



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children's Social Care Performance & Practice Report

April - June 2023 Q1

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Q1 2023-24 Performance Summary

Referrals: 81.1% of referrals received in Q1 2023/24 were completed within 1 working day. We are still below the internal target of 90% completed within 1 working day however compared to Q1 2022/23 (79.6%) and Q1 2021/22 (68.0%) this is an improvement. This improvement is evident of the hard work the CIAT team have been doing. 1.3% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q1 2023/24 which is in line with our target of 5%.

Re-Referrals: We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals this quarter in comparison to previous years with 21.7% of re-referrals during Q1 2023/24. Due to the increase in contacts being made, it is expected that the number of children referred will increase, this means that we have missed our internal target of having no more 18% of referrals being re-referrals. Re-referrals are being scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.

Building Stronger Families: At the end of Q1 2023/24, there were 240 families, 511 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 52 families with 97 children were open to an external agency supporting the families. 365 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q1 2023/24, 8.2% (30) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q1 2022/23 (389 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (17.0%).

Missing: In Q1 2023/24, all children who were reported missing (excluding children from other authorities) were offered a Return Home Interviews (RHI), 89.2% of which were offered within 72 hours and 77.5% of the children/young people engaged in their RHI. Each are a performance improvement when compared with Q1 2022/23. 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, 32.1% were a Child in Care accounting for 49.6% of the missing episodes.

Children & Families Assessments: 412 C&F assessments were completed in Q1 2023/24. This is a substantial increase on previous years, with an 24.8% increase on the 330 assessments in Q1 2022/23 and a 205.2% increase on the 135 assessments in Q1 2021/22. This increase in C&F assessments is a result of the increase in children being referred which has also contributed to the decline in timeliness of assessments with 56.1% of them being completed within timescale in Q1 2023/24. Our frontline social workers are often prioritising visiting families; undertaking duty visits or supporting families during a crisis; resulting in the written completion of assessments being delayed. Plans are in place and reviewed to ensure social workers are given dedicated time to catch up on outstanding admin tasks. Stop the clock days are taking place to support social workers clear 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: 109 section 47 enquires were started in Q1 2023/24, involving 189 individual children.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 76.6% 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 Q1 2023/24. Work is ongoing to reduction in late requests for conferences.

Child Protection Plans: 109 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of June 2023, this is a slight increase on the 104 children who were subject to CP at the end of June 2022.

100.0% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and all the CP reviews were carried out in timescale. As of June 2023, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 2 years.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 69.8% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q1 2023/24 and 87.2% of the visits were completed within 15 working days. This is a decrease when compared with Q1 2022/23 which had more visits completed with 80.0% completed within 10 working days. The capacity of social workers to make regular visits continues to be impacted due to rising workloads. Changes to the new locality allocations for the A&S teams are currently being reviewed to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

Children in Care: 343 children were in care as of June 2023, 5.0% of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. During Q1 2023/24 a total of 46 children came into the care of DBC, 2 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and a total of 25 children ceased to be in care. 52.0% of the 25 children returned home to a parent when ceasing care.

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 97.0% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales in Q1 2023/24.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 81.6% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q1 2023/24. This is a reduction compared to the 88.8% of visits carried out in timescale in Q1 2022/23, however there have been a 14.8% increase in the number of visits being carried out due to the increase in children in care. Due to rising workloads the capacity of social workers time has been impacted resulting in delayed visit recording. Changes to the new locality allocation for the A&S teams are currently being reviewed to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocations and workloads.

Children in Care Placements: 13.7% of Children in Care (CiC), as of June 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. 62.1% 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. 11.6% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of June 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: 52.3% of the children whose IHA form was sent to Health, received a health assessment by them within 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 37.7% of children due a review health assessment by June 2023 have had one completed. 38.5% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by June 2023 have had one completed.

The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks continues to remain low, with 2.9% refusing their health review and 1.7% refusing their dental review. Although they are currently refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

Care Leavers: 98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.2% aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of June 2023. Of those who were not in suitable accommodation, this was due to them being 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 27.0% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 19.0% for those aged 22-25 at the end of June 2023. 20.6% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (7.9% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 52.4% of the young people were in training or employment (23.8% in full time (including apprenticeships) and 28.6% in part time). 6.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 74.6% of the young people were in training or employment (28.6% in full time (including apprenticeships), 46.0% 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

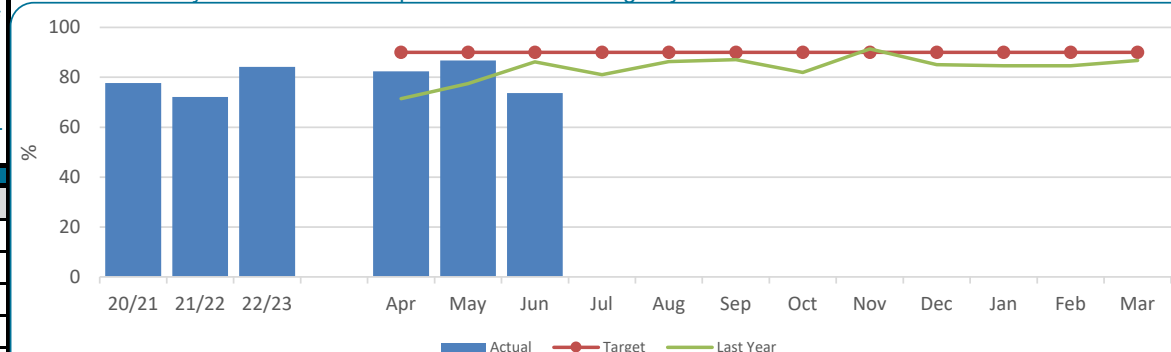
In Q1 2023/24, 81.1% of children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is an increase when compared with 79.6% in Q1 2022/23, 68.0% in Q1 2021/22 and 77.8% in Q1 2020/21, however, this is still below our 90% target. 1.3% of the referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q1 2023/24 which is achieving our target of 5%.

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

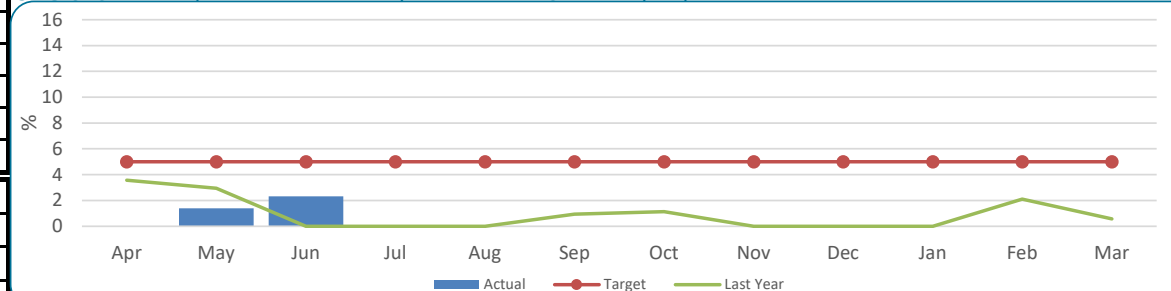
- Difficulties in contacting the family for further information
- Awaiting further information from a 3rd party
- Further information gathering to allow for an informed decision.

		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-23	82.4	
	May-23	86.7	1.4
	Jun-23	73.6	2.3
	Jul-23		
	Aug-23		
	Sep-23		
	Oct-23		
	Nov-23		
	Dec-23		
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21	77.7	4.7
	2021/22	72.1	5.6
	2022/23	84.1	0.8
	2023/24	81.1	1.3

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.

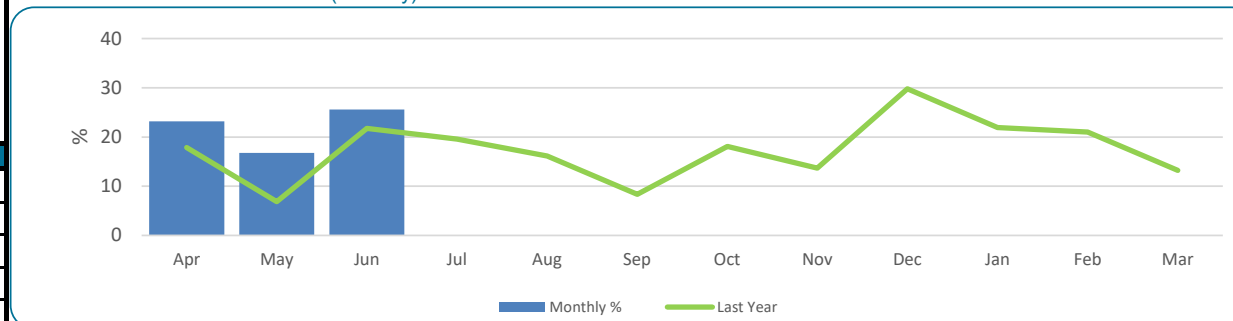
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals this quarter in comparison to previous years with 21.7% of re-referrals during Q1 2023/24. Due to the increase in contacts being made, it is expected that the number of children referred will increase, however this means that we have missed our internal target of having no more 18% of referrals being re-referrals.

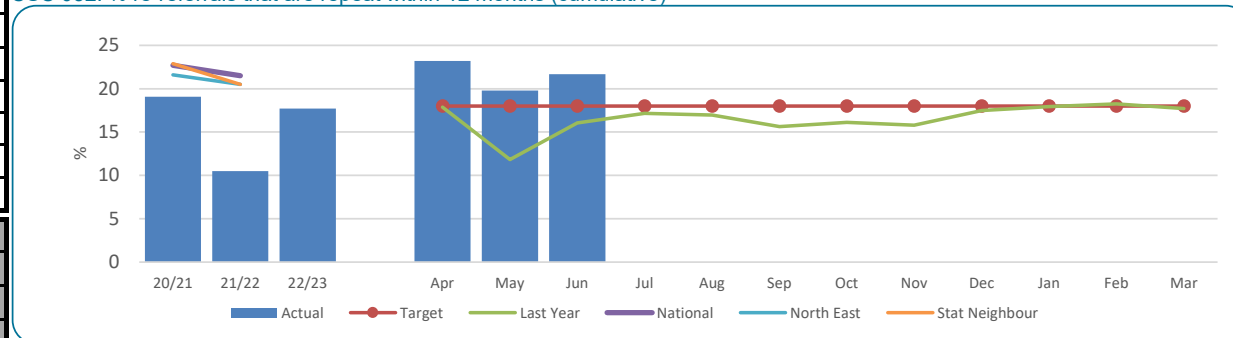
The Service Manager has been reviewing the re-referrals each month to identify any reoccurring theme or how we can improve our processes and decision-making to reduce the need for families to come back into our service and are also scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and 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)	
In Month Performance	Target		18%	% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)
	Apr-23	29	23.2	23.2
	May-23	24	19.8	16.8
	Jun-23	33	21.7	25.6
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	143	19.1	
	2021/22	106	10.5	
	2022/23	286	17.7	
	2023/24	86	21.7	

% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)



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



BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES: OPEN EPISODES

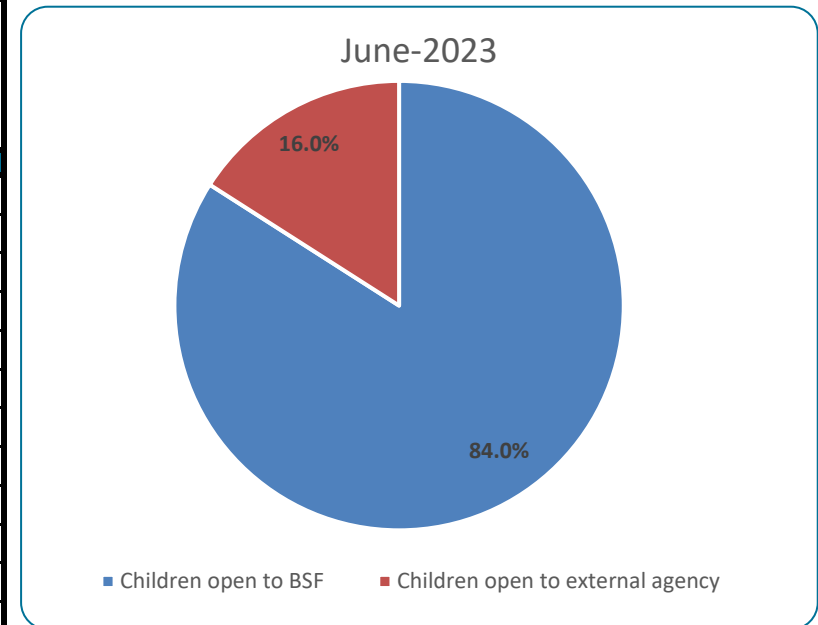
DEFINITION

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

At the end of Q1 2023/24, there were 240 families, 511 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 52 families with 97 children were open to an external agency supporting the families.

		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-23	487	223	123	65	79.8%
	May-23	491	230	124	68	79.8%
	Jun-23	511	240	97	52	84.0%
	Jul-23					
	Aug-23					
	Sep-23					
	Oct-23					
	Nov-23					
	Dec-23					
	Jan-24					
	Feb-24					
	Mar-24					
Annual Trend	2020/21	253	123	93	43	73.1%
	2021/22	411	191	73	35	84.9%
	2022/23	490	218	125	68	79.7%
	2023/24	511	240	97	52	84.0%



EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

DEFINITION

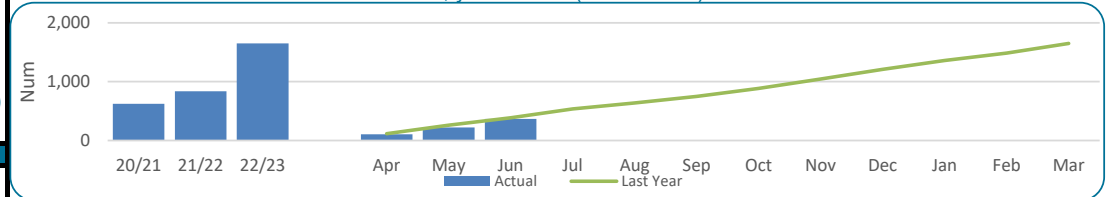
The number of individual Early Help Assessments (EHA) started in month and year to date, including those initiated by external agencies. The start date of the EHA is taken from the form created date in Liquid Logic and the start date of the external EHA is taken from the contact date when the agency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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

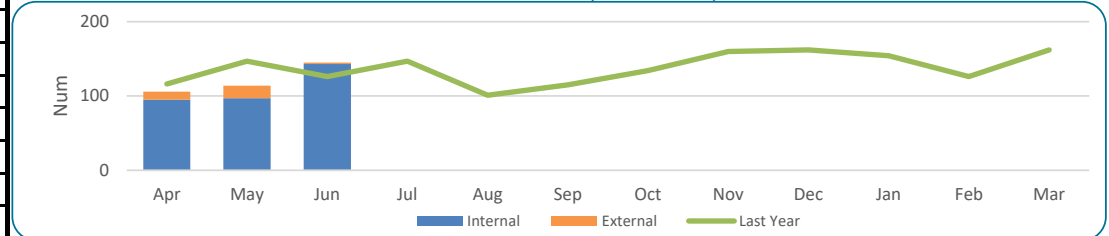
365 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q1 2023/24, 8.2% (30) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q1 2022/23 (389 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (17.0%).

		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-23	106	11	10.4%	106
	May-23	114	17	14.9%	220
	Jun-23	145	2	1.4%	365
	Jul-23				
	Aug-23				
	Sep-23				
	Oct-23				
	Nov-23				
	Dec-23				
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
Annual Trend	2020/21	623	127	20.4%	623
	2021/22	839	161	19.2%	839
	2022/23	1,650	223	13.5%	1,650
	2023/24	365	30	8.2%	365

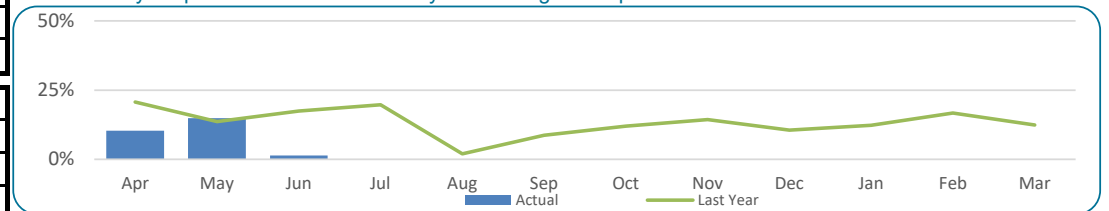
CSC 001: Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external)



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. The number of episodes missing is cumulated to give a year to date figure but the children are only counted once for the year to date total.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>The total number of missing episodes in Q1 2023/24 was 117 involving 56 individual children and young people. This is a reduction compared to Q1 2022/23 which saw 205 episodes of missing involving 66 individual children.</p> <p>CiC young people continue to dominate the number of missing episodes accounting for nearly half of the missing episodes, however, this quarter we have seen an increase in children open to CiN and CP being reported missing compared to previous quarters.</p> <p>In Q1 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered, 89.2% of which were offered within 72 hours and 77.5% of the children engaged in their RHI. This is an increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous quarters (Q1 2022/23, 48.6% and Q1 2021/22, 60.4%).</p>
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		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-23	24	17	10	7		
	May-23	55	30	26	12	1	1
	Jun-23	38	26	22	10		
	Jul-23						
	Aug-23						
	Sep-23						
	Oct-23						
	Nov-23						
	Dec-23						
	Jan-24						
	Feb-24						
	Mar-24						
Annual Trend	2020/21	370	152	107	30	15	4
	2021/22	582	174	253	31	22	4
	2022/23	691	162	383	31	2	2
	2023/24	117	56	58	18	1	1

ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

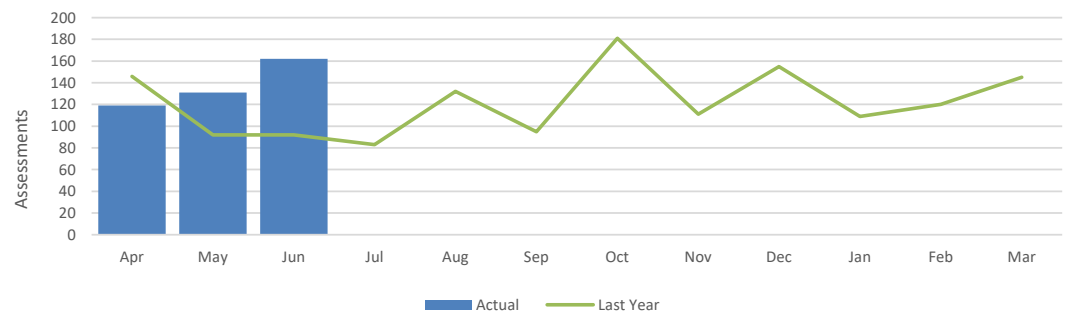
Monthly and cumulative number of Children & Families (C&F) assessments completed for a child.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

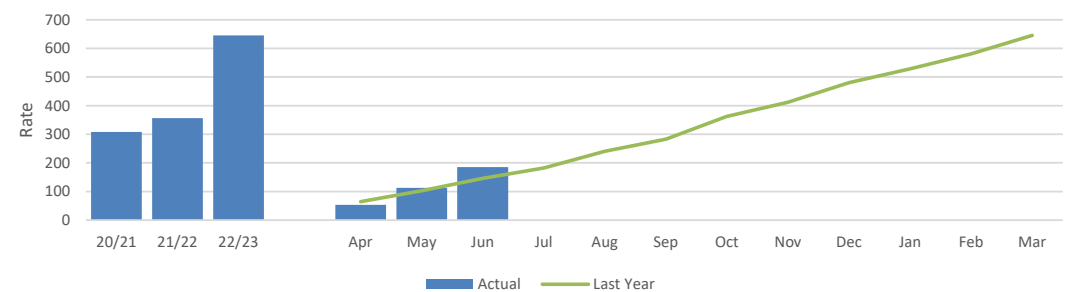
412 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q1 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to Q1 2022/23 (330), Q1 2021/22 (135) and Q1 2020/21 (142).

		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-23	119	119	53.5
	May-23	131	250	112.3
	Jun-23	162	412	185.1
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	692	692	308.2
	2021/22	806	806	356.1
	2022/23	1,461	1,461	645.5
	2023/24	412	412	185.1

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.

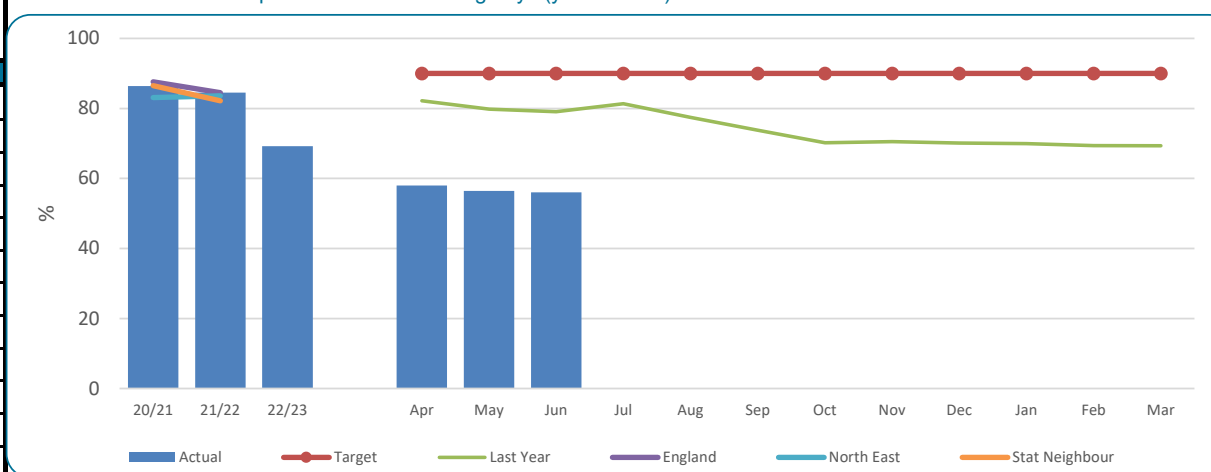
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

56.1% of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in Q1 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% and when compared to Q1 2022/23 (68.5%). Timeliness has seen a continual drop since April 2022 (from 82.2% in timescale).

Analysis of the North East ADCS Benchmarking report 2022/23 informs that 8 of the 12 authorities have seen reductions in assessments completed within 45 working days, falling from 83.6% in 2021/22 to 77.4% at the end of Quarter 4 2022/23. Compared to the 2019/20 position, the overall performance has reduced by -12.6% regionally. For 2021/22, the North East were below the National (84.5%), Yorkshire and the Humber (82.0%) and the North West (81.2%). Darlington, along with South Tyneside, has the lowest percentage of their C&F assessments completed within timescale in 2022/23 (69.2%).

		CSC 038	CSC 040
		% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date)	Monthly % completed within 45 working days
In Month Performance	Target	90%	90%
	Apr-23	58.0	58.0
	May-23	56.4	55.0
	Jun-23	56.1	55.6
	Jul-23		
	Aug-23		
	Sep-23		
	Oct-23		
	Nov-23		
	Dec-23		
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21	86.4	
	2021/22	84.5	
	2022/23	69.2	
	2023/24	56.1	55.6

% 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 enquiries started.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

109 section 47 enquiries were started in Q1 2023/24 involving 189 individual children.

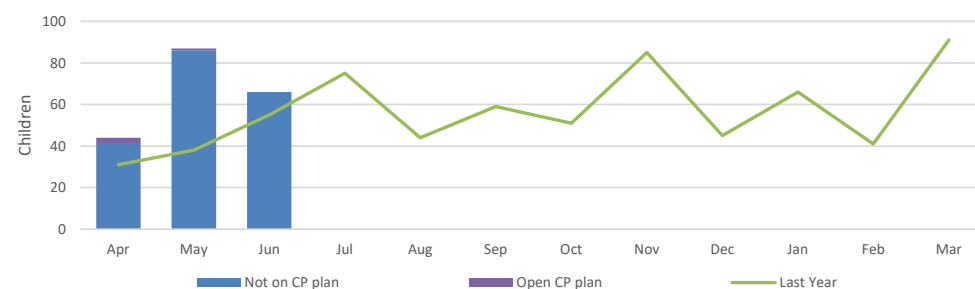
Our rate of enquiries per 10,000 population was 88.5 at the end of Q1 2023/24. This was above that at Q1 2022/23 (54.8) and as a result of the increased strategies held this quarter.

CSC 166

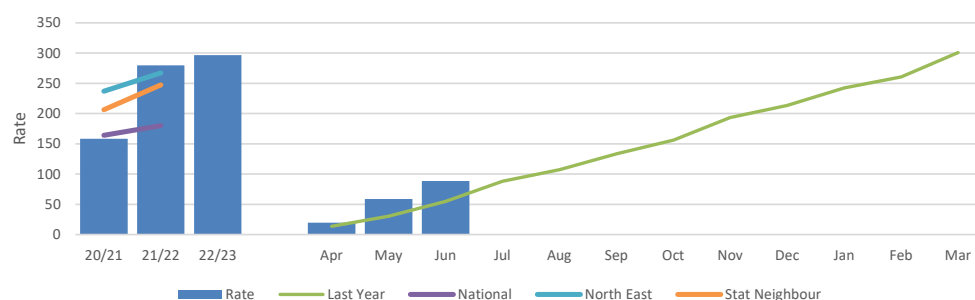
CSC 164

In Month Performance		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)
	Apr-23	24	44	3	19.8
	May-23	48	87	1	58.9
	Jun-23	37	66		88.5
	Jul-23				
	Aug-23				
	Sep-23				
	Oct-23				
	Nov-23				
	Dec-23				
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
Annual Trend	2020/21	195	358	7	158.2
	2021/22	317	633	14	279.7
	2022/23	351	681	30	296.6
	2023/24	109	197	4	88.5

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.

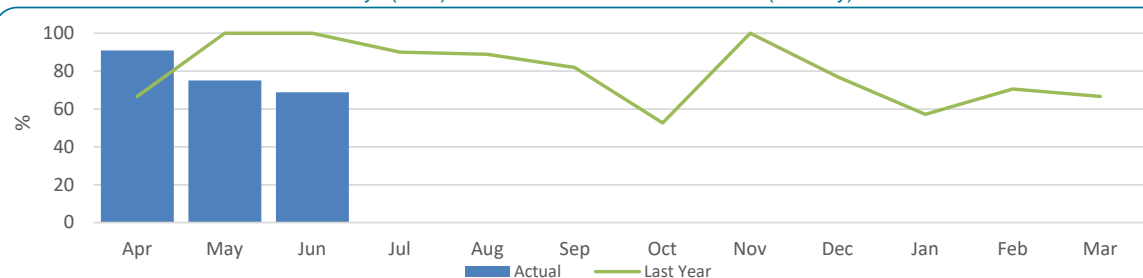
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Of the 47 children (who were not transferred in), 36 had their Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) within timescale (76.6%) in Q1 2023/24. Of the families who did not have their ICPC within timescale, the reasons provided were due to the late conference notification by the social worker and family requesting the conference date to be changed due to their availability.

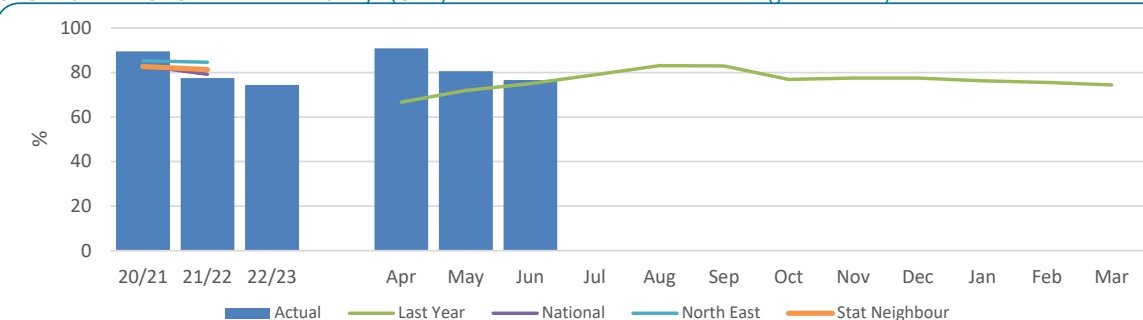
This measure continues to be below the target of 95%.

		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-23	10 / 11	90.9	10 / 11	90.9
	May-23	15 / 20	75.0	25 / 31	80.7
	Jun-23	11 / 16	68.8	36 / 47	76.6
	Jul-23				
	Aug-23				
	Sep-23				
	Oct-23				
	Nov-23				
	Dec-23				
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
Annual Trend	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
	2023/24	36 / 47	76.6	36 / 47	76.6

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.

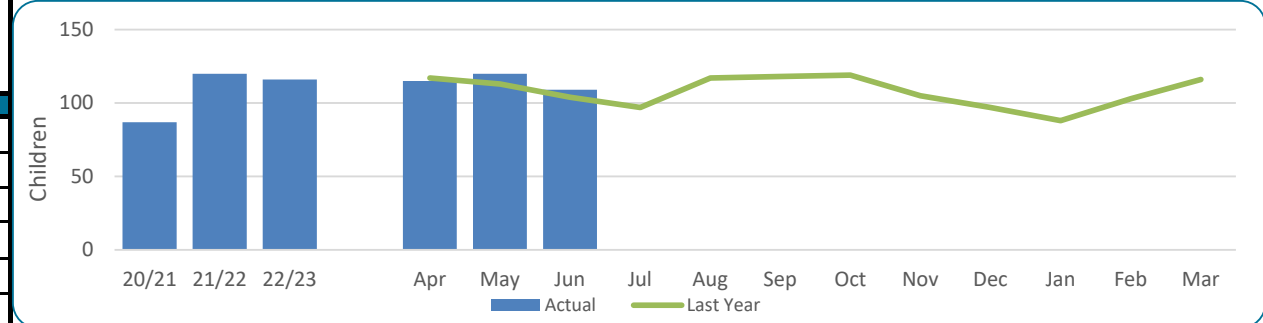
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

109 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of June 2023 with a rate of 49.0 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is comparable to the rate of 46.0 for the 104 children who were subject to CP at the end of June 2022 and above the 42.3 rate for 95 children at the end of June 2021.

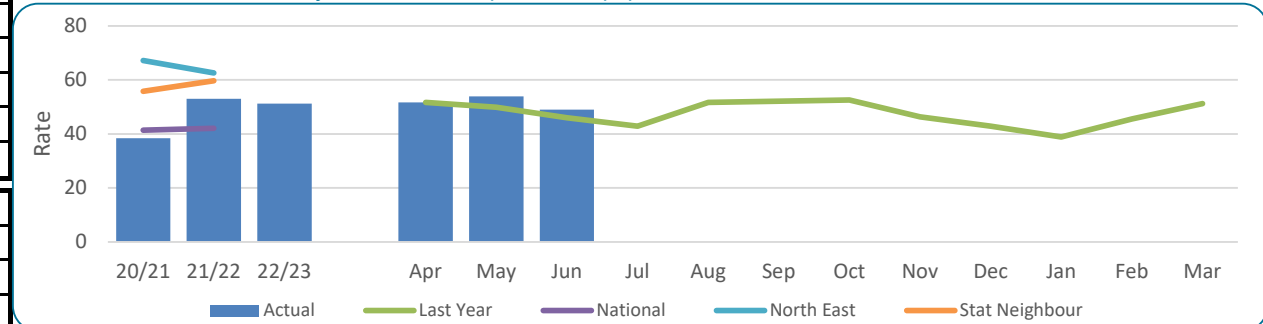
Although Darlington's rate per 10,000 population for children subject to a CPP has increased, this is still below our statistical neighbours and regional trend rate as seen in the 2021 LAIT.

		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-23	115	51.7
	May-23	120	53.9
	Jun-23	109	49.0
	Jul-23		
	Aug-23		
	Sep-23		
	Oct-23		
	Nov-23		
	Dec-23		
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21	87	38.4
	2021/22	120	53.0
	2022/23	116	51.3
	2023/24	109	49.0

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.

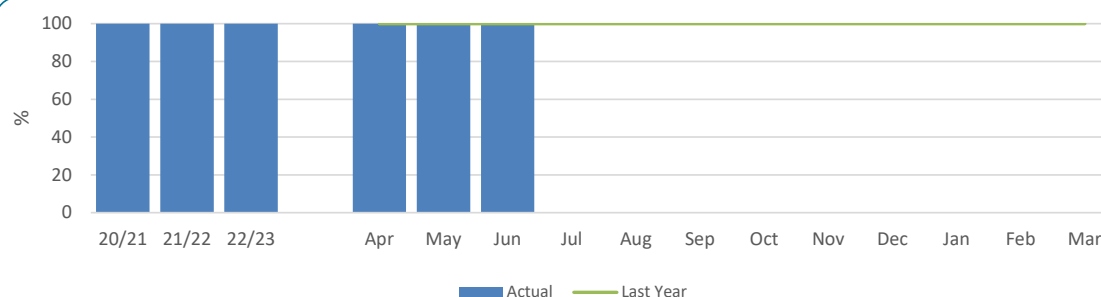
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

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

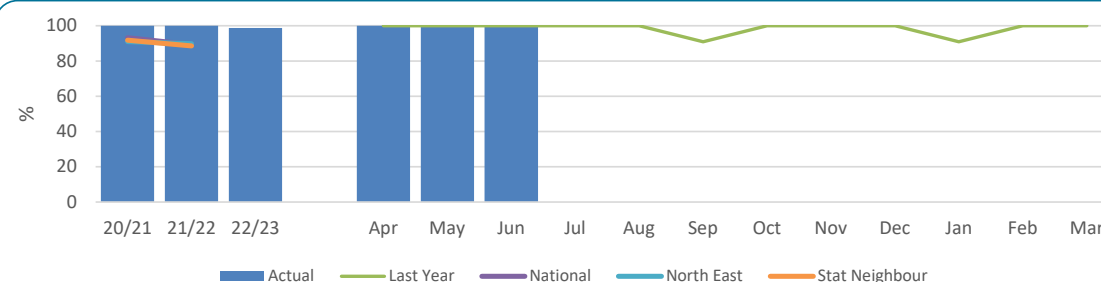
100% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.

		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-23	100.0	14 / 14	100.0
	May-23	100.0	13 / 13	100.0
	Jun-23	100.0	17 / 17	100.0
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	100.0	138 / 138	100.0
	2021/22	100.0	159 / 159	100.0
	2022/23	100.0	153 / 155	98.7
	2023/24	100.0	44 / 44	100.0

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

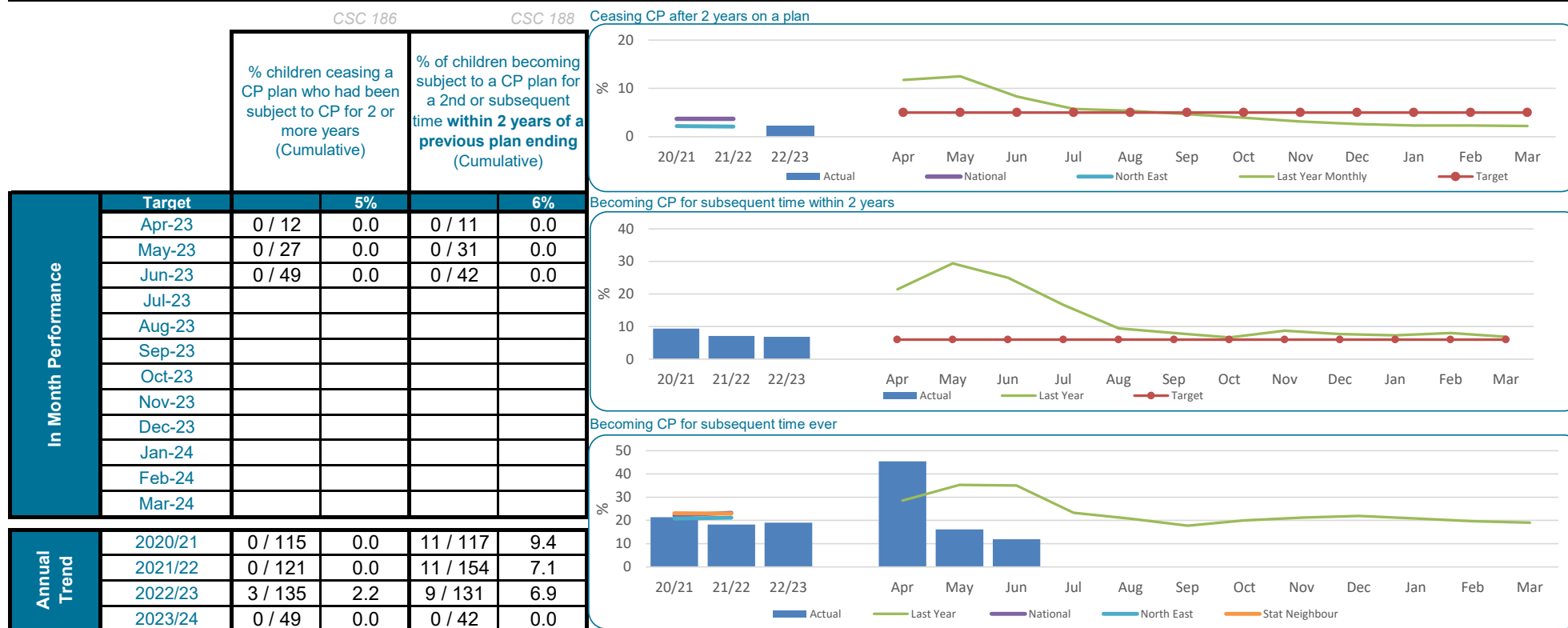
DEFINITION

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

Of the 42 children who became subject to a CP plan in Q1 2023/24 none became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending.

No children have ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q1 2023/24 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more 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.

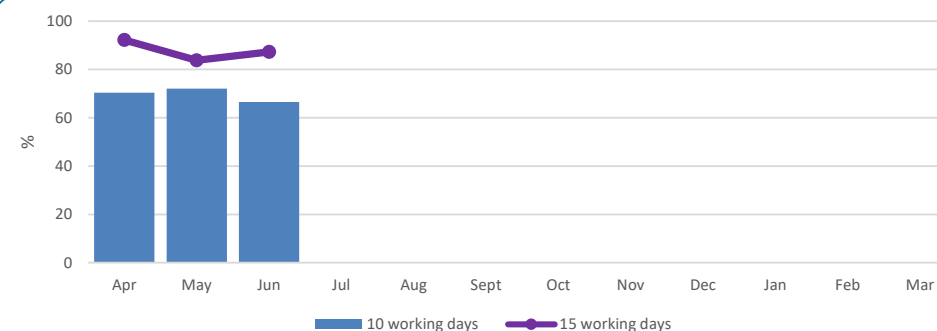
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

69.8% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q1 2023/24.

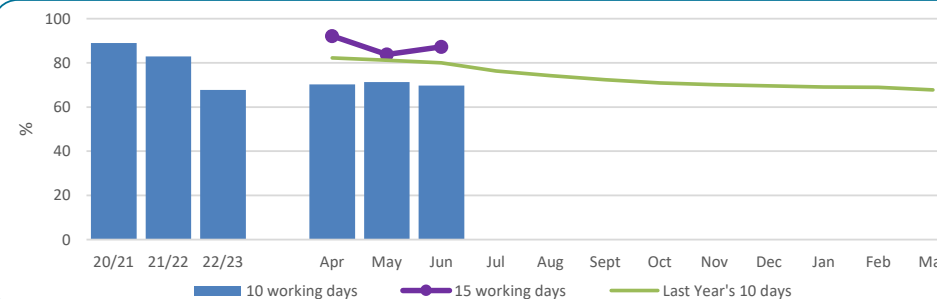
When compared with Q1 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has decreased (from 731 to 602 visits) but due to competing priorities the timeliness of completing the visits has also decrease. Teams, along with managers are currently working to address the drop in performance.

		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-23	70.3	92.2	70.3	92.2
	May-23	72.1	83.8	71.3	83.8
	Jun-23	66.5	87.2	69.8	87.2
	Jul-23				
	Aug-23				
	Sep-23				
	Oct-23				
	Nov-23				
	Dec-23				
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
Annual Trend	2020/21			89.0	98.4
	2021/22			82.9	96.8
	2022/23			67.8	90.0
	2023/24	66.5	87.2	69.8	87.2

% 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).

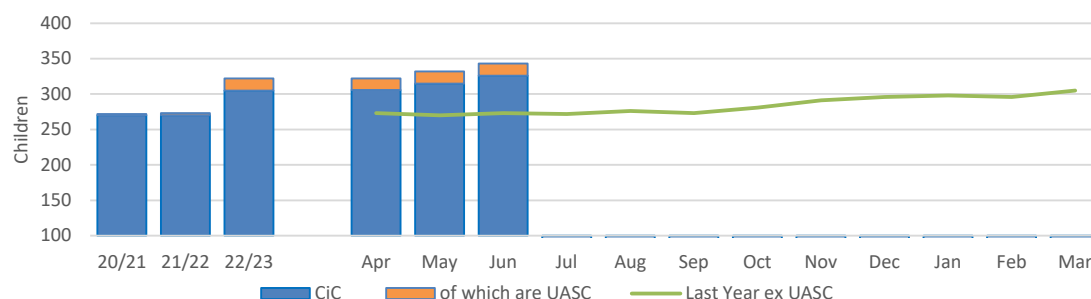
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

343 children were in care as at June 2023, 5.0% of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has continued to rise and rose to 154.1 at the end of June 2023, compared to 123.7 at June 2022, 117.2 at June 2021 and 129.6 at June 2020.

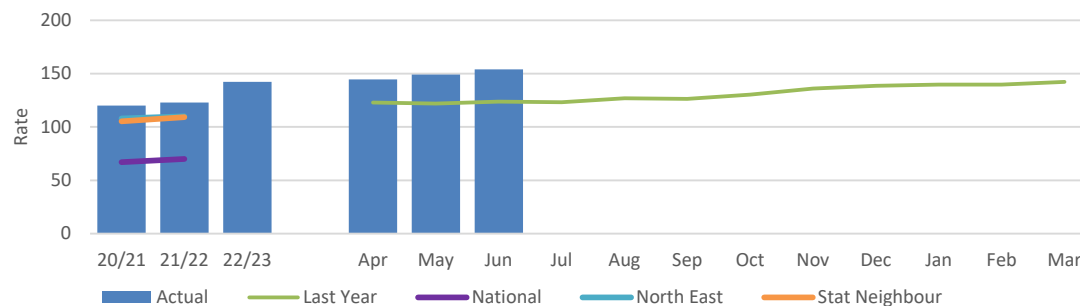
Regional data provided by ADCS for the end of the 2022/23 reporting period shows that in 2021/22, the North East was the highest region nationally, for the rate of Children Looked After (110.0) and this rate has increased again in 2022/23 to 114.6. Darlington, along with 5 other authorities have a higher rate of children in care, per 10,000, than the regional average and have also been above the regional average for the last 3 recorded years.

		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-23	322	16	144.7
	May-23	332	17	149.2
	Jun-23	343	17	154.1
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
Annual Trend	2020/21	272	2	120.0
	2021/22	273	3	123.0
	2022/23	322	17	142.3
	2023/24	343	17	154.1

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.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

46 children came into care in Q1 2023/24. This is an increase when compared with the 28 children who came into care in Q1 2022/23, but less of an increase when comparing families instead of individual children, as 22 in Q1 2022/23 and 28 in Q1 2023/24. This is due to larger family sizes coming into care this quarter.

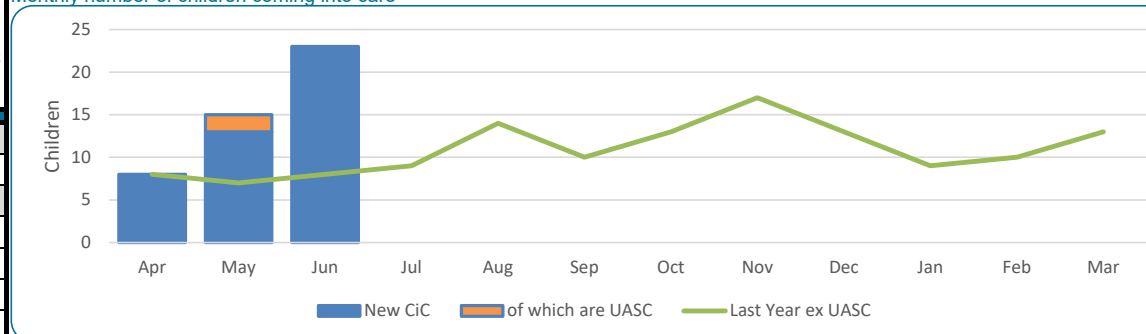
Regional data provided by ADCS for the end of 2022/23 reporting period shows that regionally the rate of Children Becoming Looked After (44.8 per 10,000) is 6.6% higher than year end 2021/22 (42.0) which was significantly higher than the National figure (26.0) as well as the North West (29.0) and Yorkshire and the Humber (27.0). In 2022/23, Darlington and Hartlepool saw the largest increase in children coming into care during 2022/23 when compared to 2021/22, and both are in the bottom 3 authorities when comparing the actual number of children, the rate refers to. Only 3 of the 12 authorities had less children coming into care during 2022/23 than 2021/22.

2 males came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child), however after an age assessment, one of them was identified as being over the age of 18 years.

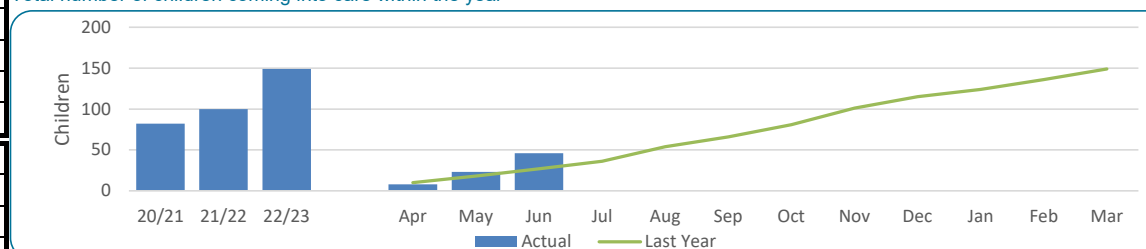
The North East currently sits at the bottom of the regional percentage of UASC children in care with 2.0% in 2021/22 and 3.7% in 2022/23. Darlington was the 4th highest of the North East authorities regarding the proportion of their children in care being UASC with 5.3%.

		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-23	8	8	
	May-23	15	23	2
	Jun-23	23	46	
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	82	82	2
	2021/22	100	100	2
	2022/23	149	149	18
	2023/24	46	46	2

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

25 children and young people, from 20 families ceased to be in care in Q1 2023/24. This is an increase when compared with the 20 children ceasing in Q1 2022/23 and Q1 2020/21 (8 children), but a decrease on the 32 children who ceased in Q1 2021/22.

Of the 25 children and young people who did cease CiC:

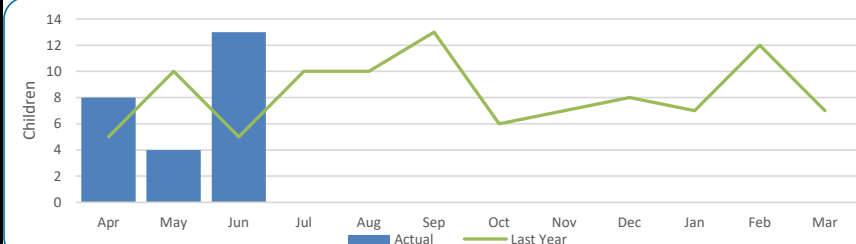
- 52.0% returned home to their parent(s).
- 20.0% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative.
- 20.0% were adopted
- 8.0% due to turning 18 and becoming a care leaver.

One of the care leavers, following an age assessment, ceased care as it was identified they were over the age of 18.

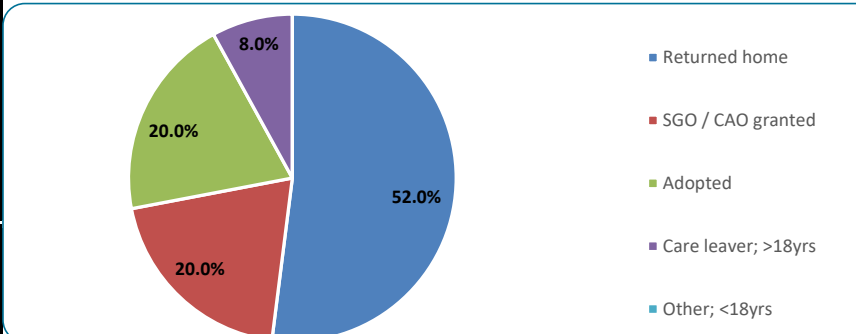
The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) has increased when compared to Q1 2022/23 (25.0%), Q1 2021/22 (9.4%) and Q1 2020/21 (0%).

		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	Other; <18yrs
In Month Performance	Apr-23	8	8	7	1			
	May-23	4	12	1	1	1	1	
	Jun-23	13	25	5	3	4	1	
	Jul-23							
	Aug-23							
	Sep-23							
	Oct-23							
	Nov-23							
	Dec-23							
	Jan-24							
	Feb-24							
	Mar-24							
Annual Trend	2020/21	80	80	22	39	7	9	3
	2021/22	99	99	28	34	15	19	3
	2022/23	100	100	21	39	17	21	2
	2023/24	25	25	13	5	5	2	0

CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing care



Cumulative reason for children ceasing care



CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

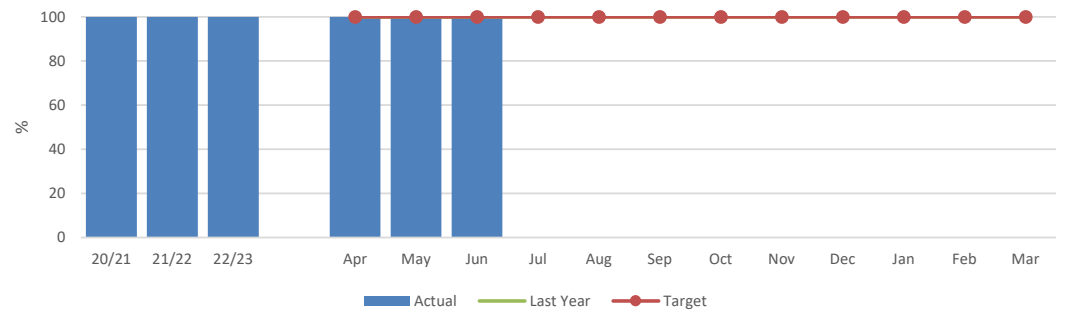
The percentage of Children in Care (CiC) which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time and the percentage of Children in Care that were allocated to a qualified social worker at the end of the month. The purpose of the review is to consider the plan for the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

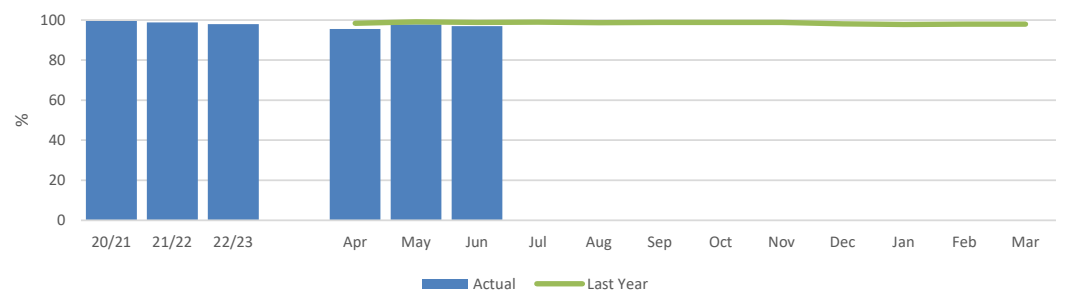
100% of Children in Care (CiC) are allocated to a qualified social worker and 97.0% of the reviews were completed within required timescales.

		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-23	100.0	65 / 68	95.6
	May-23	100.0	139 / 142	97.9
	Jun-23	100.0	194 / 200	97.0
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	100.0	249 / 250	99.6
	2021/22	100.0	243 / 246	98.8
	2022/23	100.0	297 / 303	98.0
	2023/24	100.0	194 / 200	97.0

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



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



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.

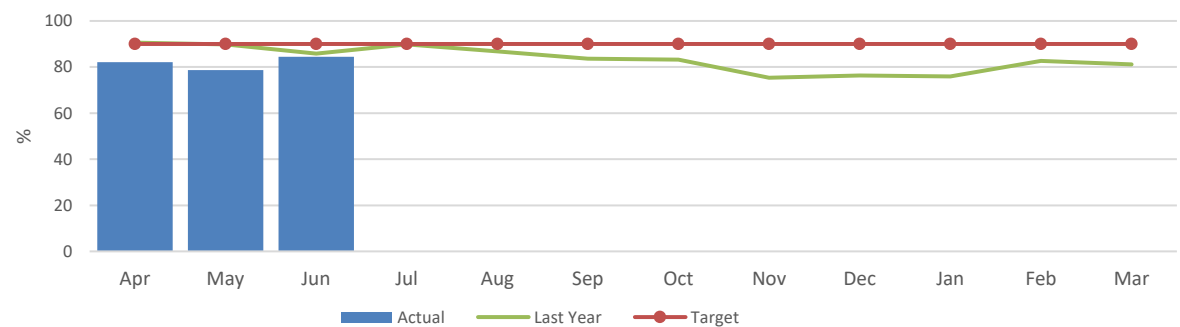
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

81.6% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q1 2023/24. This is a decrease when compared with Q1 2022/23 when there were 88.8% of visits completed in timescale, however this was with 116 less visits required.

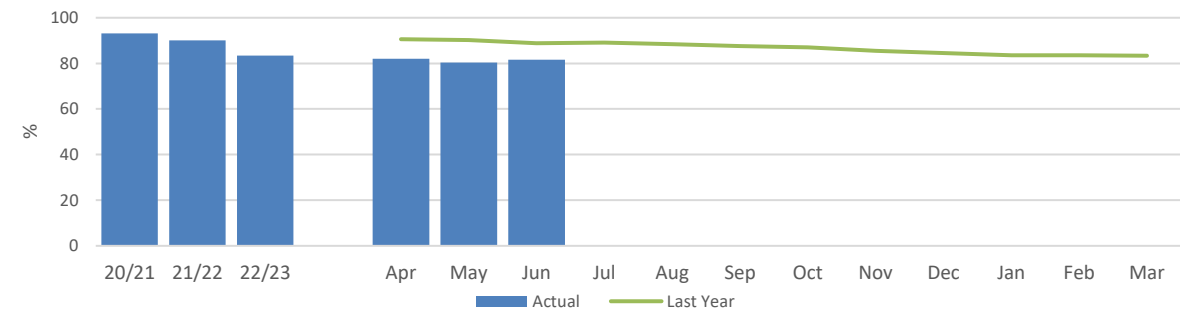
We continue to be below our target of 90% of visits completed in timescale.

		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-23	82.1	82.1
	May-23	78.7	80.3
	Jun-23	84.5	81.6
	Jul-23		
	Aug-23		
	Sep-23		
	Oct-23		
	Nov-23		
	Dec-23		
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21		93.1
	2021/22		90.1
	2022/23		83.4
	2023/24	84.5	81.6

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 at June 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is not meeting the internal target of 10%.

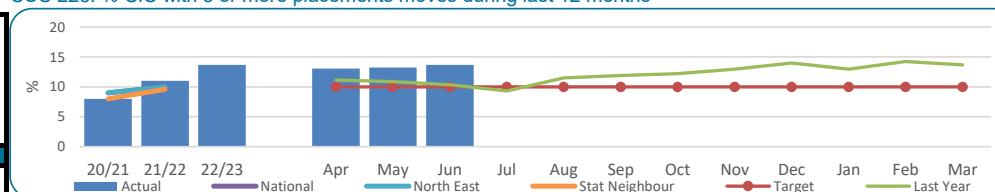
Currently, 62.1% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is below our 68% target, however the numerated cohort has remained the same this quarter.

11.6% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of June 2023 which is above our target of 10%. These children are either placed in a children's home, with a connected carer, with IFA carer, with internal foster carer, placed with parents or in a mother and baby unit.

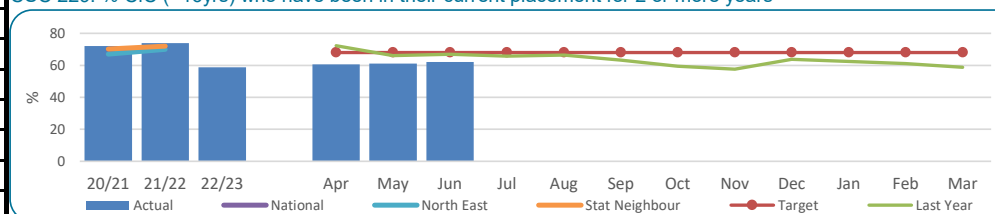
All these placements have been confirmed by team managers to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.

		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-23	13.0	60.6	11.7
	May-23	13.3	61.1	12.5
	Jun-23	13.7	62.1	11.6
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	8.0	72.0	12.0
	2021/22	11.0	74.0	9.0
	2022/23	13.7	58.7	12.5
	2023/24	13.7	62.1	11.6

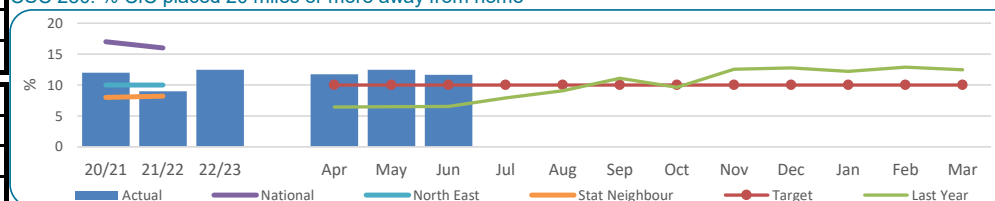
CSC 228: % CiC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months



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

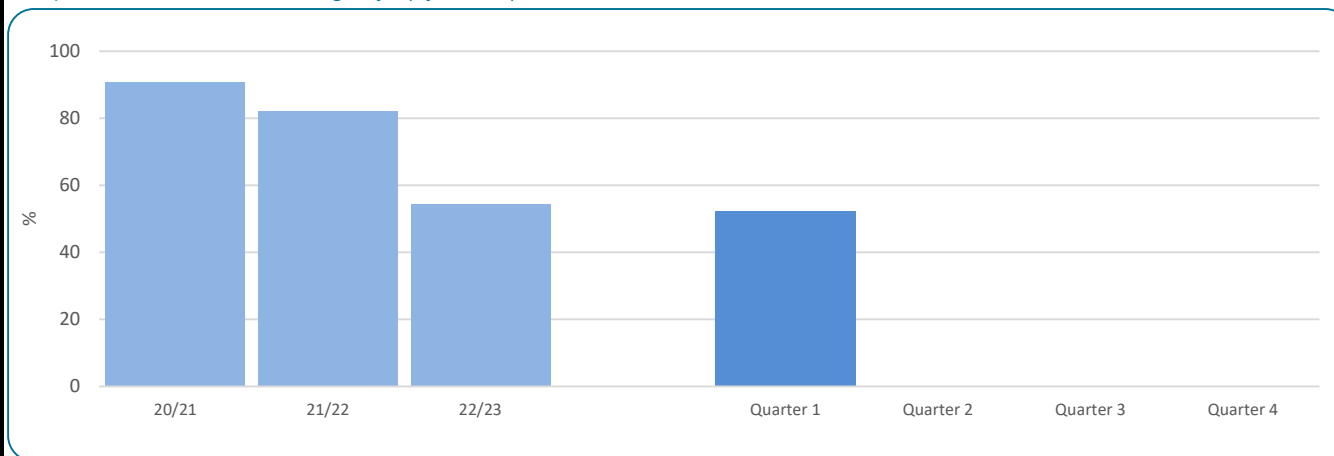
Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child coming into our care year to date (data from Health), and percentage of IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days. This excludes children / young people coming into care due to being remand or UASC.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

52.3% of the children had their IHA completed within 20 days of coming into care by Health. 70.5% of the forms were completed and set to health within the required timescale of 5 days.

		Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)
In Month Performance	Target	95
	Apr-23	
	May-23	
	Jun-23	23 / 44
	Jul-23	
	Aug-23	
	Sep-23	
	Oct-23	
	Nov-23	
	Dec-23	
	Jan-24	
	Feb-24	
	Mar-24	
Annual Trend	2020/21	90.9%
	2021/22	82.1%
	2022/23	54.5%
	2023/24	52.3%

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.

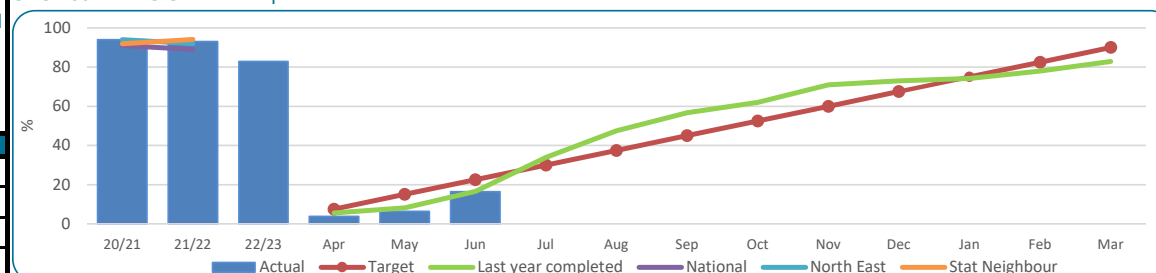
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

37.7% of children due a review health assessment by June 2023 have had one completed.

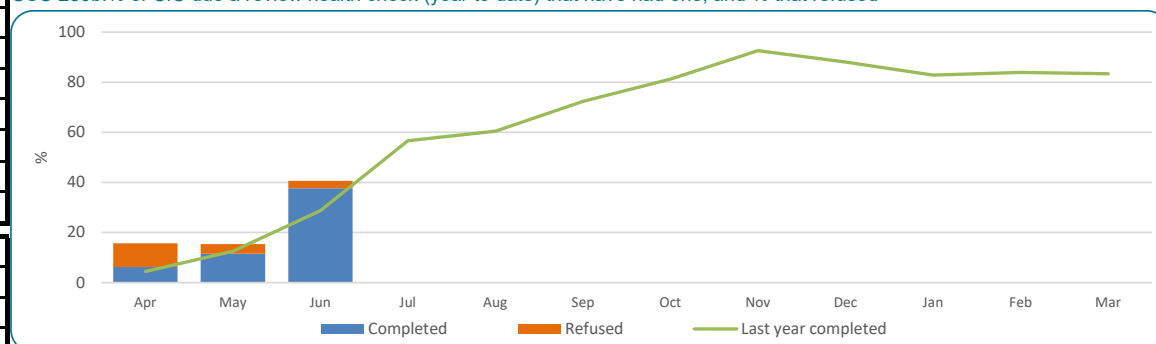
Currently only 2.9% of the children are refusing to have a health review completed. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

		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-23	3.8	9.4	6.3
	May-23	6.4	3.8	11.5
	Jun-23	16.4	2.9	37.7
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	94.0	3.7	91.2
	2021/22	93.0	3.7	91.6
	2022/23	82.9	1.6	83.3
	2023/24	16.4	2.9	37.7

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.

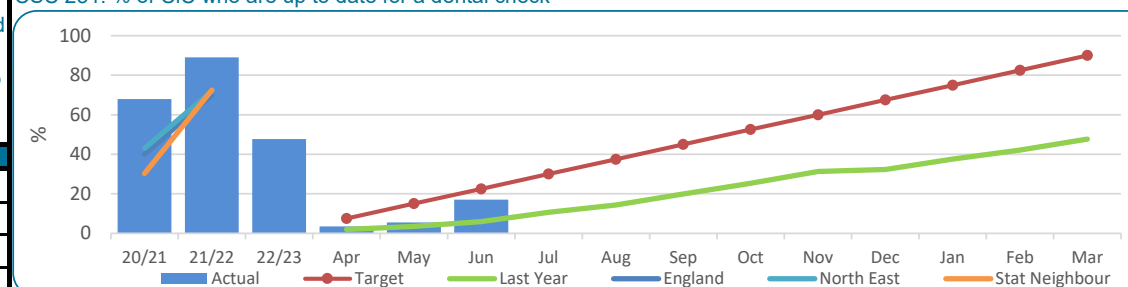
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

38.5% of children due a dental health assessment by June 2023 have had one completed.

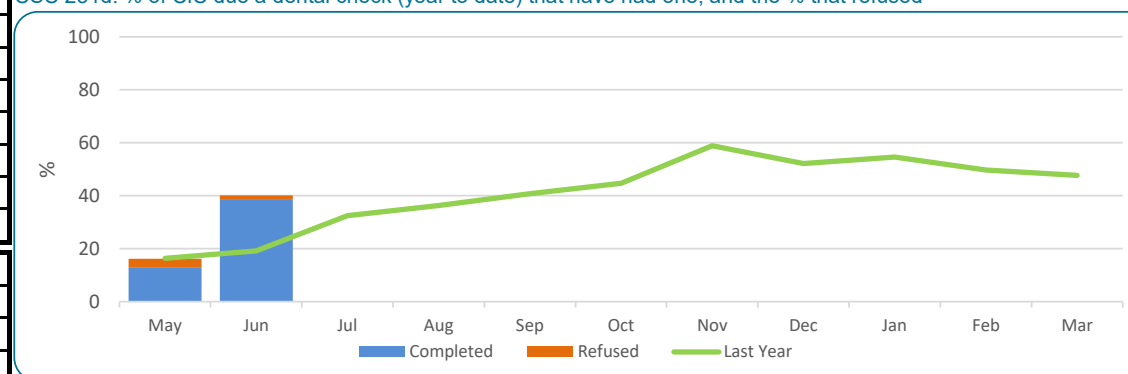
Currently only 1.7% of the children are refusing to have a dental check-up completed. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

		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-23	3.5	3.6	8.9
	May-23	5.5	3.4	12.8
	Jun-23	17.1	1.7	38.5
	Jul-23			
	Aug-23			
	Sep-23			
	Oct-23			
	Nov-23			
	Dec-23			
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	68.0	2.8	57.2
	2021/22	89.0	2.6	83.7
	2022/23	47.7	1.4	47.7
	2023/24	17.1	1.7	38.5

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

98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 95.2% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of June 2023. This was due to some young people being in custody.

Of the care leavers, aged 19-21 and as of 30th June 2023, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 6.3% NEET because of illness or disability
- 14.3% NEET because of other circumstances
- 6.3% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

This equates to 27.0% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET but the highest proportion we have seen.

Of the care leavers, aged 22-25 and as of 30th June 2023, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 9.5% NEET because of illness or disability
- 3.2% NEET because of other circumstances
- 6.3% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

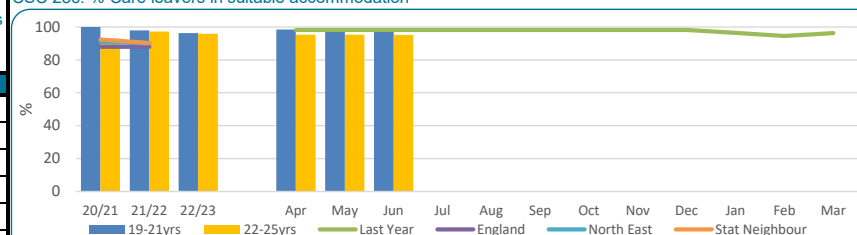
This equates to 19.0%.

20.6% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (7.9% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 52.4% of the young people were in training or employment (23.8% in full time (including apprenticeships) and 28.6% in part time).

6.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 74.6% of the young people were in training or employment (28.6% in full time (including apprenticeships), 46.0% 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-23	98.4	21.9	95.3	15.6
	May-23	98.4	25.0	95.3	17.2
	Jun-23	98.4	27.0	95.2	19.0
	Jul-23				
	Aug-23				
	Sep-23				
	Oct-23				
	Nov-23				
	Dec-23				
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
Annual Trend	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
	2023/24	98.4	27.0	95.2	19.0

CSC 286: % Care leavers in suitable accommodation



CSC 294: % Care leavers NEET

