

# Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

**Date: Monday, 11th March, 2024**

**Time: 9.30am**

**Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**

**Councillors:** Dine Romero, Liz Hardman, Alex Beaumont, Paul Crossley, Dave Harding, Ruth Malloy, Michelle O'Doherty, Lesley Mansell and Joanna Wright

**Co-opted Non-Voting Members:** Chris Batten and Kevin Burnett

**The Panel will have a pre-meeting at 9.00am**



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## NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

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**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - Monday,  
11th March, 2024**

**at 9.30am in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**

**A G E N D A**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to indicate:

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or **an other interest**,  
(as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

At the time of publication no notifications had been received.

7. MINUTES: 5TH FEBRUARY 2024 (Pages 7 - 24)

8. CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member(s) will update the Panel on any relevant issues. Panel members may ask questions on the update provided.

9. B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE

The Panel will receive an update from the B&NES, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) on current issues.

10. EDUCATION PERFORMANCE UPDATE (Pages 25 - 36)

This report provides the Panel with an overview of early-years & school education performance in the academic year 2022-23, including information on school attendance and exclusions.

11. EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (EHCPs) OVERVIEW (Pages 37 - 52)

This report provides the Panel with an overview of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in B&NES.

12. SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT - CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER, PLACEMENTS (Pages 53 - 74)

The report sets out what B&NES has purchased for our Children Looked After and the needs in the coming years.

13. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 75 - 78)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel. Any suggestions for further items or amendments to the current programme will be logged and scheduled in consultation with the Panel's Chair and supporting officers.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Mark Durnford who can be contacted on [mark\\_durnford@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:mark_durnford@bathnes.gov.uk) 01225 394458.

**BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

**CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Monday, 5th February, 2024

**Present:-** Councillors Dine Romero (Chair), Liz Hardman (Vice-Chair), Alex Beaumont, Toby Simon, Dave Harding, Lesley Mansell, Joanna Wright and Ruth Malloy

**Co-opted Members (non-voting):** Chris Batten and Kevin Burnett

**Also in attendance:** Suzanne Westhead (Director of Adult Social Care), Rebecca Reynolds (Director of Public Health), Christopher Wilford (Director of Education), Ann Smith (Assistant Director - Operations), Ceri Williams (Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer), Laura Ambler (Place Director, BSW Integrated Care Board), Martin Pellow (Head of Leisure & Physical Activity), Chris Chatten (Project Manager – Leisure & Physical Activity) and Rosemary Collard (Head of the Education Inclusion Service)

**Cabinet Member for Adult Services:** Councillor Alison Born

**Cabinet Member for Children's Services:** Councillor Paul May

**82 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**83 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

**84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Paul Crossley and Councillor Michelle O'Doherty had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillor Toby Simon was present as a substitute.

**85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**86 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

**87 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING**

There were none.

## 88 MINUTES: 15TH JANUARY 2024

Councillor Liz Hardman referred to minute 75 (Development of the Draft Budget 2024/25) and asked that the comment made by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services referring to the use of consultants be included.

Towards the end of the discussion of the report Councillor Paul May said that he wanted to clearly outline what we are doing both in finance and service terms so that we can have a medium term plan that shows that we are moving forward in getting our budgets down.

He added that in terms of early intervention work, there were possibly different ways in which this could progressed and that work was ongoing with the Director of Children's Services and Education and Ernst & Young, consultants working with the Council, on how information can be presented in a more effective way in the future.

Kevin Burnett stated that he was still awaiting a detailed response to his safeguarding query from the Director of Education & Safeguarding.

The Panel, with these comments in mind, confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

## 89 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Councillor Alison Born addressed the Panel, a summary of her update is set out below and will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

### Adult Social Care Performance at end of December 2023

The number of people with long-term services funded by Adult Social Care (ASC) at the end of December was 1,818. This was a reduction of 53 on the previous figure of 1,872 because there were more people on interim funding at that time. Those individuals are likely to become ASC funded once their interim funding comes to an end.

601 carers were identified as receiving support from services that are funded wholly or in part by Adult Social Care. This shows a significant increase from 406 carers reported previously as we are now including people supported through the carers centre in our figures.

Occupational Therapy assessments continue to be a focus of high demand however through robust waiting list management the numbers waiting has reduced from 247 people waiting to 194 people the lowest figure for 18 months. All referrals are risk rated and prioritised accordingly and people waiting have a point of contact should their needs become more urgent.

### Finance

The ASC savings target for 23/24 was £5.45m, all of which has been achieved apart from a proportion of the savings earmarked for the LD pool where savings have been

contingent on a review process that we continue to work through. The actions taken to reduce expenditure since Q2 have improved the budget position for Adult Social Care. We will be making some use of reserves and are now forecasting an overspend of £1.389m at year end.

This year's budget setting has been extremely challenging because funding for Council's falls far short of what is required to meet needs. However, both adults and children's services are receiving a net investment in revenue budgets in 2024/5 to reflect cost pressures and rising demand; together with significant capital investment that will enable more services to be provided within the local area.

Since the January meeting, additional short term funding has been identified to enable a full review of commissioned services to inform any proposed reductions to funding for third sector provision. We are aware of the government's recent announcement of an additional £500m funding for social care, but no further information has been forthcoming so we do not know what impact this may have on budgets within Bath and North East Somerset.

### Workforce

We are not recruiting new staff to the three care homes and the 5 extra care facilities while we await the outcome of the consultation on the three care homes. This is to ensure that we have roles for all our staff if the decision should be taken to close the remaining 10 beds at Charlton House.

We continue to need more Occupational Therapists and have just begun an Occupational Therapy apprenticeship to help grow our own staff.

### ASC Provider Services Update

United Care B&NES Home Care service (UCB) was developed in 2021/22 due to the lack of capacity in the Domiciliary care market and the high number of people delayed in hospital.

However, since 2022 the local home care market has changed, there is more provision available now and the providers are in competition for work.

There are 18 people currently using the UCB and the pilot which is due to end in June is being reviewed. It is unlikely to continue as both the NHS and the Council are able to meet demand for home care through the independent sector.

Councillor Liz Hardman said that it was good that a full review of commissioned services was due to take place and would welcome the Panel receiving further information as it progresses. She said that this was important as they provide some of our statutory services.

She also referred to the Community & Wellbeing Hub and its current funding status until the end of March 2025. She asked who would be involved in the discussion over its future, strongly suggested that representatives from 3SG should be involved and said that adequate timing must be given so that those involved are aware of the future plans.

Councillor Born replied that the review would take place over the next year and had always been planned ahead of the recent budget decisions. She stated the Council has every intention to work with the third sector on these upcoming proposals.

The Director of Adult Social Care added that the Council needs to maintain its Care Act compliance and will work with the third sector to ensure that. She added that the Council as a whole does not have the same amount of funds in place as previous years and said that savings would still need to be made to the budget for commissioned services, but they were looking to lessen it as much as possible.

She explained that since the January meeting they had managed to reduce the proposed savings from £802k to £400k and would be working with partners to consider what options can be pursued. She added that there is no intention for this to be a 'cliff edge' saving.

Kevin Burnett asked if the lack of Occupational Therapists was having any impact on hospital discharge figures.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that the B&NES right to reside figures were the best in the BSW footprint and were not affected by delays to Occupational Health Assessments. She added that the main source of delay was around equipment, that a plan is in place with HCRG and that numbers are reducing.

The Assistant Director – Operations added that the Occupational Therapy apprenticeship programme should enable an increase in staffing.

Kevin Burnett referred to the United Care B&NES Home Care service and asked why had the market changed and is it a premature decision to end the pilot.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that the commissioning market had changed following the Covid pandemic and that there were now a range of small and large providers that were more person centred. She added that the pilot had worked really well for the time that it has been in place.

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked how many placements were available for the Occupational Therapy apprenticeships, how long would the course be and would it be aimed at post A-Level students.

The Assistant Director – Operations replied that they were about to advertise for three placements and that this would be done in partnership with the University of the West of England. She said that they would in the first instance be offered to any existing Occupational Therapy Assistants who were looking to progress their career.

She added that it would be a three year course and would combine a mixture of learning on sites and studying at the university.

Councillor Joanna Wright said that she was pleased to hear that following the budget discussion at the January Panel that talks with the third sector were ongoing and stated that this should have happened a lot earlier.



The Director of Adult Social Care replied that a strategic review of the commissioned services had always been planned to take place during 2024 and that the budget proposals had been made because of the low Local Government Settlement that had been received. She said that the Council did not want to be in this position, but had to take steps to mitigate the situation that it is in.

Kate Morton, CEO, Bath Mind addressed the Panel and said that they had no knowledge of any proposed cuts until around 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and had therefore been hit quite hard by the proposed funding arrangements.

Becky Brooks, Director, 3SG addressed the Panel and said in terms of future work that any potential new contracts should be in place by September 2024 and that the third sector need to be involved in these ongoing discussions.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked for confirmation that nobody would be removed from their individually commissioned beds.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that any change in provision would follow on from an individual having had a Care Act Assessment.

The Assistant Director – Operations added that nobody would be forced to move from their existing provision and a decision would not be taken purely in relation to costs.

Councillor Wright commented that she was concerned over the rising costs associated with temporary accommodation and said that money should not be spent on using hotels as a solution.

Councillor Alison Born replied that this issue was not directly within her remit, but was aware that new facilities for this were due to be opening soon within B&NES.

The Chair suggested that the Panel received an update on their previous homelessness report at a future meeting.

She thanked the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Panel for her update.

## **90 B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE**

Laura Ambler, Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB addressed the Panel, a summary of the update is set out below and a copy of the full document will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

### Prescriptions Ordering Direct Service

The Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Prescription Ordering Direct (POD) service, which allows some patients to arrange their repeat medication by phone or email, is set to discontinue in its current form later in the year, with the practices and care homes that use the system offering repeat prescribing instead. It

is expected that POD will close on or before 30 June 2024, although this date may change as plans are formed and formal timeframes agreed.

People who regularly use POD are advised to continue ordering their medicines in the usual way through POD, and not to order any more than is needed.

### Improving cancer early diagnosis and survival in BSW

The NHS is working hard to save thousands more lives each year by dramatically improving how cancer is diagnosed and treated and there is some great work going on here at BSW ICB to help improve support for people with cancer.

One of the two national ambitions for cancer is to ensure more of those people who are found to have cancer, are diagnosed and treated while it is at an earlier stage, as this means that treatment is often less complex, more successful and people live longer after treatment and with fewer long-term effects. We have been doing a lot of work across BSW to help deliver this national ambition.

Councillor Toby Simon drew attention to the new screening programme for Jewish people for BRCA mutations and hoped that this would be included in the community engagement programme.

Councillor Dave Harding asked if there was sufficient capacity within the Cancer services for receiving additional patients and asked if the Panel could be assured that standards were being achieved as he was aware that they only have to report nationally on 3 targets rather than the previous 9.

Laura Ambler replied that she would be happy to bring back a full update on this matter to the Panel and would set out as much detail as possible within that report.

Kevin Burnett referred to HIP2 and asked what of future estates needs identified in 2021/22 has the ICB adopted.

Laura Ambler replied that the care model for Shaping a Healthier Future developed into the care model now in place for the ICB which focusses on personalised care within their community. She added that they were currently working with colleagues in Primary Care on how best to utilise and plan on the future use of estates and delivery of care.

Kevin Burnett asked if an update could be provided from the ICB on the future funding for the Community Wellbeing Hub as at the present time no secure funding was in place post March 2025.

Laura Ambler replied that the Hub is a significant part of their work and that its ongoing use needs to be a sustainable model. She added that they will continue to work with the third sector regarding provision and that they recognise and welcome their work and input.

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked if Macmillan Cancer Support would have space to provide their services within the new Dyson Cancer Centre.

Laura Ambler replied that they will have a base within the centre and that it will also look to provide therapeutic services within the centre.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if the ICB would still be putting funds in place to support the running of the Community Wellbeing Hub and would they be involved in the review of services from 3SG.

Laura Ambler replied that they were looking to build on the foundations of the good work that has been achieved, but recognise that this needs to be a sustainable model to provide certainty to all concerned. She said that the ICB were committed to continue to work with the Council and the third sector on this.

The Chair asked how any pharmacy closures would affect local GP's. She added whether any comment could be given on the role of Physician Assistants within GP surgeries.

Laura Ambler replied that they are working with local pharmacists and Primary Care colleagues regarding funding settlements and levels of activity. She added that it is well recognised the pressure that a great number of staff are working under.

She added that she would need to reply at a later date regarding Physician Assistants as she did not have that information to hand.

The Chair referred to the Dental College in Bristol and asked that the ICB assess whether B&NES can benefit from the work that is being carried out there or whether B&NES should consider something similar.

Laura Ambler replied that the college in Bristol was now open and operational and that they would work with colleagues across Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) to look at how the area can benefit as a whole.

The Chair referred to a report that had been published on the worsening health and mortality rates of children under five in the UK and suggested the Panel consider receiving a future report on the issue.

Laura Ambler replied that it was a worrying report that contained information relating to mortality, teeth extractions and obesity amongst other issues. She said that there is a Children & Young People Programme Board within the ICB and that this was a priority issue for them and would bring an update to the Panel on their initiatives to a future meeting.

The Director of Public Health suggested that a joint paper on this subject be prepared for the Panel.

The Chair on behalf of the Panel thanked Laura Ambler for the update report.

## 91 COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES - OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services introduced the report to the Panel and highlighted the following sections from it.

- The online consultation took place between Thursday 9 November 2023 to 5pm on Monday 18 December 2023 and included the following proposals:
  - To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care including nursing care.
  - To enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.
  - To close (de-register) the remaining 10 places at Charlton House Nursing home and then develop the site to provide alternative care provision and/or housing options that would meet the needs of the local community now and into the future.
  - To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the community resource centres at a reduced rental rate if the organisations offer services that are accessible to the care home residents and the community.
- The Council received 45 submissions on the CRC proposals. Over half (53%) of responses were positive towards council proposals for CRCs, nearly a third (31%) disagreed and 16% were unsure.
- When considering those who supported the proposals, there was acknowledgement that the council needed to respond to the changing social care landscape, particularly around provision of specialist dementia nursing care. The importance of a stable workforce and its impact on morale, service provision and budget were also recognised.
- The Scrutiny Panel is asked to give feedback to Cabinet on the following recommendations:
  - Recommendation 1: To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care without nursing.
  - Recommendation 2: To enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.
  - Recommendation 3: To de-register the remaining 10 places in use at Charlton House nursing home and then develop the site to provide a residential school for young people with complex needs.
  - Recommendation 4: To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the community resource centres at a reduced rental rate.

- Recommendation 5: To commence a full feasibility study in relation to the change of use for Charlton House to a residential school.

The Director of Adult Social Care thanked all involved in the initial consultation, including staff, residents and the public. She added that no formal consultation would be able to take place with staff until a decision has been made by the Cabinet.

Councillor Alex Beaumont commented that as the elected representative of Keynsham North he was concerned that should the feasibility study not support a change of use to a residential school that the Council could lose an important resource in Charlton House. He asked if further information could be given on the proposals for the residential school.

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service replied that she had looked at the building alongside officers from Property Services and that it was felt that any required adaptations could be achieved.

She added that the configuration of Charlton House currently has bedrooms over two floors and that the proposed residential school would only need to use one of those floors. She said that kitchen and communal areas were already in place and that some work would be required to secure / update the outside area.

She said that the site would have the appearance of a school with a children's home attached to it and that there would be day attendees as well as residential placements. She added that the proposed school would be for use by young people with autism and behavioural issues in the main.

Councillor Beaumont asked if a timeline for the school could be given if the proposal is agreed.

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service replied that it was hoped that this could be achieved in as minimal time as possible, given that money has been allocated for the project. She added that the Council itself cannot open the school and that therefore would be a tender process involving the Multi Academy Trusts and the independent sector to establish who would run it.

She said that internal pre-planning discussions had begun with the Planning department so that officers could be prepared for the next stages if approval from the Cabinet is received. She added that it was hoped that the process could be concluded within 18 months.

The Assistant Director – Operations said that a notice period would begin for residents, relatives and staff following any decision that is made by the Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> February. She added that if the decision is to close Charlton House then it was anticipated that this would be done by the end of March 2024.

She said that a number of options for the use of the site were considered during the consultation process and that if approved this could also potentially help young people as they transition into Adult Social Care Services by being closer to the services they might want or need to access.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked why Charlton House was closing considering that a lot of effort had recently been put in to keep it open.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that it had taken a long time to reach this position, 2 years. She stated that the commissioning market has changed and that the demand at present was provision for children and young people with SEND. She added that it was felt that the more that can have services provided for them locally that it will deliver better outcomes.

She explained that the majority of residents within Charlton House were bed-bound and that if it were to close, they would be given as much support as possible.

Councillor Hardman asked how far down the road was the process currently to change the use into a residential school.

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service replied that in advance of any possible decision she had been to have a general look at the site with officers from Property Services and that some internal discussions have been held with Planning officers.

She added that day placements would be offered as well as residential use and that potentially it could be used for respite care.

Councillor Joanna Wright referred to section 4.8 of the report (If Members accept the recommendations in this report and in particular the decision to de-register Charlton House, Members must be satisfied that a better use of public resources can be achieved.) and asked if the budget was considered a priority in making this decision.

Councillor Alison Born replied that the Council has to be able to live within its means and that the budget was one of many factors considered as part of the process.

Councillor Wright asked if discussions have yet been held with staff at Charlton House about potential redundancies.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that communications with staff have taken place at each stage of the process, at the beginning and the end of the consultation and staff are aware that the matter is being discussed this week at both the Panel and the Cabinet. She added that no formal process has yet begun as a decision has yet to be formally made.

The Director of Adult Social Care added that there were enough vacancies within the CRC service for the 19 staff that work at Charlton House to apply for. She added that they could also discuss appropriate vacancies that exist across the Council.

She said that those staff that have stated a need to remain working in the Keynsham area will be assisted as much as possible.

Councillor Wright asked if the staff Unions have been or will be involved in the potential next stages of the process.

The Director of Adult Social Care read out the following wording that she had received on behalf of Unison.

'We don't have anything more to add at this point. We will await any decision regarding the status of the building first. Then we will look to negotiate with the Council regarding any changes to our Members' terms and conditions.'

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service explained that the feasibility study was regarding the use of the building (Charlton House) and any adaptations that will need to be made. She informed the Panel that through the Safety Valve Project, B&NES was offered the opportunity to bid for additional capital funding. The bid was based on catering for the highest need children and young people (CYP) that are currently placed residentially out of the area and funded through the Joint Agency Panel (JAP). She said the Council was successful in securing £4m towards the project with an additional £1m being allocated through the High Needs Grant allocation.

Councillor Lesley Mansell queried how the Organisational Change process has been followed if staff are only going to be consulted formally once the Cabinet decision has been made. She added that transparency of any decision must be in place and that meetings with staff must include a union representative.

She added that she did not doubt that the proposed support for children and young people was needed.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that a consultation with staff can't start officially until any decision has been taken by the Cabinet. She added that she had attended four meetings with staff as part of the process so far and was aware that others had been held with Heads of Service.

She assured the Panel that the Organisational Change process has been followed and that they have continued to recruit staff to Charlton House whilst it has remained open. She added that the Council has every intention to support and keep staff within B&NES.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson addressed the Panel and said that she believed that for a home the size of Charlton House a minimum of 20 beds need to be occupied to make it viable and it currently only has 10 in use. She added that she had spoken with the CEO of Youth Connect South West and that he was very supportive of the proposed new residential school.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to support the following recommendations to the Cabinet.

**Recommendation 1:** To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care without nursing.

**Recommendation 2:** To enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.

**Recommendation 4:** To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the community resource centres at a reduced rental rate.

**Recommendation 5:** To commence a full feasibility study in relation to the change of use for Charlton House to a residential school.

Councillor Joanna Wright and Councillor Lesley Mansell abstained from voting on recommendation 5.

The majority of the Panel **RESOLVED** that they were not able to support recommendation 3 and those Members cited that they felt that they had not received enough information as to why Charlton House should close and that capacity of available spaces should be retained within the service.

They added that they were unhappy about the way the process had been conducted and felt that the decision had already been agreed prior to the consultation taking place.

They said that they would need to see further information of the costs related to this decision prior to it being made.

**Recommendation 3:** To de-register the remaining 10 places in use at Charlton House nursing home and then develop the site to provide a residential school for young people with complex needs.

The Chair asked for the Panel to receive further reports regarding this process following the decisions made by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## 92 COMMUNITY SERVICES TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services introduced the report to the Panel and highlighted the following sections from it.

- Bath and North-East Somerset Council (B&NES) and what is now the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) made a decision not to extend the HCRG Care Group contract for the three-year extension term in May 2022.
- The current B&NES Integrated Community Health and Care Contract will cease on 31 March 2024. The Council completed a detailed options appraisal, and a decision was taken to transfer Adult Social Care (ASC – Adult Social Work, Direct Payments and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Their Families) to B&NES Council in November 2022.
- Three programmes were set up to deliver Community Services Transformation across the Council and Integrated Care Board (ICB):
  - Programme One: Adult Social Care Redesign and Community Partners (Council led)
  - Programme Two: Public Health (Council led)
  - Programme Three: Integrated Community Based Care (Integrated Care Board led for Children’s and Adults Health Services)



The Director of Adult Social Care said that they had worked closely with HCRG on this process and that they support the transition. She added that all buildings and computers would be prepared for the start date of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and that 28 days prior to this the Council would receive the list of staff members that are due to be transferred.

She explained that an engagement and communications plan was in place to keep staff informed.

Kevin Burnett commented that he recalled from a previous report that there was a key 'To do list' for this programme and asked if a framework for staff would be in place, was their sufficient resources and were there any areas of concern.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that a new operation model was in place, although they want staff to be able to continue to do their current roles. She added that she did not think that there were any hidden costs within this process and that there was a plan in place to deal with the additional corporate overheads and subsequent uplifts.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what the impact will be on Public Health with the likely incoming budget cuts and how would services commissioned through the Public Health Grant be affected.

The Director of Public Health replied that the Public Health Grant was ringfenced in order that it is used to provide certain services, some of which are mandated, such as Sexual Health Services, NHS Health Checks and Health Visitor Services.

She added that the grant must be used to achieve Public Health outcomes for the Council and that the grant does not increase alongside inflation or take account of any staffing pay awards or contractual uplifts.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what the expectations of the Community Wellbeing Hub after April 2025 were.

The Director of Public Health replied that the Council was working across all sectors connected to the Hub to find a sustainable funding arrangement to enable a core programme to be maintained.

Councillor Joanna Wright referred to section 3.4.1 of the report (The Health and Social Care Act 2012) and asked if the Council was failing in any of its duties in this regard and were enough resources in place.

The Director of Public Health replied that the Council was not failing in any of its duties, but acknowledged that the current budget was tight.

Councillor Wright referred to section 3.4.5 of the report and asked for an explanation of what was meant by Children's Safety Equipment.

The Director of Public Health replied that this would be items such as stair gates and fire guards.

Councillor Lesley Mansell asked if the Equalities Impact Assessments for the programme could be shared with the Panel at some point. She also asked what was meant by staff working under the 'B&NES brand'.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that it was important for staff to feel welcome as there would be slightly different processes to follow. She added that there was a training plan in place.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the progress updates for Community Services Transformation across Programmes One, Two and Three.
- ii) Note the progress update for the Community Wellbeing Hub and Direct Award 2024/25.

### **93 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Director of Public Health introduced the report and explained to the Panel that Leisure Services moved to within the remit of Public Health in 2021 and said that this had proved to be an excellent decision.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity addressed the Panel and said that producing the report had been a useful process to have undertaken. He said that the changes to the service over the years have been monumental and that it was fantastic to now be part of the Public Health service.

Kevin Burnett asked if further comments could be given regarding any barriers to participation, gaps in provision and key priorities / funding options.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that these matters can depend on where you live within B&NES and it was known that certain populations were not so active. He added that any increase in activity is encouraged and does not have to be through a recognised sport or event.

He explained that they are working with certain community groups such as the Bath City Football Foundation to try to address the disparity and find other locations for them to hold activities.

He said that cost does remain a barrier to take part in certain activities.

In terms of gaps in provision he said that they were assessing what local leisure facilities are available and whether any can be enhanced. He added that they were looking at how green spaces can be used more and were working with the Green Infrastructure Team to look at areas across the Council.

He said that the element of 'play' would also be a focus to see how that can be developed in order to achieve healthy / active outcomes. He added that the team has a good relationship with GLL, the Council's leisure facilities provider and the

Dragonfly Trust that are based in Midsomer Norton who have recently opened a community garden and outdoor play space.

Kevin Burnett asked what resources would be required to expand any provision.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that there were only two members of staff within the Physical Activity Team, but said they were creative in finding additional resources and that funding opportunities and innovative solutions were worked upon with GLL.

The Director of Public Health added that an advantage of working within a relatively small council was being able to work with other services such as the Parks Team, in terms of play and officers working on the Local Plan to see what opportunities can be maximised. She said that Active Travel was also an element to their future work.

Councillor Joanna Wright commented that she would have liked to have seen a section within the report on Active Travel and how people of all ages can be encouraged to travel to the facilities mentioned in an active way.

She said that a large focus within the report was on group / pitch based activities, but said it was known that many girls do not want to take part in these sports. She suggested that any future report has a section addressing individual sports.

She stated that the site of the current weekly Park Run was on top of a large hill, meaning that the majority of people taking part would have to drive there to take part. She asked if any consideration was being given to finding a more accessible site for this.

She asked what work was being done to keep pricing low for certain activities at leisure centres such as family swimming and trampolining.

She referred to the HAF programme and asked what barriers there were for attending this initiative as it only had a 72% participation rate for a free activity.

She stated that the subject of 'play' needs to be considered in the context of all age groups.

She said that the Climate Change section of the report could have also been expanded to address areas such as travelling to and from leisure facilities / activities.

She explained that within North East Somerset it was a difficult situation as Parishes are not able to invest large sums of money into play areas.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity thanked Councillor Wright for her comments and said that they do work with providers with regard to travel plans. He added that for the use of active spaces, in particular team sports, that they were seeking to encourage car sharing where possible.

He stated that family memberships were incoming to the GLL run sites and that a number of concession schemes were also planned.

He suggested that Parishes could seek to apply for additional funding through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and that they have helped in recent bids for track development at Bath BMX and lighting improvements at Saltford Tennis Club and Writhlington Sports Centre.

He explained that the HAF programme was funded separately within Public Health and that compared to other areas the 75% participation rate was seen as good.

With regard to encouraging the activity levels of girls he said that they were working with a number of local football clubs to attempt to build on the recent successes of the England Women at international tournaments. He added that the numbers of female cyclists taking part in activities at the Odd Down Cycle Track had increased recently.

Councillor Dave Harding said that he would echo the comments relating to Parishes trying to gain additional funding through the CIL as he was aware that this had been successful within the Chew Valley.

Councillor Liz Hardman queried whether the strategy and approach was Bath centric and asked if they worked with any of the Parishes to seek to increase the levels of activity. She added that the HAF programme was only able to take place in Paulton once over the Summer as there was not enough funding for additional visits.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that they do try work across the whole of the Council and have carried out activities at Paulton Community Hall, Bishop Sutton FC and Bishop Sutton Tennis Club. He added that they have worked with Parks teams in Midsomer Norton and Radstock to establish local Park Runs and said they were working with the Park Run team nationally in order to seek other sites.

He said that he was willing to discuss the HAF programme in more detail with colleagues to analyse provision for any future events.

Councillor Ruth Malloy began by highlighting the relatively new Foot Golf facility, based in Victoria Park. She said that she was keen to promote the elements of informal physical activity such as Active Travel and was pleased to hear of the involvement of the Green Infrastructure Team.

She added that she was pleased to hear that the team are engaged with the Local Plan and improving our Green Spaces. She said that a good source of activity was walking and working on an allotment or garden in general as well as any localities that have access to a Community Garden.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that the Foot Golf had been well received as a new activity to the area and he was pleased that the introduction of Ten Pin Bowling and a Trampolining area to Bath Leisure Centre, replacing the previous Squash courts, had been successful and allowed for a multi-generational use.

Chris Batten asked if any of the current sites could begin or increase their use of solar panels.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that there was potential for this to happen and was aware that this was already due to take place at Midsomer Norton and Keynsham Leisure Centres and Odd Down Sports Ground.

The Chair commented that she would welcome the swimming pool at Culverhay Leisure Centre to be considered in potential use of solar panels to see if that would assist in bringing that local facility back into use.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that they were about to embark on a playing pitch and built facilities strategy as part of the Local Plan and said that the use of Culverhay would form part of that study.

The Chair said that to have available facilities close to their localities would be of benefit especially in any identified areas of deprivation.

Councillor Ruth Malloy proposed that the Panel could receive a presentation from Alison Herbert, Bath BID on their second Rebalance Wellbeing Festival at some point.

The Chair thanked the officers from the Physical Activity Team for attending on behalf of the Panel.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

#### **94 PANEL WORKPLAN**

The Chair introduced this item to the Panel. She said that through the course of the meeting they had identified the following items that could be considered to be added to their workplan.

- Bath BID / Open Spaces use
- Knife Crime Task & Finish Group Update
- Under 5s Health Study
- Homelessness Health Update
- Dentistry Update
- Community Resource Centres – Implementation of Cabinet decisions
- Refugee Support Update

The meeting ended at 12.50 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
<b>MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:</b>	<b>Children, Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
<b>MEETING/ DECISION DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Early Years &amp; Education Performance 2022/23 – Final SEB Publication</b>	
<b>WARD:</b>	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
EIA Report		

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1** This report provides the Panel with an overview of early-years & school education performance in the academic year 2022-23, including information on school attendance and exclusions.
- 1.2** This report's summary of education performance is drawn from the council's Strategic Evidence Base (SEB) produced by the council's Business Intelligence team. The SEB can be reviewed by following the link below and reading the education section on pages 108 -134. Highlights from the education section of the SEB will be presented at the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/strategic-evidence-base-summary-and-full-report>

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

**The Panel / Committee is asked to;**

- 2.1** Note our pupils' overall positive education performance in B&NES schools for the academic year 2022/23.

**2.2** Be assured that Local Authority Officers continue to collaborate strategically with schools and partners and the Regional Director's office to improve educational outcomes for all pupils in B&NES.

### **3 THE REPORT – SUMMARY**

**3.1** In summary, pupils in B&NES attained higher grades compared to regional and national figures in all stages of education except Key Stage 2 (KS2), which dropped below national figures for the first time since 2015/16. Girls consistently performed better than boys at all key stages. Our education outcomes in Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5) are to be commended.

**3.2** In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), 71% of children had a good level of development in B&NES. This is higher than the South West's (68%) and England's (67%) values. 69% of children in B&NES were at the expected level for all 17 Early Learning Goals, higher than the South West (67%) and England (66%) values. **(SEB Slide 112)**

**3.3** KS2 results for the expected standard in Reading Writing & Maths (RWM), whilst above regional averages, have dipped below national averages for the first time since 2015/2016. The average for those reaching the higher standard in RWM rose slightly from 21/22 (8% from 7%). This is slightly higher than regional and in line with national averages. **(SEB Slide 116)**

**3.4** KS4 attainment remains strong in 2022/23; pupils in B&NES achieved a higher proportion of grades (9-5) in English and Maths (51%), compared to the South West (45%) and England (45%). This is higher than the 2018/19 (pre-pandemic) figure (46%), a pattern also seen regionally and nationally. The same pattern of strong performance against regional and national averages is repeated in Attainment 8 outcomes **(SEB Slide 119)**

**3.5** Pupils also make good progress between KS2 and KS4, with pupils in B&NES achieving, on average a quarter of a grade higher in each qualification compared to similar pupils across the country.

**3.6** KS5 outcomes in B&NES also remain strong, with outcomes for average A Level point scores and proportion achieving at least 2 A Levels higher than national and regional averages **(Slide 126)**

**3.7** However, the attainment gap between Free School Meal (FSM) and non-FSM pupils is consistently larger across all key stages in B&NES than the gap seen nationally. Nationally, the attainment gap widens as pupils move through the education system, whereas in B&NES, the attainment gap at EYFS is the largest, having increased sharply in 2022/23 **(Slide 128)**

**3.8** Disappointingly, the KS2 attainment in the FSM cohort is the worst in the country and Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFS) attainment in the FSM cohort is the third worst in the country.

**3.9** However, when our FSM pupils are in secondary school, their KS4 attainment in 22/23 is broadly in line with national outcomes.

**3.10** EYFS and KS2 attainment in B&NES is lowest in the Black and other ethnic groups and is below national levels. KS4 attainment & progress is lowest in the Black ethnic group and again is below national levels. Whilst numbers in these cohorts are relatively low, this is a trend seen for a number of years, particularly at KS2 and KS4.



- 3.11** Attainment in Special Educational Needs (SEN) and non-SEN pupils is broadly in line with national levels at EYFS and KS2. At KS2, attainment in the EHCP cohort was higher than national in 2018/19 and 2021/22 but has now dropped from 21% to 8%, similar to the national average (6%). At KS4, the SEN attainment gap for % achieving grades 9-5 is higher in B&NES than national, driven by the higher attainment in the non-SEN pupils in B&NES than nationally. For attainment 8, the SEN attainment gap is similar to national levels.
- 3.12** Persistent school absence increased sharply in 2021/22, both in B&NES and nationally. However, rates remained lower in B&NES compared to national. Nationally, this was driven by increases in illness absences, including Covid-19. Suspensions are higher in B&NES than national, especially when looked at by ethnicity, where Black and Mixed race have higher suspension rates.
- 3.13** OFSTED inspections continue throughout schools in B&NES and our schools continue to perform well. As of Feb 2024, all Secondary Schools in B&NES are rated Outstanding. 60 of our 65 Primary schools are rated Good or Outstanding. The three special schools in B&NES are rated good.
- 3.14** While it is encouraging that our FSM children are making better progress than nationally at KS4, it remains disappointing to see our FSM KS2 results dip in the year 22/23. The LA continues to support initiatives with St John's Foundation across EYFS and KS2 through implementing our Language for Life Project, the Primary Empowerment Project, and our Improving Disadvantaged Educational Outcomes Project. The LA continues to work with the Department for Education South West Regions group to ensure that improving outcomes for this cohort of children remains a priority amongst our schools, academies, and Trusts.
- 3.15.** Evidence shows that in the early years, a focus on upskilling the workforce to support communication and language development in a structured way, strengthening transitions and partnerships with parents, and multiagency working make a difference. Amongst other initiatives, B&NES EY Service has partnered with HCRG Speech and Language Therapy service and St Johns Foundation Fund to develop the Language for Life; making a Difference Together approach based on these principles. The outcomes have been particularly strong for children receiving early years pupil premium funding who may go on to receive pupil premium in school (FSM). The evaluation of this 2-year pilot has led to a commitment to further funding from St John's Foundation to expand the approach into other areas of the LA.
- 3.16** We continue to deliver work to improve education outcomes for our Black and Ethnic Minority children and young people in B&NES by delivering the B&NES Race Equality Charter Mark. More information about Charter work can be found at the following link.

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/race-equality-charter-schools>

Practical examples of how the charter works in our schools can be seen via the short video in the link below.

<https://thehub.bathnes.gov.uk/Page/24872>

## 4 CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 This report contains information on academic outcomes in our early years, primary & secondary schools. No climate issues have been identified in the production of this report.

## 5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 No other options have been considered for writing this report.

## 6 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has been developed with the input and consultation of the Council's Business Intelligence team.

## 7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and submitted to support this paper. This report reveals several areas where academic outcomes highlight inequalities between different groups of children in Bath & North East Somerset. The evidence in this SEB will continue to be used to strategically inform several work streams to improve inequalities in outcomes and disproportionality in negative outcomes.

<b>Contact person</b>	Chris Wilford - christopher_wilford@bathnes.gov.uk
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>B&amp;NES Strategic Evidence Base <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/strategic-evidence-base-summary-and-full-report">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/strategic-evidence-base-summary-and-full-report</a></i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

# Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis

(Updated December 2022)

Item name	Details
<b>Title of service or policy</b>	Report on Education Performance
<b>Name of directorate and service</b>	Education & Safeguarding
<b>Name and role of officers completing the EIA</b>	Chris Wilford – Director of Education & Safeguarding
<b>Date of assessment</b>	29 Feb 2024

Equality Impact Assessment (or ‘Equality Analysis’) is a process of systematically analysing a new or existing policy or service to identify what impact or likely impact it will have on different groups within the community. The main aim is to identify any discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group or sector of the community, and also to identify areas where equality can be better promoted. Equality impact Assessments (EIAs) can be carried out in relation to services provided to customers and residents as well as employment policies/strategies that relate to staffing matters.

This toolkit has been developed to use as a framework when carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) or Equality Analysis. **Not all sections will be relevant – so leave blank any that are not applicable.** It is intended that this is used as a working document throughout the process, and a final version will be published on the Council’s website.

### 1.1 Identify the aims of the policy or service and how it is implemented

Key questions	Answers / notes
<p>1.1 Briefly describe purpose of the service/policy e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How the service/policy is delivered and by whom</li> <li>● If responsibility for its implementation is shared with other departments or organisations</li> <li>● Intended outcomes</li> </ul>	<p>This is a report on education performance in B&amp;NES early years settings &amp; Schools.</p> <p>The report is taken from the Local Authorities (LA) Business Intelligence (BI) Team Strategic Evidence Base (SEB). Link below – slides 108 onwards</p> <p><a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/strategic-evidence-base-summary-and-full-report">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/strategic-evidence-base-summary-and-full-report</a></p> <p>The report aims to inform Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny (PDS) of the academic progress and attainment of children and young people in our schools. The report is used to assist Cllrs and Officers in understanding where children do well and if groups of children in B&amp;NES do not achieve as well. It also contains information about attendance, OFSTED grades and suspensions</p>
<p>1.2 Provide brief details of the scope of the policy or service being reviewed, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Is it a new service/policy or review of an existing one?</li> <li>● Is it a national requirement?).</li> </ul>	<p>This report is produced annually. It is not a statutory requirement. However, it is of significant interest for the Council to understand the performance of early years and education settings by key stage and to focus on where performance from certain groups of children and young people is an area of concern.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How much room for review is there?</li> </ul>	
1.3 Do the aims of this policy link to or conflict with any other policies of the Council?	<b>NA</b>

## 2. Consideration of available data, research and information

Key questions	Data, research and information that you can refer to
<b>2.1</b> What equalities training have staff received to enable them to understand the needs of our diverse community?	CIIs have received mandatory equalities training in 2023. The Business Intelligence (BI) team produces the SEB; in line with the Council's priorities around equality and supporting disadvantage, the BI team has focused on areas/groups of children and young people that do not perform as well in our early years settings and schools. The equalities officer has provided advice and support on this assessment.
<b>2.2</b> What is the equalities profile of service users?	The SEB has a section on the demography of our population in B&NES. The school performance results in B&NES apply to all children attending a B&NES EY or School setting. A breakdown of the profile by gender/special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) free school meals (FSM) is viewable on slide 110 of the SEB. Ethnicity is broken down in slides 114, 118, 125.
<b>2.3</b> If you are planning to undertake any consultation in the future regarding this service or policy, how will you include equalities considerations within this?	No consultation is planned for the presentation of school performance data.

### 3. Assessment of impact: 'Equality analysis'

Based upon any data you have considered, or the results of consultation or research, use the spaces below to demonstrate you have analysed how the service or policy:

- Meets any particular needs of equalities groups or could help promote equality in some way.
- Could have a negative or adverse impact for any of the equalities groups

Key questions	Examples of what the service has done to promote equality	Examples of actual or potential negative or adverse impact and what steps have been or could be taken to address this
<p><b>3.1 Issues relating to all groups</b> and protected characteristics</p>	<p>The LA provides a range of early help and preventative services to support all children and young people to engage in early years and educational establishments from the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>All schools have access to a form where they can highlight equalities issues, or serious racial/inequalities incidents and request additional advice from Equalities Officers in B&amp;NES</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p><b>3.2 Sex</b> – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on women and men.</p>	<p>The LA currently does not undertake work to close this gender gap.</p>	<p>The data highlights that girls outperform boys in education outcomes across the key educational stages. This is a national picture. Overall, boys' and girls' education outcomes in B&amp;NES perform better than regional and national averages.</p>
<p><b>3.3 Pregnancy and maternity</b></p>	<p>We have no data in this area. However, when the LA is notified of teenage pregnancies, the LA/School nursing</p>	<p>No current local data is available in this area.</p>

	provides advice, support and guidance to schools on their legal duties.	
<b>3.4 Gender reassignment</b> – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on transgender people	No data on the educational outcomes from this group is available from our SEB. Nor does the Department for Education (DFE) produce this data.	No data on the educational outcomes from this group is available from our SEB. Nor does the DFE produce this data.
<b>3.5 Disability</b> – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on disabled people (ensure consideration both physical, sensory and mental impairments and mental health)	The LA provides additional resources through Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) funding/inclusion support funding and provision of SEND services, Education Psychology, Early Years Area Special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCO's) /Portage and Children's centres to assist children with SEND in their education. B&NES special schools are rated as Good by OFSTED	The performance of children and young people with SEND is broadly in line with regional and national averages.  The Local Authority is investing additional capital to develop additional resource bases to ensure that we have enough specialist placements for children with SEND
<b>3.6 Age</b> – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on different age groups	The LA is engaged in several initiatives to support schools to develop strategies to improve outcomes for children in the early years and in primary school. E.g. Primary Empowerment Project & Language for Life and Improving Disadvantage Educational Outcomes Project	The educational outcomes are broken down into relevant key stages and examinations. Outcomes in B&NES for FSM Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) & Key Stage 2 children are below national averages.
<b>3.7 Race</b> – identify the impact/potential impact on across different ethnic groups	The Council undertakes several work streams to support the improvement of educational outcomes of Ethnic minority children and young people in B&NES schools; this includes commissioning the Black Families Education Support Group, Stand Against Racism & Inequalities (SARI) and the promotion of the Race	Education outcomes for Black children and mixed-race children in B&NES schools are below that of their peers regionally and nationally. Suspensions for black and mixed-race children in B&NES schools are also higher than regional and national averages.

	Equality Charter Mark. Links to this work are included in the main PDS report	
<b>3.8 Sexual orientation</b> – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual people	No data on educational outcomes by sexual orientation is available in the SEB. Nor does the DFE produce this data	No data on educational outcomes by sexual orientation is available in the SEB. Nor does the DFE produce this data
<b>3.9 Marriage and civil partnership</b> – does the policy/strategy treat married and civil partnered people equally?	NA	NA
<b>3.10 Religion/belief</b> – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on people of different religious/faith groups and also upon those with no religion.	No data on educational outcomes by religious belief is available in the SEB. Nor does the DFE produce this data	No data on educational outcomes by religious belief is available in the SEB. Nor does the DFE produce this data
<b>3.11 Socio-economically disadvantaged*</b> – identify the impact on people who are disadvantaged due to factors like family background, educational attainment, neighbourhood, employment status can influence life chances <b>(this is not a legal requirement, but is a local priority).</b>	The LA is engaged in several initiatives to support schools to develop strategies to improve outcomes for children in the early years and in primary school. E.g. Primary Empowerment Project & Language for Life and Improving Disadvantage Educational Outcomes Project.	Educational outcomes in B&NES for FSM EYFS & KS2 children are below national averages and the attainment gap for these children is one of the worst in the country. However, the outcomes for FSM do improve in KS4 and attainment is broadly in line with national average.
<b>3.12 Rural communities*</b> identify the impact / potential impact on people living in rural communities	NA	The SEB does not break down education performance by geographical location
<b>3.13 Armed Forces Community **</b> serving members; reservists; veterans and their families, including the	NA	No education data is available for this group.



bereaved. Public services are required by law to pay due regard to the Armed Forces Community when developing policy, procedures and making decisions, particularly in the areas of public housing, education and healthcare (to remove disadvantage and consider special provision).

\*There is no requirement within the public sector duty of the Equality Act to consider groups who may be disadvantaged due to socio economic status, or because of living in a rural area. However, these are significant issues within B&NES and have therefore been included here.

\*\* The Equality Act does not cover armed forces community. However, the Armed Forces Bill (which came in on 22 Nov 2022) introduces a requirement to pay 'due regard' to make sure the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged when accessing public services.

#### 4. Bath and North East Somerset Council & NHS B&NES Equality Impact Assessment Improvement Plan

Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment/analysis. These actions should be based upon the analysis of data and engagement, any gaps in the data you have identified, and any steps you will be taking to address any negative impacts or remove barriers. The actions need to be built into your service planning framework. Actions/targets should be measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed.

Issues identified	Actions required	Progress milestones	Officer responsible	By when
Disproportional suspensions of black and ethnic minority children	Continue to work with partners through the Race Equality Task Force to promote strategies to	Full take-up of the Race Equality Charter Mark in all B&NES schools.	Chris Wilford	September 2024

	reduce suspensions/exclusions in B&NES schools.			
Continue to support initiatives to support schools and multi-academy trusts to develop strategies to narrow the FSM attainment Gap in the Early Years & KS2.	<p>This broad and complex issue requires the collaboration of several partners, including the South West Regions group and trust leads.</p> <p>Several projects to support improvements in narrowing the gap are underway. However, with 97 of schools as academies, the role of the LA is to highlight and champion the issue.</p>	Schools are engaged in all available initiatives supported by the LA and the South West Regions Group.	All education leaders in B&NES and South West regions group	September 2024

## 5. Sign off and publishing

Once you have completed this form, it needs to be 'approved' by your Divisional Director or their nominated officer. Following this sign off, send a copy to the Equalities Team ([equality@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:equality@bathnes.gov.uk)), who will publish it on the Council's and/or NHS B&NES' website. Keep a copy for your own records.

**Signed off by:** Chris Wilford

(Divisional Director or nominated senior officer)

**Date:** 29.2.24

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Children, Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b><u>Monday 11th March</u></b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<u>Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCPs) Overview</u>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Power Point file		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1** This report provides the Panel with an overview of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in B&NES.
- 1.2** This report's summary of EHCPs is drawn from dashboards managed by the Business Intelligence team and data collected by ISOS partnership as part of the safety valve plan in BANES. Regional and National data has been provided by the DFE through the Southwest RIIA.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Panel / Committee is asked to;**

- 2.1** Note the national, regional and local picture regarding the increase in applications for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCPNA) and the increase in issued plans as detailed in the attached slides.
- 2.2** Be assured that Local Authority Officers continue to work strategically with social care, health, schools and other partners in order to work within statutory guidelines and support schools in delivering the very best outcomes for our children and young people.

### **3 THE REPORT - SUMMARY**

**3.1 Please refer to slides 2, 3, 4, 5.** Locally, regionally, and nationally, the number of applications for EHCPs has increased across all education phases from early years to post 16. As part of our safety valve action plan, our team is developing a new SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Advice service to support our schools and wider professionals in delivering the very best outcomes for our children and young people, increasing expertise within our settings working with schools to meet the needs of our young people within school's resources.

**3.2 Please refer to slide 4.** In BANES, EHCPs in primary schools are higher than the national, south west and statistical neighbour groups, and whilst this is not the case in secondary schools as the pupils transition over time we would expect this trend to continue. To support this the service is developing an increased program of professional development for our SENCOs and are working hard to support our primary schools in supporting children through ordinarily available provision within their settings.

**3.3 Please refer to slide 6.** The most common primary need for young people with an EHCP in BANES is autism, which is in line with the Southwest and National trends. Social, Emotional and Mental Health is increasing as a primary need and is likely to become our biggest area of need in coming years. To better support our settings with this growing need we are increasing the capacity of our behaviour support team who visit schools and provide timely and appropriate advice. This has proven effective in supporting our children and young people who are at risk of placement breakdown.

**3.4 Please refer to slides 7 and 8.** In 2022, 24% of requests for needs assessments were declined in BANES compared to 22% nationally and 19% in the Southwest. In 2023, 33% were declined in BANES. 2023 National and regional data is not yet available for comparison. The service is currently reviewing the scheme of delegation and terms of reference for its EHCP panels with the view to continue to foster a collaborative approach to decision making between Education, Health, Social Care, Schools and other parties. This will continue to ensure a robust, fair decision-making process.

**3.5 Please refer to slides 9 and 10.** Completion of EHCP assessment within the statutory timeframes continues to be challenging in the Southwest, with 35% of plans being delivered on time vs 49% nationally in 2022. In BANES, 24% of plans were delivered on time in 2022. In 2023, 36% of plans were delivered on time. The service has a robust improvement plan in place to improve the timeliness of its delivery and expects to continue its upward trend in delivering on time assessments this year. As demand has increased, investment has been made in increasing the statutory team, with an increase within the leadership to support in the delivery of our statutory obligations.

**3.6 Please refer to slides 11 and 12.** Nationally there has been an increase in demand for specialist provision, with a 22% increase evident in the South West between 2019 and 2023. In BANES 34.1% of our children with EHCPs attended special schools vs a national figure of 33.1%. As demand increases, we are increasingly unable to provide timely placement of children in a local school, resulting in an increase in children travelling longer distances to attend school and/or waiting for too long to gain a school place. We are working hard to increase our special school places and are also increasing the number of

resource base places available so that more of our children and young people can attend a local mainstream school whilst accessing specialist levels of support.

#### **4 CLIMATE CHANGE**

**4.1** This report contains information on the assessment and issue of EHCPs. As we increase our local offer of specialist and resource base places, we expect the average commute to school for this group to decrease.

#### **5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**5.1** No other options have been considered for writing this report.

#### **6 CONSULTATION**

**6.1** This report has been developed with the input and consultation of the Council's Business Intelligence team, ISOS partnership and SWRIIS.

#### **7 EQUALITIES**

**7.1** The evidence in this report will be used to strategically inform several work streams to improve inequalities in outcomes and disproportionality.

<b>Contact person</b>	Laura Donnelly - <a href="mailto:laura_donnelly@bathnes.gov.uk">laura_donnelly@bathnes.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers</b>	N/A
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

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# Bath & North East Somerset Council

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**Improving People's Lives**

[Education, Health and Care Plan \(EHCPs\)  
Overview](#)

# 22/23 National Headline data

## How do you see this improving the timeliness of the issuing of EHC plans?

The Government is also planning to "develop digital requirements for EHCP systems to improve experiences for parents, carers and professionals, reduce bureaucracy and improve our ability to monitor the health of the SEND system."

## How effective would a digitised system be in supporting all parties in providing support in your local context?

The Government plans to "create a three-tier alternative provision system, focusing on targeted early support within mainstream school, time-limited intensive placements in an alternative provision setting, and longer-term placements to support return to mainstream or a sustainable post-16 destination."

Due to... low confidence, parents, carers and providers feel they need to secure EHC plans and, in some cases, specialist provision as a means of guaranteeing support.

## EHCPs



**52.7%** of pupils with an EHC plan attend mainstream schools



Autism is the highest primary need representing one in three pupils with an EHC plan



The number of pupils with an EHC plan and being Electively Home Educated rose again to over **4,000**



Up by **9.5%** to highest level ever of **4.3%** or over half a million young people

The number of initial requests was up **33%** to **114,500** compared with **93,300** previously

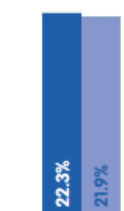


Pupils with an EHC plan make up **one quarter** of all pupils with SEN

**12,100** pupils with an EHC plan are recorded

NEET, with a further 1,400 of compulsory school age who are not in education

Pupils in AP with an EHC plan has dropped from **28.2%** to **25.5%**



The number of refusals decreased slightly to **21.9%** from **22.3%**

**20**

Legislation states that the EHC plan process should take no longer than **20 weeks**. This year we saw the lowest figure ever since 2015, with only **50.7%** of EHC plans issued within the time limit.

## SEN Support



**25.5%** of pupils recorded as Traveller of Irish heritage group had SEN support, the highest for all ethnic groups.

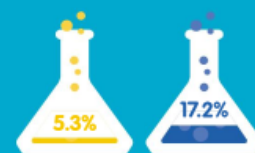
**57%** of pupils in AP schools have SEN support.

**37.5%** of pupils with SEN support are also FSM compared with **23.8%** for all pupils.



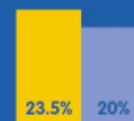
For children in need, **almost half** had SEN compared with **17.2%** of the overall pupil population.

An extra **53,500** pupils identified at SEN support



The total number of pupils with SEN varies across LAs from **5.3%** at the lowest to **17.2%** at the highest. The top 5 LAs for SEN support are also identified as Education Investment Areas.

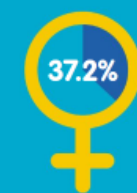
SLCN remain the highest primary need of SEN Support at **23.5%** with SEMH second with **20%**.



Rise in number of pupils with identified SEN to **17.3%**, the highest number since the SEND review of 2014 and up **0.7%** on last year.



The percentage of girls identified as SEN support has increased to its highest level of **37.2%**

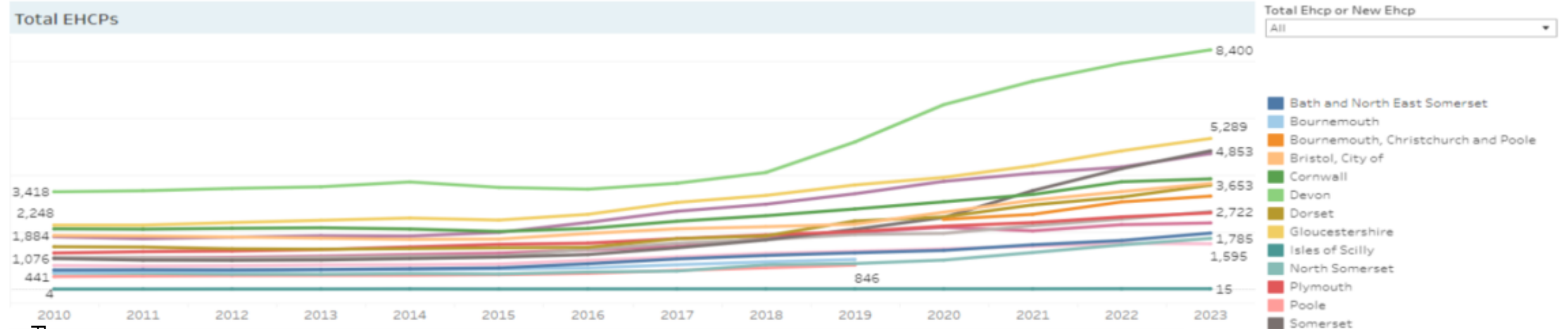


Pupils in all social care groups were over **twice as likely** to have a special educational need (SEN) than the overall pupil population.





### South West 2023 Education, Health and Care Plans DfE data release



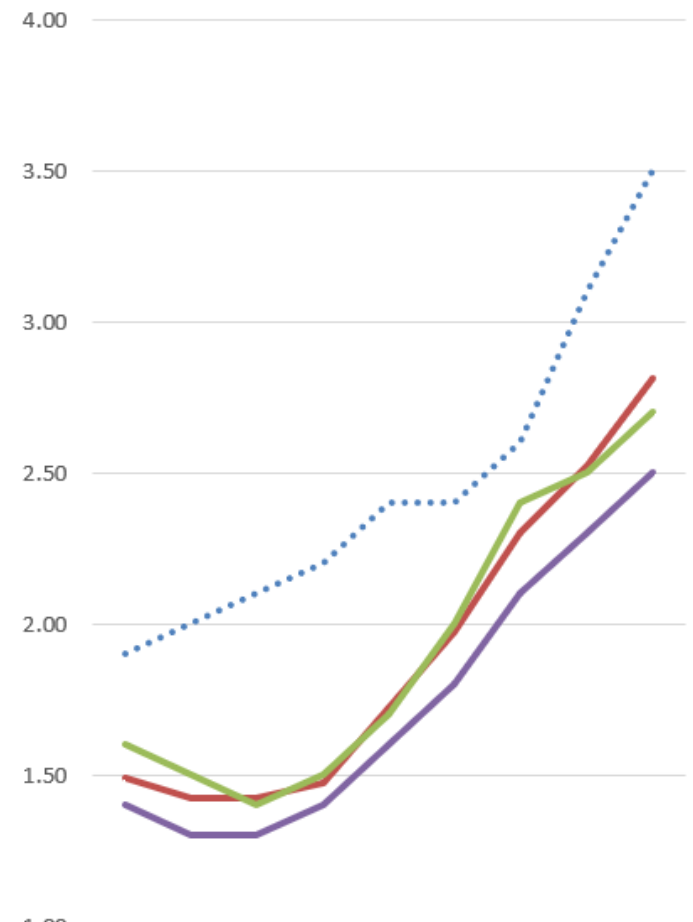
### Total EHCPs Table

Area	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
England	228,221	229,017	230,156	233,431	237,111	240,183	256,315	287,290	319,819	353,995	390,109	430,697	473,255	517,026
Bath and North East Som.	674	681	677	692	718	748	895	1,062	1,185	1,277	1,363	1,559	1,708	1,967
Bournemouth	579	619	624	666	679	703	748	858	962	1,045				
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole											2,448	2,627	3,063	3,266
Bristol, City of	1,884	1,870	1,834	1,790	1,748	1,760	1,955	2,119	2,193	2,280	2,700	3,124	3,424	3,709
Cornwall	2,118	2,107	2,136	2,155	2,113	2,026	2,131	2,384	2,577	2,814	3,065	3,324	3,770	3,871
Devon	3,418	3,454	3,537	3,594	3,764	3,572	3,510	3,718	4,093	5,162	6,474	7,295	7,926	8,400
Dorset	1,490	1,480	1,418	1,402	1,426	1,452	1,470	1,772	1,871	2,392	2,534	2,957	3,233	3,653
Gloucestershire	2,248	2,248	2,337	2,417	2,496	2,425	2,627	3,044	3,290	3,658	3,922	4,332	4,854	5,289
Isles of Scilly	4	4	6	6	10	7	9	10	11	11	11	12	16	15
North Somerset	563	558	530	524	545	534	603	637	856	900	1,022	1,287	1,556	1,785
Plymouth	1,271	1,317	1,342	1,391	1,483	1,574	1,616	1,776	1,903	2,024	2,213	2,336	2,536	2,678
Poole	441	459	474	481	486	510	553	659	748	846				
Somerset	1,076	1,020	1,012	1,025	1,072	1,125	1,216	1,450	1,730	2,102	2,514	3,457	4,232	4,853
South Gloucestershire	1,109	1,109	1,087	1,123	1,158	1,164	1,398	1,614	1,744	1,920	1,960	2,227	2,460	2,722
South West	20,635	20,617	20,785	21,154	21,640	21,742	23,464	26,471	29,196	33,098	37,597	42,160	46,937	50,887
Swindon	1,089	1,102	1,118	1,160	1,219	1,268	1,376	1,501	1,794	1,987	2,171	2,049	2,264	2,324
Torbay	833	815	825	853	857	882	1,015	1,134	1,257	1,331	1,416	1,507	1,608	1,595
Wiltshire	1,838	1,774	1,828	1,875	1,866	1,992	2,342	2,733	2,982	3,349				

Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>

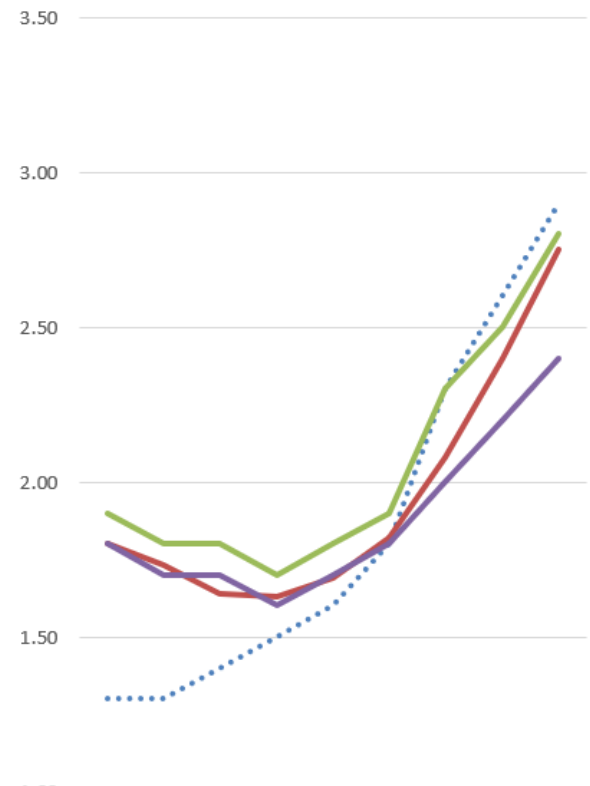
# How does our number of EHCPs compare with our neighbours?

% of pupils with EHCP (primary)



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bath and NE Somerset	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.40	2.40	2.60	3.10	3.50
Statistical Neighbours	1.49	1.42	1.42	1.47	1.72	1.97	2.30	2.52	2.81
South West	1.60	1.50	1.40	1.50	1.70	2.00	2.40	2.50	2.70
England	1.40	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.60	1.80	2.10	2.30	2.50

% of pupils with EHCP (secondary)

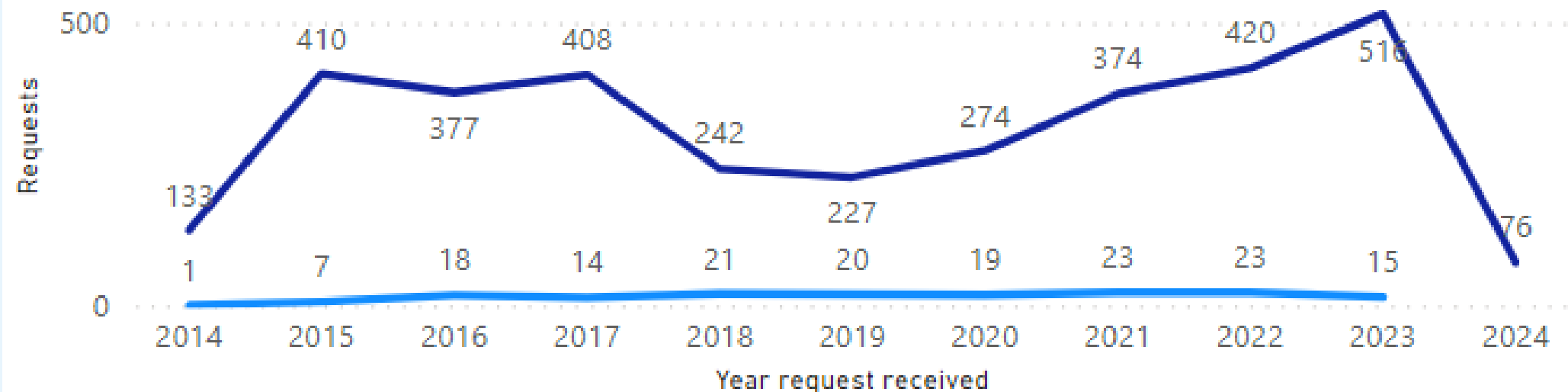


	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bath and NE Somerset	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.80	2.30	2.60	2.90
Statistical Neighbours	1.80	1.73	1.64	1.63	1.69	1.82	2.08	2.40	2.75
South West	1.90	1.80	1.80	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.30	2.50	2.80
England	1.80	1.70	1.70	1.60	1.70	1.80	2.00	2.20	2.40

# How many requests for assessment do we receive in BANES?

## Requests Received by Year

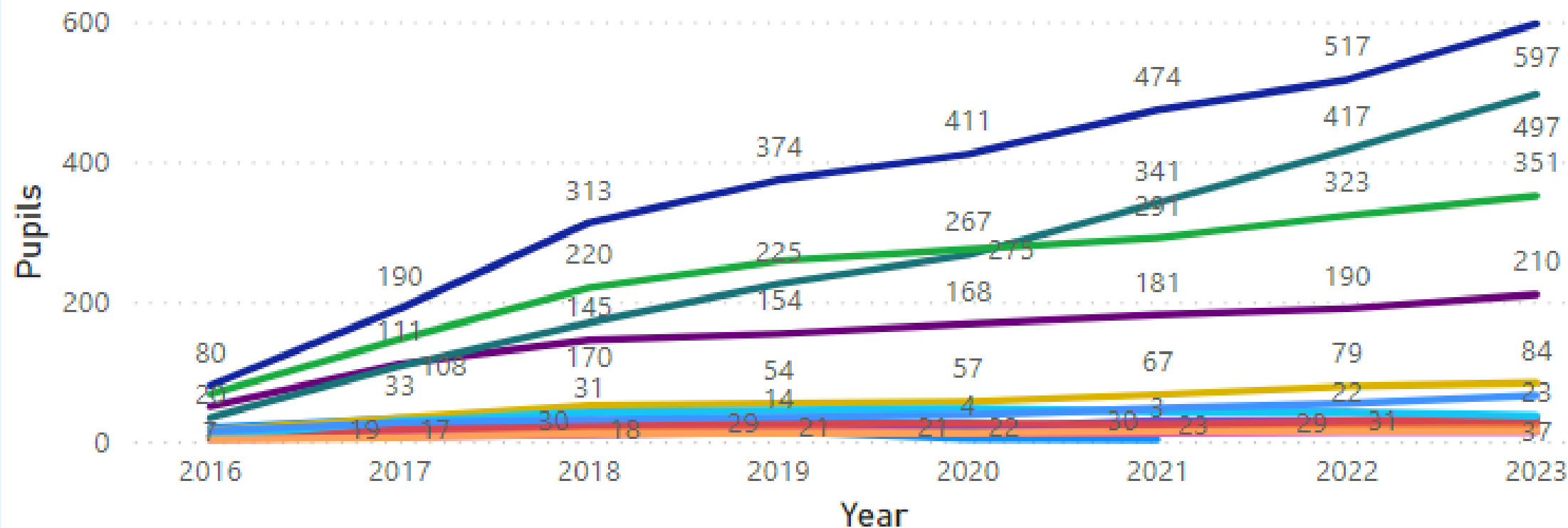
Type of Contact ● Mover In ● New Request



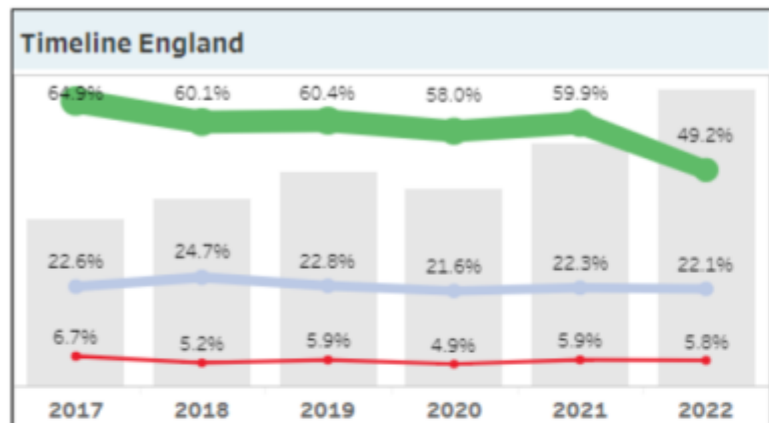
# What is the primary need of young people with an EHCP?

## Primary Need for pupils with an EHCP as at the SEN2 Survey date

Primary Need ● ASD ● HI ● MLD ● MSI ● OTH ● PD ● PMLD ● SEMH ● SLCN ● SLD ● SPLD ● VI



# Requests for EHCP, Numbers refused and Issued within 20 weeks %



LA

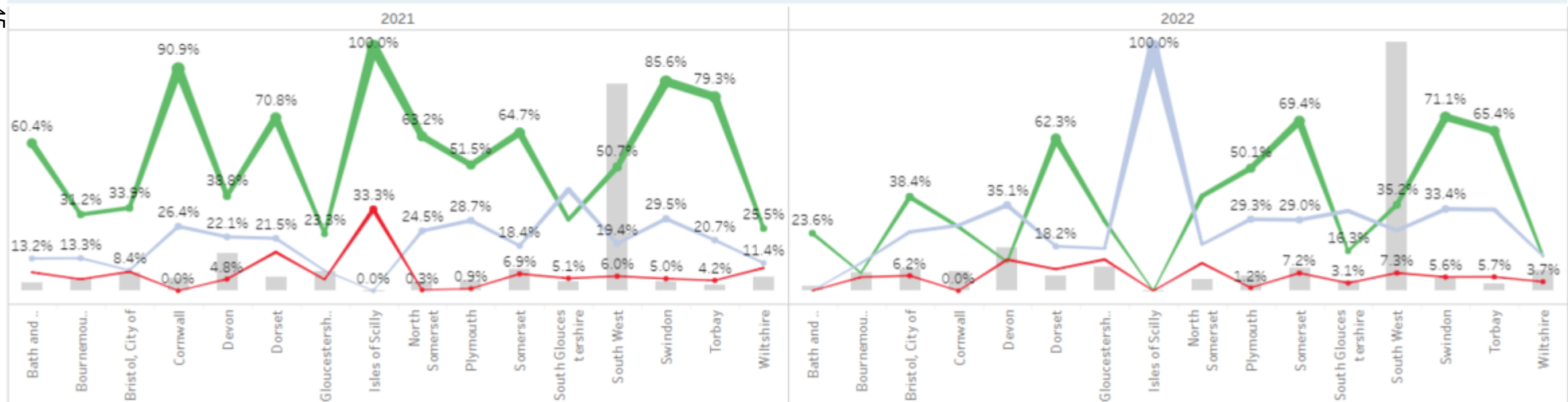
Measure Names  
■ Assessed - Decided Not to Issue  
■ Request for Assessment Refused  
■ 20 Week % excluding exceptions

## 2022 Headlines

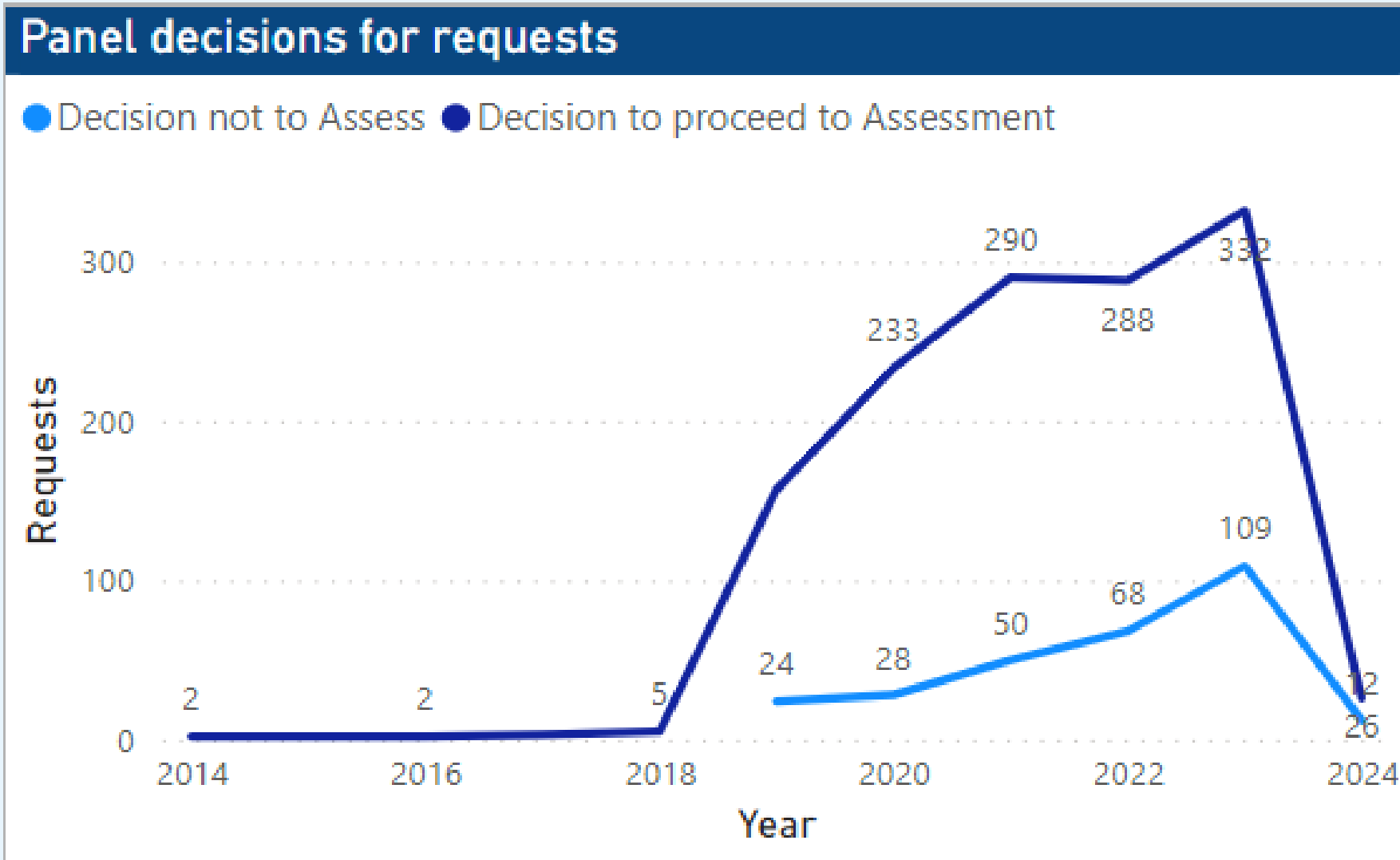
LA	Request for Assessment Refused	Assessed - Decided Not to Issue	20 Week % excluding exceptions
Bath and North East Som..	0.0%	0.0%	23.6
Bournemouth, Christchur..	11.4%	9.6%	7.3
Bristol, City of	24.1%	6.2%	38.4
Cornwall	26.8%	0.0%	26.2
Devon	35.1%	12.7%	11.8
Dorset	18.2%	8.8%	62.3
Gloucestershire	17.3%	12.8%	28.6
Isles of Scilly	100.0%	0.0%	0.0
North Somerset	19.0%	11.3%	38.8
Plymouth	29.3%	1.2%	50.1
Somerset	29.0%	7.2%	69.4
South Gloucestershire	32.7%	9.1%	16.3
South West	24.6%	7.3%	35.2
Swindon	33.4%	5.6%	71.1
Torbay	33.2%	9.7%	65.4
Wiltshire	14.3%	3.7%	14.2

Page 45

Bars show the Number of Initial requests for assessments in context to % of Measures.



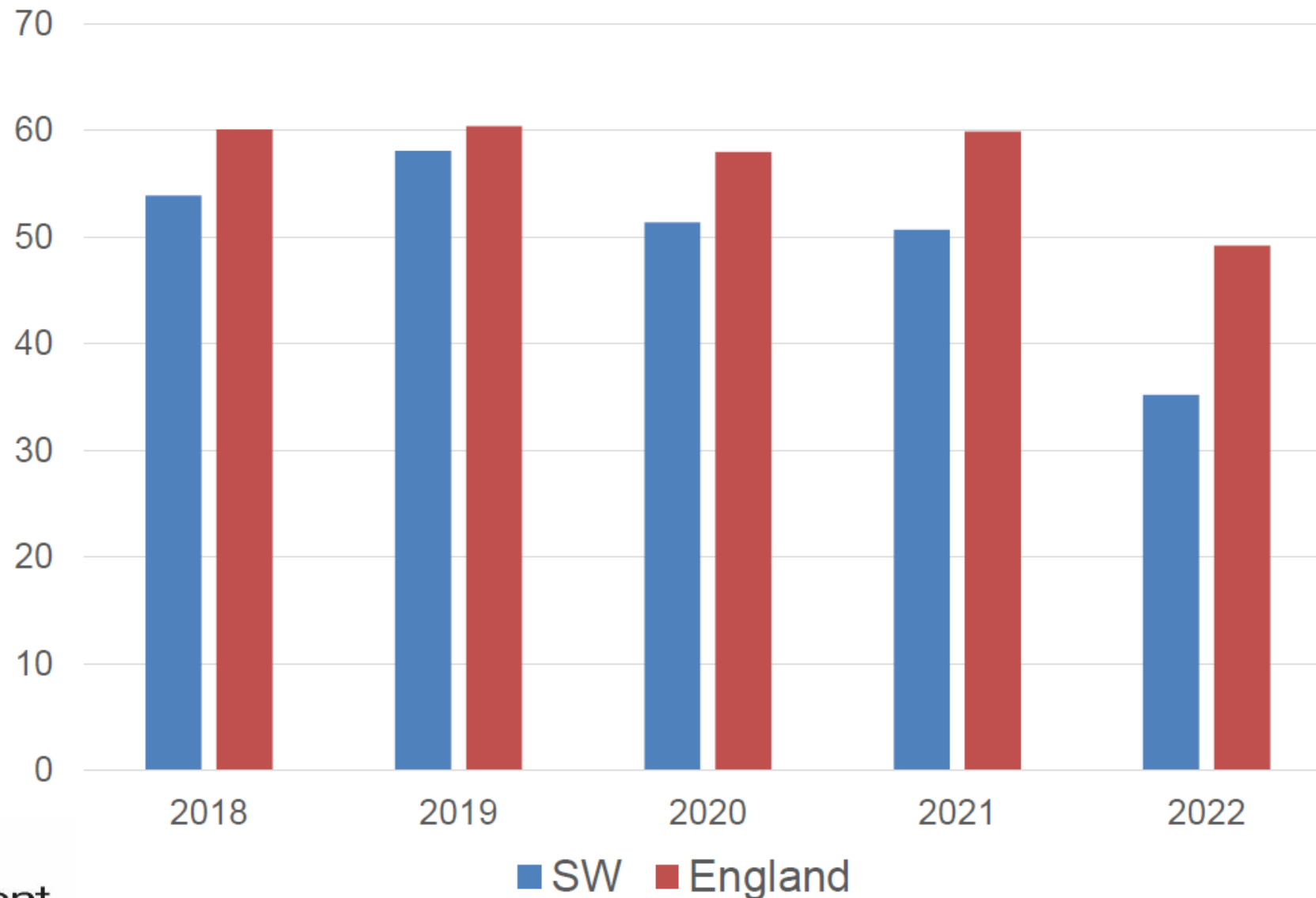
# How many requests for assessment are granted in BANES?



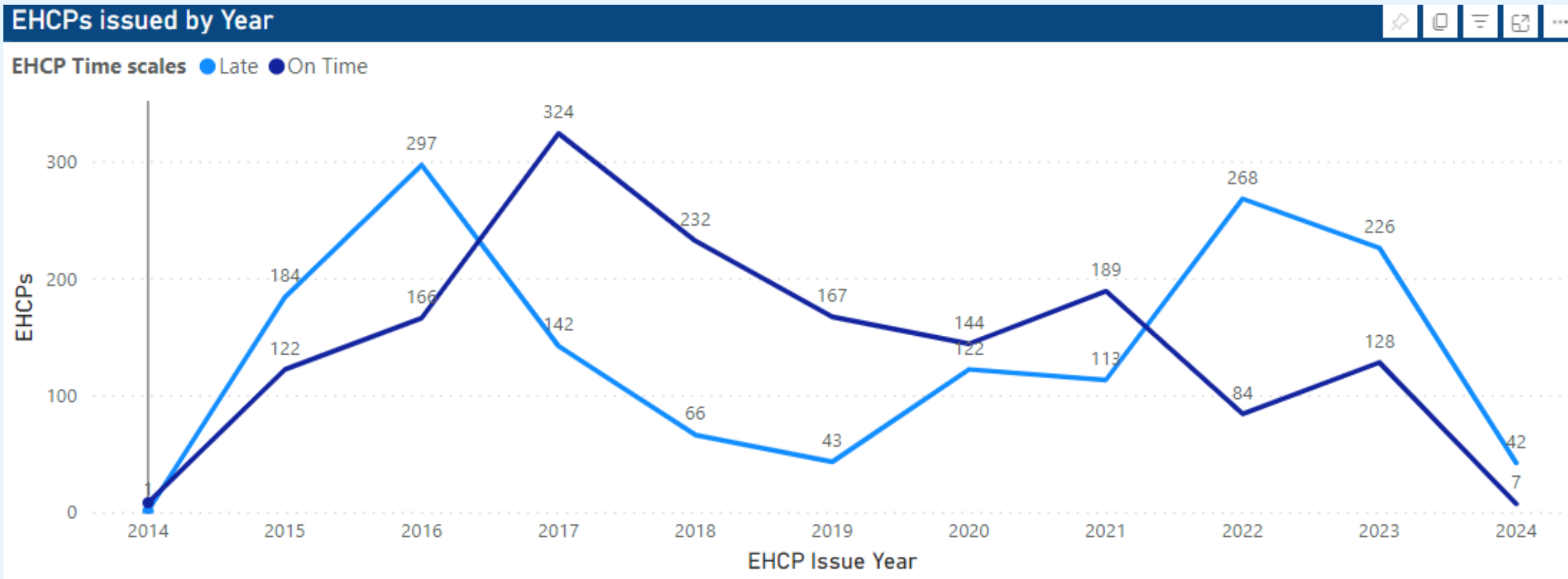
In 2022, 24% of requests were declined in BANES, compared to 22% nationally and 19% in the South West.

In 2023 33% were declined. National and regional data is not available for comparison.

# Completion of EHC needs assessments within 20 weeks (exc. exceptions) 2018-2022

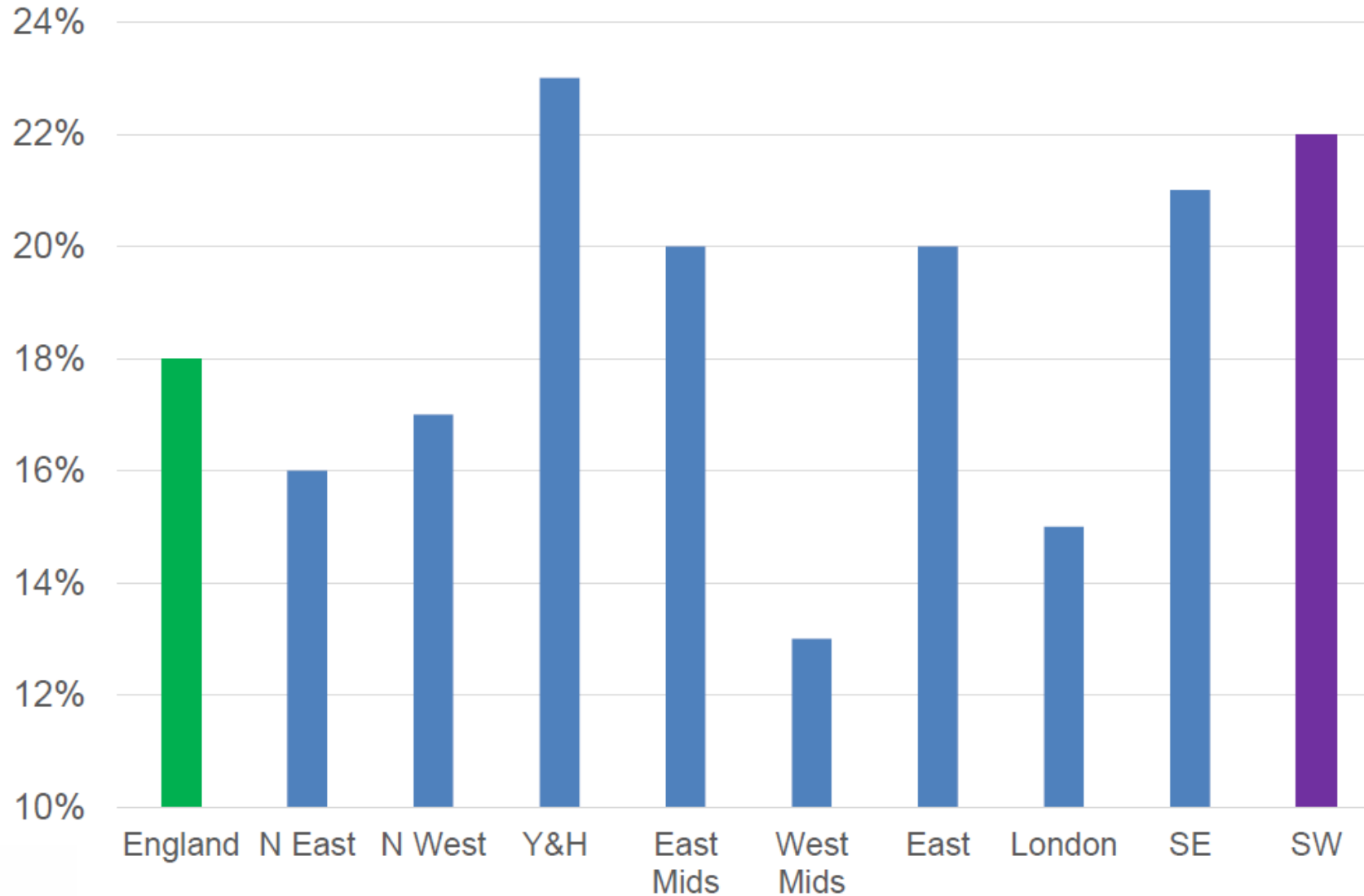


# How many of our needs assessments are completed on time?

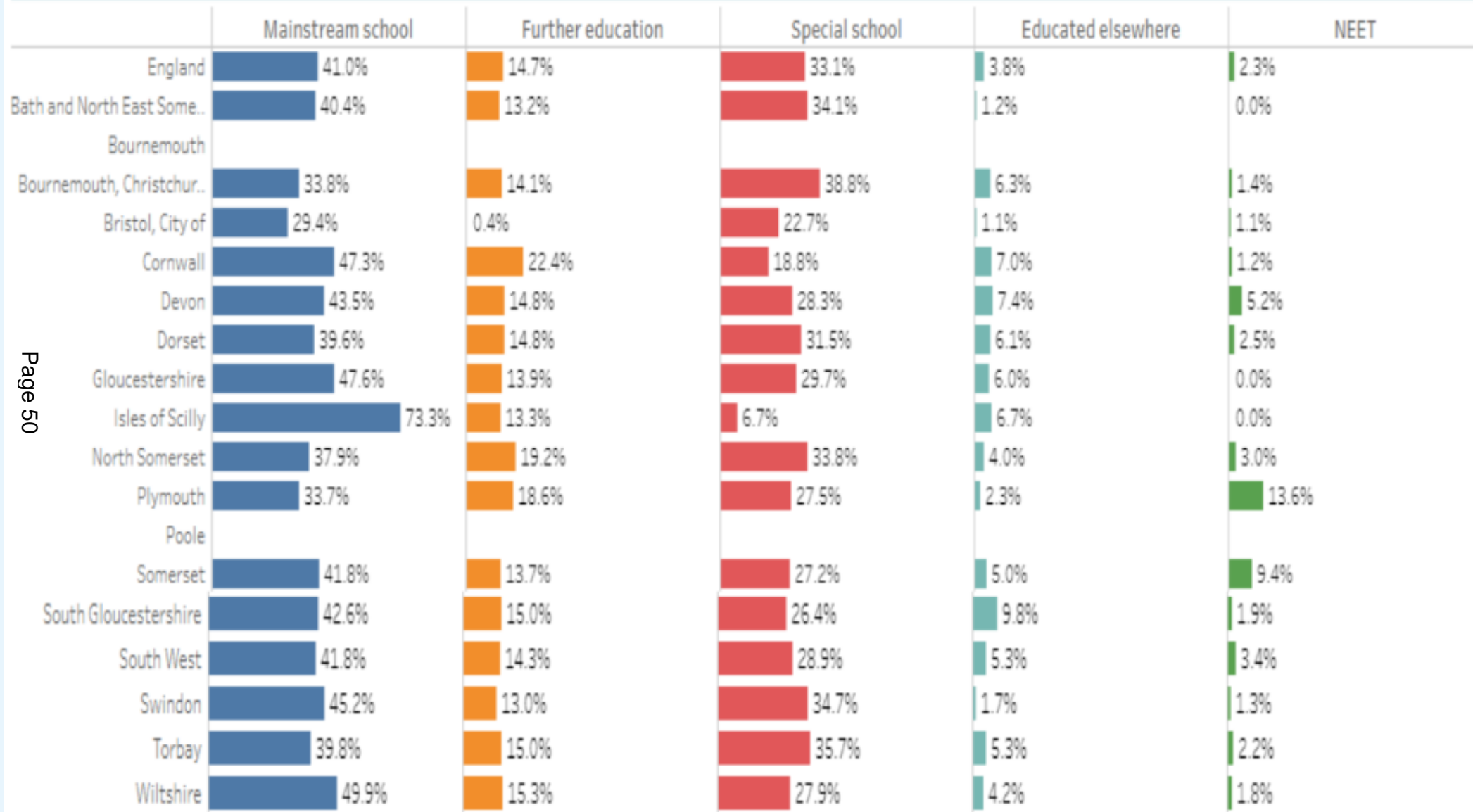




# % increase in specialist placements 2019-2023 – by regions



# % Placements of young people with EHCP (main categories) - Jan 2023



- Mainstream school
- Further education
- Special school
- Educated elsewhere
- NEET

2023 ▼

- Establishment Group
- (All)
  - Alternative provis...
  - Educated elsewhere
  - Further education
  - Mainstream school
  - NEET
  - Non-maintained e...
  - Other
  - Special school
  - Mainstream school
  - NEET
  - Non-maintained e...
  - Other
  - Special school
  - Total

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING:	<b>Children, Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing Panel</b>	
MEETING	<b><u>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March</u></b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<b>Sufficiency Statement 2024</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
Sufficiency Statement		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

1.1 The report set out what Banes purchased for our Children Looked After and the needs in the coming years.

1.2 B&NES requirements remain similar to previous years, however, increasing numbers and complexity add further stress to the system:

- Foster placements in Central Bath and within a reasonable travelling distance of B&NES schools.
- Foster placements for children aged 14 – 17 years with complex and challenging needs including mental health and self-harm.
- Residential step-across to foster placements.
- Residential children’s homes closer in B&NES.
- Appropriate placements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).
- Parent and baby foster placements.
- 16+ accommodation and support placements in B&NES, registered with Ofsted.
- A higher requirement for placements for children and young people who identify as transgender or non-binary.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Panel is asked to:

2.1 Receive the report for information.

## **3 THE REPORT**

3.1 There has been increased pressure on the marketplace for children's placements, due to:

- Increased overall numbers of children in care regionally and nationally which adds pressure.
- Decrease in the number of fostering households, who have an aging demographic.
- 'Staying Put' legislation, allowing young people to stay in their foster placements.
- UASC children, who are 16/17-year-old males.
- A national shortage of children's home staff and carers. (One large provider has mothballed over one hundred beds and another has closed twenty-seven homes).

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 Under Section 22G of The Children Act:

The Sufficiency Duty: Requires Local Authorities to have 'sufficient' accommodation in terms of the number of beds provided, to secure a range of accommodation through several providers and have accommodation that meets the needs of its Children Looked After.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

5.1 This report sets out, what was purchased for Children Looked After and the forthcoming needs.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 This is a report for information, so no EIA has been conducted.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

Wherever possible we try to place children within twenty miles of their home address, reducing the need for social workers and independent reviewing officers need to travel.

## 9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer have cleared this report.

<b>Contact person</b>	Ian Tomlinson – 01225 477878
<b>Background papers</b>	
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

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## **Sufficiency Statement**

### **Looked After Children Placements 2023**

#### **Placements, Contracts and Commissioning Team**

Parents want nothing but the best for their children. Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) vision is that all children and young people will enjoy childhood and be well prepared for adult life. As corporate parents, B&NES strives to provide children and young people with the necessary care and support they need to thrive. B&NES aims to provide the right placement, at the right time, and in the right place for every looked after child, with the aspiration that all children and young people enjoy their childhood and are well prepared for adult life.

Under the Children Act 1989, Section 22G, the Sufficiency Duty mandates local authorities to ensure they have enough accommodation for children looked after, meet the needs of those children, and provide a range of accommodation through several providers. To fulfil this duty, local authorities must take steps to secure sufficient accommodation to improve outcomes for looked after children.

B&NES produced its Sufficiency Statement by analysing current demands on services for looked after children, B&NES trends, performance, and projected demand, involving key stakeholders, identifying areas of concern and pressure, and recommending associated actions for improvement.

B&NES recognise the importance of meeting the Sufficiency Duty to provide the necessary care and support for looked after children. By continuing to collaborate with providers and stakeholders, B&NES will strive to provide the best placements for children and young people, ensuring they have a bright future ahead of them.

## Executive Summary

B&NES requirements remain similar to previous years, however, increasing numbers and complexity add further stress to the system:

- Foster placements in central Bath and within a reasonable travelling distance of B&NES schools.
- Foster placements for children aged 14 – 17 years with complex and challenging needs including mental health and self-harm.
- Residential step-across to foster placements.
- Residential children's homes closer in B&NES.
- Appropriate placements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).
- Solo/specialist foster and residential placements for our most complex children.
- Parent and baby foster placements.
- 16+ accommodation and support placements in B&NES, registered with Ofsted.
- A higher requirement for placements for children and young people who identify as transgender or non-binary.

There has been increased pressure on the marketplace for children's placements, due to:

- Increased overall numbers of children in care regionally and nationally which adds pressure.
- Decrease in the number of fostering households, who have an aging demographic.
- 'Staying Put' legislation, allowing young people to stay in their foster placements.
- UASC children, who are 16/17-year-old males.
- A national shortage of children's home staff and carers. (One large provider has mothballed over one hundred beds and another has closed twenty-seven homes).
- Increased pressure on preventative or support services.



## **1. Introduction**

The landscape of children's placements in England is changing rapidly. According to recent studies, there is a lack of sufficiency of the right placements in the right places at the right time, this is across fostering, residential children's homes and residential parent and baby assessment unit. The only sector currently providing a sufficiency is: 16+ accommodation and support. Most Children Looked After in England live in foster care, but the UK is currently experiencing a crisis in relation to foster care provision, with demand for carers exceeding the number available. In the past 10 years, there has been a significant shift in the number of children in care and the number of placements open to them.

Placement officers and social workers face greater pressure to accept placements quickly due to the competitive marketplace. This pressure is caused by several factors, including a decrease in the number of fostering households, staying put legislation, a national dispersal scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and a reduction in care staff within children's homes.

## **2. Commissioning Placements**

### **2.1 Commissioning principles**

- Support and maintain diversity of services to better meet the needs of children looked after.
- We secure the best possible care and accommodation for every child and young person, with consistent application of processes and standards across internal and external provision.
- We are clear (to providers) what excellent outcomes look like for each child and young person and explore incentives for achieving these.
- We provide young people with choice (where possible) about where they live.
- Commissioning priorities are based on the analysis of individual needs.
- We implement robust commissioning, contract and quality assurance processes and ensure that the same levels of monitoring and quality standards are applied.
- We work in partnership with other authorities and the market to maximise shared resources and economies of scale.
- Secure the right provision, at the right price, in the right place, whilst getting best value and protecting the public purse.

### **3. National and Independent Review of children's Social Care**

#### **3.1.1 The Need for Change**

The need for change in the children's social care system has become increasingly apparent as the number of children in care continues to rise. According to the latest figures, as of 31st March 2023, there were over 82,000 children looked after in England, which represents an increase of 10,000 children in the last five years.

#### **3.1.2 The Independent Review of Children's Social Care**

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care is a chance to take a fresh look at the system and make recommendations for real change. The review is looking at issues from the perspective of children and families throughout their interactions with children's social care, from initial contact to leaving care. To build the best possible recommendations, a wide range of views are being sought from stakeholders, experts, and those with lived experience.

The Case for Change, which is the review's early thinking about what needs to change in the children's social care system, has already been produced. It sets out the problems early, giving the opportunity for feedback and suggestions on any missed or misunderstood issues. B&NES was one of ten local authorities that contributed to the local design phase of the review.

#### **3.1.3 The CMA Review**

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care instructed the Competitions and Marketing Authority (CMA) to investigate the Children's Social Care Market. The CMA did not make a market investigation reference but did undertake a review. However, this should not be interpreted as the CMA finding no concerns in the sector.

Full report can be found here

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

### **4. The National Picture**

The number of looked after children in England has been steadily increasing over the past few years. As of 31st March 2023, there were 80,850 looked after children nationally, compared to 72,670 in 2017. This increase highlights the urgent need for change in the children's social care system.

#### **4.1. Rise in teenagers**

25% of children that came into care in 2022 were aged 16+ (7,900), a rise of 38% on the previous year. This significant rise is attributed to the increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that entered the UK last year.

#### **4.2 Fostering**

**4.2.1** 70% of all children in care in England live with one of 43,905 registered foster families, a slight decline on a year earlier (71%). The proportion of children in foster care looked after by independent fostering agencies has increased by five percentage points since 2018 – from 40% of all filled fostering places to 45% in 2022. There is a shortage of foster carers both nationally and locally. The Fostering Network estimates that over 9,000 more foster carers are needed in the UK.

**4.2.2** The Social Market Foundation (SMF) predicts that by 2030, almost 77,000 children could be in foster care in England, up 33% compared to current numbers. To meet this demand, the number of approved foster care families would have to increase by 2.9% annually.

#### **4.2.3 As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

- Number of LA fostering households down by 5%
- The number of applications received from prospective fostering households in 2022 to 2023 was around 8,000. This is the lowest number in several years and is 18% lower than 2018 to 2019.
- There were around 72,800 approved mainstream fostering places.
- Since 2019, the number of vacant mainstream places has decreased by 25%. The most substantial decrease in vacant fostering places over this period has been in the LA sector, where the number has fallen by 29%.
- 12,000 vacancies
- 15,000 places not available.

**4.2.4** Child protection experts have called for an urgent nationwide hunt for thousands of new foster carers after a net loss of 1,000 families in the past year and a record number of children being placed far from home. (The Guardian, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December)

#### **4.3 Residential Children's Homes**

**4.3.1** The residential children's home sector in England remains diverse, with several smaller providers. However, there is an increasing consolidation of large organisations. Nationally, almost 6,000 looked after children were living in children's homes in England. While some local authorities continue to operate their own homes, the majority (70%) of places in homes are now in the private

sector. This is a significant part of local authority expenditure on children's services.

**4.3.2** Nationally, the total spend on residential children's homes has risen from £997.2m in 2012-13, with £616m of that being spent on private-sector provision, to £1,324 million in 2019-20, with £866m being spent on total private and £35m on voluntary provision.

**4.3.3** There are no residential children's homes in Banes. Previously there was one, but it has been closed as part of an organisation restructure by the Outcomes First Group.

**4.3.4** A Bristol based provider of 16+ accommodation and support, are planning to open an Ofsted registered children's home in Keynsham.

#### **4.4 Soaring Costs**

4.1 The number of children's care placements costing £10,000 or more per week has soared by more than 1,000%, a new survey has revealed.

The Local Government Association (LGA) found that the figure has increased from 120 in 2018-19, to 1,510 in 2022-23. (Martin Ford | 29 November 2023)

### **5. Closer to Home**

**5.1** In B&NES, there are just over 36,000 children and young people aged 0-19, which is 23% of the total population of 176,000. Males account for a slightly higher proportion of the younger population than females.

#### **5.2 Number of Children Looked After as of 31st March.**

<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
163	171	192	180	180	197	231

#### **5.3 Number of Children Placed with Independent Foster Agencies (IFA's) (Annual total)**

<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>	<b>21/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>
90	91	93	77	73	81	105

#### 5.4 Number of Children Placed in Residential Children's Homes

(Annual total)

16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
4	11	13	24	27	23	31

#### 5.5 Number of Children Placed in 16+ Accommodation and Support (Annual total)

16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
8	15	11	13	15	17	14

#### 5.6 Number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (Annual total)

16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
N/A	N/A	8	8	4	12	43

### 6. Commissioning Arrangements

#### 6.1 South West Consortia Arrangements.

BANES are part of SW consortia of LA's who work together to commission preferred provider list in the form of Dynamic Purchasing Systems (DPS's). These are procurement vehicles for pre-qualifying providers. BANES have been part of these arrangements since 2005.

Inclusion in regional consortia arrangements for the commissioning of DPS's/Frameworks give us:

- Compliance with Public Contract regulations and procurement legislation.
- Ensures we are paying the same fees for placements as our larger LA neighbours.
- Fixed fees for the duration of the DPS, enabling better budget planning and avoiding annual fee increase negotiations which are time consuming and can lead to a break down in relationships.
- Avoids Banes having to complete the exercise. (Except where we lead and charge other LA's)
- Reduces costs on running tender, due to economies of scale.

## **6.2 Independent Fostering Agencies: 2022 – 26 (option to extend to 28)**

Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) led by Banes.  
South Glos, N Somerset, Gloucestershire.

## **6.3 Residential Children’s Homes: 2021 – 25 (option to extend to 27)**

DPS led by South Gloucestershire.  
B&NES, N Somerset, Gloucestershire, Bedford.

## **6.4 16+ Accommodation and Support: 2018- 2022 (2-year extension taken up 3,5,2024)**

DPS led by South Gloucestershire  
B&NES, Wiltshire, N Somerset, Gloucestershire.  
Due to go out to tender to be led by South Gloucestershire and to include several SW LA’s.

## **6.5 Parent and Baby Residential units: (2020–24)**

DPS led by Bristol.  
B&NES, South Gloucestershire  
Due to go out to tender led by Bristol. We await communication on this.

## **7. Market Sufficiency**

7.1 There is a lack of sufficiency in the marketplace due primarily to:

- Increasing number of Children Looked After (locally, regionally and nationally).
- Decreasing number of fostering households. (Leading to placing more children in RCH’s.
- Demographic of foster carers is an aging population.
- New foster carers in the system are leading to more placement breakdowns, creating churn.
- Staying Put legislation – allowing young people to remain in their foster placement up to the age of twenty-four, means there are fewer foster placements.
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.
- RCH’s providers closing homes or mothballing homes for assorted reasons. Recruiting staff being the primary reason.

## 8. Joint Agency Panel.

**8.1** The care of children with complex needs is financed through a tri-partite pooled budget, which is funded by Children's Social Care, Education, and Health. This funding model exemplifies excellent partnership and is overseen by the Joint Agency Panel (JAP). To qualify for JAP support, a child must meet at least two of the following three criteria:

- Have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan with needs that cannot be met by existing local provision, which may result in the child moving away from their community into residential care. An Educational Psychologist must be involved.
- Have an elevated risk of family or placement breakdown and/or assessed social care needs that indicate the need for residential care or demonstrate that the child's needs cannot be met solely by local services.
- Have significant assessed ongoing health needs, including severe emotional and behavioural issues that pose significant risks to school and/or family placement.

In recent years, the budget for this service has faced significant pressure. As shown in the table below, spending has increased year on year, with a notable spike in the 2019/20, when the number of children in the budget nearly doubled from the previous year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Spend</b>
2015/16	£2.8 million
2016/17	£3.7 million
2017/18	£3.6 million
2018/19	£3.1 million
2019/20	£6.1 million
2020/21	£10.5 million
2021/22	£11.3 million
2022/23	£9.04 million

During the same period, the number of children in JAP and the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has also increased steadily.

## 9. The Southwest Sufficiency Project (SWSP)

## **9.1 Background**

**9.1.1** The sufficiency of placements for Local Authorities (LAs) has become a growing concern with the number of children entering care increasing nationally and regionally, budgets for LAs going down, and costs rising due to the nature and complexity of the children being placed. This has been funded by the South West Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) who have been working with the Department for Education (DFE) to address market sufficiency.

**9.1.2** In the Southwest, LAs have been working together for 20 years to implement framework agreements and more recently, Dynamic Purchasing Systems for independent fostering providers (IFP) and independent residential children's homes.

**9.1.3** While DPS is expected to continue to play a vital role in contributing to the sufficiency duty of the LA in the future, the changing nature of the placements market across in-house and the independent sector means that every LA needs to think differently by being smarter in the way it commissions independent placements and delivers its own in-services.

### **9.1.4 The Southwest Sufficiency Project aims to:**

- Create a complete system approach.
- Create new models for commissioning placements.
- Establish new ways of working, encouraging transparency and joint-up thinking across the Southwest.

**9.1.5** The project board is responsible for overseeing the project, ensuring that the project stays on track, supports decision-making, and appropriately explores risks and issues. The project consists of three working groups, each consisting of a Project Lead, Project Manager, Project Officer, representatives from each LA, and external providers, agencies, and charities.

**9.1.6** Moving forward a submission has been made to form a pathfinder as a Regional Care Cooperative. (RCC) which are designed to overcome the challenge of individual councils being too small – and having too few children – to be able to meaningfully shape the services providers offer and ensure that they meet need and are value for money.

## **10. Parent and child placements**

**10.1** Parent and child placements are typically court-ordered and take place in residential parent and baby units, which offer varying levels of support,



supervision, and surveillance. On average, there are around ten placements per year.

## **11. 16 + Accommodation and Support:**

**11.1** Post 16 placements provide support and accommodation but no care element, which involves "doing for" rather than supporting, such as cooking and administering medication. This differs significantly from residential children's homes. Support can range from a few hours a week to 24/7, and fees can vary accordingly.

**11.2** This marketplace growing significantly, resulting in a wide range of provision and quality of providers and support services. This market is undergoing oversight by Ofsted and providers are to be inspected in 2024. Previously to ensure all providers meet a minimum level, we have accredited a preferred provider list through a Dynamic Purchasing System, led by South Glos

**11.3** We have seen an increase in purchasing this type of provision, partly due to the shortage of other provision. Often, these children are not suitable matches for younger children in homes. These placements give us the option of commissioning a solo placement initially when this is considered the most suitable option.

**11.4** 16+ placements are a flexible alternative to traditional children's homes and enable young people to remain in their local areas as they approach adulthood.

**11.5** A recent audit of these placements identified the following strengths:

- A DPS Contract for Leaving Care/Independent Living Service is in place with preferred providers, outlining the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of all parties.
- The DPS Contract clearly defines the criteria for placement registration under the Care Standards Act 2000. Providers must ensure the support packages they deliver meet requirements in Annex A, preventing illegal unregulated care provision.
- B&NES chair quarterly South West Group meetings, where concerns about providers are shared and discussed.
- A report was presented to the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on March 10, 2020, outlining the current approach and oversight of children in care placed in unregulated provision, along with details of the agreed minimum practice standards to be operated.

- In November 2019, Ofsted reviewed arrangements for young people over 16 years and Care Leavers, stating: "the oversight of commissioned accommodation, including unregulated provision, is rigorous and results in additional support to keep young people safe."
- 16+ accommodation and support providers have been tendered through a dynamic purchasing system (DPS), in partnership with five other local authorities.
- Preferred providers have been subject to a rigorous tendering exercise with detailed checks conducted in terms of quality, policies, safeguarding, and financial status.

## **12. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)**

**12.1** Banes have 31 UASC via The National Transfer Scheme. (As of October 20, 2023)

Afghan x13  
 Sudanese x 3  
 Egyptian x2  
 Iranian x6  
 Iraqi x3  
 Syrian x3  
 Kuwait-Bidoon x1

**12.2** Spontaneous arrivals - 4

Afghan x3  
 Sudanese x1

**12.3** Placing UASC within the boundaries of the local authority has been a challenge for B&NES, but this is not unique to UASC, as the same issue applies to the Looked After Children (LAC) population.

## **13. B&NES Fostering Team**

**13.1** The Family Placement Team (FPT) is the Local Authority's own 'in house' service responsible for the recruitment, training and support of foster carers.

**13.2** As of 20/02/2023 there were fifty-eight approved fostering households. There were 246 looked after children, of these seventy were in the Family Placement Team (including Family Link placements), making them the largest

provider of foster placements and delivering a greater number of placements than the independent agencies combined. There were seven vacancies available to use on that day.

**13.3** There have been two significant changes to the B&NES Family Placement Team in 2022-23:

- 1) FPT has introduced a new family finding and matching system, overseen by a Senior Practitioner. This means that an FPT worker is allocated to a child, provides support in the development of the placement request, and coordinates family finding searches.

The family finding and matching system has led to better quality, more child-centred work in searching for placements for children.

- 2) The Supported Lodgings scheme has transferred from the Housing Options Team to FPT. This has provided thirteen new placements for 16–25-year-olds. At the time of transfer, there were eight vacancies. FPT has made seven new matches since transfer. There are currently two vacancies within the Supported Lodgings scheme.

**13.4** FPT has a senior practitioner who leads on recruitment with the support of another social worker and a Marketing Officer. This involves advertising and marketing including on social media; responding to initial enquiries and the online questionnaire; and undertaking initial visits. They also liaise with “Home for Good”, who raise awareness in churches of the need for more fostering families to step forward. The senior practitioner for recruitment is currently seeking to build links with other organisations, particularly those who represent LGBTQ and Black and Minority Ethnic prospective foster carers.

**13.5** FPT is responsible for recruitment of respite, short-term and long-term foster carers, as well as those who provide short breaks for Disabled Children, Family Link carers.

**13.6** FPT is responsible for training, support and supervision of foster carers. It provides an out of hours service, and therapeutic parenting support via a Clinical Psychologist and Family Support Practitioners.

**13.7** Other work undertaken by FPT includes:

- 1) Viability and full kinship assessments for connected people who wish to provide care to a child. The demand for these assessments has steadily increased year on year, which mitigates some of the demand on the care system.

- 2) Support for kinship carers. There has been an increase year on year for requests for assessments and support plans.
- 3) Registering early permanence placements. Here, we support approved adopters as foster carers until a plan of adoption is approved. A lot of work that is undertaken within the team that is not strictly recruitment, assessment and support of foster carers, which makes comparison with IFAs difficult. This work includes:
  - 4) Private fostering assessments and monitoring.

## **14. Care Experienced Young Adults**

**14.1** We offer support to approximately 110 Care Experienced young adults aged 18-25, all of whom will have an allocated Personal Advisor to support them. We also offer an extended duty to approximately 90 care leavers aged 21-25 who have previously stepped down from having their Personal Advisor however, they are able to get back in touch whenever they may need advice, guidance and support as we recognise that there may be other points in their life that they may require additional support, this could be for short- or longer-term support. Each Care Experienced young person open to the team has a tailored Pathway Plan to identify their needs, goals and ambitions to ensure they are provided with the right support for them to achieve the best they can. The areas of focus for support are around identity, accommodation, education, employment and training, finance, health (including emotional health), developing skills for independence and relationships with important people.

**14.2** The needs of Care Experienced young adults vary hugely. We have Care Experienced young people at university, in full time employment and other forms of education and training and we have others that really struggle to maintain a level of stability and safety and who are impacted significantly by trauma and poor emotional and mental health. We have a small number of Care Experienced young people in custody, we support them in the same way whilst in prison, we ensure robust release plans are coordinated to give them the best chance to stay out of the criminal justice system when released. We also have several Care Experienced young adults who are at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation and require an elevated level of safeguarding intervention and we collaborate closely with adult safeguarding teams. We are supporting an increasing number of young people who have come to the country separated from their parents and are seeking asylum. We support them through this challenging time of uncertainty and focus on triple pathway planning to help them understand what may or may not happen at certain times based on the decisions the Home Office may make. The aim for all our Care Experienced young adults is to provide them with the care, love, safety and stability they require to function as best as they

can in society. We therefore work closely with adult care services, health, housing, prisons and the police to ensure all the young person's needs are met.

## **15. Pathways Service**

**15.1** Pathways provides fifteen units of accommodation to vulnerable 16-19-year-olds with high support needs and are staffed 24 hours a day. Staffing is:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8am – 6pm
- Tuesday and Thursday: 8am – 9pm
- Saturday and Sunday: 9am – 5pm
- 4 hours support on Bank Holidays only.

**15.2** Outside these times service users have access to a concierge service which operates overnight, starting when day staff leave at 6pm and finishing after 5am, 7 days a week. Concierge staff are on hand to respond to any urgent enquiries and address any project rule breaches. They are trained on safeguarding but do not conduct any support work. They keep a log of occurrences every evening and weekend and follow up with staff when they arrive on site in the morning. Any breaches of project rules are escalated to management and followed up with the team on the same day.

## **16. Young Parents' Service**

Curo Young Parents' Service provides six self-contained flats in Bath for young parents aged 16-21 with low support needs.

## **17. Banes Children's Transformation Programme**

**17.1** As part of the B&NES Children's Transformation Programme we have created projects with an aim to reduce the number of out of area placements and create local offers.

Projects include:

- Foster Care Campaign – a 12-month project focused on increasing the awareness and applications to become foster carers within B&NES. This was delivered by a commissioned marketing company and has enabled 108 assessments and during the campaign period a total of seventeen successful applications (this continues to grow). Alongside creating a local offer, this project is expected to generate savings of £144,972 for 2022-23.
- Increasing the availability of Family Group Conferences – investment was made to enable recruitment to expand the FGC offerings, the process is supported by an independent coordinator who helps the family prepare for

the family group conference. Children are usually involved in their own family group conference, often with support from an advocate. It is a voluntary process. In year reporting is showing an increase of over 100% in terms of the amounts of conferences. This provides a whole family approach of support.

- There is ongoing work to support reunification within the service and we are seeing an increase of successful reunifications which is anticipated to generate in year savings of £334,000. Whilst the savings are important to note, it is essential to acknowledge the work between practitioners and families to enable reunification.

Monitoring and governance of these and other projects are tracked through the Transformation Programme. Monthly meetings. Working to standardise data and reporting across the service, delivering saving targets and created a model of delivery to support continuous improvements.

## **18. Workforce Development**

18.1 The Workforce Development plays an essential role in improving services and developing social workers' skills to provide better care for children and families. Their contributions include:

- Co-facilitating training sessions with the Principal Social Worker to improve social workers' skills in completing placement requests.
- Conducting continuous induction sessions for new social workers, which includes information on the cost of placements, and incentivises exploring all other options before placing a child out of the family.
- Attending team meetings to discuss placements and the fiscal cost to B&NES, ensuring social workers are aware of the cost schedule of the contract, and what is included in the weekly price.
- Ensuring social workers do not agree to payments for items or services already included in the fee. • Time-limiting support packages with review and requiring agencies to provide evidence that the support is still necessary.
- Sitting on children's Care and Resource panel to oversee all children coming into care on Section 20.
- Working with the Head of Service to provide oversight of all 16+ placements.
- Advising the JAP Panel on the most complex and costly placements.
- Working closely with the Head of Service and social work teams to manage the needs of children placed with agencies or residential homes with RI/Inadequate OFSTED ratings after placement.

## **19. Quality Assurance and Contract Monitoring**

To maintain the highest level of quality, the Placement Commissioning and Contract Team (PCCT) conducts the following:

- Contractual compliance visits to providers.
- End-of-placement reviews.
- Annual contract meetings.
- Annual Safeguarding audit.
- Collection of OFSTED reports for current providers.
- Additional quality assurance of children's placement requests.
- Joint commissioning on behalf of the Joint Agency Panel (children's pooled budget).
- Promoting sufficiency by working with and advising providers.

## **20. Key Priorities 2023/2024**

- The PCCT will continue to provide a core service in supporting social care teams; searching for placements, appraising offers made, negotiating costs with agencies, drawing up and then monitoring contracts. Each stage is considered thoroughly, alongside the placing social worker, leading to successful, stable placements and good outcomes for children and young people.
- Tendering for 16+ accommodations and Support DPS.
- Continue to chair the Southwest Children's Services 'Placements, Contracts and Commissioning Group' to increase our range of placements from external providers and opportunities to develop the provider markets.
- Ongoing work on the DPS Framework for 16 – 24 age accommodation and
- Monitor any regulatory changes to the 16+ accommodation and support marketplace and respond accordingly.

**For further information, contact  
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01225 47917**

**[Childcare\\_Purchasing@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Childcare_Purchasing@bathnes.gov.uk)**

Placement, Commissioning and Contracts Team:

Alexandra Hughes, Commissioning Manager: Childrens Placements

Vacant Post, Placements and Purchasing Officer  
(Contract monitoring)

Claire Gregory, Placements and Purchasing Officer  
(Financial information and invoicing)

Edwina Bull, Administrative Assistant.



## CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

This Forward Plan lists all the items coming to the Panel over the next few months.

Inevitably, some of the published information may change; Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The online Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The Forward Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It assists the Panel in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

*Should you wish to make representations, please contact the report author or, Democratic Services (). A formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.*

*Agenda papers can be inspected on the Council's website.*

<b>Ref Date</b>	<b>Decision Maker/s</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Report Author Contact</b>	<b>Director Lead</b>
<b>11TH MARCH 2024</b>				
11 Mar 2024	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Sufficiency Statement - Children Looked After, Placements</b>	Ian Tomlinson Tel: 01225 477878	Director of Children and Education
11 Mar 2024	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Education Performance Update</b>	Christopher Wilford Tel: 01225 477109	Director of Children and Education
11 Mar 2024	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCPs) Overview</b>	Christopher Wilford Tel: 01225 477109	Director of Children and Education
<b>15TH APRIL 2024</b>				
15 Apr 2024	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Covid-19 - Care Homes Study</b>	Paul Scott Tel: 01225 394060	Director of Public Health and Prevention

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
<b>FORTHCOMING ITEMS</b>				
	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>		Director of Children and Education
Page 75	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Covid 19 - Impact of Long Covid across our communities</b>		Director of Public Health and Prevention, Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Children & Young People
	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Community Services Transformation - Community Health Services offer from April 2025</b>	Natalia Lachkou, Laura Ambler	Director of Adult Social Care
	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>SEN Home to School Transport Policy</b>	Gemma Vittozzi	Director of Children and Education

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
The Forward Plan is administered by <b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES:</b> Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk				