

# Children's Services Performance Report

Children's Health, Social Care and  
Education Overview and Scrutiny

*Data Position for end of Quarter 3 16/17  
(with January 17 updates where available)*

# Headline Messages from the data

Early Help

**Contacts**– Family Contact Point records all contacts to the Council for children's services. There were 10923 contacts from Apr 16- Jan 17, compared to 11306 for the same period in 2015/16. 2356(21.5%) contacts progressed to referral to children's social care. 2356 referrals accepted by social care during the period April 16 to January 17, which is lower than 2731 in the previous year.

**Early Help Record and Plan** – Q3 data for this is not yet available – see early help section for further information.

At the end of December 2016, 1290 families received extra support from the **health visiting** service in addition to the universal service offer, compared to 1396 at the end of December 2015.

1074 children had an involvement with **TAMHS (Targeted Mental Health in Schools)** as at the end of December 2016. 149 young mothers are being supported through Family Nurse Partnership.

The number of contacts is now at a lower rate than at the same point in the previous year, and this is a first in 16/17. The number of referrals has also reduced. The MASH implementation is key in this development.

Early help services continue to provide a range of community health services as part of the early help offering. Young mothers are consistently supported through the Family Nurse partnership.

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**Children looked after**- At the end of January 2017, there were 326 children looked after. This is an increase from 277 at the end of January 16. 123 children (37.7%), were in externally commissioned placements at end January 2017, an increase From 30.4% in Jan 2016.

**Adoption** – 15 children were adopted between April 2016 and January 2017. compared with 4 for the same period in the previous year. There were 31 children on placement orders at the end of January 17.

**Post-16: In-learning rates** for 16 and 17 year olds (as at January 2017) was 91.5%, 2.2% increase from the previous year, and below the national (92.2%) and regional (91.8%) averages. **NEET** rate (2.9%) increase for 16-17 year olds but the **Unknowns** for 16-17s has decreased to (2.9%), January 2016 (5.2%).

The number of children looked after continues to remain at a higher level than in previous year.

The number of children being adopted is much higher than in previous year. The decision to adopt is being made within good timescales to ensure best outcome for child.

Education

**Children with SEN** - At 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016 there were 1,597 children with statutory SEN assessments maintained by the LA (650 with a Statement and 947 with an Education, Health and Care plan). A further 4,336 had a category of SEN Support as recorded by schools in the October census.

**School Absence** – Primary and Secondary school absence are at 3.7% and 4.9% for the Autumn and Spring terms of 2015/16. Swindon is lower than the national average, and figures are down on the previous year.

**School Exclusions** – 856 Fixed Term exclusions took place between September 2016 and the end of January 2017, slightly more than the 843 in the same period last year. There have been 29 permanent exclusions in this time period – more than the whole of 2015/16.

Participation in Learning has increased. Less young people have unknown post-16 activities than the previous year.

There are more permanent exclusions in the academic year to January 2017 than there were in all of 2015/16.

# Headline Messages from Social Care Safeguarding Data.

## REFERRALS

**Referrals** – There were 2356 referrals from Apr 2016 to Jan 2017 compared to 2731 for the previous year. Of the 2356 referrals, 27.0% were re-referrals . Most of the re-referrals relate to domestic abuse notifications.

Less contacts are progressing to social care referral which is partly attributable to more effective screening at the contact stage in the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub).

## ASSESSMENTS

### Statutory Assessments

From April 2016 to January 2017, a total of 2702 statutory (social care) assessments were completed compared with 2599 for April 15– January 16. Given the lower referral rate this indicates the majority of social care referrals lead to a statutory assessment.

The number of statutory assessments completed has increased despite a decrease in contact and referral, so the demand on the service is still high

There were 668 **child protection enquiries** (also known as **section 47 enquiries**) between April 2016 and January 2017. The percentage of enquiries going to Child Protection Conference within 15 working days has decreased from 76% between April 2015 and September 2015 to 65.8% between April 2016 and January 2017

The number of children on child protection plans continues to be a high level. This inevitably impacts on capacity to progress all cases to initial conference within timescales. The vast majority of cases are reviewed on time, and any delays are authorised by service management.

## CHILD PROTECTION

**Child Protection Plans** - 280 children were on a child protection plan at the end of January 2017. The number has increased from 256 in January 2016. The number of children on a child protection plan is above the national and statistical neighbour average. 97.3% had their child protection **reviews** completed on time as at the end of January 17 compared to 97.2% for the same period inn 2015/16. This is based on those children on a plan at the end of January 17 for 3 months or more.

The rate of children starting a **child protection plan** for a second or subsequent time decreased to 18.5% between April 16 and January 17, down from 21.6% in January 16. This is encouraging in the context of a high number of plans, and performance will continued to be monitored closely .

Children on subsequent child protection plans has sustained good performance since the last report. The number of children remaining on plans for 2 years or more at the point of ceasing, is higher than in previous year, but at present, no child on a plan, has been on one for more than 2 years.

At the end of January 2017, 4.93% (11 children) of children ceasing a protection plan had been on a **plan for 2 years or more** compared to 0.5% January in 2016.

### Performance Assessment

#### **No new data is available for Early Help Records and Plans.**

**Early Help Record (EHR).** Due to capacity issues in the FCP/MASH it has not been possible to upload records and plans onto the Children's case management system in a timely way. Records and plans are sent to the MASH mailbox daily and uploading had fallen behind leaving a significant backlog to be uploaded. These EH R&P's are not referrals into FCP/MASH for decision-making and only requires administrative uploading to the ICS system. This is a skilled task requiring an understanding of the case management system. Using temporary staff to clear the backlog was unsatisfactory and a permanent solution has subsequently been found by transferring the task to Business Support in the new Family Service. It is expected that Q3 data will be run by mid-March 17 and the backlog will be reduced to daily uploading by the end of April.

**Early Help Plan (Plan) and Early Help Review (Review)** The Early Help Record will always lead to a plan being created for the child. The plan may be delivered in a number of ways depending on its complexity. It is important to be reminded that despite the delay in uploading records and plans the Single Assessment process (records, plans and reviews) continues to be central to early intervention. It remains uncertain however if these records and plans leads to active engagement through Teams Around the Child, meetings that support progression and intervention for a child.

#### **Troubled Families Programme:**

At the end of January 17 there were 644 families identified as meeting the TF criteria who had engaged with a service team, which is 91% of the 2016/17 Troubled Families target. There are in excess of 148 additional families identified as eligible for the programme and so the service is on track to meet the 2016/17 target. It is likely the service will exceed the targeted number of families to work with in 2016/17 which in turn will put us in a positive position in terms of achieving the 2017/18 target.

Claims linked to successful outcomes have been made for 85 families which is 28% of the 2016/17 target of 309 families. The full year forecast for claims is 105 families (34% of the claims target).

### Strengths

- Establishment of a cross agency Early Help Working Group
- Outcomes for children in receipt of early help services are now being routinely reported as part of quality and performance reporting arrangements, including a quarterly quality and performance board

### Challenges/Risks

- We need to increase the number of Early Help Records and Plans that are created and utilised to support children early on, and to prevent escalation of cases to children's social care.
- Identifying practitioners or service teams with the capacity to work with the Identified Troubled Families
- Currently the number of families that have been claimed for is only 28% of this year's target of 309 families.

### Performance Assessment

**Contacts** Family Contact Point/MASH records all contacts for children's services in their wider sense (i.e. includes Early Help) as well as contacts that become referrals to Children's Social Care. There were 10923 contacts to Family Contact Point between April 2016 and January 2017, compared to 11306 for the same period in 15/16. Improved partnership working linked to the MASH operating model helps in ensuring agencies are signposting correctly into Children, Families and Community Health.

**Referrals and Re-Referrals** 2356 referrals were received in Children's Social Care between April 16 and January 17, compared to 2731 for the same period in the previous year. Despite the decrease Swindon's referral rate is still above the national and statistical neighbour averages based on the cumulative rate of referrals between April 16 and January 17. (Swindon 480.8 per 10,000 under 18 compared with 439.3 statistical neighbour and 443.5 national average).

Of the 2356 referrals between April 16 to January 17, 27.0% (636) are **re-referrals**. This is an increase from 26.6% for the same period in the previous year. The national average is 22.3% (15/16).

**Statutory Assessments** Between April 16 and January 17, a total of 2702 assessments were completed, taking an average of 47 working days to complete. This compared to 2599 for the same period in the previous year. The national average was lower at 28 days. The completion of timely, good quality assessments is an area of focus within the service, in order to improve the timely response to families and the clarity of planning for a child.

**Number of children in need (section 17 social care)** The number of children in need (this does not include children subject to a child protection plan or children in care) was 1176 at the end of January 2017, down from 1250 at the end of January 2016. This is still above the national average(1150) and the statistical neighbour (999) average.

### Strengths

- The service is managing a significant risk in relation to the number of assessments required
- Improved information gathering in the MASH results in better quality referrals to social care; with a reduction in the number of referrals requiring statutory intervention in social care

### Challenges

- Re-referral rate has increased during the last quarter, and this raises questions in relation to whether child is referred for a new reason, or if original need was not met. Routine audits are undertaken, and action taken on a case by case basis as required. The Step Down process is also promoted to ensure children are 'handed over' to support services, outside of social care, in a planned manner.

## Child Protection Processes and Outcomes

### Performance Assessment

**Child Protection Enquires (also known as Section 47's) going to initial child protection conference within 15 working days** - 668 child protection enquires were completed from April 16 to January 2017. This is an increase from 628 in the same period in 2015/16

236 out of the 668 (35.3%) of child protection enquires completed went to **child protection conference** between April and January 2017, this is compared to 264 out of 628 (42.0%) , in the same period in 2015/16. The percentage of enquires that went to initial child protection conference within 15 working days was 65.8% between April 16 and January 17. This is below the national average of 76.7%.

**Children on Child Protection Plans** 280 children were on a child protection plan at end January 17. This is higher than the national average. The average duration of a child on a plan was 280 days based on those on plans at the end of January 17, compared with 256 at the same point in the previous year.

### Timeliness of Child Protection Reviews

Between April 16 and January 16, 97.3% of children on child protection plans had their **reviews** completed on time. This is essentially static from 97.2% in January 2016. The national average is 93.7% and the statistical neighbour average is 95.8%.

**The number of children having second or subsequent plans** was 18.5% between April 2016 and January 2017, a decrease from 21.6% in January 16. This is above the national average (17.9%) but below the statistical neighbour (18.9%). This measure should be considered alongside duration, as a high percentage of second and subsequent plans and low duration could indicate that children's plans are being ceased prematurely, or that intervention outcomes are not sustainable. It is also important to note that a percentage of children will have subsequent plans due to family circumstances changing and for different reasons to their original plan. Regular auditing is undertaken to understand any practice changes that required in relation to repeat plans.

**Duration of children on child protection plans:** 4.9% (11) of children ceasing a child protection plan remained on a plan for two years or more between April 16 and January 17, compared to 0.5% in the previous year. This is above the 2015/16 national average of 3.6% and the statistical neighbour average of 3.7%. There are currently no children on a plan for two years or longer.

**Timeliness of Child protection visits.** Of all children who have been on a child protection plan at any point between April 2016 and January 2017, 81.4% had their visits within 6 weeks of the previous visit. This is an improvement from 70.8% recorded for the same period in 2015/16. One late visit means the child will be late in terms of performance for the whole year. Data analysis has identified areas of excellent practice in terms of visit timeliness by social workers, and will be building on this across teams to improve the overall timeliness of visits experienced by each child for every visit throughout the year.

### Strengths

- % of children with subsequent child protection plans is reducing
- Vast majority of child protection reviews taking place within timescales

### Challenges/Risks

- Partners need to work to reduce the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans, if that is appropriate to the risk a child is subject to.
- To improve visit timeliness so that vast majority of children receive ALL visits on time every time

**Number of children in care.** 326 children were looked after at the end of January 2017; this compares with 277 at the end of January 2016. Swindon is above the national average (291 children in care when scaled to the Swindon population). 123 children in care (37.7%) were in externally commissioned placements at the end of January 2017. This compares with 30.4% (83 children) in January 2016.

21.7% of children in care were placed more than 20 miles away from their home address as at the end of January 2017, up from 18.4% at the end of January 2016; this is above the national average of 13%. 89.3% of looked after children were in family placements at the end of January 2016. This is an increase from 86.6% in January 2016 and is above the national average of 85%.

**Placement Stability.** Short term placement stability is measured based on those children having 3 or more placements during the reporting period as a percentage of the number of children looked after at the end of January 2017. 10.1% of children in care had 3 or more placements. This is in line with the national average for 15/16 which was 10%. Swindon has more adolescent young people in care than the average and we know this age group tends to have a higher number of placement moves.

Long term stability of placements for children in care for 2.5 years or more has decreased to 55.4% at the end of January 2017 from 76.6% at the end of January 16. Performance is below the national average (68%). This could in part be linked to an increase in adoptions, where permanency is achieved for those children who were previously in long term stable placements.

**Adoption** - 15 children were adopted between April 2016 and January 2017. This is a significant improvement from the same period the previous year when a total of 4 children were adopted. A further 16 children also became subject to special guardianships between April 16 and January 17. Swindon was below the national average in 15/16, but performance in quarter 3 for 16/17 has shown improvement, and this will be monitored closely going forward.

**Timeliness of Adoption** – The average number of days between becoming looked after and being placed for adoption is high, at 704 days at the end of January based on the 3 year rolling average as reported in the adoption scorecard published by the Department of Education annually. This compares with 593 nationally (2012-2015). Swindon's performance has improved since end of March 16 when 905 days was recorded. We know this figure is also higher due to the legacy of poor performance in previous years as well as the complexity of the children that were found placements. The majority of children are placed well within national threshold.

## **Strengths**

- The number of special guardianships shows these are being used as a good alternative to adoption where in the child's best interests.
- Adoption timeliness has remained good for the majority of children, with a very small number of cases where needs were complex, skewing the average. The number of adoptions is higher than in previous year

## **Challenges/Risks**

- Reduction in placement stability for children looked after
- Higher number of children looked after brings resourcing impacts on placement options
- Increase in unaccompanied asylum seeking children and their placement requirements



Children, Families & Community Health have continued to strengthen and embed its Quality Assurance Framework. The scrutiny role of the Quarterly Performance Board which oversees the audit and performance activity has also continued to be more challenging and place expectations upon all managers to embrace their QA role, especially in relation to audits as well as practice improvement. The Board continues to review the Key Quality Indicators (KPIs), its Performance indicators and has now introduced the monitoring of action plans from SCR's and their learning. It can consider qualitative as well as quantitative information, as well as its key performance indicators for improvement (known as "obsessions"). There has been some progress made with regards to the shared knowledge between the Early Help and Children's Social Care Quarterly Performance Board and the aim continues to bring the two boards together in 2016-2017 to adopt a more joined up approach to performance review.

Monthly Case File Audits took place during Q2 and Q3. The comments given regarding these audits were that the outcomes for the children were good however the record on the files affected the overall grade of the case. Basic information and evidence of the child's journey was missing. Supervision and management oversight requires strengthening. The reflections and issues from the independent audits mirrored what our own audits showed.

Feedback from service users during Q2 was that

- 69.4% stated that their social worker always or usually arrived on time
- 87.7% knew the telephone number of their social worker
- 65% felt respected and
- 51% felt they saw their social worker often enough.

**Strengths**

- Continued strengthening of Quality Assurance Framework

**Challenges/Risks**

- Continued focus on consolidating the learning through audit activity and for teams to understand the journey of the child and what 'good' looks like.



### Performance Assessment

#### **Workforce information for Children's Social Care:**

Overall caseloads compare reasonably with the national picture. Caseloads in Assessment and Child Protection (ACP), have decreased to around 25 – 30 (from 30-35) children on average per social worker. At the end of December 2016, the average caseload for a social worker within the long term social work teams were approximately between 18 – 22 children per social worker. It should however be noted that newly qualified social workers have a protected case load, with no complicated child protection matters allocated to them. This, therefore, increases the caseloads for other more experienced social workers. Recruitment remains a priority area to enable the allocation of lower caseloads for social workers across the service. Caseload weighting is undertaken on a monthly basis within teams, to identify both the complexity as well as the quantity of cases held within a team; this provides an opportunity for analysis across teams. This data, inclusive of feedback from social workers on how manageable they feel their caseloads are inform service planning.

The relentless focus on recruitment, development and retention of social workers (SW) and their managers has led to a reduction in SW Vacancies to 11% (below the national average of 14%); however, keeping the workforce vacancy rate low continues to be a challenge. Continual improvement to the recruitment and retention rates remain an area of focus.

### Strengths

- Good progress in developing potential managers from existing workforce
- New Academy approach to developing Newly Qualified Social Workers introduced and assists in 'growing our own' social workers

### Challenges

- Reviewing caseloads for social workers to ensure complexity of caseloads as well as quantities are considered in the allocation process

## Primary Education: Validated 2015/16 Results

### Performance Assessment

**Early Years:** Performance in the headline Early Years measures for Swindon pupils has fallen slightly below the national average. The percentage of Swindon pupils with a Good Level of Development is 68.8% (69.3% nationally), and the percentage of Swindon pupils meeting all 17 Early Learning Goals is 67.1% (67.3% nationally). The average total points score from Swindon pupils (34.6) is still just above the national average (34.5).

**Phonics:** The percentage of Swindon Year 1 pupils achieving the required standard of Phonics decoding continued to increase, reaching 76% in 2015/16 (75% in 2014/15 and 73% in 2013/14). However, the gap between Swindon and England has grown. In 2015/16, 81% of Year 1 pupils in England achieved the required Phonics standard, up from 77% in 2014/15. The percentage of Swindon Year 2 pupils achieving the required standard of Phonics decoding remained level with the England average at 91%, having increased from 90% in 2014/15.

***The 2015/16 Key Stage 1 and 2 cohorts were the first to be assessed against the new, more challenging curriculum that was introduced in 2014. The results are now reported as scaled scores rather than levels. Because of these changes, Key Stage 1 and 2 figures for 2015/16 are not comparable to those for earlier years. A new measure of progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is being reported from 2015/16, replacing the previous 'expected progress'.***

**Key Stage 1:** In Swindon, 71% of pupils reached at least the expected standard in reading, with 63% reaching the expected standard in writing and 70% in maths. The comparable figures for England were 74%, 65% and 73% respectively. The percentage of Swindon pupils reaching the higher standard for reading, writing and maths were 21%, 12% and 13% compared to 24%, 13% and 18% in England.

**Key Stage 2:** The attainment of Swindon pupils in tests was broadly similar to the national average. 67% achieved at least the expected standard for reading (66% in England); 70% reached this standard for maths (70% in England) and 73% reached the standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling (73% in England). Writing is assessed by teacher assessment. Only 60% of Swindon pupils were assessed as being at the expected standard for writing compared to 74% in England. This is very different to previous years when writing achievement was similar to the national average. Nationally, 54% of pupils reached the new expected standard in all of reading, writing and maths. In Swindon, this figure was 46%, with the gap due primarily to the writing assessment results.

The new progress measure compares pupil's Key Stage 2 results to those of other pupils nationally with similar prior attainment. A score of zero means pupils on average performed as well as those with similar prior attainment nationally. A positive score means pupils did better and a negative score means pupils did worse. The Swindon average progress scores for reading, writing and maths were -0.3, -3.6 and -0.4 respectively.

### Strengths

- Attainment in the KS2 tests continues to be broadly in line with the national results in reading, mathematics and grammar, punctuation and spelling, as it had been in previous years and despite the higher expectations
- KS2 progress, from pupils' KS1 starting points, is broadly average for reading and maths

### Challenges/Risks

- Secure accurate teacher assessment in all subjects at the end of KS1
- Secure accurate teacher assessment in writing and science at KS2
- Improve the teaching and learning of phonics in Year 1

## Secondary Education: Validated 2015/16 Results

### Performance Assessment

**Key Stage 4:** The new Attainment 8 measure calculates a score for each pupil based on their grades in a selection of eight subjects, chosen to include E Baccalaureate subjects, and giving double weight to English and Mathematics. The average Attainment 8 for Swindon pupils is 48.0 compared to the national figure for the state-funded sector of 50.1.

The Progress 8 measure is a key stage 4 value-added measure comparing Attainment 8 scores with expected attainment based on pupil achievement at the end of Key Stage 2. A score of 0 represents the national average, calculated using all England schools. The national average for the state sector is -0.03. The average Progress 8 score for Swindon is -0.17. Six schools had positive Progress 8 scores and five had negative ones.

32.8% of Swindon pupils were entered for subjects that would allow them to achieve the English Baccalaureate (compared to 39.8% nationally) and 17.4% of all Swindon pupils achieved the English Baccalaureate (compared to 24.8% nationally).

Extensive work continues to support the new “Swindon Challenge” initiative to improve educational outcomes in Swindon. This includes strong partnership working with all partners through a range of programmes to improve attainment. Information sharing arrangements with secondary schools are also being developed to enable better information sharing of attainment and progression data amongst Swindon schools.

**Key Stage 5:** The average point score (APS) per entry for Swindon A level pupils is 26.67, equivalent to a C- grade. The APS per entry nationally is 30.44, equivalent to a C.

From 2015/16, vocational qualifications are recognised under the two separate groups of Applied general and Tech levels. Applied general pupils in Swindon had an average point score (APS), per entry of 31.33 equivalent to a Distinction- grade (34.66, nationally). Tech level pupils in Swindon had an APS per entry of 25.82 equivalent to a Merit grade (30.76, nationally).

51% of 19 year olds in Swindon in 2015 (the most recent validated destinations data) were qualified to Level 3, in comparison with 57.4% of 19 year olds in the state sector nationally.

### Strengths

- Strong partnership with Swindon and OFSTED delivering conferences on narrowing the gap between Swindon and the National Average
- Development of information sharing agreement to enable sharing of rich data intelligence in relation to attainment and progression amongst Swindon Schools

### Challenges/Risks

- Swindon underperforms on key headline measures for KS4
- Average point scores per entry for Swindon pupils are below the national average for all three groups of Level 3 qualifications
- The proportion of 19 year olds in Swindon qualified to Level 3 falls below the national average

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## Exclusions

### Performance Assessment

#### Fixed term school exclusions (FTEs)

Figures for September 2016 to the end of January 2017 show that 856 Fixed Term exclusions (FTEs) were given to pupils in Swindon, marginally more than the 843 given in the equivalent period last year. There is a considerable time-lag for official DfE exclusion figures (due to appeals, reviews etc.) but the 2014/15 data show Swindon with a FTE rate of 5.6%, compared to 3.9% nationally and 3.8% regionally.

143 (17%) of Fixed Term exclusions were from primary-aged pupils while 713 (83%) were from secondary-aged pupils. Persistent Disruptive Behaviour remains the most common reason given by schools for exclusions, at 40% (342) from September to the end of January 2017. Physical assault against a pupil (15%) and verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against an adult (15%) were the second and third most common reasons for FTE.

#### Permanent school exclusions (PEX)

29 children were permanently excluded from Swindon schools up to the end of January 2017, compared to 11 children for the same period in the previous year. Notably this figure is also higher than the 24 children permanently excluded in the whole of the 2015/16 academic year. In addition to formal permanent exclusions, parents/carers of a further 10 pupils who had reached the point of permanent exclusion accepted their Head Teacher's offer of a 'withdrawn permanent exclusion'. This is a local agreement implemented from 2009 which is part of the Swindon Fair Access Protocol and enables pupils to move on without the stigma of a formal permanent exclusion. During the same period in the 2015/16 academic year, 14 parent/carers had accepted permanent exclusion withdrawal.

2014/15 national data show Swindon with a 'Permanent exclusions as percentage of school population' rate of 0.09%, in comparison to 0.07% nationally and 0.08% regionally.

## Strengths

### Challenges/Risks

- Fixed term exclusion rates still above the national average rate
- Over representation by vulnerable pupils receiving school exclusions
- More children excluded in this academic year so far than in the whole of the previous year

## Performance Assessment

In January 2016, the percentage of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), in Swindon was 3.8%. This is higher than the 2.8% reported for England and Statistical Neighbours. These figures are published annually, but for Swindon the latest census in October shows a small reduction in this figure to 3.7%.

It is worth noting that Swindon receives more requests for assessment per 10,000 population than Statistical Neighbours and England. In Swindon in 2015 the rate was 39.8 per 10,000 population compared to 28.6 for Statistical Neighbours and 34.2 for England. In Q3, there were 87 requests for assessment, compared to 49 for the same period in the previous year.

In Quarter 3 16/17, 60 new EHCP's have been issued; this compares to 52 for the same period last year. (NB: This figure includes statements that have converted to EHCP in the quarter).

In the calendar year 2016, Swindon issued 69.4% of EHCP plans within the required 20 weeks (excluding exceptions) this compares to 37.6% for 2015. The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms require authorities to convert SEN statements to EHC Plans by July 2018. Of statements open as at January 2016, Swindon had converted 42.8% of these by the end of December 2016.

Commissioners are working closely with partners to refresh Swindon's SEND strategy and develop an action plan to drive improvement. This has included the development of a SEN performance dashboard and audit framework to track progress. A "turning the curve" exercise has been undertaken to address the high prevalence of children who have a statement/ EHC plan in Swindon. The resulting action plan being developed will focus on:

- Ongoing review of SENRAP (Special Educational Needs Resources and Assessment Panel).
- Workforce development re quality first teaching.
- A review of the SEN funding formula including the notional SEN budget to increase the funding to schools without the need for a statutory plan.

## Strengths

- Embedding the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms
- SEN Performance Dashboard and audit framework development completed

## Challenges/Risks

- Higher rate of children who are SEN compared with the national average
- Timeliness in issuing ECHPs – although improvements shown during reporting period
- Conversion rate for statements to EHC plans

## School Attendance, NEET, Participation in Learning and Youth Unemployment

### Performance Assessment

*The DfE introduced a more rigorous Persistent Absenteeism threshold from 2015/16. Pupils are now classified as PA if they miss 10% or more of all possible sessions – up from 15% in 2014/15.*

**Primary School Absence** stood at 3.7% for the Autumn and Spring terms of 2015/16, down from 3.9% in the previous year and below the national average of 3.9%. In terms of Persistent Absenteeism, 8.1% Primary pupils (1,328) hit the threshold in the Autumn and Spring terms of 2015/16, down from 8.7% in 2014/15 (1,392 pupils). Primary persistent absence in Swindon compares favorably to the national and regional averages (both 8.8%).

**Secondary School Absence** continues a steady decrease with an all-time low of 4.9% in the Autumn and Spring terms of 2015/16, down from 5.1% in the previous year and slightly below the national average (5.0%). In terms of Persistent Absenteeism, 12.7% Secondary pupils (1,438) hit the threshold in the Autumn and Spring terms of 2015/16, down from 14.1% in 2014/15 (1,593 pupils). This remains somewhat above the national average of 12.3%.

Locally reported monthly absence data show both primary and secondary absence rates are higher than last January (4.4% and 6.6% respectively compared to 3.8% and 5.2% in January 2016).

### Pupils attending good or outstanding schools

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016, 94% of Swindon primary pupils were attending good or outstanding schools, above both the national (90%) and regional (92% averages). However, only 48% of secondary pupils were attending good or outstanding schools, compared to 82% in England and 88% in the South West.

### Post-16 activities of young people: NEET, participation in Learning and Youth Unemployment

January 2017 figures show that the proportion of 16-17 year-olds **in learning** (education or training) activities in Swindon, at 91.5%, is up on the previous year (89.3%) – a difference of 62 young people, out of a possible 4500. The learning rate is currently below the national average (92.2%) and South West average (91.8%). Looking at previous years we know that Swindon is quick to track most destinations before the October data submission. However 'In Learning' national and regional figures will start to level between November and December.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to track young people's post-16 activities, with the primary aim of identifying those not participating so that support can be provided for those to take on positive activities. The proportion of young people in '**unknown**' activities was 2.9% (145) for 16-17 year-olds in January 2017, 2.3%pts lower than the previous year, at 5.2% (274 young people). This is equal to the national and regional averages. The proportion of 16-17 year-olds that were **NEET** in Swindon as at January 2017 was 2.9% (145 young people) – higher than last year's figures of 2.3% (121), and just above the national average. The increase of NEETs can be mostly explained by more young people being tracked, therefore moving from the Unknown cohort to NEET.

In terms of the wider cohort (16 to 24 year-olds), the **Youth Unemployment rate** - *those working out of all those 'available' for work* - was on average 11.6% during October 2015 to September 2016, compared to 12.6% in 2014/15 and compares favourably to a national average of 14.0% and regional average (12.8%).

### Strengths

- Primary and secondary school absence rates lower than the national average
- Reduction in the youth unemployment rate (16-24's)
- An increase in young people 'In Learning' and a drop in the Unknown rates for the RPA cohort (16-17s)

### Challenges/Risks

- Persistent Absenteeism & % pupils attending good or outstanding secondary schools
- Keeping our figures stable and performing in line with national average

### Performance Assessment

As well as reporting NEET for the Swindon population as a whole there are also some key measures in relation to NEET and EET that are reported to the Department of Education as part of our statutory reporting responsibilities for our care leavers.

We have a responsibility to keep in touch with our care leavers up until the age of 21 and promote, encourage participation in learning opportunities. We also have a responsibility to actively monitor whether young people are engaged in Education, Employment and Learning activity. The headlines below refer to quarter 1 of 16/17. Please note that as early in the reporting year there are only 34 care leavers in the co-hort, the statistics therefore should be treated with an element of caution in terms of drawing conclusions this early in the reporting year.

#### Care Leavers in NEET (Low is good)

Care leavers who are NEET slightly decreased from 50.7% in 14/15 to 48.3% (85 out of 176 young people) in 15/16. The 14/15 National average was 39% Statistical neighbour was 39.3%. Although a positive direction of travel since 14/15, Swindon is still above national and statistical neighbour average. It was also the highest in the South West in 14/15, where an average of 42% was reported. Between April 2016 and January 2017 46.5% of care leavers were NEET

**Relevant context of NEET population: 4 of the NEET care leavers (13.2%)** were due to disability or illness as at the end of January 2017. This is higher than the 8% recorded nationally in 15/16, and is higher than the 9.1% outturn for 2015/16. 5 (3.5%), was due to parenting responsibilities; lower than 20% for 2015/16 and lower than the national average of 6%. The reason for the decrease in this group in January 17 is that a number of young parents moved out of the NEET co-hort as turned 22.

#### Care Leavers in EET (High is good)

Care leavers EET increased from 33% in 14/15 to 48.9% in 15/16 (86 out of 176 young people) - National 14/15 comparator was 48% and the Statistical Neighbour average 46.6%. High is good for this performance measure, and we are now in line with national average. This is positive. Between April 2016 and January 2017 performance improved again to 52.1%.

### Strengths

- EET has increased significantly from last year and is now in line with national average
- Swindon has a very low number of “unknowns” compared with others, meaning that we are in touch and actively engaged with our care leavers .

### Challenges/Risks

- Swindon has a high number of NEET with a disability compared with others, and routes to EET for this group is challenging



### Performance Assessment

#### Number of Young People committing offences for the first time – First Time Entrants (FTE)

The locally set target is to maintain low numbers of first time entrants (FTEs) into the justice system. Based on previous year's outturns our local target is to have less than 30 first time entrants into the justice system per quarter. Local data indicates an decrease from **29 FTE's** in **Q2 2016/17** to **15 FTE's** in **Q3 2016/17**. Nationally reported figures (published by the Youth Justice Board YJB) for the rolling year (Jul 15 – Jun 16) show there has been small reduction in the number of FTEs from **132 to 127 individuals**. There is ongoing work designed to try and recognise and reconcile the high figures reported by YJB against the local data which suggests much lower numbers and more in tune with SW and National data and trends. Nonetheless the downward trend is welcome.

#### Re-offending

Data is produced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) using police (PNC) and Youth Justice Board (YJB) data and is based on a rolling cohort identified 24 months previously. Swindon's re-offending rate has been reducing year on year since it's peak of 43.2% in 2012/13. Latest data shows Swindon's reoffending rate at 36.5% for Jan 14 – Dec 14 which is lower than the national average of 37.8%. Whilst the decrease shown is welcome it does not reflect current data, trends or concerns. This is predominately why Swindon YOT have, with the approval of the YOT Management Board, moved to using the 'live tracker' YJB tool which gives contemporaneous data with the data effectively re-set each financial year. The cohort it is based on is those with a substantive outcome in the current financial year that have subsequently re-offended in year. Therefore at the start of each year this figure will be very low (as they will have only had a couple of months in which to re-offend) but is very likely to increase throughout the year as the cohort grows and the amount of time in which the cohort can re-offend increases. Using 'live tracker' the current re-offending rate (April 2016 to December 2016) shows a local current Swindon re-offending rate of **32.4%**.

### Strengths

- FTE rates remain low and continue to reduce and Re-offending rates showing a positive direction of travel
- Post inspection action plan well progressed

### Challenges

- Ensuring cautions and pre-Court disposals are used where appropriate
- Reconciliation of PNC and local datasets for First Time Offending to ensure data is accurately reported
- National predictions of increasing in FTE, and challenges to service this brings.

### Performance Assessment

#### Healthy Child Programme

##### Breastfeeding

Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 weeks was 47.1% of all eligible babies (724) during Quarter 2 of 16/17, compared with 44.4% nationally and 48.6% in Quarter 1 of 2016/17. The coverage in Q2 was 95.9% in Swindon which is the same as Q1 16/17. Nationally, coverage in Q2 was 87.5%. Coverage is measured in terms of all eligible babies receiving a 6-8 week visit from their health visitor.

##### Health Visitor Contacts

Antenatal visits by Health Visitors at 28 weeks are now being completed and in Quarter 2 of 16/17, 463 pregnant women have a recorded visit after 28 weeks gestation. This compared to 498 in Quarter 1.

New Birth Visits were completed for 98.2% of eligible babies in Quarter 2 (80.9% before 14 days and 17.3% after), a slight drop from the 98.7% in Quarter 1 but still higher than the 97.8% reported nationally.

6-8 Week Reviews were completed for 84.4% of 724 eligible babies by the time they were 8 weeks old, which is in line with the 84.3% reported in Quarter 1, but higher than the 81.9% reported nationally.

12 Month Checks were completed for 77.9% of 712 eligible children prior to them reaching 15 months. This has increased from the 70.5% reported in Quarter 1, but is lower than the national figure of 82.5%.

2-2.5 Year Checks were completed for 72.4% of 733 eligible children, increasing from 72.1% in Quarter 1 but lower than the national figure of 78.1%. Of those visited, 79.9% had a developmental test (known as ASQ-3 test), completed compared with 77.9% in Quarter 1.

### Strengths

- Coverage for the 6-8 week visit and breastfeeding advice remains high and is above national performance.
- The vast majority of new birth visits are taking place within 10 days

### Challenges

- 12 month checks have improved considerably since Q1 (7.4ppts), but still have a gap of 4.6ppts compared to national performance.
- Following an increase in Q1 of antenatal visits, in Q2 it has dropped slightly. This will need to be monitored to ensure it stabilises.

### Performance Assessment

#### Obesity

The prevalence of obesity for both Reception and Year 6 children in the 2015/16 decreased from the previous academic year and the figures were lower than those reported nationally in 2014/15: 8.5% of 2,701 Reception were classed as obese, decreasing from 9.2% the previous year. In Year 6 the prevalence was 17.4% of 2,199 children, a 2.1% decrease from 2014/15.

The combined proportion of overweight and obese children in Reception was lower in Swindon than in the whole of England (according to the 2014/15 figures) – 21.1% compared to 21.9% – yet it increased from the previous year's figure of 20.5%. The prevalence in Year 6 was also lower than the national figure (32.7% as opposed to 33.2%) and decreased from 34.3% in 2014/15.

#### Immunisations

Uptake of primary vaccinations at 24 months decreased for the third consecutive quarter, from 97.6% in Q3 2015/16 to 97.2% in Q2. Uptake for Primary MMR at 24 months, however, increased by 1.6%, from 93.8% to 95.4%. All 13 measures were higher than both the national figures and those reported for the Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire Area Team.

Uptake for diphtheria, tetanus and polio (Td/IPV) vaccination in Year 9 pupils for the 2015/16 school year was 89.3%, dropping slightly from 91.8% in 2014/15. The Meningitis ACWY vaccination was introduced in the 2015/16 school year and uptake amongst Year 9 pupils was 89.4%, compared with 91.3% receiving the Meningitis C vaccination the previous year. The percentage of Year 9 girls completing a two-dose course of HPV was 95.8% whereas in the previous year 95.0% completed the course. At this time national data for school-based immunisations is not published so no comparison can be made.

### Strengths

- Uptake across immunisations is high compared with others

### Challenges

- Decrease in obesity at both reception and year 6, and lower than national average. Need to ensure that this is a sustained decrease and continue to work with partners as this reflects the effective work being done by all agencies who contribute to this outcome.