



## Cabinet agenda

Date: Tuesday 12 September 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

### Membership:

M Tett (Leader), Cllr A Macpherson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing), G Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment), S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Transport), J Chilver (Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services), C Harriss (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), A Hussain (Cabinet Member for Communities), P Strachan (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration) and M Winn (Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services)

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### Agenda Item

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<b>11</b>	<b>Exclusion of the Public (if required)</b> To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.  Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	
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## Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 11.40 am.

### Members present

M Tett, A Macpherson, G Williams, S Broadbent, J Chilver, A Cranmer, C Harriss, A Hussain, P Strachan and M Winn

### Others in attendance

D Barnes, R Stuchbury, N Thomas, S Wilson, C Heap and J MacBean

### Agenda Item

#### 1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

#### 2 Minutes

**RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record.**

#### 3 Declarations of interest

Cllr M Winn declared a prejudicial interest as a Member of the AVE Board and left the room for item 12 and 16.

#### 4 Hot Topics

The following hot topics were reported:-

Cabinet Member for Transport

Since 1 April 2023 the service area had fixed 12,000 road defects and repaired 1200 street lights. There were 15 teams working at the weekends to fix roads.

Cabinet Member for Education and Children Services

Over 120 people gathered at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury on Wednesday evening (5 July) for the annual Buckinghamshire Adult Learning Awards. The awards were designed to celebrate the achievements of students taking part in adult learning courses in Buckinghamshire. They also recognised the work of trainees, assessors, tutors, learning support assistants, volunteers and staff. Members noted that there had been 9000 enrolments for courses this year. The Multiply Programme

was Government funded and was also part of the Shared Prosperity Fund which gave employment support for economically inactive Buckinghamshire residents providing basic skills training such as digital courses, English, Maths and English for speakers of other languages.

Leader

The Leader reported on the Government's announcement that Michael Gove was looking at proposals to turn Cambridge into Britain's Silicon Valley with as many as 250,000 new homes built over the next two decades and the prospect of a huge financial investment. The Council would be looking at what implications this would have for Buckinghamshire.

## 5 Question Time

**Question from Councillor Stuart Wilson to Councillor John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources**

**The Q1 Budget Monitoring Report reviewed by Cabinet today rightly notes the significant financial challenges of this Council against a backdrop of persistent high inflation and continued increase in demand and complexity of key services, notably in Adult and Children's Social Care. As an aside, and somewhat strangely, high energy costs are impacting certain portfolios but not delivering the benefits anticipated in Energy from Waste which raises some questions about energy procurement and trading. As such, this reports projects an adverse forecast of £8.3m for the 2023-24 year compared to £3.8m adverse in the same quarter last year. This reflects 2% of Portfolio Spend this year rather than 1% of Portfolio Spend last year. Savings are projected to deliver a shortfall of £6.6m in 2023-24 compared to a projection of £0.2m shortfall this time last year.**

**The Report asks Cabinet to note its contents and the risks and opportunities within it. It also asks Cabinet to approve the actions set out in the Report to address the pressures. I have been through the Report several times and I am unable to locate any specific opportunities or actions that have been scoped and costed to address the pressures. However, I do note the following comments in paragraph 1.4:**

**"Detailed Portfolio Action Plans are already in development to address the pressures, with a view to urgently bringing budgets back into line. These will consider the acceleration of savings plans from future years. In addition, a member led Strategic Property and Finance Review will be initiated to examine opportunities for additional savings, income, or capital receipt. The delivery of the action plans will be managed by the Portfolio Holders."**

**Sections 8, 9 and 10 of the Report deal with consultation, communication, engagement, next steps, and review which concludes there is no further public reporting action required until the Q2 Report in November, at which point the financial year is half-way through.**

**Given the severity of the Council's financial position versus Budget at Q1, can the**

**Cabinet Member please confirm that:**

- **the year-to-date (Q1) and year-to-go (Q2-4) trends versus Budget and prior year confirm the full year projection with a suitable data table shown by portfolio and corporate line;**
- **Cabinet Members are actually able to approve the actions set out in the Report to address the pressures if those Detailed Portfolio Action Plans are still in development;**
- **the acceleration of savings plans from future years is feasible given a projected miss on savings of £6.6m this year, given the existing pressure on statutory services in particular;**
- **the Detailed Portfolio Action Plans and details of the proposed member led Strategic Property & Financial Review will be presented to the Finance & Resources Select Committee on July 20<sup>th</sup> alongside the Q1 Report to demonstrate how they will urgently bring budgets back into line?**

**RESPONSE from Councillor Chilver on the following question which has been put:-**

**Given the severity of the Council's financial position versus Budget at Q1, can the Cabinet Member please confirm that:**

- **the year-to-date (Q1) and year-to-go (Q2-4) trends versus Budget and prior year confirm the full year projection with a suitable data table shown by portfolio and corporate line;**

The report presented to Cabinet includes a data table which shows the Council approved Budget, the forecast outturn and the variance from budget. The key information that drives financial performance is the level of activity (volume/number of clients) and price for that activity. The actuals for Q1 are not included in the report as this information does not provide any further insight for Members. The Council does not do monthly or quarterly accruals, this means that unmatched accruals from year-end distorts the financial position in particular in Q1. In estimating the forecast outturn position, budget holders and finance staff consider all activity and price movement 'year-to-date', which in key demand areas builds in the prior year activity levels, and the full year impact of that activity, plus how the trend in activity impacts on the rest of the year.

A deep dive has been undertaken into the four key areas to ensure that forecasts are robust, covering:

- Children's Placements
- Adult Social Care
- Temporary Accommodation
- Energy

The specific issues for each of these is included in Cabinet Report Appendix 1 and provides detailed commentary and proposed actions across the main demand led areas.

- **Cabinet Members are actually able to approve the actions set out in the Report to address the pressures if those Detailed Portfolio Action Plans are still in development;**

The key action that Cabinet Members are being asked to agree is the development and ownership of the Portfolio Action Plan. This is a fast and emerging situation, officers and members are not waiting for the Cabinet meeting (on 11 July) to start developing the action plans, as a result many of the actions are included in the report (as listed above) and are already in place; whilst further actions and mitigations are being considered. The Portfolio Action Plan will bring these actions into a single place to facilitate ownership, monitoring and scrutiny of delivery.

The detailed action plans will come back to Cabinet for review and formal approval.

- **the acceleration of savings plans from future years is feasible given a projected miss on savings of £6.6m this year, given the existing pressure on statutory services in particular;**

The report sets out the forecast shortfall of £6.6m on income and savings. The shortfall relates only to income and two Portfolios, Climate Change & Environment and Transportation. For ease this is repeated below alongside the mitigation:

#### Income shortfall

- a) £1.1m Off-Street parking income – the recovery towards pre-Covid levels of income is slower than budgeted
- b) £5.0m Energy from Waste Income – due to the reduction in market energy prices both contract based and spill market (daily based). The in-year impact of this is being mitigated by a proposed drawdown from the waste reserve to manage this risk. The amount will be monitored over the course of the year and will reflect prevalent market conditions, with the final amount determined for the outturn position.
- c) £0.3m Streetworks Income – expenditure allocated to the permit scheme has increased but volumes are forecast to be similar to last year. Therefore, the forecast increase is not achievable.
- d) £0.2m External contract savings in Waste services - Volatility in market price fluctuations relating to dry mixed recycling materials.

All portfolios are currently reporting on track for delivery of in-year savings and, although challenging, it is appropriate and feasible to look at whether any future year's savings could also be brought forward.

- **the Detailed Portfolio Action Plans and details of the proposed member led Strategic Property & Financial Review will be presented to the Finance & Resources Select Committee on July 20<sup>th</sup> alongside the Q1 Report to demonstrate how they will urgently bring budgets back into line?**

The detailed portfolio action plans and the Strategic Property & Financial review will be presented to F&R Select Committee at an appropriate date following their review and agreement by Cabinet.

Examples of the deep dives undertaken into the four key areas previously referred to:-

Example 1: Health & Wellbeing £3.9m adverse variance

“This adverse variance mainly relates to care packages carried forward from 22/23. There were 252 more clients at the start of the year (*than anticipated in the budget*) at an average weekly cost of £667. However, this variance has been partly offset by additional income associated with these clients. In April demand for services continued to outstrip budget however, the following mitigations have been put in place and data from May suggests that spend is reducing.”

These are the specific actions that will feed into the Portfolio Action Plan that the Cabinet Member is being asked to agree:

- i. Weekly monitoring of spend – reports are sent to Service Directors and Heads of Service to show how the number of clients and the cost of packages is changing week on week. This enables managers to identify emerging issues and take appropriate management action.
- ii. Biweekly tracking of management action – Service Directors meet with the Corporate Director to review management actions to deliver savings and identify further mitigations. Mitigations include reviews of clients with two carers, clients with multiple services and the highest cost clients.
- iii. Scheme of Delegation – thresholds for authorisation have been lowered to provide greater management oversight when agreeing packages of care.
- iv. Other budget scrutiny – all budgets are being scrutinised by managers to identify any additional savings.
- v. Further work on funding sources for staffing should release additional underspends going forward.”

Example 2: Children’s Placements £3.9m adverse variance

“The key pressures identified to date include:

- i. Placements for children looked after £3.5m – this forecast is based on current activity, and known forward activity, and includes adoption and SGO allowances. As yet no forecast of future activity through the year has been included in the forecast and therefore there is significant risk that this overspend will increase further. The projected overspend relates to placement mix rather than placement volume. Projected numbers of unregulated placements are higher than budget and the projected number of foster care and residential placements are lower than budget.

There is a significant risk that expenditure on placement costs for children looked after will increase during the year if the numbers of unregistered placements continue to increase.”

These are the specific actions that will feed into the Portfolio Action Plan that the Cabinet Member is being asked to agree.

“Mitigations include the release of existing capital budget in the current year for the development of further in house residential capacity and urgent work to review and accelerate priority actions within the Sufficiency Strategy to focus on reducing the number of unregistered placements.”

Example 3: Temporary Accommodation £1.6m adverse variance

“Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Revenue is reporting an adverse variance of £1.6m due to increased pressures on temporary accommodation. Demand has increased from the budgeted 179 households in nightly paid accommodation to 218 households, as at the end of May. There has been a steady increase in households presenting as homeless throughout the winter and early spring and, whilst the trend is starting to plateau as we enter the summer, the underlying lack of cheaper, Council-owned temporary accommodation units, and short supply of affordable housing units to move clients on to, means we are not seeing households leave expensive nightly paid accommodation as quickly as expected.”

These are some of the initial specific actions that will feed into the Portfolio Action Plan that the Cabinet Member is being asked to agree.

“The forecast variance includes the savings from mitigating actions to move the most expensive households into cheaper accommodation and improving our processes around preventing homelessness.”

**Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Broadbent, Cabinet Member for Transport**

**“I believe it is important that we gain a full understanding of the use of section 106 funding for transport on the Lace Hill development in Buckingham. The Schedule of Payments within the Section 106 agreement clauses refers to the timing of delivery of bus and transport links and in relation to London Road there is a £95,000 Public Transport contribution payable in five annual tranches after the 50<sup>th</sup> dwelling is occupied and before the 300<sup>th</sup> dwelling is occupied, to provide a twice per hour bus service between Buckingham and Aylesbury, and 4 bus stops with shelters and real-time information within the development. The Section 106 quarterly update in 2015 also referred to the £250,000 footway/cycleway contribution *“Contribution received and awaiting ASB approval for 2015/16 programme”*, £380,000 Bus/public transport subsidy *“Ongoing revenue support for Line 60 extension to Moreton Road and £125,000 Lace Hill service X60 enhancements which was awaiting ASB approval for 2015/16 programme.”* Therefore, as it appears that the estate roads are nearing adoption, I am seeking reassurance that this money is still being programmed to deliver the additional transport services the section 106 agreements indicated to improve transport connections/conductivity for the community of Buckingham and reduce vehicle journeys.”**



### **RESPONSE from Councillor Broadbent**

As you are aware, Council Officers and I are meeting with local Members on Tuesday 18th to discuss progress on sustainable transport improvements in Buckingham. So we can explain any of the points that have been here in more detail during this meeting, if necessary.

To confirm, the s106 agreement associated with the Lace Hill development was completed in 2009. Planning obligations included:

- £475,000 towards the cost of providing an improved bus service and public transport infrastructure
- A Footway/Cycleway Contribution of £300,000 towards the cost of improving the footpaths and cycle paths in Buckingham

I can confirm that these contributions were all received and were indexed for inflation, so the actual amounts secured were somewhat more.

The Council used these funds to improve the X60 bus service to two buses an hour between Aylesbury and Buckingham; provided bus stop infrastructure on the A413 London Road; and helped fund the Buckingham-Winslow cycle route project. As intended, these improvements all benefited residents of the development and other users. Unfortunately the increased frequency of the X60 bus came to an end in March 2020 when the developer funding came to an end, also coinciding with the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately this has had a lasting impact on bus usage generally and the X60 now runs every 60 mins.

In line with the S106 agreement wording for the footway/cycleway contribution, this was used to fund the Buckingham-Winslow cycle route project. It is worth adding that - as Local Members already know - we were recently successful in our Active Travel 4 Funding bid to DfT for further active travel improvements within Buckingham Town Centre. This work will inform the use of future S106 funding and will ultimately help deliver a wider active travel network for the town.

The s106 agreement associated with the Lace Hill development (planning permission 09/01035/AOP) was completed 28 October 2009. Planning obligations within this included requirements for:

- A contribution of £475,000 (plus indexation) “towards the cost of providing a twice per hour bus service operating between the Land Buckingham and Aylesbury town centre” and public transport infrastructure.
- A Footway/Cycleway Contribution of £300,000 (plus indexation) “towards the cost of improving the footpaths and cycle paths on that part of London Road which lies to the north of the A421 and the footpath and cycle path network in Buckingham”.

These contributions were all received by November 2017, and both contributions were indexed for inflation so the actual amounts secured were somewhat more. The total amounts received were:

- £475,000 + £90,815 (indexation) = £565,815

- £300,000 + £26,166 (indexation) = £326,166

More detail on the use of the funding from the Lace Hill site is set out below:

#### Bus services

The public transport contribution was used to increase the Aylesbury to Buckingham from one bus an hour to a bus every 30 minutes between Aylesbury and Buckingham between November 2014 and March 2020. Initially, the increased bus service alternated between an express service via the A413 and also via villages south of Winslow. In 2019 the twice per hour service was revised to be all express services, with none via the villages.

The S106 funding from the Lace Hill development came to an end in early 2020. Unfortunately, since that time the COVID pandemic has had a lasting impact on bus usage and it has not been possible to continue the X60 as a service every 30 minutes; it now runs every 60 mins. It's not possible to be certain but our Passenger Transport teams judgement is that without the pandemic the 30 mins service may well have been able to continue as a commercial service at certain times of day.

#### Public Transport Infrastructure

The X60 service never went through the Lace Hill development itself so a southbound bus shelter was installed on the A413 at Benthill Farm in 2014 in order to serve residents from the development site. Three Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) displays were also installed at the Tesco stops and at Benthill Farm.

#### Footway/Cycleway Contribution

The Foot & Cycleway s106 contribution from the Lace Hill development was put towards the cost of the Buckingham-Winslow cycle route project, which runs adjacent to the development along the A413 London Road. As Local Members have already been informed, we were recently successful in our Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 bid (DfT) for funding to carry out feasibility work for active travel improvements within Buckingham Town Centre. Our new term consultants, Atkins, have already been commissioned to commence this work and officers will shortly be engaging with local Members and the Town Council at appropriate stages of the programme in order to understand local priorities. It is envisaged that this work could help to appropriately inform the use of both existing funding and to secure future S106 funding from development sites in Buckingham to enable delivery of the measures that are identified in this work. This work will ultimately help to contribute to delivering the wider active travel network for the town as identified in the Interim Buckingham Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan.

## **6 Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)**

The Leader introduced the Forward Plan and commended it to all Members of the Council and the public, as a document that gave forewarning of what reports would be discussing at forthcoming meetings.

**RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.**

**7 The Dementia Journey - a rapid review of support for people living with dementia and their carers in Buckinghamshire**

The HASC Select Committee had been reviewing the Adult Social Care transformation programme, which included a workstream around dementia support for people living with dementia and their carers. The Committee had already reviewed the refreshed Better Lives Strategy and were aware of the proposal for additional funding made to the Integrated Care Board for an expanded dementia support service. The scoping document for a rapid review into dementia services was agreed at the February HASC meeting and three full days of evidence gathering took place in March with health and social care colleagues, voluntary and community organisations and other key stakeholders. The Committee were keen to explore the dementia journey across existing pathways from first patient presentation to end of life care and also to include a review of the prevention programme.

The Chairman, Councillor Carol Heap paid tribute to the small group of councillors who volunteered to participate in the rapid review and also those organisations that had provided evidence. Evidence gathering meetings, with a number of stakeholders, took place across three full days on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The review comprised of Cllrs Shade Adoh, Phil Gomm, Robin Stuchbury, Nathan Thomas and Alan Turner. Following the evidence gathering meetings the review group then met to discuss and agree its key findings and recommendations, which were presented in the report found at Appendix 1. The recommendations were grouped together under the NHS England Dementia Well Pathway which had been adopted by Buckinghamshire.

The Chairman provided the following information on introducing the report:-

- The Dementia Journey was a complex one which involved many different agencies and it was very difficult and confusing to navigate for people living with dementia and their carers. One of the main aims of the review was to identify what was currently working well and any gaps in the current pathways and areas needing improvement and to develop recommendations that would lead to a better integrated service and improved access to support to people living with dementia.
- To put this review into context, there were just over 4,000 people diagnosed with dementia (aged 65+) in Buckinghamshire with an estimated prevalence of 7,266 meaning there was unmet need amongst residents in Buckinghamshire. There were 3,000 people undiagnosed who may not be receiving any support. Nationally, there were currently 900,000 people living with dementia in the UK and this was set to rise to around 1.6 million by 2040. There were over 42,000 people with young onset dementia in the UK with 240 residents in Buckinghamshire. This had particular challenges and needs that were not always recognised.
- One of the aims of this review was to identify gaps in the dementia journey

and to look for ways to improve access to services. There was a need for greater collaboration between service providers and this was mentioned almost universally as a way to improve services.

- The Group heard many examples of good work being undertaken to support people with dementia and carers but currently it was dis-jointed and could be hard to access the support needed at the right time. Evidence showed that there were long waiting times for the memory clinics and people did not always receive the support they need following a diagnosis. Dementia diagnosis rates were low locally and nationally leading to significant unmet need and poorer outcomes.
- The Group appreciated budget pressures and capacity issues but felt there needed to be renewed effort to use existing resources in a better way to make a real difference. For example, council run day centres – these could provide much needed local support in partnership with voluntary groups.
- The Impact of Covid on existing dementia support service meant it was taking time to get back to running some of the services pre-covid.
- The Group felt there was a lack of ownership and leadership to drive forward improvements across the whole system and a lack of a clearly defined strategy. One of the recommendations was to urge commissioners to work together to co-design support services that met the needs of people living with dementia throughout their journey and to support carers, including access to community support. The Group heard from a number of community organisations who provided activities and support and it was important to make the most of this work and actively take steps to integrate them into the dementia support network. Nearly all these organisations were self-funding and could do so much more to take pressure off the health system if they were better integrated.
- The Group hoped this review would strengthen the approach to the prevention agenda, reduce the stigma and increase diagnosis rates. In addition to raise awareness amongst young people about dementia and encourage family and friends to receive the support they need.
- The Group also hoped that access to information, support and advice was made easier for people living with dementia and their carers. Many were not able or have time to go online to search for help. Leaflets and booklets were valued as was peer support.
- This review was undertaken as a rapid review to ensure the report could be used to help inform Integrated Care Board discussions around future funding of dementia services. It was clear through the evidence gathering that Bucks was currently underfunded in this area and to ensure future needs were met, there needed to be additional funding alongside a renewed effort to work more collaboratively across the integrated system to provide a more joined-up and accessible service.
- The report put forward 18 recommendations. Some of these recommendations were aimed at council services whilst others were aimed at health partners and other key organisations. It is hoped that the report and recommendations would serve to confirm the need for additional funding request that had already been made to the Better Care Fund and the

ICB. The review identified as one of its key recommendations the need for an overall multi-agency dementia strategy that covered the entire dementia journey that had clear responsibilities for all partners and was properly integrated. The Committee felt it was the Council that was in the best place to lead and co-ordinate this Strategy. Improving access to long term support should reduce costs for both the health service and social care by keeping people as well as possible at home for longer reducing hospital admissions.

Cabinet then asked the following questions:-

- It was important that there was broad representation from all of the community groups. As part of the review the Group did look at the membership of the Dementia Steering Group and it did include representatives from all of the agencies involved in dementia care and the voluntary groups were well represented and did attend the meetings.
- A question was asked whether the multi-agency strategy would be the driving force in making changes. The Review Group Chairman reported that this was essential and would be the framework to show the responsibilities of all the partners and would encourage them to work together to provide a more joined up service. There were a lot of service providers who were not entirely aware of what other providers were delivering which was where the gaps in service occurred.
- Reference was made to the undiagnosed residents who were not on the dementia pathway and whether this was just an issue at the early stages of the journey due to stigma or whether patients had started the journey but had not reengaged. The Review Group Chairman commented that both applied typically a number of residents came quite late to the process with a reluctance to come forward. The pandemic had also not helped where many patients had been isolated and found it difficult to see their GP. Diagnosis was key. There were also long delays to attend clinics with capacity issues. It was important to note that social prescribers could also diagnose dementia. Once on the pathway the support would be available to residents and they would be better supported. The Chairman of the HASC Committee reported on two big pieces of work that they were about to undertake that were integral to this; the year's review of the recommendations of the development of primary care networks which looked at numerous new roles in the PCN which could be raised with the ICB e.g carrying out dementia checks and a joint piece of work with the Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee on future health care planning, primarily looking at whether there were enough resources, development etc for primary care. The Leader agreed and responded that one of the biggest challenges for the NHS was the ageing population with chronic illnesses and also with dementia which would also impact on Council budgets.
- A Member queried the number of people undiagnosed in Buckinghamshire (57%) and asked how this figure had been reached and who had provided the data. The Review Group Chairman reported that the figures had been provided by the ICB and PCN monitoring which were in line with national

figures and also could be underestimated, however they were confident with those figures. The HASC Chairman reported that there were a lot of organisations working in the field who supported this figure. The Review Group Chairman reported that they had spoken to dementia patients and carers and it was a relief to obtain a diagnosis so that they could start to manage their dementia and commissioners played an important role in communicating what services were available to engage service users and support them to keep well.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded to the report stating it was an excellent report which impacted on a number of workstreams including the Carers Strategy and that nothing should be looked at in isolation. It was crucial to obtain the voices of patients and carers living with dementia which should feed into any service design. Listening to the questions asked around unmet need and the importance of being granular around the data it was important to share data across agencies and partners to establish accurate figures in order to plan health and social care. This review would feed into the Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Board priorities. The additional funding for the ICB was welcomed but it was still unclear how much funding would be available and in addition there was the Better Care Fund. Resourcing was always important.

The Cabinet Member then went through a complete breakdown of the cabinet responses to the recommendations which can be found [here](#). The following questions and points from Cabinet Members were as follows:-

- There were a number of inter dependencies and co-dependencies and it was important therefore to keep a careful eye on tracking actions to ensure that progress could be monitored. The Cabinet Member reported that this was the world of social care and co-ordination was key with more joined up services. The Dementia Strategy Group was the best vehicle to manage these recommendations and the transformation work. The Corporate Director also reported that it would be part of the service improvement plan.
- Under the section on access to information it referred to improving information on the website and this could be addressed through the Cabinet Member's service area and the digital team. The Corporate Director also referred to the Dementia toolkit which was very useful and easy to navigate. The Cabinet Member also referred to the Bucks Online Directory and making sure this was up to date and easily accessible and providing hard copy information.

The HASC Chairman and Review Group Chairman were thanked for their work.

## **RESOLVED**

**1) That the Select Committee and Review Group, as well as the supporting officers, be thanked for their work and subsequent recommendations.**

**2) That Cabinet's responses to the review and recommendations, as set out and circulated to Members, be AGREED.**

**8 Buckinghamshire Community Infrastructure Levy**

This report described how the Council collected developer contributions for infrastructure, how this operated in practice, through s106 contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), including variation between different legacy planning areas.

There was a case for considering the introduction of CIL in the north and central areas of the County to secure funding for infrastructure from developments there. This would also ensure a more consistent approach to developer and infrastructure funding across the county. The opportunity to commission, review and hold a public examination to introduce CIL in the north and central planning areas, might also provide the opportunity to review the charging schedules in the west, south and east planning areas. This would bring these up to date and would enable a countywide approach to planning and infrastructure considerations. The Leader reported that the CIL was more flexible than Section 106 funding which had to be spent on specific projects.

**RESOLVED:-**

**(1) that the process of considering the introduction of CIL in the north and central planning areas of the County be supported;**

**(2) that a review of the Charging Schedules in the south, east and west planning areas be undertaken;**

**(3) that, subject to technical assessment, work to commence on a single charging schedule for Buckinghamshire Council;**

**(4) that a programme of technical work and consideration of the options for a new charging schedule be noted including coordination with the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire. This will be produced and agreed with the Cabinet Members for Planning and Regeneration and Transport. An indicative timeframe and key steps in preparing and adopting a charging schedule were included in the report.**

**9 Q1 Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24**

This was the first budget monitoring report for the new financial year and came at a time when the Council was continuing to experience significant financial pressures due to high levels of inflation and continued increase in demand and complexity of need in key services, such as Adults Social Care and Children's Social Care. The forecast revenue outturn position for 2023/24 was an adverse variance of £8.3m, 2% of Portfolio budgets. This was primarily due to pressures in Health and Wellbeing and Education and Children's Services from demand and market insufficiency issues, coupled with pressures in Accessible Housing and Resources in Energy budgets, Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Services in Temporary Accommodation

budgets and Transport in Parking income budgets.

Detailed Portfolio Action Plans were already in development to address the pressures, with a view to urgently bringing budgets back into line. These would consider the acceleration of savings plans from future years. In addition a member led Strategic Property and Finance Review would be initiated to examine opportunities for additional savings, income or capital receipt. The delivery of the action plans would be managed by the Portfolio Holders. The forecast position on capital budgets was break even.

The Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources outlined the £14m adverse variance in portfolios as follows:-

- £3.9m pressure in Health and Wellbeing due to growth in client numbers, and increased cost of care packages
- £3.9m pressure in Education & Children's Services predominantly due to the national insufficiency of placements for children looked after leading to a shortage of available placements and very high unit costs of those placements that can be accessed
- £1m adverse variance in Accessible Housing and Resources from Energy costs in Property & Assets exceeding budget
- £1.5m adverse variance in Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Services in Temporary Accommodation budgets due to increased demand, particularly for nightly paid accommodation
- £3.2m adverse variance in Transport Services. This includes £0.8m due to increased contract costs in Home to School Transport with provider pressure to increase costs on letting of new contracts. In addition there is a forecast shortfall of £1.8m in the Parking Income budget
- £0.7m pressure in Climate Change and Environment due to recycling income shortfall due to market volatility
- The position also reflects a forecast shortfall on Energy from Waste income of £5.0m due to the reduction in market energy prices.

The £5.7m of favourable variances in corporate budgets includes:

- i. £4.3m favourable variance relating to Interest on Revenue Balances. This reflects further increases in the Bank of England base rate.
- ii. £0.8m favourable variance on interest payable budgets, due to recalculation of loan repayments.
- iii. A minor surplus of £0.2m in grant income due to the budget being set prudently.
- iv. A favourable variance of £0.3m arising predominantly from contribution from grants towards central overheads.
- v. Corporate Contingencies are retained to address the ongoing risk of further pressures within the year.
- vi. Available reserve balances.

The Leader referred to the current shortfall of £6.6m relating to the savings target.



This had not been met due to parking income being affected by a reduction in demand since the pandemic, energy from waste income due to the reduction in market energy prices, streetworks income due to an increase in expenditure and a volatility in market prices fluctuations with regard to waste recycling. Financial risks on capital were currently the Housing Infrastructure Funding Schemes and securing Homes England approval to reallocate the HIF grant and for DfT to finalise the agreement of additional funding to deliver the South East Aylesbury Link Road, Future High Streets and committing the remaining grant funding and two Council projects; biowaste and Crematory and Hampden Chapel replacement.

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That the report and the risks and opportunities contained within it be NOTED.**
- 2. That the actions set out in the report to address the budget pressures be APPROVED.**

**10 Q1 Capital Budget Adjustments and Reprofiling**

The Capital Programme for 23-24 to 26-27 was approved by Full Council in February 2023 as £505.9m. The 22-23 outturn underspend was £44.3m. After a detailed review of each scheme in the programme, £46.3m of unspent budget has been carried forward into the new financial year. The increase was due to a small number of projects overspends that were funded in 22-23 and not carried forward. The capital programme now needed to be reprofiled in future years to ensure the annual spend profile was realistic, and to reduce the likelihood of slippage. There were also some recommended additions for new funding, reductions and reallocations of funding from closed projects, plus a small number of projects with inflationary overspends that required use of the corporate contingency to complete. The report set out the recommended changes for approval and would result in the Capital Programme increasing from £505.9m as agreed at Full Council, to £556.7m. Since the Budget was approved by Council in February 2023 there was an additional £5.782m recommended to be added to the Programme. Of this: £4.184m was externally funded from grants; £1.232m was the addition of agreed, specific s.106 projects; and £0.365m was a recommended use of an earmarked revenue reserve to fund a project overspend.

The Leader confirmed that the underspend on schools related mainly to Kingsbrook Secondary School and the Cabinet Member confirmed this with an underspend of £6.6m which was subject to the Homes England decision. Mention was made of £400,000 which was coming out of Country Park reserves.

**RESOLVED that the following budget adjustments to the approved Capital Programme be APPROVED:**

- 1. That £5.782m of additions be made to the capital programme, £5.416m to be externally funded from grants and S.106, and £0.365m funded from ringfenced Council reserves.**

2. That £0.288m of the Capital Contingency be used to fund the inflationary pressures of two existing projects.
3. That £3.366m of budget reductions for completed projects from the capital programme be approved, of which £0.644m of corporate funded projects are to be reallocated to the capital contingency.  
(Note: where external funding was released it will be reinvested in alternative projects that would come forward in due course).
4. The reprofiling of the revised £556.8m Capital Programme inclusive of £46.3m of carry-forward budgets over the MTFP 2023-27.

#### **11 Corporate Performance Indicators 2023-24**

This report detailed the key performance indicators and targets being proposed for reporting to Cabinet in 2023/24. Once agreed, reporting against these indicators would commence for Quarter 2. Proposed key performance indicators and the associated targets to be reported to Cabinet have been agreed within each Directorate and with each portfolio holder. These would be reviewed on an annual basis.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

1. That the Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24 be AGREED.
2. That the associated targets for 2023/24 be AGREED.

#### **12 Property Acquisition: Plot 1 Gateway Aylesbury**

The report recommended acquisition of the freehold interest of Plot 1 of Phase 3 Gateway land, Aylesbury ("Plot 1") subject to survey, legal due diligence and the simultaneous sale of Plot 2 of Phase 3 Gateway land, Aylesbury ("Plot 2") to a third party. The proposed transaction provided the Council with control of all the car park land in front of its Headquarters and also use of the site in the short term as a car park whilst the Council reviews its plans for its overall landholding in this part of Aylesbury.

Whilst the property transaction did not generate revenue, it did ensure that Buckinghamshire Council ("BC") retained sufficient free car parking spaces in front of its HQ building; it also completed land ownership of a 5.2-acre site that offered medium term "employment led" development potential. The acquisition would enable a strategic and proactive approach to delivering a more comprehensive scheme than simply on existing BC owned land.

The Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources reported that the capital requirement to complete the purchase was not currently budgeted for in the Capital Programme but this size of investment could be funded from known headroom on completed projects within the MTFP which would no longer require their remaining budget.

The Leader clarified that:-

Plot 1 was the current council car park  
Plot 2 was the derelict bank site  
Plot 3 was for commercial use such as the tyre depot.

The Leader commented that as this was the Council's headquarters it was important to own the car park. A question was asked about the right of way over the land so the car park could be accessed through the white gates. The Cabinet Member confirmed that there were guaranteed rights of access across the site and this would not affect this transaction.

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That the Service Director for Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, the Section 151 Officer and the Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to conclude negotiations, agree contracts, appoint consultants and undertake due diligence, arrange finance, exchange and complete on the acquisition of Plot 1 as set out in the Cabinet report and the confidential appendix.**
- 2. That the commitment of capital budget for this acquisition as a priority investment opportunity be APPROVED, to be funded from known headroom within the Capital Programme.**

**13 22 Queens Square, High Wycombe**

The proposed acquisition was another part of the Wycombe Future High Streets' development programme. To date two vacant shops have been acquired – one of which (37 High Street) had been refurbished and let to two separate independent 'experiential' businesses; refurbishment of the other (16 Church Street) was about to start on site. Agreement for co-funding the repurposing of Eden's ex House of Fraser store had been completed. This would relocate Primark into Eden, strengthening its footfall (and hence rental values, of which the Council received a share through its ground rent), and enabled comprehensive redevelopment of the existing Primark building and the adjacent Chiltern Shopping Centre, for a mixed-use scheme including c300 apartments (subject to planning), removing redundant retail floorspace from the town centre.

An Option to Purchase the High Wycombe Social Club building, forming a key part of the programme's 'Southern Gateway', was close to exchange. Queen Square was a small but prominent corner retail unit with residential upper parts. It had proven 'hard to let' and the freeholders want to dispose of their ownership. Its purchase would enable ground floor reconfiguration with the aim of either letting it to an occupier that would be displaced by the redevelopment of the Chiltern Shopping Centre or by open marketing of the unit. The costs of the project were budgeted for within the Council's published Capital Programme, as part of the Future High Streets Programme. The acquisition would be funded from the Future High Streets external Government grant (a total of £12m), and the

refurbishment would be funded by the Council's match funding (£3m), which was required to secure the Future High Streets grant from Government.

**RESOLVED:-**

1. That the purchase of the freehold of 22 Queens Square, High Wycombe, as part of the Future High Streets programme be APPROVED, as set out in the confidential appendix.
2. That authority be delegated to the Service Director for Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources and the Section 151 Officer, to finalise and agree detailed heads of terms, appoint necessary consultants to undertake due diligence, exchange contracts and complete on the purchase.
3. That authority be delegated to the Service Director for Property and Assets to:
  - a. progress refurbishment works including the appointment of contractors and consultants.
  - b. dispose of the second floor flat on a long lease, letting it on a Shorthold Tenancy in the meantime, returning the proceeds of sale to the Future High Streets Capital programme allocation.
4. That a technical adjustment to the Capital Project budget for this project be APPROVED, as set out in the confidential appendix, and to reflect the ringfenced capital receipt from the disposal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor long lease.

**14 Exclusion of the public (if required)**

**RESOLVED - that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)**

**15 Confidential minutes**

**RESOLVED – That the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record.**

**16 Confidential Appendix - Property Acquisition : Plot 1 Gateway Aylesbury**

Cabinet Members discussed the confidential appendix before taking the decision in the public part of the meeting.

**17 Confidential Appendix - 22 Queens Square High Wycombe**

Cabinet Members discussed the confidential appendices before taking the decision in the public part of the meeting.

**18 Date of next meeting**

12 September 2023 at 10am



## Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet/Leader forward plan

### The local authorities (executive arrangements) (meetings and access to information) (England) regulations 2012

This is a notice of an intention to make a key decision on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council (regulation 9) and an intention to meet in private to consider those items marked as 'private reports' (regulation 5).

A further notice (the 'agenda') will be published no less than five working days before the date of the decision meeting and will be available via the Buckinghamshire Council website ([Cabinet agendas](#) / [Leader decisions](#)).

All reports will be open unless specified otherwise.

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Cabinet 12 September 2023</b>				
<b>Response to petition "Stop Investing in Fossil Fuels"</b> This petition was presented to Council on 12 July and referred to Cabinet		Councillor John Chilver Sarah Murphy-Brookman		14/8/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Children's and Education Select Committee Review of Access to Special Education Needs Information</b></p> <p>For Cabinet to discuss the recommendations within the Children's &amp; Education Select Committee's inquiry into the support and information available for parents of children with autism, ADHD or anxiety.</p>		<p>Councillor Diana Blamires</p> <p>Katie Dover</p>		11/5/23
<p><b>Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023/24</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategic Plan lays out the plans of the Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service (YOS), explains our achievements during the last twelve months and our priorities for the coming year.</p>		<p>Councillor Anita Cranmer</p> <p>John Macilwraith</p>		6/4/23
<b>Cabinet 10 October 2023</b>				
<p><b>Devolution Update</b></p> <p>For Cabinet to discuss and agree revisions to the Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Policy</p>		<p>Councillor Arif Hussain</p> <p>Roger Goodes</p>		31/5/23
<p><b>Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan - Mixed Use Housing Allocation D-AGT1 - Supplementary Planning Document</b></p> <p>This Supplementary Planning Document provides guidance for the development of the D-AGT1 allocation within the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton; Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	<p>Councillor Peter Strachan</p> <p>Charlotte Morris</p>		15/2/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)</b> To approve the High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The plans provide a long-term strategic approach to future transport investment in the High Wycombe.</p>	<p>Abbey; Booker, Cressex &amp; Castlefield; Downley; Ryemead &amp; Micklefield; Terriers &amp; Amersham Hill; Totteridge &amp; Bowerdean; Tylers Green &amp; Loudwater; West Wycombe</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Hannah Joyce</p>		<p>8/8/23</p>
<p><b>Transport, Environment &amp; Climate Change Select Committee Review of Streetworks &amp; Statutory Undertakers</b> For Cabinet to discuss the recommendations within the Transport, Environment &amp; Climate Change Select Committee's review report into Streetworks</p>		<p>Councillor Bill Chapple OBE  Chris Ward</p>		<p>29/8/23</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Cabinet 14 November 2023</b>				
<p><b>Buckinghamshire Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-28</b> To approve the Council's Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-2028. The Healthy Ageing Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work to make Buckinghamshire more age friendly, which is a priority in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will support Buckinghamshire residents to live healthy, fulfilling, and independent lives for as long as possible, to 'age well'.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson</p> <p>Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		23/12/22
<p><b>Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-2024: Mental Health</b> To endorse the Director of Public Health Annual Report (DPHAR) 2023-2024 which addresses Mental Health in Buckinghamshire</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson</p> <p>Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		31/5/23
<p><b>Q2 Budget adjustments to the Capital programme 2023-24</b> Quarterly report</p>		<p>Cabinet Member Accessible Housing and Resources</p> <p>Dave Skinner</p>		8/8/23
<p><b>Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24</b> Quarterly report</p>		<p>Cabinet Member Accessible Housing and Resources</p> <p>Dave Skinner</p>		8/8/23



Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Q2 Performance Report 2023-24</b> Quarterly report		Cabinet Member Accessible Housing and Resources  Matthew Everitt		8/8/23
<b>Strategic Asset Management Plan</b> A new Strategic Asset Management Plan (2023-2028) to ensure the framework and management of the property portfolio is in line with our requirements now and in the future.		Councillor John Chilver  John Reed		29/8/23
<b>Cabinet 12 December 2023</b>				
<b>All-age Autism Strategy</b> To agree the All-age Autism strategy for Buckinghamshire		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Simon Brauner-Cave		13/7/23
<b>Buckinghamshire Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-2026</b> This sets out the strategy for tackling serious violence in Buckinghamshire, including the drivers of serious violence.		Councillor Arif Hussain  Dr Jane O'Grady		31/5/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Leisure services management contract</b> To award a new leisure management contract for the following facilities: Aqua Vale, Swan pool &amp; Leisure Centre, Beacon Sports Centre &amp; Theatre, the Evreham Centre, the Little Marlow Athletics Track.</p>		Councillor Clive Harriss Sophie Payne	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	6/7/23
<p><b>Leisure Strategy</b> To provide an assessment of indoor sports and leisure facilities, considering future opportunities and demand around this provision.</p>		Councillor Clive Harriss Sophie Payne		26/1/23
<b>August 2023 Leader Decisions</b>				
<p><b>Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital programme</b> To agree budget adjustments to the Approved Capital programme</p>		Councillor John Chilver Dave Skinner		28/7/23
<b>September 2023 Leader Decisions</b>				
<p><b>Adult Social Care Travel Assistance Policy</b> To agree the travel assistance policy for Adult Social Care</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger		22/9/22
<p><b>Ashley Drive, Tylers Green Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation.</p>	Tylers Green & Loudwater	Councillor Steve Broadbent Ian Thomas		29/6/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Aylesbury Grid Reinforcement - Update</b> An update on the way forward for the Aylesbury Grid Reinforcement Project.</p>		<p>Councillor Martin Tett David Johnson</p>	<p>Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)</p>	<p>23/2/23</p>
<p><b>Aylesbury Junction Protection and School Entrance Restrictions Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	<p>Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Ian Thomas</p>		<p>29/6/23</p>
<p><b>Bierton Traffic Calming</b> Public consultation is to be carried out on a traffic calming scheme along the A418 through Bierton. The proposals include; narrowings, chicanes, build-outs, and pedestrian, cycle, and bus stop improvements. Public consultation and the delivery of a traffic calming scheme was secured as a s106 obligation of the nearby Kingsbrook development.</p>	<p>Aston Clinton &amp; Bierton</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Christine Urry</p>		<p>25/5/22</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Disabled Bay Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	<p>Abbey; Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South West; Chalfont St Giles; Chess Valley; Chiltern Ridges; Cliveden; Denham; Farnham Common &amp; Burnham Beeches; Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow &amp; Marlow South East; Great Brickhill; Little Chalfont &amp; Amersham Common; Marlow; The Risboroughs; The Wooburns, Bourne End &amp; Hedsor; Totteridge &amp; Bowerdean; West Wycombe; Winslow</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		<p>13/7/23</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Fleet Trading Account Budget</b> To confirm details of the 2023/24 Fleet Trading Account budget, which is a zero balanced budget and therefore can't be included in the full council decision taken in February for other revenue budgets.</p>		<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Lindsey Vallis</p>		7/3/23
<p><b>Greyhound Lane Winslow Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the results of the public consultation on proposed restrictions to prevent inappropriate parking.</p>	Winslow	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		23/5/23
<p><b>Harmonisation of Pest Control Fees</b> The harmonisation of policy and fees regarding which residents are able to access subsidised pest control treatment.</p>		<p>Councillor Mark Winn  Jacqui Bromilow</p>		30/8/22
<p><b>High Street Iver Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Iver	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		29/6/23
<p><b>Horseshoe Crescent, Beaconsfield Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Beaconsfield	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		13/7/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Missenden Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Great Missenden	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		13/7/23
<p><b>Non-Registered Alternative Education Provision and Therapy Provision Dynamic Purchasing Vehicle (DPV)</b> Establishment of a Dynamic Purchasing Vehicle (DPV) for the purchasing of Non-Registered Alternative Education Provision and Therapy provision for children and young people (CYP) with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Buckinghamshire with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).</p>		Councillor Anita Cranmer  Marie-Claire Mickiewicz, Gemma Workman		11/5/23
<p><b>Physical Activity Strategy 2024 - 2029</b> To approve the Councils physical activity strategy for 2024-29. The physical activity strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will improve the levels of physical activity and opportunities for Buckinghamshire residents.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Dr Jane O'Grady		19/4/23
<p><b>Procurement of care services within a Care Home and Extra-Care setting</b> Proposal for direct award of contract following an unsuccessful competitive tender process.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt (para 3)	8/8/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Property acquisition in High Wycombe</b> Property purchase of former Residential Care Home, currently vacant	Booker, Cressex & Castlefield	Councillor John Chilver Lisa Michelson, John Reed	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	14/8/23
<b>Property at Cressex Road, High Wycombe</b> Release of Covenant	Booker, Cressex & Castlefield	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	2/2/23
<b>Proposed Traffic calming on High Street, Edlesborough</b> Installation of 'build-out' feature within the carriageway to effectively narrow the road to one lane of traffic with northbound traffic giving way. This scheme is to be constructed and paid for by the developer to land north of Good Intent.	Ivinghoe	Councillor Steve Broadbent Joe Bates		23/5/23
<b>Proposed Traffic calming on Stratford Drive, Bourne End</b> Proposed raised table covering a staggered junction on Stratford Drive to serve (newly created) junction into new residential development and the existing school access.	The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	Councillor Steve Broadbent Joe Bates		23/5/23
<b>RAF Halton Supplementary Planning Document</b> Decision to agree the draft RAF Halton Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation.	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Peter Strachan Charlotte Morris		28/7/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>School Competitions Recommendation of Preferred Sponsors</b>  Recommendation of proposed Academy Sponsors for three new primary schools:  Kingsbrook Primary 2  Hampden Fields Primary School  South West Milton Keynes Primary School</p>		<p>Councillor Anita Cranmer   Paula Campbell-Balcombe</p>		19/4/23
<p><b>School Crossing Patroller Policy</b>  To review the current School Crossing Patrol Policy (2018) as a Unitary Council.</p>		<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent   Lindsey Vallis</p>		8/6/23
<p><b>Seer Green Parking Review 2023</b>  Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Chalfont St Giles	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent   Ian Thomas</p>		29/6/23
<p><b>South West Chiltern Parking Review 2023</b>  Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East; Marlow; The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent   Ian Thomas</p>		13/7/23



Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>The Common, Flackwell Heath Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		13/7/23
<b>The Courtyard, High Wycombe</b> Disposal options for surplus land in High Wycombe.	Abbey	Councillor John Chilver  John Reed	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	10/11/22
<b>Thornbridge Road, Iver Heath Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Iver	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23
<b>Tylers Green Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Tylers Green & Loudwater	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan - Affordable Housing - Supplementary Planning Document</b>            This Supplementary Planning Document provides affordable housing guidance to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Policies H1, H2, H6a, H6c, BE2.</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton; Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West; Bernwood; Buckingham East; Buckingham West; Great Brickhill; Grendon Underwood; Ivinghoe; Stone & Waddesdon; Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville; Wing; Winslow	Councillor Peter Strachan  Charlotte Morris		15/2/23
<p><b>Wattleton Road, Beaconsfield Parking Review 2023</b>            Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Beaconsfield	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		13/7/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Wethered Road Marlow Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Marlow	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23
<b>Whaddon Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Winslow	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23
<b>October 2023 Leader Decisions</b>				
<b>Juniper Hill School Opening of a new SEMH Unit and Closure of existing ARP</b> Proposal to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit and close the Additional Resource Provision (ARP) at Juniper Hill School, Flackwell Heath.	Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East	Councillor Anita Cranmer  Paula Campbell-Balcombe		8/6/23
<b>Procurement of residential Care home capacity</b> This paper seeks a decision on undertaking a competitive tender for residential care home capacity.		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	29/8/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>November 2023 Leader Decisions</b>				
<b>Chilterns Beechwoods Mitigation Strategy</b> Report to consider the recreational disturbance mitigation strategy for Ashridge Commons and Woods.	Amersham & Chesham Bois; Aylesbury South East; Chesham; Chess Valley; Chiltern Ridges; Great Missenden; Ivinghoe; Little Chalfont & Amersham Common; Penn Wood & Old Amersham	Councillor Peter Strachan  Charlotte Morris		18/10/22
<b>Furze Down School Relocation of Sixth Form</b> Proposal to relocate Furze Down School's Sixth form to the short breaks day service building in Buckingham	Buckingham East; Buckingham West; Winslow	Councillor Anita Cranmer  Paula Campbell-Balcombe		29/6/23
<b>Scrap metal licensing policy</b> To agree final version of the scrap metal licensing policy.		Councillor Mark Winn  Lindsey Vallis		8/8/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>December 2023 Leader Decisions</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for 2024 – 2029</b> To approve the Buckinghamshire Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for 2024 – 2029		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Dr Jane O'Grady		29/8/23
<b>March 2024 Leader Decisions</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2024-29</b> To approve the Councils Buckinghamshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2024-29, which sets out how the Council and its partners aim to save lives and improve the health of thousands of people in Buckinghamshire by minimising their exposure to tobacco.		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Dr Jane O'Grady		6/7/23

Individual Leader decisions (in consultation with the Cabinet Member) are not discussed at meetings – a report is presented to the Cabinet Member and the Leader will decide whether to sign the decision.

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this forward plan, please get in touch with the contact officer. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team in good time ahead of the decision deadline date. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). You can view decisions to be made and decisions taken on the council's website.

The council's definition of a 'key decision' can be seen in part 1 of the council's [constitution](#).

Each item considered will have a report; appendices will be included (as appropriate). Regulation 9(1g) allows that other documents relevant to the item may be submitted to the decision maker. Subject to prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, this information will be published on the website usually five working days before the date of the meeting. Paper copies may be requested using the contact details below.

\*The public can be excluded for an item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt (private) information as defined in part I of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph numbers and descriptions are as follows:

Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 4 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority

Paragraph 5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

Paragraph 6 - Information which reveals that the authority proposes:

(a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or

(b) to make an order or direction under any enactment

Paragraph 7 - Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

Part II of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that information falling into paragraphs 1 - 7 above is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Nothing in the regulations authorises or requires a local authority to disclose to the public or make available for public inspection any document or part of a document if, in the opinion of the proper officer, that document or part of a document contains or may contain confidential information. Should you wish to make any representations in relation to any of the items being considered in private, you can do so – in writing – using the contact details below.

Democratic services, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 8FF 01296 382343  
[democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

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## Select Committee Work Programmes 2023/24

**Children’s and Education Select Committee** (Chairman: Cllr Julie Ward, Scrutiny officer: Katie Dover)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Placement Sufficiency Strategy	This strategy sets out a summary of the action we will be taking over to make sure that we can provide placements for all children who need care.	Richard Nash Sandra Carnall	
	Principal Social Worker Annual Report	To provide a progress report on the work during 2022/23 of the Principal Social Worker to promote and improve the quality of social work practice, highlight the achievements for this year and identify priorities for the coming year.	Richard Nash	
	Update on Ofsted Work	Update on the outcome following the Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting	John Macilwraith	
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Bucks Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	This edition of the Safeguarding Children Partnership’s Annual Report covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. It highlights the progress made during the last year against the BSCP’s priorities as well as setting out future plans	Walter Mcculloch Joanne Stephenson	
	SEND Improvement Programme follow up paper	To update the Committee on progress made	John Macilwraith Caroline Marriott	
	Children’s Services Transformation	To update the Committee on progress made	John Macilwraith Errol Albert	
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Education Standards Paper	To share with the committee the latest educational outcomes achieved by the children and young people of Buckinghamshire.	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer	
	Youth Offending Team	Progress update one year on from YOS inspection	Richard Nash Aman Sekhon-Gill	

	New attendance duties	To provide the committee with an update on the new attendance duties and the implications for Buckinghamshire.	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer	
7 <sup>th</sup> March	TBC			
	TBC			

**Communities and Localism Select Committee** (Chairman: Cllr Steve Bowles, Scrutiny officer: Kelly Sutherland)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description and Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Contributors</b>
4 October 2023	12-month Community Board review update	Following the Committee's Community Board review which was presented to Cabinet in May 2022, Members will receive a further update on the implementation of their recommendations.	Roger Goodes/Wendy Morgan Brown	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes, Wendy Morgan-Brown
	Leisure Strategy	The Committee will consider the key elements of the proposed Leisure Strategy ahead of it being presented to Cabinet for agreement in November.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harriss, Sophie Payne Sue Drummond
	CCTV – Update on development of a CCTV Strategy	Further to Budget Scrutiny highlighting the need for a strategic approach to further capital investment in CCTV in Buckinghamshire, the Committee will receive an update on the next steps in terms of the development of a CCTV strategy.	Gideon Springer	Cllr Arif Hussain, Gideon Springer
	Serious Violence Strategy	The Committee will receive an overview of the Council's proposed Serious Violence Strategy before it is presented for agreement at Cabinet.	Gideon Springer	Cllr Arif Hussain, Gideon Springer
22 November 2023	Cost of Living	An opportunity for members to hear from Council officers and partners on the support that has been available to Buckinghamshire residents to assist them during the cost of living crisis.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt, TBC
	Opportunity Bucks Update	The Committee will receive an update on Opportunity Bucks – the local 'levelling up' initiative which is supporting residents in ten specific wards in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt
	Devolution	The Committee will receive an update on the Council's approach to devolution of services and assets.	Roger Goodes	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes
28 February 2024	Country Parks	An overview of the Country Parks and their work programme.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harriss, Sophie Payne, Andrew Fowler

10 April 2024	Town and Parish Charter	The Committee will receive an annual update on work that has been ongoing in support of the Town and Parish Charter.	Simon Garwood	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes, Simon Garwood
	Asylum and Migration Strategy	The Committee will receive an update on the implementation of the Council's Asylum and Migration Strategy.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt

**Finance and Resources Select Committee** (Chairman: Ralph Bagge, Scrutiny officer: Chris Ward)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description &amp; Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Contributors</b>
5 October 2023	Budget Inquiry 2023 Recommendations: 6-month review	To receive an update on the process of the budget scrutiny recommendations made in January 2023.	David Skinner	Martin Tett
	Energy from Waste Income	During Budget Scrutiny in January 2023, Members noted the importance of the EfW income to the budget and requested a report to include projected income, budgetary assumptions and budgetary impact on price fluctuation. (Item in confidential)	Martin Dickman Roger Seed	Gareth Williams John Chilver
	External Property Companies	Report on the performance and business plans of the Council's companies: AVE, Consilio, London Road Management Company and Buckinghamshire Advantage. (Item in confidential)	John Reed Mark Preston (AVE & London Road) David Pearce (Consilio)	John Chilver
30 November 2023	Budget Performance Monitoring Q2	To review the Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report	David Skinner	John Chilver
	Estates Programme	To receive a progress update on the Estates Strategy including plans for inherited assets and oversight on tenants/lessees' changes to council premises which require planning permission.	Sarah Murphy-Brookman John Reed	John Chilver
	IT ONE Programme	To consider an update report on the IT ONE Programme including an update on SAP.	Sarah Murphy-Brookman Tony Ellis	John Chilver Tim Butcher
	Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group Scoping Paper	The Committee will consider the budget scrutiny inquiry group proposals.	Chris Ward	Ralph Bagge Martin Tett

8 – 12 January 2024	Budget Scrutiny Week		All Corporate and Finance Directors	Cabinet Members, Deputies, Corporate and Finance Directors
22 February 2024	Budget Inquiry 2023 Recommendations: 12-month review	To receive an update on the process of the budget scrutiny recommendations made in January 2023.	David Skinner	Martin Tett
	Budget Performance Monitoring Q3	To review the Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report	David Skinner	John Chilver
18 April 2024	Customer First	To consider a report following the year's activity on the Customer First programme.	Sarah Murphy-Brookman Lloyd Jefferies Andy Hallsworth	John Chilver Tm Butcher

**Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee** (Chairman: David Carroll, Scrutiny officer: Tom Fowler)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description &amp; Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Contributors</b>
7th September 2023	Housing Standards	Update on actions taken by Buckinghamshire Council and Registered providers to address Mould & Damp in rented accommodation	Lisa Michelson/Jacqui Bromilow	Mark Winn
	Local Plan Update	To review the progress made on the establishment of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan	Steve Bambrick/Darran Eggleton	Peter Strachan
	Visitor Economy Update	Update on progress towards the Visitor Economy Strategy	Richard Ambrose/Matt Broadbent	Martin Tett/Rachael Matthews/Clive Harriss
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	Planning Performance	Including determination of applications (delegated and committee), extension of time and appeal numbers/decisions (including committee)	Steve Bambrick/Darran Eggleton	Peter Strachan
	Regeneration Framework & Strategies	To review the Bucks Regeneration Framework, as well as the Aylesbury, Wycombe and Chesham Regeneration Strategies.	Richard Ambrose	Martin Tett
	Housing Strategy	To review the Housing Strategy.	Lisa Michelson	Mark Winn
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Buckinghamshire Place Based Growth Model Update	Review the implementation and functioning of the new Growth Board and its 4 sub-boards.	Richard Ambrose/Steve Bambrick	Martin Tett
	CIL/106 update & Planning Committee performance	CIL/106 update & Planning Committee performance - including numbers of applications, type of applications, over-turns, appeals and cost awards	Steve Bambrick/Darran Eggleton	Peter Strachan

18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	NPPF Update	<i>To update the committee on changes made to the National Planning Policy Framework</i>	Steve Bambrick/Darran Eggleton	Peter Strachan
	Local Plan Update	<i>To update the committee on the progress of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan</i>	Darran Eggleton/John Cheston	Peter Strachan



**Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee** (Chairman: Jane MacBean, Scrutiny officer: Liz Wheaton)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Presenters	Contributors
12 October 2023	System Winter Plan	For Members to hear from key health and care colleagues about the system winter plan, to include a review of what will be different this year to help mitigate the system pressures	Caroline Capell, Director of Urgent and Emergency Care	Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member, Health & Wellbeing  Craig McArdle, Corporate Director, Adults and Health  Sara Turnbull, Service Director, ASC Operations  Philippa Baker, Place Director  Dr George Gavriel, Director for Bucks General Practice Providers Alliance (GPPA)
	Patient Transport Services	For Members to receive an update on how the county's Patient Transport Services are operating, including a discussion around the key priorities and challenges facing this service.	TBC	TBC

	South Central Ambulance Service	This item is an opportunity for Members to meet the newly appointed Chief Executive for SCAS and to review the progress in implementing the actions from the improvement plan, following the CQC report in August 2022.	TBC	TBC
30 November 2023	Primary Care Network Inquiry – 12 month update	Following the Committee’s inquiry into the development of primary care networks, which was discussed at Cabinet in November, this item is a 12 month review of progress in implementing the recommendations which were agreed by Cabinet and health partners.	Philippa Baker, Place Director  Simon Kearey, Head of PCN Development & Delivery  Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member, Health & Wellbeing	Dr George Gavriel, Director for Bucks General Practice Providers Alliance (GPPA)  Others - TBC
	Director of Public Health Annual Report	An opportunity for the Director of Public Health to present the annual report.	Jane O’Grady, Director of Public Health	
	Community Pharmacists	Item to be developed	TBC	TBC

29 February 2024	Dementia Rapid Review – 6 month update	Following the Committee’s rapid review into dementia support services, this is an opportunity to review the progress in implementing the agreed recommendations at 6 months.	TBC	TBC
	Carers Strategy	For the Committee to review the proposed carers strategy.	Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member, Health & Wellbeing	Craig McArdle, Corporate Director, Adults & Health  Others - TBC
	Adult Social Care Transformation update	For the Committee to evaluate the progress in implementing the workstreams aligned to deliver the ASC transformation programme.	Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member, Health & Wellbeing	Craig McArdle, Corporate Director, Adults & Health  Others - TBC
11 April 2024	Items to be scheduled			

**Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

(Chairman: Jane MacBean, Scrutiny officer: Liz Wheaton)

Work programme is to be advised in due course.

**Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee** (Chairman: Bill Chapple OBE, Scrutiny officer: Chris Ward)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
14 September 2023	Local Transport Plan 5	The Committee will receive a report outlining the early stages of the LTP5 development including its outline and objectives as well cross-portfolio working.	Steve Bambrick Hannah Joyce Angela Bond	Steve Broadbent
	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	For members to receive a brief update on work related to the LNRS.	Ed Barlow David Sutherland	Gareth Williams
	Review Group Report on Streetworks and Statutory Undertakers	To hear the report of the review group ahead of its discussion at October's Cabinet meeting.	Chris Ward	Bill Chapple
9 November 2023	School Transport	To receive an update on the service including SEND transport and personal transport budgets (PTBs).	Richard Barker Lindsey Vallis	Steve Broadbent
	Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams: 12-month progress update	The Select Committee will review the progress of work on implementing the 10 recommendations made in the Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams review which was presented to Cabinet on 15 November 2022.	Chris Ward	Robert Carington
1 February 2024	East West Rail	To receive an update on the project.	Dr Laura Leech Susan Browning	Steve Broadbent Peter Martin EWR Reps
	Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy: Annual Review	The Committee will annually review the strategy following its adoption on 19 October 2021.	Steve Bambrick Ed Barlow Alexander Beckett David Johnson	Gareth Williams

	Buckinghamshire Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan	The Buckinghamshire LCWIP will identify and develop a strategic network for walking, wheeling and cycling (active travel) between and through settlements across the County. Active Travel will also be featured in the report.	Steve Bambrick Hannah Joyce Jonathan Fuller	Steve Broadbent
	Buckinghamshire Highways Service Transition	To consider a six-month update on the transition of the Highways contract following go-live on 1 April 2023	Richard Barker Kevin Goad	Steve Broadbent
28 March 2024	HS2	To receive an update on the project	Dr Laura Leech	Steve Broadbent Peter Martin HS2 Reps



## Report to Cabinet

<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
<b>Title:</b>	<b>'Stop Investing in Fossil Fuels' Petition</b>
<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	<p>Cllr John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources</p> <p>Cllr Timothy Butcher, Chair of the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund Committee</p>
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Mark Preston
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	None Specific
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>That Cabinet ENDORSE the approach being taken by the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund and the Brunel Pension Partnership in reducing overall carbon intensity in its investment portfolios and NOTE the situation with the Council's banking contract.</b>
<b>Reason for decision:</b>	In response to the ePetition, Cabinet is asked to note the carbon reduction being taken by the Pension Fund Committee and the Brunel Pension Partnership.

### 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 A ['Stop investing in fossil fuels'](#) ePetition was considered at Full Council on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources responded to say the petition would be referred to Cabinet for further consideration.
- 1.2 The ePetition is set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 This report sets out the concerns raised in the petition and the approach that Buckinghamshire Pension Fund in partnership with the Brunel Pension Partnership is taking towards carbon reduction and meeting its target of net zero by 2050.

## **2. Buckinghamshire Pension Fund**

- 2.1 The Buckinghamshire Pension Fund manages the investments, administration and payment of pension benefits in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council and 270+ other employers of the Fund and is overseen by the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund Committee who have a fiduciary duty to ensure that the investment returns of the Fund are sufficient to meet its future LGPS pension liabilities.
- 2.2 The Buckinghamshire Pension Fund's investments are managed on behalf of the Pension Fund Committee, and 9 other Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Funds, by the Brunel Pension Partnership (BPP).
- 2.3 The Brunel target is for the investments it manages on behalf of its clients to be net zero by 2050 at the latest. This is in line with the motion approved by this Council on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020. By 2030 there is a target to reduce the Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) by at least 50% in the listed equity portfolios.
- 2.4 Brunel does not just focus on the supply side, the fossil fuel companies, but also on the demand side, looking at fossil fuel consumption and at the wider financing of projects. The targets represent a reduction in all carbon intensity, not just oil and gas and are consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) 1.5% scenario. As at the end of December 2022, Brunel is making progress on the 2030 target with the aggregate portfolio being 27% less carbon intensive on a Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) basis compared to its benchmark. It is also 35% less than the absolute baseline set in 2019.
- 2.5 The Pension Fund Committee is supportive of Brunel's Responsible Investment Policy, as well as their priority themes for Responsible Investment and stewardship activities. The Brunel Pension Partnership 2023 report on 'Responsible Investment and Stewardship Outcomes' for the year ending December 2022 can be found on the BPP website.
- 2.6 The Brunel Pension Partnership approach is one of engagement rather than divestment. Conceivably the impact of divestment is for assets to be passed onto other investors who care more about returns and less about the reduction in carbon intensity than the BPP. However, Brunel supports the divestment from specific fossil fuel and other carbon-intensive companies over time if they present a material investment risk.
- 2.7 BPP is a signatory to Climate Action 100+ (CA100+) which is a global initiative led by 700+ investors who together represent over \$68 trillion in combined assets under management. The aim of the CA100+ initiative is to ensure that the world's largest listed emitters act on climate change. The CA100+ Net Zero Company Benchmark is an assessment of the climate change performance of 100 'systemically important



emitters', which account for 80% of annual global industrial emissions, and a further 60+ companies who have a significant opportunity to drive a broader economic transition to net zero emissions by 2050.

- 2.8 The CAA100+ benchmark assesses these companies against 10 indicators that reflect the key commitment priorities of the initiative and investors use the Benchmark to engage with these companies collectively in a process coordinated by CA100+. This engagement resulted in a significant number of companies making significant commitments to action. By October 2022, 75% of companies had committed to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 across at least part of their emissions footprint, a 22% increase from March 2022. In addition, most of these companies had made progress on their internal climate governance, with 90% having some level of board oversight of climate change and 89% having committed to report in line with Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations.
- 2.9 The BPP approach to engagement and divestment is published on their website.
- 2.10 In addition to focussing on reducing the carbon intensity of its investments, the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund also has a private market commitment of £199.25 million to renewable investments within the infrastructure portfolios.

### **3. Buckinghamshire Council Banking Contract**

- 3.1 In addition to concerns being raised by residents about Pension Fund investment in fossil fuels, there have also been some concerns raised by residents about Buckinghamshire Council banking with Barclays Bank, who are seen as significant investors in fossil fuel.
- 3.2 The current banking contract with Barclays runs until 31 March 2027 and is purely for the provision of banking services and is in effect a current account and there is no investment activity. As part of the treasury management activity, any balances held in Barclays is swept up and invested elsewhere in line with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
- 3.3 At the time of entering the contract with Barclays, an open OJEU process of procurement was followed, using central government's standard selection questionnaire, which at the time did not include net zero selection questions. This has now changed and there is now a net zero selection question used in the quality evaluation of all the Council's procurements.
- 3.4 Barclays along with a number of other organisations have committed to a net zero strategy, that includes a commitment to reduce financed emissions and facilitate green financing, including setting targets to facilitate \$1 trillion of Sustainable and Transition Financing between 2023 and the end of 2030 and increasing investment

of Barclay's capital in global climate tech start-ups up to £500 million by the end of 2027.

#### **4. Legal and financial implications**

4.1 There are no direct financial or legal implications from this report.

#### **5. Corporate implications**

5.1 This report concerns the climate change section of the Corporate Plan.

#### **6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views**

6.1 Not applicable.

#### **7. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

7.1 Not applicable.

#### **8. Next steps and review**

8.1 The Buckinghamshire Pension Fund will continue to work with the Brunel Pension Partnership to deliver its net zero target by 2050 at the latest.

#### **9. Background papers**

Brunel Pension Partnership ['Responsible Investment and Stewardship Outcomes'](#)

Brunel Pension Partnership ['Engagement and Divestment'](#)

#### **10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider, please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by email to [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

**ePetition – ‘Stop investing in fossil fuels’**

**We the undersigned petition the council to request the relevant Select Committee to robustly question the need for Buckinghamshire Council to remain as investors within Pension Funds which are linked to the Fossil Fuel Industry. Select Committee should focus on the damage across the globe and the disproportionate impact to those in the Global South of an increasingly warming planet due to man made global warming due to the burning of fossil fuels and the associated CO2 emissions. Many of us have family and friend in the global south, who, as a result of Western CO2 emissions, face living outside of the human climate niche by 2030. We ask Buckinghamshire Council to be accountable for the damage that fossil fuels are causing, and stop investing in them as a matter of urgency.**

Despite IPCC reports stating that global temperatures will reach the increase to 1.5 degrees, which signals that we can no longer avoid the worst impacts for extreme weather events from climate change, local authorities are not moving fast enough to divest from fossil fuels. Continued investment in fossil fuels results in more extraction, more use of fossil fuels, and increased CO2 emissions.

Buckinghamshire Council is still investing in the industries responsible for the climate crisis and pouring millions into the companies that are the major contributors to the climate emergency. Bucks Council’s Pension Fund has £63 million invested in fossil fuels\*.

Bucks Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and we do not agree that the continued investment of this nature is in keeping with a promise to reach net zero. Councils have the responsibility to ensure local workers not only have a pension for their retirement, but also a future worth retiring into.

Halting the extraction and expansion of fossil fuels is a matter of survival for us all. We request that Bucks council create a transition plan to Green Investments as a matter of urgency.

Fossil fuels investments are also volatile investments, at risk of being ‘stranded assets’ that may lose value very rapidly – if Bucks Council fail to make sustainable investments it will fall to ordinary council tax payers to fill the gap in the pensions fund.

5 councils have already committed to divest fully . Others are on the road for making such a commitment. It’s time to ask why our council hasn’t. We call on Buckinghamshire to step up, take a lead and stop financing fossil fuels.

[\\*https://www.divest.org.uk/councils/](https://www.divest.org.uk/councils/)

Why is this important?

UK pension funds enable more CO2 than the entire UK carbon footprint?

Halting the extraction and expansion of fossil fuels is a matter of survival for us all.

This ePetition ran from 31/05/2023 to 28/06/2023 and has now finished.

285 people signed this ePetition.

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## Report to Cabinet

**Date:** 12 September 2023

**Title:** **Pathways for Children with SEND – Children’s & Education Select Committee Report**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Councillor Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services & Education

**Author and/or contact officer:** Katie Dover

**Ward(s) affected:** None specific

### **Recommendations:**

**The Children’s and Education Select Committee recommends the following to Cabinet:**

#### **Availability of Information**

##### **Recommendation 1**

The review group supports the ongoing and review on Buckinghamshire’s “Local Offer” to be customer-focussed for children, young people and their parents. We recommend a more user-friendly approach with simple language, and suggest the inclusion of inserted videos, clear links to first port-of-call contact lists for each area of diagnosis and examples of pathway diagrams.

##### **Recommendation 2**

The Cabinet Member for Children’s and Education and the Chairman of the Children’s and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend a change of name of “The Local Offer” in order to make it easier for parents to find when searching websites for their first access to information.

## **Communications Planning**

### **Recommendation 3**

The county-wide communications plan being developed for SEND should include promotion of our Local Offer, and this must include further promotion via social media.

### **Recommendation 4**

A neurodiversity resource pack should be developed with key contact information about the Local Offer, charities, relevant organisations and health professionals so that it could be given to parents by all agencies as an initial signposting tool.

### **Recommendation 5**

The neurodiversity resource pack should be promoted in all relevant forums e.g. Headteacher and Governor network meetings and it should also be shared with all Councillors in order to assist them in their casework with residents.

## **Training and Network Development**

### **Recommendation 6**

The Council support the implementation of the training qualification for all SENCOs as stated in the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

### **Recommendation 7**

The SENCO meetings network be extended to ensure that all SENCOs have the opportunity to attend regular meetings for the purposes of sharing best practice and timely information.

### **Recommendation 8**

The Cabinet Member for Children's and Education and the Chairman of the Children's and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend a substantial increase in the number of university degree places for Educational Psychologists nationally, to enable educational psychologists to give greater support to schools on work relating to neurodiversity in children and young people.

## **Recommendation 9**

**A programme of neurodiversity in-school training be developed for all teachers and wider school and nursery staff.**

## **Recommendation 10.**

**All secondary schools should be encouraged to deliver neurodiversity talks in school to foster a greater awareness and understanding of neurodiversity amongst pupils.**

**Reason for decision:** For Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Children's and Education Select Committee with a view to improving pathways to services for SEND children and young people.

### **1. Executive summary**

1.1 A rapid review group was set up in November 2022 by the Children's and Education Select Committee with the aim of investigating the pathways to finding information for children and young people with SEND when first trying to access services and support. This involved a) assessing views from different sources with regards to the availability and accessibility of information required by parents to gain support from services for their children and b) gaining understanding on information for services specifically relating to gaining help for children with autism, ADHD and anxiety/depression.

### **2. Content of report**

2.1 The review group aimed to gain improved clarity for parents of children with SEND regarding what information is available and how to access it through available resources. It also hoped to gain understanding for parents on the roles and responsibilities of professionals working to support children and young people with SEND, and to offer suggested improvements to the help and guidance available for families on the SEND Local Offer.

2.2 The review group work was set up against a context both nationally and locally focussing on SEND service improvements. In early 2022 the services for SEND in Buckinghamshire were inspected by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted. A written statement of action was submitted to Ofsted in August 2022, outlining what the council would do to make further service improvements.

- 2.3 In March 2023 Central Government published its report “Right Support, Right Place, Right Time” – its SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan outlining its aim of providing a “single national system that delivers consistently for every child and young person with SEND and in alternative provision”. The focus for the government was also on the importance of early identification of needs in an inclusive system and highlighted the need for timely, high-quality services and support in mainstream settings.
- 2.4 The group took part in a range of evidence gathering sessions from November 2022 to March 2023 with a wide range of council officers, through visits to primary, secondary, grammar and special schools, with lead professionals from related organisations and by interviewing parents with SEND children.
- 2.5 The final stage of evidence gathering with individual meetings with parents provided a crucial insight into the first-hand experiences of parents in accessing the system of services potentially available to them when concerned about gaining help for their child. This process highlighted a range of issues such as difficulties in knowing where to go for assistance, how to gain diagnoses, and symptoms being recognised and supported.
- 2.6 Through the evidence gathering process, the group recognised that the need for early access to SEND support information is crucial to enable parents to gain access to services as soon as possible. The interviews with parents and schools highlighted how early access to information could make a considerable difference to a child’s outcomes and therefore the level to which they might access their potential.
- 2.7 It was further recognised that clear communication of sites of information was crucial and information sharing between professionals, both with each other and with school pupils more widely was essential to raise awareness and understanding of the various SEND conditions.
- 2.8 Parental interviews and statistics reviewed showed that parents are acutely aware of their child’s needs and challenges and therefore their views are paramount in determining if a child needs the help of services.
- 2.9 A fuller explanation of the key findings supporting the recommendations outlined above is set out in the report at Appendix 1.

### **3. Legal and financial implications**

- 3.1 These will be considered as part of the Cabinet’s response.



#### **4. Corporate implications**

4.1 These will be considered as part of the Cabinet's response.

#### **5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views**

Not applicable

#### **6. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

6.1 The report and recommendations were produced by a cross-party review group of Members from the Children's and Education Select Committee.

6.2 Recommendations made will inform the Communications Plan on SEND services.

#### **7. Next steps and review**

8.1 Cabinet will provide a response to the Select Committee recommendations at its meeting on 12th September 2023. The Children's and Education Select Committee will then receive an update on progress achieved, after 6 and 12 months.

#### **8. Background papers**

8.1 None.

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**Children's & Education  
Select Committee  
Review of Pathways for Children with  
SEND**

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## Introduction

I am the Buckinghamshire Councillor for Wing and a Member of the Children’s and Education Select Committee. In November 2022 I was asked by the Select Committee to set up a scrutiny review into how parents of children with SEND gain initial access to the information they might need to commence gaining help for their child. The review group was established, and I was joined in this by Councillors James, Kayani, Turner and Ward.

The aim of the group was to investigate how parents, when considering that their child might have special educational needs, might find and access the relevant information in order to gain the advice, help and support that they need on the journey to gaining support for their child’s special needs.

I would like to extend my thanks to my colleagues on the review group, the dedicated Children’s Services staff whom we spoke to, as well as to the Cabinet Member for Children’s and Education for her contribution. I would also like to thank Andrew Howard of FACT Bucks, Laura Gomersall of Autism Early Support, Inger Richardson of ADHD and Autism Support and the staff of four schools that shared their views with the group.

Finally, I would like to thank the parents who freely gave their time to share their experiences of what was often a difficult journey to find the support that their child or children needed.

Councillor Diana Blamires  
May 2023



Cllr James



Cllr Kayani



Cllr Turner



Cllr Ward

## Aim of the Rapid Review

The review was set up with the aim of investigating the pathways to finding information for children and young people with SEND when first trying to access services and support. This involved a) assessing views from different sources with regards to the availability and accessibility of information required by parents to gain support from services for their children and b) gaining understanding on information for services specifically relating to three different scenarios as follows:

1. Getting help before a diagnosis of Autism
2. Getting help before a diagnosis of ADHD
3. Getting help with anxiety and depression

Through looking at the ways parents had accessed the pathways to information to help their children and young people, the review aimed to gain the following:

1. Improved clarity for parents of children with SEND on what help is available and how to access it through appropriate resources and information sources (as per the scenarios outlined above)
2. Greater understanding for parents on the roles and responsibilities of professionals working to support children and young people with SEND
3. Suggest Improvements to the help and guidance available for families on the SEND Local Offer  
Suggest improvements to the pathways to help shape and inform the development of a more cohesive strategy

## Methodology

In order to gather evidence, the review group held several meetings with Buckinghamshire Council Officers, representatives of local organisations, staff from a range of primary, secondary and special schools and with several parents as follows:

Between November 2022 and February 2023, the review group held 10 meetings with a Council Officers in a variety of roles in service commissioning, working on the Written Statement of Action, Educational Psychology, the Local Offer team, Improvement and Transformation team and areas relating to the provision of SEND services for children and young people.

During February and March 2023, the group made visits to four schools which included a primary, a secondary, a grammar and a special school to gain a range of views and perspectives on this issue. The group also spoke to lead professionals from local organisations providing services relating to special educational needs. The final stage of research conducted by the group was one-to-one meetings with parents to gain an insight into their own specific experiences of accessing relevant information and then of finding appropriate services for their children with needs relating to autism, ADHD, anxiety and depression.

## National Context

The Government has been focused on the national need to improve SEND services illustrated by the publication in March 2023 of its plan; “SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan “Right Support, Right Place, Right Time. The plan outlined the Government’s aim of providing “a single national system that delivers consistently for every child and young person with SEND and in alternative provision”.

The plan also set out the Government's intention to create local SEND and alternative provision partnerships, set up a National SEND and Alternative Provision Implementation Board, develop a standard template for Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs), and create a three-tier alternative provision system. The plan provides a welcome focus on rebuilding support for SEN children.

The paper also recognised the importance of earlier identification of needs in an inclusive system and highlighted the need for timely, high-quality services and support in mainstream settings.

Earlier identification of needs relies on parents being able to access help in a timely and clear way to seek identification and understanding of their own child’s situation and bring about appropriate support. It was noted by the group that 90% of parents who believe their child has one of these conditions turns out to be right because this is the reason it’s so important to do much more when parents first believe their child has a condition.



## Local Context

Between 28 February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted jointly inspected the services provided for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) in Buckinghamshire. The aim of the inspection was to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. It was noted that the Covid pandemic had created various impacts into service provision including an increase of children and young people presenting with neurodiverse conditions such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalcula and Tourettes.

### Children & Families Act 2014 - Highlights



In response to the inspection, the council and the Integrated Care Board provided a written statement of action (WSOA), which was submitted to Ofsted in August 2022 which gave details of the local area’s extensive plans to address the three areas highlighted as requiring improvement.

As part of the WSOA one of the outcomes the authority wished to achieve was that “families are well informed about available services and support and report positively on their experience of their child’s needs being identified and met.” The council, Integrated Care Board and its many partners began extensive work to achieve the actions stated in the WSOA in many areas of its service provision. This work is overseen by the Children’s Services SEND Improvement Board which provides external challenge to drive improvements at pace and scale.

The review group therefore, sought to investigate what the experiences were for both parents and professionals when finding or sign-posting information about services in the initial stages of parents’ journeys into SEND services. This access to services was found to be



through a variety of places; schools, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, health services, parent groups, the “Local Offer”, by word of mouth and referrals.

## Summary of Recommendations

The Children’s and Education Select Committee review group wish to recommend that:

### ***Availability of Information***

#### **Recommendation 1**

The review group supports the ongoing and review on Buckinghamshire’s “Local Offer” to be customer-focused for children, young people and their parents. We recommend a more user-friendly approach with simple language, and suggest the inclusion of inserted videos, clear links to first port-of-call contact lists for each area of diagnosis and examples of pathway diagrams.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The Cabinet Member for Children’s and Education and the Chairman of the Children’s and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend a change of name of “The Local Offer” in order to make it easier for parents to find when searching websites for their first access to information.

### ***Communications Planning***

#### **Recommendation 3**

The county-wide communications plan being developed for SEND should include promotion of our Local Offer, and this must include further promotion via social media.

#### **Recommendation 4**

A neurodiversity resource pack should be developed with key contact information about the Local Offer, charities, relevant organisations and health professionals so that it could be given to parents by all agencies as an initial signposting tool.

#### **Recommendation 5**

The neurodiversity resource pack should be promoted in all relevant forums e.g. Headteacher and Governor network meetings and it should also be shared with all Councillors in order to assist them in their casework with residents.

## ***Training and Network Development***

### **Recommendation 6**

The Council support the implementation of the training qualification for all SENCOs as stated in the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

### **Recommendation 7**

The SENCO meetings network be extended to ensure that all SENCOs have the opportunity to attend regular meetings for the purposes of sharing best practice and timely information.

### **Recommendation 8**

The Cabinet Member for Children's and Education and the Chairman of the Children's and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend a substantial increase in the number of university degree places for Educational Psychologists nationally, to enable educational psychologists to give greater support to schools on work relating to neurodiversity in children and young people.

### **Recommendation 9**

A programme of neurodiversity in-school training be developed for all teachers and wider school and nursery staff.

### **Recommendation 10.**

All secondary schools should be encouraged to deliver neurodiversity talks in school to foster a greater awareness and understanding of neurodiversity amongst pupils.

## Key Findings and Recommendations

Following careful consideration of the information received during discussions and by gaining the viewpoints of officers, organisations and parents, the review group wish to report the following observations, key findings and recommendations.

In several meetings the review group heard details of how during the Covid pandemic there had been a substantial increase in demand for services which, along with difficulty in recruiting in some areas, resulted in additional challenges for providers.

A “whole system” approach was being taken to address the issues found by the SEND inspection and this encompassed education, health and social care. The work focussed on a needs-led approach, early intervention, assessment and diagnostic pathways and post assessment/diagnostic support. Parent dialogue groups were being consulted on the detail of the actions in the written statement to gain their perspective of the work.

The review group heard from the officers from different areas and services as follows;

- Buckinghamshire Council SEND Improvement Programme, Educational Psychology, Local Offer team and Comms Team
- Autism Early Support
- ADHD and Autism Support
- Oxford Health Foundation Trust
- Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust
- Families And Carers Together Buckinghamshire (FACT Bucks)
- Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs), headteachers and teaching staff from special, primary, secondary and grammar schools
- A specialist teacher
- Parents of children and young people with autism, ADHD and anxiety/depression.

As part of the early research for this review the group considered the Portsmouth Model of service provision for SEND services which was held up as an example of good practice. The model included:

- A “Profiling Tool” based on 9 dimensions (sub-profiles) that can be used by non-clinicians in a wide set of contexts alongside families to help assessment of need
- A Training programme - 100s of trained professionals across the children’s system to use the profiling tool alongside children and families
- A bank of resources and strategies for families to use - shaped to the child’s neuro-profile
- A reduction in demand for formal diagnosis - but not a ‘switching off’ as many families will continue to benefit from formal diagnosis
- A multi-disciplinary team that can provide help, advice, support and guidance

Following its implementation, feedback was very positive, with comments from parents to say that both the parents and teachers understood their child's differences much better than before. It was considered that the "bank of resources" and a wider training programme should be part of Buckinghamshire's approach.

### ***Availability of Information***

The Council provides the "Local Offer" detailing many areas of help for parents of children and young people with SEND and information for professionals. However, many people we spoke to had not initially heard of it. One parent commented that she didn't know of the local offer so didn't know to look for it. In the end another parent told her about it but she felt that the name was off putting. This view was reiterated by others hence the review group looked at the Local Offer site in further detail.

Through analysing several other local authorities' versions of the "Local Offer" and by speaking to parents, organisations and officers, the group gained an overall sense that "The Local Offer" on Buckinghamshire Council's website, although award-winning and full of useful content; needed to be revised thoroughly to make it more user-friendly for both parents and professionals. Other local authority versions of the Local Offer had inserted videos of key members of the SEND officer team and the service Director, stating their role and part in the mission to help parents of children with SEND. This was considered by the review group to be very reassuring and gave an understanding of the local authority's aims to help children.

Schools and staff from organisations reported that information was difficult to find and the site difficult to navigate. From a networking perspective it was difficult to find which SENCO was attached to each school and where other key contacts were listed.

Feedback from parents included that the Local Offer should be designed with an awareness of how the parents might be feeling when they first embark upon research with a view to finding appropriate services for their SEND child. The FACT Bucks survey of 2022 recorded quotes from parents which included: "It feels like we are constantly having to fight to get the right support for our child" and "It's always so stressful" referring to how hard it is to get to the service information required.

The group heard many elements of feedback supporting this issue and points included that the Local Offer pages were very hard to navigate, that contact lists were not easy to find in the website, and it was not clear where to go for support for the different aspects of neurodiversity. One parent suggested that it would be helpful to have links to You Tube videos and that information could be grouped according to the type of neurodiversity.

In the FACT Bucks parents survey of 2022, it was noted that: an increased proportion of respondents had heard of the local offer (66% vs 56% in 2021), though about the same number (75%) had never used it. Those who had used the Local Offer at least once gave mixed and worsening responses about the helpfulness of the information in it. When asked to rate it on a scale where 1 was "not helpful at all" and 5 was "very helpful", 37% [29% in

2021] rated it 1 or 2 and 16% [35% in 2021] gave a rating of 4 or 5.” It is noted that a new survey has been carried out in 2023 and so these figures may have changed.

Requests for development from parents and officers included;

- the use of video clips of our professionals to introduce “The Local Offer” and explain their own particular roles in supporting parents (such as the Surrey example)
- visible front page contact lists
- diagrammatic examples of pathways that children and young people follow from the first point of contact
- grouping information for parents to access according to the issues experienced such as “what to do if your child does x...” or “my child can’t pronounce words...”

The group considered that these would speed up the process of the parent accessing appropriate information for their child and feeling supported more speedily.

Parents also suggested that easy-to-use guides and example clips of conversations would be really helpful in accessing key information. This would help raise awareness of issues and provide reassurance as well as providing some strategies and support whilst waiting for an assessment and formal diagnosis. Another parent noted about the Local Offer that “clarity is the key for the concerned parent”. The group agreed with this statement, noting that knowing where to go initially for relevant information would help to alleviate the stress of “not knowing where to go” as stated by another parent.

The group were pleased to support the on-going work through the Local Offer Advisory Group to regularly update the Local Offer and noted that the inclusion of additional new content was driven by the SEND Improvement Plan. The review group commended the monthly work by the group and the team of officers supporting it, to check website content, amend broken links and regularly take user feedback into account. It was noted that the Local Offer contained a wealth of information from many sources and that keeping it up to date required some shared responsibility with the relevant organisations and outside sources of information.

However, from the user’s point of view, as outlined above, there are improvements that could be made to enhance the website experience and ensure that parents feel more reassured and more confident about their next steps in securing support for their child or children. The review group therefore recommend that:

### **Recommendation 1**

**The review group supports the ongoing and review on Buckinghamshire’s “Local Offer” to be customer-focussed for children, young people and their parents. We recommend a more user-friendly approach with simple language, and suggest the inclusion of inserted videos, clear links to first port-of-call contact lists for each area of diagnosis and examples of pathway diagrams.**

The name “Local Offer” had been set nationally by central government. However, parents, organisational representatives, and Officers all told us that the name “Local Offer” was not only ambiguous but also not indicative of the site’s purpose, which meant that it was extremely difficult to find as a parent searching for information to help their child in the first instance. Its existence is not well known amongst relevant professionals; *“as a teacher, it is not helpful that I had not heard of this until I was seeking support for my child, and a friend pointed me in the direction of The Local Offer”*.

Many other councils had kept the name as it was, as the Government had stipulated but one had inserted the words “for SEND” which the group felt was appropriate.

Reviewing the name to include the word “SEND” would enable parents to find the Local Offer and the information it contains more readily in Google searches and thus increase the likelihood of earlier intervention leading to better outcomes. It would also make it more obvious what the Local Offer pages related to.

### **Recommendation 2**

**The Cabinet Member for Children’s and Education and the Chairman of the Children’s and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend the change of name of “The Local Offer” in order to make it easier for parents to find when searching for their first access to SEND information.**

### ***Communications***

The lack of awareness of the Local Offer was stated as a national issue and could be addressed both by changing or developing its name as outlined above, but also by raising awareness of it through promotion via social media as well as more traditional routes such as training. It was also suggested that it should be advertised in school planners and via newsletters/Headteachers Bulletins.

The group were aware that work was underway by the council’s officers to develop a communications plan, although the group were not aware of the details. The group considered that this should be co-ordinated with other agencies and charities to allow for clarity of shared information and support. Therefore the review group recommend that:

### **Recommendation 3**

**The county-wide communications plan being developed for SEND should include promotion of our Local Offer, and this to include further promotion via such elements as social media, training and advertising to include school planners.**

Communications needed to be “palatable, easily accessible and co-ordinated” stated a lead officer from a local organisation. Many professionals are involved in the communications links around children and young people with neurodiversity; educational psychologists, school staff and SENCOs, health professionals and the officers working for local

organisations, national charities, and the council. However, school was often the first port of call for parents.

The Review Group believe that a simple resource pack or sheet signposting to relevant and helpful links e.g., to the “Local Offer”, and to local organisations and national charities would be really helpful for parents to be given when they first realised, they might need to access assistance, and to see where they might go to access the wealth of information available to them. This would complement the information found from further investigation by parents/professionals and would form part of the raft of resources such as had been successful in Portsmouth.

The review group would like the resource pack to be available to all agencies to hand out in hard copy format. The group acknowledge that hard copy can become out of date but suggest that this could be minimised by the provision of minimal information such as names/ links and would help accessibility for all parents.

#### **Recommendation 4**

**A neurodiversity resource pack should be developed and used across all agencies as an initial signposting tool to e.g. The Local Offer, charities, relevant organisations and health professionals.**

The review group considered that the resource pack should be promoted via relevant school-related and health partner forums. It would also be helpful to share it with all Buckinghamshire Councillors to enable them to sign-post residents to appropriate information when dealing with relevant SEND casework or enquiries.

#### **Recommendation 5**

**The neurodiversity resource pack should be promoted in all relevant forums e.g. Headteacher and Governor network meetings and that it should be shared with all Councillors in order to assist them in their casework with residents.**

### ***Training and Network Development***

The review group heard from a lead officer from an organisation that “the experience a child has with SEND at school depends on a key factor: how the school understands and deals with SEND issues “. The level of understanding of a child or young person’s SEND needs by their SENCO as well as other teaching and support staff is therefore key to good outcomes for children and young people.

The group heard from parents of support they received from SENCOs and this was crucial to them. For example, we heard of an instance where a SENCO realised that other students in the same class as one autistic child did not understand their autistic traits and so training was arranged for pupils in school to help their understanding. Through the meetings with

parents and staff the group were made aware of the high level of demands on SENCOs and the high level of care often given by them.

However, it was considered important that all SENCOs (and other professionals) gained up to date information on for example, diagnoses for different elements of autism. One parent noted that their child's indications of autism were missed, and another's behaviour was dismissed as being "naughty". The group considered that this training could only benefit everyone.

The implementation of the SENCO training qualification referred to in the Government's plan, to be rolled out uniformly across the county's SENCOs is a key part in ensuring the training level is consistent and supportive to the county's SEND children. Staff's ability to refer children onto the right pathways for diagnosis, as well as both signpost and give support within school is crucial. Sometimes there can be more than one condition which present together such as anxiety and autism, so it is vital that SENCOs understand complex behaviours and co-existing conditions and, in our view, training will support this. With this in mind, we recommend that:

#### **Recommendation 6**

**The Council support the implementation of the training qualification for all SENCOs as stated in the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.**

The SENCOs that the group spoke to found the SENCO network meetings to be highly beneficial but it was noted that they did not consistently cover the whole county. As SENCOs play such an important support role it was considered that the network should be developed as this would help to ensure that information sharing is consistent. For example, there was a growing understanding of autism in girls, and more information could be shared on this. One parent noted how a specific type of autism "pathological demand avoidance" was not accepted by some professionals to exist. Information sharing on such issues would not only help the professional development of SENCOs and the teaching staff that they work alongside but ultimately the children who they are there to support.

It was considered that meetings could be held on-line and recorded to ensure consistency of information sharing as it was noted that the demands of the role meant that SENCOs might not always be able to attend in person.

#### **Recommendation 7**

**The SENCO meetings network be extended to ensure that all SENCOs have the opportunity to attend regular meetings, for the purposes of sharing relevant and timely information.**



Waiting times for diagnosis were a key frustration for parents. The review group heard how £1.1m funding had been committed to reduce waiting times for children to see a Community Paediatrician to improve the situation, as more support was needed for assessments.

The group heard from many sources how educational psychologists play a key and valued role in assessing children and young people. The work of trainee educational psychologists was particularly valued by school staff who reported that having more assistance by the trainees would assist the children and young people concerned and would speed the process up to a formal diagnosis. It was noted that 90% of children and young people referred to educational psychologists for assessments of SEN where a neurodiverse condition is potentially indicated as part of their assessment go on to receive a formal diagnosis from the relevant health professional. This high percentage was supported by work undertaken earlier in a child's timeline to assess their needs, and trainee educational psychologists contributed to this work.

The group heard that the council had to apply for trainee Educational Psychologists each year to the university consortium. Central government had pledged an extra £21million to train 200 educational psychologists nationally per year with an incentive of a doctorate for those who work for a local authority for at least two years after graduating. However, many more students awaited places. 12 universities and one NHS trust were running the government scheme. However, as an authority, we would have to bid to recruit trainees as would other local authorities.

It was noted however that the increase in work for educational psychologists in this authority in the last year alone was 61%, which followed an increase in 2021. This meant that our small number of trainees allocated to Buckinghamshire by the university consortium, as well as the qualified educational psychologists, had to focus their time on the statutory input required on the Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), rather than the work alongside SENCOs on assessments. It was also noted that it was very difficult to recruit full time educational psychologists but easier to recruit agency locum staff.

The Review Group believe that the Council should lobby Government for an increase in the total number of trainee places nationally to combat the increased demand, therefore we recommend that:

### **Recommendation 8**

**The Cabinet Member for Children's and Education and the Chairman of the Children's and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend a substantial increase of the number of university degree places for Educational Psychologists nationally, to enable educational psychologists to give greater support to schools on work relating to neurodiversity in children and young people.**

The group heard from both parents and officers that early intervention and the awareness level of teachers could be pivotal to a child's success. Awareness of the different profiles and indications of a neurodiverse condition was crucial. The group also heard from Officers how important it was to educate peers about neurodiversity.

One parent stated that her child felt misunderstood and was "treated as naughty" in year nine. However, following an inset day training for the teaching staff in the child's school on neurodiversity, on entering year 10 the child felt that the teaching staff's attitude towards them was more positive and that the everyday support presenting in the classroom had improved. This was crucial to the child's wellbeing, attendance levels and their academic progress in school. Another example was given where a SENCO acted quickly to refer a child to CAMHS as they recognised both the child's need and that they would soon be too old to qualify for the CAMHS service.

### **Recommendation 9**

**A programme of neurodiversity in-school training be developed for all teachers and school and nursery staff.**

The review group heard how schools were addressing the education of children on neurodiversity via the "circle of friends" approach and education on anti-bullying. Members also heard from schools of valuable examples of talks presented in person in school, which had made a considerable difference to the attitude of peers to their neurodiverse colleagues.

It was considered that links could be explored to the work already being undertaken e.g., the National Autistic Society's "early bird" training programme or the training linked to the roll-out of the Autism Standards in Schools.

One SENCO gave an example of an older pupil who chose to deliver a talk in their school about their experiences with neurodiversity which had a beneficial impact on the whole school's understanding of the difficulties of the condition and encouraged a wider acceptance amongst pupils of their neurodiverse peers. Whilst not all children would want to speak about their own neurodiversity, it might be possible that some of the older children or alumni would do so. Some schools have a Neurodiversity Committee where children are able to share their experiences and feed back to school staff on adjustments. This additional level of two-way communication helps to give support to the neurodiverse pupils in the school.

### **Recommendation 10.**

**All secondary schools should be encouraged to deliver neurodiversity talks in-school to foster a greater awareness and understanding of neurodiversity amongst pupils.**

## ***Conclusion***

In conclusion, the review group considered that across both the council and its partner agencies, a wealth of hard work was underway to improve access to the information around SEND service provision, including much through the work on the SEND Improvement plan. The group noted that crucially, the improvements needed to be co-ordinated with all services and partners to close the gaps in information provision.

The review group hopes that their recommendations will be welcomed, and that even if these can only make a small difference to the provision of information to SEND, then that will be beneficial.

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## Report to Cabinet

<b>Date:</b>	12 September 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2024
<b>Relevant councillor(s):</b>	Cllr Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
<b>Contact officer:</b>	John Macilwraith, Corporate Director, Children's Services
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All
<b>Recommendations:</b>	Cabinet is recommended to endorse the 2023-2024 Youth Justice Strategic Plan and recommend its adoption by the Council

### 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2024. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan provides details of progress made against agreed outcomes for children and young people. It outlines priorities, alongside potential future challenges for the partnership over the coming year. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan highlights the partnership arrangements and budget position for the Youth Offending Service Partnership.

### 2. Content of report

- 2.1 Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency partnership funded by the following statutory partners: Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Council Children's Services, Health Services and Probation. Other partners including Community Safety and the voluntary sector also make up the partnership.
- 2.2 The Youth Offending Service (YOS) plays a key role in keeping our communities, families, children and young people safe through the prevention of offending

and reoffending, reduction in the use of custody and through contribution to multi- agency public protection and safeguarding.

2.3 The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is produced in compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40 which stipulates the following:

‘It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a “youth justice plan”) setting out:

- i. How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- ii. How the Youth Offending Team (YOT) or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.’

2.4 The plan is produced in line with guidance published by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The final plan is produced following consultation with partners via the Youth Offending Service Partnership board.

2.5 The requirement for local authorities to have Youth Offending Teams has existed since 2000, following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. The intended function of Youth Offending Teams is to reduce the risk of young people offending and re-offending, and to provide counsel and rehabilitation to those who do offend. The act stipulates the composition of the YOT and identifies statutory partners to work alongside the Local Authority.

2.6 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has set three national outcome indicators for all YOTs which form the baseline for performance information included within this year’s plan. These are as follows:

- i. Reduce the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System
- ii. Reduce Re-offending
- iii. Reduce the Use of Custody

2.7 From April 2023 the Ministry of Justice also requires all YOTs to submit performance data against the following 10 additional Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s):

- Accommodation
- Education Training and Employment

- Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- Mental Health and Emotional Well-being
- Substance Misuse
- Out of Court Disposals
- Management Board Attendance
- Wider Services
- Serious Violence
- Victims

## Local Context

- 2.8 The Youth Offending Service continues to play a key role in preventing offending, reoffending, reducing the use of custody where appropriate, and delivering services for victims and safeguarding the most vulnerable.
- 2.9 The data provided below is the latest available from the Ministry of Justice for each measure. Reoffending data appears delayed as this includes a 12 month follow on period to track any potential reoffending.
- i. First time entrants: The number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time in Buckinghamshire has continued to fall. The October 2021 to September 2022 period shows a rate of 125 young people per 100,000 of the local 10-17 year old population, which represents stronger performance than that seen Nationally, across Thames Valley and within the YOT family. This represents a reduction from the 132 per 100,000 entering the system in Buckinghamshire between October 2020 and September 2021.
  - ii. Reoffending: The rate of young people reoffending in Buckinghamshire has risen to 30% for the January to March 2021 cohort, with performance stronger than that seen Nationally but weaker than that seen across the Southeast, Thames Valley and YOT family. This is a notable increase during a period when most other comparator groups saw a decrease. In actual numbers, this represents an increase from 6 young people reoffending in the January to March 2020 cohort in comparison with 9 in the January to March 2021 cohort. The overall tracking group reduced from 37 to 30 young

people between these two periods which has also had an impact on the percentage increase.

- iii. Use of Custody: The rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence per 1000 of the local 10-17 year old population has decreased from 0.07 in 2021 to 0.03 in 2022. In actual numbers, this represents a reduction from 4 to 2 young people. Performance is stronger than that seen across the Thames Valley, South East, Nationally and within the YOT family.
- iv. Data is also monitored on numbers of young people remanded to custody and the number of bed nights this entails. 1 young person was remanded in 2022/23 and this represented a reduction in bed nights in comparison with the previous financial year.

### **Priorities for the coming year**

- 2.10 2022-23 saw the Youth Offending Service continue to expand the scope of prevention delivery, with the volume of non-statutory out of court interventions overtaking statutory work (Youth Conditional Cautions and Court Orders) for the first time. In January 2023, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) published their report on the Inspection of Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service. An overall rating of 'Good' was made, with a number of strengths recognised. There were also some very clear areas for development identified, predominantly in relation to out of court disposals.
- 2.11 Important activity on improving and developing out of court disposals has already begun and will continue throughout 2023/24. This coincides with direct funding from the Ministry of Justice for all Youth Justice Services to increase the scope of out of court disposal work as part of the 'Turnaround' programme. As a result, there has been a significant amount of developmental work in this space which will see diversionary work offered to more children at risk of entering the youth justice system.
- 2.12 Despite a significant focus on ethnic disproportionality at strategic and operational level for several years, rates of disproportionality are once again high, and this will therefore remain a key strategic focus for the Board, as we continue to explore ways of influencing the key drivers and seeking systemic change through a partnership approach.
- 2.13 There will also be an increased focus on developing child first ways of working at strategic and operational level. This will mean greater involvement of children and young people in key decision making, increasing the scope of feedback and more work on improved outcomes as a result of the feedback received. There



will be significant work undertaken to bring an increased child first focus to assessments.

- 2.14 The Youth Offending Service will continue to work in close partnership with colleagues in the Missing and Exploitation Hub and wider Children's Social Care. 2023/24 will see Buckinghamshire Children's Social Care Adolescent Service launched and the Youth Offending Service will play an important role in this, working in close partnership.
- 2.15 The partnership board maintains strategic oversight of data regarding groups that are over-represented in the Youth Justice System. Strategic links with the Opportunity Bucks project will allow the partnership board to analyse patterns of disproportionality within different geographical areas of the county. This will provide further opportunities to address gaps in provision.

### **3. Other options considered**

- 3.1 n/a

### **4. Legal and financial implications**

- 4.1 The local authority must carry out its statutory obligations in compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40. In addition, the local authority must also carry out its statutory obligations in respect of safeguarding Children and Young People, as set out in the Children Act 2004 and in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- 4.2 The Youth Offending Service is funded through a combination of grant funding from the Youth Justice Board and contributions from partners. Contributions may also be in kind, for example staffing employed by partner organisations but dedicated to the YOS.

The following partnership resources make up the Youth Offending Service budget for 2023-2024:

<b>Partner Contributions 2023-2024</b>	<b>Staffing Costs (£)</b>	<b>Posts In Kind</b>	<b>Other Delegated Funds (£)</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
<b>Buckinghamshire Council</b>	686,051		40,000	726,051
<b>Thames Valley Police</b>		90,657		90,657
<b>Integrated Care Board</b>		76,285		76,285
<b>National Probation Service</b>		29,431	8,580	38,011
<b>Police Crime Commissioner</b>	134,663		65,000	199,663
<b>Youth Justice Board Grant</b>	475,306			475,306
<b>Ministry of Justice (Turnaround)</b>	114,685			114,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,410,705</b>	<b>196,373</b>	<b>113,580</b>	<b>1,720,658</b>

## **5. Corporate implications**

5.1 n/a

## **6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views**

6.1 n/a

## **7. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

7.1 The Youth Justice Strategic Plan will be communicated to partners via the YOS Partnership Board, ensuring a multi-agency approach across partner organisations.

## **8. Next steps and review**

8.1 The Youth Justice Plan should be reviewed and agreed annually. Progress of the plan will be monitored through the YOS Partnership Board which reports into the Safer Buckinghamshire Board.

## **9. Background papers**

9.1 Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-24

## **10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by email [[democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)]

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## Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024

<b>Service</b>	Buckinghamshire YOS
<b>Service Manager/ Lead</b>	Ollie Foxell, Deputy Service Manager
<b>Chair of YJS Board</b>	John Macilwraith, Corporate Director Children’s Services, Buckinghamshire Council

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## 1. Introduction, Vision and Strategy

The Youth Justice Plan for 2023-24 sets out the strategic vision for Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service for the year. It reviews achievements and areas for development from the previous 12 months and sets out priorities for the year ahead. The plan aligns to the Community Safety Partnership's 'Safer Buckinghamshire Plan' and its priorities. Our aim is that Buckinghamshire remains one of the safest places to grow up, raise a family, live, work and do business.

The Youth Offending Service continues to play a key role in preventing offending, reoffending, reducing the use of custody where appropriate, and delivering services for victims and safeguarding the most vulnerable. The role of the Partnership Board is to ensure an effective partnership between Children's Services, Health Services, Probation, Police, Community Safety and both third sector and private sector providers, ensuring high quality and effective services are delivered to young people, their families and the victims of offending.

I started as chair of the Youth Offending Service Partnership Board in September 2022, having taken over from Supt Rebecca Mears, whom I thank for her hard work and service to the role. 2022-23 was an eventful year, including an Inspection from His Majesties Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The Inspection outcome was positive, with an overall grading of 'Good'. There are also some very clear areas for improvement, which the Partnership Board and Youth Offending Service have and will continue to work hard to develop.

Since taking over in my role as chair of the Partnership Board, it was quickly apparent to me that the strength of the Youth Offending Service workforce and the commitment and focus of the Board are significant assets in Buckinghamshire, indeed both were recognised by inspectors. The strength of partnership working and focus on early prevention, underpinned by the YOS's innovative schools project, are also particular assets which have contributed to the success of the Youth Offending Service in recent years, measured by performance against key performance indicators (KPIs). This year will see the start of a new set of KPIs, for which the YOS and the partnership are well prepared.

Looking ahead, there are several areas of focus for the Partnership Board, including the successful completion of inspection improvement work, a commitment to working alongside and listening to staff, as well as ensuring that we hear the views of children and young people and involve them more in decision making. Our strategic priorities over recent years have been themed to contribute to systemic change across the wider organisation and within criminal justice as a whole. They will continue to do this, with the inclusion of a specific priority regarding further developing and expanding prevention work, which will involve the implementation locally of the Ministry of Justice funded Turnaround Project. The 3 key strategic priorities for the Partnership Board for 2023-24 are:

1. Addressing disproportionality
2. Addressing exploitation of young people
3. Expanding prevention work

It has been a pleasure to work with colleagues at the Youth Offending Service and on the Partnership Board to ensure the delivery of high-quality services to support young people, families and victims in Buckinghamshire. I look forward to the year ahead with an absolute commitment to not only maintaining this, but to improve outcomes in the areas we know require more work.

***John Macilwraith, Corporate Director, Children's Services***

## **Vision and Strategy**

2022-23 saw the Youth Offending Service continue to expand the scope of prevention delivery, with the volume of non-statutory out of court interventions overtaking statutory work (Youth Conditional Cautions and Court Orders) for the first time. In January 2023, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) published their report on the Inspection of Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service. The service was rated as "Good", with a number of areas recognised as "Outstanding", in relation to organisational delivery, court disposal work, and resettlement. There were also some very clear areas for development identified, predominantly in relation to out of court disposals, which saw assessment, planning and policy and provision of out of court disposal work assessed as "Requires Improvement".

Important activity on improving and developing out of court disposals has already begun and will continue in 2023/24. This coincides with direct funding from the Ministry of Justice for all Youth Justice Services to increase the scope of out of court disposal work as part of the 'Turnaround' programme. As a result, there has been a significant amount of developmental work in this space which will see diversionary work offered to more children at risk of entering the youth justice system.

Despite focus on ethnic disproportionality at strategic and operational level for several years, rates of disproportionality are once again high, and this will therefore remain a key strategic focus for the Board, as we continue to explore ways of influencing the key drivers and seeking systemic change through a partnership approach.

There will also be an increased focus on developing child first ways of working at strategic and operational level. This will mean greater involvement of children and young people in key decision making, increasing the scope of feedback and more work on improved outcomes as a result of the feedback received. There will be significant work undertaken to bring an increased child first focus to assessments.

## **Local Context**

Buckinghamshire is widely known as an affluent county with great outcomes. However, we know that this overall picture masks some significant variations in outcomes, with some areas experiencing significant hardship. As partners, we want to come together with these communities and draw upon our collective resources to enhance opportunities and promote community wellbeing.

'Opportunity Bucks – Succeeding for all' is Buckinghamshire Council's response to the Government's levelling up strategy. It provides a framework for bringing partners together to focus collective resources on tackling those local priorities that will make a difference to residents. It focuses on 5 themes:

- Education and Skills
- Jobs and Career Opportunities
- Quality of our Public Realm
- Standard of Living
- Health and Wellbeing

Initially the programme will be focused on 10 wards in 3 areas – parts of Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham. Local action plans will be developed through engagement with communities led by Community Boards.

The ambition for the Opportunity Bucks programme is to improve opportunities for all.

The goal is to make sure the people living in the 10 identified wards can access the same level of opportunity that people in other parts of the county benefit from.

Everyone in Buckinghamshire should have the opportunity to achieve:

- a good quality job, that pays enough money to support a decent quality of life
- good standard of attainment and skills
- learning and career progression
- good mental and physical wellbeing and independent living
- a decent, warm home and good quality food
- involvement in shaping their community, with strong social connections
- a feeling of being safe where they live
- pride in where they live

This is a long-term programme that will involve working with local partners, the voluntary and community sector, businesses and other public sector bodies and organisations within Buckinghamshire.

This will enable collective resources to be coordinated to tackle local priorities that will make a difference to the lives and lifestyles of people living in areas of Aylesbury, Chesham, and High Wycombe.

Working together with local partner organisations, Buckinghamshire Council will look to:

- 1) Create new projects which share the objectives of the Opportunity Bucks programme.
- 2) Develop or enhance existing projects to support people living and working in the identified wards experiencing significant hardship.



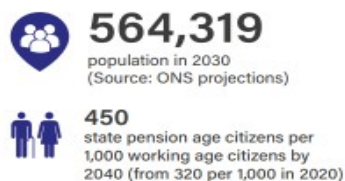
The following infographics provides an overview of Buckinghamshire in numbers.

## Buckinghamshire in Numbers

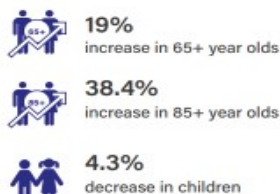
In 2022



On the horizon...

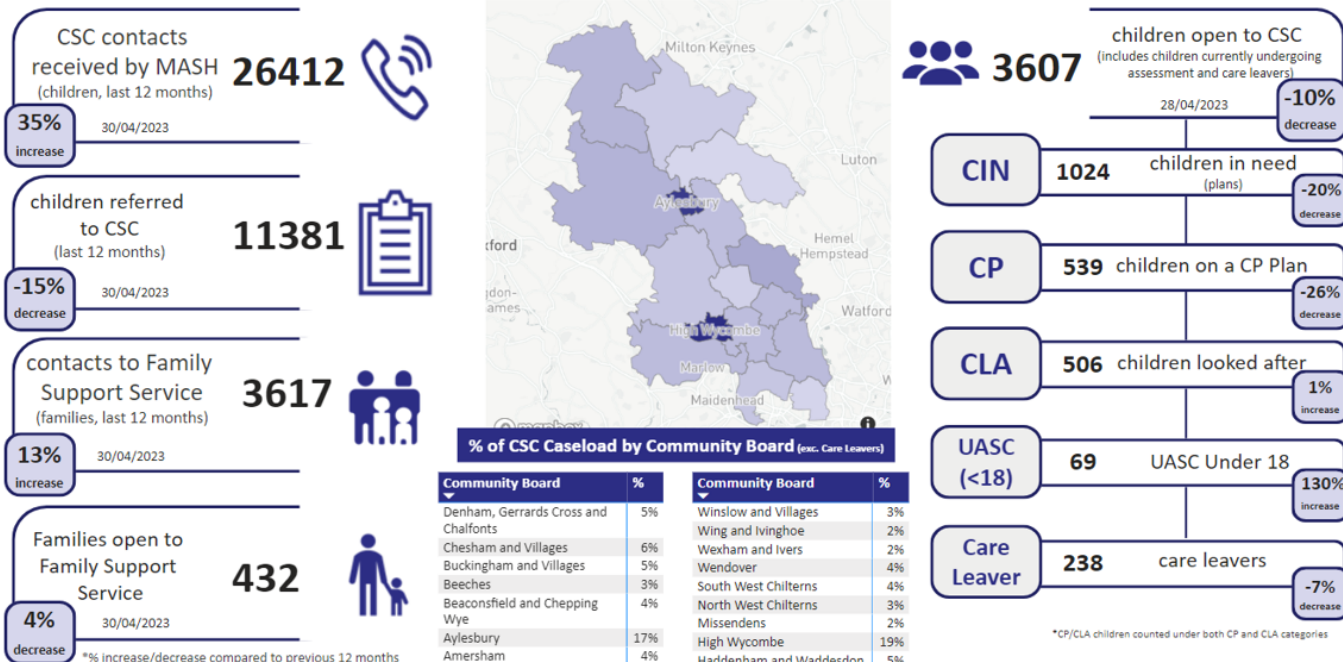


In the next decade (2022-2032):

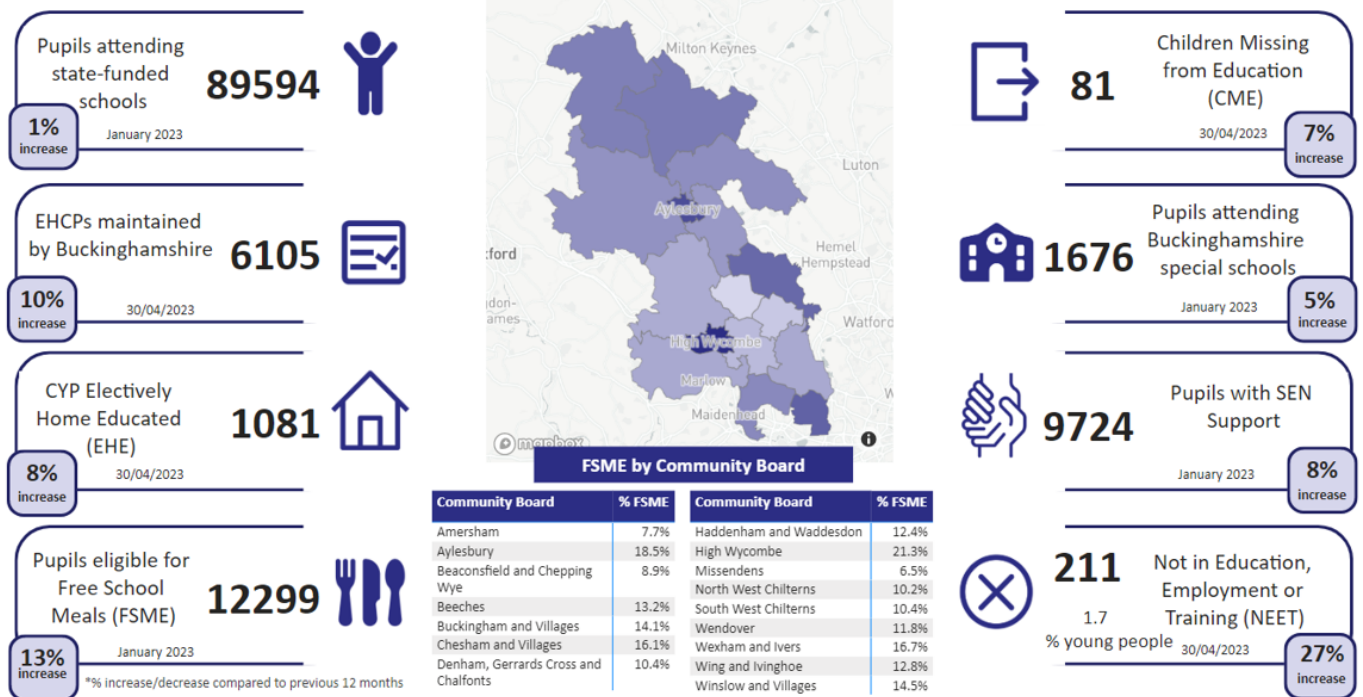


BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

## Our Service in Numbers - Social Care & Early Help



## Our Service in Numbers - Education



There are a number of significant national policy changes that have enabled Children's Service to consider the way in which both social care and education services are designed and delivered to the children and young people of Buckinghamshire. The proposed changes to the way in which the Service operates are in line with national policy direction and are based on ensuring that children receive a consistent, purposeful and child centred approach wherever they are on their journey of need from early help through to being in care. The following key principles have already been agreed and will inform the new delivery model and address some of the barriers that exist currently:

- Multi-disciplinary locality teams
- Fewer hand off points for children and families
- Greater alignment of services
- Introduction of a clear and consistent practice methodology
- Work is led by one trusted professional.
- Workforce development strategy to focus on the continuous professional development of staff.
- A menu of evidenced based interventions will be available.
- Mature and improve the children's system across the county.

## 2. Child First

Buckinghamshire YOS is committed to the principles of Child First and can demonstrate this in the following ways:

*1. Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.*

Staff are trained in trauma informed practice. Trauma informed practice is overseen and guided by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) colleagues who provide support in a number of areas, such as chairing of case formulations and delivering complex group case supervision. In February 2023, front line practitioners received training on anti-racism and allyship. This, as part of the wider focus on disproportionality, is designed to assist staff in overcoming structural barriers that exist in relation to race and ethnicity.

There is a strong focus on quality in the work that the YOS do, with a robust Quality Assurance Framework and regular Quality Reports submitted to the Partnership Board. This ensures strategic oversight of the impact of work delivered with children and young people.

*2. Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.*

The HMIP Inspection, which took place in October 2022, identified increasing the scope and range of reparation projects as an area for development. Following this, a Community Engagement Practitioner post has been created. As well as holding responsibility for increasing the diversity of community reparation projects, this post will also increase community involvement by the YOS.

*3. Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.*

The YOS uses the LifePath model to seek feedback from children and young people. This has proven an effective way to gain meaningful, feedback which has enabled the service to ensure children's voices are heard and implemented as part of service delivery. Findings are presented to the Partnership Board and appropriate actions taken where needed. An example of this is the constructive feedback given in relation to experiences of children held in police custody. Following discussion at the Partnership Board, trauma informed practice training was delivered by CAMHS to custody staff. Positive feedback was received by custody staff. Further evaluation of impact will be assessed through the quarterly quality report.

The YOS have sought to increase the level of consultation with children on how the organisation is run. This has involved the setting up of a feedback group to advise on potential changes to ways of working, the decision to rename the YOS as Youth Justice and Support Team which was influenced by feedback from young people, and the priorities for this plan which were informed by feedback from a group of young people, who fed back that feeling safe was important to them.

*4. Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.*

Since 2018, the YOS has pursued a path of very deliberately seeking to grow the prevention and diversion offer available to children and young people. As a result, the YOS now works with more children in a prevention capacity than those in a statutory capacity. This focus on early prevention will be expanded in 23/24 with the addition of Turnaround funding. The prevention strategy is supported by our innovative schools model, which places Youth Workers across 16 secondary schools (originally 8) within

Buckinghamshire, delivering diversionary intervention with children who have not entered the youth justice system. The vision is to seek further opportunities to grow this model.

### 3. Voice of the Child

Buckinghamshire YOS actively identifies ways for young people to participate in service development to ensure that the voice of the child underpins practice. During 2022/23, the following activities have reinforced this objective:

- The Life Path model continues to be well embedded, allowing every young person the opportunity to feedback on each step of their youth justice journey at the end of their intervention. By sharing collated feedback from this with the Partnership Board, all agencies have an opportunity to reflect on their engagement with those known to the YOS and how this can be improved. For example, information was shared with the Board that young people were often struggling to understand what was happening at Court. This allowed the Magistrate representative to take this learning back to their own organisation and, as a result, more individuals are reporting a positive experience in that environment.
- More creative ways of bringing the voice of the child to the Board have also been explored, and recorded verbal feedback delivered, to help members understand more about the needs of these individuals in their own words.
- Young people have been consulted on the name change for the YOS and the themes from their responses have been used to create a new title for the service.

Feedback from young people and their families cited within the HMIP Inspection Report clearly evidences the way the YOS focuses on both the voice of the child and their individual needs. Example quotations are included below:

*“They have helped my son to learn to be himself and to take ownership of his own career path and take responsibility for his own actions.”*

*“I am not a very open person but with my case workers, I become an open person. I can share my views and thoughts and feelings and not feel judged.”*

*“My YOS officers are amazing and have helped me to improve my life for the better. I came from a really dark place to now being more confident with a full-time job and being happy in general.”*

Work is currently taking place to create a Young People’s Reference Group, who can be called on to participate in a range of activity whenever developmental changes are being proposed.

### 4. Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service is located within Buckinghamshire Council Children’s Services. The YOS Head of Service post is jointly responsible for the Children’s Social Care, Missing and Exploitation Hub, reporting to the Service Director for Children’s Social Care and part of the Senior Management Team. The Head of Service post is currently vacant and is being considered as part of the wider children’s services transformation programme. A deputy Head of Service remains in post, and improvements regarding HMIP are being overseen by the Assistant Director for the Quality Standards and Performance Service. The YOS

Performance Review and Information Manager reports directly into this role to ensure some independent oversight of quality.

Strategic oversight of the Youth Offending Service is provided by the Partnership Board, which is chaired by the Corporate Director for Children's Services and attended by all statutory partners, as well as many non-statutory. The governance of the Partnership Board sits under the Safer Bucks Board (see appendix 2 for further detail).

At an operational level, the YOS contains a number of specialist posts. A full structure chart is contained within appendix 1.

## 5. Board Development

In September 2022, the Youth Offending Partnership Board agreed a change of Chair. The position had been held by Thames Valley Police for a number of years and it was timely, with the appointment of a new Corporate Director for Children's Social Care, for the role of chair to change.

The introduction of a new set of Key Performance Indicators in April 2023 brings with it more responsibility for partnership data to be shared via the board. In particular, the board have identified data on ethnic disproportionality as a key focus, to influence the drivers for the levels of disproportionality seen in the youth justice population locally.

Greater interaction between the Partnership Board and operational staff, as well as children and young people are identified as key priorities for 2023/24.

The HMIP Inspection report published in January 2023, identified the two recommendations, and one additional area for improvement which has been incorporated as an action, specifically for the Partnership Board:

***Recommendation 1: Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Board should monitor the reintegration rates of YOS children into mainstream education to make sure that children return to full-time mainstream education in every case where this is appropriate***

***Recommendation 2: Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Board should ensure information within out of court disposal assessments consistently reflects social care input and that the roles and responsibilities for each service area are clearly identified within children's plans.***

***Area for improvement: Managers and the board could do more to consistently recognise and reward good work***

To ensure full strategic ownership of the HMIP improvement plan, all recommendations and actions are overseen by a member of the Partnership Board, who works closely with operational staff to ensure completion and the monitoring of impact.

## 6. Progress on Previous Plan

The following table outlines the actions identified in last year's Youth Justice Strategic Plan and the progress made against these.

Addressing Over-Representation		
ACTION	PROGRESS	IMPACT
Provide Youth Work resource to schools to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children at risk of exclusion	<b>Ongoing</b> – The intention was to offer direct intervention from a Youth Worker with a diverse background. Due to unforeseen absence, it has not been possible to deliver this aspect. However, it was possible to repurpose some of the school's youth work resource to support young people in Pupil Referral Units with low attendance, an area where we know there is a diverse range of young people. In addition, the Community Coaching project continues to provide mentoring support to young people from ethnically diverse communities.	A review will take place in the coming year to agree the best way to progress this action and to evaluate impact.
Deliver mentoring support to children to support transition from year 6 to 7	<b>Completed</b> - During 2022/23, 10 young people were supported through transition from year 6 to year 7.	At of the end of March 2023, none of the young people mentored had come into contact with the youth justice system.  Positive feedback from both parents and young people indicates the effectiveness of this intervention. Case study feedback is provided to the PCC who fund the project.
Deliver mentoring support to parents of children who are transitioning from year 6 to 7	<b>Completed</b> - During 2022/23, 5 parents of children were supported.	Positive feedback from parents who received this support indicates that this intervention is effective. Case study feedback is provided to the PCC who fund this project.
Share regular data on drivers for disproportionality with the YOS Board to guide partnership work	<b>Ongoing</b> – An agreement is now in place with statutory partners regarding regular disproportionality data reports. This will commence from the	Impact will be assessed after this has been embedded.

	June 2023 Partnership Board meeting.	
<b>Addressing Exploitation of Young People</b>		
Commission mentoring support for children and young people at risk of exploitation from those with lived experience	<b>Completed</b> – 5 young people have received mentoring support from Roadlight, aimed at reducing the risks of those being actively exploited.	Impact included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 young person’s attendance and behaviour at school improved alongside relationships at home</li> <li>• 1 young person increased their engagement with the YOS after initially refusing to speak to their YOS Officer</li> <li>• The intervention allowed advocacy for 1 young person with their parents in respect of boundary setting and the mentor-maintained contact when they transitioned to living with other family members in Europe</li> <li>• For 1 young person, the mentor was able to contribute to the professional group and their management of a highly complex situation, specifically in how contextual safeguarding risks were managed.</li> </ul>
Increase scope of YOS Prevention work for those at risk of exploitation	<b>Completed</b> – Prevention work has increased significantly during 2022/23 with referrals now accepted from a wider range of sources. This includes young people identified as being at risk of exploitation.	Local monitoring data demonstrates a consistently low rate of children who have received prevention support, going on to offend. This data is contained within section 9 of this document.
Deliver Contextual Safeguarding training for all front-line practitioners	<b>Completed</b> – Contextual Safeguarding training was delivered to all front-line practitioners in May 2022.	An audit of cases subsequently took place to measure the impact on practice.

Deliver additional Youth Work resource to Pupil Referral Units to support children missing education	<b>Ongoing</b> – 4 young people with low attendance have been supported to date. Conversations are ongoing with Pupil Referral Units to agree how this provision can be extended. This is in addition to the support offered to Pupil Referral Units through the Multi-Agency Schools Project.	Impact will be assessed once this has been embedded.
<b>Embedding Evidence Based Practice</b>		
Commission research from Buckinghamshire University on the experience of Black and Mixed heritage children and young people	<b>Ongoing</b> – consent has been gained from a number of young people and work is underway with the university to ensure they are able to gain feedback from a sufficient number to research is meaningful. Research will be completed by October 2023.	Findings from the research will be presented to the Partnership Board and be adopted by the YOS to inform practice.
Deliver refresher training on Psychological Formulations and Trauma-Informed Practice to all front-line practitioners	<b>Completed</b> - Psychological Formulations and Trauma-Informed Practice training was delivered to all front-line practitioners in July 2022.	An audit of cases subsequently took place to measure the impact on practice, identifying areas of strength and impact of this training. The audit demonstrated evidence of learning from the training being adopted in practice. There were also areas identified where learning could have been further embedded. Changes were made to the quality assurance tool as a result.
Deliver refresher Restorative Justice training to all front-line practitioners	<b>Completed</b> – Restorative Justice refresher training was delivered to front-line practitioners in November 2022.	The impact of this on practice is being measured through quality assurance activity. This will be evaluated in the next quarterly quality report.
Continue to provide Youth Work provision in 16 identified schools	<b>Completed</b> – In 2022/23, 168 young people were supported across 16 schools including 3 Pupil Referral Units.	The effectiveness of this project can be evidenced through offending data: of the 128 young people who worked with a Schools Youth Worker in 2021/22, only 10 (7.8%) have gone on to enter the youth justice system within a 12-month tracking period.



<p>Increase numbers of professionals from other agencies trained in Restorative Approaches</p>	<p><b>Completed</b> - Since April 2022, 85 professionals from a range of agencies have received training in Restorative Approaches. This includes 39 social workers, 4 foster carers, 4 residential workers and 4 Police Community Support Officers.</p>	<p>Case study feedback has consistently demonstrated that the training is well-received, has been used in practice and positively impacts service users.</p>
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## 7. Resources and Services

The Youth Justice Grant will be used exclusively to deliver against activities linked to the 14 Key Performance Indicators. The following activities will be funded by the grant:

- Delivery of effective assessment, intervention planning and supervision for young people who have offended or who are at risk of offending in Buckinghamshire
- Delivery of services to the victims of youth offending
- Development of key areas of practice such as SEND, Liaison and Diversion and Restorative Justice
- Analysis of performance information to inform practice development across all areas
- Delivery and development of Community Reparation
- Development and training of staff in effective practice
- Provision of the Core+ database, to support effective case management, timely submission of statutory data and the use of connectivity to ensure mandatory documentation is shared securely with the Youth Custody Service.

Local authority funding will also be used to contribute towards the delivery of these outcomes.

Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner will be used to deliver two projects:

- The YOS Multi-Agency Schools Project - this provides Youth Workers to deliver diversionary support to 16 secondary schools across the county. The aim of this project is to reduce numbers of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system
- The Community Coaching Project - this funds an external provider, Spark2Life, to deliver community coaching to support transition from primary school to secondary school for children from ethnically diverse communities. The project seeks to address structural inequality and provide improved outcomes for students across a range of areas that can sometimes be pathways into the youth justice system.

A more detailed description of these projects is provided in section 11 of this plan.

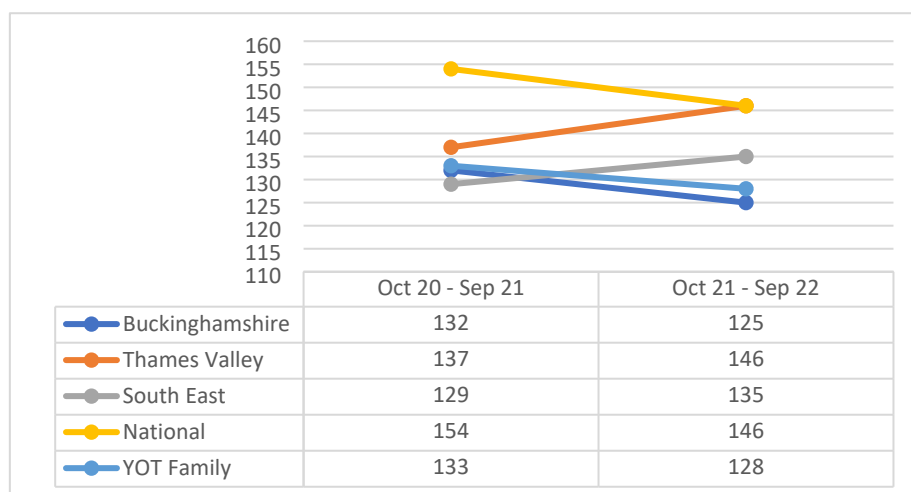
Funding from the Ministry of Justice will be used for the purpose of delivering the following activities as part of the Turnaround project:

- Funding two posts to deliver diversionary activities for children identified as 'on the cusp' of the Youth Justice System
- Funding constructive activities for children eligible for Turnaround support

## 8. Performance - National Key Performance Indicators

### First Time Entrants

The number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time in Buckinghamshire has continued to fall, as the chart below illustrates. Data for the October 2021 to September 2022 period shows a rate of 125 young people per 100,000 of the local 10–17-year-old population, which represents stronger performance than that seen Nationally, across Thames Valley and within the YOT family. This represents a reduction from the 132 per 100,000 entering the system in Buckinghamshire between October 2020 and September 2021.



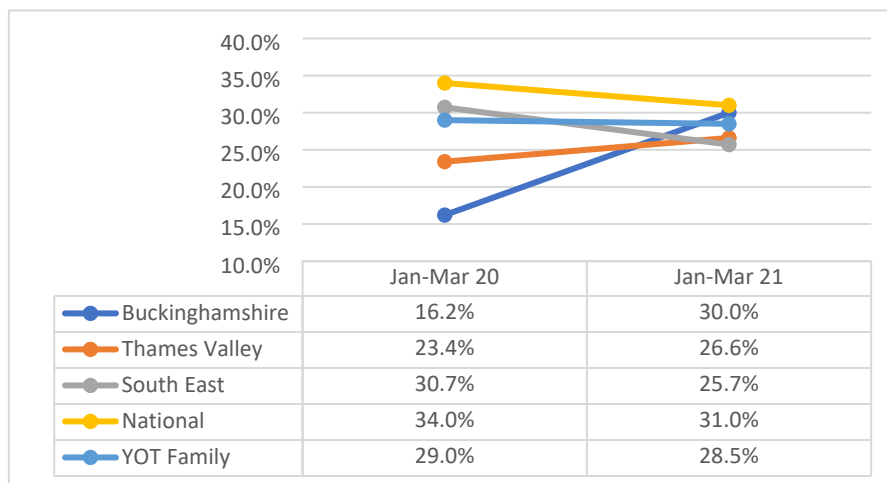
The strength of this data can be contributed to a number of factors, including:

- Ongoing development of the Multi-Agency Schools project (funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)
- A Community Coaching project, supporting black and minority ethnic children in primary school year 6 through their transition to year 7 at secondary school (funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)
- New processes that ensure all young people receiving a Community Resolution are screened and offered intervention where appropriate
- Delivery of restorative justice training to professionals from a range of agencies, including care homes and schools, to support appropriate management of challenging situations.

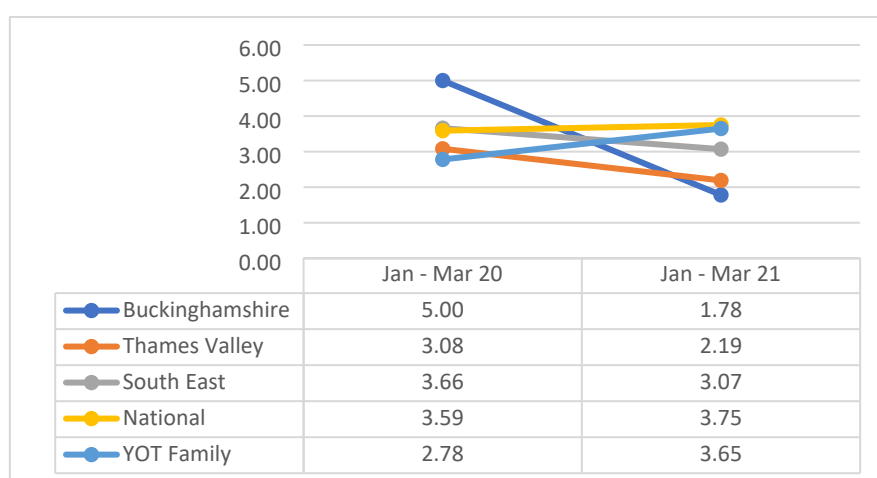
Work will continue to ensure that this strong performance is sustained and improved on wherever possible, including the use of Turnaround funds to increase the scope of diversionary interventions.

### Reoffending

The rate of young people reoffending in Buckinghamshire has risen to 30% for the January to March 2021 cohort, with performance stronger than that seen Nationally but higher than that seen across the Southeast, Thames Valley and YOT family. This is a notable increase during a period when most other comparator groups saw a decrease. In actual numbers, this represents an increase from 6 young people reoffending in the January to March 2020 cohort in comparison with 9 in the January to March 2021 cohort. The overall tracking group reduced from 37 to 30 young people between these two periods which has also had an impact on the percentage increase.



Positively, the rate of re-offences per reoffender has seen a significant decrease across the same 2 periods, with a frequency rate far lower than all comparator groups.

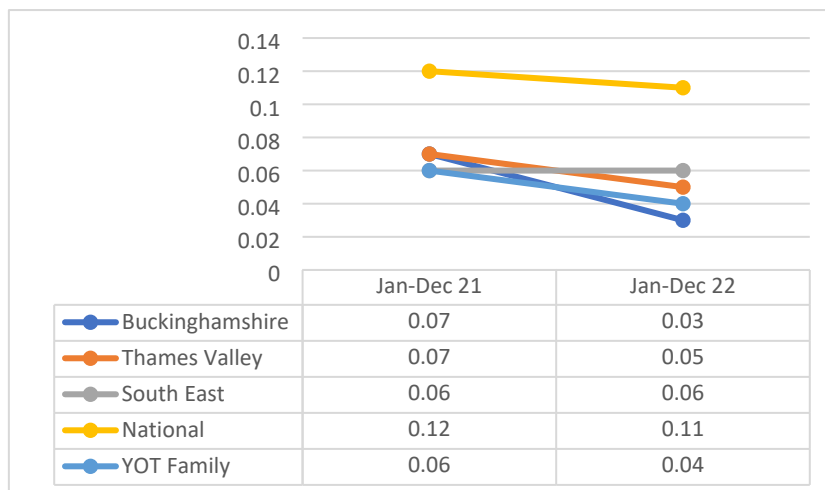


Reducing reoffending remains a key objective and the YOS seek to strengthen their understanding of the factors impacting on this in a number of ways. This includes:

- Data provided by the Police on over-18's reoffending within an identified 12-month cohort, which allowed more detailed analysis to take place. This showed that local data was largely in line with the national figures at that time and where reoffending had taken place, management oversight of the interventions being delivered could have been stronger. As a result of this, and the wider HMIP findings, management oversight training will be delivered in 2023/24.
- Ongoing discussions through the YOS Partnership Board to agree whether more frequent over-18 offending data could be provided therefore increasing the scope of local reoffending data analysis.
- Identification of training for front-line practitioners in 2023/24, to include risk of harm, intervention planning and understanding and supporting neuro-divergent young people.
- Continuing to prioritise staff well-being and recognising the risk of vicarious trauma: reflective supervision; CAMHS group complex case formulation; individual case consultations; and staff feedback activity every 6 months.
- Ongoing audit activity on a monthly basis to ensure practice quality is regularly reviewed.

## **Custody**

The rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence per 1000 of the local 10–17-year-old population has decreased from 0.07 in 2021 to 0.03 in 2022. In actual numbers, this represents a reduction from 4 to 2 young people. Performance is stronger than that seen across the Thames Valley, South East, Nationally and within the YOT family.



The YOS also monitor the number of young people remanded to custody and the number of bed nights this entails. As the table below shows, only 1 young person was remanded in 2022/23 and this represented a reduction in bed nights in comparison with the previous financial year.

	No. of Young People	No. of Bed Nights
2020/21	4	876
2021/22	1	34
2022/23	1	23

Ongoing activity is in place to ensure custody is used only when all community options have been explored. This includes:

- Sustaining the trauma-informed approach to assessing and engaging with young people through the delivery of further training on Psychological Formulation
- The use of custody panels for all appropriate cases, whereby a manager supports the report author in building their proposal
- A comprehensive Quality Assurance Framework that ensures all assessments and report proposals are subject to robust management oversight. This includes activity built in to ensure consistency in approach.

## **Additional Key Performance Indicators from 2023**

From April 2023, the following key performance indicators will be reported on. Key risks and potential challenges are identified for each measure below.

- **Suitable Accommodation** – The national pressures around suitable placements for children looked after has the potential to impact on the new accommodation measure. Whilst custody levels are currently low in Buckinghamshire, any increase in the numbers of those coming back into the community from custody could also impact on the timeliness of placement identification. This has been discussed with the Partnership Board and agreement given that contextual narrative will be supplied as needed to clarify any barriers and ensure issues are escalated where appropriate.
- **Education, Training and Employment** – Whilst information on school attendance is routinely gathered by the YOS, the sheer number of educational establishments in Buckinghamshire can mean that verifying the accuracy of this data is challenging. The YOS have escalated concerns around availability of data to the Partnership Board and this is being addressed through a multi-agency working group.
- **Special Educational Need and Disabilities / Additional Learning Needs** – There has been a decrease in the percentage of those on the YOS caseload with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities over the last 12 months. This is at a time when national data has shown an increase in Education, Health and Care Plans. Local processes are in place to monitor numbers closely, alongside strong working relationships with appropriate partners.
- **Mental Health Care and Emotional Well-being** – The YOS do not currently monitor mental health data and reporting for the KPI will therefore provide an opportunity to have more robust oversight of this. Provision from both CAMHS and wider Health services remains strong, including NHS nurses, a Speech and Language Therapist and delivery of the forensic CAMHS model.
- **Substance Misuse** – Partnership arrangements are in place with local substance misuse provider Cranstoun who deliver interventions for the YOS. The Drug Diversion Scheme provides a targeted intervention for those young people who come to the attention of the police for drug possession offences across Thames Valley and is also delivered by Cranstoun on behalf of the YOS. This partnership relationship is well-embedded.
- **Out of Court Disposals** – 2022/23 saw a significant increase in the numbers of Out of Court Disposals being received in Buckinghamshire and the YOS has responded by increasing provision for those receiving Community Resolutions. Out of Court interventions have been the focus of significant developmental work and new practices have been identified to improve engagement. This should be reflected in the data for this measure moving forward.
- **Links to Wider Services** – As evidenced elsewhere in the Youth Justice Plan, data is monitored on Children’s Services involvement with young people known to the YOS. The YOS sits under Children’s Services within the local authority and benefits from strong strategic links with partners. At an operational level, audit activity also takes place to ensure robust oversight of those young people known to multiple services.
- **Management Board Attendance** – Board attendance has remained strong in Buckinghamshire over the last 12 months. Local processes are in place for monitoring attendance and for identifying if agencies do not attend on a regular basis. Concerns are escalated to the Board Chair who follows up with the relevant partner.

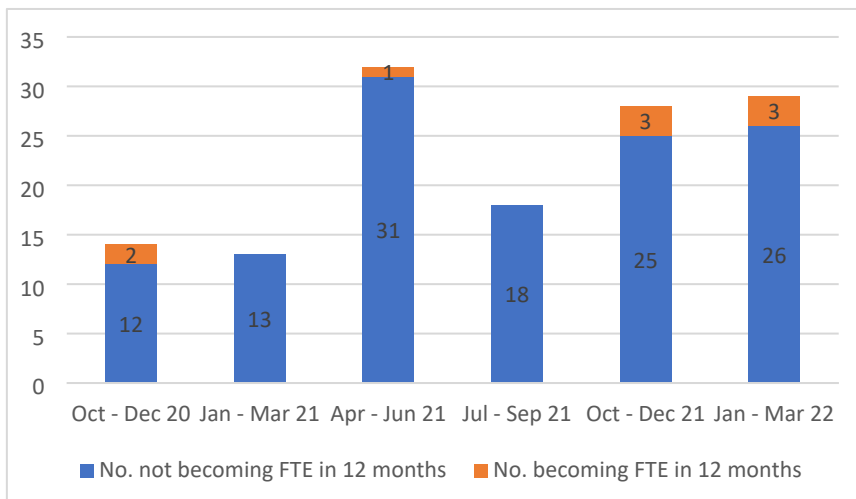
- **Serious Violence** – Serious Violence across Thames Valley fell between 2019 and 2022. This pattern was replicated in Buckinghamshire with a fall in the serious violence crime rate from 0.8 to 0.5 in 2020/21 which held at 0.5 in 2021/22. This measure will provide an opportunity to establish if similar patterns are seen within youth offending data.
- **Victims** – Victim data is monitored across the Thames Valley region and is captured in the Restorative Approaches section of the plan below. The most significant challenge is receiving consent to contact victims, via the Police, to explain the services on offer. Work has taken place across Thames Valley to address this with Police colleagues and to ensure the work the YOS does is actively promoted to these individuals.

Some of these data may provide the opportunity for further analysis of trends and themes within specific areas of the county, alongside the Opportunity Bucks project. This will allow the partnership board to identify gaps in provision within these specific wards.

## 9. Local Performance

### Local Indicator – Prevention Cases that Become First Time Entrants

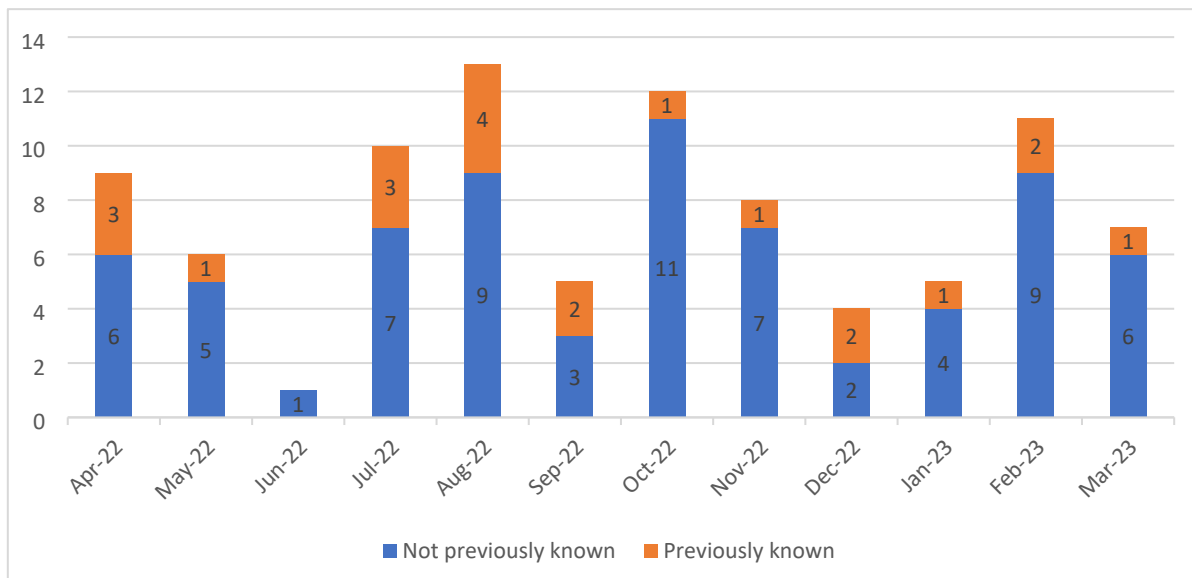
The YOS reports quarterly on Prevention cases that have gone on to become a First Time Entrant within 12 months of starting their intervention. The chart below shows that of the 134 young people engaged in preventative work between October 2020 and March 2022, 9 (6.7%) went on to receive a substantive outcome within 12 months. Whilst this represents a small rise in comparison with the October 2019 to March 2021 cohort, where only 3 (4.5%) went on to receive a substantive outcome within the tracking period, there has been a significant increase in the number of young people engaged on these interventions overall. This increased substantially from 66 young people to 134.



The strength of this performance reflects the effectiveness of the YOS Schools Project in engaging and diverting individuals from an offending pathway. This provides a robust, evidence-based model for the increased focus on prevention work moving forward, with the aim of sustaining and building further on these positive outcomes.

### Local Indicator – First Time Entrants Previously Known to the YOS

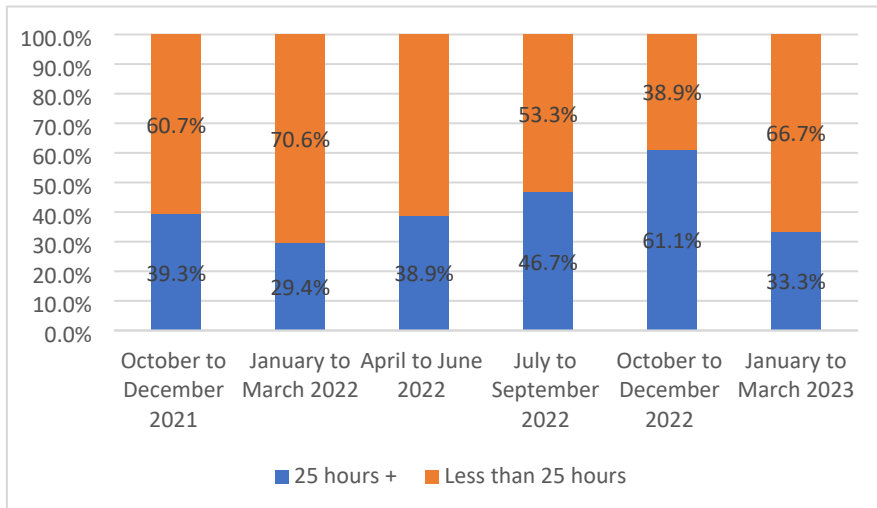
This measure identifies how many young people enter the youth justice system for the first time having been previously engaged by the YOS in a preventative intervention. In the 2022/23 period, there were a total of 91 First Time Entrants, of which 21 (23.1%) had been previously known to the service. This is an increase when compared to 2021/22 where there were 65 First Time Entrants, of which 12 (18.5%) had been previously known to the service. This data reflects both an overall increase in the numbers being engaged at a preventative level and a rise in numbers of First Time Entrants which has yet to translate into the national data, which runs approximately 6 months behind local data.



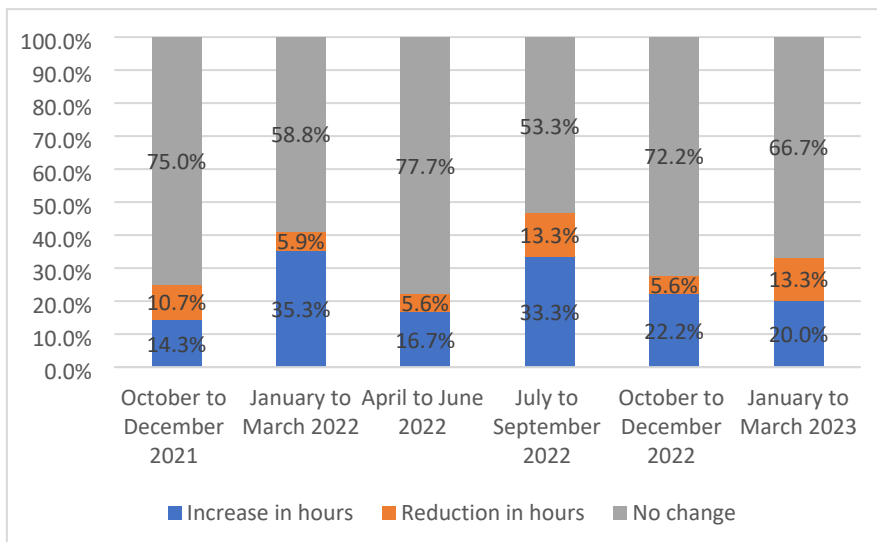
Measuring this particular indicator has 2 key purposes. Firstly, it allows the YOS to monitor the effectiveness of prevention programmes by reviewing individual cases where the young person went on to offend, and secondly, it provides a chance to identify if opportunities were missed to engage those who have not been worked with. The aim of this data analysis is to ultimately reduce the number of those entering the system both previously known and not known to the YOS.

**Local Indicator – Education, Training and Employment**

The YOS monitors the % (and number) of young people receiving 25 hours or more of education, training and employment provision at the end of their intervention. This includes all young people receiving statutory interventions. The data shows that whilst there had been some improvement since October 2021, in the most recent quarter two thirds of those completing YOS programmes were receiving less than 25 hours provision.



In addition, the YOS also monitor the % (and number) of young people receiving more hours provision at the end of their intervention than at the start. This includes all young people receiving statutory interventions. The data shows a significant fluctuation quarter on quarter.

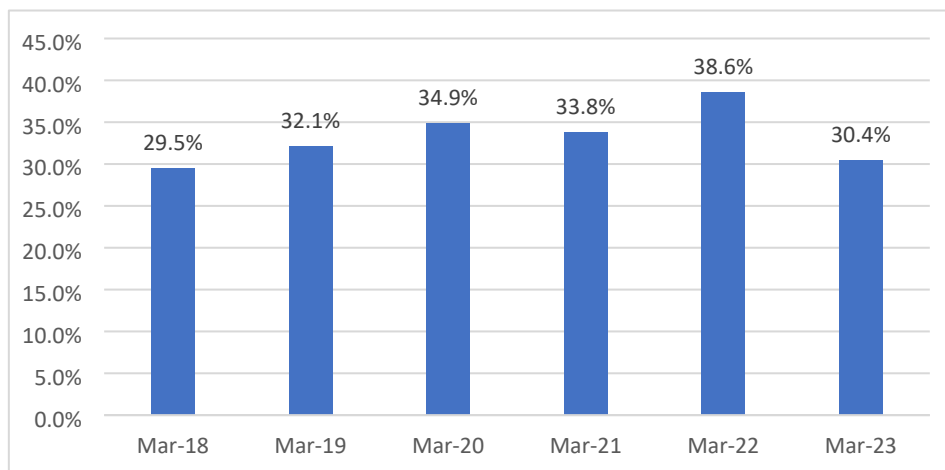


Both of these measures have raised questions around the individual circumstances of the young people within each cohort. This has driven additional development of the local Education, Training and Employment monitoring process to ensure all open cases are tracked and supported as appropriate.

These measures will be replaced by the new key performance indicator which will further strength the understanding of local education, training and employment challenges for young people known to the YOS.

The percentage of young people on the YOS caseload with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is monitored on a monthly basis. The chart below shows a snapshot of this data across the last 6 years, with the reduction in March 2023 going against the general trend of increase across the previous 5 snapshots.

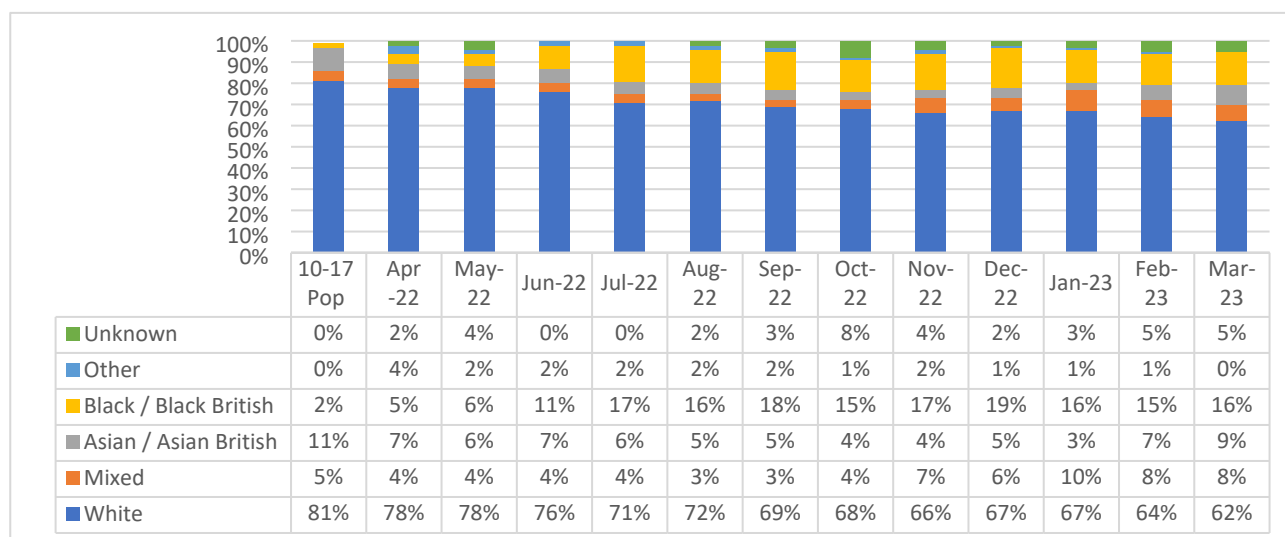




The YOS continue to work closely in partnership with the local authority to address the needs of these young people, as evidenced in the Education section below.

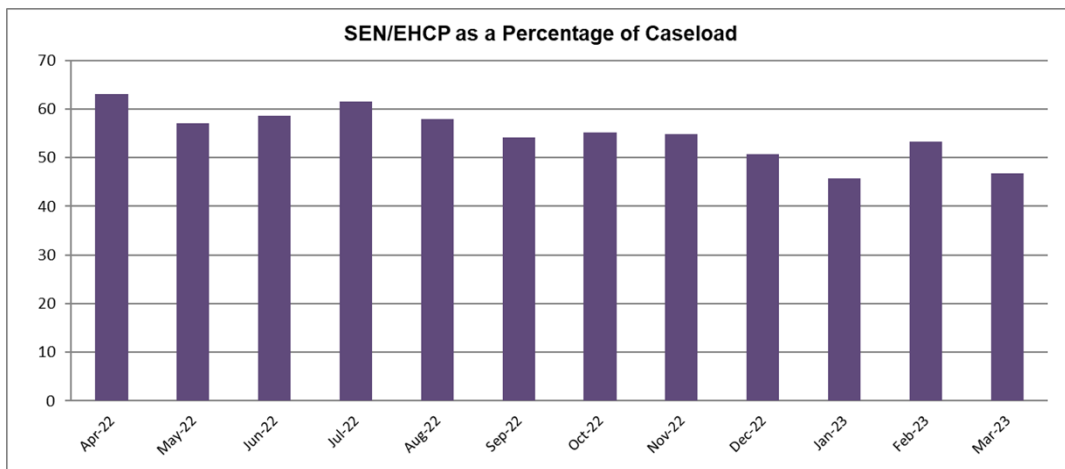
### 10. Children from Groups which are Over-Represented

Work on addressing ethnic disproportionality has been, and continues to be, a key strategic priority and area of particular focus for the YOS. However, despite this there continues to be a disproportionate number of young people from ethnic minority groups on the YOS caseload. This is a similar trend to that seen nationally. This can be seen most significantly for the Black / Black British group, where the local 10 to 17 population is 2% in comparison with the caseload proportion of 16%. Whilst some ethnicity data has now been published from the 2021 census, the YOS have yet to receive the 10–17-year-old breakdown for comparison purposes. The following chart compares the proportion of young people from different ethnic backgrounds from within the 10–17-year-old population and the caseload snapshots from the last 12 months



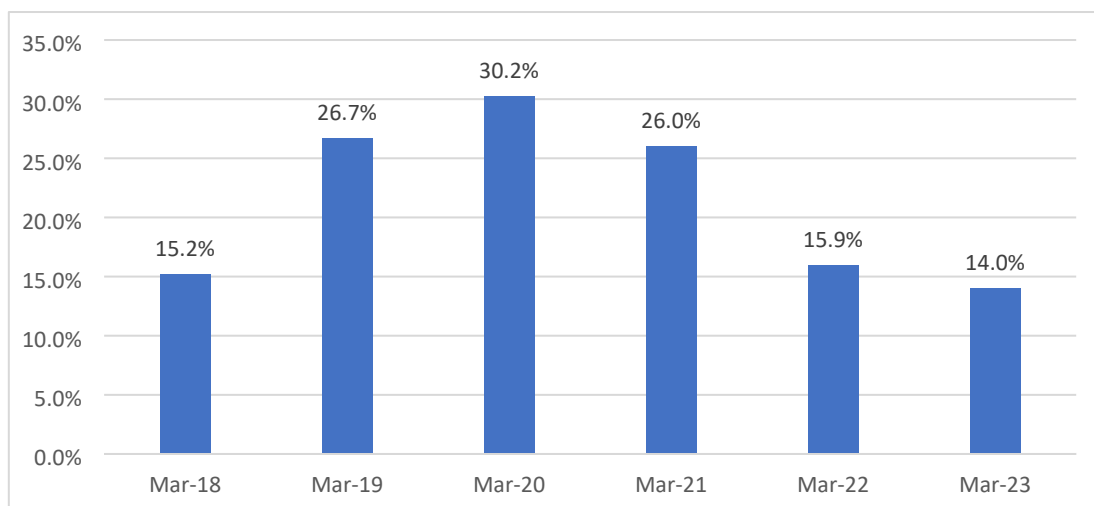
Addressing disproportionality remains one of the 3 key strategic priorities for the YOS. The Partnership Board have committed to regular data sharing as part of the new key performance indicators, and to ensuring that this data is meaningful and drives activity in relation to continuing systemic change. Following the HMIP thematic report on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys, published in October 2021, the Partnership Board adopted all recommendations. Further information on progress against these recommendations is included within the Service Development section.

In relation to children subject to Education Health and Care plans or with identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, the following caseload data shows that whilst there has been a reduction in the proportion of children supported by the YOS, numbers remain disproportionately high.



This is another priority area for the Partnership Board, supported by the new key performance indicator. Following the HMIP Joint Inspection of Education Training and Employment, published in June 2022, the Partnership Board adopted all recommendations. Further information on progress against these recommendations is included within the Service Development section.

Data indicates that Children Looked After are significantly over-represented within the Youth Justice System. The following chart shows a snapshot of Children Looked After as a proportion of the overall caseload over the past 6 years and shows a significant reduction since 2021. However, this still amounts to over-representation when compared to the general population.



The YOS will continue to work closely with colleagues in Children’s Social Care, to ensure that Children Looked After are not unnecessarily criminalised and benefit from the same opportunities for prevention and diversion as those who are not care experienced. Joint audit work ensures that there is ongoing oversight of the quality of work involving children known to the YOS with Children’s Social Care involvement.

The partnership board maintains strategic oversight of data regarding groups that are over-represented in the Youth Justice System. Strategic links with the Opportunity Bucks project will allow the partnership board to analyse patterns of disproportionality within different geographical areas of the county. This will provide further opportunities to address gaps in provision.

## 11. Prevention

The YOS Multi-Agency Schools Project continues to deliver support across 16 schools in Buckinghamshire. This is a significant increase on the 2 schools originally identified at the start of the project and the increased take-up is a testament to the effectiveness of the interventions being delivered. During 2022/23, 168 young people were offered support by the Schools Youth Workers. Additional support is also now in place in 3 Pupil Referral Units, where work is focusing on addressing low attendance levels. A further 4 individuals are engaged within this setting.

The over-arching programme aims to deliver the following outcomes:

1. Enhancing school achievement & engagement (including at risk of exclusion)
2. Preventing crime, violence, and antisocial behaviour
3. Preventing exploitation
4. Improving relationships within the school, peer, or professionals
5. Improving attendance
6. Preventing risky teenage behaviour – including drugs

One of the key measures of effectiveness is whether the individuals engaged go on to enter the youth justice system within 12 months. Of the 128 young people who started an intervention with a Schools Youth Worker in 2021/22, 10 (7.8%) have gone on to receive a substantive outcome and enter the youth justice system in this tracking period. Individual case studies are also collated to evidence impact and to aid learning around good practice.

The YOS Community Coaching project is delivered by Spark2Life and is designed to improve outcomes for identified young people, helping them to achieve their potential. Mentors support individuals through the transition to secondary school and seek to engage them in positive activities in their communities. This project has now been extended to include referrals for siblings of those engaged by the YOS on statutory interventions.

During 2022/23, 10 young people benefitted from one-to-one mentoring. In addition, 5 parents / carers were also supported through this period. As of March 2023, none of the young people supported by the project had gone on to enter the youth justice system. Case studies continue to evidence the positive impact mentors have on these young people's lives.

## 12. Diversion

Expanding the scope and breadth of the diversionary work in relation to out of court disposals is identified as one of the 3 key strategic priorities for the YOS. This is an area of work in which there has been, and will continue to be, a significant amount of activity and the Partnership Board retain a high level of oversight. 2022/23 saw the YOS increase the scope of out of court disposal work. This was very clearly identified as an area of improvement in the HMIP Inspection report published in January 2023. The

improvement plan which followed, along with the start of the Ministry of Justice funded Turnaround project, has led to the following specific pieces of work:

- The creation of 2 distinct 'pathways' into early intervention support: route A – children and young people who are eligible for Turnaround support; route B – those who are being discussed at the out of court decision making panel.
- A new process that ensures the views of children, young people and families are sought prior to out of court disposal outcome, where this is possible.
- The recruitment of 2 new posts: a Turnaround coordinator and a Turnaround Youth Worker
- The creation of a new out of court disposal assessment and planning tool
- The creation of a new out of court disposal quality assurance template
- Refresher training for staff in relation to safety and well-being, specifically for out of court disposals
- The commissioning of management oversight training with a specific focus of out of court disposals
- Updated out of court disposal guidance
- Improvements made to quality assurance and performance monitoring process for out of court disposals, ensuring significantly increased oversight in this area.

### 13. Education

In June 2022, Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) published a joint Inspection of Education Training and Employment services in Youth Offending Teams in England and Wales. One of the published recommendations is for Youth Justice Services to have a clear vision and strategy. The YOS's vision and strategy is contained within the Youth Justice Plan and is informed by the recommendations from the HMIP local area Inspection report, which was published in January 2023, as well as the findings from the Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of the services provided for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Buckinghamshire from March 2022.

The vision for Buckinghamshire YOS is to ensure that as a result of the support offered by the service, all children regardless of the level of intervention, benefit from improved outcomes in relation to education, training and employment.

The Service Director for Education is a member of the Partnership Board, enabling strong strategic links. The YOS is required to report on Key Performance Indicators, specifically in relation to Education, of which the Partnership Board maintains strong oversight and scrutiny. The local authority provides designated ring-fenced funding to the YOS, which funds a dedicated Education Officer post, which supports the delivery of outcomes in this area.

The HMIP Inspection report, published in January 2023, contained the following recommendations specifically in relation to education:

*"The Youth Offending Service Partnership Board should monitor the reintegration rates of YOS children into mainstream education to make sure that children return to full-time mainstream education in every case where this is appropriate".*

There are a number of actions contained within the HMIP action plan relating to this recommendation, progress against which is outlined in the Service Development section of this document. Overall oversight of this recommendation and linked actions are held by the Service Director for Education.

The YOS works in partnership with colleagues in Education to achieve the stated vision for education and to address recommendations made in the Joint Inspection of Education, Training and Employment Services in Youth Offending Teams in England and Wales (July 2022), as well as the YOS local area Inspection. To achieve this work, the following responsibilities are undertaken:

**Team Manager:**

- Holds the lead area for Education and both chairs and represents the YOS on a number of key partnership meetings in relation to Education and Special Education needs and Disabilities.

**Education Officer:**

- Represents the YOS at a number of key operational meetings regarding Education
- Ensures a focus on addressing children and young people who are not currently engaged with a suitable education provision.
- Is a qualified teacher and delivers some direct teaching to children.

The YOS receives support from 2 part-time Speech and Language therapists, who deliver screenings and intervention for children identified with potential speech language and communication needs. They also deliver important training for staff and deliver consultations where needed.

The 2 Police and Crime Commissioner funded prevention projects that the YOS run in schools are both central to the education strategy. Both have consistently demonstrated positive outcomes for children, further details of which are contained within the Prevention section of this document. Of the 16 secondary schools who received support as part of the multi-Agency Schools project, 7 are located within the 10 wards identified as priority based on deprivation, as part of the local authority's Opportunity Bucks project.

As part of the multi-Agency schools project, the YOS also delivers a programme of positive activities for children during school holidays, funded by the Holidays Activities and Food Programme. This has been extremely successful and well received by children and parents. It has assisted the YOS in being able to engage young people and provided opportunities for consulting with young people on key decisions around service delivery.

In addition to this work, the YOS also offers some additional resource to support children who attend pupil referral units, where there are concerns around low attendance. This is in recognition of increasing numbers of children affected by the pandemic and the vulnerability associated with low school attendance.

**Snapshot of data**

As of May 2023, the overall number of children and young people open to Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service and not receiving their education entitlement was 13, accounting for 15% of the caseload. This is broken down into the following categories:

- Electively Home Educated – 3 (23%)
- Not in Education, Training or Employment – 7 (54%)
- Education Health and Care Plan No Placement – 2 (15%)
- Admissions Pending – 1 (8)

The ethnic groups of this cohort reflect the disproportionality seen in wider caseload data, with only 62% from a White ethnic background.

Of these children and young people, 6 (46%) have an Education Health and Care Plan or have an identified Special Educational Need and 9 (69%) are known to Children’s Social Care. This represents a disproportionate number of children and young people with identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and who are known to Children’s Social Care that are not receiving their education entitlement. The local authority is aware of this and the presence of a YOS Team Manager and Education Officer in the above forums represents steps being taken to ensure that vulnerable children receive their education entitlement.

The HMIP improvement plan, includes actions specially in relation to improving work to support the reintegration of children from alternative education provision. As such, the delivery of this work is overseen by the Partnership Board. Operationally, the Education Officer meets with all practitioners to ensure there is a focus on supporting these children to reintegrate to mainstream education where appropriate.

#### 14. Restorative Approaches and Victims

Data is collected across Thames Valley for a local performance indicator relating to victim engagement. This is collated by the Buckinghamshire YOS Performance Review and Information Manager and discussed at the Thames Valley YOT Manager’s Meeting. The table below provides the data for 2022/23. This shows that both the percentage of victims giving consent to be contacted and the percentage accepting an offer of support from the YOS is lower than average in Buckinghamshire.

	<b>Numbers - Bucks</b>	<b>% Bucks</b>	<b>% Thames Valley</b>
Total Number of victims identified in period	230		
a) Number of victims identified in period – Pre-court	206		
b) Number of victims identified in period - Court	24		
Number of victims where consent to contact is given on the YOT1	100	43.5%	56.8%
Victims who accept the service from the YOT (where consent has been given)	34	34%	62.6%
Victims engaged in indirect Restorative Justice / reparation	17	50%	53.4%
Victims engaged in direct Restorative Justice / reparation	2	5.9%	9.6%

Ongoing developments in this area of practice include:

- Delivery of refresher training on Restorative Justice to all front-line staff
- The introduction of regular restorative justice surgeries, where front-line practitioners meet with the RJ Worker to discuss the young people on their caseload and identify opportunities for restorative intervention. This includes the use of Restorative Family Meetings

- The recruitment of a Community Engagement Practitioner who will lead on the development of additional restorative opportunities in the community, specifically targeting those wards identified as priority as part of the Opportunity Bucks project.

All victims who are engaged are asked if they would like to provide feedback on the service they have received. Between January and December 2022, 7 victims responded, with all of them either satisfied or very satisfied with their involvement with the YOS.

The YOS continues to deliver Restorative Justice training to other professionals, helping embed the use of a restorative approach across a range of agencies. During 2022/23, 85 professionals received training, including social workers, foster carers, residential workers, and Police Community Support Officers. Case studies gathered from participants following the training provide tangible evidence of the effectiveness of this in de-escalating conflict.

## 15. Serious Violence and Exploitation

The YOS is represented on the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Board by the Head of Youth Offending Service for Oxfordshire, who represents Thames Valley YOTs at this forum.

Locally, the YOS is part of the Serious Violence Task Force, which is a forum chaired by the Service Director for Children’s Social Care and attended by partners and stakeholders involved in the delivery of the Serious Violence Duty. This forum acts as a steering group for the Serious Violence plan and Serious Violence duty actions. Participation with this group ensures that the YOS is fully engaged in ensuring that it meets its obligations as part of the serious violence duty.

As a key partner in the Thames Valley VRU, the YOS is a signatory to the Thames Valley Together (TVT) project, a cloud-based environment where strategic partners can share data and drive analytics in relation to serious violence.

The YOS continues to work closely with colleagues in the Missing and Exploitation Hub. Developments have included:

- Spot purchase of lived experience mentoring for children vulnerable to exploitation and at risk of offending or reoffending
- 2 YOS Officers have exploitation as a lead area and act as the link between services / provide consultation to staff
- Collaboration between the YOS and Exploitation Hub on the delivery of contextual safeguarding and trauma informed practice training.

In response to 2 serious violence incidents involving young people, the YOS set up a new pilot weapons awareness groupwork programme for young people attending Alternative Education Provision in Buckinghamshire. This was delivered across 4 sessions in April and May 2023 and covered the following areas: myth busting, including a session with a young person open to the YOS for a weapon related offence; drugs and weapons, involving local substance misuse providers; ‘street’ first aid, delivered by YOS nurses; police, eventualities and consequences. Both pilots are in the process of being evaluated. Further groupwork is planned for more schools, benefitting children who live in the wards identified as priority based on deprivation, as part of the Opportunity Bucks project.

## 16. Detention in Police Custody

Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service receives Person In Custody information daily from Thames Valley Police, allowing for oversight of children and young people from Buckinghamshire being present in Thames Valley Custody Suites. These are monitored by the duty manager and where appropriate contact is made with partner agencies to address concerns to ensure children and young people and victims are safeguarded. The YOS continues to maintain strong working relationships with neighbouring Youth Justice Services, to ensure children taken to custody suits outside of the county, receive the support to which they are entitled.

The service has volunteers who act as appropriate adults for children and young people in police custody, however, if one cannot be sourced from this resource a duty officer will attend. Outside of working hours, the Emergency Social Work Team provide this service.

An example of our efforts to ensure effective representation for children and young people can be seen in the case of Child A. Child A was arrested for serious offences, and Courts granted Police permission to detain them for an extended time. Considering the best interests of the child, the YOS were concerned that multiple interviews over several days could result in them receiving a service from a number of appropriate adults. Therefore, the agreement was made for the YOS Senior Practitioner to be present for the period of their detention and fulfil the role of appropriate adult throughout. This approach allowed the young person's needs to be fully understood and represented throughout the detention period and for them to receive a consistent level of service.

## 17. Remands

The use of custodial remand for young people in Buckinghamshire remains low. With only 1 young person remanded to youth detention accommodation in 2022/23, numbers are too small to draw conclusions on themes experienced by those within that cohort. The YOS continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure the needs of those in custody are met on an individual level. Data is monitored at both operational and board level, and any increase in numbers will lead to analysis to understand the drivers behind this.

The number of remands to local authority accommodation has fluctuated over the last 3 years, as the table below illustrates. It is possible that the increase in numbers in 2022/23 may have been affected by recent changes within the external placement market, which have impacted all local authorities nationally. Demand for placements has continued to rise, driven by a combination of factors that include more young people with complex needs, placements for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), and more child protection work involving young children. Simultaneously, the supply of placements has reduced, particularly in residential establishments where difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff (related to cost-of-living pressures) and strict Ofsted 'matching' expectations have had a marked impact.

Where potential remands to local authority accommodation are identified, the YOS works closely with Social Care colleagues taking a multi-agency approach to agreeing the best outcome for the young person.



	No. of Young People Remanded to Local Authority Accommodation
2020/21	3
2021/22	0
2022/23	3

## 18. Use of Custody

As the National Indicator data in section 9 of the plan shows, custody levels remain low in Buckinghamshire. With 2 young people receiving a custodial sentence in 2022, numbers are too small to draw conclusions on themes experienced by those within this cohort. The YOS continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure the needs of those in custody are met on an individual level. Data is monitored at both operational and board level, and any increase in numbers will lead to analysis to understand the drivers behind this.

## 19. Constructive Resettlement

Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service has a clear Resettlement Policy, which is also used by case managers during other transition phases, for example for a placement move for children looked after.

During their Inspection in 2022, HMIP rated the Resettlement Policy and Provision as Outstanding and found the following strengths:

*“The YOS resettlement policy (March 2022) promotes a high-quality, constructive, and personalised resettlement service for all children. The policy sets out a strengths-based approach that considers identity shift, safety and wellbeing, and promotes a personalised resettlement service for all children.”*

*“The policy sets out caretaking requirements for any child who is released to live in another borough. It refers to considering diversity and provides direction and guidance to staff on effective resettlement practice in line with relevant research recommendations.”*

*“The quality of work in the resettlement case we inspected was excellent. The child was fully engaged, kept up to date on plans and multi-agency work was noted as a strength. Effective work was undertaken to manage risk of harm and support the child’s safety and wellbeing, with a consistent focus on diversity.”*

## 20. Standards for Children in the Justice System

Whilst the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System 2019 removed many of the prescriptive timescales of previous guidance, locally the YOS have developed standards that are reported to the Partnership Board via the Performance Report on a quarterly basis. These include:

- **Assessment Timescales** – all assessments should be quality assured and countersigned within 35 days of report request / sentence / review being opened. Between October 2022 and March 2023, 95% of assessments took place within this timescale.
- **Frequency of Assessment** – all statutory interventions should be reviewed at a minimum of every 6 months. This measure is taken as a snapshot at the start of each month. At the time of writing, 92% of open cases had been reviewed within these timescales.
- **Home Visits** – home visits should take place within either 14 days before or after a start or review assessment being opened. Between October 2022 and March 2023, 85% of home visits took place within this timescale.
- **Referral Order Panels** – panels should take place within 20 working days of sentence. Between October 2022 and March 2023, 9% of panels took place within this timescale. A new process has been introduced to ensure any panel that may go out of timescales is authorised by a senior manager to ensure appropriate oversight of this measure and an improvement in performance.

In conjunction with the bi-annual Quality Report, this gives strategic assurance of both quantitative and qualitative performance and a key opportunity for challenge if there are concerns with operational practice.

The additional Key Performance Indicators introduced in April 2023, will add another layer of oversight of performance against key standards.

## 21. Workforce Development

The YOS produces a Workforce Development Plan which is reviewed monthly by managers. The following plan has been produced for 2023/24:

What is the training?	Who is the training for?	Who is the provider?	When will this be completed?
Management Oversight Training	Managers	Cordis Bright	By Sept 23
Social Media (risk in assessment)	Front-line practitioners	Internally delivered	Sep-23
Risk of Harm Training	Front-line practitioners	Internally delivered	May 23
Out of Court Disposal Assessment Tool	Front-line practitioners and managers	Internally delivered	May 23
Gender Identity Awareness Training	Identified YOS Officers and a manager	External Provider	TBC

		TBC	
Further service wide training to be identified	All staff	TBC	TBC

The YOS has recently taken steps to proactively increase the diversity of the workforce by following enhanced recruitment processes, which reach a wider and more diverse audience. This has been successful in delivering an increase in numbers applying and a more diverse range of applicants for recent posts.

Following two training events in 2022/23 on Contextual Safeguarding and Psychological Interventions, a management audit was undertaken to review the impact of the training. The outcomes from this audit have informed the development of the local quality assurance tool.

Steps have been taken to increase staff feedback, and there is a YOS Officer identified as well-being and participation champion. A ‘You Said, We Did’ process led to a number of changes to practice. The Partnership Board has identified increasing participation with YOS staff as a priority for the coming year.

**22. Evidence-based Practice, Innovation and Evaluation**

In 2022/23 and previous years, the Youth Justice Plan included evidence-based practice as one of the 3 key strategic priorities. This year the decision has been taken to remove this, reflecting the fact that evidence-based practice is embedded throughout the work that the YOS does. Both prevention projects in schools, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, deliver strong evidence-based outcomes. These are covered within the Prevention section of this document. Work has commenced with research specialists within the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit on further developing the evidence of the effectiveness of the Multi-Agency Schools Project, with a view to strengthening the case for ongoing funding for the project, beyond April 2025.

The YOS also ensure that projects and interventions are evaluated using qualitative outcomes, recognising that not all impact can be assessed quantitatively. An example of this is an evaluation of spot purchased, lived experience mentoring provision, the outcomes of which has been documented in the ‘Progress on Previous Plan’ section.

**23. Service Development Plan**

Following the HMIP Inspection in September 2022 and the subsequent report, which was published in January 2023, an action plan was agreed by the Partnership Board and approved by HMIP. The plan is monitored by the Partnership Board, with individual recommendations and actions held by members to ensure strategic ownership. There were 7 recommendations made by inspectors. An additional 3 priority actions were identified following areas for improvement contained within the inspection report. Below is a breakdown of work undertaken against each recommendation.

**Recommendation 1: Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Board should monitor the reintegration rates of YOS children into mainstream education to make sure that children return to full-time mainstream education in every case where this is appropriate**

- A system has been created to monitor and track children in alternative provisions and to use this to drive YOS practice in respect of reintegration.
- Joint audit work is planned with colleagues in Education, on the quality of work undertaken with children not in mainstream education for over 3 months. The findings from this will inform further work in this area.

**Recommendation 2: Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Board should ensure information within out of court disposal assessments consistently reflects social care input and that the roles and responsibilities for each service area are clearly identified within children's plans.**

- Joint audit activity is planned with colleagues in children's social care, on the quality of out of court assessment and planning. The findings of this will inform further work in this area.
- The quarterly quality report submitted to the Partnership Board, will now include additional data on the quality of out of court work.
- Workshops are being delivered to social care teams, to increase understanding of out of court disposals.

**Recommendation 3: Buckinghamshire YOS should improve the quality of assessment and planning for Out of Court disposal work to focus on the safety and well-being of children and the management or risk of harm to others**

- A new Out of Court Disposal Assessment tool has been created, using the draft Youth Justice Board tool. The impact of this tool on practice will be monitored and evaluated.
- Quality assurance processes have been amended to ensure QA is distributed across the management team.
- An external provider has been commissioned to deliver management oversight training.
- Changes have been made to the reviewing manager system, to streamline and improve the process for providing management oversight.
- Internal training is planned for staff on assessing and planning in relation to risk and safety and well-being.

**Recommendation 4: Buckinghamshire YOS should review Out of Court disposal guidance so that it sets out explicitly how the service intends to meet all diversity, safety and well-being needs and risk of harm to others**

- The guidance document has been reviewed to include risk, safety and well-being, and diversity and inclusion, linking to other relevant policies.
- The review also includes an overview of the new Out of Court Disposal referral routes.

**Recommendation 5: Buckinghamshire YOS should strengthen the Out of Court Disposal Process so that children and families are engaged at the earliest opportunity**

- A new process has been created which provides 2 clear referral 'routes' into out of court disposal support. Qualitative impact will be assessed as part of the Turnaround programme.
- The views of children and families are now sought prior to outcome decisions being made, for all suitable cases
- Agreement has been made with Police colleagues that Youth Caution outcome decisions will be made via the joint decision-making panel, wherever possible.

***Recommendation 6: Buckinghamshire YOS should consistently ensure that there are suitable supervision arrangements for children completing reparation and expand the number of projects available***

- The job description was amended to create a new Community Coordinator post.
- Recruitment is underway for this post, and this has taken place with assistance from colleagues from the Council's Community Safety Team.
- Once recruitment has been completed this will facilitate an increase in reparation placements available.

***Recommendation 7: Buckinghamshire YOS should seek to proactively diversify the pool of volunteers so that it reflects the children and families the service works with***

- Work has been undertaken to gain feedback from staff and colleagues in other youth justice services, on ideas for diversifying the pool of volunteers.
- The new Community Coordinator post will assist in building links between the community and the YOS.
- A plan will be created setting out how the diversity of volunteers will be increased.

**Priority 1: Managers and the board could do more to consistently recognise and reward good work**

- Opportunities for shadowing of key pieces of YOS work have been provided to the Partnership Board and a rota has been created to ensure this takes place.
- Further opportunities are planned to enable board members to meet with children and young people.
- Staff have been consulted on ways in which the board can provide feedback to the team, and this has been shared with the Partnership Board chair.
- Impact will be assessed via feedback from staff.

**Priority 2: Inspectors noted some delays in interventions starting once disposal decisions had been made**

- A number of improvements have been made to the weekly quality assurance monitoring meeting, to strengthen oversight in this area.
- The allocations process has been strengthened, with a more formalised allocations meeting template used in every case.
- Impact will be assessed through quality monitoring processes.

**Priority 3: Victim issues are considered at the risk management panels and resettlement panels, but the policy could define the role of the YOS Restorative Justice/Victim worker more clearly and set out the support available to victims**

- The policy has been reviewed to ensure the role of the Restorative Justice Officer is more clearly defined.

In addition to this action plan, the following key pieces of work are identified in line with the 3 strategic priorities for the year:

<b>Addressing Disproportionality</b>
Continue to provide mentoring support to children and parents, to support transition from year 6 to 7
Agree set of partnership measures for evaluating the effectiveness of disproportionality work
Develop collaborative data sharing across the partnership, through the new KPI framework, to support in influencing systemic change in this area
Seek further opportunities to increase the diversity of the workforce, to ensure it better reflects the children, young people and families that are supported by the YOS
<b>Addressing Exploitation of Young People</b>
Monitor and report on lived experience mentoring
Deliver a knife crime prevention group and monitor the impact of this on the young people involved
Deliver prevention groupwork in schools, which includes a focus on exploitation, and monitor the impact of this on the young people involved
<b>Expanding Prevention Work</b>
Increase the number of young people engaged in diversionary activity through the Turnaround project, with measures in places to evidence impact
Ensure creative programmes used to engage young people, which deliver impact
Ensure the delivery of consistently high-quality assessments for all prevention and diversion work
Develop additional measures to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention work
<b>Additional Priority Pieces of Work</b>
Increase participation of young people in key service development decisions

Key pieces of work identified in response to the HMIP thematic review of Education, Training and Employment are covered in the Education section of this plan.

There has been one Critical Learning Review carried out in 2022/23, which led to the following actions which were adopted by the Partnership Board in April 2023:

- Learning from the review to be shared with key partners, including a neighbouring Youth Offending Service
- Improvements to be made to information sharing protocols between the MASH and the YOS, in respect of children who move into the county
- The YOS to provide updated risk of serious harm training to practitioners.

#### 24. Challenges, Risks and Issues

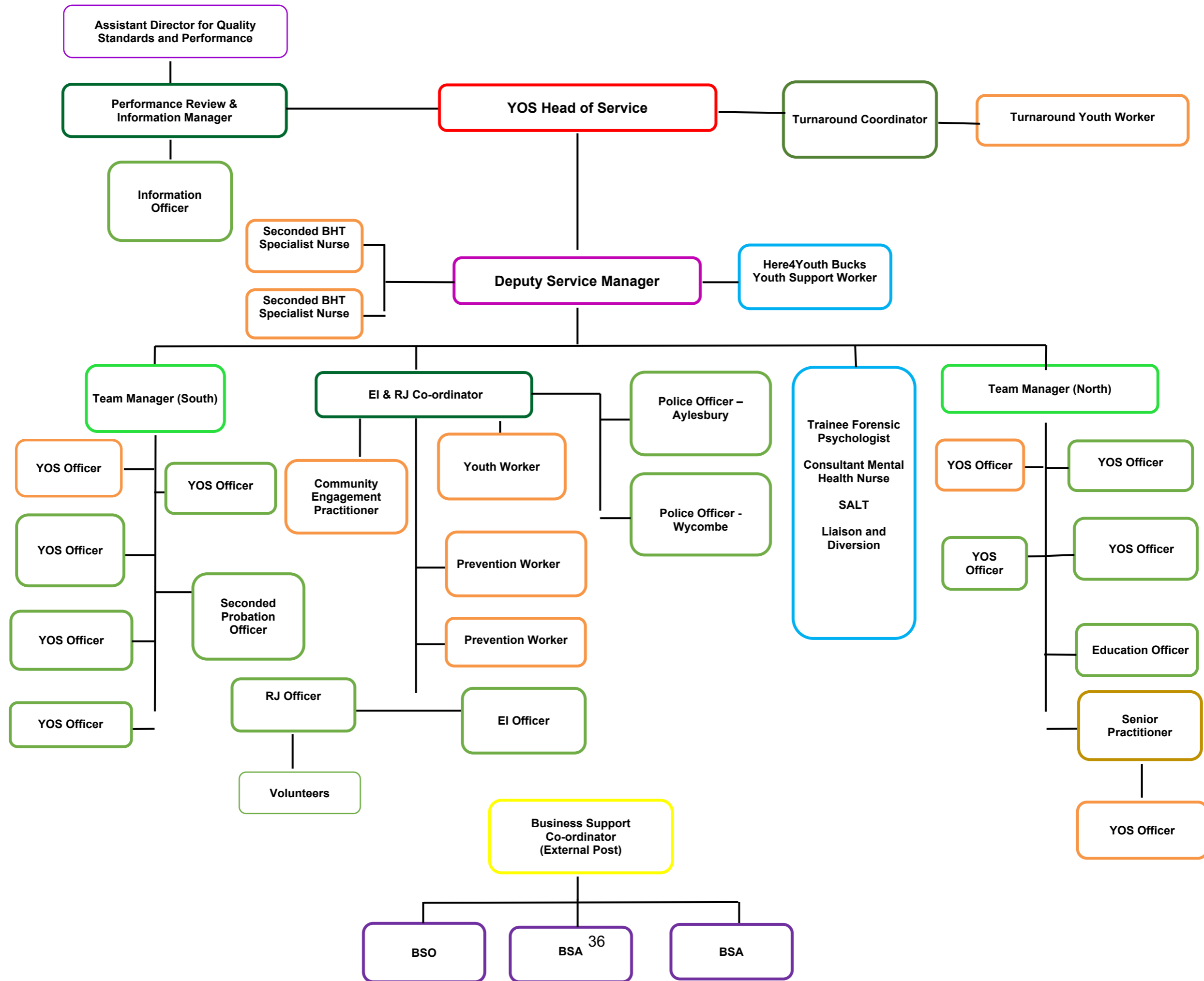
The following are identified as current challenges to delivery:

- The shift towards prevention and diversion presents the challenge of engaging children, sometimes with complex needs, on a voluntary intervention. The Turnaround Project provides a Youth Work resources and intervention projects aimed at increasing levels of engagement.
- The nature of exploitation, crossing over multiple Local Authorities and Police forces, means disruption activities and consistency of practice can be challenging. This can lead to difficulties in embedding a trauma informed model of delivery. The YOS seek to address this by working closely with colleagues in Children’s Social Care and within the specialist Exploitation Hub, who have good links to regional and national networks such as the South-East Regional Organised Crime Unit.
- The systemic over-representation of Black and Mixed heritage children across the criminal justice sector is an ongoing challenge. This is recognised by the Partnership Board as a significant systemic issue and addressing this continues to be a key strategic priority.
- The current national situation with placements for children in care means that the most vulnerable may not have the most suitable environment to support desistance. The YOS work closely in partnership with colleagues across the council to support our most vulnerable to access a stable living environment.

#### 25. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	John Macilwraith
Signature	
Date	30 June 2023

Appendix 1 – Staffing Structure





Appendix 2 – Budget Costs and Contributions 2023/24

The following partnership resources contribute towards the aims and expected outcomes in the plan:

<b>Partner Contributions 2023-2024</b>	<b>Staffing Costs (£)</b>	<b>Posts In Kind</b>	<b>Other Delegated Funds (£)</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
<b>Buckinghamshire Council</b>	686,051		40,000	726,051
<b>Thames Valley Police</b>		90,657		90,657
<b>Integrated Care Board</b>		76,285		76,285
<b>National Probation Service</b>		29,431	8,580	38,011
<b>Police Crime Commissioner</b>	134,663		65,000	199,663
<b>Youth Justice Board Grant</b>	475,306			475,306
<b>Ministry of Justice (Turnaround)</b>	114,685			114,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,410,705</b>	<b>196,373</b>	<b>113,580</b>	<b>1,720,658</b>

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