

**Success for All Children Group  
Annual Report  
For the period  
April 2015 – March 2016**

DRAFT

## Contents

### **1. Strategy and Vision**

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Our vision and ambition for children in Southend-on-Sea
- 1.3 What were our priorities in 2015-16?

### **2. Our approach to joint working and integration**

- 2.1 Commissioning
- 2.2 Referring children and families to services
- 2.3 Workforce development strategy
- 2.4 Voice and influence

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

- 3.1 Early intervention
- 3.2 Improving the safeguarding of children and young people in Southend-on-Sea through multi agency work
- 3.3 Reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people's life chances

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

- 4.1 Children in Care
- 4.2 Narrowing the achievement gap for vulnerable groups
- 4.3 Care leavers in education, employment or training
- 4.4 Children with special educational needs and disabilities

### **5. Outcomes for all children**

- 5.1 Overall school attainment
- 5.2 Healthy schools
- 5.3 Sexual health
- 5.4 Teenage conception
- 5.5 Substance misuse
- 5.6 Improving outcomes for children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health
- 5.7 Reducing school absenteeism
- 5.8 Reducing exclusions
- 5.9 Reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- 5.10 Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour and offending on children, young people and the community
- 5.11 Support for young carers

### **6. Looking Forward**

## **1. Strategy and vision**

### **1.1 Introduction**

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

Member organisations have a key role in delivering services for children and families in Southend. The members come together to agree collective approaches to improving services and their impact on children and families and to hold each other to account for these shared priorities. The group reports to Southend's Health and Wellbeing Board which holds the overarching strategy for the health and wellbeing of all residents in Southend.

The Success for All Children Group has representatives from Southend Borough Council, South East Essex Primary Care Trust, Essex Fire and Rescue, Primary and Secondary Head Teachers, School Governors, South Essex Partnership Trust, Southend Clinical Commissioning Group, Southend University Hospital Foundation Trust, NELFT Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service, the Police and the voluntary sector.

This Annual Report sets out our achievements over the reporting period of April 2015 – March 2016.

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

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

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

### **1.3 What were our priorities in 2015-2016?**

Over the past year the Success for All Group has focused on delivering the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2016. Our priorities were:

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

## **2. Our approach to joint working and integration**

### **2.1 Commissioning**

Southend Borough Council and Southend CCG now have a shared commissioning team to oversee the procurement of services to meet the needs of children pre-birth to 19 years and their families. The team responds to the needs identified in the Southend Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People and the needs that members of the public identify during the consultations that are organised prior to each contract being commissioned.

([http://www.southend.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4215/southend\\_joint\\_strategic\\_needs\\_assessment\\_for\\_children\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_%E2%80%93\\_december\\_2015\\_update.pdf](http://www.southend.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4215/southend_joint_strategic_needs_assessment_for_children_and_young_people_%E2%80%93_december_2015_update.pdf))

### **2.2 Referring children and families to services**

Across our partnership, and beyond, there is a clear pathway of referral in order for children and families to access the services that they need. The Early Help Family Support Assessment underpins the services commissioned jointly by the Success for All Children Group.

The following services are jointly commissioned and can be accessed by referral through the Early Help Family Support Assessment:

**Southend On Sea Domestic Abuse Project (SOSDAP)** – is a Southend based charity supporting women, men, children, young people and families whose lives are affected by domestic abuse and family breakdown. SOSDAP

is contracted to support children, young people and families by alleviating the impact of domestic abuse and promoting their protection from risk of harm and abuse. The service delivers 5 main outcomes for children, young people and their families:

1. Be Healthy
2. Stay Safe
3. Enjoy and achieve
4. Make a positive contribution
5. Achieve economic well-being.

In 2015-16, over 110 children were referred into the service and over 100 children completed their intervention.

**Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service** –From the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2015, NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust) began providing a Children and Young Peoples Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (CYP EWMHS) across Essex and Southend. The service will be an integrated CYP EWMHS with a crisis pathway and will work with local services to deliver through a single point of access.

### **Supporting and Empowering Vulnerable families**

Supporting and empowering vulnerable families is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year in Southend. The service supports children and young people with either a Child Protection Plan or identified as being a Child in Need through the use of community Volunteers delivered through Volunteering Matters. In 2015-16 the service recruited, trained and supported 31 volunteers to support 110 children and young people by supporting and mentoring 61 families with complex needs, such as alcohol or substance misuse where children are at risk of significant harm through neglect. They make weekly visits to the families building up a strong relationship with the parent/s, listening to problems and offering practical help.

The service runs in partnership with the council to target families most in need of support, volunteers help keep families together and reduce the number of children on child protection plans and child in need plans. By improving parenting skills, reducing isolation and improving the quality of family life the reliance on social care services is reduced. Volunteers for this service also supported the council delivery of timely interviews for missing children.

### **2.3 Workforce development strategy**

Member organisations are committed to developing and maintaining the competence, enthusiasm and commitment of our children's workforce.

Our partnership approach to integrated working has created multi-agency and multi-skilled, co-located teams. This facilitates a sharing of skills across professional boundaries and a more holistic understanding of the needs of children, young people and families.

Member organisations and the wider voluntary sector are able to access LSCB Safeguarding programmes which include training on Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Intergenerational violence and abuse, PREVENT and Child Sexual Exploitation, plus many other safeguarding related training courses.

## **2.4 Voice and influence**

Across the partnership achieving continuous improvement by way of listening to our service users is an area of continuing development. There are many examples of unique and innovative opportunities provided for young people to engage with services over the course of 2015-2016. Southend CCG opened its doors to a youth group in November 2015 for the Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge and received feedback and guidance from young people on how best to communicate key messages to this age group, this has led to an ongoing and close relationship between the CCG the Youth Council and Southend University Hospital. Within Southend Borough Councils all children's service areas have a standing forum for young people and their families to provide feedback or engage in solution development. This can be through the open doors of Southend Borough Youth Council or through more specific forums such as the Young Carers forum, the Looked After Children's Council, the forum for children and families with child protection plans, Southend Family Voice (representing families of children with SEND).

In addition to the groups and forums we also undertake survey activity with our service users, either for the purposes of regular feedback benchmarking or to enable us to survey opinion to inform contract specifications for commissioned services. Southend Borough Council also regularly invites young people to participate as interview panel members where a vacancy is for a key strategic role within Children's or Learning Services, or where the role has a direct frontline role working with children and families.

As a partnership we recognise the importance of service user feedback and co-production of service design and will continue to develop and strengthen this area of work.

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

### **3.1 Early intervention**

#### **A Better Start**

The vision of this 10-year, £40million, intervention and prevention programme is to transform the first years of life for children and their families in our target areas; changing the way families engage with the services and the opportunities available in Southend-on-Sea.

Much of the activity this year has been devoted to planning and setting up the programme, assessing systems currently in place and reaching out to the partners we will need if we are going to change the way Southend-on-Sea works in future. But some projects are already underway. *A Better Start Southend* has already introduced a range of new activities and courses for expectant parents and families. *Let's Talk with Your Baby* and *Help Me to Talk* are new courses helping parents communicate with their babies; *Fathers Reading Every Day* and *Dad Factor* are aimed at encouraging Dads to read more with their young children; *Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities - Being a Parent* offers practical advice to parents on bringing up happy and confident children, and is run by parents.

Over the coming months and years these projects and many others will come together to fulfil our ambition to make Southend-on-Sea the best place in the country to bring up a child and be a parent.

### Early years provision

High quality Early Years provision is key to children getting an excellent head start on their education and ensures that children are well prepared to enter the Reception Year. Early Years providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors in Southend have seen improvement maintained over a number of years in the percentage of providers judged as good or better by Ofsted.

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

Outstanding	19%	(94% Good or Outstanding)
Good	75%	
Requires Improvement	4%	
Inadequate	2%	

The current profile for Southend-on-Sea's registered childminders is:

Outstanding	19%	(87% Good or Outstanding)
Good	68%	
Requires Improvement	13%	
Inadequate	0%	

Furthermore, taking into account the size of settings and the number of children attending, 87% of all children accessing early education in private, voluntary or independent providers are attending a setting rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

### 3.2 Improving the safeguarding of children and young people in Southend-on-Sea through multi-agency work

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

With our partners and multi-agency practitioners we value and are committed to integrated working which allows us to plan and meet the needs of children in a systematic way. We give safeguarding children the highest priority and our Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has ensured that the understanding of thresholds is solid, regularly reviewed, and safely maintained across the partnership.

Between April 2015 and March 2016, 884 individual Early Help Assessments were completed, with 765 assessments for the same period in 2014-15.

The table below demonstrates that during 2015/16 508 outcomes for young people were successfully achieved, across 467 cases closing. All early help assessment delivery plans were reviewed and individual outcomes collated and measured against 25 universal aims based upon the original Every Child Matters framework.

Be Healthy	Stay Safe	Enjoy & Achieve	Make a Positive Contribution	Achieve Economic Well-Being	Generic
143	53	220	62	29	1

#### Troubled Families

The Troubled Families programme initially intends to change the repeating generational patterns of poor parenting, abuse, violence, drug use, anti-social behaviour and crime in the most troubled families in the UK. Troubled families are defined as those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector. The aim is to provide partnership support via a dedicated key worker to enable families to turn around and in particular to:

- get children back into school
- reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour
- put adults on a path back to work



- reduce the high costs these families place on the public sector each year

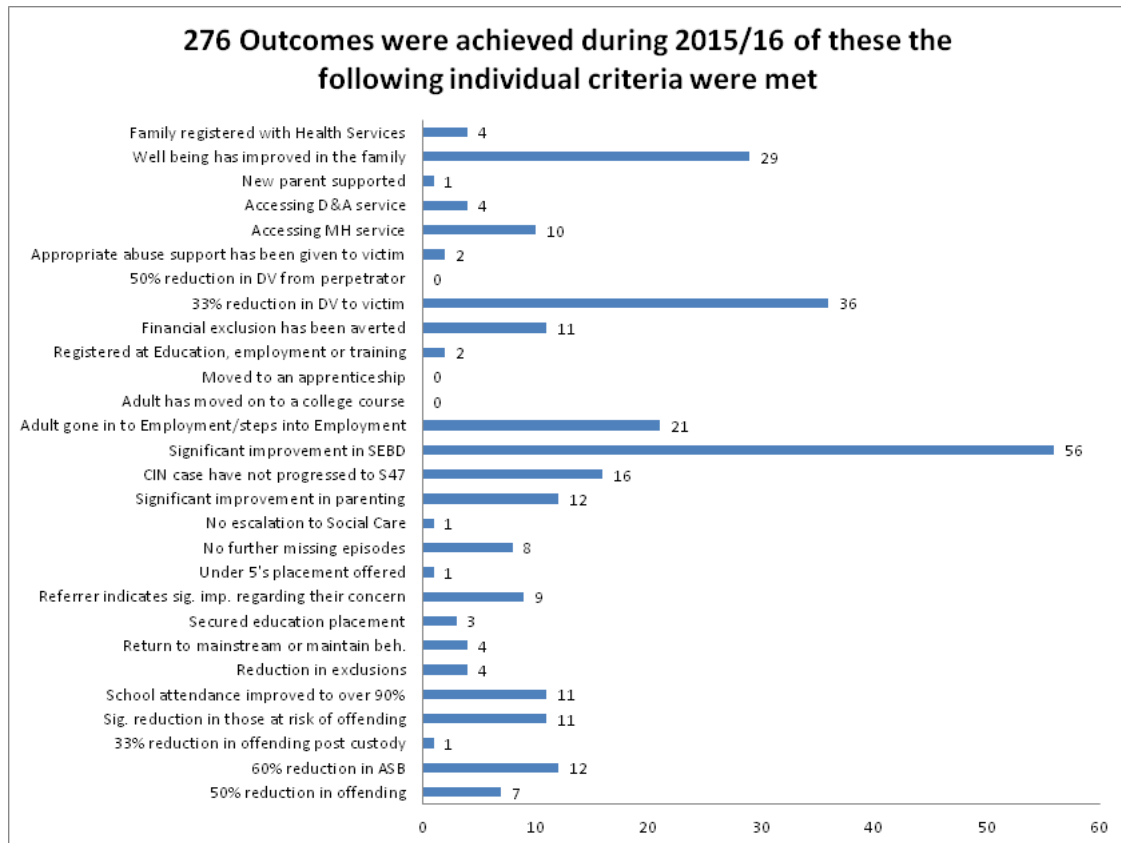
Due to outstanding success of the Southend Troubled Families service in Phase 1, particularly achieved in 2014-15, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) accepted us as an early Starter in Phase 2, funded for five years, giving more than 1,480 families the opportunity for support and a better quality of life. The DCLG broadened the selection criteria to now meet 6 key issues; adult and youth Crime/Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Education attendance/behaviours, Unemployment, Domestic Abuse, Children who need help and Health.

This allows for most family issues to be addressed and early help to be provided, preventing later issues and producing cost savings for all partner agencies.

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

From its commencement to end of March 2016 there have been 263 cases opened to Streets Ahead, 399 adults and 652 children.

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



Some of the Streets Ahead achievements and practices that have been embedded during 2015-16 are as follows:

- There are now 14 established Community Projects and a Community Hub which give on-going support for the Hard to Reach communities and families.
- By addressing the needs of the whole family, we have worked with the younger siblings as well as the young offender, giving importance to early help and ensuring that is an integral part of the plan, feeding into the sustainable outcomes and preventing generational recurrence of the same issues.
- Our action plans and reviews are inclusive to family and all agencies involved thus preventing escalation and reducing costs. Our families and professionals have a voice and a case will only be closed when everyone is in agreement and all outcomes have been achieved. This also offers challenge to families that do not engage and forms evidence for pursuing any legal action.
- All families are put into “maintenance” and referred to our Community Workers for on-going support within their community. Thus the family feel reassured and it gives them the tools to continue to make the right choices.

- We have employed a Missing/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Co-ordinator as part of the team, this role fulfils a crucial part of the Troubled Families Programme as many of Missing Children/CSE high risk cases are working with Streets Ahead to support the whole family through the issues associated with these cases.

Members of the Success for All Children Group undertook a process to refresh the Early Help provision as part of our ongoing commitment to provide children and families with help as soon as needs present themselves, regardless of age, and to prevent those needs from escalating and requiring more intensive help and support.

The new service, operational from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 is known as Early Help Family Support Service and is underpinned by the following principles:

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of us all.
- Early Help spans a wide spectrum of services, provided by a wide range of agencies to meet a wide range of needs.
- We work with families at the earliest opportunity to prevent needs from escalating.
- All children, young people and families' needs are met by universal services wherever possible.
- Families are encouraged and supported to identify their own issues and solutions.
- We build resilience and the capacity to achieve by having a joined up approach to families' needs.
- We improve the identification of children in need and in need of protection through increased understanding of the impact of an adult's needs on a child's life.
- We have an honest, open and transparent approach to supporting children and their families.
- We operate a multi-agency/disciplinary approach to both assessment and intervention.

The service aims to enable all Southend-on-Sea's contributors to Early Help to: act before the needs of children and families escalate; focus on achieving priority outcomes for those children, young people and families who need it the most; give every child the opportunity to reach their full potential; and to have flexible services that provide the right support, at the right time and at the right level.

Building on existing best practice and processes, it provides:

- A single, integrated system and 'front door' for the identification, referral, assessment, and monitoring of Early Help.
- A core offer to schools, early year's settings and GPs to support them to fulfil their statutory duties with regard to Early Help.

- A traded service to provide additional Early Help support to individual schools, particularly with regard to improving school attendance.
- A specialist whole family support service to meet complex needs.
- An offer of support and guidance to all providers of Early Help services to children and young people.

### **Development of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Team**

During 2015-16 a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Team (MARAT) was developed. It was implemented in June 2016. Close working took place between partner agencies and Essex County Council when developing the MARAT. The team reviews information in relation to high risk domestic abuse incidents and advises agencies of actions they may wish to consider. The cases are then heard at a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The backlog of cases being heard at MARAC has successfully been removed since the implementation of the MARAT.

The MARAT consists of a Team Manager, children's social worker, adult social worker, early help practitioner, Essex Police, health representative, CRC representative and NPS representative. Each member of the team is line managed by their own agency. They are co-located in Civic 2 and will be moving to the refurbished Southend Police Station in November 2016.

A quality assurance framework is being developed to ensure the consistency and quality of decision making is regularly reviewed and that learning from the process is shared with practitioners.

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

SOS Domestic Abuse Projects (SOSDAP) deliver a range of services which enable families, perpetrators, victims and children affected by domestic abuse to undertake therapeutic work. This helps those affected to overcome the effects of domestic abuse and family breakdown. The service offers support to every member of the family over the age of five. Furthermore there are additional services around supporting young male victims and young people in abusive relations of their own.

Over the last two years the council and members of the Success for All Children Group have extensively reviewed the local domestic abuse service offer and identified a number of areas where services could be improved or

are not provided within the current delivery. The decision was to bring together current funding for refuge services and children and families support to deliver an all age service supporting more victims and improving outcomes in Southend-On-Sea. These changes should be completed in the next financial year with more victims supported, raising awareness and developing prevention programmes that can help stop domestic abuse happening in the first place.

**An overview of our safeguarding and early intervention performance in 2015-16:**

- Despite the doubling of targets in September 2014, all parents wishing to access a funded early education place for their 2 year old were able to find a place.
- 89% of early education settings in the private, voluntary or independent (PVI) sector were judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, with 95% of all children accessing funded places attending these settings.
- 89% of Children's Centres assessed were judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.
- 3 and 4 year old funding take up: 97.1% in Southend-on-Sea (4521 children)
  - 3 year olds (2,253): PVI = 74.6% Maintained = 25.7%
  - 4 year olds (2,268): PVI = 25.4% Maintained = 74.3%
- Referrals resulting in a single social work assessment - During April 2015 – March 2016 1,499 (provisional figures) referrals were received by social care and the rate of referrals resulting in a Single Social Work Assessment was 95.8% (provisional figures), which demonstrates that threshold is understood across the partnership.
- During the reporting period of April 2015 to March 2016, 1673 learners across the partnership registered for safeguarding training provided by the LSCB. Of which 696 were issued with free safeguarding E-learning.
- We have continued to make improvements in management oversight and monitoring of our social work practices, this includes undertaking regular case audits.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Embedding the Early Help Family Support Service
- Continuing to create a culture and climate that allows partner agencies to embrace and explore further integrated working
- Continue to work with our services users to co-produce our vision and service delivery.
- Driving forward the delivery of A Better Start and Troubled Families to ensure that we see real evidence of impact and outcomes

DRAFT

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

##### **4.1 Children in Care**

Since 2006 the number of Looked after Children had been progressively reduced from 302 to 228 in March 2015, however in March 2016, this had risen to 262 children in care.

Improving quality of provision and the life outcomes for Looked after Children has been a consistent feature of our partnership Children and Young People Plan, which articulates our high ambitions for this group.

A very strong track record is evidenced by performance indicators and inspection outcomes of fostering and adoption. The indicator that monitors long term stability of placements has a provisional result of 64.7% in 2015-16, and published figures of 69% in 2014-15 and 69.7% in 2013-14.

Performance on the timeliness of placements for adoption has increased to 92.0% in 2015-16 from 80% for children who were adopted that moved to live with their adoptive parents within 12 months of that decision being made.

96.4% of Looked After Children reviews were held within timescale in 2015-16.

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

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

- Working as a partnership to fully embed a concrete knowledge of the pathways for children and families to receive the appropriate level of support at the right time
- Continuing to share learning from the Quality Assurance Framework across the partnership
- Across the partnership ensuring that we listening to the voice and experiences of children in care and care leavers as we further commission and design services.

## 4.2 Narrowing the achievement gap for vulnerable groups

### Looked after Children (LAC)

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

The impact of levels of trauma among Looked after Children is reflected in the high proportion of Looked after Children with identified Special Educational Needs (SEN). Currently 48.9% of Southend-on-Sea's Looked after Children (school aged) are identified as having SEN, compared to 15.4% (latest figure available 2014 -2015) for all children nationally. The percentage of Southend-on-Sea Looked after Children with a Statement (or EHCP) 18.4% is also very high compared to all children nationally 2.8% (latest figure available 2014 - 2015).

Data relating to the educational attainment and progress of LAC is now collected by the Council's Data and Performance Team to ensure a more robust and reliable set of data and allow for detailed scrutiny of performance. This will enable the Virtual School team to ensure each individual child receives the most appropriate support.

A Management Board has been established for the Virtual School which meets termly and whose role is to offer a mechanism of accountability for the Virtual School offering both support and challenge.

### Looked after Children attainment and progress

#### Attainment – summer 2015

Comparing the attainment of Southend LAC with National LAC, Southend LAC achieve below LAC national average for all headline measures.

<b>Headline measure</b>	<b>Southend LAC %</b>	<b>Cohort size</b>	<b>National Average (all pupils)%</b>	<b>National Average (LAC) %</b>
<i>KS2 Reading Level 4+</i>	57.1	7	89.0	71.0
<i>KS2 Writing Level 4+</i>	42.9	7	87.0	61.0



## Success for All Children Group Annual Report 2015

KS2 Maths Level 4+	42.9	7	87.0	64.0
KS2 R,W & M Level 4+	28.6	7	72.0	52.0
KS4 5A*-C inc. E&M	8.3	12	53.8	13.8

### Pregnant girls and young mums

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

Outcomes for pregnant girls/young mums KS4	Summer 10	Summer 11	Summer 12	Summer 13	Summer 14	Summer 15
% achieving 5 A* -C Including English and Maths	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	8%
% achieving 5 A*-C	28.6%	25.0%	20.0%	25.0%	0.0%	8%
% achieving 1 A* -G Including English and Maths	57.1%	25.0%	100%	62.5%	50.0%	8%
% achieving 1 A*-G	57.1%	75.0%	100%	100%	50.0%	85%

In July 2015, pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers accounted for 29% of all young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

In 2014 (most recent data), 43.8% of under 18 conceptions led to abortion, this is an increase from last year's figure of 37.3%.

The Success for All Children Group will continue to provide services for pregnant girls and young mums via the A Better Start, Family Nurse Partnership.

### **Children eligible for pupil premium grant (PPG)**

A key focus of the partnership is addressing the impact of poverty on children and families, particularly in terms of ensuring that education is a form of prevention against future poverty. This means not only working together to address the health and housing needs but also working together to close the attainment gap between pupils eligible for free school meals or Pupil Premium funding and their peers.

In spite of additional funding being made available, many schools have not been successful in accelerating the progress of their disadvantaged pupils and the gap remains stubbornly wide. The impact of poverty and disadvantage can be addressed by all members of the Success for All Children Group and the wider Southend Health and Wellbeing board. There are a range of strategies aimed to improve housing stock conditions, increase the availability of affordable housing, promote healthy lifestyles and to create an economic climate in Southend-on-Sea with secure and stable employment opportunities. A key to success for the members of the group is to give the adults of tomorrow that are currently eligible for free school meals the opportunity for a better chance and outcomes as an adult. Education is a key plank in achieving this; as such during 2015-16 there was a greater focus by partners on the use of Pupil Premium Funding to achieve improved academic attainment and progress for these pupils. Initiatives such as Achievement for All, reading and mathematics interventions, clubs to boost self-esteem, funding towards school trips and music lessons have been commissioned using PPG by individual schools and academies across Southend-on-Sea. In addition pupils coming into the Early Years Foundation Stage should now and in the future be benefitting from the initiatives of the A Better Start programme whilst aged 0-3 years old.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, 59.5% of children who were eligible for Free School Meals reached a good level of development compared with 71.2% of all pupils. The gap at key stage 1 was 2.7 points, equivalent to roughly 2 and a half terms, and at the end of key stage 2 eligible children were on average 3 terms behind their peers.

The Pupil Premium Strategy Group representing partners from the Council and all school Challenge Clusters has provided challenge and direction for all schools in their efforts to close the gap. Actions taken have included: Link Advisers and school support partners challenging the actions of all schools in raising pupil premium attainment and progress; more detailed analysis of data Cluster by Cluster with weekly challenge to individual school leaders and governors where gaps are not closing; the identification of good practice; the setting of performance targets relating to the gap for individual officers and the raised profile through half termly Pupil Premium Network meetings.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Continuing to focus on the progress and attainment of looked after children and ensuring that Personal Education Plans have an impact on outcomes
- Evaluating and shaping the use of, and impact of, the Pupil Premium Grant spend allocated to children in care.
- With regard to children in care and their Personal Education Plans (PEPs) partners need to address the issues of compliance (whether or not a PEP is in date) and quality of the PEP's though implementing the new EPEP system
- Addressing the barriers to Pupil Premium attainment and progression.
- Increasing take up of the Free School Meal offer, particularly in KS1.
- Promoting the positive uses of Pupil Premium grant funds on improving outcomes for children on free school meals.
- Increasing the level of challenge to school leaders and governors, drawing where necessary on our full powers of intervention

#### **4.3 Care leavers in education, employment or training**

The purpose of the CM16+ team is to ensure that appropriate planning is in place for all allocated young people. As well as promoting formal education for our young people CM16+ has been looking at various strategies to engage our hardest to reach young people initially within less formal education forums. This has been an area of real progress over the previous year and there will be a continuing focus to maintain and expand this success moving forward.

The team will continue to offer drop-in opportunities including sessions focusing on teenage pregnancy and healthy eating and budgeting. The "cook for life" sessions have proved successful in engaging young people around issues of independence, budgeting and healthy cooking and eating and will continue.

The Council and its partners have been successful in engaging young people who are due to leave care, or who have left care, in education, training and employment and in the last year (2015-16) the number of young people recorded as not in education, training or employment (NEET) has fallen from 29% to a current figure of 11.5%. Currently (as at July 2016) 143 young people are being supported by the dedicated CM16+ team.

The decrease in NEET represents excellent progress and is something that the team and partners will build on moving forward. This is a reflection of the high quality of service offered to the young people of Southend-on-Sea as they prepare and embark on an independent adult life.

**We need to further focus on**

- Working with the data to identify young people at their 15th birthday and flagging this for joint working between the Council and partners
- Continue to explore creative ways with our partners to engage the most difficult to reach young people in educational activities.

#### **4.4 Children with special educational needs and disabilities**

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

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

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

The Council and Southend CCG's joint commissioners for children's services are now within the same team as discussed in section 2.1 and health commissioners are working closely with the SEN team to ensure the redesigned community paediatrics service better meets the needs of children and young people with SEND.

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

The 20 week timeframe for new statutory assessments has proved particularly challenging, with the number of plans completed within 20 weeks around 12%, and around 50% being over 26 weeks. This compares to 96.7% of all cases being completed in 26 weeks the year prior to the reforms. A major challenge for the members of the Success for All Children Group is to address the causes of delay in providing professional advice to inform the individual child's plan. Collaborative work is underway to amend the pathway and support agencies in providing advice within the 6 week limit. Part of this is to

support each agency to better understand whether new advice is required or not.

The Council published a Transition Plan in September 2014 setting out details of how it intended to meet the deadline to convert all statements by April 2018. In the academic year 2014-2015 the aim was to hold transfer reviews for all pupils with statements in Nursery, Year 2, Year 6, Year 9, Year 11 and Year 14, as well as pupils in Year 13 in school sixth forms. However due to delays in completing plans from Year 1, particularly those started in the summer term, it was decided to delay Year 2 pupils for one year. A revised Transition Plan was issued in November 2015. As of March 2016 37% of statements maintained as of September 2014 had been converted.

Since September 2014 parents of children with SEND have been able to request a personal budget which is linked to the Local Offer. Each agency has criteria for personal budget and agreed a common approach to facilitate direct payments building on the success of the arrangements made within social care.

In addition there has been on-going work in relation to implementing the third year of the SEN Strategy (Early Help, Choice, Partnership and Ambition) and consultation across the partners on Working Together to Improve Outcomes, the strategy for the next 3 years.

We need to further focus on:

- Timely Intervention
- Partnership working
- Quality and effective SEND provision
- Raise attainment and expectations
- Ensure value for money

These are the priorities in the 2016-2019 SEN strategy.

## **5. Outcomes for all children**

In this section the members of the Success for All Children Group report on outcomes achieved in specific fields of work from across the partnership, this includes education, sexual health, youth offending, drug and alcohol teams, emotional health and wellbeing, keeping young people in education, employment and training, and support for young carers.

The success, or otherwise, of the activities and interventions set out in this section can be life changing for the children and families receiving the services, and just as importantly can reduce costs and the need for intervention elsewhere in the public sector. Our Success for All Children Group has a strong understanding of this and is proactive in supporting the removal of barriers and challenges across the system.

### **5.1 Overall school attainment**

Schools in Southend-on-Sea work collaboratively with the Success for All Group members to understand how to continuously improve attainment and progress. As a partnership we understand that education provides inspiration and leads to the creation of aspiration and ambition for young people.

In 2015 in the Early Years Foundation Stage 69% of children achieved a Good Level of Development which was 7% higher than in 2014. At Key Stage 1 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level (Level 2 or above) increased in writing and in maths with more children achieving the higher level 3 in reading, writing and in science. 79% of Southend-on-Sea pupils achieved Level 4 or above at the end of Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics.

At Key stage 4 results for 2015 show that 65% of Southend-on-Sea pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades including English & Maths at GCSE. In 2014 the figure was 62% which was above the national average and put Southend-on-Sea in the top quartile nationally.

The Southend Borough Council Annual Education Report is published on [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk) and provides a more detailed analysis of pupil progress and attainment. The 2016 results will be found within the Annual Education Report published in January 2017.

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

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

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

## 5.2 Healthy schools

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

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

88% of these schools have moved onto a more in depth piece of work that addresses a specific health priority. Many are working on their 2nd piece of work some even their 3rd piece. For this stage of the process an action plan is submitted and schools work towards achieving Enhanced Healthy School Status.

32 schools have achieved Enhanced Healthy School Status as of November 2015. A further 11 schools are expected to achieve in November 2016. An annual Enhanced Healthy School celebration takes place each November.

### Healthy School Programme developments

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

Eleven schools are about to complete our 2015-16 Equality and Diversity Champion Programme, this programme aims to help the school to promote strong inclusive values and thus significantly reduce discriminatory behaviour and bullying. This programme will be involving a further 10 schools 2016-17.

The Drug Aware programme is continuing in partnership with the Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team, with 3 schools from the first cohort having achieved Drug Aware Status in November 2015. At least a further 8 schools have signed up to the programme and are working towards achieving the award.

Healthy schools working towards the Drug Aware mark will also achieve Enhanced Healthy School Status on completion due to their extensive work on substance misuse.

Southend-on-Sea schools with secondary aged children continue to be offered the theatre forum, Prince Charming by Outloud Productions which

tackles the subject of teenage relationship abuse. All Southend secondary schools have taken up the offer at least once and approximately 4,750 young people had access to the experience. The tour will be repeated in November 2016 to a new cohort of young people.

A healthy relationship resource 'Getting On' has been developed for year 6 children in conjunction with Outloud Productions. It was launched in June 2016 a copy of the resource a DVD has been sent to each school.

### **5.3 Sexual health**

From 1 July 2015, South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT), in conjunction with Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Brook Young Peoples Sexual Health Charity, have been commissioned to deliver the SHORE (Sexual Health, Outreach, Reproduction and Education) Integrated Sexual Health Service. The service delivers open access, high-quality, confidential sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment services, contraception provision, sexual health information and targeted interventions in a range of settings.

The Family Planning Association's *Growing up with Yasmine and Tom* relationships and sex education (RSE) online resource has been offered to all primary schools in Southend-on-Sea. The resource provides age appropriate lesson plans that are fun, interactive and meet curriculum requirements. The programme also provides individual support to school staff to enable the confident delivery of the resource, as well as group training on relationship and sexual education (RSE) policy writing and engaging parents/carers.

All Secondary schools, through a partnership with CSN Community Interest Company, have been offered a high quality comprehensive RSE programme. The programme supports RSE delivery across all secondary year groups, providing age appropriate and relevant lesson plans to meet curriculum requirements. The programme supports school staff to deliver the *RSE Scheme of Work* through training sessions; dedicated individual time in each participating school; and, group workshop sessions to explore key themes such as relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and consent and safeguarding.



**5.4 Teenage conception**

Year	Number of Conceptions	Conception rate per 1,000 women in age group	Percentage change from 1998 Baseline	Percentage of conceptions leading to abortion
1998	155	56.4	0.0	45.8
1999	132	48.5	-14.0	35.6
2000	126	46.8	-17.0	42.1
2001	130	47.4	-16.0	49.2
2002	146	50.9	-9.8	44.5
2003	140	47.7	-15.4	46.4
2004	135	46.8	-17.0	41.5
2005	136	46.2	-18.1	48.5
2006	143	47.5	-15.8	46.9
2007	127	40.7	-27.8	48.8
2008	131	41.8	-25.9	41.2
2009	128	41.4	-26.6	42.2
2010	109	36.1	-36.0	52.3
2011	108	34.8	-38.3	47.2
2012	94	30.4	-46.1	47.9
2013	83	26.6	-46.5	37.3
2014	89	28.8	-42.6	43.8

The under 18 conception rate increased slightly to 28.8 in Southend-on-Sea. The East of England rate reduced to 20.2 from 21.0 and the national England rate reduced from 24.3 in 2013 to 22.8 in 2014.

### **Prevention work and partnership approaches**

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

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

- The Family Nurse Partnership which offers first time, teenage parents aged under 20 in Southend-on-Sea an evidence based programme to help them to ensure their babies get the best start in life.
- Teen BUMPs and Teen BUMPs + is a multi-agency team offering antenatal and postnatal support specific to the needs of teenagers
- CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection) – Early Help Family Support Service and Youth Offending Service deliver internet and social media interventions through its Street Engagement Team.
- Care To Learn provision.
- Sanctuary Housing provides support for young parents with everyday living through housing placements.

### **Achievements in 2015-2016 include:**

- Partners continuing to work through the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2015-2018 that will sustain the continual reduction of under 18 conceptions and ensure positive outcomes for teenage parents and their babies.
- Reporting of pregnant teenagers and teenage parents in education, employment or training (EET), thus facilitating focussed approach and work to support teenagers.
- Reporting of school age pregnancy attendance data to a Children Missing in Education group to monitor reduced “maternity attendance” back to full time whenever possible.
- Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending service team have a single front door referral process in place to ensure that teenage parents receive the right support at the right time.
- Initiatives to develop and raise teenagers’ self-esteem and aspirations include opportunities to volunteer at Teen BUMPs and Teen BUMPs+
- Public Health commissioned an integrated sexual health services that will ensure easy and improved access for young people.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Monitor the Implementation the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and the action plan for 2016-2017.
- Targeted interventions for vulnerable young people and young parents through Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Service and LAC and Leaving Care teams.
- Improve awareness of risk taking behaviour and sexual health matters for relationships and sex education leads in schools; for parents and foster carers; and for all professionals working with young people so that children and young people get the education, knowledge and skills they need to experience positive relationship and sexual health.
- Improving access to the local sexual health services.

**5.5 Substance misuse**

The Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team (DACT) have commissioned a package of preventive substance misuse education, known as DrugAware, which was piloted with a cohort of nine schools from early 2014. This programme is intended to develop consistent standards of preventive education across the Borough and to enable schools to identify and intervene earlier with students who are at risk of substance misuse. Three schools have completed the DrugAware Award programme so far, with a further 10 schools working towards their accreditation. The DACT are keen to encourage all schools across the Borough to engage in this programme.

Support for families affected by parental substance misuse continues to be delivered through the M-PACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) Programme. National evidence suggests that for every one person in specialist substance misuse treatment, there is at least one child affected by substance misuse; this suggests that in Southend-on-Sea there are likely to be at least 1000 children affected. Three successful M-PACT programmes have been delivered so far to a total of twelve families; a fourth programme is set to commence in September 2016.

Although the number of young people accessing treatment in Southend-on-Sea each year has been reducing, Southend's Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAT) have continued to engage with proportionally higher numbers of young people and young adults during 2015-16 than regional and statistical neighbours. During 2015-16, YPDAT engaged 109 under 18's and 20 18-21 year olds. The proportionally higher rate of young people engaging with YPDAT is likely to be due in part to their well-established links with a wide range of young people's services and their positioning within the Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Service.

## 5.6 Improving outcomes for children and young people’s emotional wellbeing and mental health

In November 2015, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services (EWMH) commenced delivery as part of an Essex wide service commissioned by Southend Borough Council, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council and all seven Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) in Essex.

The key outcomes of the new service commissioned are:

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

### Outline of Southend delivery (Nov15-Mar16)

Types of Service	Data Item	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
Targeted Services	Referral Received	89	131	119	113	141
	Referral Accepted	86	121	110	105	122
	Referral Rejected	3	10	9	8	19
	Completed Assessments	32	31	77	131	94

	First Appointments	132	90	100	128	88
	Follow-up Appointments	152	202	327	352	379
<b>Crisis</b>	Referral Received	10	16	14	18	13
	Completed Assessments	10	13	14	13	13
	First Appointments	7	10	13	11	13
	Follow-up Appointments	6	21	11	15	38
<b>Eating Disorder</b>	Referral Received	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Learning Disabilities</b>	Referral Received	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Contact	1	1	3	1	0
<b>Single Point of Access (Children &amp; young People)</b>	Referrals Received	70	121	101	92	120

In Future in Mind: Children and Young People's Mental Wellbeing by Dr Martin McShane (March 2015), 5 themes were identified which represent best practice in respect of EWMH Services for children and young people.

The five key themes are:

- Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
- Improving access to effective support – a system without tiers
- Care for the most vulnerable
- Accountability and transparency
- Developing the workforce

The EWMH service specification and the Local Transformation Plan set out how the key themes are being addressed. Service delivery was still in a developmental stage towards the end of 2015-16 however with immediate effect the crisis support service had longer opening hours and anyone could refer or self-refer to the service.

## 5.7 Reducing school absenteeism

Improved access to emotional wellbeing and mental health services, a solid approach to Early Help and Troubled Families and a partnership wide focus on the importance of attendance has reduced absence and persistent absence levels in all school sectors compared to last year, resulting in an improvement in the national rankings. The full statistical release for 2014-15 academic year showed that we were below the national and statistical neighbour average for overall absence in Primary and secondary Schools for compulsory school age children.

The largest rank improvement was in Primary schools where Southend-on-Sea improved by 66 places from the 3rd quartile to the 1st quartile nationally. In Primary and Secondary Schools the absence level dropped by 0.2% while there was a decline nationally of 0.1%. In special schools the absence level increased by 4.3% but there were similar declines in performance nationally, 6 out of 10 statistical neighbours also showed a decline in Special schools.

The percentage of persistent absentees has decreased in Southend-on-Sea schools over the last 2 academic years. The biggest improvement was in Secondary schools once again where the figure dropped by 2.0%, meaning that Southend-on-Sea has now fallen below the national and has improved by 97 ranking places to reside in the 1st quartile nationally. Special schools however had a big decline of 55 places; this was due to the percentage of persistent absence pupils increasing by 6.6% (the national figure also increased by 0.8%). The primary school figure reduced by 0.4% which was also larger than national (0.2%). Overall, Southend-on-Sea schools are below national in terms of persistent absence by 0.9%. Furthermore, the local figure of 2.8% is now lower than the statistical neighbour average of 4%.

Persistent absence is a significant factor in children underachieving and gaining lower exams results. The Early Help Family Support Service continue to support a number of priority schools with higher than national persistent absence to offer a tailored support to differing school needs to target and reduce persistent absence. This incorporates various aspects from supporting schools to better analyse their data; increased numbers of early intervention meetings with parents and young people; enforcement and rewards.

The Every School Day Matters project, run by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) started in June 2013 in order to promote the positive aspects of school attendance to children, their families and the wider community. YOS Prevention staff receive information from schools advising who the unauthorised absentees are and attend the home addresses to identify the reasons for non-attendance. If they are not supplied with a valid reason the young people are taken to school and in all cases the parents are informed and advised of consequences of non-attendance.

The project (now known as Operation Newcastle) offers a service to schools in improving attendance levels in line with the Government's targets which in turn reduces risk of youth crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. These patrols are undertaken twice per week, working in partnership with the Police, who have the authority under

Section 16 of the Crime and Disorder Act to both stop young people and return them to school. They inform the young person of the reasons why they had been stopped, inform the school and send a letter to the parents or carers. This project also leads to referrals to the local Troubled Families project when concerns are noted during the home visit. Statistics from the local education department have noted a marked improvement of educational attendance since the inception of this project.

Between April 15 and March 16:

- 53 days of operational deployments
- 73 young people returned to school
- 336 parents educated

**We need to further focus on:**

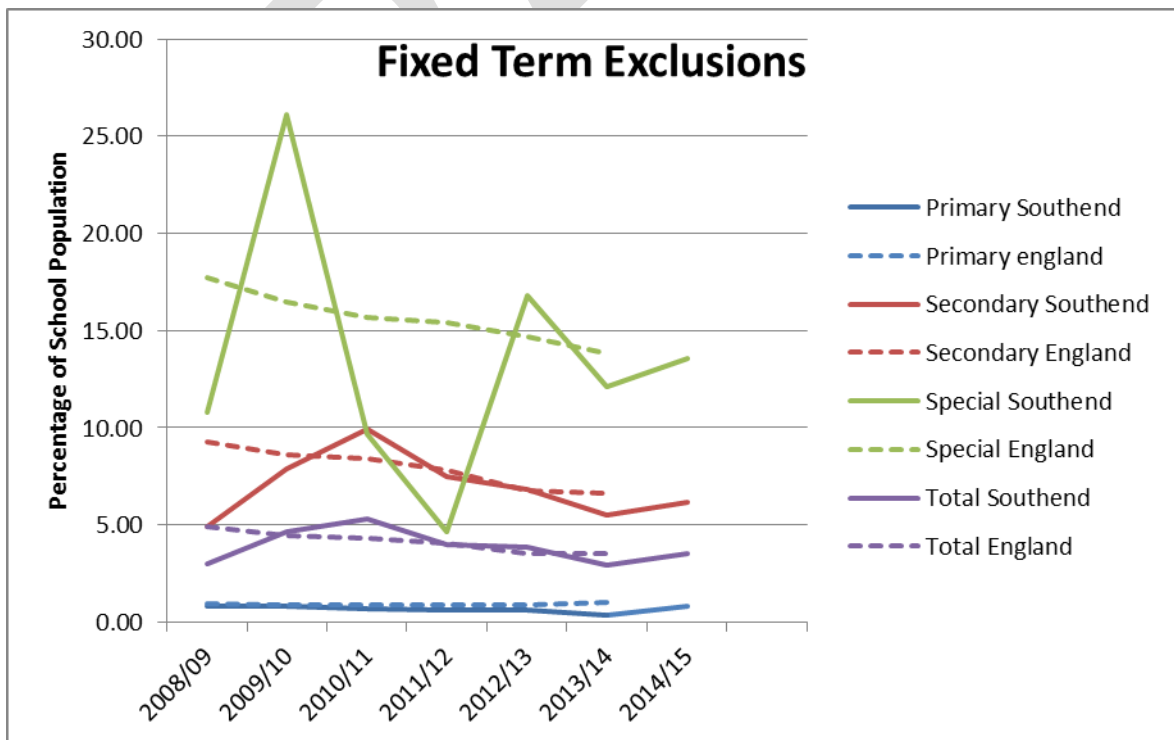
- Continuing to reduce absence and persistent absence in schools with a specific focus in primary schools and early years to embed routines and the importance of attending regularly at school from an early age.
- To work with and alongside the Special Schools to help reduce absence where possible, to help facilitate early intervention meetings so enable parents to feel better equipped with managing long term illness which presents many challenges. Learning how to meet those challenges is a process, but this group of children can, and wish to, achieve like their peers. Education may be a lifeline of opportunity and normality to children and families. Education will not only be school based. In many cases children will need a combination of flexible and school-based, hospital and home tuition. It emphasises the need for strategic partnerships between education and health services, teachers, children and families in understanding the practical and emotional impact of a chronic medical condition on education and development.
- Educating the wider community on the importance of school attendance.

**5.8 Reducing exclusions**

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

**Fixed term exclusions**

Fixed term exclusions, which are short term exclusions from the school due mainly to inappropriate behaviour and lasting from a day to a week or so, shows an increasing trend over the last five years. While in primary schools the percentage of children subject to fixed term exclusions is consistently less than that nationally, in secondary and special schools the trend is more mixed. Data for 2014-15 and 2015-16 has yet to be released, however internal data suggests that fixed term exclusions within primary schools, special schools and the pupil referral unit has reduced substantially, while there has been a significant increase in fixed term exclusions in secondary schools. It is likely that the increase in school academies and multi academy trusts within Southend-on-Sea, where zero tolerance behaviour policies have become more common, has had a direct impact upon increased fixed term exclusions.

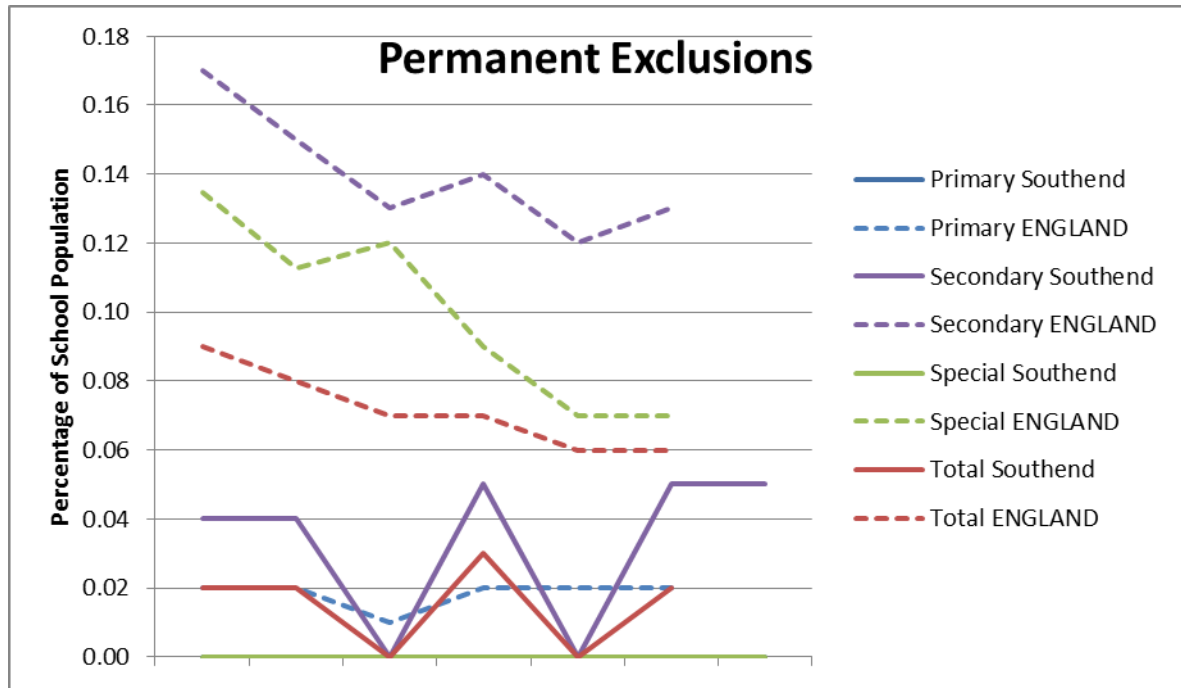


**Permanent exclusions**

The Council has for many years, together with schools in Southend-on-Sea, had the aim of ensuring no child or young person is permanently excluded



from school. This aim, supported by a range of strategies has seen a significantly lower percentage of pupils permanently excluded from either primary, secondary or special schools than that nationally. The data between 2009-10 and 2015-16 evidences the significance of the much lower permanent exclusion rate in the Borough, in particular within primary and special schools. We have, however, seen a slight increase in permanent exclusions within both secondary and primary schools over the last academic year but this remains less than the current national figure and statistical neighbours.



A new Behaviour Outreach Service has been established through Seabrook College and has prioritised work with schools across Southend-on-Sea with increased fixed term exclusions. The service works in partnership with schools to support the development of effective school strategies to prevent negative behaviour escalating and thus avoiding the need for further exclusions. Over the past year all but 8 schools have received support from the service consisting of either individual child support or whole school support regarding training and behaviour strategies. 81% of primary and 65% of secondary school referrals for individual support were evaluated as showing improvement in behaviour at closure. 6 schools have accessed training from the team comprising of whole school strategies and theme's such as 'responding to behaviours'. The impact of this service will continue to be evaluated at regular periods.

**5.9 - Reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)**

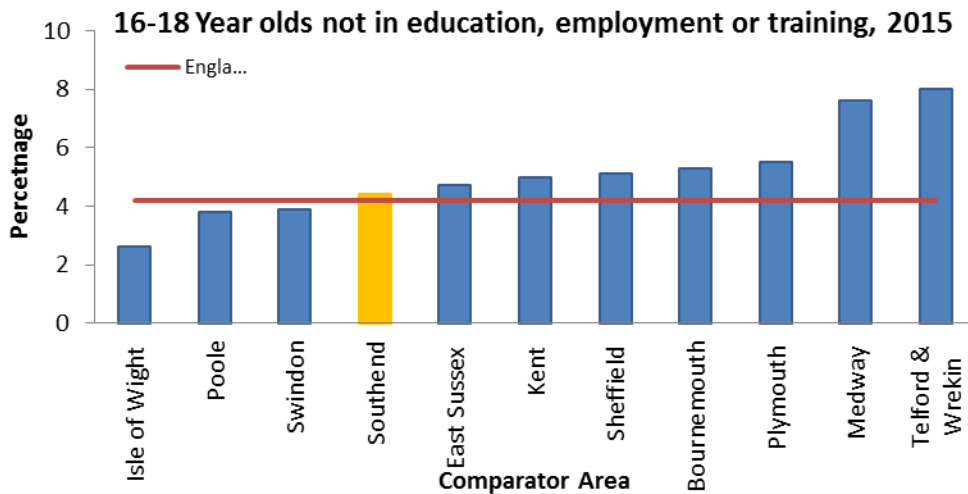
In March 2016 the NEET figure was 4% for 16-18 year olds against a locally set target of 7%. This has shown a move in the right direction from the previous year of 5.6%.

A number of policy measures have been introduced by the Government to reduce the number of people who are NEET, including raising the participation age, this means that from September 2015 all young people in England are required to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday. Options for this include:

- Full-time learning such as in school, college or home education;
- An apprenticeship;
- Part-time education or training if employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time.

The Figure below shows that in 2015 the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training in Southend-on-Sea was similar to the England average and better than the majority of its statistical neighbours (our comparator group of local authorities).

**16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (2015) in Southend compared to statistical neighbours and England**



In Southend-on-Sea, the Success for All Children Group needs to ensure that many more young people choose to stay in learning post-16, including those with multiple barriers to learning. To achieve this partners have developed systems and improved processes so that we provide:

- an excellent universal offer for all young people to prevent them disengaging

- a very efficient service for getting back into learning and work those young people who become NEET but have no specific barriers to engagement
- more targeted and intensive support to engage those young people with particular barriers to participation or to re-engagement

In response to the National NEET scorecard that was introduced by the Department of Education during 2015, an action plan in partnership with school improvement, and local educational providers was developed to be used as a working document to improve outcomes. This ensures the continuing offer of courses for young people leaving care as well as programmes for Young Offenders. These programmes have been successful in engaging young people by enabling them to access education and progress onto further education or apprenticeships. By supporting vulnerable learners to gain qualifications and progress into employment the NEET figure is further reduced.

Southend's Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Services targets those young people who have the most complex needs including those with special educational needs, those known and working with the Youth Offending Service, those who are teenage parents or who are currently pregnant, and those young people with a substance misuse issue and working with Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team.

### **5.10 Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour and offending on children, young people and the community**

Our aim is to prevent children and young people from entering the criminal justice system.

Southend Youth Offending Service (YOS) believes that youth crime early intervention and preventative work with children, young people and families provides considerable opportunities for joint working at strategic and operational levels. Further it demonstrates that when an early intervention approach is embedded it can relieve the pressure on other public services.

To be effective preventative-opportunities must exist at various stages in a young person's life and the YOS must prioritise partnership efforts effectively whilst adopting a risk-led approach to intervention planning across all its early intervention and prevention programmes.

Early intervention and prevention is not a single, one off event but a process whereby:

- Children, young people and families difficulties are identified before they have reached a point at which the children's development and wellbeing is seriously compromised
- Having been identified early on, the scale and nature of these problems are properly understood and a plan for offering help is developed through a process of high quality assessment, and

- Children, young people and families are offered the support and challenge they need in line with the assessments, for as long as it is needed

Our aims therefore are to

- significantly reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system
- reduce youth anti-social behaviour
- reduce the risks that lead children and young people to commit asb and crime
- avoid criminalising children and young people, which in turn significantly increases their opportunities for more positive outcomes
- Make the best use of partnerships in a time of financial constraint to ensure gains made can be sustained and built upon

### **2015-16 Achievements**

- Only 47 young people have become First Time Entrants (FTE) throughout 2015-16. This means we have reduced our FTEs by 11.3% compared to the same period last year. This is an above average reduction compared to the country as a whole (a 10.8% drop). Regionally FTE's dropped by 15.6% however we achieved above average reductions compared to the region the year before, so this year represents the rest of the region 'catching up'.
- Our Triage Programme was short listed for a Howard League Award and we received a commendation
- As stated earlier, since Triage being implemented within the Borough in April 2009, 1202 young people have been through the process. This has meant these young people did not enter the criminal justice system and did not receive a substantive outcome for those offences. Whilst young people were initially arrested for the offences, compliance with Triage resulted in no further action being taken. In view of the fact that re-offending rates for Triage over a 7 year period are only 16.9% this clearly demonstrates that the programme is successfully targeting young people at the earliest point of their criminal career and diverting them away from the youth justice system
- Our Challenge & Support programme involves every under 18 year old who is stopped by the police being referred through to the scheme whereby various tools and powers are used from letters, home visits, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and structured interventions. This scheme is clearly identifying those young people at the earliest opportunity who are at risk and/or vulnerable and ensuring the appropriate level of support is put in place. Likewise, all young people at risk or engaged in crime and anti-social behaviour are able to benefit from a systematic joined up approach. It worked with 217 children and young people during the year April 2015 to end March 2016 through the use of Warning letters, Home visits, and Acceptable Behaviour

Contracts (ABC). 5 ABC's have been issued during the year and 4 Criminal Behaviour Orders (replacing ASBO's).

- Our Street Engagement Team undertake specific operations in identified hotspots between the hours of 7pm and midnight in order to protect children left to wander the streets at night without adult supervision who are at risk of offending, target underage drinking or ASB. These are joint initiatives undertaken by YOS and Police whereby workers engage with children and young people removing them where appropriate and necessary.

Street based deployments are also undertaken delivering street based outreach where and when it is most needed. By offering young people viable and attractive alternatives to anti-social and criminal behaviour they are helping to break the damaging cycle of negative influence and raise aspirations. The team work days, evenings and weekends dependent upon intelligence across the borough, targeting areas with a high level of public concern about youth disorder with the overall aim to signpost young people to more positive activities using a triple track approach of challenge, support and enforcement. During 2015-16 there were:

- 11 Joint police operations
  - 679 deployments
  - 2,145 children and young people engaged
  - 33 NSPCC Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) courses delivered to 803 school teaching staff and students
- Intelligence shows us Friday & Saturday between 4pm-9pm continues to be when youth ASB was most reported and therefore the most effective times for the Street Engagement team to be deployed.

The YOS continues to offer one to one support to young people in the community who are assessed as being at risk of committing crime or Anti-Social Behaviour. Referrals are received from a range of agencies including internally from Early Help Family Support, Social Care, Schools, Police (particularly schools officers). Furthermore, as part of our commitment to prevention, Southend YOS offer voluntary intervention and support to all young people made subject to Youth Cautions. Work at this level is based on diversion and a restorative ethos is used throughout the interventions especially where there is an established victim identified. Young people are also referred to this service for specified CEOP work and as exit strategies from Court Orders.

Between April 15 and March 16:

- 147 were opened for 1:1 work. Of the 147, 13 went on to receive Triage or substantive outcomes for offences committed after they started their Prevention intervention. (8% offending rate)
- 24 x Youth Cautions

- 9 x Youth Conditional Cautions

A total of **507** youth ASB calls were made to the police between April 15 and January 2016 **\*\***(information not available for February 16 & March 16 – NO YOS POLICE OFFICER) in comparison with **643** calls made during the same period this year. Consequently a **21.2%** reduction in youth ASB has been achieved.

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

According to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) data, in 2007 Southend had a cohort of 562 offenders with 181 of those re-offending. This equates to a 32.2% re-offending rate. In the last 8 years Southend YOS has consistently reduced the cohort size, so much so that the latest figures published by the YJB in June 2016 (for the July 2013 to June 2014 cohort) indicates a cohort of 154 offenders with 65 re-offenders - a re-offending rate of 42.2%. Whilst data indicates that Southend has a high re-offending rate, there is a story of place behind this data which is important to demonstrate in order to reflect the actual re-offending characteristics and performance. It is also important to note that while our re-offending rate is still above 40%, it has been consistently reducing across the last 18 months since we peaked at 51.6%.

Much of our work has been displaced following the implementation of our prevention and diversion schemes. The inception of Triage in 2009 has not only had a significant impact on preventing young people entering the criminal justice system but has also been extremely successful in preventing re-offending.

Unfortunately, Triage re-offending data is not included in the YJB performance measures but the Triage re-offending rate is 16.9% over 7 years (cumulative). If Triage was included, our July 2012 to June 2013 cohort would have increased by a further 156 offenders to 310. If 16% of those in the Triage cohort reoffended, the percentage for all re-offending then reduces from 44.1% to 29.0%.

The reality remains however that out of over 16,000 10-17 year olds in the Borough, only 154 were subject to substantive outcomes during the last published period of which only 65 were re-offenders.

Whilst many other YOT's are now operating Triage and this argument could be counter-acted as their re-offending data is on target, Southend was one of the first in the country to operate Triage and consequently this has affected our data for 7 years whereas most other YOT's have only been operating Triage for 2 years.

It is a nationally recognised statistic that 20% of prolific/revolving door offenders are responsible for 80% of crime committed. However for Southend during 2015-16 15% of offenders (13 young people) were responsible for 42% of all youth crime committed in the Borough over that 12 month period. This

demonstrates therefore that our ways of working with these prolific offenders (those committing 5 or more offences within 12 months), by providing additional support and intervention over and above that prescribed by National Standards appears to be achieving results. By way of comparison, in 2013-2014 the figures were that 16% of offenders were prolific and responsible for 40% of youth crime in the Borough, representing performance for prolific offenders that has been consistently better than the national statistics over the last 3 years. This has undoubtedly been achieved through strong and effective partnership working.

Southend YOS has undertaken its seventh Problem Profile for the time period April 15-March 16. Previously this document has focused heavily on offences – those most common, when and where they are committed, and by what age and ethnicity of offender. Over the last year the YOS has overcome challenges brought about by unavoidable changes to policing structure, resulting in us obtaining less data on a regular basis than we have before.

April 2015 also saw the YOS change case management systems to a single joined-up system shared with education departments within the council. We have therefore taken the opportunity to shift focus from offence-based analysis, to offender-based analysis; engagement in education, where they live, what particular features the groups have that indicate where resources might be most effectively targeted. Whilst it is useful for the police to be able to target their efforts at the location of offences, the provision of Family and Community based help by the Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Services needs to focus on offender location and their families. The incorporation of Early Help into our overall Service area has further allowed us to enhance our innovative approach to the way we deliver services around the needs of hard to reach and vulnerable children, young people and their families.

By looking at the individual crime types it can be seen that throughout this period 75 unique offenders committed 207 offences and these young people were subsequently supervised by the Southend Youth Offending Service as part of a Court Order with a further 17 supervised through a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution. The two most frequent offence types of Assault and Theft accounted for 36% of the overall offences committed. The majority of offenders were aged 16 years of age.

### **2015-16 Achievements**

- The latest YJB reoffending rate demonstrates that Southend has dropped to 42.2%. This brings us within 6% of the South East Average and within 1% of our statistical neighbour average.
- Southend YOS continues to use the YJB Re-Offending Toolkit as a live monitoring and performance measure to ensure analysis informs practice. Performance for year ending 2015-16 was 26% re-offending rate. The YJB published data (as in the bullet point above) is 18 months behind 'real time'. We therefore anticipate that between now and the next published data our re-offending rate will be in line with SE

Average if not considerably better.

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation conducted a SQS (Short Quality Screening) Inspection of Southend YOS in May 2016 and found overall that 'the YOS was performing well with enthusiastic and experienced staff. The YOS had found a good balance between protecting the public and assuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people they worked with. Case managers linked well with other agencies and were flexible in their approach in order to achieve positive outcomes.'
- Significant success in prevention has led to Southend having a small entrenched cohort. This is a challenging cohort of prolific revolving door offenders who we are working hard to engage in different ways such as programme activities. Our ways of working with these prolific offenders, by providing additional support and intervention over and above that prescribed by National Standards is working as the number of prolific young people has been reduced again this year to 13. The fact they remain responsible for 42% of all youth crime is a clear indication of their entrenched patterns of behaviour.
- All young people subject to court orders are required to undertake payback to the community as well as, where appropriate, restorative justice interventions. Undertaking community payback acts as an effective deterrent to further offending and a restriction of liberty. Furthermore it benefits both young people and the wider community as it improves our local communities, develops young people's skills and knowledge bases, whilst encouraging them to take responsibility for the communities in which they live. During this time period 662 hours of reparation were undertaken by young people.

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

Southend YOS is committed to ensuring that the use of remands and custody is a last resort for young people. Consequently we provide good quality and realistic bail support packages and reports to the courts using experienced staff in order to maintain the courts confidence in both bail provision and community sentences.

### **2015-16 Achievements**

- Historically the YOS has always been subject to the target of less than 5% of court outcomes resulting in custody. Whilst we have been able to



perform close to this target, the reduction in the numbers of young people appearing before the courts has meant that percentages can be misleading - a small cohort of prolific offenders are naturally likely to have a higher custody rate. For this reason in 2014-15 we moved to mirror the MOJ reporting method in our own local performance monitoring. This measures the rate of custody amongst the overall 10-17 year old population – the population is more static than the number of young people in the criminal justice system enabling better comparison.

The rate for 2015-16 was 0.44 custodial sentences per 1,000 10-17 year olds in the Borough. That means that for every 1,000 young people in the Borough, less than 1 received a custodial sentence. Compared to previous years this is a significant reduction: the average for 2011-2015 was 1.10 so to achieve an over 50% reduction is a real achievement. Last year we challenged ourselves to reduce it from 0.68 and the key for 2016-17 will be to maintain this reduction, a challenge that we know will be made more difficult by the concentration of prolific young offenders in the Borough. Many of the young people in Southend who come to work with the Youth Offending Service have entrenched patterns of behaviour and often receive multiple court outcomes in the year. We need to provide substantial well considered options to the court to engage young people in the community as a direct alternative to a custodial sentence.

- Southend YOS will continue to ensure the following are in place - Bail support packages that incorporate a range of specifically tailored interventions (including sport, outdoor pursuits, ETE, social skills), prohibitive measures, including electronically monitored curfews and restrictions on associations and exclusion zones and the use of Troubled Families where appropriate. An early warning notification system of young people at risk of remand to ensure we present robust bail support packages to the court at the earliest opportunity is also embedded within practice.

### **To minimise the risk of harm posed by children and young people**

The Youth Offending Service has a duty to co-operate with the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and is committed to its role in supporting local information sharing and management of risk to the public posed by young people.

Those young people who pose a risk of harm, who we classify as high or very high risk of harm or meet the MAPPA criteria and are managed at MAPPA Level 1 are effectively managed within Southend YOS working alongside colleagues from partner agencies where necessary. We did not have any young people who have required management at MAPPA Level 2/3 and therefore require the MAPPA inter-agency management process during 2014/15.

## **2015-16 Achievements**

- Introduced MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) Panels. The MACE is a new group meeting every 6 weeks. Its overall aim is to ensure that there is an effective multi-agency assessment and response where there are concerns that young people are at high risk of exploitation which relates to the young people that agencies are most worried about – this includes; high risk of sexual exploitation, high risk of exploitation related to gang activity including drug dealing and possibly other criminal activity; places where there are significant concerns that young people are being exploited e.g. through gang activity, drug dealing/taking, sexual exploitation, other criminality etc. ; Perpetrators/alleged perpetrators where there are significant concerns that they are exploiting children and young people. These referrals are most likely to be from the police. The Panel will consist of a core group of senior representatives from Social Care, Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Service, Health, Education, Police, the Community Safety Partnership. Other agencies will be co-opted to attend according to the subject matter of the discussions.
- Reviewed and revised management oversight of plans and interventions relating to young people who present a risk of harm to others including CSE links
- Delivered 33 NSPCC Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) courses within local schools
- Undertaken multi agency Case Management Forums for all young people assessed as presenting a risk of harm to others

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

Southend Youth Offending Service has a statutory duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. We are represented on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and produce a yearly section 11 report to the Board.

Multi agency meetings are held within the YOS (Case management forums) in order to manage vulnerability and risk of harm for all those assessed as being high or very high within these areas.

We are fully integrated with children's specialist services and look forward to opportunities to integrate further with adult services as we embed as one department. Whilst the YOS has a seconded health worker and a full time substance misuse YOS officer, being part of the Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Service ensures that there are many specialist workers who can specifically contribute to work with young people who have a range of complex needs.

## 2015-16 Achievements

- Attended joint YOS/Social Care meetings to ensure effective joint management and working arrangements
- CSE Strategic & Operational Groups have been embedded in conjunction with social care, police and health. Risk Assessment Toolkit developed and successfully disseminated to all staff.
- Since April 2015 all children that are reported to the police and registered as Missing are offered a return to home interview, this is to establish the Child's story about their missing period whilst at the same time assessing if they have been at risk of CSE and any safeguarding issues that may need referring to social care and or the police. During this time period 163 children were reported missing to the police with 464 missing periods and 329 home visits were completed (70.90%).

### 5.11 Support for young carers

Our priority for young carers in Southend-on Sea is to ensure that they are safeguarded from inappropriate caring and to ensure as far as we can that they are able to enjoy and achieve in line with their peers and to have time away from their caring role.

In October 2015 the contract for Young Carers with Premier Care came to an end, and came back "in house" as part of the Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Service. The Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Service – previously known as the Integrated Youth Support Service - have continued to raise awareness during 2015-16 in schools, colleges, with other professionals and agencies and also the general public. We also continued to work with partners around the implementation for young carers regarding the Care Act and the Young Carers Development Group, which includes various partner organisations.

We have continued to work closely with the Virtual Head and Virtual Teacher around attendance and achievement in education for young carers and during the year 4 schools gained their Bronze Young Carers School Standards. This work continues and is now also part of the Enhanced Healthy Schools initiative. Furthermore, we have supported Milton Hall School to implement a group for Young Carers, completed a successful Young Carers Group with Macmillan nurses and supported 2 of their volunteers in youth work training.

A Young Adult Carers group was initiated during 2015-16 with Southend Carers Forum employing a part time (7 Hours) worker to develop this group, which is in its early stages but showing positive signs.

The young carers attending SYC&MORE and COOL continued to work on their Children's University passports of which 12 completed and attended the graduation ceremony in 2015 and 6 are invited to the first graduation in 2016.

Each year we continue to work closely with partner organisations raising awareness of Young Carers and provide different activities /trips/events for young carers. Young Carers Festival, in 2015 was led by Southend Carers Forum, (who received funding from Key Med) with support from Brenda Lewis the Young Carers Worker. 22 Young people had the opportunity of attending the weekend held at YMCA, Fairthorne Manor, with 3 of the Young Carers Champions attending as volunteers.

At the end of March 2016 there was a total of 517 Young Carers known to Southend on Sea Borough Council.

We need to further focus on:-

- Care Act and Children and Families Act, ensuring the work is delivered appropriately
- Work with the Health Service in general to ensure the optimum health for Young carers.
- Embed the Single Point of Contact Referral for Young Carers, developing work across teams within the Early Help Family Support and Youth Offending Service.

## **6. Looking Forward**

During the period April 2016 – September 2016 several SFAC partners received reviews/inspections around the support they provide for children in need of help and safeguarding. Although these were outside of the reporting timeframe for this report it would not be appropriate not to comment and the findings from these will reviews play an important part in our direction of travel and future plans for the coming few years:

### **Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers**

Ofsted inspected services for looked after children as part of the wider inspection in May 2016. Overall the services were judged as 'requires improvement' however the sub-elements of the service (Adoption, and the experiences and progress of care leavers) were judged as 'Good'. To date 106 local authorities have been inspected under this new inspection framework and 24% have been judged as inadequate, 49% requires improvement, 25% good and 2% outstanding (as at 12th September 2016). Ofsted provided 12 recommendations for service improvement, some of which related to services for children in care. Members of the Success for All Children Group are instrumental in helping Southend Borough Council Children's Services to achieve the improvements required and actions set out in our Southend Children's Services Improvement Plan.

A key focus over the next 4 years will be to improve outcomes through the development of innovative and more integrated services. Focussing on the journey of the service user to ensure that needs are better met by more joined up approaches to service delivery across our partnership.

### **Short Quality Screening (SQS) of youth offending work in Southend**

HMIP conducted a SQS Inspection of Southend Youth offending Service (YOS) in May 2016 and found overall that 'the YOS was performing well with enthusiastic and experienced staff. The YOS had found a good balance between protecting the public and assuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people they worked with. Case managers linked well with other agencies and were flexible in their approach in order to achieve positive outcomes.'

### **CQC review of how health services keep children safe and contribute to promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers.**

In July 2016 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a review of health services for looked after children and safeguarding in Southend-on-Sea. The review was conducted under Section 48 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 which permits the CQC to review the provision of healthcare

and the exercise of functions of NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The review explored the effectiveness of health services for looked after children and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within health for all children. The focus was on the experiences of looked after children, and children and their families who receive safeguarding services. The CQC reported seeing many good examples of health services supporting early help and working with families to help safeguard children and young people. The report also made a number of recommendations which included a broad theme that relates to communication and record keeping.

### **HMIC National Child Protection re-inspection of Essex Police**

HMIC conducted a National Child Protection re-inspection of Essex Police in September 2016 and noted significant improvements in how Essex Police and their partners managed child protection issues. They made specific references to strong and consistent leadership from all agencies; substantial investment made in developing the police operational response and the involvement of partners and linked joint working as a key driver of progress made. While the overall position was largely positive inspectors raised concerns in a number of areas such as child protection referrals, partnership decision making at strategy discussions and outcomes for children after the use of Police protection powers.

### **Success for All Children Group Future plans**

Looking forward the Success For All Group have a vision for a simpler, slicker and swifter model of service delivery for all of our users, delivered through better integrated services. We want to make things be less complex for families as a result of us providing seamless services that are productive and cost effective. To achieve this vision the group carried out a workshop in September 2016 attended by key people in all partner organisations, to consider how better integrated services for children and young people could be delivered. Our intention is to have produced a strategy and action plan, by spring 2017, for integrated children's services across Southend.