



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children's Social Care Performance Report

December 2023

Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec)

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Q3 2023-24 Performance Summary

Referrals: In Q3 2023/24, 82.5% of children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is below our 90% target but an increase in both timeliness and referrals when compared to last quarter (78.9%). 1.9% referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2023/24 which is achieving our target of 5%.

Re-Referrals: We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals with 25.1% of the referrals received so far this year, have had a previous referral within the past 12 months. This has, in part, been due to the increase in contacts being made, it was 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. Re-referrals are being scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practice and learning outcomes are shared.

Building Stronger Families: At the end of Q3 2023/24, there were 221 families with 452 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 37 families with 72 children were open to an external agency supporting the families. 358 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q3 2023/24, 10.1% (36) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q3 2022/23 (456 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (12.3%).

Missing: In Q3 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered, 87.5% were offered within 72 hours and 71.4% of the children engaged in their RHI. This is comparable to the percentage of children engaging with their RHI in Q3 2022/23 (72.2%), and an increase when compared to Q3 2021/22 (47.9%). We have seen a decrease in the proportion of missing episodes recorded by children in care compared to last quarter (38.4% down to 24.8% of the episodes), however the increase has been seen in children not open to social care and those open to another local authority. 83.2% of the missing episodes were for less than 12 hours and only 1 episode was for longer than 72 hours.

Children & Families Assessments: 437 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q3 2023/24. This is slightly lower when compared to Q3 2022/23 (447) but an increase on Q3 2021/22 (247) and Q3 2020/21 (215). Of the 437 C&F assessments completed in Q3 2023/24, 63.8% were completed within timescale. This is far below the target of 90% and a lot of work has been carried out by the social workers and managers to address the outstanding assessments and improve timeliness of their completion. Although the year to date timeliness at the end of December 2023 is at 57.5%, the last couple of months have seen a significant improvement which has continued into January's data.

Section 47 Enquiries: 99 section 47 enquiries were started in Q3 2023/24 involving 197 individual children.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 70.2% 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 Q3 2023/24. Work continues with the aim to reduced late requests for conferences.

Child Protection Plans: 142 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2023 with a rate of 63.8 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase to the rate of 42.9 for the 97 children who were subject to CP at the end of December 2022. The increase in active CP plans contrasts the reduction of the current number of children in care. 100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker and 100% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.

Of the 65 children who became subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24, 1 child became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending and 13 children from 7 families became subject to a CP plan for a subsequent time ever. 1 family (4 children) ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 70.5% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q3 2023/24 with a total of 91.4% being completed within 15 days. When compared with Q3 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has increased (from 609 to 767 visits) due to the increased number of children on a plan. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

Children in Care: 327 children were in care as at December 2023, 21 (6.4%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. 13 children from 10 families came into care in Q3 2023/24, a further 5 young people came into our care as UASC through the NTS. This is a substantial reduction compared to 43 children (excluding UASC) who came into care in Q3 2022/23.

45 children and young people, from 30 families ceased to be in care in Q3 2023/24. This is a large decrease when compared with the 21 children ceasing in Q3 2022/23. The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) continues to increase when compared to previous quarters.

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 90.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales at December 2023.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 80.7% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q3 2023/24. This is an increase when compared with Q3 2022/23 when there were 78.5% of visits completed in timescale. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

Children in Care Placements: 13.8% of Children in Care (CiC), as of December 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is not meeting the internal target of 10% but is a reduction compared to last quarter.

Currently, 66.7% 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. This is below our 68% target, however, there has been an improvement since the start of the year due to targeted work to help support carers and children before a move is required.

12.4% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 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: 69.2% of the children whose IHA form was sent to Health, received a health assessment by them within 20 days during Q3 2023/24.

Health and Dental Reviews: 85.2% of children due a review health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed. Currently only 1.1% of the children are refusing to have a health review completed. 51.8% of children due a dental health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed. Currently only 0.9% of the children are refusing to have a dental check-up completed. The young people 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 96.3% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2023. 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 25.8% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 20.4% for those aged 22-25 at the end of December 2023. 24.2% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 50.0% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 7.4% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 72.2% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

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

206 referrals were processed during Q3 2023/24 for 361 children. This is a slight increase compared to last quarter (189 referrals for 337 children) but a decrease compared to Q3 2022/23 (246 referrals for 457 children). However, cumulatively year to date, we are on a similar trajectory to last year.

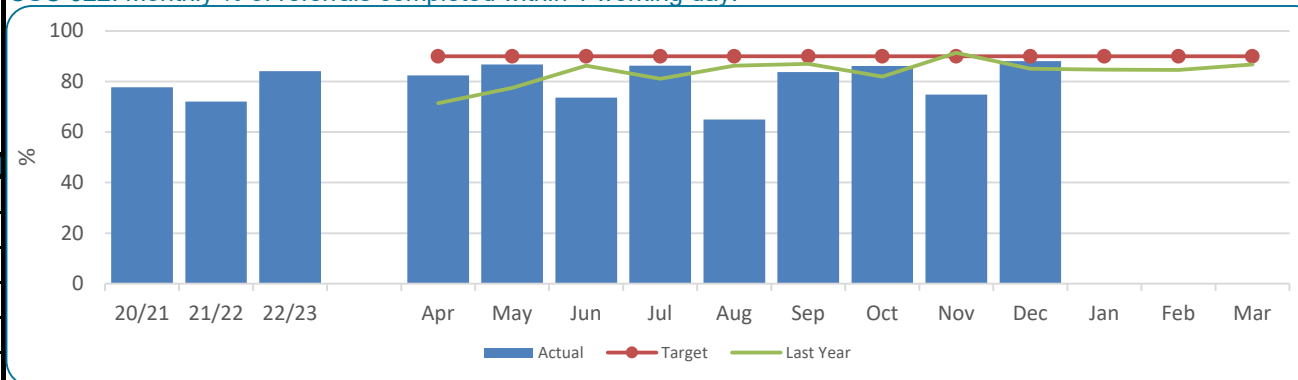
In Q3 2023/24, 82.5% of children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is below our 90% target but an increase in both timeliness and referrals when compared to last quarter (78.9%).

7 (1.9%) referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2023/24 which is achieving our target of 5%.

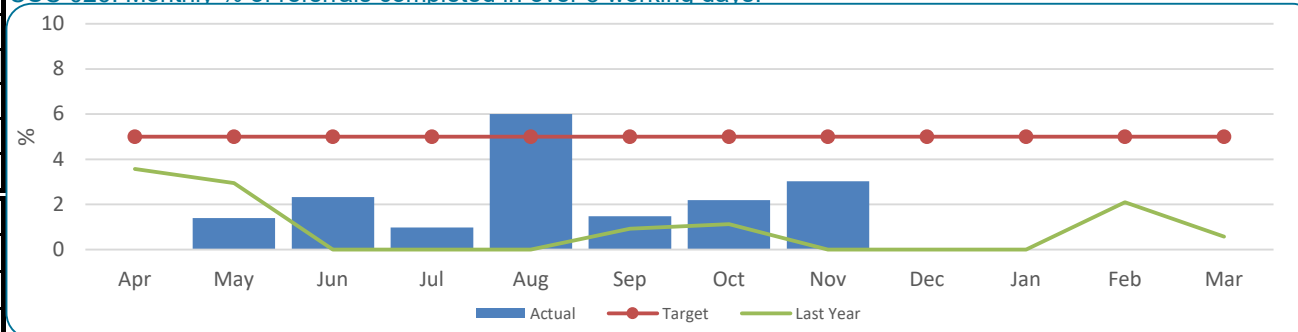
CSC 022 CSC 026

	CSC 022		CSC 026	
	Target	Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.	Target	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	86.3	1.0	
	Aug-23	65.0	6.0	
	Sep-23	83.7	1.5	
	Oct-23	86.1	2.2	
	Nov-23	74.8	3.0	
	Dec-23	88.0		
	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	80.9	1.9	

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



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

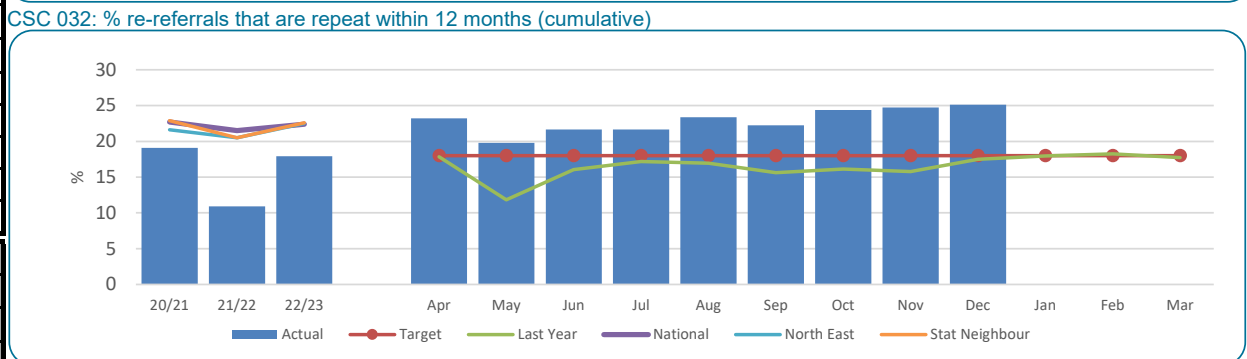
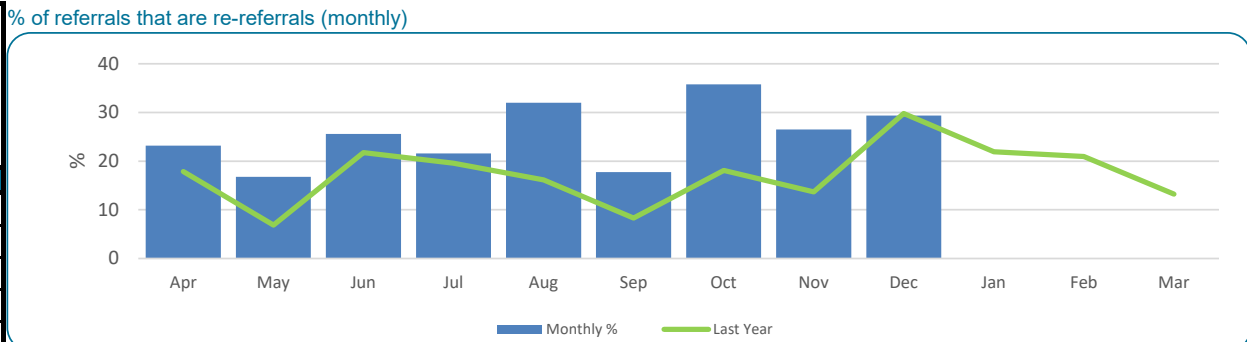


REFERRALS: RE-REFERRALS

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.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals 25.1% of the referrals received so far this year, have had a previous referral within the past 12 months. This has, in part, been due to the increase in contacts being made, it was 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.</p> <p>The Service Manager is working with Quality leads to further scrutinise the re-referrals in order to highlight any reoccurring themes 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 practice and learning outcomes are shared.</p>
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		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-23	29	23.2	23.2
	May-23	24	19.8	16.8
	Jun-23	33	21.7	25.6
	Jul-23	22	21.6	21.6
	Aug-23	32	23.4	32.0
	Sep-23	24	22.2	17.8
	Oct-23	49	24.4	35.8
	Nov-23	35	24.7	26.5
	Dec-23	27	25.1	29.3
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
Annual Trend	2020/21	143	19.1	
	2021/22	106	10.9	
	2022/23	286	17.9	
	2023/24	275	25.1	

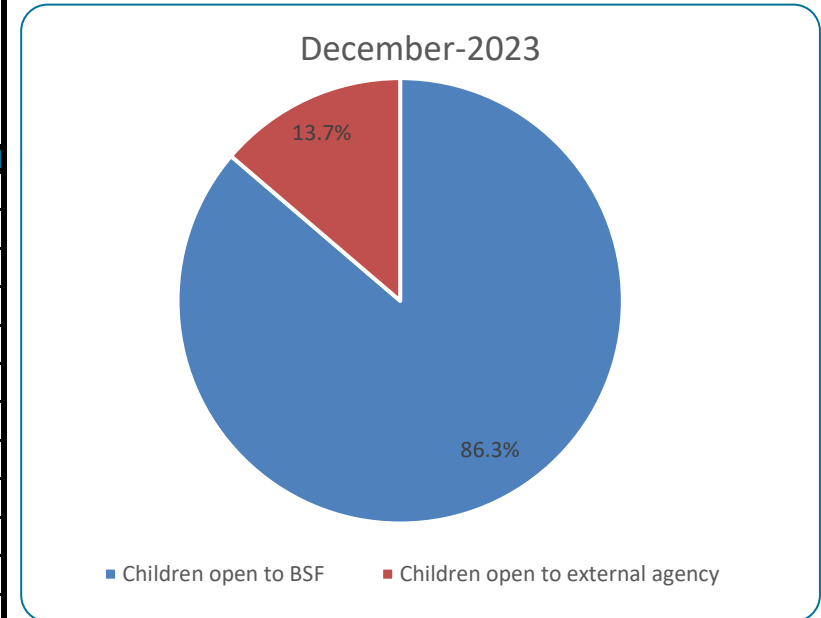


BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES: OPEN EPISODES

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 Q3 2023/24, there were 221 families with 452 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 37 families with 72 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	472	225	97	57	83.0%
	Aug-23	468	225	87	51	84.3%
	Sep-23	460	223	60	35	88.5%
	Oct-23	377	179	55	30	87.3%
	Nov-23	375	182	65	32	85.2%
	Dec-23	452	221	72	37	86.3%
	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	452	221	72	37	86.3%

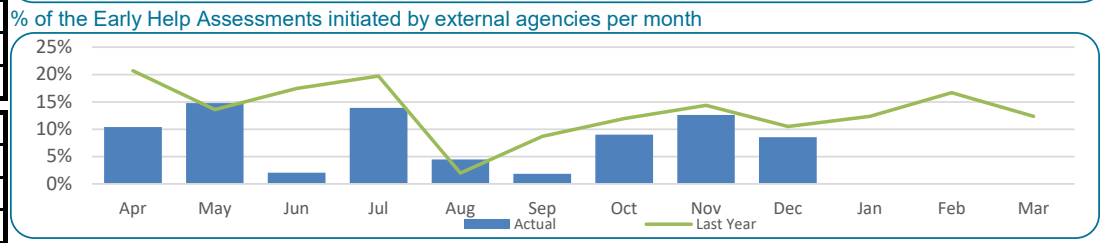
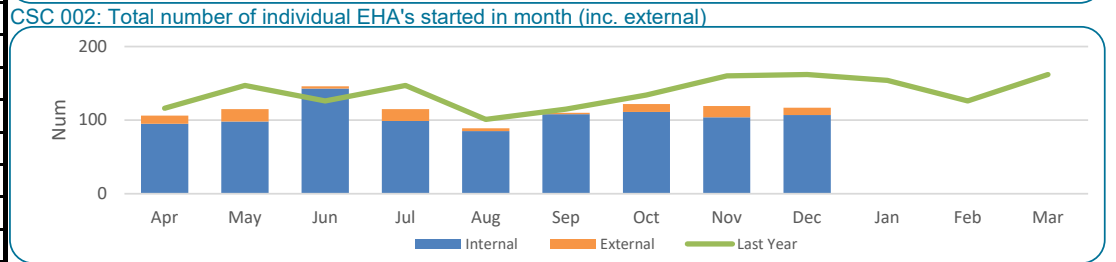


EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 358 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q3 2023/24, 10.1% (36) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q3 2022/23 (456 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (12.3%).

		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	115	17	14.8%	221
	Jun-23	146	3	2.1%	367
	Jul-23	115	16	13.9%	482
	Aug-23	89	4	4.5%	571
	Sep-23	110	2	1.8%	681
	Oct-23	122	11	9.0%	803
	Nov-23	119	15	12.6%	920
	Dec-23	117	10	8.5%	1,039
	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	1,039	89	8.6%	1,039



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 Q3 2023/24 was 113 involving 41 individual children and young people.</p> <p>In Q3 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered, 87.5% were offered within 72 hours and 71.4% of the children engaged in their RHI. This is comparable to the percentage of children engaging with their RHI in Q3 2022/23 (72.2%, and an increase when compared to Q3 2021/22 (47.9%).</p> <p>We have seen a decrease in the proportion of missing episodes recorded by children in care compared to last quarter (38.4% down to 24.8% of the episodes), however the increase has been seen in children not open to social care and those open to another local authority.</p> <p>83.2% of the missing episodes were for less than 12 hours and only 1 episode was for longer than 72 hours.</p>
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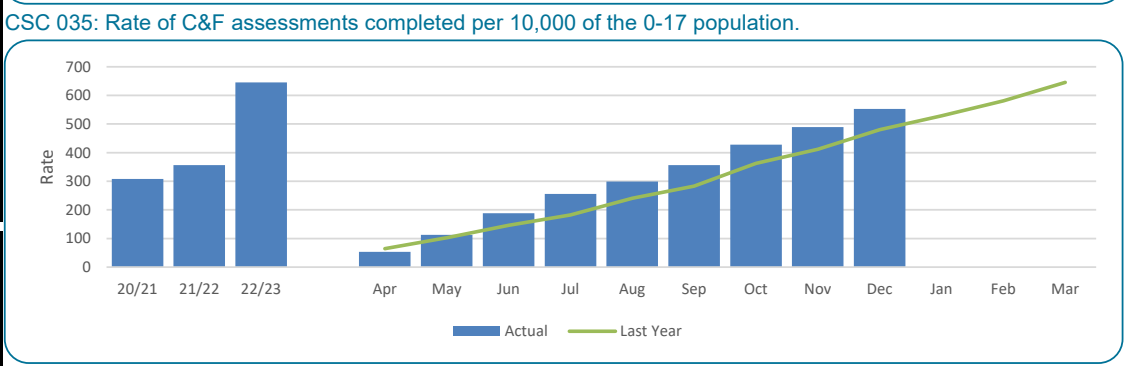
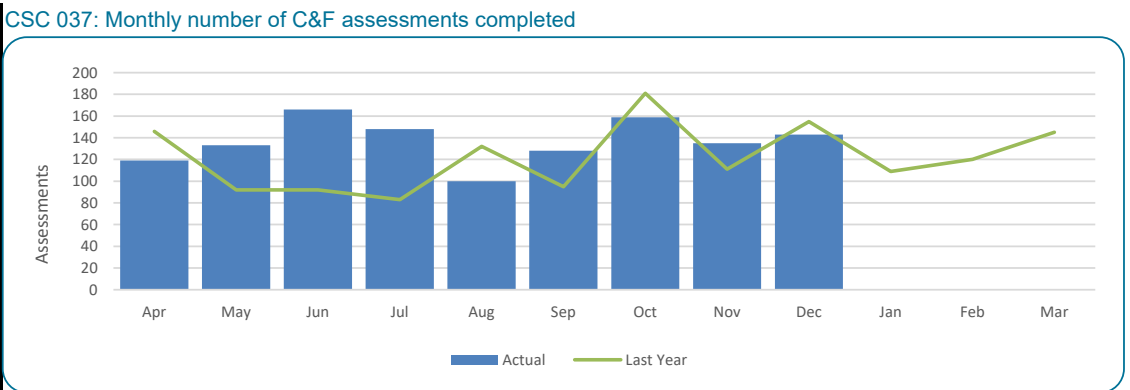
		CSC 215		CSC 246			
		Total number of missing episodes and children involved in month		Missing - Children in Care with DBC		Of which are in a placement more than 20 miles from home	
		Episode	Child	Episode	Child	Episode	Child
In Month Performance	Apr-23	24	17	10	7		
	May-23	57	30	28	12		
	Jun-23	38	26	22	10	2	2
	Jul-23	63	30	27	11	2	2
	Aug-23	40	15	14	5	3	1
	Sep-23	43	19	15	6		
	Oct-23	54	24	14	6	1	1
	Nov-23	45	17	9	6	1	1
	Dec-23	14	13	5	4		
	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	378	104	144	25	9	4

ASSESSMENTS

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 437 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q3 2023/24. This is slightly lower when compared to Q3 2022/23 (447) but an increase on Q3 2021/22 (247) and Q3 2020/21 (215).

		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	133	252	113.2
	Jun-23	166	418	187.8
	Jul-23	148	566	255.7
	Aug-23	100	666	299.3
	Sep-23	128	794	356.8
	Oct-23	159	953	428.3
	Nov-23	135	1,088	488.9
	Dec-23	143	1,231	553.2
	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	1,231	1,231	553.2



ASSESSMENTS: TIMELINESS

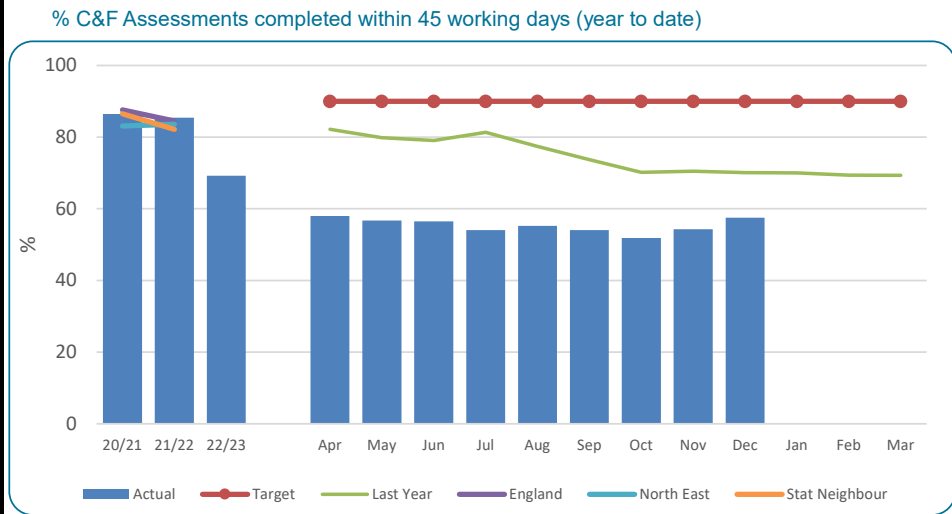
DEFINITION

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

Of the 437 C&F assessments completed in Q3 2023/24, 63.8% were completed within timescale. This is far below the target of 90% and a lot of work has been carried out by the social workers and managers to address the outstanding assessments and improve timeliness of their completion. Although the year to date timeliness at the end of December 2023 is at 57.5%, the last couple of months have seen a significant improvement which has continued into January's data.

		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	56.8	55.6
	Jun-23	56.5	56.0
	Jul-23	54.1	47.3
	Aug-23	55.3	62.0
	Sep-23	54.0	47.7
	Oct-23	51.8	40.9
	Nov-23	54.3	71.9
	Dec-23	57.5	81.8
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21	86.4	
	2021/22	85.4	
	2022/23	69.2	
	2023/24	57.5	81.8



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.

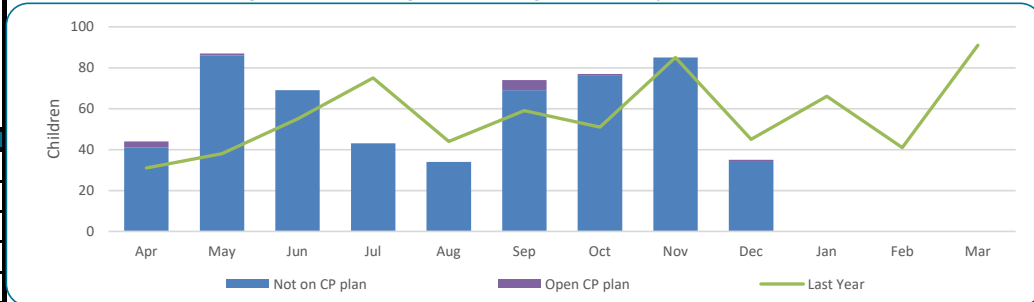
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

99 section 47 enquires were started in Q3 2023/24 involving 197 individual children.

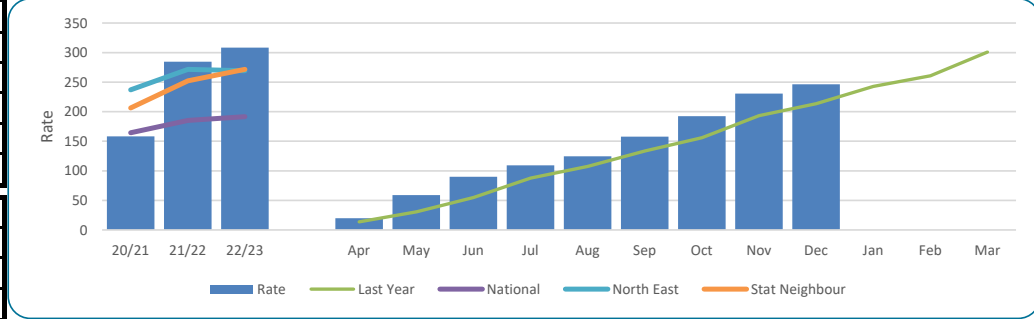
Our rate of enquires per 10,000 population was 246.3 at the end of Q3 2023/24. This was above that at Q3 2022/23 (213.4) and as a result of the increased strategies held this year.

		CSC 166		CSC 164	
		Section 47 enquires started in the month	Number of children who had a section 47 enquiry	Of which also had an open CPP plan	Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (Cumulative)
In Month Performance	Apr-23	24	44	3	19.8
	May-23	48	87	1	58.9
	Jun-23	39	69		89.9
	Jul-23	19	43		109.2
	Aug-23	18	34		124.5
	Sep-23	39	74	5	157.7
	Oct-23	38	77	1	192.3
	Nov-23	45	85		230.5
	Dec-23	16	35	1	246.3
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
Annual Trend	2020/21	195	358	7	158.2
	2021/22	317	633	14	284.5
	2022/23	351	681	30	308.3
	2023/24	286	548	11	246.3

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.

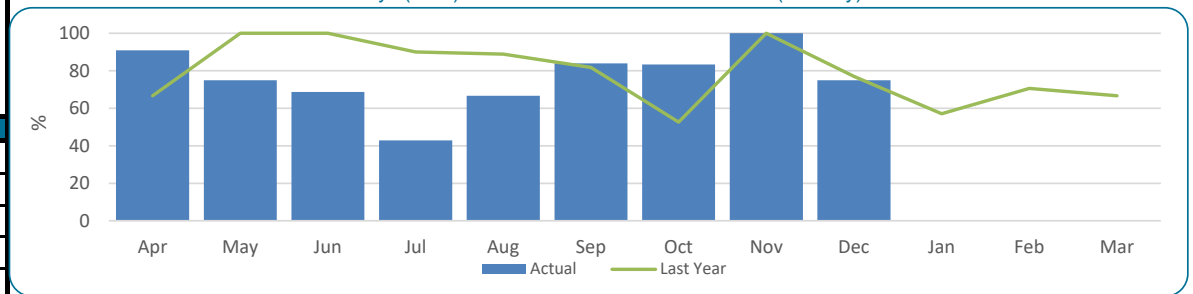
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Of the 69 children (who were not transferred in), 59 had their Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) within timescale (85.5%) in Q3 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.

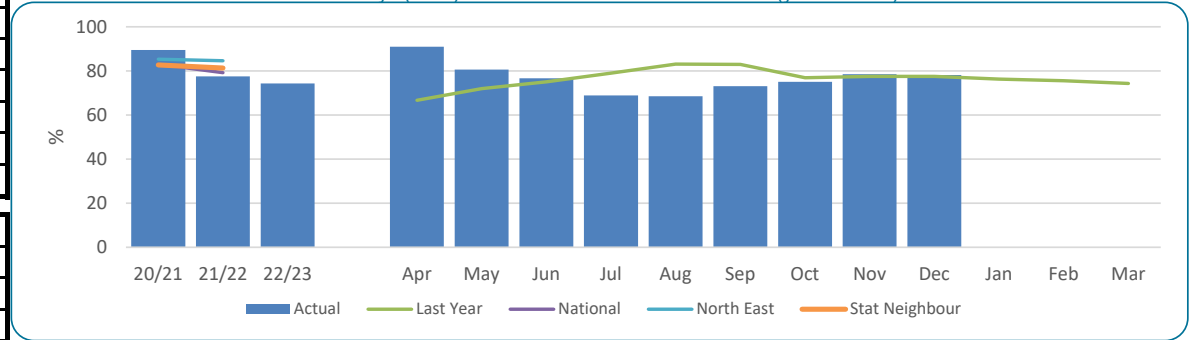
This measure continues to be below the target of 95% but is an improvement on the last quarter (70.2%).

		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	6 / 14	42.9	42 / 61	68.9
	Aug-23	8 / 12	66.7	50 / 73	68.5
	Sep-23	26 / 31	83.9	76 / 104	73.1
	Oct-23	20 / 24	83.3	96 / 128	75.0
	Nov-23	21 / 21	100.0	117 / 149	78.5
	Dec-23	18 / 24	75.0	136 / 174	78.2
	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	135 / 173	78.2	136 / 174	78.2

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).

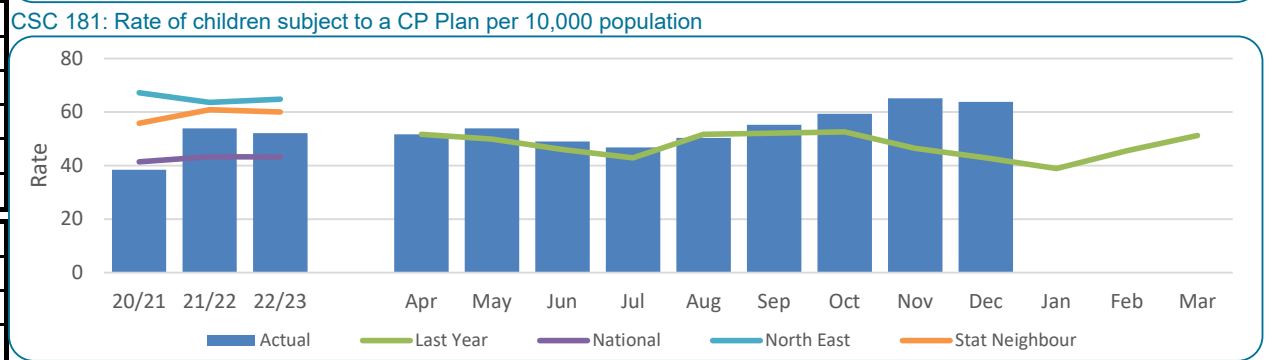
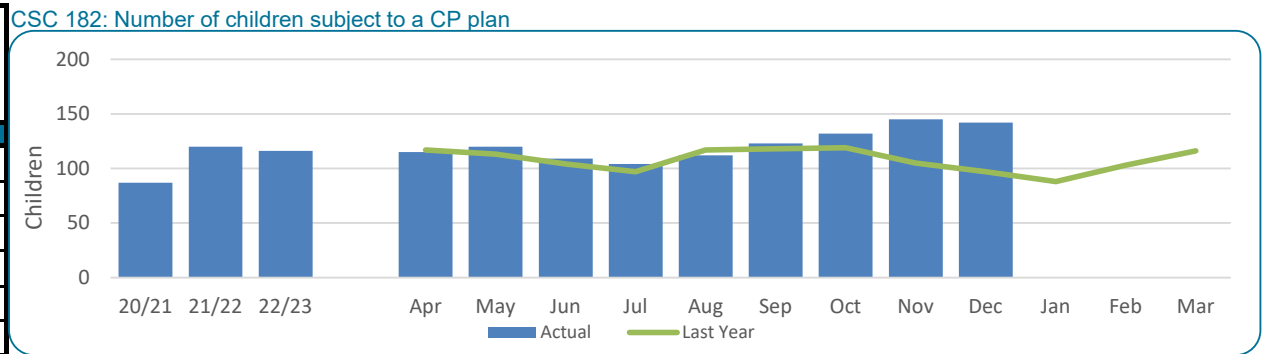


CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

DEFINITION	Number of children subject to a Child Protection plan at the end of the month.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>142 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) at the end of December 2023 with a rate of 63.8 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase to the rate of 42.9 for the 97 children who were subject to CP at the end of December 2022.</p> <p>The increase in active CP plans contrasts the reduction of the current number of children in care.</p>
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		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	104	46.7
	Aug-23	112	50.3
	Sep-23	123	55.3
	Oct-23	132	59.3
	Nov-23	145	65.2
	Dec-23	142	63.8
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21	87	38.4
	2021/22	120	53.9
	2022/23	116	52.1
	2023/24	142	63.8



CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

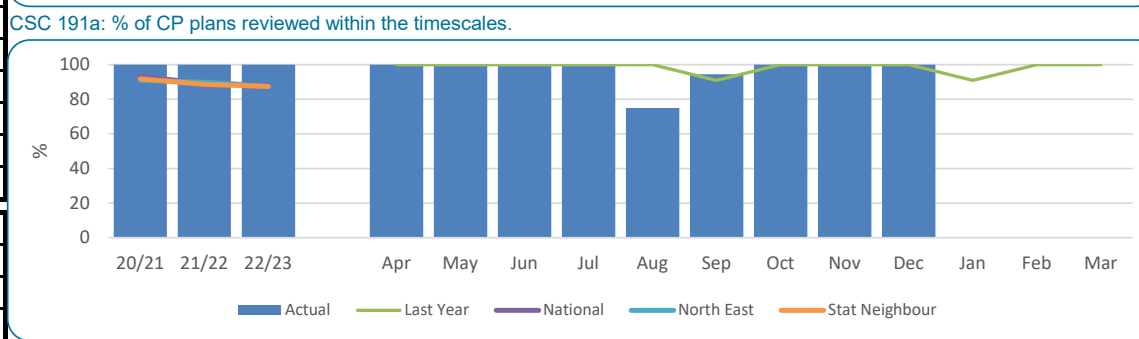
DEFINITION Reviews are a key element in delivering CP Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions. This indicator is a proxy for the measurement of effectiveness of the interventions provided to children subject to a CP plan. "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 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	100.0	19 / 19	100.0
	Aug-23	100.0	6 / 8	75.0
	Sep-23	100.0	17 / 18	94.4
	Oct-23	100.0	16 / 16	100.0
	Nov-23	100.0	11 / 11	100.0
	Dec-23	100.0	21 / 21	100.0
	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	155 / 155	100.0
	2023/24	100.0	134 / 137	97.8

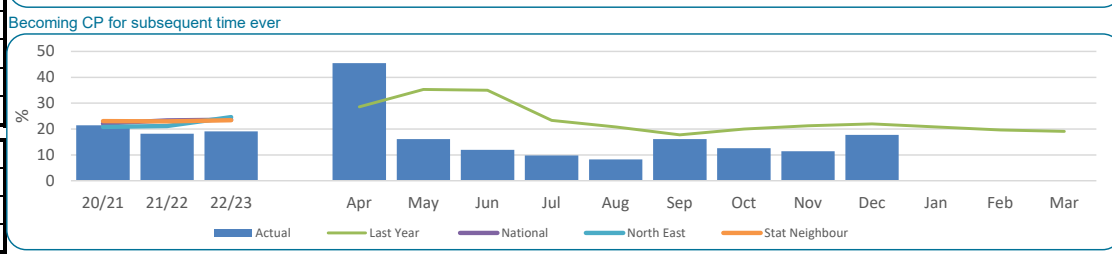
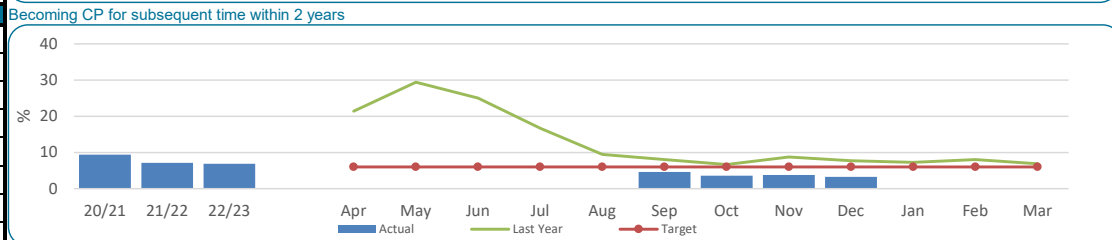
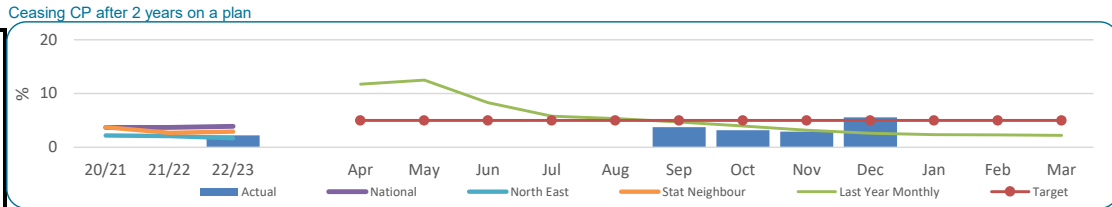


CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: TIME PERIODS

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 65 children who became subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24, 1 child became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending and 13 children from 7 families became subject to a CP plan for a subsequent time ever.
 1 family (4 children) ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years.

		CSC 186		CSC 188			
		% children ceasing a CP plan who had been subject to CP for 2 or more years (Cumulative)		% of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a 2nd or subsequent time within 2 years of a previous plan ending (Cumulative)		% of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a 2nd or subsequent time ever (Cumulative)	
In Month Performance	Target		5%		6%		
	Apr-23	0 / 12	0.0	0 / 11	0.0	5 / 11	45.5
	May-23	0 / 27	0.0	0 / 31	0.0	5 / 31	16.1
	Jun-23	0 / 49	0.0	0 / 42	0.0	5 / 42	11.9
	Jul-23	0 / 63	0.0	0 / 51	0.0	5 / 51	9.8
	Aug-23	0 / 65	0.0	0 / 61	0.0	5 / 61	8.2
	Sep-23	3 / 80	3.8	4 / 87	4.6	14 / 87	16.1
	Oct-23	3 / 95	3.2	4 / 111	3.6	14 / 111	12.6
	Nov-23	3 / 103	2.9	5 / 132	3.8	15 / 132	11.4
	Dec-23	7 / 126	5.6	5 / 152	3.3	27 / 152	17.8
Jan-24							
Feb-24							
Mar-24							
Annual Trend	2020/21	0 / 115	0.0	11 / 117	9.4	25 / 117	21.4
	2021/22	0 / 121	0.0	11 / 154	7.1	28 / 154	18.2
	2022/23	3 / 135	2.2	9 / 131	6.9	25 / 131	19.1
	2023/24	7 / 126	5.6	5 / 152	3.3	27 / 152	17.8

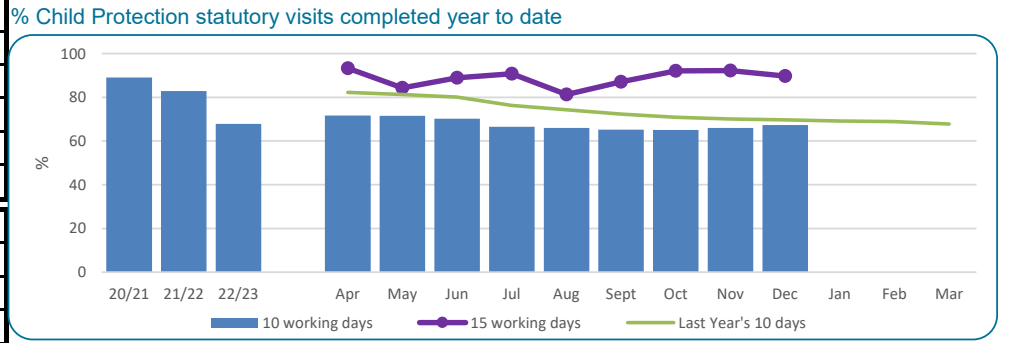
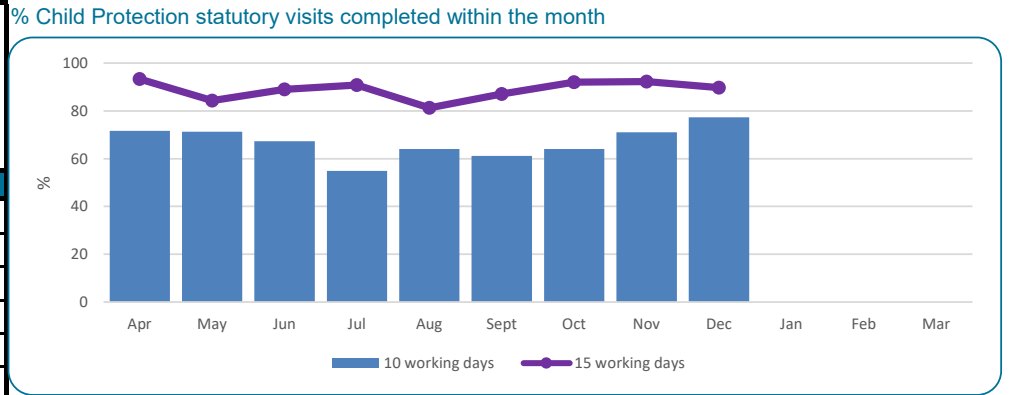


CHILD PROTECTION: STATUTORY VISITS

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 70.5% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q3 2023/24 with a total of 91.4% being completed within 15 days. When compared with Q3 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has increased (from 609 to 767 visits) due to the increase number of children on a plan.

		<i>CSC 252a</i>		<i>CSC 252b</i>	
		% 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	71.7	93.3	71.7	93.3
	May-23	71.3	84.3	71.5	84.3
	Jun-23	67.3	88.9	70.1	88.9
	Jul-23	54.9	90.8	66.5	90.8
	Aug-23	64.1	81.3	66.0	81.3
	Sep-23	61.2	87.1	65.2	87.1
	Oct-23	64.0	92.0	65.0	92.0
	Nov-23	71.0	92.2	65.9	92.2
	Dec-23	77.4	89.7	67.3	89.7
	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	77.4	89.7	67.3	89.7



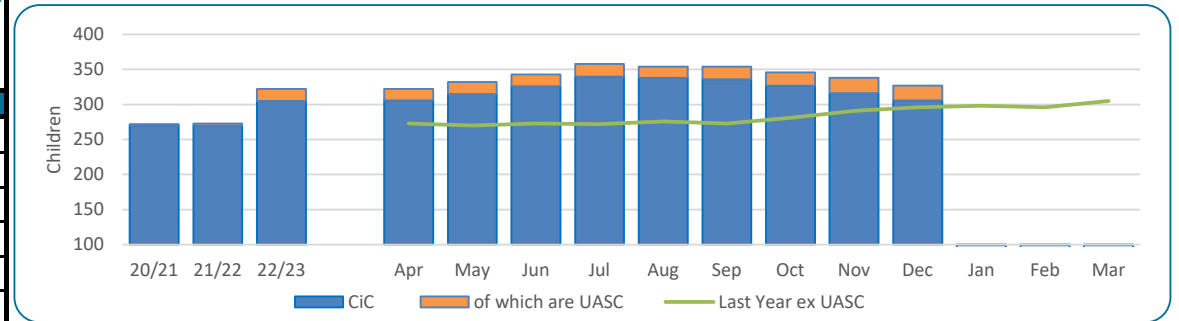
CHILDREN IN CARE

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

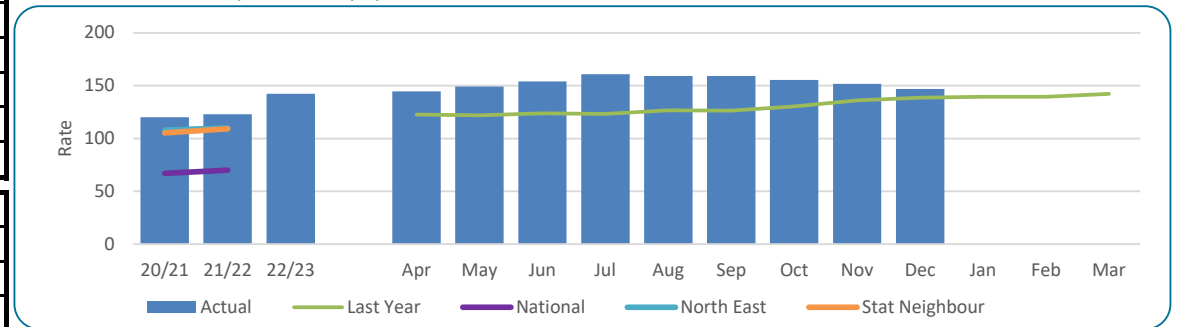
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 327 children were in care at the end of December 2023, 21 (6.4%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers.

		CSC 201	CSC 207	CSC 200
		Total number of Children in Care	Of which are identified as a UASC	Rate of CiC per 10,000 population
In Month Performance	Target			95
	Apr-23	322	16	144.7
	May-23	332	17	149.2
	Jun-23	343	17	154.1
	Jul-23	358	18	160.9
	Aug-23	354	16	159.1
	Sep-23	354	18	159.1
	Oct-23	346	19	155.5
	Nov-23	338	22	151.9
	Dec-23	327	21	147.0
Annual Trend	2020/21	272	2	120.0
	2021/22	273	3	123.0
	2022/23	322	17	142.3
	2023/24	327	21	147.0

CSC 201: Total number of Children in Care



CSC 200: Rate of CiC per 10,000 population



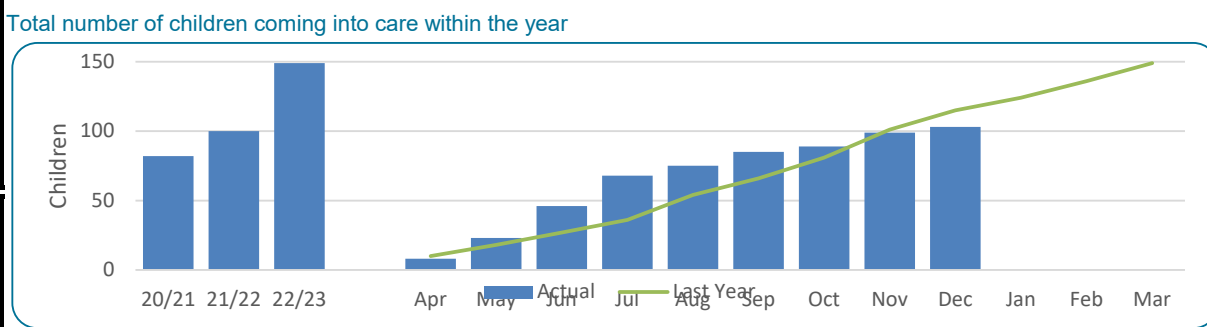
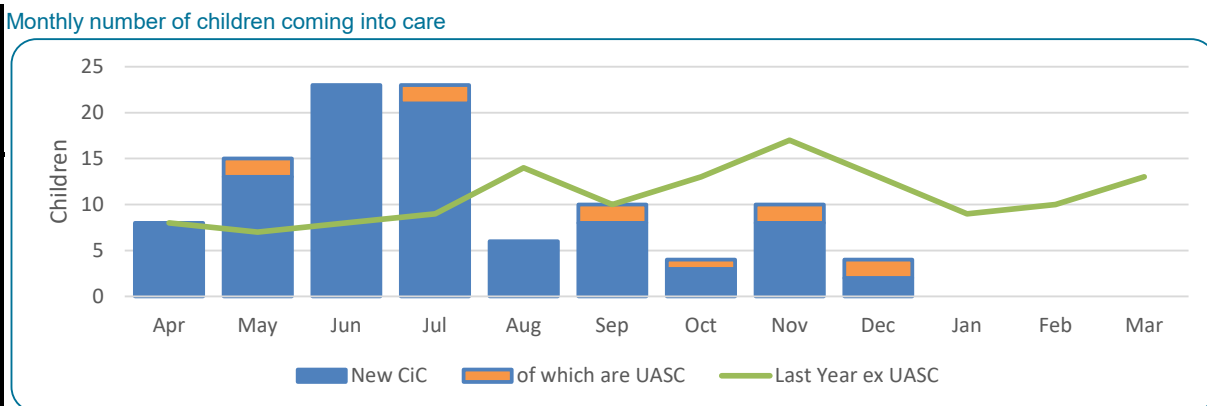
CHILDREN IN CARE: COMING INTO CARE

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 13 children from 10 families came into care in Q3 2023/24, a further 5 young people came into our care as UASC through the NTS. This is a large reduction compared to 43 children (excluding UASC) who came into care in Q3 2022/23.

The primary and secondary presenting issues for the children coming into care are predominantly due to; physical abuse (12.7% (7), UASC (9.1%), parental substance misuse (5.5%, none of which was alcohol related), mental health concerns of the parent / carer (3.6%).

		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	23	68	2
	Aug-23	6	75	
	Sep-23	10	85	2
	Oct-23	4	89	1
	Nov-23	10	99	2
	Dec-23	4	103	2
	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	103	103	11



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

45 children and young people, from 30 families ceased to be in care in Q3 2023/24. This is a large decrease when compared with the 21 children ceasing in Q3 2022/23.

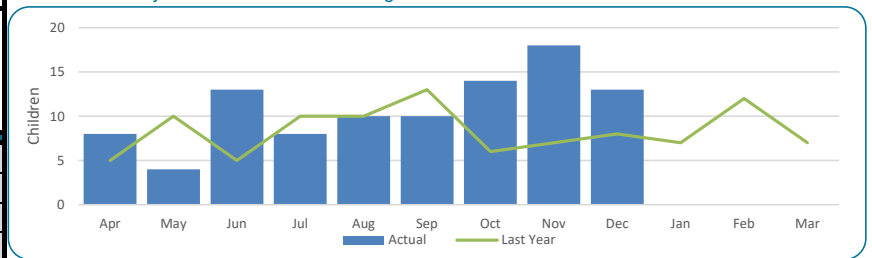
Of the 45 children and young people who did cease CiC:

- 46.7% returned home to their parent(s).
- 40.0% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative.
- 4.4% were adopted
- 4.4% due to turning 18 and becoming a care leaver (all were UASC)
- 4.4% due to moving out of area to live with family and transferring to their new local authority.

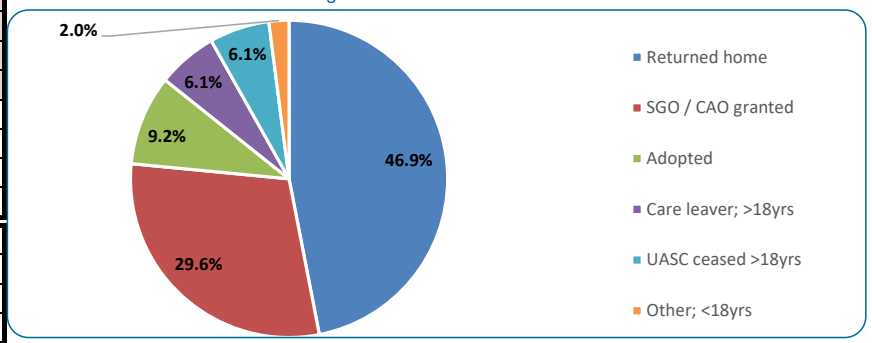
The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) continues to increase when compared to previous quarters.

	GSC 212	GSC 211	Reason for ceasing to be a Child in Care						
	Monthly number of children ceasing care	Cumulative number of children ceasing care	Returned home	SGO / CAO granted	Adopted	Care leaver; >18yrs	UASC ceased >18yrs	Other; <18yrs	
In Month Performance	Apr-23	8	8	6	1			1	
	May-23	4	12	1	1	1			
	Jun-23	13	25	5	3	4	1		
	Jul-23	8	33	5	2			1	
	Aug-23	10	43	5	1		2	2	
	Sep-23	10	53	3	3	2	2		
	Oct-23	14	67	7	7				
	Nov-23	18	85	10	6	2			
	Dec-23	13	98	4	5			2	
	Jan-24								
	Feb-24								
	Mar-24								
	Annual Trend	2020/21	80	80	22	39	7	9	
2021/22		99	99	28	34	15	19		3
2022/23		100	100	21	39	17	21		2
2023/24		98	98	46	29	9	6	6	2

CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing care



Cumulative reason for children ceasing care

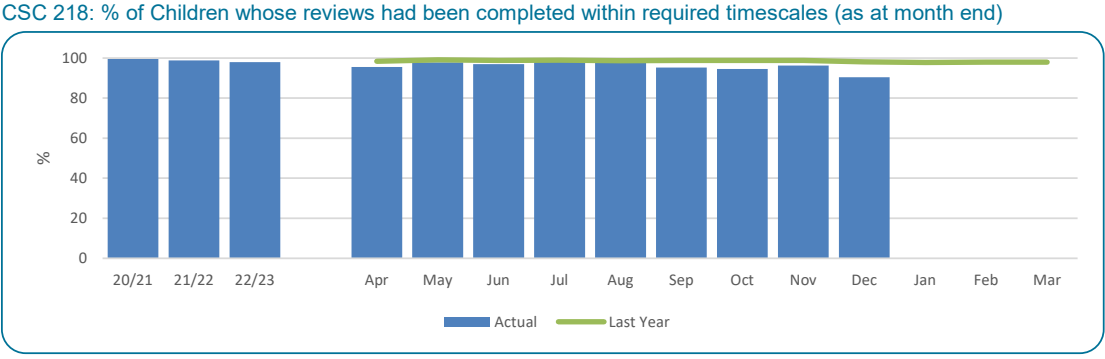


CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

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.
 285 of the 315 open reviews (90.5%), were completed within required timescales as at December 2023.

		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)	
		Target	100	Num	%
In Month Performance	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	100.0	252 / 255	98.8	
	Aug-23	100.0	291 / 292	99.7	
	Sep-23	100.0	321 / 337	95.3	
	Oct-23	100.0	315 / 333	94.6	
	Nov-23	100.0	309 / 321	96.3	
	Dec-23	100.0	285 / 315	90.5	
	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	285 / 315	90.5	

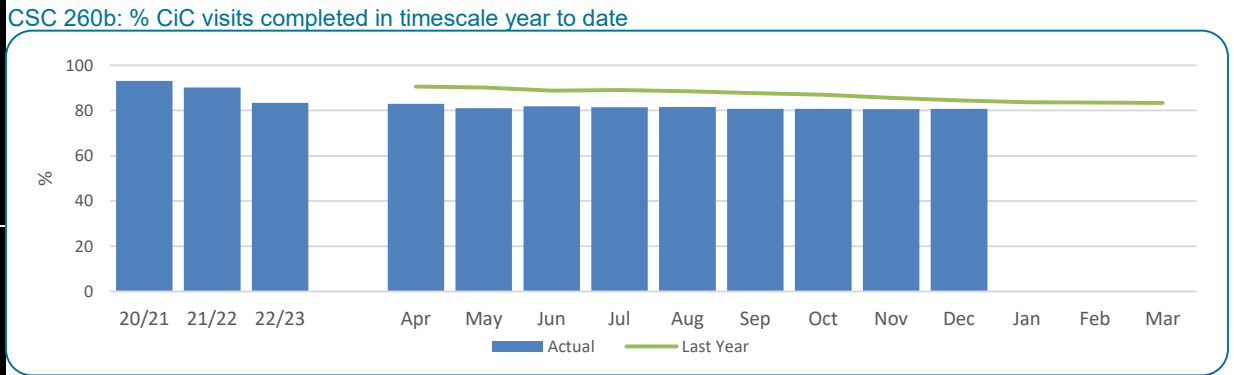
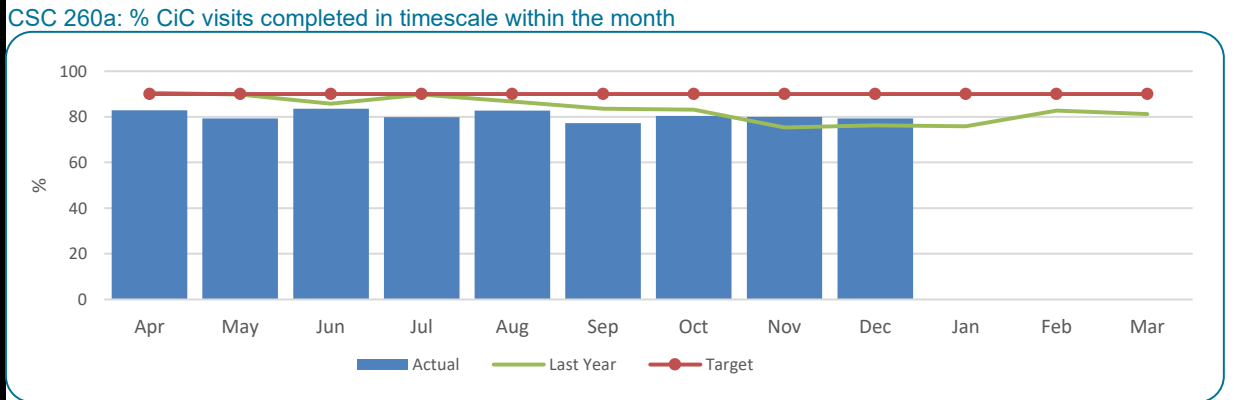


CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION	Percentage of Children in Care (CiC) who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales each month and year to date.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>80.7% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q3 2023/24. This is an increase when compared with Q3 2022/23 when there were 78.5% of visits completed in timescale.</p> <p>We continue to be below our target of 90% of visits completed in timescale.</p>
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		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	82.9	82.9
	May-23	79.4	81.0
	Jun-23	83.5	81.9
	Jul-23	79.9	81.4
	Aug-23	82.8	81.6
	Sep-23	77.3	80.8
	Oct-23	80.4	80.7
	Nov-23	80.0	80.7
	Dec-23	79.3	80.8
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21		93.1
	2021/22		90.1
	2022/23		83.4
	2023/24	79.3	80.8



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

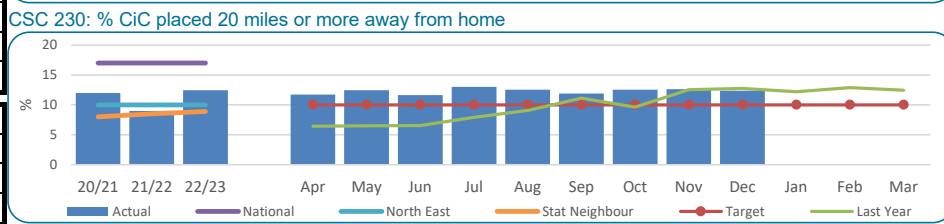
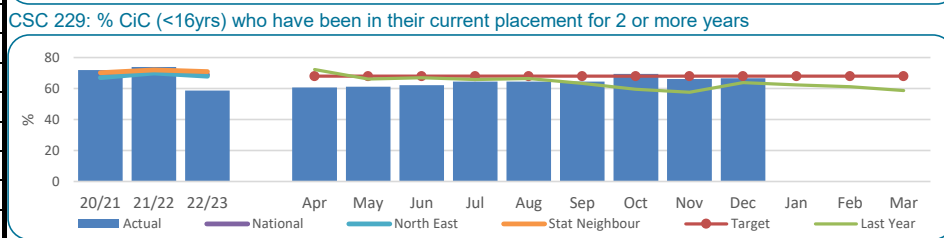
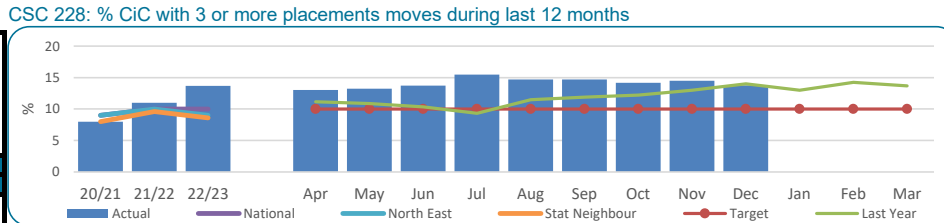
13.8% of our Children in Care, as at December 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is not meeting the internal target of 10% but is a reduction compared to last quarter.

Currently, 66.7% 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. This is below our 68% target, however there has been an improvement since the start of the year due to targeted work to help support carers and children before a move is required.

12.4% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 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.

	Target	CSC 228		CSC 229		CSC 230	
		% CiC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months		% CiC (<16yrs) who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years		% CiC placed 20 miles or more away from home	
		Children	%	Children	%	Children	%
In Month Performance	Apr-23	42	13.0	77	60.6	35	11.7
	May-23	44	13.3	77	61.1	38	12.5
	Jun-23	47	13.7	77	62.1	37	11.6
	Jul-23	56	15.5	80	64.5	43	13.0
	Aug-23	52	14.7	80	64.5	41	12.5
	Sep-23	52	14.7	80	64.5	39	11.9
	Oct-23	49	14.2	82	69.5	40	12.5
	Nov-23	49	14.5	82	66.1	39	12.6
	Dec-23	45	13.8	84	66.7	37	12.4
	Jan-24						
	Feb-24						
	Mar-24						
Annual Trend	2020/21		8.0		72.0		12.0
	2021/22	30	11.0	88	74.0	25	9.0
	2022/23	44	13.7	74	58.7	37	12.5
	2023/24	45	13.8	84	66.7	37	12.4



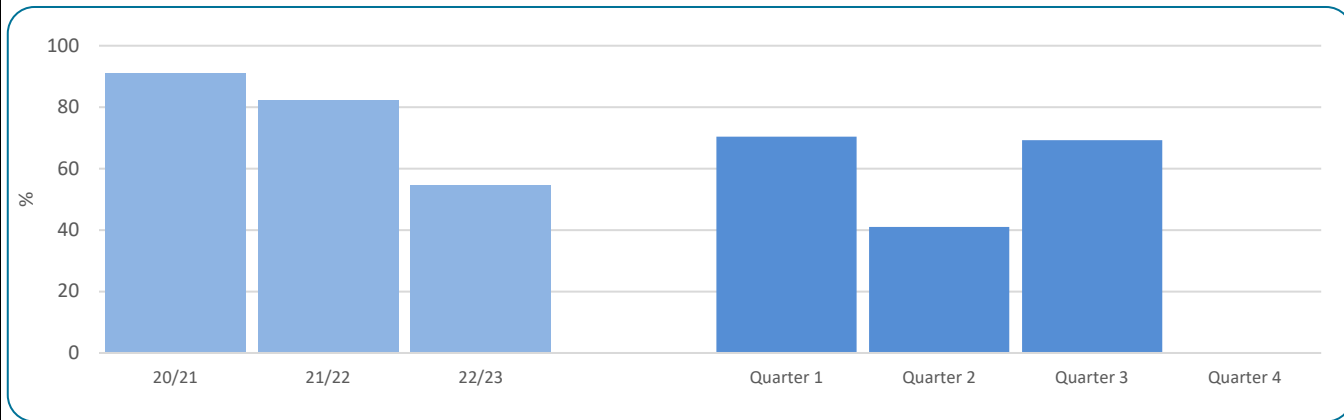
CHILDREN IN CARE: INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

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.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	69.2.% of the children had their IHA completed within 20 days of coming into care by Health in Q3 2023/24.
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		Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)
In Month Performance	Target	95
	Apr-23	
	May-23	
	Jun-23	31 / 44
	Jul-23	
	Aug-23	
	Sep-23	16 / 39
	Oct-23	
	Nov-23	
	Dec-23	9 / 13
	Jan-24	
	Feb-24	
	Mar-24	
Annual Trend	2020/21	90.9%
	2021/22	82.1%
	2022/23	54.5%
	2023/24	58.3%

Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)



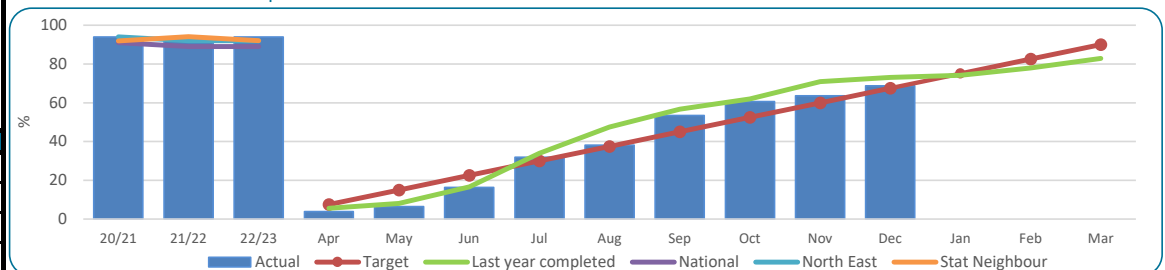
CHILDREN IN CARE: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

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.

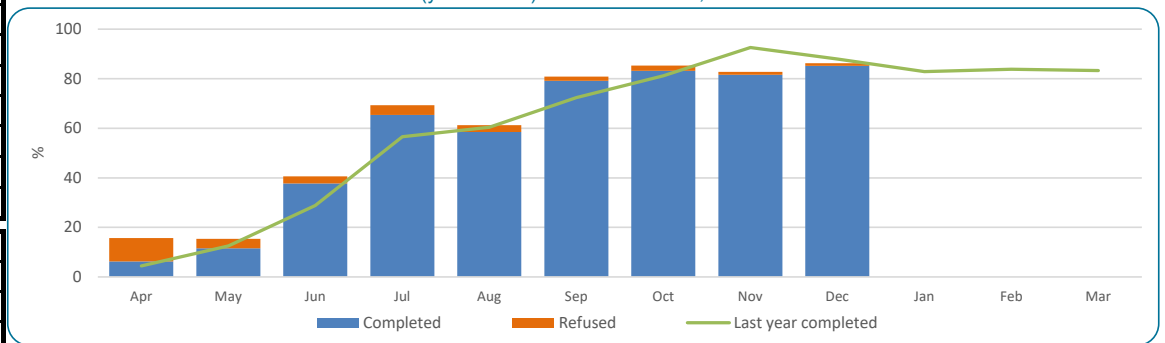
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 85.2% of children due a review health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed.
Currently only 1.1% of the children are refusing to have a health review completed. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

		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	32.0	4.0	65.3	
	Aug-23	38.2	2.8	58.5	
	Sep-23	53.5	1.7	79.2	
	Oct-23	60.6	2.1	83.2	
	Nov-23	63.6	1.2	81.6	
	Dec-23	68.7	1.1	85.2	
	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	94.0	1.6	83.3	
	2023/24	68.7	1.1	85.2	

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



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



CHILDREN IN CARE: DENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

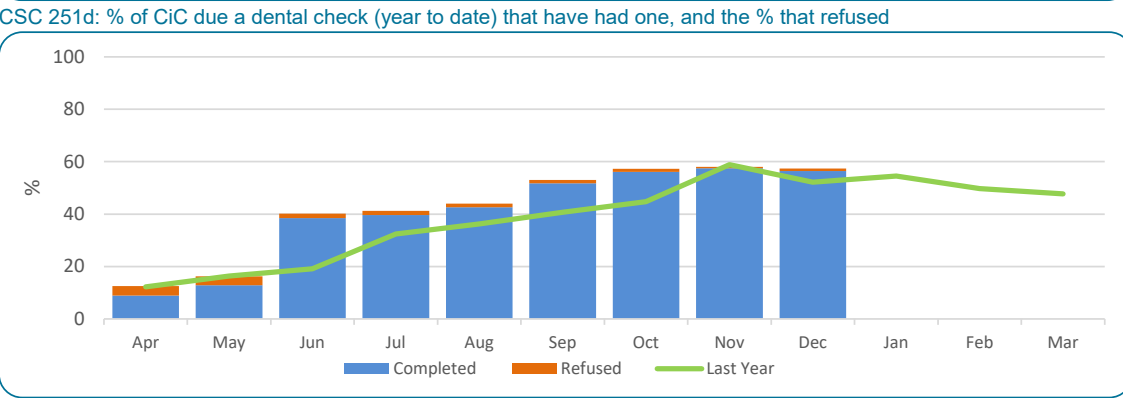
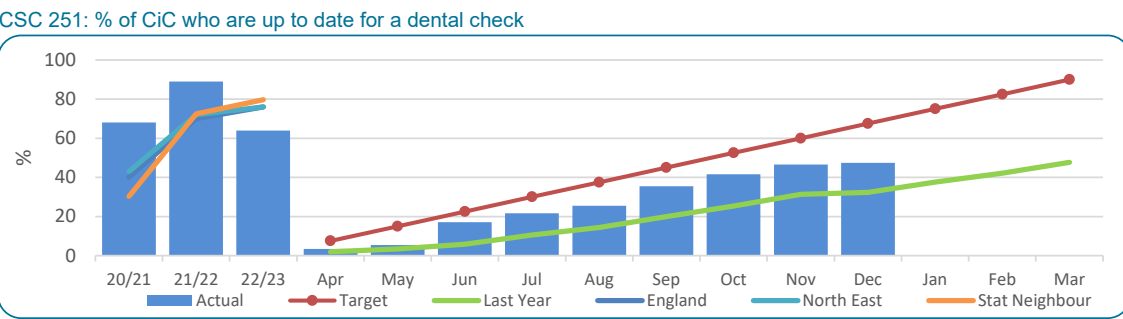
Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who had had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and the percentage who had had an annual health check during the previous 12 months (excludes any who will turn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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

51.8% of children due a dental health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed.

Currently only 0.9% 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	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	21.7	1.5	39.7
	Aug-23	25.4	1.3	42.7
	Sep-23	35.5	1.2	51.8
	Oct-23	41.6	1.1	56.2
	Nov-23	46.6	0.5	57.6
	Dec-23	47.5	0.9	56.5
	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	64.0	1.4	47.7
	2023/24	47.5	0.9	56.5



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.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 96.3% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2023.</p> <p>Of the care leavers, aged 19-21 and as of 31st December 2023, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.5% NEET because of illness or disability • 12.8% NEET because of other circumstances • 6.5% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting. <p>This equates to 25.8% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.</p> <p>Of the care leavers, aged 22-25 and as of 31st December 2023, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.7% NEET because of illness or disability • 11.1% NEET because of other circumstances • 5.6% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting. <p>This equates to 20.4%.</p> <p>24.2% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 50.0% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).</p> <p>7.4% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 72.2% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).</p>
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		19-21 year olds		22-25 year olds	
		% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET	% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET
In Month Performance	Target	90%	30%		
	Apr-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	100.0	26.2	95.1	19.7
	Aug-23	98.4	25.4	94.7	19.3
	Sep-23	98.4	23.8	94.6	21.4
	Oct-23	98.4	24.2	96.4	26.8
	Nov-23	98.4	27.4	94.4	25.9
	Dec-23	98.4	25.8	96.3	20.4
	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	25.8	96.3	20.4

