



Developing effective commissioning arrangements for Children's Continuing Care

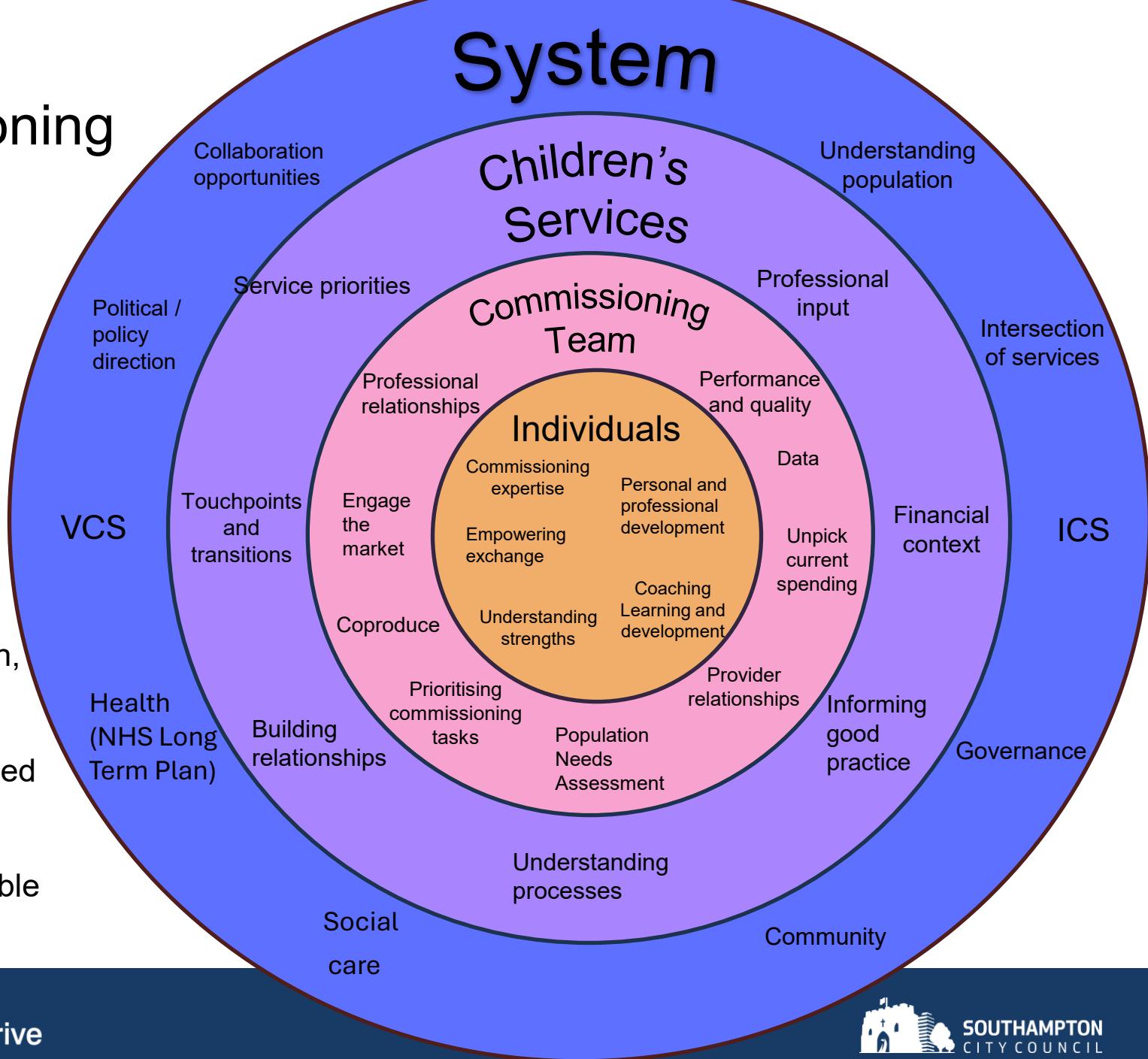
Children's Commissioning Team

System

Children's Services

Commissioning Team

Individuals



2024 Pen profile of Southampton



Population of
263,769



Life expectancy years -
Males **77.8** and
Females **82.4**



102,290
households



Average
house price
£231,528



Southampton covers
49.8km²



75% 16-64
yrs olds in
employment



12.6% residents
consider
themselves other
than white British



8 Green
Flag
awards for
parks



Ranked in the **top 10%**
for Good Growth

Over **100** play areas, **24** MUGAs, **6**
Skateparks and **7** tennis courts and
2 golf courses



6,000 (4.3%)
residents
claiming
work
benefits



16,304
council
house
s



7,615 business
enterprises



37,800 higher
education
students



£652 - average
gross weekly
wage (resident)



200 green spaces cover over **950** hectares (**20%** of
Southampton land) including parks, gardens, recreation
grounds, natural habitats, ecology areas managed for
wildlife (**75** sites), woodlands and greenways

Number of children in Southampton aged 0-17

50,373

Percentage of population who are children Southampton

19.67%
England
20.8%

Pupils eligible for free school meals Southampton

35.1%
England
24.6%

Number of young people in Southampton aged 16-17

5,263

Percentage of children 0-15 in low income families (absolute) Southampton

21.0%
England
18.7%

Percentage of young people aged 16-17 that are not in education, employment or training Southampton

4.6%
England
3.2%

Rate of First Time Entrants into Youth Justice Southampton

205 per 100k
England
161 per 100k

Number of children with an Open Child in Need (CIN) Referral

1,856

Rate per 10k 372 (March 25)

Number of children who are on a child protection plan

294

Rate per 10k 59 (March 25)

Number of children who are cared for in Southampton

462

Rate per 10k 93 (March 25)

Number of children who have an active Education and Health Care Plan

2769

Rate per 10k 550 (Feb 24)

Case for change

- The purpose and processes of the panel are unclear:
 - Conversations about funding, case management, equipment, and multi-agency intervention all occur in the same meeting.
 - Panel membership does not align with these varied functions.
- Residential placements should be managed outside of the Children's Complex Needs panel.
- The panel's terms of reference and membership need review:
 - Key decision-makers are not present at meetings.
- Decision-making flow issues:
 - Cases are sent to MARP for final decisions, often after review by CNP, causing delays and unnecessary repetition.
 - Delays occur in assessment, funding allocation, and decision-making, unrelated to the outcome of the Pre-Checklist.
- Placement brokerage requires improved oversight of costs and quality.
- Existing forms do not adequately support case discussions prior to panel meetings, and costs are not clearly presented.
- Completion of the Pre-Checklist, particularly regarding health evidence, needs to be addressed. Strengthen the Multi agency meetings/ case planning.

Improvement Journey

- Updated panel terms of reference to ensure decision-makers are included as members.
- Commissioned clinical reviews for placements with high associated costs.
- Initiated data collection to support the funding matrix.
- Developed a complex care pathway for non-continuing care in collaboration with the ICB.
- Enhanced the Dynamic Support Register process.
- Engaged with care providers to strengthen market relationships.
- Collaborated with ICB colleagues to review the pre-checklist for children's continuing care.
- Strengthen the Multi agency care planning
- Identified training needs for social workers; NHS training has been shared, followed by a questions and answered session.