



Essex County Council

People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

09:30	Wednesday, 14 February 2024	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

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3	Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. Please note that members of the public wishing to ask a question must email democratic.services@essex.gov.uk by noon on Tuesday 13 February and that questions must relate to an item on the agenda for the meeting.	
4	SEND Sufficiency Briefing	10 - 14
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8	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 March 2024, in Committee Room 1, County Hall.	
9	Urgent Business To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.	

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

10	Urgent Exempt Business To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.
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Agenda item 1

Committee: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Cllr Ray Gooding	Chairman
Cllr Marie Goldman	
Cllr Ian Grundy	
Cllr Carlo Guglielmi	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Eddie Johnson	
Cllr Daniel Land	
Cllr Sue Lissimore	
Cllr June Lumley	
Cllr Peter May	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Aidan McGurran	
Cllr Ross Playle	
Cllr Mick Skeels	
Cllr Wendy Stamp	
Cllr Mike Steel	

Co-opted educational representative members may advise and vote on all matters relating to children's services in schools. Two places are available for church Diocesan representatives. Two further places are available for parent governors at maintained schools in Essex (one primary and one secondary school). All places are vacant but a new nomination for a church Diocesan representative has now been received.

Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 9.30am on Thursday, 11 January 2024 in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford.

Present:

Cllr Ray Gooding (Chairman)
Cllr Marie Goldman
Cllr Carlo Guglielmi (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Daniel Land
Cllr Sue Lissimore
Cllr Peter May (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Aidan McGurran
Cllr Ross Playle
Cllr Michael Skeels
Cllr Wendy Stamp
Cllr Mike Steel

In virtual attendance via Zoom:

Cllr Eddie Johnson
Cllr June Lumley

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer and Sharon Westfield de Cortez were also present throughout the meeting.

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report on Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations was received and noted.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Eddie Johnson and Cllr June Lumley who both joined via Zoom instead.

Cllr Sue Lissimore advised that her daughter worked for Essex Cares Limited as a carer.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 December 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Questions from the public

There were none.

4 Adult Social Care (ASC) Priority Area of Focus – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Committee considered report PAF/01/24. The following attended the meeting to introduce the item and respond to questions:

- Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration
- Nick Presmeg, Executive Director, Adult Social Care
- Moira McGrath, Director, Commissioning (ASC)
- Phil Chiz, Team Manager ASC
- Jonathan Gatefield, Training and Testing Manager

The following additional officers were also present throughout the item and in a few instances supplemented responses given by presenting officers:

- Alison Ansell, Director of ASC
- Annelise Barns, Service Manager ASC
- Ruth Harrington, Director of Adult Social Care, Adults with Disabilities
- Stephen Hurry, System Development Lead

As part of introducing the update, the following was highlighted:

- An overview of the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) was outlined and the associated statutory responsibilities. Examples were given of people having differential use of services and the importance of ensuring accessibility for all and that no cohorts were disadvantaged.
- An action plan was in place focusing on a number of dimensions in terms of how people were identified, how they were assessed and reviewed and how statutory responsibilities were delivered.
- Partnership work was undertaken with the NHS, district/borough councils and the voluntary sector around data insight and lived experiences to ensure the diversity of the population was supported.
- Four ASC Quests which looked at staff experience linked to their protected characteristics under the Equality Act were outlined.
- The Race Quest had included looking at language and culture, using more diverse interview panels, organising key celebrations at ECC such as Black History Month and updating Mosaic to capture more ethnicity options linked to National Census data.
- The Disability Quest had included auditing the levels of accessibility in all buildings, technology improvements and looking into policies including 'Access to Work'.
- The LGBTQIA+ Quest had undertaken interviews and surveys to hear of people's experiences, and presented findings to senior leadership Teams, and helped promote and support Pride profile and events.
- Similarly, the Age Quest had organised live events and presenting Quest findings to the senior leadership teams.

- A further quest focusing on mental health was scheduled for 2024.
- Common themes identified across all Quests included looking at policies to ensure that they addressed what was set out to achieve, language and culture in ASC, education and training, recruitment, retention and progression in the workforce.
- Quest volunteers were involved in other work such as collaborating with the Employee Networks, delivering Learn Fest sessions at ECC, working with the Essex Social Care Academy and helping out with a number of events. A Quest Network had been established.
- It was expected that the ASC work on EDI would be further reflected in ECC's organisation wide workforce strategy.

Following the presentation, the following was highlighted, raised and/or noted:

- (i) Senior leaderships teams had responded positively to the respective Quest findings. An action plan was in place to track progress on actions being taken.
- (ii) People with learning disabilities were more likely to wait longer for a review of their care and as a result the service had been doing targeted work to identify and reduce some of that difference. It was stressed that nobody was waiting to receive care support and needs were being met.
- (iii) The learning disabilities population could be less adept at identifying their health symptoms. ASC and health service partners were working to minimise the differential between the life expectancy of somebody with learning disabilities and other parts of the population.
- (iv) It was noted in the report that people of South Asian origin were more likely to develop diabetes. It was clarified that this was referring to type 2 diabetes.
- (v) Operating a zero-tolerance policy was challenging when staff were receiving abuse from those they were caring for. The service had to continue to deliver care for people, so each circumstance was looked into on an individual basis within a multidisciplinary and risk enabled approach to review how the care was to be delivered whilst also safeguarding staff. This was outlined on the website in the service offer.
- (vi) Opportunities for participation in the Quest work was the same for staff both in office settings and frontline workers.
- (vii) It had been identified that more work needed to be taken in encouraging more prevention and early intervention. Examples of this were supporting people with disabilities and mental health to access regular physical health checks and specific preventative care and early stage work with people with dementia.

- (viii) Security was strong around the Mosaic records system and training was included as part of the induction process. Everyone who had access signed a non-disclosure agreement and the system could only be used on ECC laptops. If a laptop was lost or stolen the link to Mosaic could be disconnected. There were strict guidelines on what could be shared with partners.
- (ix) During the Quests people had shared personal stories and their journeys but there were also still some challenging views expressed and it was surprising how much more there was still to do in terms of zero discrimination and challenging those views and behaviours.
- (x) There was now an improved gender balance at the most senior levels of ECC but sometimes people from certain backgrounds still did not put themselves forward for situations for which they were capable. It was important for people to believe whatever their background and gender that they could all progress and develop further.
- (xi) Training for managers, culture of inclusivity and HR policies and recruitment and retention were consistent themes identified across all Quests and were being pursued as individual recommendations for change and improvement.
- (xii) The pandemic had had a particularly detrimental effect on some people with protected characteristics. One particular area of concern was the effect it had on the working environment for people with disabilities and their accessibility requirements where, for example, it was wrongly assumed that everybody could work on Teams and work at home.
- (xiii) Members encouraged monitoring staff interviewing techniques to see how they could be further improved. The workforce in ASC had changed over the last decade and over 20% of the workforce would now identify as being from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- (xiv) It was important to learn from other local authorities and to have the ambition to do more. Essex historically had not had the diversity of other councils and so methods had to be learnt to understand the Essex population better. The CQC would be looking for evidence of change and impact.
- (xv) Members were assured that funding for Dementia services was not being cut in Essex. There was a range of training available for those in the workforce supporting people with Dementia and it covered the whole age spectrum and the service was looking into further increasing training. Use of grant funding would also help to further resource these services.
- (xvi) In terms of the budget, there was an increasingly ageing population with more complex needs and with older people more likely to have multiple

conditions. In addition, more people with complex disabilities were living longer. It was important to ensure the quality and quantity of care for the ageing population was sustained at costs that could be afforded.

Conclusion

- (i) PAF members were invited to indicate if they wished to attend a briefing being arranged by Councillor Spence and officers to reflect on feedback from recent CQC inspections (including the most recent one at Suffolk).
- (ii) There should be clear identification and explanation of Jewish by race as well as religion, as a protected characteristic, in documentation and recording on Mosaic and any other appropriate systems.
- (iii) In terms of the zero-tolerance policy, to consider further explanatory wording on the risk-based approach taken when applying the zero-tolerance policy to ensure safeguarding both the service user and support staff.
- (iv) Members would consider further their conclusions on the five discussions on the ASC Priority Performance Areas and respond formally to the Cabinet Member.

5 Work Programme

The Committee considered and discussed report PAF/02/24 comprising the work programme for the Committee.

6 Matters Arising

The Committee considered and discussed report PAF/03/24 comprising outstanding matters arising from previous meetings.

7 Proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2024-25

The Committee considered and agreed report PAF/04/24 comprising future meeting dates for the Committee.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 14 February 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.28am.

Chairman

Report title: SEND Sufficiency Briefing Paper	
Report to: People and Families Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Cllr Tony Ball – Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability	
Date: 14 th February 2024	For: Information and Discussion
Enquiries to: Clare Kershaw – Director, Education & Ralph Holloway – Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation ralph.holloway@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

Purpose

- To brief the Committee on current volume and capacity in the SEN system in Essex.
- To engage the Committee on the sufficiency plan (appendix 1).

Introduction

This SEND Sufficiency Plan sets out how Essex County Council, and our partners, intends to ensure that there is sufficient high-quality specialist provision in both mainstream and special school settings, to meet the future needs of children and young people with SEND in Essex.

There has never been a greater need for a SEND sufficiency plan for Essex. The SEND population has grown significantly since the 2014 SEND reforms, with the greatest growth taking place in the statutory EHCP category. Despite an ambitious SEND capital programme, and investment in inclusive practices, the number of children and young people requiring a special school place has outgrown the capacity of the provisions in Essex.

This has resulted in a greater number of children and young people with higher needs being in mainstream schools, and more parents using the appeal process to seek a place at an Essex special school. There has also been a sharp rise in the number of children and young people placed in independent special schools which has placed a strain on SEND funding via the High Needs Block.

Context

There are 222,423 pupils attending Essex schools; 37,527 have been identified with SEND. In Essex there are 24,862 children and young people who receive SEN Support and 12,665 with an EHCP (as of November 2023). Some of the 12,665 children and young people with an EHCP for whom Essex is responsible attend school outside of the county because they are looked after and placed in another authority; there are also 266

SEND Sufficiency Briefing Paper

Essex resident children and young people with an EHCP who attend a school in a bordering LA as it is the closest appropriate school to their home address.

The number of children and young people with an EHCP has risen every year since the implementation of the SEND reforms. The table below shows the number of children and young people with an EHCP from 2016 to 2023.

2016	7550
2017	8057
2018	8536
2019	9183
2020	9768
2021	10,824
2022	11,275
2023	12,193

The increase in children and young people with an EHCP in Essex has been one factor in the steady rise in the growth in numbers in Essex's special schools. The below tables show the number of children and young people attending special schools in each quadrant of Essex, over time:

	2015	2019	2023	% increase
Mid	690	774	908	32%
North-East	577	814	1105	91%
South	795	1015	1143	44%
West	231	324	342	48%
Total	2293	2927	3498	53%

Despite an ambitious SEND capital programme, the number of children and young people requiring a special school place has outgrown the capacity of the provisions in Essex. The SEND Capital Programme has delivered expansions at eight Essex special schools and created new facilities for residential provision at two schools.

As well as investment from ECC and the Essex Schools Forum, the County Council was able to successfully develop plans for four new special schools via the Department for Education's free school route. Three of these schools (Chatten, Greenwell and Hawthorns) are now fully or partially open.

Essex County Council undertook capacity assessments of our special schools in 2021 and from 2023 has made an annual return to the Department for Education setting out the relationship between capacity and numbers in our special schools. It is clear that the current capacity and approach cannot support the growing SEND population in future years.

One consequence of the pressures on special school capacity has been a continued growth in the number of children and young people who are placed in independent special schools on 38-week day placements. Whilst we see independent special schools as important partners, we must also recognise that they are likely to cost significantly more per pupil place, which reduces the amount of money we have available to invest in our own mainstream and special schools (a breakdown of placements and spend is set out in appendix 2).

SEND Sufficiency Briefing Paper

There have been similar increases in the number of placements made with alternative provisions whilst longer-term specialist provision is identified. The lack of available capacity within special schools is contributory factor in a rise in appeals to the SEND Tribunal. Families seeking a special school place where there is no capacity are left with little choice other than waiting for one to become available, maintaining a place within a mainstream school and/or appealing to the SEND tribunal; the SEND tribunal in all likelihood will result in a direction to admit regardless of the capacity pressures. This process is placing overwhelming stress on the system and, most importantly, children, young people and their families.

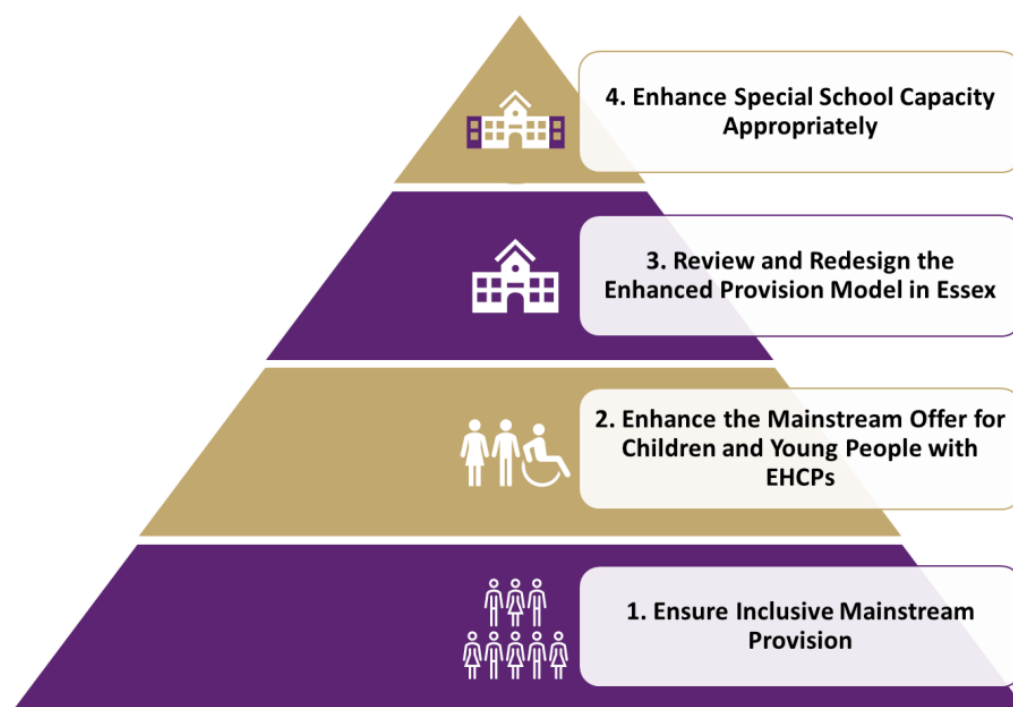
Forecast

In 2021 a five-year SEND forecasting model was developed, which has been reviewed and refreshed each year. The process has been tested and has proven to have a high level of accuracy. The 2023 refresh information is detailed in the table below:

		South	MID	NORTH	WEST	Totals
Actual	2023	3550	3094	2613	2168	11425
Forecast	2024	3711	3234	2731	2266	11943
Forecast	2025	3807	3318	2802	2325	12251
Forecast	2026	3871	3374	2849	2364	12459
Forecast	2027	3932	3427	2894	2402	12656
Forecast	2028	3982	3471	2931	2432	12816

Intentions

To better meet the forecast needs of children and young people with SEND in Essex, we have four key intentions:



A high-level delivery plan for each of the intentions is set out in appendix 1.

Enablers

To enable the above, we will need to review and improve the opportunities to work together as a system:

- Develop processes for health partners to share with ECC where a child is very likely to require specialist education provision at the earliest stage.
- Review the impact on special schools of Social Care thresholds and wider system capacity gaps.
- Develop an effective model of outreach/ in-reach between sectors.
- Through the Balanced System, ensure appropriate and effective therapy provision across universal, targeted and specialist tiers.
- Develop approaches to transition children back to mainstream provision when appropriate. This will mean working closely with parents to ensure that they are confident that their child/ young person can successfully transition.
- Explore all potential opportunities to access additional funding for SEND provision and use the developers guide to set out our ambitions.
- Work with our special schools to consider the range of need that each of them meets and explore how we support more children and young people with moderate needs in mainstream schools.
- Reviewing appropriate routes for returning children to in-county provision.

Financial landscape

The intentions set out in this plan are in the context of a challenging financial landscape – both in terms of revenue funding (the mid to long-term sustainability of the High Needs Block) and capital funding (the funding available to develop new provision). With this in mind, it is recognised that to deliver the full extent of our ambitions will need innovation and new ways of working, rather than just relying on financial investment:

- Further exploration of the funding mechanisms which have enabled the 2015 SEND and PRU capital programmes to be delivered – a combination of ECC and Schools Forum investment.
- Making the best use of any future DfE special free school opportunities. This will mean being clear about what and where our priorities for growth lie, with a strong evidence base to support any applications.

SEND Sufficiency Briefing Paper

- Maximising the opportunities for growth and investment delivered through developed contributions (section 106 funding). This will need a more strategic approach set out in the Developers Guide.
- Exploring where savings against current spend (for example, high-cost independent placements) can be invested into Essex schools and settings to enable new provision to be developed.

Next steps

The first step in our delivery plan is engagement. We are engaging with all partners and stakeholders on whether the four intentions of our SEND Sufficiency Plan are the right intentions for the Essex SEND system. To support all SEND Sufficiency Plan intentions, we will:

1. Consult on the SEND Sufficiency Plan Statement of Intent.
2. Develop a cohesive SEND workforce development offer.
3. Develop a Strategic Business Case to allocate sufficient funding and ensure appropriate governance.
4. Develop a SEND Capital Programme to deliver parts of ambition 4 – enhancing special school capacity.

Essex SEND Sufficiency Plan

For engagement

Autumn 2023



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1. Introduction

This SEND Sufficiency Plan sets out how Essex County Council and our partners, intend to ensure that there is sufficient high-quality specialist provision, in both mainstream and special school settings, to meet the future needs of children and young people with SEND in Essex.

There has never been a greater need for a SEND sufficiency plan for Essex. The SEND population has grown significantly since the 2014 SEND reforms, with the greatest growth taking place in the statutory EHCP category. Despite an ambitious SEND capital programme, and investment in inclusive practices, the number of children and young people requiring a special school place has outgrown the capacity of the provisions in Essex. This has resulted in a greater number of children and young people with higher needs being in mainstream schools and more parents using the appeal process to seek a place at an Essex special school. There has also been a sharp rise in the number of children and young people placed in independent special schools which has placed a strain on SEND funding via the High Needs Block.

2. Current SEND landscape in Essex

Number and type of schools in Essex

The below table lists the number of provisions in Essex by type:

Provision Type	Number of Provisions
Primary Including nurse, infants, junior and primary	447
All-through	2
Secondary Phase	79
Special	22
Total Number of Schools	550
Enhanced Provisions Are attached to a school, so would be included within the above numbers also.	40

Number of Essex children and young people with SEND

There are 222,423 pupils attending Essex schools; of which 37,527 have been identified with SEND. In Essex there are 24,862 children and young people who receive SEN Support and 12,665 with an EHCP (as of November 2023).

The current population of children and young people with EHCPs is broken down below:

Provision Type	Number of EHCPs Age 4-18
Mainstream	5698 (plus 1459 in post 16)
Special School	3651
Independent School	351
SEN Unit / Resourced Provision	302
Alternative Provision	169
Home Education	156

Some of the 12,665 children and young people with an EHCP for whom Essex is responsible, attend a provision outside of Essex.

Growth over time

The number of children and young people with an EHCP has risen continually since the implementation of the SEND reforms. The below table shows the number of children and young people with an EHCP from 2016 to 2023.

Jul-16	7550
Jul-17	8057
Jul-18	8536
Jul-19	9183
Jul-20	9768
Jul-21	10,824
Jul-22	11,275
Jul-23	12,193

The increase in children and young people with an EHCP in Essex has been one factor in the steady rise in the growth in numbers in Essex's special schools. The below tables show the number of children and young people attending special schools in each quadrant of Essex, over time:

Mid Essex

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Chatten Free School								26	50
Columbus	230	235	229	233	243	258	261	263	275
Edith Borthwick	196	223	234	235	234	236	246	242	244
Southview	71	73	73	75	70	75	78	72	78
Thriftwood	193	213	222	220	227	233	253	257	261
Total	690	744	758	763	774	802	838	834	908

North East Essex

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Kingswode Hoe	121	124	135	129	132	147	148	154	151
Langham Oaks		68	69	69	69	64	78	77	77
Lexden Springs	129	141	159	170	166	174	207	250	278
Market Field	198	223	234	272	311	352	376	410	446
Shorefields	129	128	138	138	136	141	145	148	153
Total	577	684	735	778	814	878	954	1039	1105

South Essex

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Castledon	139	141	147	167	195	216	222	224	223
Cedar Hall	150	159	154	150	152	157	164	163	169
Endeavour	121	118	119	120	117	118	117	135	150
Glenwood	122	136	147	193	218	222	224	219	223
Grove House		33	55	76	89	102	104	113	118
Pioneer	142	145	144	148	148	149	157	163	165
Ramsden Hall	121	50	84	90	96	95	92	94	95
Total	795	782	850	944	1015	1059	1080	1111	1143

West Essex

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Harlow Fields	107	110	122	147	152	157	161	158	153
Oak View	83	85	91	105	119	131	132	126	134
Wells Park	41	46	48	45	53	51	52	56	55
Total	231	241	261	297	324	339	345	340	342

Despite an ambitious SEND capital programme, the number of children and young people requiring a special school place has outgrown the capacity of the provisions in Essex. The SEND Capital Programme has delivered expansions at eight Essex special schools and created new facilities for residential provision at two schools. As well as investment from ECC and the Essex Schools Forum, the County Council was able to successfully develop plans for four new special schools via the Department for Education's free school route. Three of these schools (Chatten, Greenwell and Hawthorns) are now fully or partially open.

Essex County Council undertook capacity assessments of our special schools in 2021 and from 2023 will be required to make an annual return to the Department for Education setting out the relationship between capacity and numbers in our special schools. It is clear that the current capacity and approach cannot support the growing SEND population in future years.

One consequence of the pressures on special school capacity has been a continued growth in the number of children and young people who are placed in independent special schools on 38-week day placements. Whilst we see independent special schools as important partners, we must also recognise that they are likely to cost significantly more per pupil place, which reduces the amount of money we have available to invest in our own mainstream and special schools. There have been similar increases in the number of placements made with alternative provisions whilst longer-term specialist provision is identified.

The lack of available capacity within special schools is contributory factor in a rise in appeals to the SEND Tribunal. Families seeking a special school place where there is no capacity are left with little choice other than waiting for one to become available, maintaining a place within a mainstream school and/or appealing to the SEND tribunal; the SEND tribunal in all likelihood will result in a direction to admit regardless of the capacity pressures. This process is placing overwhelming stress on the system and, most importantly, children, young people and their families.

3. Forecasting future need

In 2021 a five-year SEND forecasting model was developed, which has been reviewed and refreshed each year. The process has been tested and has proven to have a high level of accuracy.

The 2023 refresh* information is detailed in the table below:

Overall size of the EHCP population	<p>In 2016 1.7% of the Essex under-25 population had an EHCP. This rose to 2.7% in 2023 and is forecast to rise to 2.9% by 2026.</p> <p>The number of children with an EHCP each year has been increasing (on average) by just over 600 plans each calendar year since 2016.</p>
Phase type	We are anticipating larger increases for secondary and Post 16 age groups as the existing cohort ages. The primary phase cohort is forecast to plateau as birth rates fall.
Need type	<p>Substantial increases are forecast between 2021 and 2026 across the biggest need types –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASD (31% increase), to 4888 pupils with ASD • SEMH (31% increase), to 2252 pupils with SEMH • SLCD (48% increase), to 2211 pupils with SLCD
Provision type	A 32% increase across the mainstream settings (to 5550 pupils), and 18% (4043 pupils) across special school settings.
Geographical location	<p>Both home (where the child/young person lives) and provision (where they attend school) districts forecast to experience the most growth between 2021 and 2026, across the EHCP cohort are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon • Colchester • Tendring

*Source: SEND Forecast Final 2023 Update – ECC Data and Analytics, Policy Unit.

4. Essex Vision for SEND and SEND Sufficiency

The [Essex SEND strategy](#) sets out our vision for a SEND system which is equitable, inclusive and ambitious:

Inclusion

All children have a right to effective teaching and full participation in the community of a school or setting, as set out in international agreements (the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989) and education law in England (the Equality Act, 2010 and the Children and Families Act, 2014).

Equity

Focus everyone in the system on providing the same, high standard for all children, young people and families, no matter where they live or which school, setting or college they attend.

Ambition

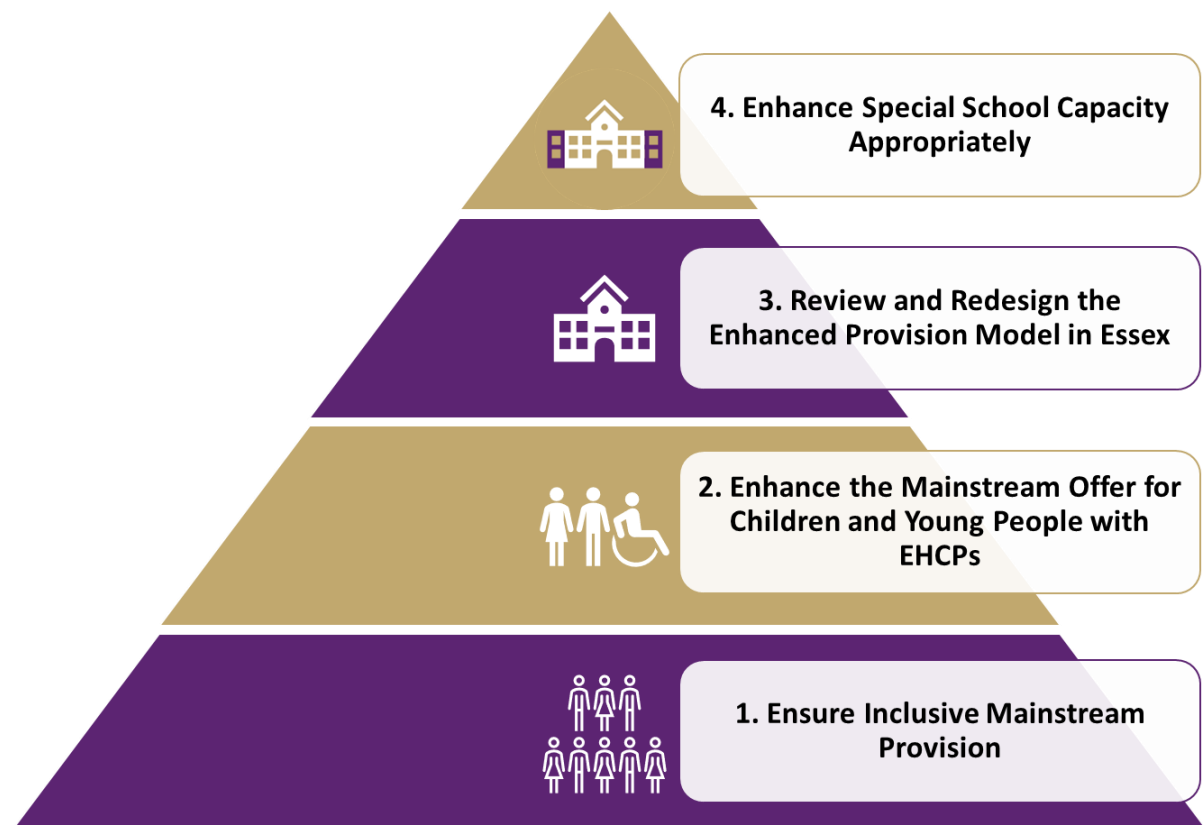
Raising the bar, together in partnership – not a minimum standard. Considering, is this the very best that we can do?



All children and young people in Essex deserve a high-quality education, with the health, care, and educational support that they need to flourish. We will ensure that SEND provision in Essex is adequate in volume, appropriate in type and location to meet the needs of the children and young people with SEND in Essex. We will ensure that specialist provision is supported by the workforce and funding available to deliver such provision sustainably. We acknowledge this means significant changes will be needed to the existing landscape across Essex and we are committed to achieving these changes with appropriate pace, sensitivity and collaboration with children, young people and their families and our partners.

5. Statement of Intent

To better meet the forecast needs of children and young people with SEND in Essex, we have four key intentions:



6. Enablers

To enable the above, we will need to review and improve the opportunities to work together as a system:

- Develop processes for health partners to share with ECC where a child is very likely to require specialist education provision at the earliest stage.
- Review the impact on special schools of Social Care thresholds and wider system capacity gaps.
- Develop an effective model of outreach/ in-reach between sectors.
- Through the Balanced System, ensure appropriate and effective therapy provision across universal, targeted and specialist tiers.

- Develop approaches to transition children back to mainstream provision when appropriate. This will mean working closely with parents to ensure that they are confident that their child/ young person can successfully transition.
- Explore all potential opportunities to access additional funding for SEND provision and use the developers guide to set out our ambitions.
- Work with our special schools to consider the range of need that each of them meets and explore how we support more children and young people with moderate needs in mainstream schools.
- Reviewing appropriate routes for returning children to in-county provision.

7. Financial landscape

The intentions set out in this plan are in the context of a challenging financial landscape – both in terms of revenue funding (the mid to long-term sustainability of the High Needs Block) and capital funding (the funding available to develop new provision). With this in mind, it is recognised that to deliver the full extent of our ambitions will need innovation and new ways of working, rather than just relying on financial investment:

- Further exploration of the funding mechanisms which have enabled the 2015 SEND and PRU capital programmes to be delivered – a combination of ECC and Schools Forum investment
- Making the best use of any future DfE special free school opportunities. This will mean being clear about what and where our priorities for growth lie, with a strong evidence base to support any applications
- Maximising the opportunities for growth and investment delivered through developed contributions (section 106 funding). This will need a more strategic approach set out in the Developers Guide
- Exploring where savings against current spend (for example, high-cost independent placements) can be invested into Essex schools and settings to enable new provision to be developed

8. High Level Delivery Plans

The first step in our delivery plan is engagement. We are engaging with all partners and stakeholders on whether the four intentions of our SEND Sufficiency Plan are the right intentions for the Essex SEND system.

To support all SEND Sufficiency Plan intentions, we will:

1. Consult on the SEND Sufficiency Plan Statement of Intent
2. Develop a cohesive SEND workforce development offer
3. Develop a Strategic Business Case to allocate sufficient funding and ensure appropriate governance
4. Develop a SEND Capital Programme to deliver parts of ambition 4 – enhancing special school capacity

1	Ensure Inclusive Mainstream Provision	<p>Through the implementation of the agreed ‘Ordinarily Available’ provision across all Essex mainstream schools, at universal and targeted levels, we will together enable high quality inclusive teaching for all pupils, with a particular spotlight on children with SEND or who may be disadvantaged.</p> <p>Making higher quality teaching ‘ordinarily available’ to the whole class is likely to mean that fewer pupils will require specific SEND support to make progress in their learning.</p> <p>The Essex Ordinarily Available sets out the agreed expectations about the provision and practice in all Early Years settings, mainstream schools and Post 16 providers for all children and young people, including those with SEND. It is what a young person, parent/carer or family can expect to be “ordinarily” available to their child without the need for involving specialist support.</p> <p>Delivery of early intervention through the Inclusion Support Offer, including the Inclusion Framework, Inclusion Reviews, outreach, Continual Professional Development, access to evidence</p>
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		<p>informed advice and guidance and proactive support from Inclusion Partners and Educational Psychologists are key in enabling schools to meet this challenge.</p> <p>We will support the wider system to come together and collaborate with schools as well as across school partnerships, to ensure early help is available, accessed, and effective for children and young people, their families and schools.</p>
2	Enhance the Mainstream Offer for Children and Young People with EHCPs	<p>Effective implementation of the provision specified in high quality EHCPs, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a comprehensive SEND workforce development offer; • Development of an Essex outreach model to support inclusion and SEND provision through collaboration between mainstream and specialist settings and partners; • Sustainable funding of EHCPs; • Investing in increased capacity/ spaces/ resources for mainstream schools that enable effective SEND provision; • Sensory specialist teacher service support. <p>Support for mainstream schools with children for whom special school has been deemed appropriate but where there is insufficient capacity at present to source a special school place. We have an increasing number of children and young people in mainstream schools where both the LA and the parent/s carer/s agree that special school is appropriate. Whilst our ambition is to ensure placement in the most appropriate provision, we must be able to support mainstream schools and provide additional levels of confidence to parents as we work towards making that ambition a reality.</p>
3	Review and Redesign the Enhanced Provision Model in Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the current landscape of enhanced provisions • Develop new and reclassify existing enhanced provisions appropriate to the needs of Essex children and young people e.g. provision for children/young people with Moderate Learning Difficulties • Ensure that pupils are placed appropriately in Enhanced Provisions across Essex, in relation to their needs, banding and postcode

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that pupils who attend Enhanced Provisions in Essex have measurable value added to their educational and wider outcomes • Develop Service Level Agreements to ensure quality and accountability
4	Enhance Special School Capacity Appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity consideration - what 'full' looks like. Work with ESSET (the Essex Special School Education Trust) to ensure that we do not have disparities by locality • Re-modelling and re-classification of current specialist provision to better match need, for example more provision for Severe Learning Difficulties (children and young people with higher levels of assessed need) and less special school provision for Moderate Learning Difficulties where that need can be met in mainstream schools • Support special schools to be more flexible in the needs they are able to meet • Satellite provisions of special schools on mainstream sites • Seizing opportunities where council owned buildings become vacant • Developer contributions and maximising external funding • Free school applications. We have both supported and led five special free school applications in Essex since the 2014 reforms; the priority for future waves will be applications for those needs types where we have the most significant identified gaps in provision. • Making best use of independent provision through working with Eastern Region partners, quality assurance processes and market development to commission appropriate places in good quality independent provision • Analysing current post 16 destination data, determine what provision is needed to ensure sufficient, high-quality post 16 opportunities

9. Engagement

To provide feedback on this draft SEND Sufficiency Plan, please complete the survey via the link below, which will be available from midnight 11th December.

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/send-strategy-and-innovation/send-sufficiency-plan-engagement>

We will also hold virtual engagement sessions, where you can discuss the plan and provide feedback if you would like to join:

- 18th January 10am – Parent/Carer Support Groups and Essex Family Forum representatives (via regular support group meeting)
- 7th Feb 10am – schools and post 16 settings
- 7th Feb 6pm – schools and post 16 settings

To join one of these sessions, or express an interest in a future session. Please let us know here: <https://forms.office.com/e/wQUAMevce>.

Independent Special Schools

Working Group

Appendix 2

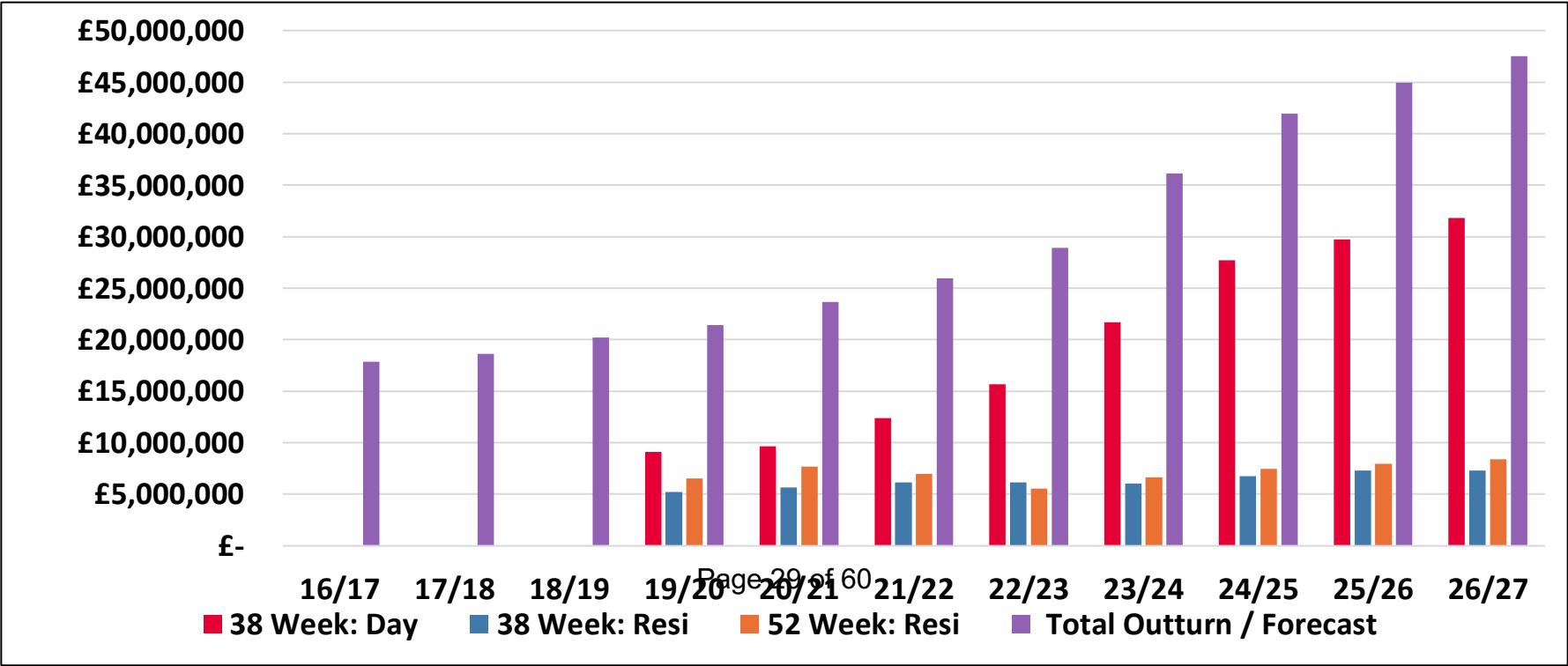
Independent School Cost 2016-17 to 2026/27

100%

In 2016/17 the cost of Independent Schools to the High Needs Block was **£18m**. Since then the cost of placing children and young people in Independent Schools has increased to **£36m** in 2023/24. An increase of **100%**.

166%

Fast forward to 2026/27, based on current trends the cost of independent school places is forecast to reach **£47.5m**. A **166%** increase over an 11 year period



Independent School: Volume of Places

The steep increase in cost is attributable to both volume of places and continued increases in price paid for placements. The trend in placement volume is set out below.

103%

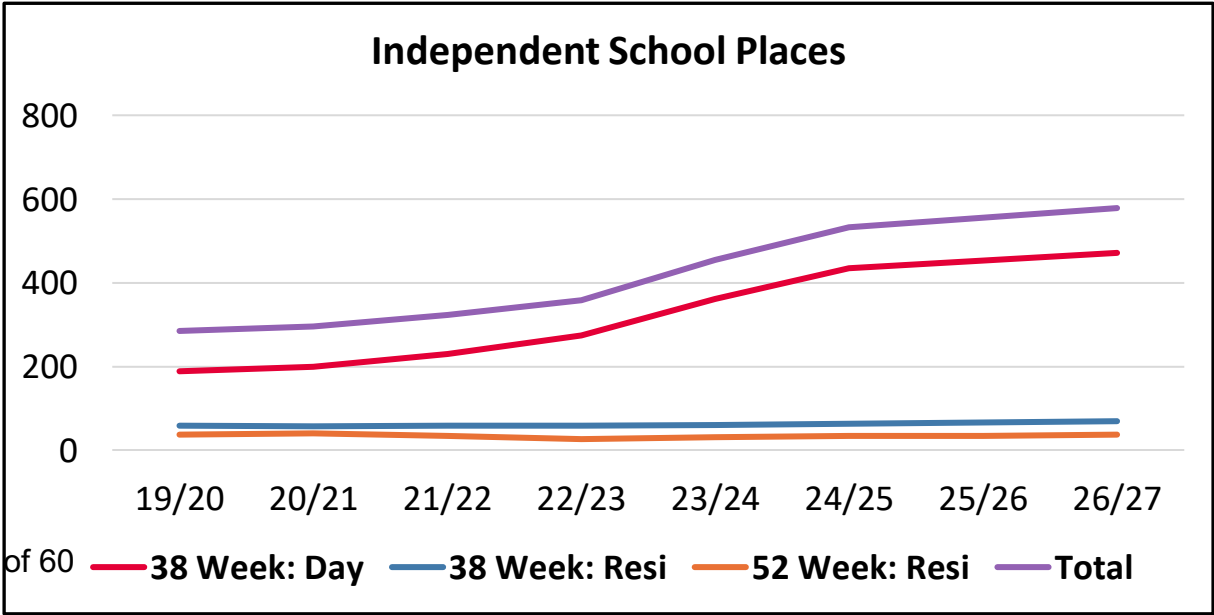
Looking forward to 2026/27 , based on current trends the volume of independent school places is forecast to reach **578**. A **103%** increase over an 8 year period.

?

Is there any opportunity to influence the volume of placements required from 2024/25?

124
places to 2026/27

Year	38 Week: Day	38 Week: Resi	52 Week: Resi	Total	Cumulative increase
2019/20	189	58	38	285	
2020/21	199	57	40	296	+11
2021/22	230	59	35	324	+39
2022/23	274	59	26	359	+74
2023/24	362	61	31	454	+169
2024/25	435	64	34	533	+248
2025/26	453	67	35	555	+270
2026/27	471	70	37	578	+293



Independent School: Price

The trend in price by placement type is set out below.

40%

38 Week Day placements are forecast to increase by 40% between 2019/20 and 2026/27

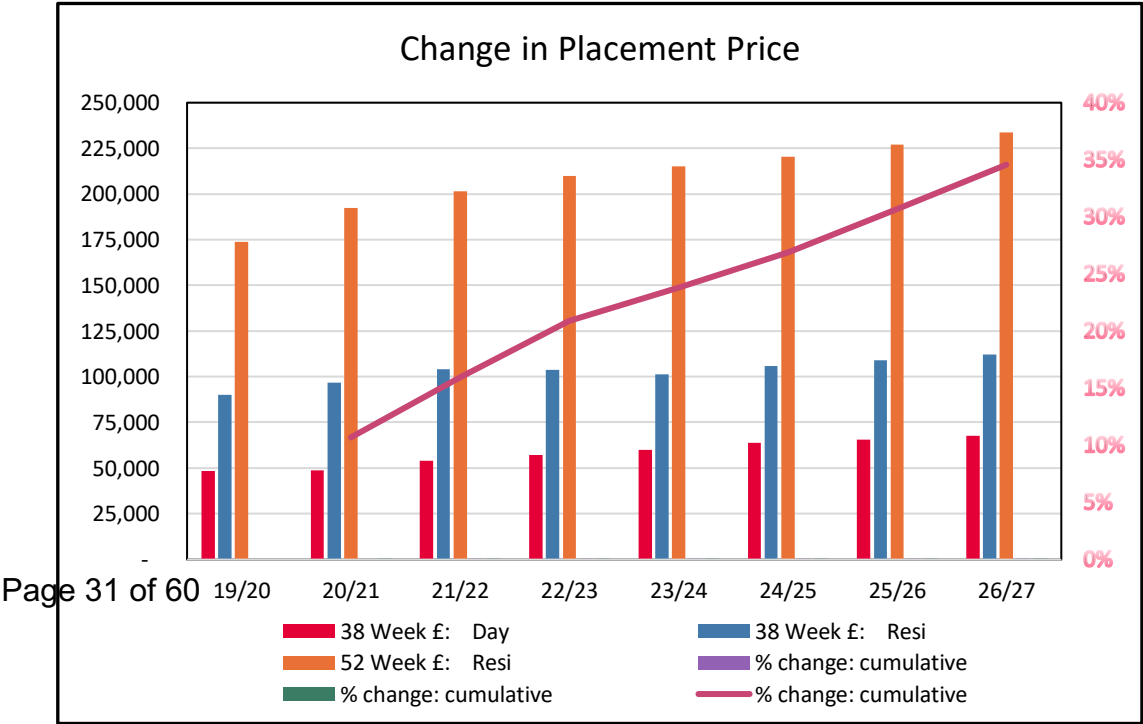
25%

38 Week Residential placements are forecast to increase by 25% between 2019/20 and 2026/27

35%

52 Week Residential placements are forecast to increase by 35% between 2019/20 and 2026/27

Year	Placement Type		
	38 Week £: Day	38 Week £: Residential	52 Week £: Residential
2019/20	48,269	90,008	173,684
2020/21	48,666	96,677	192,237
2021/22	53,850	104,170	201,339
2022/23	56,993	103,613	209,920
2023/24	59,827	101,108	214,992
2024/25	63,690	105,751	220,330
2025/26	65,600	108,923	226,940
2026/27	67,568	112,191	233,748



Creating Capacity

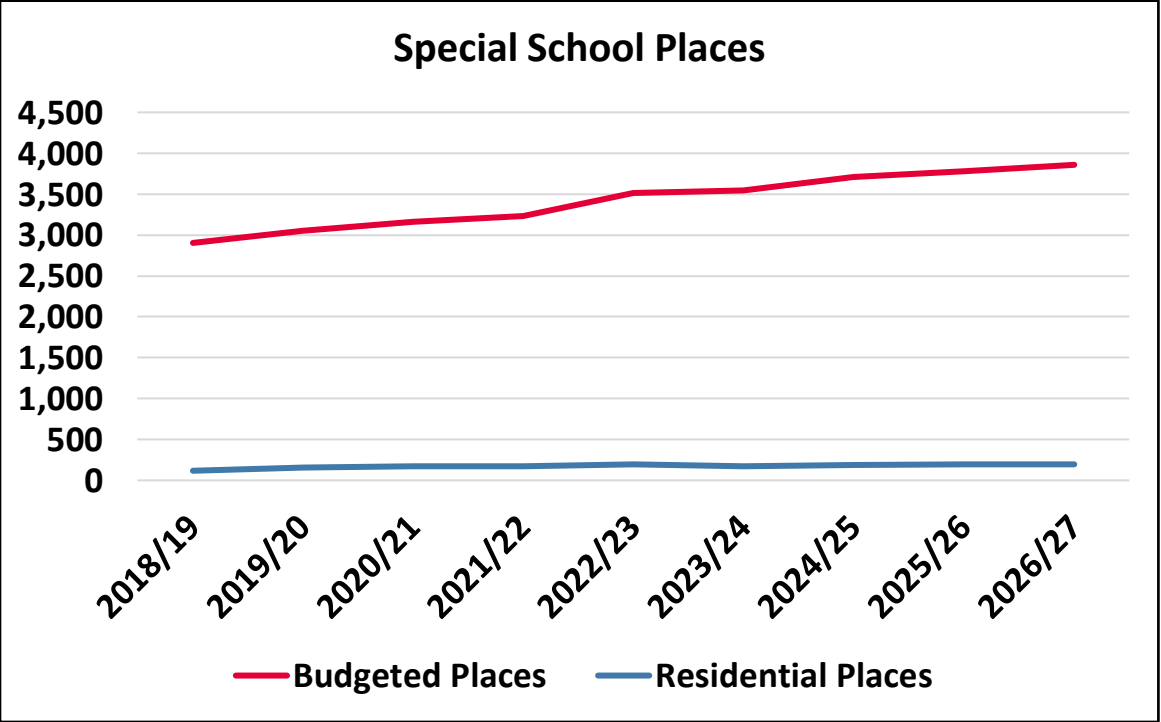


Special School Places

From 2018/19 through to 2026/27 the forecast volume of funded places for in special schools will increase by: **33%** equivalent to 953 places.

Furthermore, the volume of residential places funded in Special Schools will increase by: **70%** equivalent to 81 places.

Year	Budgeted Places	Cumulative increase	%	Residential Places	Cumulative increase	%
2018/19	2,906			115	-	-
2019/20	3,053	147	5%	150	35	30%
2020/21	3,164	258	9%	171	56	49%
2021/22	3,236	330	11%	171	56	49%
2022/23	3,518	612	21%	190	75	65%
2023/24	3,550	644	22%	171	56	49%
2024/25	3,708	802	28%	181	66	57%
2025/26	3,785	879	30%	189	74	64%
2026/27	3,859	953	33%	196	81	70%



Capital Investment

ECC and Schools Forum have made significant investment in creating capacity in special Schools across the County.

234
places

and Enhanced Provisions

48
places

Special Schools

School	Provision
Southview, Braintree	24 places including 10 residential places
Lexden Springs, Colchester	80 places including 30 residential places
Oakview: Epping	24 places
Glenwood, Castle Point	20 residential places
Kingswode Hoe, Colchester	12 places
Langham Oaks, Colchester	8 places
Ramsden Hall, Chelmsford	8 places
Harlow Fields, Harlow	58 places
Total	234

Enhanced Provision

School	Provision
Alderton Junior School (West)	8
Great Easton Primary School (West)	8
Moulsham Junior School (Mid)	8
Potter Street Primary School (West)	8
White Bridge Primary School (West)	8
White Hall Primary School (NE)	8
Total	48

As part of the investment in Special Schools is an increase of

60

residential places.

Capital Investment

In addition to the ECC and Schools Forum funded investment a further 4 Free / Academy schools are being built creating

273

places

including

15

places

residential places.

School	Provision	Residential places	Completed
Chatten Free School, Braintree	75 places	-	Open
Hawthorns, Chelmsford	70 places	-	Fully open 2026/27
Sir Geoff Hurst School, Chelmsford	64 places	15	Fully open 2026/27
Greenwell Academy, Harlow	64 places	-	Fully open 2026/27
Total	273	15	

Cash Saving to Cost Avoidance

Original expectations as set out in the Schools Forum Paper in July 2015 were significant cost savings...

- *At present £19m a year is spent supporting the placement of children in independent schools on day, 38 week and 52 week provision. The average cost of a 38 week day placement in the independent sector is £43,680 per annum compared to £35,000 in the maintained sector for higher need children and therefore higher banded financially – a saving of £8,680 per place.*
- *The average cost of a 38 week boarding placement in the independent sector is £68,489 compared to £40,000 in the maintained sector – a saving of £28,489 per place. With 80 of 110 new weekly boarding places in Essex largely replacing the weekly boarding places currently used in the independent sector, the saving to the independent schools’ budget would be in the order of £2.28m per annum*
- *Of 234 the additional day places proposed, about half (120) would contribute to the target of reducing 38 week day places in the independent sector so this would bring a further saving of about £1.04m. In total the saving to the DSG independent schools’ budget would therefore be about £ £3.32m.*
- *However, the other 114 new day places and 30 new boarding places (assuming they are provided in Essex) would have an additional cost to the HNB of around £5.19m, so overall the net cost to the DSG of this programme is £1.87m per annum (that is, £5.19m for ‘new’ places to meet growth, less the saving of £3.32m achieved by educating pupils in Essex special schools or enhanced provision rather than independent schools). In effect the reduction in the use of independent school placements subsidises the cost to the DSG of more provision in the county to meet the increased demand from demographic growth and an increased diagnosis of need. The extra revenue cost of ‘doing nothing’ is an extra £7.03m*

In
Summary

234 places were to be created with 120 places **reducing** 38 week day places and 80 places **reducing** the 38 week residential places creating a **saving of £3.32m**.

Recap on
volume

Independent Schools **+169** places since 2018/19
Special Schools **+644** places since 2018/19

Demand is outstripping the availability of places at a net cost per place of:

38 Week Day:	£16,800
38 Week Residential:	£42,500

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Where is capacity needed?

The main pressures on the independent special school budget are due to 38-week day placements for children and young people with autism or social, emotional and mental health needs. At Complex Case Forum we see a regular flow of children and young people with autism and associated anxiety with mainstream ability; there is currently no specific provision in Essex for this cohort and, in particular, for girls. The two new SEMH special free schools being built by the DfE (Greenwell in Harlow and Sir Geoff Hurst) will give us much needed SEMH capacity with provision for girls for the first time. Our biggest pressures in terms of tribunals and being unable to meet parental preference due to physical capacity of Essex special schools is for autism with severe learning difficulties. There is an under-development independent market for this cohort though that may change and we will need solutions.

All four quadrants have rising numbers of independent placement but NE is disproportionate in comparison to South – this merits further analysis.

This information is issued by:
Essex County Council

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Essex, CM1 1QH

 **Essex_CC**

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The information contained in this document
can be translated, and/or made available in
alternative formats, on request.

Report title: Essex Youth Service – follow up	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Julie Auger - Youth Services Manager	
Date: 14 February 2024	For: Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Julie Auger - Youth Services Manager: julie.auger@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: County wide	

1. Introduction

This item is a follow-up to respond to specific requests from the Committee arising from the meeting on 9 October 2023 which considered an update on Youth services.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider the further information provided and identify any follow-up scrutiny actions.

3. Background

- 3.1 At Full Council on 11 July 2023 an amended Motion was passed requesting that this Committee considers a report on the Youth Service from the Cabinet Member for the Arts, Heritage and Culture. Accordingly, the Committee were updated on Youth Services at its meeting on 9 October 2023. A link to the minutes of that meeting is [here](#).
- 3.2 Under Minute 7 for that meeting on 9 October 2023 the following was recorded which forms the basis and structure for this follow-up item.

Extract of minute – 9 October 2023

Some members voiced concern at the length of the youth services presentation which had reduced the time available for the subsequent agenda item on carers. Cognisant of that, it was agreed that a further update on Youth services was necessary but needed to be focussed on specific 'asks' and that the following be requested:

1. (a) Whilst noting the aim to build closer links between Councillors and young people, to be given more detail on how this is being done and specifically

Youth Services follow-up

(b) the process to facilitate and re-institute in a similar form any local YSG forums that wished to reform in some way and how that would be anticipated to work in practice, and

(c) to further update on any replacement bodies for YSGs more generally being considered and/or proposed?

(d) to understand how projects previously supported by the YSGs can continue to be supported and delivered (for example, delivery of productions at school such as Crucial Crew) and where they are currently being and not being delivered.

2. Whilst noting the success of the youth support role at Basildon Hospital Accident and Emergency, to understand more how this scheme is being considered for expansion to other hospitals, the role of the Violence and Vulnerability Unit and other partners in the scheme and the structure of funding it, and the contributors.
3. What measures are in place or are to be put in place to reach hard-to-reach individuals including the home-schooled? What are the challenges and limitations in this area?
4. More information on the equity spread of services across the county, identifying any unevenness of provision and what can be done to address it. This should include participation rates as well across the county to identify if that is also uniform and whether there are particular rural areas, for example, with travel and infrastructure challenges.

It was further agreed that a small working group of Committee members may be formed to observe the delivery of some youth services and report back to the full Committee. Councillors Gooding, Guglielmi and Stamp indicated interest in serving on such a Group should it be formed.

4. Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Mark Durham, Cabinet Member - The Arts, Heritage and Culture.
Julie Auger - Youth Services Manager
Hannah Thurston - Business Development Manager

5 Appendix

- A. Power Point presentation: Essex Youth Service
- B. One page infographic titled Essex Youth Service 01/04/2022 – 31/03/23

Essex Youth Service

**YOUTH
SERVICE**

Inspire
Enable
Achieve

Building closer links with Cllrs and Young People

- Visits to youth provisions – circulate list of provisions spreadsheet for Cllrs to visit localised projects
- Senior Youth Workers and Cllrs build relationships and plan regular meetings, local visits to build engagement & share information
- Young Essex Assembly monthly full sittings – rotate councillors visits

- LCF - Young People & youth workers recommend projects and productions for Cllrs to fund.
- Could set up annual LCF celebration events for funded organisations to show the impact of their work
- Share service products with Cllrs ie: Healthy Relationships Documentary
- Invites to specific events – ie: Young People's Takeover Day and development events

Youth Work in Hospitals

V&V Unit funded –Youth Work in Hospital project,(A&E department focus) at Basildon & Thurrock University Hospital

New Funding from ICB (Mid & South Essex) expand the project to include additional wards

Expansion into specific wards in Basildon

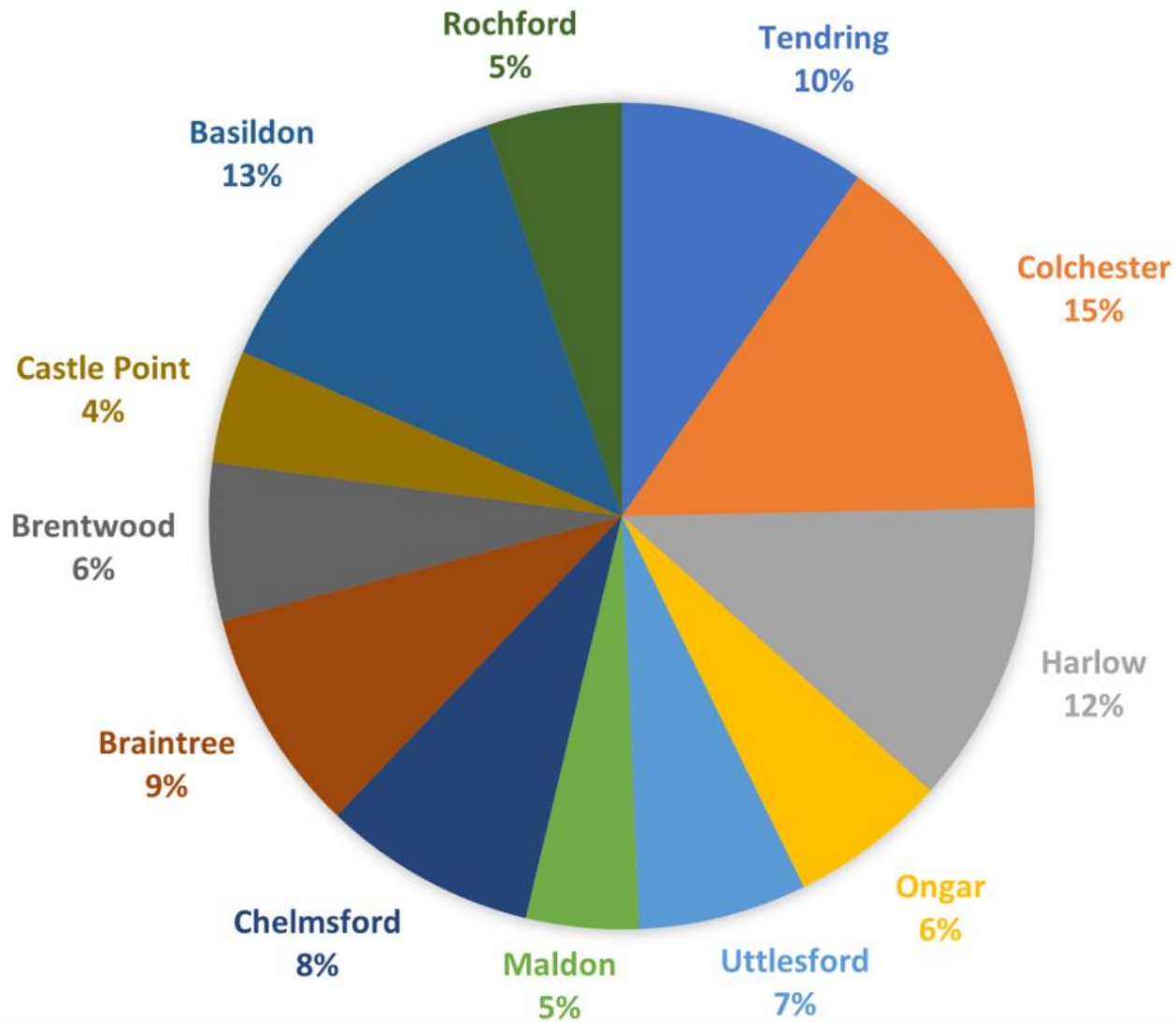
Roll out to Southend, small mapping in Broomfields



Targeted delivery hard to reach/engage offer

- Detached and outreach work
- Social Prescribers – 1 year pilot
- Enhanced Education Programme - EEP
- I CAN Project
- Career IAG for YP not on school roll
- Managing Emotions Programme
- Goodman / Sisters In Strength
- Future Ready
- Pre Plan B
- Pathwayz
- Vol sector & ECC youth workers co-delivering hard to reach youth clubs
- Digital Youth Centre
- Summer programme – Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Staff seconded into other service areas – Youth Justice, L&AC, Tending Multi Disciplinary Team, VVU & Probation, Family Solutions

LOCAL PROVISION



Partnership working -

Violence and Vulnerability

Essex Strategic Hate Crime Prevention Partnership

Childrens Partnership

Safety Partnership

SETDAB

Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE)

ESCB Child Exploitation Sub Committee

Skills Partnership

Anchor Partnership

All Age Carers Partnership

Social Care Resource Panel

Out of Court Disposal Panel

Stay Safe

Essex Provider Network

District & Parish Councils

Regional Youth Work Unit

Next Steps

- Working through the revised Youth Work Statutory Guidance, initially with CEO ECVYS then wider partnership Network
- Working closer with ECVYS to map out and capture the Essexwide Youth Offer in localised data
- Set up an Essex Youth Work Partnership Steering Group (equal members adults & Young People) who will agree a programme of engagement events, map out all local provisions, identify gaps and organise annual conferences to share learning and develop the collaboration
- Volunteer recruitment drive in Uttlesford, Ongar and Maldon to increase provision

YOUTH SERVICE

Inspire
Enable
Achieve

ESSEX YOUTH SERVICE

01/04/2022 - 31/03/23



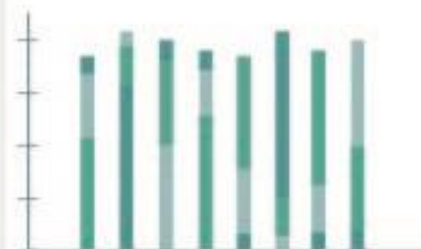
73,893

Essex Youth Service contacts with young people.



200

Community groups supported by Essex Youth Service.



92,417

Outcomes achieved by young people.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Under Essex County Council licence
Delivered by Essex Youth Service.
Awards achieved:

Bronze: **71**

Silver: **40**

Gold: **16**



238

New Duke of Edinburgh participants.



85

Work placements sourced.

Young Carers in School Award
Awards achieved:

Bronze: **17**

Silver: **5**

Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Delivered by
Open Award Centres.
Awards achieved:

Bronze: **1,131**

Silver: **231**

Gold: **48**



2,849

New Duke of Edinburgh participants.



297

Qualifications gained by young people.



3,206

Essex Youth Service sessions delivered to young people.



1,557

Young Carers referrals.

163

Young Carers re-referrals.

1,018

Young Carers assessments.

Report title: Work Programme	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 14 February 2024	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk .	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The work programme for the Committee continues to be developed and the current position is outlined below and overleaf. A private session of the Committee was held on 11 May 2023 to discuss and reflect on the work and organisation of the Committee in the last two years and future approach.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider this report and issues under consideration in Appendix 1 and any further development or amendments.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board has asked scrutiny committees to also give consideration as to which work programme items may benefit from communications activity in order to promote the work of the scrutiny function both internally and externally. Members are asked to consider this during discussion on this agenda item.

3. Background

The Terms of Reference for the Committee is defined in the County Council's Constitution and the relevant extract is reproduced below:

9.5.2 People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee:

- Education (other than skills and apprenticeships)
- Childrens' Services
- Youth Services
- Services relating to support for the community safety and the reduction of offending
- Adult social care, including the support of and assistance of people with learning or physical disabilities or sensory impairment and older people and the homeless
- Sport and physical activity including Active Essex (the Health Overview, Policy and Scrutiny Committee to be included on healthy lifestyle matters)
- Transport services relating to any of the above services.

Work has continued to identify priorities and future agenda items. This has included discussions with Committee Members, Cabinet Members and Officers. This work has reflected the adoption of the Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025 strategy at Council on 12 October 2021.

4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025 strategy when considering the work programme and future items. Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee: 'Health Wellbeing and Independence for All Ages', and 'A Good Place for Children and Families to Grow'. A link to the Strategy is here - [Everyone's Essex: our plan for levelling up the county 2021 to 2025: Foreword from Kevin Bentley - Essex County Council](#)

5. Update and Next Steps

- 5.1 See Appendix 1 for current work programme

See Action Required (above) for next steps.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Current work programme.

APPENDIX

People and Families Policy and Scrutiny - Work Programme as at 14 February 2024

Provisional Date	Topic Title	Lead Contact	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Everyone's Essex reference	Cross-Committee
14 February 2024	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – Part 1	Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability/ Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation	To consider capacity, sustainability and finances	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety /Education Outcomes	Not applicable
14 February 2024	Youth Services	Cabinet Member - The Arts, Heritage and Culture	Requested follow-up to session in October 2023 and specific focus/'ask'	All	Not applicable
14 March 2024	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – Part 2	Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability/ Head of SEND Strategy/Innovation	Next steps, improvement work and progress being made since OFSTED/CQC inspections	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety /Education Outcomes	Not applicable
14 March 2024	Domestic Abuse	Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Early Years	Overview of current commissioning work ahead of Cabinet decision.	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
11 April 2024	Education Attainment and Exclusions	Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability/ Director: Education	To consider an update on attainment, attendances, exclusions and children missing education.	Education Outcomes	Not applicable

Continued overleaf....

Provisional Date	Topic Title	Lead contact	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Everyone's Essex reference	Cross-committee
9 May 2024	Education Capital Programme	Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability/ Director: Education	To consider component parts, developer contributions, and school places planning	Education Outcomes	Not applicable
Spring 2024	Essex Children's Safeguarding Board – follow up	Independent Chairman, statutory partners and the Board Manager	To consider actions arising from last discussion and consider annual report	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
TBC 2024	Lifelong Learning and Belonging Plan	Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability	Follow up on draft plan considered by the Committee on 9 March 2023	Education Outcomes/ Levelling Up the Economy/Jobs/ Infrastructure	TBC – PSEG Members

Issues not currently scheduled:

Everyone's Essex Theme: Family Resilience and Stability, Education	Childcare and Early Years' Strategy County Lines and Drug Gangs Children in care being placed outside Essex Backlog in Courts and Justice System Suicides in Essex
Everyone's Essex Theme Promoting Independence, Healthy Lifestyles	Houses for Life Disability Strategy

Private briefings: A schedule of briefings continues to give background to issues and subjects ahead of formal agenda items.

Report title: Matters Arising	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 14 February 2024	For: Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

This separate item was requested by the Committee on 14 September 2023 (see Background below).

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider:

- (i) **The attached update; and**
- (ii) **Reflect on the current process and approach and any steps to help facilitate closure on outstanding matters arising**

3. Background

- 3.1 Ordinarily the Committee receives, attached to the draft minutes from the previous meeting, the outstanding Matters Arising from previous meetings. Whilst some entries are closed quickly, other entries are more longstanding.
- 3.2 Matters Arising are communicated to witnesses soon after the date of the meeting as part of the process to draft the minutes.
- 3.3 In some cases, matters arising can be addressed when witnesses are returning to further present to the Committee. However, the nature of the committee's work, and its wide remit, does mean that there are not really any regular "standing" updates scheduled and there can be a significant gap before some witnesses return to provide subsequent updates.
- 3.4 Increased efforts are being made to close more of these items. Updates received will appear for one meeting on this report and then the Matter Arising entry will be removed. This will enable the focus of attention to be on those few significantly outstanding matters.

4. Update and Next Steps

Matters Arising

The latest table listing Matters Arising is attached in the Appendix to this report.

Entries have now been categorised as follows to facilitate discussion and to help identify follow-ups:

- Updates requested and to be scheduled as future formal agenda items.
- Actions from recent meetings – updates awaited.
- Overdue Matters Arising

5 Appendix

Matters Arising as at 14 February 2024.

MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

UPDATES REQUESTED AND TO BE SCHEDULED AS FUTURE FORMAL AGENDA ITEMS

9 October 2023	Carers – performance metrics update	Some areas still needed further development (notably but not exclusively plans for respite care) and regular future updates needed to be scheduled.	Proposed to return to scrutiny late summer 2024 once the carers offer is fully mobilised.
9 March 2023	Adult Community Learning Strategy	There would be a scrutiny briefing and a consultation process to consider all options before a decision was taken on removing the nursery provision for ACL learners	To be scheduled in due course - TBC
9 March 2023	Life-Long Learning and Belonging Strategic Plan	A further update would be provided and that the Scrutiny Board be consulted on inviting colleagues from the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee to join the session	Date to be determined by Chairman and committee
14 December 2022	Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2022-2027: End of Year One Update	A further broad update would be arranged in due course	Date to be determined by Chairman and committee.

ACTIONS FROM RECENT MEETINGS - UPDATES AWAITED

Date	Item	Action	Status
11 January 2024	ASC Priority Area of Focus - EDI	There should be clear identification and explanation of Jewish by race as well as religion, as a protected characteristic, in documentation and recording on Mosaic and any other appropriate systems.	TBC
		In terms of the zero-tolerance policy, to consider further explanatory wording on the risk-based approach taken when applying the zero-tolerance policy to ensure safeguarding both the service user and support staff	TBC
		Members would consider further their conclusions on the five discussions on the ASC Priority Performance Areas and respond formally to the Cabinet Member.	TBC
7 December 2023	ASC Priority Area of Focus – People Waiting	Faith based reviews to be included on the definitions page in future reports.	TBC
		That the challenges ASC faced should be highlighted within the executive summary of future reports such as 1 in 5 adults in Essex were 65 and people with learning disabilities and autism cohorts was expected to grow significantly by 2025	TBC
		It was highlighted that the 3 year overdue reference within the report related to Care Act reviews and not initial assessments. Members were concerned this could be misleading and suggested it was made clearer in future reports	TBC

Date	Item	Action	Status
7 December 2023	ASC Priority area of focus – Co-production	The 'Statement of Intent' referred to during discussion be brought to the Committee once developed for comment and review and to understand any actions that arose from it.	TBC
14 September 2023	Essex Safeguarding Adults Board – Annual Report 2022-23	To include more prominent reference to the financial challenges being faced by the Board in the finalised annual report and the development of risk register work.	Both of these have been included in the Annual Report
		The Essex Covid-19 Care Home Report which had been endorsed by ESAB to be presented to the Committee.	TBC
		More information on safeguarding referrals received from asylum and refugee holding centres.	In progress
		The passing reference to the recent Dispatches television programme in the draft annual report be expanded to include more background and context.	Additional information on this has been included in the annual report.
	Adult Social Care Priority area of focus: Safeguarding Adults	Whether fast-track health and care training being developed at Essex University could be extended and applied to safeguarding training.	In progress
		If some further narrative to explain the proportion of outcomes where safeguarding risk had been reduced or removed (bullet point VIII above) could be included for future reports.	In progress
		To provide further narrative in future reports on the statistics being presented more generally to give further context, refer to any relevant changes in process and/or recording that might be causing statistical change and indicate if trends were positive or negative.	This has been confirmed as noted for future reports.

OVERDUE MATTERS ARISING

Date	Agenda item	Action	Status
9 March 2023	Adult Community Learning Strategy	Further information would be provided on the efficacy of outcomes for apprenticeships and specifically what percentage successfully completed their end point assessment	TBC
15 February 2023	Disability Strategy	The final Disability Strategy should be clear that it supported the current Market Fields School project, and other similar schemes which provide work experience and job opportunities for local people with disabilities and further utilities the potential of local people.	TBC
		A further update would be given providing a Delivery Plan and identified actions after the formal launch of the Strategy.	To be scheduled
		<p>District/borough councils should be encouraged to include provision for supported housing in their Local Plans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate specifications and provision for supported housing should also be reflected in the County Council's own Design Guide; - Representation be made on the increasing need for supported housing within the National Planning Policy Framework; - Request that Essex Housing consider if there is a role for it to further promote and influence the increase in supported housing provision. 	TBC
		Request the Scrutiny Board to consider further scrutiny arrangements for the planning for future housing provision particularly in relation to supported housing for disabled and other vulnerable people.	TBC
11 January 2023	Everyone's Library Service 2022-2026	To provide amended trend data and charts that compared to periods/years before the pandemic and not just 2021	TBC

OVERDUE MATTERS ARISING continued...

11 January 2023	Everyone's Library Service 2022-2026	That, as part of a future scrutiny session, and further to an upcoming public consultation, to include more information on what users and potential users want from their libraries and what matters to them	To be picked up at the next update on libraries.
		To invite the Chairman of the Education Task Force and appropriate Cabinet Members and officers to discuss concerns about current performance on literacy	To be included as part of scheduling broader education updates
	HCRG Contract for the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service	A table showing all 22 Outcomes and target outcomes with all KPIs would be produced	In progress
		More information on the Affinity Programme to be provided to Members	In progress
		Further information on the rate of the contract to be provided to Members	In progress
		Clarification on the availability of statistics measuring reach, and the number of hard-to-reach families missing out on the early years services who were then later identified needing additional support in later life	In progress
14 April 2022	Essex Safeguarding Children Board update	Information on accessing services in the Dengie area to be provided	TBC
		More knife bins should be placed in smaller towns, including placing them within Essex libraries to prevent vandalism	TBC