

ONE MEDWAY COUNCIL PLAN

2024/28

Proud to be Medway

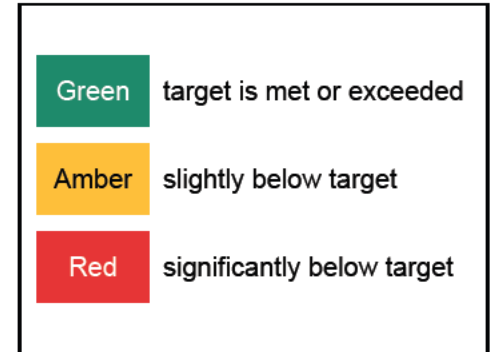
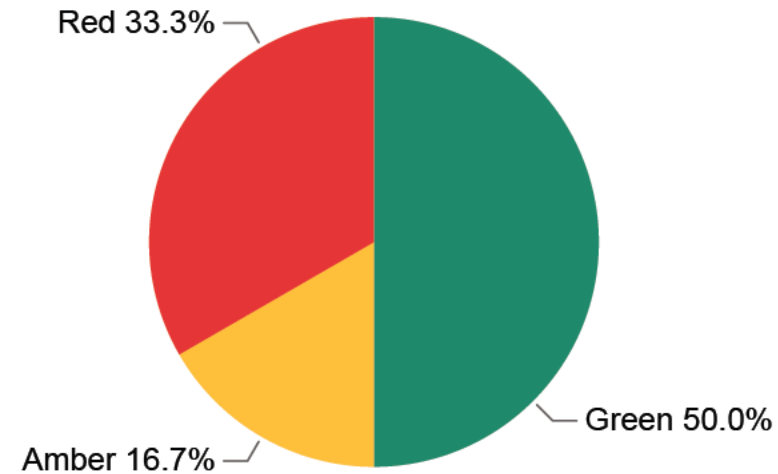


Performance Report Children and Young People O&S

Q1 2026/27

Summary of performance

There are 22 indicators for the One Medway Council Plan. 12 indicators have data reported for this quarter. There are 10 indicators which have no data reported for this quarter, for which no indicator status could be determined.



Priority	All indicators	Green	Amber	Red	No status
Priority 1	8	2	1	3	2
Priority 2	5	1	1	1	2
Priority 4	9	3			6
Total	22	6	2	4	10

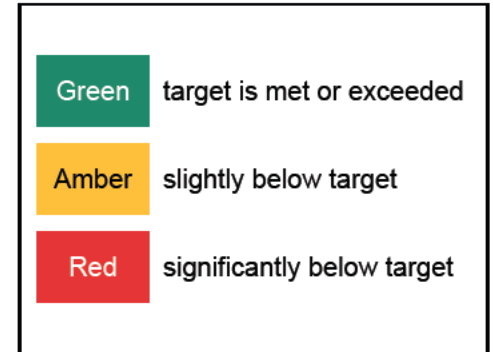
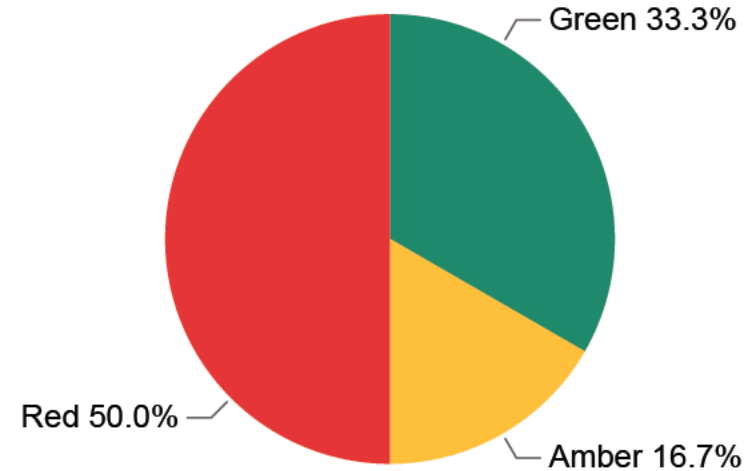


Delivering quality social care and community services

- Provide effective, targeted support for our most vulnerable residents to enable them to fulfil their potential and improve their quality of life.
- Support people of all ages to live the most happy, healthy, independent life possible, utilising assistive technologies.
- Ensure that services support children in care to thrive, fulfil their potential, build meaningful relationships and make good transitions to adulthood, so that they can live as independent lives as possible in their communities.
- Provide creative, cultural and community services and facilities across Medway that everyone can access and benefit from.
- Support our children and young people to ensure they are safe, secure and stable.
- Support all adults, including those living with disability or physical or mental illness to live independently and stay safe.
- People in Medway live independent and fulfilled lives into an active older age.

Summary of performance Priority 1

There are 8 indicators for Priority 1. 6 indicators have data reported for this quarter. There are 2 indicators which have no data reported for this quarter, for which no indicator status could be determined.



Performance status



Red

Current performance



Direction of travel

Short trend



Q4 2025-26

Long trend



Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better

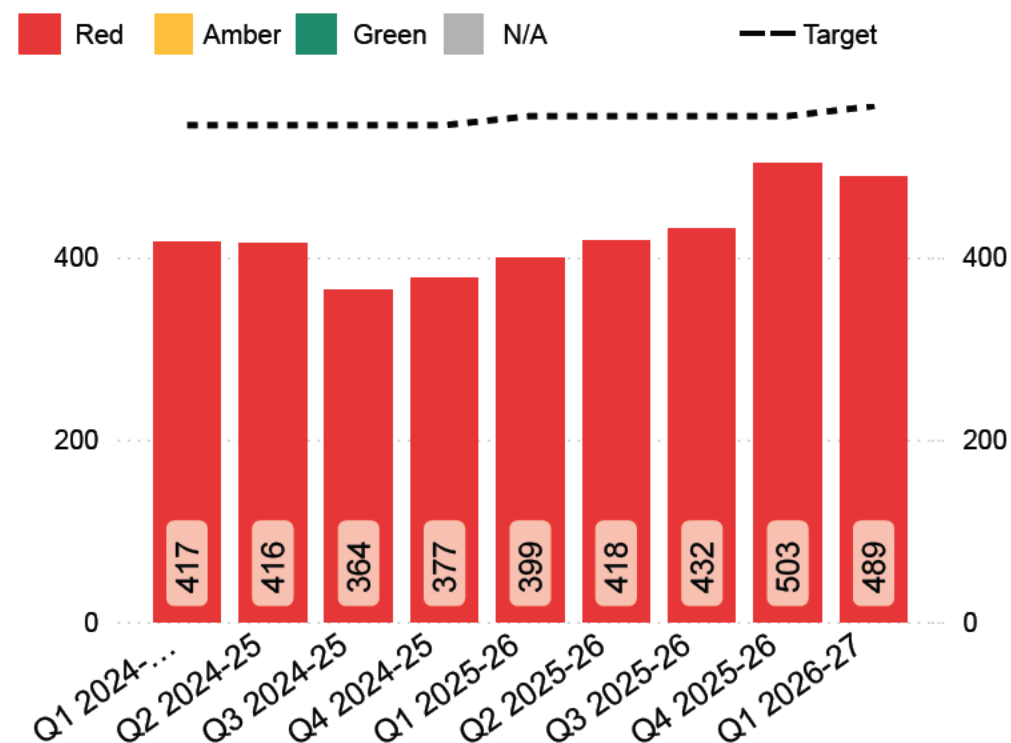
Indicator description

By 2027/28 more families are accessing targeted early help provision than at 31/3/24 This metric is part of Priority 1, Delivering quality social care and community services and the sub priority: Provide effective, targeted support for our most vulnerable residents to enable them to fulfil their potential and improve their quality of life Provide effective, targeted support for our most vulnerable residents to enable them to fulfil their potential and improve their quality of life. Access to Early Help may prevent families from needing statutory interventions.

Update note

Access to Early Help may prevent families from needing statutory interventions. Currently there are 489 families with open targeted early help held by the local authority. This is 14% (77 families) below target but 3% (14 families) below the Q4 outturn (503). While performance is below the expected target, targeted Early Help services continue to support a significant number of vulnerable children and families, providing intervention at the earliest opportunity to prevent issues from escalating and requiring statutory social care involvement. The reduction in open cases reflects ongoing scrutiny and oversight of children to ensure it reflects appropriate case progression and successful step-downs, rather than unmet demand. Work continues to strengthen pathways into Early Help, improve identification of need through partnership working, and ensure families can access timely and effective support. The revised threshold document is also key in supporting the increase in partner led plans and reducing the need to come through the Front Door. A strong focus at the front door continues to ensure that as soon as a need is identified early help is provided, either by a lead practitioner or Family Solutions. Achievements -The Early Help Partnership Board continue to drive early help being everyone's responsibility and have overseen the development of performance data for the number of agency led plans. Family Solutions proactively work with the statutory social work teams to ensure that families receive the right level of support at the right time. Actions - Continue to promote the Lead Practitioner role in the community and ensure that mechanisms are in place to measure the effectiveness of intervention plans led by partner agencies that do not come through the Single Point of Access, particularly where Early Help Coordinators and Partnership Officers are providing support. Additional training to be rolled out to support embedding of the revised threshold document.

Historic performance

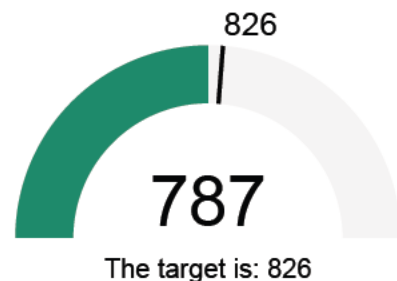


Performance status

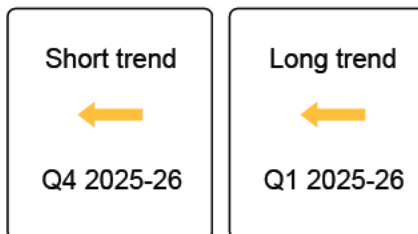


Green

Current performance



Direction of travel



The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: lower is better

Indicator description

By 2027/28 fewer than 975 Children require statutory intervention under a CIN (welfare) or CP plan.

Update note

At the end of June there were 515 open Child in Need (welfare) Plans open and 272 Child Protection plans open, totalling 787 children in total. CIN (welfare) plans have risen by 1.8% (9 children) but the numbers of children on a CP Plan have dropped by 14% (46 Children) The rate of CP is 39.5 per 10,000, which is higher, but in line with than the 40.6 per 10,000 National rate and the 38.2 per 10,000 statistical neighbour rate. However, Medway's rate is now outside of the 40-45 per 10,000 goldilocks zone, for CP per 10,000 population.

There has been a decrease in the number of children supported through Child in Need and Child Protection Plans in this quarter. Significant work is being undertaken across the service to ensure that children are subject to the right level of intervention and ensuring that throughput is robust. Within this quarter there has been a decrease in Child in Need plans open over 12 months and a number of these are due to supervision orders. There has been a consistent number of Child Protection plans.

Achievements - The Children in Need Panel continues to ensure multi agency collaboration to review CIN plans, including those at 9+ months. The midway point review completed by the Child in Need Reviewing Officer remains positive.

Actions - Practitioners will continue identifying universal services for families that no longer require a Child in Need Plan or step to Target Early Services to reduce the numbers for this cohort of children and families. CP plans will continue to be reviewed to ensure the right children are subject to the right plans.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

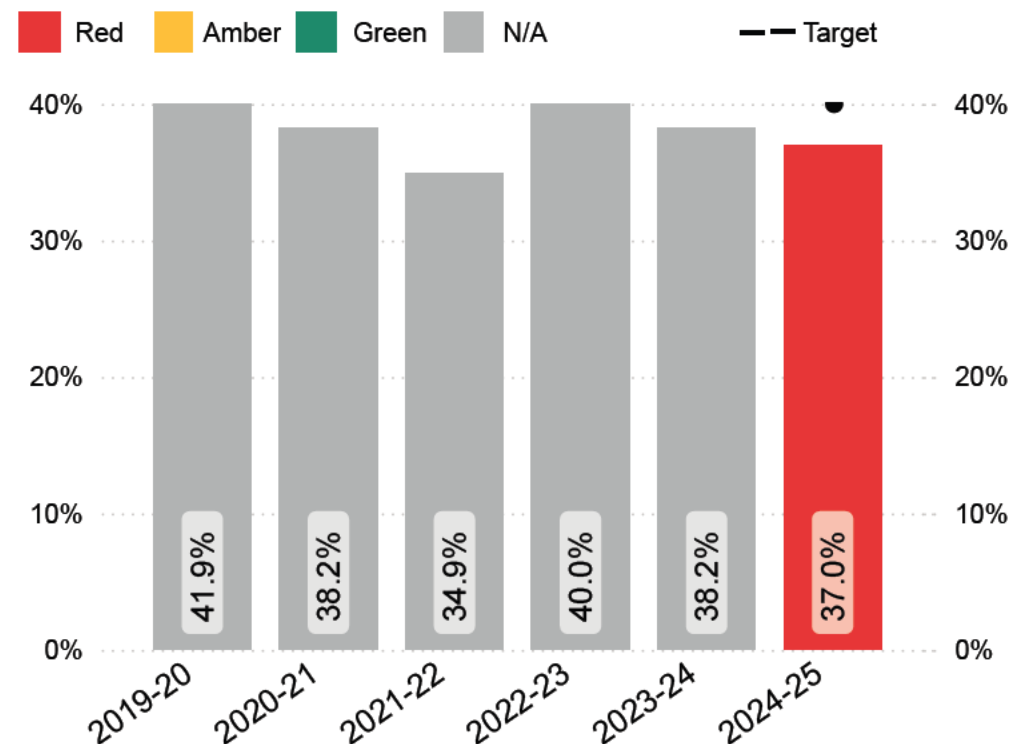
Indicator description

Increase the percentage of children kept close to home and community 2025/26 data will be available in Q3 2026/27.

Update note

At the end of March 2025, 37% of Medway's Children in Care were placed within Medway. The service continues to regularly review children's placements to ensure care plans are meeting the needs of children and that placements are appropriately matched to children and young people. Activity across Kinship, Fostering, Private Fostering and Supported Homes remain strong, indicating sustained demand for assessment, placement and support services, alongside continued progress in increasing local placement sufficiency. Kinship Care continues to be a significant area of activity. Fostering Services continue to support the recruitment and assessment of local foster carers and our Supported Homes provision continues to develop, with approved hosts and young people currently in placement, supporting Medway's ambition to expand local placement options for older young people and help children and young people remain close to their local area where appropriate. Our In-house residential provision currently is fully occupied, and building work on our in-house learning disability residential provision is due to be completed at the end of July. Achievements - the service has remained focused on increasing local placement sufficiency and strengthening support available to carers, children and young people. A key achievement has been the continued recruitment of in-house foster carers. Supported Homes provision has also continued to grow, with the number of Supported Homes hosts increased to 19. This will further support Medway's ambition for more children and young people to live locally, where this is in line with their assessed needs and care plans. The Mockingbird model has continued to develop successfully in Medway and we are working towards the launch of Mockingbird Constellation 5 in the autumn 2026. Actions - the service will continue to progress activity that increases local placement sufficiency and supports children and young people to remain in Medway wherever this is safe.

Historic performance

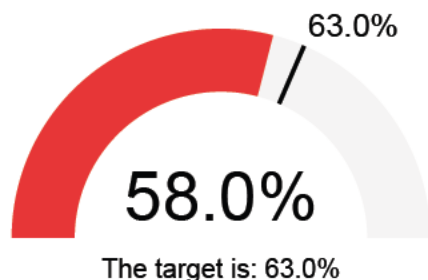


Performance status



Red

Current performance



Direction of travel

Short trend



Q4 2025-26

Long trend



Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the percentage of children in care with long term fostering as a plan where the child, the carer and the service have agreed for the placement to last until the child is ready to leave care is 65% or higher. This metric is part of Priority 1, Delivering quality social care and community services and the sub priority: Ensure that services support children in care to thrive, fulfil their potential, build meaningful relationships and make good transitions to adulthood, so that they can live as independent lives as possible in their communities.

Update note

There has been a 1pp (2%) improvements compared to the March outturn. Currently over the last 12 months this metric has improved by 6pp (11.7%). The service continues to prioritise securing permanence for children and young people through achieving formal long-term foster care plans and remains focused on exceeding the 63% target. Long-term foster care is one of several permanence pathways available to children and young people and works alongside other permanency options, including reunification with family, Special Guardianship Orders, and adoption, ensuring that children achieve the most appropriate and stable long-term outcome for their individual needs. Achievements - Performance has continued to improve, with a 1 percentage point increase since March and a 6pp (11.7%) improvement over the last 12 months. This reflects the service's sustained focus on securing permanence through formal long-term matching arrangements. Actions - The service will continue to build on this progress through the work of the Permanence and Placement Stability Task and Finish Group, ensuring that permanence planning and placement stability planning are closely aligned. This will help to reduce placement disruption, minimise the risk of breakdown, and improve children's overall care experiences. The Permanence and Safety Corporate Parenting Board subgroup will continue to provide strategic oversight and challenge, monitoring progress and identifying opportunities for further improvement in permanence practice across the system. In addition, the Permanence Lead will maintain robust oversight of children's permanence plans through regular reviews, ensuring that barriers are identified and addressed promptly, decision-making remains timely, and children achieve secure and lasting permanence without unnecessary delay. Recent improvement is encouraging, the focus will now be on sustaining this progress and increasing the proportion of children benefiting from formal long-term matches.

Historic performance

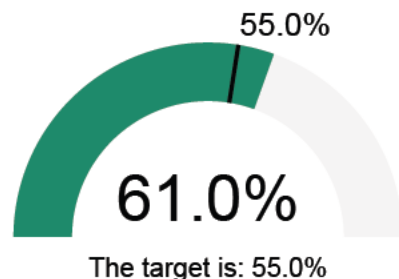


Performance status



Green

Current performance



Direction of travel

Short trend



Q4 2025-26

Long trend



Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the percentage of young people leaving care who are in education, employment or training is higher than 60%. This metric is part of Priority 1, Delivering quality social care and community services and the sub priority: Ensure that services support children in care to thrive, fulfil their potential, build meaningful relationships and make good transitions to adulthood, so that they can live as independent lives as possible in their communities.

Update note

Data is available to the end of May 2026. 61% of care leavers are in Employment Education or training (EET). This is a 5pp (9%) improvement on the previous quarter. Benchmarking - The most recent national outturn is 64%, 3pp higher than statistical Neighbours at 61%. Medway is now 3pp behind the national rate. The service continues to prioritise support for young people in accessing education, employment, and training (EET) opportunities and continues to work towards exceeding the 58% target. Achievements - Performance continues to improve, with 61% of care leavers in EET at the end of May 2026. This is a 5pp increase from the previous quarter and means the service has exceeded its end-of-year target. This positive improvement reflects the service's ongoing focus on supporting young people into education, employment and training opportunities. The work of the Aspirations officer, Personal Advisers, alongside strong partnership working with education providers, employers and the Virtual School, continues to help young people access and sustain positive destinations. Actions - The service will continue to build on this positive performance by maintaining targeted support for young people who are not currently engaged in EET. The Aspirations Officer will continue to work closely with young people and partner agencies, using a flexible and relationship-based approach to promote participation and identify opportunities. Regular monitoring of those not in EET will enable the service to target support effectively, sustain performance above target, and work towards closing the gap with national.

Historic performance

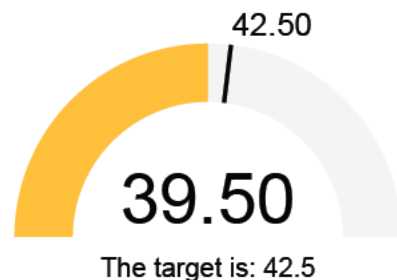


Performance status



Amber

Current performance



Direction of travel

Short trend



Q4 2025-26

Long trend



Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: set at the right amount (goldilocks)

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the rate of children (0-17 years) subject to a child protection plan is between 40 and 45 per 10,000. This metric is part of Priority 1, Delivering quality social care and community services and the sub priority: Support our children and young people to ensure they are safe, secure and stable.

Update note

Child protection numbers and subsequently rates have fallen this quarter. There are now 272 children on a Child Protection plan, pushing the rate up to 39.5 per 10,000 population. This is outside of the target range (40-45). There are 46(14%) fewer children on a CP plan than at the end of March 2026. Medway's rate is higher than the national (40.6) and the statistical neighbour (38.2) rate. Achievements - The decrease in children supported through a CP plan indicates good progress of plans and a decrease in risk to children, enabling them to be supported in alternative ways. Increased oversight of CP plans by the CP conference service and children's social work teams provided reassurance the right children had the right plan at the right time. Actions - There will continue to be enhanced exploration of children supported through CP plans. It is recognised that there are periods when numbers may increase; consultations will continue ahead of Initial Child Protection Conference, providing oversight and scrutiny to promote effective planning, support, and improved outcomes for children.

Historic performance

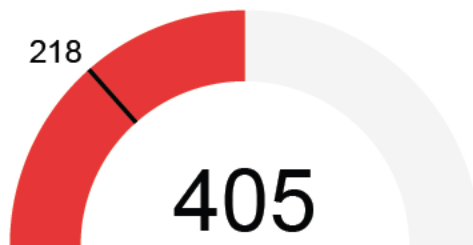


Performance status



Red

Current performance



The target is: 218

Direction of travel

Short trend



Q4 2025-26

Long trend



Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: lower is better

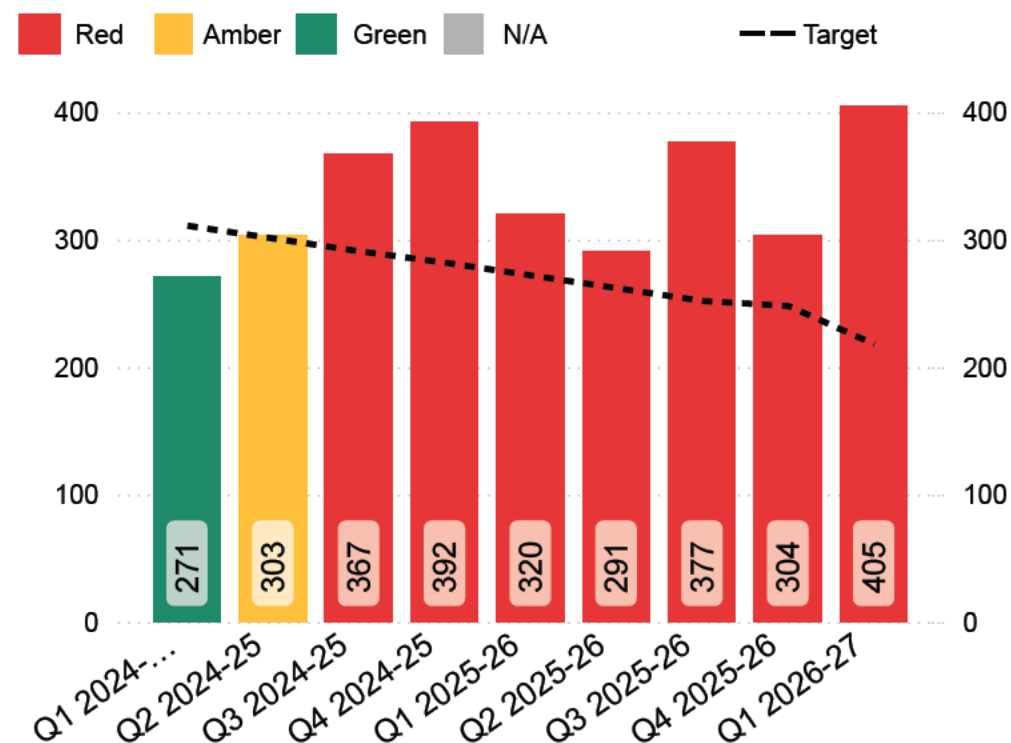
Indicator description

By 2027/28, the rate of S47 investigations per 10,000 is statistically similar to the national average. This metric is part of Priority 1, Delivering quality social care and community services and the sub priority: Support our children and young people to ensure they are safe, secure and stable.

Update note

The end of quarter snapshot shows an increase in the rate of S47 enquires, which now stand at 405 per 10k of population. This is a 33% increase compared to Q4 2025-26. Over the quarter there have been 578 S47 enquiries, an average of 192 per month, an average rate of 337 per 10k of population. Benchmarking - The most recent national outturn is 189 and statistical neighbours 176. Both are higher than last year but markedly lower than Medway's rate. This increase reflects continued high levels of demand and complexity within children's social care, alongside strengthened multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and a continued focus on identifying and responding to children at risk of significant harm. There has been a continued focus on multi agency decision making at strategy discussions where the outcome can be s47 enquiry. There have been changes to the Mosaic episode to ensure clarity of decision making including whether a S47 investigation is a joint (with police) or single agency investigation. The focus is on ensuring that decisions to initiate Section 47 enquiries are proportionate, evidence-based, and clearly aligned with statutory thresholds. We are strengthening the quality of professional judgment, improving consistency across agencies, and ensuring accurate data to support reflective practice. Achievements - Dip sampling of strategy meeting minutes will continue, to ensure the outcomes are appropriate and proportionate. Actions - regular performance monitoring, management oversight and scrutiny. Decision-making is robust, and that children who may be at risk receive timely safeguarding interventions while work continues to reduce demand through effective early help and preventative support. Targeted work continues including ongoing discussions with Police and other partners to ensure a consistent and proportionate approach to safeguarding decisions through the MASH Operational and Strategic Boards.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: annually

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the rate of children and young people who are identified at risk of exploitation is statistically similar to the national average This metric is part of Priority 1, Delivering quality social care and community services and the sub priority: Support our children and young people to ensure they are safe, secure and stable. 2025-26 data will be published in October 2026.

Update note

2025-26 data will be published in October 2026. Q4 comment - 2024/25 data shows that 2.8% children assessed by social workers had Child Sexual Exploitation and or Criminal Exploitation identified as a factor in the assessment. This is greater than last year and lower than the 5.6% nationally and 3.7% in the South East. Medway and National rates have risen, but the rates in the South East have fallen. It is also worth noting that rates in Kent are also an outlier compared to national, at 2% having dropped from 2.1%

While Medway's rate has risen, this reflects improved practitioner awareness and identification of exploitation risks through strengthened assessment practice and multiagency information sharing. The increase is consistent with national trends, where exploitation concerns are becoming more visible. The focus is on ensuring that identification leads to timely and proportionate safeguarding responses, including disruption activity and access to specialist support.

The Medway Contextual Safeguarding Panel continues to meet monthly, with strong representation from partner agencies. Kent Police are also leading a monthly Missing and Exploitation Tactical Delivery Group. Exploitation and missing children remain key priorities for Children's Services and are being actively addressed through an internal Task and Finish Group that reports to CSMT.

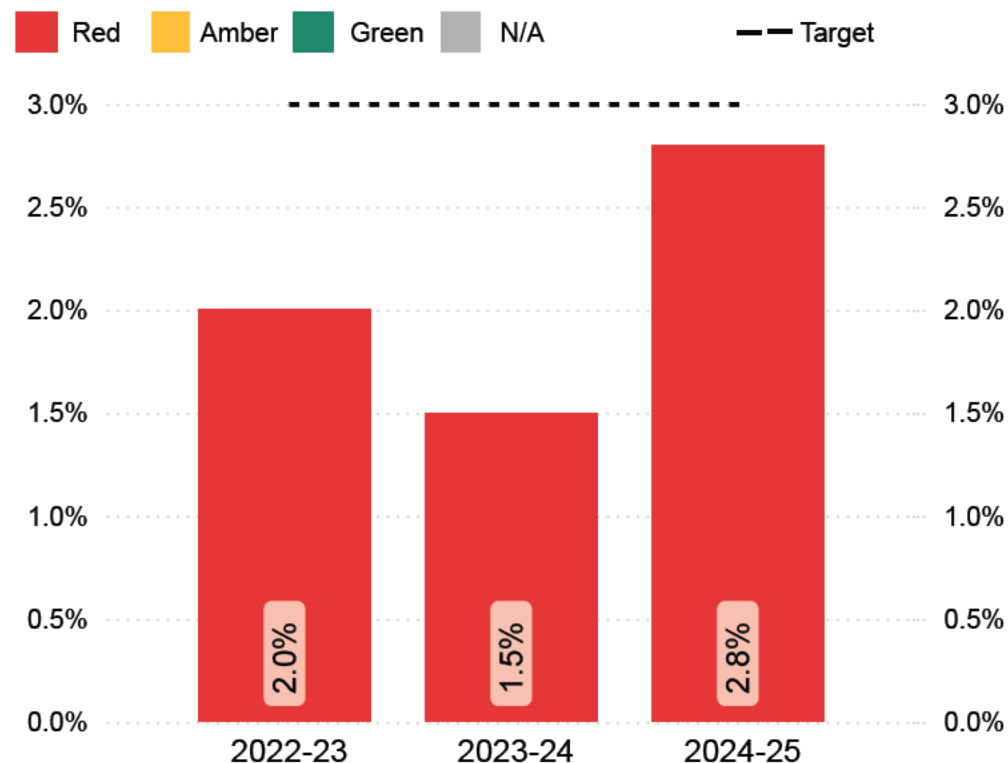
Achievements:

An additional Return Home Interview (RHI) practitioner has been recruited to ensure that Children in care placed outside of Medway receive the same level of service as those placed within Medway.

Actions going forward:

Continued oversight to ensure consistent use of the contextual safeguarding tool through strengthened management oversight and regular audits. To improve both the application and quality of contextual safeguarding assessments, dip sampling will ensure that analysis is evidence based and results in clear, actionable plans.

Historic performance





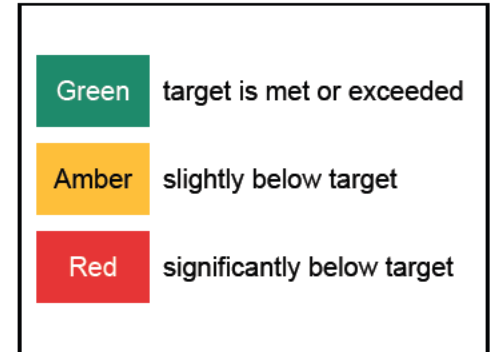
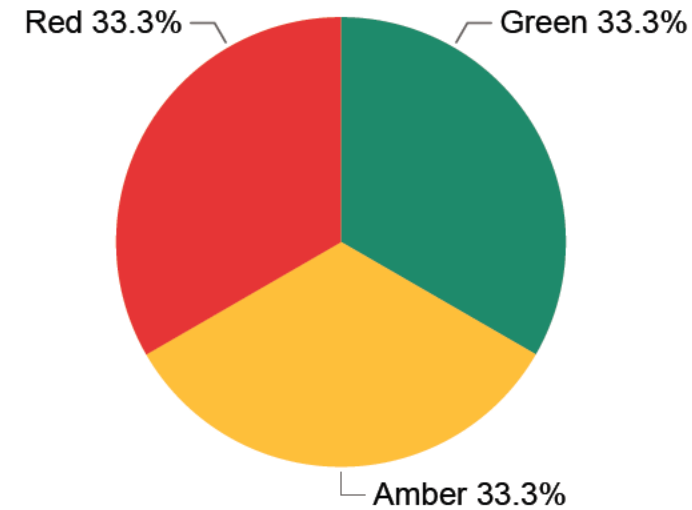
Benefitting from good education, quality jobs and a growing economy



- Ensure all children and young people access a high-quality, inclusive education.
- Work with business partners to ensure education and skills development supports children, young people and adults to lead successful lives, and secure employment opportunities, with targeted support for the unemployed and vulnerable groups.
- Develop a strong mixed economy which provides training and work opportunities that support career development, increasing high value businesses and expanding high quality employment.
- Develop Medway's reputation as a home for creative, cultural, and green industries to support a growing economy, maximising our national recognition as a Priority Place for culture and heritage.
- Support the growth and diversification of business in our town centres, reflecting the importance of placemaking and regeneration.

Summary of performance Priority 2

There are 5 indicators for Priority 2. 3 indicators have data reported for this quarter. There are 2 indicators which have no data reported for this quarter, for which no indicator status could be determined.

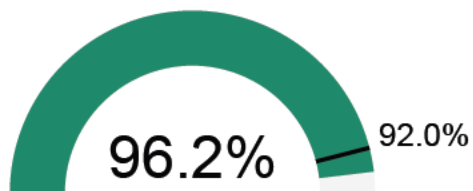


Performance status



Green

Current performance



The target is: 92.0%

Direction of travel

Short trend



Q4 2025-26

Long trend



Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better

Indicator description

By 2027/28, 92% of early years, primary and secondary schools in Medway are good or better in the last Ofsted inspection.

Update note

The counting cohort is now 79 schools. Of these 3 are graded outstanding, 73 schools are good. This means that out of 76 Schools 79 (96.2%) are good or better. 1 school requires improvement and 2 are inadequate. 17 schools currently have an ungraded, No Overall Outcome grade. However, 2 school in this cohort has been inspected under the new regime that does not provide a “single word outcome”.

Of the outstanding schools 1 is a primary (academy) and 2 are secondary (both Academies).

Of the good schools 62 are Primary (15 LA maintained) and 11 Secondary (All Academies).

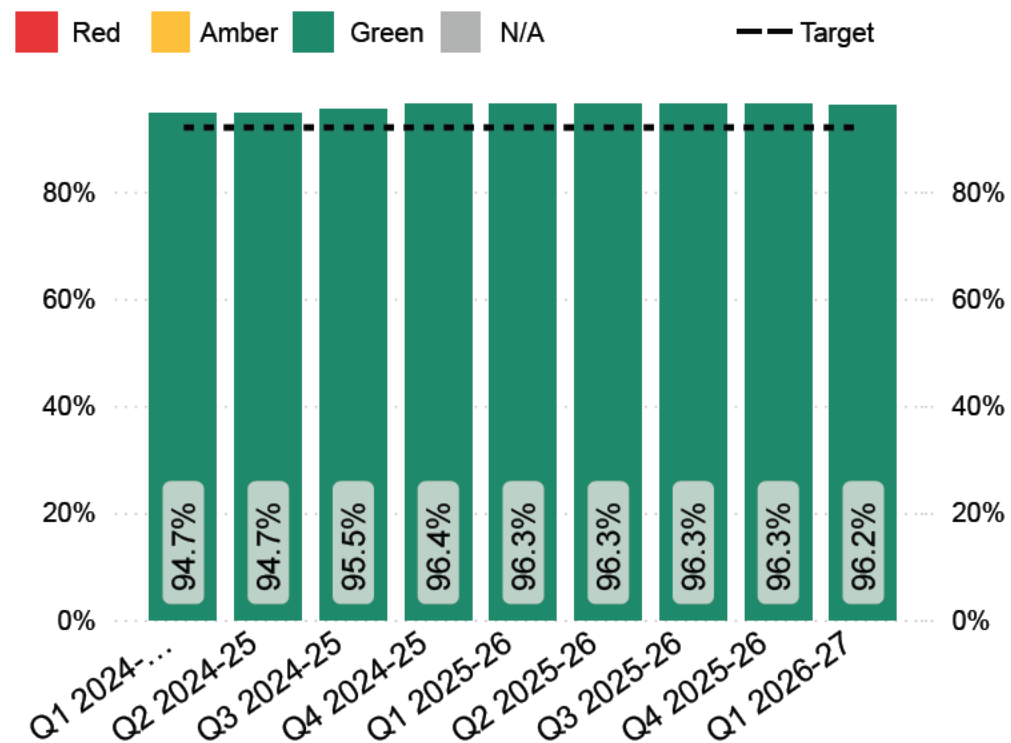
Benchmarking data is no longer current as it has been affected by the change in Ofsted reporting and has not been updated since September 2024.

The monthly Education & SEND dashboard reports on the outcome of Ofsted inspections for individual schools, with commentary in relation to previous inspection outcome. Noting that Ofsted no longer allocate one overall judgement; from November 2025 ‘Ofsted report cards’ show colour coded grades on a scale from Urgent improvement – Needs Attention – Expected Standard – Strong Standard – Exceptional, against different aspects of a school which include:

Attendance & Behaviour, Inclusion, Leadership & Governance, Personal Development & Well-being, Achievement, Curriculum & Teaching, and Post 16 / Early Years Provision.

Actions going forward (Future): In addition to maintaining an overview of inspection outcomes, the service holds an overview of schools that may be presenting some specific areas of concern within the Education and SEND dashboard. Internal meetings to review School categorisation / risk rating for all schools are scheduled across the academic year to provide oversight against 12 areas. This is updated at three points across the academic year.

Historic performance

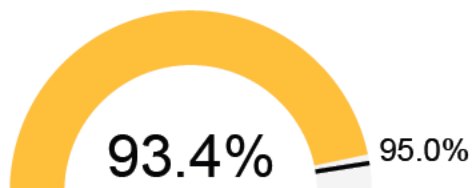


Performance status



Amber

Current performance



The target is: 95.0%

Direction of travel

Short trend

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Q4 2025-26

Long trend

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Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better

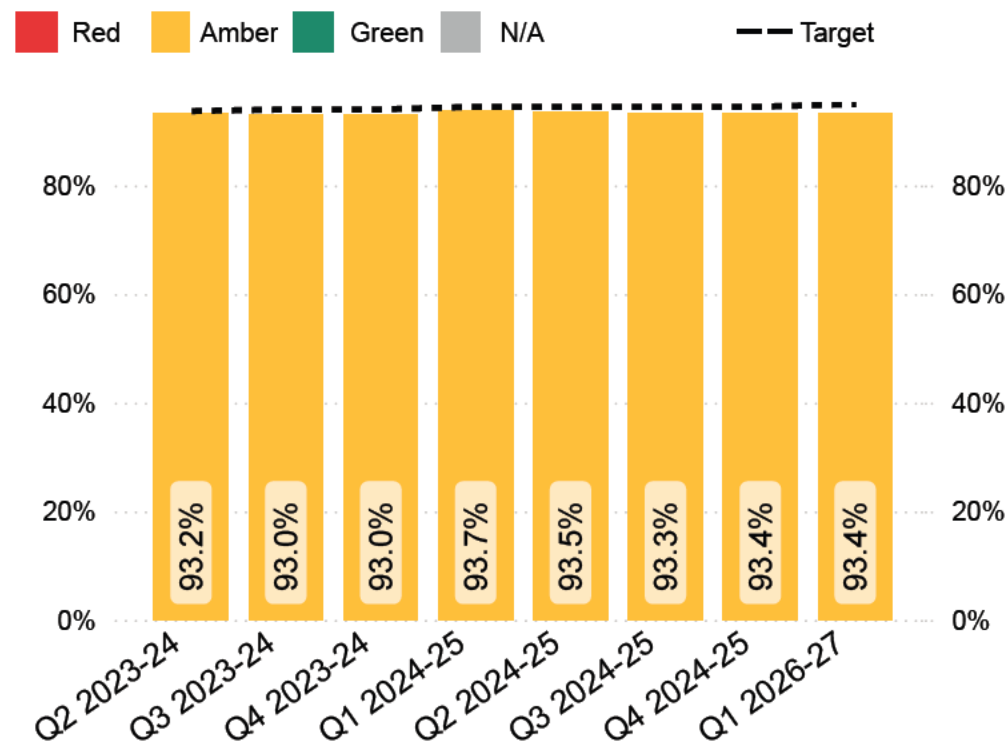
Indicator description

By 2027/28, the rate of attendance at primary and secondary schools is above 96% The target is 95%%, this will be taken from the triannual school census, using the full year published data for the 2025-26 academic year, which is usually available in available in Q3 of the 2026-27 financial year.

Update note

Attendance is reported in arrears. The most recent data is for the 2025/26 Autumn Term. Medway's attendance has improved by 0.1pp to 93.4%. This is 0.1pp worse than the national rate (93.5%). Medway is ranked 54th of all LAs, Medway were ranked 49th for the full 2024/25 academic year. Persistent Absence (PA), missing 10% or more of sessions is 19.2% ,1.2pp worse than national. Medway is ranked 63rd nationally for PA, Medway were ranked 56th for the full 2024/25 academic year. Severe Absence (SA), missing 50% of sessions is at 2.2%, 0.1pp worse than national. Medway is ranked 55th. Medway were ranked 52nd for the full 2024/25 academic year. Primary School attendance is 94.4%, 0.5pp worse than national. Primary PA is 16.7%, 2.3 pp worse than national. Primary SA is 1.5%, 0.5pp worse than national. Secondary Schools attendance is 92.6%, 0.3pp better than national. Secondary PA is 21.4%, 0.1pp better than national. Secondary SA is 2.7%, 0.5pp better than national. Work within the Attendance Advisory service is on-going with schools and trusts to utilise the DfE data toolkits that provide in year, granular information for pupil attendance. Although Medway's overall attendance has reduced, it remains above the national measure. Improvements in persistent and severe absence are beginning to be seen through tracking data at a school and local area level that should be evidenced within the next period. Actions - Targeted Support meetings continue throughout the academic year at an individual or Trust (group) are led by the local authority's attendance support team. They bring together school staff, local authority officers, and relevant professionals to discuss specific pupils or groups. The focus is on developing a shared understanding of the issues and agreeing on tailored actions. They are part of a graduated response, sitting between universal support and legal intervention.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly

The data for this indicator is collected: annually

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the proportion of pupils that meet the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 (end of year 6) is the same as or above the national average.

Update note

Provisional KS2 data is expected in September 2026.

In 2024-25 there has been a 0.9pp drop in the proportion of children reaching the required standard in reading, writing and mathematics. This has meant that Medway has dropped from 72nd out of 151 local authorities to 102nd. Compared to 2024 the disaggregated performance in reading has improved by 1pp to 73% but remained static for mathematics has remained at 71% meeting the required standard. There has been a 1 pp drop in writing attainment compared to 2024. Benchmarking: The national (provisional) outturn for the 2024/25 academic year was 62.3 %, arise of 1.6pp compared to the previous year.

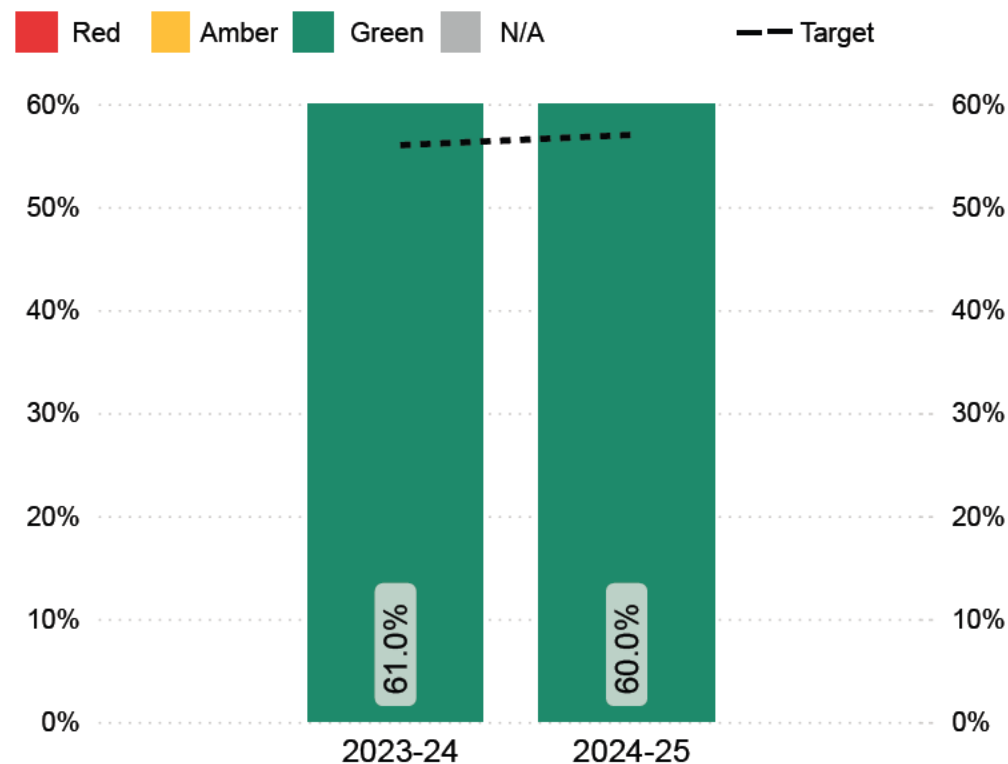
School performance data is analysed and published in the Annual School's Performance report to drive strategic action across the education landscape. Intelligence is shared with all partners to coordinate their individual operational planning across Medway Education Partnership group (MEPG), with representation from all education phases, including CEOs.

Collaborative working with local headteacher associations, asks for priorities for targeted actions at school and zone level addressing underperformance.

Achievements in the time period (Past/Present): Service to review and comment

Analysis of the performance across Medway is provided for schools broken down into core subjects and the performance of groups within this enables school leaders and governors / trust boards to have a strategic overview of the local area leading to evaluation of pupil outcomes for their own school / group of schools.

Historic performance



Performance status

an update has not been provided for this period

Current performance

an update has not been provided for this period

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the Average Attainment 8 Scores (Key Stage 4, 14-16-year-olds) are the same as or above the national average.

Update note

This metric is part of Priority 2, Benefitting from good education, quality jobs and a growing economy and the sub priority: Ensure all children and young people access a high-quality, inclusive education.

2025/26 provisional data is expected in November 2026.

The 2024/25 average attainment 8 score in Medway improved by 0.2 pp and passed national which remained the same at 45.9. Results in Medway have improved, compared to a static national position.

Individual school and trust performance data is shared with the DfE. Where there are concerns about schools, these are discussed during regular conversations with the Regional Director's team.

Actions going forward (Future):

The national RISE (Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence) programme focuses on four key priorities:

1.Inclusion – Ensuring all pupils, regardless of background or need, are supported to thrive.

2.Attainment – With a particular focus on English and maths.

3.Reception Quality – Improving the quality of early years education.

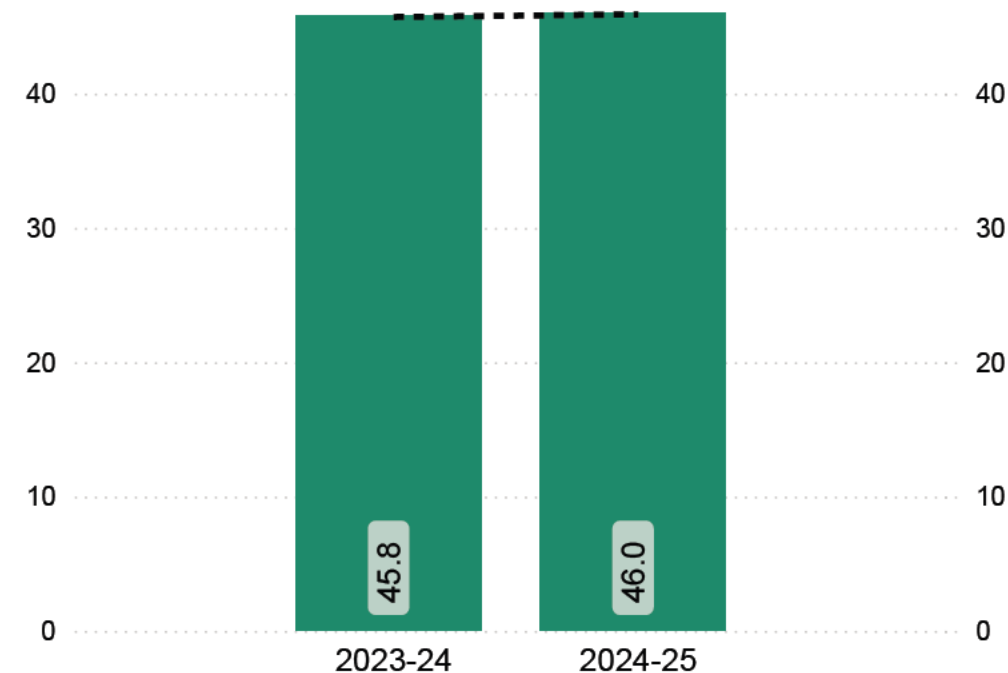
4.Attendance – Tackling persistent and severe absence to ensure pupils are regularly in school

Priorities are part of a broader effort to raise standards across the education system, especially in schools that are underperforming or facing persistent challenges. The RISE teams work both through targeted support for "stuck" schools and a universal offer to help all schools improve.

Although no school in Medway has been allocated a RISE advisor, it is pleasing to note the focus on attainment within the four priority areas.

Historic performance

Red Amber Green N/A Target

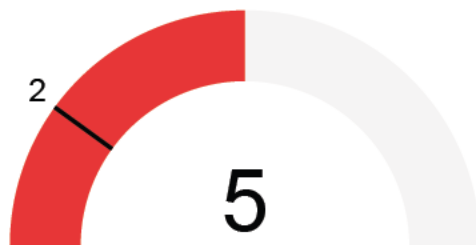


Performance status



Red

Current performance



The target is: 2

Direction of travel

Short trend



Q4 2025-26

Long trend



Q1 2025-26

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: lower is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the proportion of 16/17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training, or whose status is 'not known' has been reduced, such that Medway is ranked in the top 2 quintiles nationally for participation.

Update note

May 2026 data shows Medway remains in the 5th quintile, with 490 (6.2%) young people NEET and 227 (2.9%) with an unknown destination, totalling 717 (9.1%). This compares with 5.7% nationally and 6.7% across the South East. Between February and May 2026, combined NEET and Not Known figures increased nationally, regionally and locally. However, Medway's increase (1.3%) was lower than the national (6.3%), South East (7.9%) and Kent (12.9%) increases. Kent Choices implementation began in September and engagement has risen to 53%, up 1% on the previous month and close to KCC levels. Weekly MidKent College dropout data enables rapid follow-up, with 139 young people supported since September. Targeted prevention work with Electively Home Educated (EHE) pupils and those in the Youth Justice Service is achieving positive engagement through tracking, social media, family contact and Google Classroom, with 33 participants enrolled. Key events included the Supported Internship Event (January 2026), Marmot/NEET Conference (April 2026) and Opportunities Fair (April 2026). A new RAG system is improving focus on outcomes, with over 50% appointment attendance at the Chatham hub. Work continues to strengthen data sharing with MidKent College and schools to improve early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET. A NEET prevention pilot with Connections will launch in September 2026 in three schools with the highest NEET levels. Additional 2026/27 provision includes courses with OHOB, Brighter Future, MAE and TCHC, alongside MKC GCSE opportunities for EHE learners in English, maths, PSHE, photography and science.

Historic performance



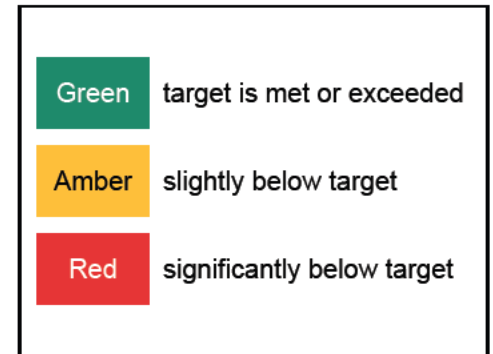
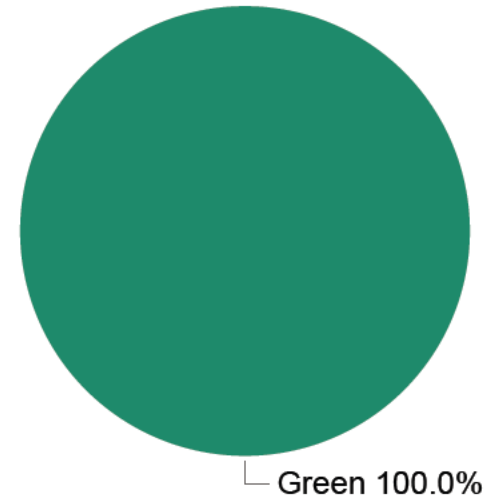


Improving health and wellbeing for all

- Empowering people to achieve good health and wellbeing through prevention, with access to local activities and services that will enable and support them to lead independent, active and healthy lifestyles.
- Support families to give their children the best start in life.
- Work collaboratively to grow participation year on year in recreational play, sport and physical activity as a means of promoting improved physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Work in partnership with communities and organisations to address the issues that negatively affect health and wellbeing, making sure everyone has the opportunity to live long, healthy lives.

Summary of performance Priority 4

There are 9 indicators for Priority 4. 3 indicators have data reported for this quarter. There are 6 indicators which have no data reported for this quarter, for which no indicator status could be determined.



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: annually.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: lower is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the proportion of mothers smoking at time of delivery will be less than 7%.

Update note

By 2027/28, the proportion of mothers smoking at time of delivery will be less than 7%.

This performance indicator is reported a year in arrears. This data is calculated by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and is based on data from NHS England. The value for 2025/26 will be available in October 2026.

Achievements - The proportion of mothers smoking at time of delivery in Medway decreased to 7.0% in 2024/25. This continues a downward trend from previous years.

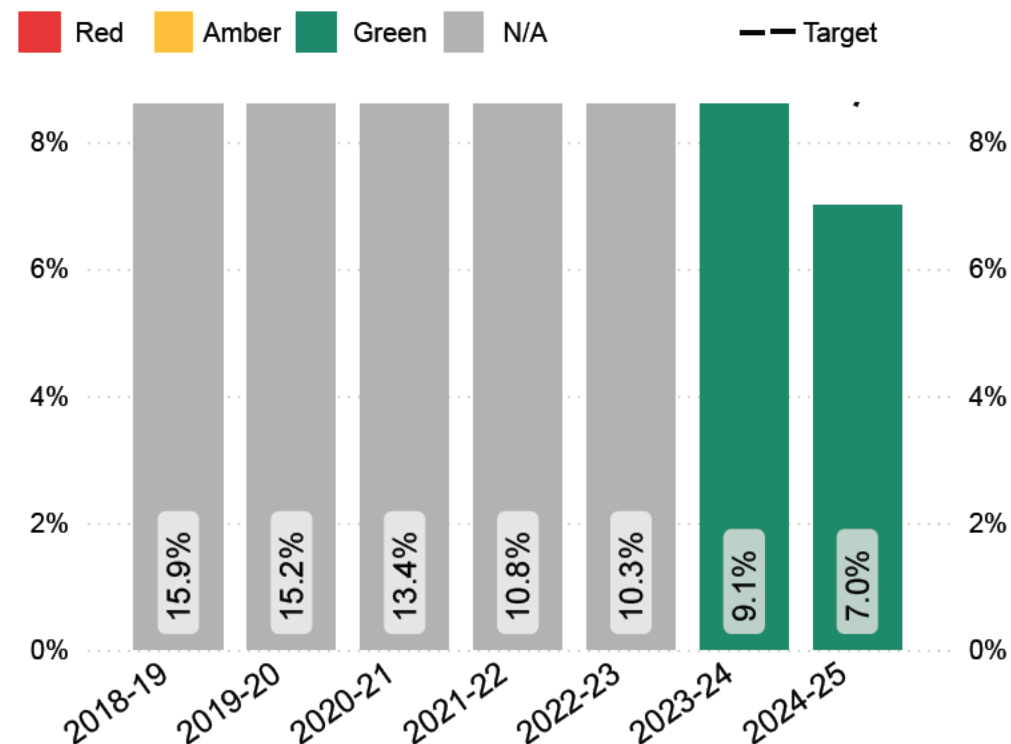
As part of the NHS Long Term Plan, Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) supports England's smoke-free goal by providing NHS-funded treatment services to pregnant smokers. MFT is now extending the National Smoke-Free Pregnancy Incentive Scheme to allow pregnant women to nominate a friend or family member to quit smoking with them. This pathway is supported by Medway Stop Smoking Service, who offer the behavioural support and treatment to referred friends or family members.

Carbon monoxide testing at all antenatal contacts, across community and acute settings, was launched in April 2026.

Actions - The Public Health team applies best practice from 'Saving Babies Lives Version Three' by working with stakeholders to sustain referral pathways and support postnatal individuals to reduce relapse risk.

MFT's Lead Midwife for Smoking in Pregnancy continues to promote the National Smoke-free Pregnancy Incentive Scheme.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: annually.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the proportion of infants that are totally or partially breastfed at age 6-8 weeks will be similar or higher compared to the England average.

Update note

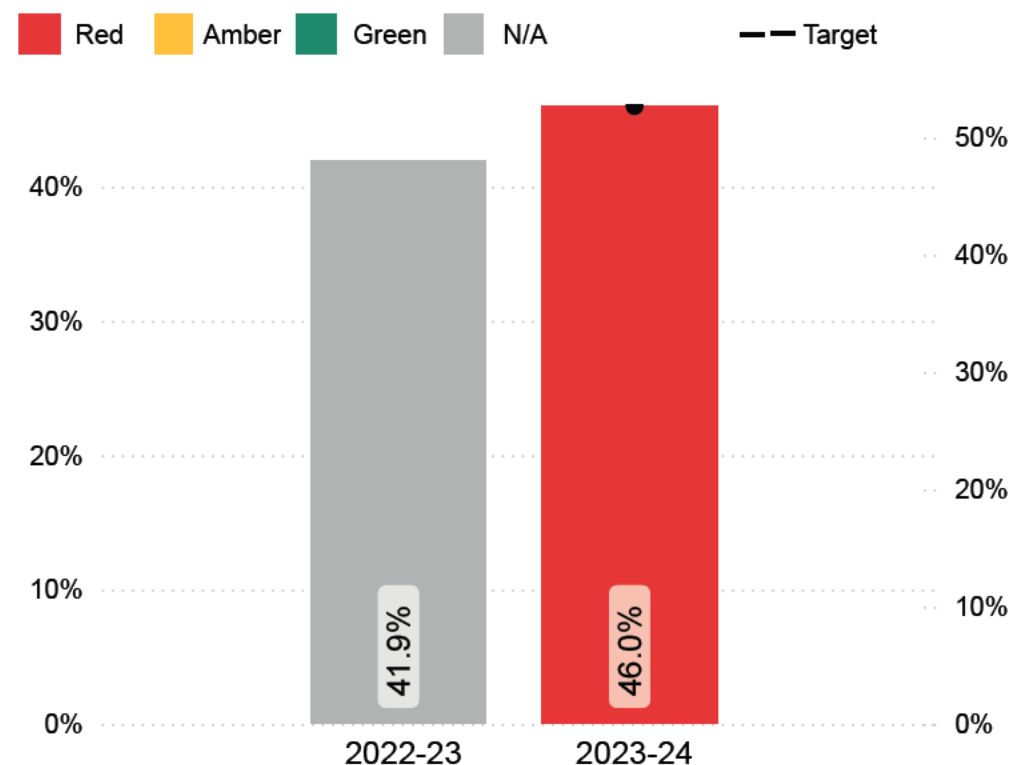
By 2027/28, the proportion of infants that are totally or partially breastfed at age 6-8 weeks will be similar or higher compared to the England average.

This performance indicator is reported a year in arrears; the current value is for 2023/24. Data for 2024/25 from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) is not published due to data quality reasons. Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks is recorded and reported by the Medway Community Healthcare Health Visiting service, who assign a Health Visitor to all newborn infants. During these appointments, the feeding status of the infant is asked for all babies and recorded as either bottle feeding, breastfeeding, or a combination of both. Medway has a range of interventions to encourage breastfeeding initiation and continuation.

The Medway Infant Feeding Strategy group is a partnership of midwives, health visitors, Family First, Public Health and Commissioners. In Q1 2026/27, the group reviewed recent progress including a detailed insights report identifying barriers to parents attending Hello Baby sessions. This report gathered resident views and is being used to help improve the offer and how the service is marketed.

The midwife-lead 'Welcome to Parenthood' session for expectant parents was also reviewed. This data shows increasing sign-up levels of this service and good uptake for low breastfeeding groups.

Historic performance

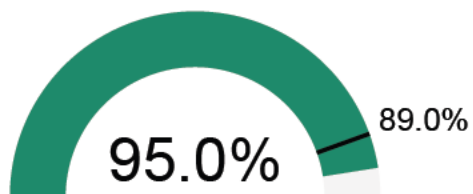


Performance status



Green

Current performance



The target is: 89.0%

Direction of travel

Short trend



Q3 2025-26

Long trend



Q4 2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, at least 90% of children have a new birth visit within 14 days.

Update note

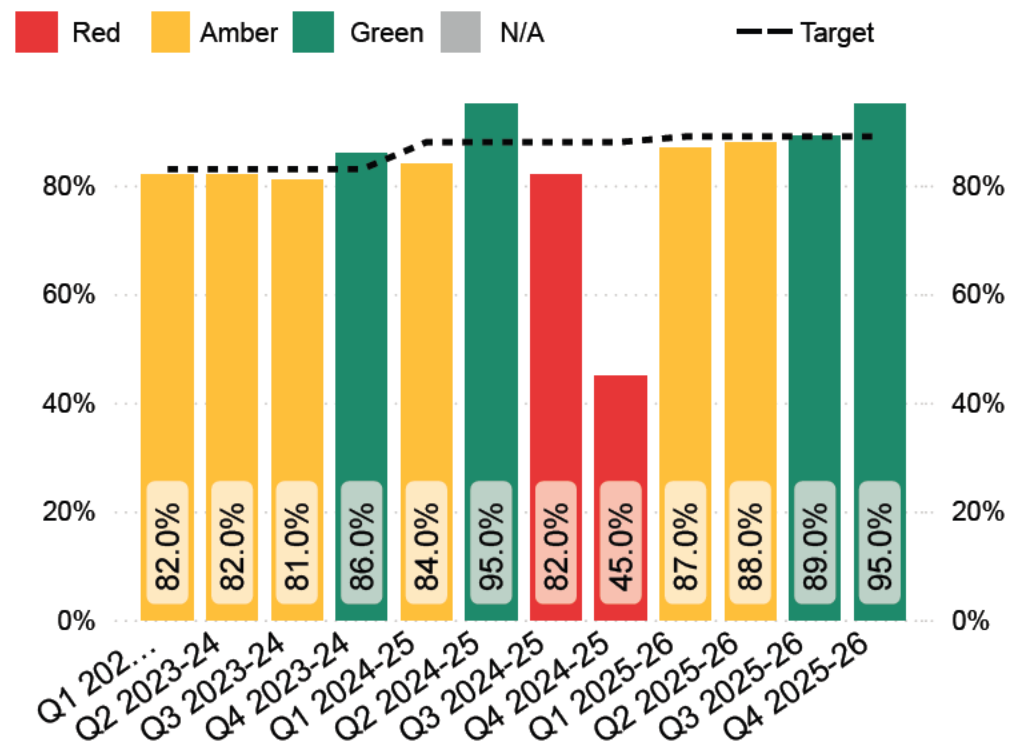
By 2027/28, at least 90% of children will have a new birth visit within 14 days of their day of birth. Performance of new birth visits completed within 14 days was 95% in Q4 2025/26, exceeding the 4-year set target. Complete coverage of new birth visits in total was 97% including those seen outside of the 14-day cut off.

Commissioners have worked with Medway Community Healthcare (MCH) to support changes to their data reporting systems. MCH have made updates to meet the requirements of the Community Services Data Set (CSDS), which is the national system used to collect community health activity data. They gave reassurance that existing reporting within Power BI remains in place; the creation of submission files for the CSDS process has been automated so it is possible to re-run previous months data if required; and lastly that any submissions missed will be covered by the previous or following months submission window.

In Q4 2024/25, Medway Community Healthcare (MCH) experienced a significant cyber security incident which affected data quality. Live monitoring of the MCH data throughout 2025/26 has suggested that the service has fully recovered.

The Early Years Programme Manager has been gaining regular oversight of the health visitor workforce to understand service delivery and supporting actions to reduce the number of families not attending. This regular oversight will continue.

Historic performance

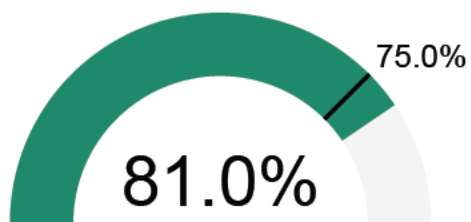


Performance status



Green

Current performance



The target is: 75.0%

Direction of travel

Short trend



Q3 2025-26

Long trend



Q4 2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: quarterly.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, 75% of children receive a 2-2½ year health and development review.

Update note

By 2027/28, 75% of children receive a 2-2½ year health and development review.

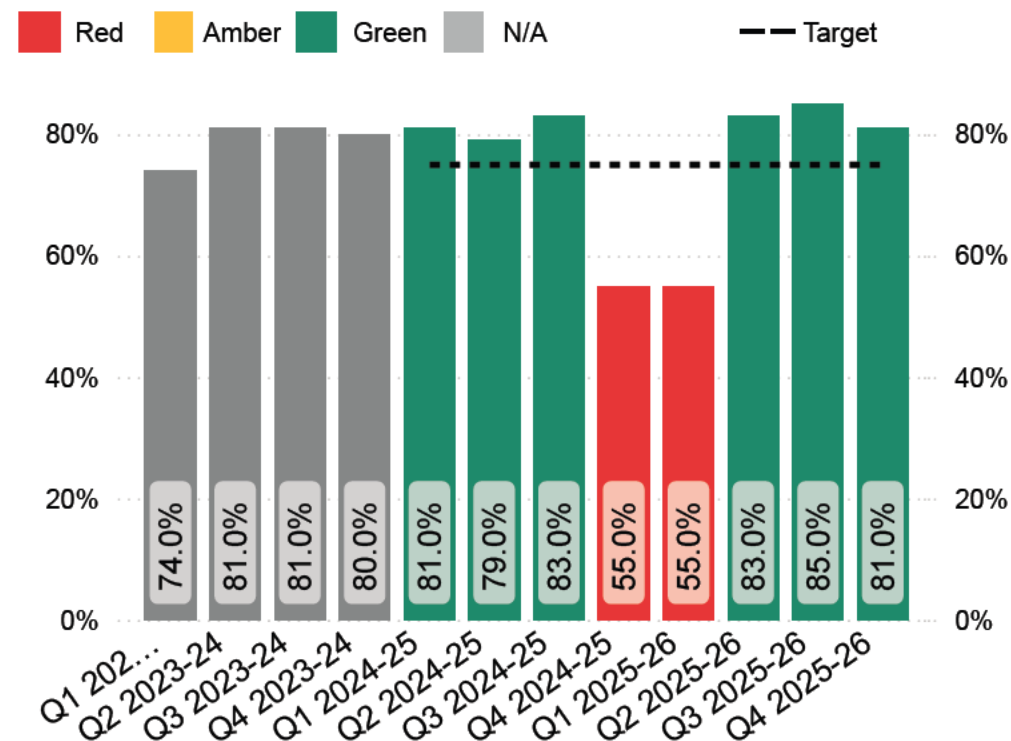
This review provides an early check on a child's speech, language, physical, social and emotional development. It helps identify any concerns early and puts support in place when it can make the biggest difference. Consistent uptake of the review helps children access the right support sooner, reduces the risk of developmental delays becoming more established, and better prepares children for learning when they start school.

The current cohort will be those assessed for Good Levels of Development (GLD) at the end of reception in 2028 as part of the Best Start in Life strategy/mission.

The service continues to exceed the target of 75%, Q4 2025/26 was slightly lower than the previous quarter with 81% of children receiving a 2-2½ year health review as compared to 85% in Q3.

The Early Years Programme Manager continues to work closely with colleagues in Education and MCH to ensure uptake of the 2-year check stays high and consistent, helping to support good levels of development and prevent any drop-off. There is currently collaborative work taking place to ensure consistency across Medway between the 2-year development review and the early years practitioner 2-year progress reviews. This integration will allow for a holistic assessment around the child and therefore impact overall GLD.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the proportion of pupils that achieve a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage is the same as or above the national average.

Update note

This metric is part of Priority 4, Improving health and wellbeing for all and the sub priority: Support families to give their children the best start in life.

The 2025-26 outturn is expected in November 2026

In 2024-25 just under 70% of pupils achieved a good level of development. This is an improvement on last year. Nationally results improved by 0.6pp, this was less of the increase seen in Medway, where a 1.6pp improvement occurred. As such Medway now outperforms national by 1.3pp, a 1pp improvement on the 0.3pp gap in 2023-24.

The Council's oversight of the performance (Ofsted judgement) for all early year's settings and standards achieved (pupil outcomes) by the end of the Reception year in schools is vital for creating a robust early year's system that supports children's development and prepares them for future educational success. The DfE Best Start in Life strategy (BSiL) sets out comprehensive plans to improve outcomes for children from birth to age 5. The core mission is to ensure 75% of 5-year-olds in England achieve a Good Level of Development by 2028; in Medway, based on the trend of performance, the expectation is 77%.

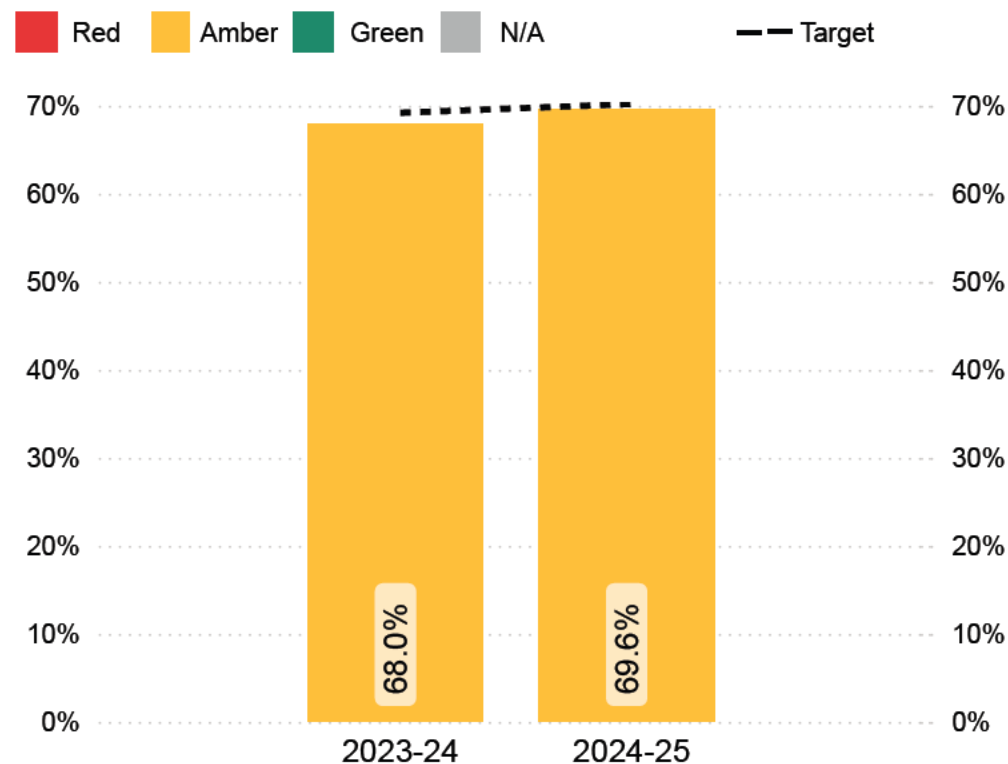
Achievements in the time period (Past/Present):

The Government vision for Best Start Family Hubs is to provide joined up services in the community to work towards the GLD target. Working together across Public Health, Education and Family Solutions BSiL planning will inform operational action plans, overseen by an Early Years Partnership Board reporting to CADMT.

Actions going forward (Future):

The BSiL programme continues at pace; the Early Years Partnership Board (EYPB) oversees the BSiL delivery team to ensure an effective multi agency approach to complex issues.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the proportion of children in Year 6 (age 10-11 years) that maintain a healthy weight is the same as or above 60%.

Update note

By 2027/28, the proportion of children in Year 6 (aged 10–11 years) that maintain a healthy weight is the same as or above 60%. This performance indicator is reported a year in arrears. This data comes from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and is based on data from NHS England. Data for 2025/26 will be available in December 2026.

National Child Measurement Programme data shows that 60.6% of Year 6 children in Medway maintained a healthy weight in 2024/25, exceeding the target of 60%. This value has improved over the last three years after a decline in 2020/21.

In Q1 2026/27, service delivery included four Little Chefs programmes, four Little Food Explorers programmes and Tri Club and Tri Tasters healthy weight interventions. Additional settings joined and achieved Healthy Early Years Award accreditation. School food research progressed with engagement from pupils, parents and schools which will inform future recommendations.

Oral health promotion during Smile Month reached thousands of residents while supervised toothbrushing was delivered in 34 settings reaching 1,349 children.

Actions:

- Increase engagement in family healthy weight programmes through targeted promotion and additional facilitator training planned to support this.
- Strengthen referral pathways with schools, Family Solutions and Medway Community Healthcare.
- Free School Meal auto-enrolment to help increase access to support.
- New Tri Club, FitFix and community healthy eating programmes are planned for Q2 and Q3.
- Oral health promotion and Healthy Early Years engagement.
- Development of the Obesity Safeguarding Framework.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, the percentage of physically active children and young people will be similar or higher compared to the England average.

Update note

By 2027/28, the percentage of physically active children and young people will be similar or higher compared to the England average.

This data comes from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and is based on data from Sport England. The value for 2025/26 will be available in February 2027.

The latest value is 41.9% in 2024/25, which is statistically worse than the England value of 49.1%.

Achievements

- Work is progressing with Active Kent and Medway and wider partners to create a bid for a second round of Place Based Partnership funding using the evidence collected from the test and Learn sessions.
- Medway is part of the Patchwork Programme — a nine-month journey exploring how to bring physical literacy into real-world practice for children and young people.
- Implementation of the service plan for 2026/27 focusing on children and young people is underway.

Actions

- Continued working on Test and Learn phases to secure funding from Place Based Partnerships.

Historic performance



Performance status

An update has not been provided for this period.

Current performance

An update has not been provided for this period.

(Blank)

Direction of travel

Short trend

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2025-26

Long trend

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2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28, increase by a minimum of 15% the number of children and young people swimming lessons held at Medway Council sports centres.

Update note

Current swimming lesson participation numbers (weekly average) x 9 weeks (1 April to 1 June)

Medway Park 876 x 9 weeks = 7884

Strood 611 x 9 weeks = 5499

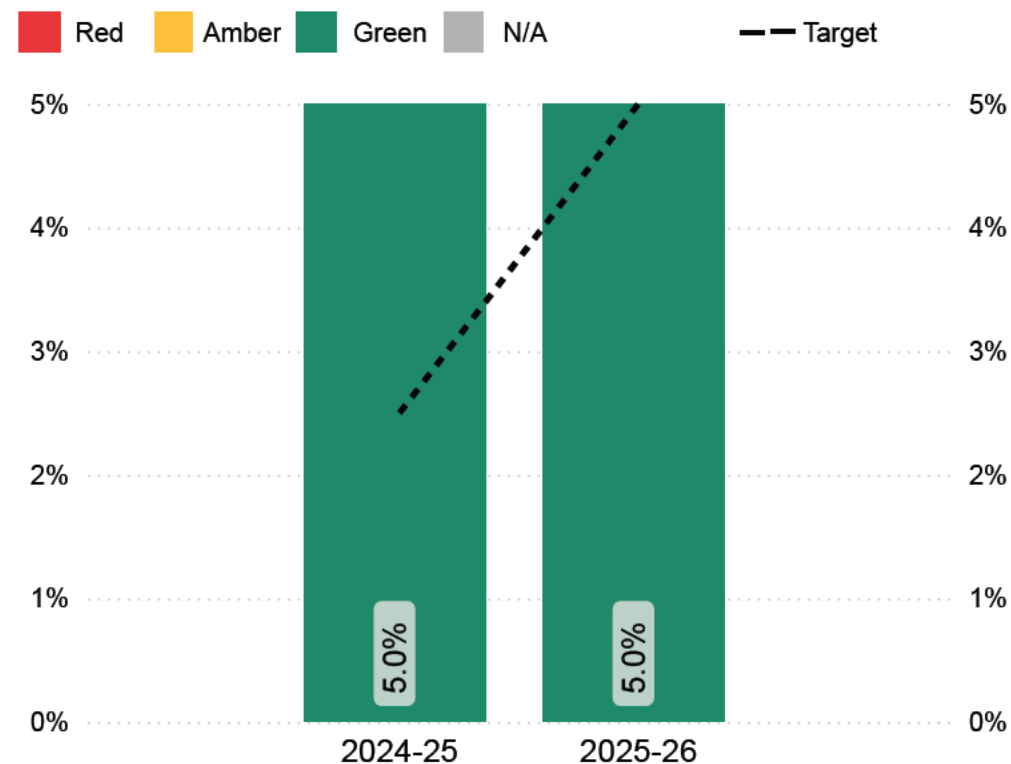
Hoo 408 x 9 weeks = 3672

Cozenton Park 553 x 9 weeks = 4977

Total = 22,032 participants across our swimming lessons this financial year to date.

This is an annual target of increase swimming lessons by 5%, so increase percentage will be shown at end of budget year. The swimming lessons figures have increased in comparison to last year, so we are on target to achieve the 15% by 2027/28.

Historic performance

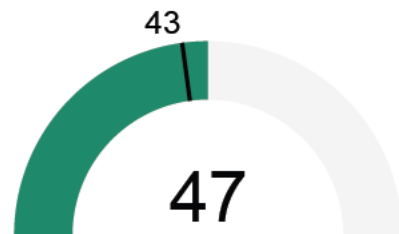


Performance status



Green

Current performance



The target is: 43

Direction of travel

Short trend



2025-26

Long trend



2024-25

The reporting frequency for this indicator is: quarterly.

The data for this indicator is collected: annually.

The tolerance for this indicator is set to: higher is better.

Indicator description

By 2027/28 a minimum of 43 primary schools per year enter a minimum of two Mini Youth Games events.

Update note

47 Schools took part in two or more Mini Youth Games events in Q1

Tag Rugby

48 Schools attended Tag Rugby

66 teams competed over the two competition days

Football

55 Schools attended Football

73 teams competed over the two competition days

Cricket

29 Schools attended Cricket

31 teams competed over the two competition days

It's worth noting that Cricket was lower than normal as due to the heatwave the event was postponed by one week. Therefore, a lot of schools that originally entered had to withdraw from attending the rescheduled dates.

Historic performance

Red Amber Green N/A Target

