

HWB Strategy 2023-2028 - Highlight Reports – Goal Achievements

Purpose

Bi-annual “Highlight Reports” will provide an overview of activity and progress of local shared projects supporting the delivery of the three goals of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These reports will describe what has been achieved against the outcomes, how collaborative working has aided this progress and identify new data and insights that have been released in the previous 6 months.

Highlight Reports will be used to increase awareness through organisations of delivery of the strategy and are intended for wider use with partners and the public, and to support a wider understanding of the priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Highlight Reports will provide an overview of each goal, describe what has been achieved in the previous reporting period and how collaborative working has aided this progress. Detailed implementation plans will continue to sit behind the Highlight Reports with risks escalated to the HWB Board as necessary.

Highlight Report

Goal 1. Children are ready for school

Goal 1 - Children are ready for school			
Reporting timeframe - 1 st October 2023 – 31 st March 2024			
RAG Rating – please complete status for goal achievement (tick relevant box)			
Red – no progress		Amber – Moderate progress	
Green - Significant progress			
Overall goal achievement/progress against outcome		Overall goal achievement against reducing health inequalities	
Red	RED	Red	RED
Amber		Amber	
Green		Green	

Outcomes by 2028 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children across Dudley will achieve a good level of development at the end of reception that is at least similar, if not higher, than the average for the West Midlands. While it has been improving, Dudley has consistently had a lower percentage (62% in 21/22) of children that are achieving a good level of development at the end of reception compared to the West Midlands (64%) and England averages (65%). The gap between children on free school meals who have a good level of development at the end of reception and those who are not eligible for free school meals will have narrowed. Only 45% of Dudley children on free school meals were school ready in 21/22 compared to 66% of children who were not eligible for free school meals 	
Who is leading this?	<p>Goal sponsors:</p> <p>Phil Bullingham on behalf of Sal Thirlway, Service Director of Education, SEND & Family Solutions, DMBC</p> <p>Sarah Dougan, Contractor, Head of Children, Young People, Adults and Older People, DMBC</p>
Goal 1 is focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing shared leadership to set the vision and 10- year strategic plan for whole-system early years transformation. Increasing integration of early years health, education and local authority services, so that parents and children do not have to repeat their stories. This means improving links both between services and between commissioning responsibilities. Working to keep the best parts of Family Hubs & Start for Life programme, by supporting the longevity of priority commitments and activities beyond the programme's 3-year funding period (ending on 31 March 2025). 	
What has been achieved for this reporting period under Goal 1: (please	Speech, Language and Communication Needs Dudley has poorer outcomes in the percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at age 2-2.5 years

<p>include specific achievements with respect to health inequalities)</p>	<p>and age 5 compared to the West Midlands and England averages.</p> <p>There has been a focus on making improvements in earlier identification and action on Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) during the past 6 months:</p> <p><u>Wellcomm Toolkit Rollout:</u></p> <p>The Integrated Early Years Service (IEYS) have delivered a rollout of the Wellcomm toolkit which helps to identify pre-school and primary school children who are experiencing barriers to speech and language development. Early years settings are now benefiting from a tool which enables them to recognise need and (pending any further assessment) undertake levels of support and intervention. This is a key aspect in supporting school readiness. We have seen an increase in confidence across the Early Years network where children are connected more rapidly to early identification pathways and targeted support for speech and language.</p> <p>The aim is to boost good levels of development measures for under 5's particularly around communication and language development and in response enable additional support via health and hub services – such as home learning and parent coaching to compliment early years experiences and enhance school readiness.</p> <p>Health visitors will be accessing Wellcomm training in Spring 2024 with a view to embedding the toolkit into health and development reviews.</p> <p>The Wellcomm data return tool has been developed and we will request returns from Spring term (retrospectively for autumn 23 then summer 24). This is a trial period of the tool with selected providers and is underway to ensure engagement in completion is optimised.</p> <p>We have had some positive feedback where gaps in language development are being identified earlier and</p>
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interventions are in place. Speech and language services have fed back that early education provision are submitting referrals with Wellcomm assessment, showing children are receiving interventions early.

Once the data is available, we will make further improvements to the offer based on the results.

SLCN Digital Offer

This is a resource hub and for parents and practitioners to access support and resources to support children's language and communication development from universal services onwards.

The Speech Language Communication (SLCN) Digital Offer 'soft launch' February 2024 is underway. Further co production with Dudley Family Voices and stakeholders is ongoing. We will gather further feedback to inform development of this pathway. This approach has been advised by Speech and Language UK who are complimentary of the work we have undertaken his area.

Needs analysis and commissioning

A task and finish group from across the partnership is driving forward a whole-system approach to commissioning to meet local 0-24 SLCN. They will oversee the development of a needs assessment on SLCN which will be led by Public Health to inform commissioning and the development of a joint commissioning framework for 0-24 SLC support in Dudley.

The needs assessment will be developed in early summer with the exception that a joint commissioning framework will be completed by April 2025.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Equally, there has been a concerted effort to improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Inclusion Hubs

The development of Early Years inclusion Hubs across the Borough had moved into its operation phase and children have commenced in their settings. This is linked to school readiness as inclusion experiences in mainstream settings can improve the early identification of need and to ensure children get the right support at the right time – connected to local services.

4 out of 5 Early Years Inclusion Hubs operational as of January 24, offering early intervention across the Borough. The 5th Hub for the Brierley Hill area was delayed due to a change in provider as part of the LA's due diligence. We are identifying a replacement resource to and will soon be able to determine timeframes.

Health Early Notification (EN)

The pathway enables health professionals to carry out their statutory duty to inform the LA where children are identified with SEND and where the need is likely to be ongoing. To ensure the right support is in place at the right time.

The pathway has been revisited to raise its profile, new DCO will take lead going forward to embed further across health partners. Plan for a Black Country Early Notification process to be launched by March 24. Internal and partner work ongoing to raise awareness of the pathway. Referrals into the pathway remain low and we expect this to progress as the awareness work embeds.

Early intervention and assessment resource (AIRC)

This is a support service, which is targeted and a time bound intervention to support those reception year children who arrive at school where further assessment and support is required. The main purpose is to support the re-integration of children back to their mainstream provision, in addition to the upskilling of staff of the home school.

	<p>0-19 (25 SEND) public health services</p> <p>Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust has been awarded the 0-19 (SEND) public health services contract from 1st April and Public Health are working with all providers to mobilise the new service.</p> <p>The first year of the contract will be a development year as this is a new service model for Dudley. To inform this we have been undertaking the following work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equity audit of health visiting outcomes by deprivation and ethnicity - Identification of key priorities for the new service, working with partners - Developing a governance framework for the service, which will involve key partners
Latest Data and insights	<p>*All of the figures are in the appendix to enable font sizes to be larger*</p> <p>When interpreting the data against activities to improve school readiness in the borough, it is important to consider that initiatives such as the Family Hubs for example, were only being set up during 22/23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 22/23, Dudley was worse than England for all school readiness indicators (fig 1) and ranked 11th out of 14 local authorities in the West Midlands region for the overall proportion of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception (fig 2). • The overall proportion of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception and the proportion of children achieving the expected level in phonics in year 1 has increased in Dudley since 2021/22 (fig 3). However, the national average has increased more so the gap with Dudley has widened. • The proportion achieving the expected level in communication and language skills has

	<p>remained the same in 2022/23 as the previous year in Dudley (fig 3), while the national average has increased, further widening the gap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no increase in the proportion of children with free school meal status achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception, which has resulted in a widening of the gap between children with and without free school meal status (figs 3 and 4). Dudley has the lowest level of good development for children on FSM in the West Midlands (fig 5). • The gap in the proportion of children achieving the expected level in phonics in year 1 for those children with and without free school meal status has narrowed slightly in 2022/23 (fig 4).
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Delivering integrated early years assessment is key in this work. Some of this will be achieved by working with Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust as the new provider for the 0-19 Service. We will review ways of working across the integrated partnership network and become more effective in our joint work. For example, to strengthen the integrated review 2-2.5 year model and data sharing practices around the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ).</p> <p>There are opportunities to become more data driven to ensure that we are targeting the children and areas of greatest need to make quicker improvements. We will do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing “scorecards” for Family Hubs across a range of demographic and equalities indicators as well as service-level indicators. - undertaking equity audits to look at whether there need to be changes in service delivery and accessibility. - developing the SCLN needs assessment. <p>The Growing Up in Dudley report has just been published and we will also need to take stock of the insights within it to help further shape this programme of work.</p>

Challenges	<p>Workforce capacity to deliver transformation and organisational change for some partners/services while continuing with business as usual is the biggest challenge. To address this, we will be developing a more robust programme management approach to delivering against school readiness.</p> <p>The latest data shows that while there has been some improvement in school readiness in Dudley, the rate of improvement between 21/22 and 22/23 has been less than that seen for the West Midlands and England averages, so the gap is increasing. We need to do more work to understand why this is the case and where greater improvements need to be made, noting that this work started part way through 22/23.</p> <p>There needs to be more focussed work on children on free school meals as there has been no improvement on school readiness between 21/22 and 22/23. The analysis on Child Poverty across Dudley has just been completed. This needs to be shared with partners and next steps agreed. A recommendation from this includes needing to look at the distribution of resource (workforce and expenditure) across the borough to ensure it is aligned with need. This also needs to be joined up with other work on poverty / financial wellbeing.</p>
Milestones or expected achievements for the next 6 months	<p><u>SLCN:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to roll-out WellComm and monitor and act on data 2. Deliver an effective Digital Pathway for SLCN 3. Complete the SLCN needs assessment and commissioning framework <p><u>SEND:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Fully operational Inclusion Hubs 5. For Co-production and Outcomes profiling to be embedded 6. For the partnership to build in data sharing systems to ensure integrated approaches are effective - so we can target support services.

	<p>7. To increase usage of the early notification of need pathway.</p> <p><u>0-19 (25 SEND) Public Health service:</u></p> <p>8. Successful mobilisation of new service</p> <p>9. Equity audit of health visitor checks/outcomes completed</p> <p>10. Development priorities identified across partners and being implemented, to include actions on equity</p> <p><u>Other:</u></p> <p>11. Family Hub “scorecards” developed</p>
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APPENDIX

Figure 1

Indicator	Time period	Dudley (%)	Compared to England	England (%)
School readiness: percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	2022/23	63.3	Worse	67.2
School Readiness: percentage of children with free school meal status achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	2022/23	44.2	Worse	51.6
School readiness: percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of Reception	2022/23	75.8	Worse	79.7
School readiness: percentage of children achieving the expected level in the phonics screening check in Year 1	2022/23	76.0	Worse	78.9
School readiness: percentage of children with free school meal status achieving the expected level in the phonics screening check in Year 1	2022/23	63.4	Worse	66.5

Figure 2

School readiness: percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception 2022/23

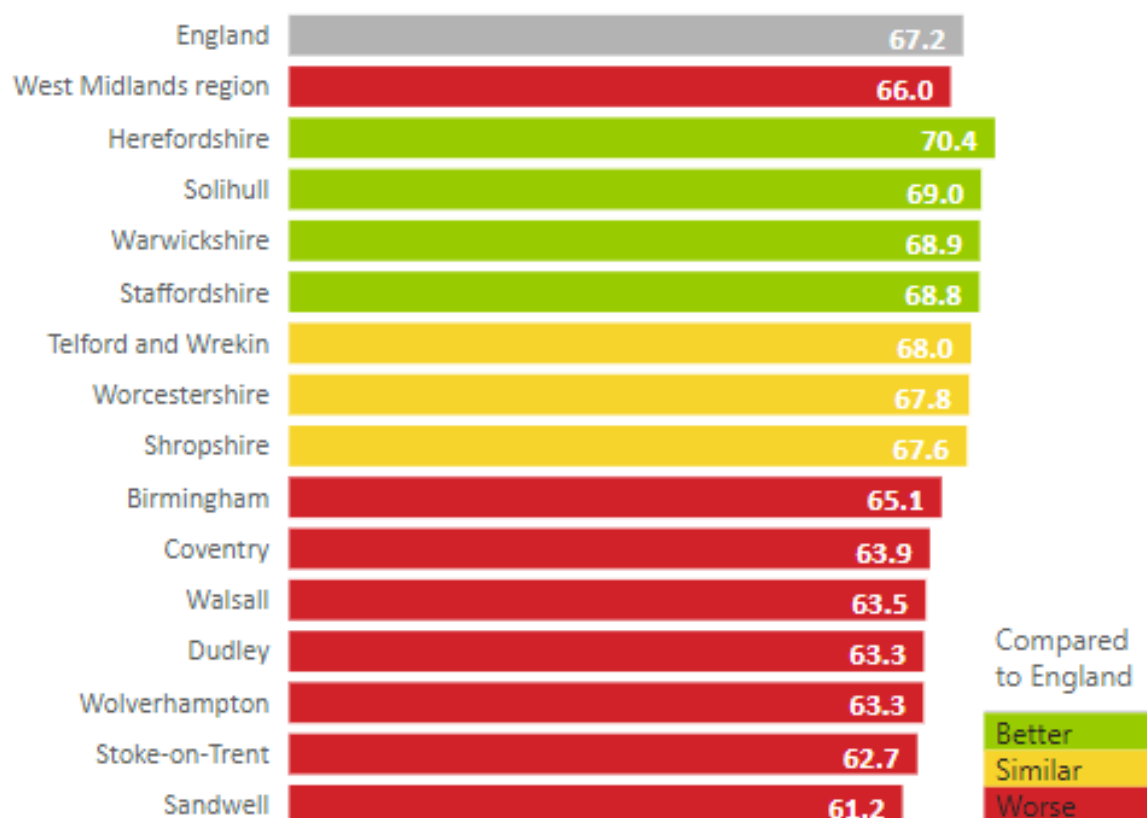


Figure 3

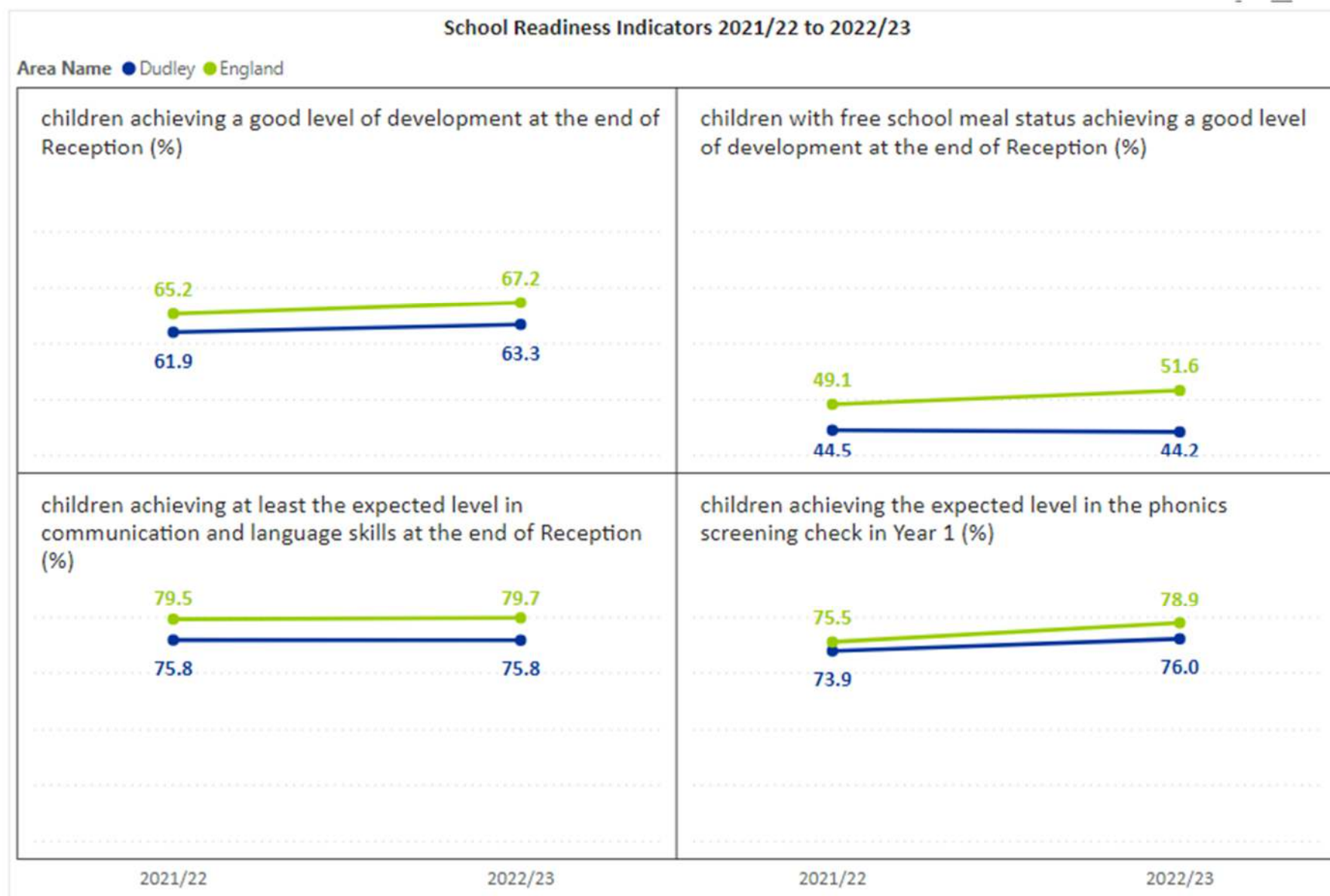


Figure 4

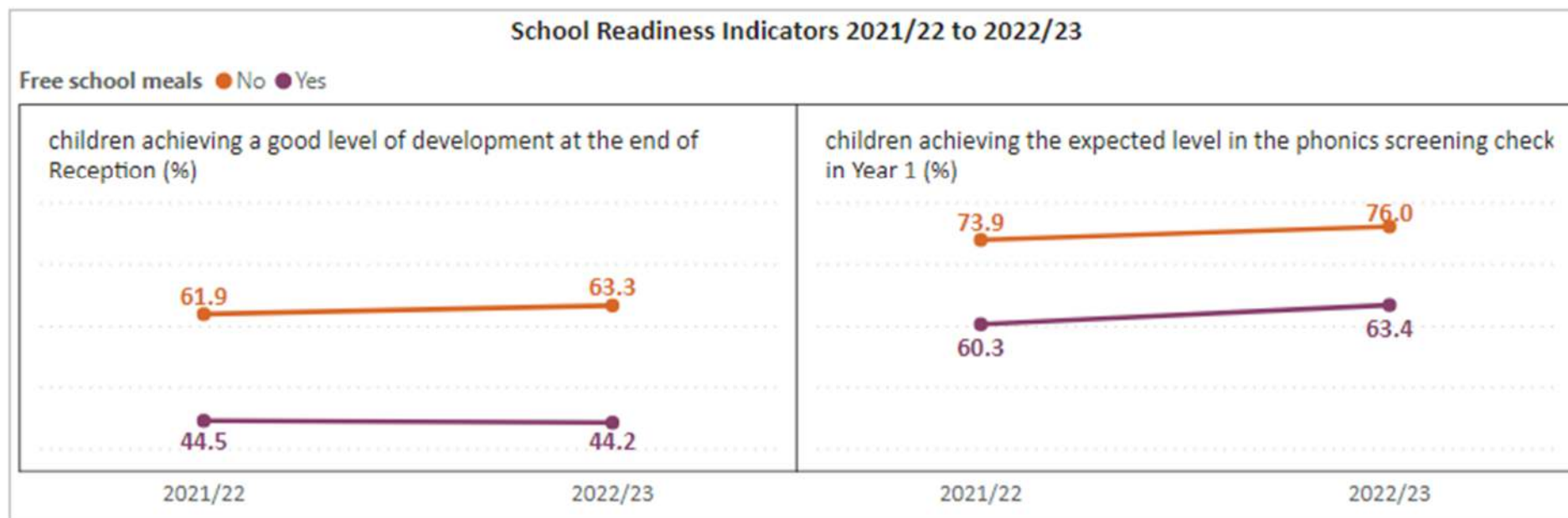
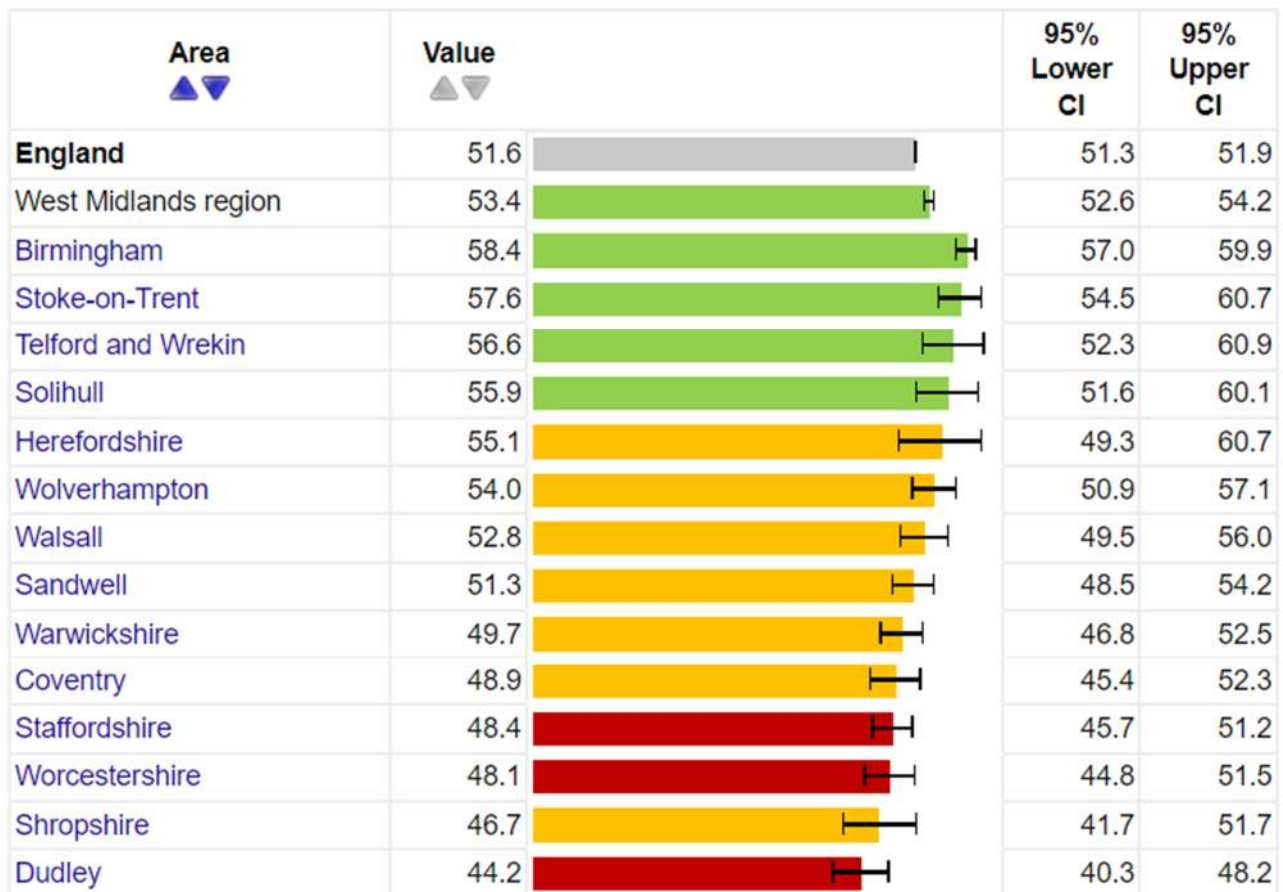


Figure 5



Source: Department for Education, Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFS Profile): Early Years Foundation Stage Profile statistical series