

# Public Document Pack



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Ask for Ivan Walters

PUBLIC

To: Members of Cabinet Member - Children's Services and Safeguarding

28 June 2021

Dear Councillor

Please attend a meeting of the **Cabinet Member - Children's Services and Safeguarding** to be held at **11.30 am** on **Tuesday, 6 July 2021** in the Members Room, County Hall, Matlock, the agenda for which is set out below.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen E. Barrington'.

**Helen Barrington**  
**Director of Legal Services**

## **AGENDA**

### **PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS**

1. To receive declarations of interest (if any)
2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the non exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Safeguarding held on 8 June 2021

3. To consider the Joint report of the Executive Director of Children's

Services and the Director of Finance & ICT on Childrens Services  
Performance & Revenue Outturn 2020-21 (Pages 5 - 22)

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING** held on 8 June 2021.

## PRESENT

Cabinet Member - Councillor J Patten

Also in attendance – Councillors A Dale, R George, G Hickton and N Gourlay

**01/21** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Young People held on 13 April 2021 be received.

**02/21** **REVENUE OUTTURN 2020-21** The Cabinet Member was informed of the revenue out-turn of the Young People’s portfolio for 2020/21.

The net controllable budget for the portfolio was £129.322m including additional allocations of £7.223m to fund the impact of Covid-19. The revenue outturn statement for 2020/21 showed a year-end overspend of £3.592m. Reserves of £0.204m which have no further commitments against them have been released during 2020-21 to offset this overspend. After the application of these reserves the revenue outturn was an overspend of £3.388m.

The outturn position included £1.390 million of Dedicated Schools Grant income transferred to contribute to costs incurred within Children’s Services supporting Early Help services and children with additional needs.

The significant areas which make up the outturn were detailed in the report.

Key variances included Placements for Children in Care/Unable to remain at home (overspend £7.875m); Children’s Safeguarding services (underspend £0.014m); Early Help and Preventative services (underspend £2.336m); Home to School Transport (overspend £1.m); Education Support services (underspend £0.655m); Pensions payable to former teachers and other staff (overspend £0.321m); and Unallocated budget (underspend £3.189m. These figures include all additional costs incurred due to Covid-19 and the funding provided to cover those costs. Identified Covid-19 costs and their funding sources were detailed in the report.

The value of the savings initiatives which have been identified for implementation in the current year was £3.013m and these were detailed in the report. It was calculated that £1.215m of savings have been achieved by the year-end.

Growth items and one off funding in the 2020-21 budget included Social Worker recruitment (£1.300m ongoing, £1.300m one-off); Placement demand Pressures (£11.000m ongoing); Home to School Transport SEN (£1.000 ongoing;

£0.971m one-off); SEND assessment and planning (£0.600m ongoing); Increase in Special Guardianship placements (£0.336m ongoing); Foster Carers (£0.100m ongoing); Care Leavers (£0.498m one-off); Child Protection (£0.500m ongoing); Children in Care Legal Proceedings (£1.100m one-off); Support to Achieving Great Futures (£0.108m one-off); Preventative Support to Families (£1.000m one-off); Elective Home Education (£0.207m one-off); Service Transformation (£0.438m one-off); and Quality Assurance SEND & Fostering (£0.214m one-off).

Details of the earmarked reserves totalling £6.912m and the debt position were also reported.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

### **03/21      DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT OUTTURN 2020-21**

The Cabinet Member received a report on the Revenue Budget outturn of the Dedicated Schools Grant (Young People portfolio) for 2020-21. The significant areas of expenditure and key variances were detailed in the report.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and 6th form grant income received by the Authority in 2020-21 was £368.032m. This, together with the release of holding rates refunds in respect of school of £0.721m, totalled income available to fund expenditure of £368.753m in 202-21.

Full year expenditure amounted to £370.037m and compared with the income there was an overspend of £1.284m. However, this included an underspend of £1.370m which was ring-fenced to schools and a further £0.850m underspend of school growth funding, £0.322m of which has been earmarked to contribute to pre and post opening grants to planned new schools. The overspend falling to the Authority was therefore £2.976m.

The Authority would report a DSG deficit reserve at the end of 2020-21 of £6.187m. Other DSG committed reserves totalling £5.030m offset this deficit reserve within the Authority's accounts and the reported DSG position was a net deficit reserve of £1.157m.

Following consultation with Local Authorities (LA) and other stakeholders, the Department for Education have amended the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations and a DSG deficit must be carried forward to be dealt with from future years' DSG income, unless the Secretary of State authorises the LA not to do this. The Schools Forum as a first step agreed in January 2020 to allocate only some of the 2020-21 Pupil Growth fund within the Schools Block. The Forum agreed to leave £1.325m of the £3.428m grant for 2020-21 unallocated as a positive contribution towards the shortfall and the reported position for 2020-21 reflects this contribution.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.



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Agenda Item 3

## FOR PUBLICATION

### DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES & SAFEGUARDING

6 JULY 2021

#### Joint Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Director of Finance and ICT

#### Children's Services Performance and Revenue Outturn 2020-21

#### 1. Divisions Affected

1.1 Not applicable

#### 2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision

#### 3. Purpose of the Report

3.1 To provide the Cabinet Member with an update of the Council Plan performance position and the revenue outturn position of the Children's Services & Safeguarding (formerly Young People) portfolio for 2020-21.

#### 4 Information and Analysis

#### 4.1 Integrated Reporting

This report presents both financial and Council Plan performance data. The performance summary sets out progress on the Council Plan deliverables and measures led by the Children's Services & Safeguarding portfolio. The remainder of the report gives a summary and detail on the revenue outturn position for the portfolio.

As an overview, the report shows that progress is "good" for the majority of the Council Plan deliverables led by the portfolio, however the

deliverables "Review care and support offer" and "Schools which are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'" have been flagged as "requiring review". After the use of additional Covid-19 funding and the release of £0.204m of reserves which have no further commitments against them, the outturn position for 2020-21 is an overspend of £3.388m. It is calculated that £1.215m of savings have been achieved by the year end. This compares to target savings of £3.179m and the value of savings initiatives, which have been identified for implementation in the current year, of £2.350m.

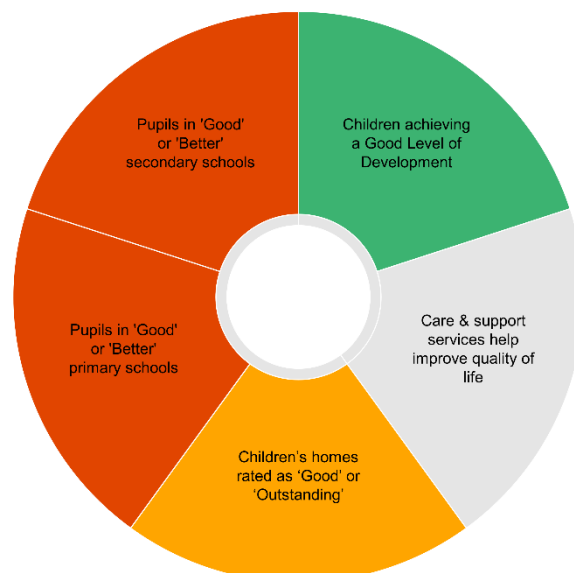
## 4.2 Performance Summary

The following shows an overview of progress on the Council Plan deliverables and measures relating directly to Young People.

Deliverable Progress



Performance Measures Against Target



Performance Measures Against Target

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	Target	Performance
Percentage of Clients agreeing that care and support services help improve their quality of life	94.1%	94.6%			
Percentage of children achieving at least a Good Level of Development (EYFS)	70.8%	70.8%			
Percentage of Council run children's homes rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted	100.0%	81.8%	90.0%	100.0%	Review
Percentage of pupils in good or better primary schools	77.7%	80.7%	81.2%	91.0%	Action
Percentage of pupils in good or better secondary schools	59.9%	54.9%	55.0%	81.0%	Action

**Key**    ★ Strong    ✓ Good    ◯ Review    📌 Action    ■ Data not available/Target not set

Progress is "good" for the majority of the Council Plan deliverables led by the portfolio.

Key areas of success are:

- Improvements in children's social care – services continue to respond and adapt effectively to Covid-19 challenges. The workforce remains



strong, dedicated and resilient. Performance against statutory duties remains strong keeping children and young people safe.

- Embedding our newly designed Early help offer – this continues to progress well with teams using creative approaches for engaging with individual children and families, for group work and for advice and support.
- Embedding the ‘Pause Project’ – effective partnership working across a number of organisations and pathways has secured excellent engagement and improvements for the women involved.

Key areas for consideration are:

- Reviewing the Council’s care and support offer for children with special educational needs and disabilities and adults – The Achieving Great Futures (AGF) workstream was impacted by Covid-19 and was paused pending a final decision on what future work will take place as a result of the Children’s Service Diagnostic. Good progress continues to be made on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) action plan which is being led by the Local Area SEND Board.

Key areas to note are:

- The “requiring review” rating for increasing the percentage of children in schools which are ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ reflects the position back in March 2020. The suspension of Ofsted inspections means that these will not change until graded inspections re-start.

Further information on the portfolio’s Council Plan performance are included at Appendix A.

### 4.3 Outturn Summary

The net controllable budget for the Young People portfolio was £129.322m.

The Revenue Outturn Statement for 2020-21 indicates there is a year-end overspend of £3.592m.

This overspend will be supported by the use of £-0.204m of earmarked reserves. After the use of these reserves the outturn position is an overspend of £3.388m.

In addition to any use of earmarked reserves, the outturn position includes the following significant items of one-off income:

Outturn against target budget



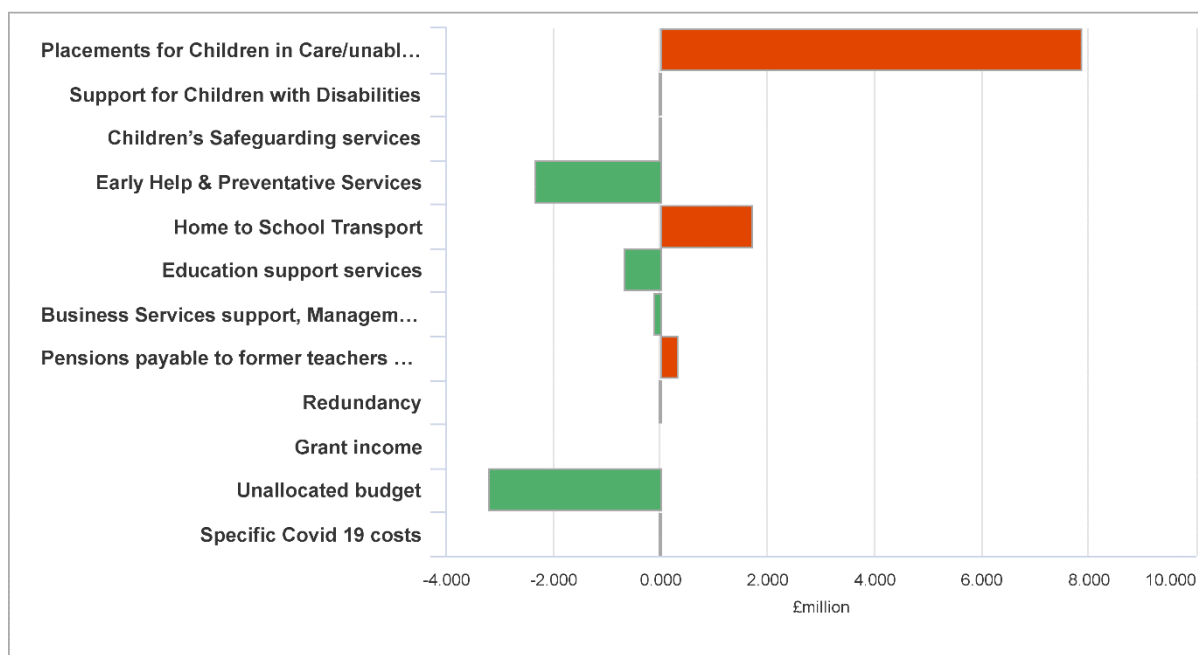
£1.390m - Dedicated Schools Grant income transferred to contribute to costs incurred within Children's Services supporting Early Help services and children with additional needs.

The significant areas which make up the outturn are shown in the following table and graph below:

Young People Budget Items

	Controllable Budget £m	Actual Expenditure £m	Under (-)/Over Spend £m	Percentage Under (-)/Over Spend	Budget Performance
Placements for Children in Care/unable to remain at home	40.884	48.759	7.875	19.3%	❌
Support for Children with Disabilities	5.106	5.084	-0.022	-0.4%	✅
Children's Safeguarding services	34.371	34.357	-0.014	0.0%	✅
Early Help & Preventative Services	7.264	4.928	-2.336	-32.2%	✅
Home to School Transport	15.651	17.358	1.707	10.9%	❌
Education support services	7.589	6.934	-0.655	-8.6%	✅
Business Services support, Management and other support services	12.950	12.843	-0.107	-0.8%	✅
Pensions payable to former teachers and other staff	4.538	4.859	0.321	7.1%	❌
Redundancy	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.0%	✅
Grant income	-4.023	-4.011	0.012	0.3%	⚠️
Unallocated budget	3.551	0.362	-3.189	-89.8%	✅
Specific Covid 19 costs	1.334	1.334	0.000	0.0%	✅
<b>Total</b>	<b>129.322</b>	<b>132.914</b>	<b>3.592</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>❌</b>

Under (-)/Over Spend



## 4.4 Key Variances

### 4.4.1 Placements for Children in Care/Unable to remain at home, overspend £7.875m

The overspend is due to a greater number of placements required than can be met from the current allocated budget. Placement numbers have continued to rise steadily during the year in line with increases in the number of children in care. The needs of individual children and the availability of placements has also meant that there are an increased number of children placed in both more expensive fostering arrangements and more expensive residential provision. Although placements can rarely be identified as specifically due to the pandemic, Derbyshire has seen an increase in placements coinciding with the return of the wider population of children to school, a trend that is in common with many other councils across England.

### 4.4.2 Children's Safeguarding services, overspend £0.014m

An overspend of £0.465m on court fees, solicitors and specialist witnesses has been offset by lower expenditure on preventative support provided to families in need.

### 4.4.3 Early Help and Preventative services, overspend £2.336m

Additional contributions of £1.500m were provided from the Public Health grant in support of the work undertaken by and within Children's Centres. Following the introduction of the new Early Help service in 2019-20, there were a number of vacancies still at the start of 2020-21 which is the main reason for the remainder of the underspend. Vacancy levels have now returned to levels consistent with normal staff turnover.

### 4.4.4 Home to School Transport, overspend £1.707m

The overspend is principally on transport for children with special educational needs (SEN) due to both an increase in the number of journeys that are being provided and in the average cost of such journeys. The increase in cost is due to both economic factors affecting contractors and an increased need for more specialised vehicles to transport individual children.

### 4.4.5 Education Support services, underspend £-0.655m

There are several areas that are underspent. Although provision of Adult Education was affected by the pandemic during 2020-21 leading to a reduction of both grant income and sales income, the fall in income was more than offset by a reduction in expenditure associated with course delivery and the service had a net underspend of £0.175m. Assessment of Education Health and Care plans was also underspent due to vacancies during the year, staff have been recruited during the year producing an underspend of £0.201m.

4.4.6 Pensions payable to former teachers and other staff, overspend £0.321m

These costs represent pension obligations payable to teachers and other staff previously employed by the Authority. The majority of the cost relates to staff who left under efficiency programmes during the early 1990s.

4.4.7 Unallocated budget, overspend £3.189m

This underspend comprises in-year grant funding of which the largest item is the allocation from the Dedicated Schools Grant of £1.390m. At the time of writing, no announcements had been made about the continuation of these funding streams beyond 31 March 2021 so these are being used to mitigate against current levels of spend.

## 4.5 Covid-19 Funding

The above figures include all additional costs incurred due to Covid-19 and the funding provided to cover those costs. The table below details these areas of expenditure.

Covid-19 Funding

Description	Additional Costs £m	Savings Slippage £m	Loss of Income £m	Offsetting Income £m	Total Funded by Corporate Covid Grant £m
Placements for Children in Care/Unable to remain at home	2.274	0.450	-	-	2.724
Support for Children with Disabilities	-	0.300	-	-	0.300
Early Help & Preventative Services	-	0.096	0.036	-	0.132
Home to School Transport	-	0.160	-	-	0.160
Education support services	-	0.169	2.369	-	2.538
Business Services support, Management, Finance, ICT and other support services	-	0.035	-	-	0.035
Specific Covid 19 costs – Home to School Transport	0.866	-	-	(0.866)	-
Specific Covid 19 costs – other	0.468	-	-	-	0.468
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.608</b>	<b>1.210</b>	<b>2.405</b>	<b>(0.866)</b>	<b>6.357</b>

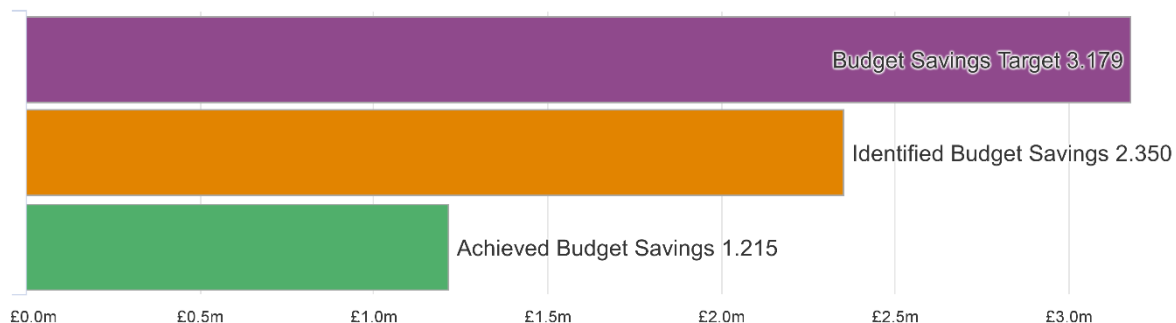
## 4.6 Budget Savings

Budget reduction targets totalling £2.350m were allocated for the year. Further reductions allocated in prior years, totalling £0.829m, had not been achieved and were brought forward to 2020-21. This resulted in the total reduction targets to be achieved at the start of the year of £3.179m.

The value of the savings initiatives which have been identified for implementation in the current year is £2.350m.

The shortfall between the total targets and the identified savings initiatives is £0.829m.

### Budget Savings



It is calculated that £1.215m of savings have been achieved by the year-end. The table below shows performance against the target.

### Budget Savings Initiatives

	Note	Budget Reduction Amount £m	Achieved by the end of 2020/21 £m	Shortfall (-)/ Additional Savings Achieved £m	
Care Leavers Employment project		0.162	0.162	0.000	✓
Donut Centre		0.081	0.081	0.000	✓
Early Help		0.167	0.167	0.000	✓
Outdoor Education	1	0.130	0.000	-0.130	✗
Education Psychology	1	0.039	0.000	-0.039	✗
PAUSE contract	2	0.143	0.143	0.000	✓
Local Children's Safeguarding Board		0.025	0.004	-0.021	✗
Remote & Mobile working		0.235	0.235	0.000	✓
Home to School Transport (3 initiatives)		0.160	0.000	-0.160	✗
Pensions		0.236	0.236	0.000	✓
Accommodation of Children in care		0.450	0.000	-0.450	✗
Finance		0.037	0.037	0.000	✓
Business Services Support		0.150	0.150	0.000	✓
Information & ICT	1	0.035	0.000	-0.035	✗
Disability – Step Down	3	0.300	0.000	-0.300	✗
<b>Total Position</b>		<b>2.350</b>	<b>1.215</b>	<b>-1.135</b>	<b>✗</b>
<b>Shortfall/(Surplus) of Identified Savings</b>		<b>0.829</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.829</b>	
		<b>Budget Reduction Amount £m</b>			
Prior Year B/f		0.829			
Current Year		2.350			
Budget Savings Target		3.179			

## Notes

- 1 Originally intended to be achieved by generating additional income from sales to schools and academies, plans affected by Covid-19.
- 2 The PAUSE contract will avoid future costs.
- 3 Original tender deadline coincided with restrictions to prevent spread of Covid-19 and no responses achieved. A new tender has been issued and the contract commenced 1 April 2021.

### **4.7 Growth Items and One-Off Funding**

The portfolio received the following additional budget allocations in 2020-21:

- 4.7.1 Social Worker recruitment - £1.300m ongoing, £1.300m one-off  
This growth is part of a total allocation of £5.200m which is being added to Children's Services budgets over 4 years. The investment is being deployed to increase the number of social workers to ensure that caseloads for individual workers are at manageable levels for their experience.
- 4.7.2 Placement demand pressures - £11.000m ongoing  
This allocation recognised the increase in costs experienced within children's social care as a result of both an increase in the quantity of placements required and the increased cost due to an increase in the complexity of the needs of children and young people. Costs have continued to increase during 2020-21 and there is concern over the wellbeing of children who have been less visible to school professionals during the lockdowns of 2020-21.
- 4.7.3 Home to School Transport SEN - £1.000m ongoing, £0.971m one-off  
The allocation recognised both the increased pressures of greater numbers of children and young people with SEN and an increased cost of journeys and an additional pressure of transporting children and young people to pupil resource units or alternative provision when they have been permanently or temporarily excluded from mainstream schools.
- 4.7.4 SEND assessment and planning - £0.600m ongoing  
The increase was allocated to cover the staffing to assess and plan provision for children and young people with SEN. This funding has not been fully spent in 2020-21 due to delays in recruitment.
- 4.7.5 Increase in Special Guardianship placements - £0.336m ongoing  
This increase has ensured that the budget is in line with the current level of costs payable to family members and others who have taken parental responsibility for children under a special guardianship order.

- 4.7.6 Foster Carers - £0.100m ongoing  
The allocation covered the cost of the inflation increase applied to foster care allowances from April 2020.
- 4.7.7 Care Leavers - £0.498m one-off  
Legislation has been enacted which places additional statutory duties on the Authority for care leavers. There is a shortfall between the additional funding currently being received from central government and the costs being incurred by the Authority in meeting these additional duties.
- 4.7.8 Child Protection - £0.500m ongoing  
The allocation is towards the costs of staff that are currently required to respond to the increased number of children on child protection plans.
- 4.7.9 Children in Care Legal Proceedings - £1.100m one-off  
This allocation is for the expenditure associated with court proceedings which have increased due to not only increased numbers of proceedings but also an increased use of external legal firms to present cases which has increased average costs per case. This allocation was fully spent during 2020-21.
- 4.7.10 Support to Achieving Great Futures - £0.108m one-off  
To fund staff seconded to the project to review the pathways for people with disabilities and the services provided to them by the Authority. This funding was not spent in 2020-21 as the associated staffing costs are being met by the Adult Care portfolio following deployment of staff to the wider Better Lives programme. This funding is offsetting other overspending budgets in the portfolio.
- 4.7.11 Preventative Support to Families - £1.000m one-off  
Expenditure supporting the children and families that the department works with has been increasing as the number of referrals and children identified as in need increases.
- 4.7.12 Elective Home Education - £0.207m one-off  
The number of children who are educated at home by choice has been increasing leading to an increased need for staff to visit and assess the education provision to those children.
- 4.7.13 Service Transformation - £0.438m one-off  
To identify opportunities to improve service quality and efficiency and work with managers to bring this change about. This funding was not fully spent in 2020-21 due to delays in recruitment.



#### 4.7.14 Quality Assurance SEND & Fostering - £0.214m one-off

To introduce new processes that will enable managers to analyse the performance of the Fostering and SEND services. This funding was not fully spent in 2020-21 due to delays in recruitment, however approval has been given to contribute any remaining funding to an earmarked reserve at the end of the year to cover the continuation of expenditure in 2021-22.

### 4.8 Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked reserves totalling £6.912m are currently held to support future expenditure. Details of these reserves are as follows:

Reserves		£m
Supporting Families	↑	3.818
Children's Services ICT Improvements	▼	0.657
Late claims - self insurance sickness scheme for schools		0.653
Other reserves	↑	1.784
<b>Total Reserves</b>	▼	<b>6.912</b>

#### Key

- ↑ Reserve has increased over the final quarter
- = Reserve is unchanged over the final quarter
- ▼ Reserve has decreased over the final quarter

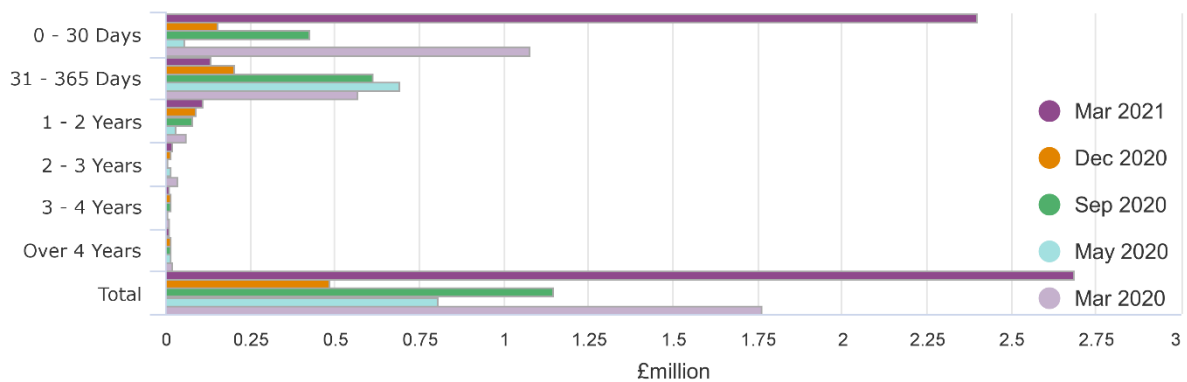
## 4.9 Debt Position

The profile of the debt raised, relating to income receivable by services within the Children's Services department, is as follows:

Debt Position

0 - 30 Days £m	31 - 365 Days £m	1 - 2 Years £m	2 - 3 Years £m	3 - 4 Years £m	Over 4 Years £m	Total £m
2.398	0.135	0.108	0.020	0.012	0.012	2.685
↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑
89.3%	5.0%	4.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	100.0%

Aged Debt over Time



In the year up to 31 March 2021 the value of debt that has been written off totals £0.019m.

## 5 Background Papers

Held on file within the Children's Services Department. Officer contacts – Karen Gurney (finance), Sara Lewis (performance).

## 6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

6.2 Appendix A – Young People End of Year Council Plan Performance Report 2020-21

## 7 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member notes the report and considers whether there are any further actions that should be undertaken to improve the budget position moving forwards or to address performance, where it has not met the desired level.

## 8 Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

8.1 No

**Report Author:**

**Contact details:**

**Karen Gurney**  
**Sara Lewis**

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[sara.lewis@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:sara.lewis@derbyshire.gov.uk)

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>On behalf of:</b>  Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  Director of Finance and ICT Managing Executive Director Executive Director(s)	
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**Jane Parfremment**  
**Executive Director**  
**Children's Services**

**Peter Handford**  
**Director**  
**Finance & ICT**

**Implications**

**Financial**

1.1 Contained within the body of the report.

**Legal**

2.1 None

**Human Resources**

3.1 None

**Information Technology**

4.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

5.1 None.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

6.1 Contained within the body of the report

**Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

7.1 None

# Young People End of Year Council Plan Performance Report 2020-21

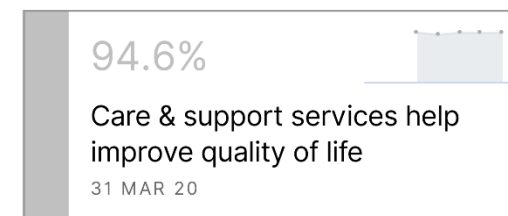
## Progress on Council Plan deliverables and key measures

### A focus on prevention and early intervention

**Reviewed the Council’s care and support offer for children with special educational needs and disabilities and adults to improve efficiency, value for money and customer outcomes**

The Achieving Great Futures (AGF) work stream was paused pending a final decision on what future work will take place as a result of the Children’s Service Diagnostic. Progress on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategic Action Plan Theme 6 (Preparation of Adulthood) has continued which will help support improving the outcomes of children and adults with SEND. The collation and mapping of post 14 has progressed well and a review of the overall strategic vision for transition to adult life for young people with SEND is under way. Opportunities for strengthening processes for capturing young people’s aspirations and planning the support that young people with SEND may need to make a successful transition to adult life are being identified and developed. Key findings from the Achieving Great Futures work stream will also be embedded within these processes. Learning from AGF has been used in the Children’s Diagnostic and there are opportunities for greater impact working across the whole life pathway. In addition there is a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) action plan which is being led by the Local Area SEND Board.

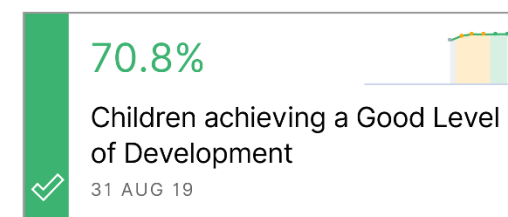
In the previous three years over 94% of clients responding to our Adult Care survey have agreed that care and support services help improve their quality of life.



**Embedded our newly redesigned universal and targeted 0-5s offer through Health Visiting services and Children’s Centres in partnership with the NHS**

The 0-5 year Health Visiting Service is in the final stages of making sure any missed 1 year old and 2.5 year old reviews from the first Covid-19 lockdown period have been completed. The guidance at the time meant that all health visits were suspended with the exception of the antenatal and new birth visits only. The 0-5 year old health visiting service has also been working closely with the Early Help team to increase the number and quality of Early Help Assessments being completed by Health Visitors.

Due to Covid-19 the Early Years Foundation Stage assessments didn't take place in 2020, therefore this data has not been updated.



### ✔ **Embedded our newly redesigned Early Help Offer for Children, Young People and Families**

Although Covid-19 has meant that the early help offer has not been fully embedded in the way originally intended, the teams have all been working hard with individual families and in local communities to provide the necessary support needed to safeguard children and young people through these very complex times. Throughout the pandemic workers and teams have been very creative in their support children and their families.

The service is now gathering momentum in terms of engagement with families in creative ways blending face to face and virtual interactions and meetings. In person delivery of group work is the next stage of the pandemic recovery piece. Whilst for some service activity many parents have found the virtual engagement really positive, such as domestic abuse group work, for other types of parenting courses or support, direct engagement in particular for very young children is necessary to have the greatest impact.

The emotional health and wellbeing of young people in Derbyshire is a concern with more children in their teenage years being admitted to care and engaging in alleged criminal activity resulting in police intervention. The youth engagement element of the Early Help teams will be a focus for the service going forward to ensure that contemporary methods of support are embedded into the approach to support teenagers in the future.

The first priority for the Early Help evaluation will be to focus on the Transition service, set-up to support agencies to develop their early help offer, and to prepare a report for the new administration post the elections regarding the future of this element of the early help service.

### ✔ **Embedded the “Pause Project”, an innovative programme to address the needs of women who have had multiple children removed from their care and to prevent this cycle recurring**

The Pause Project have delivered the Community 1 cohort since February 2020 and this will be ongoing upto the 18 month end point. Pause has worked with 107 referred women with a range of unmet needs which include domestic violence, housing, debt, mental illhealth, substance misuse and children in care. By working systemically and in partnership across a number of organisations and pathways the project has acheived improvements for the women engaged. Data indicates that the greatest presenting need in the last 12 months has been mental health (72%) and domestic violence (63%).

29 women are directly engaged with the Pause programme (target being 32) equating to a 91% maintenance rate and this exceeds the contractual threshold of 80%. This involvement with the project is outstanding due to the challenges to models of delivery due to impact of the pandemic.

Other targets met include 100% of women maintaining contraception (LARC); 0 pregnancies reported and 0 further care proceedings. All 29 women are now registered with a GP; 7 women are registered with a dentist and 13 women now in Education, Training, Employment or Volunteering. 19 of these women have already received 12 months of intensive support.

Qualitative evidence through self-reporting indicates 100% improvmeent across multiple issues and ongoing working towards individual goal- setting by women.

The Pause team compries 4 practitioners - with an average practitioner caseload of 6-8 people. Community 2 has begun recruitment with 97 referrals, including from women leaving care.

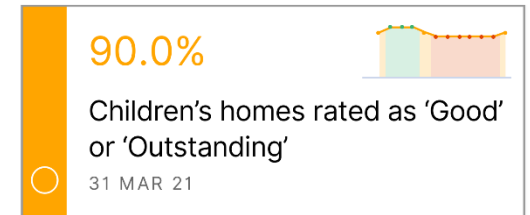
External evaluation of the programme by the University of Sussex is will take place throughout 2021.

## High performing council services

### ✔ Strived to ensure that all Council run children’s homes are ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’

Children's home inspections have been suspended since the end of March 2020 due to Covid-19. At the point that children's home inspections were suspended, nine out of our eleven homes were judged as good or better (81.8%). Since March 2020, Derbyshire has received two children's home assurance visits from Ofsted. These are not graded judgements but both have been positive in their findings. Recently one of our homes judged as requiring improvement has been deregistered due to a significant programme of building refurbishment of the home requiring a re-registration process when the home reopens next month. The prior requiring improvement rating will no longer apply as a new regulation programme commences due to the substantial period of time the home has been closed. This means that nine out of our ten active children's homes are judged as good or better (90%).

Full children's homes inspections recommenced in April 2021 and within the first week of the restart of the programme our other home previously judged as requiring improvement was visited and regraded with a 'good' outcome. Therefore we start the next financial year with all Derbyshire children's homes rated good or outstanding which is a fantastic reflection of the care our children receive in Derbyshire children's homes.



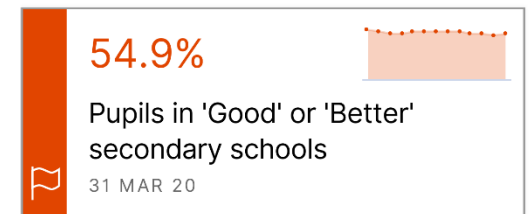
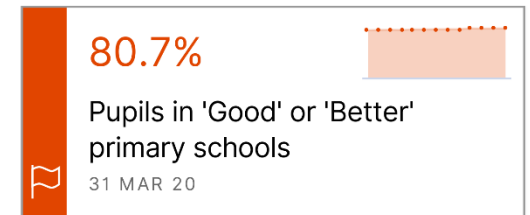
### 🟡 Worked with schools to ensure they increased the percentage of children in schools which are ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’, so that Derbyshire is in line with the national average

There have been no graded inspections during the Covid-19 pandemic but Ofsted has monitored schools that have been judged as requiring improvement or inadequate to check for progress towards being judged as good overall.

At the point that school inspections were suspended, the percentage of pupils in Derbyshire attending primary schools that were judged to be good or outstanding was 80.7% with performance being below the national average of 87.9% and Derbyshire being ranked 132 nationally. The percentage of secondary aged pupils attending schools judged to be good or better was 54.9% with performance significantly below the national average (79.5%) with Derbyshire ranked 138 nationally.

There is however a significant change to inspection activity in the summer term commencing from 4 May 2021. Following a monitoring inspection where the evidence strongly suggests that a school's current grade is no longer a fair reflection of its work, for example where the school is graded 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' but has clearly improved, inspectors will be able to convert to a full, graded inspection either immediately or later in the summer term. Ofsted will do the same if a visit to a higher-graded school highlights a significant cause for concern.

288 delegates from 155 maintained and academy schools have already attended or have registered to attend an 'Inspection Ready' course delivered by the Education Improvement Service during this academic year.






 **Continued to drive improvements in the delivery of children’s social care**

This year has been very challenging for our families and for children’s social care staff and services. Our workforce has remained strong and compliance with statutory duties has been maintained for all vulnerable children.

Demand into children’s social care continues to be closely monitored as it has been since the start of the pandemic. Demand has returned to pre-covid levels but for some agencies referral rates remain slightly lower than would normally be seen for example from schools and health. Around 50% of cases referred are progressing to a single assessment which is a thorough process of information gathering and analysing the needs of the children and/or their family and the nature of the level of any risk of harm to the child or children. This is indicative of the level of risk/support needs for children in their families currently. Home visits to children and their families are now predominately conducted in person but the blend of virtual engagement is recognised as beneficial to enhance our understanding of the lived experience for some children at home.

The number of children being admitted to local authority care is on the rise particularly in the older teenage age range. A number of admissions over the last 4 weeks have been as a result of alleged criminal activity or a violent/aggressive outburst. A working group has been established jointly with the Police to review the cause, response and affect of this potential trend for Derbyshire young people.

**Key**  Strong  Good  Review  Action  Data not available/Target not set