

## CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021  
7.00 PM

Venue: Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Peterborough, PE2 8TY Meeting  
will be livestreamed via [Peterborough City Council's YouTube Page](#)

Contact:: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer at  
[paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk), or 01733 452508

### AGENDA

Page No

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest, in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests or is a "pending notification " that has been disclosed to the Solicitor to the Council. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.

3. Minutes of the Children and Education Scrutiny Meeting Held on 15 July 2021 3 - 12

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

The decision notice for each decision will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision may then be implemented on the expiry of 3 working days after the publication of the decision (not including the date of publication), unless a request for call-in of the decision is received from any three Members of a Scrutiny Committee. If a request for call-in of a decision is received, implementation of the decision remains suspended for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

5. Design for Fire Safety In Schools 13 - 20

6. Peterborough Sufficiency Statement 21 - 68

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7.	<b>Annual Report of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care 2019-2020</b>	<b>69 - 94</b>
8.	<b>Forward Plan of Executive Decisions</b>	<b>95 - 132</b>
9.	<b>Work Programme 2021/2022</b>	<b>133 - 140</b>
10.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 November 2021 - Joint Scrutiny of the Budget</li> <li>• 18 November 2021 - Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	

**Emergency Evacuation Procedure – Outside Normal Office Hours**

*In the event of the fire alarm sounding all persons should vacate the building by way of the nearest escape route and proceed directly to the assembly point as directed by officers.. The duty Beadle will assume overall control during any evacuation, however in the unlikely event the Beadle is unavailable, this responsibility will be assumed by the Committee Chair.*

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**Committee Members:**

Councillors: G Casey (Chair), I Ali, A Dowson, C Fenner (Vice Chairman), T Haynes, I Hussain, S Lane, N Moyo, L Robinson, B Rush and H Skibsted

Substitutes: Councillors: J Allen, S Hemraj, and A Shaheed

**Co-opted Members:**

Note: The following Education Co-opted members are Members of the Scrutiny Committee and can vote when education matters are discussed.

Peter Cantley, Peterborough Diocesan Board of Education

Flavio Vettese, (Deputy Director of Schools), Roman Catholic Church, Diocese of East Anglia

Julie O'Connor, Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia (sub for Flavio Vettese)

Peter French, Peterborough Diocesan Board of Education (sub for Peter Cantley)

**Non Statutory Co-opted Members:**

Alistair Kingsley, Independent Co-opted Member (Non-voting)

Mohammed Younis, Independent Co-opted Member (Non-voting)

Sameena Aziz, Independent Co-opted Member (Non-voting)

Parish Councillor June Bull, Independent Co-opted Member (Non-voting)

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Paulina Ford on telephone 01733 452508 or by email – [paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk)

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT 7.00PM ON  
THURSDAY, 15 JULY 2021  
VENUE: SAND MARTIN HOUSE, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors G Casey (Vice Chair), I Ali, A Dowson, C Fenner, (Vice Chair), T Haynes, I Hussain, N Moyo, L Robinson, B Rush, H Skibsted

Co-opted Members: Flavio Vettese, Darren Ayling, Sameena Aziz, Al Kingsley, Mohammed Younis and Parish Councillor June Bull

**Officers Present:** Lou Williams, Service Director, Children's Services  
Toni Bailey, Assistant Director (SEND & Inclusion)  
Jonathan Lewis – Service Director (Education)  
Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer

**Also Present:** Councillor L Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the committee for the new municipal year. Committee members were advised that there had been a request from officers to change the order of the agenda and move item 7, Update on Written Statement of Action and Joint SEND Strategy to item 6 on the agenda. The Committee unanimously agreed to the change of order.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Co-opted Members Peter Cantley and Parent Governor Clare Watchorn. Darren Ayling was in attendance as substitute for Peter Cantley. Apologies were also received from Councillor Lane.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Skibsted who declared that she was a Trustee for Family Voice and Darren Ayling who declared that he was a Head Teacher at a Peterborough Secondary School.

**3. MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2021**

The minutes of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 March 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### 4. **Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions**

There were no call-ins received at this meeting.

#### 5. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the appointment of Co-opted Members in accordance with the Council's Constitution Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions.

The purpose of the report was to seek approval from the committee to appoint the following Co-opted Members:

1. Appoint Alistair Kingsley as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year. Alistair had been a member of the committee since 2010.
2. Appoint Sameena Aziz as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the Muslim Community for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
3. Appoint Mohammed Younis as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent Early Years for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
4. Appoint Parish Councillor Judith Goode as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
5. Appoint Parish Councillor June Bull as the nominated substitute for Parish Councillor Judith Goode should she be appointed as the non-voting Co-opted Member representing the rural area. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained that the Parish Council Co-opted Members had been put forward by the Parish Council Liaison Committee and that along with the other Co-opted Member appointments would be reviewed annually. Members were also informed that since writing the report Parish Councillor Judith Goode had withdrawn her application and therefore could no longer be considered for the role of Co-opted Member. The Committee therefore agreed to accept Parish Councillor June Bull as the nomination for the substantive role of the Parish Councillor Co-opted Member.

Cllr Rush, seconded by Cllr Fenner proposed that all four nominations be confirmed as Co-opted Members of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022 as non-voting co-opted members. The Committee agreed unanimously to all four appointments.

The Chair welcomed the four Co-opted Members who were in attendance and invited them to join the committee for the rest of the meeting.

#### **ACTIONS AGREED**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Appoint Alistair Kingsley as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
2. Appoint Sameena Aziz as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the Muslim Community for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year
3. Appoint Mohammed Younis as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent Early Years for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
4. Appoint Parish Councillor June Bull as Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2021/2022. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.

## 6. UPDATE ON WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION AND JOINT SEND STRATEGY

The Service Director for Education introduced the report accompanied by the Assistant Director (SEND & Inclusion). The report provided additional and background information regarding the Written Statement of Action and the SEND, (Special educational needs and disabilities) Strategy. The Written Statement of Action had been put in place following a Joint SEND Area Inspection which was undertaken in June 2019. The Committee were advised that the next monitoring visit was due later in July. A further inspection visit was expected in the Autumn and officers were confident that enough work had been done on the areas of development highlighted by the inspection in June 2019 to show an impact and removal of the Written Statement of Action.

The Service Director for Education wanted to acknowledge the effort and amount of work that the city had undertaken to support SEND during the pandemic.

Members were informed that the Phase One plan of the SEND Strategy was now in place.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members referred to paragraph 4.1 and the area highlighted by Ofsted and CQC stating: *“Early support is well embedded for children in early years but does not follow through in all areas of the lives of children and young people as they get older. It takes too long for children, young adults and families to get the support they need.”* Members sought further clarification of this statement. The Assistant Director (SEND & Inclusion) acknowledged that this had been a key area highlighted at the time of the inspection but since then there had been more direct engagement with Early Years and work was being done to identify why it was taking so long for the support to be provided. One of the issues identified was the link to the neurodevelopment pathway which identified such things as autism. As a result, the service had been working much more closely with health colleagues and they were now part of the multi-agency approach which had led to a marked improvement.
- Members wanted to know what level of co-production had taken place with parents and carers to produce the Written Statement of Action. Members were informed that it had been noted during the inspection how effective and outstanding the level of co-production was across the city. Co-production had started from inception of the Written Statement of Action which included engagement with parent forums, young people's forums, schools, Family Voice, Voiceability and health colleagues. This had ensured that the Written Statement of Action was owned by all contributors. Co-production had also been a key part of the SEND Strategy.

- The Director for Education acknowledged the valuable work and role of Family Voice in the co-production of the SEND Strategy.
- Members sought clarification as to what the 'The Balanced System' was as mentioned on page 85 of the Written Statement of Action. Members were informed that the Balance system was a way of ensuring all the resources across all of the schools and settings were spread out fairly and evenly distributed across the city.
- Clarification was also sought on the current rate of use of part time timetables and if the achievement of a 30% reduction was on track. Members were informed that there had been a vast reduction in part time timetables across the city. A new inclusion team had been brought into Peterborough who had focused on the part time timetables as a key element and therefore the 30% reduction had been achieved.
- Members noted that the SEND Strategy was for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough but that the inspection was for Peterborough only. Members were advised that there had not been an inspection in Cambridgeshire yet, but it was expected given that the Health and Care Services were the same and therefore the issues that had been picked up would also affect Cambridgeshire. The improvements made would therefore be shared with Cambridgeshire even though the Written Statement of Action was only about Peterborough.
- Members noted that an impact report with case studies and narrative to demonstrate the progress made on the Written Statement of Action would be presented at the end of July. Members were informed that there would be a monitoring visit at which the authority was allowed to write the agenda for. The agenda would include a number of models showing what the impact could look like. The Local Authority will be working with the CQC to look at the suggested models and consider the best way forward.
- Members sought clarification on the implementation of the Written Statement of Action and how progress would be monitored. Members were advised that the Written Statement of Action was not a one-off piece of work and it would be continually developed, monitored and improved.
- The revisit would provide an opportunity for the CQC to ask questions on the five areas highlighted in the inspection for improvement and to find out what action had been taken and the impact this action had made. The service would be graded on the responses given. There was still much work to be done and some areas had been impacted by Covid however all of the five areas have had work started on them and progress had been made. Some work streams had progressed further than others and each of the work streams had an element of multi-agency accessibility which would impact on progress.
- Members were informed that a full risk assessment and recording mechanism was in place for part time timetables and the parent had to agree and understand why the part time timetable was in place. A review of this would be undertaken every three weeks or more frequently if needed. The Inclusion Service provided a range of alternative provision and where possible ensured that the child had access of up to 25 hours education which might not always be in a school setting dependent on the child's needs. Schools also provided excellent pastoral support including outreach workers. There was a good process to support Early Years settings and schools to reintegrate children back into education.
- Funding for SEN pupils was part of the school funding formula which schools would receive through their budgets. Every school received an additional amount of money to help make special educational provision to meet children's SEN. The Education Health and Care Plan's (EHCP) would also identify any resources required for each child.
- The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that she had attended the first meeting with the inspectors when the Written Statement of Action was being discussed. Many

of the queries that were raised had been to do with health, however despite the ongoing pandemic and challenges health colleagues had continued to help and address concerns within the Written Statement of Action.

- The Cabinet Member praised the Assistant Director (SEND & Inclusion) in that he had brought a clear and evident knowledge regarding SEND to the department.
- Members referred to the Joint SEND Strategic Action Plan and noted that there were many areas covered with a lot of actions for this year and asked how realistic it was to achieve them. It was also noted that there were several areas without dates and key milestones and wanted to know if these were reliant on external partners. Members were advised that it was an ambitious plan and there was a larger plan covering five years which had been condensed to make it more manageable. It had only recently been split into a phased approach and some of the boxes were empty as it was being left up to the lead sponsors to decide on the milestones. There was a newer version of the action plan where the milestone boxes have been completed but this had not been available at the time of publication of the report. A lot of work had already been completed in Phase One of the plan.
- Members noted that Cambridgeshire had a large deficit for its high needs funding, but that Peterborough currently did not. Clarification was sought on how much impact the SEND Strategy Action Plan would have on capacity within the SEND services to support the rising number of requests for EHCP's. Members were informed that the focus across Phase One was about making sure that everything was in place to support all aspects of the strategy. The legal compliance element of the action plan would ensure that work was being done more robustly and how children who have got SEND were supported through the application process. The Joint Planning and Commissioning element would also support this as it would assist in identifying what elements were needed at an early stage.
- Mapping had not yet been completed but once completed it would identify any areas of duplication.
- It was recognised that the demographics, needs and systems were completely different between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Peterborough had its own voice and this was therefore protected.
- Capacity and resources were being monitored to ensure assessments were being completed within the required timescale.
- Members noted that one of the key concerns identified in the SEND Strategy was *"The lack of a cohesive, co-ordinated offer at transition points from services working together, particularly the issues that arise from the misalignment between health services (0-18) and Local Authority (LA) services for 0-25 year olds"*. Members wanted to know what was being done to address this. Members were informed that the misalignment at transition points had been recognised and in order to address this Transition Officers had been recruited to the SEND team. Part of their job description was to work closely with social care and health colleagues to ensure that any needs at the various transition points were pre-empted and supported at the point of transition. The impact of having these officers in place had already started to have a positive effect.
- Members noted that one of the three priority areas in the SEND Strategy was *"Deliver in the right place at the right time - improving outcomes for children and young people through making best use of resources, ensuring a graduated response and high quality local support and provision"*. Members sought clarification on how the hard to reach communities were being supported and noted the SEND leaflet and wanted to know how this was going to assist with any language barriers that parents might have. Members were informed that accessibility was taken very seriously and there was a team of people who looked at accessibility to services and made sure that a range of

languages were taken into account. Information was also provided via video and animation; work was also undertaken with youth champions in local schools and colleges to assist with rewriting policies and information that needed to be shared so that young people could help present them in their own language and terms. Everything was being done to send information and messages out in as many different ways as possible. Officers requested that Members inform them of any groups that they might feel were not being engaged with. Members were also urged to go and look at the Local Offer on the Peterborough City Council website for more information. The Local Offer gave children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and their family's information about support and services in Peterborough.

- There were challenges in that not everyone liked to receive information in the written word and work was being done to provide information in a variety of formats including videos and animation.

The Chair thanked officers for attending the meeting to present their report and answering all questions presented to them.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

1. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:
  - Commend the efforts of the multi-agency partners in achieving progress towards the completion of work streams across the Written Statement of Action
  - Support and acknowledge the Joint SEND strategy key aims, and
  - Confirm support for the Phased approach to the Joint SEND Strategic Action Plan with specific focus on Phase One which is being run between May 2021 and May 2022
2. The Committee also requested that the Assistant Director provide an oversight of the response to the Joint SEND Area Inspection revisit when this occurred.

### **7. SERVICE DIRECTOR AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORT: CHILDREN & SAFEGUARDING**

The Service Director, Children's Services introduced the report which provided the committee with an overview of Children's Services performance in Peterborough. It also included a brief summary of activities by the Youth Offending Service, which now fell under the remit of this committee, following the transfer of the service to Children's Services from the Communities Service. The report concluded by including a summary of the recent relevant activities and functions carried out by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

The Service Director informed Members that the service had seen a greater number of children with more complex needs which was believed to be due to delayed presentation as a consequence of Covid and the fact that children had not been in school. The impact of which had seen an increase in Child Protection Plans. There were 285 children currently on a Child Protection Plan. This had not however translated into an increase in children going into the care system. The hope was that as things returned to normal and families were able to access other forms of support the number of Child Protection Plans would decrease.

The Service Director advised that Peterborough had a history of strong performance in fostering for adoption and permanency placements.



The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Early Help. Members referred to a previous report presented to the Committee in November 2020 which presented the findings from a review of Early Help conducted by the ISOS Partnership. This review had highlighted some areas of concern and felt that the current report had not addressed these, and it was therefore hard to judge what progress had been made. Were schools monitored to see if they were coping with the demand to deliver the evidenced based parenting programmes? Members were informed that the Early Help services had a very good relationship with schools and were in regular contact with them offering support where possible. The findings of the ISOS report would be implemented, some of which was about increasing direct delivery but recognising that we would have to work within the resources that were available.
- Members noted that the report had shown a significant reduction in contacts turning into referrals. Given the pressures on capacity what extent of sample dipping was being conducted to satisfy that this was correct? Members were informed that with regard to contacts to assessments to referrals this was very heavily dip sampled. The Quality Assurance Service regularly took dip samples in order to ensure that threshold decisions taken were correct. One of the key areas that needed to be looked at again was the domestic abuse referrals. The police did not have the capacity to screen referrals before they sent them to Children's Services which meant that large numbers of referrals came from the police. Children's Services then had to sort through these to determine which children were at greatest risk. Discussions would take place with the Police to see how this situation could be improved.
- The timeliness of completion of assessments had been variable and there had been challenges in securing input from some partner agencies during the pandemic. The teams of social workers were small which meant that a person being off sick or a single vacancy can also have an impact on timeliness. Audits of the quality of the assessments found that they were good and identified any risks to children.
- During Covid adapting to new methods of working such as virtual meetings had helped but could not be used in all circumstances. Sensitive meetings had remained in a face-to-face environment where possible. Some sessions held by the Family Safeguarding Service such as group work to tackle domestic abuse and tackling substance abuse had continued both virtually and face to face when needed. There would be a blend of virtual and physical meetings moving forward.
- Members noted that the rate of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice system per 10,000 children and young people in Peterborough has been steadily improving year on year but was still slightly higher than statistical neighbours and wanted to know who the statistical neighbours were. Members were informed that the statistical neighbours were: Portsmouth, Medway, Southampton, Sheffield, Plymouth, Dartmouth, Derby, Telford and Wrekin, Rotherham, Bolton and Wirral.
- Members sought clarification on how many referral orders, youth rehabilitation orders and detention and training orders had been given by the Peterborough courts to children and young person's given that the rate of reoffending was 1 in 3. The Officer advised that the information was not available at the meeting and would provide it after the meeting.
- Members referred to the Inspection of Youth Offending Services in Peterborough, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation report and noted that Out of Court Disposals, Planning had been rated as inadequate and wanted to know how this was being addressed. Members were informed that this had been a sub judgement. All other ratings had been either outstanding or good. The issue around planning had been about looking at desistance and how likely the child was to reoffend by taking into account the child's history as part of the assessment and deciding what the

contingency plan would be if they did reoffend. An action plan had been put in place to address this which was monitored by the Youth Justice Board.

- The 'Safe Team' was part of the county's Youth Offending Service. It provided a team of trusted professionals who engaged with young people and supported them to remove themselves from risky environments and lifestyles. This then reduced the likelihood of the young person being involved in exploitation and crime, either as a victim or an offender. Referrals come from the police and schools. Nationally as well as locally there has been a change in understanding about how young people were groomed into criminal behaviour through exploitation by adults. The Safe Team had small caseloads and worked intensively with young people. The team has been operating for about 18 months and early outcomes data has been encouraging and positive.
- Members had noted that during the pandemic some families with young people who had disabilities had experienced financial issues and wanted to know if the Service Director was aware of this and if it could be prevented going forward. The Service Director was not aware of this and asked the Member to provide him with details after the meeting so that it could be investigated.
- Members referred to the chart at paragraph 4.34 which indicated the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans over the past year and sought clarification regarding the red target. Members were informed that there had been an issue with the reporting system and it should have shown a flat line and not a drop in numbers as indicated in the chart.
- Members referred to the chart at paragraph 4.34 which showed the proportion of visits to children subject to Child Protection Plans that had been carried out in accordance within the required timescales and wanted to know how often visits were planned. Members were informed that statutory guidance advised that visits should take place once every four weeks but the procedure in Peterborough was that visits took place on a fortnightly basis and more frequently if needed. The statutory visit was the social worker visit but in reality, there would be various other people working with and visiting the family as well in between the statutory visits.
- Members sought clarification on why there was a target for the number of referrals and contacts. Members were informed that it was an estimate of what it would be like if all parts of the system were working as expected.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University gave a brief introduction to her section of the report and highlighted the good work that Children's Services had done throughout the pandemic despite the difficult circumstances in which they had to operate and noted that they had continued to provide face to face meetings with those young people most at risk. Members were also informed that Councillor Ray Bisby had recently been appointed as Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member and would be attending future meetings of this committee alongside the Cabinet Member.
- Members referred to paragraph 4.79 and the recent increase in Elective Home Education (EHE) and it was noted that there were national concerns regarding this. The Cabinet Member informed Members that it was felt that the rise in EHE was partly due to the pandemic and that some parents had not wanted their child to go to school because of this. The government had now issued guidance to Local Authorities which included the need for lengthy discussions with parents before any final decision was taken to assist them in understanding the implications of choosing Elective Home Education. The Association of Directors for Children's Services had undertaken an annual Elective Home Education survey to capture the number and characteristics of children and young people who were known to be home educated. The survey also aimed to understand the reasons behind a family's decision to electively home educate, how LAs across the country were supporting these families, and how any available resources were being deployed in this area. This year's survey also included a focus on the Covid-19 pandemic and how this had impacted upon the number of children and young people being electively home educated. The findings had been sent to government as there was concern that EHE was not working for every child.

- Members referred to paragraph 4.80, accompanied asylum seeking children and young people and sought clarification as to how many children and young people Peterborough accepted and if the Local Authority was confident that it accepted all that they could and if more could be taken. Members were advised that the matter was discussed on a regular basis with the Service Director and how it was working. There was an arrangement in place across the East of England so that all Local Authorities accepted a fair share of their responsibilities in supporting this group of young people. The Service Director advised that asylum seeking children were accepted when the LA were requested to. Peterborough also had a number of spontaneous arrivals who become the responsibility of the authority where they reported to authorities, which was usually the police. Peterborough was generally close to the threshold for the number of children in care which was nationally recognised as being the limit for the authority. The LA accepted children from other areas when under that limit and there was available local placement capacity for them to be placed in the City.

The Chair thanked the Service Director and Cabinet Member for attending the meeting, presenting their reports and answering all questions.

### **ACTIONS AGREED**

1. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:
  - Note and comment on the performance indicators and other measures of the effectiveness of Children's Services within the report;
  - Note the brief summary of the work of Youth Offending Services that now fell within the remit of the Committee;
  - Note and comment on the work of the Portfolio Holder in supporting the work of Children's Services locally and at regional and national levels.
2. The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee requested that the Service Director, Children's Services provide the committee with the following information:
  - How many referral orders, youth rehabilitation orders and detention and training orders had been given by the Peterborough courts to children and young persons
  - To include within a future report on Early Help Services the actions taken following the review of Early Help Services by the ISOS Partnership and any available performance information on the effectiveness of Early Help Services in Peterborough.

### **8. REVIEW OF 2020/2021 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/2022**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the report which considered the 2020/2021 year in review and looked at the work programme for the new municipal year 2021/22 to determine the Committees priorities. Members also noted the Terms of Reference for the Committee which now included the additional service area for Targeted Youth Support (including youth offending).

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Consider the items presented to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee during 2020/21 and make recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.

2. Determine its priorities and approve the draft work programme for 2021/2022 attached at Appendix 1.
3. Note the Terms of Reference for this Committee as set out in Part 3, Section 4, Overview and Scrutiny Functions and in particular paragraph 2.1 item 1 Children and Education Scrutiny Committee as attached at Appendix 2.

## 9. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions, containing decisions which the Leader of the Council anticipated Cabinet or Cabinet Members would take over the following four months. Members were invited to comment on the Forward Plan and where appropriate identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

### AGREED ACTIONS

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions which identified any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme, and requested further information on the following decision:

- Specialist Services Framework for Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council - KEY/24MAY21/01

The date of next meeting was noted as being 6 September 2021.

Chair

7.00pm to 8.55pm

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 5</b>
<b>6 SEPTEMBER 2021</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Jonathan Lewis – Service Director (Education)	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, member for Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Ian Trafford, Strategic Education Capital Programme Manager	Tel. 01223 699803

<b>DESIGN FOR FIRE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS</b>
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<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Jonathan Lewis – Service Director (Education)	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comment on the issues being considered by the Department for Education (DfE) following its call for evidence on Building Bulletin 100 (BB100) – Design for Fire Safety – which sets the standard for the design of fire safety and protection measures in schools.</li> <li>2. Further comment on the subsequent publication of a consultation draft of the revised BB100 guidance in which DfE has reached conclusions on some of those issues previously under consideration.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report has been written by the Strategic Education Capital Programme Manager at the request of Councillor Lynne Ayres the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and the University.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The report is being presented to allow the Committee to consider the issues arising from the DfE review of Fire Safety in schools before it considers its policy response to the final non-statutory guidance once a new version of BB100 is adopted and published by the DfE.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

1. Children’s Services including
  - a) Social Care of Children;
  - b) Safeguarding; and
  - c) Children’s Health.
2. Education, including
  - a) University and Higher Education;
  - b) Careers; and
  - c) Special Needs and Inclusion;

2.4 How does this report link to the Corporate Priorities?

**Priority outcome 2: first rate futures for our children & young people, quality support for our adults and elderly**

Ensure that children and adults are safe and protected

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>YES</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	tbc
Date for relevant Council meeting if applicable	March 2022 or following publication of final non-statutory guidance by DfE (tbc)		

**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The Department for Education's (DfE's) Building Bulletin (BB) 100, "Design for Fire Safety in Schools", was published in 2007 and sets the standard for the design of fire safety and protection measures in new and extended school buildings.

To ensure this guidance remains fit for purpose and aligns with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG's) wider review of fire safety post the Grenfell Tower disaster, the DfE launched a Call for Evidence on the Technical Review of BB 100 in March 2019.

There were 64 responses to this from a wide range of sources, including: 15 trade associations/manufacturers/commercial insurers; 10 fire and rescue service organisations; 8 local authorities and the Local Government Association; 9 fire engineers; 7 professional bodies/design professionals; and 3 building control bodies/fire safety officers. The remainder included schools, a school workforce union and an adviser to the All-Party Parliamentary Fire Safety and Rescue Group (APPG).

Dialogue with many of the above stakeholders on the material received and the wider evidence that is available has been ongoing. In addition, the DfE has appointed a multi-disciplinary technical team to give further consideration to the following areas/issues raised:

- fire suppression systems
- fire safety management
- fire safety issues with Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)
- special schools
- residential accommodation in schools

The DfE expect the technical team's conclusions to feed into an updated version of the guidance which will be the subject of a full consultation. This has now been published and responses required by 18<sup>th</sup> August.

**4.2 Response to DfE Consultation**

The questions posed in the call for evidence and the issues now under consideration as a result of the feedback received are summarised in turn below. Not all questions are covered as a number relate, for example to very technical areas around building standards.

**Question 1 - We would welcome views and evidence around the design opportunities, or limitations, that sprinklers can provide specifically in school building design for compliance with Building Regulations.**

The main design opportunities cited by respondents were: larger compartment sizes or individual fire zones within the building; relaxations on travel distances and numbers of means of escape; fewer fire-fighting shafts; and decreased building separation and boundary distances.

Other suggestions were that there would be less need for passive measures, that there could be greater use of glazing, and that it would be safer to use cheap, environmentally friendly materials such as wood.

Sprinklers did not imply limitations to school design, and that Automatic Water Suppression Systems (AWSS) allow much more in the way of design freedoms and can enable more innovative designs, including open plan and atria features. AWSS can also lead to cost reductions in other areas.

About one third of respondents called for the installation of sprinklers in new schools and only a few who supported this view argued against the use of sprinklers as a compensatory feature for other key fire safety measures. There was also support for continuing to use fire risk assessments to determine whether sprinklers should be installed, though some respondents said that the risk assessment tools accompanying BB 100 are either out of date or inadequate.

The majority view in this context was that whilst sprinklers can provide additional benefits in buildings, physical fire protection measures and the management regime need to stand alone without sprinklers

**Question 2 - We would welcome evidence on the technical issues associated with compartmentation, specifically related to schools, including whether the maximum compartment size should be reviewed and amended**

There were differing views around the number and size of compartmentation in school buildings. In particular, there were concerns about the ongoing integrity of compartmentation due to defects in initial construction or the result of later alterations.

**Question 3 - We welcome views and any evidence on the number and type of staircases, limits on occupation and safe escape approaches in multi-storeyed schools**

Respondents were generally content with the current situation, saying that Building Regulation compliance is adequate and that schools are generally low risk.

**Question 4 - We would welcome views on the impact of community and out of hours use by school and non-school bodies on fire safety design**

The main two issues highlighted were: the need for emergency and escape lighting (cited by 25% of respondents); and users' unfamiliarity with the building and the need to recognise a different risk from frequent occupants.

Good signage is needed and the specification for fire detection and alarm systems may need enhancing

**Question 5 - We would welcome views on whether BB 100 should recommend that all new schools over 18m, within the scope of the guidance, should not use combustible materials in the external walls, in line with the terms of MHCLG's ban**

Around 30% of respondents thought that the ban should apply to schools. A similar proportion agreed but considered that the ban should apply to the external walls of all new school buildings, of any height. Within that, there was a view that combustible materials should not be used in the external walls of any building in which vulnerable people sleep, including residential schools.

A smaller number of respondents thought that the trigger height should be different - 11m (or 3 storeys) was suggested.

Only a small number of respondents disagreed with including schools in the ban, on the basis that they typically have adequate means of escape and evacuation times.

**Question 6 - We would welcome views on whether we should provide greater guidance, through BB 100, on meeting fire safety management long-term, to support school building users to meet the requirements of the Fire Safety Order**

66% of respondents agreed that more extensive guidance on fire safety management should be included in BB 100. This could cover:

- the provision of fire safety information at the completion of a project
- the supply of a full and appropriate fire strategy to the end user of a new building covering what is needed at handover, when a building is first occupied, but also for the lifetime of the building.
- guidance on carrying out fire risk assessments.
- more practical guidance for end users, including storage of materials, displays, lockers in corridors etc.

**Question 7 - We would welcome views on whether there are any school-specific issues in relation to Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). We appreciate that there are elements of both life safety and property protection in relation to MMC and would welcome views on both.**

The main school-specific issue raised concerned certain types of MMC buildings being particularly vulnerable to arson.

Otherwise, the issues raised seem to be the more general ones that also apply to school buildings however they are constructed.

**Question 8 - What specific property protection measures should BB 100 cover in addition to the topics covered below in questions 9 to 12?**

Around 60% of respondents were in favour of including additional information on property protection over what is covered by the current guidance. Of these, the majority were in favour of including additional advice on better security design and arson reduction e.g.

- the need for effective boundary treatment
- the protection of school buildings while unoccupied
- perimeter security and motion detection, including security lighting and CCTV

**Question 9 - We would welcome views on which fire suppression systems (including sprinklers, misting systems etc) are most effective in a school environment and any supporting evidence**

Around 40% of respondents favoured sprinklers over water mist systems, saying that they have a much longer track record and are tried and tested.

Respondents also raised caveats or criticisms of mist systems – for example that they may be designed chiefly to aid means of escape and assist early evacuation rather than extinguishing fires; and are unsuitable within a school environment.

**Question 10 - We would welcome evidence relating to the effectiveness of compartment floors in schools**

BB 100 recommends that all floors in school buildings should be compartment floors. Most respondents favoured keeping the current recommendation.

**Question 11 - What measures, if any, should BB 100 provide guidance for around property protection for special schools? Do these measures differ for types of special school or**



## **particular pupil needs**

Nearly a half of respondents raised life safety issues they thought needed addressing in guidance. In order of citation these were:

- extended evacuation times
- evacuation lifts should be installed in multi-storey special schools
- clear guidance is needed on the fire detection and alarm systems in special schools; this includes the need for voice alarms
- review sizes of refuge spaces
- guidance is needed on Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) for occupants with mobility or other special needs

In some special schools, a proportion of non-ambulant pupils may require hoisting into wheelchairs before evacuation. There is also the issue of trying to avoid the need to evacuate those with feeding tubes or severe mobility issues to external spaces if a fire breaks out. Safe internal areas could be designed to deal with this.

### **Question 12 - We would welcome views on whether guidance, in addition to what is covered in AD B, is required for residential schools and whether any specific measures are required for residential schools**

Opinion for and against including guidance on school residential/boarding accommodation within BB100 was equally divided.

### **Question 13 - We are interested in views and evidence on the effectiveness of fire engineering approaches in school building design**

Many respondents thought that fire engineering solutions were not appropriate for school design, unless the designs were complex, and that they were only being used to achieve cost savings. Others were concerned that fire engineering does not consider property protection.

The main view was that fire engineering design should be part of a balanced holistic view of all measures provided and the likely risk profile of the occupants.

## **4.3 Key Issues**

The DfE issues a range of guidance in the form of Building Bulletins relating to the design and procurement of new school buildings. Fire safety is one area of many and others include; schedules of accommodation and overall area guidelines, site area and provision of outdoor spaces and playing fields, building ventilation, acoustic performance, designing for pupils with SEND, specialist teaching areas such as science and technology. The Council uses these guidelines closely in the design of its new school buildings and expansions of existing school buildings.

The expectation is that the Council would want to reflect the requirements of an updated BB100 Design for Fire Safety once it is published/adopted. The length of time since BB100 was last reviewed and the responses received from the DfE call for evidence suggest that there will be a significant updating and an upwards revision to the current standards.

The updating of BB100 will also have implications for the existing school building stock. Norfolk Property Service (NPS0 are commissioned by the Council to undertake Fire Risk Assessments (FRA) of all maintained schools. These assessments cover the maintenance and functioning of fire protection equipment (fire alarms and extinguishers), evacuation plans and the management and training of staff in fire evacuation procedures. The assessment will also consider whether any building works or, the use made of parts of the building by the school, may have compromised fire safety. Where remedial action is required its implementation by either the school or the local authority and is monitored.

Any enhanced requirements arising from a review of BB100 will be reflected in how the annual fire risk assessment is undertaken.

#### **4.4 Fire Sprinkler or Fire Suppression Systems**

This is the one area where, following the completion of the DfE review of BB100, a significant difference of approach or policy may remain.

The Council's current approach as set out in the Briefing Note to the Group Representatives meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in November 2019, is that all new schools would have a fire sprinkler system fitted to protect the building from damage and limit the potential for a school to have to be re-built. However, recent Free School projects in Peterborough, delivered via the DfE Contractor's Framework in accordance with the DfE Output Specification for Schools, do not have a fire sprinkler system as the DfE risk assessment did not deem them necessary or appropriate.

#### **4.5 DfE Publication of BB100 – Design for Fire Safety Consultation draft**

The DfE has subsequently published a consultation draft of BB100 – Design for Fire Safety –in which it has now reached a conclusion on some of those issues and questions raised. Local authorities and other interested bodies were invited to respond to this consultation by 18<sup>th</sup> August.

The key issues/conclusions in the consultation draft are set out below:

- Sprinklers to be installed in all new special schools
- Sprinklers to be included in all new schools with 3 or more stories
- No single staircase access in multi-storey schools
- Multi-storey schools to have both evacuation and passenger lifts to protect the dignity of those with mobility issues
- Higher standards for all cladding post Grenfell
- More and stronger guidance on building management, maintenance and evacuation procedures for existing stock

By implication, the first two bullet points above confirm that the current DfE policy approach will apply to most new schools; sprinklers will continue to be provided based upon the outcome of a risk assessment.

### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The consultation on the guidance contained in BB100 is managed by the DfE and the approach taken is set out in paragraph 4.1 above

5.2 The Council could seek the views of head teacher representative groups on this issue.

### **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The Council will adopt the new standards for the design of school buildings set out in BB103.

### **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 When an updated version of the guidance is published there will be a need for the Council to consider the implications for its current design standards for school buildings.

The current approach as set out in a briefing note to the Group Representatives meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in November 2019 is to install sprinklers in new and significantly expanded schools. The DfE currently provides them based upon the outcome of a

risk assessment and the consultation draft of BB100 is only suggesting a change to this approach by making the provision of sprinklers mandatory in special schools or those with residential accommodation.

It should be noted that the most recent Free School projects in Peterborough, such as Hampton Lakes Primary School and Hampton Gardens, have not included the provision of sprinkler systems. The Briefing Note to the Group Representatives meeting in November 2019 recommended the following for consideration:

*‘Subject to a cost versus risk evaluation using the risk management methodology being required by the DfE, to not install sprinklers into new build schools or schools which are being expanded and undergoing refurbishment.’*

No decision was taken following this recommendation, pending the review of the DfE guidance.

The recommendation will need to be reconsidered by the Council once the final non-statutory guidance is published in an updated version of BB103 – Design for Fire Safety in Schools.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Options presented by the final approved guidance will be considered in due course

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 The provision of sprinklers in new or significantly expanded schools adds approximately 2% to the overall capital cost of the project.

The review of BB100 is anticipated to raise current standards of design but also enhance the requirements for the existing school building stock in terms of management and operation. There could be a resource implication arising from this, but it is hoped that DfE capital allocations to local authorities would reflect any changes arising from the DfE’s own guidance.

There has been a rise in cost for both the installation and on-going maintenance of fire sprinkler systems which schools must carry. This has been a particular issue for some schools given the general pressures on individual school budgets. In addition, some of the benefits in terms of insurance costs and corresponding construction savings that might be expected to arise from the provision of sprinklers have not materialised (e.g. guarantees about continued maintenance of water pressure cannot be given by the utility companies). The provision of fire sprinklers does, therefore, come at an additional construction cost in new builds but without any significant offsetting savings.

It should also be noted that the investment in sprinklers/suppression systems is about the protection of the building and not the lives or safety of the occupants. The latter relies on the ongoing management of the building, testing of alarm systems, effective evacuation plans and the training of staff and occupants.

The incidence of major fires in Peterborough schools is also low and the investment required in sprinklers needs to be considered alongside the risk

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 The guidance contained in BB100– Design for Fire Safety in Schools – will be non-statutory. However, there is already extensive legislation on fire safety regarding the maintenance and occupation of buildings which is compulsory. In addition, there are already statutory requirements relating to the design of schools which are enforced through the building regulation and control process.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 The revised BB100 guidance proposes a different approach to special schools recognising the range of needs of individuals within these schools in terms of building evacuation.

### **Rural Implications**

- 9.4 NA

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 9.5 The impact is neutral. In the event of a fire requiring the provision of new accommodation there is a carbon footprint associated with construction and this can be measured using an agreed industry approach/method. However, the incidence of significant fire damage requiring the provision of new accommodation on a large scale in Peterborough schools is very low.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 10.1
- BB100 – Design for Fire Safety in Schools – consultation draft
  - DfE Call for Evidence – May 2021
  - Briefing Note to the Group Representatives meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee in November 2019

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 6</b>
<b>6 SEPTEMBER 2021</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Lou Williams, Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University	
Contact Officer(s):	Lou Williams, Director of Children's Services	Tel. 01733 864139

**PETERBOROUGH SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> FROM: Cllr Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Lou Williams, Director of Children's Services	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree that the implementation of the Sufficiency Statement should proceed, and:</li> <li>2. Thank the children in care for their contribution to developing the Statement, and:</li> <li>3. Note the arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in care, and:</li> <li>4. Note the positive outcome of the Ofsted Focused Visit that took place in Peterborough in June 2021.</li> </ol>	

**1 ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report was requested by the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 Every local authority with children's services obligations is required to publish a Sufficiency Statement, which describes how the local authority provides services to support families and avoid the need for children to come into care whenever possible, and to do everything possible to ensure that there are a sufficient number of placements available locally for those children who do need to come into care.

2.2 The Peterborough Sufficiency Statement is appended to this covering report as Appendix 1.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

1. Children's Services including :
  - a) Social Care of Children.
  - b) Safeguarding; and
  - c) Children's Health
  - d) Targeted Youth Support (including youth offending).

- 2.3 This report is directly linked to the Council’s Corporate Priority to safeguard vulnerable children and young people.
- 2.4 This report is directly linked to the Council’s Corporate Parenting Pledge, since it is concerned with ensuring that our children and young people in care benefit from stable placements that are matched to individual need.

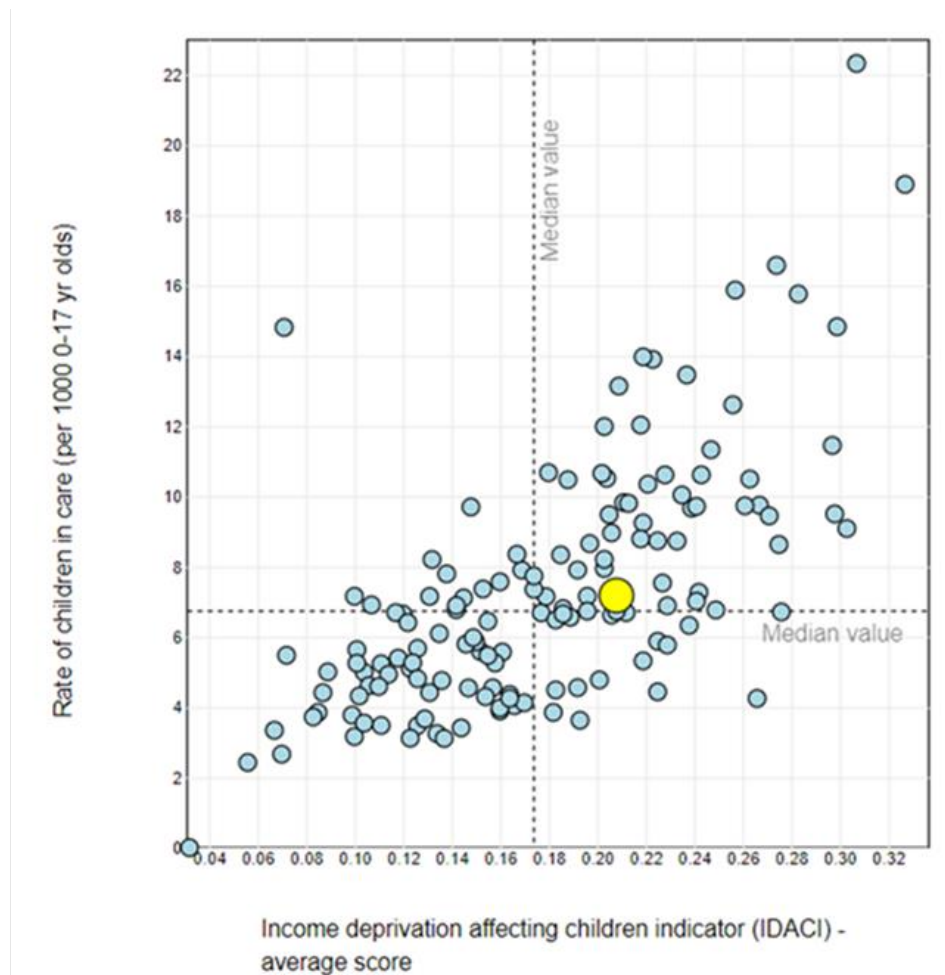
**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1. All local authorities who have responsibility for children in care are required to publish a sufficiency statement.
- 4.2. Sufficiency statements should set out what steps the local authority will take in order to ensure that as many children and young people in our care are able to live in placements [usually foster homes] that are within or close to the City, enabling them to retain links with communities and families, except where to do so would not be in their best interests.
- 4.3. Local authorities are not under any obligation to provide all placements for children in their care. Placements may be provided by Independent Fostering Agencies and independent sector providers of residential children’s homes.
- 4.4. The Sufficiency Duty is described in the 2008 Children and Young Person’s Act as: ‘A whole system approach which delivers early intervention and preventative work to help support children and their families where possible, as well as providing better services for children if they do become looked after. For those who are looked after, Local Authorities and their Children’s partners should seek to secure a number of providers and a range of services, with the aim of meeting the wide-ranging needs of looked after children and young people within their local area’.
- 4.5. The Peterborough Sufficiency Statement 2021-24 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. It provides a detailed analysis of the population of children looked after by Peterborough City Council. This is not a static group – many children and young people who come into care leave care again quite quickly. This might be because the issues that caused the child to come into care have been addressed and they are able to return home. It may also be because they have left care to be adopted, or to live permanently with a [usually] relative under a Special Guardianship Order. Some children and young people – often those who have complex disabilities – are in care as a result of having a number of overnight short breaks from their families, but continue to live for the majority of the time at home. A significant proportion of the overall population of children in care, and particularly those who come into care aged 5 and above, will remain in care until they reach 18 years of age.
- 4.6. Our Family Safeguarding approach is proving very effective in preventing children and young people at greatest risk of poor outcomes from coming into care. The model includes the secondment of adult facing practitioners who are expert at supporting parents to address issues such as domestic abuse, substance and problematic alcohol misuse and emotional and mental ill-health, allowing children’s social workers to work directly with children and assess the impact of the changes their parents are making on their ability to provide secure and loving homes for the children.
- 4.7. The success of this approach is illustrated by the following chart: <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chart sourced from: The Children’s Commissioner CHILDRN tool: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/chldrn/>



- 4.8. There is a close correlation between the rate of children in care and the level of deprivation as measured by the Index of Deprivation Affecting Children Index, or IDACI. In the chart above, deprivation increases to the right of the horizontal axis. Peterborough is the authority indicated by the larger yellow circle. A vertical line drawn through any of the 'blobs' [each of which represent a local authority] shows authorities that have similar levels of deprivation. Peterborough has a rate of children in care that is close to the median, but significantly higher levels of deprivation than the median.
- 4.9. The characteristics of children in care change over time, reflecting changes in the broader community as well as changes in practice. Changes like these mean that there is an on-going need to review the availability of local placements for children in care.
- 4.10. The majority of children and young people live in foster families, with 73% of Peterborough children and young people living with foster carers, and a further 4% living in fostering arrangements with connected carers. The majority of the remainder live in residential children's homes or, for some of those aged 16 and 17, in semi-independent provision. The sufficiency statement is concerned with ensuring that we are taking steps to ensure that children and young people living in foster placements, residential care and semi-independent living are, as far as possible and in line with their specific circumstances, able to be looked after locally.
- 4.11. Our ambition remains to build the number of our own fostering households, and we have been successful in recruiting our own carers following investment in this area. We now operate a joint approach to recruitment and marketing with Cambridgeshire County Council, together with a shared training and assessment service.
- 4.12. Independent Fostering Agency foster carers provide an important service, with no local authority able to place all their children with their own carers. We work closely with fostering agencies to develop positive relationships so that we can place more of our children and young people with their carers, but not all Independent Fostering Agency carers with vacancies will live in or close to Peterborough.

- 4.13. There is a national shortage of foster carers, and a growing number of children in care nationally [even if numbers in care in Peterborough have remained steady over the last few years]. Foster carers tend to be older, meaning that approved carers may not foster for many years before retiring. Foster placements with foster carers also become unavailable to children newly coming into care, because the foster carer has decided to offer a permanent home for the children they are looking after. This is obviously great for the children in their care, but means that placement choice is reduced. For reasons like these, recruitment must be a continuous activity if numbers of fostering households overall are to be maintained, let alone increased.
- 4.14. As noted above, the other main types of accommodation where children in care live are residential children's homes and semi-independent living arrangements.
- 4.15. The sufficiency statement discusses both types of accommodation, including information about where such provision is located. In terms of residential provision, more children's homes are located in Peterborough and the Fenland area than the rest of the greater Cambridgeshire area.
- 4.16. Peterborough operates our own specialist provision for children and young people with complex disabilities at Cherry Lodge; this provides a high quality of service as recognised by Ofsted, with a current inspection outcome of Good overall.
- 4.17. Peterborough also operates a secure children's home – Clare Lodge. This highly specialist provision is a national resource and at the time of preparing this report, there were no Peterborough young people in placement in Clare Lodge [or indeed, in any secure children's home].
- 4.18. While we do all we can to place children and young people locally, placement matching must be the first consideration. Some provision is so specialist that placements for children with complex needs is always likely to be some distance away. That said, the availability of residential placements has come under extreme pressure nationally over the last 12 months, and while Peterborough places relatively fewer children and young people in this kind of provision compared with the national average, it has proved increasingly difficult to identify provision locally for children and young people in care with particularly complex needs.
- 4.19. The national shortage of residential care has led the Government to take a number of steps including:
- Undertaking a review of the existing children's homes regulations;
  - Initiating a review of placement provision by the Competition and Marketing Authority;
  - Undertaking a national review of services for Children in Care;
  - Announced a capital programme for local authorities to bid for capital funding to provide their own children's homes.
- 4.20. The children's homes regulations form part of the 1989 Children Act. Times have changed significantly since they were written and many, many more children now live in foster care than was the case then. These current regulations are focused around physical buildings, with individual registered managers. The registration process to establish a new home is very long.
- 4.21. Clearly there is a balance to be struck here; it is right that those who want to set up a children's home should be required to evidence their suitability to do so. The issue is that there is no flexibility to act quickly in response to need, or think differently about the type of provision. We regularly face a situation where we have a young person in need of a placement who has very challenging needs. We are a 'Good' authority, which contracts with a number of other organisations that are very experienced in providing care for very challenging young people. Despite this, there is no flexibility for us to set up a bespoke provision to provide the short term intensive intervention that such a young person might need. If that young person is under the age of 16, using anything other than a registered children's home is illegal under the current regulations.
- 4.22. The Competition and Market Authority [CMA] is currently undertaking a review of the children's home market in the UK. There has been a growing concern about the extent to which the cost for placements has been increasing, and the lack of provision for young people with the most complex of needs.



- 4.23. The CMA review will also feed into the broader Care Review, which is being led by Josh McAllister on behalf of the Department for Education. This broader review is looking at whether the current arrangements for working with children, young people and their families continues to be fit for purpose in light of changing risks and needs. The last time that a truly comprehensive legislative review took place was to inform the drafting of the 1989 Children Act. While this remains in many ways a very good piece of legislation, risks and issues have changed since then. The extent to which young people may be at risk as a result of being actively targeted by adults with the intention of exploiting them, for example, and the recognition of the need for children's services and children's health services to work more closely together in situations where young people have significant mental health needs are two such examples of changing issues since 1989.
- 4.24. Peterborough is one of 10 local authorities that will have a particular opportunity to inform this work as we have been selected to participate in a three day visit by the national care review team. They will explore how we promote best outcomes for children in care and on the edge of care, and we will have the opportunity to provide suggestions for the way in which systems, processes and the legislative framework might be further improved.
- 4.25. The government has announced that it is making capital funding available to local authorities to bid for in order to develop their one children's home provision. Successful authorities would need to match fund any capital allowance from Government. Together with Cambridgeshire County Council, officers in Peterborough are exploring whether to seek capital funding to develop additional in-house provision, and updates will be provided to Committee as this work continues.
- 4.26. In terms of the sufficiency statement and continuing to build local capacity for residential and semi-independent provision, our commissioning service will continue to engage in dialogue with the providers on our supplier framework and more broadly. We are also committed to exploring whether there is scope for regional approaches to commissioning of this type of provision.

#### **Safeguarding Children placed at Distance**

- 4.27. As noted above, we do all we can to ensure that children and young people remain placed close to or within Peterborough. Of our children and young people in care, 62% are placed within 25 miles of their home address, with a further 19% living between 25 and 50 miles from their home address.
- 4.28. A number of those children placed further than 50 miles from their home address will be placed for very positive reasons. A few children have moved home with their foster carers, with whom they are permanently matched, for example. Some will be living with relatives or connected carers as an alternative to being placed with regular foster carers. Others – often those with complex disabilities – will be living in carefully matched specialist placements of which there may be only a few available across the country.
- 4.29. A number of children and young people are placed at distance because of a lack of local provision, however. Some of these children and young people will be in residential placements while others will be placed in foster care. As noted elsewhere in this report, there is a national shortage of placements for children and young people in care, and this can result in authorities having to place at distance if they are to identify a good match in placement terms for the individual child or young person.
- 4.30. As also noted above, Peterborough has a relatively low rate of children in care; this means that a higher proportion of those in our care will have more complex needs. It is this group of children and young people for whom identifying a placement that will meet their needs locally is most challenging.
- 4.31. Ofsted undertook a focused visit to Peterborough in June 2021, specifically concentrating on our services for children in care. Focused visits are followed by a published letter highlighting strengths and areas for continued development; this is attached to this report as Appendix 2. In their findings following this visit, inspectors said:

'While there are challenges with placement sufficiency, children in care experience stable placements. Although the proportion of children in care living more than 20

miles from home is relatively high, most are living with foster carers who understand their needs and are supported by social workers who know them and their histories.’

- 4.32. Where children are placed at distance, we undertake a number of steps to ensure that their wellbeing continues to be closely monitored and promoted.
- 4.33. This begins by assessing the suitability of the placement and the extent to which it meets the needs of the individual child or young person. We generally only make placements with providers who have been assessed as being Good or better in their most recent Ofsted inspection. In a very small number of situations, we will place a child or young person with a provider who has been graded Requiring Improvement, but only when there are compelling reasons to do so, and where we can see evidence of a robust improvement plan from the provider. We take care to match the needs of the individual child or young person closely with the placement. We also take up references about the provider from other local authorities who have made placements with the provider.
- 4.34. Children are of course regularly visited by their social workers, but this is not the only way in which we monitor the quality of the placement and the progress being made by the child or young person. Independent chairs [or reviewing officers] are experienced social workers who chair children’s statutory child care reviews. They also remain in contact with the children and young people on their caseload and make visits to children outside of formal review meetings.
- 4.35. Independent chairs are able to use a system of case alerts to raise any issues of concern about any aspect of the child’s care. Where a chair remains concerned after receiving a response for the team manager, they can escalate their concern to an Assistant Director and, rarely, to me as Director of Children’s Services.
- 4.36. Peterborough City Council subscribes to the MOMO, or Mind of My Own, application. This provides a secure way in which children and young people in care can communicate with their social worker or reviewing officer directly and at any time. All children and young people in our care also have access to an independent advocacy service.
- 4.37. Our Commissioning Service, which is responsible for sourcing placements for children and young people from external providers, operates a variety of checks and balances to ensure that we use providers that promote the wellbeing of children and young people in their care. We use framework contracts which are only open to providers who can evidence a range of minimum standards. We also undertake separate visiting and monitoring visits to local providers and are members of local authority commissioning partnerships where other local authorities undertake monitoring visits to providers in their local areas, and share these across the partnership.
- 4.38. Our virtual school is responsible for facilitating good educational outcomes for all children and young people in our care, including those placed at distance. Regular monitoring of progress being made in educational settings is another way in which we can maintain oversight of how a child or young person is progressing, since things like unauthorised absences from education settings, or a decline in progress may indicate a broader issue that needs to be addressed.
- 4.39. Ofsted continues to undertake regular monitoring and inspection visits to children’s homes and Independent Fostering Agencies. In the event that any provider moves to a requiring improvement or an inadequate judgement, we immediately review the position for any children and young people placed with that provider. This does not always mean that we will seek to move a child or young person. An Independent Fostering Agency, for example, may receive an inadequate judgement from Ofsted, but a child in care can still be placed with a very good foster carer providing them with excellent care and stability. In situations such as these, we may increase our visiting and support to the carer, as opposed to moving a child who is settled in their home.

#### **Focused Visit: Children and Young People in Care: June 2021**

- 4.40. As noted above, Ofsted completed a Focused Visit to Peterborough in June 2021. Focused Visits form part of the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services framework, and take place between the main graded inspections. The outcome of a Focused Visit is a letter to the authority that is published, and which sets out the main findings from the visit. No grade is

awarded, but the findings from focused visits are used by Ofsted in preparing for graded inspections of local authorities.

- 4.41. The outcome letter from the visit is appended as Appendix 2 to this report. It is relevant to this report since it comments on the quality of our placement matching for children in care, as well as the very good placement stability rates for children in care in Peterborough.
- 4.42. The quality of the placement is clearly an important factor in terms of delivering good outcomes for children in care and ensuring that they are safeguarded from risk as far as is possible. It is not the only factor, however; to do well in care, children need social workers with whom they can form a positive and consistent relationship, and for those social workers to know them and their histories well, in order that individual care plans for children and young people are of good quality.
- 4.43. The findings from the focused visit include some areas where we can do better – including working to reduce the numbers of children placed at distance from the authority. This is also our aim, as articulated within the Peterborough Sufficiency Statement.
- 4.44. That said, the overall findings from the focused visit are very positive, and something that our staff, foster carers and Members as corporate parents can justly feel proud. As inspectors say in the outcome letter:

‘A conscientious corporate parent, Peterborough City Council looks after most children in its care well.’

And:

‘Children in care are involved in a range of activities that influence service developments and enrich their experiences. These include the recruitment of workers, acting as young inspectors, and leading the development of materials to support new entrants to care and better manage the process when children have a new social worker. Children spoken to are confident that senior managers listen to their views and take action to respond.’

- 4.45. While we must never be complacent, and there are always things we can do to improve outcomes for our children in care, these are very positive comments by inspectors.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with senior officers in preparing this cover report. Children and young people in care participated in the development of the Sufficiency Statement itself.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 Anticipated outcomes from this report include:
- Continued work with key partner agencies and providers to increase local placement options for children in care;
  - That the Scrutiny Committee has a rounded understanding of placement sufficiency issues, and;
  - That the Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in care.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The main recommendation in respect to adoption of the Sufficiency Statement reflects that statutory requirement under the Children Act 2008 for all authorities with social services responsibilities to publish a Sufficiency Statement.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 There are no available alternative options.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Placement costs for children in care represent a significant proportion of the overall spend on children's services, however, and it is generally accepted that increasing local placement choice and in-house fostering provision helps to control overall expenditure.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 As noted in the report, all local authorities with social services duties are required to publish a Sufficiency Statement by the Children Act, 2008.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

### **Rural Implications**

- 9.4 There are no specific rural implications arising from this report.

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 9.5 Increasing local placement choice for children and young people in care would have a positive carbon impact as this would result in fewer longer distance journeys visiting children and in respect of arranging contact with families.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 None

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Peterborough Sufficiency Statement  
Appendix 2: Focused visit to Peterborough City Council children's services

# Peterborough City Council Sufficiency Statement

Children in Care & Care Leavers  
2021 - 2024

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# FOREWORD

By Abi, Young Inspector



Hi, I’m Abi, one of the Young Inspectors.

The Young Inspectors are a group of young people who have experience of children’s social care and using that expertise, scrutinise services for children and young people through discussion, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups and site inspections of council run services.

We recently completed an inspection of a local residential provision for children with disabilities and were able to make a number of recommendations on how services could be further personalised for individual children, which have been put into effect by the Registered Manager.

Remember that you should not underestimate the influence of matching, of carers and existing children or other young people who already live there, as it can make the difference between a stable, happy living situation and a messy placement breakdown. Miscommunication can cause mistrust which can break down a young person’s relationship with people they work with and so it’s important that you are honest and realistic when communicating to young people regarding their ideals in order to manage their expectations of a move and prospective carer.

My advice to you would be to really have a “person centred” approach, so the young person is involved in processes pertaining to the move, where appropriate. Being a child anyway can make you feel powerless, but as a young person in care, those feelings of powerlessness can be threefold. Therefore, making sure young people’s voices are heard and that they feel valued, respected and appreciated in all decisions that involve them, and their lives, is essential!

Abi



# 1

# Executive Summary

Peterborough City Council is committed to securing the best possible outcomes for those children and young people in our care, leaving care or at significant risk of coming into care. Within this strategy we have analysed all relevant information to determine what needs there are in the relevant groups and what actions will be necessary to secure positive outcomes for those groups. Though like all local authorities Peterborough has seen significant impacts in funding, meeting these needs of vulnerable groups will always remain a priority for the Council.

The total number of children in care has remained relatively constant over the last three years, though, in common with the national and regional picture, has increased since 2015. The current rate of children in care is, however, significantly below that of the average of our ten most similar local authorities Peterborough children and young people in care continue to be overwhelmingly placed in foster care. A continuing priority is to increase the number of foster and residential placements in area and for those children and young people traditionally harder to place, (e.g. older young people, children and young people with challenging behaviour). The Authority is also investing in developing support services that may safely prevent children and young people entering the care system or shortening the time that they are outside safe care in their own families.

Individual trends and needs are analysed below. In the penultimate section of this document the actions are collected together. Each of these actions will have a detailed Action Plan to ensure timely delivery for the Children and Young People in the care of Peterborough City Council.



# 2 Introduction

## 2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to demonstrate how Peterborough City Council will meet the placement needs of our current and future Children in Care and Care Leavers, and improve their outcomes, and support a positive transition into adulthood in light of their needs and current provision.

Local Authorities are required to take steps to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for children in care within their local area.

In 2010, the statutory guidance for the Sufficiency Duty was issued. This guidance is explicit in placing a duty on local authorities to act strategically to address gaps in provision by ensuring that they include, in relevant commissioning strategies, their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty.

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 defines sufficiency as “a whole system approach which delivers early intervention and preventative work to help support children and their families where possible, as well as providing better services for children if they do become looked after. For those who are looked after, Local Authorities and their Children’s partners should seek to secure a number of providers and a range of services, with the aim of meeting the wide-ranging needs of looked after children and young people within their local area”.

Under the guidance, the sufficiency duty is as follows:

- From April 2010, local authorities will include in relevant commissioning strategies their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty
- From April 2011 working with their partners, local authorities must be in a position to secure, where reasonably practical, sufficient accommodation for children in care in their local authority area

The Statement is set within the context of national policy, legislation and guidance, is linked to key planning documents, and builds on the progress made in previous Sufficiency Statements.

Action points can be found throughout the document, in tables as below, and link into the emerging trends and priorities for the Council.

Focus Area	
<b>Challenges/Gaps</b> -	
<b>Actions Required</b> •	<b>Impact</b> •

All figures are taken from the 31st of March 2020 unless stated otherwise.

## 2.2 Covid-19: March 2020 onwards

Covid -19 has presented us with unprecedented challenges throughout 2020 and into 2021. However, throughout these past months, we've seen creative and engaging responses to the challenges we've faced. These have included baking sessions, virtual coffee mornings, 'WhatsApp' support sessions, and Zoom youth clubs, as well as continued provision of education through online and e-learning classrooms, health and wellbeing packs and food vouchers and in some cases provision of equipment and technology for children and young people, to name a few. This has all been so crucial in continuing to meet the needs of Peterborough's children and young people in care.

It's important to acknowledge the resilience that we've seen from our young people, carers, support workers, and staff throughout this period. We entered into a period of unknown challenges and the response we've seen has been remarkable; throughout the uncertainty of the situation, providers, staff and carers remained child focused, innovative and have demonstrated true commitment to our children and young people.

There are still many unknown challenges we have yet to face as the Local Authority, providers, and our children and young people move towards the 'new normal'. Children's Commissioning have developed recovery strategies for our service areas, and our intention is to respond to changes to circumstances and potential changes in demand for provision in accordance with these.

As with many other Local Authorities, Peterborough are cognisant of the potential for an increase in the Children in Care population as we transition out of 'lockdown'.

## 2.3 Our Children and Young People in Care

Peterborough City Council believe that coproduction and participation is paramount to good commissioning. The Authority has a range of methods and practices in place to consult and engage with children and young people, fulfilling our commitment to the coproduction of service design and delivery with children and young people.

Children and young people have been key to the development of this strategy; we've consulted with Children in Care Councils, Care Leaver Forums and the Young Inspectors group to shape our analysis of provision, identification of gaps and our commitment to our future commissioning intentions.

[Peterborough's Children in Care Pledge](#) was developed in partnership with young people, senior managers and lead members and sets out Peterborough's promise and commitment to our Children in Care and Care Leavers.

Throughout this statement we have included the voices, views and wishes of our children and young people as shown below:

“ *The Young Inspectors have provided our Foreword, and the feedback, thoughts and feelings shared with us from our Children, Young People and Care Leavers are included throughout the document.* ”

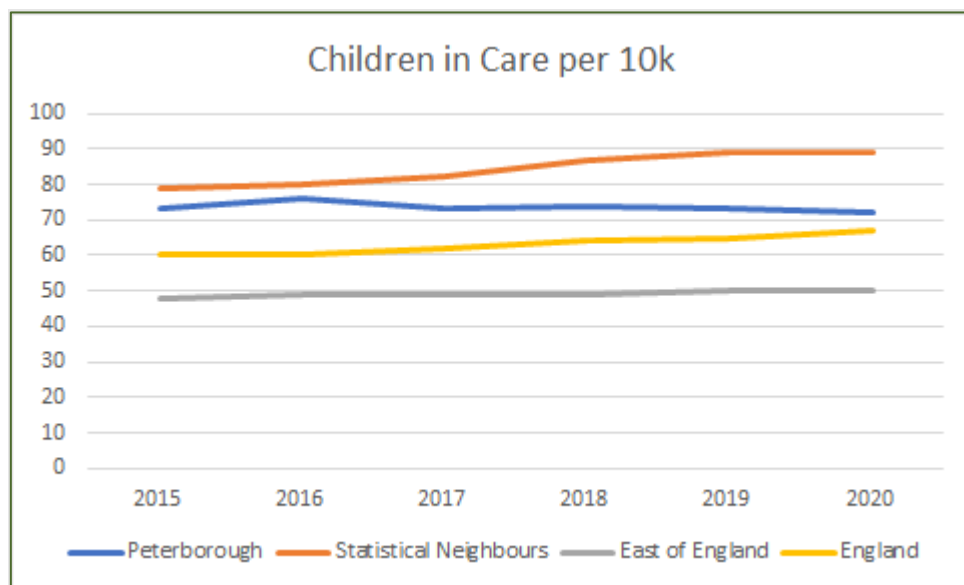
# 3 Children in Care

## 3.1 Children in Care Rate per 10,000 Children Aged Under 18

Table 1

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020	Changes from 2015 to 2020
<b>Peterborough</b>	73	76	73	74	73	72	-1%	-1%
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	79	80	82	87	89	89	0%	13%
<b>East of England</b>	48	49	49	49	50	50	0%	4%
<b>England</b>	60	60	62	64	65	67	3%	12%

Table 1 demonstrates, that compared to national, regional and statistical neighbours for whom the rate of Children in Care per 10,000 children under 18 has increased significantly, Peterborough saw decreases in the rate per 10,000 Children aged under 18 from both the previous year and across a six year period.

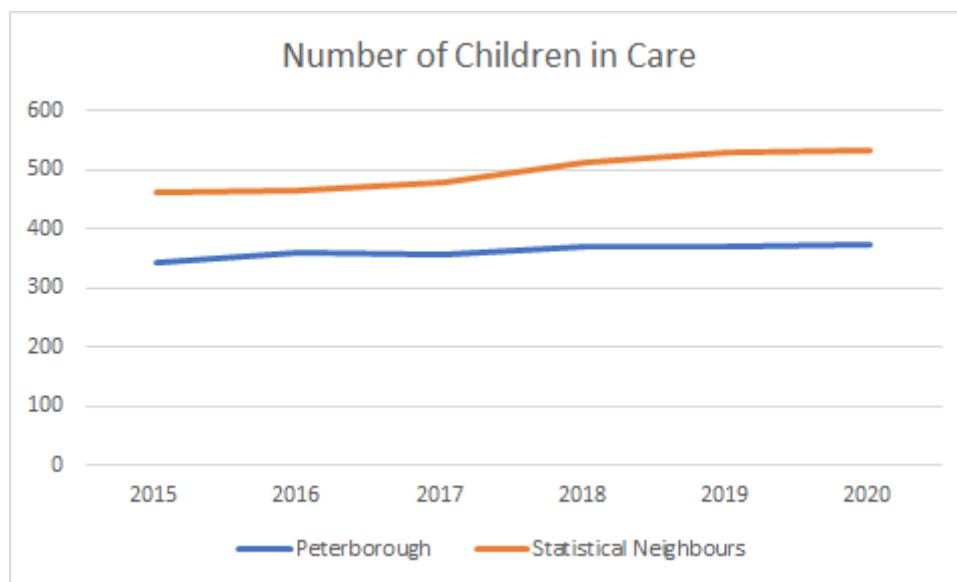


### 3.2 Number of Children in Care [at 31<sup>st</sup> March]

Table 2

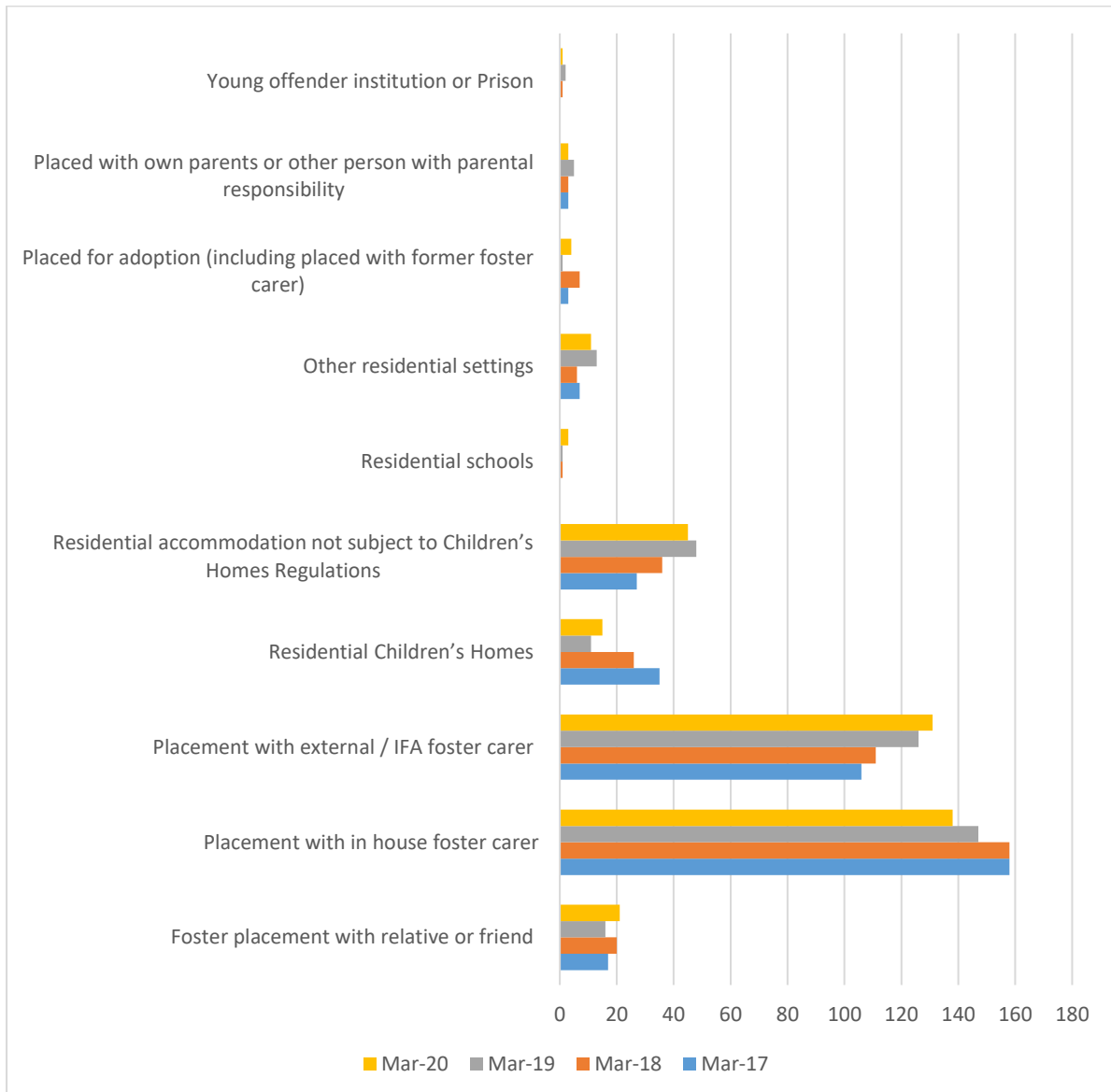
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020	Changes from 2015 to 2020
<b>Peterborough</b>	342	360	356	369	370	372	1%	9%
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	460	465	480	513	529	533	1%	16%
<b>East of England</b>	6150	6340	6450	6530	6740	6710	0%	9%
<b>England</b>	69470	70410	72610	75370	78140	80080	2%	15%

Peterborough’s Children in Care population remained relatively consistent in 2020 from the previous three years, though comparisons against the 2015 population demonstrate a 9% increase in this cohort of children and young people. National, regional and statistical neighbours show similar increases in populations within this time period, but Peterborough’s increase has happened at a slower rate.



### 3.3 Placement Mix

Peterborough’s placement composition for Children in Care demonstrates that the majority of placements are within fostering placements, the majority of which are within in house fostering. There is however a reduction in the number of in house placements in March 2020, compared to March 2017, and a comparable increase in placements made with external, Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs).



Peterborough’s population of young people living in Residential Accommodation not subject to Children’s Homes Regulations (i.e. Supported accommodation) has increased from 2017 (27) to 45 at March 2020. Conversely, there has been a reduction in the number of Children in Care living in Residential Children’s Homes in this same time period.

### 3.4 Improving outcomes for children and young people: Early help, including Contextual Safeguarding

An extensive consultation with key stakeholders has recently been completed, the findings of which are contained within the report ‘Strong Families, Strong Communities: Securing best outcomes for children & young people’ (to be published July 2021).

This work forms an important stage in our journey towards developing seamless services for children, young people and their families through the development of an Integrated Care System, or ICS. Integrated Care Systems will be the framework for ensuring the delivery of services to vulnerable adults as well as for children. They are being developed as part of the review of Clinical Commissioning Groups now taking place within health services. For services to children and young people, the name for the ICS is the Children’s Collaborative.

Children’s Collaboratives and Integrated Care Systems do not involve large scale re-organisation of services. They are about improving the joint planning and provision of services so that they are able to adopt a holistic approach to meeting need, reducing the requirement for more complex interventions that often also have poorer outcomes.

The approach to Early Help as described in Strong Families, Strong Communities: securing best outcomes for children & young people is also about effective co-ordination of services across the partnership, assessing and meeting need flexibly, so this fits extremely well with the overarching goals of the Children’s Collaborative.

We are now ready to begin the process of implementing the recommendations of Strong Families, Strong Communities: Securing best outcomes for children & young people. This is an important step towards our overall ambition of delivering seamless services to vulnerable children, young people and their families, for the benefit of all.

### 3.5 Financial Overview

Peterborough City Council continues to face financial challenges, with public spending cuts and increased demand for services. In order to meet statutory requirements to submit a balanced budget, Peterborough is tasked with achieving £57m in savings across the period 2020-2023<sup>1</sup>.

The Council have adopted seven priorities against the funding challenges it faces:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Growth, regeneration and economic development of the city to bring new investment and jobs. Supporting people into work and off benefits is vital to the city’s economy and to the wellbeing of the people concerned;          |
| 2 | Improving educational attainment and skills for all children and young people, allowing them to seize the opportunities offered by new jobs and our university provision, thereby keeping their talent and skills in the city; |
| 3 | Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults;   |

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/asset-library/mediumtermfinancialstrategy2020-21to2022-23tranchetwo1.pdf>

4	Pursuing the Environment Capital agenda to position Peterborough as a leading city in environmental matters, including reducing the city's carbon footprint
5	Supporting Peterborough's culture and leisure offer
6	Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy;
7	Achieving the best health and wellbeing for the city

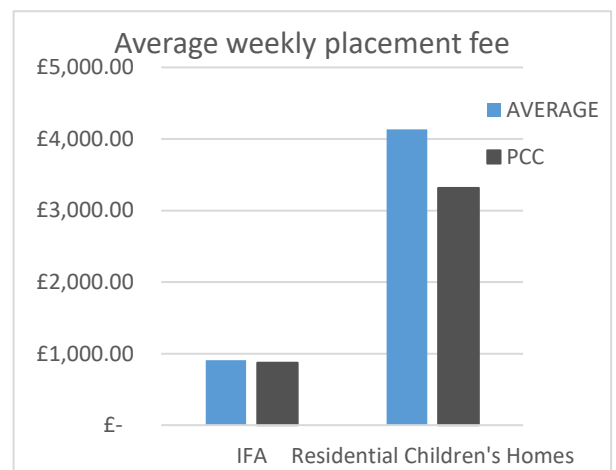
The External Placement Budget for Children in Care in the 2020 / 21 financial year was £10,017,251. The External Placements budget includes:

- External Fostering Placements (IFA)
- External Residential Children's Homes
- Supported Accommodation
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children [UASC] Placements

Over recent years Peterborough's spend on external 'purchase' placements (i.e. Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA), residential children's homes, and supported accommodation placements) has increased, over the previous years. However, it is considered that this is led by increasing costs for placements, as well as in year changes to the Children in Care population.

In line with financial challenges and cost reduction requirements for the Local Authority, the budget for external and internal placements in 2020/21 was £10m and £3.8m respectively; a 9% reduction on the previous year.

Average placement fee information demonstrates that despite the increase in annual spend, Peterborough are sourcing placements at a lower than average cost for children and young people, when compared to regional neighbours.





# 4 Current Provision

## 4.1 Fostering

### 4.1.1 Externally Commissioned Provision

Peterborough City Council has an in house fostering service and commissions provision from external agencies via the Children’s External Placements Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The DPS began in April 2019 for an initial period of three years with the option to extend for a number of further periods, not exceeding a total of 10 years.

The DPS offers Peterborough and Cambridgeshire access to 41 Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) providers (as at March 2020); these providers have over 2700 registered carers, offering in excess of 5600 placements nationally. It should be noted that this demonstrates the number of registered carers and approved fostering ‘beds’ cumulatively [occupied and vacant] across the DPS. Nationally the fostering market is significantly impacted by a lack of supply to meet growing demand; despite the potential for Peterborough to access in excess of 5000 placements, vacancies are not readily available.

The DPS has supported Peterborough to ensure quality of providers; 98% of IFA providers on the DPS at March 2020 were judged to be ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted.

### 4.1.2 In house fostering

Peterborough’s in house provision has employed a comprehensive recruitment strategy which aims to increase the number of approved carers, with a focus on developing provision for those young people aged 11+. Whilst there has been an increase in the cohort of available foster carers, there continues to be a need to recruit carers, particularly for young people in the 11-17 age group.

### 4.1.3 Fostering Placements

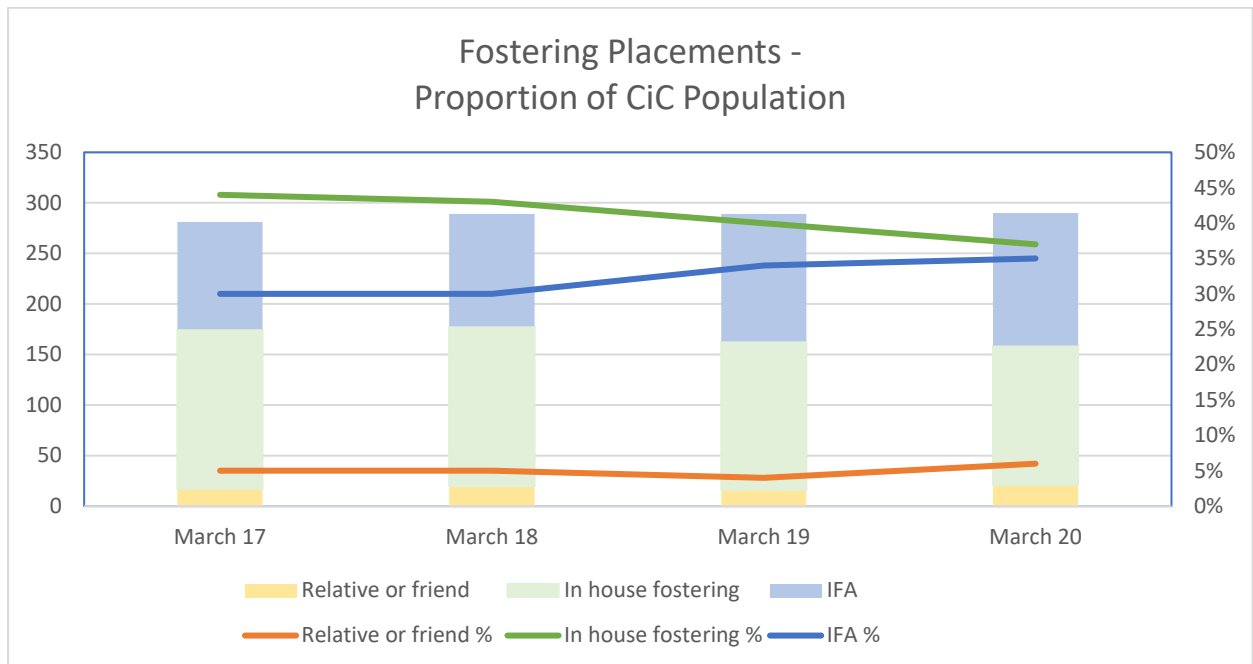
*We were made to feel very welcome by our new foster carers. It can be confusing moving into a new placement, I know I was shy and nervous and not sure what to do. Luckily the new foster carers knew how to welcome us and that meant we could get settled quicker and feel more ourselves. Their response was definitely reassuring.*



Between March 2017 – 2020, Peterborough has consistently seen 72-74% of the Children in Care population living in fostering placements. However, within this time period we have seen a shift towards increased proportions of placements made with external fostering agencies.

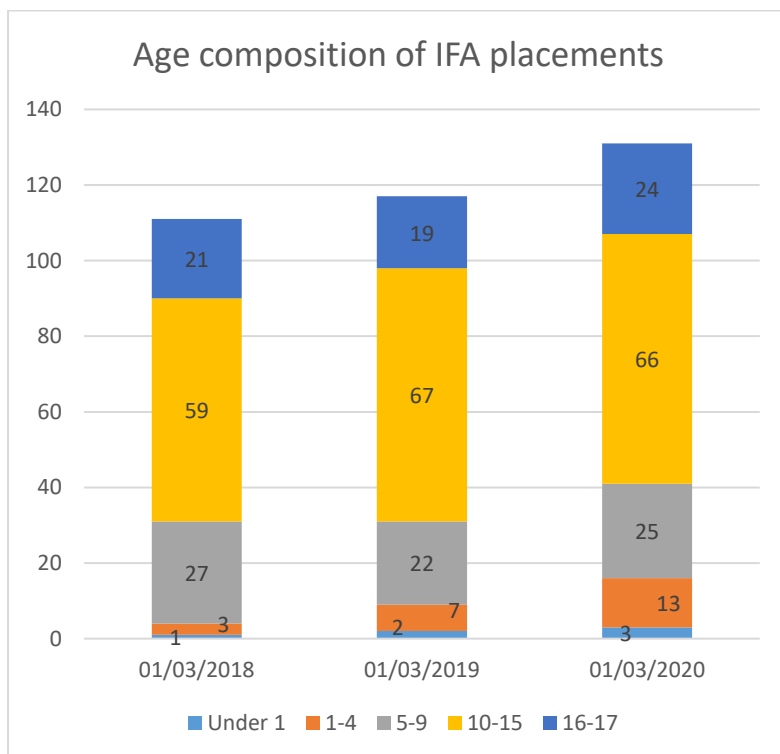
At March 2017 44% [158] of the Children in Care population were placed with Peterborough’s in house foster carers, in March 2020 this had reduced to 37% [138] with IFA placements increasing from 30% [106] to 35% [131] within the

same period. Connected Persons placements have remained consistent, with between 4 – 6% of the Children in Care population living in fostering placements with family or friends.



During April 2019 – March 2020, a total of 227 placements were made with IFA foster carers, with 131 placements at 31 March 2020. The bar chart below demonstrates the age range of children placed in IFA placements, it's of note that the majority are aged 10-15yrs.

“ Being able to visit and spend time with the new family and have a sleepover before the move helped. It is important to have time to adjust to the new environment. Put yourselves in our shoes. ”



This clearly identifies that demand for placements for this older cohort of young people is currently being met by the external market for foster placements, as well as identifying a need for in house Fostering to recruit foster carers able to meet the needs of this cohort of young people. Demand for fostering placements for this older cohort is not forecast to reduce in coming years.

#### 4.1.4 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

Summary 1

<b>Fostering</b>	
<p><b>Challenges/Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of availability of local foster carers.</li> <li>- Lack of availability of foster carers able to meet the needs of older children and young people, and those young people with complex and challenging behaviours.</li> <li>- Fostering placement breakdowns, and short term 'bridging' placements, affecting stability for children and young people.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Actions Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued development of Peterborough's In House Fostering Service, with focus on recruitment of carers to support older children and young people, and those young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased availability of local provision, which in turn will offer greater stability to children and young people requiring short, medium or long term placements (as opposed to bridging placements).</li> </ul>
<b>In house Fostering</b>	
<p><b>Challenges/Gaps</b></p> <p>Continue to increase in available in house foster carers required, with particular focus on resilient foster carers able to offer placements to older children and young people</p>	
<p><b>Actions Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued recruitment of foster carers for Peterborough's In House Fostering Service</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased availability of local foster carers to meet the needs of Peterborough children and young people in care.</li> <li>• Effective use of available financial envelope</li> </ul>
<b>Local Provision</b>	
<p><b>Challenges/Gaps</b></p> <p>Need to develop the availability of in area provision accessible under the DPS.</p>	
<p><b>Actions Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all local Fostering Agencies have an awareness of the DPS, how Peterborough source placements, and how to submit a tender to join the DPS.</li> <li>• Engagement with those providers who offer local provision to promote exploring vacancies with Peterborough prior to other Local Authorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased availability of local provision will support children and young people to live in 'in area' provisions (where is it suitable to do so).</li> <li>• Children and young people are better supported to maintain education provisions.</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Residential Children’s Homes

### 4.2.1 Externally Commissioned Provision

Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council operate a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the provision of Residential Children’s Home’s.

As of April 2020, 35 providers had joined the DPS offering access to approximately 400 residential children’s homes across the UK.

Despite this, there continues to be a comparatively small number of children’s residential homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; there are 21 on contract children’s residential homes in area, with the majority of those homes within Peterborough, and the Fenland area. The commissioning arrangement has helped to increase the number of residential children’s home in Peterborough; since the commencement of the DPS in April 2019 four homes have opened in area, offering an additional 15 beds.



*\*approximate locations have been used to maintain anonymity of placements whilst also providing visual representation of the local and national services available to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough young people.*

Information provided by on contract providers has informed that they are receiving a high number of referrals on a weekly basis. This is also reported by the Independent Children’s Home Association (ICHA); as a result of procurement frameworks those providers with services that are targeted at specific cohorts of children receive numerous referrals, not appropriate to their service, as a result of being a qualified provider.

Our strategic commissioning imperative for the management and development of our DPS, will be that services are categorised by needs group i.e. homes which specialise in Emotional Behavioural Difficulties, Sexualised Behaviour, Boys only, 11-16 years

old etc. to ensure appropriate referrals are being received by providers.

As the current market for children’s residential homes is fluid, Peterborough must ensure there continues to be access to a wide range of available local services, thereby allowing for the best possible match to be identified when placement finding. Whilst there is sufficient capacity within the DPS, categorising provisions by needs group will also enable the Children’s Commissioning Team to identify where there are gaps in the market in terms of specialist provision. Once Commissioning have identified these gaps in available provision, we will work with strategic providers to develop services locally to meet the needs of our children and young people.

“ *Having good choices of placements helps young people to feel in control of their future and that they have the power to make their own decisions.* ”

Further information on how to apply to the Children’s External Placements DPS can be found on Contracts Finder:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/7a20abf2-cf9f-4dfb-8ebf-5ec39c9b3628>

#### 4.2.2 Residential Children’s Home Placements

Peterborough has a lower than average proportion of Children in Care living in Residential provisions (including Residential Children’s Homes, Schools and other residential settings), and this has remained consistent over previous years. At March 2020, 29 of Peterborough’s 372 Children in Care lived in a residential provision, 12 of whom were in Residential Children’s Homes. On average nationally 10% of Children in Care live in Residential Children’s Homes; Peterborough’s Children in Care population in residential provisions has reduced since 2017 (12%), to 8% in 2020.



The majority of Peterborough’s young people in Residential Children’s Homes are aged 10 – 15 and 16 – 17.

Table 3

#### **Residential Children’s Homes – Age Composition**

	2015	2016	2017
<i>Under 5</i>	0	0	0
<i>5 to 9</i>	2	0	1
<i>10 to 15</i>	15	9	8
<i>16 to 17</i>	9	4	3

### 4.2.3 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

#### Summary 2

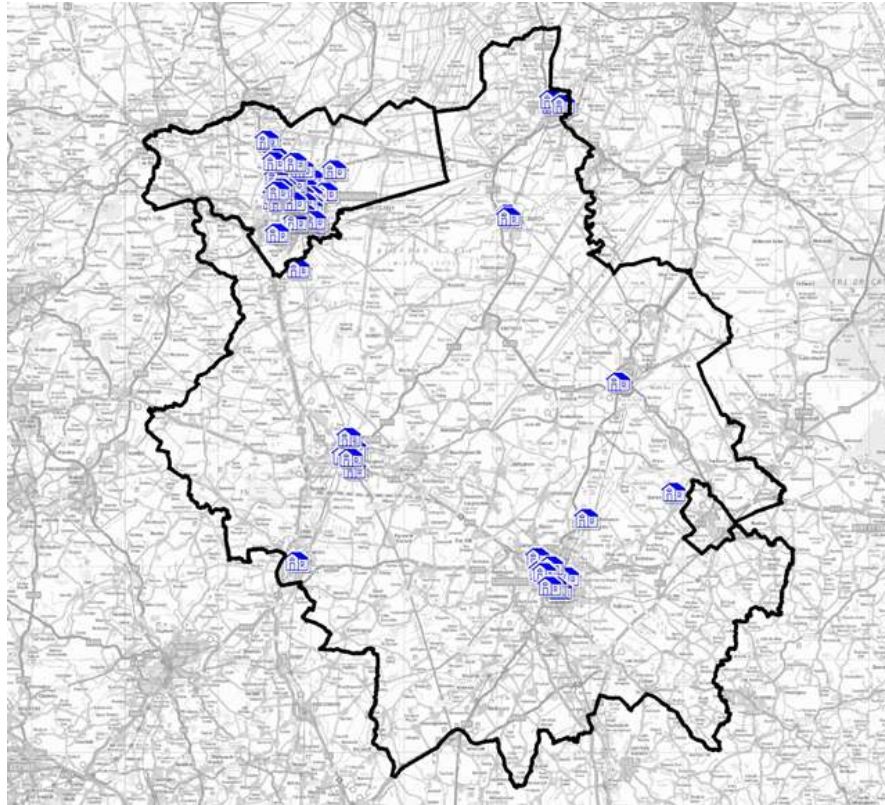
<b>Residential Children's Homes</b>	
<p><b>Challenges/Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current contracted providers are not consistently able to meet the needs of this cohort of young people.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Actions Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with current providers to scope development of services</li> <li>• Development of more locally available provision.</li> <li>• Ensure that local providers, who meet quality thresholds for the DPS, are encouraged to join DPS</li> <li>• Engagement with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s)</li> <li>• Improve the quality of data recorded for this cohort of young people.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to use current contract (DPS) to 'call off' targeted mini-competition(s) for specialist provisions to meet the needs of this cohort of young people</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased availability of good quality, local residential provision to meet the range of needs of Peterborough's children and young people.</li> <li>• Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service</li> <li>• Improved understanding of the specific needs, themes and trends pertaining to this cohort of children and young people in care, which will in turn inform future commissioning activity</li> </ul>

## 4.3 Supported Accommodation

### 4.3.1 Externally Commissioned Provision

Peterborough and Cambridgeshire operate a Framework for Supported Accommodation services for Young People in Care aged 16+. The Framework commenced in October 2018 for an initial period of three years with the option to extend for a number of further periods, not exceeding a total of 10 years. The framework will be extended, subject to provider agreement, for the first extension period, to September 2023, with further extension periods to be considered, in accordance with the contract.

As at April 2020 there are 40 providers on the framework offering supported accommodation services across the UK. The below map outlines the availability of provision more locally.



*\*approximate locations have been used to maintain anonymity of placements whilst also providing visual representation of the local and national services available to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough young people.*

25 of the 40 framework providers offer in area provision across 92 locations. The geographical locations of in county provisions are local to areas with good transport and education links. Areas such as Peterborough, the Fenlands and Cambridge City have a higher concentration of supported accommodation services.

“ Young people can feel isolated and alone in their placements, so being close to all of the essential amenities and services helps them to feel supported. ”

To facilitate increasing provision in preferred locations, and in response to discussions with providers about the varying costs of services in different parts of the local area, the Supported Accommodation Framework enables providers to tender pricing per area. Average prices on our Supported Accommodation framework vary substantially across lots and locations; this matrixed pricing structure has supported providers to appropriately cost provision, and to meet demand for provision in those areas with higher housing costs.

Table 4

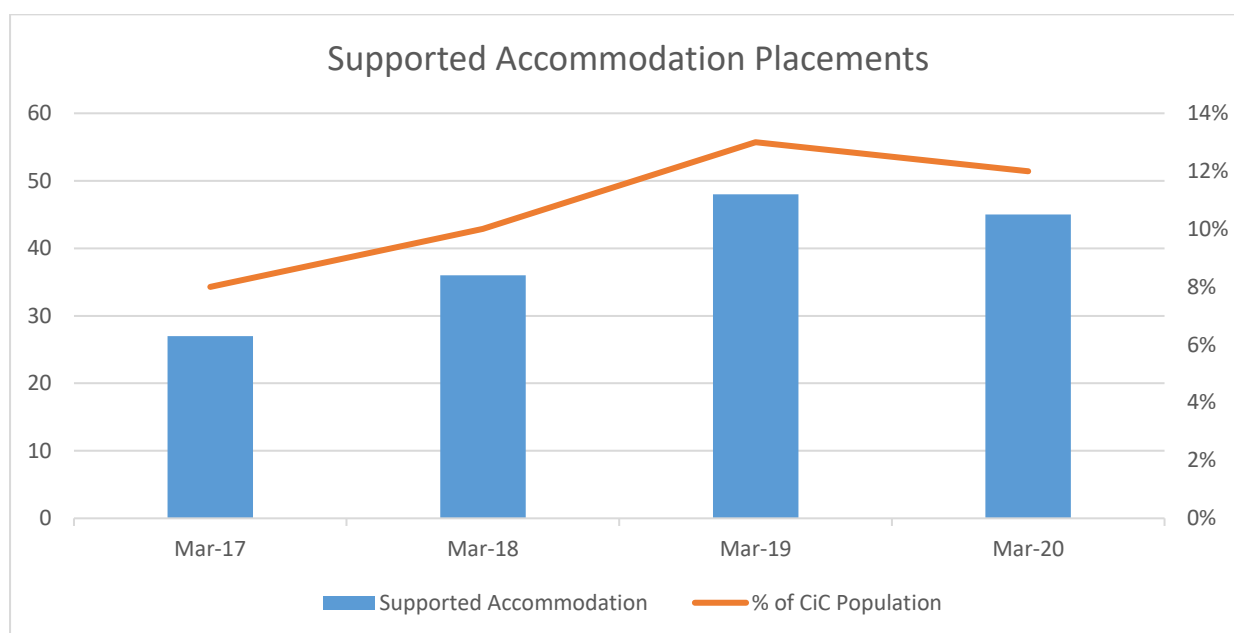
	All Locations	Cambs city	Pboro	Fenland	East Cambs	South Cambs	Hunts	Out of County	Ave.
Lot 1	£916.92	£822.80	£621.71	£700.40	£720.40	£736.40	£693.67	£605.50	£768.03
Lot 2	£874.47	£1,036.47	£675.00	£1,027.50	£687.50	£687.50	£687.50	£710.00	£843.67
Lot 3	£767.78	£726.33	£505.29	£656.40	£686.40	£703.00	£704.25	£460.67	£684.66
Lot 4	£825.77	£894.09	£422.50	£1,027.50	£625.00	£625.00	£625.00	£347.50	£759.66
Ave.	£832.36	£861.54	£560.22	£778.14	£694.92	£707.83	£690.69	£514.45	£756.29

Further information on how to apply to the Supported Accommodation Framework can be found on Contracts Finder:

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=ca481a3d-333c-ea11-80fc-005056b64545&p=4d8cb5a5-74dc-e511-810e-000c29c9ba21>

### 4.3.2 Supported Accommodation Placements

The proportion of Peterborough’s Children in Care population living in Supported Accommodation provisions has increased from 8% in 2017 to 12% in 2020.



At December 2020, Peterborough’s Supported Accommodation population was 43 suggesting that the increase from 2017 to 2019, has not continued and has plateaued. The proportion of Peterborough’s Children in Care population turning 16 years old over the next 2 years remains consistent, as do trends over recent years for the number of young people entering Care aged 16 and 17 years. As a result, it is likely that Peterborough’s Supported Accommodation population will remain at a consistent level over the next 2-3 years.

The majority of Supported Accommodation placements are for Peterborough’s Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People; 23 of the 45 placements in March 2020 were Unaccompanied Young People. Peterborough work with providers to ensure that placements for our Unaccompanied Young People are culturally appropriate, supporting young people to maintain links to their heritage, whilst endeavouring to support young people to develop independence skills and integrate into local community networks.



### 4.3.3 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

Summary 3

<b>Supported Accommodation</b>	
<p><b>Challenges/Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure availability of good quality, local provision</li> <li>- Ensure use of supported accommodation is only made where it is assessed as appropriate for the young person and supports their journey to independence</li> <li>- Ensure that young people are supported to achieve positive outcomes, including preparation for independent living.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Actions Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop provider peer support network</li> <li>• Continue to embed quality assurance processes; risk assessment tool to be developed for Supported Accommodation to improve prioritisation of visits.</li> <li>• Social Care colleagues are in the process of launching a 'Stepping Out' tool to support providers and young people in capturing independence skills, which will be launched with providers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers are able to share good practice</li> <li>• Targeted use of quality assurance and contract monitoring visits, will enable Commissioning to support providers to make any necessary improvements to service delivery.</li> <li>• Universal tool to reflect independence skills will create uniformity across providers, and enable tools to travel with young people, enabling a continuity of support relating to independence skills.</li> </ul>

### 4.3.4 Staying Close, Staying Connected

Peterborough are working in partnership with Break Charity who are leading a pilot project 'Staying Close, Staying Connected'. This project has been funded by the Department for Education and aims to change the way that care leavers are supported as they leave residential care, and encourage them to achieve positive outcomes in independence. Young people aged 16+ who have previously lived in a residential children's home are eligible for the project. Break are also in the process of piloting an expansion of this project to support those young people who have not previously resided in a residential children's home.

The project (which is being independently evaluated by the University of York and the University of East Anglia) was due to end in March 2021, however this has now been extended.

Peterborough is working with Break and the other partners on the project (including Cambridgeshire County Council and Norfolk County Council) to consider sustainability plans for the

*“ As well as making young people feel welcome and settled in their placement, it is also really important that placements support young people to prepare for the next step in their lives, whether that be a new placement or moving into independent accommodation. This helps young people to feel like they are moving forward instead of starting all over again ”*

project going forward The Authorities are awaiting clarification of funding entitlements for the project, and will be undertaking a commissioning exercise once this information is available.

Currently there are two young people from Peterborough City Council who have left residential care and are being supported through Staying Close Staying Connected. Peterborough City Council is keen for the provider to develop further capacity to meet needs in this area.

“ One young person said of the project “they’ve changed me as a person for the better. All young people who have been through care deserve this.” ”

#### 4.4 Discharge from Tier 4 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

##### 4.4.1 Placements

Recently, Peterborough have seen an increase in the number of placements required to support children and young people (under the age of 18) who have previously been admitted to an NHS England Tier 4 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (T4 CAMHS) provision and whom are ready to be discharged to community based services in a supportive, planned way with a multi-agency plan.

In the 2020/21 period, at the time of writing (December 2020), Peterborough have required three placements for this cohort of young people.

Peterborough’s cohort of young people requiring a transition from T4 CAMHS provision are both male and female, and aged 16+.

Currently Peterborough’s contractual provisions neither explicitly exclude nor require provision to meet the needs of this cohort of young people.

##### 4.4.2 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

Summary 4

Transitioning from Tier 4 CAMHS provisions	
<p><b>Challenges/Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current contracted providers are not consistently able to meet the needs of this cohort of young people</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Actions Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market stimulation exercise to encourage third sector and independent sector providers to develop locally based resources within the local community.</li> <li>• Engagement with current providers to scope development of service</li> <li>• Engagement with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People discharged to their local area, utilising opportunities to deliver multi-agency wrap-around services within the young person’s local community and maintain where possible, their remaining at home</li> <li>• Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in</li> </ul>

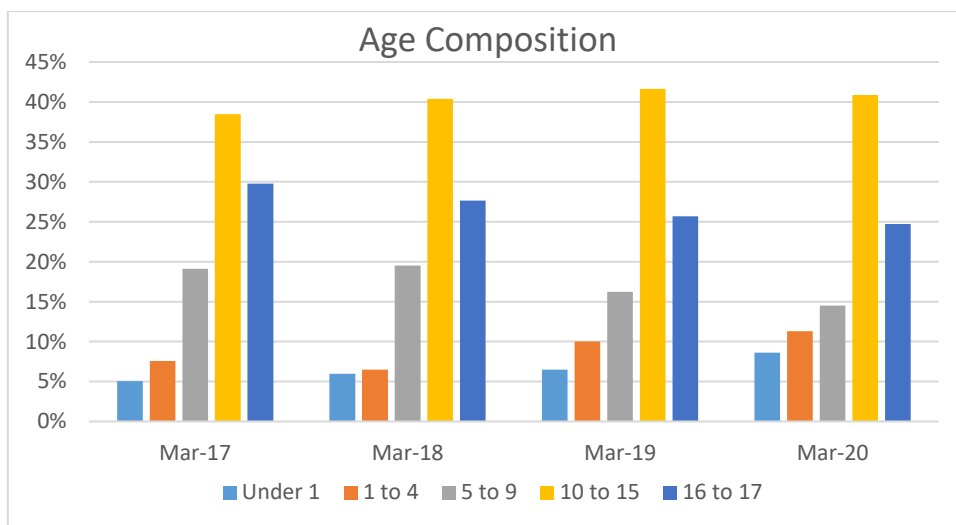
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to stimulate the market within the scope of currently commissioned contract (i.e DPS)</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to use current contract (DPS) to 'call off' targeted mini-competition(s) for specialist provisions to meet the needs of this cohort of young people</li> <li>• Develop quality of data recorded for this cohort of young people</li> </ul>	<p>financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved understanding of the specific needs, themes and trends pertaining to this cohort of young people, which will in turn inform future commissioning activity</li> </ul>
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# 5

# POPULATION COMPOSITION

## 5.1 Age

The age composition of Peterborough’s Children in care population has changed gradually over recent years, with the most significant change in the under 5 population, which has increased by 8% since 2017. Despite this, Peterborough’s 10 – 15 year old cohort has grown marginally (by 3%), and consistently encompasses the majority of the population.

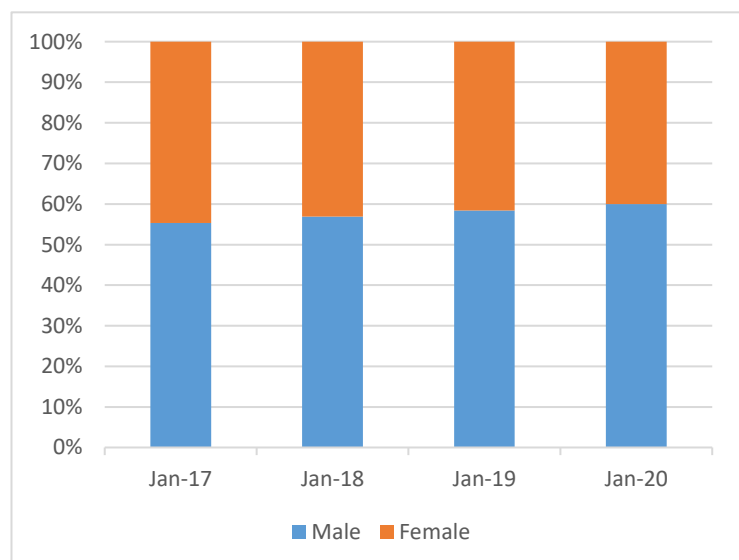


That Peterborough’s Children in Care cohort has such a diverse age composition demonstrates the need for a variety of placement options to meet the needs of our children and young people.

## 5.2 Gender

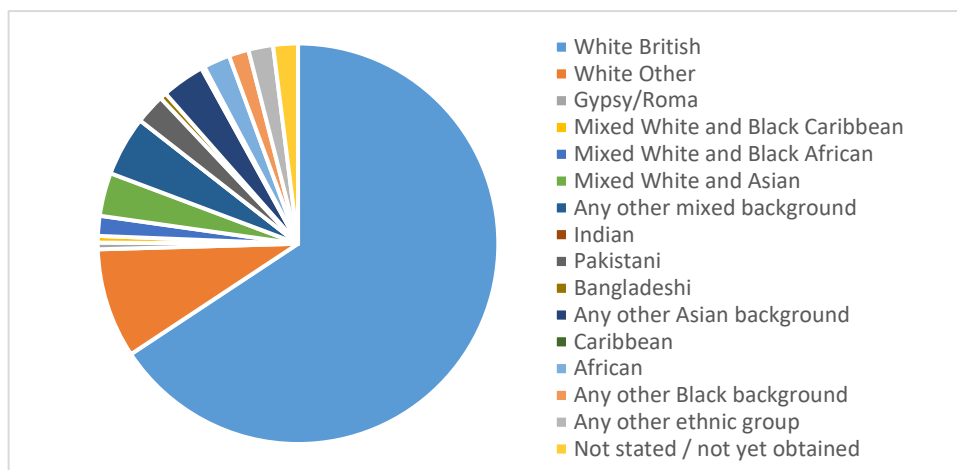
The majority of Peterborough’s Children in Care population is male, and this majority has increased since 2017 to 60%, and has remained relatively consistent as of December 2020 (59%).

The most significant differences in this cohort are within the residential and supported accommodation cohorts which are 67% and 68% male respectively.



### 5.3 Ethnicity

The composition of Peterborough's Children in Care population by ethnicity has remained consistent in recent years. Peterborough's Children in Care population is predominantly white



(75% white British and white 'other'). There is an evident need to ensure that a similar profile of foster carers are recruited to meet the needs of Peterborough Children in Care, supporting cultural matches to be achieved for children and young people.

### 5.4 Legal Status

20% of Peterborough's Children in Care population are subject to court proceedings, and therefore will not be in a permanent placement. A further 14% of children and young people are accommodated with parental agreement, without an order. 66% of children and young people are subject to full care orders, placement orders, and adoption.

Table 5

	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20
<i>Interim care orders</i>	48	52	63	74
<i>Full care orders</i>	181	212	215	209
<i>Section 20</i>	95	79	60	53
<i>Freed adoption / placement order</i>	31	24	30	35
<i>Others</i>	1	2	2	1

Peterborough has seen a reduction in the proportion of children and young people in Care with parental consent (reduced by 13% from 2017), and a corresponding increase in both Interim and Full Care Orders. Despite these changes, we continue to require a mix of long and short-medium term placements for children and young people to meet the needs of the Children in Care population.

### 5.5 Length of Time in Care

The proportion of time in care for Peterborough's Children in Care population has remained consistent. On average across the previous four years 48% of children and young people are looked after for less than two years.

Table 6

<i>Length of time in care</i>	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20
<i>0-6 months</i>	59	65	75	80
<i>6 - 12 months</i>	39	55	48	49
<i>1 - 2 years</i>	71	43	65	52
<i>2 - 5 years</i>	78	92	90	100

5+ years	109	114	92	97
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## 5.6 Location

Due in part to its size as a Unitary Authority, the proportion of placements in area (i.e within Peterborough) is relatively low at 40% in March 2020. However, 70% of children and young people live in placements no more than 20 miles from their home address.

We are committed to ensuring that children and young people are able to live in the local area where it safe and appropriate to do so.

“ I like how my placement is close to my friends so I can see them. ”

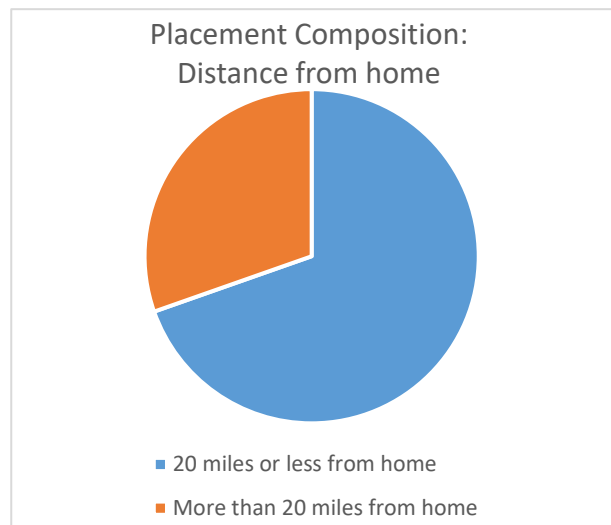
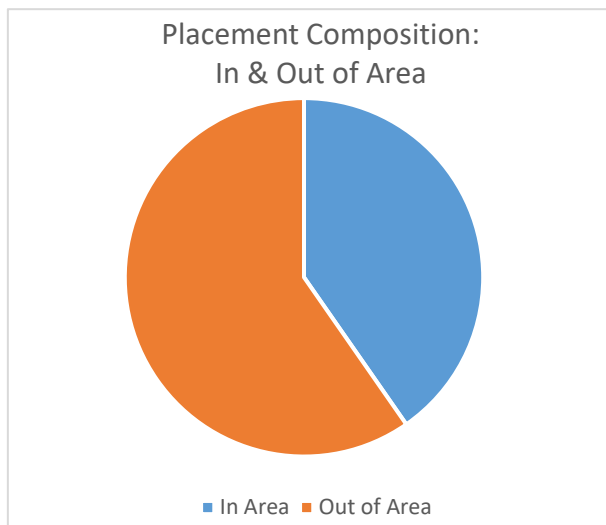


Table 7

<i>Location of placement</i>	<b>Mar-17</b>	<b>Mar-18</b>	<b>Mar-19</b>	<b>Mar-20</b>
<i>In Area</i>	158	153	148	150
<i>Out of Area</i>	198	216	222	222
<i>20 miles or less from home</i>	263	255	258	259
<i>More than 20 miles from home</i>	93	114	112	113

The need to increase the availability of good quality, in area provision remains a key strategic priority for Peterborough.

“ Distance matters ”

## 5.7 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

Despite a significant increase in Peterborough’s Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children population in 2015 and 2016, more recently this population has remained relatively consistent.

Table 8

	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20
<i>UASC as at year end</i>	24	19	22	28

To ensure that Local Authorities are not facing an unmanageable number of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people to accommodate and support, central government developed a voluntary agreement for Local Authorities to ensure the 'fairer distribution of unaccompanied children across all local authorities'. This agreement places a ceiling on Authorities for the number of unaccompanied children they must accommodate before those young people are transferred to the responsibility of other Local Authorities. For Peterborough this equates to 33 unaccompanied asylum seeking young people.

Often unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are assessed as being 16 and 17 years old and are placed in supported accommodation provision. Peterborough and Cambridgeshire's Supported Accommodation Framework was developed in response to this trend; with specific Lots designed to ensure that the needs of this cohort are met. This includes ensuring that young people's social, cultural and legal requirements are met and supported, as well as ensuring (wherever it is safe and suitable to do so) that young people are not placed at a significant distance from their home Authority. The Supported Accommodation Framework provides 33 providers who specifically offer support and accommodation tailored to the needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People; the majority of these services are located in Peterborough.

The majority of Peterborough's Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are aged 16 and 17, and all are male. 82% of this cohort live in Supported Accommodation provisions and 18% in fostering placements; this represents an increase in supported accommodation placements over recent years.

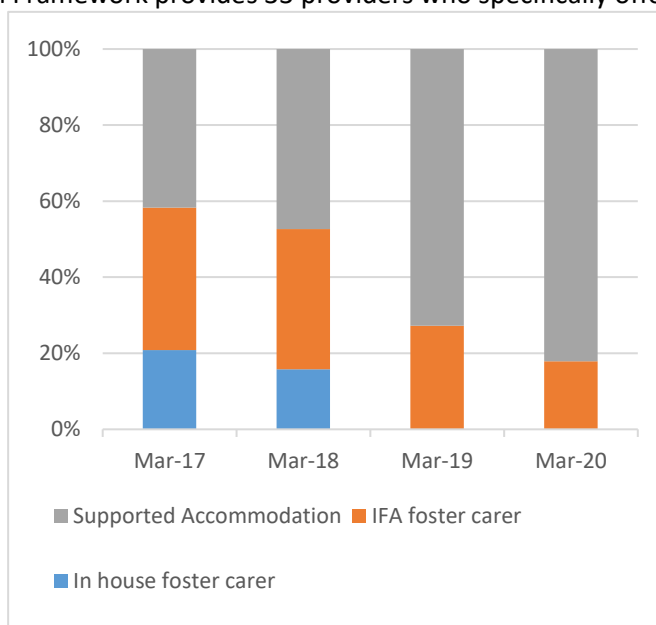
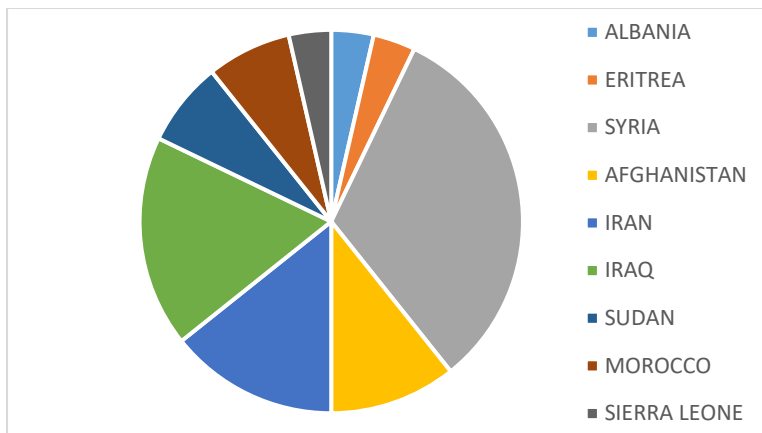


Table 9

<b>Placement type</b>	<b>Mar-17</b>	<b>Mar-18</b>	<b>Mar-19</b>	<b>Mar-20</b>
<i>Placement with in house foster carer</i>	5	3	0	0
<i>Placement with external / IFA foster carer</i>	9	7	6	5
<i>Supported Accommodation</i>	10	9	16	23

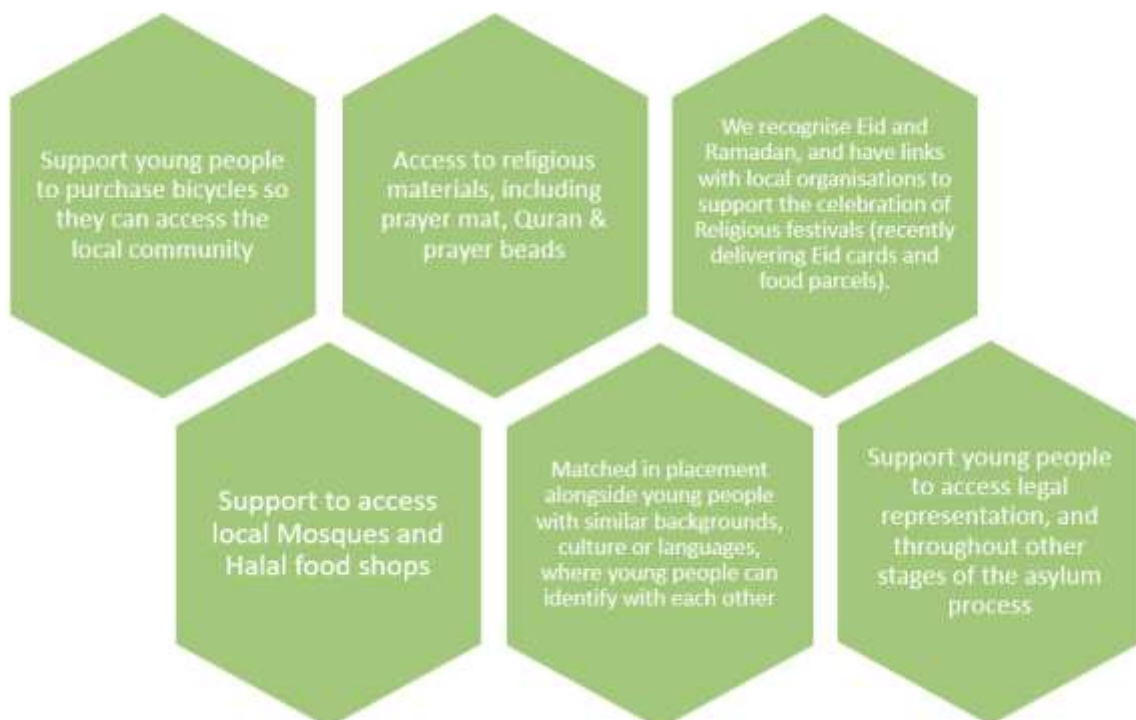
At March 2020 Peterborough’s Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People originated from a number of countries, with 32% of young people from Syria. It is of note that there are no clear trends in respect of young people’s home countries.



There is a risk that young people may experience social and cultural isolation, and as such there is a need for providers to be active in supporting the development of safe supportive links for these young people.

“ I will move soon as well.  
Thanks a lot guys for everything,  
you are the best ”

Peterborough City Council utilise a variety of tools to promote the cultural needs of our unaccompanied young people to support access into the local community. Examples of this include





## 5.8 Care Leavers

Peterborough is committed to ensuring our Care Leavers feel supported. Peterborough’s Local Offer details the support that is available for young people who are leaving, or have left the care of Peterborough City Council, and encompasses the following areas:

- Health and wellbeing
- Accommodation
- Education, apprenticeships and employment
- Relationships
- Getting ready for adulthood, and
- Being part of the community

“ Having the option to live somewhere with good job opportunities and transport links helps to put young people in the best possible position to live a successful life. ”

Further information about the Local Offer is available [here](#).

Peterborough’s Care Leaver Population has increased significantly since 2017 to 245 at March 2020.

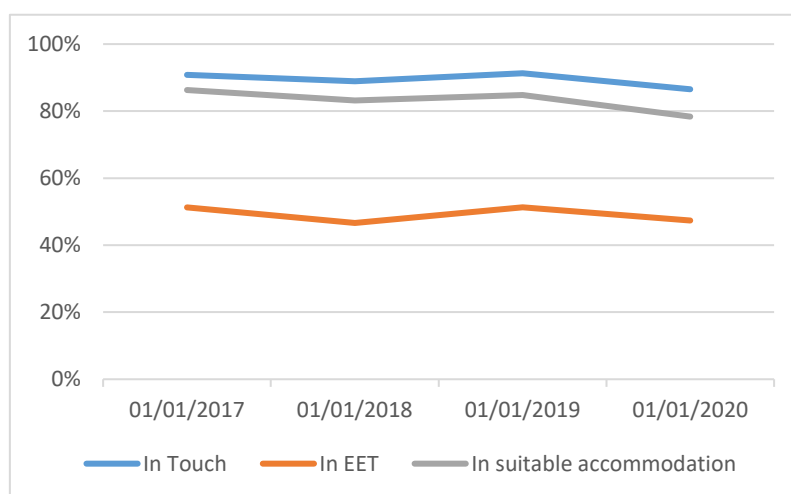
Table 10

	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
Number of Care Leavers	197	208	230	245

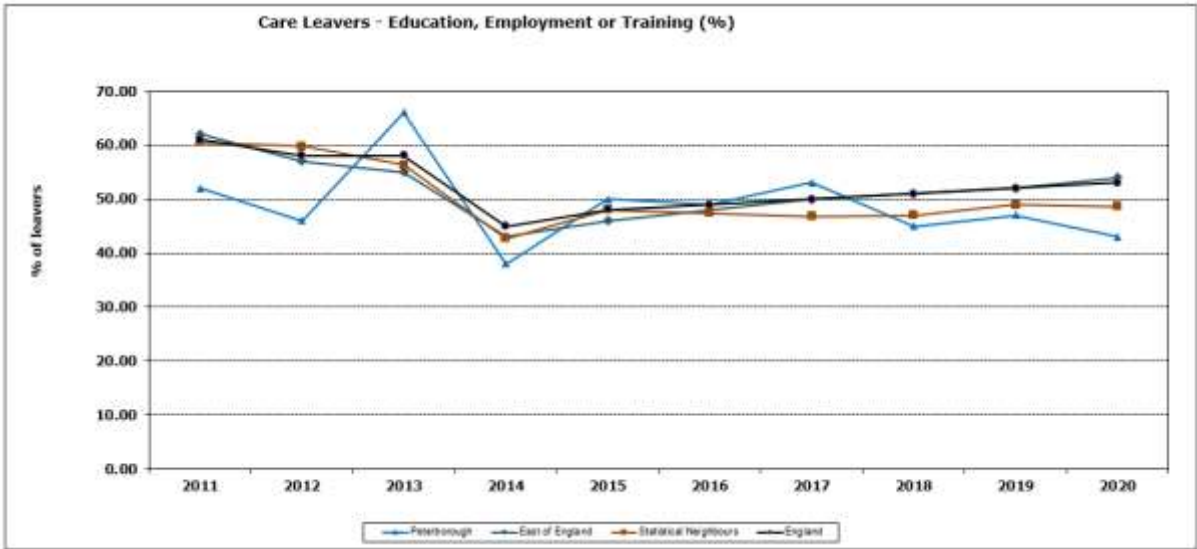
87% of Peterborough’s Care Leaver Population are in contact with Children’s Social Care; a slight decrease from 91% in 2017.

Similarly, the proportion of Care Leavers who are living in suitable accommodation has reduced since 2017.

Engagement in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is a further measure that supports us to identify outcomes for our Care Leaver population. EET figures nationally have saw a decline from 2011 – 2015, with figures beginning to rise from 2016 onwards.



Peterborough’s Care Leaving population’s engagement in EET similarly reduced from 2011 to 2015, but unlike national comparators it has continued to reduce in subsequent years; in 2011 52% of our care leavers were engaged in EET, reducing to 49% in 2016, and further reducing to 43% in 2020. EET continues to be a priority for Peterborough for our Care Leavers; Peterborough’s Local Offer includes a focus on supporting Care Leavers to engage in education, employment and training.



## 5.9 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

### Summary 4

<b>Composition of Population</b>	
<p><b>Challenges/Gaps</b></p> <p>Increase in children under 5 coming into care            Higher proportion of Children in Care are male; particularly in residential children's homes            Increased availability of good quality, local provision            Increase the number of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation, and in education, employment or training            Almost 50% of children and young people are in care for less than 2 years</p>	
<p><b>Actions Required</b></p> <p>Review support in early years to families where there are vulnerable children.            Continue to recruit foster carers/ providers able to care for boys.            Ensure availability of local, good quality, residential accommodation to reflect the gender split.            Encourage the development of social and other housing models with associated support for young people leaving care.            Develop links with local colleges, employers and training providers.            Review post care placement for those leaving care in under 2 years</p>	<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Children are able to stay with birth families wherever it is safe and possible.            Provision matches gender balance of population.            There are stable and safe housing for young people to move into as they move to independence.            There are the right opportunities for young people leaving care to receive education, training and progress into worthwhile careers.            Where children and young people are returning home safely there is knowledge on what has enabled this to happen and this can be developed further, consider further development of services to rehabilitate home.</p>

# 6

# Recommendations

## 6.1 Summary of recommendations

This Strategy has identified that though much has been and continues to be done, Peterborough City Council is committed to building further to ensure the very best outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers. To this end, a commitment from the Authority is given to the following actions.

Area	Actions	Impact
<b>Fostering</b>	<p>Continued development of Peterborough’s In House Fostering Service, with focus on recruitment of carers to support older children and young people, and those young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours.</p> <p>Ensure that all local Fostering Agencies have an awareness of the DPS, how Peterborough source placements, and how to submit a tender to join the DPS.</p> <p>Engagement with those providers who offer local provision to promote exploring vacancies with Peterborough prior to other Local Authorities.</p>	<p>Increased availability of local provision, which in turn will offer greater stability to children and young people requiring short, medium or long term placements. More Peterborough children and young people living ‘in area’ close to their own communities and supports.</p>
<b>Residential Children’s Homes</b>	<p>Engage with current providers to scope development of services.</p> <p>Ensure that local providers, who meet quality thresholds for the DPS, are encouraged to join the DPS.</p> <p>Engage with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s).</p> <p>Improve the quality of data recorded for this cohort of young people.</p>	<p>Increased availability of good quality, local residential provision to meet the range of needs of Peterborough’s children and young people.</p> <p>Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service</p> <p>Improved understanding of the specific needs, themes and trends pertaining to this cohort of children and young people in care, which will in turn inform future commissioning activity</p>
<b>Supported Accommodation</b>	<p>Develop provider peer support network.</p>	<p>Providers are able to share good practice and achieve better outcomes for young people</p>

	<p>Continue to embed quality assurance processes; risk assessment tool to be developed for Supported Accommodation to improve prioritisation of visits.</p> <p>Launch of a 'Stepping Out' tool to support providers and young people in capturing independence skills, which will be used by all providers</p>	<p>Targeted use of quality assurance and contract monitoring visits, will enable Commissioning to support providers to make any necessary improvements to service delivery.</p> <p>Universal tool in place to reflect independence skills, uniformity across providers, tools can travel with young people, enabling a continuity of support relating to independence skills.</p>
<b>Family Support</b>	<p>Undertake full commissioning activity required to identify spend, usage, locally available providers, and potential procurement approaches.</p>	<p>Ensure quality of providers and appropriate contract management to mitigate risk. Intelligent use of resources in developing contract, reducing resource implications for the Local Authorities and providers.</p>
<b>Transitions from CAMHS tier 4 provision</b>	<p>Market stimulation exercise to encourage third sector and independent sector providers to develop locally based resources within the local community.</p> <p>Engagement with current providers to scope development of service, use of DPS as a mechanism where helpful.</p> <p>Engagement with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s).</p> <p>Develop quality of data recorded for this cohort of young people</p>	<p>More provision available to meet need in the provider market.</p> <p>Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service</p> <p>Improved understanding of the specific needs, themes and trends pertaining to this cohort of young people, which will in turn inform future commissioning activity</p>
<b>Composition of children coming into care and leaving care</b>	<p>Review supports in early years to families where there are vulnerable children.</p> <p>Continue to recruit foster carers/providers able to care for boys.</p> <p>Encourage the development of social and other housing models with associated support for young people leaving care.</p>	<p>Children are able to stay with birth families wherever it is safe and possible.</p> <p>Provision matches gender balance of population.</p> <p>There are stable and safe housing for young people to move into as they move to independence.</p>

	<p>Develop links with local colleges, employers and training providers.</p> <p>Review post care destinations of those leaving care after two years or less.</p>	<p>There are the right opportunities for young people leaving care to receive education, training and progress into worthwhile careers.</p> <p>Where children and young people are returning home safely there is knowledge on what has enabled this to happen and this can be developed further.</p>
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Each of the actions listed above has a SMART Action Plan with staff accountable to timelines to ensure that all actions that can be taken for those in or leaving the care of Peterborough City Council are completed in the most effective, timely manner and to the highest possible quality levels.

# 7 Conclusion

Abi, one of our Young Inspectors, said within the foreword of this document that ensuring that children and young people are involved in decisions that involve them is essential. Peterborough are committed to ensuring that children and young people are engaged throughout commissioning processes; coproduction will be woven throughout commissioning. We are committed to ensuring that young people's views are not only sought, but that we can share the outcomes and impact of this coproduction with young people.

“ Really listen to the young person's needs, wants and desires and take them into consideration throughout every process. ”

One of the many benefits to Peterborough and Cambridgeshire's close working relationship is the opportunity to identify common areas of need across the two Authorities. This Sufficiency Statement will be considered alongside Cambridgeshire County Council's Sufficiency Statement, and where there are shared gaps and challenges we will endeavour to resolve for both Authorities, in partnership with professionals, children, young people, their families and providers.

Peterborough's commissioning intentions (collated above) are governed by the Joint Commissioning Board; a partnership body across Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. This Board is responsible for ensuring Commissioning activity is undertaken in accordance with budgetary and strategic priorities.

Commissioning intentions will be communicated via our [website](#), and via procurement portals where this is appropriate and in accordance with regulations.

Action plans will be developed to review progress in achieving the measures identified through this document as necessary to ensuring that Peterborough is able to provide appropriate and sufficient provisions to meet the needs of our Children and Young People in Care.

In the late Summer / early Autumn of 2021, an updated version of this document will be published, with revised data sets following the publication of Statutory data at March 2021.

## Appendix A – Glossary

CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health service. An NHS provision to meet mental health needs of children and young people
Connected Person	A person known to a child, young person or their family who may be able to offer care following sufficient assessment
DPS/ Dynamic Purchasing System	A framework for the supply and purchase of placements with independent fostering agencies and residential children’s homes
IFA	Independent Fostering Agency
Link Foster Carer(s)	A foster carer who offers short breaks through foster care, usually to a child or young person with disabilities
SMART	An acronym that stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child/ Children



2 August 2021

Lou Williams  
Director of Children's Services  
Peterborough City Council  
Sand Martin House  
Bittern Way  
Fletton Quays  
Peterborough  
PE2 8TY

Dear Mr Williams

### **Focused visit to Peterborough City Council children's services**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's social care system has delivered child-centred practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

This letter summarises the findings of a focused visit to Peterborough City Council children's services on 22 and 23 June 2021. Her Majesty's Inspectors for this visit were Tom Anthony and Nigel Parkes.

Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for children in care.

This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. However, the delivery model was adapted to reflect the COVID-19 context. The lead inspector and the director of children's services agreed arrangements to deliver this visit effectively while working within national and local guidelines for responding to COVID-19. This visit was carried out on site and appropriate measures were put in place to enable discussions with children in care as well as local authority staff, managers and leaders.

### **Headline findings**

A conscientious corporate parent, Peterborough City Council looks after most children in its care well. While there are challenges with placement sufficiency, children in care experience stable placements. Although the proportion of children in care living more than 20 miles from home is relatively high, most are living with foster carers who understand their needs and are supported by social workers who know them and their histories. Independent reviewing officers provide an appropriate level of critical scrutiny, to progress children's plans in a timely way. Senior leaders understand children's lived experience and there is a clear and consistent approach to permanency.

## **What needs to improve in this area of social work practice**

- The quality and recording of supervision to evidence monitoring of children's progress and experiences.
- Maximise the impact of audit activity on outcomes for children.
- Fewer children living at considerable distance from Peterborough.

## **Main findings**

There have been relatively high rates of COVID-19 infection in Peterborough. Swift and effective decision-making has ensured that the most vulnerable children have continued to receive face-to-face visits throughout the pandemic.

The number of children in care in Peterborough remains fairly constant. The majority of children live with suitable carers who are able to meet their needs. The quality of placement matching is an area of strength, and staff make best use of limited placement options. The local authority creates strength-based profiles of children to share with prospective carers. Thoughtful and thorough placement planning by social workers, who consider the views and wishes of children, helps carers understand children's needs and provides them with good care.

Once in care, children rarely move other than in a planned way. Emergency placements are rare. If a child's placement is under pressure, placement disruption meetings are organised swiftly to mobilise a multi-agency team around the child and their carers. Every effort is made to prevent children having to move. When a placement breakdown is unavoidable, social workers provide effective support to ensure that children have a planned move to their new home.

During the periods of restriction, children in care have been seen regularly by their social workers. COVID-19 risk assessments are routinely updated to inform the type of visiting that is required. Decisions to visit children virtually are approved by managers. Face-to-face visits continue to take place for children when there are concerns about placement stability or other risk factors.

Assessments are clear and concise and provide an appropriate level of critical analysis. Plans reflect changes in children's lives and consider their needs, wishes and feelings. While social workers are knowledgeable about diversity, this is not consistently explored or addressed in children's written assessments and plans. Although children's wishes and feelings are often captured, virtual visiting has impacted on opportunities to undertake direct work with some children.

Children in care are involved in a range of activities that influence service developments and enrich their experiences. These include the recruitment of workers, acting as young inspectors, and leading the development of materials to support new entrants to care and better manage the process when children have a new social worker. Children spoken to are confident that senior managers listen to

their views and take action to respond. Children are encouraged to engage in a range of sporting and other activities outside of school.

Foster carers make informed decisions when they are asked to care for children and are highly committed to them. They encourage and support children to engage in a wide range of social and leisure activities. Leaders value the role of carers and understand that they are key to improving children's lives and experiences. Carers are well supported and are active and influential in recruitment and marketing campaigns run by the authority.

Good attention is paid to the children's physical and emotional well-being. The children in care health team has mainly undertaken virtual assessments during the pandemic, routinely monitoring children's health and addressing any identified needs. Face-to-face assessments have continued for more vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Arrangements to assess and meet the health needs of children placed at distance are sometimes more difficult to arrange. This means that for a small number of children, there are delays in receiving specialist services or assessments. Senior leaders are taking action to strengthen this area of practice.

Services for children in care with disabilities and complex health needs are well managed. Some children are placed at distance from the local authority because there is not suitable provision more locally. Additional visiting from independent reviewing officers and independent visitors helps to ensure regular contact and oversight of the needs and planning for these children.

Independent reviewing officers produce thorough and detailed review reports. They coordinate care planning and identify appropriate actions that support children's progress. They are not slow to use case alerts and activate dispute resolution processes to address issues or concerns. In a small number of cases, despite appropriate escalation, actions to improve or address children's circumstances are not completed within reasonable timescales.

The local authority provides a highly effective response to children who go missing or who are at risk of exploitation. Strong operational partnerships and effective multi-agency working underpin this effective response. Children who are vulnerable to exploitation are swiftly identified and risk assessments are used well to inform safety planning. Well-attended strategy meetings are convened for children who regularly go missing. Children are routinely offered return home interviews. These are well managed, well recorded and improve the quality of children's safety planning.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the virtual school has been active in addressing the educational and social needs of children. Staff understand the importance of education in supporting placement stability. Careful child-centred planning between foster carers, social workers and the virtual school has enabled children's education to continue while taking account of foster carers' individual circumstances. All

children in care have up-to-date, good-quality personal education plans. When a placement change necessitates a change of schools, effective collaboration between the virtual school and social workers ensures that the school best able to meet the child's needs is identified.

Accurate performance management information provides senior leaders with a clear understanding and knowledge of practice as well as of the experiences and progress of children in care. The local authority's quality assurance framework is well developed. Senior leaders recognise that audit activity needs to return to pre-pandemic levels to maximise the impact on outcomes for children, workforce learning and development, and enhance social work practice.

Senior leaders have ensured that social workers have the tools they need to be able to practise effectively. Staff have been provided with suitable technology and personal protective equipment to enable them to continue to work from home or the office and visit children safely. Foster carers and social workers have put the needs of children first during this challenging period.

Written records of supervision do not consistently evidence oversight of the progress of children's plans or the impact of supervision in driving forward agreed actions. There is also variable evidence in written records of supervision being used to reflect on children's experiences effectively.

Social workers have manageable caseloads and the workforce is relatively stable. Low turnover of staff is central to providing children with consistent, reliable support and care. Leaders are visible and accessible. They are involved in key decision-making for children in care and know children well.

Ofsted will take the findings from this focused visit into account when planning your next inspection or visit.

Your sincerely

Tom Anthony  
Her Majesty's Inspector

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 7</b>
<b>6 SEPTEMBER 2021</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Executive Director, People and Communities Wendi Ogle Welbourn	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University	
Contact Officer(s):	Dee Glover Headteacher Peterborough Virtual School for CiC	Tel. 07917133152

**ANNUAL REPORT OF PETERBOROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN CARE 2019-2020**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Executive Director, People and Communities, Wendi Ogle Welbourn	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes the content of the report.</li> <li>2. Raise any queries they have with the lead officer.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report has been requested by members of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform on the activity of the Virtual School (VS) and the educational outcomes of Peterborough's Children in Care (CIC) for the academic year 2019/20. It reflects on achievements and identifies areas in need of development to achieve the best outcomes for this vulnerable group. Data contained in this report is for Children in Care who had been in the care of Peterborough City Council for a year or more on 31 March 2020.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

2. Education, including
  - a) University and Higher Education;
  - b) Careers; and
  - c) Special Needs and Inclusion

2.3 This report links to Corporate Priority 2.2: To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people

2.4 How does this report link to the Children in care Pledge?  
This links to the Children in Care Pledge under:

1. **Respect** - We will respect you as individuals, with differing wants, needs and beliefs and tailor the service you get to fit you.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	n/a
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The annual report attached at Appendix 1 includes information on the work that has been undertaken by Peterborough Virtual School in the period September 2019 to July 2020. It includes information on attainment, inclusion, quality of provision, Personal Education Plans (PEPs), Pupil Premium Plus and the function of Peterborough Virtual School Priorities for 2020-21  
Members are requested to note the contents of the report

### 5. **CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 N/A

### 6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 Children and Education Scrutiny Committee Members have the Annual Report on the attainment of CiC, as well as the issues that can inhibit progress, and the emotional wellbeing of children. This ensures that Committee members are informed but can also challenge where necessary.

### 7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 There are no recommendations for the committee to consider. The report is for information only.

### 8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 There are no alternative options to be considered.

### 9. **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 None

#### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 None

#### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 None

#### **Rural Implications**

- 9.4 None

#### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 9.5 PVS (Peterborough Virtual School) has reduced car journeys by using alternative technology to participate in out of city meetings.

## **Implications for Children in Care and Care Leavers**

9.6 The implication for children in care and care leavers is that they can be confident that PVS will provide the highest level of support in whatever area ensuring they have every opportunity to reach their potential, whatever that might be.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 *N/A*

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 Appendix 1 – Peterborough Virtual School Annual Report 2019-2020

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Peterborough Virtual School



# Peterborough Virtual School

## Virtual School Head Teacher Report

With contributions from:

**Dr Chloe Marks – Specialist Education Psychologist**  
**Nichola Phillips - Primary Maths and Forest School Lead**  
**Jan Tate – Primary Literacy Lead**  
**Faith Dakin – Secondary HLTA**  
**Mohammed Sarfraz – Post 16 Coordinator**

**Peterborough Children in Care**  
**Academic Year 2019 / 20**

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## 1 Context

Local authorities and their directors of children's services are the corporate parents for Children in Need (CIC); they have a statutory responsibility to promote the educational achievement of the children they look after, regardless of where they are placed.

Peterborough Virtual School sits within the Schools Standards and Effectiveness Team and is accountable to the Service Director of Education Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The Virtual School Head teacher (VSH) is line-managed and supported by the Service Director of Education for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and reports to Corporate Parenting Panel and Corporate Parenting Board. The VSH is Dee Glover who has been in post since November 2013.

## 1.1 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the activity of the Virtual School (VS) for the academic year 2019-2020. It reflects on achievements and identifies areas in need of development to achieve the best outcomes for this vulnerable group. It is a very different report to previous years with no end of key stage data reported. However, it does give the opportunity to celebrate the resilience and resourcefulness of our children and young people who during unprecedented times have retained a sense of purpose and indeed humour, maintaining relationships with school staff, peers and carers and doing their best to continue to learn. We can also give a greater insight to the day-to-day work of PVS and the changes we made in response to the impact of the pandemic.

It has been a challenging year for us, our children and young people, schools, carers and social workers. Throughout we have strived to ensure that our children and young people have been supported to continue to learn but have also been mindful of their emotional health. Sustaining care placements and relationships at home have been as, and sometimes more, important than maintaining academic progress.

There is no key stage data available because, as a result of the COVID pandemic, formal examinations and assessments did not take place in 2020 and grades were based on a range of information including teacher assessments. In addition due to school closures in the second half of the spring term 2020 and the following summer term 2020 we have limited progress data. We are reliant on attainment data gleaned from Personal Education Plans (PEPs) completed in March 2019 to determine progress and are working with schools to establish what support individuals will need to recover from lost learning.

The Department for Education has been clear that outcomes and other related data should only be used to ensure young people transition successfully to the next stage of their education, employment or training, and aggregated data should not be used for comparisons or performance benchmarking. All those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams and local authorities, will use data from previous years when assessing school and college performance, and not the 2020 data. Therefore, in line with these recommendations, no aggregated data or comparisons are included in this report. This allows for more focus on individuals, including those young people whose achievements may not have been evidenced in formal examination or assessment outcomes but who have, nonetheless, achieved significantly when considering their wider context

## 2 Role of the Virtual School

The Virtual School should be evaluated by the extent to which it contributes to diminishing the difference between the outcomes of CIC and all children locally and that CIC do at least as well as CIC nationally. We strive to achieve this by:

- Co-ordinating and quality assuring all PEPs
- Monitoring and challenging schools to make the most effective use of the Pupil Premium Plus Grant
- Tracking academic progress, attendance, and exclusions of CIC
- Using our tracking data to highlight individuals who are not on target to achieve their predicted outcomes and challenging their settings to provide them with additional support
- Ensuring Special Education Needs or Disability (SEND) needs are identified and supported appropriately with an integrated plan
- Providing support and challenge to schools to ensure that academic standards are raised for CIC
- Ensuring effective transition between schools or specialist providers
- Encouraging a culture that supports our young people to have high aspiration about their futures and removes barriers to progression onto further education
- Leading training for Foster Carers, Designated Teachers, school governors and bespoke training for educational settings and staff in schools
- Celebrating CIC achievements and ensuring schools and carers do the same
- Supporting the delivery of the Children in Care Pledge
- Providing advice and guidance to support the education of children previously in care

## 2.1 Structure of the Virtual School – September 2019

<b>PCC staff</b>
Virtual School Head Teacher
Primary Education Coordinator
Secondary Education Coordinator
Post 16 Education Coordinator
Education Advisor for Children Previously in Care
<b>Pupil Premium Funded Posts</b>
Secondary Support Teacher – in partnership with Ormiston Bushfield Academy
Specialist Teacher of Maths Primary and Forest school Leader – in partnership with Ravensthorpe Primary
Specialist Teacher of Literacy Primary – in partnership with Nene Valley Primary
Early Years Advisor – (commissioned from Early Years Team)
Specialist Educational Psychologist
Business Support Officer – additional hours
Primary Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) – in partnership with Nene Valley Primary
Secondary HLTA – in partnership with Ormiston Bushfield Academy

The Peterborough Virtual School aims to achieve improvements to the educational outcomes of CIC through a school improvement model. This allows for a small team, with sufficient influence and expertise, to improve outcomes through support and challenge to all education settings. Additional expert staff provide interventions for individual children who are identified as requiring support with learning or self-regulation.

## 2.2 Peterborough Virtual School Covid – 19 Response

In addition to business as usual we issued, in conjunction with CVS, immediate and ongoing guidance for foster carers and social workers to support them with accessing school places for those children requiring the service and those eligible within the 'vulnerable' group. In addition, we provided advice and guidance to designated school staff on the bespoke Covid -19 Summer Term Personal Education Plan and process. We established a consultation phone line for all stakeholders with our PVS Specialist Education Psychologist, acknowledging heightened anxiety for some carers, children and colleagues. Our work continued with those children and young people already identified by the PVS Intervention team to sustain learning momentum and we continued to fund online tuition sessions from an external provider for children and young people. For those carers needing support with home learning we provided a resource guide to supplement work provided by schools and offered advice. Where possible we held weekly virtual KIT meetings with designated school staff to monitor well-being of those children attending school and to challenge where the learning offer was not of an acceptable standard.

We collected attendance data alongside our external attendance service checking whether any children and young people needed equipment to be able to work effectively at home and that those children needing to be in school were able to attend. There were two instances of challenge required to increase the time offered. The importance of our role was evident when children needed to change schools during closures due to care placement moves. This was a challenge, but we ensured that the school previously attended by the child continued to provide work until a new setting was sourced, facilitated applications to new schools by those with parental responsibility and attended initial PEP meetings. As usual, we attended transition PEP meetings in the summer term for Early Years, Year 6 and 11 pupils and facilitated additional transition opportunities for the more vulnerable. To complete the year and being mindful of a different ending to KS2, we provided a Year 6 end of primary school pack, including a letter, a certificate, book, activities and equipment. For Year 11 pupils, most of whom had ended their education on 20<sup>th</sup> March, we provided a Year 11 end of KS4 acknowledgment letter and signposting booklet and reminded them of our continued support. For those unsure of the way forward this provided reassurance and resulted in a renewed effort by those destined to be NEET.

### 3 Cohort Characteristics (mid-year April 2020)

Peterborough Virtual School (April 2020)	Pupils	% of Total
Total number on school roll (pre-school to Year 13)	327	100%

EHCP or Statement of SEN	80	24.5%
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*Pupils with 1 or more Fixed Term Exclusion Recorded	17	5.2%
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*\*53 Days over 56 instances (due to COVID-19 only 2-Terms are recorded)*

**Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	25	7.6%
--	----	------

*\*\*22 are Post 16 students, 1 is Year 10 and 2 are Year 11 pupils*

Number of Schools/education Settings attended	163	
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Male	193	59.0%
Female	134	41.0%

Ethnicity - White British	208	63.6%
Ethnicity - Not White British	119	36.4%

Academic Year Groups	Pupils	% of Total
Pre-school	13	4.0%
Reception	15	4.6%
Year 1	5	1.5%
Year 2	11	3.4%
Year 3	11	3.4%
Year 4	16	4.9%
Year 5	20	6.1%
Year 6	17	5.2%
Year 7	31	9.5%
Year 8	27	8.3%
Year 9	21	6.4%

Year 10	26	8.0%
Year 11	38	11.6%
Year 12	64	19.6%
Year 13	12	3.7%

The PVS roll is ever changing with children entering and leaving care on a daily basis. In general, there are a greater proportion of children and young people who are in the secondary phase, than are in the Pre-school and Primary phases.

The profile of pupil placement is more or less identical to last year with 70% of children placed within 20 miles of the city.

## 4 Training

The Virtual School is committed to developing the practice of professionals working with CIC so that they have the relevant knowledge, information and skills to enable them to fulfil their role in contributing to educational outcomes and raising aspirations. This has contributed to an improvement in the quality of PEPs and a greater understanding of the importance of advocacy on the part of carers. Social workers are actively involved in the PEP process and more confident in challenging around Pupil Premium as an example. Going forward much of our training will be online to facilitate attendance at a time convenient to the target audience, but we very much are looking forward to some face to face gatherings in the future.

### 4.1 Designated Teacher Training

Training sessions for new to the role Designated Teachers, both in and out of city, addressing PEP completion specifically but also the wider role required are provided regularly. The sessions aim to equip school professionals with the necessary skills to maximise the achievement of children in care through excellent education planning. From March 2020 training moved online with training videos for PEP completion available. PVS staff supported both new and current Designated Teachers to manage support for children during school closures, and the completion of the newly created Covid 19 summer term PEP. Our Education Psychologist also offered additional consultation sessions as support, specifically during school closures.

### 4.2 Social Worker Training

New social workers are referred to the VS for training in the completion of PEPs and other matters relating to education. To improve the offer, and maintain high levels of compliance and quality, fortnightly PEP clinics are held with VS staff available for training support and advice. Training has been provided by the Statutory Assessment and Monitoring Service to share the processes of requesting and securing an EHCP when required. This is particularly pertinent when children with an EHCP move to out of city schools following a care placement change.



### 4.3 Foster Carer Training

Whilst no direct training took place, support and resource packs were provided during school closures. Training will now be delivered on-line and we are currently developing our programme with Cambridgeshire Virtual School and the Fostering and Adoption service.

### 4.4 School Governor Training

Training for Governors scheduled for March 2020 was postponed. Subsequently this training will now be offered in conjunction with Cambridgeshire Virtual School as an online programme, accessible at all times for study when convenient. Designated Governors will have an understanding of their role as advocates for CiC and previously CiC, and will be able to challenge head teachers.

### 4.5 Connected Communities Project

In September 2019, Peterborough Virtual School began Phase 2 of its Attachment Aware Schools Project. This has now been rebranded as the Connected Communities project in line with current evidence on trauma-responsive practice. 11 schools joined Phase 2 of the project and have participated in 4 out of 6 training days. The remaining two training days were delayed by a term due to circumstances stemming from the pandemic. Each school has two or three members of staff that attend the training. Knowledge is then disseminated and interventions are embedded by attendees, via a whole school approach. The evaluation data from the first four training days is reported below.

The following table shows a sample of comments from school staff attending the Connected Communities training so far:

Training day	Theme of training	Comment
Day 1	Introduction to the project	Clear information and guidance given so our school can move forward.
Day 1	Introduction to the project	Reflection, awareness of school approach, clearer focus of what we intend to do and how we aim to get there has been very effective.
Day 2	Attachment and developmental trauma	Useful handouts to use in my setting, better knowledge of attachment strategies.
Day 2	Attachment and developmental trauma	Identification & strategies of attachment documents are really valuable resources.
Day 2	Attachment and developmental trauma	It has been very helpful!
Day 3	Emotion Coaching	Interesting, relevant, valuable!
Day 3	Emotion Coaching	Brilliant, enjoyed the training, excited to be taking it back!
Day 3	Emotion Coaching	Fantastic, so practical.
Day 4	Safety and regulation	Developmental trauma information is extremely interesting and safety dependent analysis will help us with our project.
Day 4	Safety and regulation	Interventions which develop children's feeling of safety has been really effective.

In addition, the 11 schools have each planned and are carrying out individual action research projects which focus on school development areas identified from their own attachment aware audits/school development plans. The following research areas are being evaluated:

Project area	Number of schools
The impact of safe spaces on children	3
The impact of attachment aware training on parents	1
Evaluation of attachment aware mentoring on children's emotional literacy skills/engagement	2
The impact of whole school training on staff practice	3
The impact of an Attachment Aware Policy on staff practice	1
Evaluation of an SEMH intervention on children's self-regulation skills	1

The schools will be completing their action research projects and reporting their findings by January 2022.

## 5 Interventions by PVS specialist staff

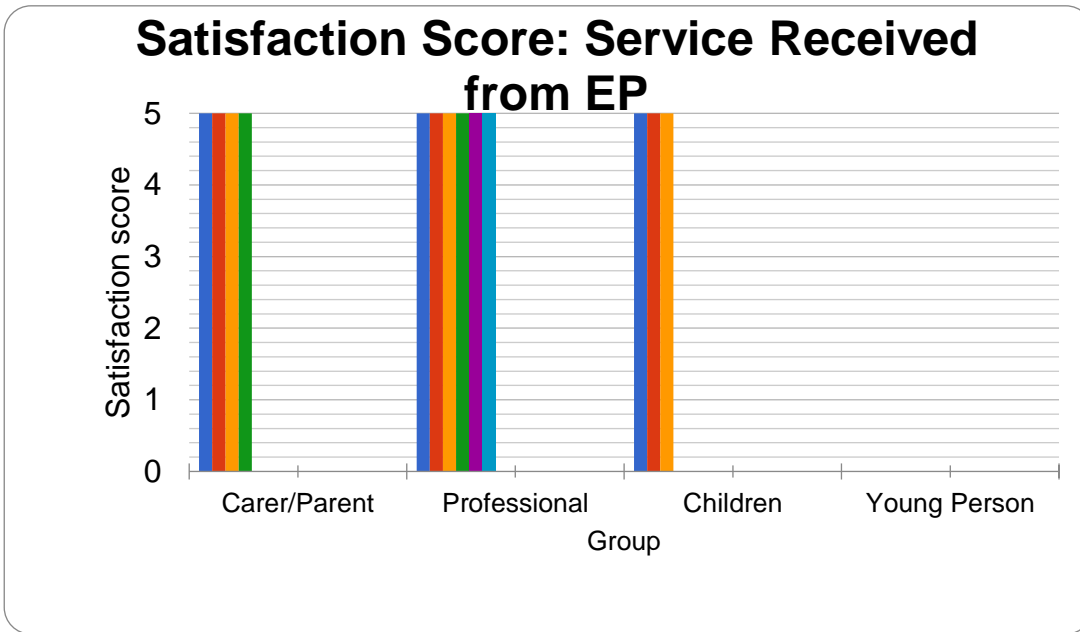
### 5.1 Educational Psychology

Between September 2019 and August 2020, there has been Educational Psychology (EP) involvement for 30 children in care. The pie chart shows the breakdown of casework by the Educational Psychologist for Children in Care in the academic year 2019-2020 and indicates the type of activities undertaken to support Peterborough children in care. Many of the children have had multiple types of involvement (e.g. consultation and individual assessment/consultation and review meeting) and/or several involvements over time.

Table 1

Type of involvement during the Academic Year 2019-2020	Number of involvements
Assessment (including observation and consultation)	14
Consultation	2
Review meeting	10
Professional meetings including (EHCP reviews and PEPs)	9
Transition planning	3
Covid-19 phone consultations with carers	4
Covid-19 emails to support carers/social workers	2
Total number of children who received Educational Psychology involvement	30

Table 2



The above table indicates that all respondents evaluating Educational Psychology involvement rated their satisfaction at a level of 5 (very high).

**Review of involvement comments from professionals/carers**

Reviews of children’s progress following Educational Psychology involvement are undertaken at least one term later. Some children require multiple reviews of progress.

From analysis of the review meeting records, the following themes in terms of impact and outcomes from involvement have been identified: developing children’s attention skills, building self-regulatory skills, aiding their educational progress and promoting their engagement with school and learning.

The table below shows a sample of comments which were received during review meetings following Educational Psychology involvement.

Table 3

Role	Comment
Head Teacher	‘X stays on the carpet now for more than 10 minutes and her attention is sustained on tasks for half an hour.’
Designated Teacher	‘X is using regulation strategies like mindful colouring and putty’
Carer	‘X appears less anxious at home.’
Designated Teacher	‘X is not asking to come home from school now.’
Designated Teacher	‘X is engaging with her timetable.’
Head Teacher	‘X continues to do really well with his learning.’
Designated Teacher	‘We are implementing all of the strategies. X is doing really well now ... managing in school.’

## Covid-19 Support

An Educational Psychology consultation service has been offered on a weekly basis to carers and supporting professionals of children in care from April 2020 to provide support during the time of the pandemic for home schooling and any social, emotional or mental health difficulties. As shown in Table 1, 6 families have been supported from this service to date.

In addition, The Educational Psychologist for Children in Care contributed to a joint Educational Psychology project with Educational Psychologists across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authorities to produce three webinars to support recovery for schools following the first lockdown period. The Educational Psychologist for Children in Care also created and disseminated three booklets to support engagement with home schooling for primary age, secondary age and post 16 cohorts. One further booklet was produced to support Designated Teachers in meeting the needs of children in care returning to school after the first lockdown.

## 5.2 Primary Maths

Maths support for autumn and spring terms of 2019-2020 was focussed on 2 children identified at PEP meetings as underachieving and with the potential to make accelerated progress.

Child A (Y6) was taught 1:1 for 2 sessions per week. The school identified reasoning and problem solving (RPS) as areas requiring development and the child was working at 1 year and 1 term behind ARE with below expected progress in Y5. Overlearning was required in sessions to develop fluency as well as to identify RPS skills. In the autumn and spring terms, accelerated progress was made with 5 steps progress made up to the end of Spring 1 (average is 3 steps.) During lockdown, 3 sessions of remote learning per week were sent to the care placement (individualised teaching videos with independent work) but these sessions were not fully engaged with and progress was therefore limited for the remainder of the year.

Child B (Y3) after being in care for five months, moved to a new care placement and school. At the beginning of Y3, this child was working at 2+years below ARE with significant gaps in mathematical knowledge. Using Sandwell Assessment and diagnostic lessons, gaps in knowledge were identified. Child B was taught by a PVS teacher twice weekly with 3 other children and a TA from the school setting. 2 embedding lessons were then planned by the PVS teacher and delivered by the TA. This model of delivery upskilled the TA and enabled her to support Child B in his classroom maths lessons as well as the intervention sessions. Accelerated progress was made with 1 year progress made by the end of Spring 2. During lockdown, pre-recorded video sessions and work were sent to the school by PVS and delivered by the TA. This enabled continuation of the progression into the summer term. By the end of the year, Child B was working towards ARE.

## 5.3 Primary Forest School

In partnership with an in-city Primary School, 8 children attended Forest School sessions with trained staff consistently and regularly. All children attending Forest School have soft skills identified as needing improvement. These soft skills are then tracked and reviewed termly. Of the 8 children, 2 children were taught on a 1:1 basis, facilitating the children to remain in full-time school places. These children attended for 2 afternoon sessions per week and the focus of the sessions was developing resilience and self-esteem in both children. At reviews for these children, resilience and self-esteem were identified as improving in both Forest School and school settings. The 6 other children were taught in small groups (max 1:3) of children who had similar soft skills that needed developing. These children were taught once weekly. These children focussed on: group working; new experiences; independent working and perseverance. Schools were asked to grade the children against criteria in each of the soft skills groups as: not yet developed; developing; established or

generalised within the classroom at the start of the Forest School sessions and at each review point. On average, 50% of the group working skills increased by one or more grades; 83% of new experience skills increased by one or more grades; 60% of independent working skills increased by one or more grades and 50% of perseverance skills increased by one or more grades. This gives an average soft skill increase of one or more grades of 61%. All of the children attending Forest School were impacted by the lockdown as Forest School was closed for the second half term of the spring term and all of the summer term.

## 5.4 Primary Literacy

During this period, the Literacy Lead and the HLTA Primary worked with a range of ages within the Primary phase, focusing on raising attainment to meet ARE, filling gaps in learning and closing the gap to age-related expectations. One exception was intensive work covering each morning, daily, at the Pupil Referral Unit from September until February half term, and then transition work to support the student into a new, mainstream setting. This work was very resource intensive, leaving less contact time than normal to spend with other students. Lockdown also reduced our ability to have a positive impact on learning, but we created resources and liaised with foster carers to ensure that students with whom we had already been working did not suffer from being out of school, instead their daily lessons continued and were carefully planned and resourced. We liaised with foster carers regularly, offering them training and support as they home-schooled using our plans and resources to supplement those provided by schools.

Whilst we were able to go into schools, intensive support was given to 10 pupils in years 2 – 6. The work was bespoke to each individual, consisting of speech and language assessments, referral and support; booster lessons to prepare for Y6 SATs, readers' counts lessons to accelerate progress in phonics, reading and writing, and booster support to encourage accelerated progress in Literacy. Additionally, the child at the Pupil Referral Unit was taught separately to the rest of the children for Literacy and Maths and work was planned at greater depth in reading and spelling and age-related in writing, to introduce a wide range of genres with a focus on teaching key features and inspiring writing through meaningful activities.

Four of the children with whom we worked have now transitioned successfully out of care taking with them a greater ability and confidence in Literacy. All four of these students were struggling in their schools prior to our involvement. Two in Y1, had significant behaviour and learning difficulties but are now coping very well in their new school with no behaviour issues and having made accelerated progress, allowing them to be part of the general classroom learning. One student at Y6 was lacking in basic phonic skills and only able to read very simple texts aimed at a young KS1 child. School was finding his behaviour challenging, but we felt that this was because he was unable to access the learning in class. He was assessed to find where the gaps were and taught intensively for a brief period of accelerated learning prior to him leaving care. The final child who was placed at the PRU when he entered care has been supported to transition back into a mainstream school, where he has been remarkably successful, demonstrating good behaviours and relationships and continuing to work at greater depth, whilst closing any gaps in learning that a period of difficulty created.

The rest of the children remain in LA care. Of the two remaining Y6 students, one was on target to reach ARE in SATs, should they have gone ahead, whilst the other was hovering just below. The Y2 child had failed her phonics check whilst in Y1 so was due to re-take this and according to our detailed assessments would have passed, but this did not happen due to Covid-19. She was provided with speech and language support also, having been selective mute with weak vocabulary. Her new school have confirmed that this is no longer a problem.

The Y3 children were given booster sessions according to their need and each made good progress; one in terms of tackling phonics gaps (all now secure) and reading progress –accelerated, and

another in terms of engagement with reading and writing and supporting behavioural issues through dedicated 1:1 focus time which also aimed to build self-esteem.

The Y4 students each had differing needs within Literacy – one had been diagnosed with moderate learning difficulties and was supported to transition to specialist provision at the end of the year, where he is now happy and making progress. This child was being taught outside of his year group by a TA; we provided him with daily ‘readers count’ lessons to tackle gaps in his phonics knowledge, to improve reading speed and understanding and to support spelling and sentence construction. Progress for this child was in small steps rather than rapid progress normally seen. He was also provided with twice weekly speech and language support to build up his vocabulary and ability to form more complex sentences. The other children were both able academically but had difficulties which resulted in behavioural issues and gaps in learning. On a 1:1 we were able to explore where the gaps were and fill these, allowing for good progress in both reading and writing.

Clearly, we would normally use SATs at KS1 and KS2 and phonics checks at Y1 and Y2 to measure precise progress in terms of the cohorts, but these were cancelled last year. Additionally, the timing of lockdown meant that some of our final assessments in terms of 1:1 support were not available.

During lockdown periods when we unable to visit students, detailed work was provided at the level needed and also Y6 leavers’ packs of activities were created and distributed (as we had realised that there was often no work provided for this year group towards the end of term). Additionally, a new intervention programme to support our children in care with low literacy levels, who are placed out of authority was started, with the aim of allowing us to train and support a TA in any school that is too far away for us to visit regularly to support a child. This is a phonics-based programme of daily lessons, based upon effective and thorough assessments at the start, end and ongoing, thus ensuring that work is precisely matched to need.

## 5.5 Secondary Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

The secondary HLTA supported 14 students in schools both in and out of city from Year 6 to Year 11 in the autumn and spring term until the closure of schools. In school teaching sessions were provided ranging from 1 to 3 per week covering core subjects.

During the school closures there was a requirement for our HLTA from our partnership school to support and teach for a day a week for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. In addition, online work was provided and returned with comments for those children who were receiving support.

### Student summary

Year 11 with SEN. Consolidated Mathematical learning to ensure predicted grade, revision in science and extra support to complete course work in other subjects.

Year 11 with SEMH challenges had the potential for good grades at GCSE but a breakdown of relationship with some staff in school inhibited progress. Interventions to ensure that the predicted grade in Mathematics was met and support was provided for Physics, working after school.

Year 8 with SEN and oppositional disorder. Encouraged reading/writing and numeracy through engagements with interests. Re-did school lessons when there was a refusal to engage. Continuing with progress in learning and engagement was a particular challenge remotely and there was limited success without the ‘personal’ touch.

Year 10 - Taught Childcare and Mathematics at home to supplement a part-time school programme until full time programme established.

Year 8 – had worked on Maths in year 7, established that there was a block to learning. Applied a dyscalculia screen and referred the findings to VS Education Psychologist (EP) who suggested interventions. Maintained bespoke weekly Maths lessons in lockdown tailoring them to the needs identified by the screen and endorsed by EP.

Year 8 – Had taught the young person all through year 7 continuing the work begun by the VS Primary Team – gaps in core subject knowledge due to missed schooling and lack of parental stimulation. Engaging individual with well-developed avoidance tactics when faced with unwanted academic challenges. English and Maths with emphasis on underpinning age-related teaching taking place in school. Maintained lessons into lockdown – long-standing relationship made this an easier task than some of the other remote lessons.

Year 9 – SEMH no EHCP. Taught since year 8. Bright young person with potential but well-established problems in relationships with school authority figures. Series of internal and external exclusions led to managed move early in year 9. Continued to teach the young person at their new school – seemed settled for a while and increased from Maths to Maths and English. Behaviour led to an agreement that the managed move had not been a success and so as an interim measure young person was included on the roll of the PRU .Lessons continued to be provided through this period with mixed success. Lack of engagement due to many factors. The young person has since successfully transitioned to a mainstream school.

Year 8 – has EHCP and hearing difficulties and major gaps in learning prior to being in care. English and Maths additional support depending on requests from the school. Made good progress, improved reading age by three years and was able to access some of the age-related Maths without support by the time we went into lockdown. Lessons continued but a greater reluctance developed during this time for independent working; insecurities developed when working away from school environment.

Year 10 - doing well in most lessons but needing extra support in English, particularly literature. English not first language but not a major block to education. Risk/links to gang violence caused huge impact on Year 10 progress as some exclusions occurred to interrupt education leading eventually to a managed move. Made the lessons very relevant to the young person and achieved excellent engagement but then lockdown occurred. Lessons continued via email and 'phone but completion of set work was sporadic.

Year 11 – SEMH no EHCP – easily distracted by life outside of education which interfered with work in school; history of seeking support for emotional issues during school hours. Needed to be given some additional educational support in order to meet target grades. Started with Maths but included English, particularly poetry as mock exams approached. Confidence increased and assessment results exceeded target grade.

Year 10 - Between schools due to care placement move so needed core subject lessons in order to maintain progress. Very bright and able but without motivation, reluctant to engage with actual work to be produced though very happy to engage with teacher and with discussing subject matter. Lack of motivation partially due to aspiration; the young person wished to join the army so didn't feel that GCSE's were needed as English and Maths could be done later when in the army. Work continued until school place was found but started again during lockdown as school had not begun properly so English and Maths support continued to prepare for move to Year 11.

Year 10 - Only started to work with this young person during lockdown – they moved school and had not settled. Work provided remotely but as a pupil identified as gifted and talented needed additional

stimulation. Q & A sessions to establish relationship before launching into higher Maths lessons including code cracking and some MENSA challenges. Reasonable response to lessons at times but SEMH issues stood in the way of consistent progress.

Short term assignment while this young person was resident in a children’s home which was intended only for KS3 and above. SEMH, behavioural and health needs - profoundly behind in age-related learning and extremely difficult to engage for more than a few minutes at a time. Behaviour exacerbated by need to impress the much older children in the home. Basic KS1 level English and Maths taught for the duration. The young person went to more suitable setting a few weeks into teaching which had on-site learning.

## 5.6 Post 16

PVS works closely with all stakeholders to support Young People (YP) and attend meetings where necessary, to help sustain education placements. The number of NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) can fluctuate from time to time for CiC over the academic year as well as from year-to-year depending on the cohort. In September the figure is normally low and increases around November when YP either do not continue their course or are withdrawn or excluded from the setting due to low attendance or lack of engagement / commitment.

- In September 2019 48 Year 12s secured education placements whilst 3 were NEET.
- At the same time there were 42 Year 13 were in education / training and 9 were NEET.

Below is a table giving snapshots of NEET numbers over the course of the academic year and reasons.

### NEET Analysis 2019-2020

2019 - 2020	NEET	Notes (reason for NEET)
<b>Year 12</b>	3	1- MH issues
<b>September 2019</b> <b>(2.9.19)</b>		2 – non-engagement
<b>Year 13</b>	9	6 - Non-engagement
<b>September 2019</b> <b>(2.9.19)</b>		1- off school roll – requiring specialist provision. 1- missing
<b>Year 12</b>	4	1 – seeking employment 4 – Non-engagement
<b>November 2019</b> <b>31.10.19)</b>		
<b>Year 13</b>	12	10 - Non-engagement.



2019 - 2020		NEET
Notes (reason for NEET)		
<b>November 2019</b> <b>(31.10.19)</b>		1 – off school roll – requiring specialist provision.
<b>Year 12</b>	8	1 – seeking employment.
<b>January 2020</b> <b>(28.1.20)</b>		3– Non engagement
		1- non-engagement – YOS involvement
		1- CSE risk – placement change – not wanting to engage in ETE new area.
		1 – missing
		1 – poor engagement – withdrawn from college
		1- left apprenticeship awaiting suitable opportunity
<b>Year 13</b>	4 – CiC	
<b>January 2020</b> <b>(28.1.20)</b>		Non engagement
	7- care leavers	1- missing
		4– non-engagement
		1 – requiring specialist provision – awaiting suitable opportunity.
		1 – poor engagement / behaviour – withdrawn
<b>Year 12</b>	6	4- non-engagement
<b>March 2020</b> <b>(27.3.20)</b>		1- missing
		1 – awaiting suitable opportunities
<b>Year 13</b>		Non-engagement / withdrawn
<b>March 2020</b> <b>(27.3.20)</b>	CiC - 7	
	Care leavers - 8	6– non-engagement
		1 – poor engagement / behaviour – withdrawn
		1 - Requiring specialist provision – awaiting suitable opportunity.

Over the course of the academic year the NEET numbers increased – this was mainly due to non-engagement. The lockdown also had an impact on opportunities available for YP to re-engage. All were online learning opportunities. Alternative options and opportunities were offered to NEET YP including, Prince’s Trust Team Project, and opportunity to study with smaller Independent Learning providers. Regular PEP meetings were held for all NEET YP to formulate NEET Support Plans to offer re-engagement activities. As well as NEET Support meetings there were regular discussions with Children Social Care Managers, and meetings with the LA NEET Team to support YP.

For 2020-21 all Year 12 and most Year 13 CiC have been equipped with laptops to ensure they can access remote learning thus helping to reduce risk of disengagement. Year 11 students had a transition meeting with destination providers to ensure all support is in place at the start of the new academic year as well as ensuring key information was shared by previous schools. The PEP NEET Support Plan has been reviewed and a new more detailed Post 16 PEP developed to give both NEET and EET YP a greater voice and ownership of plans to support engagement.

## 6 Attendance

From September 2019 – March 2020 206 out of 234 or 88% of children from Reception to Year 11 achieved 90% or greater attendance.

Following the closure of schools on 20<sup>th</sup> March all children and young people in care were entitled to a school place within the category of vulnerable groups. However, attendance was not compulsory and carers and social workers determined whether a child would attend depending on home circumstances e.g. the number of children in placement going to different schools, health of carers and the children’s capacity for effective support of home learning.

The table below shows the number of children and young people accessing education, either full or part time during the school closure period of March – July 2020. Numbers generally remained consistent with a slight increase in some year groups as time progressed. Year 11 numbers are low because their academic year effectively ended on 20<sup>th</sup> March when it was announced that schools were to close and that formal assessment by examinations would not take place. Colleges closed to Year 12 and 13 students but those in school sixth forms had the opportunity to attend.

Year Group	Number in cohort	Number attending Week 4	%	Number attending Week 13	%
Age 3-4	7	3	42%	5	71%
Reception	13	7	53%	9	69%
Year 1	5	3	60%	4	80%
Year 2	11	2	18%	3	27%
Year 3	11	7	63%	7	64%
Year 4	16	4	25%	4	25%
Year 5	20	10	50%	11	55%
Year 6	17	7	41%	8	47%
Year 7	32	13	40%	15	47%
Year 8	27	7	26%	7	26%
Year 9	22	10	45%	11	50%
Year 10	28	16	57%	16	57%
Year 11	38	5	13%	5	13%
Year 12	59	2	3%	1	2%
Year 13	6	0	0%	0	0%

## 7 Exclusions

The Virtual School has a duty to work with Head Teachers to try and avoid the permanent exclusion of a child in care and make sure that they have the support in place to thrive and make progress. The Virtual School has been quick in its response to any fixed term exclusions or threat of permanent exclusions so that a joint plan for the child can be implemented. No children in care were permanently excluded in the 2019 – 2020 academic year. For the 17 children who had fixed term exclusions in term 1 and term 2, PVS staff attended return to school meetings to support the child and carers and to ensure robust plans were in place to minimise the risk of further instances of exclusion. We are measuring the impact of our involvement in respect of any repeat fixed term exclusions and will report findings next year. We receive information on fixed term exclusions from our external attendance service or are advised of these by Designated Teachers, social workers or carers. In the case of any repeat exclusions, additional PEP meetings are held to check that all necessary support is being given.

## 8 Alternative to Mainstream Provision (April 2020)

Establishment Type	Number
Number on school roll ( <i>preschool to Year 11</i> )	251
Number in independent schools	19
Number in LA Special School in city	15
Number in LA Special school out of city	11
Number in Pupil Referral (PRU) Unit in city Year 9 = 1 Year 10 = 3 Year 11 = 2 UASC – ESOL = 2	8
Number in PRU out of city	1
Secure Children’s Unit	1

KS4 pupils are more likely to attend an alternative learning provision than any other year group, with those attending a PRU mainly in Year groups 9 to 11. The children with SEND make up most of the other pupils attending an alternative to mainstream provision in the form of special schools both in and out of the city and also independent special schools. The VS acknowledges the additional vulnerability of learners in such provisions and have more frequent contact with Designated Teachers and are more likely to attend PEP meetings.

## 9 Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

PEP compliance is consistently at 100%. PVS supports social workers and Designated Teachers in the management of the PEP process, offering training and a fortnightly PEP clinic. Every PEP is quality assured by PVS staff and those judged to be below an acceptable standard trigger additional support and challenge from the VS team. Our school improvement model does not require VS staff to attend every PEP meeting. Rather VS staff meet at least once a term with the Designated Teachers in their allocated schools and track the progress of all the pupils in the setting. However, VS staff will attend the PEP meetings for all newly into care children or where a child is in crisis and attendance is requested by the school or social worker.

The PEP process was amended during the summer term with the usual meetings suspended except for children new into care or those with a change of school or carer. These were undertaken virtually. Designated teachers were required to complete an altered version explaining what and how work was being provided, how they were staying connected and what, if any, support was required for those not in school. Any issues relating to completion of work or lack of appropriate equipment in the home were also reported. For PVS staff it was business as usual with the quality assurance and sign-off of all PEPs giving us access to information and providing opportunity to challenge. PEPs are also subject to scrutiny by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance team.

## 10 Pupil Premium Plus Grant

The Pupil Premium plus Grant allocation for Financial Year 2019/2020 was £671,600. This was based on a £2345 per pupil allocation for children who had a period of 24 hours or more in the care of Peterborough City Council.

£491,140 was devolved directly to the educational settings. This amount includes the cost of partnership staff, Attachment Awareness/ Connected Communities training hub costs, and the Primary Forest School partnership. Payments to schools are made termly upon submission and approval of SMART targets within a quality assured and time compliant PEP. These targets are reviewed at each PEP meeting to hold the school to account and to ensure appropriate interventions are in place to support progress. In exceptional cases, educational settings applied for additional funding to support children requiring intensive short-term interventions tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

The remaining £180,460 was used to support the work and improvement of the VS.

Allocation	Cost £
Educational Psychologist	52,997
Additional tuition	30,666
Letterbox Club	12,918
Data support	1,750
Additional BSO hours	9,604
Forest School – set up and training costs	47,000
Early Years specialist	7,000
Attachment Awareness Project	15,000
Training - CPD and NAVSH	3,525
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180,460</b>

## 11 Development Plan Priorities for 2020- 2021

1. To ensure the effect of Covid-19 on children and young people's education is minimised.
2. To ensure the voice of the child/YP is heard and acted upon at every opportunity.
3. To ensure educational professionals are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively support children and young people in care.

4. To enable children and young people in care to achieve developmental outcomes, readiness for learning and increasingly meet their learning and aspirational goals.

Dee Glover  
Head teacher PVS.

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<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 8</b>
<b>6 SEPTEMBER 2021</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation		
Contact Officer(s):	Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 01733 452508	

**FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM:</b> Senior Democratic Services Officer	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Considers the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme or request further information.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report is presented to the Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference as set out in section 2.2 of the report.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This is a regular report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph 3.3:

The Scrutiny Committees will:

(f) Hold the Executive to account for the discharge of functions in the following ways:

*ii)* By scrutinising Key Decisions which the Executive is planning to take, as set out in the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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#### **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions is attached at Appendix 1. The Forward Plan contains those Executive Decisions which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) can take and any new key decisions to be taken after 13 September 2021.
- 4.2 The information in the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these executive decisions, or to request further information.
- 4.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the executive decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.
- 4.4 As the Forward Plan is published fortnightly any version of the Forward Plan published after dispatch of this agenda will be tabled at the meeting.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

#### **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 After consideration of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions the Committee may request further information on any Executive Decision that falls within the remit of the Committee.

#### **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The report presented allows the Committee to fulfil the requirement to scrutinise Key Decisions which the Executive is planning to take, as set out in the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions in accordance with their terms of reference as set out in Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph 3.3.

#### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 N/A

#### **9. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 N/A

##### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 N/A

#### **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 None

#### **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan of Executive Decisions



# **PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

PUBLISHED: 13 AUGUST 2021

# FORWARD PLAN

## **PART 1 – KEY DECISIONS**

In the period commencing 28 clear days after the date of publication of this Plan, Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below in **Part 1**. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

If the decision is to be taken by an individual Cabinet Member, the name of the Cabinet Member is shown against the decision, in addition to details of the Councillor's portfolio. If the decision is to be taken by the Cabinet, this too is shown against the decision and its members are as listed below:  
Cllr Fitzgerald (Leader of the Council), Cllr Steve Allen (Deputy Leader); Cllr Ayres; Cllr Cereste; Cllr Hiller; Cllr Walsh; Cllr Coles and Cllr Simons.

This Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions for the forthcoming month and it will be updated on a fortnightly basis to reflect new key-decisions. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan and items may be carried over into forthcoming Plans. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Plan and submitted to philippa.turvey@peterborough.gov.uk, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager, Legal and Governance Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 08702 388039). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to or by telephone on 01733 452460. For each decision a public report will be available from the Democratic Services Team one week before the decision is taken.

## **PART 2 – NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE DECISION IN PRIVATE**

Whilst the majority of the Executive's business at the Cabinet meetings listed in this Plan will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. In these circumstances the meeting may be held in private, and on the rare occasion this applies, notice will be given within **Part 2** of this document, 'notice of intention to hold meeting in private'. A further formal notice of the intention to hold the meeting, or part of it, in private, will also be given 28 clear days in advance of any private meeting in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed (unless a notice of intention to hold the meeting in private has been given).

## **PART 3 – NOTIFICATION OF NON-KEY DECISIONS**

For complete transparency relating to the work of the Executive, this Plan also includes an overview of non-key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members, these decisions are listed at **Part 3** and will be updated on a weekly basis.

You are entitled to view any documents listed on the Plan, or obtain extracts from any documents listed or subsequently submitted to the decision maker prior to the decision being made, subject to any restrictions on disclosure. There is no charge for viewing the documents, although charges may be made for photocopying or postage. Documents listed on the notice and relevant documents subsequently being submitted can be requested from Philippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager, Legal and Governance Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 08702 388038), e-mail to [philippa.turvey@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:philippa.turvey@peterborough.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01733 452460.

All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: [www.peterborough.gov.uk/executivedecisions](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/executivedecisions). If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Plan, please submit them to the Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this Plan.

**PART 1 – FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**KEY DECISIONS FROM 13 SEPTEMBER 2021**

<b>KEY DECISION REQUIRED</b>	<b>DECISION MAKER</b>	<b>DATE DECISION EXPECTED</b>	<b>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<b>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT APPENDICES AND REASONS FOR EXEMPTION</b>
<p><b>Allocation of £1.9M to support delivery of the University Programme, on Embankment, Peterborough - KEY/13SEP21/01 –</b></p> <p>1) Recommendation to Full Council to repurpose £1.9m PCC contribution to university enabling infrastructure in MTFS</p> <p>2) Enter the CPCA Getting Building Fund Grant agreement to provide a new surface car park supporting regional pool customer parking;</p> <p>3) In the event of LUF bid success, transfer LUF grant funding to PropCo1 and delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Place and Economy and the Corporate Director Resources and SC to complete the transfer on the receipt of funds</p> <p>4) In the event of LUF bid success, revise PCC's PropCo share allocation position up to reflect the Phase 3 LUF funding allocation</p> <p>5) In the event of LUF bid success, nominate the Corporate Director Resources as an additional PCC director to the PropCo Board with amended PCC voting rights</p> <p>6) In the event of LUF bid success, confirm PCC land transfer area for Phase 3 with accompanying independent valuation</p>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>20 September 2021</b>	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	Central	CPCA and ARU have been consulted as university programme partners, otherwise internal stakeholders only	Emma Gee, Assistant Director, Growth & Regeneration, Tel: 07983 345184, Email: emma.gee@pet erborough.gov.u k	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

**PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED KEY DECISIONS**

<b>KEY DECISION REQUIRED</b>	<b>DECISION MAKER</b>	<b>DATE DECISION EXPECTED</b>	<b>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<b>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT APPENDICES AND REASONS FOR EXEMPTION</b>
<p>1. <b>Disposal of freehold in Centre of the City - KEY/12JUN18/01</b> To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration to sell the property</p> <p>100</p>	<p><b>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Central</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Peter Carpenter, Acting Corporate Director, Resources Tel: 07920160122 Email: Peter.carpenter@pe terborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p> <p><b>The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</b></p>

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<p>2. <b>Adoption of the “Dynamic Purchasing System” (DPS) procedure for Public Health contracts with Primary Care providers – KEY/10DEC18/01</b>            To seek the approval to adopt the “Dynamic Purchasing System” (DPS) procedure for contracts with Primary Care providers for the duration of up to five years. The proposals have been approved by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Commissioning Board.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health &amp; Public Health</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Val Thomas, Consultant in Public Health            Val.Thomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk            01223 703264/            07884 183374</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Vehicle removal for Parking contravention – KEY/15APR19/02</b> To ask the Cabinet Member to approve the policy to implement a scheme to remove vehicles of persistent offenders in breach of parking restrictions in the City and to appoint the Local Authority Trading Company to act as the authorised agent of the policy.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Details of any consultation to be decided.</p> <p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Adam Payton, PES Senior Officer, Parking Lead, 01733 452314 adam.payton@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Prevention and Enforcement Service Vehicle Removal For Parking Contraventions Policy and Guidance</p>
<b>142</b>	<p><b>Contract for remedial works by PCC to the Stanground Bypass – KEY/2SEP19/02</b> To approve works to the Stanground bypass and authorise the associated package of work to be issued to Skanska Construction UK Limited under the Council's existing agreement with SKANSKA dated 18th September 2013 (the Highways Services Agreement).</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Stanground South and Hargate and Hempsted</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p> <p>Standard consultation for highway schemes.</p>	<p>Charlotte Palmer, Group Manager – Transport and Environment, <a href="mailto:charlotte.palmer@peterborough.gov.uk">charlotte.palmer@peterborough.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To be determined.</p>

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103	<p><b>5. Approval of funding for the provision of accommodation to reduce homelessness KEY/14OCT19/01</b> – Following Cabinet Decision JAN18/CAB/18 this is a new project to increase the supply of housing and address the demand for accommodation resulting from the increase in homelessness.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>The issues associated with homelessness in Peterborough have been subject to significant discussion in various forums, including the Council's Adults and Communities Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council</p>	<p>Peter Carpenter, Acting Corporate Director of Resources Email: peter.carpenter@peterborough.gov.uk Tel: 01733 452520</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published. The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p>
	<p><b>6. Disposal of land at 7-23 London Road, Peterborough - KEY/06JAN20/01</b> Approval to dispose of surplus land to a registered provider for redevelopment to social housing The disposal will be conditional on a successful planning consent; the application has yet to be made.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Central</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Tristram Hill, Strategic Asset Manager, Tel: 07849 079787 Email: tristram.hill@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p> <p>There will be an exempt annex with details of the commercial transaction.</p>

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7.	<p><b>The disposal of former playing fields at Angus Court, Westown, Peterborough - KEY/06JAN20/02</b></p> <p>Approval to dispose of former playing fields and Angus Court</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>West</p>	<p>A number of consultation events for local residents have been held for both the proposed disposal of land at Angus Court and the creation of new facilities at Thorpe Lea Meadows. Planning approval was secured for the new facilities at Thorpe Lea Meadows. These works are now completed. Consultation and information events to discuss the Council's plans to dispose of land at Angus Court and the creation of a new public play area, were held at West Town Academy took place on 1 November 2018 and 7 March 2019</p>	<p>Tristram Hill, Strategic Asset Manager, Tel: 07849 079787 Email: <a href="mailto:tristram.hill@peteborough.gov.uk">tristram.hill@peteborough.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>



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105	<p><b>8. Re-implementation of the Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment Public Space Protection Order – KEY/11MAY20/01</b></p> <p>The current PSPO for Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment expires in July 2020. Orders can be extended for a further 3 years provided that they are reviewed and extended prior to the order expiring. This decision request will consider the enforcement levels of the current order carried out in the last 3 years, current crime and anti-social behaviour levels for the order area and the outcomes of the consultation with the public and interested parties.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Central, North, Park and East Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>A consultation will be carried out with the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable, Ward Councillors, Key Interested Parties directly. A 28 day public consultation will be made available to the public and all other interested parties online on the council's website, with hard copies available on request.</p>	<p>Laura Kelsey, Senior Problem Solving Officer, T: 01733 453563 laura.kelsey@pet-erborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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<p><b>9.</b> <b>Acquisition of a freehold commercial property in Peterborough City Centre – KEY/8JUN20/03</b> - Acquisition of a freehold property for a community hub.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Central</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Tristram Hill, Strategic Asset Manager, Tel: 07849 079787 Email: tristram.hill@peterborough.gov</p>	<p>The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p>
<p><b>10.</b> <b>Recommission Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire – KEY/16NOV20/01</b> To approve a Section 76 Agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group for the delivery and Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Helen Andrews, Children's Commissioner, 01223 728577 Helen.Andrews@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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11.	<p><b>Joint Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council Transport Services DPS - KEY/7DEC20/01</b> - Joint Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council Transport Services DPS for all Education and social care transport procurement.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Agreed at RIT Board and Joint Commissioning Board</p>	<p>Bryony Wolstenholme - Passenger Transport Operations Tel: 01733 317453 Email: bryony.wolstenholme@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Joint Commissioning Board decisions 25.08.2020/ RIT Board 19.02.2020</p>
12.	<p><b>Variation to the Council's Operational Services Agreement (Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership Contract): Modification to scope of the PSSP Contract - KEY/7DEC20/02</b> - Variation to the Council's Operational Services Agreement (Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership Contract): Modification to scope of the PSSP Contract - Business Transformation &amp; Strategic Improvement Service Support element</p>	<p><b>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Christ Yates, Finance, 01733 452527, chris.yates@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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<p><b>13. Mechanism selected for the supply of agency workers – KEY/21DEC20/02 –</b> Options appraisal being undertaken for the Council's future supply of agency workers beyond expiry of the current contracts. This decision recommends the option that should be taken forward in the long term.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Legal, procurement, market analysis.</p>	<p>Peter Carpenter, Acting Corporate Director, Resources Tel: 07920160122 Email: Peter.carpenter@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>
<p><b>14. Procurement of 22 one bedroom flats for the accommodation of people who have previously been rough-sleepers – KEY/04JAN21/01</b> - The decision is to approve the use of £625K capital grant towards the purchase of 22 one bedroom flats. There is a further decision to approve borrowing of up to £1,675,000 from Public Works Loan Board towards the purchase of the 22 one bedroom flats.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Consultation with MHCLG and Homes England</p>	<p>Mohamed Hussein Interim Director of Housing: Needs and Supply, Tel:07866 474953, Email: mohamed.hussein@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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109	<p><b>15. Extension of the Delivery of Leisure and Cultural Services – KEY/15MAR21/02</b>            Extension of the delivery of Cultural Services by City Culture Peterborough, and Leisure Services by Peterborough Limited for three years to rationalise and reorganise service delivery in light of the effects of COVID-19. The 3-year extension will give time to properly reorganise, and allow time for the culture and leisure sectors to rebuild in time for future delivery options to be explored from 2024, including direct provision, working with partners, the establishment of a cooperative delivery model, or a public tender exercise..</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Pete Carpenter, Corporate Director Resources, 01733 452520, Peter.Carpenter@Peterborough.Gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published</p>

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<p><b>16. Bretton Court Redevelopment Scheme – KEY/15MAR21/04</b></p> <p>1. Approve the surrender of the Council's lease for the ground floor retail units of Bretton Court dated 28th June 2019, subject to the conditions to set out below and to be formalised within the Deed of Surrender</p> <p>2. Approve the Council entering in to an Agreement for Lease for the ground floor retail units of the new development scheme at Bretton Court, subject to the terms set out below</p> <p>3. Subject to the terms of the above Agreement for Lease being satisfied, to approve the Council entering in to a New Lease or the ground floor retail units of the new development scheme at Bretton Court</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Bretton</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Helen Harris, Senior Estates Surveyor, NPS Peterborough            Email: helen.harris@nps.co.uk            Tel: 01733 384534            Mobile: 07920 160181</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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17.	<p><b>Security Services Contract - KEY/29MAR21/01</b></p> <p>Approval to enter into contract for the delivery of security services across the council estate</p>	<p><b>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Stuart Macdonald Property Manager Tel: 07715 802 489 Email: stuart.macdonald@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>
18. 111	<p><b>Approval for application of Government funding for a heat network - KEY/29MAR21/02</b></p> <p>The Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure (PIRI) is designing a low carbon heat network for Peterborough. In order to develop the designs an application for Government Grant funding will be required and this decision is to provide approval for that application.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Consultation have been undertaken with the engaged advisors</p>	<p>Elliot Smith - Commercial Manager; Energy, Infrastructure and Regeneration. Tel: 07506536565 Email; elliott.smith@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published. <b>The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</b></p>

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19.	<p><b>PCC Homecare Framework – KEY/12APR21/02</b></p> <p>The extension of the PCC Homecare Framework for 12 months, plus delegated approval. Contract states three years, plus up to seven years, in 12 months increments. Due to be extended in September 2021, for 12 months.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health &amp; Public Health</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>West</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Ruth Miller, 07795046754, ruth.miller@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published</p>
20.	<p><b>64-68 Bridge Street, dilapidation works – KEY/26APR2021/02 –</b></p> <p>Approval to carry out dilapidations works at 64-68 Bridge Street, Peterborough.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Central</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Tristram Hill Strategic Asset Manager Tel: 07849 079787 Email: tristram.hill@nps.co.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p> <p><b>The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</b></p>



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21.	<b>Purchase of Home to School vehicles for Aragon Direct Services - KEY/26APR2021/07</b> - Purchase of Home to School vehicles for Aragon Direct Services including coaches and minibuses.	<b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	James Collingridge, Head of Environmental Partnerships, Tel: 01733864736, Email: james.collingridge@peterborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
22. 13	<b>Fleet Procurement - KEY/26APR2021/08</b> - Formal tender for various Fleet vehicles for Aragon Direct Services including areas such as Street Cleansing and Property Maintenance	<b>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	James Collingridge, Head of Environmental Partnerships, Tel: 01733864736, Email: james.collingridge@peterborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

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<p>23. <b>Specialist Services Framework for Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council - KEY/24MAY21/01</b> Specialist Services offer a variety of interventions to children, young people and their families or carers. The Specialist Services Framework will be split into 5 Lots to cover the following services; Direct Family Support, Placement Support, Specialist Assessments, Supervised Contact, and Secure Transport. Providers will be able to apply for multiple Lots where they can deliver services.</p> <p>Peterborough City Council will be the host authority for this contract with Cambridgeshire County Council making its own Call-Off's. This will be a 2 year contract with a 1 year extension option. The approximate value for Peterborough is £400k and for Cambridgeshire is £180k.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University</b></p>	<p><b>Sept 2021</b></p>	<p>Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Rachel Hiscox, Commissioning Officer, Tel: 01480 377681, Email: rachel.hiscox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Specialist Services Framework - Service Specification, Specification Appendices 1-12</p>

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24.	<p><b>Peterborough City Council Housing Related Support Procurement / Commissioning - KEY/24MAY21/02 –</b> To Procure / Commission Peterborough City Council Housing Related Support Services. Service redesign and change form annual Grant Agreements to longer term contracts.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Soft market testing is underway. A Housing Related Support Commissioning Strategy has been agreed and has received all the relevant approvals.</p>	<p>Sharon Malia, Housing Programmes Manager Sharon Malia - Housing Programmes Manager, 01733 237771, Email: <a href="mailto:sharon.malia@peterborough.gov.uk">sharon.malia@peterborough.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To be submitted, Housing Related Support Commissioning Strategy for Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough 2020 - 2022. Procurement / Commissioning information.</p>
115 25.	<p><b>Integrated Community Equipment Service contract award and Section 75 Agreement - KEY/24MAY21/03</b> - Award of contract following re-procurement of the Integrated Community Equipment Service and approval to enter into new Section 75 Agreement with C&amp;PCCG. Contract start April 2022.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health &amp; Public Health</b></p>	<p><b>October 2021</b></p>	<p>Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.  Attended all Healthwatch Partnership Boards in 2019 prior to preparation of service specification.</p>	<p>Diana Mackay, Commissioner (Adults - Early Intervention &amp; Prevention), Tel: 07879 430819, Email: <a href="mailto:diana.mackay@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">diana.mackay@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>
26.	<p><b>Approval to commit funding for a bespoke specialist placement for a four year period 2021-2025 – KEY/07JUN21/01</b> Approval to commit funding for a specialist regulated bespoke placement for a period of four years from 2021-2025.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Not yet known as property has yet to be located /decided upon.</p>	<p>Extensive consultation has taken place and is on going amongst all system stakeholders and interested parties.</p>	<p>Helene Carr - Head of Service Children's Commissioning.. Contact: 07904909039: email - <a href="mailto:helene.carr@peterborough.gov.uk">helene.carr@peterborough.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 2, Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>

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27.	<b>A1139 Safety Barrier - KEY/21JUN21/03</b> - To replace and upgrade the failing VRS along the central reservation and structures on the A1139.	<b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee	Fletton, Stangr ound, Dogsth orpe and Hampt on	Social media and advanced warning signs	Leanne Bevilacqua Senior Engineer Email:leanne.bevilacqua@peterborough.gov.uk Tel: 07920 160 766	Budgets were added to the programme in 2019/20 via paper that went to CRG in December 2018 The Budget added was for 1.4m each year until 2023/24
28.	<b>Peterborough Homecare Providers Off the Framework – KEY/5JUL21/02</b> To authorise contracts awarded to providers off the current closed framework, as the current framework is not meeting demand and the new model being commissioned won't be in place until September 2022.	<b>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health &amp; Public Health</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Ruth Miller, Commissioning Manager, Homecare, 07795046754, ruth.miller@camb ridgeshire.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
29.	<b>Community Alarm (Lifeline) Services: (i) delegation of function to Cambridgeshire County Council for new service users and; (ii) direct award for legacy service users – KEY/19JUL21/01</b> Community Alarm (Lifeline) Services: (i) delegation of function to Cambridgeshire County Council for new service users and; (ii) direct award for legacy service users.	<b>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health &amp; Public Health</b>	<b>September 2021</b>	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Procurement, Finance, Legal, Cambridgeshire County Council	Diana Mackay, Commissioner (Early Intervention & Prevention) Adult Services, Tel: 01223 715966, Diana.Mackay@c ambridgeshire.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

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<p><b>30. Additional capital funding for Localised Resurfacing – KEY/19JUL21/02</b>            We already have approval for 5 years for £700k per annum of capital funding for localised resurfacing in lieu of revenue budget reductions. As from April 2021 in the MTFS a further £150k reduction to revenue budget was implemented with an additional £150k of capital funding. To synchronise with the previous decision which only has 3 years remaining, this decision will be for an additional £150k of funding for localised resurfacing for 3 years (2021/22 - 2023/24).</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>September 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>None required, part of MTFS</p>	<p>Kevin Ekins , 01733 453448, kevin.ekins@pete rborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>
<p><b>31. Culture Strategy - KEY/2AUG21/01</b> - To adopt the City's Culture Strategy - A culture board, steering group and smaller delivery groups will be set up to represent stakeholders from a variety of culture groups to scrutinise the actions and delivery from the strategy, its recommendations, visions and values and consultation processes.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>December 2021</b></p>	<p>Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Consultation has been taking place for the past 6 months within the city, speaking with many cultural groups, faith groups, commercial organisations, culture and leisure operators, disability groups and voluntary groups.</p>	<p>Jamie Fenton - Partnership Manager, Culture, Sport and Leisure, Email: jamie.fenton@pete rborough.gov.uk – Tel: 07976382756</p>	<p>Currently the documents are the visions and values paper and the emerging recommendations paper the consultant has produced, these will be shared with scrutiny on 05th July for an update to progress</p>

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118	<p><b>32. Active Lifestyle and Sports Strategy – Refresh – KEY/2AUG21/02</b> - A review of the Active Lifestyles and Sports Strategy following the impact of Covid-19 and services across the city. Since the strategy was adopted in 2018/19 there have been significant developments with the culture and leisure services being delivered by new operators, the demise of certain stakeholders and a stronger importance of working with public health so they are aligned with physical activity for residents health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>April 2022</b></p>	<p>Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Currently in early stages of the review, working with Cambridgeshires Active Partnership, Living Sport a outline plan of a steering group and consultation will be delivered. This will also align with Sport England's new 10 year strategy which is being launched in 2021 along with a new funding framework.</p>	<p>Jamie Fenton - Partnership Manager, Culture, Sport and Leisure, Email: jamie.fenton@petborough.gov.uk – Tel: 07976382756</p>	<p>Current Strategy will be used as a good starting point, this will have statistics updated, a new steering group developed and a new way to evidence actions/outcomes by stakeholders</p>
	<p><b>33. Street lighting dimming regime review – KEY/16AUG21/01</b> As the pandemic restrictions are lifted and traffic volumes increase there is a need to review the street lighting dimming regimes.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>Amy Petrie, Principal Programme and Project Officer, 01733 452272, amy.petrie@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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34.	<p><b>Capita Revenue &amp; Benefits Academy system migration to cloud – KEY/30AUG21/01 -</b></p> <p>To approve the award of contract for the procurement of ICT cloud-based services from Capita UK Limited</p> <p>through to a Framework Agreement for the period 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2026 for a value of £630,000</p>	<p><b>Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</b></p>	<p><b>30 August</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Data has been gathered from the existing on premises system and been analysed by Capita to inform their proposal. Capita's proposal has been shared with internal stakeholders and Serco who process on behalf of the council. Feedback has been collated and sent back to Capita to allow them to amend their proposal and draft the contract</p>	<p>Jason Dalby, ICT Project Manager, Tel:07931 176848, Email: jason.dalby@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Project Brief, Business Case, Specification of Requirements, Capita proposal, data protection and climate impact assessments</p>
35.	<p><b>Ox-Cam Arc Spatial Framework Consultation - KEY/30AUG21/03 -</b></p> <p>Peterborough's response to the recent consultations released for Vision for the Arc Spatial Framework and Environmental Principles</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>October 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Richard Kay Head of Sustainable Growth Strategy Tel: 01733 863795 Email:Richard.kay@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published</p>

**PART 2 – NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE DECISIONS IN PRIVATE**

**KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE**

<i>KEY DECISION REQUIRED</i>	<i>DECISION MAKER</i>	<i>DATE DECISION EXPECTED</i>	<i>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</i>	<i>WARD</i>	<i>CONSULTATION</i>	<i>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</i>	<i>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER</i>
None.							



**PART 3 – NOTIFICATION OF NON-KEY DECISIONS**

<b>NON-KEY DECISIONS</b>							
<i><b>DECISION REQUIRED</b></i>	<i><b>DECISION MAKER</b></i>	<i><b>DATE DECISION EXPECTED</b></i>	<i><b>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></i>	<i><b>WARD</b></i>	<i><b>CONSULTATION</b></i>	<i><b>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</b></i>	<i><b>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT APPENDICES AND REASONS FOR EXEMPTION</b></i>
<b>No new items</b>							

**PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED DECISIONS**

<i><b>DECISION REQUIRED</b></i>		<i><b>DECISION MAKER</b></i>	<i><b>DATE DECISION EXPECTED</b></i>	<i><b>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></i>	<i><b>WARD</b></i>	<i><b>CONSULTATION</b></i>	<i><b>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</b></i>	<i><b>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT APPENDICES AND REASONS FOR EXEMPTION</b></i>
1.	<p><b>Disposal of former Barnack Primary School caretaker house -</b>                      Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration to dispose of the property.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment &amp; Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Stuart Macdonald, Property Manager.                       Tel: 07715 802 489. Email: stuart.macdonald@peterborough.gov.uk                       Bill Tilah (Bill.Tilah@nps.co.uk)</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p> <p><b>The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</b></p>

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123	<p><b>2. Approval of the leasehold disposal of a brownfield site to a care provider –</b> A site has been found for a care home and the Council are currently looking into a leasehold disposal to a care provider who will build a care facility and then contract to provide services to the Council.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Park Ward</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>A forum has been set up by the Combined Authority involving representatives from finance, legal, property and social care.</p>	<p>Tristram Hill - Strategic Asset Manager, 07849 079787, <a href="mailto:tristram.hill@nps.co.uk">tristram.hill@nps.co.uk</a></p>	<p>The decision will include an exempt annexe. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p>
	<p><b>3. Modern Slavery Statement</b> To review and agree for publication an updated Statement in compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Rob Hill, Assistant Director: Public Protection, <a href="mailto:rob.hill@peterborough.gov.uk">rob.hill@peterborough.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Amy Brown, Senior Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer, <a href="mailto:Amy.brown@peterborough.gov.uk">Amy.brown@peterborough.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

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<b>4.</b>	<b>Leisure Facility Options Appraisal</b> - Cabinet Member approval to proceed with the development of a business case to test the viability of a new leisure facility in the city	<b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee	N/A	None at this stage	Emma Gee Email: emma.gee@peterborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

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<p>5. <b>Variation to the delegation agreement between Peterborough City Council (PCC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) regarding the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire</b></p> <p>This decision seeks authorisation to vary the Delegation and Partnering agreement to account for the increase in the value of PCC financial contributions to CCC in respect of the Agenda for Change pay increase. Agenda for Change is a nationally agreed UK-wide package of pay, terms and conditions for NHS staff. Under this deal, which came into effect in 2018, was the agreement for all NHS staff employed at the top pay points at bands 2-8c were to receive a 6.5% cumulative pay increase over a 3 year period.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health &amp; Public Health</b></p>	<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	<p>Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Amy Hall, Children's Public Health Commissioning Manager, 07583040529</p>	<p>CMDN to authorise delegation of HCP commissioning functions from PCC to CCC - <a href="https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/mglssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=22331&amp;PlanId=395&amp;RPID=0">https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/mglssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=22331&amp;PlanId=395&amp;RPID=0</a></p>

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6.	<b>Selective Licensing of Private Rented Property -</b> Approval to consult on Selective Licensing of Private Rented Property	<b>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Minimum of 10 week public consultation with persons likely to be affected by the designation and consider any representations made in accordance with the consultation	Kerry Leishman, Head of Operations for Environmental Health & Licensing Tel: 01733 453502 Email: <a href="mailto:kerry.leishman@peterborough.gov.uk">kerry.leishman@peterborough.gov.uk</a>	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
7.	<b>Joint PCC and CCC IT Service Management System</b> To approve the procurement of a new joint Peterborough City Council [PCC] and Cambridgeshire County Council [CCC] IT Service Management [ITSM] system.	<b>Councillor Cereste, Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee	N/A	Relevant internal and external stakeholders.  G-Cloud Procurement Process	Damian Roberts, Project Manager. T: 07485 594522 E: <a href="mailto:damian.roberts@peterborough.gov.uk">damian.roberts@peterborough.gov.uk</a>	CMDN and PID

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<p>8. <b>Approval of the Peterborough Sufficiency Strategy</b>            Every top tier local authority is required to publish a sufficiency strategy. This must set out how we seek to avoid children coming into care through the provision of family support services, and identify steps that we are taking to ensure that we have sufficient placements for children in care in our area, so that as many children and young people in care can live locally, provided that this is in their best interests.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills and University</b></p>	<p><b>October 2021</b></p>	<p>Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>There has been widespread consultation including with children and young people in care.</p>	<p>Lou Williams:            Director of Children's Services,            07920160141,  <a href="mailto:lou.williams@peterborough.gov.uk">lou.williams@peterborough.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Scrutiny Report</p>

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9.	<p><b>Commissioning of refuge accommodation for victims of domestic abuse</b></p> <p>Approval to commission refuge provision for victims of domestic abuse in Peterborough as part of a joint commissioning process with Cambridgeshire County Council including provision in Cambridgeshire. This is from April 2022.</p>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Not yet know.</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	A safe accommodation needs assessment is currently taking place as part of the Local Authority's statutory duty to provide safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. This has involved partner agencies and services across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.	Julia Cullum julia.cullum@camb ridgeshire.gov.uk 07789510672	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
10.	<p><b>Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy</b></p> <p>As part of the Domestic Abuse Act, Peterborough City Council is required by statute to submit a Safe Accommodation Strategy to MHCLG by 31st October 2021.</p>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>20 September 2021</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	The strategy will be developed with key partners in housing and specialist domestic abuse services.	Vickie Crompton, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Manager, vickie.crompton@c ambridgeshire.gov. uk	The strategy will be informed by a Needs Assessment which is currently in draft



<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>		<b>DECISION MAKER</b>	<b>DATE DECISION EXPECTED</b>	<b>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<b>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT APPENDICES AND REASONS FOR EXEMPTION</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Adoption of a Refreshed Statement of Community Involvement</b> - To approve the adoption of a Refreshed Statement of Community Involvement	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>15 November 2021</b>	<b>Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee</b>	All Wards	Relevant internal and external stakeholders.	Emma Naylor, Senior Strategic Planning Officer Tel: 863881 Email: emma.naylor@pet-erborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

**PART 4 – NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

<b>DECISION TAKEN</b>	<b>DECISION MAKER</b>	<b>DATE DECISION TAKEN</b>	<b>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<b>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT APPENDICES AND REASONS FOR EXEMPTION</b>
<p><b>COVID-19 Local Support Grant – Summer Holiday Support - JUL21/CMDN/21</b></p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agreed the contract exemption is approved for the sum of up to £699k to provide supermarket vouchers in time for the first voucher to be distributed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.</li> <li>2. Agreed to the proposed approach to the distribution and criteria to award the vouchers as outlined in this report.</li> <li>3. Agreed to enter into a contract with Wonde (Furlong House, 2 Kings Court, Newmarket, CB8 7SG) for the period 17<sup>TH</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> September for a value of up to £699k.</li> <li>4. Agreed the allocation of the remaining funding to support families in Peterborough via our City Hub arrangements. And</li> <li>5. Delegated authority to the Executive Director: People and Communities to effect the matters referred to above.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Education, Skills and University</b></p>	<p><b>13 July 2021</b></p>	<p>Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>This decision does not require any public consultation in line with grant guidance.</p>	<p>Jonathan Lewis, Service Director - Education Email: jonathan.lewis@cambridge.gov.uk; Tel: 01223 507165</p>	<p>None.</p>

## **DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY**

City Services and Communications (Markets and Street Trading, City Centre Management including Events, Regulatory Services, Parking Services, Vivacity Contract, CCTV and Out of Hours Calls, Marketing and Communications, Tourism and Bus Station, Resilience)

Strategic Finance

Internal Audit

Schools Infrastructure (Assets and School Place Planning)

Waste and Energy

Strategic Client Services (Enterprise Peterborough / Vivacity / SERCO including Customer Services, ICT and Business Support)

Corporate Property

### **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY**

Transformation and Programme Management Office, Business Intelligence, Commercial, Strategy and Policy, Shared Services

### **CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL SERVICES Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY**

IT, Customer Services – contact centres, walk-in customer service sites, reception services and web & digital services;

Communications;

Emergency Planning, Business Continuity and Health and Safety.

### **PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY**

Adult Services and Communities (Adult Social Care Operations, Adult Social Care and Quality Assurance, Adult Social Care Commissioning, Early Help – Adults, Children and Families, Housing and Health Improvement, Community and Safety Services, Offender Services)

Children's Services and Safeguarding (Children's Social Care Operations, Children's Social Care Quality Assurance, Safeguarding Boards – Adults and Children's, Child Health, Clare Lodge (Operations), Access to Resources)

Education, People Resources and Corporate Property (Special Educational Needs and Inclusion, School Improvement, City College Peterborough, Pupil Referral Units, Schools Infrastructure)

Business Management and Commercial Operations (Commissioning, Recruitment and Retention, Clare Lodge (Commercial), Early Years and Quality Improvement)

Performance and Information (Performance Management, Systems Support Team)

### **LAW AND GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY**

Democratic Services (Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG)

Electoral Services (Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG)

Human Resources (Business Relations, HR Policy and Rewards, Training and Development, Occupational Health and Workforce Development)

Information Governance, (Coroner's Office, Freedom of Information and Data Protection)

### **PLACE AND ECONOMY DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY**

Development and Construction (Development Management, Planning Compliance, Building Control)

Sustainable Growth Strategy (Strategic Planning, Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing, Climate Change and Environment Capital, Natural and Built Environment)

Opportunity Peterborough

Peterborough Highway Services (Network Management, Highways Maintenance, Street Naming and Numbering, Street Lighting, Design and Adoption of Roads,

Drainage and Flood Risk Management, Transport Policy and Sustainable Transport, Public Transport)

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY**

Health Protection, Health Improvements, Healthcare Public Health.

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## Children and Education Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/2022

Updated: 24 AUGUST 2021

Meeting Date	Item	Indicative Timings	Comments
<p><b>15 JULY 2021</b>  <i>Draft Report 28 June</i>  <i>Final Report 5 July</i></p>	<p><b>Co-opted Member Report</b>                      To agree to the appointment of co-opted members to the committee for the municipal year 2021/2022</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
	<p><b>Service Director &amp; Portfolio Holder Report: Children &amp; Safeguarding</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Lou Williams</b></p>		
	<p><b>Update On Written Statement Of Action &amp; Joint SEND Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Toni Bailey</b></p>		
	<p><b>Review Of 2020/2021 and Work Programme For 2021/2022</b>                      To review the work undertaken during 2020/21 and to consider the work programme of the Committee for 2021/22</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		

Meeting Date	Item	Indicative Timings	Comments
	<p><b>Forward Plan of Executive Decisions</b> That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme which are relevant to the remit of this Committee.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
<p><b>6 SEPTEMBER 2021</b> <i>Draft Report 17 August</i> <i>Final Report 24 August</i></p>	<p><b>Design for Fire Safety in Schools</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Ian Trafford / Jonathan Lewis</b></p>		
	<p><b>Peterborough Sufficiency Statement</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Lou Williams</b></p>		
	<p><b>Annual Report of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care 2019-2020</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Dee Glover</b></p>		
	<p><b>Forward Plan of Executive Decisions</b> That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme which are relevant to the remit of this Committee.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		

Meeting Date	Item	Indicative Timings	Comments
	<p><b>Work Programme 2021/2022</b> To consider the Work Programme for 2021/2022</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
<p><b>18 NOVEMBER 2021</b> <i>Draft Report 1 November</i> <i>Final Report 8 November</i></p>	<p><b>New University Update Report</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: John T Hill</b></p>		
	<p><b>Service Director Report, Education incorporating the Portfolio Progress Report for the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Jonathan Lewis</b></p>		
	<p><b>Catherine Goose Commissioner for Children's Mental Health in CCG to talk about the range of services.</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Wendi Ogle Welbourn</b></p>		
	<p><b>Annual Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints Report 2020-2021</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Belinda Evans</b></p>		

Meeting Date	Item	Indicative Timings	Comments
	<p><b>Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations</b> To monitor progress made on recommendations made at the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
	<p><b>Forward Plan of Executive Decisions</b> That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme which are relevant to the remit of this Committee.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
	<p><b>Work Programme 2021/2022</b> To consider the Work Programme for 2021/2022</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
<p><b>17 NOVEMBER 2021</b> Joint Scrutiny of the Budget Meeting</p>	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Peter Carpenter</b></p>		
<p><b>20 JANUARY 2022</b> <i>Draft Report 4 January</i> <i>Final Report 10 January</i></p>	<p><b>HMI Probation Youth Offending Report on work to prevent offending.</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Anna Jack</b></p>		



Meeting Date	Item	Indicative Timings	Comments
	<p><b>Corporate Parenting Annual Report</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Nicola Curley / Lou Williams</b></p>		
	<p><b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Annual Report 2020-2021</b></p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Joanne Procter</b></p>		
	<p><b>Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations</b></p> <p>To monitor progress made on recommendations made at the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
	<p><b>Forward Plan of Executive Decisions</b></p> <p>That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme which are relevant to the remit of this Committee.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		
	<p><b>Work Programme 2021/2022</b></p> <p>To consider the Work Programme for 2021/2022</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		

Meeting Date	Item	Indicative Timings	Comments
<b>9 FEBRUARY 2022</b> Joint Scrutiny of the Budget Meeting	<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25</b>  <b>Contact Officer: Peter Carpenter</b>		
<b>10 MARCH 2022</b> <i>Draft Report 21 February</i> <i>Final Report 28 February</i>	<b>Service Director Report, Education to include update on outcome of Teacher's Assessments, Approach to Sex Education and PHSE Curriculum</b>  <b>Contact Officer: Jonathan Lewis</b>		
	<b>Best Start in Life Strategy, Integrated Care System, Children's Collaborative</b>  <b>Contact Officer:</b>		
	<b>Service Director, Children's Services Report</b>  <b>Contact Officer: Lou Williams</b>		
	<b>Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations</b> To monitor progress made on recommendations made at the previous meeting.  <b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b>		

Meeting Date	Item	Indicative Timings	Comments
	<p><b>Forward Plan of Executive Decisions</b>            That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme which are relevant to the remit of this Committee.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer</b></p>		

**Items Pending:**

Attendance of Sue Baldwin, Regional Schools Commissioner

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