

**Success for All Children Group  
Annual Report  
For the period  
April 2014 – March 2015**

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## **1. Strategy and vision**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Success for All Children Group is Southend's Children's Trust. Since 2007 the Group has worked in partnership to jointly address key issues for Southend's children, young people and families. The group is aligned with the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board and its work supports the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It is the vehicle that facilitates agencies and organisations in Southend-on-Sea to work in partnership with the aim of improving outcomes for children, young people and their families living in Southend.

The Success for All Children Group continues to have strategic oversight of the Children's agenda, working together to set challenging and ambitious targets and to improve outcomes for children and young people in Southend. The group has representatives from Southend Borough Council, South East Essex Primary Care Trust, Essex Fire and Rescue, Primary and Secondary Head Teachers, School Governors, South Essex Partnership Trust, Southend CCG, the Police and the voluntary sector. The Health and Wellbeing Board sets the overall strategy for health and wellbeing in Southend and the Success for All Group reports into the Board on progress on specific children and young people targets and actions.

This Annual Report sets out our achievements over the reporting period of April 2014 – March 2015. The Local Authority's Children's Services were not inspected during the period April 2014 – March 2015.

Partners of the Success for All Children Group continue to remain committed to partnership and the vision of the Children and Young People's Plan – Success for All. As our individual organisations' resources become more constrained we will strengthen our efforts for integrated working, joint commissioning and early intervention and target our energies where they are most needed. Innovation continues to be a key driver to our continued improvement of outcomes, as we strive to find new ways of delivering services through partnerships with the voluntary sector and other organisations, and Pioneering new approaches through our A Better Start programme of work.

A comprehensive analysis of local needs helps us to develop our Children and Young People's Plan and realise our ambitious vision to continue improving outcomes in Southend-on-Sea. This is set within a systematic, annual cycle of service planning and commissioning, monitoring and evaluation. The annual report and needs analysis informs priorities and actions to achieve continuous improvement, particularly to close the gap for different groups of children and young people. Our Children and Young People's Plan can be found at [www.southendchildren.org](http://www.southendchildren.org). The Southend Clinical Commissioning Group operational plan can be found [here](#); this

outlines the key health priorities and measures for children and young people and their families in Southend.

## **1.2 Our vision and ambition for children in Southend-on-Sea**

Our vision is simple, Success for All. We are committed to achieving success for all children but remind ourselves that this success needs to be defined with the children and young people and their families. As a partnership we recognise that our role is to fan the potential that exists in every child and work together to remove the injustices and barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential.

One of our strengths is the way, as organisations, we work together in Southend. Our vision statement clearly sets out the ways we want to continue to work together to give children and young people the best possible start in life. Our vision statement and other key documents can be found at [www.southendchildren.org](http://www.southendchildren.org).

## **1.3 Commissioning**

Commissioning within Southend Borough Council and Southend CCG has been brought together under the Pioneer Project. An Integrated Commissioning Team now commissions for both organisations.

The Early Help Practitioner Toolkit (updated May 2014), which can be found at [www.southendchildren.org](http://www.southendchildren.org) underpins the services commissioned jointly by the Success for All Children Group. These are targeted at early intervention, prevention and equality of access and opportunity.

During 2014-2015 we have continued to commission the following services, which were first commissioned in 2010:

**Domestic Abuse Project** – In 2014/15 SOS Domestic Abuse Projects supported 97 children and 71 adults and none of the families discharged were not referred back into the service. The contract is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the option to extend the contract for a further 2 years.

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)** – The current contract with Sept for CAMHS services comes to an end in October 2015. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2015, NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust) will begin providing a Children and Young Peoples Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (CYP EWMHS) across Essex consisting of Southend, Essex, Thurrock and all 7 CCGs. The service will be an integrated CYP EWMHS with a crisis pathway and will work with local services to deliver through a single point of access.

## **1.4 Workforce Development Strategy**

We are committed to developing and maintaining the competence, enthusiasm and commitment of our workforce. We have strong integrated strategies that have proved effective in delivering a competent and stable children's workforce.

The turnover rate for Children's Social Workers in Southend during 2014-15 was just 10.2%, which is considerably lower than regional and national averages. Vacancy rates are also lower than regional and national averages, and work continues to convert agency workers to permanent contracts. Our reliance on agency workers is also favourable in comparison with other LAs in the region.

Southend Borough Council has taken steps to make Southend an attractive place to work, especially with regard to Social Workers, successfully addressing on-going challenges in recruiting and retaining permanent social work staff through a range of measures. Since the introduction of an Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) for newly qualified Social Workers in September 2012, 43 NQSWs across the Council have successfully completed the ASYE. Four NQSWs within the first cohort of ASYE have recently been promoted to senior practitioner. We were part of a national pilot to have our ASYE endorsed by the College of Social Work, and we are now working to build on this success to provide a clear career framework for social work teams to strengthen our commitment to providing experienced social workers for children and families across Southend and provide career progression to assist retention and career options for social workers at all levels.

The professional development of Social Workers has been aligned with the Professional Capabilities Framework for over two years, and a Professional Development Framework was introduced in 2014 that integrated performance management with CPD, supervision, direct observation and the requirements of HCPC re-registration. This is helping to create a culture of continuous learning and improvement in social work teams. The emphasis on evaluation of learning places the service user at the heart of learning and social work practice.

Comprehensive CPD programmes for social workers and foster carers were delivered in 2014-15, with a new programme to follow in October 2015. Foster Carers have been given access to the Schools Learning Network (SLN) so that they can see what learning and development is available specifically for them, discuss this and other training with their supervising social workers and book on-line. The SLN also provides a forum to allow foster carers to share learning and good practice across the borough, to the benefit of the children and young people they care for. Social workers continue to have access to a range of Masters Level modules to help develop their practice, from child protection, reflective practice, assessing other professionals, leadership and management and so on.

Locality working offers multi-agency and multi-skilled, co-located teams. This facilitates a sharing of skills across professional boundaries and a more holistic understanding of the needs of children, young people and families. We are members of the LSCB/SAB learning and development group and are working closely with safeguarding leads across the Council to develop a corporate safeguarding training strategy.

Over the last eight years, we have supported schools to utilise the Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) induction process to assist with the retention of teachers in their early careers and to support wider school improvement. In 2014, we implemented an early intervention approach, which enables schools to support NQTs to make the necessary improvements to pass induction. Since December 2012, schools have had the opportunity to approach other Appropriate Bodies for statutory induction but schools have chosen to remain with us. Despite our success, we have led a process of transferring schools workforce development back to the School Improvement Team, as we believe this will create strategic advantage for schools and the Council.

### **1.5 Voice and Influence**

We value our service users' feedback as it helps us to understand how well we deliver our services and how we can improve. During 2014–15 we continued to provide a range of opportunities for children and young people to contribute their views and influence our decision making and service design. In addition to existing tools such as the vibrant Youth Council, and the Children in Care Council which is growing in strength, we have the annual Your Say survey, feedback on social workers and have a clear commitment to involving our service users in our staff recruitment interview panels, with all key social work posts involving a young person's interview panel, including the recruitment to the Head of Children's Services. Service users are also invited to provide feedback into Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and Youth Offending worker staff appraisals.

Once again in the Spring of 2015 we asked children in care if they feel we are keeping to our 'Pledge to Looked after Children', we have benchmarked ourselves against the annual national Care Monitor survey and have acted on the feedback. In 2013 67.6% of children felt well looked after, in 2014 this increased to 80% and in 2015 88%. Our complaints process is well embedded into practice and in 2014-15 the number of complaints received was 61. While this was an increase on 2013-14 (38 received) it was in line with previous years. It should be noted that the Local Government Ombudsman has also seen a rise nationally in complaints. Compliments have increased from 44 in 2013-14 to 60 in 2014-15.

As a partnership we recognise the importance of service user feedback and will continue to develop and strengthen this area of work to evidence that our services are commissioned, designed and implemented with service user feedback in mind.

## **2. Safeguarding, early intervention and prevention**

### **2.1 How did we do in 2014-2015?**

Over the past year the Success for All Group has focused on delivering the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 2015.

1. Closing the divide between more advantaged and less advantaged children and families in Southend
2. Supporting families at the earliest opportunity to prevent their needs escalating and to help them transition through our services
3. Keeping children and young people safe
4. Supporting young people and families to live healthier lifestyles
5. Continuing to improve the life chances for looked after children and those on the edge of care
6. Supporting young people to prepare for employment
7. Ensuring agencies proactively seek out and respond to the views of children and young people

In this section we take a moment to highlight some of our key successes against our priorities from April 2014 – March 2015.

#### **A Better Start**

The Council, Pre-School Learning Alliance and its partners worked together to be awarded £40,044,000 by the Big Lottery Fund. Funding which was only awarded to four other areas in the country. 'A Better Start' is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a real difference to the future of all Southend-on-Sea's children, particularly those in the most disadvantaged parts of our community. The vision of the programme, is to transform the first years of life for children and their families in our target areas; changing the way they engage with the services and the opportunities available in Southend. It will also support parents and families in raising their aspirations, realising their potential and expanding their skills. Our ambition is bold and unflinching; by providing the next generation with excellent opportunities in a borough transformed with rewarding career prospects, safer public spaces and engaged communities, we will help to give children the best start in life.

The funding, which will last for ten years, is specifically aimed at improving social and emotional development, communication and language development, and nutrition of children from conception to their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Local parents, the community and professionals will work together co-producing and sharing, through testing and learning new programmes and services, and redesigning of some existing pathways. Starting in 6 wards selected by Big Lottery Fund criteria (Shoeburyness, West Shoebury, Milton, Westborough, Victoria and Kursaal), these will then be expanded across Southend and to older age ranges as appropriate.

We will link the '*A Better Start*' evidence-based preventative approach to both Early Years and early help provision with existing ambitious initiatives in the borough, which together will form the Southend Approach. Linking centres for innovation, research and best practice, the Southend Approach will be built on science, evidence and the sharing of knowledge and experience.

Ultimately, '*A Better Start*' will change the way Southend works, lives and thrives. By focusing on the foundations of development, which are the birthright of every child, it will build a community for the future.

### **Early Years Provision**

Early Years providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors have seen continuous improvement over a number of years in the percentage of providers judged as good or better by Ofsted.

The current profile for pre-schools, day nurseries and independent schools is:

Outstanding	29%	(89% Good or Outstanding)
Good	60%	
Satisfactory	11%	
Inadequate	0%	

The current profile for Southend's registered childminders is:

Outstanding	20%	(91% Good or Outstanding)
Good	71%	
Satisfactory	9%	
Inadequate	0%	

Furthermore, taking into account the size of settings and the number of children attending, 95% of all children accessing early education in private, voluntary or independent providers are attending a setting rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

### **Troubled Families**

Our Troubled Families Programme completed the final year of its initial funding. Streets Ahead reached 100% payment by result claims, successfully turning around 420 families. These families benefited from a dedicated Key worker, working persistently, assertively and intensively with the whole family, providing a practical "hands on" approach which addressed the needs of every individual within the household. The family was taken on a journey kept on track with a robust family plan, and involving all professionals needed to make that change.

This was an e-mail received from a Father after they had completed their journey to the Key Worker and his Supervisor:



*"The work you have done not only for me but S and the children has been nothing short of brilliant and I want to make sure whoever is high up in your organisation will certainly know about what you have done for us. Not only 2 of the nicest people I have had the pleasure to meet in you and XXX but brilliant at what you do.*

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything, we will stay in touch."*

Southend looked to the future and sustainability, and were the only area to employ a team of Community workers, whose local knowledge provide a wealth of information to address future needs of troubled families, and the community as a whole. In fact the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have recently informed us that other areas are now looking to implement a community factor based on our model.

### **Southend Challenge**

This is the second year of the Southend Challenge, our strategy to promote a self-sustaining school to school system of support. Schools have worked collaboratively in six clusters to collectively address their own school improvement priorities with the critical challenge and support role held by the local authority. The success of this approach has been evidenced by an increasing number of schools being judged good or better, 80% compared to 72% in 2014. We also maintained good attainment levels at key stages KS1 and KS2. At KS1, there was an improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving a level 2B in each of reading, writing and maths. At KS2 in 2015, 79% of Southend pupils achieved level 4 or above in all of reading, writing and mathematics (compared to 80% last year). 69% of pupils in Southend achieved a 'good' level 4 or above (4B) in reading, writing and maths, the same as last year. 25% of pupils achieved level 5 or above in reading, writing and maths, the same as last year. There has been an improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving a level 4B in reading and in writing as well as improvements at all measures in grammar, punctuation and spelling

The Southend Borough Council Annual Education Report is published on [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk) and provides a more detailed analysis of pupil progress and attainment.

A key focus of the partnership is addressing the impact of poverty on children and families. This means not only working together to address the health and housing needs but also working together to close the attainment gap between pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding and their peers.

## **2.2 Improving the safeguarding of children and young people in Southend through multi-agency work**

In Southend there is a strong ethos of partnership working to safeguard and meet the needs of children and families as early as possible, which is embedded in a broad range of agencies and services.

With our partners and multi-agency practitioners we value and are committed to integrated working; this is the foundation for our staged model of intervention and allows us to plan and meet the needs of children in a systematic way.

Our last Ofsted inspection was in June 2012 when our partnership working, ambition and prioritisation to meet the needs of children were judged as outstanding.

We give safeguarding children the highest priority and our Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has ensured that the understanding of thresholds is solid, regularly reviewed, and safely maintained across the partnership.

In line with Government Policy changes, and to build on our successful experience of the Common Assessment Framework, the Early Help Assessment (EHA) has been developed; to enable multi-agency practitioners to use a common approach and language to assess the wide variety of needs that an individual baby, infant, child or young person (0-19) might have. The common core values and principles of the common assessment framework have been enhanced further with a greater emphasis on the inclusion of the voice of the child in the assessment and the full and active involvement of children, young people and their families in the continuing reviewing process. As a result, families will no longer have to tell and re-tell their stories to multiple practitioners with different ways of working. The assessment was launched in May 2014 and is the first phase of the refresh of Southend's framework for early help.

We have been consistently supporting children and their families who are vulnerable or have complex needs (stage 2 and 3 of the four staged intervention model) preventing difficulties becoming acute and demanding action by more specialist services. This approach supports the development of capacity, independence and resilience of families, children and young people by engaging them in a way that builds on their strengths and that allows them to identify their own solutions and to take ownership and responsibility for the future.

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 765 individual assessments were completed, with 720 assessments for the same period in 2014/15. The most substantial change this year was the success of the Southend Information

Point (SHIP), which encourages service users and practitioners to access the earliest help independently, through a highly informative website. For some families, accessing this help as initial needs arise, prevents the need for additional support through the EHA and may explain the 5% fall in assessments for this year. The children and families platform of the website was created in November 2013 and has gone from zero records and users to an average of 18,000 unique page requests per month, with peak months usually around school holiday periods, rising to 21,760. Service users can access information, advice and guidance on childcare, activities, clubs and community events, voluntary and targeted services, health needs, education, employment and financial matters, with the most recent addition being a comprehensive 'Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability'.

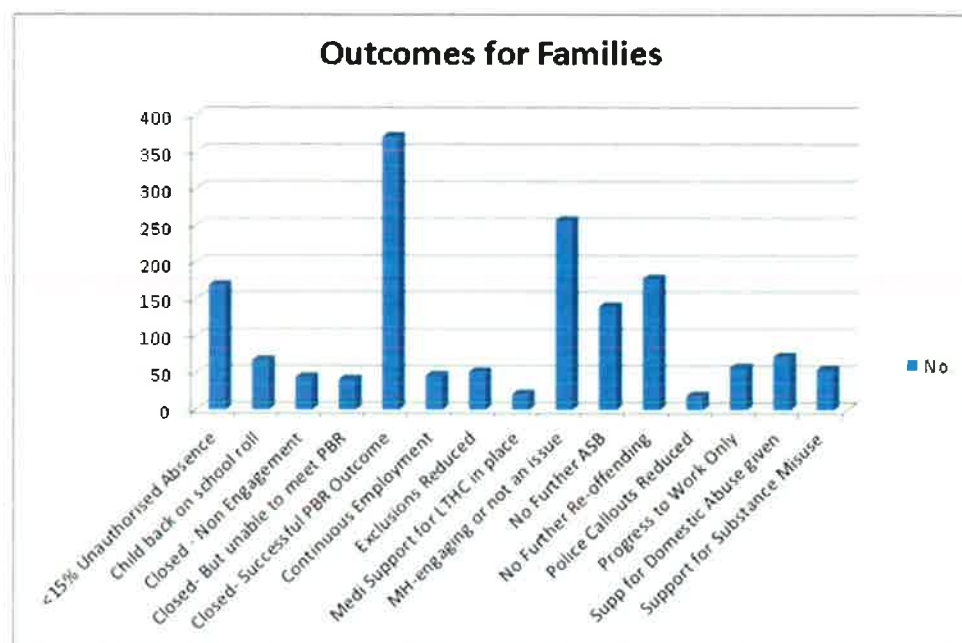
The majority of children (48%) started their journey through the early help assessment at stage 2 (vulnerable) and remain held and supported with targeted services at this stage until it is agreed that the desired outcomes have been achieved. Throughout the year only 12% of children's needs escalated to a higher stage and 29% decreased in need and moved down the staged intervention triangle.

The early help assessment delivery plans are reviewed and individual outcomes are collated and measured against 25 universal aims based upon the original Every Child Matters framework which enables us to analyse areas of need and target our resources much more effectively. This information has contributed to the Southend Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHs) strategy and has resulted in the development of a health toolkit which is being piloted in Southend, to encourage more children, young people and their families to live healthier lifestyles.

### **Troubled Families**

Streets Ahead in the community is an innovative approach to family work, providing opportunities for families to access resources in their communities. The programme supports positive change and also prevents families who are on the periphery of the Streets Ahead criteria needing intensive intervention by working with communities to strengthen communication, co-operation and take up of services. Evidence suggests that families who live in flourishing communities experience improved emotional health & wellbeing which reduces long term dependency on services. Our community workers ensure that projects are sustainable and delivered with the involvement of the local community and Streets Ahead families with their aim being to empower, up-skill and foster community cohesion and family resilience, not to create unrealistic expectations or dependency.

The chart below shows how together with partner agencies we have worked with families around problematic areas.



Please note that not all cases from phase 1 have been closed and these will reflect further successful outcomes.

Some of Streets Ahead's achievements and practices that have been embedded this year are set out here

- There are now 12 established Community Projects and a Community Hub which give on-going support for the Hard to Reach communities and families.
- By addressing the needs of the whole family, we have worked with the younger siblings as well as the young offender, giving importance to early help and ensuring that is an integral part of the plan, feeding into the sustainable outcomes and preventing generational recurrence of the same issues.
- Our Action Plans and reviews are inclusive to family and all agencies involved thus preventing escalation and reducing costs. Our families and professionals have a voice and a case will only be closed when everyone is in agreement and all outcomes have been achieved. This also offers challenge to families that do not engage and forms evidence for pursuing any legal action.
- All families are put into "Maintenance" and referred to our Community Workers for on-going support within their community. Thus the family feel reassured and it gives them the tools to continue to make the right choices.

- We have employed a Missing / Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Co-ordinator as part of the Team, this role fulfils a crucial part of the Troubled Families Programme as many of Missing Children/CSE high risk cases are working with Streets Ahead to support the whole family through the issues associated with these cases.
- We were successful in achieving MJ National Award for Innovation in the Community, Team of the Year for a pilot Firebreak for Fathers and children, and Streets Ahead were awarded Runner Up Team of the Year – Stars Awards, SBC.

Due to outstanding success in Phase 1, particularly achieved in 2014/15, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have accepted us as an early Starter in Phase 2, funded for five years, giving more than 1480 families the opportunity for support and a better quality of life. The DCLG have broadened the selection criteria to now meet 6 key issues; adult and youth Crime/Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Education attendance/behaviours, Unemployment, Domestic Abuse, Children who need help and Health. This allows for most family issues to be addressed and early help to be provided, preventing later issues and producing cost savings for all Partner agencies.

### **Development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

In autumn 2014 a scoping exercise of Southend was completed, looking at the potential to develop a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). In autumn 2015 following meetings with the Police, local health leaders and the LSCB it was agreed that the best model to pursue would be to extend the existing Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team (JDATT). This model requires less change management, than implementing a full MASH, and would speed up response to families through a swift link to casework. Extending the JDATT would also enhance information sharing and allow it to focus on decision making and safety planning. The extended JDATT would include a health practitioner, 2 Police staff, early help practitioner and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA).

### **We need to further focus on:**

- Continue to improve mechanisms to identify and provide help to children and families as early as possible ensuring we maximise the opportunities of the continuations of the Troubled Families services and the A Better Start programme.
- Implement a refined early help single front door aligned with the new child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHs) provision.

### 2.3 Reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people's life chances

SOS Domestic Abuse Projects (SOSDAP) Fledglings Child and Family Centre deliver a range of services which enable families, perpetrators, victims and children affected by domestic abuse to undertake therapeutic work. This helps those affected to overcome the effects of domestic abuse and family breakdown. The approach is holistic as it offers support to every member of the family over the age of five. The ethos is that working with parents and children has a greater and long term impact of improvement for the whole family.

SOSDAP is the only service in Southend that provides this service. The organisation delivers the Staying Safe group work to parents and children to improve communication and relationships – to understand what has happened and its impact on the dynamics of the family. The contract includes supporting teenagers by exploring behaviours and responsibilities with a view to engaging in healthy relationships. It also offers a young males project for 13-19 year old males who have experienced domestic abuse as children and are now showing negative abusive behaviours.

The prevalence of domestic abuse in Southend is high and covers all wards. It is most prevalent in three of our most deprived wards, Victoria, Milton and Kursaal. The Kursaal ward has the highest number of incidents reported to the police.

Police incident calls July 13 - 14	Total calls 4154
	Females 3236
Breakdown by gender	Male Victims 918

### Our safeguarding and early intervention performance in 2014-2015:

- Despite the doubling of targets in September 2014, all parents wishing to access a funded early education place for their 2 year old were able to find a place.
- 89% of early education settings in the private, voluntary or independent (PVI) sector were judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, with 95% of all children accessing funded places attending these settings.
- 89% of Children's Centres assessed were judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.
  - 3 and 4 year old funding take up: 95% in Southend (4340 children)

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– 3 year olds (2,130): PVI = 73% Maintained = 27%

– 4 year olds (2,210): PVI = 26% Maintained = 74%

(of the 74%, 14% school nursery, 66% reception)

- Referrals resulting in a single social work assessment - During April 2014 – March 2015 1,386 (provisional figures) referrals were received by social care and the rate of referrals resulting in a Single Social Work Assessment was 93.4% (provisional figures), which demonstrates that threshold is understood across the partnership.
- During the reporting period of April 2014 to March 2015, 937 learners across the partnership registered for safeguarding training provided by the LSCB. Of which 169 were issued with free safeguarding E-learning.
- We have continued to make improvements in management oversight and monitoring of our social work practices, this includes undertaking regular case audits.

### **We need to further focus on:**

- Continue to improve mechanisms by which we evidence examples of changes we make as a result of feedback from service users.
- Implement the new Emotional Health and Wellbeing strategy
- Ensure our knowledge of and response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) is swift and comprehensive

## **3. Services and outcomes for vulnerable children**

### **3.1 Reducing the need for Children and Young people to be looked after**

Since 2006 the number of Looked after Children has been progressively reduced from 302 to 228 in March 2015.

Improvements in care planning, a focus on permanency for all children and the early involvement of the adoption team in Court care planning processes has contributed to this continued improvement. Other contributory factors are effective use of early prevention work, enabling children to remain living at home where appropriate and being able to return home in a timely manner.

Improving quality of provision and outcomes for Looked after Children has been a consistent feature of our Children and Young People Plan, which articulates our high ambitions for this group. The Success for All children Partnership have very significantly improved outcomes for Looked after Children. Over recent years there has been a year-on-year trend of

improvement on most indicators and performance is now better than, or compares well with, comparator authorities.

A very strong track record is evidenced by performance indicators and inspection outcomes of fostering and adoption. The indicator that monitors long term stability of placements remains around 70% (provisional result of 69% in 2014/15 and 69.7% in 2013/14).

Performance on the timeliness of placements for adoption remains strong and 80% of children who were adopted moved to live with their adoptive parents within 12 months of that decision being made.

98.6% of Looked After Children reviews were held within timescale in 2014/15.

The vast majority of children and young people continue to communicate their views as part of their annual review.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Delivering the Streets Ahead programme to maintain early intervention and family focus
- Delivering Early Help services, including the Troubled Families programme, to support children to remain living with their families.
- Further developing support for young people aged 14, 15 and 16 years old as they comprise the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> largest group by age entering care
- Implementing the initial year of '*A Better Start*'
- Improving the recruitment and retention of foster carers to increase stability of placements
- Refreshing the Early Help offer to simplify the access and consistency for families



### 3.2 Narrowing the achievement gap for vulnerable groups

#### Looked after Children (LAC)

The Virtual School and Virtual School Headteacher continues to monitor the progress and attendance of Looked after Children as a basis for informing Social Workers, supporting Designated Teachers and raising aspiration and outcomes for this group of children.

The impact of levels of trauma among Looked after Children is reflected in the high proportion of Looked after Children with identified Special Educational Needs (SEN). In 2014-15, 49.2% of Southend's Looked after Children were identified as having SEN, compared to 17.9% (latest figure available 2013-14) for all children nationally. The percentage of Southend Looked after Children with a Statement 20.9% is also very high compared to all children nationally 2.8% (latest figure available 2013-14).

Provisional figures for Key Stage 2 Looked after Children 2014-15. In Year 6 there is a cohort of eight Looked after Children who were in care at 31/03/2015 of which, two have been disapplied from the national tests due to their disabilities. The six looked after children eligible to take the national Key Stage 2 tests, have prior data to calculate progress from KS1; 66.6% of the cohort reached level 4+ in reading, 50% reached Level 4+ in writing, 66.6% reached Level 4+ in mathematics and 50% reached Level 4+ in reading, writing and mathematics. In terms of progress provisional data indicates that 100% made 2 levels of progress from their starting points at KS1 in reading, 100% in writing, 83.3% in mathematics and 83.3% made 2 levels of progress in reading, writing and maths combined. Comparative data for 'all pupils' is not yet available for 2014-15.

In 2013/14 there was a cohort of 31 Looked after Children in the Borough at the end of KS4 19.4% achieved 5A\*-C with English and Maths, compared to national figure of 56.9%. The figures for 2014 -15 will be available during September 2015.

All figures above are for Southend Looked after Children only; those educated in Southend and in other local authorities.

#### Attainment

Comparing the attainment of Southend LAC with National LAC, Southend LAC achieve above LAC national average for all headline measures. However compared to non LAC pupils and all pupils there is a significant gap, in all measures except Reading.

<b>Headline measure</b>	<b>Southend LAC %</b>	<b>Cohort size</b>	<b>National Average (all</b>	<b>floor standard%</b>	<b>National Average</b>	<b>National average (Non</b>
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			<b>pupils)%</b>		<b>(LAC) %</b>	<b>LAC) %</b>
KS2 Reading Level 4+	100%	10	88.6%	n/a	68	89
KS2 Writing Level 4+	70%	10	85.1	n/a	59	85
KS2 Maths Level 4+	70%	10	86.0	n/a	61	86
KS2 R, W & M	60%	10	78.4	65	48	79
KS4 5A*-C inc. E&M	19.4	31	56.9	40	14.2	54.3

## Expected Progress

KS4 progress for Southend LAC is below national average for LAC in all measures, except 3 levels + progress in maths. KS2 writing is a Teacher Assessment not a test as with all the other headline measures.

<i>Headline measure</i>	<i>Southend LAC %</i>	<i>Cohort size</i>	<i>National Average (all Pupils)%</i>	<i>floor standard %</i>	<i>National Average (LAC) %</i>	<i>National average (Non LAC) %</i>
KS2 Reading (2 levels +)	70	10	92	91	81	91
KS2 Writing	80	10	94	95	82	93
KS2 Maths	60	10	90	92	75	89
KS4 English (3 Levels +)	26.1	23	72.1	73	34.5	69.3
KS4 Maths	30.4	23	66.4	73	26.3	64.0

## Success for All Children Group Annual Report 2015

The above tables will be updated when validated data becomes available. (Looked after children: Dec 2015)

### Pregnant Girls and Young Mums

In Southend, school age pregnant girls and young mums (KS4) have made the following achievements in terms of gaining GCSE qualifications:

Outcomes for pregnant girls/young mums KS4	Summer 10	Summer 11	Summer 12	Summer 13	Summer 14
% achieving 5 A* -C Including English and Maths	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%
% achieving 5 A*-C	28.6%	25.0%	20.0%	25.0%	0.0%
% achieving 1 A* -G Including English and Maths	57.1%	25.0%	100%	62.5%	50.0%
% achieving 1 A*-G	57.1%	75.0%	100%	100%	50.0%

In July 2014, pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers account for 11.6% of all young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

In 2013 (most recent data), 37.3% of under 18 conceptions led to abortion, this was the lowest percentage rate since 2000. This means that more young people are opting to continue with their pregnancy and require more support from the Teenage Pregnancy Personal Adviser.

### Children eligible for Pupil Premium Grant

Closing the achievement gap between all children and young people and those who are disadvantaged remains a high priority. In spite of additional funding being made available, many schools have not been successful in accelerating the progress of their disadvantaged pupils and the gap remains stubbornly wide.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, 56% of children who were eligible for Free School Meals reached a good level of development compared with 71% of non-Free School meal pupils and 69% of all pupils. The gap at key stage 1 was 2.7 points, equivalent to roughly 2 and a half terms, and at the end of key stage 2 eligible children were on average 3 terms behind their peers.

The Pupil Premium Strategy Group representing all Challenge Clusters provides challenge and direction for all schools in their efforts to close the gap. Actions include: Link Advisers and school support partners challenging the actions of all schools in raising pupil premium attainment and progress;

analysis of data Cluster by Cluster with weekly challenge to individual school leaders and governors where gaps are not closing; the identification of good practice; the setting of performance targets relating to the gap for individual officers and the raised profile through half termly Pupil Premium Network meetings and updates in the weekly newsletter are all aspects of our strategy for securing better and more consistent progress.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Continuing to focus on the progress and attainment of looked after children and ensuring that Personal Education Plans have an impact on outcomes
- Addressing the barriers to Pupil Premium attainment and progression.
- Increasing take up of the Free School Meal offer, particularly in KS1.
- Promoting the positive uses of Pupil Premium grant funds on improving outcomes for children on free school meals.
- Increasing the level of challenge to school leaders and governors, drawing where necessary on our full powers of intervention

### **3.3 Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training**

Currently Care Management 16+ (CM16+) has 142 young people allocated to the Team. 38% of all young people allocated within the 16+ team are Looked After and there are currently 8 young people attending university.

The purpose of the CM16+ team is to ensure that appropriate planning is in place for all allocated young people. As well as promoting formal education for our young people CM16+ has been looking at various strategies to engage our hardest to reach young people initially within less formal education forums.

There have been a number of drop-in opportunities created including sessions focusing on teenage pregnancy and healthy eating and budgeting. These "cook for life" sessions have proved the most successful in engaging young people around issues of independence, budgeting and healthy cooking and eating. As the health drop in sessions tended to be poorly attended the team are now inviting health professionals to various drop-ins in order that they can engage with young people in a less direct way.

The CM 16+ team has begun to devise a resource pack of educational activities aimed at engaging the most challenging young people. Services have been enlisted from some outside organisations such as the Wilderness Programme that has offered education to young people in a creative way. The feedback from this programme has been good and this has led to some exciting educational and life experiences for our young people. For example educational trips to Scotland and South Africa to learn and share cultural experience.

Despite these efforts 29% of our young people are recorded as not in education, employment or training (NEET). Some of this is impacted upon by how educational activities are recorded which means that despite engagement in educational activities the young person may still be considered to be NEET. Also young people who are pregnant are not required to engage in employment or training and there are those who are actively seeking employment or apprenticeship with no success currently; support is continually offered to these young people. For such reasons the broad figures do not represent the full picture in terms of the efforts of the CM16+ team to engage all young people in education and educational activities.

The CM16+ team ensure that once the Young Person is transferred to the CM16+ team they will have a Pathway Plan within one month.

**We need to further focus on**

- Working with the data team to identify young people at their 15th birthday and flagging this for joint working between CM and CM16+
- Continue to explore creative ways to engage the most difficult to reach young people in educational activities.
- Focus on embedding accurate recording systems around engagement of young people in educational activities.

### **3.4 Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

In September 2014 reforms within the Children and Families Bill for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) came into effect. Among other things the reforms introduced:

- The requirement to jointly commission services
- The requirement to produce a Local Offer of services for children and young people with SEND, a 20 week assessment process leading to an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- A requirement to convert all current statements to EHCPs by April 2018
- The right to request a personal budget to secure particular provision specified in the EHCP.

The SEND reform has been a significant change project affecting all staff in settings and services working with children and young people with SEND. The project involved consultation, user engagement, the implementation of new ICT systems and training across organisational boundaries, and work in these areas continues as we learn from implementing the reforms.

The Local Authority and Southend CCG's commissioners for children's services are now within the same team and health commissioners are working closely with the SEN team to ensure the redesigned community paediatrics service better meets the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Clear steps have been taken to meet the new duties to publish an interactive Local Offer that sets out the support available to all children and young people with SEND from mainstream, targeted and specialist services, including arrangements for leisure, health, social care provision and post-16 education training or employment. Work continues on this to ensure it remains compliant.

The 20 week timeframe for new statutory assessments has proved particularly challenging, with initial figures for the number of plans completed within 20 weeks below 20%, and around 30% being over 26 weeks. This compares to 96.7% of all cases being completed in 26 weeks in the previous year. This appears to be due in part to the model used to agreed assessments and in part to agencies that contribute to the assessment getting used to the new system. Work continues with each agency to address any issues and bottlenecks to deliver the plans on time.

We published a Transition Plan setting out details of how we intended to meet the deadline to convert all statements by April 2018. In the academic year 2014/2015 we aimed to hold transfer reviews for all pupils with statements in Nursery, Year 2, Year 6, Year 9, Year 11 and Year 14, as well as pupils in Year 13 in school sixth forms. This equated to around 345 reviews. We have made considerable progress and the plan is to implement year 2 of the Transition Plan as published.

Since September 2014 parents of children with SEND have able to request a personal budget which is linked to the Local Offer. A policy is being drafted so that there is a common approach from all agencies that is based on the success of the arrangements made within social care.

In addition to the above there has been on-going work in relation to implementing the second year of the SEN Strategy (Early Help, Choice, Partnership and Ambition). Analysis of attainment of SEN learners indicates that in Southend, children are doing less well than children with SEN nationally, and that progress to close the gap continues to be slow. Schools were expected to review their SEN registers by September 2015 to ensure that only children with clearly identified SEN are placed on school SEN Support stage. This will potentially result in a short term widening of the SEN gap and greater challenge in addressing this. However the aim is to close the gap to be at least in line with national trends. Southend Challenge groups of schools are working together to raise standards and close attainment gaps in all of the Borough's schools. The focus is to reduce inequalities in the attainment of vulnerable children particularly those on Free School Meals. Alongside this, training and support for schools to provide high quality SEN provision has been provided. This focused on the importance of correct identification of children with SEN as opposed to those children who may be underachieving. The new SEN Code of Practice makes it clear that Quality First teaching is the first response for children who are underachieving. The training also covered assessment tools, moderation and criteria for SEN support as well as mapping provision and using resources effectively.

## **4. Outcomes for all children**

### **4.1 Overall school attainment**

In the Early Years Foundation Stage 69% of children achieved a Good Level of Development which was 7% higher than in 2014. At Key Stage 1 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level (Level 2 or above) increased in writing and in maths with more children achieving the higher level 3 in reading, writing and in science. 79% of Southend pupils achieved Level 4 or above at the end of Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics.

At Key stage 4 Provisional results for 2015 show that 64% of Southend pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades including English & Maths at GCSE. In 2014 the figure was 62% which was above the national average and put Southend in the top quartile nationally.

#### **We need to further focus on:**

- The continued development of strong strategic partnerships between strong schools and weaker schools
- Challenge to the leadership and governance of all schools where progress is not secure enough and the gaps between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils continue to prevail

A more detailed analysis can be found in our Annual Education Report

### **4.2 Healthy Schools**

The Healthy Schools programme addresses many priorities especially those concerned with healthy weight, physical activity, under 18 conceptions, substance misuse and the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people

Currently 96% of Southend schools as well as two independent schools and the Virtual School have achieved National Healthy Schools Status (NHSS). This requires schools to meet the criteria around Personal, social and health education (PSHE), Healthy eating, Physical activity and Emotional health and wellbeing.

86% of these schools have moved onto a more in depth piece of work that addresses a specific health priority. For this stage of the process an action plan is submitted and schools work towards achieving Enhanced Healthy School Status.

17 schools have achieved Enhanced Healthy School Status as of November 2014. A further 12 schools are expected to achieve in November 2015. An annual Enhanced Healthy School celebration takes place each November.

## Healthy School Programme developments

Involvement and completion of other substantial pieces of work such as the Drug Aware and Equality and Diversity Champion programme also merit Enhanced Healthy School Status. Some of our more outstanding schools are embarking on several projects concurrently.

Eleven schools are about to complete our Equality and Diversity Champion Programme, this programme aims to help the school to promote strong inclusive values and thus significantly reduce discriminatory behaviour and bullying. This programme will be involving a further 12 schools 2015/16.

The Drug Aware programme is continuing in partnership with the Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team, with 3 schools from the first cohort close to completion and their final event. A further 5 schools have signed up to the programme.

Schools working towards the Drug Aware mark 2013-14 are also to achieve Enhanced Healthy School Status on completion due to their work on Substance misuse.

In partnership with CAMHS, Healthy Schools have been running half termly mental health training for school staff. There have been sessions on Anxiety, Self-Harm, Depression, Eating disorders and General Mental Health and Building Resilience. These sessions have proved to be very popular with 60-80 attendees to each session.

Southend schools with secondary aged children were offered the theatre forum, Prince Charming by Outloud Productions which tackled the subject of teenage relationship abuse. 18 schools took up the offer and approximately 2500 young people had access to the experience. The tour will be repeated in November to a new cohort of young people. School staff were also offered training on Domestic Abuse and the impact on Children and Young People 70+ staff attended

### 4.3 Sexual Health

A Sexual Health Needs Assessment was completed and the findings supported the publication of the *Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Sexual Health Strategy 2014-2017*. The *Strategy* sets out the priorities and actions to deliver change and improve the sexual health and well-being of the local population.

The Council commissioned an Integrated Sexual Health Service to provide open access, high-quality, confidential sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment services, contraception provision, sexual health information and targeted interventions in a range of settings. The contract was awarded to South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) and commences on the 1 July 2015.



In June 2014 Public Health England published the annual National Chlamydia Screening Programme 2013 data. Southend achieved a detection rate of 2340 per 100,000 people aged 15 to 24 with 8.2% positivity. This exceeded the national detection rate target of 2300 per 100,000 population.

The *Where Do You Draw The Line* consent and sexual safety education programme was delivered in three secondary schools in the Borough. The programme is delivered by Essex Police, the Council's Integrated Youth Support Service, SOS Rape Crisis and South Essex Partnership Trust.

The Family Planning Association's *Growing up with Yasmine and Tom* relationships and sex education (RSE) online resource has been accepted by all primary schools in the Borough. The resource provides age appropriate lesson plans that are fun, interactive and meet curriculum requirements. The programme also provides support to staff to confidently deliver the resource as well as training on RSE policy and talking with parents/carers.

Secondary schools, following consultation workshops with both staff and pupils, will be provided with an RSE scheme of work including resources and training to support its implementation from September 2015.

#### 4.4 Teenage Conception

Year	Number of Conceptions	Conception rate per 1,000 women in age group	Percentage change from 1998 Baseline	Percentage of conceptions leading to abortion
1998	155	56.4	0.0	45.8
1999	132	48.5	-14.0	35.6
2000	126	46.8	-17.0	42.1
2001	130	47.4	-16.0	49.2
2002	146	50.9	-9.8	44.5
2003	140	47.7	-15.4	46.4
2004	135	46.8	-17.0	41.5
2005	136	46.2	-18.1	48.5
2006	143	47.5	-15.8	46.9
2007	127	40.7	-27.8	48.8
2008	131	41.8	-25.9	41.2
2009	128	41.4	-26.6	42.2
2010	109	36.1	-36.0	52.3
2011	108	34.8	-38.3	47.2
2012	94	30.4	-46.1	47.9
2013	83	26.6	-46.5	37.3

In 2013 (the latest published data) Southend saw a continued decrease in the under 18 conception rate to 26.0 per 1,000 women under 18; this is a percentage decrease of 46.5% of change in conception rate based on the 1998 baseline.

The rate of teenage conceptions has declined quicker in Southend, than in England and East of England between 1998 and 2013. However, teenage pregnancy in Southend is still higher than the regional and national average.

#### Prevention Work and Partnership Approaches

Nationally, the areas that have had the most success have made sure all young people have access to effective sex and relationships education and access to contraception, but have also specifically targeted support to at risk groups. This includes young people in and leaving care, NEET and those in the criminal justice system.

Southend continues to take a multi-agency and partnership approach to reducing under 18 conceptions and supporting local young parents. Amongst some of the many programmes of work are:

- The Family Nurse Partnership offers first time, teenage parents under 20 in Southend, an evidence based programme to help them to ensure their babies get the best start in life. Its purpose is to enable young parents to have a healthy pregnancy, improve their child's health and development and plan their own futures and achieve their aspirations. It begins in early pregnancy and is orientated to the future health and well-being of the child. The programme consists of frequent home visits and contacts until the child is two years old. The family nurses in the team are drawn from a range of health professionals including health visiting, midwifery, children's and mental health nursing bringing together a wide variety of additional skills and experience. The family nurses guide their clients safely through what is often a difficult life transition to becoming the parent they want to be for their new baby.
- Teen BUMPs and Teen BUMPs + - a multi-agency team offering antenatal and postnatal support specific to the needs of teenagers
- CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection) - IYSS team delivering internet and social media interventions through its Street Engagement Team.
- Care To Learn provision.
- Sanctuary Housing – support for young parents with everyday living through housing placements.

**Achievements in 2014-2015 include:**

- The newly appointed Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator coordinated approaches across all agencies to support the reduction in teenage pregnancies in Southend Borough Council
- Established Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2015-2018 that will sustain the continual reduction of under 18 conceptions and ensure positive outcomes for teenage parents and their babies.
- Reporting of pregnant teenagers and teenage parents in education, employment or training (EET), thus facilitating focussed approach and work to support teenagers.
- Initiatives to develop and raise teenagers' self-esteem and aspirations include opportunities to volunteer at Teen BUMPs and Teen BUMPs+ and also to share experiences and present at conferences.
- Public Health commissioned an integrated sexual health services that will ensure easy and improved access for young people

- Phase 2 of Streets Ahead services to work with disadvantaged families and their communities to improve their life chances

**We need to further focus on:**

- Monitor the Implementation the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and the action plan for 2015-2016.
- Targeted interventions for vulnerable young people and young parents through IYSS and LAC and Leaving Care teams.
- Improve awareness of risk taking behaviour and sexual health matters for RSE leads in schools; for parents and foster carers; and for all professionals working with young people so that children and young people get the education, knowledge and skills they need to experience positive relationship and sexual health
- Improving access to the local sexual health services

#### **4.5 Substance Misuse**

In late 2013 the Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team (DACT) commissioned a package of preventive substance misuse education, DrugAware, which was piloted with a cohort of nine schools from early 2014. This programme is intended to develop consistent standards of preventive education across the Borough and to enable schools to identify and intervene earlier with students who are at risk of substance misuse. Three schools are likely to have completed the Award programme by September 2015. A further 10 schools are currently signed up and working towards their Award. The eventual aim is to ensure that all schools across Southend achieve the DrugAware standards, but in the shorter term, our goal is to ensure that at least 18 schools are engaged with the programme by 31st December 2015.

In early 2014, the DACT invested in the training of seven practitioners from a range of adults and young people's services to deliver the M-PACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) Programme. This programme is aimed at supporting children and young people who are affected by a parent's substance misuse. National evidence suggests that for every one person in specialist substance misuse treatment, there is at least one child affected by substance misuse; this suggests that in Southend there are likely to be at least 800 children affected. Two successful M-PACT programmes have been delivered so far to a total of eight families, one in April 2014 and another in October 2014. A third programme is set to commence in September 2015 and alongside this the DACT is funding the training of a second set of practitioners to deliver future programmes. At present, five further practitioners have signed up for this training. The DACT is committed to the Children and Young People's Plan target to provide the M-PACT programme to at least 15 families by 31st December 2015.

Despite national trends suggesting that substance misuse among young people is falling, Southend's Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAT) have continued to engage with proportionally higher numbers of young people and young adults during 2014/15 than regional and statistical neighbours. During 2014/15, YPDAT engaged 123 under 18's (a slight fall from 131 in the preceding year) and 34 18-21 year olds (a slight fall from 39 in the previous year) but in both cases, these falls are not as steep as those seen regionally and nationally. The proportionally higher rate of young people engaging with YPDAT is likely to be due in part to their well-established links with a wide range of young people's services and their positioning within the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS).

#### **4.6 Improving outcomes for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) during 2014-15 were commissioned and provided separately across the following 4 Tiers in Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) in:

Tier 1 - Universal Services

Tier 2 - Emerging Emotional Health Services (Local Authority commissioned)

Tier 3 - Specialist Mental Health service (Southend CCG commissioned)

Tier 4 - Complex and Critical services (commissioned by NHS England).

This has resulted in a service which is difficult to access, not enough children and young people are helped. There are gaps in service across SET with our most vulnerable, receiving poor, untimely or no service at all, including children looked after and children with behavioural needs and children with disabilities. The complexity of referrals is increasing while resources are not.

Health and Social Care reforms together with the current financial climate where local authorities and CCGs have to deliver more for less, have also given further impetus for change.

As a result of the above Southend, Essex, Thurrock and all 7 CCGs in Essex signed a collaborative agreement, re-commissioned and re-tendered the Children & Young People Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services (C&YP EWMHS). The tendering process ended in May 2015 and with the contract going to NELFT who will begin providing the service from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015.

Below are the key outcomes for the new C&YP EWMHS which were explored extensively with bidders during the dialogue sessions. This is in line with the five key principles identified by Dr Martin McShane in *Future in Mind: Children and Young People's Mental Wellbeing*:

- Improved emotional wellbeing/intelligence, resilience and self-esteem for Children, young people, their families and carers.
- Children, young people, their families and carers receive easier access to services with a quick response to their needs and improved consultation, advice, support, training and guidance from the Service for themselves.
- More effective collaboration and support for frontline clinicians from the Service. This will enable them to work more effectively and working jointly builds resilience at front line.
- Improved joint working with adult mental health services with provision of age appropriate services and smoother transition for 14 - 25 year olds.
- Improved joint working with other services and an integrated holistic approach to ensure improved wellbeing.
- Improve crises pathways for all children and young people and reduced inappropriate use of A&E to access EWMH Services.
- Reduced waiting lists for specific treatments.
- Did Not Attend (DNAs) are reduced.
- Reduced health inequalities across greater Essex through provision of consistent model

#### **4.7 Reducing school absenteeism**

Southend has reduced absence and persistent absence levels in all school sectors compared to last year, resulting in an improvement in the national rankings. The full statistical release for 2013/14 academic year showed that we were below the national and statistical neighbour average for overall absence in secondary and special schools for compulsory school age children. The largest rank improvement was in special schools where Southend improved by 36 places from the 3rd quartile to the 2nd quartile nationally. In primary schools the absence level dropped by 0.8% but there were similar improvements nationally, placing Southend primary absence slightly higher than national (4% compared with 3.9% nationally).

The percentage of persistent absentees has decreased in Southend schools since the last academic year. The biggest improvement was in Secondary schools where the figure dropped by 1.9%, meaning that Southend is now at the same level as national and has improved by 35 ranking places to reside in the 3rd quartile nationally. Special schools also made a big improvement of 27 places; this was achieved by lowering the percentage of persistent absence

pupils by 3.8% (the national reduction was only 1.6%). The primary school figure reduced by 1% which was also larger than national (0.8%). Overall, Southend schools are still slightly above national in terms of persistent absence but the margin is much smaller than 2012/13. Furthermore, the local figure of 3.8% is now lower than the statistical neighbour average of 4%.

Persistent absence is a significant factor in children underachieving and gaining lower exams results. The Child and Family Early Intervention Team have piloted a project with a number of priority schools with higher than national persistent absence to offer a tailored support to differing school needs to target and reduce persistent absence. This initiative incorporates various aspects from supporting schools to better analyse their data; increased numbers of early intervention meetings with parents and young people; enforcement and rewards; attendance awareness parenting groups held within community venues focussing on parental engagement; health and resilience; holidays during term time; empowerment and anxiety; links between attendance and attainment and planned transition work with vulnerable pupils transferring from primary to secondary school during the August summer break.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Continuing to reduce absence and persistent absence in schools with a specific focus in primary schools and early years to embed routines and the importance of attending regularly at school from an early age.
- Educating the wider community on the importance of school attendance.

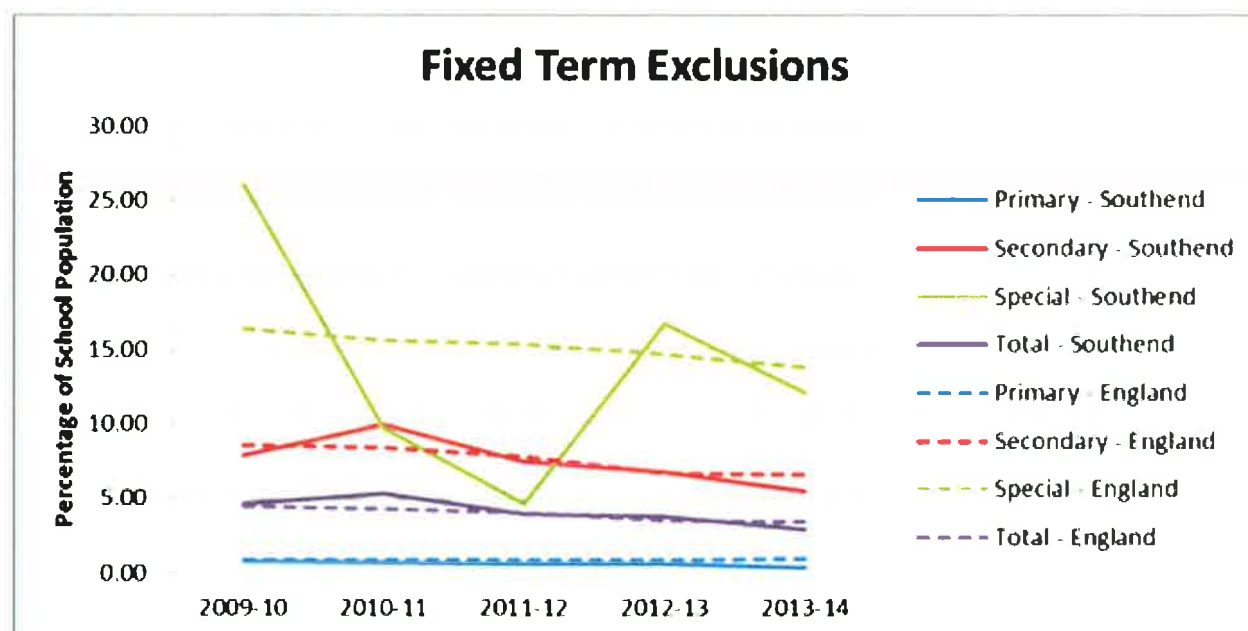
#### **4.8 Reducing Exclusions**

One measure of how well children behave in schools is to consider the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions from schools across the Local Authority. It is generally accepted that pupils excluded from school are having their education interrupted, which will have an impact on the progress and achievement of an individual. As a result, schools and local authorities try as far as possible to manage children's behaviour within the school system, although it is recognised that some young people are not able to be educated in the mainstream school system and may need specialist individual education provision.

##### **Fixed term exclusions**

Fixed term exclusions, which are short term exclusions from the school due mainly to inappropriate behaviour and lasting from a day to a week or so, shows an improving trend over the five year period covered in the below table. While in primary schools the percentage of children subject to fixed term exclusions is consistently less than that nationally, in secondary and special

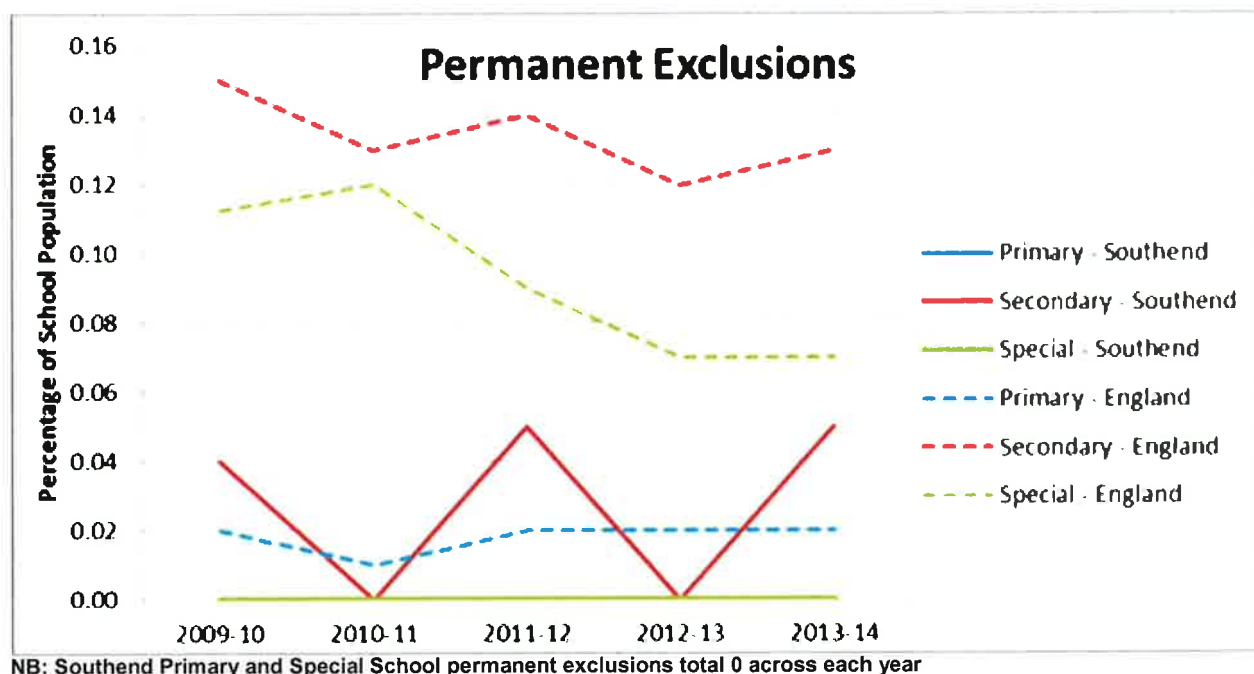
schools the trend is more mixed. Data for 2014/15 has yet to be released, however internal data suggests an increase in fixed term exclusions for both primary and secondary schools. It should be noted however, that there has been a significant increase in school academies and multi academy trusts within Southend where zero tolerance behaviour policies have become more common which has a direct impact upon increased fixed term exclusions.



### Permanent exclusions

The LA has for many years, together with schools in Southend, had the aim of ensuring no child or young person is permanently excluded from school. This aim, supported by a range of strategies has seen a significantly lower percentage of pupils permanently excluded from either primary, secondary or special schools than that nationally. The data between 2009/10 and 2013/14 in the table below shows the significance of the much lower permanent exclusion rate in the borough, in particular within primary and special schools where there have been none. We have however seen a slight increase in permanent exclusions within secondary schools but this remains less than national and statistical neighbours.





A new Behaviour Outreach Service has been established through Seabrook College and will prioritise work with schools across Southend with increased fixed term exclusions. The service will work in partnership with schools to support the development of effective school strategies to prevent negative behaviour escalating and thus avoiding the need for further exclusions. Impact of this service will be evaluated at regular periods throughout the year.

#### **4.9 - Reducing the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), improving level 3 achievement for those from lower income families**

In March 2015 the NEET figure was 5.6% for 16-18 year olds against our locally set target of 7%. This compared with a mean indicator of 6% for our statistical neighbours.

There are clear targets in the Children and Young People's Plan to reduce the number of NEET young people and improve opportunities for young people from vulnerable groups. The Learning Support Team and Leaving Care Team in partnership with providers is continuing to offer courses for young people leaving care as well as programmes for Young Offenders. These programmes have been successful in engaging young people by enabling them to access education and progress onto further education or apprenticeships. By supporting vulnerable learners to gain qualifications and progress into employment the NEET figure is further reduced. From September 2014 Southend Borough Council was able to access the Flexible Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions, to support young people leaving care aged 18-24. This programme was delivered by Southend Adult Community College.

Other local providers contribute to a broad range of formal learning programmes for post 16 learning providers. For example, Southend Adult Community College has successfully provided a range of formal learning programmes for post-16 learners, including study programmes and Prince's Trust programmes which are particularly targeted at vulnerable learners such as young offenders, teenage parents, SEN and disaffected/disruptive learners.

The Youth Contract directly supported vulnerable young people to stay in post 16 education and our target of 20 young people completing the course was exceeded by 3 learners. This initiative continues into the following year but will cease in March 2016.

The partnership continues to demonstrate a commitment to improving access to Further Education opportunities to vulnerable groups for example a commitment to prioritise interviews for apprentices for young people leaving care.

#### **4.10 Continuing to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and offending on children, young people and the community**

##### **To prevent children and young people from entering the criminal justice system**

The Youth Offending Prevention Service continues to exceed its targets for delivery of CEOP interventions, reducing the risks associated with CSE, improving school attendance and undertaking street engagement deployments which significantly reduce anti-social behavior and youth crime across the borough.

#### **2014/15 Achievements**

- Only 53 young people have become First Time Entrants throughout 2014/15. A reduction of 20.8% compared to the same period last year.
- Since Triage being implemented within the Borough in April 2009, 1109 young people have been through the process. Re-offending rates for Triage over a 6 year period are only 16.3% demonstrating that the programme is successfully targeting young people at the earliest point of their criminal career and diverting them away from the youth justice system
- Our Challenge and Support programme involves every under 18 year old who is stopped by the police. Identifying young people who are at risk and/or vulnerable at the earliest opportunity and ensuring the appropriate level of support is put in place. During 2014-15 it worked with 115 children and young people through the use of Warning letters, Home visits, and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's). 5

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been issued during the year and no anti-social behaviour orders (ASBO's).

- Our Street Engagement Team undertake specific operations in identified hotspots between 7pm and midnight to protect children left to wander the streets at night without adult supervision who are at risk of offending, underage drinking or ASB. These are joint initiatives undertaken by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and Police.
- Street based deployments are also undertaken. Offering young people viable and attractive alternatives to anti-social and criminal behaviour to help break the damaging cycle of negative influence and raise aspirations. Signposting young people to more positive activities using a triple track approach of challenge, support and enforcement. During 2014/15 there were:
  - 15 Joint police operations
  - 325 deployments
  - 2376 children and young people engaged
  - 17 NSPCC Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) courses delivered to 291 school teaching staff and students
- The Every School Day Matters project (now known as Operation Newcastle) promotes the positive aspects of school attendance to children, their families and the wider community. Youth offending service (YOS) Prevention staff attend the home addresses to identify the reasons for non-attendance. If they are not supplied with a valid reason the young people are taken to school and in all cases the parents are informed and advised of consequences of non-attendance. These patrols are undertaken twice per week, working in partnership with the Police

There has been a marked improvement of educational attendance since the inception of this project. During April 14 and March 15 there were:

- 92 days of operational deployments
- 77 young people returned to school
- 459 parents educated

The YOS continues to offer one to one support to young people in the community who are assessed as being at risk of committing crime or ASB. Young people are also referred to this service for specified CEOP work and as exit strategies from Court Orders. During 2014-15:

- 157 young people have been referred and worked with on a one to one case work basis. These include CEOP, ASB, Youth Cautions and agency referrals.

- 9 x Youth Conditional Cautions

In 2014-15 the combined work undertaken with Prevention and Challenge and Support cases resulted in only **4.3%** (11 young people) going on to offend.

A total of **720** youth ASB calls were made to the police in 2014-15, a **30%** reduction from the previous year.

**To reduce re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18**

Since 2007 Southend has reduced its cohort of offenders from 562 to 179. During this period the % re-offending has risen from 32.2% to 44.1%. While our reoffending rate is still above 40%, it has been consistently reducing across the last few quarters. It is also important to note that Triage re-offending data is not included in the performance measures. If Triage data was included the % re-offending would be significantly lower (the Triage re-offending rate is 16.3% over **6 years**, cumulative).

Through strong and effective partnership working and by providing additional support and intervention (over and above that prescribed by National Standards) during the last 3 years we have reduced the size of our prolific offenders from 35 offenders responsible for 69% of all youth crime (2012-13) to 14 offenders responsible for 40% of all youth crime (2014-15). We are working hard to engage this small entrenched and challenging cohort of prolific offenders in different ways such as programme activities.

Southend YOS undertook its fifth Problem Profile for the period 2014-15 to provide a detailed understanding of local youth crime. This enables us to enhance our targeting of resources to prevent youth crime/anti-social behaviour and re-offending. The two most frequent offence types of Theft and Assault accounted for 50.5% of the overall offences committed. The majority of offenders (60%) were aged 16-17 years of age.

**2014/15 Achievements:**

- The only crime type showing a notable increase is Vehicle Theft and further analysis determined that this was due to one of the identified prolific offenders committing 5 offences of Vehicle Theft during an offending spree.
- The 2014-15 Problem Profile demonstrates a reduction in 10 out of 12 crime types. In most of these, there has been a significant decrease with the most prevalent being Violent and Robbery Offences.
- Violent Offences, including Serious Violent Offences, across both Court Orders and Triage have substantially reduced by 54% (164 offences reduced to 88) compared to last year. Specific targeted group programmes, our enhanced Intensive Prevention Programme, Streets

Ahead input and tailored interventions across the YOS have contributed to this reduction and will be continued into 15/16.

- All young people subject to court orders are required to undertake payback to the community as well as, where appropriate, restorative justice interventions. During this time period 1408 hours of reparation were undertaken by young people.
- Southend YOS continues to use the Youth Justice Board Re-Offending Toolkit as a live monitoring and performance measure to ensure analysis informs practice.

### **To minimise the use of remand and custody for children and young people**

Southend YOS is committed to ensuring that the use of remands and custody is a last resort for young people.

#### **2014/15 Achievements:**

In 2014-15 there were 0.68 custodial sentences per 1000 10-17 year olds in the Borough, a significant reduction on previous years (average for 2010-2014 was 1.19).

The key for 2015/16 will be to maintain this reduction, a challenge that we know will be made more difficult by the concentration of prolific young offenders in the borough. We need to provide substantial well considered options to the court to engage young people in the community as a direct alternative to a custodial sentence.

### **Ensure children and young people are protected from harm and are helped to achieve more**

Southend YOS are represented on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and produce a yearly section 11 report to the Board.

Multi agency meetings are held to manage vulnerability and risk of harm for all those assessed as being high or very high within these areas.

We are fully integrated with children's specialist services and look forward to opportunities to integrate further with adult services as we move forward as one department. Being part of the Integrated Youth Support Service also ensures that there are additional specialist workers who can specifically contribute to work with young people who have a range of complex needs.

#### **2014/15 Achievements:**

Attend joint YOS/Social Care meetings to ensure effective joint management

and working arrangements

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategic and Operational Groups have been established in conjunction with Social Care, Police and Health. Risk Assessment Toolkit developed and successfully disseminated to all staff.

Provide support and training to children's homes within the borough on restorative approaches in order to reduce the risk of Looked after Children being criminalised

Since April 2014 all children that are reported to the police and registered as Missing are offered a return to home interview, to establish the Child's story about their missing period whilst at the same time assessing if they have been at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and any safeguarding issues that may need referring to social care and or the police. During this time period 110 children were reported missing to the police with 204 missing periods and 256 home visits were completed (93.1%)

#### **4.11 Support for Young Carers**

Our key priority for Young Carers in Southend is to ensure that they are safeguarded from inappropriate caring and to ensure as far as we can that they are able to enjoy and achieve in line with their peers and to have time away from their caring role. We (IYSS/Premier Care) have continued to raise awareness of Young Carers in schools, colleges, with other professionals and agencies and also the general public.

We have of 4 Young Carers Champions, within the borough; their role is to raise awareness and to act as the voice of Young Carers in Southend at a national level. These young people attend regular training sessions with the Children Society. One of our Young Carers was successful in gaining the Diana Award – a national award for courageous young people.

Thirty Young Carers enjoyed a weekend at the Young Carers Festival at the YMCA Fairthorne Manor (the theme for this year was "Our Journey my future"). They had the opportunity to meet other Young Carers from around the country and be involved in a variety of outdoor activities. Young Carers from Southend always take part in the "Voice Zone" sharing their view/ideas around their caring roles.

Working in conjunction with Premier Care and the Southend Carers Forum a wide range of visits and trips have been undertaken and enjoyed by Young Carers.

Southend Borough Council became one of the pilot authorities to be an early implementation site for the Young Carers School Standards. 5 schools signed up and we were also successful in requesting South Essex College of Further and Higher Education be involved thus adding an FE and HE dimension to the standards. We are the only pilot to have this additional aspect.

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During this year we were given a day a week from the Virtual Headteacher role to enable her to develop the work to ensure that Young Carers are able to attend and achieve at school in line with their peers.

Maths Angels, an online virtual classroom has been extended to include Young Carers. A local initiative with Southend High School for Girls, it will provide our Young Carers at Key Stage 4 with maths support as a regular part of the CHIL session on a Tuesday evening. South Essex College of Further and Higher Education has also offered their study facilities every Wednesday evening for any Young Carer in secondary education to use for their homework providing a quiet place to study with access to computers.

Young Carers also became an aspect of Equality and Diversity in the Enhanced Healthy schools initiative and 12 schools in the borough were enrolled to undertake the enhanced award.

A new session with Macmillan nurses was set up on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. A 5 week course of specialist support for Young Carers who have parents/siblings suffering with cancer.

We recognised that there was a void for Young Adult Carers and following consultation with our older and past Young Carers a Transition group was formed in April 2014. South Essex College and Essex University (Southend Campus) are involved and provide the venue. It is being led by a volunteer older young carer with guidance from Southend Carers Forum and supported by South Essex College.

SYC&MORE Young Carers (for our youngest children (5-8 years) who live in a family who have a caring role) have worked with Children's University and have gained their bronze/silver hours. Two graduation ceremonies took place in July 2014 and January 2015 at the POD South Essex College, with 12 Young Carers celebrating their achievement at the ceremonies.

On a sad note a well loved and respected Young Carer passed away this year. This Young Carer had been known to the service since he was 8 years old, he was 18 years old. We held a celebration of his life and also have a bench at SYC in his memory.

At the end of March 2015 there was a total 689 Young Carers known to Southend Borough Council/Premier Care/Southend Carers Forum collectively. However we acknowledge that some may no longer be in a caring role. Therefore we have decided to contact all young carers on our database to update and refresh our records thus ensuring that we have an accurate reflection of the picture in the borough and ensure that our services can be focussed in the most appropriate way.

### **We need to further focus on:**

- Changes in the Care Act and Children and Families Act, both of which come into effect from April 2015.

- Involvement of Health services in general to ensure the optimum health for Young Carers.

DRAFT