insight into the understanding of how young people understand domestic abuse, healthy and unhealthy relationships, and what support they think should be available. Next steps for this work, will be to engage all Youth Cabinet members in the design (co-production) phase of the project. We look forward to sharing our experiences of this at the next meeting.

1.4 **Youth Cabinet Recruitment Drive**

Thurrock Youth Cabinet is still looking to grow its numbers and gain good representation from Thurrock Schools/Colleges/youth groups. If you have any young people in mind that you think would like to be part of the Youth Cabinet, then please let us know at youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk

1.5 **Thurrock 11- 25 Strategy Group**

The Youth Cabinet chair and vice chair continue to attend the 11-25 strategy meeting to update Head Teachers on the positive work being achieved within the Youth Cabinet. The Youth Cabinet Recruitment drive was mentioned at the meeting and Head Teachers committed to driving the numbers up in their schools.

1.6 **Work on the horizon for Youth Cabinet**

- On Friday 4th November 2022, our MYP along with 300 other Members of Youth Parliament will take part in a debate in the House of Commons chamber. They will debate the issues chosen by the Make Your Mark ballot of 11–18-year-olds across the UK, and then vote to decide which issue should become the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaign. The debate will be chaired by Mr Speaker in the morning session, and his deputies in the afternoon. We are all hoping that Thurrock MYP will be selected and given the opportunity to speak at some point on the day.
- There are plans to link with the Strategic Lead for Economic Development as the team would like youth input into the refreshed Backing Thurrock strategy outlining the next 10 years. We shall report on this work at the next meeting.

17 November 2022		ITEM: 6
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2022		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Andrea Winstone, Strategic Lead School Effectiveness and SEND		
Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas, Assistant Director Education and Skills		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director Children’s Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report gives an overview of Thurrock’s Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022.

This report forms part of our 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.

The report recognises the regeneration opportunities locally and will look to support some of the national drivers around early year’s education.

Thurrock Council will continue to: -

- a. To support further early years & childcare development across the borough where re-generation and new housing is taking place**
- b. To consider early education future needs before decisions are taken in relation to capital assets across the Local Authority**
- c. To support sessional providers to offer, or access wrap around care in partnership, for working parents**
- d. To encourage providers, including schools, to participate in the 30 hours entitlement offer to enable more working parents to access their full entitlement.**

1. Recommendation

1.1 That Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 and offer any additional comment or feedback.

2. Introduction and Background:

Local Policy Context

The Annual Assessment links with the following Council vision and priorities: -

Vision - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

Priorities:

1. People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live, and stay
2. Place – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
3. Prosperity – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations

National Policy

The Covid Pandemic has had a major impact of the uptake for the Two-Year-Old Entitlement places this is due in two parts one being the concern from parents and secondly the availability of places. Our early years team have continued to support parents and at the time of writing this report we have seen an increase in the take up for the 2-year-old funded places this supports our most vulnerable children.

Recruitment and retention of staff is a major issue for early years providers, this is a national as well as a local issue. School Effectiveness Officers are working with other local authority’s both locally and nationally to develop a strategy to overcome the challenges the sector is facing.

Thurrock continues to support providers in offering 30 hours of childcare for three- and four-year-olds of working parents, ensuring that we have the appropriate childcare pathways including wrap around care for both early years children, and as they progress to school. This will be critical to the success of encouraging residents to take advantage of the local job opportunities.

The pandemic has meant a few providers are no longer operating in Thurrock. This has the potential to impact on the places that will be available to 2-year-olds and 3- and 4-year-olds across the borough. Officers from the School Effectiveness team are working closely with potential new providers to ensure that we can meet local demand to create places for 2, 3 and 4 year old provision.

Current Support to Early Years Providers from School Effectiveness Team: -

- Support pathways for new early years providers
- Regular visit to providers to ensure quality of care and education
- Support settings with recruitment and retention of staff
- Liaison with planning department and assets team
- Monitoring new planning applications to ensure early years provision is included in new development as and when required. We also appreciate councillor support in including early year's education and childcare in any new strategic developments.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

These are highlighted within the introduction to this report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

We have asked Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and offer comment on this report. The Department of Education recognises the importance of local governance arrangements and as a result Local Authorities must present the childcare sufficiency assessment to a range of governance structures. The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to make sure that there are enough childcare places within its locality for working parents or for parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). The Childcare Sufficiency Report is a statutory report that must be published on our website and updated annually.

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

We work closely with a range of our early years settings to gather feedback and look at potential opportunities, our local offer also looks to gather feedback to ensure we are capturing the voice of parents/cares.

6. Impact On Corporate Policies, Priorities, Performance and Community Impact

6.1 This report contributes to the following corporate priorities:

1. People - a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live, and stay
2. Prosperity - a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**

Strategic Lead Finance

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.

Funding to fulfil this duty is provided by Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The funding to the Local Authority in 2022/23 is to be based on termly census. Funding to providers is based on a termly head count and distributed through the local early years funding formula.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)

The Council has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. The duty applies in relation to children up to the age of 14 and for disabled children up to the age of 18. The Council is obliged to have regard to the statutory guidance of the Secretary of State. The guidance requires that the Council produce an annual report that is considered by elected members. The format of the report is not prescribed but the guidance suggests it covers provision for specific groups of children, supply and demand, affordability, and any gaps in provision.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Officer, Adults, Housing and Health

The Council has a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 and equality of opportunity is a key principle of all early years' providers; they ensure they meet statutory duties around offering places to all early year's children – part of the Ofsted requirement is to evidence how they have ensured equality of opportunity. Further information on the demand of childcare in Thurrock including data in relation to children with Special Educational Needs and or disability (SEND), school age children and the take up funded early education places is contained within the body of the assessment

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

None

- 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 this report:**

- **Appendix 1: Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2022**

Report Author:

Andrea Winstone

Strategic Lead School Effectiveness and SEND

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Thurrock Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

August 2022



Report produced by

Sue Lamkin,
Business Support and Sufficiency Officer,
School Effectiveness Team
Children's Services.

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Report published by Thurrock Council, September 2022

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Overall assessment and summary

The council is required by law to report annually to the elected council members on how we are meeting our duty to secure sufficient childcare in our borough, as set out in the Childcare Act 2006. This report is available and accessible to parents. We have prepared this report in order to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to the age of 14, and to children with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, we have assessed sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, and feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

The Childcare Sufficiency Report also:

- sets out the principles and planning guidelines on early years both nationally and locally
- provides demographic and contextual picture of the early year's provision in Thurrock
- provides information on the demand of childcare in Thurrock including data in relation to children with special educational needs and or disability (SEND), school-age children and the take up funded early education places
- provides an indication of the supply, quality and affordability of childcare across the borough
- provides childcare sufficiency data, population of 2, 3 and 4 years-old and number of childcare providers by wards
- provides details of the take-up of 30 hours of free childcare
- provides details of future planning and developments and population increases/decreases
- details how we plan to support childcare sufficiency in the borough

Overall sufficiency in our area

To ensure overall childcare sufficiency we continue to work with providers to offer sustainable, yet affordable childcare. We work with providers to ensure our prices are similar to our geographical neighbours.

Recruitment was identified as an issue in the CSA 2021. This is still a concern both locally and nationally. Please see our plan to support recruitment under point 3 – Our plans for childcare.

- **Government Funded early education for 2 years olds** – Our take of 2-year-old funding is in line with national average. West Thurrock and South Stifford have the largest number of parents eligible for 2 year old funding. There is only one nursery in the Purfleet on Thames area, as result there is a lack of parental choice. This means that parents and children need to travel to other parts of the borough, which isn't an option for all parents. Some families are accessing childminders for 2-year-old provision but there are few in the Purfleet area.
- **Universal (15 hour) funded early education and childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds** –We have not received any parental feedback that parents cannot gain a place for their child's

universal entitlement. There are parents who do not choose to access early years childcare.

- **Early years childcare outside the funded entitlements** – Our data is suggesting that there is a need to increase the 30 hours funded places.
- **Childcare before and after school** – There has been an increase in the number of schools offering before and after school provision, along with activity-based clubs.
- **Childcare during the holidays** – We have not received parental feedback that parents cannot access holiday provision. Many childminders offer wrap around during the holidays. Thurrock access the government funded Holiday Activity Funding (HAF) which offer free holiday activities to children in receipt of free school meals. Details of our offer are commented on page 16 of this report.
- **Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** – Parents find it difficult to access suitable childcare for SEND children. There is a need to create more places. As above HAF is available to children with SEND – see details on page 16 of this report.
- **Childcare during atypical hours (outside 8am and 6pm on weekdays)** – There is the demand to create more childcare places during atypical hours to support parents who work shift patterns and weekends.

Quality of childcare

We continue to work with our providers to ensure good quality provision and expect all our providers to achieve a good or outstanding Ofsted. We have a team of officers who work closely with providers at risk of not meeting this standard to improve practice to ensure good outcomes for our youngest children.

Under the guidance of the Early Years officers, all private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers in Thurrock undertake a safeguarding and welfare audit at least once a year. PVIs are supported by Learning and Development Officers to ensure good quality early years education.

Level of provision

Thurrock Council Officers work with providers to ensure good quality early education and childcare is available to those parents who wish to access early education and childcare places.

We closely monitor our settings and offer educational, welfare and financial advice.

The Covid pandemic had a significant impact on the number of children accessing the Two-Year Entitlement. However, since autumn 2021 we started to see an upturn in take up, and by the end of summer term 2022 we achieved 76.33% of eligible 2 year old children attending early education and childcare, which was the highest figure for this period since 2015. The % is calculated against the number of families shown as eligible for the Two-Year Entitlement (2YE) based on information provided by the Department of Work and Pensions. It relates to families who meet the financial eligibility criteria for 2YE or whose children are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. It does not include children outside of these criteria e.g., eligible due to their immigration status. To calculate the % for the summer term we use the number of families on the DWP list for March 2022. Although the % take up has increased the number of families identified as eligible for the funding has decreased.

For various reasons including financial sustainability several PVI setting have closed since August 2021. We are working with several potential new providers to support the opening of new settings and to ensure the number of registered places increases in the next academic year 2022/2023.

The number of schools offering nursery places has increased so this has reduced the impact of the reduction in the number of PVI settings.

We have had a decrease of 28 childminders which has reduced the number of registered places on offer. We offer childminder induction training termly to ensure potential new childminders have received training to ensure they can run a successful business thus maintaining /increasing childminder registered places.

As of summer 2022, 3478 children have accessed the additional 15 hours of funded entitlement for working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds. This is a decrease of 712 children on the previous summer. This maybe a reflection of parental working patterns due to the Covid pandemic where more parents are working from home and the closure of three large nurseries in Thurrock.

As of summer 2022, the number of children accessing 30 hours entitlement is 1,418. This is an increase of 157 on the previous year. Potentially this could be due to settings offering a more flexible 30-hour offer.

Parents can access wraparound care, this includes holiday, before and after school care. 69% of our childminders and full day care settings offer wraparound care. This supports parents to find or stay in full time work supporting children in a home-to-home environment.

A third of day care providers offer breakfast and after school provision serving local schools along with over 68% of our childminders. This ensures parental choice.

In addition, 72% of our schools offer breakfast club for children attending their school, promoting school attendance and a healthy start to the day and supporting working parents.

Thurrock has one independent provider who offers solely wraparound care serving three local schools in the Grays area of Thurrock plus one school offering holiday scheme. (HAF)

A large number of childminders also offer holiday provision and full day care for 5 years+

We have a number of providers who offer atypical hours of childcare in Thurrock.

Although entitlement places exist for all children, those parents of children with SEND can find that some providers are limited by their financial sustainability to admit all SEND children requiring places beyond the 15 hours if they require additional support. Additional support is available to settings via Early Years Inclusion Fund and Disability Access Fund (DAF) and settings can claim high needs funding to support children's special educational needs. The lack of places causes a barrier to working parents of SEND children who require full time wrap around care and holiday care for their children. Should a child with SEND require full time early education and childcare, the additional hours of support outside of the 15- or 30-hours entitlement has to be met by the childcare provider. This can put the provider's sustainability into question.

Our Early Years Area SENCO is working closely with settings to ensure that there are suitable childcare places available to all parents regardless of need. We are proactively marketing the take up Early Years Inclusion Fund and DAF funding, ensuring the grants are being used by settings to support early year's children with SEND. Our officers run regular training and forums to further improve the quality of SEND provision.

The Sunshine Centre based in Tilbury is for children aged up to 18 years with a whole range of both behavioural and physical disability. The centre offers holiday and respite care.

There are gaps in childcare in 60% of our wards including the Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary area and Grays Riverside, the west, central and some wards in the east.

Our plans for childcare

We plan to:

- continue encouraging providers including schools to participate in 30 hours entitlement offer to enable more working parents to access their full entitlement
- sustain the take up of 2-year-old offer
- support providers to offer or access wrap around care for working parents
- provide training, mentoring and inclusion support for childcare providers to raise standards
- continue to provide business and financial advice to childcare providers
- support settings with recruitment and retention of good quality staff
- provide dedicated officers to work closely with new providers to offer support and advice. Supporting with market research, business planning, identifying suitable premises, planning applications, staff recruitments and staffing ratios.
- support further early years education and childcare development across the borough where re-generation and new housing is taking place
- support new settings ensuring welfare requirements and learning and development are delivered at a good standard from opening
- undertake safeguarding and welfare RAG audits of settings to monitor the quality of provision to ensure all settings are aiming for a good or better Ofsted judgement
- consider early education future needs before decisions are taken in relation to capital assets across the local authority
- increase the take up of Early Years Inclusion Funding by streamlining our application process and to continue to engage with settings via SENCO forums, early years training and officer's support.
- review the outcomes of the parental survey to ensure good quality childcare is available to all parents including parents of SEND children.
- to continue to work with Essex County Council to ensure flexible childcare is available for emergency services colleagues across the two boroughs
- Increase the % of children eligible to take up 15 hours funding
- targeted approach to work with new and existing providers to increase the number of places in wards with a deficit.

The Recruitment and Retention Concerns for Thurrock

With growing concerns around the recruitment and retention of EY staff in Thurrock, we have been working with other LA's locally and nationally to develop a strategy that recognises the problems the sector faces, and to identify some possible solutions and actions we can take to try to improve the recruitment and retention of the Early Years workforce in Thurrock.

Purnima Tanuku OBE, chief executive of National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) said: 'We agree that the pandemic has pushed the early education sector into a deeper crisis. Our own research throughout the pandemic has shown how closures increased, especially in areas of deprivation. We have also seen a workforce crisis that existed before the pandemic, made a lot worse. 'Evidence overwhelmingly shows how important early years are for a child's development, learning and educational outcomes. Therefore, any recovery has to start with getting it right in early education and care.'

Recent reporting across 2021 and 2022 from professional bodies including the NDNA, Early Years Alliance, the Sutton Trust and the DfE has evidenced that:

- 77% reported serious issues with employing Level 3 staff and 24% said they struggled to even recruit unqualified staff, made more significant by low levels of retention
- Employers point to a shortage of qualified staff as the main barrier to recruitment.
- Employers are reporting that it's harder to recruit staff at every level of qualification.
- Turnover of staff is 24%, compared to the UK average of 15 – 18%.
- An average nursery has 1.6 vacancies leaving 7.6% of roles vacant across the sector, equivalent of 19,200 vacancies based on the DfE's latest estimate of 252,800 total staff.
- In terms of applications per vacancy, providers reported receiving more applications for each vacancy before the start of the pandemic. Before COVID-19, providers had an average of 4 applications for current vacancies, compared with 2 applications for current vacancies
- The three most common reasons for staff leaving the sector were for better pay (47%), better and more suitable working hours (43%) and a better work-life balance/ less stressful job (43%).
- Only 52% of the early year's workforce is now qualified at Level 3 or above with a further 17% qualified at Level 2. In 2015/16 the NDNA survey showed 83% of the workforce were trained to Level 3 so this is a significant reduction which could affect quality of provision.
- 26% of the workforce is made up of unqualified assistants, trainees or apprentices which is an increase of 16% on last year – employers are taking on more apprentices to alleviate funding pressures.
- Government underfunding is changing how nurseries operate resulting in 14% employing fewer graduates/teachers, 16% employing fewer Level 3 staff and 18% taking on more apprentices.
- Men working with children make up less than 1% of the workforce among smaller providers – this rose within larger nursery groups.
- 37% of practitioners said they were unsure how long they would remain in the sector and 24% said they would probably leave within one to five years.
- Covid-19 has exacerbated many of the pre-existing challenges for nursery practitioners, and data collected reveal a workforce overworked, neglected in policy terms and increasingly likely to leave the profession.
- Morale is extremely low and there has been a net loss of workers in the sector during the pandemic, leading to an intensified recruitment and retention crisis.

Without a clear and cohesive strategy of investment in the early years workforce, the sector will continue to miss out on the many opportunities to 'Level Up' early years education for babies, children and families.

Now is the time to support the sector, and those who work within it, in order to build upon the current high levels of quality, increase the availability of provision and future-proof this vital sector.

Recommendations by professional bodies include:

- **Changing Perceptions of the Early Years career path-** An awareness campaign should focus on the critical importance of early childhood education on a child’s development and life chances and portray the crucial role early years professionals play in supporting this. It should emphasise that this is a skilled role, equivalent to teaching in other phases of education.
- **Changing the Narrative** - There must be a shift away from the ‘childcare’ terminology so frequently used to ‘early childhood education’, in order to position the sector as a phase within the education journey rather than only a means of enabling parents to work.
- **Training** - There should be an urgent exploration and extension of accessible and flexibly offered CPD, with online and face to face options, coupled with more high-quality workplace placements and action research projects, with mentoring support across the sector.
- **Fair pay, recruitment and retention** - Early Years staff must be recognised and rewarded with a level of pay that reflects their essential role, and which allows them to focus their time and energy into just one job, rather than two or more to make ends meet, as so many who work in the early years have reported having to do.

Thurrock has developed a working programme to support Early Years providers with the recruitment and retention of staff. Our action plan below sets out some of the strategies we are working on.

Problem	Solution	Action
Early entry of students into the childcare sector	Increase the promotion of Childcare based GCSEs across secondary schools. Work with DfE to influence more research and action on this. Promote Early years as work experience opportunities.	Work with Inspire team and form partnerships with secondary schools to deliver EY career options and information through open days, presentations etc. Lobby DfE to support sector through meetings Attend HT meetings or provide information for HT briefings
Recruiting qualified staff at level 2 and 3	Find ways to access students completing childcare qualifications at FE providers	Develop partnerships with SEC, TACC, USP colleges. Team and providers to attend recruitment fairs, presentations, events to promote vacancies and recruitment opportunities
Encouraging qualified staff back into the sector	Finding ways to work with the employment sector to reach and attract staff who may wish to return	Working with DWP and FE colleges to run recruitment events and to advise and offer CPD training to refresh knowledge and confidence to return to the sector

Encouraging take up of Childcare introductory courses	Work with FE providers and DWP to promote the sector and attract people into qualifications Target over 50's market	Work with DWP & SEC on the sector-based work programme "ilearn childcare. Promote this through forums and newsletters to providers. Encourage providers to attend the recruitment events.
Support providers with advertising vacancies and attracting people into the sector	Use council resources to promote vacancies and attract people into the sector through advertising and website	Linking with Comms team for a social media campaign and setting up a vacancy page on Ask Thurrock and linking to main council website
Increase people entering apprenticeships and raise the profile.	Promote Childcare apprenticeships at level 2, 3,4,5	Working with TACC, SEC, USP and other apprenticeship providers to promote training and qualifications in Early Years
Increasing access to CPD for practitioners	Work with local providers to offer CPD courses free or at a reduced cost and making them accessible for professional and personal development opportunities	Links with DWP, SEC and TACC who can offer CPD courses to providers and practitioners.
Encouraging parents to volunteer in settings as an introduction to childcare	Set up a promoting parent as volunteers campaign	Set up a working party of providers and FE partners, DWP and the LA comms team to put a "promoting parents as volunteers" campaign together for social media and advertising in settings. Refer interested parents to the Ilearn childcare programme

Demand for early education and childcare

Population of early year's children – data taken from ONS 2020

In total, there are 13,104 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early year's education and childcare. This is a small decrease of 1.34% from 2021.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	2,453
Age 1	2,529
Age 2	2,643
Age 3	2,700
Age 4*	2,779

* Some 4-year-olds will have started reception.

Population of school age children

In total there are 18,222 children aged 5-11, and 7,364 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	2,790
Age 6	2,616
Age 7	2,686
Age 8	2,740
Age 9	2,698
Age 10	2,470
Age 11	2,492
Age 12	2,625
Age 13	2,421
Age 14	2,318

Changes to population of children in our area

Our population has increased from 2019 by 0.4%. The population of early year's children has decreased by 1.34%. The birth rate has mainly stayed the same with a slight decrease of 1.44% since 2019.

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (or 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The funding is there to help providers deliver extra support to children who are displaying emerging additional needs. The extra funding could be used by providers to pay for things such as additional equipment or staff training to support the child.

The numbers of children with an education, health, and care plan (EHCP) in our local authority is below.

Age	Number of children summer 2022	Number of children summer 2021
Birth to school age	70	76
Primary school (reception to year six)	857	775

Age	Number of children summer 2022	Number of children summer 2021
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	902	838

There has been an increase of 7.14% of EHCP agreed from July 2021 to July 2022.

Children aged 3 and 4 who have low level or emerging special education needs or disability are entitled to early years inclusion funding.

Number of children accessing Early Years Inclusion funding from summer term 2021 to summer term 2022,	47
Number of children accessing Early Years Inclusion funding from summer term 2020 to summer term 2021	83

This is a decrease from the previous year of 56.63%. Uptake is reduced due to the recruitment crisis settings are experiencing. Staff are struggling to engage with additional work because of having to prioritise staff ratios to meet Ofsted requirements ensuring their businesses are operational.

Early years providers can access the Disability Access Fund. The fund is to support settings make reasonable adjustments to their settings if they have identified special education needs or disabilities children within their setting.

Number of settings accessing DAF funding summer term 2022	Number of children being supported.
20	33

Figures correct as of 31 July 2022.

High needs funding is available for SEND children from early years up to 25 years. The funding supports provision for their educational needs.

Number of early years children accessing high needs funding 2022	Number of early years children accessing high needs funding 2022
26	6

This is an increase of 333%.

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in early education and childcare or school, and it can take some time from concerns being identified to an EHCP being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate.

Some children have SEND but do not have the need for an EHCP. This is why the number of EHCPs for early year's children is low.

In order for an EHCP to be agreed, two specific criteria must be met:

- *whether the child or young person has or may have special educational needs*
- *whether they may need special educational provision to be made through an EHCP*

Supply of early education and childcare

Number of early year's providers and places

In total, there are 202 early years childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 3938 early years' childcare places:

Type of provision	Number of providers 2022	Number of registered places 2022	Number of providers 2021	Number of registered places 2021
Childminders*	125	835	153	981
Nursery classes in schools	30	986	28	841
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	47	2117	52	2182

The data in this table was correct as of August 2022. There is a number of new settings that we expect to open within the next few months, this will increase the number of registered places in the PVI sector by at least 60.

There has been a decrease in the number of childminders in the borough, this is due to various reasons, including a change of personal circumstances, deregistering from the early years register to solely care for children over the age of 5, not having enough children to make the business profitable and the price which parents are able to afford to pay for childcare making the business unsustainable.

There are an additional 24 childminders who only offer childcare for children 5 and above offering an additional 144 places to the number of places in the table above.

We have 28 Ofsted registered home carers in Thurrock. Home carers look after children in the family home. 35% of the home carers look after children at Thurrock addresses. The remaining 65% offer services outside of the borough.

Early years vacancies

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement.

We ask providers to report vacancies on the ASK Thurrock website and to keep this information up to date. Not all chose to do this. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school. We have commented on vacancies within the ward data from the information that has been provided to us for expected vacancies rates in September 2022.

Early years atypical hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is below.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekday	Available after 6pm weekday	Available weekends	Available overnight	Available school holidays
Childminders	125	70	41	10	2	83
School's nurseries	30	9	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private, voluntary, and independent nurseries	47	20	20	0	0	28

Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 226 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 135 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. Of the total number, 149 childminders may provide care for school age children during term time.

Although Thurrock secondary schools do not offer breakfast and after school childcare clubs, all Thurrock secondary schools offer extra curriculum activities before and after school.

Many Thurrock primary schools also offer before and after school activities. The list below is the number of provisions that offer childcare places rather than activity-based programmes.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Breakfast club – Primary school	28	840
Breakfast club – Secondary school	0	0
Breakfast care – Childminders*	85	543 for under 8s.
Breakfast club – Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers	11	584
Total breakfast care	124	1,967
After-school club – Primary school	15	450
After-school club – Secondary school	0	0
After School care – Childminders*	93	699 for under 8s.
After school club – Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers	10	300

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Total after school care	242	1,449
Holiday club – Primary school	2	60
Holiday club – Secondary school	0	0
Holiday care – Childminders*	105	510
Holiday club – Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers	11	503
Total holiday care	118	1073

* Childminder data is difficult to break down in to specific places for breakfast, afterschool due to lack of meaningful response numbers from this group of providers to Provider Audit requests. We can assume that if a childminder only offers term time care, this will reduce the number of holiday care places offered and is shown as such.

Holiday Activity Fund and Food Programme (HAF)

The HAF programme provides free holiday provision including healthy eating and enriching activities for children from reception to year 11 who receive benefit related free schools’ meals.

Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being:

- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
- more likely to experience ‘unhealthy holidays’ in terms of nutrition and physical health
- more likely to experience social isolation

Our HAF programme is a response to this issue, with evidence showing that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people, and that they work best when they:

- provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities
- cover more than just breakfast or lunch
- involve children (and parents) in food preparation
- use local partnerships and connections, particularly with the voluntary and community organisation sector



active essex.pdf

Data for summer 2022 is not yet available, data below for summer term 2021

Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority at Summer Term 2022. The fall in numbers for the take up of 15 hours funding is likely due the impact of the Covid-19 and the uncertainty on providers and parents followed by the reversal as the uncertainty eased.

Age	% of eligible children taking up places 2022	% of eligible children taking up places 2021	% of eligible children taking up places nationally 2022
Age 2	76.33%	71%	72%
Age 3 and 4	87%	88%	92%

3- and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the government's Childcare Support website.

The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both.

If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

Applying for 30 hours funding	Number of families, summer term 2021
New applications for a place	485
Eligible for a place	1,961
Accessing a place	1,261

The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in summer term 2022.

Prices of early school years childcare

For early year's childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups.

There may be additional payments for additional services – for example, lunch and other meals that are not included in these prices.

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	Childminders
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0- and 1-year olds	£6.10	N/A	£4.42
2-year-olds	£5.13	£4.33	£4.40
3- and 4-year-olds	£5.85	£4.49	£4.40

Prices of school age

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per day, after school per day, and for childminding per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per week.

Setting and price unit	Price
Breakfast club per day	£3.96
After-school club per day	£12.50
School age childminder per hour	£4.56
Holiday club per week	£137.50

Childcare sufficiency ward data – summer term 2022

Two-year-old Entitlement

The number of families shown as eligible for the Two-Year Entitlement are based on information provided by the Department of Work and Pensions and relates to families who meet the financial eligibility criteria or whose children are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. It does not include children outside of these criteria e.g., eligible due to their immigration status. The figures used are taken from the March 2022 DWP list.

Quality of Provision

Once a provider is registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register as a “**new provider**”, Ofsted will carry out the provisions first inspection within **30 months**, during this time the provision does **not** have an Ofsted quality judgement. Subsequent inspections take place at least once every 6 years after that.

The Ofsted inspections evaluate the overall quality and standards of its early years provision in line with the principles and requirements of the ‘Statutory framework for the EYFS’.

Inspectors use a 4-point scale to make all judgements.

- grade 1: outstanding
- grade 2: good
- grade 3: requires improvement
- grade 4: inadequate

Where there are no early year’s children on roll or present, no grades will be given against the 4 key judgements. A judgement is made only on the ‘Overall quality and standards of the early years provision’, with one of 3 possible outcomes:

Met	No actions, possible suggestions to improve practice
Not met with actions	The provider does not meet one or more of the learning and development requirements and/or safeguarding and welfare requirements actions Compulsory actions to be completed by the provider.
Not met with enforcement	Significant areas where the provider does not meet one or more of the learning and development requirements and/or safeguarding and welfare requirements. Ofsted will use their regulatory powers to enforce compliance with the law and to improve the quality of services.

Based on the following formula, the sufficiency need in each ward has been calculated.

Childcare sufficiency is based on the number of Ofsted registered places excluding reception in school.

Total number of children in ward – 20% (parental choice not to access childcare, chosen childcare outside of ward or borough) = number of children in ward likely to take up childcare.

It is expected 90% of 4-year-olds will be accessing a place in a reception class in school from September. The total number of children expected to access childcare is indicated in bold. (10% of totals 4-year-olds in ward)

There are no maintained nurseries in Thurrock.

Several providers have reported their vacancies/waiting list for each ward. This has been considered when commenting on the need to create places.

This data is considering vacancies and children starting school in September 2022.

Aveley and Uplands

Number of 2-year-olds in the ward	170
Number of 3 years olds in the ward	168
Number of 4 years olds in the ward	204
10% of 4-year-olds requiring childcare	20
Total of age groups who may require childcare provision	358
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	224
**Ofsted registered school reception places	120

Number of families eligible for 2-year-olds entitlement	29
Number of accessing 2-year-olds funding	21
Number of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing funding	216
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	2
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	2
Number of childminders	5
Quality of provision – day nurseries	50% good or better – 50% awaiting inspection
pre schools	50% good or better – 50% awaiting inspection
primary schools	50% good or better -50% awaiting inspection
childminders	20% good or better – 80% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up childcare places	286
Vacancies	One full day nursery has a small number of vacancies although childminders have indicated they have waiting lists.
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes

Belhus

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	188
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	154
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	187
10% of 4 year old requiring childcare	19
Total of age groups who may require childcare provision	361
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception places.	229
Number of school reception places	210
Total number of Ofsted registered places	439

Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	47
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	27
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	293
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	4
Number of primary schools	4
Number of childminders	2
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	100% awaiting inspection
primary schools	50% good or better -50% waiting inspection
childminders	100% good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	289
Do we have sufficient early childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes - A large proportion of places are within schools who do not offer holiday care. Full day care/holiday care is required

Chadwell St Mary

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	167
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	168
Number of 4 years olds in the ward	162
10% of 4 year old requiring childcare	17
Total of age groups who may require childcare	352
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	211
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Total Ofsted registered places	301
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	67
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	44
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	228
Number of day nurseries	3
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	0

Number of primary schools	2
Number of childminders	6
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Good or better
pre schools	66% good or better – 33% wating inspection
primary schools	100% good or better
childminders	34% Good or better – 66% awaiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	281
Vacancies	A new full day care has recently opened which has a small number of vacancies
Do we have sufficient early childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Chafford and North Stifford

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	113
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	129
Number of 4-year-olds in the ward	120
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	12
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	254
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	282
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Ofsted registered places	372
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	24
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	11
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	191
Number of day nurseries	1
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	13

Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Good' or better
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	77% Good or better – 15% waiting inspection – 8% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	203
Vacancies	Childminders is this ward have vacancies
Do we have sufficient early childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

Corringham and Fobbing

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	37
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	67
Number of 4 years olds in the ward	47
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	5
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	109
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	84
**Ofsted registered school reception places	60
Total Ofsted registered places	144
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	9
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	10
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	85
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	2
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Waiting inspection
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	87

Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

East Tilbury

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	116
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	106
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	115
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	6
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	228
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	148
**Ofsted registered school reception places	120
Total Ofsted registered places	268
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	31
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	33
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	132
Number of day nurseries	1
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	0
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	4
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	25% Good or better -75% waiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	182
Vacancies	Full day care setting has vacancies in this ward along with 50% of childminders
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No – The number of vacancies is not sufficient to allow all parents to access childcare
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Grays Riverside

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	294
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	287
Number 4 year olds in the ward	287
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	29
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	610
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	338
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Total Ofsted registered places	473
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	81
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	48
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	263
Number of day nurseries	4
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	4
Quality of provision – day nurseries	75% Good or better – 25% waiting inspection
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	488
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Grays Thurrock

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	125
Number of 3 in the ward	128
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	135
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	13

Total of both age groups who may require childcare	266
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	200
** Ofsted registered school reception places	270
Total Ofsted registered places	470
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	30
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	20
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	193
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	2
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	3
Number of childminders	10
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	50% Good or better -50% Requirements Improvement
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	70% Good or better – 10% Met – 20% awaiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	212
Vacancies	Pre schools in this ward have a waiting list. Childminders are showing vacancies
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

Little Thurrock Blackshots

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	95
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	100
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	89
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	10
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	205
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	135
**Ofsted registered school reception places	124
Total Ofsted registered places	259

Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	27
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	19
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	89
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	1
Number of special schools	1 – This provision provides nursery and reception places according to need, it is not included in the figures above
Treetops Academy	
Number of childminders	10
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	70% Good or better – 10% awaiting inspection – 20% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	164
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Little Thurrock Rectory

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	112
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	91
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	74
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	7
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	210
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	124
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Total Ofsted registered places	214
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	11
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	9
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	172
Number of day nurseries	1
Number of pre-schools	0

Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	5
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% awaiting inspection
childminders	80% Good or better 20% awaiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	168
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Ockendon

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	193
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	182
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	184
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	18
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	393
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	248
**Ofsted registered school reception places	120 – plus special needs places
Total Ofsted registered places	368
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	49
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	33
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	177
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	3 – includes one special school
Number of primary schools	3 – includes one special school
Number of special schools Beacon Hill Academy	1 - This provision provides nursery and reception places according to need. The places are not included in the figures above.
Number of childminders	9

Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Good or better
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	66% Good or better – 34% awaiting inspection
childminders	67% Good or better – 22% awaiting inspection – 11% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	314
Vacancies	Full day care settings have waiting lists
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes – need for full day care places

Orsett

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	66
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	56
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	58
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	6
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	128
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	85
**Ofsted registered school reception places	72
Total Ofsted registered places	157
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	7
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	6
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	65
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	3
Number of childminders	4

Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	33% Good or better – 33% awaiting inspection – 33% Requirements improvement.
childminders	75% Good or better – 25% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	102
Vacancies	Childminders in this ward are reporting vacancies
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

South Chafford

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	115
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	122
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	120
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	12
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	239
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	311
Ofsted registered school reception places	300
Total Ofsted registered places	611
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	16
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	14
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	248
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	3
Number of primary schools	3
Number of childminders	12

Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	75% Good or better -25% awaiting inspection
childminders	75% Good or better – 25% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	189
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

Stanford East and Corringham Town

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	111
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	107
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	109
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	11
	229
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	236
**Ofsted registered school reception places	240
Total Ofsted registered places	476
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	25
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	21
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	285
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	3
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	4
Number of childminders	6
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	75% Good or better – 25% awaiting inspection
childminders	67% Good or better – 33% awaiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	183
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes

Is there a need to create places?	No
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Stanford-le-Hope West

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	119
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	127
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	106
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	11
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	257
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	230
**Ofsted registered school reception places	45
Total Ofsted registered places	320
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	25
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	15
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	231
Number of day nurseries	4
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	2 – includes special needs class
Number of primary schools	2
Number of childminders	3
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	50% Good or better – 50% awaiting inspection
childminders	33% Good or better – 33% awaiting inspection – 33% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	205
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

Stifford Clays

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	62
Number of 3 years olds in the ward	73
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	96
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	10
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	145
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	110
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Total Ofsted registered places	200
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	16
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	8
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	132
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	6
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	67% Good or better – 33% awaiting inspection.
**Total number of children likely to take up places	116
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

The Homesteads

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	66
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	91
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	88
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	9
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	166
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	27
**Ofsted registered school reception places	No reception places
Total Ofsted registered places	27
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	11
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	12
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	20
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	0
Number of primary schools	0
Number of childminders	4
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	No primary schools
childminders	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	132
Vacancies	All childminders in this ward have reported waiting lists.
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes – This ward has limited childcare places with only childminders offering childcare provision although there are vacancies in the neighbouring wards.

Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park

Number of 2-year-olds in the ward	141
Number of 3-year-olds in the ward	145
Number of 4-year-olds in the ward	174
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	17
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	303
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	183
**Ofsted registered school reception places	300
**Total Ofsted registered places	633
Number of families eligible for 2-year-old entitlement	53
Number of accessing 2-year-old funding	52
Number of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing funding	175
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of specialist provision Sunshine Centre	1 – This provision can take up to 52 early years children for selected sessions. The places are not included in the figures above
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	0
Number of childminders	4
Break out special needs centre	1
Quality of provision – day nurseries	50% Good or better – 50% awaiting inspection
pre schools	100% Met
primary schools	50% Good or better – 50% awaiting inspection
childminders	25% Good or better – 50% awaiting inspection – 25% Met
Break out special needs centre	100% met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	242

Vacancies	A number of vacancies reported by the two full day care providers
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes.

Tilbury St Chads

Number of 2-year-olds in the ward	115
Number of 3-year-olds in the ward	121
Number of 4-year-olds in the ward	126
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	13
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	249
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	157
**Ofsted registered school reception places	120
Total Ofsted registered places	277
Number of families eligible for 2-year-old entitlement	39
Number of accessing 2-year-old funding	31
Number of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing funding	130
Number of day nurseries	1
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	2
Number of childminders	2
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Requires improvement
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	100% waiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	199
Vacancies	Very limited vacancies reported in this ward
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes.

West Thurrock and South Stifford

Number of 2-year-olds in the ward	262
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Number of 3-year-olds in the ward	278
Number of 4-year-olds in the ward	298
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	30
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	838
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	430
**Ofsted registered school reception places	150
Total Ofsted registered places	580
Number of families eligible for 2-year-old entitlement	58
Number of accessing 2-year-old funding	52
Number of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing funding	302
Number of day nurseries	4
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	2
Number of childminders	14
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Good or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	29% Good or better – 15% Met – 42% waiting inspection – 14% Not met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	724
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes, there is need for places for all age groups but a particular need for 2-year-olds places.

This data is correct as of summer term 2022.

Some 4 years-olds will be accessing reception class provision in schools.

Parents may choose to take up their funding entitlement at settings outside of their ward or out of borough.

Quality of childcare in our area

Ofsted inspection grades

Type of provision	Total number of providers 2022	% Achieving good or outstanding 2022	Total number of providers 2021	% Achieving good or outstanding 2021
Childminders on EY Register	125	99%	134	98 %
Nursery classes in schools *	30	100%	28	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	47	99%	52	96%

School percentages are for schools who have an Ofsted judgement.

For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

Parents views of sufficiency in our local area

Parent survey

An online parent survey took place from April 2022 to May 2022. Parents were asked a variety of questions on how easy it is to access suitable childcare and the affordable ability of childcare. The results of the survey have been analysed below:

From the number of parents who responded to the survey the main reason for accessing childcare is to enable parents to work.

Most parents stated they find it very easy or easy to find suitable childcare although 53% stated the cost was prohibitive.

65% of parents are satisfied with the childcare they receive,.69% stated the staff and settings were welcoming, 66% stated the children had enough access to outside space and 66% felt they were kept well informed of their child's progress.

75% of parents who responded were aware of access to free childcare.

FIS enquiry data

- FIS are continuing to develop Thurrock's Local Offer Website. FIS have completed a project with our Providers to encourage them to advertise their childcare on our website. We have had a huge number either add a listing or amend their current one which has been a success.

- FIS have created a Childcare Vacancy page for our providers to list their vacancies. Although it has only recently been created it has already had quite a few providers use this platform and a lot of providers registering their interest. This is a cost-free way of our providers being able to advertise for staff.

Economic regeneration and new housing

Economic regeneration and new housing developments will increase the demand for childcare.

It is imperative that new housing developments are taken into account when planning any new early education and childcare places.

The table below gives details of ongoing and potential developments of more than 20 units per development by ward.

The Childcare Sufficiency Officer is consulted on all developments to ensure childcare is considered at the planning application stage.

The figures below include developments which may have started but still have yield.

Potential development of more than 20 units, yield 0 to 11 years

Ward	Planning Permission or ongoing development already started and producing yield.	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary	Further proposed units as at August 2022	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary
Aveley and Uplands	0	0	0	0
Belhus	33	12	173	33
Chadwell St Mary	207	52	61	7
Chafford and North Stifford	0	0	0	0
Corringham and Fobbing	220	67	0	0
East Tilbury	18	7	230	106
Grays Riverside	102	22	81	5
Grays Thurrock	73	18	87	17
Little Thurrock Blackshots	0	0	0	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	75	23	0	0
Ockendon	92	8	27	10
Orsett	80	29	750	279
South Chafford	0	0	2,500	195

Ward	Planning Permission or ongoing development already started and producing yield.	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary	Further proposed units as at August 2022	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary
Stanford East and Corringham Town	34	3	95	6
Stanford le Hope West	279	105	92	11
Stifford Clays	0	0	0	0
The Homesteads	0	0	0	0
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	98	7	0	0
Tilbury St Chads	0	0	52	3
West Thurrock and South Stifford	3300	513	0	0

Data correct as of 17th August 2022.

Methodology

Source materials:

- number of children – based on population projections from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2019based>
Figure 6: Population age structure by single year of age and sex for local authorities, counties, regions and England as a whole, mid-2016 to mid-2041
- children with EHC plans – based on data held by Thurrock Council
- supply of childcare – based on data provided to us by Ofsted who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision, and Thurrock Council data – in some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted
- Ofsted registered places data – calculated on how many children can attend a setting in any one time
- childcare for parents working atypical hours – data held by Thurrock Council
- funded early education – data on take-up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection Education provision: children under five years of aged
- data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year-olds – provided by the Department for Work and Pensions and local authority data

- price of childcare – collected by Provider Audit Spring Term 2022 and data held by Thurrock Council
- quality of childcare – data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted
- data from parents – data held by Thurrock Council from parent survey.

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17 November 2022		ITEM: 7
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Children's Social Care Performance – Quarter 2 2022-23		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Anna Watkins, Business Intelligence Analyst		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report shows that:

- Between July and September 2022, the number of The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) contacts received was 1,323 compared to 1,359 in the same period in 2021.
- Between July and September 2022, the number of referrals was 494 compared to 559 between July and September 2021.
- 94% of the children and families' assessments were completed in timescale compared to 90% in 2021. This shows a consistent performance.
- As at end of September 2022, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan was 83 compared to 106 in September 2021. Children subject to a Child Protection plan are carefully reviewed and does fluctuate each quarter, therefore this decrease does not present any concern.

In Q2 2022-23, the number of Child Protection episodes starting was 20 compared to 42 in the same period in 2021. In Q2 2022-23. Child protection episodes ending was 44 which is in line with 42 in Q2 2021-22.

- Between July and September 2022, 77 cases were stepped down. This shows 31% drop when comparing to the same period in 2021-22. There has been a concerted effort to ensure that children and families receive the correct support and advice following statutory involvement by Children's Social Care, where there remains a need for a lower level of support.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to support a shared understanding and management of threshold decisions. Children and families receive the right help at the right time and the response to family difficulties is proportionate to risk.

All data continues to be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure that decision-making within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) remains robust and ensures families are supported by the most appropriate service.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Members review the areas of improvement in Children's Social Care and work undertaken to date to manage demand for statutory social care services.

2. Introduction and Background

This report provides a summary of Children's Social Care performance for Quarter 2, 2022-23 (Jul-Sep 2022). It highlights key demand indicators such as number of contacts, benchmarking data, and key performance indicators.

Thurrock produces a number of data sets and performance reports to meet its internal and external reporting requirements. The data in this report is from the 'At a Glance' monthly performance report, regional benchmarking data and national data sets.

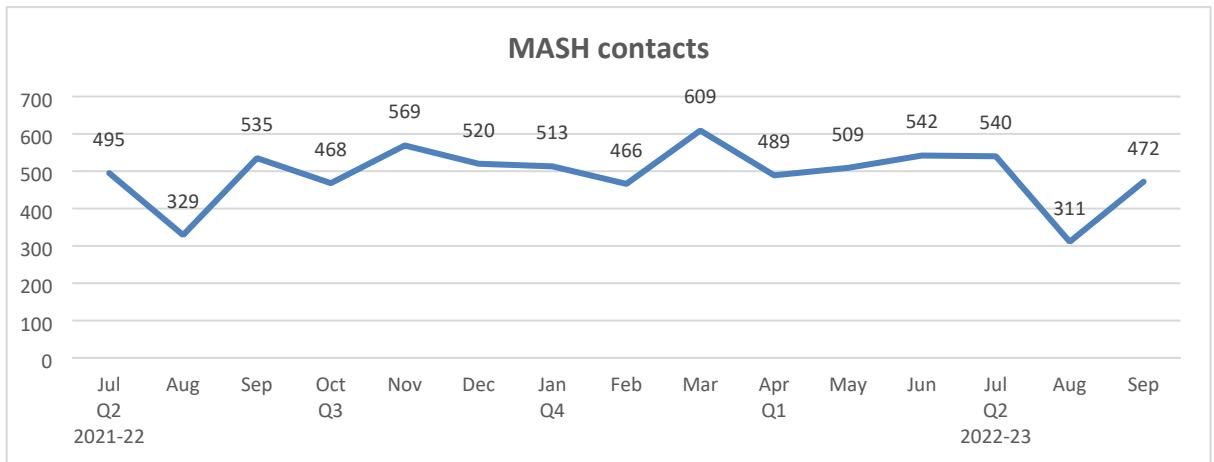
This data has been presented and discussed with the Children & Families Performance Group.

3. Thurrock Performance data

3.1 MASH Contacts

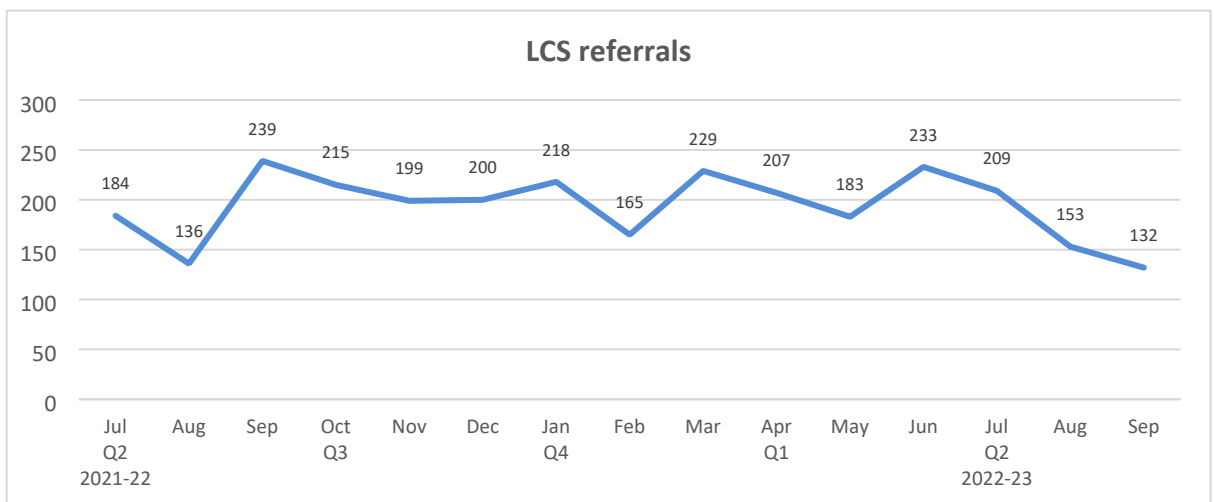
Between July and September 2022 (Quarter 2), the number of MASH contacts received was 1,323 which is in line with 1,359 in the same period in 2021.

Of the total contacts of 1,323 received in the period, 39% resulted in no further action and the remaining required some level of intervention.



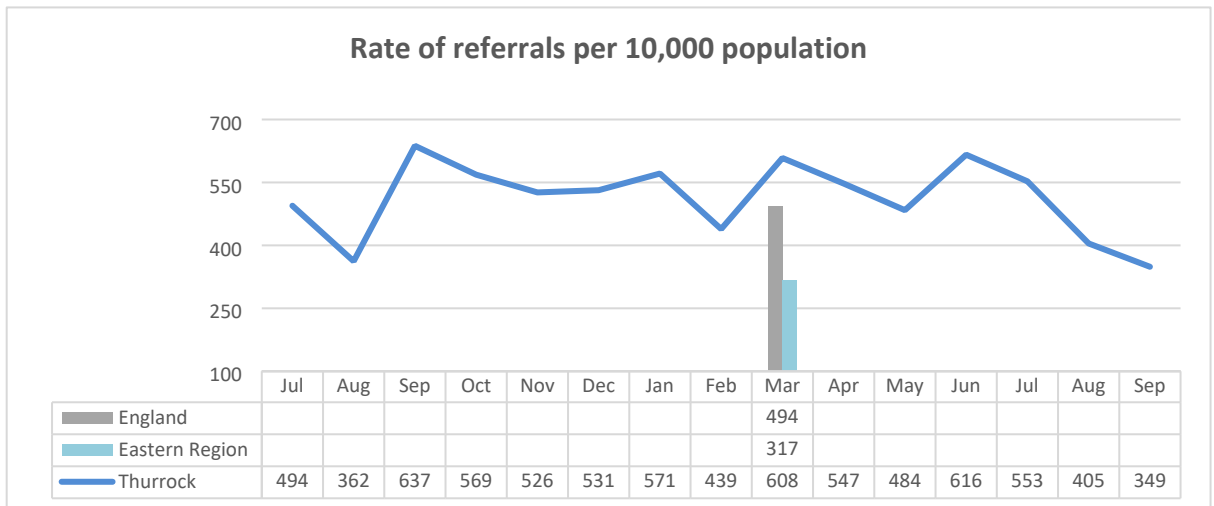
3.2 Referrals

Between July and September 2022, the number of referrals was 494 compared to 559 in the same period in 2021. This shows 11% drop in number of referrals when comparing the two quarters. Between 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, there were 2,462 LCS referrals compared to 2,601 in the previous year. This shows a marginal drop of 5%. The below shows the number of referrals since Q2 2021-22.



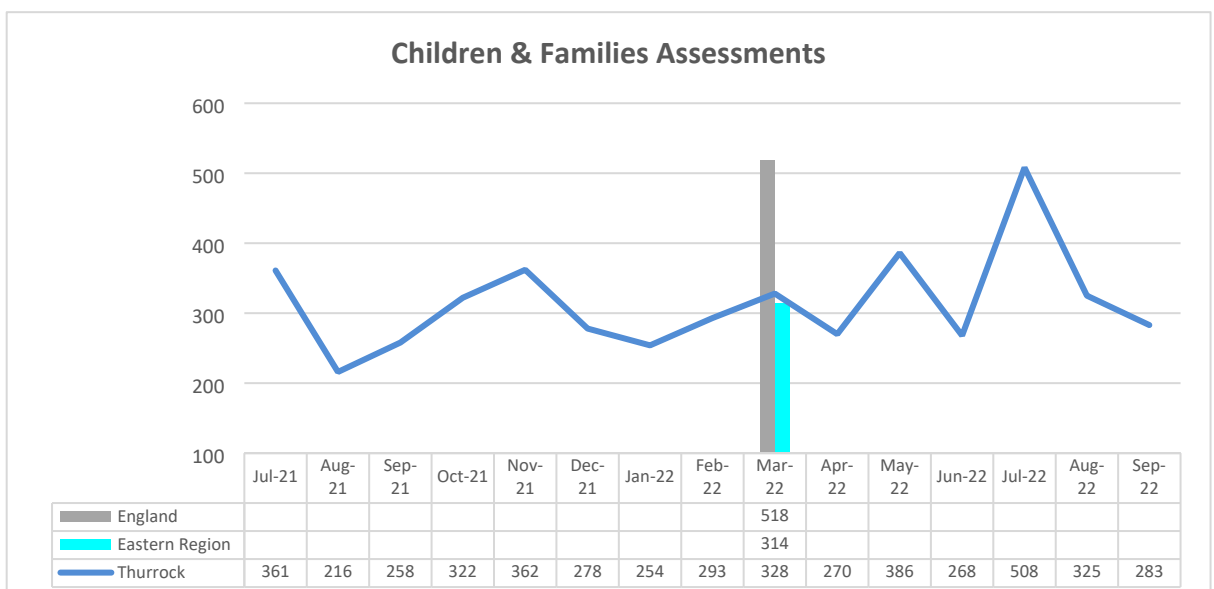
3.3 Rate of referrals

As at the end of September 2022, the rate of referrals per 10,000 was 349 compared to 637 in September 2021. Based on benchmarking 2021-22 data, Thurrock is below the England rate of 494 and above Eastern Region rate of 317.



3.4 Children & Families Assessments

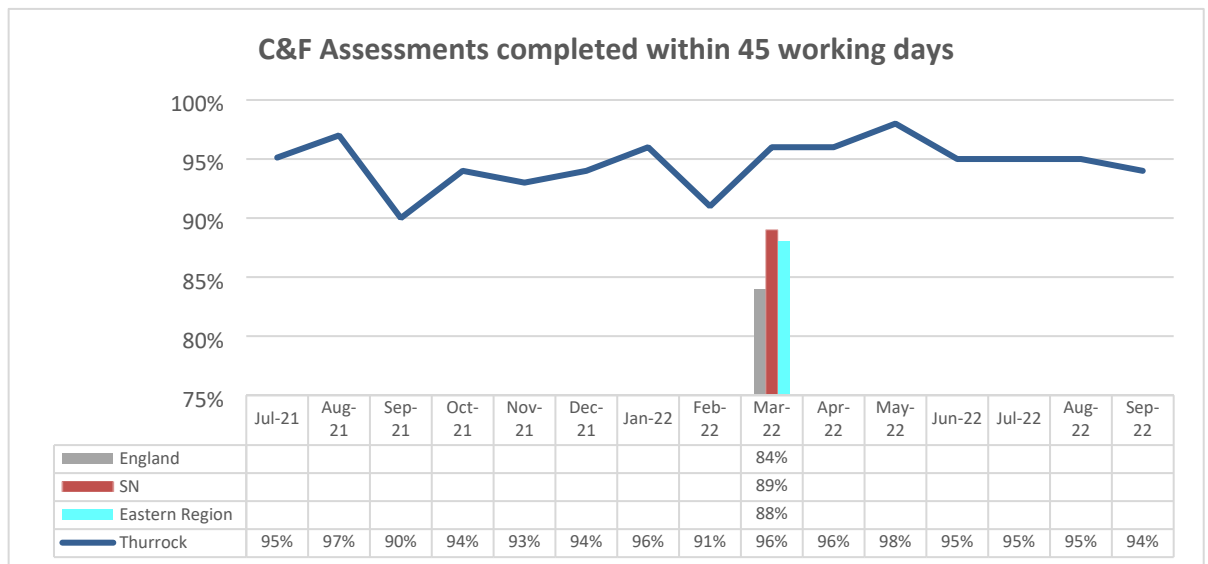
Between July and September 2022, 1,116 assessments were completed compared to 835 in the same quarter in the previous year. This shows 34% increase in Q2 2022-23. The graph below shows the number of assessments completed over time.



3.5 Children & Families Assessments completed in timescale

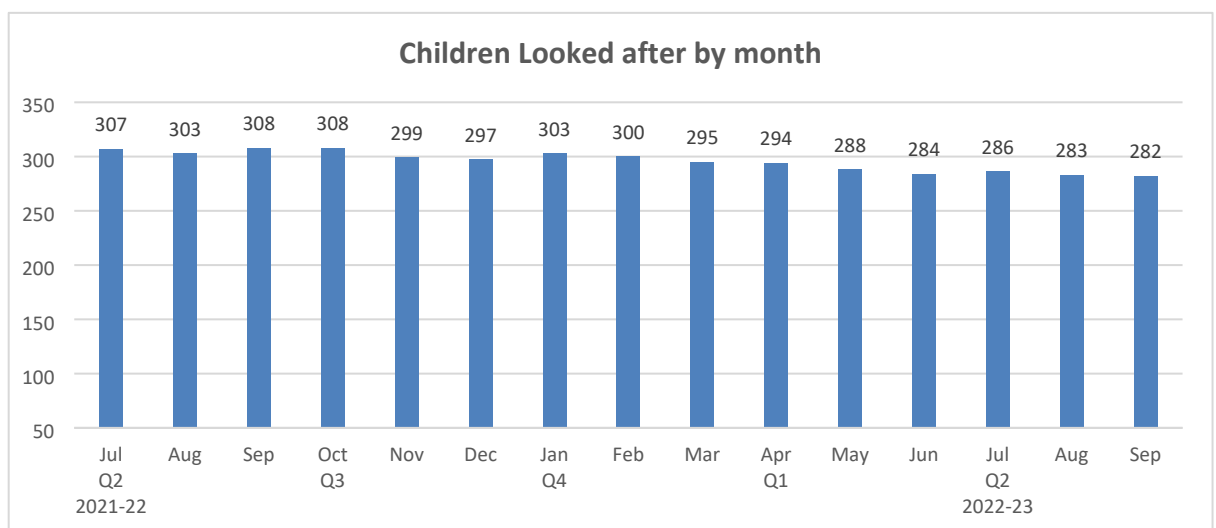
The number of assessments completed in timescale continues to show good performance at 94% as at end of September 2022.

The benchmarking data in March 2021-22 shows that at the end of Q2 2022-23. Thurrock was above Statistical Neighbour average of 89%, the England average of 84% and Eastern Region average of 88%.



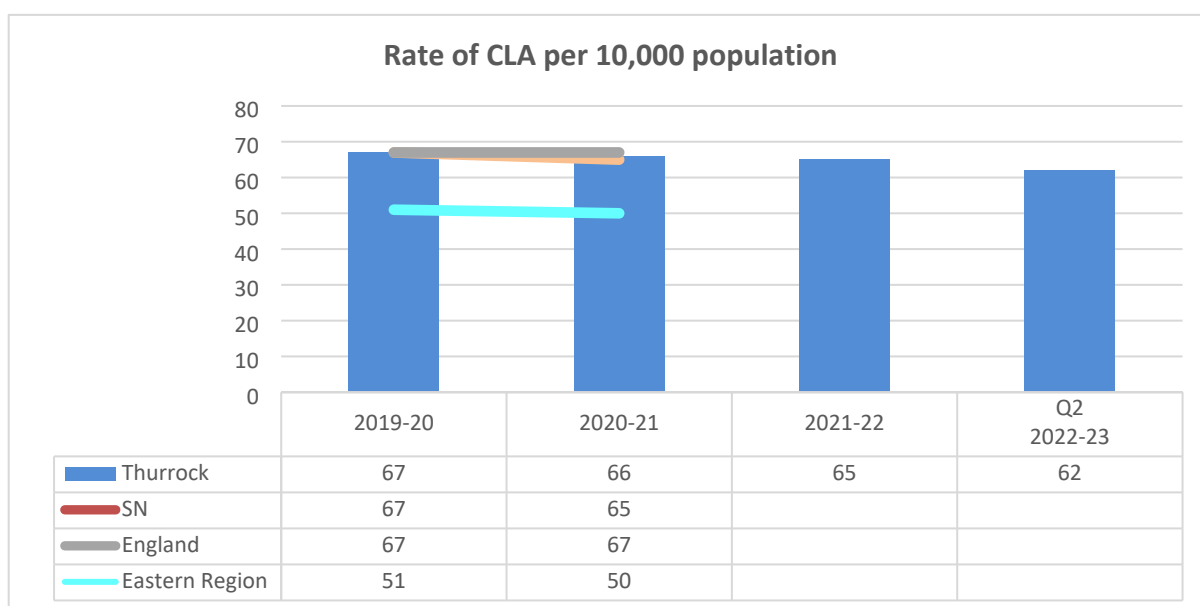
4. Children Looked After (CLA)

The graph below shows the number of children who were Looked After at the end of each month. There is monitoring of children who may need to become Looked After and there are regular reviews of children entering care. Where possible, children are returned to their family where safe and appropriate. Care entries have been lower over June July and August. We can expect this to change upward in the autumn as case are heard at court and UASC are transferred in to Thurrock (See s.4.2).



4.1 The rate of CLA per 10,000 population

The graph below shows the rate of Children Looked After per 10,000 population of under 18-year-olds in Thurrock. At the end of September 2022 there were 282 Children Looked After in Thurrock with the rate of 62 per 10,000. Based on the benchmarking data 2021, Thurrock is below the Statistical Neighbour average of 65 and England average of 67 as at the end of September 2022.



4.2 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

UASC are a subset of the Children Looked After number above. Local Authorities through agreement have a simple formula to ensure a fair distribution of the responsibility for looking after unaccompanied children. Each local authority has a 0.07% ceiling for how many UASC and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children a region or local authority is reasonably expected to be looking after at any time, as a proportion of its total number of children.

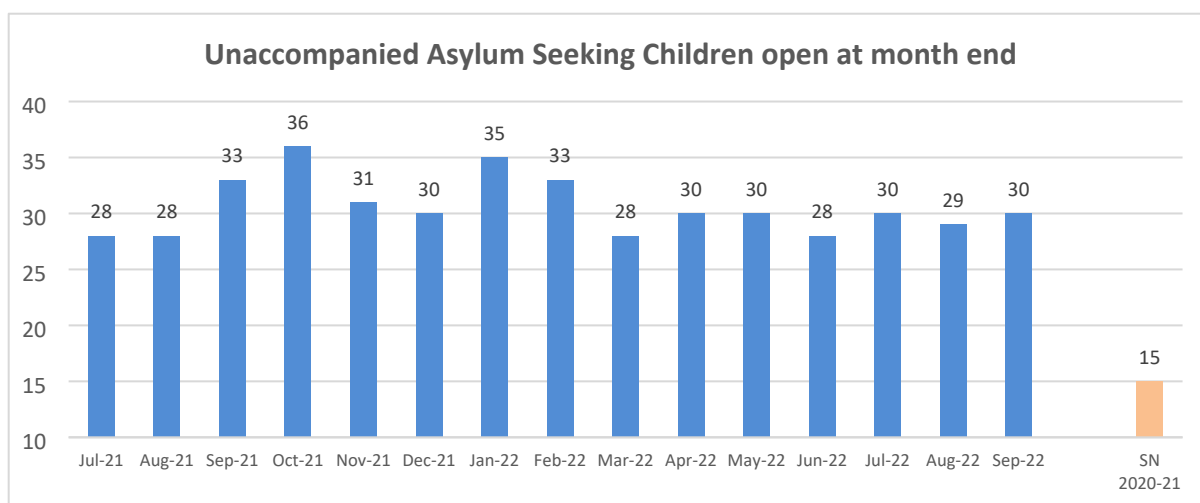
Thurrock's allocated number was 31 children; this has now been uplifted by the Home Office to 45 children. This means that Thurrock will now receive transfers in from other authorities and these will likely be from migrant processing centres in Kent. This will increase demand for placements, social work time and After Care support on a long term basis. This will impact more in Q3. Over the last year there have been fewer children arriving at Thurrock Ports/found in vehicles in Thurrock as the preferred route appears to have been through Dover. Between July and September 2022, there were 5 new UASC arrivals into Thurrock compared to 10 in the same period in 2021.

There is ongoing work with the Home Office to ensure timely and smooth transition for this cohort if Thurrock’s allocation of UASC is exceeded.

When a local authority reaches its allocated number there are arrangements in place for new arrivals to be transferred via the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). The NTS replaced, the Eastern Region¹ Transfer scheme in July 2021 which worked efficiently and effectively with the transfer of UASC usually within 10 days of arrival.

The NTS is operated by Central Government with the Home Office responsible for administration of the scheme. The Eastern Region Co Coordinator who previously ensured the smooth transfer process in the region is no longer responsible for the transfers, however their role is to liaise with the Home Office co-ordinator.

The below graph shows the number of UASC that were looked after at the end of each month since July 2021.



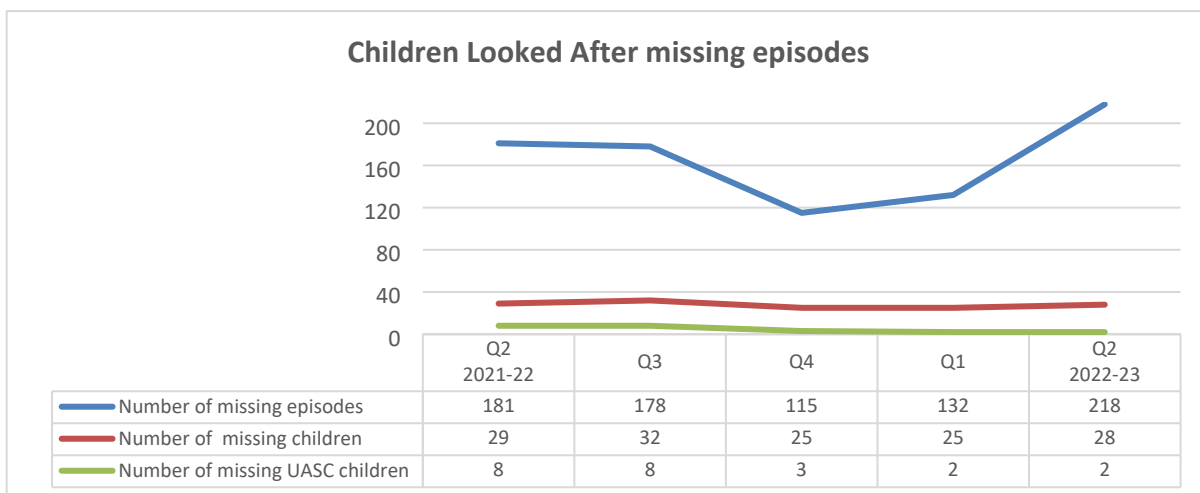
4.3 Children who ceased to be looked after

It is normal for the number of children leaving care to fluctuate. Between July and September 2022, 17 children ceased to be looked after and is in line with the same period in 2021 when 21 children ceased to be looked after.

4.4 CLA who go missing

Between July and September 2022, there were total of 218 missing episodes represented by 28 individual children. The below chart shows the trend for missing episodes since Q2 2021-22.

¹ The Eastern Region comprises of Bedford Borough, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend, Suffolk and Thurrock Local Authorities

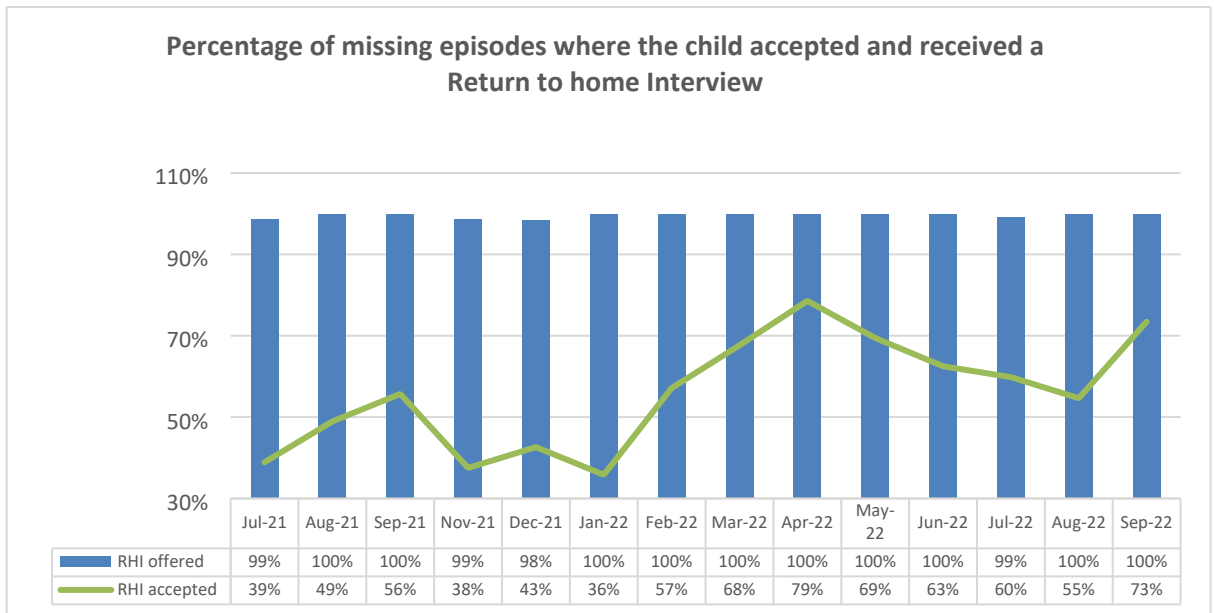


4.5 CLA return to home interview (RHI)

Since April 2020, Inspire Youth Hub have been commissioned to undertake independent Return Home Interviews (RHI). All children are offered a RHI within 72 hours following each missing event, with the aim of understanding the young person's circumstances and the reasons why they go missing. Key Workers from placements, Foster Carers and Social Workers will also discuss missing incidents with children. There is a network of support provided to children to try to engage with them and understand the reasons for their missing episodes. The Participation Team have been able to engage and seek feedback from young people and this has been invaluable.

As at end of September 2022, the percentage of children offered a return to home interview was 100% of which 72% accepted and received an interview compared to 56% in September 2021. This represents 16% increase in interviews being accepted and received. The offer of an RHI via Inspire is not always accepted by young people for several reasons including not wanting to reveal their whereabouts when missing and not believing that they were missing but 'out'. All young people who have a missing episode are reviewed at the weekly Risk Management Meeting.

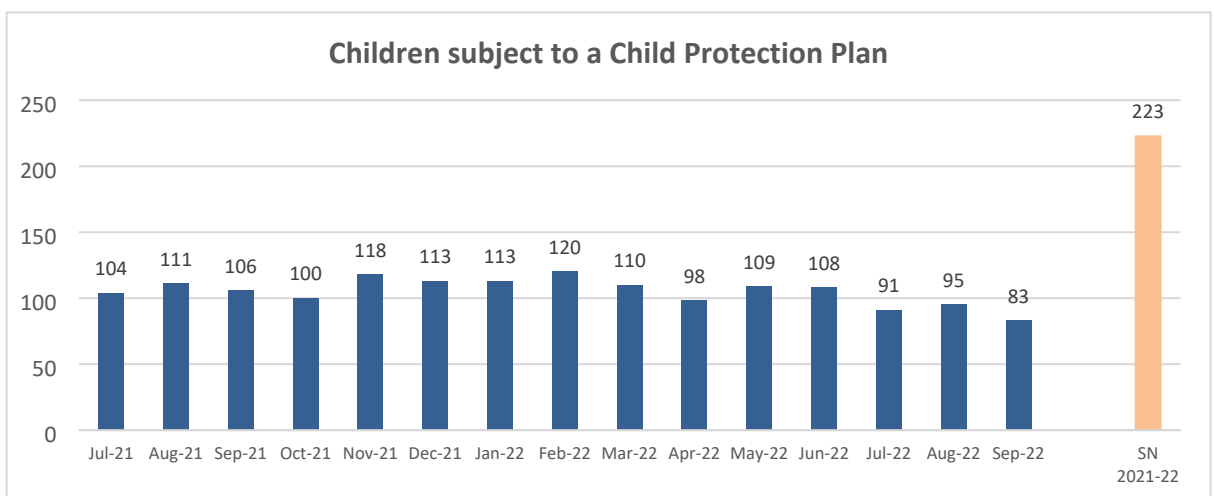
The graph below shows the percentage of return to home interviews taken up by young people through Inspire since July 2021. There continues to be a small number of CLA with a large number of episodes who have consistently refused return home interviews. We continue to review how Inspire engage this cohort of young people and alternatives such as whether there is anyone within the network better placed to have these conversations when they return from missing episodes, including their social worker and how this information is captured. This has increased the amount of Return Home Interviews completed and has ensured that young people are given the opportunities to share whether there are any safeguarding issues in relation to exploitation that needs to be addressed. that offer.



5. Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

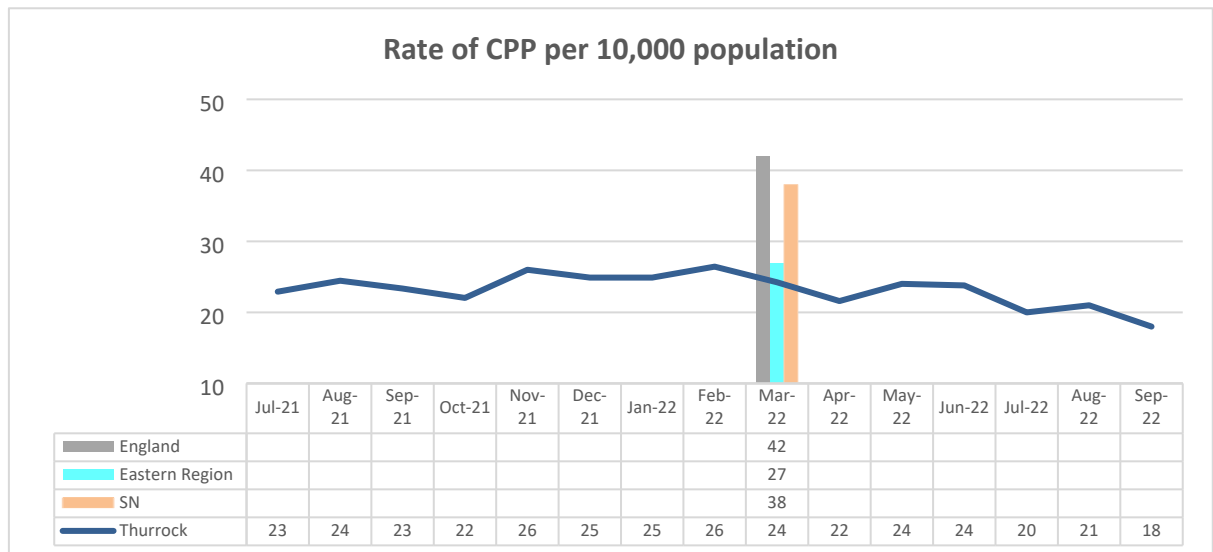
5.1 Number of Children subject to Child Protection Plan

At the end of September 2022, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan was 83 compared to 106 in September 2021. Based on 2021-22 benchmarking data, Thurrock remains below the Statistical Neighbour of 223. Whilst the figure for September may be low, it is important to acknowledge that this figure of 83 coincides with the school summer holidays and historical data points to a decline in numbers from August to September. Additionally, number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan have been significantly lower than statistical neighbours for several years. It is in line with high performing Local authorities in the Eastern Region.



5.2 The rate of CPP per 10,000 population

At the end of September 2022, the rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan was 18.3 per 10,000 population compared to 23.4 in September 2021. Based on the benchmarking data 2021-22, Thurrock is below the Statistical Neighbour rate of 38.0 and England rate of 42.0. Despite being lower than statistical neighbours, average figures for the Eastern region are currently 26 per 10.00 at the end of Qu 1.

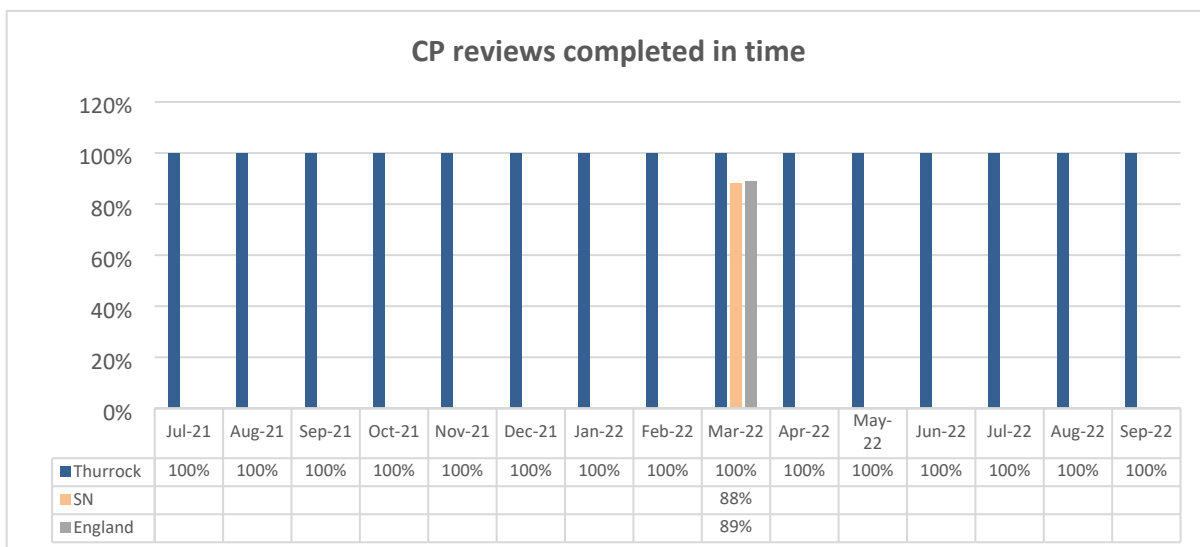


The introduction and further embedding of the Signs of Safety practice model which is strengths-based approach to working with families and a focus on timely decision making for children has helped to reduce the number of children with a plan.

5.3 Child Protection reviews

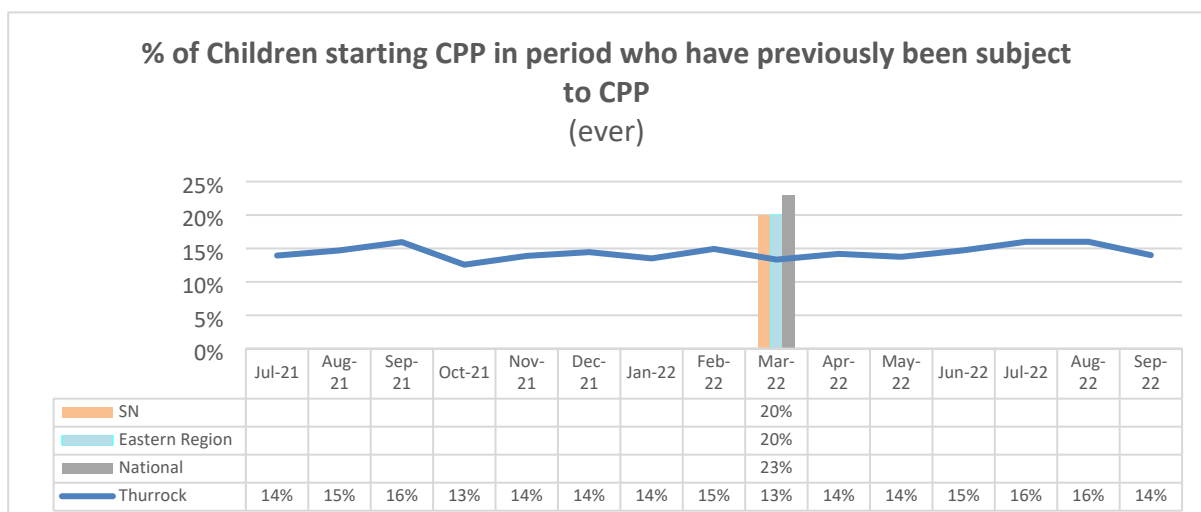
Child Protection plan reviews completed on time continue showing good performance. The below graph shows the overall trend since July 2021.

Compared to 2021-22 benchmarking data, Thurrock continues to perform above the Statistical Neighbour average of 88% and the England average of 89%.



5.4 Repeat Child Protection Plan

At the end of September 2022, the percentage of children subject to repeat Child Protection Plan (at any point previously) was 14% compared to 16% in September 2021. 2021-22 benchmarking data shows that in September 2022, Thurrock is below the Statistical Neighbour average of 20% and England average of 23% and Eastern Region average of 20%. This would indicate that the Child Protection plans have been effective in bringing about sustained change, as re-referrals are occurring less than comparators.



6. Care Leaving Service

The graphs below show the **OC3 care leaver cohort** (Relevant and Former Relevant Children whose 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday falls within Financial Year) of Young People aged 16-25 years who are in receipt of a Care Leaving service. There have been legislative changes that placed additional responsibilities upon Care Leaving services (Children and Social Work Act

2017). Section 3 of the Act now requires Local Authorities to appoint a Personal Adviser for Care Leavers (who request one) up until the age of 25.

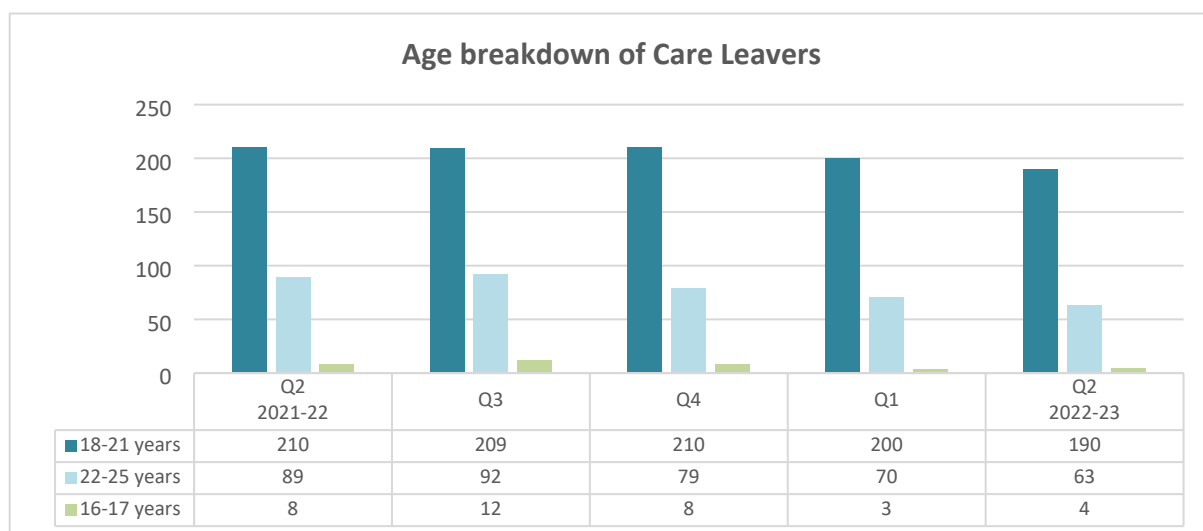
A Care Leaver, as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000², is a person who has been 'looked after' or 'in care' for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who was in care on their 16th birthday.

A young person's status as a care leaver can be divided into the following:

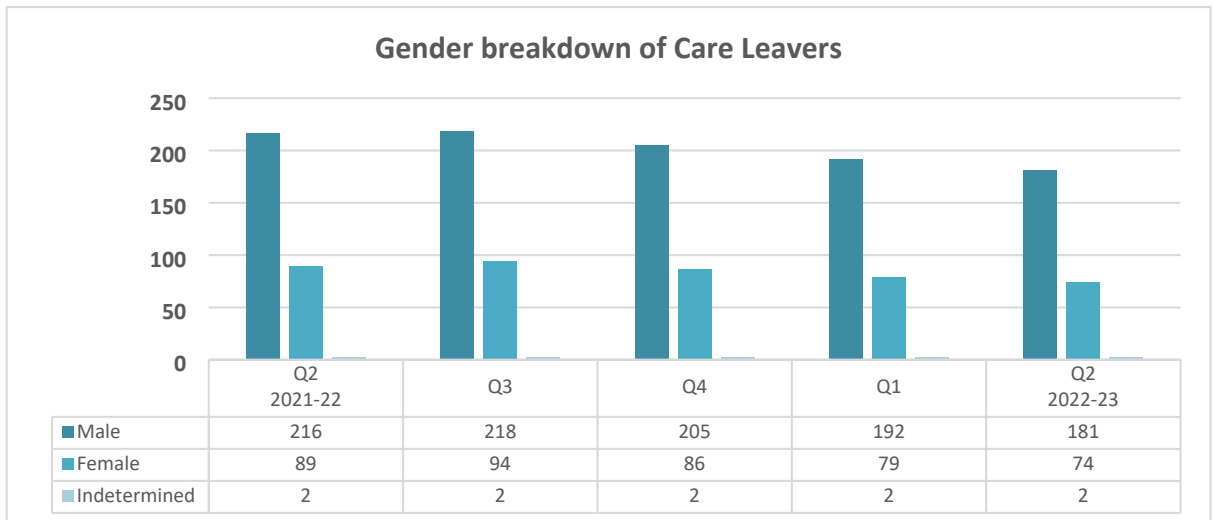
- Eligible child - a young person who is 16 or 17 and who has been looked after by the local authority/health and social care trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who is still looked after.
- Relevant child - a young person who is 16 or 17 who has left care after their 16th birthday and before leaving care was an eligible child.
- Former relevant child - a young person who is aged between 18 and 25 (or beyond if being helped with education or training) who, before turning 18 was either an eligible or a relevant child, or both.

As at end of September 2022, 257 Care Leavers were being supported and were receiving an Aftercare service. This is a drop from the previous year of 298 as a result of the Service undertaking a review of open cases to ensure the young people open actually needed the support This cohort now has a wider remit as all Care Leavers can request support services until the age of 25, under the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The charts below show the Care Leaver cohort broken down by age and gender.

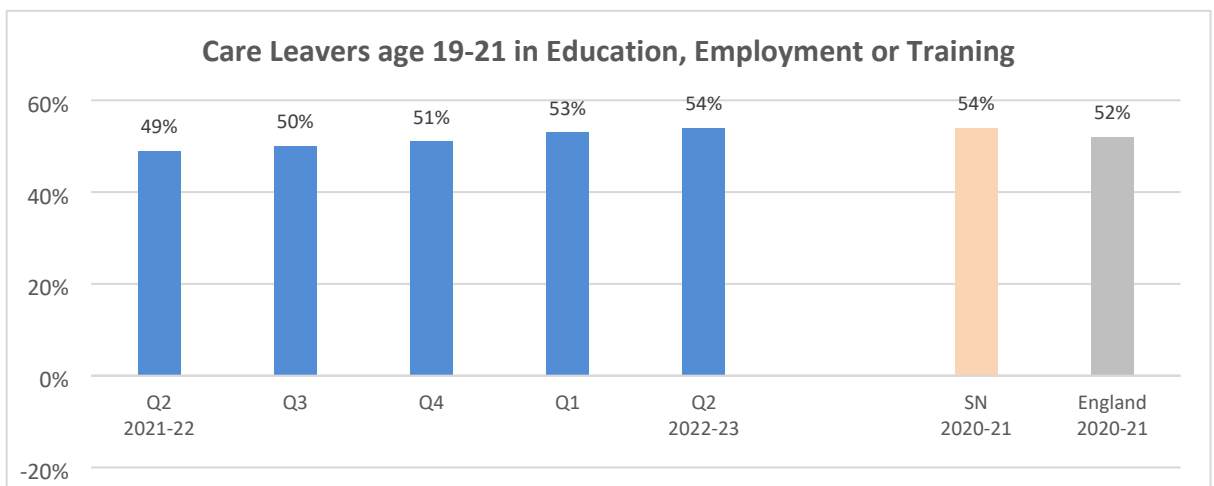


² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents>



6.1 Care Leavers age 19-21 years in Education, Employment or Training (EET)

At the end of Q2 2022-23, 54% of the Care Leavers aged 19 to 21-year-old were in part or full-time education, employment or training compared to 49% in September 2021. Thurrock is in line with the Statistical Neighbour average of 54% and the England average of 52%. To strengthen oversight and planning to ensure our young people have support and opportunities for Education, Employment and Training (EET) there are two monthly panels which focus on pre and post 18-year-olds who do not have an EET offer. These panels are attended by the Aftercare Service, Inspire Youth Hub, and the Virtual School. The panel seeks to understand the issues for individual young people and align their interests to an EET offer.

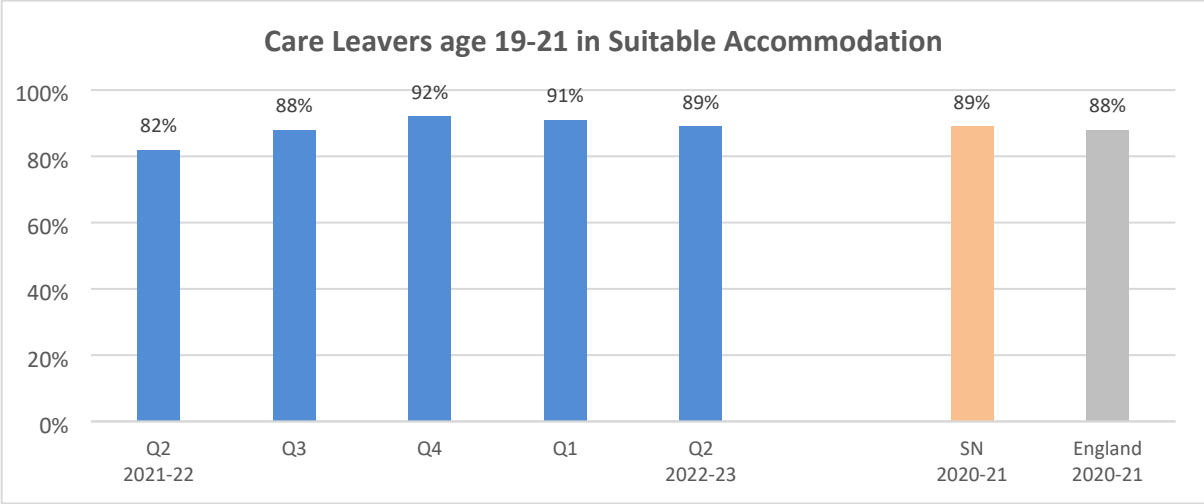


6.2 Care Leavers age 19 to 21 years in Suitable Accommodation

At the end of September 2022, the percentage of 19 to 21-year-old Care Leavers reported to be in suitable accommodation was 89%. Thurrock is in line with the Statistical Neighbour average of 89% and marginally above the England average of 88% based on 2021 benchmarking data. There are some

Care leavers who are not in touch with the service, as well as those whose accommodation is unsuitable. Reasons for accommodation being deemed unsuitable include care leavers who are UASC and missing, young people declining to say where they are living or care leavers who are in prison.

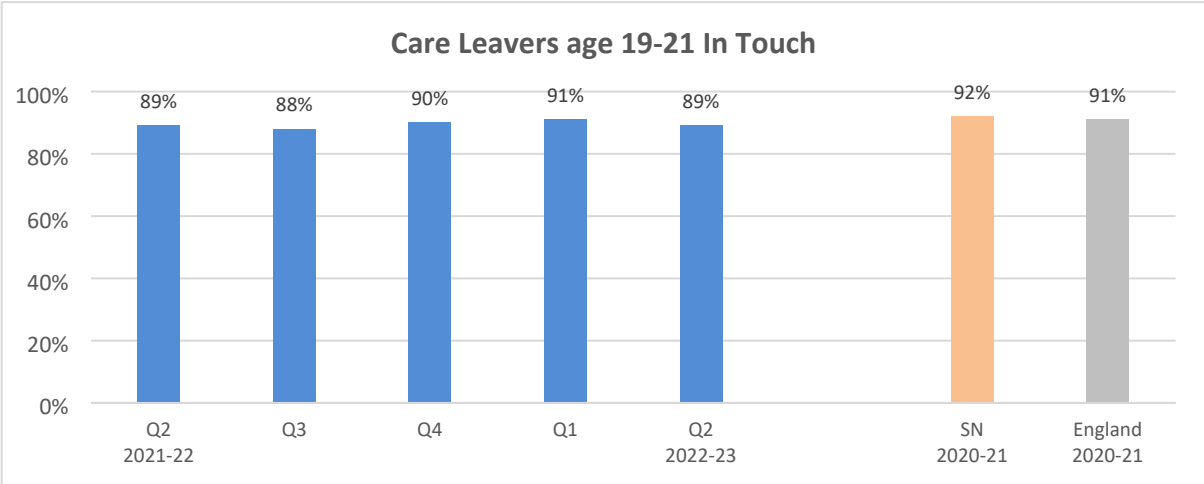
Increased housing support is being provided to young people by the Aftercare Service, Head Start Housing and Thurrock Housing Department. The 'Housing Offer' to Care Leavers has been updated with the Joint Housing Protocol 2020, ensuring good partnership working with clear pathways for young people to access housing, as well as ensuring they are prepared for their tenancies.



6.3 Care Leavers age 19-21 years 'In Touch'

Local Authorities are expected to stay in touch with Care Leavers and provide statutory support to help care leaver's transition to living independently.

At the end of September 2022, Thurrock was in touch with 89% of Care Leavers. Thurrock's performance is in line with the Statistical Neighbour average of 92% and the England average of 91%.



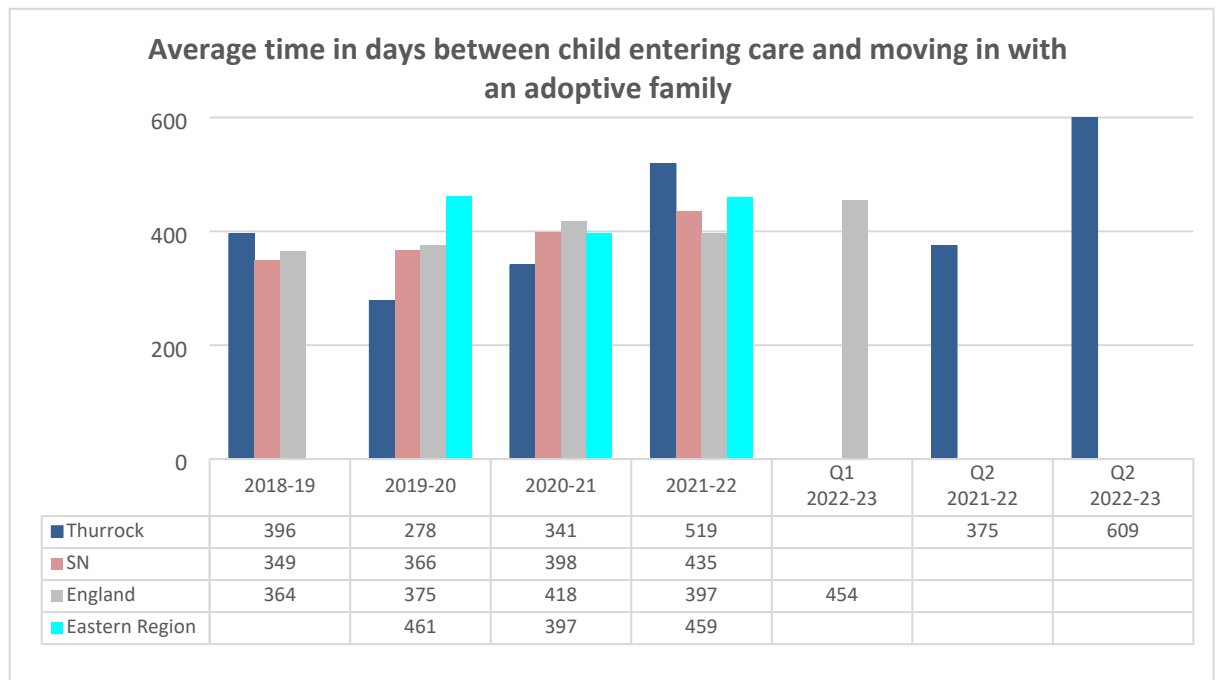
7. Adoption

As at the end of Q2 2022-23, there were 5 children adopted and 9 matched with prospective adopters.

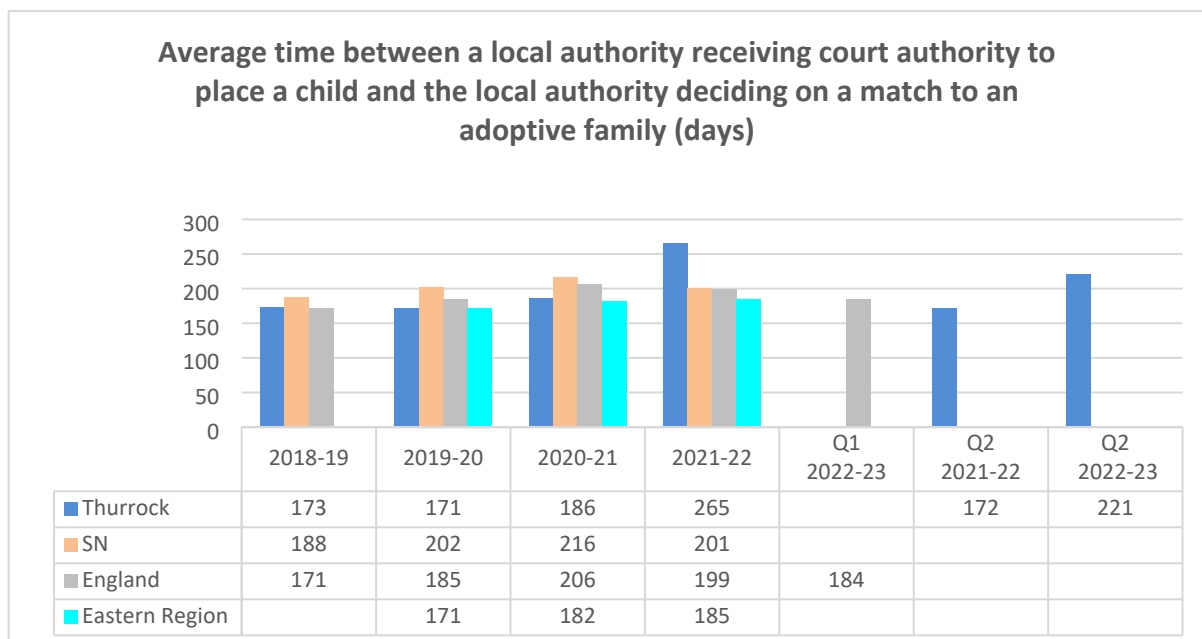
7.1 Timeliness of Adoption

The timeliness of adoption is measured as a 12-month rolling average, it is the length of time from the child entering care to moving in with an adoptive family. As at end of Q2 2022-23, Thurrock's average was 609 days. Based on Q1 2022-23, Thurrock is above the National average of 454 days and based on year end 2021-22 data, Thurrock is above the Statistical Neighbour average of 435 days, England average of 397 and Eastern Region of 459 days.

Care proceedings have seen significant delays; court availability and family members being identified late. For a small group of children there are longer adoption journeys and these lift our average. We will continue to see upward pressure due to the duration of care proceedings being 40+ weeks (the target is 26)



As at end of Q2 2022-23, the average time in days between Thurrock receiving a Placement Order (court authority) to place a child with the adoptive family was 221 days. Based on Q1 2022-23 data, Thurrock is above the National average of 184 days and based on 2021-22-year end data, Thurrock is marginally above the Statistical Neighbour average of 201 days, the England average of 199 days and Eastern Region of 185 days as at the end of Q2 2022-23.



This is an area for the Service to focus to ensure there is timely matching and placing of children with their adoptive families. There has been delays in timetabling of final hearings for Placement Orders, and further delay because of birth parents re-applying to the court to revoke Placement Order, sometimes as soon as the Order has been made. The application by birth parents to revoke a Placement Order or appeal can prevent the placement of children with adoptive families. Due to the small numbers involved, the average can be impacted in exceptional circumstances by an individual case causing an increase in the average time between a court order being made and matching.

7.2 CLA permanency

Purposeful early permanency planning continues to ensure that children are in the right placement at the right time to meet their needs. Securing placements where needed and supporting children, where appropriate, to remain at home with their families is the priority. Children are placed for adoption only once all family and friend options have been exhausted.

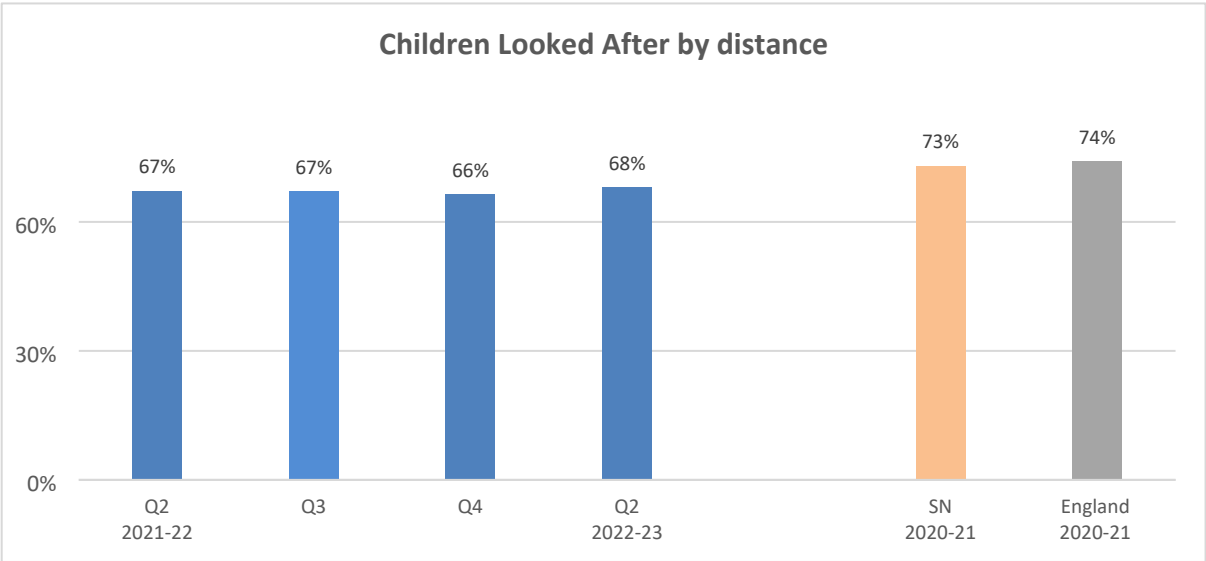
Of the total CLA cohort of 282 as at the end of Q2 2022-23, 16%(44) children were aged 0-5. Most children under 5 years who are not able to return home, are moved on to permanent placements through adoption or permanent alternative carers. There were significant delays in court proceedings and children being subject to court proceedings for longer periods, and transition to their permanent homes being delayed.

7.3 Children Looked After placement distance

It is good practice to ensure that children remain within their communities. At the end of September 2022, 68% of the Children Looked After cohort were placed within 20 miles or less from their homes, which represents 192 of 282

children looked after. Based on the latest benchmarking data available in March 2021, Thurrock reflects performance close with the national average of 74%.

This is an area of intense focus for the Placement Service. The fostering recruitment campaign seeks to increase local placements. However, it is not only Thurrock Local Authority who are finding the recruitment of local foster carers a challenge. Local placements are not available from Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) or Residential care homes. There is a national shortage of fostering and residential care³, (the interim report published by the Competition and Markets Authority, October 2021, has noted the pressure on Local Authority placement services) and the local authority continues to seek Ofsted registered provision and sometimes this is outside of the Thurrock and Essex area.



³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-market-study-interim-report/interim-report>.

8. Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 Children's Overview & Scrutiny Board Members to note and comment on current performance position.

9. Consultation (including Overview & Scrutiny, if applicable)

9.1 Not applicable

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

10.1 None

11. Implications

11.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

No implications identified.

11.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal Services

No implications identified.

11.3 Diversity & Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
**Community Engagement and Project
Monitoring Officer - Adults, Housing &
Health**

There are no direct diversity and equality implications arising from this report. However, the service does collect diversity monitoring data for looked after children, this data is given within this report. The data is utilised to consider issues of equality and to ensure that performance considers the impact on children with protected characteristics.

11.4 **Other implications (where significant)** – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder and Impact on Looked After Children

Not applicable

- 12. 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):

Not applicable

- 13. Appendices to the report**

None

Report Author:

Daniel Jones, Strategic Lead, Children Looked After, Children's Services
Clare Moore, Strategic Lead, Youth Offending Service and Prevention, Children and Family Services
Ruth Murdock, Strategic Lead, Quality & Assurance, Children's Services
Mairead Morgan, Strategic Lead, Safeguarding, Children's Services
Statistics: Anna Watkins, Business Intelligence Analyst, Children's Services

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17 November 2022		ITEM: 8
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Clare Moore, Strategic Lead Youth Offending Service and Prevention.		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director of Children’s Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children’s Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Thurrock Council is one of 75 local authority areas eligible to benefit from the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme. Funding of £301.75 million has been allocated to the programme between 2022–2025 alongside an additional £28.7m to improve the home learning environment (HLE) for 3–4-year-olds as part of the pandemic education recovery programme. Funding is dependent upon local authority areas meeting all programme requirements over three years.

Support for children aged 0-19 years, young adults up to 25 who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND), and services to support parents/carers will be delivered through a family hub network. These services will be designed to enhance and expand a range of existing children’s centre and early help provision. Local authority areas must involve parents and carers in the development and design of local services (co-production) and look at opportunities to co-locate services including those delivered by the voluntary sector and community groups.

The programme has a focus on the Start for Life period from conception to age two, incorporating recommendations from *‘The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days’* review (2021). In response to this, funding has been specifically allocated to develop or enhance perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships services, and infant feeding and parenting support. Local authority areas are also required to deliver a range of multi-agency core services through their family hub network.

Up to fifteen local authority areas will be appointed as Trailblazers and receive additional funding in Year 1 to ‘go further and faster’. Trailblazers will be national leaders, support other local authorities, and develop best practice.

Thurrock Council submitted its 'sign-up' form and Trailblazer application to the central programme office on the 30 September for consideration.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Members receive this report for information and note the requirements and responsibilities of local authority areas engaged in the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme was launched in April 2022 and aims to improve a range of physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing and education outcomes for children aged 0-19, young adults to age 25 with SEND, and parents/carers. Services and support will be delivered through a family hub network designed to meet local need. The programme is aligned with existing government programmes that are already delivered in Thurrock including Supporting Families (previously known as Troubled Families) and Reducing Parental Conflict and builds on the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme 0-19 public health services.

2.2 Seventy-five local authority areas are currently eligible to join the programme based on levels of deprivation and health and education outcomes. £301m has been allocated to the programme over a three-year period (2022 – 2025) with a further £28.7m allocated to improve early language development / home learning environments (HLE) for 3–4-year-olds as part of the pandemic education recovery programme.

2.3 The programme grant comprises both a fixed rate for all local authority areas and 'payments by results'. Local authority areas are required to meet all the 'minimum expectations' set out in the Programme Guide by March 2025 and funded is predicated on this. In addition to meeting the minimum requirements, local authority areas must also commit to identifying 'go further' options to expand and enhance their family hub services. Funding must be used to improve the offer for children and families and so if local authority areas already have most or all of the minimum requirements in place, it is expected that more 'go further' options will be delivered. In Thurrock 'go further' options will be designed to meet assessed need eg tailoring services to engage groups that we know from local data are less likely to access universal and targeted early help services.

2.4 The programme has a focus on 'Start for Life' support for children and families from conception to age two (the '1001 critical days'). *The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days* review published in March 2021 found that services offered during this period can be disjointed and difficult for families to navigate meaning some do not access the universal or targeted support they need. The review identified perinatal mental health, parent-infant relationships and breastfeeding support as essential services but found that support in different areas was inconsistent. To address this, funding has been

earmarked through the programme to enhance and expand a range of Start for Life services through family hubs, these are referred to as the 'funded elements':

- perinatal mental health
- parent-infant relationships
- infant feeding
- parenting support
- early language / HLE

These services aim to support a smooth transition to parenthood, the development of secure attachments, and school readiness, thereby reducing the need for specialist support.

2.5 There are three additional funded elements within the programme which will underpin the development and delivery of local family hub models:

- Parent and Carer Panels must be established for expectant parents and those with children aged 0-2 so that service users are involved in service design and delivery, this is known as 'co-production'
- A Start for Life Offer must be published both online and in hard copy, so families are clear what services and support are available to them during the 'critical 1001 days'
- Transformation funding is available to support local authority areas through their change/transformation process to develop their local family hub model. It is not intended to cover the costs of family hubs and Start for Life services. Transformation funding includes a small capital element which can be used for such things as adaptation of existing buildings to improve accessibility or space, IT upgrades to facilitate multi-agency working or the purchase of essential equipment or furniture.

2.6 In addition to the funded elements, family hub networks must also deliver the following core services for children and families from existing funding sources, e.g. core grants and other programme funding arrangements:

- activities for children 0-5 eg interactive stay and play sessions
- debt & welfare advice and housing support
- domestic abuse support
- early childhood education & care and financial support (early years entitlements)
- SEND support and services (inclusive of the Start for Life period)
- health visiting 0-5 years and midwifery/maternity
- intensive targeted family support including through the Supporting Families programme
- local authority 0-19 public health services

- mental health services beyond those provided through the Start for Life offer
- nutrition & weight management
- oral health improvement
- reducing parental conflict & support for separating parents
- stop smoking support
- substance (alcohol / drugs) misuse support
- Youth services – universal & targeted including youth justice

These core services are delivered by local authority teams and partner agencies, with some commissioned from the voluntary sector. Many are already delivered from Thurrock's Children's Centres and Youth Hubs and so this programme provides the opportunity to build on this strong base and ensure these services are part of the local family hub offer. Local authority areas can choose to deliver additional services from their family hubs if this will meet local need.

- 2.7 The programme's objective is to join up and enhance services delivered through a network of family hubs, ensuring that all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it.

The following three principles underpin the Family Hub model:

- **Access** – hubs should be easily accessible to all and act as information gateways for parents/carers and young people. They are single points of access to universal and targeted early help services for children aged 0-19/25 with SEND and parents/carers which may be delivered from the hub or through the family hub network. Support must be available face to face through family hub buildings or hub 'spokes', or outreach sites, as well as virtually
- **Connection** – family hubs 'harness the power of networks to drive progress' joining up professionals, services and providers (including voluntary and community groups) through partnerships, co-location, integrated referral pathways, data sharing, shared outcomes and governance. Partners are better connected and work together to provide seamless / wraparound services and support for children, young people and families reducing fragmentation, identifying needs early using a 'whole family' (Think Family) approach
- **Relationships** – practice in family hubs focuses on building trusting and supportive familial and professional relationships and networks of peer support, using a strengths-based approach.

- 2.8 Family hub networks can include a range of existing delivery points including children's centres, youth hubs, partner led premises, and community outreach sites where programme-related provision is already offered. These will be augmented by a comprehensive virtual offer. Guidance regarding central branding conventions for family hubs will be provided for local authority areas

to use alongside existing local branding in recognition that families will be familiar with this.

- 2.9 Local authority areas are required to engage with emerging digital solutions and Thurrock Council is represented on the Family Hubs Growing Up Well project co-design group. This project will conduct testing and implementation of various digital solutions in a small number of local authority areas in Year 1, incorporating all local authorities in 2023-24.
- 2.10 Up to fifteen local authority areas will be appointed programme Trailblazers and receive additional funding in Year 1 to 'go further and faster'. These areas will be national leaders and regional champions for the programme with a particular focus on perinatal mental health, parent-infant relationships, infant feeding and parenting support. They will establish best practice, progress more quickly in terms of service development and achieving tangible and sustainable improvements for families and will support other local authorities in developing their family hub model. Thurrock has applied to be a Trailblazer and is awaiting the outcome of its submission.
- 2.11 Each local authority area is required to submit a Delivery Plan by the end of 2022. This will sit alongside locally owned plans and set out the overall ambition for change over the 3 years of the programme and show how funding will be used to achieve funding objectives. The Delivery Plan will set out medium to long terms goals including 'go further' options, milestones for opening family hubs and financial modelling. Each local authority will be assigned a Regional Delivery Lead, to support this process.
- 2.12 The Programme will be closely monitored by the Family Hubs Unit with quarterly updates regarding progress of the Delivery Plan and management information/outcome data, and bi-annual financial monitoring returns. The Family Hub Unit is working with a small group of local authorities to develop and test the management information dataset and Thurrock's Performance Quality Business Intelligence service is part of this team.
- 2.13 In terms of the programme timetable, 2022/23 counts as Year 1. There is an expectation that local authority areas will seek to open family hubs during the first half of 2023 and start to deliver visible change. Start for Life Offers should be published, and Parent and Carer Panels established, by April 2023. Local authority areas also need to conduct a local population needs assessment during Year 1 or build upon existing Joint Area Needs Assessments.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Thurrock partners have a strong history of working together to develop and enhance cohesive universal, targeted and specialist services and support for children, young people, and families across Thurrock, currently through the Brighter Futures Partnership Board. The Partnership is chaired by the Corporate Director Children's Services and is well placed to oversee the implementation of the programme in Thurrock. A Family Hub and Start for Life

Programme Board has been established which reports to the Partnership and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Thurrock's Delivery Plan. It is chaired by the AD Early Help and Children's Services who is also the programme's named accountable person.

- 3.2 Thurrock's children centres already host or deliver a number of the multi-agency core services set out in paragraph 2.6 and have evolved to meet changing local need e.g. increasing their age range from 0-5 to 0-11 in 2018. The service is already underpinned by the three Family Hub principles of accessibility, connection and relationships (paragraph 2.7) and, along with Thurrock's youth hubs, is well placed to transform into a family hub network within required timescales.
- 3.3 Whilst programme planning is still subject to discussion with the Family Hub Unit, early thinking is that a main family hub would be designated in each of the three Children Services localities (West, East and Central) with smaller children's centres forming hubs as part of the broader network. The network will also include existing sites delivering early help services such as youth hubs or health sites (known as 'spoke's) and outreach delivery points including voluntary sector and community support.
- 3.4 Strategic managers have been working together to develop provisional 'go further' options for the funded elements of the programme. These have been submitted as part of the sign-up process for consideration by the Family Hub Unit. This early work has been informed by multi-agency management information and a high-level mapping exercise undertaken during late spring/summer to give a clear understanding of Thurrock's existing early help offer and service gaps. This process has enabled managers to start identifying opportunities to develop, enhance or expand services in the context of the Family Hubs programme. Infant feeding, parenting support and early language/ HLE sit within local authority / public health areas of responsibility and provisional 'go further's seek to expand our evidence-based parenting programme offer and the provision of perinatal / 0-2s health services, and early years support across the family hub network. Opportunities will be explored to extend the co-location of practitioners from partner agencies and promote multi-agency workforce training.
- 3.5 The Family Hub model is underpinned by co-production to ensure families and young people are involved in the co-design of family hub services and how and where they will be delivered. Whilst our Parent and Carer Panel will help to achieve this in relation to the Start for Life offer, a broad communication and consultation strategy is in development. This will include opportunities to engage young people as well as parents / carers and will have a focus on reaching seldom heard groups.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To ensure Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are aware of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme and the responsibilities that attach to local authority areas engaged in the programme.

4.2 Collectively, Thurrock partners are already meeting the early help needs of many local families, however management information shows that some seldom heard groups are less likely to access some services or come late. This programme will give partners the opportunity to work together to target those harder to engage groups, ensure that all families are aware of the support that is on offer particularly in the Start for Life phase, and enhance and expand existing universal and targeted early help services to meet local need through a family hub network.

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

5.1 As stated above, a Consultation and Communication Strategy is being developed to ensure that young people and families have the opportunity to be involved in service design.

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

6.1 Ensuring that children have the best start in life is a priority for the Brighter Futures Children's Partnership Board and the Health and Well-being Board. The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme will promote this.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

Programme funding is predicated upon effective delivery of the minimum requirements of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme over the next three years. Matched funding is not a feature of the programme.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal

There is no specific legislation supporting the creation of Family Hubs. The creation of such Hubs would be a mechanism for the delivery of services that the Council is already permitted to deliver under existing legislation. For example, the Council has a general duty under Section 17 of the Children Act

1989 to provide a range of services to children in need along with various duties under Schedule 2 part 1 of that Act.

The Council is under a duty to cooperate with its relevant partners under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to improve the well-being of children in its area. The Council has a duty to promote integration of education, health and social care in exercise of its functions in respect of children and young people in England with special educational needs or disabilities and to cooperate with its local partners under the Children and Families Act 2014. A young person is a person over compulsory school age but under 25. Similarly, the Council has a duty to improve the well-being of young children as well as co-operate with its' partners under the Childcare Act 2006

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project
Monitoring Officer Adults, Housing & Health

The aim of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is to improve a range of physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing and education outcomes for children aged 0-19, young adults to age 25 with SEND and parents/carers.

Thurrock's local Family Hubs and Start for Life programme will have a focus on consulting with and supporting families from seldom heard groups including Black and Minority Ethnic communities, care leavers, vulnerable adults, fathers, and families of children with SEND.

A principle of the Family Hub model is 'access', they should be easily accessible to all users, taking into account any protected characteristic e.g. disability, services can be delivered in a variety of ways to help ensure this e.g. face to face, in various locations or virtually.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – **i.e.** Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

None.

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):

[Family hubs and start for life programme: local authority guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/family-hubs-and-start-for-life-programme-local-authority-guide)

9. **Appendices to the report**

None.

Report Author :

Clare Moore
Strategic Lead Youth Offending Service and Prevention
Children and Families Service

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17 November 2022		ITEM: 9
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Fees & Charges Pricing Strategy 2023/24		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas, Assistant Director Education and Skills		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children’s Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report specifically sets out the fees and charges in relation to services within the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Charges will take effect from the 1st of April 2023, unless otherwise stated. In preparing the proposed fees and charges, Directorates have worked within the charging framework and commercial principles set out in Section Three of this report. We have also taken into account the effect that the increase in interest rates and the cost-of-living crisis has had on the Local Economy and our services and the continued implications from Covid-19.

Further Director delegated authority will be sought via Cabinet to allow Fees and Charges to be varied within financial year in response to changes in government legislation, all other changes in year will be brought back to Cabinet via the Service Director for transparency.

The full list of proposed charges is detailed in Appendix 1, and the proposed deletion of current fees and charges are detailed in Appendix 2 to this report.

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the revised fees and charges including those no longer applicable; and comments on the proposals currently being considered within the remit of this committee.
- 1.2 That Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee note that Director delegated authority will be sought via Cabinet to allow Fees & Charges to be varied within a financial year in response to legal and regulatory requirements.

2 Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The paper describes the fees and charges approach for the services within the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee remit for 2023/24 and will set a platform for certain pricing principles moving forward into future financial years.
- 2.2 The paper provides narrative for the following areas:
 - Early Years Education and Childcare
 - Education & Skills – Grangewaters
 - Music services
 - Thurrock Adult Community College

3 Thurrock Charging Policy

- 3.1 The strategic ambition for Thurrock is to adopt a policy on fees and charges that ensures that all discretionary services will fully cost recover wherever possible.
- 3.2 For future years, while reviewing charges, services will also consider the level of demand for the service, the market dynamics and how the charging policy helps to meet other service objectives.
- 3.3 When considering the pricing strategy for 2023/24 some key questions were considered:
 - Where can we apply a tiered/premium pricing structure.
 - How sensitive are customers to price (are there areas where a price freeze is relevant).
 - Consideration with regards to Covid-19 and the impact on fees & charges locally & nationally.
 - What new charges might we want to introduce for this financial year.
 - How do our charges compare to neighbouring boroughs and private sector competitors (particularly in those instances where customers have choice).
 - How can we influence channel shift.
 - Can we set charges to recover costs.
 - What do our competitors charges.
 - How sensitive is demand to price.
 - Statutory services may have discretionary elements that we can influence.
 - Do we take deposits, charge cancellation fees, charge an admin fee for duplicate services (e.g. lost certificates).
- 3.4 For Children's Services charges are tiered depending on the service area:

- **Grangewaters** – Have tiered charges based on the number of activities, length of stay, accommodation, catering, and the number/age of people taking part in the activities.
- **Adult Community College** – Have tiered charges based on the community engagement and learner abilities to pay the full cost for the programmes.

3.5 **The key following points should be noted for 2023/24 fees and charges:**

- **Grangewaters** - Charges have increased where possible between 0.65% - 17%
- **Thurrock Adult Community College** - fees and charges have been increased between 2.27% - 3.70%. The provision is mostly fully funded. This is no longer a significant source of income as government has introduced new entitlements for adult learners.

4 Proposals and Issues

4.1 The fees and charges for each service area have been considered and the main considerations are set out below.

4.2 To allow the Council services to better respond to changes in the commercial environment for fees and charges; the Director of the Service Area Jointly with the agreement of Cabinet may vary service charges within financial year due to commercial considerations.

- This will allow service areas, providing services on a traded basis to vary their fees and charges to reflect commercial and operational considerations that impact the cost recoverability calculations.
- Any changes to Fees and Charges due to commercial considerations will require consultation with, and agreement of, the relevant Portfolio Holder.

4.3 Unless indicated otherwise, fees and charges for 2023/24 can increase in line with forecast inflation (subject to rounding).

4.4 **Thurrock Adult Community College**

Is funded from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and this funding is attached to individual learners. It runs on an academic calendar year basis. It is a requirement of the funding source that any excess income generated must be used to subsidise courses for residents, which meet and contribute to the Thurrock Council priorities for vulnerable groups. Small increases to fees have been made which is still significantly below market rates to ensure that we encourage and support adult community learning across Thurrock. CS27-ML/JB in appendix 1 is set as a variable charge due to the funding available to learners, courses can be free (the government fully funds some learners – this is called an entitlement) but there can also be fees, which differ based on the subject, which is set by the ESFA. Courses are planned annually and after fees & charges are agreed. At this stage it is impossible to predict which courses will be offered as this will depend on local and national priorities. Curriculum Planning takes place in Feb 23 for delivery of courses in Sept 23, so we are not in a position to identify specific fees for 23/24 until February 2023 subject to DfE policy changes. A link to where the maximum amount chargeable is listed is below: (Find a learning aim (submit-

learner-data.service.gov.uk) – To find an example, search for a course, click on the correct code, go to the funding tab on the left and expand Adult Skills – there are 2 rates, weighted and unweighted. The College compares these to other local providers and ensures we charge a competitive rate.

4.5 Music Service

Charges have not generally increased; however, the ranges have been amended to ensure they are being offered at a competitive rate.

4.6 Early Years Education and Childcare

This year has seen the closure of our two council run nurseries. Early years staff have support parents to ensure they can find alternative early years provision as this is a statutory duty on the council. We continue to support early years settings and work closely with our schools to ensure we have early years provision that meets the needs of our local communities.

4.7 Education & Skills – Grangewaters

Charges have increased where possible between 0.65% - 17%.

Following the pandemic, we have seen a rise in people accessing the outdoors and taking part in activities; both school groups and families.

A number of schools now book with us for the academic year, offering their students the opportunity to learn in an alternative environment supporting both their physical and emotional health.

During the school holidays we are offering both family activities and a range of accredited courses including Onboard sailing for our SEND cohort. The summer holidays saw a significant increase in bookings with many of the activities fully booked every day.

In addition to this and for the second year we are delivering a Holiday Activity with Food programme supporting young people to receive both activities and a hot meal during Easter, Summer, and Winter holiday periods.

5 Reasons for Recommendations

5.1 The setting of appropriate fees and charges will enable the Council to generate essential income for the funding of Council services. The approval of reviewed fees and charges will also ensure that the Council is competitive with other service providers and neighbouring councils. The ability to vary charges within financial year will enable services to more flexibly adapt to changing economic conditions.

5.2 The granting of delegated authority will only apply to legal or regulatory changes. If there is a need to alter fees during the financial year to enable the Council to better respond to commercial challenges, additional reports may be brought to Cabinet for approval.

6 Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

6.1 Consultations will be progressed where there is specific need. However, with regards to all other items, the proposals in this report do not affect any specific parts of the borough. Fees and charges are known to customers before they make use of the services they are buying.

7 Impact on policies, priorities, performance, and community impact

7.1 The changes in these fees and charges may impact the community; however, it must be taken into consideration that these price rises include inflation.

8 Implications

8.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

The effect of any changes to fees and charges on individual income targets will be determined as part of the 2023-24 budget setting process in which Corporate Finance and service areas will review anticipated level of demand, fee increases, previous performance and potential associated costs.

Covid-19 significantly impacted the Authority's ability to achieve income targets, and this will be taken into consideration when setting future targets. Income generated through fees and charges support the provision of services.

The Council-wide draft budget report will include the 2023-24 income targets across all directorates.

8.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**
**Corporate Governance Lawyer & Deputy
Monitoring Officer**

Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 ("LGA 2003") and guidance issued in 2003 pursuant to section 96(3) of the Act, empowers the Council to charge for discretionary services related to a Council function if the recipient of the service has agreed to its provision.

Discretionary services are those services authorised by statute that the Council is not required to provide but may do so voluntarily (section 93(1)(a), LGA 2003).

However, the Council cannot charge for mandatory services or services it has a duty to provide. Further, the section 93 charging power does not apply where there is a power to charge for a particular service elsewhere in other legislation (section 93(2)(a), LGA 2003).

The section 93 charging power cannot be used to charge for a service if other legislation expressly excludes an authority from charging (section 93(2)(b), LGA 2003). For example, the Education Act 1944 prohibits a local authority from charging for basic education; this prevents section 93 being used to circumvent a local authority's statutory duty to provide basic education for free.

The Council can set the level of charge for each discretionary service. However proposed charges must have regard to the 2003 statutory guidance. [General Power Best Value \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk).

The Council is under a general duty to secure that, from one financial year to the next, the income from charges for services does not exceed the costs of provision (section 93(3), LGA 2003). This approach allows a local authority greater flexibility to balance their accounts over a period of time and recognises the practical difficulties for a local authority in estimating the charges for a discretionary service at the outset.

The Council must offset any surplus or deficit in income because of any over or under recovery of charges when setting future charges for the discretionary service. This ensures that over time the income generated by the discretionary service equates to the cost of providing the service.

However, the Council does not have to recover the full costs of providing the service if there are policy reasons for limiting the charges in relation to a particular user of the service e.g., to the disabled, the unemployed or those in receipt of benefit. It must be able to justify its reasons for doing so.

Alongside the section 93 charging power, the general power of competence for local authorities under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (LA 2011) also confers a power on the Council to charge individuals for discretionary services. The section 1 charging power has similar requirements of the Section 93 LGA 2003 charging power as referred to above.

These charging powers are not intended to provide a new income stream for the Council and cannot be used to generate a profit. It does enable the Council to recover the costs of providing services or improvements to services that it might not otherwise have been able to justify providing or been able to provide. These powers also enable the Council to spread the cost of providing an existing service or a new discretionary service.

Taking the decision set the fees and charges is an executive function of the Council. The report to Cabinet supporting the recommended course of action should contain all the necessary and relevant information to enable members to take an informed decision on the proposed scheme and to satisfy themselves that the proposed charges are fair and reasonable.

In reviewing and setting fees and charges, the Council will need to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

8.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement & Project Monitoring Officer

The Council is responsible for promoting equality of opportunity in the provision of services and employment as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and

Public Sector Equality Duty. When setting charges and fees comprehensive benchmarking exercises are undertaken against other comparable provision. We ensure any increases are in line with these findings to limit any impact to protected groups and any related concessions that may be available. Most of the provisions within this report are funded externally or accessed through schools.

8.4 **Other implications (where significant)** – i.e., Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder and Impact on Looked After Children

None.

9 **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.

10 **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24.

Appendix 2 – Schedule of Fees and Charges no longer applicable (Removed).

Report Author:

Kelly Mcmillan

Business Development & Innovation

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Name of Fee or Charge	2022/23 - Charges				2023/24 - Charges				Changes from 2022/23				Detail				
	VAT	Net Charge	VAT Amount	Total Charge	VAT	Net Charge	VAT Amount	Total Charge	Net Change	VAT Amount	Total (£)	Total (%)	S/D	Status	Direct.	O&S	Owner
Music Services - Loan of Musical Instruments for pupils studying through the Music Hub (Guitars) per term					E	£ 15.00	£ -	£ 15.00	£ 15.00	£ -	£ 15.00	0.00%	D	N	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Music Services - Loan of Musical Instruments for pupils studying through the Music Hub (Other) per term					E	£ 25.00	£ -	£ 25.00	£ 25.00	£ -	£ 25.00	0.00%	D	N	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Music Services - Loan of Musical Instruments for external hirers (Band A - Low Value) per term						£ 25.00	£ -	£ 25.00	£ 25.00	£ -	£ 25.00	0.00%	D	N	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Music Services - Loan of Musical Instruments for external hirers (Band B - Mid Value) per term						£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00	0.00%	D	N	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Music Services - Loan of Musical Instruments for external hirers (Band C - High Value) per term						£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	0.00%	D	N	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Individual and small group tuition (fee pro-rata dependent on duration and numbers) - per hour charge	E	£ 37.00	£ -	£ 37.00	E	£ 37.25	£ -	£ 37.25	£ 0.25	£ -	£ 0.25	0.68%	D	I	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - Club Use of Site - Grangewaters Angling Club	E	£ 7,560.00	£ -	£ 7,560.00	E	£ 8,300.00	£ -	£ 8,300.00	£ 740.00	£ -	£ 740.00	9.79%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - Club Use of Site - Grangewaters Working Newfoundlands (per dog, per visit)	E	£ 5.93	£ -	£ 5.93	E	£ 6.50	£ -	£ 6.50	£ 0.57	£ -	£ 0.57	9.61%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - Club Use of Site - Thurrock Angling Club	E	£ 11,025.00	£ -	£ 11,025.00	E	£ 12,100.00	£ -	£ 12,100.00	£ 1,075.00	£ -	£ 1,075.00	9.75%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - Club Use of Site - Thurrock Motorboat & Waterski Club (per visit)	E	£ 360.00	£ -	£ 360.00	E	£ 360.00	£ -	£ 360.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - Day visits - Up to 10 people (Single session)	E	£ 137.50	£ -	£ 137.50	E	£ 137.50	£ -	£ 137.50	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - Day visits - Up to 10 people (Full day, 4 sessions)	E	£ 462.00	£ -	£ 462.00	E	£ 462.00	£ -	£ 462.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - Day visits - Up to 10 people (Half day, 2 sessions)	E	£ 252.00	£ -	£ 252.00	E	£ 252.00	£ -	£ 252.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters VIP offer - Up to 2 adults and 2 children (Full day, 4 sessions)	E	£ 346.00	£ -	£ 346.00	E	£ 346.00	£ -	£ 346.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters VIP offer - Up to 2 adults and 2 children (Half day, 2 sessions)	E	£ 197.00	£ -	£ 197.00	E	£ 197.00	£ -	£ 197.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - VIP offer - Up to 2 adults and 4 children (Full day, 4 sessions)	E	£ 359.00	£ -	£ 359.00	E	£ 359.00	£ -	£ 359.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters VIP offer - Up to 2 adults and 4 children (Half day, 2 sessions)	E	£ 215.00	£ -	£ 215.00	E	£ 215.00	£ -	£ 215.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters VIP offer - Up to 2 adults and 4 children (Single session)	E	£ 122.00	£ -	£ 122.00	E	£ 122.00	£ -	£ 122.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters - School Holiday periods Only - Activity Sessions (per session per person charge)	E	£ 10.00	£ -	£ 10.00	E	£ 10.00	£ -	£ 10.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman

Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Accommodation only (per person per night)	E	£	20.00	£	-	£	20.00	E	£	20.00	£	-	£	20.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Full Board (2 days, 1 night)	E	£	164.00	£	-	£	164.00	E	£	164.00	£	-	£	164.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Full Board (3 days, 2 night)	E	£	253.00	£	-	£	253.00	E	£	253.00	£	-	£	253.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Full Board (4 days, 3 night)	E	£	346.00	£	-	£	346.00	E	£	346.00	£	-	£	346.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Full Board (5 days, 4 night)	E	£	433.00	£	-	£	433.00	E	£	433.00	£	-	£	433.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Self catering (2 days, 1 night)	E	£	113.00	£	-	£	113.00	E	£	113.00	£	-	£	113.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Self catering (3 days, 2 night)	E	£	176.00	£	-	£	176.00	E	£	176.00	£	-	£	176.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Self catering (4 days, 3 night)	E	£	246.00	£	-	£	246.00	E	£	246.00	£	-	£	246.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 18 years old) - Self catering (5 days, 4 night)	E	£	308.00	£	-	£	308.00	E	£	308.00	£	-	£	308.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Camping - per person per night	E	£	7.00	£	-	£	7.00	E	£	7.00	£	-	£	7.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Full Board (2 days, 1 night)	E	£	164.00	£	-	£	164.00	E	£	164.00	£	-	£	164.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Full Board (3 days, 2 night)	E	£	253.00	£	-	£	253.00	E	£	253.00	£	-	£	253.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Full Board (4 days, 3 night)	E	£	346.00	£	-	£	346.00	E	£	346.00	£	-	£	346.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Full Board (5 days, 4 night)	E	£	433.00	£	-	£	433.00	E	£	433.00	£	-	£	433.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Self catering (2 days, 1 night)	E	£	113.00	£	-	£	113.00	E	£	113.00	£	-	£	113.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Self catering (3 days, 2 night)	E	£	176.00	£	-	£	176.00	E	£	176.00	£	-	£	176.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Self catering (4 days, 3 night)	E	£	246.00	£	-	£	246.00	E	£	246.00	£	-	£	246.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Residential Visits (Up to and including 19 years old) - Self catering (5 days, 4 night)	E	£	300.00	£	-	£	300.00	E	£	300.00	£	-	£	300.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Catering Package (Breakfast, Lunch and Evening Meal) - Minimum 10 persons - Charge is per person per day	E	£	25.00	£	-	£	25.00	E	£	25.00	£	-	£	25.00	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Training Lodge / Dining Cabins - Full Day Charge	E	£	76.00	£	-	£	76.00	E	£	89.00	£	-	£	89.00	£	13.00	£	13.00	17.11%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman

Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Training Lodge / Dining Cabins - Half Day Charge	E	£	43.00	£	-	£	43.00	E	£	49.00	£	-	£	49.00	£	6.00	£	-	£	6.00	13.95%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Celebration Groups up to 10 people - Single Activity	E	£	173.00	£	-	£	173.00	E	£	175.00	£	-	£	175.00	£	2.00	£	-	£	2.00	1.16%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Celebration Groups up to 10 people - Double Activity	E	£	308.00	£	-	£	308.00	E	£	310.00	£	-	£	310.00	£	2.00	£	-	£	2.00	0.65%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Private Tuition - First person - 1.5 Hour Session	E	£	55.00	£	-	£	55.00	E	£	58.00	£	-	£	58.00	£	3.00	£	-	£	3.00	5.45%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Private Tuition - First person - 3 Hour Session	E	£	95.00	£	-	£	95.00	E	£	100.00	£	-	£	100.00	£	5.00	£	-	£	5.00	5.26%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Private Tuition - First person - 4.5 Hour Session	E	£	120.00	£	-	£	120.00	E	£	126.00	£	-	£	126.00	£	6.00	£	-	£	6.00	5.00%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Private Tuition - Additional person - 1.5 Hour Session	E	£	30.00	£	-	£	30.00	E	£	31.50	£	-	£	31.50	£	1.50	£	-	£	1.50	5.00%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Private Tuition - Additional person - 3 Hour Session	E	£	48.00	£	-	£	48.00	E	£	50.50	£	-	£	50.50	£	2.50	£	-	£	2.50	5.21%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Private Tuition - Additional person - 4.5 Hour Session	E	£	65.00	£	-	£	65.00	E	£	68.50	£	-	£	68.50	£	3.50	£	-	£	3.50	5.38%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Paddle Board Course	E	£	70.00	£	-	£	70.00	E	£	75.00	£	-	£	75.00	£	5.00	£	-	£	5.00	7.14%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - RYA Youth Scheme	E	£	135.00	£	-	£	135.00	E	£	135.00	£	-	£	135.00	£	-	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
Adult learners in receipt of JSA (all types), ESA (all types) or Universal Credit (earning under the income threshold as stated by the ESFA)	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Adult learners in receipt of other state benefits who earn less than the take home pay threshold (as stated by ESFA)	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Adult learners 24+ joining courses Level 3 & above	O	Variable Charge	£	-	Variable Charge	O	Variable Charge	£	-	Variable Charge	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Family Learning English Maths & Language	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Family Learning wider FL per session	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Community Led learning targeted provision, community engagement up to 12 hours	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	O	Free of Charge	£	-	Free of Charge	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	U	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Qualification Courses for 19+																								CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Adult learners not in full time education elsewhere standard rate course	O	£	5.40	£	-	£	5.40	O	£	5.60	£	-	£	5.60	£	0.20	£	-	£	0.20	3.70%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
as above - weighted rate course e.g. hairdressing floristry, courses requiring hired external venues or where courses do not target priority learners	O	£	7.20	£	-	£	7.20	O	£	7.40	£	-	£	7.40	£	0.20	£	-	£	0.20	2.78%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley

Adult Learners 19+ in full time education elsewhere or who do not meet residency eligibility	O	£	14.00	£	-	£	14.00	O	£	14.40	£	-	£	14.40	£	0.40	£	-	£	0.40	2.86%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Community Learning for learners 19+																					CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley			
Tuition fee standard rate (universal Offer)	O	£	5.40	£	-	£	5.40	O	£	5.60	£	-	£	5.60	£	0.20	£	-	£	0.20	3.70%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Adults learners in receipt of a state benefit	O	£	3.60	£	-	£	3.60	O	£	3.70	£	-	£	3.70	£	0.10	£	-	£	0.10	2.78%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Weighted courses / or where courses do not target priority learners	O	£	7.20	£	-	£	7.20	O	£	7.40	£	-	£	7.40	£	0.20	£	-	£	0.20	2.78%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Adults learners aged over 65	O	£	4.40	£	-	£	4.40	O	£	4.50	£	-	£	4.50	£	0.10	£	-	£	0.10	2.27%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Tuition fee for supported learning course	O	£	4.40	£	-	£	4.40	O	£	4.50	£	-	£	4.50	£	0.10	£	-	£	0.10	2.27%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Tuition fee taster courses per session	O	£	16.70	£	-	£	16.70	O	£	17.20	£	-	£	17.20	£	0.50	£	-	£	0.50	2.99%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley
Non-eligible learners	O	£	14.00	£	-	£	14.00	O	£	14.40	£	-	£	14.40	£	0.40	£	-	£	0.40	2.86%	D	I	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley

Name of Fee or Charge	2022/23 - Charges				2023/24 - Charges				Changes from 2022/23				Detail				
	VAT	Net Charge	VAT Amount	Total Charge	VAT	Net Charge	VAT Amount	Total Charge	Net Change	VAT Amount	Total (£)	Total (%)	S/D	Status	Direct.	O&S	Owner
Music Services - Loan of Musical Instruments for pupils studying through the Music Hub (Ranged fee dependent on instrument)	E	£13 - £26	£ -	£13 - £26	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Music Services - Loan of Musical Instruments for external hirers (Ranged fee dependent on instrument)	E	£20.60 - £103	£ -	£20.60 - £103	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	Michele Lucas (ML)
Children's Care and Targeted Outcomes - Children with disabilities - Summer Play Scheme - per day, per child (If funding is secured then the charge will reduce)	O	£ 19.00	£ -	£ 19.00	O	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Hourly rate 3-5 year olds	E	£ 6.20	£ -	£ 6.20	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Hourly rate 2 year olds	E	£ 6.50	£ -	£ 6.50	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Babies 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm - per day	E	£ 35.50	£ -	£ 35.50	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Babies 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm - per week	E	£ 176.00	£ -	£ 176.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Babies Full placement costs 8am-6.15pm - per day	E	£ 71.00	£ -	£ 71.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Babies Full placement costs 8am-6.15pm - per week	E	£ 327.00	£ -	£ 327.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 2-3-year-olds 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm - per day	E	£ 32.50	£ -	£ 32.50	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 2-3-year-olds 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm - per week	E	£ 157.00	£ -	£ 157.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 2-3-year-olds Full placement costs per week	E	£ 303.00	£ -	£ 303.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 2-3-year-olds Full placement costs per day	E	£ 59.50	£ -	£ 59.50	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Cooked lunch each	E	£ 3.55	£ -	£ 3.55	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 3-5-year-olds 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm - per day	E	£ 30.70	£ -	£ 30.70	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 3-5-year-olds 8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm - per week	E	£ 153.00	£ -	£ 153.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 3-5-year-olds Full placement costs per week	E	£ 304.00	£ -	£ 304.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - 3-5-year-olds Full placement costs per day	E	£ 67.00	£ -	£ 67.00	E	REMOVED	£ -	REMOVED	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett

Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Hourly rate babies 0-2-year-olds	E	£	7.00	£	-	£	7.00	E	REMOVED	£	-	REMOVED	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Babies 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm - per day	E	£	30.00	£	-	£	30.00	E	REMOVED	£	-	REMOVED	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Nursery Places - Holiday Club (per day)	E	£	22.00	£	-	£	22.00	E	REMOVED	£	-	REMOVED	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Katie Corbett
Learning and Universal Outcomes - Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre - Training Lodge / Dining Cabins - Hourly Charge (minimum 2 hours)	E	£	16.00	£	-	£	16.00	E	REMOVED	£	-	REMOVED	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Wendy Warman
New room hire (Stanley Lazell)	O		POA				POA	O	REMOVED	£	-	REMOVED	£	-	£	-	0.00%	D	R	CS	CS	ML/ Jaki Bradley

17 November 2022	ITEM: 10
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key
Report of: Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager	
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director Children’s Social Care and Early Help	
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director, Children’s Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report presents Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with an update on the range of work of the LSCP and progress made on case review action plans.

The responsibilities of the LSCP are laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families’.

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) were established under the Children Act (2004) to review cases where a child has died and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. SCRs could additionally be carried out where a child has not died, but has come to serious harm as a result of abuse or neglect. The aim of SCRs was to establish learning for agencies and professionals to improve the way that they work together to safeguard children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2018), changed the structure of SCRs, these reviews are now known as Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs). Responsibility for learning lessons lies with a national panel – the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) – and with local safeguarding partners.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Committee note the update on the work of the LSCP and the progress made on Action Plans to date.

2. Update on LSCP Work

2.1 Dr Prakash Srivastava, creator of the Neglect Graded Care Profile 2 assessment tool, will lead the LSCP Annual conference this year titled 'Working Together to Identify and Tackle Neglect in Thurrock'. The conference will take place on 6th December 2022. Workshops on the day will cover multi-agency collaboration, criminal neglect, vulnerabilities and impact on education and health. The aim is for more practitioners to be aware of neglect, the importance of identification, how to assess and what support is available for families to reduce the incidence. The new Thurrock Neglect Tool Kit for practitioners will be launched at the conference.

2.2. An externally commissioned reviewer will lead a Neglect Reflective Workshop for practitioners on 8th November 2022. The session will be an opportunity for learning from case reviews identifying neglect to be shared and discussed, with a focus on joint working to improve identification and intervention for children and families experiencing neglect.

2.3 The Pathway to Service and Threshold Intervention document that sets out the pathway and threshold criteria for making referrals to services regarding concerns about a child, has been reviewed and refreshed by a multi-agency Task and Finish group. Once ratified by the governance process the document will be published and shared throughout the multi-agency partnership.

2.4 Over three days 22nd, 23rd and 24th November, the LSCP will see over 4,000 children in Years 5 and 6, from across the borough travel to the Civic Hall in Blackshots, to experience the annual Walk Online Roadshow. This event sits under the priority of Violence and Vulnerability and raises the awareness of the positives as well as the risks posed to children online. The roadshow will cover interactive presentations from an Online Awareness Programme, Thurrock Gangs and Exploitation Manager, Essex Police and the LSCP Business Team. All children attending will be given a goodie bag containing useful resources around the online theme. A virtual parents and carers specific event will follow the roadshow on 1st December 2022. Due to the restrictions during 2020 and 2021, it was not possible to deliver the roadshow. In March 2023, an additional event will be delivered for children in Years 7 and 8, who would have attended during that period.

- 2.5 Following the publication of the National Review into the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo- Hughes and Star Hobson, Jenny Coles, LSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer will lead a practitioner workshop to disseminate the learning from the review. This workshop will also be an opportunity for practitioners from the partnership to discuss and share current working practices and procedures and contribute to actions devised to meet the recommendations.
- 2.6 On 20th October, Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) delivered a joint Non-accident Injuries to Babies and Young Children. Over 400 delegates joined the conference that covered the key themes identified in cases where children were victims of non-accidental injuries; lack of practitioner professional curiosity, reduced services in hospital after hours, agencies lack of engaging fathers, not exploring 'malicious' referrals and practitioners need for awareness and training on specific medical conditions. Following the conference partnerships will deliver a series of bite sized learning sessions based on the identified themes.
- 2.7 A new termly Safeguarding newsletter was launched in October to provide updates and information on safeguarding topics to all working with children and young people. The autumn edition includes a range of areas including a welcome from the Independent Chair and Scrutineer, LSCP Priorities 2022-2024, emerging concerns, legislation and updates and campaigns. The newsletter can be accessed via the LSCP website at: <https://www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/lscp/newsletters/thurrock-lscp-newsletters-1>
- 2.8 To celebrate Inter Faith Week, in partnership with the Thurrock Community Engagement Team the LSCP will join Thurrock Council services to deliver an Inter faith Networking event on 16th November. This event aims to bring all Thurrock faith communities and council services together to network and share information. Staff from the LSCP, Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board, Children and Adult Social Care will be present to network and provide information on safeguarding services and procedures in addition to reference literature.

3. **Case Reviews Action Plan Update**

All case review action plans are developed through meetings attended by multi-agency representatives, to identify actions required by the partnership to address the recommendations. These action plans have been ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners.

- 3.1 **Shae and Ashley Local Health Review (LHR) Action Plan**
This action plan was agreed and ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners in the last cycle of meetings.

The learning from Shae and Ashley LHR lists ten recommendations that are further divided into sub-sections totalling 14 actionable areas. Work has started on all actions, 6 actions are complete and the remaining 8 are on track to be completed within timescales.

- 3.2 An action plan has been devised to identify actions to be taken to meet the recommendations from the Thematic Review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Crime. It is going through the governance process for ratification and monitoring and work has started on some actions.
- 3.3 The LSCP is considering the findings from the recently published National Panel reviews into Star Hobson (Bradford) and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes (Solihull), Child Q (City and Hackney) and 'Ben' (Croydon) along with the Independent Review of Children's Social Care written by Josh MacAlister. A document is being devised to identify what more can be done to mitigate the risk to children in Thurrock.

4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 None

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To update members on the range of work carried out by Thurrock LSCP and progress on case review action plans. The action plans are multi-agency documents that are monitored through the LSCP governance structure.

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

- 6.1 Not applicable.

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

- 7.1 There is no impact.

8. Implications

8.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead - Finance

There are no substantial financial implications arising from the action plan which have not been accounted for in the LSCP budgets and delivery plan.

The LSCP is funded by the three statutory partners and small contributions from other members of the partnership.

8.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Petrena Sharpe**
Safeguarding Lawyer - Team Leader

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 dissolved the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB). The three Strategic Partners, determined under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, comprise Thurrock Council, Essex Police and Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Thurrock's new arrangements as the LSCP, came into effect on the 7th May 2019.

The statutory criteria for a serious child safeguarding case is set out in Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) with statutory guidance in Working Together 2018. The commission and oversight of the review of these cases, (a local child safeguarding practice review formerly Serious Case Review) and the auditing and monitoring of the 'programme of action' following the findings of the review continues to be the role of the LSCP.

8.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

Supporting our children and young people who are disadvantaged is a key strategic priority for Thurrock Council. The Partnership promotes practice to achieve equality, inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. All Partners are signed up to these principles.

8.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

No implications identified.

9. 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.

10. Appendices to the report

None.

Report Author:

Priscilla Bruce-Annan

Business Manager

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2022/23**

Dates of Meetings: 16 June 2022, 13 September 2022, 17 November 2022, 17 January 2023, 14 March 2023

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
16 June 2022		
Youth Cabinet Update – Briefing Note	Angela Surrey	Standing Item
Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Partnership Board: Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review – Action Plans	Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Standing Item/ Members
Education National Drivers: Schools White Paper, SEND & AP Green Paper, Levelling Up, Skills Act, School Admission and Attendance Guidance	Sheila Murphy	Officers
The Care Review into Children's Social Care and the National Safeguarding Panel Review of Child Protection	Sheila Murphy	Officers
Children's Social Care Performance – Quarter 4 2021-22	Janet Simon	Chair
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
13 September 2022		
Youth Cabinet Update	Angela Surrey	Standing Item

2021/22 Annual Complaints and Representations Report – Children’s Social Care	Lee Henley	Officers
Fostering Recruitment Update	Dan Jones	Members
The Inspection of the Young Offending Services 2022	Clare Moore	Officers
Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Partnership Board: Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review – Action Plans	Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Standing Item
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
17 November 2022		
Youth Cabinet Update	Angela Surrey	Standing Item
Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment Report 2022	Michele Lucas	Officers
Children’s Social Care Performance	Janet Simon	Officers
Family Hubs, Start for Life	Clare Moore	Officers
Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy 2023-24	Kelly McMillan	Officer
Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Partnership Board	Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Standing Item
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing Item
17 January 2023		
Youth Cabinet Update	Angela Surry	Standing Item
Educational Attainment Data 2021/22	Michele Lucas	Member

Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Partnership Board	Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Standing Item
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
14 March 2023		
Youth Cabinet Update	Angela Surrey	Standing Item
Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Partnership Board	Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Standing Item
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
Briefing Notes		
N/A	N/A	N/A

Updated: 8th November 2022

Clerk: Rhiannon Whiteley

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