

# All Member Briefing – Children’s Social Care & Adults Social Care

An update

29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

# Enabling people of all ages to have the best possible lives.

29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

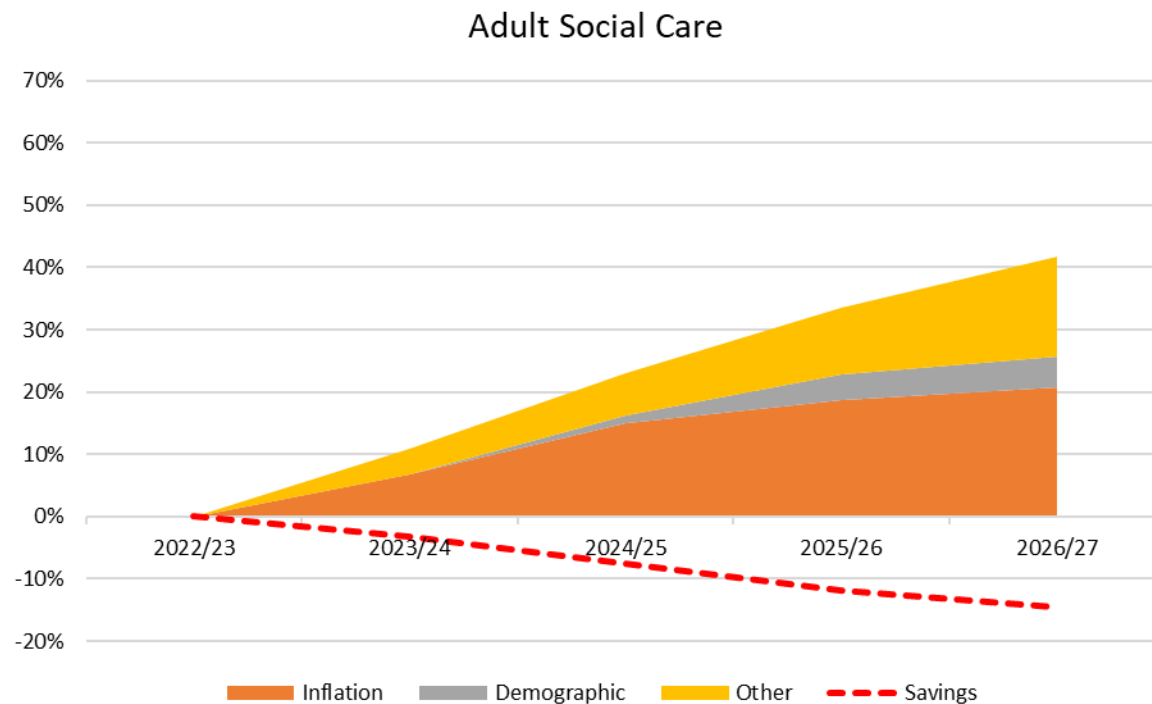
# What we will cover today

- **Introduction**
- **Children's Social Care Pressures:**
  - **Landscape in Essex**
  - **24/24 Financial Pressures & our work programmes to address these**
- **Any Questions?**
- **Adult Social Care:**
  - **What we've done, pressures we face and what we will do**
- **Any Questions?**

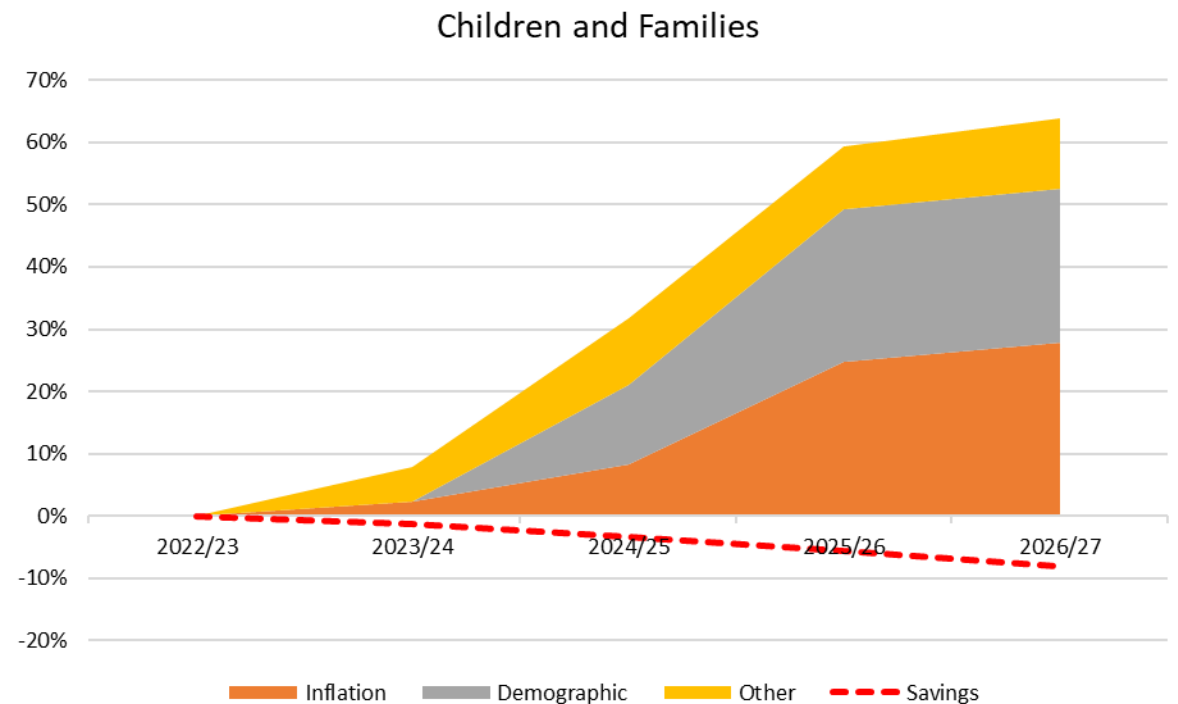
# Social Care Growth Trend

## Growth in costs to ECC from 22/23 modelled to 26/27

On the left, Adult Social Care



On the right, Children and Families



# Childrens Social Care Pressures

29<sup>th</sup> October 2024



# Children in Care landscape in Essex

1. Essex starts from a position of great strength. The practice of managing risk at the lowest appropriate level means we have a far lower rate of children open to Social Care than our regional and national comparators (**195.7 per 10,000 vs 342.7 National, 245.1 Regional**). The rate of children in care is one of the lowest in the country (**36 per 10,000 vs 70 nationally**) with Child Protection rates also notably lower, although rising in recent years (**21.7 per 10,000 vs 43.2**).
2. Essex has coupled being an Outstanding local authority with being a low cost one, making our social care practice effective and high quality. However, while demand at the front door in Essex is growing, with a **12.7% rise in referrals** to the front door since the pandemic (2021/22), general stability is seen in the overall number of children receiving a service from social care, although pockets of pressure are developing.
3. The number of children in care overall is relatively stable and while forecasts suggest that numbers excluding separated migrant children may reach 1,093 by June'26 (currently 1,024), placement sufficiency issues are resulting in increased numbers of residential and unregistered provision.
4. **This placement sufficiency issue is a nationwide crisis**, and while Essex has a lower rate of children in residential care home placements (9%) than nationally (15% - based on all children's home placements, as at March'23), it was forecast in June'24 that the number of mainstream residential placements used by Essex will increase to 90 by June'26. Two months later and Essex has already almost fully realised this increase, with 86 children now in mainstream residential care.
5. These demand pressures bring with them significant cost pressures, with unavailability driving the cost of suitable and available placements up. **At the end of August 2024, Essex had 15 young people under the age of 16 in unregistered provision, due to a shortage of suitable and/or available placements. The current average cost for unregistered provision is £13,400 per week per child, with one placement recently costing c£25k per week.**

# Options for Children & young people under 16 who come into our Care

- Foster Care - in-house provision
- Foster Care – Kinship
- Special Guardianship Order
- Adoption
- Foster Care - independent agencies
- Residential Care Children's Homes
- Residential Schools & secure units
- Residential for Children with disabilities

# Forecast Outturn 2024/25

The Forecast Children and Families  
2024/25 Outturn at P6 (September)  
is a:

**£13.3m**

Overspend



Main drivers of overspend:

**£12.8m** Placements  
(M/Stream External  
Residential and Unregistered  
Arrangements being the  
drivers of the overspend)

**£0.9m** Section 17 & 20

# Current Placement Activity 24/25

|                                    | Budget       | P2           | P3           | P4           | P5           |        |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Internal Fostering                 | 661          | 630          | 617          | 625          | 614          | ↓ (7%) |
| External Fostering                 | 89           | 145          | 146          | 148          | 148          | ↑ 66%  |
| CWD Residential                    | 31           | 28           | 28           | 31           | 33           | ↑ 6%   |
| MS Residential                     | 69           | 77           | 84           | 87           | 83           | ↑ 20%  |
| Unregistered Arrangements          | 0            | 9            | 12           | 9            | 11           | ↑      |
| After Placement Support (Adoption) | 21           | 26           | 26           | 30           | 33           |        |
| Parent & child Unit                | 3            | 6            | 5            | 7            | 8            |        |
| Secure Units                       | 2            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            |        |
| Semi Independent Accomodation      | 99           | 93           | 91           | 94           | 96           |        |
| Supported Living                   | 8            | 4            | 4            | 4            | 6            |        |
| Internal Residential               | 4            | 2            | 1            | 1            | 2            |        |
| With parents                       | 21           | 36           | 36           | 31           | 31           |        |
| <b>Total CIC</b>                   | <b>1,009</b> | <b>1,056</b> | <b>1,050</b> | <b>1,067</b> | <b>1,065</b> |        |

- **20%** increase in volume of external residential placements
- **66%** increase in volume of external fostering placements
- **(7%)** below in volume for internal fostering placements
- **11** unregistered placements

# Placements MTRS 2024/25 – 2027/28

|                                   | CIC Volumes<br>24/25 | Budget<br>2024/25<br>£'000 | Draft Budget<br>2025/26<br>£'000 | Draft Budget<br>2026/27<br>£'000 | Draft Budget<br>2027/28<br>£'000 |   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| External Fostering                | 89                   | 5,338                      | 5,000                            | 4,237                            | 3,394                            | ↓ |
| Internal Fostering                | 688                  | 17,907                     | 18,622                           | 19,588                           | 20,400                           | ↑ |
| Semi Independent Living           | 256                  | 11,227                     | 11,842                           | 12,289                           | 12,434                           | ↑ |
| External Residential - Mainstream | 73                   | 23,395                     | 22,920                           | 23,323                           | 24,023                           | ↑ |
| Internal Residential              | 4                    | 2,843                      | 5,932                            | 6,004                            | 6,078                            | ↑ |

The 24/25 budget was a £21m (37%) increase from 2023/24

# Essex benchmarks well for cost per child – CFO Insights

| Rank      | Council         | Cost per unit<br>£ | OFSTED rating (ILACS) | CiC Per 10,000 | Outturn (Surplus) / Deficit<br>£m |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1         | Gloucestershire | 1,420.88           | Requires Improvement  | 67             | N/A                               |
| 2         | East Sussex     | 1,415.39           | Outstanding           | 64             | 29.8                              |
| 3         | Devon           | 1,304.54           | Inadequate            | 61             | N/A                               |
| 4         | Norfolk         | 1,269.94           | Good                  | 72             | N/A                               |
| 5         | Derbyshire      | 1,227.56           | Requires Improvement  | 65             | N/A                               |
| 6         | Worcestershire  | 1,215.87           | Requires Improvement  | 84             | 16.5                              |
| 7         | West Sussex     | 1,198.90           | Inadequate            | 50             | 20                                |
| 8         | Warwickshire    | 1,162.48           | Good                  | 64             | N/A                               |
| 9         | Nottinghamshire | 1,152.23           | Good                  | 58             | N/A                               |
| 10        | Staffordshire   | 1,118.19           | Good                  | 81             | N/A                               |
| 11        | Lancashire      | 1,112.78           | Good                  | 74             | N/A                               |
| 12        | Oxfordshire     | 1,060.44           | Good                  | 59             | N/A                               |
| 13        | Hampshire       | 1,017.63           | Outstanding           | 65             | 8.9                               |
| 14        | Suffolk         | 937.66             | Outstanding           | 66             | 13.1                              |
| 15        | Kent            | 925.27             | Outstanding           | 57             | 11.3                              |
| 16        | Surrey          | 911.27             | Requires Improvement  | 39             | 18.5                              |
| 17        | Lincolnshire    | 879.06             | Outstanding           | 50             | N/A                               |
| 18        | Leicestershire  | 866.80             | Requires Improvement  | 48             | N/A                               |
| 19        | Hertfordshire   | 854.93             | Good                  | 36             | 18.4                              |
| 20        | Cambridgeshire  | 750.70             | Requires Improvement  | 47             | 7                                 |
| <b>21</b> | <b>Essex</b>    | <b>743.05</b>      | <b>Outstanding</b>    | <b>37</b>      | <b>20.9</b>                       |

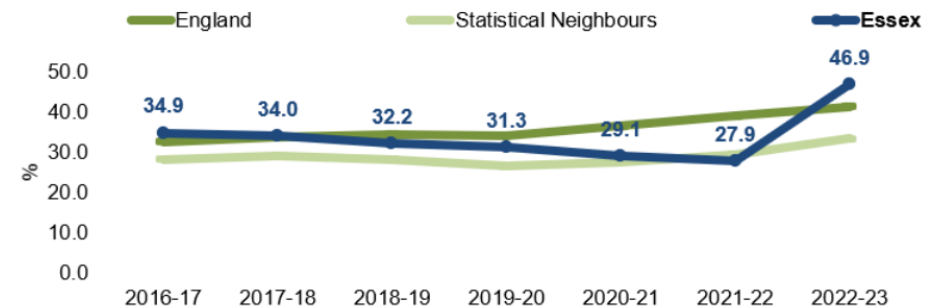
- Based on 2023/24 Financials and latest Ofsted ratings
- Generally, if your Ofsted rating is **outstanding** (bar a couple of outliers), you are **low cost**, if you then overlay the per 10,000 Children in Care metric, that further supports the position of lower cost (i.e. lower children in care per 10,000).

# Working with complexity

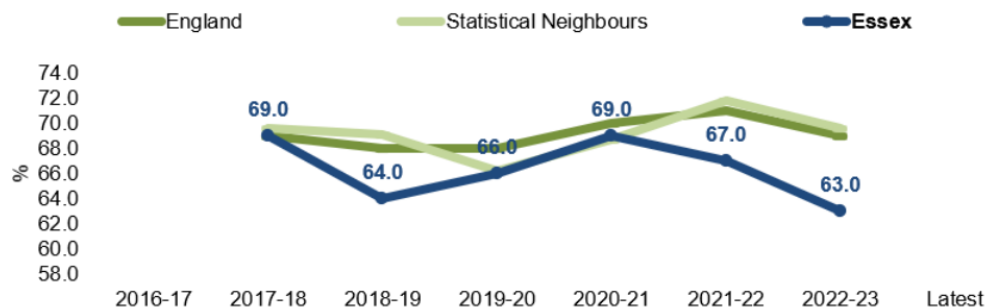
**Placement sufficiency issues facing Essex comprise of a higher presentation of factors such as, child substance misuse (26% rise in the last year), child criminal exploitation (+60%), Gangs (+134%) and socially unacceptable behaviour (+71%) This has impacted the council's ability to place children in the most suitable placements, with an increase in children placed more than 20 miles from home and an increased number of placement moves. This increase in complexity has been coupled with a reduction in T4 CAMHs inpatient provision, resulting in what we believe to be a correlation in a) increased res care b) an increase in unreg placements**

Some children are being placed in short term or unregistered provision while more suitable arrangements are found, resulting in more placement moves, with 3% (30) of children experiencing 5 or more placement moves in the last 12 months, six children with 8+ moves. This has impacted both our short and long term placement stability, with long term placement stability falling 6% since 2020/21 and short term placement instability rising to 15%.

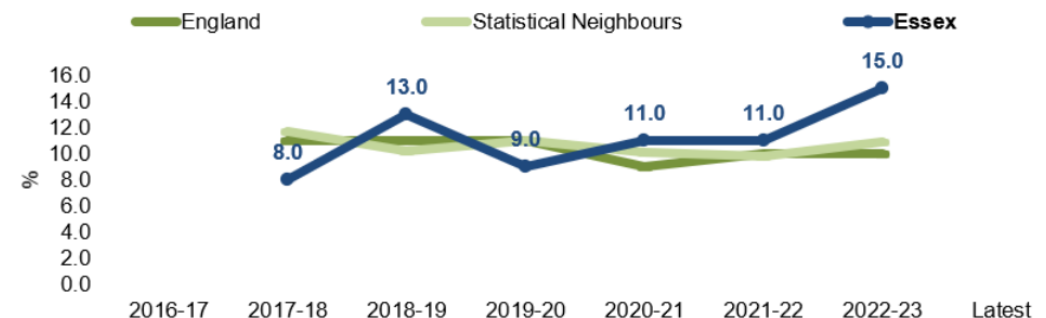
CIN with disability: % Autism/ Asperger Syndrome



Children looked after for at least 2.5 years and aged under 16 who have been in the same placement for at least 2 years



Percentage of looked after children with three or more placements during the year



# Overview of work programmes & activity



## Prevention & Stability

MDTs  
D-Bit  
Staying close  
Inside Out  
Wrap around Foster Care support  
Family Solution  
Placement Stability Project

## Fostering

Workstreams

1. Fostering Package
2. Promotion Campaigns
3. External Market Opportunities
4. Market Shaping
5. Essex Employer
6. Scope of opportunity

## Residential Programme

Workstreams

1. In-house provision
2. Solo provision
3. Market Residential placement
4. Practice & Process improvements

## Semi- Independent Accommodation

Workstreams

1. SMC Market development
2. 16+ Care needs reviews
3. 16+ Support plan reviews

## Enablers

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Financial oversight       | Nomination Rights           |
| Forecasting               | Workforce development       |
| CYPPS Review              | Recruitment & retention     |
| Market Position Statement | Regional Care Collaboration |
| Market Strategy           | Valuing Care                |
| Care Cubed                |                             |

# Children's Social Care

# Any Questions?

29 October 2024

# Adult Social Care

29 October 2024

# Our record:

## Achieving efficiencies while improving services

|                            | Latest Gross Budget £m | Latest Net Budget £m | Efficiencies £m |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>2021/22</b>             | 683.4                  | 437.4                | 22.7            |
| <b>2022/23</b>             | 704.4                  | 479.8                | 22.4            |
| <b>2023/24</b>             | 760.4                  | 451.1                | 20.4            |
| <b>2024/25 (projected)</b> | 823.2                  | 474.1                | 22.6            |

2023/24 reflects the change in the accounting treatment of the Social Care Grant and it being reflected within the net budget of ASC, as well as the growth in the value of the grant from the prior year.

# 'No Service is an Island' – system-wide dependencies

## 1. An ageing and growing population

- Pressures from an ageing and growing population are continuing to hit the NHS, Police, district councils, children's services and adult social services. This can have a domino effect between organisations.

## 2. Greater complexity since lockdown

- Evidence locally that cases now being more complex than pre-pandemic, with higher levels of starting need as people are discharged from hospital at an earlier stage

## 3. NHS pressures affecting demand and complexity for social care

- High waiting lists – more people are living with serious illness or chronic conditions which can then deteriorate and lead to dependency on services such as social care;
- Earlier discharge – patients now discharged when 'Medically Optimised' rather than 'Medically Fit' (have I got that right?) leading to more demand and complexity in reablement.

## 4. Some people are now living longer with more complex needs

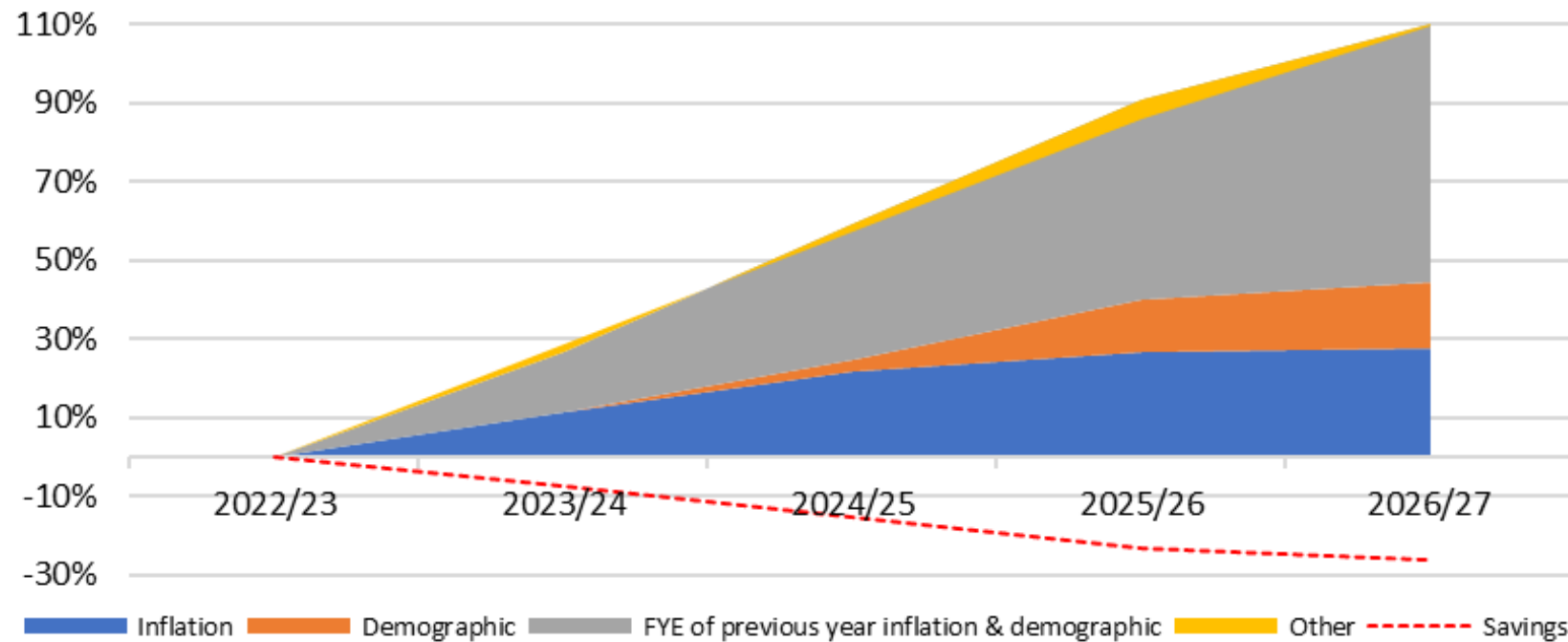
- Some services are driven by a societal demographic of people who are living longer and living with more complex needs (who previously may not have survived into adulthood) – this may include specific services managed elsewhere such as blue badge, transport, travel training.

## 5. Supporting young people as they transition into adulthood

- ASC actively work with Childrens social care and transitioning into adulthood – the life-time costs of children with disability and mental health issues are large and need managing collectively.

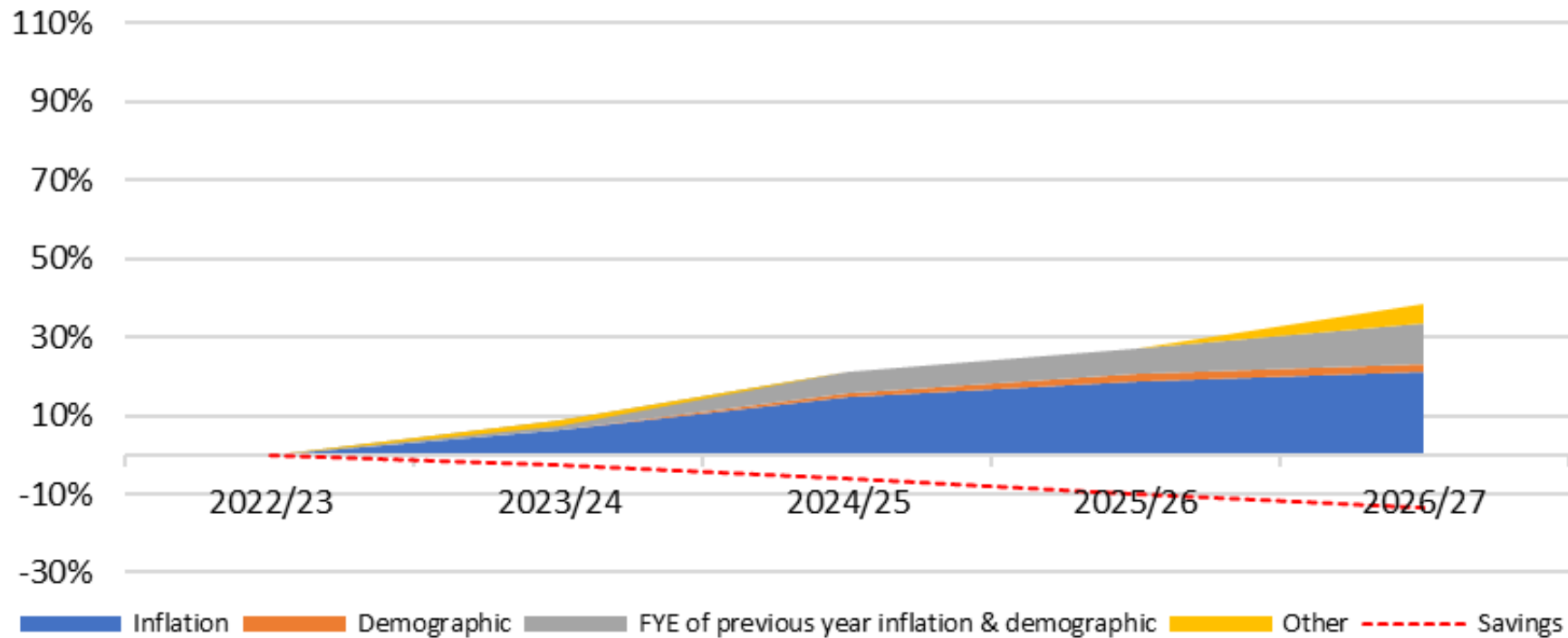
# Adult Social Care Expenditure Growth Trend – Older People

Older People £100m net budget rising to £175m



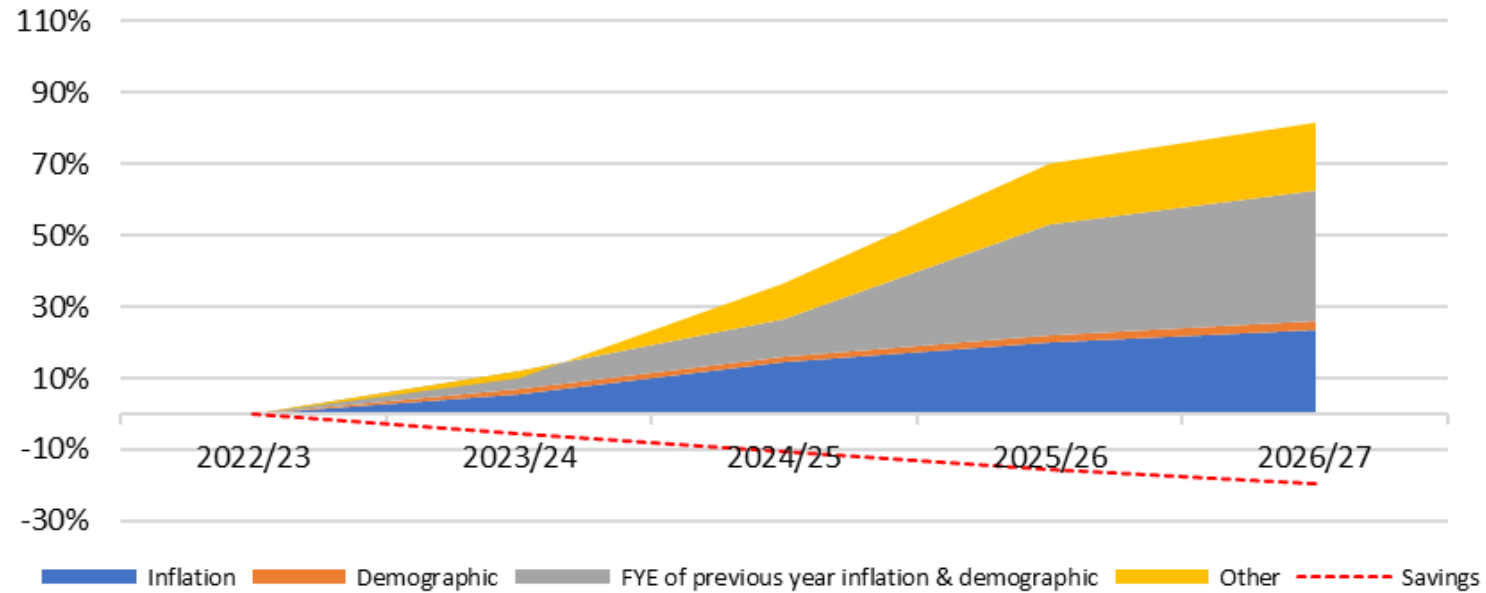
# Adult Social Care Expenditure Growth Trend – Learning Disabilities

Learning Disabilities £229m net budget rising to £278m



# Adult Social Care Expenditure Growth Trend – Mental Health

Mental Health £16m net budget rising to £25m



# Accommodation – a system-wide challenge

- **Care Leavers**
- **People with mental illness**
- **People with learning disabilities and/or autism**
- **People with sensory impairment**
- **Older People -**

# Success stories / Initiatives underway

- **Intermediate care**

We have a substantial reablement offer which is available to almost double the national average. Reablement helps people to recover their strengths and independence, and we track the effectiveness of reablement interventions each month.

- **Connect**

Connect is a multi-year partnership programme with the NHS which is improving outcomes for older people. It has achieved significant savings and efficiencies and is now embedded in our approach focusing on 'home first' to keep people living independently for as long as possible.

- **Scheme reviews and supporting independence**

There is a continual cycle of reviews within the learning disabilities cohort which improves outcomes whilst making savings. ECL's Essex LIVE programme has secured employment opportunities for over 300 people with learning disabilities.

- **Care technology**

The Essex care technology service has expanded rapidly since its launch in 2021, currently supporting over 11,000 people and on target to hit 14,000 by year end. This has exceeded all its savings targets. Now expanding to cover adults with learning disabilities

- **Recovery to Home Beds**

A pilot programme provide reablement and therapy in care homes where people have been placed for an interim period after hospital. This has shown signs of increasing the % of people who then go home from around 22% before the pilot to over 50%.

# Future plans

- **Working with the NHS**
  - Engaging with the ICBs on the out-of-hospital process and intermediate care planning.
- **Taking Care Technology further**
  - Considering what more can be done with our care technology services which already brings large savings and great outcomes for people.
- **Exploring a renewal of the Connect programme process**
  - Reviewing the customer journey with our transformation partner to aid support to demand management.
- **Continue progressing our new Offer to Carers**
- **Complete the delivery of our Disability Strategy**

# How you can help

- **Neighbourhood/community engagement**
- **Potential fosterers/fostering-friendly employers**
- **People you know re fostering, adoption, shared lives**
- **LA housing and planning committees**

# Adult Social Care

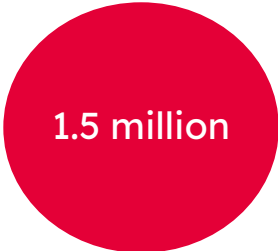
# Any Questions?

29 October 2024

# Appendices: Children's Social Care

Additional information for context

# Context for children's services in Essex



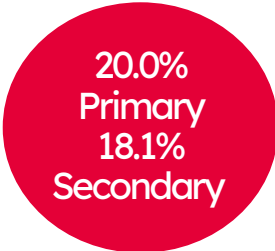
**Population** 2<sup>nd</sup> largest council population in England



**Children and Young People.** 21% of the total population



**Schools** rated **good/outstanding** by OFSTED



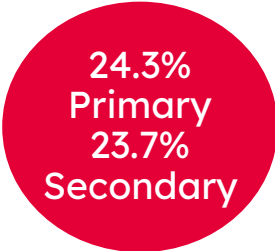
Children and young people **Free school meals**



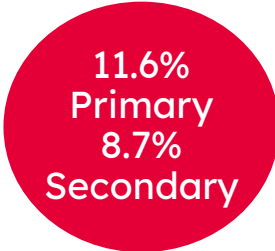
**Schools**



Children **Electively Home Educated**



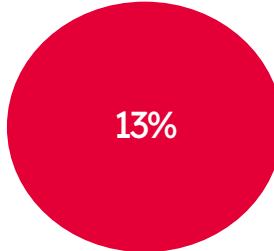
School population from **global majority communities**



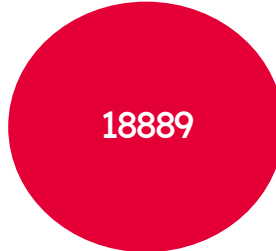
**English as an additional language**



**EHCP** represents 4.2% of total pupils in Essex

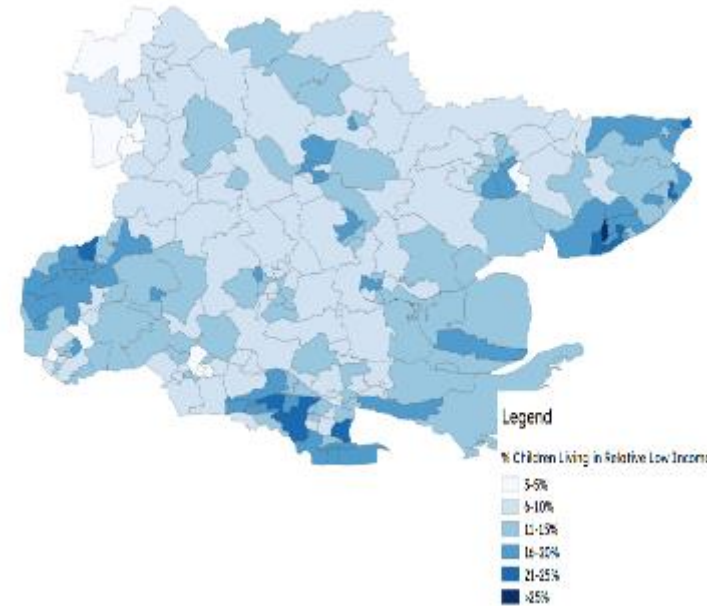


Children estimated to be living in **poverty**



**Additional school places** forecasted to be required by **2033**

**Ethnic diversity has increased** – in 2011 ethnic groups other than White British accounted for 9.2% of residents, compared to 14.9% recorded in 2021.



# Children in Care landscape in Essex: Changes and Challenges

Over the last seven years a marked change in the profile and subsequent need of children in care has taken place:

- **The age profile is changing:** The overall proportion of children in care aged 10-15 has declined over the last seven years, from 45% to 36%. Those aged 16+ have risen from 27% to 33%, with those aged 1-4 rising from 8% to 12% in the last four years.
- While children do age through the system, entries to care for older adolescents have also increased, with 22% of entries to care, for non SMC, being aged 16-17 in 2023/24.
- **The ethnicity profile is changing:** The proportion of children in care from a global majority background has increased, most noticeably in the last four years, rising from 22% to 27%. Those from “other ethnic groups” have almost doubled, driven mainly by separated migrant children numbers.
- **The SEND rate is rising:** The proportion of entries to care involving children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) has consistently increased, from 10% to 18%.
- **The rate of siblings looked after is rising:** The proportion of CIC whose siblings are also in care has increased from 37% in 17/18 to 45% in 23/24
- **The Mental Health need of Children in Care is growing:** The number of CIC with a mental health coordinator has increased from 2% in 2017/18 to 12% by 2023/24. This rise is even more significant in the adolescent age range where the proportion has increased from 3% to 17%. Alongside this the proportion of children in care with an SQD score deemed to be “of concern” has risen from 37% to 44% over the last four years.

# National Picture

- The largest private providers of placements are making materially higher profits, and charging materially higher prices, than we would expect if this market were functioning effectively.
- LGA research shows residential care costs have increased 105% over six years to 2024
- Sufficiency has reduced to the point where providers can pick and choose who gets help, often due to the fear of impact on future inspections, leaving many young people marginalised in unregistered expensive placements.
- We can expect further consolidation and increased market control, exacerbating the conditions local authorities already find impossible.
- Ban on unregistered placements and SIA Regulation has compounded the challenge for Local Authorities.

# Hampshire 2024/25 Childrens Services budget

Essex Equivalent

Children's Services work with partners, including health and the police, to protect and care for Hampshire's most vulnerable children and to support families in need.

## Education

Over **135,000 pupils** are taught in Hampshire's **458 maintained schools** with an additional **48,000 pupils** taught in 72 **academy/free schools**.

Educational attainment is **above national average** with 66% achieving grade 4 English and Maths GCSEs and 61% of Year 6 reaching expected standards in reading, writing and maths. More than 96% go on to further education or training.

## Children's social care

**11,425 children** receive social care support from the County Council. Of these, **1,167** are on Child Protection Plans and **1,890** children are in County Council care.

**8,558 child protection investigations** were carried out.

We received **174,797 contacts** from professionals, families and the public, and made **69,027 referrals to social care**.



Social workers undertook **24,975 first assessments** with 95% completed within the statutory timescales of 45 days.

In 2023/24 Essex carried out 1796 child protection investigations (S47's), received 49,257 enquiries (excluding enquiries on open cases) which resulted in 6532 referrals. 7489 children & family assessments were carried out.

We support more than **16,000 children** with **special educational needs**.



In Hampshire, **92%** of schools are judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

Around **20,500 two-to-four-year-olds** use **15 hours' free early years education**, with around 10,000 also accessing **30 hours' extended entitlement**.

**14,266 pupils** use the **School Transport Service**.



## Fostering

**497 fostering households** provide care and support to 781 children in Hampshire. We place a further 453 children with independent fostering agencies. **143 in IFAs**.

As at March'24, 474 ECC fostering households supporting 609 children.

## Library Service

There were **3.3million visits** to Hampshire's libraries with **6.1million** books, ebooks and audio books issued.

**19,326** young people participated in the **Summer Reading Challenge**.



## Adopt South

**57 children** were matched with adoptive families and **43 adoption orders** were made.

174 new adoptive families were approved by AE.

**91 new adoptive families** were approved by Adopt South, the regional adoption agency.

## Supporting Families

In 2023/24 Essex engaged with 3,087 vulnerable families and 2,345 received support.

We engaged with **3,812 vulnerable families** and **2,384** families received support under this Government initiative.

Of these, **1,065 families resolved their reported problems** or issues.

Of these 1,234 resolved their reported problems.