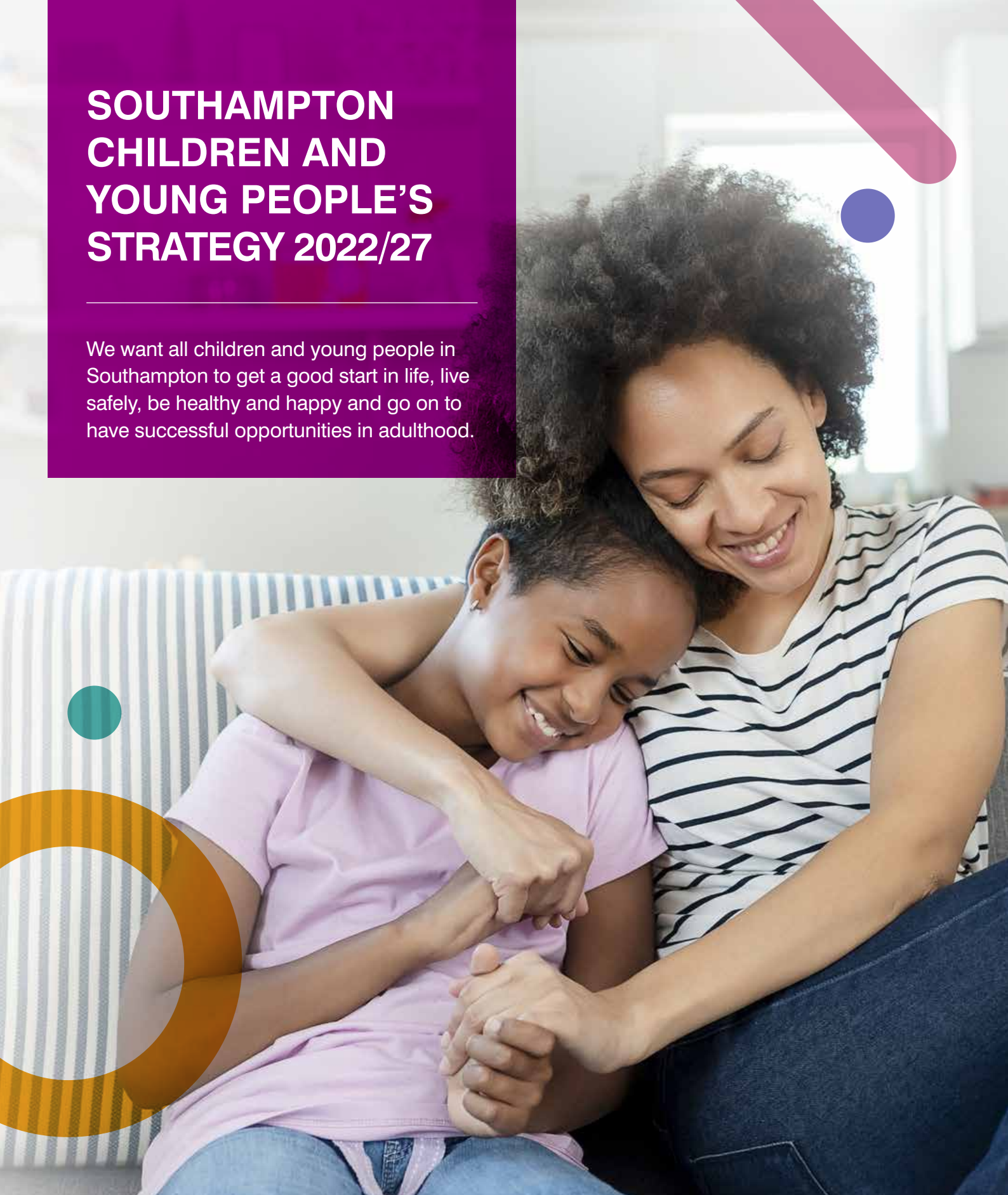


# SOUTHAMPTON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY 2022/27

We want all children and young people in Southampton to get a good start in life, live safely, be healthy and happy and go on to have successful opportunities in adulthood.



[southampton.gov.uk](https://southampton.gov.uk)



CANDIDATE  
CHILD FRIENDLY  
CITY



**Children  
& Learning**  
Making a difference





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## **Our vision**

We want all children and young people in Southampton to get a good start in life, live safely, be healthy and happy and go on to have successful opportunities in adulthood.

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# Foreword

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**Rob Henderson**  
Executive Director – Children & Learning

We want Southampton to be among the best cities to grow up in and I am proud to introduce the new Children and Young People's Strategy, which will make this happen. As a council, we have a clear vision of what we want to achieve for our children and young people and this strategy sets out how we are going to work towards this. Central to our approach are four core principles:

## **Early intervention, prevention, and inclusion**

We will invest in prevention, working with schools and communities to identify needs and deliver services as early as possible, to meet needs at the right time, in the right place and in the right way. We will promote educational inclusion and focus on preparing children for transitions and independence.

## **Relationship based work**

We will build and sustain relationships of trust to build on successes and make change together with: Children, young people, families and carers; One another (colleagues); Schools and colleges; Partners (health, police, voluntary and cultural sectors) and local communities

## **Locality Working**

We will bring our services closer to the communities they serve by changing how and where we work. We will use local knowledge and intelligence (e.g. data and feedback) to ensure communities can access the services they need from us and partners, closer to home.

## **A skilled and stable workforce**

We will build and develop confident, multi-skilled teams and future leaders through a strong learning and development offer and “high support, high challenge” culture, enabling more consistent relationships with children, families, schools and partners.

We know that there is a great deal to do before we deliver the best outcomes for children and we know too that children cannot wait, especially given the issues throughout COVID-19. We are committed as a City to raising standards and expectations and to delivering first class services and practice. Southampton is a city of opportunity and we are determined that our children will be front and centre of our recovery from the pandemic and our strategic approach to the City's development.



**Cllr James Baillie**  
Cabinet Member  
for Education

In Southampton, we are determined to achieve outstanding outcomes for children and young people. We can't realise our vision alone. Effective partnerships with key stakeholders, partner organisations and communities are the key to fulfilling our aspirations for children and families in Southampton. We want to build excellent relationships with partners creating a culture of 'High Support and High Challenge' so that we provide children in Southampton with the services and opportunities that they deserve.

Southampton's vision is to become a Child Friendly City, and we are working towards the goal of accreditation with UNICEF by 2024/25.



**Cllr Peter Baillie**  
Cabinet Member for  
Children's Social Care

### **Our values as a Child Friendly City are to:**

**Be Inclusive** – by becoming a participative city in which children experience meaningful engagement in the design, delivery and place shaping of Southampton.

**Listen** – by implementing a participation framework for children within Southampton City Council's democratic processes within which consultation with children takes place.

**Learn** – by ensuring all strategy and policy is informed by the active engagement of children, with new strategic commitments expressed in child friendly terms to support children's inclusion and participation in civic policy creation.

There are amazing things happening in Southampton and young people are at the forefront of our minds as initiatives such as Child Friendly Southampton and our City of Culture bid develop.

This strategy defines the priorities that we will focus on, with our partners, as we ensure that Southampton is among the best places to grow up, live and work.

## Southampton Children and Young People's Strategy 2022-2027

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### Our vision:

We want all children and young people in Southampton to get a good start in life, live safely, be healthy and happy and go on to have successful opportunities in adulthood.

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### Our priorities:

**Good start in life:** We want every baby and young child to have the care and support they need to give them the best start in life, as this lays the foundations for better outcomes for children at school, and improved life chances throughout adult life.

**Live safely:** We want children and young people in Southampton to be and feel safe in their homes and within their communities.

**Be happy and healthy:** We want all children to live happy, healthy lives, and enjoy good physical, social, emotional, and mental health.

**Learn and achieve:** We want all children and young people to have the skills they need to succeed and are prepared to move into adulthood.

### Our outcomes:

The outcomes that the strategy is designed to achieve are as follows for each headline priority:

#### Good start in life:

- Children and young people will have the best start in life
- Vulnerable families are identified early and supported
- All children are supported to reach their full potential and achieve their aspirations

#### Live safely:

- Services will work together to improve lives and outcomes for all children, young people, and their families
- All children and families get the help they need at the earliest opportunity, within their own communities
- All children and young people, live safely within their homes and families
- Organisations supporting all children and families will work to a common practice framework
- All children and young people will be at the heart of our response
- Young people at risk of harm in the community will receive effective help and protection.

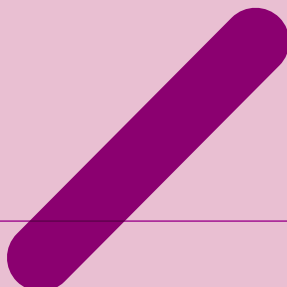


## Be happy and healthy:

- Improving lives of all children
- Children and young people have positive social, emotional, and mental health
- Ensure education settings are inclusive and promote the wellbeing of pupils and staff
- Children and young people adopt healthy attitudes and habits and enjoy physical activity and healthy eating in everyday life for benefits to their physical and mental health
- Children and young people have a positive, informed approach to risk taking
- Children and young people are able to participate and have a voice
- We will ensure that the transition for young people with specific needs from children to adult health and social care services is seamless and that they do not go without services because they reach a specific age.

## Learn and achieve:

- Focus on improving educational progress and attainment
- All children and young people experience suitable, high-quality education that meets their individual needs and enables them to achieve their aspirations
- All young people are provided with suitable and high-quality post-16 education, employment, and training
- Work in partnership with education providers to raise standards for all children and young people
- Provide sufficiency of high quality early years and school places.



## How we will achieve this

### Early intervention, prevention and inclusion

We will invest in prevention, working with schools and communities to identify needs and deliver services as early as possible, to meet needs at the right time, in the right place and in the right way. We will promote educational inclusion and focus on preparing children for transitions and independence.

### Relationship based work

We will build and sustain relationships of trust to build on successes and make change together with: All children, young people, families and carers; One another (colleagues); Schools and colleges; Partners (health, police, voluntary and cultural sectors) and local communities

### Locality working

We will bring our services closer to the communities they serve by changing how and where we work. We will use local knowledge and intelligence (e.g. data and feedback) to ensure communities can access the services they need from us and partners, closer to home.

### A skilled and stable workforce

We will build and develop confident, multi-skilled teams and future leaders through a strong learning and development offer and “high support, high challenge” culture, enabling more consistent relationships with children, families, schools and partners.

# Our focus and approach

**Good start in life:** We want every baby and young child to have the care and support they need to give them the best start in life, as this lays the foundations for better outcomes for children at school, and improved life chances throughout adult life.

**Live safely:** We want children and young people in Southampton to be and feel safe in their homes and within their communities.

**Be happy and healthy:** We want all children to live happy, healthy lives, and enjoy good physical, social, emotional, and mental health.

**Learn and achieve:** We want all children and young people to have the skills they need to succeed and are fully prepared to move into adulthood.

The following diagram illustrates the complex range of factors which can impact on a child's start in life, their ability to live safely in their homes and within communities, their ability to be happy and health, and their education and wider opportunities. In Southampton the challenge of working together to address these complex factors is tested further by the presence of significant social and health inequality. We know that the most important protective factor for children is the quality of parent infant interactions. By building on our existing work with neighbourhoods, we are committed to empowering all families to provide a healthy, stable and nurturing environment for their children and transforming the way we work so that we can offer everyone the help they need.





# Setting the scene

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**Children & Young People (CYP) Definition:** This strategy focuses on children and young people from birth to 18 years and up to 25 years for care leavers and young adults with Special Education Needs and Disabilities.

**Local Picture:** It is estimated that there were approximately 107k dwellings and approximately 260k residents in Southampton in 2019. Children and young people aged 0 to 24 currently make up 36.4% (94,605) of the population, roughly equal male/female. Between 2019-2026, there is a forecasted increase in population of 5.4% overall (+13,960) and 0.7% (+1,910) for 0-24 years.

This strategy builds on previous CYP plans and the city's Five Year Health and Care Strategy 2020 – 2025 "Start Well" framework to provide a vision for achieving improved outcomes for CYP in Southampton over the next 5 years.

## What are the challenges?

**Looked after children:** As of the end of July 2021 there was a total of 511 Looked After Children at Southampton City Council. Of the 511 looked after children: As of the end of December 2021 there were a total of 543 looked after children at Southampton City Council. Of the 543 looked after children, 392 children (72%) live within a 20 mile radius of Southampton City Council. In Southampton the rate of looked after children is improving with time but remains well above the England average (105 per 10,000 compared to 99.7 for our Statistical Neighbours and 67 for England). Owing to their experiences, both before and during care, looked after children are at much greater risk of poor mental health than their peers. Research suggests that around 45% of looked-after children have a diagnosable mental health disorder, and up to 70%-80% have recognisable mental health concerns.

**Neglect & Domestic Abuse:** Children's early experiences have a significant impact on their development, educational attainment and future life chances. It is estimated that one in five adults aged 18-74 years experienced at least one form of child abuse before the age of 16 (8.5 million people) (ONS, 2020). Southampton is ranked second highest among comparators for cruelty to children/young person crimes with the Southampton rate of 0.8 offences per 1k population significantly higher than the England average (0.4 per 1k population).

This represents a -8.4% decline compared to the previous year, with Hampshire experiencing a -2.6% decline over the same period of 2020/21. However, it is unlikely that this decline reflects a genuine reduction due to repeated periods of lockdown and children spending more time at home, making it more difficult for abuse to be identified. It is expected that volumes will return to pre-pandemic levels and potentially higher through belated reports, as children regain access to their trusted adults through school and other support systems. However, there has been a focus on children over the last year on training for officers on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) awareness and Voice of the Child. It could be that more offences are being picked up and recognised as a result of increased awareness.

Through the UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark Campaign, (national consultation for young people aged 11-18 in the UK), young people raised that Domestic Violence was the biggest issues facing young people in 2020. Around 40,000 young people across the UK highlighted Domestic Violence as being an issue affecting them, Southampton made up 3.6% (1500) of that vote which was above the cities average of 2.7% for other topics. For Southampton, Domestic Violence was raised by young people as a significant concern during the engagement and consultation processes for this strategy, with crime and violence both in the top four priorities Children and Young People raised for the City in the Young People's Consultation.

Local issue (identified by the LGA)	Number of votes	National ranking	Percentage of national votes
1. Domestic violence	1,500	Domestic violence	3.6%
2. Homelessness	1,083	Homelessness	2.7%
3. Access to training and jobs	620	Access to training and jobs	2.7%

The impact of domestic violence on children and young people in the city continues to be significant with:

- 54.3% of Southampton High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) referrals have children and young people in the household (April 19 to March 21)
- 58.9% of child assessments undertaken in 2018/19 had domestic violence recorded as an assessment factor

**Youth Crime & Knife Crime:** Southampton is ranked highest for violent crime among comparator Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) and 15th highest in England. There was a 7.4% increase in violence against the person offences in 2019/20, and a 2.5% increase in the crime severity score. About a third of crime is accounted for by children and young people (CYP), particularly older teenagers. Between 40-50% of the violent crime in Southampton is by CYP, with high use of knives implicated. The Violence Reduction Unit has highlighted a number of contextual challenges for the city, with Southampton ranking in the top three most violent cities in the UK. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is particularly high with 1,370 recorded VAWG crimes in 19/20, with 46% of victims aged under 25 years old.

**Mental Health:** Children and Young People's mental health is a concern in Southampton as it is estimated that 11.7% of 11-19-year olds have a mental health condition, which is becoming more prevalent. In Southampton over 1 in 100 15-19-year olds have had a hospital admission for self-harm, nearly twice that of England.

**SEND:** In Southampton 20% of children have Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), which is higher than the national average of 15.9%. Pupils with SEND living in Southampton do well in comparison with the SEND national averages in the early years, (% reaching a good level of development at foundation stage) but perform worse than the national average of those with SEND at age 16

**Impact of Covid-19 in Southampton:** Covid-19 has had a significant impact on our city and this strategy is an opportunity to rebuild from the pandemic in order to support our communities:

Mental health has worsened during the pandemic and there has been a significant peak in Children and Young People seeking mental health support. Children and Young People have shown that they are particularly worried about catching the virus, schoolwork and grading, as well as returning back to education. NO LIMITS conducted a survey in August 2020 of 180 Children and Young People aged 8-25 years and the standout results included:

- 65% felt that their mental health had worsened during peak of lockdown, particularly female and non-binary Children and Young People. This reduced to 54% when restrictions lifted.
- 5.3% of females never felt optimistic about the future, compared to 2.6% of males
- 14.7% never felt useful during lockdown, and 31.8% some of the time
- 33.3% able to think clearly sometimes, 19.7% rarely and 10.7% none of the time

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In terms of physical health, due to the partial closure of schools, early years settings, clubs and activities it is likely that there will be a rise in childhood obesity, particularly amongst more economically deprived children. The partial school closures have not only impacted physical health, but it has widened the gap for Children and Young People due to:

- Some children having less access to technology
- Less time spent learning
- Young carers were impacted by the challenges of having to care for clinically extremely vulnerable relatives, who had reduced capacity to care for children themselves
- Reduced support from parents/carers compared with their peers
- Unemployment as a result of retail and hospitality closures in the city has impacted 16 to 24 year olds more than other age ranges
- In May 2021 10.1% of the working age population were not in employment and claiming Universal Credit
- Free School Meal rates in the 20% most deprived wards was 3.7 times higher than in the 20% least deprived

In relation to physical activity in particular, we know that:

- COVID-19 has caused a drop in physical activity levels in children
- Children and young people were less active compared with previous years (national)
- Children from least affluent families and BAME communities were worst affected. Active play, informal activity and team sports all decreased
- Reductions in those activities alongside the resulting loneliness and boredom children have experienced from extended periods of isolation, may have a continued impact on physical and mental wellbeing in children

Covid-19 has caused an impact on the safety of children and young people in Southampton. The number of safeguarding calls made to Solent NHS trust increased with the COVID pandemic, notably for children. It has also been recognised that the lockdown associated with COVID will likely exacerbate domestic crime.

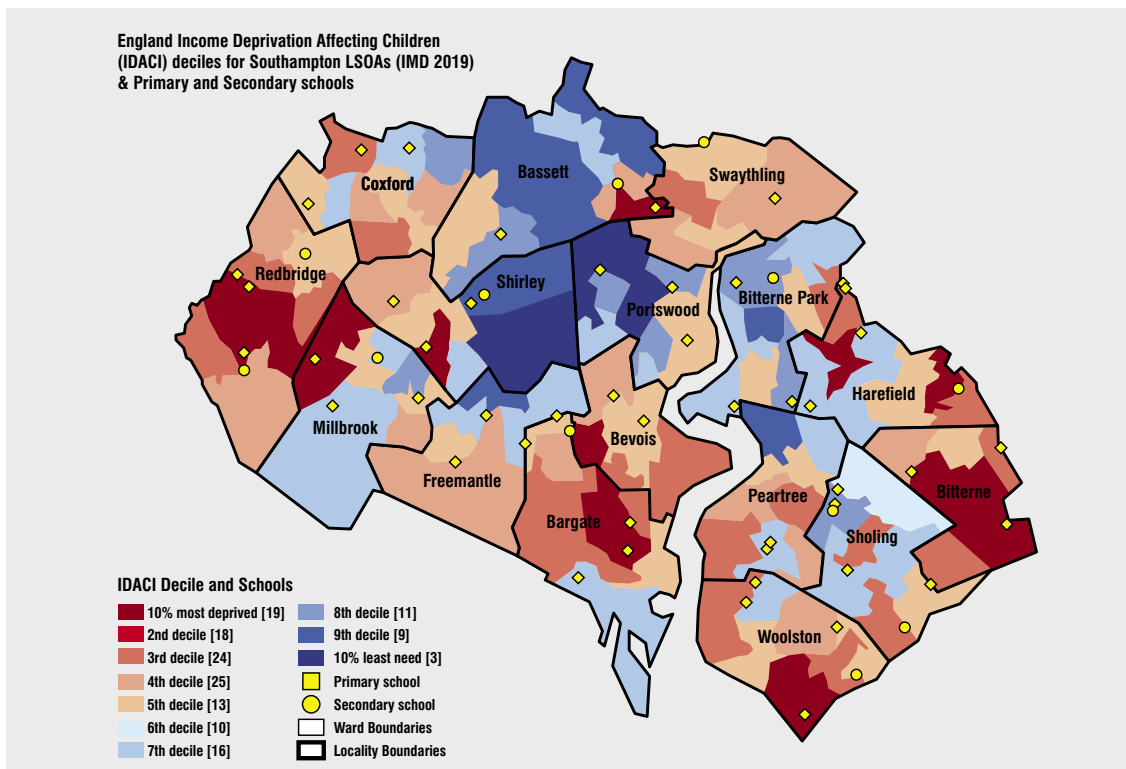


# Overarching Theme: Raising living standards & confronting deprivation:

Our services need to be reflective of our local community and diversity. Southampton is a relatively deprived city, with children and young people disproportionately affected. About 1 in 5 children are in low income families and will experience poor housing, family debt and financial anxiety, and food insecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an exacerbation of deprivation and inequalities. In November 2020, 16.7% of the working age population in Southampton were claiming universal credit – nearly twice that of January 2020 (8.8%), which will impact on families and so children and young people.

In Southampton, 19 of the 148 neighbourhoods fall into the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally. Overall, Southampton is ranked the 55th most deprived local authority area in England (IMD 2019). Despite improvements, comparing the most deprived 20% of Southampton to the least deprived 20%, outcomes for children and young people show inequalities:

- Mothers smoking at booking/ initial registration of pregnancy = 4.32x higher
- Breastfeeding at initial check = 1.38x lower
- Teenage maternities = 3.05x higher
- Low birth weight of full-term babies = 1.63x higher
- Prevalence of obesity = 1.72x higher for Year R children & 1.76x higher for Year 6 children
- Child poverty = 4.8x higher
- Looked after children = 3.95x higher
- Lower progress 8 attainment score = -0.47 in the most deprived & 0.17 in the least deprived





12% of Southampton's population live in the 10% most deprived areas, but 18% of under 18-year olds are in the most deprived areas. Deprivation is not spread equally throughout the city, with high deprivation seen in local ward areas such as Bevois, Woolston, Bitterne, Redbridge and Swaythling. Those that live in the most deprived quintile of Southampton have poorer outcomes across several areas, including child poverty, breastfeeding, maternal smoking, obesity, educational attainment and proportion of looked after children.



# Priority 1: Good start in life

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We want every baby and young child to have the care and support they need to give them the best start in life, as this lays the foundations for better outcomes for children at school, and improved life chances throughout adult life.

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## What do we know?

Health and wellbeing in the first years of a person's life, particularly from conception until 5 years of age, has a significant impact into adolescence and adulthood. Giving every child the best start in life is endorsed as the most important recommendation for reducing health inequalities in the Marmot Review as it can break the links between early disadvantage and poor outcomes later in life.

By the age of three there are already disparities in cognitive, developmental, social and wellbeing levels between those children living in more deprived areas and others, and this gap continues to widen throughout childhood. Early prevention and intervention are about building protective factors and reducing harm at the earliest stage, so children and young people have the best opportunities to thrive.

“The period from pregnancy to age 3 is when children are most susceptible to environmental influences. Investing in this period is one of the most efficient and effective ways to help eliminate extreme poverty and inequality, boost shared prosperity, and create the human capital needed for economies to diversify and grow.”

**UNICEF, World Bank and World Health Organisation,  
Nurturing Care Framework.**

Children need nurturing to develop their full potential and experience better outcomes. This includes conditions that promote health and wellbeing, nutrition, safety and security, responsive caregiving, and opportunities for early learning. These conditions in turn, promote an intergenerational and constantly improving cycle of positive parenting and happy and healthy family life.

## Priority 1: Key facts and figures

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### Population of under 5's:

5% of the city's population or 15,142 are under 5 years of age (Registered with the CCG, January 2019).



### Smoking at birth:

About 1 in 8 women smoke at the time of delivery.



### Breastfeeding:

It is recommended that all infants are exclusively breast fed until 6 months, however by 6-8 weeks only about half of babies are breastfed in Southampton. Although low, this is better than the England average – demonstrating a wider national issue.



### Premature births:

Southampton performs significantly better than the England average with about 65 preterm births per 1000 live births.



### Foetal Alcohol Syndrome:

This is growing, and it is likely that the numbers of women drinking alcohol, and particularly those drinking harmful amounts of alcohol during pregnancy is underestimated.



### Vaccination:

Southampton tends to perform well for childhood vaccinations, including first vaccines in a multi-dose vaccination course, but less well for follow up vaccinations suggesting that access rather than beliefs could be the key barrier.





### **Ofsted Results:**

100% of Ofsted registered early years' group settings (96) in Southampton which have been inspected were judged to be at least 'good' in their last inspection. This compares with 96% nationally.



### **Development:**

71.1% of Southampton's 5 year olds were judged to have reached a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage in 2019, this compares with 71% in 2018, 70% in 2017 and 2016, and 66% in 2015.

85.8% of Southampton's Year R pupils were judged to be at least the expected level in Listening and Communication, compared with 84.9% for our statistical neighbours. In the area of Understanding, 84.8% of all children in Southampton reached at least the expected level, compared with 84.3% for our statistical neighbours. And in the area of Speaking 84.3% of Southampton's children reached at least the expected level, compared with 84.1% for our statistical neighbours.



### **Education:**

3,943 3 and 4 year olds claimed funded nursery education in Summer term 2021; this is a decrease from last year (4,135 – Summer term 2020). 1,630 3 and 4 year olds are funded to attend more than 15 hours a week term time, or 570 hours a year. 71% of eligible 2 year olds are attending funded early education (Summer 2021), this is an increase on the previous year (68.7% in Spring term and 64.2% in Autumn Term).

## Key projects/activity

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- PATH (Perinatal mental Health): is an EU-funded project which will enable women, families, and healthcare professionals to prevent, diagnose and successfully manage mild and moderate perinatal mental health issues. The project will run from 1 February 2019 to the 30 September 2022. It receives funding from the European Regional Development Fund, has a budget of over £7.3 million and involves partners from the UK, the Netherlands, France, and Belgium. The Health and Europe Centre is the lead partner in the initiative and will be working with Southampton City Council and other organisations.
- No Limits “Bright Beginnings”: provides individualised support for young parents and their babies from pregnancy to two years. Counselling and therapeutic work: One to one work and group work, including supporting parents. LGBTQ+ safe awareness raising and exploratory offer through education establishments, youth groups, etc. Support groups: young carers.
- The Healthy Child Programme: launched 11 years ago, is the national evidence based universal programme for children aged 0-19 (focused on two age bands under and over 5’s). The programme provides the bedrock for health improvement, public health and supporting families. The programme is a core element of the City’s Integrated Early Help & Prevention Services. The clinical work is led by health visitors and school nurses, who work in partnership with a range of professionals and agencies to support children and families.
- Caseloads are organised into Universal, Universal Plus and Universal partnership plus in order to identify families who require additional support. The Health Visiting teamwork within locality family hubs alongside their colleagues from Early Help, Sure Start, Social Care and education to provide integrated interventions and advice.
- In addition to this the 0-19 team have developed an Enhanced Child Health Visiting Offer (ECHO) to provide extra help and support to families who need it (up to 30 contacts for children up to 3 years of age).
- Early years providers are supported to complete Healthy Early Years Awards in physical activity, healthy eating, and oral health. A recent Ofsted report stated that “Staff recognise the importance of helping children to keep their bodies healthy. They teach children about good oral health. Children learn how to clean their teeth thoroughly to reduce the risk of cavities. Staff provide good advice to parents about the nutritional values of food.
- Sure Start Family Hubs: hubs and spokes model of integrated family support inclusive of the 20 years of Sure Start delivery and learning in the City. There are currently 7 core Family Hubs within three designated locality areas, with additional outreach delivery at a variety of community based premises.
- The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP): is well established in the City having delivered the Programme for the last 11 years. FNP is a voluntary home visiting Programme providing intensive support for vulnerable first-time young mothers and their families. At any one time, the FNP is actively working with up to 100 families, providing targeted interventions for up to two years. Its primary aims are supporting healthy pregnancy, improving children’s health and development and helping young parents plan their own futures and achieve their aspirations. The FNP criteria for engagement include all first-time mothers aged 16 years and under, first-time mothers aged 17-24 with at least 2 additional vulnerabilities, as well as care leavers under 24 years. FNP seeks to engage mothers by 16 weeks of pregnancy but can take clients up to 28 weeks pregnancy. Each WTE nurse can work with up to 25 clients.
- DWP Reducing Parental Conflict national and local programme delivery to test approaches for reducing parental conflict.

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- Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC): is a proven method of prevention and early intervention that helps children and families get the very best start in life. EPEC parenting courses are led by local parent facilitators who have completed EPEC training and receive ongoing training, supervision and support from Early Help practitioners trained in the delivery of the EPEC programmes listed above. Our EPEC Hub provides the expertise, organisation, ethos, and oversight to ensure safe, high quality, and effective practice.
  - Universal support: Since 2010 Southampton City Council have invested in the ECaT Programme and fund a senior therapist for 3 days per week. Every Child a Talker (ECaT) is designed to help practitioners and parents create a developmentally appropriate, supportive, and stimulating environment in which children can enjoy experimenting with and learning language. 78 Settings also deliver BLAST (Boosting Language Auditory Skills and Talking), with support from the Speech Therapist who leads on the ECaT programme.
- BLAST, which is designed for 3 and 4 year olds, works on the underpinning skills for language, communication, and literacy; turn taking, discrimination, listening, attention and social communication as well as developing basic language skills.
- Specialist support: Speech and Language Therapy is provided by the Solent Integrated Children's Therapies Team. Children are seen for a short screening assessment at a 'Drop-in' as part of Family Point clinics at their local family hubs, or seen for a lengthier Speech & language Therapy or multidisciplinary assessment at the family hub or the Children's Development Centre.
  - Portage: Support for families who has a child aged 3 or below who is delayed in 2 or more developmental areas, but at least 6 months.
  - Early Bird: Parent training and support programmes to support the understanding and managing of needs for children under 5 who have been referred for autism assessment or who have a diagnosis of autism.



# Priority 1: Key projects

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>Children and young people will have the best start in life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will ensure families have access to high quality antenatal and postnatal services so that they have the care and support they need, and their child has the best early start to their life.</li> <li>• We will ensure there is a well-trained and comprehensive public health workforce that supports families to build the nurturing relationships that enable a child to thrive.</li> <li>• We will promote interventions and initiatives that support better outcomes for children; in their early years and also which can support health and wellbeing in later life.</li> <li>• We will support settings and Early Years practitioners to raise outcomes for disadvantaged children so that gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children are narrowed at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Early Years</li> <li>o Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>o Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
Vulnerable families are identified early and supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will have robust early help and prevention strategies, services and interventions in place to build protective factors and reduce harm at the earliest stage, so that all children have opportunities to thrive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Years</li> <li>Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>Service Improvement Plan and Outcomes Framework.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Additional information and objectives on this outline/focus area will also be available in the upcoming Domestic and Sexual Abuse (Violence Against Women and Girls) Strategy and in the upcoming Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Strategy (both in development, due late 2022).</li> </ul>
All children are supported to reach their full potential and achieve their aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will have robust communication, speech and language services and interventions in place to ensure children develop their full potential.</li> <li>We will promote opportunities for children to thrive in all areas of their development, including through play.</li> <li>We will identify and support children (and their families) that are in need of additional support to enable them to reach their full potential.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Years</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Corporate Parenting</li> <li>SEND.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Additional information and objectives on this outline/focus area can also be found in the Autism Strategy.</li> </ul>



## Priority 2: Live safely

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We want children and young people in Southampton to be and feel safe in their homes and within their communities.

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### What do we know?

Southampton is a safe place for the majority of children and young people. However, for those who are particularly vulnerable: the numbers of children in Southampton who experience neglect and /or are victims of domestic abuse are comparatively high and this can be exacerbated by levels of deprivation in some parts of the city. The numbers of children subject to child protection plans, looked after children and young people involved in serious youth crime are higher than statistical neighbours.

We recognise that many vulnerable children and young people also experience complex needs relating to Special educational needs (SEN), speech and language difficulties, trauma and other welfare related issues. In addition, some young people can be at risk from 'contextual' factors, outside of their families or homes. Building relationships with these young people can support better decision making, improve education, training and employment outcomes and also increase resilience and decrease risks to themselves and others.

“Children and adolescents can recover from the negative things they have experienced, with the right support... we need to be prepared to make sure schools, teachers, children’s social care, and other safeguarding partners are ready to support every young person who has suffered.”

**Chief Executive – NSPCC**

Youth justice work puts the child first through a robust consideration of the needs they have and the risks they face. This is a guiding principle in any work undertaken with a child involved in offending. All of these complexities mean outcomes for children in terms of education, training and employment to education, training and employment (ETE) can be poor but that improving experiences in ETE can also increase resilience and decrease risks to themselves and others. We recognise that with the increase in prevalence of gang related violence, county lines and other forms of exploitation, more and more of our children are vulnerable to exploitation and serious harm outside of the family home. The context in which they live means they can present risks towards others as a result, which impacts on individuals and communities.

All services will need to embed a new Serious Violence Duty in 2022. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines children of households experiencing Domestic Abuse as victims in their own right.

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## Priority 2: Key facts and figures:

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### **Neglect:**

In 2020/21 Southampton ranked second highest among comparators for cruelty to children/young person crimes with the Southampton rate of 0.8 offences per 1k population significantly higher than the England average (0.4 per 1k population). • This represents a -8.4% decline compared to the previous year, with Hampshire experiencing a -2.6% decline over the same period.



### **Domestic Abuse:**

The impact of domestic violence on children in the city continues to be significant:

- There were 4,804 domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2020/21.
- The total number of cases referred to High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) in 2021 increased to 1055 from 792 in 19/20
- 54.3% of Southampton High-Risk Domestic Abuse Arrangements (HRDA) referrals have children and young people in the household 2020/21
- 58.9% of child assessments undertaken in 2018/19 had domestic violence recorded as an assessment factor
- In 2020/21, of 6,773 contacts and referrals, 510 (7.5%) were from Children's Services representing an approximate doubling from 2019/20.
- There were 2,779 Children where Domestic Violence was identified during assessment.



### **Youth Crime & Knife Crime:**

About a third of crime is accounted for by CYP, particularly older teenagers. Between 40-50% of the violent crime in Southampton is by CYP, with high use of knives.

- 4208 crimes involved in children under 18 in 2019/20
- 2464 violent crimes in 2019/20 involved children under the age of 18.





### **Youth Reoffending:**

Percentage of youth offenders who reoffend is 38.4%, which is the same as the England and Wales average.

Southampton also has a lower than average number of reoffences per youth reoffender at 3.8 reoffences (compared to 4.0 for England and Wales).



### **Poverty:**

Children who live in poverty are at greater risk of becoming involved in crime, either as victim or perpetrator. 10,286 (22%) of children in Southampton are living in relative low-income families.



### **Adverse Childhood Experiences:**

Many ACEs relate to abuse or neglect, and domestic violence, and parental substance use. Examples of ACEs:

- Emotional, physical and sexual abuse
- Emotional or physical neglect
- Violence against household members
- Parental abandonment through separation or divorce
- Living with household members who were substance abusers, mentally ill, suicidal or imprisoned
- Household member in prison
- Bullying or exposure to community or collective violence



### **First time entrants (to the youth justice system)**

Southampton FTE rates from the last national indicator is 352 per 100,000, our statistical neighbours is 284 per 100,000 and the national average is 211. We are also not reducing at the same rate, with Southampton decreasing at -1.4%, statistical neighbours decreasing at 8.9% and the national rate is 12.4%. This means that we have more children coming into the youth justice system than the national average and what we are currently doing to tackle and reduce this is at a much slower rate than the national average.



### **Care Leavers:**

At the end of July 2021, 84% of Care Leavers were not in suitable accommodation.

## Key projects/activity

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### Key Projects / Activity – Case Study Example

- The Children and Learning Service Destination 22 programme sets out the key areas of transformational work across the system. It provides the opportunity to:
  - o Address multiple and interconnected needs and risks holistically.
  - o Increase the timeliness of decision making and work with children, young people, and families.
  - o Provide earlier intervention (direct work) with families in need in order to prevent the identified risks from escalating.
  - o Reduce the number of referrals to Children's Social Care
  - o Reduce duplication and remove service specific referral criteria/ thresholds and reduce duplication
  - o Cost efficiencies.
- In 2019, Ofsted reviewed the Rapid Response service and found that:

'Children with more urgent needs are seen quickly by a rapid response service which provides an initial six-week programme to address many of their unmet needs. Curious and knowledgeable practitioners work alongside families to effect change and improve children's daily experiences.'

- The community support hub worked with a wide variety of partners across the City from our community, voluntary and faith sectors to provide support.
- There is a Kicks and Switching Play/Chances Programmes available in the city to support children and young people to divert from crime but also to support those that have already offended.
- Children and Young People's specialist resource hub - This will provide a specialist response to vulnerable children and young people with complex needs in Southampton, to help prevent entry into care and long-term residential placement. (Design 2020/21 & Deliver 2021/22).

- Southampton Children and Learning Service have launched its practice framework, 'Our practice – making the difference for children & families'
- Within a restorative practice approach, it blends evidenced-based ways of working with families that include Trauma Informed Practice, Systemic Practice, Motivational Interviewing and Strengthening Families.
- The Star Project is Yellow Door's award-winning education and outreach initiative which works in schools and youth venues to promote healthy relationship skills and reduce the high incidence of domestic and sexual abuse locally. The project also raises awareness of support services via creative and innovative workshops offering specialist interventions that explore consent, respect, mutuality, coercion, sexual exploitation, risk and the impact of substance use.
- The Phoenix Team are Southampton's Pause Practice, linked to the National charity PAUSE: Creating Space for Change. The service is a trauma-informed relation-based intensive support service aimed at women aged 18-44 who have had their children permanently removed from their care and remain at risk of repeat pregnancies and removals of subsequent children. They support women to take a 'pause in pregnancy' with the use of long-acting reversible contraception which gives them space to make adjustments to their own lives. Through an intense programme of support, through a systemic lens, the service aims to support women to break this cycle, and give women the opportunity to reflect, tackle destructive patterns of behaviour, and to develop new skills and responses that can help them create a more positive future.
- Southampton Voices Unite is Southampton's Children in Care Council. Our looked after children are engaging positively and robustly in the development of the Southampton Corporate Parenting Strategic Plan and what they think the priorities should be.

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- There is a strategic vision of Southampton as a 'child-friendly' city, clearly stated values and a commitment to developing restorative practice. The staff are highly motivated, skilled, and creative in engaging young people.
  - MET: Ofsted Focused Visit – May 2021: The missing, exploited, and trafficked team provides effective oversight and review of children at risk of, or experiencing, criminal or sexual exploitation. Work undertaken by the team reduces risks and strengthens the safeguarding of children in the greatest danger. Most children who go missing participate in informative return-home conversations that assist professionals in understanding their peer associations and the serious risks to which they are exposed. Leaders recognise that there is more to do to further develop rigorous, system-wide responses to children exposed to harm outside their families.



## Priority 2: Key projects

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>Services will work together to improve lives and outcomes for all children, young people, and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to improve our understanding of the experiences of children and young people so we can offer the most effective service to them.</li> <li>• An acknowledgement of the experiences of service users from minority communities will be central to our collective response to reducing inequalities; and we challenge the impact of disproportionality, structural inequalities and perceptions of services being delivered differently within communities.</li> <li>• We want to work with partners to create a culture of prevention and early intervention; driven by effective multi-agency working within localities and those areas of most need.</li> <li>• We will ensure the most vulnerable children and young people in Southampton are identified and supported to reduce inequalities in their life chances' and to instead read 'to improve their life chances.</li> <li>• We will ensure all children and young people feel welcomed, valued, respected and supported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Early Years</li> <li>o Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>o Service Improvement Plan and Outcomes Framework.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional information and objectives on this outline/focus area can also be found in the Diversity Strategy.</li> </ul>
<p>All children and families get the help they need at the earliest opportunity, within their own communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to make it as easy as possible for children and families to access the services they need.</li> <li>• We want to strengthen our Early Help offer so it is robust and reduces the escalation of families' needs into social care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Early Years</li> <li>o Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>o Youth Justice</li> <li>o Service Improvement Plan and Outcomes Framework.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional information and objectives on this outline/focus area can also be found in the new Safe City Strategy (expected April 2022).</li> </ul>

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
All children and young people, live safely within their homes and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want our children in care to have meaningful, enduring relationships with adults who they trust within the services that are there to help them.</li> <li>• We want to ensure that services intervene effectively when children experience neglect, are victims of domestic abuse or live in homes where parents experience mental health and / or substance use issues.</li> <li>• We want to make sure that children and young people are supported to stay at home safely or live elsewhere in safe, stable and well-matched care and accommodation that enables them to thrive.</li> <li>• We want our looked after children to live close to their local areas when possible.</li> <li>• We want to increase the percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> <li>o Service Improvement Plan and Outcomes Framework</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional information and objectives on this outline/focus area will also be available in the upcoming Domestic and Sexual Abuse (Violence Against Women and Girls) Strategy (in development, due late 2022).</li> </ul>
Organisations supporting all children and families will work to a common practice framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to ensure that children and families get a consistent response from services, which translates restorative principles into practice that makes a real difference. We will implement this with the support of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Making the Difference Practice Framework</li> <li>o Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>o Service Improvement Plan and Outcomes Framework</li> <li>o Participation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>All children and young people will be at the heart of our response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We want children and young people to know how to keep themselves safe and to make positive choices about their safety and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making the Difference Practice Framework</li> <li>Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>Service Improvement Plan and Outcomes Framework</li> <li>Participation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation</li> <li>Corporate Parenting.</li> <li>UNICEF Accreditation to become a Child Friendly City</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Organisations supporting all children and families will work to a common practice framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We want to ensure that children and families get a consistent response from services, which translates restorative principles into practice that makes a real difference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making the Difference Practice Framework</li> <li>Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>Service Improvement Plan and Outcomes Framework</li> <li>Participation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>







## Priority 3: Be happy and healthy

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We want all children to live happy, healthy lives, and enjoy good physical, social, emotional, and mental health.

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### What do we know?

All children and young people in Southampton deserve to be happy and healthy. All health and wellbeing issues in Southampton tend to develop throughout childhood and early adulthood, with progressively worse outcomes compared to National averages. These issues peak in young people in relation to obesity, educational attainment, mental health, and A&E attendances, including unintentional and deliberate injuries. Good physical and mental health plays an important part in helping them to live a fulfilled life. From the earliest years through to adolescence, children need support to develop the protective factors that support good social and emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships, and enable them to make informed and positive choices that affect their physical and mental health. Children and young people also need access to opportunities to thrive; from access to safe spaces to play and be active, safe and secure housing, access to interventions and services, through to education and other programmes that promote robust personal, social, health and economic outcomes.

“Our well-being growing up can have a serious impact on future mental health. We found that children who are not happy with their lives at 14 are more likely than others to have symptoms of mental health issues by the time they are 17.”

**‘The Good Childhood Report,’ The Children’s Society – 2021.**

Healthy, strong relationships with family, friends and professionals can help our children and young people to feel happier and more secure, as well as build a sense of belonging and self-worth. It’s important that everyone, and especially families, encourage their children and young people to share their feelings and know they are understood. Some families need additional help to enable them to do this, including families with multiple complex needs, and interventions and services need to be both restorative and trauma-informed in their practice.

## Priority 3: Key facts and figures:

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### Poverty:

30.4% (10,018) of Southampton pupils in state funded schools are known to be eligible for free school meals, significantly higher than the England average of 20.8% in 2021. Communities with higher levels of deprivation have the highest proportion of children and young people with multiple physical and/or social, emotional and mental health needs.



### Mental Health:

An estimated one in eight 5-19 year olds in Southampton have a mental health disorder. Nationally, 50% of mental health problems are established by age 14 and 75% by age 24. National and local surveys, and feedback from young people, parents and professionals in Southampton, suggest that the mental health of young people has worsened with the impact of COVID-19, which has disproportionately impacted children and young people in relation to time away from education settings and friends.



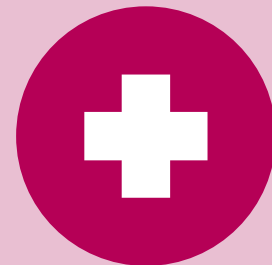
### Suicide and self-harm:

Death by suicide is the biggest killer of young people in the UK yet is preventable. Southampton has a similar rate of suicide across all ages to the England average, and higher than average levels of young people that self-harm; over 1 in 100 15-19-year olds have had a hospital admission for self-harm, nearly twice that of England



### Housing:

Results of the 2011 Census showed that around 14% of households in Southampton are defined as overcrowded (national average of 8.7%), and around 11% live with fuel poverty. Overcrowding and fuel poverty both create challenges for children and young people in relation to health (i.e. respiratory illness, sleep problems, mental health needs), education and related outcomes.



### Admissions to hospital:

Southampton has similar rates to England for non-accidental admissions, but overall has a higher number of emergency admissions, largely driven by older children.



### **Alcohol use:**

Southampton has higher than national average rates of hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions in under 18-year olds, and particularly high rates for females under 18 years.



### **Sexual health and teenage pregnancy:**

The high under-18 teenage conception rate in Southampton has decreased over time (18 per 1,000) and is now not significantly different to England. Southampton has a much higher rate of newly diagnosed STIs than the England average, as well as inequalities between ethnic groups and areas of high and low deprivation. Southampton tests a high proportion of young people for STIs.



### **Obesity:**

The proportion of obese children in Southampton increases significantly between reception and year 6. By year 6, 37.6% of children in Southampton are overweight with nearly a quarter obese. This is significantly worse than England but reflects a growing national trend.



### **Vulnerable children:**

Many adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) relate to abuse or neglect, parental substance use, and domestic violence, all of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Physical Activity:**

Nationally it is estimated that more than half of children (56%) are not meeting physical activity guidelines of 60 minutes every day, and a third (33%) do less than 30 minutes every day.

## Key projects/activity

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- Hampshire Constabulary: Community Support Officers (PCSOs) work within Early Help Hubs to identify families of concern and prevent siblings of offenders from falling into a life of crime.
- Community Engagement and Cohesion Team's: will work closely with communities and community representatives to help improve our intelligence and insight so the diverse needs of communities can be understood.
- Voluntary and Community Services: provide a range of services including youth work, counselling, therapeutic groups, dedicated safe space for young people to explore being happy and healthy, programmes which support both physical and mental health, outdoor learning, social prescribing – connecting CYP with communities. Examples include:
  - Re:minds: a parent-led organisation supporting families whose children have neurodevelopmental or mental health needs. They provide a range of activities including drop-in sessions, support, and advice groups e.g. Autism and ADHD, transition, a lending library.
  - Kooth: a digital well-being service including counselling for young people aged up to 26 years old.
  - Neurodevelopmental Support: review diagnostic pathways and continue to improve support pre, during and post diagnosis.
  - NHS 111: Mental Health offer for Young People enabling advice, support and signposting to be provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round for any young person contacting NHS 111, including direct signposting to No Limits young people's service.
  - Hospital Emergency: implementation of an acute psychiatric liaison team and youth worker support for CYP presenting with issues relating to mental health.
- Mental Health in Schools Team: provide evidence based intervention for low to moderate mental health issues in education settings and support the Senior Mental Health Lead in education settings to develop their whole school approach.
- Educational Psychology Service offering a comprehensive package of support including supervision, training, and group support.
- Evidence-based training offer/support and consultation package to settings supporting pupils with Emotionally Based School Attendance (EBSA) has now been developed.
- Recent appointment of a Specialist Educational Psychologist for Emotional Wellbeing jointly funded with Solent CAMHS -providing Clinical Lead in the MHST (Mental Health in Schools team) and supporting the Team Manager.
- Roll out of the Educational Psychology Service consultation phone line for all Children's Services staff and parents. Coaching and supervision for school staff (including DSLs) provided by the Educational Psychology Service.
- The Saints Foundation offer: programmes for children and young people which support both their physical and mental health.
- Tackling child hunger: We will continue to deliver the 'Feed the Future' programme by offering free healthy snacks in Southampton schools. We will offer more healthy foods for families in poverty through the summer school holiday break holiday hunger scheme.
- Healthy High-5 award: developed with schools aims to provide a healthier environment for children in their care. It supports schools to improve standards for healthy eating, physical activity, and mental health.
- Young Health Champions: a qualification for young people to become peer mentors to support others with healthy lifestyle choices including mental health, sexual health, and substance use.



- No Limits is commissioned to provide a drug and alcohol service for children and young people under 25 years old. This includes working with all participating schools to run regular 'Buzz' sessions in which drugs awareness is discussed with year 10 pupils.
- CGL provides drug and alcohol treatment services for adults aged 25+, including for people with children, supported by Parent Support Link.
- Southampton Healthy Ambition are providing targeted education and support to those at highest risk.
- Alcohol Education Trust: has provided interactive games, resources and training for people working with young people to help keep them safe around alcohol, strengthen resilience and make informed choices.
- The Local Safeguarding Children's Board/ Local Safeguarding Adults Board are promoting an understanding that drug use may be a complex, chronic, relapsing, and remitting condition that requires individualised, person-centred care and support.
- Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) programme: VRU-funded interventions such as the

Navigator programme at A&E. When in hospital, there is a reachable moment when the patient can be reflective and open to intervention. The A&E Navigators build trust with patients who present at hospital because of existing issues including substance abuse, mental health issues, poor diet or personal care and violence itself. The patient is signposted to a local support agency in an attempt to prevent further violence and incidents which could lead them back into hospital.

- Involvement of children in Child Friendly Streets (Transport), the design of safe walking and travel routes to schools.
- Introduction of Children's Mayor, Youth Council, and internal scrutiny processes
- Hampshire Constabulary Strategic Plan for Child Centred Policing.
- PfA Audit Tool DfE Partner input to support audit of processes and dedicated regional support to work with neighbouring LA's to establish and fill gaps.

## Priority 3: Key projects

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
Improving lives of all children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will seek to address and mitigate the causes of children and young people's poor health and wellbeing, including poverty and deprivation, poor access to health services and high incidents of crime.</li> <li>• We will ensure the most vulnerable children and young people in Southampton are identified at an early stage and supported to reduce inequalities in their life chances.</li> <li>• We will ensure all children and young people feel welcomed, valued, respected and supported in our city, a Child Friendly City.</li> <li>• Through our ambition to become a Child Friendly City we will ensure children's voices are represented in the design, review and delivery of services and enshrine children's rights in everything we do.</li> <li>• We will analysis and scrutinise data to understand why outcomes for different ethnic groups vary across the city in relation to other groups.</li> <li>• We will scrutinise data to understand the difficulties that many communities face, and we will work hard to understand how &amp; why children and parents from different ethnic backgrounds can perform less well across a range of socio-economic, educational and health indicators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Start Well</li> <li>o Early Years</li> <li>o Education</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> <li>o SEND.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
Children and young people have positive social, emotional, and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will continue to promote critical protective factors for positive social and emotional wellbeing and mental health throughout childhood such as secure and healthy attachment and relationships, emotional resilience, confidence and self-esteem.</li> <li>• We will embed prevention and early-intervention across the system by active health promotion and support within the community.</li> <li>• We will improve access to critical services to address the emergence or escalation of mental ill health.</li> <li>• We will continue to promote interventions that prevent suicide and self-harming behaviours and its impact on children, young people and families.</li> <li>• We will address inequalities in teenage conception rates, and provide timely access to welcoming and effective sexual health services for all young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> <li>o Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>o Education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ensure education settings are inclusive and promote the wellbeing of pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will ensure robust identification and support for children and young people’s social and emotional wellbeing in the school/college setting.</li> <li>• We will ensure the wellbeing of children and young people and staff are supported at many different levels in the school setting.</li> <li>• We will support inclusion and targeted provision for pupils with social and communication/ Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs including emotionally based school attendance issues.</li> <li>• We will improve transition processes to support smooth transfer from children’s services to adult services.</li> <li>• We will support the education settings where children and young people do not experience exploitative behaviour, racism, sexual bullying, or other forms of prejudice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>o SEND</li> <li>o Education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>Children and young people adopt healthy attitudes and habits and enjoy physical activity and healthy eating in everyday life for benefits to their physical and mental health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will embed opportunities for children and young people to lead active lives and eat well across all relevant SCC strategies, policies and contracts.</li> <li>• We will embed physical activity and eating well mindsets and behaviours across all aspects of early years and school life, including through curriculum activities, innovative programmes, teacher training initiatives, and events.</li> <li>• We will ensure families are equipped with the knowledge and skills that they need to support healthy attitudes and behaviours within the home, including when they feel they can't do it alone or are concerned about cost and facilities.</li> <li>• We will support families and professionals who come into contact with children and young people to have healthy conversations around behaviour change including physical activity and eating well.</li> <li>• We will work across the wider determinants of health to ensure children and young people have the opportunity to grow up in health-promoting places, that make safe active travel, sport and exercise, and eating well the easier and more attractive choice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>o Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>o Suicide Prevention Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>Children and young people have a positive, informed approach to risk taking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will continue interventions and support to help children and young people to live in safe, supportive and loving families, throughout childhood and young life.</li> <li>• We will educate children and young people to manage risks and understand unhealthy and risky behaviour.</li> <li>• We will build the protective factors that are critical in enabling children and young people to make healthy lifestyle choices (e.g. about smoking, drugs, alcohol and relationships), overcome problems, and positively communicate and assert their choices.</li> <li>• We will ensure children and young people have good knowledge of sexual health and healthy relationships through education programmes and age-appropriate open conversations between children and young people and their trusted adults.</li> <li>• We will ensure children are protected from smoking and fewer under 18s smoke.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Prevention and Early Help</li> <li>o Education</li> <li>o Youth Justice</li> <li>o Sexual Health Improvement Plan.</li> <li>o Violence Reduction Unit Problem Profile</li> <li>o Safe City Strategy 2022-2027</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional information and objectives on this outline/focus area will also be available in the upcoming Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Strategy (in development, due late 2022).</li> </ul>
<p>Children and young people are able to participate and have a voice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will ensure that children and young people with SEND have a range of opportunities to participate and are enabled to do so.</li> <li>• We will promote opportunities that strengthen Southampton as an inclusive city that respects and values difference.</li> <li>• We will ensure the voice and rights of children and young people are embedded in the city’s democratic and decision-making processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Participation</li> <li>o SEND</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> <li>o UNICEF Accreditation to become a Child Friendly City</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>We will ensure that the transition for YP with specific needs from children to adult health and social care services is seamless and that they do not go without services because they reach a specific age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want assessment for adult services to take place in a timely manner, when it is right for the young person.</li> <li>• We want young people and their parent/carers to know what services and support they will receive in adulthood, in advance of the date of transition between services.</li> <li>• We do not want any young people to go without support, based on them reaching a certain age – there should be a robustly planned handover.</li> <li>• We want service users to report to us that the process is smooth, clear and transparent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People's Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing</li> <li>o SEND</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Priority 4: Achieve and learn

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We want all children and young people to have the skills they need to succeed and are prepared to move into adulthood.

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### What do we know?

The last few years have seen a renewed focus on the relationship between the local authority and the Southampton family of early years settings, schools and colleges. This has led to a strong partnership which has changed the way the Council works with education providers. We have switched from the role of deliverer, to a role that enables leaders across the city to address some of the key priorities identified through the partnership. Together we aim for children and young people to be supported to have high aspirations and achieve their ambitions.

“All children have a right to a good education, and school plays such a key part in children’s lives.”

**UK Children’s Commissioner, 2021**

### Strengths:

- We know that our education leads across the city feel supported by the local authority and local support charities.
- We know that Covid-19 has had both positive and negative impacts for our children, families and education providers.
- We know we have developed strong collaborative relationships with stakeholders.

### Areas for development:

- We know our attendance, attainment, Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) figures, and special and primary school exclusions need to be addressed.
  - We know that some parents feel that some schools do not possess the strong inclusive practice we would expect.
  - We know that some schools in Southampton need to improve on their overall standard, especially in the secondary school sector.
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## Priority 4: Key facts and figures:

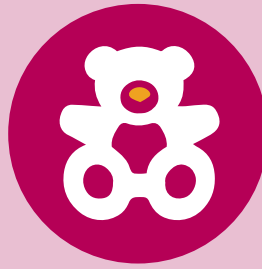
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### **Ofsted:**

There are 75 schools in the city, 55 Primary Schools, 12 Secondary Schools and 8 Special Schools and Pupil Referral Units.

For Primary Schools, around 82% of them have received a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating and around 16% of Schools have received a rating of either 'Inadequate' or 'Requires Improvement'. For Secondary Schools, around 58% of them have received a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating and around 42% of Schools have received a rating of either 'Inadequate' or 'Requires Improvement'.



### **Early Years:**

Southampton pre-school children perform better in some areas of development, and worse in others compared to England, with similar performance by reception.

15,000+ children under 5 use the city's Children's Centres – all of which are rated good or excellent by Ofsted, as are 90% of day nurseries and preschool provision. 100% of early years group settings which have had an Ofsted inspection are rated as good or above, and 94% of childminders.



### **School attendance:**

Southampton's Primary, Secondary and Special School Total Absence was 5.3%, achieving a rank position of 137 out of 151, with a gap to National of 0.6% (4.7%).

Southampton's Primary, Secondary and Special School Persistent Absence is 15.2%, achieving a rank position of 128 out of 151, with a gap to National of 2.2% (13.0%). (DfE Absence Statistical Release – Autumn 2020).



### **Attainment:**

Southampton's performance at Key Stage 4 is below the National average for Attainment (Overall Attainment 8; Southampton 44.1 vs. National 46.7) and Progress (Overall Progress 8; Southampton -0.19 vs. National 0.0) (DfE Statistical Release, 2019)



**NEET:**

7.6% of 16-17 year olds are not in education, employment or training.



**SEND:**

20% of children in Southampton have SEND, compared to 15.9% nationally.



**Poverty:**

20.1% of children in Southampton aged under 16 are in low income families, compared to the national average of 17.0%. 20.0% of all dependent children in Southampton aged under 20 are in low income families, compared to the national average of 17.0%.



## Key projects/activity

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- The School Improvement Team regularly review the support that is provided to schools, adapting accordingly.
- The Annual Shared Conversation is a guided self-reflective tool which supports early years providers to further develop good practice, and to identify areas which need more attention.
- 100% of early years group settings have attended Every Child a Talker training. The ECaT lead delivers termly network meetings for settings and produces 'top-tips' around communicating with children for parents.
- Virtual School PEP tracking
- Use of welfare call to support attendance for care experienced children and young people.
- NEET priority working group
- Virtual School extension of duties to include any child or young person who has had (or as) a social worker.
- The Virtual School promotes the educational attainment for children looked after by SCC. This role will be expanded to promote education opportunity for all children aged 0-18 who have, or have ever had, a social worker. The Virtual School headteacher reports on progress made across KPIs ½ termly.
- The Saints Foundation provide Community Champions active in 10 of the 14 secondary schools across the city. The Community Champions are there to support those children and young people that may struggle within mainstream education.
- The Violence Reduction Unit works with schools and education providers to promote positive opportunities in arts and culture for children and young people.
- The Saints Works Programme supports young adults to gain skills, help them build confidence, and ultimately gain employment.
- No Limits offers information, advice, counselling, advocacy, and support to young people.
- Young Carers: supporting them in their education and future aspirations alongside or after their caring role; providing opportunities to go on to higher education.
- Health and Wellbeing drop-ins: Provide confidential support within education settings. Children and young people can access the support they need.
- Work Club is a regular club for those seeking support with finding volunteering/employment opportunities.
- Employment Hub: Young Adult Employment Hub and joint working with DWP to support employment pathways for young people into employment.
- Youth Ambassadors and Youth Advocates: Participation opportunities to help shape SCC provided services and campaign for wider change for children with housing, employment, and participation.
- Educational Psychology support for critical incidents. The team provide bespoke support settings for young people who have experienced a critical incident (e.g., the death of a child or staff member).
- Southampton Advisory Outreach Service support. The team has the expertise and experience to provide support to pupils/students with a variety of complex learning, physical and emotional, behavioural needs across primary and secondary schools.
- The Virtual school will track and support all children post 16 who are looked after by SCC and provide support and advice to key stakeholders in social care.
- Care Leavers Guarantee will support the council ambition to provide equality of opportunity for our children and young people, including that all care leavers are aware of opportunities to work for the council, guaranteed an interview with minimum qualifications and are supported to access work experience, placements, and internships with other employers.

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- 2021 has seen the first coproduced transition programme to support Year 11's move into college. This will be built upon and altered as required for subsequent years.
  - Peer support coaching and supervision for school leaders is provided by the Educational Psychology Service.
  - Regular local authority Schools Monitoring Group feeding into the School Improvement level of support that is offered to schools.
  - Practitioners from every early year's group settings have attended Every Child a Talker training, they are supported with network meetings, and top tip posters for parents. A recent Ofsted report of an outstanding preschool noted that: "interventions include highly effective modelling of language and use of professional programmes that promote children's skills for listening and attention, language, communication and literacy".
  - Deployment of School Improvement resources in inverse proportion to success.
  - Southampton's first all-through school securing 900 new secondary school places.
  - SEND reconfiguration proposals.
  - An interactive web-based sufficiency tool enables existing and prospective early years and childcare providers to access up to date information on sufficiency of places on a ward-by-ward basis and it informs a targeted approach to expansion in early years and childcare to meet the needs.



## Priority 4: Key projects

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
Focus on improving educational progress and attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want children and young people to be provided with the support they need to progress and enable higher attainment.</li> <li>• We want to close the gap between disadvantaged learners and their peers.</li> <li>• We want to provide a range of opportunities to children and young people that meets their needs and interests.</li> <li>• We want education to be a vehicle for social mobility.</li> <li>• We want to deliver high quality education for all children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Education</li> <li>o Early Years</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> <li>o SEND</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
All children and young people experience suitable, high-quality education that meets their individual needs and enables them to achieve their aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to provide the right support at the right time (to children, young people, education providers, partners).</li> <li>• Education providers will equip children and young people with the knowledge, confidence and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.</li> <li>• All children and young people will be supported to progress. All children and young people will be aware of the range of opportunities available to them.</li> <li>• All children and young people have a voice, are listened to and can influence the services they receive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Education</li> <li>o SEND</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>All young people are provided with suitable and high-quality post-16 education, employment, and training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people are supported to progress to their next phase.</li> <li>• Build upon strong year 11 progression.</li> <li>• Reduce the percentage of 16-17-year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</li> <li>• Increase the number of care experienced young people and care leavers 16-21 who remain in education, employment, and training.</li> <li>• Increase the number of young people aged 16-25 with SEND who remain in education, enter employment, or take up other opportunities such as internships or volunteering.</li> <li>• Work closely with NEETs to enable awareness of what opportunities are available to reengage.</li> <li>• Work with schools and colleges to ensure there is a full range of post 16 opportunities and pathways which also meet the needs of young people and the local economy.</li> <li>• Provide support to young people to make informed choices when considering progression to post 16 destinations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Education</li> <li>o SEND</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Outcome / Focus	What do we want to achieve?	Where to find further details
<p>Work in partnership with education providers to raise standards for all children and young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levelling up of the quality of provision across the city.</li> <li>• Development of individual curricular pathways and opportunities that meet the needs and interests of all children and young people.</li> <li>• Improve levels of attainment at Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1-5.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Education</li> <li>o SEND</li> <li>o Corporate Parenting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Provide sufficiency of high quality early years and school places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure sufficiency of high-quality places in early years and schools – both mainstream and special.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following Action Plans supporting this Children and Young People’s Strategy provide more detail on the steps we will take to achieve this outcome, and will be publicly available online from the implementation date of this strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Early Years</li> <li>o Education</li> <li>o SEND</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Delivering our strategy

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This strategy sets out a series of top-level objectives that will help ensure that all children and young people in Southampton get a good start in life, live safely, be healthy and happy and go on to have successful opportunities in adulthood.

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**Sitting beneath it are eight strategic plans that will identify the key tasks and actions necessary to achieve these objectives over the life of the strategy:**

- Early Years
- Early Help
- Education
- Corporate Parenting
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Youth Justice
- Participation
- Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing

There are also a range of supporting Service Improvement plans and other strategic documents that set out in more detail how we aim to deliver on the vision of this strategy.

A new Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board will provide oversight and governance of the Children and Young People's Strategy.

Southampton City Council will have yearly reviews of the Children and Young People's Strategy and will monitor a range of indicators that will be available on our data observatory. This data and other analysis will be used to monitor progress and inform the ongoing development of actions to achieve the strategic objectives.

Elements of the strategy will be supported in other strategic forums such as the Southampton SEND Partnership Forum, Youth Justice Management Board, Safe City Partnership and Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.

**The following topics are examples of where we will use data to monitor and understand the city's position (this is not an exhaustive list):**

- Access to the local Early Years offer
  - Child Poverty and cost of living pressures
  - Prevalence of domestic abuse and crime deprivation
  - Levels of Neglect
  - Number and experiences of looked after children
  - Childhood obesity
  - Adolescent Mental Health
  - Access to the local SEND offer
  - Education, Training and Employment engagement and attainment.
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# Delivering our strategy

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**Engagement with education providers and institutions:** During the co-production stage for this strategy, we worked with selected primary, secondary and specialist local schools and with No Limits. We undertook electronic surveys and face-to-face workshops to produce the outline strategy. In addition to this, during the public consultation process we reached out to schools and other education providers for further input and feedback.

**Engagement with children and young people:** In the formation of this strategy, we actively worked with over 300 local children through electronic surveys, face-to-face workshops and engagement sessions, and worked closely with education providers to ensure that the views of children within their own education settings were listened to and fed back to us. We also created a specific young person's survey that was released during the public consultation process to get young people's views on our priorities for this strategy and for Southampton as a whole.

**Engagement with other groups and partner organisations:** As well as schools and colleges, we also engaged widely with community organisations working with children in Southampton, parent and carer groups, and health and commissioning colleagues with Southampton City Council. We also circulated our public consultation widely across health and safeguarding networks, as well as the voluntary and community sector.

**Public Consultation:** As part of this strategy process, we conducted a 12-week full public consultation, which ran from 20th September to 12th December 2021. We also released a separate young person's questionnaire during the same period. In total, we received 333 responses during this consultation process (268 to the young person's questionnaire, 63 to the main consultation questions, and a further 2 letters in response to the consultation). We have carefully compiled and examined all feedback, which has been used to inform revisions and updates to the final strategy version. The biggest priority highlighted by respondents (for both adults and young people) was mental health, and this has been used to inform further development in our strategic priorities going forward.

**Our strategy data:** The data used to inform, develop and produce this final strategy has been sourced from the Southampton City Council Data Observatory as well as from other teams working within and alongside SCC. This includes (but is not limited to) schools, the voluntary sector, safeguarding partners and service providers, as well as from needs assessments and other surveys undertaken as part of the strategy development process.

Thank you to everybody who participated both at co-production stage and during the consultation process. All input and feedback was gratefully received and carefully considered in the development of the final version of this new Children and Young People's Strategy 2022-2027.



