

Thurrock - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future

Extraordinary Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **6.00 pm** on **11 November 2021**

South Essex College, High Street, Grays, RM17 6TF – Room W1.23

Membership:

Councillors Sara Muldowney (Chair), Graham Snell (Vice-Chair), Abbie Akinbohun, Alex Anderson, Susan Little and Lee Watson

Sarah Barlow, Church of England Representative
Kim James, Chief Operating Officer, HealthWatch Thurrock
Nicola Cranch, Parent Governor Representative
Sally Khawaja, Parent Governor Representative

Substitutes:

Councillors Augustine Ononaji, Elizabeth Rigby, James Thandi and Lynn Worrall

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1 Apologies for Absence

2 Items of Urgent Business

To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972. To agree any relevant briefing notes submitted to the Committee.

3 Declaration of Interests

Exclusion of the Public and Press

Members are asked to consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

4	Review of High Risk Notifications provided by Children's Social Care (EXEMPT)	5 - 16
5	Children's Social Care Performance - Quarter 1 2021-22	17 - 36
6	Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2021	37 - 74
7	Low Income Families and Child Poverty update (2021) for the Children and Young People JSNA product (2017)	75 - 88
8	Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh	89 - 140

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Grace Le, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **3 November 2021**

Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

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2. You are recommended to wear a face covering (where able) when attending the meeting and moving around the council offices to reduce any chance of infection. Removal of any face covering would be advisable when speaking publically at the meeting.
3. Hand sanitiser will also be available at the entrance for your use.

Whilst the Council encourages all who are eligible to have vaccination and this is important in reducing risks around COVID-19, around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have any symptoms. This means they could be spreading the virus without knowing it. In line with government guidance testing twice a week increases the chances of detecting COVID-19 when you are infectious but aren't displaying symptoms, helping to make sure you do not spread COVID-19. Rapid lateral flow testing is available for free to anybody. To find out more about testing please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

When should you declare an interest *at a meeting*?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

What is a Non-Pecuniary interest? – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- **Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;**
- **Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and**
- **leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon**

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

Non- pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
 - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
 - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
 - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
 - Fewer public buildings with better services

3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
 - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
 - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
 - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

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11 November 2021	ITEM: 5
Extraordinary Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Children’s Social Care Performance – Quarter 1 2021-22	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Anna Watkins, Business Intelligence Analyst	
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Interim Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care and Early Help	
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children’s Social Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the performance across Children’s Social Care. The overall performance for the service is good and this is within the context of the COVID-19 and the lockdown restrictions which have been in place over the period; this report focusses on Quarter 1 of 2021-22 (April to June 2021).

This report shows that:

- Throughout 2020/21 there was a fluctuation in the volume of contacts received by MASH due to the impact of COVID-19 reducing during the months of lockdown, and significantly increasing after the easing of lockdowns. This is demonstrated in performance in the first quarter of 2021/22.
- Between April and June 2021, the number of The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) contacts received was 1,558 (easing of lockdown) compared to 1,061 between April and June 2020 (full lockdown). There has been a 47% increase in number of MASH contacts when comparing the two quarters.
- The numbers of referrals between April and June 2020 have seen an increase and is in line with the above data on Contacts. Between April and June 2021, the number of referrals was 677 which is an increase on 443 between April and June 2020
- As at 30th June 2021, 94% of children and families assessments were completed in timescale. Timescales have been consistently maintained at

over 90% and is evidence of good performance and is reassurance that children's circumstances and needs are well understood.

- As at 30 June 2021, 108 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Thurrock which has seen a steady reduction from 159 at the end of quarter 1 2020/21 to 135 at end of quarter 2 and 111 at the end of quarter 3 and has stabilised since quarter 3 2020/21.
- Since June 2020, there has been an increase in the number of cases being stepped down to Early Help. Between April and June 2021, 133 cases were stepped down compared to 39 between April and June 2020. As with previous performance around contacts and referrals this needs to be seen in the context of Covid 19.
- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to support a shared understanding and management of threshold decisions. Children and families receive the right help at the right time and the response to family difficulties is proportionate to risk. Threshold is well understood and is resulting in the right children receiving a statutory service, and where cases can be dealt with by Early Help Services they are.
- Thurrock continues to provide services to approximately 296 Children Looked After (CLA) and approximately 298 Care Leavers.
- Children and young people are visited regularly and the management of missing children is consistent and reflects good partnership with the police and Thurrock Community Safety.
- Work with health colleagues continues to ensure that there is a positive focus on Initial Health Assessments for children entering into care.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1** That members review the areas of improvement in Children's Social Care and work undertaken to date to manage demand for statutory social care services.

2. Introduction and Background

This report provides a summary of Children's Social Care performance for Quarter 1, 2021-22 (April to June 2021). It highlights key demand indicators such as number of contacts, benchmarking data and key performance indicators.

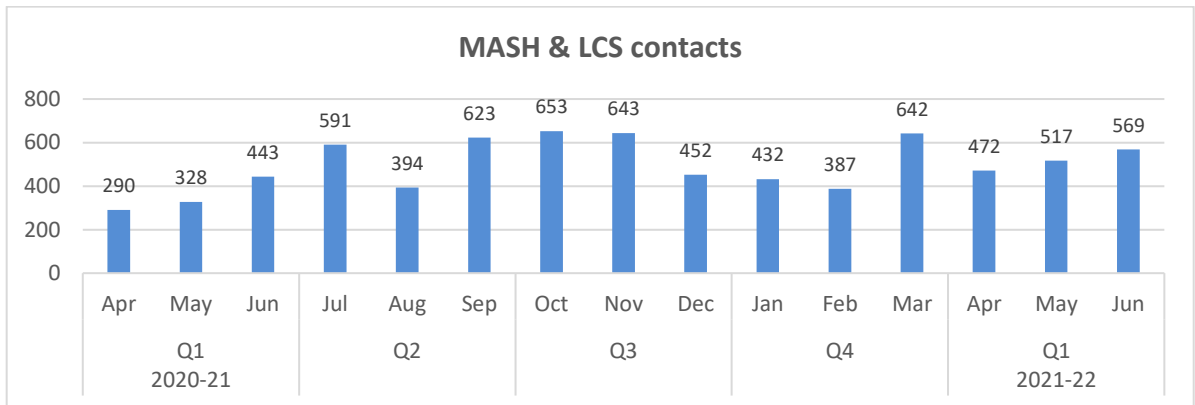
Thurrock produces a number of data sets and performance reports to meet its internal and external reporting requirements. The data in this report is from the 'At a Glance' monthly performance report, regional benchmarking data and national data sets.

This data has been presented and discussed with the Children & Families Performance Group.

3. THURROCK DATA

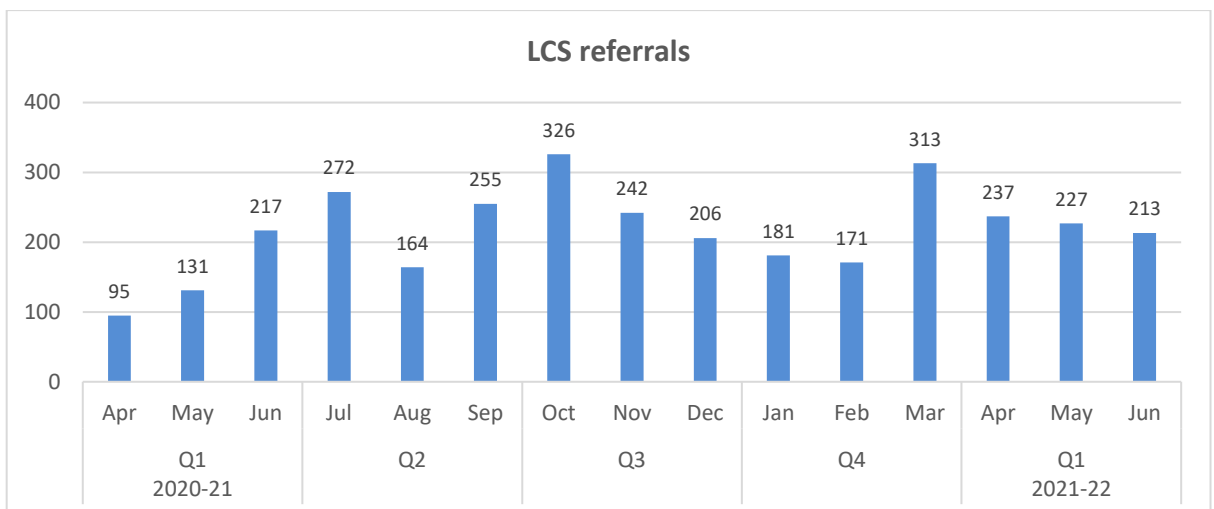
3.1 Contacts

Between April and June 2021, the number of MASH contacts received was 1,558 compared to 1,061 between April and June March 2020 showing 47% increase in the number of contacts received when comparing the two quarters. It appears this is directly in relation to the emergence of COVID-19 and the subsequent national lockdown.



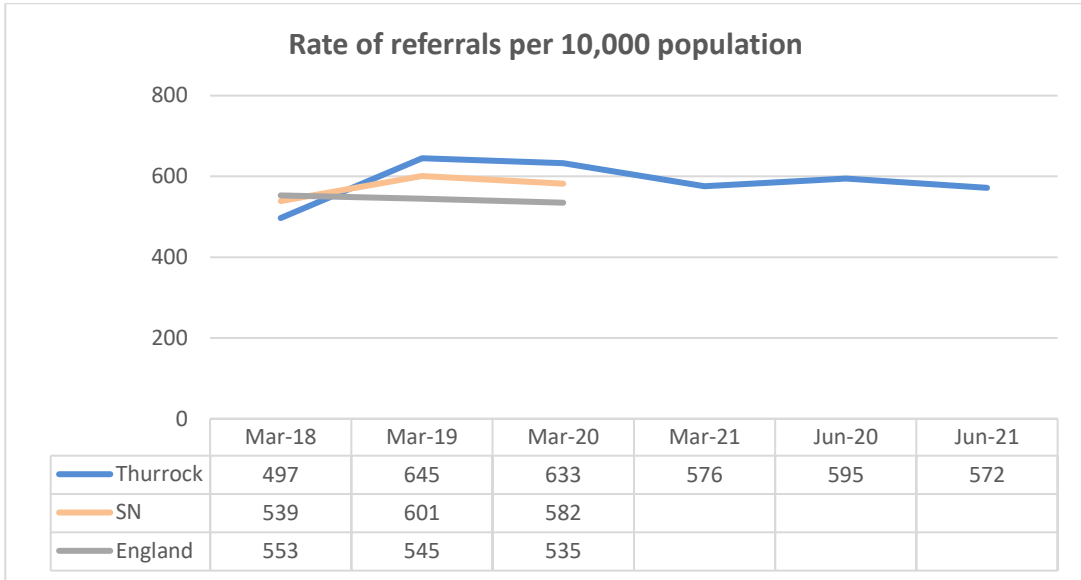
3.2 Referrals

Between April and June 2021, the number of referrals were 677 compared to 443 in the same period in 2019-20. This represents a 53% increase in number of referrals which appears to correlate with the increase in number of contacts in the same period.



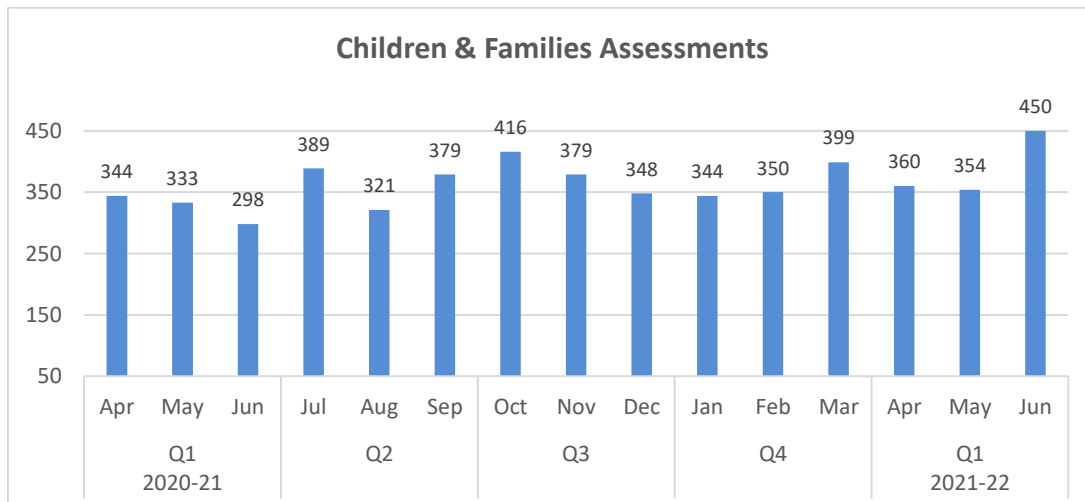
Rate of referrals

As at 30 June 2021, the rate of referrals per 10,000 was 572 compared to 595 in June 2020. Based on benchmarking 2019-20 data, Thurrock is marginally below the statistical neighbor rate of 582, however, above the England rate of 535.



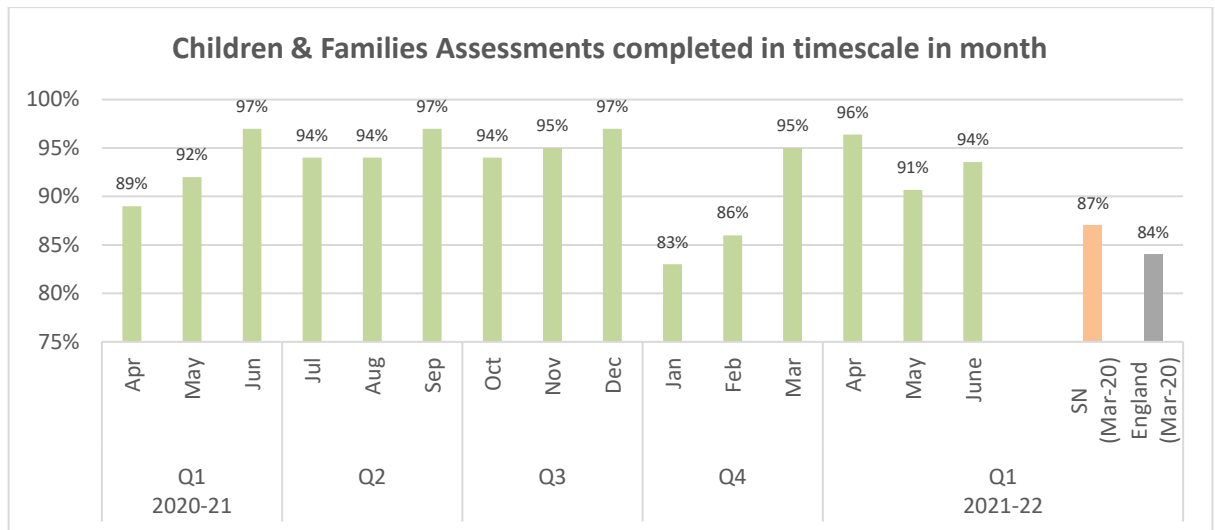
3.3 Children & Families Assessments

Between April and June 2021 1,164 assessments were completed compared to 975 in the same quarter in 2019-20. This represents 19% increase in the number of assessments completed between April and June 2021.



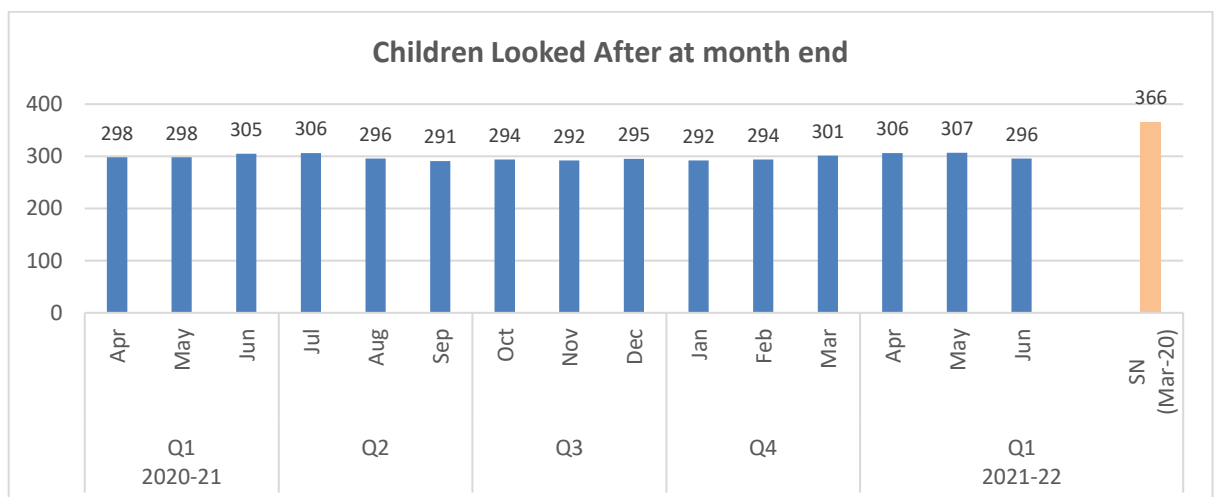
3.4 Children & Families Assessments completed in timescale

The number of assessments completed in timescale continues to show good performance at 94% during June 2021. The benchmarking data in 2019-20 shows that Thurrock is above the statistical neighbor average of 87% and England average of 84%.



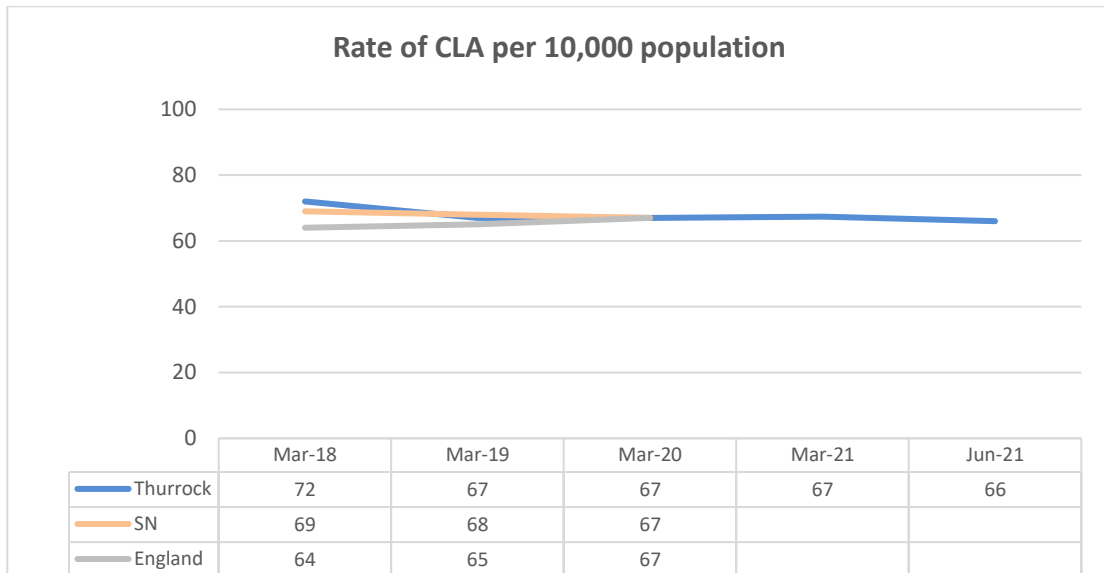
4. Children Looked After (CLA)

The graph below shows the number of children who were Looked After at the end of each month. The numbers have remained stable and small fluctuations are normal and to be expected. There is monitoring of children who may need to become Looked After and there are regular reviews of children entering care. Where possible, children are returned to their family where safe and appropriate.



4.1 The rate of CLA per 10,000 population

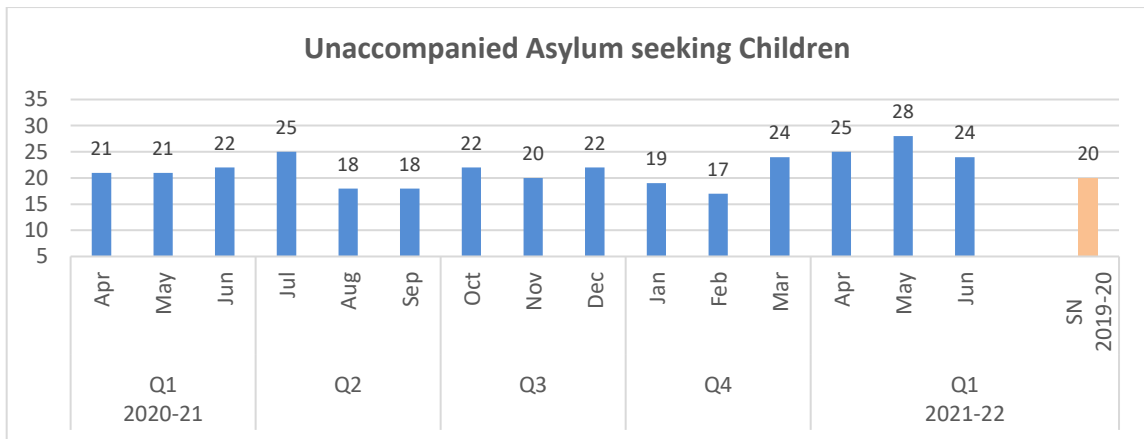
The graph below shows the rate of Children Looked After per 10,000 population of under 18 year olds in Thurrock. At the end of June 2021 there were 296 Children Looked After in Thurrock which shows a rate of 66.3 per 10,000 of children who are looked after. Based on 2020 benchmarking data, Thurrock is slightly below the Statistical Neighbour and England average of 67.0 as at the end of June 2021.



4.2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)

UASC are a subset of the Children Looked After number above. Local Authorities through agreement have determined a simple formula to ensure a fair distribution of the responsibility for looking after unaccompanied children. Each local authority has a 0.07% ceiling for how many UASC and unaccompanied asylum seeking children a region or local authority is reasonably expected to be looking after at any time, as a proportion of its total number of children.

Thurrock's allocated number was 28, however, this has now increased to 31 children. There was a reduction in the entry of UASC into Essex Ports in 2020 to 2021 as the preferred route appears to have been through Dover. Between April and June 2021, there have been 12 new UASC arrivals into Thurrock. This has increased the CLA cohort of UASC to 24 in Q1 2021-22.



4.3 CLA missing episodes started

4.3.1 The graph below shows the number of missing episodes started and the count of the individual children who went missing between April and June 2021. Since June 2020, the number of episodes have remained relatively stable, however, the number of individual children that have gone missing has increased; this could be attributable to lockdown easing and young people having less restrictions in place.

4.3.2 The number of children who went missing April to June 2019-20 (pre-Covid) was 28 and 112 missing episodes which is more in line with 2021/22. There are 6 young people having 119 missing episodes which is a small fluctuation within the total number of children who are looked after. Between April and June 2021, the most common reason for children going missing was contact with family and friends, representing 44% of missing episodes.

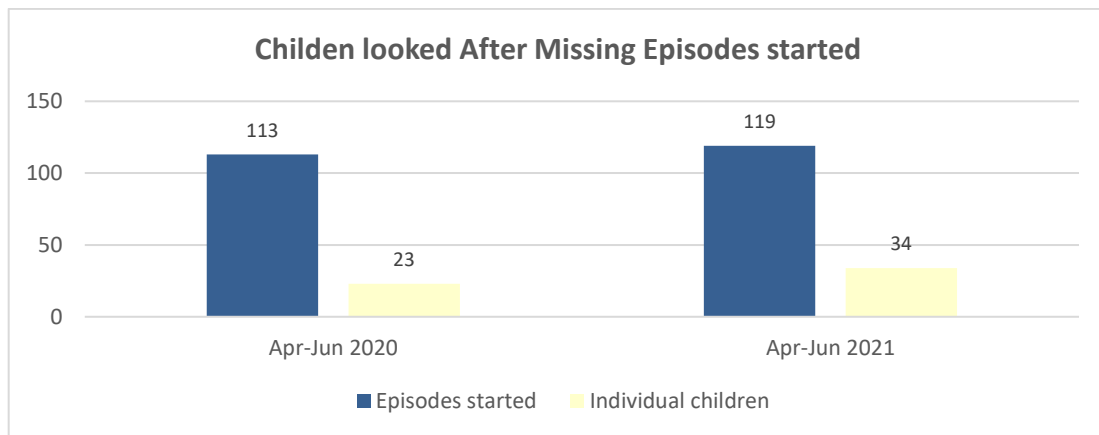
4.3.3 There has been a strong focus on Thurrock missing children and good joint working with the multi-agency partnership. There is a weekly missing meeting with partners that includes Essex Police and liaison with Thurrock Community Safety colleagues. A Contextual Safeguarding approach has been embedded which is assisting with the partnership working and social work practice. Ofsted completed a focussed visit in June 2021 and reviewed Thurrock's approach to the protection of vulnerable children from extra-familial risk, including children and young people who go missing. The Ofsted Report noted:-

'Cases involving children who are repeatedly reported missing are escalated appropriately to strategy discussions for further consideration of risk and protection needs. Risk management meetings maintain oversight of missing children, ensure the timely follow-through of actions and ensure that professionals appropriately share intelligence to reduce incidents of going missing'. (Source p.3 Ofsted Focused Visit letter August 2021¹)

¹ [50167523 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

4.3.4 The report also highlighted the good practice in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children:-

'When unaccompanied young people go missing for prolonged periods, they are kept under review. In line with good practice, staff continue to make efforts to trace their whereabouts and follow up on any sighting leads. Checks are carried out with the National Referral Mechanism, the Home Office and other local authority areas, and new intelligence considered until their whereabouts are known'. (Source p.3 Ofsted Focused Visit letter August 2021²)



4.4 CLA return to home interview (RHI)

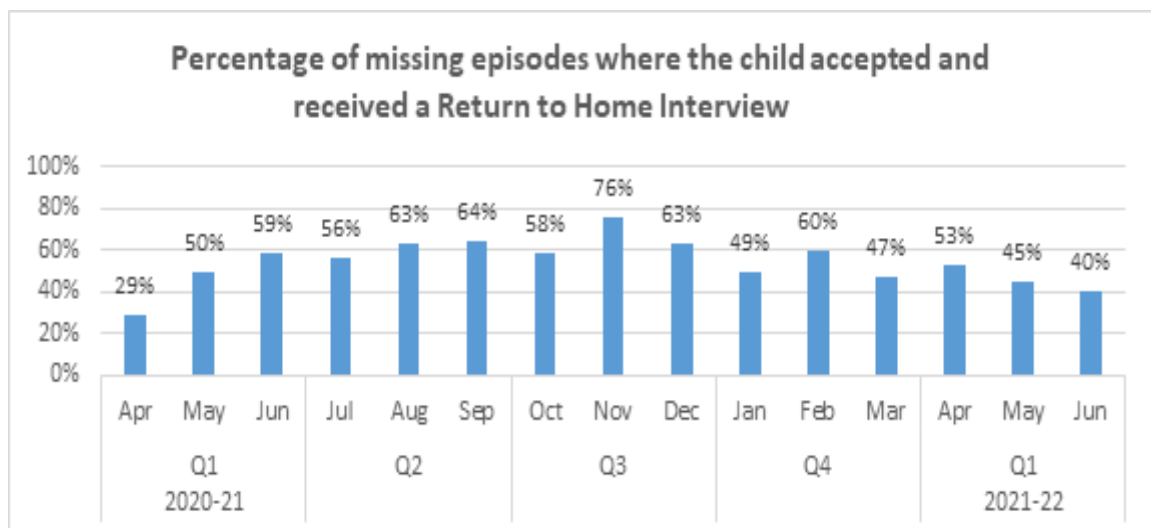
Since April 2020, Inspire Youth Hub have been commissioned to undertake independent Return Home Interviews (RHI). All children are offered a RHI within 72 hours following each missing event, with the aim of understanding the young person's circumstances and the reasons why they go missing. Key Workers from placements, Foster Carers and Social Workers will discuss missing incidents with children. There is a network of support provided to children to try to engage with them and understand the reasons for their missing episodes. The Participation Team have been able to engage and seek feedback from young people and this has been invaluable.

4.4.1 The offer of an RHI is not always accepted by young people. The graph below shows the percentage of return to home interviews taken up by young people. During the month of June 2021, the take up was 40% by all young people offered a RHI.

4.4.2 An area for development is ensuring that although the offer of RHIs is in place for all missing young people upon return, a different approach to the engagement of young people is being considered to improve the take up of that offer. RHIs are to be completed face to face by Inspire youth workers and with increased persistence, so young people can build relationships with the youth workers, who are independent to the young person's social worker.

'The Ofsted focussed visit noted the following in relation to RHIs 'All children are now offered RHIs. However, while the take-up of these interviews has improved and is currently at 58%³, it is still too low. Some children who are reluctant to take up the RHI offer benefit from direct engagement with their social workers after each episode of going missing. However, this activity is not formally monitored; neither is it evident for all children.' The recommended action from Ofsted relating to RHI's was 'To improve the involvement of children in the take-up of return home interviews and the information the authority relies on to capture activity and the impact of these interviews.'

4.4.3 Further work is underway looking at how we can engage young people in return home interviews. Understanding from young people what works for them, what the barriers are to taking up a return home interview and making sure that we are capturing not only return home interviews undertaken by Inspire, but also the information from visits by social workers and other professionals who may be working with young people.



5. Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

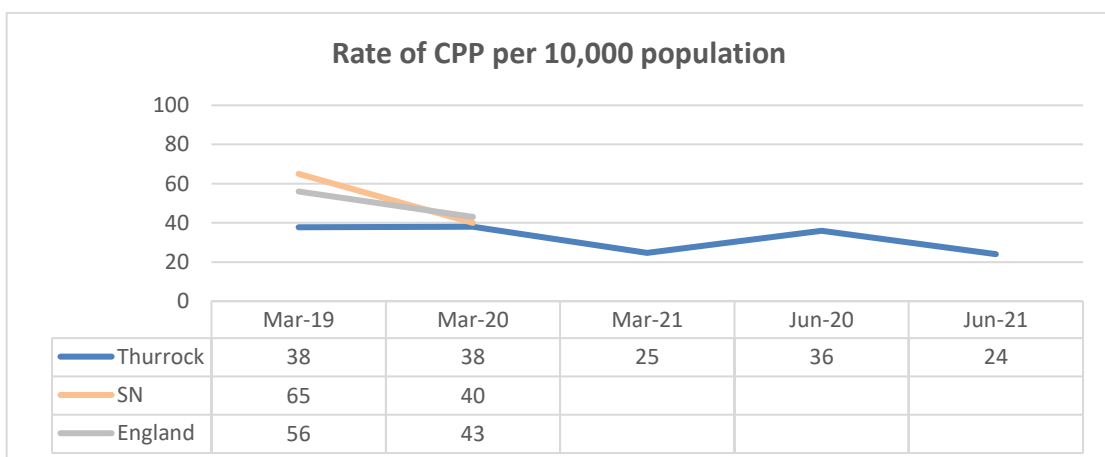
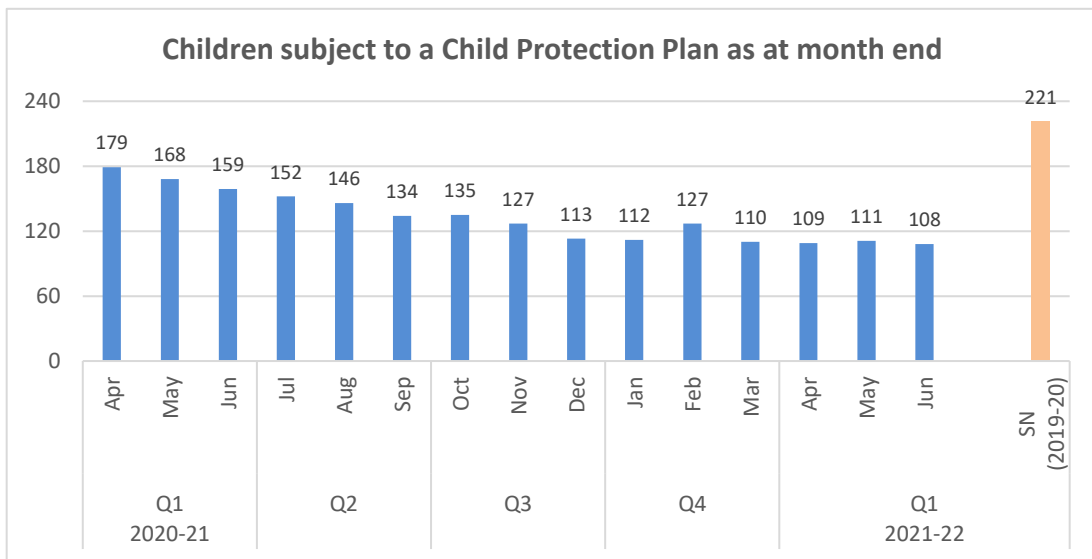
5.1 Number of Children subject to Child Protection Plan

- As at the end of June 2021, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan was 108 compared to 159 at the end of June 2020. Since June 2020, we have seen the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan steadily reduce by 32% in June 2021.
- Based on 2019-20 benchmarking data, Thurrock child protection numbers (24 per 10,000) is below national (43 per 10,000) and statistical

³ This figure was obtained during the inspection as a rolling 12 month total

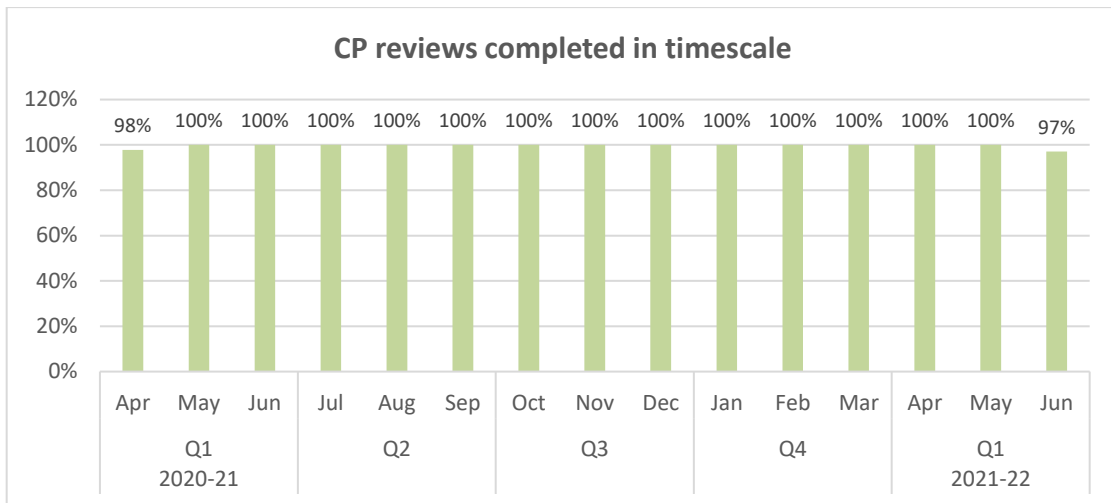
neighbour (40 per 10,000) averages but in line with Eastern Region neighbours.

- The introduction and further embedding of the Signs of Safety practice model which is strengths based approach to working with families and a focus on timely decision making for children has helped to reduce the number of children with a plan.
- Child protection numbers have stabilised since December 2020 which is an indication that measures in place are ensuring thresholds surrounding child protection intervention are being consistently applied.



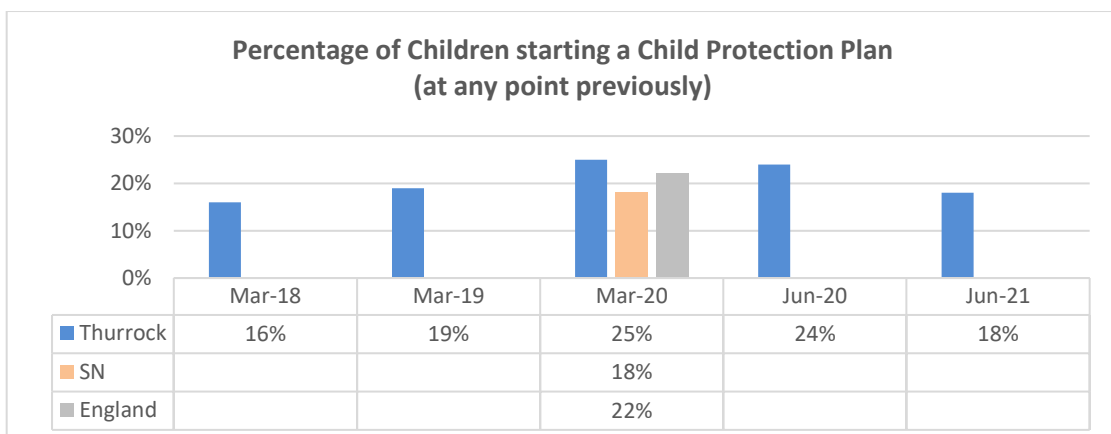
5.2 Child Protection reviews

Child Protection plan reviews completed in time continue showing good performance. In June 2021, 97% of reviews were completed in timescale. Compared to benchmarking data available, Thurrock is performing above the statistical neighbor average of 95% and the England average of 92%.



5.3 Repeat Child Protection Plan

As at 30 June 2021, the percentage of children subject to repeat Child Protection Plan (at any point previously) was 18% compared to 24% in June 2020. As at 30 June 2021, the number of Children starting a repeat Child Protection Plan (at any point previously) was 28 children compared to 54 in June 2020 showing that the numbers have reduced by 48% when comparing June 2020 and June 2021 and is good performance. Based on the latest benchmarking data available in 2019-20, Thurrock is in line with the statistical neighbour average of 18% and below England average of 22% in June 2021.



6. Care Leaving Service

A Care Leaver, as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000⁴, is a person who has been 'looked after' or 'in care' for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who was in care on their 16th birthday.

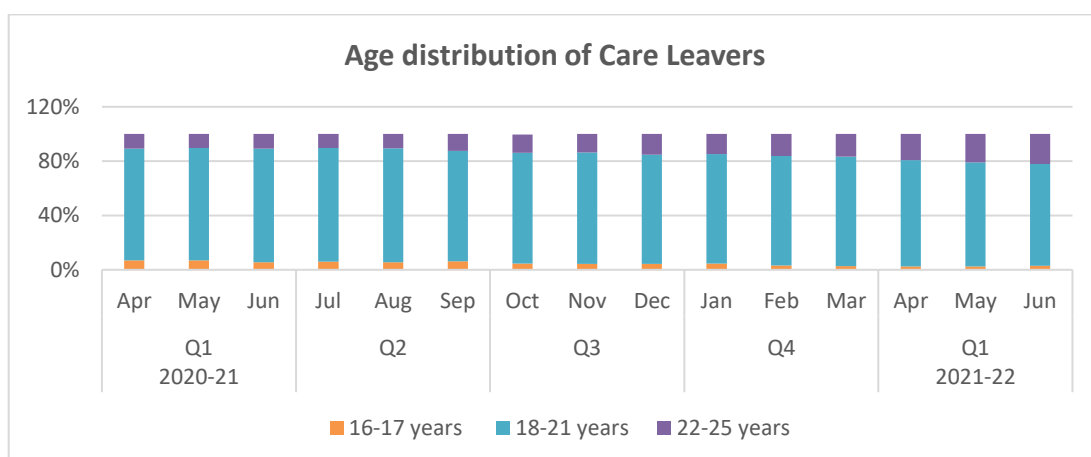
A young person's status as a care leaver can be divided into the following:

- Eligible child - a young person who is 16 or 17 and who has been looked after by the local authority/health and social care trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who is still looked after.
- Relevant child - a young person who is 16 or 17 who has left care after their 16th birthday and before leaving care was an eligible child.
- Former relevant child - a young person who is aged between 18 and 25 (or beyond if being helped with education or training) who, before turning 18 was either an eligible or a relevant child, or both.

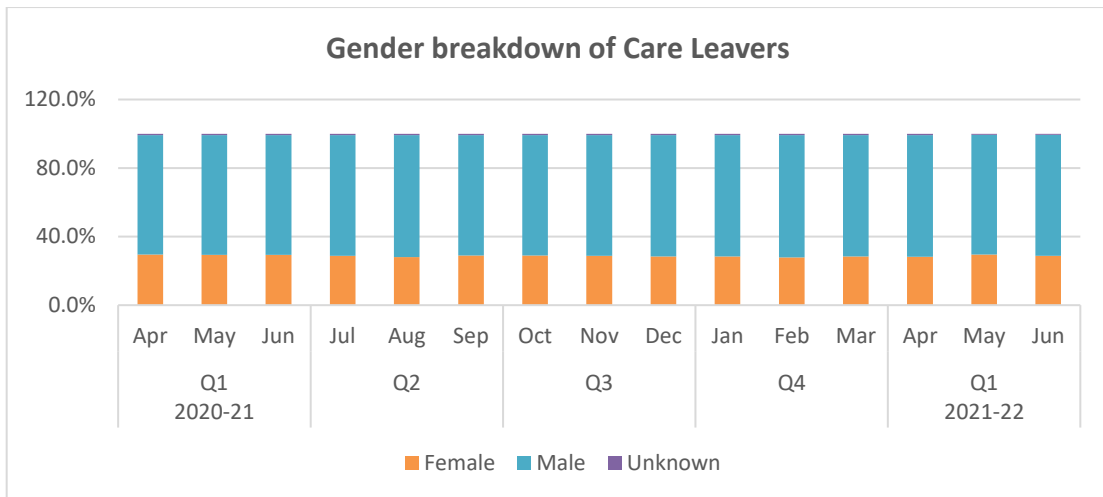
The graph below shows the total number of Young People age 16-25 years who are in receipt of a Care Leaving service. The numbers are increasing and this is in part due to legislative changes that placed additional responsibilities upon Care Leaving services (Children and Social Work Act 2017). Section 3 of the Act now requires Local Authorities to appoint a Personal Adviser for Care Leavers (who request one) up until the age of 25.

As at end of June 2021, 298 Care Leavers were being supported and were receiving an Aftercare service. This is an increase from the previous year and this cohort now has a wider remit as all Care Leavers can request support services until the age of 25, under the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The charts below show the Care Leaver cohort broken down by age groups and gender.



⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents>



In June 2021, 298 Care Leavers were being supported and were receiving an Aftercare service. This is an increase from the previous year and this cohort now has a wider remit as all Care Leavers can request support services until the age of 25.

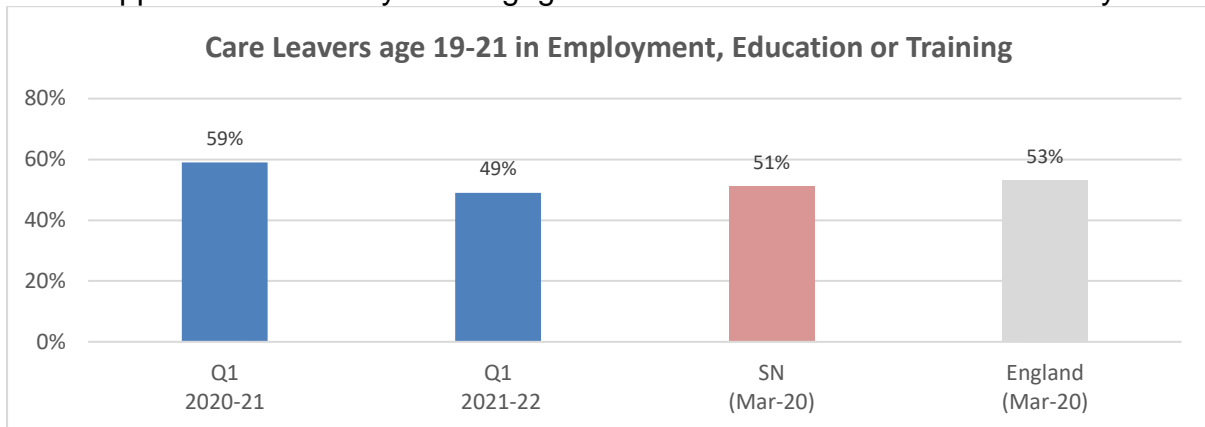
6.1 Employment, Education and Training (EET)

- 6.1.1 There is a focus on the needs of our Aftercare population to ensure they have the opportunities necessary for ongoing education, training and employment. At the end of June 2021, 49% of the Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 year old were in part or full time education, employment or training compared to 59% in June 2020. Compared to the statistical neighbour and England averages in 2019-20, Thurrock’s performance was good in 2019-20; the decrease in performance for 2020-21 can be singularly attributed to COVID. The focus is on recovery and increased numbers of young people entering into EET, post Covid19 restrictions.
- 6.1.2 To strengthen oversight and planning to ensure our young people have support and opportunities for Education, Employment and Training (EET) there are two monthly panels which focus on pre and post 18 year olds who do not have an EET offer. These panels are attended by the Aftercare Service, Inspire Youth Hub and the Virtual School. The panel seeks to understand the issues for individual young people and align their interests to an EET offer. The panel discussions have highlighted the impact of Covid-19 on Young People which has limited opportunities to engage in work experience and continue with employment.
- 6.1.3 There is a close alignment between the Aftercare Service and the Inspire Youth Hub, a partnership which aims to bring about improvements in the number of young people in education, employment and training. The On-Track Thurrock Programme continues to offers a bespoke programme to ensure that Care Leavers can access education, employment and training. The offer of one-to-one support, face to face, from the Inspire Hub is

continuing (subject to risk assessment) for both emotional wellbeing and employment advice.

6.1.4 Consideration is being given to the participation agenda and a care experienced young person would benefit from an apprenticeship in this area. This could be funded from the Aftercare grant.

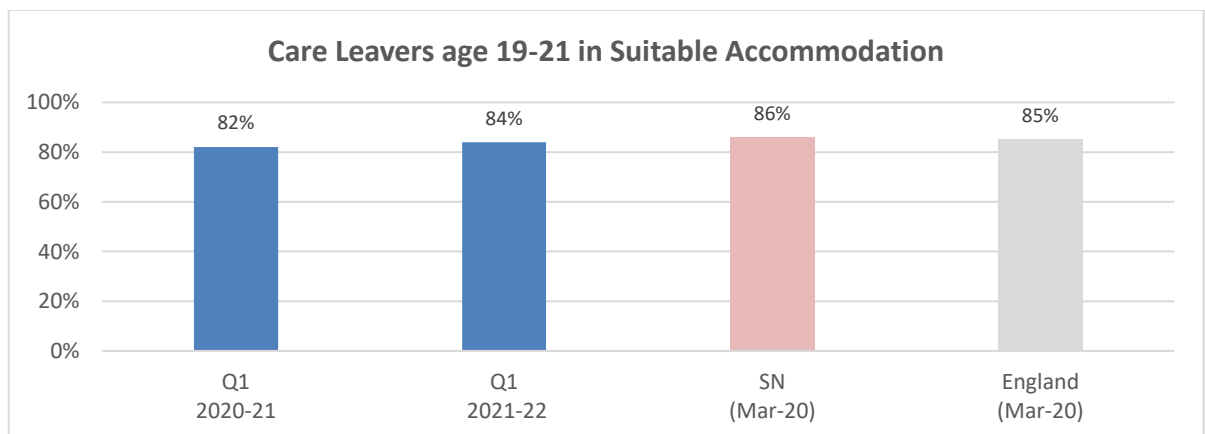
6.1.5 Thurrock offers access to the Prince’s Trust programme, which enables young people to build their confidence and have access to apprenticeship opportunities so they can engage in the local communities in which they live.



6.2 Care Leavers age 19 to 21 years in Suitable Accommodation

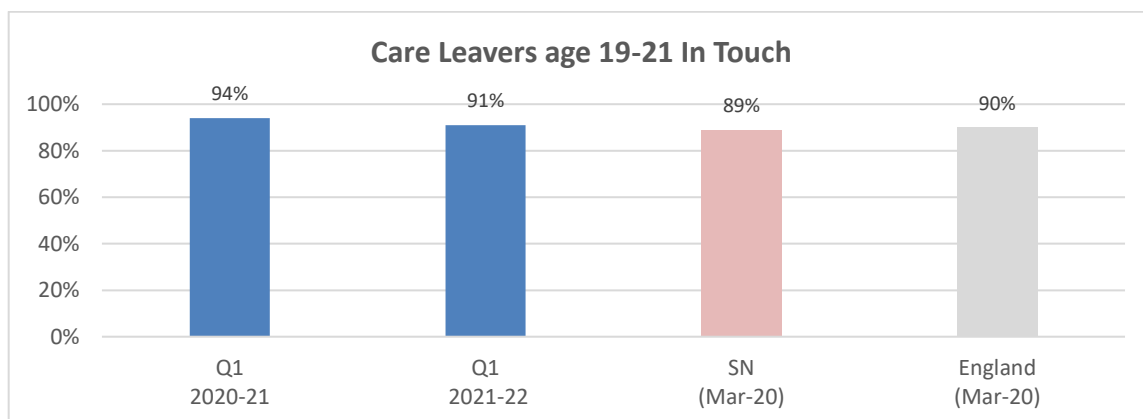
At the end of June 2021, the number of 19 to 21 year old Care Leavers reported to be in suitable accommodation was 84%. Thurrock’s performance against bench marking data remains in line with the Statistical Neighbour average of 86% for 2019-20 and England average of 85% for 2019-20.

Increased housing support is being provided to young people by the Aftercare Service, Head Start Housing and Thurrock Housing Department. The ‘Housing Offer’ to Care Leavers has been updated with the Joint Housing Protocol 2020, ensuring good partnership working with clear pathways for young people to access housing, as well as ensuring they are prepared for their tenancies.



6.3 Care Leavers age 19-21 years 'In Touch'

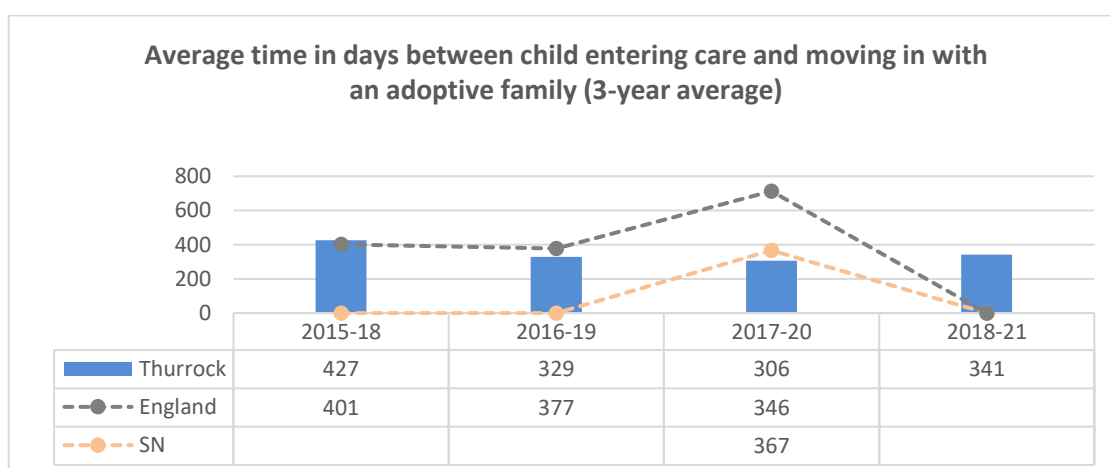
Local Authorities are expected to stay in touch with Care Leavers and provide statutory support to help care leaver's transition to living independently. At the end of June 2021, Thurrock was in touch with 91% of Care Leavers. Thurrock's performance is good with consistent performance above both the statistical neighbour average of 89% and England average of 90% for both 2019-20 and 2020-21.



7. Adoption

7.1 Number of children adopted

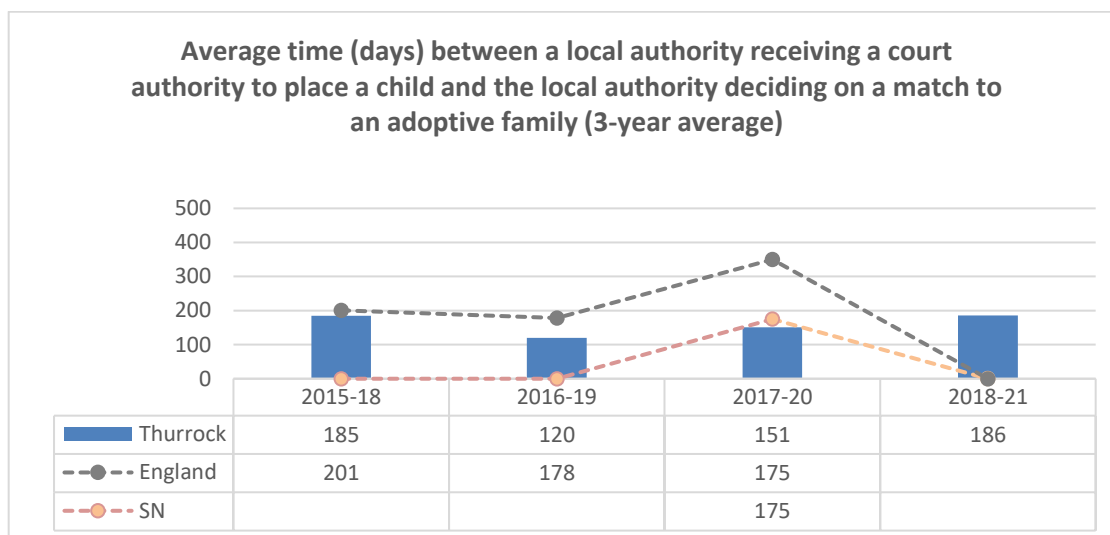
The timeliness of adoption is measured as a 3 year average, it is the length of time (in days) from the child entering care to moving in with an adoptive family. As at end of March 2021 the 3 year average was 341 days; this is below both England and statistical neighbour averages, which is positive.



7.1.1 When the above indicator is looked at over a 1 year period Thurrock is performing very well at 278 days against the England average of 375 and

statistical neighbour average of 355 days. Benchmarking data for 2018-2021 has not yet been published.

As at end of June 2021, the average time in days between Thurrock receiving a Placement Order (court authority) to place a child with the adoptive family was 174 days, this is lower than our 2018-2021 3 year average outturn of 186 days, which is positive. This is also marginally below our national and statistical neighbours of 175 days for 2017-2020. Benchmarking data for 2018-2021 has not yet been published.



7.1.2 This is an area for the Service to focus to ensure there is timely matching and placing of children with their adoptive families. The impact of COVID 19 will affect the timeliness of children being placed for adoption due to the delays in timetabling of final hearings for Placement Orders, and further delay as a result of birth parents re-applying to the court to revoke Placement Order, sometimes as soon as the Order has been made. The application by birth parents to revoke a Placement Order prevents the placement of children with adoptive families. There can be a further appeal if the birth family do not agree with the chosen adoptive placement. There have been, between April 2021 and June 2021, 5 children subject to Placement Order court appeals.

7.2 CLA permanency

Purposeful early permanency planning continues to ensure that children are in the right placement at the right time to meet their needs. Secure Placements where needed and supporting children, where appropriate, to remain at home with their families is the priority. Children are placed for adoption only once all family and friend options have been exhausted.

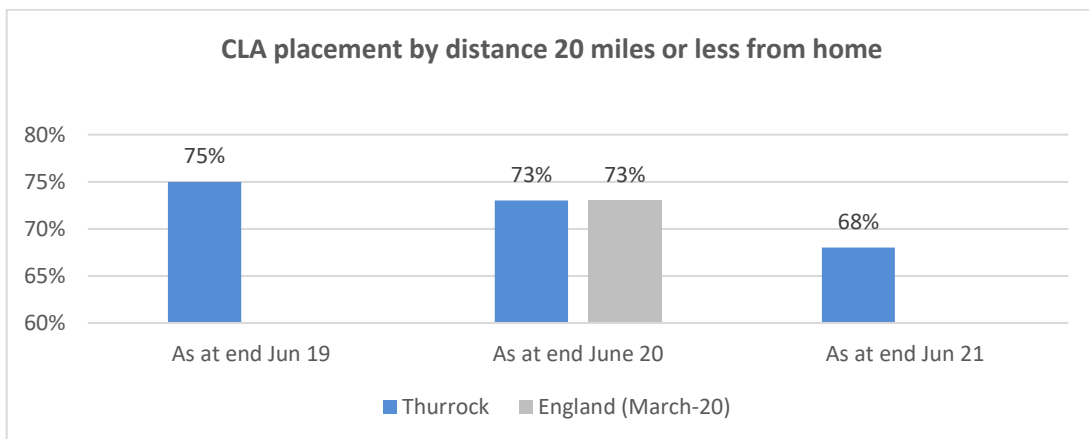
As at the end of June 2021, there were 54 (18%) children who are aged between 0-5, the total cohort of CLA being 297. The majority of children under five who are not able to return home, are moved on to permanent placements

through adoption or permanent alternative carers. There have been significant delays, as a result of COVID-19, resulting in children being subject to court proceedings for longer periods, and transition to their permanent homes being delayed. There are 25 cases in court proceedings over 26 weeks and 6 of these children have a plan for adoption.

7.3 CLA placement distance

It is good practice to ensure that children remain within their communities. At the end of June 2021, 68% of the Children Looked After cohort were placed 20 miles or less from their homes, which represents 203 of 297 children. This falls below the latest national average of 73%, which represents March 20.

This is an area of intense focus for the Placement Service. The fostering recruitment campaign seeks to increase local placements. However it is not only Thurrock Local Authority who are finding the recruitment of local foster carers a challenge. Local placements are not available from Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) or Residential care homes. There is a national shortage of fostering and residential care and the local authority has been seeking Ofsted registered provision and sometimes this is outside of the Thurrock and Essex area. In June 2021 there has been an increase of 14 children placed outside of Thurrock and at a distance of greater than 20 miles from their home, in comparison to June 2020. When extending the placement distance to 50 miles from home, for June 21, 240 of 297, 81% of children are placed within this radius.



8. Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 Children’s Overview & Scrutiny Board Members to note and comment on current performance position.

9. Consultation (including Overview & Scrutiny, if applicable)

9.1 None

10. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

10.1 None

11. Implications

11.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

No implications identified

11.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal

No implications identified

11.3 Diversity & Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Smith**
Strategic Lead: Community Development and Equalities

There are no direct diversity and equality implications arising from this report. However, the service does collect diversity monitoring data for looked after children, this data is given within this report. The data is utilised to consider issues of equality and to ensure that performance considers the impact on children with protected characteristics

11.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

Not applicable

12. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Not applicable

13. Appendices to the report

None

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11 November 2021	ITEM: 6
Extraordinary Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2021	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Andrea Winstone, Strategic Lead, School Effectiveness and SEND	
Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas, Assistant Director, Education and Skills	
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director Children’s Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report outlines Thurrock’s Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021.

This report is part of the statutory duty as set out in the Childcare Act 2006 which states Local Authorities need to ensure that we are meeting the requirements of early years entitlement with due regard to planning and growth across the Local Authority.

It recognises the regeneration opportunities locally and will look to support some of the national drivers around early year’s education.

Thurrock Council will continue to:-

- a. To support further early years & childcare development across the borough where re-generation and new housing is taking place.**
- b. To consider early education future needs before decisions are taken in relation to capital assets across the Local Authority.**
- c. To support sessional providers to offer, or access wrap around care in partnership, for working parents.**
- d. To encourage providers, including schools, to participate in the 30 hours entitlement offer to enable more working parents to access their full entitlement.**

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That Children's Services O&S review and approve the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021.

2. Introduction and Background:

2.1. Local Policy Context

The Annual Assessment links with the following Council vision and priorities:-

Vision- An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

Priorities:-

1. People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.
2. Place – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future.
3. Prosperity – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations.

2.2. National Policy

Thurrock has been working closely with its early years providers to ensure we can support vulnerable 2 year olds into early education. The Covid Pandemic has had a major impact on the number of Two Year Old Entitlement at the start of the pandemic due to the concerns from parents and the availability of places. The numbers for the last academic year have been low but have slowly been increasing, this is also the same picture nationally.

Thurrock continues to support providers in offering 30 hours of childcare for three and four year olds of working parents, ensuring that we have the appropriate childcare pathways including wrap around care for both early years children, and as they progress to school. This will be critical to the success of encouraging residents to take advantage of the local job opportunities.

Within our Annual Assessment, we recognise that this has the potential to impact on the places that will be available to 2 year olds across Thurrock. The council's early years' team works closely with early years providers to ensure that we can meet local demand for both 2, 3 and 4 year old provision.

Current Support to Early Years Providers from Early Years School Effectiveness Team:-

- Support pathways for new early years' providers.
- Visits to local sites to support early year' providers.
- Liaison with planning department and assets team.
- Monitoring new planning applications to ensure early years provision is included in new development as and when required.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Within the Introduction and Background section of the report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

The reason for the recommendation relates to the statutory duty on the council to inform elected members about childcare sufficiency within our borough. The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to make sure that there are enough childcare places within its locality for working parents or for parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). The Childcare Sufficiency Report is a statutory report that must be published on our website and updated annually.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

Future consultation will take place with parents to ensure we have the voice of parents/carers included in any requirements for early education opportunities.

6. Impact on Corporate Policies, Priorities, Performance and Community Impact

6.1 This report contributes to the following corporate priorities:

1. People - a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.
2. Prosperity - a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

This report is part of the statutory duty as set out in the Childcare Act 2006 which states Local Authorities need to ensure that we are meeting the

requirements of early years entitlement with due regard to planning and growth across the Local Authority.
Funding to fulfil this duty is provided by Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The funding to the Local Authority in 2021/22 is to be based on termly census. Funding to providers is based on a termly head count and distributed through the local early years funding formula.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Law

The Council has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. The Council is obliged to have regard to the statutory guidance of the Secretary of State. The guidance requires that the Council produce an annual report that is considered by elected members. The format of the report is not prescribed but the guidance suggests it covers provision for specific groups of children, supply and demand, affordability and any gaps in provision.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Development and Equalities

The Council has a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 and equality of opportunity is a key principle of all early years' providers; they ensure they meet statutory duties around offering places to all early years children – part of the Ofsted requirement is to evidence how they have ensured equality of opportunity. Further information on the demand of childcare in Thurrock including data in relation to children with Special Educational Needs and or disability (SEND), school age children and the take up funded early education places is contained within the body of the assessment

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

None

8. Appendices to this report:

Appendix 1: Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2020

Report Author:

Andrea Winstone, Strategic Lead School Effectiveness and SEND

Thurrock Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

August 2021



Report produced by

**Sue Lamkin
Business Support and Sufficiency Officer
School Effectiveness Team
Children's Services**

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Report published by Thurrock Council September 2021

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1. Overall assessment and summary

Our council is required by law to 'report annually to the elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'. We have prepared this report in order to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, and to children with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, we have made an assessment of sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, and feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.'

The Childcare Sufficiency Report also:

Sets out the principles and planning guidelines on early years both nationally and locally.

- Provides demographic and contextual picture of the early year's provision in Thurrock.
- Provides information on the demand of childcare in Thurrock including data in relation to children with Special Educational Needs and or disability (SEND), school age children and the take up funded early education places.
- Provides an indication of the supply, quality and affordability of childcare across the borough.
- Provides childcare sufficiency data, population of two, three & four years old and number of childcare providers by wards.
- Provides details of the take up of 30 hour free childcare
- Provides details of future planning and developments and population increases/decreases.
- Details how we plan to support childcare sufficiency in the borough

Section 1.01 2. Overall sufficiency in our area

To ensure overall childcare sufficiency, we will continue to work on the following:

We continue to work with providers to offer sustainability yet affordable childcare. We work with providers to ensure our prices are similar to our geographical neighbours.

Recruitment is an issue both nationally and locally, we are working to produce a recruitment strategy to ensure our providers are able to recruit and retain good quality staff, ensuring the number of childcare places in Thurrock meets parent's demands.

(a) Quality

We continue to work with our providers to ensure good quality provision and expect all our providers to achieve a good or outstanding Ofsted. We have a team of officers who work closely with providers at risk of not meeting this standard to improve practice to ensure good outcomes for our youngest children.

Under the guidance of the Early Years officers, all PVI providers in Thurrock undertake both welfare and learning and development RAG audits at least once a year. The RAG audits are in line with both the current Ofsted inspection framework and the EYFS framework.

(b) Level of provision

Places have continued to be available to parents throughout the pandemic. Thurrock Council Officers have worked with providers throughout this challenging time to ensure good quality childcare has been available to those parents who wished to access early education and childcare places. We have monitored closely our settings during the Covid pandemic. From the 1st June 2021 all our group childcare settings remained opened and 90% of our childminding settings remained open.

The Covid Pandemic has had a major impact on the take up of the Two Year Entitlement. We saw a decrease in the number of children accessing the entitlement at the start of the pandemic due to the limited availability of placements and because of parental concern regarding Coronavirus. From March 2020 childcare settings prioritised placements for children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable. Even when the majority of childcare settings opened in June 2020 the implementation of bubble groups meant the continued reduction of available placements. Although take up for the autumn term had been increasing steadily over the previous three years, the ongoing pandemic saw numbers of 2YO accessing during the autumn term 2020 fall to their lowest level since 2013. That decrease in take up continued into the spring and summer 2021 terms. However, the reduction in take up of the Two Year Entitlement due to Coronavirus has not been specific to Thurrock and during this period we have performed well against other local authorities in regards to the take up of the Two Year Entitlement early education and childcare places.

As of summer 2021, 4190 children have accessed the additional 15 hours of funded entitlement for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. This is an increase of 129 children on the previous summer.

As of summer 2021 the number of children accessing 30 hours entitlement is 1261. This is an increase of 162.

Most childminders offer wraparound care, this includes holiday, before and after school care. This supports parents to find or stay in full time work supporting children in a home to home environment.

A small number of full day care providers offer breakfast and after school provision serving local schools. This ensures parental choice.

In addition many of our schools offer breakfast club for children attending their school, promoting school attendance and a healthy start to the day.

Thurrock has one provider who offers solely wraparound care serving three local schools in the Grays area of Thurrock.

Childminders also offer holiday provision and full day care for 5 years+

One provider offers solely holiday provision in the Chafford and North Stifford Ward of the borough but serves all areas.

We have a number of providers who offer atypical hours of childcare in Thurrock.

From the results from the parent survey we have not received feedback that parents cannot access childcare. Some parents exercise their right not to take up the offer of early education.

The vast majority of settings in Thurrock practice inclusion. However the survey has indicated that some parents with SEND children find it hard to access suitable childcare. Our Early Years Area SENCO is working closely with settings to ensure there is suitable childcare places available to all parents regardless of need. We are proactively marketing the take up Early Years Inclusion Fund and DAF funding, ensuring the grants are being used by settings to support early year's children with SEND. Our officers run regular training and forums to further improve the quality of SEND provision.

The Sunshine Centre based in Tilbury is for children aged up to 18 years with a whole range of needs both behavioural and physical. The centre offers holiday and respite care.

There are a number of gaps in sufficiency in the some wards in the west of borough, south west of the borough.

Section 1.02 3. Our plans for childcare

- *Continue to encourage providers including schools to participate in 30 hours entitlement offer to enable more working parents to access their full entitlement.*
- *To sustain the take up of 2 year old offer.*
- *To support providers to offer or access wrap around care for working parents.*
- *Provide training, mentoring and inclusion support for childcare providers to raise standards.*
- *To continue to provide business and financial advice to childcare providers.*
- *To support settings with recruitment and retention of good quality staff.*
- *Work closely with new providers to ensure they have done adequate market research and understand the costs involved in opening a new setting.*
- *To support new settings ensuring welfare requirements and learning and development are delivered at a good standard from opening.*
- *Undertake RAG ratings of settings to monitor the quality of provision to ensure all settings are aiming for a good or better Ofsted judgement.*
- *To support further early years education & childcare development across the borough where re-generation and new housing is taking place.*
- *To consider early education future needs before decisions are taken in relation to capital assets across the Local Authority.*

Section 1.03 4. Demand for early education and childcare

(a) 4.1 Population of early year's children – data taken from ONS 2019

In total, there are 13,282 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early year's education and childcare.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	2489
Age 1	2612
Age 2	2647
Age 3	2769
Age 4*	2765

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

(b) 4.2 Population of school age children

In total there are 18,267 children aged 5-11, and 6985 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	2603
Age 6	2665
Age 7	2724
Age 8	2673
Age 9	2483
Age 10	2490
Age 11	2629
Age 12	2423
Age 13	2303
Age 14	2259

(c) 4.3 Changes to population of children in our area

Our population has increased from 2019 by 11.7%.

The population of early year's children has increased by 1.01%.

The birth rate has mainly stayed the same with a slight decrease of 0.1% since 2019.

(d) 4.4 Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	76
Primary school (reception to year six)	775
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	838

Children aged 3 and 4 who have low level or emerging special education needs or disability are entitled to early years inclusion funding.

Number of children accessing Early Years Inclusion funding summer term 2021	83
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Early years providers are able to access the Disability Access Fund. The fund is to support settings make reasonable adjustments to their settings if they have identified special education needs or disabilities children within their setting.

Number of settings accessing DAF funding summer term 2021	27
-----------------------------------------------------------	----

Figures correct as at 31st July 2021

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in early education and childcare or school, and it can take some time from concerns being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEND but do not have the need for an EHC plan. This is why the number of EHC Plans for early year's children is low.

In order for an EHCP to be agreed, two specific criteria must be met:

- *Whether the child or young person has or may have special educational needs*
- *Whether they may need special educational provision to be made through an EHCP*

Section 1.04 5. Supply of early education and childcare

(a) 5.1 Number of early year's providers and places

In total, there are 233 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 4004 early years' childcare places:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Childminders*	153	981
Nursery classes in schools	28	841
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	52	2182

The data in this table was correct as at August 2021 (Gateway Primary Academy is opening a 30 place nursery class in September 2021 this is included in the above data)

* Some childminder places may also be available for older children.

(b) 5.2 Early year's vacancies

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. We ask providers to report vacancies to us so we can help promote them. Not all chose to do this. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school. Vacancies have been higher during the pandemic due to parents working from home, so not requiring childcare and parental choice not to take up the offer of childcare during this time.

(c) 5.3 Early year's atypical hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekday	Available after 6pm weekday	Available weekends ¹	Available school holidays
Childminders	153	52	52	14	14
Schools nurseries	28	9	3	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	52	29	13	0	13

(d) 5.4 Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 198 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 121 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. Of the total number, 171 childminders may provide care for school age children during term time.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Breakfast club – Primary school	34	973
Breakfast club – Secondary school	0	0
Breakfast care Childminders*	113	367
Breakfast club -Private and Voluntary and Independent Providers (PVI)s	14	433
Total Breakfast Care	161	1773
After-school club – Primary school	14	470
After-school club – Secondary school	0	0
After School care - Childminders*	169	534
After school club - Private and Voluntary and Independent Providers	15	466
Total After School Care	198	1470
Holiday club - Primary school	3	100
Holiday club - Secondary school	0	0
Holiday care - Childminders*	107	366
Holiday club - Private and Voluntary and Independent Providers	11	387
Total Holiday Care	121	853

* Childminder data is difficult to break down in to specific places for breakfast, afterschool due to lack of meaningful response numbers from this group of providers to Provider Audit requests. We can assume that if a childminder only offers term time care, this will reduce the number of holiday care places offered and is shown as such.

(e) 5.5 Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority at Summer Term 2021 is:

Age	% of eligible children
Age 2	71%
Age 3 and 4	69%

(f) 5.6 3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the Government's Childcare Support website. The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

<i>Applying for 30 hours funding</i>	<i>Number of families Summer Term 2021</i>
New Applications for a place	431
Eligible for a place	1961
Accessing a place	1261

The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in Summer Term 2021.

(g) 5.7 Prices of early school years childcare

For early year's childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	Childminders
0 and 1 year olds	£6.79	N/A	£4.91
2 year olds	£6.13	£4.39	£4.78
3 and 4 year olds	£5.69	£4.63	£4.73

(h) 5.8 Prices of school age

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per day, after school per day, and for childminding per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per week.

Setting and price unit	Price
Breakfast club per day	£4.11
After-school club per day	£12.65
School age childminder per hour	£4.69
Holiday club per week	£186.57

Section 1.05 6. Childcare Sufficiency Ward Profile Data – Summer Term 2021

Based on the following formula the sufficiency need in each ward has been calculated.

***Ofsted registered places – 50% of school reception places = available Ofsted places
Total number of children in ward – 20% (parental choice not to access childcare, chosen childcare outside of ward or borough) = number of children in ward likely to take up childcare.*

For sufficiency a 10% margin has been taken into account. This calculation is based on children aged 2 to 4.

Aveley & Uplands	
Number of 2 years old in the ward	162
Number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	371
Total of both age groups	533
Ofsted Registered places (120 of these are school reception places)	365
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	44
Number of accessing 2 year old funding	33
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	216

No day nurseries	2
No maintained nurseries	0
No pre schools	2
No school nurseries	2
No primary schools	2
No childminders	7
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	427
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No
Is there a need to create places	Based on local knowledge there is only a small potential for additional places

Belhus	
Number of 2 year olds in the ward	149
Number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	368
Total of both age group in the ward	517
Number of Ofsted registered places (195 of these are school reception places)	377
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	53
Number of accessing 2 year old funding	32
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	284
No day nurseries	2
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	4
No primary schools	4
No pre schools	0
No childminders	2
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	414

Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create places	Based on our local knowledge there is some difficulty placing 2 year olds in the summer term. There is a potential need for places for 2, 3 and 4 year old places as 3 and 4 year old places are mainly in schools who are not offer childcare in school holidays

Chadwell St Mary	
Total number of 2 years old in the ward	161
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds	323
Total of both age groups in the ward	484
Number of Ofsted registered places (90 of these are school reception places)	267
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	62
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	48
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	186
No day nurseries	2
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	0
No primary schools	2
No pre schools	1
No childminders	6
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	388
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No
Is there a need to create places	Yes

Chafford and North Stifford	
Total number 2 years old in the ward	127
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the borough	270
Total of both age groups	397
Number of Ofsted registered places (120 of these are school reception places)	461
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	18
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	10
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	291
No day nurseries	1
No maintained nurseries	0
No pre schools	1
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	1
No childminders	19
Quality of provision	96% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	319
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create places	No

Corringham and Fobbing	
Total number of 2 years olds in the ward	57
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds	107
Total number of both age groups	164
Number of Ofsted registered places	150

Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

(60 of these are school reception places)	
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	7
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	6
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	84
No day nurseries	0
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	1
No pre schools	1
No childminders	3
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	132
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create places	No

East Tilbury	
Total number of 2 years old in the ward	99
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	224
Total number of both age groups	323
Number of Ofsted registered places (90 of these are school reception places)	262
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	25
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	30
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	178
No day nurseries	1
No maintained nurseries	0

No school nurseries	0
No primary schools	1
No pre schools	1
No childminders	4
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	259
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create places	No

Grays Riverside	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	270
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	564
Total number 2, 3 and 4 year olds	834
Number of Ofsted registered places (90 of these are school reception places)	438
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	99
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	68
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	297
No day nurseries	2
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	1
No pre schools	0
No childminders	12
Quality of provision	94% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	668
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No

Is there a need to create places	Yes
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Grays Thurrock	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	132
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	269
Total number of both age groups	401
Number of Ofsted registered places (240 of these are school reception places)	522
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	54
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	31
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	246
No day nurseries	1
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	2
No primary schools	3
No pre schools	3
No childminders	12
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	321
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No

Little Thurrock Blackshots	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	98
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	191

Total number of both age groups	289
Number of Ofsted registered places (125 of these are reception school places)	261
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	31
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	15
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	88
No day nurseries	0
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	2
No primary schools including 1 special school	3
No pre schools	1
No childminders	11
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	233
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No – Although there is sometimes sufficiency in this ward for 2 year olds, but spaces are available in neighbouring wards.

Little Thurrock Rectory	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	89
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	158
Total number of both age groups olds	247
Number of Ofsted registered places (30 of these are school reception places)	246

Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	11
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	12
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	186
No day nurseries	1
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	1
No pre schools	1
No childminders	6
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	199
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No

Ockendon	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	184
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	372
Total number of both age groups	556
Number of Ofsted registered places (60 of these are school reception places)	316
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	60
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	39
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	167
No day nurseries	2

Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries including 1 special school	3
No primary schools	1
No pre schools	3
No childminders	1
No childminders	10
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	446
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No
Is there a need to create more places	Yes – For 2 year olds there is a difficulty in the summer term as the larger settings in the area tend to have longer waiting lists.

Orsett	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	58
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	121
Total number of both age groups	179
Number of Ofsted registered places (72 of these are school reception places)	169
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	10
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	10
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	72
No day nurseries	0
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	3
No pre schools	1
No childminders	4
Quality of provision	100% Good or better

Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

**Total number of children likely to take up places	145
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No

South Chafford	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	120
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	272
Total number of both age groups	392
Number of Ofsted registered places (240 of these are school places)	560
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	24
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	20
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	165
No day nurseries	2
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	3
No primary schools	3
No pre schools	0
No childminders	14
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	314
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No

Stanford East Corringham Town	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	109
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	228
Total number of both age groups	337
Number of Ofsted registered places (180 of these are reception school places)	402
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	33
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	25
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	311
No day nurseries	1
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	4
No pre schools	4
No childminders	6
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	271
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No
Stanford le Hope West	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	128
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	213
Total number of both age groups	341
Number of Ofsted registered places	345

Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

(100 of these are school reception places)	
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	21
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	18
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	254
No day nurseries	4
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	2
No pre schools	1
No childminders	6
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	273
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No

Stifford Clays	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	65
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	149
Total number of both age groups	214
Number of Ofsted registered places (90 of these are school reception places)	201
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	13
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	8
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	155
No day nurseries	0

Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	1
No primary schools	1
No pre schools	2
No childminders	4
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	172
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	Yes
Is there a need to create more places	No

The Homesteads	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	82
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	173
Total number of both age groups	255
Number of Ofsted registered places (no school reception places)	36
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	10
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	11
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	1
No day nurseries	0
No maintained nurseries	0
No School nurseries	0
No primary schools	0
No pre schools	0
No childminders	4
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No
Is there a need to create more places	Yes

Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	144
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	334
Total number of both age groups	478
Number of Ofsted registered places (124 of these are school reception places)	392
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	67
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	52
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	164
No day nurseries	2
No maintained nurseries	1
No school nurseries	2
No primary schools	2
No pre schools	0
No childminders	5
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	384
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No
Is there a need to create more places	Yes

Tilbury St Chads	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	116
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	252
Total number of both age groups	368
Number of Ofsted registered places (120 of these are school reception places)	289
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	54
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	41
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	148
No day nurseries	1
No maintained nurseries	1
No school nurseries	2
No primary schools	2
No pre schools	0
No childminders	2
Quality of provision	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	296
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No
Is there a need to create more places	Yes

West Thurrock and South Stifford	
Total number of 2 year olds in the ward	297
Total number of 3 and 4 year olds in the ward	575
Total number of both age group	872
Number of Ofsted registered places	509

(120 of these are school reception places)	
Number of families eligible for 2 year old entitlement	88
Number of 2 year olds accessing funding	37
Number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing funding	305
No day nurseries	3
No maintained nurseries	0
No school nurseries	2
No primary schools	2
No pre schools	1
No childminders	14
Quality of provision	95% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	698
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward	No
Is there a need to create more places	Yes, there is need for places for all age groups but a particular need for 2 year places.

This data is correct as at summer term 2021

Some 4 years olds will be accessing reception class provision in schools

Parents may choose to take up their funding entitlement at settings outside of their ward or out of borough.

Section 1.06 7. Quality of childcare in our area

(a) 7.1 Ofsted inspection grades

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early year's grade.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: ‘outstanding’, ‘good’, ‘requires improvement’, and ‘inadequate’.² Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation.

Type of provision	Total number of providers	% achieving good or outstanding
Childminders on EY Register	134	98 %
Nursery classes in schools *	28	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	52	96%

School percentages are for schools who have an Ofsted judgement.

For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

Section 1.07 8. Parents and providers views of sufficiency in our local area

(a) 8.1 Parent survey

An online parent survey took place from February to March 2021. Parents were asked a variety of questions including how easy was it to find information on childcare options, how easy was it to access suitable childcare and the affordable ability of childcare. The results of the survey have been analysed and use to inform this document.

(b) 8.2 Provider survey

An online provider survey took place in the spring term. Providers were asked a variety of questions regarding their numbers of funded and non-funded children, vacancies rates, charges and opening hours. The results of the survey have been analysed and use to inform this document.

(c) FIS enquiry data

During the Pandemic FIS have taken a higher volume of calls then at any time previously. The FIS Team have also added 2 mobile numbers to the current land line to make sure stakeholders can reach the team. The main calls are described below:

- Parents calling about childcare. We take a lot of calls from parents asking about their childcare options, what providers of childcare are in their area and the process for applying for childcare.
- Funding. A lot of parents call to ask what funding their children are entitled too. This includes helping parents with 15 hour funding and also the process for obtaining 30 hour codes.
- Providers calling about our provider portal. The majority of our calls are from our childcare providers who need help and advice when using our provider portal. This can range from password resets to more complex funding issues.

Section 1.08 9. Economic regeneration & new housing

Economic regeneration and new housing developments will increase the demand for childcare.

It is imperative that new housing developments are taken into account when planning any new early education and childcare places.

The table below give details of ongoing and potential developments of more than twenty units per development by ward.

Ward	Potential Development (of more than 20 units)	
	0-5 years	
	Planning Permission or ongoing development	Further proposed units as at March 2020
Aveley & Uplands	0	0
Belhus	0	173
Chadwell St Mary	43	203
Chafford & North Stifford	0	0
Corringham and Fobbing	199	0
East Tilbury	0	0
Grays Riverside	102	80
Grays Thurrock	0	330
Little Thurrock Blackshots	0	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	0	75
Ockendon	230	27
Orsett	80	750
South Chafford	0	2844
Stanford East Corringham Town	0	129
Stanford le Hope West	279	0

Stifford Clays	0	0
The Homesteads	0	0
Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	88	0
Tilbury St Chads	0	112
West Thurrock South Stifford	256	2850

Data correct as at 4/8/2021

Section 1.09 10. Methodology

- Number of children: based on population projections from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2019based> Figure 6: Population age structure by single year of age and sex for local authorities, counties, regions and England as a whole, mid-2016 to mid-2041
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by Thurrock Council
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to us by Ofsted who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision, and Thurrock Council data. In some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted.
- Ofsted registered places data is calculated on how many children can attend a setting in anyone time.
- Childcare for parents working atypical hours: data held by Thurrock Council
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions and local authority data
- Price of childcare: Collected by Provider Audit Spring Term 2021 and data held by Thurrock Council
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.
- Data from providers and parents: Data held by Thurrock Council from provider and parent survey.

Other formats and languages

For a large print, braille, disc, sign language or audio-tape version of this document, please contact us at the address below:

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11 November 2021	ITEM: 7
Extraordinary Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Low Income Families and Child Poverty update (2021) for the Children and Young People JSNA product (2017)	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Beth Capps, Senior Public Health Programme Manager	
Accountable Assistant Director: n/a	
Accountable Director: Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report provides an update to the ‘Achieving Economic Wellbeing; Low Income Families and Child Poverty’ section of Chapter 6 of the Children and Young People JSNA from 2017.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 The Committee are asked to consider and comment on the content of the updated chapter for the Children’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment product.

1.2 The committee are asked to agree that this updated chapter is added to the published document.

2. Introduction and Background

Every Health and Wellbeing Board has the responsibility to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for their area, which should give a comprehensive overview of the current and future health and care needs of local populations to inform and guide the planning and commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services. In Thurrock, the Public Health team produce JSNA documents themed around particular topics.

The children and Young People’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Thurrock (JSNA) was first published in 2015, there were refreshed sections for Demography and the National Childhood Measurement Programme published in 2017. This paper is to introduce a refreshed section of chapter 6

‘Achieving Economic Wellbeing; Low Income Families and Child Poverty’ of the document updated for 2021.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Data has been updated on Low Income Families and Child Poverty (Section 6 of the [JSNA document](#)) to the most recently available, this is mostly 2019/20 data.
- 3.2 The UK government abolished its target for assessing child poverty as a measure of material disadvantage that is based on family income and replaced it with a range of measures to track the life chances of disadvantaged children.
- 3.3 Since the child poverty indicator was abolished, there has been no single agreed measure to replace it, however, absolute low-income families¹ is a common proxy for children living in poverty. The number of children living in low income families has increased slightly nationwide however, in the East of England region and Thurrock it has reduced from 2014/15 levels.
- 3.4 While the proportion of children experiencing *absolute* low income has been reducing, families earning a *relative* low income has been increasing in Thurrock (14.8 in 2014/15 vs. 16.9% in 2019/20).² Relative low income relates to families earning less than 60% of the UK average income (this changes every year); the rising number of families with relatively low incomes indicates a widening inequalities gap where lower incomes are rising at a slower rate than higher incomes. Therefore, while the reduction of children in *absolute* low income families in Thurrock is positive, this does mask growing income inequality between the lowest and highest earners.
- 3.5 An update to the Policy context has been summarised and the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on deepened disadvantage is also considered.
- 3.6 Progress with the previous [Thurrock Council Child Poverty Plan 2015-2020](#) is summarised within the chapter update highlighting areas of action.
- 3.7 The approach to child poverty in Thurrock is in line with the UK Government’s ‘Levelling Up’ agenda for reducing inequalities, mitigating the impact of disadvantage to offer equality of opportunity and giving all children the best start in life. Local strategies that address the wide impacts of child poverty include:
- The Brighter Futures Strategy
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy

¹ Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. Absolute low income takes the 60 per cent of median income threshold from 2010/11 and then fixes this in real terms (i.e. the line moves with inflation). This is designed to assess how low incomes are faring with reference to inflation. It measures the number and proportion of individuals who have incomes below this threshold.

² Fingertips

- Backing Thurrock Strategy for economic recovery, resilience and return to growth

4. Reasons for Recommendation

Due to significant changes to the national policy context in relation to Child poverty and the Levelling up agenda a refresh of this section of the JSNA product was considered important to inform and shape the work in this area. This chapter update will inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh and brings this section of the report up to date and in line with recommendations and work within the Brighter Futures Strategy (2021-2026) delivery plan.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

This refreshed chapter on the Children and Young People's JSNA chapter has included consultation with the Director of Children's Services and their team, included the School Effectiveness Team with amendments made and included as a result. The Public Health Team including the Health Intelligence team and Assistant Director of Public Health have commented and made inclusions to this document.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The chapter contributes towards the 'People' priority – *a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay*, as it links with communities being empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together.
- 6.2 The chapter also contributes towards the 'Prosperity' priority – *a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations*, as it links with vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all in order to improve economic situations for individuals and therefore communities, reducing inequality and increasing social mobility.
- 6.3 The chapter contributes to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021 **goal 1: opportunity for all** – better educated children and residents who can access employment opportunities.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Strategic Lead – Corporate Finance

There are no financial implications currently to this updated chapter with refreshed data and policy context. Future commissioning projects and work as a result of this updated knowledge will need to consider financial implications as part of the governance process.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**
Corporate Governance Lawyer

There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations of the report. However, the legal implications of future commissioning projects and work arising as a result of the updated Children and Young People's JSNA will need to be considered as part of the governance process.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**
Team Manager- Community Development and Equalities

Deprivation levels in Thurrock vary widely between wards, and this is also the case for children living in income deprived households. Child poverty exists everywhere in Thurrock but is most concentrated in the most deprived parts of the borough. There is wide variation from 6.6% to 36.2% of children living in deprivation depending on where they live as measured by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (**IDACI**).³ This chapter refresh highlights updated data and the implications for those in the most deprived areas of Thurrock. The approach in Thurrock is summarised within the chapter in relation to current strategy documents.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder or Impact on Looked After Children

Children who grow up in poverty are often at risk of social exclusion and there are clear links between poverty and lower educational attainment, poorer health outcomes, and intergenerational disadvantage.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Thurrock Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Children and Young People, first published in 2015 and updated Demography and National Childhood Measurement Programme sections published in 2017. [Thurrock](#)

³ Department for Communities and Local Government, *Indices of Deprivation 2018*

9. Appendices to the report

- Refreshed Chapter to the Children and Young People's JSNA product: Low Income Families and Child Poverty Update.

Report Authors:

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To be inserted into the JSNA product for Children (2017). Recommendations section has been removed and progress highlighted. Data and Policy context updated. September 2021

Low Income Families and Child Poverty

Although the greatest factor for childhood poverty is growing up in a workless family or a family with low income, there may also be further contributing factors including the local economy, low parental attainment, and other family level challenges. Children who grow up in poverty are often at risk of social exclusion and there are clear links between poverty and lower educational attainment, poorer health outcomes, and intergenerational disadvantage.

Children living in areas of high deprivation:

- Experience a higher risk of infant mortality
- Are at higher risk of acute illnesses requiring hospital admission
- May be more likely to experience emotional and behavioural problems
- Are less likely to maintain a healthy weight
- Are more likely to experience problems with oral health
- Are less likely to achieve higher levels of educational attainment

In addition, young people growing up in areas of high deprivation:

- Are more likely to conceive and become teenage parents
- Are more likely to enter the youth justice system
- Are more likely to smoke
- Are at higher risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education, or training)
- May experience poorer qualifications and lower earnings in adulthood

There are some factors known to influence child poverty, which include family size and structure, ethnicity, the age and educational qualifications of parents, low earnings and lack of employment. Lone parent families are particularly vulnerable to poverty and teenage mothers are three times as likely to suffer poverty compared with older mothers. Disabled adults of working age are twice as likely as non-disabled adults to live in poor households and more than half of families with disabled children live on low incomes. In all parts of the country, people from ethnic minorities are, on average, more likely to live in low-income households than white British people.

The approach to child poverty in Thurrock is in line with the UK Government's 'Levelling Up' agenda for reducing inequalities, mitigating the impact of disadvantage to offer equality of opportunity and giving all children the best start in life. Local strategies that address the wide impacts of child poverty include:

- The Brighter Futures Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Backing Thurrock Strategy for economic recovery, resilience and return to growth

Defining and measuring Child Poverty

Previously, child poverty was defined by the national child poverty indicator (NI 116) as the percentage of children who live in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits *or* in working families with income less than 60% of the median national income (taking account of differences in household size and composition).

However, in 2016, the Welfare Reform and Work Act abolished the Child Poverty Act, including this indicator and targets to reduce child poverty to less than 10% by 2020. The Children's Poverty Unit was also abolished and replaced with the Social Mobility Commission.

The UK government abolished its target for assessing child poverty as a measure of material disadvantage that is based on family income and replaced it with a range of measures to track the life chances of disadvantaged children.

The DfE published its [Social Mobility Action Plan in December 2017- Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential – a plan for improving social mobility through education](#). The plan has 4 ambitions, these are called the levelling up opportunities.

1. Close the word gap in the early years
2. Close the attainment gap in school while continuing to raise standards
3. High Quality Post 16 education choices for all young people
4. Everyone achieving their potential in rewarding careers

What do we know?

Nationally previous targets to reduce child poverty, set by the Child Poverty Act, were not met and have now been abolished. These have not been replaced in kind and there is not currently a child poverty strategy for England; instead this issue has been absorbed into the wider Levelling Up agenda.

In July 2021, the Social Mobility Commission produced a report titled [State of the Nation: social mobility and the pandemic](#). This report found that as of March 2020, 500,000 more children were living in poverty in England than in 2012. Child poverty has an important influence on social mobility, as children living in poverty can often have worse health, worse education outcomes and start school developmentally behind their more advantaged peers.

Since the child poverty indicator was abolished, there has been no single agreed measure to replace it, however, absolute low-income families* is a common proxy for children living in poverty. The number of children living in low income families has increased slightly nationwide however, in the East of England region and Thurrock it has reduced from 2014/15 levels. While Thurrock has had higher levels of child poverty than the EoE region since 2014, the level of children living in poverty has remained significantly better than the England average.

* Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. Absolute low income takes the 60 per cent of median income threshold from 2010/11 and then fixes this in real terms (i.e. the line moves with inflation). This is designed to assess how low incomes are faring with reference to inflation. It measures the number and proportion of individuals who have incomes below this threshold.

Table 1: Children living in absolute low income families, 2014-2020

	Thurrock		East of England	England
	Number	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
2014/15	5,568	15.4%	13.1%	15.3%
2015/16	5,516	14.9%	12.9%	15.2%
2016/17	5,123	13.5%	11.8%	14.8%
2017/18	5,170	13.3%	11.7%	15.0%
2018/19	5,317	13.3%	11.9%	15.2%
2019/20	5,341	13.1%	11.8%	15.6%

Source: HMRC

While the proportion of children experiencing *absolute* low income has been reducing, families earning a *relative* low income has been increasing in Thurrock (14.8 in 2014/15 vs. 16.9% in 2019/20).[†] Relative low income relates to families earning less than 60% of the UK average income (this changes every year); the rising number of families with relatively low incomes indicates a widening inequalities gap where lower incomes are rising at a slower rate than higher incomes. Therefore, while the reduction of children in *absolute* low income families in Thurrock is positive, this does mask growing income inequality between the lowest and highest earners.

The number of children living in low income households is strongly related to employment levels. The below data shows a 76.3% employment rate in Thurrock with 57% of children living in working households. This is slightly lower than the regional and national averages.

Table 2: Employment Profile, 2019/2020

	Thurrock	East of England	England
Children in Workless Households (2019)	10.4%	7%	9.3%
Children in Working Households (2019)	57%	64%	59.7%
Overall employment rate (Dec 2020)	76.3%	77.2%	75.4%
Average weekly earnings of employees (2020)	£631.70	£604.80	£587.10

Source: ONS

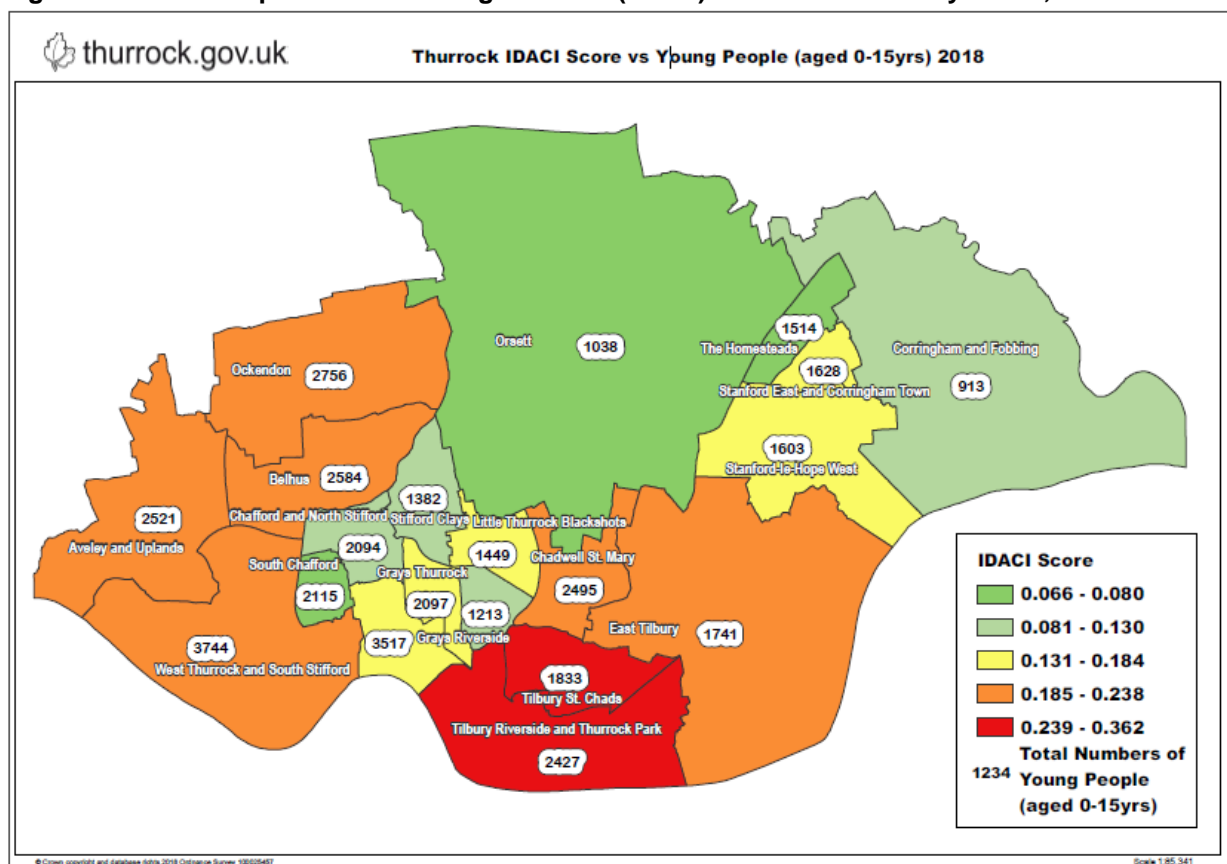
Deprivation levels in Thurrock vary widely between wards, and this is also the case for children living in income deprived households. The below map shows levels of child income deprivation in Thurrock, with the red and orange colours indicating the most deprived areas of Tilbury Riverside, Tilbury St Chads, Ockendedon, Belhus, Aveley and Uplands, and East Thurrock

[†] [PHE Fingertips – Child and maternal health profile.](#)

and South Stifford. This map uses the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (**IDACI**) measuring the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It measures the proportion of the under 16 population in an area experiencing a variety of deprivation indicators related to low income. The number in each ward is the total number of children aged 0-15 in that ward, this gives us a perspective as to the number of children living in low income families. For example, between 23.9%-36.2% of the 736 children in Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park are living in income-deprived families.

Child poverty exists everywhere in Thurrock but is most concentrated in the most deprived parts of the borough, with wide variation from 6.6% to 36.2% of children living in deprivation depending on where they live. The data also show that those wards with a higher IDACI rating tend to have higher numbers of children living there.

Figure 1: Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI) across Thurrock by LSOA, 2018



Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2018

In Thurrock, the areas that have the highest levels of child poverty in most cases have:

- the lowest educational attainment,
- more people in poor health, or with disabilities, that prevent them from working,
- higher proportions of workless families,
- more families who lack bank accounts or home insurance,
- fewer car owners and
- higher proportions of adults who have poor basic skills or who lack qualifications.

In terms of improved outcomes for children living in poverty in Thurrock, there has been an improvement within early years with a reduction in the inequality that exists, notably in the 'good level of development' indicator for Reception pupils receiving free school meals (FSM), (used as a measure of deprivation) improving at a faster rate than those who do not receive FSM. In 2012/13, the gap between these two groups achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of Reception was 11.3%, that gap reduced to 6.7% in 2018/19.

However, it should be noted that the most recent available data presented here indicating the current state of children living in poverty is primarily prior to 2020. Therefore the impact of the COVID – 19 pandemic is not yet visible through this data and it is very likely that the pandemic will have negatively impacted particularly the poorest children and deepened disadvantage.

The COVID 19 Pandemic – deepened disadvantage

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the closure of education settings in spring and summer 2020. This led to large losses in schooling time, and disruption to the delivery of some in-kind benefits. Alternatives to free school meals had to be provided to those eligible over the last 18 months in the form of vouchers and holiday activity programmes. Local Authority School transportation was also challenged and required careful planning in line with government guidance. Private, voluntary, and independent providers of early years' education and childcare also faced large financial challenges due to a reduction in private income.‡

A Rapid Evidence Report on the Health, Societal and Community impacts of COVID-19 was completed within Thurrock Public Health, which identified the areas most affected by the pandemic measures. As a result of lockdowns and self-isolation, many families have had to facilitate home learning. Poorer families have found this more difficult to successfully implement than more affluent families. Research conducted by the Sutton Trust reports that at the start of April 2020, 34% of pupils had taken part in live or recorded online lessons, and that pupils from middle class homes were much more likely to have taken part (30% doing so at least once a day compared to 16% of working class pupils). At private schools, 51% of primary and 57% of secondary students accessed online lessons every day, more than twice as likely as their counterparts in state schools. 50% of teachers in private schools reported they were receiving more than three quarters of work back, compared with 27% in the most advantaged state schools, and just 8% in the least advantaged state schools.§ Children in low-income families are also less likely to have internet access at home, which presents a challenge for completing online lessons. Even with the necessary technologies, lower quality home environments (temperature, overcrowding, food poverty, domestic conflict, instability etc.) can have a detrimental effect on home school performance so it is extremely likely that school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated the attainment gap between deprived and non-deprived pupils.

Considering the impact the Covid-19 pandemic measures have had on the economic wellbeing of children and young people in Thurrock is a priority to ensure the levelling up agenda is able to meaningfully address deepened disadvantage, this is particularly true for some of our more disadvantage children for example those with special educational needs.

‡ Covid grants were distributed to cover most of their income during this period

§ Children's Commissioner, *Tackling the disadvantage gap during the Covid-19 crisis*. April 2020

The [Thurrock Council Child Poverty Plan 2015-2020](#) set the following strategic priorities:

- to develop neighbourhood-focused approaches
- to create pathways into employment
- to maximise income and raise living standards
- to support parents to upgrade their skills
- to continue to narrow the gap in achievement between children on low incomes and children from more affluent families.
- to support the health of children affected by poverty and reduce inequalities in health outcomes
- to provide suitable housing and prevent homelessness
- to remove transport barriers
- family well-being
- to work together to share information and maximise impact

Since the introduction of a child poverty strategy locally there has been:

- A reduction in the number of children living in workless households from 19% in 2010 to 10.4% in 2019.
- A reduction in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training to 1.6% with a broader offer of training and employment opportunities linked to sector based skills linked to local regeneration.
- The development of joint working with Job Centre Plus as a part of Brighter Futures Early Help.
- An increased supply of early education and childcare places, particularly for two year olds from low income families, with 72% accessing funded early education.
- A narrowing of the gap in attainment between those children living in areas of deprivation and others.
- The introduction of multi-agency planning of services and co-location to improve access for families to support.
- The introduction of a service targeted at preventing homelessness in young people

The 4 core ambitions from the Social Mobility Action Plan (mentioned above) have been adopted by the School Effectiveness Team and shared with schools. The below lays out how Thurrock is performing and actions being taken in line with these ambitions.

Closing the word gap in the early years.

In Thurrock, 97% of all Early Years providers have received ratings of 'good' or better by Ofsted. In addition, the Early Years Team have had a specific focus on speech and language CPD for all settings. The last time data were collected for Early Years there was a 4% gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children in Thurrock compared to a 19% gap in England.**

** Provided by Thurrock School Effectiveness Team

Closing the attainment gap in school while continuing to raise standards

Standards in Thurrock have continued to rise at KS1, 2 & 4 and the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils is reducing quicker than the national gap (in Thurrock, there is an 18 percentage point difference while nationally, the difference is 21 percentage points).^{††}

High Quality Post 16 education choices for all young people

In 2018, the SEC merged with Palmers College and this has resulted in better post 16 attainment and choices. Of the students at USP College (the new name of the institution following the merger) who took A-levels this year, 99% passed at least one.^{‡‡}

Everyone achieving their potential in rewarding careers

The Inspire Youth Hub provide skills and education support for young people in Thurrock and are passionate about levelling up and social mobility. Thurrock has very low levels of NEET (1.6% compared to 2.7% for England)^{§§} and our SEND NEET (16-25) figure is even more positive at 13% compared to 43% nationally.^{***}

Thurrock's Children's Centres also play an integral role in supporting parents and children within low income families, and offer a range of supportive services to do this. Five of the 28 outcomes in the Children's Centres Outcomes Framework specifically relate to improving parent aspirations and focus on supporting parents to improve their basic literacy and numeracy skills, to ensure they have sufficient skills to access work, to help parents in managing their financial situation, helping parents enrol onto further training, and giving volunteers more confidence in progressing onto training or work.

Recent development of the Brighter Futures Strategy 2021-2016 will guide Thurrock Council's approach to supporting wellbeing and creating opportunity for young people in the borough. Following this strategic approach, the Brighter Futures Children's Partnership will continue working on the levelling up agenda to reduce the impact of disadvantage on Children and Young people.

^{††} Provided by Thurrock School Effectiveness Team

^{‡‡} Provided by Thurrock School Effectiveness Team

^{§§} Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT)

^{***} Data provided by Inspire Youth Hub

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11 November 2021		ITEM: 8
Extraordinary Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: None	
Report of: Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health		
Accountable Director: Ian Wake, Director Adults, Housing & Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This paper provides an update on progress in refreshing the Health & Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) for 2021-26. An 8 weeks consultation exercise commenced, as planned, on Wednesday 13 October. The consultation closes on Friday 3 December.

There are a variety of ways that people can get involved and provide their views on proposals for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

Have your say online

- Residents and partners can read our proposals and send us your comments online by going to [Have My Say: Thurrock Health & Wellbeing Strategy](https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock-hwb-strategy-refresh) @ <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock-hwb-strategy-refresh>

Have your say face-to-face

- The consultation is being supported by Healthwatch Thurrock and Thurrock CVS (Community & Voluntary Services). People from these independent organisations will attend events across the borough and run community sessions to ask what residents what they think about our proposals.

Have your say at a workshop

- If you residents would like to discuss ideas by attending a workshop, we will arrange workshops, subject to demand. Residents can let us know if they would like to attend a workshop with details being provided on the Council’s website.

Invitations to community meetings

- If a community forum or community group would like us to attend one of their meetings to discuss the proposals they can express an interest, with details being provided on the Council's website on how to do so.

Materials have been developed to provide a consistent, recognisable approach for raising awareness of the consultation exercise. Branding is provided at **Annex A**.

A live communication activity grid helps to ensure we capture opportunities to consult with members of the public and partners, while providing a record of communication activity undertaken as part of the consultation exercise. The current communication activity grid is provided at **Annex B**.

Standard text has been created to provide to partners to support a consistent approach to raising awareness of the consultation exercise, provided at **Annex C**.

User focussed questionnaires have been created to facilitate members of the public providing feedback on specific domains and priorities that have been proposed for the refreshed Strategy, **provided at Annex D**.

1. Recommendation(s)

- ### **1.1 That members note the consultation exercise, consider and propose opportunities to engage the public and interested parties during the consultation period.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The HWBS is a whole system plan for health & wellbeing and a means to engage all partners in the wellbeing agenda, co-ordinating strategic thinking of all elements of the council and all system partners to deliver quantifiable gains in health and wellbeing of residents.
- 2.2 Thurrock agreed its first HWBS in 2013. The second and current HWBS was launched in July 2016 and can be accessed here:
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/strategies/health-and-well-being-strategy>
- 2.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board considered proposals that had been developed and were being refined at its meeting in July, including plans to consult with the wider public.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1. Preparatory work with system partners and HWBB Chair to date has identified the 6 key influences and suggested that the HWBS needs to:
- Be high level and strategic
 - Be highly ambitious and set out genuinely new plans rather than just describe what has already been done

- Provide a clear narrative that drives the work of all aspects of the local authority, NHS and third sector
- Address resident priorities and be co-designed with residents
- Be place and locality based and take a strengths and assets approach, not focused only on deficits or services

3.2. Proposals have been developed based around six areas of people's lives, which we refer to as domains, that impact on people's health and wellbeing.

3.3. An eight week consultation process commenced on Wednesday 13 October and concludes on Friday 3 December 2021.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) has a collective statutory duty to produce a HWBS. It is one of two highest level strategic documents for the Local Authority and system partners, the other being the Local Plan. The statutory status of the document means that the new Integrated Care System (ICS) must have regard to it when planning their own strategy.

4.2 To alert Health and Wellbeing members to the live consultation exercise on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh and request support to raise awareness of the opportunity for people to get involved.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The consultation material and approach has been considered and informed by a number of key council and partner strategic boards and governance structures.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 The HWBS is one of two highest level strategic documents for the Local Authority and system partners, the other being the Local Plan. It is a whole system plan for health & wellbeing and a means to engage all partners in the wellbeing agenda, co-ordinating strategic thinking of all elements of the council and all system partners to deliver quantifiable gains in health and wellbeing of residents.

6.2 In order to support delivery of the Council's Vision, the 6 Domains of the HWBS Strategy each relate to one of the Council's key priorities of People, Place and Prosperity, as outlined in the attached slide set.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**

Strategic Lead Finance*

The cost associated with the strategy refresh will be delivered within existing budgets or agreed through existing Council and partner agencies governance finance arrangements.

*Implications remain as previously verified.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Law*

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established a responsibility for Councils and CCGs to jointly prepare Health and Wellbeing Strategies for the local area as defined by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

*Implications remain as previously verified.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee***
Community Development and Equalities Team

The aim of the strategy is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Thurrock and reduce health and wellbeing inequalities. A community equality impact assessment (CEIA) will underpin the strategy and mitigate the risk of disproportionate negative impact for protected groups. This approach will ensure the strategy itself and implementation supports delivery of the council's equality objectives while maintaining compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty.

*Implications remain as previously verified.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

The refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy will facilitate crime and disorder priorities that relate specifically to health and wellbeing, further strengthening the relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership.

8. Appendices

- Branding is provided at **Annex A**
- The current communication activity grid is provided at **Annex B**.

- Standard text has been created to provide to partners to support a consistent approach to raising awareness of the consultation exercise, provided at **Annex C**.
- User focussed questionnaires have been created to facilitate members of the public providing feedback on specific domains and priorities that have been proposed for the refreshed Strategy, **provided at Annex D**.

Report Author:

Jo Broadbent, Director for Public Health

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 TO 2026

Levelling the playing field in Thurrock

We want to hear your views on proposals to address health inequality



HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 TO 2026

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 TO 2026

Levelling the playing field In Thurrock



We want to hear your views on proposals to address health inequality

Take part in our consultation which focuses on six key areas:

- Healthier for Longer (including Mental Health)
- Building Strong and Cohesive Communities
- Person-Led Health and Care
- Opportunity for All
- Housing and the Environment
- Community Safety

thurrock.gov.uk/health-and-well-being-strategy



thurrock.gov.uk/say

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Tuesday	30-Nov-21											
Wednesday	01-Dec-21	Awareness Raising	Civic Officers	Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Elected members	Jo Broadbent		N/A	People can attend but not contribute			
Thursday	02-Dec-21											
Friday	03-Dec-21											

04-Dec-21

Consultation closes

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Timing			Online engagement - awareness raising					
Day	Date	Time	Type of activity	Strategy refresh lead	Target Audience	Lead officer	Progress / Notes	Suggested by
TBD								
TBD								
TBD								
TBD								
TBD								
Monday	11-Oct-21	7pm	Internal staff notification via council Intranet?					
Tuesday	12-Oct-21		Thurrock Council Press release / Statement	Jo Broadbent	Press / Public	Scott Morrow	Draft press release and statement provided to Cllrs Halden and Mayes. Press release to be Embargoed until Wed 13 Oct. Complete	
			CCG Facebook and Twitter	Louise Banks	Public			
			Council Facebook and Twitter		Public			

			Emails to HealthWatch public circulation list	Kim James	Public who have engaged with HealthWatch			
			Emails to VCS stakeholders using circulation lists	Kristina Jackson	VCS organisations			
			Email to Health Partners	Comms?	NELFT and EPUT Staff and their stakeholders		Assume this maybe has already been thought of by comms colleagues I think they tend to retweet and share one anothers posts when appropriate.	
			Notification to HWB members requesting further awareness raising and dissemination	Darren Kristiansen	Key Strategic Partners			
			Notification to TICP members (some duplication with HWB members)	Darren Kristiansen	Key Strategic Partners			

Page 107 Wednesday	13-Oct-21		Email to AHH DMT	Jo Broadbent	Strategic council officers working in Adult Social Care, Housing and Health	Jo Broadbent	Complete	
			Piece in Headteachers bulletin	Council Comms team?/Beth Capps	Schools and education settings		I'm happy to do this is required once document is ready (BC)	Beth Capps
Thursday	14-Oct-21		Email to Adult Social Care Staff including carers, managers, support planners, LACs.	Ceri Armstrong	All Adult Social Care Staff - Operational and Strategic	Ceri Armstrong	Completed	
			Thurrock Council Website updated. New page focussing on consultation and setting out how people can get involved	Darren Kristiansen	Public	Darren Kristiansen	Completed	

			Chief Executives' Blog to staff	Darren Kristiansen / Jo Broadbent	All Council Staff	Darren Kristiansen / Jo Broadbent	Completed	
Friday	15-Oct-21		Council E News Bulletin notification to residents	Jo Broadbent / Mary Patricia Flynn	100,000 Thurrock residents	Scott Morrow	Completed	
Saturday	16-Oct-21							
Sunday	17-Oct-21							
Monday	18-Oct-21							
Tuesday	19-Oct-21		Email to GP Practices across the Borough	Louise Banks	GPs	Louise Banks	Completed	
		4.30pm						
Wednesday	20-Oct-21							
Thursday	21-Oct-21							
Friday	22-Oct-21							
Saturday	23-Oct-21							
Sunday	24-Oct-21							
Monday	25-Oct-21							

Tuesday	26-Oct-21							
Wednesday	27-Oct-21							
Thursday	28-Oct-21							
Friday	29-Oct-21							
Saturday	30-Oct-21							
Sunday	31-Oct-21							
Monday	01-Nov-21							
Tuesday	02-Nov-21							
Wednesday	03-Nov-21							
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Friday	05-Nov-21							
Saturday	06-Nov-21							
Sunday	07-Nov-21							
Monday	08-Nov-21	11-12:30						
		2-3:30p m						
Tuesday	09-Nov-21							
Wednesday	10-Nov-21							
Thursday	11-Nov-21	3-8pm						
Friday	12-Nov-21							
Saturday	13-Nov-21							
Sunday	14-Nov-21							

Monday	15-Nov-21							
Tuesday	16-Nov-21							
Wednesday	17-Nov-21	2-3:30pm						
Thursday	18-Nov-21							
Friday	19-Nov-21							
Saturday	20-Nov-21							
Sunday	21-Nov-21							
Monday	22-Nov-21							
Tuesday	23-Nov-21							
Wednesday	24-Nov-21	2-4pm						
Thursday	25-Nov-21							
Friday	26-Nov-21							
Saturday	27-Nov-21							
Sunday	28-Nov-21							
Monday	29-Nov-21							
Tuesday	30-Nov-21							
Wednesday	01-Dec-21							
Thursday	02-Dec-21							
Friday	03-Dec-21							

04-Dec-21



HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 TO 2026

Levelling the playing field in Thurrock

We want to hear your views on proposals to address health inequality

Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The consultation exercise is now live – your opportunity to get involved

Health and Wellbeing affects everyone. Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed and proposals have been developed which reflect six areas of people's lives that impact on their health and wellbeing.

By taking part in our consultation exercise, you can have your say on Thurrock's health priorities for the next 5 years. There are several ways you can get involved:

- **Have your say online** through the Council's online consultation portal
- **Face to face through engagement opportunities** being provided by the independent Healthwatch Thurrock and Thurrock CVS who will be attending events across the borough during the consultation period.
- **Have your say workshops** which will be organised and provide opportunities for the public and partners to discuss and provide feedback on the proposals. These will be set up subject to demand
- **Inviting us to your existing meetings.** People who are members of existing forums or groups can express an interest in attendance at your event to discuss provide feedback on the proposals

Further information is available on the Council's website at www.thurrock.gov.uk/health-and-well-being-strategy

The consultation closes at **midnight, Friday 3 December 2021.**

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 TO 2026

Levelling the playing field in Thurrock

We want to hear your views on proposals to address health inequality

Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh

We are seeking the views of Thurrock residents on proposals for Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh. The full consultation can be found online at <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/>.

Based upon previous feedback, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been set out into six proposed areas of people's lives or domains. We are interested to hear your views on the proposed domains and priorities to support the refresh of the Strategy.

Domain 1 – Healthier for Longer (including Mental Health)

This domain focuses on enabling people to continue to live longer in good health and live healthier lifestyles through self-care behaviours and care services that keep people well and independent. For example, support to stop smoking, the identification and treatment of long term conditions including mental health problems, and tackling obesity.

Domain 2 – Building Strong & Cohesive Communities

This domain focuses on creating a fair, accessible and inclusive borough where everyone has a voice and an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive, and where community led ambitions are supported and actively encouraged

Domain 3 –Person-Led Health and Care

This domain focuses on continuing to remodel the health and care system to ensure solutions are local to where people live, joined up and focus on preventing, reducing and delaying the need for care and support.

Domain 4 – Opportunity for All

This domain focuses on Thurrock residents achieving their potential by being able to access high quality education, training, securing good quality employment and new opportunities created through inward investment to the borough wider regeneration programmes.

Domain 5 – Housing and the Environment

This domain focuses on creating an environment which supports and stimulates improved health and wellbeing, providing people with an opportunity to exercise and remain active.

The domain also provides focus on reducing homelessness and ensure people have access high quality accommodation that meets the needs of Thurrock residents

Domain 6 – Community Safety

This domain focuses on enabling people to feel and be safe in Thurrock. It also seeks to ensure local victims/survivors of crime are provided with high quality support to cope and recover from their experiences should they need it.

We welcome your feedback on the following questions

Q1. Do the six domains represent the areas of people’s lives that most affect their health and wellbeing?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q2. Are there any other areas that most impact on people’s health and wellbeing that should be considered for inclusion in the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q3. Do you have any other feedback you wish to make about the proposed areas of focus (domains) for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Thank you for taking the time in completing this survey. We appreciate your feedback.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 TO 2026

Levelling the playing field in Thurrock

We want to hear your views on
proposals to address health inequality



Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh

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Domain 1 – Healthier for Longer (including Mental Health)

Domain 2 – Building Strong & Cohesive Communities

Domain 3 – People-Led Health and Care

Domain 4 – Opportunity for All

Domain 5 – Housing and the Environment

Domain 6 – Community Safety

Domain 1 - Healthier for Longer (Including Mental Health)

Summary aim

This domain focuses on enabling people to live longer in good health and live healthier lifestyles through achieving behaviours and care that keep people well and independent. For example, support to stop smoking, the identification and treatment of long term conditions including mental health problems, and tackling obesity.

Challenges

- There is an identified inequality of health and life expectancy across Thurrock, including between different ethnicities, genders, geographies, and those with mental health problems.
- Smoking and obesity rates are higher in Thurrock than average for England, leading to more ill health.
- There are many factors which contribute to people's mental health, and Thurrock has an estimated high rate of undiagnosed mental health conditions.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and worsened existing inequalities and made some individuals, groups and communities even more vulnerable than before.

Priorities

- Working in partnership with communities to reducing smoking, obesity, and lack of physical activity.
- Improve identification of long term health conditions so we can treat and support those suffering with both physical and mental health conditions.
- Review and enhance support for the transition of young people to adult, and adult to older adult services.
- Understand and treat new or worsened health needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic including mental ill health and long term conditions.

We welcome your feedback on the following questions

Q1. Do you agree with the aim of this domain?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q2. Do you agree with the challenges that have been identified?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q3. Are there any other challenges that should be considered?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q4. Do you agree with the priorities that have been proposed?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q5. Are there any other priorities that should be considered?

Yes

No

Please provide information to explain your response

Thank you for taking the time in completing this survey. We appreciate your feedback.

DRAFT

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 TO 2026

Levelling the playing field in Thurrock

We want to hear your views on
proposals to address health inequality



Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh

We are seeking the views of Thurrock residents on proposals for Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh. The full consultation can be found online at <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/>.

Based upon previous feedback, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been set out into six proposed areas of people's lives or domains. We are interested to hear your views on the proposed domains and priorities to support the refresh of the Strategy.

Domain 1 – Healthier for Longer (including Mental Health)

Domain 2 – Building Strong & Cohesive Communities

Domain 3 – People-Led Health and Care

Domain 4 – Opportunity for All

Domain 5 – Housing and the Environment

Domain 6 – Community Safety

Domain 2 - Building Strong & Cohesive Communities

Summary aim

This domain focuses on creating a fair, accessible and inclusive borough where everyone has a voice and an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive, and where community led ambitions are supported and actively encouraged.

Challenges

- Thurrock is made up of many diverse communities who may not always feel welcomed, included or supported consistently.
- Investing in communities to maintain a thriving voluntary sector which offers individuals choice and support.
- Community insight and listening to residents does not always steer decision making at a local level, therefore many residents can become disengaged.

Priorities

- Improve the way we engage with residents to ensure everyone can have their voice heard.
- Ensure people have the skills, confidence and ability to communicate as active citizens and are feel empowered to influence decisions that affect their lives.
- Promote opportunities to bring communities together to enhance shared experience and to embed a sense of belonging.

We welcome your feedback on the following questions

Q1. Do you agree with the aim of this domain?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q2. Do you agree with the challenges that have been identified?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q3. Are there any other challenges that should be considered?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q4. Do you agree with the priorities that have been proposed?

Yes No

Please provide information to explain your response

Q5. Are there any other priorities that should be considered?

Yes No

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Domain 4 – Opportunity for All

Domain 5 – Housing and the Environment

Domain 6 – Community Safety

Domain 3 - Person Led Health and Care

Summary aim

This domain focuses on continuing to remodel the health and care system to ensure solutions are local to where people live, joined up and allows the person to remain in control.

Challenges

- Organisations and departments do not always work together, even when people require a response from more than one of them.
- Existing resources are extremely stretched and staff capacity is limited.
- People are treated by their need or condition rather than improving their overall wellbeing.
- Current system is not flexible enough to reflect what matters in different communities across Thurrock.

Priorities

- Develop a high quality health and care system that is joined up and focuses on what is most important to the individual and their personal circumstances.
- Improved Primary Care that includes timely access to a range of professionals.

- Ensuring health and care workforce are multi-skilled and able to deliver a range of care needs to reduce the number of visits by health and care professionals.
- Working in partnership with communities to ensure that they are able to direct how resource is being used.

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Q3. Are there any other challenges that should be considered?

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Domain 4 – Opportunity for All

Domain 5 – Housing and the Environment

Domain 6 – Community Safety

Domain 4 - Opportunity for All

Summary aim

We want Thurrock residents to achieve their potential by being able to access high quality education & training, securing good quality employment and making the most of new opportunities created through inward investment to the borough's wider regeneration programmes.

Challenges

- While Thurrock's overall performance is good in terms of delivering education, it masks poorer performance in children that are more deprived, including those receiving Free School Meals.
- Young people classified as 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) are considered to be at greater risk of poor physical and mental health, unemployment and low quality or low paid wage in later life.
- Skills levels in Thurrock are lower and numbers of people working in management, professional and technical occupations are lower across the east of England and Great Britain.
- Unemployment contributes to poor health, therefore getting people into work is of critical importance to reduce health inequalities.
- Living in disadvantaged circumstances limits access to opportunities, having social, physical and health impacts.
- Economic growth should benefit all communities in Thurrock, including more deprived areas across the borough.

Goals

- By raising aspirations and reducing the disadvantage gap, all Thurrock children and young people are able to achieve their potential.
- Support young people and adults to gain qualifications, skills and experience to progress into further and higher education, apprenticeships or sustained employment.
- Those from vulnerable groups or places in the borough who have lost jobs through the pandemic are supported so they are able to find employment, and benefit from opportunities to re skill or upskill.
- Work together to level up economic and social opportunity for people living in disadvantaged circumstances.
- Local people are able to benefit from the large regeneration programmes happening in Thurrock

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Yes No

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Domain 5 – Housing and the Environment

Domain 6 – Community Safety

Domain 5- Housing and the Environment

Summary aim

We want to create an environment which supports and stimulates improved health and wellbeing, providing people with an opportunity to exercise and remain active.

We want to reduce homelessness and ensure people have access to high quality homes that meets the needs of Thurrock residents.

Challenges

- Ensuring equitable access to quality outdoor environments and green spaces.
- The environment impacts health positively and negatively. Things like antisocial behaviour and air pollution, which are bad for health, tend to be worse in more deprived areas.
- Some residents of Thurrock struggle to secure and afford high quality, suitable, secure homes.
- People who have experienced domestic abuse and / or sexual violence are in particular need of support to find suitable housing.

Priorities

- Reducing homelessness through provision of secure, suitable and affordable housing.

- Facilitate and encourage maintenance of good quality homes to support the health of residents protecting them from hazards such as cold, damp and mould.
- Provide safe, suitable and stable housing solutions for people who have or are experiencing domestic or sexual abuse or violence.
- Ensure regeneration improves health, physical activity, mental wellbeing, access to green spaces and exposure to air pollution.

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Q4. Do you agree with the priorities that have been proposed?

Yes No

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Q5. Are there any other priorities that should be considered?

Yes No

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Domain 6 - Community Safety

Summary aim

We want to ensure that Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit. We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.

Challenges

- Fear of crime is linked to poorer health and can be a barrier to engaging in health improving activities including outdoor activities such as walking.
- The rate of recorded violent crime in Thurrock is becoming an increasing concern and has risen since 2013. This particularly affects young people in Thurrock.
- Some population groups are at higher risk of experiencing crime and include women & girls, children & young people, the elderly and those with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Being a victim of crime may impact on a victim's physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Priorities

- We want all children and young people to live safely in their communities.
- Work in partnership with local residents to prevent and deter crime, with a focus on those with increased risk of experiencing crime.
- Support victims/survivors of crimes to improve their health and wellbeing, and ensure they are aware of support and services to help them cope and recover.

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