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To: The Chair and Members of the Children's
Scrutiny Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 10 January 2024

Contact: Charlie Fisher

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CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 18th January, 2024

A meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee is to be held on the above date at 2.15pm at Committee Suite, County Hall, Exeter to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies

2 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023 (previously circulated).

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

4 Public Participation

Members of the public may make representations/presentations on any substantive matter listed in the published agenda for this meeting, as set out hereunder, relating to a specific matter or an examination of services or facilities provided or to be provided.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR REVIEW

5 Responses of the Cabinet to Reports of the Committee

Verbal reports of the Cabinet Members.

6 Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

In accordance with previous practice, Scrutiny Committees are requested to review the list of forthcoming business and determine which items are to be included in the [Work Programme](#).

The Committee may also wish to review the content of the [Cabinet Forward Plan](#) and the Children's Services [Risk Register](#) to see if there are any specific items therein it might wish to explore further.

7 Children's Services Improvement Plan & Social Care Performance (Pages 1 - 14)

Report of the Deputy Director and Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing (Interim) (CS/24/04), attached.

8 Education Annual Report Autumn 2023 (Pages 15 - 64)

Annual report attached.

9 Children's Standing Overview Group (Pages 65 - 68)

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services on the Children's Standing Overview Group of 26 September 2023 (LDS/23/19), attached.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

10 Children's Scrutiny Visits: Autumn Term School Visits (Pages 69 - 76)

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services (LDS/24/4), attached.

11 Information Previously Circulated

Below is a list of information previously circulated for Members, since the last meeting, relating to topical developments which have been or are currently being considered by this Scrutiny Committee.

- [SEND Task Group recommendations update from Councillor Lois Samuel](#) (13th November 2023)
- Councillor Andrew Leadbetter's letter to Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education, regarding Elective Home Education (15th November 2023) and the Response from Baroness Barran, Minister for the School System and Student Finance, (5th December 2023)
- Improvement Partnership Board - agenda and reports for meetings on 5th December 2023 (28th November 2023) and 10th January 2024 (2nd January 2024).

- Written Responses from Children's Scrutiny Committee on 14th November 2023 (4th December 2023)
- 2022/23 Annual Report for the Child Protection Conference Service (5th December 2023)
- Written Response - Trends relating to children apprehensive to start school post pandemic (8th December 2023)
- Response from Department for Education regarding the Committee's letter to the Secretary of State for Education on fair funding for Devon Schools and SEND (12th December 2023)
- Committee Risk Register (10th January 2024)

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

None

MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS

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Induction Loop available



CS/24/04
Children's Scrutiny Committee
18 January 2024

Childrens Services Improvement Plan/Social Care Performance

Report of the Deputy Director and Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing (Interim)

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Children's Scrutiny Committee be asked to:

- (a) Note the contents of the report provided to the January 2024 meeting of the Improvement Partnership Board

2) Background / Introduction

- 2.1 The Children's Services Improvement Partnership Board monitors the implementation of both the Social Care Improvement Plan and the Partnership Improvement Plan at its monthly meetings. This includes consideration of the performance measures agreed for each of those plans.
- 2.2 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the attached report that will be discussed by the Improvement Partnership Board in January 2024.

3) Main Body / Proposal

- 3.1 The Improvement Partnership Board is provided with the data and a narrative report at each of its meetings. These are attached to this cover sheet.

4) Options / Alternatives

- 4.1 The data set contained within the attached reports is that which has been agreed by the Improvement Partnership Board.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

- 5.1 Not applicable

6) Strategic Plan

- 6.1 The Improvement Partnership Board is overseeing the work to bring about improvements to children's social care services in Devon. This aligns to the Council's Strategic plan:
 - Be ambitious for children and young people

Agenda Item 7

7) Financial Considerations

7.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

8) Legal Considerations

8.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising out of this report.

10) Equality Considerations

10.1 There are no equality implications arising out of this report.

11) Risk Management Considerations

11.1 No risks have been identified.

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

12.1 Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to review and comment on the attached reports.

Name

Deputy Director and Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing: Steve Liddicott

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

None

Contact for enquiries:

Name: Steve Liddicott

Telephone: 01392 380364

Address:

Children and Families Improvement Partnership Board

Partnership Board report

Date: 9th January 2024

Board Member and Organisation:	
Steve Liddicott, Interim Deputy Director, Children’s Health and Wellbeing	
Ask of Board:	
Decision needed by the Board	
Information to update the Board	x
Monitoring on performance by the Board	x
Information or Decision detail:	
Action: To Provide an Update on the Children’s Social Care Performance Measures contained within the Improvement Plan	
Recommendation:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is for information and to assure the Improvement Partnership Board (IPB) that the performance data is being collated and used to inform the improvement journey. 	

Page 3

1 Context

1.1 The Social Care Improvement Plan contains the performance measures which are set out in the attached table. There are separate measures for the Partnership Improvement Plan.

1.2 An additional column has been added to the table showing actual numbers of children, this is either a single number (usually where the performance measure is expressed as a rate per 10,000 children) or in the format of X / Y where X is the number of children represented by the percentage and Y the total number of children in the cohort.

1.3 The format of this report differs from that presented to the December meeting of the Board. Rather than following the child's journey, this report considers the performance measures under the following headings:

- Volume of Activity
- Process
- Impact

Members of the IPB are invited to comment on whether this is a helpful way of reviewing the data

1.4 In December 2023, the DfE published details of the "Children's social care: national framework". This is statutory guidance on the principles behind children's social care, its purpose, factors enabling good practice and what it should achieve. The outcome measures in the improvement plan will need to be reviewed in the light of that framework.

2 Volume of Activity

2.1 The following measures record the volume of activity across children's social care services:

- Contacts to children's social care (per 10,000) – 439
- Number of referrals - 599
- % of referrals which are repeat referrals – 22%
- Initial Assessments completed in the period (per 10,000) - 466

- Section 47 enquiries (per 10,000) - 201
- ICPCs (per 10,000) - 51
- Rate of children in need at point in time (per 10,000) - 259
- Children who are the subject of a child protection plan at period end (per 10,000) - 36
- Children looked after at period end (per 10,000) - 61

2.2 The numbers of contacts and referrals have returned to the same levels recorded at the beginning of the year having dipped during the summer. The rate of contacts per 10,000 children remains lower than comparators. The rate of assessments completed and S47 enquiries continues to vary from month to month; the former is generally lower than comparators and the latter generally higher. The rates of children in need and of Initial Child Protections Conferences are lower than in comparators as are the rates of children subject to a protection plan and children looked after. After increasing in October, the percentage of referrals that are repeats has dropped back to the same level recorded earlier in the year which is broadly in line with comparators.

2.3 Following the increase in the percentage of repeat referrals reported in October, a review of repeat referrals was undertaken which identified system process issues which are being addressed as part of the review of the MASH / Front Door review. This percentage is therefore not expected to fluctuate to the same extent again.

2.4 Almost all the other measures of activity are lower than those reported by comparators. As discussed at the last meeting of the IPB, there is a need to consider whether these are the “right” levels of activity to address the needs of the children and young people in Devon. We will therefore be making arrangements to undertake a strategic needs analysis for children and young people in Devon which will help us to be able to understand whether services are identifying the right numbers of children that may be in need of support and protection.

3 Process

3.1 The following measures record the completion of processes:

- Conversion contact to referral – 31%
- Conversion contact to Assessment – 19%
- % initial assessments with outcome Case to Close – 59%

- % of initial assessments completed in 45 days – 79%
- % S47s that progress to ICPC – 8%
- % ICPCs completed within 15 days of S47 – 77%
- % of children subject to CPP for 2 years plus – 0%
- % children starting a CP plan who have been subject to a previous CP plan – 38%
- CiC starts (per 10,000) - 20
- CiC ends (per 10,000) - 25

3.2 The low conversion rates (contacts to referral and contacts to assessment) together with the very low level of S47 enquiries (8% compared to 30% plus in comparators) leading to an Initial Child Protection Conference all underline the need for planned work to be completed on reviewing thresholds across partner agencies and within children’s social care to ensure that the right children are receiving the right level of support. This is already being planned by the safeguarding partnership, through the review of early help services (with Essex) and the review of the front door services (with Hertfordshire). The relatively high percentage of assessments completed with an outcome of “case to close” provides further evidence of the need for these reviews to be undertaken.

3.3 The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days dropped slightly in November and is slightly lower than the rate of comparators. This is something to be addressed by the additional management capacity brought into the assessment service in December 2023. The percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences completed within 15 days of the decision to commence a S47 enquiry remains stable but is at a lower rate than achieved earlier in the year and a focus for the child protection conference management. Currently no children have been the subject of a child protection plan for more than two years which suggests that protection plans are now being implemented effectively with children either being protected in their families or through the use of care proceedings. However, the high rate of children becoming subject to a child protection plan who have previously been subject to a protection plan (38% compared to 24% in comparators) suggests that this has not always been the case in the past. This is an area for the audit team to review.

3.4 The rate of children looked after has been stable at around 61 per 10,000 (approximately 900 looked after children) since March 2023. The number of children starting / ceasing to be looked after remains stable at around 20 to 25 per month which accounts for the stability in the number of looked after children.

4 Impact

4.1 The following measures are a proxy for the impact of the services provided:

- % of CIN with an up to date visit – 89%
- % of CP with an up to date visit – 89%
- % of CIC with an up to date visit – 89%
- % of CEP with an up to date visit – measure being developed
- % children who had three or more placements in the year – 15%
- % of CIC with an up to date health assessment – 83%
- % of CIC with a permanence plan – 98%
- Number of under 16s in unregistered accommodation - 9
- % Care Leavers in Touch – 93%
- % Care Leavers in Touch (17-18 years old) – 84%
- % Care Leavers in Touch (19-21 years old) – 96%
- % Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation – 82%
- % Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation (17-18 years old) – 78%
- % Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation (19-21 years old) – 85%
- % Care Leavers in EET – 41%
- % Care Leavers in EET (17-18 years old) – 46%
- % Care Leavers in EET (19-21 years old) – 42%
- % of Pathway plans up to date – 86%

4.2 Almost 90% of children with a child in need plan, child protection plan or looked after were visited within the expected timescales. Comparable data is not available. Visits are an indication of practitioners working directly with the children and young people for whom they are responsible. Whilst, ideally, all children should be visited within the expected timescales, there will always be some

that cannot be seen. Arrangements should be in place to cover staff absences (for example) for visits to the most vulnerable you people (e.g. those in unregistered placements). Over the course of the next 3 months, we will seek to obtain comparable data from neighbouring authorities in order to make a comparison.

- 4.3 The frequency of visits to care experienced people is usually derived from the “in touch” reporting. However, because “in touch” reporting is link visits to the collection of other data, it is not the same as a record of a visit. A new report is therefore being developed to monitor visits to care experienced people.
- 4.4 The percentage of children looked after with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months has decreased to 15%. This is an improvement but still above the rates for comparators. Improvements in placements stability will be linked to the work being done to increase placement sufficiency which is the subject of a separate report to the IPB. Similarly, a reduction in the number of children in unregistered placements will be contingent on improving the availability of placements, both in house and commissioned. There are plans to move all the under 16s in unregistered placements to a registered placement in the first three months of 2024. For the over 16s, plans are focussed on their transition to adulthood.
- 4.5 There is no comparator information for the percentage of children with a permanency plan. All children should have a permanency plan (which may include more than one option) by the time of their second statutory review (i.e. when they have been looked after for 4 months). Ofsted have previously been critical of the lack of permanency planning for looked after children in Devon. This measure is monitored regularly and maintaining a high level of compliance means that we are actively planning for the our looked after children.
- 4.6 All looked after children should have an up to date health assessment. Currently, 83% of our looked after children have an up to date health assessment which is lower than comparators who average 90% completion rates. Whilst some young people may decline to have an assessment, we will need to work with health colleagues to improve the rate of completion.
- 4.7 The measures for care experienced people (in touch, accommodation and education, employment and training) are presented in three formats to reflect the overall performance of the leaving care service (all CEP – i.e. aged 18 to 24) as well as the two age groups that are the subject of statutory reporting (17 / 18 year olds and 19 / 21 year olds). The overall in touch rate of 93% has

been consistent; there needs to be an improvement in the measure for 17 / 18 year olds. The development of the new visit measure for CEP will assist in providing a more detailed analysis.

4.8 When the DfE special advisor on CEP, Mark Riddell undertook a follow up visit to Devon in December, progress on the development of education, employment and training opportunities as well as the work with district councils to improve the accommodation offered to CEP was reported. This has yet to filter through to the measures reported here.

4.9 Currently, 89% of pathway plans for CEP are up to date. This is lower than previously reported. A new pathway plan format has been developed in consultation with CEP and that should assist in improving the timeliness of the completion of pathway plans.

5 Audit

5.1 Performance measures relate to the completion of audits. Members of the IPB will be aware that a new the audit programme has been developed and implemented over the course of the year, with a month on month increase in the number of audits completed each month. By January 2024, all areas of the service will be completing audits each month and it will be possible to populate this part of the table.

5.2 Currently, we are only able to report consistently on the percentage of audits with feedback from families. The base line was 22% and performance has been around 30% with a target of 80%. It is expected that as the audit framework becomes more embedded across the service, this will improve. We have now recruited a new, permanent audit team and they will be instrumental in ensuring good practice in the audit process when they come into post early in 2024.

6 Staffing

6.1 Included within this section of the report are the following performance measures:

- Agency Rate % of QSW (FTE) against Permanent Establishment (48%)
- Average caseloads (17)

- Supervisions overdue (10.2%)

6.2 The agency rate for qualified social workers in April 2023 was 47% with a plan to reduce the rate by 10% by March 2024. It increased in September 2023 because of the introduction of new social work posts following the reshape earlier in the year. The agency rate decreased slightly in November. Together with a rolling recruitment programme for both social workers and advanced social workers, we recruited 10 newly qualified social workers (ASYEs) who joined us earlier in the autumn and have 8 “overseas” social workers due to join us in early 2024. We have several apprentice social workers together with two teams of frontline social work trainees. The social work academy is crucial to the support of ASYEs, the overseas social workers and other staff joining the service as well as supporting student social workers placed in Devon who, if they have a positive experience during their placement(s), are likely to apply for jobs with the council when they qualify. Together with colleagues in the council’s human resources directorate, we are about to update and relaunch our recruitment and retention strategy.

6.3 Average caseloads are slightly above the target for the end of the year and have increased over the course of the year. Further work is being undertaken in order to understand this trend given that it has occurred at the same time as more posts have been created in some parts of the service although not all of those posts have been filled as yet.

6.4 Reporting on overdue supervisions has now been developed and incorporated into the attached table. The measure is reporting on the completion of a supervision record for each child / young person, i.e. of the 4316 children open to children’s social care in November, 10% of those due to be discussed during the course of supervision did not have a supervision record attached. As well as being a record of supervision, this is also a measure of management oversight of the work being undertaken with each child / young person. It is not the same as a measure of the recording of supervision for each practitioner (their personal development and well-being which is recorded separately).

Link to Improvement Plan outcomes for children and families:

Change:

- Children and young people have their voices heard, and their experiences are understood

Leadership:

- Children and young people in our care, or leaving our care, are healthy, feel safe and reach their full potential.



Reference	Measure	Apr-23		Statistical Neighbours Purple 2021/22 Orange 2022/23	South West Benchmark 2022/23	National 2021/22	Good+ 2022/23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23		DoT (to target)
		Baseline	Target					Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Number	
1.0	Contacts to children's social care (per 10,000)	392	450	NA	507.7	704.2	702.6	476	563	384	316	404	377	459	2039	↑
1.1	Conversion contact to referral	30%	TBC	NA	NA	NA	NA	32%	33%	26%	30%	30%	28%	31%	632 / 2039	
1.2	Conversion contact to Assessment	28%	TBC	NA	NA	NA	NA	29%	28%	21%	22%	19%	15%	19%	387 / 2039	
1.3	Number of referrals	409	TBC	NA	NA	NA	NA	586	703	487	411	513	511	599	599	
1.4	% of referrals which are repeat referrals	23%	19%	20%	20.8%	21.5%	20.5%	23%	24%	18%	19%	20%	27%	22%	132 / 599	↑
2.0	Initial Assessments completed in the period (per 10,000)	391	425	533	470.9	608.3	582.5	317	358	514	453	368	317	381	466	↑
2.1	% initial assessments with outcome Case to Close	41%	38%	NA	NA	NA	NA	48%	53%	52%	52%	54%	59%	59%	275/466	→
2.2	% of initial assessments completed in 45 days	85%	90%	83%	80.4%	80.9%	83.7%	86%	82%	84%	74%	66%	80%	79%	368/466	↓
3.0	Section 47 enquiries (per 10,000)	222	190	180	176.8	202.6	179.9	176	225	143	139	127	143	201	246	→
3.1	% S47s that progress to ICPC	26%	35%	34%	35.2%	33.3%	34%	34%	30%	34%	15%	14%	11%	8%	16 / 246	↓
3.2	ICPCs (per 10,000)	71	58	62	60.4	64.4	59.1	53	63	69	51	45	44	51	62	↓
3.3	% ICPCs completed within 15 days of S47	67%	80%	82%	79.3%	80.1%	81.6%	66%	82%	86%	90%	73%	76%	77%	48	→
4.0	Rate of children in need at point in time (per 10,000)	281	280	328	266.9	336.5	321.2					234	251	259	3805	↑
4.1	% of CIN with an up to date visit	73%	TBC	NA	NA	NA	NA	82%	80%	89%	88%	83%	84%	85%	684/844	→
5.0	Children who are the subject of a child protection plan at period end (per 10,000)	42	40	41	42	48	44.2	39	38	39	36	38	38	36	531	→
5.1	% of children subject to CPP for 2 years +	2%	2%	3%	5%	3.7%	4.7%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0	↑
5.2	% children starting a CP plan who have been subject to a previous CP plan	28%	25%	23%	24.6%	24.5%	24.1%	28%	33%	38%	19%	29%	43%	38%	20 / 53	→
5.3	% of CP with an up to date visit	96%	TBC	NA	NA	NA	NA	96%	94%	95%	92%	87%	89%	89%	435 / 531	→
6.0	Children looked after at period end (per 10,000)	61	56	69	67.6	79.1	71.3	62	61	60	61	61	62	61	903	→
6.1	CiC starts (per 10,000)	33	25	25	27.2	30	28.9	20	25	25	36	22	20	20	25	↑
6.2	CiC ends (per 10,000)	16	25	21	22.7	27.7	27.1	23	38	23	25	20	21	25	30	↑
6.3	% of CIC with an up to date visit	86%	90%	NA	NA	NA	NA	85%	88%	89%	91%	88%	89%	89%	804 / 903	↑
6.4	% children who had three or more placements in the year	14%	10%	10%	10.3%	10%	9.8%	15%	16%	16%	17%	16%	16%	15%	135 / 903	→
6.5	% of CIC with an up to date health assessment	90%	95%	NA	90%	89%	NA	86%	85%	86%	87%	86%	84%	83%	749 / 903	↓
6.6	% of CIC with a permanence plan	92%	95%	NA	NA	NA	NA	98%	98%	97%	96%	96%	98%	98%	885 / 903	↑
6.7	Number of under 16s in unregistered accommodation	4	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	4	8	7	10	8	9	9	→
7.0	% Care Leavers in Touch	93%	95%	NA	NA	NA	NA	92%	93%	93%	91%	92%	92%	93%	486/523	→
7.1	% of CEP with an up to date visit			NA	NA	NA	NA									
7.2	% Care Leavers in Touch (17-18 years old)	82%	TBC	95%	94%	94%	NA	81%	83%	79%	78%	80%	76%	84%	97/116	
7.3	% Care Leavers in Touch (19-21 years old)	94%	TBC	94%	95%	92%	NA	94%	95%	95%	94%	93%	94%	96%	279/291	
7.4	% Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation	80%	90%	NA	NA	NA	NA	81%	83%	82%	82%	82%	81%	82%	429/523	↑
7.5	% Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation (17-18 years old)	75%	TBC	91%	91%	90%	NA	74%	77%	74%	73%	76%	72%	78%	90/116	
7.6	% Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation (19-21 years old)	81%	TBC	90%	89%	88%	NA	82%	84%	83%	84%	82%	82%	85%	247/291	
7.7	% Care Leavers in EET	47%	60%	NA	NA	NA	NA	46%	47%	45%	43%	43%	41%	41%	241/523	↓
7.8	% Care Leavers in EET (17-18 years old)	52%	TBC	69%	69%	66%	NA	52%	54%	53%	49%	46%	38%	46%	53/116	

Social Care Improvement Plan Measures

7.9	% Care Leavers in EET (19-21 years old)	42%	TBC	55%	56%	55%	NA	41%	41%	39%	38%	40%	41%	42%	122/291	
7.10	% of Pathway plans up to date	83%	90%	NA	NA	NA	NA	83%	86%	91%	92%	92%	90%	86%	450 / 523	→
8.0	Agency Rate % of QSW (FTE) against Permanent Establishment	47%	37.5%	17%	21.2%	20.3%	14.7%	49%	52%	52%	49%	50%	49%	48%	87 / 205	↑
8.1	Average caseloads	16.2	16	17	16.6	16.6	NA	15.94	16.47	17.46	17.05	17.01	17.14	17.1	17	→
8.2	% of Supervisions overdue	11.8%						10.9%	7.3%	7.7%	12.0%	10.5%	10.1%	10.2	432 / 4316	
9.0	% of audits rated Good or Outstanding for Children in Need	TBC	70%	NA	NA	NA	NA									
9.1	% of audits rated Good or Outstanding for Children subject to Child Protection	TBC	70%	NA	NA	NA	NA									
9.2	% of audits rated Good or Outstanding for Children in Care	12.5%	70%	NA	NA	NA	NA									
9.3	% of audits rated Good or Outstanding for Care Experienced young people	20%	70%	NA	NA	NA	NA									
9.4	% of audits with feedback from families	22%	80%	NA	NA	NA	NA	33%	20%	28%	28%	28%				

* Benchmarking figures taken from the SW Benchmarking Report Q4 22/23, Children's Social Care Benchmarking Tool (2021/22) or chAT Tool (2021/22)
NA = Not Available

Key to Direction of travel symbols:

- ↑ Performance on an improving trend from previous reporting period
- → Performance not significantly improving or worsening from previous reporting period
- ↓ Performance worsening from previous reporting period
- Green – performance at or above end of year target
- Amber – Performance close to end of year target
- Red – Performance well below end of year target

Statistical neighbours

Cornwall
Dorset
Gloucestershire
Herefordshire
Norfolk
Shropshire
Somerset
Suffolk
Wiltshire
Worcestershire

Education and Learning

Annual Performance report Autumn 2023
Based on published data to 25/10/23



Summary

Achievements of Note

- Take up of 2-year-old funding continues to be well above national.
- The FSM attainment gap in Devon has narrowed in the last year.
- KS1 outcomes are broadly in line with the national picture.
- KS4 EHCP attainment is well-above national.
- No Looked After Child has been permanently excluded this academic year 22/23 and continues to date.
- Children in Care percentage achieving grade 9 to 5 English & Maths doubled this year.

Challenges

- Attendance - one in five pupils misses 10% or more of their education.
- EHE - the number of secondary aged children who are now Electively Home Educated rose by 29.5% - the main reason reported was mental health issues.
- Permanent exclusions rose by 58% last year; the percentage of the school population permanently excluded continues to rise at a significant rate. Pupils with SEN support are nearly nine times more likely to have a permanent exclusion than those with no SEN.

Devon schools (October)

- As at Oct 2023, 215 (58%) of schools ¹ in Devon are Academies (including free schools) and 157 (42%) are LA maintained schools.
- Of the 215 academies/free schools, 206 (96%) are supported by 29 multi academy trusts.
- Of the 157 LA maintained schools, 67 (43%) are supported by 22 Federations.

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number of schools in Devon	Oct-21	Oct-22	Oct 23
nur, pri, sec, spec & AP/PRU schools	372	372	372
maintained schools	177	164	157
<i>of which</i>			
no of federations	27	24	22
no of schools supported by federations	75	69	67
academies/free schools	195	208	215
<i>of which</i>			
no of MATs	30	29	29
no of schools supported by MAT	184	197	206
no of schools supported by SAT	11	11	9

¹ nursery, primary, secondary, special and AP/PRU (excludes independents & FE)

Devon pupil numbers (January 2023 census)

- There are 108,546 pupils attending 413 schools in Devon in 2022/23 (includes state-funded and independent schools). This is an increase of 0.4% on the previous year (399 pupils). In addition to this 418¹ children received alternate packages of education in 2022/23.

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The number of pupils in state funded primary schools in Devon has decreased slightly by 0.2% (107 pupils).

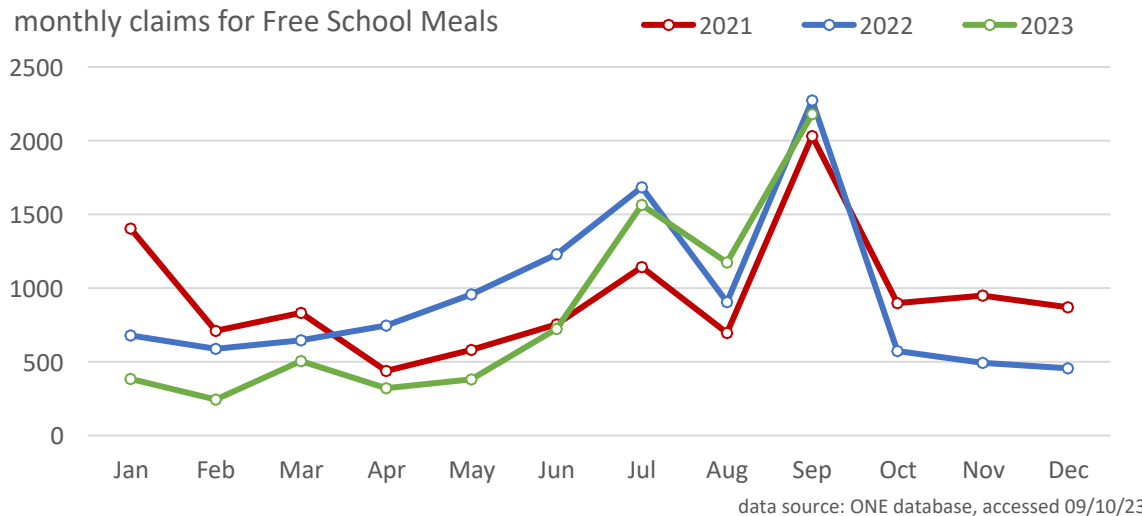
- The number of pupils in state funded secondary schools in Devon has risen slightly by 0.5% (220 pupils).
- The number of pupils in state funded special schools has risen by just over 5% to 1,620 (increase of 80 pupils).

number of pupils	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
primary schools	58,077	58,388	58,281
<i>of which</i>			
academies / free schools	25,690	26,964	28,200
LA maintained	32,387	31,424	30,081
secondary schools	40,585	40,850	41,070
<i>of which</i>			
academies / free schools	34,961	35,152	36,291
LA maintained	5,624	5,698	4,779
special schools	1,469	1,584	1,666
<i>of which</i>			
academies / free schools	112	353	435
LA maintained	1,316	1,187	1,185
non maintained special schools	41	44	46
nursery schools	168	161	209
alternative provision	93	92	137
independent schools	6,759	7,072	7,183
total	107,151	108,147	108,546

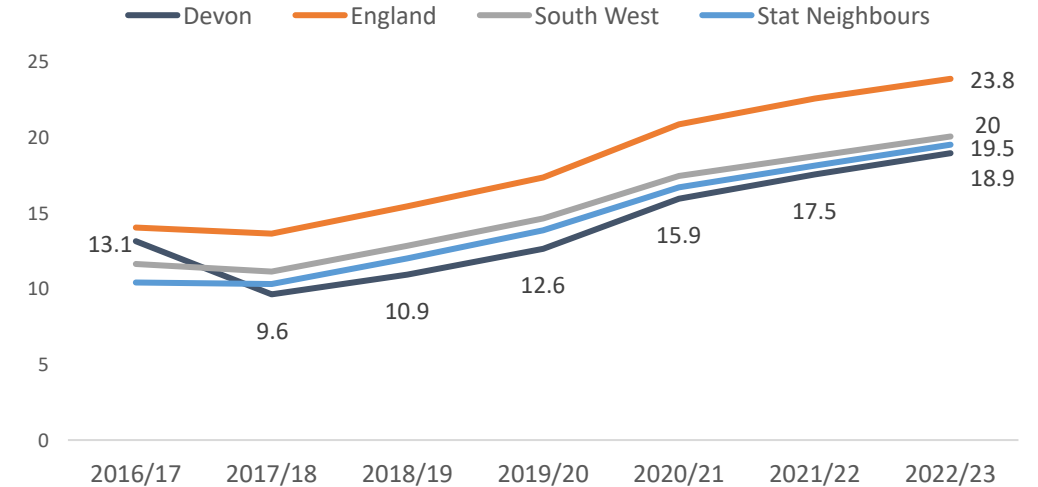
¹ Educated other than at school, Education ONE database 24/10/23

Pupils entitled to Free School Meals

- The number of Children eligible for Free School Meals continues to rise. On Spring 2023 census day 19,153 pupils in Devon LA maintained schools and academies were eligible for Free School Meals. This is an increase of 8.6% (1,510 pupils) on the previous year.
- This means that 18.9% of the Devon pupil population in state funded schools are eligible for Free School Meals. This remains significantly lower than the national average (23.8% at Jan 2023).
- The chart below reflects the number of claims made (not just successful applications). Whilst the level of claims for the first half of this year (green line) are lower than previous years, claims made in Aug are higher than previous years, with claims in Sept in line with previous years.



Percentage of pupils eligible for Free School Meals



% of pupils eligible for FSM in state funded schools

Devon School Phase	Jan 2022	(number 2022)	Jan 2023	(number 2023)
Nursery	17.4%	(28)	17.2%	(36)
Primary	17.5%	(10,231)	18.8%	(10,949)
Secondary	16.3%	(6,675)	18.0%	(7,374)
Special	42.7%	(657)	44.1%	(715)
Pupil Referral Units	44.6%	(41)	48.2%	(66)

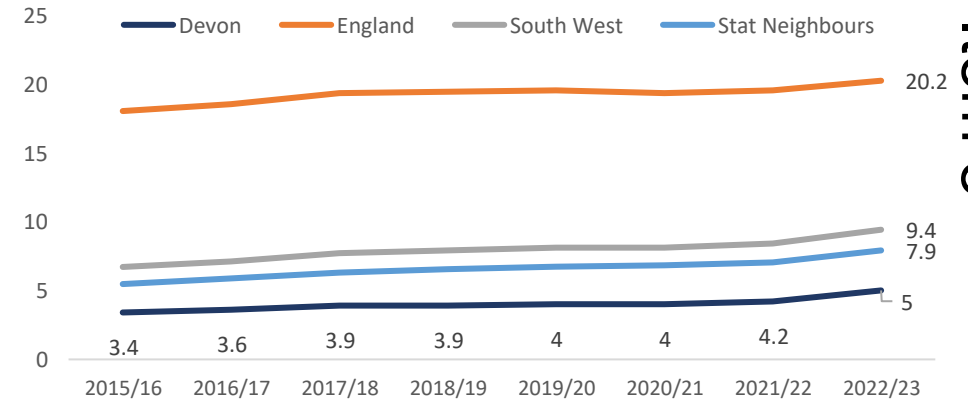
data source: DfE publication schools, pupils and their characteristics 2022/23, 08/06/23

Devon state funded schools – pupil characteristics

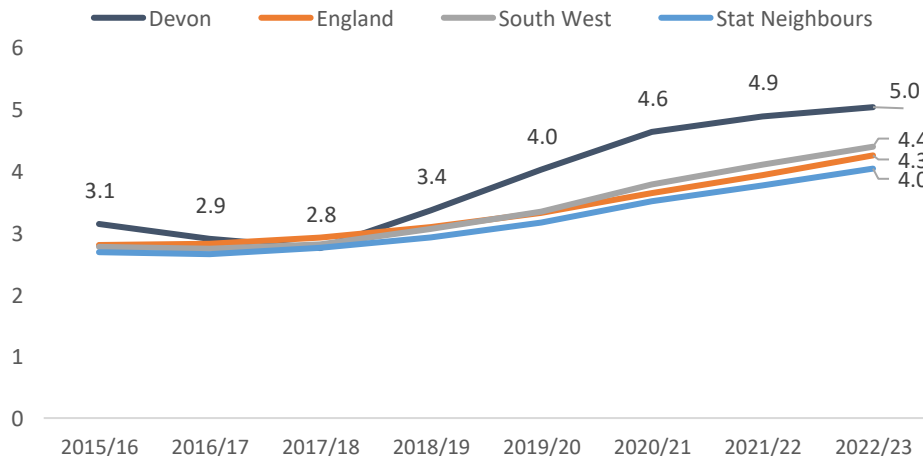
- 5% of pupils in Devon have a first language other than English (5,115 pupils), an increase on the previous year (4.2%, 4,205 pupils). This is lower than the national and regional picture.
- The percentage of pupils in Devon from an ethnic minority background has risen to 9.8% (8.6% in 2022), representing 9,899 pupils (increase of 1,245 pupils). Again, this is lower than seen nationally and regionally.
- 5% of pupils attending Devon state funded schools have an EHCP, representing 5,099 pupils¹. This is significantly higher than nationally and regionally. This differs from the number of pupils with an EHCP maintained by Devon LA, which is 8,400 pupils as at Jan 2023 (see next section).

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Percentage of pupils First Lang other than English

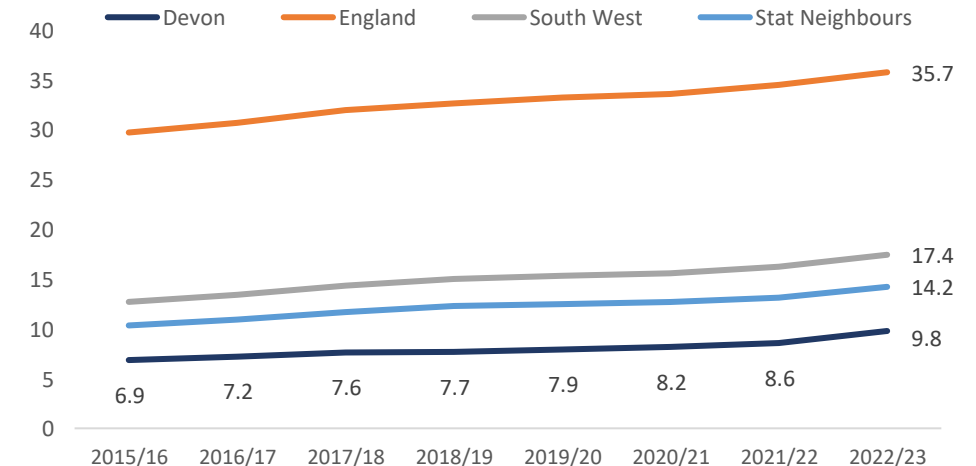


Percentage of pupils with SEN Statement / EHCP



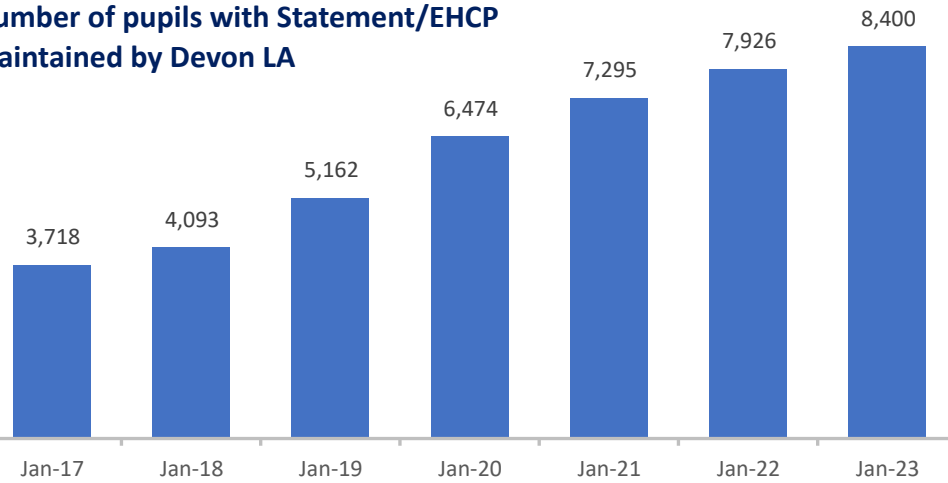
¹ Note: excludes independent schools

Percentage of pupils from Ethnic Minority backgrounds



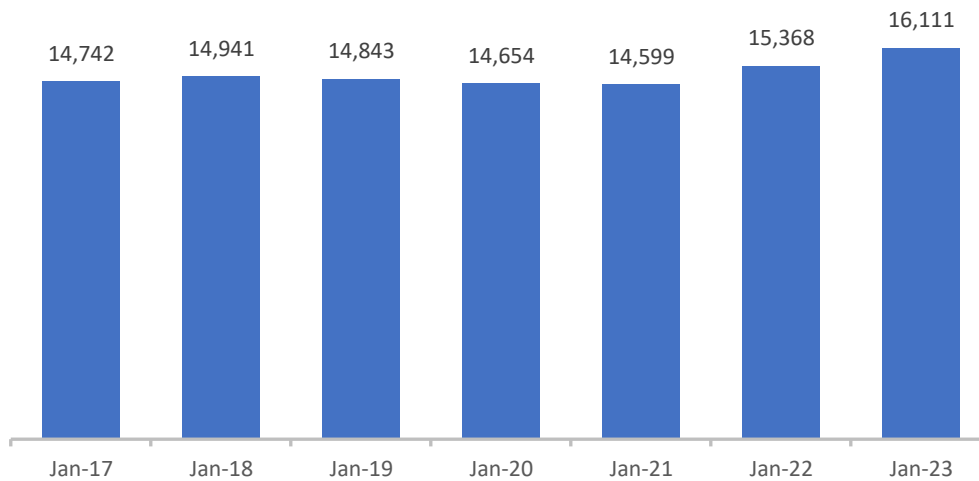
SEND pupil numbers

Number of pupils with Statement/EHCP maintained by Devon LA



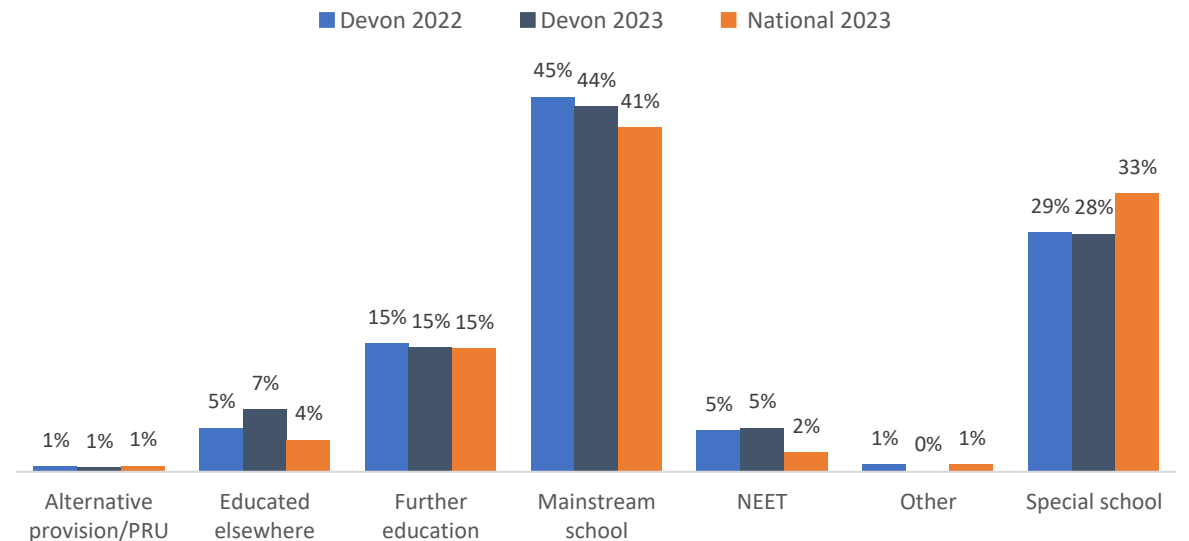
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Number of Pupils with SEN Support



- Of the 8,400 children with an EHCP maintained by Devon LA, 44% are in mainstream education, slightly more than that seen nationally (41%).
- The percentage of Devon children in special schools has reduced slightly from 28.5% to 28.3% and is lower than that seen nationally (33%).
- The percentage educated elsewhere rose both in Devon and nationally.

EHC Plans maintained by Devon LA by establishment type



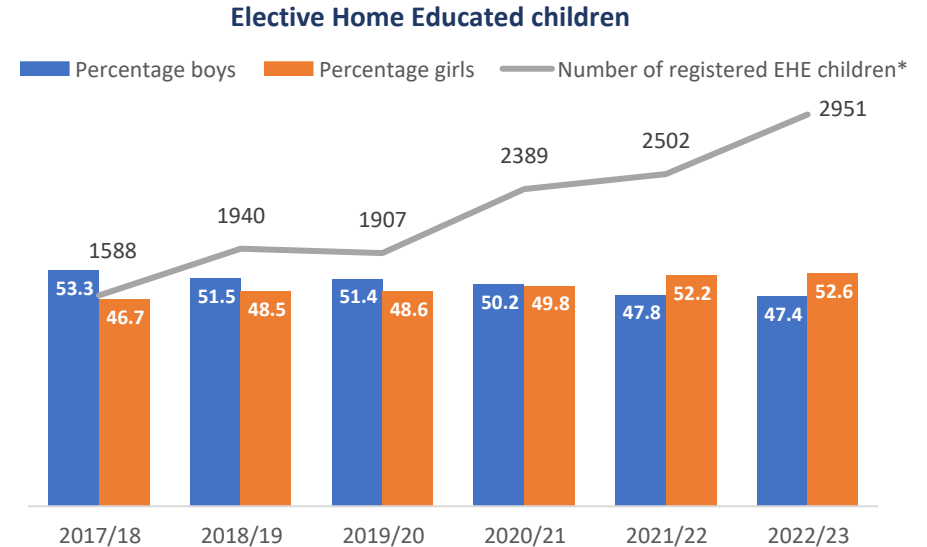
Elective Home Education 2022/23

- In 2022/23, 2,951 children were registered as home educated at some point during the year, equating to 3.1% of the population¹ (compared to 2.7% for 2021/22). This is an increase of 449 children (nearly 18%) and is the highest on record for Devon County Council.
- During the last 5 years the number of EHE children have risen each year, except during 2019-20 as schools were closed due to COVID 19.
- For the second consecutive year, more girls are home educated than boys – 1,551 girls (52.6% of EHE cohort) and 1,400 boys (47.4%).
- The number of primary age children being home educated rose by 1.4% last year whilst secondary age children increased by 29.5%.
- Historically the main reason cited for deciding to home educate was lifestyle and philosophical, however mental health issues are now the main reason reported for home education.
- Of the 1,223 children who started their EHE in 2022/23, nearly 43% were previously in LA maintained schools and 44% were previously in Academies and Free Schools². 3% were in independent schools before starting EHE and less than 1% were in special schools.

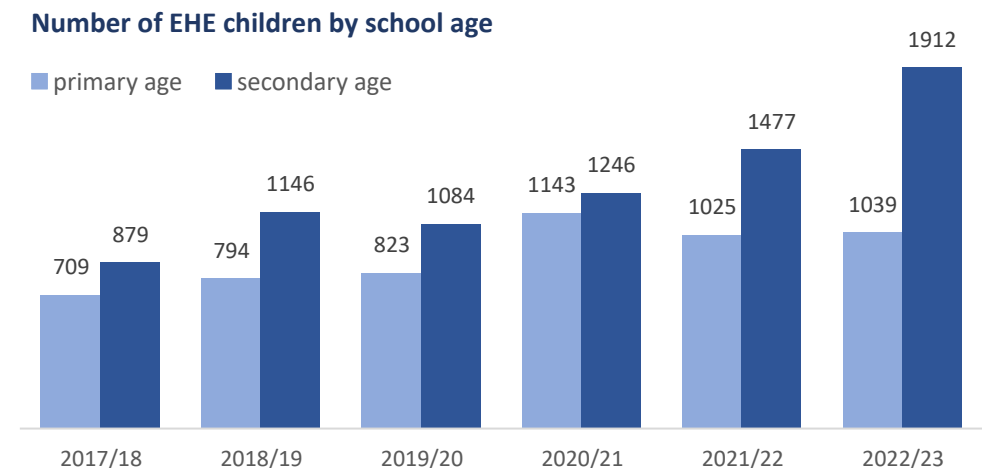
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¹ school age population (age 5 to 16) including independent schools as published by DfE Schools & Pupils SfR

² those who started their EHE during the 2022/23 academic year, as recorded in the Oct DfE statutory return



*These figures represent all children and young people who were EHE at some point during the academic year



Data source: EHE annual report, Sept 2023

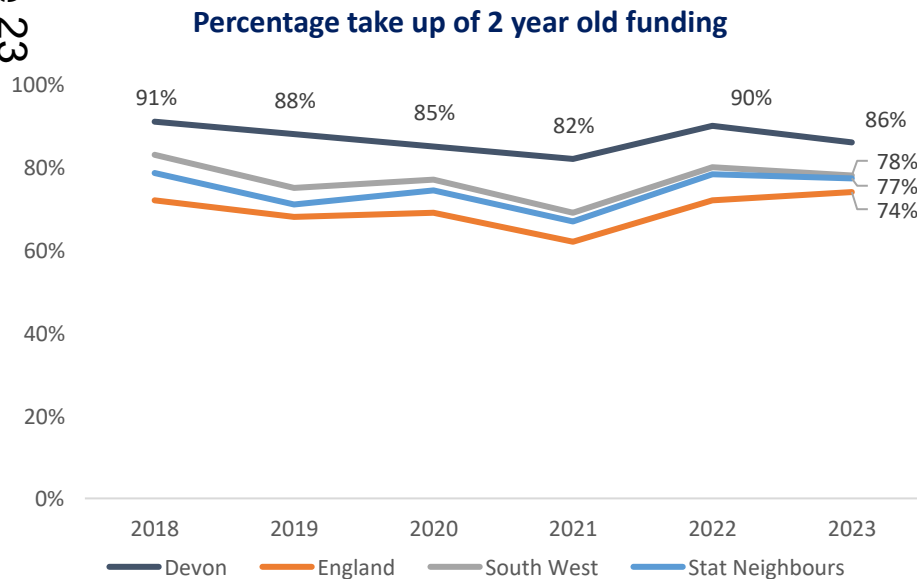
Early Years – 2yr old take up of funded places

DfE Information – annual update – 2 year olds

Nationally published information indicates that as of Jan 2023 the percentage of 2-year olds benefitting from early years funded places has fallen slightly in Devon but risen marginally nationally. Devon still performs significantly better than nationally, regionally and statistical neighbours.

The 2021 figures are lower due to Covid lockdowns.

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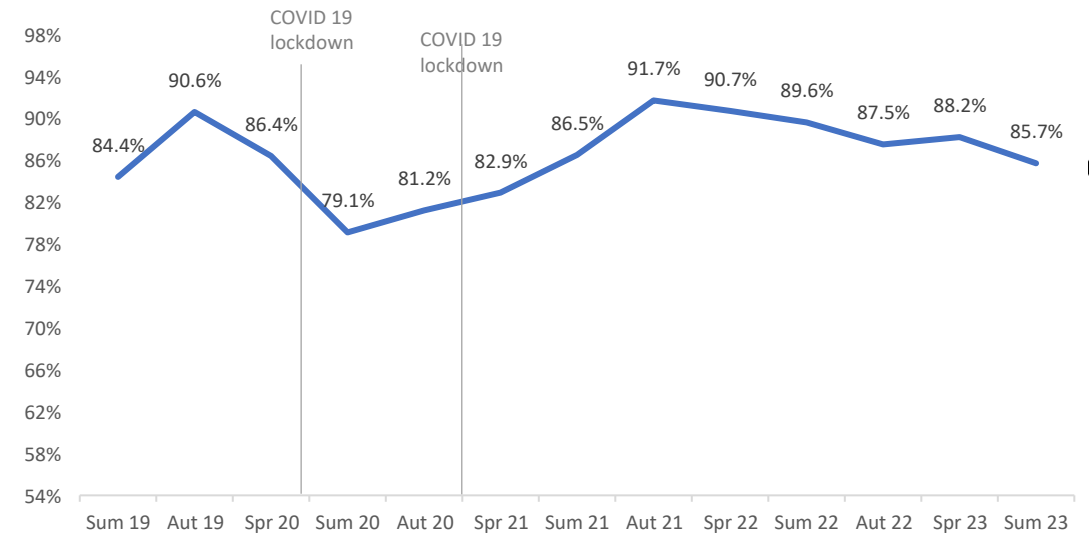


data source: DfE Education provision: children under 5 years of age 2023, 06/07/23

Local Information – termly update

On a termly basis, local information indicates that the take up rate has dipped slightly in the last year. Take up rates remain higher than that seen pre pandemic. Summer 2023 saw an 85.7% take up rate compared to 84.4% in Summer 2019 (pre COVID). Spring 2023 was also slightly higher than Spring 2020 (just before COVID lockdowns).

% Take Up Of Early Years Funding For 2 Year Olds



latest available benchmarks from Spr 2023: national: 74% regional: 78%

data source: DCC Early Years team, 10/10/23

School Applications – for admission into 2023/24 academic year

Devon Primary Schools

- Devon’s performance remains significantly better than that seen nationally with 96.7% of pupils in Devon being offered a place at their first preferred school compared to 92.5% nationally. Devon is in the top performing quartile of all LAs for meeting primary school first preferences.
- 98.6% of pupils in Devon were offered a place at one of their preferred options, again this is above the national average (98.3%). This is slightly less than last year where 99.2% were offered a place at one of their preferred options in Devon.

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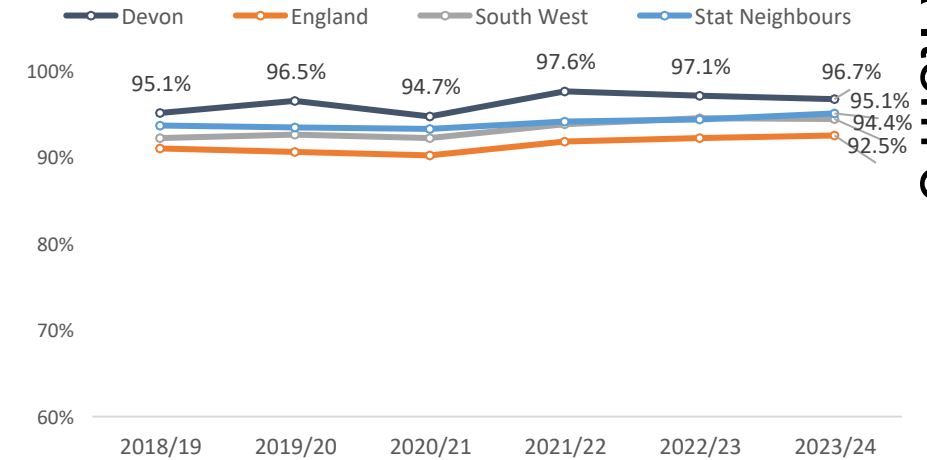
Devon Secondary Schools

- 90.9% were offered a place at their first preferred school compared to 82.6% nationally. Devon is in the top performing quartile of all LAs for meeting secondary school first preferences.
- 96.4% were offered a place at one of their preferred options, better than the national average (94.1%). This is slightly less than last year where 97.5% were offered a place at one of their preferred options in Devon.

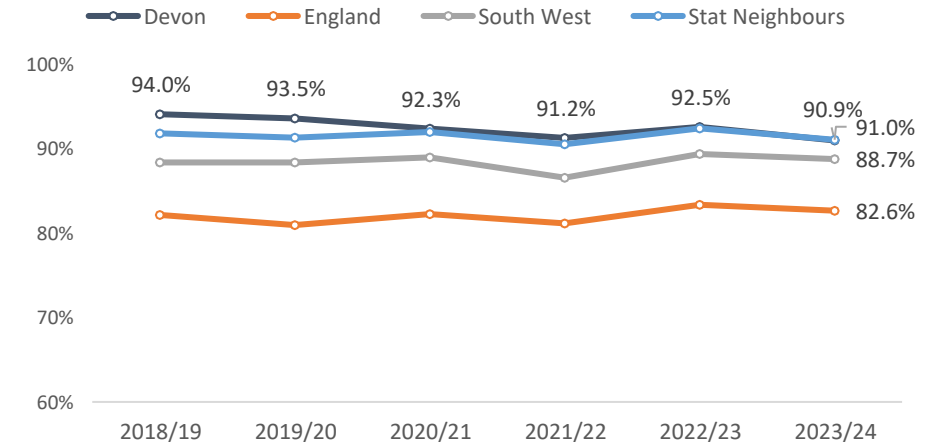
in-year applications to Devon schools	2021/22	2022/23
total number of in year applications	7,322	7,474
<i>of which;</i>		
primary / junior schools	5,007	4,946
secondary schools	2,315	2,528

Data source: Devon County Council Admissions Team, Oct 2023

First preference rate - primary school applications



First preference rate - secondary school applications



data source: DfE Secondary and primary school applications and offers, published 15/06/23

School Admission Appeals – for entry into 2022/23 academic year

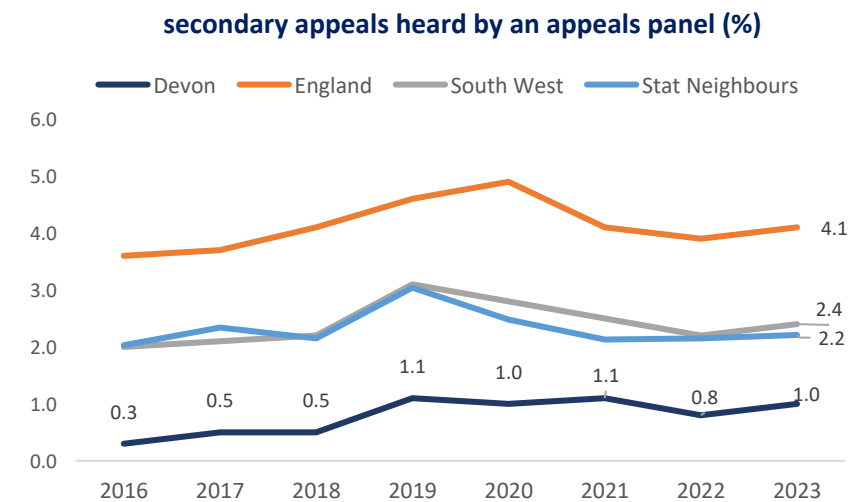
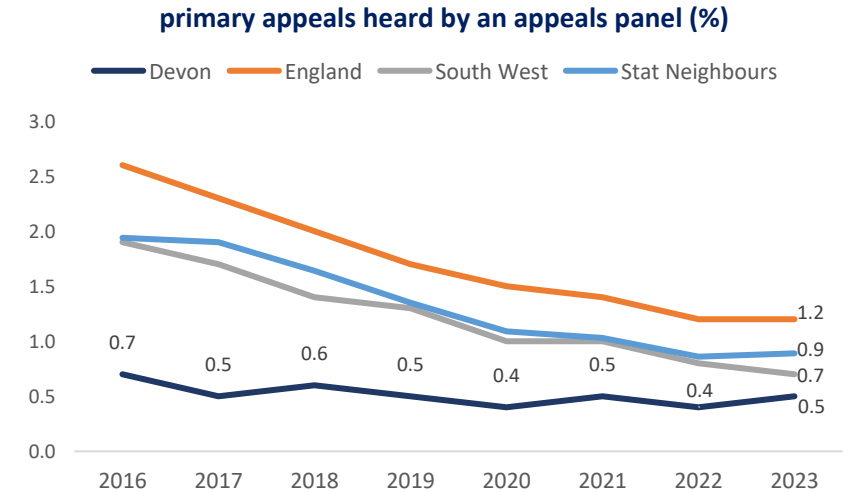
- Devon has the lowest rate of overall admission appeals in the South West¹, with only 0.7% of admissions resulting in an appeal being heard. This is significantly better than the national picture which sees 2.6% of admissions resulting in an appeal being heard.
- Devon primary schools saw fewer levels of admission appeals heard than secondary schools in 2022/23 (0.5% for primary and 1.0% for secondary). This pattern is also reflected regionally and nationally. Both Devon primary and secondary schools have significantly better appeal rates than regionally and nationally.

Page 25.

Secondary school appeals heard were more likely to be successful than primary school appeals heard, with 32.9% of secondary school appeals decided in parent’s favour compared to 15.9% primary school appeals.

¹ excludes Isle of Scilly who had minimal admissions and is therefore not used as a comparator

Percentage of appeals heard that were successful	Devon 2021/22	England 2021/22	Devon 2022/23	England 2022/23
Total successful appeals	19.6%	20.1%	27.1%	20%
<i>of which;</i>				
primary successful appeals	22.2%	17.2%	15.9%	16.4%
secondary successful appeals	18.2%	21.1%	32.9%	20.9%

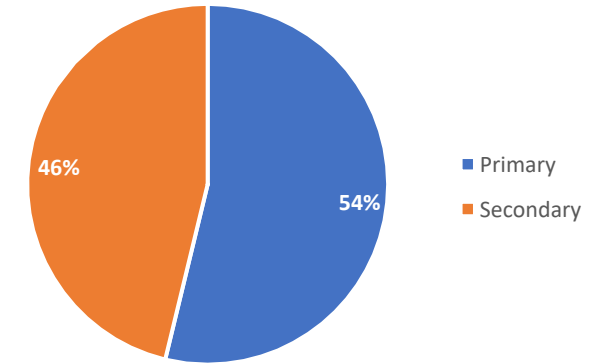


data source: DfE Admission appeals in England, academic year 2022/23, published 17/08/23

Pupil Mobility – Move Outs

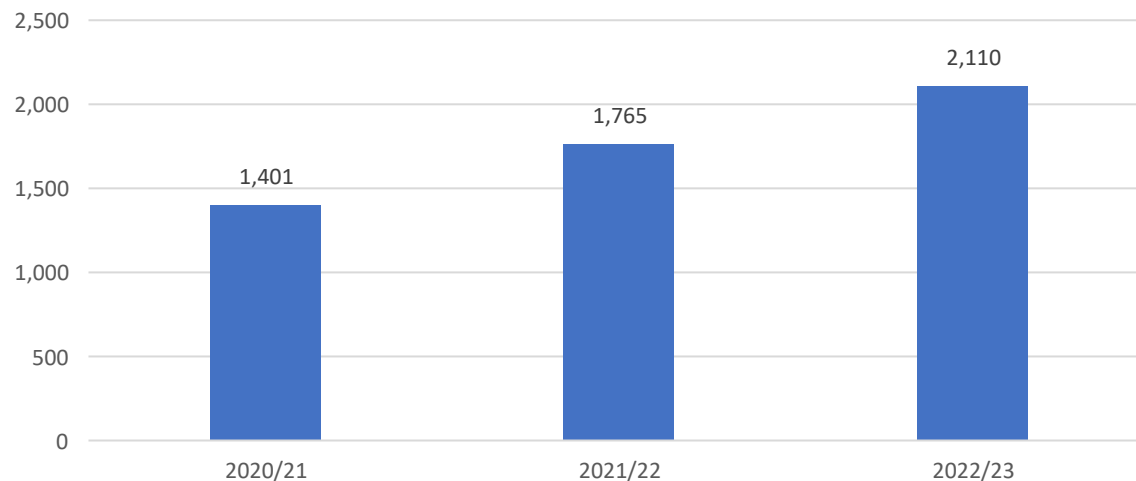
- The number of pupils moving out of schools (other than for completion) increased by 345 in the year 2022/23 this is an increase of 20% from the previous year.
- The majority of move outs are for primary aged children with 54% of move outs being this age range.
- The greatest increase from last year was in Secondary where there was a 31% increase in 2022/23 compared with 2021/22.

Previous setting type of children moving out

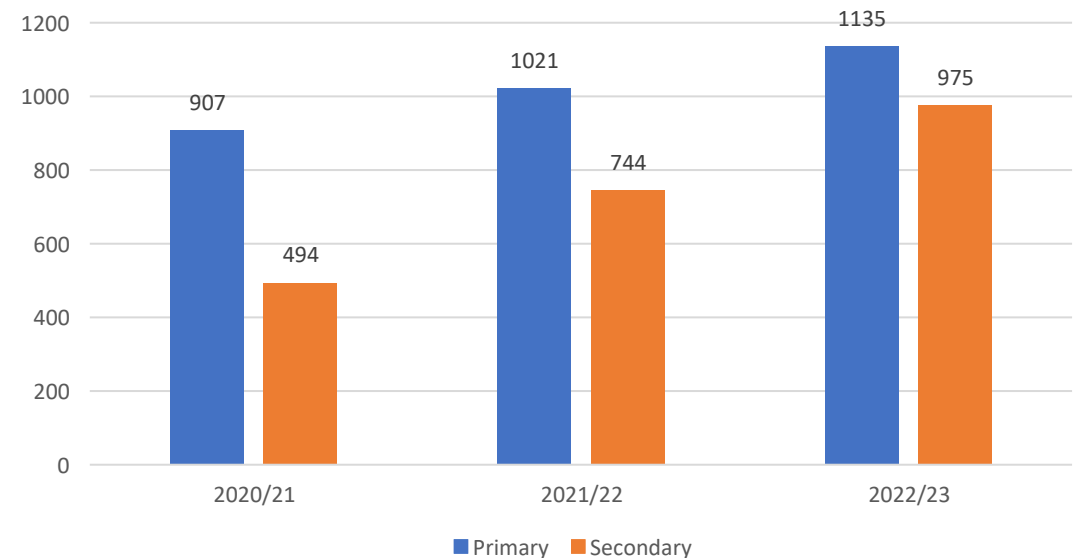


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Move outs by academic year



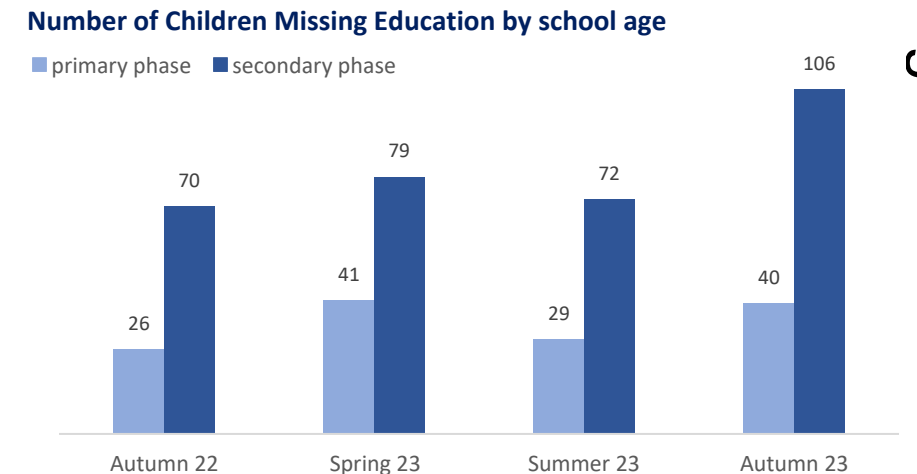
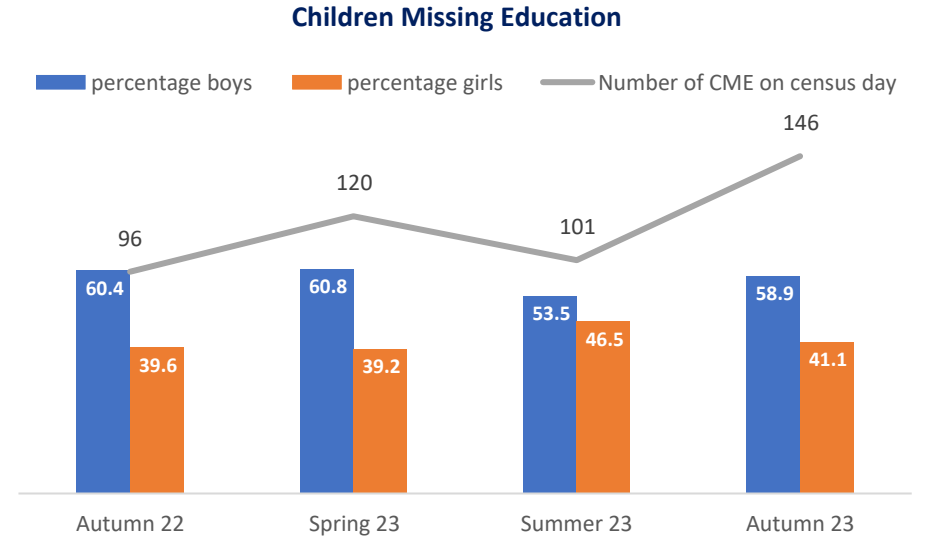
Moves out by academic year and setting type



Data sources: Summer Census 2021, 2022, 2023

Children Missing Education – census day information

- In 2022/23 the number of children missing education was highest in the spring (120), however figures have risen slightly as at this autumn census day (146).
 - The majority of children missing education are in the secondary school phase. 106 children missing education on autumn 23 census day were in secondary phase, accounting for 73% of children missing education.
 - More boys are missing education than girls. On average, nearly 60% of those missing education in Devon are boys, higher than nationally (51%).
- Page 27
- Children missing education with an EHCP fell from 29% in autumn 22 to 23% in summer 23. This is significantly higher than nationally (5% in aut 22).
 - Of the 146 children missing education on autumn 23 census day, 23% are believed to have moved to another LA, 17% had unsuitable home education and 13% were awaiting the outcome of a school application/admission appeal. Enquiries were ongoing for 18%.



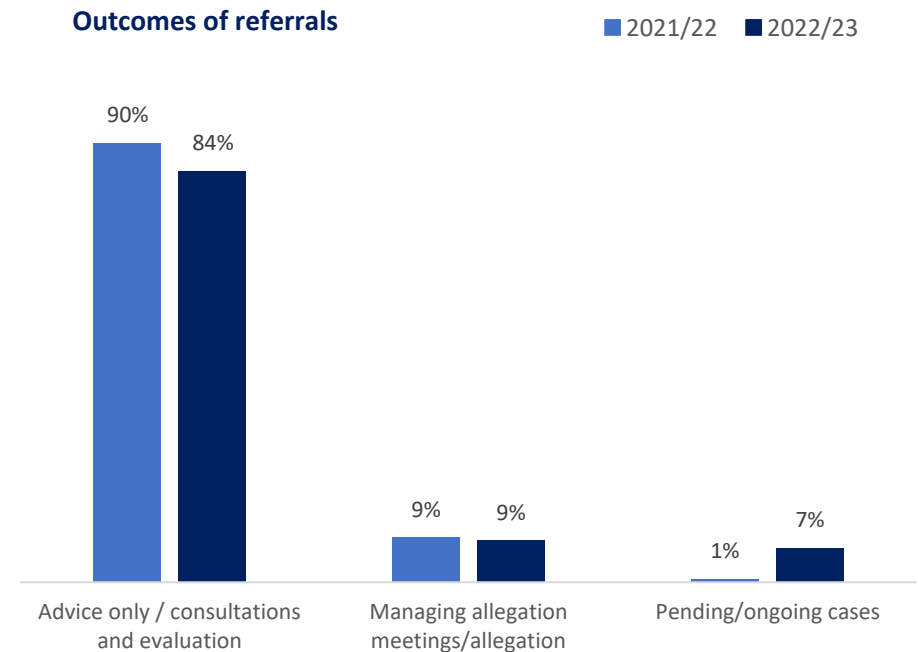
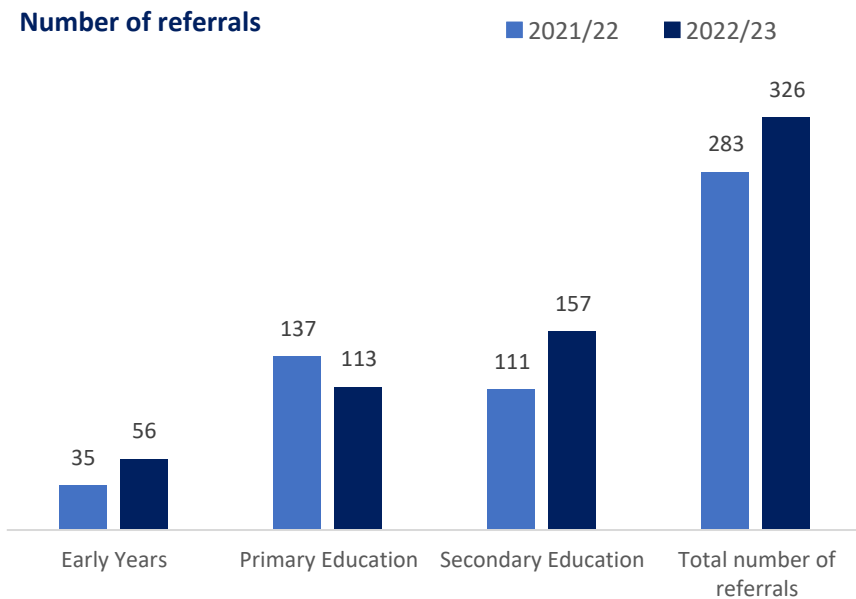
CME additional child safeguarding/education requirements	Devon Numbers				Devon Percentages				National percentages
	Aut 22	Spr 23	Sum 23	Aut 23	Aut 22	Spr 23	Sum 23	Aut 23	Aut 22
Child in need	3	3	8	8	3.1	2.5	7.9	5.5	2
Child protection plan	5	9	6	4	5.2	7.5	5.9	2.7	1
Looked after child	5	10	4	7	5.2	8.3	4.0	4.8	1
SEN Support	24	28	29	41	25.0	23.3	28.7	28.1	7
SEN EHCP	28	30	23	25	29.2	25.0	22.8	17.1	5

Safeguarding referrals

- The number of safeguarding referrals rose in 2022/23 to 326 referrals. This is an increase of 15%, an additional 46 referrals.
- Referrals rose in secondary phase education whilst they dropped in primary phase education.

- 84% of referrals in 2022/23 had an outcome of advice only/consultations and evaluation.
- The percentage of referrals resulting in managing allegation meetings remained stable at 9%. However 7% of referrals were pending/ongoing cases.

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Yr1 Phonics attainment - 2022/23 published results

All pupils

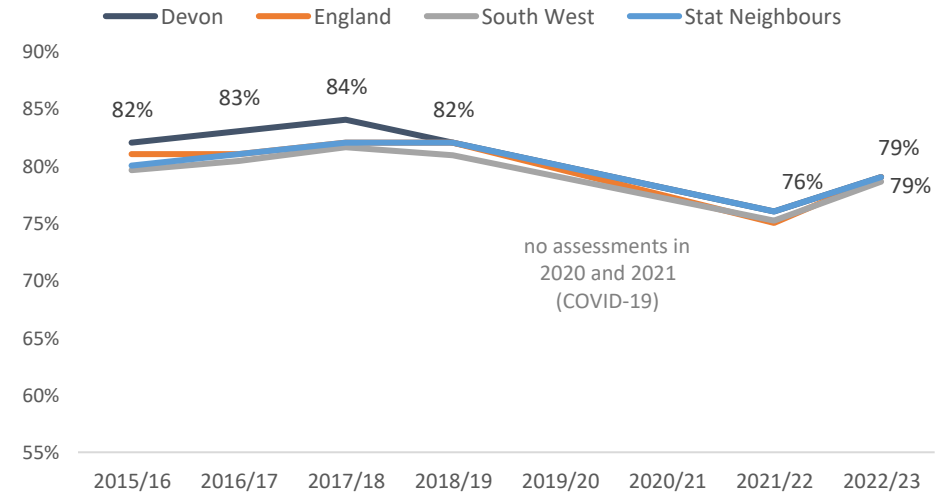
- Attainment in Yr1 Phonics has risen in the last year. In Devon, 79% of pupils met the expected phonics check in year 1, compared to 76% in 2021/22. This however is still lower than pre-pandemic levels where 82% of Devon pupils achieved in 2018/19.

Devon pupils are performing in line with nationally and regionally (both have 79% achieving the expected standard).

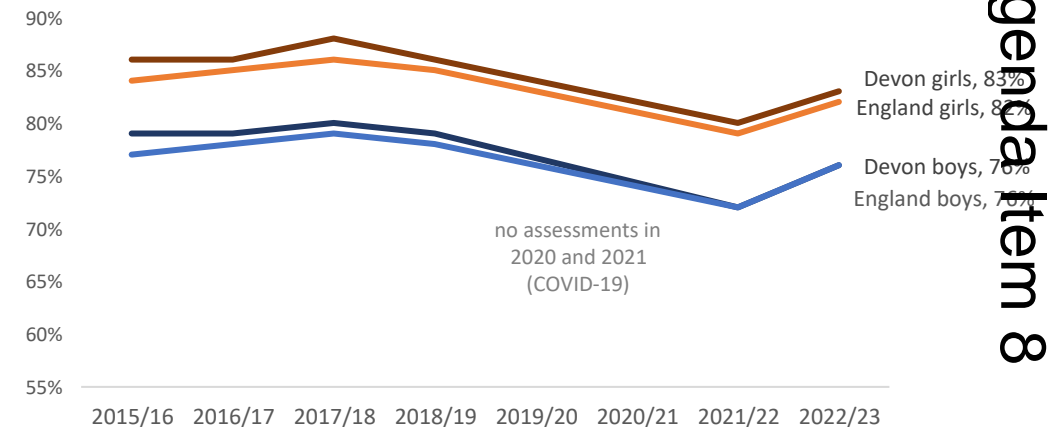
More girls continue to meet the phonics standard than boys. In Devon, 83% of girls met the standard compared to 76% of boys.

- Devon girls continue to perform slightly better than nationally (83% compared to 82% nationally) whilst Devon boys continue to be in line with the national average (76%).
- Note: there were no assessments in 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to the pandemic.

percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in Yr1 Phonics



percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in Yr1 Phonics by gender



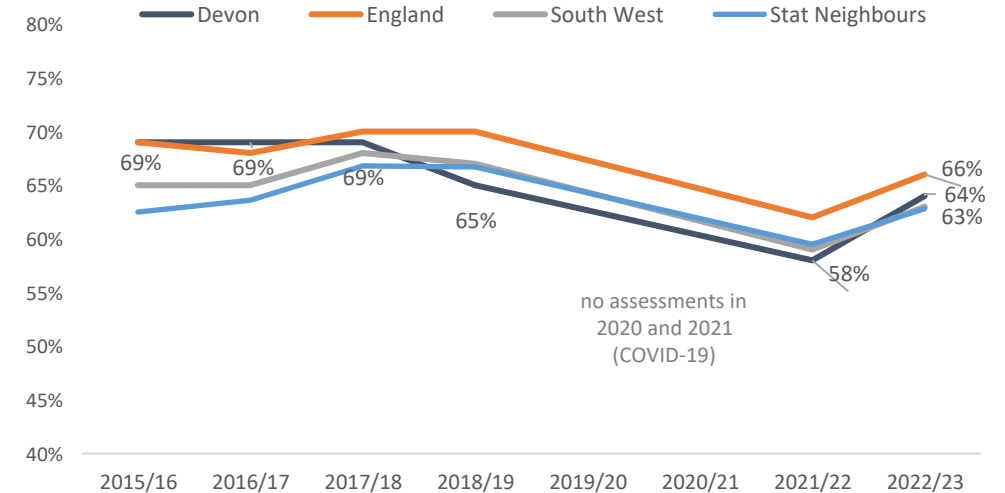
Yr1 Phonics attainment - 2022/23 published results

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)

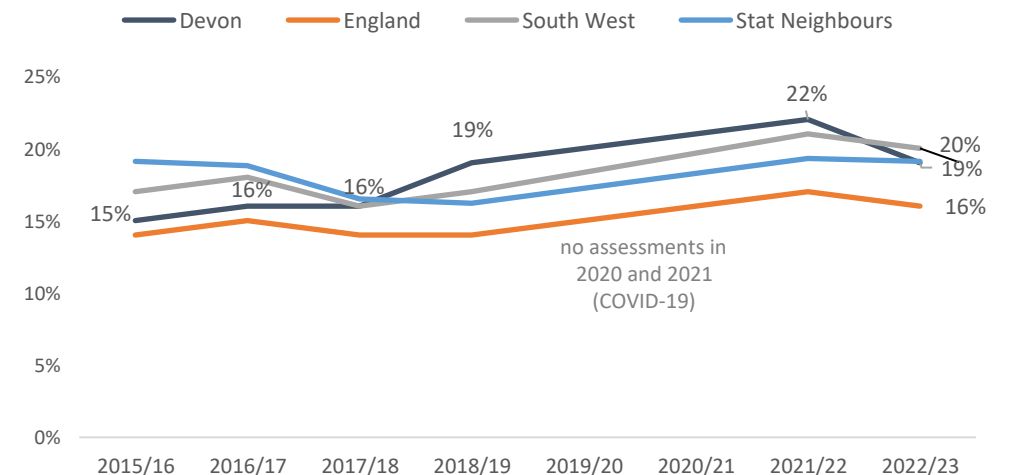
- Attainment in phonics has risen for FSM pupils and all other pupils, both locally and nationally.
- In Devon 64% of FSM pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 66% nationally and 63% regionally.
- The FSM attainment gap in Devon has narrowed in the last year, due to a greater improvement in the attainment for FSM pupils compared to non FSM pupils.
- The attainment gap is wider in Devon than nationally (19% compared to 16% nationally). Devon's gap is slightly narrower than regionally (20%) and is in line with statistical neighbours (19%).

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percentage of pupils with FSM meeting expected standard in Yr1 Phonics



Attainment gap between pupils with FSM meeting expected standard

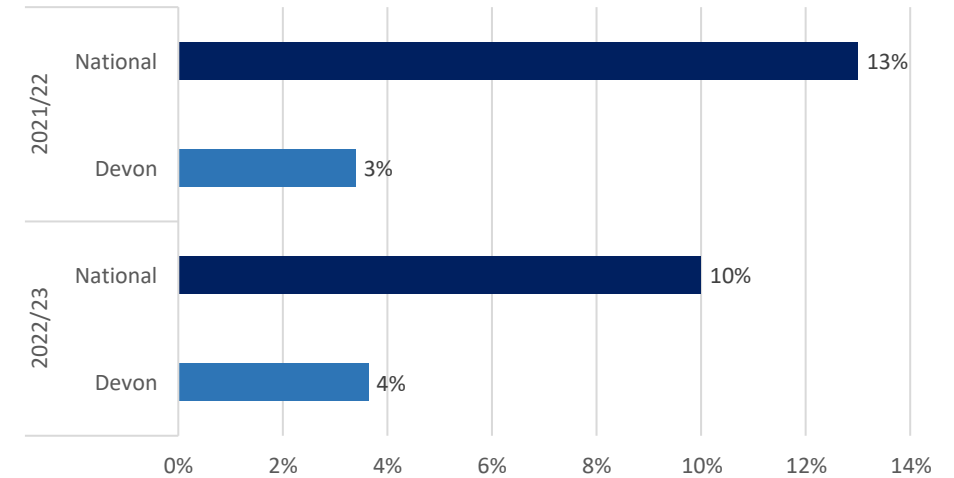


Yr1 Phonics attainment – Special Schools

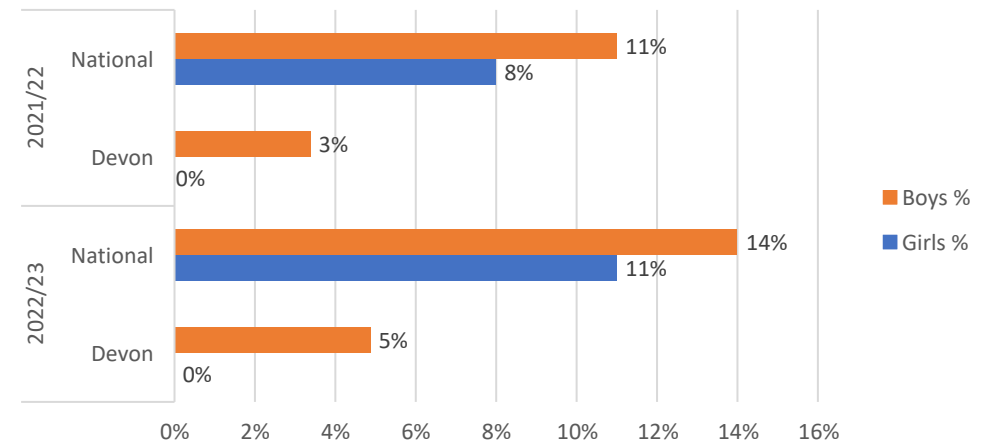
Pupils attending state funded special schools

- The percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in Yr1 phonics has increased since last year (4% from 3%).
- Pupils attending special schools in Devon are less likely than those in special schools nationally to meet the expected standard in phonics in year 1 (10% nationally to 4% in Devon).
- The gap between national and local attainment has reduced from 10% in 2021/22 to 6% in 2022/23.
- Boys achieve best both locally and nationally. Girls do not achieve well in Devon with 0% achieving the expected standard in 2021/22 or 2022/23.

Percentage of pupils attending special schools meeting expected standard in Yr1 Phonics



Percentage of pupils attending special schools meeting expected standard in Yr1 Phonics by gender



(1) Where schools have changed type or phase during the 2022/23 academic year, they are shown here under their type or phase as of 12 September 2022.
 (2) State-funded special schools includes community special schools, foundation special schools, special sponsor-led academies, special converter academies and special free schools.
 (3) Percentages have been rounded to nearest whole number, so may not sum to 100.

Data source: [DfE Key stage 1 and phonics screening check attainment, academic year 2022/23, LA tables, published 12/10/2023](#)

Yr1 Phonics attainment - 2022/23 published results

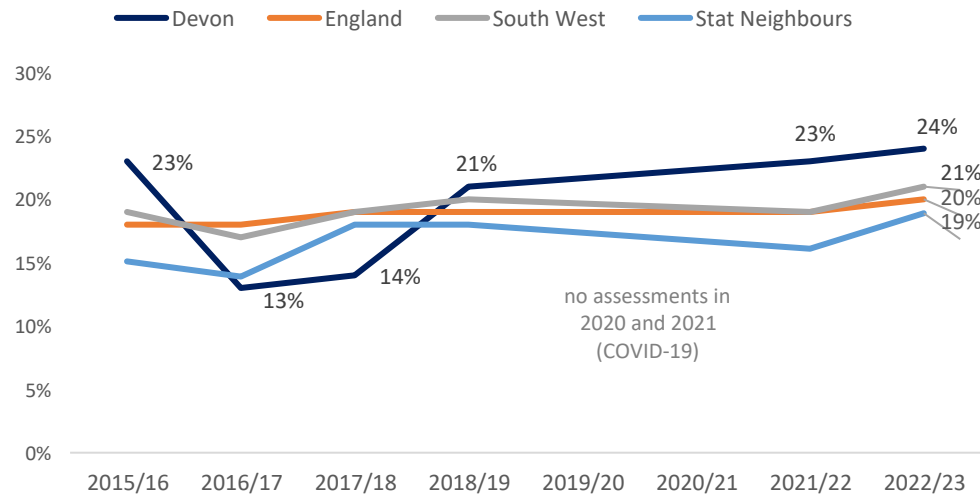
Pupils with Special Educational Needs

- SEN pupils with an EHCP do not perform as well as pupils with SEN Support, this is the case both in Devon and nationally.
- 24% of pupils with an EHCP in Devon met the expected standard, a slight improvement on last year when 23% met the expected standard.
- Devon pupils with an EHCP perform significantly better than both nationally (24% compared to 20%) and statistical neighbours (19%).

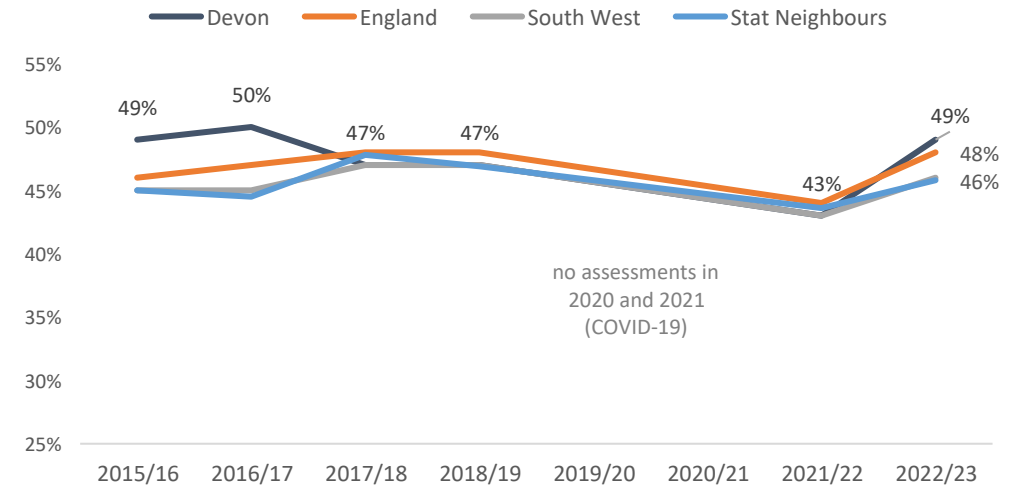
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49% of Devon pupils with SEN Support met the expected standard, slightly higher than the national average (48%).

percentage of pupils with an EHCP meeting expected standard in Yr1 Phonics



percentage of pupils with SEN Support meeting expected standard in Yr1 Phonics

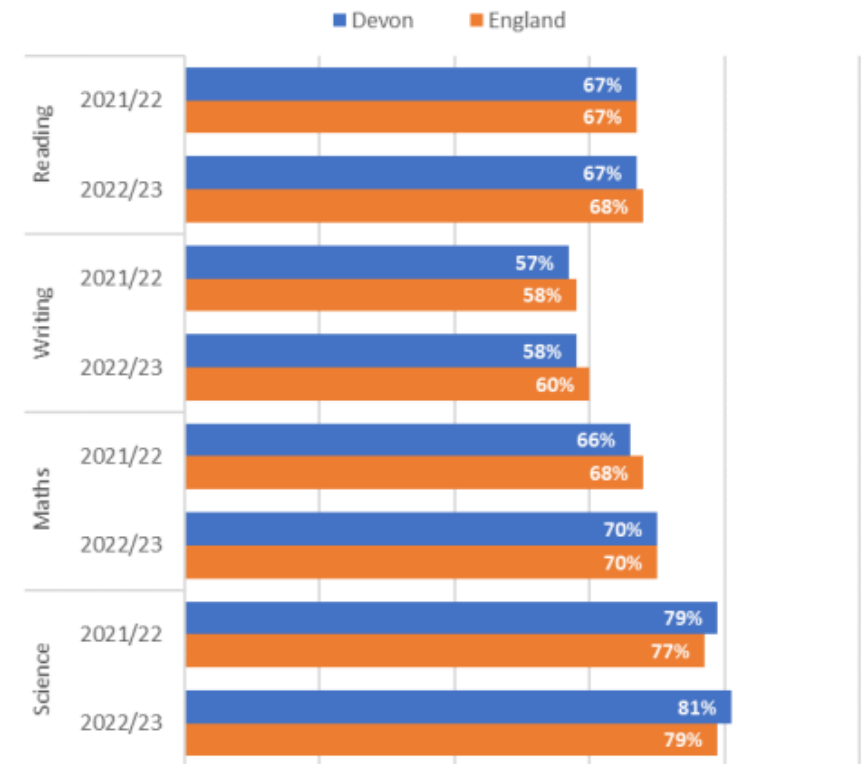


Key Stage 1 attainment - 2022/23 published results

KS1 pupils meeting expected standard

- Nationally, attainment has increased in all of the subjects since last year. Devon’s attainment has also increased with the exception of reading which has remained at the same level as last year.
- Devon’s attainment remained stable in Reading, improved in Writing (by 1 percentage point) and also improved in Maths (3 percentage points).
- Among Reading, Writing and Maths, attainment is highest in Maths, both in Devon and nationally.
- Attainment at the expected standard remains lowest in Writing, both in Devon and Nationally.
- Devon is performing better than nationally in Science and is in line with nationally in Maths. Devon is not performing as well as nationally in Reading and Writing.

Percentage of KS1 pupils meeting expected standard by subject



Key Stage 1 attainment - 2022/23 published results

KS1 pupils meeting expected standard – by gender

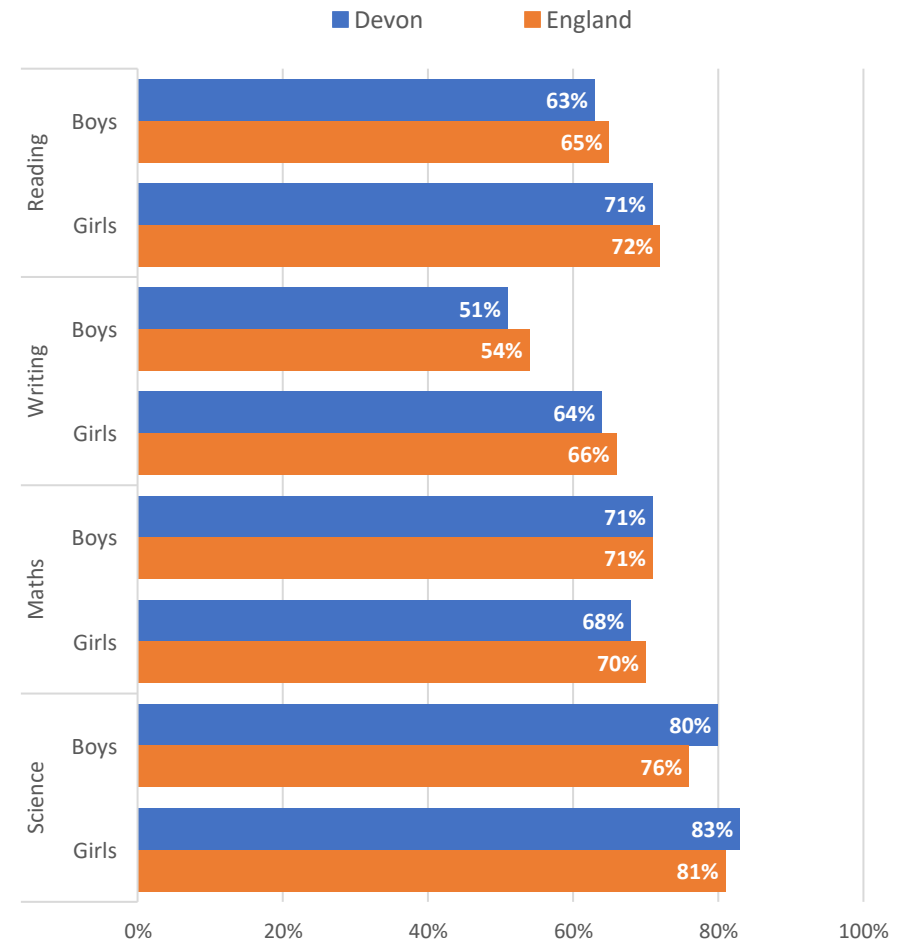
- More girls continue to meet the expected standard than boys in reading, writing and science, whilst more boys reach the expected standard in maths. This is the case both in Devon and nationally.

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The gender attainment gap at the expected standard is widest in writing. This is both the case in Devon and nationally (13 percentage points gap in Devon, 12 points nationally).

- Devon girls are performing better than nationally in Science (83% compared to 81% nationally) but are not performing as well as nationally in the other subjects.
- Devon boys are performing better than nationally in Science and are in line with nationally in Maths.

Percentage of KS1 pupils meeting the expected standard by gender



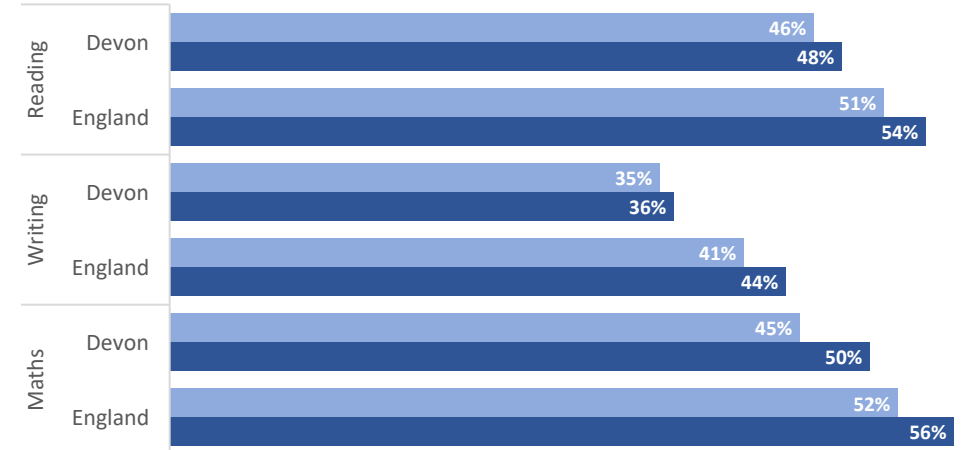
Key Stage 1 attainment - 2022/23 published results

KS1 results for pupils eligible for Free School Meals

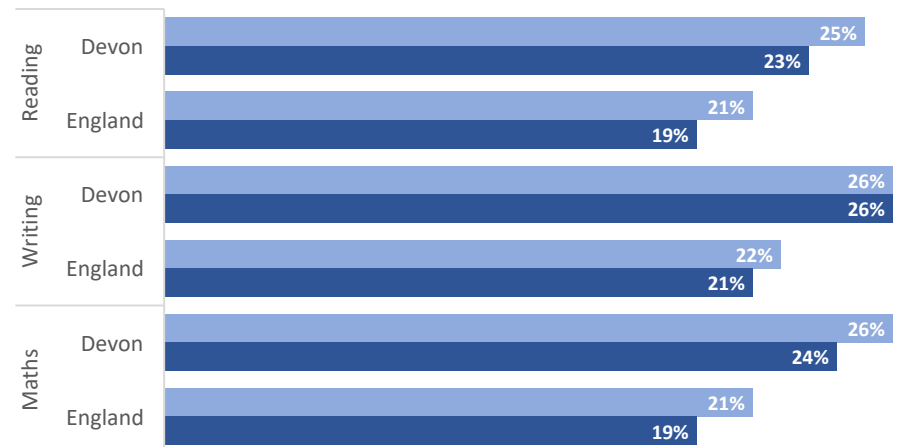
- Attainment has improved in the last year for both pupils eligible for FSM and all other pupils.
- Devon’s FSM pupils are not performing as well as nationally in each of the subjects.
- The attainment of FSM pupils has risen further than that for all other pupils and so the attainment gap has narrowed, both in Devon and nationally. Attainment gaps are wider in Devon than nationally.
- FSM pupils are performing best in Maths, both in Devon and nationally. Their performance is lowest in Writing.

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Percentage of KS1 pupils meeting the expected standard - pupils eligible for FSM



Percentage of KS1 pupils meeting the expected standard - FSM gap



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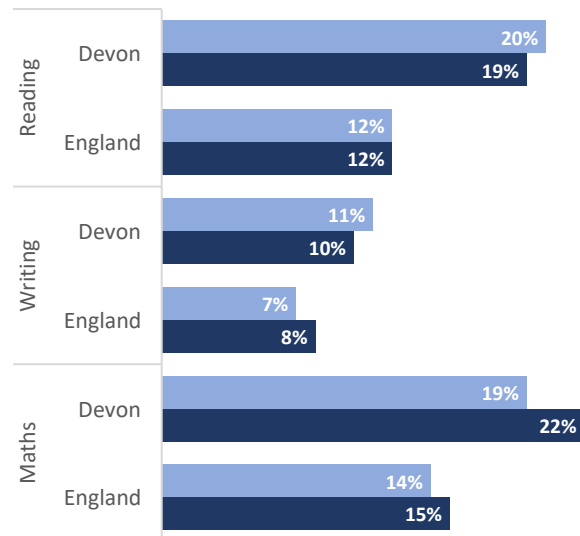
Key Stage 1 attainment - 2022/23 published results

KS1 results for pupils with Special Educational Needs

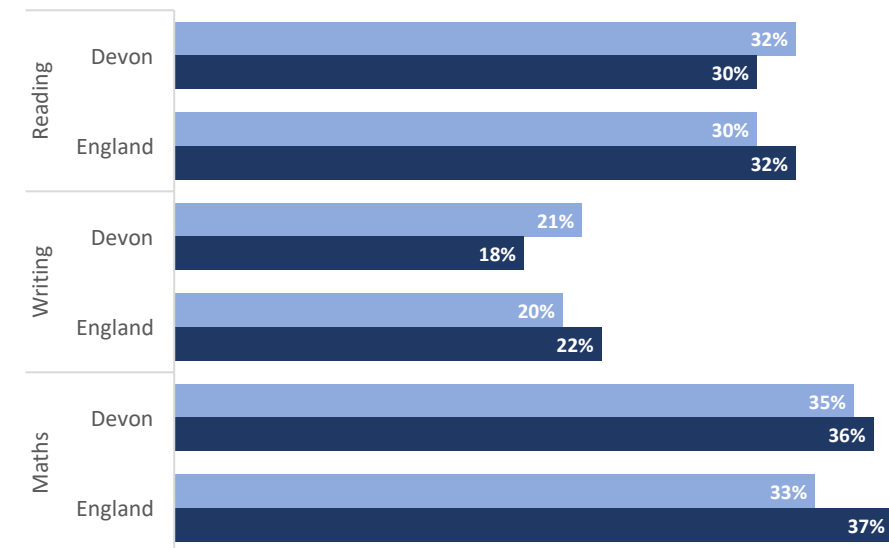
- SEN pupils with an EHCP do not perform as well as pupils with SEN Support, this is the case both in Devon and nationally.
- Devon pupils with an EHCP perform significantly better than nationally in all subjects whilst those with SEN Support are not performing as well as nationally this year.
- In Devon, the performance of pupils with an EHCP has improved in Maths and Science but has fallen slightly in Reading and Writing. Nationally the performance has improved slightly in each of the subjects with the exception of Reading which has remained stable. Devon pupils with SEN Support have also improved in Maths, remained stable in Science but fell in Reading and Writing.

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Percentage of KS1 pupils with SEN EHCP meeting the expected standard ■ 2021/22 ■ 2022/23



Percentage of KS1 pupils with SEN Support meeting the expected standard ■ 2021/22 ■ 2022/23



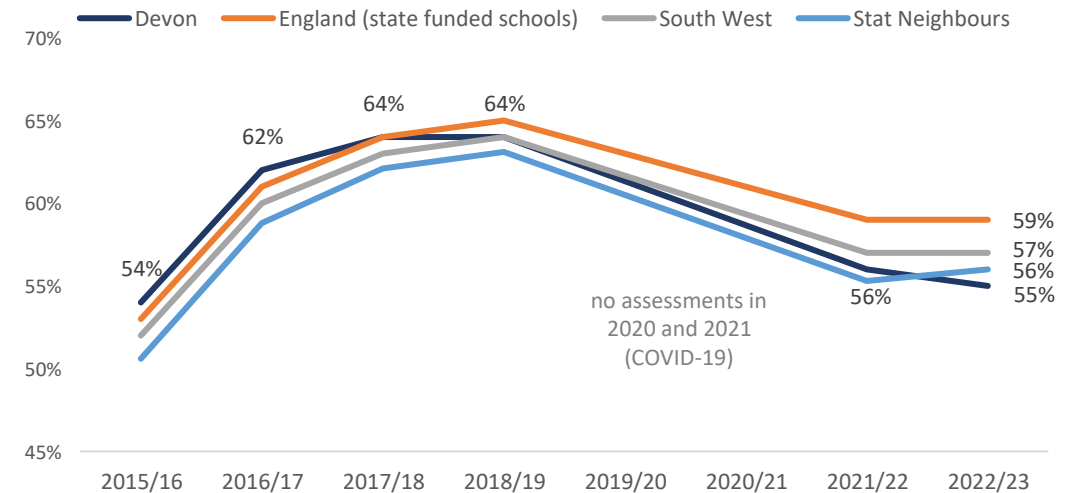
Key Stage 2 attainment - 2022/23 provisional results

These statistics cover the attainment of year 6 pupils who took assessments in summer 2023. These pupils experienced disruption to their learning during the pandemic, particularly at the end of year 3 and in year 4. These statistics are provisional and will be updated with revised data in December.

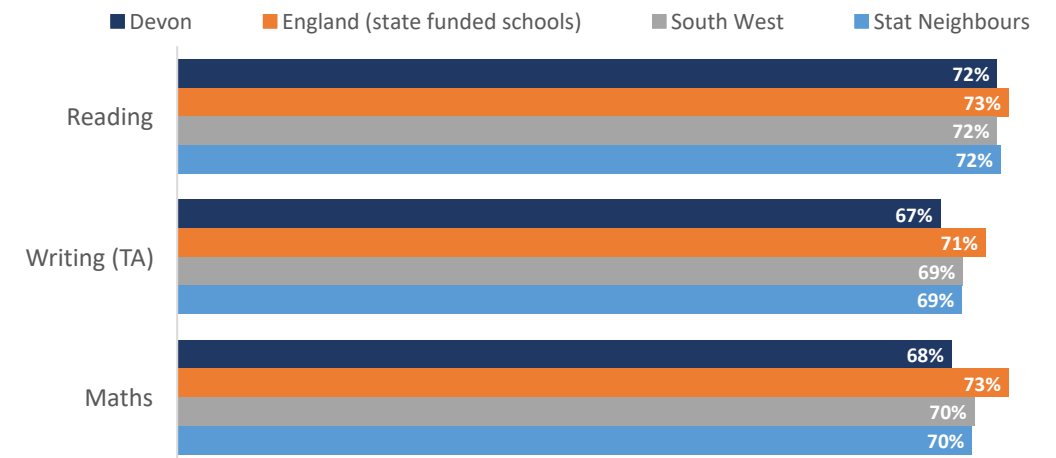
- Attainment in the combined reading, writing and maths measure has fallen slightly this year. 55% of Devon's pupils met the expected standard, down from 56% in 2022. National and regional results have remained the same.
- Devon's pupils are not performing as well as nationally (59%) or regionally (57%). They are slightly below statistical neighbours (56%).
- In the individual subjects, attainment was highest in reading, followed by maths and then writing. Devon pupils performed in-line with statistical neighbours and regional results for reading (72%) but were below national reading results (73%). Devon pupils were also below national in writing and maths.

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Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths



2022/23 Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in each subject

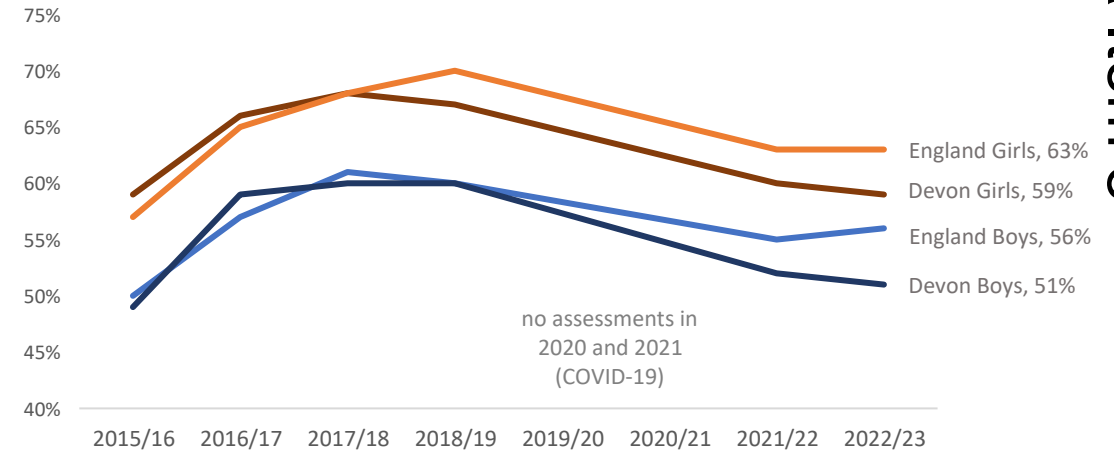


Key Stage 2 attainment – 2022/23 gender

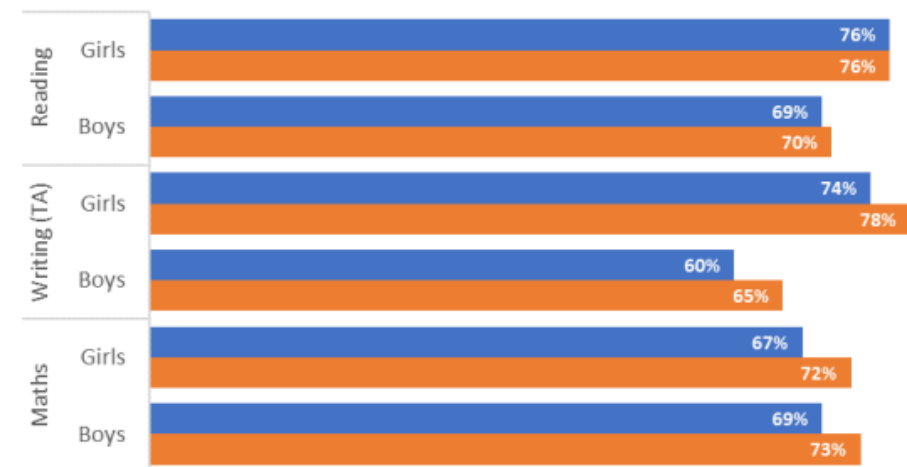
- Girls continue to perform better than boys in the combined reading, writing and maths measure. Devon girls and boys did not perform as well as nationally.
- 59% of Devon’s girls met the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics compared to 63% nationally, whilst 51% of Devon boys met the expected standard compared to 56% nationally.
- In the individual subjects, Devon girls perform better than boys in reading and writing, whilst Devon boys perform better than girls in maths.
- Devon girls performed in line with nationally in reading, but did not perform as well in writing and maths. Devon boys did not perform as well as nationally in any of the subjects.

Note: outcomes for pupil characteristic groups will be available in December when final results are due to be published by the DfE.

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths



2022/23 Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard by gender

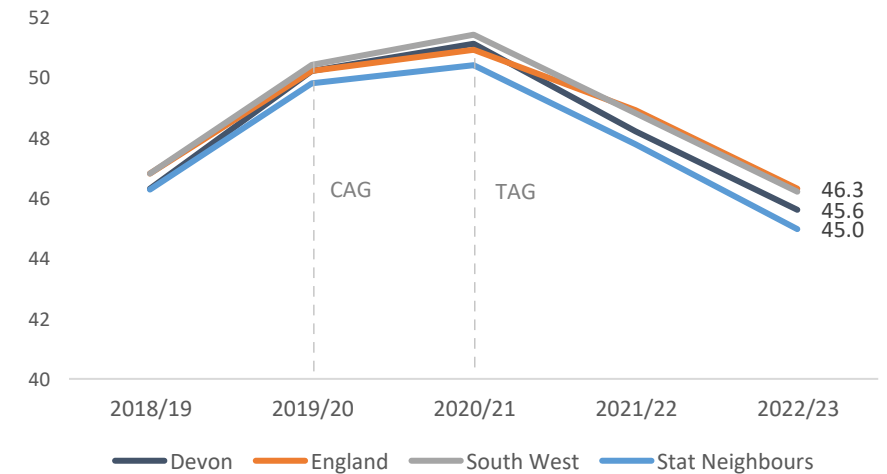


Key Stage 4 attainment – 2022/23 published results

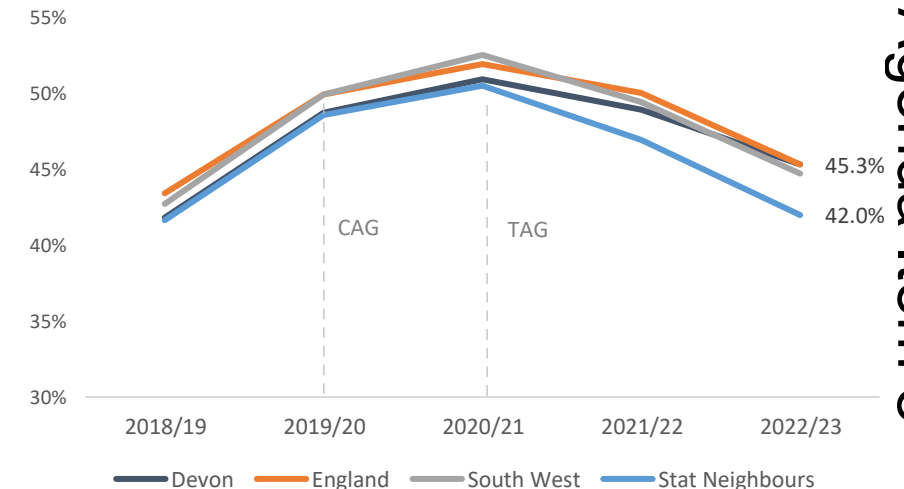
In 2022/23 there was a return to pre-pandemic standards for GCSEs with a return to pre-pandemic grading. In 19/20 and 20/21 there were centre assessment grades (CAGs) and teacher assessed grades (TAGs), whilst in 21/22 grading was in line with Ofqual’s approach. Due to these changes comparisons over time should be treated with extreme caution. The more meaningful comparison is with 18/19, the last year exams were taken before the pandemic.

- The average Attainment 8 score for Devon pupils is 45.6 which is better than the statistical neighbours average (45.0). Devon pupils are not performing as well as the national average for state funded schools¹ (46.3).
- 45.3% of Devon pupils achieved grades 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs. This is in line with national¹ (45.3%) and is better than statistical neighbours (42.0%).
- 65.4% of Devon pupils achieved grades 4 or above in English and Maths GCSEs, better than nationally¹ (65.1%) and statistical neighbours (63.7%).
- Devon pupils are not progressing as well as nationally, with an average progress 8 score of -0.09 compared to -0.03 nationally¹. They are progressing at a similar rate as statistical neighbours (-0.10).

Average Attainment 8 score of all pupils



percentage achieving grades 5 or above in English & Maths GCSEs



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¹ national rates have been taken from LA underlying tables to ensure consistency with methodology (so may differ slightly from rates in national tables)

Key Stage 4 attainment – gender

As 2022/23 saw a return to pre-pandemic standards for GCSEs, comparisons have been made against 2018/19, the last year of summer exams before the pandemic. This is the more meaningful comparator, due to changes in the way GCSE grades were awarded in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Girls continue to perform better than boys, both in Devon and nationally.

- Devon girls achieved an average attainment 8 score of 47.7 whilst boys achieved 43.7.

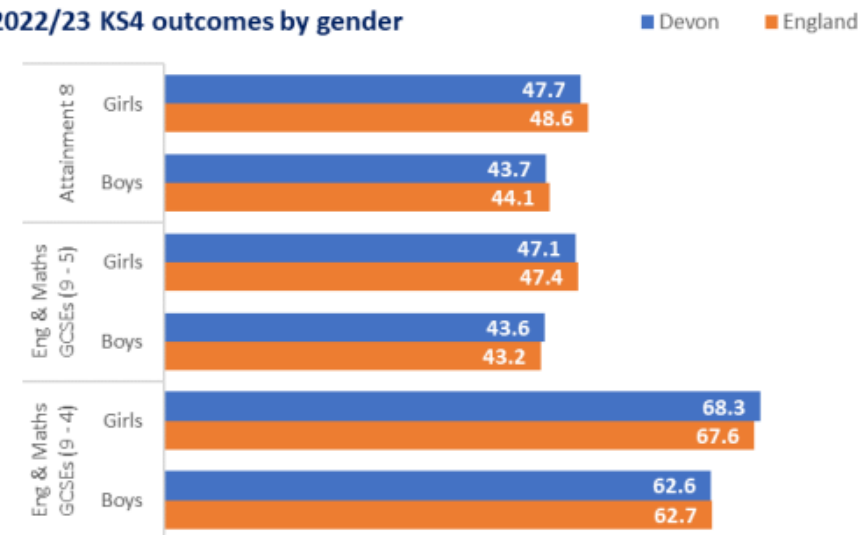
- 47.1% of Devon girls achieved English & Maths GCSEs grades 9 to 5, close to the national average¹ (47.4%), whilst 43.6% of Devon boys achieved grades 9 to 5, better than nationally¹ (43.2%).

- 68.3% of Devon girls achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and Maths, better than the national average¹ (67.6%). Boys perform close to national in this measure (62.6% compared to 62.7% nationally).

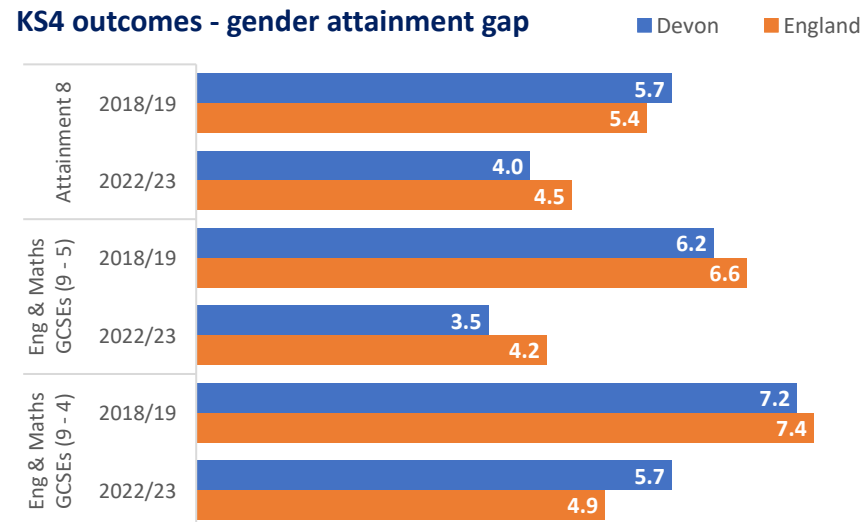
- Girls make better progress than boys. In Devon, girls averaged a progress 8 score of +0.05 whilst boys averaged -0.22.

Progress 8 score	all pupils	girls	boys
Devon	-0.09	0.05	-0.22
England (state funded) ¹	-0.03	0.12	-0.17
South West	-0.02	0.12	-0.16
Statistical Neighbours	-0.10	0.06	-0.24

2022/23 KS4 outcomes by gender



KS4 outcomes - gender attainment gap



¹ national rates have been taken from LA underlying tables to ensure consistency with methodology (so may differ slightly from rates in national tabl
data source: DfE Key Stage 4 performance, academic year 2022/23, published 19/10/23

Key Stage 4 attainment – disadvantaged

Devon disadvantaged pupils do not perform as well as all other pupils in the Key Stage 4 measures. Devon disadvantaged pupils do not perform as well as nationally.

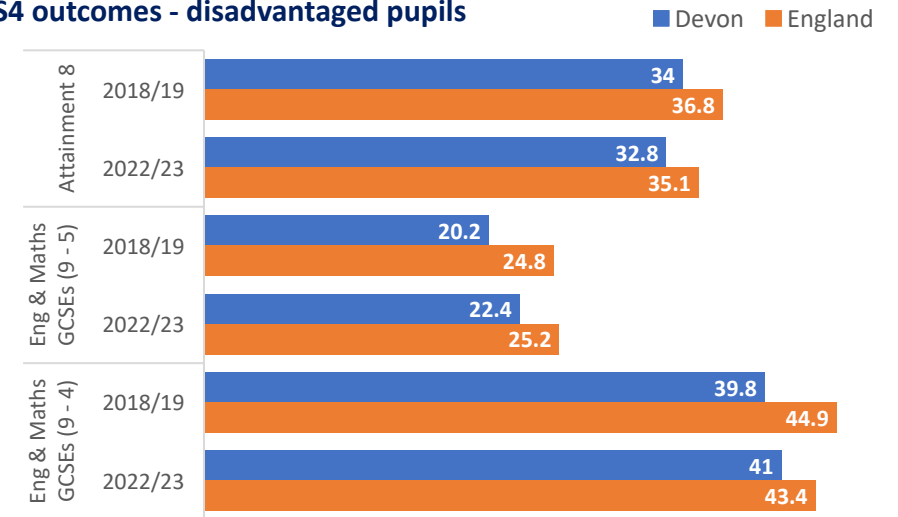
- Devon’s disadvantaged pupils achieved an average attainment 8 score of 32.8 compared to 35.1 nationally¹.
- 22.4% of Devon’s disadvantaged pupils achieved English & Maths grades 9 to 5 compared to 25.2% nationally¹.
- 41% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and Maths compared to 43.4% nationally¹.
- In Devon, disadvantaged pupils averaged a progress 8 score of -0.74 and are not making as much progress as nationally (-0.57).

Progress 8 score	Disadvantaged	All Other
Devon	-0.74	0.10
England (state funded) ¹	-0.57	0.17
South West	-0.65	0.14
Statistical Neighbours	-0.71	0.06

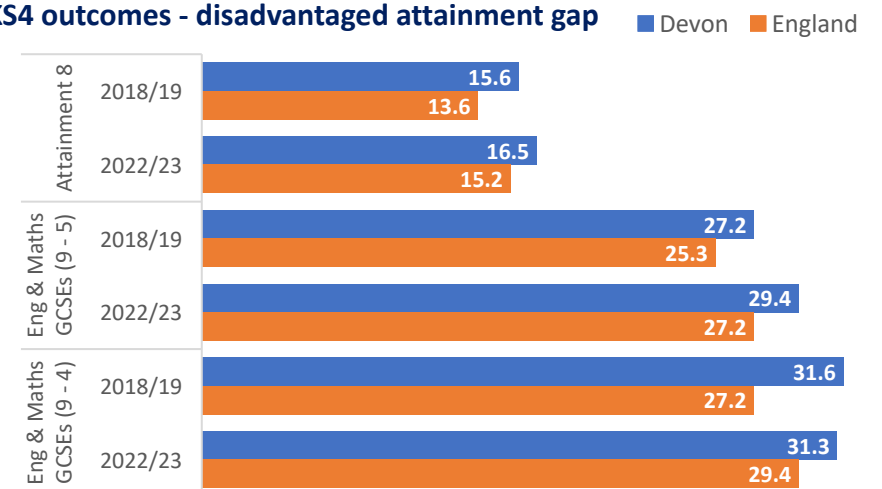
- Devon’s attainment gap is wider than nationally in each of the measures but is narrower than regionally.

¹ national rates have been taken from LA underlying tables to ensure consistency with methodology (so may differ slightly from rates in national tables)

KS4 outcomes - disadvantaged pupils



KS4 outcomes - disadvantaged attainment gap



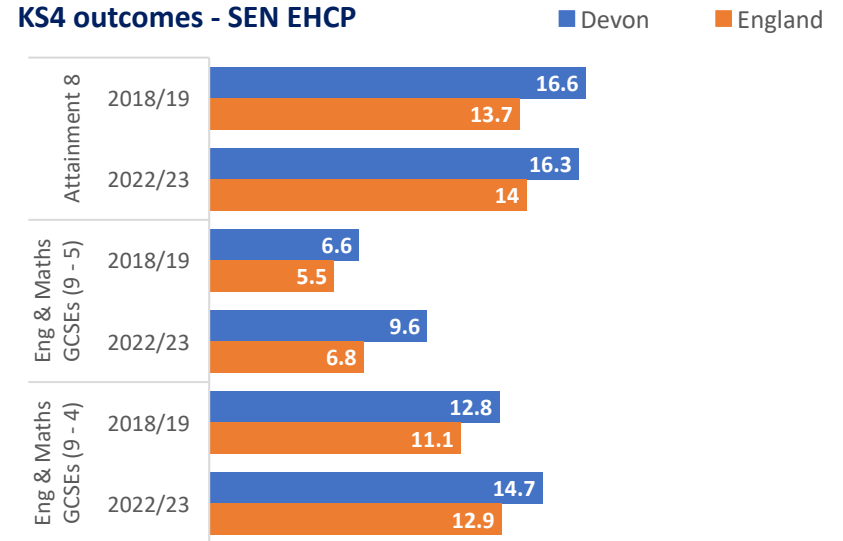
Key Stage 4 attainment – SEN

Pupils with SEN Support perform better than those with EHCPs (due to differing levels of need). This is the case both in Devon and nationally.

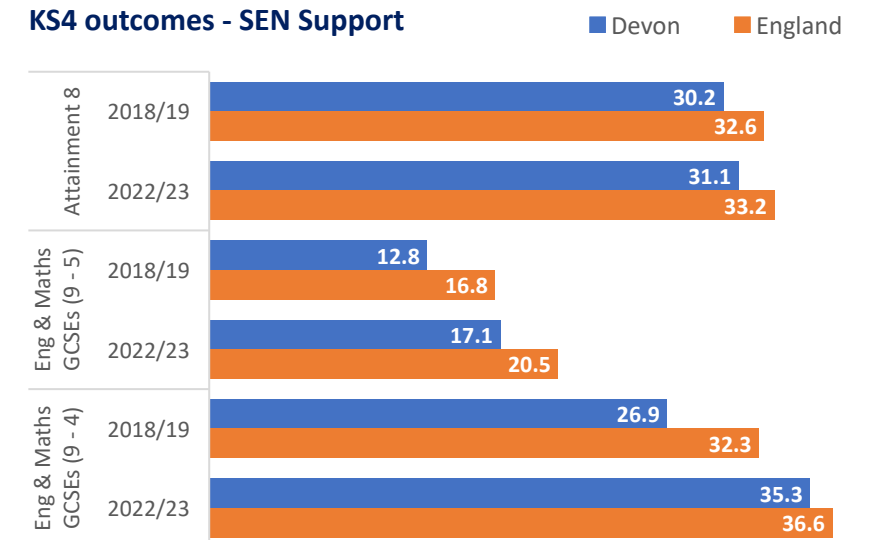
- Outcomes for Devon pupils with an EHCP remain well above the national average¹ in each of the attainment measures.
- Devon pupils with an EHCP are also performing better than pre-pandemic in the English and Maths GCSE measures.
- Whilst pupils with SEN Support in Devon have not achieved as highly as nationally¹ they are also performing better than pre-pandemic.
- In Devon, pupils with an EHCP averaged a progress 8 score of -1.20 whilst pupils with SEN Support averaged -0.71. Devon pupils with an EHCP are nearly progressing as well as nationally but Devon pupils with SEN Support are not progressing as well as nationally.

Progress 8 score	SEN EHCP	SEN Support
Devon	-1.20	-0.71
England (state funded) ¹	-1.12	-0.45
South West	-1.17	-0.5
Statistical Neighbours	-1.12	-0.45

KS4 outcomes - SEN EHCP



KS4 outcomes - SEN Support



¹ national rates have been taken from LA underlying tables to ensure consistency with methodology (so may differ slightly from rates in national tables)

Key Stage 4 attainment – Special Schools

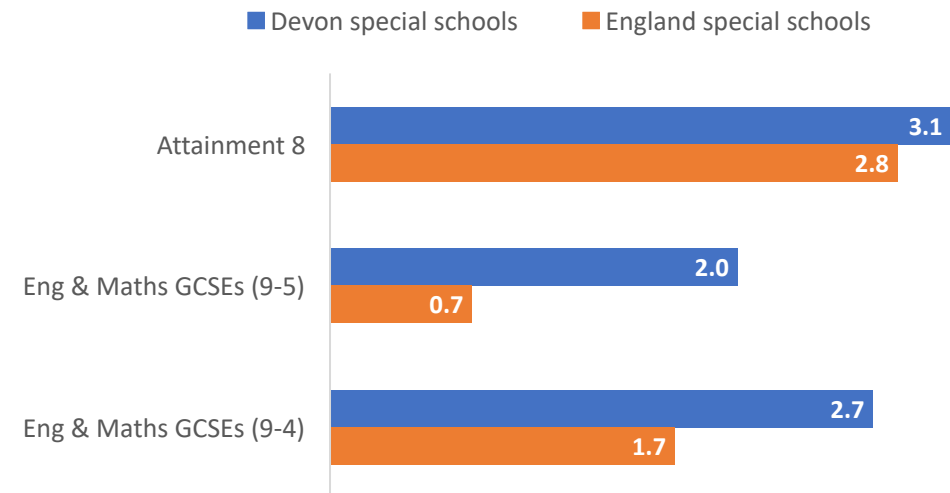
Outcomes for pupils attending special schools are significantly lower than all other pupils due to the level of needs.

Of the 149 pupils in Devon at the end of Key Stage 4, 2% achieved English and Maths GCSEs grades 9 to 5 (strong pass) and nearly 3% achieved English and Maths GCSEs grades 9 to 4 (standard pass).

Devon pupils achieve an average attainment score of 3.1 which is better than the national average (2.8).

Devon pupils are not progressing as well as those nationally (average progress score of -1.76 compared to -1.68 nationally).

Key Stage 4 outcomes - state funded special schools



Level 2 qualification by age 19yrs – 2021/22

This publication follows the same young people across multiple ages, to provide a picture of how young people build up their attainment. Attainment by age 19 is the focus as this is the age most young people have achieved these levels.

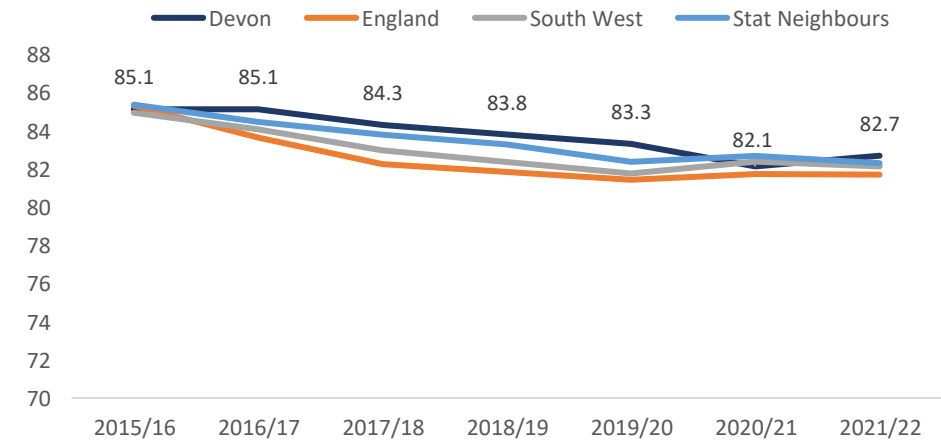
Information published over the summer indicates that 82.7% of 19 year olds in Devon were qualified to Level 2 in 2021/22 (5 GCSEs grade 9-4 or equivalent). This is slightly better than nationally (81.7%)¹.

74.7% achieved Level 2 in English and Maths by the age of 19², an increase of 3 percentage points on 2020/21, close to the national average of 74.9%.

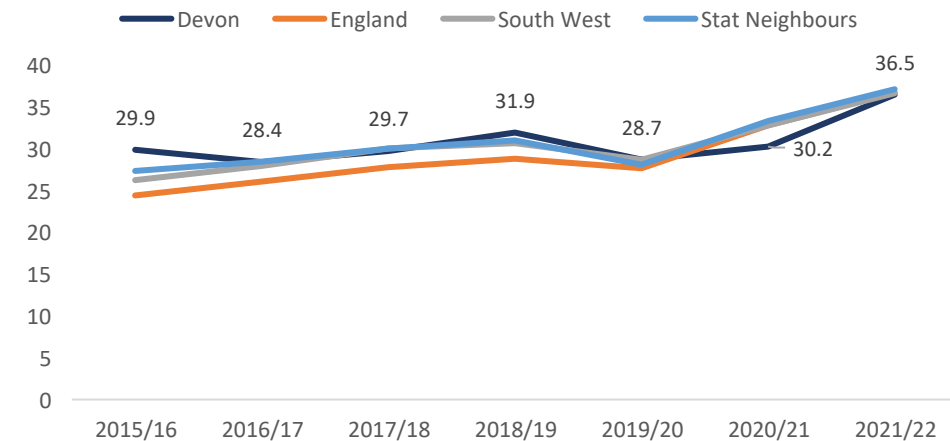
36.5% of 19 year olds who had not achieved Level 2 in English and Maths at 16 had achieved both by 19. This is a significant increase on the previous year (30.2%) and is close to the national average (36.7%).

Despite this improvement, it means that in 2021/22, both in Devon and nationally, almost two thirds of those who did not have Level 2 English and/or Maths still had not achieved one or both qualifications at 19.

Level 2 attainment at age 19 yrs



Level 2 in English and Maths - age 19 not 16*



* 19 not 16 refers to young people who had not achieved at 16 but had achieved by 19

¹ national rates have been taken from LA underlying tables to ensure consistency with methodology (so will differ from rates in national tables and publication webpage)

² 19yr olds who were recorded in the mainstream state sector in year 11 (the final year of secondary school). data source: Level 2 and 3 attainment age 16 to 25, 2021/22, published April 23

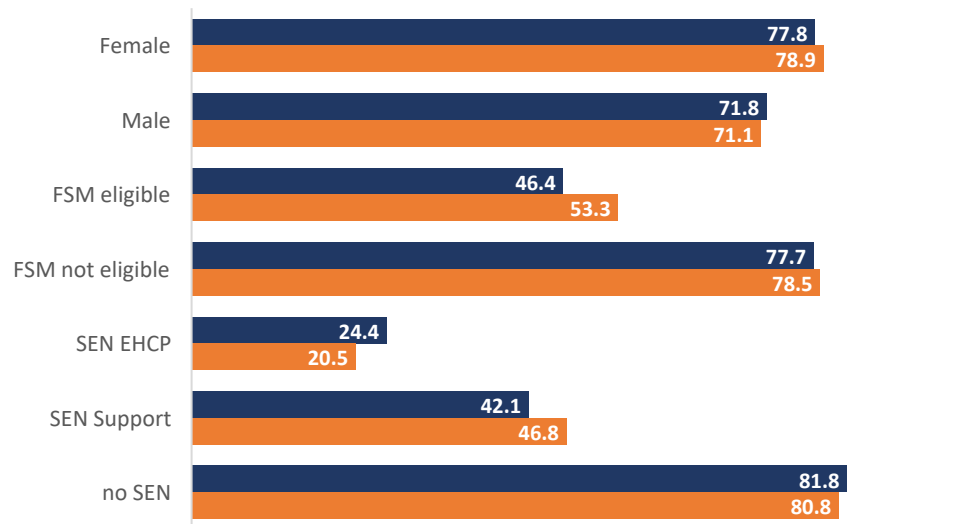
Level 2 qualification by age 19yrs – 2021/22

- More females than males held L2 in English and Maths, both in Devon and nationally ¹.
- FSM pupils were less likely to hold a L2 in English and Maths than non FSM pupils.
- Pupils with SEN Support are more likely to hold a L2 in English and Maths than those with an EHCP. Devon pupils with an EHCP perform better than nationally¹.

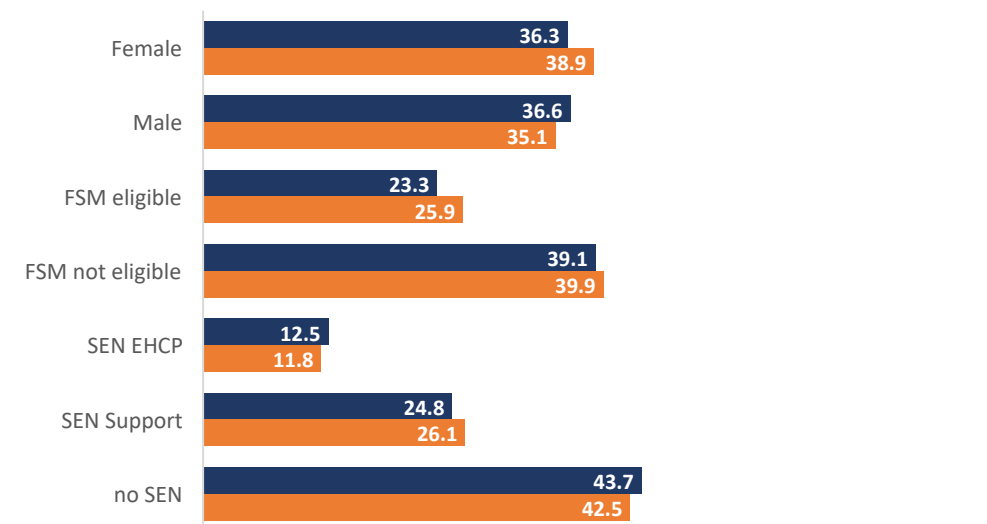
- Of those pupils who did not have L2 in English and Maths at 16 but had them by 19;
 - females and males in Devon had similar attainment levels, differing from nationally where females perform better¹.
 - approx one in four FSM pupils gained L2 in English and Maths by the time they reached 19.
 - approx one in eight pupils with an EHCP gained L2 in English and Maths by the time they reached 19.

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Level 2 in English & Maths - age 19



Level 2 in English & Maths - age 19 not 16



¹ national rates have been taken from LA underlying tables to ensure consistency with methodology (so will differ from rates in national tables and publication webpage)

data source: Level 2 and 3 attainment age 16 to 25, 2021/22, published April 23

Key Stage 2 Outcomes (local information)

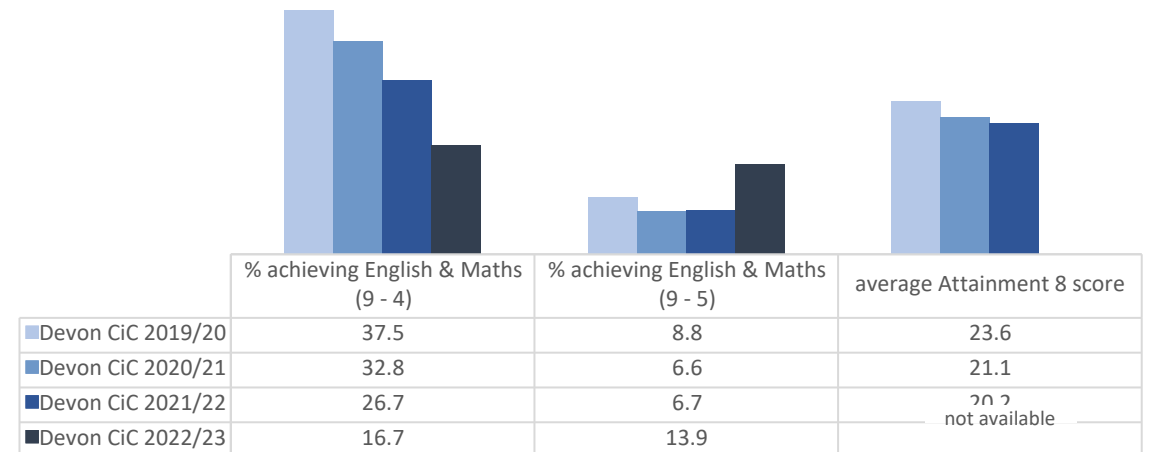
- Devon CiC perform best in Reading, followed by Maths and Writing.
- Devon CiC for 12 months or more perform better than those in care for any period of time. 38% of Devon CiC for 12 months or more achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, compared to 34% for Devon CiC for any period of time.

Key Stage 2 local results - % of CiC achieving expected standard

Key Stage 4 Outcomes (local information)

- In 2023, nearly 17% of Devon Children in Care for 12 months or more achieved English and Maths GCSE grades 9-4. The percentage of those achieving grade 9 to 5 doubled to nearly 14%.
- 19% of Devon Children in Care for 12 months or more achieved a standard pass in English (grade 4 or above) whilst 22% achieved a standard pass in Maths.
- National data for 2023/24 will not be available until March 2024. However national data for 2021/22 indicated that Devon’s CiC performed better than nationally in English & Maths GCSEs grades 9 to 4, with 26.7% achieving compared to 22.1% nationally.

Key Stage 4 - CiC 12 months or more at 31 March



Section 19 Referrals to the Inclusion Panel

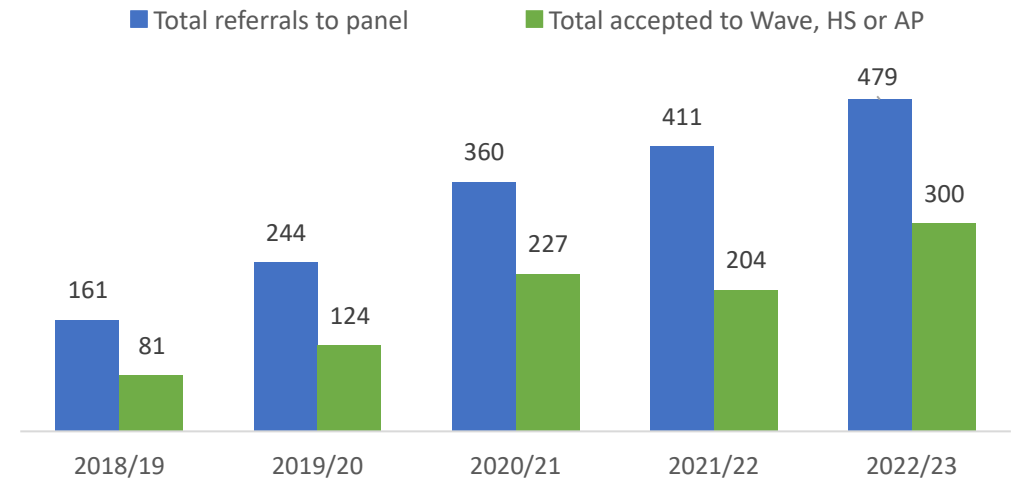
The number of children being referred for specialist educational support due to medical/mental health issues continues to rise. 479 referrals were considered by the Inclusion Panel in 2022/23 an increase of 17% on the previous year.

When reviewed on a termly basis, referrals were at their highest level in the autumn 2022 term (Sep to Dec). They then dipped in spring 2023 (Jan to Mar) before rising again for the remainder of the year.

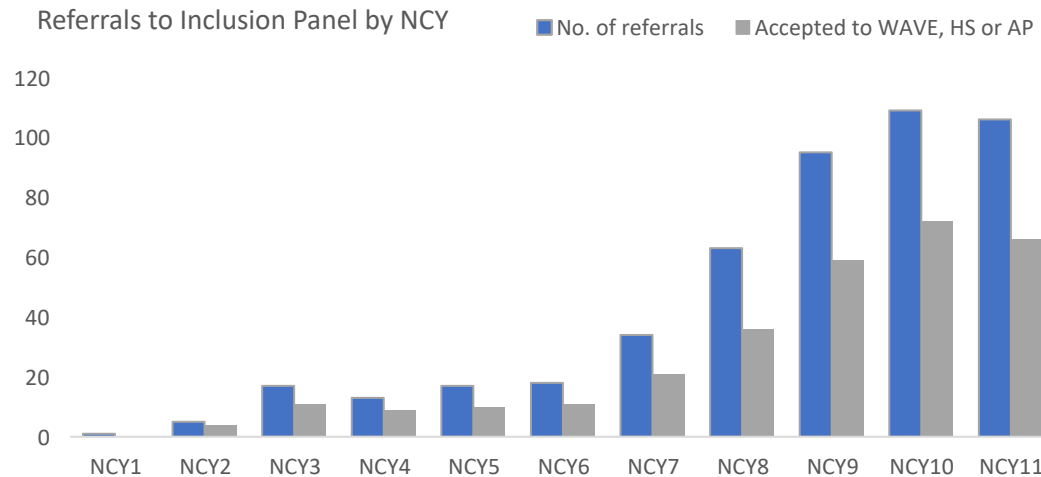
The majority of referrals made were for children of secondary school age (407 out of 479 referrals), with NCY groups 10 and 11 having over 100 referrals each. Two thirds of referrals were due to mental health.

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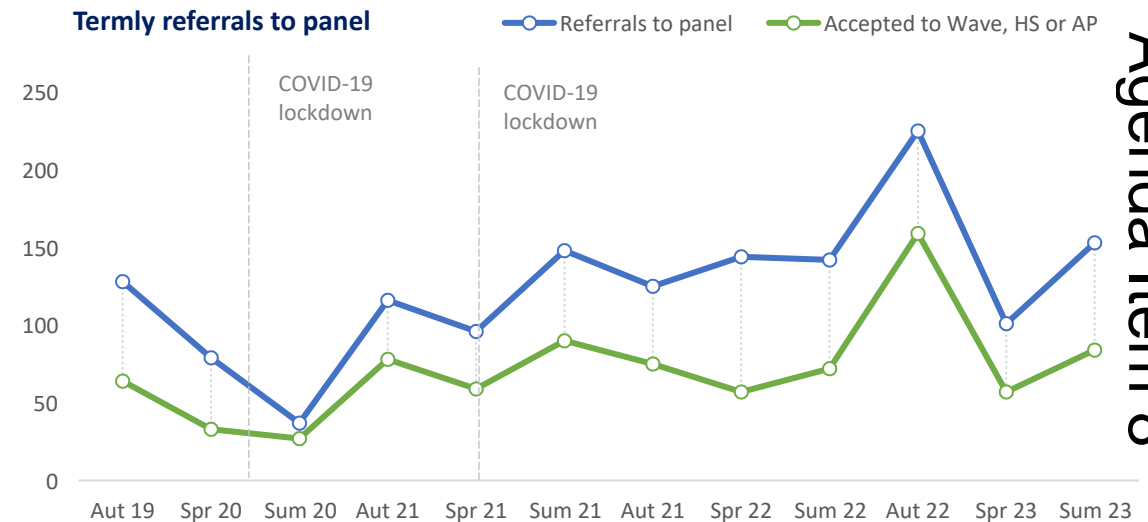
Referrals to Inclusion Panel and accepted cases



Referrals to Inclusion Panel by NCY



Termly referrals to panel

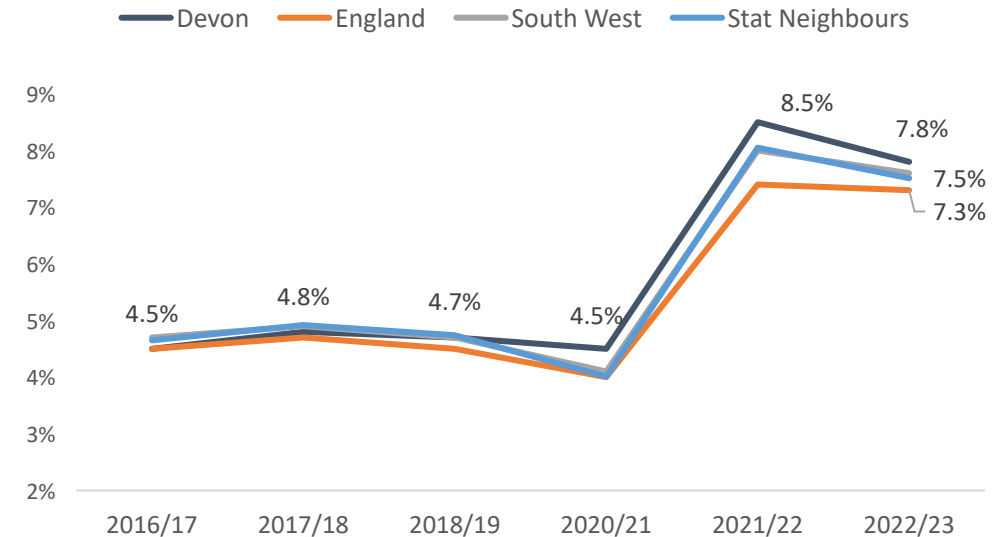


School Absence (2022/23 Autumn & Spring terms)

Overall absence rates

- Overall absence rates have fallen slightly in the last year, both in Devon and nationally. Devon's absence rate for the combined autumn & spring 2022/23 terms was 7.8%, slightly higher than national and statistical neighbours averages (7.3% and 7.5%).
- The DfE advise that the increase in 2021/22 was mostly driven by an increase in illness absence (including coronavirus), whilst the high level of absence in 2022/23 is in line with increases in rates of seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses.
- The highest reason for absence was illness, accounting for over half of sessions missed. In Devon, illness rates fell from 6% to 4.7%, compared to a fall from 4.7% to 4.1% nationally. Absences with a reason of unauthorised other rose both in Devon and nationally.
- Primary schools have the lowest overall absence rates, followed by secondary and then special schools. Devon primary and special schools have lower absence rates than nationally, whilst secondary schools have higher absence rates.

Autumn and Spring overall absence rates - primary, secondary & special schools



Note: the DfE have not published absence data for the Spring and Summer 2019/20 terms

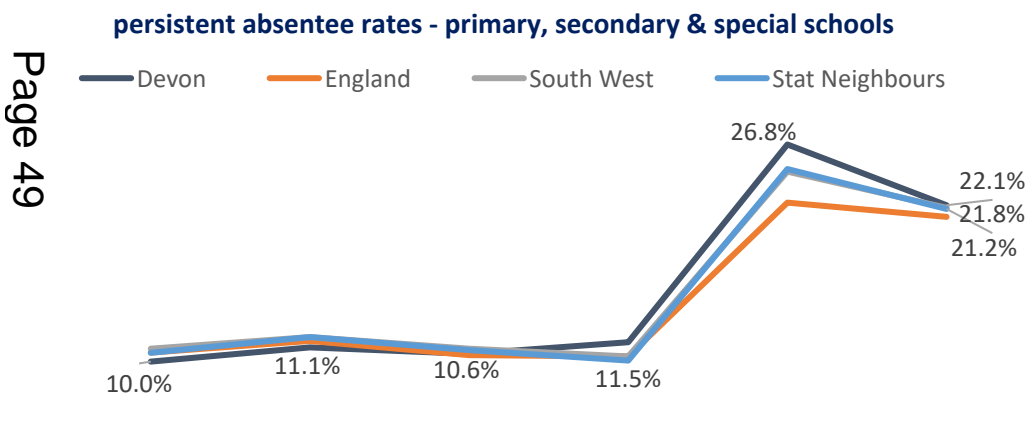
absence rates - school phase	Devon			England		
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
primary	3.4%	6.8%	5.8%	3.3%	6.2%	6.0%
secondary	5.6%	10.7%	10.3%	4.6%	8.6%	8.7%
special	17.3%	12.4%	11.9%	17.2%	13.2%	13.2%

Please note: Spring 2020/21 term was affected by a period of national restrictions where attendance was prioritised for vulnerable and key worker children. Caution should be taken with comparisons across years.

School Absence (2022/23 Autumn & Spring terms)

Persistent absentee rates (missed 10% or more sessions)

Whilst persistent absentee rates fell in the last year, one in five pupils still miss 10% or more sessions. Devon has slightly higher rates than nationally, regionally and statistical neighbours. Rates are lowest in primary schools and highest in special schools. This is also reflected nationally.

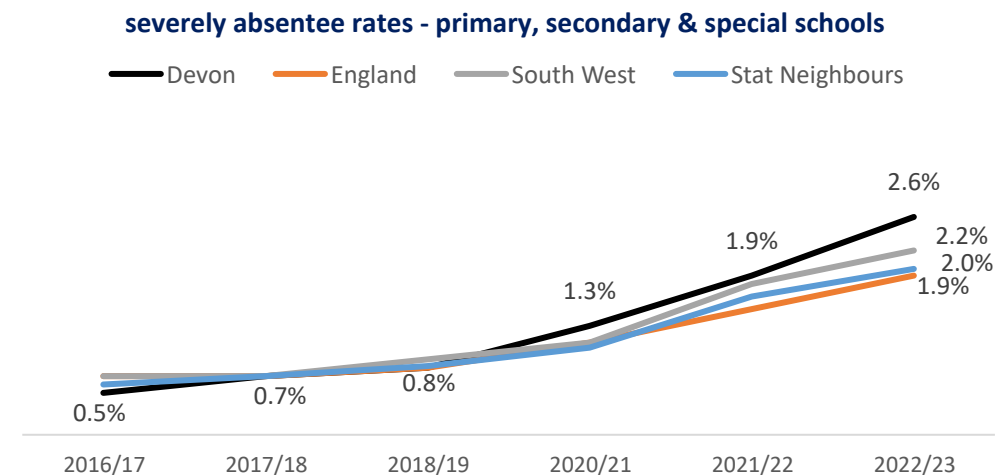


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School phase	Devon			England		
	20/21	21/22	22/23	20/21	21/22	22/23
primary	8.3%	20.2%	15.8%	8.1%	18.2%	17.3%
secondary	14.2%	34.7%	29.6%	11.7%	26.7%	25.2%
special	52.3%	42.4%	37.5%	49.4%	40.2%	39.1%

Severely absentee rates (missed 50% or more sessions)

Severely absentee rates rose in the last year. Devon has higher rates than nationally, regionally and statistical neighbours. Primary schools have the lowest rates in Devon with secondary schools having the highest rates. This differs nationally where special schools have the highest rates.



School phase	Devon			England		
	20/21	21/22	22/23	20/21	21/22	22/23
primary	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%
secondary	2.0%	3.5%	4.8%	1.3%	2.5%	3.1%
special	5.2%	4.1%	4.3%	6.4%	5.6%	6.1%

School Absence pupil characteristics (2022/23 Autumn & Spring terms)

Overall absence rates

- Overall absence rates between boys and girls are fairly similar. Devon boys had an absence rate of 7.7% compared to 8.0% for Devon girls, both slightly higher than nationally.
- The overall absence rate for Devon Free School Meal pupils was 12.8% compared to 6.6% for pupils not eligible for FSM. This difference is also reflected nationally.
- Devon pupils with an EHCP had an absence rate of 13.1% compared to 11.5% for pupils with SEN Support, both higher than nationally.

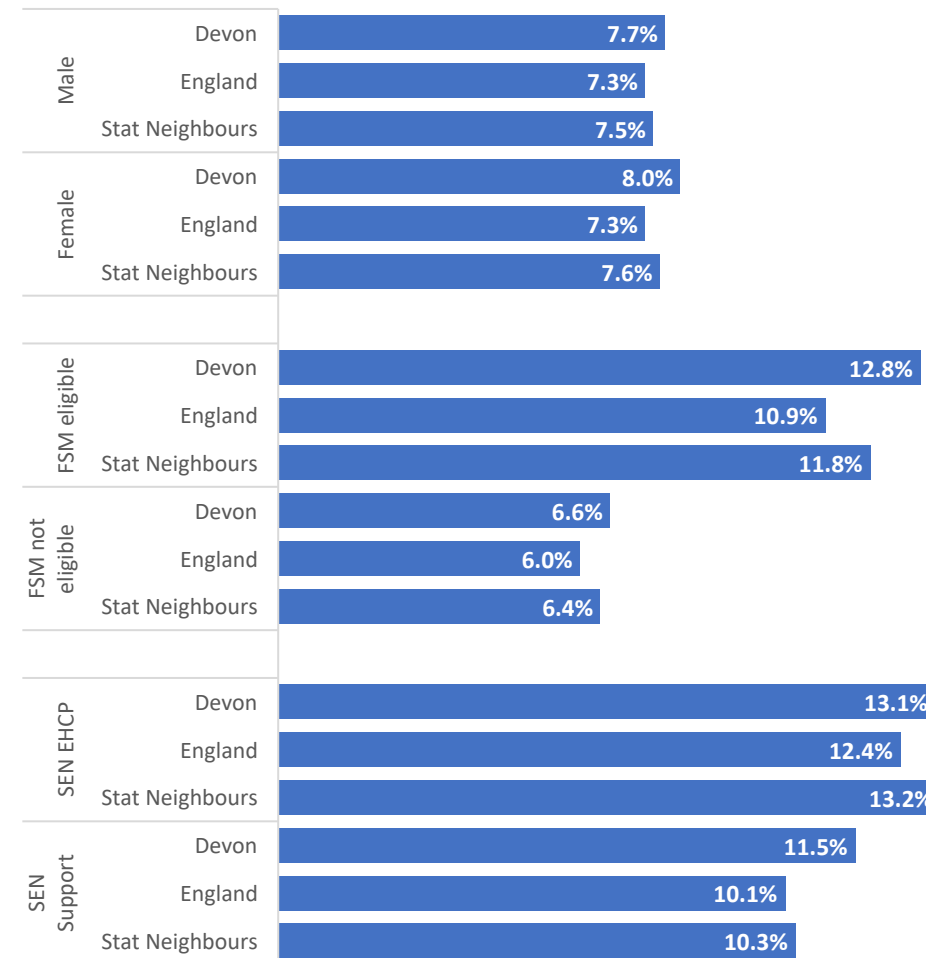
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Persistent Absentee rates (missing 10% or more of sessions)

- 21.6% of Devon boys were persistently absent compared to 21.2% nationally, whilst 22.7% of Devon girls were persistent absentees (21.3% nationally).
- 40.8% of Devon Free School Meal pupils were persistently absent compared to 35.7% nationally.
- 37.0% of Devon pupils with an EHCP were persistently absent compared to 36.3% nationally, whilst 33.4% of pupils with SEN Support were persistently absent compared to 30.8% nationally.

No data was published for severely absentee rates at characteristics level.

combined 2022/23 Autumn and Spring Terms
overall absence by pupil characteristic



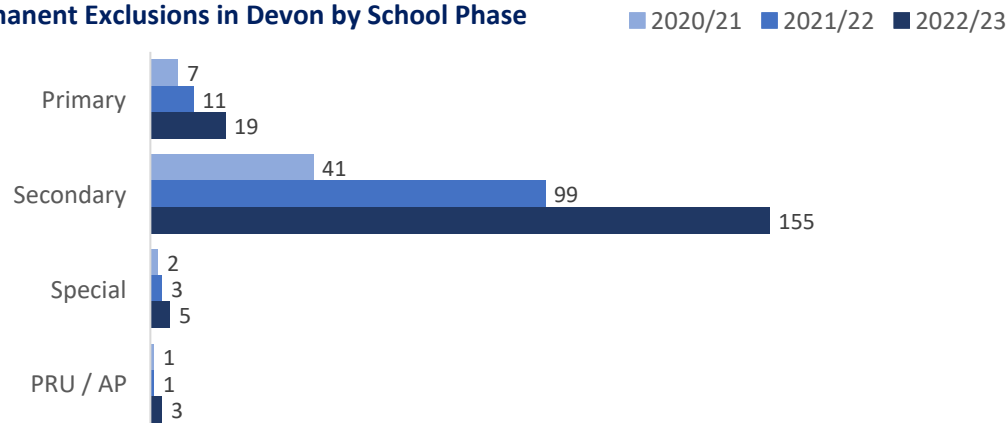
Data source: DfE Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn and spring terms, published 19/10/23

Permanent Exclusions

- During 2022/23, 204 permanent exclusions were issued to pupils attending Devon state funded schools.
- Of these 204, 18 pupils were reinstated by the school and 4 exclusions were withdrawn. This resulted in 182 permanent exclusions upheld in 2022/23. (3 of these were against pupils enrolled in alternative provision which are excluded from the benchmarking table on the right).
- Permanent exclusions rose by 58% in the last year, with an additional 66 children excluded. The percentage of the pupil population permanently excluded continues to rise at a significant rate. Figures for 2019/20 and 2020/21 need to be treated with caution as these years were affected by the pandemic lockdown.

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Permanent Exclusions in Devon by School Phase



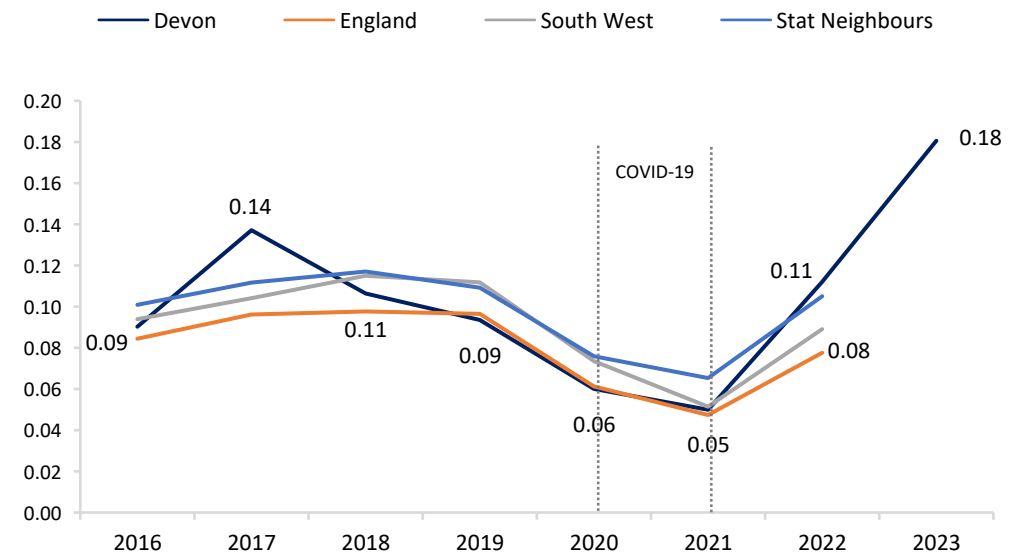
Data: DfE SFR Permanent Exclusions & Suspensions 2021-22, July 2023, DfE LAIT Aug 23, ONE database 18/10/23

prim, sec & special schools	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of permanent exclusions in Devon ⁽¹⁾	93	60	50	113	179
Devon exclusion rate (exc'ns as % of school pop'n) ⁽²⁾	0.09%	0.06%	0.05%	0.11%	0.18%
National exclusion rate ⁽³⁾	0.10%	0.06%	0.05%	0.08%	not avail

¹ State funded primary, secondary, all-through and special schools (excludes alternative provision).

² School population figures based on numbers on roll in each Spring School Census, sole or main registrations in state funded primary, secondary, all-through and special schools (excludes alternative provision).

Permanent Exclusions as a % of the school population



Agenda Item 8

Suspensions (previously known as fixed term exclusions)

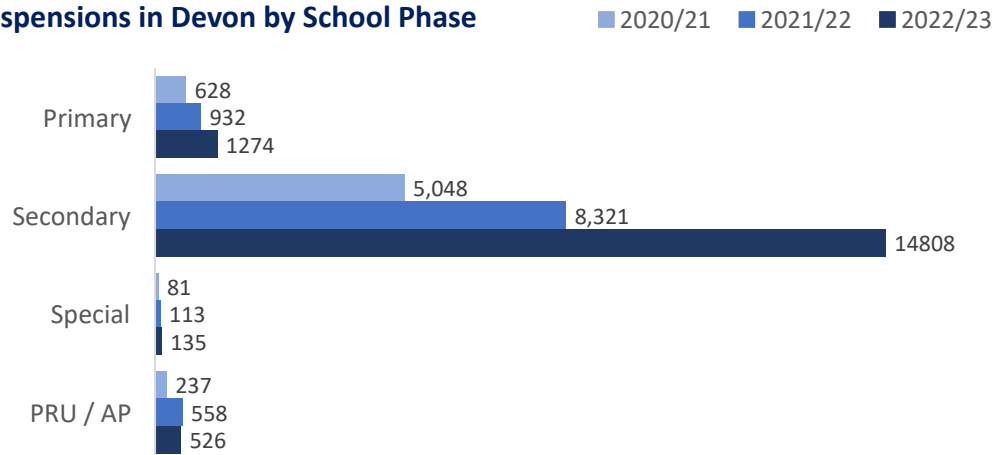
- During the 2022/23 academic year 16,217 suspensions were issued to pupils attending Devon primary, secondary and special schools. This is an increase of 73% on the previous year (9,366 suspensions). In addition to this, 526 suspensions were issued to pupils attending alternative provision (not included in table on the right).
- Latest published data for 2021/22 academic year indicates that Devon's suspension rates are higher than that seen nationally. Figures for 2019/20 and 2020/21 need to be treated with caution as these years were affected by the pandemic lockdown measures.

prim, sec & special schools	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of suspensions in Devon ⁽¹⁾	4,025	5,757	9,366	16,217
Devon suspension rate (susp's as % of school popn) ⁽²⁾	4.03%	5.75%	9.29%	16.09%
National suspension rate ⁽²⁾	3.76%	4.25%	6.91%	not avail
Devon - no of pupils subject to suspension	1,777	2,430	3,286	4,354
Devon – pupils subject to a suspension rate	1.78%	2.43%	3.26%	4.32%
National – pupils subject to a suspension rate	1.87%	2.2%	3.02%	not avail

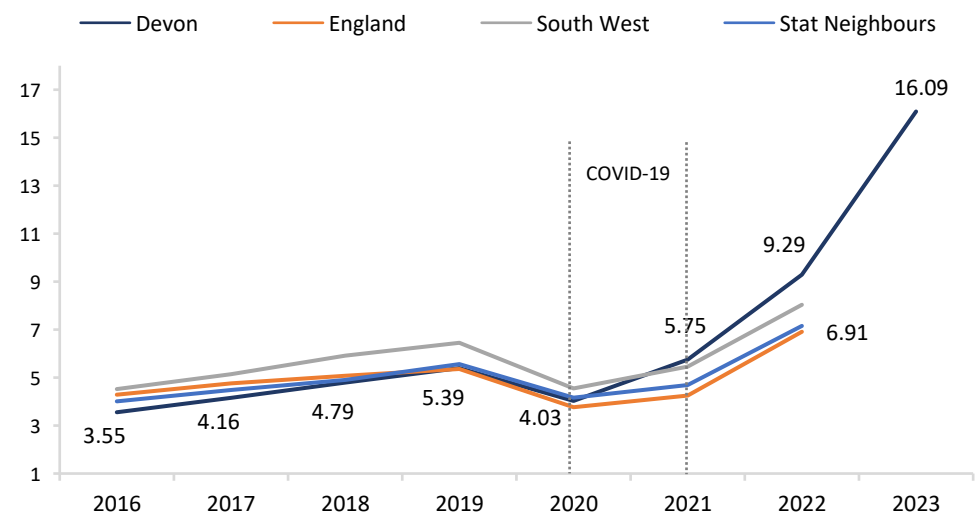
¹ State funded primary, secondary, all-through and special schools (excludes alternative provision).

² School population figures based on numbers on roll in each Spring School Census, sole or main registrations in state funded primary, secondary, all-through and special schools (excludes alternative provision).

Suspensions in Devon by School Phase



Number of Suspensions as a % of the school population



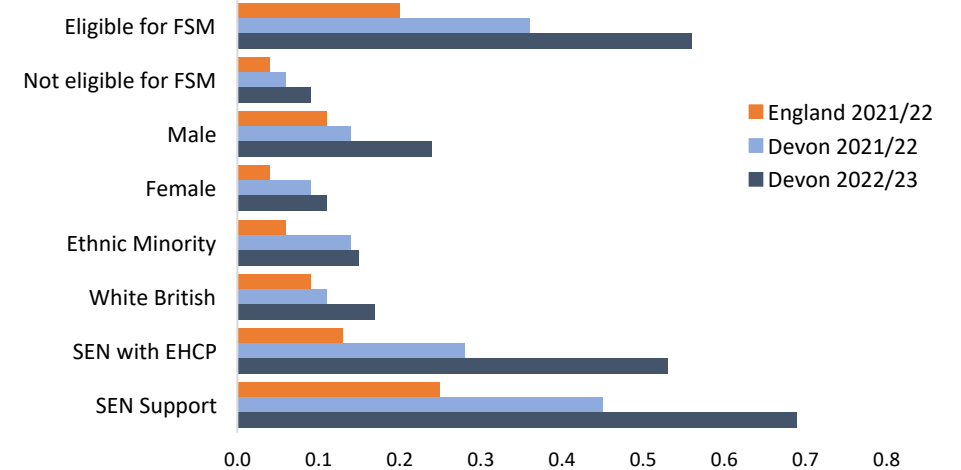
Exclusions & Suspensions – pupil characteristics

Children in vulnerable groups are more likely to be permanently excluded and suspended than their peers, both in Devon and nationally. The level of permanent exclusions and suspensions in Devon has risen across all pupil characteristics in the last academic year. (National trends are not available for 2022/23, as data will not be published until July 2024).

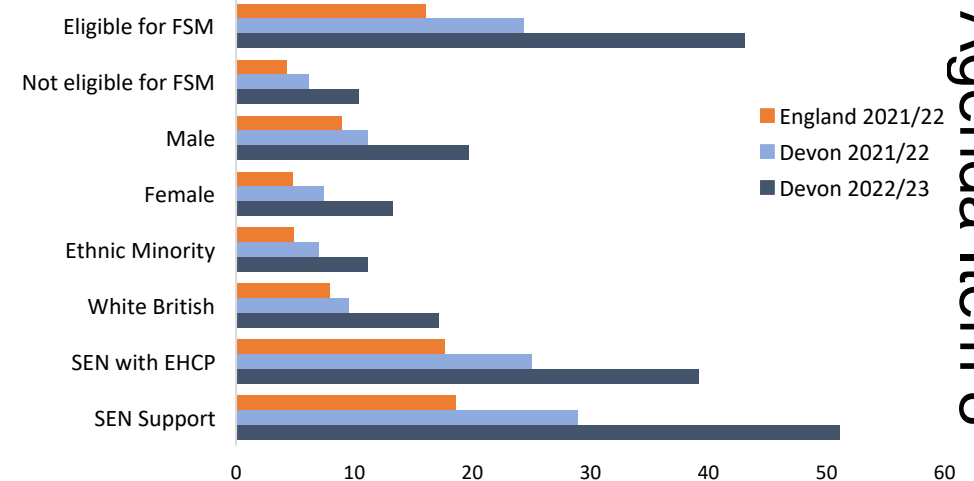
- More boys were permanently excluded than girls, they also received more suspensions. (0.24% permanent exclusion rate compared to 0.11% for girls).
- Pupils eligible for FSM and those with SEN Support have seen the greatest increases in permanent exclusions and suspensions. These pupils also have the highest rates of permanent exclusions.
- Pupils eligible for FSM are five times more likely to have a permanent exclusion than those not eligible (exclusion rate of 0.56% compared to 0.09% for non FSM).
- Pupils with SEN Support are nearly nine times more likely to have a permanent exclusion than those with no SEN (0.69% exclusion rate compared to 0.07% for pupils with no SEN). Pupils with an EHCP are nearly seven times more likely when compared to pupils with no SEN (0.53% compared to 0.07%).
- Pupils with SEN Support have the highest rate of suspensions, followed by pupils eligible for FSM, then those with an EHCP.
- Pupils from an ethnic minority group have similar levels of permanent exclusions as pupils from a white british group. However, pupils from a white british group have higher levels of suspensions than ethnic minority pupils.

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% of group population subject to permanent exclusion



% of suspensions per group population



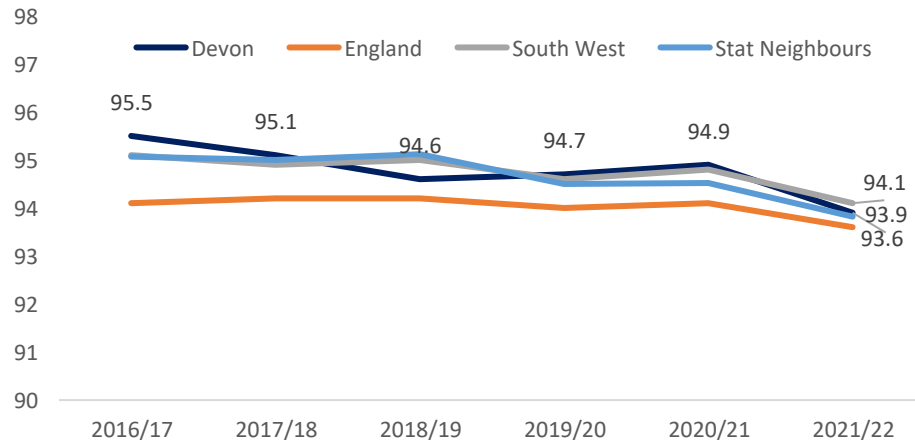
Destinations in 2021/22 (completing KS4 in 20/21), published Oct 23

- 93.9% of Devon pupils were in sustained education, employment or apprenticeships in 2021/22, slightly more than nationally (93.6%).
- 82.9% of Devon pupils were in sustained education, a drop of 4.3 percentage points on the previous year. This fall in education destinations is also seen nationally.

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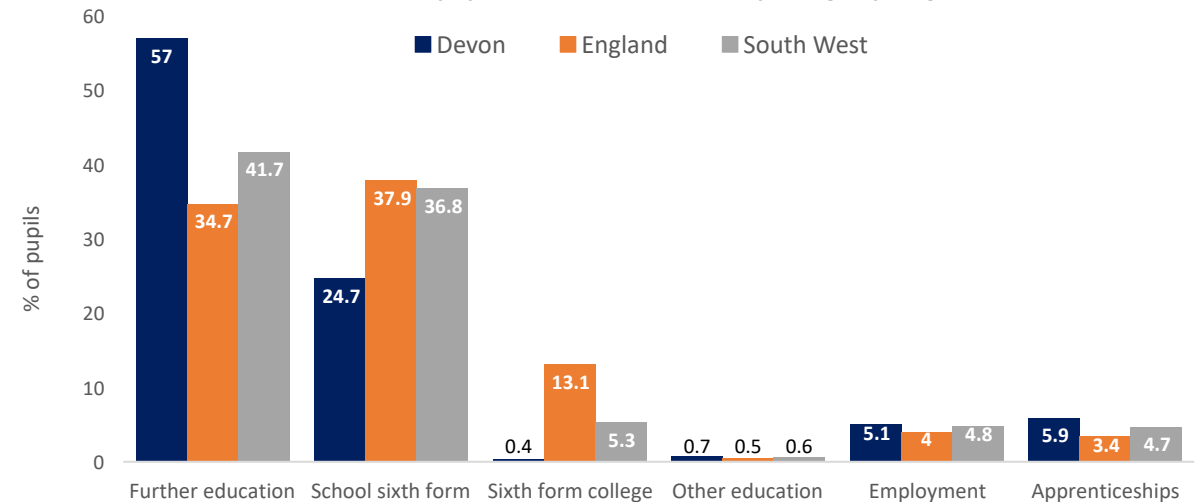
5.1% of Devon pupils were in employment and 5.9% were in apprenticeships (compared to 2.8% and 4.8% previously)¹.

Percentage of pupils in sustained education, employment & apprenticeships after key stage 4



- Of the education destinations, 57% of Devon pupils were in further education and 24.7% were in school sixth forms. This differs nationally where 34.7% were in further education and 37.9% were in sixth forms. The split between sixth forms and further education in Devon reflects the provision within the Local Authority.
- Whilst Devon has a lower percentage of pupils in education compared to nationally (82.9% against 86.2%), it has higher levels in employment and apprenticeships.

Destinations of pupils in 2021/22 after completing key stage 4

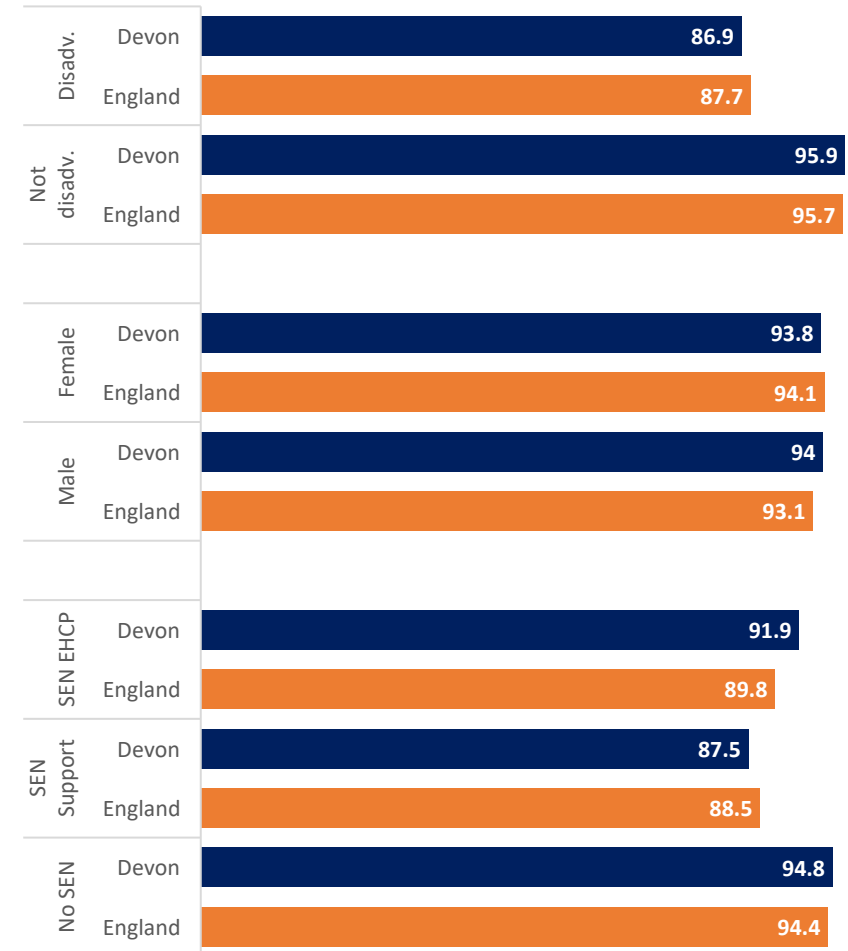


¹ many employers and apprenticeship providers took on fewer individuals during the pandemic and so these destinations were lower in 2020/21. 2021/22 levels are now returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Destinations in 2021/22 (completing KS4 in 20/21), pupil characteristics

- Disadvantaged pupils were less likely to have a sustained destination than all other pupils. 86.9% of Devon disadvantaged children were in education, employment or apprenticeships compared to 95.9% for all other pupils. This is slightly lower than nationally where 87.7% were in a sustained destination.
- Nationally, females were more likely to sustain a destination than males. In Devon, female pupils are nearly as likely as males to remain in a sustained destination.
 Females are more likely to sustain an education destination (86.1% compared to 79.8% for males in Devon). Males are more likely to sustain an apprenticeship destination (8.5% compared to 3.1% for females).
- Of pupils with SEN, those with SEN support were less likely to sustain an education, apprenticeship or employment destination.
- Pupils with an EHCP were more likely to sustain an education destination compared to those with SEN Support, whilst pupils with SEN Support were more likely to sustain an apprenticeship destination.

percentage of pupils in sustained education, employment & apprenticeships 2021/22 - pupil characteristics



Data source: DfE Key Stage 4 destination measures, academic year 2021/22, published 19 Oct 2023

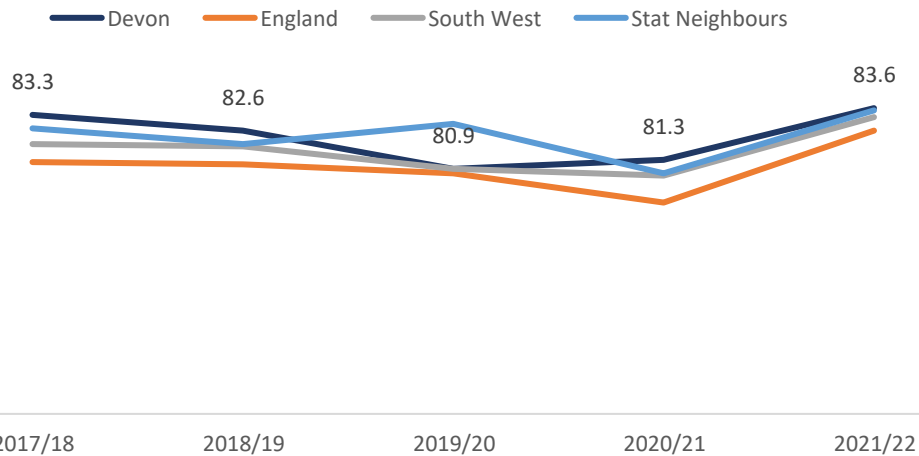
Destinations in 2021/22 (after completing 16-18 study), published Oct 23

- 83.6% of Devon students were in sustained education, employment or apprenticeships in 21/22, slightly better than nationally (82.6%).
- Overall destination rates increased in 21/22, following a decline in the previous year. This increase is partially due to a change in the make up of the 16-18 cohort as well as impacts of the pandemic¹. Comparisons to previous years need to be treated with some caution.

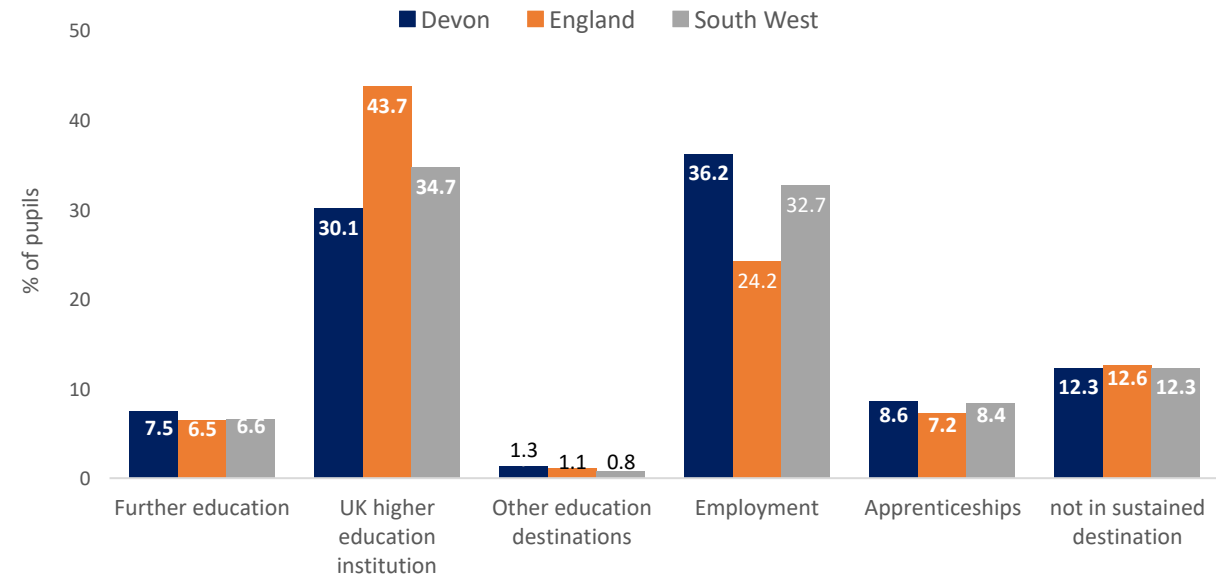
- 38.9% of Devon students were in sustained education, 36.2% were in employment and 8.6% were in apprenticeships¹.
- Of the education destinations, 30.1% were in UK higher education institutions compared to 43.7% nationally. More Devon students remained in employment than nationally, 36.2% compared to 24.2% nationally.

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percentage of pupils in sustained education, employment & apprenticeships after completing 16-18 study



Destinations of pupils in 2021/22 after completing 16-18 study

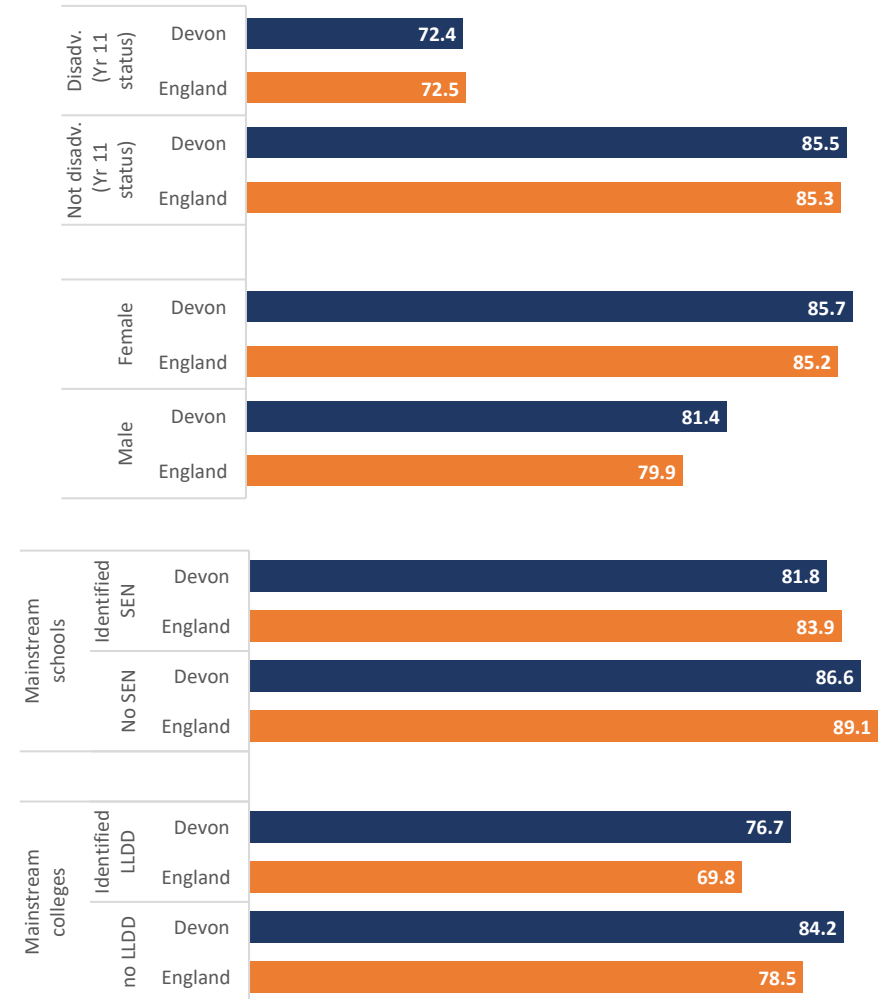


¹ This data looks at activity in the first two terms of the 2021/22 academic year and is affected by the pandemic disruption to the economy and education. Apprenticeship and employment destinations fell in 2020/21 with a higher than usual rate staying in education. This year the trend reverses slightly as the impact of restrictions are lifted.

Destinations in 2021/22 (after completing 16-18 study), pupil characteristics

- Disadvantaged pupils were less likely to have a sustained destination than all other pupils. 72.4% of Devon disadvantaged students were in education, employment or apprenticeships compared to 85.5% for all other pupils. This is similar to the national picture.
- Females were more likely to sustain a destination than males, both in Devon and nationally. Both Devon cohorts are slightly higher than nationally.
- Students with SEN¹ are less likely than those with no SEN to sustain an education, apprenticeship or employment destination. This is both the case in Devon and nationally.
- Students with LLDD¹ are also less likely to sustain a destination compared to those with no LLDD.

percentage of pupils in sustained education, employment & apprenticeships 2021/22 - pupil characteristics



¹ Students with SEN have been identified from their status at mainstream schools, whilst students with LLDD have been identified from their status at mainstream colleges.

NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

- In August the percentage of young people in Devon in years 12 and 13 (age 16 & 17) who were NEET was lower than that seen in the other Peninsula Local Authorities. This was also the case for young people in years 12 to 14 .
- When compared to the same period last year, NEET figures for both cohorts have risen, both in Devon and across the other Peninsula Local Authorities.

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The percentage of young people in years 12 to 13 whose circumstances are Not Known is slightly lower in Devon than in the Peninsula (2.2% compared to 2.6%).

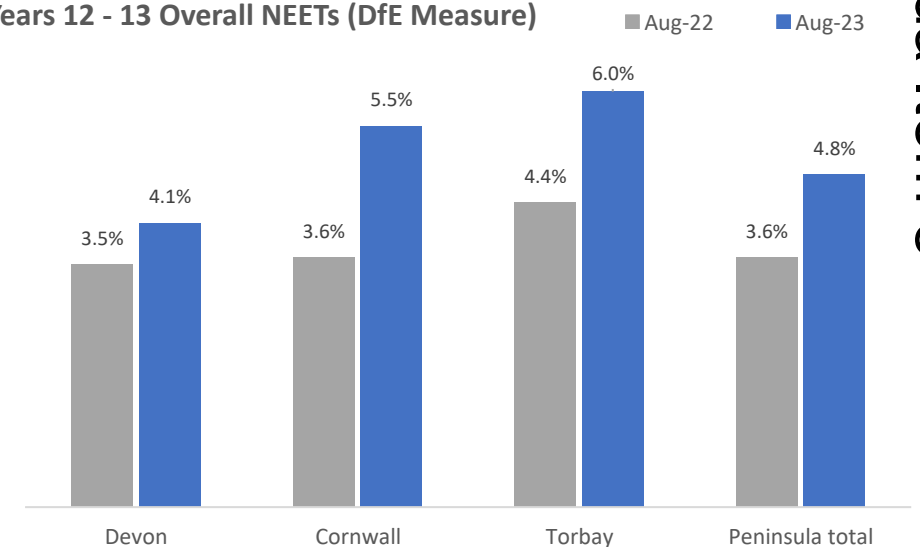
Aug 2023 rates

	Devon		Peninsula	
	NEET	Not Known	NEET	Not Known
Years 12 - 13 overall *	4.1%	2.2%	4.8%	2.6%
Years 12 – 14 overall	4.9%	3.6%	5.7%	4.1%

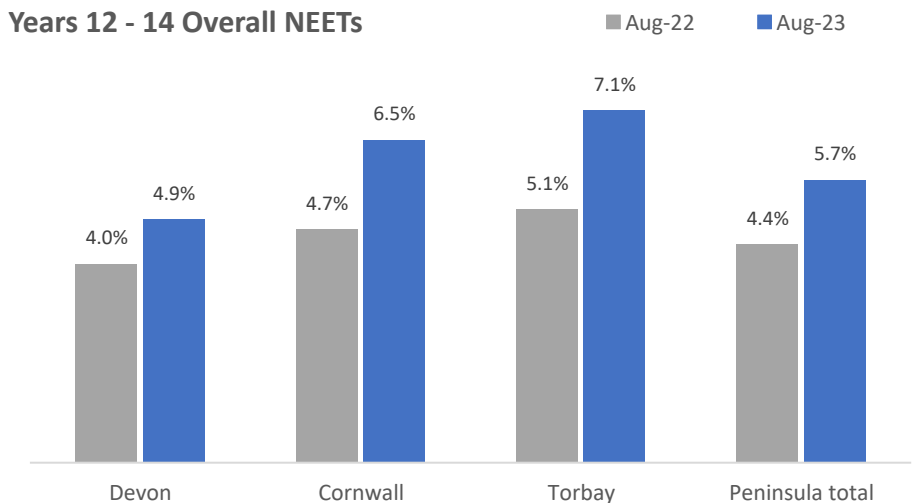
* DfE benchmarking measure

data source: CSW Group, August 2023 monthly MI package

Years 12 - 13 Overall NEETs (DfE Measure)



Years 12 - 14 Overall NEETs

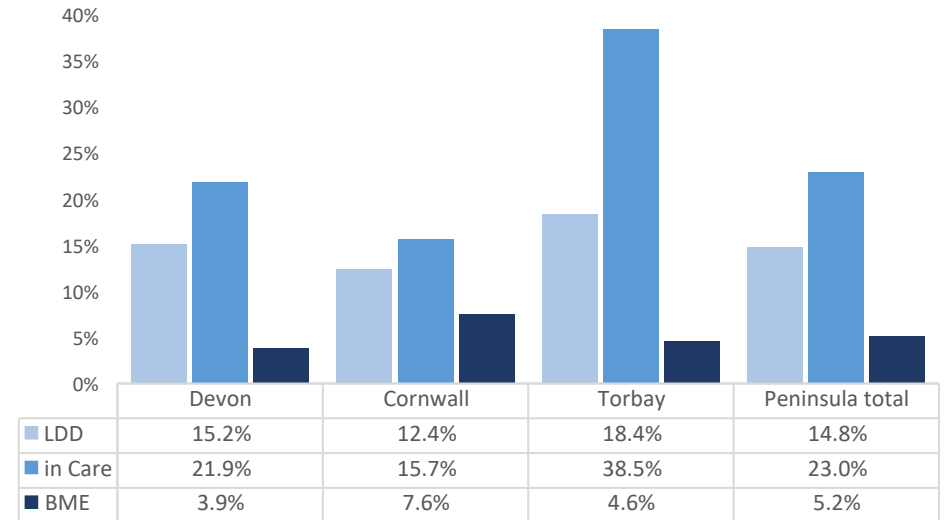


NEETs (Vulnerable Groups)

- In August the percentage of young people with Learning Difficulties in Devon who were NEET was close to the Peninsula average (15.2% in Devon compared to 14.8%).
- The percentage of Devon young people in care who were NEET was lower than the Peninsula average (21.9% compared to 23% for the Peninsula).
- Young people in Devon from an ethnic minority group (BME) had a lower NEET rate than that seen in the other Peninsula Local Authorities.
- The percentage of young people in each vulnerable group whose circumstances are Not Known is slightly lower in Devon than in the SW Peninsula.

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Years 12 - 14 NEET % Vulnerable Groups - August 2023



August 23 rates

	Devon		SW Peninsula	
	NEET	Not Known	NEET	Not Known
Year 12 – 14 vulnerable groups;				
Learning Difficulties & Disabilities	15.2%	1.0%	14.8%	1.3%
Children in Care	21.9%	6.5%	23.0%	6.6%
BME	3.9%	3.9%	5.2%	4.3%

* DfE benchmarking measure

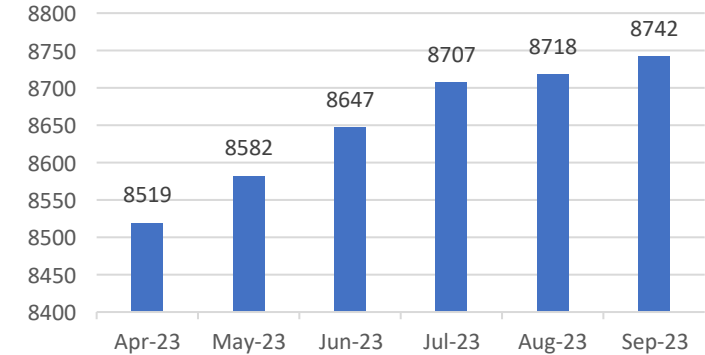
data source: CSW Group, August 2023 monthly MI package

Special Educational Needs – requests for assessment (30th Sept 23)

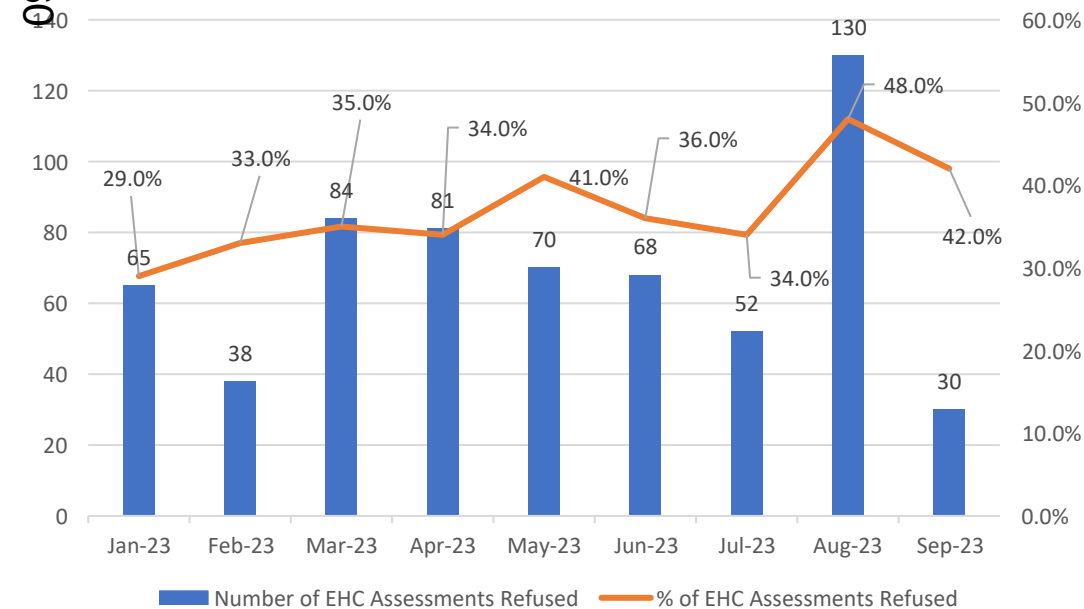
The number of request for assessment continues to increase. Currently 1646 request for assessment have been received for this year and the projected figure for the end of the year is 2195 this is a projected increase of 178 (8%) on the figure for 2022 . The number of requests in March (265) was the highest number of requests in the past seven years. 618 EHCNA's have been refused this year and the projected figure for the end of the year is 824 this would be an increase of 18% over 2022 (707 refusals)

There are currently 8742 active EHCPs this is an increase of 342 from the start of the year the projection is 8902 by the end of the year. This would be an increase of 6% from the start of the year (8400 EHCPs)

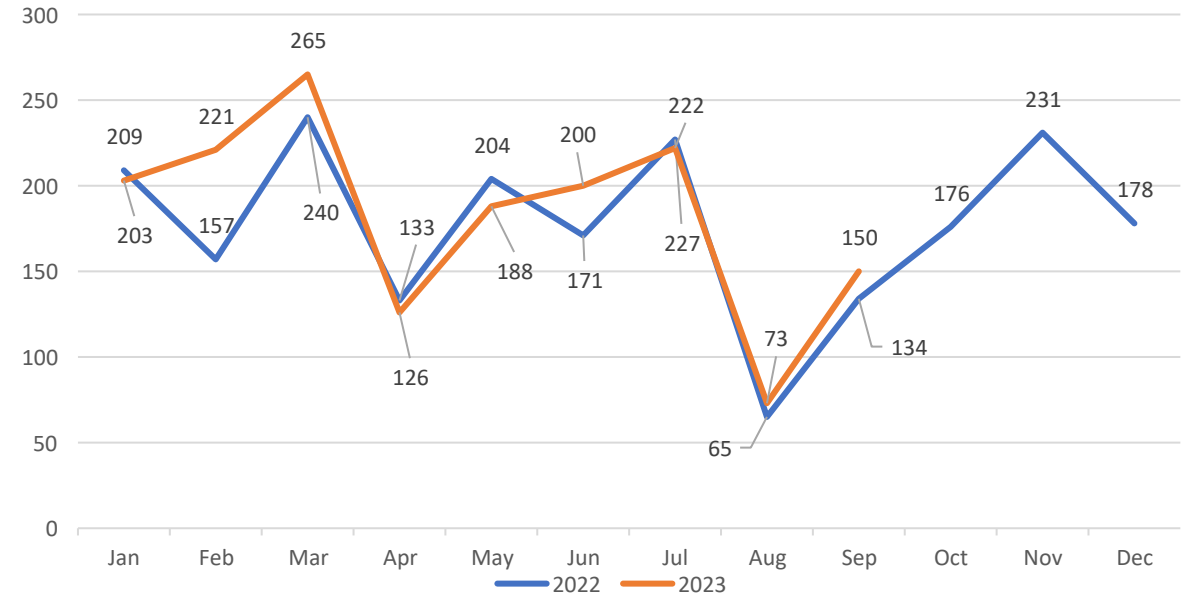
Total Number of EHCPs 2022/23



EHCNA Requests refused 2022/23



Requests for EHCNA Assessments 2021/2022 and 2022/23



Ofsted outcomes (30th Sept 2023) – Devon Schools

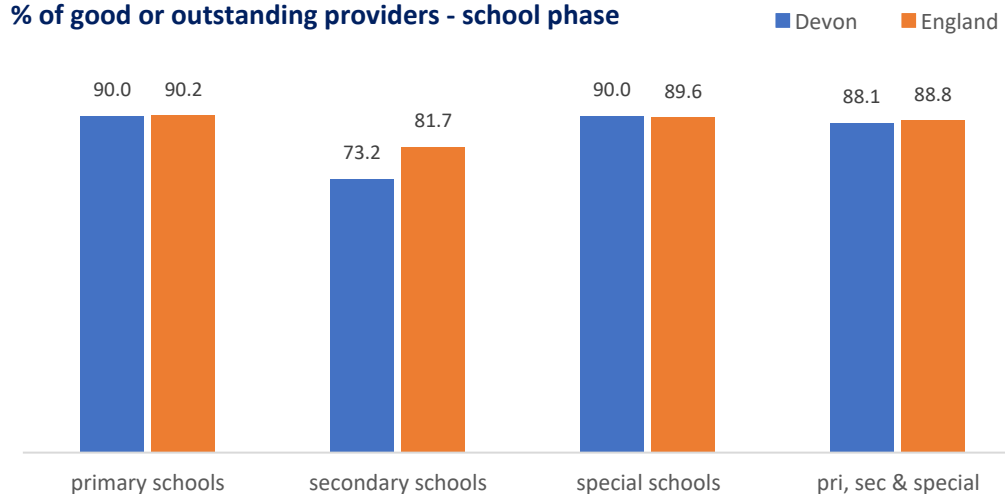
- 88.1% of Devon primary, secondary and special schools are judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding, close to the national average (88.8%).
- 90% of Devon primary schools have been judged as good or outstanding, which is also close to the national average (90.2%).

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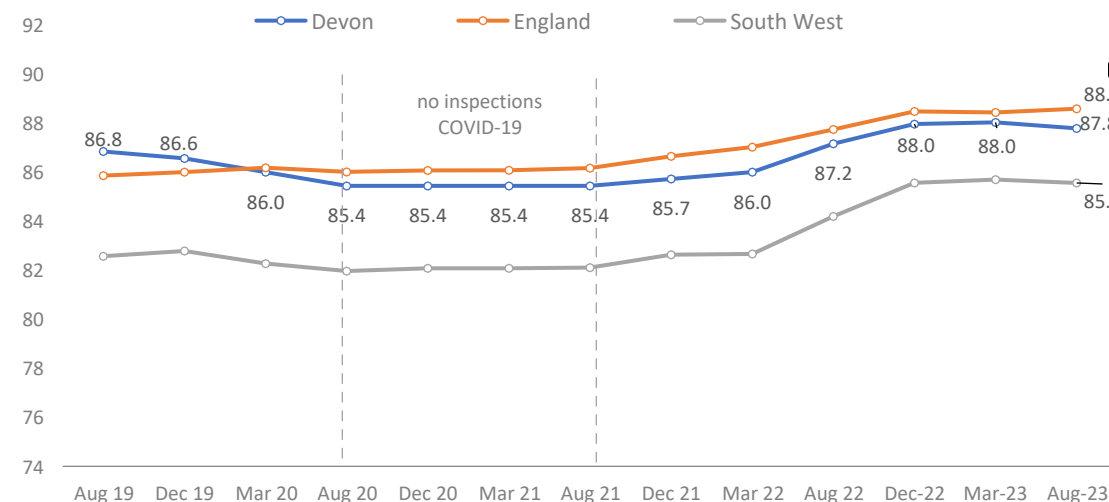
Devon secondary schools are not performing as well as nationally with 73.2% judged good or outstanding (compared to 81.7% nationally).

- 90% of Devon special schools have been judged as good or outstanding, slightly better than the national average (89.6%)
- Whilst inspections were put on hold during the pandemic, the percentage of schools now judged as good or outstanding is higher than that seen pre pandemic (87.8% in Aug 2023 compared to 86.8% in August 2019).

% of good or outstanding providers - school phase



% of providers good or outstanding - primary, secondary and special schools



Ofsted outcomes – Devon School Types

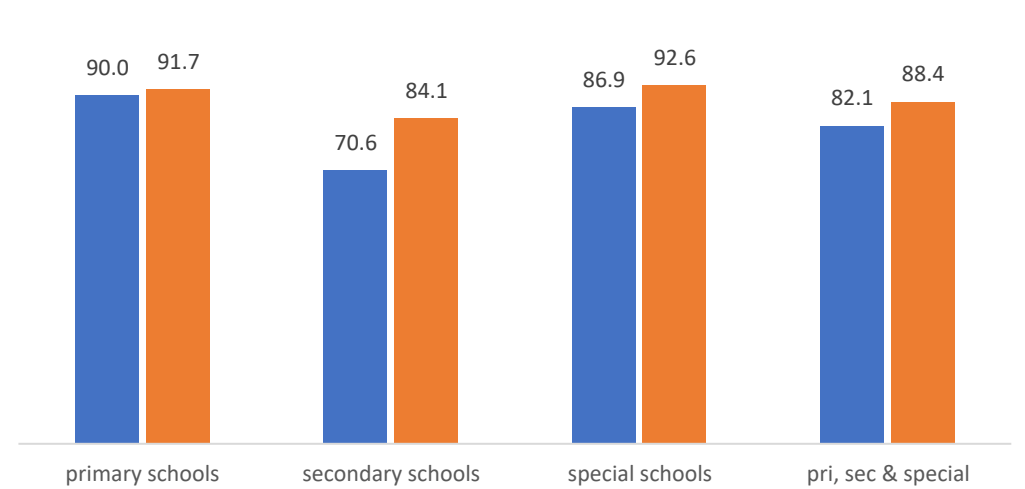
School phase	Current school type	30 th Sept 22 Total number of schools	30 th Sept 22 % good or outstanding	30 th Sept 23 Total number of schools	30 th Sept 23 % good or outstanding
Primary	LA maintained	150	89.3%	145	86.9%
	Academy/Free	156	90.4%	165	92.7%
Secondary	LA maintained	5	100%	4	100%
	Academy/Free	37	64.9%	37	70.3%
Special	LA maintained	8	100%	8	100%
	Academy/Free	1	0%	2	50%
	Non maintained SS	2	0%	1	100%

Ofsted outcomes (30th Sept 2023) – Devon pupils

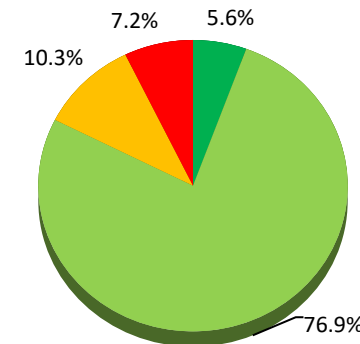
- 82.1% (81,639) of Devon pupils¹ are attending schools that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is an improvement from Sept 2022 (80.3%) but is not as good as nationally (88.4%) or regionally (86.4%). This reflects the fact that some large secondary schools are currently graded as requiring improvement.
- 82.5% (4,053) of pupils in Devon with SEN education, health and care plans² are attending Good or Outstanding Schools. This is better than Sept 2022 (79.9%) but not as good as nationally or regionally (89.5% and 86.8% respectively).
- 79.4% (17,834) of disadvantaged children³ in Devon are attending Good or Outstanding schools. This is better than Sept 2022 (76.2%). These are pupils who are Free School Meal children, children in care, adopted from care or service children. No national benchmarks are currently available for disadvantage children.
- 84.5% of Devon children in care for any period of time attended schools judged as good or outstanding in 2022/23⁴ (81% in 2021/22). No national benchmarks are available for children in care.

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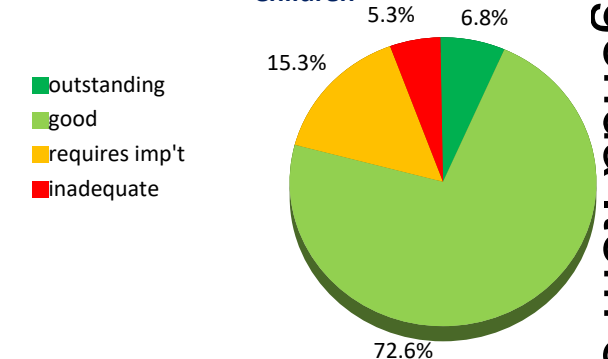
% of pupils in good or outstanding providers by school phase



Devon Pupils with SEN EHCPs



Devon Disadvantaged Children



Agenda Item 8

¹ Ofsted MI Report uses Spring census pupil cohorts from DfE Get Information About Schools
² Pupil Numbers as at Spring Census 2023
³ Pupil Numbers from DfE Pupil Premium download from GIAP, Sept 2023
⁴ DCC CiC annual report 2022/23

School Complaints - Ofsted

In the 2022/23 academic year, 180 complaints were received in relation to schools. This is an increase of 53.8% on the previous year

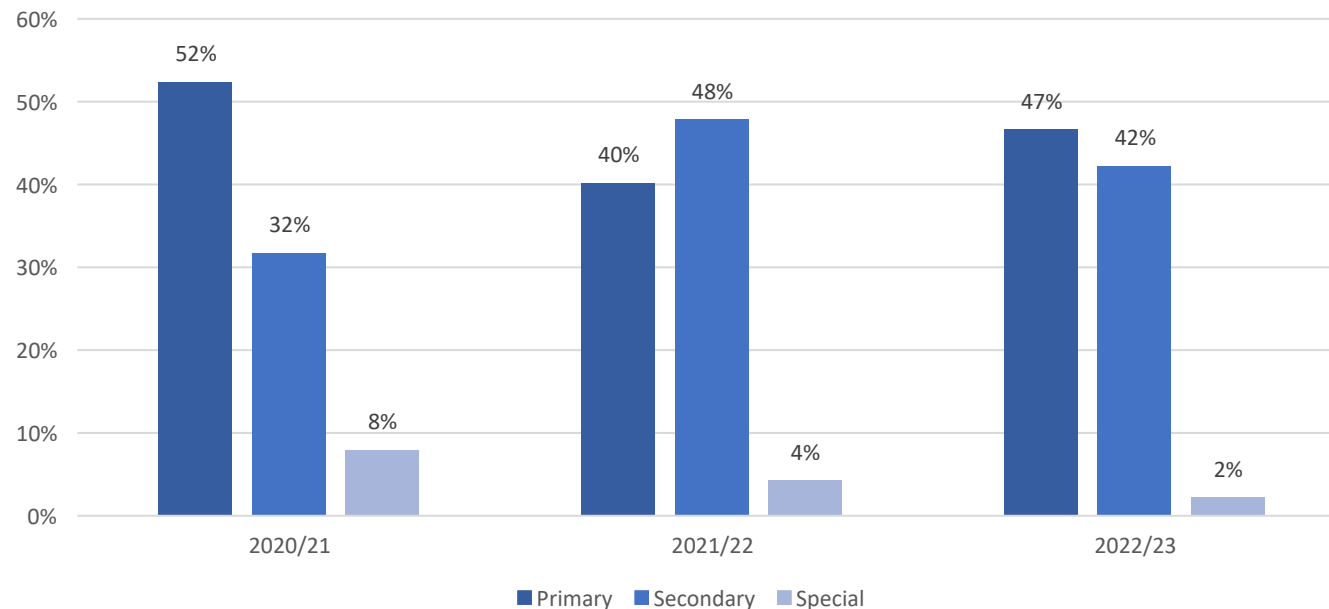
- The number of complaints against primary schools have risen from 47 to 84 this is an increase of 78% on the previous year.
- Complaints against Secondary Schools have also risen from 56 to 75 this is a year-to-year increase of 35%.

Number of complaints by school type

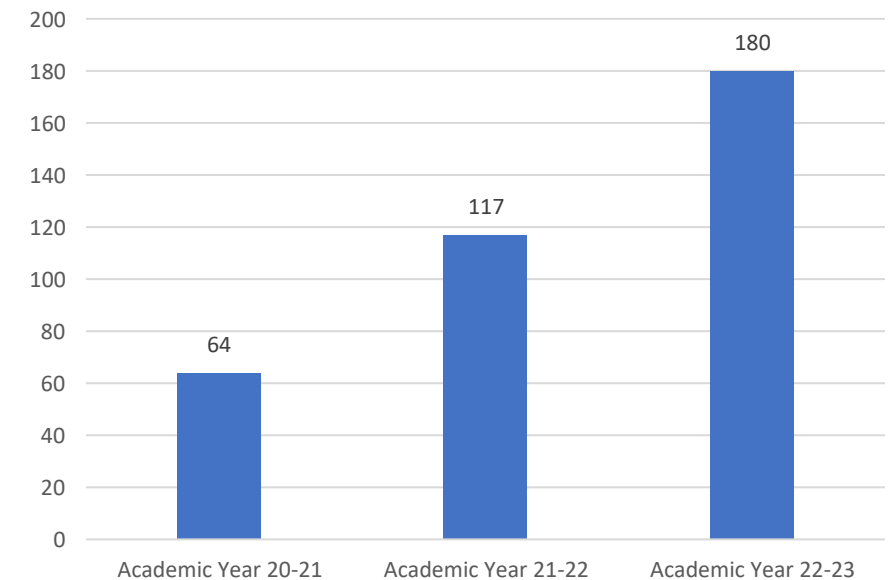
Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
All-through	1	5	7
Independent	3	3	5
Other	1	1	
Primary	33	47	84
Secondary	20	56	76
Special	6	5	4
Nursery			1
PRU			3
Total	64	117	180

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Percentage of complaints by type of School 2022/23



Total Number of complaints 2020/21 – 2022/23



LDS/23/19
Children's Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 18th January 2024

Report of the Children's Scrutiny Committee: Report of the Standing Overview Group meeting of Tuesday 26th September 2023 Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Committee be asked to:

- (a) accept this report as an accurate record of the issues explored in the meeting ensuring transparency in scrutiny activities.
- (b) Endorse the recommendation from the meeting, that Members present:
 - 1. Welcomed and supported the approach of the Family Hubs model.
 - 2. Raised concerns about:
 - i) ensuring the expertise, connections with families and important work from Action for Children is retained and not lost;
 - ii) access to local services in rural areas; and,
 - iii) the potential of closures to local Children's Centres.
 - 3. Would welcome all Councillors working with the Cabinet Members and Head of Service on the design of the future Family Hubs model and the potential locations of services.

2) Background / Introduction

The Standing Overview Group of the Children's Scrutiny Committee meets with the purpose of bringing rigour and understanding to complex issues across different services and the NHS which could not meaningfully explored at public Committee. This is an informal information sharing and member development session where issues are presented to the councillors to raise awareness and increase knowledge.

Members were appraised of the Family Hub proposals as part of a Standing Overview Group meeting because the future Cabinet decision is a Part II decision, and advisable for pre-decision Scrutiny to take place in this format. This report is brief due to the commercial sensitivity around the proposals.

To bring transparency, and ensure that Scrutiny is not 'carried out behind closed doors' a short report is brought back to the Committee to highlight pertinent issues and to take forward any actions or recommendations that have arisen.

3) Devon Family Hubs Proposal

The Head of Service – Commissioning and Resources appraised Members of the Council's Family Hubs proposal in advance of the upcoming decision by Cabinet.

The presentation provided to Members covered details of the proposal, an appraisal of the options, the Devon Family Hub approach/model, next steps and risks and mitigations.

Discussion and questions with Members included the following areas:

- Members praised the good work already done by their local Action for Children centre and the staff who worked there and raised their concerns about the loss of centres, expertise, and the potential loss of relationships with families in the transformation to a Family Hub model.
- The Head of Service committed to working with communities and to local Councillors before any decision is made on locations. Locations of services would be based on need and the use of current provision with some centres being underused.
- The Cabinet Member highlighted that locations of Family Hubs had not been decided but also committed to listening to Members and communities about where we need to locate services. The Cabinet Member did ask Members to wait for the detail on location before lobbying him regarding their local services.
- Members asked for more information about Action for Children and their local centres – The Scrutiny Officer circulated this information straight after the meeting to Committee members.
- Members asked about the Short Breaks offer within Action for Children and for clarification on how it operated.
- Discussion about the Corporate Asset Strategy and ensuring best use of our assets.
- Members highlighted their concerns around access to services and locations, considering the rural nature of Devon.

Action: The Head of Service's presentation slides would be circulated to Members following the decision at Cabinet on 11th October.

The Scrutiny Officer highlighted the potential wording of a recommendation made by the Members attending the meeting. This included supporting the proposals and raising their concerns about specific areas which Members discussed and then agreed to.

4) Options / Alternatives

The report is the summary of a Scrutiny Standing Overview Group meeting. Scrutiny does not make decisions and this report does not propose any alternatives.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

As above, there are no specific considerations in regard to consultations, representations and technical data in this report.

6) Strategic Plan

The alignment of all Scrutiny activity with the strategic plan is detailed on the Scrutiny work programme. The issues raised in the report and the benefit of developing member knowledge and the 'critical friend' challenge of Scrutiny contribute to the Council achieving its strategic plan.

Improving Member knowledge on key issues contributes to the Council's commitment to being a trust, inclusive and innovative Council. It ensures good decision making and that the Council listens and learns.

7) Financial Considerations

There are no specific financial considerations in this report.

8) Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations in this report.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

There are no specific environmental impact considerations in this report.

10) Equality Considerations

There are no specific equality considerations in this report.

11) Risk Management Considerations

The activity of Scrutiny Standing Overview Groups contributes to the mitigations for:

Ineffective Member Scrutiny

defined as: 'Due to ineffective scrutiny, the level and quality of service management may drop, leading to financial mismanagement or harm to staff and/or citizens and reputational damage e.g. Grenfell.'

Member Effectiveness

defined as: 'Inadequate member effectiveness due to a lack of training, support and knowledge leads to a lack of challenge to corporate officers and/or poor decision making, resulting in a negative effect on the County's citizens (poor value for money, poor service delivery, harm, etc).'

Because Family Hubs covers a multitude of service areas, the key points in this report do have regard to some risks identified in the service's [risk register](#) relating to Children's Social Care services. This includes but isn't limited to:

- Post ILACS Improvement.
- Children's Services Improvement
- Demand for Children's Social Work
- Managing demand for services and packages of care

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

The report outlines the topic(s) covered at the meeting of Tuesday 26th September 2023, highlights the key points raised during discussion and details any agreed actions.

The report is formally reported to the Children's Scrutiny Committee in the interests of openness, transparency and good decision making.

Maria Price

Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Organisational Development, Workforce & Digital Transformation:
Councillor Andrew Saywell

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Paper – NIL

Contact for enquiries:

Name: Charlie Fisher (Scrutiny Officer)

Telephone: 01392 383681 or charlie.fisher@devon.gov.uk

Address: G31, County Hall, Exeter.

Appendix

[Attendance](#)

Scrutiny Members: Councillors Su Aves (Chair), Janet Bradford, Phil Bullivant, Linda Hellyer, Frank Letch, Margaret Squires and Jeff Wilton-Love.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Cabinet Member for Children's SEND Improvement Services: Councillor Lois Samuel

Officers: Vikki Hearn (Head of Service – Commissioning and Resources) and Charlie Fisher (Scrutiny Officer).

LDS/24/4
Children's Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 18th January 2024

Report of the Children's Scrutiny Committee: Autumn Term School Visits Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Committee be asked to:

- (a) accept this report as an accurate record of the issues explored in the visits ensuring transparency in Scrutiny activities.

2) Background / Introduction

As part of the Children's Scrutiny Committee's role to learn and collect feedback from the public, partners and service users to inform their work and critical friend role, Members conducted 2 visits to Devon Schools in the Autumn Term: ACE Tiverton School and Bideford College.

To bring transparency, and ensure that Scrutiny is not 'carried out behind closed doors' a short report is brought back to the Committee to highlight pertinent issues and to take forward any actions or recommendations that have arisen.

3) Autumn Term School Visits

3.1 ACE Tiverton School

Councillors Su Aves, Tracy Adams, Ian Hall, Frank Letch and Philip Sanders visited ACE Tiverton School on Friday 24th November 2023.

The School and Trust

- ACE Tiverton is a special school, located in Tiverton, specialising in Autism Spectrum Condition and related Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs.
- The school opened in 2019 with 35 students and has now expanded to 108 students, with a 1:5 staff to pupil ratio. This is despite the school's PAN (Published Admissions Number) being 100. There were 26 Year 7s this academic year, with 20-25 expected next year.
- The school is open for years 7-11.
- Students travel to the school from a very large area, ranging from Ilfracombe to Axminster to Lapford to Newton Abbot. 80% of students arrive via taxi.

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- School starts at 8am and finishes at 2pm – except on a Friday when it finishes at 1:30pm.
- The school is split over two sites, very close to each other.
- Classes or learning families are based on age, need and requirements on the EHCP.
- The school is part of the Transforming Futures Trust.
- Now the school is 5 years old, it is expecting its first Ofsted visit.



SEND/SEND System in Devon

- Transport is a significant issue for the school because it starts at 8am. The Transport Coordination Service (TCS) do not support transitions or part time tables and are rigid with their pick up/drop offs. An example was given of a student transitioning into the school who went home at 10am meaning a member of staff had to drive the student home.
- Decisions from the Panel for placements can sometimes take too long and delay students starting dates with the school, this means that some students are waiting for the panel to make a decision and miss out on school time.
- Schools having 'designations' means children are put into a 'box' based on their needs and there is less flexibility.

Working with services in Devon (DCC Services)

- **Education Psychologists (EP)** – The school raised concerns about the lack of EP services and the rise in statutory advice work due to more demand. The school would like to see EPs do more early intervention work to try to end the cycle of lack of early intervention and a rise in statutory services. The school would like to see some EP time ringfenced for early intervention and working with families. The school has access to an EP for 6 hours for the entire academic year, and said it was tricky to get access to their assigned EP. The school has their own counsellor which they pay for.
- **Children's Social Care/Social Workers** – The school highlighted working well with social care depended on the social worker who is working with the student. The school raised that one big help would be if they were told when the Social Worker changes, as they are often not aware when they change and spend time contacting staff who are no longer with DCC. The school gave an example of one child who has had 5 social workers since July. The school also gave an example of how there is a lack of joined up working between Social Care and Transport when children need to move to live somewhere else but transport do not allow them to change their routes.
- **MASH** – The new consultation line was praised, stating advice was usually good but with the caveat that it depends if someone was there to actually answer the phone rather than being transferred to customer services. The new referral form is easier to use and it is helpful to have a public level of need document. The school stated that most of the responses were No Further Action (NFA) or referral to Early Help – even

if the school states that the student is already in Early Help. The school stated it was challenging to get feedback from the MASH.

- **SEMH Team** – The school highlighted this team general consolidates what we already know as a school about a student. The school stated they have to contact this team to show it has had a conversation to show evidence of the conversations to process annual reviews.

Working with services in Devon (Others)

- **CAMHS/Mental Health** - The school has a student support team and a number of interventions it can do, however, it can not do clinical interventions. Access to CAMHS and Mental Health Services was difficult. The school stated that the CAMHS system changed so that information wasn't automatically shared with schools anymore – parents had to give consent to this – but this meant there was a lack of information sharing between services and the school.
- **Community help/support** – The School felt support and community services were a postcode lottery, depending on where students lived. Exeter has a lot of services and support but students living in rural areas do not have the same. The school itself run a family fun day and are engaged in the local Tiverton community.

Post pandemic reflections

- The school stated that their new Year 7s were the most challenging intake due to the pandemic's significant impact on skills, communication and engagement with education.
- Some of the basic building blocks were missed during the pandemic impacted school years.
- The school highlighted they remained open during the pandemic.

What would help to improve:

Councillors asked this question to staff, responses included:

- Work quicker – DCC is very process driven rather than outcome focused.
- Tell us if people are changing roles/positions or leaving – ensure that staff put an Out of Office message on their email if they leave with someone else to contact, this may be basic but it would save a lot of time/effort.
- Moving the SEND system to integrated services that meet need for children, young people on the ground with flexibility and resources on the ground. The conversation with the school was based around support services are largely people in offices writing reports rather than being on the ground, working with families.
- Investing in specialist skills in schools rather than outside services you have to buy in.
- More emphasis on early intervention/help – services in Devon are faster to access in a crisis rather than in prevention work e.g. access to CAMHS or EP in a crisis or referred via the Police.

After the main discussions with Matt and Julie, Members were split into two groups and led on a tour around the school by students Morgan, Angel and Jonah and Assistant Headteacher Rhys Davies. This covered many of the classrooms, giving Members an opportunity to listen into lessons, the dining hall, quiet spaces, the Haven site and the Gym.

Members were very impressed with the school, its facilities, staff and pupils and its ethos and felt it was a valuable visit to hear from the staff and students about their current challenges.

3.2 Bideford College

Councillors Linda Hellyer, Frank Letch MBE, Pru Maskell and Jeff Wilton Love visited Bideford College as part of the Children's Scrutiny Committee's role to learn and collect feedback from the public, partners and service users to inform their work and critical friend role.

The visit included meeting with 3 Senior Members of staff, meeting with 9 students, followed by a tour of the College site.

The College and Trust

- The school has c. 1500 students and is currently oversubscribed for places.
- The school is part of Athena Learning Trust, which covers 9 schools from Poole (Cornwall) to North Devon and is based in Launceston.
- Members asked staff about the benefits of multi-academy trusts as opposed to maintained schools – staff highlighted their flexibility over their budgets and curriculum and the ability to work beyond County/Local Authority borders.
- Staff told Members about the future challenges of recruitment into the school's sector. The government has missed recruitment targets this year and Staff predicted challenges for years to come as schools are less attractive places to work due to low pay and high pressures.
- The trust prides itself on supporting its teachers and wants to ensure they are well trained and work in a safe environment.
- As the only state funded secondary school for the town, Staff and Members spoke about the local Bideford area, its socio-economic indicators and how the school has had multiple generations of families through its doors.
- Staff and Members spoke honestly about the perception of the College in the local area and how the school was trying to improve this in many different ways – inviting people in for tours and improving communication with parents. Local Members acknowledged some of the issues were down to a small minority on local social media pages.



SEND

- The College has around 300 students on its SEND register, and 78 Education, Health and Care Plans at the time of the visit.
- The SENCO highlighted the SEND team has met with every family this term and a further 100 meetings with families to look at early intervention and ensuring needs are met as soon as the College can.

- The College is looking to do all it can to reduce its SEND numbers and ensure a stronger universal offer for all students.
- Staff felt that there are inconsistencies across Devon on what schools class as SEND and how they meet needs of children and young people – they gave the example of Autism being treated differently depending on the school.
- Staff viewed the SEND system and EHCPs as isolationist, exclusion based and heavily focusing on what students cannot do rather than why they can do and inclusion.
- Staff viewed Resource Bases as concerning, as places where young people go if the mainstream system cannot support their needs rather than working to support all children in mainstream schools.
- In terms of working with DCC teams, staff praised the teams they worked with and stated that they receive timely communication from the 0-25 Team. They understood the pressures DCC staff were under and highlighted the shared frustrations across the entire system.
- The College's biggest frustration was the lack of specialist provision in Devon and the pressures Alternative Provision put on their budgets. As an example, the College is funding 1 student's Alternative Provision package at £1k a week.

Inclusion, behaviour and student support

- The College takes inclusion very seriously and highlighted they had no permanent exclusions so far this academic year. However, suspensions were higher than the staff wanted but were coming down at around 3-6 a day. Staff stated that the College does not want to exclude any student but at times, a line is crossed which leads to the student needing to be suspended for a short period.
- The College uses a reflection room for students who have been removed from lessons. It is part of their behaviour or character curriculum, where taking responsibility for your actions is important.
- The College also have a team of Behaviour Mentors to help students and model good behaviour. So far this term, at least 2000 conversations have happened, focusing on both success and challenges.
- The College employs its own counsellors, acknowledging the long time it takes for students to see CAMHS services.

Conversation with Students

Members met with 9 of the College's students, all of which were on the SEND register, and were a range of ages. Members and students discussed a range of questions and topics including:

- If students enjoyed the being a student at the College?
- What their favourite thing was about the College? And what they didn't like so much?
- The transition from Primary school to the College.
- Behaviour and the School's rules.
- Student support, tutors, pastoral care and who they can talk to if they need support.
- The school day and school lunch options.

Members were very impressed with the school, highlighting how it was "informative, "uplifting", "encouraging" and left them feeling hopeful for the School's future and praising

the staff for being very passionate and committed to their pupils. Members also enjoyed meeting with the students, stating how they embraced the ethos of the school and welcomed their honesty to Councillors when discussing their college.

4) Options / Alternatives

The report is the summary of visits completed by Children's Scrutiny Committee Members. Scrutiny does not make decisions and this report does not propose any alternatives.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

As above, there are no specific considerations in regard to consultations, representations and technical data in this report.

6) Strategic Plan

The alignment of all Scrutiny activity with the strategic plan is detailed on the Scrutiny work programme. The issues raised in the report and the benefit of developing member knowledge and the 'critical friend' challenge of Scrutiny contribute to the Council achieving its strategic plan.

Improving Member knowledge on key issues contributes to the Council's commitment to being a trust, inclusive and innovative Council. It ensures good decision making and that the Council listens and learns.

7) Financial Considerations

There are no specific financial considerations in this report.

8) Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations in this report.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

There are no specific environmental impact considerations in this report.

10) Equality Considerations

There are no specific equality considerations in this report.

11) Risk Management Considerations

The activity of Scrutiny contributes to the mitigations for:

Ineffective Member Scrutiny

defined as: 'Due to ineffective scrutiny, the level and quality of service management may drop, leading to financial mismanagement or harm to staff and/or citizens and reputational damage e.g. Grenfell.

Member Effectiveness

defined as: 'Inadequate member effectiveness due to a lack of training, support and knowledge leads to a lack of challenge to corporate officers and/or poor decision making, resulting in a negative effect on the County's citizens (poor value for money, poor service delivery, harm, etc).'

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

The report outlines the topic(s) covered at visits conducted by Children's Scrutiny Committee Members to Devon schools in November and December 2023, highlights the key points raised during discussion and details any agreed actions.

The report is formally reported to the Children's Scrutiny Committee in the interests of openness, transparency and good decision making.

Maria Price

Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Organisational Development, Workforce & Digital Transformation:
Councillor Andrew Saywell

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Paper – NIL

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Appendix: Attendance

ACE Tiverton School, Tiverton

Date: Friday 24th November 2023 – 9:00am

Children's Scrutiny Committee Members: Councillors Su Aves, Tracy Adams, Ian Hall, Frank Letch MBE and Philip Sanders.

Scrutiny Officer: Charlie Fisher.

ACE Tiverton Staff: Matt Sambrook (CEO – Transforming Futures), Julie Chatterton (Head of School) and Rhys Davies (Assistant Headteacher).

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Children's Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 18th January 2024

Bideford College, Bideford

Date: Thursday 14th December 2023 – 11:30am

Children's Scrutiny Committee Members: Councillors Linda Hellyer, Frank Letch MBE, Pru Maskell and Jeff Wilton-Love.

Scrutiny Officer: Charlie Fisher.

Bideford College Staff: Ben Parnell (CEO – Athena Learning Trust), Rachel Vowles (Assistant Principal/SEND/CO) and Averill Jewell (Assistant Principal/Safeguarding).