

Appendix A3 Q3 – CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Key Activities

Work with and challenge schools’ performance to ensure that all are good or outstanding

GCSE students on the Island have attained higher grades in 2019 than in previous years. The proportion of students attaining a grade 4 or above in both English and maths improved from 55% in 2018, to 60%. Pupils attainment in English and maths separately is broadly in line with the national average. In particular, the number of pupils achieving Grade 4 or above in mathematics increased from 62% to 68% in 2019 whilst the national average actually fell from 71% to 70%.

The ‘attainment 8’ outcome which measures the results across the wider curriculum has also continued to improve against a national average that has remained static.

At primary school, pupils Key Stage 2 (KS2) results in all three of reading, writing and mathematics have improved at a faster rate than the national average including an 8% improvement in the number of children achieving age related expectations in maths. The improvement in maths was the second greatest across all Local Authorities.

A full update on 2018/19 academic year attainment was presented to the [Policy & Scrutiny Committee for Childrens Services on 5 March 2020](#)

Maintain focus on children's safeguarding practice to ensure a high quality of service with effective systems to protect children and keep them safe

	The number of contacts received by CRT (Children’s Reception Team)/Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	% progressed to Children in Need (CIN) referral
Q2 2018/19	3,254	35.1
Q3 2018/19	3,602	35.3
Q4 2018/19	3,153	36.0
Q1 2019/20	3,340	38.3
Q2 2019/20	3,415	38.0
Q3 2019/20	3,092	38.0

This is in line with previous quarters and demonstrates consistent thresholds being maintained at CRT/MASH. Thresholds in CRT/MASH have been tested in three recent Ofsted inspections and have been rated as outstanding in the last inspection. The rate of contacts and referrals remain above the average of the Isle of Wight’s statistical neighbours and schools remain the highest referrers locally.

	The number of children subject to child protection planning	% timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences (within 15 days)	% of repeat child protection plans (within 2 years of previous)	% of repeat child protection conferences held within timescales
Q2 2018/19	155	98	0	100
Q3 2018/19	170	80	19.6	98
Q4 2018/19	167	91	12.5	100
Q1 2019/20	133	100	12.5	94.9
Q2 2019/20	128	89	20.8% (13.3% within 2 years)	100
Q3 2019/20	123	89	8.6	100

The investment in the Transformation Programme is underway with the focus on keeping more children safely at home. The reduction in children on child protection plans is because more are being safeguarded within child in need planning and families receive early help before issues and risks escalate to children's social care involvement. The Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) timeliness remains above the target of 85% as does the percentage of children subject to a second or subsequent plan above the target of 23%.

Average caseload numbers across the service continue to be stable. The average caseload, excluding fostering and adoption remained at 20. This continues to allow social workers to undertake direct work with families with effective interventions which sustain change to safeguard children and improves their outcomes.

	Children in Care (1)	Looked after children reported missing (2)	Care leavers supported	Care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (3)
Q2 2018/19	240	2%	119	56.3%
Q3 2018/19	239	2.2%	121	58.7%
Q4 2018/19	244	2.9%	117	64%
Q1 2019/20	256	2.0%	110	63.6%
Q2 2019/20	256	2.3%	109	67%
Q3 2019/20	260	1.6%	114	66%

- 1. The number of children in care remains a significant pressure on the service with regards to costs of placements. The national rise in numbers is 4% although locally this is 5% per annum. Forty nine percent of children continue to be placed with Isle of Wight foster carers and an active recruitment campaign continues. The new Transformation Programme is focussed on keeping children safely at home and returning them home when it is safe to do so.*
- 2. The data with regards to looked after children reported missing demonstrates that robust processes continue to be in operation in terms of multi-agency strategy meetings and return interviews for children who go missing. A sexual exploitation risk assessment (SERAF) is undertaken with each child and medium/high risk children are considered at a multi-agency risk assessment conference to ensure that information is shared, and effective collaborative plans are in place that reduces the risks to children.*
- 3. The Local Offer for Care Leavers sets out the support provided to care leavers to access employment, education or training. The team work with Island Futures, JobCentre Plus and the Isle of Wight College. Each care leaver has an individual action plan in place. A new tender for pathways into independent adulthood supported accommodation is now in operation. A new*

Homelessness Personal Advisor is now in post to support care leavers who are at risk of homelessness.

4. The recruitment of experienced permanent social workers continues to be a challenge locally and nationally. Two experienced social workers were recruited during the quarter. The provision of a market supplement and payment of relocation expenses ensures that the Isle of Wight remains competitive in attracting staff compared to Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. Agency workers, when used, are used to ensure that caseloads remain manageable during periods of staff absence and to cover vacancies that cannot be recruited to despite regular national advertising campaigns. Current agency social worker rate was 10% in Quarter 3 2019/20. The Graduate Entry Trainee (GETs) scheme for Social Workers continues with five additional students appointed.

Work with and challenge schools in financial deficit to secure a more sustainable position for the schools and the council

Schools continue to be monitored through November mid-year budget plan submissions which are currently being reviewed, and liaison with schools taken forward as required. Fourteen schools were written to in December 2019 pre-empting possible 2020/21 deficits and others are involved in more individual discussions. The [school funding formula was finalised during February 2020](#) incorporating increases in funding to schools which may mitigate some budget pressures.

Work to deliver an Island Higher Education (HE) Prospectus by April 2020, based on current opportunities offered on Island.

[The Island HE Prospectus \(“Blue Sky Thinking. Your guide to higher education on the Isle of Wight”\)](#) has been published. The prospectus includes details of all Level 4+ programmes offered directly on the Island.

Encourage schools to work collectively in the delivery of improved sixth form provision on the Island.

As part of the i-Aspire project, the Council has identified a 3-year budget to support an improvement in post 16 A level outcomes. The programme will be managed by Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS) and commenced in Quarter 3. All Island sixth form providers are invited to participate (on a voluntary basis). The programme will focus on three key areas; leadership and management, subject networks and pedagogy.

Resolve the issue of surplus primary school places in the West Wight area.

On [9 January 2020, Cabinet](#) approved the closure of All Saints Primary School in Freshwater to tackle surplus primary school places in the West Wight. On Monday 13 January 2020 following consultation the Governors of Yarmouth Primary School took the decision to relocate to the All Saints site for the academic year 2021/22.

The council is now working closely with governors and senior leaders at Yarmouth CE Primary School to manage the admissions process of the children currently attending All Saints CE Primary who wish to attend Yarmouth CE Primary from the start of the 2020/21 academic year.

Through joint working across council services, work to ensure that care leavers housing needs are properly met.

This need was identified in the 2018 Sufficiency Duty update and raised by care leavers at the Corporate Parenting Board. A tender to create a 'Pathways to Independent Adulthood' supported accommodation offer is now in operation and will need to be aligned with the new Housing tender for supporting people funded accommodation from 2020. The sufficiency of suitable housing to meet the needs of all care leavers who wish or need to live on the Island was one of four recommendations from the 2018 Ofsted inspection.

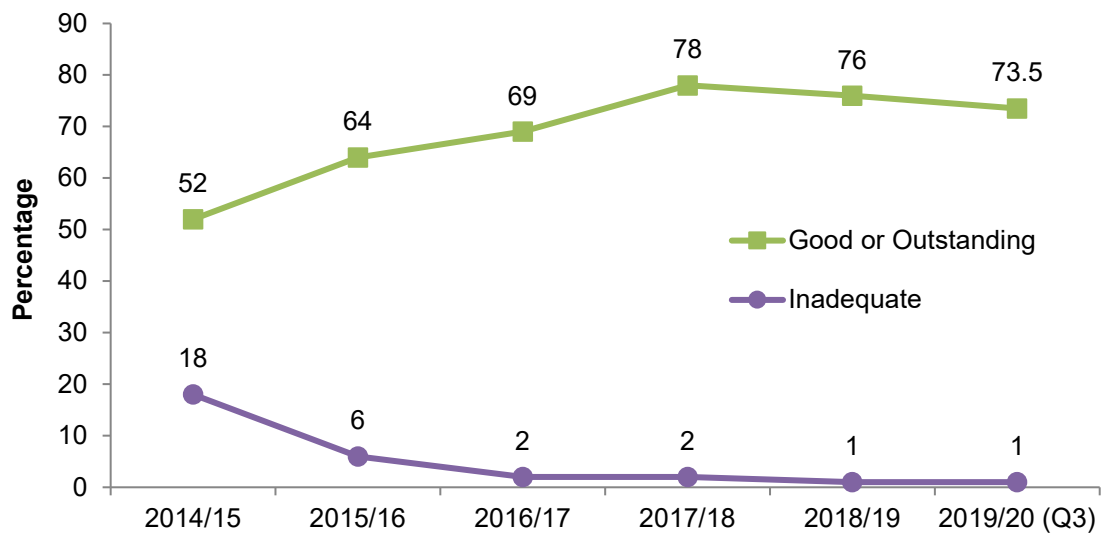
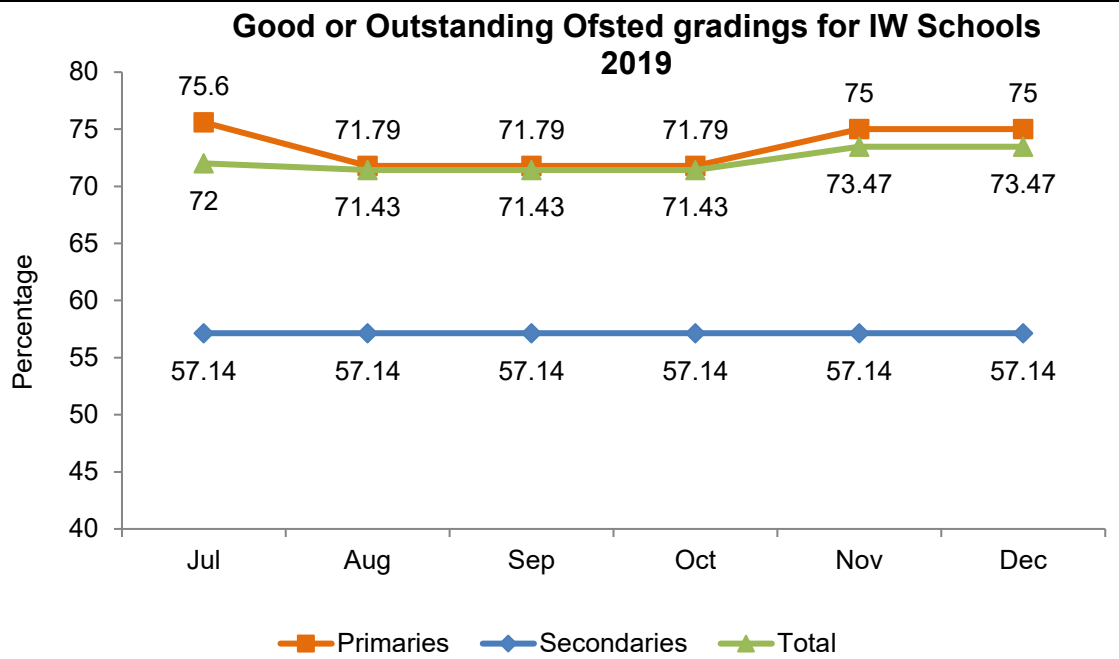
The pathways to independent adulthood supported accommodation is now available with two young people moving into the first house together during quarter 3. As this has been established as a framework, new providers are planning on joining further increasing choice and availability locally.

Grow the number of foster carers and adoptive parents on the Isle of Wight.

The interim marketing and recruitment officer continues to support the service to increase the number of in-house foster carers and adoptive parents on the Isle of Wight to reduce the reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies and their associated high costs. The £200,000 capital grant allocated to fund internal adaptations to local authority foster carers to enable them to provide a home to more children in care is underway.

Short Term Measures

Percentage of schools graded as 'good' or outstanding in the most recent inspection (not including schools with no inspection score)



Two primary schools were inspected in Quarter 3. Both Gurnard Primary and Bembridge CE Primary were rated as "Good". Carisbrooke College was rated as "Requires Improvement" but making good progress towards being rated as "Good"

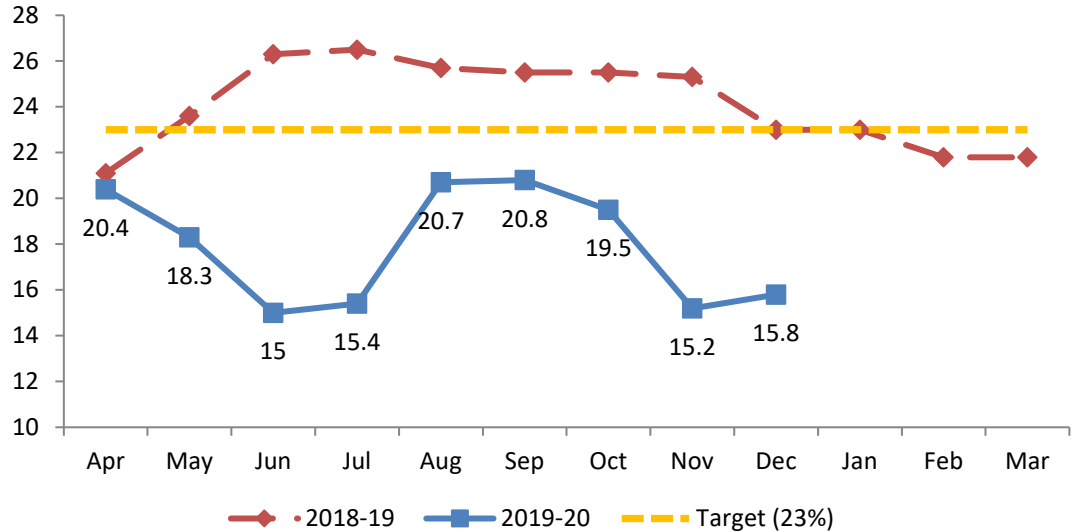
The Bay CE School is included within both primary and secondary statistics as it is an all through school that caters for 5 to 16 year olds.

Percentage of children who are subject to a repeat child protection plan (within two years of the previous plan) (Rolling 12 months)

All young people will have the best start in life so that they can fulfil their potential

A well educated and skilled community

OPPORTUNITY



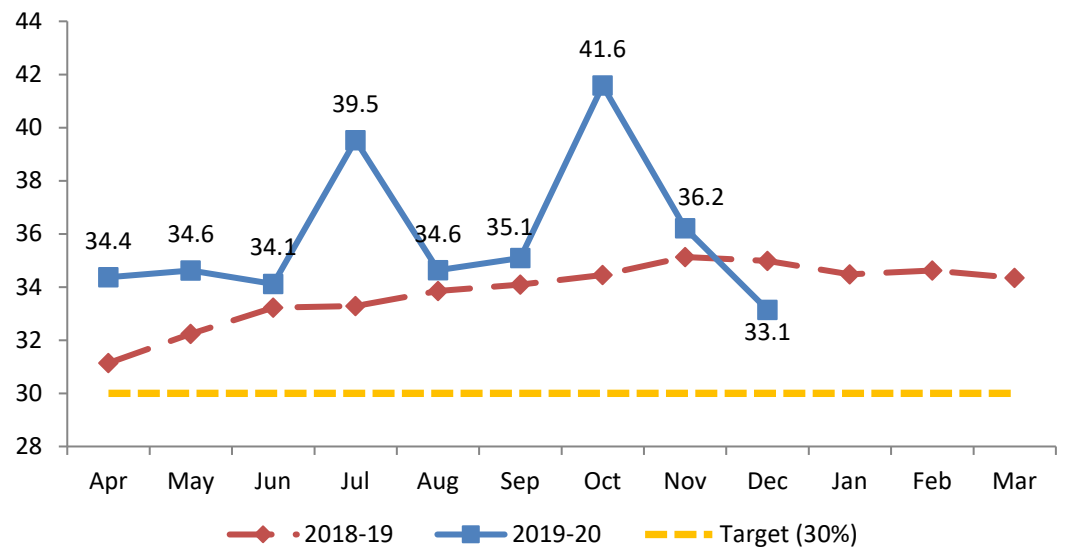
Percentage continues to remain lower than at the same time last year. Every child subject to a repeat child protection plan is scrutinised at the Performance Action Group to understand the reason for the subsequent plan. Performance during this financial year has shown consistent improvement from previous financial years

Percentage of children with re-referrals within 12 months (Rolling 12 months)

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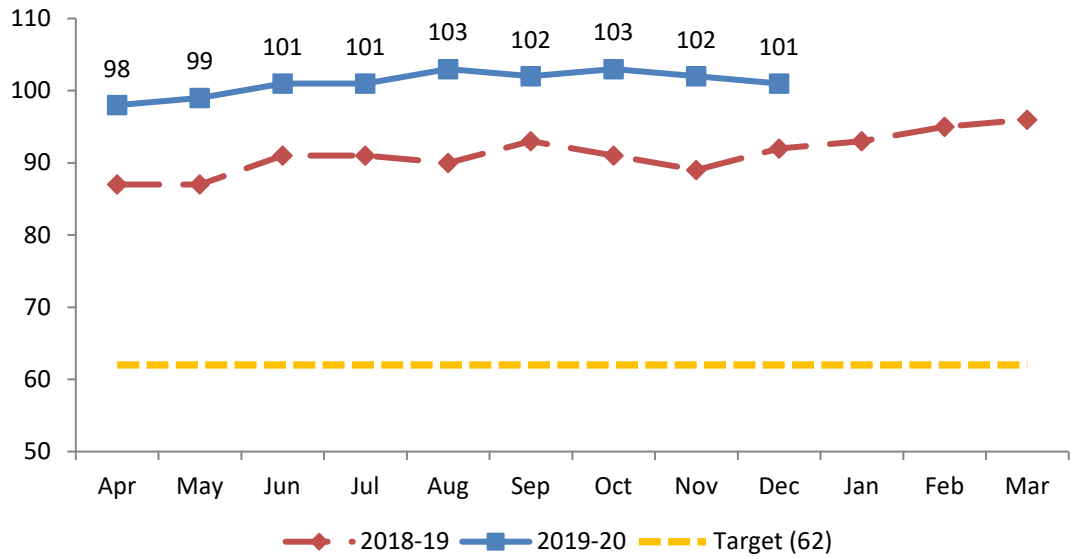
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Percentage for December 2019 is lower (and therefore better) than at the same point in the previous year but remains higher than target. The high rate may be due to the way referrals are recorded in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Other local authorities may only record a re-referral if this progresses to an assessment.

Number of children looked after at month end (rate per 10,000 population) (Rolling 12 months)



A recent presentation to the Local Safeguarding Partnership highlighted the role partner agencies can make in helping to reduce children in care numbers to help children remain or return safely home.

There is a statistical correlation between areas with high income deprivation and high rates of Looked After Children. Local authority work with partner agencies around reducing child poverty, improving housing, employment and regeneration is critical.

Strategic Risks

Failure to improve educational attainment <i>(This risk will be reviewed following the release of 2018/19 academic year results during the summer)</i>			Assigned to: Director of Children's Services		
Inherent score	Target score	Current score	Previous scores		
			Dec 19	Sep 19	Jul 19
16 RED	6 GREEN	9 AMBER	9 AMBER	9 AMBER	10 AMBER
No change to Risk					

Failure to identify and effectively manage situations where vulnerable children are subject to abuse			Assigned to: Director of Children's Services		
Inherent score	Target score	Current score	Previous scores		
			Dec 19	Sep 19	Jul 19
16 RED	5 GREEN	8 AMBER	8 AMBER	8 AMBER	8 AMBER
No change to Risk					