

# Success for All Children Group – Needs Analysis 2013 (DRAFT)



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\*for child health information please refer to the [Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2013](#)

## 1. General overview of Southend-on-Sea

### Context

Southend is a vibrant seaside town situated 40 miles to the east of central London. Southend has many advantages as a place to live and work: relatively low crime rates; excellent leisure and cultural opportunities; a major centre for employment and shopping; many high performing schools; a growing centre of excellence for Further Education; a 3 star NHS Foundation Trust and excellent transport links to London.

There are 53 schools in Southend comprising 12 secondary schools, 35 primary schools and 5 special schools including a Pupil Referral Unit. In September 2013 one special school and the Pupil Referral Unit will federated to form a BESD (Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties) College named Seabrook. In January 2013, a total of 27,928 children attended schools within the secondary, primary and special schools sectors in Southend.

Currently 63% of both secondary and primary schools in the authority are judged as good or outstanding and 68% of children attend a good or outstanding school.

The town has a large Further and Higher Education college, South Essex College, and a campus of the University of Essex offers Higher Education Facilities for students studying a range of undergraduate and post-graduate degrees.

We have a varied Children's Centre offer, operated by a range of organisations including third sector partners. These offer a range of integrated services aimed at families with children under 5.

### General population

Southend has a population of 175,284 (ONS mid-year population estimate September 2012) of which 41,583 are aged 0-19, with 11,641 being aged 0-4. Since 2004-2005 the rate of births in Southend rose sharply, this has recently stabilised and ONS population estimates predict a slower rate of births by 2016.

### Geography & Environment

29.9% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Southend are classified as falling within the 30% most deprived area's in the country, using ONS population figures this equates to just over 50,000 residents. Southend also has 8.4% of LSOA's (just over 14,000 residents) that fall within the 10% most deprived in the country. (Source: Communities and Local Government - 2010 Indices Multiple Deprivation)

Westborough is the most densely populated ward in Southend with an estimated 10,993 people living within 92 hectares - 119.5 people per hectare. This compares to just under 40 people per hectare for Southend as a whole. (Source: ONS - Neighbourhood Statistics)

There are over 100 different languages spoken within Southend schools. The top six non-English languages spoken in Southend schools are: Bengali, Polish, Urdu, Czech, Shona and Chinese. (Source: Southend 2011 Annual School Census).

Young people's views on a range of issues, from safety, community, facilities, health and bullying can be found in the Your Say Survey 2013 report.

## 2 Safeguarding, early intervention and prevention

### a. Common Assessment Framework analysis

Within Southend a range of partners work within the guidance of the Integrated Locality Working Toolkit, our staged model of intervention. The toolkit provides a framework for the early identification of need and early access to support and sets out the Common Assessment Framework process.

This section analyses data relating to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), the staged model of intervention, referrals to social care and processes related to those referrals.

CAFs are generated by a range of sources, however the large majority are from schools and early year's settings

Chart 1 sets out the number of Common Assessment Frameworks generated through the early intervention model by Every Child Matters outcome area.

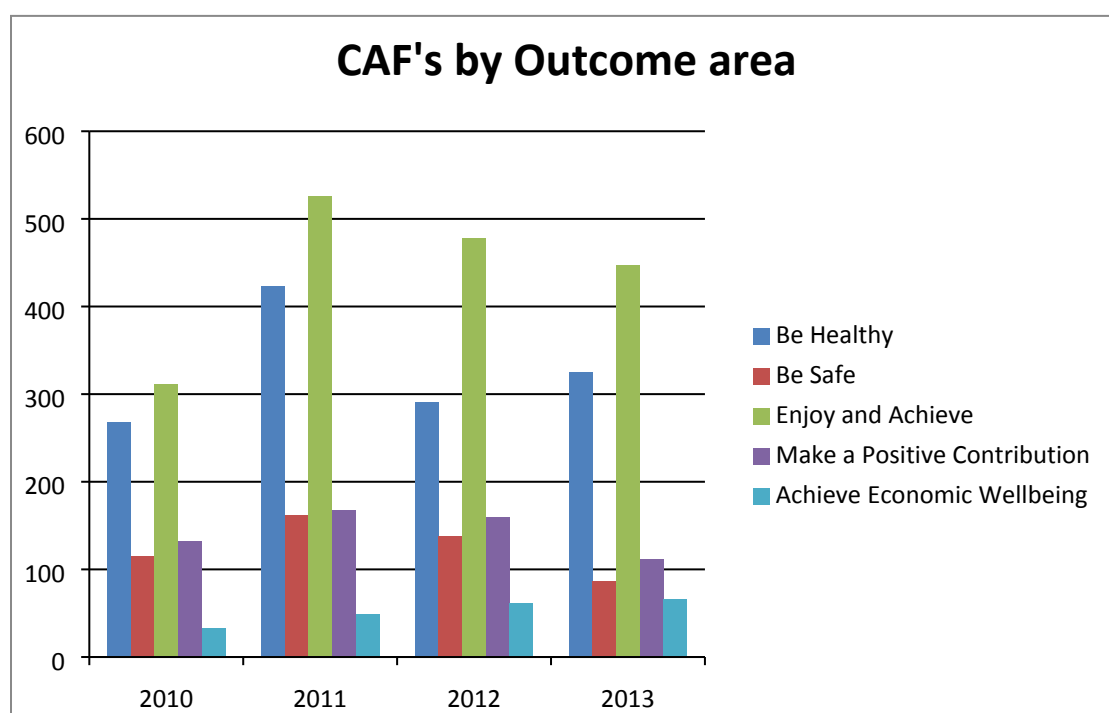


Table 1 below sets out the level of need at the Initial CAF stage, a CAF is created when services are not able to meet the child's needs at the universal stage, however CAF assessments are created at the universal stage in order to agree a more effective way forward to contain and address the child's needs. The trend over time shows that a large number of cases are being held and maintained at the vulnerable stage.

Table 1: level of need at the initial CAF stage

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Acute	13.1%	7.59%	8.54%	11.67%
Complex	12.3%	8.10%	7.02%	8.89%
Vulnerable	66.43%	75.17%	64.14%	62.54%
Universal	8.53%	9.14%	20.3%	16.9%

Table 2 shows the movement of CAFs active in 2013 through the stages. Overall 12.8% have increased a stage and 11% have decreased a stage, 76% have remained at the same stage.

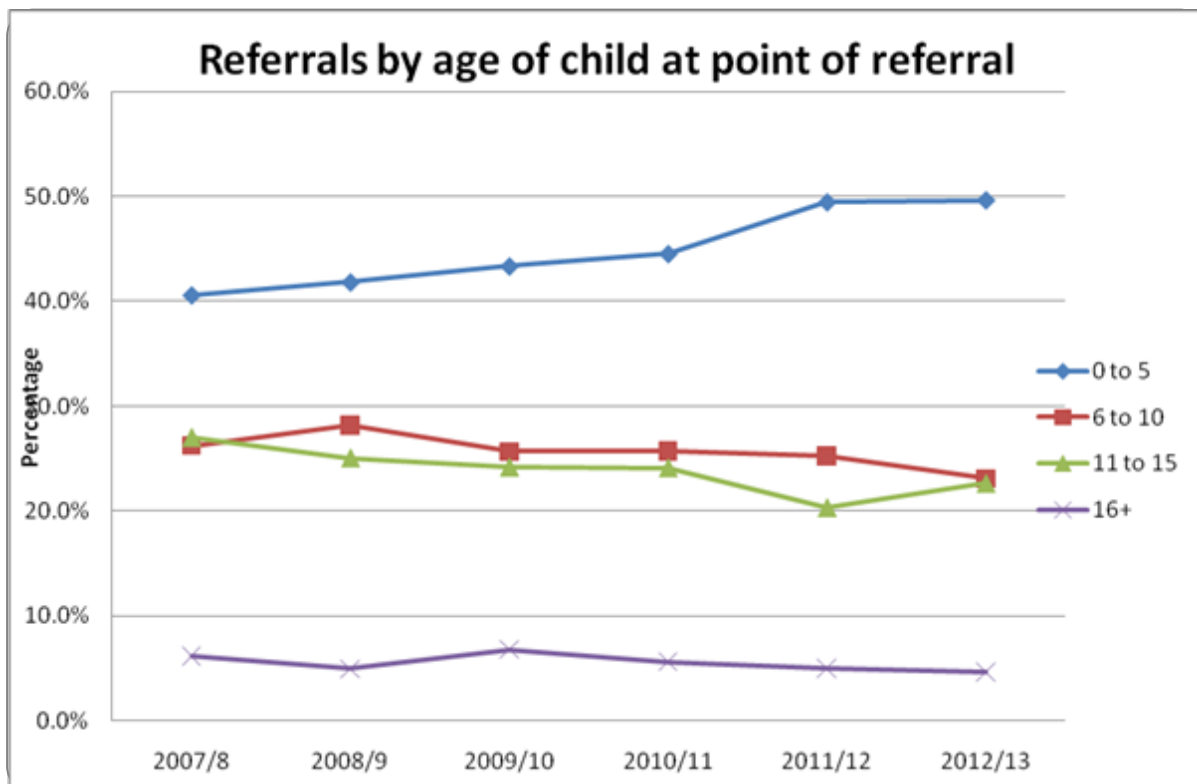
Table 2: CAF movement

Current Stage	Movement	Movement Count	
Universal	Opened at Stage	39	4.2%
	NO MOVE from Universal	51	5.5%
	DECREASED from Vulnerable	159	17.0%
	DECREASED from Complex	8	0.9%
	DECREASED from Acute	3	0.3%
Vulnerable	Opened at Stage	268	28.7%
	INCREASED from Universal	54	5.8%
	NO MOVE from Vulnerable	82	8.8%
	DECREASED from Complex	48	5.1%
	DECREASED from Acute	17	1.8%
Complex	Opened at Stage	42	4.5%
	INCREASED from Universal	15	1.6%
	INCREASED from Vulnerable	21	2.3%
	NO MOVE from Complex	10	1.1%
	DECREASED from Acute	36	3.9%
Acute	Opened at Stage	39	4.2%
	INCREASED from Universal	5	0.5%
	INCREASED from Vulnerable	22	2.4%
	INCREASED from Complex	21	2.3%
	NO MOVE from Acute	20	2.1%
		960	

## b. Referrals to Specialist Children's Services

During 2012/13 the number of referrals reduced from 602.3 per 10,000 (2011/12) to 457.8. Our statistical neighbours averaged 804 referrals per 10,000 during 2011/12 and we remain significantly below this. Conversion rate of referrals to Initial Assessments remain high; in 2011/12 the conversion rate was 88% and for the year 2012/13 it was 91.5% therefore we consider that appropriate referrals are being received.

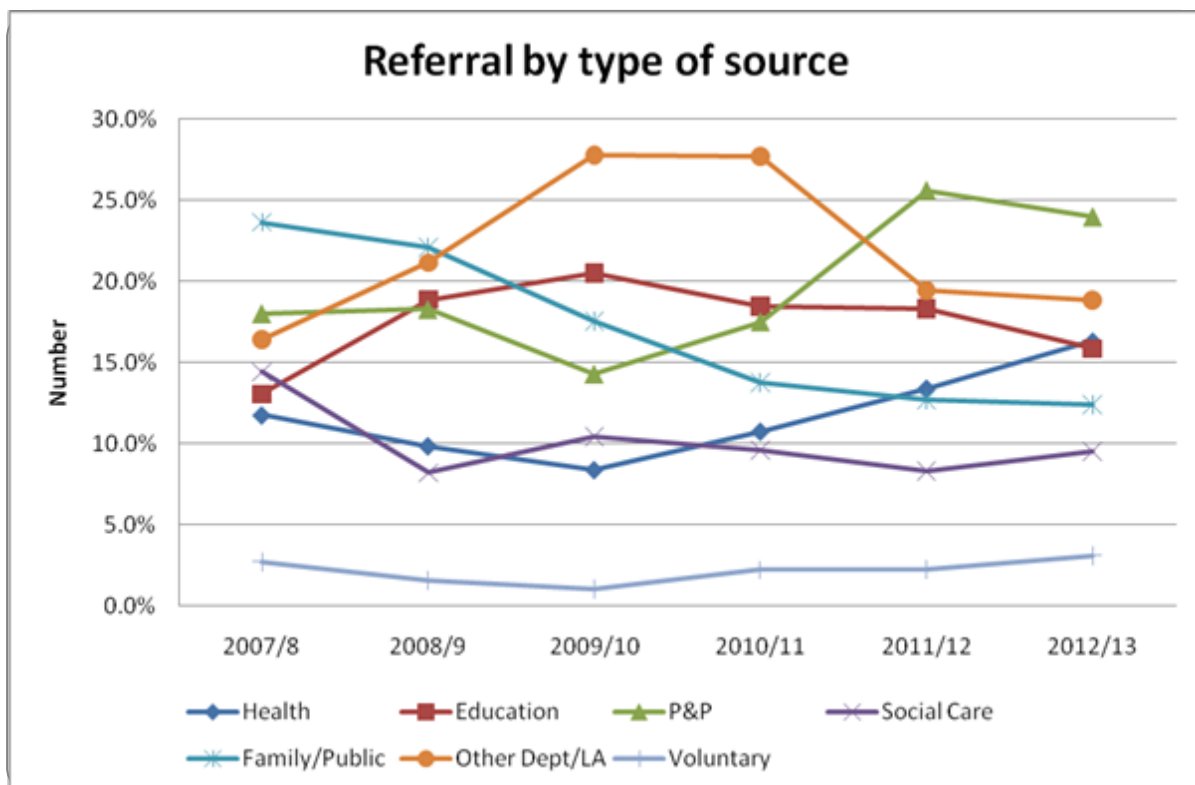
The number of referrals for children under the age of 5 has been rising steadily since 2007, with a marked increase in 2011/12, which has remained during the year 2012/13. The percentage of referrals received that were about children aged 6 to 10 and over 16s have been decreasing slightly for a number of years and have done so again for 2012/13.



Referrals broken down by ethnicity are not easy to present a graph as a significant proportion of children that Social Care receives a referral about are White British which affects the graph. The percentage of referrals about White British children has declined from 84.6% in 2007/8 to 77.4% in 2012/13.

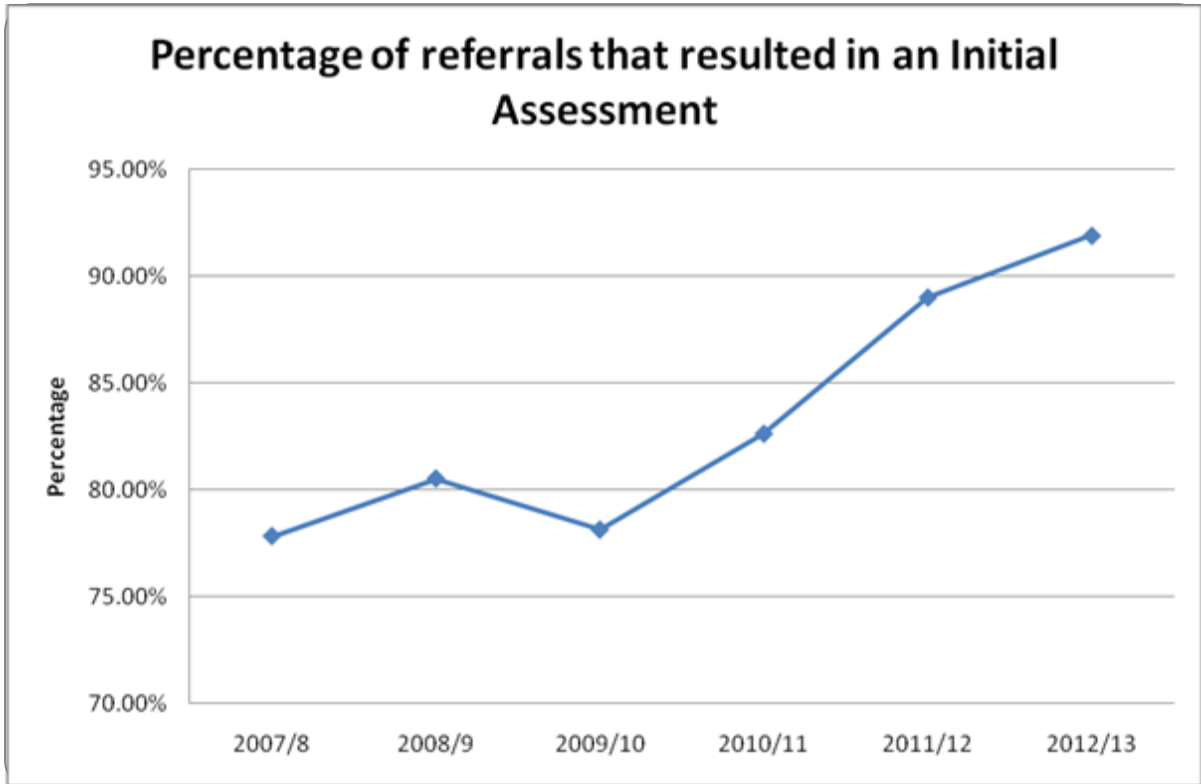
Referral sources have been examined and split into groups and referral rates can be seen in the chart below:

- Health (includes Mental Health Nurses, Health Visitors, Hospital A&E etc)
- Education (includes Schools, Educational Psychologists etc)
- Police and Probation (referred to as P&P on the graph)
- Social Care (this includes Social Workers, Emergency Duty Team etc)
- Family/Public (this includes Parents, Neighbours, General Public etc)
- Other Department/LA (this includes Housing, Other LA, Other Professional)
- Voluntary (this includes NSPCC, Voluntary Agency etc)



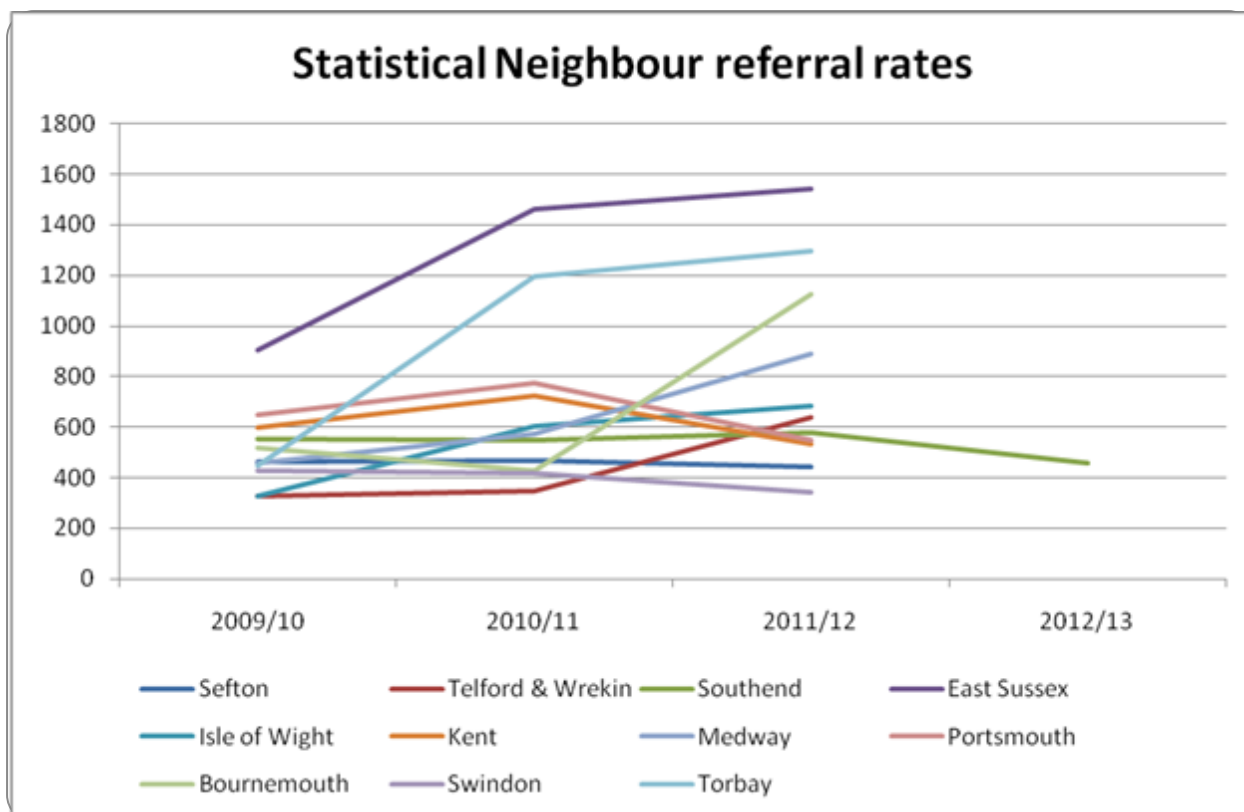
There has been a slight decrease in the referrals received from the Police and Probation (from 25.6% in 2011/12 to 24% in 2012/13), as well as the education sector (from 18.3% in 2011/12 to 16.3% in 2012/13). There has been a sharp increase in referrals received from health (from 13.4% in 2011/12 to 16.3% in 2012/13). The other areas remain similar or very slight increases.

It is also useful to look at the appropriateness of referrals alongside the number of referrals received. The percentage of referrals that have resulted in an Initial Assessment has increased significantly from 2007/8 which shows that the referrals that are coming into Specialist Services are appropriate.



The chart below shows the referral rate per 10,000 of Southend's statistical neighbours. It clearly shows the sharp increases in referrals in Torbay, Bournemouth, East Sussex, Medway and Telford and Wrekin. Both Portsmouth and Kent had significant decreases in the number of referrals they received in 2011/12. Southend remains stable and has one of the lower rates in the statistical neighbour group.





#### Section 47s:

Southend's figures for section 47s are low in the statistical neighbour group as well as nationally and in comparison with our region (the East of England average was 108.1 per 10,000), although in the East there other LAs with low s47 rates (Bedford Borough – 77.1, Cambridgeshire – 66.9, and Hertfordshire 78.2).

Southend – 80.4  
 Statistical Neighbour Average – 161.3  
 England Average – 109.9

Out of its statistical neighbours Southend has the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest rate of section 47s (Swindon have 51 but they also have a low referral rate – see above). Nationally Southend is 40<sup>th</sup> out of 145 LAs (that submitted data on section 47s).

#### Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)

Southend's figure for the rate of ICPCs completed per 10,000 population is roughly in line with the statistical neighbours and national average. The figure for the East of England was 40.8, making Southend's rate higher than others in the East of England (although this might be due to Cambridgeshire only having a rate of 10.6 which would have made the average dip).

Southend – 53.9  
 Statistical Neighbour Average – 57.7  
 England Average – 49.6

Southend's figures for the number of ICPCs over time are:  
 2007/8 - 227

2008/9 - 211  
2009/10 - 246  
2010/11 - 215  
2011/12 - 202

**Children starting to have a Child Protection Plan (registrations)**

Southend's figure for the rate of children starting to have a CPP is lower than national average, and statistical neighbour average, but higher than the East of England's average of 38.4. In comparison with the LAs in the East Southend is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 11, but in relation to the statistical neighbour group, Southend would be 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 11.

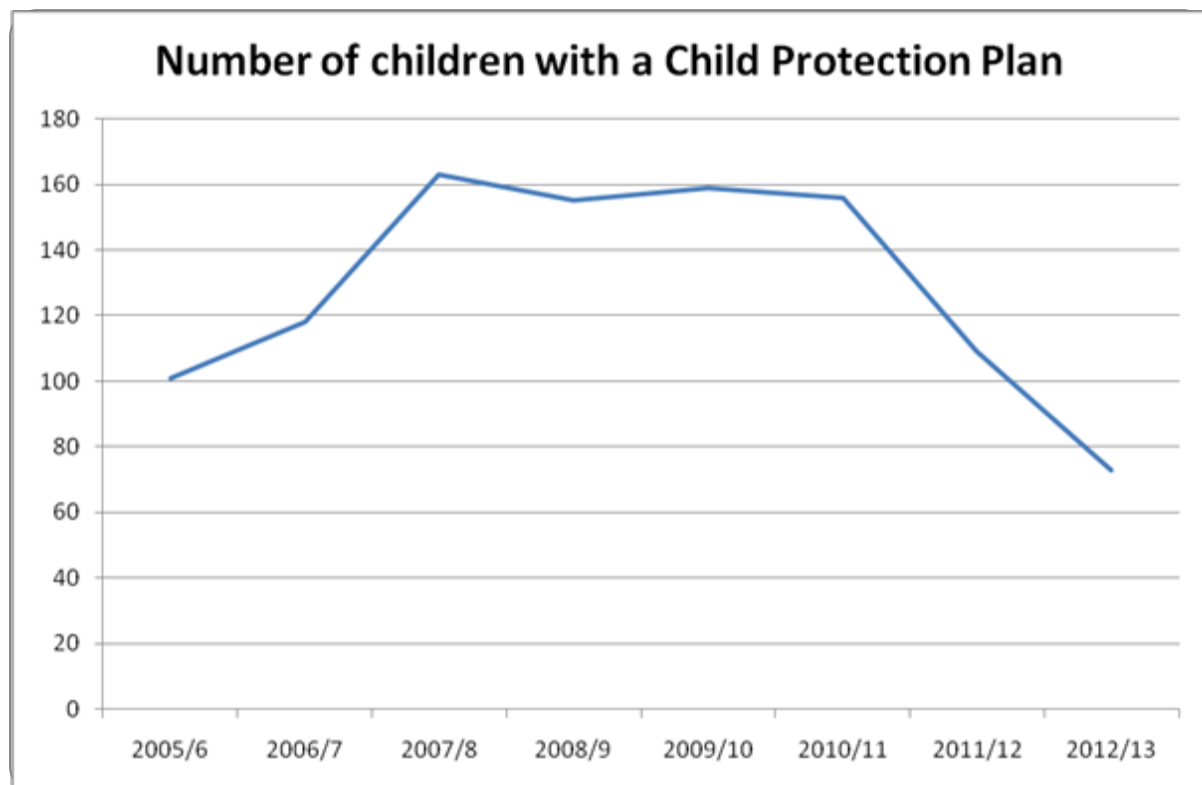
For the national average, statistical neighbour average and the east of England average, the difference between the rate of ICPCs and the rate of children starting to have a CPP is small, but with Southend the gap is more significant.

Southend – 41.1  
Statistical Neighbour Average – 53.7  
England Average – 46

**Rate of children who have a Child Protection Plan on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 per 10,000 population**

Southend – 29.1  
Statistical Neighbour Average – 43.3  
England Average – 37.8

The chart below provides a year on year comparison of the number of Children with a Child Protection Plan in Southend.



Southend's figure for the rate of children who had a CPP on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 is lower than both statistical neighbour average and the national average but is in line with the East of England average (29.2). There were 3 councils in the East who had rates lower than Southend's (Cambridgeshire – 19.3, Hertfordshire 21.1 and Essex – 26.2)

In the statistical neighbour group one council (Torbay) had a rate of 114 CPP per 10,000 which is significantly higher than other LAs in the group. If Torbay was removed from the group, the average would drop to 40.8.

The number of children in Southend with a CPP has dropped from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 when 109 children had a CPP to 89 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012, this equates to 23.8 per 10,000 population. With a rate of 29.1 per 10,000 Southend is 36<sup>th</sup> out of 150 in the country. With a rate of 23.8 Southend would be 19<sup>th</sup> in the country.

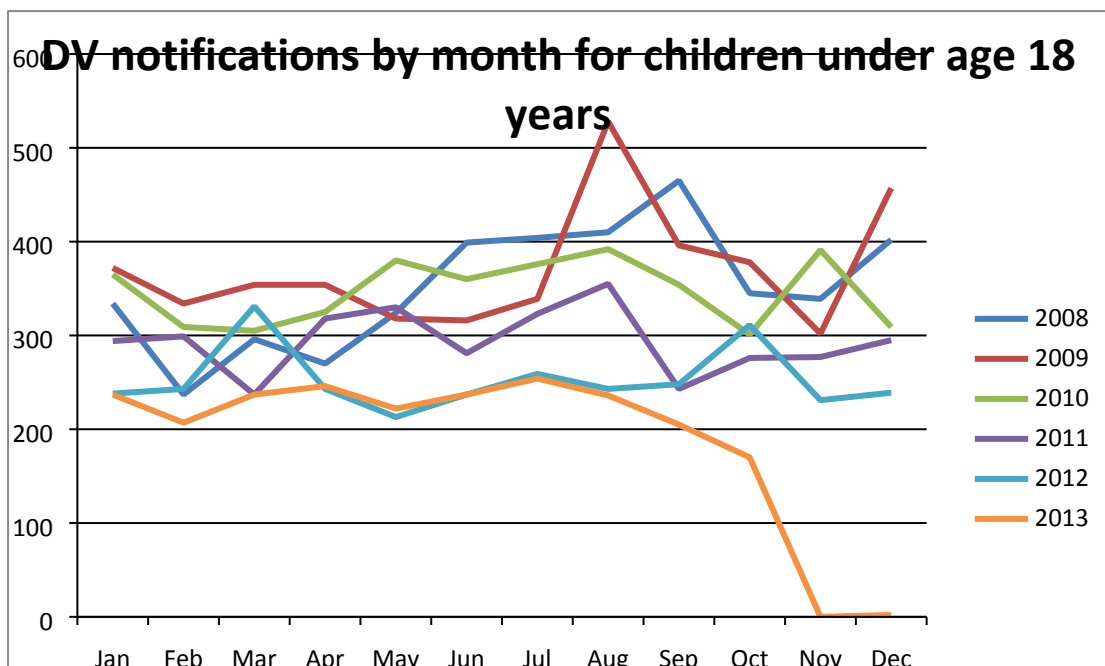
It is notable that in Southend that although our rate of ICPCs is slightly higher than England average but slightly lower than statistical neighbours our rate per 10,000 of children with a child protection plan is significantly lower than both averages.

#### c. Domestic Abuse

In September 2012 the definition of Domestic Abuse changed to include persons aged 16 and 17. This will mean any comparison in terms of % increase between data collected in previous years and 2012 will be invalid given different denominators.

Locally we want to see an increase in the number of reported incidents of Domestic Abuse. This will give us assurance that our pathways are clear and people are coming forward and reporting crimes which would have previously been unreported. The Essex Police data will also reflect changing priorities and more emphasis being placed in Essex on protecting and supporting victims of Domestic Abuse. In Southend we set an aspirational outcome measure of a 5% increase in DA reports this year (April 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014) and reductions after that.

The table below shows DV1 notifications (from Essex Police) which are incidents of Domestic Abuse in households where children are present recorded on the CareFirst system.



#### d. Streets Ahead

In Southend we have agreed to work intensively with 420 families over the next three years. In return we will receive £1.4m of new funding. Some of this will be paid for achieving specific results with these families, such as;

- reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour,
- improved the attendance at school or reducing truancy,
- reduced offending by minors,
- getting adults into work or coming off of benefits.

The new Troubled Family work will further enhance and embed the culture of early intervention and support in Southend.

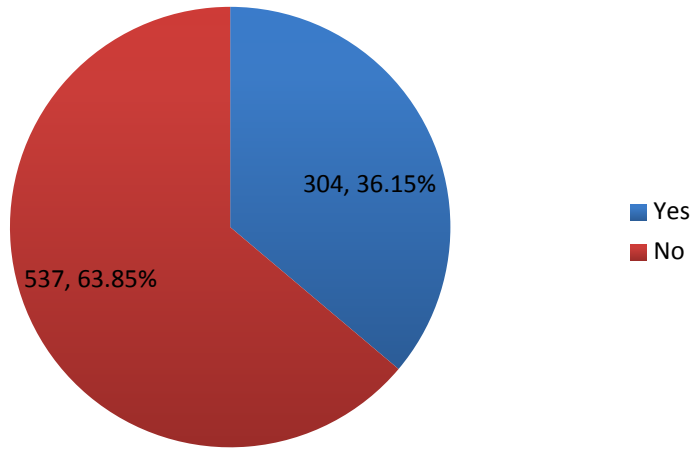
During 2013 a large scale consultation was undertaken with residents in the key wards that the Streets Ahead team is working with. The consultation sought out residents' views on their community, what they like and dislike about their community, how they would like to change their community and what services and facilities they access and a total of 1,112 surveys were completed. The results of the Streets Ahead survey have been used to help develop the forward work plan.

#### e. Young people's views

The question on bullying in the Your Say 2013 survey was accompanied by an explanation about what bullying is and emphasised that bullying is not a one off occurrence. The responses to the bullying question indicate that children in the three specific profile groups feel that they are bullied more than other children.

There is a 21.5 percentage point difference between young carers and other children, and a 10 percentage point difference between young carers and the two other profile groups.

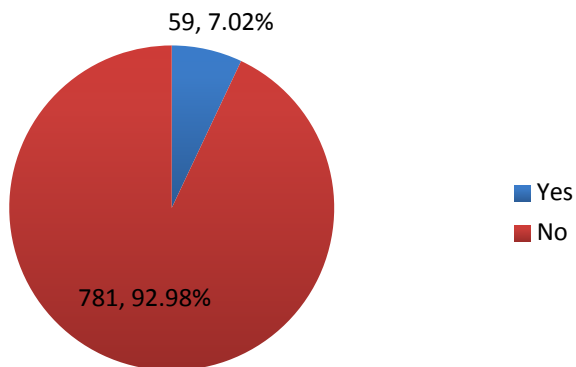
## Have you been bullied in the last year?



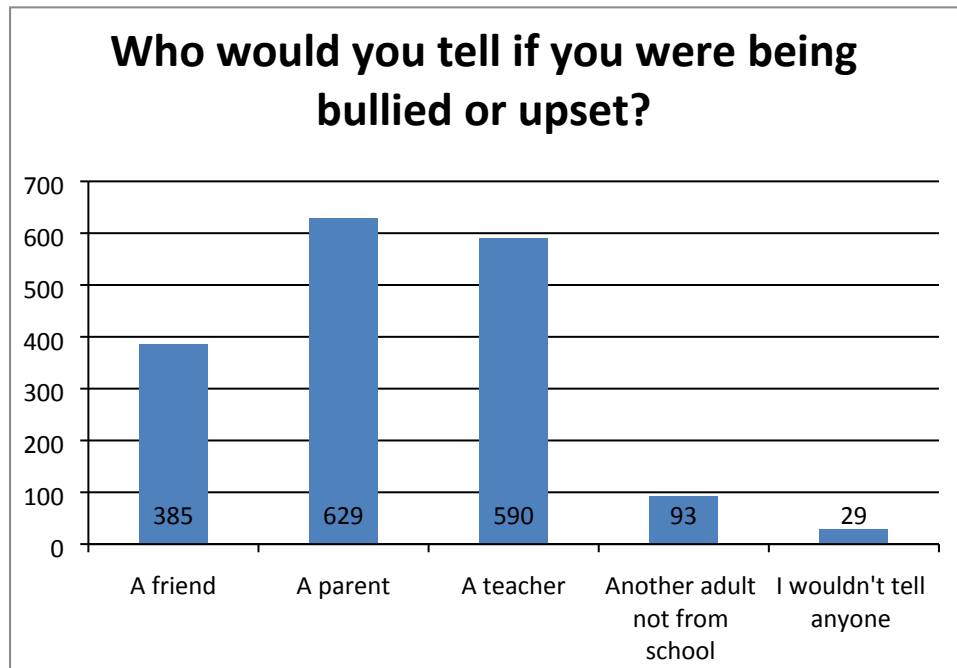
	Children with a learning difficulty or disability	Children who are young carers	Children who are looked after	Other children
<b>I have been bullied</b>	46.97% (31)	57.65% (49)	46.15% (6)	36.15%

We also asked children to tell us if they believe that they had bullied another person in the last year. Overall 7.2% of the respondents admitted to some form of bullying of another person. However, the proportion of people in the profile groups was much higher.

## Have you bullied someone in the last year?



	Children with a learning difficulty or disability	Children who are young carers	Children who are looked after	Other children
<b>I have bullied</b>	15.38% (10)	15.29% (13)	15.38% (2)	7.02% (59)



Those respondents who responded 'I wouldn't tell anyone' were asked why they wouldn't tell anyone; 23 comments were recorded, which can be seen in the table below:

Because no one needs to know my personal life
because if the bully heard that i told someone they might bully me even worse
because its no big deal
because scared
because they might bully you more
because they might tell someone
Because when you're actually in school you see that the people that get parents and teachers involved in bullying are the ones that get bullied more.
becuse i dont get build
do not talk about eotions
dont want to get even more builled from them if they knew
i deserved it
i am scared
I dont want the situation to get worse
i will not tell because i dont want any one to be in trubble
i would lokk after myself

if my bullie found out i will be scared
its embarrassing
It's no one's business
one of my very close friends mums or dad
pearent or teacher
scared
so they wont get upset
they will stab me

Being part of a profile group didn't make a significant difference on who a child would tell except for looked after children who were more likely to tell a friend ahead of a teacher or parent.

Children with a learning difficulty or disability indicated that they would tell a teacher (35.94%, 46) or a parent (33.59%, 43) as their top two answers to this question.

35.06% (61) children who identified as a young carer indicated they would tell a teacher, and 33.33% (58) said they would tell a parent.

33% (7) of looked after children said they would tell a friend, whilst 23.8% (5) said they would tell a parent or teacher.

#### f. [Ofsted inspection of safeguarding services](#)

In June 2012 Ofsted inspection our Safeguarding and looked after children's services and found the overall effectiveness of our overall Safeguarding Services as 'Good' with an 'Outstanding' capacity for improvement. Ofsted graded the safeguarding sub-category areas of the inspection as follows:

##### **Safeguarding outcomes for children and young people**

Children and young people are safe and feel safe	Outstanding
Quality of provision	Good
The contribution of health agencies to keeping children and young people safe	Good
Ambition and prioritisation	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Good
Partnership working	Outstanding
Equality and diversity	Good

#### 2.1 **Safeguarding and early intervention identified needs**

The following areas need to be addressed:

- Fully embedding CAF with health visitors and early year's providers to ensure that the needs of children and families, which are being met at early years settings, are documented and information about the needs and services accessed follows the child and family from setting to setting and on to school.
- Embed the Streets Ahead Troubled Family work
- Further work on bullying; definitions, Ofsted criteria, how we can add value to what schools are already doing

- Understanding the conversion rate between ICPC and CPP compared with National and statistical neighbours and the difference between our high number of referrals / initial assessments compared to low number of section 47s.
- Develop a greater understanding of the successful CAF case studies and a greater understanding of the challenging CAF cases.

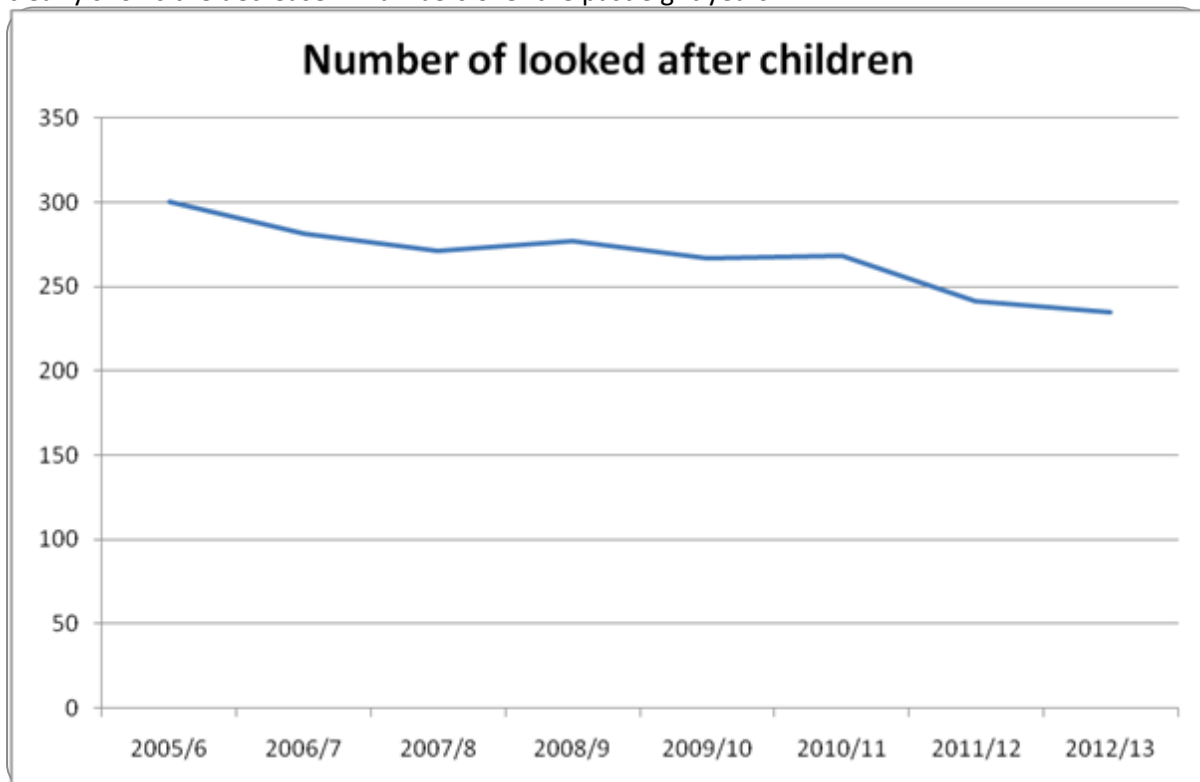
### 3. Services for Looked after Children

#### a. Performance indicators

There are good outcomes for looked after children and care leavers such as improved permanency planning, low offending and re-offending rates and increasing placement choice through more foster carers being recruited. The council has successfully and appropriately reduced the looked after children population through the investment in preventative and support services while ensuring thresholds are safely maintained.

Effective workforce planning and development has resulted in a stable staff group within children’s social care, who are suitably skilled and experienced. There is good support for NQSWs, opportunities to attend training and manageable caseloads. Foster carers receive good training and support, and all carers complete the Children’s Workforce Development Council (CWDC) training.

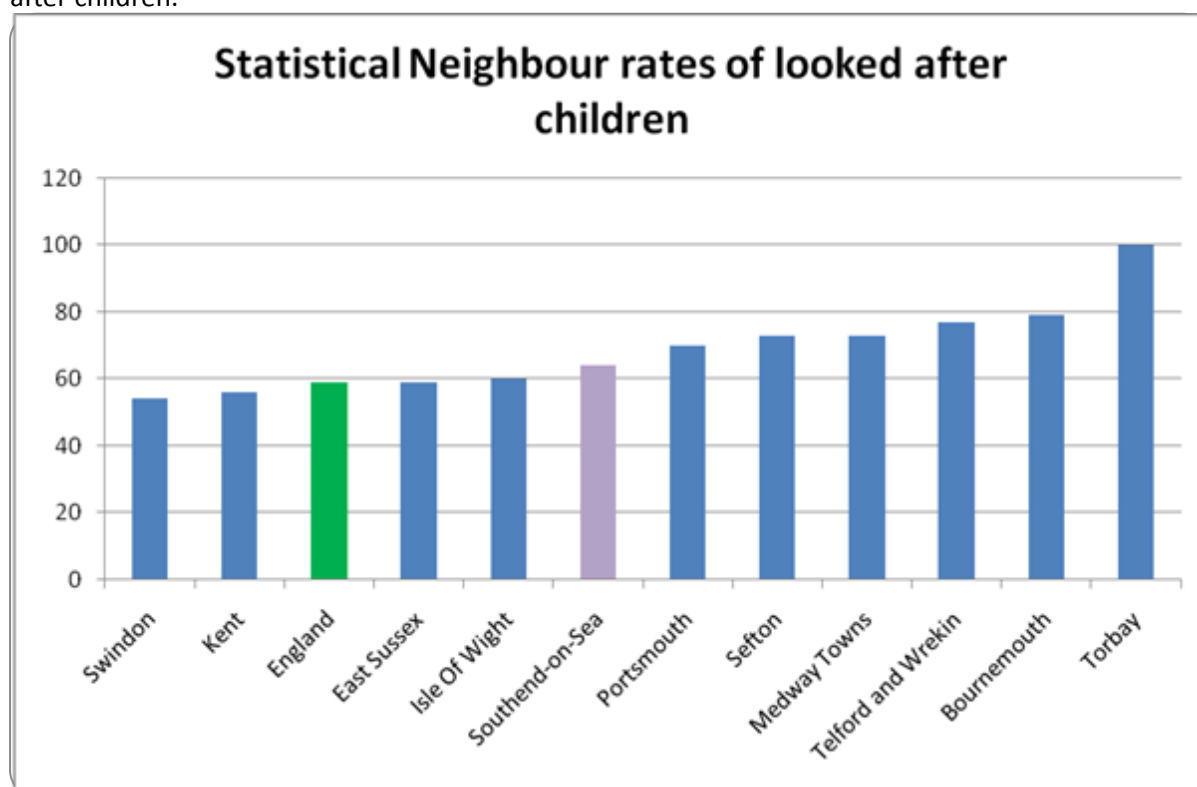
Below is a chart that shows the number of looked after children in Southend since 2005/6. This clearly shows the decrease in numbers over the past eight years.



This chart shows the rate of looked after children across the Local Authorities that make up our Statistical Neighbour group on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Although historically Southend had more looked after children than the statistical neighbour average, Southend is now in the middle of the group,



although the majority of the group including Southend are over the national average rate of looked after children.



Key indicators of performance are highlighted in the table below:

Performance Indicator	2011/12	2012/13 provisional
Percentage of Looked After Children who have had 3 or more placements during the year	10%	8.1%
The percentage of looked after children aged under 16, looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years same placement for at least 2 years	68.5%	73.5%
Looked after children cases which are reviewed within timescales	97.9%	97.7%
Percentage of looked after children who participated in all of their LAC reviews	98.6%	100%
Percentage of children who had their Initial Health Assessment within 20 working days of coming into care	1.4%	58.3%
Percentage of looked after children (who have been LAC for 12 months) who has an up to date health assessment	80.7%	87.1%
Percentage of looked after children (who have been LAC for 12m) who have been to the dentist in the past 12m	97.3%	89.5%
Percentage of school age looked after children who have an up to date PEP	78.1%	82%
Percentage of children newly LAC in the year and still LAC who are placed more than 20 miles from their home	11.3%	9.5%
Percentage of children who have had a statutory visit in the past 42 or 91 days (dependent on status)	56.7%	82.2%

The recent inspection of safeguarding and looked after children’s services highlighted that there is a need for social care services for looked after children to improve its own internal quality assurance arrangements. In recognition of this, specialist services have revised their audit plan and quality assurance framework to include more qualitative outcomes of social care services for looked after children and care leavers.

**b. Looked after children attainment**

Lack of educational achievement is one of the biggest barriers to looked after children realising their potential in later life. Factors which contribute to this include:

- social and emotional difficulties
- instability of care and school placements
- low expectations and aspirations
- relatively lower starting levels
- carers not being sufficiently engaged in the child’s education

The tables below show the percentages of Southend Looked After Children attaining expected levels, and where relevant expected progress, at the end of each Key Stage in 2012/13. When making comparisons, it should be borne in mind that cohort sizes in Southend are all small. Specific factors affecting the circumstances of individual children may therefore have a disproportionate impact on the overall result for the whole group.

**KS4**

**Percentage achieving**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equiv.)</b>	41.2	52.9	40.9
<b>5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equiv.) inc. En &amp; Ma</b>	11.8	17.6	15.4

<b>2013</b>	<b>Southend LAC</b>	<b>All East of England LAC</b>	<b>All LAC nationally</b>	<b>All non-LAC nationally</b>
<b>5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equiv.)</b>	40.9	31.6	36.6	74
<b>5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equiv.) inc. En &amp; Ma</b>	15.4	13.8	15.3	52

**Percentage making Expected Progress**

<b>2013</b>	<b>Southend LAC</b>	<b>All LAC nationally</b>	<b>All non-LAC nationally</b>
<b>English</b>	40.0	32.6	68.5
<b>Maths</b>	37.5	29.2	69.1

These results compare favourably with the results for all Looked After Children although the gap with non-looked after children remains large.

**KS2**

**Percentage achieving**

<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>L4+ Maths</b>	87.5	50.0	54

<b>L4+ English</b>	87.5	50.0	N/A*
<b>L4+ Reading</b>			62
<b>L4+ Writing</b>			54
<b>L4+ Grammar, Punctuation &amp; Spelling</b>			54

\* In 2013, the government discontinued the writing test and introduced a new grammar, punctuation & spelling test (GPSp). Children's levels in reading, GPSp and writing (TA) are longer combined to make a single overall level for English. In 2013 therefore the percentages of children achieving Level 4 and above in each of the separate areas has been given.

<b>2013</b>	<b>Southend LAC</b>	<b>All East of England LAC</b>	<b>All LAC nationally</b>	<b>All non-LAC nationally</b>
<b>L4+ Maths</b>	54	52	59	85
<b>L4+ Reading</b>	62	59	63	86
<b>L4+ Writing</b>	54	46	55	83
<b>L4+ Grammar, Punctuation &amp; Spelling</b>	54	42	45	74

<b>2013</b>	<b>Southend LAC</b>	<b>All LAC nationally</b>	<b>All non-LAC nationally</b>
<b>Expected Progress Maths</b>	71.4	74	88
<b>Expected Progress Reading</b>	85.7	77	88
<b>Expected Progress Writing</b>	71.4	81	91

These results compare favourably with the results for all Looked After Children. In terms of attainment, the gap with non-looked after children remains large. The gap in terms of 'making expected progress' is not as large.

### **Foundation Stage and KS1**

Due to adoptions, by the end of the year there were only two looked after children completing KS1 (Year 2) and three children completing the Foundation Stage (Reception) in 2013

#### **KS1**

One of the two children in KS1 achieved the expected levels in Reading Writing and Maths. This child had made accelerated progress from the end of the previous Key Stage. The other child had also made good progress, achieving the targets set for them by the end of the Key Stage 1.

#### **Foundation Stage**

At the end of Year R, practitioners indicate whether each child is at the (1) Emerging, (2) Expected or (3) Exceeded level of development for this age group. A child is defined as having reached a 'good level of development' (GLD) if they achieve at least the expected level in all three prime areas of learning, and in Literacy and Mathematics.

In 2013, none of the three children completing the Foundation Stage achieved a 'good level of development'. One child was at the Emerging level in all three areas. The other two children reached the Expected level in the majority of areas achieving 30 and 31 points out of a possible 51 points altogether. (A child who was at the expected level in all ELGs would have had 34 points).

None of the three children reached the Expected level in writing or number.

It should be noted that all the children had birthdays in the summer term so were among the youngest in their year group. All were emotionally vulnerable, having come into care at ages 2, 3 and 4 years old. During the year they were well supported and settled at school despite the difficulties they presented.

## Attendance

Full-year, overall attendance of Southend looked after children rose steadily from 87.4% in 2006/07 to 94.6% in 2011/12. This improvement was maintained in 2012/13 when full-year overall attendance was 94.4%.

This rise in attendance for looked after children has been at a much greater rate than for all pupils in Southend and nationally. This means the gap between the attendance of looked after children and the attendance of all children nationally has been closed.

2013	Southend LAC	All Primary Schools	All Secondary Schools	All Special Schools*
<b>Percentage Attendance</b>	94.4	95.2	94.1	90.4

\*The latest figure available for all Special Schools is for 2011/12

However, the overall figures do disguise a small number of older looked after children who miss significant amounts of school time either as a result of placement breakdowns or as a result of school refusal. (See Persistent Absence figures below.) The work of the Virtual School's Education Liaison Officer continues to be important in improving the life chances of these pupils.

The percentage of looked after children who are persistent absentees reduced from 14.4% in 2009/10 to 8.7% in 2011/12. There was a small increase in this figure to 9.1% in 2012/13. This compares with 3.6% in all Primary Schools and 6.6% in all Secondary Schools in 2012/13 and 16.3% in all Special Schools in 2011/12 (latest figure available). It should be noted that the relatively high PA figure for the Virtual School also reflects the fact that a high proportion of our looked after children are in Specialist provision (approximately 24% in 2013). The Virtual School also has a higher proportion of children of secondary school age (46%) than of primary school age (30%). Using these percentages and the latest figures available for all schools, the combined PA figure for comparison purposes would be 8.0% (cf. 9.1% for the Virtual School).

## Exclusions

In recent years all permanent exclusions have been avoided for looked after children and there have been no permanent exclusions for 8 years.

In 2012/13, 17 (11%) of children received at least one fixed-term exclusion. This is an improvement on previous years.

At Least One Fixed Term Exclusion	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Number of children</b>	27	26	20	17

The percentage of Southend looked after children with a fixed term exclusion is comparable with all looked after children but continues to be much higher than for all children based on the latest figures available.

At Least One Fixed Term Exclusion	Southend LAC (2012/13)	All LAC (2011/12)	All children (2011/12)
<b>Percentage</b>	11.0%	11.4%	4.1%

This reflects the high proportion of looked after children with social, emotional and behavioural needs.

### c. Care leavers in education, employment or training

64 young people are in the 16-18 year old cohort (31<sup>st</sup> January 2014) and of these; 14 have turned 16 and are in statutory education in year 11, 30 are in Further Education, School Sixth or with training providers, 4 are employed and 2 of these are on apprenticeship programmes, 9 are not in education, employment or training (NEET) but actively seeking education or employment, 4 are young parents, 1 is in custody and 2 are currently unable to access education or training due to health problems. Ofsted recognised that outcomes for economic well-being are outstanding with care leavers accessing a wide range of interventions to support them in achieving well via further education, employment or training

100 young people are in the 19-24 year old cohort (31<sup>st</sup> January 2014) and of these: 56 are in education training or employment with 14 accessing Higher Education. 39 are currently NEET but of these, 5 are in custody accessing education, 9 are young parents, 7 have health problems, 2 live out of the borough and have contact with Southend Borough Council's NEET team. Of the remainder 3 are whereabouts unknown and 18 are NEET but actively looking for employment education or training.

### d. Ofsted inspection of looked after children's services

Ofsted graded the services for looked after children sub-category areas of the 2012 inspection as follows:

#### Services for looked after children

Overall effectiveness	Good
Capacity for improvement	Good

#### How good are outcomes for looked after children and care leavers?

Being healthy	Adequate
Staying safe	Good
Enjoying and achieving	Good
Making a positive contribution, including user engagement	Good
Economic well-being	Outstanding
Quality of provision	Adequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Adequate
Equality and diversity	Good

### 3.1 Services for looked after children – identified needs

- Narrowing the attainment gap
- Improving care planning for S.20 and other things from the inspection
- ensure that all cases of children who are looked after under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 have up to date records including chronologies, core assessments and care plans which clearly identify the outcomes to be achieved, actions to be taken, and timescales
- Ensure that when young children fall behind in KS2, interventions to accelerate their progress in aspects of mathematics and numeracy are also put in place by schools

- Ensure that rigorous monitoring of daily attendance, together with early intervention by schools, carers and at the LA, continues to impact on the motivation and attendance of looked after children so that recent improvements in attendance are sustained and further improvements in PA are achieved.

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

##### **a. Narrowing the achievement gap**

Overall achievement has improved at all key stages. Some aspects of achievement are better than found nationally, for example writing and mathematics at Key Stage 1. However the Free School Meals Gap did not reduce in 2013 and as a result, eligible children are lagging behind their peers at the end of Key Stage 2 and further behind at Key Stage 4, (GCSE). The gap however starts earlier, with the good level of development (GLD) at the Early Years Foundation Stage, highlighting a gap between all children and those eligible for Free School Meals.

With two exceptions, all schools inspected under the new Framework, at least maintained their previous judgement. But Southend's schools are not improving at a fast enough rate overall, evidenced by the higher proportion of schools maintaining rather than improving on their previous best. The performance in the primary phase when compared with all Local Authorities and those regionally is low.

At Key Stage 1, pupils' overall achievement was broadly in line with that found nationally and had improved on the results achieved in 2012. The results were significantly above national in writing and mathematics for more able children at level 3+.

At Key Stage 2, the attainment of pupils increased by 3% from 2012, closing the gap between the achievement of pupils in Southend and those found nationally. The percentage making at least two levels of progress from Key Stage 1 was in line with national for writing but significantly below in reading, writing and maths. Four schools performed above and three performed below the floor standards of 60%. The floor standard is a combined percentage of those achieving level 4+ in English and maths and making expected progress in reading, writing and maths.

At Key Stage 4, four of the non-selective schools made significant improvements in the key performance indicator of 5 A\*-C including English and mathematics of between 7 and 21%. One school saw their results decline by a small percentage and three schools performed below the 40% floor threshold. The progress made by pupils in English was the same as that made nationally and 2% above national in Maths. 62% of pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSE including English and Maths which was 2% above that achieved nationally.

The Free School Meals Gap was not narrowed in 2013. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, 25.7% of children who are eligible for Free School Meals reached a good level of development compared with 44.9% of all children. The gap was much narrower at both Key Stages 1 and 2, but eligible children at the end of Key Stage 2 are on average 3 terms behind their peers. At Key Stage 4 free school meals pupils are on average two GCSE grades behind. Closing the free school meals gap is a key priority.

At the end of the academic year 2012-2013, 35 out of 54 schools were judged good or outstanding in their most recent Ofsted inspection and 15 were judged to require improvement. Two schools were judged as inadequate during the academic year.

Southend Ofsted July 2013	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Sep-12	10	27	16	1
Sep-13	9	26	15	3
Change	-1	-1	-1	2

#### Early Years Foundation Stage

A significant strength is the high percentage (85%) of early year's settings that are judged good or outstanding exceeding the national average of 77%. Whilst the overall outcome of 45.4% is lower than that for the previous year, this is due to the changes in the EYFS framework and in the assessment process.

#### Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

These results improved by 12% from the previous year. Results indicate 64% of pupils met the expected level compared to a national figure of 69%. Although this demonstrates that schools have focussed on improving the outcomes in phonics and their access to early literacy, schools still need to ensure more children reach the expected standard. For those pupils who did not reach the expected standards in 2012 and were re-checked in 2013 in Year 2, 70% reached the expected standard.

### b. School absenteeism

All of the 2012/13 figures quoted are taken from the statistical first release issued by the Department for Education in October 2013. In Southend, overall School Absence in the primary sector has risen slightly from 4.6% in 2011/12 to 5.0% in 2012/13, having previously decreased year on year over the previous 5 years. However, this figure is in line with the National average of 4.8% which also saw an increase from the previous year. The overall secondary absence level in Southend has fallen year on year from 7.7% in the 2008/09 academic year to 5.8% in this academic year. This is the same as the national figure.

The Persistent Absence measure was amended in 2011 to include all pupils with an absence of 15% or more (one month's schooling). The figure is expressed as a percentage of total enrolments. In the primary sector, Southend's figure was 4.3% in 2012/13 which is a slight increase compared to the previous year (3.8%). The national average was 3.6%, an increase of 0.5 percentage points from the previous year. In secondary schools, the level has decreased from 8.1% in 2011/12 to 7.3% in 2012/13. The national figure is 6.5% over the same period.

### c. Sixth form colleges and NEET

The NEET figure currently sits at 5.8% (March 2012). The number of learners on apprenticeship programmes increased in 2011/12 to 1,768, an increase of 31% on the previous year. Southend Borough Council (SBC) currently employs 29 apprentices and has committed to prioritising interviews for young people leaving care. In 2010/11 the Economic Participation Programme (EPP) enabled SBC to offer a wage subsidy for apprentices in both private and public sectors allowing 82 young people to access apprenticeship programmes. European Regional Development Funding



(ERDF) has enabled a further 70 young people to access apprenticeships with a further 19 recruited for a March 2012 start. In 2011/12 the ONTrack Team was able to offer salary subsidy for a further 30 apprenticeship places in the Public Sector directed towards learners who were not able to access ERDF. ONTrack has a target to develop an apprentice ambassador in each secondary school with a remit to raise the profile of apprenticeship opportunities.

298 young people in Southend accessed alternative education provision in 2012-2013. 50 of these are in the process of completing the final year of a Level 2 Young Apprenticeship qualification. The programme has proved so successful that the ONTrack Team is identifying other funding routes to support the delivery of Young Apprenticeship programmes. Other learners access a range of Level 1 and Entry vocational education and academic programmes. The programmes support the most vulnerable learners who are disengaged or at risk of becoming disengaged and evaluation shows a positive impact on NEET figures.

### **Influence an improvement in the quality of sixth form provision**

Post-16 attainment has again maintained a steady upward trend with a higher percentage of learners achieving Full level 2 and level 3 qualifications. The expected demographic trends are shown by falling numbers of Southend learners on roll at both Sixth Forms (1719, down from 1743) and FE (2304, down from 2660). By contrast, the numbers on roll in Sixth Forms increased to 2594 – there are now 1,006 post-16 learners from outside of the Borough attending Southend schools. Results in most sixth forms and at South Essex College showed modest improvements but this year also saw a falling back of achieving Level 2 at 19 – the old ‘Narrowing the Gap’ indicator. This has returned to a level slightly above the level of 2010-11 and continues to be a priority to address.

### **Post-16 Funding**

There were significant changes to post-16 funding in 2013/14; further reductions to the basic rate, reform of the disadvantage factor and the removal of the success factor being some of the changes. The most important change is the increased accent on courses being full-time, currently 540 hours but due to rise to 600 hours from 2014/15; this will have a major effect on those schools that have not acted to adjust the teaching time. Nationally there has been a protest at this from those schools with traditionally large programmes – eg Grammar schools delivering four or five AS or A2 qualifications – as there is currently no provision for these; the DfE have promised further changes to adjust for these. For 2013/14 transitional arrangements were made to cover any reductions caused by the changes; these will continue through 2014/15.

The expected Demographic changes affected intakes in 2013, with numbers in schools being down by about 90 overall. This was somewhat offset by the increase in numbers in year 13, possibly due to Raising the Participation age; data is not conclusive because numbers in the maintained schools fell. Overall funding, based on the 2012/13 intakes was up by £800,000 with the transitional protection (£1.1 million) added in; it is expected that it will reduce in 2014/15 and again, significantly, in 2015/16 with the end of transitional protection.

#### **d. Anti-social behaviour and offending**

It is a nationally recognised statistic that 20% of prolific/revolving door offenders are responsible for 80% of crime committed. Whilst we have had considerable success in diverting children and young people away from the youth justice system so much so we have reduced the numbers of First Time Entrants by 78.5% since 2007, the downside is that this has left us with a small concentrated population of revolving door offenders who have significant complex needs and often entrenched

behaviour. The Problem Profile demonstrates that in Southend for 2012/2013, 17 prolific offenders were responsible for 30% of all youth crime committed in the borough.

We have introduced a number of measures to tackle the issues including implementing our own intensive programme (IAP – Intensive Alternative Programme) whereby these offenders attend sessions both morning and afternoon to address the issues that lie behind why they keep coming back such as familial relationships, anger management, physical fitness, team building, self-discipline, emotional management, empathy and victim awareness. This has been recognised as an example of effective practice by the Youth Justice Board and it is proving successful in being able to both realise and address emerging difficulties quickly and respond to them effectively.

This cohort does however remain our main challenge if we are going to deliver against the reducing re-offending measure. Furthermore we need to continue to develop our practice in order to effectively target the highest offence types typically committed by this cohort, which for the past 4 years has been identified as offences of violence and theft.

The ‘Streets Ahead’ programme has begun to ensure that new ways of meeting the needs of over 400 chaotic families have been co-designed and embedded providing a much more cohesive service to the families. Whilst to date 266 families have been identified and engaged, the project has to identify and begin work with an additional 154 families by end March 2014 in order to meet targets.

#### e. Support for young carers

530 young carers are known to our services (October 2013). We are working with Premier Children’s services to deliver the Young Carers Contract so all new referrals are coming through that service. We are awaiting the enactment of the Children and Families Bill currently with the House of Lords, when we will be rewriting our Young Carers Strategy in line with the new legislation. A new action plan will also be written for 14/15.

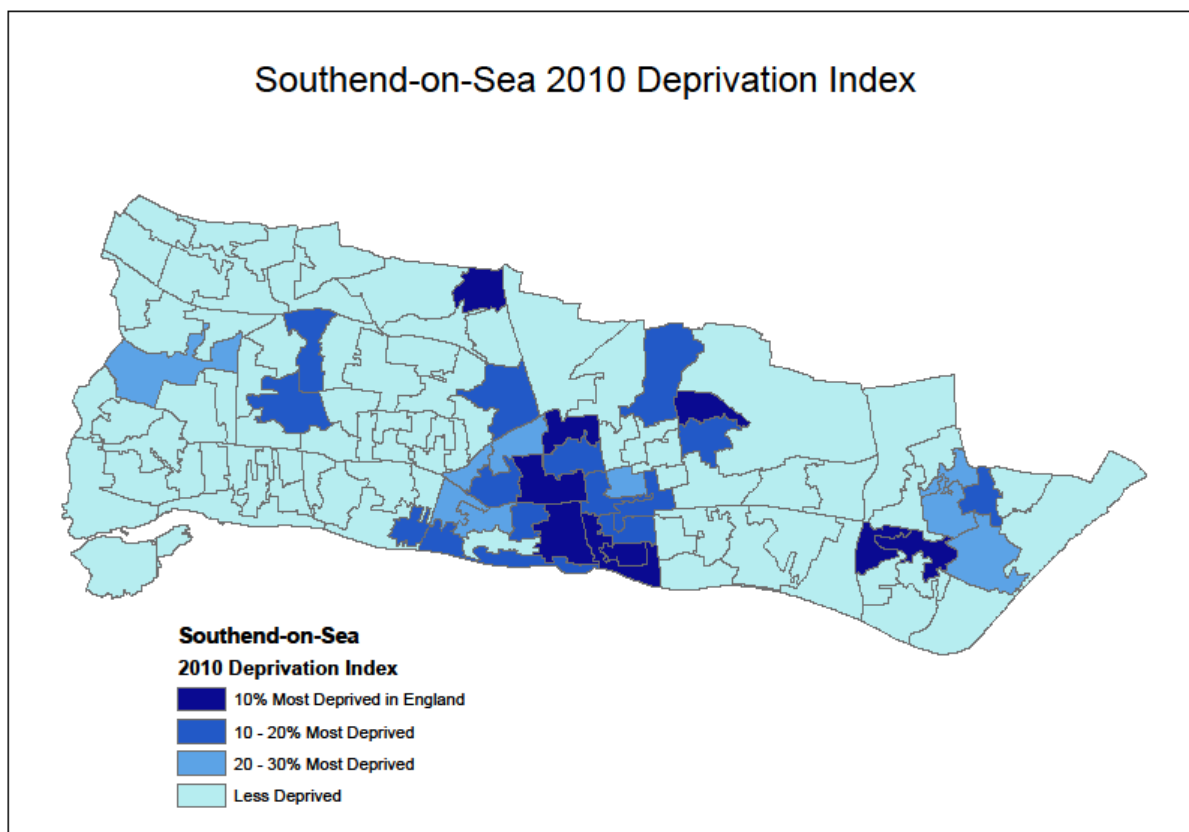
#### f. Lifting children out of poverty

The cost to UK society of poverty and the many other social problems with which it is related is huge. While it is not easy to quantify all the consequences of poverty, here are some of the national annual costs directly or indirectly connected to child poverty, as an example:

- £3 billion spent on children by local authority services;
- more than £500 million to support homeless families with children;
- around £300 million on free school dinners;
- around £500 million on primary health care for deprived children;
- knock-on costs in lost taxes and extra benefits claimed by adults with poor job prospects, linked to educational failure at school

#### **Some key facts that present challenges**

- Across Southend it is estimated that 16,185 people (9.3% of the Southend’s population) are living in the 10% most deprived areas of the country.
- There are 2 wards in Southend (Kursaal and Victoria) in which every lower super output area (LSOA) is ranked within 30% of the most deprived areas in England (see figure 1). There is an estimated 22,546 people living in these 2 wards which equates to 12.9% of Southend’s population (mid-year 2012 estimates<sup>1</sup>).



Officially, child poverty is defined by the former national child poverty indicator (NI 116) as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income.

The proportion of children in poverty is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of children in families in receipt of either out of work (means-tested) benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income}}{\text{Total number of children in the area}}$$

The threshold is calculated based on taxable incomes plus tax credits and child benefit, but excludes Housing and Council tax benefit. It considers gross income, meaning income before taxes are taken out based on 2011/12 figures\*. In 2011/12, the poverty threshold (60% below the median national income) was:

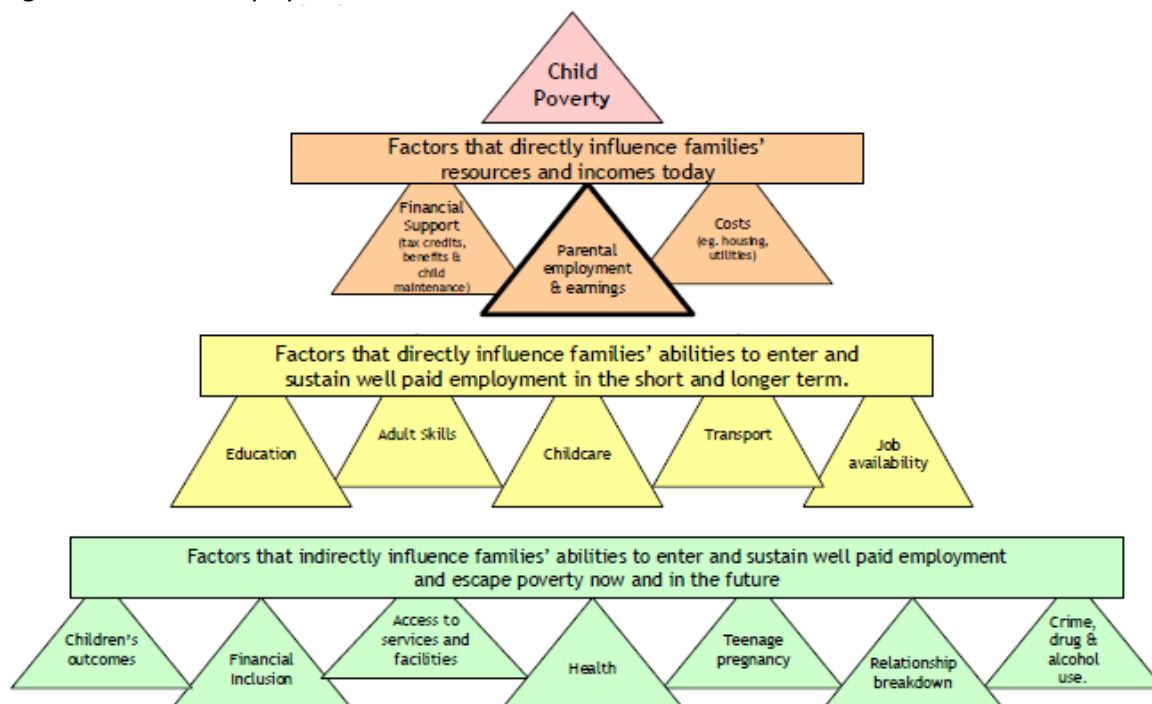
- £172 per week for a single adult;
- £308 per week for a lone parent with two children aged 5 and 14;
- £256 per week for a couple with no children;
- £392 per week for a couple with two children aged 5 and 14.

The calculations are made before housing costs so do not take into account the impact of higher housing costs due to the proximity to London.

\*Figures from Households Below Average Income (June 2013)

The 'Child Poverty Pyramid' (Figure 2) developed by the national Child Poverty Unit sets out the key causes and contributing factors of child poverty

Figure 2 Child Poverty Pyramid



Source: Child Poverty Unit

### Child Poverty in Southend

The latest available data from the national measure (based on 2011 HMRC data<sup>2</sup>) shows that 22.8% of children in Southend were living in poverty. This is a rise from the 2010 figure of 22.5%. In the eastern region only Luton and Peterborough have higher levels of child poverty as defined by the national indicator.

A 'snapshot' of children in Southend living in poverty (based on 2011 HMRC data<sup>3</sup>):

- The majority of children living in poverty were under 16 years of age. Just over 64% were under age 11 and 33% were under five
- Most parents of children living in poverty (79%) were on Income Support (IS) or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), with the remaining 21% living in families with an income below 60% the median income who were claiming the Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit
- The majority of families whose children were living in poverty were lone parents (70%), this was higher than the national average of 68%;
- The proportion of lone parents on out of work benefits in Southend (39%) is above the East of England average of (30%)<sup>4</sup>.
- 43% of children living in poverty in Southend live in families with three or more children. This is in line with the proportion in families with three or more children in England as a whole (44%).

### Financial support

The child poverty measure above does not take into consideration families with low incomes that are above the 60% median income threshold. Given the high costs of accommodation, transport, childcare, and other costs of living, there are likely to be many families and children in Southend that are suffering from the impacts of child poverty who are not included in the official child poverty figures.

Table 23 children living in low income families

Area	2009 No. Children in low income families <sup>A</sup>	2010 No. Children in low income families <sup>B</sup>	2011 No. Children in low income families <sup>C</sup>	2009 % in low income families	2010 % in low income families	2011 % in low income families
Southend	8,950	8,610	8,785	23.6	22.5	22.8
East of England	212,645	209,255	206,280	16.9	16.5	16.2
England	2,429,305	2,367,355	2,319,450	21.3	20.6	20.1

Source: <sup>A</sup> HMRC 31/08/2009, <sup>B</sup> HMRC 31/08/2010, <sup>C</sup> HMRC 31/08/2011. Children are 0-19 years old

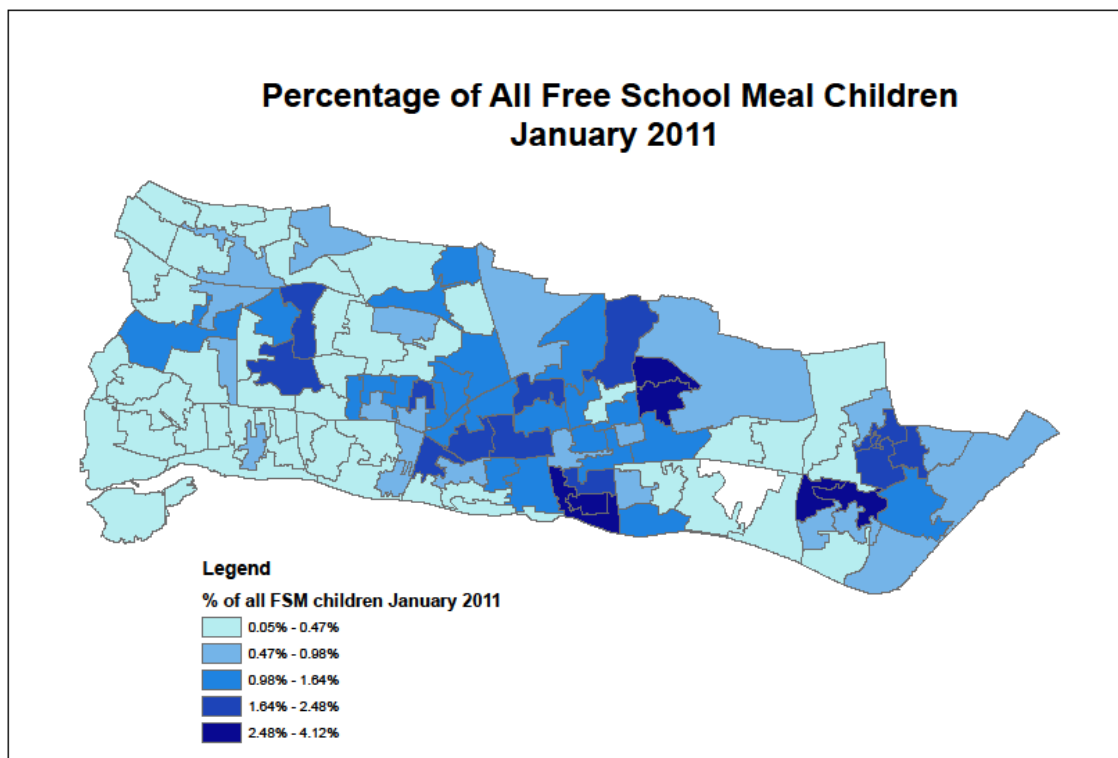
In England there are 12,094,205 children aged 0-18, 1,340,741 in East of England and 39,759 in Southend(Mid-year 2012) (Based on 2013 ONS Data) <sup>5</sup>.

Table 24 children living in out of work families

Area	2009 No. Children in out of work families <sup>D</sup>	2010 No. Children in out of work families <sup>E</sup>	2011 No. Children in out of work families <sup>F</sup>	2009 % in out of work families	2010 % in out of work families	2011 % in out of work families
Southend	8,170	8,320	8,150	21.9	22.2	21.7*
East of England	199,780	202,880	198,350	15.2	15.4	15.1
England	2,625,410	2,625,820	2,547,880	22.4	22.4	21.7*

Source: <sup>D</sup> DWP 31/5/2009, <sup>E</sup> DWP 31/5/2010, <sup>F</sup> DWP 31/5/2011. Children are 0-18 years old  
\*uses 2010 population figures

**Figure 3 Free School Meal distribution in Southend-on-Sea**



**Employment and earnings**

The 2012-2013 figures in table 26 show Southend to have a slightly lower percentage of the 16-64 year old population declaring themselves as economically active than the East of England average (this gap has decreased from 2011-2012). The percentage of the population declaring themselves as unemployed has risen from 5.1% in 2011-2012, however this is against the trend for the East of England which has decreased from 6.3% and England which has decreased from 8.2%.

Table 26 Employment status

	<b>Southend (numbers)</b>	<b>Southend (%)</b>	<b>East of England (%)</b>	<b>England (%)</b>
Economically active <sup>1</sup>	80,700	78.2	80.3	77.5
In employment	74,900	72.6	75.0	71.3
Employees	63,700	61.7	64.1	61.0
Self employed	10,900	10.6	10.3	9.7
Unemployed	5,800	5.5	5.3	6.2

Source: ONS annual population survey Jul 2012- Jun 2013

<sup>1</sup> Individuals who are employed or actively seeking employment

JobCentre Plus data from November 2012 shows the number of unfilled jobcentre vacancies in Southend has increased significantly; see table 27. The table also shows a higher rate of JSA claimant per unfilled vacancy than regional or national figures show.

Table 27 unfilled JobCentre vacancies

	<b>Southend</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
Unfilled part-time jobcentre vacancies (numbers) Nov 2012	763	17,867	178,320
Unfilled full-time jobcentre vacancies (numbers) Nov 2012	651	41,659	446,035
Unfilled jobcentre vacancies per 10,000 population aged 16-64	51	103	98
JSA claimants per unfilled jobcentre vacancy	9.0	2.2	3.0

Source: Jobcentre Plus vacancies, NOMIS Nov 2012

The gross weekly pay (2013) of residents in Southend is lower than the East of England and Great Britain. Given the high numbers of people who commute to work, which is evident in the higher than comparator (regional and national) average distance travelled to work, earning London salaries – this masks the lower rate of local gross weekly pay.

Table 28 full time workers gross weekly pay

	<b>Southend</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
Full time workers gross weekly pay	£513.0	£542.7	£518.1

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis

Note: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.

Southend also has lower percentages of the 16-64 population with qualifications at NVQ level 2 and above than the East of England and Great Britain figures as well as higher percentages of the population with no qualifications.

Table 29 population qualification level

	<b>Southend (numbers)</b>	<b>Southend (%)</b>	<b>East of England (%)</b>	<b>Great Britain (%)</b>
NVQ4 and above	24,600	23.9	32.9	34.4
NVQ3 and above	46,100	44.8	53.7	55.1
NVQ2 and above	66,600	64.7	72.0	71.8
NVQ1 and above	84,900	82.5	85.5	84.0
Other qualifications	7,000	6.8	6.1	6.3
No qualifications	11,000	10.7	8.5	9.7

Source: ONS annual population survey Jan-Dec 2012

% is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64

## Housing<sup>2</sup>

Southend is an area with considerable housing needs associated with relatively low local income, an ageing housing stock, limited land for new building, a large commuter population, and a high proportion of private rented housing which is expensive. The house prices in many parts of Southend are higher than many of the people who live and work in Southend can afford. Table 30 below gives the comparison of average house prices in England, the Eastern region and Southend for 2010 and 2012.

Table 30 Mean House Prices

<b>Mean House Prices</b>			
	<b>2012</b>	<b>To June 2013</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>England</b>	£241,000	£242,415	0.6%
<b>Eastern Region</b>	£250,000		
<b>Southend</b>	£225,000	£205,871	-8.5%

Source House price index 2012 and mouseprice.com

Table 31 gives the ratio of median house price to median income for England, the Eastern region and Southend, comparing 2009, 2011 and 2012. This shows that the difference in Southend is greater than in England and the Eastern region.

Table 31 Ratio of Median House Price to Median Income

<b>Ratio of Median House Price to Median Income</b>			
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>England</b>	6.27	6.65	6.74
<b>East Region</b>	6.80	7.17	7.14
<b>Southend</b>	7.30	7.43	7.40

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

The cost of renting an average 2 bed property in Southend is £160 per week. Average house price in Southend are over 7.5 times medium full time earnings in the town. While affordability varies across Southend, the average minimum income required in Southend to rent (without Housing Benefit or other financial support), or buy at the least expensive quartile, is £20,000. The need for social housing outstrips current supply and market conditions mean that future development will be challenging but not impossible.

In 2013 the Office of National Statistics released the 2011 Census results, showing that (to the nearest hundred) the Southend population has increased to 173,700, occupying 74, 700 properties. The average household size in Southend has risen from 2.44 in 2001 to 2.47 in 2011. Single person households account for over 30% of the Southend population.

65.6% of our housing stock is owner-occupied, lower than the Thames Gateway South Essex average but higher than the England average of 64.1%. The percentage of households renting from a private landlord is 22.9%, which is significantly higher than both the TGSE average of 15% and the England average of 18.2%. At 11.5%, the proportion of social housing stock in Southend is lower than the TGSE and England averages of 14.5% and 17.7% respectively.

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<sup>2</sup> Source Southend CAB



The latest stock condition survey was undertaken in 2004, using a sample of 20% of the stock. Approximately 31% of the stock was then non-decent (as compared to the Decent Homes Standard). The worst housing conditions in Southend were to be found in the private sector. In 2004, the last local house condition survey of private dwellings found 3,400 dwellings unfit for human habitation (as defined then by the Housing Act 1985). Another 11,400 properties were found to be in substantial disrepair. In terms of the decency standard, 13,800 properties were found to be non-decent. Of the considerable number of unfit properties found, most were located within the most deprived wards of Milton, Victoria and St Luke's and these properties were often occupied by the most vulnerable groups of residents who did not have access to appropriate funding to enable essential repairs and improvements to be carried out.

There are 18 lower super output areas within the Borough of Southend on Sea which are considered to be in the bottom 15% of income in the United Kingdom, this represents 33% of the total number of such areas in Essex. In 2012, there were 2,676 properties empty at the time of the Council Tax count representing 3.39% of the total housing stock within Southend on Sea, which came to 79,008 dwellings registered for Council Tax. Of the 2676, only 809 being empty for more than six calendar months. In 2009 Southend on Sea Borough Council became the first Council in Essex to use empty Dwelling Management Orders in relation to enforcement against a long term empty properties. These powers are used as a last resort. Between 2011 and 2013, the Private Sector Housing team has brought over one hundred long term empty properties back into use.

The Homeseekers Register provides useful information on the number of households who have specific housing needs as defined by the Council's Allocations Policy. As at 21/01/2014 there were 1,284 people who are on the Homeseekers Register (HR). Following changes introduced by the Localism Act the register is only open to applicants who have an assessed housing need in accordance with the Allocations Policy, demand for social housing exceeds supply, with the ratio of current number of people on the HR to the number of properties let within the 2012/13 financial year (601) being 2.1 : 1

Welfare Reforms have created new housing affordability and supply considerations, including:

- The reduction in Local Housing Allowance rates, from the 50<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile, making less privately rented properties affordable to those in receipt of benefits
- The Shared Accommodation Rate being extended from age 25 to 35 and, impacting 761 Southend residents, increasing the need for good quality, shared accommodation for those on benefits under 35 years of age.
- Benefit caps, currently set at £26,000 for couples for families and £18, 200 for single people and currently impacting 187 Southend residents
- Social housing size criteria/'Bedroom tax', which as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 was impacting 350 residents, 44% of whom are in rent arrears.

92% of dwellings are built at densities of over 50 dwellings per hectare. However, there are high levels of deprivation within a number of localities in Southend. Southend has a higher proportion of households classified as overcrowded compared with the East of England. Increased mortality rates, tuberculosis, respiratory conditions and childhood meningitis can all be linked to overcrowded conditions.

#### **Fuel Poverty**

Fuel poverty is the inability to afford to adequately heat the home. It is where householders spend more than 10% of disposable income on fuel. Children, young people, chronically sick, disabled and

older people are most at risk and there are health and well being implications. Fuel poverty leads to cold, damp homes and this in turn leads to, amongst other things, high fuel bills meaning less disposable income, poor nutrition, lost life chances and poor educational attainment. At the end of 2011 \*16.5% of all fuel poor households contain a child under the age of 16.

The 2010/11 national indicator measuring fuel poverty showed that 57% of the properties surveyed returned a RdSAP (the Government's official procedure for the generation of energy performance certificates to assess the energy performance rating of dwellings) value that could indicate the household was in fuel poverty. This equates to something in the region of 5,480 households. Based on research it is believed that there are an additional 3,500 rented properties that could have a RdSAP value under 40 – which under the Energy Act 2011 will not be rentable from 2018 onwards. \*source: Dept of Energy & Climate change – 10% measure of Fuel Poverty 2011

### Child Well-being Index

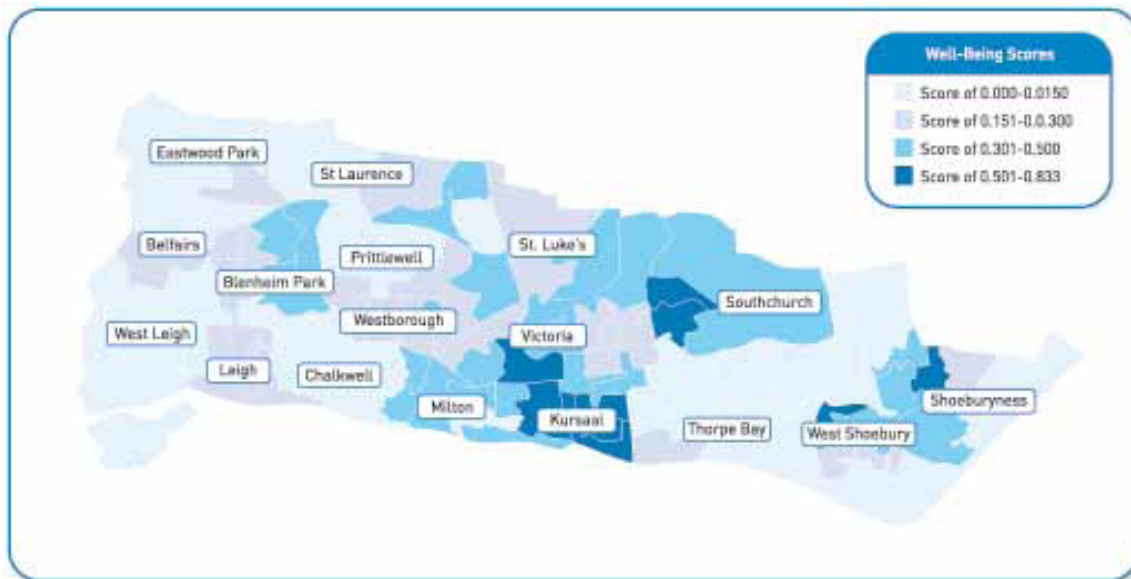
The Child Well-being Index (CWI), a subset of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, is an index which measures indicators over 7 quality of life domains that are not strictly related to deprivation. Southend is ranked on the CWI at 94 out of 149 local authorities, low is good. Table 32 compares Southend's rank and total scores in all 7 of the CWI domains with our Statistical Neighbour group.

Table 32 Child Wellbeing Index

Child well-being index domains:	Southend rank out of 149 (1 is good)	Southend	Statistical Neighbours average
Overall Child Well-being Index score	94	191	155
Material well-being score	88	0.25	0.22
Health and Disability score	111	0.36	0.22
Education score	85	25.25	25.74
Crime	87	0.33	0.03
Housing	70	20.51	23.57
Environment	137	30.86	155
Children in need	81	0.03	0.22

The figure below demonstrates the geographical distribution of the overall Child Wellbeing Index score for each LSOA level in Southend.

### Figure 4 Child well-being index



g. Impact of welfare reform changes

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 legislates for the biggest change to the welfare system for over 60 years. The Act introduced a total benefits cap in October 2013 which equates to approximately £500 per week for lone parents and couples with children. This cap will apply to the combined income a household receives from the main out of work benefits (Job Seeker’s Allowance and Employment Support Allowance), Housing Benefit, Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit and Carer’s Allowance. These will eventually be unified into a Universal Credit, originally to be introduced in October 2013 but now deferred, probably at least for a further year, due to issues highlighted in pilots. The cap will not include one-off payments, non-cash benefits and passported benefits, such as free school meals, nor will it include Council Tax Benefit. The childcare element of Universal Credit will also be excluded.

The cap has affected 96 families in Southend, with amounts ranging from a few pounds to one family at £273 per week reduction, although most are in the £10-£50 range. The Benefits team worked extensively in advance of the introduction, to ensure that families were aware of any impending impact. A DVD has also been commissioned to provide a clear explanation of the very complex changes.

For most households Universal Credit will be paid in arrears as a single monthly payment, aiming to replicate the experience of most people in work. This method of payment will be a change for many people already receiving benefits who are used to budgeting on a fortnightly basis. Working age claimants of housing benefit, who are used to their benefit being paid direct to their landlord, will start to personally receive the housing element of the new Universal Credit as part of their monthly payment. This may mean that the payment is diverted into other pressing needs giving rise to rent arrears. The overall change in budgeting from 2 to 4 weeks may also lead to families incurring month-end debt and resorting to expensive short-term borrowing. There may also be problems with families not receiving any UC at all if any one element is under dispute or query.

There are restrictions to Housing Benefit entitlement for social housing tenants whose accommodation is larger than they need “ the Bedroom Tax” , with children under 16 of same gender expected to share and children under 10 expected to share regardless of gender. Any

household deemed to have more bedrooms than they require will lose a proportion of their housing benefit - broadly a 14% reduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% reduction for two extra bedrooms, with the Government estimating average families will be £14-£16 a week worse off if they have too many bedrooms. In Southend there are 683 families affected.

Several children's charities have expressed concern that the combination of reduced benefits and housing restrictions will lead to families moving from property to property and that this transience will make identifying families that need support more difficult.

There are also reforms to the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), limiting the contributory payment to 12 months, aimed at ensuring that it is better to be in work than claiming benefits. However, recent changes to the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credits mean that the amount of childcare fees that can be claimed is reduced to 70% and that this can only be claimed if couples work a combined 24 rather than 16 hours a week so even those that might otherwise be better off under Universal Credit will actually be worse off. [The cost of childcare is quoted as the main reason for unemployed, especially women, not seeking employment].

The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that affected households will lose an average of £83 a week – nearly £4,500 per year - with 17% of those affected losing more than £150 a week. The impact on families is greatest for those living in high-rent areas with larger than average families. [ Note the above average cost of housing in Southend in the sections above ].

Universal Credit also adversely affects the poorest single working mothers. [a single parent with three children, working full time, on or around the minimum wage could be as much as £3,500 per year (£68 per week) worse off whilst a similar parent with two children would be £2,500 per year worse off. [Save the Children Research suggest the majority of children living in poverty nationally actually live in working households).

From April 2013 the Local Authority took over responsibility for the Essential Living Fund which replaced the DWP Social Fund. The fund is designed to ease exceptional pressure on people and their families. The scheme covers such things as furniture, furnishings, white goods, household equipment, fuel connection or re-connection charges, clothing or General Living Expenses - these are day to day living expenses such as groceries, nappies, toiletries, cleaning/hygiene products, money for pay as you go fuel meters. The award is not paid by cash but by use of food vouchers or supermarket vouchers, AllPay cards, provision of recycled furniture from a reputable charity or provision of white goods from a reputable local dealer. Because of the level of expertise in Southend's Benefit team, they are also administering the schemes for Essex and Thurrock. Southend-based calls are in the region of 1,200 per month which give rise to an average of 200-250 awards.

## **h. Substance misuse**

### **The scale and scope of substance misuse across Southend**

It is impossible to accurately state how many people are misusing substances at any time. Due to its predominantly illicit nature, drug misuse is often a covert activity. Meanwhile, alcohol use, while only illegal for under-18's, can carry a stigma which prevents individuals from disclosing their personal use, particularly for those whose use has reached a problematic level. At best, it may be possible to estimate the prevalence of use based upon certain proxy measures, including self-reported accounts, incidences at which probable use is exposed including criminal justice or health interventions, and benchmarking data from similar areas to provide a context of use.

Each of these methods carry certain inherent limitations:

Self-reporting measures carry a risk of either exaggeration of or understatement of the scale of use, dependent upon the perceived “social desirability” (Fuller, 2012) of the activity. Many surveys have concluded that self-reporting of substance use is reliable and valid, particularly when events are recent and those responding do not face negative consequences ([McLellan et al, 1985](#); [Mieczkowski, 1990](#); [Poole et al, 1996](#); [Lundy et al, 1997](#); [Darke, 1998](#)).

Measures which rely on the exposure of substance misuse (e.g. at the point of arrest or at the point of admission to health services) will only tend to present data on those for whom substance misuse has reached a crisis point, rather than the wider picture of unreported use.

Benchmarking data against other areas can be useful, particularly if there are more areas of similarity between the areas being compared (e.g. population size, levels of poverty, rates of crime etc.), but for every similarity, there will also be unique factors about each area which limit the comparability.

### **Drug use prevalence estimates:**

The system for estimating the prevalence of opiate and/or crack use (OCU) was developed by the Centre for Drug Misuse Research, University of Glasgow. This approach involves a “capture-recapture” statistical technique which utilises several independent datasets to derive an estimate of the whole population. The latest available report, for 2011/12 (Hay et al, 2013) suggests that Southend has 1,192 OCUs, equivalent to 11.31 per 100,000 population. This rate is the third highest in the Eastern Region, after Peterborough and Luton.

While the Glasgow prevalence estimate reports have been approved to form the basis for decisions from the Home Office and National Treatment Agency (NTA) about allocation of funding to DAAT areas, they only provide a limited picture of the overall prevalence of substance misuse generally. Firstly, the Glasgow reports have only been validated for the 15-64 age range, so they do not provide any estimation outside of this age range. Secondly, they do not provide any estimation of the prevalence of other substances of misuse.

Research and experience from treatment providers suggests that opiate and/or crack use is generally preceded by, and often concurrent with, use of other illicit drugs. Therefore it is important to try and estimate the prevalence of users of other illicit drugs, both for the purposes of treatment in their own right and for the purpose of earlier intervention to prevent users graduating to opiates and crack.

The Home Office commissions the annual British Crime Survey (BCS) which asks a representative sample of the public aged 16-59 a variety of questions, and includes a specific section on illicit drug use which is published as Drug Misuse Declared (Smith and Flatley, 2012). Smith and Flatley state that respondents to the BCS generally complete the illicit drug section by themselves, which should remove any exaggeration or understating in their answers. The representative sample is then used to develop national estimates of drug use for this age group.

The NHS Information Centre conduct annual surveys of sample schools to explore the experience of smoking, drinking and drug use among 11-15 year olds. To control for exaggerated claims about use of drugs, a fictional drug, semeron, is included so that responses which claim semeron use can be discounted.

If we assume that use of the substances in Southend follows national proportions (11-15 year old data taken from the NHS Information Centre, Fuller 2012; data for 16-19 year olds taken from Drug Misuse Declared, Smith & Flatley, 2012), when matched against the population data for Southend, this translates to the following numbers of each age group likely to have used each substance in the last year:

Age	Opiates	Crack cocaine	OCU	Powder cocaine	Ecstasy	Amphetamines	Cannabis	Any Class A drug	Any drug
11	4	2		2	2	2	4	6	88
12	6	2		2	4	4	15	13	92
13	21	10		10	8	10	93	33	168
14	41	22		22	22	19	196	60	312
15	79	45		45	49	36	450	113	537
16-19				250	209	209	1610	411	1852

Research by the Home Office suggests that among those reporting use of a substance in the last year, around 40% are likely to be frequent users. Allowing for the fact that Southend has a higher per capita rate of estimated opiate and/or crack use than national estimates, if the use of other substances is similarly above national averages, the numbers quoted above are also likely to underestimate the scale of substance misuse, but **the above estimates should be treated with extreme caution, particularly in relation to the suggestion of opiate and crack use.** It is unlikely that this level of opiate and/or crack use could be occurring among school-age children without being detected and reported. There has been no local intelligence to suggest that this is the case.

#### Alcohol use estimates:

Fuller (2012) also provides self-reported data on alcohol use among 11-15 year olds nationally. Again, assuming that Southend follows a similar pattern to that found nationally, the following table provides an estimate of the numbers of young people in Southend who are likely to be drinking alcohol at least once a week.

Age	% nationally reporting at least weekly alcohol consumption	Proportional estimate of number of Southend Young People drinking at least once a week
11	1	21
12	1	21
13	6	124
14	10	215
15	20	426

The report also provides data on the proportion of young people who report having been drunk at least 3 times in the preceding four weeks. Although this level of drinking does not automatically mean that a young person will require treatment, it is likely that this level of drinking may be indicative of problematic use.

Age	% nationally reporting being drunk at least three times in the preceding four weeks	Proportional estimate of number of Southend Young People who have been drunk at least three times in the last four weeks
11	1%	20
12	0%	0
13	2%	41
14	3%	65
15	9%	192

Data for alcohol use among adults is not collected in the same formats, but the NHS Information Centre, in its General Lifestyle Survey 2010 (ONS) provides information on the rate of respondents'

drinking in terms of the number of days that they drank alcohol in a week. Although it is not an absolute predictor of a need for treatment, those who are drinking for more than 5 days per week are more likely to be at risk. The General Lifestyle Survey only provides broad age bands from the age of 16 upwards, so it is not possible to provide estimates for 16 and 17 year olds specifically, but the survey suggests that 3% of 16-24 year olds report drinking 5 days or more per week. This equates to 537 young people between 16 and 24 years old.

According to the North West Public Health Observatory who produce Local Area Profiles for each Local Authority in England, Southend has a rate of under 18 alcohol-related hospital admissions which places it 103<sup>rd</sup> out of 326 (1<sup>st</sup> being good with the lowest rate etc.). The Southend rate of under-18 presentations, which is better than the national average, appears to have been reducing over the last five years, but it is still the worst in the Eastern Region. Meanwhile, the latest available substance misuse profile produced by the Monitoring Unit for Substance in the East suggests that Southend also has the worst rate of under-18 drug-related hospital admissions in the Eastern Region.

**Current treatment system performance:**

Despite the national trend for reducing levels of self-reported substance misuse among young people, based upon the last available full year of data (April 2012 – March 2013), Southend continues to have a higher rate of young people accessing treatment than might be expected (144 young people accessed treatment in 2012/13). The chart below shows the rate per 100,000 population of under-18's accessing specialist treatment in Southend and in children's partnerships identified as statistically similar.