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Children, Family Services and Education

Portfolio Performance and Resources Annual Report 2021/22



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ONESTOCKPORT

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CHILDREN, FAMILY SERVICES AND EDUCATION - OVERVIEW



Portfolio Summary

This report provides an overview of key developments relating to the Children, Family Services and Education Portfolio during the fourth quarter of 2021/22.

Recovery planning continues to focus on the impact of the pandemic on babies and children's development and parental mental health.

The high level of communication and support provided by the Local Authority to the Early Years sector during the Covid-19 pandemic has continued, including prioritisation of on-site support visits for children identified as vulnerable

In addition, One Voice conversations are currently taking place or booked in all our maintained primary schools. These conversations have a clear focus upon school self-evaluation, inclusion and identifying progress against the school's recovery plan as well as curriculum planning for the more vulnerable learner.

The percentage of young people in Years 12 and 13 not in education, employment and training is above our very challenging target, but remains lower than the national average and the north west average. Of particular note is our very low 'not known' figure, which remains lower than national and statistical neighbour benchmarks. Our data provides a very accurate understanding of the post 16 destinations of nearly all of our 16-18 population.

As of May 2022, Stockport is yet to receive notification for our SEND revisit. Work continues to prepare for inspection and a recent monitoring visit with the DfE and NHS England acknowledged the progress we have made.

Service demand remains an issue throughout this Portfolio. The demand for Education, Health and Care Plan assessments in Stockport has increased over the last year, a trend also seen in other areas. This level of demand needs to be taken into account when looking at school place planning and the ability of the Stockport school system to provide support at the earliest level. We are continuing to carry out work on our SEND Sufficiency Strategy and two new secondary mainstream resource units are scheduled to open this year at Marple Hall and Priestnall.

The number of EHAs completed has continued to increase, with 1993 EHAs reported at the end of March 2022 compared to 1545 in 2020/21. Demand on complex safeguarding has also increased with the overall average caseload for exploitation cases increasing from 30 in 2020/21 to 44.5 in 2021/22; and very high numbers of MARAC referrals are reported. In both cases, the increased complexity of cases is noted and outcomes continue to be strong.

Finally, this Quarter has seen Stockport Council's Children's Services rated 'Good' by Ofsted after a rigorous inspection which looked at all services delivered by Stockport Family to children in need of help, protection, and children in care and care leavers.

The inspection, which took place between 28th March – 1st April, found that "the strong quality of practice and services for families has been maintained, despite the high levels of Covid-19 and the increase in demand across the service." Ofsted praised Stockport Family senior leaders for their relentless focus since the previous inspection in 2017 to embedding relationship-based, restorative approach to delivering services, saying that "this is extremely well understood across an integrated system of social care, early help, health and education and is supported by extensive training across the partnership" which creates a "strong and supportive culture" so "children receive the right level of support at the right time". The full inspection report can be accessed [here](#)

Revenue Budget (Outturn)

	£000
Cash Limit	47,266
Forecast	47,266
(Surplus)/Deficit	0

Reserves

Approved use of reserves balance is £2.865m.

Draw down as at Q4 is £0.743m.

Contingency Funding

Use of contingency funding is £0.451m, approved use at budget setting plus £1.578m Covid Scarring budget adjustment and £0.407m contingency allocation to balance the portfolio.

Capital Programme

	£000
2021/22 Capital Budget	0
2022/23 Capital Budget	24
2023/24 Capital Budget	0

CHILDREN, FAMILY SERVICES & EDUCATION

1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES



This report is based on the **2021/22 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by the Corporate, Resource Management and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 15th June and approved by Cabinet on 29th June 2021. The link to the Agreement can be [found here](#).

Updates on **key programmes of work and other activities** are referenced within the Portfolio Priorities within this section of the report, alongside the latest available **performance data**. This report reflects the picture as at the end of April 2022 where this is available.







Performance measures are reported for all measures included in the 2021/22 Portfolio Agreement. This will reflect the latest available data, which in most cases will be the 2021/22 out-turn. These are categorised to reflect the Council's influence and responsibility as Council, Partnership or Contextual. These categories are used to determine the type of target used as numerical, comparator, direction of travel or if no target is set. Definitions for these categories and target types are included within the Agreement.

Highlight and exception commentary is provided for performance measures, setting out the key factors, including the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions, which have impacted on performance. As highlighted in the Agreements, it has not been possible to set annual targets for all measures, but 'direction of travel' will continue to be shown for these. For those measures reported quarterly, actual performance for Q4 is included where this differs from the full year out-turn figure.

The updated Portfolio Performance Dashboards are published alongside these reports, and the Children, Family Services and Education Dashboard can be [found here](#). This contains further historical trend data in addition to comparative data (where available) the latest of which relates to 2020/21.

The criteria for RAG rating and direction of travel status is shown below. The rationale for any variations to this will be clearly highlighted within the commentary.

Key to symbols used in tables

	Red; Indicator is performing significantly (>5%) below target		Getting worse; The year-end position (forecast or actual) for this indicator is less favourable than the previous year-end.
	Amber; Indicator is performing slightly (<5%) below target		Stable; The year-end position (forecast or actual) for this indicator is within 1% either side of the previous year-end.
	Green; Indicator is on track or performing above target		Getting better; The year-end position (forecast or actual) for this indicator is more favourable than the previous year-end.

Bold measures are included in the Greater Manchester Strategy outcomes framework and/or suite of 'headline' measures included in Corporate Report
Data in italics is provisional / forecast

Priority 1: All babies and children are given the very best start in life by their parents and carers and start school ready to learn

Delivered by:

Start Well and School Readiness Strategy 2020-2023

Suggested performance measures for a start well scorecard have been chosen and will be presented to the Start Well and School Readiness Board in June. Dashboard and performance scorecard developments will support the Board to monitor the impact of the Start Well Strategy and school readiness outcomes.

The Healthy Child Programme

Recovery planning continues to focus on the impact of the pandemic on babies and children's development and parental mental health.

The Enhanced Midwifery team is continuing to develop a continuity of carer approach and increasing the identification of early help needs.

The Healthy Child Programme continues to support earlier identification of need through the 5 mandated contacts. The proportion of children receiving mandated contacts is higher than the national average and local data indicates timely assessments on average. In quarter 3, 72.9% of children living in Stockport were achieving a 'Good Level of Development' at 2 years and therefore on track to be 'school ready'.

Work continues to design and test new models of working to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in a more timely way and to reduce waiting times for SEND support. Work continues with Charnwood colleagues to develop a good practice delivery model to support the scaling of inclusive opportunity groups across Stockport. In addition, a team around the early years approach is being adopted to meet the needs of children with SEND. Start Well co-ordinator roles specialising in SEND have been established within the team to support assessment, planning and co-ordination of interventions for families with high needs. Learning will inform pathway developments and further clarification of roles.

Despite the impact of pandemic, the 'Empowering People, Empowering Communities' programme (EPEC) continues to demonstrate impressive engagement and retention rates. We have expanded the skills, expertise and knowledge within the hub team to allow for the delivery of a wider range of courses including Baby and Us and more focused EPEC courses for parents with children with autism.

Our specialist Parenting and Infant Parent Service continue to provide one to one therapeutic support and evidence-based group parenting support and have developed helpful learning packages on meeting and supporting the emotional needs of children and sleep support. The team also supports practitioners to develop their knowledge and skills in attachment and emotional regulation, supporting them to provide expert intervention to families.

One health visitor is currently working towards accreditation in video interactive guidance. This will further our social and emotional expertise and the support we are able to provide to families. In addition our early years workers have received training in 'Watch Me Play' - to enhance play based

skills to support infant and parent relationships. The Solihull Approach training has also been expanded to reach more Stockport Family practitioners.

In relation to digital developments, online Solihull parenting resources have been launched with good take up and data indicates that the health visitor advice line continues to be well used by parents/carers. In addition, parents and professionals have provided very positive feedback on our Start Well website.

Working with GMCA digitisation team, a project plan is under development to pilot products from the 'early years digital solution' in Marple, including 'digitisation' of the Ages and Stages questionnaire 3. Increased digital reporting will further support local processes for identifying and reporting early years children requiring SEN support.

Our universal digital and virtual offers for families are strengthening further through the commissioning of 'Essential Parent' and the development of monthly virtual 'top tips' sessions for parents. In addition the Fairer Start local partnership between GMCA/Stockport and Nesta is supporting greater collaboration with families to identify, design and test potential improvements to early years delivery

Early Years Provision

The high level of communication and support provided to the sector during the Covid-19 pandemic has continued, including prioritisation of on-site support visits for children identified as vulnerable

We continue to monitor the quality of early years provision as reported in Ofsted inspections and prioritise visits to childminders, early years settings and schools currently graded below Good or due an Ofsted inspection. Ofsted inspection outcomes for early years settings during quarter 4 were: - 1 graded Outstanding, 5 graded Good, 2 graded Inadequate and 1 graded Requires Improvement. The recommendations made by Ofsted in order to improve the quality of early years provision continue to be analysed and shared with the sector. Overall, 95% of registered providers and 96% of childminders are graded Good or better.

Workforce development continues to focus support on early years educational recovery, in line with recent Ofsted and Department for Education (DfE) surveys. A safeguarding e learning module has been made available to the sector to support understanding of the allegations management process. In addition 34 early years practitioners have completed the Local Authority's Early Years Team SENCO training.

Approaches to early years transition include, for example, supporting a greater understanding by teachers of strategies to support sensory needs, the use of the Well Comm language screening tool in maintained nursery classes and the use of the early years provision map. The Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP) has seen the achievement of 2 EYPDP tutor champions and 14 Level 3 accredited Elklan practitioners.









The positive feedback on the impact of the Elklan qualification (Elklan is a national training organisation for educational practitioners) has supported a further Local Authority funded offer which will reach up to 80 early years practitioners and teachers over an 18 month - 2 year period. Two members of the Early Years Improvement team have gained Elklan tutor accreditation to support this delivery in partnership with the Speech and Language Therapy team. 35 early years practitioners and teachers are in the first cohort.

Since face-to-face training resumed in September 2021, we have continued with our 'whole setting/school' approach to physical development champions. A further 169 physical development champions have been trained since September 2021, including in 3 large nursery chains (13 settings in total) and 6 school early years foundation stage teams (plus KS1 in some instances). A physical development champion session is also planned during the summer term for interested childminders.

We are making the links between the physical development champions initiative and the 'Tooth Safe' award launched in May 2021 which is now gathering pace. 18 settings/schools have achieved the award so far through a whole setting/school approach to healthy eating and the promotion of oral health with children and their families.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

The most recent data relating to all performance measures is available in the PPRR dashboard.

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perf.	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
CFSE.1	Percentage of mothers smoking at delivery (number)	Low	9.1% (248)	7.9% (226)	8.5% (183)	9.5%		
CFSE.2	Mothers who are breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks (number)	Low	53.7%	54%	49.3% (429) Dec'21	51.5%		
The publication of public health data has been delayed due to the need for public health focus on the pandemic. Updated data in relation to breastfeeding rates has recently been published up to December 2021. This data shows a reduction in the percentage of mothers breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks, from 54% in 2020/21 to 49.3% in the first three quarters of 2021/22. This rate is slightly below target and the national rate, but performance remains above statistical neighbours (46.6%)								
CFSE.3	Children within reception year who are recorded as overweight or very overweight	Low	24.5%	26% (138)	N/A	21.0%		
CFSE.4	Children in Reception classed as underweight, three year combined (number)	Low	0.5% (56)	0.6% (34)	N/A	0.3%		

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) was carried out as a sample in 2020/21 and statistical weighting applied to produce an estimate of childhood excess weight at a national and local level. The estimated data is included in the table above; however, it is important to view this data with caution. A better indicator of the full impact of the pandemic on children's weight will be available when the NCMP returns to full delivery capacity. Please see the Q3 PPRR for further commentary on the 2020/21 NCMP

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perf.	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
CFSE.8 GMS	Percentage of early years settings rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted	High	95%	N/A	N/A	Aim to maximise	N/A	N/A
CSFE.9(i) GMS	Percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	72.5%	N/A	N/A
CSFE.9(ii)	Percentage of Free School Meals (FSM) eligible children achieving a GLD at the end of EYFS	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	54.3%	N/A	N/A
<p>The end of the Early Years Foundation Stage Assessments were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19, therefore there will be no national reporting of GLD for 2019/20 and 2020/21.</p> <p>Routine Ofsted inspections were also suspended in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic. Inspections re-commenced in September 2021 and the outcomes of recent inspections are noted in the commentary above.</p>								

Priority 2: All children and young people are well prepared for adulthood and engage in education, employment and training

Delivered by:

Inclusion

The second cohort of 10 schools has started their work on the Local Matters Programme with the University of Manchester. (This was delayed due to the pandemic). The programme was developed in conjunction with Stockport Local Authority and has poverty proofing at its heart.

In addition we have recently completed further training with Children North East to widen the group of colleagues within Stockport who can undertake poverty proofing audits. The first audit for cohort 2 was completed in April 2022.

School Effectiveness

One Voice conversations are currently taking place in our maintained primary schools. These have a clear focus upon school self-evaluation, inclusion and identifying progress against the school's recovery plan as well as curriculum planning for the more vulnerable learner. The format is highly supportive in terms of preparing schools for inspection. Conversations have taken place, or are currently booked, in all our primary schools in Stockport. They have proved very helpful for schools who have been inspected recently.

Twelve primary, 4 high schools and 2 special schools have been inspected by Ofsted during the current academic year. The majority of schools are graded Good or better; currently 2 secondary schools and 6 primary schools Require Improvement, 3 schools who were judged to be Inadequate are awaiting re-inspection and 1 primary school has recently been placed in Special Measures. The Director of Education has held meetings with 3 schools this year under the Schools Causing Concern Guidance.

Transitions

A local authority wide protocol has been agreed and is currently being used by schools to support effective transition between key stages. A common data collection has also been agreed, linked to the electronic school management system (SIMS) and primary colleagues will submit their data to secondary schools in May 2022. A common induction day has been agreed in July.

Performance Measures and Targets

Attainment











Educational attainment and attendance data for 2019/20 and 2020/21 is not comparable to previous years due to the impact of Covid-19 and has consequently not been published. In addition, routine Ofsted inspections were suspended in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic, therefore school inspection data for 2020/21 is not available. Inspections recommenced in September 2021 and the outcome of recent school inspections is reported above.

The most recent data relating to educational attainment performance measures is available in the PPRR dashboard.

Attendance and Inclusion

Attendance and inclusion data for has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and school closures and is therefore not comparable with previous years. Updated data will be published in future PPRRs.

Partnership measures - Attainment (Post 16)

PI Code	PI Name	Good Perf.	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22			
					Actual	Target	Status	Trend
CFSE.25	Percentage of young people in academic Years 12 and 13 (16-18) who are in education or worked based training	High	96.3% (5743)	96.4% (5984)	97% (6261)	97%		
CFSE.26	Percentage of young people in academic Years 12 and 13 (16-18) not in employment, education or training	Low	2.5% (152)	3.1 (194)	2.6% (169)	2.0%		
CFSE.27	Percentage of young people in academic Years 12 and 13 (16-18) where the destination is unknown	Low	2.4% (67)	0.2% (28)	0.4% (26)	0.7%		
CFSE.28	Percentage of young people in academic Years 12 and 13 (16-18) in Apprenticeships (number)	High	6.6% (396)	5.1% (318)	5.2% (337)	9.5%		
CFSE.29	Percentage of care leavers (19-21) in suitable education, training and employment	High	64.4%	58.7% (71)	53.8% (49)	70%		

The percentage of young people in Years 12 and 13 not in education, employment and training is above our very challenging target, but remains lower than the national average and the north west average. As reported at quarter 3, it is important to consider performance measures CFSE.25 – CFSE.27 collectively. Our 'not known' figure remains low and is lower than national and statistical neighbour benchmarks. By understanding the post 16 destinations of nearly all of our population we have more accurate 'in learning' and NEET figures. All local authorities are measured on their combined figure for these performance measures.

In addition, although rates remain below the particularly challenging target, the percentage of care leavers (19-21) in suitable education, training and employment has shown a continual improvement since quarter 1 of 2021/22. Recently published comparator data for 2020/21 shows that levels of employment, education and training amongst care leavers in Stockport remained higher than statistical neighbours' and national benchmarks.

The percentage of young people in Apprenticeships has increased slightly in comparison to the 2020/21 figures and is above the national and north west averages.

Priority 3: All children, young people and families have access to an effective integrated early help offer



Delivered by:

Children and Education Enhanced Integrated Programme

Performance Measures and Targets

Please note an Early Help dashboard that combines early help and supporting families programme data is currently being developed. Further measures will be developed as part of this work, to support the implementation of the Early Help Strategy.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform- ance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
Partnership measures								
CFSE. 64	Number of Stockport Family Early Help Assessments (EHA)	Context- ual	2408	1545	1993	N/A	N/A	N/A
CFSE. 65	Early Help Assessment conversion rate (within 30 days) (number)	High	65.5% (439)	56.6% (874)	57.9% (864)	70.0%		

57.9% of Early Help Assessments (EHAs) were reported as 'completed within 30 working days' at the end of 2021/22 – a slight increase on the rate reported in 2020/21.

The number of EHAs completed has continued to increase, with 1993 EHAs reported at the end of March 2022 compared to 1545 in 2020/21.

It remains our ambition to improve the timeliness of EHA completions. The commitment to a 70% target has, however, been in place for the past 5 years but not been achieved. We will be reviewing this target in line with the work being undertaken as part of the Early Help Board with regard to a review of the EHA, alongside the development of an early help dashboard.

Priority 4: Children and families with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive the best possible support at the right time to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved

Delivered by:

Written Statement of Action (WSOA)

As of May 2022, Stockport is yet to receive notification for our SEND revisit. Work continues to prepare for this. A monitoring visit with the DfE and NHS England took place in February 2022. This visit noted further development and acknowledged the progress we have made. Advisors noted that we have good evidence and case studies to support the improvement work and this is documented well in our impact report and presentation.

The SEND Board continues to monitor progress against the WSoA and related risk and now meets on a bi-monthly basis. Work continues to focus on review and planning around the improvement programme, governance of SEND and associated meeting structure, as well as work to determine our future priorities.

SEND Strategy

Work is planned to review the SEND Strategy 2020-2023, including our priorities and forward plan.

SEND Joint Commissioning Plan

A workshop is planned for 9th September 2022 to review our current SEND joint commissioning priorities and consider future priorities for joint commissioning with a particular focus on the expectations of the locality based Integrated Care System for SEND.

Joint commissioning activity continues to develop a coordinated and holistic offer for: -

- speech, language and communication
- equipment and adaptation services
- mental health and wellbeing
- all-age autism strategy
- integrated personal budgets

The SEND scorecard continues to be developed and reported. Further work is expected on the SEND outcomes framework, to ensure leaders are sited on current performance and to provide assurance that services are making a positive impact for children and families with SEND.



Service Demand

The demand for EHCP assessments in Stockport has increased over the last year, a trend also seen in other areas. In the first three months of 2022 we had 179 EHCP assessment requests, compared to 130 requests during the same period last year. This level of demand needs to be taken into account when looking at school place planning and the ability of the Stockport school system to provide support at the earliest level.

We are continuing to carry out work on our SEND Sufficiency Strategy and two new secondary mainstream resource units are scheduled to open this year at Marple Hall and Priestnall. In addition

we are in discussion with primary and secondary schools to open further provision across Stockport over the next 5 years.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
Contextual measures								
CFSE. 62	Number of children for whom the Local Authority maintains an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of SEN (number)	Contextual	26.4 per 1000 (2171)	29.5 per 1000 (2438)	32.7 per 1000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Partnership measures								
CFSE. 63	Percentage of EHCP issued within 20 weeks	High	N/A	61.8% (201)	84% (356)	50%		

Please note, as explained above, educational attainment and attendance data for 2019/21 and 2020/21 is not comparable to previous years due to the impact of Covid-19 and has consequently not been published.

The most recent published data relating to these performance measures for children and young people with SEND is available in the PPRR dashboard.

Priority 5: All children and young people live safely and happily within their families, there are fewer family breakdowns, and rates of crime and anti-social behaviour reduce

Delivered by:

Complex safeguarding, including high risk domestic violence (including honour-based abuse and forced marriage), child exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking, female genital mutilation and missing children

The Child Exploitation Strategy has been finalised. An action plan to sit under the strategy will be developed with support from a task and finish group to be convened following discussion at Complex Safeguarding Group in May 2022.

- The Achieving Change Together (ACT) pilot in Highfields school funded through the DfE regional recovery fund is nearing conclusion. A final report will be completed in May 2022 following 12 months of the pilot with recommendations for ongoing work, that will be funded by the Violent Reduction Unit (VRU). It is likely that the outcome of this will be that the ACT principles and the presence of a social worker in the school setting have been successful, but the use of the ACT model in its full form is hard to replicate for school staff with multiple demands on their time.
- The new WISE (Working to Increase Safety in Exploitation) assessment will replace the Phoenix assessment in autumn 2022. Stockport will pilot the final draft of the document between June and September prior to the launch. The impact of this new assessment on referral and review pathways for exploitation needs to be determined, including consideration for our Staying Safe processes and whether the document will be used by the wider service.
- Demand on complex safeguarding in 2021/22 has increased with the overall average caseload for exploitation cases increasing from 30 in 2020/21 to 44.5 in 2021/22. This is mainly due to increased complexity and length of time that young people need support, rather than significant increase in referrals. Outcomes have continued to be strong at the point of closure, including evidence of goals achieved, reduction of missing and trusted relationships in place. There is a need to strengthen feedback from young people, families and professionals about the impact of the work from their perspective.
- The most recent cohort have just completed the Caring Dads programme - out of 10 fathers accepted onto the course, 7 will have completed the programme. 4 fathers have successfully completed the full course including a group work session. In addition, 3 fathers are having 1:1 session's due to learning needs and the need for intense practical 1:1 support. These fathers will continue to have 1:1 session's until they have completed the course. Maintaining weekly intensive support via course facilitators continues to be a key theme. We will be looking to start cohort 4 at the end of June 22. We are keen to look at continued peer support for fathers who have completed Caring Dads.
- MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) continues to see very high numbers of referrals although there was a slight decrease in quarter 3. The complexity of cases is something that has been highlighted and commented on across all services working in the field of domestic abuse.

- 'Honour-based abuse' (HBA) is an area where we have seen increasing demand within the Aspire service. Our HBA strategy is being updated and a task and finish group will review our action plan. Project Choice are no longer funded to offer a service outside Oldham - consideration will be given within the new pathway/process of how services are delivered in light of this.
- An unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) social worker has been recruited to ensure the specialist needs of this group of young people are met. Currently, we have 15 UASC under 18 and 12 care leavers.
- In 2022/23 work will continue with adults to strengthen knowledge and response to transitional safeguarding. This work is in the early stages, but there is partnership commitment and ambition to develop an all-age exploitation strategy.
- A lead has been assigned to take forward a multi-agency female genital mutilation audit across partnerships, to provide assurance that the strategy and pathway is robust.
- The Modern Slavery Strategy is finalised and requires sign off by the Complex Safeguarding Group and Safer Stockport Partnership (May 2022). An action plan under this strategy will be developed linking in with the overarching corporate Modern Slavery Statement and actions.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-23

The Corporate Parenting Strategy priorities for looked after children and care leavers are being delivered and regularly monitored and reported to the Integrated Looked After Children Board and Corporate Parenting Working Board.

Consideration is underway for planning the strategy refresh for 2023.

No Wrong Door

The No Wrong Door innovation is embedded within the practice of the Stockport Families First Service and is focused on the council priority to reduce the number of children in care. The service continues to support children and families on the edge of care and provides intensive support, short breaks and support from speech and language and psychologist specialist workers. The service is currently experiencing increasing referrals and is in the scope of the wider adolescence review.

The council children's homes have continued to be at full occupancy and graded Good by Ofsted. Broadfields house and flats has substantive refurbishment work scheduled for after the easter weekend and will be closed until mid-late May 2022. The care plans for children placed have been progressed and moved on to alternative placements.

Care Leavers

Stockport Council continues to be one of eight local authorities selected to be part of the 2-year New Belongings programme to improve services for care leavers. We are now 22 months into the programme and good progress and focus is continuing on delivery of the priorities co-produced with our care leavers.

The 'your life beyond care' survey was re-run with care leavers aged 18-25 years between 10th January – 10th February 2022, the self-assessment is being re-done for submission on 29th April 2022. The findings will then be collated and shared in June to support co-production of priorities for 2022/23 with young people.

Regional Adoption Agency

Our Adoption Support First Response team continue to be the first point of contact for adoptive families requesting an adoption support assessment of need. This means families can speak directly to a specialist social worker for initial advice and receive an assessment within 2-4 weeks.

Access to our in-house Adoption Psychology Service remains available for families with children under 12 who have been adopted. We also have a consultant psychologist who offers consultations specifically in relation to transitions for newly placed children, to ensure the best start for their adoption journey.

Sector Led Improvement Programme and DfE Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund

Stockport continues to work with three external councils, providing sector led improvement support across a range of areas of practice to support improvements in the delivery of social work and children's services. Areas of focus include quality assurance framework; early permanence and pre-proceedings; foster care recruitment and services; and placement sufficiency. We will be exploring opportunities to work with other councils over the coming year in partnership with the Department for Education.

We have been delivering on the themes with funding from the Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund and liaising with lead officers from the DfE and the North West Regional Alliance to ensure these are on course for meeting the agreed goals and outcomes.

Youth Justice, Early Intervention and Targeted Youth Support (TYS)

The Youth Justice Partnership Board met in mid-May to review a range of areas pertinent to youth justice and targeted youth delivery, such as children in police custody, the targeted youth offer and children 'released under investigation'. The Youth Justice Partnership Board has advised that the Youth Justice Plan has to be completed and submitted to Ministry of Justice by 30th June. This will remain in draft until it has been through the council's democratic processes.

Interventions delivered through YYS continue at pace. Individual referrals for early intervention are rising and these children, who are on the periphery of crime, are offered a voluntary intervention through the service, with the aim of preventing them entering the criminal justice system through effective diversion.

YYS continue to deliver sessions within schools (both primary and secondary) on a range of areas, including knife crime, hate crime, online harms and crime awareness days. These have been well-received by schools and feedback from teachers, parents and pupils has been positive. A range of community and sport-based interventions continue to be delivered through YYS in conjunction with our VCS partners. These include football sessions in many areas (well attended every week), boxing, fishing, music sessions, animation film work and many other activities. These have been very well received by young people who enjoy the active nature of the programmes.

The Detached Youth Work offer has been operational since last autumn and it goes from strength to strength. It involves youth workers being active in communities, offering youth work sessions in community hubs and also street-based activities in anti-social behaviour hot spot areas. Currently there are 8 youth work sessions running every week (including evening and weekends) and the demand is very high with 40-50 children and young people attending each session.





The Detached Youth Work Service is designed to be responsive and can be deployed if there are reports of increasing levels of anti-social behaviour, working alongside VCS colleagues and GMP. The plan is to expand these sessions and bids have been submitted through Safer Streets and the National Lottery to support this enhancement, which will complement the Positive Investment Funding received this year.







The Home Office has confirmed a 3-year settlement to deliver against the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) priorities and this has been devolved through GMCA to deliver a central function through the GM VRU and the rest is devolved through the Community Safety Partnerships. The Safer Stockport Partnership are expecting the same allocation as last year with a continued focus on children and young people.

The Greater Manchester Youth Justice Transformation Board continues to develop the GM delivery for youth justice and there is focus on many areas, including custody (prisons, police custody and overnight detentions) the rate of remand, children Released Under Investigation, Out of Court Disposals and a significant focus on diversity and disproportionality within Youth Justice Services. GMCA have confirmed continued funding for early intervention in youth justice to support the prevention and diversion processes.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has confirmed an enhanced grant award for 2022/23 (the amount locally still to be confirmed). In addition, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has confirmed a 3-year funding settlement for Youth Justice Partnerships called the 'Turnaround Scheme'. This will deliver early intervention and prevention for children at risk of becoming involved in criminality.





Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Youth Offending								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
Partnership measures								
CFSE. 42	Custodial sentences (10-17 year olds) per 1,000 (number)	Low	0.2 (5)	0.1 (2)	0.1 (2) Dec'21	0.23		
CFSE. 43	First time entrants to youth justice system (age 10 - 17) rate per 100,000 (number)	Low	199 (55)	128 (36)	146 (41) Sept'21	210		
CFSE. 44	Re-offenders (10-17 year olds) (number)	Low	26.1% (6)	Not yet available	N/A	30%	N/A	N/A
Performance against the above youth justice measures is showing a downward trend. All measures are reporting below national comparators and other Greater Manchester authorities, and with the exception of first time entrants (which is slightly above the north west rate of 140), all are reporting below north west comparators.								

Safeguarding and Social Care								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
Contextual measures								
CSFE. 45	Children in Need per 10,000	Contextual	353.5 (2232)	347.6 (2208)	381.8 (2440)	N/A	N/A	N/A
CSFE. 46	Percentage of referrals converted to social work assessments (number)	Contextual	98.0% (882)	99.4% (855)	95.4% (875)	N/A	N/A	N/A
CFSE. 47	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan, rate per 10,000 0-17 year olds (number)	Contextual	33.1 (209)	24.7 (158)	44.6% (285)	N/A	N/A	N/A
CFSE. 48	Percentage of child sexual exploitation referrals recorded as being at high risk (number)	Contextual	22.4% (38)	8.9% (15)	14.4% (17)	N/A	N/A	N/A
CFSE. 50	Looked After Children (per 10,000)	Contextual	376 (59.5)	408 (63.8)	447 (69.9)	N/A	N/A	N/A
GMS								
CFSE. 51	Number of out of area Looked After Children placed in Stockport	Contextual	295	297	267	N/A	N/A	N/A
As reported at quarter 3, rates of both children in need and looked after children are showing an increasing trend. The rate of children in need in Stockport is above statistical comparators, whilst the rate of looked after children in Stockport is in line with statistical neighbours and the national rate. Child Protection Plan rates in Stockport are currently slightly above statistical neighbours and in line with the national rates. Please see commentary in section 5 above for further contextual information relating to complex safeguarding								
CFSE. 52	Number of Former Relevant care leavers	Contextual	154	121	91	N/A	N/A	N/A
Partnership measures								
CFSE. 53	Number of care leavers (19-21) in suitable accommodation	High	99.0%	95% (115)	95.6% (87)	95%		
CFSE. 54	Number of care leavers (19-21) the local authority remains in touch with	High	98.1%	98% (115)	100 (91)	95%		
CFSE. 55	Number of care leavers (19-20) 'staying put'	Hgh	23	23	44	Aim to maximise		
NEW								

Portfolio Performance and Resources - Annual Report 2021/22

The percentage of care leavers aged 19-20 in suitable accommodation and remaining in touch with the local authority remains stable in comparison to previous years and is above target and statistical comparators. The number of care leavers living with their former foster carers has increased from 23 in 2020/21 to 44 in 2021/22.

CFSE. 56	Children who run away from home per 1,000 0-17 year olds (number)	Low	4.7 (297)	3.9 (249)	4.8 (553)	4.6		
CFSE. 57	Children missing from care per 1,000 0-17 year olds (number)	Low	2.9 (182)	2.3 (149)	2.5 (301)	2.6		



The number of children and young people missing from home has reported higher rates from quarter 2 onwards, with the quarter 4 21/22 cumulative total 4.8. Whilst this rate is higher than quarter 4 20/21 (3.9) it is in line with previous year end figures, with both 19/20 and 18/19 reporting 4.7. This suggests that the lower rates seen across 2020/21 could be attributed to impact of Covid-19 lock downs.

Children and young people missing from care, remains green - reporting 2.5 against a target of 2.6.









Health and wellbeing

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend



Partnership measures

CFSE. 30	Emotional Health of Looked After Children (SDQ score)	Low	15.7	14.2	N/A	13.0		
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Stockport reported an average SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) score of 14.2 in 2020/21, above statistical neighbours and national average, but below that reported for Stockport the previous year. 2021/22 data will be available following submission internally in July and published nationally November / December

CFSE. 31	Conceptions to women aged under 18 rate per 1,000 (number)	Low	14.8	13.1 (63) Dec'20	N/A	13.0		
CFSE. 32	Sexual Health Needs (Chlamydia diagnosis rate) per 100,000 15-24 year olds (number)	Low	443	331	188 June'21	Aim to minimise		
CFSE. 33	Percentage of children within Year 6 who are recorded as overweight or very overweight	Low	33.2%	37.2%	N/A	32%		
CFSE. 34	Percentage of children within Year 6 who are recorded as underweight (3 year combined)	Low	1%	1%	N/A	0.7%		

Please see commentary above (priority 1) for contextual information relating to National Child Measurement Programme data for 2020/21.

CFSE. 35	Alcohol related hospital admissions, rate per 1,000 under 18-year-olds (number)	Low	0.1 (28.8)	0.1 (27.4)	0.1 (5) Dec'21	0.4		
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Portfolio Performance and Resources - Annual Report 2021/22

CFSE. 36	Hospital admissions as a result of unintentional or deliberate injury, rate per 1,000 0-17 year olds (number)	Low	12.5 (796)	11.4 (728)	9.4 (1157) Dec'21	10		
CFSE. 37	Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (0-17 year olds) per 1,000 (number)	Low	1.7 (107)	1.9 (119)	2.3 (146) Dec'21	1.4		
<p>Hospital admission rates for self-harm reduced in quarter 3 to 30 – compared to 61 in quarter 1 (45 separate admissions, with a number of re-admissions). There is a timelag in the publication of national data and therefore we don't currently have comparator data for 2020/21 or 2021/22.</p> <p>At this stage (as reported at quarter 3), the national data is not available to identify whether the increase in admissions reflects a national trend (potentially linked to the pandemic), a Stockport trend or random small number variations. A 'deep dive' is planned to consider this data in further detail and key outcomes will be included in future PPRRs.</p>								

CHILDREN, FAMILY SERVICES & EDUCATION

2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

Current Budget at Q4:

	Previously Reported Q3 £000	Increase / (Reduction) £000	Current Budget Q4 £000
Education	3,959	645	4,605
Children and Family Services	40,079	2,218	42,297
14-19 Services	357	7	364
Cash Limit	44,395	2,870	47,266

Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 3:

Description	Movement(s) £000
21/22 Pay Award agreed at Q4	393
Contingency funding approved at budget setting for PIP UE	451
Redundancy corporate funding	41
Covid Scarring to balance the portfolio	1,578
Contingency agreed at Quarter 3	407
Total	2,870

Outturn Position

The service is reporting a deficit at outturn of £1.985m, against a budget of £45.281 (£47,266 in the table above less one-off budget allocations to balance the portfolio). This equates to 4.38% in variance terms of the net cash limit budget. This includes a combination of additional costs or reduced income due to Covid-19. The overall portfolio position has been balanced through a one-off Covid scarring budget adjustment of £1.578m and a one-off contingency allocation of £0.407m.

The £1.985m deficit position prior to these allocations compares to a deficit at Q3 of £1.914m and comprises of deficits of £1.571m on Children and Family Services, a deficit of £0.598m on Education and a surplus of £0.184m on 14-19 services. The narrative provides the explanation of where the deficits prior to this allocation have arisen.

	Budget Q3 £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000	Forecast Variance Q3 £000
Education	4,605	4,649	44	0
Children and Family Services	42,297	42,437	140	0
14-19 Services	364	180	-184	0
Total	47,266	47,266	0	0

Education:

The financial resources deployed to Children and Families Services total £4.050m and the final Q4 outturn position a deficit of £0.598m (before the technical Covid-19 scarring adjustment at £0.554m) which is broadly in line with the previous Q3 forecast.

The overall deficit is largely directly attributable to the ongoing demands on the SEND Transport budget as previously reported.

The key cost drivers within the education arm relate to:

- More students requiring SEN transport c.770 spring 2022 (694 September 2020);
- 244 different routes compared to 158 in September 2020;

The deficit has been offset by surplus year-end balances reported in other Central support costs i.e. reduction in premature retirement costs, school improvement and educational psychology service – the latter relating to staff turnover, local/national recruitment/retention issues.

Children and Family Services:

The financial resources deployed to Children and Families Services total £40.415m and the outturn position is a deficit of £1.571m including Covid-19 costs, an increase of £0.073m from the deficit of £1.498m reported at Q3.

The detailed breakdown of the deficit position as presented in previous reports is as follows: The Q4 outturn position for CLA placements is a deficit of £0.758m including the additional costs related to Covid-19 which have been incurred across both internal and external provision. The forecast without these costs would have been a surplus of £0.879m. This represents a minimal increase to the forecast outturn of £0.022m since Q3 where the reported deficit including Covid-19 costs was £0.736m. Covid-19 costs have increased by £0.074m to £1.637m from £1.563 at Q3. The variation is explained in detail below.

Description	£m Inc Covid-19	£m Excl Covid-19
External residential placements	0.670	(0.483)
External Foster care placements	(0.295)	(0.380)
Internal Foster care and Staying put	0.383	(0.016)
Total	0.758	(0.879)

The outturn position on external provision is a surplus of £0.295m on External Foster care (IFA) placements and a deficit of £0.670m on External residential placements. This compares to a forecast surplus of £0.317m and forecast deficit of £0.780m at Q3.

This represents a reduction between the Q3 forecast and outturn across external provision of £0.088m.

The numbers in external placements have increased from 95 Q3 to 107 at outturn. However, the financial implication has been less than the £0.290m forecast for new placements built in at Q3 at £0.202m. This accounts for positive change between Q3 forecast and outturn. Of greater concern is the impact in 2022/23 of the full year effect of the increase in placements between January and March. We will continue to monitor the position on external placements closely throughout the new financial year on a weekly basis.

At Q3 there was a reported deficit of £0.274m on Internal Foster care including Covid-19. The outturn position is now a deficit of £0.383m, an increase of £0.109m. This is as a result of both an increase in numbers of 278 at Q3 to 283 at Q4; an increase in the average weekly cost over and above what was used to forecast for the remaining 12 weeks at Q3 due to changes in age bracket and profile of new placements compared to ceased placements.

The outturn for Non-CLA placements where the Local Authority has a continued financial commitment is a surplus of £0.105m. This represents a reduction in spend of £0.119m since Q3 when the forecast position was a deficit of £0.014m. The £0.119m comprises of a reduction of £0.044m on SGO, £0.016m on Adoption Allowances and £0.059m on Supported Lodgings. The service is continuing their efforts to recruit supported lodgings providers for children aged 16+ working towards independence as this is by far the most cost-effective type of provision for this cohort and offers potential for stability post 18 if the young people can remain with the lodgings' providers. Alternative provisions with 16+ unregulated SAILS providers would cost approx' £700 per week compared with the £209 per week in supported lodgings.

Surpluses on Adoption Allowances and CAO have been offered as savings in 2022/23 so will no longer be available in future years to offset overspends on other areas across the service.

There is a deficit at outturn on CLA maintenance and Section 17 payments of £0.350m. This is an increase of £0.087m since Q3 and comprises from a deficit of £0.202m on section 17 payments (an increase of £0.016m) and a deficit of £0.148m on CLA maintenance payments (an increase of £0.071m).

The increase on CLA maintenance payments is as a result of a series of high cost intensive support packages agreed to support young people in placement and prevent placement breakdown and potential moves to higher cost external provision. These support packages are being kept under regular review with service leads.

There is a deficit at outturn of £0.373m including a Covid-19 related surplus of £0.049m on short breaks group provision which has not been able to go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions. The overall deficit has decreased by £0.124m since Q3. This is due to a greater than expected underspend on short breaks due to lack of take up of group provision since this re-started after Q2 and the identification of some ceased placements in the final reconciliation and calculation of accruals for year-end.

A reserve request has been approved at Q4 to establish a small staff team for a period of two years to enable the effective re-design and delivery of short breaks duties to Children with Disabilities and their families. This includes a demand reduction plan to bring the service back into budget within the 2 year period. Progress of the team will be kept under review with regular updates to SMT.

At outturn there are deficits in the First Response Team and Stockport Family Worker School Age Plus teams of £0.066m and £0.041m respectively. The deficit in the FRT is as a result of agency staff backfill for front line posts to cover staff sickness and maternity leave. The deficit across the SFW School Age Plus teams is as a result of all staff now having progressed to top of scale but

budgeted at mid-point. There has been very little staff turnover in this area to allow this to be managed through this process.

The surplus of £0.138m reported at Q3 across Social Care locality teams is a deficit at outturn of £0.034m, a variation of £0.172m. This is as a result of some newly appointed staff being miss-coded and re-charged to the service at year-end and also due to agency staff being recruited to fill the permanent Social Worker and Senior Practitioner vacancies

The deficit at outturn on the Youth Offending Service £0.230m, an increase of £0.014m since Q3 due to a further remand in the last quarter. Total costs in year equate to £271,781 against a remand grant allocation for 2021/22 of £41,781. Remand grant allocations are based on verified YOI bed night usage over the three years (2017/18 – 2019/20), in line with the methodology used since April 2013.

Therefore, the allocation is not sufficient to cover the costs in the current financial year.

There is a higher than usual reported surplus of £0.074m on short breaks in 2021/22 as a result of some carers' self-isolating and some shielding as a result of the pandemic.

There are further smaller variations across the service resulting in a net surplus of £0.053m.

2.2 Earmarked Reserves

The majority of earmarked reserves are held at a corporate level and services produce a business case to drawdown funds, which is approved through Corporate Leadership Team and Members. This strategic approach is designed to provide financial resilience for the Council and to ensure that Council reserves are used on an invest-to-save basis and to support Council priorities. The exceptions to this are ringfenced reserves and the Directorate Flexibility Reserve.

The table below reflects any approved revised balances in reserves, aligned to the 2021/22 Reserves Policy report taken to Cabinet on the 21 September 2021.

Transfer from reserves:

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Reserve / 'Approved Use' Balance £000	Drawdown For 2021/22 Provisional Outturn £000	Balance of Reserve / "Approved Use" £000
Corporate Reserves					
Corporate Reserves	SEND MTFP	SEND WSoA	794	251	543
Corporate Reserves	Legislative and Statutory Requirements Reserve	Funding remaining for serious case reviews -	79	0	79

Portfolio Performance and Resources - Annual Report 2021/22

Corporate Reserves	Third Party Monies Reserve	NW Partnership monies	181	0	181
Corporate Reserves	Revenue Grant Reserve	ASC SW Development Grant	13	0	13
Corporate Reserves	Revenue Grant Reserve	CYP SW Development Grant	22	0	22
Corporate Reserves	Revenue Grant Reserve	CYP ASYE Grant	45	0	45
Corporate Reserves	Third Party Monies Reserve	LSCB, Local Safeguarding Children's Board	134	0	134
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	Foster carer support	100	0	100
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Targeted Youth Support	150	51	99
Reserve Linked to Budget	Workforce Investment/Change Reserve	Children's Transformation Lead	123	77	46
Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve	FGC Co-ordinator	23	0	23
Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve	Deputy Service Lead and Designated Officer SW	86	36	50

Portfolio Performance and Resources - Annual Report 2021/22

Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve	MASSH Capacity – 2 FTE SWs pending review	84	43	41
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	Leaving Care Team Staffing	193	13	180
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	Leaving Care - Pure Insight Contract variation	96	18	78
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	IRO Capacity	132	23	109
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	New Beginnings	76	76	0
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	Understanding Excellence (UE PIP)	207	41	166
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	No Wrong Door (NWD)	114	114	0
Reserve Linked to Budget	Workforce Investment/Change Reserve	Senior Practitioner Retention	118	0	118

Portfolio Performance and Resources - Annual Report 2021/22

Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	UASC Staffing	41	0	41	
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	Designated Safeguarding Lead in Schools (DSL) programme	54	0	54	
TOTAL			2,865	743	2,122	

2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

The following table provides an update on the progress against the savings to be achieved in 2021/22.

Proposal	Risk Rating	Value Identified £000	Value Achieved £000	Additional Information
Education:				
Premature retirement costs (PRC)	Green	0.040	0.040	
Subtotal Education:		0.040	0.040	
Children and Families:				
Saving linked to demand reduction	Green	0.070	0.070	
Savings linked to vacancies	Green	0.022	0.022	
Children Subtotal:		0.092	0.092	
Directorate Total		0.132	0.132	
Unachieved Savings		0	0	

Risk rating

Green – good confidence (90% plus) the saving is/will be delivered or minor variances (<£0.050m) that will be contained within the portfolio.

Amber – progressing at a reasonable pace, action plan being pursued may be some slippage across years and/or the final position may also be a little unclear.

Red – Significant issues arising, or further detailed consultation required which may be complex/contentious.

2.4 Dedicated Schools Grant

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - the Centrally Held Budget (CHB) is managed by the local authority on behalf of schools and consists of a range of services to schools and pupils.

The total DSG allocation which is centrally held is £35.128m comprising the high needs block (£29.593m), de-delegated funding for services to LA maintained schools (£2.975m), Central Reserve (£0.625m) and Central School Services (£1.935m). The final Q4 outturn position provides an in-year deficit at £3.615m (10.29%) which is broadly in line with previous forecasts provided.

The key cost pressure areas affecting the DSG forecast position are within the high needs block and relate to:

- More pupils in mainstream schools accessing HN top-up support funding;
- Requirement to increase local specialist capacity further for SEN placements (i.e. Heaton satellite provision in Cheadle from September 2022);
- Increase in placements in high cost external/independent providers;
- Increase in occupational health and speech and language support contracts for the increased special school pupil cohort; and
- Import/export and Post 16 funding adjustments re DSG funding.

The above is demonstration of the continual increase in demand for pupils with high needs who require education and support in a specialist provision.

The above deficit will be carried forward as part of the cumulative deficit £5.486m into the 2022/23 financial year and will be managed as part of the ongoing DSG review project.

2.5 Capital Finance Update and Outlook

Programme

Expenditure as at 31 Mar 2022 £000	Scheme	2021/22 Programme £000	2022/23 Programme £000	2023/24 Programme £000
0	Short breaks for disabled children	0	24	0
0	TOTAL	0	24	0

Resources

Resources	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Capital Grants	0	24	0
TOTAL	0	24	0

Progress against individual schemes

- **Short Breaks for Disabled Children** - Scheme to provide adaptations to foster carer's homes to care for children with disabilities.

2.6 Allocated One-Off Resources

Positive Investment Funding of £0.150m was allocated to the service at budget setting. The purpose of this was to enhance and embed the newly developed Detached Youth Work Team to provide on-street engagement and youth provision within local communities. The aim is to reduce ASB & Youth Disorder by groups of young people, who choose to gather in local communities in public areas. The model seeks to engage and identify children and young people at risk using youth work skills and mentoring. This is also supported by a schools-based offer to improve liaison, raise awareness and reduce the risk of exclusion.

The Detached Youth Work Team became fully operational in October 2021, following a period of job evaluation and recruitment to new Youth Worker posts last year. The team sits within SMBC Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support Service and operates as part of the RTime joint arrangements with SHG & Life Leisure and works proactively alongside VCS partners and GMP.

In the short period that the Detached Youth Work Team has been operational, the impact has been significant and regular detached youth work sessions are now in place across identified areas of Stockport. The sessions are responsive and where they take place is based on intelligence received about incidents and hot spots of youth disorder and anti-social behaviour which ensures the model remains dynamic. The focus for the Detached Youth Work team is not to police behaviour, but to provide a community-based engagement programme, focused on positive thinking, consequential behaviour, crime awareness, citizenship and community resilience, which also offers school liaison and awareness sessions on-site.

Current funding for the Detached Youth Work Team is short-term and the maximisation of other short-term funding in year will enable the positive investment funding to continue throughout 2022/23, which means the activities can be enhanced and embedded, as well as giving more opportunities to source alternative funding to improve sustainability. Due to the process of job evaluation and delays in recruitment only £0.051m of the positive investment funding has been drawn down in 21/22.