

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 January 2023**

**CR2,CO3, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex 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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<b>2 Minutes</b>	<b>5 - 14</b>
To approve as a correct record the minutes of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 November 2022.	
<b>3 Items of Urgent Business</b>	
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.	

<b>4</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>	
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<b>7</b>	<b>Verbal Update on Family Hubs/ Start for Life</b>	
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**Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:**

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Agenda published on: **9 January 2023**

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# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

## Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

### Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

### Non-pecuniary

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



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

## 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 held on 17 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

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

Sarah Barlow, Church of England Representative  
Nicola Cranch, Parent Governor Representative

### Apologies:

### In attendance:

Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Business Manager  
Jenny Coles - Independent Chairperson & Scrutineer Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership  
Michele Lucas, Assistant Director of Education and Skills  
Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Janet Simon, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Early Help  
Clare Moore - Strategic Lead YOS and Prevention Youth Cabinet Representative  
Thomas Flynn, Youth Worker Children's Services  
Rhiannon Whiteley, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting 13 September 2022 held on 5 October 2022 were approved as a correct record save that it was agreed that the presence of the Parent Governor Representative and Church of England Representative should be recorded in the minutes.

The Chair requested an update on fostering recruitment. The Assistant Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help responded that she didn't have the information with her to update the Committee but she would obtain it and update the Chair after the meeting.

### 2. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

### 3. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

#### **4. Youth Cabinet Update**

The Youth Cabinet Representative updated the Committee that at their October meeting the Head of Thurrock's Music Service attended and requested assistance with promotion of Thurrock's Music Service. The Youth Cabinet members proposed that a youth music survey should be completed and this is currently being put together.

The Youth Cabinet Representative further updated the Committee that the Local Plans Manager also attended their recent meeting to obtain their feedback on what it is like for young people living in the Borough to help inform the local plan. She also confirmed that the Youth Cabinet is looking for further young people to join.

Councillor Panjala queried how many members there were in the Youth Cabinet.

The Youth Cabinet Representative confirmed that recently they recruited another 4 members, but she was not sure what the total number of members were.

Councillor Kerin suggested that the Youth Cabinet Representative could attend a Full Council Meeting.

#### **5. Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2022**

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills presented the report to members. She summarised that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is a statutory duty and is a document that allows them to see where there are gaps in sufficiency and also enables providers to see if there is an opportunity for them to plug that gap. The Assistant Director for Education and Skills confirmed that by the end of the summer term 2022, 76% of eligible two year olds were attending early education and childcare. This is the highest this number has been since 2015 and higher than the national average. This is very positive as it can make a real difference around school readiness.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills also raised that since the decision was made to close two nurseries in Tilbury, they have not been approached by any parent who has said they cannot access a place and she confirmed that there are some spaces in that area. The Assistant Director for Education and Skills stated that they are always keen to increase childminders and also to encourage more early years providers into the area. Finding premises is a challenge and they are working with their colleagues in the Planning department regarding this. If there are going to be new housing developments they need to look at the early years provision in the area. There



will be a new school coming in Aveley in 2023 which will have some early years provision there.

Councillor Coxshall queried whether the term “special schools” was still appropriate.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills confirmed that it is the correct terminology used nationally. It was previously schools for children with disabilities. However, she accepted over time things change.

The Chair echoed Councillor Coxshall’s concerns and stated that he was also uncomfortable with the terminology.

Councillor Kerin queried what work was being completed with schools on recruitment and retention

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills confirmed that when looking at recruitment of childminders they do lots of informal events around what it means to be a childminder. What do you have to do to become a childminder. Recruitment and retention in early years is a real challenge. We look at ways to help our providers to recruit, they also help with access to sites, expertise and helping providers become Ofsted ready.

Councillor Kerin requested an update in future reports on recruitment. He noted there was a large deficit in Grays Riverside where there is the highest proportion of children under 4.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills stated that when providers contact them they will look to identify premises to support them. They also look at how they can get more childminders to come forward and in addition to this they are working with schools to look at them taking children on at 2. Councillor Kerin commented that he liked the way the report was presented and the ward breakdown but he would also like to see the stats by geographical area.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills agreed to this.

The Chair echoed Councillor Kerin’s comments and noted that nobody goes to secondary school in his area as he doesn’t have one in his ward.

The Chair confirmed he found the recruitment and retention concerns troubling and stated that he would like to see regular updates on this at future committee meetings.

Councillor Coxshall commented that he had found in his day job childminders in Southend had hit a lot of bureaucracy.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills agreed some of it is quite challenging to navigate and stated that they do work hard with childminders to help them navigate the process and to become Ofsted ready and when providers are looking to expand they will work with their colleagues in Planning and support them where they can.

Councillor Coxshall raised the issue of education pathways and highlighted that when he was at college students were often put on the childcare course when they failed their GCSE’s and queried whether other students were being encouraged that there is a career in this sector.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills agreed this was a great question. She confirmed they do offer apprenticeship routes. It is a career opportunity and it can lead to early years teaching. You can earn and learn on the job and what you learn in the classroom and on the job is different.

## **RESOLVED**

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

## **6. Children's Social Care Performance - Quarter 2 2022-23**

The Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Early Help confirmed that the report provided a summary of Children's Social Care's performance for quarter 2 which covers July – September this year. She updated the Committee that the number of multi-agency safeguarding hub contacts and referrals are comparable to the same period the previous year. There has been an improvement in the number of assessments completed in timescales from 90% to 94%. At the end of September the number of children on Child Protection Plans was 83 compared to 106 last year.

In terms of Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children up until a few months ago our allocation number was 31 this has now been increased alongside all other Local Authorities to a UASC quota of 45. The Borough currently has 35 UASC children but this week we are on the rota for accepting UASC children and therefore this number is likely to increase.

Between July and September 2022, there were a total of 218 missing episodes represented by 28 individual children. Only 4 of the 28 children were under 16.

All children are offered a Return Home Interview within 72 hours following each missing event, with the aim of understanding the young person's circumstances and the reasons why they go missing. 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 Chair applauded the department for the improvements. He queried how the department had been able to improve the number of those taking up the offer of a return home interview.

The Assistant Director of Social Care and Early Help confirmed they meet every Monday morning to look at this issue. They are using social workers and looking at anyone who has a relationship with the child to conduct the

return home interview so the children are more willing to tell us where they have been and why.

Councillor Kerin noted there was an 11 % drop in referrals and queried if this was in fact good or bad news.

The Assistant Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help confirmed that when they get contacts they look at whether a referral is needed. Contacts and referrals often go down in the summer holidays and rise once the children return to school in September. The number of referrals stepping into social care are going down but the numbers of those going into early intervention are going up so hopefully they are dealing with issues at a much earlier stage. If they receive repeat referrals starting to rise it can mean the threshold isn't quite right. Repeat referrals are currently low and this helps to measure that they are getting it right.

Councillor Kerin raised the issue of missing episodes and queried why these happen.

The Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Early Help responded that the majority are 16 years old and over and quite a lot are 17 and 18 in a matter of weeks. If a child is not where we expect them to be then they are reported as missing. They may be staying with a girlfriend or boyfriend or a friend. It therefore might not mean they are unsafe but they are not where they should be.

## **RESOLVED**

### **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.**

## **7. Family Hubs, Start For Life**

The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention presented the report to the Committee. She updated the Committee that 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. The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention confirmed that Thurrock Council submitted its 'sign-up' form and Trailblazer application to the central programme office on the 30 September for consideration.

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.

The Chair thanked the Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention for the report and commented that he hoped Thurrock would be selected as a trailblazer.

Councillor Kerin asked if the delivery plan will be ready by 31 December 2022 as this is only 6 weeks away.

The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention confirmed it isn't ready yet but they have started it and it will be ready by the deadline.

Councillor Kerin queried if any of the locations of the family hubs could be confirmed.

The Strategic Lead for YOS and Prevention responded that she was unable to confirm the exact locations as yet.

Councillor Anderson noted that it stated in the report they would be looking at main facilities in East, West and Central areas of Thurrock. As a ward Councillor in East Thurrock he welcomed any improvement to services in the area.

## **RESOLVED**

**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.**

## **8. Fees & Charges Pricing Strategy 2023/24**

The Assistant Director for Education and skills presented the report. She confirmed that there had been some quite large increases last year as they completed a benchmarking exercise. She confirmed that they haven't taken

the route of raising charges in line with inflation this year. In relation to Grangewaters they have looked at what other outdoor centres are charging. She commented that music services have stayed much the same.

Councillor Kerin raised concerns that groups will be outpriced of using Grangewaters.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills confirmed that many of the charges have stayed the same. There has been a 17% increase for the hiring charge of one of the units for the day which is often hired by external partners. She agreed that they don't want to stop people being able to use the facility and reassured the Committee that they had completed market testing work.

Councillor Arnold sought reassurance that this is not about making money but cost recovery.

The Assistant Director for Education and Skills confirmed that Grangewaters is a full cost recovery model.

## **RESOLVED**

- 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.**

## **9. Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership**

The Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (TLSCP) business manager presented the report to the Committee.

The TLSCP business manager updated the committee that 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. They had intended to deliver the conference face-to-face but have now taken the decision to deliver it virtually due to rising covid numbers and to ensure more people can attend.

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. The document is now completed and once ratified by the governance process the document will be published and shared throughout the multi-agency partnership.

Next week over three days on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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.

On Tuesday the TLSCP business manager along with other staff from the LSCP, Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board and Children and Adult Social Care attended an Inter faith Networking event. The aim of the event was to bring all Thurrock faith communities and council services together to network and share information. Referral routes were shared and information was provided on what to do if they are worried about a child. 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.

Councillor Kerin queried if neglect cases had increased.

The TLSCP business manager confirmed that she understands from information they receive from agencies that the numbers are quite steady. However, neglect was a priority before Covid and they hadn't been able to do as much work on it as they liked as they couldn't see children.

Councillor Kerin queried how closely the TLSCP staff team work with local schools.

The TLSCP business manager confirmed that their Governance groups have education representatives on all them. When identifying task and finish groups they also ensure that there are education representatives included on them. They meet with the designated safeguarding leads quarterly and share lots of information on what they are doing. On a day-to-day basis Headteachers or DSL's can contact them to discuss any concerns they have. The TLSCP delivers training on safeguarding and managing allegations.

The Parent Governor Representative highlighted that she has previously attended the Walk Online programme and it is outstanding and she would recommend that anyone present at the Committee should attend.

The TLSCP Business Manager agreed and confirmed that things will have even moved on from a few years ago as there are always new emerging concerns and platforms coming up all the time.

The Chair requested that the Walk Online Roadshow details are circulated to Members.

#### **RESOLVED**

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

## **10. Work Programme**

The Committee discussed the work programme.

The Chair requested an update on recruitment and retention in the early years sector. The Assistant Director for Education and Skills confirmed a report could be provided to the March Committee Meeting and an appendix will also be provided to cover the information requested by Councillor Kerin.

Councillor Kerin requested a further update on the Family Hubs / Start to life.

The Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Early Help confirmed an update could be provided in January on this.

**The meeting finished at 8.53 pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**



# Children's Services

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting

### January 2023

### 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 Meetings**

At November's Monthly Meeting our guest speakers were the Mayor of Thurrock, Cllr James Halden, and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Cllr Barry Johnson. They came to speak to Youth Cabinet about their roles and answered lots of questions we had. The Mayor also asked Members if they would like to use the Chambers for future Monthly Meetings in which we politely accepted.

At December's Monthly Meeting we met in the Chambers for the first-time post pandemic. We were very excited to be in the space. All Youth Cabinet Members felt it was a significant step forward in acknowledging the work we do and the importance of what we are trying to achieve in amplifying youth voice.

Our guest speaker at our December Monthly Meeting was the Cultural Education Partnerships Manager. The purpose of the visit was to not only raise awareness of Cultural Education Partnerships Manager role and remit but to also discuss what young people's priorities are for arts and culture. Some good discussions and feedback were given by Youth Cabinet Members, including the idea of linking in with our Youth Music Consultation (as spoken about in our previous update) and adding a few arts and culture questions to the survey that will be going out to young people in the new year. We look forward to having an on-going connection with the Cultural Education Partnerships Manager and potentially being involved in a culture conference next year.

#### 1.2 **Working Group Meeting**

In November and Decembers' Working Group Meetings we continued our focus group sessions with Thurrock Council's Local Plan Manager. The aim of the focus group sessions are to discuss 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.

We are currently exploring identified issues within the borough that have been highlighted by the cabinet and finding potential solutions to these issues from a youth perspective. 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 **Youth Cabinet Good News and Promotion**

The Youth Cabinet have been working hard on promoting the Thurrock Youth Cabinet, specifically on who we are and what we do. Members have been working on text content to send to the Communications Team for them to share in the Residence e-newsletter, Inspire Bulletin e-newsletter and social media channels. Hopefully, you saw some of these features/posts in November and December (See Appendix 1 and 2).

The article that went out about our MYP's visit to the House of Commons (see Appendix 1) resulted in 85 clicks to the Thurrock Council Youth Cabinet webpage – that was the second highest link click stat in that week's edition. Members are pleased with this stat result as that is 85 people that are interested in what we are doing and are now aware of us. Our aim is to build upon the link click stats as and when more regular features are put out to the public. The Comms Team will be providing us with monthly link click stats for us to review and discuss. Members are excited to speak out and speak big about Youth Cabinet news so it will spread far and wide.

### 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](mailto: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. Head Teachers have committed to driving the numbers up in their schools.

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

- Another wellbeing walk is in the pipeline for February half term
- We are currently linking with Thurrock's Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer to development a Youth Cabinet consultation profile. This will allow Youth Cabinet members to carry out questionnaires/polls safely and also list Youth Cabinet current and past news features for people to read. Our aim is to ensure all news, past or present, is kept available to the public in one place at all times so they able to look back at and/or keep up with Youth Cabinet affairs.

Article included in Inspire Bulletin and the Resident e-newsletter, November 2022



Thurrock Youth Cabinet represented at Youth Parliament this month



Thurrock Council's Youth Cabinet is a group of 11 to 18 year-olds who work to make Thurrock a better place for young people. The Youth Cabinet was set up to give the young people of Thurrock a voice. Youth Cabinet members regularly meet with councillors, council officers and other decision makers to give their views on: youth activities, school curriculum, mental health, plastic pollution, police and community safety, and much more!

Find out more about Thurrock's Youth Cabinet [online](#), and if you are a young person who lives in Thurrock or goes to school in Thurrock you can contact the team by emailing [youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk)

On Friday 4 November, Lionel Mazithulela, Thurrock Youth Cabinet's Member of Youth Parliament (pictured above), attended the UK Youth Parliament House of Commons Annual Sitting.

Over 200 young people came together to participate in five topic debate sessions, with one of them being voted as the campaign for Youth Parliament for the next year. This was an amazing opportunity for Lionel to represent Thurrock Youth Cabinet and speak in parliament. The chosen campaign following the event is the cost of living crisis and health. [Lionel can be seen in this short clip on the BBC](#) (28 seconds in).

Lionel said: "It was an honour to be able to debate on the iconic green benches in the house of commons, events like this are paramount for the change members of youth parliament are working towards and are indispensable in amplifying the voice especially in such contemporary issues as that were debated. I am happy to announce the priority campaign is cost of living and health with a vote of majority across MYPS I can assure you My work will remain topical and I will ensure all issues of my constituents are heard, shared and resolved with all the power I have"

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Article included in Inspire Bulletin, Monday 12 December 2022



## Thurrock Youth Cabinet - What is Thurrock Youth Cabinet and what do they do?



Thurrock Youth Cabinet is a group of passionate young people aged 11 to 18 (up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) who work to make Thurrock a better place for young people; run by young people, for young people. Youth Cabinet members come together each month to represent the voice of Thurrock's young people by discussing their views and opinions on issues affecting them and share these with decision makers. They aim to integrate youth views into current and future affairs of Thurrock. Each month a guest speaker attends Youth Cabinet, in November this was the Mayor of Thurrock, Cllr James Halden, and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Cllr Barry Johnson. They came to speak to Youth Cabinet about their roles and answered lots of questions. Do you have questions you would ask the Mayor or Cllr Barry Johnson? If so, please share them with Youth Cabinet and we will pass them on, email: [youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk)

**Lets debate:** Youth Cabinet's debate topic this month is: should make up be banned in schools?

At the last meeting, this debate got heated and Youth Cabinet were unable to find a winning side, so the argument is still out there for you to join in and debate too! What do you think? You could debate this at your school and feedback to us by emailing: [youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk) .

If you are a young person who lives in Thurrock or goes to school in Thurrock and would like to represent Thurrock as a member of youth cabinet then please [email us today](mailto:youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk) to find out more, or for more information visit: [thurrock.gov.uk/youthcabinet](http://thurrock.gov.uk/youthcabinet).

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<b>17 January 2023</b>	<b>ITEM: 8</b>
<b>Children’s Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Educational Attainment Data 2021/22</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/a
<b>Report of:</b> Andrea Winstone, Strategic Lead, School Effectiveness and Special Educational Needs / Disabilities	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Michele Lucas, Assistant Director, Education & Skills	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director, Children Services	
<b>This report is Public</b>	

## Executive Summary

This report contains the first set of SATS & GCSE data since before the Covid 19 Pandemic. Children of all ages have been affected by the disruption. We are pleased to report that despite the disruption to their education, children in Thurrock have performed well when compared to their peers across the country.

Early years settings, schools and colleges should be recognised for ensuring stability, continuity and catching children up on their missed time in school.

It should also be noted that a higher proportion of Children in Thurrock with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and those who are Looked After by Thurrock, achieved the expected standard than their peers nationally.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 Children’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee receive the provisional outcomes of the summer 2022 tests and examinations and commends early years’ settings, schools, pupils, and parents/carers on their achievements.**
- 1.2 Children’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognises the impact of Covid on our youngest children and how we are looking to support our early sector.**
- 1.3 Children’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee formally thank our early years, school and colleges settings for the work that has ensured a range of positive outcomes for our children and young people.**

## 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Outlined below is the first set of data for our children and young people across Thurrock since the Covid 19 pandemic. The target is to be above the national averages at the end of:
- Reception Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assessments (5 years old)
  - phonics screening check in year 1, (6 years old)
  - end of year 2 SATs in key stage 1, (7 years old)
  - end of year 6 SATS in key stage 2, (11 years old)
  - end of year 11 in GCSEs key stage 4 (16 years old)
  - end of year 13 A Levels in key stage 5 (18 years old)
- 2.2 **At the end of the Reception** year children are expected to have reached a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) when assessed against the Early Learning Goals in the Foundation Stage Profile. This measures their achievements against a number of goals across the EYFS curriculum.
- 2.3 **End of Y1 Phonics Screening Check** measures early reading decoding skills, where children are assessed at their ability to decode 40 words using their knowledge of letter sounds.
- 2.4 **End of KS1 assessments** are standardised assessment (SAT) tests and tasks continue to be based on teacher assessments which are informed by statutory end of key stage standardised assessment tasks (SATs). They also include a combined reading, writing and maths measure, in line with KS2 results.
- 2.5 **End of KS2** results of standardised assessment tasks are used to determine how pupils have attained and made progress in mathematics, reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling. Teachers also make teacher assessments in writing and science. A combined measure of the reading test, maths tests and writing teacher assessment is also included.
- 2.6 **End of KS4** Progress 8 measures schools, not only on the results pupils achieve, but on how much progress they have made since they started secondary school. These have replaced the previous measure of five good GCSE grades. Attainment 8 measures pupils' attainment across 8 qualifications including maths and English. A grade 5 is considered a 'strong' pass. The key measure of combined English (EN) and mathematics (MA) is being used by the Department of Education this year and will be supplemented to include Progress 8 and Attainment 8.
- 2.7 Covid-19 has had an impact in all key stages due to lockdowns, school closures, shielding, quarantine, online learning, etc.



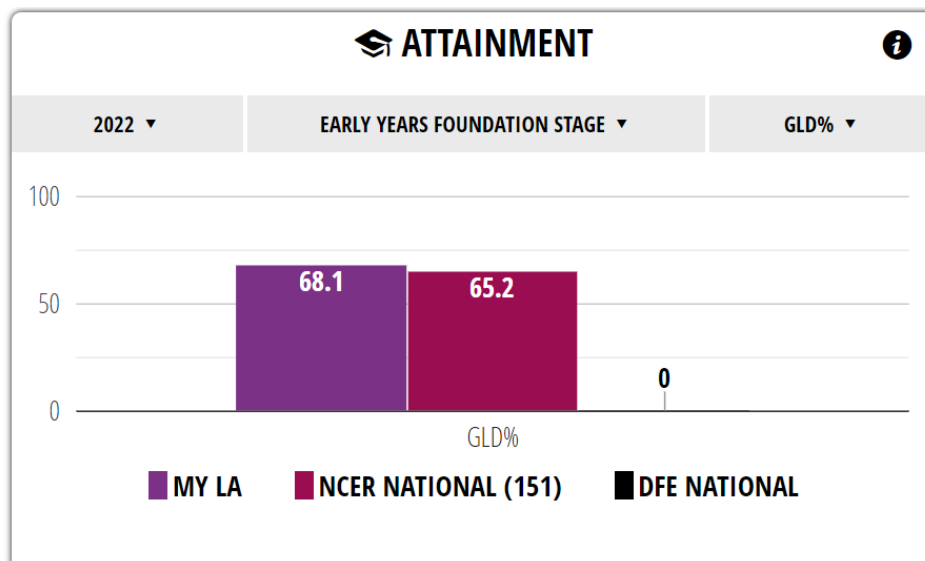
### 3. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS aged 5 end of reception year)

3.1 The Good Level of Development (GLD) measure is awarded at the end of EYFS (Reception year), when a pupil has achieved at least expected in the prime areas of learning and in literacy and maths.

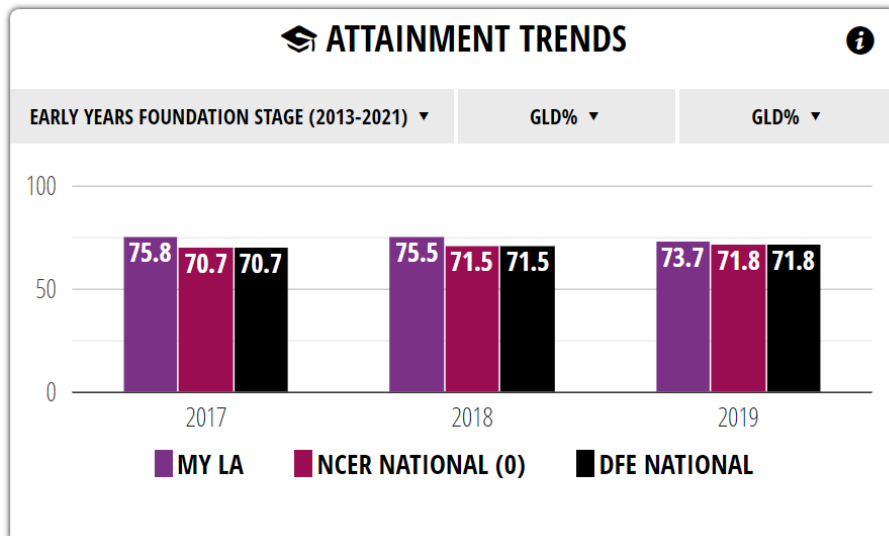
3.2 To reach the percentage of children making a good level of development (GLD), each child is assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals; whether she/he meets the level, has not reached the level or exceeded it and points are awarded accordingly in a range 17 – 51. If a child meets every Early Learning Goal, she/he will receive at least 34 points.

3.3 Comparisons should NOT be made between previous data and the most recent data as, due to Covid, the children's previous experience and access to provision would have been very different. 2022 Data demonstrates the impact of Covid. However, Thurrock's data remains above the national averages.

3.4



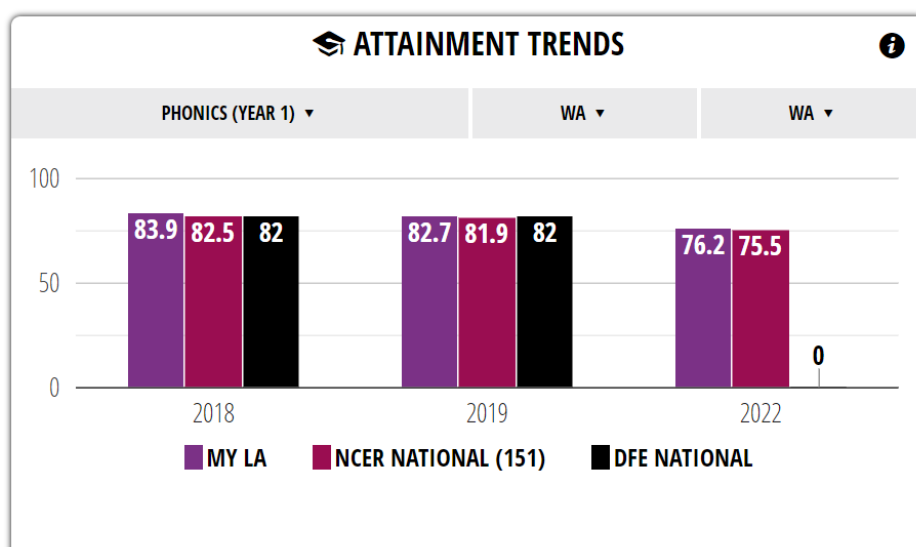
3.5



3.6 All areas of learning have been affected by the pandemic and settings are being supported to develop them but most specifically communication and language. Early language development takes place in a range of settings including playgroups, parent & toddler groups and general socialisation. During the pandemic much of this was lost and, as a result, we are seeing significant language delays in our early years cohorts.

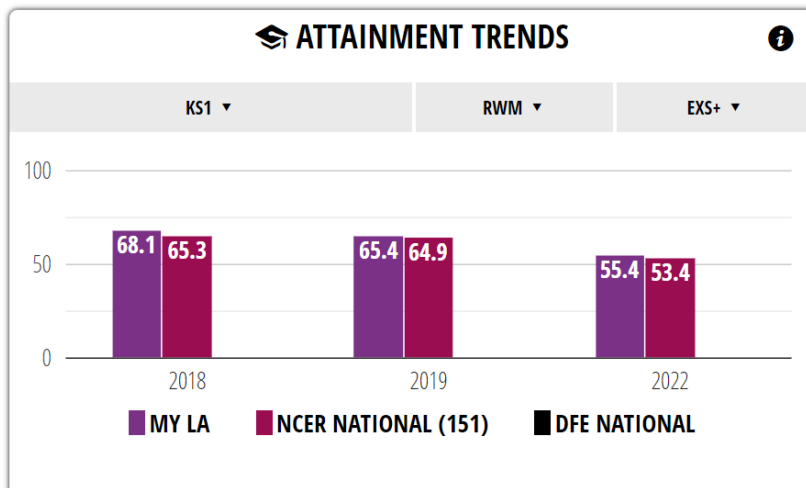
3.7 To address some of these challenges, the School Effectiveness Early Years Team is working closely with all Early Years Providers to support them to further develop their knowledge and skills around addressing speech, language and communications difficulties and delay. This work has been co-funded by the Integrated Care Board and will remain a key focus for the forthcoming year.

### 3.8 Y1 Phonics Screening Check



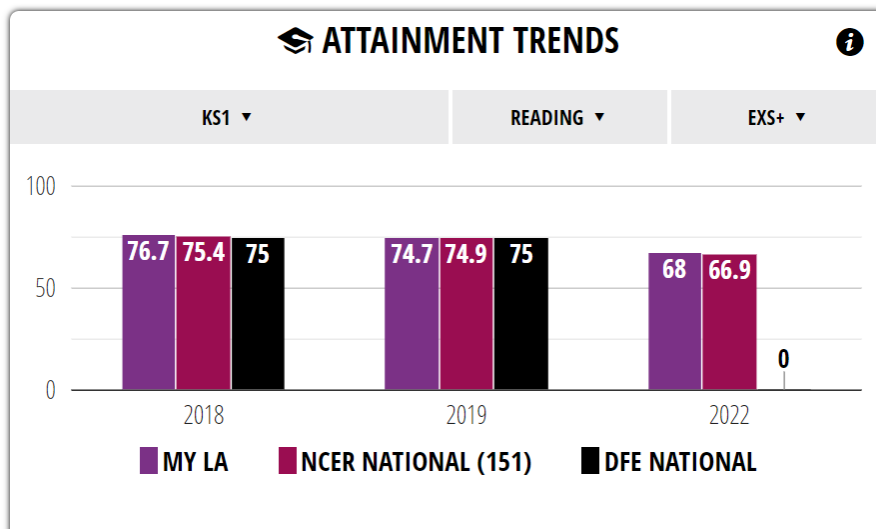
3.9 These children will have had a very disrupted nursery/ pre-school and Reception year. Online learning is more difficult for children in early years. However, many children in Y1 passed their phonic screening check. In line with previous years, Thurrock averages are very slightly higher than national averages.

3.10 **KS1 Teacher Assessment**

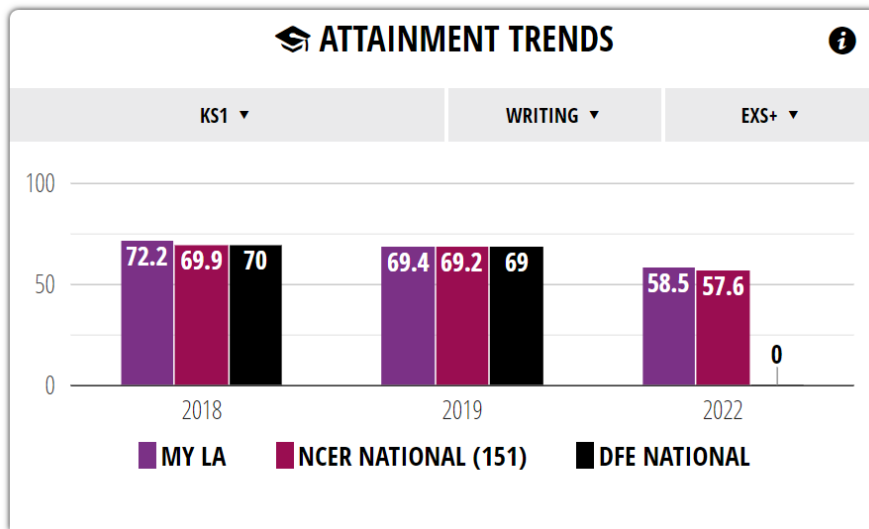


The above chart shows the outcomes for children at the end of the infant stage (KS1) in reading, writing and maths combined. This shows the percentage of pupils who achieved the expected standard in all 3 subjects.

3.10.1

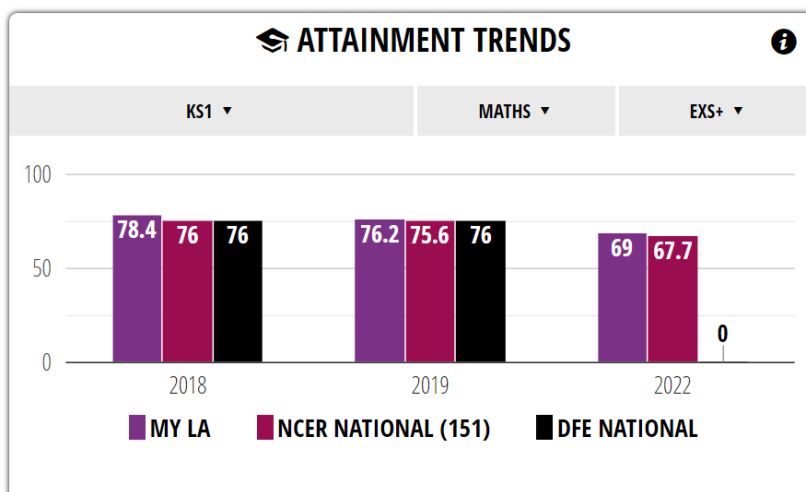


3.10.2

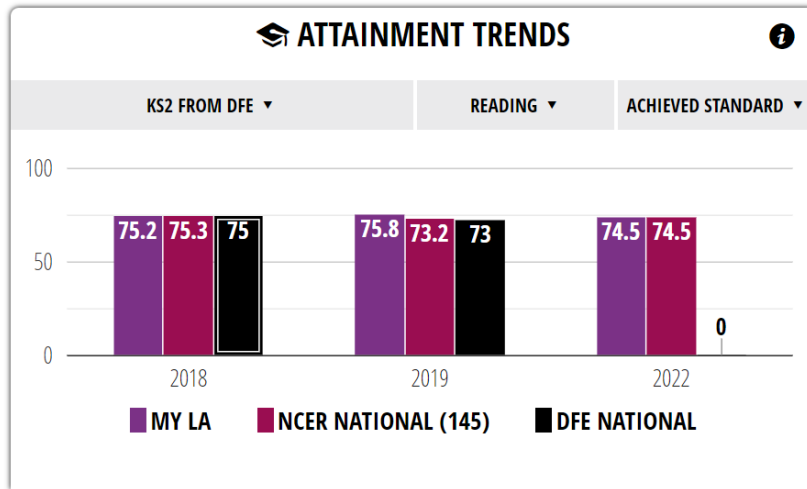


Writing skills develop after reading skills and are much harder to teach remotely so the impact of Covid can be seen more in writing and accounts for the lower combined data.

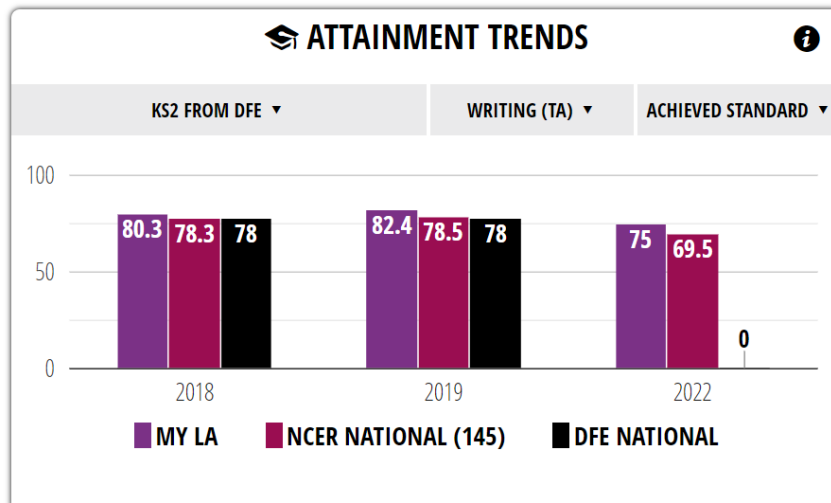
3.10.3



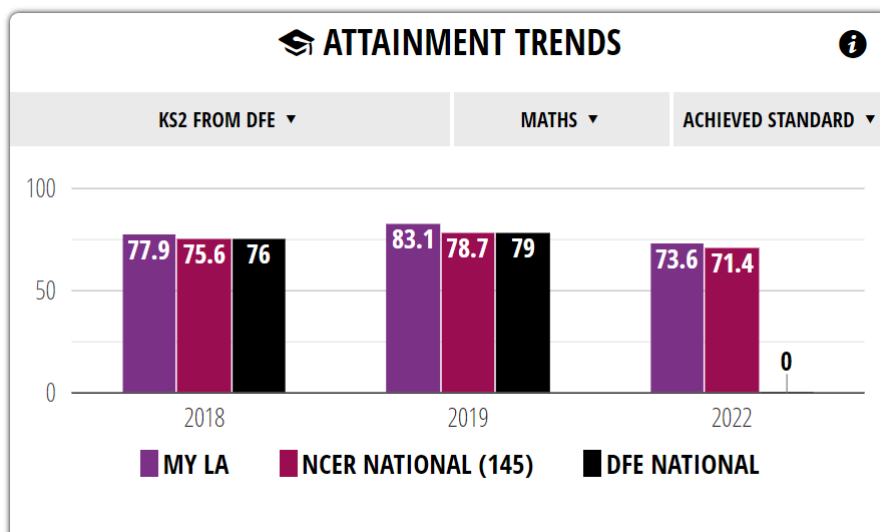
### 3.11 Key Stage 2



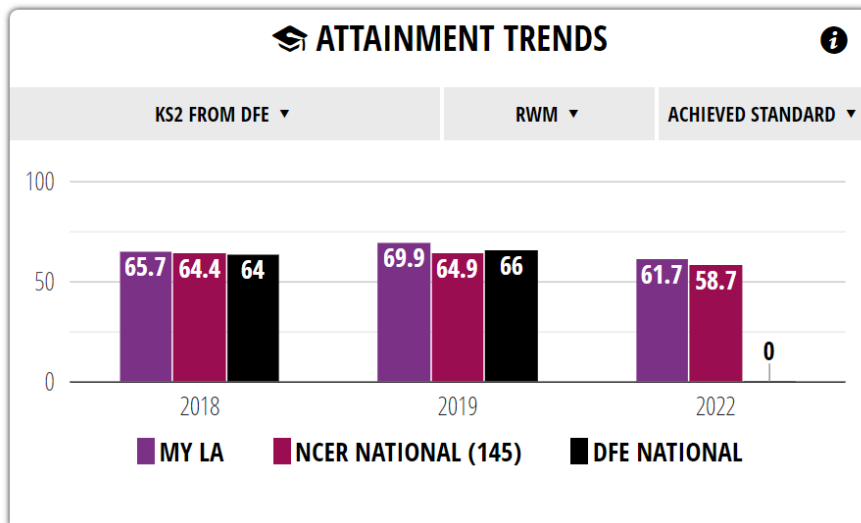
#### 3.11.1



#### 3.11.2



3.11.3

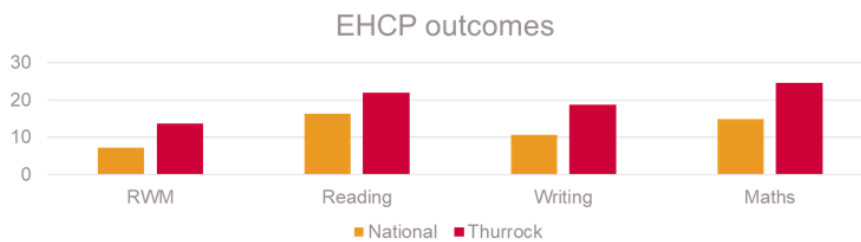


Children in Thurrock still made better than expected progress in writing and maths compared to children nationally.

3.12 Percentage of children with an EHCP achieving expected standards

More children with an EHCP in Thurrock achieve age related expectations than their peers across the country. This is a demonstration of how well children’s needs are being met and the effectiveness of the EHCPs.

2022	RWM	Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS
National	7.2 (0.4)	16.3 (3.5)	10.7 (1.0)	14.8 (2.8/)	15.1 (3.9)
Thurrock	13.63 (0.8)	22 (7.6)	18.6 (4.2)	24.6 (4.2)	25.4 (5.9)



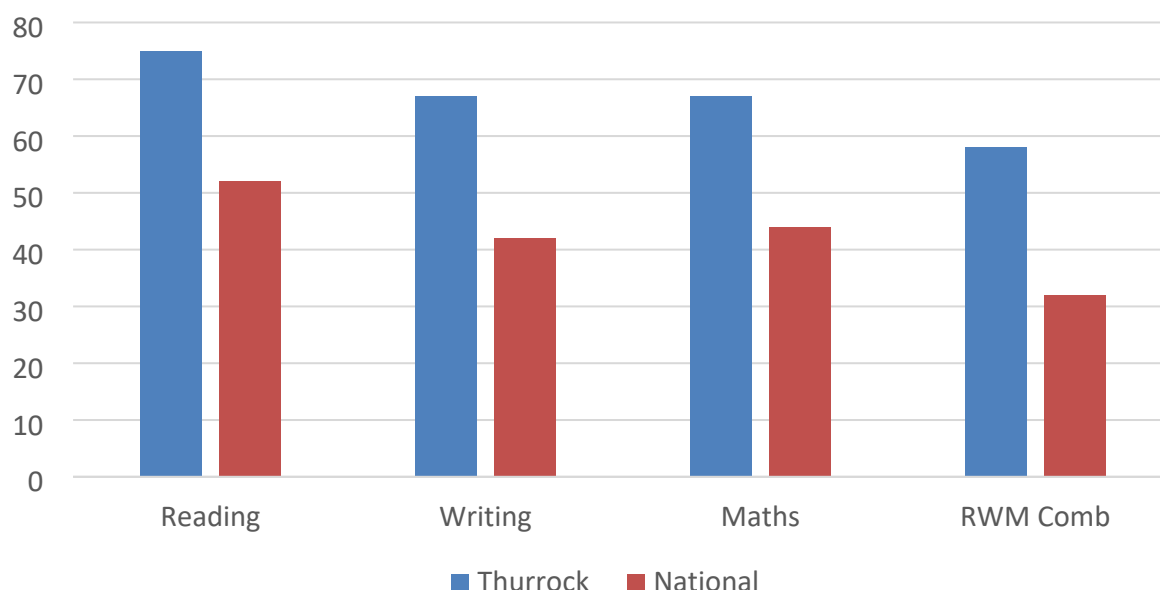
Progress	Reading	writing	Maths
National	-4.32	-4.02	-3.68
Thurrock	-4.30	-1.43	-2.63

### 3.13 Children Looked After by Local Authority

- GLD at end of YR 50% (cohort of 10)
- Y1 Phonics 83% passed (cohort of 6)
- Y2 SATS RWM combined 45.5% (cohort of 11) (National CLA was 29%)
- Y6 SATS RWM combined 58% (cohort of 12)
- (National CLA was 32%)

More children looked after by the Local Authority in Thurrock achieve their age related expectations than their peers across the country.

### 3.14 Y6 Outcomes Children Looked After

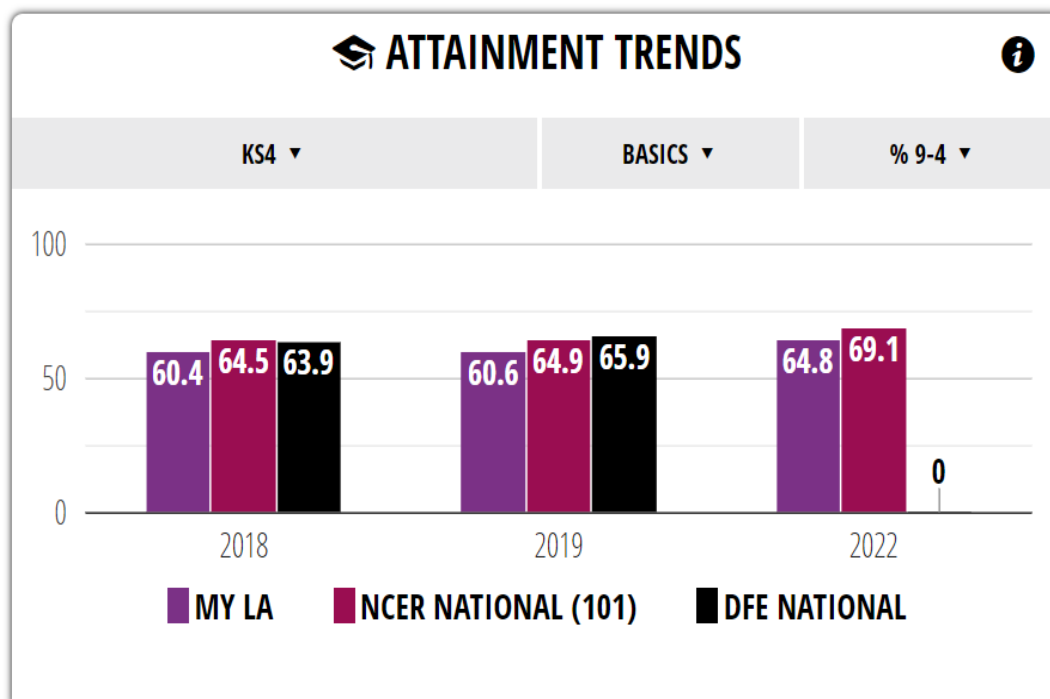


Children looked after by the Local Authority achieve better outcomes than their peers across the country. This is due to the commitment of the Virtual School to improving the outcomes for all children looked after. This is achieved through tuition that is provided by the Virtual School to children at the end of year 5 and throughout Y6.

### 3.15 GCSE English & Maths early results

	Thurrock	National	
<b>Attainment 8</b>	46	49	Attainment 8 measures pupils' attainment across 8 qualifications including maths and English
<b>Progress 8</b>	0.19	-0	Closer to 0 better
<b>English GCSE(9-5)</b>	60%	65%	Strong pass
<b>Maths GCSE (9-5)</b>	52%	55%	Strong pass
<b>Basics (Eng &amp; Maths 9-5)</b>	45%	50%	Strong pass

3.16



3.17 Attainment is slightly better in Thurrock than pre-pandemic outcomes but not yet in line with national outcomes.

3.18 **GCSE % EHCP**

	Thurrock	National	
<b>Attainment 8</b>	20.8	14.3	Attainment 8 measures pupils' attainment across 8 qualifications including maths and English
<b>Progress 8</b>	-0.74	-1.32	Closer to 0 better
<b>English GCSE (9-5)</b>	21%	12%	Strong pass
<b>Maths GCSE (9-5)</b>	17%	10%	Strong pass
<b>Basics GCSE (9-5)</b>	14%	7%	Strong pass

More young people with an EHCP make better progress and achieve GCSEs than their peers across the country.

3.19 **Disadvantaged % GCSE**

	Thurrock	National	
<b>Attainment 8</b>	37	37.4	Attainment 8 measures pupils' attainment across 8 qualifications including maths and English



<b>Progress 8</b>	-0.64	-0.56	Closer to 0 better
<b>English GCSE (9-5)</b>	43%	46%	Strong pass
<b>Maths GCSE (9-5)</b>	34%	34%	Strong pass
<b>Basics GCSE (9-5)</b>	29%	29%	Strong pass

### 3.20 Children Looked After by Thurrock

	<b>Thurrock</b>	<b>National CLA</b>	
<b>Attainment 8</b>	36	25	Attainment 8 measures pupils' attainment across 8 qualifications including maths and English
<b>Progress 8</b>	-0.78	-1.19	Closer to 0 better
<b>English GCSE (9-5)</b>	33.3%	25%	Strong pass
<b>Maths GCSE (9-5)</b>	25%	18%	Strong pass
<b>Basics GCSE (9-5)</b>	21%	14%	Strong pass

3.21 The Virtual School uses Pupil Premium + to ensure that all children are well prepared for their GCSEs through 121 tuition and the provision of laptops and resources to support their studies.

## 4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 From the data it is evident that schools have been working incredibly hard to support their pupils throughout the pandemic and to help them catch up as we came out of restrictions.

4.2 Schools have taken advantage of the many Covid Catch up programmes of support on offer including:

- a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for missed learning
- a £350 million [National Tutoring Programme](#) to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help, which includes:
  - a schools programme for 5 to 16-year-olds – for more information, see the [National Tutoring Programme FAQs](#)
  - a [16 to 19 tuition fund](#)
  - an oral language intervention programme for [reception-aged children](#)

## **5 Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 5.1 This report relates to the council priority Prosperity - a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations - vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

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

There are no direct implications in this report. This report requires the Committee to note its contents only. No decision is required. However, there are relevant general duties on the Council, of which are:- i) A duty is imposed on the Council by S13A of the Education Act (EA) ii) 1996 duty to promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential. iii) S22(3)(a) of the Children Act 1989 imposes a duty on the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of any child it looks after, and this includes, in particular, a duty to promote their educational achievement.

### **6.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Daniel Longe**  
**Principal Solicitor for Education on behalf of  
Thurrock Council**

This report requires the Committee to note its contents only. No decision is required. However, there are relevant general duties on the Council, of which are: - i) A duty is imposed on the Council by Section 13A Education Act 1996 to promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential. ii) Section 22(3)(a) Children Act 1989 imposes a duty on the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of any child it looks after, and this includes, in particular, a duty to promote their educational achievement. iii) Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014 imposes a duty on local authorities to facilitate the development of children and young people to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, and section 20 onwards includes children with special education needs.

There are no direct legal implications in this report.

### 6.3 Diversity and Equality

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

While there are no direct implications arising from this report, it is important to note the statement at section 3.12 to 3.18 that demonstrates that children looked after by the Local Authority and children with an EHCP do better than the peers ensuring better education, and career opportunities and outcomes for these vulnerable groups.

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

None

### 7. 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

### 8. Appendices to the report

- None

### Report Author:

Andrea Winstone  
Strategic Lead School Effectiveness & SEND  
Education and Skills

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<b>17 January 2023</b>		<b>ITEM: 9</b>
<b>Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/a	
<b>Report of:</b> Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Janet Simon, Assistant Director Children’s Social Care and Early Help		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director, Children’s Services		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## 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 The Neglect sub-group has been working on delivering the Neglect Strategy which includes driving up awareness, training and use of the Graded Care Profile 2 assessment tool, devising a neglect tool kit for practitioners and delivering the LSCP Annual Conference on the theme of neglect.

The LSCP annual conference this year titled 'Working Together to Identify and Tackle Neglect in Thurrock', has been moved to the spring. Taking the decision to postpone the conference to a date in spring will ensure delivery will be in person and attendance can be maximised. Workshops on the day will cover multi-agency collaboration, criminal neglect, vulnerabilities and impact on education and health.

- 2.2 A Partnership Complex Case Discussion process has been devised and implemented by the Practice Standards Group. These discussions aim to explore and build on improved co-operation and understanding of handling complex or persistent cases. This is to be used as an opportunity to strengthen understanding between services and encourage wider joint working and sharing of relevant information about concerns.
- 2.3 Adolescent Mental Health including the impact of COVID and Elective Home Educated children and young people have been the themes of the last two LSCP multi-agency case audits. The audits focused on how well agencies work together to support children, young people and their families. The LSCP has a programme of audits that are carried out annually and identified learning or suggestions for improvements are discussed and implemented by agencies via their Audit Group representative.
- 2.4 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. It has been ratified via the LSCP governance process and is being shared via a range of launch activities across the Partnership.
- 2.5 On 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November, the LSCP invited around 4,000 children in Years 5 and 6, from across the borough to the first Walk Online Roadshow

since 2019. The children attended the event with their teachers at Civic Hall in Blackshots to experience Online Safety presentations and information. Important and vital information was shared with children during interactive and fun sessions to ensure a balance of learning through participation and engagement. The event was a huge success with the children and teachers who gave overwhelmingly positive feedback. All the children left with a goodie bag containing useful online safety resources. A parent, carer and practitioner specific event was delivered virtually on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, to accompany the children's session. In March 2023, an additional event will be delivered for children in Years 7 and 8, who were unable to attend due to restrictions over the last few years.

### **3. Case Reviews Action Plan Update**

3.1 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.

3.2 **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; 9 actions are complete and the remaining 5 are on track to be completed within timescales.

3.3 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. The action plan lists six recommendations that are further divided into sub-sections totalling 15 actionable areas and work has started on some actions.

3.4 In 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, the LSCP has devised a combined action plan to provide a health check and assurance that identified actions are in place 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: **Judith Knight**  
**Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)**

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 (as updated). 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.



Independent scrutiny is required by the Act as a part of the local safeguarding arrangements.

### 8.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**  
**Team Manager Community Development -  
Adults, Housing & Health**

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

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**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

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Requested by Officer/Member</b>
<b>16 June 2022</b>		
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
<b>13 September 2022</b>		
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
<b>17 November 2022</b>		
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
<b>17 January 2023</b>		
Youth Cabinet Update	Angela Surrey	Standing Item

Overview of Responsibilities of Portfolio holder for Children's Services – Verbal update	Councillor B Johnson	
Verbal Update report on Family Hubs/ Start for Life	Clare Moore	Member
Educational Attainment Data 2021/22	Michele Lucas	
Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review – Action Plans	Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Standing Item
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
<b>14 March 2023</b>		
Youth Cabinet Update	Angela Surrey	Standing Item
Update on Recruitment and Retention in the Early Years Sector	Michele Lucas	Member
Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Partnership Board	Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Standing Item
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
<b>Briefing Notes</b>		
N/A	N/A	N/A

**Updated:** 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Clerk:** Rhiannon Whiteley

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