



Meeting: **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date/Time: **Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 2.00 pm**

Location: **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

Contact: **Damien Buckley (Tel: 0116 305 0183)**

Email: **damien.buckley@leics.gov.uk**

Membership

Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC (Chairman)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. M. Frisby CC | Mrs. C. Lewis |
| Mr. K. Ghattoraya CC | Mr. R. Martin |
| Mr. L. Hadji-Nikolaou CC | Mr. C. A. Smith CC |
| Mr. R. Hills CC | Mr. G. Welsh CC |
| Mr. Max Hunt CC | |

Please note: this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's web site at <http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk>

AGENDA

Item

Report by

Webcast.

A webcast of the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

1. Appointment of Chairman.
2. Election of Deputy Chairman.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023. (Pages 5 - 10)
4. Question Time.
5. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).
6. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent



elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.
8. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.
9. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.
10. Inclusion in Leicestershire Schools. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 11 - 24)
11. Leicestershire Family Hubs. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 25 - 32)
12. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 33 - 38)
13. Quarter 4 2022/23 Performance Report. Chief Executive and Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 39 - 46)
14. Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Annual Report 2022-23. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 47 - 64)
15. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.
16. Date of future meetings.

The next meetings of the Committee are scheduled to take place on 5 September 2023 and 7 November 2023.

Meetings of the Committee in 2024 are scheduled to be held at 14:00pm on the following dates:

23 January
5 March
4 June
3 September
5 November

QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The ability to ask good, pertinent questions lies at the heart of successful and effective scrutiny. To support members with this, a range of resources, including guides to questioning, are available via the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny website www.cfgs.org.uk. The following questions have been agreed by Scrutiny members as a good starting point for developing questions:

- Who was consulted and what were they consulted on? What is the process for and quality of the consultation?
- How have the voices of local people and frontline staff been heard?
- What does success look like?
- What is the history of the service and what will be different this time?
- What happens once the money is spent?
- If the service model is changing, has the previous service model been evaluated?
- What evaluation arrangements are in place – will there be an annual review?

Members are reminded that, to ensure questioning during meetings remains appropriately focused that:

- (a) they can use the officer contact details at the bottom of each report to ask questions of clarification or raise any related patch issues which might not be best addressed through the formal meeting;
- (b) they must speak only as a County Councillor and not on behalf of any other local authority when considering matters which also affect district or parish/town councils (see Articles 2.03(b) of the Council's Constitution).



This page is intentionally left blank



Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 7 March 2023.

PRESENT

Mr. C. A. Smith CC (in the Chair)

Mr. M. Frisby CC

Mr. L. Hadji-Nikolaou CC

Mr. R. Hills CC

Mr. Max Hunt CC

Mr. R. Martin

Mrs. R. Page CC

Mr. G. Welsh CC

51. In Attendance.

Stephen Knight and Ashley Page, Newton Europe representatives (Minute 58 refers).

52. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

53. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

54. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

55. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

56. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. R. Martin declared a registerable interest, in respect of agenda item 8, as the Chair of the Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum and involved in the work with Newton Europe. He undertook to leave the room during discussion of that item.

57. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

There were no declarations of the party whip.

58. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

The Chief Executive reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 36.

59. Transforming SEND and Inclusion in Leicestershire.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services which provided an update on the Transforming SEND and Inclusion in Leicestershire (TSIL) programme. It set out the activity undertaken since commencement in August 2022, achievements, progress made and an overview of the current High Needs Block financial position. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Stephen Knight and Ashley Page from Newton Europe for this item.

In response to concern regarding the cost of delivering the programme and costs associated to working with the strategic partner, Newton Europe, the Director explained that the decision to work with an external strategic partner had been made as the Council did not have the right capacity and expertise to deliver the complexity of changes required. Therefore, a strategic partner had been commissioned in order to work with them on the programme. Members were assured that Newton Europe had the knowledge to deliver complex change across systems and had experience of transforming services within local authorities. The Director went on to explain that Leicestershire had a high number of children supported in specialist provision, and that the TSIL programme would address demand and delays within the assessment process for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and decrease the deficit within the High Needs Block budget.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

- i. The Department had been focussed on delivering changes to the High Needs Block since 2017. However, diagnostic work carried out by the programme partner Newton Europe identified that it had not gone far enough in making improvements for children and families. The TSIL programme would aim to transform the whole SEND system, in collaboration with partners, to make services more efficient and to ensure that children would receive the correct level of support within an appropriate environment.
- ii. The TSIL programme would aim to reduce delays experienced within the SEND system by reducing the time taken to carry out assessments and allocating an accurate level of support the first time. The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman had been concerned about delays within the SEND system, that the service had not always delivered sufficient placements for children, and with the high levels of complaints received. The TSIL programme would focus on addressing these concerns.
- iii. The Director explained that parents would be engaged earlier in the assessment process and would receive clear information, which would give them more confidence in the process and enable them to understand how a decision had been reached regarding the package of care for their child. This was particularly important when the decision had been made to meet a child's needs in a mainstream school. For those children, it was also important to make sure that the

additional support they would need for a placement in mainstream school to be successful was available.

- iv. Reporting on EHCP data was based on national statistics across the SEND system. There was concern regarding growth in demand which was higher in Leicestershire when compared to other authorities and members noted that there were a variety of reasons for this, including funding issues. Leicestershire was the lowest funded local authority and as a result schools across Leicestershire had less funding available to support children in mainstream education, despite their will to ensure children are supported well in mainstream schools. Changes to the demographic in Leicestershire and expectations nationally regarding what EHCPs can deliver were also driving demand.

RESOLVED:

That the update provided on the Transforming SEND and Inclusion in Leicestershire (TSIL) programme, including the activity undertaken since commencement in August 2022, achievements, progress made, and the overview of the current High Needs Block financial position be noted.

60. Stable Homes Built on Love.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services which provided an overview of the Government's strategy for Children's Social Care Reform – Stable Homes, Built on Love, published on 2 February 2023 for consultation. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

In response to question regarding the impact of statutory changes to children's social care, the Director explained that the Department had actively fed into recommendations and hoped to be part of national work to understand how the changes would impact children and families. The Service would continue to highlight the challenges within the social work workforce.

Concern was raised regarding the level of funding available to deliver the proposed changes to children's social care, the Director explained that it was not yet clear what funding would be available for the Council to deliver the proposed changes. Initially, funding would be given to pilot organisations. The Service was concerned about funding due to the Council's financial position, but this would need to be balanced against delivering the correct support for children and families. Members noted that much of the proposed changes would require additional funding.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

- i. The Department offered a flexible route into kinship caring and provided a lifelong package of training and support to kinship carers. Within the model, when a child could not remain with their parents, wider family and friends could provide an alternative to becoming looked after. Members noted that kinship caring could pose a challenge to local authorities as they would be responsible for providing funding, even in circumstances where the placement had not been arranged by the local authority.
- ii. The Service had been part of regional work in utilising alternatively qualified staff to support looked after children. A qualified social worker had continued to

undertake the assessments and have robust oversight of the package of care, but the skills and experience of alternatively qualified staff had been useful in providing ongoing support. Positive feedback on the new model had been received from families and partners. The Service would await clarification as to whether the Government would make changes to the robustness around social work oversight and hoped to contribute to this work.

- iii. Local Authorities could bid to become one of twelve Families First for Children Pathfinders and it was anticipated that the successful authorities would be a mix of top tier, district and unitary authorities, as well as authorities with different Ofsted gradings. The pathfinders would be closely monitored by Department for Education (DfE) and the Service would work DfE to influence the development of the programme. The Department would consider whether it should apply to be a pathfinder but would need to understand the criteria and determine whether it would be an appropriate decision for the Service and its service users.
- iv. No proposals have been shared with the Department to indicate that existing legislation would be changed. It was anticipated that the proposed changes would sit alongside existing legislation.
- v. Multiagency work to support the needs of care leavers would continue to be challenging, but the Service would work closely with partners to ensure that they understood and committed to their collective responsibilities as corporate parents. All partners would be required to consider how this review would affect the provision of their services. District councils understood their corporate parenting responsibilities, especially regarding housing and worked well with the service to deliver for care leavers.
- vi. The proposed reforms set out a wider range of support for children with mental health. Members were assured that the Service had a wide range of mental health support available to children, such as Emotional Health and Wellbeing support in schools, a Teen Health 11-19 service, and targeted support for children in care and care leavers and youth justice cohorts. The Department continued to work closely with colleagues in Leicestershire Partnership Trust, who provided services for those children with acute needs, and regularly reviewed interventions.
- vii. The Children's Social Care Reform strategy had set out that any inspection of children's social care would need to be right for children and suggested that assessments would need to be better for children. The Service had robust assessments in place to understand children's needs and would ensure that when it is inspected, the inspection report would be reviewed to ensure that the right work is being done for children.
- viii. Opportunities had been identified for improvements in the use of data and technology within social care. Technology was used to understand performance within social care and to share with partners regarding safeguarding and risk management. Predictive tools were available to identify vulnerable children so that early intervention could be delivered as soon as possible. However, members were assured that social work assessments would always be most the robust element of the assessment process.

- ix. The report would be shared with safeguarding partners, and it was suggested that an engagement process with district councils, regarding the consultation and strategy feedback, be considered.

The Lead Member for Children and Family Services highlighted the financial challenges being faced by the Council and encouraged the Government to prioritise the financial position which local authorities continued to face.

RESOLVED:

That the overview of the Government's strategy for Children's Social Care Reform – Stable Homes, Built on Love, published on 2 February 2023, for consultation, be noted.

61. Quarter 3 2022/23 Performance Report.

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Children and Family Services which presented an update on the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period to September 2022 (Quarter 3). A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

The Director highlighted the high percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, an issue which was being experienced by a number of authorities nationally. The Department would work towards understand themes around the circumstances which had led to repeat periods of child protection planning.

Arising from discussion, the following points were made:

- i. Members welcomed the increase in the percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training, which was related to work conducted by the children's social care service in collaboration with education colleagues, and through the Virtual School programme, to encourage and support children to reach their educational and career aspirations.
- ii. In relation to the increase in the number of eligible two-year-olds having taken up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE), members noted that there had been an increase in the number of parents returning to work and that this could have impacted the increase in take up.
- iii. All performance indicators had been developed locally by the Department, but members noted that 18 of them were they are closely aligned to what was required to be submitted within statutory reporting.

Members were pleased to note that there were no performance indicators with a red RAG rating despite challenging circumstances being dealt with by the Department.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period to December 2022 (quarter 3) be noted.

62. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 6 June 2023 at 14:00pm.

2.00 - 3.41 pm
07 March 2023

CHAIRMAN



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 6 JUNE 2023**

INCLUSION IN LEICESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the functions of the Inclusion Service and to provide an overview of the temporary strategic duty to promote the education of all children known to a social worker.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. A report on Inclusion in Leicestershire Schools was presented to the Committee on 25 January 2022 which focused on the functions of the Inclusion Service and the new responsibility for promoting the education of children with a social worker.
3. Reports on Pupils Missing out on Education were also presented to the Committee on 4 June 2019 and 21 January 2020 which focussed on the Council's response to the national reports Forgotten Children: Alternative Provision and the scandal of ever increasing exclusions (2019) and Children Missing Out on Education Report (2020).

Background

4. In November 2013, Ofsted published a report entitled Pupils Missing out on Education which detailed how local authorities are required to fulfil their statutory duties regarding educational provision and safeguarding for those children who do not, or cannot, attend full time education. The report defined Pupils Missing out on Education (PME) as children of compulsory school age who are not accessing full-time education (either in school or in alternative provision). In its guidance to schools and local authorities, Ofsted advised that all schools (including academies, free, independent, private, and non-maintained schools), must monitor pupils' attendance through their daily register and must inform local authorities of pupils who are regularly absent

from school or have missed 15 days or more (whether consecutive or cumulative) without permission.

5. The reports, *Forgotten Children* (July 2018) and *Skipping School: Invisible Children* (2019) highlighted concerns around the children who are missing out on educational opportunities due to a rise in exclusions; an increase in the numbers of children having poor quality outcomes when accessing alternative provisions; families opting to home educate due to unmet SEN needs in mainstream settings; and children who are 'off rolled' when their needs are not being met within a mainstream setting.
6. Following these reports, there were two papers that set out recommendations in response:
 - The Timpson Review of School Exclusion (2019) highlighted 30 recommendations in which the Government, Department for Education, Ofsted, Local Authorities and Schools had to respond to in order to develop a consistent approach therefore minimising the need to exclude children. The Timpson Review concluded that that there was more that could be done to ensure that every exclusion is lawful, reasonable, and fair and that permanent exclusions should always be a last resort, used only when nothing else will do.
 - An Ofsted research study within the East Midlands, 'Moving to home education in secondary School' (2019) raised concerns that the decision for parents to home-educate was not always a positive one for all involved and suggested there was an increasing evidence-base that home education can be a last resort for some families when relationships have broken down between schools and children or parents. The findings arising from this report strongly recommended that Local Authorities and schools should develop clear processes for working together as soon as there are indications that a family may be considering home education. Both reports highlighted the importance of children being visible to ensure they are safeguarded from potential harm and receiving an adequate education.

Statutory Duties of the Local Authority and Parental Requirements

7. Schools must monitor pupils who are missing out on education and in most cases, they will remain the responsibility of the school where they are on roll. However, in some cases the statutory duty for a child's education becomes the responsibility of the local authority, for example:
 - Children Missing Education (CME) - Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Local authorities have a duty under section 436A of the Education

Act 1996 to make arrangements to establish the identities of children in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise.

- Children with Medical Needs: local authorities must arrange suitable fulltime education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness would otherwise not receive suitable education.
 - Elective Home Education: Since April 2019 Local Authorities duties' have been further clarified by the Department for Education (DfE). There are no direct legal requirements for the local authority regarding Home Education; however, the local authority does have powers at its disposal if it appears that a child is not receiving an adequate, safe, or appropriate education.
8. Section 13A of the Education Act 1996 – gives local authorities the duty to ensure that its relevant education functions and training functions are (so far as they are capable of being so exercised) exercised by the authority with a view to:
 - promoting high standards,
 - ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training, and
 - promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom this subsection applies
 9. Section 7 of the 1996 Act requires parents to provide an efficient, full- time education suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child and any special educational needs which the child may have. Section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996 sets out that the Local Authority must act if it appears that parents are not providing a suitable education.
 10. Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires Local Authorities to make arrangements for ensuring that their education functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
 11. Within Leicestershire, DfE guidance is followed in that informal enquiries are made that include a request to see the child by the Inclusion Team, either in the home or in another location. However, the parent is under no legal obligation to agree to this simply in order to satisfy the local authority as to the suitability of home education. Although a refusal to allow a visit can, in some circumstances, justify service of a notice to the parent or if safeguarding concerns exist, a referral to children's social care.
 12. In terms of excluded pupils, The Education Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils (England) Regulation 2007 states that for permanent exclusions, the local authority must arrange suitable full-time education for the

pupil to begin no later than the sixth school day of the exclusion. This will be the pupil's 'home authority' in cases where the school is maintained by (or located within) a different local authority. In addition, where a pupil has an EHC plan, the local authority may need to review the plan or reassess the child's needs, in consultation with parents, with a view to identifying a new placement.

Leicestershire Children

13. Current numbers of children on roll in a Leicestershire school as of Spring 2023:

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-------|
| Primary | 54,862 | 54.4% |
| Secondary | 44,237 | 43.8% |
| Special | 1,741 | 1.8% |
| Total | 100,840 | 100% |

14. The table above provides the number of children on the roll of Leicestershire schools, split by primary, secondary and special schools, which gives some context for the numbers of children who are not accessing education through school, as outlined in the sections below.

Leicestershire Inclusion Service

15. The Inclusion Service was created in September 2019, the primary purpose of the service is to ensure the inclusion of all children and young people in education as well as considering the challenges and subsequent responses within the service prompted by Covid-19. Since its inception, demand on the services offered has grown. Schools have been open to all pupils for two years but the aftermath of the pandemic is still being felt by children, young people and schools; the demands on the Inclusion Service have continued to grow with the numbers of children missing education, those with medical needs and families choosing to electively home educate rising monthly.
16. The Inclusion Service (the Service) responds to the educational needs of children and young people who are missing out on education. Pupils missing out on education (PME) are children of compulsory school age who may be on the roll of a school or setting but aren't accessing full-time education, either in school or in alternative provision. These children and young people generally fall into one of the following categories:
- Children Missing Education (CME): children who are on roll but not attending a school or an educational setting, and children who are not on the roll of a school.
 - Children with Medical Needs (CMN):
 - Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

17. The Service also works with schools who have children and young people who are Pupils Missing out on Education (PME) due to low attendance through supporting schools to adopt inclusive practices and providing challenge where necessary.
18. Families who have elected to home educate their children (EHE) are also the responsibility of the Service and the Local Authority's statutory duties are fulfilled through the work carried out.
19. Where children and young people are also known to the Special Educational Needs Assessment Service, Children's Social Care or Children and Families Wellbeing Service, a lead professional or service is identified, ensuring a coordinated approach to the management of the child's case. However, regular liaison with the Inclusion Service will take place through the Inclusion Pathway Manager, who maintains oversight of these children and young people and ensures that the Inclusion Service takes ownership if appropriate when other service involvement is completed or no longer required.
20. The Inclusion Service is led by a service manager who is supported by four managers within the Service. The Pathway Manager who is responsible for overseeing cases that come in and ensuring that they are referred to the correct service, whether that is Inclusion or in another area. Two managers are Team Managers who each have oversight of a team of Education Officers, Graduated Response Inclusion Practitioners (GRIPS) and Youth Workers. The Education Officers work with families and schools to ensure that a clear plan for education is in place and reviewed regularly. Education Officers meet children and young people in their homes or in public places as well as attending meetings in schools.
21. In May 2022, the Court Team joined the Inclusion Service, having been previously a part of the Admission Service. The same month, new government guidance was published outlining the increased duties of local authorities in the document Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2022).
22. The Court Team were renamed as The Attendance Team to reflect the new duties and to emphasise that their primary role is to support children and young people back into school, not to fine and prosecute families. This addition to the wider Inclusion Service has been an asset as both teams have the same objective: to get children into school.
23. Where the child has barriers themselves such as mental health difficulties the Inclusion Education Officers and GRIPs provide support to help them to overcome these. Where the barrier to attendance is the parent or carer, the Attendance Team provide the necessary lever to encourage engagement with support. Many cases of children or young people can sit between the two areas and so joint working is required. Having Inclusion and Attendance under the same umbrella has made joint working easier and more productive allowing us to streamline processes and facilitate multi-agency working where appropriate.

Leicestershire Data

Children Missing Education (CME)

24. There has been a marked increase in the number of CME over the past four years. The pre-Covid numbers are telling, but numbers have continued to rise in the two years since schools opened up. Some children and young people who missed schooling due to Covid lockdowns are still struggling to attend and struggling with anxiety. The impact lockdowns on their mental health continues to be felt in 2013.

| | | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 up to 15/05/2023 |
|--|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| On roll | Whereabouts Known | 63 | 209 | 372 | 385 | 326 |
| | Whereabouts not known | 119 | 167 | 221 | 227 | 512 |
| Not on roll Statutory Duty cohorts | Whereabouts Known | 34 | 46 | 136 | 129 | 46 |
| | Whereabouts not known | 34 | 24 | 30 | 23 | 20 |
| Total | | 250 | 446 | 759 | 764 | 904 |

25. Reasons for CYP not attending school include:
- Incident in school that family feels is unresolved
 - School place in desired location not available
 - Family feel that the school are not meeting their child's needs
 - Risk of exclusion
 - Family move (without notifying school/LA)
 - Other mental health concerns
 - Trauma experienced by CYP/family
26. Families, children and young people who have experienced trauma, are signposted to support services by education officers dealing with their case. The Inclusion Service have also had training as a team in childhood trauma, how these can affect children and young people both at the time and later in life. The service have also had training in de-escalating situations where children and young people demonstrate challenging behaviours as a result of past traumas.

Exclusions

| | Fixed period exclusions (rate) | Permanent exclusions (rate) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| East Midlands Average – 2018/2019 | 4.82 | 0.09 |
| East Midlands Average – 2019/2020 | 3.65 | 0.06 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| East Midlands Average – 2020/2021 | 4.4 | 0.05 |
| National Average – 2018/2019 | 5.36 | 0.1 |
| National Average – 2019/2020 | 3.76 | 0.06 |
| National Average – 2020/2021 | 4.25 | 0.05 |
| Leicestershire – 2018/2019 | 3.64 | 0.02 |
| Leicestershire – 2019/2020 | 2.54 | 0.02 |
| Leicestershire – 2020/2021 | 2.95 | 0.01 |

27. The East Midlands and National data is taken from the DfE reporting using the School Census.

| School Type | Exclusion | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 to date (end of Dec 22) |
|-------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Primary | Permanent | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Fixed term | 467 | 366 | 613 | 242 |
| Secondary | Permanent | 13 | 6 | 22 | 19 |
| | Fixed term | 2153 | 2563 | 4733 | 2474 |

Note: The data noted is for the action of exclusion (fixed or permanent) not the number of young people.

28. Children and young people have struggled with the return to school in the aftermath of the pandemic. Those children who missed much of Years 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 have found the transition from primary to secondary school problematic. There has been a significant rise in the number of children at KS3 (aged 11-14) being permanently excluded or directed to learn offsite. The provision and support that a primary school can offer is very different from what is available in a secondary setting. Schools are applying for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for Year 7s who have not been with them for long in an attempt to secure funding that can be used for extra or alternative provision.
29. The Inclusion Service works alongside Oakfield (Leicestershire's short stay school for those primary aged children who have been or are at imminent risk of being excluded). For secondary aged pupils Leicestershire has established five Secondary Education Inclusion Partnerships (SEIPs). The primary purpose and objective of the SEIPs is to prevent permanent exclusion wherever possible. The SEIPS work alongside secondary schools to put provision in place for those young people who are facing challenges in engaging with the formal school environment and cannot continue to attend a particular setting.
30. Parents and carers are supported in making their decision for future provision for their child. Where an agreement can be reached to use alternative provision for a child or young person, a permanent exclusion can be avoided. The rise in exclusions has resulted in challenges at primary level but more markedly at secondary level with one area SEIP unable to accept any further referrals, including for permanently excluded children. These children have become the responsibility of the Inclusion Service.

Children with Medical Needs

| | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Annual total of cases | 161 | 153 |

31. There was a significant rise in the past two academic years of children with medical needs. Much of this increase relates to the mental health of children and young people who are struggling with anxiety and feel unable to cope with the large and noisy environment of school. Each month the service experiences some CYP previously classed as CME become CMN when they provide the level of medical evidence required to receive tuition through the LA.
32. Children with medical needs are defined as those who are too ill to attend school and have medical evidence to support this. Some of these children may be in hospital and are tracked by the CMN coordinator and those based in their own homes are supported by education officers who plan and oversee provision.
33. The service to support these children is through tuition which can be either in groups or one to one. Tuition can be delivered online or in person depending upon the needs of the individual. Progress meetings between the Inclusion Service, tutor and school help to ensure that the young person is following a suitable curriculum to support their transition back into school at the appropriate time.
34. Through the Local Authority's recoupment policy, the Inclusion Service is able to claim the Age Weighted Pupil Unit funding (AWPU) from schools to help meet the costs of tuition. Where schools do not agree to the recoupment policy, they may decide to put their own tuition into place, using staff from their school to maintain provision for the children and young people on their roll who is too unwell to attend.
35. The Service also has the offer of an AV1 Robot. The robot is placed in the classroom where the child would normally attend school. It acts as the eyes and ears of the child at home who can access the camera and microphone through an application on a mobile phone. While this technology is impressive and effective, the robot itself is better suited to use in a primary setting, where classes take place in the same room throughout most of the day. Most of the CMN cases within Inclusion are for secondary aged young people. As a result, the AV1 robots are now offered to primary aged children who are missing education (CME), they are not able to attend school but there is no medical evidence in place to support their absence.
36. The AV1 robot is now used as an early intervention to encourage children back into school swiftly, before they reach the status of CMN, due to being out of

school for so long, their barriers are significant and they need their learning to take place outside of a school setting.

Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

37. Each Local Authority's post 16 data relating to children who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is compared with that of other local authorities in England. In reporting, Local Authorities are placed in quintiles according to their performance. For 2020/21 the performance was as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|------------|
| Unknown (16-17) | 2% | Quintile 4 |
| NEET (16-17) | 1.3% | Quintile 1 |
| Overall (16-17) | 3.2% | Quintile 2 |
| Sept Guarantee | 96.2% | Quintile 3 |
| Participation | 96.3% | Quintile 1 |

38. The September guarantee is where a Year 11 pupil has an offer for post 16 education. Those students classed as *unknown* are those who the service holds no information about post 16 destinations. Information about destinations is reported to the service by schools, colleges, and other providers, as well as from the families and young people themselves.
39. As of September 2022, Leicestershire demonstrated great improvements, being placed in quintile 1 for both the NEET figures (due to them being low in comparison with national data) and the participation figure (due to a high percentage of young people participating in education, employment or training). Work continues to encourage young people in Year 12 to engage with the service when it reaches out to them to find out their status. The service also work with secondary schools to source information which helps us to reduce the 'unknown' figure.

Figures for 21/22 academic year:

| 2022/2023 | September | October | November | December | January | February | March |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| NEET | 95 (0.63%) | 95 (0.65%) | 100 (0.69%) | 106 (0.73%) | 112 (0.77%) | 117 (0.81%) | 140 (0.97%) |
| Unknown | 8643 (57%) | 3742 (25.89%) | 2720 (18.82%) | 2126 (14.72%) | 415 (2.87%) | 407 (2.81%) | 364 (2.5%) |
| Overall | 8738 (57.63%) | 3837 (26.54%) | 2820 (19.5%) | 2232 (15.45%) | 527 (3.66%) | 524 (3.63%) | 504 (3.45%) |
| Sept Guarantee single submission | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Participation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

40. Over the academic year, the number of EET cases has increased overall but the number of unknown students continues to fall. As data becomes available, the service can identify the destination of students. Any students who are

without provision as signposted to appropriate resources and sources of support. Those who are vulnerable, either through having SEND needs that require an EHCP or having been in the care system, are eligible for intense support from Education Offices who specialise in EET.

41. The Inclusion Service offers a high level of support to these vulnerable young people, ensuring that they are aware of the opportunities open to them, through job, apprenticeship, and education provision searches. The officers then identify suitable opportunities as well as upskilling the young people to conduct their own searches. Further support is given to ensure that young people can make successful applications and perform well at interview.

Electively Home Educated Children (EHE)

42. EHE Children are those children who are educated at home through parental/carer choice. They are not on the roll of any school; families are responsible for planning, resourcing and delivering all aspects of their education. The annual figures covering the last three years of EHE children are:

| Year | Annual Total | Autumn Term | Spring Term | Summer Term |
|---------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2019/20 | 832 | 627 | 707 | 735 |
| 2020/21 | 1058 | 729 | 811 | 877 |
| 2021/22 | 1185 | 929 | 958 | 1047 |

43. As in other areas of the country, the service continues to see a rise in the number of referrals for EHE. A national survey conducted in November 2021 by The Association of Directors of Childrens Services found that there had been a 34% rise in the number of children who are electively home educated over a twelve-month period. Referral forms require schools to confirm that they hold robust conversations with families looking to home educate. The service then triangulate this when making contact with families that are new to EHE. The level of support offered to EHE families have been enhanced, with termly webinars taking place offering support to all families who are new to home education.
44. In the autumn term, the service offers a session to parents and carers of Year 11 young people. This session is run jointly by the EHE and the EET teams. Advice and support on entering and sitting examinations as well as post 16 options is shared. Invites to all EHE webinars are by direct invitation; the service does not seek to promote this method of education, only to support it once it has been chosen.
45. The main reason for families choosing this option over the past twelve months has been due to breakdowns in the relationships between schools and families – which has then often led to attendance difficulties. The data below is taken from March 2023 and gives a sample of the reasons families have stated as their motivation for choosing EHE:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| School Anxiety | 1 |
|----------------|---|

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Lifestyle/Cultural | 2 |
| Medical reasons | 4 |
| School unable to meet needs | 3 |
| Attendance difficulties | 11 |
| School relationship breakdown | 9 |
| Problems with SEN provision | 1 |
| None recorded | 4 |
| Bullying | 3 |
| Emotional/behavioural | 4 |
| Other | 9 |

46. Where schools have expressed concerns over a family's decision to opt for EHE from an education perspective, the Inclusion Service has held additional conversations with those families to ensure that they are fully informed and aware of the commitment that they are undertaking. Their education plans are also prioritised for scrutiny by Education Officers within the Inclusion Service. The Service ensures all families are invited to a meeting to discuss the implications of EHE.

The Education of Children Known to Children's Social Care (Virtual School Head for Children with a Social worker)

47. In June 2022 the DfE set out plans to further extend the virtual school head role to champion children with a social worker and promote their education. In Leicestershire, this duty is undertaken by the Inclusion Service Manager.
48. The duty is funded by the DfE to put provision in place for children who are currently classed as a Child in Need, on a Child Protection Plan or have been known to a social worker in the past. The role is a strategic one and involves work across different LCC services, partner agencies, schools, and colleges.
49. The Inclusion Services fulfils the Council's duty by ensuring that robust and appropriate processes are in place to ensure a quality education for those young people known to a social worker. Where children known to a social worker are out of education or at risk of exclusion, the Service prioritises them and works with children's social care to support schools and the children and young people themselves. There has also been a training offer in trauma informed practice to all schools through the Inclusion Service.

Background Papers

Inclusion in Leicestershire Schools, January 2022

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MId=6880&Ver=4>

Pupils Missing out on Education in Leicestershire, 4 June 2019

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MID=5683>

Pupils Missing out on Education in Leicestershire, 21 January 2020
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MID=6179>

Ofsted press release 2013: Local Authorities Failing Children who are Missing Education
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-authorities-failing-children-who-are-missing-education>

House of Commons Education Committee 2017-19 Forgotten children: alternative provision and the scandal of ever increasing exclusions
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmeduc/342/342.pdf>

Children's Commissioner 2019: Skipping School: Invisible Children
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/skipping-school-invisible-children/>

Timpson Review of School Exclusion 2019
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807862/Timpson_review.pdf

Education Act 1996
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents>

Ofsted 2019: Exploring moving to home education in secondary schools: research summary
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exploring-moving-to-home-education-in-secondary-schools/exploring-moving-to-home-education-in-secondary-schools-research-summary>

Section 175 Education Act 2002
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/section/175>

DfE 2021 Promoting the education of children with a social worker
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994028/Promoting_the_education_of_children_with_a_social_worker.pdf

Transparency data 2012 NEET and participation: local authority figures
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neet-and-participation-local-authority-figures>

Elective Home Education Survey 2021, November 2021
https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_EHE_Survey_2021_Report_FINAL.pdf

Working together to improve school attendance, May 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Equalities Implications

50. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Human Rights Implications

51. There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

Officers to Contact

Alison Bradley
Assistant Director, Education and SEND
Tel: 0116 305 8825
alison.bradley@leics.gov.uk

Justine Roberts
Head of Service, Education Quality and Inclusion
Tel: 0116v305 1251
justine.roberts@leics.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 2023**

LEICESTERSHIRE FAMILY HUBS

**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on work to implement Family Hubs in Leicestershire.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. Family Hubs are a Department for Education (DfE) initiative with cross-departmental sign up. The aim of Family Hubs is to improve access for all families to integrated information, advice and support in their local communities, whether through on-line or in person provision.
3. On 11 February 2022, the Cabinet considered a report which sought agreement to start work on implementing a Family Hubs model across Children and Family Wellbeing Service. Although this was agreed, at that time the outcome of a funding bid to support the work was unknown.

Background

4. In November 2021, a funding bid was submitted to DfE for transformation grant funding to support the development of Family Hubs in Leicestershire. Due to delays within DfE, notification of the successful bid was only made in September 2022, and public announcement of the funding in March 2023. Leicestershire was one of 12 councils that successfully applied, and the amount received is just under £1 million, to be spent by March 2024.
5. The funding is part of the Government's £300 million investment pot which will support the wider initiative to roll out Family Hubs across 75 other local authorities throughout the country. These authorities have received funding on the basis of their ranking in the indices of deprivation. The funding covers provision of services as well as infrastructure development.

6. Family Hubs will create 'one-stop shops', for parents, carers, and families across Leicestershire to help access support and advice when needed. The 'hubs' will be a mixture of physical and virtual spaces where all communities can easily access a range of guidance and help to give children the best start in life. This will include everything from midwifery to mental health support, health visits to infant feeding, development for young children to set the foundations for lifelong learning and prepare them for school at age five.

How the project will be delivered

7. The intention is to transform access to help and support through a Family Hub network, building on already established integrated services, including the Children and Family Wellbeing service which is delivered from 21 buildings around the county. Delivery plans are in place across five key areas:
8. **Start for Life programme, Maternity and Early Years.** The Family Hubs programme will have strong emphasis on the delivery of high-quality maternity and early years services. A multi-agency working group has been established and a Maternity and Early Childhood strategy and plan is in development. This group will deliver the work identified under Priority One of the Children and Families Partnership Plan, Best Start in Life.
9. **Engagement and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.** Two Community Engagement workers have been recruited to connect and engage with families to ensure that they are consulted and given opportunity to shape the way services are provided. Alongside this, a specific piece of engagement work has been commissioned from a voluntary sector organisation, Centre for Fun and Families. The Maternity Champions project is underway in Loughborough, working with local communities to understand the barriers for women in accessing maternity and early years services. Data shows that Black and Asian women, and women from deprived communities, can be up to four times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth. We know that 'late booking' is a significant issue in Loughborough for some communities. The project will seek to train up Maternity Champions – volunteers who will support women to understand the importance of health care during pregnancy and beyond, and work with providers to ensure services are meeting the needs. Beyond the period of the funded project, the volunteers will be supported through the Children and Family Wellbeing Service volunteer programme.
10. A further engagement project is currently being explored with **Leicestershire Gypsy Traveller Equalities (GATE)**, again looking at how women can be supported to access services during pregnancy and the early years to give their children the best start in life. Very few women from the Gypsy and Traveller communities engage with health care or early years services.
11. **Places and Spaces.** The Children and Family Wellbeing Service is currently provided from 21 buildings. Mapping is underway to assess the ability of each to deliver the core offer of Family Hubs and thus be designated as either a 'Hub' or a 'Spoke'. This involves work with key partners to explore integrated service delivery, co-location, and co-delivery models. Work is also underway with the Library Service to explore how library buildings, staff, and volunteers can contribute to the work of the Family Hubs. Six library buildings have been

identified to become a Family Hub ‘Spoke’. In these buildings, as well as staff being trained (see below) there will be additional resources available to families with a Family Hub area being clearly identifiable. Resources will include self-help materials, access to the Family Hubs website (see below) and other initiatives such as ‘Boromi bags’ – toys and resources which families can book to use with their child in the library. Discussions are ongoing with key partners such as midwifery, who are considering how library buildings could support in the delivery of maternity services particularly in some of the more rural areas.

12. The following table includes details of the opening schedule for Family Hubs:

| | MONTH | SITE |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| North West Leicestershire | June 2023 | Coalville |
| Harborough District Melton Borough Charnwood Borough Oadby & Wigston Borough Hinckley Borough | July and August 2023 | Mkt Harborough Venture House Loughborough West Wigston Magna Hinckley Granville Road |
| Oadby & Wigston Borough Blaby District Blaby District | September 2023 | Wigston Library Braunstone Town Huncote |
| Charnwood Borough Charnwood Borough Charnwood Borough Charnwood Borough | October 2023 | Syston Library Mountfields Shelthorpe Thurmaston |
| Hinckley Borough Hinckley Borough Hinckley Borough Hinckley Borough | November 2023 | Earl Shilton Bagworth Barwell Hinckley Library |
| Hinckley Borough Hinckley Borough | December 2023 | Lutterworth Library Lutterworth |
| North West Leicestershire Charnwood Borough North West Leicestershire | January 2024 | Castle Donington Loughborough Library Measham |
| North West Leicestershire Harborough District North West Leicestershire | February 2024 | Moir Broughton Astley Greenhill |
| County Wide | March 2024 | Remaining Library Sites |

13. **Workforce Development** – In recognition of the importance of families getting the best experience when connecting with services, work is underway to provide training for all front of house staff' across Children and Family Services, Business Support Teams, and Libraries. The training includes an Introduction to Trauma Informed Practice, Making Every Contact Count, Reducing Parental Conflict, and Mental Health First Aid.
14. In thinking about the skills of the wider early help workforce, for example school-based staff, district council staff, voluntary sector organisations, health employees, there is a need to consider core competencies to ensure a quality approach to delivering early intervention and prevention. It has been agreed through the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) Strategic Partnership Board Prevention and Early Intervention Sub Board that workforce development should be a priority across the sub region. Leicestershire staff will be leading this area of work to explore core competencies. This will support work identified within the Best Start in Life working group; there needs to be a better awareness and understanding of the range of services available across the area, an understanding of the roles and remits within those services, and an appreciation of referral pathways. Some of this work will be delivered through the Digital and Virtual work stream, detailed below.
15. **Digital and Virtual** – In addition to our physical spaces, we will design and develop a dedicated website in 2 phases. We want to make it easier for all families to access guidance and interact with services. The new website will act as a self-serve portal and bring information together to improve connections between families, professionals, services, and providers. Our long-term ambition is to add virtual support, such as video calling to our website.

Other Linked Initiatives

16. The Family Hubs programme has been closely aligned to various government agendas including the Supporting Families programme (Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme (Department of Works and Pensions). The work of the Family Hubs programme complements and supports the development of both these areas of work. For RPC, a multi-agency group has supported the development of practitioner toolkits and training to ensure the broad early help workforce both understand the detrimental impact of unresolved conflict in families and are able to recognise it and signpost to help and support. 'Relationships Matter in Leicestershire' is a brief document setting out vision and commitment to working on this agenda, included in the appendix. The Supporting Families programme shares an agenda to develop enhanced data sharing between public sector agencies as well as secure and build on multi-agency approaches to whole family work.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

17. None

Equalities Implications

18. The Family Hubs programme is designed to improve access for all families to good quality information, advice, and where needed, support. The programme of work involves considerable consultation and engagement with families including targeted work with those communities who may often experience additional barriers to accessing services. The model of Family Hubs incorporates different approaches to delivering services so that families have more choice about how, where, and when they access or receive information, support and guidance.
19. There are no equalities implications Arising from this report.

Human Rights Implications

20. There are no human rights implications Arising from this report.

Appendix

21. Relationships Matter in Leicestershire.

Background Papers

22. 25 January presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/b17491/Development%20of%20Family%20Hubs%20in%20Leicestershire%20Tuesday%2025-Jan-2022%2013.30%20Children%20and%20Families%20Over.pdf?T=9>
23. 11 February 2022 report to Cabinet.
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6773&Ver=4>

Officer to Contact

Jane Moore
 Director of Children and Family Services
 (0116) 305 2649
Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk

Wendy Collins
 Interim Head of Service - FRCD, Targeted Early Help
 (0116) 305 4949
wendy.collins@leics.gov.uk

Ellie Lowe
 Service Manager - Children and Family Wellbeing Service
 (0116) 305 6511
ellie.lowe@leics.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



Relationships Matter in Leicestershire

Why do relationships matter?

Here in Leicestershire, we believe that strong, thriving communities are built by people who have strong, thriving relationships with their partners, children, colleagues, neighbours, and friends. We are stronger together. Our relationships and friendships shape who we are, they are important to our wellbeing and how we cope with life's ups and downs. Safe and supportive relationships in all aspects of life are crucial for both children and adults. Good relationships make us happy. Research shows us that when people feel connected, they are less likely to experience mental and physical health problems.

When we talk about relationships it isn't just about having lots of friends or having a partner, but it is about the quality of all the relationships that we have, for example school children and their teachers, young people and youth workers, friendship groups, adults with a support worker, neighbours, work colleagues. All good relationships are based on trust and respect and an ability to understand each other's points of view, even if we don't agree on everything.

Family Relationships

In Leicestershire, a group of organisations have been working together to understand the importance of relationships and how strong relationships really support families to do well. This is particularly true at times of change or challenge in our lives – for example relationships can support us through bereavement, starting school and school transitions, changing jobs, pregnancy, and other significant life changes.

We know that children learn about relationships from the adults that are around them. We also know that sometimes we can become 'stuck' with unhelpful thinking in relationships and sometimes this can lead to conflict and argument. Again, the research tells us that conflict and argument between adults in a family can be harmful to children if it is frequent and not resolved. Of course, this doesn't mean that adults shouldn't argue - arguing is normal and can be part of a healthy relationship if both

parties are able to compromise and problem solve together. The key is in learning how to communicate better, how to argue better. And children who see parents and carers arguing well are learning problem solving skills of their own.

Our Vision

We want Leicestershire to be a place where good quality relationships are supported and encouraged to thrive. We want all organisations who work with children and families to be confident in providing relationship support or in providing signposting to other services who can help if help is needed.

The purpose of this document is to encourage thinking and reflect about the quality of relationships whether that be at home, at work, at school. As an Early Help Partnership, we have identified several commitments that we will make to support good quality relationships and strengthen the message that relationships matter in Leicestershire.

Our commitment:

1. We will continue to work in partnership, alongside children, young people and families to promote the importance of good quality relationships.
2. We will support all organisations who work with children and families to access good quality training and information. This will include information and training on trauma informed practice. Trauma informed practice is an approach which understands that when people are exposed to trauma it can have an impact on an individuals' ability to feel safe, develop trusting relationships and may impact on how they behave and respond in different situations. We will provide people who work with families with the skills and resources to start conversation about relationship quality with the families they work with.
3. We will develop and share information and resources for families to self-help, alongside clear information about where further help can be found
4. We will develop information and guidance so that families and people who work with families, know where they can get further help if it is needed.



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

6 JUNE 2023

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of Leicestershire County Council's duties and responsibilities to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and the context in which the County Council delivers services to these children and young people.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The provisions for the transfer of responsibility for relevant children fall under Part 5 of the Immigration Act 2016.
3. The National Transfer Scheme is intended to ensure that any local authority does not face an unmanageable responsibility in accommodating and looking after unaccompanied children pursuant to its duties under parts 3, 4, and 5 of the Children Act 1989, simply by virtue of being the point of arrival of a disproportionate number of UASC, and in doing so to ensure that all appropriate services are available to all unaccompanied children.
4. Local authorities have a duty to support young people who cease to be looked after (for example those referred to in legislation as 'relevant' and 'former relevant children'). The main aim of the Care Leavers Regulations and of this guidance is to make sure that care leavers are provided with comprehensive personal support so that they achieve their potential as they make their transition to adulthood. The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 are made under the Children Act 1989.
5. For the purposes of the dispersal hotels, an asylum seeker is a person aged 18 and over who has fled persecution and has made an asylum claim under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees,¹ or against a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

6. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children on 25 January 2022 which outlined the position at the time.

Background

National Transfer Scheme

7. The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) was established in 2016 to provide a mechanism for the statutory responsibility for a UASC to be transferred between an entry local authority and another local authority in the UK, ensuring UASC get the crucial care placements that they need whilst facilitating a more equitable distribution of responsibility for UASC across the UK.
8. Participation in the NTS was initially voluntary. On 14 December 2021, the Home Office issued formal notice to direct local authorities to comply with the National Transfer Scheme under Section 72/5 of the Immigration Act 2016.
9. The exact number of children to be allocated to each local authority over the course of the mandatory scheme will be dependent on numbers of UASC arriving in the UK and the length of time a mandatory scheme remains in place (i.e. demand led).

Spontaneous Arrivals

10. Most UASC arrive in the UK by their own means, usually by truck, and are encountered at their 'port of entry,' at the Asylum Intake Unit in Croydon or are otherwise encountered by police/social services. The local authority in which the child first presents is responsible for their care.

Children Arriving Through the Adult Asylum System Dispersal (also known as Contingency) Hotels

11. Due to the unprecedented arrivals into the UK, adult asylum seekers or families, if they have nowhere to live, are being placed in temporary accommodation (often a hotel) by the Home Office, until their application is processed, and they are moved to more permanent accommodation.
12. Individuals placed at the hotels have an initial Home Office determination of being an adult, however on arrival in Leicestershire there have been a number of individuals who have identified themselves as a child, and therefore require assessment. Leicestershire currently has three dispersal hotels for adults only. This is an increase from two when previously reported to the Committee.

Local Context

13. There are two types of UASC that the County Council provides a service to – those who are children (under 18 years of age) who are looked after (children in care), and those 18-25 years of age to whom the local authority has a care leaver duty.
14. Leicestershire County Council has 83 children in care who are UASC and 110 UASC Care Leavers (as at 30 April 2023), a total of 193 children and young

people open to the UASC Team. This compares to 56 UASC Children in Care and 71 UASC Care Leavers at a similar time in 2022, totalling 128 children and young people.

Spontaneous Arrivals

15. Between April 2022 and the end of April 2023, the County Council accommodated 13 spontaneous new arrivals (an average of 1 child arriving per month). This compares to 14 spontaneous arrivals accommodated during the period of April to December 2021, an average of 1.75 children per month.
16. The number of children who are children in care or care leavers where arrival had been spontaneous has reduced by 1.8% over the last six months. We now have 21 Children in Care and 83 care leavers who presented as Spontaneous arrival. This is the lowest cohort of children in care which represents the changing pattern to NTS and Dispersal Hotel.
17. This does not include any transferred through the NTS or referred from Adult Asylum Dispersal Hotels (as detailed below). This also does not include those who arrive in the area who are deemed to be adults following an age assessment by the UASC Team and are therefore not accommodated.

The National Transfer Scheme

18. During the financial year of 2022-23 Leicestershire accommodated 36 children through the National Transfer Scheme (on average three children per month). In comparison following Leicestershire joining the voluntary NTS in July 2021 until April 2022 Leicestershire accommodated 14 children on average 1.75 children per month.
19. The Council now has 35 Children in care and seven Care leavers who were accommodated through the NTS. The County Council is also expected to continue to accept children through the scheme and aims to accommodate them within ten working days of referral.

Children Arriving Through the Adult Asylum System

20. From October 2021 onwards, the County Council began to receive a significant number of requests to accommodate people placed in Asylum Dispersal Hotels in Leicestershire. They have been deemed adults by the Home Office and subsequently claimed to be children. During 2021/2022 the Council received 23 referrals from hotels and accommodated 18 (average of 1.5 children per month).
21. In 2022-23 the Council accommodated 26 through this route (average of 2.1 children per month). To evidence the recent significant increase in numbers, in March and April 2023 alone the Council received 26 referrals from the dispersal hotels and following an assessment accommodated 15.
22. Of the UASC cohort, 27 children and 20 care leavers were accommodated through the dispersal hotel route.
23. If Leicestershire continues to receive the increasing numbers through NTS and Dispersal Hotels. the impact of this would be primarily around resource

requirement to undertake assessments and resources to support those assessed as children both in staffing and accommodation

Service Response for UASC

24. Based on data for 2022/23, Leicestershire can expect to accommodate (spontaneous, NTS and via hotels) an average of 6.1 children per month into its care, or 73 children a year.
25. Children who are looked after by the UASC Team receive a specialist service. This includes the allocation of a social worker and personal advisor, accommodation, specialist support with the asylum process, appropriate interpreter support and specialist support from the Virtual School.
26. The UASC Team works closely with the Virtual School, which has a dedicated worker for UASC and close links with local schools and colleges. Some UASC are able to access education within two days of being accommodated.
27. The increasing number of UASC creates additional pressures within the resources for education. In Leicestershire, Leicester College is the only provider of Pre-Entry level ESOL course. They currently do not have capacity for newly accommodated children and therefore Leicestershire Virtual School are providing support through tutoring.
28. The Council uses specialist UASC providers where the staff have a good understanding of the asylum process and are able to offer support. UASC also have an opportunity to meet other young people in similar situations and often who share the same language and culture.
29. The UASC Team ensures that the young people have religious and cultural items and are supported to access a place of worship as soon as possible, if desired. Matching young people to placements and communities always considers access to shops that provide for their dietary needs and familiar cuisine.
30. The UASC Team has a good understanding of trauma informed practice and culture shock, and advocate well on behalf of young people. The young people often go on to achieve well in education and achieve good health and accommodation outcomes

Resource Implications

31. In order to support local authorities in supporting children, any local authority receiving a child transferred under the national transfer scheme will now receive a funding contribution at the higher rate of £143 per child per night (£52k annually). This is currently equal to the full cost of every UASC supported in Leicestershire. Children who arrive through the spontaneous route or dispersal hotels receive a lower rate of £114 per night.
32. Current funding rates per UASC Care Leaver remain at £270 a week, or £14,040 per annum. Leicestershire County Council's average cost incurred in support and care of one UASC care leaver per annum remains at £21k, which is above the East Midlands Average of £17k. There is therefore a subsequent

funding gap for Leicestershire of £7k per child per annum. This would result in a continued future funding pressure for every UASC coming through this scheme.

33. The rapid increase in UASC in care and care leavers has required a greater resource requirement to meet their needs. The different entry routes include both the National Transfer scheme, as well as spontaneous arrivals, but more recently through the hotel dispersal scheme where requests to accommodate people placed in Asylum Dispersal Hotels in Leicestershire are made, and whilst they have been deemed adults by the Home Office, subsequently claim to be children, and creates an additional pressure for the service to manage which is not fully funded.
34. This funding gap is further impacted by the increasing number of UASC care leavers. In terms of the local authority's current demand, UASC Under 18s, are at approx. 83 now compared to 56 in April 2022 (48% increase), and UASC Over 18s are at approx. 110 compared to 71 in April 2022 (55% increase). In addition, delays in asylum claim processes mean that we are often accommodating young people well past 18 and the Home Office funding drops significantly at 18 but the costs do not.

Background Papers

35. None.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

36. None.

Equalities Implications

37. All assessments and services provided for UASC are done so in a framework of respecting equality and diversity for young people. The Children and Family Services department is committed to equality and ensuring the human rights of all users, and importantly to support those young people who have arrived here from other countries as unaccompanied children.
38. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Human Rights Implications

39. There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

Officer to Contact

Sharon Cooke
Assistant Director, Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care
Email: sharon.cooke@leics.gov.uk

Kelda Claire
Head of Service, Children and Care, Fostering and Adoption.
Email: Kelda.claire@leics.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 2023**

QUARTER 4 2022/23 PERFORMANCE REPORT

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with an update on the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period January to March 2023 (quarter 4).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Children and Family Services Department's performance is reported to the Committee in accordance with the Council's corporate performance management arrangements.

Background and Overview

3. The Children and Family Services Department has produced a Departmental Plan 2020-2023 which identifies ambitions and measures to monitor progress. The following report and accompanying data aim to report on the priority areas identified by both plans and monitor performance of key indicators on a quarterly basis. The current performance data is appended and has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where updated data is available for quarter 4.
4. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.
5. Of the 18 indicators presented, 10 have a national benchmark. Of these, three are in the top quartile, two are in the second quartile, and four are in the third quartile, and one is in the fourth quartile.

Helping children in Leicestershire live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments

6. Local Authority comparisons used are most recent figures published by the Government for end of year benchmarking.
7. As a result of improvements made to the Mosaic case management system in December, the number of social care performance indicators available is

temporarily reduced while reporting systems are updated.

8. The percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time remained similar at 23.0% at the end of quarter 4 compared to 22.9% at the end of quarter 3. In this period 29 children began a second or subsequent child protection plan, a decrease from 39 reported in the preceding quarter. Leicestershire remains placed in the third quartile of local authorities compared to most recent national results published for 2021/22. This continues to be an area of focus for the service and regular audits are completed, to understand any themes around the circumstances leading to repeat periods of child protection planning.
9. The percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care within 12 months during 2022/23 was 23.5% at the end of quarter 4 compared to 22.8% at the end of the previous quarter, with 347 children 're-referred' within quarter 4. This is against a target of 22% Leicestershire is placed in the fourth quartile of local authorities. More recent analysis, however, shows a decrease in the rate of re-referrals to 21.9% which succeeds our target.
10. The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days during 2022/23 was 80.9% at the end of quarter 4, a decrease from quarter 3 (82.5%). Within quarter 4, 784 of 1029 assessments were completed within timescale. Leicestershire is placed in the third quartile of local authorities using most recent comparisons.
11. Seven Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 4, representing 1.4% of cases. This is a small decrease compared with the end of quarter 3 (ten children, 1.8%), and now places Leicestershire in the first quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 95.8% at the end of quarter 4 (344 out of 359 young people). This is a small increase from the end of quarter 3 (94.0%) and continues to place Leicestershire in the first quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
13. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 64.1% at the end of quarter 4 (230 out of 359 young people). This is a similar position to the end of quarter 3, 64.5%, and continues to place Leicestershire in the top quartile by comparison with other local authorities. The service continues to provide careful oversight to the care leaver indicators and is driven by a corporate commitment for creating mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers.

Helping children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence, and capacity

14. Due to ongoing system changes, specifically relating to Capita and Synergy, it is not possible to report a total 'Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with' figure for Q4 at this time. During quarter 3 2022/23 (the last available reporting period), the CFWS worked with 3,489 individuals and 1,435 families across Leicestershire.

15. The Children and Families Services Departmental Plan states the intention to ensure that the needs of young people are identified as early as possible so that timely and appropriate support is provided in the right setting, therefore reducing the risk of needs escalating at the same time as ensuring children and young people's best outcomes are achieved.
16. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) was 2,392 in the Spring 2023 School Census. This is 140 more than the Autumn 2022 School Census (2,252). The Spring term 2023 School Census EHCP numbers are the highest for a Spring term since 2017, when the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes was completed.
17. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 12,392 in the Spring 2023 School Census. This is 315 higher than the Autumn 2022 census (12,077). The Spring term 2023 School Census SEN support numbers are the highest for an Autumn term since the completion of the phasing in of the 2014 SEN Code of Practice changes in 2016.

People are safe in their daily lives

18. Local Youth Justice statistics are regularly reported to the Youth and Justice Management Board. The latest report was presented at the March 2023 board. However, due to ongoing system changes, only national indicators could be reported.

Help every child to get the best possible start in life

Early years

19. In the Spring Term 2023, 90.1% of eligible two-year-olds took up their Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE). This is a decrease from the Autumn Term (92.2%). For three-year-olds, the figure was 92%, a decrease over the previous term (94.5%). Overall, 96.3% of eligible two- and three-year-olds took up their FEEE in high-quality provision, a slight decrease on the Autumn Term (96.5%).

Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they achieve their maximum potential

20. The percentage of primary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 91.6% at the end of quarter 4. This is 0.9% higher than quarter 3 (90.7%). This figure is within the second quartile of local authorities.
21. The percentage of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding was 73.3% at the end of quarter 4. This is 2.2% lower than quarter 3 (75.6%). This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities (bottom 28th percentile). This is 7.9% lower than the average for England, and 10.6% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours. The size of the negative gap to the average for England

has never been wider since the regular publication by Ofsted of each school's latest inspection outcome as a statistical dataset (started in 2011).

22. The percentage of pupils educated in Good or Outstanding schools was 84.9% at the end of quarter 4. This is 0.3% lower than quarter 3 (85.2%). This figure is within the third quartile of local authorities (bottom 31st percentile), and 3.1% lower than the average for England, and 4.4% lower than the average for Statistical Neighbours.
23. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 1,017 at the end of Q4 2022/23. This is an increase of 274 students (37%) compared to the end of Q4 2021/22 (743 students).
24. The trend has been driven by two factors: firstly, having experienced a period of enforced home schooling during the pandemic, some parents have opted for EHE as a lifestyle choice and have chosen to continue this even when schools reopened. The second factor has been ongoing health concerns which could be for the child, vulnerable parents, or general safety concerns. The numbers will continue to be monitored closely.
25. At the end of quarter 4 (March 2023) 1% of young people (16-17) in Leicestershire were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is an increase over the end of the previous quarter (0.7%, December 2022).
26. The number of permanent exclusions as a percentage of School population in the 2021/22 academic year was 0.02. This is 0.01 higher than the last academic year (0.01). The annual number of permanent exclusions is similar to the annual numbers occurring before 2020/21. The national data for benchmarking is not available yet.
27. The number of children receiving at least one fixed term suspension as a percentage of School population in the 2021/22 academic year was 2.45. This is 0.83 or just over 50% higher than the last academic year (1.62). This is the highest number of children, and highest rate as a percentage of School population, receiving at least one fixed term suspension since 2006/07. The national data for benchmarking is not available yet.

Conclusion

28. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 4 2022/23, covering the period January to March 2023.
29. Details of all metrics (reflecting any changes in indicators for 2023/24) will continue to be monitored on a regular basis throughout the year and any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

Background Papers

None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Equalities Implications

30. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report, with a focus on vulnerable groups within Leicestershire, including children in care. Education data relating to performance for different context groups including children with Special Educational Needs and Free School Meals is reported when data becomes available.

Human Rights Implications

31. There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

Appendix

Children and Family Services Department Performance data for Quarter 4, 2022/23

Officers to Contact

Jane Moore, Director – Children and Families Service

Tel: 0116 305 2649

Email: Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk

Sharon Cooke, Assistant Director – Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care

Tel: 0116 305 5479

Email: Sharon.Cooke@leics.gov.uk

Emma Jones, Business Partner – Business Intelligence Service

Tel: 0116 305 7526

Email: Emma.j.Jones@leics.gov.uk

Alex Lea, Senior Research and Insight Manager – Business Intelligence Service

Tel: 0116 305 6803

Email: Alex.Lea@leics.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

| Topic | Theme | Indicator | Polarity | Reporting Frequency | Previous Period | Previous Value | Latest Period | Latest Value | Trend | Target | Status RAG | National benchmark (quartile 1 = top) | Most recent Statistical Neighbour average |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Help children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence and capacity | SEND | Children in mainstream schools with EHCP | N/A | Term | Autumn 2022 | 2252 | Spring 2023 | 2392 | Increase | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | SEND | Children in mainstream schools in receipt of SEN Support (without | N/A | Term | Autumn 2022 | 12077 | Spring 2023 | 12392 | Increase | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Help children in Leicestershire to live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments | Social Care | Children becoming subject to a CPP for second or subsequent time | Low = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 22.85% | Q4 2022/23 | 23.00% | No Change | <20.8% | Amber | 3 | 22.3% |
| | Social Care | Re-referrals to CSC within 12 mths | Low = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 22.80% | Q4 2022/23 | 23.50% | Increase | <18.7% | Red | 4 | 20.2% |
| | Social Care | Single Assessments completed within 45 days | High = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 82.51% | Q4 2022/23 | 80.92% | Decrease | >90.3% | Amber | 3 | 85.6% |
| | Social Care | CPP lasting 2 yrs or more open at the end of the quarter | Low = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 1.82% | Q4 2022/23 | 1.36% | Decrease | <3.0% | Green | 1 | 1.3% |
| | Social Care | Care leavers in suitable accommodation | High = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 94.00% | Q4 2022/23 | 95.80% | Increase | >92.0% | Green | 1 | 87.8% |
| | Social Care | Care leavers EET | High = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 64.50% | Q4 2022/23 | 64.10% | No Change | >54.0% | Green | 1 | 54.0% |
| Help every child to get the best possible start in life | Early Years | Eligible 2 year olds taking up their FEEE | High = Good | Term | Autumn 2022 | 92.2 | Spring 2023 | 90.1 | Decrease | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Early Years | Eligible 3 year olds taking up their FEEE | High = Good | Term | Autumn 2022 | 94.5 | Spring 2023 | 92.0 | Decrease | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Early Years | Eligible 2 and 3-year olds taking up their FEEE in a high-quality | High = Good | Term | Autumn 2022 | 96.5 | Spring 2023 | 96.3 | Decrease | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Education | Primary schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' | High = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 90.7% | Q4 2022/23 | 91.6% | Increase | N/A | Amber | 2 | 90.0% |
| | Education | Secondary schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' | High = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 75.6% | Q4 2022/23 | 73.3% | Decrease | N/A | Amber | 3 | 83.9% |
| Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they achieve their maximum potential | Education | Pupils in Good or Outstanding schools | High = Good | Quarter | Q3 2022/23 | 85.2% | Q4 2022/23 | 84.9% | Decrease | N/A | Amber | 3 | 89.3% |
| | Education | Children Electively Educated at Home | N/A | Quarter | Q4 2021/22 | 743.0 | Q4 2022/23 | 1017.0 | Increase | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Education | NEET young people aged 16-17 | Low = Good | Last Mth of Qtr | Dec-22 | 0.7 | Mar-23 | 1.0 | Increase | <2.1% | Amber | 2 | 3.5% |
| | Education | Permanent exclusions as a % of School population | Low = Good | Annual | 2020/21 | 0.01 | 2021/22 | 0.02 | Increase | N/A | No comparator currently available | | |
| | Education | Children receiving at least one fixed term suspension as a % of | Low = Good | Annual | 2020/21 | 1.62 | 2021/22 | 2.45 | Increase | N/A | No comparator currently available | | |

This page is intentionally left blank



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 2023**

**HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23**

**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme annual report 2022.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The HAF programme aligns to the Staying Healthy, Safe and Well commitment of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan and Priority 5, Ensuring Good Physical and Mental Health, of the Children and Families Partnership Plan 2021-23.

Background

3. HAF is a national programme that supports school age children and young people receiving free school meals. Each local authority receives funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the HAF programme which provides eligible children with free access to holiday activities and a meal during Easter, summer, and winter school holidays. HAF aims to improve outcomes for these children by offering healthy food, and opportunities to participate a range of activities during the school holidays.
4. HAF programme funding is primarily for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals. Local authorities are asked to ensure that the offer of free holiday club provision is available for all children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals in their area. Leicestershire County Council was allocated £1,508,610 HAF funding for 2022-23.
5. The annual report provides an overview of programme spend and delivery activity and identifies areas for development for 2023-4.

Resource Implications

6. None

Conclusions

7. Members are asked to note the content of the HAF annual report.

Background papers

8. None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

9. None

Equality Implications

10. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Human Rights Implications

11. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Appendix

12. Holiday Activities and Food Programme Annual Report 2022-23

Officer(s) to Contact

Jane Moore
 Director of Children and Family Services
 Tel: 0116 305 2649
 Email: jane.moore@leics.gov.uk

Mala Razak
 Children and Families Partnership Manager
 Tel: 0116 305 8055
 Email: mala.razak@leics.gov.uk



Leicestershire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Annual Report 2022

Programme Introduction

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) is a national programme that supports school age children and young people receiving free school meals (FSM). Each local authority receives funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the HAF programme which provides eligible children with free access to holiday activities and a meal during Easter, Summer, and Winter school holidays.

HAF aims to improve outcomes for these children by offering healthy food, and opportunities to participate a range of activities during the school holidays and the DfE expect all HAF programmes to offer:

- a healthy meal
- fun and enriching activities that help children develop new skills and try new experiences
- physical activities that help children to stay active
- nutritional education activities that help improve children and their families' understanding of healthy eating
- information, signposting or referrals to other services that would benefit children and their families





Programme Governance and Management

A multi-agency steering group, chaired by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Assistant Director for Education and including representation from Active Together, FareShare, Public Health, and the Police, provides strategic direction for the Leicestershire HAF Programme and reports into Leicestershire's Children and Families Partnership, a sub-group of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Leicestershire HAF programme is coordinated by staff from LCC Children and Family Services Department, with commissioned support from Active Together. A dedicated HAF programme team oversees the implementation of the programme throughout the year, including commissioning, monitoring and reporting, quality assurance, provider support and confirming FSM eligibility. Additional support is funded by LCC for programme management and support with finance, business intelligence, marketing and promotion.

The HAF programme team have worked with FareShare and Leicestershire Nutrition and Dietetic Service who have provided advice, information and support to our HAF providers.



Funding and Delivery



Funding

£1,210,398 was spent on the co-ordination and delivery of the equivalent of six weeks of holiday club provision during 2022.

Of this, £1,014,258.78 was spent on direct delivery of HAF holiday clubs and, in line with DfE guidance, ten per cent [£133,638.31] was spent on management and administration of the programme. A further £55,500 was spent on equipment, resources and training for HAF providers to support their HAF delivery.

In addition to the above, targeted provision was funded for early help caseload families with FSM eligible, SEND or other vulnerable children, as part of our Easter HAF programme. This was delivered in the form of family fun sessions. £7,000 was awarded to deliver 26 fun day sessions to 167 families, including 407 children.



HAF Holiday Club Delivery

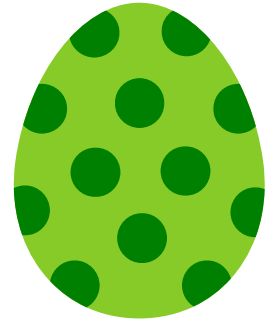
Grants were awarded for the delivery of Easter and Summer HAF holiday clubs to providers successful in demonstrating their ability to meet the DfE HAF programme requirements.

Funding for Winter HAF was managed through a contract framework process with providers successful needing to apply to join the Leicestershire HAF supplier framework.



Easter 2022 Leicestershire HAF Data

Below is a breakdown of the Holidays Together Programme data for Easter 2022.



Attendance Data

30
Providers

64
Venues



Average days attended
3.43 Primary aged
3.56 Secondary aged

1716

HAF Funded attendees

1505

Primary
school
children

211

Secondary
school
children

1270

FSM eligible

229

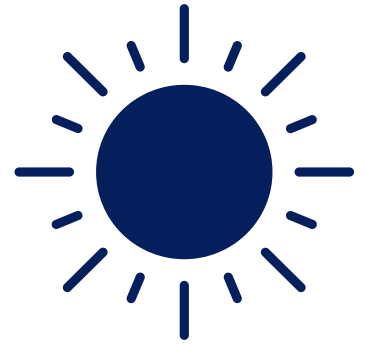
SEND
children

12% of FSM eligible cohort
[14,408] engaged.



Summer 2022 Leicestershire HAF Data

Below is a breakdown of the Holidays Together Programme data for Summer 2022.



Attendance Data

31
Providers

65
Venues



Total sessions attended

21,797

1,930

HAF Funded attendees

1799

Primary
school
children

131

Secondary
school
children

1904

FSM eligible

240

SEND
children

12% of FSM eligible cohort
[14,408] engaged.



Winter 2022 Leicestershire HAF Data

Below is a breakdown of the Holidays Together Programme data for Winter 2022.



Attendance Data

15
Providers

31
Venues



Total sessions attended
2,187

685
HAF Funded attendees

571
Primary
school
children

41

Secondary
school
children

665

FSM eligible

53
SEND
children

5% of FSM eligible cohort
[14,408] engaged.





-Parent who's child attended a Winter HAF Camp



-Child who attended a Summer HAF camp

"What have you most enjoyed about your holiday club?"



-Parent



-Child who attended a Summer HAF camp

-Parent who's child attended a Winter HAF Camp

-Child who attended a Summer HAF camp



What did providers tell us?



"It was fantastic meeting lots of different children from lots of different cultures, backgrounds and interests. We had lots of children whose confidence soared through the sessions and parents noticing a difference in their confidence and participation in activities".

-Megastrikers, HAF Provider Summer 2022



"Amazing feedback from parent supporting the programme, telling us the children up at 6am and can't wait to get back again wanting to come extra days. When we had to call parent about behaviour issues they were very supportive towards us. Also telling me child was more active"

-SI Sports, HAF Provider Summer 2022

"We are pleased to have been chosen as a HAF provider. During our time as a HAF provider we have seen over 250 participants with most returning for a second time. We have been able to offer support and respite for parents who wouldn't normally have this."

-Premier Evolution, HAF Provider 2022



"KisP had a vision when we started the HAF that they would deliver freshly prepared hot meals to the children, to ensure that they had a nutritious meal every day. We have encouraged the young people to help prepare and cook their meals and gave them new skills and a better understanding of healthy foods"

-KisP, HAF Provider 2022



Marketing and Promotion

Various Marketing and promotion methods were used at each delivery period to raise awareness of the programme and where sessions were being held, encourage sign-up from qualifying families for the scheme and to showcase the work that's been done.

Tried and tested marketing channels used included:

- Social Media - Leicestershire County Council and Active Together.
- Mainstream Media including press releases.
- Partner collaboration and message sharing.
- Leicestershire County Council, Active Together and partner websites.

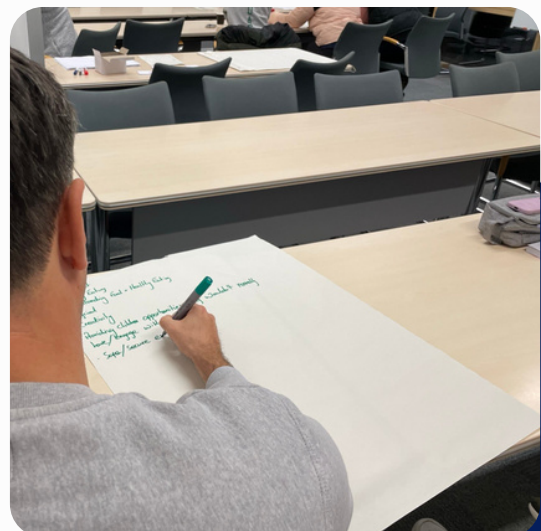
Comms 'assets' were refreshed during the year – including new images and videos. This included introducing and trialling reels and TikToks.



Support for HAF Providers

The HAF implementation team have worked closely with HAF providers to help them to deliver high quality programmes that met HAF standards:

- Pre application Q and A sessions were held to support prospective providers to understand the requirements of the HAF programme and the application process.
- Free School Meal data was shared to identify areas of highest need in the county.
- An online resource hub is available for providers including activity ideas, information, resources, tools, videos and links relating to the required HAF standards.
- An optional central booking system was introduced in Winter 2022.
- Centralised comms support was provided in the lead up to each holiday period.
- Quality Assurance visits were undertaken and follow up advice and support offered.
- Workshops were on food education and inclusive practice to support providers.
- Provider Network Events were held to enable providers to come together to share learning and successes.



HAF 2022 Providers

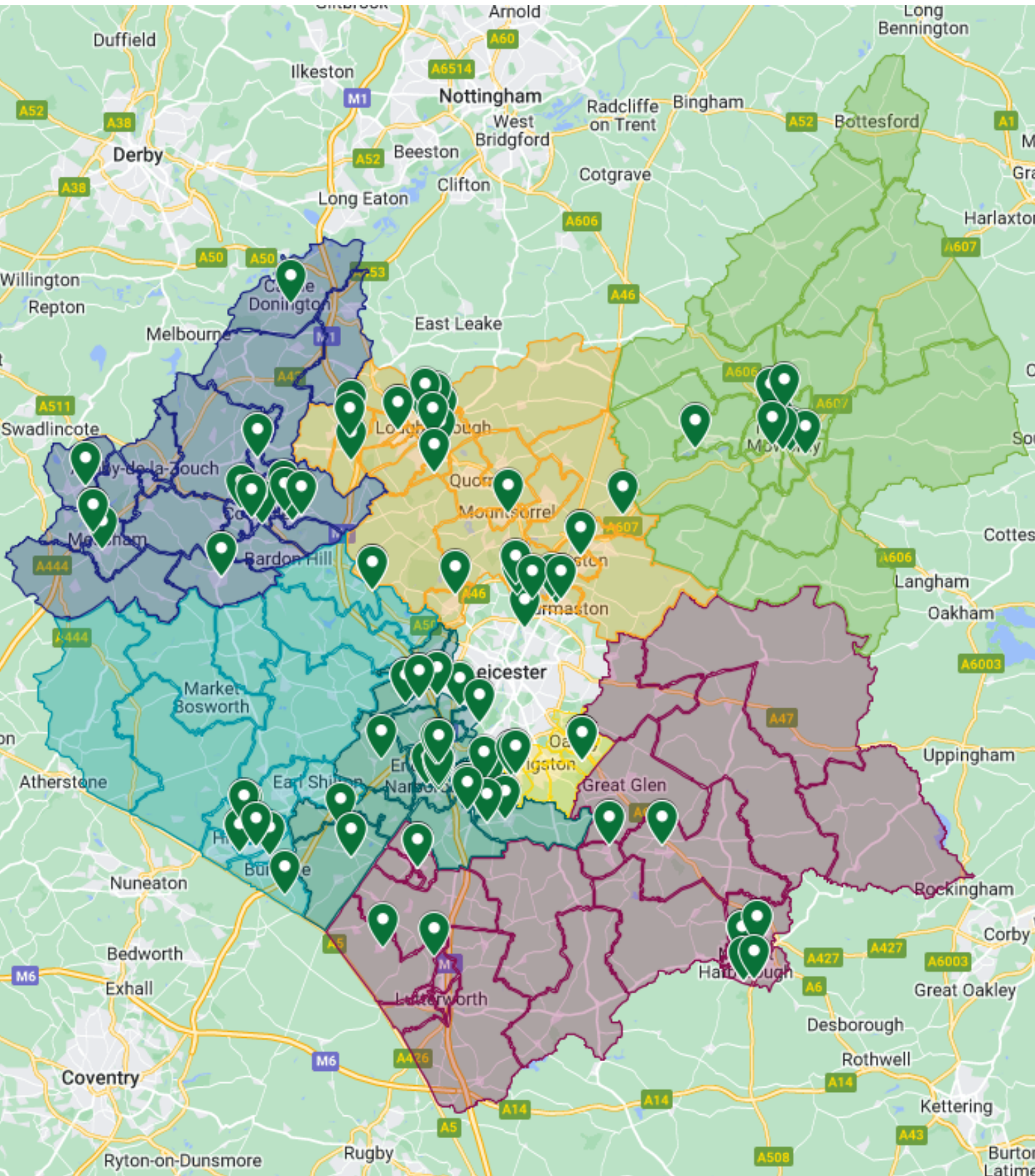


We would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all our 2022 HAF holiday club providers:

- Charnwood Pre-School & Out of School Club
- Westfield Community Development Association
- Football and Fitness Sports Coaching
- The Richard Moore Sports CIC
- Lutterworth Football Academy
- Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre
- JM Football and Multisports Academy
- Super Star Sport Midlands
- Discovery Schools Academy Trust
- Forward Thinking Movement and Dance CIC
- Leicester City in the Community
- Premier Education (EA Coaching Ltd)
- ME Sports in the Community
- CNPG (Beaver Childcare LTD)
- Newcroft Primary Academy
- Fiesta Sports Coaching Ltd
- Spirit & Soul Wellbeing CIC
- Countesthorpe Academy
- Total Insight Theatre
- Fiesta Sports Coaching Ltd
- Hastings High School
- TayPlay Sport Ltd
- Melton Learning Hub
- MRC Community Action
- Active Future Leicester
- Clubzone CZ Limited
- ClubsComplete Ltd
- Birchwood Primary
- Ridgeway Primary
- SMART Inclusive
- Little Gems
- PACE
- TB Sport
- Megastrikers
- SRK
- SFK Multisports
- KisP
- EMPWR
- Evolution
- Si Sports Ltd
- Kidspace Clubs
- Molly's Gift



Delivery Locations



Key learning and next steps

Feedback from children, families, providers and the DfE has helped us to identify the following areas for improvement for 2023:

- Increasing the reach of the programme – we will review our marketing strategy to help us effectively target eligible families and to understand any barriers to access.
- Increasing places for young people – we will explore how we can increase the number of places available for 11 – 16 year olds at provision that meets their needs and interests.
- Increase places for eligible children with SEND – we will work with our providers to develop their practice and confidence to support children with lower level SEND needs and look to engage providers able to meet needs of children requiring specialist provision.





Leicestershire
County Council



Department
for Education

This page is intentionally left blank