

Children's Social Care Performance & Practise Report

Quarter 1 (April - June 2022)

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Q1 2022-23 Performance Summary

Referral: 79.6% of referrals received during Q1 2022/23 were completed within 1 working day and 1.9% took over 3 working days to complete. Extensive work regarding referral enquiries has been required for some cases requiring further information from third parties and further contacts with the family. This has resulted in completion taking longer than the statutory timescale. However, the additional work has been to the benefit of the child.

Re-Referrals: 16.1% of the children referred during Q1 2022/23 have been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral. This is positively below the internal target of 18%.

Early Help: 387 Early Help Assessments were started during Q1 2022/23, 10.3% of which were started by an external agency.

Missing: Of the children and young people who were reported missing from home, 80.9% have been offered a return home interview within the 72-hour timescale. Where the co-ordinator cannot engage the child or young person, discussion takes place with parents, carers, teachers or social workers to offer insight around reducing the missing episodes. Of those who went missing, 21.2% were a Child in Care accounting for 51.8% of the missing episodes.

Children & Families Assessments: 324 children had a single assessment carried out during Q1 2022/23. Social workers completed 79.0% of the C&F assessments within timescale during Q1 2022/23. This is negatively below our internal target of 90%.

Section 47 Enquiries: 63 section 47 enquires were started during Q1 2022/23 involving 115 children, 2 of which were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) at the time of the enquiry.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 75.0% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, during Q1 2022/23 (25.0% that were not in timescale relate to 2 families). Darlington's performance has dipped this quarter, additional processes have been put in place to address this to aid improvement going forward.

Child Protection Plans: 104 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of June 2022. This is a 9.5% increase compared to the 95 children who were subject to CP at the end of June 2021. Darlington currently has a of 46.0 rate per 10,000 population for children subject to a CPP. 100.0% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and all of the CP reviews were carried out in timescale. 8.3% of children ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q1 2022/23 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years. The plans had been confirmed as appropriately opened for this length of time and the families are now in a position where they can be confidently closed to CP and a CiN plan put in place. At the end of June 2022, the percentage of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending was 25.0%, above the 6% target and relates to 2 families.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 73.2% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q1 2022/23. Although the internal target (90%) has not being met, a further 14.3% of visits were held on working day 11 and 12.

Children in Care: 280 children were in care as of June 2022, 7 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. During Q1 2022/23 a total of 27 children came into the care of the DBC and a total of 20 children ceased to be in care.

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 98.8% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales during Q1 2022/21.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 89.1% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale during Q1 2022/23. This is in line with our internal target of 90%.

Children in Care Placements: 10.4% of Children in Care (CiC), as of June 2022, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is in line with the internal target of 10%.

69.1% 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 negatively just above our target of 68.0%.

6.5% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of June 2022, which is positively below our target of 10.0%. This relates to young people who have been placed in residential care due to their disability / placed with family / or placed for adoption, and this provision is not available within 20 miles.

Initial Health Assessments: We are awaiting the official data from CDDFT to confirm the percentage of the children, that came into our care during Q1 2022/23, had a health appointment within 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 28.8% of children due a review health assessment by June 2022 have had one completed. 19.2% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by June 2022 have had one completed.

The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks has decreased throughout the year, with 10.6% refusing their health review and 5.5% refusing their dental review. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

Care Leavers: 98.2% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of June 2022 with 1 young person in custody. The percentage of care leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to be positively below the target set of 30% at 19.6% at the end of June 2022. 19.7% of our care leavers were engaging in education (5.4% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 60.7% young people were in training or employment (30.4% in full time, 30.3% in part time).

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.

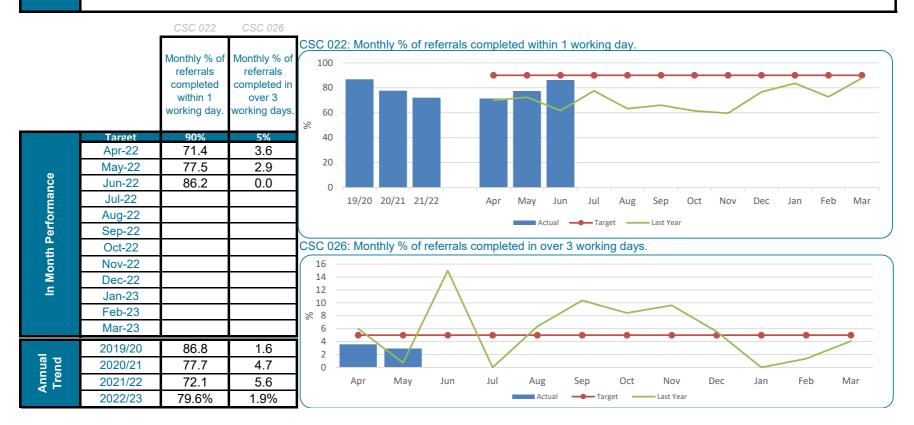
In Q1 2022/23, 79.6% of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is a positive increase when compared with 68.0% in Q1 2021/22 and 77.8% in Q1 2020/21, however, this is still below our 90% target.

1.9% referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q1 2022/23 which is positively below our target of 5%.

All referrals that are completed out of timescale are reviewed by the service manager to ensure delay was unavoidable. A summary of the reasons are as follows:

- Difficulties in contacting the family for further information
- Awaiting further information from a 3rd party
- Confirming allocation to the required service.

No negative impacts on the families have been highlighted because of these delays.



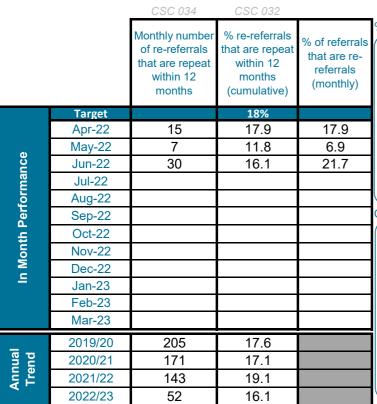
REFERRALS: RE-REFERRALS

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.

PERFORMANCE

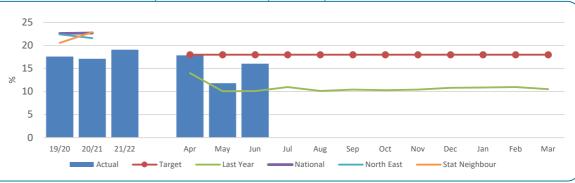
We have seen an increase in re-referrals this quarter compared to previous years. Cumulatively we are still positively below our 18% target with 16.1% of the referrals being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting.







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



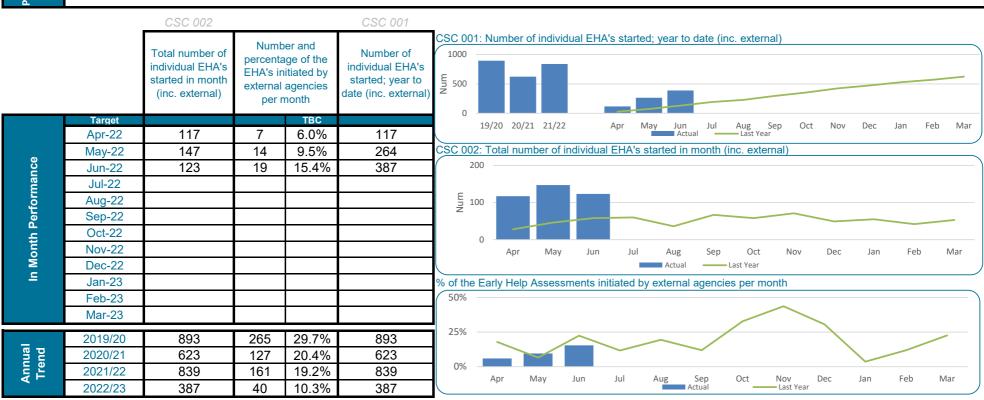
EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

387 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q1 2022/23, 10.3% (40) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is an increase on Q1 2021/22 (230 EHA's) but with a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (18.7%).



MISSING: EPISODES

DEFINITION

The number of episodes of children going missing in Darlington, who are a Child in Care.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The total number of missing episodes in Q1 2022/23 was 199 involving 66 individual children. 14 of these were a Child in Care (CiC) and accounted for 103 of the epsiodes.

Children in Care continue to dominate the number of missing episodes and with 8 of the 14 children having more than 3 reported episodes in the quarter, totalling 95 episodes of missing. The total missing episodes for CiC has increased when compared to Q1 2021/22 which was 51 episodes, but for the same number of children and young people (14). When children are looked after by other authorities but cared for in Darlington, the ERASE Team have been alerted and provided with relevant information to ensure that the young people have been appropriately placed.

		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	
		Episode	Child	Episode	Child	Episode	Child
In Month Performance	Apr-22	57	27	33	6		
	May-22	62	30	29	9		
	Jun-22	80	34	41	10	1	1
	Jul-22						
	Aug-22						
	Sep-22						
	Oct-22						
	Nov-22						
	Dec-22						
	Jan-23						
	Feb-23						
	Mar-23						
Annual Trend	2019/20	351	136	129	24	32	10
	2020/21	370	152	107	30	15	4
	2021/22	582	174	253	31	22	4
4	2022/23	199	66	103	14	1	1

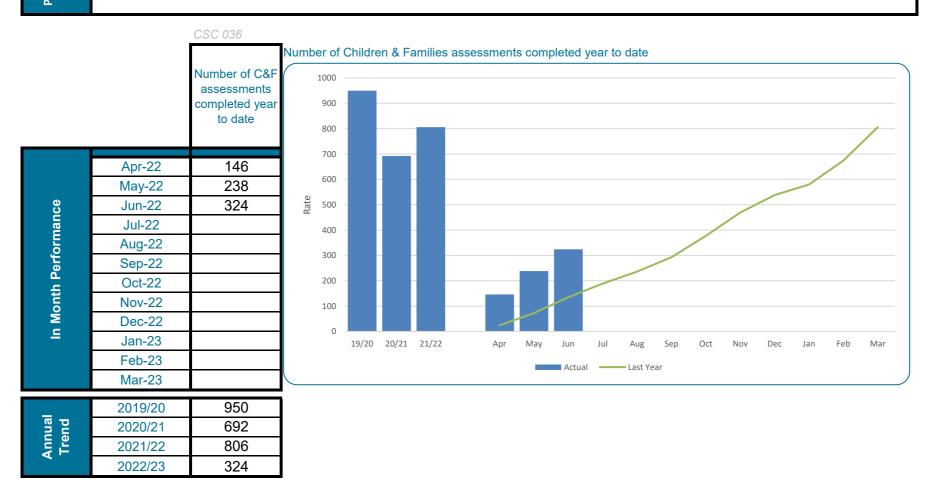
ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

Cumulative number of Children & Families assessments completed.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

324 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q1 2022/23. This is an increase when compared to Q1 2020/21 (142) and Q1 2021/22 (135) but comparable to Q1 2019/20 (337).



ASSESSMENTS: TIMELINESS

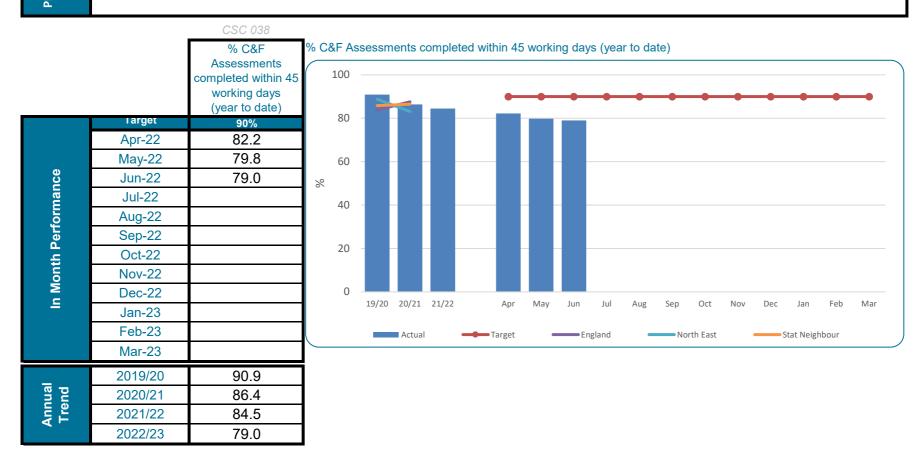
DEFINITION

Of those assessments completed in a period, the percentage completed within 45 working days.

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

79.0% of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in Q1 2022/23. This is below Q1 2021/22 performance of 90.4% in timescale, however, that was with 58.3% less assessments to complete.



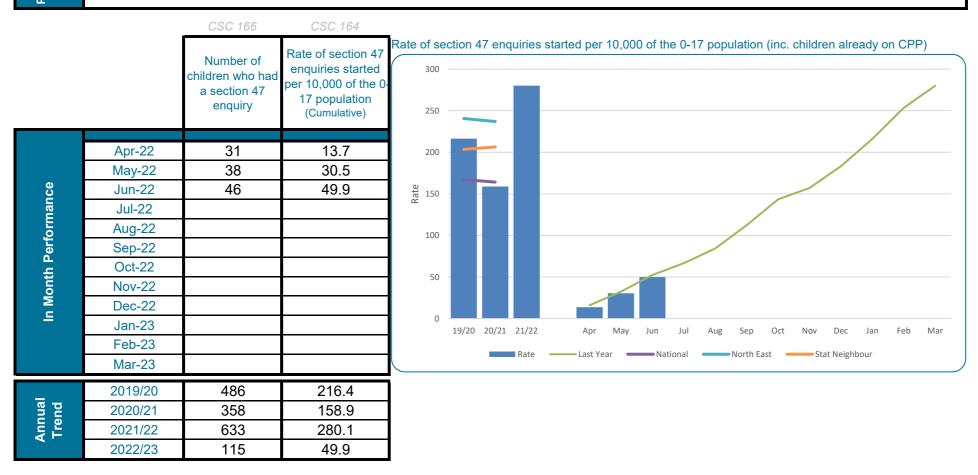
SECTION 47 ENQUIRES: STARTED

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

In Q1 2022/23, 115 children had a section 47 enquiry started.



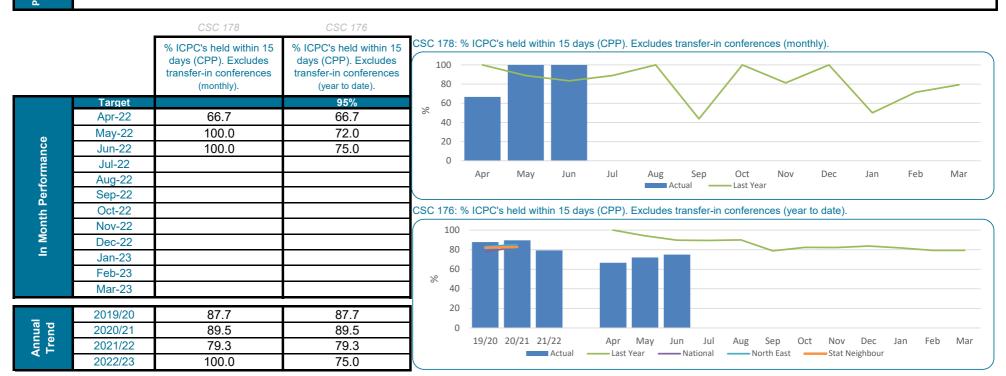
INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES: TIMELINESS

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.

PERFORMANCE

At the end of Q1 2022/23, 75.0% of the Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences. The 2 families that did not have their ICPC within timescale, was in April 2022 and due to late conference notification.



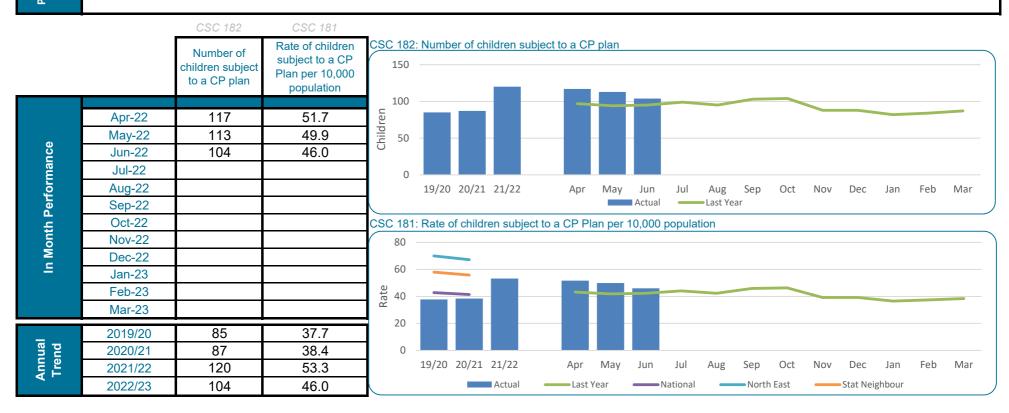
CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

104 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of June 2022. This is an increase on the 95 children who were subject to CP at the end of June 2021.



CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

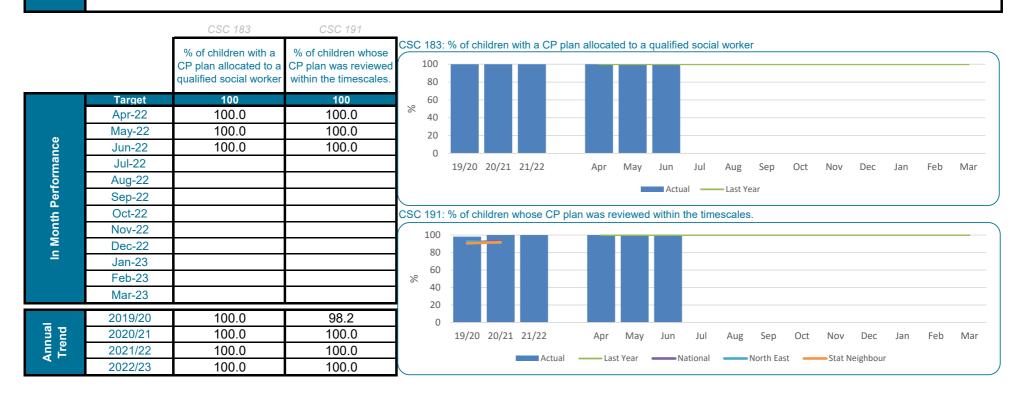
The percentage of children subject to a Child Protection (CP) plan at the end of the month and who at that date had had a plan continuously for at least the previous 3 months, whose case was reviewed within the required timescales.

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker.

100% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required 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.

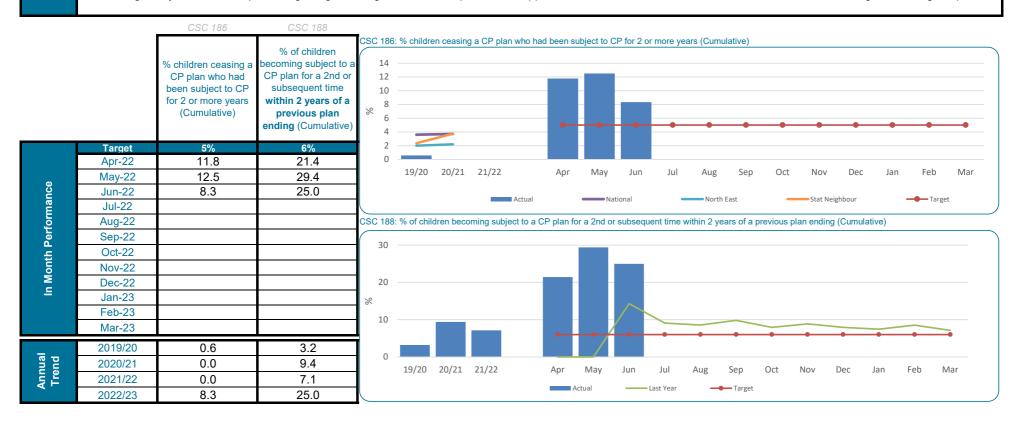
These indicators reflect the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to all children not needing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan within a maximum of two years, or becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.

PERFORMANCE

25.0% of the children became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending.

8.3% of children ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q1 2022/23 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years. The plans had been confirmed as appropriately opened for this length of time and the families are now in a position where they can be confidently closed to CP and a CiN plan put in place.

We are negatively above all our percentage targets in regard to CP time periods but appears more substantial due to the low numbers we have starting and ending CP plans.



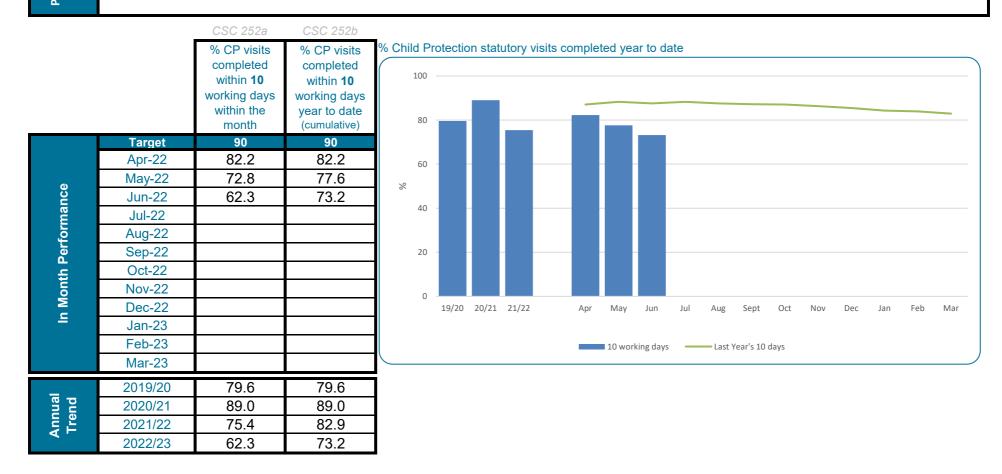
CHILD PROTECTION: STATUTORY VISITS

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

73.2% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q1 2022/23. Although the 10 day target (90%) has not being met, a further 14.3% of visits were held on working day 11 and 12.



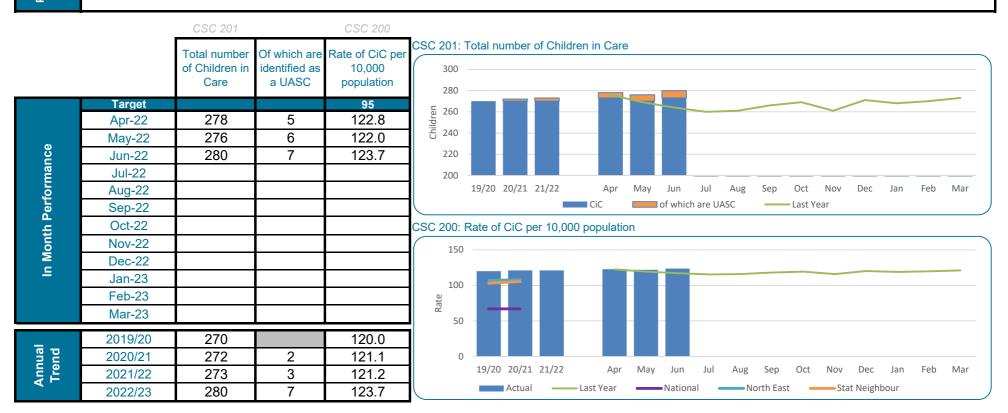
CHILDREN IN CARE

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

280 children were in care as at June 2022, 7 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The rate of children in care per ten thousand population is higher than June 2021 (117.2) but below June 2020 (129.6).



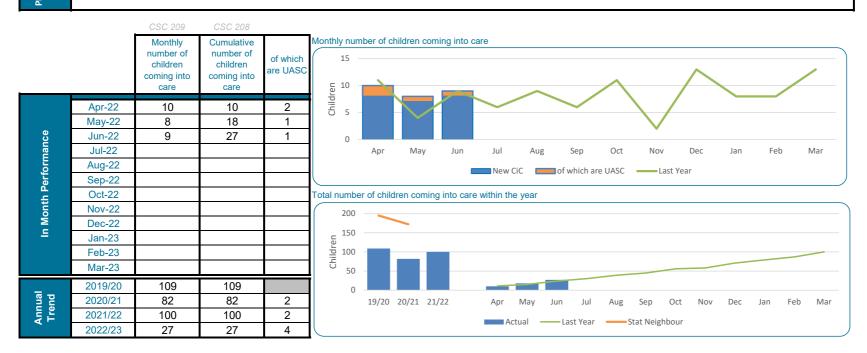
CHILDREN IN CARE: COMING INTO CARE

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). type.

RFORMANC

27 children from 22 families came into care in Q1 2022/23. This is a slight increase when compared with the 24 children who came into care in Q1 2021/22, but a decrease from Q1 2020/21 (29 children) and Q1 2019/20 (37 children). 4 young people came into care after being accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child).



CHILDREN IN CARE: CEASING CARE

DEFINITION

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

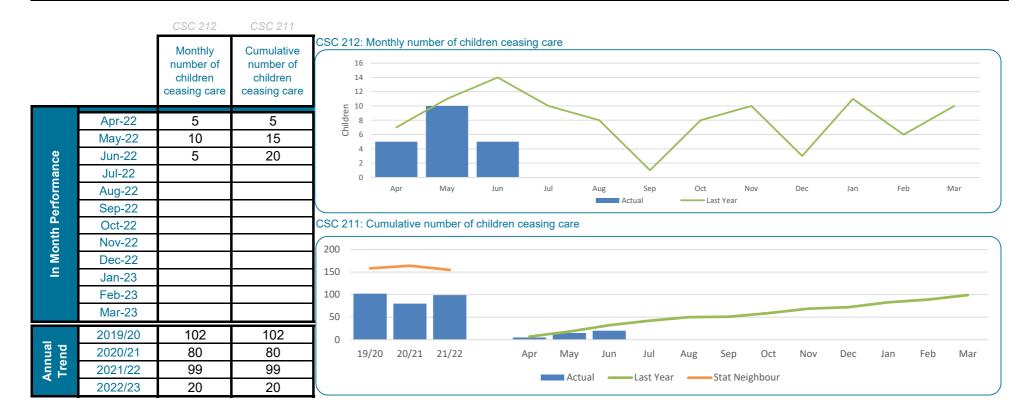
Number of children ceasing to be a Child in Care during each month and year to date and their destination when they ceased being in care.

20 children and young people ceased to be in care in Q1 2022/23. This is a decrease when compared with the 32 children who ceased in Q1 2021/22, but an increase from Q1 2020/21 (8 children).

Of the children and young people who did cease CiC:

- 40.0% due to turning 18 and becoming a care leaver.
- 25.0% returned home to their parent(s).
- 20.0% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative.
- 15.0% were adopted

The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) has increased when compared to Q1 2021/22 (9.4%) and Q1 2020/21 (0%).



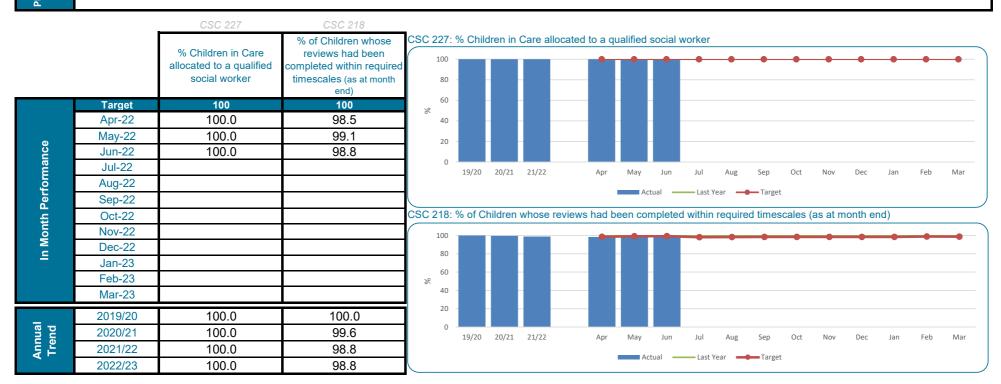
CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

The percentage of Children in Care (CiC) which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time and the percentage of Children in Care that were allocated to a qualified social worker at the end of the month. 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.

PERFORMANC E ANALYSIS

100% of Children in Care (CiC) are allocated to a qualified social worker and 98.8% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales.



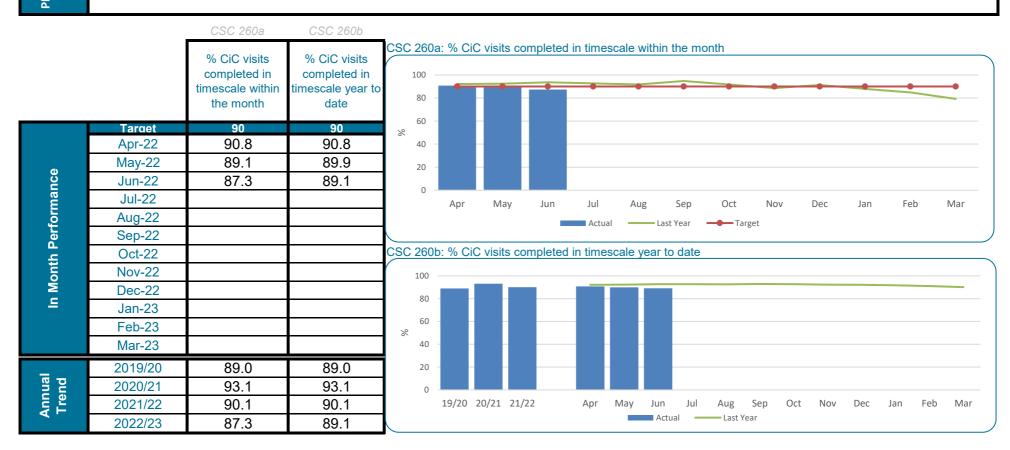
CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

89.1% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q1 2022/23. This is in line with our internal target of 90%.



CHILDREN IN CARE: PLACEMENTS

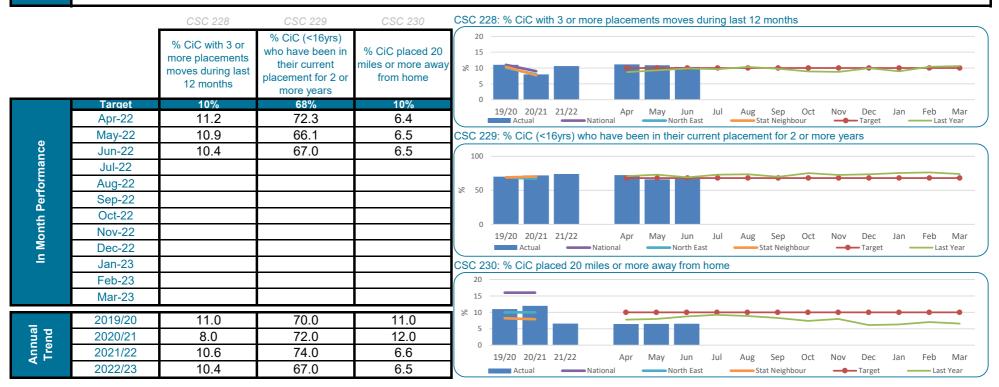
DEFINITION

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.

10.4% of our Children in Care, as at June 2022, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is at internal target (10.0%), and above the 9.9% as at June 2021.

Currently, 67.0% 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 just below our 68% target and was due to new placement move, ceasing to be in care and some children turned 16 so no longer recorded in this measure.

6.5% of our Children in Care have needed to be placed 20 or more miles away from home as at June 2022. This is positively below target of 10% and that of June 2021 (8.8%). All these placements have been confirmed by team managers to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.



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).

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

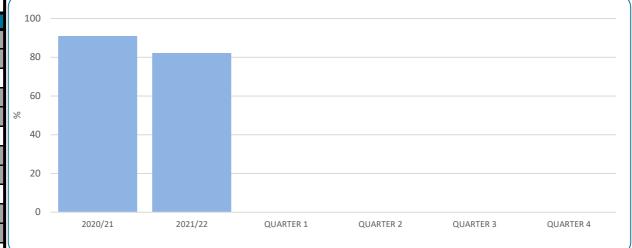
We are awaiting the official data from CDDFT to confirm the percentage of the children, that came into our care during Q1 2022/23, had a health appointment within 20 days.

Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)

working days (by Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)

	Target	95
	Apr-22	
	May-22	
ıce	Jun-22	TBC
mar	Jul-22	
In Month Performance	Aug-22	
Perl	Sep-22	
th F	Oct-22	
lon	Nov-22	
	Dec-22	
	Jan-23	
	Feb-23	
	Mar-23	
	2040/20	72.0
<u> </u>	2019/20	72.9
nnual	2020/21	90.9
ını	2021/22	82.1

2022/23



CHILDREN IN CARE: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

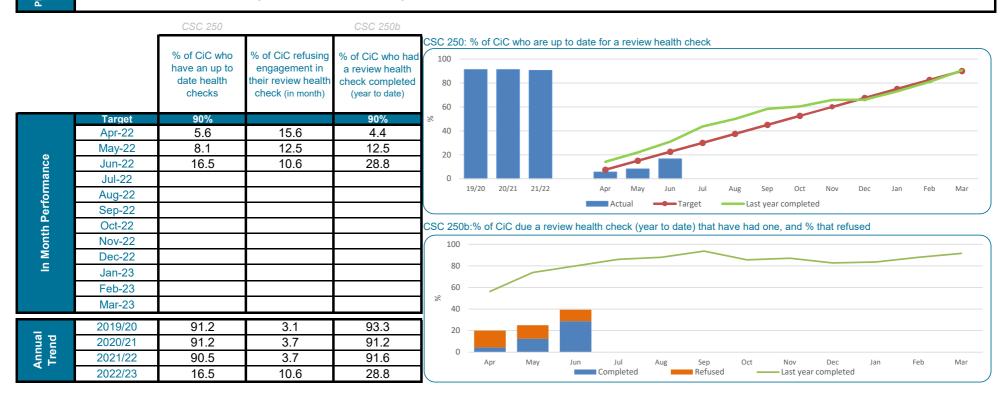
Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed and the percentage who have an up to date Health Check (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March).

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.

RFORMANC

28.8% of children due a review health assessment by June 2022 have had one completed.

Of the children who did not have a health review, 10.6% of them are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.



CHILDREN IN CARE: DENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

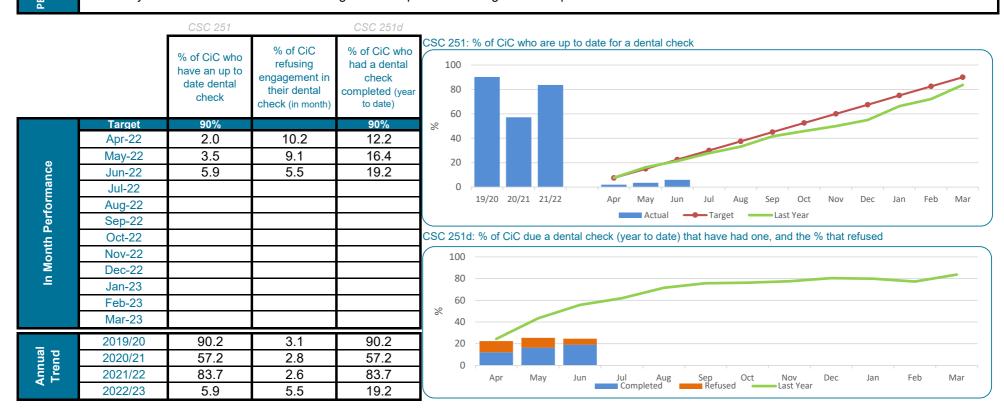
DEFINITION

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

19.2% of children due a dental check assessment by June 2022 have had one completed.

Of the children who did not have a dental check, 5.5% of them are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.



CARE LEAVERS

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

DEFINITION

Former relevant care leavers split to show the young people who, at 31st March, will be aged 19-21. 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.

98.2% of our care leavers aged 19-21 were in suitable accommodation at the end of June 2022.

Of the young people (aged 19-21), as of 30th June 2022, the following were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 1.8% because of illness or disability
- 10.7% because of other circumstances
- 7.1% because of pregnancy or parenting.

This equates to 19.6% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.

19.7% of our care leavers were engaging in education (5.4% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 60.7% young people were in training or employment (30.4% in full time, 30.3% in part time).

CSC 294 CSC 286: % Care leavers in suitable accommodation % Care leavers in % Care leavers 100 suitable NEET accommodation 80 **Target** 90% 30% 60 Apr-22 98.2 23.2 % 40 May-22 98.2 21.4 Performance 20 Jun-22 98.2 19.6 Jul-22 19/20 20/21 21/22 May Jul Aug Sep Feb Aug-22 19-21yrs ____Last Year England North East Stat Neighbour Sep-22 Oct-22 CSC 294: % Care leavers NEET Month Nov-22 50 Dec-22 ₽ 40 Jan-23 30 Feb-23 Mar-23 20 2019/20 97.8 27.0 10 2020/21 100.0 24.6 22.2 2021/22 100.0 19/20 20/21 21/22 Jun Oct Nov 98.2 19.6 19-21vrs ----Target Last Year England North East Stat Neighbour 2022/23