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.

Supporting vulnerable children

We ensure vulnerable children and families receive the right help at the right time and that children are protected and helped to be safe. We have been a high performing Local Authority for children’s social care since 2009 and, following Ofsted’s most recent inspection (May 2019), are rated as outstanding in all areas, as well as for overall effectiveness.

Our strong performance over the years led to the Department for Education’s (DfE) request for our support in driving improvement in Children’s Services at the Isle of Wight Council through a strategic partnership and also to support other local authorities on their improvement journey.

We are also one of just 15 local authorities selected by the DfE to work innovatively in re-designing the future of children’s social care, in its ‘Partners in Practice’ programme.

2018 overview:

- 167,611 contacts received from professionals, families and the public, of which 40,104 referrals made to children’s social care
- 16,731 formal assessments undertaken by social workers to determine support services required
- 8,285 children receive social care support from the County Council. Of these 1,294 are on Child Protection Plans and 1,594 children are in the County Council’s care
- 69 Adoption Orders were made in 2018/19 and 67 adoptive households were approved. In 2018/19, 64 Hampshire children have been matched with 53 adopters
- 501 fostering households provide care and support to 756 children in Hampshire. A further 430 children were placed, by the County Council, with independent fostering agencies
- 2,246 families or 5,176 children across the year (2018) receive targeted early help to prevent the need for a referral into social care
- In Phase 2 (January 2014 – December 2018), the Supporting Families Programme engaged with 4,527 vulnerable families, with positive outcomes recorded for 736 families, by December 2018
- An independent evaluation, undertaken by Solent University, of Phase 2 of the Supporting Families Programme, indicates costs saved/avoided to the value of £26.8m over four years. The final report is due to be published in Spring 2019
- In the last year we have supported 2,859 children who are subject to a child protection plan
Through leadership and challenge, Children’s Services strive to improve educational outcomes for children, particularly more vulnerable groups, and including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

**Educating children**

As a champion for children, our Education and Inclusion service works with Hampshire schools to achieve the best for all children, including the provision of support for pupils with SEND.

In Hampshire, over 90% of schools are judged ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted. Continuous planning ensures that there is a school place for every child in Hampshire, expanding existing schools or building new schools where they are needed to meet demand.

**Educating Hampshire’s Children**

- One in every 46 children educated in England is taught in Hampshire
- Around 138,000 pupils are taught in Hampshire’s 474 maintained schools with an additional 38,000 pupils taught in 52 academy schools
- Educational attainment is better than the national average with 67% GCSE pupils attaining grade C in both English and Mathematics and 68% primary pupils achieving expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics in Year 6 (age 10–11)
- Over 11,000 teachers are employed in Hampshire maintained schools
- 21,408 children aged 3 and 4, and 2,493 two year olds are accessing early years education in the county
- Around 25,000 pupils in schools and colleges receive instrumental and vocal teaching from the County Council’s Music Service every week
- 5,600 Duke of Edinburgh Awards participants were supported in 106 centres delivering the scheme under Hampshire County Council licence
- Of 36,972 school trips supported by our advice and approval processes, 454 were overseas involving 16,130 students
- Over 97% of Hampshire’s 16 and 17 year olds secured a further education or training placement for the start of the 2018/19 academic year
- The percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is 1.8%. Over 475 young people aged 16–17 years who are NEET are supported to access further education or training
- Over 8,000 children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported to achieve positive outcomes in their education