

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10:00 HOURS  
IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA  
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

#### **2 APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

#### **3 NEW APPOINTMENT**

To note Ted Hammond replaces Justine Lomas to serve on the Committee as the Roman Catholic diocese representative co-opted member.

#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

**5 - 10**

5 **MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes for the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 January 2024.

**11 - 18**

6 **ACTION TRACKER**

To note the action tracker.

7 **COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA**

To note that no comments have been received from the Commissioner on this agenda.

**19 - 44**

8 **SEND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2024-2030**

Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion, Helen Price, Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Transformation, Children and Families, David Bridgman, Head of SEND Commissioning, and Jaswinder Didiyally, Head of Service in attendance.

**45 - 82**

9 **EARLY YEARS EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT**

Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion, and Lindsey Trivett, Head of Early Years and Childcare in attendance.

**83 - 104**

10 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members to agree the work programme.

11 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting is 10 April 2024 at 10am in committee rooms 3 & 4.

12 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

13 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

14 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.



**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL****EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**1000 hours on Wednesday, 17 January 2024, Committee Rooms 3 & 4,  
Council House**

**Minutes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Kerry Jenkins (Chair)

Councillors: Debbie Clancy, Adam Higgs, Morriam Jan, and Jane Jones

Other Representatives: Osamugi Ogbe - Parent Governor, Rabia Shami - Parent Governor, and Sarah Smith - Church of England Diocese

**Also Present:**

Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance and Planning

**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllrs Jilly Bermingham and Des Hughes.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting, and the

Chair – Cllr Kerry Jenkins declared an interest as she was employed by the Unite union in a national role and had no direct involvement in local or Birmingham City Council industrial relations or other matters concerning employees of the Council.

#### **4. MINUTES**

(See document No 1)

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **5. ACTION TRACKER**

(See document No 2)

The Chair advised the Committee that it had not been possible to hold an informal session in December for the Committee to input into the work of the Budget Task and Finish Group due to officers having to put the high level proposals together and this focused piece of work having to be completed at pace. The Budget T&F Group had compiled a report which would go to Cabinet alongside the budget proposals.

The Chair explained the role of scrutiny going forward will be to scrutinise the delivery of services within its remit and how the impact of the cuts will be mitigated and measured.

**RESOLVED:**

That the action tracker be noted.

#### **6. COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA**

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted that no comments had been received from the Commissioner on this agenda.

#### **7. IMPROVING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PLAN UPDATE**

(See document No. 3)

The Chair welcomed Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families and Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance and Planning to the meeting.

The Director, Children and Families set the context for the improvement plan and highlighted the commitment to bringing stability to the Children and Families Directorate and continue with the improvement journey. However, improvements

were overshadowed by the efficiencies the Directorate needed to make and the improvement plan will be recalibrated to reflect this. The Committee noted that the conditions for success included corporate HR and recruitment resources, Oracle, and finance resources which were also under pressure. The Director reassured the meeting that there was an effective partnership with the partners including the voluntary sector, schools and Children's Trust in the design and delivery of services, working closely together to keep children safe.

The Head of Strategic Governance and Planning presented the paper and explained that the Directorate was focused on the fundamentals being in place to meet the improvement priorities, and that the 'working in partnership' pillar was fundamental. In addition, the Improving Services for Children and Families Board was focused on the strategic issues, and the refreshed improvement plan was due to be completed by the end of March 2024

During the debate, the following points were addressed:

#### **Safeguarding (Statutory Duty)**

The Director assured the Committee that keeping the most vulnerable children safe was a statutory duty. Therefore, these services had to be delivered and key posts must remain, although it should be noted that some posts were not as yet filled by permanent staff. Permanent staff were being appointed as the Directorate redesign moves forward.

The Directorate was working with partners to mitigate the increased risk to children where non statutory services were reduced, looking at how services align, and ensuring children do not fall between any gaps. In addition, transparency and communication with partners was important in keeping children safe. Council officers will be able to be more transparent with partners when the final budget has been agreed and details were in the public domain.

#### **Key Roles**

Responding to a question as to how planned new recruitment accorded with the wider budget situation and potential redundancies at the Council, the Director commented that demand was growing nationally, and staff required skills, experience, and development to keep children safe. Therefore, it was important to continue to monitor the recruitment and retention of social workers with the Children's Trust, and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) officers within the Council. The Director highlighted that she was pleased that good applicants were applying for jobs within the Directorate despite the bad publicity in the press regarding the issues faced by the Council.

#### **Statutory and Non-Statutory Services**

The Chair commented that the Committee needed to scrutinise where savings were being made and how this would affect services and children in the city. The Director stated that there were linkages with statutory and non-statutory services and there was a likelihood of an increase in demand for statutory services if capacity was reduced in some non-statutory services.

A request was made that a diagram providing an overview of the transformation to clarify which services that would be lost be provided to the Committee after the budget was set. The Director confirmed they were working on this as part of the dialogue with trade union colleagues and a diagram including the services that will be lost, timelines for the different areas, and staffing information would be provided to the Committee.

### **Improving Services for Children and Families Board**

Reassurance on the work of the improvement boards was requested and the meeting was informed that the Children and Young People's Travel Service would be incorporated into the Improving Services for Children and Families Board. The independent chair - Sally Rowe, would be producing an annual report and the Director undertook to discuss with the independent chair the possibility of sharing the action points from the Board's meetings with the Committee. In addition, the Director committed to providing membership details, Terms of Reference (TOR), and frequency of meetings of the Board.

### **Draft Attendance Strategy**

Officers were working on the initial draft attendance strategy with headteachers, and a draft would be presented to the Committee for consideration and input.

### **Future Update Reports and Next Steps**

The Chair summed up the Committee's deliberations and suggested the independent chair of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board be invited to a future committee meeting.

The Chair requested that future reports were easier to understand by the public and the Committee, which included the report being succinct, using less jargon, and being clearer on what progress was made. Also, the update on the data and digital road map should be provided once finalised alongside future improvement and performance updates to the Committee.

### **RESOLVED:**

That:

- The Committee noted and commented on the Improving Services for Children and Families Plan.
- Sally Rowe, independent chair of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board to be invited to a future meeting.
- The Director, Children and Families to discuss with the independent chair of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board arrangements for sharing action points from the Board's meetings with the Committee.
- The Committee to discuss the draft Attendance Strategy in April 2024.
- An update on the finalised data and digital road map to be provided alongside future improvement and performance updates to the Committee.
- The following to be provided by the Directorate:



- A diagram of the transformation to include services that have been lost, timelines for the different areas, and staffing information.
- Membership details, Terms of Reference (TOR), and frequency of meetings of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document No. 4)

**RESOLVED:**

Noted the work programme will be reviewed at the subsequent member workshop to ensure it aligns with the Council's improvement and recovery priorities.

**9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

Noted the next meeting was to be held on 28 February 2024 at 10am.

**10. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

None.

**11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 10.58 hours.



**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2023-24**

Date	Agenda Item	Outstanding Actions	Update / Notes
22 Feb 2023	School Attainment and School Improvement	The recruitment and retention rates of teachers in the city in comparison to other areas.	This requires Oracle to be run and Schools HR advise this is currently not possible.
5 April 2023	Children's Trust	The Children's Trust to attend a future committee meeting to discuss the review of short breaks.	An interim update was e-mailed on the 21 November 2023 and the Children's Trust is programmed to attend the May 2024 committee meeting.
17 May 2023	Action Tracker	The timeline for when the SEND Sufficiency Report would be available to be provided.	The draft strategy will be discussed at the 28 February 2024 committee meeting.
19 July 2023	SEND Tribunals	The draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy to be added to the Committee's Work Programme.	The draft strategy will be discussed at the 28 February 2024 committee meeting.
19 Jul 2023	Performance Update	The draft attendance strategy to be brought to the committee meeting in September when discussing the Hidden Children item, and the relevant officers to be in attendance for this.	Hidden Children was an item at the October committee meeting and the Committee are awaiting the draft attendance strategy.
18 Oct 2023	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on the Council's Response to S114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	The Director, Children and Families, to bring work at early stages of planning for input by the Committee.	Ongoing.
		Future agenda items to include a snapshot of their associated spend/budget and impact.	Ongoing.
29 Nov 2023	School Improvement – The New Relationship with Schools	Details of the feedback from the consultation for the new policy.	Ongoing and will be shared late April 2024.

**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE  
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24**

Date	Agenda Item	Outstanding Actions	Update / Notes
29 Nov 2023	School Improvement – The New Relationship with Schools	The timeline for the attendance strategy presentation to Cabinet to be e-mailed to the Committee.	
17 Jan 2024	Improving Services for Children and Families Plan Update	Sally Rowe, independent chair of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board to be invited to a future meeting.	
		The Director, Children and Families to discuss with the independent chair of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board arrangements for sharing action points from the Board’s meetings with the Committee.	
		The Committee to discuss the draft Attendance Strategy in April 2024.	
		An update on the finalised data and digital road map to be provided alongside future improvement and performance updates to the Committee.	The final Data/Digital Road Map will be produced by April 2024, to allow time to confirm 1) recruitment levels/timelines for the redesigned Digital Evidence and Performance team and 2) establish impacts of cost saving on central IT support available.
		<p>The following to be provided by the Directorate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A diagram of the transformation to include services that have been lost, timelines for the different areas, and staffing information.</li> </ul>	

**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE  
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24**

Date	Agenda Item	Outstanding Actions	Update / Notes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership details, Terms of Reference (TOR), and frequency of meetings of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board.</li> </ul>	E-mailed information on 31 January 2024.

Date	Agenda Item	Completed Actions	Update / Notes
17 May 2023	Young People's Substance Use Service	Aquarius to provide the timeline for the Manchester Met University project.	Aquarius have met with the researchers, and they are preparing a slide deck of their initial findings. They are expecting the project to conclude by the end of the year.
17 May 2023	SEND	<p>The following to be provided via e-mail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The spend information for staffing within the SEND and Inclusion Service.</li> <li>Information on the indicators in the APP on the Council's website that state, 'requires baseline.'</li> </ul> <p>The Committee to provide further questions in writing for officers to provide a written response.</p>	<p>E-mailed the information on 25 August 2023.</p> <p>E-mailed the response on 12 June 2023.</p> <p>None were received.</p>
14 Jun 2023	Developing the Education, Children and Young People O&S Committee's	Members of the Task and Finish Group for the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Inquiry will be followed up.	Cllr. Debbie Clancy replaced Cllr. Simon Morrall on the CCE Inquiry T&F Group, and

**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE  
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24**

Date	Agenda Item	Completed Actions	Update / Notes
	Work Programme 2023/24		the Young People’s Mental Health Inquiry T&F Group.
19 July 2023	Children and Young People’s Travel Service	<p>A workshop for cultural change and the statutory guidance for the Children’s and Young People’s Travel Service to be arranged.</p> <p>A breakdown of discretionary and statutory spend to be provided.</p> <p>More information on Personal Transport Budgets to be provided.</p> <p>More information on the new Application and Eligibility Review Panel to be provided.</p>	<p>The all Councillor workshop was arranged for Thursday, 16 November 2023 and the presentation slides were circulated to the Committee on 4 December 2023.</p> <p>E-mailed the information on 15 December 2023.</p> <p>E-mailed the information on 15 December 2023.</p> <p>E-mailed the information on 15 December 2023.</p>
19 July 2023	SEND Tribunals	<p>Information on the programme of training/briefings being developed regarding SEND for all Members to be provided. If the following is not covered within this, then a workshop to be organised for the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A regular update from families going through the Tribunal process to understand the family experience and highlight any issues that may inform service improvement.</li> <li>• A briefing note outlining how high quality decisions are made when developing Education and Health Care</li> </ul>	<p>Workshops/Sessions for all Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND (this will include Tribunals).</li> <li>• Schools (how Councillors can support local schools, e.g., admissions).</li> <li>• Safeguarding (the Chair requested whether there could be a workshop for corporate parenting, and the Cabinet Member agreed to check whether the safeguarding workshop/session could include corporate parenting).</li> </ul>

**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE  
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24**

Date	Agenda Item	Completed Actions	Update / Notes
		Plans (EHCPs), including how learning from Tribunals is shared to improve services.	
19 Jul 2023	Work Programme	Cllr. Debbie Clancy to be sent the dates of the evidence gathering sessions for the CCE Inquiry.	Dates were forwarded to Cllr. Debbie Clancy.
		Members to e-mail details of items they wish to be added to the menu of topics/issues.	None were received.
		There were potentially three workshops to be arranged: Children and Young People’s Travel Service, SEND Tribunals, and the Data Workshop.	The Children’s and Young People’s Travel Service Workshop took place on 16 November 2023.  The SEND Tribunals Workshop for the Committee will not be needed as it will be covered in the workshop/sessions arranged for all Members.
		Further discussions relating to the focus and format of performance data presented to the Committee be considered at the Member Data Workshop.	The Data Workshop for the Committee took place on 6 November 2023.
		Information on mental health element of Employment Support Programme be provided to Members.	E-mailed to Members on 9 October 2023.
		An explanation be given to Members as to whether the percentage figures for the most common reason for staff	E-mailed to Members on 9 October 2023.

**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2023-24**

		sickness absence related to days lost to sickness, or the percentage of people sick for each reason.	
6 Sep 2023	Financial Challenges – Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan	A copy of Director’s communication to headteachers and staff following the announcement of the S114 notice be sent to Members for information.	E-mailed to Members on 20 September 2023.
6 Sep 2023	Work Programme	That subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the SEND Sufficiently Strategy and the Early Years Education Entitlement Deep Dive items be added to work programme for January 2024.	The work programme has been updated accordingly.
18 Oct 2023	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on the Council’s Response to S114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	The Chair to update the Committee on the work of the Finance and Resources T&F Group in relation to the Committee’s remit.	Update provided at the January committee meeting.
18 Oct 2023	Hidden Children	The planning for further development of the governance around school exclusions and part time timetables to be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.	Added to the work programme under menu of issues for consideration.
		The Headteacher to provide the data on length of stay of students at City of Birmingham School (COBS).	E-mailed the information on 15 December 2023.
		A visit of the Committee to COBS to be arranged.	Work programme updated accordingly.



**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE  
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24**

		The Committee to forward any further questions to the Scrutiny Office.	None were received.
		The increase in behavioural problems and speech and language being less developed when children start primary schools to be included in the Early Years Education Entitlement item being discussed at the 17 January 2024 committee meeting.	Work Programme updated accordingly.
		Further focused work on Elective Home Education (EHE) and part time timetables to be considered after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.	Work Programme updated accordingly.
18 Oct 2023	Work Programme	The review of short breaks item programmed for the November committee meeting will be deferred to a future committee meeting and subject to an interim written update to be circulated to the Committee, which will include a commitment and timescale for when the review will be completed, and a report can be presented to Committee.	An interim update was e-mailed on the 21 November 2023, and this item can be discussed when the Children’s Trust attend the May committee meeting. The work programme has been updated accordingly.
		The SEND Commissioner to be invited to attend the November committee meeting.	Attended the November 2023 committee meeting.
		The school improvement re-design item (school improvement – the new relationship with schools) to be added to the work programme for November committee meeting.	The item was discussed at the November 2023 committee meeting.

## EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE O&S COMMITTEE

### ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

29 Nov 2023	Action Tracker	The presentation slides used at the Children and Young People's Travel Service Workshop held for all Councillors on 16 November 2023 to be provided.	E-mailed to the Committee on 4 December 2023.
		A written update on the outstanding actions for the Children and Young People's Travel Service to be provided by the Directorate via e-mail.	E-mailed the information on 15 December 2023.
29 Nov 2023	School Improvement – The New Relationship with Schools	The new Ofsted Inspection Framework (including timelines for inspections) to be e-mailed to the Committee.	E-mailed on 4 December 2023.
		Timescales for the development of the new policy for school improvement and schools causing concern, which included the consultation and presentation to Cabinet.	E-mailed the timeline for the School Improvement – New Relationship piece on 15 December 2023. The timelines on the school causing concern policy will be forwarded shortly.
29 Nov 2023	Work Programme	The Committee to have a meeting on Teams in December to provide input and make recommendations to the Budget T&F Group.	Work Programme updated accordingly.

# Birmingham City Council

## Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 February 2024



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**Subject:** SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2030

**Report of:** Helen Price, Director, Strategy, Commissioning And Transformation  
Helen Ellis, Director SEND and Inclusion

**Report author:** David Bridgman, Head of SENAR Commissioning and Finance

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the development of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2030 and accompanies the latest version of the strategy (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The report provides an opportunity for the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the strategy proposals and make comments.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the report, the draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy, and to provide any comments.

### 3 Background

- 3.1 Birmingham City Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people (CYP) living in Birmingham, and to secure appropriate provision for CYP with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 3.2 The demand for SEND places within Birmingham has grown significantly over the last 10 years and there is a clear need to continue to expand existing special schools and mainstream resource bases, as well as seeking opportunities to develop new provision to meet our ongoing sufficiency requirements.

- 3.3 A multi-disciplinary Task and Finish (T&F) Group has been meeting regularly since late November 2022 to map our current provision, rationalise data, develop forecasts, identify gaps in provision, and to agree plans for additional resource bases, special schools, and annex or satellite provision. The group has assessed current capacity and commissioned projections of future need.
- 3.4 The resulting draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy for 2024-2030 highlights the key challenges which accompany recent increases in EHCP numbers, including the resulting impact on demand for special school and resource base places.
- 3.5 The SEND Sufficiency Strategy complements the vision for CYP in Birmingham and the priorities that are set out in both the SEND Birmingham Inclusion Strategy and the Birmingham SEND Strategy for 2023-2028 which were launched on 10 July 2023. These strategies have been co-produced with, and informed by, the contributions of children, young people, young adults, families, and our partners.
- 3.6 The SEND Sufficiency Strategy summarises our existing provision for CYP with EHCPs, current capacity issues, and the steps we have taken so far to address them. It forecasts the need for future places and sets out plans for increasing provision to secure the additional places required. It will inform strategic commissioning intentions and will be annually reviewed and updated as necessary. Ensuring that there are sufficient places at the right educational settings for CYP with SEND is fundamental to achieving the visions and plans that the Inclusion and SEND Strategies for 2023-2028 outline.
- 3.7 The SEND Sufficiency Strategy was presented to the SEND Improvement Board on 12 July 2023. Since then, forecasts have been updated using the latest 2023 data. Final approval of the Strategy by Cabinet is planned for 23 April 2024.

## 4 The Strategy

- 4.1 Current forecasts show a potential shortfall of 1,133 special school places and 456 mainstream resource base places between now and the end of the academic year 2029/30. The majority of these places are required for CYP with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and Speech, Language, and Communication needs (SLCN).
- 4.2 **Special School** expansion schemes have already delivered 232 additional places from September 2022, and more are planned. Capital projects have included remodelling of existing buildings, extensions, and provision of new modular buildings.
- 4.3 However, in recognition of the physical limitations of existing special school sites, work to re-purpose spare capacity within mainstream settings to develop satellite provision for children who need a special school place is proceeding .
- 4.4 Current schemes involve 13 special schools and will potentially provide 523 new places in our priority areas of need phased over the next six years.

- 4.5 Successful Free School bids for two new special schools to provide a combined 520 additional places received DfE approval on 2 March 2023. Work is now underway with the DfE to select sponsors.
- 4.6 Overall, our confirmed number of planned special school places total 1,043 against a projected shortfall of 1,133.
- 4.7 Some schemes are being prioritised between now and September 2024 to deal with immediate needs.
- 4.8 Expansion schemes for our existing **mainstream resource bases** have also been delivered, resulting in an increase of 68 places from September 2023. DfE approval has been received in respect of seven new resource bases and business cases are being urgently prioritised for six further schools.
- 4.9 Additional schemes for resource bases currently planned are projected in total to deliver 318 places against the projected shortfall of 456 places. Early delivery for 2024 has been prioritised.
- 4.10 Overall, work with a total of 54 special schools, mainstream schools, and resource bases, who have indicated a willingness to develop provision, is ongoing.

## 5 Next Steps

- 5.1 To supplement this work, engagement events with Independent/Non-Maintained providers are planned for summer term 2024. This will potentially enable a wider range of good and outstanding provisions within the city to contribute to overall sufficiency.
- 5.2 Data and forecasts will be refined, and additional options for phased expansion will be identified, to ensure that we provide sufficient contingency to react to any changes over time in the numbers of places required.
- 5.3 Further detailed work is to be completed around the Early Years, Post 16, and Alternative Provision sectors, in addition to the development of a dedicated strategy for the SEMH sector in collaboration with schools and wider stakeholders.
- 5.4 The Local Authority is keen to ensure that we meet our statutory requirements and respond to the capacity pressures we face. We aim to continue our ongoing expansion programme to:
- Procure provision that offers value for money
  - Secure provision when and where it is needed
  - Commission a range of provision that is robust, good quality, resilient, flexible, and creative and which matches the range of needs of SEND pupils

- Ensure that children/young people placed in independent non-maintained special schools, including those out of borough, have the best chances of securing positive outcomes through quality provision.

## **6 Any Compliance Issues**

### **6.1 How is the development of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

6.2 Birmingham City Council supports the inclusion of children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) both in education and within the communities where they live. We recognise that meeting needs locally improves outcomes for CYP.

6.3 The SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2030 is designed to meet the following aims of the Council:

- Give all children from every background and community the best start in life with a clear pathway to achieve success and realise their potential.
- Ensure that there are sufficient pupil places, secure diversity in provision of schools, and increase opportunities for parental choice through planning and securing appropriate provision.

## **7 Any Finance Implications**

7.1 The funding for the capital programme to create the additional places required is primarily derived from the DfE's High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA).

7.2 Revenue funding for additional places will need to be provided via the High Needs Block of the DSG.

## **8 Any Legal Implications**

8.1 Birmingham City Council has a statutory duty under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act (1996) to ensure there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of all children living in Birmingham. This includes having regard to the need to secure provision for CYP with SEND.

8.2 The Local Authority must also keep under review the educational provision, training provision and social care provision made in its area for CYP who have special educational needs or a disability, under section 27 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

## **9 Any Equalities Implications**

9.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by, or under, the Act;

- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

9.2 The sufficiency functions carried out by the Council's SEND services are designed to support the aims set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, particularly in respect of those with the protected characteristic of disability.

## **10 Appendices**

10.1 Appendix 1 - Draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2030

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## FOREWORD

Along with many other local authorities across the country, Birmingham has seen a significant rise in the number of children and young people (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who require additional support to succeed in school. At present Birmingham does not have enough places, either in special schools or in mainstream resource bases, to meet the needs of our children. This strategy statement sets out how we intend to meet this challenge and will inform our future commissioning intentions. It will be used as a basis for ongoing engagement with providers of school places and with our CYP and their families.



## 2. INTRODUCTION

Birmingham City Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act (1996) to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of all children living in Birmingham. This includes securing provision for children and young people (CYP) with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Requirements are also placed on local authorities by the Children and Families Act (2014) and the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (2015). The Code of Practice provides that "All CYP are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards, and the fulfilment of potential."

The demand for SEND places within Birmingham has grown significantly over the last 10 years and, there is a clear need to

continue to expand our existing special schools and resource bases as well as creating new provision to meet our ongoing requirements. Ensuring that there are sufficient places of the right type, in the right place, and at the right time, for CYP with SEND is fundamental to our wider SEND and Inclusion Strategies for 2023-2028.

This SEND Sufficiency Strategy details our existing provision for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), forecasts the need for future places, identifies gaps in provision, and sets out details of our current projects and future plans for securing the additional places required.

The strategy will be annually reviewed to take account of updated forecasts and changing needs.





## 3. POLICY BACKGROUND

### **SEND Reforms**

The Government published the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan - Right Support, Right Place, Right Time, in March 2023. The plan focuses on capacity building through training, early support for children, and additional specialist school places for those with the greatest needs. This strategy takes account of those intended outcomes.

### **Inclusion and SEND Strategies**

We will work with all our CYP with SEND to support them to thrive in their early years, at school and in further education, to find employment, and lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives. We will listen to them and their families to give them opportunities to influence how they access and benefit from support.

We promote the inclusion of CYP with SEND within the communities where they live. We understand that meeting needs locally can improve outcomes for CYP in terms of maintaining connections with communities, deliver benefits in terms of reduced travel times, and promote more flexible and independent travel solutions for families.

Both the Birmingham Inclusion Strategy 2023-2028 and the Birmingham SEND Strategy 2023-2028 were launched on 10 July 2023 and have been adopted by the Council. They have been co-produced and informed by the contributions of children, young people, young adults, families, and our partners - [SEND and Inclusion Strategies - Local Offer Birmingham](#).

The Birmingham Inclusion Strategy recognises the growing demand and pressures on our services and the need to collectively understand the needs of our city, combining resources and sharing data, to plan how we meet needs most effectively. It sets out our aim to offer inclusive support within the community to families, building resilience amongst our children, young people, and young adults. CYP with SEND are some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Our Birmingham SEND Strategy outlines our collective responsibility to provide CYP with SEND the support they need to thrive through the following priorities:

### **Priority One**

*Effective early identification of needs with appropriate and timely assessments across Education, Health, and Care. Right support in the right place at the right time, ensuring appropriate outcomes for all CYP.*

The Sufficiency Strategy outlines our commitment to ensure that there are enough suitable specialist places available for CYP throughout each stage of their educational journey.



## **Priority Two**

*Collaborative, graduated approach, delivered consistently across the city, ensuring that the right support and provision is in place as soon as possible and that CYP receive an appropriate education.*

We will ensure that there is an appropriate range of provision available to all of our CYP, wherever they live.

## **Priority Four**

*A comprehensive review of the provision of education settings across Birmingham to deliver an offer which is aligned with national and regional targets.*

Too many CYP are currently in the wrong setting and, in some cases, not in education at all. We have been reviewing the availability of provision in mainstream and our capacity in resource bases and specialist settings to ensure that appropriate placements are named for children and young people in the city. This Sufficiency Strategy sets out our proposals for increasing capacity in Birmingham education settings to create enough places for those with additional needs.

## **Priority Five**

*Distance based model of provision, right support, right place, right time with improved access to provision which meets the needs of the families, children, and young people in line with the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice.*

Many CYP within Birmingham are educated a long way from their homes and communities. There is also inequality across the city in relation to the availability of resource bases and special schools. We will make sure that available provision is created according to, and aligned with, the needs of families in the local area.

## **Priority Eight**

*Improved collection, publication, and analysis of data to inform the Birmingham SEND priorities in supporting children and young people in the future.*

Too often, we are reacting to current pressures and have, to date, lacked the proactivity to predict both what is needed, and where, to support CYP. Better data analysis will inform stakeholders of the provision and support that must be available to meet needs so we can measure our progress and celebrate success.

# 4. THE CURRENT PICTURE IN BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham has a population of 419,100 children and young people aged from 0-24 years. (Census data 2021)

Official statistics published by DfE in respect of Special Educational Needs in England 2022/23 indicate:

- The percentage of pupils with an EHCP in schools has risen from 3.1% in 2018/19 (Birmingham 3.2%) to 4.3% in 2022/23 (Birmingham 3.8%), continuing a trend of increases since 2017. Birmingham’s percentage has increased from 3.2% to 3.8%.
- The percentage of pupils with SEN but no EHCP (SEN support) has also increased, from 12.8% to 13.9% (Birmingham 14.1%), continuing an increasing trend – 30,934 pupils currently receive SEN support.
- The most common type of need for those with an EHCP is Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and, for those with SEN support, Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).
- The number of pupils with an EHCP in Birmingham schools has increased from 6873 in 18/19 to 8212 in 22/23.

The overall number of pupils aged 4-19 with an EHCP in Birmingham has grown by 1147 (13.7%) in the last three years:

SEN 2 (JAN)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
4-19 EHCPs	8,187	8,445	8,330	8,934	8,984	9,421

Table 1: Growth in Birmingham EHCPs 2018-2023

The two years following the COVID-19 pandemic also saw a significant increase in the overall number of new EHCPs being issued.

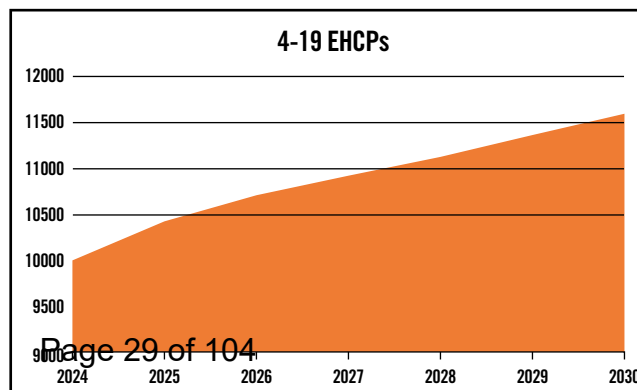
CALENDAR YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NEW EHCPs ISSUED	775	805	898	802	1,230	1,404

Table 2: New EHCPs 2017-2022

We are currently projecting EHCPs to increase at the rate shown in the table and graph below:

JAN	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
4-19 EHCPs	9997	10401	10695	10914	11109	11342	11567

Table 3: Projected rise in EHCPs 2024-2030



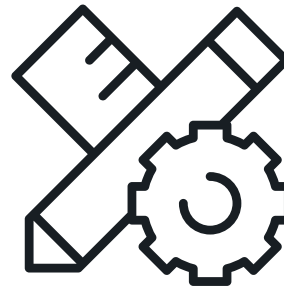
**11,123**  
THE NUMBER OF  
**EHCPs**  
IN BIRMINGHAM

An icon showing three stylized human figures on the left (one with a laptop) and a school building on the right. The figures and building are outlined in purple.

**5,454**  
PUPILS IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS  
AND P16 INSTITUTIONS



**641**  
IN MAINSTREAM  
RESOURCE  
BASES



**2,678**  
IN MAINSTREAM  
EDUCATION  
WITH AN  
**EHCP**

An icon of an open book, outlined in purple, positioned at the bottom right of the text block.

Figures are derived from SEN2 Jan 2023 and include other local authority (OLA) pupils

## 5. HOW THE STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

A multi-disciplinary Task and Finish Group has been meeting regularly since late November 2022 to map our current provision, rationalise data, develop forecasts, identify gaps in provision, and agree plans for resource bases, special schools, and satellite provision. We have looked at our current capacity, spoken to individual schools, and commissioned projections and forecasts of future need.

### **Capacity in Special Schools**

In addition to having a clear picture of what future demand for places looks like, it is important to understand the current capacity of our special schools to accommodate pupils. At present there is no standardised measure to assess the capacity of specialist provision in the way there is with mainstream schools (the Net Capacity Assessment).

We are currently reliant on guidelines outlined in Building Bulletin guidance (BB104), which provide a suggested measure for teaching and ancillary spaces within a special school based on type and complexity of need. We have used this guidance to carry out capacity assessments across our special school estate, which show that a large proportion of our special schools are operating with more pupils than their physical capacity.



# 6. WHERE WE ARE NOW

## Special Schools

Special schools in Birmingham provide for a range of needs and ages and, in some cases, for more than one phase of education. The different categories of need used in this strategy and for forecasting purposes are listed at Appendix 1.

PHASE	TOTAL	NO. OF SCHOOLS PROVIDING
Primary	10	Nursery school places 7
Primary & up to Year 9	1	
Year 5 to Year 11	1	
Secondary	7	Sixth Form places 14
All Through	8	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	

Table 4: Special Schools in Birmingham

Cohorts of pupils within our 27 special schools are growing. Work has been ongoing over recent years to increase special school places in line with demand. The special school estate for 2023/24 academic year has over 850 more places than in 2016/17. The list of special schools and their commissioned number is contained in the table at Appendix 2.

	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	CHANGE
SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMISSIONED NUMBER	4,005	4,084	4,171	4,254	4,403	4,509	4,735	4,858	853

Table 5: Commissioned places in Special Schools

Resource bases in mainstream schools also provide for a range of needs and, in one case, for more than one phase of education.

TYPE OF SPECIAL NEED	NURSERY	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	ALL THROUGH	GRAND TOTAL
ASC (and SLCN)	1	13	3		17
C&L	1	4	3	1	9
SENSORY		5	4		9
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>

Table 6: Schools with Resource Bases in Birmingham

Resource base cohorts too have been growing. Additional capacity has been commissioned in this sector, amounting to 123 more places since the 2016/17 academic year. The list of resource bases and their current commissioned numbers is contained in the table at Appendix 3.

	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	CHANGE
RESOURCE BASE COMMISSIONED NUMBER	525	546	527	548	553	553	594	648	123

Table 7: Commissioned places in Resource Bases



# 7. PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE DEMAND

## Pupil Number Forecasting Methodology

To establish a baseline of SEND demand in Birmingham, we have commissioned the support of Edge Analytics Ltd to run a SEND forecasting model to calculate future numbers of pupils with EHCPs. This model is also used by other Local Authorities.

Edge have used the latest available data on pupils with SEND and the schools they attend for the academic years between 2018/19 to 2022/23, together with key evidence on demographic change and planned housing developments, to provide a forecast over the coming years.

Forecasts provide numbers by year group (reception to Year 14), by need, and by setting type, and are based on the following:

- School census data for pupils on roll at between January 2020 and January 2023
- Pupils on roll at out of Birmingham provisions
- Evidence of demographic change – including births and population forecasts
- Trajectory of housing growth per ward

This approach offers forecasts across the range of specialist provision and supports the graduated approach outlined in our SEND Strategy.

## Headlines

It is currently projected that there will be over 2,100 more CYP with an EHCP by 2030.

The growth in numbers is not evenly split between need types. Almost all the forecast growth relates to children and young people with communication and interaction needs (primarily ASC).





## **Additional Places Required**

### **Special School**

The Edge forecast indicates a potential shortfall of 1,133 places in special schools by 2030. The biggest shortfall is for pupils with ASC (520) and SLCN (349). This amounts to over 76% of the places required.

### **Resource Bases**

For resource base provision, the Edge forecast indicates a shortfall of places of 456 by 2029/2030. Again, the biggest shortfall is for pupils with SLCN (261) and ASC (140). This amounts to 88% of the places required.

These forecasts include those CYP that are currently awaiting a special school or resource base placement.

It should be noted that we have identified a recent change in terms of the requirement for resource base and special school places over the last 12 months for new EHCPs which represents a departure from historical trends and is not fully reflected in our forecasts. This will be closely monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to take account of any likely impact on the balance of places required across resource bases and special schools moving forward.



# 8. WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR AND WHAT WE HAVE CURRENTLY PLANNED

## Special Schools

Numerous projects have been taking place to improve the estate and create additional places via:

- Extensions and remodelling
- Creation of annexes, or relocation
- De-amalgamation of sites
- Development of provision at mainstream sites
- Age range change
- Change of designation
- Removal of boarding provisions
- There are also critical capital projects underway at schools with existing deficits on accommodation/external space or where buildings are not compliant

Since 2017, an additional 774 places have been commissioned across the special school estate, including a 50% rise in ASC specific provision:

	SEPT 2023	SEPT 2022	SEPT 2021	SEPT 2020	SEPT 2019	SEPT 2018	SEPT 2017	CHANGE	% INCREASE
ASC	1,306	1,264	1,119	1,060	973	925	865	441	50.98%
MIXED	2,486	2,435	2,382	2,333	2,323	2,274	2,268	218	9.61%
SEMH	337	323	322	319	287	317	314	23	7.32%
SENSORY	231	219	219	227	214	210	204	27	13.24%
SLD / PD	498	494	467	464	457	445	433	65	15.01%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>4,735</b>	<b>4,509</b>	<b>4,403</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>4,171</b>	<b>4,084</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>18.95%</b>

Table 8: Number of places commissioned across special school estate

Expansion schemes have been completed to deliver extra special school places for September 2022 and 2023. In total these schemes have delivered an additional 232 places at a cost of £8.7 million and the number of commissioned places has increased by 123 between 2022 and 2023.

Further special school expansions including satellite schemes are either currently planned or being considered for feasibility. These involve 13 of our existing schools and 14 different projects. The schemes already planned will provide 523 new places in the priority areas of ASC, C&L and PMLD. Numbers in respect of five schemes are yet to be confirmed.

Some of these schemes are being prioritised between now and September 2024 with a projected delivery of 188 extra places.

Successful Free School bids in respect of two new special schools to provide up to 520 additional places (400 ASC all-through and 120 SEMH 14-19) received DfE approval on 2 March 2023. Work is now underway to identify sponsors and engagement events have taken place.

Overall, our confirmed number of planned places total 1,043 against the projected shortfall of 1,133 places. We will continue to identify additional options for expansion to ensure that we provide sufficient leeway to react to changes in the forecast numbers of places required.

SPECIAL									
KEY STAGE	NEED	TOTAL	2023 / 24: NOV-23	2023 / 24: JAN-24	2023 / 24: APR-24	2024 / 25: SEP-24	2025 / 26: SEP-25	2026 / 27: SEP-26	2027 / 28: SEP-27
Primary	Mixed (C&L & ASC)	112		0	10	54	36	12	0
Primary	ASC / SEMH	32		0	0	16	16	0	0
Primary	ASC	24		0	0	24	0	0	0
All Through	PMLD / PD	96		0	0	0	16	40	40
All Through	ASC	440		0	20	20	0	400	0
14-19	ASC / SEMH	120		0	0	0	0	120	0
Secondary	ASC	166		0	0	24	78	32	32
Secondary	Mixed (C&L & ASC)	53		0	0	20	33	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,043</b>							

Table 9: Proposed additional special school places

## Resource Bases

A Resource Base expansion programme has been delivered for 2023. Overall, the number of commissioned places has increased by 54 between 2022 and 2023. An additional 14 places were created for September 2023 after commissioned places had been agreed.

Over the summer of 2023, DfE approval was received in respect of seven new resource bases. Additional schemes are planned in relation to a further seven schools. Overall we are so far planning delivery of 318 places against a projected shortfall of 456 places.

Again, some of these schemes are being prioritised to deliver a projected 210 places between now and September 2024. We are working with a total of 54 schools on our project tracker who have indicated a willingness to develop provision.

In summary, we are continuing to expand our Special School and Resource Base estates. We will explore further opportunities for commissioning good an outstanding, value for money, independent provision within the city.

RB									
KEY STAGE	NEED	TOTAL	2023 / 24: NOV-23	2023 / 24: JAN-24	2023 / 24: APR-24	2024 / 25: SEP-24	2025 / 26: SEP-25	2026 / 27: SEP-26	2027 / 28: SEP-27
Primary	SLCN / ASC	214	42	0	28	100	44	0	0
Secondary	SLCN / ASC	104	8	0	8	24	38	14	12
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>318</b>							

Table 10: Proposed additional Resource Base places



# 9. OUR PRIORITIES AND SUFFICIENCY PLANS

Our SEND and Inclusion Strategies emphasise the need to continue to support mainstream settings to help them meet the needs of CYP with SEND. We have been working on Developing Local Provision in partnership with groups of schools to improve outcomes for CYP with SEND.

In terms of sufficiency, we aim to continue our ongoing expansion programme to:

- Procure provision that offers value for money
- Secure provision when and where it is needed
- Commission a range of provision that is robust; resilient; flexible; and creative; and which matches the range of needs of our pupils
- Ensure that children/young people placed in independent and non-maintained special schools including education placements out of borough have the best chances of securing positive outcomes

We will:

- Continue to work with colleagues across the Directorate to understand SEND capacity and sufficiency in mainstream schools including resource base provisions.
- Work with health colleagues to understand requirements for early years.

- Identify gaps in provision from 0-25 and co-design solutions with key stakeholders.
- Encourage and support schools to set up resource base provision where there are gaps.
- Consider the impact of conditions within our current estate for continued reliance on existing good and outstanding schools, sustainability, and sufficiency, ensuring maintenance and quality of accommodation remain up to standard. Make creative use of existing space and buildings, leading on innovative approaches, exploring new funding models for our expansion projects, and driving appropriate construction through effective programme and project management tools.
- Make best use of available funding sources, to create new provision in areas of high need.

To accommodate demand, we need to review forecasts and plans annually so that the LA has the resources available to meet projected needs. Partnership working with Birmingham Children's Trust, NHS, schools, parents and other LAs will help to prevent reactive measures and allow forward planning in a timely manner.

# 10. NEXT STEPS

The publication of this Sufficiency Strategy is aimed at enabling sustainable solutions for the academic year 2024-2025 and beyond. Next steps will include:

- Further detailed consideration of Early Years, Post 16, and Alternative Provision sectors
- Design of a specific SEMH strategy in collaboration with schools and stakeholders
- Continuing to identify opportunities to manage sufficiency across the whole education estate

## **Provider Views/Market Intelligence**

We intend to conduct market engagement events for specific independent and non-maintained sector providers during the summer term of 2024.

## **Implementation Plan**

To deliver this strategy, we will continue to develop a robust implementation plan which details how we will make the necessary changes. The plan will be monitored through the SEND Improvement Board.



# 12. APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 SEND Need Types

The types and sub-types used throughout the forecasting and Sufficiency Strategy are shown as follows:

SEND TYPE	SEND SUB-TYPE	SEND CODE
1) Cognition and Learning	1a Moderate Learning Difficulties	MLD
	1b Severe Learning Difficulties	SLD
	1c Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties	PMLD
	1d Specific Learning Difficulties	SpLD
2) Social Emotional & Mental Health Difficulties		SEMH
3) Communication and Interaction	3a Speech, Language & Communication Needs	SLCN
	3b Autistic Spectrum Disorder	ASD
4) Sensory & Physical Needs	4a Visual Impairment	VI
	4b Hearing Impairment	HI
	4c Multi-Sensory Impairment	MSI
	4d Physical Disabilities	PD
5) Other Difficulty/Disability		OTH



## Appendix 2

### List of Special Schools and Commissioned Numbers

SCHOOL / PROVIDER	SCHOOL DFE NUMBER	TYPE	PHASE	AREA	PRIMARY NEED	SEPT 23 COMMISSIONED NUMBER
Pines School (The)	7045	LA Maintained	All Through	North	ASC	270
Uffculme School	7014	LA Maintained	All Through	South	ASC	266
Leycroft Academy	2207	Academy	Primary	East	ASC	170
Hamilton School	7006	LA Maintained	Primary (Developing All Through)	North West	ASC	151
Oscott Manor School	7053	LA Maintained	Secondary	North	ASC	180
James Brindley School - Dovedale	7063	Academy	Year 5 & Secondary	North West	ASC	81
Baskerville School	7016	LA Maintained	Secondary	South West	ASC	188
Hallmoor School	7000	Academy	All Through	East	Mixed	265
Langley School	7060	LA Maintained	Primary	North	Mixed	100
Dame Ellen Pinsent School	7035	LA Maintained	Primary	South	Mixed	150
Queensbury School	7001	Academy	Secondary	North	Mixed	320
Selly Oak Trust School	7033	LA Maintained	Secondary	South	Mixed	395
Calthorpe Teaching Academy	7013	Academy	All Through	Central	Mixed	430
Mayfield School (Academy)	7004	Academy	All Through	North West	Mixed	310
Beaufort School	7052	LA Maintained	Primary	East	Mixed	94
Brays School	7038	Academy	Primary	East	Mixed	110
Cherry Oak School	7051	LA Maintained	Primary	South	Mixed	111
Bridge School (The)	7049	Academy	Primary	North	Mixed	90
Fox Hollies School	7050	LA Maintained	Secondary	South	Mixed	111
Lea Hall Academy	7005	LA Maintained	Primary & Up To Year 9	East	SEMH	100
Springfield House School	7047	LA Maintained	Primary	South	SEMH	97
Lindsworth School	7062	LA Maintained	Year 5 onwards	South	SEMH	140
Priestley Smith School	7034	LA Maintained	All Through	North	SENSORY / VI	90
Longwill School	7012	LA Maintained	Primary	South West	SENSORY / HI	65
Braidwood School	7030	LA Maintained	Secondary	East	SENSORY / HI	76
Wilson Stuart School	7031	Academy	All Through	North	PMLD / SLD / PD	270
Victoria School	7009	LA Maintained	All Through	South West	PMLD / SLD / PD	228

## Appendix 3

### List of Resource Bases and Commissioned Numbers

SCHOOL / PROVIDER	SCHOOL DFE NUMBER	TYPE	PHASE	AREA	PRIMARY NEED	SEPT 23 COMMISSIONED NUMBER
Garretts Green Nursery - ASC RB	1006	LA Maintained	Nursery	East	ASC	6
Wyndcliffe - ASC RB	2146	Academy	Primary	East	ASC	30
Boldmere Infant & Junior School - ASC RB	2402	LA Maintained	Primary	North	ASC	22
Paget - ASC RB	2149	LA Maintained	Primary	North	ASC	15
Billesley - ASC RB	2072	Academy	Primary	South	ASC	12
Hollywood - ASC RB	2288	Academy	Primary	South	ASC	13
Woodhouse - ASC RB	2136	Academy	Primary	South	ASC	8
Cherry Orchard - ASC RB	2040	LA Maintained	Primary	West	ASC	16
Rookery - ASC RB	2481	Academy	Primary	West	ASC	14
Ward End - ASC RB	2108	LA Maintained	Primary	East	ASC	18
Blakesley Hall - ASC RB	2254	LA Maintained	Primary	East	ASC	15
Saltley School & Specialist Science College - ASC RB	4018	Academy	Secondary	East	ASC	40
Greenwood Academy - ASC RB	4006	Academy	Secondary	North	ASC	23
Stockland Green - ASC RB	4206	Academy	Secondary	North	ASC	14
Topcliffe - RSC RB	2273	Academy	Primary	North	ASC / SLCN	54
Meadows Primary (The) - SLCN RB	2246	LA Maintained	Primary	South	SLCN	26
Anglesey - SLCN RB	2479	LA Maintained	Primary	West	SLCN	10
Waverley - C&L RB	4009	Academy	All Through	East	C&L	50
Allens Croft Nursery - C&L RB	1017	LA Maintained	Nursery	South	C&L	6
Lyndon Green Infant - C&L RB	2129	LA Maintained	Primary	East	C&L	12
Lyndon Green Junior - C&L RB	2128	LA Maintained	Primary	East	C&L	12
Allens Croft Primary - C&L RB	2153	LA Maintained	Primary	South	C&L / ASC	36
Welsh House - C&L RB	2245	LA Maintained	Primary	South	C&L	12
Ninestiles School - C&L RB	5411	Academy	Secondary	East	C&L	45
Bartley Green - C&L RB	4108	Academy	Secondary	South	C&L	20
Hamstead Hall - C&L RB	4240	Academy	Secondary	West	C&L	45
Percy Shurmer - HI RB	2057	Academy	Primary	East	HI	16
Hawthorn - HI RB	2099	LA Maintained	Primary	North	HI	10
Bordesley Green - HI RB	4115	LA Maintained	Secondary	East	HI	12
Small Heath - HI RB	4025	Academy	Secondary	East	HI	8
Bournville - HI RB	4017	Academy	Secondary	South	HI	4
Christ The King - VI RB	3319	LA Maintained	Primary	North	VI	0
Worlds End Infant - VI RB	2317	LA Maintained	Primary	South	VI	3
Worlds End Junior - VI RB	2225	LA Maintained	Primary	South	VI	8
Plantsbrook - VI RB	4331	Academy	Secondary	North	VI	13

# 13. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Throughout this strategy, we use several key terms:

- **SEND:** Special Educational Needs and Disability.
- **Children and young people (CYP):** All groups of children, young people, and young adults from birth up to the age of 25.
- **Family:** Incorporates parents/carers and anyone seen as family members who directly care for and support CYP.
- **DfE:** Department for Education.
- **Children and Families Act 2014:** Legislation that brought together a range of changes to services for CYP and their families, including for those CYP with SEND.
- **SEND Code of Practice:** A guide for schools and local authorities about the support given to CYP with SEND. Schools and local authorities must have regard to the Code when working with CYP with SEND.
- **EHCP:** Education, Health, and Care Plan.
- **Graduated Approach:** The various levels of support in place to meet an individual's needs at the right time for them as set out in the SEND Code of Practice.
- **Local Offer:** Provision available from the partners in Birmingham to support CYP with additional needs.



# Birmingham City Council

## Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 February 2024



**Subject:** Early Years Education Entitlement  
**Report of:** Sue Harrison, Strategic Director Children and Families  
**Report author:** Lindsey Trivett, Head of Early Years and Childcare

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To examine how best the council can increase the take up of Early Years entitlement for children in the city and the benefits it provides children.
- 1.2 To examine the plans for delivering the new and expanding responsibilities for early years.

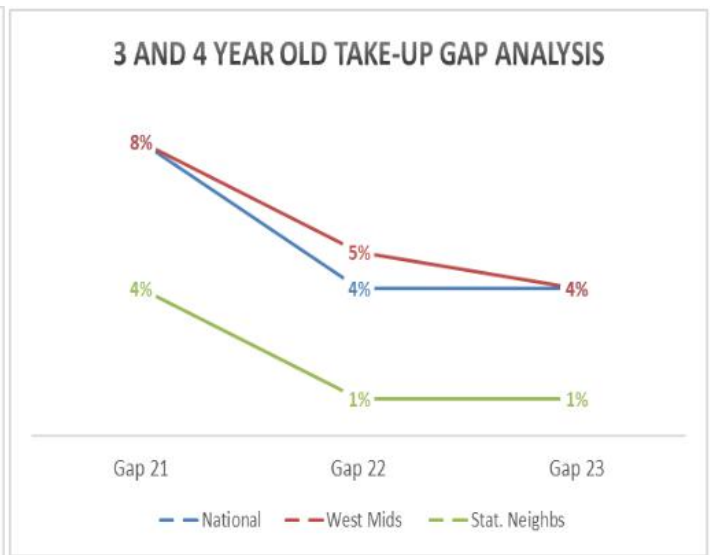
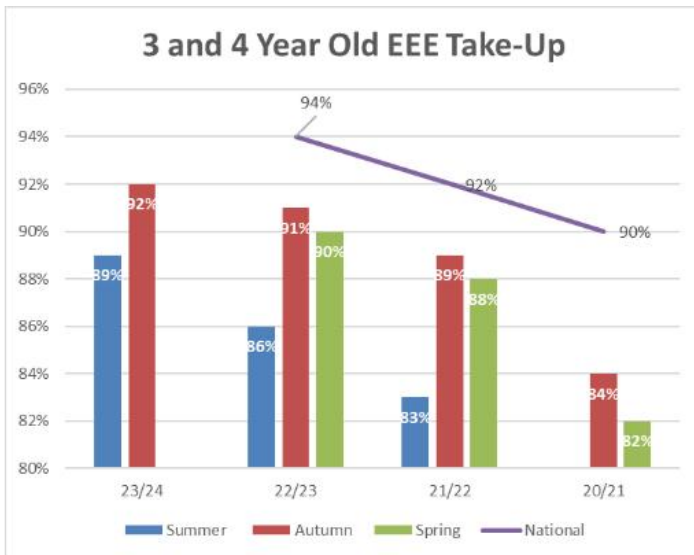
### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the report and provide feedback/comments.

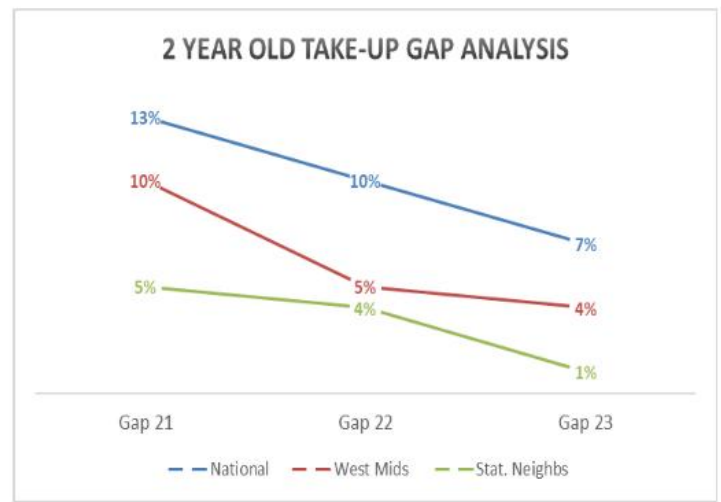
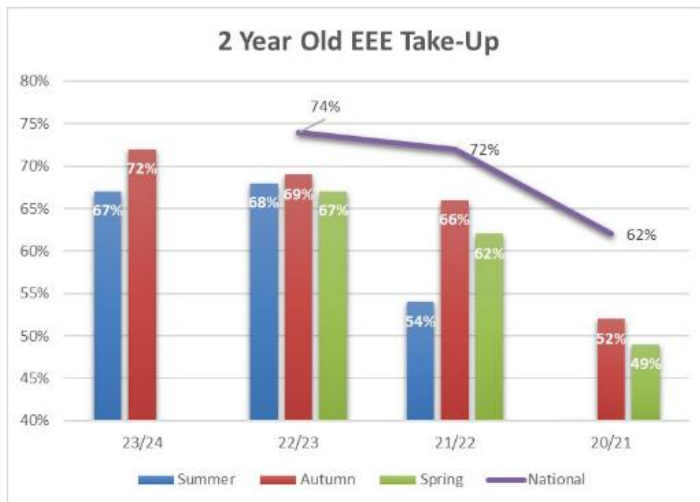
### 3 Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

- 3.1 It has been long known that the best way to improve a child's educational outcomes it is to get them engaged in the early education entitlement from the earliest opportunity. Providing children with good quality education and care in their earliest years can help them succeed at school and later in life. Children who took up their early education entitlement are far more likely than those who did not to achieve a good level of development at the end of Foundation Stage.
- 3.2 There has been a targeted offer for disadvantaged 2 year olds (linked to income levels and SEND) since 2013, and a universal offer for all 3 and 4 year olds since 2010.

3 and 4-Year-Old Take-Up in Birmingham remains lower than the national level. However, we have seen an increase in take-up over the past 4 years for each respective term and participation is now higher than pre-COVID. The national comparator data is only available each year in the Spring Term to coincide with the DfE Annual Census. (See graphs below.)



3.3 Whilst the take-up for 3 and 4 year olds does remain lower than the national, regional and statistical neighbours averages, the gap between Birmingham and the rest is closing. We have halved the gap in participation between Birmingham and both nationally and regionally (from an 8% gap in 2021 to 4% in 2023) and reduced by 75% the gap to our statistical neighbours (from 4% to 1% between 2021 and 2023). This means that participation is increasing at a higher rate in the city than in the rest of the country.



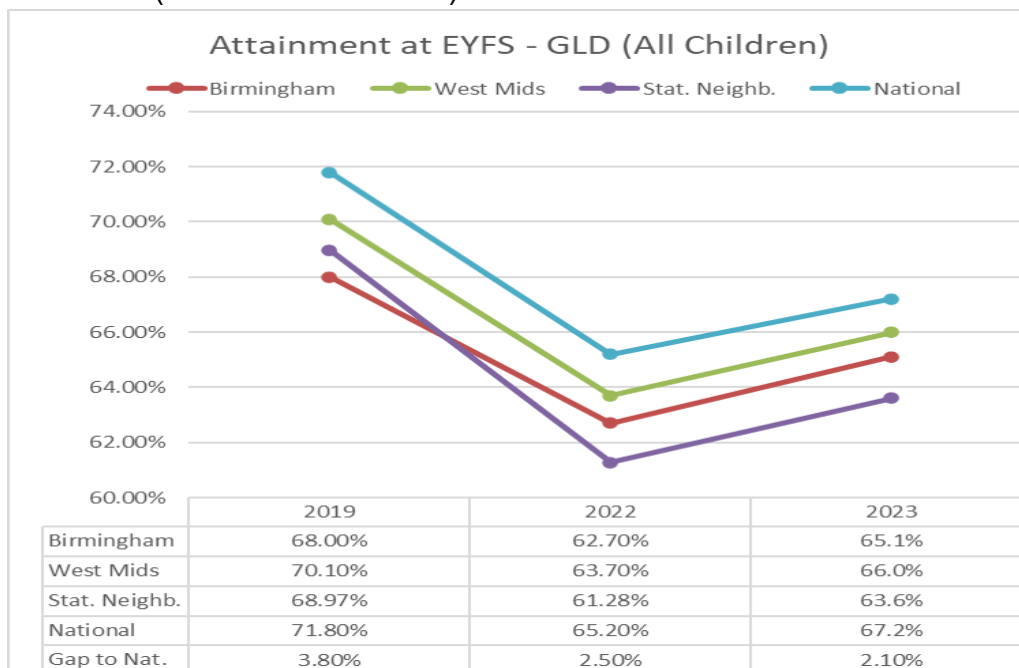
3.4 Similarly to the 3 and 4 year olds, take-up for the disadvantaged 2 year old offer has also been increasing over the last 4 years with participation in Autumn term 23 reaching the highest level of participation we have ever had in Birmingham. (See graphs above.) The gap between take-up in the city and the national average has reduced by almost half (from 13% in 2021 to 7% in 2023), over half compared to the West Midlands (from 10% to 4%) and has reduced by 80% compared to our statistical neighbour local authorities (5% to 1%). This demonstrates that the number of children accessing their entitlement in the city is increasing faster than elsewhere in the country. However, whilst this is a positive step, we recognise that there is still more to do.

3.5 Work being undertaken to support increasing take-up (attendance) includes:

- District take up analysis – targeting districts with lowest take up.
- Ongoing sessions to raise awareness of early education with family facing professionals. Monthly sessions are held targeted at staff in the Virtual School, Family Support Workers, Health Visitors, Childrens Centres and Social Workers. To date there have been approx. 600 attendees to date.
- Working with other professionals to strengthen the support given to children and families in temporary accommodation (TA) to access their early education places especially in the Edgbaston, Ladywood, Perry Barr and Selly Oak districts where TA numbers are high. Early Years Officers have attended meetings in those districts offering support and guidance as required to strengthen existing strategies family facing professionals already have in place. In addition, we are mapping take up of places against eligibility of TA children on a termly basis to identify districts that have particularly low take up compared to eligibility. The data will be used to monitor improvements in take-up and inform ongoing support strategies.
- Use of the 2-year-old promotional video. This shows local Birmingham settings and parents talking about the wider benefits of children taking up their 2-year-old entitlement. It has been shared for wider use by providers themselves and is available on the Council website.
- Ongoing work with the Children’s Centres District leads to develop and review action plans. These have been further developed and now include a focus on accountability, to discuss barriers and try to address them, sharing good practice and positive outcomes of support.
- Using the data captured when parents access an eligibility code from the Eligibility Checking System (ECS) and tracking those codes accessed that then do not pull through to children taking up a place in a setting. This information can then be used to make direct contact with parents to understand if any support is needed to access a place or explore barriers to access.
- Further to implementing a flexible 2-year-old funding approach which allows for admission at any point during each term, we have also now included a flexible approach for 3 and 4 year olds. This was introduced in Autumn Term 2022. This has increased take up each term. 101 additional 2 year old and 58 additional 3 and 4 year old children were included on the Autumn Term 2023 headcount that otherwise would have been delayed by a term.
- We are currently undertaking a thorough review of our marketing materials and our Early Years Webpages. We are continuing to work with our Corporate Communications team to develop a marketing campaign aimed at improving take-up of the early years entitlements.

3.6 The best measure to look at whether children are ready for school (school readiness) is the percentage of children with 'a good level of development' at the end of the early years foundation stage (EYFS).

3.7 The outcomes at the end of the EYFS were not available during the two years of COVID (2020 and 2021) as the assessments were suspended.



3.8 The chart above shows that we consistently sit below the national average for children's outcomes at the end of the EYFS. However, the gap to national has reduced to 2.1% from 2.5%. The percentage of pupils achieving a "Good Level of Development (GLD)" in Birmingham is lower than the West Midlands and England average, but higher than the statistical neighbour average (ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 11 local authorities). Whilst we still sit in the bottom quartile of all local authorities, we are now ranked 116 out of 152 in England.

3.9 The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) that achieve a GLD in Birmingham is 6.8% points higher than the England average. However, pupils who are not eligible for FSM performed 2.3% below the England average. So, the more deprived children do better in Birmingham than compared to such children nationally.

3.10 22.9% of SEN support pupils in Birmingham achieved a GLD in 2023 which is 1.4% lower than the England average. The gap has reduced by 0.8% between 2022 and 2023. A similar pattern is seen for EHCP pupils, where the percentage achieving a GLD in Birmingham is also lower than the England average at 0.9%. The gap though is larger for these children at 2.9% difference (a reduction from 3.1% difference in 2022).

3.11 A focus area over the last 3 years has been on the development of Speech, Language and Communication as this area really underpins the whole of a child's early years development. 75.8% of all children reached the expected level in the prime learning goal of Communication and Language in 2023 (an increase of 0.4% from 2022) and in the specific area of Literacy 67% of all children reached the expected level (an increase of 1.9% from 2022). The focus is beginning to have an impact.



3.12 The main improvement priority over the next 12 months is improving children's outcomes and narrowing the attainment gap. We know that a core part of this is to drive-up the take-up of the early years entitlements as children who took up their early education entitlement are far more likely than those who did not to achieve a good level of development at the end of Foundation Stage, and to continue our focus on Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) development. The WellComm project has been running over the last 3 years now, which was initially difficult as this was throughout the period of COVID. Progress to date: -

- Settings and practitioners have accessed training and been supported to understand the impact of poor SLC outcomes on children's educational futures. Each setting has been provided with a funded WellComm toolkit.
- Providers (PVI's and Schools) are using the WellComm toolkit to assess and target support for SLC and are returning data to the Early Years and Childcare service on a termly basis. The autumn term 2023 return covered the progress of 6,186 children from 165 settings (out of 847).
- In the Autumn term of 2023 3,185 children were rated as Green, 1,278 as Amber and 1,723 as Red compared to 3,463 children who were rated as Green, 1,007 as Amber and 1,360 as Red the previous term (Summer 2023).
- Analysis of the data shows that 66.2% of children remained at the same level as their previous assessment, 22.6% improved and 11.1% showed a decrease. All children not rated Green will now have an identified plan to support their development on the pathway being created within the Balanced System Approach.

3.13 The Balanced System Approach is now in the delivery phase. Multiagency workgroups which include parents, professionals and early years providers are now delivering an implementation plan. The plan focuses on: -

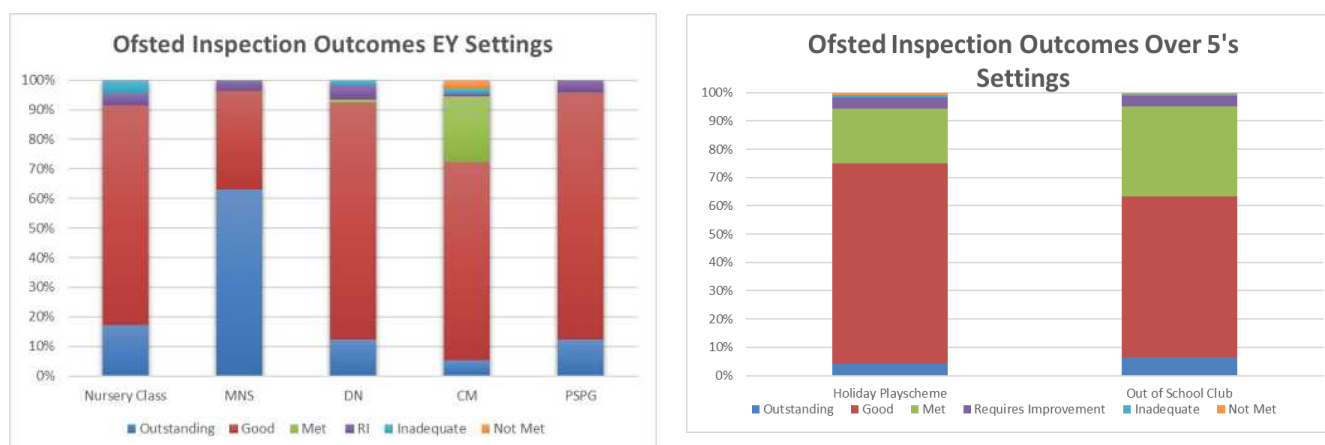
- Easy access to local Speech and language therapists.
- Workforce training and support for Early Years professionals working with children.
- Improved information for parents, young people and professionals.
- More efficient assessment and intervention for universal, targeted and specialist support.

3.14 The Balanced System is now delivering parents access to Speech and Language Therapists in local Children's Centres. This approach has invited all families currently on a specialist waiting list. This local support will be expanded soon to include support for early years providers and the opportunity for local providers to refer families to local support.

3.15 During the second half of 2023 we worked on a collaborative project with [NESTA](#) which was focused on gaining a better insight/understanding of the diverse needs of families in Birmingham with the aim of improving take-up of early education places and children's early years outcomes.

3.16 With NESTA’s support, a Data Tool has been created that will enable better understanding of the demographics, attitudes, and experiences of communities in Birmingham that are facing the poorest educational outcomes and have the lowest up-take of early education and other early years services. This work has culminated in the creation of a data tool that will be hosted on Birmingham City Observatory website. Currently the tool has been created and work is being undertaken by the observatory to map data from the various sources used to power it into the tool. As soon as the data mapping is complete the tool will be tested and then published. A promotional piece of work will accompany this going live.

#### 4 Quality of Provision



4.1 As at January 2024, 94% of the Early Years provision in the city is rated as Good or better by Ofsted. 95% of registered childcare provision for the over 5’s is rated as Good/Outstanding. These figures include settings that have received a “Met” judgement. Settings receive a Met judgement instead of Good or Outstanding if at the time of inspection they do not have any children present or in the case of over 8’s provision that is registered on the Voluntary Childcare register.

4.2 Towards the end of 2022, we had identified a theme that the quality of settings outcomes had been falling once inspections resumed post COVID-19 between September 21 and July 2022. Specifically looking at Early Years PVI providers, we had been concerned about the number of settings receiving declining Ofsted ratings recognising the negative impact the pandemic had on the whole childcare sector.

4.3 We believe that Ofsted grades have fallen specifically in relation to curriculum intent, implementation and impact and the changes (i.e. learning and development and welfare requirements) which were introduced during the pandemic when many providers had experienced heightened difficulties.

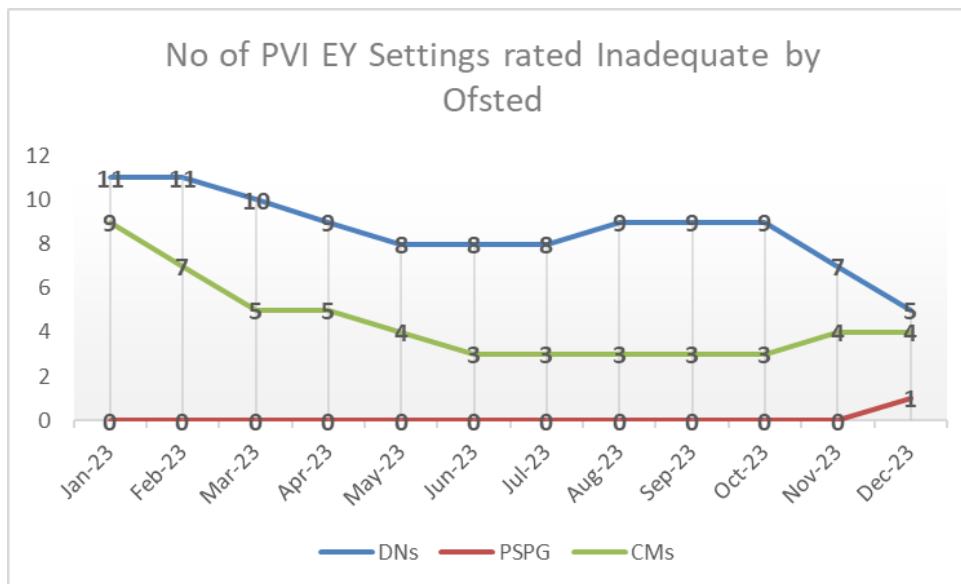
4.4 The team of Early Years Consultants (EYCs) have been supporting the challenges within the sector through the provision of a number of different services. These include:-

- All settings judged less than Good are allocated to an Early Years Consultant. EYC visits include discussions and observations of the EYFS (policy and practice), this includes checking CPD plans are in place for staff, policy and procedure explored to check it reflects current guidance, assessing the

environment, scenarios posed to staff to test understanding and setting response to concerns. Any Ofsted actions, recommendations or observed poor practice/policies identified will be immediately raised with the setting and the EYC will support using a Focused Improvement Plan (FIP). Review visits and progress summary reports are planned based on the Ofsted rating with more intensive support offered to providers with requires improvement and inadequate Ofsted grades. This may include signposting to training and EYC supporting the review of current setting procedures.

- The intention is that the setting will improve and receive a G/O outcome at next inspection (this is in line with our Statutory Duty).
- All settings (regardless of Ofsted grade status) have access to their district EYC's through regular district email updates which invite providers to contact the EYC as needed as well as general themes of support offered.
- There is a menu of Early Years and Childcare Workshops planned currently through to the end of the calendar year. These include various themes from Childcare briefing sessions for new Childminders/Settings, Maths, English as an Additional Language, WellComm, Transitions, Assessment and Moderation. These are put together from common themes identified by EYCs as part of their support to settings.
- Ongoing support for Speech-language and Communication assessment and provider support pathway through the WellComm project. Building on the WellComm project and using Family Hubs funding from the HLE strand we will be training multi agency practitioners; SALT, PVI's, MNS and CC's as Early Talk trainers who work train practitioners across the Early Years sector.
- District Early Years Network sessions across the city giving providers direct access to the district EYC with a focus on areas that are relevant and key for those setting.
- Following a decline in Ofsted grades during 2022, the EYCs have now completed engagement visits for **all** group care providers rated good or outstanding. These visits are an opportunity to signpost providers to the universal services offered by the service and external programmes such as the DfE Covid Recovery Programme. From March 2024 these engagement visits will be extended to include contacts with Childminders. The engagement visits will either be to the childminders home or via Childminder Stay and Play sessions offered by the Heart Stronger Practice Hub.

4.5 Our data trend of settings with Inadequate Ofsted outcomes demonstrates that the quality of settings is now improving. We now have 596 settings in the PVI sector and as of Dec 2023 only 10 settings are rated Inadequate, reduced from 20 settings in January 2023 – a reduction of 50%. (See chart over the page.)



4.6 The Early Years Networks are also a key part of our strategy to support and improve the quality of early years and childcare settings. We commission 10 district networks across the city that are led by the 27 Maintained Nursery Schools. There are two project coordinators (ex-nursery school HT's) line managed by the Chair of the MNS Trust. There are four areas of focus for the project coordinators, all of which aim to promote quality of the early education experience for each child as well as increased take up due to knowledge and expertise of the early education offer which can be shared and cascaded across the sector. The four areas of focus are: -

- Lead and develop the Early Years Network Steering Groups within each of the 10 districts that are responsible for planning the delivery of Early Years Networks and associated activity to develop the quality of practice across the early years workforce (inc. Childminders) and increase EEE take-up.
- Development of a comprehensive website resource ([www.birminghamearlyyearsnetworks.org](http://www.birminghamearlyyearsnetworks.org)) which supports the work of the networks and is available to ALL early years providers across the city.
- Work with primary schools with nursery/reception classes to strengthen practice relating to children under 4 years old with an aim to supporting increased capacity to deliver 2-year-old EEE places and improved outcomes for all children at the end of Foundation Stage, and to establish effective transition arrangements within the district areas. This work is supported by the Early Years Consultants team.
- Utilise the expertise of the maintained nursery schools to provide CPD opportunities to the LA team of EYCs enabling them to experience and understand innovative pedagogical approaches of teaching in early years, to ensure this can also be cascaded and modelled across to the PVI sector.

## 5 Sufficiency and the New Offers

5.1 In the main the general sufficiency position has not changed since the Childcare Sufficiency Report for 2021/2022 was completed by CORAM. The city has had a

falling birth-rate for several years and there is a general oversupply of places citywide with a small number of wards in the city that have a deficit of places.

5.2 In the Spring Budget March 2023, the Government announced a range of measures to assist working parents including the **expansion of the Early Education offer** to children of eligible working parents aged 2 and under. As a result of this the Early Years and Childcare Service have recalculated the childcare sufficiency forecast to include impact of phased implementation from April 2024 where:

- Phase 1 from April 2024 - eligible working parents of 2-year-olds can access their 15 hours childcare (over 38 weeks a year) from the term after their child’s 2nd birthday.
- Phase 2 from Sept 2024 - eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-year-olds can access 15 hours childcare (over 38 weeks a year) from the term following their child turning 9 months.
- Phase 3 from Sept 2025 - the offer will be rolled out in full, with eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and above able to access 30 hours (over 38 weeks a year) from the term following their child turning 9 months.

5.3 The revised forecasts have identified that due to the existing significant oversupply position, the Phase 1 demand (April 2024) will be absorbed within the existing oversupply, Phase 2 in September 2024 should be covered when you look at the city as whole (but with some hotspots), but there will be a need for additional places to be created to meet anticipated demand for Phase 3 from September 2025.

	Phase 1 April 2024	Phase 2 September 2024	Phase 3 September 2025
15 Hours for 2 year olds	2,192	2,192	2,192
15 Hours for 9 to 11 month olds		3,395	3,395
15 Hours for 12 to 23 month olds		3,534	3,534
30 Hours for 2 year olds			2,192
30 Hours for 9 to 11 month olds			3,395
30 Hours for 12 to 23 month olds			3,534
<b>Total Additional PTE Places Required</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>9,121</b>	<b>18,242</b>
<b>Sufficiency Position Summer 2023 - Oversupply (pte places)</b>	<b>16,622</b>	<b>16,622</b>	<b>16,622</b>
<b>Net Sufficiency Position</b>	<b>14,430</b>	<b>7,501</b>	<b>-1,620</b>

5.4 The table above shows the additional children we expect to be eligible for each phase of the new entitlement and the impact on existing levels of places available. We are not forecasting any additional children for phase 3 as additional children from Phases 1 and 2 will be claiming double the number of hours. We have estimated the number of children already accessing a funded place by using the current % of additional hours purchased by early education funded children as a proxy measure as we do not collect fee paying hours data for all under 5's. Based on this we believe there should be sufficient places for both phase 1 and 2 with more places in targeted areas for phase 3.

5.5 The initial forecast has identified 9 wards where we believe we could have specific pressures due to current sufficiency gaps which are currently being covered by parents accessing places in surrounding wards (see table over page). With an anticipated increase in demand for places from April 2024 it is highly likely that it could be challenging for parents to access a place that suits their needs in these areas. To address this identified potential need work will be undertaken to “sense check” the desktop assumptions by engaging with parents and providers in those targeted areas via surveys and focus groups to explore options for addressing any confirmed sufficiency gaps.

		Summer Term 2023	Summer Term 2024	Autumn Term 2024	Autumn Term 2025		
	Ward	Net 0 to 4 Year Olds Oversupply / Undersupply	Net Supply Remaining after P1	Net Supply Remaining after P2	Net Supply Remaining after P3	DISTRICT	Further Assessment Rating Based on Surrounding Wards & Migration
1	Allens Cross	-34	-63	-155	-276	Northfield	
2	Castle Vale	-108	-126	-199	-290	Erdington	
3	Garretts Green	-185	-214	-316	-446	Yardley	Garretts Green
4	Handsworth Wood	-51	-107	-281	-511	Perry Barr	Handsworth Wood
5	Harborne	-595	-638	-746	-898	Edgbaston	
6	Heartlands	-109	-124	-182	-254	Hodge Hill	
7	Highter's Heath	22	-9	-98	-219	Selly Oak	Highter's Heath
8	Holyhead	-250	-264	-309	-369	Perry Barr	Holyhead
9	King's Norton South	-162	-177	-248	-334	Northfield	
10	Kingstanding	-175	-219	-365	-555	PB/Erd	Kingstanding
11	Ladywood	-240	-260	-336	-431	Ladywood	
12	Longbridge & West Heath	-132	-181	-372	-612	Northfield	
13	Perry Common	-144	-171	-267	-390	Erdington	Perry Common
14	Quinton	-26	-71	-215	-404	Edgbaston	Quinton
15	Stirchley	0	-44	-146	-292	Selly Oak	
16	Stockland Green	-127	-183	-367	-607	Erdington	Stockland Green
17	Sutton Four Oaks	-10	-24	-52	-95	Sutton	
18	Sutton Reddicap	-189	-212	-278	-366	Sutton	
19	Weoley & Selly Oak	-34	-79	-229	-424	Northfield	
20	Yardley East	-141	-173	-267	-393	Yardley	Yardley East
	Totals	-2,692	-3,339	-5,428	-8,166		

5.6 The table above shows that 9 wards (rated red) have a potential sufficiency issue during most of the phases mainly due to surrounding wards not having the sufficiency capacity required; 7 wards (rated amber) have a potential sufficiency issue from Phase 2 onwards; and 4 wards (rated green) even though they show a current undersupply, we are not anticipating any sufficiency issues due to oversupply of surrounding wards and current high migration behaviours of parents.

5.7 Other Work being undertaken to support sufficiency: -

- Reviewing closures of settings and considering the impact on sufficiency in area.
- Holding a monthly EEE Panel where RI/Inadequate Ofsted outcomes are reviewed being mindful of impact they have on sufficiency.
- Using the DfE/DWP lists for potentially eligible 2-year-olds. We use the list each term to identify parents/carers of eligible children and directly email information to parents to raise awareness of the offer and signpost to information on how to access a place. We follow this up with email reminders. 4,688 parents were contacted directly to promote the offer for the Spring Term 2024. We are in the process of resolving the issue with us sharing the list with our contracted Children Centre provider due to Data sharing issues imposed by the DfE.

- We have reviewed the published admission numbers (PANs) of Schools as many were overstated compared to actual places available.
- The Early Years Consultants (EYCs) have developed two specific workshops to support sufficiency of childcare places with providers - a Childcare Briefing Workshop to support good practice in terms of planning for delivering good quality childcare provision aimed at new/potential providers; and a Business and Sustainability Workshop is offered to support the maintaining of a sustainable, good quality childcare business. Both workshops are delivered on a rolling basis.
- The EYCs also raise awareness of early education funding and associated funding supplements during their ongoing communications with settings.
- We are experiencing increasing feedback from settings to say they are unable to accommodate all children coming forward for places where they have additional needs. This is also evidenced by increasing complaints from parents with children who have SEND. We are doing some work to look at sufficiency for places for children with more complex SEND needs alongside the Education Infrastructure team who manage school-place sufficiency. Where partners/professionals supporting children are highlighting concerns or difficulties regarding accessing childcare for children with SEND, we are working with them to unpick the issues/barriers for those families and looking at ways to support them. Bi-weekly SEND meetings to track progress/agree actions are held by the Senior EYC for Inclusion.

5.8 In the Spring Budget 2023 the government also announced it was investing £289m over two academic years (from Sept 2024) to enable local authorities to set-up **wraparound childcare** provision. This is the first step in the government's ambition for all parents of primary school children (Reception to Year 6) who need it to access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm.

5.9 This funding is for local authorities to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day and enable us to develop flexible ways of providing childcare and gather evidence of what works.

5.10 The DfE expect parents to see an expansion in wraparound childcare from September 2024 with every parent that needs it able to access term-time wrap-around childcare by September 2026.

5.11 The programme is for Term-Time only provision and does not cover holidays and has a primary focus to support 'Working Parents'. It is clear that it is not just about delivery in schools, as the funding can be used to fund providers such as PVI's (Private, Voluntary and Independent), Childminders and Schools.

5.12 The funding is not available or intended to subsidise the cost of places for parents. Other funding is available to support parents e.g., Universal Credit Childcare and Tax-Free Childcare.

5.13 To support the delivery of the new offer programmes the DfE have awarded the Council the following Capital and Revenue funding: -

- Revenue Funding – Wraparound Programme Funding for Providers of £6,564,193 to be rolled out to childcare providers to create new places and Local Authority Capacity Funding of up to £874,470 to support the Council delivery team to rollout the programme.
- Early Years Delivery Support Revenue Funding of £202,896 to support increased LA costs associated with the delivery and roll out of the wider Early Years offer programme.
- An increase to the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to directly fund the children that take up the places for the wider offer within settings as is the case currently for the 2-, 3- and 4-year-old entitlements.
- Childcare Capital Expansion Funding of £1,679,209 to be used for both the Wraparound and Expanded Early Years Offers.
- All of the funding can be used from 2023/24 through to 2026/27.

5.14 Funding decisions will be driven by the Sufficiency mapping which is currently being undertaken and will be completed prior to the commencement of a grant funding programme for schools/settings. There will be a robust, transparent funding process in place with childcare providers to ensure grant funding is used appropriately and in line with DfE required outcomes. This is subject to a cabinet report which will be considered by Cabinet in March 2024.

5.15 We continue to work with our delivery partners StreetGames on the delivery of the holiday activities and food programme (HAF). The programme has been extremely successful as outlined below by the numbers of unique children reached: -

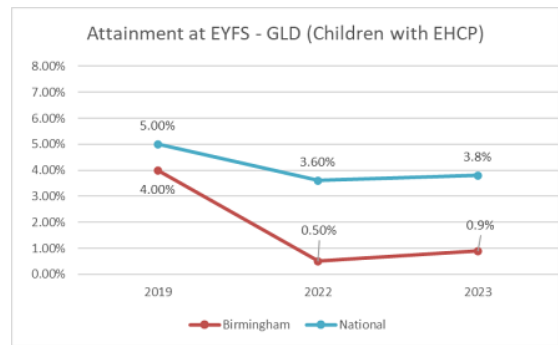
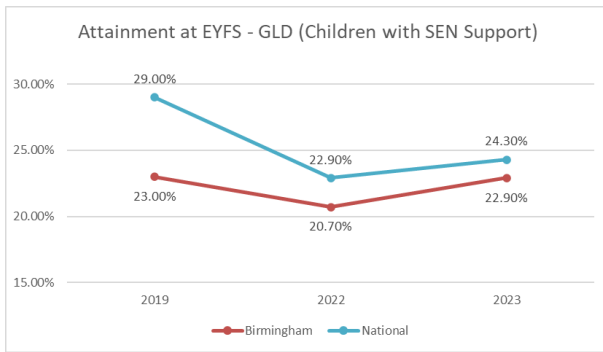
- Spring- DfE target 15524 actual 16090,
- Summer DfE target 24,838, actual 26356,
- Winter DfE target not available yet.

5.16 As we move into the last year of delivery (programme ends March 2025) we focus our attention on sustainability and the development of an exit strategy. We will work with our multi agency partners in our HAF steering group to explore how we might link up to LA agendas/strategies relating to health, well-being, and physical activities as well as wraparound and short breaks with the main aim of ensuring that our children and families, including SEND are able to smoothly access services and support during the holiday periods.

## **6 Inclusion in the Early Years**

6.1 As previously identified in paragraph 3.10 of this report, the proportion of children with SEN support and EHCP in Birmingham that achieved a GLD in 2023 is lower than the England average, with an increase in both between 2022 and 2023. The gap has reduced between 2022 and 2023.





- 6.2 Within the Early Years Foundation Stage, all settings are required to be Inclusive. Most children therefore access their early education within a mainstream setting apart from a small number of children that have an Education Health and Care Plan which identifies a specialist placement to meet the SEND provision detailed in the EHC Plan. In these cases, children will attend one of the city’s Special Schools with a nursery class or one of two resources bases in a maintained nursery school.
- 6.3 To ensure quality of provision for children with SEND, the Area SENCoS, within Early Years Inclusion Support, hold twice yearly contact meetings with all PVI settings. These are embedded in the Area SENCO team model of support which comprises training, advice and targeted direct support for specific children. The meetings include identification of training and development needs and inform the training programme. Currently 99% of PVI providers have one or more practitioners who have attended the core SENCo training delivered by the team. Similarly, there are termly multi-agency planning meetings (MAPS), conducted by the SEND advisory teams and the Educational Psychology Service, with maintained nursery schools and primary schools. These allow discussion about children in the early years with emerging or identified SEND. All meetings combine a support and challenge approach towards best inclusive practice. Information collated from these meetings, across the sector, indicate that the most common area of SEND identified in EY children is Communication and Interaction. Birmingham is a regional EY hub for the Autism Education Trust, so all providers have ready access to this training which develops quality practice.
- 6.4 The Area SENCo team targets support around children in receipt of EY Inclusion Funding (ISEY) or with an EHCP, who attend a PVI setting. This includes a specific visit to all settings receiving an Inadequate or Requires Improvement rating from Ofsted. At this visit actions may need to be agreed towards improving inclusive practice. Review consultations are then arranged.
- 6.5 All providers in receipt of ISEY are required to complete a termly evaluation detailing the impact of the support on outcomes for the child, including parent/carer views. The latest completed evaluation period (Autumn term 2023) indicated the following from 768 returns out of a possible total of 916 evaluations returned (84%): -
- 100% settings agree /strongly agree that funding enabled sustained access to child’s EE funded placement.
  - 100% of settings and of parent/carers agree / strongly agree that the child in receipt of ISEY funding has made learning and development progress.

- 6.6 The Area SENCo model includes training, consultation, and direct packages of support around targeted children in the PVI sector. In the Autumn term of this academic year: 160 practitioners have attended AST training (total for full academic year 22/23: 672 practitioners). 319 PVI settings (93%) have accessed one or more consultation session to date this year (total for full academic year 22/23 100%) and 160 settings have received a direct package of support around 234 children (total for full academic year 22/23: 197 settings around 383 children). Direct support best identifies where improvements can be made to quality and effectiveness of practice, and this typically includes the need to model strategies to support improved outcomes for children.
- 6.7 The amount of funding allocated to ISEY in 2024/25 is being increased to £3.75 million (up from £3m in 2023/24) and the funding will now be available to support all funded children access their early years entitlement (from 9mths to age 4) in line with DfE requirements for the new offer.
- 6.8 In terms of sufficiency, some families and specialist support services supporting the first transition of children with SEND into an early education or childcare placement, report challenges securing places in a setting of choice. There is a small team within the Early Years and Childcare Service that will work with a family in these instances to undertake brokerage to secure appropriate provision. Settings with a reputation for good inclusive practice report that they are at capacity for meeting the needs of more complex children and so there is a need to develop the inclusive practice of all settings within each District so that all children with emerging/identified SEND can have needs met by a local provider.
- 6.9 Information is sought from both PVI and maintained EY providers through regular contact meetings. All the SEND and inclusion teams have a remit to support and challenge around attendance of children with SEND towards the full- uptake of early education funded hours by eligible children.
- 6.10 Since the academic year 22/23, the Early Support Service, within Early Years Inclusion Support, has been tracking the number of children referred for specialist home teaching who previously attended an early education setting but where, for a range of reasons, the placement ceased. Of the 171 referrals received in Autumn Term 23 around 9% of children had previous access to a setting. The figure for the full academic year 22/23 was 11%.
- 6.11 The ongoing need for a comprehensive SEND CPD offer, for both SENCOs and all practitioners, is provided by the specialist support services engaged with the PVI and/or maintained sector as well as by the Dingley's Promise programme and Birmingham Early Years Network. Upskilling the sector is understood as critical in developing best inclusive practice and sustaining the placements of children with the most complex needs.
- 6.12 The Early Years Inclusion Project from Dingley's Promise which aims to: -
- support the increased take up of 2/3 year old early education places of children with SEND, that they make progress at the end of the EYFSP;
  - reduce the numbers of children on reduced timetables; and

- Positively engage the family and the child in support and transition plans.

6.13 In the academic year 22/23 a cohort of 100 EY practitioners were enrolled on the Level 3 EY National SENCO award programme. The course was funded through the EY DLP project and 92 participants achieved the qualification. This course was delivered by the Area SENCo team in collaboration with nursery school SENCOs. All trainers hold the relevant licence to deliver the School Improvement Liverpool course. This year the sector is being signposted to the government funded Level 3 EY SENCo award delivered by Best Practice Network.

6.14 Since Covid, an increasing number of settings report challenges in recruiting and retaining staff where the allocation of Inclusion Support in Early Years (ISEY- the LA EY inclusion fund) or SEND Support Provision funding would enable them to enhance ratios to meet needs. This can impact on whether children with identified SEND can access their full entitlement and/ or extended childcare hours requested by parent/carers. In these cases, the Area SENCo team advises around best use of funding to support the child's access.

6.15 We have also established a Childminder Inclusion Network. This is a city-wide network which is managed by our Early Years Consultant for Inclusion. Following the positive impact of the DfE funded Childminders Experts and Mentor Scheme and the Heart Stronger Practice Hubs focus on engaging childminders, the Childminder Inclusion Network has been combined with the network offered by the Stronger Practice Hub. This partnership working has enabled us to reach more childminders and respond more directly to their feedback. This shared work enables us to offer an SEND training program to strengthen practice and increase confidence in caring for children with mild to complex needs to more childminders. Half termly network meetings bring childminder members together to engage with partner professionals, to share good practice and information.

6.16 The Developing Local Provision (DLP 2) for children under 5 work is a programme that is currently being undertaken across the city with a focus on SEND and Inclusion. Phase 1 of the programme has provided £2m over last year, divided across the 10 districts (£200,000 per each district). This targets improvement in the quality of provision available particularly for children with additional needs. Phase 2 started in January 2024. This universal project offered in the 10 districts has the following KPI's; -

- % Increase of uptake of early education by eligible children in the district.
- % increase of children achieving GLD at end of EYFS.
- % decrease of children accessing their early education remaining with an EY provider rather than taking up their Reception place in school with typical age cohort.
- % decrease of children across the district who are at risk of placement breakdown following transition to Reception in school.

6.17 Phase 2 of the EY DLP will build on the workforce capacity building undertaken in phase 1 by now focusing on outcomes for individual children. Governance and

monitoring arrangements will align to the 5-16 Years DLP and report directly into the SEND Improvement Board.

## **7 Risks and Challenges/Future Priorities**

- 7.1 The biggest risks and challenges over the next 12 -24 months are being able to successfully rollout the expanded statutory duties in early years for both early education and wraparound (out of school) childcare whilst the Council itself is experiencing such challenging times within the Section 114. There will be a need to recruit additional capacity to the Early Years and Childcare Service at pace in order to be able to deliver the changes required as the additional Statutory Duties are required to be implemented.
- 7.2 We also need to work with all early years settings to develop their understanding of the needs of children who are more complex so that we can start to address some of the challenges we are currently dealing with in terms of ensuring all settings are Inclusive and all children can access their early years entitlements.
- 7.3 The priorities over the next 12 months are as follows:-
- 7.4 **Further development of our Sufficiency Analysis** - to ensure we can appropriately target any development of new places required for both the Early Years and Wraparound entitlements.
- 7.5 **Ensuring take-up of the wider Early Education entitlements** – targeting each age group to coincide with the phasing of the introduction of the entitlements. We must also maintain our focus on ensuring the take-up of the disadvantage 2-year-old offer so that we can continue to close the gap with local authorities nationally. Within our focus of equity we will ensure Inclusion – in terms of children facing barriers that are social, racial or SEND – to improve outcomes for our more vulnerable children. We will also continue to focus on improving the use of Data to help us target more effectively to do so.
- 7.6 **Development of Wraparound places** – managing the rollout of the grant funding programmes.
- 7.7 **Improving outcomes at the end of EYFS for all children** –we know that a core part of this is to drive-up the take-up of the early years entitlements as children who took up their early education entitlement are far more likely than those who did not to achieve a good level of development at the end of Foundation Stage. We will continue to work on bringing together the Early Years Census/termly headcount process for schools and PVI providers to enable “in real time” duplicate checking and should allow multiple points of/rolling funded admissions. The outcome of the project with NESTA will result in a data tool that can be used within the City Observatory and will enable us to target and address barriers to take-up within specific communities/areas of the city. We will continue to support Speech, Language and Communication in partnership with other professionals. We will continue to promote improved SLC assessment via SLC champions, SEND speech and language therapists, and citywide workshops, and working through the EY DLP2 programme we will focus on improving take-up and supporting transition for

children with SEND from Nursery to Reception with targeted support for children where placement breakdown is likely.

7.8 **Workforce Recruitment and Retention** - potentially the biggest risk to achieving sufficient places being available to meet demand will be the ongoing challenge of staff recruitment and retention to enable providers to gear up to the anticipated increase in demand for places. This is a national issue and not unique to Birmingham. Birmingham has been selected by the DfE to offer a DfE pilot program of financial incentives to new recruits to the sector. This together with a National Campaign will help to address some of the current staffing issues. In addition to sustain and support workforce development, the Early Years and Childcare Service will be re-introducing a Workforce Development Officer role to the team permanently recognising the ongoing importance of the workforce in being able to deliver the associated statutory duties and to develop and oversee a comprehensive workforce strategy.

7.9 **Information duty developments for the team** - we have undertaken a review of the Information Duty requirements as part of the statutory duties for the Council and how we currently meet them and have identified a plan of improvement work. We aim to: -

- Create a new Early Years Information Hub which will hold interactive report suites for internal use and reports and links for external use. It will also have information on the statutory requirements, detail our responsibilities in regard to meeting those and detail the processes we have in place for managing them.
- The Early Years Information Team will work closely with the web team on redeveloping the Early Years aspects of the website ensuring data is accurate and reflective of current needs.
- The team will manage the information made available to settings/ providers and parents to ensure it is easy to use and provides the necessary information, and it is auditable and reflective of current needs.
- The team will work with the contact centre monitoring incoming query volumes to keep on top of demand and ensure we can react quickly to surges in public interest on specific topics. This will also involve training contact centre staff and ensuring info for contact centre advisors is relevant.

## 8 Any Finance Implications

8.1 The whole of the Early Years and Childcare Service is funded from the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

8.2 **Wraparound Childcare**: Funding for the programme will be un-ringfenced and will form part of the Section 31 Grant to LA's. However there is a clear MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) from the DfE outlining what the funding needs to be spent on and it is clearly linked to the delivery of the Councils Statutory Duties within the Childcare Act 2006/2026 and The Childcare ((Free of Charge for Working Parents) (England) Regulations 2022 set out within section 9.?? below.

- 8.3 **Expanded Early Years Offer:** Delivery Support Funding - Birmingham has been allocated £202,896 revenue funding for the financial year 2023/24 (with agreement from DfE to carry forward if required). The funding is to be used to support LA costs associated with the delivery and roll out of the programme.
- 8.4 **Capital Funding:** A total of £1,679,209 has been allocated to the LA to support the creation of new places for the Wraparound Childcare and the Expanded Early Years Offer programmes. The funding can be used to support the expansion of childcare places. It must be spent on capital projects and is being provided to meet the capital costs associated with projects that help ensure sufficient places are available.
- 8.5 The spend of all budgets is subject to a Cabinet report in March 2024.

## 9 Any Legal Implications

- 9.1 Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, that there is sufficient childcare for children up to 14 years old (or older if the child has SEND) available in their area to enable parents to work or train for work.
- 9.2 Local authorities are required to secure free provision for children eligible for the early year's entitlements. The Statutory guidance "Early Education and Childcare (applies from April 2024)' applies to the duty on local authorities to secure early years provision free of charge; the duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents, including wraparound childcare; the duty to secure childcare free of charge for eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds; the provision of information, advice and assistance to parents and the provision of information, advice and training to childcare providers and supports the introduction of the following working parent entitlements:
- From April 2024, the 15-hour entitlement for children of eligible working parents from the age of 2.
  - From September 2024, the 15-hour entitlement for children of eligible working parents from the age of 9 months.
  - From September 2025, the 30-hour entitlement for children of eligible working parents from the age of 9 months.

## 10 Any Equalities Implications

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EAI000259) has been undertaken for the new entitlements programme. The outcomes from the assessment demonstrate that the proposed funding programmes support positive outcomes for children, young people, their families, and carers. No negative impact on people with Protected Characteristics were identified. It was concluded that strengthening the sufficiency of Early Years and Childcare places for children and young people contributes to providing positive life chances and supports a positive approach to Safeguarding and Inclusion in Birmingham.

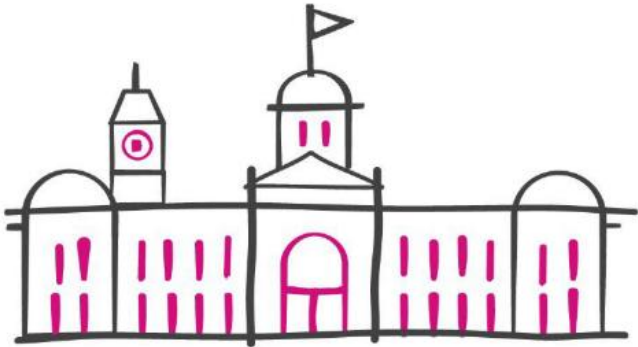
## Appendix 1: Early Years Education Entitlement Presentation

## Early Years Education Entitlement

Lindsey Trivett – Head of Early Years and Childcare

Helen Ellis – Director of SEND and Inclusion

28 February 2024



# Agenda:

## Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes

- Early Education take-up
- Childrens Outcomes at the end of the EYFS

## Quality of Provision

## Sufficiency and the New Offers

## Inclusion in the Early Years

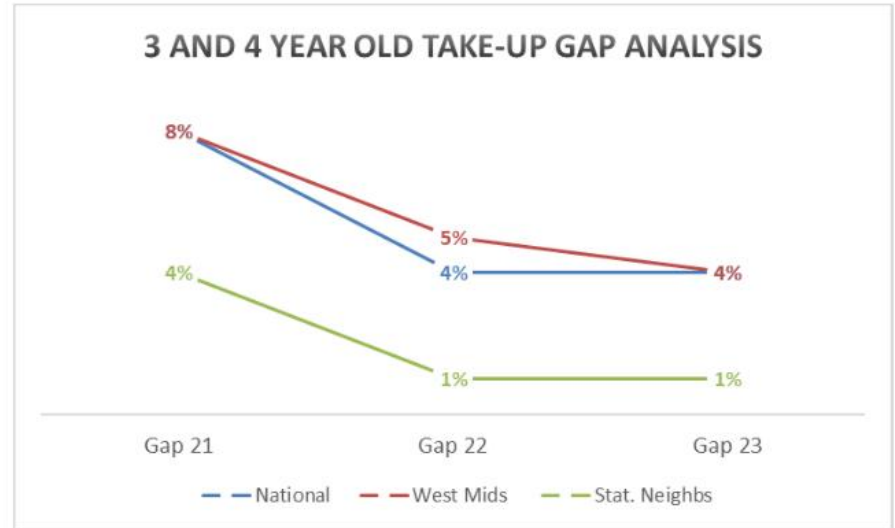
## Risks and Challenges



# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: 3 and 4-Year-Old Take-Up in Birmingham

## What's going well?

- Early education entitlement improves children's educational outcomes
- Children who took up early education entitlement more likely to achieve good development
- Take-up has increased over past 4 years and participation now higher than pre-COVID (Autumn Term was 92%)
- Gap between Birmingham and national, regional, and statistical neighbours averages is closing
- Participation increasing at higher rate in city than rest of country



# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: 3 and 4-Year-Old Take-Up in Birmingham

## Challenges?

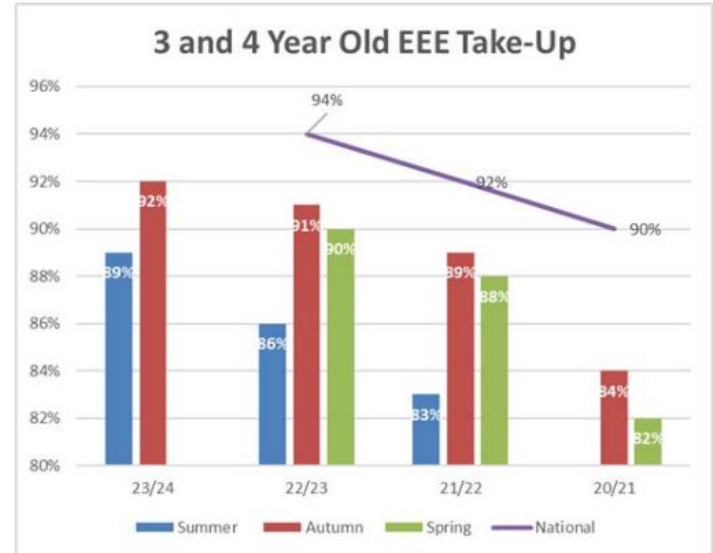
3 and 4-Year-Old Take-Up in Birmingham is lower than national level and we sit in the bottom quartile of all LAs (ranked 127 out of 152)

Small window of opportunity and high turnover – getting messages to parents to get children in during first term of entitlement

Wide variance of participation across the different 69 wards

Lowest is 69% in Hall Green South  
Highest is 110% in Sutton Four Oaks

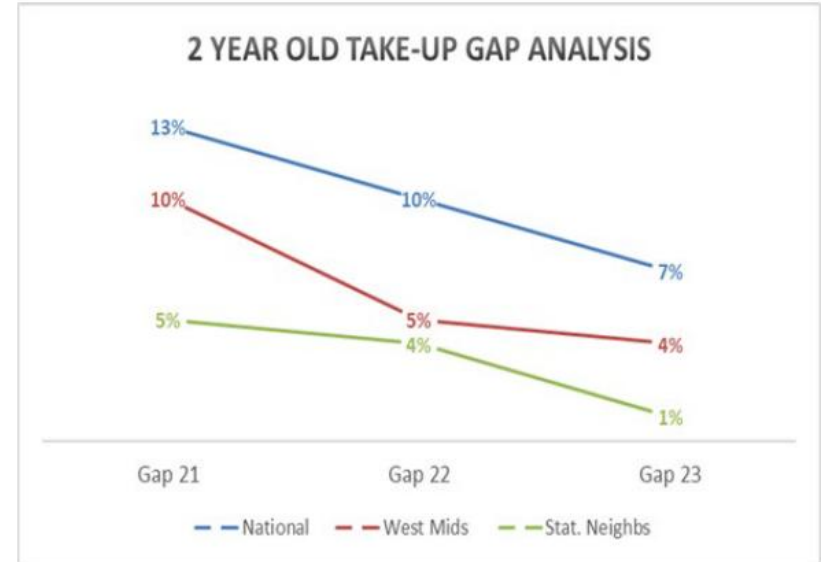
8% of eligible children are NOT engaging



# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Take-Up for the Disadvantaged 2-Year-Old Offer

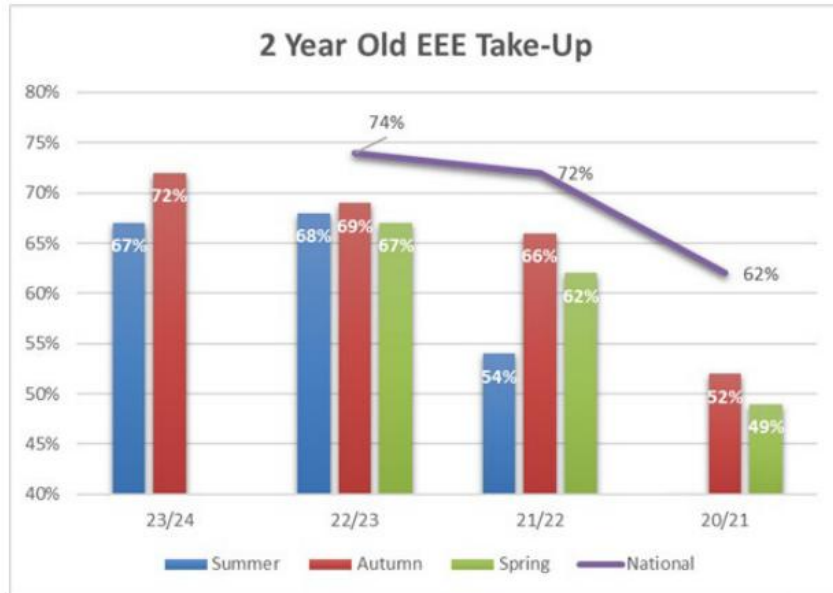
## What's going well?

- Take-up for disadvantaged 2-year-old offer has been increasing over the last 4 years - Autumn term 23 reached the highest ever level in Birmingham at 72%
- Gap between take-up in the city and national average reduced by almost half (13% in 2021 to 7% in 2023)
- Gap reduced by over half compared to the West Midlands (10% to 4%)
- Gap reduced by over half compared to the West Midlands (10% to 4%)
- Gap reduced by 80% compared to statistical neighbour local authorities (5% to 1%)
- Which means the number of children accessing entitlement in the city is increasing faster than elsewhere in the country



# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Take-Up for the Disadvantaged 2-Year-Old Offer

## Challenges?



28% of eligible children are still not engaging

Although the gap to the National is closing and the trajectory is increasing we are still in the bottom quartile nationally (ranked 131 out of 152)

Wide variance of participation across the different 69 wards

Lowest is 40% in Hall Green South  
Highest is 100% in Sutton Reddipap

# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Take-up of Early Education Entitlement

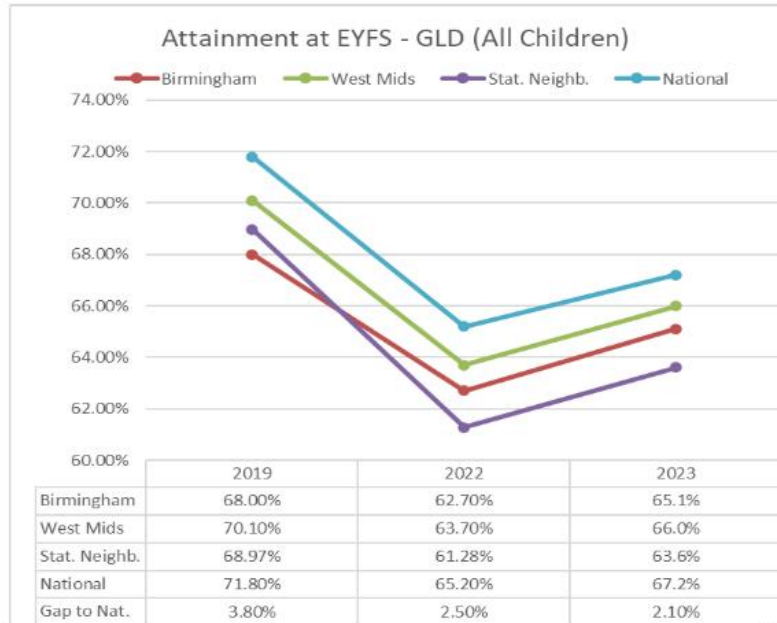
## What could we do better to increase take-up?



- Target each age group to coincide with phasing of new entitlements
- Maintain focus on take-up of disadvantage 2-year-old offer
- Ensure inclusion for children facing social, racial, or SEND barriers
- Improve use of data for more effective targeting
- How will we do this?
  - District take up analysis - targeting districts with lowest take up
  - Use the DWP lists to follow-up where parents haven't used codes
  - Ongoing awareness sessions targeted at family facing professionals
  - Support for children in temporary accommodation targeting districts with high TA numbers
  - Use of promotional video
  - Ongoing work with Children's Centres District leads
  - Tracking eligibility codes
  - Flexible funding approach
  - Review of marketing materials

# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Children's Outcomes at the End of the EYFS

## What's going well?

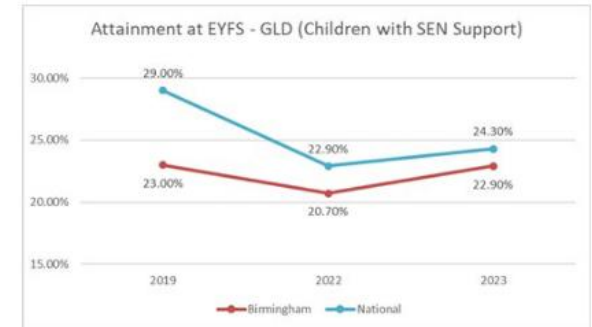
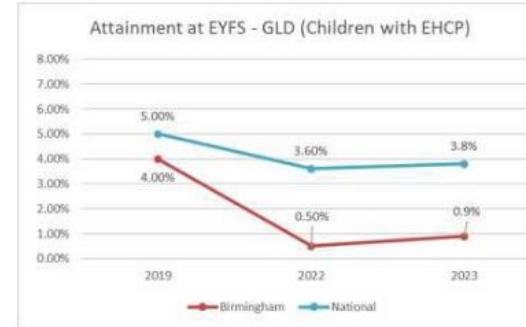


- Gap to national has reduced to 2.1% from 2.5% for children's outcomes at end of EYFS
- Birmingham's GLD percentage is higher than statistical neighbour average (ranked 3rd out of 11 local authorities)
- The percentage of FSM pupils that achieve a GLD in Birmingham is 6.8% points higher than the England average
- 75.8% of children reached expected level in Communication and Language (an increase of 0.4%)
- 67% of children reached expected level in Literacy (an increase of 1.9%)

# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Children's Outcomes at the End of the EYFS

## Challenges?

- The percentage of pupils achieving a GLD in Birmingham is consistently lower than the West Midlands and England average
- We still sit in the bottom quartile of all LAs (ranked 116 out of 152)
- Proportion of children with SEN support and EHCP in Birmingham achieved a GLD in 2023 is lower than the England average



# Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Children's Outcomes at the End of the EYFS

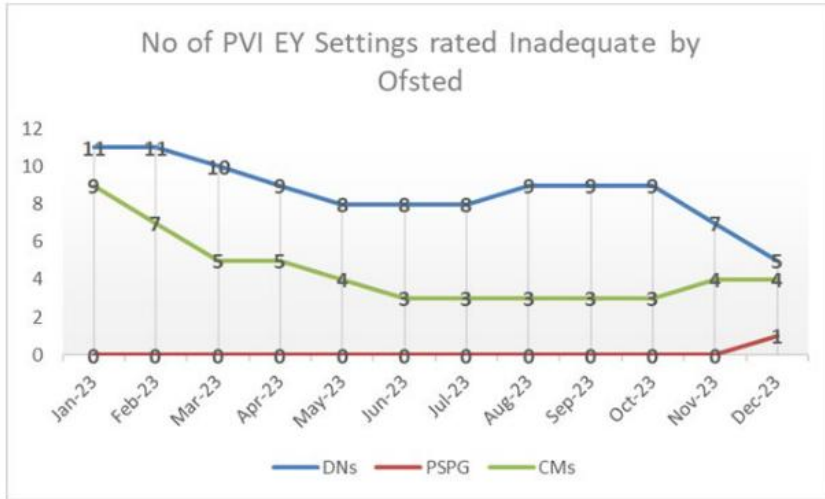
## What could we do better to improve EYFSP outcomes?

- Drive-up the take-up of the early years entitlements – children who access early education are far more likely than those who did not to achieve a good level of development
- Continue our focus on Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) development with WellComm
- Bring together the Early Years Census/termly headcount process for schools and PVI providers to enable “in real time” duplicate checking and allow multiple points of/rolling funded admissions
- NESTA project data tool that can be used within the City Observatory and will enable us to target and address barriers to take-up within specific communities/areas of the city
- EY DLP2 programme we will focus on improving take-up and supporting transition for children with SEND from Nursery to Reception with targeted support for children where placement breakdown is likely





# Quality of Provision: What's going well?



94% of Early Years provision rated as Good or better by Ofsted

- Out of 915 settings

95% of registered childcare for over 5's rated as Good/Outstanding

- Out of 450 settings

There are a declining number of Early Years settings rated as "Inadequate" by Ofsted

- This has reduced by 50% in the last 12 months.

# Quality of Provision: Challenges

- Numbers of registered childminders have fallen significantly over the last 10 years
- Statutory duty to support providers rated “less than good” and newly registering
- Understanding of complex needs of children
  - Ensuring all settings are inclusive
  - Ensuring all children can access early years entitlements



# Quality of Provision: What could we do better?

## Support from Early Years Consultant

- Visits for settings judged less than Good to include discussions and observations of EYFS
- Access to district EYC for all settings with general themes of support offered
- Menu of Early Years and Childcare Workshops

## Ongoing support for Speech-language and Communication

## District Early Years Networks led by the Maintained Nursery Schools

- Management of a comprehensive website resource
- Work with primary schools with nursery/reception classes
- MNS linked to EYC's to experience and understand innovative pedagogical approaches of teaching so can be cascaded and modelled across to the PVI sector

## Engagement visits for group care providers rated good or outstanding

## DfE Covid Recovery Programme

- Experts and Mentors
- Heart Stronger Practice Hub for the West Midlands

## Ongoing engagement in the Early Years Inclusion Project from Dingley's Promise

- Develop practitioner knowledge and understanding of inclusive practice in Early Years to improve quality

# Sufficiency and the New Offers: What's going well?



## General sufficiency position is good due to falling birth-rate for several years

General oversupply of places citywide

Small number of wards have a deficit of places

There will not be a need to create additional places until phase 3

Good systems and processes in place to forecast supply of places



## New entitlements will help to sustain the existing provision

Phase 1 (Apr 24): Eligible working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours of childcare

Phase 2 (Sept 24): Eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years can access 15 hours of childcare

Phase 3 (Sept 25): Full roll-out of offer, with eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and above able to access 30 hours of childcare

# Sufficiency and the New Offers: Challenges

## Rollout of expanded statutory duties for early education and wraparound childcare

- 9 wards identified with immediate pressures due to current sufficiency gaps
- Garretts Green; Handsworth Wood; Highters Heath; Holyhead; Kingstanding; Perry Common; Quinton; Stockland Green and Yardley East
- Anticipated increase in demand for places from April 2024
- Further work required to “sense check” desktop assumptions
- Workforce Recruitment and Retention

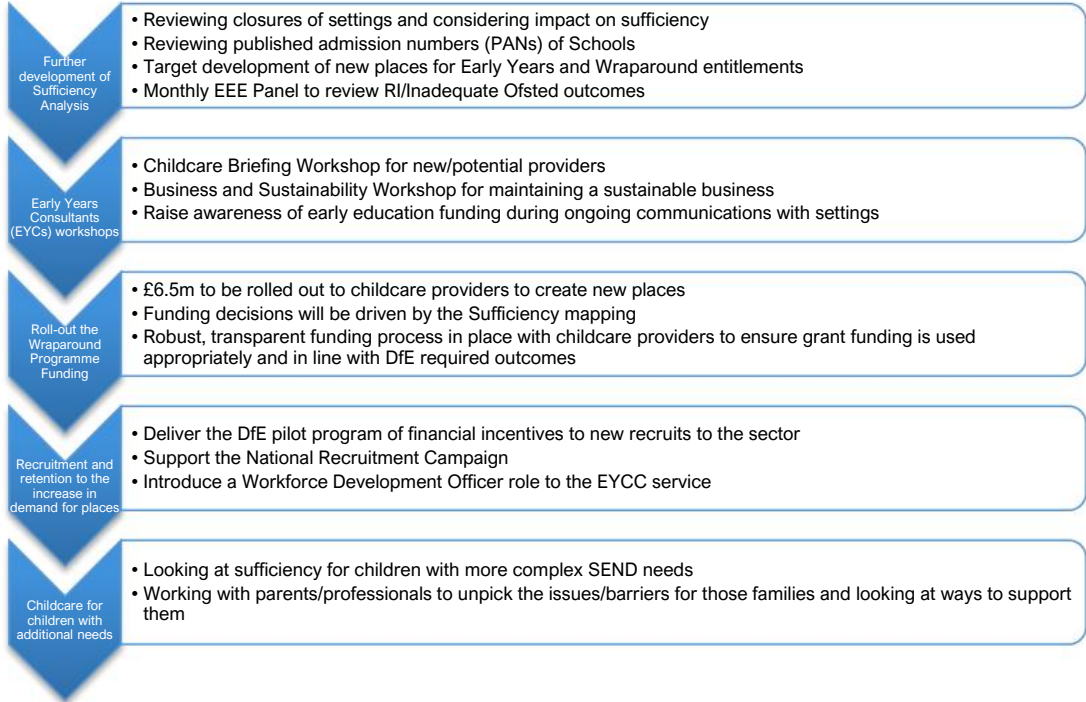
## Expansion in wraparound childcare from September 2024

- Every parent able to access term-time wrap-around childcare by September 2026
- Programme for Term-Time only provision
- Primary focus to support 'Working Parents'
- Funding can be used for providers such as PVI's, Childminders and Schools

## Increasing feedback from settings unable to accommodate children with additional needs

- Forecasting childcare demand for children with additional needs has been difficult and was flagged as a priority area in our last sufficiency assessment
- Accessing data from other agencies to assist with forecasting and assessing sufficiency

# Sufficiency and the New Offers: What could we do better?



# Inclusion in the Early Years: What's going well?

Inclusion Support in Early Years (ISEY) is available to 2-year-olds and 3- and 4-year-olds who meet the criteria and applications are considered outside of the routine allocation period to support earliest possible access to places.

Area SENCo team targets support around children in receipt of EY Inclusion Funding (ISEY) or with an EHCP. Includes a specific visit to all settings receiving an Inadequate or Requires Improvement rating from Ofsted

Currently 99% of PVI providers have one or more practitioners who have attended the core SENCo training delivered by the team.

Tracking how soon children reported with SEND (at headcount) took up their place once eligible to begin to understand any delays and plan to address these.

# Inclusion in the Early Years: Challenges....

- Driving up the proportion of children with SEN Support and ECHPs achieving a GLD
- Funding for ISEY will increase to £3.75 million in 2024/25 to support all funded children access their early years entitlement
- Challenges in securing places in a setting of choice for children with SEND
- Upskilling the workforce is critical in developing best inclusive practice and sustaining the placements of children with the most complex needs





# Inclusion in the Early Years: What could we do better?

## Ongoing Support of the Childminder Inclusion Network – a city-wide network managed by Early Years Consultant for Inclusion

- Combined with network offered by Stronger Practice Hub following the positive impact of DfE funded Childminders Experts and Mentor Scheme
- Partnership enables reaching more childminders and responding to feedback
- Offers SEND training program to strengthen practice
- Half termly network meetings for sharing good practice and information

## Early Years Inclusion Project from Dingley's Promise

- Support the increased take up of 2/3 year old early education places of children with SEND
- Reduce the numbers of children on reduced timetables
- Positively engage the family and the child in support and transition plans

## Developing Local Provision for Children Under - targets improvement in the quality of provision available particularly for children with additional needs

- Percentage increase of children achieving GLD at end of EYFS
- Percentage decrease of children accessing their early education remaining with an EY provider rather than taking up their Reception place in school with typical age cohort
- Percentage decrease of children across the district who are at risk of placement breakdown following transition to Reception in school
- Phase 2 of the EY DLP will build on the workforce capacity building undertaken in phase 1 by now focusing on outcomes for individual children
- Governance and monitoring arrangements will align to the 5-16 Years DLP and report directly into the SEND Improvement Board

# Risks and Challenges:



- Rollout of expanded statutory duties for early education and wraparound childcare
  - Recruitment of additional capacity to Early Years and Childcare Service
  - Implementation of additional Statutory Duties
- Development of understanding of complex needs of children
  - Ensuring all settings are inclusive
  - Ensuring all children can access early years entitlements

# Birmingham City Council

## Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 February 2024



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**Subject:** Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

**Report of:** Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

**Report author:** Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager  
Sarah.fradgley@birmingham.gov.uk  
07927665829

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24.
- 1.2 Following the findings and recommendations from the independent Governance Review of Birmingham City Council and specifically recommendation 5, the Committee has reframed its work programme to be aligned to Council's improvement and recovery priorities.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives. Appendix 1 also lists topics previously identified by the Committee. In light of the reframing of this work programme, these topics will be deferred for future consideration at the right time.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee:
  - Notes the information set out in Appendix 1 and identifies if any further topics need to be added that are aligned to the Council's improvement and recovery priorities.
  - Agrees, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider during April – May 2024, the proposed aims and objectives, and the preferred method of scrutiny.
  - Notes, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S Committee to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

### 3 Background

3.1 The [statutory guidance for local government overview and scrutiny](#) sets out the role it can play in holding an authority's decision makers to account. This makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy.

3.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge.
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public.
- Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role.
- Drive improvements in public services.

3.3 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in [The City Council's Constitution | Birmingham City Council](#) They will:

- Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference.
- Consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; relevant to the Council's strategic objectives; relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and likely to make contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.

3.4 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.

3.5 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors to be considered. Additional criteria to be applied to work programme priorities by the Governance Stabilisation Plan are set out in paragraph 4:

- Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.
- Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.
- Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
- Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the city.
- Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

### ***Looking Ahead***

3.6 Since June 2023, Overview and Scrutiny Committees have identified a 'menu' of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions). Each Committee has regularly reviewed their 'menu' and decided which issues needed to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken.

### ***Scrutiny Methods***

3.7 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. The approach for 2023-24 enables flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.

3.8 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):

- A single item, or items, on a committee agenda – this method fits more closely with the “overview” aspect of the Scrutiny function and provides limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
- A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
- A task and finish day - provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
- A task and finish review – this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

### ***Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee***

3.9 The Committee's Terms of Reference is to fulfil its functions as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:

- Education and children's social care.
- The safety and wellbeing of children, including safeguarding with statutory partners.
- The needs of all children and young people, families and carers (children's services).
- Oversight of the Children's Trust.
- Early years health and wellbeing.
- Looked after children, corporate parenting.
- Special Education Needs and Disability.

- School improvement, school places and travel to and from school.
- Youth engagement and youth services.
- Development of 14-19 career pathways, enterprise and entrepreneurship in Birmingham schools.

3.10 The Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 requires the Council to have a Church of England and a Roman Catholic Church representative coopted on its overview and scrutiny committee.

3.11 The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 requires the appointment of at least two but not more than five parent governor representatives to each of their education overview and scrutiny committees and subcommittees.

3.12 These members are entitled to vote at a meeting of the committee or sub-committee on any question which relates to any education functions which are the responsibility of the authority concerned executive, and which falls to be decided at the meeting.<sup>1</sup>

3.13 Therefore, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives:

- a) Church of England diocese representative (one).
- b) Roman Catholic diocese representative (one).
- c) Parent Governor representatives (two).

3.14 The Committee is chaired by Cllr Kerry Jenkins, and its membership comprises Cllrs: Jilly Bermingham, Debbie Clancy, Adam Higgs, Des Hughes, Morriam Jan, Jane Jones, and Shehla Moledina, and statutory co-optees: Sarah Smith Church of England diocese representative, Ted Hammond – Roman Catholic diocese representative, Osamugi Ogbe – parent governor representative and Rabia Shami – parent governor representative.

#### **4 The Governance Review – Reframing the Work Programme 2023-24**

4.1 The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 December 2023 acknowledged the recommendations in the Governance Review of Birmingham City Council agreed by Cabinet on 12 December 2023. Recommendation 5 stated the need to reframe scrutiny work programmes on the Council's improvement and recovery priorities, and that alignment of work programmes should focus on:

- a) Having an active part in the 2024/25 budget development process.
- b) The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/22/schedule/1/crossheading/overview-and-scrutiny-committees-education-functions/enacted>

- c) Critical performance issues emerging “by exception”.
- d) Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 24/25 Budget, the Emergency Budget (to be identified by exception), and other priority scrutiny activity relating to the Budget.
- e) Culture, behaviour change and organisational development.

4.2 On 17 January 2024, the committee met informally to consider the developing Improvement and Recovery Plan and the findings and recommendations of the Governance Review. The committee reviewed its work programme for February – May and reframed it to ensure it aligns with the issues set out above.

4.3 Appendix 1 sets out the updated work programme and provides information on topics which have now been deferred by the Committee as a result of these discussions.

4.4 The Committee may decide to add further items to the work programme during the year. When considering this, the Committee is advised to consider where it can best add value through scrutiny aligning to the Council’s priorities and improvement journey, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework and Governance Review referred to in paragraphs 3.5 and 4.1 above.

4.5 The Council’s latest [Forward Plan](#) may assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date of Decision
012466/2024	Schools Capital Programme - School Condition Allocation, Basic Need Allocation 2024-25 + Future Years	19 Mar 24

4.6 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are advised to maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the Council’s policy priorities in a timely way.

## 5 Any Finance Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

## 6 Any Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

## **7 Any Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
  - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.
- 7.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 7.4 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

## **8 Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme – February 2024.

## **9 Background Papers**

- 9.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)

Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021

[Independent Governance Review of Birmingham City Council, Cabinet 12 December 2023](#)



## Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July	Children and Young People's Travel Service  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	Assurance to the Committee and public that everything is on track for September.  Overview of KPIs, performance and finance.  Policy development including travel services for under statutory school age and over 16 year olds, including how decisions are made and what criteria is used.  Independent travel training, including the views of young people, and how this has been informed and received by the children, parents and carers.  Concerns that have been identified and how these will be addressed.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee Meeting single item: 19 July 2023 at 10am  Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023	Adrian Weissenbruch, AD, Children and Young People's Travel Service	Stephen Hughes, Interim Deputy Operations Manager  Marie Nicely, Travel Assist Supervisor  Abdulahdi Mehraj, PMO Manager  John Wood, Change Manager  Linda Sutton-Howard, IT Project Manager	<b>Outcome</b> Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the preparation for the Children and Young People's Travel Service for start of the 2023/24 academic year and independent travel training.  It was agreed that a workshop will be held for all city councillors, and this was held on 16 November 2023.
July	SEND Tribunals  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To update members to on the process for SEND tribunals including data.	Committee meeting single item: 19 July 2023 at 10am	Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion	Kate Harvey, Head of SEND Resolution, SENAR	Agreed at Committee meeting October 2022 ( <a href="#">CMIS Link</a> ).

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023			<b>Outcome:</b> Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the SEND tribunal process.  It was agreed to hold a workshop for all Councillors.
July	Performance Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	Report on Children and Families Improvement Plan and data.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting standing item: 19 July 2023 at 10am.  Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House.  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	<b>Outcome:</b> Update / Assurance: The Committee was updated on the Children and Families Improvement Plan/Programme.
September	Performance Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	The report will include statutory and non-statutory services, and how performance contributes to efficiencies, such as interims and permanent appointments.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting – standing item: 6 Sep 2023 at 10am  Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 25 Aug 2023	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business and Commissioning Intelligence	<b>Outcome:</b> Update/ informed work programme: Updated on performance methodology. Scrutiny of data informed decision to deep dive into early years take up (Jan 2024) and school attendance data (hidden children Oct 2023).

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						<p>Further discussions on the focus and format of performance data was considered at Committee Data Workshop on 6 Nov 2023.</p> <p>Additional information on mental health element of Employment Support Programme has been provided to Members.</p> <p>Clarification has been given on staff sickness absence percentage figures (days lost to sickness, or the percentage of people sick for each reason).</p>
September	Financial Challenges - Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan	To consider the implications of Equal Pay and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the Committee's work programme including agreed savings for 2023/24.	<p>Committee meeting – standing item: 6 Sep 2023 at 10am</p> <p>Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House</p> <p>Paper/Presentation Deadline: 25 Aug 2023</p>	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	<p>Councillor Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Janie Berry, City Solicitor</p> <p>Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive,</p>	<p><b>Outcome:</b> Members were informed of the Q1 budget savings position 2023/24 for areas relating to the Committee remit.</p> <p>Members discussed with Director, Cabinet Member, S115 Officer and BCT Chief Executive the potential impact of S114 notice and</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
					Birmingham Children's Trust  David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business & Commissioning Intelligence  Fiona Greenway, Interim AD, Financial Performance and Insight  Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Young People  Mohammed Sajid, Interim Head of Financial Strategy  Adrian Weissenbruch, AD, Children and Young People's Travel Service	financial challenges on service provision and spending.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
October	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on the Council's Response to S114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	<p>For the Committee to consider a report on current and future Budget Savings and Recovery Plan and implications for Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Quarter 1, 2 and 3 2023/24 savings to be presented to enable the committee to examine progress of delivery of the 2023/24 savings within the remit of the Committee's terms of reference.</p> <p>Committee invited to consider the implications of Council's response to the Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan, Secretary of State DLUHC statement to House of Commons, Section 5 Notice and supplementary Section 114 Notice on the scrutiny work programme.</p>	<p>Committee meeting standing item: 18 October 2023</p> <p>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9 Oct 2023</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am</p>	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	<p>Harjinder Dool, AD, Financial Performance and Insight</p> <p>Clare Sandland, Finance Business Partner</p>	<p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>Members were informed of the Q2 budget savings position 2023/24 for areas relating to the Committee's remit.</p> <p>The Chair to update the Committee on the work of the Budget T&amp;F Group in relation to the Committee's remit.</p> <p>Sue Harrison to bring work at early stages of planning for input by the Committee.</p> <p>Future agenda items to include a snapshot of their associated spend/budget and impact.</p>
October	Hidden Children  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 and 10	To update the Committee on hidden children including exclusions, suspensions, part time timetables, elective home education, findings of the Inquiry on period poverty regarding attendance during their periods, and information on children that	<p>Committee meeting standing item: 18 October 2023</p> <p>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9 Oct 2023</p>	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	<p>Razia Butt, Director, Children and Families</p> <p>Steve Howell, Head Teacher, City of Birmingham School (COBS)</p>	<p>Duty on local authorities to progress recommendations linked to improving school attendance in Government White Paper by Sept 23</p> <p><a href="https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance.pdf">Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a></p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		<p>have and have not returned following the pandemic.</p> <p>To consider information and data on the equalities implications of hidden children.</p> <p>The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.</p>	Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am		<p>Barry Bowles, Chair, COBS</p> <p>Tim Boyes, Chief Executive, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)</p> <p>Alan Michell, Head of Service for School Admissions and Fair Access</p> <p>David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business and Commissioning Intelligence</p> <p>Edwina Langley, Lead Practitioner</p> <p>Diane Rhoden Director of Nursing - Safeguarding &amp; Children in Care NHS Birmingham and Solihull</p>	<p>Relevant performance information to be included in the report to enable the committee to conduct a deep dive.</p> <p>The school exclusions, part time timetables, and unsuitable school places item was discussed at the 22 Feb 2023 committee meeting. The papers are available <a href="#">here</a> and the minutes are available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> The Committee was updated/assured on the work being undertaken for Hidden Children and it was agreed:</p> <p>The planning for further development of the governance around school exclusions and part time timetables to be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						<p>Steve Howell to provide the data on length of stay of students at COBS.</p> <p>A visit of the Committee to COBS to be arranged.</p> <p>The increase in behavioural problems and speech and language being less developed when children start primary schools to be included in the Early Years Education Entitlement item being discussed at the 17 January 2024 committee meeting.</p> <p>Further focused work on Elective Home Education (EHE) and part time timetables to be considered after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.</p>
November	Data Workshop	To understand what performance and measurement data is used across the portfolio to enable Committee to make an informed decision on the focus of	Workshop to be held on the 6 November 2023 at 10.30am in Committee Room 2	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business & Commissioning Intelligence	<b>Outcome:</b> Members expanded their knowledge of the rationale, range and purpose of data used across the portfolio and decided

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		performance presented to the committee.				what data to include in future reports.
November	School Improvement – the New Relationship with Schools  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To consider and comment on the proposals being developed.	Committee meeting standing item: 29 Nov 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 13 Nov 2023  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Lisa Smith, School Improvement – Lead for Strategic Development  David Fallows, Head of Digital, Evidence and Performance	This item was agreed at the October 2023 committee meeting.  <b>Outcome:</b> The Committee provided feedback to the proposals and the following was requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timescales for the development of the new policy for school improvement and schools causing concern, which included the consultation, and presentation to Cabinet.</li> <li>• Details of the feedback from the consultation for the new policy.</li> <li>• The timeline for the attendance strategy presentation to Cabinet.</li> <li>• The new Ofsted School Inspection Framework (including timelines for inspections).</li> </ul>



Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
November	SEND Commissioner  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To provide an update on SEND improvements.  Update could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the SEND Commissioner's expanded role.</li> <li>• Discussion about how the Committee can work and support the Commissioner with improvements.</li> <li>• Increasing transparency.</li> </ul>	Committee meeting single item: 29 Nov 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 13 Nov 2023  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	John Coughlan CBE, SEND Commissioner	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	<p>The SEND Commissioner attended the 19 October 2022 committee meeting and the weblink for the Commissioner's first report to the Secretary of State for Education was provided: <a href="https://bit.ly/3g0k85W">https://bit.ly/3g0k85W</a>. The action notes/minutes for the committee meeting are available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The Cabinet Report dated 5 September 2023: Acceptance of the Commissioner's recommendations and progress on the first and second recommendations is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The Commissioner's Second Report to the Secretary of State for Education is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> The Committee was provided with an update.</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
January 2024	Improving Services for Children and Families Plan Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To comment / make recommendations on the progress of the improvement programme.	Committee meeting standing item: 17 January 2024  <b>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 18 December 2023</b>  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	The Committee received an update on progress of the programme at the July 2023 committee meeting and the report is available <a href="#">here</a> .  Also, the Committee received a summary of the Children and Families Directorate performance approach and progress at the September 2023 committee meeting and the report is available <a href="#">here</a> .  <b>Outcome:</b> The Committee commented on the improving services for children and families plan and further work is to be undertaken following agreement of the budget proposals (on the agenda for May 2024).
February 2024	SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2030  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 and 10	For the Committee to comment on the Draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy.	Committee meeting single item: 28 February 2024	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion  Helen Price, Director, Strategy,	The SEND Sufficiency Strategy will be discussed at Cabinet in March.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
	<b>Governance Review:</b> the safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people		Presentation/Paper Deadline: 12 February 2024  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am		Commissioning and Transformation, Children and Families  David Bridgman, Head of SEND Commissioning  Jaswinder Didiyally, Head of Service	
February 2024	Early Years Education Entitlement  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 and 10  <b>Governance Review:</b> the safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.	To examine how best the council can increase the take up of Early Years entitlement for children in the city and the benefits it provides children.  To examine the plans for delivering the new and expanding responsibilities for early years.	Committee meeting single item: 28 February 2024  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 12 February 2024  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	Lindsey Trivett – Head of Early Years and Childcare  Helen Ellis – Director of SEND and Inclusion	Project to increase uptake of early years and profile of families and data on variation of uptake: <a href="#">BCC Early Years - NESTA project   Birmingham City Council</a>
April 2024	School Attainment and Attendance  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 & 10	To examine school attainment and what is being done to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.  The draft attendance strategy to be discussed as part of this item.	Committee meeting single item: 10 April 2024  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 21 March 2024	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families	TBC	

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
	<p><b>Governance Review:</b> The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.</p> <p>Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 2024/25 budget.</p>	To include budget / resources information.				
April 2024	<p>Birmingham Safeguarding Childrens Partnership's (BSCP) Annual Report</p> <p>Corporate Priorities: 8 and 10</p> <p><b>Governance Review:</b> The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.</p> <p>Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 2024/25 budget.</p>	<p>To update the Committee on the children's safeguarding arrangements in the city.</p> <p>For the committee to be assured of the safeguarding of children in the city.</p> <p>To include budget / resources information (partnership funding including Council funding).</p>	<p>Committee meeting single item: 10 April 2024</p> <p>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 21 March 2024</p>	Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP,	Simon Cross, Business Manager, BSCP	The Committee last discussed this item on 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022. The papers are available <a href="#">here</a> and the minutes are available <a href="#">here</a> .

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
May 2024	Refreshed Improving Services for Children and Families Plan  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8 and 10.  <b>Governance Review:</b> The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.  Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 2024/25 budget.	To comment / make recommendations on the progress of the refreshed/recalibrated improvement plan.  To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A diagram of the services that will be delivered and outcomes / performance measures.</li> <li>Risks including the impact of corporate transformation – HR and recruitment, Oracle, and finance.</li> </ul>	Committee meeting single item: 15 May 2024  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 26 April 2024  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Director, Children and Families TBC  James Thomas, CEX, Childrens Trust	Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	To include the Children's Trust and the independent Chair of the Improving Services for Children and Families Board.  Members have previously asked for an update on the review of short breaks and a briefing paper was e-mailed to the Committee on 21 November 2023. This can be part of the wider discussion with the Children's Trust.

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

### Menu of Issues for Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Budget Savings	To update and monitor 2023/24 Budget Savings; to provide information on the mobilisation / implementation of the 2024/25 Budget Savings; and update on any recommendations from the Budget Scrutiny T&F Group relevant to the Committee's remit.	TBC	
A visit to COBS to be arranged (possibly in the new year).			
A visit for Committee to a school – Adderley Primary School.	To inform future work.		
Child Poverty.			
Regular updates on SEND.			
Update on the next joint local area SEND inspection.			The joint local Area SEND assessment in 2021 is available <a href="#">here</a> .
Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).	To provide an update on the Improvement plan to meet statutory compliance.		
UNICEF Child Friendly City.			
Post 16.		This could be a joint piece of work with the Economy & Skills OSC	
The planning for further development of the governance around school exclusions and part time timetables to be brought to a future committee meeting for comment.			
Further focused work on Elective Home Education (EHE), and part time timetables to be considered			

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
after the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry had finished in the new year.			

**Scrutiny Method Options:** Committee meeting - single item, Committee meeting - single theme, Committee meeting – standing item, Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings), On location, Other - (describe).

## Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

### Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Education and Children’s Social Care OSC in June 23:  
[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx)