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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

**People Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Wednesday, 30th August, 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Contact: Stephanie Cox (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Email: [committeesection@southend.gov.uk](mailto:committeesection@southend.gov.uk)

**A G E N D A**

- 1 Chair's Introduction & Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Questions from Members of the Public
- 4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2023 (Pages 3 - 6)

\*\*\*\* **ITEMS FOR PRE-CABINET SCRUTINY / CALLED IN FROM THE FORWARD PLAN**

- 5 **School Admissions Arrangements for Community Schools 2025/26; The Coordinated Admission Scheme for Academic Year 2025/26 and review of the relevant area (Pages 7 - 44)**
- 6 **Domestic Abuse Strategy Update (Pages 45 - 84)**

\*\*\*\* **OTHER SCRUTINY MATTERS**

- 7 **Passenger Transport Services - Performance Monitoring (Pages 85 - 110)**  
At its meeting on 31 January 2023, the Committee supported an undertaking of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Parking that the performance of Vecteo be reported on a quarterly basis going forward.
- 8 **Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (Pages 111 - 124)**
- 9 **Oral and Dental Health Inequalities (Pages 125 - 146)**
- 10 **Work Programme**

**Chair & Members:**

Cllr T Cowdrey (Chair), Cllr K Murphy (Vice-Chair), Cllr B Beggs, Cllr S Buckley, Cllr C Campbell, Cllr P Collins, Cllr A Dear, Cllr N Folkard, Cllr J Harland, Cllr D Jones, Cllr G Leroy, Cllr A Line, Cllr R Longstaff, Cllr C Nevin, Cllr M O'Connor, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr N Ward, O Richards, A Quinn, T Watts and L Williams

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**SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL**

**Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: Tuesday, 11th July, 2023**

**Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite**

**4**

**Present:** Councillor T Cowdrey (Chair)  
Councillors B Beggs, S Buckley, C Campbell, P Collins, A Dear, N Folkard, D Jones, G Leroy, A Line, R Longstaff, C Nevin, M O'Connor, D Richardson and F Evans\*

A Quinn (Southend Association of Voluntary Services), O Richards (Healthwatch Southend), T Watts (Southend Carers) and Revd. Canon L Williams (Church of England Diocese) (Co-opted Members)

\*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

**In Attendance:** Councillors H Boyd, J Courtenay, J Moyies (Cabinet Members).

S Cox, M Harvey, M Marks and K Ramkhelawon

**Start/End Time:** 6.30 - 7.40 pm

**8 Chair's Introduction & Apologies for Absence**

**(a) Chair's Introduction**

Prior to the consideration of the matters set out in the agenda, the Chair outlined their expectations of the standard of conduct and behaviour to be shown at the meeting.

**(b) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Harland (Substitute: Councillor Fay Evans), Councillor K Murphy and Councillor N Ward.

**9 Declarations of Interest**

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(a) Tim Watts (Co-opted Member) – Minute 14 (Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group) – Is a Chair of an Outside Body, Southend Pier Museum Trust, which has a Council appointed Director.

(b) Councillors D Richardson – Minute 12 (Public Annual Health Report) – is a therapist.

(c) Owen Richards - Minute 12 (Public Annual Health Report) – is a delivery partner for one of the schemes that the is mentioned in the report and also has a non-financial interest in the Royal College of General Practitioners.

(d) Councillor N Folkard – Minute 12 (Public Annual Health Report) – relative works for Broomfield Hospital and part of the fundraising team for Southend Hospital.

(e) Councillor T Cowdrey – Minute 12 (Public Annual Health Report) – sensitive non-pecuniary interest.

(f) Councillor C Nevin – Minute 12 (Public Annual Health Report) – NHS employee and children work at Broomfield and Southend Hospitals.

(g) Councillor A Line – Minute 12 (Public Annual Health Report) – SUFC Community and Educational Trust, supporting foodbanks.

The Chair advised all those present that there would be a tour of Southend Hospital on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 9am, and anyone wishing to attend should contact the Principal Democratic Services Officer so arrangements could be made.

## **10 Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public relating to the responsibilities of the Committee.

## **11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2023**

The following amendments to the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June 2023 were agreed:

- To include the Chair's expectations of the standard of conduct and behaviour to be shown at the meeting.
- That the apologies of Rev Cannon L Williams be recorded.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June 2023 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendments as outlined above, and signed.

## **12 Public Annual Health Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health, which reviewed the work for 2022-23 and identified priorities for 2023-24, with a focus on prevention.

In response to concerns raised by the Committee with regard to vaping and the impact on young people, the Director of Public Health reported that they would continue to lobby government to call for more stringent measures to be introduced to reduce young people's access to vaping.

Resolved:

1. That the content of the 2022-2023 Annual Public Health Report be noted.

Note: This is an Executive function  
Cabinet Member: Councillor J Moyies

## **13 In-Depth Scrutiny Projects 2022/23 & 2023/24**

The Committee received the report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project for 2022/23 on the theme of 'Providing First-Class Services for Families of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.'

On behalf of the Project Team that led the in-depth scrutiny project, the Chair of the Committee expressed thanks to all councillors, officers and parents that contributed to the

project. Particular thanks were paid to S Tautz who led on the project and was now retired from the local authority.

Resolved:

That the report and recommendations be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function

#### **14 Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources), proposing a review of the membership and representation on Outside Bodies as a potential topic as a joint Scrutiny project for 2023/24 and which proposed the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to undertake the review.

The Chair reported that, at the Scrutiny Chairs Forum held on 27 June 2023, all the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs present felt that resources should be directed to shorter Task and Finish reviews to drive specific areas of concern forward.

Subject to the agreement of the proposed approach, it was recommended that no additional topic(s) be selected by the Committee for in-depth scrutiny activity during the year 2023/24.

Members were keen to identify whether there were any other Outside Bodies that would be appropriate to have member representation but was not currently included on the list.

Resolved:

1. That an Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group be established:

- in the proportion 4 Conservative, 3 Labour, 1 liberal Democrat, 1 Independent and 1 Residents First with appointments being made to ensure some representation from each of the scrutiny committees.
- It is suggested that the Group Leaders submit their nomination(s) to the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) in line with the proportionality allocations.

2. That the Terms of Reference (attached at Appendix 1) to the submitted report be approved.

3. Each of the three Scrutiny Committees receive an update on the progress accordingly, before a final report is approved

Note: This is a scrutiny function.

#### **15 Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24**

The Committee received a draft Scrutiny work programme template, which set out the process for identifying suitable issues for scrutiny.

It was suggested that a procedural note be produced, clearly setting out the process how Councillors could suggest and influence items on the scrutiny work programme and the correct procedure for doing so.

Resolved:-

That the Scrutiny work programme be noted.

Note: This is a scrutiny function.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	18 September 2023
<b>Classification:</b>	Part 1
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>School Admissions Arrangements for Community Schools 2025/26; the Coordinated Admission Scheme for Academic year 2025/26; and Review of the relevant area</b>
<b>Executive Director:</b>	Councillor Helen Boyd
<b>Report Author:</b>	Catherine Braun, Head of Access and Inclusion and Chrissy Papas, Place Planning and Admission Manager

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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The admission arrangements for (LA maintained) community schools must be agreed annually. The admission arrangements requesting agreement by council for the academic year 2025/26. This includes the published admission number (PAN) for each of the schools and the catchment areas.
- 1.2. The LA is required to undertake a statutory consultation for all community schools with school Governors on the proposed admission arrangements and PAN In addition, the LA is requesting a public consultation on the reduced PAN for Chalkwell Hall Junior School from 120 to 90. This is to bring in line with the reduced number at Chalkwell Hall Infant School (please refer to sections 3.16 – 3.28).
- 1.3. The LA must also consult schools on the Coordinated Admissions Scheme for 2025/26 and publish by the 1 January 2024. There are no significant changes proposed, but some areas have been refined to provide greater clarity. The breakdown of changes can be found in Appendix 3
- 1.4. The relevant area requires agreement by Council. This is the area that would be most impacted by Southend admission arrangements and scheme and is used for any formal consultation. The relevant area for agreement covers the entirety of Southend-on-Sea plus the bordering areas of Castle Point and Rochford.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **To approve the proposed Admissions Arrangements for Community Schools for the academic year 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 and agree requirement for public consultation on changes proposed.**
- 2.2. **To approve the consultation with governing bodies of community schools takes place on the published admission number (PAN) for community infant, junior and primary schools for September 2025 as set out in the Admission Arrangements in 2.1**
- 2.3. **To approve the proposed Coordinated Admissions Scheme for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 and to agree the final version be ratified by the Executive Director for Children and Public Health in December for publication as required by law, 1 January 2024.**
- 2.4. **To approve the relevant area for schools is reviewed and agreed as follows: Southend, Castle Point and Rochford for the years 2025 and 2026.**

### **3. Background**

#### **Statutory Framework**

- 3.1. The Council has the responsibility to determine the following in relation to school admissions:
  - a) the Admission Arrangements for Community Schools (admission numbers, admission criteria and catchment areas); and
  - b) the Coordinated Admissions Scheme, which sets out the way in which admissions for all schools (including academies and other own admission authority schools) will operate.
- 3.2 The local authority (as the admission authority for all community schools) **must** consult on the admission arrangements for community schools, if it proposes to make any changes to the existing arrangements or, at least every seven years, even if there are no changes.
- 3.3 Own Admission Authorities, (academy, foundation and voluntary aided schools) have the responsibility to consult on and determine their own admission arrangements including catchment areas.
- 3.4 The Admissions Code 2021 determines that the official window for formal consultation which must be between 1 October and 31 January and the consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- 3.5 Admission arrangements for Community Schools in Southend must be determined by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and included in a composite prospectus for all schools by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. These are statutory deadlines and must be adhered to by all admission authorities.
- 3.6 The current admission arrangements for Community Schools (including catchment areas) were last consulted on and approved by the Council in January 2021 for the admissions relating to academic year 2022/23.
- 3.7 The local authority (as the admission authority for community schools) must consult the governing body of each community school where it proposes either to increase or keep the same published admission number (PAN).



- 3.8 The proposed admission arrangements, published admission numbers and catchment areas includes all eight local authority (maintained) community schools. The LA is aware that two current community schools (Heycroft Primary and Barons Court Primary) are in the process of consulting to convert to academy status joining existing academy trusts. Whilst the legal status for these schools remains as LA community schools, the LA will continue to consult and determine arrangements which will transfer at the point of academization should they convert. Should this change occur prior to Cabinet determination, they will be removed from the final paper raised to Cabinet in January 2024.
- 3.9 The Council must balance the duty to ensure sufficient school places alongside its duty to make efficient use of resources. The DfE recommends Councils have a surplus of around 5% within each planning cluster. Where surplus becomes too low or too high consideration is needed to either increase or reduce the number of available places in the town. This results in changes to some school PANs.
- 3.10 Chalkwell Hall Infant school's Pan was reduced from 120 to 90 for admission into reception 2022/23. This reduced admission number will reach Chalkwell Hall Junior school in September 2025 when the year group reaches year 3.
- 3.11 **The proposal is to reduce the PAN of Chalkwell Hall Junior School from 120 to 90 for the year 2025. Further information is detailed from item 3.15-3.26**
- 3.12 **No further changes to other school PAN's are proposed.**
- 3.13 Schemes for coordinating all admission applications to schools must be formulated and submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) by 1 January in the determination year. For the school year commencing September 2025, submission to the DfE must be submitted by 1 January 2024. Consultation on the scheme is mandatory every seven years or where substantial changes are being made. **Southend-on-Sea City Council will consult admission authorities in the City to ensure cohesion of the coordinated admissions round. Consultation will run from 1 November to 7 December 2023.**
- 3.14 The School Admissions guidance requires Local Authorities to determine every two years a "relevant area" for the purposes of admissions. This defines the area in which admission authorities consult on admission arrangements. The area of Southend, Castle Point and Rochford has been in place for many years and is most appropriate for consultation given that a significant number of pupils access provision in schools in those areas.

### **Admission Arrangements for 2025/26**

#### **Admission/oversubscription Criteria**

- 3.15 There are no proposed changes from the previously consulted 2019/20 oversubscription criteria and definitions. The admission criteria for community primary schools are shown in **Appendix 1**

#### **Published Admission Number (PAN)**

- 3.16 The Admissions Code 2021 determines that admission authorities must consult the public if it proposes to decrease the PAN for a school.
- 3.17 The Admission limit for Chalkwell Hall Infant School was reduced from 120 to 90 in 2022/23 in response to reduction in birth rate.
- 3.18 Chalkwell Hall Junior School admits pupils from Chalkwell Hall Infant school. A public consultation must be held to ensure that the year 2 children moving from the Infant school can continue to the Junior school and that the Junior schools Admission Limit is matched to the infant school.
- 3.19 The change in admission limits between the schools is phased due to progression of children. The infant school admission limit will be at 90 for the year 2 pupils in the transfer window of 2025.
- 3.20 Although we have a mix of LA and academy maintained schools in the City, the Council retains the responsibility for ensuring the sufficiency of school places, which includes the number of surplus places. This information is reported annually to the Department of Education (DfE).
- 3.21 The Council already undertook conversations with 5 academy and voluntary aided schools regarding reducing their PAN (three 5FE and two 4FE). This resulted in five forms of entry (FE) being reduced across the city over the last two years. These discussions have all been finalised and agreed through formal consultation and have been included when calculating the continuing need for further reductions as demonstrated in the table below:

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>FE reduction needed for 2022/23</b>
North West	0
Leigh	1 (Chalkwell Hal Infant School)
West Central	1
East Central	1
Shoeburyness	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 FE</b>

- 3.22 Due to the depreciating birth numbers, the requirement for less primary school places is set to continue for at least the next 3 years. Numbers will be monitored on an annual basis and changes made accordingly to further decrease or increase as trends in births change.
- 3.23 From the four clusters each requiring one school to reduce by 1FE, only the Leigh Cluster identified a Local Authority maintained school (community school) where the LA is the admission authority. All other schools were either academy or foundation.
- 3.24 Chalkwell Hall Infant School, within the Leigh Cluster was identified for further discussion and consultation to reduce the schools PAN by one form of entry (FE) from September 2022. This was taking into consideration one other school in the cluster already reducing PAN from 4FE to 2FE; Chalkwell Hall's direct catchment area has seen a 22% reduction

in births; was a school that had expanded during the time of increased need; and is situated on a very small site.

- 3.25 The reduction in births is expected to continue for at least the next four years. This is under regular review.
- 3.26 Data, based on Chalkwell Hall Junior at 90, indicates sufficiency of places, with surplus across the City. Ensuring schools in the central area are securing places where required for 2025/26.

Area	Surplus 2025/26	Surplus 2026/27	Surplus 2027/28	Surplus 2028/29
Leigh	1%	7%	9%	16%
North West	1%	9%	14%	19%
East Central	5%	0%	17%	8%
West Central	17%	6%	20%	28%
Shoebury	0%	8%	6%	15%
	24%	30%	66%	85%

- 3.27 There are currently no proposed changes to the Admission Limits for the remaining community schools. However, Governing Bodies of community schools will have the opportunity to inform the local authority if they wish to comment on the proposal of no change. The proposed admission limits for all community primary schools for September 2025/26 are shown on **Page 2** of the Admission Arrangements for Community Schools at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.28 This would be a phased reduction in the admission limit, so that 2025/26 would be reduced to 90 and this would not impact years 4-5, and the roll out would roll forward for years 2026, 2027 etc. without the need to consult again.

**Catchment Areas**

- 3.29 The proposed catchment areas for primary schools for September 2022 are identified within the Admission Arrangements in **Appendix 1**. **There are no proposed changes from the last full public consultation for 2019/20.**

**Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2025**

- 3.30 Consultation rules for coordinated arrangements require the local authority to consult with other admission authorities in the area and other local authorities if there are changes from the previous year’s scheme. Minor administrative practice changes are proposed for the coordinated scheme for 2025 as provided in summary in **Appendix 3**.
- 3.31 The coordinated admission scheme has not changed significantly from the version adopted for 2024, schools in the city and the CSSE will be consulted and feedback will be sought.
- 3.32 It is not anticipated that there will be significant comments for changes to the coordinated admission scheme from schools and therefore it is requested that the final version is ratified by the Executive Director for Children and Public Health in December for publication as required by law, 1 January 2024.

### **Background information on the relevant area**

- 3.33 The “relevant area” for Southend, must include all of the city of Southend but may include parts of Essex. An area could be included in more than one “relevant area”, which would be the case if any part of Essex were included.
- 3.34 In view of the considerable cross border movement it is recommended that the “relevant area” for Southend includes the areas of Castle Point and Rochford in addition to the City of Southend-on-Sea.

## **4. Reasons for Decisions**

- 4.1. Chalkwell Hall Junior school mainly admit pupils from the Infant school.
- 4.2. A phased reduction in the admission limit has been in operation since 2022 and the year 2 pupils from the infants will be at the admission limit of 90 in 2025.
- 4.3. An admission limit higher than the feed from the infant school would negatively impact schools in Leigh, as the pupils would generally move from neighbouring schools in the leigh area.
- 4.4. There would be a high surplus of places in the City resulting in a negative impact for some schools.

## **5. Other Options**

- 5.1. The Council could decide not to consider reducing the PAN of one community school and thus not publicly consult on 2025/26 Admission Arrangements for Chalkwell Hall Junior School. This would add undue pressure on a small number of local schools for 2025, where a significant surplus of places is forecast, creating financial and organisational challenges.
- 5.2. Not undertaking a public consultation does not change the requirement that the Council must consult admission authorities and the CSSE on the proposed Coordinated Admission Scheme 2025 to ensure the delivery of school places, as required by law.
- 5.3. Not undertaking a public consultation does not change the requirement that the Council must consult Governors of community schools on their PAN and inform schools of the minor changes to the coordinated scheme.
- 5.4. The council could leave the admission limit at 120 for Chalkwell Hall Junior school. This could result in objections to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, from other primary schools, on the grounds that there is an oversupply of places, resulting in children moving from other local schools to Chalkwell Hall Junior school.
- 5.5. The council could leave the admission limit at 120 for Chalkwell Hall Junior school, however this would mean more admissions from local schools and children and children changing schools, unnecessarily and not for good reason, for year 3 is disruptive to their education

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There would be a financial implication for Chalkwell Hall Junior school as they would have 30 children less for year 3 and then rolling forward year on year from 2025/26.
- 6.2. The school has known of the planned reduction in the admission number since 2018 and are aware that the Infant school has been on a phased year group reduction in the admission number since 2022.
- 6.3. Chalkwell Hall Junior School has had significant lead up to the reduction in the admission limit, allowing for school organisation forward planning.
- 6.4. Were we not to consult the financial implication would rest with other schools in the area who would likely lose pupils from taking up new places at Chalkwell Hall Juniors.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 The determination of admission arrangements for Community Schools and the provision of a coordinated admissions scheme is a statutory requirement. The determination for the Coordinated Admissions Scheme is a statutory requirement. The determination of a relevant rea is also a statutory requirement.
- 7.2 The council could leave the admission limit at 120 for Chalkwell Hall Junior school. This could result in objections to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, from other primary schools, on the grounds that there is an oversupply of places, resulting in children moving from other local schools to Chalkwell Hall Junior school. Objections to the Adjudicator are administratively cumbersome and the outcome would impose a decision for the school.
- 7.3 In accordance with the Council's overview and procedural rules, the proposed admission arrangements for all community schools and reduced PAN for Chalkwell Hall Junior School has been subject to pre-cabinet scrutiny. Due to the statutory timeframe for consultation which must be a minimum of six weeks in term time and planned to finish on the 1 December, it will not be possible to provide pre-cabinet scrutiny prior to the final cabinet paper for the 11 January 2024 to determine arrangements. This is due to the timeline for submitting papers for pre-cabinet scrutiny not allowing time for analysis, evaluation and due considerations of the public responses to identify the final arrangements for cabinet determination in January.

## **8. Policy Context**

- 8.1 The School Admissions Code 2021 prescribes the details of the statutory process in following the process for making changes to admission arrangements.
- 8.2 The School Admissions Code 2021 prescribes the details for determining the Coordinated Admission Scheme. Not having one in place would result in the Secretary of State imposing a scheme for Southend.

## **9. Carbon Impact**

- 9.1. Not reducing the admission limit for Chalkwell Hall Junior School, would result in children potentially applying to move for year 3, and this would generally be children living out of the catchment area, or further away from the school would cold increase the use of cars to get to school.

## **10. Equalities**

- 10.1 A coordinated admissions scheme and clear oversubscription criteria are necessary to ensure fair access to school places. Admission Arrangements for Community Schools and the Coordinated Admission Scheme for Southend Schools have been written in line with mandatory requirements set by the Admissions Code 2021. The code determines that authorities must ensure that the practices and criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective and that parents should be able to easily understand how places are allocated.
- 10.2 In line with the Equality Act 2010, the arrangements and scheme are reviewed annually against an expanded list of protected characteristics as identified within the Admission Code: disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.
- 10.3 The proposed Scheme, arrangements and decisions made through their administration are clear that there is no discrimination on the grounds of disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation, against a parent who is applying for a school place or offered admission as a pupil.
- 10.4 There are limited exceptions to the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion or belief and sex. Schools designated by the Secretary of State as having a religious character are exempt from some aspects of the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief and this means they can make a decision about whether or not to admit a child as a pupil on the basis of religion or belief. Single-sex schools are lawfully permitted to discriminate on the grounds of sex in their admission arrangements.

## **11. Consultation**

- 11.1 The statutory timeframes for consultation for admission arrangements are legislated as a minimum of 6 weeks in term time from 1 Oct 23 to 31 January 24. Arrangements then must be determined by Council by the 28 February 24.
- 11.2 The local authority (as the admission authority for community schools) must consult the governing body of each Community School where it proposes either to increase or keep the same published admission number (PAN). Due to proposed changes for Chalkwell Hall Junior School the LA will hold a public consultation for the proposed PAN reduction for 2025/26 for this school only. The public consultation will be held on the [Your Say Southend](#) platform.
- 11.3 As no changes are proposed for the other seven community schools, there is no requirement to hold a public consultation however the governing bodies for all eight schools will be consulted.

- 11.4 Schemes for co-ordinating all admission applications to schools must be formulated and submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) by 1 January in the determination year. For the school year commencing September 2025, submission to the DfE must be submitted by 1 January 2024. Consultation on the scheme is mandatory every seven years or where substantial changes are being made. Southend-on-Sea City Council will consult admission authorities in the Borough to ensure cohesion of the coordinated admissions round. Consultation will run from 1 November to 7 December 2023.

## **12. Appendices**

- 12.1. **Appendix 1**: Proposed Admission Arrangements for community schools 2025/26  
12.2. **Appendix 2**: Proposed Coordinated Admission Scheme 2025/26  
12.3. **Appendix 3**: Summary of Proposed Scheme Changes

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# Admissions Arrangements for Community Schools

For September 2025/26 round of admissions

For office use – statutory process: The School Admissions Code 2021

Key Dates	Task
September 2023	Cabinet
1 October – 13 November 2023	Public Consultation
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	PAN consultation with Governing Bodies for community schools
January 2023	Final Determined Admission Arrangements by Cabinet (post PAN consultation)
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Publication of Composite Prospectus of Determined Arrangements
16 <sup>th</sup> March – 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Window for Objections to the School Adjudicator.
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Final arrangements for 2025 are published in the Primary booklet

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## 1. Introduction

Southend-on-Sea City Council is the admission authority for all community schools in the city. This document sets out the formal policies for all community schools in the city. The arrangements below, including the explanatory notes, are in line with government legislation and guidance (School Admissions Code and School Admissions Appeals Code) and designed to ensure there is a fair, clear and reasonable admissions procedure for all applicants, and to help guide parents through the application process.

These arrangements apply to all admissions, including in-year admissions for the admission year 2025 and are delivered under the terms of the Determined Coordinated Admission Scheme 2025.

## 2. Community Schools Published Admissions Number 2025/26

<b>Community Primary Schools</b>	<b>Proposed admission limit for 2025/26</b>
Barons Court Primary School & Nursery	35
Chalkwell Hall Infant School	90
Chalkwell Hall Junior School	90
Earls Hall Primary School	90
Fairways Primary School	60
Heycroft Primary School	60
Leigh North Street Primary School	90
West Leigh Infant School	120

## 3. Oversubscription criteria for community schools

**Criteria are set for each individual school below and apply to admissions for year 2025/26.**

**Explanatory notes, below, apply to all community school arrangements. The published admission limit for community schools is provided above.**

If at the closing date for applications, there are not enough places for all those who have expressed a wish to have their child admitted to a community school; places will be allocated using the admission criteria as below. This will not apply to children with a statement of special educational needs (SEND) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans as the plan/statement names the school and therefore the child must be admitted to the named school. The admission criteria are listed below by school with explanatory notes following:

## **Barons Court Primary School & Nursery**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils who live in the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school
3. Pupils who live in the catchment area
4. Pupils who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school
5. Pupils of staff at the school
6. Pupils who live outside the catchment area

(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

## **Chalkwell Hall Infant School**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils who live in the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school or Chalkwell Hall Junior School
3. Pupils of staff at the school
4. Pupils who live in the catchment area
5. Pupils who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school or Chalkwell Hall Junior School
6. Pupils who live outside the catchment area

(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

## **Chalkwell Hall Junior School**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils attending year 2 at Chalkwell Hall Infant School
3. Pupils who live in the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school or Chalkwell Hall Infant School
4. Pupils of staff at the school
5. Pupils who live in the catchment area
6. Pupils who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school or Chalkwell Hall Junior School
7. Pupils who live outside the catchment area

(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

## **Earls Hall Primary School**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils who live in the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school
3. Pupils of staff at the school
4. Pupils who live in the catchment area
5. Pupils who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school
6. Pupils who live outside the catchment area

(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

## **Fairways Primary School**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils who have a sibling attending the school
3. Pupils who live in the catchment area
4. Pupils of staff at the school
5. Pupils who live outside the catchment area

(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

## **Heycroft Primary School**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils who live in the catchment area and have a sibling attending the school
3. Pupils who live in the catchment area
4. Pupils who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school
5. Pupils of staff at the school
6. Pupils who live outside the catchment area

(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

## **Leigh North Street Primary School**

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils who live in the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school
3. Pupils of staff at the school
4. Pupils who live in the catchment area
5. Pupils who live outside the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school
6. Pupils who live outside the catchment area

(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

## West Leigh Infant School

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children
2. Pupils who live in the catchment area who have a sibling attending the school or West Leigh Junior School
3. Pupils of staff at the school
4. Pupils eligible for pupil premium who live in the catchment area
5. Pupils who live in the catchment area
6. Pupils who live outside that catchment area who have a sibling attending the school or attending West Leigh Junior School
7. Pupils who live outside the catchment area  
(for all criteria, catchment area map and additional information please see explanatory notes and maps below)

### 4. Explanatory notes, including maps, apply to all community schools in Southend-on-Sea

Parents must make a separate application for transfer from nursery to primary school and from infant to junior school. Parents must complete a Southend-on-Sea Common Application Form (CAF) for applications to year reception and year 3 between 14<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> January.

#### 4.1 Looked after children and children that were previously looked after

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order<sup>90</sup> including those who appear [to the admission authority] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).

Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.

Refer to section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special Guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

#### 4.2 Pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans

An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 specifying the special education, health and social care provision

required for that child. All children whose statement of special educational needs (SEND) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school must be admitted. Children with a statement or a plan will follow a different process for admission. Further information can be found on

[Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

[Local Offer](#)

### **4.3 Pupils eligible for pupil premium – Early years pupil premium (West Leigh Infant School)**

Nurseries and schools are given a pupil premium/early years pupil premium for children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years. Parents will need to tick on the application form and/or supplementary information form or notify the Local Authority in writing if they are eligible or registered for pupil premium. Any disclosure for pupil premium will be used only to rank applications against the admission criteria and will not be held for any other purpose.

Parents can check their eligibility by filling out the [LA online form](#)

Parents that are in receipt of one of the following may be eligible for pupil premium:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if they not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income under £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may get for another 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit and Universal Credit

### **4.4 Pupils of staff of the school**

Children will be ranked in this admission criteria if they are children of staff at the school under the following circumstances: -

- a. where the member of teaching staff (including, staff that are at the school in positions, such as: Senior Leadership Team/level, Head of Year Group, Head of Department, Office Manager or SENCo) that has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made,  
  
and/or
- b. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable specialist skill shortage and

- c. are the children of the member of staff, living permanently with the member of staff at the same address. The member of staff must be working at the school at the time of application and expected to continue with their employment at the school during the application and allocation process.

## **4.5 Distance**

In the case of over subscription in any one category “straight line” distance will be used to measure the distance between the pupil’s home and the nearest pupil entrance to the school. Distances will be measured using the Local Authority’s computerised measuring system. The pupils living closest will be given priority. If the pupil’s home is a flat the distance will be measured to the main external entrance to the building.

### **4.5.1 Tie-Break**

To be used to decide between two applications that cannot otherwise be separated: If the same distance is shared by more than one pupil, and only one place is available, the place will be awarded on the basis of a computerised random allocation process (supervised by someone independent of the Council / governing body). In the case where the last child offered is a twin or sibling of a multiple birth sibling both/all children will be offered and the sibling will be an ‘excepted pupil’.

## **4.6 Distance where parents have separated**

The distance is measured the same for all applications. Only one application can be received. The LA should not have the details of both parents or know of the marital status of the parents. If more than one application is received from parents, applications will be placed on hold until such time that:

- an application is made that both parents agree to; or
- written agreement is provided from both parents; or
- a court order is obtained confirming which parent's application takes precedence’.

Details on address checks and which address is relevant are also provided in the admission booklet. In all cases the child’s normal place of residence is applicable for the purposes of the application.

## **4.7 Infant to partner Junior admissions**

Parents must apply in the main round to transfer from an infant school to the junior school. Parents must use the Council common application form (CAF) and submit the application between 14th September to 15th January. The Council offers a full coordinated process for admission to year 3.

## **4.8 Siblings**

Siblings are considered to be a brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, step-brother or step-sister, adopted brother or sister, living at the same address, who attends the school at the time of application with a reasonable expectation that he or she will still be attending at the time of the proposed admission.



In the exceptional situation where one twin or one or two triplets are refused a place, in order to keep family members together and in line with the School Admissions Code 2014, the additional pupil(s) will be admitted even if this results in the admission limit for the year group being exceeded.

#### **4.9 Waiting lists**

Children's names will automatically be on the waiting list for schools that are higher on the rank list and for which they do not receive an offer (for years Reception and year 3).

Parents can appeal against the refusal for schools for which they did not receive an offer. Appeals must be lodged within 20 school days of the date of the letter. Parents can access the information on appeals and submit an appeal online on the council's web site [www.southend.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.southend.gov.uk/admissions) or email [admissions@southend.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@southend.gov.uk) to request an appeal application form. All appeals are considered by an Independent Appeals Panel.

Waiting lists for all year groups for community schools are closed at the end of each school year.

#### **4.10 Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school.**

The Council provides for the admission of all children in the September following the child's fourth birthday. Most children start school on a full time basis, however parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age (age 5) and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made (for reception this will be start of summer term/April);

Parents wishing their child to attend part time, or to delay starting must discuss their decision with the headteacher of their allocated school. The approved deferment means that the place is held open and is not offered to another child and the parents must take up the place full time by the start of the Summer Term in April. Part-time agreements should include core teaching sessions.

In the case of children born prematurely or the late summer months parents may request admission outside the normal age group so that their child starts school the September after their 5th birthday. Such requests for Schools in Southend-on-Sea are directly to the school and the school advises the parent of their decision. In most cases school will notify the Council and the Council will inform the parent in writing. Parents must notify the LA and provide any letters relating to this matter, especially for agreements outside the Council's area.

Parents submitting a request for admission outside the normal age group must also complete the Single application Form during the main admission round, 14th September – 15th January for the 'usual age group for their child'.

#### **4.11 In-year admissions**

As permitted by law parents can make an application at any time to any school outside the normal admissions. Where places are available applicants will be offered. Where there are no places applicants will be refused and can join the waiting list for the school. Waiting lists are ranked according to the

admission criteria for the school. In some cases where a child is already on a school roll locally the place may be offered for the start of the next term.

To apply for reception after the normal admission cycle or for admission into Years 1-6, parents will need to complete an In-Year application form which is available from the Council's offices and the website, [www.southend.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.southend.gov.uk/admissions) and [admissions@southend.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@southend.gov.uk)

Applications in the current school year are processed within a maximum of 15 school days, applications for the next school year are processed as received from 1 July, however most decisions are released on return of schools in September.

Pupils that are refused a place and added to the waiting list and remain on the waiting list until 31 Aug of any given year. Waiting lists close on 31 Aug of any given year and new waiting lists are created for the next academic year (from the applications for the next school year). Waiting lists from previous years are not rolled over to the next. Parents wishing to continue on a waiting list for a following year are required to make a fresh application.

As required by the School Admissions Code parents will be notified within 15 school days of the outcome of their application and will be sent a written outcome, with a reminder of the right of appeal. Applications are shared with the allocated school and with a school that is a preference and is its own admission authority. Full details on how information is processed is published on the [Councils website](#).

#### **4.12 Right of Appeal**

**Main round appeals (reception and year 3):** Parents can appeal against the refusal for schools for which they did not receive an offer. Appeals must be lodged within 20 school days of the date of the letter. Appeals must be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Parents can access the information on appeals and submit an appeal online on the council's web site [www.southend.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.southend.gov.uk/admissions) or email [admissions@southend.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@southend.gov.uk) to request an appeal application form. All appeals are considered by an Independent Appeals Panel.

**Main round appeals (in-year R-6):** Parents can appeal against the refusal for schools for which they did not receive an offer. Appeals must be lodged within 20 school days of the date of the letter. For applications for in-year admissions, appeals must be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged. Parents can access the information on appeals and submit an appeal online on the council's web site [www.southend.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.southend.gov.uk/admissions) or email [admissions@southend.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@southend.gov.uk) to request an appeal application form. All appeals are considered by an Independent Appeals Panel.

#### **4.13 Home Address**

For all applications, the address used will be the child's habitual normal place of residence as at the closing date for applications, i.e., 15th January (reception and year 3). Changes to address can be accommodated up to a month after the closing date. Where the address change cannot be accommodated within the reasonable period, parents will be advised, and changes will be updated after all on time applications have been processed.

#### **4.14 Catchment area**

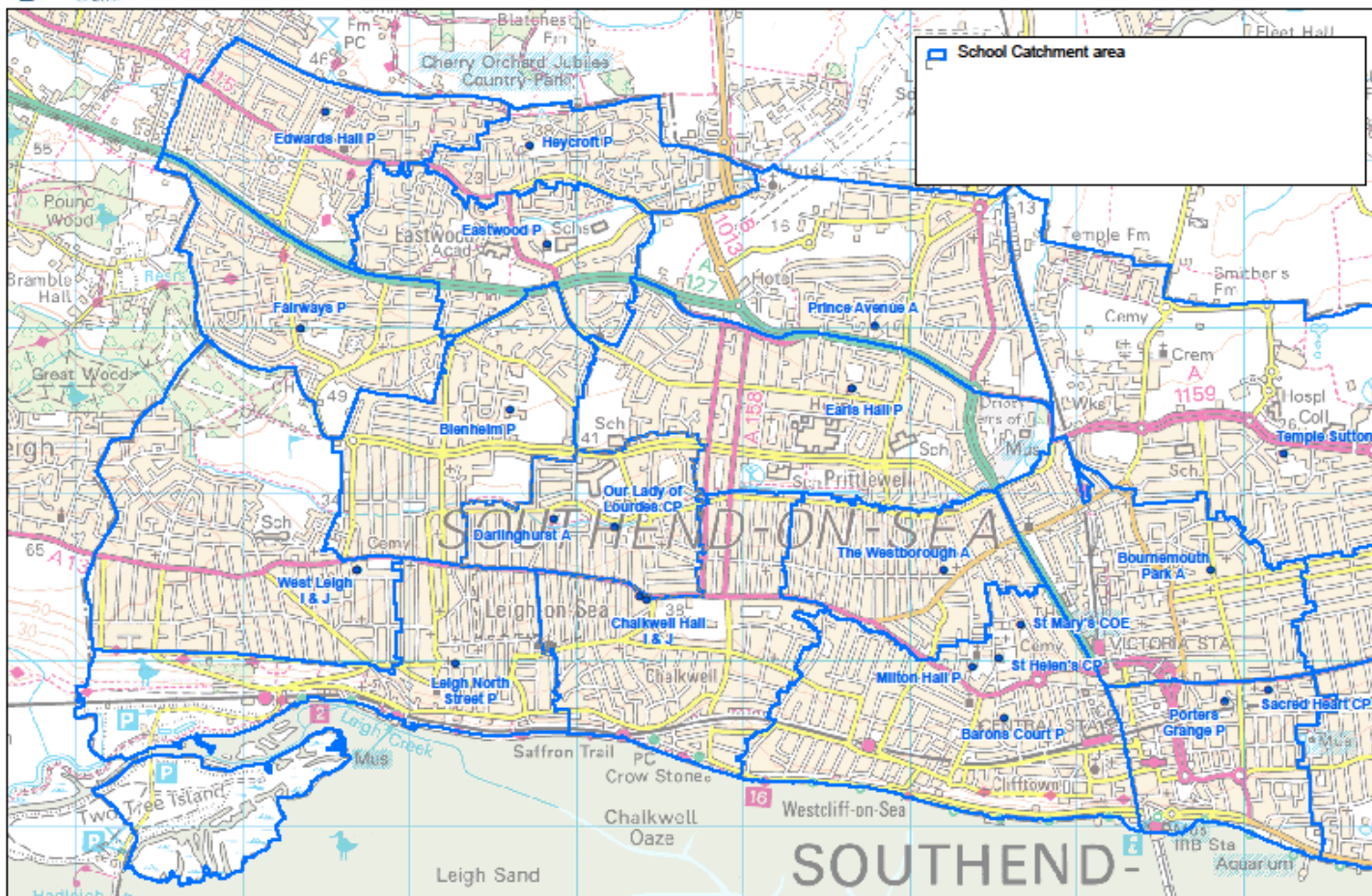
The catchment area is provided in the [catchment map](#) look up facility and also copied below.

**The relevant Coordinated Admissions Scheme and Primary Admission booklets should be read in conjunction to the Determined Admission Arrangements for all schools in the City of Southend-on-Sea. The Primary Admission booklet contains further details, provides more information and is written to support parents through the rounds.**

# 5. Catchment Map



Infant, Junior and Primary School catchment areas – Southend-on-Sea



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## Southend-on-Sea City Council

### Determined Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2025/26

Publication Due: 1 January 2024

Approval Route	Key Dates
Cabinet:	September 2023
Consultation with schools:	2 November – 1 December 2023
Approved by Executive Directors delegated authority:	12 December 2023
Published: Council Web site	December 2023 (before 1 Jan 2024)

*1Table \_Office Use table with key dates for the process*

## Introduction

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires a single arrangement for co-ordinating all applications to state schools from parents in their area. In the City of Southend-on-Sea, the scheme applies to admissions into reception, year 3 and year 7. This document must be published by 1 January of each year.

### 1. Aims and scope of the scheme

- 1.1 To assist the offer of one school place to each pupil.
- 1.2 To simplify the admission process for parents.
- 1.3 To co-ordinate with other local authorities and admission authorities.

### 2. Key Aspects of the Scheme

- 2.1 The Council processes applications for all mainstream schools in the area.
- 2.2 The Council will send offers of places to Southend residents even if the school is in another local authority.
- 2.3 Only the Council will know the ranking of the parental preferences. Parental preferences may be shared with Admission Authorities for the purposes of admission appeals. This will be after offer day.
- 2.4 The Council will provide each school with a breakdown of preferences for their own school as on offer day.
- 2.5 In all cases admission authority schools are responsible for applying the admission criteria. Schools are responsible for appeals unless they agree with the Council otherwise.
- 2.6 Admission authorities must confirm by 1 October of each year if they wish for the Council to run appeals.

### 3. Collation and publication of Open Day/Evening events

- 3.1 Secondary Schools and the Council will work together with the aim of ensuring parents can visit all secondary schools in the City.
- 3.2 The Council will coordinate and publish the open days for secondary schools in the area.
- 3.3 Secondary Schools to advise the Council of open days when the school calendar for the next school year is set. The Council will email all secondary schools to share dates provided, between January and April with the aim of working together to avoid clashes.
- 3.4 The Council will publish final dates and details on the secondary information flyer sent to all year 5 pupils by the middle of June. This will coincide with the publication of the Secondary Booklet in Early July.

### 4. General details of the scheme

- 4.1 Run process for main round Primary and secondary admissions up to the end of coordination (last week in August).
- 4.2 Parents will complete a Common Application Form on which they will be able to put forward 3 primary schools in order of priority; or 5 secondary schools in order of priority
- 4.3 Parents will be advised to apply online for a school place via Southend Council but will be able to complete a paper form if they wish.
- 4.4 All application forms must be sent to the Council.
- 4.5 Lists of pupils that have not applied will be made available, where possible. School or early years providers that do not share data with the Council will need to provide the admissions team with a list of pupils. The team can then check on who has not yet applied.
- 4.6 Parents can add schools that are in another local authority area on their application form. The offer of a place at a school in another local authority will be made by the Council. Similarly, other local authorities will offer places to their residents on behalf of Southend schools.
- 4.7 The Council considers all preferences against the admissions criteria for each school.
- 4.8 Completed Supplementary Information Forms must be sent back to the school. These forms are not application forms and parents must also complete the common application form.

- 4.9 The Primary and Secondary Booklets are available electronically and can be provided in print on request from parents. Communication for parents are provided to primary schools, for both year 5/6 and early years, for electronic mail out (this includes wider distribution such as independent schools).
- 4.10 There is a national closing date for application forms. The deadline for receipt of any Supplementary Information Forms is set by individual schools and the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex. Supplementary Information Forms submitted after the closing date may not be used until after national offer day.
- 4.11 Parents must ensure these additional forms are provided in good time to the school or the consortium.
- 4.12 Initial lists will be shared with schools for communication on children that have not yet applied and for faith schools to match against SIF forms.
- 4.13 Submitted online applications will be imported to the admissions database. The Council will input into the admissions database all information shown on any paper application forms, including any reasons for the application, and will provide details to the preference schools.
- 4.14 The Council will share files with other local authorities as required.
- 4.15 The Council pre-ranks all school application lists where possible. Schools and the Consortium, are responsible to rank/check ranking in order of the respective criteria, for all pupils who have applied to their school. Ranked lists must be returned to the Council by the agreed date – or must be completed on the receivers portal by the agreed date. Applications that do not have a Supplementary Information Form must still be ranked. The council will ensure that only the highest qualifying ranking, against admission criteria, is recorded.
- 4.16 Pupils with plans will be accommodated if the named school is in the final Education, Health and Care Plan by 2 February for Secondary and 4 March for Primary (or next working day) of any given year.
- 4.17 Certain (as provided in section 2.16 for 'excepted pupil'), pupils may need to be admitted over number and the Council will manage the school back to the admission limit until the last week of August.
- 4.18 Ranked lists for own admission authority schools remain the responsibility of the admission authority.
- 4.19 The scheme works with the order in which parents select preferences. The order of preferences should reflect the order parents wish to be offered a place. If for example parents are unsuccessful in gaining a place for the first preference school, they are not disadvantaged in obtaining their second preference or their third preference etc. The process will continue until all preferences are used.
- 4.20 It is a parental responsibility to inform the Council of a sibling at the school and any change of circumstance during the round, such as change of address (1 Sept to 22 Aug)
- 4.21 The Council will provide any other local authorities with details of any pupil's resident in their area who can be offered places at schools in the City (and vice versa).
- 4.22 Where possible the Council will share allocation lists to schools and the Consortium as appropriate before offer day. This will be dependent on the process being complete before offer day. Schools will be notified if it is not possible to send the lists to them. When lists can be sent, schools will be reminded of section 2.10 of The School Admissions Code 2021. Schools must not contact parents about the outcome of the applications until after these offers have been received by parents.
- 4.23 The Council will send an offer of a single place to pupils applying for a school place on the offer day.
- 4.24 Parents who completed an online application will be advised of the outcome of their application by email on offer day, unless they indicate on the application form that they would prefer a response by letter.
- 4.25 Parents who completed a paper application form will be advised of the outcome of their application by email on offer day. Where no email address is provided letters will be posted using 2<sup>nd</sup> class envelopes.
- 4.26 Offers are automatically recorded as 'accepted'. Parents will need to respond to any subsequent offers made post offer day within 10 working days.
- 4.27 Refusals must be received in writing from the applicant to the Council, refusals sent to the schools cannot be actioned by the Council until confirmation is received by the parent or the home LA if an out of area pupil.
- 4.28 The Council will not log a refusal, for statutory age pupils, unless the parents can provide details of the educational arrangements, they are putting in place for their child.

- 4.29 Schools must refer children that do not arrive on the year 6 transition day to the Council for recording, tracing and follow up with the parent.
- 4.30 Schools must refer children that do not take up places, and that have not responded to further tracing, in early September as 'children missing education' and follow the CME protocol.
- 4.31 Where children aged under 5 do not take up a reception place the primary/infant school must report this to the Council. The Council follow the 'under 5s missing education' process.
- 4.32 The Council will not accept the refusal of places without information. The Council will refer pupils as appropriate, to the elective home education team where parents have confirmed they will be electively home educating. This will only be where the parent has confirmed this in writing.
- 4.33 Where no offer is possible the Council will offer a place at a school in the City nearest to the home address with vacancies at that time. Such offers will not be made to selective or faith schools (unless arranged with the school/s).
- 4.34 Offer letters for the main round to years R, 3 and 7 will remind parents not to call schools on offer day and to call the Council.
- 4.35 Only the Council will inform parents of offers and waiting list positions to parents until the last week in August. As lists are updated schools might not have accurate information.
- 4.36 Schools that send welcome letters/packs will only do so two weeks after offer day to provide parents with the opportunity to consider the offer and allow for any post offer day activity at the Council.
- 4.37 Any places will be reallocated if parents advise the Council that they no longer require a place. The Council will ensure the child is tracked and monitor parents that choose to home educate.
- 4.38 The Council will send allocation lists, waiting lists and withdrawn lists on the prescribed timetable and not on demand.
- 4.39 The Council publishes the School Admissions Privacy notices on Appeals, proof of address and the overall notice on [Admission Policies and Reports – Southend-on-Sea City Council](#)
- 4.40 The Council shares personal information with teams within the Council working to improve outcomes for children and young people (eg. Inclusion, Attendance, CME, Virtual school etc) the full list is provided on [Microsoft Word - School Admissions.docx \(southend.gov.uk\)](#)
- 4.41 [The Council will make use of the most current available software to ensure the process between schools and the Council is effective and efficient.](#)

## 5. Summer Born Children

- 5.1 In the case of children born prematurely or late summer months parents may ask for admission to reception a year later. The child would be aged five.
- 5.2 The decision to admit outside of a child's normal age group is made based on the circumstances of each case however, unless born early summer months and a significant reason not to support the parent request, requests are supported. Parents must submit requests directly to schools and schools can make a decision or can hand over the response to the Council. Schools will inform the Council if they wish for the Council to send the outcome to the parent.
- 5.3 Parents submitting a request for admission outside the normal age group must also complete the Common Application Form. Parents can decide which admission year they wish to apply for once they have an outcome from schools. Admission cannot be delayed further than the term after the child turns five. Parents that apply a year later will need to use a paper application form.

## 6. Co-ordination of pupil admissions to Year 3 of Southend junior schools 2025/26

- 6.1 Applications will not be necessary for children moving from Year 2 to Year 3 in their existing primary school. However, parents of children in Year 2 of an infant school must apply for transfer to Year 3.
- 6.2 The closing date for completing a common application form for a Year 3 place is 15 January 2025
- 6.3 The Council will write to year 2 parents, that are attending infant schools, via the parent mail systems from the respective infant schools, advising of coordination round and need to apply to transfer to year 3 at the 'partner' junior school. The Council will also provide a simple flyer for all primary schools to mail out electronically.
- 6.4 The Council will work with infant schools in the area to assist the transfer of pupils to the Junior school.
- 6.5 The Council will provide an initial list of application received via common applications forms to junior schools by 26 January 2025



- 6.6 The Council will provide a list of all applications received via common application forms to junior schools by 9 February 2025
- 6.7 Schools must rank applications according to their admission criteria and return the ranked list to the Council on the agreed date - 26 February 2025.
- 6.8 Ranking must only be based on the highest qualifying admission criterion, and not all criteria as this skews the ranking. The Council will undertake all year 2 infant to junior ranking.
- 6.9 For all applications received by the closing date, from parents of Year 2 children (including children attending year 2 in an infant school), the Council will inform parents of the outcome of that application on National offer day.
- 6.10 There is full co-ordination for admission to year 3 as a normal admission round for junior schools. This is because we have infant and junior schools in the City and additional places at West Leigh Junior School and Bournes Green Junior School.
- 6.11 Applications submitted for children that are in the primary school that wish to remain in the same school will be withdrawn and parents will be advised that no application is required.

## 7. Co-ordinated arrangements between the offer date and start of autumn term.

- 7.1 The council will continue to coordinate admissions until the last week in August of each year.
- 7.2 Late and new preferences/applications will be slotted into the waiting lists by the Council in line with school admission arrangements. This will include using new address details where relevant and re-ranking applications to appropriate positions.
- 7.3 Where parents have refused the offer of the place then the vacant place will be offered in strict order of the waiting list until the place is accepted. This does not apply to Eastwood Academy, who advise on place to be offered due to their admission arrangements.
- 7.4 The offer of school places as they become available will continue to be made by the Council.
- 7.5 Once the final list is sent to schools on 22 August the coordination procedures for reception year, year 3 and year 7 will close. The Council will continue to administer waiting lists and in-year admissions for all Community and identified Own Admission Authority schools as agreed. Admission Authorities wishing to manage their own waiting lists will do so from 22 August onwards. Waiting lists must be held at least until the end of the first term (December).

## 8. Year 7 - Under and over age applicants

- 8.1 Parents must direct their request for under or over age matters directly to the school.
- 8.2 Any decisions made must be well documented and meet the requirements of the School Admission Code in that they are in the 'best interest of the child'.
- 8.3 Once a child, has started the year and completed at least one term as an out of normal age group, they cannot apply for a second opportunity to year 7. Admission mid-year to move from year 7 back to year 6 is not usually in the best interest of a child.
- 8.4 Schools must keep a record of the decision to admit out of normal age group and be able to provide reasons for decision to the Council.

## 9. Applications from children whose parents are living abroad

- 9.1 Parents who are living abroad and who wish their child to apply for a Southend school have no home authority. They can apply through what is a proxy home authority (i.e., the Council area in which they intend to buy a house or settle the child with relatives). However, although they may apply in this way, no place will be offered, using the new address, until they can provide clear evidence of residency.

## 10. New applications, late applications, changes of preferences and additional applications

- 10.1 New applications: Applications from parents moving into the area, who in the view of the Council could not have made an application by the closing date, will be slotted into the system when received. These applications might only be processed after all on time offers are made. These will be regarded as new applications and will only apply for parents that could not have applied on time

such as moving into the country. Exceptional circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the Council.

- 10.2 Change of address: Addresses for schools in Southend-on-Sea are as per the child's normal place of residence on or before the last Friday in November, for Secondary Admissions. And for Infant, Junior and Primary Admissions as at 15 February (both rounds up to a month after the closing date). Any change of addresses that could not have reasonably been made by these dates would be at the discretion of the Council. Any addresses after these dates are updated after offer day for the transfer group (i.e., 1 March or 17 April) and the applications re-ranked accordingly. Parents that could not have applied by the deadlines for the main rounds will be considered under the terms of this scheme.
- 10.3 Late applications: Applications received after the closing date, will be regarded as late. They will not be considered until all "on time" applications have been considered. The Council will be the final arbiter, under the coordinated scheme, as to whether an application is late or not.
- 10.4 Changes in preference  
Changes in the order of preferences already expressed will not be accepted after the closing dates unless, the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional and the changes can be accommodated. Change of preference for schools under another local authority will be consulted on with the appropriate local authority.
- 10.5 Additional preferences: any additional preferences received after the closing dates will be considered after the offer date.
- 10.6 Checks will be made with other departments in the Council and, where it is suspected that the family live outside Southend, contact will be made with the relevant Council. Where there is reasonable doubt as to the validity of a home address, the Council reserves the right to take additional checking.
- 10.7 Changes of address between offer day and the last week of August will be checked by the Council. Parents will need to provide proof of the home address in the form of; a house purchase; exchange of contracts, or a long-term letting agreement. Informal tenancy agreement will not be accepted. In all situations, the Council must be satisfied that it is the child's normal/habitual place of residence.
- 10.8 Places can be withdrawn up to the end of December / or first term in the situation where an offer is made in error, or the application has been found to be fraudulent. Admission Authorities must inform the Council of any places withdrawn for the coordinated round up to December of each year and vice versa.
- 10.9 Schools must inform the Council of address, sibling, or any other differences in ranking lists.
- 10.10 Applications made online, via the parent portal that are unsubmitted will not be processed.

## 11. Supplementary Information Forms

- 11.1 In order that they may seek further information to apply their admission criteria, the following schools require parents to complete a Supplementary Information form.

Primary School	Details
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary	For all applications
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary	For all applications
St George's Catholic Primary	For all applications
St Helen's Catholic Primary	For all applications
St Mary's, Prittlewell, C of E Primary	For all applications

*Table 2 Primary Schools and Supplementary forms*

Secondary School	Details
St Bernard's High School	For all applications
St Thomas More High School	For all applications
Shoeburyness High School	For year 7 applications for selective places
Southend High School for Boys	For all applications for selective places
Southend High School for Girls	For all applications for selective places

Secondary School	Details
The Eastwood School	For year 7 applications for Sport / Performing Arts places
Westcliff High School for Boys	For all applications for selective places
Westcliff High School for Girls	For all applications for selective places

*Table 3 Secondary Schools and Supplementary forms*

11.2 The registration process with the CSSE is in effect a SIF, as additional information is provided.

11.3 It is the responsibility of the grammar schools to ensure that the CSSE verify eligibility for preferential consideration.

## 12. Waiting lists

- 12.1 On offer day the Council will have a waiting list for each Southend school. In most cases the Council will be able to rank pupils that apply late, for example using distance. Depending on the admission criteria a new application would be added into the waiting list.
- 12.2 The Council will maintain the waiting list as ranked by schools. Where any new pupil, such as a late application, is added to the waiting list the Council should be advised within 10 working days of where such pupils fit in relation to other pupils on the waiting list.
- 12.3 Where a vacancy does arise the place will be offered by the Council to the pupil at top of the waiting list.
- 12.4 A parent of a child at the top of the waiting list offered a place must confirm, within 10 working days, whether they wish to accept the place. During the 10 days the child would hold two offers.
- 12.5 The Council will keep waiting lists for all community schools and schools who we manage in year admissions for in the City for the full school year. Waiting lists will be maintained strictly in accordance with the admission criteria of the school concerned.
- 12.6 The Council will remove pupils from the waiting list who are offered and accept a place at a school that is a higher preference.
- 12.7 The Council will rank pupils with address changes, late and new applications after all on time offers are made or on the waiting list as appropriate.
- 12.8 All admission authorities must specify, in their arrangements, the period a child remains on a waiting list for each school year.

## 13. Appeals

- 13.1 When a local authority or an admission authority informs a parent of a decision to refuse their child a place at a school for which they have applied, it must include the reason why admission was refused; information about the right to appeal; the deadline for lodging an appeal and the contact details for making an appeal. Parents must be informed that, if they wish to appeal, they should set out their grounds for appeal in writing. Admission authorities must not limit the grounds on which an appeal can be made.
- 13.2 Own admission authorities must inform the Council no later than 1 October before a main round if it requires the Council to present their appeals. The Council might not be able to support schools with appeals without prior agreement. The Council does not present appeals for in year processes where it is not the administrator.
- 13.3 Schools will send lists of submitted appeals to the Council. The Council will record the appeal against the admission record and provide the school with all relevant documentation.
- 13.4 School must inform the Council within 5 school days of the outcome of any appeal.
- 13.5 Having received notification from the school, parents will have 10 school days to confirm in writing to the Council which place they wish to accept following the outcome of any appeals. Once a place is released, that place will be reallocated.
- 13.6 Admission authorities must comply with the School Admissions Appeals Code 2022 and must record all appeals and provide the data to the Council after all appeals are heard.

## 14. Atypical Admissions

- 14.1 The Council will execute instruction from the Department for Education in relation to admission related matters including but not limited to;
- 14.2 By 30 September of each year the Council will write to all year 9 pupils to advise of alternative education opportunities that are available for year 10 pupils within a reasonable distance;
- 2
- 14.3 All schools have a statutory duty to secure impartial careers guidance for all Year 8 to Year 13 students to inspire their young people to fulfil their potential and to make them aware of all opportunities open to them. We strongly recommend that your child discuss their options with a Careers Adviser in their current school or college. The careers advisor will also be able to advise of UTCs further away that might offer different specialities.

## 15. In Year

- 15.1 Own Admission Authorities must inform the Council by 1 August at the latest of each year whether they intend to be part of the Council's in-year co-ordination scheme for the following 1 September to 31 August or whether they will be managing their own in-year admissions.
- 15.2 The Council will publish information on its website by 31 August to explain how in-year applications will be made and how they will be dealt with from 1 September onwards.
- 15.3 The Council will provide a suitable application form for parents to complete when applying for a school place for their child for a school for which it coordinates in year admissions. Where the Council receives an in-year application for a school which manages its own in year admissions, it must promptly forward the application to the relevant admission authority, which must process it in accordance with its own in-year admission arrangements.
- 15.4 Own Admission authorities must follow the requirements of the Code.
- 15.5 All schools must provide the Council with available places/vacancies via the weekly email request.
- 15.6 The Council and Own Admission Authorities should inform a parent of the outcome of an application within 10 school days, and must respond in writing no later than 15 school days.
- 15.7 Own admission authorities must inform the Council of all in-year applications and their outcome within 2 days of receipt of the application.
- 15.8 Own Admission Authorities must follow Children Missing Education protocol where appropriate.
- 15.9 Where the Council processes in year admissions, it will send a copy of the application to the proposed allocated school and the school will have 24 hours to raise any concerns. The offer will be sent to the applicant, post the 24 hours, if no contact from the school has been made.

## 16. Annual Review of the Scheme

- 16.1 Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website a scheme by 1 January in the relevant determination year to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area.
- 16.2 Local Authorities must consult admission authorities for schools affected by the scheme and other Local Authorities every 7 years as a minimum.
- 16.3 A local authority must inform the Secretary of State whether they have agreed a scheme by 15 April. If this is not achieved the Secretary of State may impose a scheme.

## 17. List of schools

The list of schools that are included in this agreement

Secondary Schools

School Name	Number
Belfairs Academy	5434
Cecil Jones Academy	4004
Chase High School	4000
Shoeburyness High School	4034
Southchurch High School	4002
Southend High School for Boys	5446
Southend High School for Girls	5428
St Bernard's High School	5465
St Thomas More High School	5447
The Eastwood Academy	5414
Westcliff High School for Boys	5401
Westcliff High School for Girls	5423

Table 4 Secondary School

#### Primary Schools

School Name	Number
Barons Court Primary School & Nursery	2124
Blenheim Primary School	2387
Bournemouth Park Academy	3822
Bournes Green Infant School	2128
Bournes Green Junior School	2123
Chalkwell Hall Infant School	2023
Chalkwell Hall Junior School	2019
Darlinghurst Academy	2127
Earls Hall Primary School	2023
Eastwood Primary School	3825
Edwards Hall Primary School	3826
Fairways Primary School	2407
Friars Primary School & Nursery	3824
Greenways Primary School	2104
Hamstel Infant School	2093
Hamstel Junior School (partner school)	2092
Heycroft Primary School	2126
Hinguar Community Primary School	2094
Leigh North Street Primary School	2096
Milton Hall Primary School and Nursery	5273
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	2002
Porters Grange Primary School & Nursery	2001
Prince Avenue Academy	2000
Richmond Avenue Primary School	3823
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery	3326
St George's Catholic Primary School	3329
St Helen's Catholic Primary School	3327
St Mary's Prittlewell Church of England Primary School	3325
Temple Sutton Primary School	2132

School Name	Number
Thorpedene Primary School	5225
WestCity Academy	2004
West Leigh Infant School	2109
West Leigh Junior School (partner school)	2108

*Table 5 Primary Schools*

## 17.Key dates – Infant, Primary and Junior admissions September 2025

Date (or next working day)	Actions
1st January 2024	Date for formulation of scheme
September- October 2024	Publish Admissions Information Advertisements, fliers, and letters to registered parents of early years children
14 September 2024	Admission round opens for applications
Early October 2024	Distribution of year 3 “letter/fliers” to year 2 pupils
Mid December 2024	Preliminary lists to faith schools for Supplementary Information Form follow up
14 September – 22 January	The Council admissions team verifying applications, which continues right up to end of coordination, for late applications.
15 January 2025	Closing date for admission applications (address changes up to a month will be accommodated)
22 January 2025	Follow up list to faith schools for Supplementary Information Form follow up
31 January 2025	Initial list of preferences sent to admissions authorities and other local authorities for ranking. Initial list is a pre-ranked list.
9 February 2025	Final list of preferences sent to admissions authorities
26 February 2025	Closing date for schools to return ranked preferences
4 March 2025	SEN pupils will be accommodated if the named school is identified in the finalised Education, Health and Care Plan. Post this date pupils will be admitted over the PAN but managed back to PAN until coordination ceases
12 April 2025	Where possible, final offer lists and offer data will be sent to schools under embargo (only if receivers portal not working – we will allow live access to schools)
16 April 2025	National Offer Day
16 May 2025	Closing date for appeal forms (reference to the code 2.3 of School Admissions Appeals Code 2012 – must be submitted at least 20 days for one time appeals after offer day – date is in outcome letter to applicants) Date supports appeals being heard by deadline.
18 July 2025	All on-time appeals completed (2.3a) School Admission appeals Code 2022 (40 school days from 16 May)
22 August 2025	The administration of waiting lists for years R and 3 and all in-year admissions handed over to academy, voluntary aided, and foundation schools for schools that run their own in year admissions. Transfer rounds moved to in year process for Council (notional as receivers portal will have live data - only if receivers portal not working) Coordination to reception ceases and in year process comes in

Table 6 Key Dates - Infant, Primary and Junior Admissions September 2025

## 18. Key dates – Secondary admissions September 2025

Date(or next working day)	Action
First week in July 2024	Publication of Secondary Admissions Information (booklet) Admissions information distribution to year 5 pupils. Open evenings at schools that admit pupils because of testing / auditions
1 July – 7 September 2024	Registration for testing / audition (CSSE/Eastwood) confirmed by CSSE and Eastwood in publications
1 September 2024	Opening of on-line admissions facility for transfer to secondary school
First two weeks in September 2024	Distribution of reminder flier /booklet to year 6 pupils
XX September 2024*	11+ test (to be confirmed by the Consortium – dates will be available in the Admissions booklets)
XX September 2024*	Alternative test date (for religious, illness or exceptional circumstances) 11+ test (to be confirmed by the Consortium – dates will be available in the Admissions booklets)
9 October 2024	List of pupils not applied will be made available to current primary/junior schools where possible, or primary/junior lists from school to be matched with applications, to identify any barriers preventing on-time applications being submitted.
XX October 2024*	Testing results to be sent to parents by Consortium / schools (to be confirmed by the Consortium – dates will be available in the Admissions booklets)
w/c 16 October 2024	Follow up list of pupils not applied will be made available to current primary/junior schools to identify any barriers preventing on-time applications being submitted.
w/c 16 October 2024	Preliminary list to be sent to faith schools for Supplementary Information Form follow up
31 October 2024	Closing date for admission applications (address changes up to a month will be accommodated – 30 Nov 2023)
w/c 6 November 2024	Follow up list to be sent to faith schools for Supplementary Information Form follow up.
w/c 20 November 2024	List of preferences to be sent to schools and other authorities for ranking.
w/c 8 January 2025	Closing date for schools to return ranked preferences
2 February 2025	SEN pupils will be accommodated if the named schools are identified in the finalised EHSP by 9 February
w/c 23 February 2025	Where possible, final offer lists and offer data will be sent to schools and Consortium under embargo (only if receivers portal not working – otherwise information will be made available on the receivers portal)
3 March 2025	National Offer day
4 March 2025	Year 6 destination lists sent to primary/junior schools under embargo (only if receivers portal not working – otherwise information will be made available on the receivers portal)
After 15 March 2025	Secondary schools that wish to send welcome letter/packs
1-25 March 2025	Updated information, new offers, withdrawals etc sent to secondary school's post offer responses via email communication (only if receivers portal not working)
w/c 25 March 2025	Updated lists to secondary schools (only if receivers portal not working)
1 April 2025	Closing date for appeal forms (reference to the code 2.3 of School Admissions Appeals Code 2012 – must be submitted a min of 20 days for one time appeals after offer day – date is in outcome letter to



Date(or next working day)	Action
	applicants – need this date to ensure all appeals completed before primary appeal round)
w/c 20 May 2025	Updated lists sent to secondary schools and primary/junior schools for year 6 transfer (only if receivers portal not working)
17 June 2025 (pending school closure days)	All on-time appeals completed – refer to School Admissions Appeals Code 2012 (reference to the code 2.3 of School Admissions Appeals Code 2012 – must be heard within 40 days for one time appeals after 1 April)
w/c 30 June 2025	Updated lists sent to secondary schools and primary/junior schools for year 6 transition day. Schools must report children that do not attend transition day to SCC. (only if receivers portal not working)
27 August 2025	The administration of waiting lists handed over to academy, voluntary aided, and foundation, free schools (notional as receivers portal will have live data - only if receivers portal not working)

*Key Dates - Secondary Admissions Sept 2025*

**Southend-on-Sea City Council | Education and Early Years | Access & Inclusion Team**  
 Queries to or copies can be requested from: Chrissy Papas, School Place Planning & Admission Compliance Manager, SCC, [chrissypapas@southend.gov.uk](mailto:chrissypapas@southend.gov.uk)

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Summary of proposed changes to the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme 2024/25

**Cabinet** September 2022 (Due in July for sign off)

The following provides an updated summary of proposed changes from the Coordinated Admission Scheme 2023/24, proposed for 2024/25

Item on scheme	Proposed addition or change
3.	<p>New section for clarity</p> <p><b>3. Collation and publication of Open Day/Evening events</b></p> <p>3.1 Secondary Schools and the Council will work together with the aim of ensuring parents can visit all secondary schools in the City.</p> <p>3.2 The Council will coordinate and publish the open days for secondary schools in the area.</p> <p>3.3 Secondary Schools to advise the Council of open days when the school calendar for the next school year is set. The Council will email all secondary schools to share dates provided, between January and April with the aim of working together to avoid clashes.</p> <p>3.4 The Council will publish final dates and details on the secondary information flyer sent to all year 5 pupils by the middle of June. This will coincide with the publication of the Secondary Booklet in Early July.</p>
4.1	Clarity: Run process for main round Primary and secondary admissions up to the end of coordination (last week in August).
4.5	Clarity: Lists of pupils that have not applied will be made available, where possible. School or early years providers that do not share data with the Council will need to provide the admissions team with a list of pupils. The team can then check on who has not yet applied.
4.12	Clarity and actual practice: Initial lists will be shared with schools for communication on children that have not yet applied and for faith schools to match against SIF forms.
4.9	Clarity: The Primary and Secondary Booklets are available electronically and can be provided in print on request from parents. Letters to parents are provided to primary schools for mail out (including independent schools)
4.13	Clarity: Submitted On-line applications will be imported to the admissions database. The Council will input into the admissions database all information shown on any paper application forms, including any reasons for the application, and will provide details to all schools.
3.26	Update: Offers are automatically recorded as 'accepted'. Parents will need to respond to any subsequent offers made post offer day
4.28	Clarity: The Council will not log a refusal, for statutory age pupils, unless the parents can provide details of the educational arrangements, they are putting in place for their child.
4.29	New: Schools must refer children that do not arrive on the year 6 transition day to the Council for recording, tracing and follow up with the parent.
4.30	Clarity: Schools must refer children that do not take up places, and that have not responded to further tracing, in early September as 'children missing education' and follow the CME protocol.

4.31	New: Where children aged under 5 do not take up a reception place the primary/infant school must report this to the Council. The Council follow the 'under 5s missing education' process.
4.36	Change period from 4 weeks to 2 weeks to support activity run by schools post offer day  Schools that send welcome letters/packs will only do so two weeks after offer day to provide parents with the opportunity to consider offer and allow for any post offer day activity at the Council.
4.39	New: The Council publishes the School Admissions Privacy notices on Appeals, proof of address and the overall notice on <u>Admission Policies and Reports – Southend-on-Sea City Council</u>
4.40	New: The Council shares personal information with teams within the Council working to improve outcomes for children and young people (eg. Inclusion, Attendance, CME, Virtual school etc) the full list is provided on <u>Microsoft Word - School Admissions.docx (southend.gov.uk)</u>
5.2	Partially new: The decision to admit outside of a child's normal age group is made based on the circumstances of each case. Parents must submit requests directly to schools and schools must decide. Schools will inform the Council if they wish for the Council to send the outcome to the parent.
12.5	Clarity: The Council will keep waiting lists for all community schools and schools who we manage in year admissions for in the Borough for the full school year. Waiting lists will be maintained strictly in accordance with the admission criteria of the school concerned.

END

**Meeting:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 18 September 2023  
**Classification:** Part 1  
**Key Decision:** Yes / No  
**Title of Report:** Domestic Abuse Strategy Update

**Executive Director:** Mark Harvey  
**Report Author:** Danielle Davis  
**Executive Councillor:** Cllr Moyies & Cllr Courtenay

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced several changes as part of the Government's ambition to tackle the significant harms that are caused to people because of domestic abuse. These include introducing a broader definition of Domestic Abuse, improvements to the criminal justice processes and a range of new duties (Part iv), for Tier 1 Local Authorities (in this case Southend City Council), requiring the Authority to provide safe accommodation and support services for victims of Domestic Abuse and their families.
- 1.2. Under Part iv of the Act, there were additional duties which included the need for Local Authorities set up a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) to oversee the responsibilities under the Act and which it has to consult in relation to various specified functions. These functions include assessment of need for safe accommodation and support, publishing an associated strategy, and commissioning the accommodation and services.
- 1.3. Southend has now established the Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (SDAPB), which is Chaired by the Director of Operation for South Essex Homes, with the CEO of Southend's Association of the Community and Voluntary Sector (SAVS) Anthony Quinn which highlights our ambition for the Board to collaborate as a true multi-agency forum.
- 1.4. The SDAPB collaborates with the Greater Essex footprint through the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) which is Chaired by the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex. In June 2022, SETDAB (including a contribution from SCC) commissioned TONIC to conduct a domestic abuse discovery exercise to explore the domestic abuse landscape across Greater Essex. The final report and learning from this exercise concluded in January 2023 followed by a number of workshops and a system design process has started to explore the future commissioning arrangements across Greater Essex.

- 1.5. Following this initial progress and the SETDAB discovery exercise a refresh of the Southend needs assessment has been undertaken, including a public survey hearing from victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Southend. The learning from the needs assessment has enabled us to develop a new forward strategy to tackle domestic abuse across Southend and develop our longer-term commissioning intentions. This paper sets out Southend’s proposed new strategy to tackle domestic abuse across the City.

## 2. Recommendations

### It is recommended that Cabinet:

A) **Agree in principle the proposed strategy** identified for the next Southend Domestic Abuse Strategy (2023 – 2026) to enable the strategy to be finalised.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Act placed several new duties on tier one local authorities including i) to conduct a needs assessment to understand the safe accommodation needs of victims and survivors, **ii) to develop and publish a strategy**, iii) to provide support to victims of domestic abuse, in refuges and other safe accommodation and iiiii) to convene a Local Partnership Board. Southend City Council has responded to each of these duties.
- 3.2. The Act has created, for the first time, a cross-government statutory definition of domestic abuse, to ensure that domestic abuse is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across statutory agencies and in public attitudes. The definition of domestic abuse is in two parts. The first part deals with the relationship between the abuser and the abused. The second part defines what constitutes abusive behaviour.
- 3.3. The definition is:

Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if:

- *A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and*
- *the behaviour is abusive.*

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

- *physical or sexual abuse;*
- *violent or threatening behaviour;*
- *controlling or coercive behaviour;*
- *economic abuse (see subsection (4));*
- psychological, emotional or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

(4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to:

- *acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or*

- *obtain goods or services.*

For the purposes of this Act A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).

The Act considered two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies:

- *they are, or have been, married to each other;*
- *they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;*
- *they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);*
- *they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);*
- *they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;*
- *they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child*
- *they are relatives.*

3.4. The Act places a duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities to commission support within safe accommodation for victims and their children. The definition of safe accommodation and support under the Act is provided below:

Defining safe accommodation	Defining support
<p>Safe accommodation includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refuge accommodation</li> <li>• Specialist safe accommodation</li> <li>• Dispersed accommodation</li> <li>• Sanctuary Schemes</li> <li>• Move-on and / or second stage accommodation</li> <li>• Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation</li> </ul> <p>Temporary accommodation such as homelessness hostels, hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation is not considered under this definition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall management of services within relevant accommodation</li> <li>• Support with the day-to-day running of the service</li> <li>• Advocacy support</li> <li>• Domestic abuse prevention advice</li> <li>• Specialist support for victims</li> <li>• Children’s support</li> <li>• Housing-related support</li> <li>• Advice service</li> <li>• Counselling and therapy</li> </ul>

### **Developing Southend’s Domestic Abuse Strategy**

3.5. **Needs assessment:** A needs assessment was completed in 2021 in line with the statutory timeframe. Although the needs assessment was able to adhere to the regulation requirements, the deadline imposed by Central Government created a challenge for local partners to fully engage in the process and the Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (SDAPB) agreed to conduct a more comprehensive needs

assessment ahead of the 2023-2026 strategy development. This needs assessment has been completed.

### **Key learning from Southend's Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment**

- Based on national prevalence rates applied to the population (Census 2021) of Southend we can estimate that there are 146,412 individuals aged 16 or over in Southend of which we can estimate around 25,500 will have experienced domestic abuse over their lifetime. On an annual basis, this equates to 7,690 individuals likely to have experienced domestic abuse (both familial and intimate partner violence).
- Southend in particular sees high levels of domestic abuse, in comparison to the local neighbouring areas as well as comparable areas. There is an underutilisation of preventative measures, such as the DVDS, which can help to enable victims to continue engaging with the criminal justice system. A more successful engagement of victims with Essex Police could help to reduce repeat victimisation, which Southend sees very high levels of.
- The low engagement of victims of domestic abuse with the police is also evidenced by the low levels of victims supporting prosecution. There are many reasons why victims often do not want to pursue a criminal justice route in response to their experience of abuse. It is the role of the police to engage with the victim in a way that gives them confidence in the criminal justice system enabling them to be safe. Feedback from victims in this project as well as the TONIC research shows that there continues to be a disconnect between the police and victims of domestic abuse.
- At present the council is successful at preventing homelessness from DA victims/survivors. It was also identified that cases that have approached as fleeing domestic in abuse in 2022 sometimes withdrew their application or had their application closed due to contact being lost. The data shows that only 4% of homelessness applications were due to domestic abuse in Southend, which is much lower than the national average of 12%. It is difficult to draw conclusions as to why this is taking place but will need to be explored through our future strategy to ensure the right housing options are available for victims.
- There are some learnings in regards to gender and ethnicity from the dataset we analysed from the health sector in Southend. We know that men are underrepresented in domestic abuse services in Southend, and generally less identified by professionals. We found a particularly high proportion of male victims of domestic abuse accessing the Forward Trust, with 42% of the victims identified being male.
- There is also a gap in the identification of victims from minoritised ethnic groups in the substance misuse service. Specialist training should be provided to professionals to help them understand the additional barriers faced by non-White British victims and how to respond in a culturally sensitive way. Local domestic abuse services should also consider the inclusion of Black and Minoritised Ethnic IDVA to provide specialist support to people from those communities as well as engage and raise awareness of the support available in Southend.
- We have also noted the high numbers of victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse experiencing the 'toxic trio' of domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse. Over four-in-five victims and perpetrators in Southend accessing



substance misuse support also experience mental health issues. Access to services for that cohort is especially difficult, due to substance use services not accepting service users with diagnosed mental health issues, and mental health services not accepting services users with substance misuse issues. This leads to the revolving-door scenario, where the patient is unable to access neither of the services.

- We found a lot of positive responses to domestic abuse when looking at children and family data in Southend. One of the key findings was the increase in referrals into Children Social Care from various sectors since 2019/20, suggesting an improved understanding of domestic abuse and the appropriate response. It suggests that the coordinated community approach is being implemented across the whole Southend system, which should be complemented.

3.6. **Coproduction with victims and survivors:** As part of the needs assessment, we launched an online survey to hear from any residents in Southend with lived experience of domestic abuse. We asked victims about their experiences of abuse, but also what worked well for them in terms of seeking help and what barriers they encountered. Overall we had 97 responses. As part of the survey, we invited victims with the opportunity to work with us to continue to shape our response in Southend through the development of our next strategy. As part of this several victims have joined a coproduction board who are working alongside Council officers and the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to develop and deliver the proposed strategy.

#### Key learning from Southend’s Victim and Survivor survey

Theme	What we found	Voices of survivors in Southend
Types of abuse	<p>Based on our online survey of victims in Southend The most commonly experienced forms of <b>non-physical abuse</b> were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shouting:</b> 97% of the respondents had experienced a perpetrator shouting at them, and it was also the most frequently experienced form of abuse with 90% experiencing this behaviour more than 10 times.</li> <li>• <b>Humiliation:</b> 85% of respondents experienced being humiliated by their perpetrator, with 58% stating this happened more than 10 times.</li> <li>• <b>Keep track of where they went:</b> 83% of respondents stated their perpetrator kept track of where they went or</li> </ul>	<p><i>“I have only recently started to tell people. After 14 years of an abusive marriage I have left. I continue to be abused and controlled”</i></p> <p><i>“The police took the financial abuse seriously enough to arrest my ex husband, but the judge threw the case out because I</i></p>

	<p>how they spent time. This can make seeking support particularly difficult.</p> <p>Many survivors also experienced physical and sexual abuse too with the most common being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grabbing (86%)</li> <li>• Pushing (84%)</li> </ul> <p>In addition to this there was a high prevalence of perpetrators hitting,, punching or slapping victims with 71% experiencing it and 21% frequently experiencing it more than 10 times. Worryingly, almost <b>half the respondents experienced being choked or strangled</b> (both actual and attempted). Strangling is often a significant predictor of future lethal violence.</p>	<p><i>was married and was told it was a matter for the divorce court to deal with”</i></p>
<p>Experiences of help seeking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34% of victims in Southend never told any professionals about their experience of abuse.</li> <li>• 51% of victims responding reported the abuse to the police however most did not report all of the incidents. In fact only 6% reported all of the incidents.</li> <li>• Survivors told us the three most common organisations they might disclose to were; GPs (28%), Children’s social care (22%) and/or their employer (20%).</li> <li>• Victims in Southend were most likely to seek help within the community, with the majority telling a friend about the abuse they were experiencing (63%). They also sought support from family members (45%). Almost as many sought support from a colleague (18%).</li> </ul>	<p><i>“My GP offered to help me run away to a hostel but I was too afraid to leave”</i></p> <p><i>“My school was able to leave a picture of my ex-partner in the office so if they were to ever turn up on site staff members would know what they look like”.</i></p> <p><i>“I didn’t feel many of them took it seriously, I felt they judged me for telling them, like somehow I was responsible for what had happened to me, or that I caused it”</i></p>

Needs of victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most common factors that were important to victims in Southend from a support service were; confidentiality (98%), a flexible service (79%) and/or a 24 hour service (66%).</li> <li>The most common support need by a considerable margin was the need for mental health related support with 80% stating this was what they needed.</li> <li>Aside from this the next most common needs were; support for their children's wellbeing (49%), legal support/advice (47%) and/or something to help them to be physically safe within their own home such as target hardening (43%)</li> </ul>	<p><i>“Good support would be flexible as in phone calls, home visits and also availability at the weekends and after school hours”.</i></p> <p><i>“Not having to wait. Getting immediate advice”.</i></p> <p><i>“Unfortunately, opportunities to escape in these types of relationships only arise by chance. Having a point of contact with someone who you know will answer no matter the time, is extremely imperative”.</i></p>
Gaps and barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The three biggest barriers victims and survivors in Southend experienced in seeking support were; fear of what the perpetrator would do if they found out (45%), feeling too embarrassed or ashamed (43%) and/or fearing they would not be believed (40%).</li> </ul>	<p><i>“Police were unsupportive, didn't believe me when I called stating he was breaking restraining order”.</i></p>

3.7. **Consultation on the draft strategy:** The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has worked together to develop the initial draft strategy. This strategy has been consulted on via an online survey which was a follow up to the initial learning survey. The survey is open to both the public as well as stakeholder across Southend.

## **Proposal for the domestic abuse strategy priorities**

- 3.8. As noted in previous sections, the next Southend Domestic Abuse Strategy must go further than delivering the minimum expectations of the Act which only relate to those within safe accommodation. We would like our next strategy to transform the lives of residents and strengthen our whole system response to domestic abuse to ensure all residents can live free from harm and abuse. As such we would like to develop a whole system strategy to launch on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW) on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- 3.9. We have identified key priorities we would like to build the strategy around. Following approval of these priorities in principle, a strategy will be drafted alongside and equality impact assessment and full consultation process. Underpinning our strategic priorities we have developed a set of values and principles which articulate the way we will work.

### **Our proposed values and principles**

#### **Prevention is better than cure**

Together we will address the balance from a crisis-based response to incorporate preventative measures and a whole-family approach. We will also ensure that perpetrators are identified, pursued, challenged, held to account and supported to change.

#### **A gender-based approach**

The strategy recognises that domestic abuse disproportionately affects females and that our holistic approach will respond to this fact while not excluding male victims. The strategy will support Southend's Community Safety Partnership's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) priority.

#### **A needs led, intersectional approach**

We also commit to not just view domestic abuse on its own, as all too often there are other factors present which may have the potential to increase vulnerability to abuse and further isolate victims. We recognise that victims and survivors don't live single issue lives and may experience multiple forms of violence, abuse and other forms of oppression. We will recognise that protected characteristics and marginalised groups may experience domestic abuse in different ways and the way services and structures operate must enable them to be accessible to all residents, recognising their experiences. A truly holistic approach will take into consideration how substance misuse, mental health, homelessness, coercion and control (as well as other factors) may need addressing at the same time. We will focus on how our strategy can help and support victims and survivors where there may be unmet need.

#### **Collaborate across all agencies**

To do this we will co-operate with partners signed up to this strategy who recognise their role in tackling these issues holistically and create a system whereby people can at any point seek help safely and without fear, shame or judgement. Every organisation in Southend has a role to play, and we want to be clear that working together means working collaboratively and creatively. As part of this we will aspire to deliver a coordinated community response in line with the In Search of Excellence (2021) guidance from Standing Together.

3.10. The four strategic priorities we propose are the focus of the next strategy are:

#### Proposed strategic priorities

**Priority 1: Coproduction:** Empowering people with lived experience to shape and inspire our response, keeping them at the heart of everything we do.

**Priority 2: Prevention and partnership:** Galvanise all people and communities to prevent domestic abuse by changing cultures that condone or are conducive to abuse.

**Priority 3: Victims and children:** Collaborate across all agencies to ensure those experiencing abuse can access the right support, at the right time.

**Priority 4: Perpetrators:** Hold those using harmful behaviour accountable for changing their behaviour.

3.11. The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-2026 will have an accompanying action plan which will articulate specific actions for partners to deliver in line with the objectives. The strategy and action plans will be monitored by the SDAPB and reported in to the CSP. The action plans will be updated annually and a full evaluation of the impact of the strategy will be conducted and finalised in 2026 in preparation for the next strategy.

## 4. Reasons for Decisions

4.1. Our current interim strategy requires an update. Although the interim strategy satisfied our statutory duties, it is far from providing a robust, whole system response to domestic abuse. The proposed priorities will enable us to strengthen our response substantially.

## 5. Other Options

5.1. There are wider options in terms of the proposed strategic priorities in this paper. However, we believe that these priorities best reflect the local need in Southend, whilst also enabling us to align to the national policy frameworks and Greater Essex SETDAB strategy.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1. To deliver the next domestic abuse strategy, there must be continued support for the resource required internally within SCC as well as ongoing discussions with wider partners to ensure a multi-agency budget.

6.2. Overall, the total annual resource Southend City Council contribute to delivery of the domestic abuse strategy is £853,610 which includes internal departmental budgets, central Government grants and contributions from partner agencies.

### 6.3. Internal funding from departmental budgets

6.4. This section provides an overview of Southend City Council departmental contributions to the domestic abuse response.

Department	Annual funding	Description	Funding end date
Public Health	£25,000	Contribution to Essex-wide IDVA service.	Initial contract end date of March 2024 with the option to extend by 2x 1-year increments up to end-March 2026.
Communities (via Supporting People)	£255,078.00	Safe Steps core contract including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refuge</li> <li>2. Floating support and outreach</li> <li>3. Children and Young People Support</li> </ol>	No end date. The current commissioned contract ends 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 however the budget will remain to contribute towards recommissioning.
Children Services	£120,863	MARAT including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MARAC social worker post</li> <li>2. 2 MARAT administrator posts (jointly funded with PFCC)</li> <li>3. MARAT manager post (jointly funded with PFCC and ICB)</li> </ol>	Continuous rolling funding with an MOU which is reviewed annually.
<b>Total domestic abuse resource</b>	<b>£400,941</b>		

## 6.5 External resource into Southend City Council

6.6 This section provides an overview of the funding Southend City Council receive from external sources into our domestic abuse response.

Source	Annual funding	Description	Funding end date
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)	£380,583 (variable <sup>1</sup> )	An annual allocation to support Local Authorities to meet our duties under the DA Act (2021) around <i>support within safe accommodation only</i> in line with the Act's definitions. This can include administrative costs to deliver the functions of the Act including commissioning, needs assessments and strategy development. We have used our funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic abuse consultancy support</li> </ul>	From 2025 onwards this funding will no longer be in grant form but rather form part of the Local Government settlement. Discussion will be required to ringfence an allocation from this settlement for Southend City Council to deliver our statutory

<sup>1</sup> This annual fund has been varied (although a similar amount) year on year since we started to receive it in 2021/22. This is our 2023/24 allocation; our 2024/5 allocation increases slightly to £387,764.

Source	Annual funding	Description	Funding end date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing capacity within Safe Steps (therapeutic service and additional posts)</li> <li>Housing navigator pilot service</li> <li>Increased capacity of DA support within South Essex Homes</li> <li>Discovery research project</li> </ul>	duties under the DA Act (2021).
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)	£55,000	<p>This was a lump sum that every Local Authority across the country received in 2021 to prepare for the Domestic Abuse Act. It was not ringfenced and Local Authorities were able to use this in any way they saw fit. In Southend we allocated this funding to our reserves to use as a flexible fund where required. To date this has been allocated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe Steps children and young people IDVA 3 month top up (£16,318.08)</li> <li>Essex wide perpetrator pilot (£18,000 per annum for 2 years)</li> </ul>	This was a one-off grant.
Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board	£22,983	Funding towards the Southend MARAT manager post.	Continuous rolling funding with an MOU which is reviewed annually.
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex	£49,103	Funding towards the Southend MARAT manager and 2 administrator posts.	Continuous rolling funding with an MOU which is reviewed annually.
<b>Total</b>		<b>£452,669</b>	

6.7 In addition to our annual funding, we have a rolling underspend from our annual DLUHC grants which has been agreed to contribute towards our recommissioning budget for provision from April 2025 onwards. This underspend is forecast to be £444,699.11 however it is notable that additional pilots in line with the whole housing approach are currently being scoped (such as the flexible funding model) so the actual underspend is likely to be less than this by March 2025. Due to the source of this funding it is notable that it can be spent on our support within safe accommodation and whole housing approach only and not wider community based services.

## 7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. Southend City Council is required to meet its new specified duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This means we must at all times have a published strategy we are working towards, and must have commissioned appropriate support within safe accommodation. The proposals within this report will satisfy these legal duties.

## **8. Policy Context**

- 8.1 Central Government have increasingly recognised that domestic abuse is a pressing social and public health concern. The alarming prevalence of domestic abuse has prompted the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) to come in to force and placed a requirement for all Local Authorities to develop relevant strategies to respond to victims including children within safe accommodation.

## **9. Carbon Impact**

- 9.1. Not applicable.

## **10. Equalities**

- 10.1. Domestic abuse is a widespread issue which can impact any individual or family across Southend. Although it is recognised that domestic abuse disproportionately affects women and girls, Southend's strategy and response will be inclusive of any individual.
- 10.2. A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken following the drafting of the strategy to ensure it is inclusive of all protective characteristic groups.

## **11. Consultation**

- 11.1. Following approval in principle of the proposed approach and strategic priorities, a draft strategy will be drafted and will go through extensive consultation through the SDAPB. This will include an online public consultation.



## 12. Appendices

### 12.1. **Appendix 1: Southend's Interim Domestic Abuse Strategy**



Southend Borough  
Council Domestic Abu

### 12.2. **Appendix 2: Southend's Proposed Domestic Abuse Strategy**



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### 12.3. **Appendix 3: Southend Domestic Abus Needs Assessment**



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Domestic Abuse Strat

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Southend



DOMESTIC ABUSE  
PARTNERSHIP

# Southend Domestic Abuse Strategy

2023 – 2026

DRAFT

## Foreword

*[To be confirmed who will sign this? Needs to be partnership – an Exec Member, Safeguarding Partnership and Chair of DA Board jointly?]*

On behalf of *[all Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership Board members]*, I am proud to present the Southend Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-26.

The Strategy is anchored in our shared belief that domestic abuse is unacceptable in all its forms. It is everyone's duty to help preventing people experiencing it.

As a Board, we are listening to those who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse. We are clear that our learning from people with lived experience will drive what we do, how we do it and how we measure success. With this strategy we are committing to a coproduced approach to all we do.

With this first of its kind strategy for Southend, the Board decided to go beyond the statutory ask and consider all impacting aspects of domestic abuse. By working together in partnership and joining our collective aims and priorities we will deliver a holistic local response for our city and effectively target Domestic Abuse.

This Strategy forms part of our wider work to tackle violence against women and girls in collaboration with the Community Safety Partnership Board.

**Sarah Lander, Chair of Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**

[Insert signature]

The impact of domestic abuse can result in a range of negative and harmful effects on health, wellbeing and outcomes in life. Domestic abuse impacts upon future generations and their ability, capacity and attitude towards relationships, parenting, self-esteem and mental health. Domestic abuse affects individuals, families and communities, and both prevention and responses must recognise both the immediate impacts which domestic abuse may have on an individual or family, and also its long-term consequences.

No person should experience domestic abuse, and through this strategy and its clear commitments, we will work together as a system and with those with lived experience to prevent abuse from happening, to strengthen our service provision and to make sure we are learning from the latest research and understanding of what works best to continually improve the effectiveness of how our services tackle domestic abuse across Southend.

Southend's vision is to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse by tackling the root causes. We want to help and support victims but we also want to change the behaviour of those who inflict the abuse and reduce the likelihood of further incidents, either within an existing relationship or with a new partner.

**Councillor James Moyies, Cabinet member for Public Health, Adult Social Care & Constitutional Affairs**

[Insert signature]

***“The thing I have felt most challenging about accessing services is how disjointed they all are. For example, I have had to deal with the police, family court, criminal court, CPS, housing, local authorities, charities etc and have had to retell my story so many times to multiple people from each organisation. It is exhausting and makes you want to give up. It would be useful for services to work together more effectively”.***

- Victim/survivor in Southend

## Introduction

### About this strategy

Domestic abuse has an impact on many residents in our city, yet it is often one of the most under reported crimes. The impact of domestic abuse on victims and survivors, including children can be traumatic and the consequences are long-lasting, far-reaching, and often misunderstood.

On average victims at high risk of serious harm or murder live with domestic abuse for 2-3 years before getting help<sup>1</sup>, though many victims suffer from abuse for much longer. Children and unborn babies living in households of domestic abuse are at increased risk of short, medium and long-term impacts including poor health outcomes and increased vulnerability.

To tackle these complex issues, the Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership Board was formed in 2022 to bring together partners from the City Council, police, NHS, housing groups and voluntary community groups. Through this wide-ranging membership, all aspects of domestic abuse can be holistically addressed.

With this strategy, the partnership incorporates and goes beyond its statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) to deliver support within safe accommodation to victims and survivors, including children. With the ambition to make a lasting positive change, the Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership is also committed to a clear approach to hold those who use harmful and abusive behaviours to account and to change their behaviour.

Because domestic abuse disproportionately affects women and girls our approach strongly reflects the [Government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#). However, we recognise that men can also be victims and the approach set out in this strategy will benefit all victims and survivors.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) has stipulated that children living in households of domestic abuse are direct victims in their own right. As such we are referring to both, adult and child victims, when using the term 'victim'.

#### Defining domestic abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) characterises domestic abuse as coercive, controlling, threatening, or violent behaviours, including physical, psychological, financial, emotional, and sexual abuse that occur in marriages, civil partnerships, personal relationships, and in parental relationships.

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<sup>1</sup> SafeLives (2015), Insights Idva National Dataset 2013-14. Bristol: SafeLives.

## Our vision

Domestic abuse is unacceptable and too often remains hidden. Only by mobilising all parts of our communities and working together in recognising, understanding, and responding, can we make fundamental changes to end domestic abuse. Tackling domestic abuse is everybody's responsibility.

Our partnership vision is:

**To come together without judgement to prevent domestic abuse from happening and where it does, to support victims as all Southend's people deserve to flourish in a safe environment without fear and where they are free from harm.**

We estimate that every year in Southend-on-Sea there will be **7,690** victims, this is much higher than what we see reported across services.

For example:

**745** male victims living in Southend-on-Sea reported domestic abuse to Essex Police in **2021-22**. This is **38%** of the estimated prevalence of DA reported to police.

**1,842** female victims living in Southend-on-Sea reported domestic abuse to Essex Police in **2021-22**. This is **40%** of the estimated prevalence of DA reported to police.

**778** clients being supported though Safe Steps outreach in **21/22**.

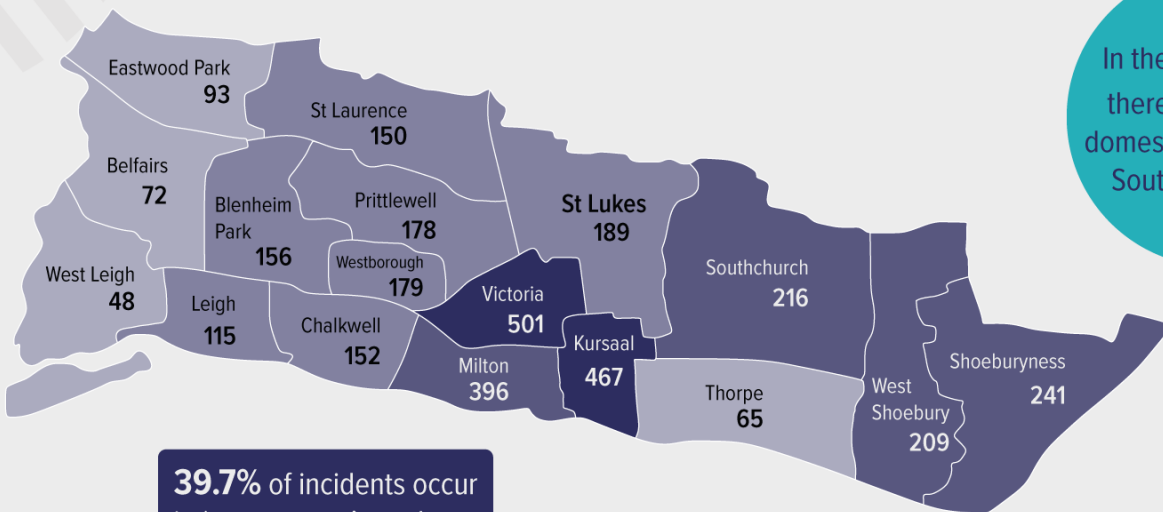
Safe Steps Break the Cycle received **101** referrals for young people experiencing DA.

**21%** of victims who accessed Safe Steps outreach identified as BAME.

**14%** of clients referred to Safe Steps outreach experienced mental health difficulties. The most common single need.

**7%** of referrals to Safe Steps outreach were for **LGBT** residents.

### Number of DA incidents by ward in Southend-on-Sea.

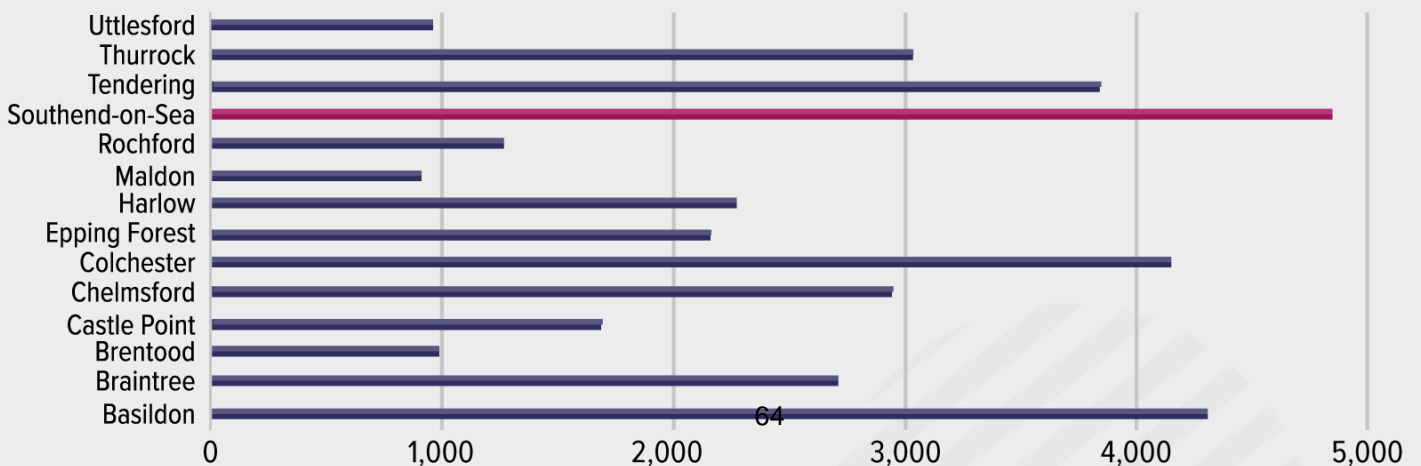


In the last **10** years there have been **7** domestic homicides in Southend-on-sea.

**39.7%** of incidents occur in 'town centre' wards.

Neighbourhoods in these wards are between **10-30%** most deprived across England.

### Number of DA reports to police by location in 2021 - 2022





## Southend's approach to tackling domestic abuse

To make our vision for Southend a reality, we will focus on four priority areas. To realise long-lasting changes, we recognise that **what we deliver is equally as important as how we deliver it**. For this reason, all work will be underpinned by the same principles to offer a response bespoke for Southend.

### Principles

To deliver this strategy effectively our work needs to be responsive to the circumstances and requirements of victims, survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse in Southend.

To achieve this our work will be:

#### • Evidence based

Using knowledge from local, national and international research and reviews about Domestic Abuse and about methods to successfully tackle domestic abuse. We will also ensure we utilise the evidence base to ensure our response is fit for all communities including those described as 'hidden'. This learning will inform the development of solutions for Southend.

#### • Trauma informed

Domestic Abuse can leave victims and their families traumatised. Recognising the impact of trauma is vital to ensure our responses are empathetic to the needs of victims and their families.

#### • Gender-based

The strategy recognises that domestic abuse disproportionately affects females. Our holistic approach will respond to this fact while not excluding male victims. The strategy supports Southend's Community Safety Partnership's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) priority.

#### • Needs led & intersectional.

Different people experience domestic abuse in different ways. Further, domestic abuse is seldom an isolated issue. Additional factors and/or multiple forms of violence, abuse, and other forms of oppression may increase vulnerability to abuse and further isolate victims. In a holistic approach, factors like substance misuse, mental health (or the combination of both sometimes referred to as the 'toxic trio'), homelessness, coercion and control, etc. may need addressing at the same time to achieve positive outcomes.

Our strategy recognises that victims and survivors don't live single issue lives and therefore focuses on offering help and support for victims and survivors with unmet needs including specific needs across all communities including those described as 'hidden'. Services must be accessible to all residents, recognising their individual experiences.

## Priorities

Our priorities work across the spectrum of prevention focussing on how we can stop abuse happening in the first place (primary prevention), through to immediate support (secondary prevention) and long-term recovery (tertiary prevention).

Our priorities, as will be presented in the following sections, are:

### **Priority 1: Coproduction**

Empowering people with experience of domestic abuse to shape and inspire our response, keeping them at the heart of everything we do.

### **Priority 2: Prevention and partnerships**

Galvanise all people and communities to prevent domestic abuse by changing cultures that condone or are conducive to abuse.

### **Priority 3: Victim support, including children**

Collaborate across all agencies to ensure those experiencing abuse can access the right support, at the right time.

### **Priority 4: Perpetrators**

Hold those using harmful behaviour accountable for changing their behaviour.

## Priority 1: Coproduction

Empowering people with experience of domestic abuse to shape and inspire our response, keeping them at the heart of everything we do.

### What this means

This priority centres around **coproduction**, a vital approach that places individuals with experience of domestic abuse in positions of influence to inform decision-making.

#### What is coproduction?

Co-production gives people an opportunity to influence, co-plan, co-design, develop and help to shape services that are truly fit for purpose. Co-production brings people together, to explore lived and living experience, to share those experiences, knowledge and understanding. It's about working together, for residents and professionals to work in equal partnership for equal benefit, to create better outcomes for people. Listening the experts by experience, from different backgrounds allows us all to understand and appreciate any challenges or barriers people face.

We firmly believe that those who have personally encountered the challenges and traumas associated with domestic abuse possess invaluable insights that can inform and shape our response to this pervasive issue. By actively involving survivors in the implementation of our strategy and everything we do, we aim to not only honour their resilience but also create a more empathetic and effective support system. Coproduction ensures that the voices, needs, and ideas of survivors remain at the forefront of our efforts, guiding us towards comprehensive solutions that truly make a difference in their lives. This priority underscores our commitment to fostering a survivor-centered approach and recognising the expertise that only those with lived experience can provide.

### What we know

That coproduction activity is currently limited with victims of domestic abuse.

### What we want to achieve

#### Our objectives:

1. **Develop a coproduction board:** Ensure the Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership structure incorporates mechanisms for the voice of victims and survivors and children to be heard across the structure.
2. **Embed lived experience across commissioning of services:** The commissioning and provision of services will be informed by the views of those who have been affected by domestic abuse or are at significant risk of it. This will include developing approaches to involve people with lived experience in monitoring.
3. **Integrate lived experience in raising awareness and training:** Actively involve individuals with lived experience of domestic abuse in raising awareness and delivering training programs. This objective aims to ensure that the voices and perspectives of survivors and those affected by domestic abuse are integrated into

awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, and training programs. By incorporating their insights and stories, we can enhance the impact and relevance of these initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding and empathy within the wider community.

## Priority 2: Prevention and Partnerships

Galvanise all people and communities to prevent domestic abuse by changing cultures that condone or are conducive to abuse.

### What this means

**Prevention** in domestic abuse refers to a multifaceted approach aimed at stopping abusive behaviours and violence before they occur. It involves proactive measures at various levels **to address root causes and risk factors, with the goal of preventing domestic abuse from happening in the first place.** Prevention encompasses a tiered framework, including primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. At each level, **changing attitudes is a central feature, challenging societal norms and promoting healthy relationships, gender equality, and non-violence.** By working across these tiers and fostering a culture of respect, education, and awareness, we strive to create environments where domestic abuse is no longer tolerated, thus ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals and communities.

Creating lasting change in attitudes throughout the system and community is instrumental in preventing domestic abuse. It starts with transforming organisational responses to domestic abuse, driving a cultural shift that empowers individuals and promotes healthy relationships. As victims have bravely shared, until it became physical, they felt that no one understood or could help:

*“Until it became physical no one said they were able to help. If someone had told me the financial control and verbal assaults counted and could offer me support and a way out, it wouldn’t have become physical”.*

- Victim/survivor in Southend

By breaking the silence and challenging preconceived notions, we can dismantle the barriers that victims face when seeking support. These first-hand experiences underscore the urgency to redefine what is socially acceptable and establish a safe space where victims can disclose their abuse with confidence, knowing they will be supported. **Early identification and intervention form the bedrock of prevention efforts.** By strengthening our initial responses throughout organisations, training all workers to identify domestic abuse, and establishing effective support pathways, we can intervene at the earliest opportunity. These proactive measures empower 'Trusted Professionals' to foster open dialogue, encouraging individuals to share their experiences and identify abuse early on. The powerful quotes from victims serve as a reminder of the complexities and the need for a coordinated approach across agencies to ensure a comprehensive response:

*“I felt like other people made me feel like I wasn’t intelligent because I had got myself into that situation, and as a woman it is my responsibility to not get into that situation with a man. I also felt there was a sense of social status around Domestic abuse, like I must be from a poor background or rough background or lower status background because this sort of thing doesn’t happen to people who are not ‘working class’ or live on a council estate for example”.*

- Victim/survivor in Southend

Equally important is educating children from an early age, as victims have highlighted the lack of understanding they faced Domestic Abuse due to societal misconceptions. **By fostering a culture of equality and respect, we equip young people with the tools to recognise the signs of abuse,** reject harmful social media content, and effectively address cyberbullying. The quotes from victims poignantly emphasize the need to eradicate stereotypes and social

status associations tied to domestic abuse. This means raising awareness among the broader community, enabling individuals experiencing abuse to understand their situation and access the necessary help and support.

*“They didn’t understand why I would stay with that person and didn’t understand the complexities. Some friends stopped talking to me for a while because they didn’t understand why I’d “put up with” that behaviour”.*

- Victim/survivor in Southend

With this strategy **we will actively challenge these harmful narratives and strive to create a community that prioritizes respect, equality, and support for all individuals.** Through education, awareness, and early intervention, we can dismantle the foundations that allow domestic abuse to persist, creating a safer and more nurturing environment for everyone.

### What we know

1. **Domestic abuse in Southend is under-reported with residents describing multiple barriers that we need to address to increase their confidence in the system.** Overall, we estimate around 7,690 residents experience domestic abuse every year, however there were only 2,587 victims who reported abuse to the police between January and December 2022. Our survey found that only 6% of victims reported all incidents of abuse to the police and overall, 34% never disclosed to any professional about their experience.
2. **Agencies in Southend may not identify domestic abuse effectively.** Only 60% of professionals who responded to our survey said they had received domestic abuse training and only 33% felt that there is enough awareness raising of what professionals should do if they identify someone experiencing domestic abuse.

### What we want to achieve

#### Our objectives:

- 4) **Promote societal change and community engagement:** We will challenge societal attitudes that condone domestic abuse and foster a culture where domestic abuse is not tolerated. To do so we will **develop awareness raising campaigns** to increase understanding, across agencies, services, and local communities. We will **work closely with the community and voluntary sector** collaborating with community leaders, organisations, and social hubs to engage diverse groups effectively.
- 5) **Promote healthy relationships in education:** Ensure that a comprehensive curriculum-based program on domestic abuse awareness and healthy relationships is available in all schools and educational settings. Collaborate with schools to address gender inequality, sexual stereotyping, and the normalisation of domestic abuse where it exists.
- 6) **Establish effective collaborative frameworks:** Develop policies, working procedures, and guidance that facilitate effective partnership working among organisations to ensure a coordinated community response to domestic abuse.
- 7) **Incorporate learning from research and reviews:** Identify and embed the insights gained from Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and Child Practice Reviews that are relevant to domestic abuse, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and informed practice.

Use learning and research on Adverse Childhood Experiences to further understand the impact of domestic abuse on young people, and how to minimise harm experienced to build resilience.

- 8) **Support employees experiencing domestic abuse:** Implement supportive processes within organisations to assist and provide resources for staff members who disclose domestic abuse. Work with businesses to ensure they have access to information on supporting employees facing domestic abuse.

### Priority 3: Victim support, including children

Collaborate across all agencies to ensure those experiencing abuse can access the right support, at the right time.

#### What this means

Effective safety and support means ensuring women who experience domestic abuse, and their children are safe and protected from harm and have access to the right **support** at the right time. Collaborating across all agencies is crucial to ensure that individuals experiencing domestic abuse can access the necessary support when they need it most. We know that getting the right support can be lifechanging:

*“I spoke to a friend, and she explained I had and was experiencing domestic abuse and suggested Dove. They were wonderful. Non-judgmental, helpful, wise, and understanding. And they referred me to Fledglings who were equally fantastic. I feel so much stronger”.*

- Victim/survivor in Southend

It is essential to recognise that the needs of victims are diverse and multifaceted, requiring a comprehensive and tailored approach. The support provided must go beyond a one-size-fits-all solution, acknowledging the unique circumstances and challenges faced by everyone. We will specifically consider how our services and responses are fit for purpose for all communities including those from ethnically minoritized communities and wider cohorts where additional barriers to help seeking may exist including LGBT, older people and male victims. This includes offering a range of options that cater to different needs, ensuring we have a range of provision including:

- community-based support (including outreach, high risk services and therapeutic support)
- accommodation based support (including refuge and wider safe accommodation)
- support for children, young people, and whole families

In ensuring victims can access the right support at the right time, we will collaborate across the partnership to deliver the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and a whole housing approach. The latter is necessary to address the housing needs of victims, ensuring that accommodation-based support is readily available:

*“From when I first made contact with Safe Steps I felt supported and believed 100%. My experience since being in refuge I have been supported in anything I needed to do”.*

- Victim/survivor in Southend

Through a whole housing approach, we will recognise that whilst some survivors need to flee their home for safety, this is far from ideal and in some instance survivors would prefer the option to remain safe within their own home:

**43% of victims wanted help and support to stay safe in their own home.**

- **Southend victim and survivor survey**

By working collaboratively and adopting a victim-centred approach, we can ensure that all victims of domestic abuse receive the right support at the right time, empowering them to rebuild their lives and be free from abusive and harmful behaviour.



## What we know

1. **There is a high complexity of need and risk for people experiencing domestic abuse in Southend.** This was evidenced in our professional's survey in which mental health was the highest perceived need of victims with 62% of professionals stating this was what they saw most commonly. This was mirrored by feedback from victims as 80% stated this was their biggest need.
2. **Victims note that their practical needs were often the most important to them.** Aside from mental health related support as noted above, victims most needed practical support which highlights the need for joining up with more universal and community-based services. In total 47% needed legal support and advice and 43% wanted something to help them to be physically safe within their own home through implementing physical safety measures such as alarms (for example).

## What we want to achieve

- 9) **Collaborate across all agencies:** We will work to ensure all agencies sign up to our strategy and collaborate with partners who recognise their role in tackling these issues holistically and create a system whereby people can at any point seek help safely and without fear, shame, or judgement. Every organisation in Southend on Sea has a role to play, and we want to be clear that working together means working collaboratively and creatively. As part of this we will aspire to deliver a coordinated community response in line with the [In Search of Excellence \(2021\) guidance](#) from Standing Together.
- 10) **Enhance accessibility and availability of community-based support services for all victims and survivors:** Collaborate across agencies to ensure that individuals experiencing domestic abuse have access to a comprehensive range of community-based support services, including outreach, high-risk services, and therapeutic support when they need it, including long term support to recover from the impact of harm.
- 11) **Increase accommodation based and housing options for people experiencing abuse:** Develop and implement a **whole housing approach** that addresses the housing needs of victims and ensures the availability of safe accommodation options.
- 12) **Provide comprehensive support for children and young people:** Collaborate with agencies to ensure that children, young people, and whole families affected by domestic abuse receive tailored and holistic support.
- 13) **Work to safeguard victims at the highest risk of harm through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) processes:** Enhance the effectiveness and impact of MARAC, a multi-agency risk management meeting, to ensure timely and coordinated responses to high-risk cases of domestic abuse.
- 14) **Evidence and needs based development of services:** Partners will work collectively to bring together accurate and consistent data to improve our understanding of gaps, to inform service development and service delivery, and to ensure an effective quality monitoring of commissioned services. An agreed multiagency and joint commissioning approach will be developed and utilised to inform the commissioning and decommissioning of domestic abuse services.

We will continue to learn from latest research and best practice examples to effectively address harmful, violent, and abusive behaviour within different contexts.

## Priority 4: Perpetrators

Hold those using harmful behaviour accountable for changing their behaviour.

### What this means

We acknowledge that to effectively combat domestic abuse; it is necessary to balance punitive measures within the criminal justice system with a comprehensive approach that supports individuals who are motivated to change their behaviour. By centring on the principles of the Duluth Model, we aim to challenge the patterns of power and control that underpin abusive behaviour and create a culture of non-violence and respect. Holding **perpetrators** accountable requires a multifaceted approach that includes both, consequences for their actions as well as opportunities for intervention, rehabilitation, and support. Through this approach, we strive to foster behavioural change, creating safer communities for everyone involved.

Our feedback from victims and survivors in Southend to date has highlighted their desire for more focus to be held on holding those using harmful behaviour towards them:

*“The police had been disappointing. My abusive ex breeches a non-molestation order over 7 times”.*

- Victim/survivor in Southend

*“[police] let him be bailed to our family home. I was then left homeless with the children as he refused to leave”.*

- Victim/survivor in Southend

By offering support and interventions for individuals motivated to change their behaviour, we can break the patterns of violence and control, ultimately preventing future instances of domestic abuse. This comprehensive approach balances the need for accountability through the criminal justice system with the recognition that support is an essential component for long-term behavioural change.

### What we know

1. **There are limited current support services for people using harmful behaviour in the city.** From our survey with professionals the biggest barriers they found in meeting the needs of perpetrators they worked with was a lack of an appropriate offer of support, including lack of behaviour change programmes and mental health support. Victims and survivors also told us they would like to see more support for those using harmful behaviour with 31% noting they would like healthy relationships support to make their relationships safer.
2. **Very few cases reported to Police result in a charge or summons.** There was a total of 3,718 recorded domestic abuse investigations in Southend in the 12 months between January and December 2022. Only 10% of all cases with recorded outcomes in 2022 were solved, with only 2% of all crimes with a recorded outcome in 2022 resulting in a charge or summons.

## What we want to achieve

### Our objectives:

- 15) Increase our offer of support services for people using harmful behaviour:** We will enhance the support services available for individuals who have engaged in harmful behaviour. By commissioning and developing comprehensive programs, we strive to address the underlying issues contributing to domestic abuse and promote sustainable behaviour change. This objective emphasises the importance of providing effective support to perpetrators to prevent future abuse.
- 16) Develop a preventative approach to the identification, risk assessment and risk management** of perpetrators to ensure we work proactively. This should include exploration of emerging research on using data linkages<sup>2</sup> to identify those who are or may cause harm.
- 17) Enhance accountability and intervention through the Criminal Justice System:** By promoting timely and appropriate legal action, as well as implementing effective intervention programs, we aim to disrupt patterns of power and control and deter reoffending.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(23\)00126-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(23)00126-3/fulltext)

## Developing and implementing our strategy.

### How we informed our strategy

The development of this partnership strategy is a culmination of efforts across Southend agencies. A number of methods were used to learn from peoples' experience, collate relevant evidence and by this inform this strategy:

- **Domestic abuse needs assessment (2023):** The needs assessment is a collation and analysis of data from across all agencies in Southend, including statutory safe accommodation needs assessment elements and a review of published and ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews. This was conducted for the purpose of understanding the needs and support requirements for victims and survivors. Through the needs assessment we identified some of the unique challenges that victims and survivors in Southend face including a complexity of need including wider vulnerabilities such as mental health and substance use needs.
- **Domestic abuse discovery exercise:** Jointly with the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) we commissioned TONIC to complete an in-depth research project to understand the pathways that exist across the greater Essex footprint. TONIC engaged with over 320 people, including those with lived experience and stakeholders, through an online survey, workshops, and in-depth interviews.
- **An online survey for professionals across Southend:** In addition to the broader discovery exercise, we developed our own survey to hear specifically from our stakeholders and residents. We heard from 58 professionals from agencies across Southend who told us about their experience of working with domestic abuse. This included exploration of the level of knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse to inform our learning and development elements of the strategy.
- **Hearing from Southend victims and survivors:** This included two focus groups with people with lived experience, and hearing from those with lived experience via an online survey. Overall, we had 97 responses from people with lived experience who told us about their needs and what they think a good service should look like
- **Workshop with stakeholders:** We facilitated a workshop with stakeholders from across all agencies in Southend. At this workshop we presented the draft survey for consultation.
- **Online consultation survey:** Following the development of the draft strategy we launched our 'You Said, We Heard' survey for anyone working or living in Southend. We sought their feedback on our proposed strategy.

Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership extend their gratitude to every individual that has contributed to the development of this strategy. The feedback from those with lived experience, residents and people who work in partner agencies across Southend has been invaluable and we hope their views are sufficiently reflected in this document.

## Our commitment to multi-agency collaboration

In Southend, all local agencies have a vital part to play in delivering this strategy. Many of these agencies are already undertaking significant and valuable work to promote safety and provide effective interventions; however, we know there is still much more for us to do.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy has been produced to assist partnerships and agencies in delivering appropriate responses to those affected by domestic abuse across Southend, assisting people to live free from abuse. It takes account of the legal framework for protecting vulnerable children whereby children who witness abuse will be considered within a child protection framework as reflected in the [Working Together guidance](#). We will continue to work across Boards including the Children Safeguarding Partnership to ensure robust responses for children and families experiencing domestic abuse.

This Strategy is underpinned by commitment to partnership working so that agencies will be able to maximise the utilisation of existing resources and, where possible, seek to draw upon additional resources, to improve the response to domestic abuse across Southend. It is a call to action for us all over the next three years to work together to achieve our shared vision for Southend and send out a clear message that domestic abuse will not be tolerated.

## Governance

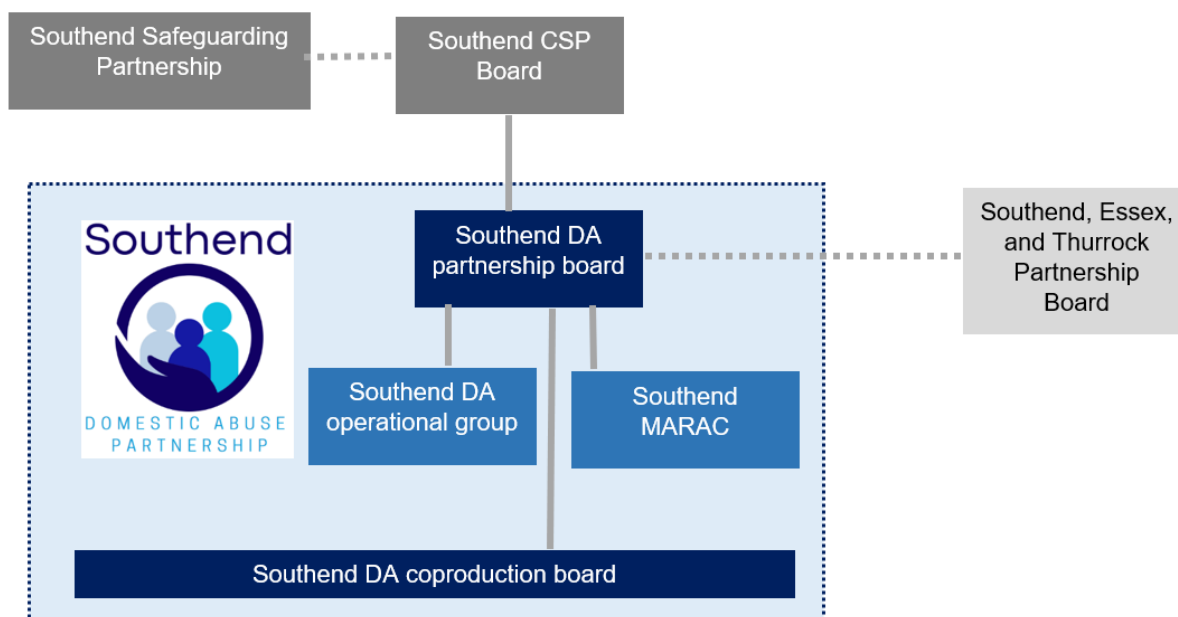
The Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) is a partnership group formed in line with requirements of Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Board will support Southend City Council in meeting its duty to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, by setting a strategic approach for all partners.

The Southend DAPB will hold responsibility for delivering this strategy, including monitoring progress.

Members of the Board will work together to support, advise, and co-operate with Southend City Council to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within relevant safe accommodation services.

The Board will establish an equitable partnership that reflects the needs of those impacted by domestic abuse in the local area and works to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to appropriate and specialist support within appropriate safe accommodation services. The Board will ensure the membership adheres to the statutory regulations and includes a broad representation of statutory, community and voluntary sector partners and that can participate and actively contribute across the partnership structures.

In year one of our strategy, we will develop our governance mechanisms through the development of an operational group and a coproduction Board. The full governance for the DA partnership is illustrated below:



## Working across the Greater Essex footprint

Effectively tackling domestic abuse requires a multi-agency response. As such our response models need to be aligned as far as possible across relevant local authority boundaries. We will work alongside colleagues in the Greater Essex area, through the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) to ensure responses are coordinated and aligned. The current SETDAB strategy includes five outcomes, of which all link seamlessly with our local approach:

Southend's strategic priorities	Links to the SETDAB outcomes
<p><b>Priority 1 Coproduction:</b> Empowering people with lived experience to shape and inspire our response, keeping them at the heart of everything we do.</p>	<p>There is no specific SETDAB outcome for this, however there is a range of projects across Greater Essex which we will collaborate with.</p>
<p><b>Priority 2 Prevention and partnerships:</b> Galvanise all people and communities to prevent domestic abuse by changing cultures that condone or are conducive to abuse.</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships.</p>
	<p>Outcome 5: Communities, professionals and employers are able to recognise domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity and have the confidence to take action.</p>
<p><b>Priority 3 Victims and survivors:</b> Collaborate across all agencies to ensure those experiencing abuse can access the right support, at the right time.</p>	<p>Outcome 2: People experiencing and at risk of experiencing domestic abuse are supported to be and feel safe.</p>
	<p>Outcome 3: Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse.</p>

<b>Priority 4 Perpetrators:</b> Hold those using harmful behaviour accountable for changing their behaviour.	Outcome 4: Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse.
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## Monitoring and evaluation

This strategy will be supplemented by:

- a) A delivery plan
- b) An evaluation plan

The Board reports into the Community Safety Partnership on a quarterly basis. This will include an overview of activity in line with the delivery plan. Each year an annual report will be compiled in line with the evaluation plan. A full evaluation (alongside the needs assessment) in the final year will contribute to the development of future strategies.

## Resources, budget, and funding

Southend City Council have committed an annual budget envelope of £255,078 over the course of this strategy to deliver domestic abuse services. This is in addition to the new burdens funding allocations from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) up to 2025 and future allocations which will form part of the Local Authority settlement.

Council Department	Annual funding	Description
Public Health	£25,000	Contribution to Essex-wide IDVA service.
Communities (via Supporting People)	£255,078	Commissioning of Community support and refuge accommodation
Children Services	£120,863	MARAT including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MARAC social worker post</li> <li>2. 2 MARAT administrator posts (jointly funded with PFCC)</li> <li>3. MARAT manager post (jointly funded with PFCC and ICB)</li> </ul>
External Source	Annual Funding	Description
Department for Levelling Up,	£380,583 (variable <sup>3</sup> )	An annual allocation to support Local Authorities to meet our duties under the DA Act (2021) around

3

[1] This annual fund has been varied (although a similar amount) year on year since we started to receive it in 2021/22. This is our 2023/24 allocation; our 2024/5 allocation increases slightly to £387,764.



Housing and Communities (DLUHC)		support within safe accommodation only in line with the Act's definitions.
Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board	£22,983	Funding towards the Southend MARAT manager post.
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex	£49,103	Funding towards the Southend MARAT manager and 2 administrator posts.

We will work together to avoid duplication, consolidate evidence, analyse how best outcomes are achieved, share information and evidence early and thus ensure value for money and the best use of available resources across the partnership including Greater Essex through SETDAB.

The partnership will continuously work to identify wider courses of funding to support the delivery of the strategy.

#### **Our commitment:**

- We will work together to seek and access external funding opportunities, working collectively to identify areas of need where funding can make the most impact.
- Identify options or pooling resources amongst agencies to deliver the best services for victims.

## Appendix A: Hearing from people with lived experience

As well as understanding the prevalence of domestic abuse, it is vital we understand what abuse looks like for people living in Southend. We conducted a survey to hear from residents in Southend about their experience of domestic abuse and getting support. Overall, we **received 97 responses** from members of the public. The below table highlights what we found:

Theme	What we found	Voices of survivors in Southend
Types of abuse	<p>Based on our online survey of victims in Southend the most commonly experienced forms of <b>non-physical abuse</b> were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Shouting:</b> 97% of the respondents had experienced a perpetrator shouting at them, and it was also the most frequently experienced form of abuse with 90% experiencing this behaviour more than 10 times.</li> <li>● <b>Humiliation:</b> 85% of respondents experienced being humiliated by their perpetrator, with 58% stating this happened more than 10 times.</li> <li>● <b>Keep track of where they went:</b> 83% of respondents stated their perpetrator kept track of where they went or how they spent time. This can make seeking support particularly difficult.</li> </ul> <p>Many survivors also experienced physical and sexual abuse too with the most common being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grabbing (86%)</li> <li>● Pushing (84%)</li> </ul> <p>In addition to this there was a high prevalence of perpetrators hitting, punching, or slapping victims with 71% experiencing it and 21% frequently experiencing it more than 10 times. Worryingly, almost <b>half the respondents experienced being choked or strangled</b> (both actual and attempted). Strangling is often a significant predictor of future lethal violence.</p>	<p><i>“I have only recently started to tell people. After 14 years of an abusive marriage, I have left. I continue to be abused and controlled”.</i></p> <p><i>“The police took the financial abuse seriously enough to arrest my ex-husband, but the judge threw the case out because I was married and was told it was a matter for the divorce court to deal with”.</i></p>
Experiences of help seeking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 34% of victims in Southend never told any professionals about their experience of abuse.</li> <li>● 51% of victims responding reported the abuse to the police however most did not report all the incidents. In fact, only 6% reported all the incidents.</li> <li>● Survivors told us the three most common organisations they might disclose to were GPs (28%), Children’s</li> </ul>	<p><i>“My GP offered to help me run away to a hostel, but I was too afraid to leave”.</i></p> <p><i>“My school was able to leave a picture of my ex-partner in the office so if they were to ever turn up on site staff members would know what they look like”.</i></p>

	<p>social care (22%) and/or their employer (20%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims in Southend were most likely to seek help within the community, with the majority telling a friend about the abuse they were experiencing (63%). They also sought support from family members (45%). Almost as many sought supports from a colleague (18%).</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>“I didn’t feel many of them took it seriously, I felt they judged me for telling them, like somehow, I was responsible for what had happened to me, or that I caused it”.</i></b></p>
Needs of victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most common factors that were important to victims in Southend from a support service were confidentiality (98%), a flexible service (79%) and/or a 24-hour service (66%).</li> <li>• The most common support need by a considerable margin was the need for mental health related support with 80% stating this was what they needed.</li> <li>• Aside from this the next most common needs were; support for their children’s wellbeing (49%), legal support/advice (47%) and/or something to help them to be physically safe within their own home such as ‘target hardening’<sup>4</sup> (43%)</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>“Good support would be flexible as in phone calls, home visits and also availability at the weekends and after school hours”.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>“Not having to wait. Getting immediate advice”.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>“Unfortunately, opportunities to escape in these types of relationships only arise by chance. Having a point of contact with someone who you know will answer no matter the time, is extremely imperative”.</i></b></p>
Gaps and barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The three biggest barriers victims and survivors in Southend experienced in seeking support were fear of what the perpetrator would do if they found out (45%), feeling too embarrassed or ashamed (43%) and/or fearing they would not be believed (40%).</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>“Police were unsupportive, didn’t believe me when I called stating he was breaking restraining order”.</i></b></p>

<sup>4</sup> This is a criminal justice term referring to the target being the home, and hardening access to the home to keep victims safe through mechanisms such as alarms, fireproof letterboxes etc.

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# Southend-on-Sea City Council

## Briefing Note For the People Scrutiny Committee

# 7

30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Report prepared by: Anne Warburton  
Service Manager – Integrated Transport and Fleet Services  
Civil Engineering Group

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### **Vecteo – progress brief on the provision of Key Performance Indicators**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Tony Cox, Leader**

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#### **1. Purpose of Briefing Note**

- 1.1 To provide members with substantiated data on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), provided by our Joint Venture company Vecteo on their performance.

#### **2 Summary**

- 2.1 This brief details the ongoing operational performance of Vecteo. Feedback is still positive from stakeholders. There remains a lot of support and trust in Vecteo, who are maintaining their good reputation.
- 2.2 Vecteo are working to improve the contract management of their sub-contractors. As there has been a huge decrease in drivers for passenger carrying work across the UK, Vecteo have a limited number of sub-contractors they can use. Vecteo are actively and consistently working with these sub-contractors to raise performance and where required work with the market to engage with potential new suppliers.

#### **3 Background**

- 3.1 A report on the performance of Vecteo has been made to each meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the decision of the Council on 25 November 2021.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 31 January 2023, the Committee supported an undertaking of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Parking that the performance of Vecteo now be reported on a quarterly basis going forward.
- 3.3 Therefore it was agreed that the next briefing note on Vecteo Performance, would be for January-March 2023 quarter will be reported to the first meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year in June 2023. We are presenting to April to June's figures of this briefing paper.
- 3.4 In July 2022 Members requested that the scheduled briefing notes on Vecteo's performance detailed;
- 3.4.1 The circulation of the full schedule of KPIs applicable to the Services Agreement with Vecteo for the provision of special educational needs and

disabilities (SEND) home to school transport would be provided for every subsequent meeting.

3.4.2 The provision of a comprehensive report on the performance of Vecteo against each of the key performance indicators applicable to the contract to each future meeting of the Committee, setting out actual performance figures rather than percentages.

3.4.3 Details of performance against each of the Minimum Service Requirements for the contract for the provision of special educational needs and disabilities home to school transport services.

#### **4.0 Information and progress requested**

4.1 The full schedule of KPIs within the Services Agreement is attached as Appendix 1 and have been annotated for the months April – June 2023.

4.2 Appendix 2 is a table of the Minimum Service Requirements (MSRs) for the Services Agreement that includes all core services Vecteo perform. This has been annotated to cross reference the KPI data that gives us an overall position of performance of core services against the MSRs.

4.3 Appendix 3 is a social value brief supplied by Vecteo for April – June 2023 regarding social value that Vecteo are providing to various groups within our community.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 There are no recommendations as a result of this brief.

#### **6.0 Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this brief.

#### **7.0 Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no Legal implications as a result of this brief.

#### **8.0 People Implications**

8.1 There are no People implications as a result of this brief.

#### **9.0 Property Implications**

9.1 There are no implications as a result of this brief.

#### **10 Equalities and Diversity Implications**

10.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications as a result of this brief.

#### **11 Risk Assessment**

11.1 None

**12 Value for Money**

12.1 N/A

**13 Community Safety Implications**

13.1 None.

**14 Environmental Impact**

14.1 None

**15 Other Options**

15.1 There are no other options proposed.

**16 Background papers**

16.1 Appendix 1 – KPI schedule

16.2 Appendix 2 – MSR requirements

16.2 Appendix 3 – Social Value Brief

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Passenger Management	12	On-board incidents notified to the Council within 1 hour of being notified	100% achieved - see attached log	100% achieved - see attached log	100% achieved - see attached log	100% achieved - see attached log	100% achieved - see attached log	100% - see attached log	100%
Passenger Management	13	Number of new applications for children social care transport to be processed and allocated a route within next working day if requested by 2pm the previous day.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
Passenger Management	14	Emergency measures to cover business continuity including Sub – Contractor provisions	100% - no emergency measures required	100% - no emergency measures required	100% - no emergency measures required this month	100% - no emergency measures required this month	100% - no emergency measures required this month	100% - no emergency measures required this month	100%
Customer Service	15	Communication with all relevant stakeholders to notify of any foreseen changes of service giving a minimum of 24 hours notice.	100% achieved	100% achieved	100% achieved	100% achieved	100%	100% achieved	98%
Customer Service	16	Response times to the Council's requests for general management information within 3 working day.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%
Invoicing	17	Invoice queries dealt with to satisfaction within 5 working days	100%	100% one query resolved within 5 days	100% one query resolved within 5 days	100%	100% No Queries	100%	100%
Passenger Management	18	Number of incidents on-board a vehicle that were reported to the provider via Driver/Passenger Assistant	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100%	100%
Passenger Management	19	Number of new applications for home to school/college transport to be processed and allocated a route within 10 working days including meet and greet.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%
Passenger Management	20	Number of new applications for adults with learning disabilities transport to be processed and allocated a route within 3 working days.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
Passenger Management	21	Inability to operate a Route, or any part of a Route, this must be reported to the Council's representative Transport and Contracts Manager, by the provider, in writing on the same day on which the default takes place	100% all routes operated	100% all routes operated	100% achieved, one Jny delayed and covered by the school	100%	100% all routes operated	100%	< 5 per month and 100% reported

Passenger Management	22	Number of new applications for Dial-a Ride transport to be processed and allocated a route within 3 working days.	100% one new application	100% 3 new members this month	100% three new applications	100%	100% 8 new applications	100%	90%
Social Value Outcomes	23	Case studies and Qualitative and Quantitative report provided evidencing social value outcomes	Glen to give update for Jan at SPB	Glen to give update for March SPB	now reported on a rolling basis	yearly report updated monthly and shared with SCC	report updated monthly	report updated every month	Quarterly reporting in line with SPB
Passenger Management	24	Number of passengers per route/service	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100%	100%
Passenger Management	25	Number of route changes over 3 month period	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100% reported	100%	100%
Passenger Management	26	Driver changes to allocated routes over a monthly period	99%	100%	99.4%	99.6%	99.4%	99.2%	98%
Passenger Management	27	Passenger Assistant changes to allocated routes over a monthly period	99%	99.20%	99%	99.3%	98.8%	99.2%	

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## APPENDIX 2

### PARTNERSHIP SPECIFIC MINIMUM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS – January - March 2023

Minimum Service Requirements	Linked KPIs	Comments
<p>1 To deliver the home to school service during the schools' academic year (although on occasions transport may be required during the school holidays for clubs). This service includes the requirement of wheelchair accessible minibuses that operate with pick-ups and drop offs either at a bus stop or a door to door service. Epileptic and diabetic trained Passenger Assistants are also to be provided (where required) see 6.1.1 above).</p>	<p>KPI 1 – Written report of Accidents            KPI 2 – Specialist Equipment            KPI 3 – Maximum journey times primary            KPI 4 – Maximum journey times secondary            KPI 5 – Pre transport comms            KPI 6 – Response for further information relating to safeguarding            KPI 7 – Acknowledgment of receipt of complaint            KPI 8 – Response of complaint            KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly            KPI 10 – Immediate notification of GDPR breach            KPI 11 – Data Protection training            KPI 12 – Onboard incidents notified to Council            KPI 14 – Emergency measures to cover business continuity            KPI 15 – Comms to stakeholders of foreseen changes            KPI 16 – Response times for management information            KPI 17 – Response times to invoice queries            KPI 18 – Nu of incidents on board a vehicle reported            KPI 19 – Number of new applications for home to school            KPI 21 – Inability to operate a route            KPI 23 – Qualitive and quantitative social value outcomes            KPI 24 – Number of passengers per route/service            KPI 25 – Number of route changes over a 3 month period            KPI 26 – Driver changes within a month            KPI 27 – Passenger Assistant changes over a 3 month period</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 1 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>

<p>2 To provide one Passenger Assistant (PA) per eight seater mini-bus and two PAs for 16 seater minibuses or larger vehicles as a standard requirement for the home to school transport service. However, vehicles of less than eight seats used for home to school, supervised contact and children's respite care may also require a PA where this is required. Where the PA is accompanying an epileptic service user it is expected that the PA will be trained in being able to administer Buccal Midazolam and other requirements as set out in 7.2 below.</p>	<p>KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly</p>	<p>All Training and DBS records have been supplied and verified.</p>
<p>3 To provide a meet and greet introduction with service users for the home to school provision during the school summer holidays to allow service users and parents/carers familiarisation with the PA/driver and transport as outlined in Appendix C (see also 7.3 below).</p>	<p>KPI 5 – Pre transport comms</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 3 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>
<p>4 To ensure the maximum “end to end journey” time for a service user does not exceed 1 hour for primary school pupils and 1 hour and 15 minutes for secondary school age pupils and adults (which includes walking time to pick-up and drop-off points) where travelling is within the Borough of Southend-on-Sea. The stated times must also take into account the loading and unloading of service users with wheelchairs/mobility scooters (see 7.4 below).</p>	<p>KPI 3 – Maximum journey times primary KPI 4 – Maximum journey times secondary</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 4 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>
<p>5 To deliver the adults with learning disabilities service between Mondays-Fridays 7.30am and 5.30pm all year round except during the bank holidays and Christmas through to the New Year bank holiday. This service includes the</p>	<p>KPI 6 – Response for further information relating to safeguarding KPI 7 – Acknowledgment of receipt of complaint KPI 8 – Response of complaint KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly KPI 10 – Immediate notification of GDPR breach KPI 11 – Data Protection training</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 5 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>

<p>requirement of wheelchair accessible minibuses that operate with pick-ups and drops-offs either at a bus stop or a door to door service. Epileptic and diabetic trained Passenger Assistants are also to be provided (where required) – see 6.1.2 above.</p>	<p>KPI 12 – Onboard incidents notified to Council  KPI 14 – Emergency measures to cover business continuity  KPI 15 – Comms to stakeholders of foreseen changes  KPI 16 – Response times for management information  KPI 17 – Response times to invoice queries  KPI 18 – Number of incidents on board a vehicle reported  KPI 20 – Number of applications for Adults LD  KPI 21 – Inability to operate a route  KPI 23 – Qualitive and quantitative social value outcomes  KPI 24 – Number of passengers per route/service  KPI 25 – Number of route changes over a 3 month period  KPI 26 – Driver changes within a month  KPI 27 – Passenger Assistant changes over a 3 month period</p>	
<p>6 To deliver the Supervised Contact service seven days a week between 9.00am and 5.30pm (including bank holidays except Christmas Day) after school or during the school holidays including weekends. This service can vary from a return to and from a child's home or a one-way trip. This service is usually provided by a taxi. However there may be occasions where this involves a number of siblings and the requirement of multiple car seats, so a minibus may be used on occasions (see 6.1.3 above).</p>	<p>KPI 1 – Written report of Accidents  KPI 2 – Specialist Equipment  KPI 6 – Response for further information relating to safeguarding  KPI 7 – Acknowledgment of receipt of complaint  KPI 8 – Response of complaint  KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly  KPI 10 – Immediate notification of GDPR breach  KPI 11 – Data Protection training  KPI 12 – Onboard incidents notified to Council  KPI 14 – Emergency measures to cover business continuity  KPI 15 – Comms to stakeholders of foreseen changes  KPI 16 – Response times for management information  KPI 17 – Response times to invoice queries  KPI 18 – Number of incidents on board a vehicle reported  KPI 21 – Inability to operate a route  KPI 23 – Qualitive and quantitative social value outcomes  KPI 24 – Number of passengers per route/service  KPI 25 – Number of route changes over a 3 month period  KPI 26 – Driver changes within a month  KPI 27 – Passenger Assistant changes over a 3 month period</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 6 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>
<p>7 To deliver the respite care service Monday-Friday during the school academic year and school holidays. This service can vary from a return to and from the child's home or a one-way trip. These return trips could be spread over a</p>	<p>KPI 1 – Written report of accidents  KPI 2 – Specialist equipment  KPI 6 – Response for further information relating to safeguarding  KPI 7 – Acknowledgment of receipt of complaint  KPI 8 – Response of complaint  KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly  KPI 10 – Immediate notification of GDPR breach</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 7 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>

<p>weekend or a couple of days (see 6.1.3 above).</p>	<p>KPI 11 – Data Protection training  KPI 12 – Onboard incidents notified to Council  KPI 13 – Processing new applications for LAC  KPI 14 – Emergency measures to cover business continuity  KPI 15 – Comms to stakeholders of foreseen changes  KPI 16 – Response times for management information  KPI 17 – Response times to invoice queries  KPI 18 – Number of incidents on board a vehicle reported  KPI 21 – Inability to operate a route  KPI 23 – Qualitive and quantitative social value outcomes  KPI 24 – Number of passengers per route/service  KPI 25 – Number of route changes over a 3 month period  KPI 26 – Driver changes within a month  KPI 27 – Passenger Assistant changes over a 3 month period</p>	
<p>8 To manage the bookings for the provision of 'on demand' Dial-a-Ride services Monday to Friday (10.00am-2.30pm) using wheelchair accessible minibuses that operate a door to door service. This service may also require assistance with carrying the service users shopping to the front door of the service user (see 6.1.4 above).</p>	<p>KPI 1 – Written report of Accidents  KPI 6 – Response for further information relating to safeguarding  KPI 7 – Acknowledgment of receipt of complaint  KPI 8 – Response of complaint  KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly  KPI 10 – Immediate notification of GDPR breach  KPI 11 – Data Protection training  KPI 12 – Onboard incidents notified to Council  KPI 14 – Emergency measures to cover business continuity  KPI 15 – Comms to stakeholders of foreseen changes  KPI 16 – Response times for management information  KPI 21 – Inability to operate a route  KPI 22 – Number of new applications  KPI 23 – Qualitive and quantitative social value outcomes</p>	<p>Dial-A-Ride is currently in operation and Vecteo are promoting this service. Ridership has been increasing during the reporting period.</p> <p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 8 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>
<p>9 The vehicles used in delivery of this service must meet the standards set out 7.5 and 7.6 below and be fully compliant with all relevant Licencing Regulations and Southend Licencing (where applicable) including the use of signs which must also comply with 7.7 below.</p>	<p>No KPI linked to this MSR</p>	<p>All vehicles and licence plates are verified during SCC compliance inspections.</p>



<p>10 To ensure all drivers and passenger assistants comply with the requirements set out in 7.8 below.</p>	<p>KPI 1 – Written report of Accidents  KPI 10 – Immediate notification of GDPR breach  KPI 11 – Data Protection training  KPI 12 – Onboard incidents notified to Council</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 10 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>
<p>11 To ensure all Drivers and Passenger Assistants employed by the Partnership have an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service check before commencement on any service (see 7.9 below).</p>	<p>KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly</p>	<p>All DBS records have been supplied and verified.</p>
<p>12 To ensure all Drivers and Passengers Assistants undertake the necessary training as set out in 7.10 below.</p>	<p>KPI 1 – Written report of accidents  KPI 9 – DBS and training records – quarterly  KPI 10 – Immediate notification of GDPR breach  KPI 11 – Data Protection training  KPI 12 – Onboard incidents notified to Council</p>	<p>For the months Apr – June 2023 Minimum Service Requirement 12 within the Services Agreement has been met.</p>

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## Social Value Report 2023

## Local Recruitment

Vecteo has recognized that it should employ its staff in the local area and that the staff should reflect the diversity of the local communities that it serves.

We firmly believe in local jobs for local people and recognize how local employment feeds into the local economy

To achieve this, we have

- Recruited our employees locally through the job site Indeed and a mixture of local posters on vehicles, social media, local shopping areas and through word of mouth from existing staff
- We have proactively looked and employed where it is possible to do so employees with disabilities, as an example we currently have five employees with various levels of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and one who is an amputee
- When working with contractors, where work is tendered out to other operators, preference is given to local companies to ensure that those employed by these companies is also kept local.

## Supporting Local Groups and Charities

At Vecteo we believe that we are not just here to deliver and service a contract, we feel it is our duty to help and support within the local community and deliver transport services where we can, helping groups and charities within the local communities.

On occasions we have managed to offer support and vehicles free of charge and where we can do this we will, this can often be achieved by utilizing available staff and vehicles at a time when they might be available, our staff are committed to this ethos and on occasions especially for charities they donate their time free to enable us to give this much needed support.

We are aware that we are a business that has to offer best value to both SCC (Southend City Council) and the communities we serve so sometimes we may have to make a small charge to help support some groups and charities, this is normally to cover any fuel costs and possibly some staff costs depending on what is being asked for, however it still supports the groups and charities as they are able to minimize spend on transport that may otherwise have cost them more enabling them to get more services for their available funds.

## **Social Interaction**

We have a Vecteo public page on Facebook and have set up two private groups one for staff (Vecteo teams) and one for parents of those children we carry on our services (Vecteo Family) this is designed to improve communications, gain feedback and to be better involved with the community we serve, this is proving to be a great way to provide information and keep in touch with the community

We use these platforms to promote/share local groups and charity's information from their FB sites, we also share SCC information and posts, Cllrs information that they may have posted and helpful information and guidance for SEND carers and parents.

We actively attend coffee mornings for various groups and charities, making us available to give out information about our services and to promote Dial a Ride services, but more importantly to be available for parents to give us feedback on our services and receive new ideas on how we can improve ourselves

### **Recently we have supported.**

03/01/23	Attended the Southend Insight coffee morning at the Ekco sports club to promote Dial a Ride, took 3 people home from the coffee morning
17/01/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
19/01/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
19/01/23	Garons Park, UK Frienship Group evening Meal – a vehicle was provided at cost only and operated two runs from Southend City center to Garons Park and two trips back later in the evening, (done at cost price)
24/01/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
26/01/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
31/01/23	Turning Tides – trip into Southend City center – (Done at Cost)
31/01/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
02/02/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
07/02/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
09/02/23	Southend Adult Community Collage to Garons Park and return (free of charge)
23/02/23	Welcome to the UK, trip to look round Southend Hospital (Done at Cost)
07/03/23	Turning Tides – trip to Caddies and return – (done at Cost)

10/03/23	Attended the SEND The Right Message Support session, said a few words and provided an opportunity to receive any feedback from parents whilst being able to supply support and information to existing and potentially new parents/carers for SEND home to school transport
13/03/23	Had a meeting at the Haven Hub to promote Dial a Ride to them and to see how we may be able to help them get clients to and from the Haven Hub events
14/03/23	Meeting at Southend Insight Office in Hamlet Court Road, to discuss transport needs and how Vecteo may be able to assist and how Dial a Ride might meet some of their needs
15/03/23	One Love Project working in Collaboration Southend Food Alliance and Southend Community Investment Board. Vecteo transported food and provisions from Southend to St Cedds Church and return to Southend (free of Charge)
24/03/23	Pholk Care – following the theft of their minibus, Vecteo operated a trip to Top Golf, Chigwell to save it having to be cancelled, (Free of charge)
24/03/23	Vecteo held a Curry and Quiz night at the Ambleside Club and raised £1314.50 to help get one of their passenger assistants and his team mates out to Berlin to take part in the Special Olympics representing Team GB in Football
26/03/23	Vecteo reached out to the Southend Air Cadets following the theft of their vehicle – although no trips have been made to this date, they have thanked us and told Vecteo that they will be speaking to their insurance company but if they are stuck for transport they will contact us.
30/03/23	Pholk Care – Following the theft of their minibus, Vecteo operated a second trip for them to save it being cancelled, this one was to Barleylands (free of Charge)
05/04/23	One Love Project working in Collaboration Southend Food Alliance and Southend Community Investment Board. Vecteo transported food and provisions from Southend to St Cedds Church and return to Southend (free of Charge)
12/04/23	One Love Project working in Collaboration Southend Food Alliance and Southend Community Investment Board. Vecteo transported food and provisions from Southend to St Cedds Church and return to Southend (free of Charge)
12/04/23	Private hire - at Cost for Turning Tides to Hadleigh Park
13/04/23	Private Hire - at cost for Southend Youth Support to Shoebury youth center
14/04/23	Private Hire – at cost for Safer Steps to Southend Fire station
17/04/23	Attended SSIF coffee Morning at SAV's
18/04/23	Attended a meeting with Age Concern Southend at the Haven Hub to discuss a Transport Bid that they were considering putting in for, following a discussion we are promoting Dial a Ride to meet their transport needs
18/04/23	16 seater - Ambleside adult community college over to Garon Park and return Free of charge



20/04/23	16 seater - Ambleside adult community college over to Garon Park and return Free of charge
21/04/23	Attended Anna Firth event where a member of the Vecteo Team was awarded a Community Champions award
24/04/23	Attended the Shoebury Transport Group meeting to discuss the new Shoebury to Garon park shuttle service.
25/04/23	16 seater - Ambleside adult community college over to Garon Park and return Free of charge
27/04/23	16 seater - Ambleside adult community college over to Garon Park and return Free of charge
11/05/23	SSIF SEMINAR - HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT SESSION with Vecteo & SCC Transport Officer
31/05/23	Southend Air Cadets to Royal Air force museum, London - Free of charge due to their minibus being stolen
08/06/23	Turning Tides – Southend Fire Station- at cost only
13/06/23	Attended SSIF coffee morning

**Compliments received.**

10/01/23	Headteacher, Lancaster School	Thank you for going the extra mile with HT
10/01/23	Parents - HT	Explained how happy HT was with his transport and was happy when he returned home from school and allowed Donna (Vecteo PA) to unbuckle him and he was smiling – also please thank the boss of Vecteo as he actually turned up with the transport this morning to help out and get HT settled on the transport
16/01/23	Parents - TS	I just wanted to say thank you to yourself and the crew, TS should not have been handed over to you by the school in his condition, however as you know TS became further unwell as the journey progressed and your crew were amazing in caring for TS and how you followed up on how is he doing and carrying out the relevant reporting. This is a serious failing of the school and is being investigated by them. We are lucky to have you and our dedicated crew, who always show professionalism and care.
10/02/23	Zakk;s Mum	Thank you for being a great driver and always taking such good care of Zakk
10/03/23	Send The Right Message	Thanked us on Social media for attending their support session
16/03/23	One Love project and soup kitchen	Thanked us on social media for helping them transport food supplies to St Cedds Church

28/03/23	Haley Byatt	<p>Just to let you know Ollie seems alot happier on the bus. Infact, now he doesn't want to get off the bus to go into school! 😊. I don't know what it is as he cannot tell me as you know but he does seem happier and I have to go by his reactions and that really helps me cope with him. Lorretta is lovely and makes a fuss of the kids, Paul seems happier. I hope Kayleigh is loving her new bus crew and is getting the support. Thank you all for much for being so supportive. We appreciate all you do.</p>
30/03/23	Pholk Care	<p>I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your lovely team. I've heard nothing but great feedback from service users and my staff whilst I've been off. Without your assistance, our service users wouldn't have been able to have their days out, which is extremely important to them!</p> <p>Thank you again,</p>
21/04/23	Anna Firth MP	<p>Attended an award ceremony with our PA Jack Venturini as he was awarded a community Champions award for his work with Vecteo, Jack has SEND and has also been selected to represent the team GB football team in the special Olympics in Berlin in June 2023</p>
07/05/23	Howard spurling	<p>Today was my dad's stone setting in Rainham... we asked Vecteo to help with our transport... The van turned up.. the driver helped my mum get out of the bungalow and onto the van (wheelchair bound)...</p> <p>we arrived in perfect time at Rainham.. had service and on way back picked up my grandson (in car seat) Then back home...Driver helped mum back into bungalow..</p> <p>This is just to say how great Kevin has been.. Very helpful considerate friendly and professional...</p> <p>Thank you Vecteo but massive thank you to Kevin... Excellent service...</p>



12/05/23	HJ Parent H2S	<p style="text-align: right;">12 MAY AT 21:35</p> <p>Can you please send a big big thank you to Loretta and Paul for making my birthday so special today. Not only did they drop Ollie off at my parents where I've spent the day but they had all the kids on the bus singing Happy Birthday to me. Even Paul was singing! it brought a tear to my eye. It really did make my birthday, thank you, thank you, thank you...Hayley ([REDACTED] mum) xxxx</p> <p></p> <p>they got me a lovely card and chocolates too, I was so overwhelmed, they go above and beyond. As a single mother who feels isolated often, this made my day xx</p> <p></p>

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**The One Love Project & Soup Kitchen - Southend** · Follow

15 Mar · 🌐



**FOOD SUPPORT ACROSS SOUTHEND**

On Wednesday's The One Love Project is working in collaboration with the [Southend Food Alliance](#), Southend Community Investment Board and [Southend-on-Sea City Council](#)

Today we took Food Support to St Cedds in the Westcliff area. One of the new initiatives the charity is involved in, in 2023

Thank you to [Vecteo](#) for your support and help with transportation of food and provisions! 🚚

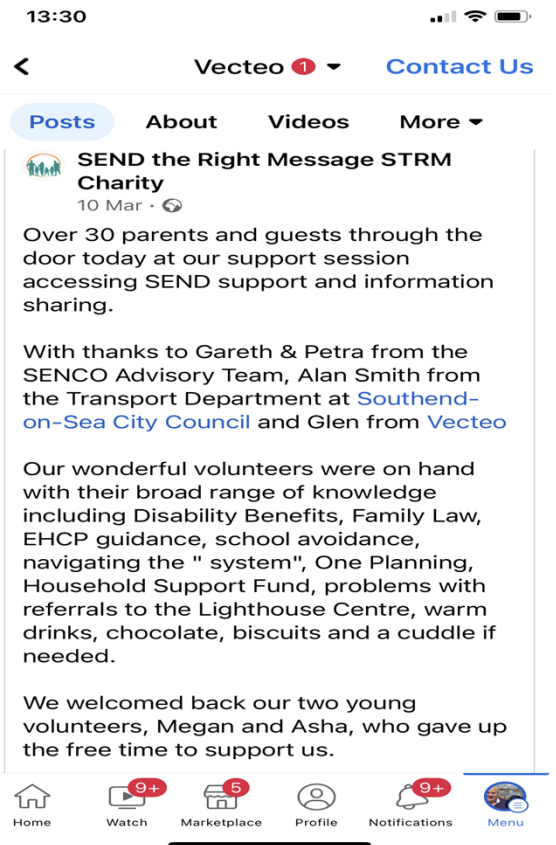
It means that people who struggle to visit to current food support providers can access to food and essentials they need to help feed themselves or their family during the cost of living crisis.

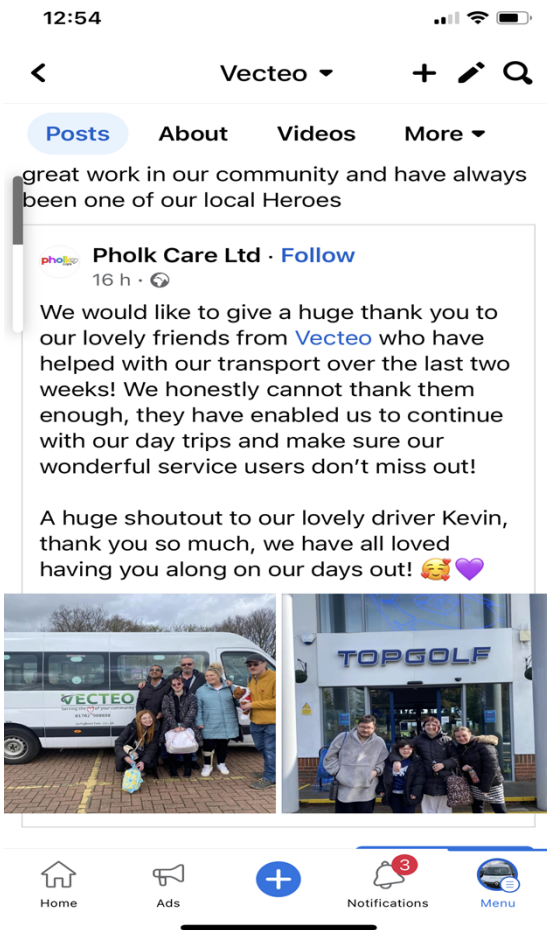
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- Elizabeth53@svp.org.uk
- <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071858318480>

#onelove #soupkitchen #foodbanks  
 #fightingfoodpoverty  
 #kindness #donations #southend #essex  
 #charity #homeless #volunteers  
 #costoflivingcrisis







AGE Concern Southend on Sea · Follow

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**\*NEED A LIFT TO OUR SPRING FAYRE??\***

We are pleased to be working with VECTEO's Dial a Ride service who are able to provide transport to our Spring Fayre to those most in need, including wheelchair users. To book, please call number 01702 908888 then choose option 3.

**THE HAVEN**  
COMMUNITY HUB

**AGE**  
Concern  
SOUTHEND ON SEA CIO

# SPRING FAYRE

**SUNDAY 21 MAY 2023**  
**11AM - 3PM**

**AT THE HAVEN COMMUNITY HUB**  
138-140 HAMLET COURT ROAD, SSO 7LW

STALLS SELLING HOMEMADE GIFTS, ARTS AND CRAFTS, BOOKS, JEWELLERY, TOYS, CONFECTIONERY AND MORE. INCLUDING OUR SPRING TOMBOLA AND RAFFLE TO WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES.



**Vecteo**



Posted by Glen Shuttleworth

6 d · 🌐

Great News if you are looking to get to Garon Park from Shoeburyness

... See more

## SHOEBURY - GARON PARK SHUTTLE

*Every Tuesday & Wednesday*  
*from 9th May to 21st July*

In response to the need to support local residents to access the Garon Park Leisure and Wellbeing Services we are launching a new community transport scheme using VECTEO minibuses which has been funded through the Community Investment Fund.

Pick-up from **Shoebury Youth Centre and Asda at 10am** - Drop off and return pick up from Southend Tennis & Leisure Centre Bus stop.  
**Return pick up will be at 1:30pm sharp.** Please arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before departure as the bus is not able to wait or return.

**All seats MUST be booked in advance by calling 01702 908888 option 3** Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm- quoting Shoebury - Garon Park Shuttle Service  
**Cost is £3 per person.** Family Ticket is available for 4 persons cost £10

**Payment by phone or on the bus** - if a person books and does not turn up, they will need to pay in advance the future.  
Tickets are not refundable or transferable. All persons under 18 must be accompanied by an adult (18 and above)  
A tour and introduction to Wellbeing at Garon Park will be provided alongside an information and activity programme for the day.  
A Free Tea /Coffee/Water per person from Wellbeing at GP included

**PHONE 01702 908888 option 3**

Logos: wellbeing @garonpark, SECAT, VECTEO, Community Connectors, JUST RIDE SOUTHEND



SSIF SEMINARS

## HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT SPECIAL

### How does the service work?

Alan Smith (Transport Entitlement Officer at Southend City Council) and Glen Shuttleworth (Transport & Operations Manager at Vecteo) together with Team Members Marc Berry and Anoushka Judd will be providing information and answering questions about the service.

**The Panel will discuss a range of topics such as eligibility criteria, how to apply, the appeals process, how they will be communicating with you and more. They will also be available to answer any questions you may have about the delivery of the service**

This event is suitable for both existing and new users who are residents of Southend.

Register here!



 Thursday, 11th May at 10am - 12noon

 Tickfield Centre (Darwin Room)

Free parking and light refreshments will be provided.  
Please note recording of the event will not be permitted.



Essex Partnership University  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Southend City Council People Scrutiny Committee

*30 August 2023*

EP<sup>∞</sup>UT

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# 1. About EPUT



- Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) provides **community physical and mental health services** to the populations of Essex, Thurrock and Southend as well as in Luton, Bedfordshire and Suffolk
- EPUT operates across **three Integrated Care Systems**: Hertfordshire & West Essex, Mid & South Essex and Suffolk & North East Essex
- Since 2020, EPUT has been through **considerable change** as the new leadership team has focussed on:
  - Responding to the priorities from the Health and Safety prosecution
  - Working with the Essex Mental Health Independent Inquiry
  - Establishing a safety strategy of “Safety First, Safety Always”
  - Creating a culture that is open and psychologically safe for all – patients, families, carers and staff
  - Managing staffing pressures and increasing demand for mental health services

## 2. Our vision, purpose, strategic objectives and values

### New strategy launched in early 2023

- Aims to improve services for patients, carers, their families and the wider community
- Developed through wide ranging engagement and informed by what matters most to local people

## OUR VISION

To be the leading health and wellbeing service in the provision of mental health and community care.



### Four strategic objectives

We will deliver safe, high quality integrated care services

We will work with our partners to make our services better

We will enable each other to be the best we can be

We will help our communities to thrive

# 3. Safety first, safety always

## Safety First, Safety Always Strategy

- **Care and safety of patients is our number one priority, led by the Executive Team**
- Safety strategy approved by the Trust Board in January 2021 and updated in 2023
- Seven themes: leadership; culture; continuous learning; wellbeing; innovation; enhancing environments; governance and information

### Leadership

- In our **ambition to be an industry leader in patient safety**, our staff are advocates for Safety First, Safety Always throughout the organisation
- **Leadership in patient safety takes place at all levels of the Trust** – from ward to board – ensuring patient safety is everyone's responsibility

### Culture

- Continue to **build our environment of Safety First, Safety Always**, incorporating a **Just Culture** to drive a workplace of safety for patients and of physical & psychological safety at work for our staff
- **Creating an ethos of strong accountability – but not of blame** – has encouraged staff to speak up, raise concerns and report incidents

### Governance

- The foundations of a safe organisation are built on **solid governance, process and access to information**
- Focusing on **providing decision makers** across the organisation **with access to as near to live data as possible** to support data driven decisions and **allow decisions to be made as locally as possible**

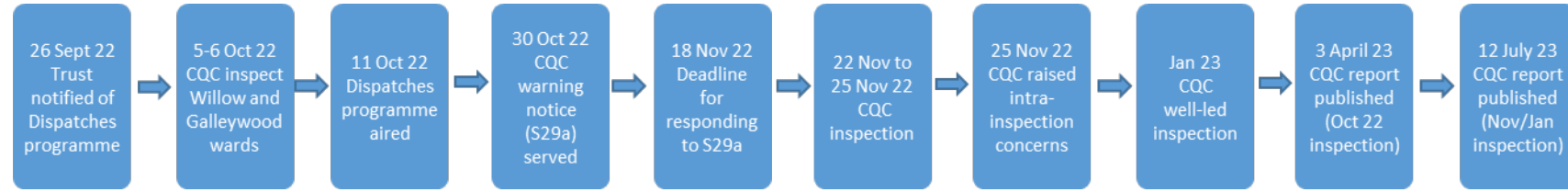
## 4. Working with the Care Quality Commission (CQC)



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**We welcome regulatory inspections** as an opportunity to gain independent insight into our operations

**We routinely incorporate recommendations** from inspections into continuous safety and quality improvement programmes



- **Care Quality Commission most recently inspected** Trust services **in November 2022 and January 2023**, visiting six mental health and learning disability services
- **Latest report published on 12 July 2023 changed EPUT's overall rating to *Requires Improvement*** from *Good*
- Based on CQC recommendations, we **continue to make improvements to the safety and effectiveness of our services** and the care we provide, including:
  - **Improving 'regularity' of temporary staff** working on inpatient wards
  - **Rolling out e-observations across our inpatient wards** and ensuring patients understand the use of the Oxevision remote monitoring system
  - **Increasing meaningful activities for patients in inpatient wards** and removing blanket restrictions on patients
  - **Introducing six new night site manager roles** to enhance clinical leadership and oversight at night

## 5. Responding to the CQC report

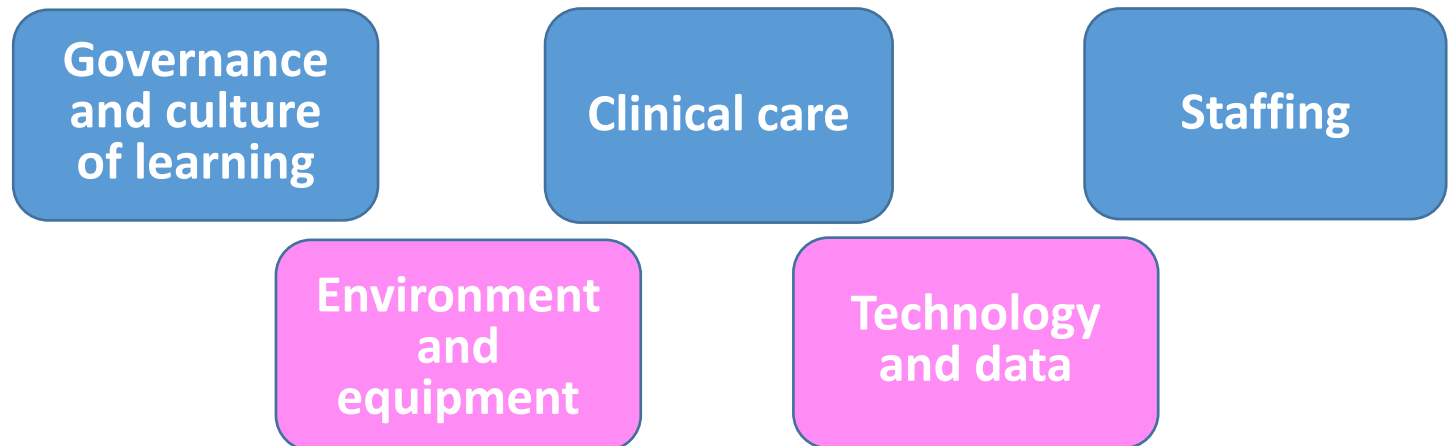


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**Comprehensive quality improvement plan** sets out everything we will do to address the issues raised

**Staff are fully involved** in the design of the plan and how we make improvements in our services which are sustainable

- **We are committed to making lasting improvements** that our patients and people who use our services deserve
- **We have invested in a new approach to responding to CQC inspections and reports** with significant involvement from our front line teams
- **Our plan is driven by continuous improvement** and separates required actions into two categories:
  - Those where there is an **obvious and rapid solution**
  - **Those which need more in-depth work** to understand and address the underlying causes
- **We analysed the CQC report and grouped findings into five themes**, focused on providing safe, effective and compassionate care:



# 6. Key priorities and progress

- **Trust Executive Team has full oversight and scrutiny of the plan** – weekly review and detailed monthly report
- **External oversight of progress** – reporting to Mid and South Essex ICB and updates planned for local authorities
- **Significant focus on sustained learning** – using a quality assurance framework to share and act on findings
- **New Quality Assurance Framework** – including a cause analysis tool to fully identify and address root causes

**Addressing sleeping on duty** – supporting staff to follow correct policies and procedures

**Reducing vacancies** – including over 220 international recruits filling roles in inpatient units

**New shared electronic patient record** - working with system partners to agree funding

**Progressing our Time to Care programme** – freeing staff to spend more time with patients and people who use our services

**Introducing clinical site managers in inpatient units** – providing clinical leadership and support to staff and patients

# 7. Supporting people in mental health crisis

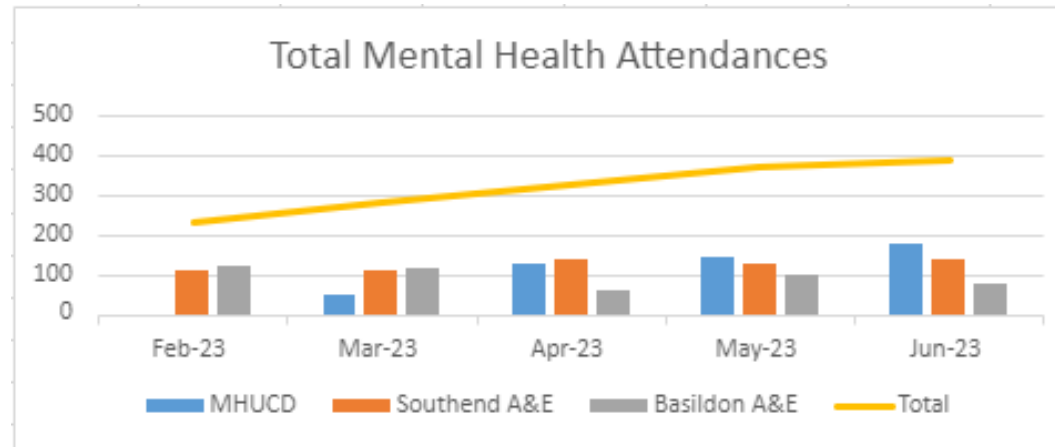


## Our new mental health urgent care department in Basildon provides care for people experiencing mental health crisis in a calm and therapeutic space

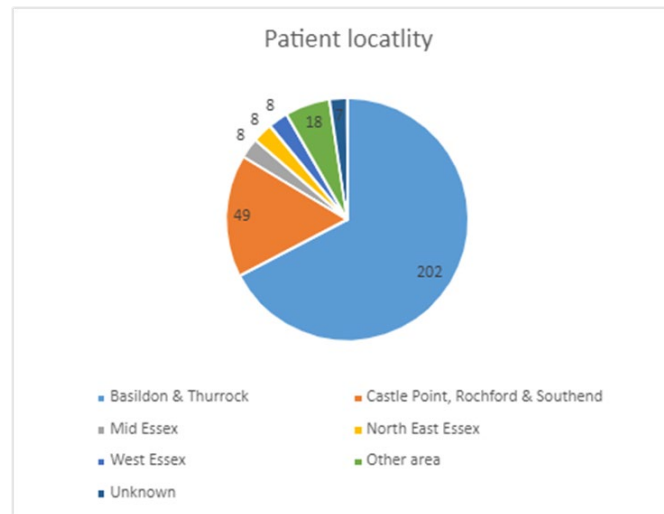
- New department developed jointly with health and care partners across mid and south Essex (MSE) with **MSE system investing over £5million**
- Department opened in March this year
- Provides an alternative for people in mental health crisis to acute hospital A&Es:
  - **Many attendees leave the department within 5 hours**, with a care plan in place
  - Far fewer are admitted to an inpatient facility as a result
  - Seamless transition to mental health crisis and liaison teams; and close links to housing and social care
- Supports the whole MSE health and care system by:
  - **Improving the flow of patients** through the urgent care pathway
  - Helping **reduce acute ambulance handover time**
  - Allowing clinicians more time to make the right decisions for people's needs
  - Helping **reduce A&E 12hour trolley wait breaches by over 90%**
  - Helping resolve issues which can lead to repeat attendances at A&E departments



# 8. Supporting people in mental health crisis



- From mid March to the end of June, over 450 people were cared for in the department
- Mental health attendances at the **main A&E at Basildon Hospital fell by up to 50%**



In June, almost 20% of attendees were from the Southend area, up from 13% in April



# 9. Supporting people in mental health crisis

## Mid & South Essex mental health joint response vehicle launched on 24th April

- Joint initiative between EPUT and the East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST), supported by Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board
- Vehicle is ready for call outs from **1pm to 1am, seven days a week**
- Staffed by an EEAST ambulance clinician and an EPUT mental health specialist

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- **At the end of July, the service had supported 502 patients** - average five a day:
  - 254 face to face interactions
  - 248 telephone advice calls
- **Of the 254 people seen face to face, over 80% were cared for at home or in the community** and did not need to be taken to an acute hospital A&E or the Mental Health Urgent Care Department

# 10. Supporting neurodiverse people

## Helping and involving neurodiverse people to use our services

- **Offering longer appointments** to help with communication and understanding, or **shorter appointments** if appropriate to help reduce feelings of being overwhelmed with information
- **Offering appointments at quieter times of day or week** and **finding quieter spaces in our buildings for appointments** to provide a calmer and less overwhelming atmosphere
- **Preparing people to be ready for building noises** like fire alarm tests
- Working with health and care partners on **further adjustments** for people if this will help
- Supporting the **Lighthouse Parent, Carer and Young Person Network**, open to all parents, families and young people who use services at the Lighthouse Childhood Development Centre

## Ensuring our staff are fully aware of how to support neurodiverse people

- **Supporting staff to complete the Oliver McGowan training** on learning disability and autism so that everyone is fully aware of what is helpful for people with neurodiversity
- **Providing bespoke in-house training** to address staff concerns and support staff in providing the best and most appropriate care
- Using our **equality impact assessment framework** to ensure any service developments or changes take the needs of neurodiverse people into account

# 11. Ensuring our staff are neurodiverse aware



## Oliver McGowan training on learning disability and autism

- We are fully committed to ensuring that our staff, both clinical and non-clinical, know as much as possible about the needs of autistic people and people with learning disability
- We are the lead Trust for delivering the Oliver McGowan training programme across the mid and south Essex care system:
  - Dedicated team being put in place to help deliver the programme
  - Team will include an expert by experience
- National target is for 10% of staff to complete online and group training by the end of March 2024
- Target then increases to 30%

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# Oral & Dental Health Inequalities

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Southend Public Health  
with support from the MSE ICB

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# Why is Oral Health Important Over the Life Course

- Tooth decay - once filled - will need ongoing maintenance throughout life. Therefore, preventing teeth from becoming decayed through regular toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and minimising the amount and frequency of consumption of sugar-containing foods and drinks is key
- Lifestyle choices also impact on a person's oral health - for example, tobacco use and drinking alcohol above the recommended levels are risk factors for oral cancer
- Poor oral health is almost entirely preventable and despite good progress over the last few decades, oral health inequalities remain a significant public health problem in England

# Inequalities and Oral Health

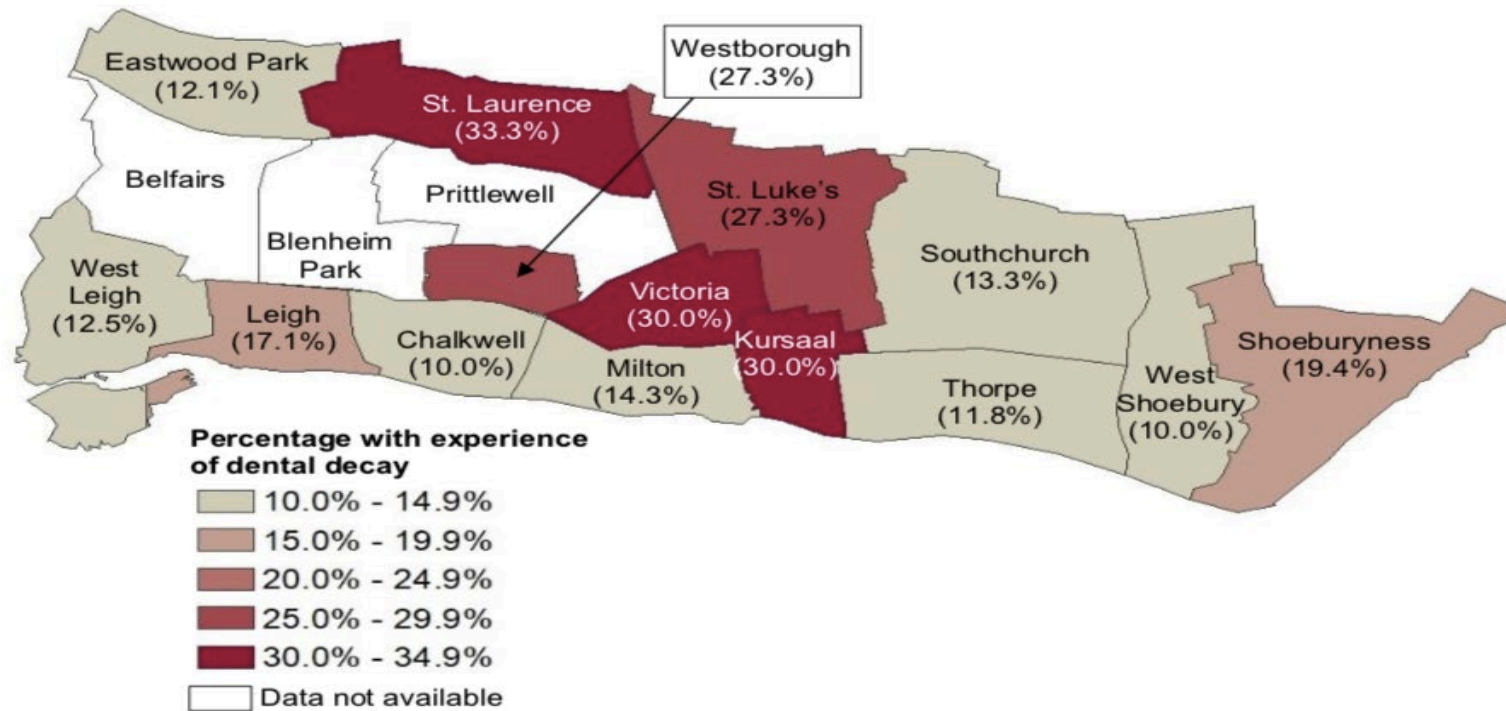
The relative inequalities in the prevalence of dental caries in 5-year-old children in England increased from 2008 to 2019

- Local priority groups:
  - ✓ Veterans
  - ✓ Learning disability
  - ✓ Refugee groups
  - ✓ Children ( Core20+5)
- Vulnerable groups identified nationally for oral health include:
  - Homeless people
  - Prisoners
  - Travelling Communities
  - Looked After Children (LAC)

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# Southend Data – Children & Dental Decay

**Figure 6:** Prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in Southend-on-Sea, by ward, 2017.



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# Tooth Extractions for Children- MSE

For 2021-22, in England, there has been an 83% increase in the number of episodes of caries-related tooth extractions in hospital for people aged 0 to 19 years compared to the previous year. This increase is likely to reflect the recovery of hospital services following the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>129</sup> The caries-related tooth extraction episode rate for children and young people living in the most deprived communities was nearly 3.5 times that of those living in the most affluent communities.

Tooth decay was the most common reason for hospital admission in children aged between 6 and 10 years.

Table 3: FCE tooth extraction rate (all diagnoses) per 100,000 target population

LA Name	Age 0-5yrs	Age 6-10yrs	Age 11-14yrs	Age 15-19yrs	Total 0-19yrs
Southend-on-Sea	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Thurrock	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Basildon	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Braintree	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%
Brentwood	c	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Castle Point	c	c	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%
Chelmsford	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Maldon	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%

# Extractions in Actual Numbers in Southend Children

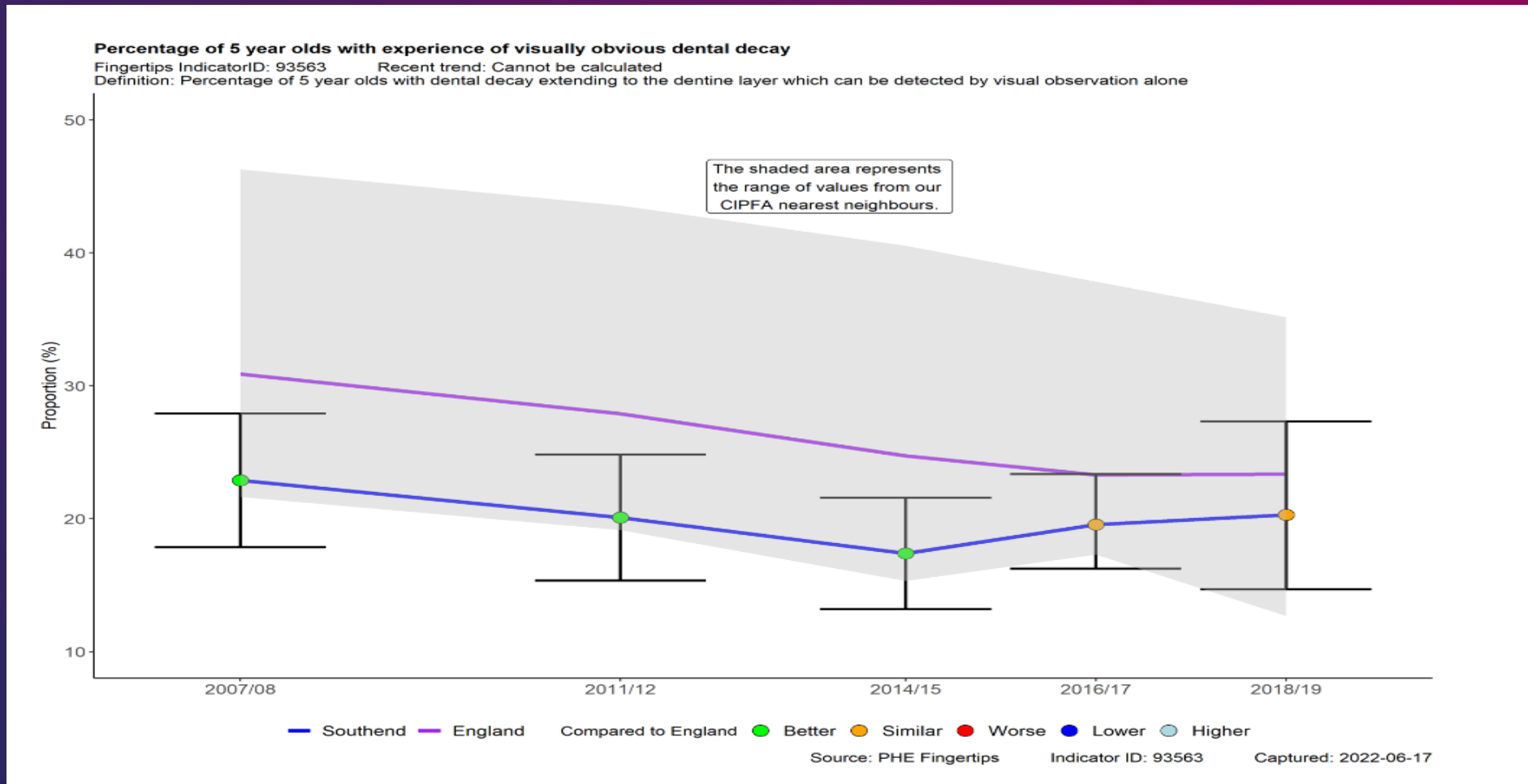
Table 1: FCEs for extraction - all diagnoses

LA Name	Age 0-5yrs	Age 6-10yrs	Age 11-14yrs	Age 15-19yrs	Total 0-19yrs
Number of Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs) for children and adolescents aged 0-19 in England for hospital dental extraction during 2018-19, by England lower tier local authority					
Southend-on-Sea	15	20	25	25	80
Thurrock	20	20	40	25	105
Basildon	15	35	25	25	100
Braintree	15	40	35	25	115
Brentwood	c	10	10	15	35
Castle Point	c	c	20	10	40
Chelmsford	20	30	25	25	100
Maldon	10	10	15	10	40

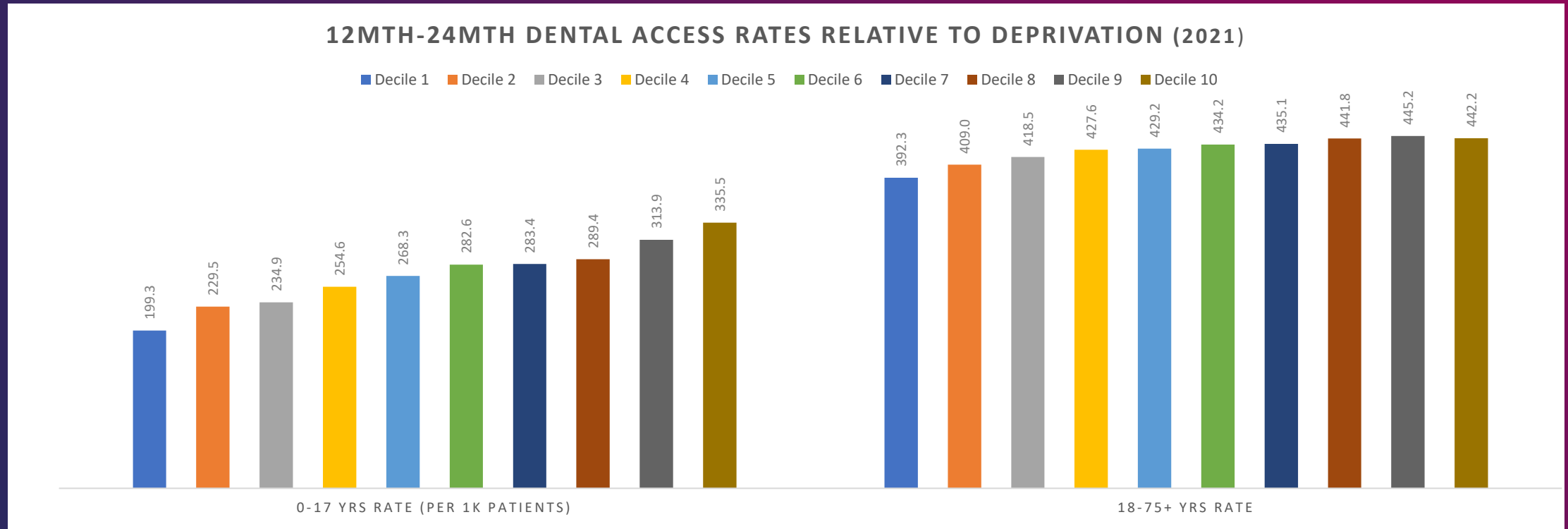
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# Southend and England Comparative Trends

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# Rate per 1,000 relative deprivation



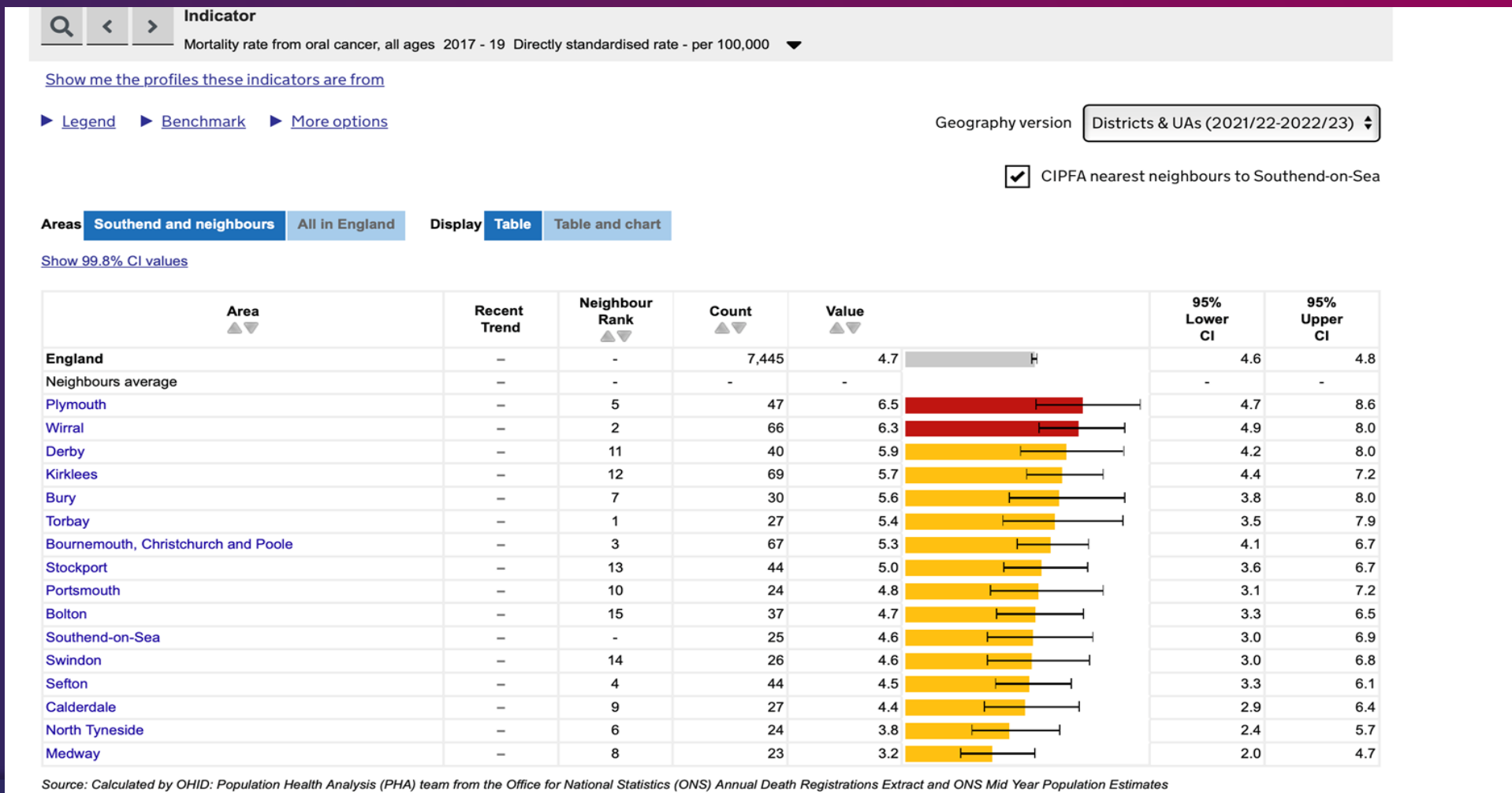
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# Rates of dental access per 1000 pop for 0-17 year olds in Essex CCs/DCs, Thurrock and Southend-on Sea - 2017-21

LTLAs of Essex/Unitary LA of Thurrock/Unitary of Southend-on-Sea	Dental Access rates per 1000 in 0-17 yrs age group by each financial year April –March (please note some years where data has been extrapolated)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020 (April-Nov 2020 extrapolated)	2021 (Dec-Mar 2021 extrapolated)
Basildon	584.78	591.06	589.46	181.73	354.30
Braintree	598.63	611.72	610.57	152.03	421.25
Brentwood	566.36	579.09	579.21	150.06	351.65
Castle Point	661.96	667.97	662.17	134.03	435.31
Chelmsford	616.91	614.88	619.47	198.05	406.89
Colchester	581.13	591.09	598.22	175.69	439.41
Epping Forest	578.37	570.82	573.35	154.26	337.17
Harlow	580.24	589.46	593.58	198.50	410.58
Maldon	621.65	619.85	640.72	188.46	376.92
Rochford	627.59	638.19	631.17	141.83	385.48
Tendring	550.50	537.09	523.13	116.77	350.18
Uttlesford	601.70	589.33	610.44	224.81	506.97
Thurrock	515.32	522.76	529.59	132.11	321.35
Southend-on-Sea	558.07	570.18	570.44	109.51	329.25
<b>EoE for All Ages</b>	<b>451.34</b>	<b>449.32</b>	<b>444.42</b>	<b>143.00</b>	<b>303.57</b>

# Oral Cancer

2017-19 Oral cancer registration data shows Southend to have a lower mortality rate/100,000 than England and has the one of lowest rates in comparison to CIPFA neighbours.



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# Dental Access for MSE

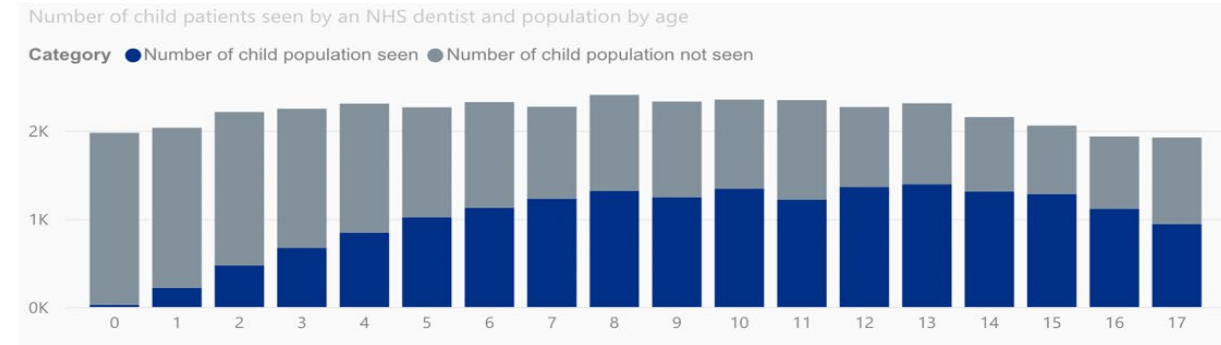
Patients seen data are published a quarter ahead of activity data. To coincide with NICE guidelines on intervals between oral health reviews.

Digital

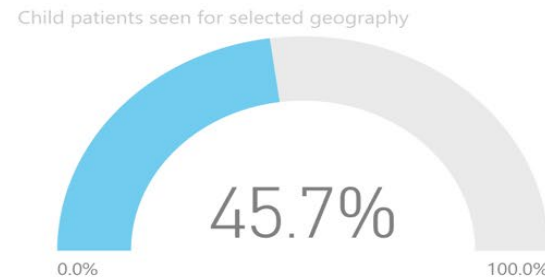
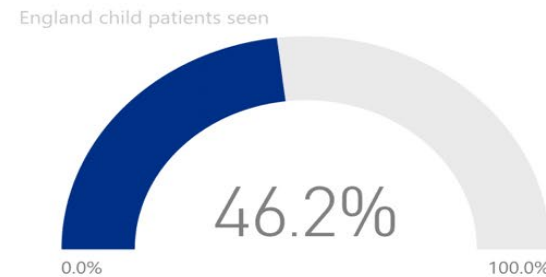
Age:   Quarter end date:  Region name:  Sub integrated care board location (SICBL) name:

This shows the number of children who have received NHS dental care in the 12 months preceding the quarters end date.

Data are mapped to SICBLs although practices are not being contractually associated to them. Unmapped practices are shown as



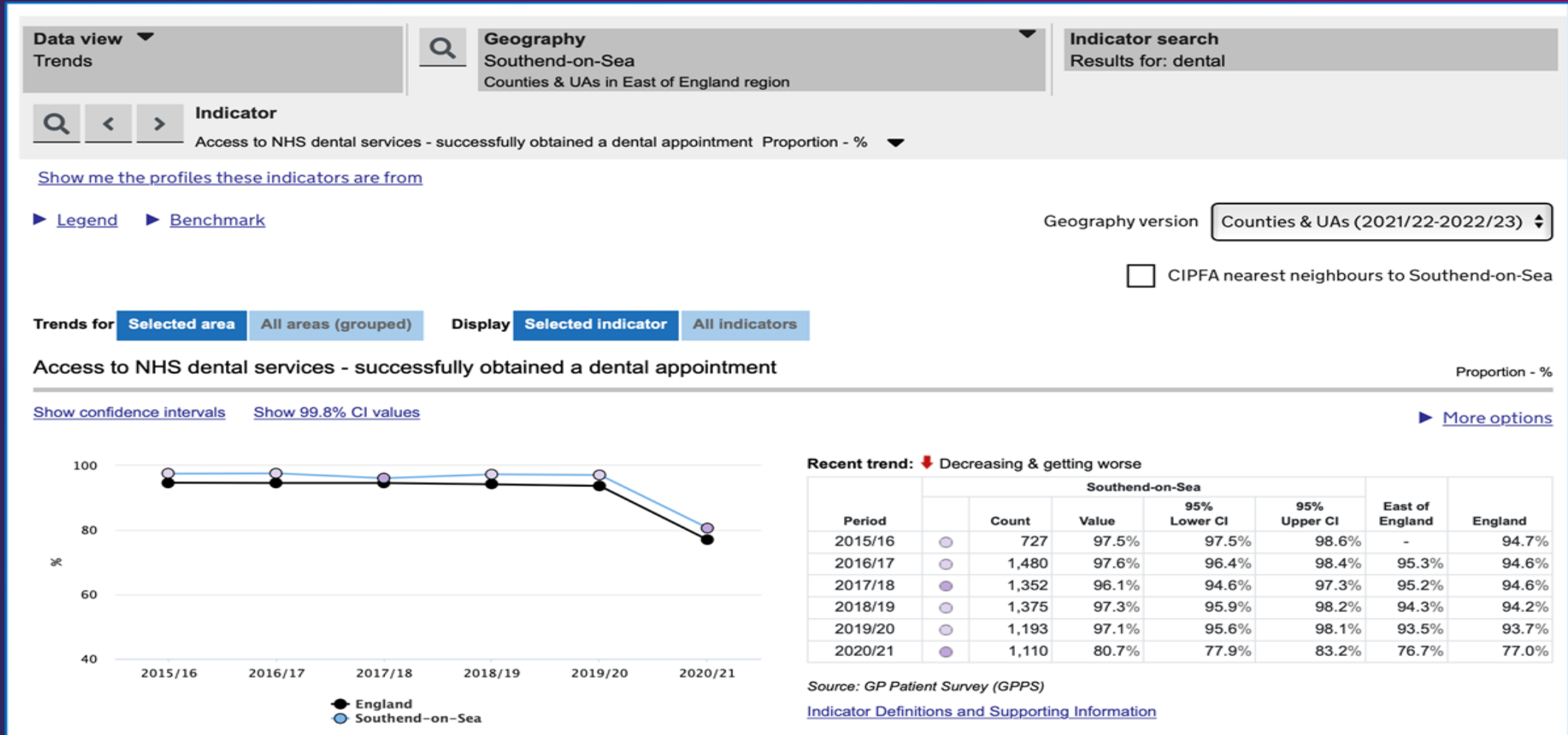
Percentage of child patients seen in SICBLs for selected age and date



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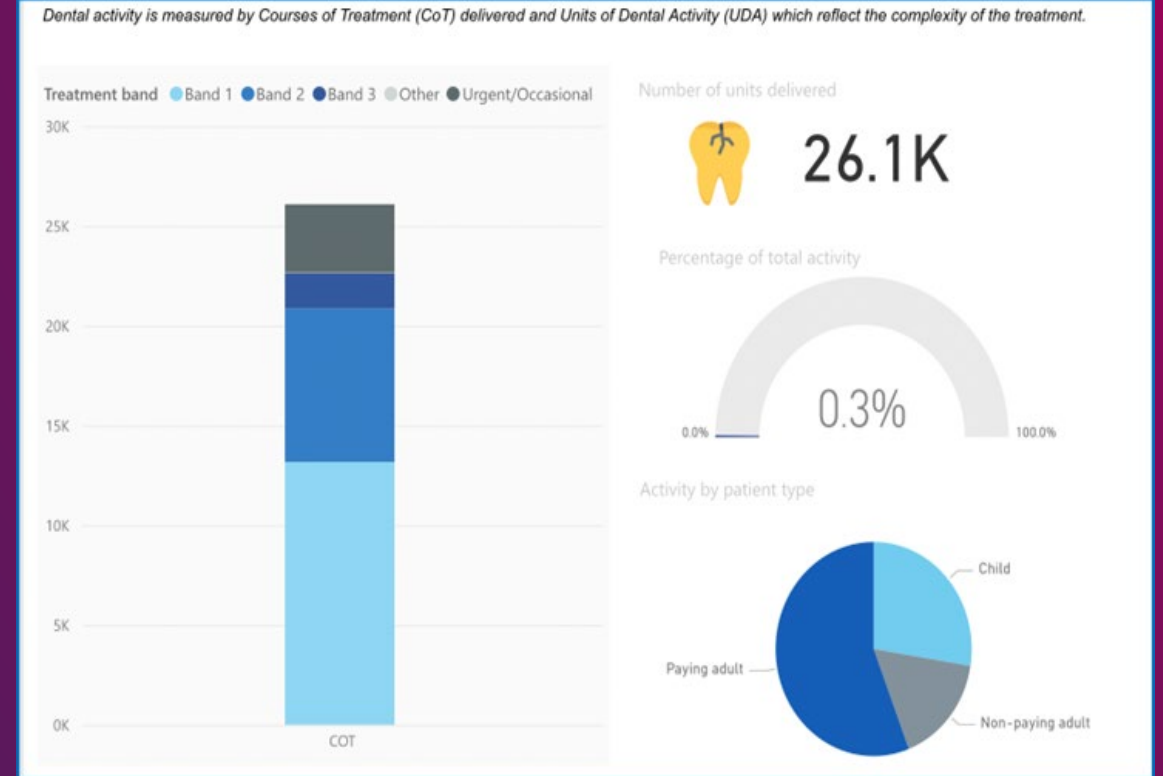
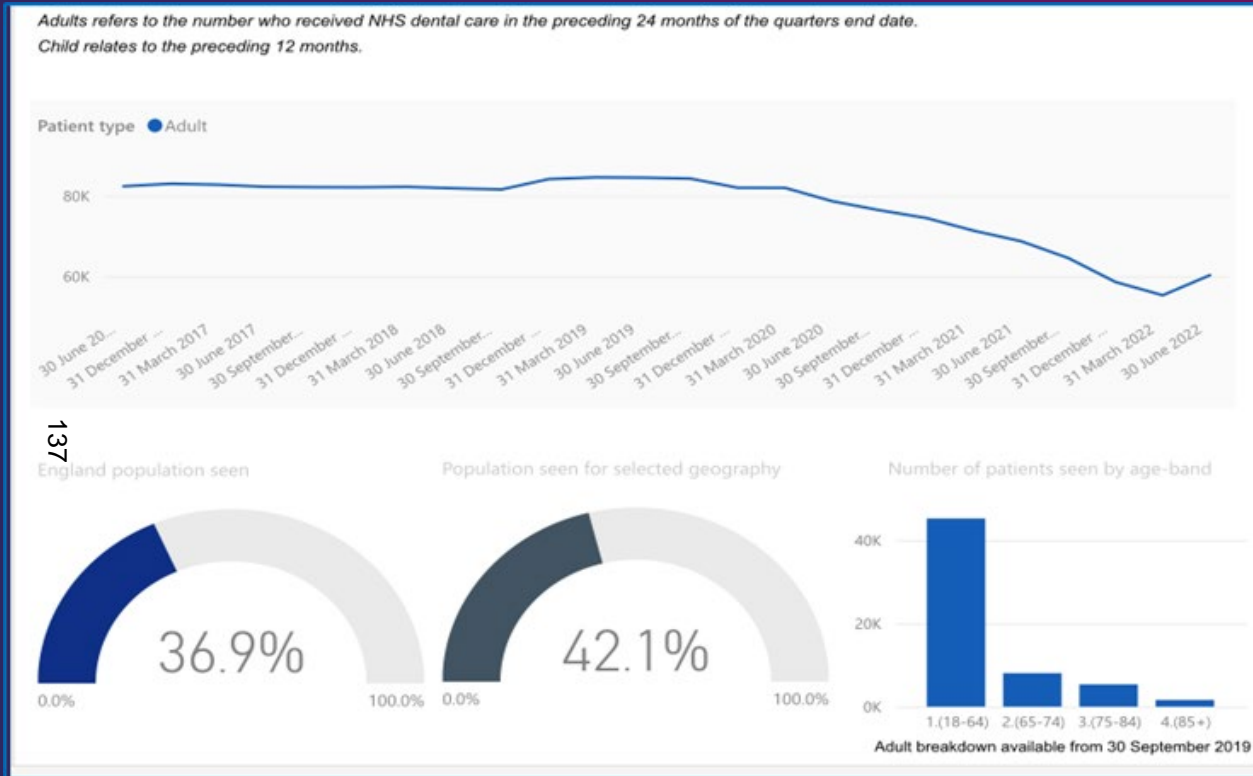
# NHS Dental Activity in Southend (1)

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# NHS Dental Activity in Southend (2)



# NHS Dental Practices in Southend 22/23

29 dental practices in Southend area



# Mobile Dental Access Pilot- Vulnerable Groups

- A mobile dental unit was commissioned from March 23 – March 24 for 45 sessions.
- Each session sees between 6-11 patients depending on need
- This funding is through the NHS Health Inequalities funding stream
- There is opportunity to look at some explorative work with wider public, earmarked in Shoeburyness, where there are no local dental services
- The dental van, like any NHS screening van, has clear criteria required for space, electrics and parking and can be constrained by these

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# Mobile Outreach To Date

- The homeless population and the refugee population have been the two core groups seen to date
- A pilot in Shoeburyness will begin to offer services to children in the care of the local authority and children living in poverty where there is limited access to dentists
- 134 residents have been seen, with a wide range of needs
- Follow-up will need to be provided locally

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# Feedback From Vulnerable Service Users

*"I am so relieved that I am no longer in pain, thank you"*

*"I'm so worried about the dentist but having it here helps & everyone is so nice"*

*"I haven't been able to get a dentist due to moving around but I have had my tooth shaved down so it doesn't catch on my lip and cause me blisters"*

*"If it was at One Love, I probably wouldn't go as I don't always know how to book a dentist appointment or what one to go too"*

# Children's Priorities & Work Plan for 2023/24 (1)

- Oral Health Improvement Programme with schools is run through Sarah Nunn, Oral Health Improvement Practitioner for Essex, alongside Community Dental Services. Oral Health training is being offered and delivered to all settings virtually. This includes healthy eating, poor oral hygiene and tooth decay, babies' teeth and gums.
- There are 10 early year's settings in a pilot supervised toothbrushing scheme. This is in partnership with the Oral Health Team. Three settings are working in the Healthy Smiles accreditation.
- Information regarding National Smile Month May/June from the Community Dental Service was cascaded to all childcare providers to share with parents including posters and resources.
- In early year's settings, children are exposed to dentist role play, books, and toy teeth to practice brushing. Settings utilise displays to promote oral health to parents and children. Settings have a list of local dentists available for parents. They actively encourage healthy eating and just water and milk for drinks, and discourage parents bringing in juice, especially in bottles.

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# Children's Priorities & Work Plan for 2023/24 (2)

- Promotion and support for the continuation of breast-feeding – this is linked to a reduction in tooth decay in children.
- Promotion and advice on oral hygiene and prevention of tooth decay is given to parents at all Healthy Child Programme contacts, Looked After Child Health Reviews, Child Health Clinics and Healthy Weight sessions provided by Health Visitors, School Nurses and Health Improvement Practitioners.
- Target information at the Health Visiting intervention at age 3-4 months - Advice and support to parents on the introduction of solid foods, promote healthy weaning and healthy infant/child diet in line with national guidelines. Includes advice on tooth brushing, low sugar drinks and foods, and sugar swaps.
- Between January 2023- July 2023 toothbrush and toothpaste was given at all 3-4 month weaning intervention contact.

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# RECOMMENDATIONS (1)

1. Rapid Oral Health Needs Assessment – Propose SCC to undertake a rapid oral health needs assessment to better understand identify areas for improvement
2. Dental Access – the ICB has prioritised increasing access to urgent and routine dental care. MSE ICB are working with local dental providers to offer additional in-hours, out of hours dental appointments, treatments, and oral health stabilisation to the population through an Additional Access to dental services pilot program.
3. Capacity in primary dental care to provide routine dental recall to higher risk individuals will support the reduction of impacts on these individuals.
4. Looked After Children Pilot – there is currently a pilot across MSE which seeks to ensure access to dental care is prioritised for children in care.



# RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

5. Dental Check by One (DCby1) will continued to be promoted to increase the number of children having first dental check by one or on eruption of their first tooth - Assessment, Advice, Acclimatisation and Access. Working with dental providers to ensure there is avoidance of doubt in eligibility for carrying out dental checks on children.
6. Developing Oral Health Promoting Environments – Reinforcement of positive oral health practices for child and families in all early years and school settings, including supervised toothbrushing schemes in early Years settings and school settings.
7. Working collaboratively with partners to deliver targeted oral health prevention action to identified priority groups.
8. Early Years Workforce training and development – including increased access to evidence based oral health improvement training.

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