



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

13 July 2023

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Friday, 21 July 2023 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Debbie Barnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
(11 Members of the Council and 3 Added Members)

Councillors R J Kendrick (Chairman), W H Gray (Vice-Chairman), A J Baxter, A W Briggs, Mrs J E Killey, C Matthews, Mrs S A J Nutman, N Sear, T J N Smith, M A Whittington and R A Wright

Added Members

Church Representative: M Kyle

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs M R Machin and Dr E van der Zee

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
FRIDAY, 21 JULY 2023**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence / Replacement Members	
2	Declaration of Members' Interests	
3	Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 June 2023	5 - 10
4	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration and Chief Officers	
5	Ofsted Inspection of Lincolnshire Children's Services - Outcome Report <i>(To receive a report from Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children's Services, which enables the Committee to review the judgement outcome and findings from the recent Ofsted 'Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS) Short Inspection of Children's Services in Lincolnshire, undertaken by Ofsted in April 2023)</i>	11 - 28
6	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Corporate Performance Framework 2022 - 23 - Quarter 4 <i>(To receive a report from Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Children's Services which provides a summary of the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022-23 for Quarter 4)</i>	29 - 44
7	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme <i>(To receive a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Committee to consider and comment on the contents of its work programme to ensure that its scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit)</i>	45 - 52

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Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Friday, 21st July, 2023, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
16 JUNE 2023**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R J KENDRICK (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors W H Gray (Vice-Chairman), A W Briggs, Mrs J E Killey, Mrs S A J Nutman, T J N Smith and M A Whittington

Added Members

Church Representative: M Kyle

Councillors Mrs P A Bradwell OBE and S P Roe were also in attendance.

attended the meeting as invited guests.

Officers in attendance:-

Linda Dennett (Assistant Director - Children's Health and Commissioning), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Tara Jones (Assistant Director - Children's Safeguarding), Jo Kavanagh (Assistant Director - Early Help), Teri Marshall (Senior Project Manager - Corporate Property), Eileen McMorrow (Programme Manager, Special Schools Strategy), Heather Sandy (Executive Director of Children's Services), Martin Smith (Assistant Director for Children's Education) Ethan Thorpe (Communications - Strategic Communications Lead) and Jess Wosser-Yates (Democratic Services Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Baxter, C Matthews, N Sear and R Wright.

2 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

Councillor A Briggs declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Item 9 as his partner worked at St Francis Special School, Lincoln.

3 MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2023

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 April be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, COMMUNITY SAFETY, PROCUREMENT AND MIGRATION AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Chairman had attended the opening of Strut House at its new site at St Francis Special School in Lincoln on 1st June. The facility provided short breaks for children and young people (CYP) with severe disabilities and had recently received an 'outstanding' classification from OFSTED.

The Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration announced that the Children's team were working to ensure several special schools were open before September following various refurbishment projects. Additionally, the OFSTED inspection had concluded and Children's Services received an 'outstanding' classification, and she thanked the team who worked consistently to support Lincolnshire's CYP. The OFSTED report had noted that CYP in the county had access to good local services despite Lincolnshire's size and rurality, and that the wide range of staff involved with CYP provided necessary support quickly. She also thanked the Executive for consistently providing financial support to Children's Services and hoped that staff continued their success in offering outstanding care to families.

The Committee thanked all involved in the inspection.

The Executive Director – Children's Services also gave her thanks to the Children's team and the consistent partnership working that occurred between the council, schools, police and health services. She also announced that a report on the outcomes of the inspection would be brought to the Committee's next meeting.

5 TEAM AROUND THE CHILD IN LINCOLNSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Committee received a report from Hannah Pendleton, Head of Service – Boston and South Holland Locality, which provided an overview of the Team Around the Child (TAC) successes and the work of the TAC Consultant Team. The following was reported:

- Service providers and family members developed a plan of support to provide for CYP in cases where their needs were not completely being met.
- The Consultant Team mostly worked alongside education providers and aimed to empower agencies to initiate contact with CYP and their families and take appropriate action.
- Families found the TAC process supportive, and it was reported that 62% of TACs concluded as requirements had been met.
- The Head of Service gave her assurance that there was a strong early help offer in Lincolnshire; resultantly, very few TACs escalated to the point of social care intervention.

- The increasing number of TACs was considered positive as it suggested that more CYP and families were benefitting from support available in Lincolnshire.
- The TAC Champion Initiative celebrated good practice and the work of Lead Professionals.
- Frequent surveys were conducted to identify potential areas for improvement.

During consideration of the report, the following points were highlighted:

- It was questioned how many children there were that previously had received support from social care who now had a TAC, and the Head of Service agreed to circulate further detail on this.
- Members enquired about whether the increase in TAC referrals continued following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Head of Service noted that TACs had steadily increased over the past decade. This was attributed to the heightened confidence of agencies in raising concerns about CYP.
- The Head of Service agreed to circulate information regarding families being supported in hard-to-reach communities and TACs for CYP of parents in the armed forces, however the Assistant Director - Early Help informed the Committee that information regarding armed forces families were not collated, although they were identified and supported through strong working relationships with schools.
- Reasons attributed to why a child required a TAC included a wide range of factors, such as family breakdowns, parents with poor mental health/substance addiction, poor school attendance and relationship difficulties.
- The TAC Consultant Team ensured the voices of CYP were consistently captured; early help assessments were co-produced by professionals, families and the child, who would provide guidance on how they would like to be supported. Additionally, staff within the TAC network suggested the voice of the child drove the process of the team.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee has reviewed the Team Around the Child in Lincolnshire Annual Report for 2022.
2. That the Committee has been assured that effective TAC arrangements are in place to support children and young people.

6 YOUNG CARERS ANNUAL UPDATE 2022

The Committee received a report by Hannah Pendleton, Head of Service – Boston and South Holland Locality, which provided a summary on the work undertaken to identify and support Young Carers (YCs) in Lincolnshire. She guided the Committee through the report, and the following points were highlighted:

- The ‘young carers matter’ was a participation group led by CYP that helped capture the voice of YCs and ensured they were celebrated in ways they had chosen.
- Adult Services helped to identify potential YCs as early as possible, and various campaigns had been initiated across Lincolnshire to help raise awareness of YCs and their responsibilities.
- Resources had been developed to identify CYP in more hidden caring arrangements, such as those supporting family members with substance misuse.
- Schools received information and were supported in identifying YCs; Boston High School had hosted a successful pilot scheme alongside the Boston and South Holland Early Help Team and had co-produced a YCs group called ‘The Smile Club’.

During consideration of the report, the following points were highlighted:

- Members commended the hard work of YCs across the county.
- The Head of Service provided further detail on the work undertaken at Boston High School; it involved raising awareness amongst staff members to help them identify YCs and had consequently decided to establish ‘The Smile Club’.
- Across Lincolnshire, Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) ensured there was a Young Carers Lead in most schools.
- Members enquired as to whether LCC could support more projects for YCs in schools across Lincolnshire. The Head of Service assured that upskilling schools to recognise and celebrate such caring arrangements was a priority, and question templates were also available for schools to support staff in initiating the right conversations with potential YCs.
- The Head of Service emphasised that every family, child and caring arrangement was unique, therefore the way in which YCs wished to receive support would be unique to them.
- YCs of a very young age were supported by helping them access and use emergency contacts and services.
- Members considered whether the work of YCs resulted in a cost saving for the council, and the Executive Director – Children’s Services informed the Committee that the support provided by YCs did not replace the care that LCC was statutorily required to provide, consequently there were no cost savings.
- Questions were raised about how children in hard-to-reach caring arrangements, such as supporting adults with addiction or complex mental illness, could be supported in self-referring as a YC as it was acknowledged they would be anxious to engage with services. The Head of Service accepted that this was difficult, but these CYP were informed that their work was recognised and were sometimes offered help without involvement from social services. Furthermore, the Executive Director – Children’s Services highlighted that school assemblies attempted to help CYP understand whether they were offering care, and assured that services that wrapped around vulnerable adults, such as doctors, health workers and police, further helped identify YCs.
- Additional information on the volume of YCs in single parent households would be circulated to Committee members.

- Questions were raised about the quantity of YC organisations operating in Lincolnshire and were informed that there was a group in all localities that offered a range of activities for YCs; activities for younger children focused on play, whereas older children were given respite and relief. These groups helped YCs engage with others that understood their situation.
- During the covid-19 pandemic, YC organisations had to run group meetings remotely which did not provide respite, although it was reported that YC did enjoy introducing their homes and families to their peers.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee has reviewed the Young Carers Annual Update 2022.
2. That the Committee has been assured on the measures being undertaken to identify and support young carers in Lincolnshire.

7 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members received a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which enabled the Committee to consider and comment on the contents of its work programme to ensure that scrutiny activity was focused where it could be of greatest benefit. The following points were highlighted:

- The William Stukeley Primary School decision report was deferred from 21 July to the 8 September Committee meeting due to a delay in receiving details regarding the cost. The decision was now due to be taken by the Leader of the Council between 18 and 22 September.
- The Maples Short Breaks decision report scheduled for 8 September was a decision now due to be taken by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 18 and 22 September rather than an Executive decision on 3 October.
- A report on the Re-commissioning of the Portage Service had been added to the 8 September agenda for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a decision by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 18 and 22 September.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's Work Programme be reviewed and agreed upon.

8 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds

6

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2023

that if they were present there could be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

Councillor A W Briggs left the meeting at this point of proceedings.

9 REFURBISHMENT AND RE-MODELLING OF ST FRANCIS SCHOOL, LINCOLN

Consideration was given to the exempt report, and the Committee raised a number of questions which were answered by the Officers present.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee supports the recommendations to the Leader of the Council as set out in the report.
2. That the Committee's comments be passed on to the Leader of the Council in relation to this item.

The meeting closed at 11.23 am



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	21 July 2023
Subject:	Ofsted Inspection of Lincolnshire Children's Services - Outcome Report

Summary:

This report provides the Committee with the judgment outcome and findings from the recent Ofsted 'Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS) Short Inspection of Children's Services in Lincolnshire, undertaken by Ofsted in April 2023.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to review the findings and the judgements from the inspection report and agree the next steps in respect of the areas for improvement contained within the inspection report.

1. Background

The 'Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS) Framework is based on a 'Whole-System Approach'. Under this system, Ofsted use the intelligence and information they have collated from the Annual Self Evaluation of social work practice, the Annual Conversation, Focused Visits, and Standard and Short Inspections, where judgements are made using a four-point scale to inform decisions about how best to inspect each authority.

Local authorities judged to be good or outstanding at their most recent inspection will usually receive a Short Inspection. The Short Inspection will usually take place about three years after the previous inspection. A Standard Inspection of Children's Services in Lincolnshire was undertaken in April 2019.

On Monday 17 April 2023, Lincolnshire was given notice by Ofsted of the intention to undertake a Short Inspection of Children's Services. As planned, the fieldwork element of the inspection commenced on 24 to 28 April 2023 and eight inspectors consisting of five Social Care Inspectors, and three Social Care Regulatory/Education Inspectors were on site for this week undertaking a wide range of activity to validate and evidence their judgements.

In addition to the onsite visit, the Inspection includes the submission of Additional Requested Evidence, Child Level Data Lists, information about Audits, and specific information about Children's Cases. The field work during the week consists of speaking with social workers' direct practice with families, discussions with strategic leads and young people, parents, and carers, which demonstrates a robust and intensive examination of all aspects of both strategic governance and operational practice.

The initial feedback on the inspection was provided to the Executive Director of Children's Services on 28 April 2023, grading the Overall Effectiveness in Lincolnshire as 'Outstanding'. The final inspection report was published on the Ofsted website along with a press release on 15 June 2023 and is provided as an appendix to this report.

The overall judgement by Ofsted was reached by grading against four Individual Judgement Areas. Lincolnshire was judged as follows:

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families - **'Outstanding'**
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection - **'Outstanding'**
- The experiences and progress of children in care - **'Outstanding'**
- The experiences and progress of care leavers (**a new judgement area**) – **'Good'**

2. Conclusion

The judgement report concluded that Lincolnshire continues to provide outstanding services for vulnerable children and their families.

- Children and families continue to have access to local services that help to keep them safe and support them to make good progress.
- Outstanding social work practice ensures that risks to children are well managed within their families and communities.
- Council staff, schools and other adults involved in the children's lives worked to ensure that help was provided quickly when needed, before issues had a chance to escalate.
- Leaders have successfully focused on areas of development since the last full inspection (April 2019).

The report highlighted that Leaders recognise there is more work still to do with the care leaver offer to bring them to the same consistently high standard as children in other service areas receive. The report sets out two areas for improvement which are as follows:

- The quality and consistency of planning and case records for care leavers.
- The offer to care-experienced young people aged 21 and over.

Next steps and Actions:

- Immediate actions are underway in order to improve the quality of case work, with training planned and audit activity in place.
- A Service Review is being undertaken in preparation for the current contract coming to an end in 2024 to ensure the correct level of service is in place.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

No Risks and Impact Analysis identified.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Ofsted Inspection of Lincolnshire Local Authority Children's Services Report - June 2023

5. Background Papers

No background papers as defined by Section 100D in the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Janet Armstrong, who can be contacted on janet.armstrong@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Inspection of Lincolnshire local authority children's services

Inspection dates: 24 to 28 April 2023

Lead inspector: Margaret Burke, His Majesty's Inspector

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children in care	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Outstanding

Lincolnshire continues to provide outstanding services for vulnerable children and their families. Children and families have benefited from leaders prioritising and investing in services, strengthening the range and offer of support. Leaders have enhanced services in areas identified for improvement at the last inspection in 2019 and further developed support to children who need help and protection. Children and families have access to effective locally based early support services. Outstanding social work practice ensures that risks to children are well managed within their families and communities. Children also benefit from strong partnership working, allowing them to access additional support from universal services.

Children in care are well cared for and make excellent progress. Most care-experienced young people receive good support to help them to be successful as they move on to independence. This support is provided by committed relationship-focused workers. There is more to do to improve the service offer to care leavers, particularly older care leavers, to ensure that they can access the outstanding level of support that children in other service areas receive.

What needs to improve?

- The quality and consistency of planning and case records for care leavers.
- The offer to care-experienced young people aged 21 and over.

The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection: outstanding

1. Children and families in need of help and support have access to appropriate and timely responses from a comprehensive range of support services. The early help system, together with consultants and practitioners, provides helpful advice and support to professionals, alongside direct support to children and families. Strong multi-agency partnership enables children and families' needs to be recognised early and effective support provided to them by people in their communities, including their schools, who most often know them best and are already positively involved in their lives.
2. Children benefit from comprehensive early help assessments completed by a range of multi-agency professionals. These assessments consider the important things for the child and include their family's history and wider needs. Early help practitioners work hard to build good relationships with children, whose voices are heard and recorded in their plans and interventions.
3. When children's needs increase, effective arrangements enable step up to social care for social work intervention. Early help practitioners remain involved, providing continuity of relationships for children and their families for as long as necessary.
4. Requests for services or for professional advice sent through the integrated 'front door' are processed effectively and responded to quickly, the vast majority within 24 hours. Referrers are routinely informed of the outcome of their contact. If the outcome is to take no further action, outcome letters explain the reasons why and provide advice and guidance about alternative support services for families.
5. Parental consent is considered by practitioners and most partners seek consent before requesting help and support for children. However, when a request for help and support is below the threshold for a social care assessment, and parental consent has not been obtained, this is not consistently followed up or sought by officers when screening the contact. A small number of contacts are therefore received and subsequently closed without ensuring that parents and children are directed to appropriate sources of support or being aware that information about them has been sent to the integrated front door.
6. When children are at risk of significant harm or require a social work assessment and support, they are promptly transferred to the family

assessment and support team (FAST). Parental consent is appropriately obtained or managed for these children within the FAST service.

7. Children in need of help outside office hours receive a prompt response. This is supported by good information-sharing between the emergency duty team and day services. Partnership working is effective, with joint visits and strategy meetings taking place where this is necessary. Out-of-hours work is supplemented by early help and Futures4me workers, who also provide responsive out-of-hours support to children and families.
8. The vast majority of decisions to transfer children to FAST for an assessment are appropriate and timely. Once children are allocated to a social worker, they are visited in a timely way by social workers and other support practitioners who quickly build sensitive and trusting relationships. This is reflected in case records and through the direct work tools routinely completed with children, firmly maintaining their voice at the centre of the work with them and their family.
9. Strategy meetings are held promptly, the majority attended by professionals who are able to share information about risks to the child and inform decision-making. Strategy meeting minutes are appropriately detailed, but actions lack timescales to help provide clarity about when actions need to be taken. Despite this, visits to children take place quickly. Child protection investigations are timely and thorough, and include the views of parents and children where appropriate. Analysis of risks and needs is detailed and results in sound recommendations regarding the next steps. Positively, referrals for services are not delayed because of the investigation, ensuring that families receive timely support.
10. Social workers understand the pre-birth protocol and complete timely assessments to identify current and future risks to unborn babies. The quality of pre-birth and child and family assessments is consistently strong. History is fully explored. Family networks and partner agencies' views are included, as are children's views, to inform the analysis of risk and planning moving forward. Family network meetings are considered and convened early on in the assessment process to explore family and friends' assistance to support safety and planning.
11. When children are subject to a child in need or child protection plan, review meetings are held regularly and are well attended by partners who know the child. There is a shared understanding by professionals and families of the authority's strength-based model of practice. Scaling is used well at each meeting to help professionals and families to monitor the progress of plans, to understand whether interventions are making a difference for children or whether escalation is appropriate. The quality of written child protection plans is mostly good, with clear and relevant actions to help improve children's lives. Child in need plans are more variable in quality. Not all have clear timescales

for actions to be carried out so that all members of the team around the family know exactly who is doing what and by when.

12. The vast majority of children enter pre-proceedings when it is appropriate to do so. Public Law Outline processes are strong and effective in supporting high numbers of families to exit this process safely and successfully. Where progress is not made, there is timely access into proceedings. However, across the service, for a small number of children experiencing neglect the response was less timely. The vast majority of these children are now receiving the right intervention, and current social workers have a grip on what needs to change.
13. The majority of children who live in private fostering arrangements experience a quick and appropriate response to assess their circumstances and ensure that their needs are met.
14. Interventions by the children with disabilities team to support disabled children are highly effective. Social workers demonstrate excellent practice, having significant knowledge and understanding of children's needs. Assessments are comprehensive, and they also suitably consider the needs of parents and brothers and sisters. Transition planning appropriately starts when children reach the age of 16, with allocation to adult services at 17.
15. The vast majority of children who are reported as missing from home receive a timely and effective service. Return home interviews are completed with the child by the professional considered best placed to do this. For some children not known to social care, this is done by the child's school and offers the child the opportunity to share their experiences with someone they know and trust.
16. There is a strong coordinated partnership approach to children who are at risk of child criminal exploitation, which is effective in identifying and responding to children's changing needs and risks. When children aged 16 or 17 present to the local authority as homeless, they are appropriately assessed to ensure that they secure suitable support and accommodation. Children are made aware of their rights and entitlements. These areas have seen significant improvement for vulnerable children since the last judgement inspection.
17. When concerns are raised about professionals who work with children, these are taken seriously. The vast majority of responses are swift, evidence-based and considered at the right threshold.
18. The local authority has streamlined the system for reporting children who are missing from education. They follow up any concerns raised quickly and check on the child's whereabouts to make sure that they are safe. Strategies to address the increase in the number of children who are not in receipt of full-time education are having a positive impact. Frequent reviews of the education provision for children on part-time programmes help these children return to full-time education. Some children, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking

children, engage with home tuition for a short period while an alternative placement is identified.

19. There is clear guidance in place for when children become electively home educated. Checks are completed with parents to ensure that their 'intention to educate' is being realised and that children are appropriately safeguarded. If the education provided by parents to their children is not suitable, the local authority helps parents secure an appropriate educational provision.

The experiences and progress of children in care: outstanding

20. Children in care receive an outstanding service that results in their life experiences significantly improving. The local authority is committed to supporting children to remain with their families if it is safe to do so. A range of edge of care services, including Futures4Me, support children and families to make positive changes in their lives, resulting in some children being able to remain with their parents happily and safely.
21. When children come into care, this is because it is in their best interests to do so. Most admissions to care are planned. The family court and Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) report positively on the preparation and quality of evidence produced at the start of care proceedings.
22. Leaders, managers and staff understand the importance of children achieving permanence without delay. Permanence is considered early. For some children, this is before they enter care. Once in care, leaders closely track children's plans for permanence. Permanence plans progress at a suitable pace, in line with children's needs. Delays are either purposeful or unavoidable. Social workers consider all permanence options for children and, through concurrent planning, identify the best option for them.
23. When children come into care, social workers are committed to supporting children to live with family or friends. Family network meetings help identify family and friend options early. As a result of this, and after thorough assessments of family or friend carers, a high number of children achieve permanence through connected carer placements and/or special guardianship orders (SGOs). This outstanding work has enabled many children to successfully remain within their family and friends network.
24. If children are unable to remain within their family network, and SGO or adoption is not a viable option, social workers make strenuous efforts to secure permanent foster placements for children, within Lincolnshire when possible. The matching of children with the right carers is very carefully thought out. Regular matching events for foster carers have enabled some children to be successfully matched with permanent foster carers. Beautifully presented profiles, in which children's strengths and needs shine through, are shared with foster carers at these events. Prospective carers are provided with information

about the skills they will need and the support that will be provided to help the child to thrive.

25. Many children achieve stability and security via long-term fostering. Children's views inform local authority decisions about permanence in this form. Ratifying such permanent placements via a panel helps give children the certainty they need and deserve. One child, who celebrated the panel decision with his carer and social worker, told his social worker that this had been the best day of his life.
26. Social workers support children with adoption plans extremely well. As a result of well-matched placements and careful transitioning, children successfully settle with their new adoptive family. One adopter spoken to said that she had an amazing experience from start to finish. She felt well informed and prepared from the outset. She is absolutely thrilled that she and her son are now contributing to the training of new adopters.
27. Some women have testified about benefiting from intensive 'life-changing' support from the Time team, helping them to break the cycle of repeat removals of children from their care. This work has also positively supported birth mothers to engage with the adoption process and to meet adopters, and enabled adopters to represent them positively to their child.
28. Plans for children in care to return home to their birth parents are considered and actioned when assessments suggest this is safe and the best option for them. As a result of effective work by edge of care services, a number of children have successfully and safely returned home to their families.
29. When children are placed with their parents under placement with parent regulations, this plan and legal status are regularly reviewed to assess whether they remain appropriate. Social workers carry out updated parenting assessments to establish whether children's needs are being adequately met. If they are, and this has been maintained for a suitable period, then applications to discharge care orders are appropriately progressed. As a result, children are not remaining in care longer than is necessary, and they can continue their lives without unnecessary statutory intervention.
30. Social workers know their children very well and talk about them with pride, love and affection. Stable relationships with consistent social workers provide children with someone that they know and trust to share their worries and aspirations with. Social workers visit children at a frequency determined by children's needs.
31. Social workers spend time with children to ensure that their views and wishes help to inform their care plans. Social workers understand the risks to children when there are concerns for their emotional well-being and the impact that being in care has on their identity and self-esteem. Children's identity and culture are promoted and well considered in their care plans.

32. Inspectors saw some beautiful life-story work and words and pictures work undertaken with children who are adopted or living in long-term foster care. This high-quality work enhances children's sense of identity and understanding of their journey into care.
33. Before every review, social workers update the child's assessment using the 'valuing care' tool. This assessment, undertaken jointly with and written to children, enables an analysis of children's changing needs. Assessments are of a high quality and feed into meetings to review children's progress and planning for children's day-to-day and longer-term needs. Written plans are clear, with clarity about who is doing what and by when to help ensure that children's needs continue to be met to a high standard.
34. Meetings to review children's progress are timely and involve relevant people, including children if they wish to attend. Independent reviewing officers routinely visit children between and before reviews to ascertain their views. Sensitively written review minutes, written directly to children, celebrate progress and help children understand the outcome of their review and the help and support they will receive moving forward.
35. Family time is promoted and considered a priority for children. Children spend time with brothers and sisters and extended family members, to help maintain their family networks. Some family time is supervised, and workers have oversight of how well this is working. Social workers listen to children when they would like arrangements to be different.
36. Social workers and leaving care workers support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and care-experienced young people to do well. They live in homes and accommodation with support that meets their needs, in culturally diverse communities. They are fully supported legally to secure their status.
37. Children's physical and emotional health needs are well considered and addressed by social workers, carers and health professionals. Carers for children complete strengths and difficulties questionnaires to help identify children's emotional health and well-being needs, and this meaningfully feeds into children's valuing care tool assessments and care plans. Children in care have prompt access to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and this support does not immediately end when children become adults.
38. Children in care receive good educational support. The virtual school team is committed to achieving the best outcomes for children in care. The team collaborates very effectively with schools and professionals in other services to ensure that these children attend school regularly and are successful. The Care2Learn programme is helping schools understand and support children in care. Children in care benefit from a range of enrichment activities to broaden their experiences, including music lessons, sports clubs and residential trips

abroad. For the majority of children, their personal education plans (PEPs) help them track their progress and celebrate their achievements. In a small number of PEPs, the targets lack clarity and are unhelpful.

39. Most children live in high-quality foster placements within Lincolnshire, where they are happy and settled and participating in a range of enjoyable activities to help develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem. Foster carers receive excellent support, which promotes the stability and consistency of care for children.
40. Sufficiency challenges do exist, particularly for children with the most complex needs. In response, the authority has ambitious plans which are well under way to address this gap in suitable placements. In the interim, a very small number of children under 16 have been placed in unregistered placements over the last six months. The welfare of these children is closely monitored while they are living in these unregistered children's homes. In response to learning from these placements, leaders have further strengthened and formalised review arrangements pending moves to more suitable placements. The authority currently has no children living in unregistered children's homes.
41. Lincolnshire's children in care council, Voices4Choices, continues to influence service development through conversations with elected members, through their role as young inspectors, by being part of staff interview panels and through participation in 'Big Conversations'. Children's achievements are celebrated through the annual Fantastic Amazing Brilliant (FAB) events, in recognition of the excellent progress they make.

The experiences and progress of care leavers: good

42. Most care-experienced young people in Lincolnshire are well supported by their leaving care workers, who make positive efforts to build trusting relationships with them. For some young people, this has translated into daily contact at times when they have needed extra support. Contact with young people takes place through many different channels, including home visits or more social activities, for example going for a coffee or a meal out with their leaving care worker. One young person said to an inspector, 'Everyone I have encountered is loving and easy to talk to.'
43. For a small number of young people in custody, contact is not as responsive in meeting their needs. Workers say that access to young people in prison is difficult due to staffing issues in the prisons. Records of efforts to arrange visits and keep in touch with these young people did not match with the higher number of attempts described by workers. If those young people later review their records, they will not see the numbers of unsuccessful attempts made to keep in touch with them.
44. Young people are invited to a range of participation events, which provide them with opportunities to be involved in positive activities and share their

views, wishes and lived experiences. Popular activities include sports get-togethers for care-experienced unaccompanied asylum seekers. There are photos in the 'family album' of some events but leaving care workers acknowledge that the take-up of some group events is low.

45. Care-experienced young people are encouraged by their leaving care workers to maintain relationships with people who are important to them. Life Links services are on offer to help young people reconnect with people they have lost contact with, and a small number have also benefited from relationship guidance and strategies provided by the leaving care services' mental health worker.
46. Young people's routine health needs are revisited regularly through the pathway planning cycle. While not all care-experienced young people have been made aware of how to obtain their health histories, the vast majority are registered with GP services. Some young people have struggled to access dental care, either due to the lack of availability of NHS dentists or due to them not having the resources to pay for the treatment needed. Leaders say that this can be paid for by the local authority, but this offer is not widely known by frontline workers.
47. There is a full range of specialist advice and support services in Lincolnshire to assist young people with their emotional and mental health needs. The needs of most young people are supported effectively. Services include advice and support to care-experienced young people to help them to address challenges with substance misuse. CAMHS input continues beyond young people's 18th birthday. Counselling support is also available through children's centres, 'Steps2Change' and through a specialist worker in the Barnardo's team. Two young people spoke in glowing terms about the support they received from the specialist mental health worker. They described her work with them, done at their pace, as making an 'amazing' difference to their lives, which has enabled them to engage in employment, maintain accommodation and develop friendships.
48. The care leavers' offer is available on the council's website. While some of the offer still varies between districts, leaders are progressing incrementally in ensuring a consistent offer for all care-experienced young people across Lincolnshire. The offer explains to young people how to access their rights and entitlements at the time they need it. This includes support with accessing identity documents, for example their driving licence and National Insurance number, and setting up home grants and support with education, employment and training. Young people who spoke to inspectors provided examples of what they are personally receiving as part of the care leavers' core offer, although they did not use this term to describe it.
49. The pathway planning process has been reviewed and changed, in consultation with young people. Young people are invited to complete these documents together with their leaving care workers. Assessments and plans are written in

the young person's voice, and this helps capture their words and views. While young people do not necessarily value the document itself, they told inspectors that they appreciate the opportunity to meet with the leaving care worker to discuss what is going well and if they need support. Young people who choose not to be involved in completing the form are given a choice to comment on it once completed. Pathway plans are updated regularly but not always when young people's circumstances change. The quality of recording is variable. Some plans reflected positive feedback to young people on their progress, with workers recording that they are 'impressed and proud' of young people. Some records provide detail on the presentation of young people, what they have said, their worries and what is working well. However, not all plans contained aspirations for young people's futures. Many plans lacked specificity about how young people were going to achieve their goals, the support on offer or timescales.

50. Care leavers say they value the support they get to help them plan appropriate next steps for work or education. Young people in higher education say they are supported well by the virtual school to be successful following this educational route. Those who choose alternative paths are also supported by the service with what they need to achieve, for example payment for a Construction Skills Certification Scheme card to secure training for employment or help to buy equipment. There are opportunities across the authority for apprenticeships, which young people value. The proportion of care leavers in education, employment or training is steadily increasing. One care leaver reported positively, saying that the staff who support him 'are amazing and have changed my life'.
51. Some young people over the age of 21 are in receipt of support. However, many who reach the age of 21 and are not in education, employment or training are informed that they will be closed or 'stepped down', and contact with the service can be made by ringing the urgent care line. Inspectors were told that this decision took place in discussion with young people and was considered in the light of their presenting needs. However, this is not clearly reflected in their case records. It was not evident that all young people are given a choice about the level of involvement they would like to sustain or what is suitable. Too often, keeping in touch takes the form of just an annual letter. This is insufficient encouragement to young people to get back in touch with the service if they need further support.
52. Workers demonstrate a sound awareness of the risk of potential and actual exploitation for young people, and specialist advisers work with vulnerable young people. All young people have a risk assessment carried out and most include all vulnerabilities and known risks. Safety plans are realistic and written with the young person. However, it was not clear how widely these assessments are shared with other professionals in the young person's life. Leaving care workers say these are very helpful when they are covering duty, to inform their responses when helping a young person they do not know.

53. Transition planning from being a child in care to a care leaver is too variable. Some leaving care workers develop relationships with young people from the point of allocation. Other leaving care workers, even when allocated early, do not begin to build relationships with the young person until just before their 18th birthday, by attending their last review. This does not provide enough time for the development of secure relationships at a potentially challenging time for young people.
54. A wide range of placement options have been commissioned and most young people live in housing that meets their needs. All the young people spoken with were content with their accommodation. The supported placement offer, in conjunction with housing and private providers, is positive overall and most young people are making good progress in developing their independence skills. However, bed and breakfast accommodation is also used, offered as an emergency response to a small number of young people. Some young people stay put with foster carers or their special guardians and are well supported with this choice.

The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families: outstanding

55. Elected members and senior leaders across the council work successfully together to support the needs of children and their families. The lead member is a strong advocate for children's services and has provided continuity in the role since 2005. The chief executive officer also brings a wealth of experience to the service, having previously been director of children's services in Lincolnshire. There is confidence across the council in the leadership of children's services. The council's senior leadership team integrated approach ensures a shared clear vision across the local authority and a strong focus on delivering high-quality children's services.
56. Leaders demonstrate that they have an accurate assessment of the strengths and key challenges for children's services. Elected members have unlocked significant financial resources to ensure that Lincolnshire continues to provide outstanding services for children and their families. This is most evident in the ongoing commitment to the development of early help services. Lincolnshire has maintained a high number of its locally based children's centres (48), which are effective in providing accessible multi-agency services for children and their families. Lincolnshire has embraced new initiatives and adopted different service responses to support children in their families, including the Futures4Me services, which work alongside other professionals providing innovative ways of working with adolescents and their families. These services have contributed to the positive reduction in the number of adolescents entering and leaving care in Lincolnshire.
57. Leaders have successfully responded to the challenges many authorities have faced resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including finding suitable homes

for children in care. They have responded to these pressures by contributing to placement sufficiency financially and strategically, with cross-council support. The council has supported the development of three children's homes in Lincolnshire. They have further successfully invested in their fostering services and have a competitive offer to carers, both financially and in terms of carer support. A targeted recruitment strategy has led to an increase in permanent social workers. Additional funding has been made available to support the children's services workforce, increasing the numbers of apprentices, introducing market supplements and providing team assistants, who provide dedicated business support for social workers. This is helping the authority to stabilise its workforce and to manage workloads more consistently.

58. Lincolnshire continues to play an influential national role in sector-led improvements, providing extensive and effective support, advice and guidance to other local authorities, working alongside the Department for Education. Lincolnshire is also a participant in the development of the new Family Hub Programme.
59. Partnership working is one of Lincolnshire's strengths, which has stimulated creative and innovative practices to support the work with vulnerable children and their families. Strong partnerships at the strategic senior level are mirrored by strong and effective operational multi-agency working. Workers at every level demonstrate constructive working and problem-solving approaches which support children to thrive. Universal services are well supported by early help workers, who go the extra mile in supporting families. The support provided to schools is particularly impressive, enabling them to positively embrace the council's relationship working model and provide effective early support to children and their families.
60. Leaders are well supported by a strong corporate performance team, whose members have provided them with a comprehensive array of sophisticated performance reports and information to help them maintain their focus on continuous service development. Quality assurance processes are firmly embedded, running through the service and continuously developing. Numerous approaches are used to determine quality and improve and strengthen practice and learning, to enable leaders to better understand and improve services' responses to the community they serve.
61. The council is a dynamic host of the Regional Adoption Agency (Family Adoption Links). Although relatively new, this partnership is thriving. Key elements of innovative leadership, shared values and collaborative working have created a modern adoption service which is valued by existing adoptive families and appealing to potential adopters.
62. There is a wide-ranging strategic approach to participation, with a clear strategy in place and the use of different methods to gather feedback. These range from formal groups such as V4C (Voices for Children in Care), the focused work of young inspectors, and regular meetings between elected

members and young people (Big Conversations) to the use of online platforms and surveys. This approach ensures that children and young people's views are heard and understood by the authority at every level and that children and young people are actively involved in the development of services in Lincolnshire.

63. Leaders have successfully focused on the areas for development since the last inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) inspection in 2019. This has led to strengthening of practice with vulnerable adolescents at risk of exploitation and going missing and the response to homeless 16- and 17-year-olds. They recognise there is more work still to do with their care leaver services to bring them to the same consistently high standard as other service areas.
64. The local authority has an effective learning and development programme that addresses learning needs at all levels of the organisation. This, and the focus on growing their own workers and managers, provides opportunities for workers to be developed and make progress in their careers.
65. Leaders at all levels of children's services are viewed by staff as being both visible and approachable, despite the size of the local authority. Changes that are taking place are positively communicated to all staff. Workloads are carefully monitored by managers at all levels of the organisation. Flexible working allows staff to better balance work with other commitments. The local authority is both sensitive and supportive to workers experiencing their own personal difficulties. This has led to leaders creating an environment in which workers are well supported to develop positive working relationships with children and their families and achieve positive outcomes with them.

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Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children’s Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	21 July 2023
Subject:	Service Level Performance against the Corporate Performance Framework 2022-23 - Quarter 4

Summary:

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022-23 for Quarter 4. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 4 is included in this report.

Appendix A details the proposed key performance indicators to be reported to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24.

Full service level reporting to all scrutiny committees can be found here: [Corporate plan – Performance data - Lincolnshire County Council](#)




Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to:

- 1) review and comment on the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2022-23 Quarter 4.
- 2) review and agree the 2023-24 Performance Indicators for Children and Young People as shown in Appendix A.

1. Background

This report details the Service Level Performance measures for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that can be reported at Quarter 4.

- 3 measures exceeded their target 
- 3 measures achieved their target 
- 4 measures did not meet their target 

1.1 Children are Healthy and Safe

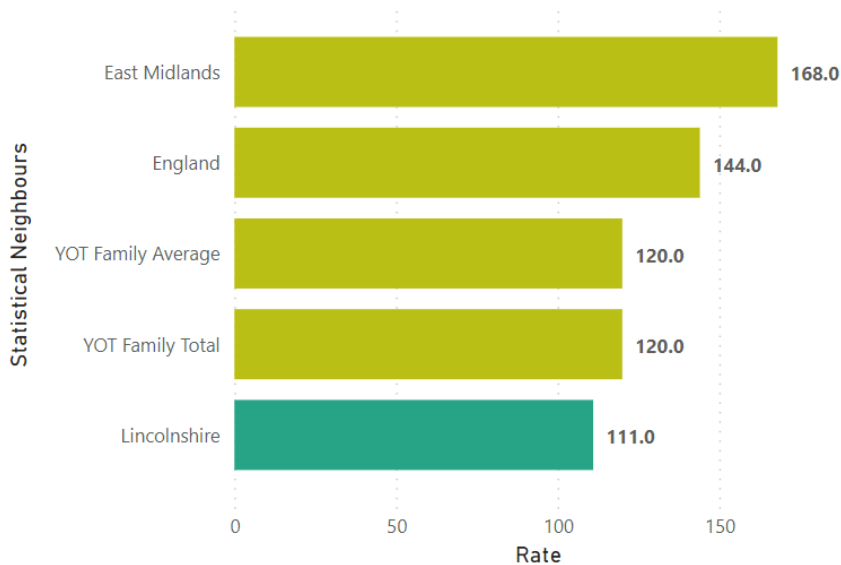
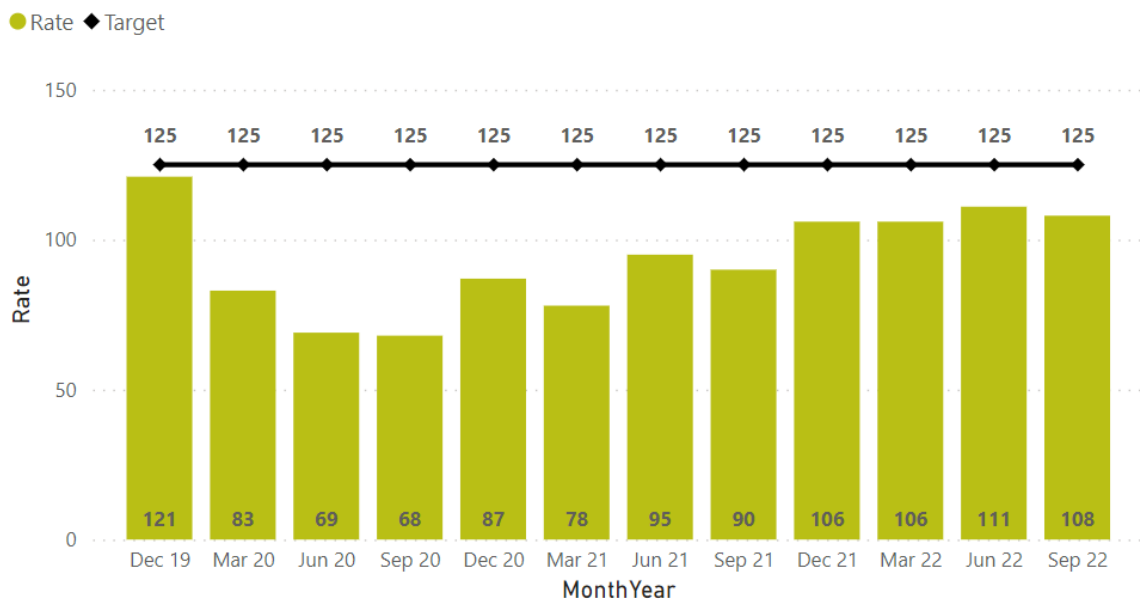
1.1.1 Measures that exceeded their target:

PI 15 Juvenile First Time Offenders ★

Actual: 108

Target: 125

Lincolnshire's rate of juvenile first-time entrants in Quarter 4 has reduced in comparison to last quarter, to a rate of 108. This comes at a time where all of our comparators have had a quarterly increase. This further highlights the positive work we complete with our children and young people and the continued success of the Joint Diversionary Panel.



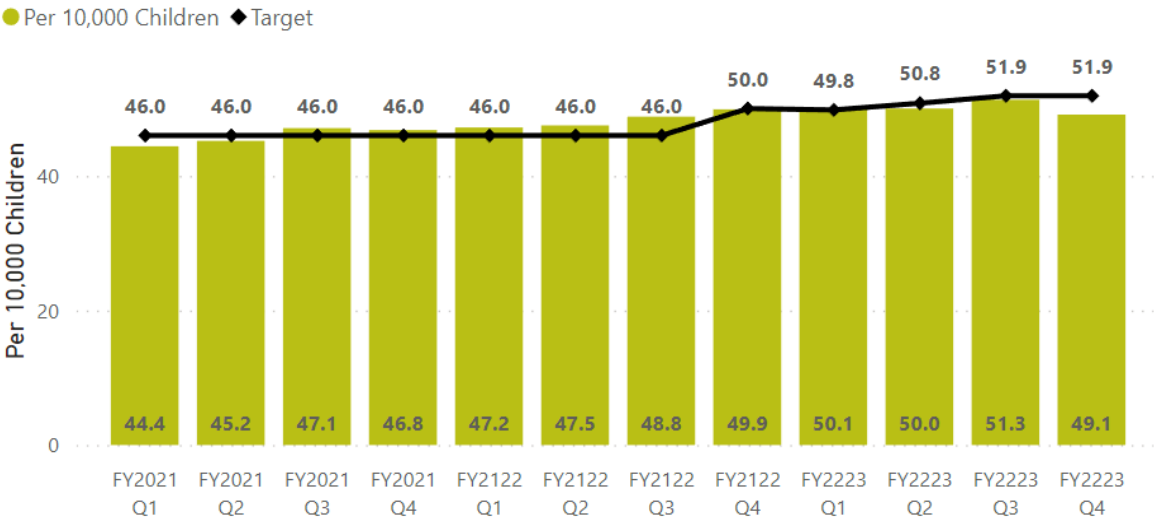
Benchmarking as of June 2022

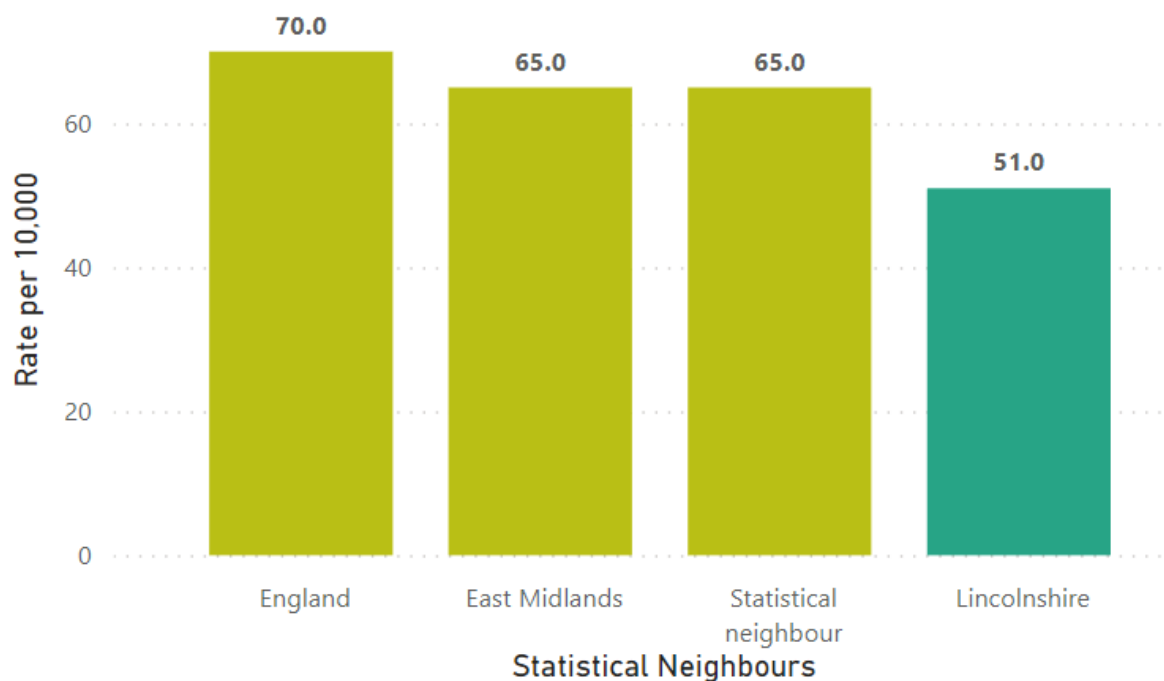
PI 23 Children in Care (per 10,000 children) ☆

Actual: 49.1

Target: 51.9

This measure has exceeded the target; however, this target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme, and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level compared to recent years. The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the Council’s safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 103 children, which equates to 0.07% of the general child population, and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward. Despite the recent growth and the potential for future increase, there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (70 per 10,000 and 65 per 10,000 respectively as of 31 March 2022).





Benchmarking as of March 2022

1.1.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 24 Children who are subject to a child protection plan ✓

Actual: 390

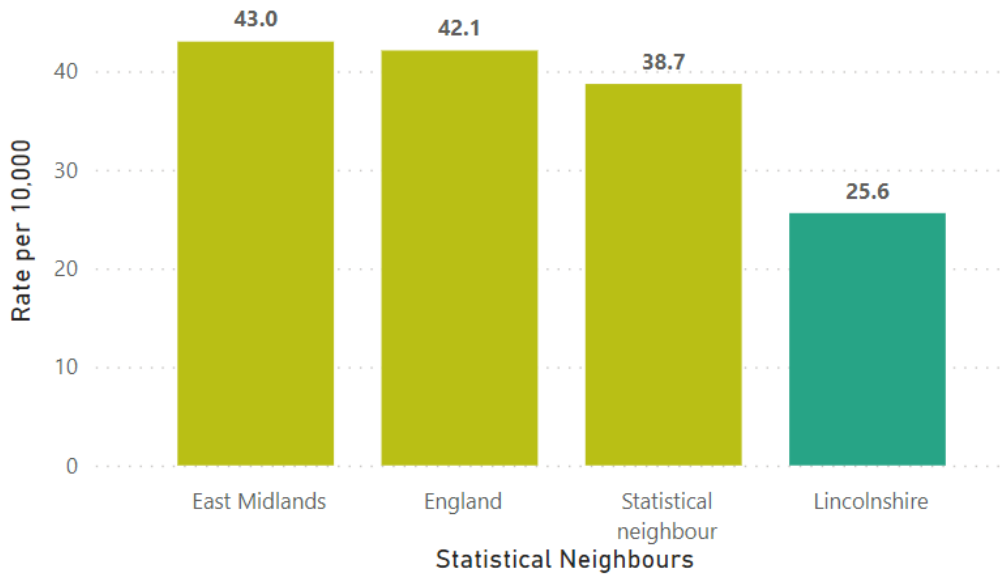
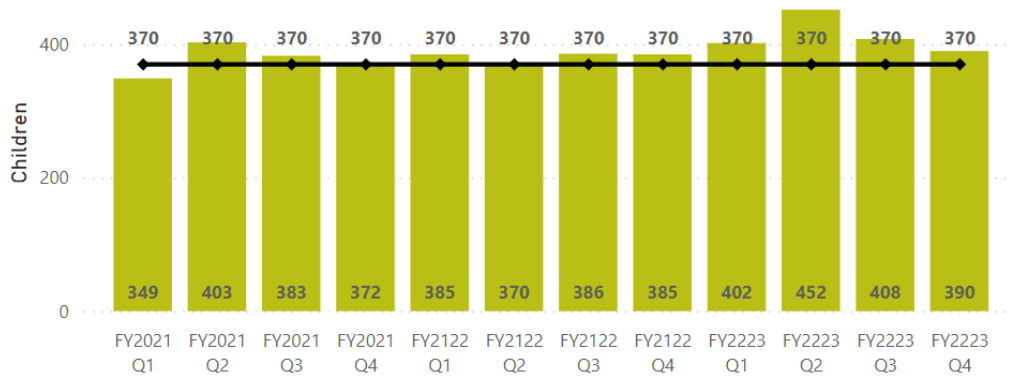
Target: 370

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of Quarter 4 is 390. This is an improvement on the Quarter 3 figure of 408. The positive trajectory in terms of this measure has continued with the current performance being within the tolerance range for this measure.

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan does fluctuate as the decision for a child to be made subject to, or remain on, a child protection plan is based on the risk factors present for the individual child. We continue to see some impact from the public health pandemic, and there are increased pressures and financial hardship upon families because of the cost-of-living crisis. This is particularly evident in families where there are a number of children.

Child protection plans create safety, and it is important that risk is recognised and managed through plans where appropriate. Early intervention with families and effective risk management continues to take place to ensure that only the right children are subject to a child protection plan.

● Children ◆ Target



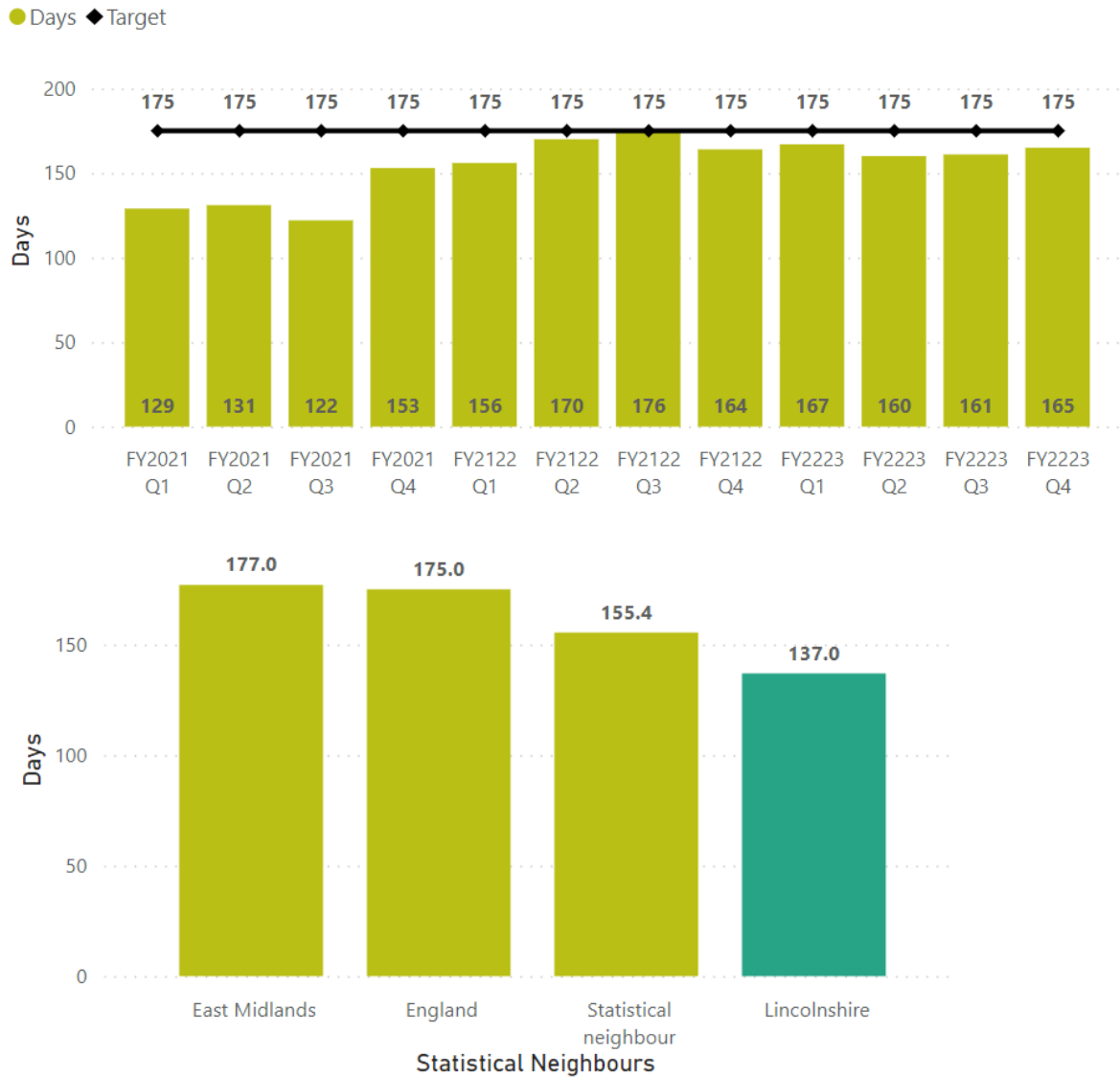
Benchmarking as of March 2022

PI 26 Average time taken to match a child to an adoptive family ✓

Actual: 165

Target: 175

Performance in Quarter 4 remains significantly better than the target range set at the start of the year. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is, wherever possible, a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.



Benchmarking as of March 2020

1.1.3 Measures that did not meet their target:

PI 25 Average time taken to move a child from care to an adoptive family ❌

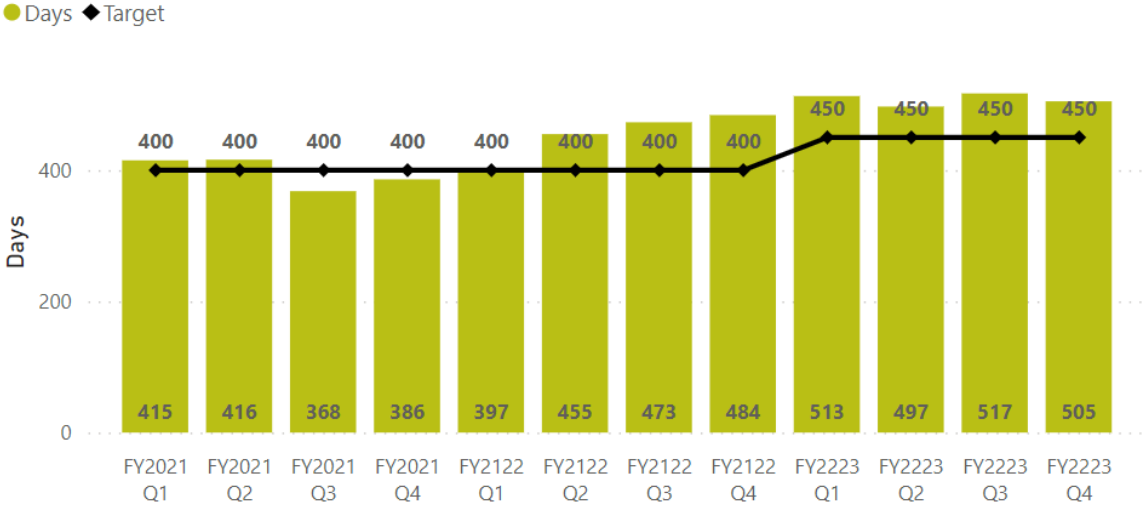
Actual: 505

Target: 450

There has been continued significant delay in the length of time care proceedings are taking. This will continue to have some impact on the statistics and data for this year and accounts for the increased timescales. This measure is a 'rolling' three yearly average. As we have moved forward, the calculation has considered more of the period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. It is important to note that the figure presented includes some rare anomalies which have also adversely affected the overall timescales, such as one case which lasted for over 2000 days due to an unusual

amount of disruption as well as an increase in the number of children deemed harder to place in general.

There are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality.

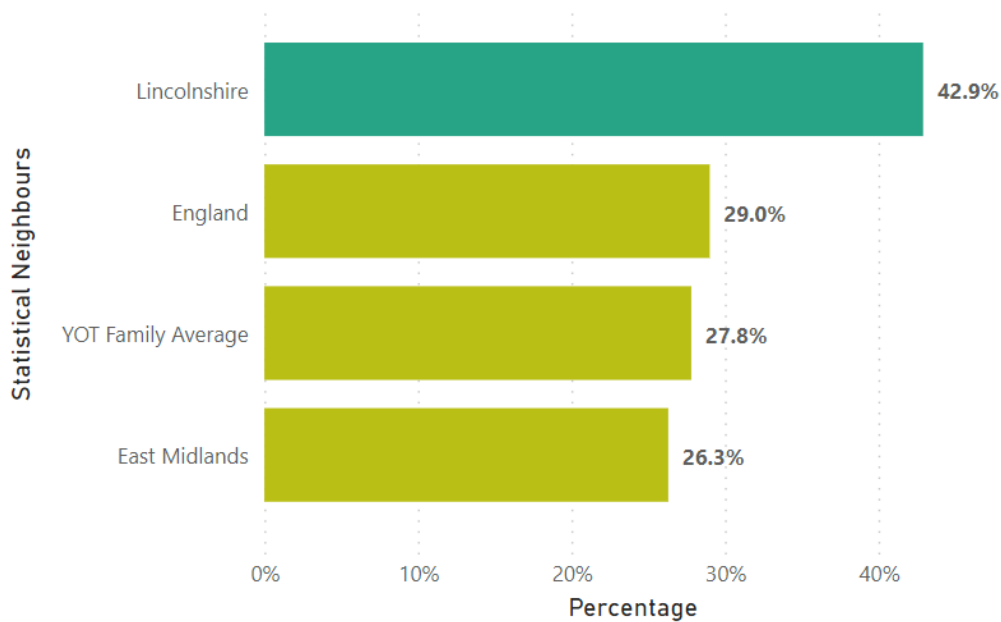
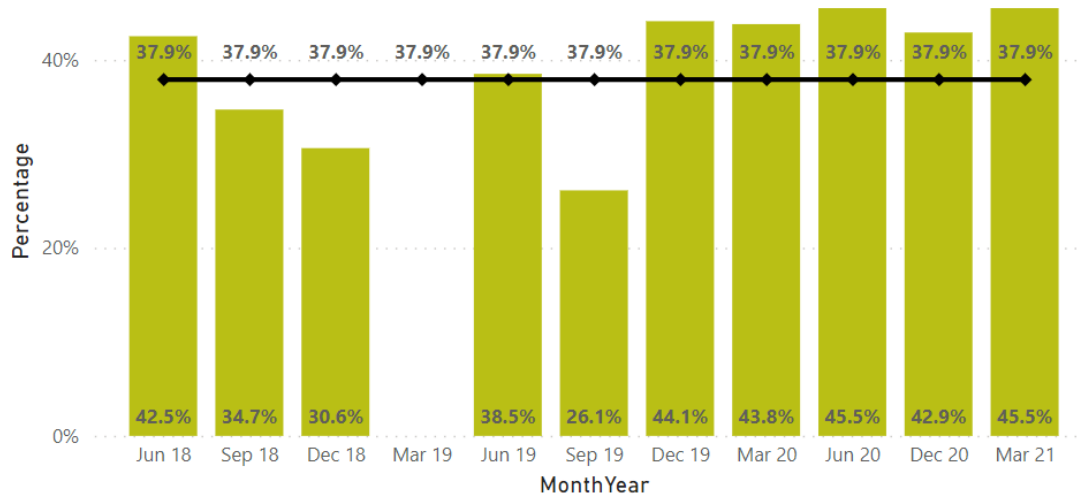


PI 125 Juvenile Re-offending ❌

Actual: 45.5
Target: 37.9

Lincolnshire's rate of juvenile reoffending this quarter has risen slightly to 45.5%. As always, we suffer a trade off between our rate of reoffending and our lower number of first time entrants. The latter results in a small cohort number which in turn causes a larger rate of reoffending. The rise this quarter actually only relates to one additional young person committing a further offence in the period. All comparators have seen rises in reoffending rates in the current quarter.

● Percentage ◆ Target



Benchmarking as of December 2020

1.2 Learn and Achieve

All academic achievement data reported relates to examinations/assessments in the summer of 2022. Results are delayed due to grading challenges and appeals, therefore final published data is released during the Quarter 4 reporting period.

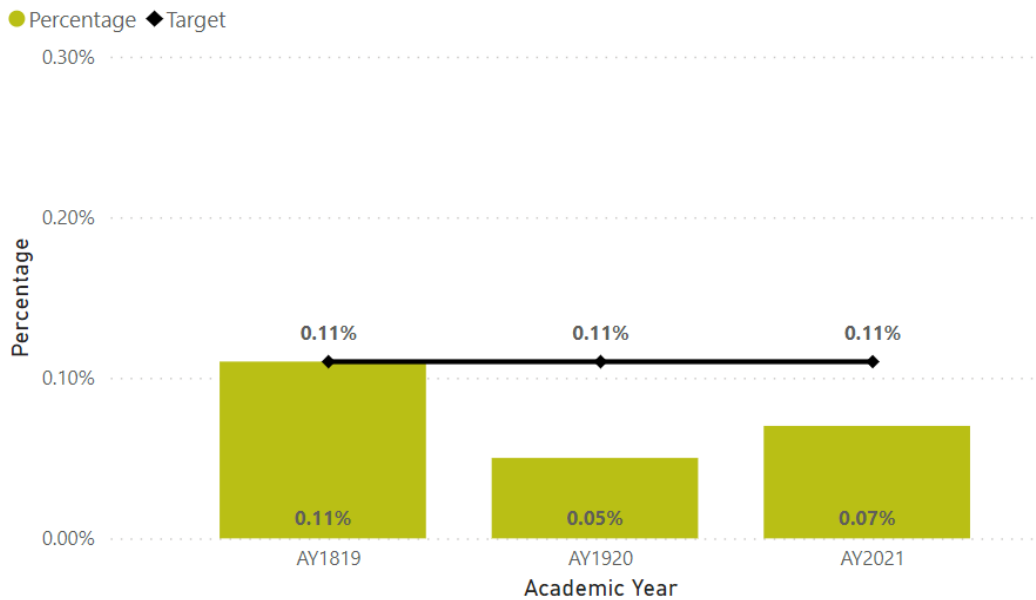
1.2.1 Measures that exceeded their target:

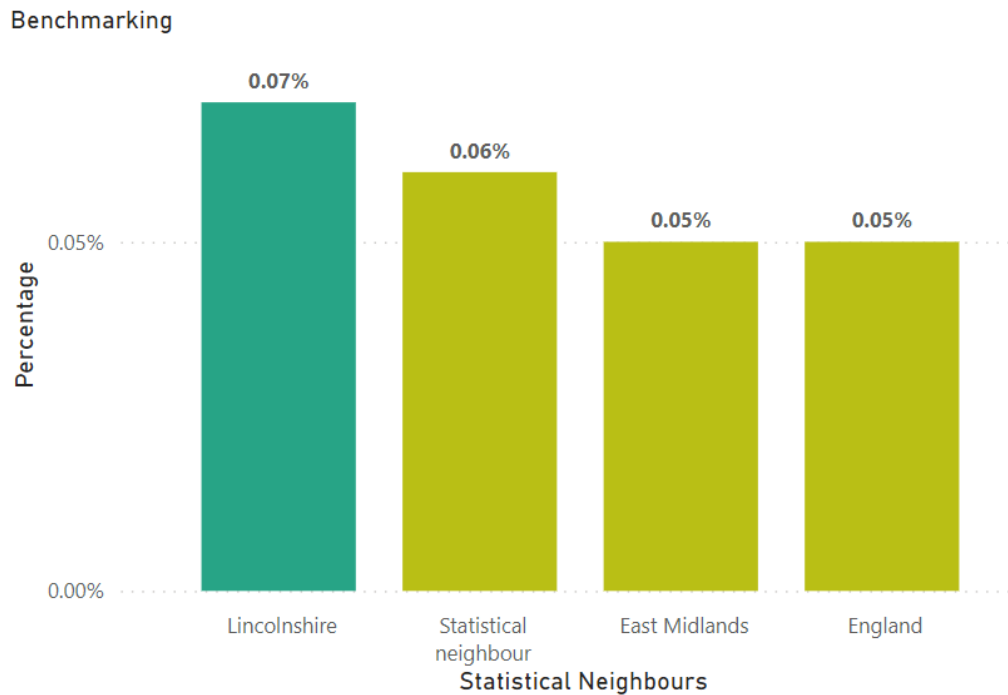
PI 67 Permanent exclusions ★

Actual: 0.07

Target: 0.11

Since the Inclusive Lincolnshire Strategy was introduced in 2015/16, the rate of permanent exclusions has continued to decrease; in line with internal target setting and drawing it mainly in line with the national average since 2016/17. The trend of reducing permanent exclusions has been established and continues to be supported robustly by the Pupil Reintegration Team. The rate of permanent exclusions remains relatively low, however this has been severely impacted on due to the abnormal school operating circumstances over this period as a result of the pandemic. Target setting going forward has been adjusted accordingly given the unpredictability of the impact of the pandemic and schools' recovery.





Benchmarking as of August 2021

1.2.2 Measures that Achieved their target

None in Quarter 4.

1.2.3 Measures that did not meet their target:

PI 42 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and their non-FSM Eligible peers nationally at KS4 ✘

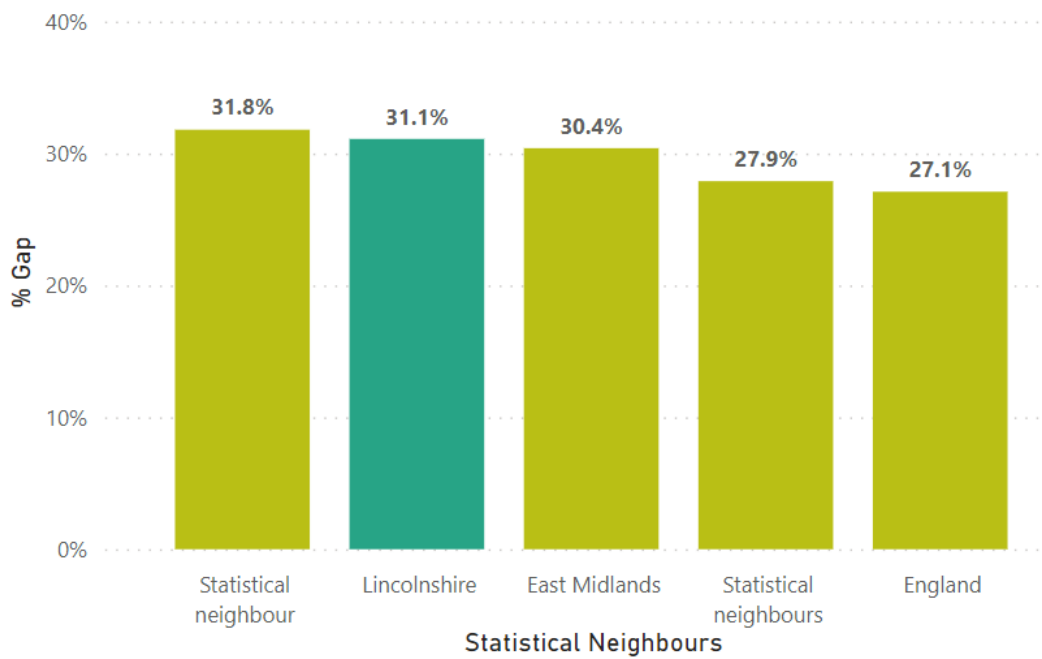
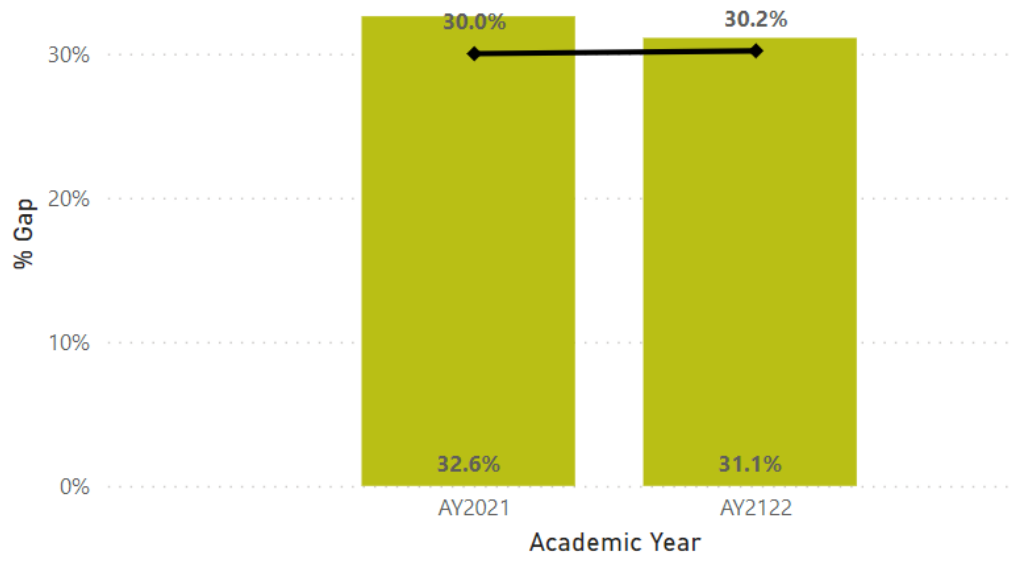
Actual: 31.1

Target: 30.2

As expected, and in large part due to the impact of Ofqual's grade distribution system for the 2021-22 academic year (that proportions of students being awarded each grade were based on an average of 2019 and 2021 distribution), both the Free School Meal (FSM) cohort and their non-FSM peers saw declines between 2021 and 2022, in Lincolnshire and nationally. The gap between Lincolnshire FSM and National Non-FSM pupils narrowed in 2022 by 1.5 percentage points (pp) to -31.1pp, as Lincolnshire FSM pupils saw less of a decline (-0.1pp) than National non-FSM pupils (-1.4pp) between the years.

The service is developing a coordinated Education Strategic Plan with sector partners. This seeks to address the ambition and specifics of the Education and Levelling Up white papers. Strategy aims include integrated working with services areas beyond education so that all of the factors affecting schools and settings within communities are addressed.

● % Gap ◆ Target



Benchmarking as at August 2022

1.3 Readiness for Adult Life

1.3.1 Measures that exceeded their target

None in Quarter 4.

1.3.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 46 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation ✓

Actual: 91.7

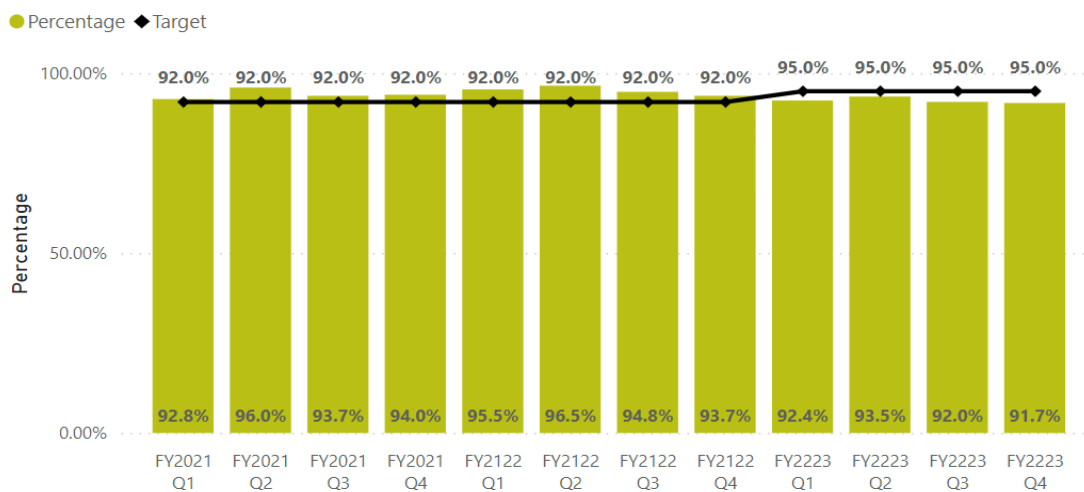
Target: 95

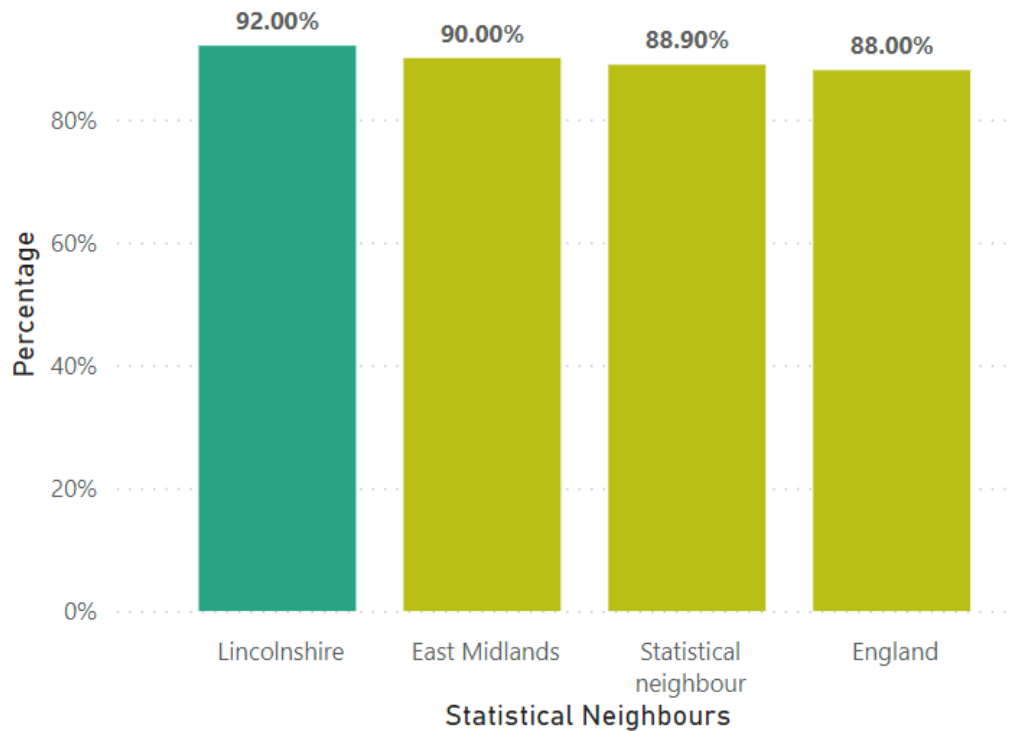
Ordinarily, the proportion of young people in suitable accommodation for 19-, 20- and 21-year-olds runs at between 94% and 95%. The most recent Ofsted inspection reported a percentage of 94% in suitable accommodation.

The definition of the suitability of accommodation is very strict, and whilst the definition would deem some of the accommodation options unsuitable, the young person might be making an informed choice (as an adult) about where they live and how they live. For example, the monthly tracker continues to identify a small number of young people who are choosing to live with friends and sleep on their sofa. This is deemed unsuitable, but the decision to live on a friend's sofa is the informed choice of the young person. We also know of one young person who still chooses to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers driveway. This arrangement is by mutual agreement and the young person is very happy there living close to their support network. This is still deemed as unsuitable by the criteria. There is also a small number of young people in temporary accommodation, provided by the District Council, whilst the housing authority is addressing homelessness and finding a long term solution with the leaving care service.

In addition to the above, custody is also always deemed unsuitable. There has, however, been a small decrease of young people who went to prison in this time. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education, training and employment but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation.

The Corporate Parenting Manager continues to monitor unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month.





Benchmarking as of March 2022

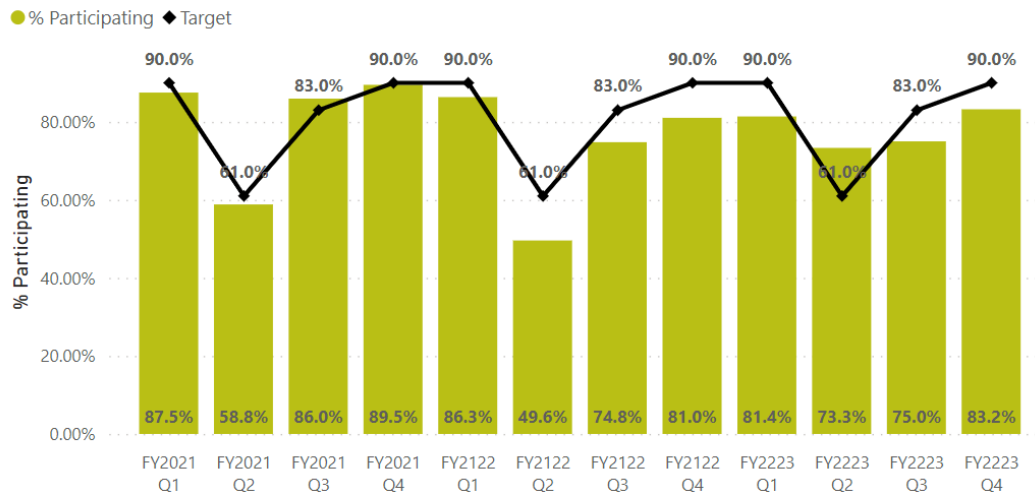
1.3.3 Measures that did not meet their target:

PI 45 16-17 year old Children in Care participating in learning ✖

Actual: 83.2

Target: 90

Although the performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 2%, it does show a 8% improvement on Quarter 3 and a slight improvement on Quarter 4 last year. The Virtual School co-ordinates termly Personal Education Plans for all our 16 and 17 year old children in care. These bring young people, their social workers, carers and providers together on a termly basis to focus on educational need, and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. As some of our young people in care struggle to access or sustain engagement in learning, access to therapeutic support and/or alternative routes into educational opportunities are explored through the Personal Education Plan and may be supported by Post 16 Pupil Premium funding. Challenges in securing mid year school places for recently arrived unaccompanied asylum seeking young people aged 16 has impacted on this quarter's performance.



2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to review and comment on the report.

3. Consultation

- a) No Risks and Impact Analysis identified.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	2023-24 Service Level Performance Indicators

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jo Kavanagh, who can be contacted on jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Appendix A – 2023-24 Service level Performance Indicators

Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People					
PI Number	Performance Indicator	Directorate	If this PI is reported in Corporate Plan , PI number is given	Targets	
				2022-23 Q4 Outturn Trajectory is 'Bigger is better' unless stated otherwise	2023-24 target Targets have been approved unless stated otherwise
Service Area: Children are Healthy and Safe					
PI 23	Children in Care <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	PI 14	49.1 Rate per 10,000 (Target 51.9 per 10,000) Smaller is better	51.9%
PI 24	Children who are subject to a child protection plan <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	390 Children (370 Children) Smaller is better	380 Children
PI 25	Average time taken to move a child from care to an adoptive family <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	505 days (Target 450 days) Smaller is better	500 days
PI 26	Average time taken to match a child to an adoptive family <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	165 days (Target 175 days) Smaller is better	160 days
PI 15	Juvenile first time offenders <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	108 Rate per 100,000 (Target 125 per 100,000) 2 Qtr lag Smaller is better	125 per 100,000
Service Area: Learn and Achieve					
PI 42	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and their non-FSM Eligible peers nationally at KS4 <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	31.1% (Target 30.2%) Smaller is better	29.4%
PI 67	Permanent exclusions <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	0.07% (Target 0.11%) Smaller is better	0.11%
Service Area: Readiness for Adult Life					
PI 45	16-17 year old Looked After Children participating in learning <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	83.2% (Target 90%)	90%
PI 46	Care Leavers in suitable accommodation <i>(Targeted)</i>	Children's	no	91.7% (Target 95%)	95%

Removed from 2023-24 reporting

PI number	PI name	Reason for removal
PI 125	Juvenile Re-offending (<i>Targeted</i>)	This measure has been removed due to the small numbers in the cohort and the volatility associated with that. We will look to replace the measure with a more suitable measure from the new suite of KPIs that the YJB have requested us to collect in the coming year.



Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	21 July 2023
Subject:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its work programme to ensure that its scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit. The Committee is encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

Actions Required:

- 1) To review and agree the Committee's work programme as set out in this report.
- 2) To highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be considered for inclusion in the work programme.

1. Background

Current Items

For reference, the Committee's items for this meeting are set out below: -

21 July 2023			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	Ofsted Inspection of Lincolnshire Children's Services - Outcome Report	Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children's Services	Inspection Outcome
2.	Service Level Performance against the Corporate Performance Framework 2022-23 - Quarter 4	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	Performance Scrutiny

Planned Items

The Committee's planned items are listed below:

08 September 2023			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning	Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision between 18 – 22 September 2023)
2.	Re-commissioning of the Portage Service	Sara Gregory, Commissioning Manager - Children's Strategic Commissioning	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision between 18 – 22 September 2023)
3.	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 – Quarter 1	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	Performance Scrutiny
4.	New Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home Build (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Dave Clarke, Service Lead - Secure Estate Rachel Freeman, Head of Service Children in Care and Residential Estates	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 3 October 2023)
5.	Holbeach William Stukeley Primary School – Single class extension, hall and staffroom extension (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Alison Toyne, Project Manager, Corporate Property	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Leader decision between 18 - 22 September 2023)

20 October 2023			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	Update on the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy	Sheridan Dodsworth, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disability Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	Policy Review (Yearly Update)
2.	Children in Care Transformation Programme Update	Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency	Policy Review
3.	Youth Offending Service – Progress against HMIP Inspection Recommendations	Andy Cook, Head of Service – Future4Me and Youth Offending	Inspection Outcome
4.	Children's Services Annual Statutory Complaints Report 2022-23	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director - Early Help	Performance Scrutiny

01 December 2023			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	Lincolnshire Secure Unit (LSU) Catering Service	Mark Rainey, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children's Services	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision between 8 – 15 December 2023)
2.	Children and Young People Mental Health Transformation Programme	Charlotte Gray, Head of Service – Children's Strategic Commissioning	Policy Review
3.	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 – Quarter 2	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	Performance Scrutiny

01 December 2023			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
4.	Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home (LSCH) (EXEMPT) (TBC)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Dave Clarke, Service Lead - Secure Estate Rachel Freeman, Head of Service Children in Care and Residential Estates	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 5 December 2023)

12 January 2024			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
1.	Children's Services Budget Proposals 2024/25	Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children's Services Mark Popplewell, Strategic Finance Lead – Children's Services	Budget Scrutiny / Pre-Decision Scrutiny
2.	Attendance in Schools, Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education Annual Report 2022/23	Jill Chandar-Nair, Inclusion and Attendance Manager	Annual Report
3.	Gosberton House Academy - New Block Extension and External Works as part of the SEND Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy (EXEMPT)	Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy Teri Marshall, Senior Project Manager – Corporate Property	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Leader Decision between 22 – 26 January 2024)

2. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to review, consider and comment on the work programme as set out above and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme. A list of all upcoming Forward Plan decisions relating to the Committee is also attached at Appendix A.

3. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07552 253814 or by e-mail at tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM 01 AUGUST 2023

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	REPORT STATUS	DECISION MAKER AND DATE OF DECISION	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED	OFFICER(S) FROM WHOM FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED AND REPRESENTATIONS MADE (All officers are based at County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL unless otherwise stated)	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
1029262	Holbeach William Stukeley Primary School - Single Class Extension, Hall and Staffroom Extension	Exempt	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) Between 18 Sep 2023 and 22 Sep 2023	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reports	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Holbeach
1029533	The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning	Open	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Between 18 Sep 2023 and 22 Sep 2023	Parents and Carers, and service users Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reports	Programme Manager - Children's Services (SEND) E-mail: eileen.mcmorrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions
1029955	Re-commissioning of the Portage Service	Open	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Between 18 Sep 2023 and 22 Sep 2023	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reports	Commissioning Manager, Children's Strategic Commissioning E-mail: sara.gregory@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions

I029669	Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home Build	Exempt	Executive 3 Oct 2023	Directorate Leadership Team Corporate Leadership Team Legal Services Finance Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reports	Interim Head of Capital Reform & Education Sufficiency E-mail: matthew.clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk	
I028654	Gosberton House Academy - New Block Extension and External Works as part of the SEND Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy	Exempt	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) Between 22 Jan 2024 and 26 Jan 2024	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reports	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	

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