

Overview and Scrutiny



Children and Young People Select Committee Agenda

Thursday, 23 November 2023

7.00 pm, Civic Suite

Lewisham Town Hall

London SE6 4RU

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This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed.

Part 1

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Children and Young People Select Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Thursday, 23 November 2023.

Jeremy Chambers, Monitoring Officer
Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Members

Councillor Luke Sorba (Chair)

Councillor Luke Warner (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Yemisi Anifowose

Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin

Councillor Jack Lavery

Councillor Hilary Moore

Councillor Jacq Paschoud

Oluwafela Ajayi

Clive Caseley

Bryan Strom

Monsignor N Rotheron

Rev. Erica Wooff

Councillor Rudi Schmidt (ex-Officio)

Councillor Ese Erheriene (ex-Officio)

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 7.00 pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Luke Sorba (Chair), Luke Warner (Vice-Chair), Yemisi Anifowose, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Jack Lavery, Hilary Moore and Jacq Paschoud.

APOLOGIES: Clive Caseley, Bryan Strom, Monsignor Nicholas Rotheron and Rev. Erica Wooff

ALSO PRESENT: Pinaki Ghoshal (Executive Director for Children and Young People), Sara Rahman (Director of Families, Quality and Commissioning), James Lee (Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure), Ruth Griffiths (Head of Access, Inclusion and Participation), Susan Rowe (Lewisham Education Group and Lewisham Black Parent Forum), Kehinde Onasanyo (Young Advisor), and Micah Spence (Young Advisor).

ALSO PRESENT VIRTUALLY: Councillors Edison Huynh, Oana Olaru and Liam Shrivastava, Patricia Garner (Interim Head of Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Service), Spike van der Vleit-Firth (Programme Lead for Jobs & Skills), and Simon Spearman (Deputy Principal Vocational and Quality, CTK Aquinas Sixth Form).

NB: Those Councillors listed as joining virtually were not in attendance for the purposes of the meeting being quorate, any decisions taken or to satisfy the requirements of s85 Local Government Act 1972

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2023

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

2. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED

That the following declaration be noted:

- In relation to Item 4, Cllr Moore declared that she was a governor at Lewisham College and the Assistant Principal of The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, which was part of the Capital City College Group. Cllr Moore received remuneration for her role as Assistant Principal.

3. Early Help and Serious Youth Violence

Witnesses

Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director for Children and Young People
Sara Rahman, Director of Families, Quality and Commissioning

James Lee, Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure
Patricia Garner, Interim Head of Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Service

Key points from discussion

- 3.1. The Director of Families Quality and Commissioning introduced the report.
- 3.2. The Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure explained that the Council and Safer Lewisham Partnership's recommitment to their existing public health approach to tackling youth violence had been somewhat delayed while they awaited regulations implementing the Serious Violence Duty, although it seemed the approach was aligned with the Duty.

The Committee and its guests put questions to the witnesses. Key points raised in response included:

- 3.3. The core tenets of the public health approach were providing safe home and external environments, reducing exclusions from school, promoting good attainment, delivering targeted support where required, and reducing childhood trauma.
- 3.4. Existing resources were being used to develop improved data insight, including demand modelling, drawing on data on young people in the pre-MACE (Multi-Agency Child Safeguarding) process, in care or on Child in Need or Child Protection plans, engaged with Youth Justice or accessing Turnaround.
- 3.5. Forty-four young people had entered the criminal justice system in the previous year. No more than five had been in custody at any one time.
- 3.6. Wherever they were detained, young residents were tracked and supported by the Council.
- 3.7. Between January 2019 and September 2020, the young people at highest risk of exploitation were aged 13-17 and over 55% of young people referred for multi-agency support were Black, over 75% of whom were male. As of December 2020, 31% of the borough's population were from a Black or mixed-ethnicity background.
- 3.8. Between April and November 2020, 209 people were identified as victims of county line exploitation in Lewisham, Bexley and Greenwich. 84% of those young people were Lewisham residents, 64% of whom were aged 18-25.
- 3.9. One in five young people identified as being at risk of childhood exploitation was a looked after child, while one in three had mental health concerns or learning difficulties. Such young people had often suffered Adverse Childhood Experiences, such as domestic abuse.
- 3.10. The Council had successfully accessed funding from the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit.
- 3.11. The Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Service had been created to provide a simplified pathway for at-risk young people, where previously there had been a number of separate services with overlapping roles. The former Youth Justice Board had been largely focused on youth justice partners. The new Service would be more preventative and involve a broader range of partners, including substance misuse, primary health, schools and mental health services.

- 3.12. Children and Young People's Services had very helpful, supportive conversations with the Mayor of London's Office and was having increasingly helpful ones with the Police. As a result of the former, the possibility of a mentoring programme for at-risk young people was being explored.
- 3.13. The therapy hub which worked with the Youth Justice service users was to be expanded to provide support for young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Some funding had been identified from mental health partners.
- 3.14. While the report focused on targeted services, it sat within a broader set of approaches to support all young people in the borough, such as Family Thrive, Family Hubs and support delivered via schools.
- 3.15. Pre-MACE panels considered how best to support young people with identified needs. Family Hubs would provide families with guidance on the support available. The new Adolescent Board would identify gaps in services and help young people access them.
- 3.16. Mental health link workers were now located in the Violence Reduction Team in recognition of the traumas faced by some young people and the challenge of transitioning from children's to adult's services. A GP-led youth clinic provided mental health support to which young people could refer themselves; referral to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services was less straight forward, but the Council hoped to work with the NHS to simplify this.
- 3.17. The Integrated Adolescent Service was working with the Police to develop their understanding of the support available for young people. A programme of training, support and information for Council services was being developed. How the Family Hubs could be used to enable voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver support was being considered.
- 3.18. Robberies during school journeys were partly motivated by the value of mobile phones carried by school children and school children's predictable travel patterns.
- 3.19. The Safe Space Team, which worked with young people at risk of exploitation, had been moved from Children's Services to the Integrated Adolescent Service. The Adolescent Service included social workers with smaller than usual caseloads who would work with looked-after children, children in need and children on child protection plans. If a child was identified as being at risk of entering the criminal justice system, they would be supported by one social worker who would also enable them to access further, wraparound support.
- 3.20. The Council was working to understand and define the cohort of young people most at risk of modern slavery in order to support them sooner via pre-MACE Panels. The National Referral Mechanism Panel was making decisions regarding the risk of childhood modern slavery much quicker than under the previous Home Office Process.
- 3.21. The Council was pressing the Home Office for clarity in respect of the apparent contradictions between recent legislation: the Illegal Migration Act 2023 appeared to preclude people who had entered the country illegally from the protections afforded by the National Referral Mechanism. Locally, there

was significant buy-in from the Police, who had reinstated their team focused on human trafficking.

ACTIONS

1. Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure to confirm the number of current serious youth violence cases, broken down by offence type, ethnicity and gender.
2. Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure to provide information on the causal factors for robberies during school journeys.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

4. Post-16 and career pathways

Witnesses

Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director for Children and Young People

Ruth Griffiths, Head of Access, Inclusion and Participation

Spike van der Vleit-Firth, Programme Lead for Jobs & Skills

Simon Spearman, Deputy Principal Vocational and Quality – CTK Aquinas Sixth Form

Susan Rowe, Lewisham Education Group and Lewisham Black Parent Forum

Key points from discussion

- 4.1. A Youtube video entitled *Post 16 options in Lewisham*, in which Lewisham students gave an overview of A Levels, BTECs, Apprenticeships and NVQS, and T Levels, was shown.
- 4.2. The Head of Access, Inclusion and Participation highlighted Lewisham's low NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training figures). About 40 per cent of young residents stayed in the borough for Sixth Form.
- 4.3. Simon Spearman noted CTK Aquinas was in its second year of delivering T Levels. It had expanded its offer that year and was to expand it further in the next year.
- 4.4. It was important to promote T Levels as BTECS were to be phased out.
- 4.5. The Lewisham T Level Forum enabled collaboration between providers to collectively offer a good range of subjects. The Council had facilitated meetings with employers such as the NHS, which had been helpful as employers were not yet sufficiently familiar with T Levels and the required 45-day placement.
- 4.6. The Programme Lead for Jobs and Skills noted the Council received a lot of referrals for employment support. Lewisham Works was to promote options to 18-25 year olds in the Autumn and aimed to support 100 young people into EET by the end of the year. There were no formal eligibility criteria for support.
- 4.7. The Council's apprenticeship programme was performing well. Sixty-seven of the four-year 250 apprenticeships target had been delivered to date.

4.8. The Council was to invest in Care Leaver internships and commission specialist Care Leaver employment support.

The Committee and its guests put questions to the witnesses. Key points raised included:

4.9. The Council was to invest in Care Leaver internships and commission specialist Care Leaver employment support.

4.10. The NEET figures were accurate. The Access, Inclusion and Participation Service tracked the 6,500-person cohort throughout the academic year. Year 8 to 10 census data were monitored and attendance was tracked at Year 11. The Service had a good relationship with local providers to ensure it was familiar with those who were at risk of dropping out. Providers were good at providing data and information was shared between local authorities and out-of-borough colleges. The data were cleansed regularly ahead of submissions to the Department for Education. The Council usually met its annual targets in respect of the number of young people whose EET status was unknown.

4.11. Ten 16-17 year olds were receiving universal credit.

4.12. As the Council was expanding pre-16 educational provision for young people with additional needs, there was a need to expand post-16 provision. There was also specific provision for learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder in non-specialist settings and out-of-borough options.

4.13. The Council tracked electively home educated residents' participation and offered them the same post-16 support and opportunities. Further, there was a specific pre-16 GCSE programme at Lewisham College to encourage home educated young people to progress into further education at post-16.

4.14. T Levels were rigorous academic courses with exams and vocational placements. While more needed to be done to promote T Levels nationally, students who were well-supported by their provider would progress on to higher education or employment smoothly.

4.15. The statutory duty to provide impartial careers and education information, advice and guidance sat with education settings, unlike historically. The Council provided settings with the full range of information, but it could not guarantee it was passed on, and was encouraging young people to be remain in borough for their post-16 education, as it was for secondary education.

4.16. Schools could offer T Levels but infrastructure costs could be prohibitive, as the courses required the creation of professional environments, such as mock hospital wards, which were hard to install in school buildings.

4.17. The government was providing capital funding for education settings to introduce the facilities required for T Levels, but it was unclear for how long that would be provided.

4.18. It was noted that the Lewisham Challenge was broader than the Oxbridge programme and offered exposure to a range of sectors and apprenticeships. Schools and Goldsmiths University funded Lewisham Challenge and the Council was seeking partner funding.

4.19. While the Council did not have responsibility for promoting apprenticeships and other alternative opportunities, it promoted them through a number of avenues.

- 4.20. A lack of education and training options relating to emerging sectors – such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and green technologies – was noted.
- 4.21. There were pockets of opportunity for mentoring in Lewisham, but the challenge was to bring it together with limited resource.
- 4.22. The Baseline Service advised education settings on accommodating young people’s employment. Realism was needed regarding the extent to which learners could undertake employment while in full-time education.
- 4.23. The amount of maintenance support provided for further education learners was lower than historically and was provided to education settings, which could choose how it was spent, which was not monitored.

Standing orders were suspended for 15 minutes at 9.24pm.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

(a) Publications relating to Item 4

RESOLVED

That the reports be noted.

5. School Admissions 2022/23

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

6. Exclusions and Managed Transfers Annual Report, 2022/23

- 6.1. The Chair noted that Committee members could send written questions regarding information items to the Children and Young People Directorate via the Scrutiny Manager. Members requested comparator data on managed transfers if available; and that the data in the three for information reports be provided in graphical format where possible.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7. Lewisham Attendance and Children Missing Education

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. Select Committee work programme

- 8.1. The Chair suggested an item on Family Hubs be taken at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That the budget proposals item scheduled for November 2023 be replaced with an item regarding holistic school improvement.

The meeting ended at 9.36 pm

Chair:

Date:

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Children and Young People Select Committee

Declarations of Interest

Date: 23 November 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Director of Law and Corporate Governance

Outline and recommendations

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

1. Summary

1.1. Members must declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda. There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct:

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests.

1.2. Further information on these is provided in the body of this report.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

3. Disclosable pecuniary interests

3.1 These are defined by regulation as:

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
 - (a) that body to the member's knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
 - (b) either:
 - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

4. Other registerable interests

4.1 The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

5. Non registerable interests

- 5.1. Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

6. Declaration and impact of interest on members' participation

- 6.1. Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take not part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- 6.2. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph 6.3 below applies.
- 6.3. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- 6.4. If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- 6.5. Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

7. Sensitive information

- 7.1. There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

8. Exempt categories

- 8.1. There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-
- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
 - (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or

guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor

- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception).

9. Report author and contact

- 9.1. Jeremy Chambers, Director of Law and Corporate Governance
jeremy.chambers@lewisham.gov.uk, 020 8314 7648



Children and Young People Select Committee

Holistic School Improvement

Date: 23rd November 2023

Key decision: No. Information item.

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Anthony Doudle, Head of Lewisham Learning

Ruth Griffiths, Head of Access Inclusion and Participation

Outline and recommendations

Outline

The Committee has requested a report on Lewisham's pupil outcomes 2022-23 and 'Holistic School Improvement'. Officers produce a pupil outcomes report annually as part of accountability and performance monitoring.

Recommendations

The Select Committee is asked to note the content of this report that focuses on:

- Lewisham schools' Ofsted judgements.
- Lewisham schools performance (all key stages).
- Pupil Premium Grant.
- Extracurricular opportunities in schools and delivering a broad curriculum.
- Schools and safeguarding.
- Schools and inclusive practice.

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee has requested a report on pupil outcomes 2022-23 and Lewisham's 'Holistic School Improvement'. This report provides initial information on pupil outcomes in the summer of 2023, together with information about the wider education and learning offer available to our children. We have sought to cover the areas suggested by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee and understand that committee Members are also interested in visiting schools in order to explore these areas further.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Select Committee is asked to note the content of this report that focuses on:
- Lewisham schools' Ofsted judgements.
 - Lewisham schools performance (all key stages).

- Pupil Premium Grant.
- Extracurricular opportunities in schools and delivering a broad curriculum.
- Schools and safeguarding.
- Schools and inclusive practice.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham's 2022-26 Corporate Strategy will continue the fantastic work of the last four years, supporting our schools to improve and increasing the opportunities for young people in Lewisham. Lewisham's Education Strategy 2022-27 has high aspirations for all our children and young people, whatever their starting point. We want all our children and young people to have access to excellent education in Lewisham, so they can fulfil their true potential.

4. Ofsted Judgements

4.1 Lewisham schools

94.7% of maintained schools and academies in Lewisham are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. This compares well to National (89% in December 2022). No schools are inadequate compared to 3.3% in England.

4.2 Primary Phase Ofsted judgements

100% of primary provision in Lewisham maintained schools and academies are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. This compares well to National (90% in December 2022).

4.3 Secondary Phase Ofsted Outcomes

86% of secondary provision in Lewisham maintained schools and academies are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. This compares well to National (81% in December 2022).

Two secondary schools are judged 'requires improvement'. One of these schools received a positive monitoring inspection from Ofsted. Positive comments include:

- *At the time of the last inspection, there were inconsistencies in the quality of curriculum thinking and implementation. Since then, you have acted swiftly to ensure that the curriculum is both ambitious and well sequenced. Pupils can now build up their knowledge and skills in a coherent way, including in mathematics, physical education and design and technology.*
- *Since the last inspection, you have taken a rigorous and intelligent approach to school improvement. You have been supported in this by other leaders and by governors. Governors now take a central role in monitoring progress towards clearly identified improvement priorities. They hold you and other leaders to account effectively. You have also involved staff in the improvement planning process. Staff have responded well and you have ensured that their workload has remained manageable. Your leadership has resulted in greater consistency in the quality of education that pupils experience.*

4.4 Special School Ofsted outcomes

100% of Lewisham special schools are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

4.5 Maintained Nursery Schools Ofsted outcomes

100% of Lewisham special schools are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

4.6 Quality of post-16 provision in Lewisham

Ofsted inspects post-16 providers. Of the 10 current post-16 providers, all sixth forms are graded by Ofsted as good and better:

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School / College	Date of Last Ofsted	Overall Effectiveness
School Sixth Form		
Forest Hill School (SFH6)	October 2021	Requires Improvement Sixth Form – Good
Haberdashers' Hatcham College	February 2019	Good Sixth Form – Good
Haberdashers' Knights Academy	July 2017 / March 2023	Good Sixth Form – Good
Prendergast School	November 2013	Outstanding
Sedgehill School	September 2022	Good Sixth Form – Good
Sydenham School (SFH6)	May 2017 / September 2022	Good
Special Sixth Form		
Greenvale School	June 2023	Good
Drumbeat School and ASD Service	April 2019	Good (16-19 – 1) Sixth Form – Outstanding
FE or Sixth Form College		
Lewisham College (NCG)	January 2022	Good
Christ the King Catholic Sixth Form College	April 2017	Good

5. Lewisham school performance –2022/23

Outcomes for all key stages remains provisional with no data relating to statistical neighbours – this data including pupil characteristic data should be released in December 2023.

Key messages:

- Early Years GLD (Good Level of Development) remains above national for the past two years.
- Phonics at Key Stage 1 remains below England and below pre pandemic levels.
- KS2 combined (reading, writing and maths) is above national, however the gap to pre pandemic levels in 2019 is not closing as quickly as we would like.
- KS4 GCSE outcomes have returned to pre pandemic levels in 2019, with many schools demonstrating improvements in attainment 8 or progress 8.
- Reducing the variability of outcomes across all key stages is a key action for Lewisham Learning as it engages with school leaders.

5.1 Early Years, Key Stage 1 (KS1) attainment and phonics

- 70% of Lewisham pupils achieved the good level of development (GLD) at the end of Reception. This is above England by 3%.
- 77% of Year 1 pupils met the phonics standard, 2% below England and 4% below outcomes in 2019 compared to 3% gap to national averages over the same time.
- Lewisham was in line with England averages in the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading (68%) and writing (60%) and 1% point below national in Maths (69%).

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- 56% of Lewisham pupils achieved the combined (RWM) outcome, which meant that they were in line with the England average. The combined gap to 2019 remains at 10% for Lewisham pupils and 9% for pupils nationally.

5.2 Key Stage 2 (KS2) attainment and progress

- In 2023, 60% of pupils in Lewisham met the expected standard or higher in reading, writing and maths (RWM). This was 1% above England averages. The combined gap to 2019 remains at 8% for Lewisham pupils and 6% for pupils nationally.
- In reading 72% of Lewisham pupils achieved the expected standard, which was 1% below England.
- In writing 71% of Lewisham pupils achieved the expected standard in writing, which is in line with England.
- In Maths, 74% of Lewisham pupils achieved the expected standard, which is 1% above England.
- Pupils made more progress than expected in reading and maths, with a score of +0.3 in both subjects. Less progress was made in writing at -0.4. National average for progress is measured at 0.

5.3 Key Stage 4 (KS4) Attainment and Progress

- Lewisham had a positive Progress 8 score of +0.003 in 2023, indicating that pupils in Lewisham made more progress, on average, than pupils with similar levels of attainment in Key Stage 2. This is an improvement compared to Progress 8 in 2019 which was -0.27.
- At 48.8, Lewisham's average Attainment 8 score demonstrates an improvement of +2.1 since 2019.
- Combined English and Maths (9-4) is 67%, a 4% improvement on 2019 outcomes (63%).
- Combined English and Maths (9-5) is 46%, a 8% improvement on 2019 outcomes (38%).
- Ebacc (9-4) is 27%, a 5% improvement on 2019 outcomes (22%).
- Ebacc APS is 4.2, an +0.3 improvement on 2019 outcomes (3.9).

5.4 Key Stage 5

- 6.1% of Lewisham students achieved A*, which was an improvement of +2.9% since 2019. This figure remains below England by 2.5%.
- 21.2% of Lewisham students achieved A*- A, which was an improvement of +8.1% since 2019. This figure remains below England by 5.3%.
- 45.7% of Lewisham students achieved A*- B, which was an improvement of +11.4% since 2019. This figure remains below England by 7.0%.
- 71.3% of Lewisham students achieved A*- C, which was an improvement of +7.5% since 2019. This figure remains below England by 4.1%.

The Lewisham Post-16 Strategy continues to support the improvement of post-16 outcomes for pupils in Lewisham. It also focuses on the effective promotion of a high quality, comprehensive and inclusive local post-16 offer.

6. Pupil Premium Grant

- 6.1 All schools are required to publish how they plan to spend their pupil premium funding. Ofsted will review all Pupil Premium plans as part of the quality assurance processes for schools. Schools are required to use a standard template issued by the DfE. Schools must account for raising the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

Is this report easy to understand?

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Schools must develop a three-tiered approach (based on the Education Endowment Fund) that includes the following:

- supports high-quality teaching, such as staff professional development
- provides targeted academic support, such as tutoring, including through the National Tutoring Programme (NTP)
- tackles non-academic barriers to academic success, such as difficulties with attendance, behaviour and social and emotional wellbeing
- All schools that are required to publish a strategy statement for the academic year 2023/24 must do so by 31 December 2023

7. Extracurricular opportunities in schools and delivering a broad curriculum

- 7.1 **Ofsted comment – Lewisham Primary School (good):** *“Staff and leaders work effectively to support pupils’ personal development. Pupils learn about wider society. For example, they find out about how democracy works through the school’s student council. Sports councillors support their peers during competitions and personal sports challenges. Pupils are proud of how well the school’s sports teams have done in cross-borough competitions. Pupils take part in team-building activities during the autumn residential trip. They also have many opportunities to visit museums and galleries to broaden their education.”*

7.2 A Primary School example

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
WHOLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT 2023 - 2024	EYFS:	EYFS: Forest School	EYFS: Forest School	EYFS: Forest School	EYFS: Forest School	EYFS: Forest School Art Week
	KS1: Trip to the Horniman Museum Forest School	KS1: Trip to St Saviour's Church Forest School	KS1: Trip to Migration Museum	KS1: Trip to Devonshire Road Nature Reserve Great Fire of London Walk	KS1: Local Nature walk and picnic	KS1: Trip to Horniman Museum Trip to Science Museum
	LKS2: Trip to Rivoli Ballroom Cricket sessions	LKS2: School Council trip to Houses of Parliament Turning of the year concert Supporting workshops September Trip to the Science Museum	LKS2: Philosophy Trip to Natural History Museum Trip to Tate Modern	LKS2: River View Walk / Terrible Thames Trip to the British Museum	LKS2: Residential trip to Naturesbase Trip to Devonshire Road Nature Reserve	LKS2: Trip to Horniman Museum
	UKS2: Philosophy Action Tutoring Open City project STEM Rail project Trip to Kingswood Trip to local synagogue	UKS2: School Council trip to Houses of Parliament Turning of the year Supporting workshops September Philosophy Debate Mate Trip to Planetarium Trip to Horniman Museum Action Tutoring	UKS2: Mural workshop Anthony Gormley studio visit Action Tutoring Debate Mate Trip to Science Museum	UKS2: Centre of the Cell Live Dance – Catford Broadway Bikeability Action Tutoring Debate Mate	UKS2: Trip to Horniman Museum Trip to the British Museum Action Tutoring Debate Mate	UKS2: Action Tutoring BEAM workshops River Thames walk Make £5 grow Year 6 Leavers' Production
	Whole School/Assemblies: Writing Laureate European Day of Languages Citizenship Awards Jeans for Genes day World Food day International Day of Democracy School/eco council National Poetry week Spirit of the Wild	Whole School/Assemblies: Marie Curie birthday Armistice Day Mary Seacole's birthday World Science Day Diwali Citizenship awards Harvest Anti-bullying week Gay men's choir Unite the Uniforms Human Rights Day Writing Laureate Safer Internet Day September	Whole School/Assemblies: Martin Luther King Day Rosa Parks' birthday Citizenship awards Mental Health Week World Religion Day Lunar New Year Writing Laureate	Whole School/Assemblies: Writing Week Writing Laureate World Book Day Reading Week Red Nose Day Citizenship awards International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination World Down Syndrome Day World Autism Awareness Day Easter Celebration Science Week Holi Assembly Purim Assembly Ramadan Assembly Pi day	Whole School/Assemblies: Eid Earth Day Bike to School day Citizenship awards International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia Writing Laureate	Whole School/Assemblies: Writing Laureate Citizenship awards Millicent Garrett Fawcett's birthday Emmeline Pankhurst's birthday Mandela Day Windrush Day World Environment Day World Refugee Day
	Sport: Cricket sessions Borough Sport Festivals Blackheath Schools Football League	Sport: Borough Sport Festivals Blackheath Schools Football League	Sport: Borough Sport Festivals Blackheath Schools Football League	Sport: Borough Sport Festivals Blackheath Schools Football League	Sport: Borough Sport Festivals Blackheath Schools Football League	Sport: Sports Day Sports Assembly Borough Sport Festivals Blackheath Schools Football League
	Instrument Lessons: Djembe Brass	Violin Ukulele	Saxophone Recorder	Piano Guitar	Flute Clarinet	Cello
	Curriculum Clubs: Karate Drawing Tennis	Dance Netball YoBallet	Football Multi-skills Cricket	Arts & Crafts Lego Choir	Board Games Coding	Mindfulness Performing Arts

7.3 **Ofsted comment – Lewisham Secondary School (recently retained outstanding):**
“As well as a strong academic curriculum, pupils have lots of opportunities to become involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Many do so. These range from clubs and societies to award programmes, sports and positions of responsibility. The strong curriculum is extended most effectively by a wide range of extracurricular activities. The breadth of after school clubs and activities is eclectic. It ranges from, for example, a history society, science, art scholarship, geography, Young Enterprise, choir and music, to all kinds of sports such as netball, football, rugby and handball. In addition, The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme, a link with a local independent school and trips to museums, local places of interest and overseas provide further opportunities to extend learning.”

Ofsted comment – Lewisham Secondary School (recently retained good):
“Leaders offer pupils a wide range of rich experiences as part of their daily life at school. There are numerous clubs to choose from and regular visits, for example to museums and galleries. Pupils with SEND are very much included, such as the Addey’s Special League Football Team, which takes part in the Southern Special League. Careers provision is a significant strength. Pupils learn about a vast range of job roles. For example, pupils in Year 7 science study a ‘we are midwives’ unit, hearing directly from midwives about their work. Pupils are well prepared for life after school.”

Ofsted comment – Lewisham Secondary School (monitoring visit for a school requiring improvement):
“A range of extra-curricular programmes has recently relaunched, including opportunities in sport and music. Pupils benefit from a strong curriculum for their personal, social, health and economic education lessons and are prepared well for life in modern Britain. Pupils at the school recently received an award for their work to promote awareness of LGBTQ+ equalities.”

7.4 Example of Careers development – Lewisham Secondary School

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Ernst and Young Employability Event	Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge Ernst and Young Employability Event	Urban Synergy Seminar
Year 8	Oxford University Event Ernst and Young Employability Event	Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge Ernst and Young Employability Event	Urban Synergy Seminar FE/HE Provider Event (BC) IAG Adviser Presentation and Q&A (BC)
Year 9	Alchemy Project	Apprenticeship/T Level Presentation (BC) Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge GCSE Options Event (BC) IAG Adviser Presentation and Q&A (BC) Alchemy Project UCL Mentoring Deloitte Mentoring	Goldsmiths University Introductory Event Oxford University Introductory Event Queen Mary University Introductory Event Alchemy Project Urban Synergy Seminar Deloitte Mentoring
Year 10	Community Apprentice Alchemy Project EY Foundation Mock Interviews Citi Events and Trading Day	Apprenticeship Presentation T-Level Presentation Careers/Destinations Interviews Community Apprentice Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge Princes Trust Mentoring Alchemy Project Cambridge University Event Oxford University Event Deloitte Mentoring	Urban Synergy Seminar Community Apprentice Alchemy Project Post-16 Taster Event (BC) Goldsmiths University Introductory Event Oxford University Introductory Event Queen Mary Introductory Event Work Experience Urban Synergy Seminar
Year 11	Post-16 Taster Event (BC) Post-16 Event at Deptford Green (BC) Careers/Destinations Interviews (BC) Urban Synergy Seminar Alchemy Project T-Level Presentation (BC) Apprenticeship Presentation (BC) Meet the Post-16 Student Event (BC) EY Foundation Mock Interviews Goldsmiths University Introductory Event	Careers/Destinations Interviews (BC) Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge Alchemy Project Urban Synergy Mentoring Princes Trust Mentoring Ernst & Young Mentoring Deloitte Mentoring	Alchemy Project Urban Synergy Mentoring Ernst & Young Mentoring Deloitte Mentoring Alumni Data Capture
All Year Groups	Pastoral Provision – STEPS booklets (<i>careers, work-related learning and pathways resource</i>)		
All Year Groups	Pastoral Provision – Skills Builder Platform (<i>an online tool that develops eight key employability skills with students</i>)		
All Year Groups and Parents/Carers	Pastoral and Home Provision – Access to START Profile (<i>an online careers, work-related learning and pathways resource</i>)		
All Year Groups	Careers, Work-Related Learning and Pathways talks in the Futures Room. These are open to all students. Matched to aspirations.		
General Provider Access	The school has a dedicated key stage four revision space (Futures Room) which is open before school, during lunch and after school. We welcome all providers at these times and actively encourage engagement. Providers can have access to students in Y8, Y9, Y10 and Y11. (BC)		

- 7.5 **How do pupils feel about independent careers IAG:** The Lewisham Education Business Partnership supports the raising of achievement, motivation, confidence and abilities of the young people in Lewisham to help them prepare for education, employment, training or progression to higher education.

The teamwork with employers and schools to develop skills for the world of work. The team achieve this through a range of activities like work experience and Careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG).

The teamwork with a range of employers and businesses to provide young people with a rewarding and realistic introduction to the world of work. This offer is available at Key Stage 4 (aged 14-16) and Key Stage 5 (aged 16-18).

The programme engages fully trained careers guidance practitioners to deliver the Lewisham provision, working towards the guidelines and specification set at all times.

The programme offers:

- one-to-one interviews and small group advice and guidance sessions.
- attendance at option evenings and parents' evenings.
- action plans and on-going programme of support targeted at young people identified at risk of NEET, or not making a post-16 transition.
- support with post-16 applications.
- in-school support on GCSE/results days.
- support schools in their broader careers education activities.
- facilitate school and borough wide careers events, industry days, progression; apprenticeships or HE events.
- employer talks, careers fairs, motivational speakers, college and university visits, coaches and mentors.
- a centrally organised borough wide Post-16 Opportunities event. With all local schools and colleges available to promote their post-16 provision at a neutral venue.

The programme has resulted in over 1030 pupils, during 2023-23, receiving tailored information on career pathways, Apprenticeships, Further Education and Higher Education as well as the future labour market.

- 7.6 **Pupil perceptions of the relevancy of the curriculum in terms of preparation for employment:**

Lewisham Young Woman's Hub: *"Very beneficial for the students. The one to one sessions really gave the students a chance to see what opportunities are available for them once they leave school and being able to speak directly to someone really helped them with their further education options, what qualifications they needed and how to apply for colleges and Apprenticeships etc. the students feedback of the service speaks for itself, they all found the practitioner very easy to talk to and very informative about their decisions Post-16."*

Y10-11 work experience programme: Pupils are encouraged to engage with employers to find work experience placements. Throughout the process students learn valuable communication skills and increasing their self-confidence. They use the internet to search for employers in their chosen field, are given advice on how to construct a CV or a covering letter, send out emails to employers and follow them up with telephone calls, sometimes just going into the business and talking to the manager. Pupils who find their own placement take ownership of their work experience and therefore get an enhanced experience.

Pupil quotes as part of the evaluation process

Solicitors' placement: *"I now understand how to become into a better person, in a working environment and negotiating with solving problems or assisting customers, and so I am pleased to use these newfound skills and put them into practice in the future with my next work placement elsewhere."*

The London Labour Party placement: *"Helped me further understand what goes into a working career. Helped me see how the skills I learnt at school can be used in a place of work and gave me possible career paths and more knowledge and peoples experience about further education. Really liked it."*

Lewisham Youth Theatre placement: *"This has helped me to understand the different roles or jobs involved in theatres and productions. Also, this has helped me to widen my career opportunities and what I want to do in my future education."*

Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Trust placement: *"I realised how important time keeping is and communication, working within a team. I also learned that I will spend more time at work than home, being on my feet most of the day, attending meetings and having in house training. I made lots of friends and learned a lot about engineering."*

8. Collaboration between schools to improve teaching and learning

- Lewisham Learning has allocated a School Improvement Partner (SIP) to each of the Lewisham schools (not academies).
- Each SIP undertakes three formal visits over the academic year as part of its core offer. The autumn term visits have been completed and reports confirm that the school's self-evaluation and school development plan priorities are accurate and appropriate to bring about further improvements to pupil outcomes. Some schools are evaluated as requiring medium support. These schools are provided with six visits over the academic year. Schools receiving medium support identify three core objectives that will bring about sustained improvement and these are reviewed every half term. In the academic year 2023/24 there are six schools (primary and secondary) receiving this type of support.
- Schools in the "Ofsted" window are provided additional support, that includes a Quality of Education Review to support improvements in the delivery of the national curriculum.
- Ten School Develop Groups (SDG) have been created this academic year. The SDGs are 2/3 schools working collaboratively on three agreed aspects of school improvement. This year there are common themes emerging that schools are focusing on, these include: SEND, writing outcomes at greater depth (more able writers) and developing middle leadership in light of curriculum areas.
- With the return of published data for all key stages, Lewisham Learning will be refreshing the use of published data and how this might be used to support schools going forward.
- Lewisham Learning will be reviewing, priority four of the Education Strategy to identify improvements.

9. Schools and safeguarding

- 9.1 **Consistency of safeguarding practices:** The Safeguarding and Inclusion Service, within Lewisham Education regularly supports schools and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) to keep abreast of statutory requirements with respect to safeguarding.

A monthly newsletter is shared with DSLs highlighting local and national safeguarding

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requirements. There is also the termly network meeting which is very well attended by all settings including alternative provisions connected with Lewisham.

Training is also created and promoted based on these same requirements as well as local issues that have been identified through school visits, audits and reviews.

The local authority bi-yearly safeguarding self-assessment, which fulfils the local authority's s11 requirement and the s157/175 element for which schools are responsible, also helps to monitor and influence the consistency of safeguarding practice in Lewisham.

In addition to the work done directly with DSLs, there is additional strategic oversight through the Safer Schools Network which is chaired by the Director of Education. This group is comprised of representatives from all phases of education as well as a range of partners from all three statutory LSCP (Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Partnership) partners; the Council, Police and Health. This forum is also attended by the LSCP which contributes to the agenda items to assist the collaborative working relationship with the LSCP and ensure that there is a consistent approach to supporting schools to work in partnership with the LSCP to fulfil their wider objectives.

Through the Safer Schools Policing Team there is clear evidence of the consistent effort to support safeguarding in schools across the borough through police led intelligence, either derived from more extensive tri-borough information or that of the local Safer Schools' Officers that are linked to schools in the borough.

Governors continue to play a vital role in supporting schools, especially when it comes to safeguarding. The Single Central Record (SCR) is checked by either the Chair of Governors or the Safeguarding-Link-Governor. Governors responsible in checking the SCR have attended SCR training, which is a positive, however, not all governors have attended safeguarding and child protection training. In some cases, governors are only asked to read part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), however it is recommended they also read part two which sets out the responsibility of the governing body. In addition, governors should also be tested on their knowledge and understating of KCISE, which does not happen in all schools.

- 9.2 **Pupil perceptions of safety in schools:** The Safeguarding and Inclusion Service has evidence, through the school auditing process, that pupil perceptions of safety in schools is captured by schools in annual surveys. While schools do not share details of this directly, the service is aware that this evidence is used to inform practice, curriculum and improve the safeguarding approach in general.

Safeguarding reviews are offered to schools as part of a Service Level Agreement. As part of the reviews some pupil interviews took place. Pupils are randomly selected to be interviewed across each key stage:

- They are able to articulate how they can keep themselves safe in and outside of school and online.
- They spoke confidently of how they have learnt about safeguarding in school and have covered topics such as child on child abuse, sexual violence and harassment, contextual safeguarding, consent and cyberbullying.
- Pupils stated they feel safe, and are kept safe, in school. They recognise that staff care about them and know that there is a trusted adult they can speak with if they need to.

10. Schools and inclusive practice

10.1 Intervention and support for pupils' with SEND and other targeted pupils

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Through the Quality and Inclusion Team support is provided to support EYFS Providers to ensure they offer a high quality, inclusive educational experience for all children in the early years whilst meeting the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements of the EYFS. Providers include; nursery schools, primary schools nursery and reception classes, Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers and childminders.

The team also allocates, monitors and coordinates the Early Years Inclusion Fund and supports providers with guidance advice and strategies to enable them to meet the needs of children with SEN.

There is a schedule of visits, with schools identified through school accountability meetings, their Ofsted window, judgements on capacity to improve and overall effectiveness.

Priority schools can access support across the school year which can include:

- Support visit – initial visit to identify areas for development alongside EYFS leader, leadership team creating action plan/work plan and/or audit on a particular aspect of provision – focusing on any areas identified e.g. SEND & Inclusion, communication and language etc.

Advisers will also:

- Identify any training sessions that may support knowledge and understanding, sharing training menu and ensuring EYFS Leader is able to access EYFS Leader meeting.
- Offer INSET session (where relevant) for whole staff team. A menu of INSET training is available but on occasion an adviser may create bespoke session dependant on the settings needs and adviser capacity.
- Observe teaching and learning, providing feedback and recommendations.
- Review and analyse EYFSP data and assessment systems, including moderation of assessment and EYFSP judgements.
- Organise a visit/visits to another schools where leading practice in a particular area has been identified.
- Recommend referring to Area SENCO/EY SEND Adviser in cases where there may be systemic SEN issues, where targeted SEN services may need to be involved or where a child has been identified as needing EHCP.
- Suggest resources to support improvement e.g. developing mud kitchens, creating opportunities for writing etc.

Priority schools where EYFS has been identified as an area of need will be contacted in Autumn Term one to arrange an initial visit to identify areas for development. Planned programme of support will continue across academic year and will include above activities.

Priority schools where EYFS has not been identified as area of concern will be contacted in autumn term and offered support as part of priority school status.

Non-priority schools are able to request support at any time. Adviser will agree package of support according to needs and capacity of both school and adviser. Reports and monitoring of priority schools will be shared with the school improvement adviser through Lewisham Learning.

Schools will be reviewed and monitored at half termly Schools Monitoring Meeting. Information and progress will be shared with Service Manager for input at Schools Accountability Meetings (termly).

10.2 **Send Advisory Team:** All Lewisham Settings; Primary and Secondary Schools, Post-

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16 providers and Alternative Provisions have an allocated SEND Advisor (local authority service). Within the team there are two advisors, who are managed by the SEND Standards Quality and Inclusion Lead. Everyone in the team has extensive school and SEND experience. All settings have, at least a termly visit, from their allocated SEND Advisor, who supports the setting with their strategic SEND Policies and Practices, with a particular focus on children and young people on SEND Support (Pre-EHC plan). During the visits data is collected on all children on SEN support and those who are going through the EHC process. This gives the local area a picture of what are the SEND needs across the system. To ensure that there are no gaps in provision, this information is shared with services to support with future planning and commissioning.

Prior to the visits the settings websites are checked to ensure that they are statutorily compliant in relation to SEND. The policies that are linked with SEND are also reviewed and feedback is provided to school on the information that they have available to their families.

Information is collated on interventions that children and young people receive in settings to meet their SEND differences. A document has been co-produced with SENCOs on 'What Works in Lewisham Schools' this is a brochure of interventions that are used by settings, to determine the right interventions and support for the children and young people to make accelerated progress and to close the gap between their peers.

A SEND Support Toolkit has been produced with relevant professionals for staff in schools to provide strategies, audits, and guidance on the four areas of need within the Code of Practice. This is used within settings to support individuals on a universal and targeted level, to ensure that the right support is received at the right time. If these strategies have not been successful, then this information is then required to make referrals to external professionals.

Another function of the SEND Advisory Team is to perform NASEN Whole School SEND Reviews. To date 35 SEND reviews have been completed in Lewisham Settings, with a further five planned before Christmas. From the SEND Reviews the school receive a report and are supported to write an action plan and support is provided to implement this over the year. Schools have reported that this is a very useful process, especially those who are in the 'Ofsted' window.

The team lead on the SENCO Forum which supports SENCOs in keeping updated on both national and local trends. The agenda for SENCO Forum is co-produced with SENCOs so that the themes and presentations are based on what they feel that is required to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills to perform their roles. It also gives them the opportunity to network with other colleagues doing the same roles.

Whole staff training is available, and has been provided to a number of settings, on topics such as; The Graduated Response, Roles and Responsibilities in schools according to the SEND Code of Practice, the school's Universal Offer and Outcomes training. These have been delivered in several primary and one secondary school. Feedback from the training has highlighted that all staff have taken away some learning that they are able to implement into their practices in the classroom, which will have a positive outcome on the children and young people in their schools.

10.3 The Lewisham Outreach Service (OIS): provides specialist support and guidance to Lewisham's mainstream Primary and Secondary schools, as well as the Lewisham Primary Phase Alternative Provision, Rockborne Park.

As a local authority service, the purpose is to positively impact the lives of Lewisham's

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children and young people, with a primary objective to reduce the number of children who are excluded from school, including, internal suspensions, fixed term suspensions and permanent exclusions.

The OIS work with and on behalf of Lewisham's school aged residents (4-16 yrs) and wherever possible, we also extend our services beyond Lewisham's borders to work in partnership with those out of borough schools, which our vulnerable residents attend.

It is an early intervention service and as such this means, working with children and their schools, at the earliest indication that they require support over and above what their school can provide. For many of the young people referred into our service, the social and emotional challenges that they are experiencing, become evident through their behaviour and in many cases, it is these behaviours, or the potential escalation of these behaviours, that without the additional concerted support and effort of key professionals and their families, would make them vulnerable, not only to exclusion from education but also social exclusion.

The service works closely and collaboratively with a range of other colleagues and agencies and educational providers, such as, the SEND advisory Service, Spark2Life, the School CAMHS Team and the Drumbeat, Autism Outreach Service.

- 10.4 **Consistency of approaches to behaviour management:** The Inclusion Strategy 2022 – 25, key priorities for 2023- 24 includes the priority to continue to reduce the number of suspensions and permanent exclusions and support the work of the Lewisham Tackling Race Inequality Strategy:

Consult with all Lewisham schools to review the support for children at risk of exclusion and challenge the schools' behaviour policies so that practice is more inclusive.

During the summer term of 2022/23 the Access, Inclusion and Participation Service undertook an audit of Lewisham behaviour policies with the view to making suggestions, provide clear questions and messages, whilst considering language and relationships with statutory guidance. The findings of the audit were shared at a cross borough behaviour policy workshop, with a small group of local authority colleagues and school leaders, in late October 2023.

Positive findings:

- Most behaviour policies are easy to find and on the school website.
- Some behaviour policies are clear and purposeful.
- Some behaviour policies are written so that the school's positive and nurturing ethos really come through.
- A few behaviour policies are written in conjunction with DfE guidance and hyperlinks.
- Some behaviour policies mention behaviour as a form of communication.
- Most schools record and monitor behaviour.
- Most schools have 'interventions' in the form of individualised plans.
- A few behaviour policies include 'restorative' approaches.
- Nothing highlighting race 'inequality' practice.

Areas requiring follow up:

- Most behaviour policies are punitive in approach.
- Behaviour policies typically focused on actions to take where there are breaches to the policy.
- Not much evidence of collaborative working with children/parents/carers.
- Little evidence of graduated response and relation between behaviour / SEND.
- Little focus on supporting children communicating a need for help.
- Little evidence of the link between behaviour and safeguarding.
- Lacking referrals to other agencies, policies and complaints procedures.
- Little evidence of any review of behaviour trends.
- Too many schools using zero tolerance approaches.

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- Too many schools using suggestive language around children making behaviour 'choices'.
- Disproportionate use of internal exclusion units.
- Lack of review of children with EHCP / SEN Support where behaviour is causing a concern.
- Those children vulnerable at transition are still not being effectively supported.

See **Appendix one** for charts and details.

What we expect to see as next steps:

- Opportunities for Primary and Secondary schools to share approaches / good practice.
- Difference between challenging SEMH and SEND?
- Parent Carer forums at local authority level – pupil voice.
- Schools in Hubs to be linked and to work collaboratively.
- Restorative placement – criteria to be determined.
- Challenge schools on exclusion.
- Call to Action Conference – No Reason to Exclude – part of the long-term school improvement strategy. Relationships and safe schools.

11. Financial implications

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

12. Legal implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

13. Equalities implications

- 13.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to equality impacts when making decisions in the exercise of their functions (Public Sector Equality Duty, PSED). In particular, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to:
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies the following as protected characteristics for the purpose of the PSED:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race (including ethnicity)
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

14. Climate change and environmental implications

14. There are no climate change and environmental implications.

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15. Health and wellbeing implications

15. There are no health and wellbeing implications.

16. Report author(s) and contact

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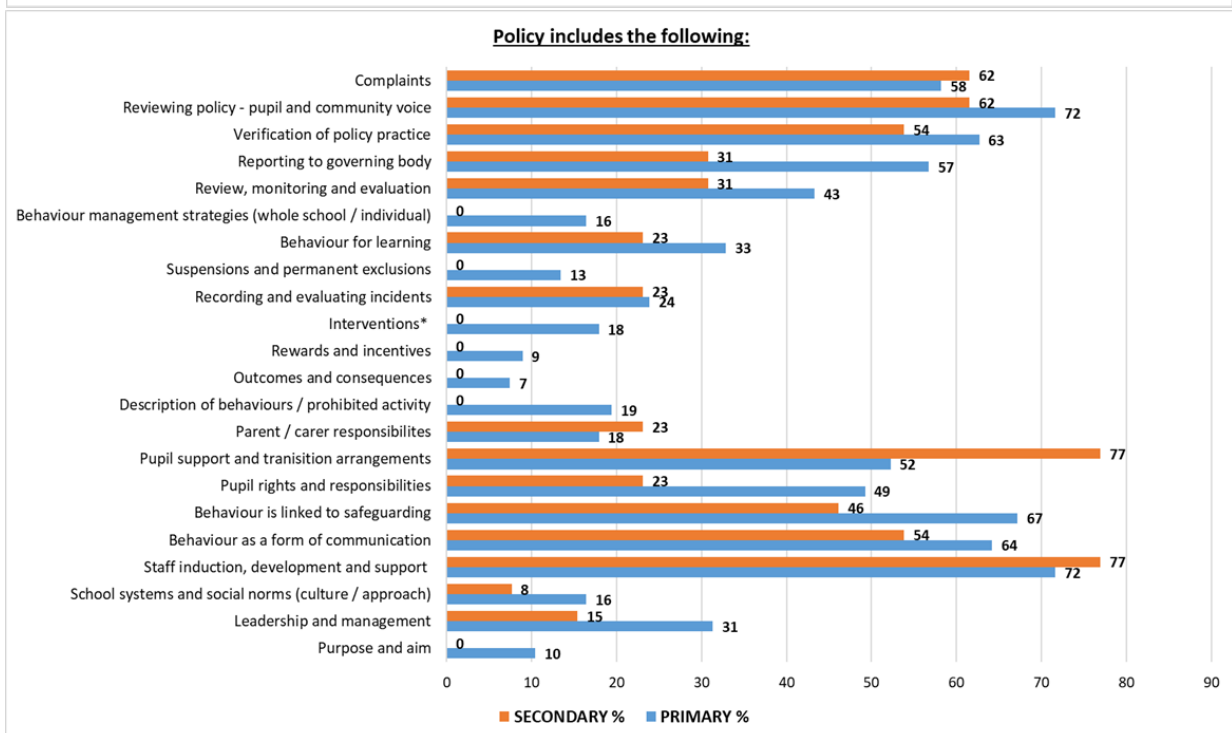
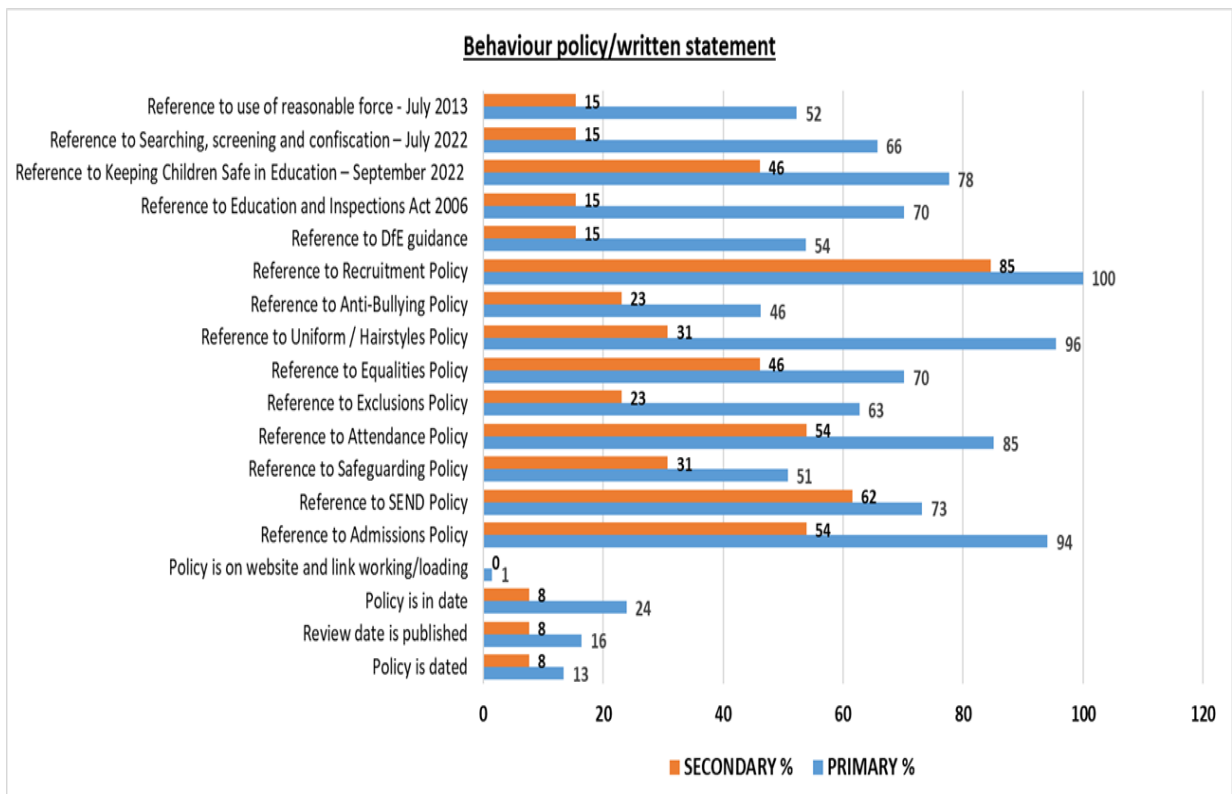
17. Appendices

- 17.1 **Appendix one: Behaviour Policies** - We would like to see lower numbers generally. These numbers indicate where policy links were NOT included.

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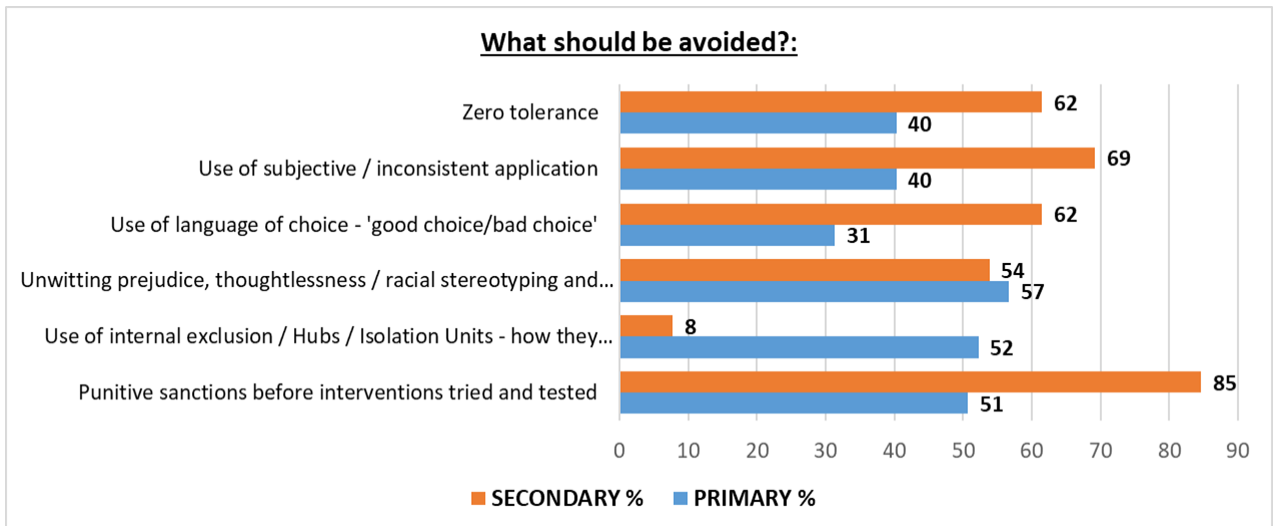
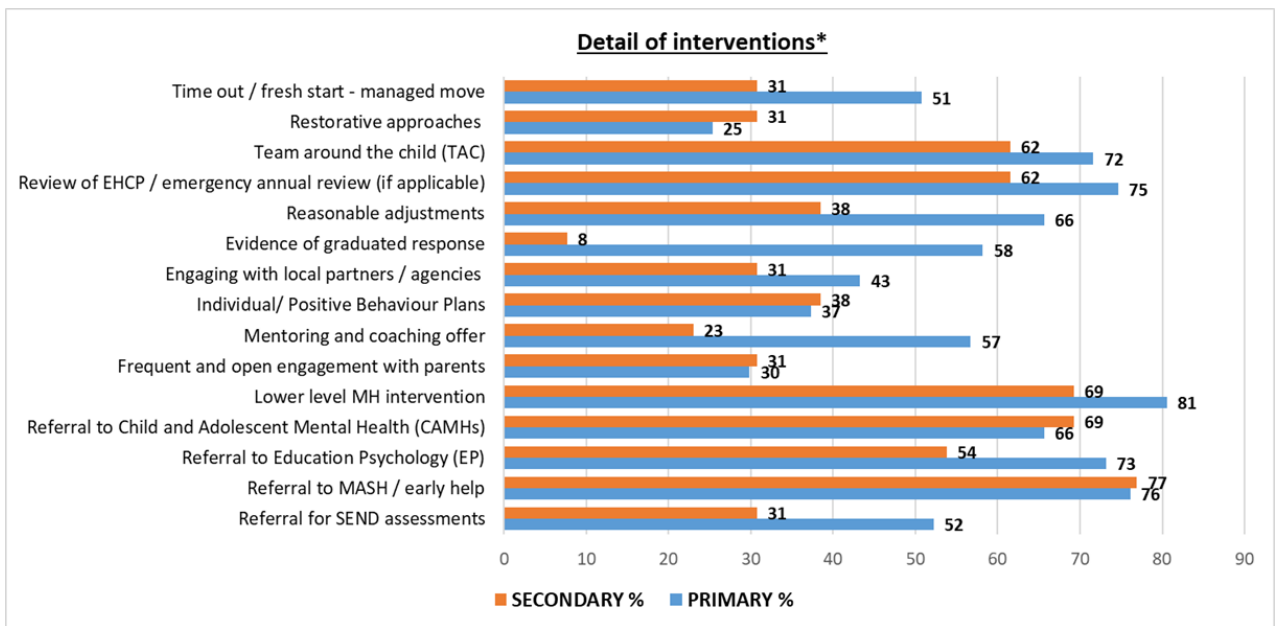
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Children and Young People Select Committee

Annual Children’s Social Care report and Progress on Children’s Social Care Improvement Programme

Date: 23/11/2023

Key decision: No.

Class:

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors:

Lucie Heyes, Director Children’s Social Care,

Sara Rahman, Director of Families, Quality & Commissioning

Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director Children & Young People’s Services

Outline and recommendations

This report seeks to provide Members of Children and Young People Select Committee with an overview of safeguarding and corporate parenting social work practice in Children’s Social Care (CSC) and Families Quality and Commissioning (FQC). Since last reporting in November 2022.

1 Summary

1.1 It is important to note that following the restructure of the Children and Young People’s Directorate in 2021, ‘social care’ for children and young people (CYP) is no longer provided exclusively by the CSC division. The provision of social work/social care takes place across a range of teams and services in all three divisions. The table below summarises where the practice is led from.

Children’s Social Care (CSC)	Family, Quality & Commissioning (FQC)	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MASH • Statutory social work assessments of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help – Family Thrive/Family Hubs • Youth Services • Contextual Safeguarding • Youth Justice 	CYP in need with complex needs/ disabilities (CWCN) & SEN

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYP in need of safeguarding and protection • CYP in care • Care Leavers • Fostering/Carers • Placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance i.e. LADO <i>Child Protection Chairs Independent Reviewing Officers</i> • Commissioned services e.g. <i>Advocacy, Independent visiting, young carers, Care Leaver accommodation</i> 	<p><i>NOTE: In August The CWCN service transferred on an interim basis from the Education Division to CSC.</i></p>
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1.2 The information in this report is based on the Annual Self-Assessment, which covers the period April 2022 – March 2023 and then provides a summary update on the six months since, between April – September 2023.

2. What is the overall quality of our practice and how do we know.

2.1 Quality Assurance (QA) Mechanisms

We measure the quality of practice through a combination of our auditing schedule, key performance indicators, practice observation, management oversight/supervision and feedback, from the CYP and families we provide services for and from partners and practitioners working with CYP. (CSC conducts an annual employee health check survey).

2.2 The QA service (located in FQC) performs an internal QA function amongst other responsibilities. A monthly auditing schedule and bi-annual Listening & Learning practice weeks are part of a comprehensive QA framework. Quarterly QA reports compile and analyse the findings from all the QA mechanisms, the learning is then disseminated to inform service and workforce planning. During 2022-2023, QA activity is summarised as follows:

- 125 full case audits across CSC/FQC and Targeted Early Help (Family Thrive Service). Reviewing case records, discussion with the allocated practitioner/s and feedback from the CYP and their family is obtained wherever possible.
- 15 multi-agency partnership audits took place through the Local Children’s Safeguarding Partnership (LSCP).
- Approximately 500 audit/thematic case reviews took place examining a range of specific areas of practice.
- A comprehensive review of CYP receiving services from Targeted Early Help Family Thrive took place.
- Feedback from 50 CYP and/or their parents/carers was obtained during the last Listening and Learning week, as well as learning gained from complaints.

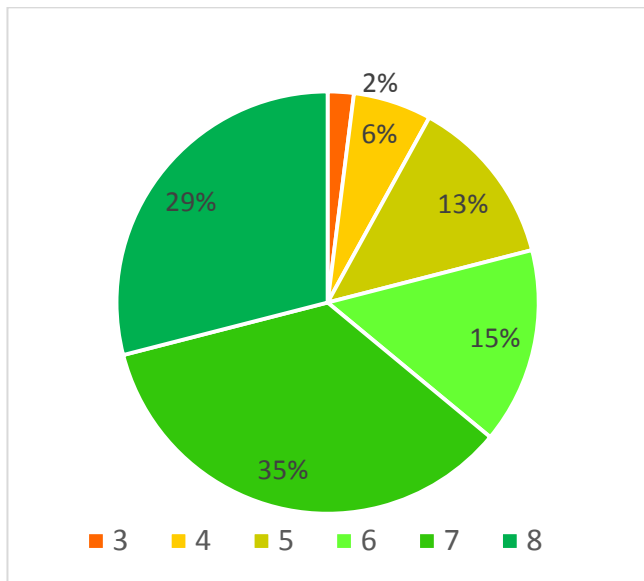
2.3 The journey of practice improvement

At the start of the CSC improvement journey in mid-late 2018, the vast majority of social work practice required significant improvement. After a year of development, the proportion of practice judged to be good had increased but through 2020-2021 in the context of Covid-19, the pace of improvement inevitably slowed. Emerging out of the pandemic in late 2022, the 2022/23 Annual Self-Assessment concluded that conditions for practice to thrive are now established in CSC, performance is

stronger and in audit the majority of practice is now judged to be good.

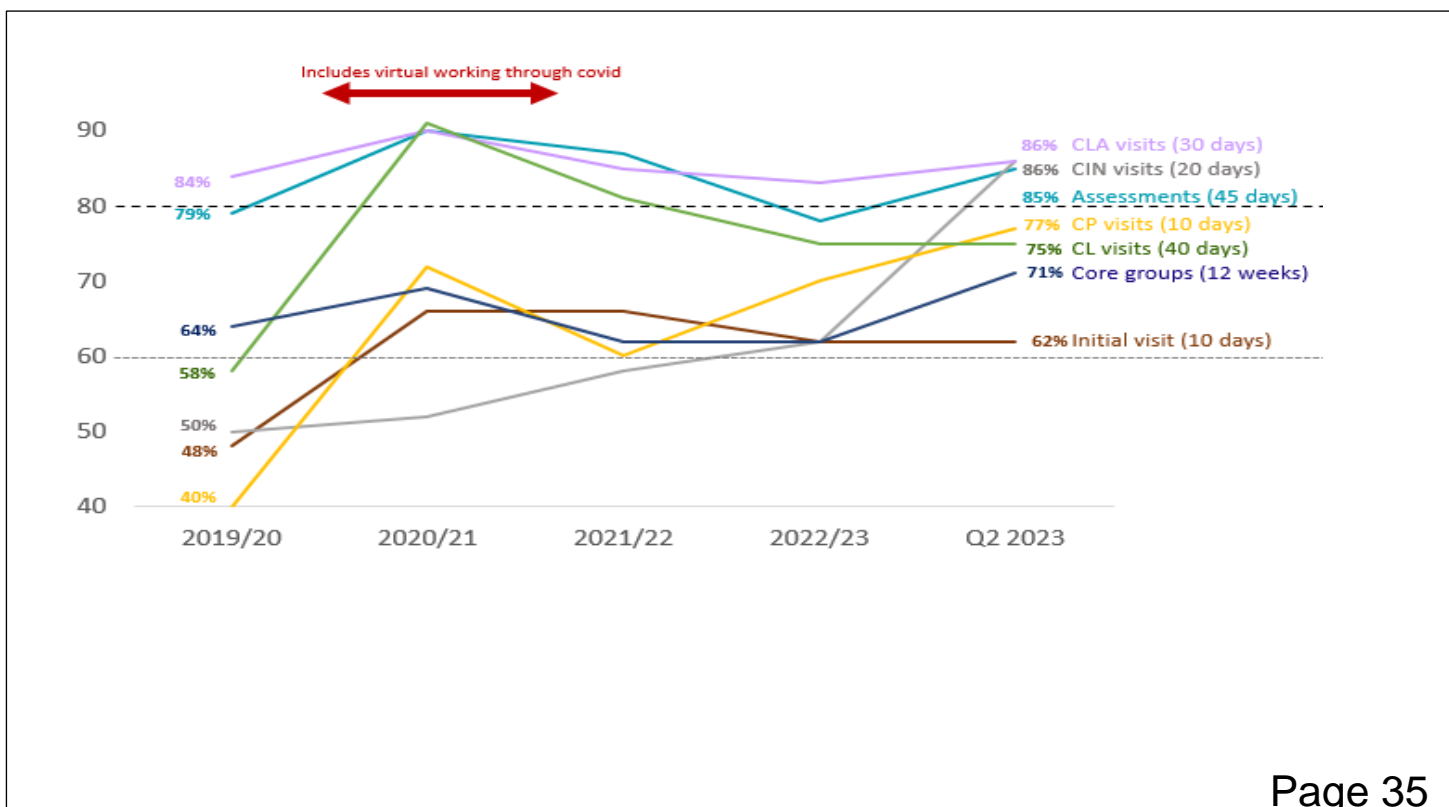
2.4 The remit of the improvement programme was widened, following the creation of FQC in 2021 and services in the FQC division are in an earlier phase of improvement than in the CSC division. The targeted early help offer 'Family Thrive' is in its infancy having only been brought 'in-house' in January 2021, but there have already been significant improvements, recognised in the Ofsted JTAI inspection in (November 2022) <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50206436>. More CYP are now receiving effective help earlier and fewer are needing to be 'stepped up' to statutory CSC services.

2.5 Audit gradings and key performance indicators across CYP Services



We apply a SoS scale judgement to audit grades. 0 is considered unsafe and 10 is outstanding practice. At the commencement of the CSC improvement programme in 2019 only 13% of practice was judged as good. Through 2020 and 2021 this increased to a third.

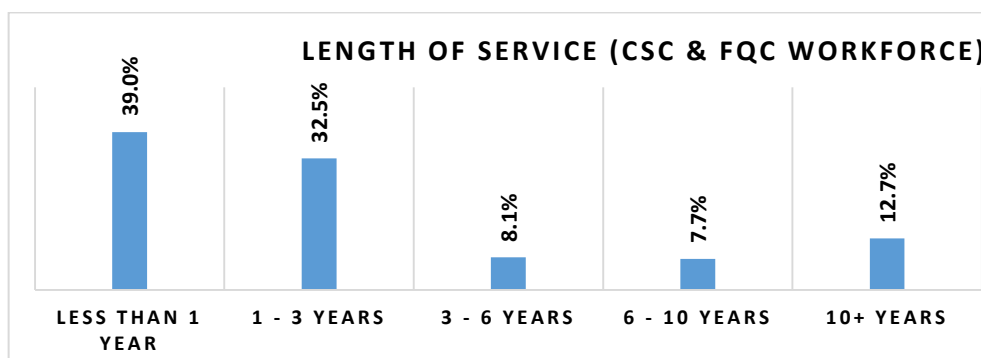
By the end of 2022 approximately half of practice was considered to be good. Audits carried out this year looking at practice through 2023 now indicates between two thirds to three quarters of practice is good.



3 Workforce – Recruitment, Retention and Professional Development

Total number of staff across the workforce <i>Includes: Perm & agency</i>	SW qualified Managers	Qualified SW Practitioners:	Non SW qualified Practitioners:	TOTAL
CSC (Includes CWCN)	53	202	154	409
FQC	38	12	83	133
TOTAL : CSC & FQC	91	214	237	542

Turnover in last 12 months	Starters	Leavers	Turnover %
Qualified	55	33	15.7%
Unqualified	57	27	
Total	112	60	



- 3.1 The pandemic had a negative impact on the social care/work workforce nationally. Locally, this affected our ability to recruit and retain experienced qualified social workers throughout 2022. We have had a relentless focus on workforce stabilisation and through diversifying the workforce, introducing Family Practitioners, having an agency to permanent campaign and expanding our Academy to support a higher intake of NQSW's and students. As at September 2023 staffing is now more stable, with approximately 80% of the workforce permanent, a 10% improvement on this time last year, this enables us to maintain manageable caseloads for more good practice to be delivered.
- 3.2 The downside is the qualified social work workforce lacks experience, on account of our reliance on recruiting Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSW). Just under a third of the social workers (28%), have more than 3 years post qualifying experience, placing additional pressure on the experienced staff and managers. To mitigate this, we have introduced additional management support and oversight.
- 3.3 We have good succession planning in place, having created a career pathway, we are seeing a number of internal appointments made to next level positions and anticipate experience levels to increase through 2024-25, but we need to continue to recruit more experienced social workers to Lewisham. To support this, in 2023

we launched a recruitment strategy with new marketing materials, but it is too soon to see what impact this investment will have.

[Careers in children's social care: Why choose Lewisham? - YouTube](#)

[Children's Social Care in Lewisham: Training and Development - YouTube](#)

- 3.4 The 2019 Ofsted ILACS inspection reported the “*professional development of social workers had not been a priority*”. We are very clear that investing in creating a stable, skilled workforce is essential to deliver good services. The Principal Social Worker and Workforce Development Team created in 2019 are leading on the Workforce Development Strategy, which is being successfully delivered and is having a clear impact on staffing and practice improvement.
- 3.5 In FQC, Family Thrive have also undergone a training programme, SoS training is also incorporated so that across services there is a consistent and aligned response when working with families. Emphasis has also been placed on improving the apprentice program within Family Thrive. Two new apprentices joined the service on 28th August 2023.
- 3.6 In the March 2023 CSC staff health check survey, less than 10% of the workforce gave negative feedback and less than 5% said they were very unlikely to stay in Lewisham. Staff reported positively about the training available and said they have confidence in the SoS practice framework, which we can now see as well embedded in CSC safeguarding practice. Other feedback includes:
- ✓ 87% feel respected and supported by peers and their managers.
 - ✓ 84% enjoy working with the colleagues and feel their teams are well led.
 - ✓ 83% say they are supported to practice creatively and autonomously.
 - ✓ 65% report their team feels stable (50% increase on 21/22)
 - ✓ 63% feel they have access to career progression (up from 45% in 21/22).
 - ✓ 73% think Lewisham CSC is an anti-racist/discriminatory service.
 - ✓ 70% feel their health and emotional wellbeing is attended to.
 - ✓ 75% believe their senior leaders provide and role model a clear vision for practice and are accessible and approachable.

4. Management Oversight, Supervision and Caseloads

- 4.1 In late 2021 the CSC supervision policy was refreshed to set higher standards. Audit and the CSC 2023 health check survey tells us most staff are receiving regular reflective individual supervision. Supervision is supplemented by the introduction of several ‘Thinking Spaces’ which a peer led critical analysis and planning sessions to support practitioners to think through work with families and seek expertise from other experienced staff. NQSW’s also have additional support from Consultant Social Workers through the Academy programme.
- 4.2 In addition to that provided by the frontline managers, practice is supported and scrutinised through various oversight panels, all of which are chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Panels are usually multi-disciplinary and through the regular and systematic monitoring these panels provide, we are improving practice consistency, making clear risk balanced decisions, reducing delay and have tighter financial management. Panels also provide a clear line of sight to practice for the senior leaders.

4.3 The covid legacy and associated workforce challenges continued to be felt in the first half of 2022 and average caseloads continued to be higher than in our guidance. As the workforce has stabilised, management oversight has been strengthened and practice quality has improved, through 2023 the pressures are gradually easing. The table shows average caseloads as at September 2023.

Team	Assessment	Safe Space exploitation)	Children w.Complex Needs	Family Support/ Safeguarding	Children in Care	Care Leavers
Average caseload	16 (CYP)	10 (Fam)	15 (CYP)	18 (CYP)	15 CYP)	25 (YP)

5. Targeted Early Help - The CYP and families we are working with.

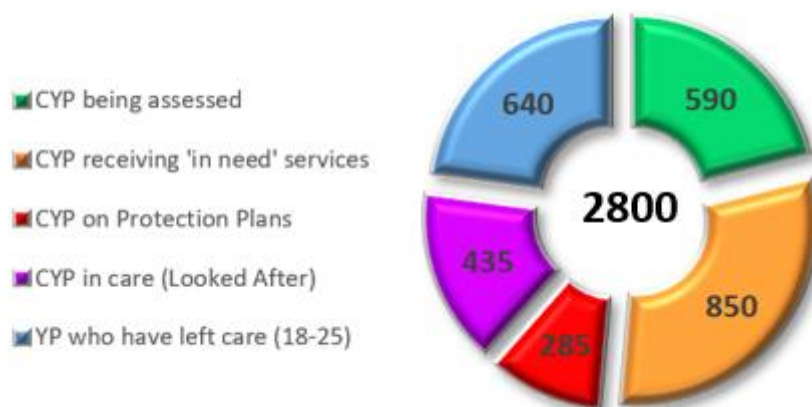
- 5.1 The Family Thrive service formed in January 2021 is still in its infancy, however, a key improvement has involved a review of the model of intervention, to offer families up to 26 weeks of support compared to a 12-week parenting intervention that the service was previously designed to offer. The aspiration is to strengthen parenting skills using SoS as the framework as well as evidence-based parenting programmes. As the lead professional, Family Practitioners work alongside families to provide targeted interventions with co-ordination from multi-agency networks to improve CYP outcomes. This work is strengthened by the input of Senior Therapists who provide systemic support to practitioners and direct intervention to families using a range of systemic approaches.
- 5.2 935 Family Thrive referrals were received in 2022/23, which in comparison to the previous year (2021/22) shows a decrease of 26%. The reduction in referrals during the reporting period can be attributed to the previous spike in referrals received post pandemic, which have now stabilised. In addition to the pre-intervention work now being undertaken by schools & across the partnership. The three primary presenting issues resulting in referral to Family Thrive include: Challenging Behaviour, Mental Health and Physical Chastisement. Schools, Health Services and Police are the primary referral sources. During the period, April – September 2023, 570 Family Thrive referrals were received with 374 Early Help Assessments (EHA's) completed during the same period. Initial analysis of referrals received during the same period in 2022/23 indicate a marginal reduction in referral numbers which is attributed to continued "team around" approaches and increased partnership working with MASH in regard to levels of need and thresholds.
- 5.3 632 CYP were closed to Family Thrive in 2022/23, with 40% meeting 1 or 2 supporting families (SF) outcomes and a further 17% achieving 3+. In 2022/23, a total of 36 CYP were stepped up to CSC, a reduction of 37% from the previous year and highlights a downward trend in escalation over the first to last quarter. During April – September 2023, 433 CYP were closed to the Family Thrive Service.
- 5.4 Additional senior practitioner capacity has been introduced for a greater degree of management oversight as well coaching and practice direction. This is supporting workforce stabilisation and a creating the platform to build a greater

degree of consistency across practice in the service. In August 2023, additional family practitioner and hub manager capacity was agreed to support case-load management activity and stabilise workforce levels to drive forward improvement work at all levels. An interim hub manager commenced in September 2023. Plans to temporarily appoint 2 x family practitioners are underway however, have been impacted by recruitment challenges experienced nationally, impacting the calibre of candidates. Work has also taken place to improve the management of data available to better manage practice. Improvements to the reporting mechanism has meant that the service is starting to access performance data. Calculations and methodology are more reliable than previous measures used and are providing assurance in the approach to move away from manual entry. Due to ongoing data management changes, several reports are still in development. Since July 2023, fortnightly performance meetings have been introduced to increase HoS and Director oversight.

- 5.5 In the Supported Families Programme, improvement work has included allocating an Early Help Co-ordinator to support capacity building for Team Around School and Team Around Family meetings, which is positively received by schools. The Supported Families initiative has taken on increased importance following the new framework (increased to a list of 10 outcomes) which came into effect from October 2022. In May/June 2023, 41 staff attended a training programme delivered on the New Supported Families framework. The number of primary outcomes achieved at the point of closure since the new framework was implemented also continues on an upwards trajectory.
- 5.6 The Ofsted JTAI identified; *“targeted support in the newly reconfigured multiagency early help ‘Family Thrive’ service means that multidisciplinary early help is starting to be prioritised for the most vulnerable families. Action by local authority leaders to reintegrate early help into children’s services is helping to accelerate the requisite multi-agency improvements.”*

6. Children’s Social Care – The CYP and families we are working with

September 2023



6.1 There was an 8% increase in contacts received in the MASH in 2022/23 but a slight reduction in those that become referrals onto CSC for a statutory assessment. Demand at the front door is approximately a third higher than pre-covid levels and as March CSC was supporting approximately 2900 CYP at any one time, 100 more than we were in the previous year. We believe this was the legacy of the surge in demand we experienced in 2021/22, however this has since fallen and is back down again and demand is levelling out, albeit at the higher rate.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Q1-2 23/24
Contacts Received	15360	19141	18727	20322	9511
Referrals to CSC	3874	3153	4365	4052	2146
S47 Enquiries started	966	1036	1436	1410	396
CYP placed on CPP	326	336	458	313	118
Court applications (families)	55	68	52	63	22
CYP entering care	218	179	218	148	85
Net no. CYP in care	473	482	480	445	439
Net no. Care Leavers (18-25)	550*	582	641	660	619

*2019/20 Care Leaver figure unconfirmed as accurate data was unavailable

6.2 Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Key partners are well represented in the operational MASH and strategic MASH Board. MASH has consistently sustained good performance, above the target of 90% on timeliness of decisions over the last 4 years. Daily MASH information sharing meetings are well established and audits routinely judge the quality of the decision making in MASH to be good. A dedicated full time Early Help co-ordinator in MASH now better supports family signposting to prevention services. The next step is to transition the MASH into a Single Point of Contact for a wider spectrum of CYP services in 2024. The November Ofsted JTAI noted: *“Diligent and collaborative work undertaken by co-located MASH professionals is highly valued across the LSCP and leads to effective and timely information-sharing and child-centred decisions. Prompt and extensive checks and historical information inform analysis of harm and current risk to vulnerable children and their families”*.

6.3 Out of hours service (EDT)

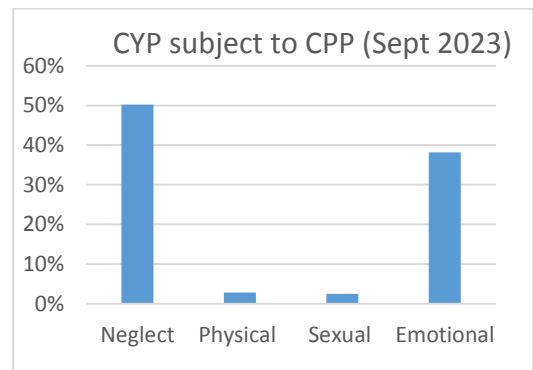
This service operates for CSC and Adults services, EDT staffing has been expanded in early 2023, two social workers are now on duty at peak times, to respond in a more timely way to CYP and families. The Bromley Road site is also now available as a place for CYP to be seen and kept safe in a comfortable environment, as an alternative to police stations in emergency situations.

6.4 Assessments of CYP and Child Protection Enquiries

Referrals to CSC are allocated to a qualified social worker within 1 day, we aim to see CYP within 10 working days and complete our assessment within 45 days. Staff shortages through 2022 impacted on performance to different degrees and to get more consistency, additional oversight and team specific plans were introduced in late 2022. As at Q2 (2022/23), 86% of assessments across the services are now completed within 45 days, just above our target of 85%. There have been slight improvements in the initial visit (62% in Q2), but there is still more to do to for our initial response to be more consistently prompt. Over 85% of CYP are seen within 20 days.

6.5

Through the first half of 2022 we continued to have a high rate of Child Protection Enquiries (*Section 47. Children Act 1989*) and growing numbers of CYP subject to Child Protection Plans (CPP). The main causes of CYP being subject to CPP relates to neglect and emotional abuse, often an aspect of domestic abuse.



6.6 We scrutinised practice to ensure it was CYP centred and risk was being managed in a balanced way. After recalibrating our approach in the second half of 2022 and stabilising staffing, the number of CYP being made subject of Section 47 enquiries was carefully and gradually managed down from 382 in April 2022 to 283 in September 2023, which is where we would expect Lewisham to be compared with other London Boroughs. The November 2022 Ofsted JTAI noted *“Proportionate action is taken to safeguard and prevent harm escalating for most children”*.

6.7 Private Fostering (PF)

In 2022/23 Lewisham received 26 notifications of possible PF arrangements, a slight increase from the last two years. Between April – Sept 2023 a further 4 PF carers have been confirmed and 8 have ended. Benchmarking suggests Lewisham’s have high numbers of CYP in PF arrangements, we believe this is due to good transport links for schools who have many international students, a large number of notifications are from education services. There is also a number of adolescents whose relationship with their parent(s) has broken down. Notifications are assessed in a timely way and the majority of visits are undertaken in statutory timescales, recognising many international students return to family during holidays. The PF of unaccompanied minors through the Homes for Ukraine

scheme is a new feature of work, we are working with the Refugee Resettlement Programme on ensuring the safety and care of those CYP. Next steps are an awareness raising campaign scheduled for 2024.

6.8 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO role is responsible for managing allegations against adults who work with CYP. Contacts have fluctuated over the past 2-3 years due to the pandemic. Similar to last year, contacts remained higher than in the 2 years prior. Progress has been made to strengthen work with Early Years and Education. A peer review undertaken by Islington (August 2022) concluded that 'Overall, despite the challenges, allegations against staff and volunteers who work with CYP are taken seriously and responded to well'. The next steps are to continue making the identified improvements and respond to the learning from the peer review.

6.9 Children in need, subject to child protection plans (CPP) and care proceedings

The Family Support and Safeguarding Service (FSS) works with medium/long term CYP 'in need' (CIN) and/or on CPP and those subject to care proceedings. After a very challenging 18 months through 2021 and early 2022 where workforce instability and high caseloads were felt most acutely in this part of the service. In the second half of 2022/23 with more workforce stability, good progress is being made. As of September 2023, 95% of CIN are visited at minimum, once a month by their allocated social worker. For CPP, 77% of CYP on CPP were visited once a fortnight. Those not seen in timescale amounted to 49 CYP, we have reviewed all of these cases for the reasons. There are a range of issues; the main one being that the visit was attempted but for several reasons the CYP was not seen e.g. illness or the family is resisting contact. In all circumstances there was subjected management oversight and arrangements made to re-visit. Other reasons relate to recording issues, i.e. recorded late, or the way the visit is recorded did not get picked up in the data, these CYP had been visited. Only in a small number of cases were the CYP not seen in time for reasons to do with practice, which have been raised with the social workers.

6.10 The introduction of Family Practitioners in 2022, to safeguarding teams has been an especially positive development. A review of the impact found the diversification of the workforce brings a broader range of skills and depth of experience, there is good relational practice with helping more CYP to step down from requiring statutory services. Another notable achievement has been the expansion of the services delivered by our Meliot Family Support Service. Through 2021/22 we transitioned from commissioning and spot purchasing expert assessments, individual and group family support and supervised contact, to diversify our in-house service. The Meliot Family Support Service now provides a wide spectrum of intensive, tailored services targeted at the most vulnerable children.

6.11 Lewisham continues to be proactively involved in the South London Care Proceedings Project, meeting routinely with CAFCASS and local Judiciary to share best practice. In response to the Family Court President Public Law Working Group report, our protocols were revised and the legal pathway developed on LCS. Practice has also been strengthened for CYP in pre-proceedings and those in care by voluntary agreement (*Section 20 Children Act 1989*). However, due to

significant delays in the family courts the length of proceedings far exceeds the target of 26 weeks. In Q2 2023/24 the average was 50 weeks, but an improvement of an average of 61 weeks in 2022/23.

6.12 The cumulative impact of all the improvement work in safeguarding services, introducing Family Practitioners, the Meliot expansion and developing more critically reflective practice. There has been an overall net reduction of CYP on CPP, more are being regularly seen. More than half of CYP are being successfully diverted from care proceedings. Whilst there continue to be considerable delays in court timetabling, we have reduced the overall number of CYP in care proceedings (125 CYP / 77 families at EOY March 2023 compared to 140 CYP / 82 families at EOY March 2022) and we have fewer CYP entering and in care. Next steps is to improve consistent timeliness of CIN Reviews and Core Group Meetings and to continue improving the quality of our CYP plans setting out what impactful work needs to be done and by when.

6.13 **Supporting CYP with Special Education (SEND) & Complex Needs/Disabilities**

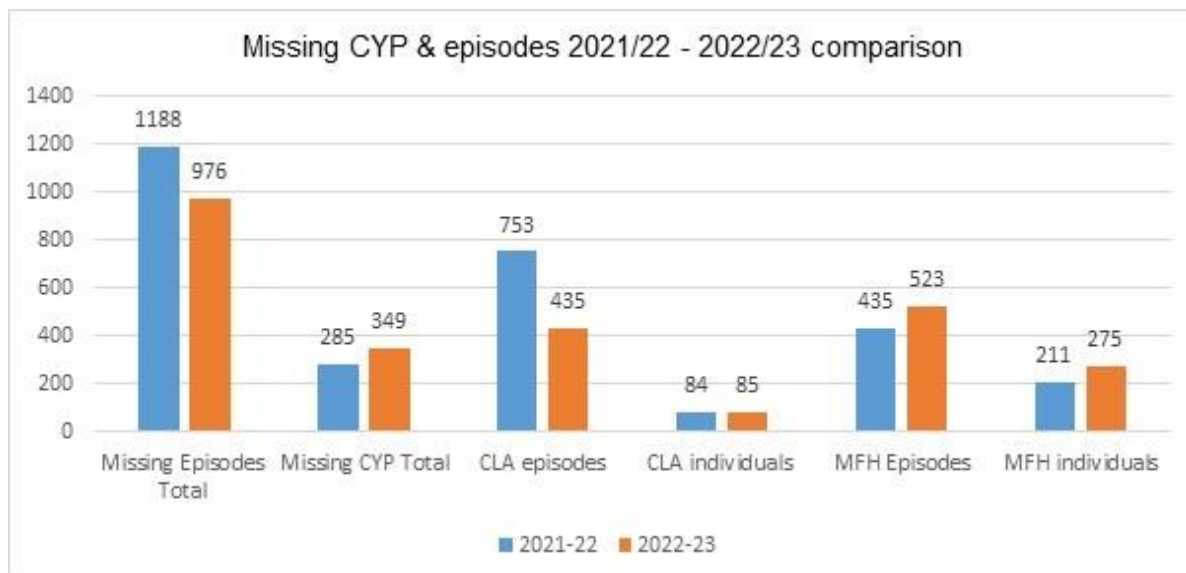
The Children with Complex Needs (CWCN) Service is part of the Integrated SEND Service and is co-located with Health. The wider SEND Service advises and supports families across a spectrum of need. The CWCN service supports 0-18-year-olds who are CIN, with an EHCP who meet eligibility criteria for a specialist service, including CYP subject to CPP and who are in care.

6.14 The CWCN Service has introduced an outcomes framework to better assess and measure the impact of services on CYP outcomes. The multi-agency weekly Care Package Panel makes decisions on new support services and has oversight of on-going care packages against the outcomes framework. The panel enables CYP to be stepped up or down to the right services, it also allows adjustments to care packages to meet changing needs while allowing provision of services to continue as required. The panel reviews services and preparation for adulthood for YP aged 14 plus. Depending on levels of complexity, CYP are referred into Lewisham Adult Social Care after reaching 17, to plan continuity of post 18 support. The quarterly Continuing Health Care Panel reviews YP turning 18. If threshold for Adult Services is met, decisions are made on next steps and services to be provided.

6.15 **CYP who are missing and experiencing exploitation**

The Lewisham partnership is proud of the work undertaken over the last two years to better identify and respond to CYP who go missing and extra-familial risk. There is clear evidence of an improvement journey with consistent multi-agency attendance and participation from key partners and lead professionals at missing and MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meetings, which is starting to improve outcomes for CYP. After strengthening our processes for CYP who go missing and increasing capacity in our missing team during 2021/22. Return Home Interviews (RHI's) are now offered for 97% of all episodes. For the remaining 3%, this was due to the CYP being in custody, hospital or having gone missing again. Take up of RHI's is 53% and there are various reasons why e.g. CYP do not want to engage, parents decline or the CYP goes missing again.

6.16 Multi-agency strategy meetings are routinely held if a CYP remains missing for more than 48 hours (or sooner if high risk), to plan how the professional network will locate the CYP and facilitate their safe return. RHI's then inform the safety plan for the CYP and intelligence on locations, high risk individuals/activities and trends from RHI's are reported into the MACE, to organise strategic interventions.



6.17 Whilst the number of CYP in care reported missing is similar to last year, there has been a 40% reduction in the number of episodes. Whereas we have seen a 20% increase in episodes of CYP reported missing from home. However, on examination this does not reflect a significant increase in missing related risk. Just over two thirds of CYP who went missing from home (No.191 of 275) only had one episode and the biggest single increase is episodes of CYP missing for under 24 hours. Including 120 episodes for CYP who have no involvement with CSC.

In Q2 there was 264 missing episodes in total (consisting of 113 missing from home and 151 CLA). This is an increase from Q1 in which there were 239 missing episodes (consisting of 107 missing from home and 132 CLA). The increase in missing episodes in Q2 occurred around the start of summer holidays. This is also reflected in the number of children going missing from home with a decrease in August, which could be due to be CYP being away with their families. It is noted that the top 5 CYP with the most episodes for July through to September are made up of 4 Children Looked After (CLA) who are females. The one child missing from home is male, aged 13. The top 4 CLA make up 50 missing episodes. The 1 child missing from home made up 11 episodes for this quarter.

We are seeing a significant increase of females going missing in Q2, as well as CYP's who are aged 13 years old. We are aware that we have several cohorts of CYP's who are going missing together on a regular basis whose age range is 12 – 13 years. They are a mixture of CLA and CYP's missing from home. Intel gathered through mapping identified addresses that some of these CYP's were staying at and as a result a Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN), was issued to an adult. The adult was also escalated as adult of concern to MACE.



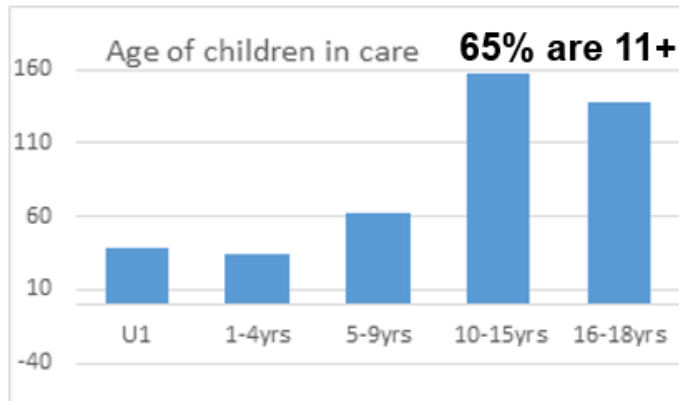
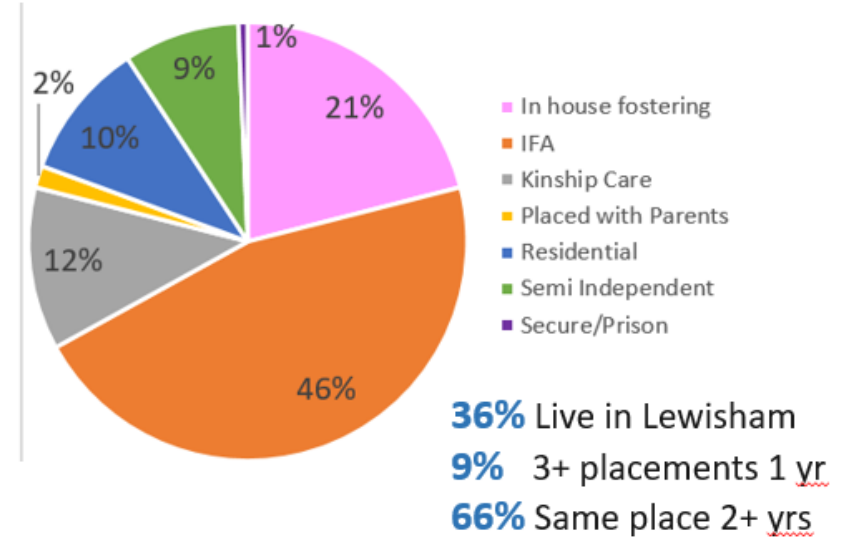
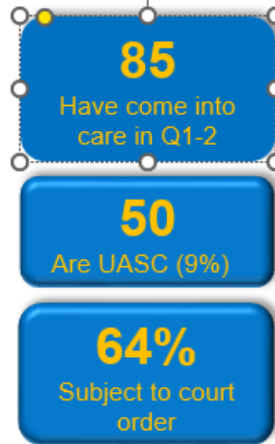
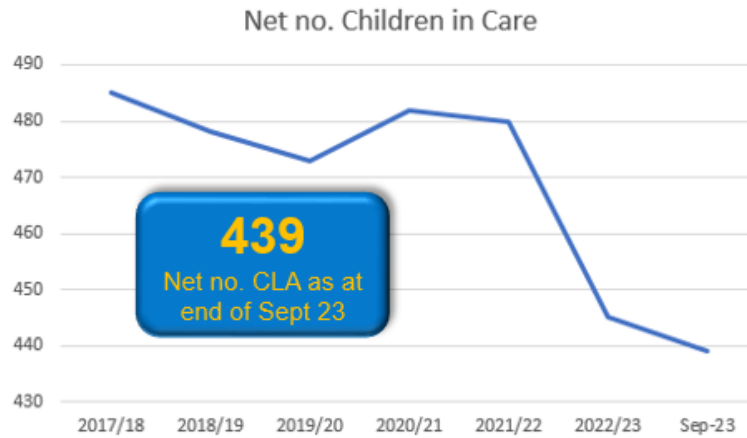
- 6.18 In February 2022, Lewisham replaced the Concern Hub with a MACE model, based on Pan London guidance. The MACE leads and monitors practice for extra-familial harm/exploitation and serious youth violence of CYP up to 25 more effectively than the previous arrangements. In 2022/23 the MACE received 93 notifications. 63% of YP referred had risk reduced through effective interventions. MACE has also progressed several tactical actions in response to emerging themes, incidents and locations of concern. This includes work led by the Police and Safer Communities, to disrupt access to alcohol, working with gambling establishments, supporting specific schools and community work. The Police BCU have integrated several resources into a dedicated Child Exploitation Unit, increasing capacity and improving partnership working.
- 6.19 Lewisham’s exploitation strategy is being updated in 2023. The four principles of - Prevent, Protect, Restore and Pursue will set out how the multi-agency partnership works together to reduce exploitation and help young people feel safer. The strategy will also draw on the work of the new adolescent service and progress of the tactical MACE following embedding the pan London procedures in 2022. The strategy and associated plan will be overseen by the LSCP Strategic MACE board.
- 6.20 **Trafficking and modern slavery**
- In March 2023 Lewisham CSC launched its first National Referral Mechanism (NRM) panel after a successful Home Office bid. To date 42 CYP have been heard at the NRM panel, qualifying them for a service from Barnardo’s Independent Child Trafficking Guardian Service. Lewisham receives a higher number of referrals than neighbouring boroughs and we have made conclusive grounds decisions within 45 days on majority of CYP. Compared to some centralised Home Office NRM decisions taking over a year. In the pilot we are achieving timely outcomes for the CYP, in particular for those who have entered the criminal justice system, as a positive NRM decision influences how offences are dealt with by the courts.
- 6.21 Safe Space is CSC’s specialist adolescent social work service. Since its inception in 2020, the team has continued to establish its expertise, providing effective interventions to young people at risk of extra familial harm and homeless 16/17-year-olds. Since August 2022 a fortnightly Contextual Safeguarding Thinking Space (CTS) now also provides wider access to their expertise, when young people are allocated in other services but are affected by exploitation. Audits judge the majority of practice in Safe Space is good and their positive work was recognised in the JTAI (November 2022).

6.22 **An integrated Adolescent/Youth Service**

In 2022, CYPS created a senior lead officer for Adolescent Safeguarding and in 2023 we planned the creation of an integrated adolescent service, incorporating Safe Space, Youth Justice and a range of youth services. The service become operational in July 2023. An Adolescent Board will oversee the development, strengthening preventative work and widening therapeutic input to support a better understanding of the emerging needs and vulnerabilities of CYP such as emotional mental health needs and neurodiversity.

7. Corporate Parenting: Our children in care and care experienced young people (Care Leavers)

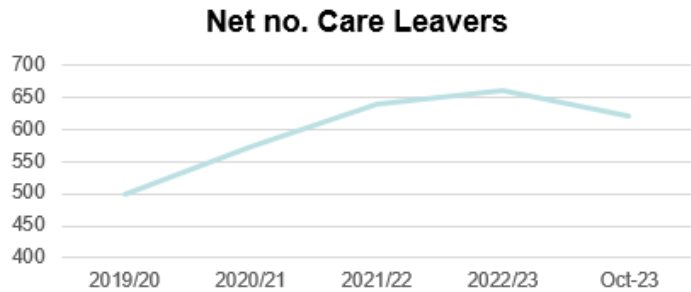
7.1 Headline information (Data as at September 2023)



54% Male
46% Female
A small number of our children describe their gender differently

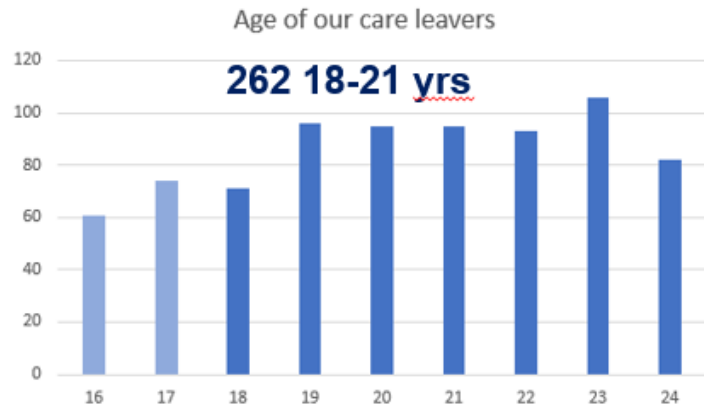
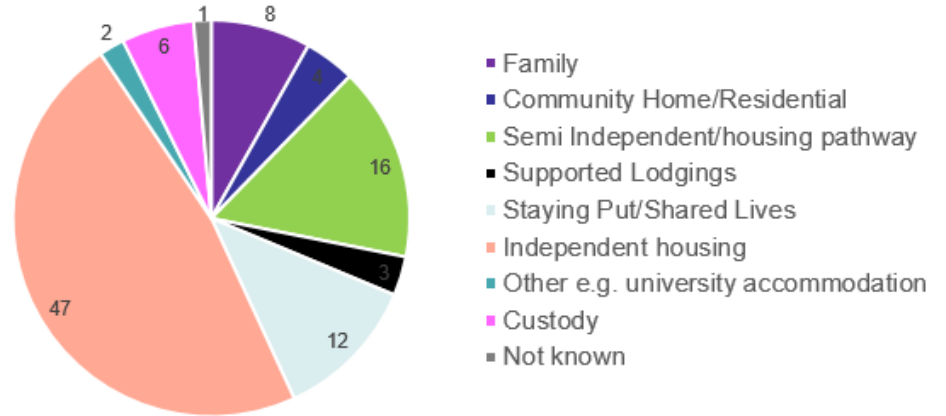
Ethnicity

	LA Latest snapshot		
	CLA	Pop	% difference
White	28	37	lower -26%
Mixed	28	18	higher 58%
Asian	5	6	lower -14%
Black	31	34	lower -9%
Other	7	4	higher 77%



616
Total (18-25)

110
Are UASCL



62% Male

38% Female

A small number of our children describe their gender differently

Ethnicity

22	White
13	Mixed
7	Asian
45	Black
12	Other

58%
In Education, Training or Employment


7.2 Lewisham Corporate Parenting Strategy (2021-2024)

We are in the third year of delivering our Corporate Parenting Strategy. This set out 6 ambitions and 24 aims for how we intend to make sure our CYP have a positive care experience and we make a bigger difference in their lives, both now and in the future. The strategic action plan is delivered through a range of multi professional groups and progress is monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB), chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services. The tables on the following pages report the progress made on this strategy and the impact it has had, against the ambitions.

7.3 Ambitions	What we want for our CYP	Progress on the actions through 2022/23	What difference this has made
<div style="background-color: #808000; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">WE ARE PROUD</div>	<p>Understanding Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>In 2022 council wide leadership officer Corporate Parenting sessions were delivered. For all newly elected members, Corporate Parenting is part of induction. In October 2023 a dedicated Mayor & Cabinet session was held on Corporate Parenting to begin formulating a refreshed strategy for 2024.</p> <p>CPB membership has widened in 2023 to include Adults Services and Foster Carer representatives.</p>	<p>There is a wider understanding of Corporate Parenting across the council and with elected members, creating new opportunities e.g. More jointly funded complex care placements with health. The provision of a broader range of housing and free leisure offer for care leavers. In June 2022 Mark Riddell, Care Leaver advisor to the DfE visited Lewisham and fed back: <i>“The CPB has a really good buy-in from elected members and I was able to see a developing Partnership Offer.”</i></p>
	<p>Promoting inclusivity and diversity</p>	<p>The anti-racist network group developed a statement of intent and action plan to promote anti-racist practice.</p> <p>CYP has expanded its missing team with a dedicated missing officer assigned to CYP in care & care leavers.</p> <p>We have strengthened the out of borough notification processes, so CYP placed outside Lewisham are not further disadvantaged by their distance from home.</p>	<p>CPB increasingly influences services for our care population. e.g. Continued funding for the dedicated Care Leaver nurse (pilot) was as a direct result of the CPB’s recommendation.</p> <p>Signs of Connection & Belonging has shown good early indications of improved placement planning and stability for CYP who are more difficult to place.</p>
	<p>Living in a safe and caring community</p>	<p>In 2023 CSC has extended and adapted our Signs of Safety practice framework into the Corporate Parenting, developing a ‘signs of belonging and connection’ approach and building in weekly case mapping to support more good care, permanence and placement planning.</p>	<p>Our anti-racist approach and trauma informed practice in the Youth Offending Service (YOS) has impacted on how we work with black CYP and proactively challenges disproportionality and adultification, to deliver more culturally sensitive services. We see positive reductions in first time entrants, re-offending and remands to custody.</p>
	<p>Improving our care and pathway planning</p>	<p>The IRO service is strengthening its footprint through monthly operational and quarterly strategic panels held with the SLT, trends, themes, issues and learning from reviews is shared to improve practice and address escalations more promptly.</p>	<p>UASC are supported with their immigration status. Merton compliant age assessments are completed in a timely manner and where there is concern about modern-day slavery an NRM referral is made. QA audits consistently judges the quality of practice with UASC as good.</p> <p>There are 40% fewer episodes of CYP in care going missing compared to last year.</p>

7.4 Ambitions	What we want for our CYP	Progress on the actions through 2022/23	What difference this has made												
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">THIS IS MY HOME</div>	<p>Knowing where I will grow up</p>	<p>The Sufficiency Strategy 2022-25 was developed and implementation is underway for all 8 key aims</p> <p>SG/family & friends team was expanded to ensure timely assessments a stronger offer of support. Policies, processes, allowances, support and training offer for all Family & Friends care are being refreshed.</p>	<p>We have more CYP in family based arrangements:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1397 256 2181 400"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2020/21</th> <th>2022/23</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>F&F Reg 24/25 arrangements</td> <td>34</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SGO arrangements</td> <td>244</td> <td>274</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Formal matches to LT foster carers</td> <td>4</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2020/21	2022/23	F&F Reg 24/25 arrangements	34	43	SGO arrangements	244	274	Formal matches to LT foster carers	4	13
		2020/21	2022/23												
	F&F Reg 24/25 arrangements	34	43												
	SGO arrangements	244	274												
Formal matches to LT foster carers	4	13													
<p>Receiving good quality care</p>	<p>The placement team has been expanded with a wider remit to strengthen QA of placements and we join the Commissioning Alliance in June 2023.</p> <p>The fostering hub was launched in June 2023, for carers to access support, training and advice. A DfE innovation grant was awarded in July 2023 to develop a Foster Carer led recruitment hub.</p>	<p>80% of CYP live in a family/foster placement, above England & SN. 10% live in residential care (compared to 12% in 2020/21) However we have not seen more CYP living with in-house Lewisham foster carers, even though we recruited 9 new households. This is priority for 2024</p> <p>Provider forums and changes to the placement service are showing positive signs of offering some placement for CYP who are more challenging to place.</p>													
<p>Staying in the same place</p>	<p>Placements, fostering and SG/F&F teams now provide a three way duty system for social workers.</p> <p>Placement provider forums and CYP specific events have been introduced with placement providers.</p>	<p>More than half of CYP are placed outside Lewisham, (similar to SN), but 2% less than last year are more than 20+ miles from home.</p>													
<p>Feeling safe and secure in my home</p>	<p>The housing pathway for care leavers has 60 more semi-independent homes in Lewisham to support transition YP's towards independent housing nomination. With a dedicated housing officer matching YP to suitable housing & support. We have also developed creative packages of support with IFA's to enable more YP to remain 'Staying Put'</p> <p>Through 2022 multi-agency oversight panels for CYP in care have established. Chaired by SLT, they provide scrutiny, accountability, shared decision making and tracking to minimise drift & delay</p>	<p>66% of CYP under 16 in care for 2+ years or more, have been in the same placement for at least 2 years. This shows permanency tracking panel is influencing permanent outcomes.</p> <p>We have more care leavers in Staying Put arrangements, offering continuity of care and life long connections.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1733 987 2181 1098"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>20/21</th> <th>21/22</th> <th>22/23</th> <th>Sep.23</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>53</td> <td>34</td> <td>52</td> <td>72</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		20/21	21/22	22/23	Sep.23		53	34	52	72			
	20/21	21/22	22/23	Sep.23											
	53	34	52	72											

7.5 Ambitions	What we want for our CYP	Progress on the actions through 2022/23	What difference this has made
<div style="background-color: #2e8b57; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">HEALTHILY AND WELL</div>	<p>Being fit and well</p>	<p>The CSC/health steering group have; improved data sharing, are in discussion with prisons & secure units to improve practice so health needs are addressed. Care leavers now have free prescriptions and the dedicated nurse for care leavers piloted in early 2022 has had funding extended to establish the post.</p>	<p>A significant improvement has been made with health partners receiving notifications for CYP placed out of borough, to link into services in the host Authority.</p>
	<p>Feeling happy and hopeful</p>	<p>Since April 2022 the Insight Service has offered substance/alcohol misuse and sexual health support.</p>	<p>The Sexual Health Service has been well used by CYP in care, signposting CYP for additional support. Male nurses are available for UASC. CYP in care and Care Leavers who are pregnant are cared for by the Teenage Midwife team with plans for the postnatal period.</p>
	<p>Having hobbies and interests</p>	<p>The CAMHS Orbit team in Virtual School supports CYP in care, SG and adopted with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs to access support participate in education.</p> <p>The CWCN team and the Adults transition team have been improving practice & pathways into adult services. In 2022 a transitions panel was introduced to improve pathway planning for 16/17 year olds transitioning to adulthood and to better link them into adult services.</p>	<p>The dedicated nurse for care leavers has enabled YP to gain quicker access to health services. 85% of care leavers are registered with a GP. UASC are supported with HO requests for health information and referrals to specialist support. UASC are routinely referred to University College Hospital London to screen their health.</p>
	<p>Keeping connected to people that matter</p>	<p>Foster carers, CYP in care and care leavers have free gym membership to 'Lewisham Be Active Leisure'.</p>	<p>In June 2022 Mark Riddell, Care Leaver advisor to the DfE fed back: <i>"The health offer was good in that there is a nurse placed within leaving care which is exceptional practice"</i></p>
		<p>Life story work using the Signs of Connection & Belonging approach has been a focus in 2023, to help all CYP understand their care journey.</p>	<p>As at Q4 2022/23, 27 CYP were being supported by Action for Children with Independent Visitors. Performance has been consistently good, with good feedback. There has been good stability in the matches, average length is 1.5 years</p>
		<p>A dedicated 'family time' contact team is now in place at Meliot Family Centre, to manage the most suitable arrangements for CYP in care. Lewisham commission Independent Visiting from Action for Children. In 2022 the contract was extended to increase from 20 to 30 matches.</p>	

7.6 Ambitions	What we want for our CYP	Progress on the actions through 2022/23	What difference this has made
HAVING A VOICE	Making a difference	Unfortunately, after losing the lead Participation Officer for our Child in Care Council (CICC) in 2022, we were unable to recruit a replacement until April 2023. As a consequence, much CICC activity had to be paused through 2022. However, the new Participation lead is now rapidly re-establishing the CICC groups and has a comprehensive work programme in place linked to this strategy.	CICC/Elevation participants have been involved in shaping the development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy, the Child Exploitation Strategy, the Placement Sufficiency Strategy, the development of the Housing Pathway for Care Leavers and more recently in commissioning services for Advocacy and Independent Visitors.
	Listening to my experience	CiCC members have continued to participate in our Listening and Learning bi-annual QA events, consulting with CYP to ascertain their experience about the care they have received. Members of Elevation also continue to be engaged in recruitment and training of social workers.	Elevation (Care Leavers CICC Group) delivered cultural competency training to practitioners as part of October Black History Month. 92% of CYP participate in their statutory review meeting and IRO's work creatively to encourage CYP's meaningful engagement in the process, to ensure their voices influence their care plans.
	Making plans and decisions 'with' you	 <p>The Young Mayors Team has moved to the CYP Directorate and plans to integrate the CICC Participation Officer into this team to widen their reach and improve resilience are in progress for 2024.</p>	<p>NYAS are currently commissioned to deliver Lewisham's advocacy service. 2022/23 No.of Hours delivered and CYP Supported:</p> <p>Q1: 286 hours, 55 young people Q2: 285 hours, 27 young people Q3: 268 hours, 50 young people Q4: 283 hours, 62 young people</p>
	Helping to grow good social work	The Participation Strategy is currently being refreshed and will be published in late 2023.	<p>2023/24 Q1: 264 hours, 49 young people Q2: 287 hours, 45 young people</p> <p>There are more CYP self referring and NYAS have supported a number of CYP to address issues such as care decisions, placements and access to savings.</p>

7.7 Ambitions	What we want for our CYP	Progress on the actions through 2022/23	What difference this has made
ASPIRATIONS & AMBITIONS	Reaching my potential	A protocol between Virtual School (LVS) & CSC supports good transition between different phases e.g. entry into care, transition into post 16 and for post 16 PEPs to ensure CYP have a learner profile for transfer to post 18 services. The PEP will now be used by services such as Jobs & Skills to plan for employability. LVS has also commissioned the Education Business Partnership for all CYP to have an employability plan.	95% of CYP in care who are school students have a PEP completed annually, for the autumn term 86% of CYP had a PEP updated. Available data suggests the outcomes at KS2 & KS4 are consistently above national indicators. The no. of CYP entering university this year is expected to increase by 4%. 13 have completed UCAS applications, this represents the highest number expected to enter HE. This year our CLA had the best GCSE results ever yet, in Lewisham.
	Being the best version of myself	PEP's are done termly (not annually). Changes have been made to recording and performance oversight tightened. Enrichment activities are identified via the PEP process, integrated into the overall plan. We have supported a number of CYP to pursue their talents e.g. providing music classes, sports coaching, time in a recording studio.	The additional capacity in LVS means we can better secure appropriate education for CYP with an EHCP and SEND. This is particularly important for CYP placed outside of Lewisham.
	Getting involved and having fun	LVS have improved attendance tracking, absence data is rigorously scrutinised so no CYP are unofficially excluded. LVS is also working with the Young Lewisham Project and has developed an exclusion reduction programme which is being offered to all Lewisham Schools.	There has been an increase in secondary school attendance = 91% compared with 85% last year. There has been a decrease in fixed term exclusions compared with last year – 3 (13) CYP excluded, 5 (30) days lost to exclusions. There have been no permanent exclusions and unauthorized absences have fallen to below 5%. Persistent absence has fallen by over 30% and no Lewisham CYP in care is currently missing education. Lewisham's approach was identified as a best practice model in the recent Children's Commissioners report.
	Skills for work	<p>The Orbit service in LVS has been expanded. Two more specialist psychologists ensure all CYP have timely access to an EP service. A SEND officer is now in post to ensure CYP have prompt access to support. These roles have a particular focus CYP placed outside Lewisham.</p> <p>LVS are working with the Attachment Research Community (ARC) towards all Lewisham Schools being attachment and trauma aware by 2025.</p> <p>'Lewisham Works' is developing a bespoke programme to support Care Leavers into EET. To go live in Jan.2024.</p>	Lewisham Works are currently working with 31 Care Leavers of which 20 have been supported into training or work. 58% of Care Leavers are in EET which is comparable to other London Boroughs but not as high as we aspire to achieve.

7.8 Ambitions	What we want for our CYP	What we said we would do	Progress on the actions through 2021-23
BECOMING INDEPENDENT	Managing my money	Bromley Road became operational in July 2022, the Care Leaver & UASC team is now based there and the location is being developed as a one stop shop. Group activities to support YP are routinely held there, e.g. cooking and using the setting up home grant. DWP and Lewisham Works provide sessions for advice on finding employment, writing CV's, apprenticeships and benefits.	In June 2022, Mark Riddell, Care Leaver advisor to the DfE fed back PA caseloads were too high. We increased the establishment and recruited, caseloads have reduced from average 35 to 25, providing more capacity to co-allocate a PA to YP at 17, to start pathway planning at an earlier stage.
	Ready to look after myself	<p>Through 2021/22 the processes for managing savings were reviewed and re-organised. To ensure all CYP received the correct amount in their trust funds.</p> <p>The Care Leavers Service staffing establishment was increased by x3 to enable more YP to be allocated a Personal Advisor and reduce caseloads</p>	<p>We are regularly 'in touch' with 85% of our care leavers and 78% are regularly visited every 8 weeks by their PA. Bromley Road now provides a welcoming, accessible and supportive environment, where YP can get guidance in one place.</p> <p>Transitions panel is beginning to support smoother transitions and access into the right adult services. CSC Adults services and housing are working together to support more care leavers with complex needs.</p>
	Knowing where to get advice and help	<p>A Transitions Panel was introduced in December 2022. The panel has representatives from DWP, Lewisham Works, Housing, Health and Adults Services. The panel is to support a smooth transition into adult services, independence and the leaving care service, with co-allocation of a personal advisor from 17 years old, which we plan to reduce to 16 in 2023/24, once embedded.</p>	<p>There is a significant reduction in complaints received from Care Leavers relating to late or absence of payments of savings or entitlements.</p>
	Having access to the right services	<p>In February 2023 we commissioned and set up the Grandmentors programme for our Care Leavers. To link YP to a volunteer mentor to support their independence and development of community links. Volunteers are being recruited and trained and YP are being identified for matching to a Grandmentor.</p> <p>In August 2023 the Care Leaver Local Offer and Financial Entitlements Handbook were updated to reflect recent changes and additions.</p>	<p>93% of our YP are living in suitable accommodation and we now have a broad spectrum of semi-independent housing options to best support transitions. The housing pathway has resulted in less spot purchased provision (203 in 20/21 to 33 in 2022/23). This means we have more control over the quality of the support provided to our YP. We are confident when the YP are put forward for their priority nomination for housing, they are ready to manage independently and evictions have fallen. In June 2022 Mark Riddell fed back: <i>"Housing came across as a very strong offer with ringfenced housing units and clear pathways to support care leavers"</i></p>

7.9 Lewisham Placement Sufficiency Strategy (2022-2025)

One of the key ambitions in the Corporate Parenting Strategy is; [This is my home](#), a very intentional focus on the importance of finding the right placement and/or accommodation for care leavers at the right time, which can shape CYP care and post care experience. A refresh of our Placements Sufficiency Strategy in 2022 set out what we would do to deliver this ambition and respond to the national and local challenges. There is no one single approach that will address the complex placements landscape, much of which we have limited control and influence over. Success of delivering the strategy requires a multi layered approach, which we intend will have a cumulative impact. The Placement Sufficiency Strategy is monitored through the Sufficiency Board, chaired by the Executive Director of CYP Services and has eight key strategic aims, summarising the actions we are taking:



1. **Prevention:** Keep more children and young people safely at home with their families and avoid the need to come into or stay in care unnecessarily.
2. **Permanence Planning:** Early and timely permanence planning, so that children and young people only remain in care for as long as they need to and have the security of knowing where they will live and who will be looking after them.
3. **Family & Friends Care:** When children and young people cannot remain safely living at home. Support more of them to be able to live within their own extended network of family and friends.
4. **Foster Carers & Supported Lodgings:** Increase the pool and diversity of in-house local foster carers, so more children and young people in care can live in stable family-based alternatives, which help keep them connected to their important contacts and communities, including opportunities to Stay Put post 18 years are considered
5. **Placement planning & stability:** Improve placement matching, to provide CYP in care the best placement options to meet their needs, keep them safe, and provide them with stability and opportunities to reach their potential.
6. **Commissioned Placements:** Commission a broad range of regulated placements, which are of excellent quality and offer value for money to Lewisham.
7. **Care Leaver & UASC Accommodation:** Develop a continuum of suitable local supported and independent housing options for care leavers to meet a broad range of needs. Ensuring timely transitions and securing tenancies that offer long term stability.
8. **Systems & Data Development** efficient systems & processes to: (a) support best practice, (b) minimise bureaucracy, (c) provide reliable performance data and (d) support strong financial manage

7.10 Update on Phase 1, progress made in the first year of the strategy

Aim 1 – Prevention

Lewisham has a high net rate of CYP in care and Care Leavers arising from the legacy of historic practice, which we are now reducing. In summary the investment in prevention has involved the introduction of the Signs of Safety practice framework (Introduced in 2020), placing more emphasis on keeping families

together safely through risk sensible approaches to safeguarding. The creation of the Safe Space service to provide specialist support for adolescents at risk of exploitation. The expansion of the Meliot Family Support Service now offering targeted intensive support to the most vulnerable CYP, who are on CPP, in court proceedings and on the edge of coming into care. The number of CYP entering court proceedings, entering care and the net no. of CYP in care has been reducing, despite an increase in demand for services in the MASH post covid.

7.11 Family and Friends Care & Permanence Planning

Family and friends care (F&F) supports CYP to benefit from remaining in their own network and secure permanence at the earliest opportunity, if they are unable to return home. If placed with F&F from the outset of their care journey, they are more likely to experience fewer, if any placement moves and remain connected upon leaving care. Temporary F&F foster care placements are governed by the Care Planning and Placement Review Regulations 2002, with Regulation 24 and 25 providing the statutory framework to assess and approve family members as temporary foster carers, to care for Looked After CYP where there is a pre-existing relationship and they are assessed as suitable to fulfil this role.

7.12 Permanence planning refers to the long term plan for the CYP to remain in, or exit care. CYP need to know where they will live and who will be looking after them, to support their stability and security. We aim to have a permanence plan in place at the earliest opportunity and to ensure CYP are only in care for as long as they need to. Permanence options are: (a) Return home and leave care (b) Be permanently cared for by extended family or friends, who seek a Special Guardianship Order, or a Child Arrangement Order, therefore CYP leave care (c) Or Regulation 24 carers seek full approval as family and friends 'connected' foster carers (d) Long term fostering (or residential care) if none of the above options are viable, or (e) adoption.

7.13 In phase one we have:

- ✓ Updated procedures and processes to identify, assess and approve F&F carers.
- ✓ Tightened systems for timely allocation of all permanency assessments.
- ✓ Strengthened allowances, support and training for temporary approved carers.
- ✓ Increased oversight of all Regulation 24/25 and 25+ unregulated placements.
- ✓ Improved practice on early permanence planning through training and embedding Permanency Tracking Panel and Permanency Planning meetings.

7.14 The impact has been that we are now identifying F&F carers earlier, assessments of viable carers are more timely with better support plans to enable more CYP to live in F&F arrangements. We also have had an increase in Special Guardianship Orders granted for CLA 2023/24 (18 between Jan – Aug 2023), plus 4 for non-CLA. This has contributed to the reduction in care numbers.

7.15 Fostering and Supported Lodgings

In phase one we have:

- ✓ Launched Bromley Rd Fostering Hub, a dedicated space for foster carers.
- ✓ Completed the annual update of the Fostering Statement of Purpose.
- ✓ Provided a one off cost of living payment to Lewisham foster carers.

- ✓ Responding to ministerial guidance, we have increased fostering allowances.
- ✓ Updated procedures and processes and management oversight systems.
- ✓ Established fostering duty function and put in place and emergency foster carer system for out of hours.
- ✓ Re-joined the South London Fostering and Special Guardianship Consortium.
- ✓ Undertaken a review of Supported Lodgings.

7.16 We were unable to recruit to the vacant fostering marketing lead role, which delayed implementing our fostering recruitment strategy. A person was appointed in September 2023 and concerted work is now underway to rebrand and re-advertise. Despite this, we have continued to recruit reasonably well compared to other Boroughs, through 2022/23 9 new fostering households, offering 17 placements have been approved and 6 Supported Lodgings were approved, offering 6 placements for care leavers, aged 18 – 21 years. So far in Q1-2 of 2023/24, we have approved 3 new fostering households and we have 5 families currently in the assessment stages.

7.17 **Commissioned placements and placement planning/stability**

The significant national challenges in securing care placements for CYP in care is clearly documented and can be found in two significant recent national reports: The Competition and Markets Authority, CSC market study report (2022) and the Independent Review of CSC (2022).

7.18 Lewisham has a high reliance on commissioned placements to meet its sufficiency duty and will continue to need to buy in care placements going forward. The aim of this aspect of the strategy is to ensure we secure good quality and value placements matched to the needs of our CYP. It is also to gain more influence over a market of which we have little control on price. In phase one we have:

- ✓ Joined the Commissioning Alliance (regional framework).
- ✓ Re-aligned and expanded the Placements Team to create a centralised systems of placement management.
- ✓ Improved quality assurance processes for external care placements.
- ✓ Strengthened oversight of care placements for CYP with the most complex needs, e.g. those subject to a DOLs, in unregistered placements, secure accommodation, or youth custody.
- ✓ Introduce Signs of Connection and Belonging practice framework, to support better placement stability.
- ✓ Introduced Lewisham care provider forums to build better relationships.
- ✓ Introduced 'Finding a home for a Lewisham child' sessions with providers to find CYP with particularly complex needs a placement.
- ✓ Supported providers to seek fast track Ofsted registration where appropriate.
- ✓ Established a Shared Funding Panel with Education and Health (ICB) partners to agree shared funding for CYP in complex and high cost placements.
- ✓ Appointment of clinical lead in partnership with ICB, to support brokerage of complex placement and navigation of key health services.

7.19 This aspect of the strategy is especially challenging given the national landscape. The measures that have been put in place have helped us to maintain reasonably good placement stability, 8% of children experience 3+ placements compared to 9% at the end of 22/23 and 10% at the end of 21/22. We are identifying where

placement providers are falling short of delivering expected levels of care more quickly and having fostered some good relationships with local providers, enabling us to find or create bespoke placements for most of our most complex CYP.

- 7.20 However, any cost benefits these developments are delivering are entirely overshadowed by the spiralling cost of placements (see the table below). It is too soon to see whether joining to Commissioning Alliance will enable us to have more influence but are not yet seeing any discernible difference in cost. Overall, we have seen a 17% increase in CYP in the higher cost placements since February of 2023. The average and mode cost of placements has significantly increased, placing considerable pressure on the care budgets. The table below shows the difference from February 23 to August 23.

Placement cost bandings	FEB-23 No.CLA	% of care population	AUG-23 No.CLA	% of care population	Difference
>£500	147	9%	152	8%	1% decrease
£500-£2k	255	53%	250	39%	14% decrease
£2-4k	12	7%	11	5%	2% decrease
£4-7k	18	18%	28	22%	4% increase
£7-£15k	6	11%	17	19%	8% increase
£15k+	1	2%	4	7%	5% increase

7.21 **Care leavers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)**

In Phase 1 we have:

- ✓ Embedded a care leaver transitions panel with adults services, to improve pathway planning into independence.
- ✓ Progressed the Northover and Amersham accommodation projects. Target open date early 2024, providing additional 8 beds for care leavers and 5 beds for 16/17 year old CYP in care with complex needs.
- ✓ Acquired more beds within the Lewisham housing pathway for care leavers.
- ✓ Improved procedures to fast track additional DFE funding for UASC.
- ✓ Developed sufficient in house trained foster care placements for more UASC.

- 7.22 This work has resulted in more care leavers ‘staying put’ with their foster carers (No.72), A broad spectrum of semi-independent care leaver accommodation is available, with early social housing nominations through the housing pathway and 93% of our care leavers are in suitable accommodation.

- 7.23 We are entering Phase 2 of the Placement Sufficiency Strategy and have identified priority actions going forward for each of the 8 aims. More details were provided in a report to the Corporate Parenting Board in October 2023.

8. Priorities for 2024

While significant improvements have been made across CYP Services and we have assessed we are now providing ‘good’ services to vulnerable CYP and families in Lewisham. We are not complacent and recognise there is still lots more to do, bringing all aspects of our systems and practice up to a consistently good standard. Ensuring we embed and nurture more good practice to reach a maturity

that will deliver sustainability for the future. Through 2024 we plan to focus on the following:

- ✓ A refreshed Participation Strategy building on the work of the Young Mayor's Team and Children in Care Council and enabling wider participation of children and young people with the Council.
- ✓ Developing a wider Family Help offer, as part of our new Family Hubs development – strengthening the prevention and early support opportunities for families.
- ✓ Transition the MASH into a Single Point of Contact for a broader range of services.
- ✓ Review and ensure there is a continuum of services to deliver Family Help, including those with complex needs and across the spectrum of neurodiversity to enable more CYP to live safely with their families.
- ✓ Implement the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership Neglect Strategy
- ✓ Develop the Integrated Adolescent Service through strategic and operational plans, and the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership Exploitation Strategy.
- ✓ Ensure health outcomes are improved, especially for CYP with Social, Emotional and Mental Health conditions through improved pathways and better identification of need early on.
- ✓ Strengthen transitions between CYP and Adults Services.
- ✓ Refresh our Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2024, to keep improving the care and post care experience that our CYP have.
- ✓ Continue to deliver our Placements Sufficiency Strategy – specifically increasing our pool of in-house foster carers and building Lewisham homes for more CYP in care to live locally in homes, with care that matches their needs and helps them remain connected to their networks.
- ✓ Expand the remit of the Principal Social Worker and Academy to deliver a learning and development offer and career framework for non/differently qualified staff including introduction of social work apprenticeships.
- ✓ Achieve our target of 90% permanent workforce, through the recruitment and retention strategy to attract more experienced practitioners.
- ✓ Keep strengthening collaborative working across the partnership and develop an approach to 'Think' family with Adults Services.
- ✓ Launch the commissioned dedicated offer to help more care leavers into ETE.
- ✓ Tackle race inequality and continue to drive changes to anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice.
- ✓ Manage service delivery

9. Recommendations

Members are asked to note and comment upon the contents of this report.

10. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. At Period 4 Children's Social Care had a reported pressure of £9.1m, due to the level of high needs placements in comparison to 2022/23.

11. Legal implications

The Council must comply with its statutory duties to CYP and families, in particular those arising under the Children Act 1989 as amended, the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and related legislation, Regulations and Statutory Guidance.

12. Equalities implications

Addressing inequalities, especially those impacting upon our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, is a key priority for the Council and its partners.

13. Climate change and environments implications

There are no anticipated climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

14. Crime and disorder implications

The work being undertaken on the exploitation strategy aims to contribute to a reduction in crime in the Borough.

15. Health and wellbeing implications

The improvements in services aim to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our residents.

16. Background papers

N/A

17. Report authors and contact

Lucie Heyes, Director Children's Social Care

Sara Rahman, Director Families Quality & Commissioning

Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director Children & Young People's Services

Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources

Nick Penny, Head of Service - Finance

Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director of Law and Corporate Governance

Melanie Dawson, Deputy Monitoring Officer Principal Lawyer - Place



CYP Select Committee

Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

Date: 23rd November 2023

Key decision: To note

Ward(s) affected: All wards

Contributors: Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director CYP and Mala Dadlani Strategic Business Partner CYP

Outline and recommendations

This report is for information only providing information on the 2024/25 partial funding settlement.

1. Summary

- 1.1 Purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the “Dedicated Schools Grant” (DSG) based on the initial funding announcements made on the 20th July (updated following DfE national error on schools funding) and localise that to suggest what this could mean for Lewisham.
- 1.2 It should however be noted that the information provided to date is a partial settlement at present and will vary once the final settlement is announced late December (which will be revised based on census information).
- 1.3 The report will consider each element of the DSG in order of
 - Schools Block
 - Central Schools Services Block
 - High Needs Block
 - Early Years Block

2. Schools Block

- 2.1 It is the funding in the school’s block that will determine the level of funding individual schools will receive.
- 2.2 Lewisham already complies with the National Funding Formula (NFF) for all factors that form part of the NFF. For this reason, some of the complexities stated in the national guidance would not apply to Lewisham (i.e. moving towards the hard formula).

- 2.3 **Appendix A** shows a list of all the factors that are part of the NFF (and the percentage increase from 2023/24). Please note the NFF factors now incorporate the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG), at the 2023/24 values.
- 2.4 The table below (table 1) shows summarised position for the Schools Block relative to 2023/24.
- 2.5 Please note that at this stage this remains a partial agreement and will be updated accordingly for census 2023. As you will see below there are a large number of factors that will affect the final amounts that schools receive which are not known at present. Therefore, the figures shown below will change.
- 2.6 Members may be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) recently announced an error in their National Funding Formula (which was a consequence of the wrong total pupil number population), the consequence of this error is that the Lewisham settlement is £1.3m lower than previously advised.
- 2.7 Using the October updated partial settlement, we can confirm the revised details as table below.
- 2.8 This shows an overall increase in funding of 1.5% (compared with previously advised 2.1%).

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TABLE 1

Schools Block				
2024/25	Per Pupil Funding	Pupil Numbers	£m	
Primary Schools	£6,039.24	22,552	£136.2	
Secondary Schools	£8,289.57	11,628	£96.4	
Sub total		34,180	£232.6	
Premises Factor			£8.6	
Total Cash Funding Excluding Growth			£241.2	
2023/24	Per Pupil Funding	Pupil Numbers	£m	
Primary Schools	5,778.12	22,552	£130.3	
Secondary Schools	7,928.78	11,628	£92.2	
Sub total			£222.5	
Premises Factor			£7.7	
MSAG			£7.6	
			£238	
baseline per pupil	£6,956			
Difference	Per Pupil Funding	% increase	£m	
Primary Schools	£261.12	5%	£5.89	
Secondary Schools	£360.79	5%	£4.20	
Premises Factor			£0.9	
			£10.98	
MSAG grant	Streamlined into the DSG		-£	7.58
			£m	%
Net increase			£3.40	1.5%
Premises			£0.9	0.4%
Non premises			£2.51	1.1%

- 2.9 Schools Specific funding will be allocated using the values stipulated in **Appendix A** for 2024/25. Subject to affordability local authorities may apply a maximum of a further 0.5% “Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) Uplift”.
- 2.10 Currently Lewisham has 36 schools who receive “Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) transitional funding”, for those schools the first call on any increase will be offset by the value of their MFG transitional funding (the total of MFG transitional funding at present is £4.5m).
- 2.11 Naturally, the impact on each school would vary depending on the individual characteristics of pupils at the schools, e.g. Free school meal numbers.
- 2.12 Some general modelling was undertaken using current data – this suggests that in principle each school’s position could vary.

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1. Min	2. 1.25%
3. Max	4. 1.99%
5. Average	6. 1.75%

2.13 What is not clear is the net impact for schools on MFG, as they “earn” funding directly from the NFF, this will be offset by reduced MFG as stated above. Thus, some schools may see a lower or no gain. We will not know the final position for this until the outcomes of the October 2023 census is made available.

2.14 **Some caveats:**

- Fall out of MFG - Please also note that for schools on MFG – this remains transitional protection so the real cash increase will vary – at this stage we do not know how this would interact with the “gains v loss of MFG support”.
- Changes in pupil numbers and other characteristics
- The DfE will supply local authorities with a modelling tool known as the APT which will be required to be submitted to DfE in January following approval from Schools Forum.
- Growth Fund - not yet confirmed. This will be confirmed as part of the final settlement. This could potentially impact on the affordability for the headroom.
- Please further note that Lewisham based Primary and Secondary schools all receive funding based on the Lewisham Submission.

2.15 **The main changes to note for 2024/25:**

- Growth Fund – there is a change in method to distribute funding to LA, apart from this headline position we have no further details.
- Split sites – the method of funding via the NFF is now confirmed, based on the information received to date, this suggests that the 4 schools who currently benefit from this funding would see significant increases in their funding, currently £45k to circa £95k (this has yet to be confirmed in the final settlement).
- MSAG grant is rolled into the DSG NFF at the 2023/24 levels.
- SEN (notional SEN, expectation on LA’s to review this to ensure schools are clear about funding that they can use for SEN).
- Transfer of funding from Schools Block to the High Needs Block – this remains at a maximum of 0.5%, however will require a full consultation with schools.
- Falling rolls – method-based approach to falling rolls funding. This is new. We do not have any details on level of funding attached and how to apply this in detail. We await further guidance.

2.16 **Pay Award:**

The Secretary of state has also confirmed a new grant to support the teachers’ pay award (6.5% agreed) – which again is formula driven so will impact on schools differently. Whilst the expectation is that this should fund 3%, for some schools this may not be the case depending on their individual pupil number and characteristics but

- In November 2023, the 2023 pay award for local government employees was confirmed.

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- All employee grades Scale 1 up to SMG 1 spine point 50 will receive an annual increase of £2,352 (plus oncost – meaning the average cost is circa £3,200 per pupil). All employees on grade SMG1 spine point 51 and above will receive an increase of 3.88%.
- The awards are effective from 1 April 2023.
- From a schools’ perspective whilst the teaching staff pay increase has received additional grant funding, the local government employee settlement which covers non-teaching staff does not attract any additional funding. For many schools this will result in significant pressure.

2.17 Teacher’s Pension:

In addition, we have been advised that from 1st April 2024, the Teachers Pensions cost will increase from 23.6% to 28.6%. The DfE has confirmed that this will be supported for one year –any future support would be part of spending reviews. Again, it should be noted as with any grant funding, this will be based on a formula very likely to include pupil numbers, lump sum and free school meals, the grant value may not necessarily meet the cost at school level.

3. Central Schools Services Block (CCSB)

3.1 The Central Schools Services Block is constituted of two elements:

- A Historic Baseline – this predates 2012/13 funding when the local authority had significant freedom and flexibilities to utilise the DSG towards education supported functions and to allocate additional Council funding to schools based on local decisions made. Not all local authorities have such a historic baseline, and those that do, have at varying levels of funding. The table below confirms the further reduction of £326k for next year, which will result in a pressure.
- B Funding to support education statutory function. This is method driven on a per pupil basis. Lewisham receives £50.62 per pupil. The funding is based on pupil numbers, as such a movement in pupil numbers will impact on the funding.

3.2 The table below shows the 2024/25 position. The second element is provisional subject to pupil number changes.

3.3 It should be noted that the slight increase, should not be offset against the historic baseline loss, as that would be required to fund wider costs including pay award, inflation on any contracts etc.

CSSB

	2023/24	2024/25	Movement	% change
	£m	£m	£m	
Historic Baseline	£1.62	£1.30	-£0.32	-20%
Formula led	£1.69	£1.73	£0.04	2%
Net	£3.31	£3.03	-£0.28	-9%

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4. High Needs Block

- 4.1 The High Needs Block (HNB) is a specific allocation of funding to support students who have a range of additional and special educational needs. Since the SEND reforms in 2014 Councils across the country have seen a significant increase in demand for additional support for children with SEND; this includes support for young adults up to the age of 25. Lewisham is currently noting a cumulative overspend of circa £14m. It remains too early to comment on the final position for 2023/24, however Lewisham is seeing a reduction in in-year cost as the Lewisham mitigation plan starts to be embedded. Working on the basis that the number of EHCP's is continuing to increase in line with recent trends there is likely to remain a pressure of circa £3m to £4m.
- 4.2 The DfE has appointed Newton to work with Lewisham Council to further support the existing work being undertaken as part of the Delivering Better Value (DBV). It must however be emphasised that the symptoms facing Lewisham in terms of overspend are not unique. The majority of local authorities are either part of the safety valve (for those with very high levels of overspend) or DBV intervention support. Lewisham is currently working towards submitting a bid which will provide potentially £1m pump prime funding to support some initiatives which are intended to help reduce the HNB spend.
- 4.3 **The key areas of focus are:**
- Out of borough placements – Lewisham has been working towards expanding provision both within mainstream and special schools.
 - Review of banding system for suitability.
 - Review of practice that supports review of pupil needs toward more focus on intervention instead of EHCP. Consider options on how this can be best supported both at local authority and school level.
- 4.4 The table below shows the provisional 2024/25 HNB. Assuming data remains broadly the same, the funding allocated to Lewisham would suggest an increase of approximately £2.4m.
- 4.5 It should however be noted that pupil numbers, pupils in special schools and placements out of borough all have a bearing on the funding position. This will not be finalised until end of December.

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	Pupil numbers	£ per pupil	£m
Baseline (funding floors/ceilings)			74.95
basic entitlement	1134	5,646	6.40
import /export	-493	6,000	-2.96
New schools			0.01
			-2.94
Hospital and historic TPPG			0.40
Provisional figure for 2024/25			78.81
2023/24 funding			76.44
Increase in funding			2.38
			3%

5. Early Years Funding

- 5.1 The 2023 Spring Budget announced **additional funding** for the existing early years entitlements for disadvantaged 2-year-old children and 3 and 4-year-old children for the 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 financial years.
- 5.2 The DfE has announced that for the 2023 to 2024 financial year, they provide nationally £204 million of **supplementary funding** to local authorities through a new early years **supplementary grant (EYSG)**. The grant will cover the period September to March (i.e. Summer payments will be at the existing rates and are not affected by this announcement. The uplift provided is for **autumn (2023)** and **spring term (2024)**.
- 5.3 Please therefore note that the funding we will receive in 2023/24 will be from two different funding sources for 2023/24 each with separate audit and accounting requirements.
- 5.4 In 2024/25, the EYSG (Early Years Supplementary Grant) will be rolled into the Dedicated Schools Grant, and form part of the EYNFF (Early Years National Funding Formula) – at the time of writing we await conditions for grant, so cannot at this state confirm funding levels for 2024/25.
- 5.5 The announcement from the DfE further stated that an additional £288 million will be allocated to local authorities nationally through the dedicated schools grant (DSG). We have yet to receive sufficient details to establish if the £288m, is actually on top of the £204m (i.e. total of £492m), or the streamlining of the EYSG into the DSG plus a further £84m. We are unlikely to have sufficient detail until late Autumn.
- 5.6 Additionally, the announcement has noted increases for pupil premium and disability access funding.
- 5.7 The DfE has recently announced capital funding support for EY, as follows (table 2). The Early Years Team will be working with providers to target funding towards the development of the expansion of the early years offer.

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Table 2

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total of 3 year period
Lewisham	£11,845.51	£647,713.92	£305,981.15	£965,540.58

5.8 2023/24 funding to providers early years.

5.8.1 Table 3 below shows the funding that providers will receive following this announcement. The first three columns show the hourly rate that we expect to receive. The last two columns show the different sources of funding that make up the hourly rate.

Table 3

	Funding Per Term 2023/24			How the hourly rate will be funded	
	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Early Years National Funding Formula	Early Years Supplementary Grant
3 & 4 Year Old Entitlement	£5.40	£5.99	£5.99	£5.40	£0.59
2 Year Old Entitlement	£6.78	£9.22	£9.22	£6.78	£2.44

5.8.2 The early years pupil premium (EYPP), this is expected to be at 4p per hour (currently 62p per hour from the Dedicated Schools Grant).

5.8.3 The Disability Access Funding (DAF), this is expected to increase £30.92 funded from EYSG (building on the current £828 funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant).

6. EY consultation on extending the EY entitlement from 9 months

6.1 The DfE has launched a consultation on the funding that supports children aged 9 months to 2 years.

6.2 The consultation timing was not helpful as it took place over the period schools are on leave from August to 8th September 2023.

6.3 In principle the consultation refers to mirroring formula for the current 3 and 4 year old funding. This is not good news for Lewisham as we are one of the lowest funded of inner London councils.

6.4 The factors mainly work on base, FSM and IDACI plus Area cost adjustment.

7. Financial implications

7.1 This report is for information only and provides Members with context regarding the 2024/25 funding. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

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- 7.2 However, this report notes challenges facing both Schools and Local Authority based on the level of funding provided compared with the additional costs for example arising from the teacher pay award (partially funded).
- 7.3 The report also recognises challenges in delivering statutory SEN services compared with the funding (High Needs Block) and ongoing pressure on council services arising from the year-on-year abatement of the Central Schools Services Block.
- 7.4 The report also notes the changes being proposed as part the extension of the Early Years Offer, including the anticipated pressure on Lewisham providers relative to other Inner London councils.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report which is for noting.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 At this stage there are no direct implications arising from this report. Equalities impact will need to be considered as Lewisham progresses options towards mitigating an overspend position on the High Needs Block and Early Years Block .

10. Climate change and environmental implications

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11 Crime and disorder implications

- 11.1 Not applicable

12. Health and wellbeing implications

- 12.1 Not applicable

13. Report author and contact

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mala.dadlani@lewisham.gov.uk

Comments for an on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources

Nick Penny, Head of Service – Finance nick.penny@lewisham.gov.uk

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Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Law and Corporate Governance

Melanie Dawson - Deputy Monitoring Officer, Principal Lawyer - Place
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14. Appendices

Appendix A – NFF comparison between 2023/24 and 2024/25 values.

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Appendix A

Table to show National Funding Formula values for 2024/25 compared with 2023/24

						1.18892	ACA - Lewisham		
Factor	23-24 APT	24-25 NFF including ACA	Increase	% increase	MSAG	MSAG - Lewisham	Net of MSAG	Real terms increase	Actual % increase
Primary basic entitlement	£4,035.19	£4,226.88	£191.69	5%	£119.00	£141.48	£4,085.40	£50.21	1.24%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,688.98	£5,959.41	£270.42	5%	£168.00	£199.74	£5,759.67	£70.69	1.24%
KS4 basic entitlement	£6,411.85	£6,717.68	£305.84	5%	£190.00	£225.89	£6,491.79	£79.94	1.25%
Primary FSM	£570.68	£581.46	£10.78	2%			£581.46	£10.78	1.89%
Secondary FSM	£570.68	£581.46	£10.78	2%			£581.46	£10.78	1.89%
Primary FSM6	£838.19	£973.06	£134.87	16%	£104.00	£123.65	£849.41	£11.22	1.34%
Secondary FSM6	£1,224.59	£1,423.99	£199.40	16%	£152.00	£180.72	£1,243.28	£18.69	1.53%
Primary IDACI F	£273.45	£278.87	£5.41	2%			£278.87	£5.41	1.98%
Primary IDACI E	£332.90	£338.20	£5.30	2%			£338.20	£5.30	1.59%
Primary IDACI D	£523.12	£528.06	£4.94	1%			£528.06	£4.94	0.94%
Primary IDACI C	£570.68	£575.53	£4.85	1%			£575.53	£4.85	0.85%
Primary IDACI B	£606.35	£611.13	£4.78	1%			£611.13	£4.78	0.79%
Primary IDACI A	£796.58	£806.93	£10.35	1%			£806.93	£10.35	1.30%

Secondary IDACI F	£398.29	£403.46	£5.18	1%			£403.46	£5.18	1.30%
Secondary IDACI E	£529.07	£534.00	£4.93	1%			£534.00	£4.93	0.93%
Secondary IDACI D	£737.13	£747.60	£10.47	1%			£747.60	£10.47	1.42%
Secondary IDACI C	£808.47	£818.80	£10.33	1%			£818.80	£10.33	1.28%
Secondary IDACI B	£867.91	£878.13	£10.22	1%			£878.13	£10.22	1.18%
Secondary IDACI A	£1,105.70	£1,121.39	£15.70	1%			£1,121.39	£15.70	1.42%
Primary EAL	£689.57	£700.13	£10.56	2%			£700.13	£10.56	1.53%
Secondary EAL	£1,860.66	£1,880.86	£20.20	1%			£1,880.86	£20.20	1.09%
Primary LPA	£1,373.20	£1,388.39	£15.19	1%			£1,388.39	£15.19	1.11%
Secondary LPA	£2,080.61	£2,106.32	£25.71	1%			£2,106.32	£25.71	1.24%
Primary mobility	£1,123.53	£1,139.19	£15.66	1%			£1,139.19	£15.66	1.39%
Secondary mobility	£1,616.93	£1,637.59	£20.66	1%			£1,637.59	£20.66	1.28%
Primary lump sum	£152,181.76	£159,487.10	£7,305.34	5%	£4,510.00	£5,362.03	£154,125.07	£1,943.31	1.28%
Secondary lump sum	£152,181.76	£159,487.10	£7,305.34	5%			£159,487.10	£7,305.34	4.80%
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£32,158.49	£63,723.64	£31,565.16	98%			£63,723.64	£31,565.16	98.15%
Split sites distance funding	£0.00	£31,921.15	£31,921.15				£31,921.15	£31,921.15	

PFI remains local determination within affordability

exceptional factors subject to approval from DfE

MFG between - 0.0% to max 0.5%

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Split sites distance funding is a new methodology within the National Funding Formula

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Appendix A

Table to show National Funding Formula values for 2024/25 compared with 2023/24

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						MSAG - Lewisham	Net of MSAG	Real terms increase	Actual % increase
Primary basic entitlement	£4,035.19	£4,226.88	£191.69	5%	£119.00	£141.48	£4,085.40	£50.21	1.24%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,688.98	£5,959.41	£270.42	5%	£168.00	£199.74	£5,759.67	£70.69	1.24%
KS4 basic entitlement	£6,411.85	£6,717.68	£305.84	5%	£190.00	£225.89	£6,491.79	£79.94	1.25%
Primary FSM	£570.68	£581.46	£10.78	2%			£581.46	£10.78	1.89%
Secondary FSM	£570.68	£581.46	£10.78	2%			£581.46	£10.78	1.89%
Primary FSM6	£838.19	£973.06	£134.87	16%	£104.00	£123.65	£849.41	£11.22	1.34%
Secondary FSM6	£1,224.59	£1,423.99	£199.40	16%	£152.00	£180.72	£1,243.28	£18.69	1.53%
Primary IDACI F	£273.45	£278.87	£5.41	2%			£278.87	£5.41	1.98%
Primary IDACI E	£332.90	£338.20	£5.30	2%			£338.20	£5.30	1.59%
Primary IDACI D	£523.12	£528.06	£4.94	1%			£528.06	£4.94	0.94%
Primary IDACI C	£570.68	£575.53	£4.85	1%			£575.53	£4.85	0.85%
Primary IDACI B	£606.35	£611.13	£4.78	1%			£611.13	£4.78	0.79%
Primary IDACI A	£796.58	£806.93	£10.35	1%			£806.93	£10.35	1.30%
Secondary IDACI F	£398.29	£403.46	£5.18	1%			£403.46	£5.18	1.30%
Secondary IDACI E	£529.07	£534.00	£4.93	1%			£534.00	£4.93	0.93%
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Secondary EAL	£1,860.66	£1,880.86	£20.20	1%			£1,880.86	£20.20	1.09%
Primary LPA	£1,373.20	£1,388.39	£15.19	1%			£1,388.39	£15.19	1.11%

Secondary LPA	£2,080.61	£2,106.32	£25.71	1%			£2,106.32	£25.71	1.24%
Primary mobility	£1,123.53	£1,139.19	£15.66	1%			£1,139.19	£15.66	1.39%
Secondary mobility	£1,616.93	£1,637.59	£20.66	1%			£1,637.59	£20.66	1.28%
Primary lump sum	£152,181.76	£159,487.10	£7,305.34	5%	£4,510.00	£5,362.03	£154,125.07	£1,943.31	1.28%
Secondary lump sum	£152,181.76	£159,487.10	£7,305.34	5%			£159,487.10	£7,305.34	4.80%
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£32,158.49	£63,723.64	£31,565.16	98%			£63,723.64	£31,565.16	98.15%
Split sites distance funding	£0.00	£31,921.15	£31,921.15				£31,921.15	£31,921.15	

PFI remains local determination within affordability

exceptional factors subject to approval from DfE

MFG between - 0.% to max 0.5%

Split sites distance funding is a new methodology within the National Funding Formula



Children and Young People Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee Work Programme Report

Date: 23 November 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

Contributors: Benjamin Awkal (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

This report gives committee members an opportunity to review the committee's work programme and make any modifications required.

The Committee is recommended to:

- Review the work programme attached at Appendix D.
- Consider the items for the next meeting and specify the information required.
- Review the forward plan of key decisions attached at Appendix E and consider whether there are any items that should be considered for scrutiny.

Timeline of decision-making

Children and Young People Work Programme 2023/24 – draft agreed on 15 June 2023

Children and Young People Work Programme 2023/24 – approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2023

1. Summary

- 1.1. The committee proposed a draft work programme at the beginning of the municipal year. This was considered and approved, alongside the draft work programmes of the other select committees, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2023.

- 1.2. The work programme should be reviewed at each meeting to take account of changing priorities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:
- Review the work programme attached at Appendix D.
 - Consider the items for the next meeting and specify the information required.
 - Review the forward plan of key decisions attached at Appendix E and consider whether there are any items that should be considered for scrutiny.

3. Work Programming

- 3.1. When reviewing the work programme the Committee should consider the following:
The Committee's terms of reference (Appendix A)

- 3.2. The Committee's areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:

- Schools and related services
- Children's Social Care
- Transition for care leavers
- Youth services
- SEND provision for children and young people up to age 25

- 3.3. The Committee has a key role in scrutinising the performance and supporting the development of the council's health and care-related strategies and policies. It also has a role in engaging and reflecting the views of residents in relation to health and care-related matters.

Whether any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny

- 3.4. If there is any urgent issue that is brought to the Committee's attention, it should consider the prioritisation process (Appendix B) and the Effective Scrutiny Guidelines (Appendix C) before deciding on its priority.

Whether a committee meeting is the most effective forum for scrutinising the issue

- 3.5. When scrutinising an issue of interest, the Committee should consider if there are any alternative methods for receiving information on the issue that would be more appropriate. For example, would a briefing or a written summary be more effective and appropriate for the issue in question?

Whether there is capacity to consider the item

- 3.6. The Committee should consider which work programme items could be removed or rescheduled to make space for the full consideration of more important issues.

Whether the item links to the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy

- 3.7. A new corporate strategy has been developed¹ – which sets out the Council's values, priorities and focus for the next four years (2022-2026). These are categorised under the following headings:

- Cleaner and Greener
- Strong Local Economy

¹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/corporate-strategy>

- Quality Housing
 - Children and Young People
 - Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.8. The work of the Children & Young People Select Committee will relate most closely to the 'Children & Young People' priority, which commits the Council to:
- supporting our schools to improve and increasing the opportunities for young people in Lewisham;
 - working with our schools and communities to build on the inclusive and high-achieving system of local comprehensive schools;
 - ensuring our most vulnerable children are protected from harm, driving improvement in Children's Social Care and aiming to reduce the number of children coming into care through earlier targeted support for families in crisis;
 - helping to create new breakfast clubs at schools and continuing to lobby the government to expand their free school meals programme.
- 3.9. The Committee should consider how its work programme reflects these priorities. The Committee might also consider whether there are suggestions that should be put forward for consideration in the new municipal year.

4. The next meeting

- 4.1. The following items are scheduled for the next meeting. For each item, the Committee should clearly define the information and analysis it wishes to see in officer reports. If the Committee has designated one of its members as a climate change champion, that member should work with the Chair to ensure that officers are given appropriate steers in relation to the reports, to ensure they include relevant climate change considerations.
- 4.2. The Committee should also consider whether to invite any expert witnesses to provide evidence, and whether site visits or engagement would assist the the effective scrutiny of the item.

Agenda Item	Review type	Corporate Priority
Primary and secondary school organisation	Policy development	Children and Young People
Embedding race equality in education	Performance monitoring	Children and Young People

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme will have financial implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the start of each municipal year.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.3. There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. An action plan to achieve this target was subsequently agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (following pre-decision scrutiny by the Sustainable Development Select Committee)². The plan incorporates all areas of the Council's work. Items on the work programme may well have climate change and environmental implications and reports considered by the Committee should acknowledge this.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

11. Report author and contact

If you have any questions about this report please contact Benjamin Awkal (Scrutiny

² See <https://lewisham.gov.uk/TacklingTheClimateEmergency> for a summary of the Council's work in this area.

Manager) benjamin.awkal@lewisham.gov.uk

Appendix A – Children and Young People Select Committee Terms of Reference

The following roles are common to all select committees:

(a) *General functions*

- To review and scrutinise decisions made and actions taken in relation to executive and non-executive functions
To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the executive, arising out of such review and scrutiny in relation to any executive or non-executive function
- To make reports or recommendations to the Council and/or Executive in relation to matters affecting the area or its residents
- The right to require the attendance of members and officers to answer questions includes a right to require a member to attend to answer questions on up and coming decisions
- To consider matters referred to it in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme

(b) *Policy development*

- To assist the executive in matters of policy development by in depth analysis of strategic policy issues facing the Council for report and/or recommendation to the Executive or Council or committee as appropriate
- To conduct research, community and/or other consultation in the analysis of policy options available to the Council
- To liaise with other public organisations operating in the borough – both national, regional and local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working

(c) *Scrutiny*

- To scrutinise the decisions made by and the performance of the Executive and other committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions made and over time
- To scrutinise previous performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives/performance targets and/or particular service areas
- To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors personally about decisions
- To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors in relation to previous performance whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over time or in relation to particular initiatives which have been implemented
- To scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the borough and to invite them to make reports to and/or address the select committee and local people about their activities and performance
- To question and gather evidence from any person outside the Council (with their consent where the law does not require them to attend).
- To make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process

(d) *Community representation*

- *To promote and put into effect closer links between overview and scrutiny members and the local community*
- *To encourage and stimulate an enhanced community representative role for overview and scrutiny members including enhanced methods of consultation with local people*
- *To liaise with the Council's ward assemblies and/or Positive Ageing Council so that the local community might participate in the democratic process and where it*

considers it appropriate to seek the views of the ward assemblies and/or Positive Ageing Council on matters that affect or are likely to affect the local areas, including accepting items for the agenda of the appropriate select committee from ward assemblies and the Positive Ageing Council.

- To keep the Council's local ward assemblies and Positive Ageing Council under review and to make recommendations to the Executive and/or Council as to how participation in the democratic process by local people can be enhanced.
- To receive petitions, deputations and representations from local people and other stakeholders about areas of concern within their overview and scrutiny remit and to refer them to the Executive, appropriate committee or officer for action, with a recommendation or report if the committee considers that necessary
- To consider any referral within their remit referred to it by a member under the Councillor Call for Action (Part IV E 10), and if they consider it appropriate to scrutinise decisions and/or actions taken in relation to that matter, and/or make recommendations/report to the Executive (for executive matters) or the Council (non-executive matters)

(e) *Finance*

- To exercise overall responsibility for finances made available to it for use in the performance of its overview and scrutiny function.

(f) *Work programme*

- As far as possible to draw up a draft annual work programme in each municipal year for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Once approved, the relevant select committee will implement the programme during that municipal year. Nothing in this arrangement inhibits the right of every member of a select committee to place an item on the agenda of that select committee for discussion.
- The Council and the Executive will also be able to request that an overview and scrutiny select committee research and/or report on matters of concern and the select committee will consider whether the work can be carried out as requested. If it can be accommodated, the select committee will perform it. If the committee has reservations about performing the requested work, it will refer the matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for decision.

The Children and Young People Select Committee has specific responsibilities for the following:

(a) To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions as they relate to the social care of children and young people up to the age of 19 years including but not limited to the following activities: -

- (i) the social services functions of the Council under the Children Act 2004, and all functions of the Council under the National Assistance Act 1948, the Mental Health Act 1983, Children Act 1989, the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, Children Act 2004, Children and Families Act 2014 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time
- (ii) to invite representatives of other service providers to children and young people in the area to give account of their performance and to answer questions.

(b) In so far as they relate to the provision of services for those under the age of 19 years, the exercise of all of the Council's powers under all relevant legislation pertaining to education from time to time in force. Without limiting the generality of this, this shall include, in particular, schools and school related services.

(c) The exercise of the overview and scrutiny powers of the Council in

so far as they relate to people under 19 years of age in the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside the school environment, including pre-school services.

(d) In so far as they relate to children and young people under 19 years of age, to make comments and recommendations to the Executive on the contents and proposed contents of the plans making up the Council's policy framework.

(e) In so far as they relate to people under the age of 25 years, to make comments and recommendations on the provision of education, training and learning by those with special educational needs.

(f) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, its terms of reference include the following matters:

- Child protection - covering provision for vulnerable children including children in need and children looked after, placements, foster care and adoption
- Early years provision
- Special needs provision
- Schools and related services
- Youth Services
- Youth offending and challenging behaviour
- Transitional services for those leaving care
- Other matters relating to children and young people

(g) To receive and consider referrals from Healthwatch in so far as they relate solely to people under 19 years of age. Otherwise, such referrals will be made to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

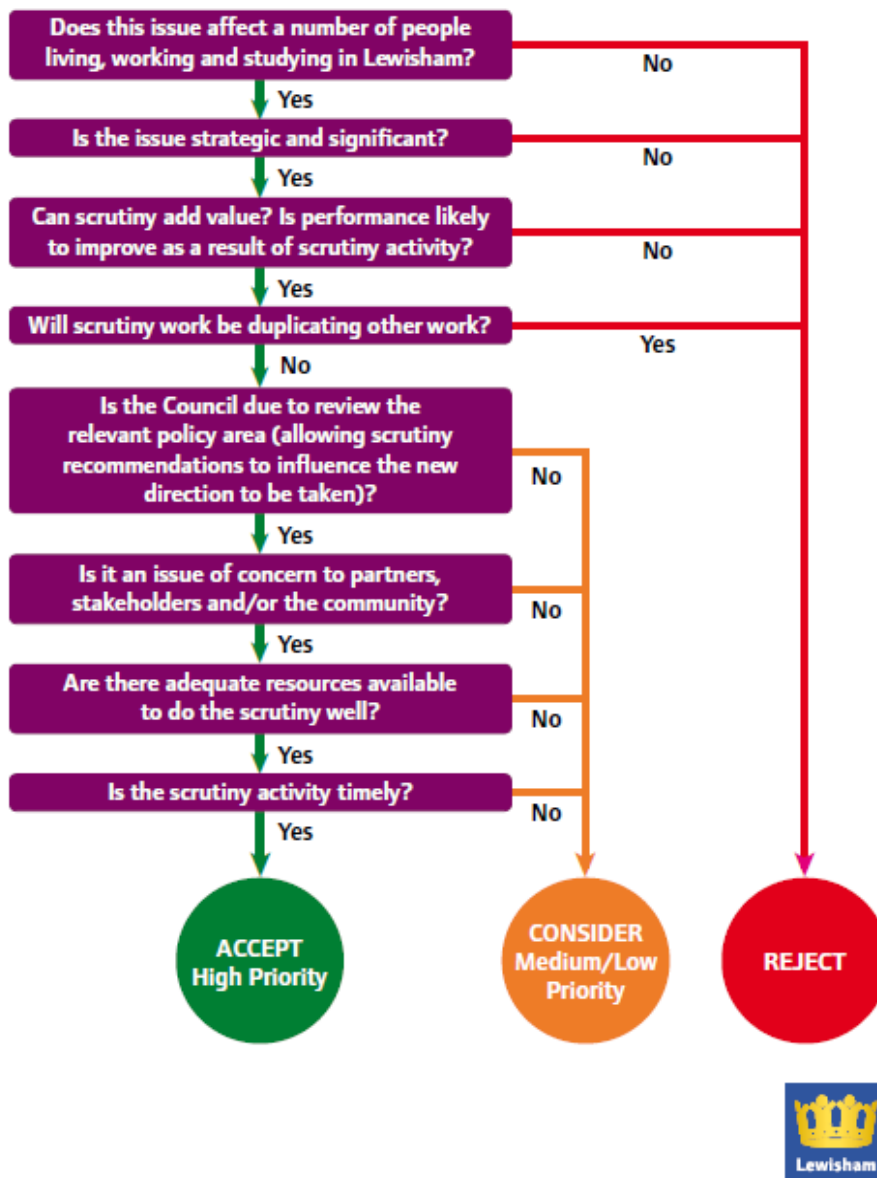
(h) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, to hold the Executive to account for its performance in relation to the delivery of Council objectives in the provision of services to children and young people.

NB In the event of there being overlap between the terms of reference of this select committee and those of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall determine the Select Committee which shall deal with the matter in question.

Appendix B

The flowchart below is designed to help Members decide which items should be added to the work programme. It is important to focus on areas where the Committee will influence decision-making.

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



Appendix C

Effective Scrutiny Guidelines

At Lewisham we:

1. Prioritise

It is more effective to look at a small number of key issues in an in-depth way, than skim the surface of everything falling within scrutiny's remit. We try to focus on issues of concern to the community and/or matters that are linked to our corporate priorities. We only add items to the work programme if we are certain our consideration of the matter will make a real and tangible difference.

2. Are independent

Scrutiny is led by Scrutiny Members. Scrutiny Members are in charge of the work programme, and, for every item, we specify what evidence we require and what information we would like to see in any officer reports that are prepared. We are not whipped by our political party or unduly influenced by the Cabinet or senior officers.

3. Work collectively

If we collectively agree in advance what we want to achieve in relation to each item under consideration, including what the key lines of enquiry should be, we can work as a team to question witnesses and ensure that all the required evidence is gathered. Scrutiny is impartial and the scrutiny process should be free from political point scoring and not used to further party-political objectives.

4. Engage

Involving residents helps scrutiny access a wider range of ideas and knowledge, listen to a broader range of voices and better understand the opinions of residents and service users. Engagement helps ensure that recommendations result in residents' wants and needs being more effectively met.

5. Make SMART evidence-based recommendations

We make recommendations that are based on solid, triangulated evidence – where a variety of sources of evidence point to a change in practice that will positively alter outcomes. We recognise that recommendations are more powerful if they are:

- Specific (simple, sensible, significant).
- Measurable (meaningful, motivating).
- Achievable (agreed, attainable).
- Relevant (reasonable, realistic and resourced, results-based).
- Time bound (time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time-sensitive).

Children and Young People Select Committee work programme 2023-24

Work Item	Type of item	Strategic Priority	15-Jun	19-Sep	23-Nov	11-Jan	12-Mar
Select Committee work programme 2023/24	Constitutional requirement	All					
Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health	Performance monitoring	CP3 and CP5					
Post-16 education and career pathways	Policy development	CP3 and CP4					
Youth violence	Performance monitoring	CP3 and CP7					
Holistic school improvement	Policy development	CP3					
Children's social care improvement	Performance monitoring	CP3					
Primary and secondary school organisation	Policy development	CP3					
Embedding race equality in education	Performance monitoring	CP3					
School standards	Performance monitoring	CP3					
Holistic school improvement	Policy development	CP3					

Information reports, briefings, events and visits			15-Jun	19-Sep	23-Nov	11-Jan	12-Mar	
Action plan following Joint Targeted Area Inspection	For information	CP3, CP5 and CP7						
Note of visit to Green Vale School	For information	CP3 and CP5						
School standards (unvalidated)	For information	CP3						
Dedicated Schools Grant briefing	For information	CP3						
Admissions numbers	For information	CP3						
Exclusions and managed transfers	For information	CP3						
Attendance and exclusions	For information	CP3						
Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	For information	CP3	Circulated on 26/09/2023					

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Forward Plan December 2023 - March 2024

This Forward Plan sets out the key decisions the Council expects to take during the next four months.

Anyone wishing to make representations on a decision should submit them in writing as soon as possible to the relevant contact officer (shown as number (7) in the key overleaf). Any representations made less than 3 days before the meeting should be sent to Head of Governance and Committee Services, the Local Democracy Officer, at the Council Offices or emma.campbellsmith@lewisham.gov.uk. However the deadline will be 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting.

A “key decision”* means an executive decision which is likely to:

- (a) result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;
- (b) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

March 2023	Dementia Strategy	01/11/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Tristan Brice, Associate Director, Community Support and Care and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
July 2023	Financial Monitoring - Period 4	01/11/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Nick Penny, Head of Service Finance and		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy		
July 2023	Levelling Up Fund Programme - approval for procurement of contractors	01/11/23 Mayor and Cabinet	and		
April 2023	Lewisham and Lee Green LTN monitoring update	01/11/23 Mayor and Cabinet	and Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate		
September 2023	Youth Justice Partnership Plan	01/11/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Keith Cohen, Head of Lewisham YOS and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
September 2023	Young Mayor's Budget	22/11/23 Council	and		
September 2023	Approval to make an Article 4 Direction to withdraw permitted development rights for the change of use from commercial, business and service use (Use Class E) to residential use (Use Class C3)	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	David Syme, Head of Strategic Planning and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		
May 2023	Approval to procure School Minor Works Programme 2024 (SMWP 24)	06/12/23 Executive Director for Children and Young People	Akweley Badger, Project Support Officer and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Young People		
September 2023	Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust - appointment of a Local Authority Trustee	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Suhaib Saeed, Strategic Lead Governors' Services and School Leadership and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
September 2023	Building for Lewisham (BfL) Programme Update	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Patrick Dubeck, Director of Inclusive Regeneration and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		
July 2023	Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL) Business Plan	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Kplom Lotsu, SGM Capital Programmes and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		
September 2023	Corporate Performance Report Q1&Q2	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	and		
September 2023	Council Tax Base Report 2024/5	06/12/23 17/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet Council	and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
September 2023	Developing a new early childhood offer and integrating Children and Family Centres in the new Family Hub model	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Simon Whitlock, Head of Joint Commissioning • Joint Commissioning FQC and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
August 2023	Gambling Policy 2023-2026	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Richard Lockett and Councillor Will Cooper, Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Homelessness		
July 2023	Learning Disability Implementation Plan	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Heather Hughes, Joint Commissioner, Learning Disabilities and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
September 2023	Lee Neighbourhood Plan, recommendations by independent examiner and approval to proceed to referendum	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	David Syme, Head of Strategic Planning and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		
April 2023	Millwall FC Lease Restructuring Proposals	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Patrick Dubeck, Director of Inclusive Regeneration and		
May 2022	On Street Advertising Contract Variation and Extension	Not before 06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Patrick Dubeck, Director of Inclusive Regeneration		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy		
September 2023	Parking Services: Contract Extension	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Paul Boulton, Interim Director of Public Realm and Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate		
May 2023	Permission to award Maximising Wellbeing at Home contracts (Lots 5,6,8,9)	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Tristan Brice, Associate Director, Community Support and Care and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
August 2023	Property Agreement between LB Lewisham and TfL in relation to the A205 Road Realignment Project	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Charlotte Harrison, Head of Strategic Regeneration and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		
August 2023	Property Agreement to support the A205 road realignment	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Charlotte Harrison, Head of Strategic Regeneration and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		
September 2023	Response to the recommendations of the Disabled People's Commission Report; If not now, then when?	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	and		
July 2023	Sustainable Streets recommendations and next steps - Evelyn	06/12/23 Mayor and Cabinet	Martha Lauchlan, Transport Planner and Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate		
August 2023	Gambling Policy 2023-2026	17/01/24 Council	Richard Lockett and Councillor James-J Walsh, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Communication		
September 2023	Adventure Playgrounds Grant of Leases and Contract Award	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Harsha Ganatra, Joint Commissioner (FQC) and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
July 2023	Approval for s106 monies to go to Deptford Challenge Trust	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Julia Robbins, Developer Contributions Manager and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
June 2022	Approval to appoint operator for concessions contract at Beckenham Place Park Lake	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Peter Maynard, Contract Officer, Green Scene and Councillor Andre Bourne		
September 2023	Building for Lewisham - approval for new homes on Small and Complex Sites	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Monique Wallace, Planning Manager, Strategic Housing and Councillor Brenda Dacres, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning		
April 2023	Grant of Leases for Adventure Playground Sites	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Harsha Ganatra, Joint Commissioner (FQC) and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
	Period 8 Budget Monitoring	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Nick Penny, Head of Service Finance and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy		
	Permission to procure repair and maintenance of Ventilation Plant and controls, and duct Cleaning of former Lewisham Homes properties and other Lewisham properties	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Peter Whittington, Head of Compliance • Assets, Compliance and Safety. and Councillor Will Cooper, Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Homelessness		
September 2023	Permission to procure the	24/01/24	Jonathan Scarth and		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
	Honor Lee / Rokeby House Supported Housing contract. The extension of two additional supported housing contracts	Mayor and Cabinet	Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
March 2023	Public Space Protection Order consultation outcome	24/01/24 Mayor and Cabinet	James Lee, Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure and Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate		
September 2023	Council Budget 2024/25	07/02/24 28/02/24 Mayor and Cabinet Council	and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy		
January 2023	Annual progress update on the Autism Strategy Action Plan	13/03/24 Mayor and Cabinet	and		
September 2023	Climate Emergency Action Plan update 2023/24	13/03/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Martin O'Brien, Climate Resilience Manager and Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate		
	Green Space Management and Maintenance Contract	13/03/24 Mayor and Cabinet	Vince Buchanan, Green Spaces Contracts Manager and Councillor James-J Walsh, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Communication		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials