



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in  
David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40  
1B Non **TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', written in a cursive style.

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 12 June 2023

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to provide independent “critical friend” challenge and to work with the Council’s Executive and other public service providers for the benefit of the public. The Committee considers submissions from a range of sources and reaches conclusions based on the weight of evidence – not on party political grounds.

**Note:** Non-Committee Members and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in line with the Council’s Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/JtCJhkqkpLc?feature=share>

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council’s control.

<b>Our Vision</b>
<b><i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i></b>
<b>Enriching Lives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.</li> <li>• Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone.</li> <li>• Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of.</li> <li>• Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.</li> </ul>
<b>Providing Safe and Strong Communities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.</li> <li>• Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care.</li> <li>• Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish.</li> <li>• Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.</li> </ul>
<b>Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future.</li> <li>• Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy.</li> <li>• Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity.</li> <li>• Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.</li> </ul>
<b>Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.</li> <li>• Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow.</li> <li>• Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.</li> <li>• Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.</li> </ul>
<b>Keeping the Borough Moving</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.</li> <li>• Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions.</li> <li>• Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure.</li> <li>• Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.</li> </ul>
<b>Changing the Way We Work for You</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be relentlessly customer focussed.</li> <li>• Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers.</li> <li>• Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.</li> <li>• Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Be the Best We Can Be</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice.</li> <li>• Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working.</li> <li>• Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business.</li> <li>• Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient.</li> <li>• Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough.</li> <li>• Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.</li> </ul>

## **Appendix Acronyms**

CPD	Continuous Professional Development
EYFS	Early Years Foundations Stage
FGB	Full Governing Body
KS1	Key Stage 1
KS2	Key Stage 2
MAT	Multi Academy Trust
NLE	National Leader of Education
NLG	National Leader of Governance
RI	Requires Improvement
RSC	Regional Schools Commissioner
SDP	School Development Plan
SEF	Self Evaluation Form
SIB	School Improvement Board
SIO	School Improvement Officer
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
TSA	Teaching School Alliance
WLP	Wokingham Learning Partnership

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Andrew Mickleburgh  
Anne Chadwick  
Andrew Gray

Jane Ainslie  
Graham Howe

Ian Pittock  
Phil Cunnington

### Substitutes

Pauline Helliar-Symons  
Chris Johnson  
Michael Firmager

Morag Malvern  
Alison Swaddle

Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey  
Tony Skuse

### Parent Governor Representatives

Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative  
Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative

### Diocesan Representatives

Richard Lamey, Church of England Representative  
Vacancy, Roman Catholic Representative

### Community Representatives

Sarah Clarke, SEND Voices Wokingham

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
1.		<b>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</b> To elect a Chairman for the 2023/24 municipal year.	
2.		<b>APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN</b> To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the 2023/24 municipal year.	
3.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
4.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
5.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2023.	7 - 16
6.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any public questions.  A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.	

The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee.

Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to [www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions)

<b>7.</b>		<b>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any member questions.	
<b>8.</b>	None Specific	<b>SEND YOUTH FORUM</b> To receive a verbal report on the activity undertaken by the SEND Youth Forum.	<b>Verbal Report</b>
<b>9.</b>	None Specific	<b>DRAFT UASC STRATEGY</b> To receive and consider the Draft UASC Strategy report.	<b>17 - 42</b>
<b>10.</b>	None Specific	<b>HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT</b> To receive and consider the Home to School Transport report.	<b>Verbal Report</b>
<b>11.</b>	None Specific	<b>IMPACT OF THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS</b> To receive and consider the Impact of the Cost of Living Crisis report.	<b>43 - 52</b>
<b>12.</b>	None Specific	<b>ILACS OFSTED UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN</b> To receive a presentation about the most recent Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS).	<b>53 - 64</b>
<b>13.</b>	None Specific	<b>SAFETY VALVE UPDATE</b> To receive and consider an update on the Safety Valve programme.	<b>Verbal Report</b>
<b>14.</b>	None Specific	<b>EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE</b> To receive a verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	<b>Verbal Report</b>
<b>15.</b>	None Specific	<b>SCHOOL SUFFICIENCY UPDATE</b> To receive and consider the School Sufficiency Update report.	<b>65 - 82</b>
<b>16.</b>	None Specific	<b>SCHOOLS UPDATE</b> To receive and consider a report containing an update on schools and education in the borough.	<b>83 - 88</b>
<b>17.</b>	None Specific	<b>FORWARD PROGRAMME</b>	<b>89 - 92</b>

To receive and consider the CSO&S Forward Programme of work.

18.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.

19. None Specific

**SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN – PART 2**

93 - 100

A report containing details of schools causing concern will be considered in a Part 2 session.

**Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent**

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 22 MARCH 2023 FROM 7.00 PM TO 9.41 PM**

**Committee Members Present**

Councillors: Andrew Mickleburgh (Chair), Shirley Boyt (Vice-Chair), Morag Malvern, Anne Chadwick, Graham Howe and Pauline Helliars-Symons

**Other Councillors Present**

Councillors: Prue Bray

**Officers Present**

Luciane Bowker, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist  
Piers Brunning, School Place Planning Manager  
Gillian Cole, Service Manager for Schools  
Rachel Oakley, Assistant Director Quality and Assurance  
Hayley Rees, Category Manager Strategy and Commissioning  
Zoe Storey, School Admissions and Transport Manager  
Jonathan Wilding, Safety Valve/ SEN Consultant  
Helen Watson, Interim Director of Children's Services  
Ming Zhang, Interim Assistant Director for Learning, Achievement and Partnerships

**59. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted from Fr Richard Lamey.

**60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 January 2023 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendments below, and signed by the Chair.

Amendment requested by Sarah Clarke:

Page 13 of the agenda – that the following sentence be added: Sarah Clarke stated that every local authority is supposed to have a website where parents could find *information called the Local Offer, Wokingham does have a Local Offer, but families report finding it difficult to locate the information they need.* The improvement of the *Local Offer* is *hopefully part* of the improvement plan and is linked to the Safety Valve Programme.

Page 13 of the agenda – where it says *South West* it should read South East.

Amendment requested by Helen Watson, Interim Director for Children's Services:

Page 10 of the agenda - That *David Gussi* be changed to David Goosey.

Matters arising

Home to school transport – there had been a request for information in relation to training for drivers and escorts. It was agreed that this item would be added to the Forward Programme.

Youth Council presentation to the Council – This had been arranged with the Mayor's office and was due to take place at the September meeting.

Education Update report – there was a recommendation to circulate this report to all Members of the Council. It was agreed that this would be actioned.

## **61. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **62. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

## **63. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member questions.

## **64. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Members considered each dashboard contained in the report.

Sarah Clarke, who was unable to be present at the meeting, had submitted questions about the Performance Indicators. It was agreed that the answers to those questions would be submitted in writing and shared with the Committee.

Comments were made as follows:

Dashboard item 1 – Funded Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Members noted that significant improvements to the timeliness of EHCPs were expected in Q4 as a result of the actions being taken.

Dashboard item 4 – Child Protection

The Chairman asked how much flexibility the service had to deal with the increase in demand and complexity on caseloads, and what was the impact of this increase in the service?

Helen Watson explained that some flexibility was needed and on occasions the use of locum staff was necessary. Staffing levels were monitored very closely.

Dashboard 5 – Children in Care

Councillor Boyt asked for the narrative behind the increase in the % of CIC who have more than one allocated Social Worker in 12 months.

Helen Watson explained that there could be a number of reasons, such as transitions, staff sickness or maternity leave. An effort was always made to minimise changes in Social Workers, but sometimes there was no other alternative.

This was an important indicator for the service, which was monitored very closely. However, there were challenges, both nationally and locally in relation to the recruitment and retention of Social Workers.

Rachel Oakley, Assistant Director Quality and Assurance informed that there had been a decrease in the turn over of permanent staff in the last quarter.

Dashboard 6 – Care Leavers

Councillor Helliars-Symonds asked for the reasons for the number of Care Leavers who were Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) and what was being done to help them?



Rachel Oakley explained that there was a large number of young people in this cohort who had disabilities or illnesses which prevented them from seeking employment or education. There were also some young people who were parents and looking after their children. It was also important to acknowledge that entering and sustaining work was difficult for this group of people.

Helen Watson informed that a Care Leavers improved offer was being developed, creating apprenticeship opportunities and guaranteed jobs interviews within the Council for Care Leavers.

The Chairman stated that he had once attended a NEET planning meeting, this was a monthly meeting where options for each individual were discussed. He recommended Members to attend this meeting to better understand the work undertaken to help this cohort.

Councillor Helliard-Symonds asked where were the 3% of Care Leavers who were not in suitable accommodation?

Rachel Okley informed that there were 100 Care Leavers at the time of the snapshot, and three were not in suitable accommodation. She explained that unsuitable accommodation included people being in prison, in houses of multiple occupation or homeless. However, this figure changed every month.

Councillor Helliard-Symonds asked for further clarification about the possibility of Care Leavers being homeless. Helen Watson explained that this would be on a very short period of time whilst in transition. The ambition was to have all young people in suitable accommodation.

Rachel Okley explained that each situation was unique and sometimes it was due to personal choice.

Councillor Bray explained that when young people were on benefits they were only entitled to accommodation within a shared house. There was an issue with classification, for example someone in prison was classified as being in unsuitable accommodation.

The Chairman suggested that future reports should include the narrative around the Care Leavers not in suitable accommodation.

Councillor Boyt asked if the service kept in touch with the young people in prison. Helen Watson confirmed that the service did keep in touch with young people in prison.

Dashboard item 7 – Children missing from home / care

The Chairman asked for the narrative around the number of permanent exclusions. Helen Watson offered to provide a written response on this.

The Chairman asked if data about children missing from home / care was available for children living outside of the borough? Helen Watson stated that information about children living outside of the borough was closely monitored, including data about children missing from home / care.

Dashboard 8 – Children's Services workforce

Members were aware that there was now a dedicated officer working on recruitment of Social Workers, and asked the service to bring a report to the Committee for an update on the development of this initiative. Helen Watson agreed to this proposal.

Rachel Oakley explained that ASYE stood for Assessed and Supported Year in Employment. This programme was offered for Social Workers that had just qualified, it included mentoring, coaching and a whole system support. This programme was popular, with 40-60 people applying every year to join the programme.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) A report will be brought to the Committee containing details of the recruitment of Social Workers programme.

#### **65. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Councillor Bray, Executive Member for Children's Services addressed the Committee and highlighted the following points:

- Agreement for the Safety Valve programme had been received. The DfE would give the Council £20m over the course of the programme in the next six years. The implementation of the programme would involve reviewing and updating the SEND offer in the borough. It was expected that implementing this programme would involve a lot of work in the coming years;
- £8m would be received this month in the first tranche of the programme and would almost half the High Needs Block (HNB) deficit;
- The Council had been successful in the bids for two new SEND schools. There were only three local authorities in the country that had been awarded two schools;
- The service had recently been inspected by Ofsted, the outcome of the inspection was not yet disclosed so this would be discussed at a later meeting;
- The work undertaken by all staff during the inspection was much appreciated;
- The old Farley Hill school would become an outreach site for Addington School and work on the site would commence on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. This facility was due to open in September.

Councillor Howe commended the work and effort undertaken by staff to achieve the agreement for the Safety Valve programme and the two new SEND schools. Members extended their gratitude to other departments within the Council that contributed to the success of the bid for the new schools and Safety Valve.

Helen Watson added that school leaders, SEND Voices and commissioning partners had also been involved in the work undertaken and should be thanked for their efforts too.

In particular, Lynne Samuel, Schools Finance Specialist was commended for her work.

In response to a question, Hayley Rees, Category Manager Strategy and Commissioning informed that Farley Hill School would offer 40 places, 14 would be available in September 2023. The places would be for Early Years, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) The Committee expressed its gratitude to all those involved in achieving the successful bids for the two new SEND schools and the acceptance into the Safety Valve programme.

#### **66. CHILDREN IN CARE CAMHS PROVISION UPDATE**

Hayley Rees presented the Children In Care (CIC) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Provision update.

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- In 2020/21 it was identified that CIC needed more immediate response to mental health services. The ICB and three local authorities (West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading) decided to commission a joint service for CIC;
- Work to implement this new service had been undertaken over the last 18 months;
- Recruitment of staff started last year and it was almost completed;
- The official launch of the service was in April 2023, but work had already commenced to support CIC through this service;
- The service included an initial consultation with social workers, teachers and foster carers to identify what support was needed;
- It was hoped that one of the main benefits of this service would be team work, in recognition of the fact that CIC had many people involved in their lives.

Councillor Bray informed that she had met with the designated Looked After Children (LAC) Nurse, who had praised this service saying that it had already started to make a positive impact.

It was ascertained that the correct title for the report was Children In Care CAMHS Provision update, not *Care Leavers* as written in the agenda front sheet. However, Hayley Rees informed that there was a pilot underway with the ICB considering the offer of this service to Care Leavers.

#### **RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The update be noted; and
- 2) The Committee would continue to monitor the progress and development of this service.

#### **67. FOSTERING TRANSFORMATION UPDATE**

The Fostering Transformation Update was presented by Nathan Whitley, Fostering and Residential Transformation Consultant.

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- There was a national and local shortage of fostering placements for children;
- There was a rise in the number of CIC;
- A Fostering and Transformation Steering Group had been set up to plan for the next three years;
- Over the last 12 months 50 children were placed in foster care, half of which were placed in in-house fostering arrangements;

- There was a local shortage of independent fostering agencies;
- There was a need to grow the number of foster carers, there was a particular shortage of places for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC);
- Nearly all of the CIC placed with independent fostering agencies in the last year had been UASC between the ages of 15-17. Most of them had gone to London;
- Work was being undertaken with local communities to build more local provision;
- It was positive that 12 young people were staying put with their foster carers;
- There were regular fortnightly meetings with foster carers to ascertain how best to support them and grow the pool of in-house foster carers;
- Part of the work being undertaken included involving foster carers as much as possible. A foster carer buddying system had been introduced to support new foster carers and applicants;
- There was great focus on the recruitment and retention of foster carers. Wokingham paid competitive fees and strived to provide good support for foster carers;
- There would be a dedicated UASC recruitment strategy;
- A new website was being designed, along with a new marketing strategy.

Councillor Howe believed that the challenges being faced in Wokingham were the same or similar to the challenges faced by neighbouring authorities and asked if there should be some joint up work on finding solutions. Nathan Whitely agreed that this idea should be considered.

The Chairman asked what was being done to address the shortage of in-house foster carers for UASC. Nathan Whitely explained that in recognition of the fact that the majority of UASC were Muslim, the service was running a Friday Fostering Programme through mosques.

Nathan Whitely explained that although it was generally more desirable to place children locally, for some children it was culturally more appropriate place them in London in a more diverse community.

Councillor Boyt stated that her ward was very diverse, and Aisha Mosque was very keen to work with the community.

Councillor Malvern asked if there was a potential issue in relation to the local authority not having sufficient time to develop a relationship with UASC, given their age when entering care.

Nathan Whitely explained that the local authority had a responsibility up to the age of 25, so this was something that could be developed. He added that there was an opportunity for the local authority to build semi-independent provision in the borough to provide for the needs of this cohort.

Councillor Malvern wondered if young people would be willing to move from London to Wokingham. Nathan Whitely stated that there was a need to build more in-house provision.

The Chairman asked that the Action Plan be shared with the Committee and also with Corporate Parenting Board.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) The Committee would be kept up to date with the development of the programme, including the latest iterations of the action plan.

## **68. SEND STRATEGY REFRESH**

The SEND Strategy Refresh was presented by Jonathan Wilding, Safety Valve and SEND Consultant.

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- The Safety Valve programme required the local authority to implement a new SEND service to help schools with earlier intervention and to refresh the outreach offer to schools;
- The Early Years SEND offer was being formulated;
- The refresh of the strategy was being undertaken in partnership with SEND Voices;
- Improvement to data management was being implemented;
- The new school provision would enable the local authority to make less use of independent out of borough provision, which was the largest contributor to the HNB overspend;
- Preparation for adulthood and the post-16 education were an area of focus, as currently there was no local provision for the post-16 cohort;
- Projections showed that with the measures currently being undertaken, by 2028/29 the local authority would spend £56m less;
- Even with all the measures proposed, there was a projected deficit of £41m by 2028/29. The Safety Valve programme unlocked an investment of £20m from the DfE to pay half of the deficit; the other half of the deficit would be funded by the local authority;
- There was a cost of around £7m relating to implementations costs and invest to save;
- As previously mentioned the local authority was successful in the bids for two new specialist schools. Neighbouring local authorities had also been successful in bids for new schools, therefore it was expected that there would be less demand for our school places from other local authorities;
- Free school number 1 was being prioritised. This school would offer 100 places for pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties, who could not access education in mainstream settings. The proposed location for this school was Rooks Next Farm, subject to Executive approval;
- Free school number 2 was being designed for pupils with cognitive and physical disabilities, in the same style as Addington School. The proposed location for this school was Grays Farm. However, this was subject to potential change depending on the space required by leisure facilities on the same site. Alternative options were being considered, the final site location would have to be approved by Executive;
- The DfE timetable was very pacey, as shown in the presentation slides;
- The public consultation had already commenced;
- It was hoped that the Council would lead on the capital programme, however the DfE would make a decision on this;
- There would be some associated costs that the Council would have to cover, for example building access roads;
- A bid for capital funding of £6.3m had been submitted alongside the bid for the Safety Valve. This was to cover the development of resources attached to mainstream schools. The outcome of this bid would be received by the end of March

- The current SEND Strategy was due to expire in 2024, however many events had occurred and therefore a new strategy was needed. As well as the Safety Valve programme, there was a new SEND inspection framework and new improvement programmes set out by the central government;
- There was a desire to continue to work in partnership with stakeholders and further develop partnerships;
- The proposed governance of the programme was under development.

In response to a question Members were informed that Bracknell Forest and Windsor and Maidenhead councils had also been successful in securing funding for new schools.

Councillor Helliar-Symonds asked what other sites were being considered as well as Grays Farm. Jonathan Wilding agreed to offer this information outside of the meeting.

Councillor Helliar-Symonds asked if fire sprinklers would be installed in the new schools. Councillor Bray explained that the DfE would not fund it, but the Council would pay for them.

The Chairman stated that the Committee would like to be kept informed of the development of the Safety Valve programme and the SEND Strategy. He suggested that this update becomes a standing item in the CSO&S agendas. This was agreed by Officers.

Members asked that this presentation be circulated to Members via email.

The Chairman stated that Sara Clarke's contribution to discussions was very valuable. He invited Members to put forward suggestions of additional stakeholders who may be able to contribute to future discussions.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) Updates on the Safety Valve programme and SEND Strategy would become a standing item in the Committee's agenda.

## **69. FORWARD PROGRAMME**

The following items were added to the Forward Programme:

20 June 2023

- CTU update
- Draft UASC Strategy (including a review of the Steering Group)

6 September 2023

- Social Worker Recruitment and Retention update (including information about the ASYE Programme)

## **70. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items 71 and 72, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the schedule 12A of the Act.

**71. SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN**

This item was considered in a part 2 session.

**72. SCHOOL SUFFICIENCY UPDATE**

This item was considered in a part 2 session.

**73. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman expressed his gratitude for the support received by Officers and other Members of the Committee during this municipal year.

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Draft UASC Strategy</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 June 2023
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The purpose of developing an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) strategy is to ensure that our UASC receive the specific support they need to overcome trauma and build a new fulfilling life, contributing positively to the communities they live in.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Notes the content of the draft UASC strategy and how it complements the overarching Children in Care and Care Leaver strategy; and
2. Notes plans for its finalisation and implementation.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) are children who are outside their country of origin and are without the care and protection of their parents or legal guardian.

Our UASC are brought into the care of WBC, and receive support informed by the same strategy we apply to meeting the needs of any child in our care.

However, the often traumatic circumstances which lead a UASC to come into our care warrant a specific and tailored approach to supporting this cohort which complements and provides additional detail to the wider strategic approach.

This report:

1. Summarises the content of a draft UASC strategy which sets out the council's approach to supporting and caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), giving these vulnerable children the chance to rebuild their lives in safety; and
2. Lays out plans to ensure that the strategy is finalised and effectively implemented through robust governance.

## **Background**

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people (UASC), also known as separated children or unaccompanied minors, are children who are outside their country of origin and are without the care and protection of their parents or legal guardian.

Sometimes they may have witnessed or experienced traumatic events and they may be suffering the most extreme forms of loss. There are many reasons why children and young people may leave their home country. Some of the reasons include:

- fear of persecution, due to their religion, nationality, ethnicity, political opinion or social group.
- parents killed, imprisoned or missing.
- in danger of being forced to fight or become a child soldier
- war, conflict.
- poverty, deprivation.
- sent abroad by parents/family.

The draft UASC strategy sets out the council's approach to supporting and caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) giving these vulnerable children the chance to rebuild their lives in safety.

It is recognised that the strategic priorities for UASC, as laid out in the Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leavers' (CL) Strategy (*note that the strategic priorities have been updated since the current draft UASC strategy was written in February 2023*) and reproduced below, are the same as for any child in care or care leaver, however the circumstances which lead a UASC to come into our care warrant a specific and tailored approach to achieving the best possible outcomes for them. This UASC strategy provides additional detail and context to the strategic priority 10 "*Meeting the Unique Needs of our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children*".

The cohort of UASC in Wokingham has increased significantly over the last year following the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) becoming mandatory, and an increase in the % of the child population allocated. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children now represent approximately a third of our children in care population.

### ***Children in Care and Care Leavers' Strategy Strategic Priorities***

1. Being the best "corporate parents" that we possibly can be.
2. Ensuring that we put in place effective plans for children's futures.
3. Maintaining strong, respectful & trusted relationships with children.
4. Working towards permanent and stable arrangements for children.
5. Ensuring children have the support to develop their physical & emotional health.
6. Encourage children to engage in learning and to achieve their potential.
7. Making sure that children have a safe and suitable place to live.
8. Supporting children to access any leisure or cultural activities that they enjoy.
9. Supporting & encouraging children as they make their transition into adulthood.
10. Meeting the unique needs of our unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
11. Listening to the views of children so they can shape and inform our work.

### ***Specific Support the Draft UASC Strategy puts in place***

## **1. Enhanced Advocacy Offer**

Our Advocacy Offer has been adapted to reflect the growing needs of the cohort. Currently, our Advocate commits to supporting all new UASC at their age assessment and their first Children in Care review.

## **2. Enhanced Training Package**

In order to ensure we can respond appropriately to the needs of our UASCs we have commissioned new training via CoramBAAF ([About us | CoramBAAF](#)).

This training supports social workers to better understand the specific needs of separated young people. There are two courses within the training package:

- Immigration status of migrant children in care.
- Legal rights and entitlements of young refugees.

## **3. Legal Advice**

Support is provided to UASC with access to a specialist immigration solicitor to ensure that there is no delay in following legal process.

## **4. Age Assessment**

Our advocate for children and young people attends age assessments to support UASC, alongside provision of appropriate translation services following [guidance provided by the Association of Directors of Children's Services \(ADCS\)](#).

## **5. Translation Support**

Wokingham Borough Council has engaged *DA Languages* to provide translation services, with a choice of in-person, video or phone translation as appropriate.

## **6. Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

UASC are at a high risk of developing mental illness but they often present with already challenging and high-risk behaviour and poor mental wellbeing that does not always meet diagnostic criteria for mental illness. Even when it does, typical Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services are not equipped to meet the presenting need.

We know that children in care, including UASC, tend to have complex needs that are:

- Multiple
- Persistent
- Severe
- Framed by family and social contexts
- Influenced by many Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

NICE guidance now recognises that a different approach is needed: Trauma Informed thinking or the Trauma recovery model.

Following the findings of our last Focused Visit in April 2022, the specification for our new Children in Care (CiC) CAMH service has been reviewed and updated to ensure that it specifically includes and caters for our UASC population.

The CiC CAMH service provides:

- An Initial consultation/advice as required
- Ongoing therapeutic consultation to the system around the young person/trauma recovery model.
- Direct assessment.
- Direct intervention.
- Training for teams.

The interventions are based on the:

- Trauma recovery model.
- Mentalisation-based approaches.
- Whole system approaches.

Mental Health First Aid training also been commissioned, the programme includes all the elements of the accredited Youth Mental Health First Aider (MHFAider®) course, plus bespoke content relating to the experience and mental health needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

## **7. The Virtual School**

Significant improvement work has been undertaken in this area informed by consultation with other South-East Regional Virtual Heads.

In December 2022 we were involved in a Peer Review led by the National Association of Virtual School Heads, this piece of work scrutinised our approach and aimed to provide us with information to support our continuous improvement.

This work has included a review of the Virtual School UASC offer. This resulted in significant improvements which were formalised and shared with relevant teams and partners:

- Development of a UASC Specific Personal Education Plan.
- Commitment to provide daily small group tuition for young people not yet admitted to school, or those who are on roll but need additional ESOL support.
- Providing a flexible education offer: inc. information, advice and guidance to other professionals when placement break down results in disruption to education.
- Increased opportunities for young people for wider wellbeing: Science days, Football Holiday Camps, Music Tuition, Arts and Creative Writing
- Broader and enhanced offer for UASC:
  - Introduction of a UASC specific app with Wokingham Council Branding. This app provides different packages of support including ESOL, access to learning resources, Life in UK, Mental Health Support and Money support.
  - Introduction of 'school-ready' bags.
  - Winchmore Tutors 'Welcome' package.
  - 1:1 ESOL tuition.
  - Introduction of the first language Race Equality and Minority Achievement (REMA) assessments.

### ***Supporting UASC to stay in the Borough***

Predominantly, UASC are placed outside of Wokingham due to the shortage of a local supply of suitably matched placement options. By placing children in foster homes or semi-independent homes in London, for example, we are more likely to meet their cultural identity needs and it is more likely that they will live near people they know. London also has the greatest density of diverse placement options giving greater opportunities for appropriate matching.

By recruiting and training more local fostering and supported lodgings carers alongside developing community links and specialised staff and resources we will aim to provide for more UASC when they initially come into our care. These children and young people will therefore also have the opportunity of 'Staying Put' with many of their carers.

More younger children placed within or close to Wokingham will allow us to develop more 16 plus accommodation and support options. Ultimately, allowing more UASC children to live within or around Wokingham until they are adults will provide greater stability for them to access good education, training and employment opportunities. These young people will also have a right to local permanent housing.

### ***Finalisation and Implementation of the Strategy***

#### **1. Put the Right Support in Place**

Much of the support detailed above is already in place. It is a dynamic support offer which will be continually reviewed and improved to ensure it is responsive to the emerging needs of our UASC.

#### **2. Establish a UASC Steering Group**

A UASC Steering Group has been set up to finalise the strategy and ensure that it continues to reflect prevailing need.

The steering group will develop a UASC strategy action plan setting out how the key challenges will be addressed and actions implemented and monitored. This will be monitored on a monthly basis to review and record progress.

#### **3. Set up a Community Hub**

We will develop a hub of support in collaboration with foster carers, trained social workers, mentors and UASC experienced people at the core. The hub will include support from CAMHS, Education, Community groups and advisors to ensure that we can welcome, support and re-settle new UASC arriving in Wokingham.

We will look to open a physical space once a month to run a Youth Programme tailored to our UASC. The Hub could provide informal education that includes mentoring around basic skills, healthy eating, asylum rights and responsibilities, social awareness, and sleep hygiene.

#### **4. Market Development and Engagement**

We will develop a market engagement plan to increase local sufficiency. This will focus our market development and engagement approach on encouraging providers of fostering, supported lodgings and semi-independent accommodation to establish new provision within and close to the borough.

We will establish Provider events to promote our needs within the locality. These events will set out our current and future requirements.

This activity will support us to increase overall placement sufficiency, as well as complement the investment in local authority provision.

**5. Community Engagement**

We will develop a UASC fostering marketing plan to promote fostering opportunities within diverse communities. This will include an array of marketing activities including social media, press releases, advertising, editorial, staff promotion, WBC emails, stands out in the community and utilising the fostering website and Facebook pages as platforms for raising awareness of the need for more local foster carers. We will proactively engage with local and National community groups to promote fostering.

***The Draft UASC Strategy***

Further detail on the rationale for the strategy, the characteristics of the current UASC cohort and implementation plans can be found in the attached “Draft UASC Strategy”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b>
N/A

<b>Cross-Council Implications</b> (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)
N/A - no decision required.

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

Equalities assessment to be completed as part of the work to finalise the strategy.

**Climate Emergency – *This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030***

Please state clearly what the impact of the decision being made would be on the Council’s carbon neutral objective.

Accommodating our UASC into the Borough will reduce emissions due to travel to destinations outside Wokingham to visit children.

**Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

**List of Background Papers**  
Draft UASC Strategy

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**WOKINGHAM**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Wokingham Borough Council  
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking  
Children Strategy  
February 2023

DRAFT

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## 1. Purpose of this strategy

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people (UASC), also known as separated children or unaccompanied minors, are children who are outside their country of origin and are without the care and protection of their parents or legal guardian. Their status, age and circumstances may well be uncertain.

Sometimes they may have witnessed or experienced traumatic events and they may be suffering the most extreme forms of loss. There are many reasons why children and young people may leave their home country. Some of the reasons include:

- fear of persecution, due to their religion, nationality, ethnicity, political opinion or social group
- parents killed, imprisoned or missing
- in danger of being forced to fight or become a child soldier
- war, conflict
- poverty, deprivation
- sent abroad by parents/family

This strategy sets out the council's approach to supporting and caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) giving these vulnerable children the chance to rebuild their lives in safety.

It is recognised that the strategic priorities for UASC, as laid out in the Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leavers' (CL) Strategy and reproduced below, are the same as for any child in care or care leaver, however the circumstances which lead a UASC to come into our care warrant a specific and tailored approach to achieving the best possible outcomes for them.

The cohort of UASC in Wokingham has increased significantly over the last year following the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) becoming mandatory, and an increase in the % of the child population allocated. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children now represent approximately a third of our children in care population.

### Children in Care and Care Leavers strategic priorities

Priority 1: To fulfil our Corporate Parenting responsibilities to Children in Care and Care Leavers.

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Priority 2: Ensure that Plans for Children in Care and Care Leavers are robust, ambitious, regularly reviewed and updated, and reflect the individual views and changing needs of the child or young person.

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Priority 3: Ensuring that Children in Care and Care Leavers are supported to develop strong, stable and trusted relationships with their Social Workers, Personal Advisors, Foster Carers, Advocates and others in their support network.

Priority 4:	Ensure that all Children in Care have a plan for permanence.
Priority 5:	Work with partners to ensure that Children in Care and Care Leavers are supported to be both physically and emotionally healthy in a timely manner.
Priority 6:	Ensure that Children in Care and Care Leavers achieve the best possible educational outcomes and have access to academic enrichment activities supported by a Virtual School which is resourced to deliver support up to the age of 25 and beyond.
Priority 7:	Ensure that children in care and care leavers have a safe place to live, in the right location, which meets their individual needs.
Priority 8:	Work with children and young people in care and care leavers to support access to leisure and cultural activities they enjoy.
Priority 9:	Support children and young people in care and care leavers to be well prepared for adulthood.
Priority 10:	Ensure Children in Care and Care Leavers have a strong voice and are supported to articulate their needs and wishes.

## 2. Background and Local Context

Wokingham's number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) has been historically low, as there is no port or obvious point of entry in the borough. During 2021 Wokingham Borough Council assisted, where possible, in taking on the care of UASC from other local authorities via the voluntary National Transfer Scheme (NTS). This resulted in us taking on the care of 7 additional children that year. At that time, any offer or agreement to take on the care of a child from another local authority via the NTS was based on our capacity, available resources, and the ability to meet the needs of the child/ren at the time of the request.

When the NTS became mandatory, the number of UASCs in our care increased from 14 to 37 in under 8 months. Initially our cap (0.07%) was 28 children and the new 0.1% cap increased this to 41. The NTS has increased the number of children in our care significantly, from 23 to around 36 per 10,000. We currently have 41 UASC in our care.

### Nationality

The children we currently care for come from 10 different countries, with most originating from Afghanistan (37%), Sudan (21%) and Iran (16%). The remaining children come from Syria (2), Iraq (2), Eritrea (2), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Kuwait, see Fig.1 below.

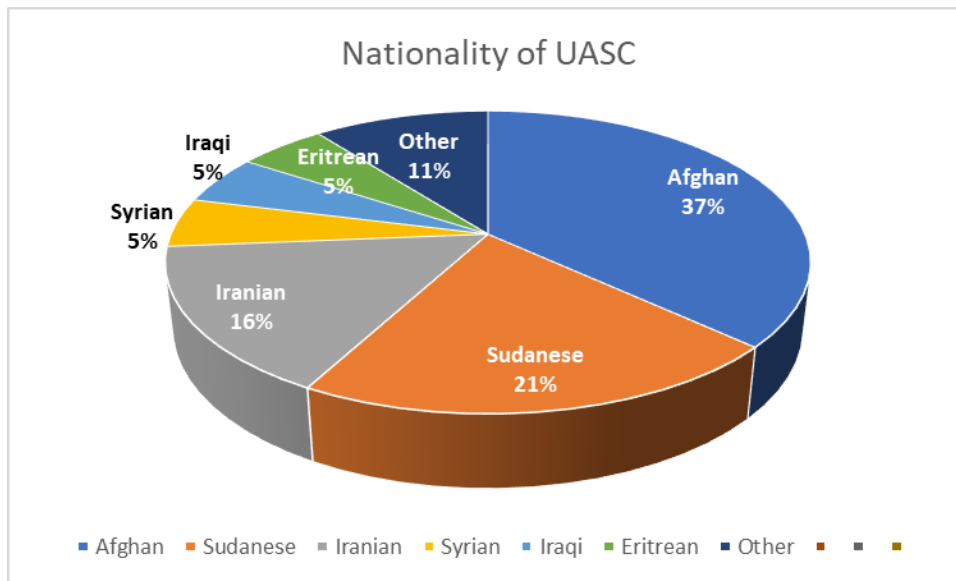


Fig.1 Nationality of Wokingham UASC

The unaccompanied children in Wokingham speak over 14 different main languages, the most common ones being Pashto (24%), Kurdish Sorani (22%) and Arabic (22%), see Fig.2 below.

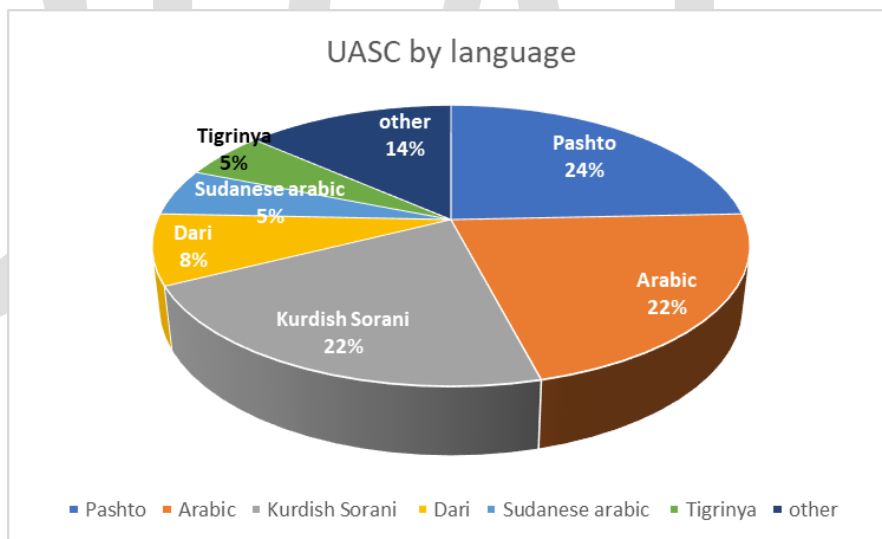


Fig.2 Main languages of Wokingham UASC

### UASC ages when entering care

Of 33 UASC that came into care in 2022/23, the average age at entry into care was 16 years and 25 days. 15 (45%) were under 16 therefore required a regulated placement such as fostering. The other 18 (55%) were 16 and 17 years old so could be placed in semi-independent homes if this was appropriate to meet their needs, see Fig 3 below. However, of this 16/17 age group, 3 were placed in foster care rather than semi-independent accommodation.

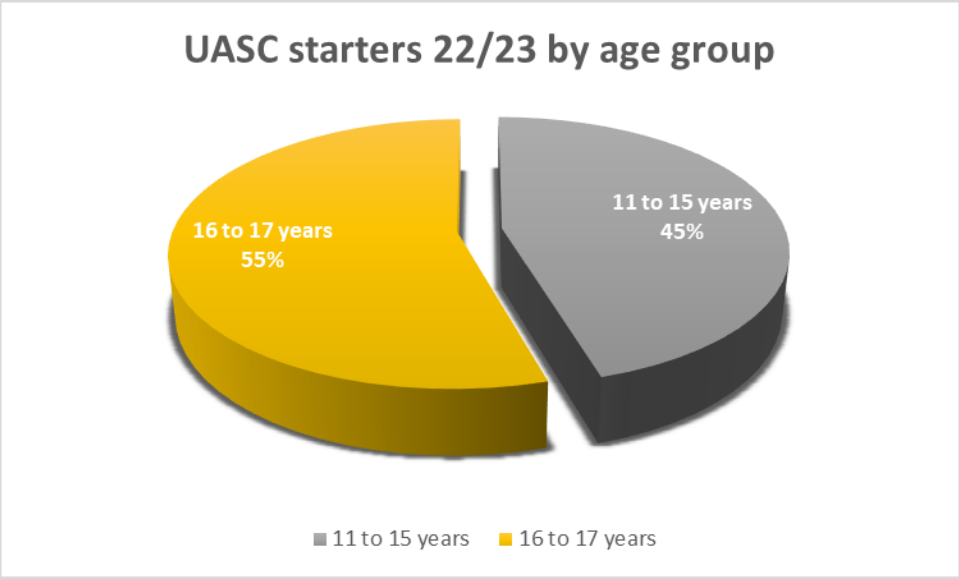


Fig.3 Wokingham UASC by age group when entering care - 2022/23

The youngest UASC was 14 years and 2 months old and the eldest was 17 years and 8 months old. There were six 14-year-olds, nine 15-year-olds, eleven 16-year-olds and seven 17-year-olds, see Fig. 4 below.

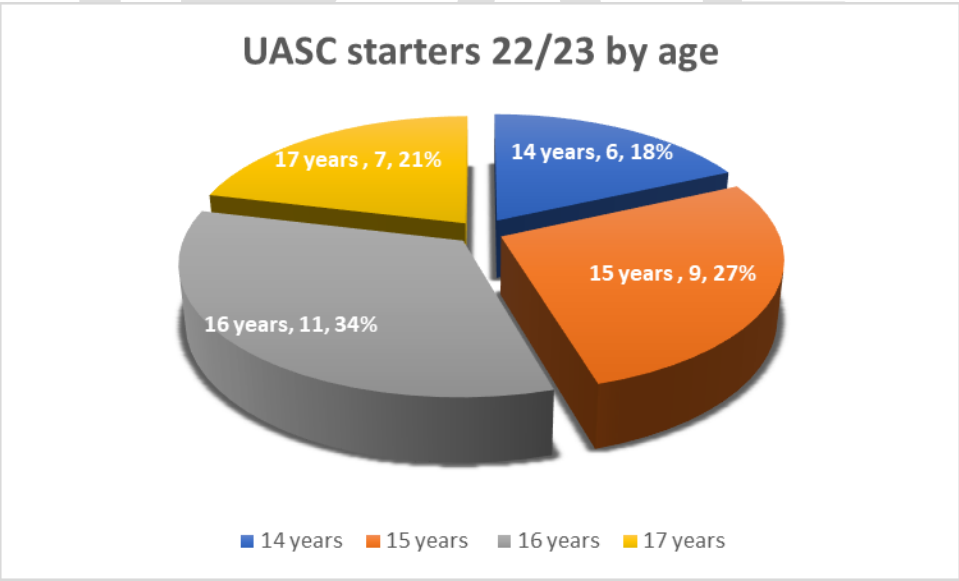


Fig.4 Wokingham UASC by ages when entering care – 2022/23

## Type of placement

We currently have 41 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in our care. These children and young people are in the following placements:

Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	In-House Fostering	Children's Home	Semi-Independent (SiL)	Supported Lodgings
21	5	0	15	0

Table1. UASC by placement type

## Placement locations

We have 5 UASC in Dudley (semi-independent) and 1 in Plymouth (in-house fostering), see Fig.5 below.

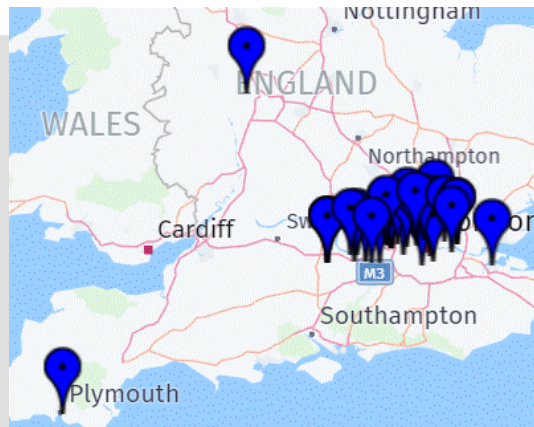


Fig.5 Location of Wokingham UASC within England

The other children or young people all live within the South East, see Fig 6. below. (Note that there is more than 1 child in some postcodes.)

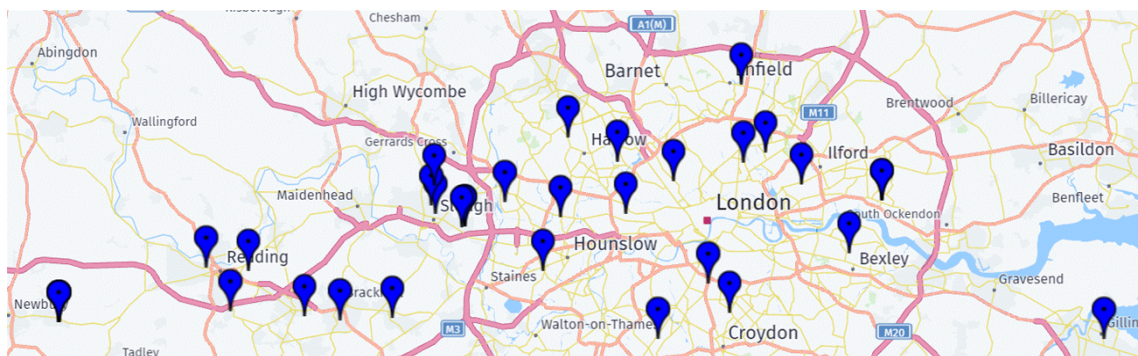


Fig.6 Location of Wokingham UASC within the South East

26 UASC are with foster carers, 21 in IFA placements and 5 in-house. The 21 UASC with IFAs are all placed outside the borough with 19 young people in 16 different London boroughs and 2 young children placed in Medway and Buckinghamshire respectively, see Fig.7 below.

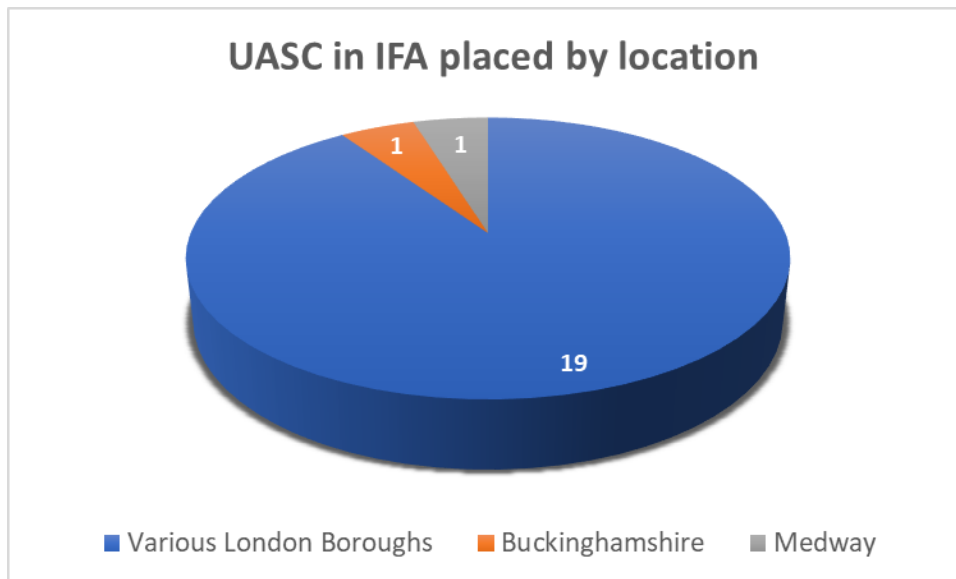


Fig.7. Location of Wokingham UASC within Independent Fostering Agencies

15 young people aged 16-17 are currently living in semi-independent accommodation. 5 of these young people are living in Dudley, West Midlands, 3 are living in Slough, 3 are living in West Berkshire, and 1 each in Wokingham, Hillingdon, Bracknell Forest and Reading.

### 3. Why are UASC placed predominantly away from Wokingham?

Predominantly, UASC are placed outside of Wokingham due to the shortage of a local supply of suitably matched placement options. By placing children in foster homes or semi-independent homes in London, for example, we are more likely to meet their cultural identity needs and it is more likely that they will live near people they know. London also has the greatest density of diverse placement options giving greater opportunities for appropriate matching.

#### Implications of Placing UASC Outside Wokingham

Assuming the 0.1% continues to be the expectation, predicted growth in UASC will lead to over 100 UASC Care Leavers by 2025/26. As these care leavers will be predominantly placed outside the area, they will be less likely to access local education, training and health support. They may also be unable to obtain 'local authority housing' provision meaning they are unable to settle in permanent and more affordable accommodation.



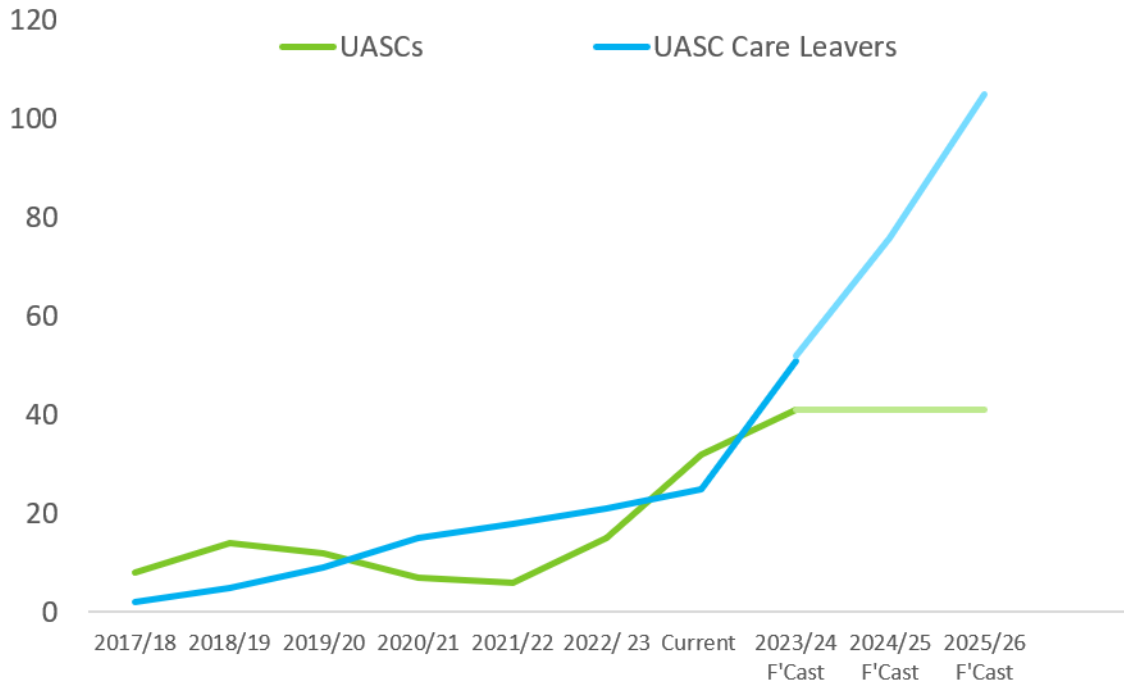


Fig. 8 Predicted growth of Wokingham UASC and UASC Care leavers.

By recruiting and training more local fostering and supported lodgings carers alongside developing community links and specialised staff and resources we will aim to provide for more UASC when they initially come into our care. These children and young people will therefore also have the opportunity of ‘Staying Put’ with many of their carers.

More younger children placed within or close to Wokingham will allow us to develop more 16 plus accommodation and support options. Ultimately, allowing more UASC children to live within or around Wokingham until they are adults will provide greater stability for them to access good education, training and employment opportunities. These young people will also have a right to local permanent housing.

#### 4. Local provision

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*Strategic Priority 7: Ensure that Children in Care and Care Leavers have a safe place to live, in the right location, which meets their individual needs*

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##### Family based care

- Fostering/Staying Put

Wokingham’s in-house fostering service has 3 mainstream carers who offer UASC placements and 2 Family and Friends carers who are looking after ‘Connected’

children. There are currently 2 UASC Care leavers in Staying Put arrangements with Wokingham Foster carers.

- Fostering Transformation Programme

The 'Fostering Transformation Steering Group' (FTSG) was set up to lead and provide oversight and governance to an agreed programme of work to review the Council's current fostering arrangements, and, if necessary, develop a future model of delivery which is evidence based and needs led. This work has identified a shortage of local UASC foster placements and this is one of the main foster carer recruitment priorities within the current Fostering Transformation Project. Currently our growing UASC fostering population is mainly being cared for through Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) at some considerable distance from the local authority. Engagement events have already begun with some community groups to publicise Wokingham's needs, but this will need particular focus if we are going to start to build in-house and/or local fostering resource.

- Supported Lodgings

Currently we do not have supported lodgings carers for UASC. These would be ideal for older UASC with good self-care skills. These placements have also been identified as a priority within the transformation work.

#### Semi-Independent

- Semi-Independent accommodation

Over the last 5 years Wokingham Borough Council has developed 2 in-borough semi-independent provisions (SILs) offering up to 16 beds which are available to care leavers.

- Action taken:
  1. Wokingham Borough Council are currently in the process of acquiring 6 x 1 bed flats in Wokingham Town Centre. These flats have recently been refurbished. These 'training flats' will provide step down accommodation for our care leavers for up to 6 months and will provide an opportunity to get 'tenancy' ready. Move on from the training flats will be via accommodation in the private rented sector or social housing/housing association accommodation via the council. The training flats are expected to come online in June/July 2023 subject to completion of the sale.
  2. Children's Services are also working closely with Housing commissioners within the council to secure an allocation of care leaver accommodation within new housing developments. Children's Services will continue to work with Housing to ensure that we continue to secure an allocation of housing from new developments specifically for care leavers.

3. We have recently secured 5 care leaver 1 bed flats as part of the Wellington Road development in Wokingham Town Centre. These are likely to become available in 2024/25.
4. Wokingham Borough Council has acquired a property in central Wokingham that will be renovated to provide additional accommodation for care leavers (approx. 8 flats, with on-site support). We have been successful in securing capital money to undertake renovations to this property, with work commencing in late 2023.
5. Wokingham Borough Council (Economic Development and Growth dept) has also recently recruited a Housing and Partnership's Officer to encourage relationships with our Registered Providers and have also created a Private Sector Landlord Forum to build relationships with the Private Rented Sector. This work will ensure that we are able to further develop opportunities to increase our housing options for Care Leavers.

Increasing housing specifically for care leavers in the borough will enable more UASC to remain close to education, training and health support, as well as have better access to a permanent housing offer.

## 5. Support Offer

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*Strategic Priority 3: Ensure that Children in Care and Care Leavers are supported to develop strong, stable and trusted relationships with their Social Workers, Personal Advisors, Foster Carers, Advocates and others in their support network*

---

### Social Worker Support and Advocacy

It is our commitment that all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are supported by registered social workers.

Our Advocacy Offer has also been adapted to reflect the growing needs of the cohort. Currently, our Advocate commits to supporting all new UASC at their age assessment and their first Children in Care review.

### Enhanced Training Package

In order to ensure we can respond appropriately to the needs of our UASCs we have commissioned new training via CORAM/BAAF.

This training supports social workers to better understand the specific needs of separated young people. There are two courses within the training package:

- Immigration status of migrant children in care
- Legal rights and entitlements of young refugees

### Legal Advice

Support is provided to UASC with access to a specialist immigration solicitor to ensure that there is no delay in following legal process.

### Age Assessment

Our advocate for children and young people attends age assessments to support UASC, alongside provision of appropriate translation services following [guidance provided by the Association of Directors of Children's Services \(ADCS\)](#).

### Translation Support

Wokingham Borough Council has engaged DA languages to provide translation services, with a choice of in-person, video or phone translation as appropriate.

---

*Strategic Priority 5: Work with partners to ensure that Children in Care and Care Leavers are supported to be both physically and emotional healthy in a timely manner*

---

### Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Children in care are a high risk of developing mental illness but they often present with challenging and high-risk behaviour, poor mental wellbeing that does not always meet diagnostic criteria for mental illness and even when it does, typical CAMH services do not easily fit their needs.

We know that children in care tend to have complex needs that are:

- Multiple
- Persistent
- Severe
- Framed by family and social contexts
- Influenced by many Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

NICE guidance now recognises that a different approach is needed: Trauma Informed thinking or the Trauma recovery model.

Following the findings of our last Focused Visit in April 2022, the specification for our new Children in Care CAMHS service has been reviewed and updated to ensure that it specifically includes and caters for our UASC population.

The CIC CAMHS service provides:

- An Initial consultation/advice as required
- Ongoing therapeutic consultation to the system around the young person/trauma recovery model
- Direct assessment
- Direct intervention
- Training for teams

The interventions are based on the:

- Trauma recovery model
- Mentalisation based approaches
- Whole system approaches

Mental Health First Aid training also been commissioned, the programme includes all the elements of the accredited Youth Mental Health First Aider (MHFAider®) course, plus bespoke content relating to the experience and mental health needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

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*Strategic Priority 6: Ensure that Children in Care and Care Leavers achieve the best possible educational outcomes and have access to academic enrichment activities supported by a Virtual School which is resourced to deliver support up to the age of 25 and beyond*

---

## The Virtual School

Significant improvement work has been undertaken in this area this year (informed by consultation with other South-East Regional Virtual Heads).

In December 2022 we were involved in a Peer Review led by the National Association of Virtual School Heads, this piece of work scrutinised our approach and aimed to provide us with information to support our continuous improvement.

This work has included a review of the Virtual School UASC offer. This resulted in significant improvements which were formalised and shared with relevant teams and partners:

- Development of a UASC Specific Personal Education Plan.
- Commitment to provide daily small group tuition for young people not yet admitted to school, or those who are on roll but need additional ESOL support. To support this commitment, we commissioned Winchmore Tutors to provide this tuition.
- Providing a flexible education offer: inc. information, advice and guidance to other professionals when placement break down results in disruption to education.
- Increased opportunities for young people for wider wellbeing: Science days, Football Holiday Camps, Music Tuition, Arts and Creative Writing

- Broader and enhanced offer for UASC:
  - Introduction of a UASC specific app with Wokingham Council Branding, inc. Our STAR mission. This app provides different packages of support, ESOL support, access to learning resources, Life in UK, Mental Health Support, Money Support.
  - Introduction of 'school- ready' bags.
  - Winchmore Tutors 'Welcome' package.
  - 1:1 ESOL tuition.
  - Introduction of the first language REMA assessments.

## 6. Resources and Cost Implications

The increased expectation that we take into our care UASC equivalent to 0.1% of the under 18 child population will potentially have a significant cost implication on the Children's Services budget. Early modelling and forecasting work has estimated that there could be an additional £1.09m pressure on the children's services budget by 2025/26 if we do nothing to mitigate the increases.

	Year	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
<b>Additional UASC</b>		13	13	13	13
<b>Additional UASC CL</b>		0	7	17	25
<b>Total additional</b>		13	20	30	38
<b>Total Income (Grants)</b>		£78k	£775k	£915k	£1.03m
<b>Total Costs (incl increased resources)</b>		84.7k	£1.07m	£1.61m	£2.12m
<b>Total impact of 0.1% UASC</b>		<b>£6.7k</b>	<b>£292k</b>	<b>£695k</b>	<b>£1.09m</b>

Although currently UASC income exceeds the average UASC accommodation cost, it does not cover all the other overheads associated with a Child in Care, such as social worker pay, travel and education costs. The further children and young people are placed the greater these costs become.

On average UASC accommodation currently costs £100K over their Care Cycle (1 year CiC and 3 years CSC paid accommodation as a Care Leaver).

	Placement Costs	Grant	Difference
<b>UASC</b>	£900	£1,001	£101
<b>USAC CL</b>	£900	£270	£630

Although most of the UASC placement and support costs are met by Central Government Grants, when the young people turn 18 there is a significant shortfall due to the difficulty of finding suitably priced accommodation local to where they have been living.

## 7. Actions going forward

### 1. Establish a UASC Steering Group

We will establish a UASC Steering Group to take forward and implement the key challenges and actions identified in this strategy.

The steering group will develop a UASC strategy action plan setting out how the key challenges will be addressed. This will be monitored on a monthly basis to review and record progress.

- Reporting
  - Highlight reports on the progress made against the action plan will be provided to the Children's Transformation Programme and Corporate Parenting Board.
    - Reports will be provided to the Children's Transformation Programme monthly.
    - Reports will be provided to DLT quarterly.
    - Reports will be provided to Corporate Parenting Board on a 6 monthly basis.

### 2. Set up a Community Hub

We will develop a hub of support in collaboration with foster carers, trained social workers, mentors and UASC experienced people at the core. The hub will include support from CAMHS, Education, Community groups and advisors to ensure that we can welcome, support and re-settle new UASC arriving in Wokingham.

We will look to open a physical space once a month to run a Youth Programme tailored to our UASC. The Hub could provide informal education that includes mentoring around basic skills, healthy eating, asylum rights and responsibilities, social awareness, and sleep hygiene.

### 3. Market Development and Engagement

We will develop a market engagement plan to increase local sufficiency. This will focus our market development and engagement approach on encouraging providers of fostering, supported lodgings and semi-independent to establish new provision within and close to the borough.

We will establish Provider events to promote our needs within the locality. These events will set out our current and future requirements.

This activity will support us to increase overall placement sufficiency, as well as complement the investment in local authority provision.

#### 4. Community engagement

We will develop a UASC fostering marketing plan to promote fostering opportunities within diverse communities. This will include an array of marketing activities including social media, press releases, advertising, editorial, staff promotion, WBC emails, stands out in the community and utilising the fostering website and Facebook pages as platforms for raising awareness of the need for more local foster carers. We will proactively engage with local and National community groups to promote fostering

#### 5. Local Sufficiency

We have identified throughout the strategy the need to improve local sufficiency in relation to:

- Foster Carers

Actions:

- *Targeted recruitment of foster carers specifically for UASC. Local sufficiency of Foster Carers has been identified as a priority of the Fostering Transformation programme and actions related to this will be tracked via the steering group.*

- Supported Lodgings

Actions:

- *Targeted recruitment for in-house supported lodgings carers*
- *Commissioning an external provider to provide supported lodgings placements*

- Semi – independent Accommodation

Actions:

- *Market Development activity to increase local provision*
- *Review requirement to increase local authority provision*

- Housing

Actions:

- *Secure allocation of care leaver accommodation within new housing developments.*
- *Renovation of property to provide care leaver flats*
- *Continue to develop relationships with our Registered Providers and Private Landlords to provide stable housing*

Reviewing and addressing our sufficiency requirements will be a key component of the UASC Steering group.

#### 6. Support Offer



We will continue to review and improve our support offer to ensure it is responsive to needs of UASC. This includes support around:

- Our advocacy offer
- Training Offer
- The Virtual School
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Impact of the Cost of Living crisis</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 June 2023
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The cost of living crisis has resulted in significant challenges for the Wokingham community.

Provision of an update on the work being undertaken to support children and young people in the borough to date will facilitate the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee providing challenge and support to the ongoing response with the aim of further improving outcomes for families.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Children's Services overview and scrutiny committee notes the response to date to children's, young people's and families' support needs during the ongoing cost of living crisis.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

A cost of living emergency was declared by the council in September 2022 in response to severe pressure on household finances due to the increasing cost of food, fuel and other essential items.

The emergency response was set up in early October, led by the Hardship Alliance and including Assistant Directors (ADs) from across the council, and comprised 7 workstreams, each led by a partner from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and an AD.

A demand-led partnership approach focussed on identifying and responding to emerging need across the community and resulted in:

- Clear understanding of need, available resource, and areas of challenge across the partnership, resulting in a focussed response to specific emerging demand;
- A communication strategy focussed on ensuring all residents were made aware of available support, including the household support fund;
- A crowdfunding campaign which raised £25K from the public, match-funded by WBC and the Wokingham United Charities (WUC) resulting in £75K being allocated to local hardship charities via a bidding process;
- Distribution of energy-saving items such as air fryers, draught excluders, heated clothes rails and light bulbs;
- Distribution of warm items such as blankets and hot water bottles; and
- Provision of a network of warm hubs across the borough.

In addition, the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, a DfE grant-funded initiative specifically focussed on alleviating childhood food poverty, has continued to grow and deliver free-of-charge provision during the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays to families whose children are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, supported by the Community Engagement Team.

This paper considers what is known about the demand for support from families with children, and how that demand has been met.

## **Background**

A cost of living emergency was declared by the council in September 2022 in response to severe pressure on household finances due to the increasing cost of food, fuel and other essential items.

The emergency response was set up in early October 2022. A Silver group led by the Hardship Alliance and including Assistant Directors (ADs) from across the council, initiated 7 workstreams, each led by a partner from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and an AD:

- Needs-led response
- Funding
- People resources
- Logistics
- Essentials
- Data
- Communications

This demand-led partnership approach focussed on identifying and responding to emerging need across the community and resulted in:

- Clear understanding of need, available resource, and areas of challenge across the partnership, resulting in a focussed response to specific emerging demand;
- A communication strategy focussed on ensuring all residents were made aware of available support, including the household support fund;
- A crowdfunding campaign which raised £25K from the public, match-funded by WBC and the Wokingham United Charities (WUC) resulting in £75K being allocated to local hardship charities via a bidding process;
- Distribution of energy-saving items such as air fryers, draught excluders, heated clothes rails and light bulbs;
- Distribution of warm items such as blankets and hot water bottles; and
- Provision of a network of warm hubs across the borough.

The silver emergency response group was wound down in April 2023, with further work taken forward through the newly formed Joint Inequalities and Tackling Poverty Group.

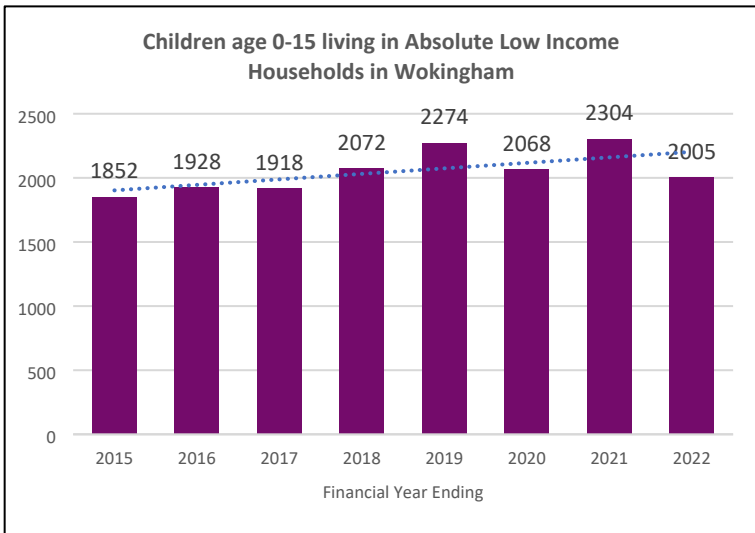
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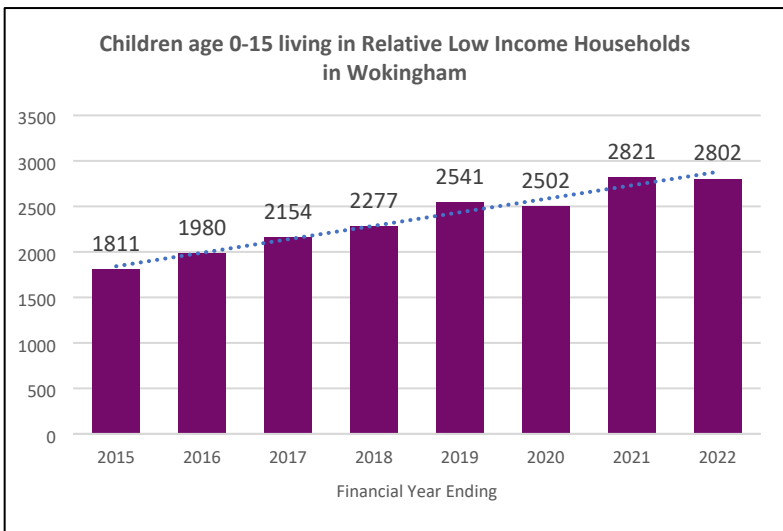
## Demand Trends and Available Support

### 1. Contextual Data on Low Income Households and Free School Meals (FSM) Claimants

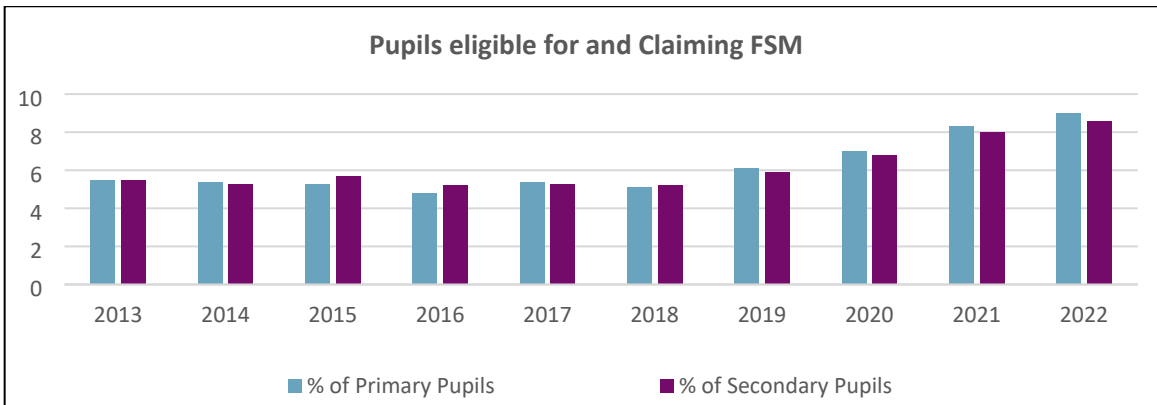
**Figure 1: Children living in Absolute Low Income Households 2015-2022**



**Figure 2: Children living in Relative Low Income Households 2015-2022**



**Figure 3: FSM Claimants in Wokingham, 2013-2022**



Whilst the % of children living in households of absolute or relative low income is lower than the national average, in Wokingham the trend over time is a rise, despite numbers dropping in 2022.

The number of pupils (secondary and primary) eligible for and claiming FSM increased from around 5% of pupils in 2013, to around 9% in 2022.

## 2. Available Support

Support has been made available to families from a variety of sources, local and national. A communications campaign, fronted by a comprehensive WBC website information page (see below), has focussed on ensuring that all residents area aware of what is accessible to them. Source: [Cost of living help - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

### Cost of living help

#### Money to help with food, bills, energy costs and other essentials

The [Household Support Fund](#) is now open for applications to help with food, energy, bills and other essential costs.

If you've applied for or received support between October 2022 and March 2023, you will now be able to apply again during this new round (started April 2023).

#### Survey - how has cost of living crisis impacted you?

The [Hardship Alliance](#) is surveying residents on how the cost of living crisis has impacted their lives.

It takes about five minutes to fill in and will shape future support offered in the borough. Closes Friday 9 June.

[Respond now](#)

#### Find out about all the Government schemes

Visit the [Help for Households website](#).

#### Talk to someone if you need help

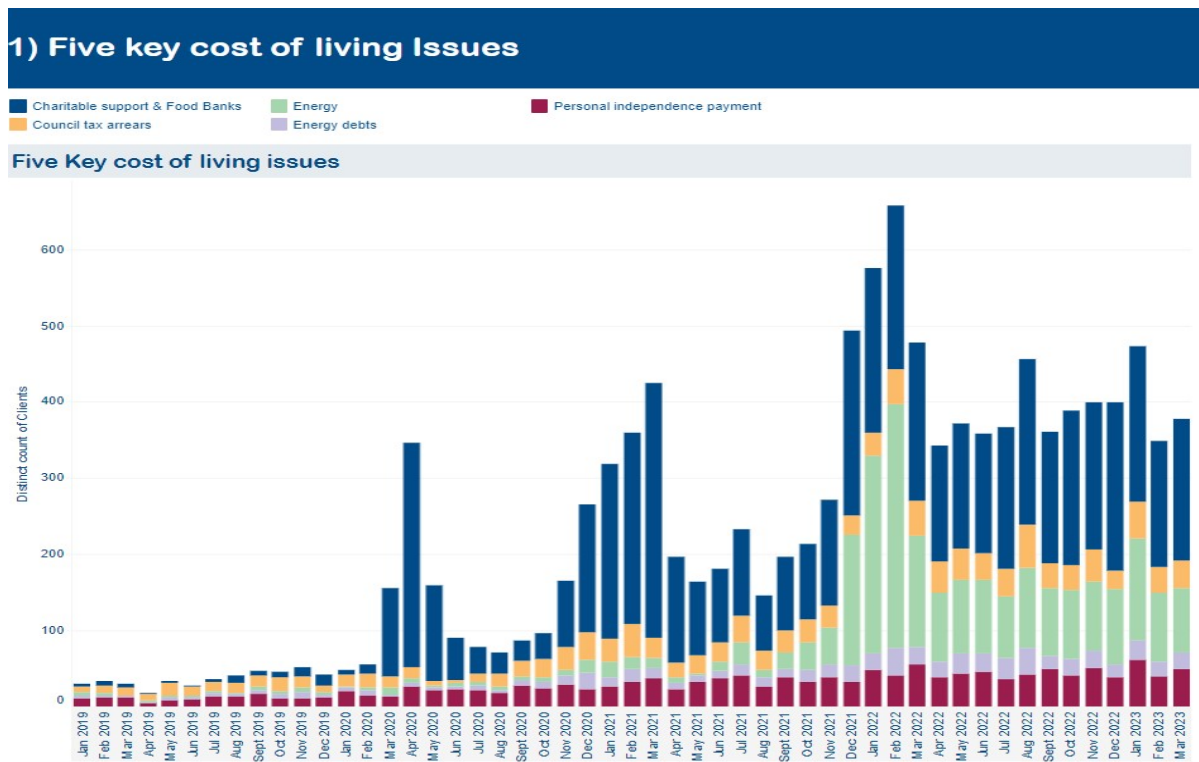
Contact One Front Door, a service led by Citizens Advice, Wokingham, that helps residents find the most appropriate support. Use the [online referral form](#) or [0808 278 7958](tel:08082787958), Monday to Friday.

**In this section**

<p>➤ <b>Financial support</b></p> <p>Find out what financial support is available</p>	<p>➤ <b>Food and fuel</b></p> <p>Find out how to get support with food or fuel</p>	<p>➤ <b>Family and home</b></p> <p>Find out how to access support for you and your family</p>	<p>➤ <b>Health support</b></p> <p>Find out how to get help with your physical and mental health</p>
<p>➤ <b>Food map</b></p> <p>When and where you can get help with food</p>	<p>➤ <b>Tackling Poverty Strategy</b></p> <p>How we're reducing poverty in the area</p>	<p>➤ <b>Household bills</b></p> <p>Help with getting discounts or reducing bills at home</p>	<p>➤ <b>Household Support Fund</b></p> <p>Money and vouchers for essentials and feeding children</p>
<p>➤ <b>One Front Door</b></p> <p>Get help and support from Citizens Advice Wokingham</p>	<p>➤ <b>The Hardship Alliance</b></p> <p>Group responding to poverty in the borough</p>	<p>➤ <b>Priority services</b></p> <p>Register for priority help during power cuts if you're vulnerable</p>	<p>➤ <b>Help with essentials</b></p> <p>Services you can use to get food, clothes, furniture and more</p>
<p>➤ <b>Period poverty partnership</b></p> <p>Privacy We're helping people in</p>	<p>➤ <b>Warmer winter project</b></p> <p>Items for free if you're struggling with energy costs at</p>	<p>➤ <b>How to help others</b></p> <p>Sign up for email updates. <input type="text" value="Email Address"/> <b>SUBSCRIBE</b></p>	<p>➤ <b>Employment</b></p>

**3. Citizens Advice**

**Figure 4: Overall demand (Source: Citizen’s Advice Wokingham)**



**Figure 5: Cost of Living Clients by Household Type March 23 (Source: Citizens Advice Wokingham)**

Cost Of Living Clients Wokingham Citizens Advice March 2023 by Household Type

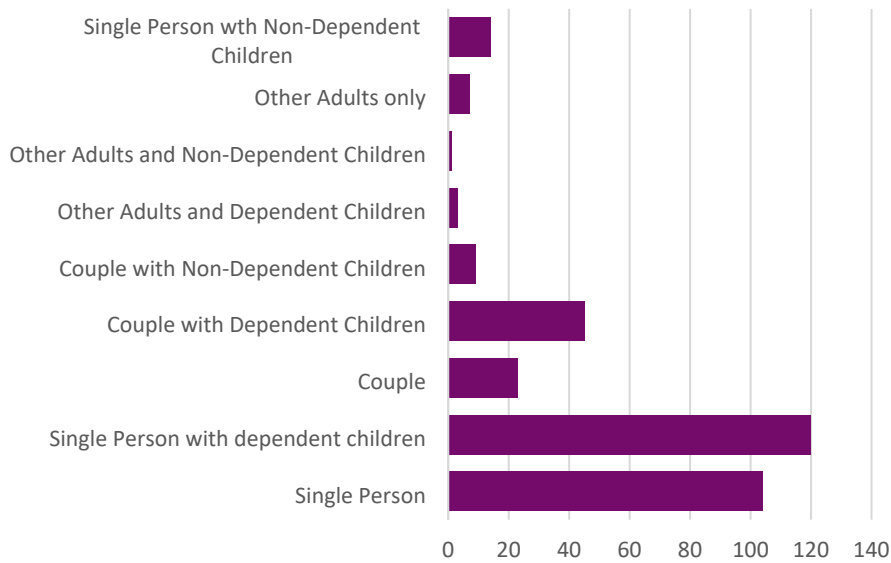
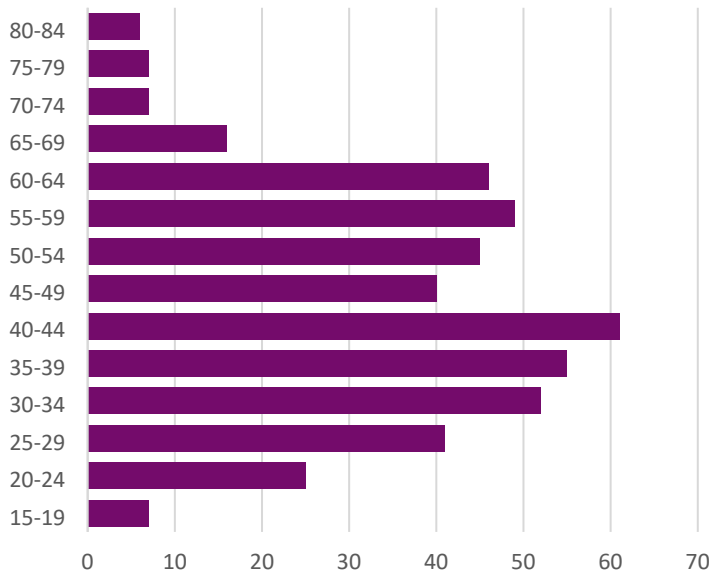


Figure 6: Cost of Living Clients by Age March 23 (Source: Citizens Advice Wokingham)

Cost Of Living Clients Wokingham Citizens Advice March 2023 by Age



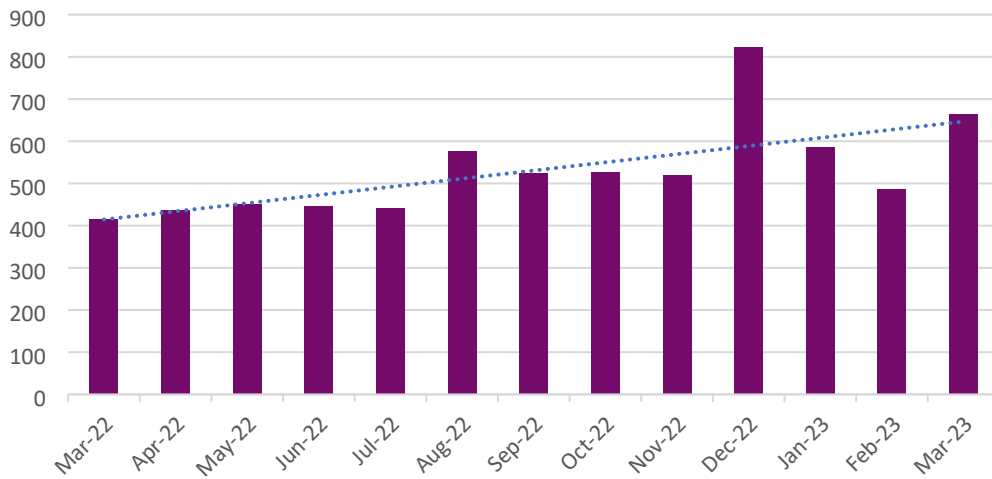
Citizens Advice Wokingham data indicates, perhaps not surprisingly, that demand peaked during the winter months of 22/23 driven by challenges meeting energy costs. In March, over a third of those seeking support were single parents with dependent children, and whilst clients were spread across age categories, approximately two fifths were in the 30-44 range.

#### 4. Wokingham Foodbank

Figure 7. Demand for support from Wokingham Food Bank

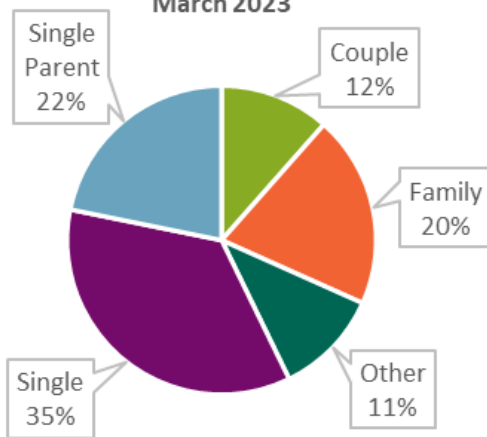


**Total Numbers of People Supported by Wokingham Foodbank March 2022 to March 2023**

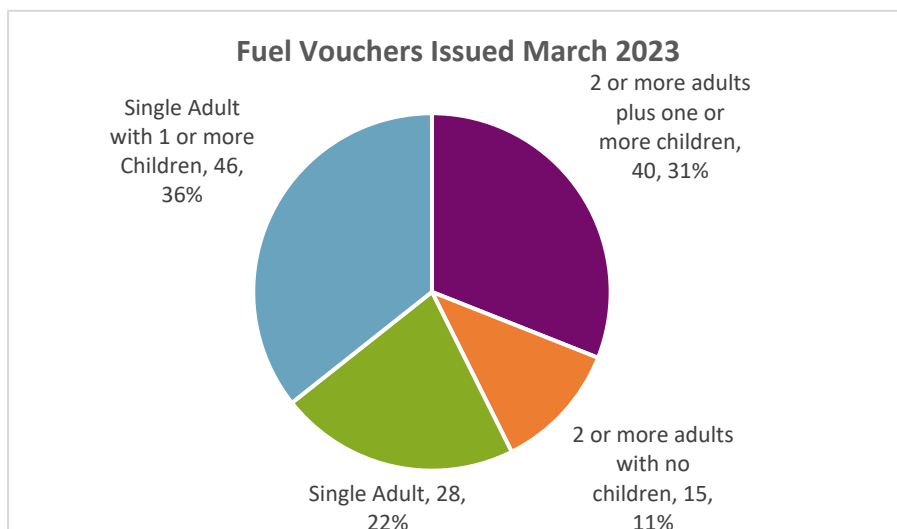


**Figure 8: Wokingham Foodbank referrals by household type**

**Wokingham Foodbank Referrals by Household Type - March 2023**



**Figure 9: Wokingham Foodbank fuel vouchers issued by household type**



Wokingham foodbank data indicates similarly that families with children have and continue to struggle with food and energy costs. In March 2023, 44% of referrals were for families including single parents, and 67% of the fuel vouchers issued were to families with children.

## 5. Household Support Fund

### ***FSM Food Vouchers***

Between October 2022 and March 2023 £240,030 worth of food vouchers were issued during school holidays to families with children in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals (2,253 children benefitted). This included the Easter Holidays 2023.

### ***Non-FSM Support***

Between October 2022 and March 2023 £133,630 of support was given to non-FSM households. £70,440 of this was for households with children (587 households).

## 6. Holiday Activities and Food Programme (for children in receipt of FSM)

In 2022/23:

- 168,384 hours of engaging activities were delivered
- Over 31,572 healthy meals were enjoyed by children and young people

### **Analysis of Issues**

Activity is continuing to support the response to the cost of living crisis through the Joint Inequalities and Tackling Poverty Group through close monitoring and response to emerging demand trends.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

N/A

**Cross-Council Implications** (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

N/A

**Public Sector Equality Duty**

Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

TBC

**Climate Emergency – *This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030***

Please state clearly what the impact of the decision being made would be on the Council's carbon neutral objective.

**Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

**List of Background Papers**

<b>Contact</b> Viki Elliot-King	<b>Service</b> Social Care and Early Help
<b>Telephone No</b> Tel: 0118 908 8226	<b>Email</b> viki.elliott-king@wokingham.gov.uk

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# Inspection of Wokingham Borough Council local authority children's services

**Inspection dates:** 6 to 17 March 2023

**Lead inspector:** Tom Anthony, His Majesty's Inspector

<b>Judgement</b>	<b>Grade</b>
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children in care	Good
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Requires improvement to be good
Overall effectiveness	Requires improvement to be good

The interim director of children's services, appointed in December 2021, together with the lead member for children's services, have provided a renewed focus on improving support for children and families in the borough. Some aspects of practice, such as social work support to children in care and to disabled children and their families, have improved significantly. However, several key areas identified at the previous inspection, in 2019, still require improvement. These include the effectiveness of child-in-need and child protection plans, as well as the quality of supervision provided by frontline managers.

The conditions for consistent and impactful practice to support children are not fully in place. The quality of support provided to children and their families is too variable. Insufficient oversight and challenge by managers limit the impact for some children on their progress and experiences.

## What needs to improve?

- The timeliness of assessments of children's needs.
- The quality, clarity and timeliness of child-in-need, child protection and pathway plans.
- The quality and impact of frontline supervision and management oversight at all levels.
- The timeliness, accuracy and accessibility of children's records.
- The response to children who are vulnerable to exploitation.

## The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection: requires improvement to be good

1. Consistent and reliable initial screening of contacts ensures that concerns about children receive an appropriate response. Stable, long-standing managers and staff in the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) make appropriate decisions about the level of support or intervention that is needed for children. For most children at immediate risk of harm, swift action is taken to protect them. However, when information suggests that children are at lower levels of risk, the pace of progress of contacts and subsequent decision-making is often slow. Leaders have already identified this delay and are recruiting an additional worker to improve timeliness. In the MASH, written case direction by managers at the point of allocation is minimal. Staff are not provided with clarity about what activity is required or timescales for the completion of information-gathering. Once checks with other agencies are completed, there is thorough management recording on children's records. This management oversight includes a clear rationale for the longer-term response provided to children.
2. Practitioners gain parental consent if appropriate and routinely try to engage with absent parents. They signpost parents to support services and, if necessary, refer to the early help hub, which provides a useful multi-agency forum in which to consider needs and allocate the right support. The current early help offer is being developed and, at present, services are not sufficient to meet recent increases in demand. New initiatives have been implemented to support partners to work collectively to meet need.
3. Many strategy meetings are convened swiftly and are mostly timely when children are at immediate risk of harm. However, there are delays in arranging these meetings for some children, both in the MASH and in the assessment service. Constructive and effective relationships with health and police partners in the MASH have a positive impact on the quality of strategy discussions and decision-making. Child protection concerns are explored through effective discussions in strategy meetings, which are well recorded.
4. Children who need an urgent response out of hours receive an effective service that ensures their needs are met. The commissioned emergency duty service

provides a next-day account of their work so that further action to safeguard children can be taken forward.

5. Assessments are mostly detailed and consider histories, vulnerabilities and strengths for all children in each household. Many assessments are not completed swiftly enough. This delays decision-making and subsequent support. Children are seen and spoken with as part of assessments and their views inform the analysis used to determine the best way of supporting them.
6. Children are seen regularly by their social workers, both at home and at school. Workers build positive relationships which allow children to talk about their experiences and feelings. Some children benefit from a variety of direct-work tools which enable them to explore their experiences, share their thoughts and feelings and make sense of their circumstances. However, the quality of direct work with children and families is not consistent.
7. For a small number of children, despite long-term involvement, their situations have not improved. For these children, there is an over-reliance on the accounts and assurances given by adults, despite historic patterns of substance misuse and neglect. Planning, intervention, case direction and management oversight are not effective in improving the experiences of these children. There is not a clear approach or use of tools to assist social workers in identifying and fully understanding the impact of long-term neglect on children.
8. Child-in-need and child protection plans are variable in quality. Senior leaders acknowledge that their intention to establish a clearer, simpler format for plans is taking longer to achieve than they anticipated. Many child-in-need and child protection plans are very long. They contain numerous objectives and the most important concerns are not sufficiently clear. This makes them less effective in directing efforts to support progress for children.
9. Plans are reviewed regularly, with good engagement from families and other agencies at both child-in-need reviews and core group meetings. An appropriate variety of services are provided to support children and families. When circumstances improve and risk reduces, there is effective consideration of step-down from child protection to child-in-need plans.
10. The local authority commissions an effective service which supports families in exploring and addressing the impact of domestic abuse and substance misuse. The service offers support and intervention for victims and their children, as well as work with perpetrators. There are high demands on this service and children and families experience delays in accessing the right service at the right time. Leaders are aware of this, and funding has been secured to enhance the capacity of the service.
11. Good use is made of legal advice and there is appropriate escalation to pre-proceedings arrangements under the Public Law Outline. Once in this arena, there is good oversight and direction provided to practitioners. Enhanced

support and intervention have been effective in diverting some children from entering care. However, pre-proceedings letters are not sufficiently clear in enabling parents to fully understand the concerns.

12. The local authority designated officer has developed a clear system for responding to allegations about adults and has undertaken education and awareness-raising with partners. However, in a small number of cases, despite well-attended meetings to determine the appropriate response to concerns, children's needs and voices are insufficiently considered in action plans.
13. A small number of 16- and 17-year-old children present to the local authority as homeless. When this occurs, housing entitlements are considered, although there are delays for some children, and additional vulnerabilities are not always fully assessed.
14. Management oversight of children's progress and experiences is not consistently effective in enabling practitioners to address risks and concerns. For some children, their situations are not improving rapidly enough. Many supervision records are long and lack a sharp focus on the key issues for children. When there has been change in a child's situation or when concerns increase, records do not always provide a rationale for key decisions. Oversight of practice for children between child protection conferences is not consistently having an impact on the children's progress.
15. When concerns about unborn children arise, there is mostly a proactive and appropriate early response to assessing needs so that plans can be put in place to safeguard the child.
16. There is no clearly defined approach to children who are at risk from exploitation. Most children who present with the highest risk are subject to sound assessment and planning, and progress is reviewed at monthly multi-agency meetings. When children are considered to be at a lower level of risk of exploitation, the extent of their vulnerability is not always fully understood and responded to. Social workers do not have access to specialist expertise for advice and guidance. Senior managers have acknowledged that there is more to do in this area and have recently developed a multi-agency response to help reduce the risks for children who are vulnerable to exploitation.
17. Children receiving a service from the dedicated children with disabilities team receive strong support. They are visited regularly, and their needs are considered holistically in child-in-need and child protection plans, meetings and supervision. Descriptions in case records of the children in different environments, such as home and school, or with friends and parents, enable a richer understanding of their experiences.
18. Oversight of children missing education and the safeguarding of children being educated at home is rigorous. The team responsible for this work has increased



its reach into educational settings to better support leaders to reduce suspensions and to ensure that the use of part-time timetables is minimised.

## **The experiences and progress of children in care: good**

19. Children are supported to remain with their families when this is in their best interests. When children can no longer live safely with their parents, social workers consider placements within the wider family, and carry out full assessments of possible carers accordingly. Practitioners are skilled at developing and maintaining relationships with parents who are experiencing separation and loss. When children do come into care, this is mostly at the right time.
20. Most children in care live in stable homes that meet their needs. Most children are seen regularly and alone and are helped by social workers who know them well. Manageable caseloads allow workers to be creative in building relationships with children and other professionals. Direct work is used well to help children to understand their life history and to inform their care plans. Visual 'explanation for the child' direct work provides children with a clear understanding of significant events in their lives.
21. An impressive specialist team works intensively with families to help children to either remain at home or to support stability for children in care. When the plan for children is reunification with their family, this team delivers support to help this transition. Workers are knowledgeable and skilled in using their chosen model of social work. This aids their work with families in finding solutions and planning next steps for children.
22. Permanency planning is considered for most children at an early stage. All options are explored, including adoption for older children. Decision-making for permanency, however, is not clearly articulated or consistently recorded in children's records. This makes it hard to locate and understand critical decisions that have been made for children, and may cause difficulties should children wish to access their records in later years.
23. Together or apart assessments underpin planning for brother and sister groups and social workers retain a good focus on children's views about who they would like to live with. Working closely with the regional adoption agency (Adopt Thames Valley), adoption is pursued even when the size of family groups and children's ages make this more challenging to achieve. Skilfully planned transitions for children moving to prospective adopters help families to adjust to their new lives. Timely and effective assessment of prospective special guardians helps children who are unable to live with their parents move to new homes without delay.
24. Assessments underpinning decisions to place children with parents are not consistently robust or thorough. Assessments do not always include required information such as children's wishes and feelings and do not show evidence of

consultation with independent reviewing officers (IROs). When children are placed with their parents, workers visit them more frequently, which provides greater assurance and oversight.

25. Children benefit from regular IRO oversight, and their plans and progress are regularly monitored. When children's needs are not being met or concerns arise, IROs successfully achieve a resolution for the child, most often through informal escalation. Children are encouraged to attend their reviews and are consulted by their IROs before reviews so that they can ask questions, share their views and talk about how their review will be carried out. After reviews, child-friendly letters are written to children, explaining the outcome and why decisions have been made.
26. Health assessments for children who come into care are undertaken promptly and there is clear consideration of wider health needs to ensure that these are met. Equally, as they prepare to leave care, they are given a health history letter so that they are well informed for the future.
27. Although there are long waiting lists for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), a new CAMHS post for children in care has started to make a difference to children, enabling more timely assessment and help for children's mental health needs, including diagnoses for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorders.
28. Children who go missing from care are offered return home interviews by their allocated workers. Many children do not take up this offer, and this limits the opportunity to understand their experiences and to develop safety plans that respond to their individual circumstances.
29. Children are supported to see their family and friends and to enjoy a variety of activities, such as youth clubs and football. Carers promote children's education. The virtual school provides good support to children in care. Personal education plans are improving due to a more rigorous quality assurance process.
30. Social workers work effectively with carers and the network of professionals, including for those children who are placed out of area, to ensure that children are safeguarded and that risks are reduced.
31. A well-equipped, child-friendly contact centre is valued by families, who find it a safe and non-judgmental place to be. It enables a diverse range of families to enjoy time together. Specialist staff supervise contact, which can contribute to assessments to help inform longer-term plans for children.
32. Foster carers are well prepared and assessed for the role they will undertake, and they receive appropriate training and support. There have been delays in the completion of these assessments, which is partially reflected in the lower numbers of foster carers approved over recent months. Supervision of carers is variable, and it is not always clear that supervising social workers have spoken

with children during their visits to foster carers. This means that, for some children, an understanding of their experiences may be limited.

33. The number of children who have been adopted over recent years has decreased. Adoption numbers are now returning to pre-pandemic levels. Children and their adopters are well supported and prepared for their new life together by skilled and knowledgeable adoption workers. Adopt Thames Valley is involved at the early stages of assessment and planning, which enables early permanence planning for children. Children's post-adoption support plans are detailed and ensure that all aspects of need are considered and planned for.
34. Bespoke support provided to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is effective and well organised. Numbers have increased significantly in recent years. Despite sometimes having short notification of arrival, workers take swift action to identify suitable homes, such as foster care or supported living, to provide children with carers who can meet their needs. Their social, religious and cultural needs are carefully considered, as is the impact of trauma in their country of origin or during their journey to this country.
35. A very small number of children with highly complex needs are placed in unregistered children's homes. Attempts are regularly made to identify suitable registered homes. Managers maintain regular oversight of these children and make sure that the frequency of visits to them is increased. Managers work closely with providers and proactively encourage them to register with Ofsted.
36. Social workers ensure that children are supported to have the necessary documents, such as a passport and other forms of ID, before they become a care leaver.

### **The experiences and progress of care leavers: requires improvement to be good**

37. The level of support provided to care leavers is too variable. Most care leavers do well, achieving and making progress in their lives, but some of the most vulnerable young people with the most complex needs are not well supported.
38. By the age of 17, most children in care have a personal adviser who works alongside them and complements the work of social workers. Children build strong relationships with their advisers, making the transition to leaving care much easier. Checks are undertaken to ensure that core information and documents, including passports, bank accounts and health passports, are provided to children as they leave care.
39. Although personal advisers have relatively high caseloads, most young people have regular contact with them. A few young people do not have regular contact, nor have they been provided with sufficient cover in the absence of their allocated workers. Leaders are appointing an additional personal adviser so that each adviser will support fewer young people.

40. Most care leavers have access to the appropriate health services. A range of community-based services are available for those with emotional well-being needs, and for those with higher levels of need, a transitions worker is allocated to help young people to access the most appropriate adult services. For young people who are placed out of area, this presents more of a challenge, and sometimes means that there are gaps in providing the support that they require.
41. The local offer for care leavers is not sufficiently clear regarding entitlements and support. Some aspects of the offer remain underdeveloped, especially support to secure employment and apprenticeships.
42. Pathway plans written by social workers vary in quality and some do not reflect young people's circumstances and are not reviewed frequently enough. Poorer plans are very long and refer to information which is out of date. These plans do not reflect young people's lives. Better plans are regularly updated and written with young people, using language which they can understand.
43. The quality and timing of supervision are particularly variable, with some very long gaps and an absence of clear direction and oversight. Managers do not always help their workers to understand complex and new scenarios in order to ensure that each young person receives the necessary support.
44. Sensitive support is provided for young parents and parents-to-be. Parents are well supported to care for their own children, and they are signposted and encouraged to access universal services.
45. The needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking care leavers are well understood and articulated in their pathway plans. Their advisers work effectively with key agencies to provide the right support. This helps them to settle and to make progress.
46. Most care leavers live in suitable accommodation. However, care leavers who become homeless are not always supported quickly enough to ensure that they are offered safe and appropriate accommodation. A small number live in unsuitable accommodation, including adult hostels and hotels. Because young people are not supported quickly enough to move to suitable accommodation, this leaves them vulnerable and potentially feeling unsafe.
47. Care leavers perceived to be in stable 'staying put' arrangements have little contact from their advisers. Pathway plans are not always up to date, and supervision is held less frequently. This means that managers cannot be assured that placements are meeting the young person's needs.
48. When care leavers are not in education, employment or training, monthly review meetings provide an opportunity to explore different ways of engaging them in suitable activity.

## **The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families: requires improvement to be good**

49. Since the last inspection, a range of developments are beginning to deliver improvements in the support that is provided. Some of these changes are still relatively recent and the impact for children and families is in its infancy. For example, recent action to develop an effective multi-agency response to help to reduce risks for children who are vulnerable to exploitation is still to be embedded.
50. Leaders know that there is more work to do to create the conditions for their workforce to deliver consistent, effective and timely support to children and their families. Work to provide more effective supervision and to develop a more concise template for child-in-need and child protection plans has not yet had a consistent impact on frontline practice. There has been slow progress to improve some cornerstones of effective practice.
51. In other areas, including the quality and effectiveness of social work support to disabled children and their families, leaders have taken appropriate action to provide clearer differentiation between levels of intervention. This has improved the quality and impact of support provided. Leaders have responded proactively to the growing numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and have ensured that they are provided with effective care and support.
52. Stakeholders, including schools, the independent scrutineer, the Designated Family Judge and Cafcass, are positive about the level of communication and joint working that leaders have established. Arrangements with Adopt Thames Valley are maturing, helping children to secure permanence through careful and effective placement planning with adoptive parents.
53. As a corporate parent, there is more work to be done to support care leavers.
54. Practitioners value the opportunity that a well-established audit programme provides to reflect on their work and to have an independent and moderated assessment of their practice.
55. A broad array of carefully planned training is readily available to staff. This is helping to embed a more systemic way of working across the organisation. Practice weeks, attended by the chief executive, lead member and senior leadership team, enhance the development of a cohesive approach to supporting children and their families by bringing the workforce together.
56. Detailed performance information, reported regularly to the chief executive and lead member, ensures that there is a line of sight to frontline practice. This, coupled with auditing, provides leaders with access to quantitative and qualitative information about the services that they provide.

57. Supervision of frontline workers is not consistently being used to oversee and challenge the quality and impact of the help and support that is provided to children. This means that, for some children, there is some drift and delay and insufficient oversight and intervention when the support that they receive is not effective in meeting their needs.
58. Children's records are not always up to date. The systems for maintaining records are not clear or consistent. There is variation in where, and how, children's records are stored. Leaders are aware of this and are taking steps to create a consistent approach to record-keeping.
59. A range of activity is being used to recruit and retain suitably qualified staff. Practitioners are highly positive about working in Wokingham, and many, including some on interim contracts, have worked in the borough for many years. This enables workers to form and sustain relationships with children, families and partner agencies. The organisational culture is characterised by high levels of support, but this is not routinely accompanied by effective challenge to ensure that children make progress.
60. Most children are supported by practitioners with reasonable workloads, but there is insufficient capacity in some parts of the service, including in early help, MASH, referral and assessment and care leavers teams. Leaders are taking steps to alleviate these pressures.
61. Children who spoke to inspectors described varying experiences of support. Some said that they know their workers well and enjoy being able to talk to them, while others were not so positive. Care leavers were complimentary about the practical and emotional support that they receive. Children in receipt of services and care leavers do not sufficiently influence the way in which services are designed and developed.

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>School Sufficiency Update</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 June 2023
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

That there will be sufficient school places to meet statutory need

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the report and attached paper are noted and the committee makes any recommendations that it sees as appropriate.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The report and attached place sufficiency analysis paper considers the sufficiency of primary and secondary (including post 16) mainstream school places. A brief summary of the current SEND provision position is also provided.

There are a number of issues that affect all phases of education. These include:

- International migration
- Birth rates
- Residential growth
- An increasing proportion of the child population with special education needs placed in special education schools.

International migration into the borough has increased substantially in both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years, compared to earlier years. This has led to roll growth in both primary secondary phases.

Birth numbers have decreased after 2011/12. This has a significant impact on primary school rolls, and will have an impact on secondary Year 7 rolls from next year (albeit this may be masked by current high immigration rates into the borough).

House builders remain active in the borough. In Shinfield, the new communities are having a marked impact on demand for local primary school places. It is reasonable to assume this will be true for the Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park communities too, at some near future point.

In response to increased numbers of children placed in high cost, out of borough specialist settings, the council has entered the national "Safety Valve Programme" and has been successful in securing funding for two new special schools in the borough. Officers are working to reconfigure and to increase the number of Resource Base places in the borough's mainstream schools too.

The most significant issues in the primary sector are the high number of surplus places, particularly in younger age groups, the continued strong mid-phase growth and localised Reception Year pressure in Shinfield.

In the secondary sector officers, under the direct leadership of the Chief Executive, are working to increase the number of secondary school places, in accordance with the secondary strategy agreed in March 2022. Demand for secondary places has increased (as a consequence of high rates of migration into the borough) above the level forecast when the strategy was prepared.

In the SEND sector, officers are working to confirm arrangements for the two new special schools to supplement the new Oak Tree School, in Winnersh and the long established Addington and Chiltern Way Wokingham Schools. Works are in progress to expand Addington School too.

## Background

The council has statutory duties from the Education Act 1996 to ensure there are sufficient places for both children of statutory school age in the borough and students age up to 19. Under the Children and Families Act 2014 the council has duties to arrange education for children and young people with Special Education Needs aged up to 25 years old.

There is no duty to make formal plans, but Wokingham, in common with most authorities, makes plans to secure formal commitment to projects necessary to ensure there are sufficient places and for capital programme development. Wokingham's most recent primary provision strategy was adopted in 2018, with the most recent secondary and post 16 strategies adopted in March 2022.

Although the council has statutory duties, it has few formal powers, particularly as many borough schools (now all secondary schools) are academies or free schools. This means any change to school admission numbers has to be agreed with schools and their Trusts.

The council has a roll projection spreadsheet, revised in 2022. This is currently subject to external review. In earlier years place plans have also been able to call on ONS population projections to cross reference for longer term projections. These have not though, been updated since the 2018 base projections. As these projections predate Covid and recent increased rates of migration into the country (which have had an impact on the borough) they are increasingly of historic interest only.

There are two competing forces affecting the borough's population:

- Changing birth rates
- Changing migration patterns

Birth rates dropped after the 2011/12 academic year. This has led to falling primary school rolls and these reduced size cohorts will be entering secondary schools from 2024/25.

However, the borough also sees strong migration into the borough. Much of this is associated with new housing. As housing development is focused in specific communities, child growth associated with new housing is also focused on specific communities. In the mean time, the borough has seen a significant increase in the number of children moving into the borough, associated with international migration, in a more dispersed distribution. Apart from increasing demand now (with particular implications for both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3), if the current rate of immigration is maintained, this will more than offset the fall in birth rates. A key focus of the review of roll projections therefore has to be the likelihood of the high rates of migration into the borough being maintained in future years.

The council has limited resources. Although, as noted above, projects can only proceed with school agreement, the council can only agree to works that can be afforded within the available capital resources. Officers are therefore working with secondary schools to refine capital works scheme to be a better match to available resources.

## **Analysis of Issues**

### ***Primary Phase***

As noted above the council has three key primary phase issues:

Numbers of applicants for Reception places have fallen and there are a number of schools with high numbers of unfilled places. The council has agreed to reduce the PANs for a number of schools (in Earley, the north, and Finchampstead) to enable them to maintain efficient and lawful teacher to child ratios. Although it has been reported that in some areas it has been necessary to close and amalgamate schools, there are no current plans for such steps here.

However, significant numbers of children arrive in the borough and require mid-phase primary school places (this is not a new phenomenon, but numbers more than doubled (400 per year arriving mid-phase between 2021 and 2023, compared to 150 per year in the two preceding years). This has led to a significant capacity challenges for Years 5 and 6. A number of schools have agreed to take on additional children, and have been financially supported by the council. In addition the new St Cecilia's School in Emmbrook ward has opened, for Key Stage 2 only.

Planned residential growth in Shinfield has led to a requirement for additional school places. The Alder Grove Primary School opened in 2020, offering 30 Reception places that year. The school offered 60 places in 2021 and 2022, and this was sufficient to meet demand in the Shinfield area. However, in 2023 just less than 30 Shinfield children were offered places in schools in neighbouring areas, because Shinfield schools were full. Roll projections and NHS registration data point to Shinfield demand continuing to increase. However, there are a number of issues to be considered before a proposal can be brought forward. These include:

**Site options:** the Spencers Wood housing development includes a school site and funding through a S106 agreement. It is though within the AWE Burghfield Detailed Emergency Planning Zone, and our understanding is that the nuclear regulator would object to construction of the school. An alternative to this would be the expansion of an existing school (and the council has an option to acquire additional land to enable Alder Grove CoE Primary School to increase in size to offer 90 places a year).

**Funding:** A key task for the authority is managing capital commitments down to match available resources. The funding for the Spencers Wood School is strictly for that school alone, and, although it would largely fund a school expansion project, would require agreement from the developer to enable the funds to be used for other purposes. Further work on funding options, including a consideration of the value for money of such works, would be required.

**Sustainability:** Most of the planned homes in the Shinfield area have been delivered and planned delivery will be at a lower rate than has been the case in the recent past. New homes have a higher child yield than established homes, but this can be expected to reduce as communities age. It is possible therefore, that local child numbers will drop in the near future, in which case demand may fall.

**The impact on other schools:** Children coming out of Shinfield help keep schools in other areas viable and protect the quality of the education they provide.

## **Secondary Phase**

Agreement for 2023 admissions has been reached and agreement for 2024/25 admissions is close to being finalised. As set out in the 2022 strategy officers are working with the Circle Trust and Piggott School to finalise plans to offer additional places. However, the number of additional places required is very much dependent on the number of children moving into the borough. If immigration into Wokingham is reduced to 2020 to 2021 levels (analysis over a number of years indicates this was typical for such arrivals in earlier years – it was not a Covid related reduction) then the number of places required drops sharply and the 2022 strategy (which looked for a “bulge” in place provision that peaked in the 2022 to 2024 period) becomes viable (albeit needing additional places compared to 2022 expectations). If it does not the fundamental strategy may have to be revisited.

Two other issues are worth highlighting at this point:

- a) **The distribution of school places versus population geography:** Wokingham and Winnersh Schools serve wider areas. Although the Bohunt Wokingham and Oakbank Schools have opened within the last decade, the population of the south (which is still increasing as the SDLs are built out) exceeds local secondary school capacity. Shinfield in particular has seven entry classes into its primary schools, and is adjacent to the Lower Earley area (which is within the Maiden Erlegh designated area, but very few children are admitted to that school from that area), but Oakbank can only offer five Year 7 classes. The only identified option to solve this problem is in conjunction with a residential development proposal.
- b) **Wokingham Without:** This ward is largely served by the Edgbarrow School, in Bracknell Forest. Rising demand in the school’s designated area (which does not include the large Buckler’s Park development) has meant that the school could not offer places to nearly 30 Wokingham children living in the designated area. The school would be willing to offer additional places, provided they can be funded. The DfE have advised us that we are not empowered to fund additional places at the school, as it is not in our area. Equally Bracknell Forest have no reason to fund places for Wokingham children. Officers are looking for creative ways of improving the situation for our residents.

## **Post 16**

Current projections indicate a possible shortfall in provision, in the mid 2020s, unless capacity is increased. As noted above, the critical question is over the number of additional young people generated by movement into the borough. If numbers arriving reduce back to 2020/21 levels, the shortfall would not be apparent until the late 2020s. The analysis is less certain though, because young people also choose to attend colleges and schools in neighbouring boroughs. Farnborough Sixth Form College is popular, but rising demand in Hampshire and Surrey may mean Wokingham residents cannot be admitted at some point. Reading and Bracknell and Wokingham Colleges, conversely, can be expected to align provision to demand and already offer a mix of A Level (and other Level 3) qualifications and vocational courses.

Work continues to develop the Bohunt Sixth Form proposal, with a particular focus on better aligning scheme costs to available resources.

## Special Education Needs

As noted above the Council is working to increase capacity through a number of schemes.

- A) The new Oak Tree Special School for children with ASD is expected to open this September in Winners. This is a four way project between Wokingham BC, Reading BC, the DfE and the Maiden Erlegh Trust.
- B) The council was successful in securing funds for two all-through special schools for 100 pupils each. Work is proceeding to finalise the site selections. Under the conditions of the programme the council provides a free site, writes the school specification and agrees to use the school and so underwrite costs. The DfE builds the school and (after an engagement process run by the local authority) appoints the Trust to run each school.
- C) Addington School is growing through an on site temporary expansion and through the conversion of the former Farley Hill primary school site to be the Key stage 1 annexe of the school.
- D) The council is engaging with mainstream schools to create new Resource Bases. So far interest has been limited, but the Indigo RB scheme for children with ASD at Maiden Erlegh school is advancing.

Further information, including numeric data and graphs is included in the attached Appendix One.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

As this is an information only report, there are no recommendations requiring financial evaluation.

### Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

As an information report there are no cross-council implications.

### Public Sector Equality Duty

As an information only report, no equalities impact assessment is required.

**Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030**

As an information report, there will be no impact on the council’s carbon neutral objective..

**Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

**List of Background Papers**

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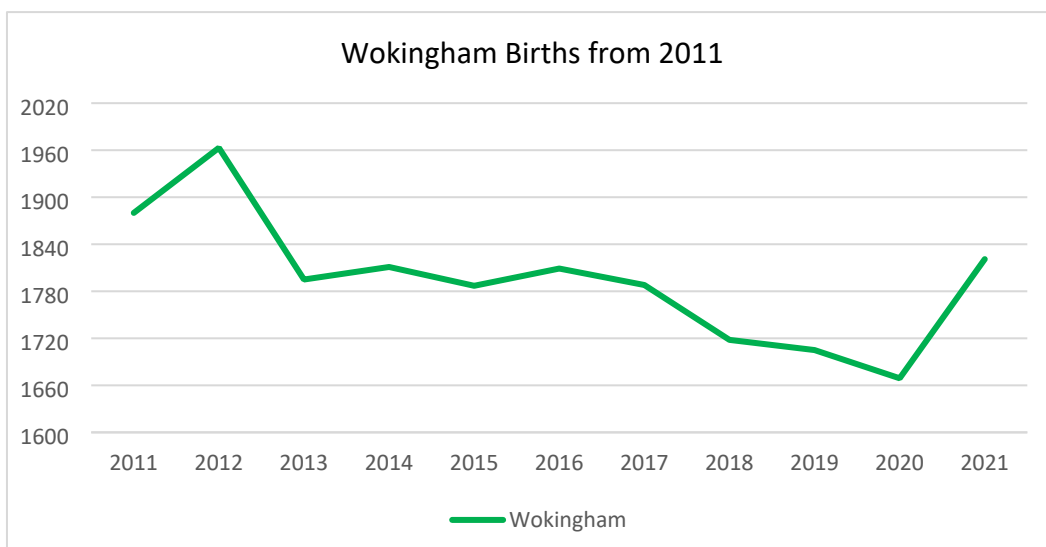
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## Appendix 1: Background data for COSC Report June 2023

### Births

Date	Births
2011	1,880
2012	1,963
2013	1,795
2014	1,811
2015	1,787
2016	1,809
2017	1,788
2018	1,718
2019	1,705
2020	1,669
2021	1,821



2011 to 2012: Note here the very high number of births in 2011 and 2012 compared to all subsequent years. Children born in these years will enter secondary schools this year.

2013 to 2013: steady birth numbers, but reduced compared to 2011 and 2012.

2018 to 2020: steady year on year reduction in the number of births.

2021: a recovery in the number of births, but still well below the 2011 and 2012 figures.

Note that birth numbers are important, but later migration (whether driven by new housing or other factors) can mean that the fall in birth numbers translates immediately into falling demand for secondary school places.

Although the resurgence in birth numbers will not have an impact on secondary rolls until the 20303, it will have an impact on primary rolls from 2025. It is not known if this is a single year effect, or the first sign of rising birth numbers.

### Primary School Sufficiency

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2023/24	446	375	219	222	213	182	64	1721
2024/25	495	389	314	180	161	162	105	1806
2025/26	457	440	329	274	118	112	85	1815
2026/27	423	402	381	290	222	69	33	1820
2027/28	423	368	342	342	239	176	-14	1876

*Surplus Places , based on the standard WBC roll projection and the number of place available each year (which will vary from the standard calculation of Net capacity).*

Year	Reception surplus	Surplus
2023/24	18%	10%
2024/25	20%	10%
2025/26	18%	10%
2026/27	17%	10%
2027/28	17%	11%

Note that the rise in birth numbers has not been reflected in the NHS registration data driven roll projection.

Note too, that although current Reception surplus levels are very high, current rates of mid-phase growth would (if maintained) reduce the surplus sharply by the time the children age into Key Stage 2.

### Mid Phase growth

Period	Year R to Year 1	Year 1 to Year 2	Year 2 to Year 3	Year 3 to Year 4	Year 4 to Year 5	Year 5 to Year 6	Total change	Average change per year
2019 to 2020	46	17	22	42	7	27	161	27
2020 to 2021	44	31	16	24	3	25	143	24
2021 to 2022	68	89	39	77	47	102	422	70
2022 to 2023	63	65	48	59	64	80	379	63

As can be seen mid-phase roll growth has sharply increased in the two years 2021 to 22 and 2022 to 2023 (January roll comparisons), compared to the two earlier sets of years. This reflects the impact of international migration into the borough. It does not seem to be new housing growth, as (a) the period 2019 to 2020 was also a period of high rates of house building and (b) the growth is occurring in established communities.

### South West Planning Area Sufficiency

#### South West Area

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2023/24	-4	40	27	31	1	2	2	99
2024/25	-1	-6	36	33	19	-4	3	80
2025/26	-52	-3	-11	39	21	14	-3	5
2026/27	-54	-54	-7	-7	34	16	15	-57
2027/28	-54	-56	-58	-4	-13	31	17	-137

### Shinfield Area

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2023/24	-33	0	-1	0	-2	-2	-2	-40
2024/25	-30	-34	-1	0	-1	-4	-2	-72
2025/26	-82	-31	-35	0	-1	-3	-4	-156
2026/27	-82	-83	-32	-34	-1	-3	-3	-238
2027/28	-82	-83	-84	-31	-35	-3	-3	-321

### Arborfield Area

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2023/24	29	40	28	31	3	4	4	139
2024/25	29	28	37	33	20	0	5	152
2025/26	30	28	24	39	22	17	1	161
2026/27	28	29	25	27	35	19	18	181
2027/28	28	27	26	27	22	34	20	184

The tables above show the projected sufficiency of primary school places across the borough's long established South West planning area, broken down between the Shinfield and Arborfield (including Barkham, Swallowfield and parts of the Finchampstead Parish) areas. Both Shinfield and Arborfield contain comparably sized SDL areas, but the Shinfield area saw development start before Arborfield. Consequently, the major part of the planned development in the Shinfield area has been completed, but only circa 1/3<sup>rd</sup> in the Arborfield area.

It can be seen that the impact of new housing can be seen clearly in the Shinfield area. It is reasonable to presume that a similar impact will be seen, in time, in the Arborfield area.

		2022				
		Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4
Arborfield Area		220	220	220	210	240
Shinfield Area		290	250	290	270	280

		2023				
		Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4
Arborfield Area		220	220	240	230	210
Shinfield Area		290	310	280	310	280

	Annual Growth rate				Average
	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	
Arborfield Area	100%	109%	105%	99%	103%
Shinfield Area	109%	111%	106%	105%	108%

	Projected Age 4					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Arborfield Area	210	230	250	250	250	250
Shinfield Area	280	320	310	380	390	390

The tables above (based on NHS data) show the current rate of growth in pre-school age groups in the local area. The table show that younger Shinfield cohorts are comparable to the current year 4 cohort. However, the projected increase in the number of 4 year olds between 2023 and 2027 (from 280 to 390) is largely driven by current rates of growth.

The Shinfield projections (both the roll and early years projections), reflects the impact of recently completed housing development. If the rate of development is now decreasing, the rate of growth may also slow. Future rolls (and early years numbers) may therefore be below projected levels. Moreover, once the housebuilding has slowed or completed, rolls (and local child population) are likely to drop back from their eventual peak as child occupancy rates drop back towards the norms for long established homes.

### Secondary sector

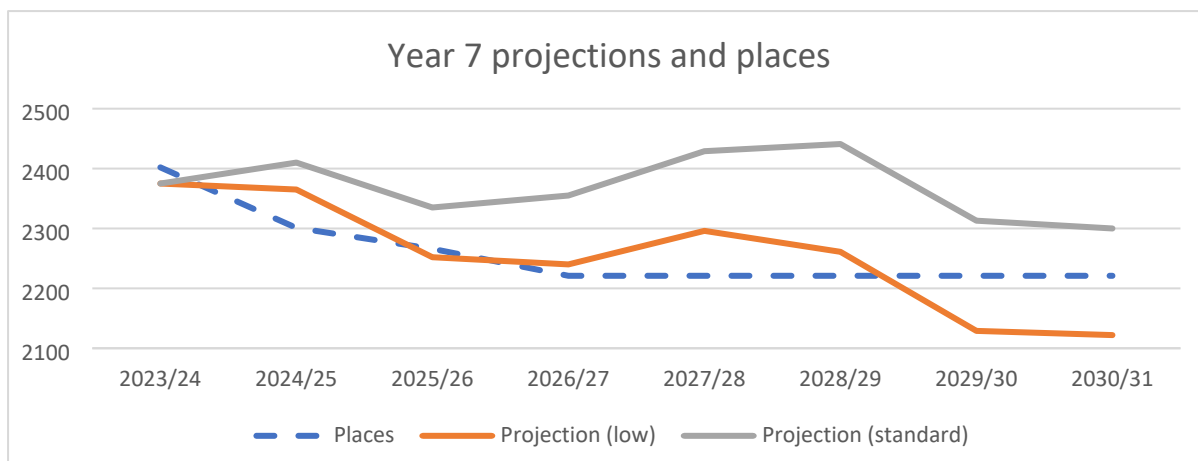
The following tables are based on the most recent roll projections. These reflect a number of factors, including the impact of:

- Birth rates
- Housing led movement into the borough.
- International migration led movement into established areas.

In view of the importance of a reliable understanding of the future child population of the borough the projections are currently subject to review. If there is good evidence that the rate of child immigration into the borough will reduce then the final outcomes may be a projection between the high and standard projections (the sooner the reduction in movement into the borough, the closer the outcome is likely to be to the “low” projection).

### Year 7

	Places	Projection (low)	Projection (standard)
2023/24	2402	2375	2375
2024/25	2301	2365	2410
2025/26	2266	2252	2335
2026/27	2221	2240	2355
2027/28	2221	2296	2429
2028/29	2221	2261	2441
2029/30	2221	2129	2313
2030/31	2221	2122	2300

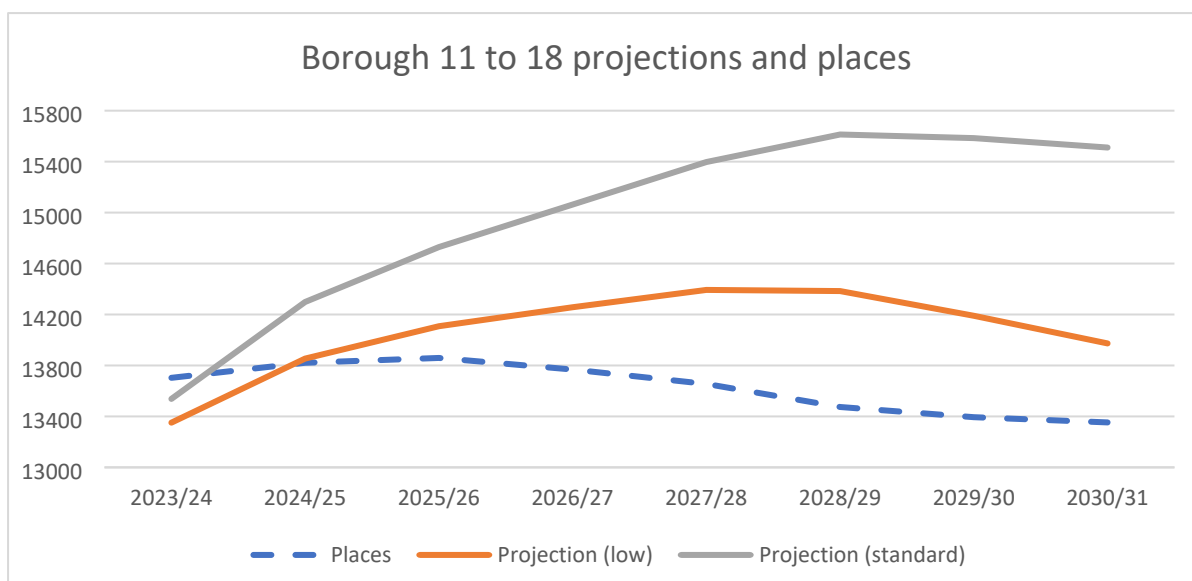


The two projections (low and standard) show the range of likely outcomes. It is very unlikely that the current rate of movement into the borough will be maintained in the long term, but there is little information available to use as a guide. Our understanding though, is that the movement into Wokingham broadly mirrors the national picture, with very high rates of net migration into the country in both 2021 and 2022. It may be that this aspect of Wokingham’s future is tied to the factors behind the national headline figures.

Note too that the number of places figure excludes additional capacity that is being negotiated through the ongoing Gold School Places process.

**11 to 18**

	Places	Projection (low)	Projection (standard)
2023/24	13703	13351	13537
2024/25	13821	13854	14298
2025/26	13859	14108	14729
2026/27	13768	14257	15063
2027/28	13655	14393	15397
2028/29	13474	14384	15613
2029/30	13394	14190	15585
2030/31	13353	13973	15511



The table above establishes the likely need for additional capacity across the whole secondary sector with and without the continuation of the current high rates of migration into the borough. Without the high rates of migration, just under 700 additional places are need, over 2023/24 needs by 2027/28. This is a figure that could be achieved through school expansion. With the high rates of migration maintained, over 1,900 additional places are required by 2028/29. This would be more challenging to deliver by school expansion alone. In both cases total rolls begin to decline after the peak years.

#### Secondary balance of provision across areas (based on 2023 admissions round data)

Parishes/Area	North	Woodley		Earley	Shinfield	South	Wokingham Town / Winnersh			
	The Piggott School	The Bulmershe School	Waingels	Maiden Erleigh School	Oakbank	Bohunt School Wokingham	The Holt School	The Forest School	St Crispin's School	The Embrook School
Resident Children	241	387		482	234	389	741			
Allocated places	254	522		279	135	240	908			
WBC resident allocations to OOB schools	8	19		82	32	100	51			
OOB resident allocations to named schools	9	67		23	26	2	38			
Number of resident children over (+) or under (-) the number of places in an area.	-13	-135		203	99	149	-167			

North area: Parishes to the north of Wokingham Town, Winnersh and Woodley.  
 South area: Parishes to the south of Wokingham Town, Winnersh and Woodley.  
 OOB: Out of Borough

### Analysis

The North area is the best-balanced area. This is helped by 45 additional places at Piggot, which may not be maintained in the long run.

Woodley's Bulmershe School also serves part of south Reading, so the apparent surplus is misleading with the Woodley schools at capacity.

Earley and Shinfield are the least balanced areas, with over 300 more resident children than places at the two local schools. Note too that Maiden Erlegh School also serves part of the south Reading area so the scale of shortfall is in fact higher

The South, Wokingham Town and Winnersh areas abut one another, and the South area is also served by Edgbarrow School in Bracknell Forest (where 80 WBC children were allocated places). However, the Wokingham Town and Winnersh area schools also educate children from other areas, including 98 from Shinfield and 61 from Woodley.

### Post 16

	Projected sixth form roll		Variance from capacity (1)		%g surplus / deficit	
	Standard	Low	Standard	Low	Standard	Low
2022/23	2,093					
<b>Three Year Projection</b>						
<b>2023/24</b>	2,290	2,180	240	320	10%	13%
<b>2024/25</b>	2,600	2,380	-80	120	-3%	5%
<b>2025/26</b>	2,690	2,460	-160	40	-6%	2%
<b>To 2030/31</b>						
<b>2030/31</b>	3,190	2,770	-660	-270	-26%	-11%

"Low" projection is with immigration set at the 2020/21 level

Capacity (1) does not include current sixth form deficits

The table above shows sixth form sufficiency needs until 2030, in the light of the standard and low roll projections. It is not summary of total need, as this would include schools that are currently in deficit, according to current analysis, but which are operating successfully. Note though that sixth

form capacity figures are not fully reliable; even the DfE offers five ways of calculating sixth form places at schools.

### **Sufficiency of Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)**

#### Background

During the process of writing the proposals for Safety Valve funding from the DfE, work was undertaken projecting growth scenarios for numbers of children and young people aged 0-25 with EHC Plans.

The projections were built up from layers of information, based on:

- Population growth projections
- Local trends in increased demand, and
- Comparator trends – nationally, regionally, and statistical neighbours
- Statistical forecasting using ‘exponential smoothing’

These projections generated a range of potential growth scenarios, covering the full spectrum from the unmitigated position – i.e. if nothing changes and current trends continue – through to the ‘mitigated’ position factoring in the impact of the many interventions proposed under the Safety Valve programme.

The figures presented below are the ‘mitigated’ projections and factor in the following:

- Expansion of Addington School at Farley Hill
- Opening of Oak Tree School in September 2023
- Successful bids for two new special free schools, scheduled to start phased opening in September 2026
- The expansion of SEN Resourced Provision and SEND Units attached to mainstream schools and funded through the increase of £6.3m of High Needs Capital Funding as confirmed in May 2023
- The combined preventative impact of a range of measures including the Early Years Strategy, phased introduction of the new SEND Support Service from Autumn 2023, the increased investment in Specialist Outreach provision and a range of other measures included within the Safety Valve Programme.



Wokingham Borough Council Projections for numbers of children and young people with education, health and care plans (EHCPs)

According to Age Range and Provision type

<i>Total number of EHCPs by age group (with estimated future projections)</i>											
	ACTUAL FIGURES					PROJECTIONS					
AGE GROUPS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Under 5	26	27	36	46	72	80	87	93	94	98	102
Age 5 to 10	264	277	341	418	480	550	597	625	631	657	683
Age 11 to 15	317	342	372	412	507	575	620	641	646	672	698
Age 16 to 19	225	238	253	278	288	388	417	428	431	448	466
Age 20 to 25	35	50	76	116	141	203	218	223	225	234	243
<b>Total number of EHCPs</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,939</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>2,192</b>
<i>Total number of EHCPs by provision type (with estimated future projections):</i>											
	ACTUAL FIGURES					PROJECTIONS					
PROVISION TYPE:	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Mainstream schools or academies	299	315	360	492	641	746	806	835	842	876	911
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	47	54	58	60	64	60	65	84	85	88	92
Maintained special schools or special academies	260	264	275	283	326	326	379	424	437	484	533
NMSS or independent schools	68	72	81	89	86	145	130	87	78	51	24
Hospital schools or Alternative Provision	11	20	54	39	55	61	66	73	74	77	80
Post 16	163	166	207	216	235	361	390	404	408	424	441
Other	19	43	43	91	81	97	103	102	103	107	111
<b>Total number of EHCPs</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,939</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>2,192</b>

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**TITLE** Schools update

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 June 2023

**WARD** None Specific;

**LEAD OFFICER** Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Understanding of the judgement of schools against national benchmarks. In particular a reference to those schools recently inspected by Ofsted.

**RECOMMENDATION**

For information

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Schools that have newly published reports following recent inspection by Ofsted since the last meeting are:

Whiteknights Primary School	Graded	Good
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	Graded	Good
Wheatfield Primary School-	Ungraded	Remains Good
Willow Bank Junior School	Ungraded	Remains Good
Loddon Primary School	Ungraded	Remains Good
Foundry College	Ungraded	Remains Good
Addington School	Graded	Outstanding
The Holt School	Graded	Outstanding

Links to the full inspection reports can be found in the attached table.

A reminder of the inspection processes and outcomes is found in the table below.

**Outstanding Schools:**

Since the re-introduction of inspection for schools previously judged to be outstanding by Ofsted we have had three of our outstanding schools inspected. Two of these provisions have successfully retained their outstanding judgement.

As of May 2023 we have 7 schools awaiting inspection under this new guidance who were previously judged to be outstanding. Additionally the hospital school is also due for inspection under its routine inspection cycle and has a previous outstanding judgement.

At a local level we have been providing tailored support along with a universal offer to our Outstanding Schools to assist them in their preparation for inspection. This has included:

- Being ready for the 90 minute call
- Feedback from HMI on the exceptionality of the Outstanding Grade
- Briefing on HMCI Annual report findings on Outstanding schools losing their status
- Workshop for governors on the Outstanding judgement
- Series of 6 workshops on inspection judgement preparation for each key judgement

Positive feedback has been given by schools who have engaged with officers in preparing for inspection, noting the benefits in the work undertaken.

Ofsted are also currently inviting headteachers from Outstanding Schools to specific inspection workshops to be held on regional basis. Heads in the borough are receiving these invitations currently to support their pre-inspection preparation during summer 2023.

**Summary table of Ofsted state-funded school inspections**

Type of inspection	Graded	Ungraded	Urgent	Monitoring
<b>Legal powers for inspection</b>	Section 5 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005
<b>Schools eligible for this inspection</b>	All schools – but most schools with an outstanding/good judgement get an ungraded inspection instead	Schools with an outstanding/good judgement	All schools – but only triggered by a specific concern in a specific school	Schools with an inadequate judgement or 2 consecutive requires improvement judgements
<b>Outcome</b>	A grade (outstanding/good /requires improvement/ inadequate) for the 4 key judgements (quality of education/behaviour and attitudes/personal development/leadership and management) and for overall effectiveness	(1) The school remains good/outstanding (2) The school remains good, but with evidence it may be judged outstanding on a graded inspection (3) The school remains good/outstanding, but with evidence it may receive a lower grade on a graded inspection (4) The inspection was deemed a graded inspection	If inspectors have sufficient concerns about the school, they will deem the inspection a graded inspection and the outcomes will be as for graded inspections. If inspectors do not have serious concerns, they will produce a report setting out their findings in relation to the concerns that triggered the inspection	That the school is, or is not, making progress to improve
<b>Likely timing of inspection after the previous graded or ungraded inspection (not including any COVID-19 delay)</b>	Around 4 years for schools with an outstanding or good judgement and around 30 months for schools with a requires improvement or inadequate judgement	Around 4 years	N/A	Around 12 months for schools with a requires improvement judgement and 3 to 30 months (up to 5 inspections in that period) for schools with an inadequate judgement
<b>Resets the statutory clock?*</b>	Yes	Yes – except in outcome 3 (see above)	No	No

\* The law usually requires the maximum interval for inspections to be within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last relevant inspection took place. However, for schools last inspected before 4 May 2021, the legal maximum will, instead, be up to 7 years.

### **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)**

SIAMS is the statutory inspection of Church of England and Methodist schools with schools expecting their inspection to take place approximately every five years. These inspections sit under S48 of the Education Act 2005.

The National SIAMS team schedules inspections, recruits and appoints inspectors and conducts Quality Assurance of reports and the process.

SIAMS inspections focus on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision. It involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

The Evaluation Schedule has one inspection question:

“How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?”

This is explored through seven strands:

1. Vision and Leadership
2. Wisdom, Knowledge, and Skills
3. Character Development: Hope, Aspiration, and Courageous Advocacy
4. Community and Living Well Together
5. Dignity and Respect
6. Impact of Collective Worship
7. Effectiveness of Religious Education.

One overall grade is awarded reflecting the contribution of these strands to the flourishing of pupils and adults in a Church school. In addition a standalone grade is awarded in all schools for collective worship and in voluntary aided (VA) schools and former VA schools for religious education (RE). This grade is based on teaching and learning alone.

SIAMS judgments are: Excellent, Good, Requires Improvement or Ineffective

More information on SIAMS can be found at [SIAMS Inspections | The Church of England](#)

At a local level the Oxford Diocese Board of Education (ODBE) supports diocesan schools in readiness for SIAMS. There are strong links between the ODBE and the WBC School Improvement team with regular information sharing and joint working.

Schools in the borough who are scheduled for a SIAMS inspection during the academic year 2022/23 are:

The Coombes CE Primary School

Others who may be inspected in a wider timeframe during 2023/34 are:

Woodley CE Primary School  
The Piggott School  
Polehampton CE Infant School  
Grazeley Primary

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)			
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

<b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b>

<b>Cross-Council Implications</b> (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

<b>Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030</b>
Please state clearly what the impact of the decision being made would be on the Council’s carbon neutral objective.

<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>

<b>List of Background Papers</b>

<b>Contact</b> Gillian Cole, Ming Zhang	<b>Service</b> Learning Achievement and Partnerships
<b>Telephone No</b> Tel: 07909998224,	<b>Email</b> gillian.cole@wokingham.gov.uk, Ming.Zhang@wokingham.gov.uk

# WOKINGHAM SCHOOLS

School	Phase	Date	Inspection Grade	Status/Organisation	Ofsted Link
Oakbank	Secondary	Jan-20	RI	Anthem Schools Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Oakbank</a>
Evendons Primary School	Primary	Jun-17	Outstanding	Bellevue Place Education Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Evendons Primary School</a>
Whiteknights Primary School	Primary	Feb-23	Good	Bellevue Place Education Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Whiteknights Primary School</a>
Bohunt	Secondary	May-19	Good	Bohunt Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Bohunt School Wokingham</a>
Chiltern Way	Special	Oct-18	Special Measures	Chiltern Way	<a href="#">Ofsted   Chiltern Way Academy Wokingham</a>
Oaklands Junior School	Primary	Apr-22	Good	Corvus	<a href="#">Ofsted   Oaklands Junior School</a>
Hatch Ride Primary School	Primary	May-22	Good	Corvus	<a href="#">Ofsted   Hatch Ride Primary School</a>
Oaklands Infant School	Primary	May-22	Good	Corvus	<a href="#">Ofsted   Oaklands Infant School</a>
St Teresa's Primary	Primary	Feb-23	Good	Frassati Catholic Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   St Teresa's Catholic Academy</a>
Beechwood Primary School	Primary	May-18	Inadequate	Frays MAT	<a href="#">Ofsted   Beechwood Primary School</a>
Keep Hatch Primary School	Primary	Oct-18	Good	Frays MAT	<a href="#">Ofsted   Keep Hatch Primary School</a>
All Saints Primary School	Primary	Sep-21	Good	Frays MAT	<a href="#">Ofsted   All Saints Church of England Primary School</a>
Wheatfield Primary School	Primary	Feb-23	Good	GLF	<a href="#">Ofsted   Wheatfield Primary School</a>
Windmill Primary School	Primary	Jan-20	good	GLF	<a href="#">Ofsted   Windmill Primary School</a>
Montague Park	Primary	Nov-22	Good	GLF Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Floreat Montague Park Primary School</a>
Polehampton Infant School	Primary	Jan-11	Outstanding	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Polehampton Church of England Infant School</a>
Polehampton Junior School	Primary	Nov-12	Outstanding	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Polehampton Church of England Junior School</a>
Crazies Hill CE School	Primary	Mar-16	Good	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School</a>
Sonning Primary School	Primary	Mar-16	Good	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Sonning Church of England Primary School</a>
St Nicholas Primary School	Primary	Apr-19	Good	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   St Nicholas Church of England Primary, Hurst</a>
Earley St Peter's Primary School	Primary	Sep-21	Good	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Earley St Peter's Church of England Primary School</a>
St Sebastian's Primary School	Primary	Oct-21	Good	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Saint Sebastians Church of England Primary School</a>
Coombes Primary School	Primary	Jan-22	RI	Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Coombes Church of England Primary School</a>
Alder Grove	Primary			Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Alder Grove Church of England Primary School</a>
St Cecillas Primary	Primary			Keys Trust C of E	<a href="#">Ofsted   St Cecilia's CofE Primary School</a>
Maiden Erlegh School	Secondary	Mar-20	Outstanding	Maiden Erlegh Multi-Academy Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Maiden Erlegh School</a>
Aldryngton Primary School	Primary	Dec-11	Outstanding	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Aldryngton Primary School</a>
South Lake Primary School	Primary	Mar-13	Outstanding	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   South Lake Primary School</a>
Walter Infant School	Primary	Nov-13	Outstanding	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Walter Infant School</a>
Willow Bank Junior School	Primary	Mar-23	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Willow Bank Junior School</a>
CAMHS Phoenix	PRU Hospital	Oct-17	Outstanding	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   CAMHS Phoenix School</a>
Bulmershe School	Secondary	Nov-17	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Bulmershe School</a>
Loddon Primary School	Primary	Feb-23	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Loddon Primary School</a>
Foundry College	PRU	Feb-23	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Foundry College</a>
Hillside Primary School	Primary	May-18	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Hillside Primary School</a>
Hawkedon Primary School	Primary	Oct-18	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Hawkedon Primary School</a>
Rivermead Primary School	Primary	Nov-18	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Rivermead Primary School</a>
Emmbrook Infant School	Primary	Jan-19	Outstanding	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Emmbrook Infant School</a>
Bearwood Primary School	Primary	Mar-19	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Bearwood Primary School</a>
Farley Hill Primary School	Primary	Oct-19	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Farley Hill Primary School</a>
Gorse Ride Infant School	Primary	Nov-19	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Gorse Ride Infants' School</a>
Winnersh Primary School	Primary	Jan-20	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Winnersh Primary School</a>
Ambleside Centre	Nursery	Nov-21	Outstanding	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Ambleside Centre</a>
Highwood Primary School	Primary	Dec-21	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Highwood Primary School</a>
Lambs Lane Primary School	Primary	Jan-22	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Lambs Lane Primary School</a>
Radstock Primary School	Primary	Jan-22	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Radstock Primary School</a>
Emmbrook Junior School	Primary	Apr-22	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Emmbrook Junior School</a>
Gorse Ride Junior School	Primary	Apr-22	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Gorse Ride Junior School</a>
Hawthorns Primary School	Primary	Jun-22	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Hawthorns Primary School</a>
Willow Bank Infant School	Primary	Jul-22	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Willow Bank Infant School</a>
Colleton Primary School	Primary	Sep-22	Good	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Colleton Primary School</a>
Addington School	Special	Mar-23	Outstanding	maintained	<a href="#">Ofsted   Addington School</a>
St Dominic Savio Primary School	Primary	May-19	Good	maintained Catholic	<a href="#">Ofsted   St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School</a>
St Paul's Junior School	Primary	Jun-11	Outstanding	maintained Cof E	<a href="#">Ofsted   St Paul's CofE Junior School</a>
Shinfield St Mary's Junior School	Primary	Feb-18	Good	maintained Cof E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Shinfield St Mary's CofE Junior School</a>
Robert Piggott Junior School	Primary	May-18	Good	maintained Cof E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Robert Piggott CofE Junior School</a>
Robert Piggott Infant School	Primary	Jun-18	good	maintained Cof E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Robert Piggott CofE Infant School</a>
Finchampstead Primary School	Primary	Oct-18	Good	maintained Cof E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Finchampstead CofE VA Primary School</a>
Woodley Primary School	Primary	Nov-18	Good	maintained Cof E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Woodley CofE Primary School</a>
Grazeley Parochial Primary School	Primary	Sep-22	Requires Improvement	maintained Cof E	<a href="#">Ofsted   Grazeley Parochial Church of England Aided Primary School</a>
Holt School	Secondary	Mar-23	Outstanding	Stand Alone Academy	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Holt School</a>
The Piggott CE School	All through	Nov-17	Good	Stand Alone Academy	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Piggott School</a>
Waingels College	Secondary	Feb-18	Good	Stand Alone Academy	<a href="#">Ofsted   Waingels</a>
Forest School	Secondary	Jul-21	Good	Stand Alone Academy	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Forest School</a>
Wescott Infant School	Primary	Dec-10	Outstanding	The Circle Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Wescott Infant School</a>
Emmbrook School	Secondary	Mar-17	Good	The Circle Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   The Emmbrook School</a>
St Crispins School	Secondary	Mar-17	Good	The Circle Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   St Crispin's School</a>
Shinfield Infant School	Primary	Feb-19	Good	The Circle Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Shinfield Infant and Nursery School</a>
Westende Junior School	Primary	Jan-20	Good	The Circle Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Westende Junior School</a>
Nine Mile Ride Primary School	Primary	Jun-22	Good	The Circle Trust	<a href="#">Ofsted   Nine Mile Ride Primary School</a>

Colleagues interested in any other Ofsted reports can search at the Ofsted Reports website

[Find an Ofsted inspection report](#)

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## CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2023/24 WORK PROGRAMME

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
6 September 2023	<b>Social Worker Recruitment and Retention Update</b>	To monitor the development and progress of the strategy.	Information item	Children's Services / Adam Davis
	<b>Safety Valve Update</b>	To monitor the development and progress of the programme.	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>Impact of the Cost of Living crisis</b>	To consider the work being undertaken to support children and young people in the borough in relation to the current cost of living crisis.	Information item	Children's Services/ Helen Watson
	<b>Holiday, Activities &amp; Food programme</b>	To consider the impact of the cost of living crisis on holiday, activities and food programme	Information item	Children's Services / Helen Watson
	<b>KPI's</b>	To consider the key performance indicators	Standing item	Children's Services / Helen Watson
	<b>Post Ofsted Action Plan</b>	To review the Action Plan in response to the ILACS Ofsted inspection	Information item	Children's Services / Helen Watson
	<b>Schools Update</b>	To monitor schools' performance.	Standing item	Children's Services / Ming
	<b>Executive Member Update</b>	To receive an update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	Standing item	Prue Bray

	<b>Schools Causing Concern – Part 2</b>	To consider the work being undertaken to support schools causing concern in a part 2 session	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>CSO&amp;S Forward Plan</b>	To consider the forward plan of the Committee	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
<b>1 November 2023</b>	<b>Safety Valve Update</b>	To monitor the development and progress of the programme.	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>Executive Member Update</b>	To receive an update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	Standing item	Prue Bray
	<b>Schools Update</b>	To monitor schools' performance.	Standing item	Children's Services / Ming
	<b>Schools Causing Concern – Part 2</b>	To consider the work being undertaken to support schools causing concern in a part 2 session	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>CSO&amp;S Forward Plan</b>	To consider the forward plan of the Committee	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
<b>8 January 2024</b>	<b>Executive Member Update</b>	To receive an update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	Standing item	Prue Bray
	<b>Schools Update</b>	To monitor schools' performance.	Standing item	Children's Services / Ming

	<b>Safety Valve Update</b>	To monitor the development and progress of the programme.	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>Schools Causing Concern – Part 2</b>	To consider the work being undertaken to support schools causing concern in a part 2 session	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>CSO&amp;S Forward Plan</b>	To consider the forward plan of the Committee	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
<b>20 March 2024</b>	<b>Safety Valve Update</b>	To monitor the development and progress of the programme.	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>Schools Update</b>	To monitor schools' performance.	Standing item	Children's Services / Ming
	<b>Executive Member Update</b>	To receive an update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	Standing item	Prue Bray
	<b>Schools Causing Concern – Part 2</b>	To consider the work being undertaken to support schools causing concern in a part 2 session	Standing item	Children's Services/ Ming Zhang
	<b>CSO&amp;S Forward Plan</b>	To consider the forward plan of the Committee	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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