



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2021
TIME: 4:00 pm
PLACE: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members of the Commission

Councillor Dawood (Chair)
Councillor Cole (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Pantling, Rahman, Riyait and Whittle

1 unallocated Group vacancy
1 unallocated Non-Group vacancy

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Gerry Hirst	Roman Catholic Diocesan
Carolyn Lewis	Church of England Diocese
Mr Mohit Sharma	Parent Governor (Primary / Special Schools)
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary Schools)

Standing Invitees (Non-Voting)

Janet McKenna	Unison
Joseph Wyglendacz	Teaching Unions
Vacancy	Faith Representative (Hindu)
Vacancy	Faith Representative (Muslim)
Vacancy	Faith Representative (Sikh)

Members of the Commission are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

For the Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Ayleena Thomas (Democratic Support Officer),
Tel: 0116 454 6369, e-mail: ayleena.thomas@leicester.gov.uk
Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Information for members of the public

PLEASE NOTE:

Any member of the press and public may listen in to this 'virtual' meeting via a weblink which will be publicised on the Council website at least 24hrs before the meeting.

Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc. during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Commission meeting at City Hall. It is important, however, that Councillors can discuss and take decisions without disruption, so the only participants in this virtual meeting will be the Councillors concerned, the officers advising the Commission and anyone the Chair invites to speak.

Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend/observe formal meetings such as full Council, Committee meetings & Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk, or by contacting us using the details below.

Making meetings accessible to all

Braille/audio tape/translation - If you require this please contact the Democratic Support Officer (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact: Ayleena Thomas, Democratic Support on (0116) 454 6369 or email ayleena.thomas@leicester.gov.uk

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151**

USEFUL ACRONYMS IN RELATION TO OFSTED AND EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(updated November 2015)

Acronym	Meaning
APS	Average Point Score: the average attainment of a group of pupils; points are assigned to levels or grades attained on tests.
ASYE	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
C&YP	Children and Young People
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CFST	Children and Families Support Team
CICC	Children in Care Council
CIN	Children in Need
CLA	Children Looked After
CLASS	City of Leicester Association of Special Schools
COLGA	City of Leicester Governors Association
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CYPF	Children Young People and Families Division (Leicester City Council)
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPS Scrutiny	Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission
DAS	Duty and Advice Service
DCS	Director of Children's Services
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EET	Education, Employment and Training
EHA	Early Help Assessment
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EHP	Early Help Partnership
EHSS	Early Help Stay Safe
EIP	Education Improvement Partnership
ELG	Early Learning Goals: aspects measured at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

EY	Early Years
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage: (0-5); assessed at age 5.
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
FS	Foundation Stage: nursery and school Reception, ages 3-5; at start of Reception a child is assessed against the new national standard of 'expected' stage of development, then teacher assessment of Foundation Stage Profile areas of learning
FSM	Free School Meals
GCSE	General Certificate of Education
GLD	Good Level of Development
HMCI	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KS1	Key Stage 1: National Curriculum Years (NCYs) 1 and 2, ages 5-7; assessed at age 7.
KS2	Key Stage 2: NCYs 3, 4, 5, and 6, ages 7-11; assessed at age 11.
KS3	Key Stage 3: NCYs 7, 8 and 9, ages 11-14; no statutory assessment.
KS4	Key Stage 4: NCYs 10 and 11, ages 14-16; assessed at age 16.
KTC	Knowledge Transfer Centre
LA	Local Authority
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LARP	Leicester Access to Resources Panel
LCCIB	Leicester City Council Improvement Board
LCT	Leicester Children's Trust
LDD	Learning Difficulty or Disability
LESP	Leicester Education Strategic Partnership
LLEs	Local Leaders of Education
LP	Leicester Partnership
LPP	Leicester Primary Partnership

LPS	Leicester Partnership School
LSCB	Leicester Safeguarding Children Board
LSOAs	Lower Super Output Areas
MACFA	Multi Agency Case File Audit
NCY	National Curriculum Year
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NLEs	National Leaders of Education
NLGs	National Leaders of Governance
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PEPs	Personal Education Plans
PI	Performance Indicator
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent
QA	Quality Assurance
RI	Requires Improvement
SA	Single Assessment
SALT	Speech and Language Therapy
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SIMS	Schools Information Management Systems
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLEs	Specialist Leaders of Education
SMT	Senior Management Team
SRE	Sex and Relationship Education
TBC	To be Confirmed
TFL	Tertiary Federation Leicester
TP	Teenage Pregnancy
UHL	University Hospitals Leicester
WIT	Whatever it Takes
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YPC	Young People's Council

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

LIVE STREAM OF MEETING

A live stream of the meeting can be viewed on the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCddTWo00_gs0cp-301XDbXA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the meeting of the Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission held on 30 November 2020 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions received.

5. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

Appendix B

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations or statements of case received.

Ruth Sinhal submits the following question/ statement:

- 1) With reference to Leicester City Council's strong position on equality and the recent Black Lives Matter movement, would the committee agree that there is a need to strengthen their approach and consider a role for the authority in encouraging schools to adopt the Anti-Racism Pledge (attached to this agenda at appendix B), which is supported by significant groups and individuals involved in racial justice work in our city?

6. DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2021/22

The Director of Finance submits information setting out the City Mayor's proposed budget for 2021/22.

The Commission is recommended to consider and comment on the Children, Young People and Schools element of the budget. The Commissions comments will be forwarded to the Overview Select Committee as part of its consideration of the report before it is presented to the Council meeting on 17 February 2021.

Draft Budget plans for 2021/ 22 can be found at:

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/city-mayor-peter-soulsby/budget/>

7. JOINT SEND COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT **Appendix C**

The Director for Adult Social Care and Commissioning submits the Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy which has been developed by the Joint Planning and Transformation group for LLR, consisting of officers from the CCG's and the 3 LA's for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The strategy was identified as an action for both Leicester city and Leicestershire areas following written statements of action (WSOA) that stated a need to further develop joint commissioning for SEND.

C&YP Scrutiny Commission are asked to note the content of the strategy and the opportunity to feedback via the online consultation should they wish

<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/send-commissioning-strategy>

8. LEICESTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP BOARD (LSCP) ANNUAL REPORT 2019/ 20 **Appendix D**

The Director of Social Care & Education submits a report which sets out the responsibilities of the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCP) in relation to its functions and requirement to produce and publish an Annual Report 2019/ 20.

9. LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL PERMANENCE STRATEGY 2020-2023 **Appendix E**

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submits this report to outlines Leicester City Council's strategy to achieve permanence for our children and young people to ensure they have a safe place to live and thrive and that they achieve the best outcomes possible.

Members of the Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission are asked to note and approve the Permanence Strategy for 2020 - 2023.

10. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2019 AND SUFFICIENCY UPDATE REPORT **Appendix F**

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submits the Childcare

Sufficiency Assessment 2019 and Sufficiency Update report.

11. IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON LEICESTER'S CHILDREN SERVICES AND SCHOOLS

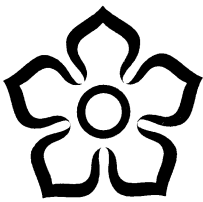
The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education will provide a verbal update in relation to the impact of the coronavirus on Leicester's children services and schools.

12. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Appendix G

The future work programme for the Commission is attached. The Commission is asked to consider this and make comments and/or amendments as it considers necessary.

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SCHOOLS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2020 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Dawood (Chair)
Councillor Cole (Vice Chair)

Councillor Pantling

Councillor Whittle

In Attendance:

Councillor Cutkelvin, Assistant City Mayor - Education and Housing
Councillor Russell, Deputy City Mayor - Social Care and Anti-Poverty

Also Present:

Gerry Hurst - Roman Catholic Diocese
Carolyn Lewis - Church of England Diocese
Mr Mohit Sharma - Parent Governor
Joseph Wyglendacz - Teaching Unions Representative

* * * * *

87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Riyait and Janet McKenna.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cole declared an Other Disclosable Interest in the general business of the meeting that his wife was a school governor.

Councillor Pantling declared an Other Disclosable Interest in the general business of the meeting that she was a school governor.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, these interests were not

considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice the Councillors' judgement of the public interests. The Councillors were not therefore required to withdraw from the meeting during consideration and discussion of the agenda items.

89. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

that the minutes of the Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 29 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

90. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

91. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations or statements of case had been received.

92. DRAFT LEICESTER LOCAL PLAN (2020 - 2036) PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Director of Planning, Development and Transportation submitted a presentation on the Draft Leicester Local Plan (2020 – 2036) Public Consultation.

During the presentation, the Head of Planning drew particular attention to the following points;

- The Government were consulting on a new approach to Planning; however the Planning White Paper would radically change the local plan process, national policies, a zoning approach and much more permitted development and changes to the way in which housing demand would be worked out.
- Leicester City Council had decided to continue with their Local Plan as the timespan for the implementation of the White Paper could be two or more years.
- The importance of the local plan which looked ahead up until 2036, sought to look at the Councils need for homes, addressing unemployment, shopping, and leisure facilities and allocate sites for the these.
- The plan also set out a range of the Council's planning policies (e.g. Climate Change and Public Health), encouraged investment & economic growth, facilitated place-making and set high quality design expectations.
- Housing site draft allocations were noted, these made up a range of 5 main strategic sites and approximately 85 other sites significantly located in the city centre and Brownfield sites.
- Sites for school development provisions being proposed with particular

reference to remit of this Commission included; Beauchamp City Free School (Ashton Green East), Castle Mead Academy (St. Augustine's), Brook Mead Academy (Groby Road/Fosse Road North), Avanti Fields Free School (Manor Farm/Collis Crescent) and Metropolitan Academy (Former Bus Depot, Abbey Park Road) however it was noted that the Metropolitan Academy site may now be not taken as the funding application had been withdrawn.

- Housing allocations which would affect six school playing field sites and were identified as potentially suitable development sites included in draft Local Plan consultation were noted as: Beaumont Lodge; Buswells Lodge; Herrick; Judgemeadow; Linden and Rowlatts schools. These were all subject to consultation responses from residents, schools, Sport England, etc.
- The Commission's attention was also drawn to other relevant proposed development allocations: Manor House Playing Fields; Neston Gardens Playing Fields; former Southfields School & Newry Learning Centre; Forest Lodge Education Centre and Land off Hazeldene Road.
- The Head of Planning expressed that allocations in the draft local plan were not currently fixed and it was requested that Members of the Commission engage and encourage people to engage in the consultation. Any representations received would be carefully considered and also careful consideration made to points made by Members of the Commission.

The Commission scrutinised the Draft Local Plan, commenting as follows;

- There was some concern amongst a few Members of the Commission in relation to play spaces/ areas for children which had been identified for housing site developments. It was further expressed that the loss of these play sites impacted the health and wellbeing of children. The Assistant City Mayor for Education and Housing noted that the commission could have a broader umbrella that also looked at places which impact children such as play spaces/ areas rather than just school sites.
- The Head of Planning also clarified that it was not proposed to allocate all the sites or build on all sites, it was planned to enhance green spaces and where there were developments it would be looked to improve the adjacent green spaces. If there was an impact on children's play areas, the local plan would be looking to re-provide, enhance or make mitigation – any suggestions of places that would benefit from this enhancement/ investment were welcomed.
- Due to several factors' and fluctuation of patterns over time, it would be difficult to know the demand for the number of children going to schools in 20-30 years' time. The Assistant City Mayor for Education and Housing agreed to bring back to the commission details about Pupil Place Planning, which was carried out every 5-10 years and allowed for an estimation of these numbers to be achieved as well as a whole range of factors that would also need to be monitored going forward.
- The difference of arrangements between City Council schools/ academies fund distribution and approvals was explained as well as

Department for Education and Skills (DFES) calculations.

- There were concerns that some diverse groups could have been isolated due to the language barrier of the consultation. The Head of Planning responded that a standard language translation was available upon request and the leaflet drop to every home also had a variety of languages which pointed towards the consultation taking place.
- Concerns of replacement oversupply and undersupply of open sites would more be included in the next consultation.
- In regard to the Metropolitan Academy, dialogue with Education colleagues would need to take place to see if there was a justification to safeguard/ retain that site or if it could be allocated residential redevelopment. Feedback was being awaited and the site would be kept under review.
- In relation to concerns about loss of open space and loss of green spaces, it was responded that the local plan would look at the sufficiency of open space and sites would only be allocated where there was a surplus of open space.
- It was confirmed that all schools with potential site allocation had received correspondence.
- In terms of the next stages of process; any particular areas of concern or recommendations from this Commission would then go to the Overview Select Committee and then Full Council February 2021. Following this, another public consultation would take place. The Submission of Local Plan Consultation (Reg 19) would take place Autumn 2021 and the adoption Summer/Autumn 2022.

AGREED:

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. To be updated on the schools playing sites selection process and in addition be informed of the measures that the Council put in place to address the loss of playing fields, playing spaces as well as the monitoring of developer contributions.
3. To return in 2021 at the next point of public consultation with the local plan in full.

93. ANNUAL REPORTS SUMMARY (SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN)

The Committee were asked to consider the recommendations of the Director for Social Care and Early Help contained in the reports.

(i) LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO) ANNUAL REPORT 2019/ 2020

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) annual report was aimed to provide an overview of the management of allegations against the children's workforce and the role of the LADO in Leicester City for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

All to note;

- Every year a report must be produced in line with the statutory guidance.
- The LADO is responsible for the managing of the process of investigation into allegations of harm made against adults who work with children.
- The presenting officer highlighted performance data and noted that the demand of the service had remained the same as the previous year.
- There were 304 LADO contacts per year, 1 third of which were concluded with advice and guidance (Leicester City Council were one of the few authorities who had built this into their LADO service) and 35% of LADO contacts had led to an investigation.
- Leicester City Councils (LCC) LADO service held a very good reputation amongst their partners and were working well with them. The service also had a very robust approach, an extensive range of indicators to measure how the function was performing and these were presenting a good picture.
- LADO was noted as one of the features of social care that Ofsted looked at, therefore it was important to maintain and continue strengthening this part of the service.
- The service was confident that their advice line was leading to lesser referrals coming through and the contacts were provided with the correct information to progress where necessary.
- In terms of case closures, it was clarified that there was occasionally no control over the length of time for LADO's ability to conclude a case due to the variety of people involved in dealing with a case.

Members of the Commission thanked all officers associated for their hard work in dealing with this challenging and difficult area of work.

AGREED:

1. Members of the Commission noted the work and activities undertaken by Leicester City's Designated Officer and were pleased to see the extensive list of strengths identified in the report.
2. That the areas of improvement be monitored and an update of progression on those areas be provided at the next meeting.

(ii) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS SERVICE 2019/ 2020

The Independent Reviewing Officers' Service operated within the context of Leicester City Council being the 'Corporate Parent' for all of the children and young people in its care. The statutory IROs responsibilities were defined by the IRO Handbook (2010).

In addition to the information outlined in the report, the following was

noted;

- The Council were well placed for Ofsted's next inspections.
- There was a challenge to get young people into employment and training especially as opportunities had reduced significantly. There currently existed a Connexions service and personal support via 16+ team and other colleagues. However, it was continued to work towards seeing if other opportunities could be identified.
- For some young people it was important to ensure their placement was stable and they were in the right place to properly access an education or employment offer.
- It was an essential need to increase the opportunities in the workplace or training provisions for young people that found it hard to sustain these practices.
- The IRO Service Manager which contacted each individual child for their feedback and the offered opportunity to further engage with an advocate was explained to the Commission. It was noted that any concerns raised, whether this was via complaint or feedback would be sent back through to the Service Manager otherwise it would be referred to the IRO.
- The most recent statistics showed that 65% of our young people were in education, employment or training.

Several Members of the Commission congratulated the Officers/ team and confirmed the importance of children having a voice.

AGREED;

1. That the work and activities undertaken by Leicester City's Independent Reviewing Officers Service be noted.
2. The Commission recognised the many positives in the report and also recognised the hard work of the team of IRO's.
3. To request a future report which particularly focused on; need, what we are doing well, how we compare nationally and how we can improve the situation.

(iii) LEICESTER CITY YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2020-21

The purpose of the report was to review the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2020-21, directing any comments to the Head of Service for Early Help and Prevention.

In addition to the information outlined in the report, the presenting Officer noted the following and responded to queries from Members of the Commission;

- There had been positive progress for the service and the young people that the service was working with including a 10% reduction in young people becoming first time entrants.
- A Member of the Commission hoped that a funding element could be found in the future to support the 'prevention' element of the

service.

- In relation to performance indicators, targets would be set, in January 2021 by looking at what was achieved in the 2020 year and what could be done for the upcoming year.
- In relation to the pandemic this year, it was reported that locally there was a slight increase in the number of young people coming into custody compared with the previous year.
- Currently developing a 'POP' pathway which was the Prevention of Offending Pathway (POP). This would also tie into the knife crime strategy piece of work taking place with the Assistant City Mayor for Neighbourhood Services.
- It was noted that during the pandemic there had seen an initial decrease in offending behaviour but an increase in social isolation and mental health issues was reported and also young people who disengaged with the service, as the means had moved to a virtual platform for a period of time. However, the service had completely recovered from that and caught up with any back log and no issues arose.
- In response to a Members query it was confirmed that Leicester City had not seen a notable increase in criminal exploitation during the pandemic.
- A Commission Member commented that the partnership between the Police, Youth Service and Social Services was very positive.
- A Member of the Commission drew attention to the graphs on p133. The Officer clarified that the graph showed results for the number of young people who completed each of the sessions in a group work programme called 'Which Way'. For the next report the Officer agreed to make it much clearer that the blue referenced knowledge prior to completing the session and red indicated progress made after completing session.
- In terms of priorities for the next year, one of these would be to focus on young people who had an education health care plan and open to the youth justice service. In addition, it would be aimed to ensure that the service was being inclusive in supporting those young people with any additional needs.
- Highlighting the work of a task and finish group to explore disproportionality in relation to ethnicity, a survey was carried out with staff which showed that some members of staff would like more training in areas like racial disparity and disproportionality. In addition, staff welcomed opportunities to take part in the reverse mentoring scheme, be able to learn from colleagues from other ethnicities and be able to gain more confidence to talk about ethnicity and culture with young people.
- The work was still underway, however initial findings highlighted that processes in place were not always routinely used to explore the impact of offending behaviour on a young person's culture and ethnicity, an example being the 'Case Management Diversity Panel'. This panel provided a platform for case managers to present cases for additional scrutiny and support where they were

high risk or to explore diversity and culture, most officers used this platform to review risk, this has recently improved. The work was almost at conclusion with a report and recommendations being presented to the Youth Justice Management Board on 15 December 2020.

- The Chair gave congratulations that issues in diversity were now being discussed in such an open manner.
- It was requested that this topic was a future report to be brought on the task group.
- The knife crime strategic delivery group alongside police, probation and health colleagues had been a feature to influence what the priorities for the plan would look like going forward. There was a section on Children and Young People and the vast majority of the 10 indicators were supported by the Youth Justice Service and the Youth Service. The main focus was prevention and pursuit.
- A project called 'Safer routes for schools' allowed for detached youth work teams to go out between 3pm and 6pm at key schools where it was known to have a higher rate of knife crime incidents. The service would then do detached youth work to focus targeting work with young people to reduce that prevalence.
- In relation to young people and mental health, the service had a dedicated ACE team whereby Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) had provided 2 full time workers who were focused on adverse childhood experiences i.e. trauma related instances in childhood. All of the Youth Justice Service had been fully trained in ACE trauma and due to this success, it had been negotiated through CAMHS to have ACE training for all practitioners within Early Help and Prevention and later Children's Social Care.
- It was noted that the service was well aware that when looking at behaviours it was important that ADHD factors were being considered in addition to those ACE behaviours as responses would be different depending on the origins of the behaviour.
- The presenting officer explained in more detail the following points; inspection recommendations and attendance at the management board.

AGREED:

1. That the Commission welcome and note the progress made against the priorities outlined within the Leicester City Youth Justice Plan for 2020-21
2. The next annual report to come back would be due April/ May 2021.
3. It was requested that equalities comments in terms of the task and finish group report would be brought back to a future meeting.
4. The Commission welcome the honesty and openness of dealing with ethnicity and diversity as a service.

94. EDGE OF CARE INTERVENTIONS SUMMARY REPORT QUARTER ONE: 2020-21

The Director of Social Care & Early help submitted this report is to provide a progress update to the Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission on the delivery of interventions that were part of the edge of care offer within the Early Help and Prevention Service. Due to the range of complex interventions referred to, this report was supported by a presentation.

All to note;

- The report covered April – June 2020 and highlighted the approach to edge of care services including all stages.
- Early help was an aim and the vision of approach to identify the best possible outcome for the family and child.
- The philosophy of the division was clear that it was preferred that the child stayed with the family if this was at all possible.
- Members of the Commission passed thanks for the service of which the Council could be proud of.

It was noted that the Head of Service for Early Help would be leaving the Council. The officer Jackie Difolco was thanked for her dedication, professionalism, determination and enthusiasm to get everything right for the children of Leicester. The officer was wished all the best.

AGREED:

1. That the commission note the work, passion and recognition of the Head of Service for Early Help.
2. That the content of the report be noted.
3. For a future report to be brought back to the commission in 6 months.
4. That the hard work of the team be congratulated and noted.

95. COVID-19 UPDATE

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education provided a verbal update in relation to the impact of Covid-19.

Child Social Care - All to note;

- Some areas of the service had been difficult to continue in the circumstances, however, it was important to note the significant amount of areas of the service that had continued to provide normal services.
- There was good partnership which was working well.
- The number of safeguarding referrals was the same as when under normal circumstances and all had been dealt with efficiently.
- Some pressures during the pandemic were noted, including women presenting late in pregnancies, largely due to a mistaken belief that NHS services were no longer available to them, and as they had received no antenatal service this would present a safeguarding issue.
- The service was getting ready for the completion of the current full lockdown and work had been done as to what could and could not open.

- The service was also working with the latest DFE guidance in order to continue work aspects on a face to face basis.

Schools – All to note;

- It was important to draw attention to the amount of work being done by schools. The latest figures indicated a clear reduction of safety concerns and showed that Leicester City schools now had 77% attendance which was very similar to the position of statistical neighbours in the same tier.
- Although it was found that there was a fair number of infection cases identified in schools, there was very little evidence of transmission in schools, with the large majority of cases infected in the wider community.
- One issue putting pressures on schools was that self-isolation numbers in schools was reported as 10% of staff and students isolating at any one time. It was therefore being looked at whether staff testing could be greater in order to avoid full 14-day isolation.
- Another impact of schools/ classes isolating was that this had other effects such as parents couldn't go to work, strain on marriages/ relationships etc.
- Another challenge for schools was that 3 quarters of year 11 students had to isolate over the last term and had therefore missed an average of 20% attendance. This aspect needed to be focused on to ensure the learning experience was as good as it could be.
- Conversations were currently taking place with the Department for Education to determine what the testing approach would be in schools. There were currently 2 schools in the city taking part in a national pilot.
- The unpleasantness for children of the process of testing was noted, and it was anticipated that in 3 months' time it may be possible to produce results from just saliva tests.
- In regard to vaccinations, the NHS were starting the general roll out process, however there were no firm plans in place for schools, but a lot of work was required to consider what would be appropriate.

96. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Commission's Work Programme was submitted for information and comment.

The strategic Director for Social Care and Education would inform the Chair of the Commission of potential future items for the agenda.

AGREED:

That the Work programme be noted.

97. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8:39pm.

ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE 2020

For Schools and Colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire

Dear Colleagues,

We understand this is a highly challenging time for schools, but believe it is crucial that we as educators and people with an interest in the education and welfare of young people, take leadership at this moment to challenge racism and work towards racial justice.

As such, we are asking for you to support our Anti-Racism Pledge for Schools and Colleges in Leicester.

By signing the attached pledge and positively upholding the five key actions, you will be showing your support and commitment towards ensuring all our children and young people can be proud of attending Anti-Racist Schools.

We acknowledge that these actions are just the first step in a dialogue and if significant changes are to happen it will require commitment, but we want to assure you that resources and support will be available from the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre as well as other organisations supporting this initiative.

We hope you will agree with the necessity of signing the Anti-Racism Pledge and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you

Claudia Webbe MP Leicester East
The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre at DMU
Prof Surinder Sharma Co-Director at DICE
Prof John Williams Co-Director at DICE
The Race Equality Centre
Dr Iris Lightfoote - CEO at TREC
Black Bloom (BLM Leicester)
Lara Husain Co-Founder Leicester Against Racism
Stefan Turner Co-founder Leicester against Racism
Cllr Dr Deborah Sangster
Cllr Vijay Singh Riyait
Monica Hingorani - Parent & Educator
Ruth Sinhal – Educational Consultant

Linda Bradshaw - Lead Practitioner in RS and T&L at The City of Leicester College
Natasha Boyce - Associate Senior Leader & Head of RS at LiFE MAT
Julie Walters-Nisbett - Vice- President Leicester City NEU, Science Teacher City of Leicester College.
Yasmin Musse – Teacher of English at Judgemeadow Community college
Luke Whitney - Head Teacher of Mayflower Primary School
Denham Kite – Principal at Krishna Avanti Primary School

ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE 2020

For Schools and Colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire

In the wake of the recent Black Lives Matter protests, we as educators and people with an interest in the education and welfare of young people in Leicester, feel a sense of responsibility to take leadership at this moment to challenge racism and improve the curriculum.

We understand this is a highly challenging time for schools, but feel it is crucial they acknowledge that students, parents, governors and staff are affected by two pandemics: Covid-19 and racism.

The five key actions below are a starting point, showing a school's willingness to engage in dialogue and ensure all their students can be proud of attending an Anti-Racist School.

WE CALL ON ALL SCHOOLS TO:

1. Release a statement in support of the goals and focus of the BLM movement.
2. Display clear information on how to report racist incidents and commit to releasing data in relation to this.
3. Carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all school policies and practices and review and rewrite accordingly.
4. Commit to include the teaching of racism, migration, Empire and colonialism.
5. Provide training for all staff & Governors focusing on "racial literacy".
(In other words, an understanding of racism as institutional & structural and the history behind it, so enabling them to see & respond to, the ways the education system can and does reproduce racism and racial inequalities).

All committing schools will be invited to contribute to the development of next steps and receive support and resources as required.

All staff and Governors should be made aware of why these actions are necessary and Black students, wherever possible, should be given priority to express their opinions.

As educators and school leaders, we care deeply about all our young people and want them to feel safe and welcome in school. This is a significant global moment and we want to take the lead and carry the momentum into the new academic year.

FOUNDER SIGNATORIES

Claudia Webbe MP Leicester East
The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, De Montfort University
Prof Surinder Sharma Co-Director at DICE University of Leicester
Prof John Williams Co-Director at DICE University of Leicester
The Race Equality Centre
Dr Iris Lightfoote - CEO at TREC
Black Bloom (BLM Leicester)
Lara Husain - Co-Founder of Leicester Against Racism
Stefan Turner - Co-founder of Leicester against Racism
Linda Bradshaw - Lead Practitioner in RS and T&L at The City of Leicester College
Natasha Boyce - Associate Senior Leader & Head of RS at LiFE MAT
Julie Walters-Nisbett - Vice- President Leicester City NEU, Science Teacher at The City of Leicester College.
Yasmin Musse – Teacher of English at Judgemeanow Community college
Cllr Dr Deborah Sangster
Cllr Vijay Singh Riyait
Monica Hingorani - Parent & Educator
Luke Whitney - Head Teacher of Mayflower Primary School
Denham Kite – Principal at Krishna Avanti Primary School
Ruth Sinhal – Educational Consultant at Leicester Schools Linking Project

AGREEMENT

If you are in agreement, please complete the following form and return via email to ruthsinhal@gmail.com

We look forward to working with you.

Name of School	
Address	
Head Teacher's Name	
Contact Email	
Date	
Signature	

If you would like to receive support in any specific areas, please let us know.

Please return to ruthsinhal@gmail.com

Template statement– feel free to adapt it if required or create your own.

At (school name) we operate a zero-tolerance approach towards all discrimination. However, in the wake of the recent BLM protests, we believe it is imperative to address the issue of racism and offer our unambiguous support to all our students, staff, governors, parents, carers and guardians who are Black or a Person of Colour (POC). We wish to reassure you that all matters of racial discrimination, whether it presents itself overtly or covertly, will be handled with the upmost care and importance. We are very aware that education is a powerful vehicle of change and as such, we pledge to teach about racism, develop our anti-racist policies and practices and engage in dialogue to ensure that each of us can feel proud to belong to an Anti-Racist School.

C&YP Scrutiny Commission

Joint SEND commissioning strategy for engagement

Meeting: C&YP Scrutiny Commission

Meeting date: 13th January 2021

Lead director: Tracie Rees

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Sally Vallance
- Author contact details: sally.vallance@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: V1

1. Summary

- 2.3 A joint SEND commissioning strategy has been developed across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, covering the work of the three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and LA's.
- 2.4 The strategy identifies a common vision across LLR *“we will work together across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND”* and 7 priorities to address over the coming 3 years:
1. Build on our understanding of need and demand
 2. Plan to meet needs within available resource, forecast for the future and prevent escalation
 3. Quality assure our provision and contracts
 4. Examine how we can provide greater flexibility and tailored packages of support
 5. Align our services with those for adults, to prepare young people for adulthood
 6. Develop our joint working and governance approaches
 7. Jointly review our existing provision to ensure it meets needs and provides good quality support
- 2.5 Engagement on the strategy is now taking place to gather feedback on the suitability of the vision and the priorities. The engagement will also approach a range of audiences to identify whether the actions mapped are suitable, to identify any further actions required and the prioritise those for the first year of work.
- 2.6 Audiences identified for the engagement include:
- Children and young people with SEND
 - Families and carers of those children and young people
 - Schools, early years settings, alternative learning providers and FE providers
 - Staff working in services providing support to children with SEND (internal and external)
 - Representatives of the LA's and CCG's party to the strategy

2.7 Engagement will occur in December through to 31st January 2021. Analysis of results will take place for early February with approvals sought in Feb/March. Launch is anticipated in April 2021 provided no significant changes in direction are needed.

1. Recommendations

2.8 C&YP Scrutiny Commission are asked to note the content of the strategy and the opportunity to feedback via the online consultation should they wish <https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/send-commissioning-strategy>

2. Supporting information including options considered:

Background

2.9 The Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy has been developed by the Joint Planning and Transformation group for LLR, consisting of officers from the CCG's and the 3 LA's for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

2.10 The strategy was identified as an action for both Leicester city and Leicestershire areas following written statements of action (WSOA) that stated a need to further develop joint commissioning for SEND.

Overview of format and contents

2.11 The strategy is intended as an online document. It is designed to be a short read with links to pages providing more in-depth information. These pages can be updated as information is developed, for example the key facts page could be added to with further information about needs as we gather more across the area.

2.12 A simple vision is presented as *"we will work together across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND"* which captures our intention as a system.

2.13 The strategy uses commissioning as a framework to apply to the work in SEND and sets out our priorities, largely based on the commissioning cycle of analyse, plan, do and review. Two additional priorities pick up the need for personalisation and flexibility to address individual need and the need to do further work across LLR to support transition and preparation for adulthood. The priorities in full are:

1. Build on our understanding of need and demand
2. Plan to meet needs within available resource, forecast for the future and prevent escalation
3. Quality assure our provision and contracts
4. Examine how we can provide greater flexibility and tailored packages of support

5. Align our services with those for adults, to prepare young people for adulthood
6. Develop our joint working and governance approaches
7. Jointly review our existing provision to ensure it meets needs and provides good quality support

2.14 The strategy is currently set out as text only, but the intention is to bring in some colour and pictures once the content is agreed, ready for final publication. An easy read version will also be developed for publication.

Engagement

2.15 Engagement is underway on the strategy, both to assure us that the vision and priorities are supported and to help shape the action plan to deliver. An engagement plan is attached as appendix B.

2.16 The engagement focuses on 4 main questions:

- 1) Do you agree with the vision?
- 2) Do you agree with the priorities?
- 3) Do you agree with the actions?
- 4) Please rate the actions in order of priority

2.17 The engagement is live on the City Council consultation hub, with all partners directing those that want to input to this single source of response. In addition, a presentation has been developed that can be used in meetings and forums to explain the strategy and the engagement.

2.18 Key audiences to be targeted for responses include:

- Children and young people with SEND
- Families and carers of those children and young people
- Schools, early years settings, alternative learning providers and FE providers
- Staff working in services providing support to children with SEND (internal and external)
- Representatives of the LA's and CCG's party to the strategy

Timescales

2.19 The engagement launched at the start of December and runs until 31st January 2021.

2.20 Analysis of responses will occur into February and final sign off is anticipated through March. The aim is for the strategy to launch from April 2021 provided no significant changes in direction are required.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Martin Judson, Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

There are no implications arising from the recommendations at present however there will need to specific advice sought as this progresses in relation to any procurements and consultations required.

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

5.4 Equalities Implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The proposed engagement plan for the SEND strategy needs to be accessible for all the identified groups and meet their communications need, including online engagement such as easy read documents.

As part of the ongoing work the outcomes from the engagement exercise should feed into the proposed action plan. Whilst the SEND Strategy is a high level overarching document, it is recommended that Equality Impact Assessment (EIAs) are carried out as appropriate on identified areas within the action plan, for example changes in service or policy, to ensure any impacts are identified and addressed.

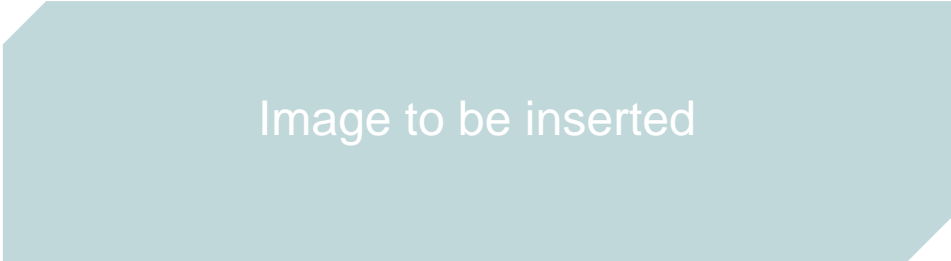
Further support and advice can be sought from the Corporate Equalities Team.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Joint Commissioning Strategy 2021 - 2024

For Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland



Leicester
City Council

Introduction

Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland Councils and Leicester City, West Leicestershire and East Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) are working together to commission services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

Together, we commission a range of provision to meet need. We are working together because a lot of needs across the area are similar and related, and because a lot of our providers are the same. In addition, for some families, funding for care and support comes from several agencies. By collaborating we will improve our combined offer to children and young people, reduce gaps, provide better coordinated services and achieve value for money and sustainability.

This strategy explains how and why we will do this; spells out our aims and objectives; and sets out the action plan to take us there. We see commissioning as a framework to help us work together to better meet need and improve outcomes.

Although this is a joint commissioning strategy for the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) area, this doesn't mean we will do everything together. Some services need to be specific to individual agencies. However, this strategy sets out those areas where joint working is intended and planned for because we believe it will add value to do these things together. In addition, our single agency action plans support us to achieve where actions are specific to one agency only.

Together, these plans set the roadmap for work until 2024 to ensure we achieve our common vision.

Strategic Context

This strategy forms the first Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). It presents a collective vision and priorities to achieve this, with a focus on working together to bring about improvement.

Good commissioning and effective integration between services lie at the heart of our strategy. These aspects of our approach will increasingly be the focus of the inspections that we will undergo. The Code of Practice (COP) 2015 for SEND sets out the commissioning responsibilities across partners and the expectation that joint working and planning occurs, and we will continue to follow this Code in delivering the strategy set out here.

Each Local Authority has its own SEND strategy and local offer. Alongside this, the commissioning strategy sets out the framework and resources to make this happen. The different strategies and documents produced by each agency and their relationship to this Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy are listed here [<link>](#).

As the public sector continues to experience financial challenge, a key objective of this strategy is to ensure that we use effective commissioning to make sure our services work well for children and families, provide positive impacts and value for money and are sustainable.

By working together as agencies, we will be able to see the cumulative effect of the changes we put in place and this will allow us to assess the impact of our joint approach on the system and services that we all use (shared markets). This is a key approach to managing risk through change.

For children, young people, families and carers, having agencies work together will help them to navigate an often-complex system of support. By aligning and understanding each other's worlds, we can support families holistically and ensure that every child can reach their full potential.

What is commissioning?

Commissioning is a way of understanding need, planning a response to meet this need and reviewing the effectiveness of action taken. It is often viewed as a cycle (you keep going around to drive improvement). It is commonly described as having 4 stages which are described in more detail here <link>

Our vision, principles and values

Through our services we want to remove barriers to opportunity, to improve equality of access and to provide care and support to enable children to enjoy and achieve life to the maximum of their potential. We must do this through the best use of our available resources, spending wisely to achieve greatest impact. We recognise this is best achieved through supporting independence, choice and personalisation.

We will know that we have achieved this when children, young people and families tell us this is the case; when we see improvements in outcomes on a par with other, similar areas; and when we are confident that the mix and quality of provision meets the diverse needs of our children and young people.

Each local area within LLR has their own vision for children and young people with SEND, commissioning effectively is one of the tools to help achieve these visions.

Our collective vision for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is:

‘we will work together across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND’

Principles

We will make sure that the commissioning decisions we make are based on a sound evidence of what children, young people and families need and on our analysis of what works to best meet those needs, within our available resources. We will analyse the real impact of services before planning any change, and we are committed to changing services that do not provide the quality of support that we know people want.

To ensure that services are of the quality that we expect, we will monitor, and quality assure them while they are being delivered.

We will work with children, families and young people to evaluate services and to plan change using participative and co-productive methods.

Aims, objectives and priorities

Across the local area we have agreed a common aim, objectives and priorities to support achievement of our vision. These draw on other information contained in our strategy including what we know about local needs and outcomes.

Aim

Across the LLR area, we aim to use our funds in the best possible way to bring maximum impact to as many eligible children and families within the available resources.

Objectives

We will:

- commission wisely: we will look at quality as well as cost when commissioning, look at what is coming and plan for this in advance
- commission together: examine our priorities for commissioning, look at opportunities to align work or jointly commission, particularly where we're buying the same or similar provision. We will include

children, young people and families in commissioning and make sure they have a voice in our reviews of provision.

- target our commissioned activity: We will offer support or services to those who most need it or where there is greatest likelihood of it preventing an escalation of need.

Priorities

Our priorities are broadly formed around the commissioning cycle and will be addressed in partnership across Council's and the CCG's:

1. Build on our understanding of need and demand
2. Plan to meet needs within available resource, forecast for the future and prevent escalation
3. Quality assure our provision and contracts
4. Examine how we can provide greater flexibility and tailored packages of support
5. Align our services with those for adults, to prepare young people for adulthood
6. Develop our joint working and governance approaches
7. Jointly review our existing provision to ensure it meets needs and provides good quality support

26

Local information

There are around 22,000 children with SEND in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area with a wide range of needs.

For more information about children and SEND provision in the area, click here <link>

Current joint working

The agencies signed up to this strategy are already working together in a number of areas to bring about positive change through integration and collaboration. Details of current joint work can be found here <link>

Future direction

We know there is more we could do and more we could tackle jointly. Our priorities form the basis for our action planning and broadly follow the commissioning cycle. Many of the changes to provision contained in the 'doing' phase of commissioning will be driven by a deeper understanding of the issues faced and the success of service responses and from the reviews of specific areas of provision.

We have developed action plans for each priority, these are available here <link>.

Engagement and co-production in commissioning

We will involve children, young people, families and carers to plan and review services, taking a co-production approach where possible. More details can be found here <link>

Governance and accountability

This strategy is owned by the three Councils in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and the Leicester City, West Leicestershire and East Leicestershire CCG's. More details about how it will be governed can be found here <link>

Glossary

CCG

The Clinical Commissioning Group – This public agency is part of the NHS, responsible for commissioning most of the hospital and community health provision.

Local Authority

Local Council for that area with legal responsibility for a range of service provision.

LLR

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland – the area covered by this strategy, formed from 3 different local authority footprints.

SEND

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities – a term used in many of the legal and policy papers referring to children with additional needs.

Domiciliary Support

27 Care and Support in your home, often referring to personal care e.g. washing, dressing, feeding etc.

Universal Services

Services that are offered to all children and young people, regardless of the level of need they have. A good example of this is school places – all children are entitled to access school within certain age brackets.

Targeted Services

Services that are targeted at children that may need additional support to access provision or who may need services specifically designed to meet their needs.

Specialist Services

Services for children with severe or complex needs, usually accessed following an assessment of that need.

Shared Markets

Where more than one agency uses the same provider(s) to deliver a service

Commissioning

A process of analysing, planning, doing and reviewing the support on offer to improve outcomes

Co-production

Working with those in receipt of services to design the provision they need

Local Offer

The services and support on offer to people in that area, including any criteria for access

Linked Pages – these will be pages on the website, the links in the text above will take you to them

What is commissioning?

Commissioning is a way of understanding need, planning a response to meet this need and reviewing the effectiveness of action taken. It is often viewed as a cycle (you keep going around to drive improvement). It is commonly described as having 4 stages:

Analyse

Understand the need, the numbers of people affected, the reasons for this, how we address this now (or identification of a gap if we don't), how we might do this better in the future.

Plan

2 What changes do we want to bring about, what are the steps to doing this, who needs to be involved, what are the likely impacts and timescales?

Do

The implementation stage; making the plans real. Sometimes this will involve buying new services or ending existing ones. At other times the approach might be to do things differently or to hold different conversations.

Review

This stage is where we look at how we do things or a change that we made and ask whether it is the best way to achieve the results we want. This could include an evaluation of a new service or a review of a whole area of provision.

Fig 1 The IPC Commissioning Framework



Commissioning is often shown as a cycle like this version from the Institute of Public Care (IPC).

30

By following this cyclical approach, agencies can gain a deeper understanding of the issues, plan for change that is most likely to have the desired impact, implement effective changes and monitor the impact on the person using a service, the service providers and wider partners.

Each of the partners use commissioning as a technique to improve outcomes currently. This strategy provides an opportunity for agencies to join together and do this collectively with identified areas to work on over the next 3 years.

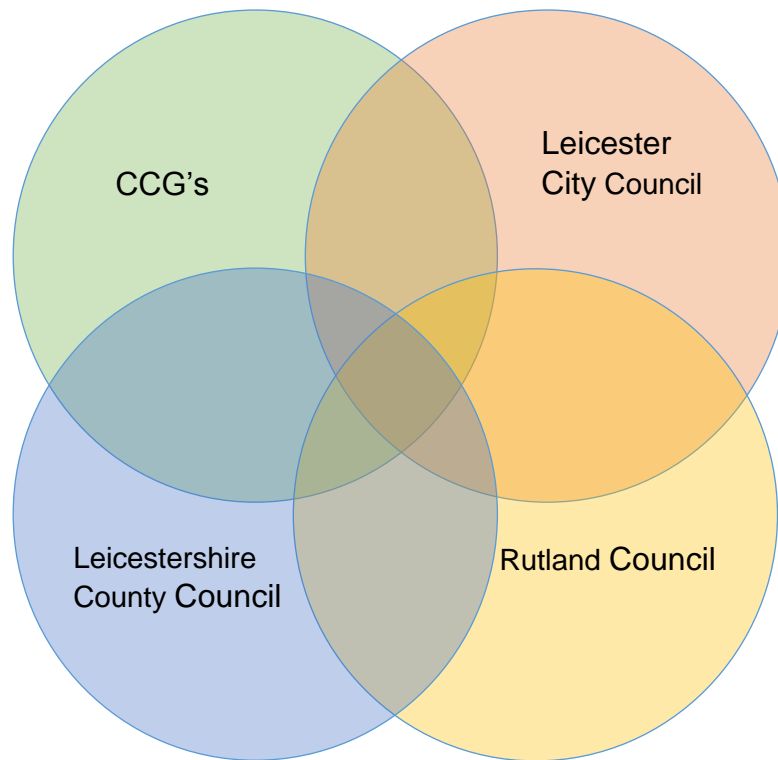
Joint Commissioning

When we talk about joint commissioning, this can cover a range of approaches to working together to analyse, plan, do and review. Joint commissioning can include:

Approach	Meaning	Example of how this could work
Aligning our services or funds	Working together as agencies to ensure our services create a seamless system. Each agency makes their own arrangements to provide the necessary services, but this will be worked through with partners to ensure it fits with the wider needs of the system and with the strategic plan of all partners.	All agencies identify a growing number of children with SEND. They work together to understand the needs of these additional children and the services across the system that will be required. They make plans together to increase the services they offer or to do things differently to meet this need in a new way. They work together to make it happen.
Pooled budgets	A shared fund set up by 2 or more partner agencies. An agreement is in place to define how much each party will put into the fund and what the funding can and can't be used for.	The councils and CCG's decide to create one 'pot' of money to fund placements for children whose needs cannot be met through mainstream services. This pot of money combines some spend from councils on social care and education and Continuing Care funding from the CCG. All the partners agree the level of contribution they will make to the pot at the start of the year. The pot of money is used to fund the needs of children meeting the criteria for the fund throughout that year.
Lead agency	One agency takes the lead on delivering or contracting out a service on behalf of another. There will be an agreement in place to set out what the lead agency should do and to cover the funding arrangements.	One council agrees to contract for all the short breaks provision on behalf of all three local authorities. There is an agreement that states how this should be run and how much money will be paid to the council doing this on behalf of the others.
Integrated teams	Teams of people that are funded or employed by more than one agency but that work as a single team. They deliver services that meet the responsibilities of both agencies.	A team of speech and language therapists (funded by the CCG) are based in the same building and share the same manager as a team of specialist teachers for children with hearing and/or visual impairment (funded by the council). They work as one team although their jobs are different.

Some joint commissioning will involve the local authorities working together, some will involve the CCG and local authorities. Some will take place across the whole of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area, others may cover just one locality.

All of the overlapping areas in the diagram below represent areas of joint commissioning.



Key facts about children with SEND in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

How many children have SEND in LLR?

In April 2020 there were nearly 22,000 children with SEND in LLR. This makes up 13.7% of our overall school population which is just under the national average of 14.8%. Children in primary school are most likely to have support for SEN and we know that nationally the numbers peak at age 10, declining through secondary education. The numbers of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continues to rise as they journey through school.

What school provision do children access?

Most children receive an education in a mainstream school, with only 2,313 children across the area receiving education in a Special School. There are 12,142 children in primary schools with SEND from the LLR area and 7,513 children in secondary schools.

What are the main reasons for a child receiving support for SEND?

The primary needs of children with SEND across the area are:

Primary Need	Number	% of Total	National Average
Specific LD	2,477	11.3%	12.5%
Moderate LD	6,547	29.8%	20.4%
Severe LD	836	3.8%	2.7%
Profound LD	175	0.8%	0.9%
Social, Emotional and MH	3,543	16.1%	17.1%
SLC needs	4,087	18.6%	21.7%
SEN Hearing	391	1.8%	1.8%
SEN Visual	355	1.6%	1.1%
Multi-Sensory	55	0.3%	0.3%
Physical Disability	664	3.0%	2.9%
Autistic Spectrum	1,630	7.4%	11.0%
Other Difficulty	732	3.3%	4.4%
No specialist assessment	474	2.2%	3.3%
Total	21,966	100%	100%

What do children, young people and families tell us about the services they receive?

We know that we are delivering services in the local area that make a huge difference to the lives of children, young people with SEND and their families and carers. We also know that there are areas for improvement in our provision, identified by children, young people and families and highlighted through Joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND inspection findings for Leicester and Leicestershire. Key areas for us to work on include:

- Strategic planning to improve outcomes in Leicester and Leicestershire
- Quality of Education Health Care Plans in Leicester and Leicestershire
- Assessment of Children and Young People's Social care needs in Leicester City
- Joint commissioning to support health needs post 19, the development of a joint commissioning strategy for SEND and a co-ordinated approach to preparing for adulthood in Leicester and Leicestershire

What do we commission to meet this need?

We commission a wide range of universal, targeted and specialist services to meet the needs of children with SEND. Many of the services are commissioned by Council and CCG's individually but they are delivered as integrated pathways to help children, young people and families experience joined up support. Some services are delivered by Councils themselves, and others are commissioned from independent or voluntary and community organisations.

Details of services commissioned by partner agencies and the level of funding committed to each type of provision can be found here <link>

It is important to note that schools and further education facilities are increasingly acting as commissioners of services in order to meet the varied needs of children attending. It is expected that the work included in the delivery of this strategy will start to map this commissioning activity in schools and in further education and, that we will involve them in discussions about future provision.

Parents and carers are also increasingly acting as commissioners through the use of personal budgets. Here the Council or CCG makes funding available to parents and carers so that they can source their own support to meet the child's individual need. This approach can help to increase choice and support families in developing bespoke, personalised packages of care. These personal budgets are agreed by the relevant teams in the Council or CCG in line with each agencies agreed process.

More information about children and young people in LLR can be found in the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis document that each area produces. Links to the latest versions are can be found in our list of key documents here <link>.

Current joint working

The four agencies commission a range of provision to support children, young people and families with SEND. Details of these services can be found here <link>. These services combine to offer a range of support and to improve outcomes for this group. There are increasing amounts of joint commissioning and partnership working across the agencies, including:

- 34
- A Joint Planning and Transformation Group for Children has been established to identify and deliver on joint commissioning opportunities for children's services across LLR
 - The Joint Solutions Panels between each of the Council's and CCG reviews the complex needs of children and young people where there is a need for joint co-ordination and personalised funding.
 - Council and CCG representatives attend the monthly in-patient Mental Health bed management meeting working with case manager from specialised commissioning to plan and support discharge of vulnerable children who often have SEND.
 - Joint CCG and Council senior officers have responsibilities across the Transforming Care (TCP) agenda, delivering service improvement for all age learning disability and autistic spectrum disorder services to ensure community care and reduce in-patient admissions
 - LLR Future in Minds (FIM) Board having oversight of delivery of the Mental Health Transformation Plan
 - The SEND improvement boards are multi-agency forums for Councils and CCG's to improve provision, activity and outcomes. Two boards cover the Leicestershire and Rutland and Leicester with the Councils and the CCG present on each. Robust plans to oversee change are monitored at the boards and these provide a regular, joint forum to discuss issues and barriers and to collaborate
 - Local authorities and the CCG have also collaborated through work on supporting the transition to adulthood with examples of joint plans or governance arrangements to support this.
 - The regional commissioning group for children and young people, bringing commissioners from Councils across the region together to discuss issues arising and the common market. The group has recently collaborated on establishing a regional dashboard of placements, giving access to data on where placements have been made and the cost of these amongst other data sets. The group is currently working on sharing quality assurance information to improve the intelligence held by each Council on the quality of placements made.

Engagement and co-production in commissioning

We will involve children, young people, families and carers in all of our work to plan and review services. Wherever possible, we will take a co-production approach. The way in which we do this will vary for each piece of work but there are some key drivers to achieving this.

We will work with our engagement forums to people that use our services to understand the issues and to seek views on how to commission our services. These include:

- Big Mouth Forum (Leicester City)
- Parent Carers Forum (Leicester City)
- Leicestershire Parent and Carer Forum
- Rutland Voice
- Healthwatch

We want to work together with children, young people and families to help us understand their experiences of living with SEND and using our services. We will work with them to gain insight into services from their points of view and to work together to plan services for the future that represent the best use of the resources we have. Where solutions cannot be found, for example when finances don't allow or there are legal limitations to what we can do, we will use this engagement to help people understand the situation.

35 Governance and accountability

This strategy is owned by the three Councils in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland CCG's.

It was developed by a working group, reporting into the Children's Planning and Transformation Partnership. The Partnership is a subgroup of the LLR Children and Young People's Senior Leadership Group, which in turn reports to the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) for Children and Young People.

It is proposed that a joint commissioning board across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland will implement the action plan, tackle any issues or barriers arising and establish task and finish groups as needed.

The work of the board and progress on the delivery plan will be monitored by the Planning and Transformation Partnership and ultimately by the Senior Leadership Group.

Each agency will have its own reporting routes including joint commissioning boards and improvement boards etc. These will also help to assure the work and to keep a check on progress made.

The SEND Code of Practice <link> sets out specific roles and responsibilities for joint commissioning. These are summarised in the table below:

Agency	Key responsibilities for SEND	Accountability
--------	-------------------------------	----------------

Local authority	Leading integration arrangements for Children and Young People with SEN or disabilities.	Lead Member for Children's Services and Director for Children's Services (DCS)
Children's and adult social care	Children's and adult social care services must co-operate with those leading the integration arrangements for children and young people with SEN or disabilities to ensure the delivery of care and support is effectively integrated in the new SEN system.	Lead Member for Children and Adult Social Care, and Director for Children's Services (DCS), Director for Adult Social Services (DASS).
Health and Wellbeing Board	The Health and Wellbeing Board must ensure a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) of the current and future needs of the whole local population is developed. The JSNA will form the basis of NHS and local authorities' own commissioning plans, across health, social care, public health	Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board must include at least one local elected councillor, as well as a representative of the local Healthwatch organisation. It must also include the local DCS, DASS, and a senior CCG
Clinical Commissioning Group	To co-operate with the local authority in jointly commissioning services, ensuring there is sufficient capacity contracted to deliver necessary services, drawing the attention of the local authority to groups and individual children and young people with SEN or disabilities, supporting diagnosis and assessment, and delivering interventions and review.	CCGs will be held to account by NHS England. CCGs are also subject to local accountability, for example, to the Health and Wellbeing Board for how well they contribute to delivering the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Each CCG has a governing body and an Accountable Officer who are responsible for ensuring that the CCG fulfils its duties to exercise its functions effectively, efficiently and economically and to improve the quality of services and the health of the local population whilst maintaining value for money.
NHS England	NHS England commissions specialist services which need to be reflected in local joint commissioning arrangements (for example augmentative and alternative communication systems, or provision for detained children and young people in relevant youth accommodation).	Secretary of State for Health
Healthwatch	Local Healthwatch organisations are a key mechanism for enabling people to share their views and concerns – to ensure that commissioners have a clear picture of local communities' needs and that this is represented in the planning and delivery of local services. This can include supporting children and young people with SEN or disabilities.	Local Healthwatch organisations represent the voice of people who use health and social care services and are represented in the planning and delivery of local services. This can include supporting children and young people with SEN or disabilities. They are independent but funded by local authorities.
Maintained nurseries and	Mainstream schools have duties to use best	Accountability is through Ofsted and the annual report that

schools (including academies)	endeavours to make the provision required to meet the SEN of children and young people. All schools must publish details of what SEN provision is available through the information report and co-operate with the local authority in drawing up and reviewing the Local Offer. Schools also have duties to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and young people, to support medical conditions and to inform parents and young people if SEN provision is made for them.	schools have to provide to parents on their children's progress.
Colleges	Mainstream colleges have duties to use best endeavours to make the provision required to meet the SEN of children and young people. Mainstream and special colleges must also co-operate with the local authority in drawing up and reviewing the Local Offer.	Accountable through Ofsted and performance tables such as destination and progress measures.

37 Commissioned services across health, education, social care and public health

The list below details the provision that each agency is funding or directly delivering, correct as of August 2020. These are services primarily focused on children with SEND but some reference is also made to universal provision for all children, young people and/or families. It should be noted that this does not include services directly commissioned by schools and colleges or by NHS England.

Services commissioned by Councils	Spend in the area (approximate)
Education placements	£116.9 million
Education psychology	£2.7 million
Short breaks/respite	£2.3 million
Specialist nursery provision	£2.4 million
Assessment and support teams	£2.3 million
Specialist teaching service	£6.6 million
Domiciliary support	£444k

Services commissioned by CCG's	Spend in the area (approximate)
Child and Family Support Service (CAFSS)	£1.8 million
Community Paediatric Medical Services	£4.3 million
Children's Continuing Care 0-18	£2.7 million
Adult Continuing Health Care (CHC) 18+	£200k
Speech and Language Therapy	£1.5 million
Children's Physiotherapy	£1.25 million
Children's Occupational Therapy	£1 million

Social work provision (for disabled children)	£1.1 million	Children's Community Nursing	£364k
0-19 healthy child provision (health visitors, school nurses etc for all children)	£16.2 million	CAMHS Triage and Access	£200k
Early help (for all children)	£18.5 million	CAMHS Eating Disorders	£868k
		CAMHS Outpatients City and County	£7.97 million
		CAMHS LD Team	£1.1 million
		CAMHS Crisis Team	£1.35 million
		CAMHS PBS	£108k
		Early Intervention	£380k
Community equipment loans across all organisations £195,000			

Linked strategies and documents

There are a range of linked strategies and documents held jointly or by individual agencies. These linked documents and their relationship to this commissioning strategy are listed below.

Strategy/Document	Relationship to this commissioning strategy	Link
Leicester City All Age Commissioning Strategy	Covers commissioning intentions for all age services in the City only from the LA's position.	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/186505/all-age-commissioning-strategy-2020-2025.pdf
Leicester City All Age Market Position Statement	A statement for the market (providers of services) on the anticipated direction of travel and key messages	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/186504/all-age-market-position-statement-2020.pdf
Leicester City SEND Strategy	The city's strategy for SEND services	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/186416/strategy-for-supporting-children-and-young-people-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send-2017-2022.pdf
Local Offer Leicester City	Details of services and support available to children with SEND	https://families.leicester.gov.uk/local-offer/

	and their families	
Leicester City Joint Transitions Strategy	A strategy for the city, looking at how best to improve the journey into adulthood for young people	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/185659/the-joint-health-social-care-and-education-transitions-strategy-2019-2022-plain-text.pdf
Leicester City Early Help Strategy	The city's strategy for providing early help and support	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/186713/leicester-early-help-strategy-2020-2023.pdf
Leicester City CYP JSNA	A Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) looking at the needs of children in Leicester City	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/public-health/data-reports-information/jsna/cyp-jsna/
NHS Long-Term Plan (CYP pages 45-54)	The Governments long term plan for NHS provision	https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/nhs-long-term-plan-june-2019.pdf
Leicester City Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	A health and wellbeing strategy for all Leicester residents, including children and young people.	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/177755/leicester_s_joint_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2013-2016.pdf
Leicestershire JSNA (CYP Physical Health)	A Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) looking at the needs of children in Leicestershire	https://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/children-and-young-peoples-physical-health.pdf?v=1590599655
Leicestershire JSNA for children with SEND	A specific joint strategic needs analysis focusing on children with SEND	Awaiting publish
Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	A health and wellbeing strategy for all Leicestershire residents, including children and young people.	https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2016/10/11/Leics%20JHWS%202017-22v2.pdf
Rutland JSNA	A Joint Strategic Needs Analysis	https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/health-and-family/health-and-nhs/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/

39

	(JSNA) looking at the needs of children in Rutland.	
Rutland JSNA for children with SEND	A specific joint strategic needs analysis focusing on children with SEND	Awaiting publish
Rutland Health and Wellbeing Strategy	A health and wellbeing strategy for all Rutland residents, including children and young people.	https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/health-and-family/health-and-nhs/health-and-well-being-strategy/
Rutland SEND and Inclusion Strategy	A strategy for SEND for Rutland Council	https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/rutland/fsd/files/send_and_inclusion_strategy_-_updated_september_2019_-_pdf.pdf
Future in Minds Transformation Plan	Plan for delivering a range of emotional, mental health and wellbeing services	https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/childrens-health/future-in-mind-plan-mental-health-children-young-people/future-in-mind-transformation-plan-2018-2020/
Maternity Transformation Plan	A plan for transforming maternity services	https://www.leicestermaternity.nhs.uk/betterbirths/
LLR Learning Disability Strategy	A strategy for services and support for people with a learning disability	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/186869/joint-health-and-social-care-learning-disability-strategy.pdf
Leicestershire Preparing for Adulthood Strategy	A protocol for professionals working with young people with SEND	https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2019/2/1/Preparing-for-adulthood-strategy.pdf
Leicestershire Whole Life Disability Strategy	A whole life approach to supporting people with disabilities	https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/mKpKC83OVSOQLInuwJsUm?domain=leicestershire.gov.uk
Leicestershire SEND and Inclusion Strategy	A strategy for SEND for Leicestershire County Council	Awaiting publish

LSCPb 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2020

LEICESTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Leicester
Safeguarding
Children Partnership Board

WORKING TOGETHER
TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

Leicester

Safeguarding Children Partnership Board

Annual Report
2019/2020

Report prepared and published pursuant to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Report Author: Lindsey Bampton, Safeguarding Boards Manager

Report Date: June 2020

CONTENTS

		Page Number
Foreword		4
1.	The Partnership	5
2.	Safeguarding Children in Leicester – 2019/2020 Data	6
3.	What We Have Done as a Result of our Arrangements	9
4.	Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	12
5.	How Feedback from Children and Families Informed our Work and Influenced Service Provision	13
6.	Looking to the Future	13
7.	Appendices	
	Joint LSCBP/LRSCP Governance Chart	Appendix A
	Covid-19 Safeguarding Children Partners' Joint Statement (March 2020)	Appendix B
	Covid-19 Safeguarding Children #OurDoorsOpen Campaign	Appendix C

FOREWORD

In their response to the Wood review, the Department for Education noted that ‘this is the beginning of a time of considerable change’. They were right in more ways than one. Not only have we experienced the transition from a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to a Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP), we also saw at the start of 2020 the outbreak of Covid-19 and the resulting global pandemic. These were, and continue to be, unprecedented times making it more vital than ever for local agencies who are at the forefront of safeguarding our children, to work together.

Under Working Together 2018, the purpose of this report is to bring transparency for children, families, and all practitioners about the activity undertaken by the safeguarding children partnership. A report must be published at least once in every twelve-month period that sets out what the partnership has done as a result of its arrangements, and how effective they have been in practice. The period covered in this report is September 2019 when the arrangements were implemented, to June 2020 – making it Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board’s inaugural annual report.

In Leicester, the challenges faced by Covid-19 presented an opportunity for the new partnership arrangements to embed quickly and effectively. Having been implemented in September 2019, they allowed partners the flexibility to adapt and respond to the changing safeguarding landscape. It is clear to me that underpinning this work is the positive relationships that developed during the partnership’s time as an LSCB.

I welcome seeing the partnership focusing on the impact of their work for children and families in Leicester. They have done this by working with partners across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) footprint when appropriate to do so, and where this is likely to have the greatest impact. In addition to the joint subgroups identified in the published arrangements, a good example of cross-partnership working is the safeguarding campaign referred to in the main body of this report.

I took on the role of Independent Advisor on a temporary basis in December 2019. My tenure has lasted longer than expected due to the recruitment for a joint Independent Advisor with Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership, being temporarily put on hold at the initial outbreak of the pandemic. I am fully committed to work with and drive the partnership in order to achieve the very best outcomes for the children and young people of Leicester. I am confident that as the partnership continues its development in what remains an ever-changing and challenging context, it will continue to keep the impact of its work on the children and families of Leicester at the forefront of its collective thoughts.

Linda Clegg, Temporary Independent Advisor

1. THE PARTNERSHIP

Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board completed its transition from Leicester Safeguarding Children Board in September 2019, in line with Working Together 2018: Transitional Guidance. The shared and equal duty of the three safeguarding partners – Police, Clinical Commissioning Group, and Local Authority – is to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Leicester. This includes agreeing on ways to co-ordinate safeguarding services, acting as a strategic leadership group to engage and support others, and implementing learning from local and national serious child safeguarding incidents.

Our partnership’s arrangements were published in June 2019 and outline our vision “*for children and young people in Leicester to be safe, well and achieve their full potential*”. Valued contributions from its members over a number of years, led Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board to maintain the membership of the former Leicester Safeguarding Children Board:

LEICESTER SCP MEMBERSHIP		
Criminal Justice	National Probation Service, Leicestershire	
	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company	
	Leicestershire Police	
Education	Primary Schools	
	Secondary Schools	
	Further Education Colleges	
Family Justice	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	
Health	Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group	 
	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	
	University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust	
Local Authority	Children’s Social Care and Education	   
	Adult Social Care	
	Housing	
	Public Health	
	Children and Young People's Justice Service	
PVI Sector	Lead Members	 
	Voluntary Community Sector	

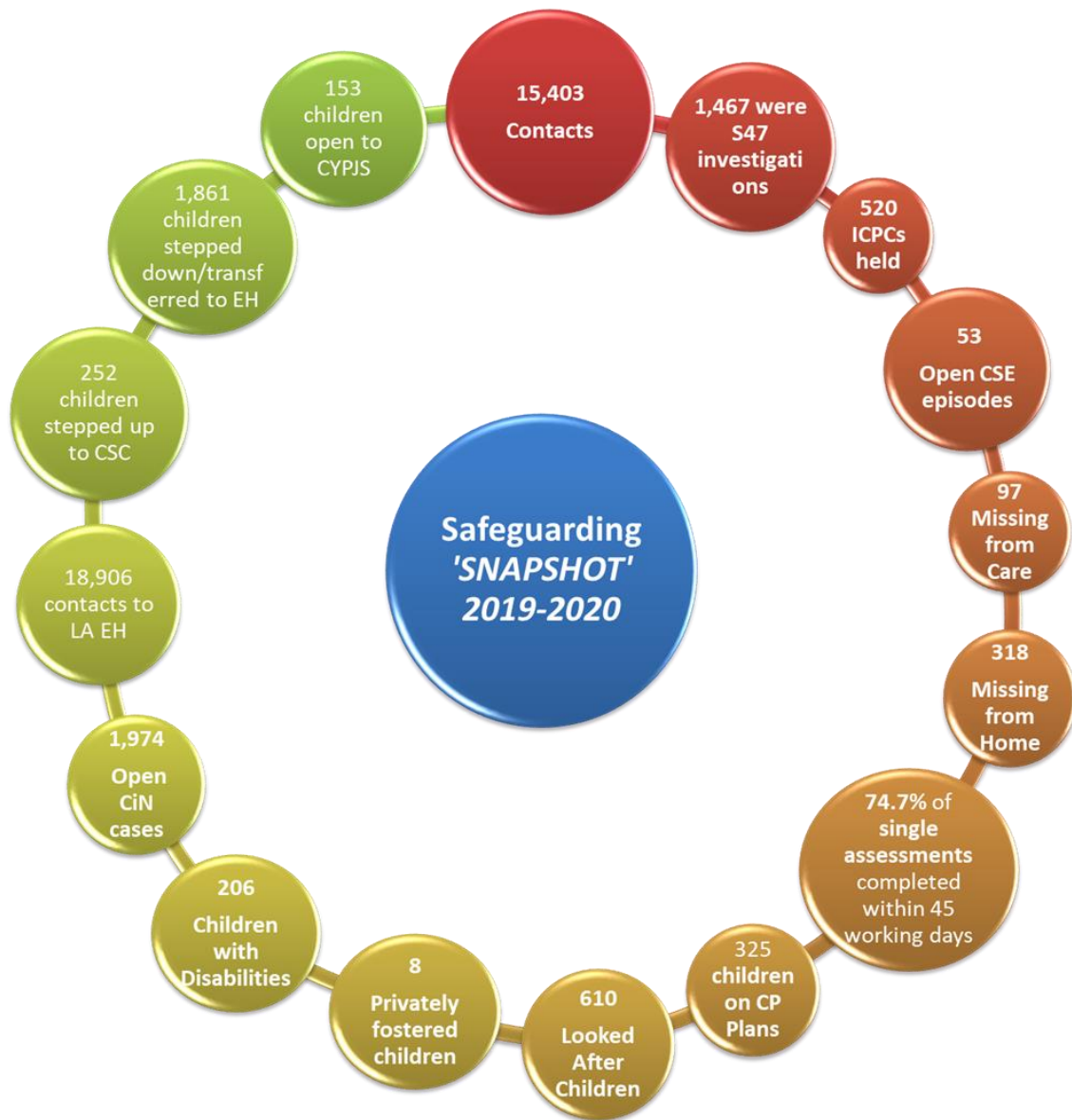
In line with statutory guidance, updates to our published arrangements are to be referenced in this report. Since the publication of our arrangements, in June 2019, there has been an additional subgroup created, with a focus on multi-agency audits and assurance. A new Quality Assurance Framework has also been developed and approved by the partnership. A copy of the current governance chart (which is a joint governance chart with Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership) can be found in the appendix.

2. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN LEICESTER – 2019/20 DATA

With a population of more than 330,000 Leicester is the 10th largest city in the UK and the largest city in the East Midlands. Leicester has a young population and the city is seeing increases in the number of children and young people living here. The city is home to 130,726 children and young people aged up to 24 years, an increase of 12.5% since 2015, which is more than double the increase seen in England as a whole. This growth includes a big increase in the number of young children aged 0-4 years which rose by nearly 25% from 20,726 in 2005 to 25,884 in 2015. The following provides an overview of safeguarding children data in Leicester during 2019/20:

- Contacts to Duty and Assessment Service (DAS) –15,403 contacts to social care were recorded (up 9.5% from 2018-19)
- Referrals and re-referrals – there were 2,704 recorded referrals, with 332 (12.3%) being re-referrals. Referrals rose by over 29% year-on-year. The number re-referrals remained stable, however there was a decrease in the percentage of re-referrals.
- Contacts to Early Help - 18,906 contacts to the local authority early help service were recorded for 5,121 families (up from 5% from 2018-19)
- Of these, 52% were supported through Advice Point (Advice, signposting and a brief intervention), 27% were supported through an Early Help Assessment and 21% were NFA (no further action)
- There were 252 children stepped up to social care in 2019-20. There were 1,861 children stepped down/transferred from children social care to early help with less than 1% stepping back up to social care after 12 months.
- Statutory social work assessments completed by CIN: 3,168 single assessments were completed (up 6.3%). 74.7% were completed within 45 working days, with an average time of 38 days.
- Open Child in Need (CiN) cases: 1,974 (up 0.6% from 2018-19).
- No. of child protection investigations: 1,467 as of 31 March 2020 (up 45%). 40% of cases in the measure went on to ICPC.
- Children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and LAC: 325 CPP (down 8%) and 610 CLA (down 7%) as of 31 March 2020.
- Number of children and young people identified as being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): 53 CSE as of 31 March 2020. Comparable numbers to 2018-19, although 206 episodes ended and 210 started within the year.
- Children with a Disability (CWD) cases: 206 children and young people recorded as having a disability (11% of open CIN cases) as of 31 March 2020. 50 social work cases were held by the Disabled Children's Service as of 31 March 2020.
- Private fostering numbers: Eight children as of 31 March 2020. This is stable as there were 5 children in private fostering arrangement at the end of the previous year and 6 the year before.

-
- Incidents of children and young people going missing from care: 866 missing occasions for 97 Children Looked After - between 01 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. A small increase in both episodes and young people
 - Incidents of children and young people missing from home: 722 missing occasions for 318 children not in the care of the local authority – missing episode between 01 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. An increase in both episodes and young people.
 - Children and Young People's Justice Service (CYPJS): 153 children were open to the CYPJS. Of these: 12.7% were looked after, 15.6% had SEND support and 23.2% had an Education, Health and Care Plan. Of these 27 were children looked after, and 38.8% had SEND support or an Education Health and Care Plan.
 - Of the 153 children and young people open to CYPJS across 2019-20, 48.3% were first time entrants, 10.9% were cyp who had reoffended and 3.3% received a custodial sentence.
 - Over 90% of young people remained in suitable accommodation at the end of their order and 92% (statutory school age) 79% (post 16) in education, training and or employment.



Safeguarding 'snapshot' 2019/20

3. WHAT WE HAVE DONE AS A RESULT OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS

This report must set out what the safeguarding partners have done as a result of our local multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements. The subgroups of Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board undertake core business on half of the partnership; their work, since the partnership was established, is outlined here along with any identified impact for children and families:

3.1 Multi-Agency Policies & Procedures

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCPs) Policy and Procedures Group oversees the development of the LLR multi-agency safeguarding procedures and ensures that procedures are up-to-date and compliant with Working Together 2018, taking into account local and national learning from reviews and audits, as well as any legislative changes. Throughout the year, task and finish groups (consisting of representatives from relevant partner agencies across LLR) were established to review key procedures and develop new ones. Highlights include Fabricated Induced Illness (FII) revised procedure, which is a good example of partnership working, although it is recognised that there remains more to be done to embed this work.

Impact: During January and February 2020, a survey was conducted to evaluate the use of the updated LLR Multiagency Referral Form (MARF) and Threshold document. A total of 167 surveys were completed by front line practitioners and first line managers working across various agencies across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. More than half (59%) said that they had used the MARF. A large number (49) had submitted 1-5 MARFs and few (5) had submitted more than 15 MARFs. Feedback identified that referrers would like an improved experience in receiving confirmation of submitted referrals and being made aware of outcomes – this feedback has been received and required updates will be implemented by the policy and procedures group during 2020/21.

Impact: Access to the LLR multi-agency safeguarding procedures has been consistent in comparison to 2018/19. Google Analytical data shows that there has been a small increase in 2019/20 in the number of sessions, users and page views. There were 54,485 users, 66,051 sessions, and 95,359 page views from April 2019 to March 2020 in comparison to 54,175 users, 64,813 sessions, and 95,982-page views from April 2018 to March 2019. Our multi-agency safeguarding children policies and procedures (joint with Leicestershire and Rutland) provide practitioners with a shared language and allow for consistency of approach across the partnership.

3.2. Assurance & Audit

The LLR Assurance and Audit Group was set up to analyse Safeguarding Children Partnership performance data and oversee multi-agency assurance processes. It will oversee the annual Section 11 audits. At its meeting on 20 January 2020, the group carried out a multi-agency

assurance process regarding mental health and safeguarding children. This process considered a range of existing reports and the findings from these in order to derive an overarching view of multi-agency safeguarding and child mental health and areas for improvement or further assurance going forward. Reports included the LSCB Multi-agency audit carried out in 2019, learning from reviews, single agency audit findings and views from children and young people. The group identified 'Better engagement from and with CAMHS in safeguarding and Child in Need processes' as the main area to take forward to support effective safeguarding of children.

Impact: Mental health has been identified as a priority in LSCPb's 2020/21 business plan, with one task and finish group already set up focusing on improving elements of this work.

Additionally, Leicester's Early Help Model, which incorporates the Early Help Offer and the Troubled Families (TF) Programme was evaluated by Leicester's Early Help Strategic Partnership Board. The evaluation found that families with a diverse range of multiple and complex needs are being supported by early help delivery partners; there has been increased achievement of outcomes in key areas; families were positive about the changes made due to intervention giving an average of 8.1 out of 10. Satisfaction resulted in an average rating of 8.4 from a scale of 1-10, and ease of understanding the plan resulted in an average rating of 9.2 out of 10.

A performance review by the local authority's Transformation and Service Improvement Team of the TF programme found that there is evidence that the programme is having an impact to reduce the severity and acuteness of needs of families over time and by extension therefore having an impact on the number of social care cases that are being referred.

Impact: closer working with children's social care has prevented families from requiring longer term statutory intervention at a higher cost. There has been a year on year increase in cases being stepped down from children's social care (CSC) to the local authority's early help services for families who still require support but do not meet the children social care threshold. There is a more skilled and confident workforce, which include awareness of the TF Programme. In relation to the TF programme, evidence suggests that given the relatively high change of lead agency rates in the short-term following commencement of intervention, efficient multi-agency working is in effect with cases moved on in a timely fashion; that the families with the most acute / complex needs are being prioritised for inclusion in the TF programme.

In relation to Leicester Children and Young People's Justice Service Inspection, the youth offending service is inspected every three years by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The last inspection was in May 2016 resulted in an overall grading of Satisfactory. The most recent inspection in August 2019 resulted in an overall grading of GOOD demonstrating great progress with six recommendations. The inspection found that there were some areas of outstanding practice, which brought together representatives from local authority, police, probation service and NHS. Steps had been put in place to provide better support to children who have had traumatic experiences and who potentially have undiagnosed mental health conditions.

Two mental health specialists have been brought in to work with these children, and to train and assist other staff. There was good practice in the service's education, training and employment provision. Recommendations identified through the inspection have been embedded within the operational and partnership delivery plans with good progress made to date.

3.3 Learning & Development

In addition to the multi-agency safeguarding children training offer for 2019/2020 the LLR Multi-Agency Learning and Development group facilitated four large-scale events since the partnership was established in September 2019. In relation to the new arrangements, 'referral forms' between subgroups have been set up encourage other subgroups to refer in to learning and delivery to ensure the multi-agency training offer is current and focused on Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities.

Impact: The learning and development group is in the process of considering how impact can be measured. This will be an important way for partnerships to evidence that they are making a difference.

3.4 Responding to COVID-19

The safeguarding children partnership's 2020/21 priority setting day was postponed (subsequently held in June 2020) due to the onset of COVID-19 throughout January and February 2020, which culminated in school closures on 20 March 2020 and a national lockdown on 23 March 2020. Within four days of lockdown, the three safeguarding partners had reviewed their arrangements and written out to the partnership identifying which partnership board work would be prioritised in light of the pandemic. The status of the work of the partnership board was subsequently reviewed at regular intervals, with updates communicated out to LSCP members via e-mail.

"...In light of the unprecedented strain placed on LLR safeguarding partners at this time, we have considered how to ensure that the statutory duties of the LLR Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Partnerships continue to be met, whilst at the same time reducing pressure on partners. The LLR safeguarding boards and partnerships remain vital in providing strategic leadership to support and oversee effective safeguarding across the locality and we thank you for your continued efforts in these difficult times..." (extract from correspondence sent to LSCP members, from the safeguarding partners across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, on 27 March 2020)

At the same time, following a noticeable fall in safeguarding children contacts, safeguarding partners worked swiftly to agree and publish a joint statement confirming that despite lockdown, local safeguarding partnerships continued to respond robustly to all reports of child abuse, and that help remained available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (see Appendix B). Subsequently, the partnerships developed a comms campaign #OurDoorsOpen which promoted this message to local communities and practitioners alike via a [press release](#) and associated comms messages

across the partnership and local community (see Appendix C for examples of the associated assets, leaflets and posters). In order to effectively promote this message, LSCPB linked effectively with other strategic partnership work that taking place in the locality, including the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) comms cell.

Impact: Safeguarding children referrals increased following the implementation of the media campaign – this would have resulted in additional protection being provided to children experiencing abuse or neglect in Leicester. The partnership was contacted by Local Government Association, seeking to use the campaign as an example of good practice. Other partnership areas also made contact with a view to either adopt or adapt our campaign in their own areas.

Finally, led by the local Clinical Commissioning Group, safeguarding partners across the locality were swift to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 by setting up a regular (weekly with flexibility to change) meeting of safeguarding leads with a view to achieve a collective understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on safeguarding children at an operational level, to share information about the impact of COVID-19 on services, and to address any emerging issues.

Impact: The Safeguarding Sub Cell allowed timely and flexible sharing of information, issues, and solutions for safeguarding children across the partnership in response to COVID-19. It also fed into a number of different strategic bodies, avoiding duplication, which was particularly important at a time of crisis. The positive impact on children, young people, and their families is difficult to measure, but given the importance of effective information sharing and multi-agency working as recognised in many Serious Case Reviews over the years, it is likely to have been significant.

4. CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

This report must set out what the safeguarding partners have done in relation to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Since the partnership was established in September 2019, 3 Serious Incident notifications have been made to the National Panel, resulting in 3 Rapid Reviews, and a decision to undertake 2 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs). These LCSPRs continue to be in progress and will be reported on in next year's annual report. In the meantime, immediate learning identified in the rapid reviews, has been identified and acted upon, resulting in immediate improvements to multi-agency safeguarding children policies and systems.

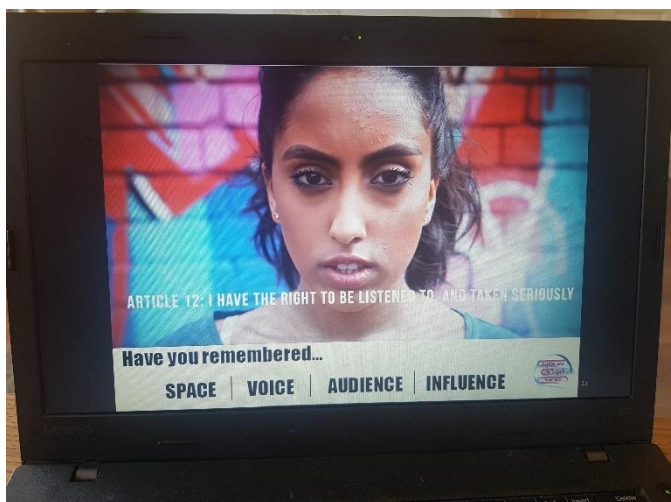
In line with statutory guidance, this report must also include a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (September 2019 to June 2020) to implement recommendations from any national child safeguarding practice reviews. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published one such review. 'It was hard to escape: Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation' was published on 4 March 2020.

Impact: The national review indicated that a whole system approach incorporating policy, prevention, disruption, protection and support across multiple agencies is likely to be the most

effective approach. Locally, strategic ownership of this work sits with the LLR Strategic Partnership Board which oversees the LLR Vulnerability Executive, which the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Ops Group reports into. We have an LLR Exploitation Delivery Plan, led by the LLR CCE Co-ordinator, a plan which all safeguarding partners work on together. The delivery plan covers issues identified in the national review, influencing the operational work of the LLR CCE safeguarding hub and its dedicated multi-agency workers. The multi-agency child exploitation hub’s operating protocol was developed in May 2020 and is currently being finalised.

5. HOW FEEDBACK FROM CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INFORMED OUR WORK AND INFLUENCED SERVICE PROVISION

With the partnership being established September 2019 and the global pandemic reaching us in the UK in March 2020, the partnership is yet to fully capture how feedback from children and families informed our work and influenced service provision. Data on this, along with examples, will be captured as part of our new Quality Assurance Framework, to be embedded throughout 2020/21.



‘Was Not Heard’ – a film part-funded by the partnership in conjunction with NHS England and written/developed by local young people aged between seven and nineteen – was played at our LSCP B business priority setting day. It focuses on the importance of the voice of young people and it set the tone for the partnership to receive input from young people’s groups and forums across the city into our LSCP B priorities. The film focuses

on Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): the right to be listened to and taken seriously. The partnership is supporting a launch of the film in early July 2020 and it will be used in training, team meetings, and reflective practice across the safeguarding children partnership.

Impact: In addition to the ‘Was Not Heard’ film that was played at our LSCP B development day, local young people forums fed into the LSCP B development day and influenced our priorities for 2020/21.

6. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With the LSCP B’s original priority-setting day in March 2020 postponed due to Covid-19, the partnership met virtually in June 2020 to plan their priorities for 2020/21. Priorities will focus on meeting our statutory duties and maintaining business as usual in the context of Covid-19. A

limited number of additional priorities will focus on mental health, voice of the child / co-production, effective communications, and domestic abuse in families. Once published, a copy of the new business plan will be found on the [LSCP website](#).

7. APPENDIX A: JOINT LSCP/ LRSCP GOVERNANCE CHART



Joint Governance Chart

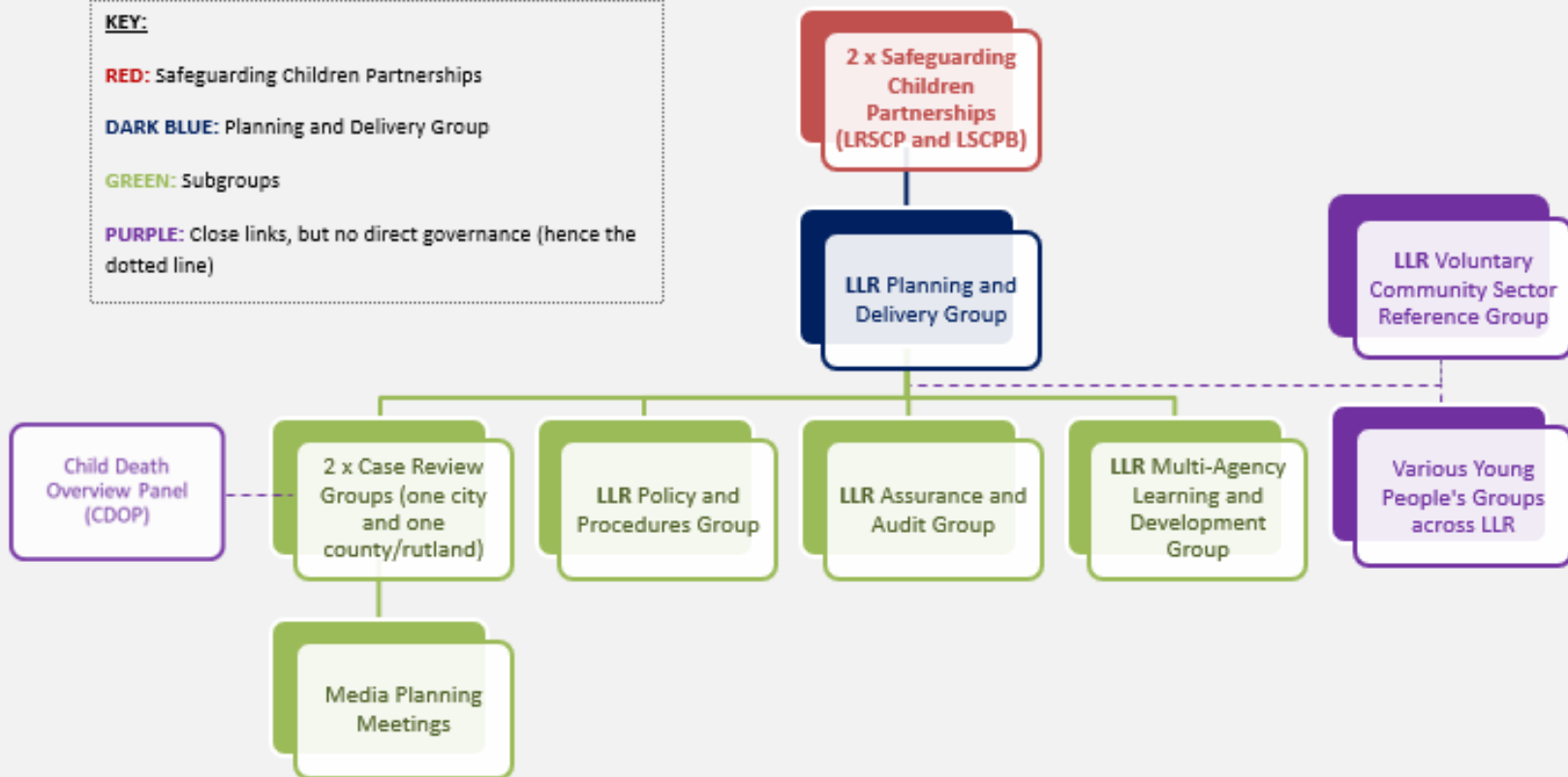
KEY:

RED: Safeguarding Children Partnerships

DARK BLUE: Planning and Delivery Group

GREEN: Subgroups

PURPLE: Close links, but no direct governance (hence the dotted line)



APPENDIX B: COVID-19 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERS' JOINT STATEMENT (MARCH 2020)



Safeguarding
Children Partnership
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

COVID-19 Safeguarding Children Update

Safeguarding Children Partnerships across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland continue to respond robustly to all reports of child abuse. If you have concerns about a child, help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Contact:

Your Local Authority

Leicester City Council: 0116 454 1004; www.leicester.gov.uk

Leicestershire County Council: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-abuse-of-a-child; 0116 305 0005
(telephone for urgent situations)

Rutland County Council: 01572 758407 (0116 305 0005 out of hours) www.rutland.gov.uk

Police

Non emergencies: report via website www.leics.police.uk or call 101

In emergencies, always dial 999

ChildLine 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

help@nspcc.org.uk

March 2020

APPENDIX C: COVID-19 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN #OURDOORISOPEN CAMPAIGN



Our Door Is Open: Leaflet Front



Our Door Is Open: Leaflet Back



Our Door Is Open: Poster



Selection of Our Door Is Open: Social Media Assets

Executive Briefing Permanence Strategy

CYPS Scrutiny: 13 January 2021

Lead director: Martin Samuels

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: David Thrussell, Head of Service Corporate Parenting
- Author contact details: 0116 4541657
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines our strategy to achieve permanence for our children and young people to ensure they have a safe place to live and thrive and that they achieve the best outcomes possible.
- 1.2 Permanence provides an underpinning framework for all social work with children and their families. It aims to ensure that children and young people have a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging.
- 1.3 The report sets out the principles and objectives that ensure children in Leicester receive the best permanence outcomes. The first principle is to work with families and children in need to support them staying together. The best place to provide care for most children is in their family and if this is not possible within an alternative family setting. We will always support families to stay together and ensure that the home is a safe and caring place.
- 1.4 The report outlines the ways in which the council provides suitable long-term permanence options for children to live within family households including kinship care arrangements, long term fostering arrangements, special guardianship and adoption.

2. Recommended actions / decision

- 2.1 This report is for information only and the Executive are asked to note and approve the Permanence Strategy for 2020 / 2023.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 The report has been prepared in consultation with the Service Managers for Children's Social Care and Early Help. The report will proceed to Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny subject to agreement.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

- 4.1 This is a covering report for the attached Permanence Strategy for 2020 / 23.

5. Detailed report

- 5.1 Please refer to the attached main report. If you have any questions about the Permanence Strategy, please contact the Head of Service Corporate Parenting.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

- 6.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance

6.2 Legal implications

- 6.2.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Pretty Patel, Head of Legal Services 0116 4541457

6.3 Equalities implications

- 6.3.1 When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality

of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

6.3.2 In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

6.3.3 Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.3.4 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report as it is for information, however equality considerations, including relevant protected characteristics, should be considered as part of the permanence strategy when placing a child.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

6.4.1 There are no significant climate change implications associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, 0116 4542284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

6.5.1 None

7. Background information and other papers:

7.1 None

8. Summary of appendices:

8.1 None

9. Is this a private report

9.1 No

10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

10.1 No

Leicester City Council Permanence Strategy 2020-2023



Introduction

Leicester City Council is committed to support children and young people to be safe, independent and ambitious and to live the best life they can. This strategy outlines our approach to achieving permanence for our children and young people to ensure they have a safe place to live and thrive and that they achieve the best outcomes possible.

Though some children and young people who become looked after by the council can return to their family home after a period of care, this is not always the best option for all children. For those children and young people unable to return to their family home plans will be made to achieve permanence.

Permanence is the long-term plan for a child or young person's upbringing.

Permanence provides an underpinning framework for all social work with children and their families. It aims to ensure that children and young people have a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging. There are three key parts to permanence:

1. **Legal**
Defining who has parental responsibility
2. **Emotional/psychological**
The child feels attached to an adult who provides a stable, loving and secure relationship
3. **Physical or environmental**
The child has a stable home environment

Core principles

When we work with children and young people, we follow a set of principles that help us make sure they achieve the best possible outcomes:

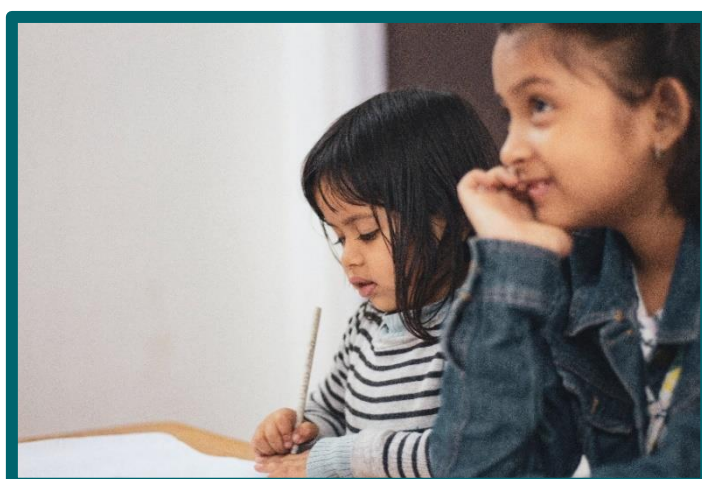
- We will understand the impact and value of what we do
- We will intervene early, quickly and as effectively as possible
- We will personalise our approach to fit the needs of the individual
- We will ensure we give those we work with the best life opportunities
- We will forge links with the community and encourage safe support networks
- We will establish and maintain the trust and confidence of those we work with through strong partnerships

Our objectives

The objective of planning for permanence is to ensure that children have a stable and loving family to support them through childhood and beyond, and to give them a sense of security, continuity, commitment, identity and belonging. Achieving permanence is as important for adolescents as it is for younger children.

Where it is necessary for a child to leave their family, the following will be considered:

- A child should be in care for as short a time as is required to secure a safe, supported return home.
- If a child cannot return home, plans must be made for alternative permanent care. Family members and friends should always be considered in the first instance.
- Where families and children are unable to live together, planning must be swift and clear to identify permanent alternative plans.
- Where it is not in the child's best interests to live within the family network, alternative permanent carers will be identified.
- Permanence should always be secured through the appropriate legal order to meet the children's needs.
- Wherever possible, care should be provided locally unless clearly identified as inappropriate.
- Contact with the family, connected persons and extended family should be facilitated and built on unless this is clearly identified as inappropriate.
- The professionals involved will work in partnership with parents, families and carers. The wishes and feelings of the child or young person will always be considered, taking into account their age.
- Children's link with their ethnic, cultural and religious heritage will be promoted when undertaking permanence planning, however this will not be allowed to introduce delay in achieving permanence for the child.



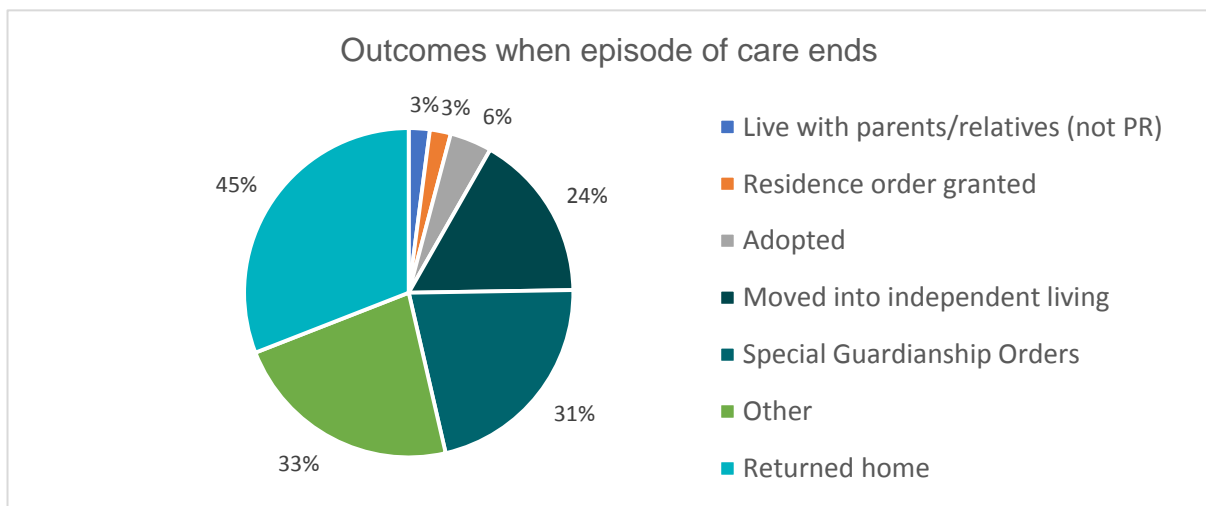
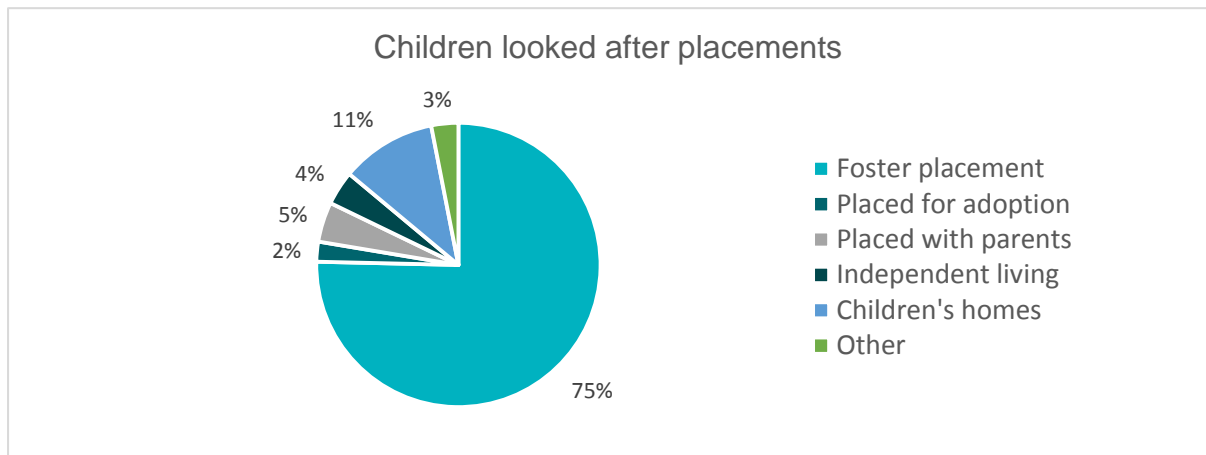
Permanence in Leicester

As of May 2020, there were 617 children looked after with an open episode of care in Leicester. For each of these young people every effort is made to ensure they achieve a permanence outcome that will enable them to live the best life possible.

Most children who are looked after by Leicester City Council live in foster care households (75%) as of May 2020, while 2% were placed for adoption, 5% are placed with parents, 4% are in independent living and 11% live in residential children’s homes. The remaining 3% are living in specialist placements.

Leicester City Council has a good record of placement stability, with 72% of children and young people having one placement in the last two months. For those looked after children aged under 16 who have been looked after for 2 ½ years or more, 70% have been in their placement for two years or more. When an episode of care ends, most children return home to live with parents or relatives.

Leicester City Council’s fostering and adoption services are among the top performing. The council ranks highly nationally for both the percentage of looked after children who are adopted (17% in 2019, compared to 12% in England) and for the time between the local authority receiving a court authority to place a child and deciding on a match (114 days in 2015-18, compared to 201 days in England). Additionally, Leicester compares favourably with the national average for the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family; In Leicester this is 438 days while in England it is 486 (2015-18).

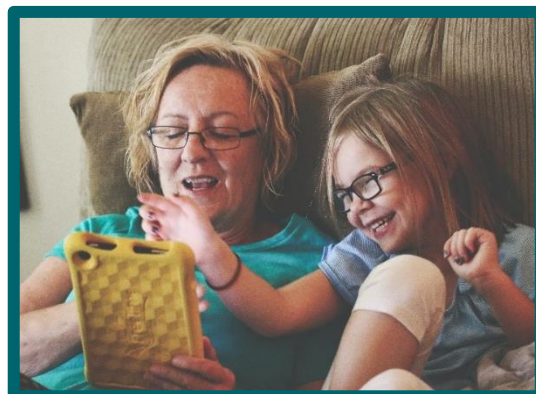


What to consider when a child cannot remain at home

When a child can no longer remain at home, the following considerations will need to be made.

Supporting reunification with birth or extended family

Where the plan is for children to return home, it will be made clear to the family what needs to happen and by when. Professionals will explore family ties and long-term relationships with family, school and community, using Family Group Conferences to facilitate this when appropriate.



Identifying the best permanence option

When deciding on a permanency option we will take account of children's wishes and feelings and work with multiagency partners to identify which option best meets the needs of the individual child or young person. The assessment process must ask how stability for this child will be achieved and consider the following factors:

- Long term stability means the sense of a permanent home with the same family or group of people, as part of the same community and culture, and with long-term continuity of relationships and identity;
- Short- or medium-term stability or continuity will be important for children who are going to stay in care for a brief period before going home and for children who are going to need new permanent arrangements. The quality of a child's attachments and life will be detrimentally affected by uncertainties, separations, and changes of school and placement;
- Educational experiences, links with extended family, hobbies and friendships and support from carers, contribute to reducing the risk of disruption and placement breakdown;
- Listening to what children want from the placement, helping the relationship between carer and child to build, making thorough plans around contact with family, providing vigorous support during crisis times and taking a sufficiently flexible attitude to adoption by carers;
- The older a child is, the less likely it is that the child will secure a permanent family through adoption;
- The larger the family group of children, the harder it is to secure a single placement that will meet all the needs of all the children.

Twin Track or Parallel Planning

Social workers are encouraged to consider working to this model; planning for a child's return home whilst at the same time developing an alternative Permanence Plan, within strictly limited timescales. Where children's cases are being considered by the court in Care Proceedings, the Court require twin track planning to be reflected in the Care Plan.

Placement/Contact with Siblings

Wherever it is in the best interests of each individual child, siblings should be placed together. Being able to live with brothers and sisters who are also looked after is an important protective factor for many looked after children. Positive sibling relationships provide support both in childhood and adulthood and can be particularly valuable during changes in a young person's life, such as leaving care. While practical steps will be taken to place sibling groups together, it may be harder to achieve this in some circumstances, such as:

- Siblings entering care at different times
- Siblings that have different needs related to past experiences, current behavioural or emotional needs
- There is a significant difference in age
- Children that belong to a large sibling group

When siblings cannot be placed together, children will be supported to understand why they cannot live together. Where it is in the best interests of each individual child, sibling contact should be promoted and maintained.

Where the plan is for adoption a decision should be made as early as possible as to whether it is in the best interests of each sibling to be placed together or separately. The decision should be based on an assessment of the individual needs of each child in the group, and the likely or possible consequences of each option on each child.

Contact with birth family members and others

Where it is for the benefit of the child, they should remain in contact with their family. This will help children to maintain their identity, minimise the sense of loss, give reassurance and give the child permission to live with alternative carers. Contact must always be for the benefit of the child, not the parents or other relatives.

The wishes of the child to join a new family without direct contact, must be considered and given considerable weight at any age.



If direct contact is a part of the Permanence Plan, a formal agreement setting out how contact will take place, who with, where and how frequently must be negotiated before placement, and reviewed regularly throughout the child's life.

Indirect contact between the child and their new family with people from the past should be facilitated where appropriate.

Planning for permanency

When we work with a child or young person, we will always consider how their permanence needs are being met. We will make every effort to work with the child, their family, all relevant connected persons and our multi-agency partners to develop the right plans.

The permanency planning process will:

- Start from the point the child is likely to become looked after
- Look beyond the initial period of care
- Set high quality outcomes
- Meet the individual's needs
- Consider the child's wishes and feelings
- Identify which option is most appropriate to their needs
- Set out the journey and intended destination



Where it is in the child's best interests, we will always work towards them returning home but will also develop an alternative permanence plan with clear time frames.

We will focus on the long-term outcomes for the young person and work with the young person to understand their wishes and ambitions. This will help us create a plan that builds the foundations for adulthood. Plans will support the development of strong networks and relationships that will endure, providing young people with the resilience and support that is needed in adulthood.

When we assess a child's needs in relation to their permanence plan, we will focus on outcomes and consider stability issues based on the child's and family's needs for long term support and for links with their parents, siblings and wider family network.

To inform our decision making we will consider how stability will be achieved. Stability means ensuring continuity of care for children who are going to be in care for a brief period before going home, and for children who are going to need a more permanent arrangement (short-term or medium-term stability); and providing a sense of a permanent home (long-term stability)

The assessment will include:

- Outcomes for the child
- Their wishes and feelings
- The child's and family's support needs
- How the child and family, friends/connected persons remain in contact when it is in their best interests
- Evidence that the plan is clearly linked to previous assessments of the child's needs

Permanence and local placement

Where a child is placed with long term carers, it is important that the child has access to the friends, family or community within which they were brought up and which form part of their identity and their long-term support network. Children should be placed in local provision wherever possible for these reasons.



Any decision to place a child away from their community should be based on the needs of the child and considered within the context of a Permanence Plan. Where this is in another local authority, the likely availability and cost of suitable local resources to support the placement must be explored. In the case of an adoptive placement, this will be required as part of the assessment of need for adoption support services but should be carried out in relation to any permanent placement.

Options for permanency

We recognise that different children and young people have different needs and to enable us to make the best plans for them we have several options available for permanency. These are:



Staying/returning home



Placement with family or friends/connected persons



Long term fostering



Fostering for adoption



Special Guardianship Orders



Child Arrangements Orders



Adoption

Permanency options

Staying/returning home

The first stage within permanence planning is work with families and children in need to support them staying together. The best place to provide care is in the family. We will support the family to stay together and ensure that the home is a safe and caring place where this is possible.

What this means

- The child remains with their birth family
- It is more likely that a family will stay together
- This gives the best chance of stability

Other considerations

- Will staying at home or returning home require continuing social work involvement?
- May not always be successful

Placement with family or friends/connected persons

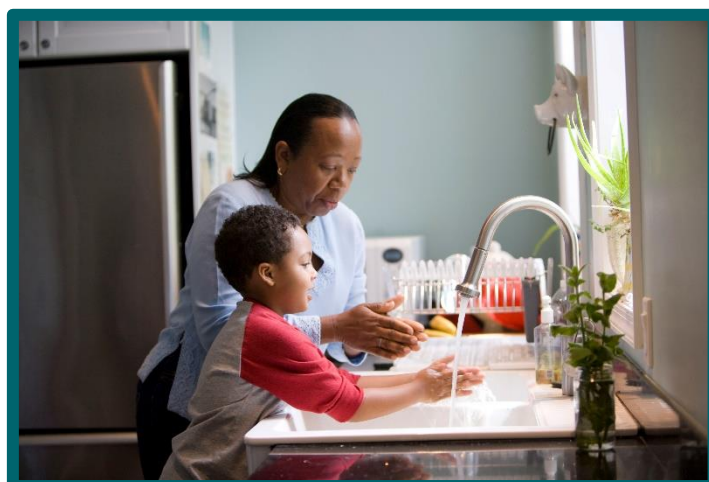
If the assessment concludes that the child cannot safely remain at home, every effort must be made to secure a placement with a family member or friend/connected person as their carer. This will either be as part of the plan to work towards a return home or, if a return home is clearly not in the child's best interests, as the preferred permanence option. Every effort will be made at an early stage to establish which relatives or friends might be able to provide the care the child needs.

What this means

- The child is cared for by family, friends or connected persons that they know and already have relationships
- The child retains their links to their birth families

Other considerations

- Staying at home or returning home will require continuing social work involvement
- Family, friends or connected persons may not be able to, or may not want to, care for the child



Long term fostering

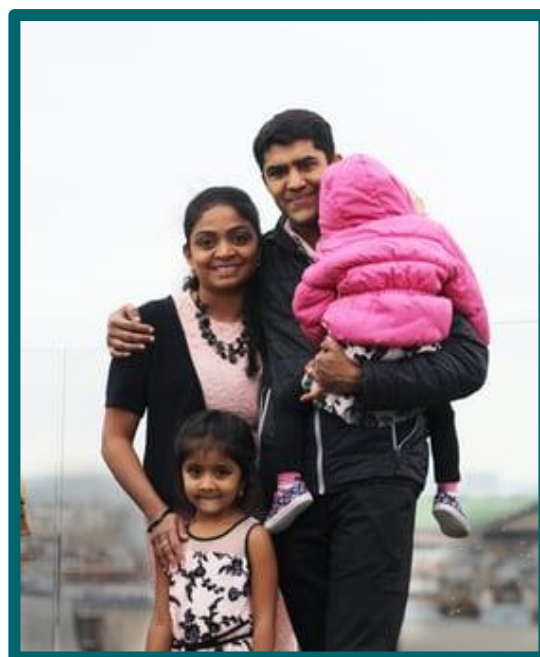
For children who remain looked after, long term foster care offers an opportunity for achieving permanence. This option has proved to be appropriate for some older children who retain strong links to their birth families and do not want or need the formality of adoption and where the carers wish for the continued involvement of the local authority.

What this means

- The local authority retains a role in negotiating between the foster carers and birth families over issues such as contact
- There is continuing support to the child and foster family in a placement which is regularly reviewed
- It maintains legal links to the birth family who can still play a part in the decision making for the young person

Other considerations

- Lack of parental responsibility for the carers
- Continuing social work involvement
- Regular looked after reviews which may be regarded as destabilising to the placement
- Stigma attached to the child due to being in care
- The child is not a legal member of the family. If difficulties arise there may be less willingness to persevere and seek resolution
- Post care and/or post 18, the carers have no legal responsibility towards the young person



Fostering for adoption

To achieve early permanence, placements can be considered with carers who are approved as both adopters and foster carers. Where a child is placed in a fostering for adoption placement, the relationship which the child has with the person who is a prospective adopter must be considered by the court or adoption agency alongside other relevant relationships the child has with their relatives or other persons.

What this means

- Provides consistency, safety and stability
- Reduces the number of moves that children experience before they achieve permanence
- The child or young person is no longer looked after
- Parental responsibility is transferred to the carers/adopters once the adoption order has been granted.

Other considerations

- There is no absolute guarantee that the court will recommend adoption
- The foster carer/adopter will be required to meet the child's birth family and support contact with the child's birth family if appropriate, while court proceedings are ongoing.

Special Guardianship Orders

Special guardianship addresses the needs of children who need a sense of stability and security within a placement away from their parents, but not the absolute legal break with their birth family that is associated with adoption. It can also provide an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption, for cultural or religious reasons, is not an option. The parents of the child may not become the child's special guardians.

Any of the following can apply for special guardianship:

- Any guardian of the child
- A local authority foster carer with whom the child has lived for one year immediately preceding the application
- Anyone who is named in a Child Arrangement Order as a person with whom the child is to live
- Anyone with whom the child has lived for three out of the last five years
- Any person who has the consent of the local authority (where the child is subject to a Care Order)
- Anyone who has the consent of all those with parental responsibility for the child

Special Guardianship Orders offer stability, whilst they can be revoked, there are restrictions on those who may apply to discharge the Order.

Parental responsibility will be given to special guardians, which will be shared with the child's parents. However, the special guardian will have the legal right to make all day to day arrangements. The parents must be consulted, and their consent required for the child's change of name, adoption, placement abroad for more than 3 months and other fundamental issues.

A Special Guardianship Order made in relation to a child who is the subject of a Care Order will automatically discharge the Care Order and the local authority will no longer have Parental Responsibility.

Special guardians may be supported financially or otherwise by the local authority and, as with adoptive parents, will have the right to request an assessment for support services at any time after the order is made.

What this means

- The guardians have parental responsibility and clear authority to make decisions on day to day issues
- There is added legal security to the order
- It maintains legal links to the birth family
- The child will no longer be in care

Other considerations

- The order lasts until the child is 18
- Does not necessarily bring with it the sense of belonging to the special guardian's family
- As the child is not a legal member of the family, if difficulties arise there may be less willingness to persevere and seek resolution
- Although there are restrictions on applications to discharge the order, such an application is possible and may be perceived as a threat to the child's stability

Child Arrangements Orders

A Child Arrangements Order may be used to increase the degree of legal permanence in a placement with family or friends/connected persons, or a long-term fostering placement. The order confers parental responsibility, to be shared more equally with the parents than with special guardianship.

Where a child would otherwise have to be placed with strangers, placement with family or friends/connected persons may be identified as a preferred option and the carers may be encouraged and supported to apply for a Child Arrangements Order where this will be in the best interests of the child.

The following people may apply for a Child Arrangements Order:

- A parent or guardian
- A party to a marriage (whether the marriage is subsisting or not) where the child was brought up as a child of the family
- A person with which the child has lived for three years
- A local authority foster carer or relative of the child with whom the child has lived for one year
- Where a Child Arrangements Order is already in force, a person who has the consent of those in whose favour the Child Arrangements Order was made
- Where the child is looked after, a person with the consent of the local authority
- In any other case, a person who has the consent of all those with parent responsibility.



The holder of a Child Arrangements Order does not have the right to consent to the child's adoption nor to appoint a guardian; in addition, they may not change the child's name nor arrange for the child's emigration without the consent of all those with parental responsibility or the leave of the court.

While support may continue for as long as the Child Arrangements Order remains in force, the aim will be to make arrangements which are self-sustaining in the long run. The making of a Child Arrangements Order can be made until the child is 18.

What this means

- Child Arrangements Orders give parental responsibility to the carer while maintaining the parents' parental responsibility
- The child will no longer be looked after and there does not need social work involvement, unless this is identified as necessary
- There is no review process
- The child will not be looked after and so less stigmas is attached to the placement

Other considerations

- It is less secure than adoption or special guardianship in that an application can be made to revoke the Child Arrangements Order. However, the court making the order can be asked to attach a condition refusing a parent's right to seek a revocation without the leave of court
- There is no formal continuing support to the family after the order is made
- There is no professional reviewing of the arrangements after the order unless a new application to court is made

Adoption

Adoption transfers parental responsibility for the child from the birth parents and others who had parental responsibility, including the local authority, permanently and solely to the adopter(s). This is a main factor contributing to the stability of children, especially for those under four years old who cannot be reunified with their birth or extended family.

The child is deemed to be the child of the adopter(s) as if they had been born to them. The child's birth certificate is changed to an adoption certificate showing the adopter(s) to be the child's parent(s). A child who is not already a citizen of the UK acquires British Citizenship if adopted in the UK by a citizen of the UK.

Adopters may be supported, including financially, by the local authority and will have the right to request an assessment for support services at any time after the adoption order is made. A child subject to an adoption order will be entitled to additional education and early years support. This will be accessed through the designated teacher in the child's school/early years setting.

What this means

- Parental responsibility is held exclusively by the carers
- The child is no longer looked after
- No future legal challenge to overturn an adoption order is possible
- The child is a permanent family member into adulthood
- Decisions about continuing contact will usually be made by the new parents (on the child's behalf) who are most in touch with the child's needs, although this will be subject to any contact order made by the court at the time of the adoption

Other considerations

- Adoption involves a complete and permanent legal separation from the family of origin
- There is no review process

Regional Adoption Agency

There are 21 Regional Adoption Agencies (RAA) operating across the country covering 115 Local Authorities. In January 2020 the existing Regional Adoption Agency partnership of Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland was expanded to include North Lincolnshire. The RAA was formally launched in October 2020 as 'Family Adoption Links.'

The Regional Adoption Agency will have a central hub to coordinate initial contact from adopters, home finding and data management. The Regional Adoption Agency will share learning and seek opportunities for collaboration and engage with Voluntary Adoption Agencies. The aim is to deliver the benefits of a regional agency without disrupting arrangements that are already working well.

There is a regional family finding hub in place which works to find the best matches for children. There will be a regional marketing and recruitment strategy and a single website, with all enquiries being passed to local teams. By pooling performance information and data, the wider regional picture will allow us to plan more effectively, to deliver regional benefits for children and adopters.

Useful links

[Placement Sufficiency Strategy](#) – a strategy document which describes our overall approach to supporting all our children and young people to have a safe place to live and thrive.

[Corporate Parenting Strategy](#) - our approach to supporting care experienced children and young people

[Permanence Planning Guidance](#) – a detailed look into the procedures for permanence planning at Leicester City Council

[Placement for Adoption](#) – the procedure regarding placement for adoption

[Adoption support](#) – information about adoption support available in Leicester

[Fostering for Adoption, Concurrent Planning and Temporary Approval as Foster Carers of Approved Prospective Adopters](#) – the procedure regarding the placement of a child with carers who are dually approved

[Applications for Special Guardianship Orders](#) – information about special guardianship orders

[Placements in Foster Care](#) – details about placements in foster care

[Out of Area Placements](#) – information regarding the placement of young people outside the local authority area

[Staying Put](#) – an introduction to the Staying Put arrangements

Appendix 1: Care arrangements for children not living with parents

Informal Family Care

Family or friends have chosen to take care of a child without involving the local authority. The child is not a looked after child/has not passed the threshold for entry to care.

Private Fostering

A private arrangement where anybody with parental responsibility and who is not a close relative cares for the child for 28 days or more. The child is not a looked after child/has not passed threshold for entry to care.

Family and Friends Foster Care

The local authority placed a child with family or friends who have been approved as suitable carers. The child is looked after. May be voluntary agreement or subject to Care Order.

Stranger Foster Care

The local authority has placed a child with approved carers under section 20 or a Care Order. The child is looked after.

Residential Care

In some cases, a residential placement may be a more appropriate option to meet the child's needs. The child is looked after.

Possible permanency non-care outcomes

Special Guardianship Order (SGO)

The Child may have been looked after and their foster carer or other relative/friend has applied for a SGO. Or the child may be at risk of becoming looked after and a friend or relative is granted a SGO.

Child Arrangement Order (CAO)

Routes into a CAO are in line with those for a SGO. Relatives are able to apply for a CAO or a SGO after having a child living with them for one year.

Adoption Order

The local authority may decide that the child should be placed for adoption. A local authority approved foster carer can apply for an adoption order if the child has lived with them for a period of three years.

Return Home

Appendix F



Leicester
City Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019 and Sufficiency Update paper

Lead director: Martin
Samuels

SCE Leadership Team: 10/09/2020

LMB: 18/09/2020

Scrutiny: xx/xx/xx

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

When completing any report for consideration by an Executive Lead or for submission to Executive Briefing, please ensure that this table is completed. Delete from the final report.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION HAS IT APPEARED ON THE PUBLISHED FORWARD PLAN	
ANTICIPATED DATE FOR DECISION (if required)	
DATE OF RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMISSION – please detail name of commission(s)	Children Young People and Families
DATE OF PAPERWORK ENTERING PUBLIC DOMAIN (note: if considered by scrutiny, this will be the scrutiny agenda publication date)	Scrutiny Date to be confirmed
MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS: Is a press release required? Will this be proactive or reactive?	
PLEASE INCLUDE DETAILS OF OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS AS PART OF DECISION/CONSULTATION PROCESS: This should include details of discussions with relevant stakeholders and/or ward councillors.	

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: all
- Report author: Claire Lakin Early Education Development Manager
- Author contact details: claire.lakin@leicester.gov.uk 0116 4544190
- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database: Urn 1428

1. Summary

Childcare places are predominantly delivered by the private voluntary and independent sector in Leicester, so for the LA to meet their statutory duty of securing sufficient childcare and early education places, it is necessary for us to work with the sector to monitor supply and demand to shape and influence the market in response.

The local authority has a statutory duty to publish a childcare sufficiency assessment annually with termly reviews to monitor and update.

2. Recommendations

We ask for the report to be accepted, in line with our required duty.

3. Supporting information

Attached is –

- Sufficiency Update paper August 2020
and
- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2019

The CSA report was due to be presented as the Covid pandemic begun to impact on the city and so is later than planned, therefore a summary paper providing an update and reflecting on the impact that Covid has had across childcare in the city is also attached; including a proposal for reviewing and monitoring the longer term impact going forward.

6. Financial, legal and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

6.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report and summary. The assessment report outlines the relevant legislation applicable to the Local Authority when meeting the child care sufficiency duties as outlined within the Childcare Act 2006 namely sections 6 & 7.

Pretty Patel, Head of Law, Social Care & Safeguarding. Tel: 0116 454 1457

6.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

N/A

6.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has identified work which needs to be progressed across the different areas, i.e. funded early education places, etc, across the city, as well as highlighting the impact of COVID 19 on the sector and financial issues arising as a result of COVID 19. Going forward equality considerations need to be embedded in the work identified in the assessment, including carrying out equality impact assessments as appropriate for example on any policy changes, strategies being developed.

The Equality Impact Assessment is an iterative document which should be revisited throughout the decision-making process and should, ultimately, also take into account any consultation/survey findings. Consultation/surveys need to be meaningful and accessible especially for both parents and providers.

6.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

7. Background information and other papers:

8. Summary of appendices:

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

- **Is this a “key decision”?**

Yes

- **If a key decision please explain reason**

In determining whether it is a key decision you will need consider if it is likely:

7. to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
8. to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working *in two or more wards in the City*.

Expenditure or savings will be regarded as significant if:

9. In the case of additional recurrent revenue expenditure, it is not included in the approved revenue budget, and would cost in excess of £0.5m p.a.;
10. In the case of reductions in recurrent revenue expenditure, the provision is not included in the approved revenue budget, and savings of over £0.5m p.a. would be achieved;

11. In the case of one off or capital expenditure, spending of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.

In deciding whether a decision is significant you need to take into account:

9. Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic or environmental risk.

10. The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the City.

11. The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest

12. The existence of significant communities of interest that cannot be defined spatially.

Appendices

Overview on Sufficiency of Early Years and Childcare places in Leicester City - August 2020

Summary of findings from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2019

Funded Early Education Places

Overall as a city Leicester has sufficient early years and childcare places for funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds, but this is a market that as a local authority we can only endeavour to influence and shape as the majority of places are provided by the private, voluntary and independent sector.

Areas where there would be some concern given any closures or poor quality outcomes:

- East - particularly Humberstone & Hamilton Ward and Thurncourt
- North West – particularly Fosse ward

There are also areas within clusters that have a deficit of places:-

- South – Saffron ward
- West – Western ward

We need to use this information to direct any development of new provision or expansion within provision and to closely monitor quality and closures and any feedback on unmet demand.

See Table 26b for full ward analysis from December 2019 MPS

Out of school and Holiday Provision

Population data shows that 52% of the total population of children and young people are between 5-14 years and could therefore require before and/or afterschool and/or holiday care, unfortunately we have very limited data around the demand for this type of places. We do know about supply of this type of provision, of which there is a range available for parents to choose from:

- A small number of providers offer before, after school and holiday provision only
- Around 25-30% of Early years providers offering either before, afterschool and/or holiday care places – usually to 5-8 year olds
- Around 75% of schools offering before and/or afterschool provision – predominantly activity and sports based clubs; free or at low cost
- Only 12% of schools offer holiday provision

Although response from the CSA parent survey had increased from previous exercises of its kind, return remained low for the population of parents and therefore information could not be analysed robustly, but feedback provided did indicate some further need for holiday provision.

Provision of SEND places

Data on SEND has limitations in that it is based on children with EHCP's in place and therefore is not reflective of children with emerging needs or going through an assessment process, numbers of

under fives therefore appear very low. Demand for places in early years provision; signposted through health and early years support services would indicate that there remains a significant need for inclusive provision and SEND places. It is felt that there is a need for more clear, robust data to draw upon particularly in relation to unmet demand.

Two year old FEEE take up

There is low take up of 2-year FEEE places - 2019 (average 60% over 3 terms).

There has been a decrease in numbers of 2-year olds accessing the entitlement since 2018 (Average Spr-19 to Aut-19 1,375 ; Spr-18 to Aut-18 1,493) but the percentage take-up has remained steady as the numbers of eligible children has declined too. However, as our percentage, take-up is low in comparison to the national average and the regional local authorities, Leicester has to continue to prioritise increasing the take-up numbers and percentage of the 2YO FEEE entitlement.

3 and 4 year old FEEE take up

There has been a small reduction in the percentage take up of universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, but this is relative to the decline in population numbers

Take up of 30 hour extended entitlement for working parents has continued to increase year on year since its introduction in Spring 2018. It has led to an increase in the proportion of 3 year olds accessing places in the PVI sector, impacting on sustainability of nursery provision in schools, but we are beginning to now see more schools offering 30 hour sole delivery in response.

Actions from CSA outcomes 2019

The findings of the CSA 2019 identify key areas of work to be focused on by the local authority going forward

- Work across services and with partners to agree a two year old take up strategy; this will be to work with parents to encourage take up of their funded early education entitlement and promote the value to school readiness
- Continue quality improvement work with the sector to secure availability of high quality places across the city
- Continue partnership work with schools around delivery of 30 hour FEEE places to respond to demand and manage the market to prevent a negative impact on accessibility of places, particularly for 2 year olds, in early years settings across the city
- Work across services to develop accessibility of inclusive provision and availability of places for children with SEND, including mapping of provision and securing data on unmet demand; particularly for 2 year FEEE places.

Leadership's approval is requested to publish the findings of the 2019 CSA in line with our statutory duties.

Impact of Covid 19 on Early Years and Childcare Places

Whilst we have the findings from analysis of data last year (2019), what then evolved in 2020 could not have been foreseen, the Covid pandemic significantly affected the early years sector, with lockdown measures preventing them from delivering places beyond vulnerable children and key worker children.

We therefore need to consider the affect this has had on the market and the sustainability of the early years sector as we progress through 2020 and into 2021.

Financial support for the sector

There was a range of financial support available to the sector, however there were some limitations around this.

- Funding for early education places continued to be paid to providers as it would have been given the pandemic was not happening. New providers who had not had opportunity to establish numbers were not as well supported through this
- Settings were able to proportionately furlough staff under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to claim for staff costs not already covered by the public funding they received from FEEE payments.
- Providers do not have to pay business rates for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.
- Many providers have met the criteria and received one-off grants under the Small Business Grant Funding or the Discretionary Grant Fund.
- Providers have had the opportunity to apply for loans under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme or the Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme, but will need to recover financial to pay back the loan
- Providers who operate as Self Employed (mainly Childminders) have had the opportunity to claim for loss of income under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.
- Providers have been able to claim some Statutory Sick Pay rebate for any employee absence due to Covid-19.
- Providers have been able to delay or defer business tax payments, including self-assessment payments on account, without incurring any penalties.

Such financial support has been essential to the sector, but there does remain a proportion of providers who have had limited access to this due to eligibility criteria.

E.g. Statistics on Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) or Discretionary Grant Fund Round 1 (DGF1) or Round 2 (DGF2)

Based on 109 PV providers (excluding Independent Schools)

- Around 23% of the providers received a £10,000 grant under SBGF
- Around 11% of the providers (individually or as part of a group) received a £25,000 grant under DGF1.
- Around 14% of the providers may have applied and may receive a grant of between £2000 and £7000 under DGF2 (we do not have the exact statistics for DGF2 as the application/scrutiny process is still ongoing).

Risks and concerns arising from the impact of Covid 19 on the sector

- Negative impact on demand, parents returning to services and ability to recruit to new places – autumn term is shown to usually be the highest term for two year old take up
- Sustainability of out of school provision - they have had a significant proportion of the year that they were prohibited, through national guidance, to open and would have had limited, if any access to financial support.

- Larger providers, who draw a significant proportion of their income from fee paying places will have had their income significantly affected.
- Potential for a detrimental impact being felt for settings if they have to close due to positive cases of the virus or due to localised or national lockdown measures being reintroduced during the autumn term – they will no longer be able to furlough staff, staff available to work may decrease, parent confidence will be further lost and income lost.
- Decisions around early education funding payments to the local authority beyond the autumn term are yet unknown. If the autumn term does not enable the sector to recover; any loss of FEEE payments will be significant to income.
- Prior to Covid 19 there were sustainability concerns for the sector due to rising costs of staffing and to running costs, with funding rates for early education failing to increase proportionately.
- The introduction of the 30 hour extended entitlement led providers to a further reliance on FEEE funding income, as an increased proportion of parents did not have to pay enhanced rates for wrap around costs.
- Impact on children’s social and emotional well-being, learning and development and school readiness

Proposed monitoring and reporting for end of autumn term 2020

In view of the impact seen so far in 2020 and the yet unknown impact that the autumn term may bring, it is necessary to closely monitor and support the sector and we recommend that we report this picture back to leadership in view of our associated statutory duties.

Proposed actions:

Continue to offer business support for settings, targeting providers who have identified risks

- Monitor attendance and headcount figures to reflect on demand and recruitment to places
- Engage with the sector to providing opportunities to seek providers feedback on challenges and concerns
- Review supply and demand from data available at the end of the autumn term, making reassessment of risks and present leadership with an update of these findings.



Leicester
City Council

**Childcare Sufficiency
Assessment
Jan - Dec 2019**

1. Aims and objectives	2
Introduction.....	2
Methodology	2
2. Demand for Childcare	3
Leicester city Overview - Population of Children in Leicester City	3
3. Supply of places - Early years and childcare provision for children 0-4 years.....	6
Early Years Provision for children 0 - 4 years.....	6
Childcare provision for children over 5 years.....	9
PVI providers Out of School Provision	10
4. Funded Early Education Entitlement	14
Proportion of 3 and 4 year old FEEE children	19
Proportion of 3 and 4 year old eligible for 30 Extended Entitlement	20
5. Market Position Statement - Funded Early Education Entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year old places (Dec 2019)	22
Introduction.....	22
Key priorities.....	22
Securing sufficient childcare.....	22
Purpose	22
6. Childcare Costs.....	27
Average Childcare Costs.....	27
Help with Childcare Costs	28
7. Quality of childcare in our city (Ofsted grading)	29
8. Parents views on childcare	30
Parental Survey	30
9. Actions arising from the CSA 19 findings	31
10. Sources of information and data	31

1. Aims and objectives

Introduction

The duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare and be instrumental in shaping the childcare market to meet the needs of parents and carers, is set out in The Childcare Act 2006, sections 6 and 7.

The Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance outlines the requirement for local authorities to produce a report on the childcare market with particular responsibility for assessing the sufficiency of early year's free entitlements for two, three and four year olds. The key purpose of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report is to map the profile of childcare at a sub-locality level and determine if the LA has secured sufficient childcare for those eligible and for parents and carer who require childcare.

The statutory duty requires the local authority to secure sufficient childcare, as far as reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 years for disabled children).

The statutory duty requires the LA by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents.

Methodology

In this report, we have assessed sufficiency using various sources of data which inform the LA about the quality, supply (amount) and the demand (need) for childcare and evaluate the feedback from local parents about their ability to find suitable childcare in a particular locality.

Data collection methods include:

- Parent survey
- Provider survey
- Childcare Provider profiles
- School survey

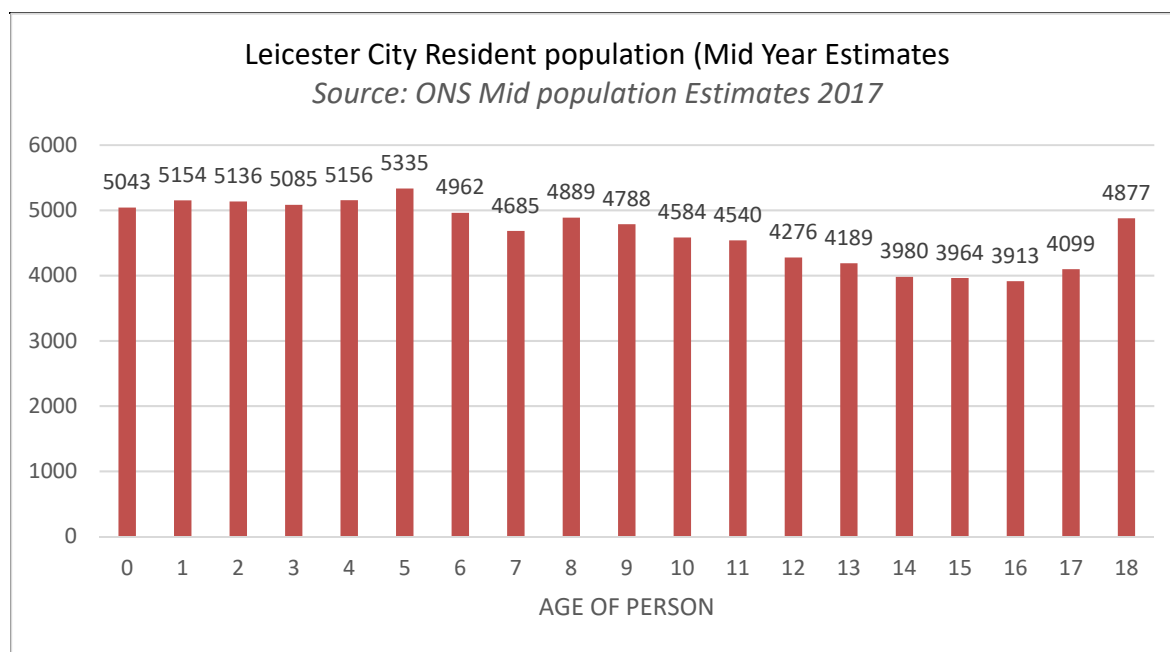
The evaluation will determine gaps in the childcare market, with particular focus on 2, 3 and 4 year Funded Early Education Entitlement, which will be illustrated in the Market Position Statement and mapping of the city.

2. Demand for Childcare

Leicester city Overview - Population of Children in Leicester City

Analysing and understanding the Population data for children is essential to place planning for early years and childcare provision. The data is collated into population size by age group 0-18 years (Table 1). For the purposes of strategic planning and leadership reporting we analyse population of children at sub locality level, at ward (Table 2).

Table 1- Leicester City Ward Residents Population (Mid-Year Estimates 2017) Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Mid population Estimates 2017



The national population data is analysed to establish patterns in population growth and decline, these variations are monitored at a mid-point and on an annual basis. It's important to recognise that the national data presented below is an indicator at a specific point. Local data and intelligence of other socio-economic factors that impact fluxes in population are also key, to understanding and informing the place planning and market management of early years and childcare places across the city.

Leicester has 21 ward areas. Table 2 provides a breakdown of where in the city children live at a sub locality level. The ward areas with the highest population of children and young people are; North Evington; Stoneygate; Western; Braunstone and Rowley Fields; Humberstone and Hamilton; Beaumont Ley and Abbey, accounting for 45% of the total population of Children and Young people in the city.

Table 2 – Population size by age group 0-18 in ward area (ONS Mid population Estimates 2017)

WARD	Age 0 - 1	Age 2	Age 3 & 4	Age 5 - 7	Age 8 - 10	Age 11 - 14	Age 15 - 18	TOTAL
Abbey	631	313	673	915	841	934	888	5195
Aylestone	343	166	313	537	431	497	427	2714
Beaumont Leys	586	300	578	924	838	993	826	5045
Belgrave	465	218	419	612	589	848	844	3995
Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	661	309	680	1042	1000	1165	1049	5906
Castle	306	136	249	304	249	217	760	2221
Evington	480	257	496	734	674	822	852	4315
Eyres Monsell	346	167	397	564	533	690	562	3259
Fosse	540	255	498	648	520	555	521	3537
Humberstone and Hamilton	619	337	699	1021	935	1070	1001	5682
Knighton	403	191	389	587	565	728	761	3624
North Evington	777	379	679	999	1018	1244	1277	6373
Rushey Mead	330	166	385	600	660	832	833	3806
Saffron	341	188	350	539	501	575	651	3145
Spinney Hills	412	230	392	570	600	864	813	3881
Stoneygate	630	327	597	934	967	1156	1251	5862
Thurncourt	319	168	341	539	519	584	526	2996
Troon	392	191	424	644	637	776	722	3786
Westcotes	420	203	356	404	324	327	416	2450
Western	661	357	766	1081	998	1171	1001	6035
Wycliffe	535	278	560	784	862	937	872	4828
LEICESTER CITY TOTALS	10197	5136	10241	14982	14261	16985	16853	88655

The aim of this section is to provide a picture of children and young people in Leicester city, therefore in this section the information comes from a variety of sources including national information and local data. The local data is educational data and therefore does not include all children in Leicester. This data specifically applies to information about children aged between 3 – 4 years old (early education funding entitlement data) and 5 – 16 years old (education data).

Limitations of the data:

- SEND data, is based on census information for children who have an EHC plan in place, data for children with emerging needs or in the process of assessment will be missing.
- 2, 3 and 4 year old data is based on take up data for non-compulsory entitlement, and therefore those choosing not to access the early entitlements are missing from the take-up data.

Population of early years children

In total, there is 88,655 children and young people aged between 0- 18 years old, 29% of which are children under five living in our local authority. (Table 2a) These children may require early years childcare.

Table 2a- Number by age (Source: ONS mid-year 2017)

Age	Number of children
0 (birth) - 1	10,197
2	5136
3	5085
4*	5156
Total under 5's Population	25,574

Population of school age children

In total there are 33,783 children aged 5- 11 and 12,445 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority, which represents 52% of total population of children aged 0-18 years old. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays. (Table 2b).

Table 2b - Number by age (ONS 2017 mid-year)

Age	Number of children
5	5335
6	4962
7	4685
8	4889
9	4788
Age 10	4584
Age 11	4540
Age 12	4276
Age 13	4189
Age 14	3980
Total population for children aged 5 - 14	46,228

Population of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The national data (Table 3- SEN2 2010-2018) shows the total number of children (0-19) that had a statement or EHC in place over a two-year period. In 2017 total number of children and young people were 1,824 children, with a slight increase in 2018 to 2,097.

Table 3: Children and young people with a statement or EHC plan¹ by local authority

Years: January 2010 - 2018

Coverage: England

LA code	LA name	2017			2018		
		Statements	EHC plans ²	Total	Statements	EHC plans ²	Total
ENGLAND		112,057	175,233	287,290	34,097	285,722	319,819
EAST MIDLANDS		7,434	13,332	20,766	2,455	20,471	22,926
E06000015	831 Derby	1,119	366	1,485	627	1,056	1,683
E10000007	830 Derbyshire	2,234	1,231	3,465	1,247	2,130	3,377
E06000016	856 Leicester	612	1,212	1,824	36	2,061	2,097
E10000018	855 Leicestershire	645	2,705	3,350	84	3,619	3,703
E10000019	925 Lincolnshire	915	3,001	3,916	4	4,556	4,560
E10000021	928 Northamptonshire	1,284	2,331	3,615	384	3,489	3,873
E06000018	892 Nottingham	176	643	819	9	924	933
E10000024	891 Nottinghamshire	404	1,700	2,104	64	2,435	2,499
E06000017	857 Rutland	45	143	188	0	201	201

Source: SEN2 2010-2018

Notes:

1. Only statutory EHC plans are recorded in collections from 2015 onwards; non-statutory EHC plans issued by pathfinder local authorities are not incl.
2. Includes a very small number of children and young people with statements not yet transferred to EHC plans.

The table 4 is data taken from (2020 Census for Leicester), it provides a breakdown of total number of children with an EHC plan or statement by age ranges, in 2020 there were a total 2,317 children and young people aged 0- 19 years. This data has its limitation as it does not include those children and young people who are currently in the process for EHC assessment or those with emerging special needs, particularly for those under 5 years of age.

Table 4 – Number of children based on age ranges 0 – 25 years with EHC plans in 2020

Age	Subcategory	Number of children with EHC plans in Leicester (Census 2020)
Under 5 years	Birth to school age	85
5-10	Primary school – reception to year 6	766
11-15	Secondary school – year 7 to 9	876
Aged 16-19	Secondary school year 10 -13.	590
Aged 20-25		317
Total		2634

3. Supply of places - Early years and childcare provision for children 0-4 years

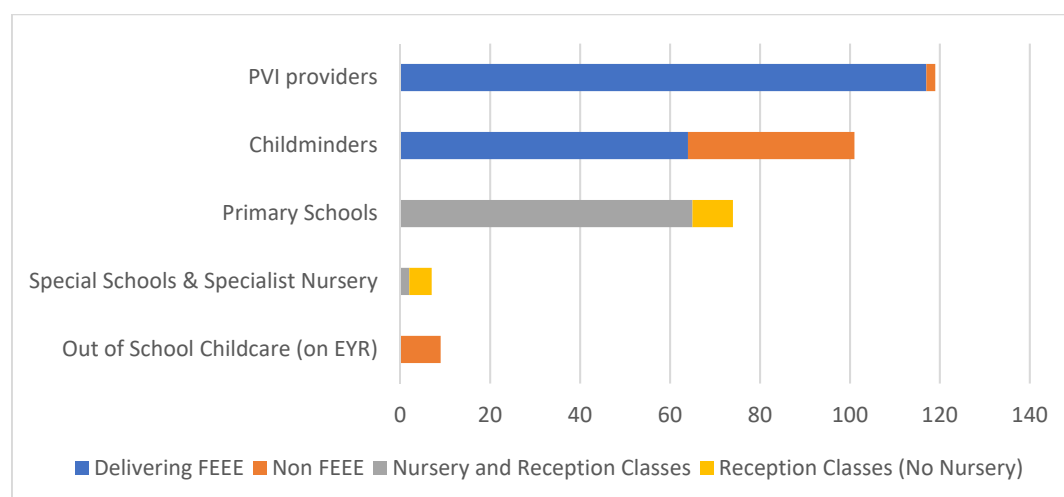
Early Years Provision for children 0 - 4 years.

In total, there are 294* early years and childcare providers, including primary schools, in our local authority, offering 12,575** early years places. The Private, Voluntary and Independent sector represents 40% of the total providers; Primary Schools represent 25% of the providers and Childminders represent 34% of the providers.

*In addition to these, there are 6 Special Schools with Reception age provision (including 1 with Nursery age provision) and 1 Specialist Nursery for 0 – 5 year olds. There are also 9 Out of School Childcare Providers who are registered on the EYR but do not offer deliver early years or FEEE places.

**Places counted as an equivalent of 30 hours or more per week (two 15 hour places counted as one 30 hour place).

Figure 1 Number of Early Years Providers (Dec 2019)



Key findings:

- Break down of types of early years providers; PVI providers: 119 (FEEE 117); Childminders: 101 (FEEE 64 and Non FEEE 37); Primary Schools: 74; Special Schools and Specialist Nursery: 7; Out of School Childcare 9 (all Non FEEE).
- PVI Providers: 65 are open all year round and 54 are open term-time only.
- PVI provider; Opening times range from 7am to 7pm with the majority opening at least 10 hours per day.
- Most childminders are open all year round.

- Childminders; Opening times range from 7am to 7pm but some would be able to offer more flexibility, earlier start; later finish.

The PVI sector offers 44% of the early years places; Primary Schools offer 53% of the early years places in their Nursery and/or Reception classes and Childminders offer 3% of the early year's places. (Table 5 Par 3.3).

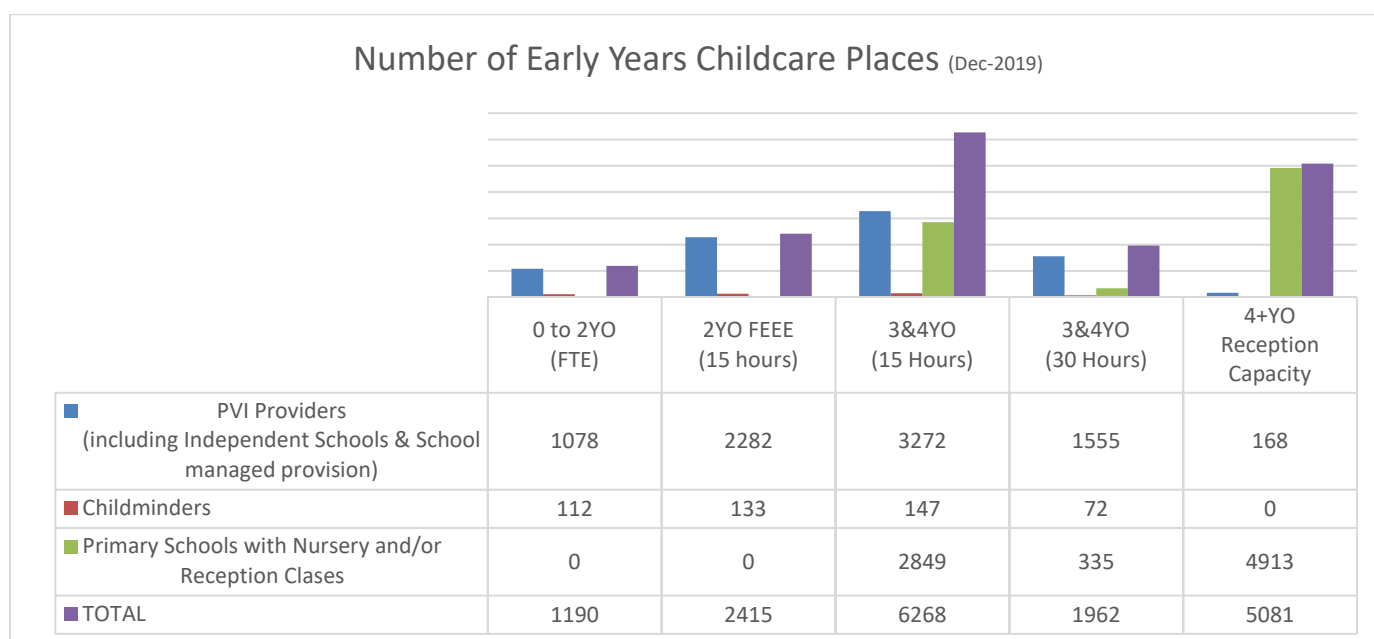
Leicester has seen a decline in the number of early years and childcare providers, this is a trend reflective both nationally and regionally. Since 2016 we have seen a decrease in the numbers of PVI (10) and Childminders (24), it's important to note that due to the fewer numbers of children that are able to be cared for by childminders on the Early Years Register, the reduction has not had a significant impact to sufficiency.

Table 5: Number of Early Years Providers and Places 2019 and comparison closures (2016 to 2019)

Type of provision	Number of providers (Dec 2019)	Number of early years places (equivalent of 30 hours or more per week)	Number of providers (Sept 2016)	Difference since 2016
Childminders*	101 (34%)	324 (3%)	125 (38%)	-24
Schools with Nursery classes and/or Reception classes	74 (25%)	6,673 (53%)	74 (22%)	0
Private, Voluntary and Independent providers	119 (40%)	5,578 (44%)	129 (39%)	-10
TOTAL	294 (100%)	12,575 (100%)	328 (100%)	-34

*some childminders will also be offering places for older children not just in the early years age group.

Table 6: Number of early years places to show analysis by 2, 3 and 4 year old FEEE (15 hour and 30 hour places) as per the FEEE Market Position Statement Dec 2019.



The closures in the PVI sector (group care settings) have been significant in some areas of the city. However, overall, existing providers have adopted more flexible models of deliver and increased their capacity. These include offering stretched, three sessions a day and increased blended provision, to respond to the demand for childcare from working families.

Across the city we have a total of 74 mainstream primary schools (with Nursery provision 65 and without Nursery provision 9.) In addition to the above, there are 6 Special Schools with Nursery and/or Reception classes and 1 Specialist Nursery for 0-5 year olds.

There are also 3 School run pre-schools which come under their respective School's Ofsted registration but are run separately from the school's Nursery and/or Reception classes. These are included within the PVI sector providers.

There are 7 Independent Schools which offer Nursery and/or Reception classes and 3 of these have associated Ofsted registered pre-schools and full day care. These are all included within the PVI sector providers.

Table 7 below shows the differing models by which schools are governed, with the highest proportion 57% that are LA maintained schools, although It's evident there is an increase in the number of Academies across the city.

Table 7 shows the number of Primary Schools with Nursery and/or Reception (breakdown of those delivering 3 and 4 year FEEE)

Type	Total	Number offering Nursery provision
LA run - Community and voluntary controlled schools	42	40
Academies	28	24
Free schools	2	0
Voluntary aided schools	2	1
Total	74	65

Number of Childcare places for 0- 2 year old children

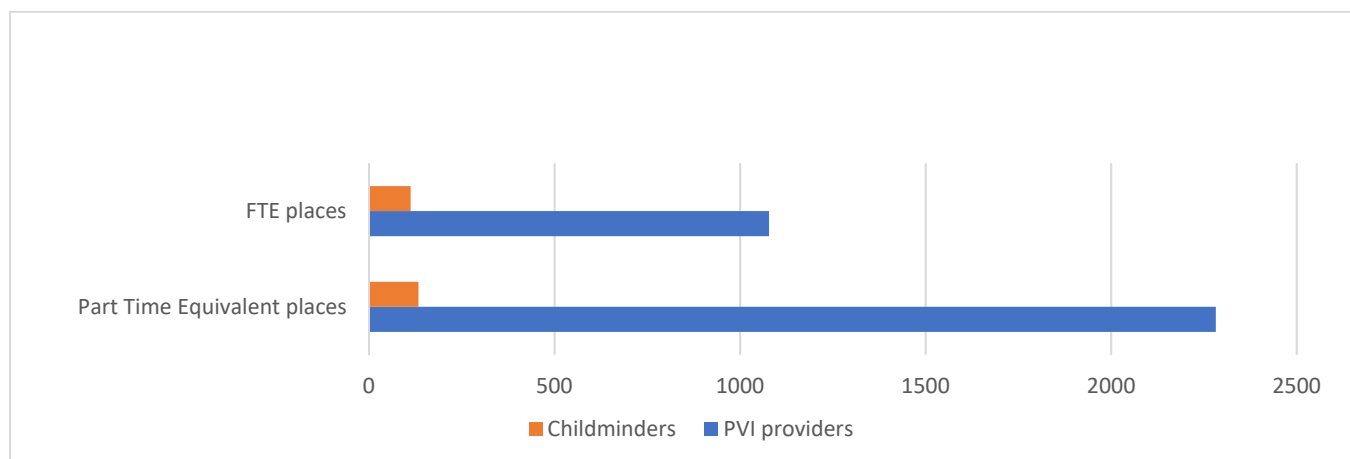
The population of 0-2 year olds who do not qualify for 2 year old FEEE* is around 13,000, based on the DWP lists of qualifying families around 45% of 2 year olds in Leicester are eligible for FEEE.

The number of full-time equivalent places of 1,190 work out to be around 1 place for every 10 children in the 0 to 2 age group who do not qualify for funding. Our Market Position Statement for funded places indicates a surplus of part-time equivalent places for funded 2-year olds. Some of this capacity will, in practice, be available for part-time and full-time places for non-funded 0-2 year olds and therefore the numbers of places available for 0–2 year olds will be higher than indicated. There is no evidence from parents or providers to suggest that there is a significant shortfall of places for non-funded 0–2 year olds, (Table 8 and Fig 2.).

Table 8: Breakdown of places for under 2, and 2 year olds by type of early years provision. Full time equivalent places for 0 to 2 year olds and part-time equivalent places for funded 2 year olds.

Type of provision	Full time equivalent places for 0-2 year olds	Part time equivalent places (available for Funded 2 year olds but can be accessed by non-funded 2 year olds)
Childminders	112	133
Private, Voluntary and Independent (and School run) – Nurseries and Pre-Schools	1078	2282
TOTAL	1190	2415

Fig 2: Number of Childcare Places for 0- 2 year olds



Childcare provision for children over 5 years

Out of School Childcare Provision

There are also the following numbers of registered providers who are not on the Early Years register (table 9):

Table 9: Numbers of out of school provider (on Childcare Register and / or Voluntary Childcare Register)

Type	Total
Childminders (Not registered on the EYR)	9
Adventure Playgrounds	9
VCR ONLY – Group Providers – mainly Tuition Centres	9

PVI providers Out of School Provision

Of the 119 PVI settings the following offer Out of School Services (mainly for the 5 – 10 year age group - table 10):

Table 10 A breakdown of showing the number of PVI offering different types of over 5's Out of school services

Source: Providers Survey for CSA 2019	Breakfast Clubs	After School Clubs	Holiday Clubs
Number of PVI's offering some level of the service	28	33	37
Percentage of total number of 119 PVI's offering the service	24%	28%	31%

Table 11 Shows further breakdown of PVI settings offering Out of school services by Ward and Cluster area (PVI providers mainly offer out of school childcare and activities for the 5 – 10 years age group):

Number of PVI settings Offering Service by Ward in each Cluster	Breakfast Club	After School Club	Holiday Care
<u>CENTRAL</u>			
Castle	3	3	4
Spinney Hills		1	1
Stoneygate	1	1	
Wycliffe			1
CENTRAL Total (out of 37 PVI settings)	4	5	6
Percentage of total number of PVI's	11%	14%	16%
<u>EAST</u>			
Evington	1	2	3
Humberstone & Hamilton	1		
Thurncourt	1	2	1
EAST Total (out of 9 PVI settings)	3	4	4
Percentage of total number of PVI's	33%	44%	44%
<u>NORTH</u>			
Belgrave	3	3	4
North Evington	3	3	3
Rushey Mead		1	1
Troon	1	2	3
NORTH Total (out of 20 PVI settings)	7	9	11

Number of PVI settings Offering Service by Ward in each Cluster	Breakfast Club	After School Club	Holiday Care
Percentage of total number of PVI's	35%	45%	55%
<u>NORTH WEST</u>			
Abbey			2
Beaumont Leys	3	3	3
Fosse	1	1	2
NORTH WEST Total (out of 15 PVI settings)	4	4	7
Percentage of total number of PVI's	27%	27%	47%
<u>SOUTH</u>			
Aylestone		1	1
Eyres Monsell		1	1
Knighton	5	4	1
Saffron		1	1
SOUTH Total (out of 20 PVI settings)	5	7	4
Percentage of total number of PVI's	25%	35%	20%
<u>WEST</u>			
Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	3	3	2
Westcotes			2
Western	2	1	1
WEST Total (out of 18 PVI settings)	5	4	5
Percentage of total number of PVI's	28%	22%	28%
Grand Total (out of 119 PVI providers)	28	33	37
Percentage of total number of PVI's	24%	28%	31%

SCHOOL BASED PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OVER 5

3.10 Primary School Out of School Provision

Table 12 Primary schools offering out of school services (Of the 74 Primary Schools)

Source: Schools Survey for CSA 2019	Breakfast Clubs	After School Clubs	Holiday Clubs
Number of Schools offering some level of the service	56	54	9
Percentage of total number of 74 Primary Schools offering the service	76%	73%	12%

Further details of After school Clubs and Activities (Source: Schools Survey for CSA 2019):

- The services are for children from the respective school. Only 2 schools offer some services to children from other schools.
- There is a vast range of activity clubs, other than after school childcare, offered by the schools. These include activities relating to sports, arts & crafts, other skills, cooking and mindfulness (this list of categories is not exhaustive).

- Costs, where applicable, range from 50p per session to £6 per session depending on the type and duration of activity and many schools offer free clubs and activities.

Table 13 Breakdown by duration the number of Schools offering After School and Activities:

Duration	0-1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours
Number of Schools offering service	53	22	8
Percentage of the 54 Schools offering the service	98%	41%	15%

Table 14 Further breakdown of numbers of Schools and Age Ranges for the Services by Ward and Cluster areas.

Number of Primary Schools Offering Service by Ward in each Cluster	Breakfast Club		After School Club		Holiday Care	
	3 - 4 years	5 - 10 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 10 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 10 years
<u>CENTRAL</u>						
Castle	1	1	2	2		1
Spinney Hills	1	1				
Stoneygate	1	3		2		
Wycliffe	2	3	1	3		
CENTRAL Total (out of 12 Schools)	5	8	3	7	0	1
Percentage of total number of Schools	42%	67%	25%	58%	0%	8%
<u>EAST</u>						
Evington	2	3	2	1		
Humberstone & Hamilton	2	5	2	4	1	1
Thurncourt	1	2		2		
EAST Total (out of 11 Schools)	5	10	4	7	1	1
Percentage of total number of Schools	45%	91%	36%	64%	9%	9%
<u>NORTH</u>						
Belgrave	1	2	2	3		1
North Evington	1	2	1	3		
Rushey Mead	2	3	1	2		
Troon	1	3		2		
NORTH Total (out of 16 Schools)	5	10	4	10	0	1
Percentage of total number of Schools	31%	63%	25%	63%	0%	6%
<u>NORTH WEST</u>						
Abbey		5		3		1
Beaumont Leys	1	4	1	4		1
Fosse				2		

NORTH WEST Total (out of 13 Schools)	1	9	1	9	0	2
Percentage of total number of Schools	8%	69%	8%	69%	0%	15%
<u>SOUTH</u>						
Aylestone		2		2		2
Eyres Monsell	2	4	2	3		
Knighton		1		1		1
Saffron	3	3	2	3		
SOUTH Total (out of 11 Schools)	5	10	4	9	0	3
Percentage of total number of Schools	45%	91%	36%	82%	0%	27%
<u>WEST</u>						
Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	3	3	1	5		
Westcotes	1	1	1	1		
Western	4	4	3	5	1	1
WEST Total (out of 11 Schools)	8	8	5	11	1	1
Percentage of total number of Schools	73%	73%	45%	100%	9%	9%
Grand Total (out of 74 Schools)	29	55	21	53	2	9
Percentage of total number of Schools	39%	74%	28%	72%	3%	12%

	Breakfast club	After School Club
Number offering service	56	54
Percentage of total number of Schools	76%	73%

Key findings:

- Primary Schools offer activities mainly up the end of Year 6 by which time some children are 11 but these are included in the 5 – 10 years age group.
- 76% percentage of primary schools offer Breakfast club and 76% of which offer Afterschool services for working parents and carers.
- Significantly fewer Holiday based services in Primary school for children across all age ranges 3 - 11 years old.

Junior & Secondary School Out of School Provision

Of the 29 Junior and Secondary Schools the following numbers offer some Out of School Services:

Table 15 – number of Junior and secondary schools providing out of school services

Source: Schools Survey for CSA 2019	Breakfast Clubs	After School Clubs	Holiday Clubs
-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------	---------------

Number of Schools offering some level of the service	21	21	4
Percentage of total number of 29 Junior & Secondary Schools offering the service	72%	72%	14%

Further details of After school Clubs and Activities (Source: Schools Survey for CSA 2019):

- The services are for children from the respective school. Only 2 schools have one club each open for children from other schools.
- There is a vast range of activity clubs, other than after care, offered by the schools. These include activities relating to sports, music, arts & crafts, performing arts/drama, martial arts, other skills, cooking, yoga, Duke of Edinburgh award (this list of categories is not exhaustive).
- Costs, where applicable, range from £1 upwards and many are run by external providers who charge the market rate for clubs depending on the type and duration of activity. The schools offer a range free clubs and activities too.

Table 16 Breakdown by duration the number of Schools offering After School and Activities:

Duration	0-1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours
Number of Schools offering service	21	5	2
Percentage of the 21 Schools offering the service	100%	24%	10%

4. Funded Early Education Entitlement

Two Year Old Funded Children for Early Education Entitlement

Some two year old are eligible for up to 570 hours per academic year of government Funded Early Entitlement Education (FEEE), eligibility is dependant of the economic circumstances of the parent/ carers of the child. The entitlement can be taken by 15 hours a week during the 38 weeks of the term time period alternatively stretched throughout the year over a 41 or 50 week of a year. There are two possible routes to becoming eligibility for two year FEEE, the economic route or non- economic route.

Economic route involves eligibility checks based on earnings and benefit, to be eligible the parent/ carer must be in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support, income- based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).
- Universal Credit if the household income from work is less than £15,400 a year after tax.
- Tax credits with an income under £16, 190 before tax
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- Working Tax Credit 4 -week run on (the payment received when no longer eligible for Working Tax Credit).

Non-Economic route is based on a two old child being entitled to a place if they are:

- Looked After by the Local Authority

- No longer Looked After by the Local Authority following adoption, special guardianship or residence order.
- Has an Education, Health Care Plan (EHC) or a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Receives Disability Living Allowance (DWA)

Extended Eligibility from September 2019 also entitles:

- Children of Zambrono carers
- Children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on the grounds of private /family life under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights.
- Children of the subset of failed asylum seekers (supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Seekers Act 1998 – The 1999 Act.

Universal Offer for three and four year olds (15 hours)

This government funded entitlement provides all three and four year olds with up to 570 hours of FEEE per academic calendar (38 weeks), following the child's third birthday.

The universal FEEE entitlement is provided by Private, Voluntary, Maintained and Independent early years providers, which include schools, day nurseries, preschool and childminders.

Extended Entitlement for three and four year olds (30 Hours)

The Extended Entitlement (EE) for three and four year olds, was rolled out nationally in September 2017, the entitlement provides an additional 570 hours to working families. Working families must meet earning criteria to benefit from the additional hours, taking them from the universal offer of 570 hours, to an increased maximum entitlement of 1140 hours over an academic year.

Working is defined as employed, self -employed and parents on zero hours who meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Both parents are working (or sole parent), that is the weekly equivalent to 16 hours at National Living Wage (NLW) or National Minimum Wage (NMW); and
- Neither parent earns an annual income of more than £100,000.

Eligibility can still apply in circumstances where:

- Both parents are employed but one or both is temporarily away from their work on maternity, paternity or adoption leave or is on statutory sick pay.
- One parent is employed and the other (or both) is in receipt of specific benefits for their caring responsibilities.
- One parent is employed and the other (or both) is in receipt of specific disability benefits.
- A '**parent**' in this instance is any adult living in the child's home that has a parenting role. This can mean the partner of the child's parent whether they are married or not or have official parenting responsibility.

In September 2018 foster children were also entitled to the Extended Entitlement if their Foster carers were working an additional job to their Foster caring role and met the specific criteria as outlined by the Local Authority.

Models of Delivery for FEEE

Leicester City Council supports three models that early years providers can choose to use to deliver any of their FEEE Places, which are categorised as the term time or stretched offer (with two options). The standard 'term time' model is for 15 or 30 hours (dependant on the eligibility of the child) per week for 38 weeks per year, this equates to 570 hours (15 hours) or 1140 hours (30 hours). Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split the hours between providers.

The stretched offer is a flexible model often suited to working parents, who want to spread their funded entitlement of 570 hours or 1140 hours across the year.

For children in Leicester parents can choose to stretch their entitlement over either 51 weeks or 48 weeks of the year. (<https://families.leicester.gov.uk/media/1247/provider-agreement-2018.pdf>).

It's important to note that providers are not required to offer the stretched offers, and therefore a provider's ability to offer this will be dependent on parental demand and their own business sustainability. However, a large number of the private full day care nurseries do offer one of the stretched offer models of 48 weeks or 51 weeks. As at December 2019 there were 67 providers (PVI 44 & CM 23) signed-up to deliver stretched FEEE. Of these, 36 providers (PVI 31 & CM 5) were delivering a stretched FEEE in the Sum-2019 term.

Table 17 – Number of PVI and CM providers offering either term time or stretched offer

Model of delivery	No of providers signed up to deliver
Term time	181
Stretched 48 OR 51 weeks	67

Proportion of 2 year olds entitled to FEEE

In our local authority in 2019 and average of 2,293* two-year olds were entitled to funded early education (source DWP data for Spr-19, Sum-19 & Aut-19). This equates to 45% of 2-year-old population. Population 0-2-year olds not eligible for FEEE is approximately 13,000 on the assumption that around 55% of 2-year olds are not eligible for FEEE.

*the number of eligible children is steadily decreasing mainly because increases in the national living wage/minimum wage effectively takes some families above the eligible income threshold. The average of the DWP lists is 2,293 but the target for the Aut-19 term based on the Jun-19 DWP list was 2,127

Take- up of 2 year old FEEE

Table 18: The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded places in our local authority in Autumn 2019 and the previous two terms is as follows

2-year-old FEEE take-up	Take-up number (ONE headcount)	Eligible number of children (DWP list)	% Take up
Aut-19	1397	2127 (Jun-19 list)	65.7%
Sum-19	1335	2358 (Mar-19 list)	56.6%
Spr-19	1394	2393 (Nov-18 list)	58.3%

The average take-up percentage is 60%

Trends of take-up

We have been monitoring take-up trends since 2015, trends suggest that the highest take-up is in the Autumn term, this can be attributed to the following two factors:

- There are more 2 year olds qualifying for the first time in Autumn term (turning 2 in the 5 months from Apr to Aug) than in the Spring term (turning 2 in the 4 months from Sep to Dec) and Summer term (turning 2 in the 3 months from Jan to Mar).
- Almost all 4-year olds will transition to a School Reception class in the Autumn term and a significant number of 3-year olds will transition to a School Nursery class place. As a result, the PVI sector will have a significant number of vacancies and will be able to readily meet the demand for places for 2-year olds for children qualifying for the first time and also for children who qualified earlier but have not taken up a place previously.

The 2 year FEEE take-up number have historically been lower than the national and regional averages, feedback from children centre outreach work suggests the following:

- parents feeling like their child is too young
- in the east and central parts of the city, where culturally mothers are not working, they believe that the child should be at home.
- want childcare in close proximity of their home 'pram pushing distance'

Leicester had its highest take-up numbers in autumn 2017, with 1,397 (66%) of children taking up 15 hours or less of their FEEE entitlement, take-up trends over the last three years show a decline year on year, which is reflective to national take-up levels also declining and can partly be attributed to the declining numbers of potentially eligible children.

Table 19 Take up of 2 year FEEE (Autumn 2017, 2018 and 2019)

Autumn 2019			Autumn 2018			Autumn 2017		
2 year take-up	Eligible Numbers	% take-up	2 year take-up	Eligible Numbers	% take-up	2 year take-up	Eligible Numbers	% take-up
1397	2127	65.7%	1555	2388	65.1%	1656	2509	66%

Ward level breakdown of take-up

The highest numbers of eligible children reside in the North Evington, Western, Braunstone and Rowley Fields and Abbey ward areas which are located in East, West and North West cluster areas of the city. **Table 14** shows the take-up level at sub-locality ward and cluster areas, this is variable between terms and ward areas. The data analysis is utilised by Children Centre staff to target eligible families on the DWP list to increase take-up towards the target of 70%, as well to support strategic priorities; school readiness and improve outcomes for children.

Table 20 Comparison of take-up over 3 terms at sub-locality ward level.

Leicester City 2YO FEEE TAKE-UP		AUTUMN- 2019		SUMMER- 2019		SPRING- 2019		AUTUMN- 2018	
Cluster	Ward	DWP list (Jun-19)* for Autumn Term 2019	% take-up	DWP list (Mar-19) for Summer Term 2019	% take-up	DWP list (Nov-18) for Spring Term 2019	% take-up	DWP list (Aug-18) for Autumn Term 2018	% take-up
CENTRAL	Castle	42	50.0%	54	46.3%	59	39.0%	58	41.4%
	Spinney Hills	96	63.5%	109	52.3%	109	56.0%	99	65.7%
	Stoneygate	115	64.3%	151	53.6%	148	59.5%	160	68.8%
	Wycliffe	122	79.5%	146	68.5%	166	75.3%	168	77.4%
	Total	375	67.5%	460	57.2%	482	61.6%	485	67.8%
EAST	Evington	97	68.0%	114	62.3%	108	61.1%	111	67.6%
	Humberstone & Hamilton	129	61.2%	130	52.3%	140	56.4%	113	67.3%
	Thurncourt	59	74.6%	58	75.9%	56	57.1%	60	78.3%
	Total	285	66.3%	302	60.6%	304	58.2%	284	69.7%
NORTH	Belgrave	97	85.6%	102	69.6%	95	69.5%	108	69.4%
	North Evington	167	76.6%	178	64.0%	192	70.3%	213	73.2%
	Rushey Mead	80	58.8%	88	51.1%	77	51.9%	69	55.1%
	Troon	92	67.4%	89	49.4%	79	49.4%	78	48.7%
	Total	436	73.4%	457	60.0%	443	63.2%	468	65.6%
NORTH WEST	Abbey	135	45.9%	143	42.0%	149	46.3%	155	60.0%
	Beaumont Leys	125	66.4%	146	61.0%	169	58.0%	162	67.3%
	Fosse	106	72.6%	122	49.2%	110	51.8%	90	64.4%
	Total	366	60.7%	411	50.9%	428	52.3%	407	63.9%
SOUTH	Aylestone	61	67.2%	63	66.7%	66	72.7%	62	66.1%
	Eyres Monsell	105	55.2%	91	54.9%	98	51.0%	93	61.3%
	Knighton	33	51.5%	36	52.8%	33	60.6%	41	63.4%
	Saffron	104	70.2%	121	55.4%	120	55.0%	115	60.0%
	Total	303	62.4%	311	57.2%	317	58.0%	311	62.1%
WEST	Braunstone Park & Rowley	147	61.9%	156	57.7%	158	58.2%	183	59.0%
	Westcotes	57	63.2%	72	44.4%	66	65.2%	66	72.7%
	Western	158	61.4%	189	56.1%	195	49.7%	184	60.9%
	Total	362	61.9%	417	54.7%	419	55.4%	433	61.9%
Grand Total		2127	65.7%	2358	56.6%	2393	58.3%	2388	65.1%

The average take-up in Leicester over the 3 terms is 60%.

This is lower than the average take-up of 70% or more in regional cities and Leicestershire County.

Proportion of 3 and 4 year old FEEE children

Take-up of 3 and 4 old (universal and extended)

Table 21 shows take-up of UE, EE and Reception places by 3 & 4 year olds living in Leicester over 3 academic terms.

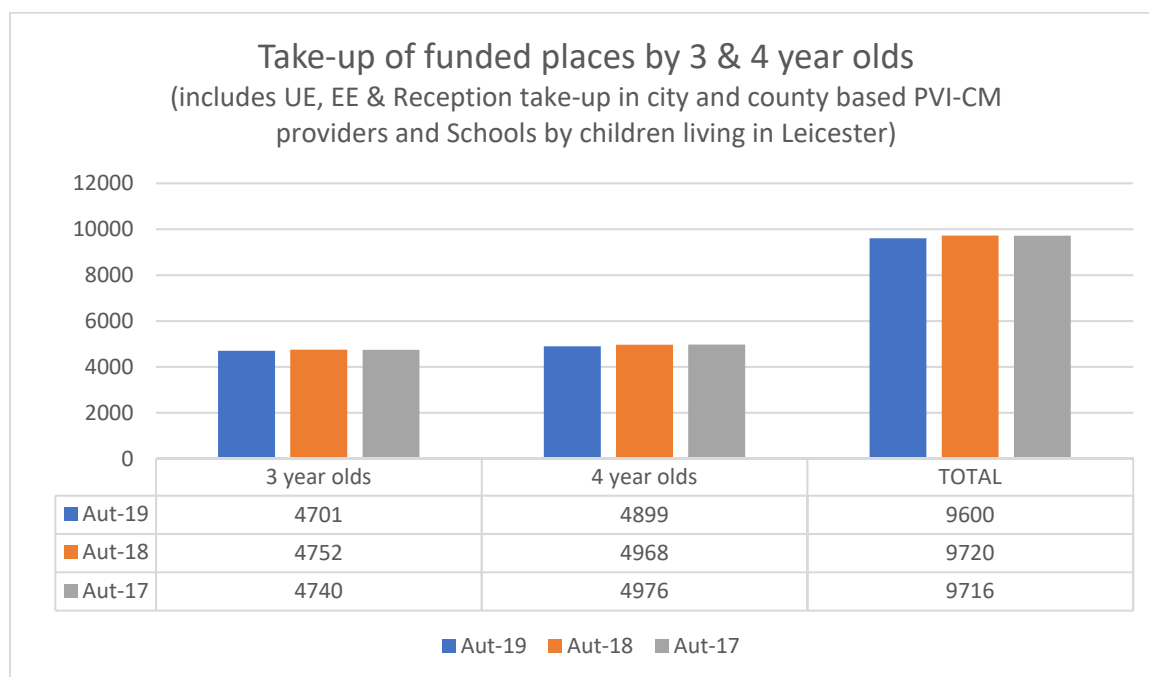
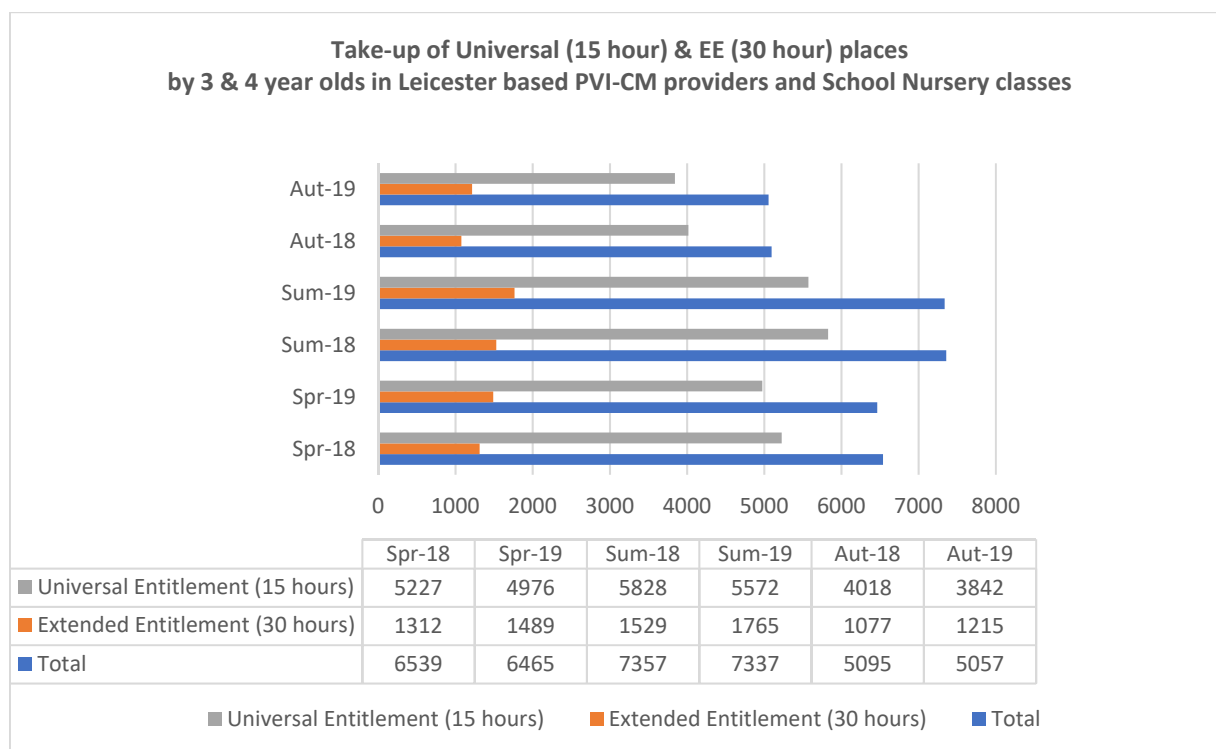


Table 22 shows take-up of 3 & 4 year old places (UE & EE) in Leicester based PVI-CM providers and School Nursery classes (excluding take-up of Reception Class places).

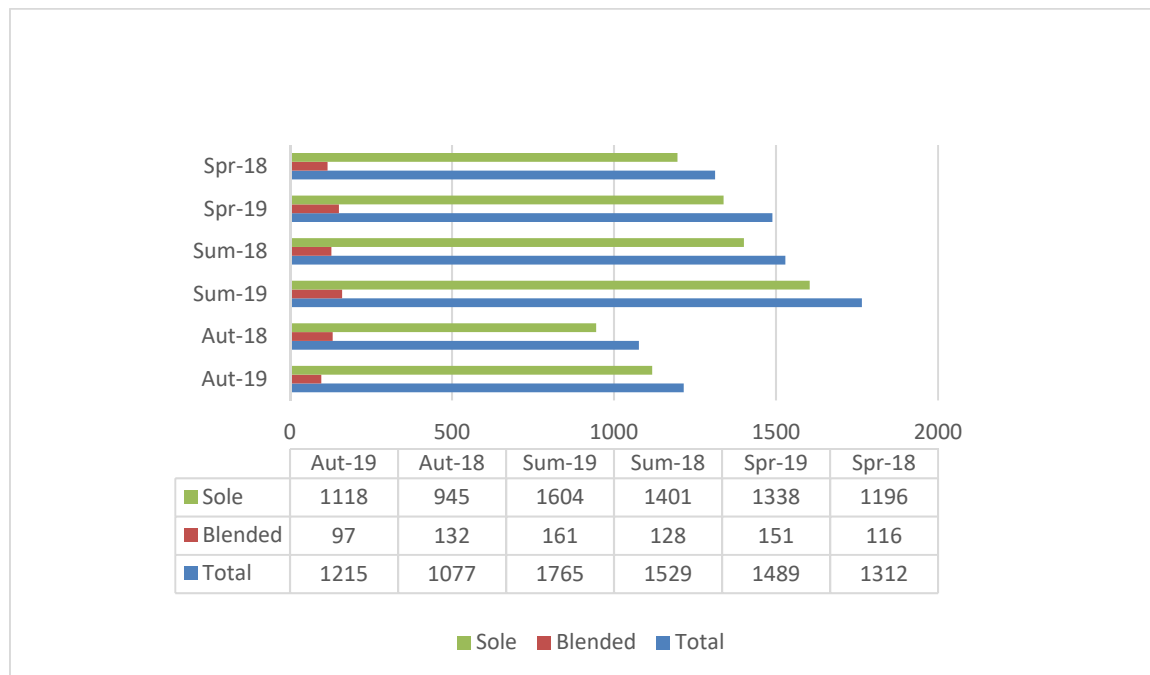


Key finding from Table 21 and 22

- shows a decrease in year on year take-up in equivalent terms. The year on year decline could be due to decline in population.

- The take-up is highest in the Summer term and drops in the Autumn term as almost all 4-year olds transition to school reception place and are not included in the numbers above.

Table 23 Take-up of 30 hour places by 3 & 4 year olds in Leicester based PVI-CM providers and School Nursery classes



Key finding from Table 23

- shows an increase in year on year take-up in equivalent terms.
- The take-up is highest in the Summer term and drops in the Autumn term as almost all 4-year olds transition to school reception place and are not then within the scope of the extended entitlement.
- The decrease in Blended model numbers could be due to more Sole 30 hour places being made available in Schools.

Proportion of 3 and 4 year old eligible for 30 EE

The government provided local authorities with estimated numbers of children and families that would be eligible for extended entitlement to ensure that LA's were putting in place the sufficiency plans to meet the target figure of 1,880 children in Leicester.

National statistics have been gathered termly over the last two years to assess the success of the Tax Free childcare scheme provided for government for working families.

In Leicester the take-up has been positive with 1,606 children in 30 hour place in the Summer term (2019) of the total number 1,902 Eligibility codes issued by HMRC, resulting in 97% of codes being validated. This is above the national England average of 94% codes validated.

Table 24a Number of eligible codes issued by HMRC – Summer 2019

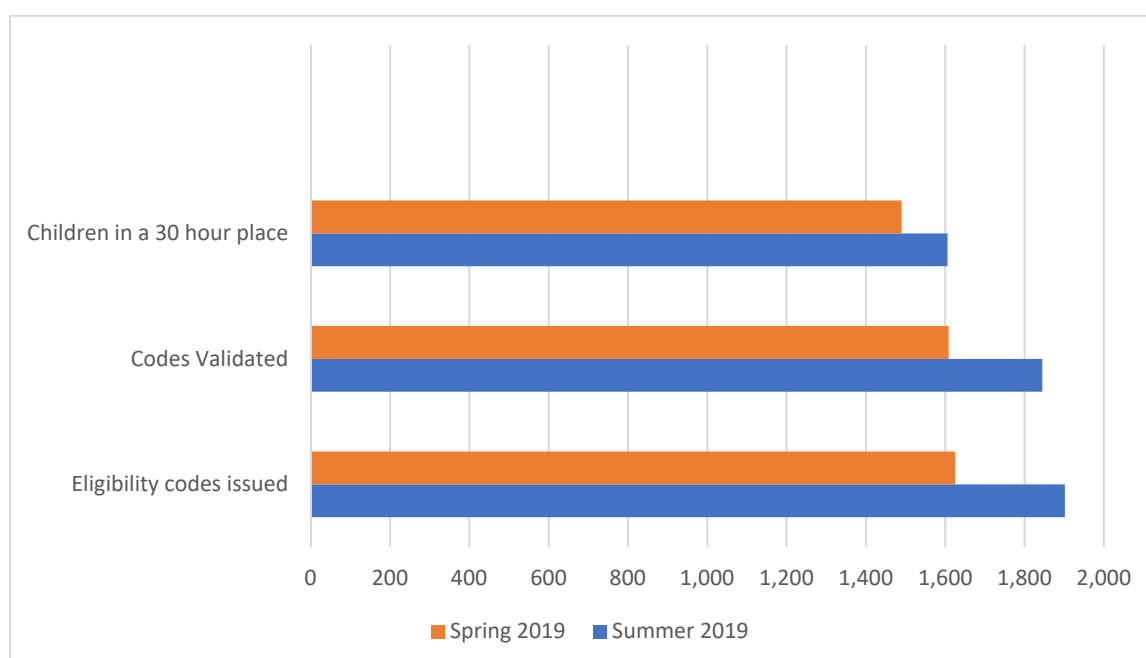
	Eligibility codes issued	Number of Children in a 30 hour place	Codes Validated %
ENGLAND	419,130	378,774	94%
Leicester	1,902	1,606	97%
<i>Statistical neighbour-</i> Nottingham	1,885	1,556	88%

Table 24b Number of eligibility codes issued by HMRC – Spring 2019

	Eligibility codes issued	Number of Children in a 30 hour place	Codes Validated %
ENGLAND	353,763	325,000	95%
Leicester	1,625	1,490	90%
<i>Statistical neighbour-</i> Nottingham	1,575	1,389	90%

Sources; www.gov.uk/government/30-hous-free-spring-term-2019-tables
www.gov.uk/government/30-hours-free-summer-term-2019-tables

Table 25 Comparison of the number of 30 hour Eligibility codes issued, validated and children taking up an EE place in Leicester 2019.



5. Market Position Statement - Funded Early Education Entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year old places (Dec 2019)

Introduction

The early years' sector consists of the private, voluntary and independent group-care settings, childminders and the school sector. Together they provide a wide range of services for parents and carers, to support those wanting to return to work and are key services that support children in readiness to start school.

Key priorities

Leicester's Social Care and Education Department working with partners to provide the best quality experiences for children and young people to be safe, learn, achieve and grow.

Achieve outcome to ensure - Efficient and effective use of resources:

- Deliver services that meet statutory responsibilities
- Ensure access to good school and childcare

Securing sufficient childcare

Leicester City Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare places, as far as is reasonably practicable, to meet the requirements of working parents / carers, or parents/ carers who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

Purpose

This report looks at the current market position of the funded early education entitlement (FEEE) places.

It is essentially a snapshot of Leicester City's supply and demand of FEEE places and a profile of the indicative surplus and deficit of places, by cluster and ward.

This has been developed to:

- Support the local authority to understand the market
- Support new and existing providers to understand demand and/or gaps in the market
- Ensure funding and growth is targeted appropriate to areas where there is need
- Enable a strategic approach both in the short and long term for planning and responding to need

Table 26a shows a summary of wards which have been identified as having some gaps in 2, 3 and 4-year FEEE places (15 hours and 30-hours EE). Out of the 6 city clusters, 5 clusters have a ward or wards with some gaps identified and these are indicated in the table.

Table 26b shows the full Cluster and Ward analysis of sufficiency of FEEE places (December 2019). Out of the 6 clusters, 2 cluster have some gaps identified at whole cluster level. The table also indicates the RAG rating for the surplus/deficit at Ward and Cluster levels.

Table 26a – A summary of the 5 clusters where gaps have been identified in one or more wards

CLUSTER	WARD	Deficit of 2YO FEEE places	Deficit of 15-hour places for 3&4 YOs	Deficit of 30-hour EE places for 3&4 YOs
EAST	Humberstone & Hamilton	(30)		(41)
	Thurncourt			(53)
NORTH	Rushey Mead	(28)		
NORTH WEST	Fosse		(137)	(22)
SOUTH	Eyres Monsell	(6)		
	Saffron	(3)	(40)	(23)
WEST	Western	(17)		(69)

Table 26b Cluster and Ward analysis of sufficiency of FEEE places and RAG rating of the surplus/deficit of places.

Leicester City Sufficiency of FEEE Places (as at Dec 2019) Cluster & Ward Analysis and RAG rating							KEY FOR RAG RATING			
							Deficit	Surplus 0 to 24	Surplus 25 & over	
CLUSTER	WARD	Number of 2YOs eligible for FEEE	Population of 3 & 4 years olds	Numbers of settings (signed up to deliver FEEE)			Surplus (Deficit) based on 70% of DWP data	Surplus (Deficit) based on Population per ONS Live Births data		
		Target for Aut-2019 per DWP data (Jun- 19)	ONS Live Births 2014/15 & 2015/16	PVI providers	Childminders	Schools	2YO FEEE places	15 hour places for 3&4 YOs	30 hour places for 3&4 YOs	Reception Class Places for 4YOs
CENTRAL	Castle	42	338	13	2	2	149	268	198	Adjustments are not made for any ward surpluses of Reception Class places. However, any ward deficits are adjusted and reflected in the workings for 3&4YO (UE & EE) places for that ward.
	Spinney Hills	96	482	4	0	3	47	97	20	
	Stoneygate	115	653	11	0	3	107	56	48	
	Wycliffe	122	514	8	0	4	131	228	40	
CENTRAL TOTALS		375	1,987	36	2	12	434	649	306	
EAST	Evington	97	493	3	4	4	14	13	0	
	Humberstone & Hamilton	129	654	4	4	5	(30)	1	(41)	
	Thurncourt	59	310	2	6	2	13	0	(53)	
EAST TOTALS		285	1,457	9	14	11	(3)	14	(94)	
NORTH	Belgrave	97	470	7	2	3	104	273	71	
	North Evington	167	773	6	5	5	58	246	10	
	Rushey Mead	80	330	2	2	5	(28)	69	0	
	Troon	92	423	5	3	3	110	94	79	
NORTH TOTALS		436	1,996	20	12	16	244	682	160	
NORTH WEST	Abbey	135	606	4	12	5	10	76	0	
	Beaumont Leys	125	646	6	3	6	60	37	0	
	Fosse	106	533	5	4	2	14	(137)	(22)	
NORTH WEST TOTALS		366	1,785	15	19	13	84	(24)	(22)	
SOUTH	Aylestone	61	333	3	3	2	35	18	5	
	Eyres Monsell	105	341	3	0	4	(6)	49	0	
	Knighton	33	373	11	2	2	41	151	37	
	Saffron	104	382	3	1	3	(3)	(40)	(23)	
SOUTH TOTALS		303	1,429	20	6	11	67	178	19	
WEST	Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	147	679	5	4	5	23	88	0	
	Westcotes	57	409	8	1	1	94	68	76	
	Western	158	671	4	6	5	(17)	0	(69)	
WEST TOTALS		362	1,759	17	11	11	100	156	7	
CITY-WIDE TOTALS		2,127	10,413	117	64	74	926	1,655	376	

Headline information for Cluster and Ward level sufficiency of places for 2YO FEEE, 3 & 4 YO (15 hour) FEEE and 3 & 4 YO (30 hour) FEEE.

Central Cluster

- There are no sufficiency concerns as all 4 wards have a surplus of places in each FEEE category.
- The Central Cluster as a whole has a surplus of FEEE places in each FEEE category and the geographical spread of provision and choice for families is adequate.

East Cluster

- 2 of the 3 wards have deficit of places in one or more of the FEEE categories.
- Humberstone & Hamilton ward has an indicative deficit of 30 places for 2YO FEEE and 41 places for 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour).
- Thurncourt ward has an indicative deficit of 53 places for 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour).
- The East Cluster as a whole has an indicative deficit of 3 places for 2YO FEEE and 94 places for 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour).
- We are aware of a new provision, awaiting Ofsted registration, in the Humberstone & Hamilton ward. When open the new capacity will help reduce the indicative deficit of places and the overall deficit of 2YO FEEE places at cluster level.
- Regarding the deficit of 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour) places in Thurncourt ward, we are aware from our data that children are accessing their entitlement in other areas of the city and the county and have had no concerns raised by parents. The 30 hour entitlement is for working parents and most are able to travel and access places outside of their home ward and many of them actively choose to do this even if there is capacity available with providers in their home ward.

North Cluster

- 1 of the 4 wards has a deficit of places in one of the FEEE categories.
- Rushey Mead ward has an indicative deficit of 28 places for 2YO FEEE.
- The North Cluster as a whole has a surplus of FEEE places in each FEEE category and the surplus of places in the Belgrave ward helps balance the deficit of 2YO FEEE places in the Rushey Mead ward and we do not have any concerns being raised by parents.

North West Cluster

- 1 of the 3 wards has a deficit of places in two of the FEEE categories.
- Fosse ward has an indicative deficit of 137 places 3 & 4 YO FEEE (15 hour) and 22 places for 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour).
- The North West Cluster as a whole has an indicative deficit of 24 places 3 & 4 YO FEEE (15 hour) and 22 places for 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour).
- The deficit of 3 & 4 YO FEEE places (15 hour) in the Fosse ward is largely balanced by the surplus of places in the other 2 wards. Regarding the deficit of 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour) places in Fosse ward, we are aware from our data that children are accessing their entitlement in other areas of the city and the county and have had no concerns raised by parents.
- The 30 hour entitlement is for working parents and most are able to travel and access places outside of their home ward and many of them actively choose to do this even if there is capacity available with providers in their home ward.

- Despite there being a surplus of 2YO FEEE places in all wards we have some concerns about the sufficiency of places in some localised areas in the cluster. This is because the geographical area of the cluster is vast and the distance to provision provides a barrier to access as parents of 2YO FEEE children are unlikely to have the means to travel far to access the provision.

South Cluster

- 2 of the 4 wards have deficit of places in one or more of the FEEE categories.
- Eyres Monsell ward has an indicative deficit of 6 places for 2YO FEEE.
- Saffron ward has an indicative deficit in all FEEE categories, 3 places for 2YO FEEE, 40 places 3 & 4 YO FEEE (15 hour) and 23 places for 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour).
- The South Cluster as a whole has a surplus of FEEE places in each FEEE category and the surplus of places for 2YO FEEE in 2 of the 4 wards and surplus 3 & 4 YO FEEE places (15 hour and 30 hour) in 3 of the 4 wards helps to balance the indicative deficits in the other wards. Also, regarding the deficit of 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour) places in Saffron ward, we are aware from our data that children are accessing their entitlement in other areas of the city and the county and have had no concerns raised by parents. The 30 hour entitlement is for working parents and most are able to travel and access places outside of their home ward and many of them actively choose to do this even if there is capacity available with providers in their home ward.

West Cluster

- of the 3 wards has a deficit of places in two of the FEEE categories:
- Western ward has an indicative deficit of 17 places for 2YO FEEE and 69 places for 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour).
- The West Cluster as a whole has a surplus of FEEE places in each FEEE category and the surplus of places in 3 wards helps to balance the indicative deficits in the Western ward. Also, regarding the deficit of 3 & 4 YO FEEE (30 hour) places in Western ward, we are aware from our data that children are accessing their entitlement in other areas of the city and the county and have had no concerns raised by parents. The 30 hour entitlement is for working parents and most are able to travel and access places outside of their home ward and many of them actively choose to do this even if there is capacity available with providers in their home ward.
- The sufficiency analysis in this report is based purely on the current market, supply and demand chain as at December 2019. However, as a city we do not look at sufficiency in isolation and consider quality of provision as part of the snapshot. As OFSTED outcomes determine a provider's ability to provide FEEE places particularly for 2 year FEEE. High quality childcare for all our children is key to reducing the learning gap of our most vulnerable children - a key factor contributing to school readiness and improved outcomes, particularly around speech, language and communication skills.
- Therefore, it is important to highlight challenges:
- The market picture is a fluctuating picture impacted with setting closures, OFSTED quality outcomes below Good and changes to the demographic affect sufficiency needs.
- Low take –up of 2-year FEEE places 2019 (60%).
- There has been a decrease in numbers of 2-year olds accessing the entitlement since 2018 (Average Spr-19 to Aut-19 1,375 ; Spr-18 to Aut-18 1,493) but the percentage take-up has remained steady as the numbers of eligible children has declined too. However, as our percentage take-up is low in comparison to the national average and the regional local authorities, Leicester has to continue to prioritise increasing the take-up numbers and percentage of the 2YO FEEE entitlement.

- Year on year reduction of take –up of 3 and 4 year old FEEE 92% (autumn 2019) in comparison to 94% (autumn 2018).
- Long term impact of 30 EE on the early years sector, and in particular the impact on sustainability of school nursery class places.
- Our autumn 2019 FEEE take-up data shows an increase in take-up of 3 and 4 year old places in the PVI at 15 hour equivalent (counting one 30 hour place as two 15 hour places) and a corresponding decrease in numbers of funded 2 year olds in settings compared to Aut-2018 data.

Further work needs to be carried out on SEND inclusive FEEE places, mapping and finding out more about any unmet demand especially affecting eligible 2YO FEEE children from low income and non-working households.

6. Childcare Costs

This section of the CSA provides an updated picture of the average costs of childcare prices in the city, the range of costs have been compiled from information acquired directly from the Provider Survey 2019 and childcare provider profile held on the Family Information Directory. It is important to highlight, the data provides a snapshot in time and that variables such as the different opening times, length of sessions and discounts offered result in the information not always being completely comparable.

Average Childcare Costs

For the purpose of this section we have differentiated between costs for Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) group care providers and childminders. The costs analysis shows the average cost for under 4 year olds before the FEEE elements have been considered. The data shows that on average there is little or no significant difference in the average cost structure for the differing age ranges from 0- 4 years and therefore the table reflects this.

Table 27a Cost Analysis for Early Years Childcare Average childcare for under 4 years.

PVI Costs	Per Hour	Per 3-hour Session	Per Half Day (5 hours)	Per Day (10 hours)	25 Hours per Week	50 Hours per Week
Average	£5.93	£15.13	£31.85	£49.29	£141.69	£220.50
Lowest	£4.00	£10.00	£20.00	£37.00	£100.00	£170.00
Highest	£10.00	£24.00	£45.00	£69.50	£200.00	£297.50

CM Costs	Per Hour	Per 3-hour Session	Per Half Day (5 hours)	Per Day (10 hours)	25 Hours per Week	50 Hours per Week
Average	£4.21	£12.67	£22.33	£39.22	£104.30	£199.69
Lowest	£3.25	£9.75	£17.00	£27.00	£81.25	£150.00
Highest	£7.00	£21.00	£25.00	£50.00	£150.00	£250.00

National and regional comparison do vary for age ranges and therefore this has been detailed below.

Key finding on childcare cost in 2019 (source: Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2019)

Since the last CSA in 2016 the average cost has increased, as you would expect.

- the average price for a 25 hour (half day) of childcare a week for a 2 year old and under child in a PVI setting is £142.00. This is significantly higher than the national average of which ranges between £125.77 and £128.98 and regional averages which range from £113.48 to £113.22.
- the average price for 50 hours (full day) of childcare a week for a 2 year old or under in a PVI setting is £222.00. This is lower than the national average which ranges from £245.95 to £240.06, but Leicester average 50 hours childcare costs are higher than regional averages which range between £208.73 and £209.15.
- Parents are paying considerably less for childcare for children aged between 3 and four, as they are in receipt of universal FEEE and for those eligible Extended Entitlement. However, the average childcare costs for those 0-2 years in comparison to children aged 3 and 4 years old has little difference.
- With the introduction of the 30 hours EE and fewer parents paying for additional hours this has had a major impact on PVI group care providers.

Help with Childcare Costs

The Government provides various schemes to help parents and carers towards paying for their childcare costs, if your child is under 16 (or under 17 for a child with a disability). The childcare provider must be a registered provider or an 'approved provider' (registered with Ofsted), these include a registered childminder, playschemes, nursery, preschool, or club, a nursery in a school or a home carer or childminder working for a registered agency. Parents and carers must select the scheme which best suits them and their own personal circumstances. The government website, www.childcarechoices.gov.uk is a specifically designed to provide all the details of all the help available and tools to assess eligibility (childcare calculator) for those parents and carers working, studying or planning to return to work. These schemes include:

- Tax free Childcare (0-11 years old)
- Tax credits for childcare
- Universal Credit for childcare
- Salary sacrifice schemes
- Support whilst studying
- Two year Funded Early Education Entitlement
- Three and Four year Funded Early Education Entitlement
- 30 Hours Extended Entitlement for Three and Four year olds

Table 27b below shows the national, regional and local figures of those families receiving help with childcare cost between 2017 – 2019, the data shows an year on year increase to more families benefiting in Leicester from Tax free childcare.

Table 27b National and local data on families accessing help from Tax free childcare scheme (2017 –2019 HMRC data)

Year	Region	Families with Open Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) Accounts ²			Families with Used Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) Accounts ³			Government Top-up ⁶ (£m)
		TFC only	TFC and 30 Hours	Total	TFC only	TFC and 30 hours	Total	
2017-18	United Kingdom	47,560	224,755	272,315	28,105	28,895	57,000	32.2
	East Midlands	4415	6072	10487	3384	4273	7657	
	Leicester	140	199	339	98	128	226	0.08
2018-19	United Kingdom	107,260	342,095	449,355	81,755	78,430	160,185	117
	East Midlands	4949	8248	13197	4680	3824	8504	
	Leicester	154	374	528	145	162	307	0.32
Year	Region	Children with Open Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) Accounts ²			Children with Used Tax-Free Childcare (TFC)Accounts ³			Government Top-up ⁶ (£m)
		TFC only	TFC and 30 hours	Total	TFC only	TFC and 30 Hours	Total	
2017-18	United Kingdom	81,950	231,800	313,750	42,725	28,790	71,515	32.2
	East Midlands	5444	7147	12591	3749	4534	8282	
	Leicester	169	240	409	100	140	240	0.08
2018-19	United Kingdom	174,100	362,600	536,700	123,100	80,100	203,200	116.9
	East Midlands	5503	8781	14284	4935	3820	8755	
	Leicester	170	389	559	152	157	309	0.32

7. Quality of childcare in our city (Ofsted grading)

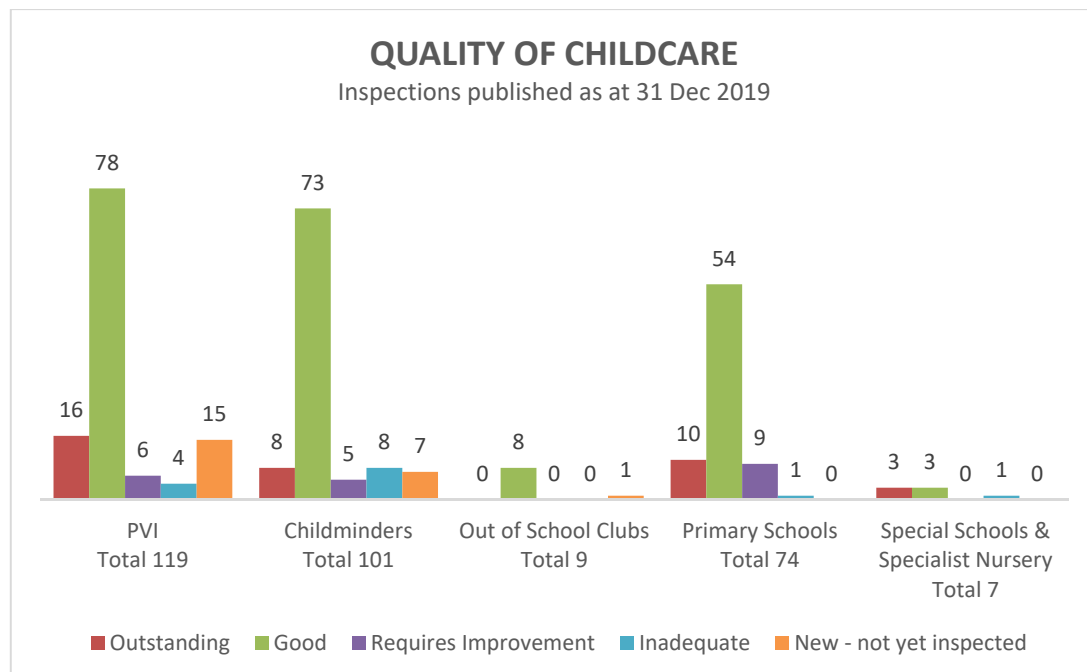
As outlined in the statutory duties for Early years and childcare the LA has a duty to ensure that FEEE places are offered by providers meeting minimum quality standards, as judged by Ofsted i.e. A3.2 Fund places for two-, three- and four-year-old children at any provider judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted¹² or at any childminder registered with a childminder agency judged 'effective' by Ofsted.

A3.3 Fund places for three- and four-year-old children at any provider judged 'satisfactory' (prior to 2014) or 'requires improvement' by Ofsted¹³ or at any childminder registered with a childminder agency judged 'effective' by Ofsted.

If a provider does not maintain the quality judgements required, the LA initiates a non-compliance process which freezes FEEE funding for any new places until the setting evidences the required quality improvements to address the actions set by Ofsted.

This therefore impacts on the number of FEEE places available with the given provider and the number of places available in the given area of the city.

Table 28 QUALITY OF CHILDCARE – OFSTED Inspections published as at 31 Dec 2019



PVIs: include FEEE, Non FEEE and Independent Schools

Childminders: include FEEE and Non FEEE childminders registered on the EYR

Primary & Special Schools: where recent Academy convertors have not had an Inspection, the last Ofsted Inspection Outcome of the predecessor school has been used.

8. Parents views on childcare

Parental Survey

A parental survey was carried out in Oct 2019, it was anticipated that the finding from the survey would highlight parent’s childcare needs, identifying specific gaps in provision. In total 139 responses were received, which provided some anecdotal information about the need for holiday care for school aged children. Unfortunately, the response rate was low and did not provide robust information on parental needs for the City. (a detailed breakdown can be found in - Appendix 2 Summary of responses of the Parental consultation).

9. Actions arising from the CSA 19 findings

The findings of the CSA 2019 identify key areas of work to be focused on by the local authority going forward

- Work across services and with partners to agree a two year old take up strategy; this will be to work with parents to encourage take up of their funded early education entitlement and promote the value to school readiness
- Continue quality improvement work with the sector to secure availability of high quality places across the city
- Continue partnership work with schools around delivery of 30 hour FEEE places to respond to demand and manage the market to prevent a negative impact on accessibility of places, particularly for 2 year olds, in early years settings across the city
- Work across services to develop accessibility of inclusive provision and availability of places for children with SEND, including mapping of provision and securing data on unmet demand; particularly for 2 year FEEE places.
- Work with pupil place planning service around aligning data sources to ensure consistent baseline information

10. Sources of information and data

- Statutory Guidance on local authorities for Early Education and Childcare, effective from 1 June 2018.
- HMRC Eligibility Data
- Leicester Early Education Headcount data
- ONS population data
- ONE headcount data 2018-19

Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission – *DRAFT* WORK PROGRAMME 2020 – 2021

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	ACTIONS ARISING	PROGRESS
25 th June 2020	1) Impact of Coronavirus on Leicester's Children's Services and schools	Commission accepted the verbal report and congratulated officers and schools for the work which had been done in maintaining services during lockdown and agreed that an update should come to the next meeting.	
29 th Sept 2020	1) Impact of Coronavirus on Leicester's Children's Services and schools 2) Adoption Service Annual Report and Statement of Purpose 3) Fostering Service Annual Report and Statement of Purpose 4) Participation Strategy – verbal update	1). The commission supported the strategy being deployed in schools which has minimised the impact of infections on schools, students and parents. It agreed to continue to receive updates on the position in Leicester. It agreed to continue to monitor the position relating to safeguarding children and young people. The performance – delivering the same levels of care with outcomes the same as or better than under normal circumstances – had been noted by DfE at regional level 2). Service had continued to operate under lockdown using remote and screen-based introductions and consultations. A programme with LLR and Lincs to be launched in October 2020. Members asked to be kept informed of performance/progress. They found the putting together of annual report and statement of purpose helpful. (also for fostering service report). 3). Members noted to comments that the fostering cohort was rising and that there was a need to recruit younger fosterers. Local fosterers and local communities were being targeted. Report requested on progress of young people coming out of care. 4) First mainland UK authority to adopt the Lundy model for integrating children's participation rights into city council services across the city.	

105

Appendix G

	5) High needs block banding consultation	Consultation to be part of a bigger piece of work looking at the wider SEND landscape across the city.	
<p>Agenda meeting: 11 November 2020</p> <p>Deadline for papers 18 November 2020</p> <p>Papers despatch: 20 November 2020</p> <p>30th Nov 2020</p>	<p>Impact of Coronavirus on Leicester's Children's Services and schools</p> <p>Draft Local Plan – issues relevant to CYPS</p> <p>LADO annual report</p> <p>IRO annual report</p> <p>Youth Justice Plan annual report 2020-21</p> <p>Edge of Care interventions report 2020-2021</p>		

<p>13 January 2021</p> <p>Agenda meeting: 22 December 2020</p> <p>Deadline for papers: 31 December 2020</p> <p>Papers despatch: tbc</p>	<p>Impact of Coronavirus on Leicester's Children's Services and schools (Martin Samuels)</p> <p>SEND JC strategy (Tracie Rees) GRF</p> <p>Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report (Lindsey Brampton)</p> <p>Permanence Strategy (David Thrussell)</p> <p>Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Jan 19 to Dec 19 (Claire Lakin)</p> <p>GRF</p>		
<p>25th February 2021</p> <p>Agenda meeting TBC</p> <p>Deadline for papers TBC</p> <p>Papers despatch: TBC</p>	<p>Impact of Coronavirus on Leicester's Children's Services and schools (Martin Samuels)</p> <p>Virtual School Head Teacher report (Vivien Tetley and David Trussell)</p> <p>Edge of Care report and presentation Q2 (Caroline Tote)</p> <p>QA Presentation – Q1 and 2 (Teo Bott)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

14th April 2021			
Agenda meeting: TBC			
Deadline for papers TBC			
Papers despatch: TBC			

CYPS WORK PROGRAMME 2020 – 2021 FORWARD PLANNING

Topic	Details / Progress	
Performance Reporting and data monitoring, including Quarterly and Qualitative Reports	The commission to receive regular 'Quarterly Quality Assurance & Performance' Reports - (<i>Performance Book</i> and <i>Dashboard</i> is sent to members as background information).	STANDING ITEM
Ofsted Improvement Plan	Commission members agreed to have this item as a standing item to monitor progress (<i>following Ofsted re-inspection of children's services in June 2017 and report published 4th September 2017</i>).	STANDING ITEM
Safeguarding Partnership Annual report	To receive a report for members consideration.	Tbc
School Attendance Annual Report (incorporating update on Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education)	To receive report on progress for members consideration	Tbc
MST-FFT annual report		tbc
SCE Social Work Progression Framework		tbc
Signs of safety update		tbc
Adventure playgrounds		tbc
SEND within Leicester	Referenced in September 2020 meeting	January 2021

