

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

Date: 18th February 2025

Committee:
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 26 February 2025
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ

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)	Hilary Luff
Claire Wild (Vice Chairman)	Kevin Pardy
Jeff Anderson	Vivienne Parry
Peter Broomhall	Kevin Turley
Ruth Houghton	Sian Lines (Co-Optee)
Duncan Kerr	Carol Morgan (Co-Optee)

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 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 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 20th February 2025.

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 20th February 2025.

6 Children's Participation and Impact Strategy (Pages 7 - 40)

To receive an update on the Children's Participation and Impact Strategy.
[Report Attached]

Contact: Donessa Gray - Assistant Director Services to Children & Families.
Siobhan Hughes - Service Manager Early Help.

7 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 3 (Pages 41 - 94)

To scrutinise performance at Quarter 3 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

To receive a verbal update on the future work programme of the Committee.

Contact: Sophie Foster, Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

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Committee and Date

People Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

26th February 2025

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2024

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

10.00 am - 12.36 pm

Responsible Officer: Shelley Davies

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

Present

Councillor Peggy Mullock (Chairman)

Councillors Claire Wild (Vice Chairman), Jeff Anderson, Peter Broomhall, Ruth Houghton,
Duncan Kerr, Hilary Luff, Kevin Pardy and Vivienne Parry

13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sian Lines, Diocesan Board of Education.

14 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.

15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record.

16 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

17 Member Question Time

A member question was received from Councillor Ruth Houghton – in relation to post 16 education transport.

By way of a supplementary question Councillor Houghton queried the benefit threshold in relation to the £299 annual bus pass and asked:

- Which benefits qualified for the reduced price;
- If parents/carers were supported to check eligibility; and
- If there was phased payment options

David Shaw, Assistant Director Education & Achievement confirmed that a written response would be provided and circulated to all committee members.

The full question and response provided is available from the webpage for the meeting: [Response to Member Questions - People Overview and Scrutiny 27.11.24.pdf](#)

18 Learning Disability and Autism Development Including Supported Living

Laura Tyler, Assistant Director Joint Commissioning presented the Learning Disability and Autism Development including Supported Living report and introduced Lesley Brown, Service Manager (Commissioning).

Lesley Brown gave a presentation in relation to the commissioning approach for children and adults with learning disabilities and / or autism, which included recent progress and priority plans for the next 12 months.

In response to questions members were advised that:

- There were approximately 200 supported living houses in Shropshire, supporting approximately 270 individuals with some individuals living alone and others sharing accommodation with two to five people, depending on compatibility and needs.
- The importance of early transition into supported living was acknowledged and it was noted that the team were working to ensure that individuals received the necessary support and opportunities at the right time in their lives.
- The cost of the supported living model can vary significantly based on the level of support required and the specific arrangements. The team were looking into more cost-effective models, such as shared accommodations where multiple individuals live together with shared support which can reduce the overall cost per individual while still providing necessary care and support. The use of technology in supported living settings was another strategy being investigated to reduce costs.
- The Enable team focused on supporting individuals with learning disabilities and autism to gain and maintain employment and it was suggested that given its significant impact and the positive outcomes a more detailed overview of the Enable service be given at a future meeting.
- The significant increase in autism referrals was attributed to a number of factors including increased awareness and historical underdiagnosis.
- Specific statistics on the percentage of individuals assessed who result in an autism diagnosis were not available in the meeting but would be circulated to committee members following the meeting.

- Despite the high savings targets which include organisational savings, the People's Directorate was managing to come close to budget, which was considered a significant achievement given the demands and pressures.
- The team was focusing on doing things differently to manage costs effectively which included reassessing the need for 24-hour support and exploring more cost-effective solutions such as shared accommodation and the use of technology.
- A diagnosis of autism often comes down to choice, and while some families may seek a diagnosis, others may not. For some individuals, a diagnosis can be positive and help them understand themselves better, but it is not always necessary or desired by everyone.

Officers were thanked for their report.

RECOMMENDED:

That the contents of the report noted.

19 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 2

The Committee received the Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 2 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.

Natalie McFall, Assistant Director Adult Social Care and Housing outlined key areas of the report in relation to Adult Social Care and outlined the current demand and pressures across the service. It was noted that the current trends show a significant portion of adult social care demand coming from the 75+ age group and that the reduction in waiting lists had continued for several teams, including the community mental health team.

Amanda Allcock, Service Manager Ops South, highlighted the work of the specialist social work teams and in response to a question gave further information on the aim to reduce the use of the Mental Health Act to detain people and minimize hospital admissions. It was explained that the approach involved creating support plans around the individual, liaising with all professionals involved, the nearest relative, and the person themselves.

David Shaw, Assistant Director Education & Achievement, outlined key areas of the report in relation to Education noting the improved performance in parental preferences for school admissions and a slight reduction in permanent school exclusions. David Shaw added that the virtual school continued to perform strongly and outlined the challenges in managing resources to meet the growing demand and complexity of EHCPs.

In response to questions members were advised that:

- The parenting team work to support for families to ensure children were ready for school and early years education which has been rolled back for children as young as nine months, will also help with this issue.
- The team work closely with place planning to ensure that there were sufficient school places available in Shrewsbury to meet future demand. It was added that although there was a lot of additional new homes being built in Shrewsbury it did not necessarily mean more school places were required.
- The rise in EHCPs was attributed to several factors, including increased awareness, identification of complex needs, and the impact of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Sonya Miller, Assistant Director Children's Social Care & Safeguarding and Donessa Gray, Assistant Director Services to Children & Families outlined key areas of the report in relation to Children's Social Care noting in particular the Early Help programme transformation which provided targeted support and intervention for families at an earlier stage and Early Help Family Hubs which focus on creating a relationship-based approach with parent carers to deliver services within local communities.

In response to questions members were advised that:

- The link to the Early Help Family Hubs would be provided to the committee following the meeting.
- The majority of children in residential care was due to the complexity of their needs. These children often required specialized support that cannot be adequately provided in a family or community setting.

Officers were thanked for their report.

RECOMMENDED:

That a letter of thanks be sent to the teams for their efforts in the early help transformation and the Enable team be invited to attend a future meeting to provide an overview of their work.

20 Work Programme

Tanya Miles, Executive Director for People, noted that the following items would be considered at the next meeting:

- Performance Monitoring Report – Q3 with a focus on the work of Enable.
- Adult CQC Report

- Technology Enabled Care programme
- Non diagnosis support for Children and Young People

It was agreed that the issue of inadequate hospital discharge following private hospital care should be covered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that SEND was an ideal topic for a Member Briefing.

21 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 26th February 2025.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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Committee and Date

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26th February 2025

Item

Public



Children's Participation and Impact Strategy

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles, Executive Director of People		
email:	Tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 255811
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Kirstie Hurst-Knight		

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report sets out Shropshire Council's commitment to the importance of effective participation of children and young people and co-production of the services that affect them. It proposes the adoption of the nationally recognised Lundy (2007) model to support the Local Authority to meet its statutory duties regarding participation and to ensure that children and young people have influence over the decisions that affect them.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Shropshire Plan 2022-2025 is a strategic plan which sets out how we are working towards a healthy and sustainable Shropshire. Participation across all of our services is at the heart of the agenda and key to its success. It involves communities, businesses, health partners and the public sector all working together to address challenges, propose solutions and make informed choices that drive positive change for the benefit of all.
- 2.2. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child contains 52 standards that set out the Rights of a Child. Most countries including the United Kingdom have signed up to the convention. Many countries use the standards wholly or in part to promote children and young people's involvement. The standards of most relevance to the participation of service users are:

- Article 12: Children and young people have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.
- Article 13: Children and young people have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others.
- Article 17: Children and young people have the right to receive, seek and give information.
- Article 23: Disabled children and young people have the right to active participation in their community.
- Article 2: Requires all of the rights in the convention on the Rights of the Child to be implemented for every child, without discrimination.

2.3. During both the inspection in February 2022 and focused visit in July 2024, Ofsted inspectors identified that the participation of children in influencing strategic planning is not as sufficiently developed as that which leaders aspire to and that more needs to be done to ensure that young people are actively involved and engaged in attending and influencing the corporate parenting agenda.

2.4. The proposed strategy adopts the Lundy (2007) model of participation for Children and Young People. This focuses on Space, Voice, Audience and Influence and has been used and adopted by national and international organisations, agencies and governments to inform their understanding of children's participation.

- A. Space - Ensuring children have suitable physical and social environments to express their views, with consideration given to their particular needs.
- B. Voice - Enabling children to articulate their opinions and perspectives and allowing their voices to be heard on issues that are important to them.
- C. Audience - Providing an audience for children's views and making sure they are heard by the right people.
- D. Influence - Ensuring children's views have an impact on decision-making processes by taking them seriously and holding decision makers accountable for the inclusion of their feedback.

2.5. There are examples of excellent participation across children's services including the co-chairing of our corporate parenting panel by a young person, the Children in Care Council, our Education Council for Looked After Children and the activities of the Virtual School (including our newly launching Shropshire Voice Choir). Our Detached Youth Team and Town Council in Market Drayton are an excellent example in working jointly with young people to create change in our community at the Market Drayton skate park. The voices of parents and carers are also being heard through our hub advisory groups, shaping the development of our Community and Family Hubs.

2.6. Our participation officer in Early Help is working across services to create a culture change in participation and bring services together with a shared aim – to create impact. They have worked closely with children, young people, parents and carers as well as colleagues to design the proposed participation strategy.

2.7. We are striving for inclusivity and including the voice of children and young people with special educational needs, including their parents and carers.

2.8. The Participation and IMPACT Project Board, led by the Assistant Director for Services to Children will drive the implementation strategy and the creation of the Youth Parliament, until the strategy and governance arrangements are embedded.

2.9 We will work with partners to expand the scope of the Participation Strategy during 2025/26 to include a wider range of partners to enable a consistent system wide approach to adopting the principles outlined in the strategy. This will enable greater impact for children and young people in Shropshire, whatever support or services they are accessing.'

3. Recommendations

3.1. For children's scrutiny to agree the Participation and Impact Strategy for young people and note the ambitions set out in the strategy

3.2. Endorse the Council's commitment to ensuring that children and young people have influence over decisions and actions on services that affect them.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. Without having an agreed participation strategy and evidence of a new approach to participation, Ofsted are unlikely to see any progress in future inspections.

4.2. That services that are not co-produced with service users and likely to be less effective.

4.3. Risk table

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
Without having an agreed participation strategy and evidence of a new approach to participation, Ofsted are unlikely to see any progress in future inspections.	Agreement of the new participation strategy
That services that are not co-produced with service users and likely to be less effective.	Service users to be involved co-production for all service design and decision making.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. 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.

- 5.2. Involving service users in service design and decision making can lead to more effective services, promoting early intervention and preventing the need for more costly acute services.
- 5.3. Any costs will be contained within current budgets.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. Where we are able to use Teams for meetings to reduce the impact we do.
- 6.2. The work is being developed digitally, to avoid the use of paper.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure that children and young people's voices are heard and inform decision making, this is part of the Ofsted inspection framework and can effect the judgement of an inspection.
- 7.2. In the most recent inspection report dated 30th August 2024, which was a 2 day focused visit on the local authority's arrangements for children in care, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children Ofsted judged –

"Children are supported to participate and engage in a range of opportunities to help improve services and support. The Corporate Parenting Board is well attended by elected members, key partners and senior leaders, and while the voices of children inform the board, more needs to be done to ensure that young people are actively involved and engaged in attending and influencing the corporate parenting agenda."

- 7.3. The previous Ofsted inspection took place on the 7th to 11th February 2022 and was an inspection of the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection and the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers. Ofsted judged –

"While children's voices routinely inform their own plans, the participation of children in influencing strategic planning is not as sufficiently developed as that which leaders aspire to. In response, a project is starting which will involve

children in its steering group and have children's representation at the corporate parenting board, with children actively informing future strategic plans. A care-experienced care ambassador is now employed, supporting children to attend the Care Leavers Forum and working with elected members to raise awareness in the local economy. This is leading to increased work experience opportunities for children in care and care leavers."

- 7.4. Other statutory duties have been placed on the Virtual School in relation to participation and Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services to Improve Young People's Well-being Impacting on Youth Provision.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. Resources for participation have been significantly reduced prior to 2017. The participation strategy will be implemented by pulling together existing resource from across Children's Services.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. In Shropshire, we want to ensure that children have access to space to share their views, be informed about developments in Shropshire, have their views heard and make an impact on decision making.
- 9.2. We are ambitious to engage all children and young people, especially those who have special educational needs, disabilities, those who are considered vulnerable and in need of extra support.
- 9.3. This strategy sets out how we plan to listen to young people, respond to them and act on their views, ensuring they know we value their knowledge and work with them to build a better future for all children and young people in Shropshire.
- 9.4 The Children and Young People's Participation and Impact Strategy ensures that the Council is compliant with statutory requirements.

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

- Ofsted Inspection Report 30th August 2024 - <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50255790>
- Ofsted Inspection Report 7th to 11th February 2022 - <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50180006>

Local Member:

Consultation with Local Member – Please consider the Local Member Protocol (see page E60 onwards of part 5 of the Constitution) and determine whether it is necessary to consult with the local member over the proposal set out in this report. This may not always be applicable (e.g. where the proposal affects all of Shropshire) but it should always be a consideration and in some cases a necessity so as to comply with the spirit of the Protocol.

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

APPENDIX A - Draft Participation and Impact Strategy Children's Services 2025-2027 (awaiting Shropshire Council branding).

Shropshire Council Children's Services

DRAFT Participation and Impact
Strategy (awaiting comms branding
and agreement)
2025-2027





Context

- At Shropshire we are ambitious for children and young people.
- We can achieve the best possible outcomes through co-production, meaningful participation, consultation and engagement at all levels, with mutual respect and regard for the voices and experiences of children, young people, parents and carers, valuing them as equal partners and working 'with them' rather than 'doing to them.'
- We now have a 'statutory duty' to involve children and young people in the development of services.
- We want to make sure that all children are consulted, including children with additional needs.

YOUR
VOICE
MATTERS



Purpose

This strategy is part of the Shropshire Plan, which is a strategic approach to improving the lives of Shropshire's residents. It is designed to -

- Inform staff across all levels of service, to create an understanding of what participation is, and how we can embed it across all of Children's Services in line with best practice.
- Set out our values, commitment and aspirations, for how we will work in direct partnership with children, young people, parents and carers, and how this will impact positively on outcomes for them.
- Co-produced with staff, parents, carers, children and young people within Shropshire, with a range of ages, abilities and backgrounds including children with additional needs

'Turning words into actions for a brighter future and a better Shropshire.'

The Shropshire Plan



The Shropshire Plan 2022 – 2025 is a strategic vision that sets out how we are working towards a healthy and sustainable Shropshire. Participation across all of our services is at the heart of the agenda and key to its success.



The four areas the Shropshire plan focuses on are:



Healthy People



Healthy Economy



Healthy Environment



Healthy Organisation



Participation is key to all of these areas. It involves communities, businesses, health partners and the public sector all working together to address challenges, propose solutions and make informed choices that drive positive change for the benefit of all.

A Vision for Shropshire – in the words of those we support

(Early Help service users and Children in Care)

"We want to be treated with respect love and trust. We want you to value our differences and encourage us with kindness regardless, build relationships and connections with us that create a sense of belonging so we can dream big and go on to do great things."

We want to be allowed to share our ideas and experiences from our lives, with adults, and for them to use those to learn about how they can improve services for us as well as other children and young people."

"It is important that all children and young people in Shropshire can share their views and opinions, be properly listened to and for adults to act on what they have been told and then feedback about the actions they have taken."

"Adults should help children and young people to understand what their rights are."

"The views, experiences and expertise of parents and carers should be listened to and used to make things better for others in similar situations."

"Participation must be meaningful, or else it is pointless. The right culture, commitment, support and resources must be in place to ensure it is available for everyone."

What is Participation?

At its heart, Participation is about involving the children, young people and families we support in the designing of services relevant to them. This promotes empowerment and autonomy and a sense of control, where support is adapted to their individual needs by 'creating it with them,' rather than 'doing it to them.'

Slay and Penny's Participation Ladder illustrates the different levels of involvement for children, young people and their families in decision-making processes and helps to remind and inform workers about the difference between only consulting people to fully involving them, ensuring their voices are heard and valued at every step, leading to autonomy and empowerment.



Why do we encourage Participation?

We have a duty to ensure that the voices of children, young people and their families are listened to properly and taken seriously. Active Participation allows the individual to feel empowered when making decisions about their future and allows us, as an organisation, to be able to maximise the level to which we meet the needs of those we support.

Children and Young People in Shropshire make up approximately one fifth of the entire population of the county. Therefore, it is important their voices are heard regarding the services that affect them.

This is what some of them and their families had to say about why we should do Participation in Shropshire.....

Why Should we Encourage Participation?

"You should participate for the experience of doing something new. You might find something you are good at that you didn't know".
(Virtual School pupil)

"Taking part and having an opinion, so my opinions can benefit me as well as other parents. When this happens, I feel euphoric." (EH Parent)

"Participation means being able to have a say for everyone. There are lots of parents with SEN children who are just left to get on with it. Until you speak up nothing changes. I know the struggles my family have had, and I want to make a difference. Families and individuals shouldn't feel like they are just another number." (Member of SEN Parents group)

"A safe space is especially important to participate. If I feel comfortable in a space this means I can talk more easily."
(Virtual School Pupil)

"Having my voice heard, not just heard or being used as a tick box exercise but valuing my views or suggestions enough to act on them. It is a waste of time and pointless if this doesn't happen, it becomes tokenism and a box ticking exercise and I feel let down." (EH Parent)

"If children and young people are struggling with their mental health they go straight to social media. Instead it would be good to have more contact with a person." (Virtual School pupil)

The Benefits of Active Participation

Active participation is not just a buzzword, but a fundamental shift towards creating person-centred support across Shropshire's Children's Services. It has a wide range of benefits for children, young people, their parents and carers as well as our organisation and the staff that deliver the service. Some of these benefits are:

To staff and organisation


- Improved job satisfaction through creating more meaningful relationships with children, young people and families, and witnessing the positive impact this has on their well-being.
- Planning, creating and shaping better quality services that meet the needs of children, young people and families.
- Improving the quality of life for children, young people and families, by services recognising, understanding and responding to their needs.
- Improving decision making.
- Making practice more inclusive.

To the child, young person, their parents and carers:

- Improving services to meet their needs.
- Feeling respected and listened to.
- Increase in independence, self-confidence, self-esteem and a greater sense of autonomy. These feelings are enforced through positive relationships that encourage increased self-belief and the ability to successfully overcome obstacles.
- Increase in ability to make informed decisions about care plans, leading to improved management of long-term conditions.
- Decreasing feelings of helplessness, poor mental health and dependence on others by promoting control over their lives.
- Creating a sense of purpose, through engaging with, and playing an active role in their community.
- Gaining new skills such as problem solving, decision making, negotiation, listening and communication.



Which models of participation influence and inform practice across Shropshire's Children's Services?



The Lundy model was designed by Laura Lundy in 2007. She created it to bring Article 12 to life and increase its understanding so it can be more widely used and better benefit children and young people as it was intended to.

It promotes freedom of expression and insists that the views of the child are listened to and taken seriously.

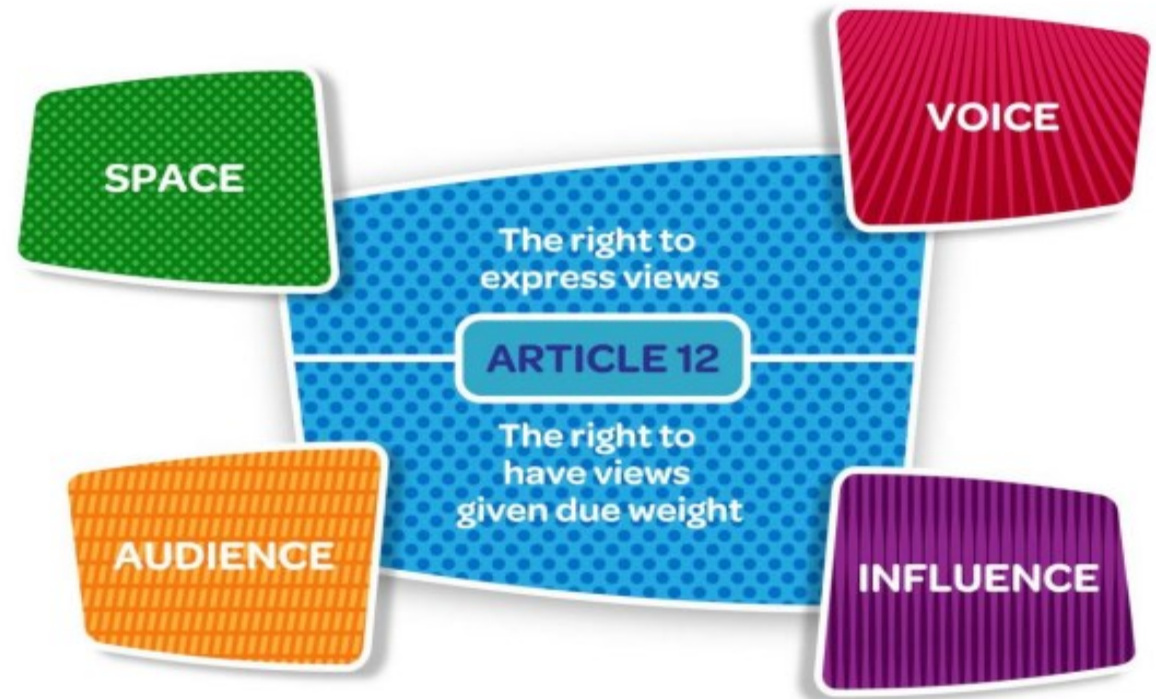
The model consists of four key elements:

Space: Ensuring children have the physical and social environments to express their views with consideration given to their particular needs. This demonstrates respect for their wishes and feelings, creates trust and provides an environment where they can speak as freely as they wish to.

Voice: Enabling children to articulate their opinions and perspectives and allowing their voices to be heard on issues that are important to them.

Audience: Providing an audience for children's views and making sure they are heard by the right people.

Influence: Ensuring that children's views have an impact on decision-making processes by taking them seriously and holding decision makers accountable for the inclusion of their feedback.



How will we incorporate the Lundy Model into our practice to ensure the children and young people of Shropshire can participate?



Space – We will create a safe space for you by listening to and acting on any concerns you have.



Voice – We will encourage you to communicate your opinions and perspectives and provide you with the necessary tools and support to do so regardless of your background, age or ability.



Audience – we will do our best to identify appropriate partners who can act on your input and implement positive change in line with your voices.



Influence – we will feedback how your input was considered and what changes took place as a result. We will always be transparent and tell you honestly when we are not able to implement changes.

Values of Good Practice

To ensure participation is happening throughout Shropshire's Children's Services there are four simple values we will always endeavour to follow when working with children, young people and families.

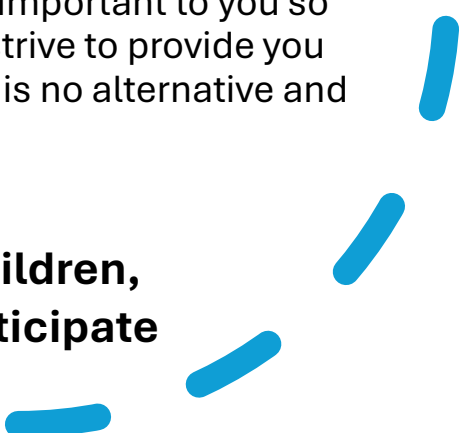
Respect – we will always show you respect by providing you with the time and space you need to express yourself as well as actively listening to you. We will respect your wishes, unless it means that you or another person may be harmed.

Honesty – we will always tell you the truth, even if it is bad news. We will always be honest and transparent about what support we can provide and will not tell you we can do/provide something if we cannot. We hope that always striving to be honest, open and transparent will help us to create a trusting relationship with you.

Inclusivity – we will always be inclusive, promoting your right to be involved in an activity or to have your say in decisions that affect your life, regardless of your age, ability and diversity. We will work with you to make any necessary adjustments to ensure this can happen and be honest if we cannot.

Support – we will always support you in a person-centred, holistic way, and strive to make you the author of your own plan. We will work with you, and those close to you, building on your strengths and helping to make changes important to you so you can develop the tools to shape your own future. We will strive to provide you with continuity of support, only changing workers when there is no alternative and communicating any changes at the earliest opportunity.

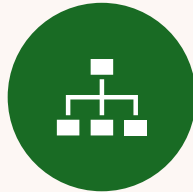
We will promote inclusivity, ensuring that our children, young people and parents/carers are able to participate



Participating in different ways



Individually – participating in decisions that relate to your own life where the outcome primarily affects you, yourself. Examples of this are being involved in decisions about day-to-day activities or having meaningful involvement in your support plan.



Operationally – participating in decisions, planning and activities aimed at improving the quality of our service and where the outcomes affect others as well as yourself. Examples of this are when you provide us with feedback about our service or sit on interview panels to help us recruit the right staff.



Strategically – participating in decisions that involve long term planning where outcomes influence policies and practice within Shropshire's Children's Services. Examples of this are meeting with and influencing Elected Members, contributing to commissioning activities or having a seat on Partnership Boards.

Building on Good Practice - Space

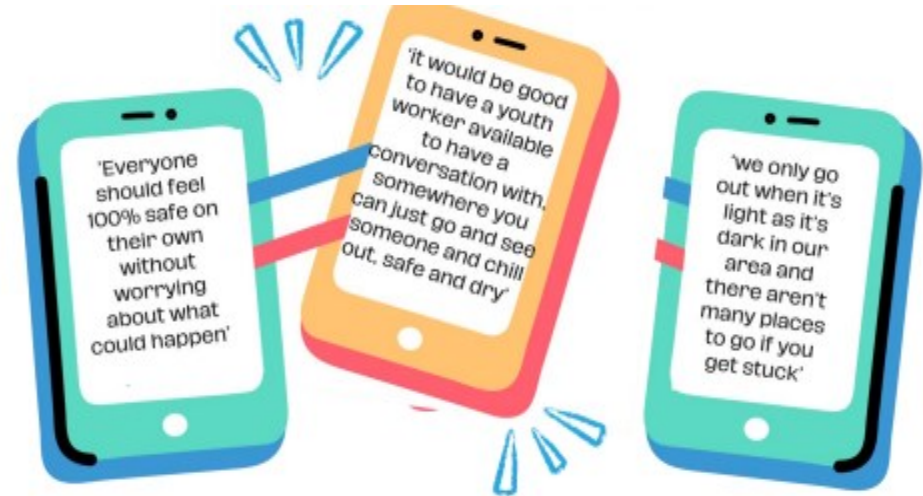
The Virtual School have created more spaces for children and young people to be heard. This includes the Virtual School Council of Looked After Children. They are already influencing practice locally, regionally and nationally by presenting at Education Conferences on their experiences.



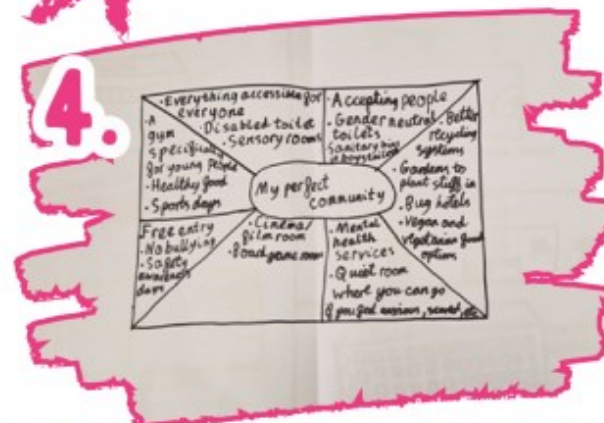
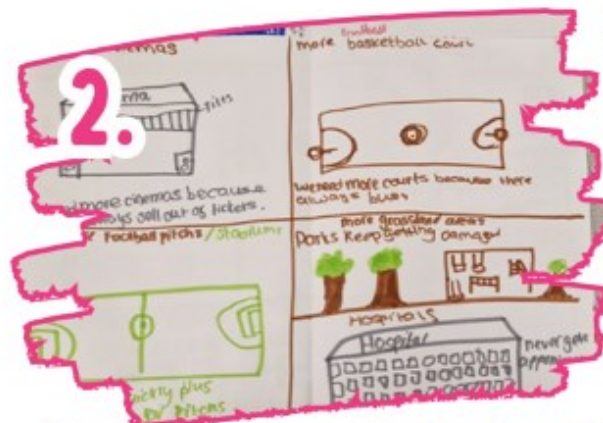
Building on Good Practice – Voice

Our Detached Youth Team carried out the Youth Survey to hear the voices of our young people to help inform the Youth Strategy. The Strategy heard from over 2000 young people in schools across Shropshire . This included children with Special Educational Needs. They had a strong voice regarding where they live.

The voice of young people is clearly recorded on children's case files and within the review of their individual plans.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE:



Safety in community: 'We want to feel safe in our communities'

This included aspects of traffic safety, having access to safe spaces that are well lit and consider prohibiting the use of alcohol in the areas they like to be in, feeling safer on public transport, having more police presence with better understanding of young people and being able to have responses to how their concerns have been dealt with.

Health and well-being support: 'We need people we can trust to talk to us about our emotional well-being'

This includes having the right trusted people at the right time to talk through how they are feeling, better training for other professionals to enable conversations, development of spaces to enable young people to get out into the community, having free or discounted accessible opportunities to engage with exercise or just being outside.

Empowering Young People: 'We want to be involved, included and empowered to make decisions and plans for our future'

To shape their own ideas and initiatives, be part of decision making and planning about what matters the most to them, create opportunities for young people to be involved because their opinions are important and they don't often feel heard, to empower them to take ownership of their youth offer because it's an offer for them and enable young people's voices to work with adults views to ensure priorities are achievable and realistic.

Being part of shaping their communities: 'We want to be part of shaping our communities to make them better for everyone living in it'

This includes working on local plans, projects and initiatives that develops social value within their communities that are reflective of what young people need to live their best lives. Develop restorative relationships with the whole community and work collaboratively with local partners to understand how young people play a vital part in enhancing their own communities.

Building on Good Practice – Audience

We have ensured that the voice of children and young people who are looked after are heard by the right people by utilizing the Mind of My Own Tool and by young people's involvement in the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Our corporate parenting panel has been co-chaired with a Care Leaver, who has also presented at Full Council.



Building on Good Practice – Influence

We have worked in partnership with young people to influence decisions in the area they live.

This includes joint working between the Young People, the Town Council and the detached youth team to influence the erecting of a shelter and lighting in the Market Drayton Skate Park.

We have also developed ‘language that cares’ with our young people in residential, which is part of the induction for residential workers.





Priority Area 1 – Creating More Spaces

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- We will build on our existing range of activities to create more spaces for children and young people to participate including those with special educational needs.
- We will create a clear pathway for young people to choose which space is right for them to share their views.
- This will include a full review of existing spaces, including the Children in Care Council to align it with the Virtual School Council.
- We will create a democratic Youth Parliament for all young people in Shropshire.



Priority Area 2 – Voice

- We will ensure that young people receive information by creating communications that they can understand including those with special educational needs
- We will ensure that all children have access to the pathway to participation.
- We will ensure that children and young people's voice is communicated widely through the Participation and Impact Project Board.
- The voices of young people will continue to influence our youth strategy and youth services.

YOUR
VOICE
MATTERS

Priority Area 3 – Audience

- We will ensure through the Participation and Impact Project Board, that the voices of children and young people are heard by the right people.
- We will promote the use of Mind of My Own, developing our tools with those with special educational needs.
- By involving young service users on the Project Board, we will work with them to develop processes.
- We will work with young people to recruit our workforce, prioritising the skills that they think will help.



Priority Area 4 – Influence

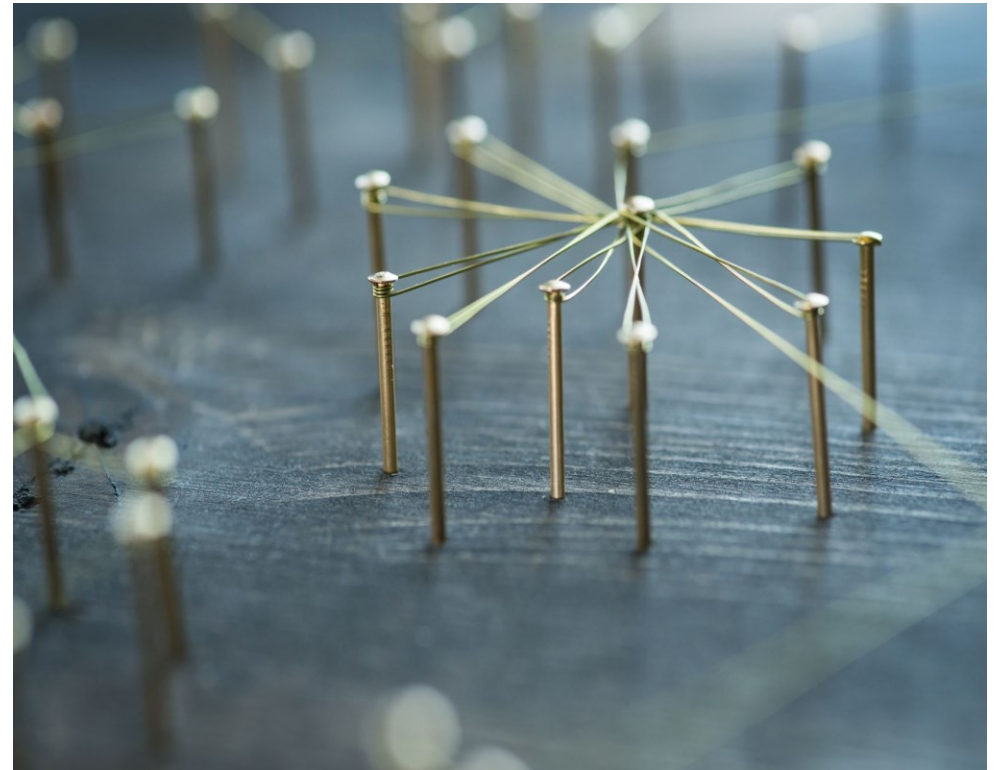
- Through the participation pathway, we will ensure that children and young people are able to influence at the right level.
- We will adopt our ‘language that cares’ developed by residential across the organisation.
- Our Youth Parliament will link directly to our Executive Management Team and Council driving decisions.
- Our Children in Care/Education Council will continue to influence the Corporate Parenting Panel



Aspirations - Partnership Approach

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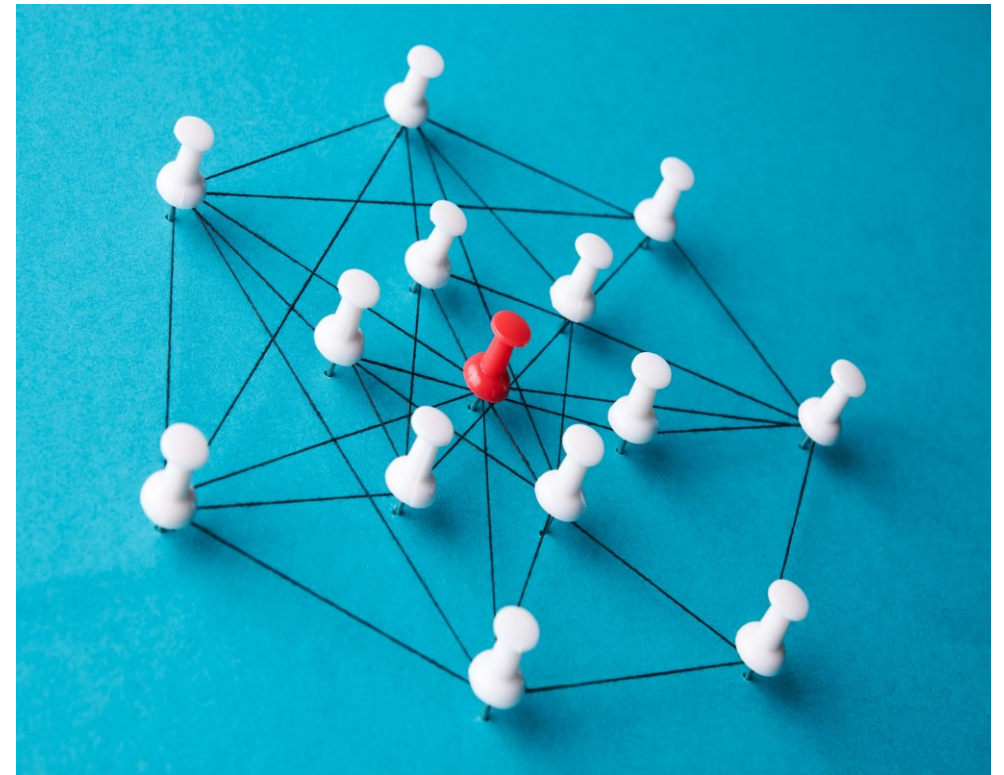
At Shropshire, partnership working is our strength. We want to work with partners to expand the scope of the Participation Strategy during 2025/26 to include a wider range of partners, to enable a consistent system wide approach to adopting the principles outlined in the strategy. This will include the voluntary sector and will ensure that the voices of children and families who have difficulty communicating, are heard. This will enable greater impact for children and young people in Shropshire, whatever support or services they are accessing.



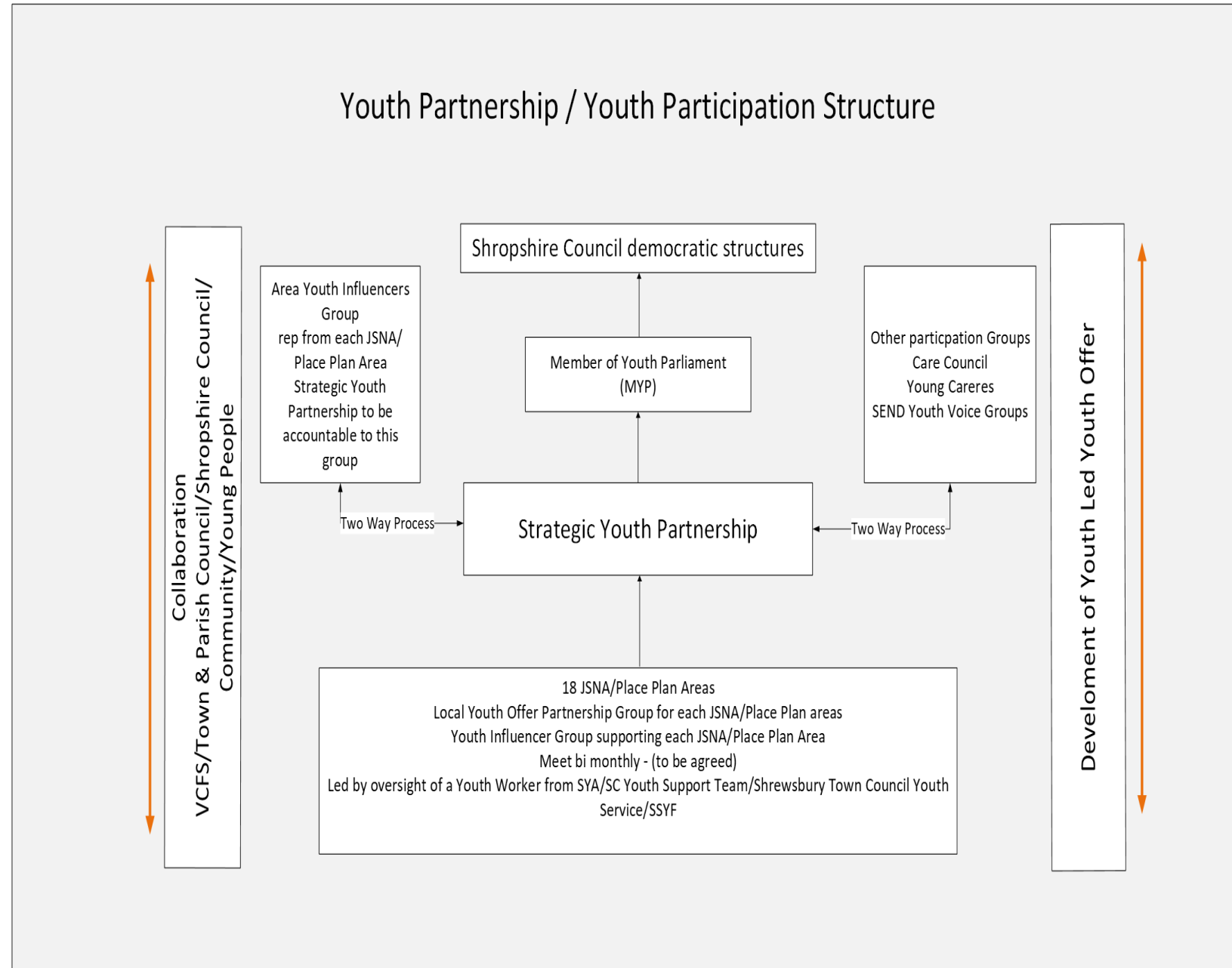
Aspirations – A Youth Parliament

We have aspirations to create a democratic Youth Parliament in Shropshire. This would enable young people from across Shropshire to come together to-

- Represent the views of children across Shropshire.
- Advocate on behalf of their peers and contribute to positive change for all young people.
- Run campaigns about important issues, holding regular events and consultations.
- Build their negotiating and leadership skills



Governance:
We will align
with our Youth
Strategy
working



Measuring Success

How will we know we are making things better?

Children, Young People and Families will:

See:

improvements made due to their ideas.

more children and young people taking part in activities and enjoying what is on offer in the community, including those with special educational needs.

Say:

how their thoughts and ideas have helped to make positive changes.

they have lots of different things to do that they enjoy.

they feel confident in their ability to make good decisions and know where to go and who to ask if they need help.

Feel:

they are listened to and that their thoughts and opinions matter.
safe, welcome and included.

they get the right help and support, when and where they need it.

they have lots of opportunities available locally to help them socialise, learn, achieve and be healthy.

All children will feel that their voice is heard – including those with Special Educational Needs

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People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26th February 2025

Item

Public



Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 3

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

- 1.1 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

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

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 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.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1 Risk Table

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
Demand across social care	Demand in Adult Social Care and complexity. Focus remains on prevention, early intervention and quality of care.
Capacity meeting demand to support people at home	Increase use of Reablement and technology to support people to remain at home.
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). Annual Review Recovery Team (ARRT) commenced work mid-December 2024 the progress of the team are being reported weekly.</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</p>

	<p>encourage movement away from placement in high cost independent special school provision.</p> <p>Refocussing of the Early Years Early Intervention Grant (EIG) and Graduated Support Pathway (GSP) to promote a strong inclusive mainstream approach to identifying and meeting the SEND of CYP. Changes to the process for requesting and agreeing funding was shared with Schools Forum in January 2025.</p>
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5. Financial Implications

5.1 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.

5.2 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 4-5 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. The principles of the approach were shared with Schools Forum in January 2025 for discussion, including recognising that we are successfully slowing the number of children and young people placed in high cost independent special school provision as confidence in the state-funded special school provision in Shropshire continues to increase. The most recent example of this is Severndale Special School being judged as 'good' by Ofsted in all areas in November 2024. This plan is a key strategy to bring the DSG back into a balanced position over the next 4-5 years commencing in April 25/26. In 2024/25, High Needs Block pressure is driving a forecast in-year overspend of £9.033m. Overall, the in-year DSG deficit across all 4 blocks of the DSG is forecast to be £9.174m which will result in a cumulative DSG deficit of £11.479m as at the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The People's directorate is working to support people within their communities to reduce the need to travel and therefore reduce carbon emissions.
- 6.2 Climate consideration is embedded in all commissioning reviews.

7. Background

Adult Social Care

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) & Safeguarding team

- 7.1 The Dols and Safeguarding teams have merged under one management structure. The functions of the team have their distinctions but now offer streamlining opportunities and mixed skillsets within this area.
- 7.2 We have maintained a zero wait list in safeguarding. Due to local and national trends identifying domestic abuse as the highest abuse concern, the service is undergoing a qualitative and quantitative review of concerns raised with this abuse type. As part of this work the safeguarding team are monitoring all referrals received that have a domestic abuse type, senior staff review the approach and appropriateness of actions taken and correlate this with the persons desired outcomes in line with Making safeguarding personal. Findings will be shared across Adult Social Care and wider partnerships.
- 7.3 In DoLS we have addressed the backlog of 2022 DoLS applications. Work is underway to for the completion of 2023 and 2024 applications. The team has a robust process in place to ensure that red rag rated cases are considered by regular contact, this includes work with wider social work teams who will be reviewing support to individuals and escalate any DoLS specific issues with the team. A priority system is in place where an urgent assessment is required. The team continues to receive a high number of applications each month which impacts on the waiting list in this area.

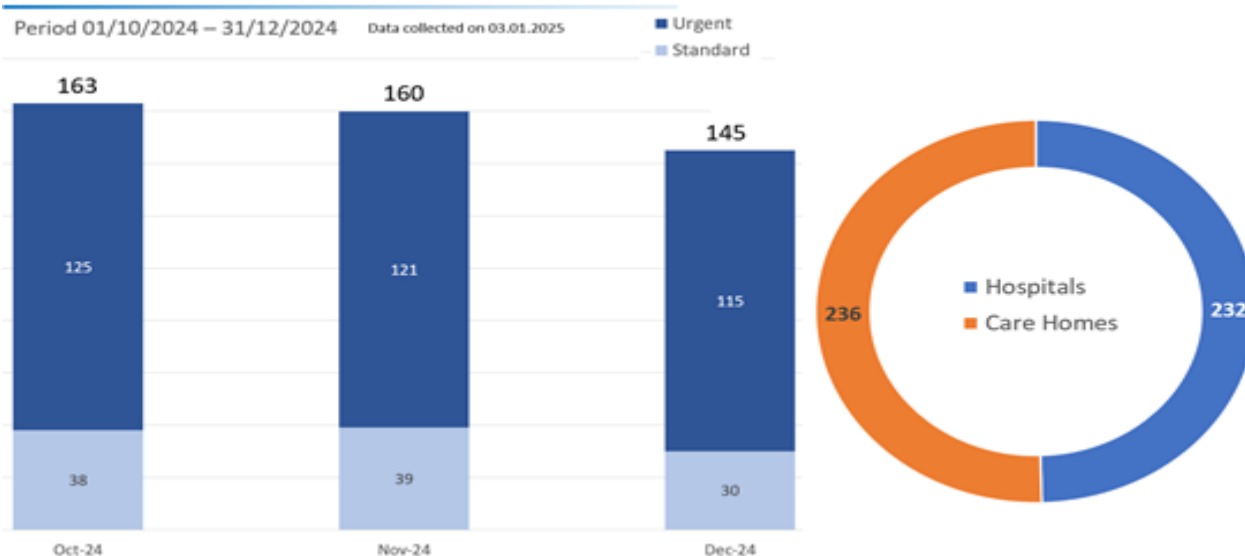
No. DoLS referrals (Form1) by ADASS RAG system

Period 2023 - Current (03.01.2025 09:00) Data collected on 03.01.2025

	Red	Amber	Green	Total number
2023	131	34	90	255
2024	392	76	193	661
2025	9	0	1	10
Total	532	110	284	926

Urgent / Standard Applications Received

Period 01/10/2024 – 31/12/2024 Data collected on 03.01.2025



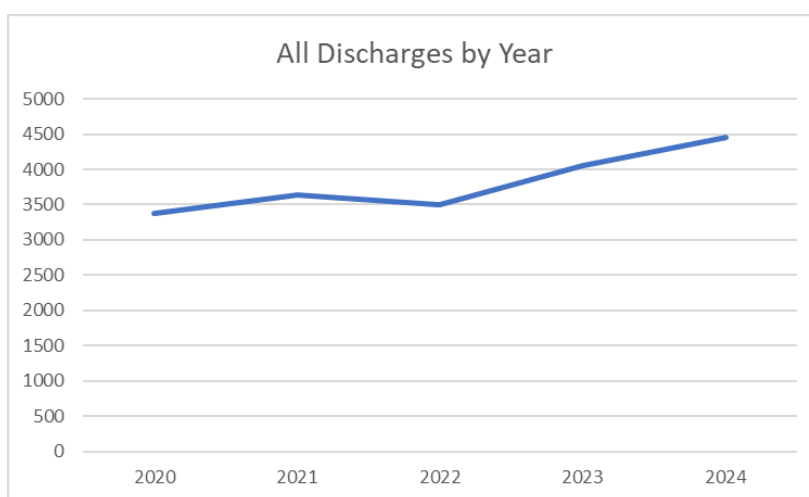
Occupational Therapy Service (OT)

- 7.4 We are pleased to report a 20% decrease from August 2024 in the waiting list for the OT service. Contacts have been reduced due to a change in the initial assessment stages.
- 7.5 The OT service have reduced the waiting list by considering alternative ways of working including adopting a whole service approach, centralised triage process coordinated by a senior OT. The team has also been able to recruit to vacancies (2 OT and 1 senior OT) in the last quarter.

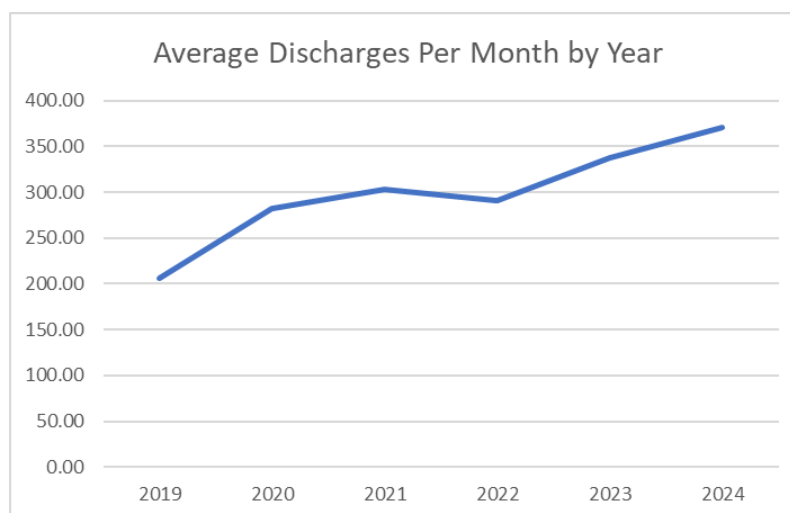
- 7.6 At the point of transfer (August 24) the OT service had 1048 people waiting for assessment compared to 800 people waiting on 22nd January 2025. The reduction in the waiting list represents good performance considering the service received 334 new requests for support in the last quarter.

Hospital Discharge

- 7.7 Shropshire Council Continues to deliver improved discharge performance year on year, we have increased the number of people we have supported through complex discharge in 2023 by 16% when compared to 2022, using the same comparison, we increased by 28% in 2024:

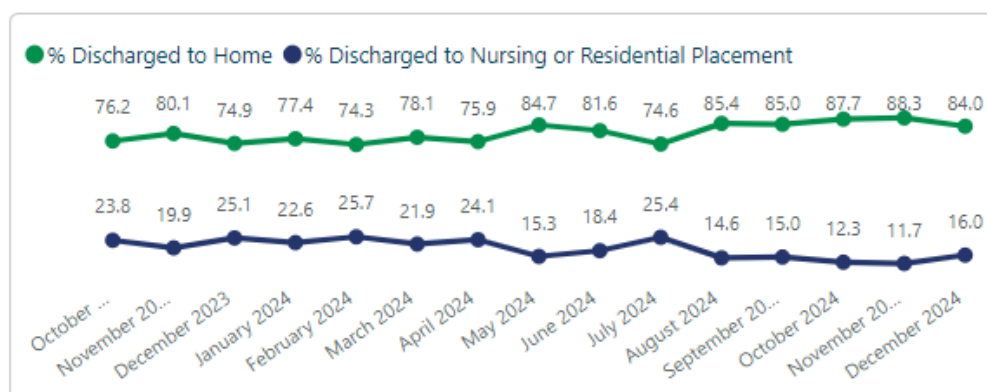


- 7.8 This sustained position of growth has been delivered by significantly increasing the average discharges per month:



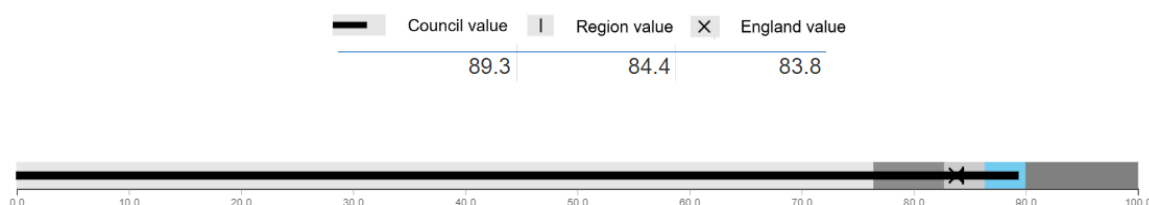
- 7.9 This winter has been challenging, largely due to the high numbers of Flu and Norovirus which has created national pressures for numerous systems.

7.10 The work we have completed with the new Care Transfer Hub to improve the outcomes for people being discharged from SaTH has started to show sustainable trends now, more people are being supported to return home:

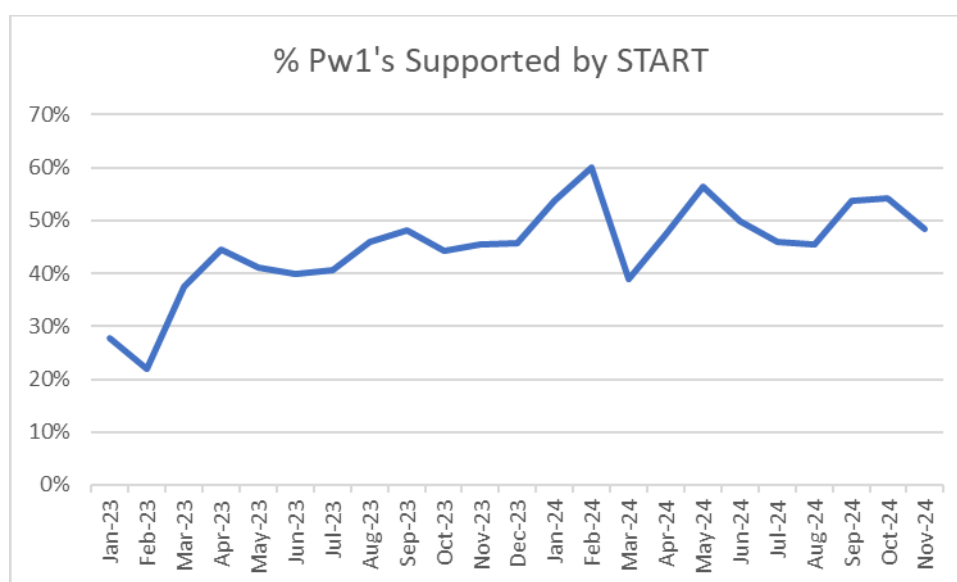


7.11 In terms of numbers, in the final quarter of 2024, we used 118 less Pathway 3 beds when compared to 2023.

7.12 Shropshire Council is significantly over the national and regional performance in respect of people being supported home and remaining home 91 days after hospital discharge:



7.13 A significant reason for this level of performance is the increased numbers of people being supported through START reablement service. Not only is START supporting more people, but also supporting more of the demand for Pathway 1 from all hospitals:

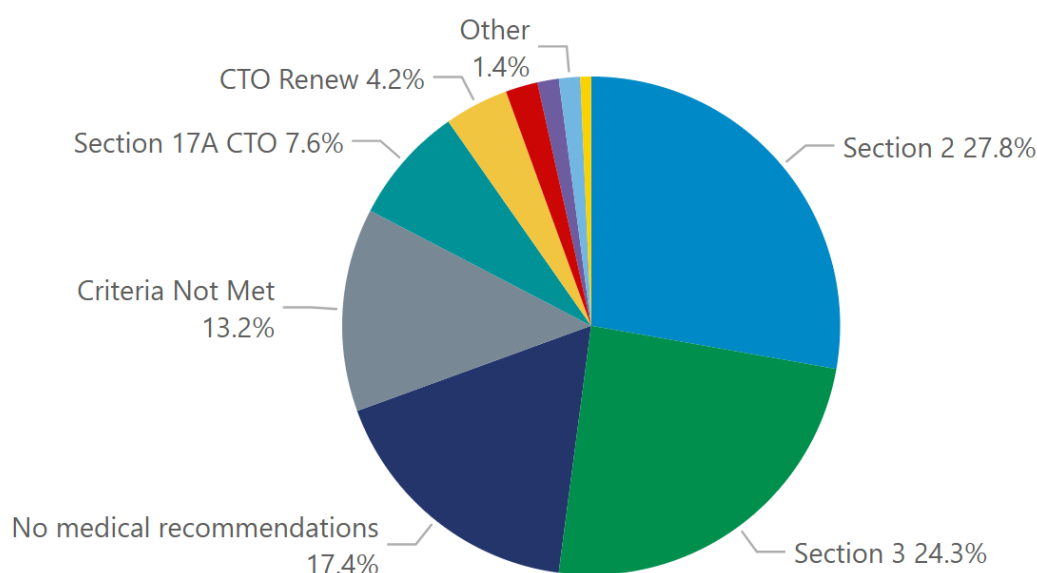


7.14 Work is ongoing to create a clear suite of reporting outcomes to demonstrate what START achieves at a more granular level. This includes a redesign of Liquid Logic to create new workflow which will have clear data collection points.

Mental Health

7.15 We have maintained a zero wait list in our Mental Health team. During this reporting period we have introduced a 'Let's Talk Mental Health' hub which provides opportunity for an earlier conversation providing advice, information and signposting but also to ensure those requiring assessment do so at the earliest point.

7.16 Performance within the AMHP team for section 13 work continues to be strong with a clear emphasis on least restrictive outcomes. Of 894 referrals received, 658 were resolved through working proactively with people and partners. 236 referrals progressed to a Mental Health Act assessment (MHA). The outcomes from the Mental Health Act assessment are shown for the reporting period November 2024-Jan 2025:

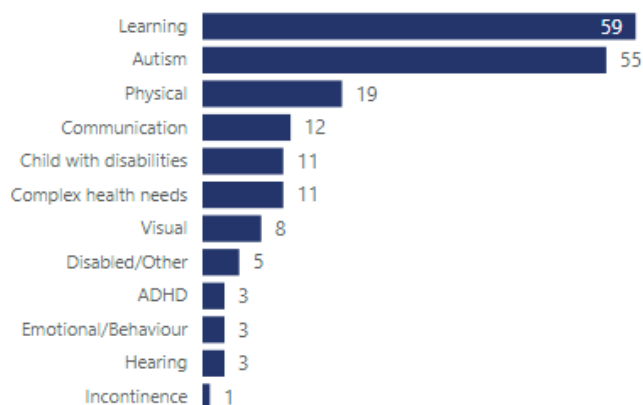


Preparation for Adulthood and Learning Disability

7.17 We last reported to the Overview committee members previously a zero wait list for all young people over the age of 17.5. We have now reduced this further by six months in the reporting period. All young people referred to us from the age of 17 years old have been allocated a named worker; an improvement by six months on the age of involvement.

7.18 We continue to see the trend of presenting needs of young people transitioning from the Children with Disability Team being learning disability and autism.

Children with Disabilities



Children Transition to Adult

- 7.19 We have further improved the referral process from children's services, we have regular meetings to review all the known children and discuss the optimum time for referral to the adult team.
- 7.20 We have established Learning Disability Lets Talk hubs in the last reporting period and are developing 'Early Help' hubs for young people and carers. This new model has ensured that we do not have a wait for new people contacting the service and is colocated with the family hub.
- 7.21 Work is in progress to build the offer within the hubs, this will include the voluntary and community sector and a strong focus on Technology linked to life skills and the four PfA outcomes of:
- employment/education,
 - good health,
 - independent living and
 - friends, family, and community
- 7.22 We are seeing improvement in assessment outcomes across PfA and Learning Disability services, which have led to 180 individuals receiving a direct payment and 103 being supported to live independently in the community.

Community Social Work

Contacts:

- 7.23 Contacts into the service continue to show 74% progressing through to a referral to a Social Work team. 35% are booked into Let's Talk Local hub appointment which are offered face to face, virtually or by telephone, with 20% ending at the conversation stage. Our hub offer has increased across the county with 2800 people seen in a hub over the last 12 months. Signposting to external agencies has increased to over 21% which is a much-improved position compared to last year, we believe this is seeing

people with lower-level needs – who would have been rag rated Green directed away rather than bought into the teams and sitting on waiting lists. The work taking place across community and family hubs will help to get advice and support to residents earlier with a hope this will reduce demand coming through to Adult Social Care.

Community & Family hubs:

- 7.24 Locality teams are embedded in neighbourhood focussed intervention, joining up with public health, children's services and primary care services to provide an integrated approach to delivering services closer to people's home, in local communities, working across health, care and the voluntary and community sector. Local hubs provide face to face assistance and support people to help themselves through digital and other community offers. Hubs are all age providing a single access point 'a front door' to universal services for families. By embedding this approach we aim to monitor demand coming into adult social care and evaluate impact.
- 7.25 There are currently 5 hubs across Shropshire delivering services to the community, the next phase of the project is to develop hub spokes in the other areas of the county.

Community & Family Hub Benefits

Customer Non- financial benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community & Family Hubs enables easier access to help and support for residents in Shropshire • Adults, Young People and Children have an improved customer experience by accessing support at a lower tier of support, therefore not reaching crisis point. • Increased support in the community available for residents of Shropshire to access • Improved health outcomes for babies, children, young people and adults • Customer only telling their story once and accessing the correct support, at the correct time.
Organisational Non- financial benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the demand on children and adults social care, by providing earlier support to those that need it • Reduces pressure to the wider system –NHS services and other community services • Increased efficiency – improved connectivity of services, increased staffing efficiencies and reduction in duplication of work • Improves intelligence – a better understanding of family, understanding and community needs • Improve reputation • Increase staff satisfaction and grow talent • Enables and delivers strategy

Reviews

- 7.26 Performance across reviews at the end of Q3 were at 66% across ASC with the target for the year being 75%. Outcomes across reviews are showing increased evidence of promoting independence using technology and the voluntary sector which is evidenced in higher referrals to the TEC project and signposting to voluntary services. So far from reviews 182 individuals have been set up with TEC which has enabled us to reduce care hours thus releasing capacity back into the care market.

Supported Accommodation Strategic Planning

- 7.27 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.

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

7.29 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). The first draft of this Needs Assessment is under review. The 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

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

7.31 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.

7.32 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.

7.33 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.

7.34 We can demonstrate excellent outcomes for individuals in supported living provision including 14 new supported living bungalows.

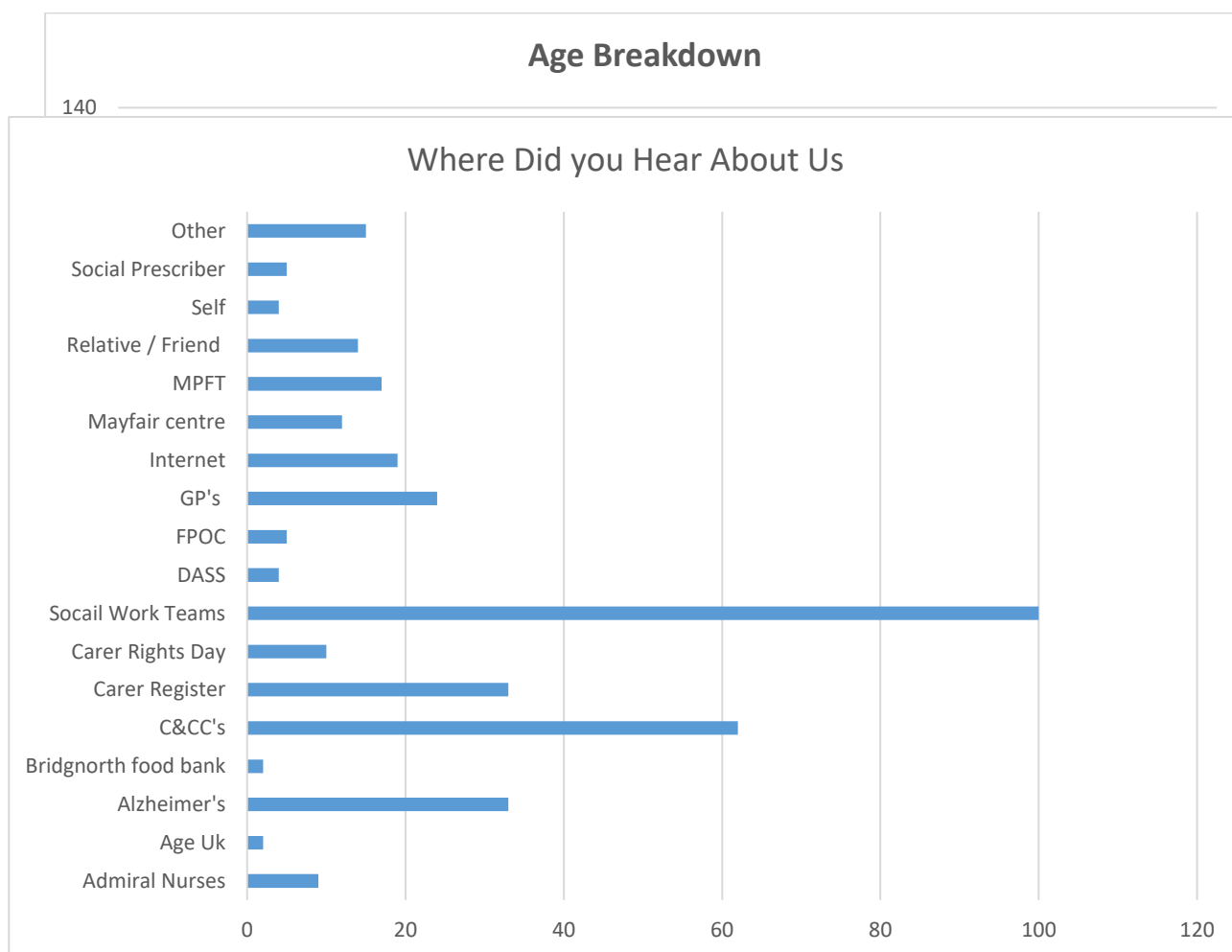
Carers Team

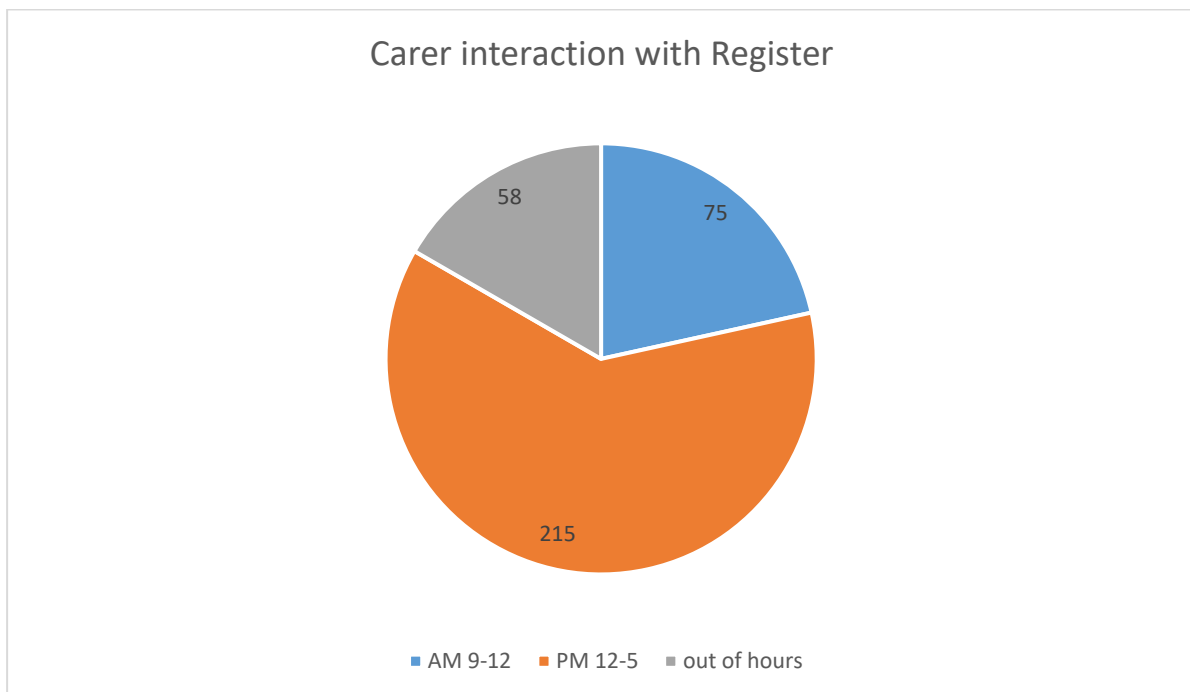
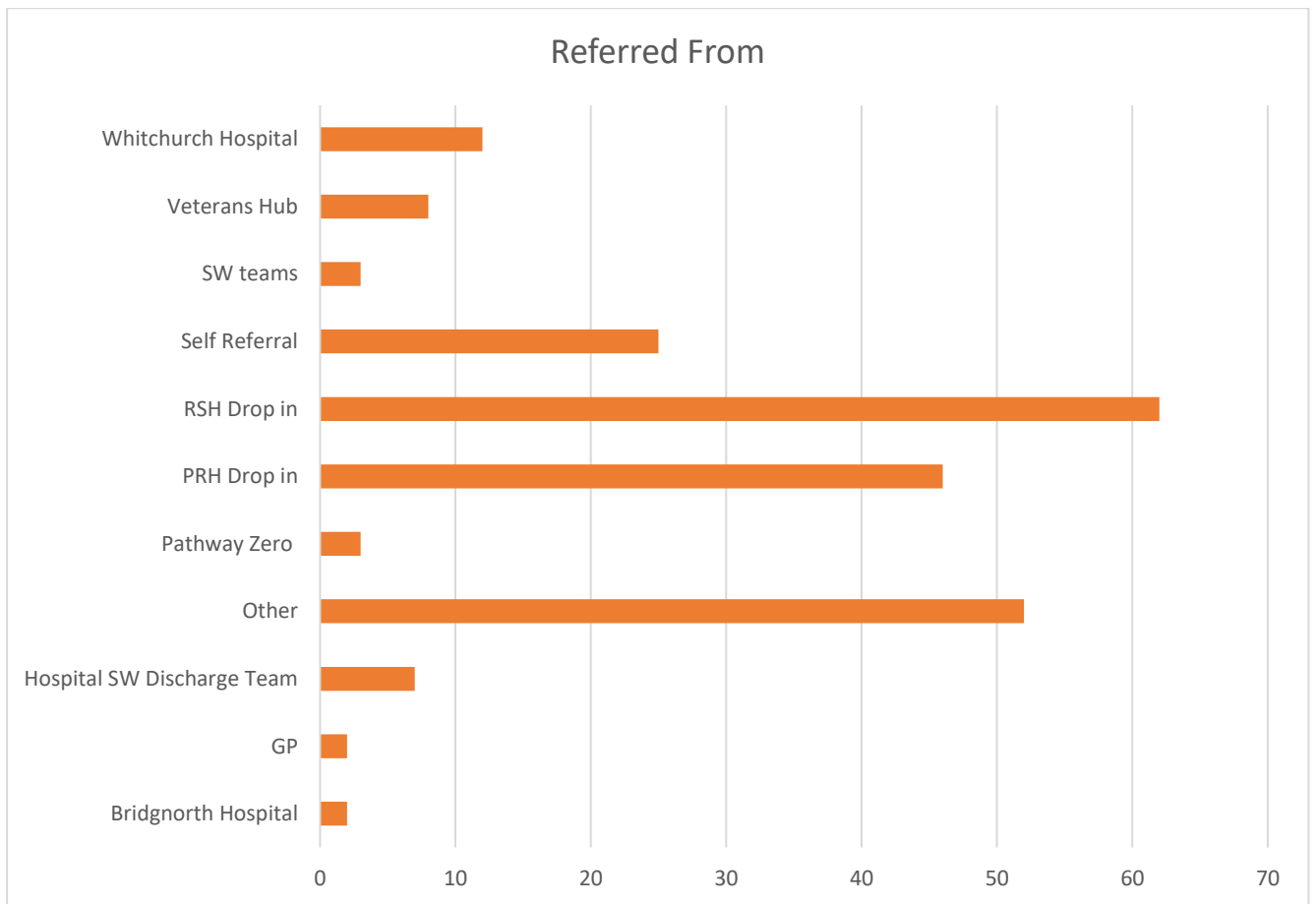
7.35 The Carers Team have undertaken various activities and support services to improve the lives of carers in Shropshire, offering a range of services tailored to carers' needs, including emergency plans, form filling, assessments, networking, advice, and engagement through peer groups, events, and face-to-face visits.

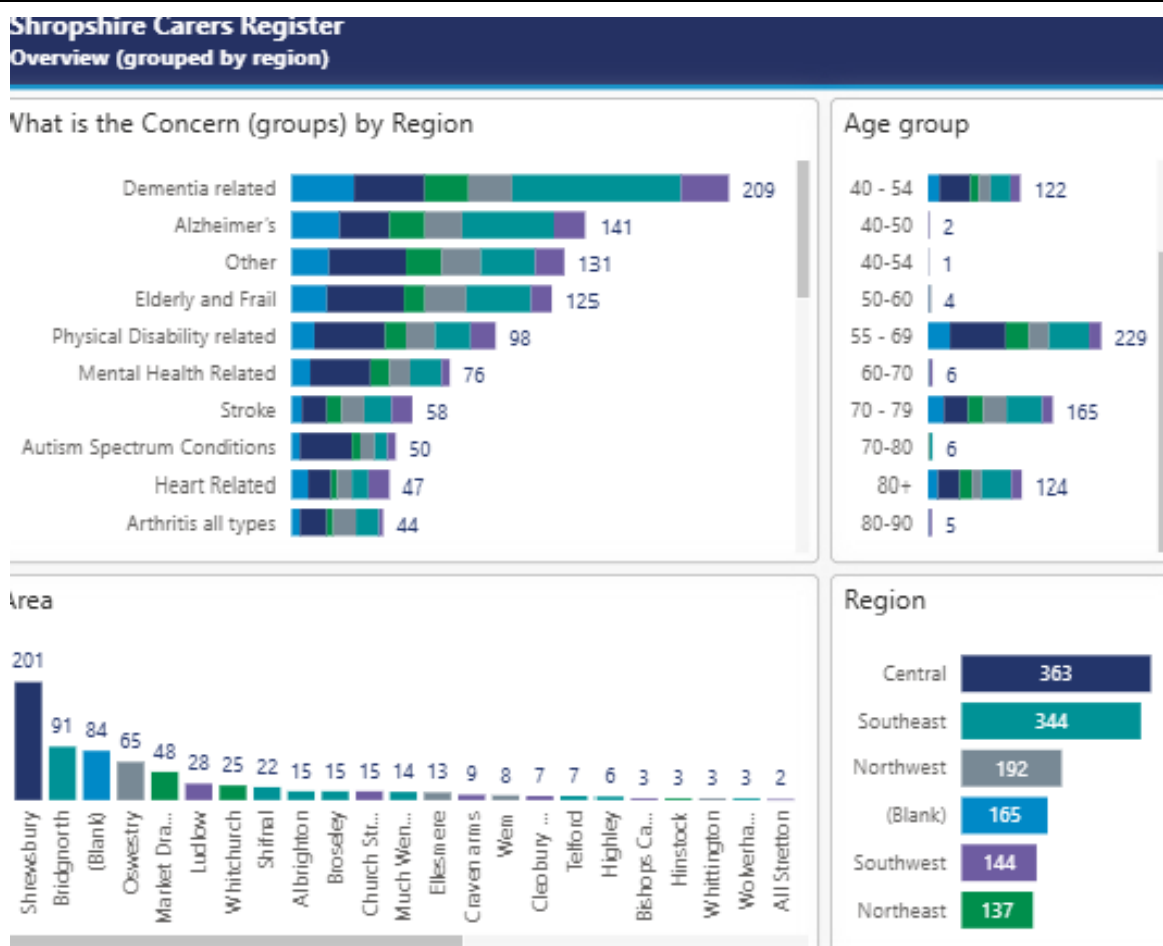
7.36 There has been a significant increase in carer registrations, largely due to referrals from social work teams and targeted efforts by Care and Community Coordinators. Most carers register between 12pm and 5pm, with an increase in out-of-hours registrations observed.

7.37 While the Team continue to work with performance colleagues to design how we measure ongoing performance, to Summarise what our current data tells us:

- most referrals for Adult Carers come from the Social Work Team
- Carers Choose to engage with the support mostly between 12pm and 5pm
- The majority of Carers needing support are over 70 years old.

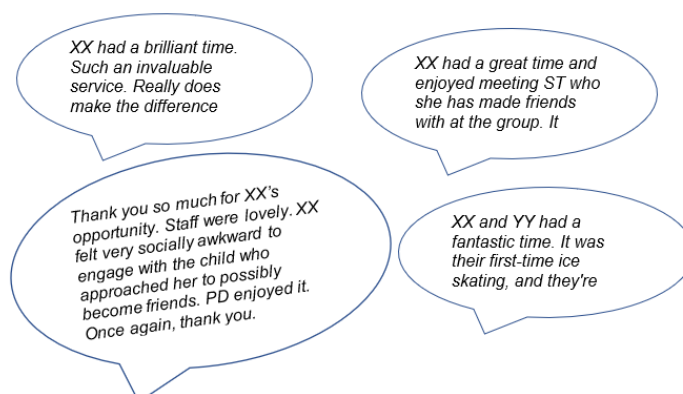






7.38 The Young Carers Team focuses on respite and support through groups and activities, ensuring that young carers have time away from their responsibilities and opportunities to socialise and have fun. The Young Carers Team engages with schools and community groups to identify and support young carers, conducting school drop-ins and collaborating with various organisations. Future plans include regular monthly groups, additional activities during school holidays, a young carers ID card, and increased awareness through events like Young Carers Action Day.

7.39 There are 199 Young Carers known to the service currently. As the Young Carers Team is still new to the council, the team are still working on ways to improve how we measure our quantitative performance measures. However, qualitative feedback suggests that Young People are happy with the support offered.



Learning and Skills

Securing Access to Education Provision

- 7.40 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.
- 7.41 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 95.92% 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 (91.94% vs 85% and 84%), 1-year olds (96.59% vs 89% and 88%), and 2-year-olds (96.49% 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 of working parents 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.
- 7.42 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%.
- 7.43 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. These improvements are recognised across all groups of pupils, including those with the greatest vulnerabilities.
- 7.44 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.
- 7.45 We have also seen an improvement in the percentage of 16 and 17year-old (Year 12 and 13) young people not in education or training (NEET) and those whose destinations are 'not known'. During the last 18 months we have seen both NEET and not known indicators reduce to their lowest levels for many years. Both NEET and not known indicators compare very favourably with national averages. Shropshire is currently first amongst statistical neighbours.

	Y12-Y13 NEET %	Y12 – Y13 % NK %
England	3.1%	5.5%
Shropshire	2.5%	0.9%
Wiltshire	2.5%	1.9%
Cumberland	2.9%	0.7%
Worcestershire	3.2%	5.0%
Gloucestershire	3.6%	1.4%
Somerset	3.6%	1.4%
Dorset	3.8%	1.2%
Herefordshire	4.0%	10.1%
Suffolk	4.1%	10.1%
Devon	4.4%	2.3%
Cornwall	4.4%	2.3%

Shropshire Virtual School

- 7.46 Shropshire Virtual School is supporting 696 Children Looked After from year -2 to 13 (the year in which they turn 18).
- 7.47 The academic year 2023-24 ended with 0 Permanent Exclusions for the 3rd consecutive year and this record continues into the fourth academic year to date.
- 7.48 The completion and quality of PEPs continues with strength – 99% were completed and 96% were identified to be of Good Quality for the autumn term (from Early Years through to the end of Key Stage 5).
- 7.49 Excellent attendance outcomes are being achieved for Shropshire CLA (Looked After Children). End of autumn term data indicates primary CLA attendance to be 95.22% which is **above** Shropshire and National all learners. Combined CLA is 92.6% so just under 93.4% for Shropshire all learners and 93.5% for National all learners. Specialist attendance has increased by 0.4% from end of November to end of December. There were only 3 children with no recorded school compared to 11 at the same data point last year.
- 7.50 In September 2024 the Shropshire CLA not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) figure was 20.3%, it peaked in November at 25% and was reduced to 22% in December i.e. 78% of young people in Key Stage 5 are in Education, employment or Training (EET). Currently this NEET cohort is comprised of 44% Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young people (UASYP) and 56% citizen learners. A new post of Project Officer for supporting UASYP is currently in a recruitment process to drive the reduction in NEET for this group of children and young people.

Access to Education

- 7.51 Through a continued focus with school leaders and multi-agency partners there has been a significant reduction achieved in the number of permanent exclusions this academic year to date. Total Exclusions are at 19 compared to 36 this time last year. Total suspensions are also reducing by 7.4% compared to the same period for last

year and the number of days is reduced by 18%. Indications are that exclusions and suspensions are reducing for children and young people with identified SEND support this academic year, but not yet for those with an EHCP. However, the service recently supported a school and family to have an exclusion cancelled for a primary child with an EHCP and disability. 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 and we have seen greater uptake of Pupil Planning Meetings (58 to date) which schools can use to ensure that they have done all that is reasonably possible to support their children and young people.

7.52 We continue to progress developments to support the SEND & AP Change Programme - new posts to support Inclusion are in the pipeline for recruitment. These will include an Inclusion & Alternative Provision Task Force Lead, Inclusion Mentors and a Family Support Worker.

7.53 The new Inclusion Pathway for schools starts on 1st February 2025, consultation took place with schools/settings to develop this and communication has gone out to schools to support them with this change and improvement to the offer from the local authority.

7.54 The most recent DFE data for Elective Home Education (EHE) indicates that Shropshire's EHE rate is 1.6 which is above national (1.4) and the regional figure (1.2), but below that for statistical neighbours (1.9). There are currently 664 children on the local authority list of home educated children.

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
1.6	1.4	1.9	1.2

7.55 The Shropshire EHE Policy is being revised currently in consultation with the multi-agency Children's Safeguarding Partnership and builds in preparation for the forthcoming Children's Bill. Children on Child in Need (CIN) and Child Protection Plans (CPP) are targeted for a priority visit from the Inclusion Support Officers to support safeguarding.

7.56 The most recent DFE data indicates that Shropshire's Children Missing Education (CME) rate is 0.2 which is lower than national, statistical and regional figures. At the October 2024 DfE census date there were 75 children on the CME register. The Inclusion Team aim to support all our children and young people into an appropriate education setting and current work is taking place to review the end-to-end CME process.

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3

- 7.57 The new 'Working Together' meetings have started in collaboration with Social Care partners, and this works to strengthen the scrutiny and action for children on CIN and CP Plans who do not have a school place or are electively home educated.
- 7.58 Both primary and secondary school attendance percentages are in line with national and regional. Current attendance stands at 93.4% overall compared to 92.9% this time last year. Data indicates attendance at end of December was 91.5% for those with identified SEN support and 86.2% for those children and young people with an EHCP.
- 7.59 EWOs have maintained 567 school contacts inclusive of special school arrangements, in context this is 191 Primary reviews and visited in person 376 secondary schools. The 10/15-day reporting requirements for school absences are in place in line Working together 2024. A new role of a Local Authority Attendance Officer is being developed to increase the support on offer to children and young people.

Admissions

- 7.60 The Admissions Team has begun the transfer group admissions rounds. The reception, junior, and secondary transfer rounds have opened and closed, with applications being processed in preparation for National Offers Days on March 1st and April 16th.
- 7.61 Additionally, the Admissions Team has continued to develop the new coordinated In-Year Admissions process for the local authority (LA) and has secured buy-in from all schools in Shropshire. This new process began on September 1st and has been very successful so far, processing 2,001 applications in the autumn term, compared to the 667 applications the LA received during the same period last year.
- 7.62 Despite the unexpectedly high number of applications, the Admissions Team has worked diligently to ensure that all applications were processed within the statutory timeframe which put immense pressure on the team. This improved process enhances the safeguarding of children, as the LA now has more comprehensive information, and the admissions team can effectively monitor the movement of children around the county as well as into and out of the county. The Admissions Team has used this information to assist School Place Planning colleagues, ensuring that children have access to the appropriate school places at the right time.
- 7.63 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.
- 7.64 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.

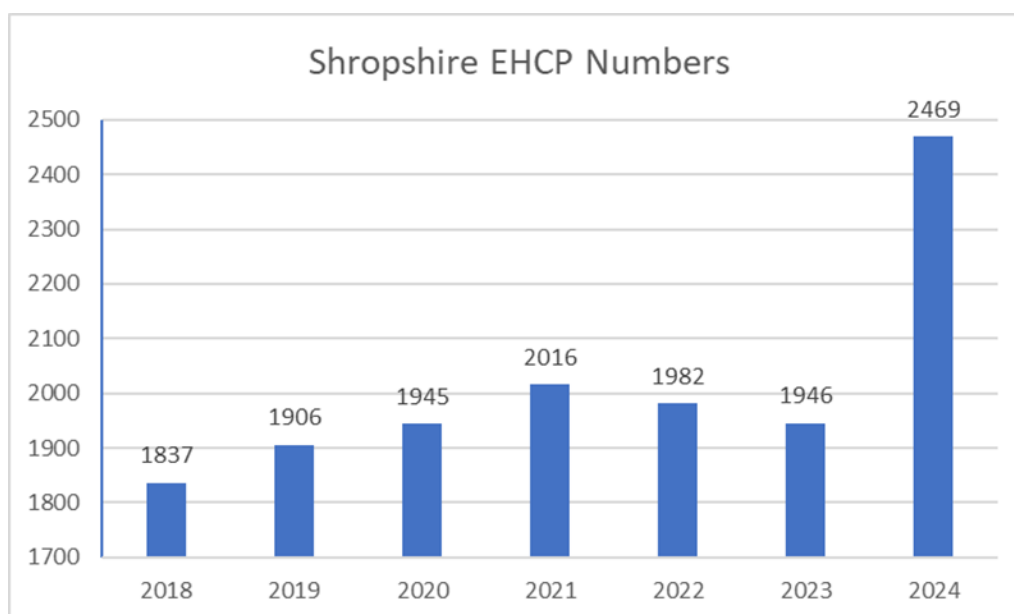
SEND Support, Inclusive Mainstream/SOAP and Education, Health and Care Plans

- 7.65 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.
- 7.66 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.
- 7.67 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) Inclusive Practice 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.
- 7.68 The SOAP framework is available on the Local Offer here [SEN support | Shropshire Council](#)
- 7.69 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](#)
- 7.70 Work has taken place by EQAs to strengthen the quality assurance of unregistered alternative provision (AP). This has supported the effective quality assurance of providers commissioned by the Local Authority. Frameworks will be shared with schools to support their own quality assurance of AP.
- 7.71 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](#)

7.72 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](#)

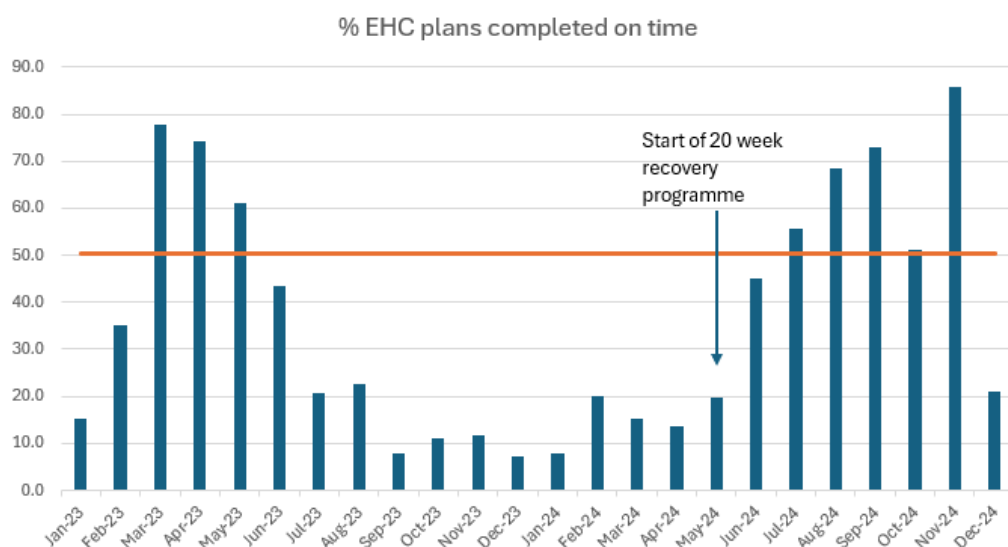
Overall numbers of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)

7.73 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.



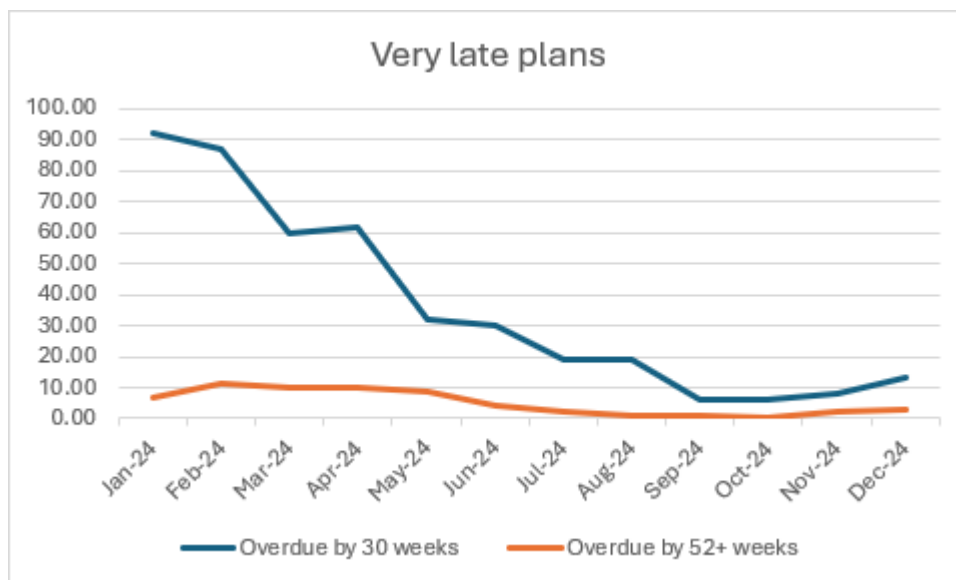
Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>

7.74 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 19.7%, this is currently around 56.2% for Q3 2024-25. A combination of factors, including annual leave requirements as part of the 'right sizing' work within Learning and Skills, influenced the timeliness figure for December 2024. However, the average for December was still 24.1 weeks to issue an EHCP, with the average length of time to issue an EHC plan 27.1 weeks during the 2024 calendar year.



	Total	On time	% on time
Jan 2024	63	5	7.9%
Feb 2024	70	14	20.0%
Mar 2024	65	10	15.4%
Apr 2024	51	7	13.7%
May 2024	71	14	19.7%
Jun 2024	89	40	44.9%
Jul 2024	95	53	55.8%
Aug 2024	60	41	68.3%
Sep 2024	74	54	73.0%
Oct 2024	43	22	51.2%
Nov 2024	14	12	85.7%
Dec 2024	19	4	21.1%
2024 Overall			39.7%

7.75 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.



7.76 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.

7.77 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

7.78 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.

7.79 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 have been in place since the middle of December 24 and are beginning to focus on the c.1400 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.

7.80 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.



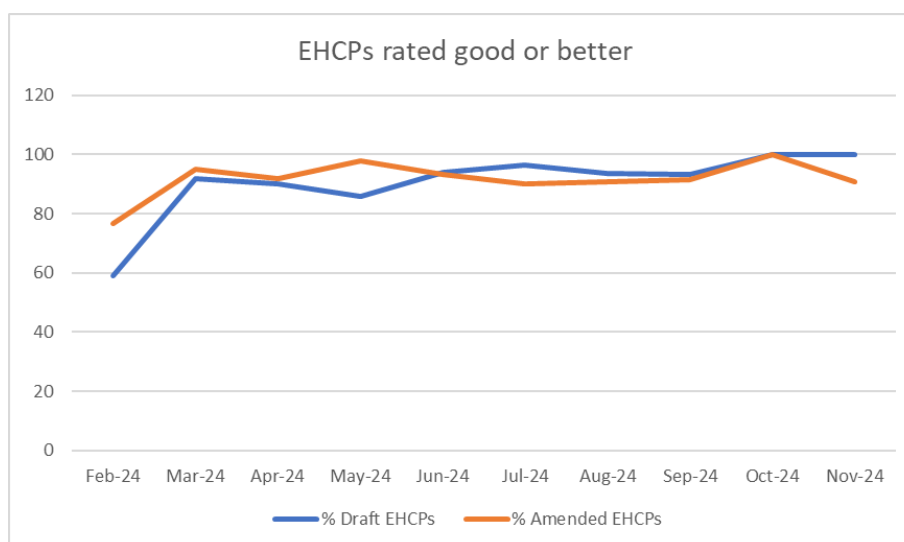
Quality of EHC plans

7.81 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.

7.82 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.

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

7.84 The graph and the table below outlines the improvements and percentage of EHC plans rated good or better.



EHCPs RATED GOOD OR BETTER	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
% DRAFT EHCPs	94	93	100	100
% AMENDED EHCPs	91	92	100	91

- 7.85 This improvement continues to be monitored and evaluated through the multi-agency panel and strategic quality assurance processes as we ensure this becomes embedded practice.

Feedback from children, young people, families and professionals

- 7.86 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%.
- 7.87 We remain committed to securing consistently positive experiences for children, young people, and families.
- 7.88 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

NB next available update of survey is due Apr/May 25 in readiness for APP 24 month review.

7.89 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. Facilitated by SENCO's in settings to ensure that children, young people are identified when first issues arise. 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.

Percent (12 responses)	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	58	50	58	58
% a little like me	25	33	33	33	33
% Neutral/not sure	17	0	0	8	0
% Not much like me	8	0	17	0	8
% Not at all like me	0	8	0	0	0
% Very or a little like me	0	0	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	% Very or a little like me overall
50	75	75	59	87.5
33	25	8	28	
8	0	8	5	
8	0	8	6	
0	0	0	1	
0	0	0	0	

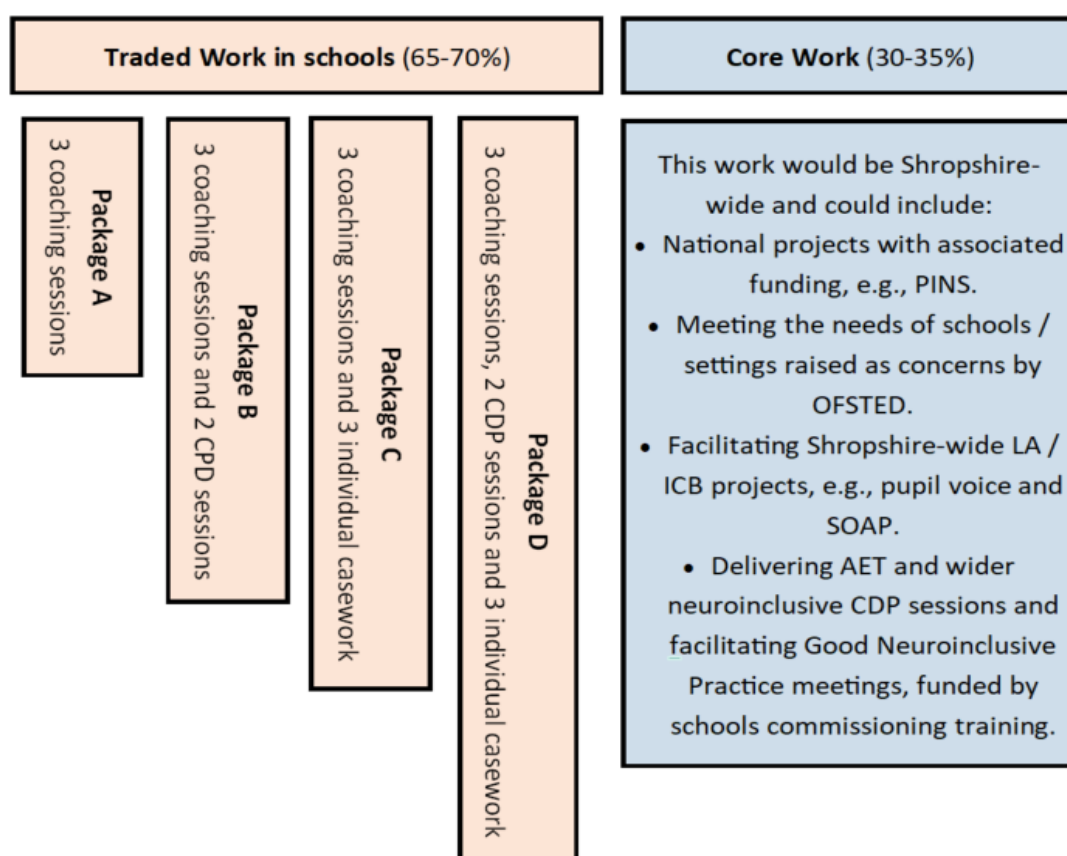
Neurodiversity Practitioners (NDPs)

7.90 The development of the NDP pilot project was an action within the Shropshire's Accelerated Progress Plan (APP). Three NDPs were appointed and started in January 2024. They were employed on one-year fixed term contracts by Shropshire Council with a three-month extension to support the facilitation of PINS (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools). From April 2025, the NDPs will be permanent roles within the Shropshire Educational Psychology Service (EPS) structure and will continue to be supervised by the Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist for Neurodiversity.

7.91 Within the pilot, the NDPs have supported 49 schools (Key Stages 2 and 3) from targeted areas based on referral data from Bee U (77.8% uptake rate; 32.5% of schools

in Shropshire). At present, there is not a consistent offer of support for neurodiverse children and young people (CYP) across the age range nor across the geography of Shropshire. Children can be referred to the NDPs on a needs-led not diagnosis-led basis, and this will continue to be the offer. They will continue to be a preventative support offer and, therefore, CYP referred should not have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or be in the Education Health and Care Needs Assessment (ECHNA) process. The NDPs work in collaboration with school staff, families and other professional services, when needed, to promote appropriate, holistic support. Systemic work aims to empower and build capacity within the schools to enhance their offer of support to all children and those around them.

7.92 The model of NDP support has been proposed based on what has been identified as working well and established good practice from Autism in Schools, the NDP Pilot and PINS, thereby being a sustainable support offer based on the three short-term projects Shropshire has participated in. Consideration of the wider outreach support offers available in Shropshire has also been made.



7.93 The packages are organised in this fashion with the aim of being needs-led and flexible for schools but also providing a clear structure of support. This is important, considering the feedback from schools on the need to have clear offers of support. Coaching is included in each of the packages to ensure that systemic change is at the forefront of the support offer. Each session is a morning / afternoon equivalent of time, to include preparatory time and report writing, as appropriate (approximately 3 hours per session). It is planned for the support commissioned by schools to be spread over the academic year. Please note: A reduced package of support may be appropriate for the term and a half from start of April – end of August 2025.

7.94 It is proposed that the traded offer is made available to schools / settings across Shropshire and is commissioned on a first come first serve basis, thereby being available to schools who are seeking support across the age range. Over time, it may be that the NDPs specialise more in different ages ranges, but allocation is shared between them. It is hoped that the schools / settings that do not commission traded support at this time are benefitted from the wider core work the NDPs are involved in, e.g., delivery of the Neuroinclusive Practice training modules, facilitation of the Network of Neuroinclusive Practice groups and being part of the Alternative Provision (AP) Task Force, phase 3 of the SEND and AP Action Plan as recommended by the DfE.

7.95 A brochure sharing the support offers NDPs can deliver in schools / settings is under development. It is planned that this brochure and a letter to schools who have participated in the pilot project will be disseminated by February half-term.

7.96 We have an opportunity to share the work of the Neurodiversity Practitioners with the National SEND Reform group, particularly the Neurodivergence Task & Finish Group <https://www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk/news/send-reform-will-focus-on-inclusive-mainstream-says-education-secretary/>. A review of the impact of our Neurodiversity Practitioners and data from the first year will be shared to support the collation of evidence.

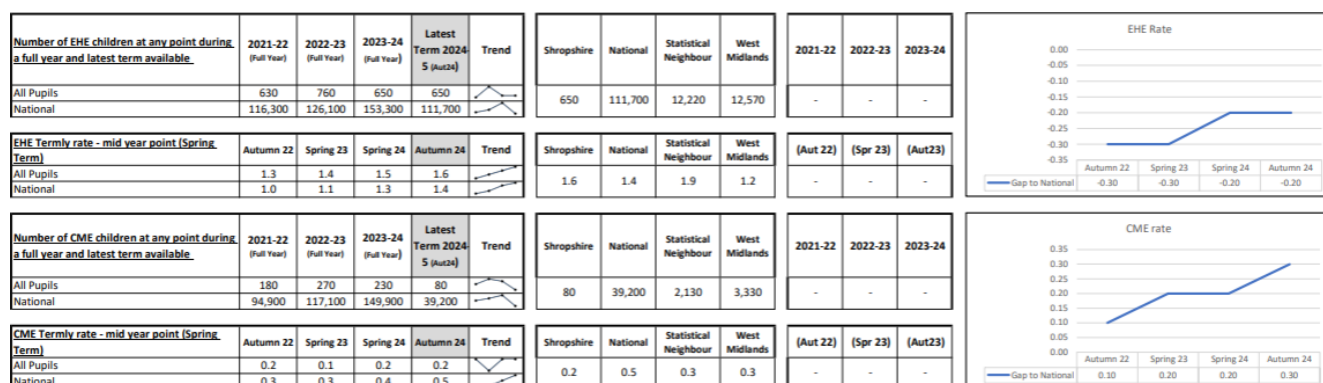
SEND Dashboard Development

7.97 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.

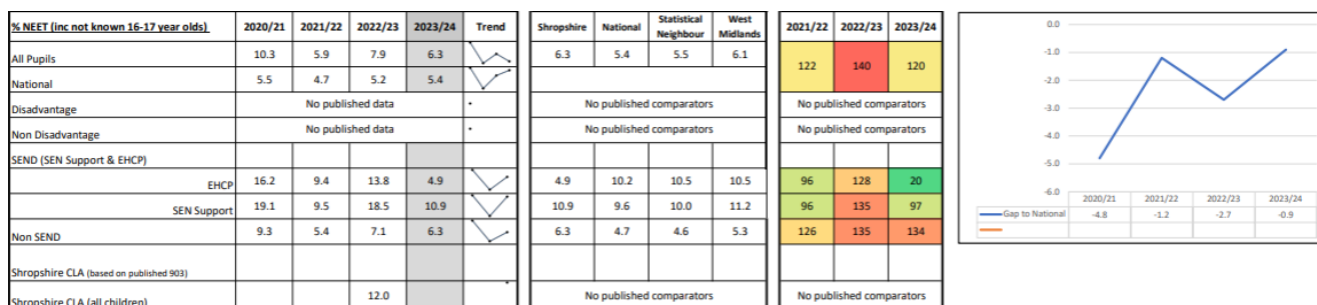
7.98 A draft of the range of indicators to be included in the dashboard has been developed and shared with the SEND and AP Partnership Board for review and comment. The draft indicators have been included as appendix 2. Officers across the local area (LA, health, education and social care/early help)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

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

EHE and CME Data:



NEET Data:

Children's Early Help and Social Care.

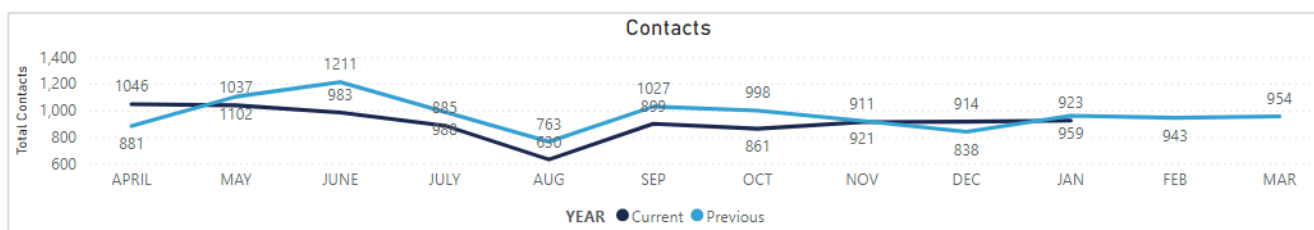
7.100 Last Quarter this report focused on the key performance indicators, with a focus on demand and activity performance of Children's Social Care. This is the focus again, with the inclusion of the impact on caseloads for social workers.

7.101 Following the Early Help Transformation Programme commenced in April 2022 and the introduction of The Early Help Front Door including The Early Help and Support Team (EHAST), it was reported last quarter that there has been a shift in demand in the contact data. The impact demonstrates the reduction and now a trajectory that would seem to be becoming the new 'norm' in relation to demand since the new process went live. There has also been a continued (83%) increase in families worked with at Targeted Early Help level, in contrast the re-referral 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. This is an important factor in managing demand in that the aim is to ensure that the work completed with the family at the first opportunity is what they need and as a result is impactful and creates change.

7.102 The collaboration between Early Help and Public Health continues to be key to the strength of partnership working and developing the Family and Community Hubs. The offer across the county continues to grow and includes the development of several 'hub and spoke' models, which aim to ensure a wider reach to more rural communities. Feedback from partners and families on the work being undertaken within Early Help has been extremely positive.

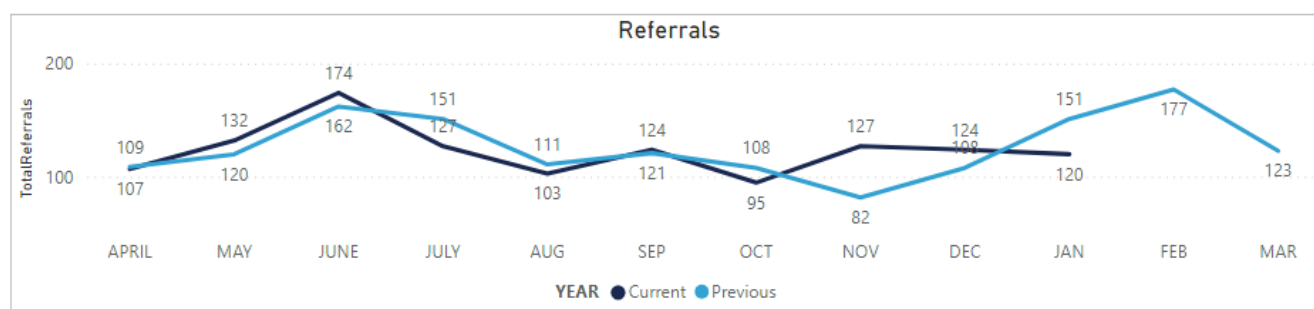
7.103 The data is starting to demonstrate that there is a shift in demand through contact and referrals:-

Contacts and Referrals



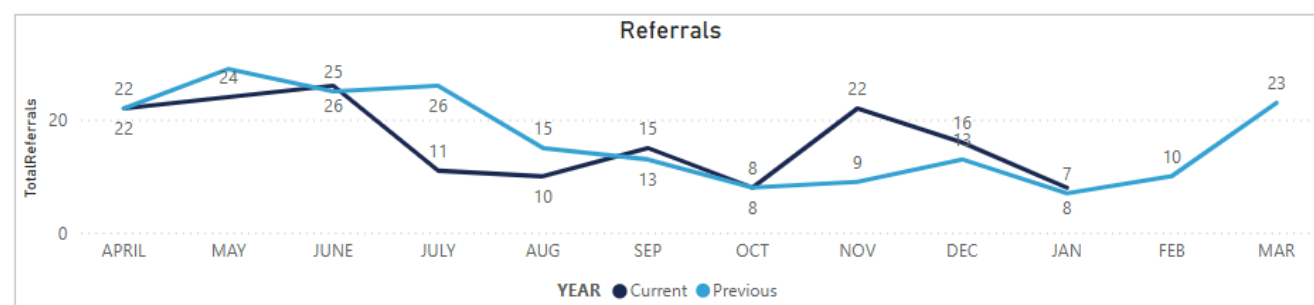
7.104 Contacts are when information is shared with Compass or a request for help and support at Level 1,2 or 3 is made. They come from a wide range of sources including partner agencies, families, members of the public etc.

All referrals:



7.105 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.

Re-referrals:



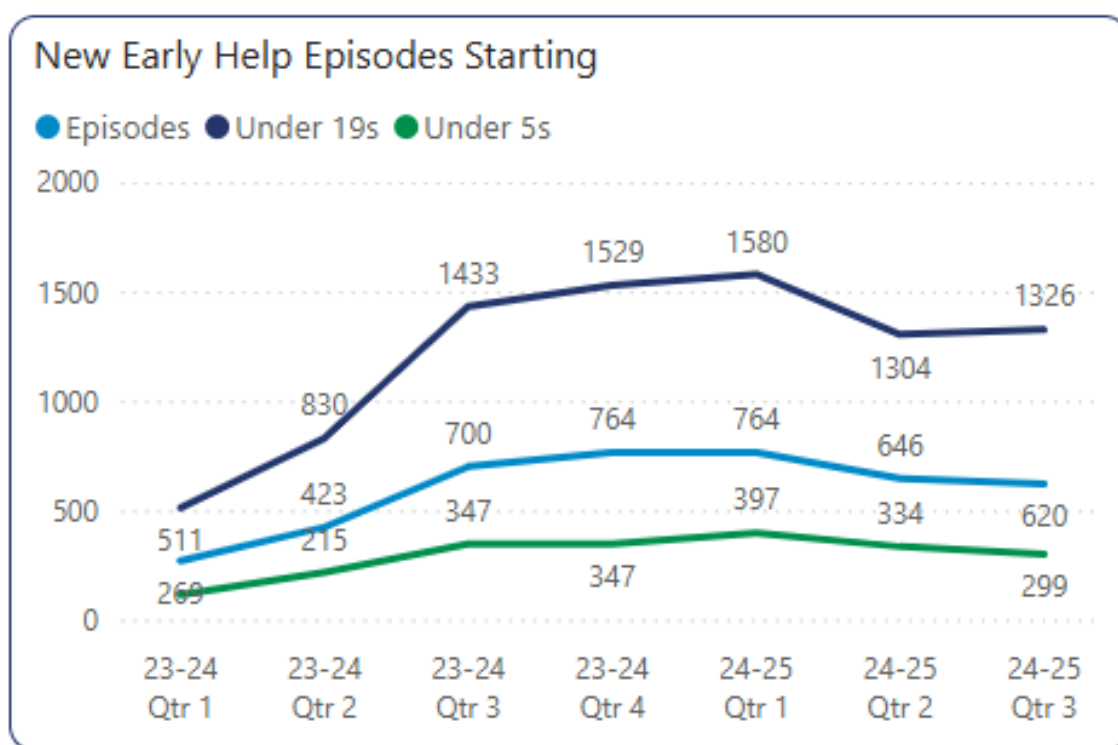
7.106 Above is re-referrals – where there has been a previous referral to the current one in the past 12 months.

7.107 Contacts and referrals have both shown similar trends to the previous year, though are lower in both. Our referrals have dropped in quarter two, with a slight rise in Quarter 3 but remaining below last years trajectory. A variation in rates is to always be expected and can be significantly influenced by large sibling groups for example.

The positive is that the rate of referrals into children's social care continues, on a rolling average to be lower than previous year, demonstrating a positive impact of Early Help. This coupled with the low re-referral rate (dropped from 13% to 11% in the month prior to the last committee meeting) also supports the theory that Early Help interventions are impactful and effective. Re-referral rate remains below national and statistical neighbour average.

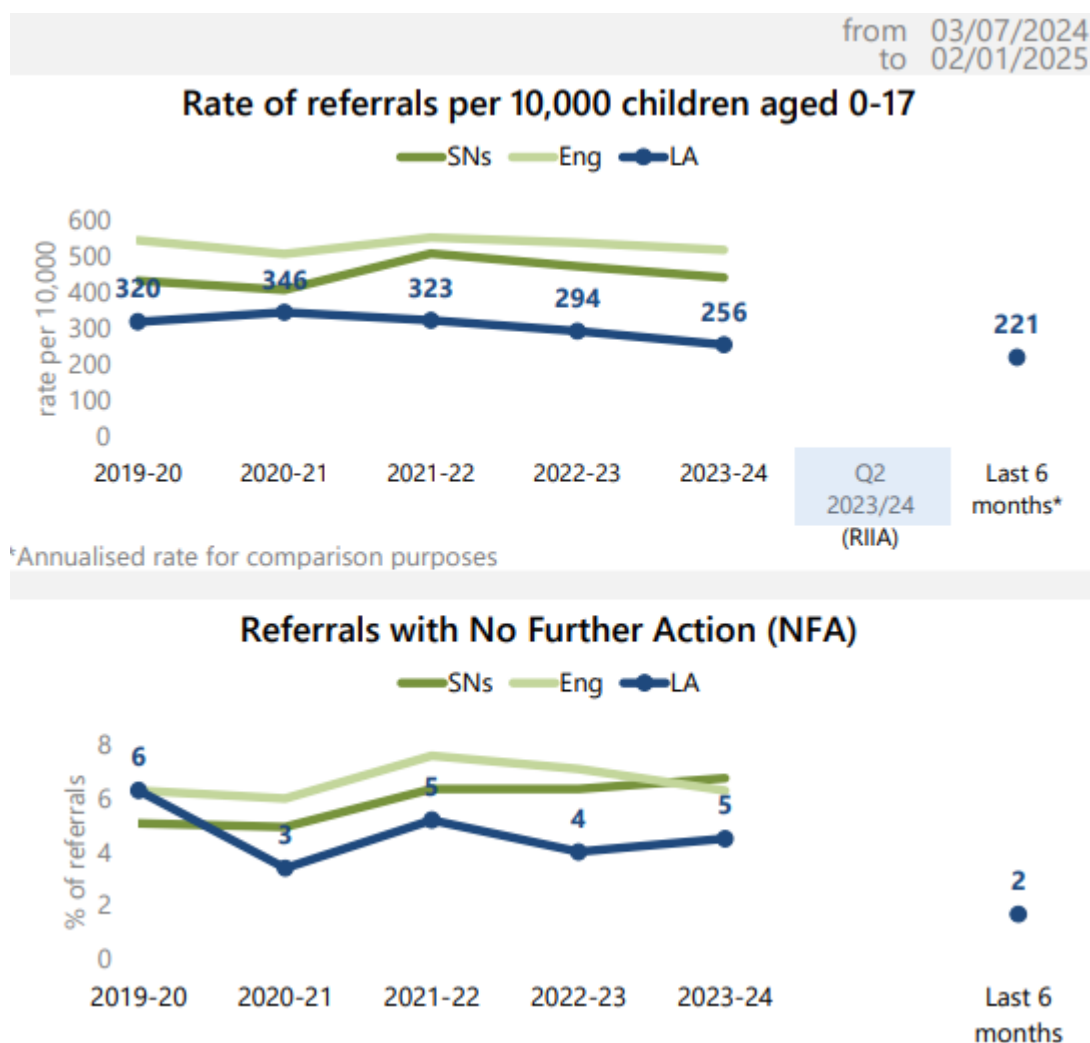
7.108 A few weeks after the Early Help Transformation went live, we saw a shift in trajectory for referrals, these are now also tracking below last year's numbers.

7.109 It remains early days, in the new service delivery model for Early help, but the combination of EHA 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, a crucial factor is that families have to agree to help and support, and want the intervention. This supports the work to be relationship based and can create positive change.



Referral Rates – into children's social care, having met threshold

7.110 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. This report now includes the published figures for 2023-24 which was released just ahead of the last meeting.

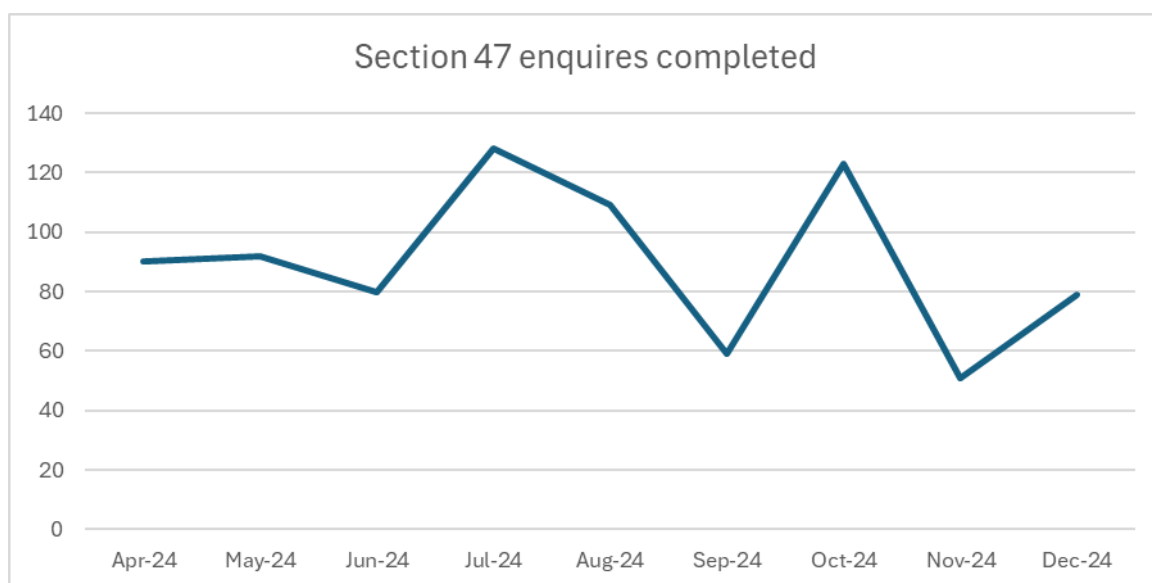


7.111 Our referral rate per 10,000 children in the population has reduced further, keeping us below our statistical neighbours' and national rates.

7.112 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. The following intervention is then likely to have impact, as families are not frequently re-referred into the service.

Section 47 Enquiries

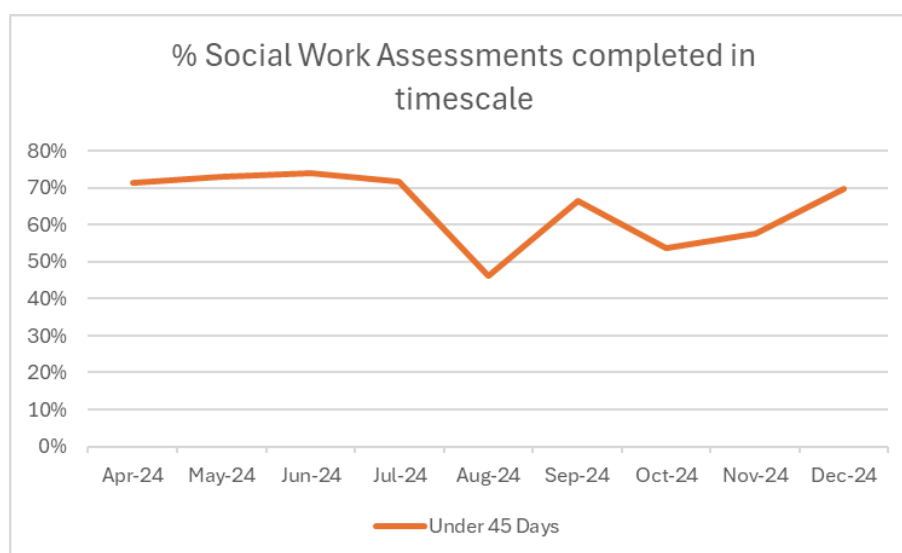
7.113 Section 47 Investigations take place following a Multi-agency Strategy discussion that considers all relevant information about a child who could be at risk of significant harm. The graph below shows that we continue to see variation in demand with spikes often around the time of school holidays. This is an expected variation in demand nationally and evidences the importance of the relationship's children have in schools and how they act as a protective factor for them.



7.114 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.

7.115 This graph shows a numbers of Section 47s competed in the financial year to end Q3.

Assessment Timeliness



7.116 The performance on this measure was especially low in August, affecting the YTD figure.

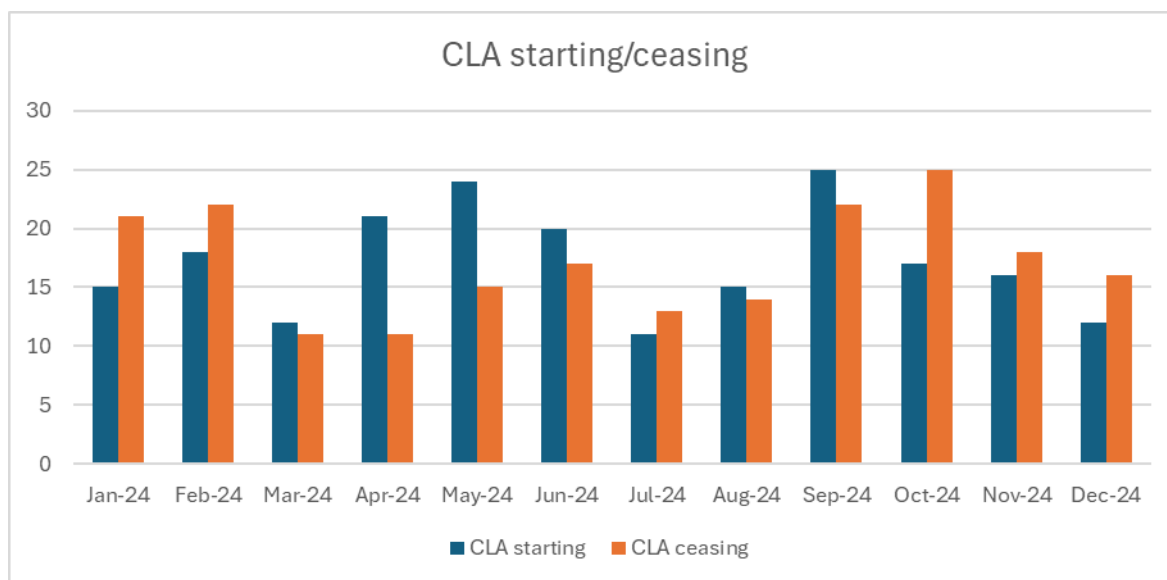
7.117 There has been a focus within the service on completing any open and overdue assessments which has explained the drop in those completed 'within timescale', however it is evident that the performance in this area is improving steadily. The number of open and overdue assessments has fallen by over 66% in the last quarter. January's data shows we are now at over 80% completion, so the continuing trajectory of progress is being evidenced.

Children Looked After numbers:

7.118 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.

7.119 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 **32/10,000**. This is positive and reflects the progress in the work to support children to exit being looked after where it is safe to do so and the right care plan for them. There has in recent months been more children exiting care than have become looked after, suggesting that along with the stabilising of the looked after children rate, we may be 'turning the curve' on the demand for children to be looked after.



7.120 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 38/10,000. This increase shows excellent progress in ensuring children's plans are completed and they can stop being looked after. Stepping Stones alongside the focused work on concluding care proceedings has led to this positive increase. There is an expectation that the project focused on concluding Special Guardianship conversions and Placement with Parents discharges will add to this progress, as the assessments are completed and the applications are starting to be lodged with the court. Ensuring plans are completed is central to the work to stabilise and reduce the children looked after numbers.

7.121 Children Looked After ‘as at a date’ rate is down from 127 per 10,000 at end Sep to 122 per 10,000 at end Dec, and Actual Child looked After in Shropshire numbers in this period are down from 746 to 724. This is in the context of us continuing to take a significant number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children from the National Transfer scheme (mandatory).

7.122 78% of children looked after are cared for within family settings. Ensuring that we meet children’s needs wherever possible by them being cared for in families. 11% are living at home with their parents; this cohort of children are being reviewed and those where care orders can be discharged are being progressed.

7.123 89% of children looked after are subject to a court order, indicating the complexity and seriousness of the harm that children experience. This reflects that the court has agreed that harm has been experienced and that children need the protection of the Local Authority to ensure they are cared for safely.

7.124 Grouped placement types of current CLA

Placement Type	Total	% of total
Foster Placement - other	278	39%
Foster Placement with relative or friend	202	28%
Residential	110	15%
Placed with parents	76	11%
Regulated Supported Accommodation	30	4%
Placed for adoption	17	2%
Other	4	1%

Court Proceedings and PLO (pre-court work)

7.125 PLO (the escalation step prior to entering court proceedings) has previously been identified as an area of focus by Ofsted and as a result, there has been a focused area of work undertaken around improving this. Children and families are now entering PLO earlier in their Child Protection Plan and this means that we have more opportunities to work with families to make and maintain the changes needed to keep their children safe. It also means that when we do have to go into court, we are concluding proceedings more quickly because we have already done a lot of the work in PLO.

7.126 The data shows that more children are now being escalated into PLO with 177 children in 99 families entering PLO during 2024 compared to 107 children in 63 families in 2023. We have achieved this by increasing senior management and legal oversight via case discussions and Legal Panel Meetings – in 2024 there were 305 Legal Panel Meetings held versus 192 in 2023.

7.127 The data also shows that more families are successfully ending PLO without requiring escalation into court – in 2023, 37 children in 21 families stepped out of PLO (15 children were later issued on) whereas in 2024, this number was 73 children in 39 families (7 children were later issued on). This shows that we are working more effectively with families in PLO to make changes and keep children safe within their own families. This evidences an increase in children avoiding coming into long term care of the authority.

Court Proceedings

7.128 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 worked through. In recent years we have seen a significant increase in the complexity of issues facing families, alongside the complexity of some large sibling groups. The work expected by the court is significant and timescales are stringent. There has been a real focus on improving court cases being completed within the 26 weeks and the court system has recognised the significant progress Shropshire has made with this in the last 2 quarters.

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

7.130 Snapshot of current data: - out of the 150 children currently in live care proceedings, **110 children in 61 families** commenced proceedings since 1st April 2024. There are **159 children in 95 families** who have concluded proceedings since 1st January 2024 to date. This is a clear demonstration of the decrease in new proceedings being issued – and more families stepping down through the pre-court work (PLO).

7.131 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).

7.132 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 caseloads overall. So far this year 47 children concluded – 53 weeks and above (since 1st Jan).

7.133 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 approximately 20% of families have 3 children or more.

7.134 Moving on to look at how many court cases that have progressed and concluded this year, the below table sets out this data over the previous three quarters as well as the current figure likely for quarter four –

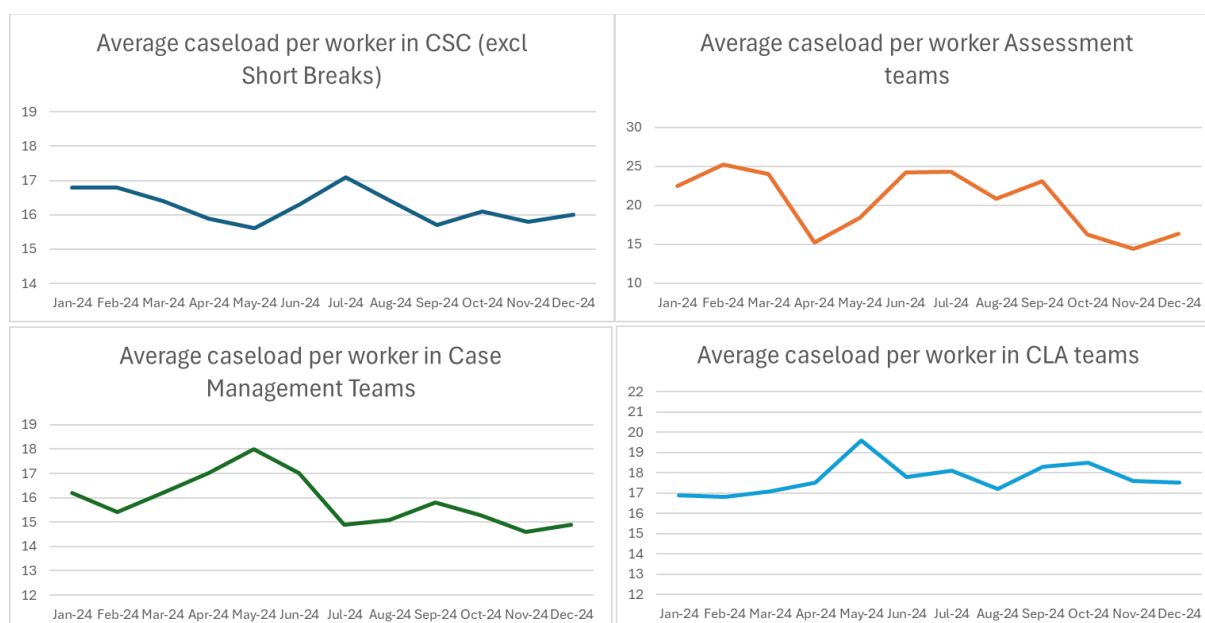
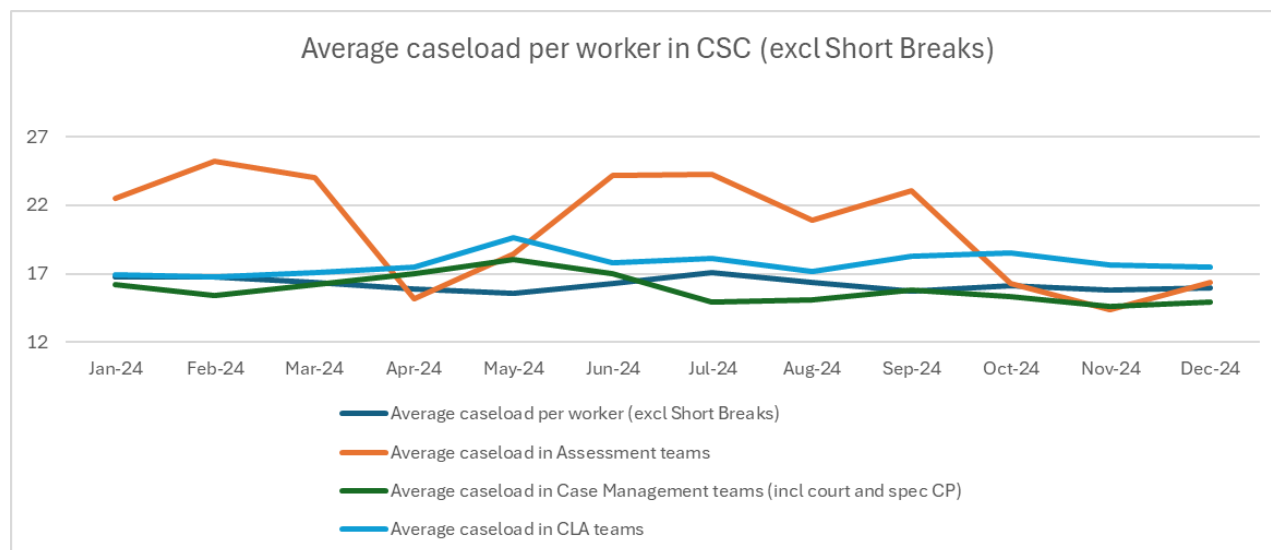
2024-2025	Children concluded court proceedings	Families concluded court proceedings
Q1	45	25
Q2	45	33
Q3	93	54
Q4	Predicted 63	Predicted 33

7.135 By comparison looking at children concluded in past 2 years – during the financial year 2023-2024, we concluded 161 children in 89 families, compared to financial year 2022-2023 when we concluded 134 children in 80 families. Therefore, over the first 3 Quarters the teams have already concluded significantly more children during 2024-2025 than in all four quarters of the last two financial years.

7.136 It can be seen from these figures 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 regional Trailblazer project that is working with all parties in the court arena and offering high quality training to all the different participants.

Caseloads of Qualified, case holding social workers.

7.137 This data demonstrates the progress in relation to the average caseloads of qualified case holding social workers in the statutory function teams of Assessment, Case Management & court and Children looked after. It does not cover the data for other qualified roles case holding different caseloads, such as fostering, adoption, care leavers.



7.138 The above graphs show the overlaid trajectory of the Teams, demonstrating the variance of the work in the assessment teams and how quickly the allocations per worker position can change. This has a significant impact especially if posts are vacant or there is annual leave / sickness in those teams. Children cannot (and are not) unallocated. The assessment teams have also been adversely impacted this year by delayed transfers from Assessment to Case Management. Managers have worked hard to address this area of practice.

7.139 Overall caseloads are gradually reducing and are within tolerable parameters. The data shows the average caseloads. The aspiration is that social workers hold 15-18 children, depending on complexity, number in court proceedings, size of sibling group, distance to visit etc. Newly Qualified social workers in their first year (ASYE) are initially capped at 10 children and go up to around 15 during that first year, as we have a number of ASYE's it does impact the average calculation. We have a few workers with 18-20 children allocated, there is management oversight of these work

loads and conversations are had with workers to progress work such as closures, transfers etc.

7.140 The progress in reducing caseloads over time is positive and supported by the reduction of work coming into the front door and the children exiting care.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Performance across the directorate continues to improve and action plans are in place where performance remains challenging.
- 8.2 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 olds by September 25.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 The return of In-Year Admissions to LA control from September 24 continues to have a positive impact on ensuring the movement of children and young people between school is timely and managed consistently for families.
- 8.5 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 Autumn term 2024/25. Positive impact of the Shropshire Virtual School supporting strong education outcomes for Children Looked After, including securing stable placements and no permanent exclusions continuing this positive trend. This was recognised by Ofsted in the Focussed Visit in July 24. The strong practice in the Virtual School is being used to inform the development of practice for all children supported by the education access teams.
- 8.6 Positive improvements in service delivery continue to deliver 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.
- 8.7 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).
- 8.8 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 and movers into Shropshire where limited information is known or available.
- 8.9 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.

- 8.10 In Childrens 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. In Quarter 4 there is a partnership wide workshop being hosted by The Director of People with partners called 'Turning the Curve' and aimed at engaging partner agencies at all levels to strengthen the partnership working across the children's system to enable more children to be effectively diverted from statutory interventions.
- 8.11 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.
- 8.12 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.
- 8.13 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.
- 8.14 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

Appendix 1 Shropshire Education Dashboard Feb 2025

Education Dashboard 2024

Outcomes

EYFSP - % achieving GLD	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	47.1	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	75.0	67.0	71.1	71.7	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	27.0	18.5	21.1	22.2	
EHCP	7.0	5.0	5.6	4.0	
SEN Support	31.0	22.8	26.3	30.6	
Non SEND	77.0	68.6	72.6	74.4	
Shropshire CLA (903 Data - no SFR published)	40.0	41.7	40.7	20.0	
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

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

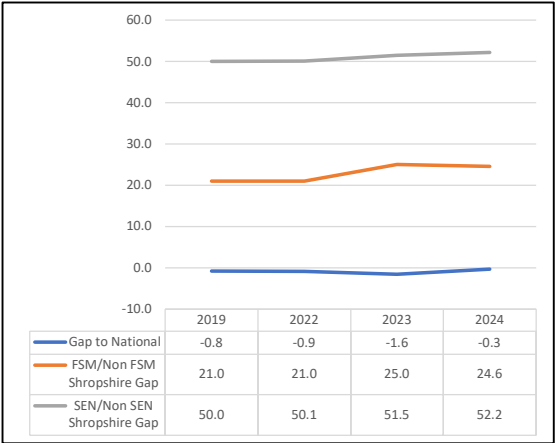
Latest Benchmark 2024

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Mid
68.0	67.7	68.8	66.2
47.1	51.5	48.6	53.9
71.7	72.0	72.6	70.6
22.2	19.8	18.9	22.0
4.0	3.8	4.8	2.2
30.6	24.9	27.6	23.5
74.4	75.6	76.3	74.9
20.0			
No published comparators			

National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)

2022	2023	2024
62	54	74
91	119	127
88	56	85
60	34	34
29	28	63
68	42	22
90	71	103
No published comparators		
No published comparators		

Gaps



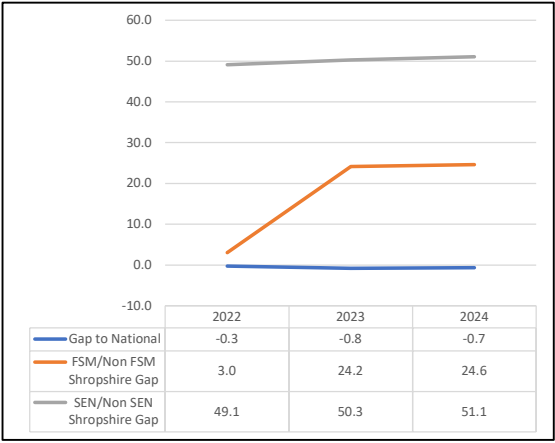
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EYFSP - % Com, Lang & Lit	2019*	2022	2023	2024	Trend (2022-2024)
All Pupils	No published LA data for this indicator prior to 2022	67.4	69.6	69.9	
National		67.1	68.8	69.2	
Free School Meals (FSM)		48.6	49.1	49.0	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)		70.1	73.3	73.6	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)		22.5	24.6	25.1	
EHCP		6.7	8.5	4.0	
SEN Support		27.5	30.0	34.7	
Non SEND		71.6	74.9	76.2	
Shropshire CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	not in nexus but coming soon				*
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

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

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Mid
69.9	69.2	70.8	67.5
49.0	52.9	50.5	55.0
73.6	73.5	74.7	71.8
25.1	21.9	24.6	20.5
4.0	4.8	5.6	2.8
34.7	27.6	30.8	25.4
76.2	77.0	78.3	76.1
No published comparators			
No published comparators			

2023	2023	2024
69	61	64
111	121	120
101	77	79
58	42	33
32	18	78
57	49	19
104	90	97
No published comparators		
No published comparators		

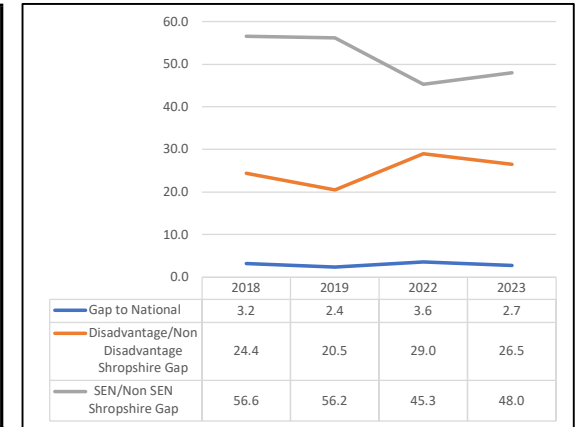


2023 KS1 Benchmarks

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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	45.5	0.0	26.7	37.0	
Shropshire 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			

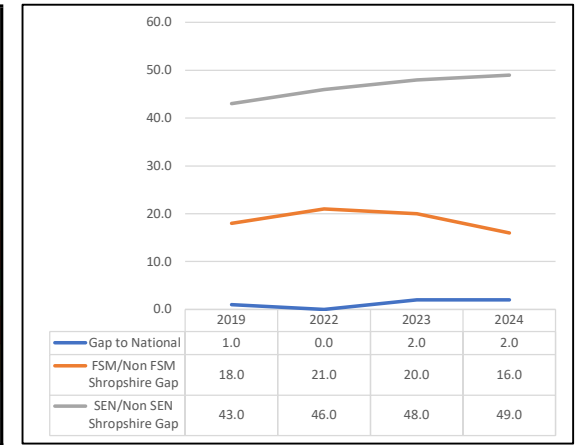
2019	2022	2023
RWM EXS+ not published by DfE, so data from other authorities is not available for comparison		



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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	87.5	58.8	50.0	43.8	
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	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
43.8			
No published comparators			

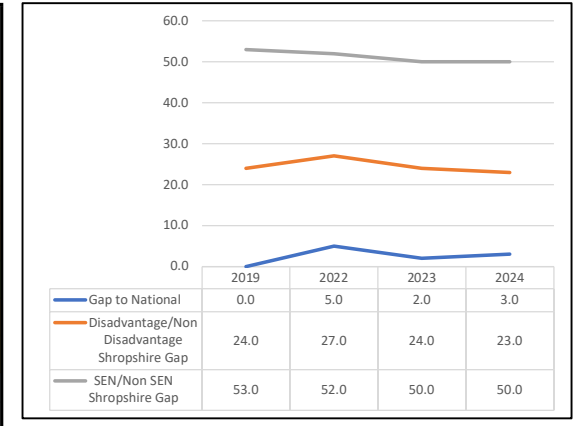
2022	2023	2024
78	108	117
110	137	107
78	119	128
106	137	144
99	114	57
115	143	144
92	112	119
No published comparators		
No published comparators		



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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	25.0	42.0	39.1	13.0	
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	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
13.0			
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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	0.0	6.7	0.0		
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

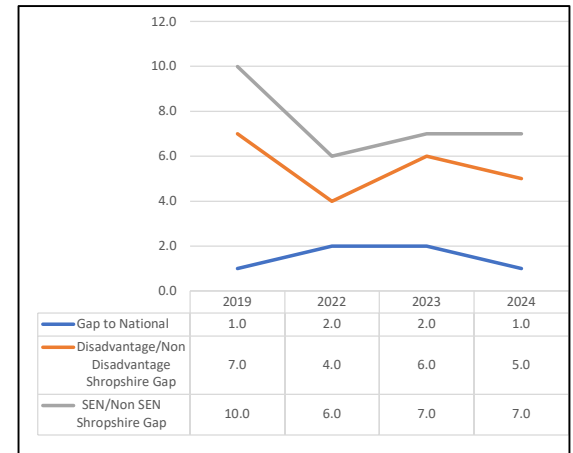
Data Source: published DfE statistics and NCER Nexus. N.B. There is no data for 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of Covid 19 and the cancellation of all end of year key stage assessments

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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	50.0	58.6	54.2	47.8	
Shropshire 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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	50.0	55.2	43.5	43.5	
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

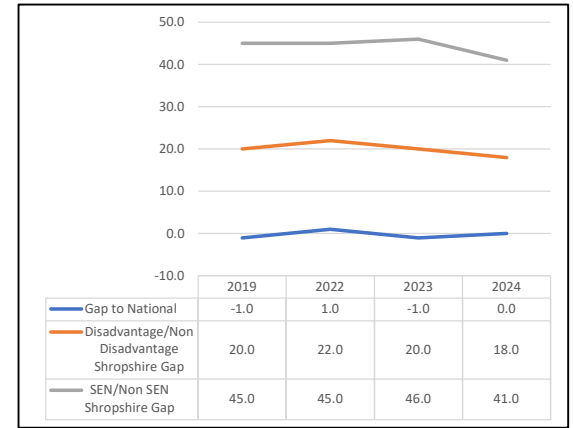
Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Mid
7.0	8.0	7.0	7.0
3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
8.0	10.0	8.0	9.0
1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3
1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
8.0	9.0	8.0	8.0
No published comparators			

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



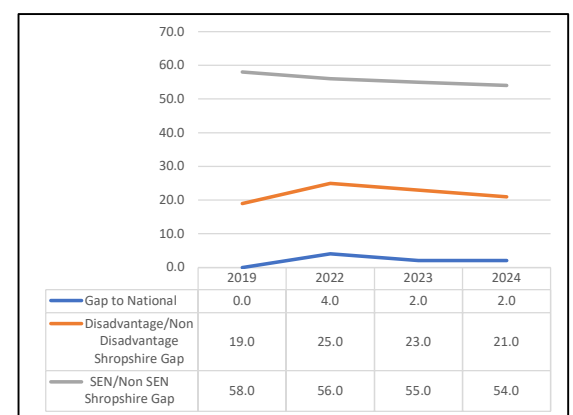
Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Mid
74.0	74.0	74.0	73.0
61.0	62.0	59.0	63.0
79.0	79.0	79.0	78.0
42.0	41.0	41.0	37.0
20.0	19.0	19.0	15.0
48.0	48.0	47.0	43.0
83.0	84.0	84.0	83.0
47.8			
No published comparators			

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	National	Statistical Neighbour	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
43.5			
No published comparators			

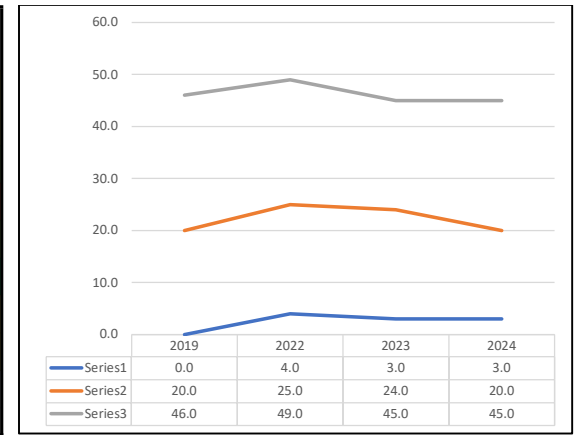
2022	2023	2024
127	102	98
141	124	102
132	124	97
135	108	93
39	108	50
143	122	110
134	116	100
No published comparators		



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	
Shropshire CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	50.0	53.6	37.5	21.7	
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	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
21.7			
No published comparators			

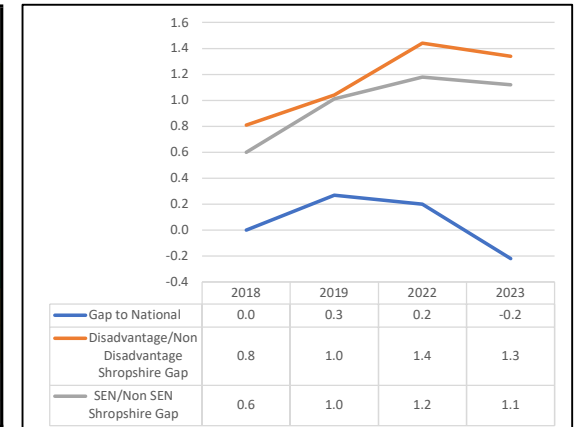
2022	2023	2024
121	123	116
137	130	102
132	130	135
133	88	101
85	102	70
140	120	121
121	121	121
No published comparators		



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	
Shropshire CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	3.23	0.85	-2.30	0.04	
Shropshire 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	tb	tb	-0.54
No published comparators			

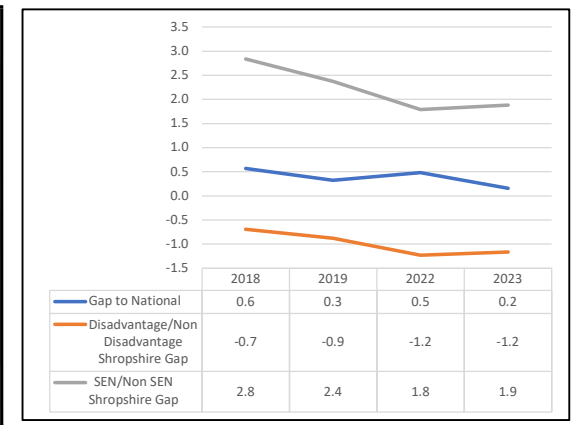
2019	2022	2023
111	104	59
105	102	75
113	107	67
57	42	36
8	95	8
95	55	80
120	120	73
tb	tb	tb
No published comparators		



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	
Shropshire CLA (Nexus 903 Data - not published)	0.80	0.72	-1.18	0.70	
Shropshire 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	tb	tb	-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
tb	tb	tb
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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	0.78	-2.66	-1.63	-1.73	
Shropshire 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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	99	101	99	101	
Shropshire 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	
Shropshire CLA (<i>Nexus 903 Data - not published</i>)	97	101	97	97	
Shropshire 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			

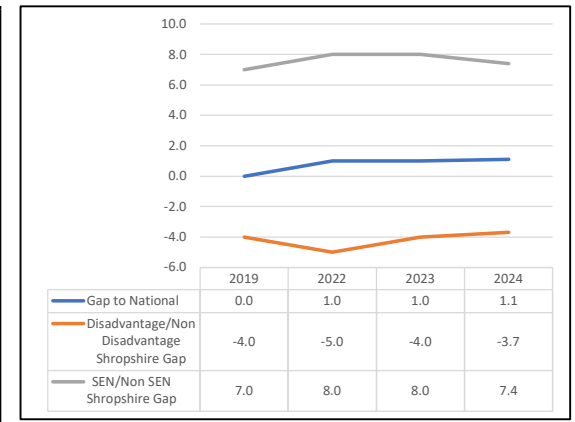
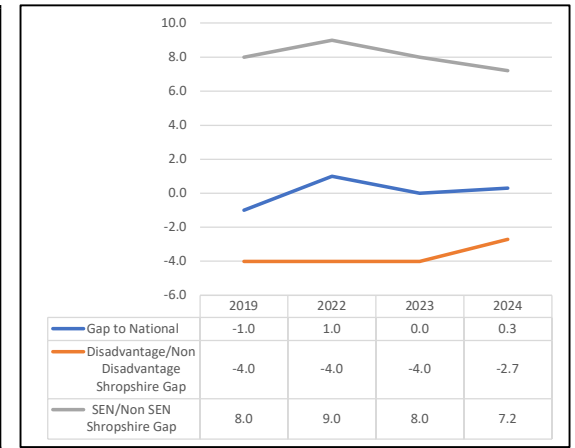
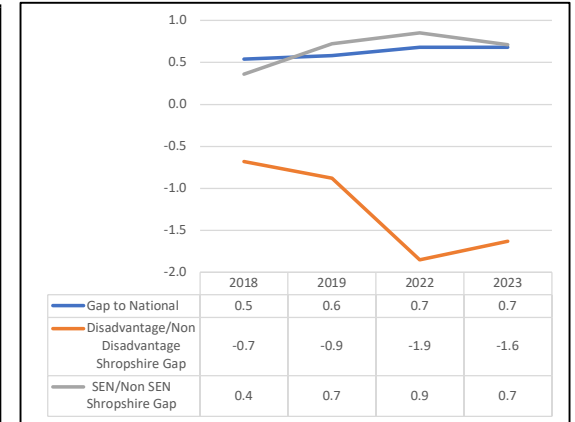
Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Mid
105	105	105	105
103	103	102	103
106	106	106	106
99	99	99	98
98	98	97	97
100	100	100	99
106	107	107	106
101			
No published comparators			

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	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
97			
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		

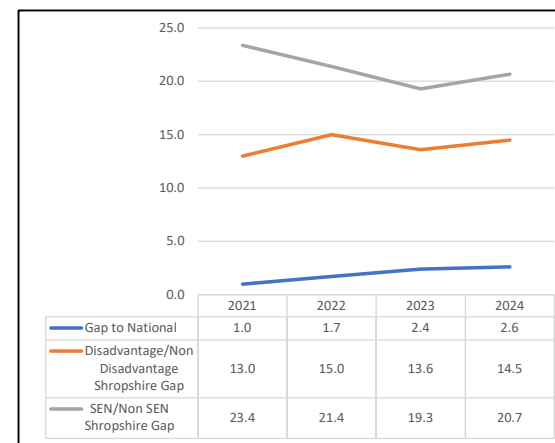
2022	2023	2024
94	118	122
138	108	117
111	131	135
119	90	111
43	31	69
128	101	127
118	78	86
tdc	tdc	tdc
No published comparators		



KS4 - Attainment 8	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	49.9	47.2	44.0	43.5	
National	50.9	48.9	46.4	46.1	
Disadvantage	39.6	35.1	33.0	31.9	
Non Disadvantage	52.6	50.1	46.6	46.4	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	29.5	28.6	27.4	25.6	
EHCP	22.9	19.2	18.3	17.8	
SEN Support	33.4	32.6	30.6	28.6	
Non SEND	52.9	50.0	46.7	46.3	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)	28.9	24.1	18.9		
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
43.5	46.1	44.8	44.5
31.9	34.7	32.1	35.1
46.4	50.2	48.2	48.6
25.6	27.8	27.0	27.1
17.8	14.2	13.7	12.2
28.6	33.1	31.9	32.0
46.3	50.0	49.0	48.3
0.0			
No published comparators			

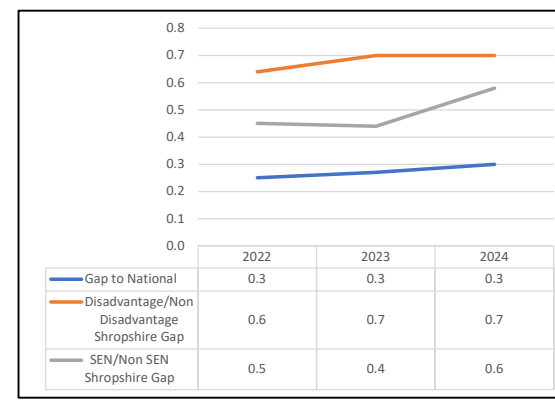
2022	2023	2024
97	114	112
108	97	112
116	138	131
85	80	107
17	18	27
107	114	134
115	128	130
28	tbc	
No published comparators		



KS4 - Progress 8	2021*	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	No progress data available for 2020 and 2021	-0.28	-0.30	-0.33	
National		-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	
Disadvantage		-0.80	-0.87	-0.89	
Non Disadvantage		-0.16	-0.17	-0.19	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)		-0.67	-0.68	-0.83	
EHCP		-1.04	-0.92	-1.25	
SEN Support		-0.53	-0.61	-0.67	
Non SEND		-0.22	-0.24	-0.25	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)		-1.09	-1.42		

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
-0.33	-0.03	-0.10	-0.11
-0.89	-0.57	-0.70	-0.52
-0.19	0.16	0.06	0.07
-0.83	-0.63	-0.67	-0.63
-1.25	-1.13	-1.16	-1.17
-0.67	-0.45	-0.50	-0.46
-0.25	0.10	0.04	0.01
0.00			

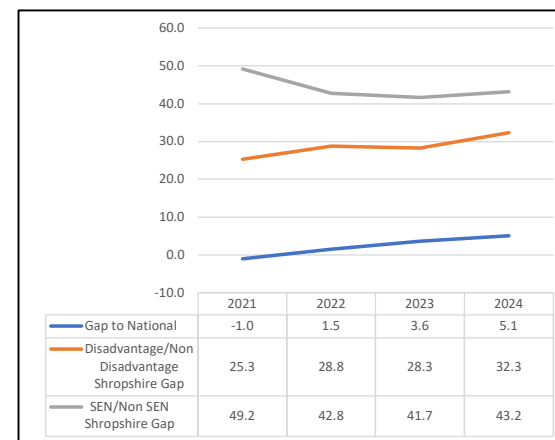
2022	2023	2024
134	137	138
126	128	138
142	143	146
72	92	122
32	35	110
82	114	122
144	13	142
41	tbc	



KS4 (9 to 4) in English and Maths	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	73.2	67.5	61.8	60.3	
National	72.2	69.0	65.4	65.4	
Disadvantage	53.1	44.3	38.9	34.5	
Non Disadvantage	78.4	73.1	67.2	66.8	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	30.2	30.3	25.9	23.1	
EHCP	28.1	18.0	16.0	17.5	
SEN Support	31.4	35.5	29.3	25.3	
Non SEND	79.4	73.1	67.6	66.3	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)	42.3	29.4	16.7		
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
60.3	65.4	64.1	62.1
34.5	43.7	39.0	43.4
66.8	73.1	70.7	70.5
23.1	30.8	28.7	28.3
17.5	13.0	12.0	9.8
25.3	37.7	34.9	34.4
66.3	72.7	72.4	69.6
0.0			
No published comparators			

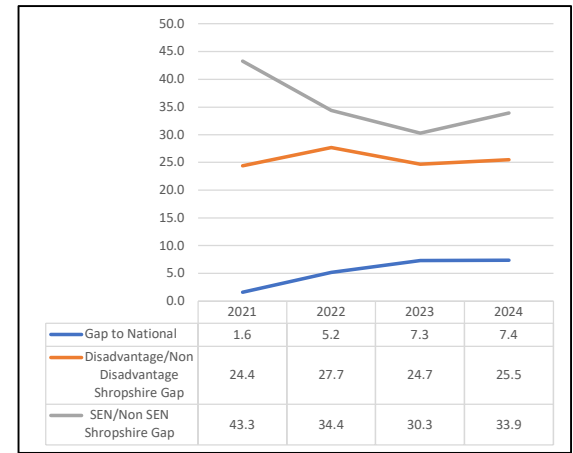
2022	2023	2024
87	109	119
98	105	145
115	137	140
86	113	130
34	39	34
100	125	147
108	120	132
20		
No published comparators		



KS4 (9 to 5) in English and Maths	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	50.3	44.8	38.2	38.8	
National	51.9	50.0	45.5	46.2	
Disadvantage	31.0	22.4	18.2	18.4	
Non Disadvantage	55.4	50.1	42.9	43.9	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	12.4	14.9	12.1	9.6	
EHCP	14.4	9.9	5.7	7.5	
SEN Support	11.3	17.0	14.3	10.4	
Non SEND	55.7	49.3	42.4	43.5	
CLA (based on published 903 - Nexus where published statistics are suppressed)	16.7	11.8	4.2		
Shropshire CLA (all children)					

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
38.8	46.2	43.4	42.4
18.4	26.0	21.1	25.7
43.9	53.4	49.2	49.8
9.6	17.5	15.4	15.2
7.5	7.0	5.8	5.2
10.4	21.6	18.9	18.5
43.5	52.3	49.9	48.3
0.0			
No published comparators			

2022	2023	2024
118	128	127
134	136	142
133	144	141
99	130	149
27	81	63
119	130	149
128	136	134
Unable to provide rank as suppressed figures in DfE publication		
No published comparators		



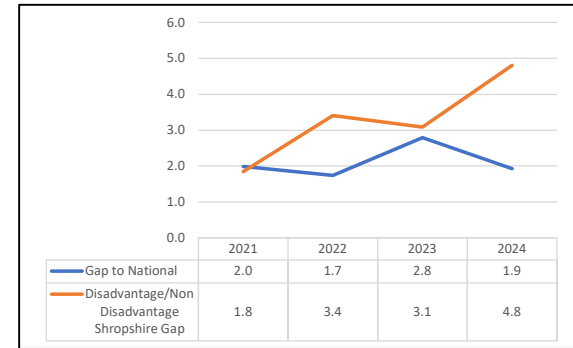
Data Source; published DfE statistics

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)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	38.47	36.12	31.37	32.42	
National	40.46	37.86	34.16	34.34	
Disadvantage	36.81	32.78	28.72	28.03	
Non Disadvantage	38.66	36.19	31.81	32.84	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)					
EHCP	36.07	31.94	33.89	34.32	
SEN Support	36.61	34.46	27.86	28.63	
Non SEND	38.61	35.92	31.52	32.71	

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
32.42	34.34	33.51	33.31
28.03	30.15	29.56	29.58
32.84	35.00	33.94	34.13
34.32	32.02	32.15	30.48
28.63	32.77	32.15	31.27
32.71	34.44	33.59	33.45

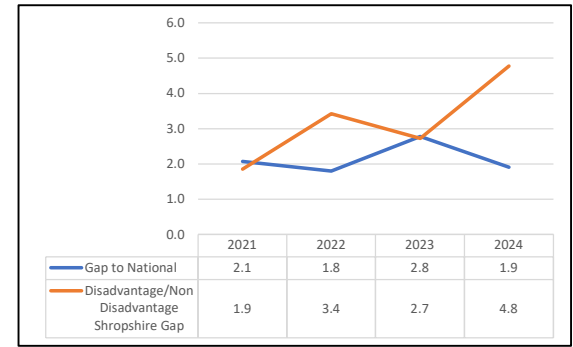
2022	2023	2024
105	122	104
84	93	110
119	123	111
103	63	43
89	122	127
113	120	100



KS5 APS per Academic Entry (State-Funded Schools and Colleges)	2021	2022	2023	2024	Trend
All Pupils	38.43	36.12	31.48	32.51	
National	40.50	37.92	34.26	34.42	
Disadvantage	36.77	32.76	29.16	28.15	
Non Disadvantage	38.63	36.19	31.89	32.93	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)					
EHCP	36.07	31.94	33.83	34.57	
SEN Support	36.13	34.53	28.73	28.81	
Non SEND	38.59	35.91	31.62	32.81	

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
32.51	34.42	33.55	33.30
28.15	30.16	29.53	29.53
32.93	35.09	33.99	34.12
34.57	32.03	31.91	30.45
28.81	32.87	32.19	31.20
32.81	34.53	33.65	33.45

2022	2023	2024
107	123	101
87	86	108
119	123	107
103	61	41
89	114	127
113	120	99



KSS APS per Applied General (State-Funded Schools and Colleges) - DfE have withdrawn figures from 2024 publication	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		

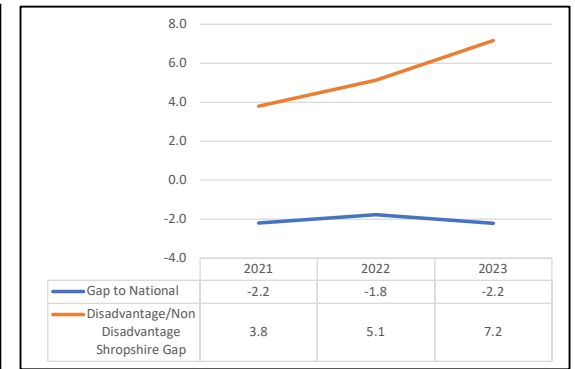
Data Source: published DfE statistics

% NEET (inc not known 16-17 year olds)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
All Pupils	10.3	5.9	7.9	6.3	
National	5.5	4.7	5.2	5.4	
Disadvantage	No published data				•
Non Disadvantage	No published data				•
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)					
EHCP	16.2	9.4	13.8	4.9	
SEN Support	19.1	9.5	18.5	10.9	
Non SEND	9.3	5.4	7.1	6.3	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)					
Shropshire CLA (all children)			12.0		

Data Source: published DfE statistics NEET and activity not known 16-17 year olds (average of December, January and February)
latest publication released 30/01/2025

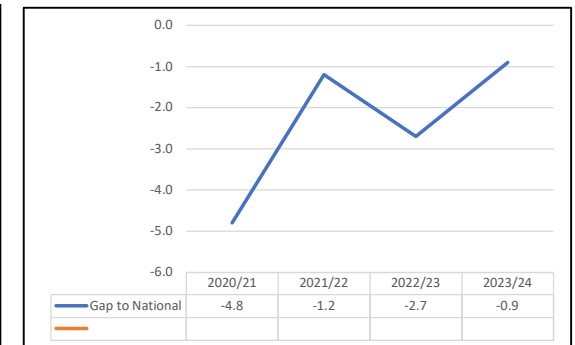
Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.00	0.00		
0.00			
0.00			
0.00			
0.00			
0.00			

2022	2023	2024
40	27	
90	113	
43	16	
100	23	
2	15	
43	27	



Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
6.3	5.4	5.5	6.1
No published comparators			
No published comparators			
4.9	10.2	10.5	10.5
10.9	9.6	10.0	11.2
6.3	4.7	4.6	5.3
No published comparators			

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
122	140	120
No published comparators		
No published comparators		
96	128	20
96	135	97
126	135	134
No published comparators		



Attendance

Latest Benchmark 2023 published date (not portal)

National Ranking (1 being highest, 152 lowest)

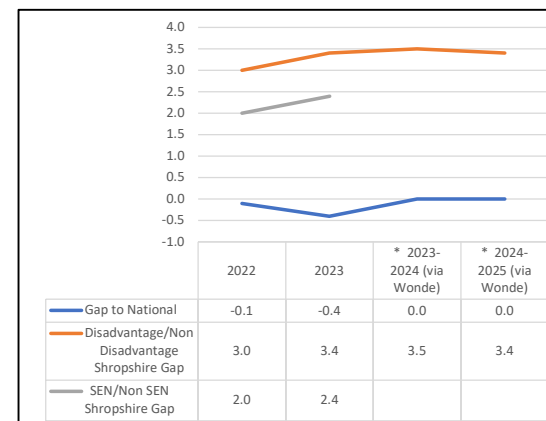
Gaps

* 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	95.3	
National	93.7	94.1	94.5	95.3	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	91.4	91.8	91.7	92.2	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	94.4	95.2	95.2	95.6	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	92.1	92.5			
EHCP	90.2	90.2	89.8	90.1	
SEN Support	92.3	92.8	93.1	93.8	
Non SEND	94.1	94.9	94.8	95.5	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)	95.2				
Shropshire 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			

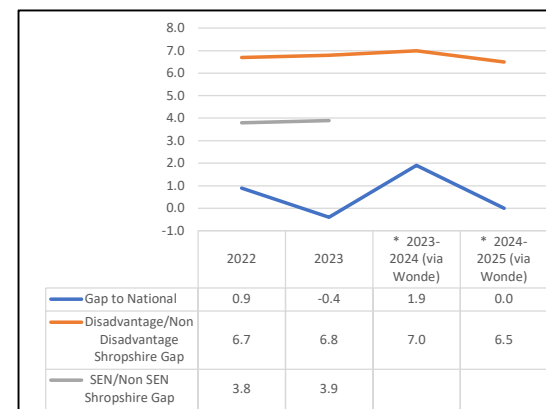
2021	2022	2023
24	79	29
34	93	74
37	115	53
14	66	33
60	93	91
16	64	29
31	86	35
104	104	
No published comparators		



<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	92.6	
National	91.0	90.7	91.0	92.6	
Free School Meals (eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	84.8	85.7	83.4	87.4	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	91.5	92.5	90.4	93.9	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	86.9	87.8			
EHCP	86.2	87.3	78.6	83.4	
SEN Support	87.0	87.9	86.2	89.8	
Non SEND	90.7	91.7	90.2	93.7	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)	90.7				
Shropshire 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			

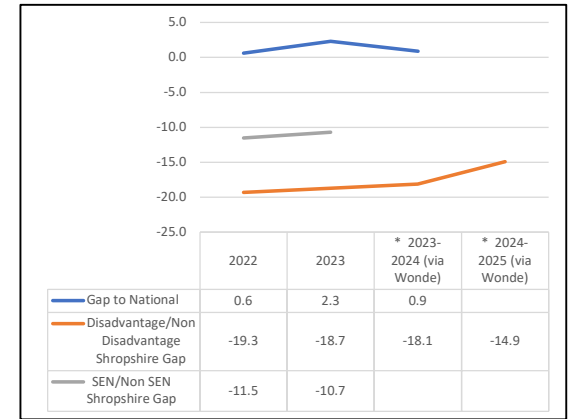
2021	2022	2023
78	121	72
108	126	72
113	144	120
73	89	42
71	84	52
50	93	43
92	132	89
77	77	
No published comparators		



<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	14.6	
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	26.9	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	13.0	9.9	10.7	12.0	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	26.6	22.7			
EHCP	35.7	29.8	32.0	29.0	
SEN Support	25.4	21.8	21.3	18.8	
Non SEND	15.1	12.0	13.0	13.3	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)	10.1				
Shropshire 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			

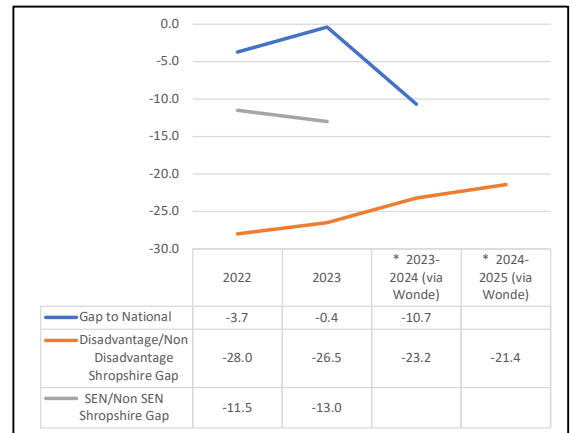
2021	2022	2023
11	69	28
22	107	68
26	92	47
13	80	24
61	129	71
15	68	25
17	66	34
57	47	
No published comparators		



<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	20.7	
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	37.8	
Non Free School Meals (not eligible in the last 6 years (FSM6))	25.5	21.1	32.3	16.4	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	41.1	37.6			
EHCP	41.4	38.6	51.7	38.5	
SEN Support	41.1	37.5	43.9	29.5	
Non SEND	29.6	24.6	34.0	17.9	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)	28.3				
Shropshire 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			

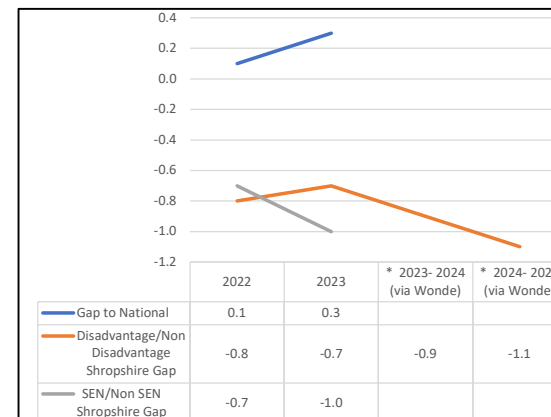
2021	2022	2023
83	126	87
114	145	104
111	143	121
90	102	59
91	105	79
63	102	58
91	131	91
83	109	
No published comparators		



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	0.6	
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	1.5	
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	4.2	
SEN Support	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	
Non SEND	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)					
Shropshire 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			

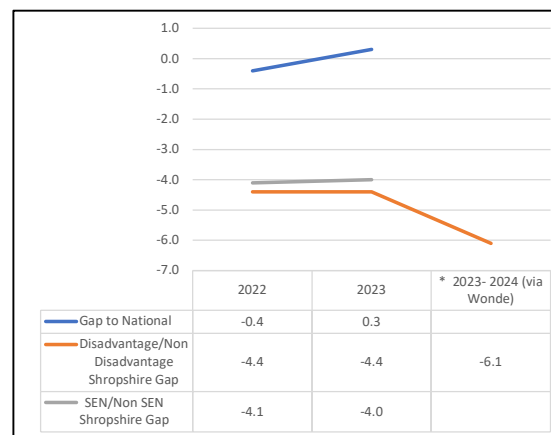
2021	2022	2023
21	33	6
76	71	32
16	37	26
50	49	56
59	73	73
60	59	54
36	65	6
No published comparators		



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	2.5	
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	5.9	
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	13.0	
SEN Support	6.1	6.2	6.8	4.2	
Non SEND	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.6	
Shropshire CLA (based on published 903)					
Shropshire 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

Primary School Suspension Rate (Full Academic Year)	2021*	2022	2023	Autumn Term 2023	Trend
All Pupils	0.86	1.38	1.75	0.79	
National	0.99	1.42	1.81	0.83	
Free School Meals (FSM)	2.23	4.42	5.21	2.46	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.60	0.75	0.98	0.43	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	5.03	6.82	10.03	4.43	
EHCP	6.15	11.40	23.28	9.91	
SEN Support	4.88	6.20	8.02	3.37	
Non SEND	0.22	0.48	0.29	0.13	

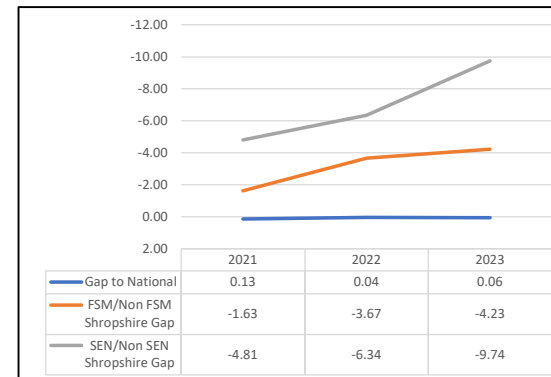
Latest Benchmark 'Full Year' 2022/23

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	85
77	111	106
96	86	93
86	85	103
49	76	130
106	88	98
76	131	48

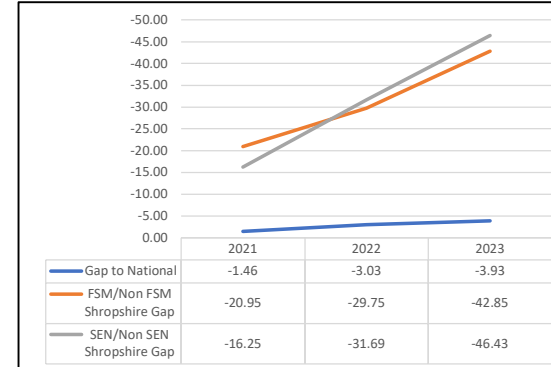
Gaps



Secondary School Suspension Rate (Full Academic Year)	2021*	2022	2023	Autumn Term 2023	Trend
All Pupils	9.94	16.99	22.83	10.04	
National	8.48	13.96	18.90	8.19	
Free School Meals (FSM)	28.00	42.21	58.30	27.15	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	7.05	12.46	15.45	6.16	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	24.15	44.41	62.50	24.51	
EHCP	26.07	46.24	72.35	27.09	
SEN Support	23.69	44.04	60.84	24.04	
Non SEND	7.90	12.72	16.07	7.38	

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

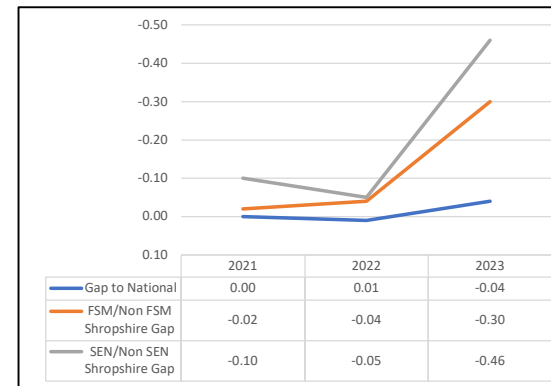
2021	2022	2023
105	112	104
118	115	110
116	129	128
94	110	117
83	112	134
91	110	113
117	115	100



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



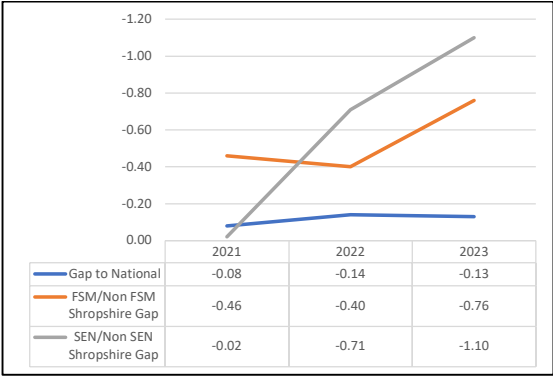
Secondary School Permanent Exclusion Rate (Full Academic Year)	2021*	2022	2023	Autumn Term 2023	Trend
All Pupils	0.18	0.30	0.35	0.15	
National	0.10	0.16	0.22	0.10	
Free School Meals (FSM)	0.58	0.64	0.98	0.46	
Non Free School Meals (Non FSM)	0.12	0.24	0.22	0.08	
SEND (SEN Support & EHCP)	0.20	0.91	1.29	0.39	
EHCP	0.00	0.54	0.84	0.25	
SEN Support	0.24	0.98	1.36	0.41	
Non SEND	0.18	0.20	0.19	0.11	

2022-23 full year statistics latest publication 18 July 2024. Autumn 2023 term published 21 November 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 24

Number of EHE children at any point during a full year and latest term available	2021-22 (Full Year)	2022-23 (Full Year)	2023-24 (Full Year)	Latest Term 2024 5 (Aut24)	Trend
All Pupils	630	760	650	650	
National	116,300	126,100	153,300	111,700	

EHE Termly rate - mid year point (Spring Term)	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Spring 24	Autumn 24	Trend
All Pupils	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	
National	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	

Number of CME children at any point during a full year and latest term available	2021-22 (Full Year)	2022-23 (Full Year)	2023-24 (Full Year)	Latest Term 2024 5 (Aut24)	Trend
All Pupils	180	270	230	80	
National	94,900	117,100	149,900	39,200	

CME Termly rate - mid year point (Spring Term)	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Spring 24	Autumn 24	Trend
All Pupils	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	
National	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
650	111,700	12,220	12,570

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
1.6	1.4	1.9	1.2

Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
80	39,200	2,130	3,330

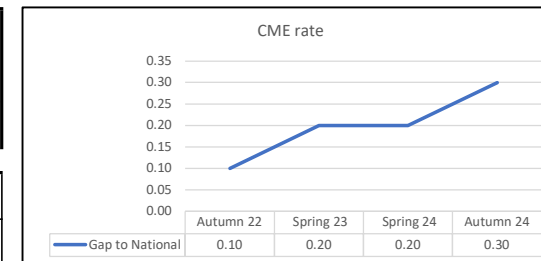
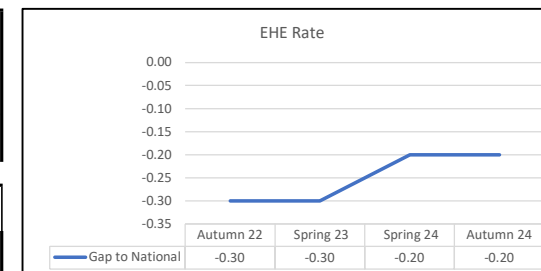
Shropshire	National	Statistical Neighbour	West Midlands
0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3

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 the number of children who were EHE or CME at any point during the full academic year or at any termly point. This publication is updated annually, the next release in winter 2025 will include termly data collected up to autumn 2025.