



HSCP Yearly Report Data Presentation

2023/24



Children's Services Children & Families

Children & Families

Safeguarding Area	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Narrative: Please include a brief commentary on the data, such as explanations for rises and falls, any trends, actions to improve in this area or any changes in services leading to variations in the measure.
Number of referrals to Children's Services	60,761	66,648	68,019	Referrals to the service increased by 2% in 23/24. This is likely to have been caused by the continuing impact of the 'cost of living' crisis which has led to an increase in families experiencing financial hardship and the associated social and emotional impact. Further, this may also relate to the financial pressures on agencies and their ability to deliver ongoing preventative services.
Number of referrals leading to assessment	27,350	27,444	25,485	The number of referrals leading to assessment has reduced in 23/24. This suggests that the increase in referrals does not equate to an increase in assessments. In turn, this demonstrates that families can be supported by alternative methods (such as Level 2 or 3) and with signposting and advice.
Number of Early Help Plans	6,817	4,971	4,768	The number of children with Early Help plans has remained static over the last year with a very small reduction being noted and recorded. This evidences that there is still very much demand for early help services and earlier interventions. It further evidences that the early help processes and Early Help Hubs are still being well used as an access point.

Children & Families

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Number of Child Protection (CP) Plans	1,022	1,048	1,199	In line with last years' commentary, there has been a further increase with the rate per 10,000 population figure where there has been growth in Child Protection numbers. We know from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (November 2021) that our front door MASH applies consistent thresholds and that the increase in overall numbers is a nationally recognised issue.
Percentage of CP Plans for reasons of: <u>Neglect</u>	63%	69%	68%	There is a slight increase in neglect numbers, however this is in line with expectations due to cost of living crisis and national trends.
Percentage of CP Plans for reasons of: <u>Physical Abuse</u>	3%	5%	4%	This category has remained consistent with previous years.
Percentage of CP Plans for reasons of: <u>Emotional Abuse</u>	32%	24%	26%	This category has remained consistent with previous years.
Percentage of CP Plans for reasons of: <u>Sexual Abuse</u>	2%	2%	2%	This category has remained consistent with previous years.



Children's Services Education & Inclusion

Education & Inclusion

Safeguarding Area	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (up to 24/5/24)	Narrative
Primary School absence rate	5.7%	5.2%	4.8%	The primary absence rate continues to sit just below the national average (attendance above national) and is showing a downward trend, consistent with other local authorities.
Secondary School absence rate	9.0%	9.1%	8.8%	Secondary absence remains just above (attendance below) the national average and again shows a slight downward trend, reflecting the national picture. In both phases, this improving trend is also reflected in relation to persistent absence (10% or more), however, severe absence, pupils missing 50% or more, is showing an increasing trend across phases. Severe absence is a focus for meetings with schools to address individual pupils and cohorts, particularly where a multi-agency approach is required.
The number of pupils with at least one Fixed Period Suspension (FPS) across all phases	5,013	6,687	10,314 (up to 24/5/24)	During the Autumn Term 2023, the increase that we saw in Autumn Term 2022 has continued in both Fixed Period Suspensions (FPS) and Permanent Exclusions (PEX). This trend has been experienced by other local authorities who report similar pressure in this area. The Inclusion Support Service (ISS) has provided support and challenge to schools regarding all matters of exclusion/inclusion along with performing its statutory functions of recording and administering all suspensions/exclusions and hearings. It is positive that the number of suspensions issued in the Spring Term is approximately 2,000 less than those issued in the Autumn Term and comparable with Spring Term 2023.
The number of pupils permanently excluded (PEX) across all phases	61	169	123 (up to 24/5/24)	The increase in overall permanent exclusion that we saw in 2022 has continued into 2023/2024 although it has slowed significantly. It is anticipated that the year-end number will show an increase in PEX for the academic year 2023/24. The Inclusion (ISS) have prevented 293 permanent exclusions progressing this academic year (to date).



HLOW Constabulary

Safeguarding Area	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Narrative
Number of Neglect Crimes reported	727	805	895	<p>Much of the increase in recording can be seen through improved training and awareness for staff. There is significant evidence over the last 5 years of improved and more accurate crime recording in compliance with Home Office counting rules. For instance, a family of 3 children who suffered neglect would mean 3 separate crimes being recorded since each child is a victim.</p> <p>Internal audits also demonstrate that where Child Neglect is recorded the decision to do so is correct. Further work is always encouraged to ensure the correct classification is used.</p> <p>The increase in recording has also resulted in those crimes resulting in Formal Action Taken (FAT) suggesting that there are now more positive outcomes for children who are victims of cruelty and neglect.</p>