



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: 19th November 2024

Committee:
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 27 November 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting. The Agenda is attached

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that a seat will be available for you.

Please click [here](#) to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated on the agenda

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council Youtube Channel [Here](#)

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Members of People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Peggy Mullock (Chairman)	Duncan Kerr
Claire Wild (Vice Chairman)	Hilary Luff
Roy Aldcroft	Kevin Pardy
Jeff Anderson	Vivienne Parry
Peter Broomhall	Sian Lines (Co-Optee)
Nat Green	Carol Morgan (Co-Optee)
Ruth Houghton	

Your Committee Officer is:
Shelley Davies Committee Officer
Tel: 01743 257718
Email: shelley.davies@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2024.

Contact: Shelley Davies

4 Public Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public of which notice has been given. The deadline for this meeting is 12.00 pm, Thursday 21st November 2024.

5 Member Question Time

To receive any question of which Members of the Council have given notice. The deadline for this meeting is 12.00 pm, Thursday 21st November 2024.

6 Learning Disability and Autism Development Including Supported Living (Pages 5 - 26)

To consider the developments made in disability and autism including supported living. [Report Attached]

Contact: Tanya Miles, Executive Director for People.

7 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 2 (Pages 27 - 80)

To scrutinise performance at Quarter 2 and identify areas that may require further investigation by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. [Report Attached]

Contact: Tanya Miles, Executive Director for People.

8 Work Programme (Pages 81 - 82)

To receive a verbal update on the work programme of the Committee. [Work Programme Attached]

Contact: Sophie Foster, Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

9 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at 10.00 am on Wednesday 26th February 2025.

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Committee and Date

People Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

27th November 2024

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2024

**In the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

10.00 am - 12.05 pm

Responsible Officer: Shelley Davies

Email: shelley.davies@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257718

Present

Councillors Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Peter Broomhall, Ruth Houghton, Duncan Kerr, Hilary Luff, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Claire Wild and Alex Wagner (substitute for Nat Green)

4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Nat Green (Substitute: Councillor Alex Wagner), and Sian Lines, Diocesan Board of Education.

5 Disclosable Interests

Councillor Ruth Houghton declared an interest as a trustee at Bethphage, a learning disability charity and noted that her Grandson attended Severndale Academy.

6 Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th April and 9th May 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record.

7 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

8 Member Question Time

There were no members' questions.

9 Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers

Donessa Gray, Assistant Director, Services to Children & Families introduced the Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers Report which provided an overview of the challenges and actions taken to address this issue as part of Shropshire Council's commitment to a Healthy Organisation within the Shropshire Plan.

It was reported that the recruitment and retention of social workers was an issue nationally and was a challenge due to the high turnover of staff and reliance on agency workers. Donessa Gray, Assistant Director, Services to Children & Families added that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the West Midlands relating to caps on the amount paid to agency children's social workers had been in existence for some time, however, many of the Local Authorities who signed up to this have been granted exemptions whereas Shropshire remains within the MoU.

In response to questions members were advised that:

- There were occasions where agency staff were leaving and not working their notice period. This was usually due to poor work which was referred to Social Work England.
- The apprenticeship scheme was not affected by the voluntary redundancy programme and following the closure of the University in the Guildhall the Council had identified an alternative provider in regard to the taught element of the scheme.
- There had been a lot of work undertaken as part of the Shropshire Plan to protect social care frontline services and to ensure children were a priority for the whole Council, however, there was an opportunity to strengthen this when the Plan was reviewed next year.
- There were a number of existing hubs across the county which were being utilised to reduce travelling time for social workers and there were plans to increase the number hubs.
- The delay in relation to DBS checks would be investigated further and any support from the Committee would be appreciated.
- The 45p mileage rate was set by Government and would have implications nationally if increased.
- The suggestion to include a clause to penalise agencies when staff do not work their notice period would be investigated.

RECOMMENDED:

- That Cabinet should write to and lobby HMRC to review and increase the 45p mileage rate for those travelling to carry out their statutory role in larger rural and sparsely populated Local Authorities, such as Social Workers.
- That Cabinet should write to the relevant bodies, including the Police, to highlight the impact of delays in completing enhanced DBS checks on key roles and functions, including the recruitment of social workers and foster carers, and ask what action can and is being taken to address the causes of delays, by when.

Information Request:

That a note should be sent to all Members of the Committee setting out the situation with the capping pay for agency workers, specifically highlighting the position in relation to the DfE and the awaited Technical Guidance.

That data and key messages on the reasons why Social Workers were leaving the Council from their exit surveys/leavers questionnaires, including learning and subsequent actions, was shared with all Members of the Committee.

10 **Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 4**

Donessa Gray, Assistant Director, Service for Children and Families introduced the Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 4 which gave an update on key areas of performance across Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Education services under the People's Directorate.

Donessa Gray, Assistant Director, Service for Children and Families outlined key areas of the report including the effectiveness of the Early Help and Stepping Stones programmes noting the financial savings and the positive impact these services have had on preventing children from entering care.

In response to questions members were advised that:

- There was additional information available in relation to hospital discharges and more detailed performance data would be included in the next quarterly report.
- There had been an increase in private hospital care due to NHS waiting lists which was likely to increase and therefore Shropshire Council needed to be ahead of the game in regard to the after care and support required.
- A focused update on sensory services, including outcomes and improvements, would be included for the next meeting.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) software was being used by staff where possible.
- The increasing trend of elective home education was a challenge nationally and the lack of oversight and potential safeguarding concerns were noted.
- The Council's position in relation to whether enhanced DBS checks were necessary for Councillors who deal with vulnerable adults or children would be clarified with the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance.

Officers were thanked for their report.

RECOMMENDED:

That steps should be taken to lobby relevant organisations to reduce delays in the completion of enhanced DBS checks (see recommendation for the previous agenda item - Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers).

That more support staff in the People Directorate should be further enabled in their roles by extending the number of licences for artificial intelligence (AI) software (to increase their productivity by reducing the amount of manual handling of data and information they have to carry out).

11 Work Programme

Members received the work programme for 2024-2025. The Scrutiny Officer noted that the work programme was set out slightly differently to previous work programmes with each item being identified as either:

- Briefing (open to all members to attend)
- Briefing and Decision by Members to go to Committee
- Straight to Committee

The Committee discussed the need to balance the focus between children's and adult social care and it was suggested that more topics on adult social care be included in future meetings and briefings to ensure comprehensive oversight.

12 Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the People Overview and Scrutiny Meeting will be taking place on at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 27th November 2024.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



**People Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

27th November 2024

Item

6

Public



Learning Disability and Autism Development including Supported Living

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles, Executive Director for People		
email:	Tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 255811
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cecilia Motley Communities, Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care and Public Health; Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Portfolio Holder Children's Service		

1. Synopsis

The cost of services for learning disabilities and autism (18-64 yrs) was identified as an outlier by the LGA Peer Review in 2022. Recent evidence suggests we have reversed this position and are now below the England average. This report presents an overview of the commissioning approach for children and adults with a learning disabilities and / or autism, including background and context, recent progress and priority plans for the next 12 months.

2. Executive Summary

Outcomes for people with a learning disability and or autism are positive in Shropshire; in particular outcomes for adults people living independently in their own home or in a community setting, and also those in supported employment.

We commission a significant range of services to achieve these positive outcomes including day opportunities, supported employment, care and support within supported accommodation and technology enabled care. We are strengthening the whole life- course approach to commissioning of services, developing all age (across children's and adults) services and solutions where appropriate. The spend is significant across both children's and adults. There are extensive plans to review, improve and continue to ensure best value in this area.

3. Recommendations

Committee are asked to note the contents of the report, provide comment and consider the areas of priority focus for the next 12 months as described in section 9 Future Plans, and comment on any additional recommendations.

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

Specific priority actions described within this paper will be subject to governance and oversight through the Joint Commissioning Development Group (JCDG), here options appraisals and risks are considered in detail. The JCDG is chaired by Laura Tyler, Assistant Director of Joint Commissioning.

5. Financial Implications

Shropshire Council is currently managing an unprecedented financial position as budgeted for within the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council on 29 February 2024 and detailed in our monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. This demonstrates that significant management action is required over the remainder of the financial year to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all Cabinet Reports provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial survivability. Where non-essential spend is identified within the Council, this will be reduced. This may involve

- scaling down initiatives,
- changing the scope,
- delaying implementation, or
- extending delivery timescales.

Projects and plans detailed within the report present opportunities to deliver a financially sustainable commissioning approach for learning disabilities and autism.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

Neutral Impact.

7. Context and Background

All age Commissioning Vision and Purpose

The vision for an all-age approach to Commissioning in Shropshire is to create the best outcomes and experience possible for children, young people, adults, families and carers through efficient and effective use of all available resources.

It is an essential function which should enable the delivery of priorities in the Shropshire Plan, drive best value and person-centred outcomes, and support quality assurance and inspection readiness.

Commissioning must play a proactive role in delivering Shropshire's strategic outcomes, managing demand, driving quality and value, and robustly meeting regulatory requirements.

Across the country, both Children's and Adult's Services are experiencing ongoing financial pressures, growing demand, and limited capacity across the social care sector. This is being acutely felt in Shropshire with disproportionate increases in demand and rurality challenges.

An all-age Commissioning approach allows us to be better positioned to respond to these pressures and proactively shape better services and outcomes. Work with PWC to define a vision for commissioning started summer 2023 and concluded Feb 2024. A recommendation to adopt an all-age Commissioning structure is now in place following review, consultation and restructure of the team Spring/summer 2024.

All age structure roles and teams are aligned to categories across a person's life course: Start Well, Live Well and Age Well, allowing focus on both a technical skill set (Commissioning, Contract Management and Quality Assurance, Brokerage) whilst also focusing on a life course specialism.



This new all-age Commissioning function will lead to improved outcomes for residents as a result of more person-focused, proactive and joined up approaches to commissioning. The Commissioning function will positively impact on the Shropshire workforce, providers and partners through improved satisfaction and development opportunities for staff, stronger support and collaboration for our local providers, and more clear and timely working arrangements for our internal and external partners.

There are five key priority areas Commissioning will implement over the next few years; building on clear strategy, investment in the commissioning model, and development of ways of working.

- Creation of Comprehensive strategies that will support a person through their life course, informing direction, activity and decision making.
- Development of an enhanced, strategic relationships with children's and adult's services to ensure Commissioning is viewed as a critical and integral part of delivering services and outcomes for Shropshire residents.
- Investment in the right capacity and capability to create a fit for purpose organisational model.
- Adoption of a deeper and broader all-age approach to create parity and alignment between children and adults.

- Further development of governance across the council and wider system to improve strategic planning and decision making and increase clarity and efficiency for contributors.

National Policy & Strategy

Our commissioning strategy and plans are delivered in accordance with those legislative and policy frameworks that relate to adults and children with learning disabilities and / or autism. This includes those young adults transitioning from children services to adult social care, and also the requirements identified in the NHS Long Term Plan, and section 5 of the Care Act (2014).

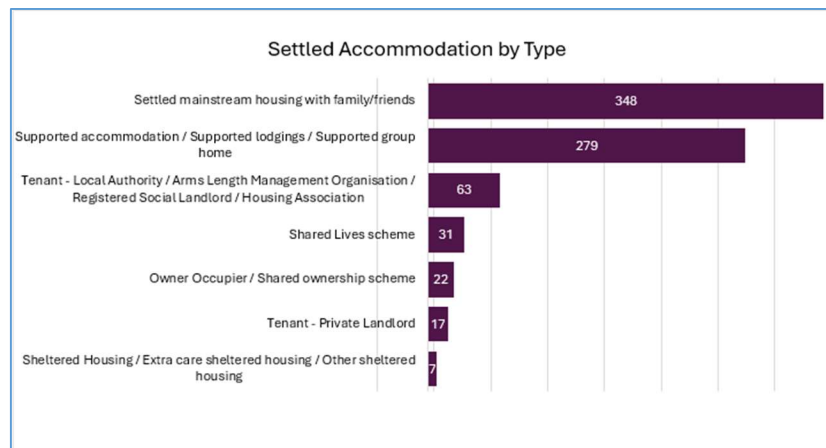
Themes across all include the commitment to strengthen the support available in communities, the prevention and early intervention to help reduce or avoid crisis and to develop resilience and independence for the remainder of a persons life.

In addition of note, the National Autism Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults (2021-26), the development of Integrated Care Systems (Feb 2021) are significant influences on our local direction and priorities.

Learning Disability & Autism Commissioning in Shropshire

There are 972 adults with a 'primary support reason' of learning disability known to adult social care. Outcomes for this population are positive:

- For example for individuals living in their own home we exceed the national ASCOF performance target of 80.5% with Shropshire performance at 87.5%, breakdown below:



- Another area previously monitored by ASCOF is the percentage of people with a learning disability in paid employment, we are in the highest quartile at 7.2% compared to the England average of 5%.

Financial Spend

Adult Social Care

The total spend in Adult's services for Learning disability in 2024/25 is projected to be £57m. In 2022/23 spend relating to Learning Disability support represented 28.52% of all spend in ASC, the second largest category of spend (second to physical support).

Spend has grown year on year as outlined below. With demand increasing, and complexity, and challenges in market rates largely due to workforce costs (related to inflation and national living wage increases) these pressures will remain.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Adults spend (Learning disabilities & autism) £ m'	42.65	52.46	56.62
% Increase	-	23%	8%

Recent evidence indicates we have reversed a trend in spend on services for working age adults (18-64) with learning disabilities and, or autism, as illustrated below. In 2022 we were identified as an outlier with high spend relative to our peer group of statistically similar authorities, ranking us 17th nationally (out of 151 authorities) for 18+ and 14th highest for younger adults.

However, in data published on the 31st October 2024 we are now ranked 3rd lowest in our peer group for unit cost of long term support. We are also below the England average, and 6th lowest in our peer group for long term residential care for working age adults. A more up to date analysis of the spend will be concluded by the end of the year and it is envisaged that we will confirm a significant improvement in this position.

	Shropshire	Peer Group	England
Unit cost of Long Term Support (£ per week) PSR Learning Disability Aged 18-64	£1,484	£2,202 (Rank 3/16)	Not published
Unit cost of Long Term residential care (£ per week) Aged 18-64	£1,670	£1,814 (Rank 6/16)	£1,770 (Rank 66/152)

*Derived from ASC Activity & Finance Return published data 31/10/24

Supported living spend represents a significant proportion of these costs. We spend around 36% of total learning disabilities and autism adults spend each year on supported living. For 24/25 this is projected to be £21m.

Children's and Young People - High Needs Block DSG

The table below sets out the Council's expenditure within the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant for the period; 2022/23 to 2024/25. High needs funding supports provision for pupils and students with SEND who require additional resources to participate in education and learning, from their early years to age 25 in schools and colleges. This expenditure relates to all children and young people with SEND (0-25) but includes children with learning disabilities and autism. The forecast position for the end of the 2024/25

financial year is a c.£7.4m cumulative deficit on the Dedicated Schools Block, driven almost entirely by a forecast deficit on the High Needs Block.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (Forecast presented to Schools Forum on 7/11/2024)
Total Expenditure (£ m')	34.854	43.902	47.237
% Increase		26.0%	7.6%

Children's and Young People - Disabled Children's Team

The table below sets out the Council's expenditure within the Disabled Children's Team of the Children's Social Care and Safeguarding budget for the period; 2022/23 to 2024/25. The figures below include the DCT Social Work team, Prevention and Support payments, Direct Payments and Short Breaks contracts but exclude DCT external residential placements and DCT Fostering placements. Figures relate to all children with disabilities but include children with learning disabilities and autism.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (as at end of September – Q 2)
Total Expenditure (£ m')	4.302	4.381	4.398
% Increase		1.8%	0.4%

Social care budgets are under significant pressure with additional demand, complexity and increasing service costs. Providers tell us that the rates that the Council pay are not keeping in step with rising costs in general despite year on year fee increases.

Wages costs, national insurance rises, fuel costs, increasing complexity of support and insurance mean that providers across the care market are seeking higher fee rates from the Council.

Future demand on services

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment helps commissioners to plan for the future needs of the population. With a growing population, need and complexity are increasing:

- The number of adults with a 'primary support reason' as learning disability known to Adult Social Care grew from 937 Jan 2022, to 972 in 2024 (+4%)
- Shropshire has approximately 3,500 adults and children recorded as being on the autistic spectrum
- For those people aged 55-64, autism spectrum disorder in Shropshire is predicted to rise by 3.1% in 2030 compared to England at 1.7%

A more significant trend of growing demand and complexity is reflected with children's services also:

- Total allocations open in children social care is 2014
- Of the 2014, 398 are within the Disabled Children's Team, so 1 in 5 are 'open' to this Team
- Requests for Education, Health and Care Plan Needs assessments are increasing:

	2021	2022	2023
Education Health and Care Plan Needs	271	513	902
Assessments numbers and percentage change in demand, year on year	-	(+89%)	(+76%)

- There have been 632 requests for Education Health and Care Plan Needs assessments this year to date, demand continues to increase.

A review of national & local data for work on Autism strategy has been completed looking specifically at autism prevalence, assessment data and priority areas. In Shropshire:

- The children's assessment pathway had seen a 767% increase in 2023 & further increases in 2024 reporting a 1600% rise in neurodiversity assessment referrals which includes autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Waiting times are 18 months – 2 years and we currently have 500+ children in Shropshire waiting for an assessment
- Waiting times on the adults pathway are also rising, 1122 adults are currently on the waiting list for assessment and many are waiting between two & three years for assessment

Co-production

Commissioning plans are underpinned by co-production with those who will use and be supported by services. The commissioning cycle enables a variety of ways for this intelligence to inform services. Of particular note the Learning Disability Partnership Board has been significant in steering service design and commissioning, with a number of experts by experience and carers are members of the board.

Commissioning projects will include co-production plans which can range from experts by experience being involved in task and finish group work, through to surveys of parents, carers and those using services, and also involvement of representative advocacy groups being involved in procurement evaluations also.

We are committed to further strengthen co production/co development by realigning Partnership Boards to be a driver for transformation and delivery of strategies. We have invested in a new post and have a Co-production lead, and a new post of Strategy and Planning Manager, to oversee this redesign work.

8. Progress and Highlights

New Special Educational Need and Disabilities Resourced Provisioned 'Hubs'

Resourced Provisions cater for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans who require a more specialist environment within a mainstream school to support their access to the curriculum and activities offered by the school. Resourced Provisions are facilities provided on the site of the mainstream school and enable more targeted support to be provided.

Resourced Provision avoids the need for children having to travel to more specialist provision and enables them to access their education locally and remain connected to their local community. From September 2024 an additional 3 Resourced Provisions have opened, increasing the total number to 13. This has created an additional 48 places.

Expressions of interest have been sought from schools to open new Resourced Provisions and this, combined with ongoing detailed mapping of future sufficiency requirements will support further expansion of the Resourced Provision in the 2024/25 academic year.

Supported Accommodation Strategic Planning

We want to ensure every person has the right to lead their own life and to determine where, how, and with whom they live, and who provides them with support. Shropshire supported living schemes allow vulnerable people to maintain their dignity and be part of a community while managing housing tenancies. Shropshire benchmarks positively compared to other local authorities in supporting people to remain within their communities, it is paramount accommodation is sustainable, delivers on quality and is cost effective.

Joint work with strategic and operational colleagues within housing is a priority, and we are working together jointly to improve many areas. The recent consultation and publishing of the Independent Living and Supported Accommodation Strategy gives clarity on the focus for joint working as we move forwards - [Appendix I Draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Further to this work, and to inform a more granular level of detail for adult social care supported accommodation requirements, a Strategic Needs Assessment has been commissioned working with industry experts the Housing Learning Innovation Network (LIN). They are currently drafting their report, and due to present back early November on initial findings. Their scope is wider than learning disabilities and autism and will make recommendations for mental health, care leavers, and key worker housing.

New Supported Living Accommodation

The supported living model will be reviewed in line with the outcomes of the Housing LIN work.

There are currently over 200 properties in use as Supported Living across the county, with the largest proportion being in Shrewsbury. There was an increase of approx. 10% between 2019 and 2023. Over 270 people are housed across the 200 plus supported living properties. More recently we have seen some Residential providers change their service to a supported Living model.

Shropshire's Supported Living offer is set to grow further next year with new developments that we have nomination rights over. Supported living can be an expensive model of care when it is a single service in isolation. New developments will minimise single service accommodation and maximise core and cluster and alternative models will be a key consideration in the future, e.g. Shared Lives.

We are now capturing more information on desired locations for individuals awaiting accommodation to examine the demand across different towns to improve choice. Whilst the majority of the individuals are seeking accommodation in the Shrewsbury area, we also have a need for a smaller number of smaller schemes in the north and the south of the County. Accommodation units are generally supporting between 4 and 12 people, with occasional need for dispersed dwellings to meet specific and complex needs of individuals.

We can demonstrate excellent outcomes for individuals in supported living provision including 14 new supported living bungalows. Please see case study at **Appendix A – Supported Living giving *Penny greater independence closer to her family.**

Shared Lives

One of our services, Shared Lives, which supports people with a Learning Disability to live with a family or shared Lives carer in the community, will be moving into the Council from 2025. Shared Lives matches someone who needs care with an approved carer. The carer shares their family and community life and gives care and support to the person with care needs. Shared Lives is an alternative to other traditional and often expensive types of care such as residential care and is a service we plan to expand and grow in the future.

Shared Lives will be managed alongside other in-house provider services we run including, Four Rivers Care Homes and our Enable supported employment service.

Please see case study at **Appendix B – Shared Lives support transforms Emma's life**

Autism Strategy work

We have invested in accelerating this work and appointed a dedicated Autism Commissioning Officer who took up post March 2024. This post is an all-age commissioning post working across start well, live well and age well. The current focus is on the delivery of the Autism strategy for Shropshire Council.

The strategy work has been broadly aligned to national strategy recognising there are 5 key areas – the work locally has been shaped around these areas and there are now 5 sub-groups established for each of:

- Health & Assessments
- Education & Preparation for Adulthood
- Employability
- Housing & Social Care & Criminal Justice System

The strategic work started on 1st August with an in person launch meeting inviting all stakeholders. There are over 90 stakeholders involved across all groups, which are being focussed on in sub-groups, using skills & experience of those working across the sector & those with lived experience. Monthly sub-groups started in September; each quarter there is a plan to host an in-person event to update all stakeholders on strategy progress, the next is planned for December, then April 2025 when all draft strategic content is targeted to be completed. Strategy completion target is September 2025.

We do not have a Learning Disability strategy and are exploring options to have consensus and stronger agreed priorities accordingly.

Day Opportunities

Shropshire has a mixture of Day opportunities 8 services are provided internally and other services are provided externally on a block or spot purchase contract. We recognise that our day opportunities provide an invaluable service to people, allowing them to access their community and activities, as part of the future transformation of Learning Disabilities and Autism we want to ensure that day opportunities continue to grow and develop with the people they support. Ensuring that users of the service actively contribute to service development allowing them to maximise their independence and live their best life in their community.

Market Engagement and Improvement work

Following feedback from the market we undertook a market engagement and consultation exercise Autumn 2023 on the rates that we pay for supported living, as the main care model within learning disability and autism. The spend on supported living in 22/23 accounted for over £15m or 10% of the total Adult Social Care spend.

Despite this significant spend, providers felt the range of rates paid were confusing, and often were not based on an agreed principle. Providers also felt that rates were low and often unsustainable.

As a result rates were uplifted to a standard £21.00 per hour for daily hours. The approach was positively welcomed by providers and has resulted in greater stability, with no hand backs of packages of care to date in 2024.

Developing a plan to engage children's providers through forums, similar to the approach in place in adults is a key priority for the next 12 months to enable partnership working with providers, and strengthen sufficiency in provision also.

Service Improvement and Continuous Learning

We are actively progressing a number of improvement areas, in partnership with health providers in particular MPFT, the ICS and others including Telford & Wrekin Council connected to learning disability and autism. Some initiatives of significance include:

- Mortality reviews – LeDeR – As members of the LeDeR Steering Group and Governance groups run by the ICS we commit to improvement actions as an organisation and a system in response to thematic learning. Carers and Experts by Experience actively influence our work as members of the LeDeR Steering Group and Governance Group.
- Clive Treacey Action Plan – We have an action plan in response to the national report published into Clive's death and the learning and recommendations arising. This is monitored and reported into the Quality Improvement and Service Development Board.

Other connections to Council programmes/services

In addition to the commissioning work, activity and projects underway, we are also proud of the significant achievements of both the Enable Supported Employment Service, an in house provider service, and the Technology Enabled Care programme, which is a programme delivered in the Office of the Chief Executive – detailed highlights of both included below:

Enable Supported Employment Service

Enable have a variety of employment support programs, helping people into work with many different barriers to employment. Enable supported 2150 clients in 2023, with 729 achieving paid employment.



Performance and outcomes are very positive, we are in the highest quartile in England in respect of the percentage of people with a learning disability in paid employment at 7.2%, compared to the England average of 5%.

In particular Enable provide Individual Placement Support to individuals suffering with Mental Health problems, or drug and alcohol use. They provide bespoke 121 support to prepare individuals for work, focusing on the right role from them, engaging with local employers to support them to offer posts to individuals before they have even been advertised. They also provide in work support to the individuals and employers, making reasonable adjustments to ensure the work is sustainable.

They deliver the governments flagship DWP employment support programme, Restart. We work with job centre plus customers to achieve paid job outcomes and provide training to support them in other areas such as confidence building, CV writing, interview techniques, digital skills and practical lifelong skills which will help clients to maintain long term employment.

Enable also deliver an employer disability support service where we work with businesses to ensure their recruitment includes a diverse workforce to include groups with protected characteristics. Supporting businesses to achieve disability confident status.

Please see case study at **Appendix C – Enable supporting Keiran Jones.**

Technology Enabled Care Programme

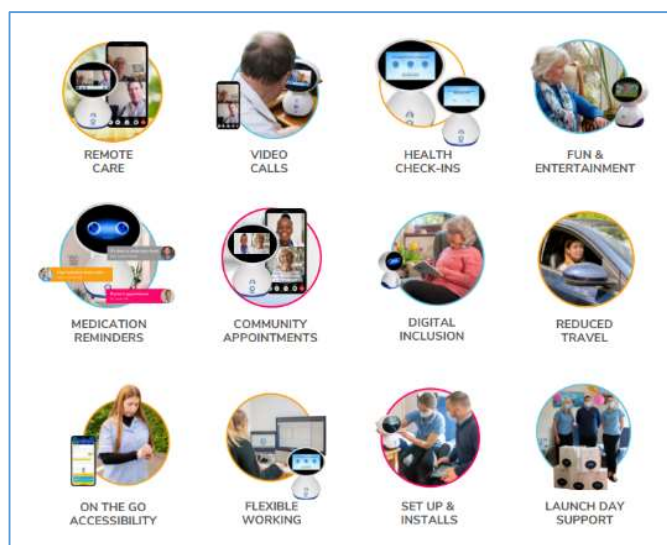
Shropshire has been at the forefront of adopting Technology Enabled Care (TEC) to help individuals to live independently, through a programme of work that started in 2022. This has had a positive impact in many ways for those supported through our services for learning disability and / or autism.

TEC devices incorporated into the home can create safer living environments, particularly for those who can be at higher risk. TEC can also be used to aid personal health and safety through alerts for daily living tasks, like when to take medication and the use of clock calendars, visual prompts or reminders and support through audio and video prompts.

The Technology Enabled Care programme has benefitted from significant external grant funding. £1.2m Care Tech funding is supporting 80 people with Genie devices and 30 people with Carebuilder over the next 2 years.

The Virtual Care Delivery programme (VCD) has now supported 140 people during year 1 of the delivery. A reminder that we are one of only four 4 councils awarded £1.2m technology funding.

A new team of TEC specialist has been formed, and 3 posts have now been filled, with a TEC Coordinator post also in place to support. It is hoped the team will act as advocates and increase the referrals into the programme and understanding, adoption of TEC and awareness across the 3 Community Teams in ASC. Further details of the TEC Team members are provided in Appendix D.



Please see case study at **Appendix D – Technology Enabled Care supports Andrew and Meet the TEC**

Learning Disability Social Work Team (Adults)

People with a Learning Disability, a Learning Disability and Autism, and their carers have been supported from adult social care across a range of services dependent on primary need. We recognise that we have good outcome measures in supporting people with a learning disability at home and in employment and can enhance our offer further by establishing a Learning Disability and Autism team. Our work with Individuals, parents, carers and across the local system has informed our decision to have a dedicated team. The team now has a Team Manager and workers have started to move into the establishment.

We already have an established Preparing for Adulthood team and as part of this work aim to align support pathways into adult services where it has been identified that a young person will continue to require ongoing support. The approach will also create capacity to work across the 0-25 pathway and support young people earlier in their transition to adult services.

The model will have a skilled workforce, be relationship based, working collaboratively with children's services and commissioning colleagues to ensure the best outcomes for people. The workers joining the team have a longstanding experience of social work with Adults who have a Learning Disability and LD&A. To enhance the skills, knowledge and understanding we have a Learning and Development plan with a personalised skills matrix for each member of the team.

We are working with our data and insights teams to develop systems that will capture the work of the team and understand demand and capacity to align to our priorities. Learning Disability and Preparation for Adulthood reports have been developed on PowerBi. We also have access to data in children's services so we can forward plan earlier intervention.

Coproduction is essential to this work as we progress with the model. Presentations and meetings have taken place with Taking Part, SEND Board, Learning Disability Partnership Board, Parent and Carer Council and with the Coproduction lead.

The establishment of the Learning Disability & Autism team will further embed the area of Learning Disability, Autism and Mental Health creating a streamlined and outcome focused pathway. This will also strategically align to the system work with the ICB and Health Trust MPFT for LD&A/MH creating a cohesive offer.

9. Future Plans

Commissioning Intentions for LD&A

The Market Position Statement (MPS) which outlines our commissioning intentions, was revised and published March 2024, and covers 2024-27. It can be found here: [shropshire-market-position-statement-24-27.pdf](#)

Building on the published commissioning intentions, some highlights of the focussed areas for the next 12 months include:

Children and Families Support Services Framework (CAFSS)

We will continue to support the development of this framework which enables access to over 20 different services (including therapy, mediation, speech and language and advocacy). The framework enables a mini-competition and access to providers locally and regionally. Most recently we have supported evaluation of new providers and expect a further 25-30 to be added to the provider list.

Work to establish a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) commissioning workplan now that the team has been strengthened is also a key priority for 2025, reporting into the SEND Partnership Board.

Supported Accommodation

Work is ongoing with housing colleagues, and will be informed by the work of the Housing LIN to help us understand our current and future demand so we can ensure that our existing and new buildings being developed are accessible, meet needs and provide a safe and secure home, allowing people to stay in their properties and not necessarily need specialist accommodation. Aligned to this and the Independent Living & Specialist Accommodation Strategy we are working towards the development of a Commissioning Plan for Supported Accommodation which will indicate to the market what we need and where.

Market Engagement

A key part of the work we will be undertaking is to develop our learning disability strategy/policy. To be better positioned to respond to pressures and proactively shape better services and outcomes for an individual's life course through coproduction and engagement. We need to ensure the market is vibrant and equipped to deliver good quality care to support people with a range of needs, including those with the most complex needs, and deliver the best outcomes. To achieve this we need to review current services and provision and work closely with providers. We will be reviewing;

- **Night time rates**

The Council currently has a wide range of rates in payment to providers for overnight support. Having this variation in the basis on which current overnight support has been commissioned makes it very difficult to establish baseline hourly rates or make comparisons between rates paid to different providers. A review is currently underway to determine a proposed night time rate. It is acknowledged that these proposals may represent an increased spend on overnight rates at a time of financial challenge for the Council.

We will also work closely with the market for a definition of Waking Night and Sleep-in shift for use in future commissioning of overnight support, which would include a statement of how many hours we would expect an overnight shift to consist of.

- **Residential and Nursing placements**

The council commission spot contract beds for both residential and nursing care. The prices that the Council commission beds at is currently not controlled by a set price structure for people with LD and A. These have been subject to an annual uplift however, to support the longer term purchasing of beds to meet both current and future needs we need to ascertain the commissioning requirements for residential and nursing care beds for the future and find solutions to support market development and stewardship, create positive outcomes for service users in need of nursing or residential care and gain control of prices.

- **Respite Offer / Short Breaks**

We need to understand what unpaid carers supporting people with a Learning disability and/or autism need now and, in the future, and prevent crisis situations. This will include a review of our current respite offer working with users of services, the provider and VCSE market along with unpaid carers to develop a respite/emergency accommodation offer for adults.

A key priority is also the recommissioning and improvements around the short breaks service and model for children and young people. This work is underway and will review the approach to both community and overnight short breaks provision to deliver a robust and stable model with adequate capacity for future needs.

- **Support for Unpaid Carers**

As noted above we need to support unpaid carers; this is a priority area for us and we will work with partners to prioritise the development of an offer for unpaid family and friend carers. With an initial focus on:

- Ensuring unpaid carers have equal (countywide) access to good quality support, advice. Forming good links with carer networks.
- Working with employers/employment services to support unpaid carers that work.
- Coproduce a respite/emergency provision (link to shared lives growth and offer).

- **Data and Reporting**

Improvement work is required to ensure activity, finance and data reporting supports the commissioning work plan as we move forward. Learning disability and autism data and spend is not always readily available in required formats to fully support a pro-active all-age commissioning approach.

10. Conclusions

Growing demand on services, increasing complexity and external factors including the cost of care in the market provide consistent challenges to commissioners of learning disability and autism services. However, there are exciting plans to continue to support vulnerable members of our communities, with quality services that support independence and delivery against the vision for all-age commissioning outlined.

Plans will maintain the positive outcomes we currently secure and help us to continue to move to more financially sustainable models of care and support for the long term, reflecting a life course pathway for the people we support.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

No previous papers

Local Member:

Appendices:

Appendix A – Case Study (Supported Living giving Penny greater Independence closer to her family)

Appendix B – Case Study (Shared Lives transforms Emma' life)

Appendix C – Case Study (Enable Supporting Kieran Jones)

Appendix D – Case Study (Technology Enabled Care Supports Andrew)

CASE STUDIES

APPENDIX A – SUPPORTED LIVING GIVING PENNY GREATER INDEPENDENCE CLOSER TO HER FAMILY

Penny* is a 19 year old young lady who has Autism and Severe Learning Disability with associated complex needs and behaviours of challenge. (*name changed)

There were a number of challenges for Penny during her years supported by children's services and throughout the transition into adults services – this was as a result of a combination of care providers unable to support her needs and placement breakdowns as a result. This had a detrimental impact on Penny and the family over an extended period of time. As Penny moved into adult services she was living in a supported living setting outside of Shropshire supported with a care provider.

Due to a lack of appropriate provision in Shropshire at the time, an emergency placement resulted in Penny being placed outside of the Shropshire Authority area. Over time, there were some very serious safeguarding concerns regarding the provider. Following a significant safeguarding incident, due to the severity of the incident Penny was moved away from their care and moved back into Shropshire, into the care of her family until a plan was in place for independent living.

There was some fortunate timing and around this time new supported living accommodation became available at the bungalows in Shrewsbury. These were 14 new build core and cluster style bungalows in a lovely setting. A local provider was secured to support Penny's needs and to support her to transition into one of the bungalows. This transition was also only possible with the impeccable support of her family who helped significantly when the bungalow was delayed which caused further trauma and distress to the family and Penny. Thankfully, Penny is now settled in the bungalow, she now sees all of her family more regularly and enjoys spending time with them as they all live locally. The location of the bungalow provided a benefit in that it was local to family and amenities so they were able to support with the transition and settling in.

The new care provider is helping Penny regain some confidence and independence. She regularly accesses the community and notably, also started going to the shop with her staff team, Something which she hadn't done since pre-COVID. She goes for walks and is meeting peers at the supported living site so her social networks have increased. She is going to day opportunities twice a week also.

She now has a more regular routine now and the provider engage with social care and family pro-actively. The social worker commented, that compared to where Penny was 12 months ago, this is such a huge improvement in her quality of life. Her family recently commented:

'Finally being in her bungalow we feel Penny has a stable placement and although there have been some issues with challenging behaviour, we as a family feel that we are more involved with the care providers and that they will take on board our knowledge and experience.'

'The bungalow itself is a great place, we have been very involved in making it personal and designed with Penny in mind with decor etc but it is also within a small community so Penny can feel part of a group and less isolated she is accessing the community and is closer to family so we can be more flexible with contact. This should have been what Penny had from the start as it has been a long and traumatic journey to get to this point and there should be more places such as this available for young adults'

APPENDIX B – SHARED LIVES TRANSFORMS EMMA'S LIFE

This case study was presented at The Council's ASC Conference in May 2024 by the Client Property and Appointeeship Team:

Emma is a young woman living alone in the community in a private rental. Emma works part-time. Emma has learning disabilities. She lives off takeaways and fizzy drinks. As a result of all of the fizzy drinks she was consuming, she had to have all of her teeth removed. Her property was not in very good condition, and she had lots of problems with the landlord, who was quite frankly very rude and not understanding. His mission was to get the property back. It reached crisis point when the landlord eventually gave her notice. Her health was suffering, and she was very overweight, had mobility issues and felt lonely and isolated.

The SW and our team got involved and worked very closely in finding another alternative placement and moving all of her belongings. Emma is now living in a shared lives placement.

The Shared Lives Carer has been working with Emma to get her weight down by cooking home cooked meals. The whole house do not have fizzy drinks, in a bid to support Emma kick the habit. Emma is also learning life skills. The shared lives carer has supported Emma to get the right fitting clothes and underwear, and correct fitting shoes – she was wearing size 8 shoes when she was a size 5.5. because it's what she would find in the charity shops.

As a result of these changes Emma is looking a whole lot better. In May 2024, she had had lost 3.5 stone in weight and gone down 2 dress sizes. Emma was looking happy, smarter and healthier, and she is certainly living her best life. Emma recently asked the Shared Lives Carer to send us a photo of herself, in her smart new clothes. She looked so happy and proud, and quite rightly so. Emma hadn't had a holiday in a very long time, and because of the money she has saved on not spending it on takeaways, was able to go on a Cruise, which she was very excited about. The caseworker had been working with Emma about the impact of money and saying that if she can save in the future, she will be able to go away again, which is teaching Emma valuable lessons in money management.

This is what Emma has to say about her journey

'Last time I went abroad was 27 years ago to France, and 18 years ago in this country. I feel happier and calmer, and I feel better in myself. I enjoy the company in shared lives. I am physically better, and my knees and ankles are much better due to my weight loss. I don't complain about them much at all. My blood pressure is better, and I have less mood swings.'

The photos below show Emma in her new Shared Lives home with her new outfits after losing weight:



APPENDIX C – ENABLE SUPPORTING KIERAN JONES

Enable supporting Kieran Jones

On the 3rd of October Kieran Jones of Shropshire Council won the 'Shropshire Apprentice of the Year' title alongside the 'Business, Legal and Finance' trophy. He started his journey with Enable as a supported intern in the Right Home, Right Place team and then went into an inclusive apprenticeship.

Kieran now works full time as a Business Support Officer for the Office of the Chief Executive at Shropshire Council and achieved a triple distinction in his apprenticeship. He is also an advocate for young people with SEND. As part of his interview after winning the award Kieran's highlights the importance on working with Enable and taking on a Supported Internship.

You can listen to Kieran's speech in the link below at 47 minutes [SBLTV S5E01 - Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Apprenticeship Awards Special \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5E01-...)



APPENDIX D TECHNOLOGY ENABLED CARE SUPPORTS ANDREW




Theme: 4. Learning, improvement & innovation

This case study seeks to evidence this CQC theme by presenting innovative methods of achieving positive outcomes for Andrew, highlighting the continuous learning and collaboration with providers to ensure safe and effective practice.



Virtual Care in Shropshire

ANDREW'S CASE STUDY

Shropshire Council has transformed care delivery by combining advanced technology from GenieConnect® with a professional virtual care team, enabling virtual care calls and real-time data monitoring. This achieves:





Daily reminders and video calls from a virtual care team are scheduled to assist with care and support. They appear on the Genie's face for the recipient to respond to by touch or voice.

MEET ANDREW

Andrew is a gentleman with learning disabilities in his early 60s who lives alone. For several years Andrew has been supported by Affinity Homecare who previously provided 2 face-to-face support calls a day. Recognising the need to enhance Andrew's care plan to better suit his desire for more independence, Affinity Homecare collaborated with Shropshire Council to become the first Domiciliary Care provider to deliver virtual care directly to their clients.




"If I can do it... so can YOU!"

Affinity Homecare now support Andrew in a hybrid approach, combining face to face visits and virtual calls to provide more flexible and less intrusive care.

HYBRID SUPPORT

How are Affinity Homecare providing Hybrid support for Andrew?

TEC integration

Andrew was allocated a GenieConnect® device, tailored with prompts and reminders to meet his specific needs.

Daily Virtual Care Calls

Each day, Affinity Homecare connect with Andrew virtually via his Genie Connect device, checking on his well-being, offering reminders on personal care routines and guidance on daily tasks.

Enhanced Face-to-Face visit

Affinity Homecare now only provide single daily visits, supported by real-time data from GenieConnect®. This allows his carers to focus on specific actions and offer a more responsive, targeted approach.

ANDREW'S OUTCOMES

Initially, Andrew was apprehensive about this change but excited to embrace new opportunities for greater independence. A key goal for Andrew was enhancing his personal care routines, which he often neglected. Now, GenieConnect® reminders prompt Andrew to brush his teeth and change his clothes, reinforced by virtual calls that offer extra support and motivation.

Andrew's progress has been transformative. He now independently brushes his teeth twice daily and changes clothing more regularly with his carers noticing a significant improvement to his hygiene and wellbeing.

Andrew proudly shares "Since having Genie I now brush my teeth twice a day"





Andrew is also keen to enhance his social connections. With the help of GenieConnect®, he is adding family members to his video calling contacts, enabling regular interactions, and strengthening bonds. Andrew feels proud and confident in his ability to use GenieConnect® to enhance independence and autonomy.

AFFINITY HOMECARE'S EXPERIENCE

By adopting Shropshire Council's hybrid care approach, Affinity Homecare has improved Andrew's independence as well as their own capacity to monitor and respond to clients' needs more efficiently.



"It's a really good thing and Andrew always has a smile on his face when we call"

Melissa - Registered Manager at Affinity Homecare

Real-time data monitoring helps carers identify key needs and adjust their care support accordingly. For instance, virtual calls are adapted to offer more emotional and wellbeing support when needed based on Andrew's daily mood responses, which was not always feasible with in-person visits alone.

Andrew's case highlights the transformative impact of the hybrid care model, delivering flexible and responsive care. Affinity Homecare's commitment to innovation has empowered Andrew to live more independently while ensuring he receives the support he needs.

<https://www.affinityhomecareshrewsbury.co.uk/>

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

65 MILES OF TRAVEL SAVED
On average per month

96% NUTRITION SUCCESS RATE

50% face to face reduction INDEPENDENCE

Medication success rate 99%

If you know someone who would benefit from this service, please email assistivetechology@shropshire.gov.uk

MEET THE TEC TEAM



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People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27th November 2024

Item

7

Public



Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 2

Responsible Officer:		Tanya Miles, Executive Director for People	
email:	Tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 255811
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):		Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care and Public Health; Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Portfolio Holder Children's Service	

1. Synopsis

This report provides an update to Scrutiny committee members on key areas of performance across Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Education services under the People's Directorate including the directorates work on prevention and early intervention.

2. Executive Summary

The report will show data on key performance areas across the People's Directorate, highlighting the areas of focus for the directorate.

3. Recommendations

The committee considers the report and identifies specific areas of focus that it may want to explore in more detail to be included in their work programme.

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

Risk table

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
Increase in demand across social care	Continued focus on prevention and early intervention
Capacity meeting demand to support people at home	Increase use of technology to support people to remain at home and be as independent as they can; annual fee reviews to support recruitment and retention.
Increased demand for EHC Needs Assessment leading to increases in the numbers of EHC plans, requests for specialist provision and delays to issuing new and amended EHC plans/identifying suitable provision.	<p>Review completed by the SEND and AP Partnership Board in April 2024 with clear action plans identified to recover EHCP timeliness (decisions within 20 weeks) and recover Annual Review timeliness (review every 12months).</p> <p>Progress in delivering the action plans is reported to the SEND and AP Partnership Board every meeting, along with waiting time information for all services.</p> <p>Expansion of specialist provision has already taken place in Shropshire (30%/c.150 pupil increase in special school places since Sept 22).</p> <p>Expansion of SEND Hub provision is also underway since April 2024. An additional 48 Hub places were created by September 24 in Hubs attached to mainstream schools. This programme will continue at pace during the 24/25 academic year onwards.</p> <p>Review of top-up funding levels for 25/26 onwards is also underway to promote inclusive mainstream practice in all state-funded schools and academies, ensure sufficient resources are available and encourage movement away from placement in high cost independent special school provision.</p>

5. Financial Implications

Shropshire Council is currently managing an unprecedented financial position as budgeted for with the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council on 29 February 2024 and detailed in our monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. This demonstrates that significant management action is required over the remainder of the financial year to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all Cabinet Reports provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial survivability. Where non-essential spend is identified within the Council, this will be reduced. This may involve

- scaling down initiatives,
- changing the scope,
- delaying implementation, or
- extending delivery timescales.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding implications

The review of education top up levels for 25/26 will have a financial impact on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block, as resources will need to increasingly be focussed towards state-funded education settings to promote inclusive mainstream practice and strong state-funded SEND Hub and special school provision. A 4 year plan is in development to deliver a shift in spending on high cost independent special schools to greater numbers of children and young people being successfully educated in mainstream, mainstream with Hub or where necessary, state-funded special school provision. A draft plan will be shared with Schools Forum in January 2025 for review and comment to aid implementation. This plan is a key strategy to bring the DSG High Needs Block back into a balanced position, from the current deficit position of c.£7.4m, over the next 4 years commencing in April 25/26.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

The People's directorate is working to support people within their communities to reduce the need to travel and therefore reduce carbon emissions.

Climate consideration is embedded in all commissioning reviews

7. Background

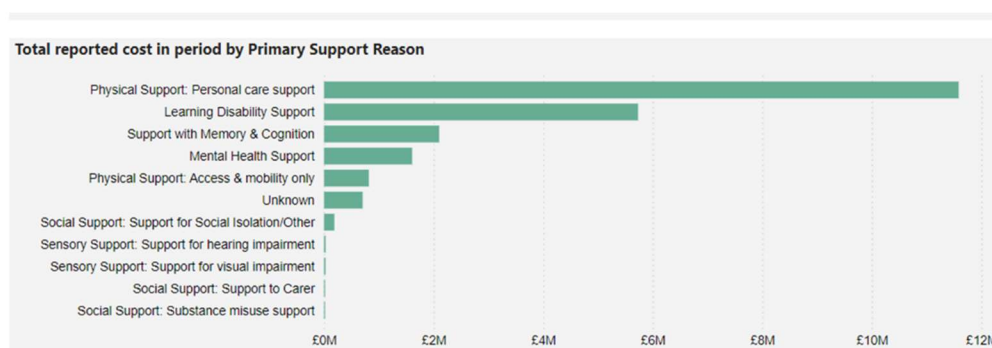
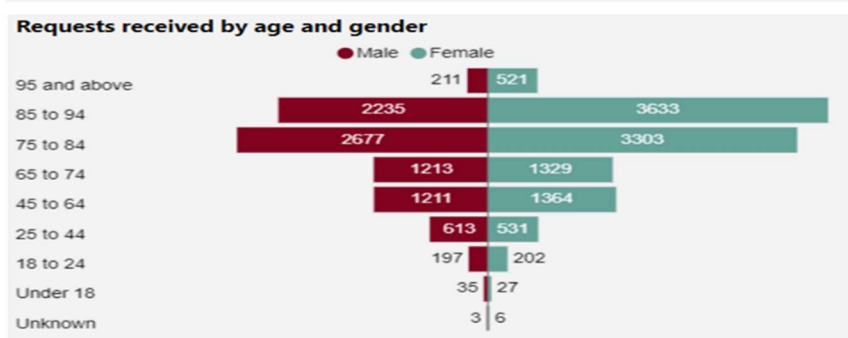
Adult Social Care

The adult social care vision is to work with people early in their journey to reduce or delay the need for long term care. We do this through providing people with the advice and information they require, supporting people to remain at home and be as independent as they can, using technology and reablement as an enabler to achieve this. We also work with people that have more complex needs and may be at the stage where they require long term support to meet their eligible needs.

The performance for the Quarter 2 report will focus on data extracted from Performance Dashboards, ASCOF data and the new client level data.

Age and Demographic

The age range for requests to the service are higher in the 75+ age group and predictions for demographic demand in the future aligns with the current position in Adult Social Care.



The highest support reason for those accessing adult social care paid services is due to a physical and personal care support, followed by learning disability and memory and cognition needs. We understand the areas for demand and look at ways of managing demand effectively and supporting better outcomes for Shropshire residents accessing our services.

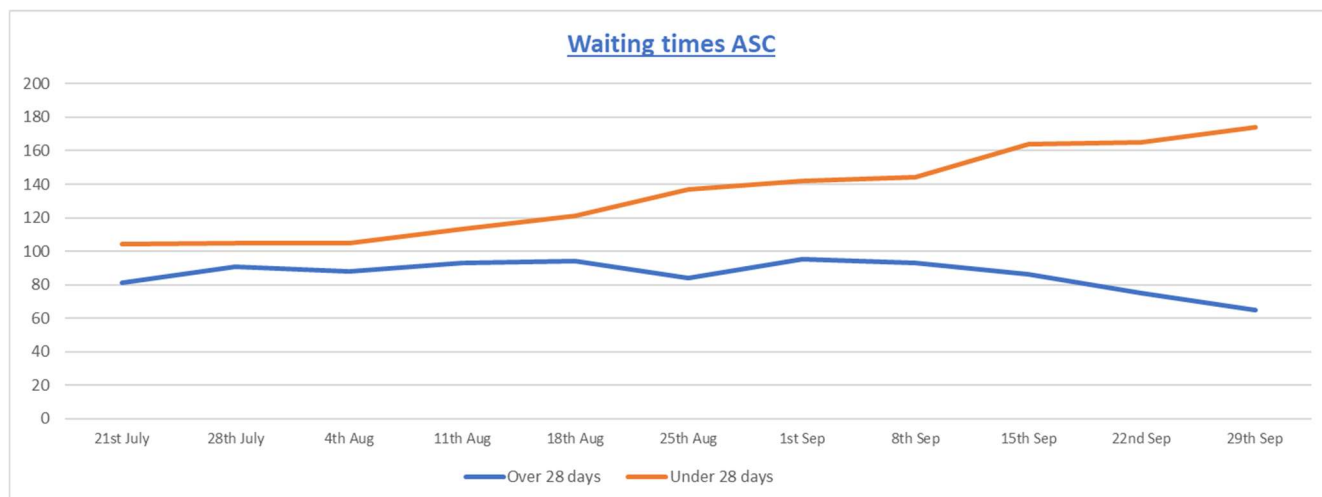
Waiting Lists

We do not have wait times across the Community Mental Health teams, Redwoods Hospital, Preparation for Adulthood, Safeguarding, carers and the financial assessment team.

We continue to robustly manage waiting lists in Community Social Work teams through a RAG rating system; the community teams receive the highest number of referrals, approximately 140 per week. The last quarter showing higher levels of referrals with an increase in August.

The service has a target of assessment starting within 28 days of referral, with data showing that 72% of people are waiting less than 28 days.

We understand as a service that earlier intervention achieves better outcomes for individuals, and they are less likely to require high levels of support.



We monitor performance weekly and align to new allocations to ensure safe caseload allocation. We remain committed to supporting people at the earliest point focusing on preventing and reducing the need for people coming into the service, meaning that we can continue to reduce the time people are waiting.

Reviews

We set a target to complete 75% reviews in 24/25, we recognise performance has improved from last year and we are putting in place more targeted action to review those not yet reviewed. This will include workers identified to specifically work on reviews for the next two months.

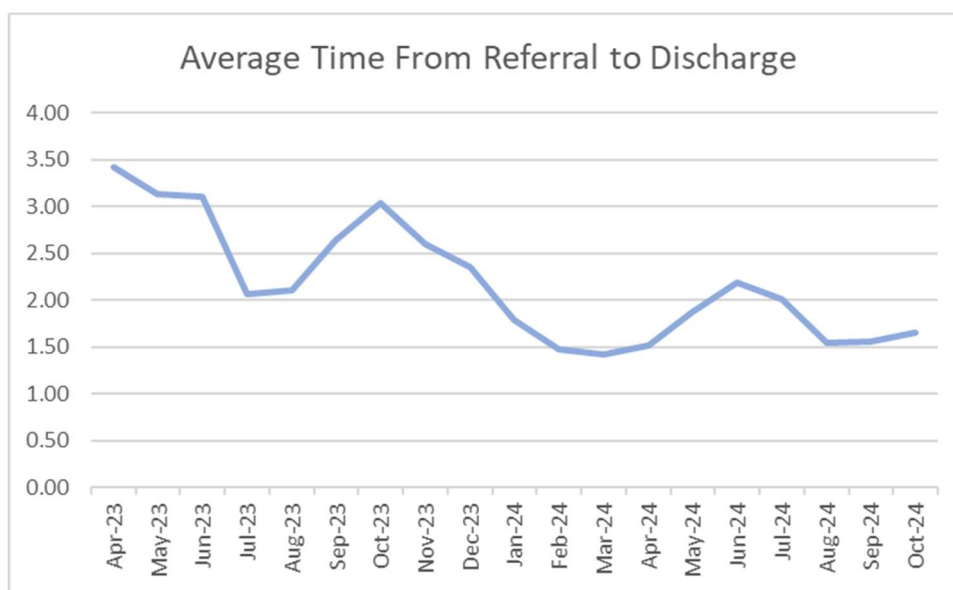
Within the category of people not yet reviewed there will be people that have received other interventions such as a reassessment. We aim to have data to reflect this in the future with the Power Bi dashboards.



Hospital Discharge

Hospital discharges figures will vary in line with demand. The average time to support a discharge from referral to confirmed discharge is reducing. In 23/24 Shropshire Council delivered an average of 357 complex hospital discharges per month. So far in 24/25 we have achieved an average of 392 complex discharges per month.

Shropshire Council is working with partners to deliver the fastest discharge times for residents once we have received a referral stating individuals are ready to leave the Acute Hospitals. The work has resulted in significant improvement in the time it takes for Shropshire Council to arrange discharge. The average time for Shropshire to deliver care and support was 1.65 days after referral in October 2024:



Shropshire Council has been involved with partners to deliver a fully integrated Care Transfer Hub achieving the national objective. The hub went live in October and the aim is to support timely complex discharges, with the a 'Home first' approach. Using the Home First approach we reduced the number admissions to 24-hour care after hospital.

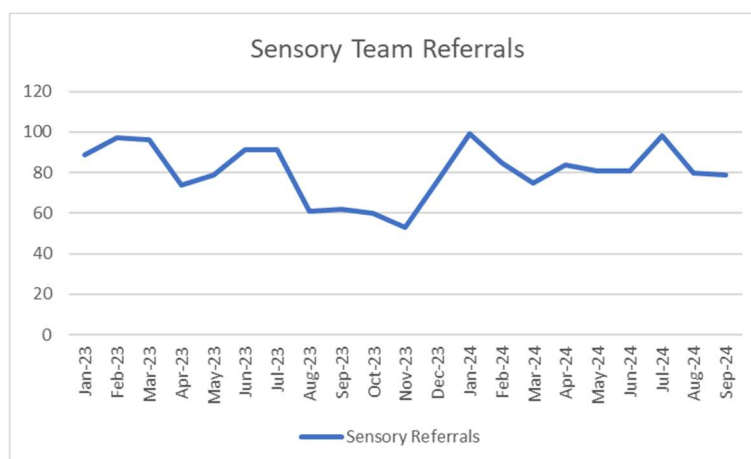
Shropshire Council has good performance and is achieving better outcomes for people who are discharged from hospital. 83.6% of people who use our short-term services and did not have care and support before admission, leave the service independent without the need for ongoing funded support. Data shows that 88.3% of Shropshire residents receiving support after hospital are still at home 91 days after discharge. These metrics are over and above the national average.

We are now seeing reduced spend in 24-hour care post hospital and support more people through reablement in their own home.

We continue to work with people who have been discharged to a care home and following a strengths-based review an average of 52% return home after a period of recovery and reablement.

Sensory Impairment

The Sensory Impairment Team referral rates have consistently increased year on year since 2021, the referral average in 23/24 was 75 referrals per month, and so far in 24/25 the average has been 85 a month. The team review all referrals within 72 hours, currently 65.1% are reviewed within 48 hours with the remainder being reviewed within 72 hours.



In March we had 184 people waiting for assessment this reduced to 151 in October. The waitlist remains a priority; however, we continue to monitor the level of referrals and ensure people are receiving advice and information.

Overall, the team provide various equipment, such as white sticks, hearing loops and sensory adapted fire alarms. The purpose of the equipment is to enable individuals to live safely in their home environment and access the community to manage daily tasks and promote social inclusion. Since April 2023 the team have provided 321 people with 683 pieces of equipment and supported people to be able to use the equipment effectively.

Preparing for Adulthood

The Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) team support young people to transition into adulthood and support is tailored to meet needs and aspirations, set goals and support to work towards them. Where it is likely that a young person will have care and support needs when they reach 18 a Care Act assessment can take place to ensure a smooth transition. The timing of the assessment is crucial to ensuring that a young person's needs at the point of turning 18 are assessed at the right level. We allocate at 17.5 years at the latest and have plans to incrementally lower the age of involvement. The aim is to support people earlier in their transition, for the most complex children and young people we start planning alongside children's colleagues from the age of 15.

A 'rising 16s' forum has been established across the People directorate, this has the priority work areas of: complex health needs, the early help offer, the PfA offer, 0-25s commissioning and housing and accommodation. Our aspiration is to work together operationally, strategically and thorough commissioning with young people and their carers from an early age to maximise independence for young people in communities, whilst also recognising the early help offer to our most complex young people.

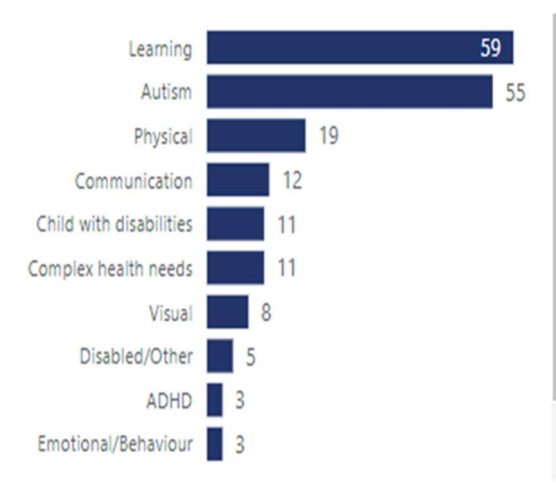
To enable us to support people sooner in their transition we are developing data systems to inform future demand for adult services over the next 5 years. This has helped us to understand the demand of children transitioning from the Disabled Children's team. We are developing the data further to include referrals from across Children's services and monitor self-referral or referrals received through our First Point of Contact. We are developing a 'early help' Preparation for Adulthood hub that will offer information, advice, 'Lets talk PfA' to Individuals and carers and support to internal teams who work with Individuals who are in a transitional age range (14-25).

Children Turning 18 in Following Years

Month	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
January		3	1	3	2
February	1	1	6	6	
March	2	1		4	1
April	1	5	1	2	3
May	1	2	3	1	7
June	1	2	1	3	2
July	2	6	4	3	1
August	1	2	4	2	2
September	3	4	6	3	
October	1	1	3	1	
November			3	6	
December	5	4		2	

The joined up working with children's services and collectively reviewing the data will help understand the needs of our young people transitioning into adulthood.

Children with Disabilities



Learning Disability

Building on the relationship-based model in PfA the Learning Disability and Autism team will focus on achieving the best outcomes for Individuals with a focus on inclusion, equal access and fulfilling lives. Individuals wishes and aspirations will be at the centre of their assessment through person centred planning, enabling people to be active citizens. Working within the directorate, the wider council, partners and people will codevelop sustainable models of community-based support to enable people to live safe, well and fulfilled lives in their communities.

The specialist Learning Disability and Autism team will work in partnership with the person, their family, carers and other professionals assessing and supporting a range of needs, maximising independence, reducing inequalities, improving care and support, reducing hospital admissions, and facilitating discharge planning. The team will be closely aligned to the Preparing for Adulthood service to embed key objectives from the two service areas to provide a sustainable model of support.

The PfA team works to the national workstreams, focusing on preparing for adulthood from the earliest years in the following areas:

- education, training and employment
- independent living
- friends, relationships and community
- good health

From the national Learning Disability strategy, the Learning Disability and Autism team has a vision of 'transforming every day lives' will have key outcome and impact areas of:

- good health
- employment, education and leisure
- housing and accommodation
- meaningful relationships and community-based support

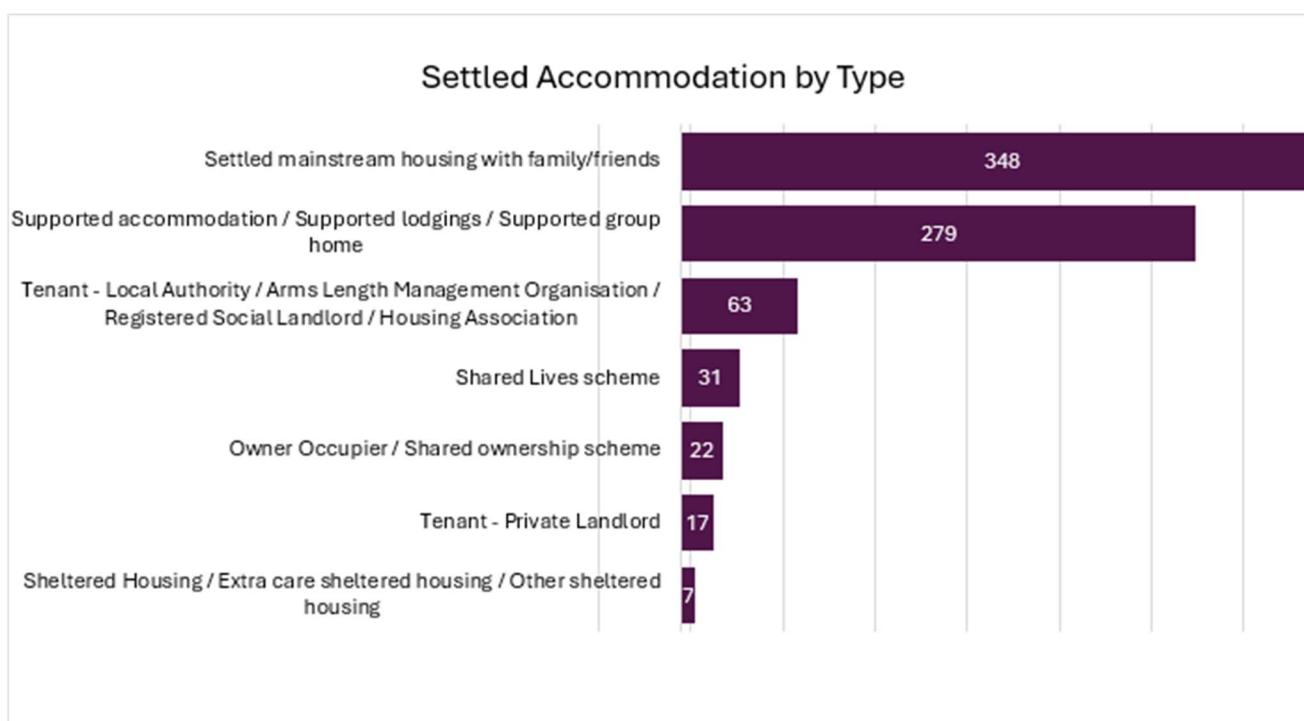
Also taken from the national priorities the team will support Autistic people with a learning disability and assess and support carers in their role.

The outcome measures are established within public facing data for support to live at home and employment (ASCOF), and our local performance dashboard will be developed to capture timeliness of assessment, reviews, support closer to home and models of support used to meet needs. Most importantly the vision and outcome measures will show a moving improved outcome away from 'traditional' services to enabling people to do ordinary things in ordinary places, living their best lives within their own communities with networks of support and meaningful relationships.

The Learning Disability team will be established with the transfer of workers between October and the end of the financial year. Individuals supported by the team will transfer over in a phased approach as the team is established. We have analysed the data to ensure we prioritise the allocation of Individuals whilst the team is established.

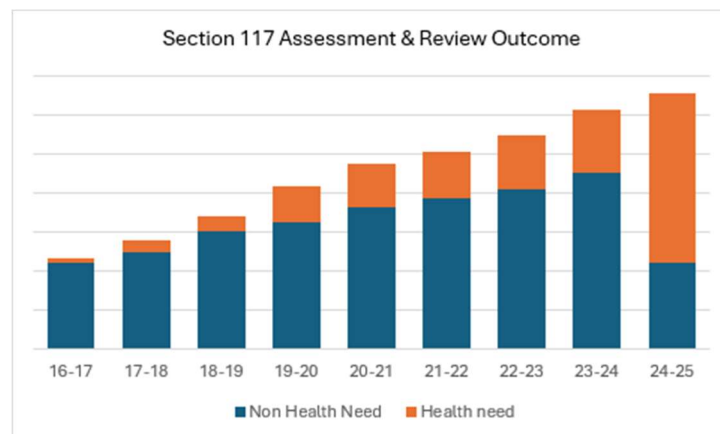
Prior to establishing the Learning Disability and Autism team, social work support to Individuals and their carers was undertaken in the community teams for adults. We have sustained good performance in both Learning Disability ASCOF measures: employment and settled accommodation and will be working to improve community-based support.

As a high performer in the ASCOF measure for Individuals living in their own home we exceed the national performance of 80.5% at 87.78%. In Shropshire, this is broken down below detailing accommodation types within people's own family home and tenancies.



Within the last monitoring period we have worked with commissioning colleagues to review individuals using Supported Living and Day Services for the transformation program. The Supported Living reviews have enabled Individuals to optimise their independence, this has been done through enhancing support with technology as well as exploring new opportunities for community-based support.

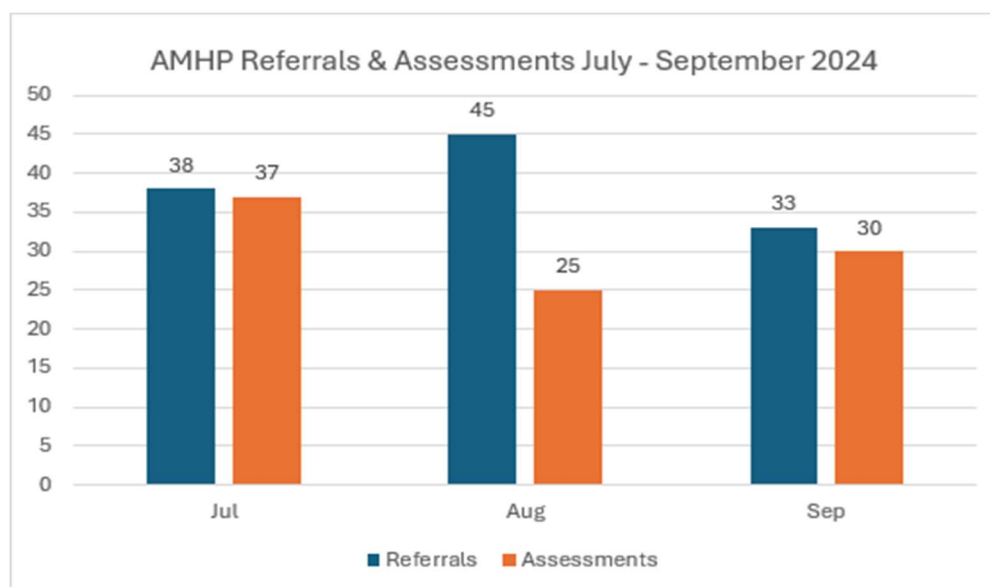
Mental Health



The Mental Health team have conducted a focused piece of work over the past 12 months in relation to section 117 aftercare of the Mental Health Act 1983 so that we understand the change in trends and needs of individuals. The outcome of section 117 assessments and reviews are clearly identifying the complexity of individuals and funding support outcomes. We work collaboratively with partners and ensure needs are being met by the appropriate agency through a multi-disciplinary approach.

The Mental Health service has also been identifying people that could be supported with a direct payment and have improved performance in this area. The proportion of adults now receiving a direct payment open to this service has increased compared to previous years.

Approved Mental Health Professional: AMHP



The Mental Health Act (section13.1) states that the Mental Health Professional ‘must consider the patients case’. In line with this duty the AMHP hub offers a preventative approach. This includes working with people who are involved with the person, discussions with other professionals such as the GP or nurse, including the possibility of undertaking a visit, or increasing support to the person. The AMHP hub embeds this approach and

maintains a person-centred focus. The graph above shows that on average we that not all referrals lead to a Mental health Act assessment.

Safeguarding team

The Safeguarding team have continued to operate without a waiting list with practitioners providing positive feedback around the process. Additionally, we have maintained our performance in Making Safeguarding Personal (sector-led initiative which aims to develop outcomes focus to safeguarding work) with 91% of outcomes achieved when identified by the person.

The team meets regularly to discuss operational difficulties and adapt the model to the volume of work. During the last quarter we received 687 contacts surrounding safeguarding issues with 186 concerns being progressed to the safeguarding team.

The team continues to attend daily triage 'Pitstop' involving early multi-agency discussion exploring prevention and early intervention.

Occupational Therapy Service (OT)

The OT service transferred to Adult Social Care (ASC) on the 29th of July 2024. As part of the transfer process the Adult Social Care management team completed 3 engagement sessions where staff were able to highlight challenges and explore alternative ways of working.

The team has already achieved a reduction in the waiting list by 12 % compared with August 2024 despite continued high demand for the service. The service waiting list consists of 781 people waiting for an OT assessment with 135 people waiting for low level equipment from the Independent Living Support team.

We have worked with ADASS to identify ways of working to support the team to manage its demand and opportunities of now being part of the wider adult social care service.

Carers

The carers register is increasing month by month and currently stands at 1965 carers. We use this to support and keep in touch with people, to signpost, and provide information and updates. The team became an All-Age Carers team when the young carers team and resources transferred in April 2024. There is increased support for young carers, and we have seen an increase in referrals.

The team are looking at providing basic training for carers so they can move and handle the cared for person safely and provide basic first aid in times of crisis. Carers Rights Day takes place on 21 November and will include various events to raise awareness generally and for carers in respect of their rights.

We are also linking in with the team to see how technology could support carers as well as piloting the team to deliver carers assessments in the future.

Commissioning

We have restructured the commissioning team in line with the PWC review which assessed the arrangements for commissioning against a functional model, whereby key capabilities were assessed, and RAG rated. This highlighted the need for development across all strategic commissioning activities including for children and adults' services, contract management.

The purpose of the All-age Commissioning structure is to align the social care commissioning and contracts teams where needed and provide sufficient resources to meet future demand. The new structure is now in place, with staff undertaking induction activities and shaping their workplans for the new Start Well, Live Well and Age Well portfolios.

Advocacy services have been recommissioned recently and some changes in providers are being mobilised and managed as a result. Voiceability will be delivering all statutory advocacy services for adult social care from the 1st November 2024 (including Care Act advocacy, IMCA, VRPR and paid RPR in addition to existing IMHA service).

The advice advocacy and welfare benefits service will continue to be delivered by the Citizens Advice Shropshire (CAS) consortium including Age UK, Taking Part and A4U, following the recommissioning process.

The Technology Enabled Care programme goes from strength to strength. The £1.2m Care Tech funding is supporting 80 people with Genie devices and 30 people with Carebuilder over the next 2 years. The Virtual Care Delivery programme (VCD) has now supported 140 people during year 1 of the delivery. A reminder that we are one of only four Local Authority's awarded £1.2m technology funding.

A new team of TEC specialist has been formed, and 3 posts have now been filled, with a TEC Coordinator post also in place to support. It is hoped the team will act as advocates and increase the referrals into the programme and understanding, adoption of TEC and awareness across the 3 Community Teams in ASC.

Contract and Quality Assurance

Our two in-house CQC registered services are both rated 'Good' and 83% of the services we commission in regulated locations have an overall rating of Good or Outstanding (7.3%) - highest for outstanding in the West Midlands (the region's average 79.0%).

The Contracts Team is undergoing a transformation project to improve quality assurance processes and contract management oversight. A Quality Assurance Framework is being drafted alongside work to develop a Social Care Risk Assessment Dashboard drawing in support from Business Insights and Intelligence.

We have monthly Market Quality assurance meetings where we maintain an overview of the market quality issues, themes and areas for development. Additionally, information sharing meetings are held quarterly with Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council, ICB, CQC and Healthwatch in attendance.

Business Team

Children's Finance Functions has transitioned to the People Payments Team. This was discussed at a previous committee, and it has resulted in released business capacity that has been redirected back into operations, with social workers also being able to focus on their core business and not administration tasks. Improved recording practice on the finance

functions has enhanced the accuracy and transparency of our financial transactions and reports.

The transfer of finance functions to the payments team has brought two benefits: it has improved the data quality by minimizing errors and inconsistencies in our financial records, and it has enhanced the collaboration and communication between operational and business teams, leading to better service delivery to our providers and more focus on the core social work tasks for our social workers.

We are currently in the planning stages to implement a Provider Portal which is a secure web interface designed to facilitate the exchange of information and documents between the local authority and its social care providers. After successfully integrating the Bed Hub Team into Brokerage, our focus has been on leveraging technology to drive further improvements. We have accomplished this by transitioning approximately 80 providers onto the E-Brokerage Portal.

Learning and Skills

Securing Access to Education Provision

Promoting and facilitating access to Early Years education provision is a top priority for the partnership. This support is crucial for fostering positive social interactions, enhancing communication and language skills, and achieving broader developmental milestones at such a formative age. Additionally, we acknowledge that access to education serves as a protective factor for children and young people of all ages, especially those who are most vulnerable.

We are proud to have very high levels of code validation and take up for all Early Years providers. Shropshire is ranked 1st in the West Midlands and 4th Nationally for code validation for all year groups. In Shropshire 92.44% of parents who request a code convert this into free childcare provision (compared to 88% in the West Midlands and 87% nationally). The picture is similar for under 1's (88% vs 85% and 84%), 1-year olds (93% vs 89% and 88%), and 2-year-olds (93.46% vs 87% and 87%). We have also sustained our high levels of education for 3- and 4-year-olds consistently around 96%, again above the national average. As we look towards the expansion of Early Years provision of 30hrs for all children from 9 months of age, we look forward to enabling even more children to experience high quality early years education and are confident we will meet our sufficiency duty in this area by September 2025.

In addition to recognising high levels of access to Early Years education, we can also celebrate the high quality of provision in Shropshire, where 100% of childminders are judged to be 'good' or 'outstanding' compared to 98% nationally and 98% of settings are graded 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted compared to a national average of 97%.

Strong access to Early Years provision encourages strong attendance at school. We can certainly see improving attendance across our school age population, with both primary and secondary age attendance showing significant improvement to be above national averages during the 2022/23 academic year. Similarly, we have seen a significant reduction in absence, both persistent and severe, across primary and secondary phases during the 2022/23 academic year with indicators showing lower absence rates than national. These

improvements are recognised across all groups of pupils, including those with the greatest vulnerabilities.

Work continues as a multi-agency partnership to support children and young people who are struggling to access education for various reasons, including anxiety, wider emotional, mental, or physical health needs or special educational needs or disabilities.

We have also seen an improvement in the percentage of 16- and 17-year-old (Year 12 and 13) young people not in education or training (NEET) and those whose destinations are 'not known'. During 2023/24 we have seen both NEET and not known indicators reduce to their lowest levels for many years, with both NEET and not known indicators much better than national figures and statistical neighbours.

Shropshire Virtual School

At the end of August 2023 Shropshire Virtual School was supporting 652 Children Looked After from year -2 to 13 (the year in which they turn 18). This amounts to a +13% change in overall numbers.

The academic year 2023-24 ended with 0 Permanent Exclusions for the 3rd consecutive year and 23 were prevented with the support of partnership working. This achievement was recognised in the OFSED Focus visit report July 2024.

Completion and Quality of PEPs has shown an upward trajectory with 97% Completion and 97.2% assessed as Good Quality by the end of the summer term.

Excellent attendance outcomes for indicators against statistical neighbours and national for CLA have been achieved.

LA	Overall absence percentage CLA 31st March 2021	Overall absence percentage CLA 31st March 2022	Overall absence percentage CLA 31st March 2023
Shropshire	8.40%	8.00%	6.90%
Herefordshire	10.90%	9.60%	7.90%
Devon	No data	9.80%	9.90%
Dorset	No data	9.10%	9.90%
National	9.10%	7.80%	9.80%

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/outcomes-for-children-in-need-including-children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england/2023?subjectId=7344bd3a-2cc4-4b62-85d0-08dc5d2e18da>

As 2019 was the last year pre-covid in which SATs were undertaken as actual tests it is important to take that into consideration and the DFE stipulated that comparisons are not made with that year. It is also important to take into account cohort profile and size (33 in 2024 compared to 25 in 2023) and it is generally understood due to the transience of looked-after children that comparing one year's outcomes to another should be considered in the context of significant statistical variances.

Only 4% of the cohort were predicted in the autumn term to achieve the Expected Standard (EXS) in the Combined Measure (Reading, Writing and Maths). The cohort picture is 27.3% of this group had an EHCP with a further 3 pupils in ECHNA process during SATs and 7 more with identified SEN support. This meant that the Virtual School had to intensively focus on this group through Pupil Progress Meetings in 2023-24 and there is a picture of Accelerated Progress with children supported to make significant gains including a +25% gain in Writing and +22% gain in Reading) through the year but with a low Combined score. The data suggests that the gap between Shropshire all learners and CLA this year has positively narrowed in Writing by 2.7%, stayed broadly in line for Reading, but widened for Maths.

End of Key Stage 4 Results (SSD903 unvalidated)

Initial and unvalidated data indicates our young people at the end of Key Stage 4 in Summer 2024 (SSD903 cohort) achieved the following:

- 13% achieved 5 GCSEs at grades 9-5 including English and Maths, compared to 4.2% last year.
- Significant gains were made in Maths outcomes this year for both indicators of grades 4 and 5 or above.
- There was an improved percentage of children achieving grades 5 or above in both Maths and English

Achievement by indicator for SSD903	English grade 4 or above	English grade 5 or above	Maths grade 4 or above	Maths grade 5 or above	English and Maths both at grades 4 or above	Eng + Maths both at grades 5 or above	5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 inc E+M	5 GCSEs at grades 9-5 inc E+M
Summer 2024 (unverified) cohort of 46	30.4%	20%	30.4%	17.4%	24%	13%	22%	13%
Summer 2023 (verified) cohort of 24	29.2%	16.7%	20.8%	8.3%	16.7%	4.2%	16.7%	4.2%

Further information due from the Insight team will enable us to see how this compares to National and Regional Averages for CLA. These results may also change pending re-marks.

Three out of four of our A Level pupils completed their course this summer, the one student who didn't sit his exams has been supported to switch to an Access to University course. Both of our young people who studied a Level 3 Applied General Qualification completed their course.

Eleven young people are now studying A Levels and 2 young people have started at university this year.

At the mid-September 2024 point there were 83% of Key Stage 5 students in education, employment or training (EET) and further enrolments are being supported. Of these confirmed as being in EET:

- 79% are in Higher Education
- 3% are in Employment.
- 1% are engaged part time in training or employment.

In September 2023 the Shropshire CLA NEET figure was 12%, it peaked in December at 22% and then dropped to 17% in January when new ESOL courses started.

The average monthly NEET figure for Shropshire CLA for December 23, January and February 24 was 19.7% or 80.3% in education, employment or training, using the same calculation as the DFE.

(DFE comparisons are not yet available for individual LAs or by vulnerability, most recent data is end of 2022 [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, Academic year 2022/23 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)).

Access to Education

Through a continued focus with school leaders and multi-agency partners there has been a significant reduction achieved in the number of permanent exclusions in the Autumn term so far. When compared with permanent exclusions in the same period of 2023 there has been a reduction of 65% in 2024. Additionally, there was a decrease in the number of children with SEND being permanently excluded - 42.9% compared to 50% last year. *(National data is due in November for comparisons)*

There is work underway to support children and young people to successfully reintegrate back into mainstream education following permanent exclusion. The Fair Access Protocol (FAP) was reviewed with all the Secondary Headteachers in 2023-24. FAP now operates with a triage process at the LA to ensure FAP is firstly the most appropriate place to bring a young person's situation, followed by a collaborative meeting with Heads which includes time for discussion as well as a vote to support decision making. The Working Group includes Secondary Headteachers, the Executive Headteacher of TMBSS, as well as LA officers. The group continues to meet to build on effective practice.

Suspensions have declined with a 9.52% reduction across all phases compared to the same period last year. The number of repeat suspensions has also reduced by 20% and the number of days is down by 25%. The Education Access Service remains fully committed to working together with school leaders to reduce the suspension and exclusion rates at all phases, particularly secondary.

The numbers of children being de-registered from school continues to grow; this is in line with national trends but has been lower than statistical neighbours. There are currently 664 children on the local authority list of home educated children with 6% having an EHCP and 21.54% being identified as having some special educational needs by their previous schools.

Robust monitoring and tracking arrangements are currently in place through the Education Access Service to ensure statutory duties are delivered to ensure children and young people who are EHE receive suitable education, this includes supporting and challenging families to re-access school-based education provision where appropriate. A weekly multi-agency meeting takes place to review new de-registrations and contact is made with families by the Early Help and Support Team where appropriate.

Arrangements are in place to monitor and intervene for Children Missing Education (CME) to ensure their safety and enable them to swiftly access education provision. During the year 2023-24 there were 225 children categorised as CME, as at the October 2024 DfE census date there are 75 children on the CME register. There is no published comparative data for national and regional trends available at the time of compiling this report.

Currently there is a consultation with partners, including from Early Help, to develop improving access to inclusive support and advice across the county. A proposal is being put to Head Teachers currently for their views and feedback, specifically around pathways for Inclusion Advice Forum and TMBSS to increase regular timely, multi-disciplinary support and advice.

Additionally, a new way of 'Working Together' is being proposed to enhance integrated working through a fortnightly oversight & priority action from senior leaders with a focus on children with high vulnerability accessing and attending education. This will aim to support safeguarding through education being a protective factor (e.g. for children on child in need or protection plan who have severe absence of less than 50%) as well as improving access, inclusion and attendance outcomes overall.

Admissions

The Admissions team developed a new In Year Admissions process for the LA and secured buy-in from all Shropshire schools. This new process returned to LA control on 1st September and has been very successful so far, processing 506 applications in the first few weeks and increasing to over 1100 by mid-October. This process will support improved safeguarding of children as the LA has increased information and can identify where children do not have a school place.

The Summary for Secondary Position from DfE data indicates that Shropshire outperformed both regional and national figures. Shropshire ranked 1st for any preference met across the West Midlands Region, this is an improvement from being ranked 4th last year. Data also indicates Shropshire being ranked as 3rd for 1st preference requests met across the West Midlands (which is the same position as last year).

Comparisons against statistical neighbours indicate that Shropshire, like last year, is ranked 9th for 1st Preference met and that Shropshire has shifted positively from 9th last year to 5th position for any preference met this year.

Secondary % 1st Preferences Met	2024
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Shropshire	89.7
West Midlands	80
England	82.9
Secondary % Any Preference Met	2024
Shropshire	98.4
West Midlands	95.2
England	96

The Summary of Primary Position from DFE data indicates that Shropshire outperformed both regional and national figures with a rank of 1st for 1st preference requests met and 2nd for any preference met across the West Midlands. Additionally, Shropshire ranked 2nd against our statistical neighbours for 1st preference met and 4th for any preference met, which is a significant improvement on previous years.

Primary % 1st Preferences Met	2024
Shropshire	98.25
West Midlands	93.8
England	93.16
Primary % Any Preference Met	2024
Shropshire	99.81
West Midlands	98.86
England	98.79

We would like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by education settings and schools across Shropshire in keeping children safe and improving their outcomes

We remain dedicated to strengthening our focus on early intervention and prevention activities. This commitment aims to increase stability for every child or young person accessing education, especially those with the greatest vulnerabilities, as we recognise the protective benefits that education provides.

SEND Support, Inclusive Mainstream/SOAP and Education, Health and Care Plans

Shropshire Council has a duty to consider requests for an EHC Needs Assessment where evidence is presented that a child or young person may have special education needs and/or disabilities that will have a significant and long-term impact on their education outcomes. All requests for EHC Needs Assessments are considered through a multi-agency panel. Where it is agreed that an EHC Needs Assessment is necessary, Shropshire Council have a legal duty to complete the process within 20 weeks, including determining whether the special educational needs of the child or young person require special educational provision to be made through an EHC plan. Where an EHC plan is not agreed following assessment, the education setting is expected to continue to meet the child or young person's special educational needs through SEND Support.

Mainstream schools receive additional funding through a Notional SEND budget to provide support above that which is required by all children and young people. Further information is anticipated to be shared by the DfE on the allocations and guidance in this area for the 25/26 academic year, following the October 24 Budget statement.

In Shropshire the expectations around what should be available through high quality teaching for all children and young people, and what should be available through SEND Support, are outlined in the Shropshire Ordinarily Available Provision (SOAP) framework. The framework covers primary and secondary phases and was co-produced with the input of education settings during 2023. Further work is underway to develop the same framework covering the Early Years and Post 16 phases by the Education Quality Advisors (SEND and AP) who have commenced employment in September 24.

The SOAP framework is available on the Local Offer here [SEN support | Shropshire Council](#)

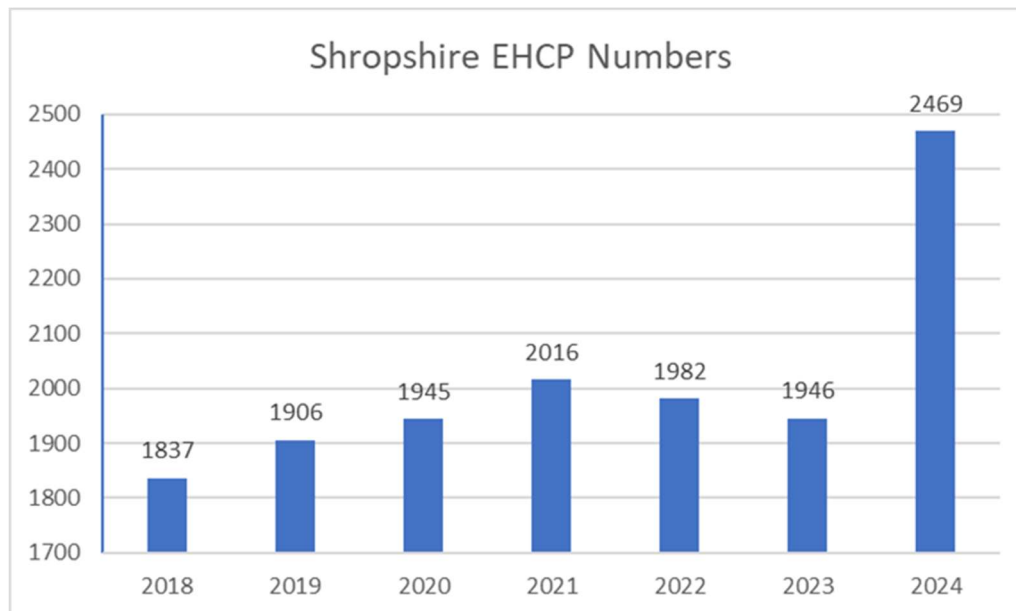
Since September 24, the Education Quality Advisors (EQA) have implemented a SEND and Inclusion newsletter for practitioners and professionals supporting Shropshire children and young people. The first edition was shared in October and will continue to be published on the Local Offer here [SEND and Inclusion Newsletter | Shropshire Council](#)

We are encouraged that the work already underway in Shropshire to support inclusive mainstream provision across all age ranges, appears to be strongly supported as the national direction of travel to address systemic challenges within the national SEND system. The recent speech from the Secretary of State for Education outlines this here [Bridget Phillipson's Speech to the Confederation of School Trusts - GOV.UK](#)

In addition, the National Audit Office also published a recent value for money report outlining the challenges present within the current national SEND system. The report is available here [Support for children and young people with special educational needs - NAO report](#)

Overall numbers of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)

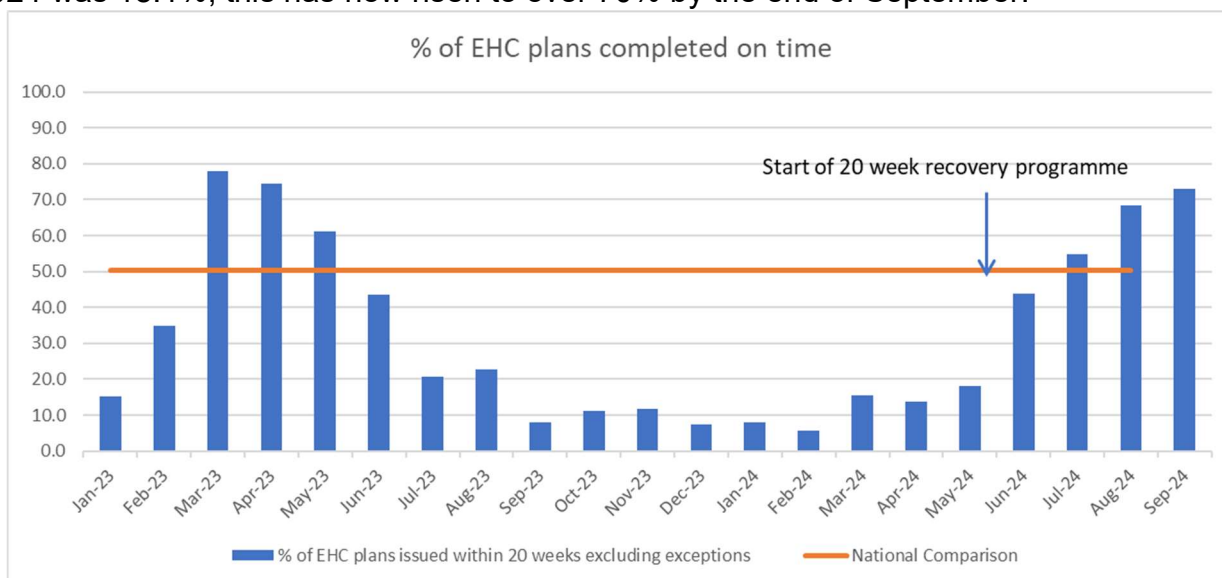
The following information is obtained from the annual national SEN2 data collection. This collection takes place in January and reflects the caseloads for the previous year.



Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>

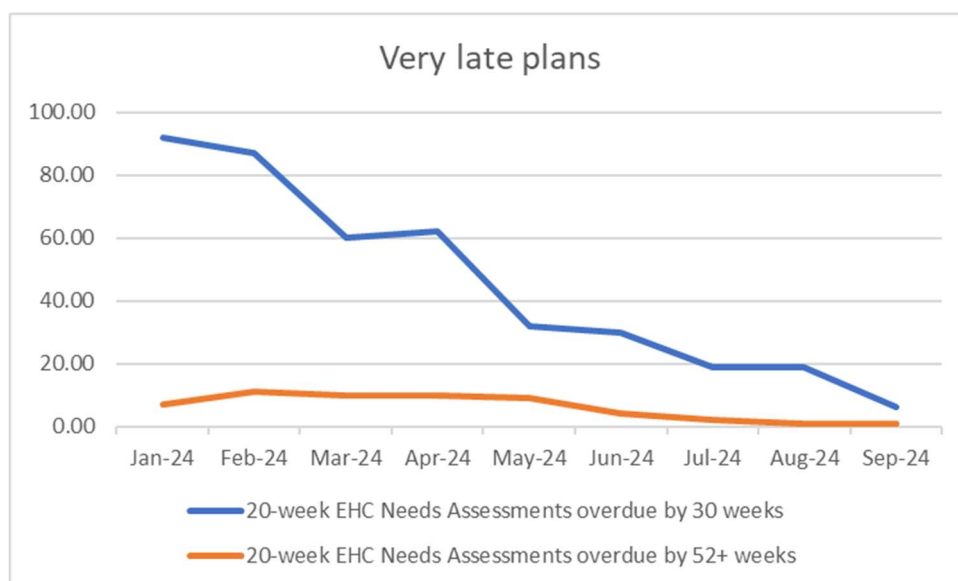
As work continues to support the effective identification and ability to meet the SEND needs of children and young people, Shropshire has seen a significant increase in the number of EHCP's. Between Jan 23 and Jan 24, the number of EHCPs increased by 26.9% from 1946 to 2469. In 2022 new requests increased by 46% (double the national rate), whilst 2023 increase in number of plans we maintain from 1946 to 2469 – 26.9% from Jan 23 to Jan 24.

Since the implementation of the timeliness recovery plan for issuing new EHC plans within 20-weeks, we have seen significant improvement. At the point of implementation in May 2024 was 18.1%, this has now risen to over 70% by the end of September.



	Total	On time	% on time
Aug 2023	22	5	22.7%
Sep 2023	63	5	7.9%
Oct 2023	36	4	11.1%
Nov 2023	59	7	11.9%
Dec 2023	41	3	7.3%
Jan 2024	63	5	7.9%
Feb 2024	70	4	5.7%
Mar 2024	65	10	15.4%
Apr 2024	51	7	13.7%
May 2024	72	13	18.1%
Jun 2024	89	39	43.8%
Jul 2024	95	52	54.7%
Aug 2024	60	41	68.3%
Sep 2024	74	54	73.0%

In addition, we have also significantly reduced the number of EHC plans classed as 'very late' (already over 30 and 50 weeks), which demonstrates a clear focus across all areas of key activity.



Whilst we are encouraged by these improvements, we recognise that our recovery work must continue to ensure these improvements are embedded into business-as-usual practice moving forward so that we consistently deliver as close to 100% of EHC plans within 20 weeks as possible. This information is included in the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) monitored by the DfE and NHSE.

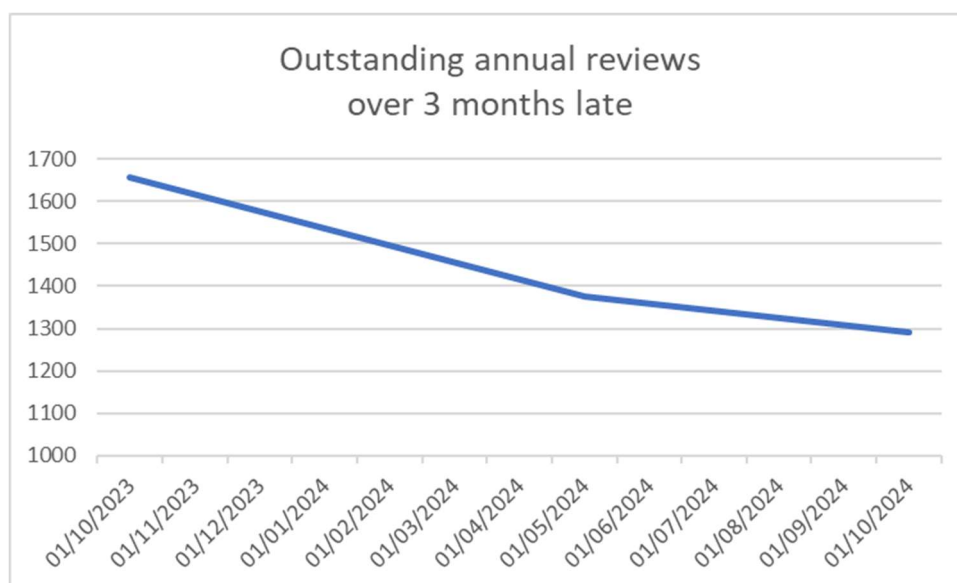
EHC plan advice monitoring takes place weekly to monitor advice requests and the timeliness they are provided in. This enables strong advice timeliness and provides opportunity for follow up by area leaders where required.

Annual Reviews

Annual Reviews continue to be a key priority for the Local Authority and SEND and AP Partnership Board, following the review and updating of the Annual Review recovery plan in June 24.

The recovery plan has resulted in some fixed term additional capacity being provided for the SEND team to ensure that we accelerate the process of ensuring every EHC plan has received an annual review (within 12 months) and where necessary amendments to the EHC plan have been made and a final EHC plan issued. This team will be in place by early November 24 and will focus on the c.1300 EHC plans that have not either received an annual review and/or the EHC plan has not been amended following the review. This work will focus on prioritising children and young people approaching phase transfer points (e.g. key stage moves, including primary to secondary) and those with the most complex needs.

An indication of the impact of the work that has already been completed is outlined below, with monthly monitoring underway within the Local Authority and shared with the SEND and AP Partnership Board each meeting.



Quality of EHC plans

Despite the challenges around the significant increase in EHC plans maintained by Shropshire Council, positive work has taken place as a partnership to improve the quality of advice and the overall quality of EHC plans.

The partnership developed and implemented a consistent EHCP Quality Assurance Framework in October 2023 for all new EHC plans and those amended through the Annual Review process. The framework is based on regional and national good practice, including peer review with a local authority consistently identified as delivering high quality EHC plans.

The framework is available on the public Local Offer site through the link [EHCP quality assurance standards | Shropshire Council](#)

The table below outlines the improvements and percentage of EHC plans rated good or better during the last four months.

EHCPs RATED GOOD OR BETTER	MAY-24	JUN-24	JUL-24	AUG-24
% DRAFT EHCPs	86	94	96	93.75
% AMENDED EHCPs	98	93	90	91

This improvement continues to be monitored and evaluated through the multi-agency panel and strategic quality assurance processes.

Feedback from children, young people, families and professionals

Whilst we recognise that the experience for children, young people and families is not yet consistently positive based on the feedback received from the APP survey completed in preparation for the October 24 APP review meeting and PACC (Parent Carer Council). We can see that the improvements are starting to be recognised in the direct feedback collected by the services, for example, APP parental satisfaction survey results showed an increase in overall satisfaction from 46% to 51%.

We remain committed to securing consistently positive experiences for children, young people, and families.

Some examples of direct feedback from families and professionals are included below.

"This was more straightforward than I thought it would be. I was consulted at various points though out the process of putting it in place and I was able to get questions answered quickly by the early years team" Parent Carer feedback Sept 2024

"Overall, the process to gain my child's EHCP was very straightforward and helped him get into a school that is able to help him so more than happy with this." Parent Carer feedback Sept 2024

"Everyone I have contact with has been helpful and supportive. My son's EHCNA was produced very quickly, which has made a big difference. I have been very pleased with the service I have received, Many thanks." Parent Carer feedback October 2024

"Very helpful team. Felt supported and included all the way. Thanks." Parent Carer feedback July 2024

"Very grateful that all the information was accurately collected and the outcome was as I hoped it would be and in the best interest of my Son ." Parent Carer feedback June 2024

"One particular case worker goes above and beyond and works incredibly well with other professionals. sets a perfect example of how working together can achieve the best for the child/ young person." Quote from OT Sept 2024

We are also increasingly engaging directly with children and young people to gain their views, including their views on their EHC plan and the impact this is making. The latest feedback provided is included below and we will continue to embed this approach to increase the numbers of children and young people sharing their views.

	I feel happy	I feel safe	I feel that I am learning	I feel listened to by the adults around me	I feel that my strengths are recognised
% Very like me	50	60	50	50	50
% a little like me	30	30	30	40	40
% Neutral/not sure	10	0	0	10	0
% Not much like me	10	0	20	0	10
% Not at all like me	0	10	0	0	0

I feel that people understand me and what helps me	I feel welcomed and included by other people	I feel that I am moving towards goals that are important to me	% Overall
40	70	70	55
40	30	10	31.25
10	0	10	5
10	0	10	7.5
0	0	0	1.25

SEND Dashboard Development

As part of the transformation programme, reviewing the need to automate and digitise our data and outputs is now underway. The SEND and AP dashboard is currently being developed in line with APP requirements, considering data required for Ofsted/CQC Area SEND inspection framework Annex A to be accessible in real time and national requirements.

A draft of the range of indicators to be included in the dashboard has been developed and shared with the SEND and AP Partnership Board for review and comment. The draft indicators have been included as appendix 2. Officers across the local area (LA, health, education and social care/early help) are engaged in bringing the data together to provide a working example of the dashboard in early 2025.

Our data accuracy is paramount and review of efficiencies around collecting data is also being reviewed in line with Dashboard developments and Inspection Preparation.

Children's

Last Quarter the CHaT Data Tool was shared with Committee Members and there was an agreed action, that a briefing session was necessary to enable Members of the committee to be able to be walked through the complex data set and could ask questions. This briefing has not yet been able to be convened and will be before the next Committee meeting.

For the purpose of this report the focus is on the demand and activity performance of Children's Social Care.

The Early Help Transformation Programme commenced in April 2022. The Early Help Front Door including The Early Help and Support Team (EHAST) went live, following a pilot, on 6th September 2023 and the full Early Help restructure went live in May 2024. This has resulted in contacts to Early Help increasing by 297% on previous years. Less than 20% of families worked with in EHAST go on to need input from Targeted Early Help, ensuring that families receive the right help, at the right level and at the earliest opportunity. We have also seen an 83% increase in families worked with, the rereferral rate to Targeted Early help is less than 10% meaning that when families receive Early Help now it is impactful and escalation to Children's Social Care is significantly reducing.

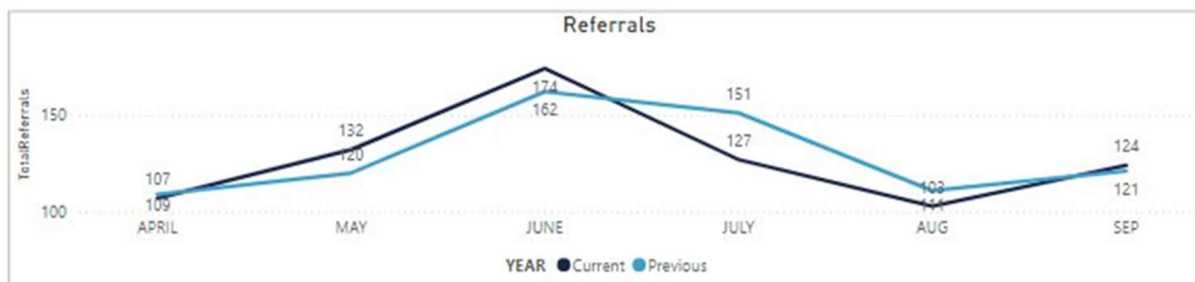
Early Help continues to work collaboratively with Public Health to strengthen partnership working. This includes the development of Community and Family Hubs, with a whole family all age approach to ensure that family needs are met holistically and avoiding the need for more costly acute interventions. Open Access Clinics have been rolled out across the County, with 30 – 40 babies attending each session in every area with their parents. This support has enabled health visitors to reintroduce antenatal visits for parents, which can help to identify when they need help and support prior to birth. Feedback from partners and families on the work being undertaken within Early Help has been extremely positive.

The data is starting to demonstrate that there is a shift in demand through contact and referrals.

Contacts and Referrals



Contacts are when information is shared with Compass or a request for help and support at Level 1,2 or 3 is made. They come from a wide range of sources including partner agencies, families, members of the public etc.



Referrals relate to information being shared that requires consideration of a social work assessment, so a threshold is met that raises concerns about the child being in need or at risk of significant harm, level 4 intervention.



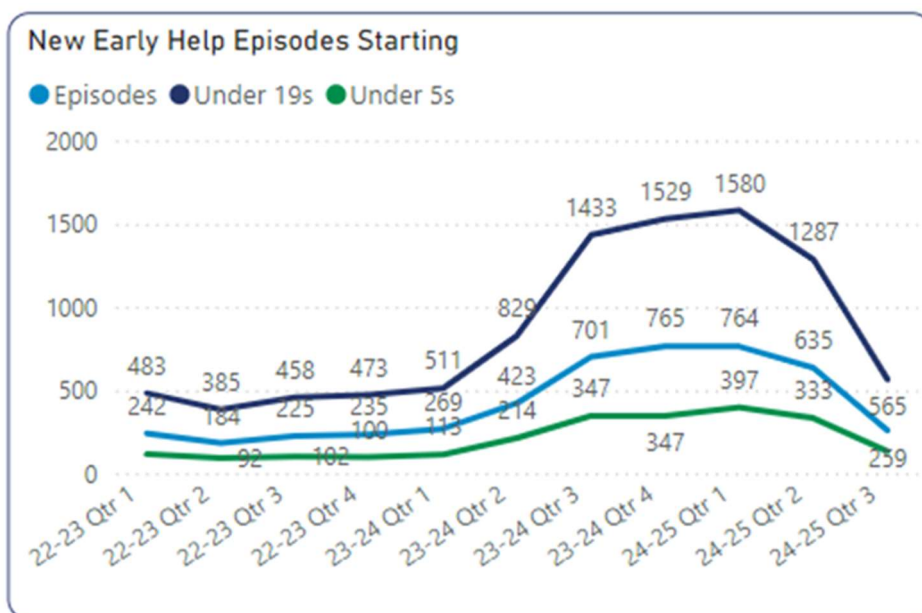
Above is re-referrals – where there has been a previous referral to this one in the past 12 months.

Contacts and referrals have both shown similar trends to the previous year, though are lower in both. Our referrals have dropped in quarter two, and our re-referral rate has dropped from 13% to 11% over the last month. This would indicate that we deal referrals appropriately and whatever intervention is taken it is effective. Re-referral rate is below national and statistical neighbour average.

There has been a significant amount of work undertaken with partner agencies as part of the Early Help Transformation to support understanding of when Early Help is the best and then through the Early Help and Support Team (EHAST) at the front door ensuring a response is swift and what families need. EHAST went live Sept 2023 and started this work whilst the rest of the transformation happened, at the point in May when, the transformation went live we have seen a significant drop in numbers and shift in trajectory, tracking below last year's contact numbers.

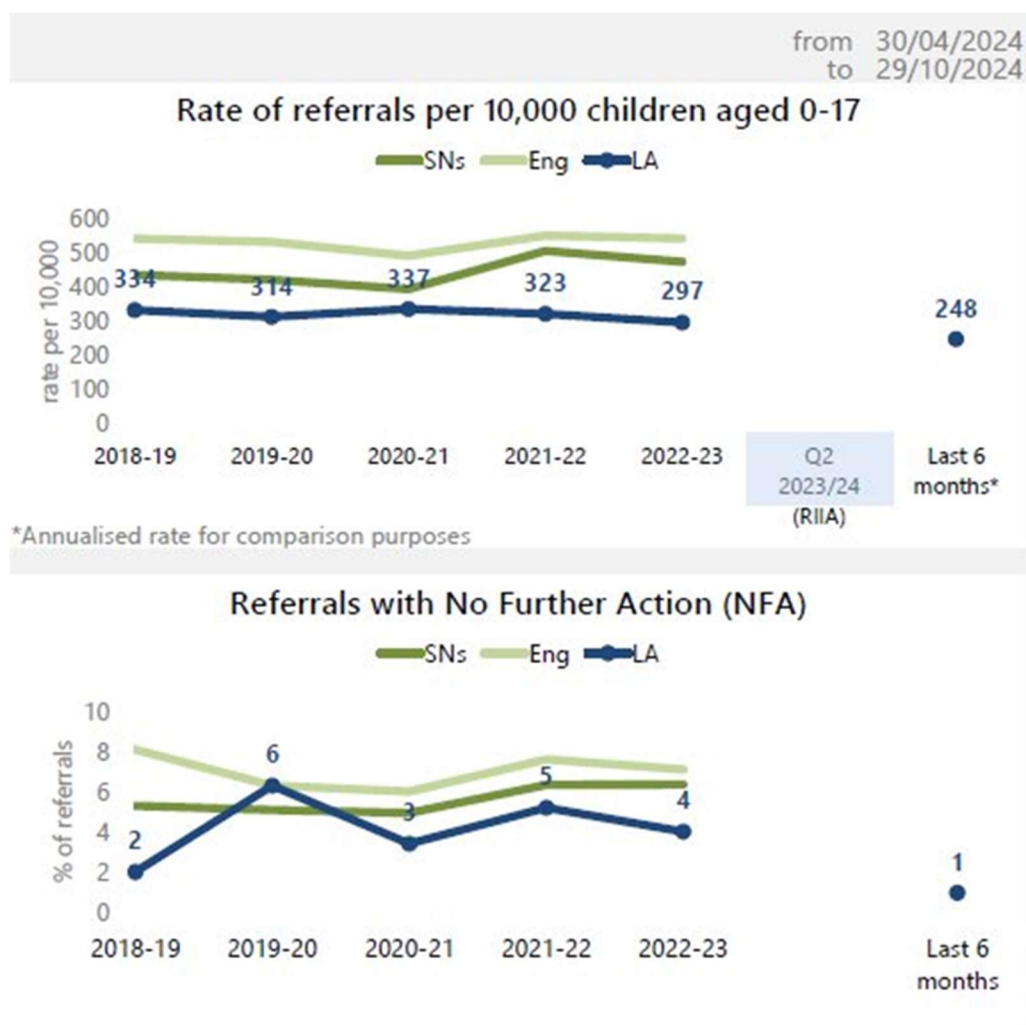
A few weeks after the Early Help Transformation went live, we saw a shift in trajectory for referrals, these are now also tracking below last year's numbers.

This is early days, in the new service delivery model for Early help, but the combination of EHAST and Early Help Transformation seems to be having the intended impact on demand coming into the front door, ensuring that families are offered the early help at the earliest opportunity, remembering that they have to agree to help and support.



Referral Rates

Referral Rates over time are a key measure and for many years we have tracked below national and statistical neighbour averages, and we are seeing the drop in the last 6 months continue that trend. (The 2023/24 data has just been published but not in time for this report.)

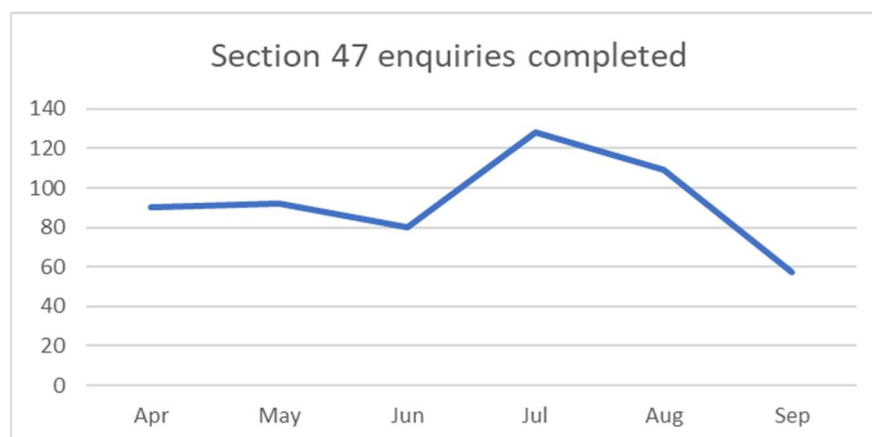


Our referral rate per 10,000 children in the population has reduced further, keeping us below our statistical neighbours' and national rates.

Our percentage of No Further Action remains very low and below our statistical neighbours' and national rates. Meaning that a decision is made and an intervention is progressed, whether that is a step down to Early Help or to open for a social work assessment or a strategy discussion.

Section 47 Enquiries

Month	Section 47 enquiries completed
Apr	90
May	92
Jun	80
Jul	128
Aug	109
Sep	57



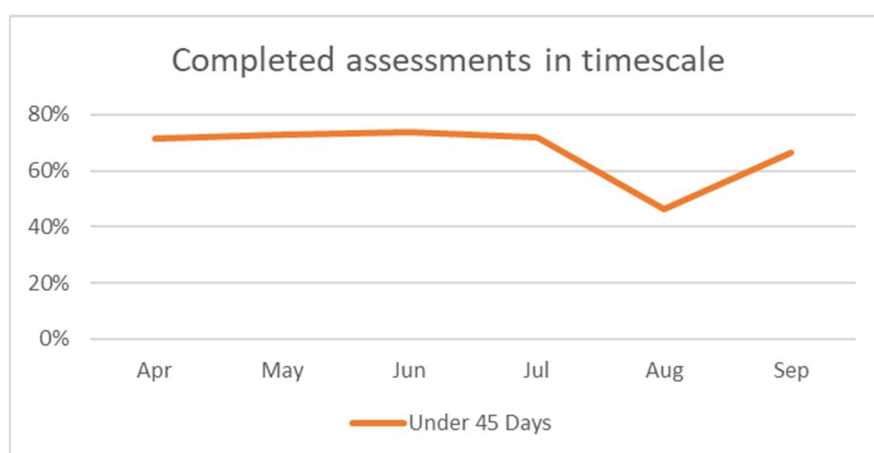
In previous reports to People Overview Committee the issue of complexity has been raised in relation to having an impact on caseloads of social workers, the number of sets of care proceedings and the number of children that have become looked after.

This chart & graph show a snap-shot of the first 6 months of this year.

A S47 is the investigative social work assessment that takes place after a strategy discussion is convened and partner agencies together have agreed the threshold for significant harm has been met, so a S47 investigation is required, the 6 months of this year have seen a significant spike over the summer of the need for these assessments.

Assessment Timeliness

Month	Over 45 Days	Under 45 Days
Apr	29%	72%
May	27%	73%
Jun	26%	74%
Jul	28%	72%
Aug	54%	46%
Sep	34%	66%



The performance on this measure was especially low in August and September affecting the YTD figure.

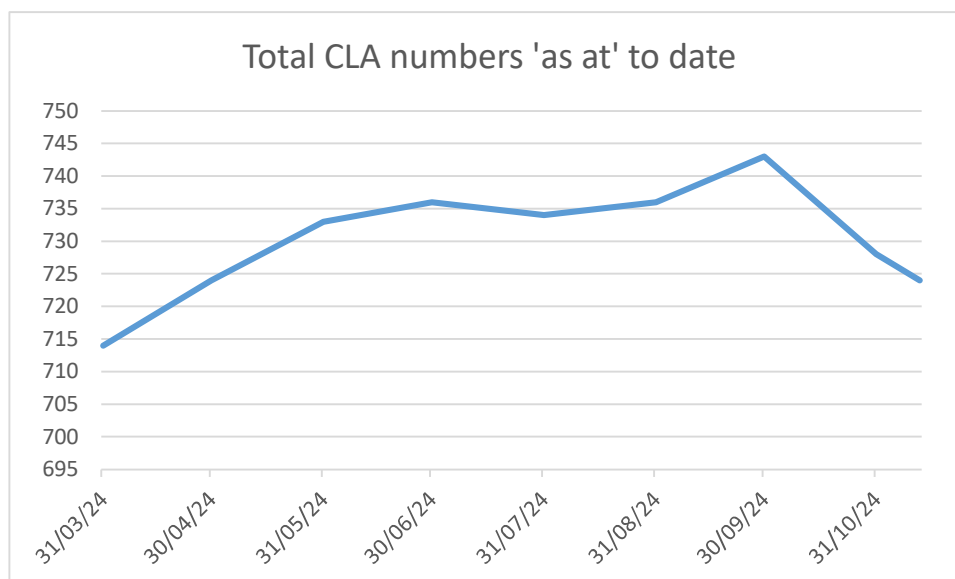
This coincides with an increase in average caseloads (including the increase in Section 47 assessments) within the assessment teams from 15 children at the end of April, to 24 by the end of June. It remained as high as 23 at the end of September

Children Looked After numbers

Over the past 4 years there has been an increase in the numbers of children Shropshire Look after, the reasons behind this have included:

- A rise in 0-5 year olds being harmed and becoming looked after,
- A rise in Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children being cared for by Shropshire. An increase in court timescales and duration of care proceedings.
- Increase in families with 3 or more children becoming looked after.

The rate of children starting to become looked after is starting to slow and stabilise; the high of 41/10,000 child population was in March '22 was followed by a rate of 35/10,000 in March '23, it is now at 36/10,000.



Child ceasing to be Looked After by the LA rate in March 2023 was 27/ 10,000 child population. Current rate for children ceasing to be looked after is 31/10,000. This increase shows excellent progress in ensuring children's plans are completed and they can stop being looked after. Stepping Stones and focused work on concluding care proceedings has led to this increase, there is an expectation that the project focused on concluding Special Guardianship conversions and Placement with Parents discharges will add to this progress. Ensuring plans are completed is central to the work to stabilise and reduce the children looked after numbers. Over 85% of children looked after are subject to a court order, indicating the complexity and seriousness of the harm that children experience.

Children Looked After 'as at a date' rate is down from 127 per 10,000 at end Sep to 125/10,000 at end Oct, Actual Child looked After in Shropshire numbers in this period are down from 746 to 735. We continue to take a significant number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children from the National Transfer scheme.

79% of children looked after are cared for within family settings. 11% are placed at home with their parents; this cohort of children are being reviewed and those where care orders can be discharged are being progressed.

Grouped placement types of current CLA

Placement Type	Number of children	% of total
Foster placement - other	284	39%
Foster placement with relative or friend	197	27%
Residential	101	14%
Placed with parents	82	11%
Supported/semi-independent	46	6%
Placed for adoption	11	2%
Other	3	0%

Court Proceedings

One of the areas of pressure in demand is that of court proceedings and the increase in the number of court proceedings being issued and active is impacting on social worker case loads.

At the time of writing there were 150 children in 86 families; with 22 children in 11 families waiting to be issued.

Out of the 150 children in live care proceedings, **110 children in 61 families** commenced proceedings since 1st April 2024. **159 children in 95 families** have concluded since 1st January 2024 to date.

The National timescale for all parties concluding care proceedings is 26 weeks, the new District Judge has had a refocus on this being achieved since coming into post, Out of 159 children, 35 concluded within 26 weeks (since 1st Jan 2024). Following this, 77 children concluded within 27-52 weeks (since 1st Jan).

When court proceedings go over 52 weeks, although there are many reasons this can happen, often complexity led, it does impact on case progression, includes an element of delay and impacts on case loads overall. So far this year 47 children concluded – 53 weeks and above (since 1st Jan).

Currently the longest case being in proceedings is a sibling group of 3 children at 145 weeks following a non- accidental injury to a child.

This year we have concluded Family 'X', which had an international element and took 155 weeks to conclude.

The issue of larger sibling groups has been highlighted previously, this year we have issued on 98 families since 1st January to date, 18 families that have been issued on have sibling group of 3 children or more. So just under 20% of families have 3 children or more.

Moving on to look at how many court cases that have progressed and concluded this year, 159 children in 95 families have concluded since 1st January 2024 to date.

By comparison looking at children concluded in past 2 years financial year 2023-2024- we concluded 161 children in 89 families, compared to financial year 2022-2023- we concluded 134 children in 80 families.

As a one Month in Year comparison – the Court Team (not including Case Management Teams) activity has been:-

In October 2022 – concluded 9 children in 5 sets of proceedings

In October 2023 – concluded 15 children in 7 sets of proceedings

In October 2024 – **concluded 35 children in 16 sets of proceedings**

It can be seen from these numbers that the activity in relation to Care Proceedings, some of our most complex work, is significant and progress has been made in the progression and conclusion of proceedings. This is the result of a range of measures from the Judges approach and decision making, the improvement of management oversight and decision making and the court region Trailblazer project that is working with all parties in the court arena and offering high quality training to all the different participants.

Year on year Stepping Stones has continued to work to keep children from becoming looked after and additionally work with children living in residential homes to step them down into a family setting. Over the last three years the teams have achieved 130 children avoiding becoming looked after and 59 children have stepped down from a residential to a family setting. In total this has achieved a cost saving to the Council of £11.2 million.

8. Conclusions

Performance across the directorate continues to improve and action plans are in place where performance remains challenging.

Take up of Early Years entitlements for all ages remains strong and we are confident that we will meet our sufficiency duties for the requirements for 9 month year olds by September 25.

Positive indicators are evident for the percentages of families securing a preferred primary and secondary school, including those securing their first preference. All of these indicators place the performance of Shropshire above the national averages and in a strong position against statistical neighbours.

The return of In-Year Admissions to LA control from September 24 is already having a positive impact on ensuring the movement of children and young people between school is timely and managed consistently for families.

Positive improvements can be noted in attendance, suspensions and exclusions for all children and young people in Shropshire using indicative data for the 2023/24 and the start of the 2024/25 academic year.

Positive impact of the Shropshire Virtual School supporting strong education outcomes for Children Looked After, including securing stable placements and no permanent exclusions. This was recognised by Ofsted in the Focussed Visit in July 24.

Positive improvements in service delivery have resulted in a reduction of 16 – 17-year-old young people (Year 12 or 13) who are NEET or 'not known' to levels better than national and statistical neighbours.

Governance arrangements through the SEND and AP Partnership Board are leading to improvements in the quality of EHC plans and challenging delays in the EHCP assessment

and review process. This work is also being monitored by the DfE and NHSE England through the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP).

Increased capacity for more specialist provision has been delivered by September 24 through expansion of the mainstream SEND Hub programme, with further expansion planned. However, there remain challenges with securing some placements for children and young people, particularly with the most complex needs.

Increased demand for EHC plans has increased pressure on services and education providers across Shropshire, however we should also see a corresponding increase in children and young people having their needs met and achieving positive outcomes.

In Children's Social Care we are seeing the start of the evidence of impact of the recent investment in Early Help and Stepping Stones, coupled with the focus on development of management oversight and progress of work in the court system to progress cases to conclusion, we are starting to see a shift in demand. It is important, when managing demand in children's social care, that there is a focus on progression and completion of work to ensure that children's outcomes are met but that also workloads can be managed. It is early stages and could easily be influenced by sudden increases in work coming in, sickness, changes in staffing etc, but the current trends identified in this report showing that incoming demand is decreasing, exiting activity is increasing and the most complex work in the system is progressing and concluding in a more timely way, that the 3 elements combined are seeing demand being managed and reduced. The next challenge is to continue to work with partners to become involved in the more complex situations at an earlier stage so that we can reduce the need to intervene through court proceedings.

In Adult Social Care managing demand and activity levels to improve outcomes across the service remains a priority. We have maintained no wait times for safeguarding, financial assessments, preparing for adulthood, carers and mental health services. We are continuing to manage wait times to our community teams, OT, sensory team through robust RAG rating and targeted actions. They have seen a reduction in wait times because of this work but require ongoing monitoring and action.

The reviews performance is currently on track to meet its target, and this work must be managed to reduce waits in addition to managing the wait times for people presenting to the service.

Hospital Discharge varies in demand coming through to the service. The team are supporting more people to return to their home following discharge, improving outcomes and reducing the time from referral to planned discharge.

There have been positive developments in the work across Preparing for Adulthood and the introduction of the new Learning Disability and Autism team with transition plans in place to the end of the financial year. The aim of the service to maximise independence, reduce inequalities, improving care and support, reducing hospital admissions, and facilitating discharge planning.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Local Member:

Appendices

- 1. Education Dashboard 2024 – October 2024**
- 2. Draft SEND and AP Partnership Data Dashboard Indicators**

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Education Dashboard 2024

NCER Nexus figures are confidential until published DfE statistics confirmed

Outcomes					
EYFSP - % achieving GLD (published 2024 data expected Nov 24)	2019*	2022	2023	2024	Trend (2022-2024)
All Pupils	72.6	64.3	67.2	68.0	
National	71.8	63.4	65.6	67.7	
Free School Meals (FSM)	54.0	46.0	46.1	47.2	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	75.0	67.0	71.1	71.7	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	27.0	18.5	21.1	22.6	
EHCP	7.0	5.0	5.6	4.0	
SEN Support	31.0	22.8	26.3	31.2	
Non SEND	77.0	68.6	72.6	74.4	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - no SFR published)	40.0	41.7	40.7		
CLA (all children)					

* 2022 and 2023 data is non comparative to earlier years due to EYFS reforms introduced in Sept 21

EYFSP - % Com, Lang & Lit (new DfE Indicator) (published 2024 data expected Nov 24)	2019*	2022	2023	2024	Trend (2022-2024)
All Pupils	No published LA data for this indicator prior to 2022	67.4	69.6		
National		67.1	68.8		
Free School Meals (FSM)		48.6	49.1		
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)		70.1	73.3		
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)		22.5	24.6		
EHCP		6.7	8.5		
SEN Support		27.5	30.0		
Non SEND		71.6	74.9		
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	not in nexus but coming soon				*
CLA (all children)					

* 2022 and 2023 data is non comparative to earlier years due to EYFS reforms introduced in Sept 21.

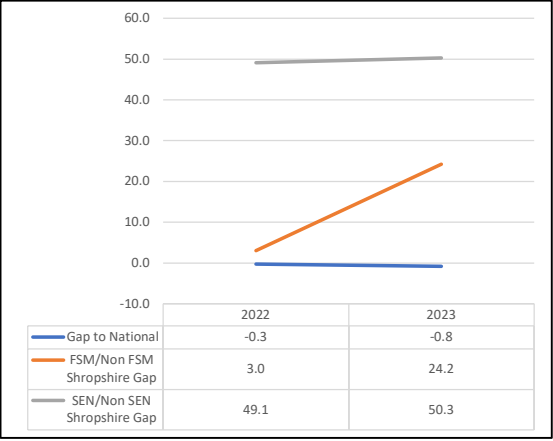
Latest Benchmark 2024			
Shropshire	2024 Nexus National	2024 Nexus Statistical Neighbour	2024 Nexus West Mid
68.0	67.7	68.6	66.2
47.2	51.5	48.9	53.9
71.7	72.0	72.4	70.7
22.6	19.8	22.6	19.0
4.0	3.9	5.3	2.2
31.2	25.0	27.7	23.5
74.4	75.8	76.4	75.0
No published comparators			

National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)		
2022	2023	2024
62	54	
91	119	
88	56	
60	34	
29	28	
68	42	
90	71	
No published comparators		
No published comparators		



Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
0.0			
0.0			
0.0			
0.0			
0.0			
0.0			
0.0			
No published comparators			
No published comparators			

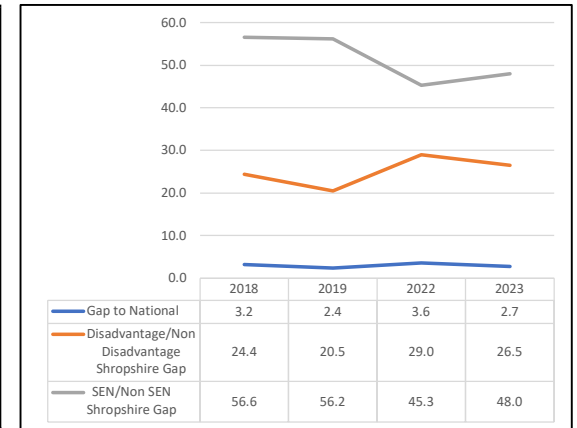
2023	2023	2024
69	61	
111	121	
101	77	
58	42	
32	18	
57	49	
104	90	
No published comparators		
No published comparators		



KS1 Reading, Writing and Maths EXS+ (no longer statutory from 2024)	2018	2019	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	62.1	62.5	49.8	53.3	
National (Nexus)	65.3	64.9	53.4	56.0	
Disadvantage	41.5	45.2	25.9	31.8	
Non Disadvantage	65.9	65.7	54.9	58.3	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	12.7	14.6	11.1	12.5	
EHCP	4.2	1.3	5.4	5.3	
SEN Support	14.9	17.5	12.6	13.9	
Non SEND	69.3	70.8	56.4	60.5	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	45.5	0.0	26.7	37.0	
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National (Nexus)	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
53.3	56.0	N/A	55.9
31.8	Not available		
58.3			
12.5			
5.3			
13.9			
60.5			
37.0	32.0	not available	37.0
No published comparators			

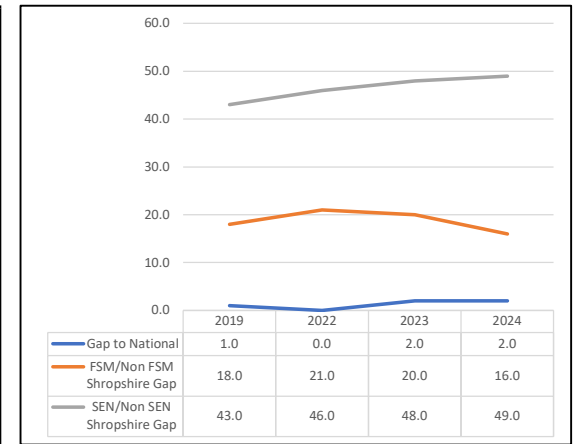
2019	2022	2023
RWM EXS+ not published by DfE, so data from other authorities is not available for comparison		



KS1 - Year 1 Phonics	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	81.0	75.0	77.0	78.0	
National	82.0	75.0	79.0	80.0	
Free School Meals (FSM)	65.0	58.0	60.0	65.0	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	83.0	79.0	80.0	81.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	43.0	35.0	36.0	37.0	
EHCP	22.0	15.0	14.0	21.0	
SEN Support	49.0	39.0	41.0	42.0	
Non SEND	86.0	81.0	84.0	86.0	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	87.5	58.8	50.0		
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
78.0	80.0	81.0	80.0
65.0	68.0	66.0	71.0
81.0	84.0	84.0	83.0
37.0	44.0	45.0	43.0
21.0	20.0	19.0	15.0
42.0	52.0	51.0	51.0
86.0	88.0	89.0	88.0
No published comparators			

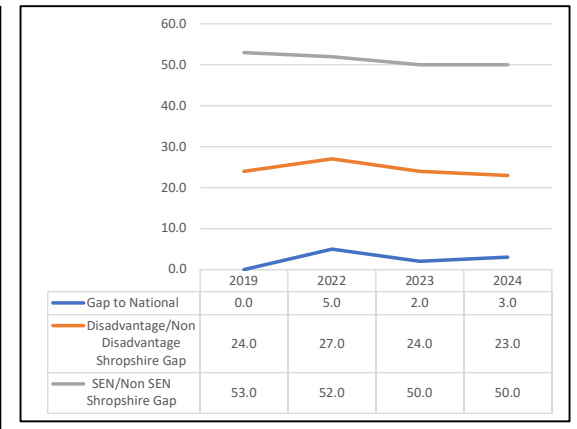
2022	2023	2024
78	108	117
110	137	107
78	119	128
106	137	144
99	114	57
115	143	144
92	112	119
No published comparators		
No published comparators		



KS2 - RWM EXS+	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	65.0	54.0	58.0	57.0	
National	65.0	59.0	60.0	60.0	
Disadvantage	47.0	34.0	39.0	40.0	
Non Disadvantage	71.0	61.0	63.0	63.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	22.0	13.0	18.0	18.0	
EHCP	14.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	
SEN Support	23.0	14.0	20.0	21.0	
Non SEND	75.0	65.0	68.0	68.0	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	25.0	42.0	39.1		
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
57.0	60.0	57.0	59.0
40.0	45.0	38.0	47.0
63.0	67.0	63.0	66.0
18.0	21.0	19.0	19.0
7.0	9.0	7.0	7.0
21.0	26.0	22.0	22.0
68.0	71.0	69.0	71.0
No published comparators			

2022	2023	2024
134	95	118
141	113	111
135	120	124
138	102	119
62	64	90
144	111	118
129	104	117
9	tbc	tbc
No published comparators		



KS2 - RWM GDS+	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	10.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	
National	11.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	
Disadvantage	5.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	
Non Disadvantage	12.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	2.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	
EHCP	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
SEN Support	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	
Non SEND	12.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	0.0	6.7	0.0		
CLA (all children)					

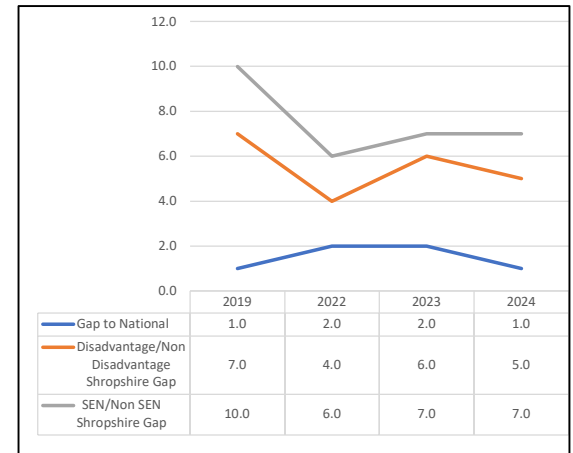
Data Source: published DfE statistics and NCER Nexus. N.B. There is no data for 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of Covid 19 and the cancellation of all end of year key stage assessments

KS2 - Reading EXS	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	75.0	74.0	74.0	74.0	
National	74.0	75.0	73.0	74.0	
Disadvantage	60.0	57.0	59.0	61.0	
Non Disadvantage	80.0	79.0	79.0	79.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	38.0	38.0	38.0	42.0	
EHCP	24.0	15.0	14.0	20.0	
SEN Support	41.0	42.0	42.0	48.0	
Non SEND	83.0	83.0	84.0	83.0	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)					
CLA (all children)					

KS2 - Writing EXS	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	79.0	66.0	70.0	70.0	
National	79.0	70.0	72.0	72.0	
Disadvantage	65.0	47.0	52.0	55.0	
Non Disadvantage	84.0	72.0	75.0	76.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	32.0	21.0	26.0	28.0	
EHCP	18.0	12.0	9.0	13.0	
SEN Support	34.0	22.0	29.0	32.0	
Non SEND	90.0	77.0	81.0	82.0	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)					
CLA (all children)					

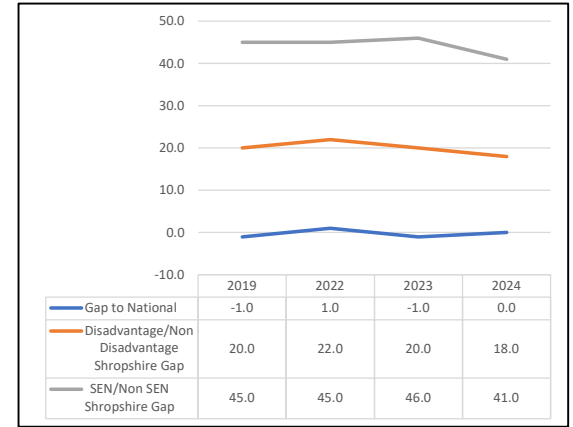
Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
7.0	8.0	7.0	7.0
3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
8.0	10.0	8.0	9.0
1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3
1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
8.0	9.0	8.0	8.0
No published comparators			

2022	2023	2024
111	104	65
70	95	51
125	102	90
-	55	41
-	-	-
-	72	66
114	94	88
	-	-
No published comparators		



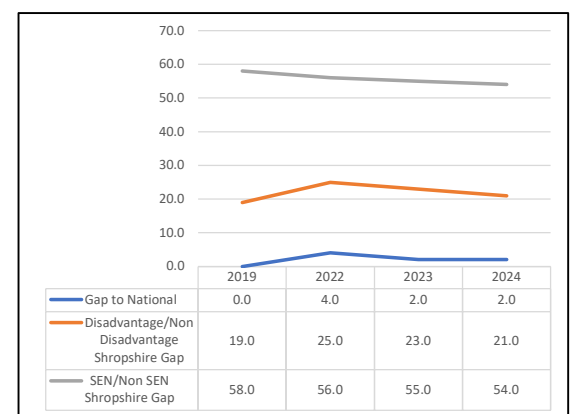
Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
74.0	74.0	74.0	73.0
61.0	62.0	59.0	63.0
79.0	79.0	79.0	78.0
42.0	41.0	41.0	37.0
20.0	19.0	19.0	15.0
48.0	48.0	47.0	43.0
83.0	84.0	84.0	83.0
No published comparators			

2022	2023	2024
88	59	71
129	84	75
96	72	75
61	78	61
79	114	57
92	100	64
100	47	84
No published comparators		



Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
70.0	72.0	70.0	71.0
55.0	58.0	54.0	61.0
76.0	77.0	76.0	77.0
28.0	30.0	28.0	28.0
13.0	12.0	11.0	9.0
32.0	36.0	33.0	33.0
82.0	83.0	83.0	83.0
No published comparators			

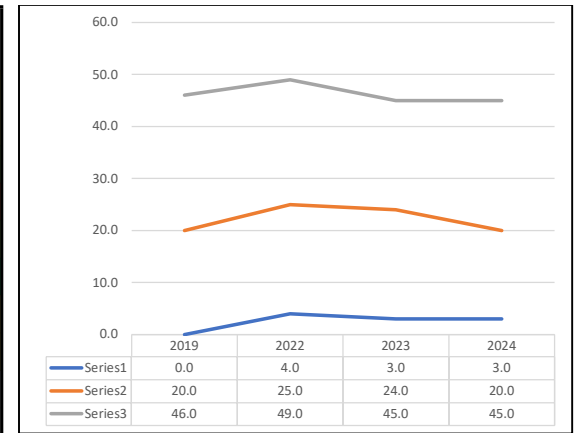
2022	2023	2024
127	102	98
141	124	102
132	124	97
135	108	93
39	108	50
143	122	110
134	116	100
No published comparators		



KS2 - Maths EXS	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	79.0	68.0	70.0	70.0	
National	79.0	72.0	73.0	73.0	
Disadvantage	63.0	49.0	52.0	55.0	
Non Disadvantage	83.0	74.0	76.0	75.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	41.0	29.0	35.0	35.0	
EHCP	24.0	13.0	14.0	17.0	
SEN Support	44.0	32.0	38.0	39.0	
Non SEND	87.0	78.0	80.0	80.0	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)					
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
70.0	73.0	70.0	72.0
55.0	59.0	52.0	61.0
75.0	79.0	75.0	78.0
35.0	37.0	34.0	34.0
17.0	17.0	15.0	13.0
39.0	44.0	40.0	40.0
80.0	83.0	81.0	82.0
No published comparators			

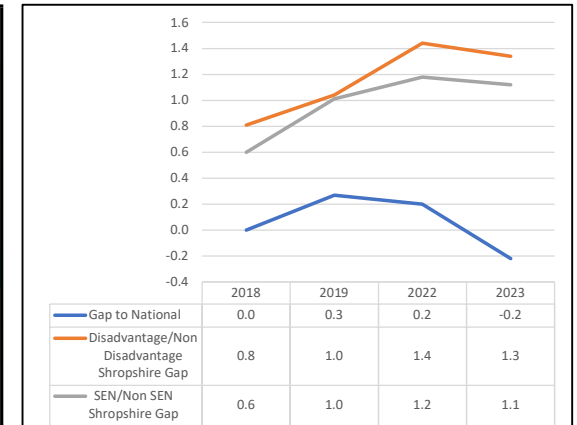
2022	2023	2024
121	123	116
137	130	102
132	130	135
133	88	101
85	102	70
140	120	121
121	121	121
No published comparators		



KS2 - Average Progress Reading (no progress for 2024)	2018	2019	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	0.00	-0.24	-0.16	0.26	
National	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.04	
Disadvantage	-0.63	-1.03	-1.27	-0.77	
Non Disadvantage	0.18	0.01	0.17	0.57	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	-0.50	-1.07	-1.11	-0.64	
EHCP	-0.88	-0.34	-4.81	-2.05	
SEN Support	-0.41	-1.22	-0.51	-0.49	
Non SEND	0.10	-0.06	0.07	0.48	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	3.23	0.85	-2.30	0.04	
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.26	0.04	-0.01	-0.10
-0.77	-0.85	-1.13	-0.71
0.57	0.43	0.35	0.23
-0.64	-1.42	-1.53	-1.35
-2.05	-4.36	-4.22	-4.45
-0.49	-0.58	-0.83	-0.58
0.48	0.42	0.40	0.22
0.04	tdc	tdc	-0.54
No published comparators			

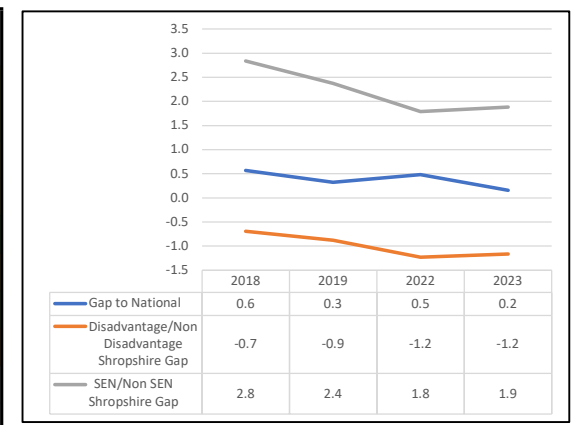
2019	2022	2023
111	104	59
105	102	75
113	107	67
57	42	36
8	95	8
95	55	80
120	120	73
tdc	tdc	tdc
No published comparators		



KS2 - Average Progress Writing (no progress for 2024)	2018	2019	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	-0.57	-0.29	-0.43	-0.12	
National	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.04	
Disadvantage	-1.10	-0.96	-1.37	-1.02	
Non Disadvantage	-0.41	-0.08	-0.14	0.14	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	-2.93	-2.24	-1.87	-1.63	
EHCP	-2.27	0.27	-3.95	-5.00	
SEN Support	-3.08	-2.77	-1.53	-1.25	
Non SEND	-0.09	0.13	-0.08	0.25	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	0.80	0.72	-1.18	0.70	
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
-0.12	0.04	-0.27	-0.01
-1.02	-0.69	-1.39	-0.56
0.14	0.36	0.09	0.29
-1.63	-2.18	-2.59	-2.05
-5.00	-4.41	-4.91	-4.46
-1.25	-1.53	-1.45	-2.00
0.25	0.62	0.36	0.52
0.70	tdc	tdc	-0.74
No published comparators			

2019	2022	2023
109	120	99
103	110	101
111	123	106
78	70	53
1	74	109
136	80	65
114	129	116
tdc	tdc	tdc
No published comparators		



KS2 - Average Progress Maths (no progress for 2024)	2018	2019	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	-0.54	-0.55	-0.64	-0.64	
National	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.04	
Disadvantage	-1.07	-1.21	-2.06	-1.90	
Non Disadvantage	-0.39	-0.33	-0.21	-0.27	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	-0.84	-1.13	-1.32	-1.21	
EHCP	-1.97	-0.73	-4.76	-4.00	
SEN Support	-0.59	-1.21	-0.76	-0.90	
Non SEND	-0.48	-0.41	-0.47	-0.50	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	0.78	-2.66	-1.63	-1.73	
CLA (all children)					

KS2 - Average Scaled Score in Reading	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	105	104	105	105	
National	104	105	105	105	
Disadvantage	102	101	102	103	
Non Disadvantage	106	105	106	106	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	98	97	99	99	
EHCP	98	96	99	98	
SEN Support	98	97	99	100	
Non SEND	106	106	107	106	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	99	101	99		
CLA (all children)					

KS2 - Average Scaled Score in Maths	2019	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	105	103	103	103	
National	105	104	104	104	
Disadvantage	102	99	100	100	
Non Disadvantage	106	104	104	104	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	99	96	97	97	
EHCP	98	96	97	96	
SEN Support	99	96	97	97	
Non SEND	106	104	105	105	
CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	97	101	97		
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
-0.64	0.04	-0.72	-0.03
-1.90	-1.04	-2.01	-0.89
-0.27	0.51	-0.31	0.43
-1.21	-1.57	-2.06	-1.47
-4.00	-4.12	-4.55	-4.36
-0.90	-0.84	-0.75	-1.44
-0.50	0.45	-0.36	0.34
-1.73	tdc	tdc	-1.00
No published comparators			

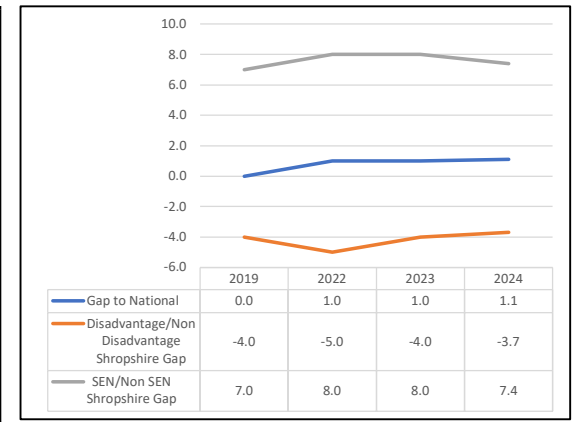
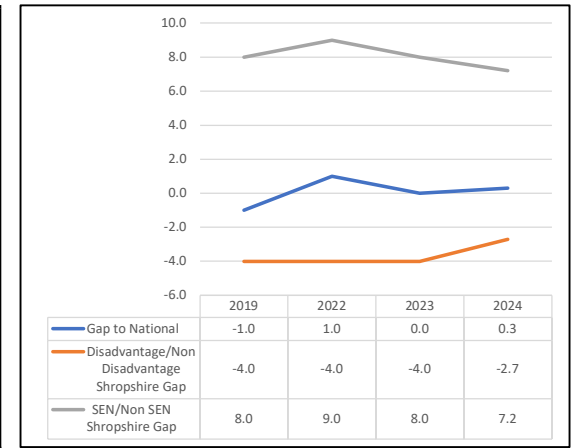
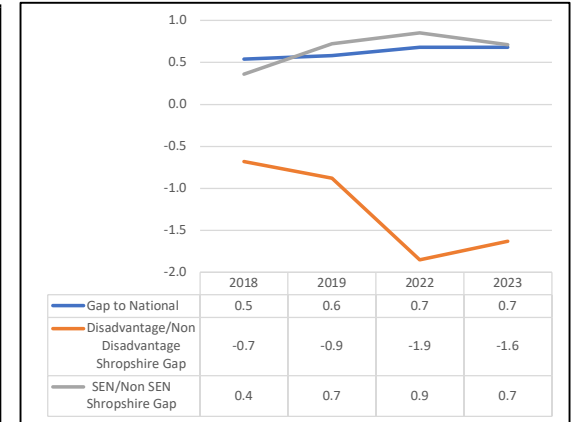
Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
105	105	105	105
103	103	102	103
106	106	106	106
99	99	99	98
98	98	97	97
100	100	100	99
106	107	107	106
No published comparators			

Shropshire	2024 National	2024 Statistical Neighbour	2024 West Mid
103	104	103	104
100	101	100	102
104	106	104	105
97	98	97	97
96	97	95	96
97	99	98	98
105	106	105	105
No published comparators			

2019	2022	2023
123	127	129
99	124	126
128	129	132
60	74	65
6	115	82
94	71	90
132	136	138
tdc	tdc	tdc
No published comparators		

2022	2023	2024
99	52	47
113	70	32
105	56	53
105	68	74
49	16	45
114	75	47
58	22	76
tdc	tdc	tdc
No published comparators		

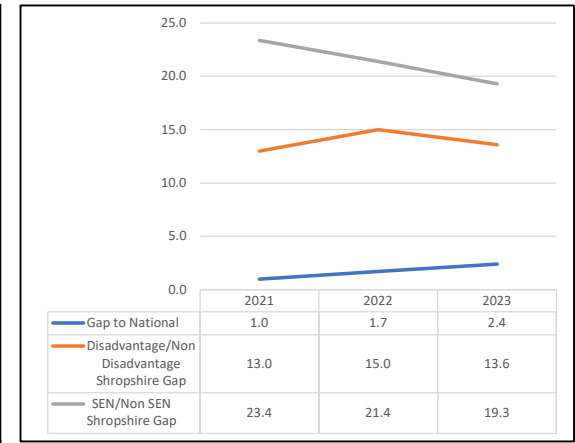
2022	2023	2024
94	118	122
138	108	117
111	131	135
119	90	111
43	31	69
128	101	127
118	78	86
tdc	tdc	tdc
No published comparators		



KS4 - Attainment 8 (2024 data expected Nov 24)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	49.9	47.2	44.0		
National	50.9	48.9	46.4		
Disadvantage	39.6	35.1	33.0		
Non Disadvantage	52.6	50.1	46.6		
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	29.5	28.6	27.4		
EHCP	22.9	19.2	18.3		
SEN Support	33.4	32.6	30.6		
Non SEND	52.9	50.0	46.7		
CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)	28.9	24.1	18.9		
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
44.0	46.4	45.3	44.9
33.0	35.1	32.2	35.6
46.6	50.4	48.5	49.1
27.4	28.1	27.3	27.7
18.3	14.0	13.6	13.0
30.6	33.3	32.0	32.6
46.7	50.2	49.1	48.5
18.9	19.8	tbc	21.0
No published comparators			

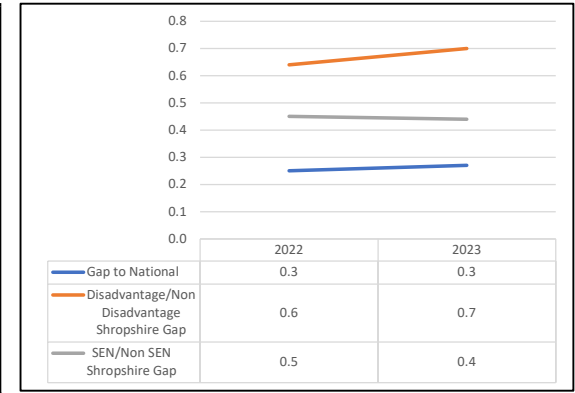
2021	2022	2023
89	97	114
63	108	97
115	116	138
99	85	80
6	17	18
123	107	114
102	115	128
17	28	tbc
No published comparators		



KS4 - Progress 8 (2024 data expected Nov 24)	2021*	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	No progress data available for 2020 and 2021	-0.28	-0.30		.
National		-0.03	-0.03		.
Disadvantage		-0.80	-0.87		.
Non Disadvantage		-0.16	-0.17		.
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)		-0.67	-0.68		.
EHCP		-1.04	-0.92		.
SEN Support		-0.53	-0.61		.
Non SEND		-0.22	-0.24		.
CLA (based on published 903)		-1.09	-1.42		.

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
-0.30	-0.03	-0.08	-0.09
-0.87	-0.57	-0.71	-0.52
-0.17	0.17	0.08	0.10
-0.68	-0.62	-0.63	-0.56
-0.92	-1.12	-1.16	-1.03
-0.61	-0.45	-0.47	-0.42
-0.24	0.10	0.04	0.01
-1.42	-1.24	tbc	-1.10

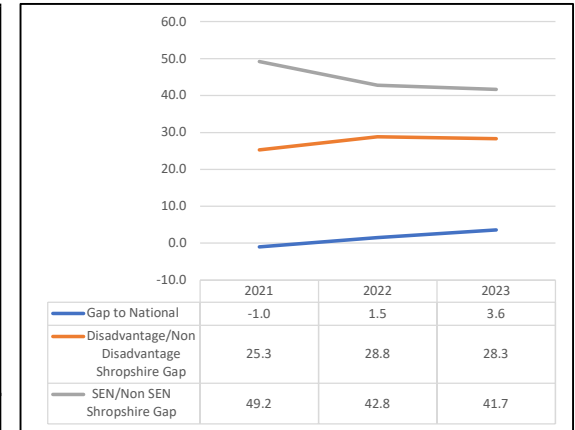
2021*	2022	2023
No progress data available	134	137
	126	128
	142	143
	72	92
	32	35
	82	114
	144	13
	41	tbc



KS4 (9 to 4) in English and Maths (2024 data expected Nov 24)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	73.2	67.5	61.8		
National	72.2	69.0	65.4		
Disadvantage	53.1	44.3	38.9		
Non Disadvantage	78.4	73.1	67.2		
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	30.2	30.3	25.9		
EHCP	28.1	18.0	16.0		
SEN Support	31.4	35.5	29.3		
Non SEND	79.4	73.1	67.6		
CLA (based on published 903)	42.3	29.4	16.7		
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
61.8	65.4	64.4	62.1
38.9	43.7	38.9	43.4
67.2	73.1	70.9	70.4
25.9	30.5	28.5	28.1
16.0	13.0	11.1	11.0
29.3	36.9	34.3	33.7
67.6	72.4	72.2	69.1
16.7	tbc	tbc	tbc
No published comparators			

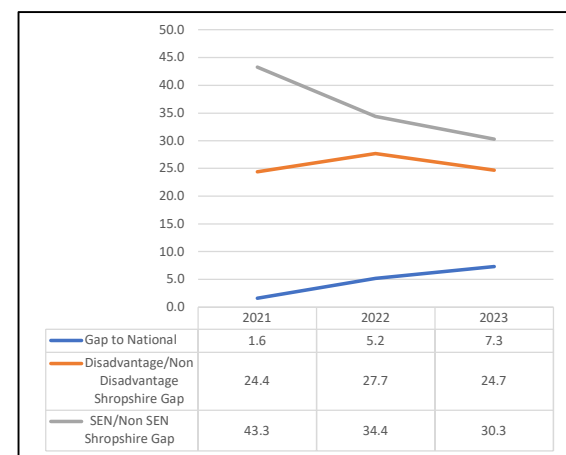
2021	2022	2023
61	87	109
58	98	105
86	115	137
113	86	113
3	34	39
138	100	125
70	108	120
12	20	tbc
No published comparators		



KS4 (9 to 5) in English and Maths (2024 data expected Nov 24)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	50.3	44.8	38.2		
National	51.9	50.0	45.5		
Disadvantage	31.0	22.4	18.2		
Non Disadvantage	55.4	50.1	42.9		
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	12.4	14.9	12.1		
EHCP	14.4	9.9	5.7		
SEN Support	11.3	17.0	14.3		
Non SEND	55.7	49.3	42.4		
CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)	16.7	11.8	4.2		
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
38.2	45.5	43.0	41.9
18.2	25.4	19.9	24.9
42.9	52.6	48.8	49.4
12.1	17.0	14.9	15.4
5.7	6.9	6.5	5.5
14.3	20.7	17.8	18.7
42.4	51.3	49.1	47.3
4.2	10.0	tbc	9.0
No published comparators			

2021	2022	2023
86	118	128
61	134	136
107	133	144
132	99	130
6	27	81
145	119	130
95	128	136
Unable to provide rank as suppressed figures in DfE publication		
No published comparators		



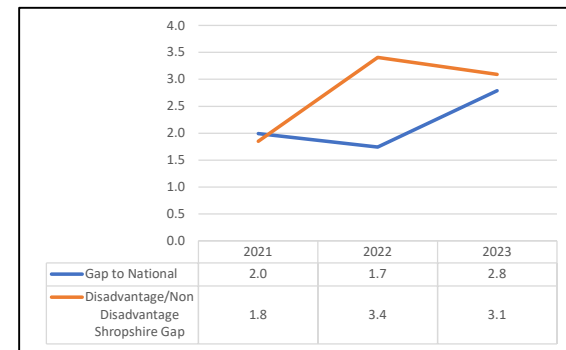
Data Source: published DfE statistics

In 2020 and 2021, all GCSEs in England have been reformed and use the new 9 to 1 grading system (rather than A*-G). Year on year comparisons will be limited until these qualifications are consistently included from 2020 onwards. However, results for 2020 and 2021 are not comparable with earlier years due to the cancellation of exams (due to COVID-19) and the changes to the way GCSE grades were awarded and results for 2022 are not comparable with previous years due to the changes relating to grading assessments

KS5 APS per A-Level Entry (State-Funded Schools and Colleges) (2024 data expected Nov 24)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	38.47	36.12	31.37		
National	40.46	37.86	34.16		
Disadvantage	36.81	32.78	28.72		
Non Disadvantage	38.66	36.19	31.81		
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)					
EHCP	36.07	31.94	33.89		
SEN Support	36.61	34.46	27.86		
Non SEND	38.61	35.92	31.52		

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
31.37	34.16	33.79	32.93
28.72	29.91	29.11	29.16
31.81	34.82	34.20	33.65
33.89	32.38	29.35	30.67
27.86	32.08	30.74	31.33
31.52	34.21	33.90	33.01

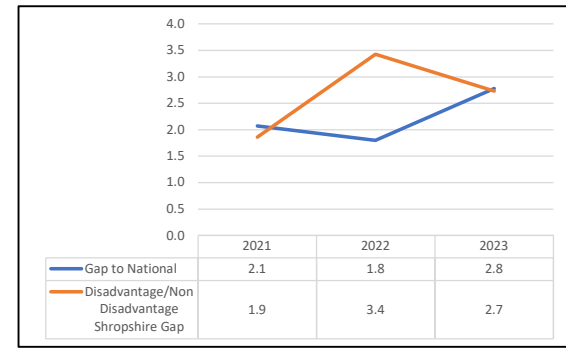
2021	2022	2023
123	105	122
52	84	93
129	119	123
92	103	63
101	89	122
121	113	120



KS5 APS per Academic Entry (State-Funded Schools and Colleges) (2024 data expected Nov 24)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	38.43	36.12	31.48		
National	40.50	37.92	34.26		
Disadvantage	36.77	32.76	29.16		
Non Disadvantage	38.63	36.19	31.89		
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)					
EHCP	36.07	31.94	33.83		
SEN Support	36.13	34.53	28.73		
Non SEND	38.59	35.91	31.62		

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
31.48	34.26	33.89	33.01
29.16	29.96	29.21	29.23
31.89	34.92	34.30	33.74
33.83	32.31	29.46	30.56
28.73	32.13	30.90	31.43
31.62	34.32	34.00	33.09

2021	2022	2023
124	107	123
52	87	86
131	119	123
91	103	61
110	89	114
124	113	120

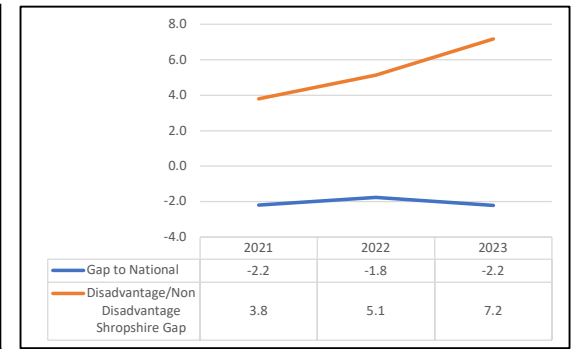


KS5 APS per Applied General (State-Funded Schools and Colleges) (2024 data expected Nov 24)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	34.83	33.68	31.74		
National	32.63	31.91	29.52		
Disadvantage	31.63	29.07	25.89		
Non Disadvantage	35.42	34.20	33.06		
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)					
EHCP	25.00	26.18	32.86		
SEN Support	35.00	35.87	30.64		
Non SEND	34.97	33.89	31.86		

Data Source; published DfE statistics

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
31.74	29.52	29.68	30.15
25.89	27.70	27.13	28.44
33.06	30.10	30.08	30.83
32.86	26.88	24.46	28.39
30.64	26.90	26.65	27.86
31.86	29.80	29.96	30.39

2021	2022	2023
27	40	27
56	90	113
30	43	16
97	100	23
16	2	15
31	43	27

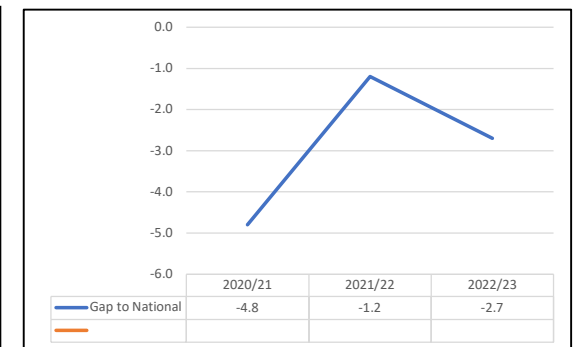


% NEET (inc not known 16-17 year olds) - (awaiting next DfE publication - tbc)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
All Pupils	10.3	5.9	7.9		
National	5.5	4.7	5.2		
Disadvantage	No published data				•
Non Disadvantage	No published data				•
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)					
EHCP	16.2	9.4	13.8		
SEN Support	19.1	9.5	18.5		
Non SEND	9.3	5.4	7.1		
CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)					
CLA (all children)			12.0		

Data Source; published DfE statistics NEET and activity not known 16-17 year olds at end 2022 (average of December, January and February) (published July 2023)

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
7.9	5.2	5.4	5.2
No published comparators			
No published comparators			
0.0			
13.8	10.1	11.5	9.7
18.5	9.3	9.7	11.3
7.1	4.6	4.5	4.5
No published comparators			

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
149	122	140
No published comparators		
No published comparators		
145	96	128
137	96	135
147	126	135
No published comparators		



Attendance

Latest Benchmark 2023 published date (not portal)

National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)

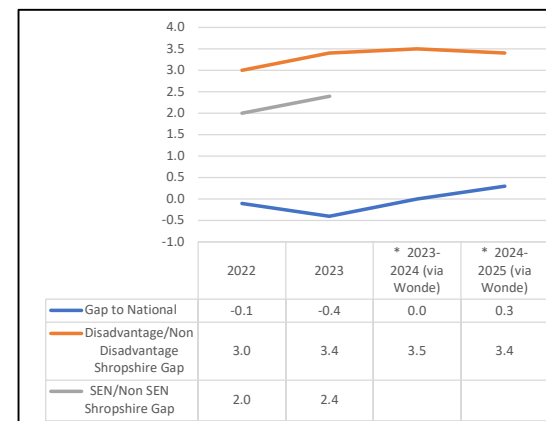
Gaps

* N.B DfE Portal includes all pupils (DfE published data is only Y1 plus)

<u>Primary School Attendance (Full Academic Year)</u>	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend
All Pupils	93.8	94.5	94.5	95.4	
National	93.7	94.1	94.5	95.7	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	91.4	91.8	91.7	92.6	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	94.4	95.2	95.2	96.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	92.1	92.5			
EHCP	90.2	90.2	89.8	90.6	
SEN Support	92.3	92.8	93.1	94.1	
Non SEND	94.1	94.9	94.8	96.0	
CLA (based on published 903)	95.2				
CLA (all children)		95.4			

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
94.5	94.5	94.2	93.8
91.7	91.6	91.4	91.6
95.2	95.1	95.0	94.9
0.0	91.9	91.9	91.7
89.8	90.1	89.6	89.5
93.1	92.2	92.3	91.9
94.8	94.6	94.8	94.3
0.0			
No published comparators			

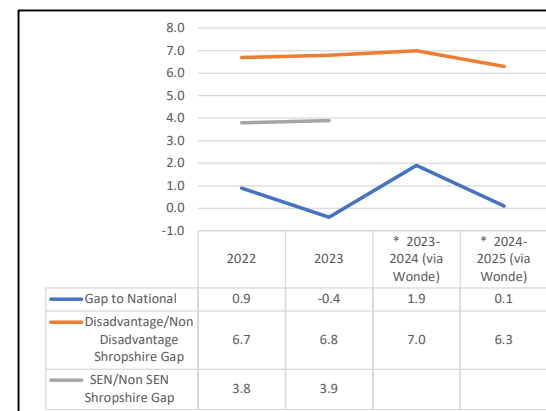
2021	2022	2023
24	79	29
34	93	74
37	115	53
14	66	33
60	93	91
16	64	29
31	86	35
104	104	
No published comparators		



<u>Secondary School Attendance (Full Academic Year)</u>	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend
All Pupils	90.1	91.1	89.1	92.9	
National	91.0	90.7	91.0	93.0	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	84.8	85.7	83.4	87.9	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	91.5	92.5	90.4	94.2	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	86.9	87.8			
EHCP	86.2	87.3	78.6	83.3	
SEN Support	87.0	87.9	86.2	90.5	
Non SEND	90.7	91.7	90.2	94.1	
CLA (based on published 903)	90.7				
CLA (all children)		89.0			

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
89.1	91.0	90.6	90.9
83.4	86.0	84.6	86.8
90.4	92.9	92.3	92.9
0.0	86.4	86.2	86.7
78.6	85.3	84.4	85.4
86.2	86.6	86.4	86.9
90.2	91.9	91.6	91.8
0.0			
No published comparators			

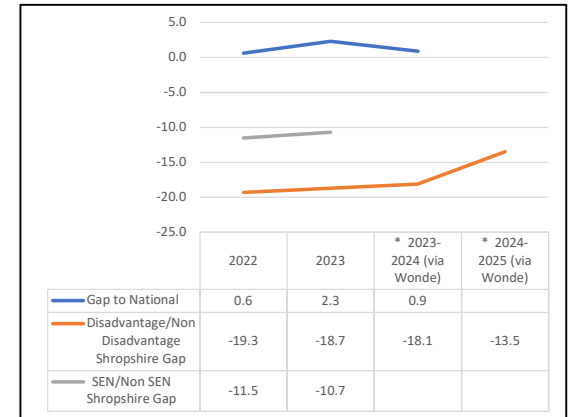
2021	2022	2023
78	121	72
108	126	72
113	144	120
73	89	42
71	84	52
50	93	43
92	132	89
77	77	
No published comparators		



<u>Primary School Persistently Absent (10% or more missed) (Full Academic Year)</u>	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend
All Pupils	17.1	13.9	14.2	14.8	
National	17.7	16.2	15.1	awaiting DfE	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	32.3	28.6	28.8	26.0	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	13.0	9.9	10.7	12.5	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	26.6	22.7			
EHCP	35.7	29.8	32.0	28.4	
SEN Support	25.4	21.8	21.3	19.1	
Non SEND	15.1	12.0	13.0	13.2	
CLA (based on published 903)	10.1				
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
14.2	15.1	15.1	17.7
28.8	29.3	29.8	29.3
10.7	10.9	10.7	11.7
0.0	25.7	24.9	26.8
32.0	31.0	31.9	33.0
21.3	24.8	23.5	26.0
13.0	13.9	12.7	15.4
0.0			
No published comparators			

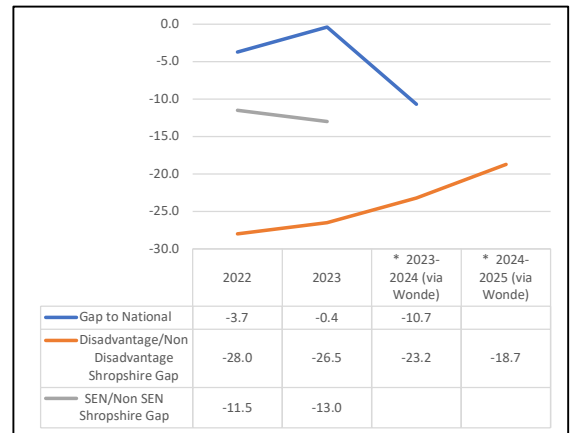
2021	2022	2023
11	69	28
22	107	68
26	92	47
13	80	24
61	129	71
15	68	25
17	66	34
57	47	
No published comparators		



<u>Secondary School Persistently Absent (10% or more missed) (Full Academic Year)</u>	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend
All Pupils	31.4	26.9	36.8	19.5	
National	27.7	26.5	26.1	awaiting DfE	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	53.5	47.6	55.5	34.4	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	25.5	21.1	32.3	15.7	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	41.1	37.6			
EHCP	41.4	38.6	51.7	37.7	
SEN Support	41.1	37.5	43.9	26.7	
Non SEND	29.6	24.6	34.0	17.0	
CLA (based on published 903)	28.3				
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
36.8	26.1	27.7	27.4
55.5	43.8	48.4	42.7
32.3	19.5	21.4	19.7
0.0	39.1	39.5	39.2
51.7	39.1	41.0	39.8
43.9	39.0	39.4	39.1
34.0	23.8	24.7	24.7
0.0			
No published comparators			

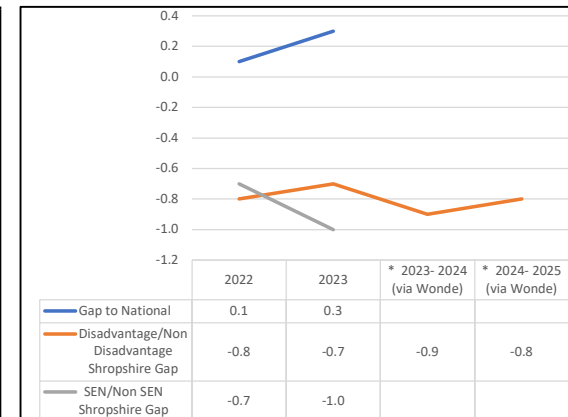
2021	2022	2023
83	126	87
114	145	104
111	143	121
90	102	59
91	105	79
63	102	58
91	131	91
83	109	
No published comparators		



Primary School Severely Absent (50% or more missed) (Full Academic Year)	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend
All Pupils	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	
National	0.6	0.7	awaiting DfE	awaiting DfE	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.2	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	0.9	1.1			
EHCP	2.1	2.7	3.5	3.9	
SEN Support	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	
Non SEND	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	
CLA (based on published 903)					
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.6	awaiting DfE	0.6	0.8
1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
0.0	1.5	1.7	1.6
3.5	3.2	4.0	3.9
1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
0.0			
No published comparators			

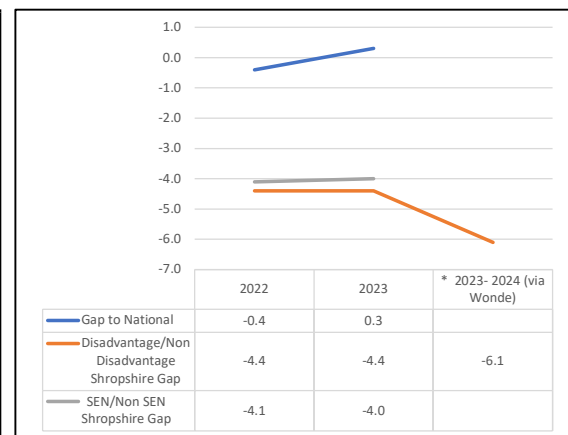
2021	2022	2023
21	33	6
76	71	32
16	37	26
50	49	56
59	73	73
60	59	54
36	65	6
No published comparators		



Secondary School Severely Absent (50% or more missed) (Full Academic Year)	2022	2023	* 2023-2024 (Full year on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	* 2024-2025 (Year to date on DfE Portal (via Wonde))	Trend
All Pupils	3.1	3.1	3.5	2.4	
National	2.7	3.4	awaiting DfE	awaiting DfE	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	6.2	6.2	8.4	5.5	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.6	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	6.4	6.2			
EHCP	7.8	6.1	16.5	13.4	
SEN Support	6.1	6.2	6.8	3.8	
Non SEND	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.5	
CLA (based on published 903)					
CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
3.5	awaiting DfE	3.6	3.4
8.4	6.7	7.8	6.0
2.3	1.7	2.0	1.7
0.0	7.6	7.8	7.1
16.5	9.6	10.5	9.7
6.8	7.2	7.4	6.8
2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3
0.0			
No published comparators			

2021	2022	2023
72	107	67
77	97	64
112	133	98
56	98	52
55	83	39
44	100	59
106	121	80
No published comparators		



Data Source: published DfE statistics - Pupil absence in schools in England. Next published full year is expected in **March 2025 for academic year 2023/24**.

A pupil is classified as a persistent absentee if they miss 10% or more of their own possible sessions

* Figures derived from the DfE Attendance Portal (via Wonde) are published as experimental official statistics to give an indicative figure for the absence rate during the 2023/24 academic year to date and 2024/25 year to date.

Exclusions

<u>Primary School Suspension Rate (Full Academic Year)</u>	2020*	2021*	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	1.03	0.86	1.38	1.75	
National	1.00	0.99	1.42	1.81	
Free School Meals (FSM)	2.98	2.23	4.42	5.21	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.75	0.60	0.75	0.98	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	6.35	5.03	6.82	10.03	
EHCP	10.72	6.15	11.40	23.28	
SEN Support	5.79	4.88	6.20	8.02	
Non SEND	0.21	0.22	0.48	0.29	

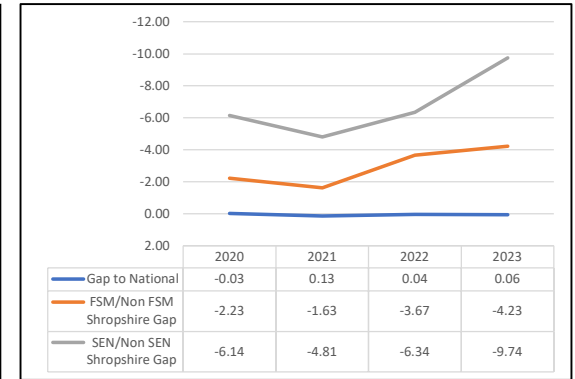
Latest Benchmark 2023

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
1.75	1.81	2.34	1.81
5.21	4.43	6.36	3.91
0.98	0.99	1.39	0.98
10.03	9.10	12.20	8.76
23.28	16.40	23.50	18.83
8.02	7.73	9.70	7.39
0.29	0.42	0.45	0.47

National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)

2021	2022	2023
71	92	86
77	111	107
96	86	93
86	85	103
49	76	130
106	88	98
76	131	49

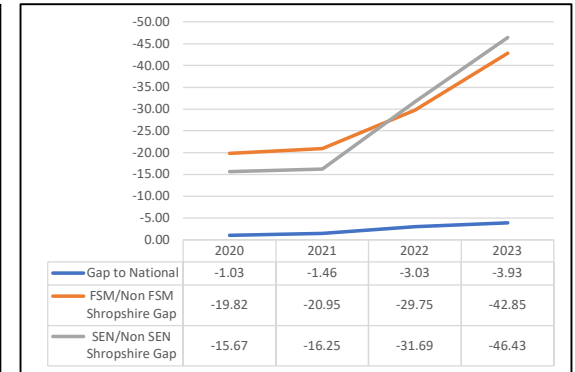
Gaps



<u>Secondary School Suspension Rate (Full Academic Year)</u>	2020*	2021*	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	8.46	9.94	16.99	22.83	
National	7.43	8.48	13.96	18.90	
Free School Meals (FSM)	26.08	28.00	42.21	58.30	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	6.26	7.05	12.46	15.45	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	22.26	24.15	44.41	62.50	
EHCP	24.56	26.07	46.24	72.35	
SEN Support	21.67	23.69	44.04	60.84	
Non SEND	6.59	7.90	12.72	16.07	

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
22.83	18.90	19.42	17.20
58.30	45.58	51.37	36.25
15.45	11.06	12.39	10.31
62.50	47.70	53.00	40.90
72.35	47.17	52.96	41.15
60.84	47.82	49.51	40.90
16.07	13.90	13.38	12.96

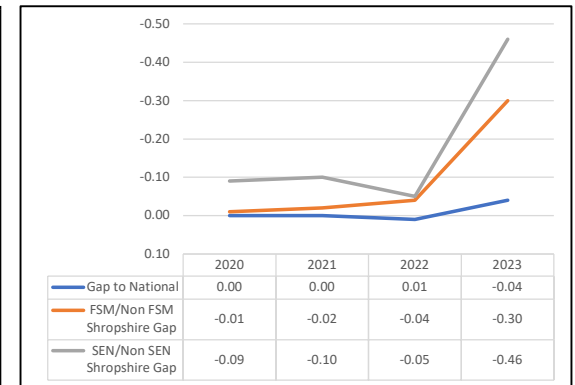
2021	2022	2023
105	112	105
118	115	110
116	129	129
94	110	117
83	112	135
91	110	113
117	115	100



<u>Primary School Permanent Exclusion Rate (Full Academic Year)</u>	2020*	2021*	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.07	
National	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	
Free School Meals (FSM)	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.32	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	0.10	0.10	0.06	0.47	
EHCP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	
SEN Support	0.11	0.11	0.07	0.44	
Non SEND	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.07	0.03	0.04	0.04
0.32	0.07	0.13	0.10
0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02
0.47	0.14	0.22	0.23
0.67	0.20	0.37	0.30
0.44	0.13	0.19	0.22
0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01

2021	2022	2023
119	86	119
108	101	114
135	82	68
129	78	120
1	1	69
134	87	113
1	115	25



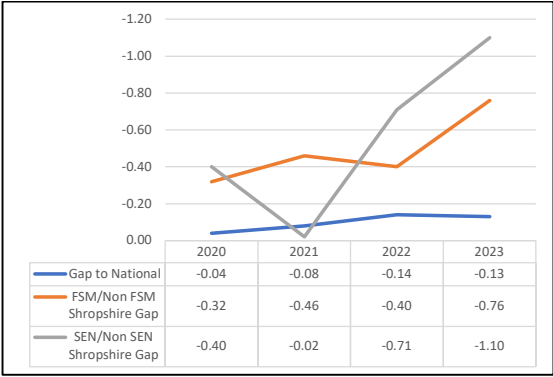
Secondary School Permanent Exclusion Rate (Full Academic Year)	2020*	2021*	2022	2023	Trend
All Pupils	0.17	0.18	0.30	0.35	
National	0.13	0.10	0.16	0.22	
Free School Meals (FSM)	0.45	0.58	0.64	0.98	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.13	0.12	0.24	0.22	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	0.52	0.20	0.91	1.29	
EHCP	0.25	0.00	0.54	0.84	
SEN Support	0.59	0.24	0.98	1.36	
Non SEND	0.12	0.18	0.20	0.19	

2022-23 full year statistics latest publication 18 July 2024

1. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, while suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.35	0.22	0.26	0.28
0.98	0.60	0.80	0.65
0.22	0.11	0.14	0.14
1.29	0.66	0.77	0.76
0.84	0.41	0.53	0.40
1.36	0.71	0.83	0.81
0.19	0.15	0.16	0.19

2021	2022	2023
128	131	121
134	114	129
133	150	130
51	137	133
1	122	77
61	138	131
146	133	100



Latest Term Benchmark Autumn 23

Number of EHE children at any point during a full year and latest term available (Full Year 2023/24 data expected Dec 24)	N/A	2021-22	2022-23	Current 2023-24 (Aut23)	Trend
All Pupils		630	760	550	
National		116,300	126,100	92,000	

EHE Termly rate - mid year point (Spring Term) (2024 data expected Dec 24)	N/A	(Aut 22)	(Spr 23)	(Aut23)	Trend
All Pupils		1.3	1.4	1.4	
National		1.0	1.1	1.1	

Number of CME children at any point during a full year and latest term available (Full Year 2023/24 data expected Dec 24)	N/A	2021-22	2022-23	Current 2023-24 (Aut23)	Trend
All Pupils		180	270	130	
National		94,900	117,100	33,000	

CME Termly rate - mid year point (Spring Term) (2024 data expected Dec 24)	N/A	(Aut 22)	(Spr 23)	(Aut23)	Trend
All Pupils		0.2	0.1	0.3	
National		0.3	0.3	0.4	

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
550	92,000	1,016	10,150

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
1.4	1.1	1.6	1.1

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
130	33,000	216	3,480

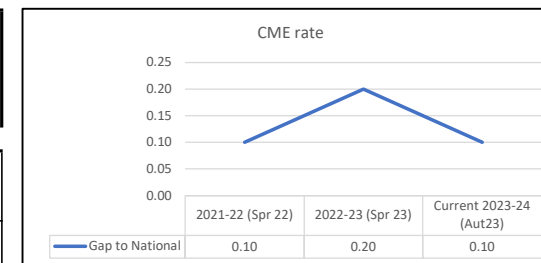
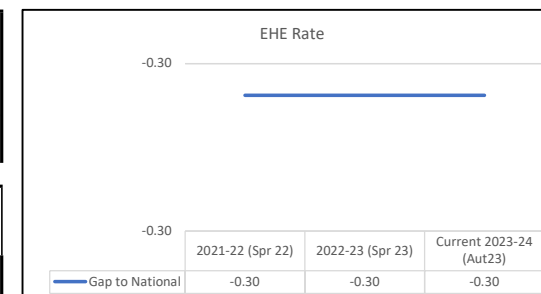
Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
-	-	-

(Aut 22)	(Spr 23)	(Aut23)
-	-	-

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
-	-	-

(Aut 22)	(Spr 23)	(Aut23)
-	-	-



DfE figures are published as official statistics in development (first collection was in autumn 22)

Data is presented for both the number of children at a point in time on the autumn term 2023 census day, and the number of children who were EHE at any point during the 2022/23 academic year

Shropshire Data dashboard development

KPI data metrics to consider as part of SEND data dashboard developments in addition to data already being collated. To enhance partnership Governance structures, Strategic leadership e.g. effective decision making based upon needs of local population and local area SEND improvements.

EHCP

- Number of EHCP issued local- (age range) (primary needs)
- Number of new referrals,
- Number of decisions to assess
- Number of plans issued within 20 weeks.
- Number of EHCNA overdue by 30 weeks/overdue by 52 weeks
- Number of Tribunals
- Number of Meditations

Education- Incorporating data contain with power bi version

- Exclusion/suspension data
- SEN/EHCP numbers
- Attendance data pupils with EHCP/ SEN support/Overall. This could be compared to England Average.
- Number of pupils with SEND accessing top up funding (not requiring an EHCP).

School placements and Elective Home Educated.

- Length of time from EHC placement decision to attending education provision on roll (average/longest)
- Pupils with an EHC without a school place for more than 15 days
- EHC pupils electively home educated.
- EHC pupils who are CME (NCY 0-11)
- EHC pupils with EOTAS packages
- Number of pupils NEET (Up to 25 years)
- Percentage of CYP with an EHCP placed in mainstream education
- Percentage of CYP with an EHCP placed in special schools
- Percentage of CYP in special school placement external to Shropshire
- Percentage of CYP with an EHCP placed in INMSS
- Percentage of CYP with an EHCP who attend Alternative Provision (AP)
- Count of CYP with an EHCP who attend Alternative Provision (AP)
- Percentage of CYP with SEND reintegrating back from AP to mainstream education (separate out EHCP and SEND Support)
- Length of time attending AP before reintegration back into mainstream (average/longest)

- Length of time from placement at FAP to attending education provision on roll (average/longest) – EHCP, SEND Support and Non-SEND

Post 16 & 19+

- Number of pupils with EHCP/SEN attending education setting including higher education.
- Number of young people accessing training/employment/internships
- Number of young people accessing supported/independent living

Education Transport

- Number of CYP accessing travel to school transport with an EHCP
- Number of CYP accessing travel to school transport with SEND Support
- Numbers of CYP offered Independent Travel Training and what percentage take up the offer
- Numbers of CYP undertaking Independent Travel Training and what percentage progress onto travel independently
- Longest and average journey time for CYP with an EHCP and SEND Support
- Highest and average cost per route

Annual review data-(provides an holistic overview of annual reviews).

- Number of annual review due within the month.
- Percentage of annual reviews completed and returned to the LA within the month due
- Percentage completed, including amended, within 12 -month timescale
- Number of amendments completed within 12 weeks of the annual review meeting

Social care & Youth Offending service data-

- Number of requests for assessment (EHCNA)
- Early help assessments for CYP with EHCP
- EHCP cohort known to social care (0-25 years)
- SEN support cohort known to social care.
- SEND cohort known to YOS.
- Percentage of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) completed to a good quality standard for CYP with an EHCP (percentage monthly due vs completed)
- Number of CYP access personal budgets.
- Number of CYP accessing short breaks
- Number on short breaks waiting list (average wait/longest wait)

Health data (for each service e.g. ASD/ADHD, SALT etc)

- Number of new referrals (including accepted/declined referrals)
- Percentage seen with 18 weeks.
- Number over 18 weeks (including longest wait)

- LD annual health checks 14+-25 years
- Numbers of CYP on the dynamic support register and number of CETR undertaken and number of admissions.
- Number of CYP with SEND accessing a personal health budget and numbers accessing 18-25
- **Early identification/Health Visitors**
- Percentage Birth Visits completed within 14 days
- Percentage Birth Visits completed
- Percentage 6-8 week reviews completed by 8 weeks
- Percentage 6-8 week reviews completed by 12 months
- Percentage 6-8 week reviews completed by 15 months
- Percentage of 2.5 years reviews completed between 2 and 2.5 years
- Total early notifications received
-

Capture impact/outcomes within SEND dataset (e.g. Qualitative/Quantitative)

- Family feedback: service level captured through formal contract meetings/reporting.
- Outcomes measure across education, health and care e.g. service level - Therapy outcomes measure or academic achievements-KPIs)
- Celebration of success- new initiatives, which have a positive impact provided through a short narrative included informal reporting mechanisms.

Indicator Name	Metric	What does good performance look like?	Measure updated	Reporting Period	Reporting Frequency	England Average	Target/Plan	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Previous Position	Latest Position	Direction
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The above data will also support Shropshire Area SEND inspection. In addition, it would be worth preparing by identifying leads to gathering the documents required in accordance to Annex A, including accessing personal level data ready (via SEN2/AP census);

List 1 - All children and young people with an EHC plan for whom your local authority is responsible.

List 2- All children and young people who are in receipt of SEN support educated in settings within your local area.

The inspection team will select 6 children and young people and 6 back up cases to form part of the case tracking. Once the six cases are confirmed a range of information will be required as set out in Annex A. It would be helpful for the partnership to undertake this process on a smaller scale to gain valuable insight and exposure to the methodology. Happy to support the partnership as we've previously discussed.

[Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/area-sen-inspections-framework-and-handbook)

Agenda Item 8

Date	Item	Responsible Officer	Briefing	Briefing and decision by Members to go to committee	Straight to committee
TBC	Children's front door Early help Best Start in Life	DG		✓	
TBC	Fostering	DG	✓		
TBC	SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) Monitoring Update	DS		✓	
27 th November	Learning disability and Autism development including supported Living	NMC/LT			✓
27 th November	Q2 Performance Report	TM			✓
December-January	SEND and AP Change Programme (review of Year 1 impact)	DS	✓		
December-January	CYP Mental Health	MPFT/ICB		✓	
December-January	Commissioning Update	LT		✓	
28 th February	Multi Agency Working (Relationship with ICB for Adults/Children) i.e., CAMHS and Discharge				✓
28 th February	Safeguarding annual report				✓
2 nd April	Review of the People Transformation Programme				✓
2 nd April	Successful savings and Forward Plan (Evolved Commissioning Plan)				✓

Other identified areas of interest from Committee discussions:

- Sensory Impairment
- Demand
- Dementia
- Ofsted/CQC action plans
- Mental health being carried out with HOSC
- Integration Programme (family hub support)
- Prevention strategy
- All age approach to technology
- Adults 'front door' transformation work