



Essex County Council

## People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

09:30	Thursday, 11 April 2024	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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**For information about the meeting please ask for:**

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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9	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 May 2024, in Committee Room 1, County Hall.	
10	<b>Urgent Business</b> 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.**

11	<b>Urgent Exempt Business</b> 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	
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urgency.

## 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 Daniel Land	
Cllr Sue Lissimore	
Cllr June Lumley	
Cllr Peter May	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Aidan McGurran	
Cllr Mark Platt	
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.

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**Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 9.30am on Thursday, 14 March 2024 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford.**

**Present:**

Cllr Ray Gooding (Chairman)  
Cllr Marie Goldman  
Cllr Ian Grundy  
Cllr Jeff Henry (substitute)  
Cllr Daniel Land  
Cllr Sue Lissimore  
Cllr Peter May (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Aidan McGurran  
Cllr Michael Skeels  
Cllr Wendy Stamp  
Cllr Mike Steel

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Paul Turner, Director Legal and Assurance, Emma Tombs, Democratic Services Manager, 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 Carlo Guglielmi for whom Cllr Jeff Henry was substituting.

**2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Questions from the public**

There were questions from 18 members of the public relating to agenda item 4. A link to those questions and the responses from the Cabinet Member and Lead Officer is [here](#).

**4 SEND Update Part 2: Next steps, improvement work underway and progress since regulatory inspections**

The Committee considered report PAF/09/24. Cllr Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability and Ralph Holloway, Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation, attended the meeting to introduce the item and respond to questions.

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

- Previous local area CQC/OFSTED SEN inspections.
- National context including that there were significant numbers of local areas across England with High Needs Block (HNB) accumulated deficit amounting to tens of millions of pounds in numerous local authorities. In Essex the HNB was in an accumulative surplus enabling some further investment in early intervention, outreach and the SEN workforce.
- Partnership working in the SEND local area.
- There had been some areas of improvement. It was acknowledged that some families were still not getting the expected level of service that ECC would want to provide to them.
- Governance arrangements and financial sustainability were outlined.
- SEND data headlines on Education Healthcare Plans (EHCPs) were outlined. There had been a 75% increase in the number of children and young people with EHCPs since 2016 which placed immense pressures on the local SEND system.
- Through the Inclusion Strategy and Inclusion Framework there was an increasing focus on inclusion in mainstream schools to ensure that all children and young people felt supported.
- ECC was at bottom end of performance for EHCPs and were not completing EHCPs in a timely manner. ECC did have plans to address the backlog and were looking at possible digital solutions and were waiting on a DfE lead as well.
- There was a focus on improving quality and the speed in which EHCPs were completed. Coordination and Oversight Groups (COGs) also were looking to improve the Annual Review process. A sufficiency and funding COG was addressing the issues around capacity.
- There had been 2293 pupils in special schools in 2015 and by 2023 that figure had increased by 53% to 3,498. Four new special schools had opened in Essex in recent years and a further one in construction. ECC had also invested in other expansions and improved facilities. Recently an application had been approved for Market Field Farm. New PRU facilities were also being built. There had also been investment in further specialist provision in mainstream schools as well.
- Engagement, advice and support for parents and families was outlined. ECC engaged as extensively as possible via the new improved Local Offer, SEND roadshows, a SEND newsletter and strengthened and expanded SEND Information, Advice and Support Service.

- ECC was preparing for the next regulatory inspection and was working with health partners and the Essex Family Forum on self-assessment.

During subsequent discussion, the following was highlighted, raised and/or noted:

- (i) Some members suggested that the key messages from public questions and the presentation were that there was a disconnect between ECC aspirations for its service and parental lived experience. Members referred to the recent Local Government Association (LGA) report which suggested local SEND systems were broken. Members suggested distinguishing what could be done by ECC to improve matters locally and what needed Government direction and support. Members welcomed the engagement with the LGA and suggested that ECC needed to do more engagement and lobbying.
- (ii) It was emphasised that parents needed support. It was suggested by some members that there had been some inflammatory communications from Essex Legal Services. Unfortunately, an adversarial approach could sometimes be created as a result.
- (iii) A Member suggested that already there was a two-tier system around assessment cases with some parents paying for private assessments to try to expedite the process. The Cabinet Member did not support parents being able to move up the queue if they had ability to pay for a private assessment.
- (iv) Only 1% of EHCPs issued by ECC were within the 20-week statutory deadline. It was thought that ECC was likely bottom nationally for completing assessments within the 20-week deadline. There were monthly meetings with DfE to find ways to improve assessment performance. There would be a variety of reasons why EHCPs were not being completed within the deadline. It was stressed that there did not seem to be any shining practice from elsewhere that would particularly help ECC at present. Members stressed that further lobbying needed to be done.
- (v) There was no national template at present on building in formal medical input for EHCPs, although it was being reviewed through the DfE's improvement programme. Medical advice could be sourced from a variety of areas including Integrated Care System providers, various therapists, consultants and GPs. There was a person within each Integrated Care System who had lead oversight. There were quality assurance mechanisms in each of ECC's quadrants to oversee EHCPs. It was fair to acknowledge that there was no absolute consistency across the health system and ECC were working with health partners to help improve every aspect of that.
- (vi) A team within the Education Directorate fed into every relevant developer planning application and were now more involved in inputting into borough and district local plans from a SEND perspective than ever



before. Members encouraged work to further build education provision within developer contributions for new developments. It was suggested that the support received from borough and districts on this could vary. The Chairman highlighted that there was currently a Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee Section 106 working group looking into aspects of the Section 106 Developer Contributions process.

- (vii) Tribunals did not automatically take into account the impact on schools and children already attending. In order for tribunal to take this into account it was incumbent on the LA to provide an assessment of 'breaking points' to the Tribunals. Often the Head Teacher of a school would describe the potential impact on other children. The Tribunal role was to assess whether that impact outweighed the benefit to the child if they were admitted. There was a high threshold for the Head Teacher to be able to say and prove that it was impossible to accommodate the child.
- (viii) The best way for parents to communicate issues would depend on the nature of the complaint and could be through the governing body at the school, ECC, Ombudsman or Ofsted. If the complaint was about receiving the 'cold shoulder' from a school when making enquiries, then ECC would want to know and would investigate those complaints.
- (ix) The Co-ordination and Oversight Group was tasked with improving ECC communications with parents. The Family Forum had also suggested improvements were needed. ECC wanted to engage with parents in as many different ways as possible.
- (x) Some schools who supported SEND children were struggling either financially and/or from capacity point of view and an ECC Team would offer some guidance and support. Not all schools had signed up to the ECC Inclusion Strategy. It was suggested that schools could be broadly bracketed as either inclusive, those wanting to be more inclusive and those not engaging.
- (xi) The Ombudsman had highlighted the need for a system wide solution to address shortages in assessment staff.
- (xii) It was clarified that the previous Ofsted inspection had highlighted issues around the quality, rather than timeliness, of EHCPs being completed and Ofsted had since concluded that this had improved.
- (xiii) The vast majority of SEND spend was on the statutory services. The SEND service was also further investing in the Inclusion Framework and early support. There were some high-cost placements within the SEND budget. There were now significantly more young people in special schools than previously and there were significant pressures on the budget. Further SEND capacity was needed.

Conclusion:

The following was agreed:

- (i) It was suggested that ECC should look at a possible reimbursement mechanism for private assessment charges and see how the assessment process was managed at Surrey particularly with regard to paying for private assessments.
- (ii) Further information and breakdown on assessment completion times would be provided, particularly how much longer parents had to wait beyond the 20 week timeline and how many parents were waiting a year or longer.
- (iii) Further information would be provided on the work and role breakdown for the Communications officer position that was operating in each ECC quadrant.
- (iv) Members recommended that ECC should be more transparent with parents about EHCP assessment times and communicate more clearly with parents about the likely waiting times for their particular assessment. The Cabinet Member agreed to consider this further.
- (v) It had been suggested during public questions that there was no mechanism to take schools to court. Members asked how many warning notices had been issued by ECC in the last year and was the trend getting better or worse. Further information would be provided in writing.
- (vi) There was an offer to come back to PAF to share more information on inclusion work.
- (vii) Answers to Public Questions would be published on the website.

## **5 Current support for victims of Domestic Abuse and the recommissioning of services that aim to prevent, reduce and respond to Domestic Abuse**

The Committee considered report PAF/10/24. The following people attended the meeting to introduce the item and respond to questions:

- Clare Burrell, Head of Commissioning Children and Families
- Chris Martin, Director for Commissioning Children and Families
- Cllr Beverley Egan, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Early Years (joined via Zoom)

In view of time constraints and the long previous agenda item, it was agreed to only have a brief introduction to this topic and to defer the substantive presentation and discussion to the next meeting.

Therefore, during the shortened discussion, the following was highlighted, raised and/or noted:

- (i) The paper set out commissioning intentions post 2025 which would involve a more holistic offer being developed with the Police, fire and Crime Commissioner's office, Southend and Thurrock unitary councils.
- (ii) There were concerns about the central point of contact for perpetrators and victims, whether it would deter victims to come forward, potential safeguarding considerations and encouraging people to use it. The Police would be co-locating some staff at the central point of contact and further arrangements still being finalised could be shared at the 11 April meeting. Significant amount of work had been undertaken looking at the risks, benefits and understanding of all the dependencies.
- (iii) The effectiveness of the central point of contact would be measured going forward and would be adjusted in the future if required.
- (iv) Collaboration with partners was currently being formalised and it was expected that further details would be available to discuss at the meeting on 11 April.
- (v) Coercive and controlling behaviour was the most difficult message to get across to people in terms of them understanding that it was the situation they were facing. ECC and partners needed to get better at helping people recognise these circumstances.
- (vi) Programmes took place in schools around building healthy relationships and a short film on this would be launched in April.

Conclusion:

It was agreed to carry over this item and provide further detail at the next meeting on 11 April 2024.

**6 Performance Monitoring falling within Committee's remit, as reported to the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

Members agreed for report PAF/11/24 to be deferred to the next meeting to enable Cllr Carlo Guglielmi to report on it.

**7 Matters Arising**

The Committee considered and noted report PAF/12/24 comprising outstanding matters arising from previous meetings.

**8 Work Programme**

The Committee considered and discussed report PAF/13/24 comprising the work programme for the Committee.

**9 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 11 April 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.04pm.

**Chairman**

**Reference Number: PAF/14/24**

<b>Report title:</b> Current support for victims of domestic abuse and the recommissioning of Services that aim to prevent, reduce and respond to Domestic Abuse	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Clare Burrell, Head of Commissioning Children and Families	
<b>Date:</b> 11 April 2024	<b>For:</b> information and discussion
<b>Enquiries to:</b> <a href="mailto:Clare.burrell@essex.gov.uk">Clare.burrell@essex.gov.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:Gaynor.sproul@essex.gov.uk">Gaynor.sproul@essex.gov.uk</a>	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Countywide	

## 1. Introduction

In October 2022, the Committee was updated on the new duties incumbent on Essex County Council following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act April 2021. These duties being to provide support to victims residing in safe accommodation. Since that time officers have been increasing and enhancing the offer for victims residing in safe accommodation, as well as ensuring maintained focus on early intervention and prevention.

Officers are now planning for the recommissioning of support for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse post 2025, with our partners across Southend and Thurrock Councils and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. This report, and the information appended to this report, set out the progress made since 2021 and the planned intentions for post 2025.

There was a brief initial discussion on this topic at the last meeting of the Committee on 14 March 2024 but, due to time constraints, it was agreed to defer the substantive discussion until the April meeting. Points raised in the initial discussion last month have been reflected in updated paperwork for this item with some specific additional disclosure at the end of Appendix A.

## 2. Action required

**The Committee is asked to consider:**

- (i) The actions the Council has taken to support victims of domestic abuse since the new duties came into force April 2021
- (ii) The plans for the recommissioning of services 2025
- (iii) Identify any follow-up scrutiny actions.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has a duty to provide support in safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse, which includes children and young people. Since 2021 the

## Report to People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee: Domestic abuse `

council has received central government funding to support that work. This in turn has meant that a proportion of the Public Health grant, until 2021 the only source of funding for Domestic Abuse victim support, has been released and enabled us to extend our offer to victims beyond the required duties. It has also enabled a broadening of our early intervention and prevention offer to those at risk of domestic abuse.

- 3.2 The Council also contributes funding to the current support offered to perpetrators of domestic abuse. We, along with our statutory partners, have an ambition to increase our focus on perpetrators to intervene earlier to stop abuse and/or prevent escalation or risk to their victims.
- 3.3 Over the past 12 months partners have been acting on the recommendations from jointly commissioned 2022 research report into domestic abuse in Essex. The purpose of the research was to explore how we can improve the system of support for victims and perpetrators post 2025. As a result, there is now a Pan Essex Commissioning Collaborative working together on joint commissioning arrangements.
- 3.4 The intention is to commission:
  - a) One central point of contact for victims and perpetrators.
  - b) Support for victims residing in safe accommodation.
  - c) Community based support for victims (including children).
  - d) Early help whole family working (including the perpetrator).
  - e) Community based support for perpetrators.

### Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Clare Burrell, Head of Commissioning for Children and Families  
Gaynor Sproul, Commissioning Manager Children and Families  
Chris Martin, Director for Commissioning Children and Families

## 5 Appendices

- A. Report for People and Families Scrutiny Committee 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Children and Families: Recommissioning of Domestic Abuse Services
- B. Power Point: Domestic Abuse position and intentions post 2024. To be introduced and presented at the meeting by staff representatives.

**APPENDIX A**  
**Report for People and Families Scrutiny Committee 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Children and Families Update of Domestic Abuse and Commissioning**  
**Intentions**

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Lead: Clare Burrell, Head of Commissioning Children and Families

## **1. Introduction**

This paper and the accompanying slide pack outline the progress made in the Council's statutory duties since the introduction of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act, and the commissioning intentions for post April 2025.

## **2. Background**

Since 2016 the Public Health grant of £1,644m p.a. enabled the council to deliver support to victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation and wider community settings. It also contributes to support for perpetrators. This support is jointly commissioned with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner until 2025.

In April 2021, as a result of the Domestic Abuse Act, it became incumbent on Tier 1 Local Authorities to provide support for victims of domestic abuse (including children and young people) who are residing in safe accommodation, e.g. refuge. Following representation from Essex County Council and other councils this was extended to mean victims' own homes where additional security measures and a robust safety plan is in place.

Since 2021 the council has been in receipt of a further £2,790m per annum from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to deliver its duties. This has meant we have been able to extend our offer to victims, including for the first time to children and young people.

The Public Health Grant and DLUHC Duties monies combined means we have been able to continue to build on our offer for victims, but also importantly our early intervention and prevention offer in pursuit of preventing and reducing domestic abuse.

## **3. Redesigning a holistic approach for Domestic Abuse post 2025**

The way in which the domestic abuse offer has developed since the introduction of the new duties is that, albeit commissioned against a thorough needs assessment, it is responsive and added to enhance the existing offer rather than purposefully designed as a holistic offer. This was the same for Southend and Thurrock Councils.

In 2022 the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (SETDAB) commissioned research that reviewed the current domestic abuse support and intervention offer with a view to developing a set of recommendations that would inform future partnership delivery plans and commissioning of support.

As a result of the research recommendations a joint commissioning group was formed across SET Partners to lead the redesign of the SET wide domestic abuse victim and perpetrator response in time for recommissioning 2025. The research report highlighted:

- The Southend, Essex and Thurrock response to domestic abuse has many strengths, including the delivery of high-quality core services for victims, survivors and perpetrators.
- The system is underpinned by a strong and mature model of partnership working across three local authorities and multiple agencies which is led by the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board.
- Now is the opportunity to build on these foundations and take the local response to the next level in order to build and consolidate the vision for a whole system approach that breaks the cycle of domestic abuse.

The report recommended that in consolidating and building a whole system approach commissioners should ensure that they continue to develop on:

- Preventing underrepresented groups, such as age, gender, disability, sexuality, or ethnicity, from falling through the gaps and by not coming forward or not able to access specialist support.
- An approach to long term recovery, especially for those victims and perpetrators with complex needs.
- Increasing support and programmes to focus on the behaviour change of perpetrators.
- Continuing to foster better understanding of domestic abuse, in particular coercive control and psychological abuse which are less well understood than other types of domestic abuse.

#### **4. The Pan Essex Domestic Abuse Commissioning Collaborative**

The Pan Essex Domestic Abuse Commissioning Collaborative (PEDACC) formed in 2023. Partners are the SET Local Authorities, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex Police and Essex Probation.

The group has led extensive work with stakeholders, including front line practitioners and those with lived experience, to co-design a holistic offer of support that would be commissioned post 2025 and which will embed the findings from the research report i.e.. equality, diversity, inclusion and equity, understanding of abuse, perpetrator support and appropriate response and support for those with complex needs.



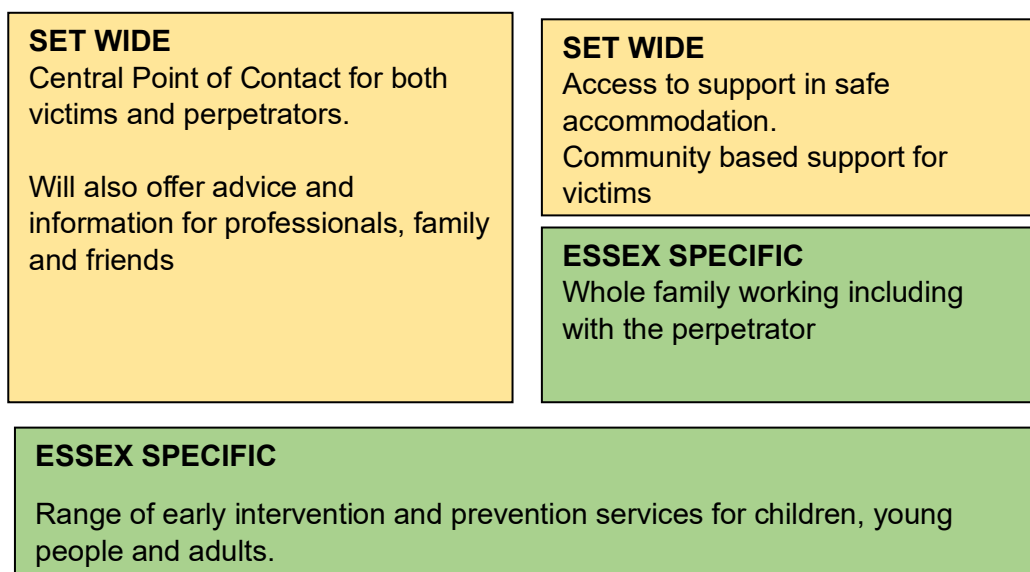
The details of the proposed model are now being considered and it consists of five key component parts that are:

- a) One central point of contact for victims and perpetrators
- b) Support for victims residing in safe accommodation
- c) Community based support for victims (including children)
- d) Early help whole family working (including the perpetrator)
- e) Community based support for perpetrators

The model is underpinned by a range of early intervention and prevention programmes and support services.

It has been agreed in principle that PEDACC will commission elements of the model together, for example the Central Point of Contact and the support in Safe accommodation. However, due to local variances (finance and delivery models), partners have agreed service standards so that victims can expect the same quality of service pan Essex

### The model from Essex Perspective



The advantages of this approach for Essex are that it

- Ensures we are meeting the requirements within the Domestic Abuse Act and complying with national guidance.
- Will achieve efficiency savings through aligned budgets and joint commissioning
- Will improve pathways to support for all those impacted by domestic abuse, including perpetrators.
- Will ensure consistent service offer and quality standards pan Essex

- Achieves improved co-ordination of services supporting transitions across greater Essex where victims are fleeing the perpetrator yet need to keep local safe connections
- Provides a whole family approach, outside of statutory services, to domestic abuse

#### Next steps

1. Each authority is obtaining their governance approvals
2. The model elements are being finalised in detail
3. The procurement approach is being considered
4. The procurement is anticipated to be launched in summer 2024
5. New offer will go live April 2025

### **Matters raised at Scrutiny Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

1. **Concerns about the central point of contact and potential and how to encourage people to use it if for victims and perpetrators.**
  - The Central Point of contact is likely to look different in terms of front facing communications and messaging to perpetrators and victims. Perpetrators do already call the current single point of access and promotion of the central point of contact for them should help in our endeavours to reduce domestic abuse. Victims have told us that having a place for their perpetrator to easily seek help, advice and support would be a good thing.
  - The multiagency working behind the central point of contact will ensure effective joining up of information for high-risk victims. This will involve a range of partners, be it physically or virtually co-located,
2. **Members queried how we will measure the effectiveness of the Central Point of Contact.**
  - The effectiveness of the Central Point of contact will be monitored through the usual contractual arrangements which will ensure effective scrutiny of the of Key Performance Indicators and outcomes for victims and perpetrators as well as service user experience.
3. **The importance of including addressing gaslighting in the service plan.**
  - Gaslighting is a form of abuse where a person causes someone to question their sanity, memories, or perception of reality. As such it would be used as an example of Psychological Abuse for which there is and will be support through the new offer.



# Recommissioning of Domestic Abuse Services

Clare Burrell, Head of Strategic Commissioning and Policy, Children and Families, Essex County Council

# Background

- Current services last commissioned and effective from April 2019 and end 2025
- Jointly commissioned with the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
- ECC Public Health investment £1,644,000 p.a.
- PFCC investment £493,000 p.a.
- Compass front door for victims
- Community based support for adult victims
- Accommodation-based (refuge) support for adults
- Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors specialist support for high-risk domestic abuse victims
- Stand-alone early intervention programmes
- 2021 Domestic Abuse Act resulted in new duties for the Council
- Additional services commissioned

# 2021 New Duties

## 2021 Domestic Abuse Act new duties for ECC

- Establish a local Essex Board
- Produce a needs assessment
- Publish a domestic abuse commissioning strategy

Additional £2.890m new burdens funding for 3 years to support to victims **and their children** residing in refuge, specialist, dispersed and sanctuary accommodation, also in second stage accommodation (excluding Independent Domestic Violence Advisors)

- Advocacy support
- Prevention advice
- Specialist support for those with protected characteristics/complex needs
- Children's and young people's support including therapies and advocacy
- Housing-related support and advice
- Resettlement support

## The Act

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The Act does not create an offence of “Domestic Abuse” but aims to:

- **Protect and support victims** – to enhance the safety of victims and the support they receive;
- **Transform the justice process** – to provide support to victims throughout the justice process and an effective response to perpetrators to end the cycle of abuse;
- **Improve performance** – to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse;
- **Promote awareness** – put domestic abuse at the top of everybody’s agenda.
- **16+ years** as offenders/victims
- **Children** under 16 to be defined as victims



No matter if the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct, and applies to any person 16+

## Types of Abuse

Physical or sexual abuse;  
Violent or threatening behaviour  
Controlling or coercive behaviour

### **Economic abuse**

Psychological, emotional or other abuse;

## Descriptors

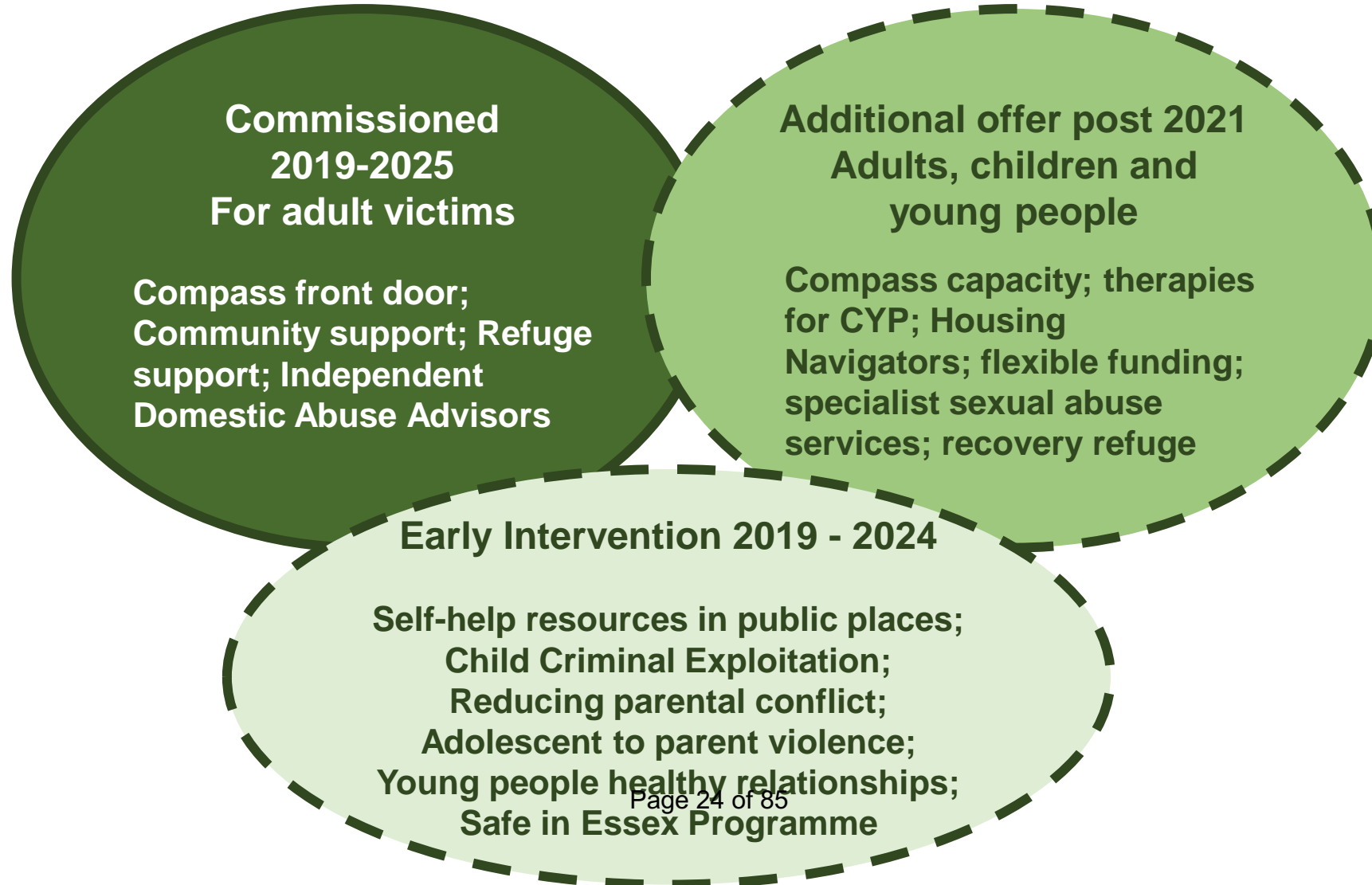
Intimate Partner Violence  
Abuse by Family Members  
Teenage Relationship Abuse

### **Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse**

## Links

Stalking and harassment  
Honour Based Violence  
Forced marriage  
FGM  
Modern Slavery

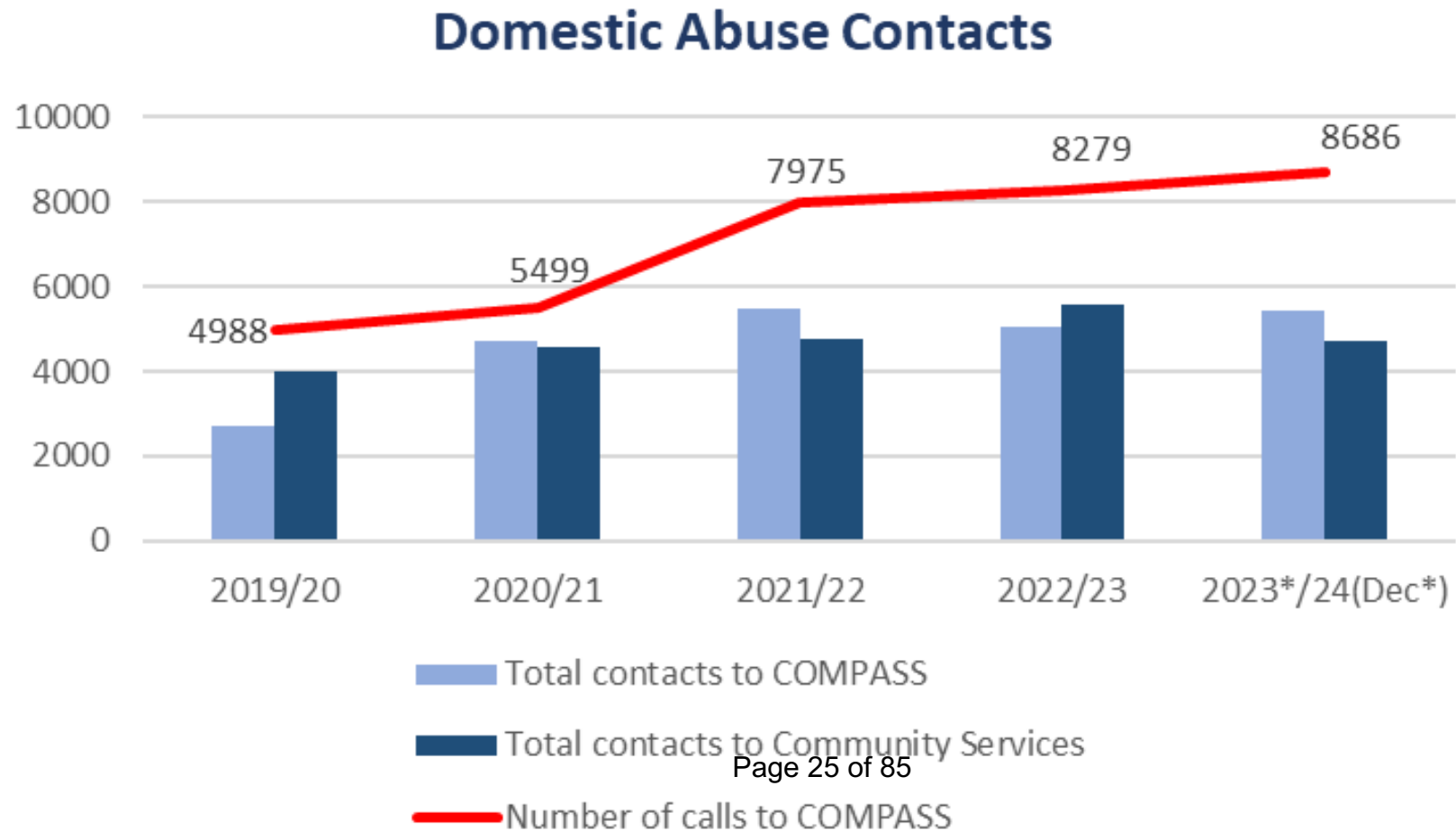
# Current Domestic Abuse Offer





# Then 2019 and now 2024

## High level demand



# Then 2019 and now 2024

## Trends

In 2019 Colchester, Basildon and Chelmsford accounted for the top 3 areas for victims seeking support. In 2023/24 Colchester and Basildon remained the top 2, with Tendring at number 3 (previously 6th) and Chelmsford at number 4

4% (153) of victims in the community in 2019 were men. The numbers have increased slowly year on year, with men representing 6% (281) in 2023/24

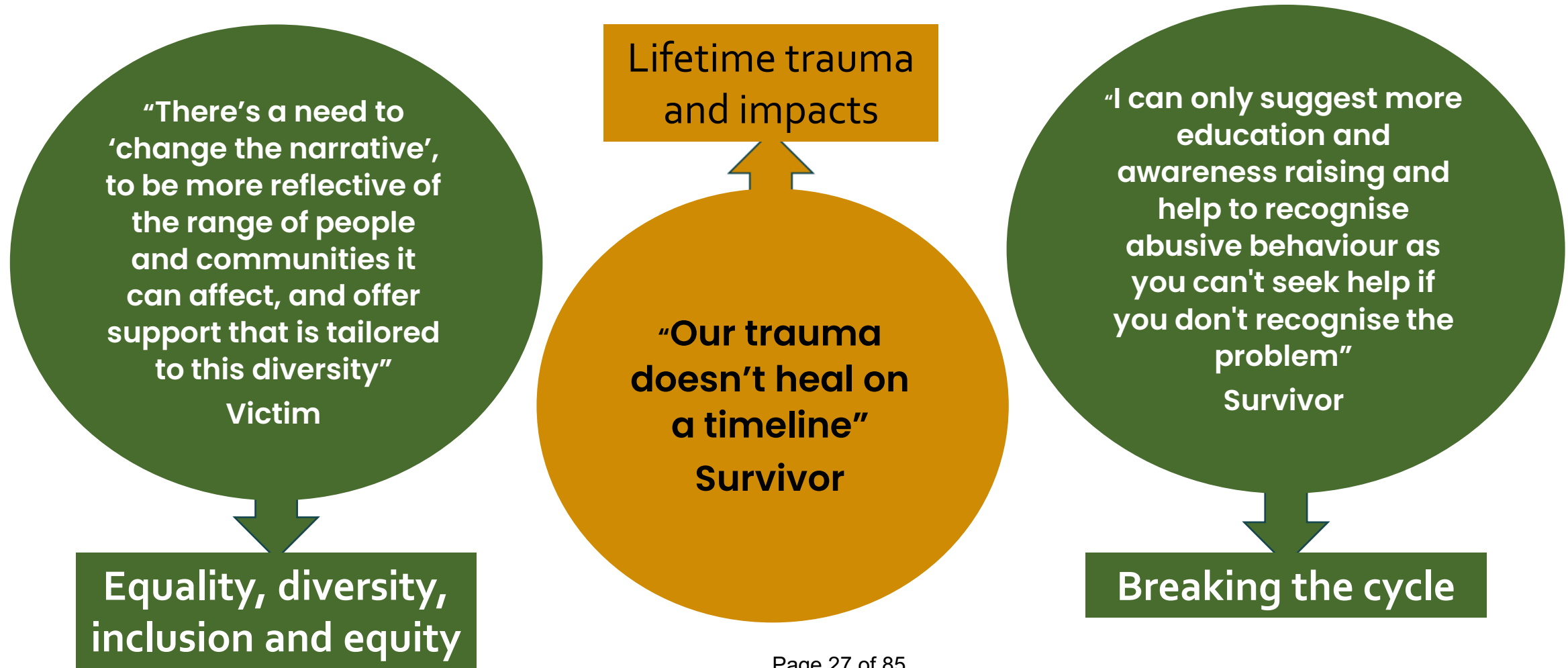
10% (472) of victims in the community in 2023/24 were Black African/Caribbean, Asian and other multiple ethnic groups. These demographics have been consistent since each year since 2019

22% (1,036) of victims in the community in 2023/24 identified as having a disability. This is consistent with previous years

31 – 35-year-olds are the primary age group each year, with 65+ years the lowest represented group; no significant changes each year

In 2019 the average case length for high-risk victims was 3 months, this has increased to an average of 6 months in 2023/24, primarily due to the increase in complexities and the backlog in cases going to court

# 2022 Research Insight



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Essex County Council

Probation  
Service



**ESSEX  
POLICE**  
Protecting and serving Essex



Southend-on-Sea  
City Council



thurrock.gov.uk

**PFCC**  
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

# Pan Essex Domestic Abuse Commissioning Collaborative

## PEDACC Team

- **Essex County Council – Lead Commissioner**
- Southend City Council
- Thurrock Council
- Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Essex Police
- Probation
- SETDAB Partnership Lead

# The co-designed model for Pan Essex

Early Intervention and Prevention (Essex) preventative programmes of work to ensure de-escalation of conflict and aggression within households and positive behaviour programmes for young people.

## Central Point of Contact (SET)

for anyone with concerns of domestic abuse, including professionals, victims, survivors, and perpetrators. It will offer triage, information, advice, guidance and where needed onwards referral for support.

### Support in Safe Accommodation (SET)

Specialist support for high risk victims

### Community Based Support (SET)

for victims Safety planning, practical and emotional support

### Programmes and support for perpetrators (SET)

both early help and specialist support

### Early Help Whole Family Working including the perpetrator (Essex)

# Benefits of model and joint approach

- Meets the requirements within the Domestic Abuse Act and national guidance
- Efficiency savings through aligned budgets and joint commissioning
- Improves pathways to support for all those impacted by domestic abuse, including perpetrators.
- Consistent service offer and quality standards across greater Essex
- Co-ordination of services supporting transitions across greater Essex where victims are fleeing the perpetrator yet need to keep local safe connections
- Provides a whole family approach, outside of statutory services, to domestic abuse



<b>Report title:</b> Overview of 2022/2023 Educational Outcomes	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Cllr Tony Ball – Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability	
<b>Date:</b> 14 March 2024	<b>For:</b> Information and Discussion
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Clare Kershaw – Director, Education <a href="mailto:clare.kershaw@essex.gov.uk">clare.kershaw@essex.gov.uk</a>	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report (Appendix 1) covers an overview of educational outcomes for the 2022/ 2023 academic year and an overview of how the Education Directorate works with schools across Essex.

## **2 Action required**

- 2.1 To consider the overview report (Appendix 1).

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 2022/23 was the first-year post Covid, ECC analysed educational outcomes for children and young people. It was felt that due to the pandemic, to present education outcomes in 2021/22 would not be considered to be a fair comparison due to the impact of the national lockdowns. Therefore, this is the first report on Essex educational outcomes to be presented to the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee since May 2019 when the educational outcomes for the 2017/18 academic year were presented.

## **4. Update**

See Appendix 1 for paper.

## **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Overview of 2023 Educational Outcomes



# People and Families Scrutiny Committee

## Educational Attainment 2022/23 academic year.

Cllr Tony Ball

Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning  
and Employability

Clare Kershaw

Director of Education















# Current Essex Schools

School Type	LA Maintained	Academy	Total	% Academy
All Through	0	2	2	100.0%
Nursery	2	0	2	0.0%
Primary	204	241	445	54.2%
Pupil Referral Unit	3	3	6	50.0%
Secondary	4	75	79	94.9%
Special	6	16	22	72.7%
Total	219	337	556	60.6%

# The Changing School Population

Pupil Group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Pre-COVID to Present: % Change	
<b>All Pupils</b>	<b>214,488</b>	<b>216,731</b>	<b>218,970</b>	<b>221,520</b>	<b>223,319</b>		<b>4.1%</b>
Disadvantaged*	41,304	41,089	43,549	44,815	45,238		9.5%
Non Disadvantaged*	157,904	159,511	158,867	160,504	161,644		2.4%
No SEN	184,550	185,876	186,788	187,350	185,996		0.8%
SEN Support	22,517	23,069	23,954	25,631	27,987		24.3%
EHCP	7,421	7,786	8,228	8,539	9,336		25.8%
BME	39,745	41,522	44,206	48,452	52,610		32.4%
White British	170,744	171,063	170,693	169,335	167,011		-2.2%
EAL	16,639	17,241	18,247	20,961	22,775		36.9%
English	197,187	198,741	199,908	199,732	199,602		1.2%

\* applies to R-11 year groups only

Some ethnicities and languages were not recorded at the time of each respective January School Census

## How we work with schools regarding school improvement:

- ECC has a statutory responsibility for school improvement across LA Maintained Schools
- However, ALL schools and academies are run on a day-to-day basis by a governing board and school leaders.
- DfE Guidance “*Governance Handbook for Academy Trusts and Maintained Schools*” defines the purpose of strong governance as providing “*confident and strong strategic leadership which leads to robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance*”
- All Boards have 3 core functions:
  - Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
  - Holding executive leaders to account for educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
  - Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is spent well
- The handbook calls for governing boards to be “ambitious” for their pupils and children.
- Statutory powers of intervention for LA’s and DfE is outlined in the “*Schools Causing Concern Handbook*” – powers of intervention are placed upon governing boards.

# LA Maintained Schools and Academies

- ECC is neutral about academisation.
- Core strategic educational priorities are offered to all schools at no cost to ensure improvement across the county for ALL children and young people, e.g.:
  - Inclusion
  - Disadvantaged
  - School Partnerships
  - Levelling Up initiatives
  - Safeguarding
  - Early Years
  - Essex Educational Taskforce
  - Trauma Perceptive Practice
- There are strong professional associations in Essex (ASHE, EPHA, ESSET, ESGA) and ECC works across these associations as well as with individual schools and groups of schools
- ECC also works directly with governors
- Schools decide who they commission services from including ECC, Juniper and other private organisations.
- Essex **IS NOT** a DfE identified 'Education Improvement Area' or 'Priority Improvement Area'.

# OVERVIEW OF 2023 EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Performance & Business Intelligence (Education)

March 2024

## Key Messages

- Slightly more Essex schools graded at least good by Ofsted than nationally but fewer pupils attending such schools.
- At least a 2% points improvement on 2022 outcomes for attainment measures across the primary phase.
- Essex outcomes consistently higher than other LA comparator averages to the age of 11.
- Whilst KS2 performance compares favourably, to achieve the Government target of 90% pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths by 2030, this still means more than 5000 more pupils need to achieve each year.
- KS4 outcomes are lower than in 2022 but this was anticipated due to DfE reverting back to pre-COVID marking standards. The same reduction in performance was seen nationally too.
- Essex KS4 performance lower than all comparator averages and in the fourth quartile nationally for Progress 8.
- Disadvantaged pupils in Essex perform lower than their national peers
- The disadvantaged gap also progressively increases - from 22% points at age 5 to nearly 34% points at age 16
- Absence rates were lower in Essex than national
- The permanent exclusion rate in Essex is consistently lower than nationally (although is increasing). However, a greater proportion of pupils received at least one suspension
- The span between district performance increases throughout the key stage – from 10% points at age 5 to nearly 23% points at age 16
- High performance across all key stages for EAL pupils and those from Asian and Black ethnic groups

% schools graded good or outstanding as at 31 08 23		
School Type	Essex	England
Primary	92.2%	90.0%
Secondary	74.4%	81.4%
Special	94.7%	89.3%
All (including PRUs)	89.5%	88.7%

% pupils attending good or outstanding schools as at 31 08 23		
School Type	Essex	England
Primary	92.9%	91.5%
Secondary	75.7%	83.9%
Special	97.6%	92.8%
All (including PRUs)	85.7%	88.3%

Schools by Overall Effectiveness Grade as at 31 08 23					
District	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	% good or outstanding
Uttlesford	4	35	2		95.1%
Brentwood	8	22	2		93.8%
Epping Forest	3	38	1	2	93.2%
Chelmsford	15	51	4	1	93.0%
Basildon	13	41	5		91.5%
Colchester	11	61	3	4	91.1%
Braintree	6	50	4	2	90.3%
Harlow	1	33	3	1	89.5%
Essex	76	417	41	17	89.5%
Castle Point	6	20	3	1	86.7%
Rochford	3	19	5		81.5%
Maldon	3	14	2	2	81.0%
Tendring	3	33	7	4	76.6%

\* 6 schools were yet to be inspected

# 2023 Attainment Outcomes: Primary Phase

		Shows highest performance			
Key Stage	Measure	Essex	ER	SN	England
EYFS	% Good Level of Development	68.9	67.2	69.4	67.2
Year 1 Phonics	% expected standard	79.3	78.0	79.2	78.9
Key Stage 1	% expected standard - Reading	70.4	67.5	70.1	68.2
	% expected standard - Writing	62.5	58.5	61.6	60.1
	% expected standard - Maths	72.6	69.5	71.9	70.4
Key Stage 2	% expected standard - RWM	61.1	58.0	58.6	59.8
	% expected standard - Reading	74.0	72.7	73.3	73.3
	% expected standard - Writing	73.4	69.8	71.3	71.7
	% expected standard - Maths	74.4	72.1	72.0	73.3
	Progress score - Reading	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	0.0
	Progress score - Writing	0.3	-0.3	-0.6	0.0
	Progress score - Maths	0.0	-0.2	-0.7	0.0



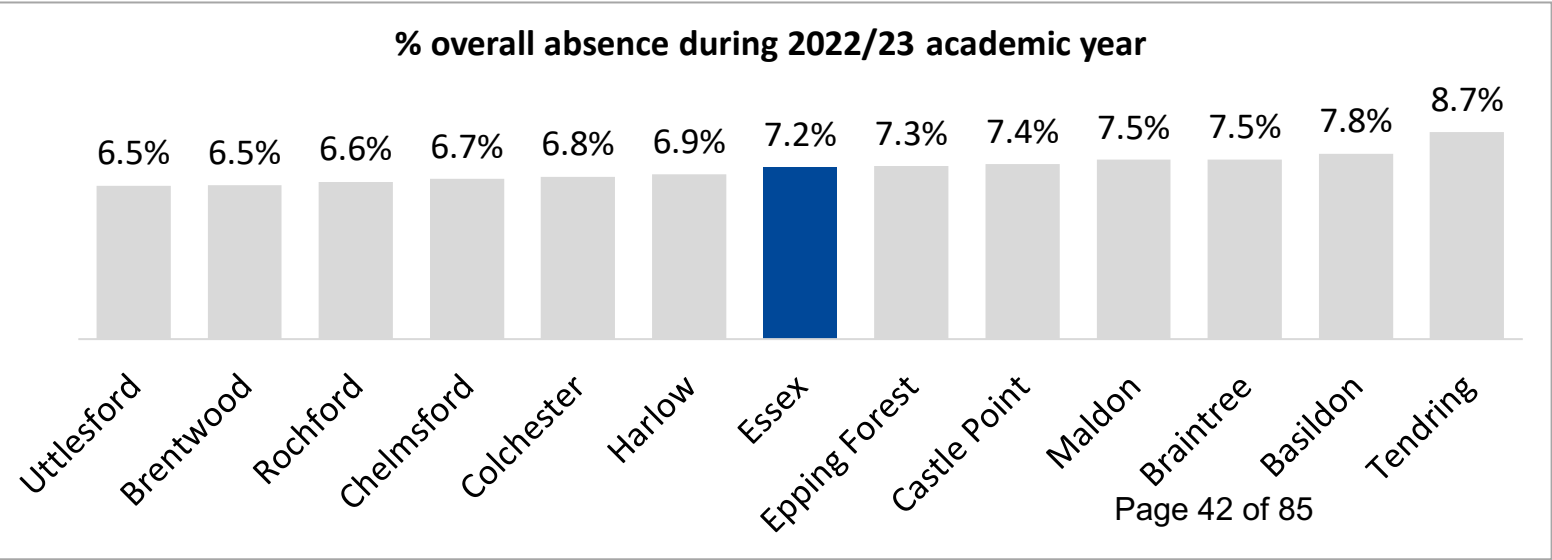
# 2023 Attainment Outcomes: Secondary Phase

Shows highest performance					
Key Stage	Measure	Essex	ER	SN	England
Key Stage 4	% 9-4 in English & Maths	63.7	66.3	65.7	65.4
	Attainment 8 score	45.3	46.6	45.9	46.4
	Progress 8 score	-0.18	0.01	-0.06	-0.03
Key Stage 5 (college data not included)	Average APS per A level entry	34.6	34.3	33.0	34.6
	% achieving 2+ A levels	87.0	87.3	84.4	86.7
	% achieving AAB or better in A levels*	17.7	16.2	14.6	17.2

\* in facilitating subjects

# Absence

Absence measures during the 2022/23 academic year								
Measure	Primary		Secondary		Special		All Schools	
	Essex	England	Essex	England	Essex	England	Essex	England
% overall absence	5.9%	5.9%	8.8%	9.0%	12.0%	13.0%	7.2%	7.4%
% authorised absence	4.4%	4.3%	5.6%	5.7%	10.6%	9.9%	5.0%	5.0%
% unauthorised absence	1.5%	1.6%	3.2%	3.3%	1.4%	3.2%	2.2%	2.4%
% persistent absence (10%+ sessions missed)	15.6%	16.2%	25.4%	26.5%	37.6%	38.5%	20.2%	21.2%
% severe absence (50%+ sessions missed)	0.7%	0.7%	3.3%	3.4%	4.5%	6.3%	1.9%	2.0%



# Exclusions

Exclusion and Suspension measures per academic year						
Academic Year	Permanent Exclusions (per 100 pupils)		Fixed Term Suspensions (per 100 pupils)		Pupils with 1+ suspensions (per 100 pupils)	
	Essex	England	Essex	England	Essex	England
2020/21	0.03	0.05	4.04	4.10	2.18	2.13
2021/22	0.05	0.07	6.87	6.10	3.15	2.73
2022/23	0.07	0.10	9.30	8.77	3.86	3.37

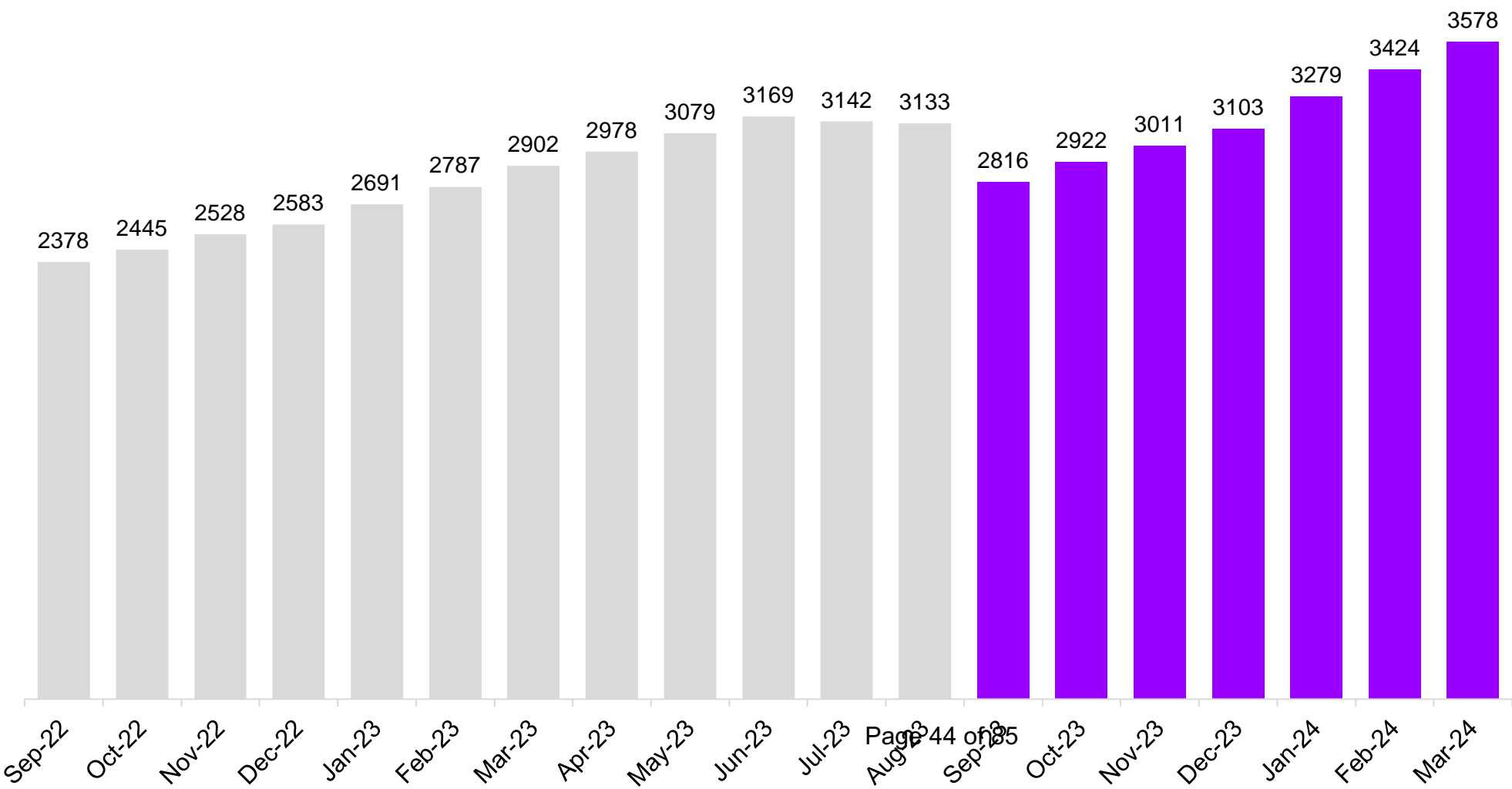
**Note:** Analysis by the Education Access team for the 2023/24 year to date shows a significant increase in both referrals to the LA and permanent exclusions that are upheld. Compared to the same point in 2022/23, there is currently a 179% (14-39) increase in referral numbers from primary schools and 21% increase from secondary schools (143-173).

A referral means that the school have sent the official letter to the parent / carer that the pupil has been permanently excluded, and have also notified the LA. This triggers a response from Education Access to fulfil the LA’s statutory duty to provide education from the 6th day.

Alternative outcomes to avoid a PEX may have been secured for some of the pupils or the governing body may have reinstated the pupil. Due to the appeal process and other work that may be happening with the school and the pupil the current years data must be seen as a snapshot in time and not be taken as an accurate reflection of the number of Essex children PEX from their school as this may change. For the first three half terms of 2023/24, there have been 212 referrals (compared to 157 at the same point in 2022/23). As explained, **not all of these will be upheld** and the actual number that result in a permanent exclusion will not be known until the end of the 2024 calendar year.

# Electively Home Educated (EHE)

March 23 to March 24 shows a 23% increase in numbers



# How ECC directly supports schools to improve:

Schools have access to a wide range of support including:

- Essex Schools Infolink resources
- Weekly email communication updates
- Termly meetings with the professional associations
- Termly director briefings with chairs of governors
- The development of county wide strategies and local initiatives
- Access to staff expertise including:
  - School Effectiveness Partners
  - Early Years Education Partners
  - Education Access Team
  - Attendance specialists and attendance compliance
  - Inclusion Partners
  - School Place Planning Team
  - School admissions
  - Safeguarding advice and termly forums
  - Emotional Wellbeing support
  - School crisis support
- Maintained schools also access:
  - Health and Safety
  - School building maintenance support
  - School finance support
  - School based interventions (voluntary and statutory)

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# Disadvantaged outcomes – our approach

- Offer of support for all Essex schools (maintained and academies) since 2020
- Training for a senior leader with responsibility for overseeing the outcomes of disadvantaged pupils on best practice, signposting to schools and approaches that lead to improved outcomes
- Support with the development of inclusive practice linked to relationships, language development and comprehension, metacognition and self-regulated learning and social, emotional and mental health

## Disadvantaged outcomes and the self reflection tool (slide 22)

- Schools complete a reflection tool annually to aid their thinking and support reporting to governors/trustees and the development of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) statement (which is required on schools' websites)
- The reflection tool supports with monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the strategy. It identifies where a school is at in their journey to being 'mature' ('there is extensive evidence that the seven main outcomes in the school are embedded and impacting on pupil outcomes').
- Schools and the School Effectiveness team have each school's data on outcomes and maturity to support school improvement planning. Some schools have started to look at partnership data.

## Responding to exclusions:

- Only the headteacher of a school can make the decision to exclude and only the governing board of the excluding school have the right to reinstate the pupil
- The Education Access team have produced a guidance document for schools on best practice to manage exclusions, encouraging early conversation with the IP or the EAT.
- Education Access work closely with excluding schools to ensure they understand the risks associated with exclusion and will try and find a different response to avoid an exclusion although this often means an alternative education package funded by the LA.
- Only if the pupil is a CIC or has a social worker does the LA have to be consulted prior to an exclusion and only the Virtual school and or social worker have an automatic right to be part of the appeal hearing for these pupils.
- EAT have no right to attend GB hearings unless the school is a maintained school. However, the team do send a statement to the GB for all exclusions and attend, if possible, where we are invited. Our statement to the governing board has recently been updated and trialled in south.
- Patterns and trends on high excluding schools / MATS are shared with ADs and Inclusion Teams and collaborative approaches to highlight concerns are taken.
- We are currently working with ASHE to develop some principles around headteachers use of exclusions, and this work will be finalised in the summer term.



# Essex School Partnership Strategy 2021- 2025

***“Accelerators of  
school  
improvement”***

Building on the success of the School Led Improvement Strategy, this School Partnership Strategy seeks to expand and mature the system of school partnerships across Essex to accelerate school improvement and outcomes for all children and young people.

School Partnerships refers to all types of partnerships, including local authority-maintained school partnerships and multi-academy trusts (MATs).

# Aims of the School Partnership Strategy

The aims of this strategy are to **mature partnerships into accelerators of school improvement** and to enable partnerships to become **enablers and drivers of education strategy**. This means that partnerships have a tangible, sustainable impact on school improvement outcomes for children and young people, school staff and wider community. Through direct partnership working, partnership to partnership working and through shaping and implementing the wider education strategies of Essex.

## Maturing the partnership system and structures into accelerators of school improvement

Peer Review

Partnership Evaluation Development Tool (PEDT)

Leadership Handbook

Culture, environment and ethos

Approach to engaging with the Teaching School Hubs at partnership and board level.

Partnership to partnership working

Wellbeing and support

## Partnerships as drivers and enablers of education strategy

Trauma Perceptive Practice

SEND Strategy

Inclusion Framework

Disadvantaged Strategy

COVID response and recovery

Early Years

# Core Offer to Partnerships\* 2023/2024

\* School Partnerships refers to all types of partnerships, including local authority-maintained school partnerships and multi-academy trusts (MATs) and mixed partnerships of maintained and academy schools.

Up to 4 days LA flexible support across the year which will include

- SEP will arrange a termly meeting with partnership Lead/MAT CEO or steering / management group - this will depend on size of partnership and the relationship and knowledge of the partnership. This meeting will include how collaborative working can improve curriculum equity and opportunity for all pupils with a focus on Disadvantage and SEN Support outcomes\*
- SEP support for collaborative working in and between partnerships so that Partnerships can be accelerators of school improvement.
- Support for Peer review if requested
  - Facilitating/Quality assuring peer review
  - Assessing the Impact of Peer review
  - capacity training for Peer Review
- Support with Partnership Meeting agenda planning
- Support and training for Partnership Evaluation and Development Tool and outputs where requested
- County Partnership Leads meetings
- Support and attendance at Quadrant meetings
- Support with analysis and resulting actions of partnership data pack if purchased
- Support for Quadrant chairs in their role
- Support with identification of additional traded work to support the partnership agreed priorities.

## **Working with LA Maintained schools**

Maintained schools receive a core offer of school improvement support depending on their level of concern to ECC

# Prioritisation of maintained schools

- All maintained schools will be allocated their **core offer based on the level of prioritisation** awarded to them.
- Schools are currently familiar with this model and it has been communicated that this is the intended mechanism by which schools will continue to be prioritised.
- Maintained schools will continue to be monitored through the **Standards and Intervention Board for moderation of prioritisation** as well as any decision making that may need to be taken if a school is causing significant concern.

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<b>SAFEGUARDING</b>	Safeguarding is ineffective (evidenced by a review/ high number of qualifying complaints) therefore the school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils gives the LA serious cause for concern.	There has been an increasing number of complaints where advice has had to be given in relation to the schools safeguarding procedures and practices. This has made the school vulnerable at this time.	School is unlikely to be inspected this academic year.
<b>INSPECTION</b>	Schools which remained good under an Ungraded inspection and received an indication that their next inspection will be Graded because there are identified priorities for improvement. The school is due inspection AY2023-2024.	Schools which have had a recent Ungraded inspection which indicated that they are unlikely to retain good at their next inspection. There is evidence that the school has addressed the areas for improvement and on track to be judged at least a Good school.	
	Good or Outstanding school due an Ungraded inspection but there is a known risk that the inspection could convert to a Graded inspection.	Schools which remained good under an Ungraded inspection and received an indication that their next inspection will be Graded. Ofsted evaluated that there is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding.	
	Good or Outstanding school, due a Graded inspection, but there is a known risk that is unlikely to be judged at least good if inspected within the academic year.	School is likely to be inspected in the academic year and was not supported as a medium priority school last year.	School is due an inspection, it was supported as a medium priority last year and is on track to be judged at least a <u>Good</u> school.
	Requires improvement due Graded inspection AY2023/24 and there is evidence that the school is unlikely to be judged at least a Good school if inspected.	School is currently graded as Requires Improvement.	
	Requires improvement for the last 2 inspections and due Graded inspection.	EYF5/Sixth Form judgement is less than Good.	
	Inadequate Ofsted outcome	Inadequate Ofsted but there is evidence that the school will be Good at its next Graded inspection.	
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	The school is experiencing temporary adversity affecting leadership, governance, staffing, SEND, budget, which is impacting on leadership and management of the school.	Has a new or acting headteacher this year.	
	As a result of a likely deficit in the future, or due to school receiving an LA loan, the School is undergoing a significant staffing or school restructure and this is likely to impact on leadership and the quality of provision.	The School is experiencing a challenging time which may be linked to a critical incident, significant leadership changes and, therefore, additional support for at least this term is required.	
		School is going through a consultation for a structural change, significant expansion or was recently amalgamated, federated or is in its first year of operation.	
	There are concerns about inclusive practices (e.g., admissions practices, off-rolling, use of part time timetable/AP, equality of curricular access, etc.).	Leaders are committed to inclusive practices (e.g., admissions practices, off-rolling, use of part time timetable/AP, equality of curricular access, etc.), but the impact of their work (as evidenced by their self-evaluation) is not fully embedded across the school for all pupils.	
	There are concerns in relation to key indicators such as permanent exclusions, suspensions, EHE, absence/persistent absence, SEND/DA outcomes.	There are emerging, or isolated concerns in relation to key indicators such as permanent exclusions, suspensions, EHE, absence/persistent absence, SEND/DA outcomes.	

# Traded Offer

Schools are be able to access the school improvement services brochure and booking form via Schools Info Link which details the type of support available to schools and to governing bodies. Alternatively, schools may wish to speak to their named School Effectiveness Partner about any school improvement support they require.

Within the school improvement services brochure, schools will be able to browse the pen portraits of the school improvement team, which gives an overview of some of their key specialisms.

Also contained within the brochure is the detail of one off training dates and costs for some specific activity e.g. training support for teachers to effectively carry out statutory assessment processes.

## Examples of some of the type of school improvement support available:

- Headteacher performance management with/without a mid-year review
- Bespoke reviews – E.g. Curriculum/RSE/Inclusion/Disadvantaged/Governance
- Self-evaluation sustainable schools' toolkit
- Early Reading and Phonics
- Middle and senior leadership development
- Bespoke Governor training and support
- Assessment and Moderation
- Statutory assessment support (administration of KS1 and KS2 stat test, phonic screening check, KS1 & 2 assessment writing clinics, moderation health checks)
- Sixth sense (Bespoke 6<sup>th</sup> Form support for schools and colleges)
- Flying start (new headteacher support)
- Data packages available to schools

# Supporting Inclusion



## Inclusion Strategy

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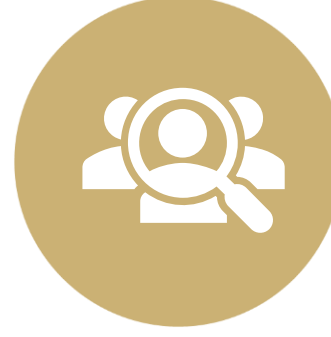
Our vision and commitments, for equity and excellence in education for all children and young people.



## Inclusion Framework

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Enabling early intervention and inclusion in mainstream schools through the principle of Lives without Labels.



## Inclusion Reviews

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Supporting schools to review and reflect on their culture, provision and practices.



## Resources & Learning

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Research visits, gathering and sharing intelligence and best practice, as well as professional learning programmes.

# Tendring Education Strategic Board

- Formed in 2020/2021
- Twinned with the Norwich and Ipswich Educational Improvement Area - £175K DfE investment
- Priorities:
  - Attendance
  - NEET
  - Recruitment
- Latterly a Levelling Up Area - £500K ECC Investment
  - Speech Language and communication
  - Communication Hubs
  - Attendance



# TESB Overview – focus on change between 2022 and 2023

		2022	2023	Change**		
EYFS: % GLD	Tendring	65.8%	69.1%	3.3%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	66.8%	68.9%	2.1%	<div><div></div></div>	
Yr 1 Phonics: % expected	Tendring	70.5%	74.9%	4.4%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	75.3%	79.3%	4.0%	<div><div></div></div>	
KS1 RWM: % expected	Tendring	51.1%	55.7%	4.6%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	55.6%	57.8%	2.2%	<div><div></div></div>	
KS2 RWM: % expected	Tendring	45.0%	52.6%	7.6%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	58.8%	61.1%	2.3%	<div><div></div></div>	
KS4: % 9-4 Eng & Maths*	Tendring	55.1%	51.3%	-3.8%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	68.2%	63.7%	-4.5%	<div><div></div></div>	

\* performance expected to fall (Tendring falls by less)

\*\* RAG looks at in year change only and is not a performance RAG

		2022	2023	Change**		
% overall absence	Tendring	9.6%	8.7%	-0.9%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	7.7%	7.2%	-0.5%	<div><div></div></div>	
Permanent exclusion rate	Tendring	0.05	0.08	0.03	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	0.05	0.07	0.02	<div><div></div></div>	
% NEET/Unknown	Tendring	7.1%	8.1%	1.0%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	4.1%	5.2%	1.1%	<div><div></div></div>	
Ofsted: % schools at least good	Tendring	72.3%	76.6%	4.3%	<div><div></div></div>	
	Essex	89.6%	89.5%	-0.1%	<div><div></div></div>	

Tendring change better than Essex

Tendring change slightly worse than Essex

# Harlow Futures Levelling Up

- Formed in 2022/23
- Voice of Young People shaped the priorities
  - Priorities:
    - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
    - Early Years
    - Reading
    - NEET

# Essex Education Taskforce

- Formed in May 2021 as a response to the lost education of children and young people during the pandemic.
- Independently Chaired
- Representatives from EY – Post 16, business and voluntary sector
- In total £3.5m investment
  - Emotional Wellbeing and mental health
  - Essex Year of Reading
  - Essex Year of Numbers
  - Essex Year of???

# Overview – Essex Year of Reading

The Essex Year of Reading was a £1 million, countywide campaign launched in 2022 aimed at helping every child to become a confident reader and leave school able to read at their age level or better. Over 30 projects were funded by the Year of Reading and delivered to schools and families across Essex throughout the year.

- Schools engaged in 877 events
- KS2 comprehension age increased by 14 months through the Reading Fluency programme
- KS3 comprehension age increased by 13 months through the thinking reading programme
- Every child in Essex given a library card - 3,300 children's library cards used since the campaign
- 98% of families engaged felt inspired to use the library more
- 5,455 children took part in a Winter Reading Challenge
- Over 3,300 downloads of the Year of Reading app
- 80 early years practitioners engaged in Continuous Professional Development workshops
- ECC hosted the National Literacy Trust Annual Conference March 2024

# Overview – Essex Year of Numbers

The Essex Year of Numbers is a £1.5million countywide campaign that aims to inspire a love of learning, with a focus on numeracy. It is a year of exciting learning opportunities, fun events and initiatives aimed at children aged 0 to 18-years-old. The events, competitions and initiatives aim to give every child's maths skills a magic boost

- 38 internal and external partners funded to run projects throughout the year
- 95 Numberstacks kits delivered to schools during the autumn term, a further 59 in Spring Term – 155 Total
- 700 children engaged in the Winter Talks events in December
- 3 teachers from Essex schools seconded to support the Year of Numbers project
- Opportunities to earn a financial literacy certificate with HSBC
- My First Love Maths project with the RAF (10,000 pupils engaged)
- Bobby Seagull acting as ambassador (lots of positive press coverage)

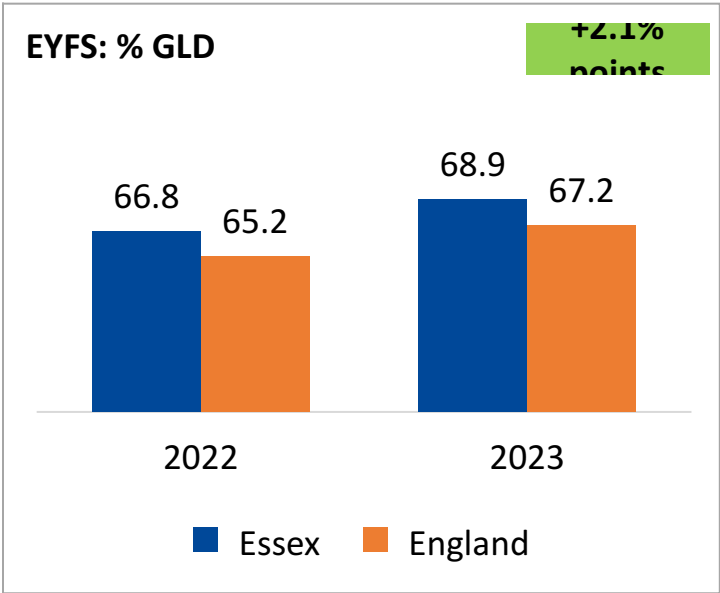
# Acronyms

KS	Key Stage	ASHE	Association of Secondary Schools in Essex
ER	Eastern Region	EPHA	Essex Primary Headteacher Association
SN	Statistical Neighbours	ESSET	Essex Special Schools Educational Trusts
LA	Local Authority	ESGA	Essex School Governor Association
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage	TESB	Tendring Education Strategic Board
GLD	Good Level of Development		
SEN	Special Educational Needs		
EHCP	Educational Health and Care Plan		
RWM	Reading, Writing and Maths		
PEX	Permanent Exclusion		
DfE	Department for Education		

# Appendices

# Attainment Outcomes: Early Years Foundation Stage (age 5) - Overview






District	2023 EYFS: % GLD	Rank
Rochford	75.1%	8
Uttlesford	72.7%	23
Epping Forest	70.4%	57
Maldon	70.0%	84
Chelmsford	69.6%	88
Braintree	69.6%	97
Brentwood	69.3%	142
Tendring	69.1%	105
Essex	68.9%	
Basildon	67.9%	142
England	67.2%	
Colchester	66.6%	188
Castle Point	66.4%	188
Harlow	65.0%	249



The ranks shown to the left relate to each district’s ranking out of 306 districts nationally with EYFS results published.

Most improved district: Castle Point

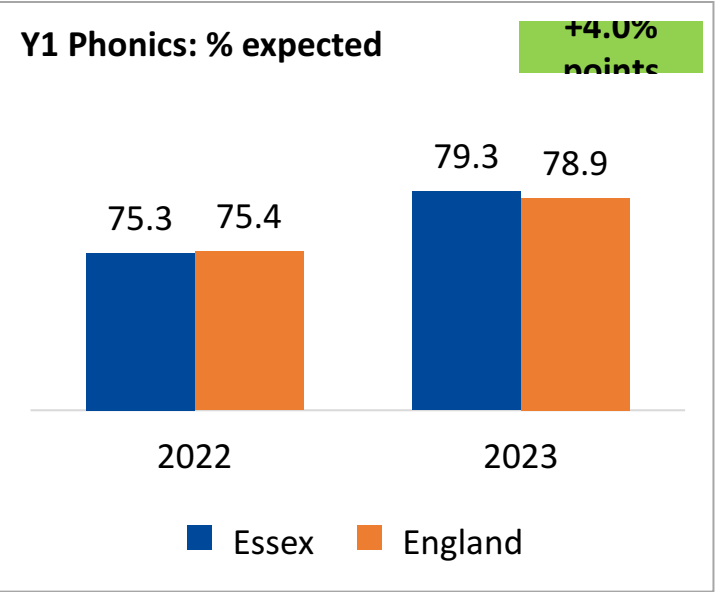
2022 – 58.9%, 2023 – 66.4%

2023 EYFS: % GLD			
Pupil Group		Essex	England
	Male	63.0	60.6
	Female	75.2	74.2
	Disadvantaged	50.4	52.0
	Non disadvantaged	71.9	69.9
	No SEN	74.6	74.0
	SEN Support	18.9	24.3
	EHCP	4.5	3.8
	EAL	62.8	62.4
	Non EAL	70.2	69.3
	White	69.8	68.6
	Asian	66.6	66.7
	Black	65.7	62.8
	Mixed	68.4	68.7
	Other	60.0	59.1



# Attainment Outcomes: Year 1 Phonics Check (age 6) - Overview

District	2023 Y1 Phonics: % expected
Uttlesford	84.9%
Rochford	84.8%
Chelmsford	82.3%
Colchester	81.2%
Braintree	80.1%
Brentwood	79.9%
Essex	79.3%
England	78.9%
Maldon	78.7%
Harlow	78.3%
Castle Point	76.4%
Basildon	76.1%
Epping Forest	75.2%
Tendring	74.9%



DfE do not publish district data for this measure so it is not possible to provide district rankings.

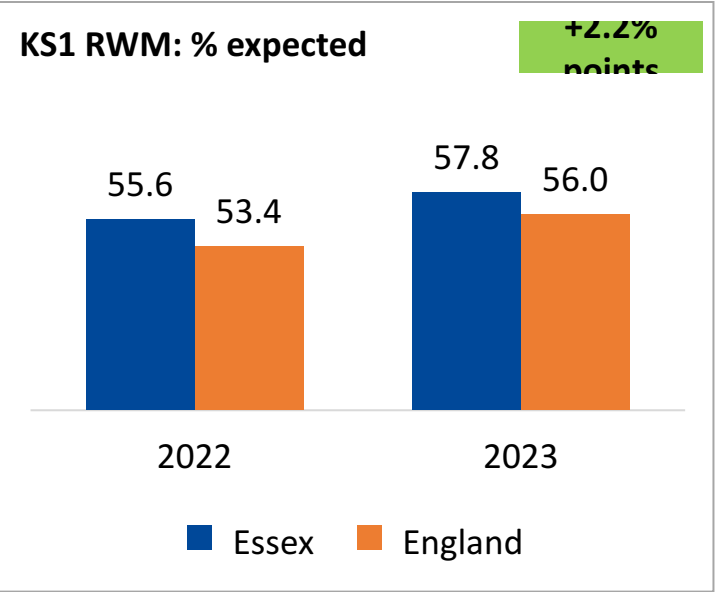
Most improved district: Chelmsford

2022 – 73.5%, 2023 – 82.3%

2023 Y1 Phonics: % expected			
Pupil Group		Essex	England
	Male	76.4	75.5
	Female	82.3	82.4
	Disadvantaged	62.8	66.8
	Non disadvantaged	82.6	82.2
	No SEN	85.1	85.9
	SEN Support	44.8	48.5
	EHCP	20.0	19.7
	EAL	79.6	78.2
	Non EAL	79.5	79.7
	White	79.3	79.1
	Asian	84.5	82.2
	Black	78.3	77.9
	Mixed	79.8	80.6
	Other	78.2	75.4

# Attainment Outcomes: Key Stage 1 (age 7) - Overview






District	2023 KS1 RWM: % expected
Brentwood	64.6%
Basildon	60.2%
Chelmsford	60.1%
Uttlesford	60.1%
Rochford	59.9%
Maldon	58.9%
Braintree	58.2%
Essex	57.8%
Castle Point	56.9%
England	56.0%
Tendring	55.7%
Colchester	55.2%
Epping Forest	55.0%
Harlow	52.2%



DfE do not publish district data for this measure so it is not possible to provide district rankings.

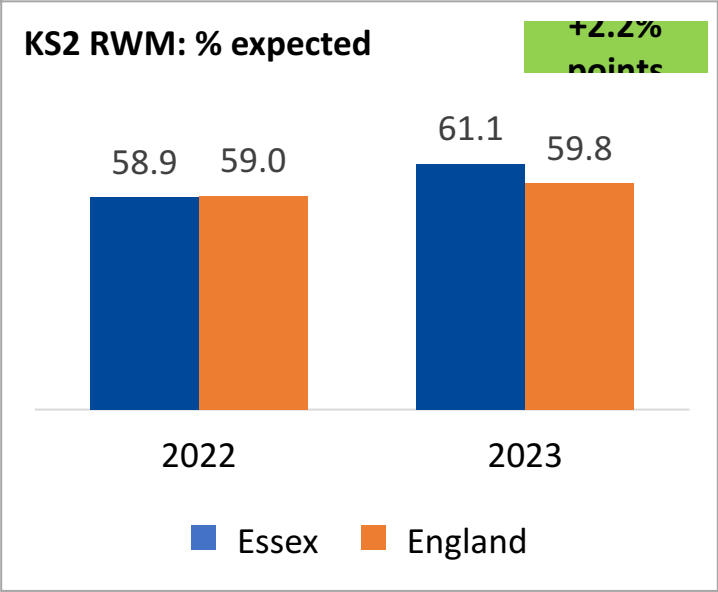
Most improved district: Basildon

2022 – 56.0%, 2023 – 60.2%

2023 KS1 RWM: % expected			
Pupil Group		Essex	England
	Male	53.7	51.7
	Female	62.1	60.6
	Disadvantaged	38.8	40.2
	Non disadvantaged	62.5	61.0
	No SEN	65.6	64.5
	SEN Support	19.4	19.1
	EHCP	6.4	6.5
	EAL	59.7	54.8
	Non EAL	57.8	56.8
	White	57.3	55.7
	Asian	68.7	60.1
	Black	62.0	56.4
	Mixed	59.1	58.3
	Other	52.9	54.7

# Attainment Outcomes: Key Stage 2 (age 11) - Overview

District	2023 KS2 RWM: % expected	Rank
Brentwood	68.4%	19
Uttlesford	66.7%	30
Rochford	66.5%	33
Chelmsford	64.1%	54
Basildon	61.9%	92
Harlow	61.6%	104
Essex	61.1%	
Braintree	60.8%	128
Colchester	59.8%	143
England	59.8%	
Epping Forest	58.6%	169
Maldon	57.4%	200
Castle Point	56.9%	215
Tendring	52.6%	272



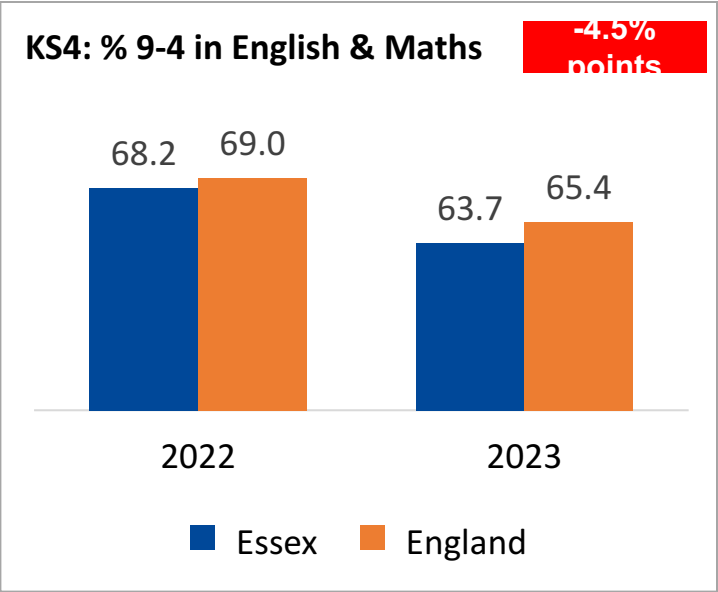
The ranks shown to the left relate to each district’s ranking out of 299 districts nationally with KS2 results published.

Most improved district: Tendring  
2022 – 45.0%, 2023 – 52.6%

2023 KS2 RWM: % expected			
Pupil Group		Essex	England
	Male	58.3	56.5
	Female	63.9	63.2
	Disadvantaged	42.6	44.2
	Non disadvantaged	67.6	66.6
	No SEN	70.7	70.3
	SEN Support	22.1	23.6
	EHCP	7.7	8.2
	EAL	67.6	62.0
	Non EAL	60.5	59.4
	White	60.0	58.6
	Asian	78.2	67.3
	Black	64.3	60.0
	Mixed	64.3	61.6
	Other	63.2	57.4

# Attainment Outcomes: Key Stage 4 (age 16) - Overview






District	2023 KS4: % 9-4 Eng & Maths	Rank
Brentwood	73.4%	38
Uttlesford	73.1%	45
Chelmsford	70.7%	74
Colchester	68.0%	101
Epping Forest	67.6%	111
England	65.4%	
Rochford	64.7%	160
Essex	63.7%	
Maldon	62.7%	184
Braintree	62.2%	194
Basildon	59.8%	231
Castle Point	58.4%	251
Tendring	51.3%	290
Harlow	50.7%	292



The ranks shown to the left relate to each district’s ranking out of 297 districts nationally with KS4 results published.

Least changing district: Uttlesford

2022 – 74.7%, 2023 – 73.1%

2023 KS4: % 9-4 Eng & Maths			
Pupil Group		Essex	England
	Male	62.0	63.0
	Female	65.5	67.8
	Disadvantaged	36.8	43.7
	Non disadvantaged	70.5	73.1
	No SEN	70.0	72.4
	SEN Support	33.9	36.9
	EHCP	12.3	13.0
	EAL	71.8	68.3
	Non EAL	63.1	64.9
	White	61.8	63.8
	Asian	89.7	75.5
	Black	72.2	65.5
	Mixed	65.4	65.1
	Other	67.1	67.3

## Data Sources

Dataset	Source of comparative data (unpublished or localised data generated using pupil level files/Nova in NEXUS)
Ofsted	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/state-funded-school-inspections">State-funded school inspections and outcomes: management information - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
EYFS	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics/early-years-foundation-stage-profile">Early years foundation stage profile results, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK</a>
Year 1 Phonics	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics/phonics-screening-check">Phonics screening check and key stage 1 assessments: England 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Key Stage 1	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics/phonics-screening-check">Phonics screening check and key stage 1 assessments: England 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Key Stage 2	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics/key-stage-2-attainment">Key stage 2 attainment, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK</a>
Key Stage 4	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics/key-stage-4-performance">Key stage 4 performance, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK</a>
Absence	Insight reports within NEXUS
Exclusions	Insight reports within NEXUS + Capita reports analysed by Education Access team

**Reference Number: PAF/16/24**

<b>Report title:</b> Performance Monitoring falling within Committee's remit, as reported to the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 11 April 2024	<b>For:</b> Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Chairman and Vice Chairmen to reflect on the latest performance update for the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy which are considered quarterly by the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman and Vice Chairmen may then wish to highlight any issues arising that may be relevant for the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee to pursue and scrutinise in further detail. **This item was deferred from the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 meeting of the Committee.**

## 2. Action required

**The Committee is asked to consider:**

- (i) **The attached update; and**
- (ii) **Identify any follow-up scrutiny actions**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy was adopted by Full Council on 12 October 2021. The link to the Strategy is [here](#).
- 3.2 Each scrutiny committee has been asked to be mindful of the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) in the Strategy which are most relevant to the work of the Committee when work planning. Every effort is made to align every item on each iteration of the work programme of each scrutiny committee with the relevant ambition in the Strategy.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Board, which has management oversight of the scrutiny work of

Performance Monitoring falling within People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee remit, as reported to the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee

the four scrutiny committees, determined that the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee (CPSC) should take the lead on receiving broad quarterly performance updates across the whole Strategy and for all strategic ambitions, which it has done since 2022. To support that process and recognise that the Strategy had cross-committee relevance, the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the other three scrutiny committees have been invited to attend and participate at all the quarterly performance updates considered by the CPSC. The last update considered by the CPSC was on 4 March 2024.

- 3.4 The Scrutiny Board is keen to further increase the profile and dissemination of these performance reviews with the broader membership of each scrutiny committee and further help facilitate the identification of possible future scrutiny work from that process. Therefore, it has instigated this formal process for feedback and reflection of the CPSC discussions at each of the other scrutiny committees on a regular basis.

#### **4. Update and Next Steps**

A link to the relevant agenda paper updating on Everyone's Essex performance is below. Draft minutes of the discussion will follow.

Next steps are as proposed under Action Required.

It is anticipated that the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman will lead the discussion for this agenda item.

#### **5 Relevant links and Appendix**

Links below to 4 March 2024 CPSC agenda papers updating on Everyone's Essex performance.

[Performance Discussion - covering paper](#)

[Appendix - Quarterly Corporate Performance Report Q2](#)

Appendix – Extract of the minutes of the CPSC meeting held on 4 March 2024

**Extract of the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 11am on Monday, 4 March 2024 in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford.**

**4 Performance discussion – July to September 2023-24**

The Committee considered report CPSC/04/24 incorporating an update on progress being made against key performance indicators within the Everyone's Essex Strategy based on 2023-24 Quarter 2 performance report with some core updates up to December 2023 and the opportunity to discuss the wider operational landscape of Essex, including other factors affecting residents.

The following joined the meeting for the duration of the item:

Councillor Kevin Bentley, Leader  
Councillor Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Communities and Business Engagement.  
Richard Puleston, Director: Policy  
Suzanne Barcz, Head of Performance and Business Intelligence

The report identified four key areas of ECC performance that were below target (strategically or functionally) and represented a risk to the Council:

- The number of homes retrofitted under the Sustainable Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Reductions in the Home Upgrade Grant budget were impacting on delivery.
- The number of children subject to Child Protection Plans had risen since March 2023 and continued to be slightly above the target range although Essex continued to have a lower proportion of children on child protection plans than similar authorities.
- The volume of successful interventions for Family Solutions between July 1st 2023 and September 30th 2023 was slightly below target at 84.9% but represented a significant improvement on the previous quarter ( 79.7%). ECC was continuing to see a high level of demand for the service.
- Two of the coastal path 'part approved' stretches were pending Secretary of State approval (Harwich to Shotley Gate and Wallasea Island to Burnham). The Mersea Island stretch was dependent on the finalisation of a report from Natural England prior to submission to the Secretary of State for approval.

Key points raised during the introductory presentation and subsequent discussion included:



- (i) The impact of housing affordability and the overall cost of living pressures were also highlighted as issues that could impact on policy areas, services and wellbeing.
- (ii) The Oflog confirmed 'launch' metrics (July 2023) were highlighted. The aim was to provide accessible data, insight and analysis around the performance of local government, to be more transparent as well as to support service improvement. Oflog had initially focused on a small number of metrics, with the four areas being Waste management, Adult Social Care, Adult skills and Finance. Children's Social Care, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, Public Health and Youth Justice and Accommodation were the next reporting areas proposed for development.
- (iii) An LGA -Led Corporate Peer Challenge was expected in the Summer.
- (iv) The Year 2 Levelling Up Annual Report was due to be launched in the next week and particular thanks were expressed by the Cabinet Member to staff who had contributed and helped support levelling up initiatives and projects in the past year.
- (v) Cllr Mackrory highlighted a constituent grievance relating to hospital discharge and subsequent delay in contact from Adult Social Care to identify ongoing support that was needed. This would be taken up outside of the meeting with the appropriate Cabinet Member.
- (vi) ECC's strategy was to support residents in their own home if possible and robust child protection planning was an important part of that approach. Quarter 3 data was now available which indicated a downward trajectory on the number of child protection cases.
- (vii) Some members highlighted that the Local Government Ombudsman had been critical of ECC SEND processes in relation to four Essex child protection cases. It was stressed that such case detail was not within the strategic measures performance reporting of Everyone's Essex but would be scrutinised in other governance processes including at the Corporate Governance Board. The People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee was also currently looking at SEND services.
- (viii) Some members queried the crime and feeling safe disclosure and cited the number of recent burglaries that were unresolved. This was an issue that could be pursued with the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner.

- (ix) There could still be some ongoing monitoring of Family Solutions cases after successful interventions but it would depend on the circumstances of each individual case and any necessary de-escalation.
- (x) A Multi-Disciplinary Team approach trialled in Tendring had brought together various partners and provided a wraparound service for families. ECC would welcome further liaison and co-partnering in other district areas when the opportunities arose.
- (xi) The next performance update (for Q3) would include some of the anticipated Care Quality Commission focused performance measures.
- (xii) Whilst the Leader considered that the roll-out of LED street lighting had generally been good, there could be parts supply and ring main issues that could delay repairs.
- (xiii) Members encouraged further use of banking and community hubs, and other similar initiatives, to provide support and advice for residents. Through the Levelling Up programme ECC were also looking to see how to get people using on-line resources more as well.
- (xiv) Everyone's Essex enabled discussions on the most important measures such as ageing well, continuing good education provision and supporting those that needed more help in attainment, and facilitating emerging jobs and opportunities.
- (xv) There was ongoing consideration about how to incorporate and complement Oflog reporting disclosure requirements with the strategic measures reporting within Everyone's Essex.

### Conclusion

The Leader suggested that advance notice of the most detailed questions would help him to come prepared to give detailed answers on the day.

It was agreed to provide more detail on the following:

- (i) The calculation of mileage driven with low or zero emission vehicles and the assumptions used.
- (ii) Job opportunities from emerging sectors including ongoing discussions about establishing a further college specifically looking at Green jobs.
- (iii) Carbon savings from use of LED lights and savings on electricity usage and the extent to which energy supplies came from green sources.

- (iv) A further breakdown of the number of road casualties and relevant links to other reporting platforms where appropriate. Generally, they were not reported in detail as part of the Everyone's Essex strategic performance framework as they were available via LG Inform and Oflog Data Explorer

It was also agreed that confirmation and clarification on any new deadlines and any new opportunities for funding under the housing decarbonisation fund would be included in the next report.

<b>Report title:</b> Matters Arising	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 11 April 2024	<b>For:</b> Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> 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.

## **Matters Arising**

### **4. Update and Next Steps**

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:

- Actions from recent meetings – updates awaited.
- Overdue Matters Arising

### **5 Appendix**

Matters Arising as at 11 April 2024.

## MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### ACTIONS FROM RECENT MEETINGS - UPDATES AWAITED

Date	Item	Action	Status
14 March 2024	SEND Update Part 2: Next steps, improvement work underway and progress since regulatory inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) That ECC should look at a possible reimbursement mechanism for private assessment charges and see how the assessment process was managed at Surrey particularly with regard to paying for private assessments.</li> <li>(ii) Further information and breakdown on assessment completion times, particularly how much longer parents had to wait beyond the 20-week timeline.</li> <li>(iii) Further information would be provided on the work and role breakdown for the Communications officer position that was operating in each ECC quadrant.</li> <li>(iv) Recommended ECC should be more transparent with parents about EHCP assessment times and communicate more clearly about the likely waiting times for their particular assessment. The Cabinet Member agreed to consider this further.</li> <li>(v) Members asked how many warning notices had been issued by ECC to schools in the last year and was the trend getting better or worse. Further information would be provided in writing.</li> <li>(vi) There was an offer to come back to PAF to share more information on inclusion work.</li> </ul>	All in progress

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
14 February 2024	SEND Sufficiency Plan	<p>1. Information on work being done within the Education and Skills portfolio in terms of skills training and support that made it as easy as possible for those people who wanted to qualify to become Educational Psychologists.</p> <p>2. What is being done to further improve the communication between ECC and schools and parents</p>	Both TBC
	Essex Youth Service – follow-up	<p>1. To suggest to Young Essex Assembly representatives that they could write to their local Councillors and invite them to YEA events with an appropriate rota to be put in place to control numbers</p> <p>2. To provide data on the Youth Worker in Hospital A&amp;E pilot along with some anonymised case studies demonstrating impact.</p> <p>3. To provide some feedback on the recent Youth Takeover Day</p>	All TBC
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.	In progress
		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	In progress
7 December 2023	ASC Priority Area of Focus – People Waiting	<p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. Faith based reviews to be included on the definitions page in future reports.</p> <p>3. Suggested that it should be clearer in future reports that the 3 year overdue reference within the report related to Care Act reviews and not initial assessments.</p>	In progress

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
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.	In progress
14 September 2023	Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23	<p>1. The Essex Covid-19 Care Home Report which had been endorsed by ESAB to be presented to the Committee.</p> <p>2. More information on safeguarding referrals received from asylum and refugee holding centres.</p>	TBC
14 September 2023 cont...	Adult Social Care Priority area of focus: Safeguarding Adults	<p>Whether fast-track health and care training being developed at Essex University could be extended and applied to safeguarding training.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>This has been confirmed as noted for future reports.</p>



## OVERDUE MATTERS ARISING

Date	Agenda item	Action	Status
9 March 2023	ACL Strategy	Information on efficacy of outcomes for apprenticeships and specifically what percentage successfully completed their end point assessment	TBC
		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
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
		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.
		Invite Chairman of Education Task Force and Cabinet Member/officers to discuss concerns about current performance on literacy	To be considered as part of education updates
	HCRG Contract - 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

<b>Report title:</b> Work Programme	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 14 March 2024	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at <a href="mailto:graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk">graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk</a> .	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> 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 11 April 2024**

<b>Provisional Date</b>	<b>Topic Title</b>	<b>Lead Contact</b>	<b>Purpose and Target Outcomes</b>	<b>Everyone's Essex reference</b>	<b>Cross-Committee</b>
11 April 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
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 /Jobs/ Infrastructure	TBC – PSEG Members

Continued....

<b>Provisional Date</b>	<b>Topic Title</b>	<b>Lead Contact</b>	<b>Purpose and Target Outcomes</b>	<b>Everyone's Essex Reference</b>	<b>Cross-Committee</b>
11 July 2024	Disabilities Strategy Update	Cabinet Member Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration/Executive Director ASC	To consider a follow-up on the previous discussion and pick up outstanding matters arising	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
Summer 2024	Adult Social Care update	Cabinet Member Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration/Executive Director ASC	To consider follow-ups to the sessions on the five priority performance areas	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable

**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

**Task and Finish Group:**

On 14 March 2024 the Committee resolved to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at some specific aspects of SEND services – scoping of this work will soon commence.

**Private briefings:**

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