



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am

Monday, 1 September 2025

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/ Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 June 2025
(Pages 3 - 4)
4. Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2024-25 –
Report of the Group Director of People
(Pages 5 - 38)
5. Work Programme –
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance
(Pages 39 - 52)
6. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are
of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
7. Questions

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Wennington', with a horizontal line underneath.

Amy Wennington
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Friday, 22 August 2025

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Ali, Allen, Crudass, Johnson, Layton, Marshall, Renton, Dr. Riley, Storr and Toms

Statutory Co-optees

Carly Stonier

Non Statutory Co-optees

Maura Regan, Janet Woodcock, John Armitage and Sally Hudson

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Michael Conway, Mayoral and Democratic Officer, Operations Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays email: Michael.Conway@darlington.gov.uk or telephone 01325 406309

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 16 June 2025

PRESENT – Councillors Allen (Chair), Ali, Crudass, Layton, Storr and Toms

APOLOGIES – Councillors Johnson, Marshall, Renton and Dr. Riley,

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion), Michael Conway and Joseph Robb (Service Manager)

CYP1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 APRIL 2025

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 7 April 2025

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 7 April 2025 be approved as a correct record.

CYP3 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

RESOLVED – That the proposed dates and times for meetings of this Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2025/26 be approved.

CYP4 WORK PROGRAMME

Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2025/26, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included for this municipal year.

We suggested that the following reports be added:

- (a) A report on the number, locations and condition of children's play-areas across Darlington.
- (b) A report on the support available to families affected by youth offenses
- (c) A report on childhood poverty, specifically following the completion of the current in-progress review which aims understand the work currently undertaken across services that has an impact on those living in poverty.

In relation to the above suggestions, members agreed for officers to make enquiries as to whether reports may share interest with the remit of other committees and to organise reasonable dates for presentation.

A number of questions were also raised for officer responses relating to the service area and

Council events. Discussion ensued around Key Performance Indicators, and it was agreed that members would be provided via email with the full suite of performance indicators for both Children's Services and Education for member's consideration and suggestion for inclusion in future performance reports.

RESOLVED – That members agreed the work programme for the municipal year 2025/26. Members gave consent for the Democratic Officer to make any necessary adjustments to relieve congestion in future meetings.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS YEAR END 2024-25

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members with an update on performance against key performance indicators.

Summary

2. This report provides performance information (April 2024-March 2025) in line with an indicator set agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 2 July 2018, and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs.
3. It is suggested monitoring focuses on issues and exceptions, and relevant Assistant Directors will attend the meeting to respond to queries raised by the committee regarding the performance information contained within this report.
4. Where indicators are reported annually, quarterly updates will not be available.

Where are we performing well?

5. 20 (2.1%) of the 962 referrals were outcomed over 3 working days, which outperforms our target of 5% but very slight increase compared to the 1.7% of referrals taking over 3 working days in 2023/24.
6. In 2024/25, 124 re-referrals were made into social care within 12 months of their last referral ending, equating to 12.9%, keeping us below our internal target of 18%. This is a positive decrease of -62.8% compared to last year, which saw 333 re-referrals, equating to 23.1%.
7. At the end of 2024/25, there were 219 families, 443 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 70 families with 145 children were open to an external agency supporting the families. 1,299 Early Help Assessments (EHA) started in 2024/25, 14.5% of which were led by an external agency and 1,109 children, 538 families ended an episode working with BSF during 2024/25, 74.7% of which ceased following positive impact and change.
8. The total number of missing episodes in 2024/25 was 272, involving 81 individual children and young people (CYP). This is a reduction compared to 2023/24 which seen 423 episodes of missing involving 122 individual children. The reduction is mainly seen in the absence of Child in Care (CiC) young people open to another local authority (27.2% of the episodes in 2023/24 and 12.5% of the episodes in 2024/25).

9. 98.6% of Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered during 2024/25.
10. 62 of the 81 CYP's (76.5%) had 3 or less episodes of missing during 2024/25 and 14 (17.3%) had between 4 and 6 episodes, with 5 further CYP's having more than 10 episodes.
11. 925 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2024/25. This is a -40.5% decrease compared to the 1,554 assessments started in 2023/24, and more in line with pre-covid figures.
12. 89.4% of the assessments were completed with the 45-day timescale during 2024/25. This is a significant increase to previous years (62.7% in 2023/24 and 70.0% in 2022/23) and evidence of the sustained and targeted work and support throughout the year.
13. 140 Child Protection (CP) plans were started in 2024/25, a decrease from 196 plans starting in 2023/24, but comparable to the 134 started in 2022/23 that had a similar number on a plan at the end of the year.
14. 174 Child Protection (CP) plans ceased during 2024/25. 79.3% of which either converted to a Children in Need (CiN) plan (107 children) due to sustained improvements or ended social care involvement as significant improvements had been made and were either supported by the Building Stronger Families team (23 children) or directed to universal services (8 children).
15. 100% of Child Protection (CP) and CiC children were allocated to a qualified social worker.
16. 265 children were in care as of March 2025, 22 (8.3%) of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people. This is a -11.6% decrease on the 300 children in care in March 2024 and a -17.7% decrease on the 322 children in March 2023. 14.5% (9/62) of the children and young people coming into care during 2024/25 were accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child). 53 further children, from 39 families, also came into care during this time.
17. 95 children and young people, from 76 families ceased to be in care in 2024/25. 33 children (34.7%) returned home, 17 (17.9%) had an SGO/CAO granted, 14 (14.7%) were adopted and 29 (30.5%) turned 18 years becoming care leavers (4 of which were UASC), and 2 for other reasons.
18. 95.0% of the initial CiC reviews carried out on children currently in care, were done in timescale as at March 2025. 87.7% of subsequent review have been carried out in timescale.
19. When comparing placements as of March 2025 with March 2024 we see a reduction in placements with IFA carers (from 26.0% to 23.8%) and the increase in the percentage of connected carer placements (from 15.3% to 20.0%).
20. Placed with parents, overall, has remained consistent during 2024/25 along with adoptive placements. The percentage of children in a long-term foster placement has remained consistent with 35.7% at March 2025.

21. 93.2% of children due a review health assessment by March 2025 have had one completed, with only 1 young person refusing to engage in the medical checks.
22. 96.7% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.7% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2025.

Where do we need to improve?

23. In 2024/25, 79.5% of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day not meeting our 90% target. The timeliness has seen an improvement over the year, however due to the small numbers of referrals we receive, any late outcomes can have a greater impact on percentages when compared to larger councils.
24. 76.9% (120/156) of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/section 47 being initiated during 2024/25, excluding children who were transfer-in from another local authority area. Performance has dropped recently due to late notification by the Social Work Teams that a Child Protection Conference is needed (the timescale being within 10 working days of the enquiry to allow a minimum of 5 working days for the partner agencies to prepare reports and arrange for someone to attend the meeting).
25. During 2024/25, there were 17 children who started a CP plan after ceasing their previous CP plan within 2 years. The target for this measure is 6%, and the 17 children equate to 12.1% of the total children starting a CP plan in the year. These 17 children represent 7 families, unfortunately 6 of the 7 families returned to a CP for the same or similar reasons as the previous, predominantly around substance misuse and domestic violence despite the targeted work that was done with the families during the plan.
26. 76.3% (2,328/3,050) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2024/25. Although this remains below target (90%), this is an improvement on previous years.
27. 83.7% (2,598/3,103) of statutory visits for Children in Care were completed in timescale in 2024/25. Although there has been an improvement in performance on the previous 2 years, this remains below target (90%).
28. 13.3% (35 children) of our Children in Care, as of March 2025, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is above target (10%). As our CiC numbers reduce, 1 child move will result in a larger percentage fluctuation which can disguise the fact that this measure has improved with 35 children having 3+ moves in the year compared to 51 during 2023/24 and 44 during 2022/23.
29. Currently, 53.3% (65/122) of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is below our 68% target.
30. 12.1% (30 children) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of March 2025. This is above our target of 10%. Although the number of children placed at a distance has only increased slightly in the year, the cohort for this measure has reduced resulting in a higher percentage than if the cohort had remained consistent.

31. 69.4% of all Children in Care, requiring a dental check-up by March 2025 have had one completed. Currently 3.7% of the children/young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. Although below the yearly target, there has been a noticeable effort seen since Q3 to ensure the CYP's have a check-up with a dentist, and it is recorded.
32. 41.0% of care leavers aged 19-21 are deemed with no education, employment or training (NEET), a further 38.3% of care leavers aged 22-25 are also deemed NEET. A review of recording and decision making is taking place regarding all our care leavers to ensure accurate recording.
33. 50.8% of young people aged 19-21 were in training or employment (31.1% in full time and 19.7% in part time) and 8.2% were in education, and 48.9% young people aged 22-25, were in training or employment (27.7% in full time and 21.3% in part time) and 12.8% were in education.

Recommendation

34. It is recommended that the performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with the appropriate Assistant Director.

CHRIS BELL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Sharon Raine: Extension 6091

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| Council Plan | This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes with regards to Children's Social Care. |
| Addressing inequalities | This involves members in the scrutiny of the level to which Children's Social Care contributes to ensuring that opportunities are accessible to everyone, with a focus on ensuring a good job, home and/or social connections for all. |
| Tackling Climate Change | This report does not identify any issues relating to climate change. |
| Efficient and effective use of resources | This report allows for the scrutiny of performance which is integral to optimising outcomes and ensuring efficient use of resources. |
| Health and Wellbeing | This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents. |
| S17 Crime and Disorder | This report supports the Councils Crime and Disorder responsibilities. |
| Wards Affected | This report supports performance improvement across all Wards. |
| Groups Affected | This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups. |
| Budget and Policy Framework | This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Key Decision | This is not a key decision. |
| Urgent Decision | This is not an urgent decision. |
| Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers | This report may have an impact on their emotional and physical health, social development, education, and future employment. |

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DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children's Social Care Performance Report

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March 2025 YE 2024/25

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Year end 2024-25 Performance Summary

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Referrals: A total of 962 children had a referral to social care in 2024/25, a -29.9% reduction on the 1,374 children referred during 2023/24, giving us a rate of 432.3 compared to a 686.7 rate in 2023/24. This is below the most recent publication for our stat neighbours (576.6), regional (598.8) and national (518.3) averages. 80.1% led straight to a C&F assessment, 19.0% had a strategy within 48 hours and 0.8% were a CP transfer in. There were also 161 additional referrals received requesting singular reports for Special Educational Needs (SEN) assessments. This breakdown of referrals is similar to last year.

79.5% of the 962 referrals were outcomed within 1 working day. A small decrease in the 81.4% completed within 1 working day during 2023/24. 20 (2.1%) of the 962 referrals were outcomed over 3 working days, which is outperforming our target of 5% but an increase compared to the 1.7% of referrals taking over 3 working days in 2023/24.

Re-Referrals: In 2024/25, 124 re-referrals were made into social care within 12 months of their last referral ending, equating to 12.9%, keeping us below our internal target of 18%. This is a positive decrease of -62.8% compared to last year, which saw 333 re-referrals, equating to 23.1%.

As this measure is a running 12-month calculation, it can take some time when implementing improvement measures to see the results, which are now beginning to become evident.

Building Stronger Families: At the end of 2024/25, there were 219 families, 443 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 70 families with 145 children were open to an external agency supporting the families. 1,299 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2024/25, 14.5% of which were led by an external agency and 1,109 children, 538 families ended an episode working with BSF during 2024/25, 74.7% of which ceased following positive impact and change.

Missing: The total number of missing episodes in 2024/25 was 272, involving 81 individual children and young people (CYP). This is a reduction when compared to 2023/24 which seen 423 episodes of missing involving 122 individual children. The reduction is mainly seen in the missing cases of Children in Care young people open to another local authority (27.2% of the episodes in 2023/24 and 12.5% of the episodes in 2024/25).

98.6% of Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered during 2024/25.

62 of the 81 CYP's (76.5%) had 3 or less episodes of missing during 2024/25 and 14 (17.3%) had between 4 and 6 episodes, with 5 further CYP's having more than 10 episodes.

Children & Families Assessments: 925 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2024/25. This is a -40.5% decrease compared to the 1,554 assessments started in 2023/24, and more in line with pre covid figures.

89.4% of the assessments were completed with the 45-day timescale during 2024/25. This is a significant increase to previous years (62.7% in 2023/24 and 70.0% in 2022/23) and evidence of the sustained and targeted work and support throughout the year.

Section 47 Enquiries: 277 section 47 enquiries were started in 2024/25, involving 522 individual children, 33 of which were already on an open Child Protection (CP) plan. 526 children had a section 47 enquiry completed in 2024/25 with 33.5% outcomed for an ICPC and 65.1% with the continuation of the C&F assessment.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 76.9% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding children who were transferred-in conference, during 2024/25.

Performance has dropped below the target of 95% despite work during the year to improve this. The predominant reason for the delays is due to late notification by the Social Work Teams that a Child Protection Conference is needed within 10 working days of the enquiry to allow a minimum of 5 working days for the partner agencies to prepare reports and arrange for someone to attend the meeting.

Child Protection Plans: 111 children had a CP plan open at the end of March 2025. This is a -24.0% decrease on the 146 plans open at the end of March 2023 and closer to the 116 plans open at March 2023.

140 CP plans were started in 2024/25, a decrease from 196 plans starting in 2023/24, similar to the 134 started in 2022/23 that had a similar number on a plan at the end of the year, and 174 plans ceased during 2024/25.

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During 2024/25, there were 17 children who started a CP plan after ceasing their previous CP plan within 2 years. The target for this measure is 6%, and the 17 children equate to 12.1% of the total children starting a CP plan in the year. These 17 children represent 7 families, unfortunately 6 of the 7 families returned to a CP for the same or similar reasons as the previous, predominantly around substance misuse and domestic violence despite the targeted work that was done with the families during the plan.

No child has ceased their CP plan after being subject to it for more than 2 years.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 76.3% (2,328 / 3,050) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2024/25 Each month this year, the Social Workers have completed over 90% of the visits within 15 days.

Children in Care: 265 children were in care as at March 2025, 22 (8.3%) of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people. This is a -11.6% decrease on the 300 children in care in March 2024 and a -17.7% decrease on the 322 children in March 2023.

14.5% (9 / 62) of the children and young people coming into care during 2024/25 were accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child). 53 further children, from 39 families, also came into care during this time.

95 children and young people, from 76 families ceased to be in care in 2024/25. 33 children (34.7%) returned home, 17 (17.9%) had an SGO/CAO granted, 14 (14.7%) were adopted and 29 (30.5%) turned 18yrs becoming care leavers (4 of which were UASC), and 2 for other reasons.

Children in Care Reviews: 95.0% of the initial Children in Care reviews carred out on children currently in care, were done in timescale as at March 2025. 87.7% of subsequent review have been carried out in timescale.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 83.7% (2,598 / 3,103) of statutory visits for Children in Care were completed in timescale in 2024/25. Although improving performance on the previous 2 years, this remains below target (90%).

Children in Care Placements: When comparing placements from March 2025 with March 2024 we see a healthy reduction in the placements of IFA (from 26.0% to 23.8%) and the increase of connected carer placements (from 15.3% to 20.0%). Placed with parents, overall, has remained consistent along with adoptive placements but where we have seen a negative shift is the increase in residential accommodation (from 14.0% to 16.6%) and the decrease in in-house foster placements (from 22.3% to 19.6%). The percentage of children in a long-term foster placement has remaining consistent with 35.7% at March 2025.

13.3% (35 children) of our Children in Care, as of March 2025, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is above target (10%). As our Children in Care numbers reduce, 1 child move will result in a larger percentage fluctuation which can disguise the fact that this measure has improved with 35 children having 3+ moves in the year compared to 51 during 2023/24 and 44 during 2022/23.

53.3% (65 / 122) of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years.

12.1% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of March 2025. This has exceeded our target of 10%. Although the number of children placed at a distance is the same as at March 2024, the cohort for this measure has reduced resulting in a higher percentage than if the cohort had remained consistent.

Health and Dental Reviews: 93.2% of children due a review health assessment by March 2025 have had one completed, with only 2 young people refusing to engage in their latest medical checks.

69.4% of children due a dental check-up in 2024/25 have had one completed with 8 young people are refusing to engage in the medical checks. The children and young people are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

Initial Health Assessments: 58.6% of the children who came into care during 2024/25, for more than 20 days, had their IHA forms sent to Health within the 5 day timescale. 55.2% of the children were then seen by a health professional within 20 days. The main reasons for the reduction in the number of children receiving their assessment within 20 days is due to cancelled appointment and medical professionals' availability.

Care Leavers: 96.7% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.7% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2025.

41.0% of care leavers aged 19-21 are deemed NEET with no education, employment or training, a further 38.3% of care leavers aged 22-25 are also deemed NEET. A review of recording and decision making is taking place regarding all our care leavers to ensure accurate recording.

50.8% young people aged 19-21, were in training or employment (31.1% in full time and 19.7% in part time) and 8.2% were in education, and 48.9% young people aged 22-25, were in training or employment (27.7% in full time and 21.3% in part time) and 12.8% were in education.

REFERRALS: TIMELINESS

DEFINITION

Percentage of referrals completed within 1 working day and over 3 working days. Referrals completed within 1 working day indicates that decisions regarding the services required are made in a timely manner to minimise drift and delay and to ensure that children are safe.

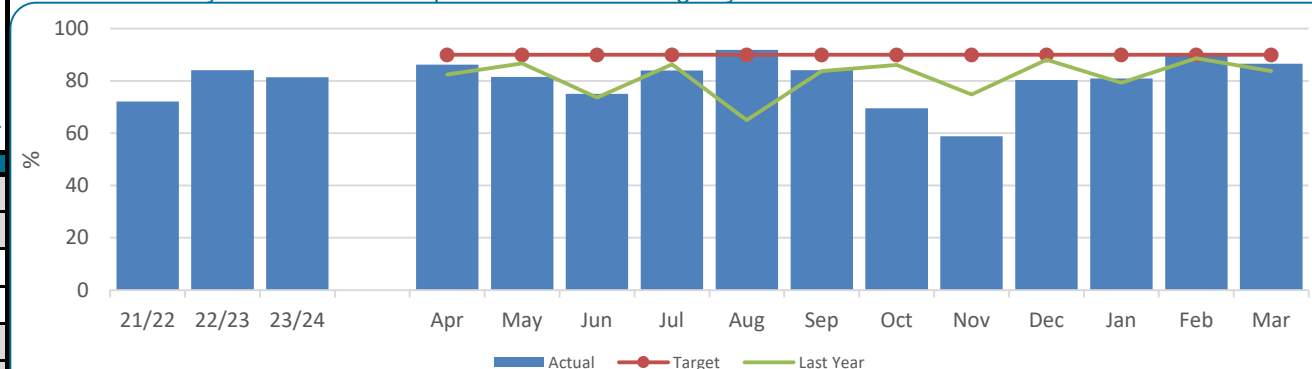
CSC 022

CSC 026

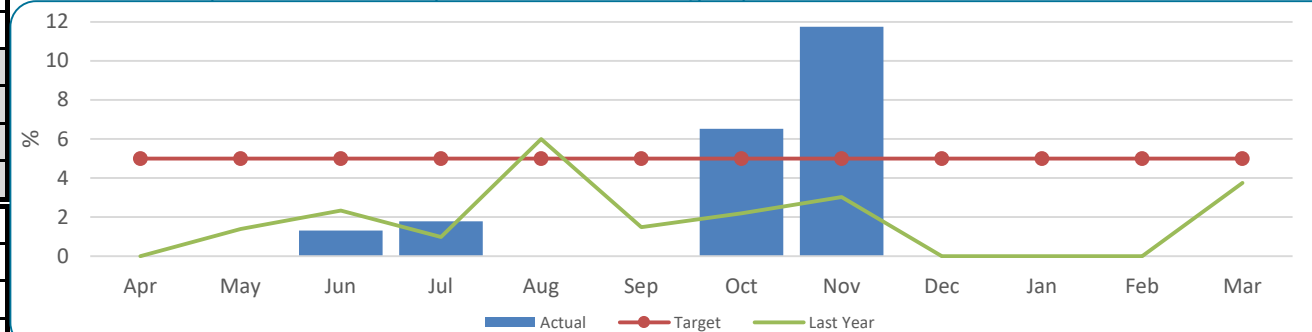
Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.

Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.

CSC 022: Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.



CSC 026: Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.



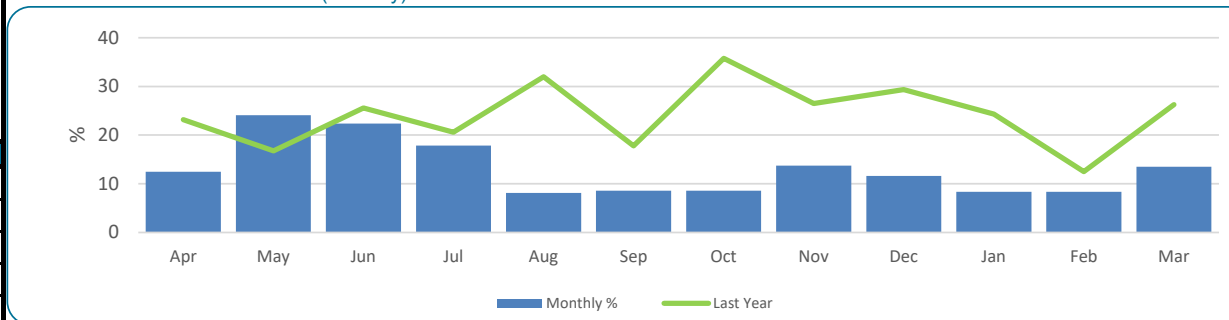
REFERRALS: RE-REFERRALS

DEFINITION

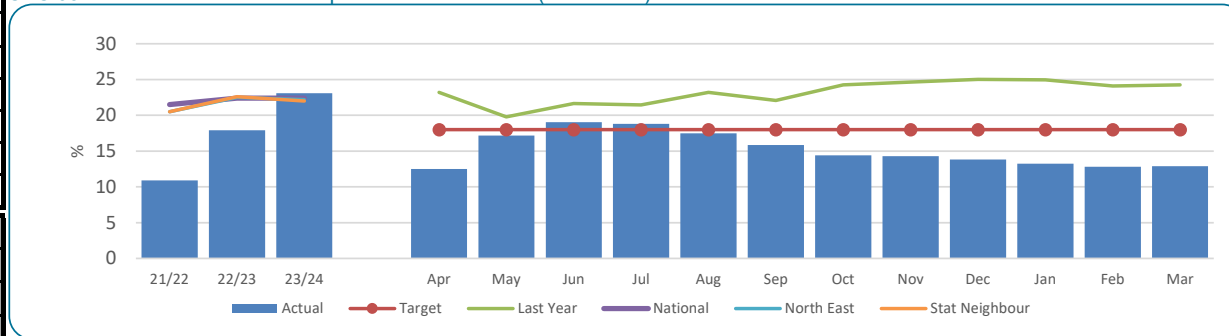
Percentage of re-referrals that are received within 12 months of a previous referral (based on referral start dates and in line with DfE definition).
A re-referral to Children's Social Care could be an indication that the previous referral was inappropriately closed down without addressing the initial concerns or issues.

| | | CSC 034 | CSC 032 | |
|----------------------|---------|---|--|--|
| | | Monthly number of re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months | % re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative) | % of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly) |
| In Month Performance | Target | | 18% | |
| | Apr-24 | 10 | 12.5 | 12.5 |
| | May-24 | 13 | 17.2 | 24.1 |
| | Jun-24 | 17 | 19.1 | 22.4 |
| | Jul-24 | 10 | 18.8 | 17.9 |
| | Aug-24 | 3 | 17.5 | 8.1 |
| | Sep-24 | 6 | 15.9 | 8.6 |
| | Oct-24 | 8 | 14.4 | 8.6 |
| | Nov-24 | 14 | 14.3 | 13.7 |
| | Dec-24 | 13 | 13.8 | 11.6 |
| | Jan-25 | 7 | 13.2 | 8.3 |
| | Feb-25 | 6 | 12.8 | 8.3 |
| | Mar-25 | 17 | 12.9 | 13.5 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 106 | 10.9 | |
| | 2022/23 | 286 | 17.9 | |
| | 2023/24 | 333 | 23.1 | |
| | 2024/25 | 124 | 12.9 | |

% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)



CSC 032: % re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative)

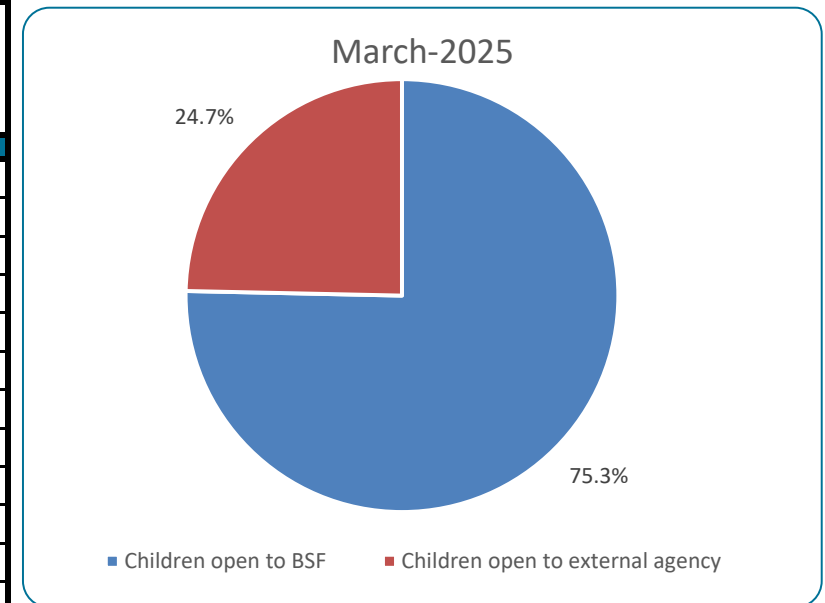


BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES: OPEN EPISODES

DEFINITION

The number of children and families that have an open episode with the Building Stronger Families (BSF) team at the end of each reporting month. Also reported is the number of children and families that have an open episode with an external agency. The proportion of children open to BSF is then calculated using the total cohort and displayed as a percentage.

| | | Open to BSF at month end | | Open to an external agency at month end | | % of children open to BSF |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|--|----------|------------------------------|
| | | Children | Families | Children | Families | % |
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 418 | 201 | 128 | 65 | 76.6% |
| | May-24 | 429 | 208 | 117 | 63 | 78.6% |
| | Jun-24 | 416 | 205 | 108 | 60 | 79.4% |
| | Jul-24 | 428 | 206 | 123 | 67 | 77.7% |
| | Aug-24 | 447 | 218 | 111 | 61 | 80.1% |
| | Sep-24 | 467 | 229 | 103 | 56 | 81.9% |
| | Oct-24 | 443 | 215 | 118 | 60 | 79.0% |
| | Nov-24 | 498 | 233 | 102 | 55 | 83.0% |
| | Dec-24 | 447 | 212 | 103 | 53 | 81.3% |
| | Jan-25 | 458 | 213 | 116 | 58 | 79.8% |
| | Feb-25 | 483 | 232 | 124 | 63 | 79.6% |
| | Mar-25 | 443 | 219 | 145 | 70 | 75.3% |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 411 | 191 | 73 | 35 | 84.9% |
| | 2022/23 | 490 | 218 | 125 | 68 | 79.7% |
| | 2023/24 | 423 | 197 | 125 | 64 | 77.2% |
| | 2024/25 | 443 | 219 | 145 | 70 | 75.3% |



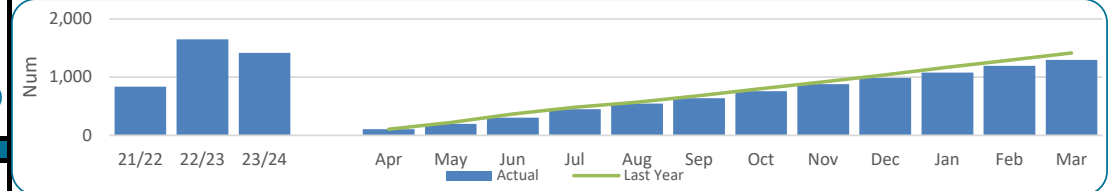
EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

DEFINITION

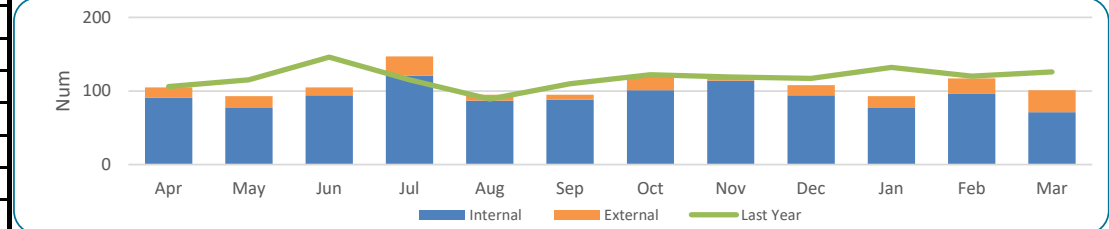
The number of individual Early Help Assessments (EHA) started in month and year to date, including those initiated by external agencies. The start date of the EHA is taken from the form created date in Liquid Logic and the start date of the external EHA is taken from the contact date when the agency informed us of the EHA.

| | | CSC 002 | | CSC 001 | |
|----------------------|---------|---|---|--|-------|
| | | Total number of individual EHA's started in month (inc. external) | Number and percentage of the EHA's initiated by external agencies per month | Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external) | |
| In Month Performance | Target | | TBC | | |
| | Apr-24 | 105 | 14 | 13.3% | 105 |
| | May-24 | 93 | 16 | 17.2% | 198 |
| | Jun-24 | 105 | 11 | 10.5% | 303 |
| | Jul-24 | 147 | 26 | 17.7% | 449 |
| | Aug-24 | 95 | 8 | 8.4% | 545 |
| | Sep-24 | 95 | 7 | 7.4% | 640 |
| | Oct-24 | 119 | 18 | 15.1% | 759 |
| | Nov-24 | 121 | 7 | 5.8% | 880 |
| | Dec-24 | 108 | 14 | 13.0% | 988 |
| | Jan-25 | 93 | 16 | 17.2% | 1,079 |
| | Feb-25 | 117 | 21 | 17.9% | 1,198 |
| | Mar-25 | 101 | 30 | 29.7% | 1,299 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 839 | 161 | 19.2% | 839 |
| | 2022/23 | 1,650 | 223 | 13.5% | 1,650 |
| | 2023/24 | 1,417 | 204 | 14.4% | 1,417 |
| | 2024/25 | 1,299 | 188 | 14.5% | 1,299 |

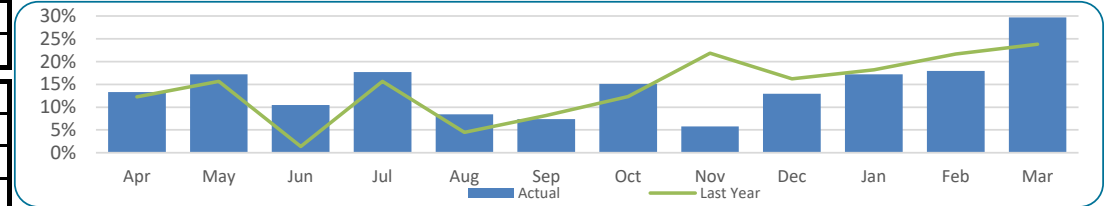
CSC 001: Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external)



CSC 002: Total number of individual EHA's started in month (inc. external)



% of the Early Help Assessments initiated by external agencies per month



| MISSING: EPISODES | |
|-------------------|---|
| DEFINITION | The number of episodes of children going missing in Darlington, including Children in Care. |

| | | CSC 215 | | CSC 246 | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| | | Total number of missing episodes and children involved in month | | Missing - Children in Care with DBC | | Of which are in a placement more than 20 miles from home | |
| In Month Performance | | Episode | Child | Episode | Child | Episode | Child |
| | Apr-24 | 19 | 12 | 7 | 2 | | |
| | May-24 | 16 | 12 | 8 | 4 | | |
| | Jun-24 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| | Jul-24 | 23 | 12 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| | Aug-24 | 43 | 17 | 25 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| | Sep-24 | 31 | 14 | 19 | 4 | | |
| | Oct-24 | 26 | 13 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Nov-24 | 16 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| | Dec-24 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 4 |
| | Jan-25 | 33 | 16 | 25 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| | Feb-25 | 19 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| | Mar-25 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 9 | | |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 582 | 174 | 253 | 31 | 22 | 4 |
| | 2022/23 | 691 | 162 | 383 | 31 | 2 | 2 |
| | 2023/24 | 423 | 122 | 152 | 27 | 13 | 6 |
| | 2024/25 | 272 | 81 | 154 | 24 | 25 | 11 |

ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

Monthly and cumulative number of Children & Families (C&F) assessments completed for a child.

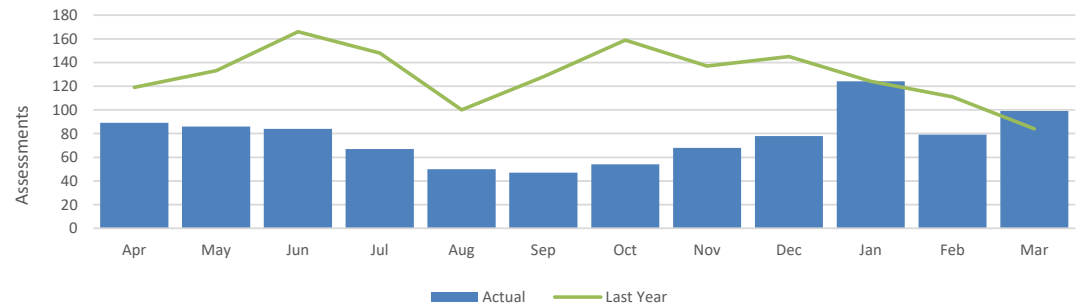
CSC 037

CSC 036

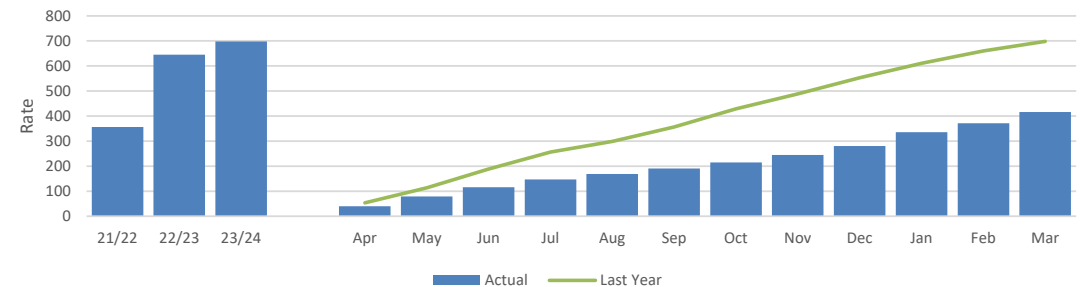
CSC 035

| | | Monthly number of C&F assessments completed | Number of C&F assessments completed year to date | Rate of C&F assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population. |
|----------------------|---------|--|---|--|
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 89 | 89 | 40.0 |
| | May-24 | 86 | 175 | 78.6 |
| | Jun-24 | 84 | 259 | 116.4 |
| | Jul-24 | 67 | 326 | 146.5 |
| | Aug-24 | 50 | 376 | 169.0 |
| | Sep-24 | 47 | 423 | 190.1 |
| | Oct-24 | 54 | 477 | 214.4 |
| | Nov-24 | 68 | 545 | 244.9 |
| | Dec-24 | 78 | 623 | 280.4 |
| | Jan-25 | 124 | 747 | 335.7 |
| | Feb-25 | 79 | 826 | 371.2 |
| | Mar-25 | 99 | 925 | 415.7 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 806 | 806 | 356.1 |
| | 2022/23 | 1,461 | 1,461 | 645.5 |
| | 2023/24 | 1,554 | 1,554 | 698.3 |
| | 2024/25 | 925 | 925 | 415.7 |

CSC 037: Monthly number of C&F assessments completed



CSC 035: Rate of C&F assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.



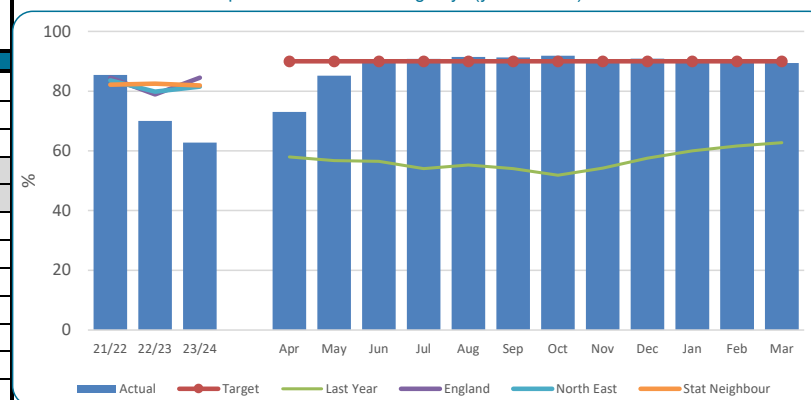
ASSESSMENTS: TIMELINESS**DEFINITION**

Of those assessments completed in a period, the percentage completed within 45 working days. Day zero is the first working day on or after the start date of the referral, or strategy discussion decided to initiate S47 enquiries, or where new information indicates that an assessment should be undertaken. The end date is the first working day on or after the recorded date the Team Manager closes the single assessment.

A process indicator as a proxy measure for improved child safety and how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. Local authorities should investigate and address concerns in a timely and efficient way.

| | | CSC 038 | CSC 040 | CSC 060 | CSC 080 | CSC 100 |
|----------------------|---------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | % C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date) | Monthly % completed within 45 working days | Monthly % completed within 25 working days | Monthly % completed within 15 working days | Monthly % completed within 10 working days |
| In Month Performance | Target | 90% | 90% | | | |
| | Apr-24 | 73.0 | 73.0 | 4.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| | May-24 | 85.1 | 97.7 | 7.0 | 3.5 | 1.2 |
| | Jun-24 | 89.6 | 98.8 | 19.1 | 19.1 | 19.1 |
| | Jul-24 | 90.8 | 95.5 | 3.0 | 3.0 | |
| | Aug-24 | 91.5 | 96.0 | 6.0 | | |
| | Sep-24 | 91.3 | 89.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 |
| | Oct-24 | 91.8 | 96.3 | 18.5 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| | Nov-24 | 90.3 | 79.4 | 14.7 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| | Dec-24 | 90.9 | 94.9 | 18.0 | 7.7 | 7.7 |
| | Jan-25 | 90.6 | 89.5 | 18.6 | 11.3 | 4.0 |
| | Feb-25 | 89.6 | 79.8 | 16.5 | 15.2 | 12.7 |
| | Mar-25 | 89.4 | 87.9 | 13.1 | 5.1 | 4.0 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 85.4 | | 17.4 | 7.6 | 5.3 |
| | 2022/23 | 70.0 | | 30.3 | 18.6 | 13.8 |
| | 2023/24 | 62.7 | | 11.9 | 9.5 | 1.2 |
| | 2024/25 | 89.4 | 87.9 | 13.1 | 5.1 | 4.0 |

% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date)



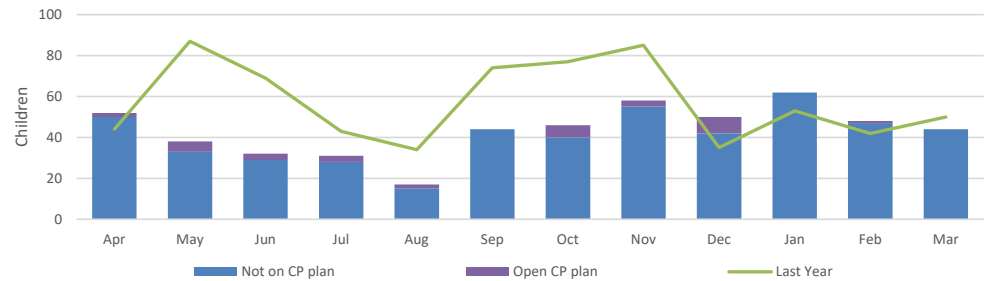
SECTION 47 ENQUIRES: STARTED

DEFINITION

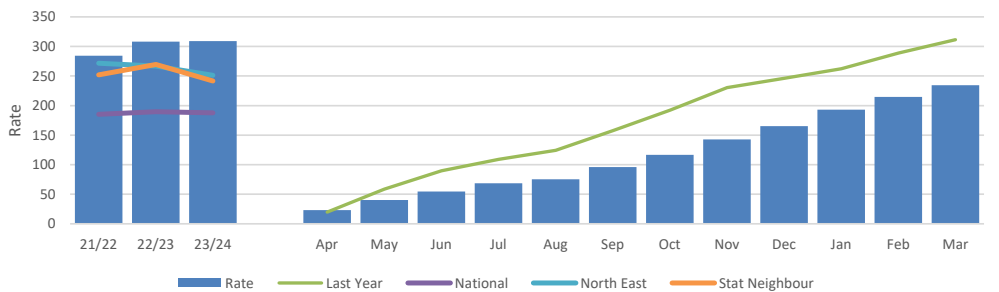
Number of children who have had a section 47 enquiries started monthly and year to date and the actual number of enquires started.

| | | CSC 166 | | CSC 164 | |
|----------------------|---------|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| | | Section 47 enquiries started in the month | Number of children who had a section 47 enquiry | Of which also had an open CPP plan | Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (Cumulative) |
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 28 | 52 | 2 | 23.4 |
| | May-24 | 21 | 38 | 5 | 40.4 |
| | Jun-24 | 18 | 32 | 3 | 54.8 |
| | Jul-24 | 15 | 31 | 3 | 68.8 |
| | Aug-24 | 14 | 17 | 2 | 75.5 |
| | Sep-24 | 20 | 44 | | 96.2 |
| | Oct-24 | 28 | 46 | 6 | 116.8 |
| | Nov-24 | 28 | 58 | 3 | 142.9 |
| | Dec-24 | 28 | 50 | 8 | 165.4 |
| | Jan-25 | 33 | 62 | | 193.2 |
| | Feb-25 | 20 | 48 | 1 | 214.8 |
| | Mar-25 | 24 | 44 | | 234.6 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 317 | 633 | 14 | 284.5 |
| | 2022/23 | 351 | 681 | 30 | 308.3 |
| | 2023/24 | 372 | 693 | 22 | 308.8 |
| | 2024/25 | 277 | 522 | 33 | 234.6 |

Number of children; showing the total including and excluding those already on CPP



Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (inc. children already on CPP)



INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES: TIMELINESS

DEFINITION

Of those Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) held within the period (excluding transfer ins), the percentage recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook where Child Protection strategy meeting / section 47 enquiry to ICPC are within 15 days (CPP). This provides an indication of how quickly the safety of the child is considered by a multi-agency meeting.

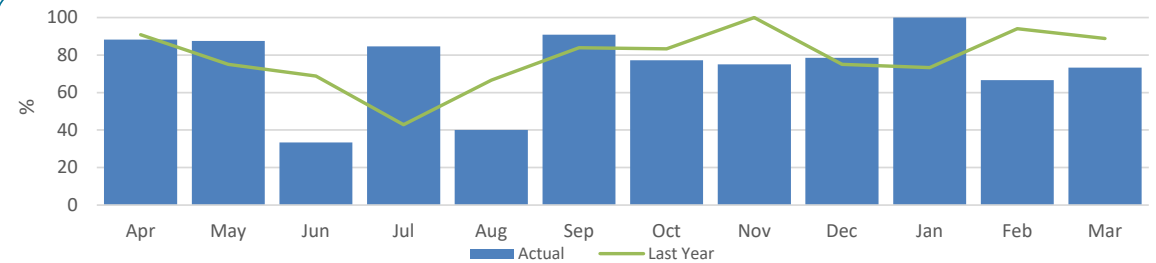
CSC 178

CSC 176

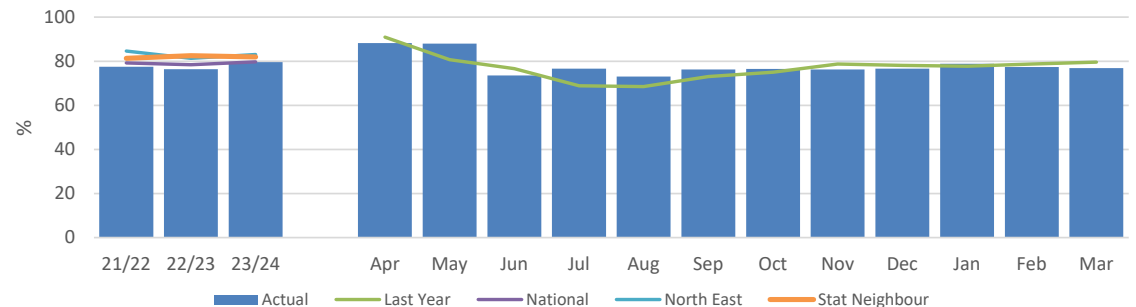
% ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (monthly).

% ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (year to date).

CSC 178: % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (monthly).



CSC 176: % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (year to date).



| In Month Performance | Target | CSC 178 | | CSC 176 | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| | | | % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (monthly). | | % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (year to date). |
| | 95% | | | | |
| | Apr-24 | 15 / 17 | 88.2 | 15 / 17 | 88.2 |
| | May-24 | 7 / 8 | 87.5 | 22 / 25 | 88.0 |
| | Jun-24 | 3 / 9 | 33.3 | 25 / 34 | 73.5 |
| | Jul-24 | 11 / 13 | 84.6 | 36 / 47 | 76.6 |
| | Aug-24 | 2 / 5 | 40.0 | 38 / 52 | 73.1 |
| | Sep-24 | 10 / 11 | 90.9 | 48 / 63 | 76.2 |
| | Oct-24 | 17 / 22 | 77.3 | 65 / 85 | 76.5 |
| | Nov-24 | 9 / 12 | 75.0 | 74 / 97 | 76.3 |
| | Dec-24 | 11 / 14 | 78.6 | 85 / 111 | 76.6 |
| | Jan-25 | 12 / 12 | 100.0 | 97 / 123 | 78.9 |
| | Feb-25 | 12 / 18 | 66.7 | 109 / 141 | 77.3 |
| | Mar-25 | 11 / 15 | 73.3 | 120 / 156 | 76.9 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | | | 135 / 174 | 77.5 |
| | 2022/23 | | | 119 / 156 | 76.4 |
| | 2023/24 | | | 171 / 215 | 79.5 |
| | 2024/25 | 120 / 156 | 76.9 | 120 / 156 | 76.9 |

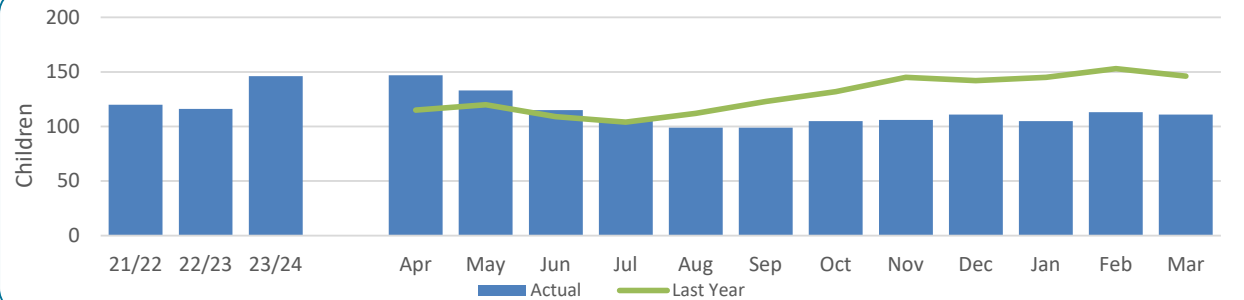
CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

DEFINITION

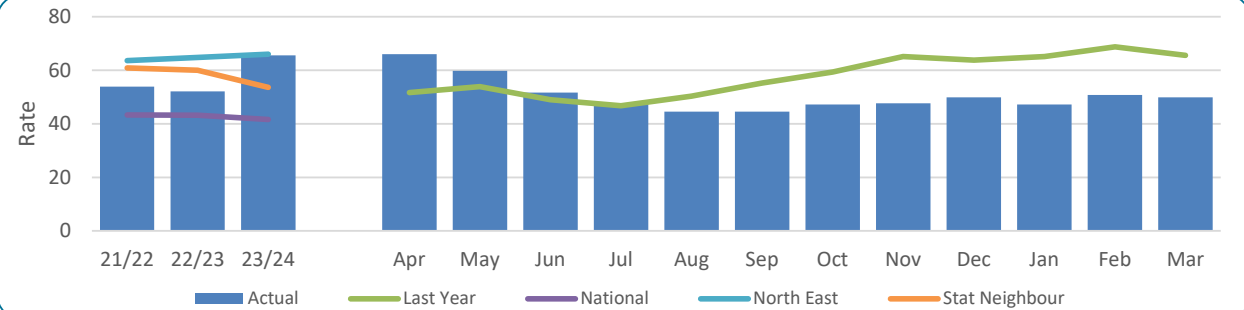
Number of children subject to a Child Protection plan at the end of the month.

| | | CSC 182 | CSC 181 |
|----------------------|---------|---|---|
| | | Number of children subject to a CP plan | Rate of children subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 population |
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 147 | 66.1 |
| | May-24 | 133 | 59.8 |
| | Jun-24 | 115 | 51.7 |
| | Jul-24 | 106 | 47.6 |
| | Aug-24 | 99 | 44.5 |
| | Sep-24 | 99 | 44.5 |
| | Oct-24 | 105 | 47.2 |
| | Nov-24 | 106 | 47.6 |
| | Dec-24 | 111 | 49.9 |
| | Jan-25 | 105 | 47.2 |
| | Feb-25 | 113 | 50.8 |
| | Mar-25 | 111 | 49.9 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 120 | 53.9 |
| | 2022/23 | 116 | 52.1 |
| | 2023/24 | 146 | 65.6 |
| | 2024/25 | 111 | 49.9 |

CSC 182: Number of children subject to a CP plan



CSC 181: Rate of children subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 population



CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

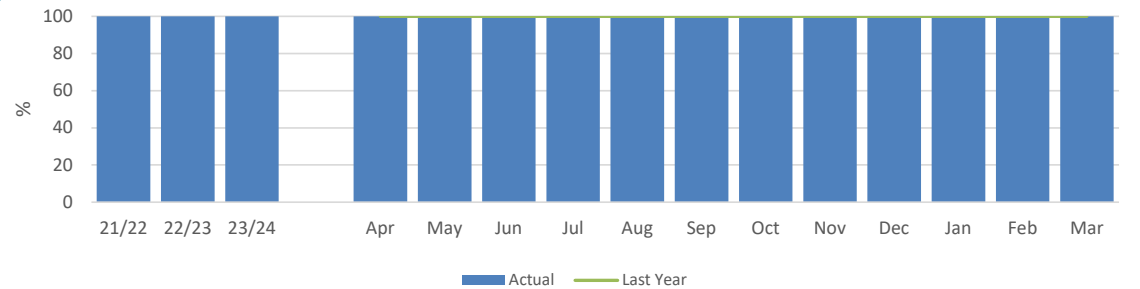
Reviews are a key element in delivering CP Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions. This indicator is a proxy for the measurement of effectiveness of the interventions provided to children subject to a CP plan. "Working Together to Safeguard Children" guidance requires that the first review should be within 3 months of their ICPC and thereafter at intervals of no more than 6 months.

CSC 183

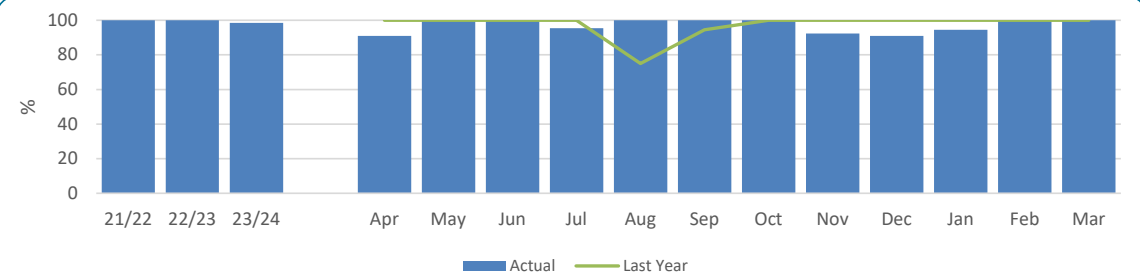
CSC 191a

| | Target | % of children with a CP plan allocated to a qualified social worker | CP plan review meetings held in timescale during the month | % of CP plans reviewed within the timescales. |
|----------------------|---------|---|--|---|
| | | 100 | | 100 |
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 100.0 | 10 / 11 | 90.9 |
| | May-24 | 100.0 | 18 / 18 | 100.0 |
| | Jun-24 | 100.0 | 17 / 17 | 100.0 |
| | Jul-24 | 100.0 | 21 / 22 | 95.5 |
| | Aug-24 | 100.0 | 9 / 9 | 100.0 |
| | Sep-24 | 100.0 | 16 / 16 | 100.0 |
| | Oct-24 | 100.0 | 13 / 13 | 100.0 |
| | Nov-24 | 100.0 | 12 / 13 | 92.3 |
| | Dec-24 | 100.0 | 10 / 11 | 90.9 |
| | Jan-25 | 100.0 | 17 / 18 | 94.4 |
| | Feb-25 | 100.0 | 8 / 8 | 100.0 |
| | Mar-25 | 100.0 | 17 / 17 | 100.0 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 100.0 | 159 / 159 | 100.0 |
| | 2022/23 | 100.0 | 155 / 155 | 100.0 |
| | 2023/24 | 100.0 | 193 / 196 | 98.5 |
| | 2024/25 | 100.0 | 168 / 173 | 97.1 |

CSC 183: % of children with a CP plan allocated to a qualified social worker



CSC 191a: % of CP plans reviewed within the timescales.



CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: TIME PERIODS

DEFINITION

Percentage of children ceasing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan who had been subject to a Plan for 2 or more years, and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for the 2nd or subsequent time within a) 2 years of a previous plan, and b) with a previous plan at any point. These indicators reflect the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to all children not needing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan within a maximum of two years, or becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.

CSC 186

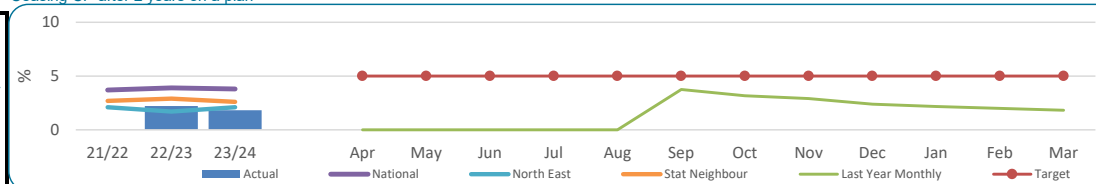
CSC 188

% children ceasing a CP plan who had been subject to CP for 2 or more years (Cumulative)

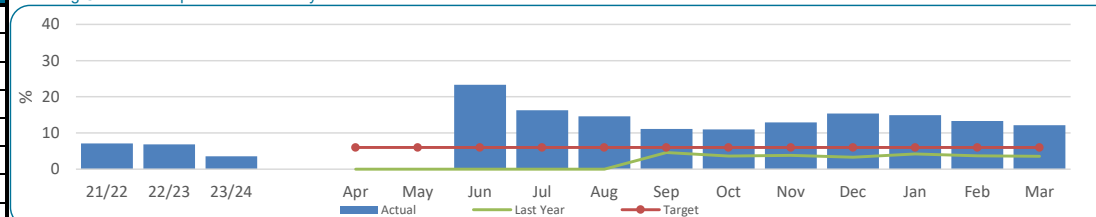
% of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a 2nd or subsequent time **within 2 years of a previous plan ending** (Cumulative)

% of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a 2nd or subsequent time **ever** (Cumulative)

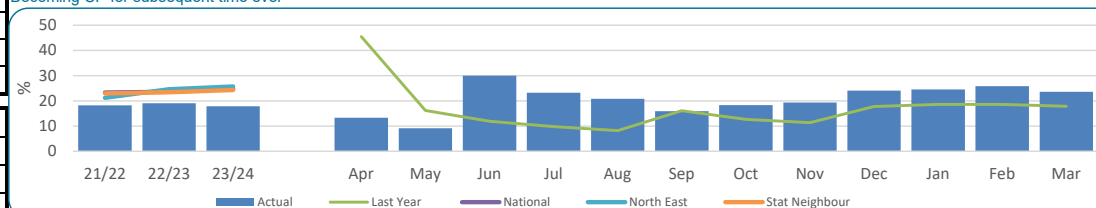
Ceasing CP after 2 years on a plan



Becoming CP for subsequent time within 2 years



Becoming CP for subsequent time ever



In Month Performance

| Target | | 5% | | 6% | | |
|--------|---------|-----|----------|------|----------|------|
| Apr-24 | 0 / 14 | 0.0 | 0 / 15 | 0.0 | 2 / 15 | 13.3 |
| May-24 | 0 / 34 | 0.0 | 0 / 22 | 0.0 | 2 / 22 | 9.1 |
| Jun-24 | 0 / 60 | 0.0 | 7 / 30 | 23.3 | 9 / 30 | 30.0 |
| Jul-24 | 0 / 82 | 0.0 | 7 / 43 | 16.3 | 10 / 43 | 23.3 |
| Aug-24 | 0 / 94 | 0.0 | 7 / 48 | 14.6 | 10 / 48 | 20.8 |
| Sep-24 | 0 / 94 | 0.0 | 7 / 63 | 11.1 | 10 / 63 | 15.9 |
| Oct-24 | 0 / 122 | 0.0 | 9 / 82 | 11.0 | 15 / 82 | 18.3 |
| Nov-24 | 0 / 132 | 0.0 | 12 / 93 | 12.9 | 18 / 93 | 19.4 |
| Dec-24 | 0 / 138 | 0.0 | 16 / 104 | 15.4 | 25 / 104 | 24.0 |
| Jan-25 | 0 / 154 | 0.0 | 17 / 114 | 14.9 | 28 / 114 | 24.6 |
| Feb-25 | 0 / 159 | 0.0 | 17 / 128 | 13.3 | 33 / 128 | 25.8 |
| Mar-25 | 0 / 174 | 0.0 | 17 / 140 | 12.1 | 33 / 140 | 23.6 |

Annual Trend

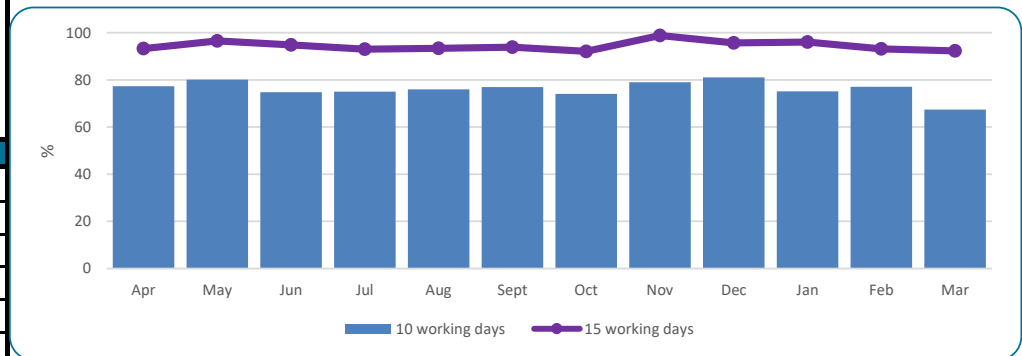
| | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|-----|----------|------|----------|------|
| 2021/22 | 0 / 121 | 0.0 | 11 / 154 | 7.1 | 28 / 154 | 18.2 |
| 2022/23 | 3 / 135 | 2.2 | 9 / 131 | 6.9 | 25 / 131 | 19.1 |
| 2023/24 | 3 / 166 | 1.8 | 7 / 196 | 3.6 | 35 / 196 | 17.9 |
| 2024/25 | 0 / 174 | 0.0 | 17 / 140 | 12.1 | 33 / 140 | 23.6 |

CHILD PROTECTION: STATUTORY VISITS

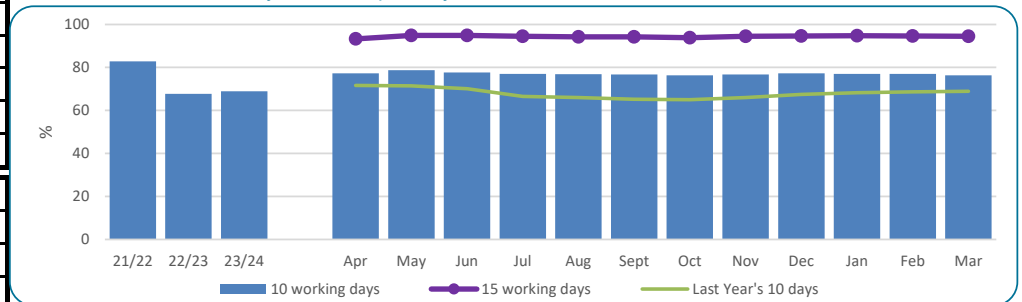
| DEFINITION | Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection (CP) plan who had all statutory visits carried out within timescales and percentage of Child Protection statutory visits completed within timescale monthly and year to date. |
|------------|--|
|------------|--|

| | | CSC 252a | | CSC 252b | |
|----------------------|---------|---|---|--|--|
| | | % CP visits completed within 10 working days within the month | % CP visits completed within 15 working days within the month | % CP visits completed within 10 working days year to date (cumulative) | % CP visits completed within 15 working days year to date (cumulative) |
| In Month Performance | Target | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| | Apr-24 | 77.3 | 93.3 | 77.3 | 93.3 |
| | May-24 | 80.1 | 96.5 | 78.7 | 94.9 |
| | Jun-24 | 74.8 | 94.8 | 77.7 | 94.9 |
| | Jul-24 | 75.0 | 93.1 | 77.0 | 94.5 |
| | Aug-24 | 75.9 | 93.4 | 76.8 | 94.3 |
| | Sep-24 | 77.0 | 93.9 | 76.8 | 94.2 |
| | Oct-24 | 74.1 | 92.1 | 76.4 | 93.9 |
| | Nov-24 | 79.1 | 98.8 | 76.7 | 94.5 |
| | Dec-24 | 81.0 | 95.7 | 77.2 | 94.6 |
| | Jan-25 | 75.1 | 96.0 | 77.0 | 94.8 |
| | Feb-25 | 77.0 | 93.2 | 77.0 | 94.6 |
| | Mar-25 | 67.4 | 92.3 | 76.3 | 94.5 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | | | 82.9 | 96.8 |
| | 2022/23 | | | 67.8 | 90.0 |
| | 2023/24 | | | 69.0 | 90.4 |
| | 2024/25 | 67.4 | 92.3 | 76.3 | 94.5 |

% Child Protection statutory visits completed within the month



% Child Protection statutory visits completed year to date



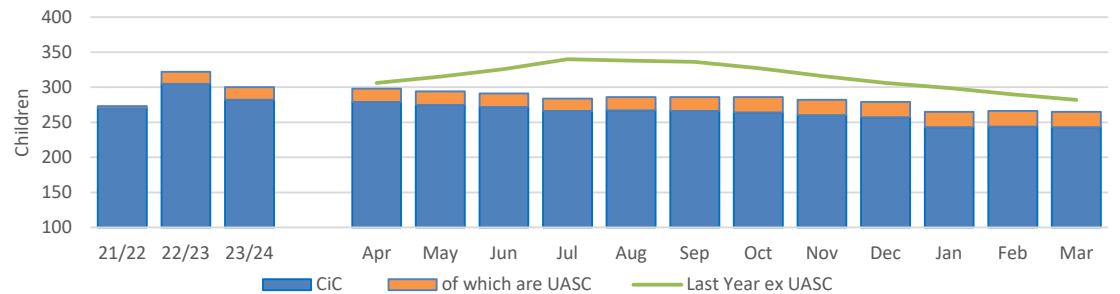
CHILDREN IN CARE

DEFINITION

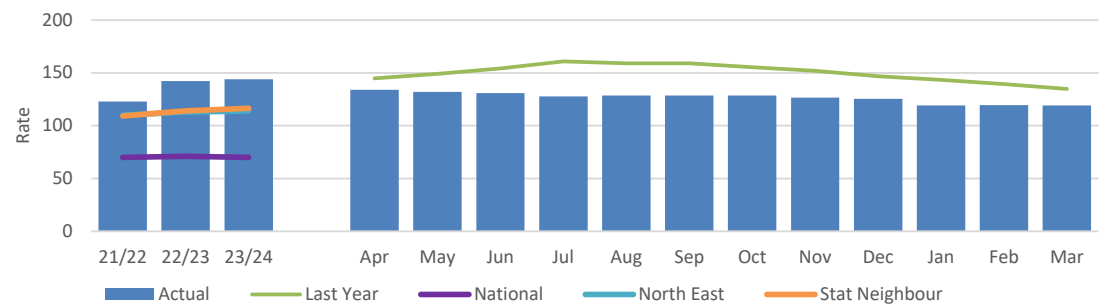
Number of Children in Care (CiC) at the end of each month and of which are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC).

| | | CSC 201 | CSC 207 | CSC 200 |
|----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Total number of Children in Care | Of which are identified as a UASC | Rate of CiC per 10,000 population |
| In Month Performance | Target | | | 95 |
| | Apr-24 | 298 | 19 | 133.9 |
| | May-24 | 294 | 19 | 132.1 |
| | Jun-24 | 291 | 19 | 130.8 |
| | Jul-24 | 284 | 18 | 127.6 |
| | Aug-24 | 286 | 19 | 128.5 |
| | Sep-24 | 286 | 20 | 128.5 |
| | Oct-24 | 286 | 22 | 128.5 |
| | Nov-24 | 282 | 22 | 126.7 |
| | Dec-24 | 279 | 22 | 125.4 |
| | Jan-25 | 265 | 22 | 119.1 |
| | Feb-25 | 266 | 22 | 119.5 |
| | Mar-25 | 265 | 22 | 119.1 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 273 | 3 | 123.0 |
| | 2022/23 | 322 | 17 | 142.3 |
| | 2023/24 | 300 | 18 | 134.8 |
| | 2024/25 | 265 | 22 | 119.1 |

CSC 201: Total number of Children in Care



CSC 200: Rate of CiC per 10,000 population



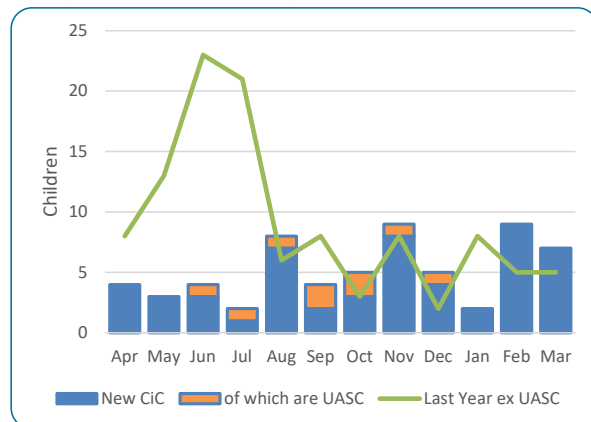
CHILDREN IN CARE: COMING INTO CARE

DEFINITION

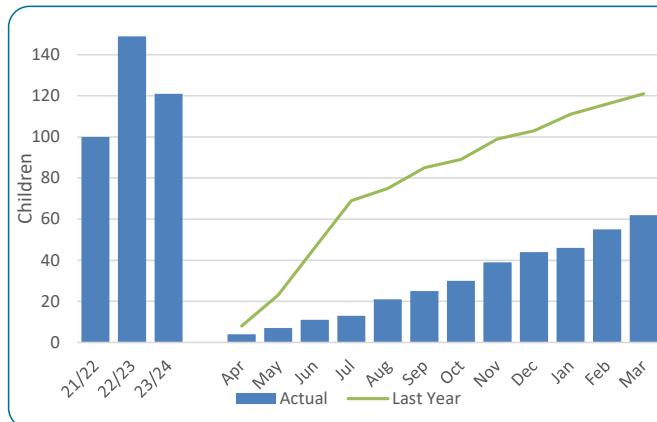
Number of children coming into the care of the local authority during the month and year to date and where they are an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC). This is further broken down to show their first placement type.

| | | CSC 209 | CSC 208b | | First placement type in care | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|--|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------|---|----------------------|------------|
| | | Monthly number of children coming into care | Cumulative number of children coming into care | of which are UASC | Placed with parent (P1) | Connected Carer (U1&U3) | Foster care (U5&U6) - Internal | Foster care (U5&U6) - External | NHS/ Medical trust (R2) | Family centre/ Mother & Baby unit (R3) | Homes and Hostels (K2) | Res accom. / Independ. living (H5,P2, K3) | Other placement (Z1) | YOI - (R5) |
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 4 | 4 | | | | 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| | May-24 | 3 | 7 | | | | 3 | | | | | | | |
| | Jun-24 | 4 | 11 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | Jul-24 | 2 | 13 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Aug-24 | 8 | 21 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 5 | |
| | Sep-24 | 4 | 25 | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| | Oct-24 | 5 | 30 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 1 | |
| | Nov-24 | 9 | 39 | 1 | 4 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| | Dec-24 | 5 | 44 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| | Jan-25 | 2 | 46 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | Feb-25 | 9 | 55 | | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | 4 | |
| | Mar-25 | 7 | 62 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 100 | 100 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 27 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 17 | 1 |
| | 2022/23 | 149 | 149 | 18 | 22 | 13 | 42 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 36 | |
| | 2023/24 | 121 | 121 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 34 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 44 | |
| | 2024/25 | 62 | 62 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 17 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 3 |

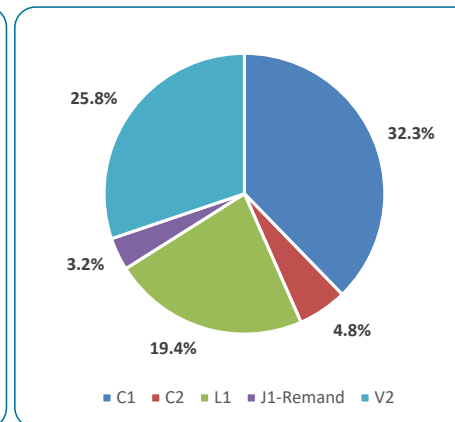
Monthly number of children coming into care



Total number of children coming into care within the year



Legal status coming into care-Exc UASC



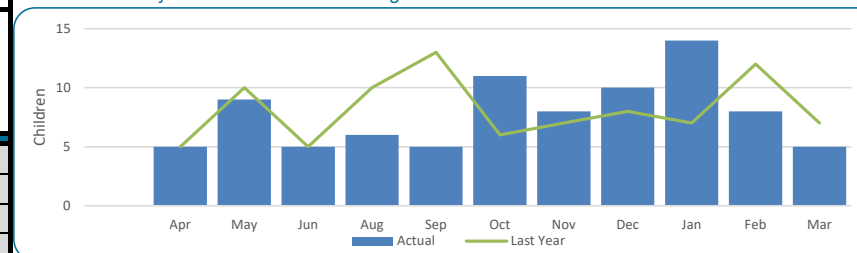
CHILDREN IN CARE: CEASING CARE

DEFINITION

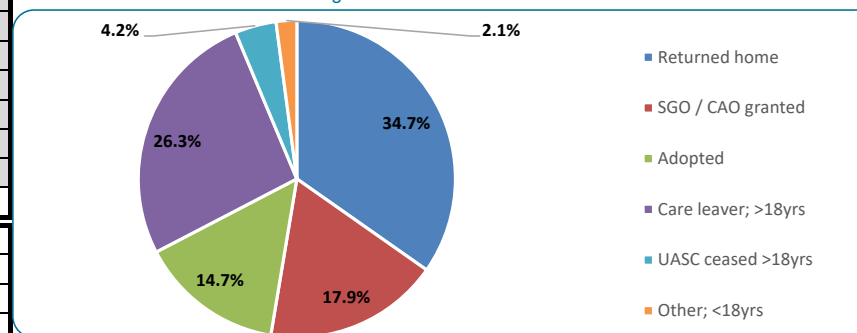
Number of children ceasing to be a Child in Care during each month and year to date and their destination when they ceased being in care. This could be due to returning home to parent or other person with no PR (planned and unplanned), having a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted by the courts to a carer, adoption or turning 18 years old and becoming a care leaver and supported by a personal advisor. Other reasons why a child could cease care could be due to receiving a custodial sentence or moving out of the area and transferring to a different local authority.

| | | CSC 212 | CSC 211 | Reason for ceasing to be a Child in Care | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|--|--|-------------------|---------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | | Monthly number of children ceasing care | Cumulative number of children ceasing care | Returned home | SGO / CAO granted | Adopted | Care leaver; >18yrs | UASC ceased >18yrs | Other; <18yrs |
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| | May-24 | 9 | 14 | 4 | 2 | | 3 | | |
| | Jun-24 | 5 | 19 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| | Jul-24 | 9 | 28 | 4 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | |
| | Aug-24 | 6 | 34 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| | Sep-24 | 5 | 39 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| | Oct-24 | 11 | 50 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| | Nov-24 | 8 | 58 | 6 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | Dec-24 | 10 | 68 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | Jan-25 | 14 | 82 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | |
| | Feb-25 | 8 | 90 | 2 | | 4 | 2 | | |
| | Mar-25 | 5 | 95 | 3 | | | | | 2 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 99 | 99 | 28 | 34 | 15 | 19 | | 3 |
| | 2022/23 | 100 | 100 | 21 | 39 | 17 | 21 | | 2 |
| | 2023/24 | 143 | 143 | 61 | 43 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 5 |
| | 2024/25 | 95 | 95 | 33 | 17 | 14 | 25 | 4 | 2 |

CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing care



Cumulative reason for children ceasing care



CHILDREN IN CARE: REVIEWS**DEFINITION**

The purpose of the review is to consider the plan for the child's welfare, to monitor the progress of the plan and amend it as necessary in light of changed information and circumstances. The statutory intervals are within 20 working days of placement, then within 3 months and 6 monthly thereafter, but reviews may be rescheduled or held inside these intervals if there are significant changes to the child's care plan..Percentage of the current Children in Care (CiC) who have had their initial review, and all of their subsequent reviews completed within the required timescales.

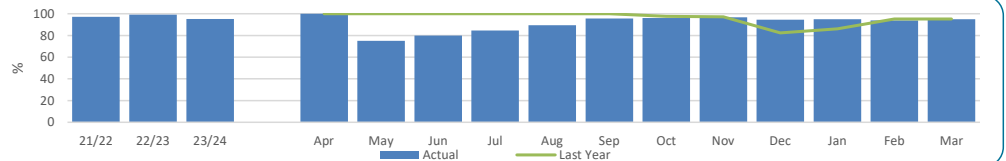
CSC 219

CSC 218

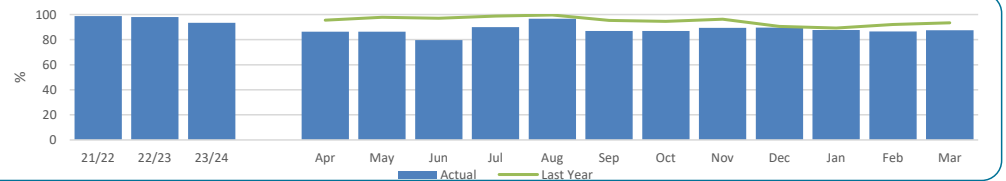
CSC 220

CSC 219: % CiC initial reviews completed within timescales (as at month end)

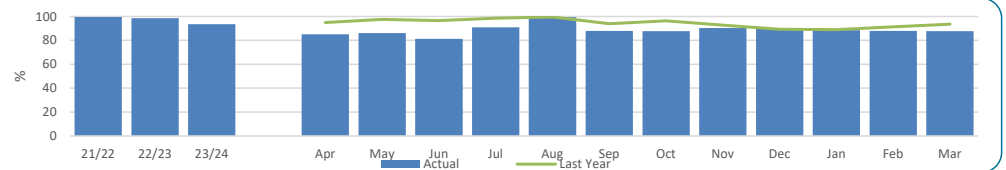
| In Month Performance | | % CiC initial reviews completed within timescales (as at month end) | | % CiC reviews had been completed within required timescales (as at month end) | | % CiC subsequent reviews completed within timescales | |
|----------------------|---------|---|-------|---|------|--|------|
| | Target | Num | % | Num | % | Num | % |
| | Apr-24 | 4 / 4 | 100.0 | 63 / 73 | 86.3 | 57 / 67 | 85.1 |
| | May-24 | 6 / 8 | 75.0 | 114 / 132 | 86.4 | 106 / 123 | 86.2 |
| | Jun-24 | 8 / 10 | 80.0 | 125 / 157 | 79.6 | 121 / 149 | 81.2 |
| | Jul-24 | 11 / 13 | 84.6 | 189 / 210 | 90.0 | 183 / 201 | 91.0 |
| | Aug-24 | 17 / 19 | 89.5 | 208 / 215 | 96.7 | 151 / 152 | 99.3 |
| | Sep-24 | 22 / 23 | 95.7 | 241 / 277 | 87.0 | 232 / 264 | 87.9 |
| | Oct-24 | 25 / 26 | 96.2 | 245 / 282 | 86.9 | 234 / 267 | 87.6 |
| | Nov-24 | 30 / 31 | 96.8 | 246 / 275 | 89.5 | 232 / 257 | 90.3 |
| | Dec-24 | 35 / 37 | 94.6 | 249 / 278 | 89.6 | 233 / 258 | 90.3 |
| | Jan-25 | 37 / 39 | 94.9 | 234 / 267 | 87.6 | 223 / 252 | 88.5 |
| | Feb-25 | 31 / 33 | 93.9 | 217 / 251 | 86.5 | 176 / 200 | 88.0 |
| | Mar-25 | 38 / 40 | 95.0 | 224 / 256 | 87.5 | 214 / 244 | 87.7 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 68 / 70 | 97.1 | 243 / 246 | 98.8 | 225 / 226 | 99.6 |
| | 2022/23 | 104 / 105 | 99.1 | 297 / 303 | 98.0 | 278 / 282 | 98.6 |
| | 2023/24 | 59 / 62 | 95.2 | 271 / 290 | 93.5 | 260 / 278 | 93.5 |
| | 2024/25 | 38 / 40 | 95.0 | 224 / 256 | 87.5 | 214 / 244 | 87.7 |



CSC 218: % CiC reviews had been completed within required timescales (as at month end)



CSC 220: % CiC subsequent reviews completed within timescales



CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION

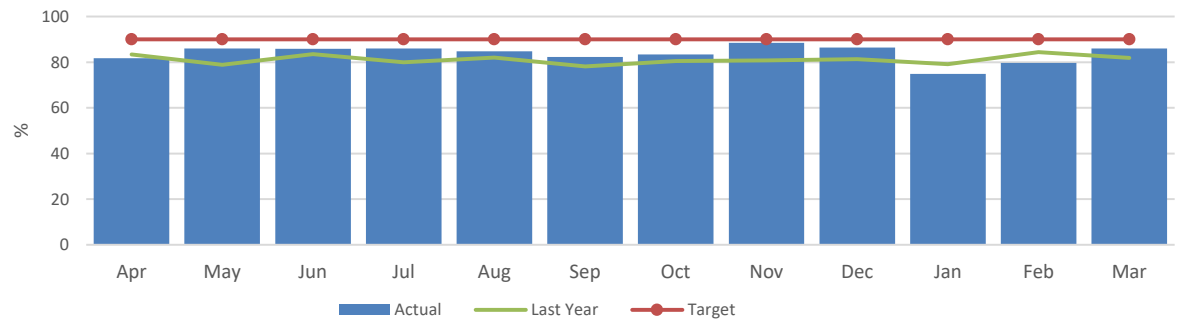
Percentage of Children in Care (CiC) who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales each month and year to date.

CSC 260a

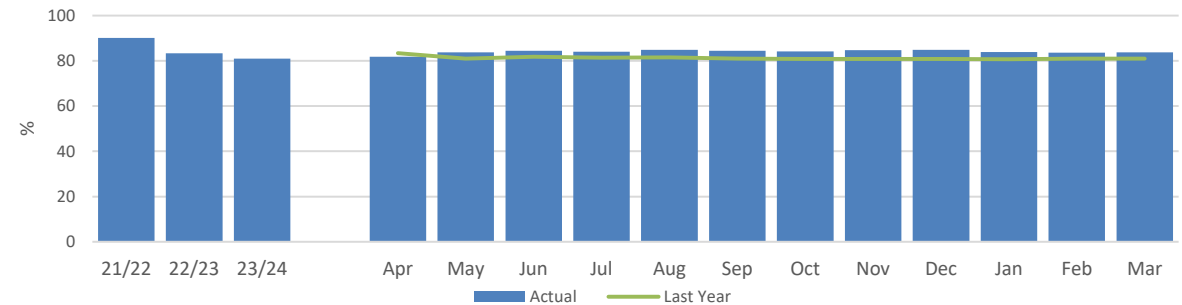
CSC 260b

| In Month Performance | | % CiC visits completed in timescale within the month | % CiC visits completed in timescale year to date |
|----------------------|---------|--|--|
| | Target | 90 | 90 |
| | Apr-24 | 81.8 | 81.8 |
| | May-24 | 86.0 | 83.8 |
| | Jun-24 | 85.9 | 84.4 |
| | Jul-24 | 86.0 | 84.0 |
| | Aug-24 | 84.8 | 84.8 |
| | Sep-24 | 82.3 | 84.4 |
| | Oct-24 | 83.3 | 84.2 |
| | Nov-24 | 88.4 | 84.7 |
| | Dec-24 | 86.5 | 84.9 |
| | Jan-25 | 74.8 | 83.9 |
| | Feb-25 | 79.7 | 83.6 |
| | Mar-25 | 85.9 | 83.7 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | | 90.1 |
| | 2022/23 | | 83.4 |
| | 2023/24 | | 81.0 |
| | 2024/25 | 85.9 | 83.7 |

CSC 260a: % CiC visits completed in timescale within the month



CSC 260b: % CiC visits completed in timescale year to date



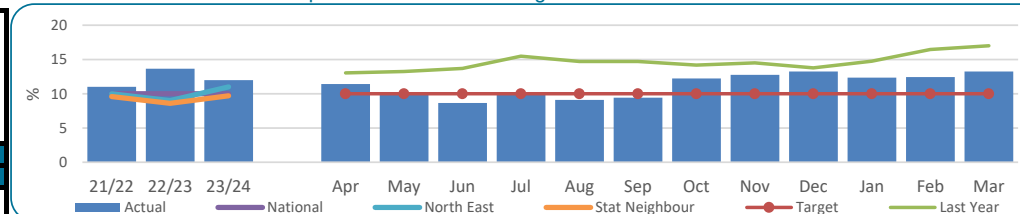
CHILDREN IN CARE: PLACEMENTS

DEFINITION

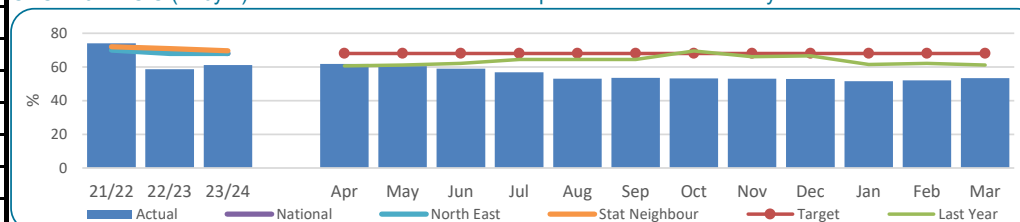
Of those Children in Care (CiC) at the point in time (excluding series of short-term placements), the percentage that had 3 or more separate placements in the previous 12 months; who (under the age of 16 years) had been in their current placement for 2 or more years. and who were placed more than 20 miles away from their home address. Proper assessment and an adequate choice of placements to meet the varied needs of different children are essential if appropriate stable placements are to be made. Inappropriate placements often break down and lead to frequent moves. Nevertheless, the circumstances of some individual children will require 3 or more separate placements during a year if they and others are to be kept safe.

| | Target | CSC 228 | | CSC 229 | | CSC 230 | |
|----------------------|---------|---|----------|---|----------|--|----------|
| | | % CiC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months | | % CiC (<16yrs) who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years | | % CiC placed 20 miles or more away from home | |
| | | Children | 10% % | Children | 68% % | Children | 10% % |
| In Month Performance | Apr-24 | 34 | 11.4 | 79 | 61.7 | 29 | 10.5 |
| | May-24 | 29 | 9.9 | 75 | 60.5 | 28 | 10.3 |
| | Jun-24 | 25 | 8.7 | 72 | 59.0 | 25 | 9.3 |
| | Jul-24 | 28 | 9.9 | 67 | 56.8 | 26 | 10.0 |
| | Aug-24 | 26 | 9.1 | 62 | 53.0 | 25 | 9.5 |
| | Sep-24 | 27 | 9.4 | 68 | 53.5 | 27 | 10.2 |
| | Oct-24 | 35 | 12.2 | 68 | 53.1 | 29 | 11.2 |
| | Nov-24 | 36 | 12.8 | 69 | 53.1 | 29 | 11.5 |
| | Dec-24 | 37 | 13.3 | 65 | 52.9 | 30 | 12.1 |
| | Jan-25 | 33 | 12.4 | 64 | 51.6 | 28 | 11.8 |
| | Feb-25 | 33 | 12.5 | 65 | 52.0 | 29 | 12.0 |
| | Mar-25 | 35 | 13.3 | 65 | 53.3 | 29 | 12.1 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 30 | 11.0 | 88 | 74.0 | 24 | 9.2 |
| | 2022/23 | 44 | 13.7 | 74 | 58.7 | 37 | 12.5 |
| | 2023/24 | 51 | 12.0 | 77 | 61.1 | 29 | 10.4 |
| | 2024/25 | 35 | 13.3 | 65 | 53.3 | 29 | 12.1 |

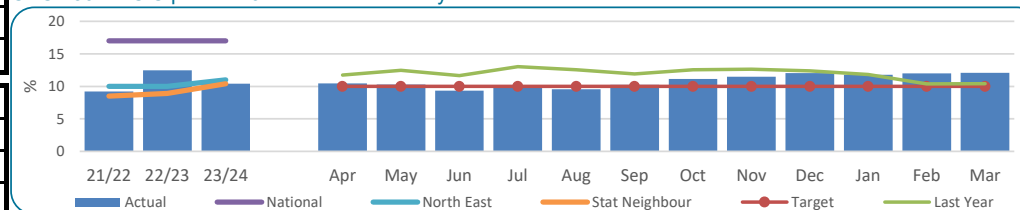
CSC 228: % CiC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months



CSC 229: % CiC (<16yrs) who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years



CSC 230: % CiC placed 20 miles or more away from home



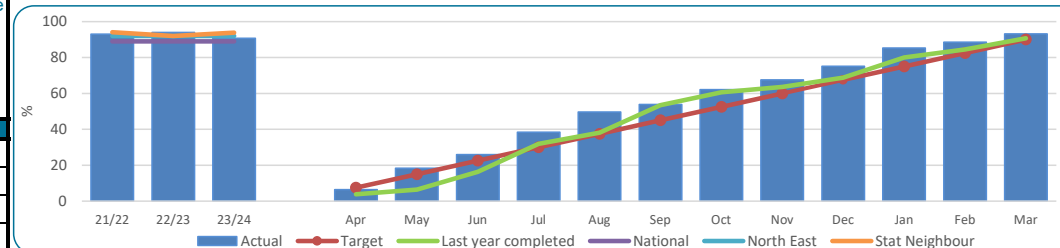
CHILDREN IN CARE: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

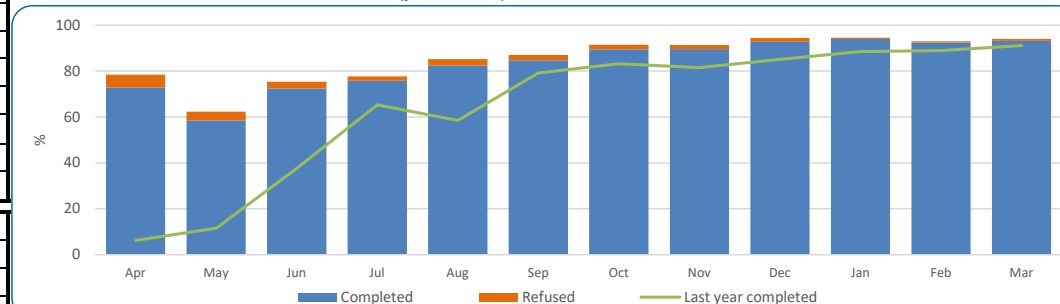
Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed and the percentage who have an up to date Health Check (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March). Children in Care share many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, but often to a greater degree. These indicators track the participation of our Children in Care's health as a proxy for monitoring the general health and wellbeing of the children, as well as providing a check on the effectiveness of joint working with Health to secure good health outcomes for Children in Care.

| | | CSC 250 | CSC 250a | | CSC 250b |
|----------------------|---------|---|---|--|---|
| | | % of CiC who have an up to date health checks | % of CiC refusing engagement in their review health check (YTD) | % of CiC who had a review health check completed (Snapshot at month end) | % of CiC who are due and had a review health check completed (year to date) |
| In Month Performance | Target | 90% | | | 90% |
| | Apr-24 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 88.0 | 72.9 |
| | May-24 | 18.3 | 3.8 | 52.9 | 58.5 |
| | Jun-24 | 26.0 | 2.9 | 76.5 | 72.5 |
| | Jul-24 | 38.5 | 2.0 | 67.9 | 75.8 |
| | Aug-24 | 49.6 | 2.9 | 82.4 | 82.4 |
| | Sep-24 | 53.8 | 2.4 | 77.8 | 84.7 |
| | Oct-24 | 62.1 | 2.1 | 18.8 | 89.4 |
| | Nov-24 | 67.6 | 1.8 | 71.4 | 89.6 |
| | Dec-24 | 75.2 | 1.7 | 100.0 | 92.8 |
| | Jan-25 | 85.3 | 0.5 | 87.5 | 94.1 |
| | Feb-25 | 88.5 | 0.5 | 61.5 | 92.5 |
| | Mar-25 | 93.2 | 0.9 | 82.6 | 93.2 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 93.0 | 3.7 | | 91.6 |
| | 2022/23 | 94.0 | 1.6 | | 83.3 |
| | 2023/24 | 90.7 | 1.3 | | 91.1 |
| | 2024/25 | 93.2 | 0.9 | 82.6 | 93.2 |

CSC 250: % of CiC who are up to date for a review health check



CSC 250b: % of CiC due a review health check (year to date) that have had one, and % that refused



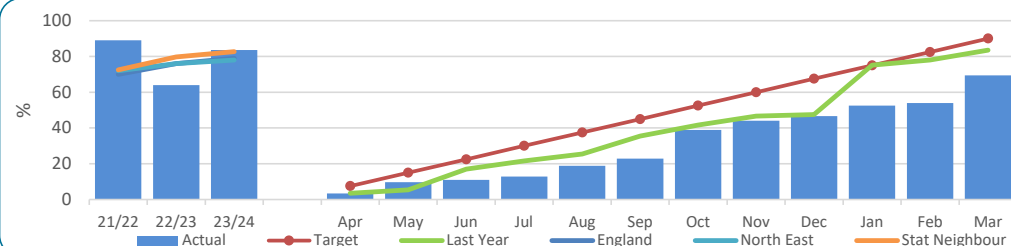
CHILDREN IN CARE: DENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

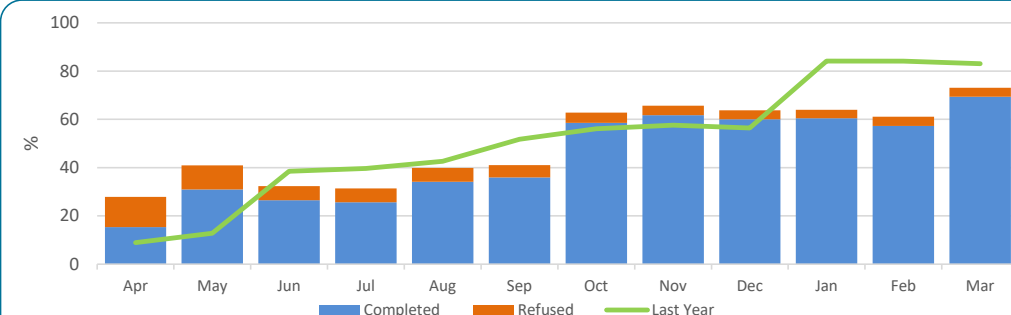
Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who had had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and the percentage who had had an annual health check during the previous 12 months (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March). Children in Care share many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, but often to a greater degree. These indicators track the participation of our Children in Care with dental checks as a proxy for monitoring the general health and wellbeing of the children, as well as providing a check on the effectiveness of joint working with Health to secure good health outcomes for Children in Care.

| | | CSC 251 | CSC 251c | | CSC 251d |
|----------------------|---------|--|--|---|--|
| | | % of CiC who have an up to date dental check | % of CiC refusing engagement in their dental check (YTD) | % of CiC who had a dental check completed (Snapshot at month end) | % of CiC who are due and had a dental check completed (year to date) |
| In Month Performance | Target | 90% | | | 90% |
| | Apr-24 | 3.4 | 12.5 | 50.0 | 15.4 |
| | May-24 | 9.7 | 9.9 | 46.7 | 31.0 |
| | Jun-24 | 11.0 | 5.9 | 11.5 | 26.5 |
| | Jul-24 | 12.8 | 5.8 | 22.7 | 25.6 |
| | Aug-24 | 18.8 | 5.7 | 39.1 | 34.2 |
| | Sep-24 | 22.9 | 5.1 | 18.8 | 35.9 |
| | Oct-24 | 38.9 | 4.3 | 50.0 | 58.5 |
| | Nov-24 | 44.1 | 4.0 | 8.3 | 61.7 |
| | Dec-24 | 46.7 | 3.8 | 13.3 | 60.0 |
| | Jan-25 | 52.6 | 3.5 | 21.7 | 60.5 |
| | Feb-25 | 54.0 | 3.8 | 23.8 | 57.3 |
| | Mar-25 | 69.4 | 3.7 | 69.2 | 69.4 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 89.0 | 2.6 | | 83.7 |
| | 2022/23 | 64.0 | 1.4 | | 47.7 |
| | 2023/24 | 83.5 | 3.0 | | 83.1 |
| | 2024/25 | 69.4 | 3.7 | 69.2 | 69.4 |

CSC 251: % of CiC who are up to date for a dental check



CSC 251d: % of CiC due a dental check (year to date) that have had one, and the % that refused



CHILDREN IN CARE: INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

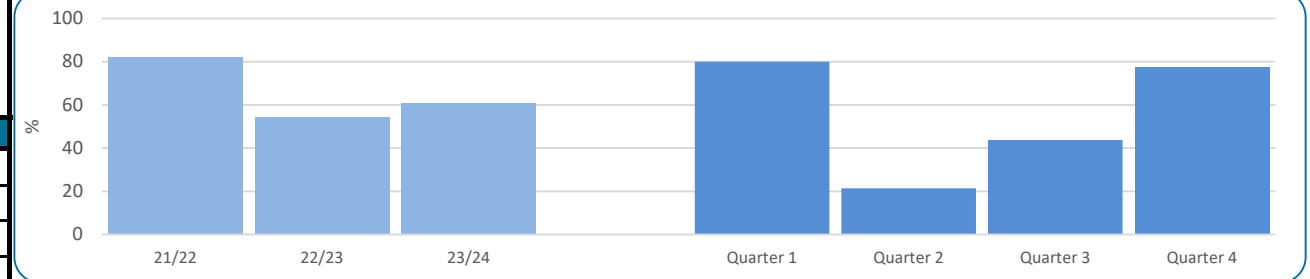
DEFINITION

Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child coming into our care year to date (data from Health), and percentage of IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days. This excludes children / young people coming into care due to being remand or UASC.

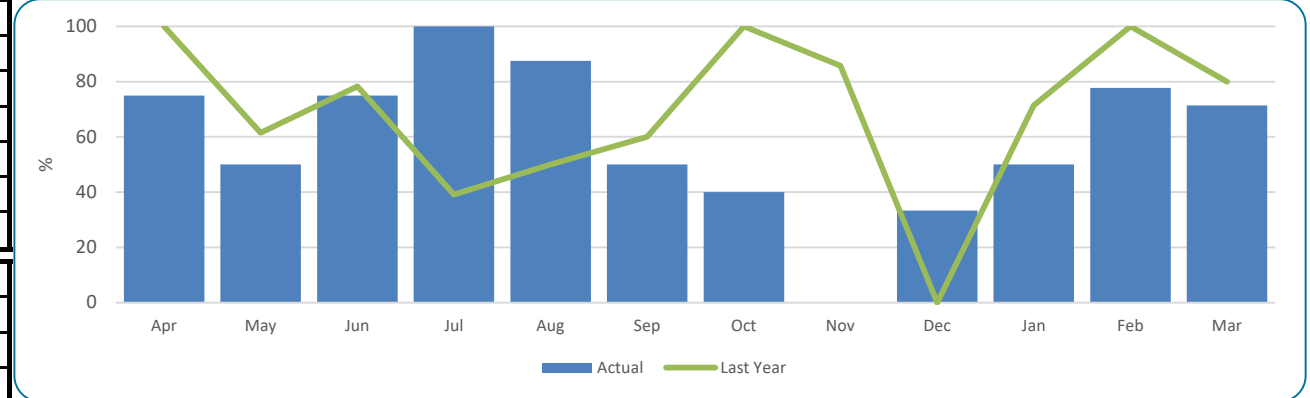
Page 36

| In Month Performance | Target | Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health) | IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days |
|----------------------|---------|--|--|
| | 95 | | |
| | Apr-24 | | 3 / 4 |
| | May-24 | | 1 / 2 |
| | Jun-24 | 8 / 10 | 3 / 4 |
| | Jul-24 | | 2 / 2 |
| | Aug-24 | | 7 / 8 |
| | Sep-24 | 3 / 14 | 2 / 4 |
| | Oct-24 | | 2 / 5 |
| | Nov-24 | | 0 / 8 |
| | Dec-24 | 7 / 16 | 1 / 3 |
| | Jan-25 | | 1 / 2 |
| | Feb-25 | | 7 / 9 |
| | Mar-25 | 14 / 18 | 5 / 7 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 82.1% | 89.4% |
| | 2022/23 | 54.5% | 72.4% |
| | 2023/24 | 60.7% | 65.5% |
| | 2024/25 | 55.2% | 58.6% |

Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)



IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days



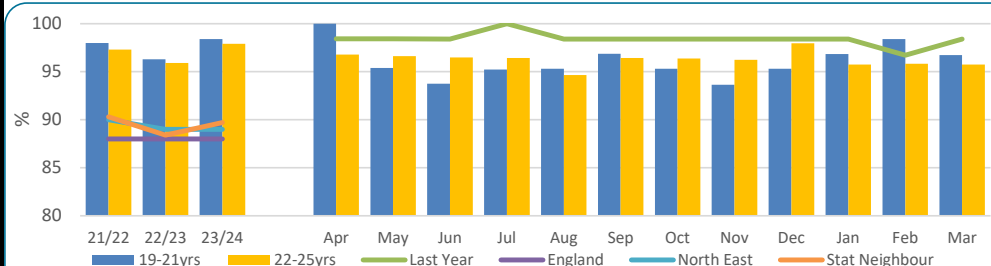
CARE LEAVERS

DEFINITION

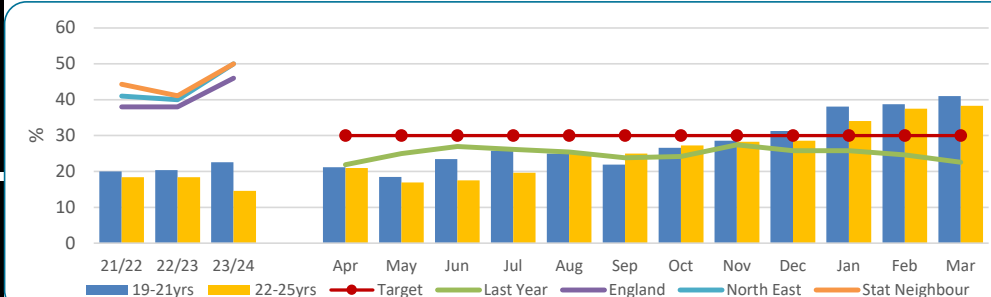
Former relevant care leavers split to show the young people who, at 31st March, will be aged 19-21 and those who will be aged 22-25. The percentage who were in suitable accommodation at their most recent contact, and the percentage who were not in employment, education or training at their most recent contact. This measures accommodation and employment outcomes for young people formerly in care - a key group at risk of social exclusion. It is intended to increase the proportion of former care leavers who are in suitable accommodation and employment, education or training.

| | | CSC 286 | | CSC 294 | |
|----------------------|---------|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| | | 19-21 year olds | | 22-25 year olds | |
| | | % Care leavers in suitable accommodation | % Care leavers NEET | % Care leavers in suitable accommodation | % Care leavers NEET |
| In Month Performance | Target | 90% | 30% | | |
| | Apr-24 | 100.0 | 21.2 | 96.8 | 21.0 |
| | May-24 | 95.4 | 18.5 | 96.6 | 16.9 |
| | Jun-24 | 93.8 | 23.4 | 96.5 | 17.5 |
| | Jul-24 | 95.2 | 25.8 | 96.4 | 19.6 |
| | Aug-24 | 95.3 | 25.0 | 94.6 | 25.0 |
| | Sep-24 | 96.9 | 21.9 | 96.4 | 25.0 |
| | Oct-24 | 95.3 | 26.6 | 96.4 | 27.3 |
| | Nov-24 | 93.7 | 28.6 | 96.2 | 28.3 |
| | Dec-24 | 95.3 | 31.3 | 98.0 | 28.6 |
| | Jan-25 | 96.8 | 38.1 | 95.7 | 34.0 |
| | Feb-25 | 98.4 | 38.7 | 95.8 | 37.5 |
| | Mar-25 | 96.7 | 41.0 | 95.7 | 38.3 |
| Annual Trend | 2021/22 | 98.0 | 20.0 | 97.3 | 18.4 |
| | 2022/23 | 96.3 | 20.4 | 95.9 | 18.4 |
| | 2023/24 | 98.4 | 22.6 | 97.9 | 14.6 |
| | 2024/25 | 96.7 | 41.0 | 95.7 | 38.3 |

CSC 286: % Care leavers in suitable accommodation



CSC 294: % Care leavers NEET



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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
1 SEPTEMBER 2025**

WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2025/26 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the next Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and discussions held at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Annual Briefing which took place on 28 May 2025.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendation

4. Members are requested to consider and approve the attached draft work programme as the agreed work programme for the Municipal year 2025/26 and any other additional items which they might wish to include.

**Amy Wennington
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Mike Conway 6309

| | |
|--|---|
| Council Plan | The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan. The Work Programme contains items which enable Members to scrutinise those areas that contribute the priority of 'Homes' - affordable and secure homes that meet the current and future needs of residents and 'Living Well' – a healthier and better quality of life for longer, supporting those who need it most. |
| Addressing inequalities | There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address. |
| Tackling Climate Change | There are no issues which this report needs to address. |
| Efficient and effective use of resources | This report has no impact on the Council's Efficiency Programme. |
| Health and Wellbeing | This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington. |
| S17 Crime and Disorder | This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder. |
| Wards Affected | The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal. |
| Groups Affected | The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal. |
| Budget and Policy Framework | This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework. |
| Key Decision | This is not a key decision. |
| Urgent Decision | This is not an urgent decision |
| Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers | This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers |

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
6. The Council Plan was adopted on 18 July 2024, and outlines Darlington Borough Council's long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities for action over the next three years. It gives strategic direction to the Council and Council services, defining priorities, identifying key actions, and shaping delivery.
7. The Council Plan identifies six priorities, including 'Children and Young People', which aims to support the best start in life, realising potential and raising aspirations. Eight key deliverables are identified as part of this priority.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

8. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims.
9. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

| Topic | Timescale | Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved | Link to PMF (metrics) | Scrutiny's Role / Notes |
|---|-----------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Performance Monitoring Q4 | 01/09/25 | Chris Bell | | To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary |
| Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report | 20/10/25 | Louise Addison, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley | | Annual Monitoring |
| Performance Monitoring Q1 | 20/10/25 | Chris Bell | | To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary |
| Children's Services Self-Assessment | 20/10/25 | Chris Bell | | To provide Scrutiny with the Annual Self- Assessment for Children's Services so that constructive 'critical friend' challenge takes place to drive improvement in public services |
| Learning and Skills Service Annual Report | 20/10/25 | Paul Richardson | | Annual Monitoring |
| Children and young Peoples Plan | 05/01/26 | Christine Shields | | To update Members on the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan |
| Local Designated Officer Annual Report (LADO) | 05/01/26 | Martin Graham | | To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned |
| Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2024/25 | 05/01/26 | Martin Graham | | To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit. |
| Exclusion and Suspension Update | 05/01/26 | Tony Murphy | | |

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

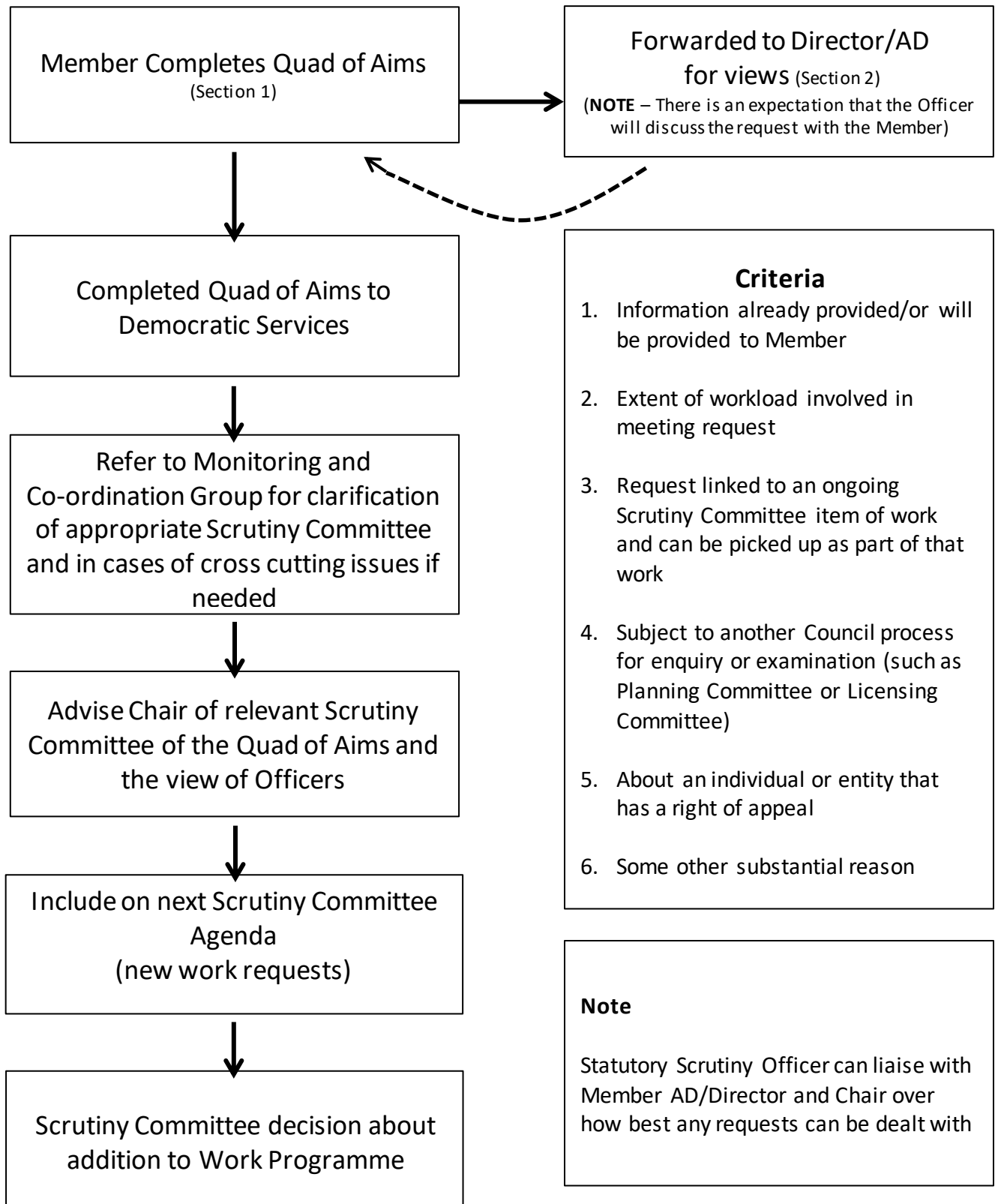
| Topic | Timescale | Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved | Link to PMF (metrics) | Scrutiny's Role / Notes |
|---|-----------|--|-----------------------|--|
| School Avoidance Update | 05/01/26 | Tony Murphy | | Long term school absence |
| Transitional Services | 05/01/26 | Joss Harbron / Chris Bell | | |
| Medium Term Financial Plan | 05/01/26 | Brett Nielsen | | |
| Transport Policy | 02/03/26 | Tony Murphy | | To update members on the Council's transport policy |
| Annual Fostering Report | 02/03/26 | | | Annual Monitoring |
| Performance Monitoring Q2 | 02/03/26 | Chris Bell | | To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary |
| Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report | 02/03/26 | TBD / Amanda Hugill | | Annual Monitoring |
| Childcare Sufficiency Review | 02/03/26 | Tony Murphy | | Annual Monitoring |
| Update on Social Care Options for families affected by youth offending | 02/03/26 | Chris Bell | | Member request for an update on care available for families who are affected by youth offending (victims / perpetrators) |
| Children and Young People Public Health Overview | 20/04/26 | Joanne Hennessey | | Annual Monitoring |
| SEND Strategy Update | 20/04/26 | Tony Murphy | | To update members on the Council's SEND strategy |
| Performance Monitoring Q3 | 20/04/26 | Chris Bell | | To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary |
| Support for Darlington Youth Partnership | 20/04/26 | Heather Insull (Youth Focus NE) | | |
| Update on availability and condition of children's play areas in Darlington | TBD | | | Member request to provide the Committee with an update on the condition, locations and numbers of play areas in the town |

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

| Topic | Timescale | Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved | Link to PMF (metrics) | Scrutiny's Role / Notes |
|---------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Child Poverty | TBD | Lynne Davies | | To update the committee on the results of the ongoing deep-dive on Child Poverty |

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PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

| REASON FOR REQUEST? | RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?) |
|---|--|
| | |
| PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?) | HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE? |
| | |

Signed Councillor

Date

SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)

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| | |
|---|---|
| <div>1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes No If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services) (b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so?</div> <div>2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?</div> <div>3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?</div> <div>4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?</div> <div>5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?</div> <div>6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme ?</div> | <div>Criteria</div> <div>1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member</div> <div>2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request</div> <div>3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work</div> <div>4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)</div> <div>5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal</div> <div>6. Some other substantial reason</div> |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

Signed **Position** **Date**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 6 AUGUST 2025 - 31 DECEMBER 2025**

| Title | Decision Maker and Date |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Annual Review of the Investment Fund | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Blue Badge Application Procedures | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Climate Change and Nature Restoration Strategy | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2023/24 | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Dolphin Centre – Invest to Save Projects | Council 2 Oct 2025 |
| | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 1 2025/26 | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Revenue Budget Monitoring 2025/26 - Quarter 1 | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Single Use Plastic Policy | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2024/2025 | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Use of Land at Faverdale (Former St Modwen Land) for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality Credits | Cabinet 9 Sep 2025 |
| Community Asset Transfer Policy | Cabinet 7 Oct 2025 |
| Land at Ingenium Parc and Morton Palms - Development Proposal | Cabinet 7 Oct 2025 |
| Procurement Plan Update | Cabinet 7 Oct 2025 |
| Schedule of Transactions | Cabinet 7 Oct 2025 |
| Strategic Asset Plan | Cabinet 7 Oct 2025 |
| Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 2 | Cabinet 4 Nov 2025 |
| Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2 | Cabinet 4 Nov 2025 |
| Town Centre Regeneration | Cabinet 4 Nov 2025 |
| Woodland Road Waiting Restrictions | Cabinet 4 Nov 2025 |
| Housing Services Tenancy Policy 2025-2030 | Cabinet 2 Dec 2025 |
| Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management 2025/26 | Cabinet 2 Dec 2025 |
| MTFP for consultation | Cabinet 2 Dec 2025 |

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