



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children, Families and Education

Portfolio Performance and Resources Agreement 2024/5



Ambitious Stockport, creating opportunities *for everyone*

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S INTRODUCTION



It is a great privilege to be Portfolio Holder for the Children, Families and Education Portfolio at such a time of unprecedented challenge and opportunity.

This Portfolio Performance and Resource Agreement sets out the key priorities, delivery programmes and performance measures for the Portfolio during 2024/25. The Agreement will form the basis for Portfolio Performance and Resource Reports throughout the year.



The ambitions and priorities of this Portfolio Agreement are unchanged from those we outlined last year. This is because we know that to deliver on the complex challenges, we face requires a long-term commitment to improving practice and a long-term commitment of resources.

A key focus for the Portfolio continues to be addressing the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This priority remains key because the impact of lost learning on children and young people was profound and will only be met through long-term commitment and focus.

We also know that the cost of living crisis is continuing to have far reaching implications for families, with the borough's most vulnerable children, young people, and families, feeling this most acutely. There are still too many children and families experiencing inequalities which prevent them from reaching their potential and many families are caught in a cycle of multiple disadvantage.

We continue to see increased demand for our services, reflected in increased numbers of children needing to come into our care, and increased demand for education, health, and care plans.

Our long-term commitment to meeting these challenges is reflected through our commitment to integration through our Stockport Family model and One Stockport Neighbourhoods and Prevention Programme. Further strengthening our partnership work across education, health and care and building on our neighbourhood work with key partners in communities has never been more important.

We will continue to ensure that the experiences of children, young people and their families are central to everything we do. Inclusion is central to the work of this Portfolio, and we will work to ensure every child is included in the success of their community.

In addition, as corporate parents, it is our responsibility to ensure that our children are safe, happy, and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential. This Portfolio Agreement also includes details of our essential work with partners to support children and young people, to keep them safe and to intervene and protect them where necessary.

I am pleased to present this report to Scrutiny for further comment.

Revenue Budget		Capital Programme
	£000	There is currently no capital programme within this portfolio across 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.
Cash Limit Budget	62,052	
Approved Use of Reserves	1,252	

Date	17 June 2024	Version	2.0 (Cabinet)	Approved by	WM
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CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO – PLAN ON A PAGE

Council Plan	Ambition 2: Education, employment, and skills Ambition 3: Wellbeing in neighbourhoods Ambition 4: Delivering for those who most need it Cross-cutting theme: Fair and inclusive					
Portfolio Priorities	All babies and children are given the very best start in life by their parents and are ready for school at the end of the reception	All children and young people can access and engage in education and achieve the best they can	Children and families with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive the best possible support at the right time to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved	All children, young people and families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer	All children, young people and families enjoy good physical and emotional health and wellbeing and can access coordinated robust and timely support pathways based on need	Children and young people live safely and happily within their families, and where this is not possible, they are supported to have stable loving homes and achieve positive outcomes wherever they live
Key delivery programmes	Develop and establish Family Hubs Digital developments Start Well – continual improvement Start Well - workforce development Early Years leadership for change Maternity and neonatal care three-year delivery plan	Schools Strategy implementation Outcomes for SEND and FSM (attendance and attainment) Careers education, information and guidance Pathways into post-16 skills and training Covid Recovery Strategy	Early help and success at SEN support Strengths based services Shared commissioning priorities and joint resources Workforce development Continuous improvement and sustainability School place sufficiency	One Neighbourhood and Prevention work programmes Continued development of Family Hub networks Virtual hub development Service development - measuring effectiveness / improving understanding of early help needs / capturing family feedback Community and school-based support Appropriate early help to support 'waiting well'	Support schools' preventative potential (anti-bullying, campaigns, awareness and whole school approach) Develop and deliver Youth Connect 5 training across VCFSE and communities Develop digital offer based on the iThrive model Work alongside GM to develop health and wellbeing priorities as part of GM Integrated Care Strategy	Workforce development Stockport Families First and New Beginning collaboration pilot Expansion of family group conferencing service Develop support services for connected family and friend carers Work to increase foster carers and homes Placement stability Children in care/care leaver educational outcomes Youth Justice Plan and Targeted Youth Support Adolescent Safeguarding Framework

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION –

1. PORTFOLIO SUMMARY



This Portfolio Agreement sets out the key responsibilities in relation to services and budgets. It also details the range of activities, projects and programmes that will support the delivery of the priority outcomes and the measures that will reflect progress over the year.

The ambitions and priorities of this Portfolio Agreement are unchanged from those we outlined last year. This is because we know that to deliver on the complex challenges, we face requires a long-term commitment to improving practice and a long-term commitment of resources.

Our ambition is to make Stockport the best place for all children to grow up happy, healthy, with confidence, and ambition and surrounded by love, care, and kindness. We want all families to feel supported, confident, resilient and connected to their community and we want all children to have the very best start in life and to thrive throughout their growing up and beyond.

Most children and young people in Stockport live in settled families, are healthy, benefit from high-quality education places and achieve well at school and college. However, we know that times continue to be hard for many people and that our borough is a place of stark inequality. Persistent inequality means that there are still too many children and families experiencing specific inequalities which prevent them from reaching their potential and many families are caught in a cycle of multiple disadvantages.

We know that for children and young people, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was profound and that those who experienced the greatest disadvantage felt this impact the most. We also know that the current cost of living crisis has had, and continues to have, far reaching implications for families, with the borough's most vulnerable children, young people, and families, again feeling this most acutely.

We are seeing continued and increased demand for our services, reflected in increased numbers of children needing to come into our care, and sharply increased demand for education, health, and care plans which has led to increased waiting time for diagnosis and support. In turn, this is resulting in increased costs to the system, requiring challenging prioritisation and decision-making at a time when demand is increasing significantly.

Our long-term commitment to meet these challenges is exemplified in our commitment to integration through our "Stockport Family" model, working together across education, health, and care has never been more important. It is key to responding to and meeting demand, ensuring that all services for children, young people and families work together so families get the help they need when they need it.

Over the coming year and beyond, we will work to further build on our current integrated offer to children and families, further enhancing our neighbourhood work with key partners in communities as a key component of our One Stockport Neighbourhoods and Prevention programme.

In this Portfolio Performance and Resource Agreement (PPRA), we have once again outlined five priorities which will be the focus of our efforts, ambitions, and improvements in the next year and our key areas of ongoing focus: -

- Inclusion: every child must be included in the success of their community.
- Equality and diversity: Stockport's communities are becoming increasingly diverse, and we need to ensure that we understand the needs of our residents and act decisively to address any inequality or discrimination, so Stockport is a welcoming place for everyone to live, work and succeed.
- Literacy: reading is the key to learning and is critical to improving the life chances and wellbeing of our communities.
- Neurodiversity: we must do more to support children with Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), waiting times for diagnosis are too high and our offer must improve.

The key services and functions within the Portfolio which contribute towards this vision are:

Children and Family Services

- Adoption Counts
- Children with a Disability
- Start Well service
- Children's Mental Health
- School Age Plus Early Help Offer
- Stockport Families First
- Leaving Care Services
- Safeguarding and Workforce Development
- Social work and family support teams
- Stockport fostering service
- Young People's Education Careers and Advice
- Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support (YOS)
- Mosaic Young People's Drug and Alcohol service
- Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC)
- ASPIRE Complex Safeguarding service
- MASSH Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding service
- Education Welfare and Education Access service
- Autism team
- Careers and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) team
- Health visitor, Start Well, Early Years and Parenting teams
- Infant feeding team
- Infant Parent Service
- School nurse teams
- Family Nurse Partnership.

Education

- Education Psychologists
- Home to School transport
- Early Years Improvement team
- School Improvement
- Governor Services
- SEND (Special Educational Needs)Transport
- SEND Education, Health, and Care Plan team
- Inclusion Services
- Music Service
- Virtual School
- Sensory Support
- Inclusion
- Behaviour support service
- Learning support service

The portfolio works closely with the Health and Adult Social Care; Communities Culture and Sport; Parks and the Highways and Transport portfolios to deliver our One Stockport Neighbourhoods and Prevention ambitions notably in relation to :

Finance and Resources:

- Education place planning

Community, Culture and Sport:

- Child poverty and inequalities

The portfolio reflects the following ambitions from our Council Plan: -

- **Ambition 2: Education, work, and skills** – supporting our residents to have access to the best education, skills, and qualifications at all stages of their lives, as well as making sure we support those who most need it to access the work and skills to succeed.
- **Ambition 3: Wellbeing in Neighbourhoods** - our ambition is that every single neighbourhood and community across our borough can access the services that they need to be resilient, healthy, and vibrant.

The portfolio also reflects the following priorities from One Stockport: One Future, the next phase of our Borough Plan:

- **Good Jobs and Homes:** Secure, quality housing for all and access to good jobs underpins good lives. We know Stockport is an attractive place to live and work so the demand for housing is high and housing affordability is a growing challenge
- **The Best Place to Grow Up:** We want all children, in Stockport, to grow up happy, healthy, with confidence, ambition and surrounded by love, care and kindness
- **The Best Health and Care:** There are big changes and challenges facing the health, care and wellbeing of the residents of our borough: our population is changing; inequalities across our borough have impacts on the health of our residents throughout their lives.
- **Thriving Neighbourhoods:** Stockport is a borough full of unique neighbourhoods, where people value a sense of community, feeling safe and having pride in their local area

Measures and targets used within the agreement

Measures are categorised to reflect council responsibility:

- **Council:** These measures are largely under the council's direct control (e.g. Council Tax collection, highway conditions, reablement).
- **Partnership:** These measures are influenced by the council with partners (e.g. youth offending, lifestyle services).
- **Contextual:** These are measures illustrating context but that the council has little or no control over or those without a clear polarity (i.e. where it is not apparent whether higher or lower is better) (e.g. children in care, children on a child protection plan)

In addition, the approach to target-setting takes responsibility into account.

- **Numerical:** Fixed target. Aim is to reach a specific level of performance by the end of the year. Most commonly applied to council-controlled measures.
- **Comparator:** No fixed target. Measure is benchmarked against available comparators and target reviewed during the year as comparator data becomes available. Aim is for performance to match or better comparators.
- **Direction of Travel:** An aspirational target is set to maximise, minimise, or maintain performance. It is important to define which period we are comparing to.
- **No Target (N/A):** No target is set. This applies mainly to contextual measures particularly those without a clear polarity (i.e. where it is not apparent whether higher or lower is better) (e.g. children in care, children on a child protection plan).



CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION – 2. DELIVERY PLAN & PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Priority 1: All babies and children are given the very best start in life by their parents and carers and are ready for school at the end of reception

Children starting school ready to learn is fundamental to supporting good outcomes later in life. Getting it right in the early years presents the best early intervention opportunity. The journey to school readiness starts from pre-birth and continues to the age of five. It is developed through relationships and interactions in the home with parents and family members, in the early learning environment, and in the wider community.

To be 'school ready' means a child enters primary school ready to engage in and benefit from all the learning experiences available, enabling him or her to become a lifelong learner. All children have unique needs and abilities and these need to be embraced on their school readiness journey.

Delivered by:

- We will work with partners and resources available to develop and establish welcoming family hubs as places to access the Start Well offer
- We will ensure families have the information they need when they need it by focusing on digital developments alongside face-to-face support
- We will continue to empower the Start Well workforce to support integrated working and deliver quality services including sufficient early education and childcare
- We will continually improve the Start Well offer by listening to the voice of families and through better use of data and resources, a clearer evaluation of 'what works' to improve outcomes, and the embedding of evidence-based practice
- We will further develop leadership for change to share influence, responsibility and accountability for integrated delivery and early years outcomes
- Aligned to the national three-year delivery plan for maternity and neonatal, we will make maternity and neonatal care safer, more personalised, and more equitable for women, babies, and families.

This priority will be delivered through the Start Well Strategy 2024-27

Performance Measures and Targets:

GMS – Indicator included in the Greater Manchester Strategy Outcomes Dashboard

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
Partnership measures							
CFE.1 and GMS indicator	Percentage of Mothers smoking at delivery (number)	Annually	Low	7.2% (183)	7.7%	5.3% (41) Dec'23	6.5%
A target of 6.5% has been set, taking into consideration data from the last few quarters and the relatively small numbers which means some fluctuation is expected.							
CFE.2	Mothers who are breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks (number)	Annually	High	48.5% (1549)	49.7%	56.6% (414) Dec'23	51.5%
This indicator shows the percentage of infants who are totally or partially breastfed at 6-8 weeks as a proportion of all infants due a 6–8-week review.							
CFE.3	Children within reception year who are recorded as overweight or very overweight	Annually	Low	26% (138)	18.9%	20.9% (685)	20%
CFE.4	Children in reception year classed as underweight, three years combined (number)	Annually	Low	0.6%	0.98%	0.87% (55)	1%
The above indicators measure the percentage of children in reception class recorded as overweight or very overweight or underweight in the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).							
CFE.5	Percentage take up of the 2 Year Childcare Offer	Termly	High	90.5%	91.2%	91.9%	90.0%
This indicator measures the percentage take-up of the two-year childcare offer. Take-up is calculated as the percentage of all eligible children having a place. Currently, Stockport is in the top 10% nationally which we aim to maintain. The rationale for a slight increase in our target to 90% is based on past performance, however this term there may be, some fluctuation because of the introduction of working parents' entitlement for two-year-olds and some parents are eligible for both.							
CFE.8 GMS	Percentage of early years settings rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly	High	95%	98%	97% Sept'23	98%
Stockport is already in the top 10% nationally for this measure. The target is to maintain our performance							

Measures reported by academic year

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target
Partnership measures							
New measure	Percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development at 2 years old	Annually	High			84.6%	86.0%
This measure has been added to the PPRA to enable further monitoring of school readiness. Our target is based on the national average							
New measure	Percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)	Annually	High		80.4%	80.5%	86.0%
New measure	Percentage of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of EYFS	Annually	High		44.3%	47.2%	Maximise
New measure	Percentage of children in need achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of EYFS	Annually	High		52%	52%	Maximise
The above measures have been added to the PPRA to reflect the critical importance of language and communication to school readiness, learning and wellbeing. Our target is to be above the national average and within the top 20% nationally. Baseline data and targets for specific cohorts will be included in the PPRR as soon as confirmed.							

Priority 2: All children and young people can access and engage in education and achieve the best they can

Education is the bedrock of opportunity and the key to tackling inequality. Schools are more than just places of learning; the best schools are embedded in their community, providing support and leadership

Whilst we know that we have many great schools and that children in Stockport achieve well, we also know that there is more we can do. We must work together to ensure all our schools, as part of an integrated community-based response, can provide inclusive and 'poverty proofed' services, which support all children and young people to attend and achieve their potential

Delivered by:

- We will continue to implement our Schools Strategy agreed in September 2023 - to ensure our school system is in the strongest possible position to address the challenges we continue to face.
- We will continue to focus on improving outcomes for children, with a particular focus on improving attendance, especially for the most vulnerable, and improving the attainment of children eligible for free school meals and those with SEND.
- We will help young people benefit from better life chances through improved careers education, information, and guidance, linked to clear learning, work and training pathways
- We will work in partnership with education, post-16 training providers and employers to broaden the range of opportunities across the post-16 skills system – creating pathways into post-16 skills and training from as early as Key Stage 3.
- We will continue to implement our Covid Recovery Strategy with a focus on curriculum, literacy, and enriching experiences. This priority remains key because the impact of lost learning on children and young people was profound and will only be met through long term commitment and focus.

This ambition will be delivered through the Schools Strategy and the Skills Strategy

Performance Measures and Targets:

GMS – Indicator included in the Greater Manchester Strategy Outcomes Dashboard

Educational Attainment – reported by academic year

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target
Partnership measures							
CFE.12(i) GMS	Children attaining the expected standard at Key Stage 2 in Reading	Annually	High		77.3%	75.7%	78.0%
CFE.12(ii) New measure	Key Stage 2 attaining the expected standard at Key Stage 2 in Reading – CIN	Annually	High		54%	49%	Maximise
CFE.12(iii) New measure	Key Stage 2 attaining the expected standard at Key Stage 2 in Reading – FSM	Annually	High		58.1%	58.8%	61%

The above measures show the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in reading at the end of Key Stage 2. Data will be disaggregated by children in need and children eligible for free school meals. These measures have been added to the PPRA to reflect our focus on reading.

Our target is for borough-wide performance is to be above the national average overall and within the top 20% nationally and our target for the free school meal cohort reflects the national average for this group. Targets will not be set for the children in need cohort (in relation to all attainment measures) due to the small size of the cohort which means performance is subject to significant fluctuation and the lack of comparator data

CFE.15	Children achieving 9-5 pass in English and Maths at Key Stage 4	Annually	High		52%	46.8%	56%
CFE.15(iii)	Children achieving 9-5 pass in English and Maths at Key Stage 4 – FSM	Annually	High		28.6%	35.7%	34%
CFE.15(ii) New measure	Children achieving 9-5 pass in English and Maths at Key Stage 4 – CIN	Annually	High		15%	10%	Maximise

The above measures show the percentage of children achieving a 9-5 pass in English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4. As above, data will be disaggregated by children in need and children eligible for free school meals.

CFE.16 GMS	Key Stage 4 Average Attainment 8 score per pupil	Annually	High		50	47	58
CFE.16(ii)	Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 score – CIN	Annually	High		25.1	19.8	Maximise
CFE.16(iii)	Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 score – FSM	Annually	High		38.1	33.6	43

The above measures reflect pupils' attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 across a selected set of 8 subjects, again disaggregated by the identified cohorts.

School Improvement

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
Partnership measures							
CFE.10	Quality of primary school education	Quarterly	High	92%	89.4%	89.4%	90%
CFE.11	Quality of secondary school education	Quarterly	High	52%	60.1%	70.5%	76%

Post 16 Education

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
Partnership measures							
CFE.25	Young people in academic years 12 and 13 (aged 16-18) who are in education, employment, or work-based training	Quarterly	High	97%	96.3%	95.8% (6418)	97%
CFE.28	Young people in academic years 12 and 13 (age 16-18) who are in Apprenticeships	Quarterly	High	5.2%	4.7%	5% (331) Dec'22	5%

Attendance and Inclusion

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
Partnership measures							
CFE.20	Persistent absentees	Annually		11.9%	20.1%	19.1% Dec'23	19%
CFE.20(ii)	Persistent absentees (CIN)	Annually		33.5%	39.5%	41.6% Dec'23	Minimise
CFE.20(iii)	Persistent absentees (FSM)	Annually		27.2%	40.7%	40.3% Dec'23	35%
The above indicators measure the percentage of pupils who miss more than 10% of their sessions across all schools. The direction of travel targets have been set where the cohort is small, and data is consequently subject to significant fluctuation.							
CFE.23(i)	Fixed-term exclusion rate	Annually	Low	4.28%	7.79%	9.86% Dec'23	5%
CFE.23(ii)	Fixed term exclusions – CIN	Annually	Low	25.54%	15.72%	19.34% Dec'23	Minimise
CFE.23(iii)	Fixed term exclusions – FSM	Annually	Low	9.66%	17.75%	25.27% Dec'23	Minimise
A fixed-term exclusion refers to a pupil who is excluded from a school but remains on the register of that school because they are expected to return when the exclusion term is complete. The direction of travel targets have been set where the cohort is small and data is consequently subject to significant fluctuation or, in the case of new measures, where accurate baseline information (including comparative data) is not currently available.							

Priority 3: 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

Since our initial SEND inspection in 2018, we have come a long way and have embedded “SEND as everyone’s business” with a focused transformation plan in place throughout the last 6 years.

We have robust partnership governance that provides assurance that we have clear oversight of the SEND agenda across Stockport, and we have embedded a strategic and operational approach to co-production across the Local Area Partnership which supports joint commissioning and planning of services.

However, as a local area, we recognise that there is still much to do to improve the lives of our children and young people with SEND in Stockport. We need to continue to focus attention on the three highest levels of need: - social emotional, mental health; autism and neurodiversity; and speech language and communication needs. We need to make sure that our refreshed SEND Strategy builds upon the work already done, honestly assesses our strengths and our challenges and includes all the actions we need to take to improve across our SEND Partnership, education, health and care.

Through joint commitment and delivery:

- We will ensure children; young people and their families can access appropriate services at an early stage with a focus on early help and ‘Success at SEN Support’
- We will work in partnership with people with lived experience, carers, and service providers to develop strength-based services which support children, young people, and families to achieve positive outcomes
- We will ensure that health, education, and care are working effectively together and with children, young people, and their families, to agree on shared commissioning priorities and use joint resources to measurably improve outcomes
- We will develop a skilled and adaptable workforce, by enhancing the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of workers through training, education, career advancement, and continuous learning. We will ensure strategies, practices and knowledge are shared with families for both information and adoption at home
- We will assess, measure, and evaluate the quality of services to achieve positive outcomes and continuous improvement, ensuring education, health and care services remain sustainable
- We will continue to monitor and develop our school place sufficiency plans in line with pupil need, reducing our reliance on high-cost external specialist provision

This ambition will be delivered through the SEND Strategy 2024-27

Performance Measures and Targets:							
GMS – Indicator included in the Greater Manchester Strategy Outcomes Dashboard							
PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
Contextual measure							
	Children for whom the LA maintains an EHCP, rate per 1,000 children (number)	Quarterly	Contextual	32.7	35	38.1 (2932)	N/A
Partnership measures							
CFE.63	Percentage of EHCP issued within 20 weeks	Quarterly	High	46.8%	13%	8.4% (117)	63%
New measure	Percentage of SEND children achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the EYFS (SEN Support)	Annually	High	23.9%	24.9%	TBC	Maximise
New measure	Children attaining the expected standard at Key Stage 2 in Reading – SEN Support	Annually	High		45.5%	47.9%	46.0%
CFE.15(i)	Children achieving 9-5 pass in English and Maths at Key Stage 4 – SEN Support	Annually	High	25.8%	20.6%	TBC	25%
CFE.16(i)	Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 score – SEN Support	Annually	High	36.6	35.1	TBC	Maximise
CFE.20(i)	Persistent absentees (SEN Support)	Annually	Low	21.3%	32.5%	31.4% Dec'23	Minimise
CFE.23(i)	Fixed-term exclusions (SEN Support)	Annually	Low	12.06%	19.26%	27.83% Dec'23	Minimise
<p>An additional new measure on the Timeliness of the EHCP Annual review will be reported at quarter 2. Baseline data is currently being developed.</p>							

Priority 4: All children, young people and families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer

An effective early help offer is essential to improving children, young people and families' resilience and outcomes. Our early help model is underpinned by a 'whole system' and 'whole family' approach, including a coordinated approach to risk assessment, case management and service delivery involving all partners, universal and targeted services, communities, and families.

We are committed to embedding 'early help' in service delivery, therefore this priority cuts across all the priorities set out in this Portfolio Performance and Resource Agreement and it is also delivered through One Stockport Neighbourhood and Prevention work programmes.

This priority will be delivered by:

- We will support Stockport's approach to ensuring all children, young people and families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer through the One Stockport Neighbourhood and Prevention work programmes:
- We will continue to develop and embed family hub networks across the borough to further improve access to services, better connection and strengthen relationships with families
- We will develop a virtual hub to enhance our early help offer and improve access to services to families when they seek support, advice, and signposting.
- We will measure the effectiveness of our early help offer to ensure we understand the impact of interventions for families and children, including why families enter Early Help services and our strengths in meeting needs whilst continuing to identify areas for improvement.
- We will strengthen the processes we have to capture family feedback across early help services and use this to improve service delivery.
- We will ensure that we have a skilled, confident, and ambitious multi-agency workforce underpinned by clear theoretical foundations and child development and skilled in using evidence-based tools including identifying early signs of neglect.
- We will use our resources in the most effective way to continue delivering a proportionate early help offer for all children, young people, and families at the earliest opportunity.
- We will further develop community and school-based support focussed on wellbeing, school attendance and early help support to children with special educational needs and disability.
- We will ensure families are 'waiting well' with the right early help offered by a known and trusted lead professional when waiting for a diagnosis.

This priority will be delivered through the Early Help Strategy 2024-27

Performance Measures and Targets:

GMS – Indicator included in the Greater Manchester Strategy Outcomes Dashboard

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	202/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
Partnership measures							
New measure	Family Early Help Assessments completed within 45 working days	Quarterly	High			69.1% (889)	80%
New measure	Percentage of Early Help Episodes closed in period with a successful outcome	Quarterly	High	78.3%	77.3%	76% (247)	Maximise
New measure	Re-referrals to Early Help within 12 months of a previous episode	Quarterly	Low		13%	10% (63)	Minimise
New measure	Percentage of Early Help episodes closed in period stepped up to Children's Social Care	Quarterly	Low	14.3%	14.7%	13.4% (78)	Minimise

The above measures aim to provide a more accurate indication of outcomes in relation to Early Help.

Priority 5: All children, young people and families enjoy good physical and emotional health and wellbeing and can access coordinated robust and timely support pathways based on need

The foundations of good physical health and mental wellbeing are developed in the earliest years from antenatal onwards. The consequences of untreated physical and emotional health issues are lifelong and have huge health and socio-economic impacts within society. Emotional and mental health disorders in childhood, for example, have high levels of persistence and continuity through adolescence and sometimes into adult life.

We need to focus on tackling growing issues of childhood obesity and mental wellbeing to prevent long-term conditions and disadvantages that lead to health inequalities in later life, as well as the effective management of long-term conditions in children and young people.

Working through the ambitions of the One Stockport Neighbourhoods and Prevention programme, we will further develop integrated working informed by data and local intelligence and we will improve our allocation of resources to local needs to support a more inclusive offer.

Delivered by:

- We will support schools and services for children and young people to maximise their preventive potential, including anti-bullying programmes in all schools and colleges such as through campaigns and awareness as well as through the Whole School Approach
- We will develop and deliver Youth Connect 5 training across the public sector, Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCSFE) sector and communities.
- We will develop the digital offer for children and young people based on the iThrive model, including self-help resources and signposting to advice and information, getting help, getting more help, and risk support.
- We will work alongside Greater Manchester colleagues to develop and deliver health and wellbeing priorities as part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Strategy - with a focus on: - maternal health and wellbeing and the early years; health and wellbeing in school-age children; long term physical conditions; mental ill health; and vulnerability, risk, and complex care.

This priority will be delivered through the All-Age Mental Health Strategy and the One Health and Care Plan

Performance Measures and Targets:

GMS – Indicator included in the Greater Manchester Strategy Outcomes Dashboard

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
Partnership measures							
CFE.31	Conceptions to women aged under 18 rate per 1,000 (conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 17)	Quarterly	Low	11 Dec'21	Not yet available	Not yet available	13.0
CFE.33	Percentage of children within Year 6 who are recorded as overweight or very overweight	Annually	Low	35.9%	34.2% (1140)	Not yet available	35%
CFE.34	Percentage of children within Year 6 who are recorded as underweight (3 year combined)	Annually	Low	1.23%	1.15% (75)	Not yet available	0.7%
CFE.35	Alcohol-related hospital admissions, rate per 1,000 under 18-year-olds	Quarterly	Low	0.03	0.04	0.01 (Dec'23)	0.4
CFE.36	Hospital admissions because of unintentional or deliberate injury, rate per 1,000 0–17-year-olds	Quarterly	Low	11.2	9.6	6.3 Dec'23	10
CFE.37	Hospital admissions because of self-harm (0–17-year-olds) per 1,000	Quarterly	Low	3.1	1.8	0.6 Dec'23	1.4

Priority 6: Children and young people live safely and happily within their families, and where this is not possible, they are supported to have stable loving homes and achieve positive outcomes wherever they live

The best place for children to grow up is in stable, loving homes with their families wherever it is safe to do so, and we are committed to a family first culture that puts families at the heart of decision-making. We will work with partners to support children and young people to keep themselves safe and to intervene and protect if necessary to make Stockport as safe as possible for our children and young people.

Our children in care and care leavers are amongst the most vulnerable children and young people in the community. As corporate parents, it is our responsibility to ensure that our children are safe, happy, and provided with the best possible care and support, in placements that are in, or as close as possible to Stockport, when this is in their best interests, and therefore given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Delivered by:

- We will ensure we have the right workforce and skills to meet the needs of our children and families.
- We will pilot a collaboration between Stockport Families First and New Beginnings to test out a new approach to reunification to families, and prevention of entry into care for older children.
- We will expand our family group conferencing service so that we can support families to create their own plans of support to meet their needs and keep children safe.
- We will continue to develop our support services for connected family and friend carers
- We will work to increase the number of foster carers and homes available in the Stockport area working with colleagues across the council and in Greater Manchester
- We will also reduce the number of moves children make and improve our placement stability.
- We will support all children in our care to have a positive experience of going to school and support those leaving care to have continued success in education, training, and employment
- We will develop and implement our annual Youth Justice Plan and Targeted Youth Support
- We will implement the Adolescent Safeguarding Framework and develop further our adolescent offer to young people.

This priority will be delivered by the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-27 and the Youth Justice Plan

Performance Measures and Targets:

GMS – Indicator included in the Greater Manchester Strategy Outcomes Dashboard

Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
CFE.42	Custodial sentences (10–17-year-olds) per 1,000 (number)	Quarterly	Low	0.07	0.21	0.07 (Dec '23)	0.23
New measure	Young people open to YJS aged 10-17 years who are ethnically diverse (disproportionality)	Quarterly	Contextual		17.2	18.3 (Dec'23)	N/A

Youth Justice key performance indicators 'first time entrants to youth justice system (age 10 - 17) rate per 100,000', 're-offenders (10–17-year-olds)' and rate of 'use of custody' continue to be reported nationally but there are now a further 10 KPIs, which data is being submitted against, and they will be reported on through the YJB from March 2025. Please note there is a one-quarter lag for this data. In addition, a new measure has been added to the PPRR to reflect ethnic diversity within Youth Justice in comparison to the Stockport population (10–17-year-olds) Baseline data will be included in the PPRR as soon as confirmed.

Children's Social Care

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
New measure	Children Social Care repeat referrals – children with a previous referral within 12 months of their latest referral	Quarterly	Low	18%	21%	19%	22%
New measure	Child Protection Plans starting in the period who have been subject to a previous plan (ever)	Quarterly	Low	30%	20%	20%	Minimise
New measure	At the end of involvement with Aspire: - Number (percentage) of young people: - (i) in stable accommodation (ii) have formed a trusted relationship (iii) re-engaged in education (iv) missing episodes have reduced	Quarterly	High		(i)50% (ii)100% (iii)100% (iv)0%	(a)100% (7) (ii)85.7%(6) (iii)57.1% (4) (iv)100% (5)	Maximise

The above measures aim to provide a stronger indication of outcomes. Contextual information about demand in children's social care will be included in the PPRR narrative.

New measure	Missing episode in period, percentage of return home interviews offered within 72 hours (of those offered)	Quarterly	High	80.8%	84.1%	92.9% (312)	80%
New measure	Missing episodes in period, percentage of Return Home interviews accepted (of those offered)	Quarterly	High	67.2%	70.8%	63.4% (213)	65%

The above outcome measures replace the previously reported contextual measures 'number of children missing from care' and 'number of children missing from home'. They have been introduced to provide a stronger indication of performance in this area. Trends relating to the number of children missing from care / home will be reported in the PPRR narrative.

Looked after Children and Care Leavers

PI Code	PI Name	Reported	Good Performance	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target
CFE.58	% Looked after Children with 3 or more placements in 12 months	Annually	Low		15.2%	15.1% (73)	Minimise
CFE.59	% Looked after Children in the same placement for at least 2 years	Annually	High		75.2%	65.8% (121)	Maximise
New measure	Percentage of children placed in foster care			72%	72.5%	70% (354)	N/A
New measure	Percentage of children in own provision			67.6%	66%	64.2% (325)	N/A
New measure	Percentage of children placed with parents			6.5%	7.7%	7.3% (37)	N/A

The above measures have been added to the PPRA to provide an indication of performance in relation to placement stability for looked after children. Baseline data and targets (where appropriate) will be included in the PPRR as soon as confirmed. Trends relating to the number of looked after children in Stockport, including out of area placements will be included in the PPRR narrative.

CFE.30	Emotional Health of Looked After Children (SDQ score)	Annual	Low	14.2	14.9	Data not yet available	13.0
CFE.54	Number of care leavers (19-21) the local authority remains in touch with	Quarterly	High	100%	96.5%	97.3% (143)	95%
CFE.53	Number of care leavers (19-21) in suitable accommodation	Quarterly	High	95.6%	94.8%	95.9% (140)	95%
CFE.55	Number of care leavers (19-20) 'staying put'	Quarterly	High	23	44	44% (15)	Maximise
CFE.29	Care leavers (19-20) in education, training, and employment	Quarterly	High	55.7%	55.6%	53.7% (79)	70%



CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

3. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING

3.1 Resources

The resources available to the portfolio for 2024/25 include Cash Limit budget and Approved Use of Reserves. These funding sources are described in further detail in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of this report.

Cash limits are approved before the beginning of the financial year and each portfolio is responsible for ensuring that their net expenditure does not exceed their cash limit for that year. Changes made to the cash limit are reported during the financial year, usually in the performance and resources reports.

3.2 Revenue Budget

The table below shows the revenue cash limit budget, which is £62.052m for this portfolio as at budget setting. The total expenditure is greater than the cash limit budget (Grand Total), this is because some of the expenditure is funded by income including ringfenced grants, sales, fees, charges, and reserves.

		Employee Expenditure	Non- Employee Expenditure	Income	Grand Total	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	
Children	Adoption Counts	3,716	1,029	(4,636)	109	
	Children with a Disability	575	2,398	0	2,973	
	Children's Centres	43	119	(23)	139	
	Children's Mental Health	137	269	0	406	
	Children's Public Health	25	6,015	(820)	5,220	
	Early Help Offer	4,002	(500)	(2,665)	838	
	External Placements	0	13,502	0	13,502	
	Internal Residential (Stockport Families First)	1,778	390	0	2,169	
	Leaving Care Services	1,220	1,101	0	2,322	
	Management and Other Services	658	451	(626)	483	
	Safeguarding & Workforce Development	1,480	51	(222)	1,309	
	Social Worker Teams	7,465	645	(100)	8,010	
	Stockport Families First	784	250	0	1,034	
	Stockport Fostering and Adoption	2,067	11,590	(30)	13,626	
	Transformation	253	50	0	303	
	Education	Young People's Education Careers & Advice	942	76	(68)	950
		Youth Offending Service	1,022	386	(848)	559
Total		26,166	37,823	(10,037)	53,952	
14 to 19 Services		394	30	0	424	
DSG Recharges		0	0	(2,681)	(2,681)	
	Education Psychologists	824	20	(230)	614	
	Home to School Transport	0	554	(60)	494	
	Other Services	1,218	67	(15)	1,270	

Portfolio Performance and Resources - Agreement 2024/25

	School Improvement	2,105	536	(2,853)	(212)
	SEN Central Support Staff	1,292	31	0	1,323
	SEN Transport	0	6,580	(80)	6,500
	SEND Inspection MTFP	368	0	0	368
	Total	6,201	7,818	(5,920)	8,100
	Portfolio Total	32,367	45,642	(15,957)	62,052

The table below shows the adjustments to the revenue cash limit budget for this portfolio since Quarter 4 2023/24. The indicative adjustments and savings were all agreed as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process.

	Childrens £000	Education £000	EC&F £000
2023/24 Budget at Q4	49,404	6,471	55,875
Reversal of Temporary Budget (applied Q3 and Q4)	(1,592)	(223)	(1,815)
2023/24 Recurrent Budget at Q4	47,812	6,248	54,060
Indicative Adjustment:			
Price Inflation	2,112		2,112
Demand including funded evidence based interventions	4,440	1,969	6,409
New Children's Home Adjustment	(412)		(412)
Lisburne School Adjustment		(117)	(117)
Total Indicative Adjustment:	6,140	1,852	7,992
Applying Budget Choices, Savings:			
Demand	0	0	0
Radically Digital	0	0	0
Robust Corporate Governance	0	0	0
Value for Money	0	0	0
Total Savings	0	0	0
2024/25 Budget	53,952	8,100	62,052

3.3 2024/25 Financial Overview

There are continued national pressures being felt within this portfolio which are addressed through additional budget for demand and evidence based interventions which seek to have a positive impact on demand and the cost of demand e.g. additional internal children's homes, Family Group Conferencing, and for teams to work with children and young people on the edge of care, to prevent the need to accommodate and in high cost residential placements to prepare them for a step down to lower cost appropriate placements.

Key areas of pressures, addressed in the budget:

- Special Educational Needs (SEND) Transport
 - Increased demand for transport as more children require specialist SEN pupil support.
 - The service continues to review all available options to ensure all routes have maximised pupil occupancy levels and all contracts are provided on a best value basis in line with the key operating principles
- Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
 - Continued increase in demand for assessments.
- Education Psychology (EP) Services
 - Linked to the increase in EHCP as they often require EP input. Additional capacity is being sought
- Placements for Children Looked After (CLA)
 - Increasing demand and increasing costs of placement. Evidence based interventions seek to have a positive impact.
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)
 - The introduction of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for UASC which came into effect in July 2021 continues to place pressure on both placement budgets and demands of the Social Care and Leaving care staffing teams.
- Leaving Care
 - The Care Leaver population continues to increase in line with the increases seen in the CLA population over recent years adding pressure to the budgets for the payments of care leaver entitlements. Colleagues in Services to Children and Services to Place along with Stockport Homes continue to review the situation and develop proposals to address the issues.
- Joint Funding with Health
 - There has been significant progress in this area during 2023/24 with the development of a Multi Agency Complex Need panel for the commissioning and joint funding of packages between Education, Health, and Care

3.4 Earmarked Reserves

Most earmarked reserves are held at a corporate level and services produce a business case to draw down funds, which is approved through Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet 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 ring fenced reserves and the Directorate Flexibility Reserve.

The reserve commitments reflected in the table below are before any balances which may become uncommitted following the council's next Reserves Policy update being taken to Corporate Resource Management and Governance Scrutiny Committee (CRMG) on the 3rd of September 2024.

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Balance of Reserve £000
Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve	FGC Co-ordinator	23
Corporate Reserves	SEND MTFP	SEND WSoA	325
Corporate Reserves	Legislative and Statutory Requirements Reserve	Funding remaining for serious case reviews -	79
Corporate Reserves	Third Party Monies Reserve	NW Partnership monies	156
Corporate Reserves	Revenue Grant Reserve	ASC SW Development Grant	28
Corporate Reserves	Revenue Grant Reserve	CYP SW Development Grant	19
Corporate Reserves	Revenue Grant Reserve	CYP ASYE Grant	10
Corporate Reserves	Third Party Monies Reserve	LSCB, Local Safeguarding Children's Board	103
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	Foster carer support	100
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Targeted Youth Support 22/23	39
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	WD Staff (Formerly PIP)	47
Reserve Linked to Budget	Transformation - Invest to Save Reserve	GM House Project	68
Budget Resilience Reserve	Children's Reserve	PIP	37
Reserve Linked to Budget	Children's Reserve	Family Drug and Alcohol - programme support	20

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Balance of Reserve £000
Reserve Linked to Budget	Transformation – Double Running Reserve	Phased Savings	198
	Total		1,252

3.5 Portfolio Savings Programme

There are no savings aligned to this portfolio for 2024/25. The recovery plan and funded interventions look to address demand and the cost of demand. The Children and Young People directorate are undertaking significant work to address risks and pressures. The Recovery Plan supports the MTFP to ensure costs are contained with the budget available.

3.6 Capital Programme

There is currently no capital programme for this portfolio across 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.

3.7 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is made up of four blocks (Schools, early years, high needs, and central school services) and the initial 2024/25 DSG allocation is c.£314m. The schools delegated budgets are considered spent at the point of delegation as individual school budgets are managed at school level with the governing body.

The remaining budgetary resources are the Centrally Held Budget (CHB) 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 £105.674m comprising the early years block (£36.640m), high needs block (£61.895m), de-delegated funding for services to LA maintained schools (£3.404m), Central Reserve (£1.311m), School Improvement (£0.353m) and Central School Services (£2.071m).

The 2024/25 base budget set by the LA has a £12.438m deficit. This will be added to the cumulative £23.816m deficit budget carried-forward as of 31 March 2024 and be managed as part of the ongoing review and workstreams linked to delivering a long-term sustainable budget position aligned to our “Delivering better Value” program workstreams.

GLOSSARY

Common acronyms used within the PPRA and likely to be referred to in the portfolio reports during the year include the following.

AP	Alternative Provision
APS	Average Point Score
CBT	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
CFE	Children, Family Services and Education
CHB	Centrally Held Budget
CIN	Children in Need
CLA	Child looked after
COMF	Contain Outbreak Management Fund
CPS	Corporate Parenting Strategy
DBV	Delivering Better Value
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
EBacc	English Baccalaureate
EDS	Ethnic Diversity Service
EHA	Early Help Assessments
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
EHS	Early Help Strategy
EYE	Early Years Entitlement
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
EYY	Early Years Provision
FDAC	Family Drug and Alcohol Court
FSM	Free School Meals
GLoD	Good Level of Development
GM	Greater Manchester
GMEYDM	Greater Manchester Early Years Delivery Model
GMS	Greater Manchester Strategy
ICS	Integrated Care Systems
JRE	Justice and Rehabilitation Executive
KCW	Knife Crime Awareness
KS1	Key Stage 1
KS2	Key Stage 2
LA	Local Authority
MASSH	Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding service
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NWDM	No Wrong Door Model
NTS	National Transfer Scheme
NYG	National Youth Guarantee
PI	Performance Indicator
PPRR	Portfolio Performance and Resource Reports
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
SFF	Stockport Families First
SGO	Special Guardianship Orders
SMHST	Stockport Mental Health Support Team
SWSRS	Start Well and School Readiness Strategy
TAS	Team around the School
TAEY	Team Around the Early Years
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

WSoA
YOS
YFI

Written Statement of Action
Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support
Youth Investment Fund