



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children's Social Care Performance & Practice Report

Year end 2022/23

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Year end 2022-23 Performance Summary

Referrals: 84.1% of referrals received in 2022/23 were completed within 1 working day. We are still below the internal target of 90% completed within 1 working day however compared to 2021/22 (72.1%) and 2020/21 (77.7%) this is an improvement. This improvement is evident of the hard work the CIAT team have been doing, the team have processed 75.5% more referrals than last year. 0.8% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2022/23 which is outperforming our target of 5% and an improvement compared to 5.6% completed in 2021/22.

Re-Referrals: At year end we were in line, at 17.7%, with our internal target of having no more than 18% of the referrals being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. In terms of our performance over the past 3 years, this is an increase compared with 2021/22 at 10.9% but slightly below our 2020/21 performance of 19.1%. National benchmarking data is not yet available for 2022/23 but when looking at data for 2020/21 we were performing slightly better than our statistical neighbours (20.5%), regional average (20.5%) and national average (21.5%) (LAIT 2022). The increase year on year increase is likely to relate to us receiving a much higher number of referrals.

Re-referrals are being scrutinised during weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.

Early Help: 1,650 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2022/23, 13.5% of which were initiated by external agencies. This is an increase on 2021/22 (839 EHA's) but with a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (19.2%).

Missing: In 2022/23, Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) have been offered in 94.4% (473 / 501) of the cases, 84.6% of which were offered within 72 hours and 59.1% of the children/young people engaged in their RHI. Each are a performance improvement when compared with 2021/22. Where the co-ordinator cannot engage the child or young person, discussions take place with parents, carers, teachers, or social workers to offer insight around reducing the missing episodes. Of those who went missing, 19.1% were a Child in Care accounting for 55.4% of the missing episodes.

Children & Families Assessments: 1,461 C&F assessments were completed in 2022/23. This is a substantial increase on previous years, with an 81.2% increase on the 806 assessments in 2021/22, 111.1% increase on the 692 assessments in 2020/21 and 53.8% increase on the 950 assessments in 2019/20, increasing our rate per 10,000 population to 645.5. This increase in C&F assessments is a result of the increase in children referred during 2022/23 which has had a negative effect on the timeliness of recording completion on the system with 69.3% of our C&F assessments being completed within timescale in 2022/23. Our frontline social workers are often prioritising visiting families; undertaking duty visits or supporting during a crisis; resulting in the written completion of assessments being delayed. Plans are in place and reviewed to ensure social workers given dedicated the time to catch up on outstanding admin tasks. Social workers have also been offered overtime to support in clearing any backlog they may have. In the longer-term discussions with our business support colleagues have commenced to explore how they can relieve some of the administrative pressures on social workers and their managers.

Section 47 Enquiries: 351 section 47 enquires were started in 2022/23, involving 681 individual children.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 74.4% 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, in 2022/23. Work is ongoing to incorporate systems of process to aid the reduction in late requests for conferences.

Child Protection Plans: 116 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2023 This is a slight decrease on the 120 children who were subject to CP at the end of March 2022, but an increase on March 2021 (87) and March 2020 (85).

100.0% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and 98.7% of the CP reviews were carried out in timescale. 2 families ceased to be subject to a CP plan after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years. This occurred at the start of the reporting year and due to no further children ceasing in this measure, our performance has reduced to 2.2%, which is outperforming the target of 5%. As of March 2023, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 2 years. During 2022/23, 4 families became CP for the 2nd time within 2 years of the previous plan ending. This has taken us just above our internal target (6%) to 6.9% but is a reduction on previous years.

Child Protection Statutory visits: We have continued to see a reduction in the timeliness of Child Protection statutory visits carried out during 2022/23, resulting in a yearly total of 67.8% of CP visits completed within 10 working days and 90.0% of the visits were completed within 15 working days. This is a decrease when compared with 2021/22 which had similar number of visits completed with 82.9% completed within 10 working days. The capacity of social workers to make regular visits has been impacted on during 2022/23 due to rising workloads. This has resulted in other social workers assisting in carrying out visits but has also resulted in delays in updating the system. Changes have been made to case allocation for the A&S teams based on the child's location. This aims to help reduce travel times and times away from the office, which in time will improve the performance of visit recording.

Children in Care: 322 children were in care as of March 2023, 5.3% of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. During 2022/23 a total of 149 children came into the care of DBC, 18 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and a total of 100 children ceased to be in care.

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 98.0% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales in 2022/21.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 83.4% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2022/23. Due to rising workloads the capacity of social workers time has been impacted resulting in delayed visit recording. Changes have been made to case allocation for the A&S teams based on the child's location. This aims to help reduce travel times and times away from the office, which in time will improve the performance of visit recording.

Children in Care Placements: 13.7% of Children in Care (CiC), as of March 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. 58.7% 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. 12.5% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of March 2023. 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: 54.5% of the children whose forms sent to Health received a health assessment by them within 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 83.3% of children due a review health assessment by March 2023 have had one completed. 47.7% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by March 2023 have had one completed.

The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks have decreased throughout the year, with 0.9% refusing their health review and 1.4% 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: 96.3% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.9% aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2023. Of those who were not in suitable accommodation, this was due to them being in custody (2 aged 19-21 and 2 aged 22-25). 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 20.4% at the end of March 2023. 13.0% young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (11.1% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 66.7% young people were in training or employment (29.6% in full time, 37.0% 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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

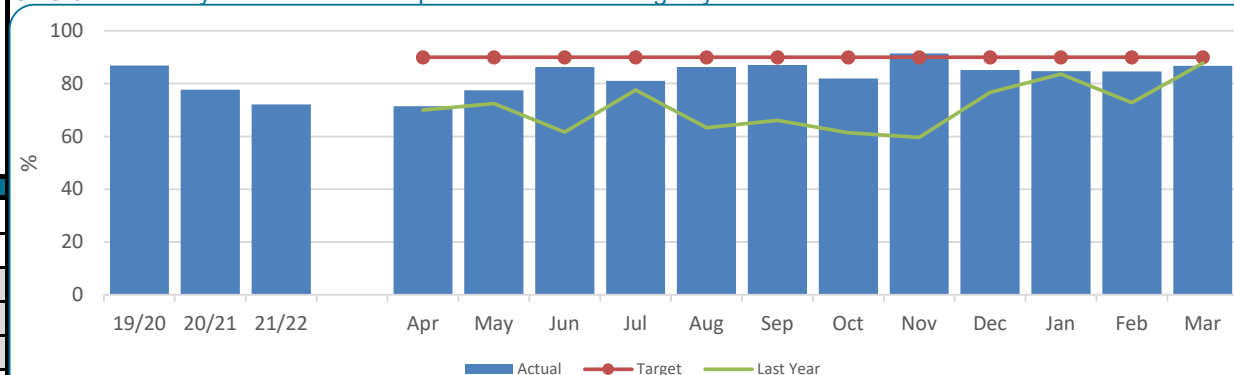
During 2022/23, we have seen a steady improvement in the timeliness of referrals being completed. We are still below the internal target of 90% of referrals completed within 1 working day at 84.1% however compared with 2021/22 (72.1%) and 2020/21 (77.7%) this is an improvement.

This improvement is evident of the hard work the CIAT team have been doing also considering they have processed 75.5% more referrals than last year.

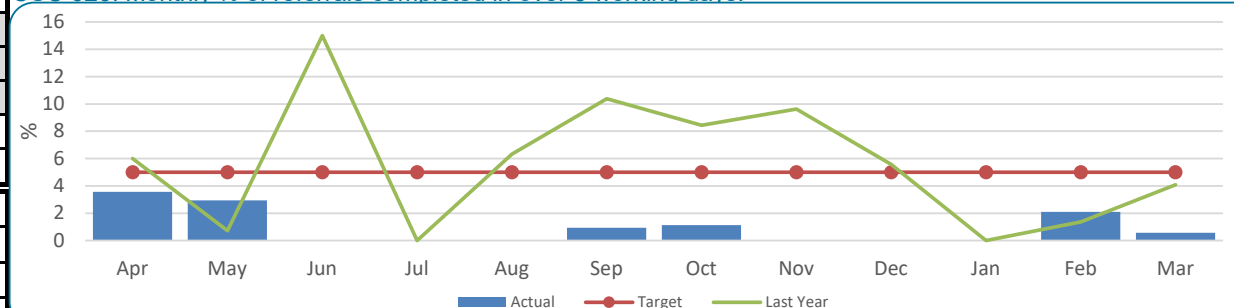
0.8% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2022/23 which is exceeding our target of 5% and an improvement compared with 5.6% completed in 2021/22.

		CSC 022	CSC 026
		Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.	Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.
In Month Performance	Target	90%	5%
	Apr-22	71.4	3.6
	May-22	77.5	2.9
	Jun-22	86.2	
	Jul-22	81.1	
	Aug-22	86.3	
	Sep-22	87.0	0.9
	Oct-22	81.9	1.1
	Nov-22	91.4	
	Dec-22	85.1	
	Jan-23	84.7	
	Feb-23	84.6	2.1
	Mar-23	86.8	0.6
Annual Trend	2019/20	86.8	1.6
	2020/21	77.7	4.7
	2021/22	72.1	5.6
	2022/23	84.1	0.8

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.

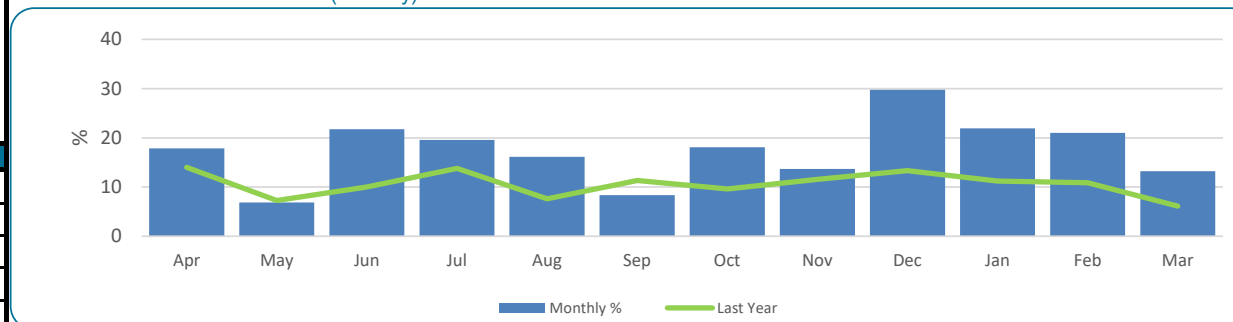
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

At year end we were in line, at 17.7%, with our internal target of having no more than 18% of the referrals being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. In terms of our performance over the past 3 years, this is an increase compared with 2021/22 at 10.9% but slightly below our 2020/21 performance of 19.1%. National benchmarking data is not yet available for 2022/23 but when looking at data for 20/21 we were performing slightly better than our statistical neighbours (20.5%), regional average (20.5%) and national average (21.5%) (LAIT 2022). The increase year on year increase is likely to relate to us receiving a much higher number of referrals.

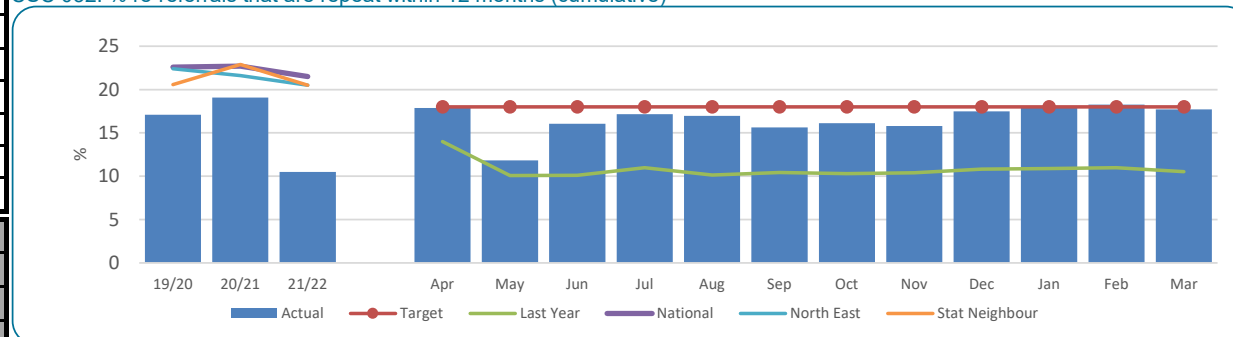
Re-referrals are being scrutinised during weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.

		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-22	15	17.9	17.9
	May-22	7	11.8	6.9
	Jun-22	30	16.1	21.7
	Jul-22	29	17.2	19.6
	Aug-22	20	17.0	16.1
	Sep-22	9	15.6	8.3
	Oct-22	32	16.1	18.1
	Nov-22	19	15.8	13.7
	Dec-22	42	17.5	29.8
	Jan-23	30	18.0	21.9
	Feb-23	30	18.3	21.0
	Mar-23	23	17.7	13.2
Annual Trend	2019/20	171	17.1	
	2020/21	143	19.1	
	2021/22	106	10.5	
	2022/23	286	17.7	

% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)



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



EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

DEFINITION

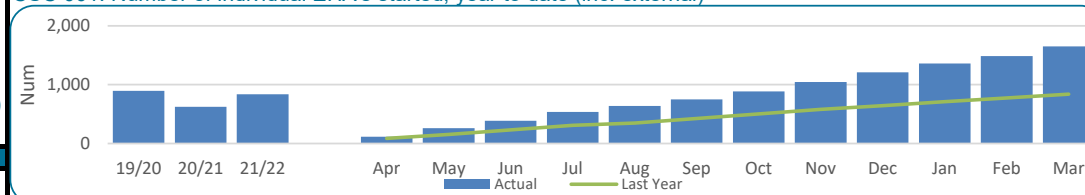
The number of individual Early Help Assessments (EHA) started in month and year to date, including those initiated by external agencies. The start date of the EHA is taken from the form created date in Liquid Logic and the start date of the external EHA is taken from the contact date when the agency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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

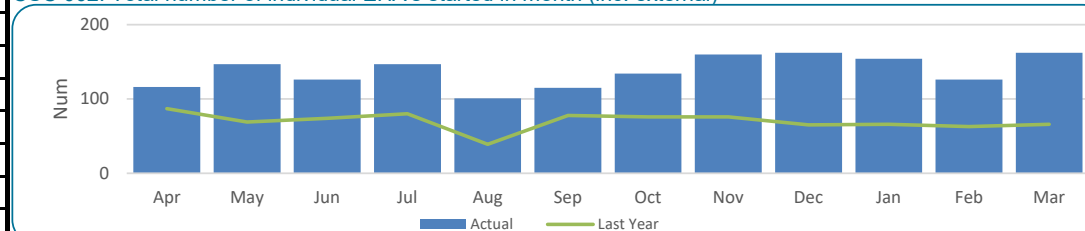
1,650 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2022/23, 13.5% of which were initiated by external agencies. This is an increase from 2021/22 (839 EHA's) but with a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (19.2%).

		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-22	116	24	20.7%	116
	May-22	147	20	13.6%	263
	Jun-22	126	22	17.5%	389
	Jul-22	147	29	19.7%	536
	Aug-22	101	2	2.0%	637
	Sep-22	115	10	8.7%	752
	Oct-22	134	16	11.9%	886
	Nov-22	160	23	14.4%	1,046
	Dec-22	162	17	10.5%	1,208
	Jan-23	154	19	12.3%	1,362
	Feb-23	126	21	16.7%	1,488
	Mar-23	162	20	12.3%	1,650
Annual Trend	2019/20	893	265	29.7%	893
	2020/21	623	127	20.4%	623
	2021/22	839	161	19.2%	839
	2022/23	1,650	223	13.5%	1,650

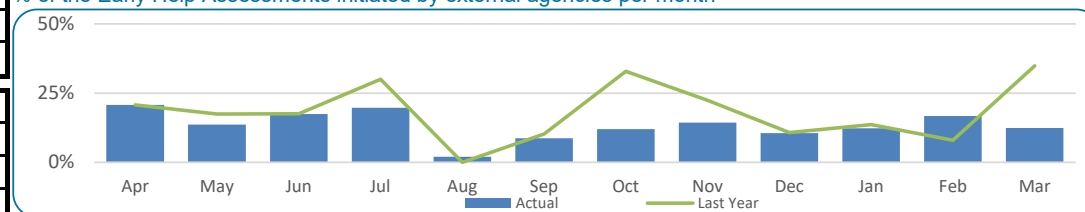
CSC 001: Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external)



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, Children in Care with another authority and children who are not currently open to Social Care. The percentage of Return Home Interviews (RHI) completed within 72 hours and the level of engagement by the child.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The total number of missing episodes in 2022/23 was 691 episodes involving 162 individual children and young people. This is a reduction on the number of children reported missing compared with 2021/22 (from 174 individual children and young people), however the frequency of episodes has increased (from 582 episodes). Excluding children open to another LA this equates to 555 missing episodes involving 132 children and young people.

Our CiC young people continue to dominate the number of missing episodes.

78.6% of the missing episodes had a duration of less than 12 hours from being reported to the child being located and returned home. 2.9% of the episodes lasted over 72 hours.

In 2022/23, Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) have been offered in 94.4% (473 / 501) of the cases, 84.6% of which were offered within 72 hours and 59.1% of the children/young people engaged in their RHI. Each are a performance improvement when compared with 2021/22.

CSC 215

CSC 246

		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-22	57	27	33	6		
	May-22	62	31	29	9		
	Jun-22	86	38	45	10	1	1
	Jul-22	80	32	47	12		
	Aug-22	96	29	53	11		
	Sep-22	69	27	37	6		
	Oct-22	52	26	32	10	1	1
	Nov-22	45	29	20	7		
	Dec-22	28	15	16	5		
	Jan-23	44	19	29	6		
	Feb-23	38	22	22	7		
	Mar-23	34	19	20	8		
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
	2022/23	691	162	383	31	2	2

ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

1,461 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2022/23. This is a substantial increase on previous years, with an 81.2% increase on the 806 assessments completed in 2021/22, 111.1% on the 692 assessments in 2020/21 and 53.8% on the 950 in 2019/20, increasing our rate per 10,000 population to 645.5.

This increase in C&F assessments is a result of the increase in children referred in 2022/23.

CSC 036

CSC 035

Number of C&F assessments completed year to date

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

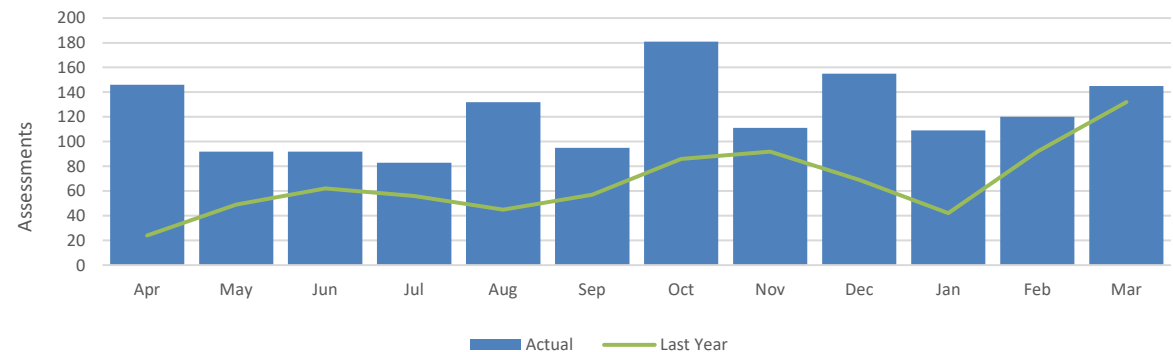
In Month Performance

Month	Number of C&F assessments completed year to date	Rate of C&F assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.
Apr-22	146	64.5
May-22	238	102.5
Jun-22	330	145.8
Jul-22	413	182.5
Aug-22	545	240.8
Sep-22	640	282.8
Oct-22	821	362.7
Nov-22	932	411.8
Dec-22	1,087	480.3
Jan-23	1,196	528.4
Feb-23	1,316	581.5
Mar-23	1,461	645.5

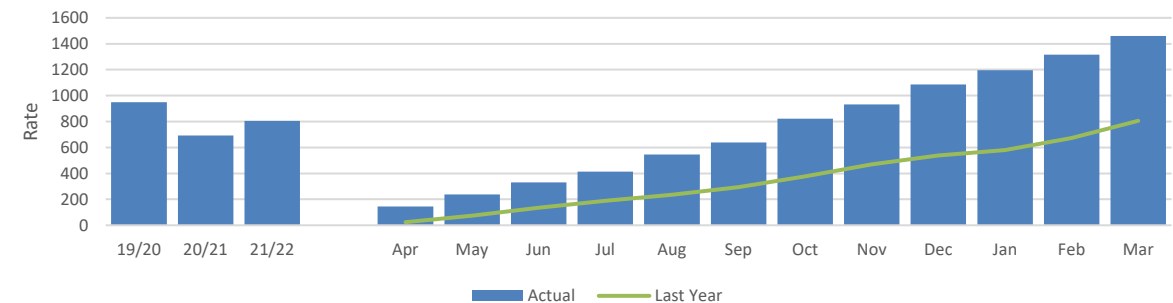
Annual Trend

Year	Number of C&F assessments completed year to date	Rate of C&F assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.
2019/20	950	422.7
2020/21	692	308.2
2021/22	806	356.1
2022/23	1,461	645.5

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

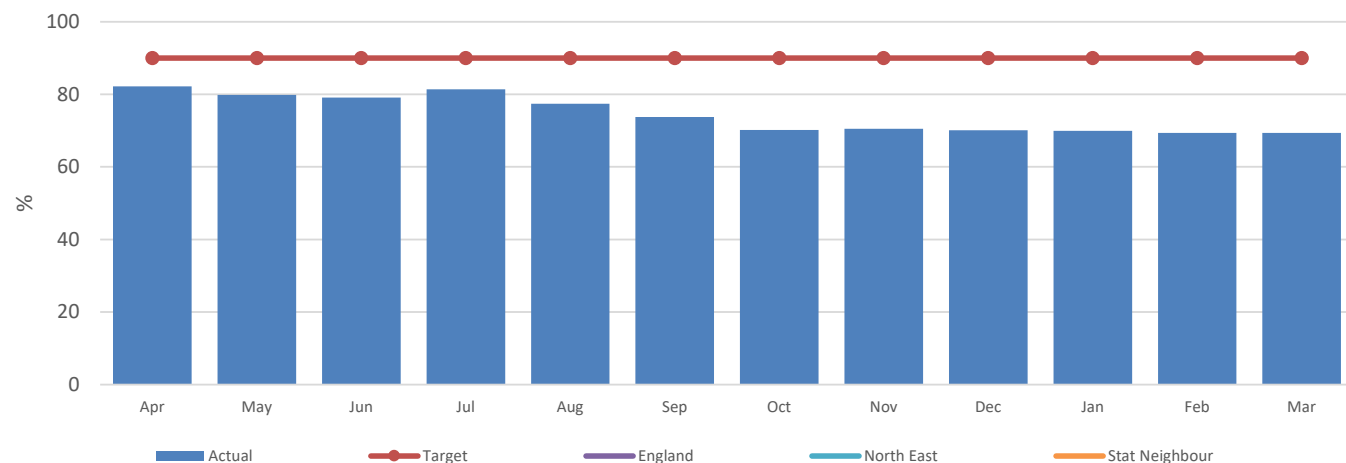
69.3% (1,013 / 1,461) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2022/23. This is below our 90% internal target and when compared with March 2022 (84.5%), which was comparable to our statistical neighbour (82.2%), regional (83.6%) and the national average (84.5%) (LAIT 2022). However, it is of note that there was a smaller number of assessments completed in the year ending March 2022 (806).

CSC 038

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

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

In Month Performance	Target	90%
	Apr-22	82.2
	May-22	79.8
	Jun-22	79.1
	Jul-22	81.4
	Aug-22	77.4
	Sep-22	73.8
	Oct-22	70.2
	Nov-22	70.5
	Dec-22	70.1
	Jan-23	70.0
	Feb-23	69.4
	Mar-23	69.3
Annual Trend	2019/20	90.9
	2020/21	86.4
	2021/22	84.5
	2022/23	69.3



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

351 section 47 enquires were started in 2022/23, involving 681 individual children.

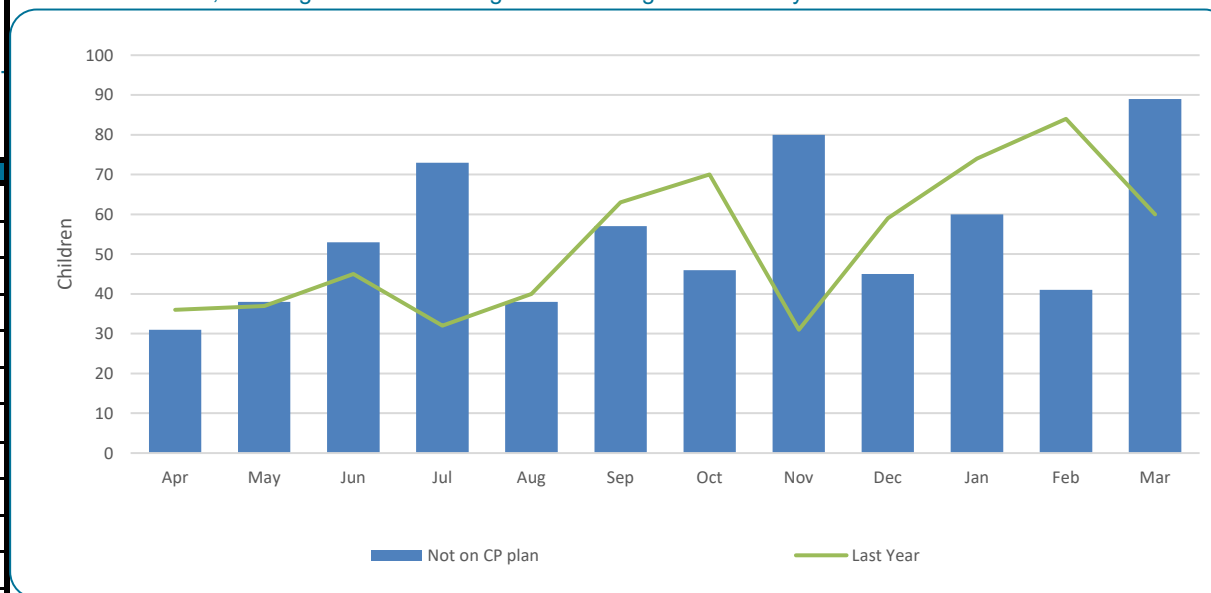
Our rate of enquires per 10,000 population was 300.9 at the end of 2022/23. Although an increase on the previous year, it is not a corresponding increase when compared with strategies held, this is due to the increase in no further action outcome on some strategies in 2022/23.

CSC 166

CSC 164

		Number of children who had a section 47 enquiry	Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (Cumulative)
In Month Performance	Apr-22	31	13.7
	May-22	38	30.5
	Jun-22	55	54.8
	Jul-22	75	87.9
	Aug-22	44	107.4
	Sep-22	59	133.4
	Oct-22	51	156.0
	Nov-22	85	193.5
	Dec-22	45	213.4
	Jan-23	66	242.6
	Feb-23	41	260.7
	Mar-23	91	300.9
Annual Trend	2019/20	486	214.4
	2020/21	358	158.2
	2021/22	633	279.7
	2022/23	681	300.9

Number of children; showing the total including and excluding those 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.

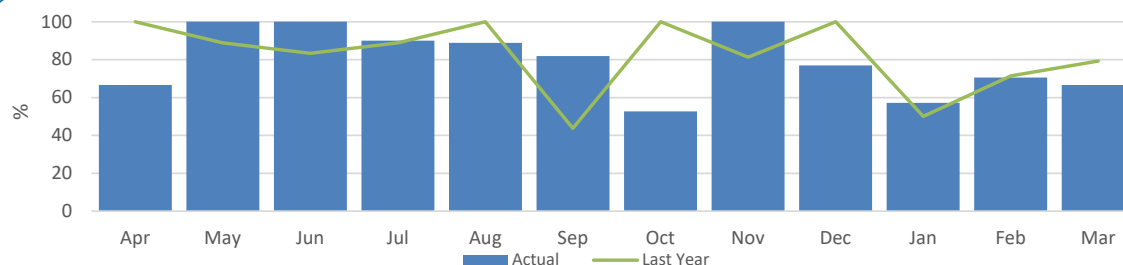
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

74.4% of the children (who were not transferred in) had their Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) within timescale in 2022/23.

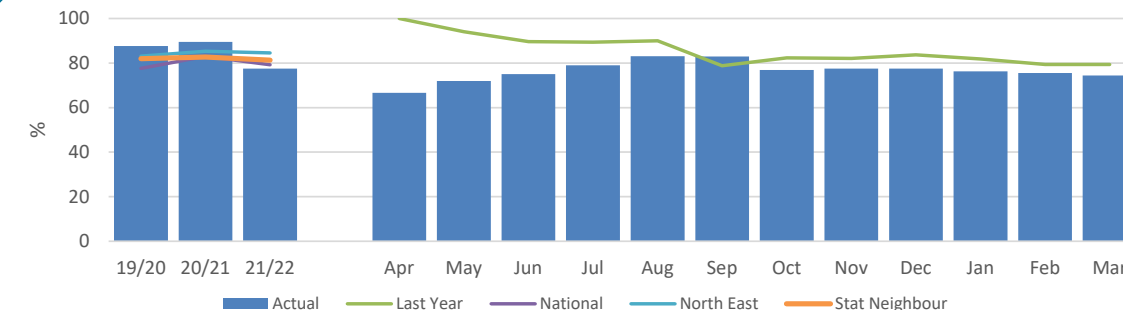
This is a decrease on the conference timeliness compared with the past 3 years (77.5% in 2021/22, 89.5% in 2020/21 and 87.7% in 2019/20). Work continues to find a workable solution to timeliness of conference requests.

		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).	
In Month Performance	Target				95%
	Apr-22	14 / 21	66.7	14 / 21	66.7
	May-22	4 / 4	100.0	18 / 25	72.0
	Jun-22	3 / 3	100.0	21 / 28	75.0
	Jul-22	9 / 10	90.0	30 / 38	79.0
	Aug-22	24 / 27	88.9	54 / 65	83.1
	Sep-22	9 / 11	81.8	63 / 76	82.9
	Oct-22	10 / 19	52.6	73 / 95	76.8
	Nov-22	3 / 3	100.0	76 / 98	77.6
	Dec-22	10 / 13	76.9	86 / 111	77.5
	Jan-23	4 / 7	57.1	90 / 118	76.3
	Feb-23	12 / 17	70.6	102 / 135	75.6
	Mar-23	14 / 21	66.7	116 / 156	74.4
Annual Trend	2019/20	150 / 171	87.7	150 / 171	87.7
	2020/21	112 / 126	89.5	112 / 126	89.5
	2021/22	135 / 174	77.5	135 / 174	77.5
	2022/23	116 / 156	74.4	116 / 156	74.4

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).



CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

DEFINITION

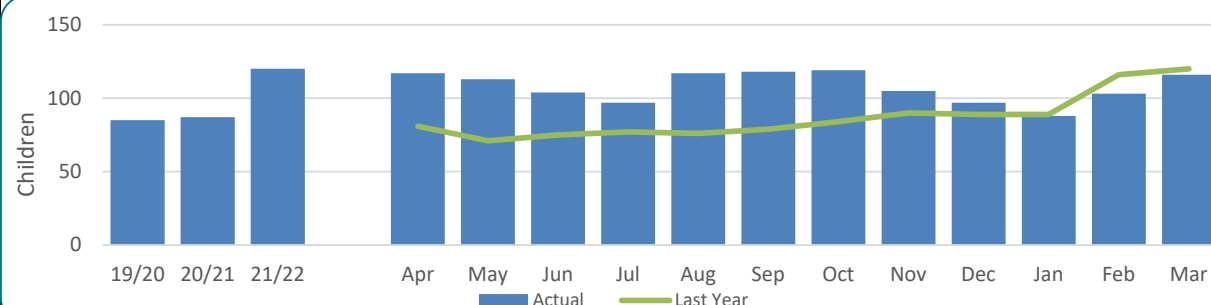
Number of children subject to a Child Protection plan at the end of the month.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

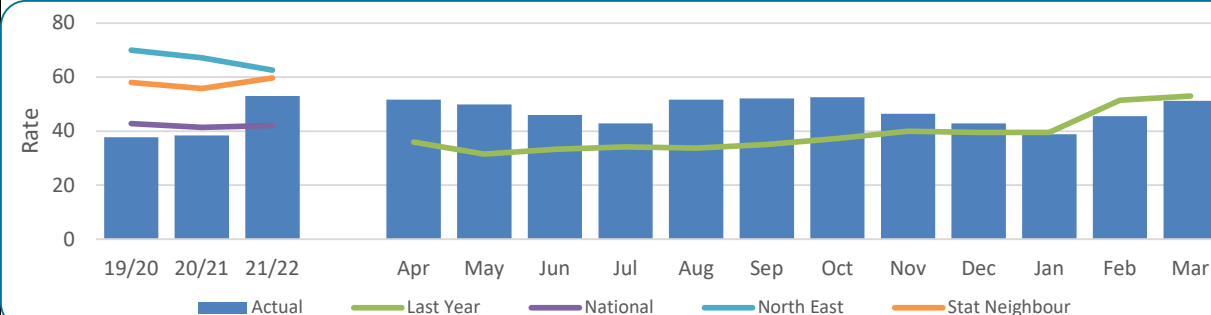
116 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2023. This is a slight decrease on the 120 children who were subject to CP at the end of March 2022, but an increase on March 2021 (87) and March 2020 (85).
Our rate of CP plans per 10,000 was 51.3 at the end of March 2023, there has been no significant change since March 2022 looking back at the latest benchmarking available for this period our rate was (53.0) which was above the national rate (42.1) and below our statistical neighbour (59.7) and regional (62.6) rates (LAIT 2022).

		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-22	117	51.7
	May-22	113	49.9
	Jun-22	104	46.0
	Jul-22	97	42.9
	Aug-22	117	51.7
	Sep-22	118	52.1
	Oct-22	119	52.6
	Nov-22	105	46.4
	Dec-22	97	42.9
	Jan-23	88	38.9
	Feb-23	103	45.5
	Mar-23	116	51.3
Annual Trend	2019/20	85	37.7
	2020/21	87	38.4
	2021/22	120	53.0
	2022/23	116	51.3

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.

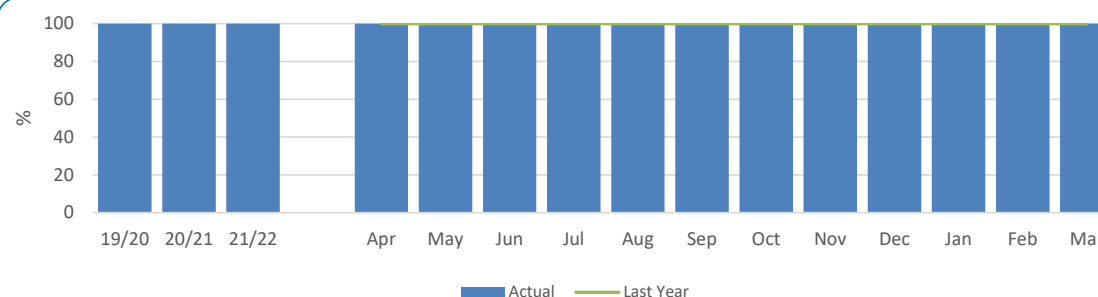
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

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

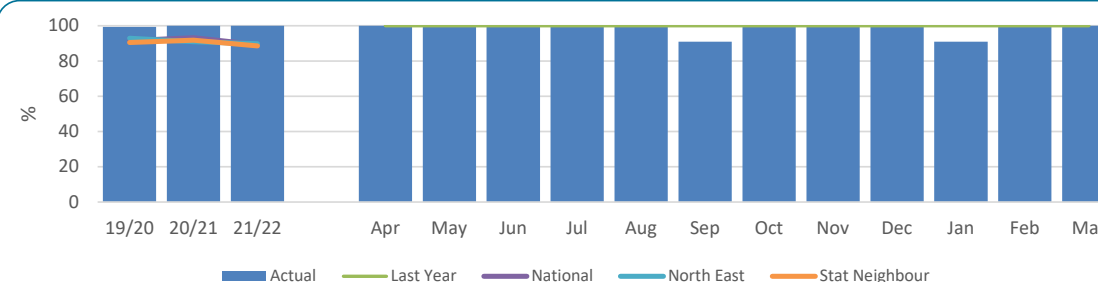
98.7% (153 / 155) of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.

		CSC 183	CSC 191a	
		% 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.
In Month Performance	Target	100		100
	Apr-22	100.0	10 / 10	100.0
	May-22	100.0	13 / 13	100.0
	Jun-22	100.0	15 / 15	100.0
	Jul-22	100.0	20 / 20	100.0
	Aug-22	100.0	7 / 7	100.0
	Sep-22	100.0	10 / 11	90.9
	Oct-22	100.0	15 / 15	100.0
	Nov-22	100.0	15 / 15	100.0
	Dec-22	100.0	17 / 17	100.0
	Jan-23	100.0	10 / 11	90.9
	Feb-23	100.0	10 / 10	100.0
	Mar-23	100.0	11 / 11	100.0
Annual Trend	2019/20	100.0	170 / 171	99.4
	2020/21	100.0	138 / 138	100.0
	2021/22	100.0	159 / 159	100.0
	2022/23	100.0	153 / 155	98.7

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

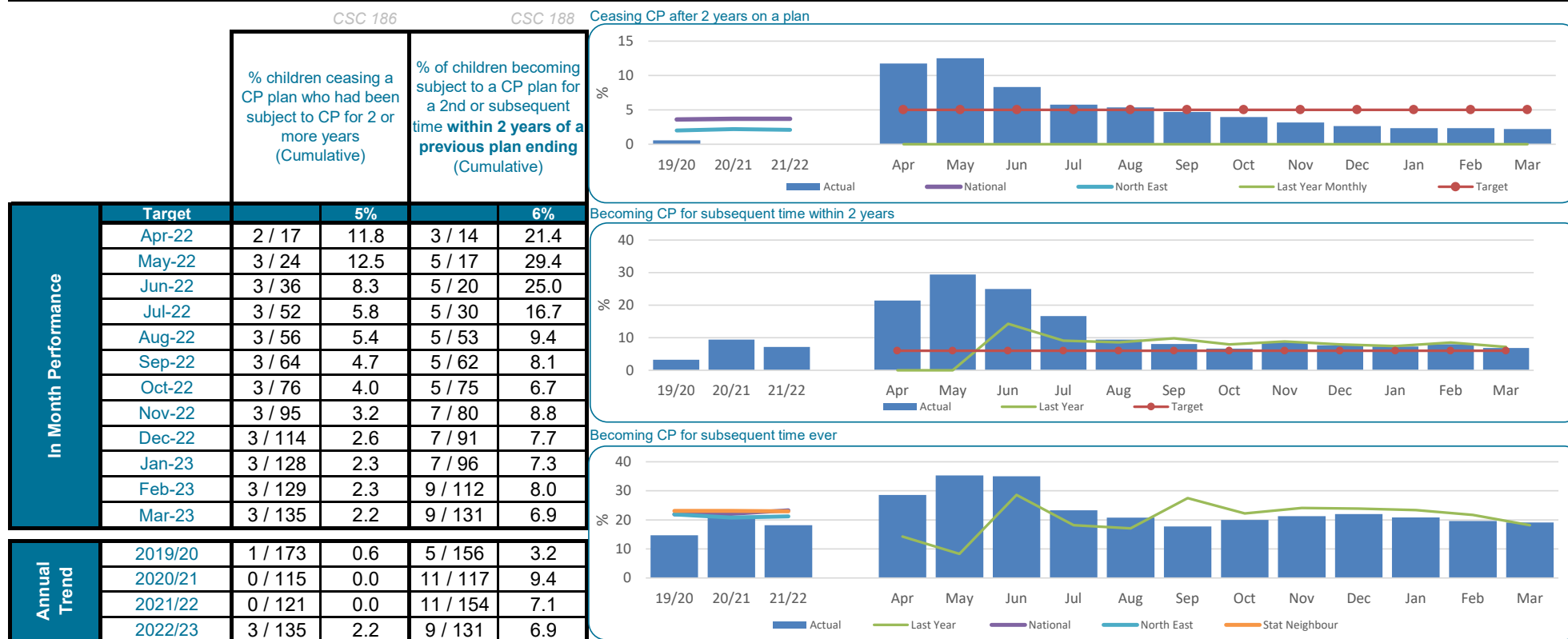
DEFINITION

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

2 families ceased to be subject to a CP plan after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years. This occurred at the start of the reporting year and due to no further children ceasing in this measure, our performance has reduced to 2.2%, which is outperforming the target of 5%. As of March 2023, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 2 years.

During 2022/23, 4 families became CP for the 2nd time within 2 years of the previous plan ending. This has taken us just above our internal target (6%) to 6.9%, but is a reduction on previous years.



CHILD PROTECTION: STATUTORY VISITS**DEFINITION**

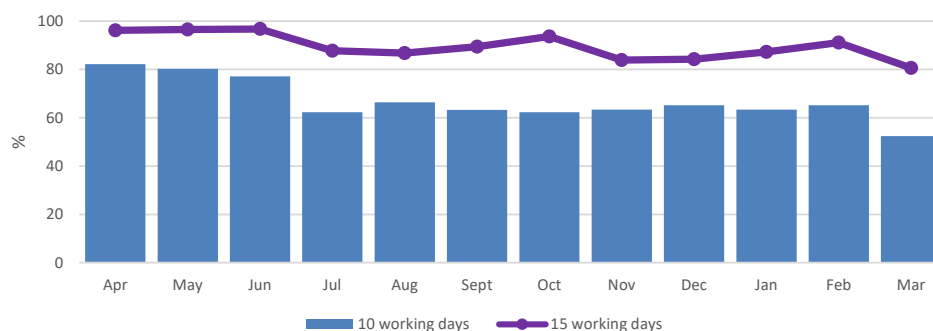
Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection (CP) plan who had all statutory visits carried out within timescales and percentage of Child Protection statutory visits completed within timescale monthly and year to date.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

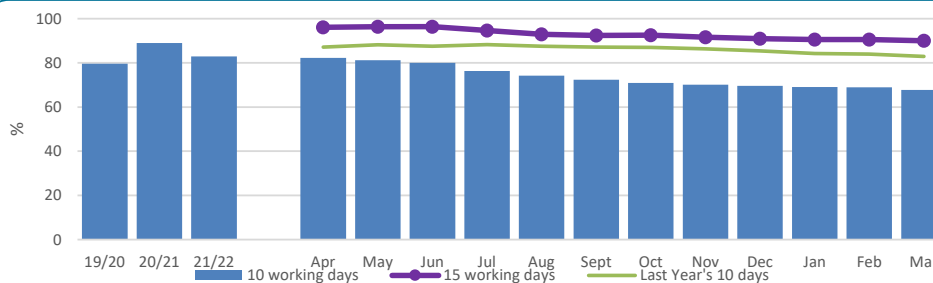
We have continued to see a reduction in the timeliness of Child Protection statutory visits carried out during 2022/23, resulting in a yearly total of 67.8% of CP visits completed within 10 working days. This is a decrease when compared to 2021/22 which had similar number of visits completed with 82.9% completed within 10 working days. 90.0% of the visits were completed within 15 working days.

		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-22	82.2	96.1	82.2	96.1
	May-22	80.2	96.5	81.2	96.3
	Jun-22	77.1	96.7	80.0	96.4
	Jul-22	62.2	87.8	76.3	94.6
	Aug-22	66.4	86.7	74.2	93.0
	Sep-22	63.3	89.4	72.3	92.4
	Oct-22	62.3	93.6	70.9	92.5
	Nov-22	63.4	83.9	70.1	91.6
	Dec-22	65.2	84.2	69.6	90.9
	Jan-23	63.3	87.2	69.1	90.6
	Feb-23	65.2	91.2	68.9	90.6
	Mar-23	52.4	80.6	67.8	90.0
Annual Trend	2019/20	79.6	92.0	79.6	93.8
	2020/21	89.0	98.4	89.0	98.4
	2021/22	82.9	96.8	82.9	96.8
	2022/23	52.4	80.6	67.8	90.0

% 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).

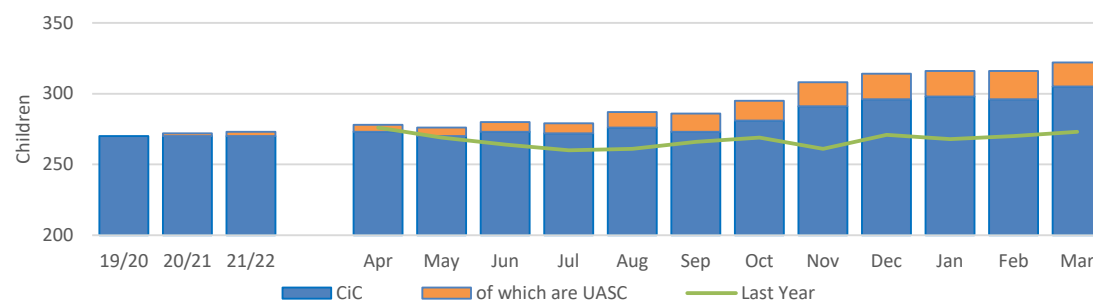
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

322 children were in care as at March 2023, 5.3% of which are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

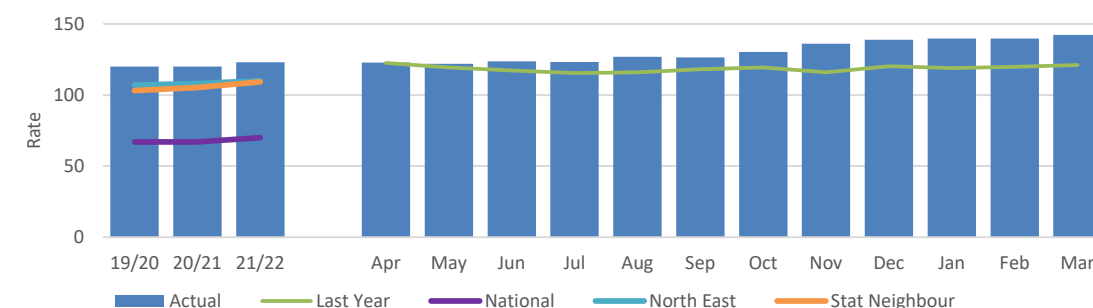
This equates to 305 children, excluding UASC, that were in our care at the end of March 2023, a 12.9% increase from around 270 which was seen at the end of the reporting years 2021/22, 2020/21 and 2019/20.

		CSC 201		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-22	278	5	122.8
	May-22	276	6	122.0
	Jun-22	280	7	123.7
	Jul-22	279	7	123.3
	Aug-22	287	11	126.8
	Sep-22	286	13	126.4
	Oct-22	295	14	130.3
	Nov-22	308	17	136.1
	Dec-22	314	18	138.7
	Jan-23	316	18	139.6
	Feb-23	316	20	139.6
	Mar-23	322	17	142.3
Annual Trend	2019/20	270		120.0
	2020/21	272	2	120.0
	2021/22	273	3	123.0
	2022/23	322	17	142.3

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.

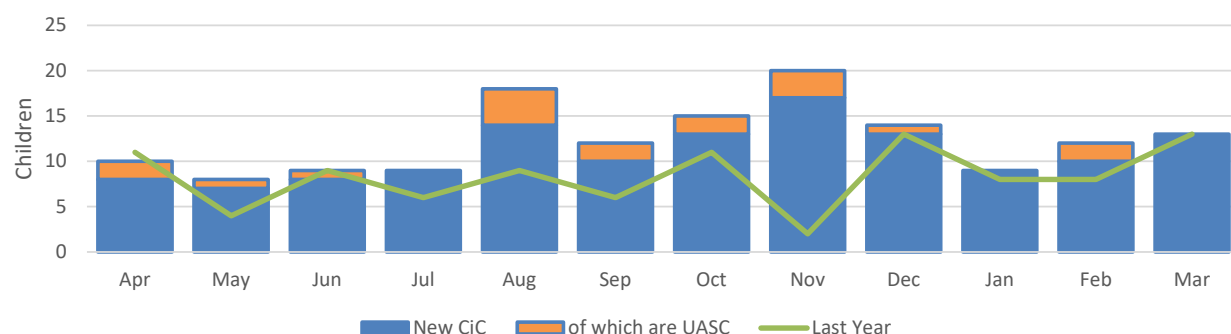
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

131 children from 86 families came into care in 2022/23, a further 18 young people came, came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child).

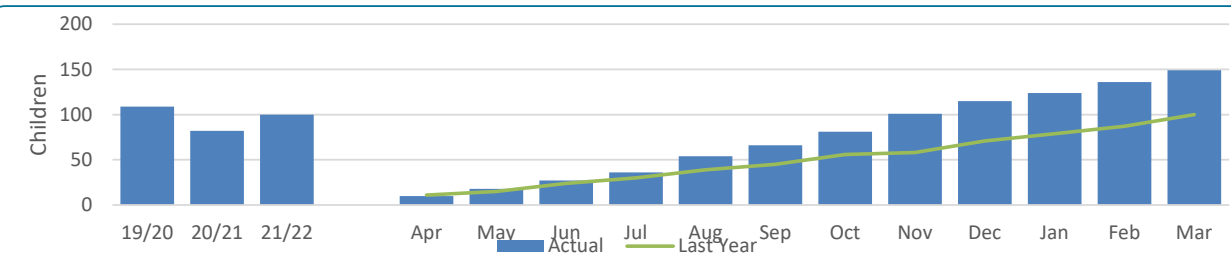
Excluding the UASC, this is an increase when compared with 2021/22, and with a similar conversion of families (98 children over 68 families in 2021/22 to 126 children over 86 families in 2022/23).

		CSC 209	CSC 208b	
		Monthly number of children coming into care	Cumulative number of children coming into care	of which are UASC
In Month Performance	Apr-22	10	10	2
	May-22	8	18	1
	Jun-22	9	27	1
	Jul-22	9	36	
	Aug-22	18	54	4
	Sep-22	12	66	2
	Oct-22	15	81	2
	Nov-22	20	101	3
	Dec-22	14	115	1
	Jan-23	9	124	
	Feb-23	12	136	2
	Mar-23	13	149	
Annual Trend	2019/20	109	109	
	2020/21	82	82	2
	2021/22	100	100	2
	2022/23	149	149	18

Monthly number of children coming into care



Total number of children coming into care within the year



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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

100 children and young people, over 79 families, ceased to be in care in 2022/23. This is a small increase in the number of children who ceased to be in care in 2021/22 (99) and 2020/21 (80), and in line with pre Covid numbers in 2019/20 (102).

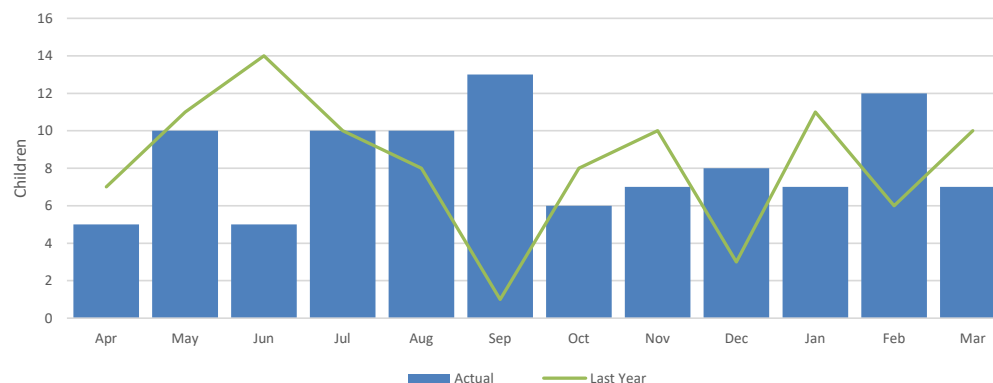
Of the children and young people who did cease CiC:

- 39.0% had a Special Guardianship Order / Child Arrangement Order granted to a relative
- 21.0% returned home to their parent(s)
- 21.0% turned 18yrs and became a care leaver
- 17.0% were adopted
- 2.0% ceased for another reason.

Comparing to 2021/22, we have seen an increase in children ceasing care to a relative, with a corresponding decrease in their return home to a parent.

		CSC 212	CSC 211
		Monthly number of children ceasing care	Cumulative number of children ceasing care
In Month Performance	Apr-22	5	5
	May-22	10	15
	Jun-22	5	20
	Jul-22	10	30
	Aug-22	10	40
	Sep-22	13	53
	Oct-22	6	59
	Nov-22	7	66
	Dec-22	8	74
	Jan-23	7	81
	Feb-23	12	93
	Mar-23	7	100
Annual Trend	2019/20	102	102
	2020/21	80	80
	2021/22	99	99
	2022/23	100	100

CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing care



CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

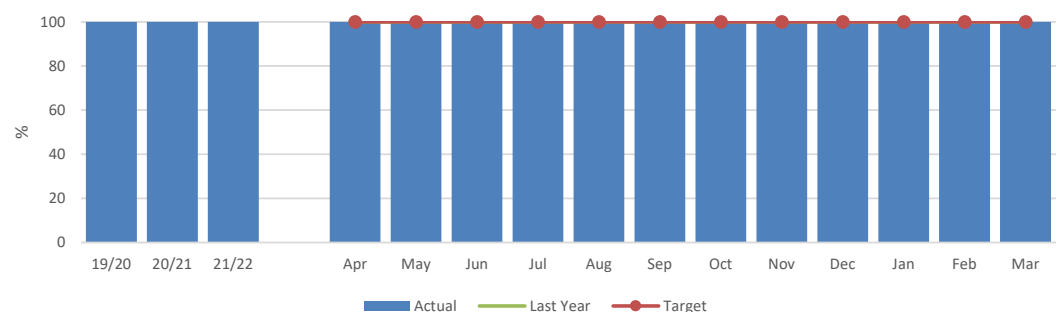
The percentage of Children in Care (CiC) which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time and the percentage of Children in Care that were allocated to a qualified social worker at the end of the month. The purpose of the review is to consider the plan for the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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

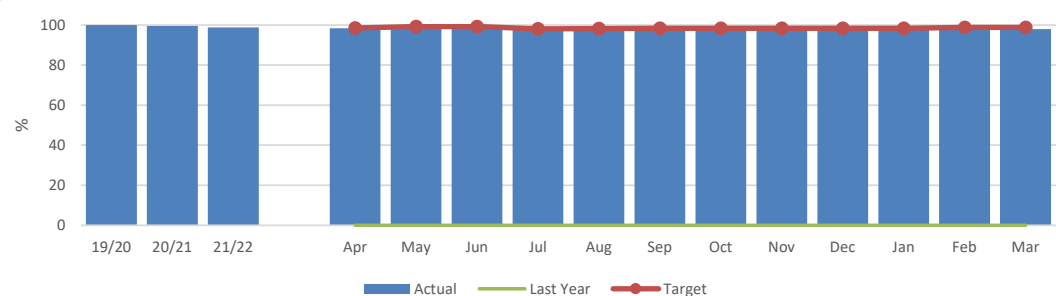
100% of Children in Care (CiC) are allocated to a qualified social worker and 98.0% of the reviews were completed within required timescales during 2022/23.

		CSC 227	CSC 218	
		% Children in Care allocated to a qualified social worker	% of Children whose reviews had been completed within required timescales (as at month end)	
In Month Performance	Target	100	Num	%
	Apr-22	100.0	64 / 65	98.5
	May-22	100.0	113 / 114	99.1
	Jun-22	100.0	161 / 163	98.8
	Jul-22	100.0	204 / 206	99.0
	Aug-22	100.0	229 / 232	98.7
	Sep-22	100.0	263 / 266	98.9
	Oct-22	100.0	266 / 269	98.9
	Nov-22	100.0	262 / 265	98.9
	Dec-22	100.0	262 / 267	98.1
	Jan-23	100.0	267 / 273	97.8
	Feb-23	100.0	291 / 297	98.0
	Mar-23	100.0	297 / 303	98.0
Annual Trend	2019/20	100.0	251 / 251	100.0
	2020/21	100.0	249 / 250	99.6
	2021/22	100.0	243 / 246	98.8
	2022/23	100.0	297 / 303	98.0

CSC 227: % Children in Care allocated to a qualified social worker



CSC 218:



CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION

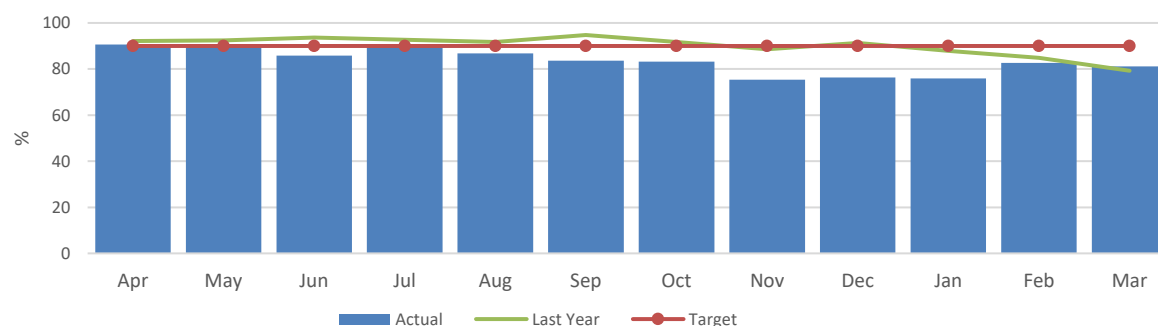
Percentage of Children in Care (CiC) who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales each month and year to date.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

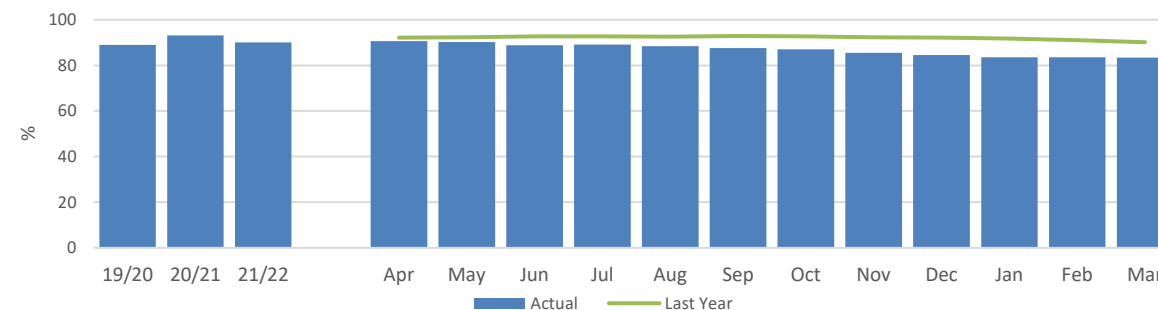
83.4% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2022/23. This is a decrease when compared with previous years (2021/22 90.1%, 2020/21 93.1% and 2019/20 89.0%) and remains below our internal target (90%).

		CSC 260a	CSC 260b
		% CiC visits completed in timescale within the month	% CiC visits completed in timescale year to date
In Month Performance	Target	90	90
	Apr-22	90.6	90.6
	May-22	89.8	90.2
	Jun-22	85.8	88.8
	Jul-22	89.8	89.0
	Aug-22	86.8	88.5
	Sep-22	83.6	87.6
	Oct-22	83.2	87.0
	Nov-22	75.4	85.5
	Dec-22	76.3	84.5
	Jan-23	75.9	83.6
	Feb-23	82.7	83.5
	Mar-23	81.2	83.4
Annual Trend	2019/20	89.0	89.0
	2020/21	93.1	93.1
	2021/22	90.1	90.1
	2022/23	83.4	83.4

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

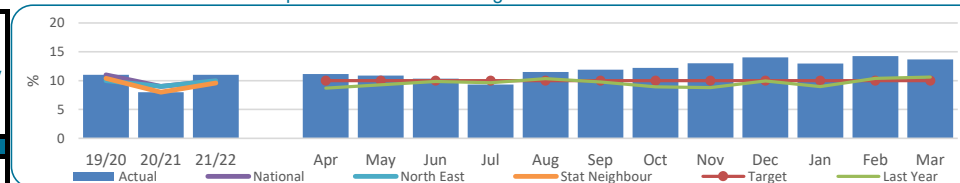
13.7% of our Children in Care, as of March 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is above our internal target (10.0%), Looking at the most recent benchmarking available at the end of March 2022 (11.0%) of our children in care with 3 or more placements was comparable to our statistical neighbour (9.6%), regional (10.0%) and the national average (10.0%) (LAIT 2022).

Currently, 58.7% 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. Performance on this indicator is below our internal target of 68% and has declined since with March 2022 when it was at 74.0%. Benchmarking data is not yet published for 2022/23 however when comparing data from 20/21 our performance of 74% at that time was comparable with our statistical neighbour (72.0%), regional (70.0%) and the national average (74.0%) (LAIT 2022). However, it is of note that there was a smaller cohort of children in March 2022 (119).

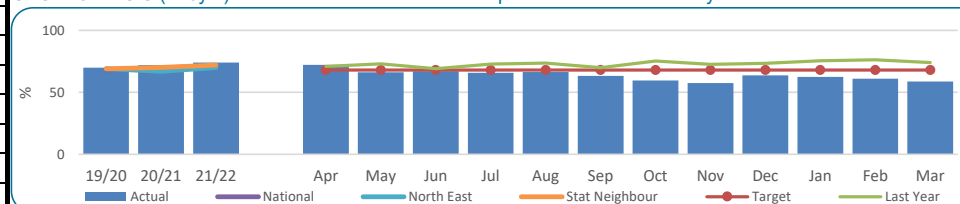
12.5% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of March 2023. This is above our internal target of 10% and when looking at the available benchmarking data from March 2022 (9.0%) this was comparable to our statistical neighbour (8.2%), and regional (10.0%) but below the national average (16.0%) (LAIT 2022). 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.

		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
In Month Performance	Target	10%	68%	10%
	Apr-22	11.2	72.3	6.4
	May-22	10.9	66.1	6.5
	Jun-22	10.4	67.0	6.5
	Jul-22	9.3	65.8	7.9
	Aug-22	11.5	66.4	9.1
	Sep-22	11.9	63.3	11.1
	Oct-22	12.2	59.5	9.6
	Nov-22	13.0	57.6	12.5
	Dec-22	14.0	63.8	12.8
	Jan-23	13.0	62.4	12.2
	Feb-23	14.2	61.1	12.9
	Mar-23	13.7	58.7	12.5
Annual Trend	2019/20	11.0	70.0	11.0
	2020/21	8.0	72.0	12.0
	2021/22	11.0	74.0	9.0
	2022/23	13.7	58.7	12.5

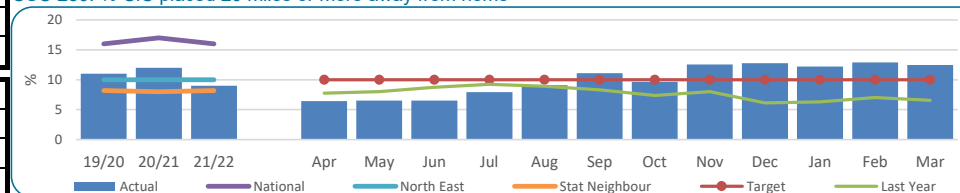
CSC 228: % CiC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months



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: INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

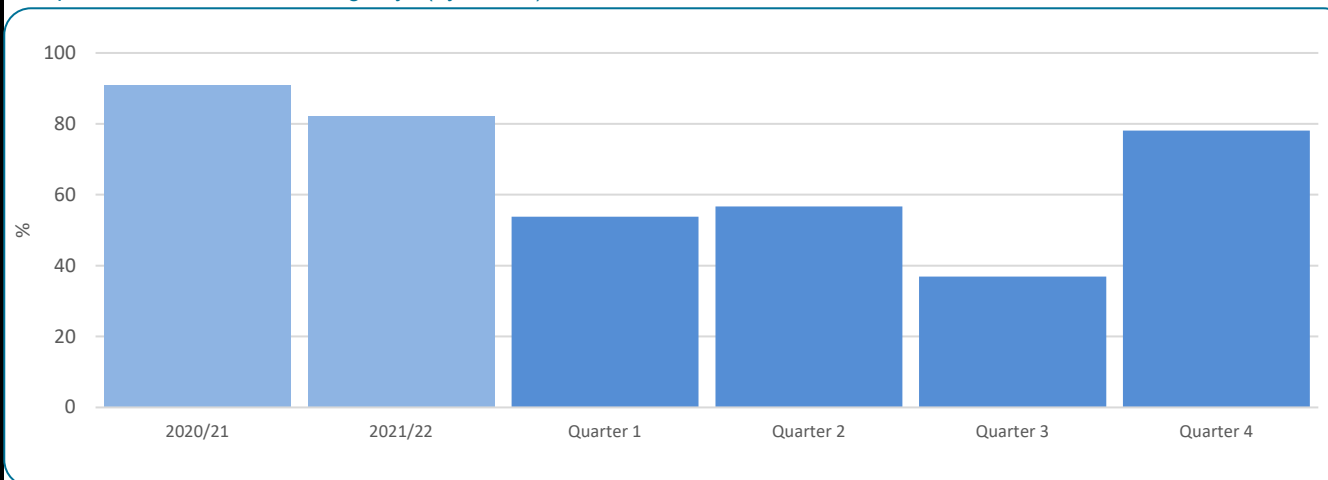
Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child coming into our care year to date (data from Health), This excludes children / young people coming into care due to being remand or UASC.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

54.5% of the children whose forms sent to Health received a health assessment within 20 days.

		Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)
In Month Performance	Target	95
	Apr-22	
	May-22	
	Jun-22	14 / 26
	Jul-22	
	Aug-22	
	Sep-22	17 / 30
	Oct-22	
	Nov-22	
	Dec-22	17 / 46
	Jan-23	
	Feb-23	
	Mar-23	25 / 32
Annual Trend	2019/20	72.9%
	2020/21	90.9%
	2021/22	82.1%
	2022/23	54.5%

Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)



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.

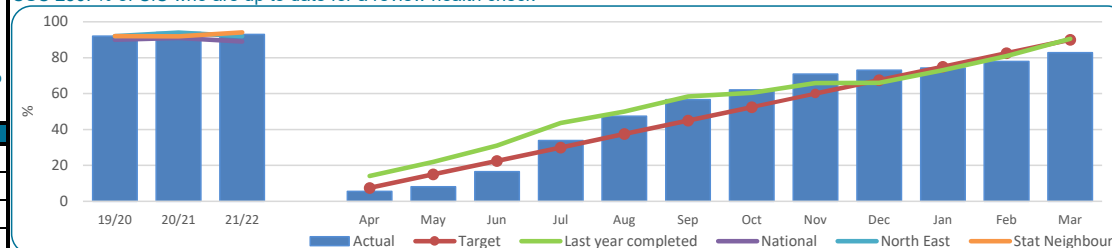
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

83.3% of children due a review health assessment by March 2023 have had one completed.

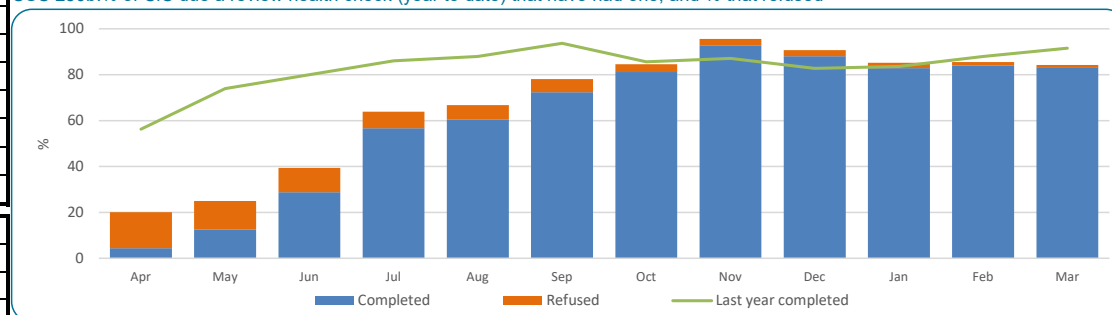
Of the children who have not had their health review, 0.9% are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part and it is a positive to see the number of refusals decrease over the year.

		CSC 250	CSC 250b	
		% of CiC who have an up to date health checks	% of CiC refusing engagement in their review health check (in month)	% of CiC who had a review health check completed (year to date)
In Month Performance	Target	90%		90%
	Apr-22	5.6	15.6	4.4
	May-22	8.1	12.5	12.5
	Jun-22	16.5	10.6	28.8
	Jul-22	33.9	7.2	56.6
	Aug-22	47.5	6.3	60.4
	Sep-22	56.7	5.7	72.4
	Oct-22	62.0	3.4	81.2
	Nov-22	70.9	3.0	92.6
	Dec-22	73.0	2.7	88.0
	Jan-23	74.2	2.4	82.8
	Feb-23	78.0	1.6	83.9
	Mar-23	82.9	0.9	83.3
Annual Trend	2019/20	92.0	3.1	93.3
	2020/21	94.0	3.7	91.2
	2021/22	93.0	3.7	91.6
	2022/23	82.9	1.6	83.3

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.

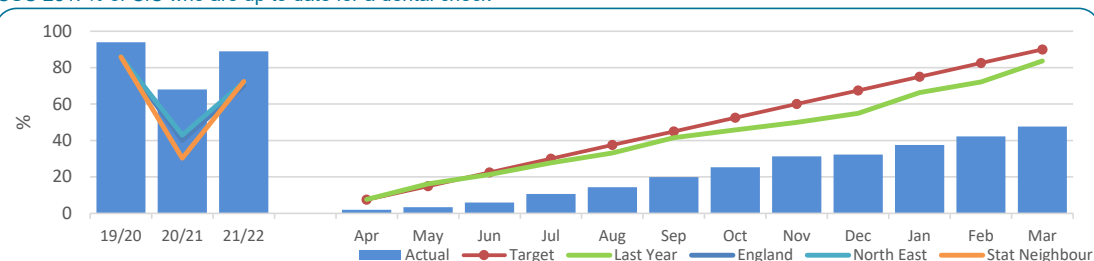
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

47.7% of children due a dental check assessment by March 2023 have had one completed. Work has progressed throughout the year to secure check-ups with a dentist which did increase the number of checks being completed mid-year, but this has now plateaued.

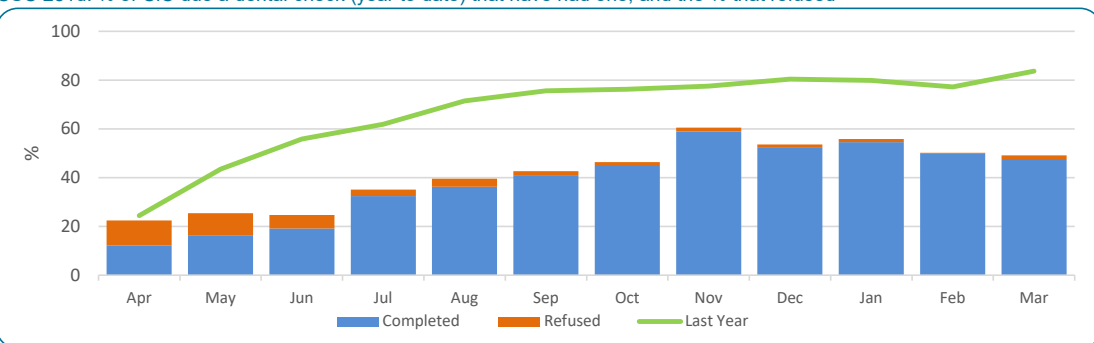
Of the children who have not had their dental check, 1.4% are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part and it is a positive to see the number of refusals decrease over the year.

		CSC 251		CSC 251d	
		% of CiC who have an up to date dental check	% of CiC refusing engagement in their dental check (in month)	% of CiC who had a dental check completed (year to date)	
In Month Performance	Target	90%		90%	
	Apr-22	2.0	10.2	12.2	
	May-22	3.5	9.1	16.4	
	Jun-22	5.9	5.5	19.2	
	Jul-22	10.6	2.6	32.5	
	Aug-22	14.4	3.3	36.3	
	Sep-22	19.9	1.9	40.7	
	Oct-22	25.3	1.6	44.7	
	Nov-22	31.3	1.6	58.9	
	Dec-22	32.3	1.4	52.2	
	Jan-23	37.6	1.3	54.6	
	Feb-23	42.2	0.5	49.7	
	Mar-23	47.7	1.4	47.7	
Annual Trend	2019/20	94.0	3.1	90.2	
	2020/21	68.0	2.8	57.2	
	2021/22	89.0	2.6	83.7	
	2022/23	47.7	1.4	47.7	

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



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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

96.3% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.9% aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2023. Of those who were not in suitable accommodation, this was due to them being in custody (2 aged 19-21 and 2 aged 22-25).

Of the care leavers, aged 19-21 as of 31st March 2023, who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 3.7% NEET because of illness or disability
- 7.4% NEET because of other circumstances
- 9.3% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

This equates to 20.4% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.

13.0% young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (11.1% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 66.7% young people were in training or employment (29.6% in full time, 37.0% in part time).

Of the care leavers, aged 22-25, as of 31st March 2023, who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

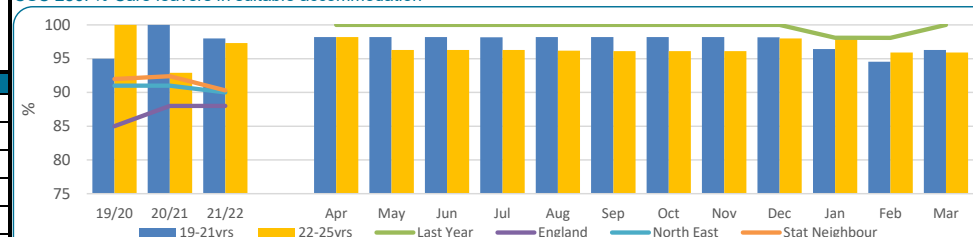
- 12.2% NEET because of illness or disability
- 4.1% NEET because of other circumstances
- 2.0% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

This equates to 18.4%.

6.2% young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education in studies beyond A level and 75.5% young people were in training or employment (28.6% in full time, 46.9% in part time).

		CSC 286 19-21 year olds		CSC 294 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-22	98.2	23.2	98.2	18.2
	May-22	98.2	21.4	96.3	16.7
	Jun-22	98.2	19.6	96.3	20.4
	Jul-22	98.2	25.5	96.3	20.4
	Aug-22	98.2	25.0	96.2	22.6
	Sep-22	98.2	19.6	96.1	19.6
	Oct-22	98.2	19.6	96.1	19.6
	Nov-22	98.2	21.4	96.1	21.6
	Dec-22	98.2	21.8	98.0	25.5
	Jan-23	96.4	25.0	98.0	22.0
	Feb-23	94.6	25.5	95.9	22.4
	Mar-23	96.3	20.4	95.9	18.4
Annual Trend	2019/20	95.0	27.0	100.0	6.7
	2020/21	100.0	21.0	92.9	17.9
	2021/22	98.0	20.0	97.3	18.4
	2022/23	96.3	20.4	95.9	18.4

CSC 286: % Care leavers in suitable accommodation



CSC 294: % Care leavers NEET

