



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

AGENDA PAPERS MARKED 'TO FOLLOW' FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Time: 6.30 pm

Place: Committee Rooms 2&3, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford,
M32 0TH

A G E N D A	PART I	Pages
1.	ATTENDANCES	
	To note attendances, including officers, and any apologies for absence.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Members to give notice of any interest and the nature of that interest relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.	
3.	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	
	A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to public questions submitted in writing to Democratic Services (democratic.services@trafford.gov.uk) by 4 p.m. on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must be relevant to items appearing on the agenda and will be submitted in the order in which they were received.	
4.	MINUTES	1 - 12
	To receive and, if so determined, to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21 st November 2023.	
5.	SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	13 - 22
	To receive a report from the Director of Public Health.	
6.	SEND INSPECTION REPORT	23 - 30

To receive a report from the Corporate Director for Children's Services and the Director for Education Standards, Quality, and Performance

7. SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING

31 - 42

To receive a report from the Director for Education Standards, Quality, and Performance.

8. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

Any other item or items which by reason of:-

- (a) Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the Chairman of the meeting, with the agreement of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman, is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency as it relates to a key decision; or
- (b) special circumstances (to be specified) the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

9. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

Motion (Which may be amended as Members think fit):

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, because of the likelihood of disclosure of "exempt information" which falls within one or more descriptive category or categories of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and specified on the agenda item or report relating to each such item respectively.

SARA TODD

Chief Executive

Membership of the Committee

Councillors D. Western (Chair), R. Duncan (Vice-Chair), J. Bennett, Z.C. Deakin, S. G. Ennis, S. J. Haughey, E.L. Hirst, E.R. Parker, R. Paul, S. Procter, O. Sutton, D. Acton (ex-Officio) and D. Butt (ex-Officio).

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

Harry Callaghan, Governance Officer,
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Email: harry.callaghan@trafford.gov.uk

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday, 23 January 2024

This agenda was issued on **Thursday, 18th January 2024** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall; Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT

Councillor D. Western (in the Chair).

Councillors R. Duncan (Vice-Chair), J. Bennett, Z.C. Deakin, S. G. Ennis, E.R. Parker, R. Paul, S. Procter, O. Sutton and D. Butt (ex-Officio)

In attendance

Councillor K. Carter	Executive Member for Children and Young People
Jill McGregor	Corporate Director for Children's Services
Karen Samples	Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance
Sarah Butters	Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children
Helen Gollins	Director of Public Health
Martina Mould	Public Absence Team Leader
Kate Shethwood	Public Health Consultant
Tracey Staines	Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents
Zoe Sweeney	Head of Early Years and Family Help
Harry Callaghan	Governance Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. J. Haughey, E.L. Hirst and D. Acton

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

28. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chair informed the Committee that three questions had been received from members of the public. The first was related to agenda item five, with the second and third related to agenda item 7.

1. I would like to know why schools are able to set their own school holidays? Family time should be a priority and where there is no co-ed option for high schools in an area, holidays MUST be standardised. For example, this year my son & daughter do not have any holidays together in February break or Easter. I do hope Trafford do not intend to fine any parent choosing to holiday over these two periods as that would not be fair, all six breaks should be available for parents to utilise.

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I have never taken my children out of school, and will probably not do so, however I think the question regarding fines needs asking on behalf of parents wanting a cheaper holiday, especially in a cost-of-living crisis.

A verbal response was provided by the Director of Education Standard, Quality, and Performance and this can be seen below –

The Local Authority are only responsible for setting the dates of school holidays for community and voluntary controlled schools. Academies and free schools, including Wellacre and Flixton Girls School, have their timetables decided by their governing body's or with the trust. We have received this question in the past, and feedback from families has been shared with headteachers of these schools. Quite recently, we had the Secondary Headteachers meeting, where the discussion was had around the next round of school holidays, and we always endeavour to consult with all of the schools and take into account neighbouring authorities school dates. The schools recognise that they will work better together in the future to make sure there is greater alignment, but ultimately the responsibility does sit with their governing bodies and trusts.

2. What are children and young people's views on inequality and how have their views and opinions been collected?

A verbal response was provided by the Public Health Consultant and can be seen below-

There have been some programmes of work described in the paper that have involved engagement, sometimes referred to, sometimes not in the paper. We do recognise that there has not been work done on inequalities more generally, as it has often been on a specific piece of service development. More can be done now to bring together that data and insight from individual pieces of work, with a more systematic and deeper analysis of young people's experiences of inequalities, which will form part of embedding children's advocacy and participation in all our work.

There's an existing participation and engagement strategy 2022-25, which outlines Trafford's commitment to harnessing young people's voices and using this. Groups involved in this strategy included the Children in Care Council, Youthwatch, Trafford Youth Cabinet, and the Aftercare Forum among others. Some of those bring together young people with experiences who are often less well heard than others.

There's a lot of work going on with those groups and with partners in and amongst the Council to review the participation and engagement strategy and the current infrastructure to make sure that the voices of young people are engaged with and reach the right strategic forums and decision makers.

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3. There has been just one mention in the report of the 'beewell' survey; will Trafford be doing any more evaluation of the data from that survey as it gives a detailed understanding of how our children and young people are?

A verbal response was provided by the Public Health Consultant and can be seen below-

This year's survey is just closing, with approximately 16 schools signing up to this. The survey provides a useful breakdown by neighbourhood, which can often be hard to source from other data sets and was found when producing this paper. The results do require further interrogation and interpretation and it should be noted that the survey is completed by specific young people, in specific schools, so it is not a representative sample but is nonetheless a useful starting point.

There is a dashboard developed by the University of Manchester to provide an after-glance view for neighbourhoods and different authorities to compare with each other. Anybody with an interest can access on that, so we would be happy to take views on how to make the most out of that.

In terms of within the Council, previously the results have been shared through the Start Well board, to consider the implications for partners. It is also valuable that schools have a line of sight to those findings. The findings have informed commissioning plans and are referenced in the mental health joint strategic needs assessment. Once this year's findings have been published, we are committed to taking these through the young people's engagement mechanisms to supplement the high level of data.

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2023 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

30. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance opened by recognising guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE) in May 2022, which was labelled 'Working together to improve school attendance'. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance highlighted that this was currently non-statutory, however, the Secretary of State had committed to making it statutory. The Committee were informed that this guidance had been established to define the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders to maintain high levels of attendance. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance spoke of the high amount of work ongoing within Trafford around this, particularly, discussions looking at Trafford's strategies regarding the DfE's guidance. She highlighted that Trafford, overall, are proud of their attendance data, with this being one of the highest in the country, a positive highlighted also by the DfE and Ofsted. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and

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Performance referred the Committee to latest published data, which had been included within the report provided. She hoped this highlighted the strong picture for children with SEND, but that there was possibly more work to be done in the secondary sector.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance also highlighted the data around the impacts of poor attendance, and how bad this could be for results. The Council was being clear that this was everybody's business, with schools and partners encourage to work with rather than against families.

The Committee were informed that officers had established a model draft attendance policy aimed at getting consistency across the borough, on request of schools, with guidance also produced to enhance the culture around attendance in schools.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance referred the Committee to the report and its inclusion of Emotionally Based School non-attendance (EBSNA), informing the Committee that they were acutely aware of this issue, especially post-pandemic. The guidance toolkit produced on this had been done by Trafford's Educational Psychologist (EP), who had led with working with colleagues across Greater Manchester (GM) to develop a toolkit that explains the factors on attendance difficulties.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance spoke of the work of the virtual school, with the Head of the Virtual School aware that attendance for cared for children was a concern and had a clear priority around improving school attendance for vulnerable cohorts.

One of the expectations from the guidance produced by DfE was to hold targeting support networks on a termly basis for every school. The work on this had begun with a RAG rating in place to work with those red schools as a priority.

The Chair thanked the Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance for the report and asked if the Committee had any questions.

Councillor Sutton asked about persistent absence being a potential early sign of safeguarding issues. He felt that there needed to be a more specific inclusion of the statutory need to consider safeguarding issues.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance recognised that attendance was a protective factor for some vulnerable young people. She informed Councillor Sutton that the Head of the Virtual School had greater oversight for children who were potentially in need of child protection. She did say that there were panel meetings happening every week, which was a multi-agency approach to consider the circumstances behind absence.

The Public Absence Team Leader came in and informed the Committee that there was a lot of multi-agencies work ongoing, and that it was imperative that the

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Council addresses persistent absence as it could be a massive safeguarding concern.

The Head of Early Years and Family Help spoke of how persistent absence was a concern, and keeping children safe was a priority. She spoke of the importance of early intervention and prevention, and not waiting for it to get as low as 50% attendance. The Committee were informed that the Head of Early Years and Family Help manages the Trafford Team Together (TTT) service, which had a huge commitment to a family help offer that invites schools to speak about the children they have the greatest concern about, at the earliest opportunity. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance finished by saying that there were clear expectations that if a child was absent from school, they should be contacting families.

Councillor Ennis recognised the good data for absence in Trafford but felt that the issue was so bad across the country, it should remain an issue. He mentioned that persistent school absence was trending upwards rather than down in Trafford but welcomed the work on early intervention. His first question was if there were specific days of the week that come up more often. He asked how school absence data compares from year groups that started primary school before the pandemic, compared to those who started during the Covid years. He asked what was being done to bring down the high rates of children with an EHC Plan missing an alarming amount of school. His final question asked how many children with EHC plan were currently without a school place.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance started by providing assurance that just because Trafford was very high nationally, that they will not become complacent. On the data around children with EHC plans, the Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance spoke that the Council was clear at targeting those schools having the greatest impact on overall attendance data. She provided the example of how at one SEND school, they were having a problem with attendance since covid and that this was now becoming entrenched. To counteract these issues some offsite placements had been created, to manage some of the barriers that these young people have to return to former attendance.

The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children noted that the attendance data for 2022/23 was indicative and was not fully verified as of yet. She shared the most recent data, with rates of persistent absence rates down 2.8%, significantly better than the national rate. The most significant improvement was in the secondary sector rates, with a decrease of 4.1%, with rates for children with EHC Plans also being shared.

Regarding Councillor Ennis' questions on year groups and days of the week, data would be provided outside of the meeting. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children shared that absence per year increases year on year from reception up to year eleven. The Public Absence Team Leader added that historically Mondays and Fridays have been the worst, however, moving forward,

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the Council was now data rich in this regard and could look at this in more detail moving forward. There had also been an increase in leave of absence in term times.

Councillor Paul raised concern around the procedure if a child was not attending due to bullying, and what was being done around this issue. She also asked what Councillors could do when this was raised by constituents.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance responded that the Council probably does not hold this level of detail, but that it would play into the work around EBSNA, as this was something that often comes up through the EBSNA toolkit. The Head of Early Years and Family Help mentioned that it was something that was picked up in the TTT approach and came up more in the south of the borough. The strength of the TTT approach, was the ability to capture child and young person approach in working alongside them. The Public Absence Team Leader responded that parents contact the pupil absence team directly, and work was then done to address those issues. The Public Absence Team Leader was asked to provide the contact details for this team.

The Chair asked if the higher levels in the south of the borough came back to inequalities with greater access to social media. The Head of Early Years and Family Help felt that this was an important point and thought that the bee well survey, and its results would be interesting as it aims to capture the young person's voice.

Councillor Parker mentioned the suggestion in the report that it was 3x more likely for looked after children to be persistently absent, and wanted to know what could be done to make sure support did not reduce as the Council comes under greater financial pressure. Councillor Parker also raised that she was conscious that the responses had been taken from the TTT model, but that this had not been fully rolled out across the borough, so questioned what was filling the gap.

The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance said that attendance of cared for children was of a concern, with a lot of analysis going into the reasons for that. She spoke highly of the virtual school and its rich resource to manage the needs of looked after or cared for children. However, multi-agency discussions and panels were taking place to look at that issue.

The Corporate Director for Children's Services also spoke highly of the well-resourced virtual school and mentioned a deep dive that had come to the most recent corporate parenting board, around education of cared for children. The Corporate Director for Children's Services also informed the Committee of the annual bridge conference that had been established, which looked at building a bridge between the work done by the Virtual School and the Council's children social care services. The Corporate Director for Children's Services said that she would share the virtual school annual report. Councillor Parker asked if the data in the annual report included the number of cared for children who went onto higher education. The Corporate Director for Children's Services responded that it does, and the Council has good numbers for this.

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The Head of Early Years and Family Help responded that TTT was not yet in central Trafford, but assured Councillor Parker that the Early Help Panel was in place in this area, which SEND assessment had praised. However, she assured that the Council was committed to the TTT approach.

Councillor Bennett felt that officers should not underestimate the impact this has on parents. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance said that it was heart-breaking to hear some of the stories, with the educational psychology service providing webinars to parents to offer advice, guidance and support. The Public Absence Team Leader agreed that support for parents and families was key, and that building relationships with parents was really key when supporting problems with school attendance.

Councillor Procter spoke of her love for data but wanted more in-depth detail. This included the causes of absence, whether it varied geographically, and felt that the Council was doing what it could but felt that more could have been done. She responded that this was certainly something that could be taken away and said that the North was where the highest levels of absence were seen. She mentioned that as more data came to light on geographical imbalances, a report could be brought in the future. The Corporate Director for Children's Services spoke of improved engagement with foster carers, providing greater ability to support and challenge carers in an appropriate way. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance added that there was also a foster carer representative on the Virtual School Board.

Councillor Deakin asked about the psychology service and the take up of this was. The Head of Education Places, Access and Vulnerable Children responded that the take up was at 85%. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance spoke of EBSNA steering groups which had been set up, which had parents, partners, and schools on. The Head of Early Years and Family Help added that it was a toolkit which was rolled out to schools, and as part of the TTT approach, when children were in year five, schools were being asked to have a focus on EBSNA, as this was of greater concern when children move to bigger secondary schools.

Councillor Duncan asked if it would be possible to have a breakdown of absence data, per school and per ward. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance responded that this could be provided.

Councillor Sutton asked if that within the model attendance policy, reward for children on attendance could be stopped, as this created a stigma for children with chronic health conditions. The Public Absence Team Leader responded that this could be added and that these discussions are being had with schools.

The Chair thanked the officers for the report.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted.

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- 2) That Councillor Ennis be provided with further data on his question around increased non-attendance on specific days of the week.
- 3) That the Public Absence Team Leader provide Councillors with the contact details of the pupil absence team.
- 4) That the Corporate Director for Children's Services share the virtual school annual report with Councillors.
- 5) That the Director of Education Standard, Quality, and Performance share with Councillors the data of school absences per ward, and per school after the meeting.

31. COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT

The Corporate Director for Children's Services introduced the report and informed the Committee that this was the first time an annual report had been produced on safeguarding. The Corporate Director for Children's Services recognised that this was an issue for local and national services. She hoped that the report gives an indication of how seriously the Council takes safeguarding and informed the Committee that it was about being child and young person centric.

The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents began by picking out some of the highlights of the report and referenced the difference it made to young people. The highlights included a really strong staffing resource with good retention and a low rate of interim staff, which helped in providing young people with a stability around their workers, and feedback currently reflected this. The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents spoke of the high level of expertise within the team, who had a greater understanding of the young people and their needs.

The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents mentioned that a lot of work had gone into the development of the complex safeguarding partnership, with a highlight being the partnership working. The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents referred to the development of the SHINE panel and said that these improvements had enabled the safeguarding team to respond to any concerns from young people, often on the same day.

The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents referred to a case study in the report but said that improvements to multi-agency working prevents young people becoming criminalised when they are often a victim of exploitation.

The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents spoke of a further highlight being the wide range of audits material, which helped to understand gaps for young people and gaps within the service. They also receive performance data that helps the team to understand the patterns and themes that were affecting young people. The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents said that what was known from the data was the low re-referral rate within the service. This stood at just 11% which equates to three young people and had been taken as a measure of success of ongoing direct work with young people.

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The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents provided final reflections. She mentioned that it was a female heavy workforce, despite lots of boys using the services. She informed the committee that a male social worker had been recruited. The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents noted the need to be mindful of urban street gang children who have often been victims but were also potential exploiters of other young people.

The final reflection from the Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents was that it had been noticed that it was quite difficult to get feedback from young people, with an ongoing drive to ask families and young people for their feedback, to see what the service does well and not so well.

The Chair thanked the Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents for the report.

Councillor Bennett asked if there was any evidence of familiar patterns, such as children within the same family. The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents responded that there was some evidence, but there were very few cases. Councillor Bennett followed up by asking if there was a bigger problem than what the Council was aware of. The Corporate Director for Children's Services added that there was a model at Greater Manchester (GM) level, which tried to keep the number of young people working with a shine worker quite low. The Corporate Director for Children's Services mentioned that they have grown the service as there was a belief that there was an unmet need. In response to Councillor Bennett's first question, the Corporate Director for Children's Services responded that there was a pattern on criminality being entrenched within families.

Councillor Butt referred to the report and data on age profiles. He highlighted that around 13/14 there was an increased number of children becoming criminalised and agreed that this was a very vulnerable age. Councillor Butt also mentioned that it increased significantly again at age 15/16, and then tapers off after this age. He asked if there were any lessons being learnt from this. The Corporate Director for Children's Services responded that this was an area where national findings and research, as well as the dynamic nature of the harm and concerns was continually growing. She mentioned that the Council did have the benefit of the GM complex safeguarding hub, which had often been at the forefront of much of the work that had been done. The Corporate Director for Children's Services also spoke of recent engagement with the Lads Like Us GM scheme, where young men who have come through exploitation, have started to follow a different path in life.

Councillor Procter referred to the most recent OFSTED Inspection and its positive report on child exploitation. She thanked officers that she was able to read this, and felt it highlighted the good work being done.

Councillor Parker also thanked the officers and that the report privileged the voices of survivors. The Councillor asked if SHINE services were working with the virtual school. The Corporate Director for Children's Services replied that there was a dedicated SHINE worker in place where there was a belief that a child may

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be at risk of exploitation. The Head of Service – Vulnerable Adolescents added that there was a member of the virtual school that sat on the SHINE panel.

The Chair emphasised how proud she was of the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

32. HEALTHY START

The Director of Public Health provided the introduction, with Trafford in the process of shaping the approach to health inequalities. The Committee were informed that the public health team works closely with several council services, including closely with the Corporate Director for Children's Services. She spoke to the wider determinants of health inequalities, and the impact of these on children. Public health was adopting a partnership approach to reducing health inequalities, which was to be complimentary to the Greater Manchester (GM), fairer health for all. She ended by saying that children live in families, and that you could not think about children's health inequalities without thinking about their wider families.

The Public Health Consultant began by informing the Committee that the report was an overview of a wide-ranging agenda, so was happy to come back on any questions from Councillors. The Public Health Consultant said that the drivers of health inequalities are complex and referred to the evidence of this in the report. The Committee were advised that the Public Health Consultant had tried to structure the paper to a way that it was helpful, and the simplified model that considers the social or wider determinants of health. These things then determine the opportunities people have to live healthily.

The Public Health Consultant informed the Committee that the paper had focused on the second and third layers of health inequalities, with a focus on some of the core groups that are not covered if you take only a geographical or deprivation-based look at inequalities.

The Public Health Consultant referred the Committee to the key figures of what inequalities looks like. She drew the committee to a couple of these, including the significant focus of the paper on the early years provision, particularly from conception to age two.

The Public Health Consultant further referred to the report to improvements that are being seen, which have been covered in the report, and spoke of key data in the West of the Borough. She drew the committee to the data on the national child measurement programme, which was done at reception age, and had shown inequalities in excess weight, had been eliminated since 17/18, with the gap between the most and the least deprived having massively reduced.

Mental health and emotional wellbeing had also been referenced in the report, with an increased need and complexity for these young people. The Public Health Consultant provided some information about what was being done to target and support these young people.

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The Public Health Consultant spoke about the decrease in take up of immunisations since COVID, an issue also seen nationally. She informed the Committee of the targeted work ongoing with the GP practices in the North of the borough, to spark a conversation about why less people are booking in for vaccinations, especially for young children under 5.

The Public Health Consultant summarised the report and referenced the strategic items at the end of the report.

The Chair thanked the officers for the report and asked if Councillors had any questions.

Councillor Ennis felt it was important to make full use of the Broomwood community centre. He asked for more of a focus on mobile gambling, which he saw as a real problem for young men.

The Public Health Consultant responded that there was a new alcohol, gambling, and substance misuse partnership in Trafford, which was taking a real focus on gambling. This had involved lived experience in the room, and that really took over the last meeting. Various discussions had been being had around the groups that were most impacted by this, and discussions had begun to embed these things into the service.

The Director of Public Health responded the need for a focus on Broomwood, which could often be forgotten about as it was in the South of the borough. She assured Councillor Ennis that there was work going on to make greater use of this service.

Councillor Sutton asked what work was being done around sexual reproductive health and access for young people to identity services. He shared that he felt this was grossly underfunded and often subject to hostile attacks in the public sphere. The Public Health Consultant welcomed this, and assured Councillor Sutton of developments with CAMHS partners. The Corporate Director for Children's Services said there had been safeguarding issues around gender identity being one of the factors. There had been discussions being had at local and regional level, to increase conversations on these.

Councillor Procter spoke of how in her ward, four schools were very close to the M60 and added that she has lot of anecdotal evidence on the increase of asthma, when being around petrol fumes. Councillor Procter raised concern about asthma rates and absence from schools, as well as the knock-on effect from being in a school so close to a motorway and asked if public health had any better evidence of this. The Director of Public Health responded that they do not have it to hand, but this could be provided. She did assure the Councillor that there was air quality monitoring ongoing and would send across more high-level data regarding this. Councillor Procter spoke of local group in her ward who had done some work on this.

Councillor Butt asked about dental treatment mentioned in the report, with the focus being on urgent treatment, without mention of prevention, asking how public

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health planned to tackle this. The Public Health Consultant responded that it was important to work on focusing on poor dental health. She spoke of work ongoing closely with the health visiting team, as well as other schemes also in place to work on this issue.

Councillor Paul raised concern for under 18 consumption of alcohol and also the data on vaping. She asked what steps were being taken to warn children of this, so that the number would reduce. The Public Health Consultant responded that the vaping data had been of real concern, with work on the response to vaping ongoing. She mentioned that it was about encouraging vaping for adults who smoke, but also projecting the message that it was bad for young people who had no past experience of this. As for the alcohol statistic, these had been concerning, and work was ongoing in this area for both adults and young people. The Public Health Consultant finished by saying that there was work ongoing in secondary schools to raise awareness.

The Chair thanked all the officers for their input.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the Director of Public Health provide Councillor Procter with data on the impact of children going to school near a motorway.

33. OFFICER UPDATE

Prior to the meeting Councillor Procter had sent questions for the Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance around SEND Tribunals. The Director of Education Standards, Quality, and Performance responded to these questions in the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.40 pm

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Children's & Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23rd January 2024
Report for: Information
Report of: Helen Gollins, Director of Public Health

Report Title

Substance and Alcohol support for young people: partnership work to address the substance misuse and alcohol use, including vaping.

Summary

This paper provides Trafford Council Children's Scrutiny Committee an outline of how the Council and the local service provider are supporting Trafford young people affected by substance misuse and alcohol and working to prevent harm. This paper will provide an overview of the national and local context, young people's substance misuse treatment outcomes, an introduction into new and emerging substances and future developments for Trafford.

Recommendation(s)

The Children's & Young People's Scrutiny Committee are asked are asked to note the content of this report and provide any comment and insights which can inform future developments.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Aimee Hodgkinson, Public Health Commissioning Manager
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1. Introduction

1.1. National Context:

In 2019 the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care commissioned Dame Carol Black to conduct a two-part independent review of substance misuse. In response, the government published their 10-year drug strategy titled '*From Harm to Hope: A 10-year Plan To Cut Crime and Save Lives*'. This strategy outlined three reform objectives relative to substance misuse including alcohol:

1. Breaking supply chains
2. Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system
3. Achieve a generational shift in demand for recreational drugs.

All these objectives aim to have positive impacts on children and young people (CYP) and local areas have been given some increased funding to help achieve these overarching aims. Although the strategy is focused on drugs, the harms of alcohol use are recognised within the strategy and the integrated nature of many support services and treatment providers means that the investment has been used to tackle both.

1.2 Early Break Young People & Family Service

Trafford *Achieve* Recovery Service is the locally commissioned service to support Trafford residents affected by substance misuse and alcohol harms. This partnership is led by Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust (GMMH) and Early Break is a sub-contracted core partner in this service model, delivering specialist support to CYP (under 21 years; young people aged 22-25 with additional needs can be seen by either Early Break or the adult service) and to families affected by parental substance misuse.

Early Break staff work with young people to develop a comprehensive assessment and care plan working towards reduction or abstinence of their substance misuse behaviours and the associated risk taking and harmful behaviours. This process will cover a range of areas such as substance use, safeguarding, physical health, emotional health, sexual health, family and peer relationships, education, finance and employment etc. Advocacy Workers offer one-to-one support, education and advice and offer access to treatment and specialist structured harm reduction interventions. They do this by providing holistic therapies, taking account of mental wellbeing and the drivers of people's behaviour, including trauma. Early Break will work with young people for however long they need. To fully support a young person's comprehensive assessment of need and care plan, they will also work with partner agencies such as in education, criminal justice, sexual health or youth services.

They also offer their award-winning Holding Families programme which is a whole family approach to support parental substance use and young people who are impacted by this. This six-month programme allows the parent and the child/ren to have their own individual workers, to meet their individual needs, as well as coming together to be supported as a family. Additionally, Holding Families Plus was developed as part of PHE National Innovation grant in 2019, to develop

services for children affected by alcohol dependent parents who are in prison. This project builds on the evidence based of Holding Families to offer a trauma responsive service working with children, families and carers effected by parental substance misuse and criminality. This work has strengthened partnerships with probation and local prisons and across children's services. The aim of these family services is to provide support to prevent the early onset of challenging and risk-taking behaviours amongst young people. It also supports the adult to reduce their risks and to reintegrate with their family, where appropriate.

Early Break also provide input to schools and partners to raise awareness of substance use risks and offer harm reduction training. They have recently developed their 'Stressed Out Brain' training which we have commissioned in Trafford. This has been developed by young people for professionals as young people often reported that wider front-line agencies did not know how to talk to young people about their substance use effectively, resulting in these needs often being missed or not addressed. This training provides professionals with resources to use in their own practice. Over the last year almost 100 professionals have received the SOB training in Trafford, this includes colleagues from; Early Help, VCSF, Youth services, Childrens Social Care, Education, Complex Safeguarding, Youth Justice and Cared for Children. <https://stressedoutbrain.earlybreak.co.uk/stressed-out-brian-film-new-trauma-informed-resource-for-young-peoples-workers/>

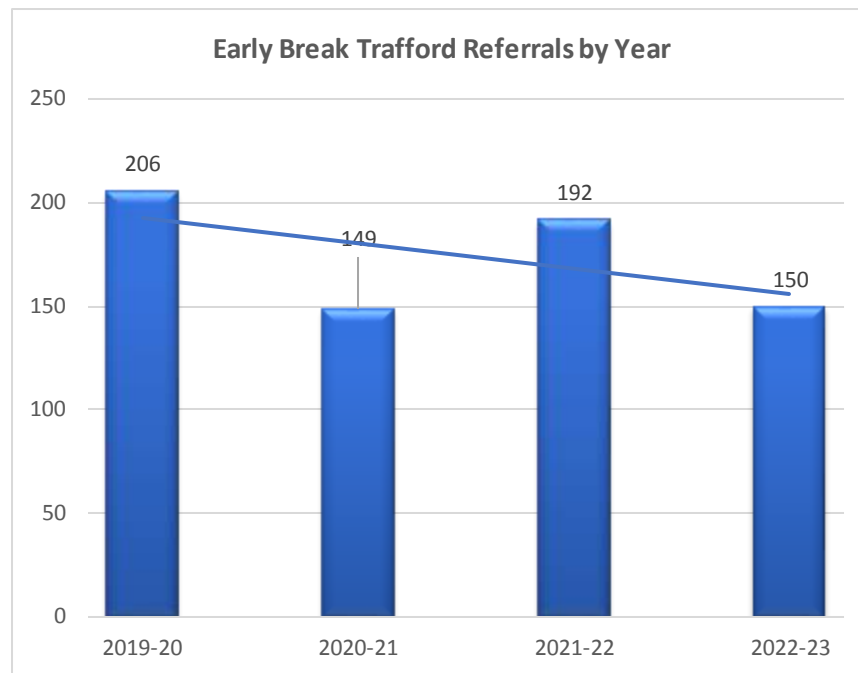
1.2.2 Trafford's Alcohol, Substance Misuse & Gambling Partnership

In Summer 2023, Trafford Council's Public Health Team set up The Trafford Alcohol, Substance Misuse & Gambling Partnership (TASMGP). This partnership brings together a range of partners and organisations linked both directly and indirectly with alcohol, drugs, and gambling. The focus is to collaborate and share good practice to strengthen alcohol, drug and gambling activity across the borough and deliver on a local alcohol, drug and gambling action plan. A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is currently being developed to inform this action plan and future investment and activity. Early Break and wider young people's services are represented in this partnership which is accountable to Trafford's Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Trafford Partnership.

2.0 Trafford Indicators and Outcomes

2.1 Referral Breakdown – All Referrals

The table below outlines the total number of referrals Early Break received from 2019/20 to 2022/23.

Figure 1: Early Break Trafford Referrals 2019/20–2022/23

The reduction in referrals in 2020/21 is due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and young people not being seen by education or wider services. In Quarter 4 of 2023 the Trafford team experienced changes in staff which disrupted partnership working and referral generation whilst new relationships were being established. During 2023 Trafford has seen an upward trajectory in their number of referrals again; in quarters 1 – 3 Early Break have received 153 referrals.

The table below shows the breakdown of referrals Early Break Trafford received by sector, over the last 4 years.

Table 1: Early Break Trafford Referral Sources 2019/20-2022/23.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023 Q1-3
Children & Family Services	19%	24%	23%	23%	17%
Education Services	24%	13%	26%	22%	18%
Health & Mental Health Services	23%	23%	26%	18%	20%
Substance Misuse Services	1%	<5%	9%	8%	7%
Youth Justice Services	11%	19%	9%	18%	22%
Family/Friends/Self	16%	11%	9%	9%	15%
Other (including missing data)	<5%	<5%	<5%	<5%	<5%

Referrals from Health & Mental Health Services increased in 2021/22. This is possibly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people and the result of professionals returning to office-based working, strengthening partnership working and referral pathways. There has since been a drop which is particularly noticeable in hospital referrals. These decreased from between 11-13% in previous years, to 8% in 2022/23. This has been a particular concern as Trafford has a higher hospital admission rate for under 18's for alcohol-specific conditions (2018/19) compared to the North-West and England. Early Break have

completed some focused work with the hospitals and most recent data in 2023 is showing an upward trajectory in the numbers referred into the service.

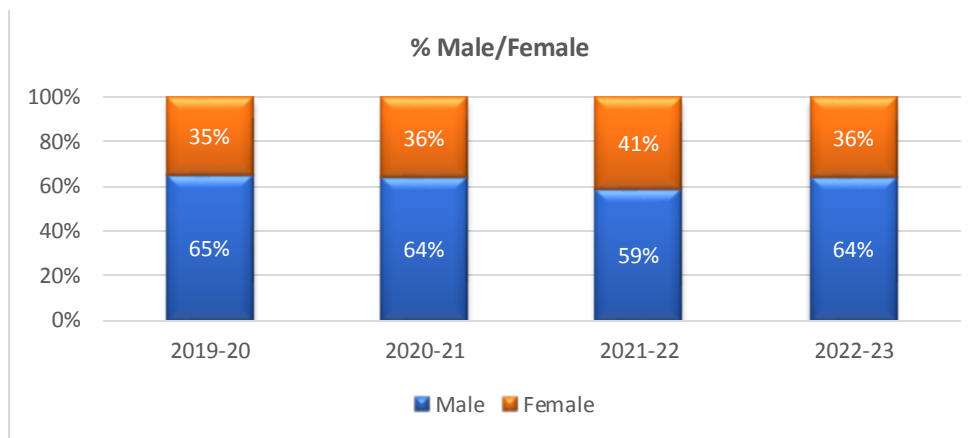
Referrals from Youth Justice Services decreased in 2021/22; this is thought to be due to the COVID-19 lockdowns and the reduction in arrests being carried out with young people. Early Break has worked closely with the Youth Justice Service, embedding a worker with the team and providing workforce training and development. Early Break is now represented in the YJS referral meetings and prevention projects such as PIED; this has increased the number of young people coming into treatment services, with the proportion of referrals coming from youth justice increasing from 18% in 2023/23 to 22% in Quarters 1-3 in 2023/24.

2.2 Demographics - All Referrals

2.2.1. Gender - there are consistently more males open to the Early Break service compared to females; male clients make up around 65% of service users.

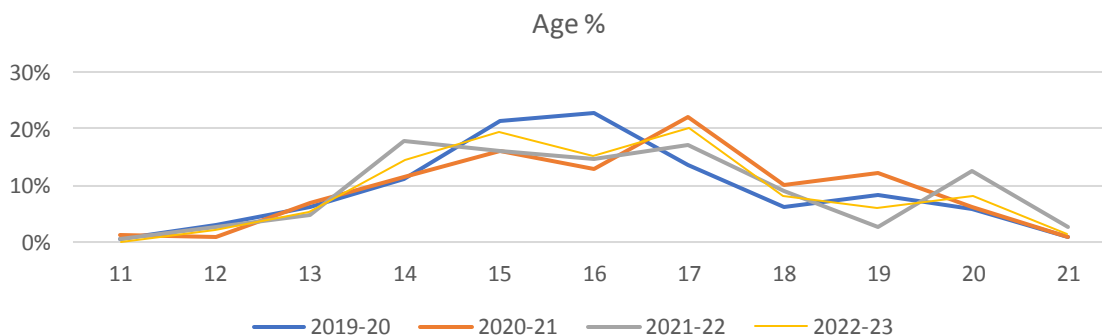
The increase in proportion of female clients in 2021-22 appears to relate to an increase in alcohol-related referrals in 2021-22 seen by the service.

Figure 2: The percentage of Males & Females referred to the Early Break Trafford Service 2019/20-2022/23.



2.2.2. Age - The average age of Early Break service users is consistently around 16 years with breakdown shown below.

Figure 3: Proportion of Early Break service users in each age group, 2019/20-2022/23



2.2.3. Ethnicity - The highest percentage of referrals was for young people who are White British. The percentage of service-users from a black or minority ethnicity has ranged from 15-20% in recent years.

Figure 4: Percentage of non-white ethnicity amongst Early Break service users, 2019/20-2022/23



2.3 Substance Misuse Profile - All Referrals

The table below shows a breakdown for substances that young people reported using at point of referral.

Table 2: A breakdown of substances Trafford young people referred to Early Break reported using in 2019/20-2022/23.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Cannabis	79%	77%	70%	81%
Alcohol	34%	34%	41%	34%
Cocaine	7%	13%	12%	15%
Amphetamines	0%	1%	0%	0%
MDMA	2%	6%	2%	5%
Codeine	1%	3%	1%	1%
Benzodiazepines	6%	6%	5%	7%
Ketamine	2%	1%	5%	7%
LSD	0%	0%	1%	1%
Nitrous Oxide	1%	3%	2%	2%
Aerosols	0%	0%	1%	0%
Heroin/Opiates	0%	0%	0%	1%

Alcohol, Cannabis and Cocaine (ACC) remain the top three substances used amongst young people in service, followed by Benzodiazepine and Ketamine.

There continues to be a steady increase in the proportion of service users who note that they use Cannabis, Cocaine, Benzodiazepines and Ketamine over the last 4 years. 2023/24 data so far shows similar proportions to last year. However, the GM Trends research¹, which includes testing of substances and a survey with young people and professionals, conducted by Manchester Metropolitan University and Early Break with partner organisations, showed a 48% increase in THC (cannabinoids) vaping and anecdotally Early Break feel this is an issue in Trafford too, though responses to the survey were low from Trafford.

¹ [Greater Manchester GM Trends | Testing & Research on Emergent & New Drug Trends \(mmu.ac.uk\)](https://www.mmu.ac.uk/gm-trends)

When making a referral into the service referrers are asked to name their (1) primary, (2) secondary and (3) tertiary substance, listing them in order of impact and support needs.

Alcohol being given as the primary substance increased by 10% in 2021/22 and Cannabis use decreased by same percentage. Possible reasons for this could be that Cannabis was not as widely available during lockdown and alcohol may have been used more as an alternative. These percentages returned to pre-COVID-19 trends in 2022/23.

2.4 Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment - Tier 3 Breakdown

The data outlined above in this report refers to all referrals made into the Early Break service. Not all these referrals will lead to specialist drug and alcohol treatment, also known as tier 3 support. The data below specifically cover Trafford children and young people accessing tier 3 specialist drug and alcohol treatment.

Table 3: Total number of Trafford Tier 3 Service Users in 2019/20-2022/23

Active tier 3	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
Total number in tier 3 treatment	74		87		89		73	
New presentations	50		65		47		41	
Trafford treatment re-presentations (last 6 months)	8	11%	16	18%	9	10%	9	12%
National average re-presentations (last 6 months)		19%		23%		19%		17%

The number of new presentations refers to the number of unique young people that have not been in specialist tier 3 substance misuse treatment before. Re-presentations refers to the number of young people who been in specialist tier 3 substance misuse treatment in the last 6 months and returned. Positively, Trafford’s re-representation percentages have remained lower than national averages for the last four years. This reflects the effectiveness of Early Breaks treatment interventions. At the time of writing, National Drug Treatment Monitoring Systems data has not yet been published for this year.

When considering young people’s discharge from structured tier 3 substance misuse treatment, these exits can be reported as planned (successful) or unplanned (unsuccessful such as a drop-out).

Table 4: Early Break Trafford Tier 3 Service User Planned Exits 2019/20-2022/23

	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
Trafford Planned Exits	44	85%	40	80%	48	84%	34	65%
National Average		78%		76%		77%		78%

Between 2019/20 to 2021/22, the Trafford planned exits exceeded national averages between 80-85%. However, this percentage dropped in the last year. This year by the

end of Quarter 2, 96% of exits were planned, with successful outcomes, compared to a national average of 80%.

3.0 Trafford New & Emerging Substances

Early Break chair the Greater Manchester Substance Misuse Operational Group (SMOG) meeting to discuss common issues such as A&E pathways, emerging trends or new themes. The meeting is attended by colleagues from young people's drug and alcohol treatment services across Greater Manchester and health professionals from emergency departments and school nurses. The SMOG reports back to the Northwest Children, Young People and Families Substance Misuse Partnership Group. This is a strategic group that reports to the Greater Manchester Strategic Lead for Drugs and Alcohol at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and is also chaired by Early Break on behalf of all North-West CYP drug and alcohol treatment services, health representation, MMU and wider academics, strategic leads from GM Complex Safeguarding and the Violence Reduction Unit. Over the last 5 years this group has been influential in developing National drug treatment protocols on Alprazolam (Xanax) and national harm reduction messages on Nitrous Oxide. The annual Young people's drugs trends survey which monitors young peoples substance use and learning is disseminated locally to the children's workforce and through these networks. In Trafford, Early Break deliver this up to date information through their Tier one training, which is available to any professional and is accessed via the safeguarding board website.

3.1 Vaping

Early Break Trafford have been commissioned and trained for the first time to offer a tobacco smoking cessation service to children and families, which hasn't been in place previously.

In response to the increasing concerns surrounding youth vaping, Trafford Council's Public Health Team, Early Break and Trafford's School Health Team are working in partnership to deliver a vaping project to our children, young people, parents and professionals.

As part of the offer, health promotion initiatives are being developed to raise awareness about the harms of youth vaping and to provide young people, parents, and professionals with support and advice. These initiatives include:

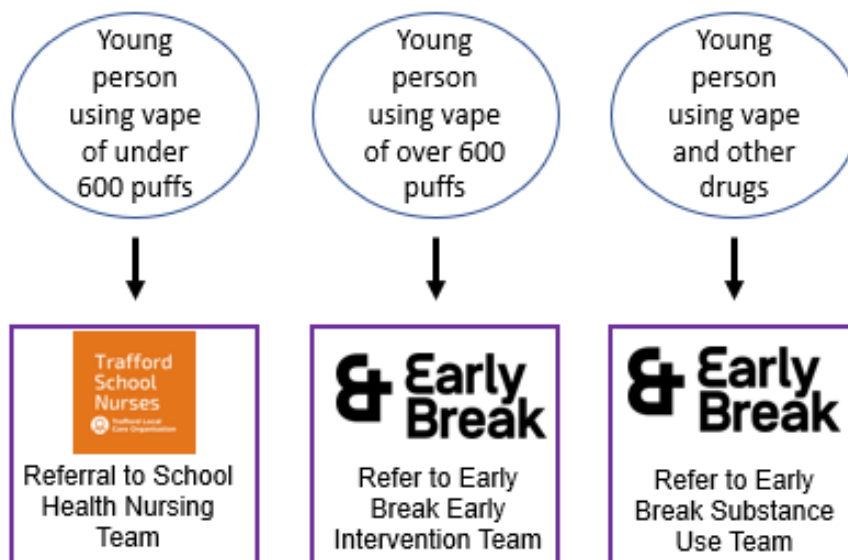
1. Secondary school vaping drop-in sessions.
2. Parents vaping education webinars.
3. Professionals vaping education webinars.
4. Trafford youth vaping pathway (1:1 specialist support).

To help navigate the local support available for young people who regularly vape, the School Health Team and Early Break have developed a pathway of support and interventions available to young people who would like support to cut down or quit vaping.

Young people can access 1:1 support through a referral to their school nurse. If a young person is found to be using an unregulated vape, their support will be transferred to Early Break where they will have a comprehensive assessment of

their need, harm reduction advice, information on nicotine and the risks, an offer of nicotine replacement therapy if appropriate and support to change their habits, if the young person would like this.

Figure 5: Trafford Young People’s Vaping Treatment Pathways



As part of this work, Trafford School Health and Early Break are in the process of collaborating with Gorse Hill Studios to co-design a short, form-time vaping session for pupils. The session aims to capture the voice of our young people on vaping and will complement the secondary school drop in’s taking place from the new year and the materials developed following engagement with several groups of young people in 2022.

Trafford Council’s Public Health Team have also been successful in bidding to receive a population health fellow, funded by NHS England. This will allow the fellow (a Trafford school nurse) to spend 12 months completing research into young people’s vaping behaviours in Trafford in a placement arrangement within the team, to further her understanding of public health and complete an accredited course. We hope this will help us to gain a better understanding of local prevalence and young people’s motivations to vape, particularly for those who do not smoke, to help deliver interventions to best meet their needs.

In addition, Trafford Council has responded to the government’s national consultation on stopping the start: the government’s ambition to create a smokefree generation. Trafford’s response to this consultation included feedback from colleagues in youth health, education and enforcement around youth vaping. The response highlighted the risks of harm to young people using vapes in Trafford, particularly regarding vapes that have been adulterated and resulted in adverse effects. It also highlighted the difficulties Trafford schools have faced in enforcing measures to restrict vaping use amongst CYP. The response advocated regulating vape packaging and product presentation so vapes are less desirable

to young people and are instead understood and marketed as a nicotine delivery device for adults who wish to stop smoking.

3.2 Ketamine

Ketamine is an emerging concern in Trafford. Though the numbers are low, these are increasing and we are seeing more young people with physical health issues as a result. Early Break has monitored this trend through the Northwest Children, Young People and Families Substance Misuse Partnership Group.

Physical health impacts of ketamine use can be missed by primary care. For example, Trafford young people have been diagnosed with a urinary tract infection (UTI) and the general practitioner hasn't asked about the young person's substance misuse history. When Early Break supported young people with these physical health appointments, specialist referrals to urology were made to give young people the physical health support they require.

Trafford Council Public Health Team & Early Break are currently in the process of liaising with Primary Care colleagues to deliver some Ketamine awareness and education.

4.0 Future Developments

4.1 Trafford's Drug & Alcohol Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Trafford Council are currently developing a joint strategic needs assessment for drugs and alcohol. This should help to identify our local unmet need around substance misuse which includes children, young people and families and prevention of these support needs in the future. This is expected to be finalised in March 2024. However, accessing data and intelligence around these issues has been challenging for several partners and a focus of the TASMGP in 2024/25 will be to improve the recording and sharing of insight around young people (and adult substance use)

4.2 Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (TSSP) Board Data Set

Trafford Council Public Health Team and are working in partnership with the TSSP Quality Assurance Officer to complete a safeguarding adults data set that will include substance misuse. This will include intelligence from the Achieve service to help safeguard adults, children and families. Some examples of data that will be included is the number of Achieve service users with an under 18 living at the home, referrals made from Achieve to children's services, and those affected by vulnerabilities such as domestic abuse and mental health difficulties.

5.0 Recommendations

The Children's & Young People's Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this report and provide any comment and insights which can inform future developments.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 15 January 2024
Report of: Jill McGregor – Corporate Director Children’s Services

Report Title

An overview of the Local Area SEND Inspection (2nd – 20th October 2023)

Summary

This report provides an overview of the SEND Inspection Framework, the activity that took place during our inspection in October 2023 and summarises the findings and subsequent actions taken and planned.

Recommendation(s)

Members of Scrutiny are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.
- Provide Challenge and support to the Local Area Partnership.
- To receive regular updates on the improvement work and the Ambitions Plan.
- Agree to receive copy of our formal response and action plan, and further updates on progress against the priority areas.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Jill McGregor
Extension: 2365

Background Papers: Inspection Report - [Trafford Inspection Report](#)

Corporate Priorities	N/A
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	N/A
Finance	N/A
Legal	N/A
Equality/Diversity	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Carbon Reduction	N/A
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management	N/A
Risk Management	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A

1) Background

1.1 The Area SEND inspection of Trafford Local Area Partnership took place from 2nd to 20th October 2023, with the inspection team being on site between 16th – 20th October. This inspection was conducted under the Area Send Inspection Framework introduced in January 2023 jointly by a team of Inspectors from Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) and as such is very much a system wide inspection reflecting the need for a system wide response to SEND.

1.2 Trafford, as a SEND area partnership, was last inspected in 2017 and at that time was deemed to be supporting children and young people well. The focus of the inspection at this time was on Local Areas' ability to meet the requirement to convert 'statements' into Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) as well as whether there were strong joint commissioning arrangements in place.

1.3 Since that time much has changed within both a local and national context, including the changed health landscape, with the implementation of Integrated Care Boards and Partnerships (ICBs and ICPs), as well the continued increase in the rise nationally in EHCPs and increased complexity of need including emerging needs post pandemic. Consequently, the new revised inspection methodology very much reflects some of these changes and has a clear focus on outcomes for children.

1.4 The purpose of Area SEND inspection is to:

1. Provide an independent, external evaluation of the effectiveness of the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND.
2. Where appropriate, recommend what the local area partnership should do to improve the arrangements.

1.5 The evaluation schedule used within this inspection considers whether:

- Children and young people's needs are identified accurately & assessed in a timely & effective way.
- Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support.
- Children and young people receive the right help at the right time; children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes; children and young people are valued, visible and included in their communities.

1.6 There are three possible outcomes to the Inspection, and, unlike Social Care and School based inspections, these outcomes are not single word outcomes and are intended to be more outcome focused.

The possible outcomes are:

- i. The local area partnership's SEND arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with

SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.

- ii. The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.
 - iii. There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.
- 1.7 Trafford Local Area Partnership report was published on 22nd December and the Partnership was judged to have outcome ii which recognised the strengths and the positive work that is making a difference to our children and young people but clearly recognises that there is more to do as '*our arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND*'.

This outcome accords with our own partnership self-assessment and comprehensive strategic planning is underway to make further improvements – building upon the areas strengths whilst recognising there is more to do.

Formal monitoring of the partnership improvement activity will be through a series of Engagement Meeting with CQC and Ofsted on a 6 monthly basis. In addition, there will be oversight by DfE and NHS England – the first of these meetings with DfE is scheduled to take place on 14th. February.

2. Inspection Activity

- 2.1 The inspection was a 3 week process with a team of CQC inspectors and Ofsted inspectors, including an Education HMI lead, with the team being on site for the final week.
- 2.2 The activity undertaken included meeting with over 200 practitioners from across the system visiting 2 Schools, Trafford Alternative Education Provision, a GP surgery, an early years provider; Trafford College as well as having dedicated time with Trafford Parent Carer Forum (TPF) and our young people.
- 2.3 In addition to field work activity, the Inspection involved significant scrutiny of our data and current performance, audit activity, tracking of individual children and their plans. Three surveys were also distributed, and their findings considered within the inspection; one distributed to parent carers by parent carers: one to practitioners and one to children and young people.
- 2.4 As a partnership we were required to produce a Self-Assessment (SEF), provide information on the context of Trafford as a place and SEND partnership and explore with the inspection team what we thought our areas of strength and

areas for improvement are and critically what action we were taking to further improve outcomes for our children and young people.

- 2.5 The Self-Assessment was co-produced with key stakeholders, including Trafford Parent Forum, and we are using the same methodology in the development of our improvement plans following the outcome of the inspection.
- 2.6 Throughout the field work activity the Inspection team and provided detailed feedback via Keeping in Touch meeting on that day's activity. This level of detail is not necessarily contained within the report but provides a rich source of information for reflection – both in terms of what is working well and what else we need to strengthen.

3. Inspection Findings

- 3.1 As reflected within the final outcome report the Inspection both highlighted some areas of strength and areas where further improvement is required.
- 3.2 It is of particular significance that the Inspection team were clear that leaders from across the partnership were ambitious for children and young people with SEND and much work had taken place to strengthen the planning and governance to drive forward improvement. This, coupled with confirmation that as an Area Partnership we know ourselves well and this is reflected in our strategic planning, means that we are well placed to make further improvement.
- 3.3 The work that has been implemented to reshape and strengthen the SEND Partnership Board was recognised, and the additional challenge that has been brought through having an independent chair has provided a platform on which to increase our challenge each other in order to amplify some areas of improvement work.
- 3.4 Similarly the engagement and commitment of the Parent Carer Forum was seen as an area of strength – recognising their vital contributions as strategic partner not only at Board level but also within a number of strategic forums. The introduction of the Lived Advisory Experience Panels (LEAPS) by the TPF has been influential in developing services. Similarly, the work the forum within the Autism in Schools Project has enabled lived experience to be at the forefront of training.
- 3.5 By contrast, listening to and acting upon the voice of children and young people was seen as an area that needs further strengthening. This was something that had been highlighted within our SEF and whilst this is an area for improvement examples of good practice were seen within education settings, Trafford Sensory Impairment Support and within individual plans there is a need to capture this rich source of information strategically to inform service developments.

- 3.6 The inspection highlighted that for many children and young people their needs are identified accurately and in a timely way. The role of health visitors and early years services was seen as a strength and ensuring that this starts at an early stage assessed in a timely and effective way.
- 3.7.1 However, the early identification of need and responding effectively as a system to children and young people with Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) and neuro diversity was considered to be an area that needed further strengthening. The absence of an agreed partnership approach to address this for some children and young people is having an adverse impact.
- 3.7.2 Some areas of strength were identified in respect of our children and young people's mental health needs e.g., therapist and clinicians who know children well and develop personalised plans; CAMHS crisis management preventing some acute admissions and the support offered through some third sector providers however consistency and timeliness of support was variable.
- 3.8 Responding to this will require greater clarity of our commissioning intentions and approach under the auspices of the new operating mode of the ICB. Inherent in this is the need to have more sophisticated data across the whole system in a differentiated way.
- 3.9 EHCPs were identified as showing some signs of improvement but variability still evident. The contributions of the Educational Psychology service were identified as a key strength and the role of SENAS was seen as being helpful and whilst the inspection team could see evidence of health advice being provided it was not consistently evident within the plans. In some instances, gaps were identified in draft being shared with some health professionals thereby limiting their ability to ensure their advice was accurate.
- 3.10 Work has been progressed to revise the systems and processes in respect of seeking advice and wider EHCP processes. The roll out and implementation of our Partnership Quality Assurance Framework will support greater consistency of plans. The roles of the Designated Clinical Officer and the Designated Social Care Officer are supporting the improvement of health and social care contributions to plans.
- 3.11 Strengthening of the Annual Review process also requires improvement. For children and young people open to social care there is a need to better align different meetings and some young people the review process does not always focus on aspirations.
- 3.12 Whilst strengths were identified in the approach that has been taken to refreshing our short break offer which has included social opportunities for some children and young people further work is needed to enhance social opportunities within communities. Disparity in opportunity was identified both in respect of need

(less opportunities for children with more complex need) and where children and young people live.

- 3.13 The Ambition plan has been enhanced in this regard under Ambition 1 (Our Voices Shape Our Future), but it is acknowledged that this work is in early stages.
- 3.14 Ensuring our children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes is an area that will require focused attention and there is a need to accelerate our work in this area.
- 3.15 Some strengths such as strong proactive practice for children and young people who are not in education employment or training (NEET), transition planning for children with complex needs and are known well by services transition is effective were identified. Handover arrangements with the Learning Disabilities Team were similarly stronger.
- 3.16 However, areas for further consideration and improvements included enhancing the range of housing options, strengthening pathways for children without a learning disability as these are under-developed and ensuring that professionals consistently talk to each other in relation to transition.
- 3.17 Our ability to effectively support our children and young people at all transition stages has been a long standing issue for the partnership.
- 3.18 We are continuing to develop a transitions strategy building on work that has already taken place and there is proactive work being progressed to develop pathways for young people who do not have complex needs. Ambition 4 – “We are equipped with skills for employment and life” has been reviewed to ensure the work programme is comprehensive and this work stream is currently being led by our Interim SEND Improvement Lead to provide additional capacity and support the acceleration of the plans.
- 3.19 Underpinning the work of this Ambition will be the development of system wide performance information in the form of a PfA dashboard. This will enable the partnership to have transparency as to the effectiveness of the actions that are being taken. In addition, the lived experience of our parent carers and young people will be critical in understanding whether the actions we are taking are having positive impact.

4. Progress and next steps

- 4.1 As highlighted within the Inspection report the partnership has an agreed, co-produced strategic plan, Trafford’s SEND Ambitions plan which is already reflective of much of these identified areas for improvement. The Ambition plan focuses on:

- I. Our voices shape our future.
- II. We have the best start in life.
- III. We thrive and reach our full potential.
- IV. We are equipped with skills for employment and life.
- V. We are supported and safe in our home and communities.
- VI. We are healthy.

Dedicated workstreams and action plans are in place to progress each of these Ambitions.

- 4.2 However, we need to ensure our strategic planning and the difference it will make is translated into activity upon the ground. Underpinning our Ambitions further with a Commissioning Strategy that links to need will assist in this regard as will the wider learning from this inspection process.
- 4.3 We recognise that some ambitions workstreams are stronger and more mature than others and such they are having greater traction; for others there is a need to accelerate and amplify activity. Membership all workstreams has been refreshed and there is good system wide representation within them.
- 4.4 Work is currently underway to ensure system wide understanding of the Ambitions plan and improvement activity. This will not only promote better connectivity and shared understanding but will also ensure we have the right professionals supporting delivery upon the agreed actions through a more distributed model.
- 4.5 We have ensured that the detailed learning from the inspection has been shared at leadership levels across the partnership for appropriate dissemination to individual teams.
- 4.6 It is proposed that the partnership will produce a dedicated plan that responds to specific requirements for improvement that have been identified within the inspection and that this will be aligned and incorporated into the work that is already being progressed (The Ambitions Plan). This will enable progress and traction against the inspection recommendations to be readily scrutinised and the difference it is making to be formally reviewed through both existing governance and further reporting to Scrutiny as appropriate.
- 4.7 We recognise that responding to the recommendations and areas for improvement will continue to require a system wide response and working collaboratively at all levels and maintaining momentum and not being complacent will be critical. However, we are in a position where we have a number of key building blocks in place.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Members of Scrutiny are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.
- Provide Challenge and support to the Local Area Partnership.
- To receive regular updates on the improvement work and the Ambitions Plan.
- Agree to receive copy of our formal response and action plan, and further updates on progress against the priority areas.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23 January 2024
Report for: Information
Report of: Karen Samples, Director of Education

Report Title

School Place Planning and Sufficiency

Summary

This report sets out the way in which the local authority coordinates school place planning, providing detailed information about the sufficiency position for primary and secondary school places and measures being implemented

Recommendation(s)

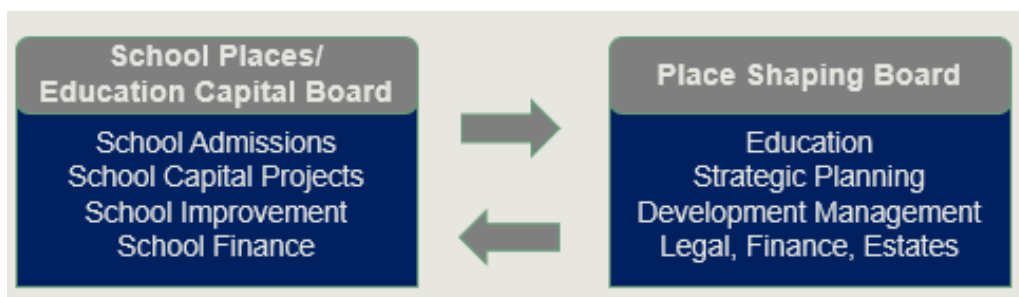
That the contents of the report are noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Sarah Butters, Head of Early Years, School Places and Access
Extension: 3233

1. Background

- 1.1 Effective pupil place planning is a fundamental element of the local authority’s (LA) role as strategic commissioner of good school places and ensures the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places is met.
- 1.2 Strategic planning in Trafford is carried out by the following boards, with overarching decision making by Trafford Council Executive:



- 1.3 Achieving the right balance between sufficient places and overprovision is critical to maintain stability within the existing school system and to avoid compounding financial challenges.

1.4 Key strategic priorities:

- Expand existing schools to protect financial viability. The DfE no longer supports the creation of schools with one form of entry (FE).
- Remove mixed age classes in primary schools where possible so schools operate with full forms of entry (FE).

This maximises the impact of basic need funding, whilst providing opportunities to improve the suitability and condition of the existing stock.

1.5 Where there is an assessed need for additional places to be provided through expansion of existing schools, the school will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Location of the school relative to population / catchment area
- Access for pupils by public transport and other sustainable modes of travel
- Current size of the school
- Practicalities of expansion on the existing site
- Costs of expansion
- Latest Ofsted judgement is good or outstanding

1.6 The Department for Education (DfE) requires each local authority to submit an annual statutory return known as the school capacity survey (SCAP) which includes:

- primary and secondary school capacity for the current academic year
- primary pupil number forecasts for the next 5 academic years
- secondary pupil number forecasts for the next 7 academic years
- plans for changes to the number of primary and secondary places for the next 3 academic years

1.7 Trafford's methodology for forecasting pupil numbers complies with statutory guidance and is monitored and ratified by DfE. It utilises data on GP registrations for pre-school age children, school census, admissions information, new housing developments, average migration rates and survival rates.

1.8 DfE utilise the SCAP submission to calculate an estimated number of additional primary and secondary places needed in each area, which informs the LA basic need funding allocation.

1.9 Between 2010 and 2026, Trafford has been allocated £105.6m of basic need funding which has been used to commission the expansion of 38 schools and provide an additional 4,646 places. Trafford has been identified by the DfE as an exemplar local authority with regards to its effective and efficient use of basic need funding.

1.10 The DfE calculation deploys a methodology which assumes each LA will provide places for all pupils who wish to access one in their area. It is important to note this differs from the local sufficiency assessment which is carried out to ensure that the LA meets its duty to ensure sufficient places for all pupils resident in our area.

1.11 Local sufficiency modelling aims to retain a minimum 5% surplus of places to accommodate in-year applicants as this is a significant factor in Trafford, alongside parental preference which is a strong factor in pupil placement.

- 1.12** Trafford has good transport links and high performing, popular schools, many of which are oversubscribed, making it an attractive option for pupils from outside of our area. Trafford being a net importer of school places creates a significant difference between the DfE estimation of additional places needed and the number of places indicated in our local sufficiency assessment.
- 1.13** Demand for school places is influenced by a broad range of social, economic and demographic factors, reflecting wider trends within community and society at a given point in time. In 2020/21 and 2021/22, Trafford saw an unprecedented increase in demand from pupils moving into our area mid-way through their education and this trend continued in 2022/23 which has created significant pressures. Due to this complexity, providing a place for every Trafford resident child has not been easy to achieve but Trafford continues to meet the statutory duty despite the challenges.

2. New Housing Developments

- 2.1** Strategic Planning, Development Management and Education work together to make sure the impact of new developments is accounted for within school place planning. Housing land supply information is shared amongst the services to establish where new homes are going to be delivered, in what numbers and in which years going forward.
- 2.2** To ensure that new development does not over burden the capacity of existing schools, all major planning applications for housing of 10 units or more are the subject of consultation with the relevant Education teams. Where a shortfall is identified in the local area, a contribution may be calculated. All contributions are designed to offset and mitigate the impact of the development. If it is found that there is a need for school places locally, then a formula is employed to calculate a funding requirement proportionate to that need. Once this formula has been calculated, the planning case officer will then negotiate the relevant sum from the applicant, often as part of a wider package of mitigations or benefits.
- 2.3** Education contributions of £1.833m primary and £0.273m secondary secured within s106 agreements to date to meet additional pupils yielded from future new housing developments.
- 2.4** The new strategic plan for Greater Manchester, Places for Everyone, identified strategic allocations at both New Carrington and Timperley Wedge. Both allocation policies recognised the need for new educational provision to accommodate the increased provision of new homes. Additional demand would be met through existing schools to protect their sustainability, subject to engagement with local schools.

3. Sufficiency of Primary School Places

- 3.1** Trafford has determined 6 primary school place planning areas and sufficiency is monitored at planning area level: Altrincham, Sale East, Sale West, Stretford, Urmston, Partington.
- 3.2** DfE 2022 scorecard for Trafford indicates primary forecast accuracy of within 0.0% for 1 year ahead and 0.4% for 2 years ahead and also shows the cost of providing a permanent school place in Trafford is lower than the national figure.

- 3.3** The LA coordinates the main round of admission into reception year. On national offer day in both 2022 and 2023, Trafford had sufficient places in all areas in the main round of admission into reception year, with a surplus number of places in every area.
- 3.4** For entry into reception in 2023, 94.3% of applicants were offered their first preference school (compared to 92.5% in England). This is up from 94.0% in 2022 (compared to 92.2% in England).
- 3.5** The LA is the admission authority for 31 out of 63 primary schools and it coordinates in-year admissions for all these schools by agreement.
- 3.6** Trafford has always experienced a unique pattern of inbound migration into upper year groups in primary schools as pupils get ready to access the selective education system.
- 3.7** In school years 2021/22 and 2022/23, Trafford saw an unprecedented increase in demand from pupils in all primary year groups moving into our area, which created significant pressures through the system.
- 3.8** Before the pandemic, the average number of primary in-year applications received across the school year was 909. In school year 2021/22 a total of 1,414 applications were received, an increase of 56%. This reduced to 1,244 in school year 2022/23, a reduction of 16% on 2021/22, but still 37% higher than the pre-pandemic average.
- 3.9** The table below shows the assessed position for each of the primary planning areas for school year 2023/24 as at the end of the autumn term in December 2023.

Red = Below 3% vacancy rate

Amber = 3 to 6% vacancy rate

Green = More than 6% vacancy rate

Planning Area	Lower Year Groups	Upper Year Groups
Altrincham	Green	Red
Sale East	Amber	Amber
Sale West	Amber	Red
Stretford	Green	Green
Urmston	Amber	Amber
Partington	Green	Green

- 3.10** All primary in-year applications received in the 2023 autumn term, where residency has been confirmed, have been allocated a school place. This means the local authority continues to meet its statutory duty with regards to offering a place although it is noted that parental preference is less likely to be accommodated and in-year applicants may have to travel further to access a place.

3.11 This has been achieved through allocating through the normal admissions process and through utilisation of the Fair Access Protocol (FAP). The FAP is designed to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a place as quickly as possible.

3.12 In-year applications, the impact of inbound migration and school vacancy rates (including where the local authority is not the admission authority) are monitored regularly by School Places and Capital Board. Intelligence is shared with Trafford Place Shaping Board and also amongst neighbouring authorities via the GM Pupil Place Planning Group and the regional Educational Building and Development Officers Group (EBDOG). The local authority is working closely with the DfE Pupil Place Planning Team to monitor the sufficiency position and identify potential solutions.

3.13 Catchment areas identify priority areas for admission to community schools, voluntary controlled schools, and to some academies. These areas are reviewed annually to ensure that sufficient places exist in each area, or neighbouring area, to accommodate all the children resident in that area. It is accepted that in some years, a very few schools may not be able to allocate places to all the residents in their area, however, when this occurrence becomes routine, or where there is no suitable alternative provision elsewhere, the provision of additional places or amendments to the relevant catchment areas will be considered.

3.14 The birth rate in Trafford is decreasing, following the national trend. In 2022 there were 2,170 live births in Trafford, representing a 13% decrease over the last 3 years, and the lowest number in a decade. The pupil place planning formula is complex and there are factors that will offset some of this decrease, including in-bound migration into our area in the years between birth and starting school; in-year applicants requiring a school place midway through their education; and new housing developments which will yield additional pupils. However, these factors will not fully offset the birth rate decrease and it does mean that in some areas, less primary school places will be needed in the future.

3.15 Altrincham – primary planning area

This planning area includes all schools in WA14 and WA15 post codes.

Vacancy position at 31 December 2023:

2023/24 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	935	965	965	970	985	985	1,000	6,805
No. On Roll	731	825	883	941	951	981	1,026	6,338
No. Vacancies	204	140	82	39	49	20	5	539
% Vacancies	21.8%	14.5%	8.5%	4.0%	5.0%	2.0%	0.5%	7.9%
No. Over PAN	0	0	0	10	15	16	31	72

PAN = published admission number

Measures:

- Willows Primary School - permanent expansion to create additional 15 places in every year group complete, all key stage 2 places now open.

- Broomwood Primary School – 30 places in Y6 bulge class for school years 2022/23 and 2023/24 achieved through conversion of intervention space into classroom.

3.16 Sale East - primary planning area

This planning area includes all schools in M33 post codes (east of A56).

Vacancy position at 31 December 2023:

2023/24 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	480	480	510	510	510	510	510	3,510
No. On Roll	444	466	486	498	490	500	518	3,402
No. Vacancies	36	14	26	20	25	19	0	140
% Vacancies	7.5%	2.9%	5.1%	3.9%	4.9%	3.7%	0.0%	4.0%
No. Over PAN	0	0	2	8	5	9	8	32

PAN = published admission number

Measures:

- Templemoor Infant School – additional 30 places open in Y2.
- Moorlands Junior School – permanent expansion to create 30 places in each year group, all classes fully open.

3.17 Sale West primary planning area

This planning area includes all schools in M33 post codes (west of A56).

Vacancy position at 31 December 2023:

2023/24 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	395	395	425	425	425	455	425	2,945
No. On Roll	367	373	423	438	429	449	435	2,914
No. Vacancies	28	22	4	0	9	19	4	86
% Vacancies	7.1%	5.6%	0.9%	0.0%	2.1%	4.2%	0.9%	2.9%
No. Over PAN	0	0	2	13	13	13	14	55

PAN = published admission number

Measures:

- Firs Primary School – permanent expansion to create 30 places in each year group complete. Additional classes in Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 now open.
- Woodheys Primary School – temporary measure – 30 places in Y5 bulge class for 2021/22, moving to Y6 in 2022/23, achieved through conversion of ICT suite into classroom. Further two-year agreement in place for 30 places in Y5 bulge class for 2023/24 moving to Y6 in 2024/25.

3.18 Stretford primary planning area

This planning area includes all schools in M32, M16 and M15 post codes (in Trafford).

Vacancy position at 31 December 2023:

2023/24 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	684	684	684	684	684	684	684	4,788
No. On Roll	553	612	623	612	637	665	637	4,339
No. Vacancies	134	78	67	79	58	30	55	501
% Vacancies	19.6%	11.4%	9.8%	11.5%	8.5%	4.4%	8.0%	10.5%
No. Over PAN	3	6	6	7	11	11	8	52

PAN = published admission number

There are sufficient places in all year groups.

3.19 Urmston primary planning area

This planning area includes all schools in M41 post codes.

Vacancy position at 31 December 2023:

2023/24 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	510	510	510	510	510	510	510	3,570
No. On Roll	468	468	520	496	507	490	493	3,442
No. Vacancies	42	42	1	17	8	26	22	158
% Vacancies	8.2%	8.2%	0.2%	3.3%	1.6%	5.1%	4.3%	4.4%
No. Over PAN	0	0	11	3	5	6	5	30

PAN = published admission number

There are current pressures primarily in Y2 and Y4.

Measures:

- Davyhulme Primary School – planning permission achieved for expansion to create 20 additional places in each year group, held as potential future option to meet demand from new housing developments.

3.20 Partington primary planning area

This planning area includes all schools in M31 post codes.

Vacancy position at 31 December 2023:

2023/24 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	840
No. On Roll	104	107	108	100	114	84	84	701

No. Vacancies	16	13	12	20	7	36	36	140
% Vacancies	13.3%	10.8%	10.0%	16.7%	5.8%	30.0%	30.0%	16.7%
No. Over PAN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

PAN = published admission number

There are sufficient places in all year groups.

4. Sufficiency of Secondary School Places

- 4.1** Trafford has determined 5 secondary school place planning areas and sufficiency is monitored at planning area level: Altrincham, Sale, Stretford, Urmston, Partington.
- 4.2** The unprecedented surge in demand for primary school places went on to have a significant impact on admissions into secondary school.
- 4.3** The local authority coordinates the normal round of admission into year 7. On national offer day in 2023, there was just enough capacity to offer a place to everyone who applied. However, 92 Trafford children resident in Altrincham and Sale could not be allocated places at any of their preferred schools and were allocated places at the nearest school with a vacancy. At the end of the allocation process, every secondary school in Trafford was full and some schools allocated places above their published admission number.
- 4.4** For entry into Year 7 in 2023, 75.6% of applicants were offered their first preference school (compared to 82.6% in England). This is down from 76.2% in 2022 (compared to 83.3% in England).
- 4.5** The LA is the admission authority for 1 out of 19 secondary schools and it does not coordinate in-year admissions. Due to recent increasing pressure on places and implementation of an improved application system, all secondary in-year applications are now channelled through the LA so there is increased oversight of the position.
- 4.6** The school census data indicates significantly increased levels of demand from in-year applicants moving into Trafford and requiring a secondary school place. Before the pandemic, the average number of new starters in secondary school across the school year was 239. In the school year 2021/22 there were a total of 336 new starters from outside Trafford, an increase of 41% and this elevated level remains in 2022/23.
- 4.7** The table below shows the assessed position for each of the secondary planning areas for the school year 2023/24 as at the end of the autumn term in December 2023.

Red = Below 3% vacancy rate

Amber = 3 to 6% vacancy rate

Green = More than 6% vacancy rate

Planning Area

Lower Year Groups

Upper Year Groups

Altrincham	Red	Red
Sale	Red	Red
Stretford	Green	Green
Urmston	Amber	Amber
Partington	Amber	Green

4.8 The local authority considered expansion of every non-selective secondary school in Sale and Altrincham, prior to commencing the expansion project currently underway at Altrincham College to create an additional 60 places per year group, noting there are no easy expansion options due over-developed sites, limitations of space and communal facilities within existing sites.

4.9 The following smaller projects were carried out to support admission to secondary in 2023:

- Stretford High School – increase the published admission number by 10 places from September 2023.
- Sale High School – minor internal remodelling to accommodate a temporary bulge class of 30 places for September 2023.

4.10 A Priority School Rebuild bid to rebuild two blocks at Sale High School was submitted to the DfE and was successful. The project has been allocated to the second phase of the programme which is provisionally expected to enter delivery from April 2025 with an expected three-year project timeline. In autumn 2023, the DfE strongly advised against creation of any further permanent or temporary additional accommodation on this site ahead of the rebuild project. It may be possible to combine a local authority funded expansion alongside the rebuild project, but this would not create any additional places until 2028 at the very earliest, depending on the DfE programme and so would not help resolve the current pressure.

4.11 Other options to create additional capacity have been considered:

- Schools have been asked to take additional pupils over their published admission numbers. A significant number of additional places across all secondary year groups has already been achieved in this way.
- Explored neighbouring local authority vacancies, primarily along our border areas with Cheshire East and Manchester, but there are limited vacancies. This option is linked to parental preference and whilst some applicants each year have successfully achieved places in other areas, this is in line with the oversubscription criteria for each school, places cannot be guaranteed and availability fluctuates.
- Existing school expansion onto satellite site if non-education accommodation can be identified. Examples of this being done from unused office space in another local authority area but discounted due to the significant operational and curriculum challenges reported by authorities who have done this.
- The potential to establish a new secondary school was fully explored in partnership with the DfE. The outcome was that this is not a feasible option as the evidenced shortfall in demand falls significantly short of the required minimum numbers for a new school.

- 4.12** A number of education capital proposals have been recommended to Trafford Executive which will be considered at the January 2024 meeting, including the permanent expansion of Broadoak School in Partington.
- 4.13** The medium to long term strategy to meet the additional demand for secondary school places expected from new housing developments in the Partington and Carrington area is to expand Broadoak School in Partington. An additional 289 secondary pupils in total are expected from new housing developments within the next 5 years, with additional further demand beyond this. Developer contributions, when secured via Section 106 agreements, will be used to contribute to this project.
- 4.14** A feasibility study is underway to understand the requirements for the 2FE expansion which if approved, will create an additional 300 places in total, to be available from September 2026 with a phased approach to opening them aligned to housing development completion.
- 4.15** In the last two years, due to the pressure on places, an increasing number of families from Sale and Altrincham have accessed a place in Partington, particularly with the support of the recently secured additional school transport route connecting Altrincham, Sale and Partington. It will be possible to create an additional 30 places for Year 7 pupils in September 2024 ahead of the permanent expansion to support with meeting demand if this is required.

Entry to Secondary 2024

- 4.16** Parental preference is a strong factor in pupil placement. Sometimes Trafford parents do not apply for their local school where they have the best chance of achieving a place which can result in places having to be allocated to out of borough pupils who did apply. A Trafford applicant who did not express a preference for a particular school can only be offered a place at that school after allocations have been made to all those who did express a preference, regardless of where they live.
- 4.17** In order to maximise the number of places in Trafford schools which could be secured for Trafford residents, specific tailored advice was provided to Sale and Altrincham residents transferring to secondary school, advising them to apply for all their local non-selective schools. This was largely successful for the 2022 and 2023 admission rounds. On national offer day non-selective academies (excluding the faith school) in these areas only offered to 8 non-Trafford residents compared to 79 in 2021.
- 4.18** On national offer day 2023, there were 37 Sale residents and 55 Altrincham residents who could not be allocated places at any of their preferred schools. Of these, 10 Sale residents and 1 Altrincham resident had followed our advice and included all the schools advised in the guidance. All 92 children were allocated places at one of the 3 remaining schools in Trafford who had vacancies which were Broadoak School in Partington, Lostock High School in Stretford or Wellacre Academy in Flixton.
- 4.19** Similar advice has been produced again for parents with a child due to transfer into secondary school in September 2024. This has been posted to their home address, made prominent on the council website as part of the application information, promoted through relevant primary schools and through a social media campaign.

4.20 It is too early in the process for a draft allocation of places to be run whilst the cross-border exchange with other local authorities takes place. However, after initial verification and data cleansing processes, the current data indicates there are 147 less secondary applications submitted on time in 2024 than in 2023.

4.21 The LA continues to have regular meetings with DfE to monitor the sufficiency position.

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