

Children's Social Care Performance Report

March 2024 Year End 2023-24

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Year end 2023-24 Performance Summary

Referrals: In 2023/24, 81.4% (1,119 / 1,374) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is decrease when compared with 84.1% in 2022/23, and not meeting our 90% target. 1.7% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2023/24 which is outperforming our target of 5%.

Re-Referrals: During 2023/24, 332 children from 198 families have had a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is a continued year-on-year increase in re-referrals compared to 2022/23 (286 children), 2021/22 (106 children) and 2020/21 (143 children). Due to the reduction in referrals made to social care, and an increase in re-referrals, it has resulted in at total of 24.2% of our referrals this year being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. 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 2023/24, there were 197 families, 423 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 64 families with 125 children were open to an external agency and supporting the families. 1,417 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2023/24, a -14.1% drop in the 1,650 completed during 2022/23. 14.4% (204) of the EHA's started, were initiated by external agencies.

Missing: The total number of missing episodes in 2023/24 was 423 involving 122 individual children and young people. This is a reduction compared to 2022/23 which saw 691 episodes of missing involving 162 individual children. 93 (76.2%) children in 2023/24 had 3 or less missing episodes, 20 (16.4%) children were reported missing between 4 and 9 times in the year. 9 (7.4%) young people were reported 10 or more times during 2023/24, all except one are/were a child in care. In 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered except for 2, 87.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 76.9% of the RHI's had the child's engagement. This is a positive increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous years (2022/23, 84.6% in 72hrs with 59.1% engagement and 2021/22, 75.8% in 72hrs with 51.2% engagement).

Children & Families Assessments: 1,554 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to 2022/23 (1,461), 2021/22 (806) and 2020/21 (692). 62.7% (975 / 1,554) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% but focused work on C&Fs has been done in the second half of this year which is evident in the increase in assessments outcomed within 45 days. Between April and October 2023, assessments were averaging at 52.5% completed in timescale in a month, since then, this has increased to an average of 80.5% a month.

Section 47 Enquiries: 372 section 47 enquires were started in 2023/24, involving 693 individual children, 22 of which were already on an open Child Protection (CP) plan.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 79.5% 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 2023/24. This measure continues to be negatively below the target of 95% although an increase in performance compared to the last 2 years.

Child Protection Plans: 146 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2024 with a rate of 65.6 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase on previous years and comparable to the increase in CiN plans open and decrease in Children in Care. Of the 196 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending (3.6%), and 35 children (17.9%) had been subject to a CP plan for a second time ever.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 69.0% (2,050 / 2,973) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2023/24 and 90.4% (2,688 / 2,973) of the visits were completed within 15 working days. In comparison to 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has had a 16.5% increase (from 2,553 to 2,973 visits) along with the percentage that were carried out within timescale (67.8% within 10 days and 90.0% within 15 days).

Children in Care: 300 children were in care as at March 2024, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has started to fall this reporting year and was at 134.8 at the end of March 2024, compared to 142.3 at March 2023 and closer to pre-covid levels of 120.0 at March 2021. 121 children came into care in 2023/24 from 81 families. This is a decrease when compared with the 149 children who came into care in 2022/23 from 104 families. 11 of the young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child) during 2023/24, a reduction on the 18 who came into care during 2022/23.

143 children and young people, from 112 families ceased to be in care in 2023/24. This is the highest yearly number of children ceasing care we have seen. We have also seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care who have previously been in care (13 in 2023/24 from 22 in 2022/23). The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) (42.7%) has doubled when compared to 2022/23 (21.0%), 2021/22 (28.3%) and Q1 2020/21 (27.5%).

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 93.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales in 2023/24.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 81.0% (3,079 / 3,801) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2023/24. This is a year-on-year decrease in performance from 93.1% in 2020/21, 90.1% in 2021/22 and 83.4% in 2022/23. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams is occurring and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

Children in Care Placements: 17.0% of our Children in Care, as at March 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is negatively above internal target (10.0%). Currently, 61.1% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is negatively below our 68% target however an improvement when compared to 2022/23.

10.4% (29 / 278) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at March 2024 which is the lowest number of children this year and compared to March 2023 which saw 37 children placed 20 or more miles from the family home. 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: 65.5% of IHA's completed in 2023/24 were completed within the required timescale of 5 days and 60.7% of those children received a health assessment within 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 91.1% of children due a review health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 90.7% of the children in care have an up to date health check. Currently only 1.3% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a health review.

83.1% of children due a dental health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 83.5% of the children in care have an up to date dental check. Currently 3.0% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. 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 97.9% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2024. 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 22.6% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 14.6% for those aged 22-25 at the end of March 2024. 193.4% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 58.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 8.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 77.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

REFERRALS: TIMELINESS

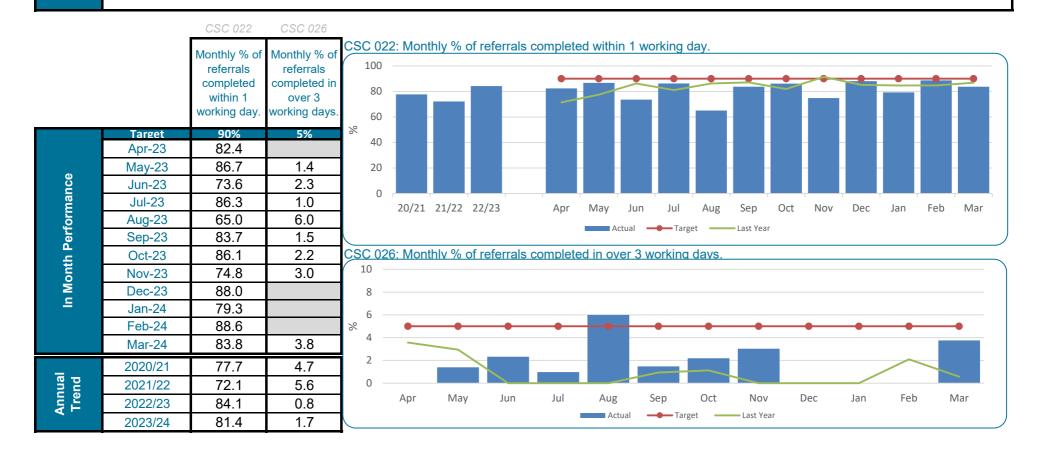
DEFINITION

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

In 2023/24, 81.4% (1,119 / 1,374) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is decrease when compared with 84.1% in 2022/23, and not meeting our 90% target. The statutory timescale for a referral is 1 working day from the service receiving the contact. Due to the drop in the timeliness of contact outcomes in 2023/24 this has had a negative impact on the timescale of a referral outcome.

1.7% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2023/24 which is outperforming our target of 5%.



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

Month Performance

<u>__</u>

Feb-24

Mar-24

2020/21

2021/22

2022/23

2023/24

During 2023/24, 332 children from 198 families have had a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is a continued year-on-year increase in re-referrals compared to 2022/23 (286 children), 2021/22 (106 children) and 2020/21 (143 children).

Due to the reduction in referrals made to social care, and an increase in re-referrals, it has resulted in at total of 24.2% of our referrals this year being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting.

Re-referrals are being scrutinised during weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared. Nicola Brownhill has also conducted some re-referral reviews during the year, sharing her finding in clinics and with her team at the front door.

% re-referrals Monthly numbe % of referrals of re-referrals that are repea that are rethat are repeat within 12 referrals within 12 months (monthly) months (cumulative) **Target** 18% Apr-23 29 23.2 23.2 24 19.8 16.8 May-23 33 21.7 25.6 Jun-23 21 20.6 Jul-23 21.4 32 23.2 32.0 Aug-23 24 Sep-23 22.1 17.8 Oct-23 49 24.3 35.8 35 24.6 26.5 Nov-23 27 25.0 29.3 Dec-23 27 25.0 Jan-24 24.3

24.1

24.2

19.1

10.9

17.9

24.2

12.5

26.3

CSC 034

11

21

143

106

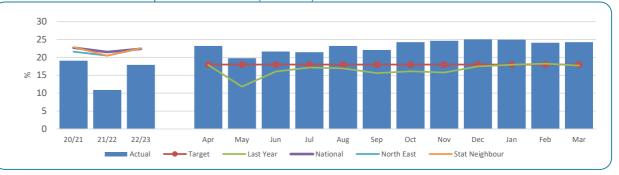
286

333





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



BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES: OPEN EPISODES

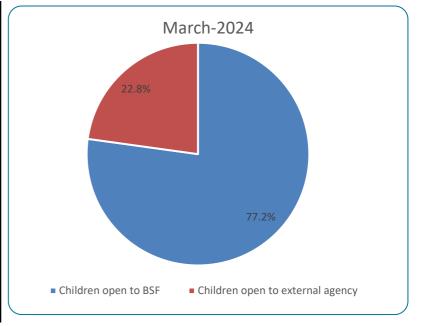
DEFINITION

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.

PERFORMANC E ANALYSIS

At the end of 2023/24, there were 197 families, 423 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 64 families with 125 children were open to an external agency and supporting the families.

		· ·	to BSF oth end	Open to an exat mor	% of children open to BSF	
		Children	Families	Children	Families	%
	Apr-23	487	223	123	65	79.8%
	May-23	491	230	124	68	79.8%
ce	Jun-23	511	240	97	52	84.0%
nar	Jul-23	472	225	97	57	83.0%
orr	Aug-23	468	225	87	51	84.3%
erf	Sep-23	460	223	60	35	88.5%
In Month Performance	Oct-23	377	179	55	30	87.3%
ont	Nov-23	375	182	65	32	85.2%
	Dec-23	452	221	72	37	86.3%
=	Jan-24	491	232	70	37	87.5%
	Feb-24	396	180	95	50	80.7%
	Mar-24	423	197	125	64	77.2%
	2020/21	253	123	93	43	73.1%
Annual Trend	2021/22	411	191	73	35	84.9%
Annua Trend	2022/23	490	218	125	68	79.7%
	2023/24	423	197	125	64	77.2%



EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

1,417 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2023/24, a -14.1% drop in the 1,650 completed during 2022/23. 14.4% (204) of the EHA's started, were initiated by external agencies.

CSC 001: Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external) Number and Number of Total number of 2.000 percentage of the individual EHA's individual EHA's EHA's initiated by started in month started; year to 1,000 external agencies (inc. external) date (inc. external per month Target TBC 20/21 21/22 22/23 Sep Nov Dec Jan 13 12.3% Last Year Apr-23 106 106 Actual 115 18 15.7% 221 CSC 002: Total number of individual EHA's started in month (inc. external) May-23 **Month Performance** 200 146 2 1.4% 367 Jun-23 115 18 15.7% 482 Jul-23 89 4 4.5% 571 Aug-23 110 9 8.2% 681 Sep-23 12.3% 122 15 803 Oct-23 21.8% 119 26 922 Nov-23 Apr May Jun Aug Oct Nov Dec Feb Sep 16.2% 1,039 Dec-23 117 19 Internal External Last Year <u>_</u> 132 1,171 Jan-24 24 18.2% 6 of the Early Help Assessments initiated by external agencies per month 1,291 25% Feb-24 120 26 21.7% 20% Mar-24 126 30 23.8% 1,417 15% 623 20.4% 2020/21 127 623 10% Annual Trend 839 19.2% 839 5% 2021/22 161 0% 1,650 223 2022/23 13.5% 1,650 May 2023/24 14.4% 1,417 204 1,417 Actual - Last Year

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.

The total number of missing episodes in 2023/24 was 423 involving 122 individual children and young people. This is a reduction compared to 2022/23 which saw 691 episodes of missing involving 162 individual children.

93 (76.2%) children in 2023/24 had 3 or less missing episodes, 20 (16.4%) children were reported missing between 4 and 9 times in the year. 9 (7.4%) young people were reported 10 or more times during 2023/24, all except one are/were a child in care.

CiC young people have seen the largest decrease in missing episodes compared to 2022/23, going from 55.4% (383 / 691) of the total episodes to 35.9% (152 / 423) of the total episodes.

In 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered except for 2, 87.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 76.9% of the children engaged in their RHI. This is a positive increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous years (2022/23, 84.6% in 72hrs with 59.1% engagement and 2021/22, 75.8% in 72hrs with 51.2% engagement).

		CSC	215	CSC 246					
		missing e and ch involved	nildren in month	Care wi		than 20 miles from home			
		Episode	Child	Episode	Child	Episode	Child		
	Apr-23	24	17	10	7				
	May-23	55	30	26	12				
e	Jun-23	38	26	22	10	2	2		
าลท	Jul-23	62	30	26	11	2	2		
orn	Aug-23	40	15	14	5	3	1		
erf	Sep-23	42	19	14	6				
In Month Performance	Oct-23	53	24	13	6	1	1		
ont	Nov-23	45	17	9	6	1	1		
M (Dec-23	13	13	4	4				
=	Jan-24	16	12	4	4				
	Feb-24	20	17	4	3	1	1		
	Mar-24	15	13	6	4	3	2		
	2020/24	370	152	107	30	15	4		
7 8 7	2020/21						•		
nu	2021/22	582	174	253	31	22	4		
Annual Trend	2022/23	691	162	383	31	2	2		
	2023/24	423	122	152	27	13	6		

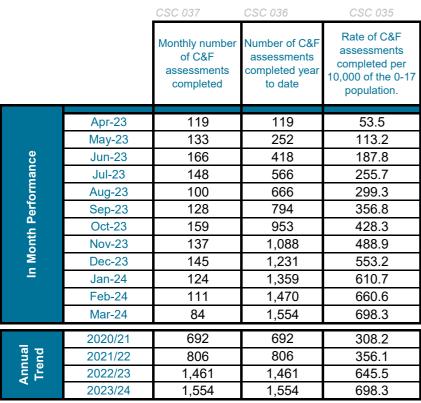
ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANC E ANALYSIS

1,554 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to 2022/23 (1,461), 2021/22 (806) and 2020/21 (692).







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

62.7% (975 / 1,554) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% but focused work on C&Fs has been done in the second half of this year which is evident in the increase in assessments outcomed within 45 days. Between April and October 2023, assessments were averaging at 52.5% completed in timescale in a month, since then, this has increased to an average of 80.5% a month.

CSC 038 CSC 040

			0000.0		
		% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date)	Monthly % completed within 45 working days		
	ı arget	90%	90%		
	Apr-23	58.0	58.0		
	May-23	56.8	55.6		
)Ce	Jun-23	56.5	56.0		
nar	Jul-23	54.1	47.3		
forr	Aug-23	55.3	62.0		
eri	Sep-23	54.0	47.7		
In Month Performance	Oct-23	51.8	40.9		
	Nov-23	54.2	70.8		
	Dec-23	57.6	81.4		
_	Jan-24	60.0	85.5		
	Feb-24	61.6	80.2		
	Mar-24	62.7	84.5		
_	2020/21	86.4			
Annual Trend	2021/22	85.4			
Anr	2022/23	69.2			
	2023/24	62.7	84.5		

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



SECTION 47 ENQUIRES: STARTED

DEFINITION

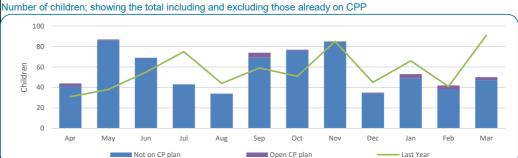
Number of children who have had a section 47 enquiries started monthly and year to date and the actual number of enquires started.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

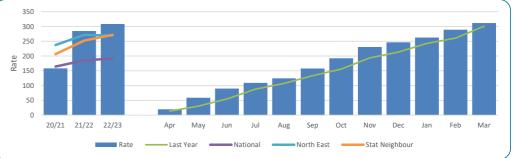
372 section 47 enquires were started in 2023/24, involving 693 individual children, 22 of which were already on an open Child Protection (CP) plan.

Our rate of enquires per 10,000 population was 311.4 at the end of 2023/24. Although an increase on previous year, it is not a corresponding increase when compared with strategies held, this will be due to the increase in no further action taken on some strategies in 2023/24.

CSC 166 CSC 164 Rate of section 47 Section 47 Number of Of which also enquiries started children who enquires had an open per 10,000 of the had a section started in the CPP plan 0-17 population month 47 enquiry (Cumulative) Apr-23 24 44 3 19.8 May-23 87 58.9 48 **Month Performance** 39 69 89.9 Jun-23 19 43 Jul-23 109.2 34 18 124.5 Aug-23 39 157.7 Sep-23 74 5 77 Oct-23 38 1 192.3 85 45 230.5 Nov-23 16 35 Dec-23 1 246.3 드 53 Jan-24 30 4 262.4 42 27 Feb-24 4 289.0 Mar-24 29 50 3 311.4 2020/21 195 358 158.2 Annual Trend 317 633 14 2021/22 284.5 351 681 30 2022/23 308.3 2023/24 372 693 22 311.4



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 enguiry to ICPC are within 15 days (CPP). This provides an indication of how guickly the safety of the child is considered by a multi-agency meeting.

PERFORMANCE

Month Performance

2

Of the 215 children (who were not transferred in), 171 had their Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) within timescale (79.5%) in 2023/24.

This measure continues to be negatively below the target of 95% although an increase in performance compared to the last 2 years.

CSC 178 CSC 176 % ICPC's held within 15 % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences transfer-in conferences (monthly). (year to date). 95% 10 / 11 90.9 10 / 11 90.9 15 / 20 75.0 25 / 31 80.7

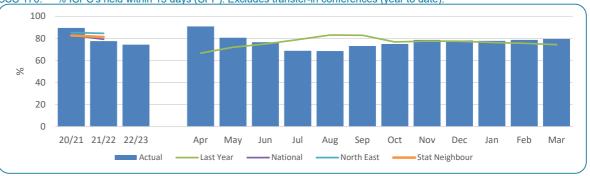
Target Apr-23 May-23 11 / 16 68.8 36 / 47 76.6 Jun-23 6 / 14 42.9 42 / 61 68.9 Jul-23 8 / 12 66.7 50 / 73 68.5 Aug-23 73.1 26 / 31 83.9 76 / 104 Sep-23 20 / 24 83.3 96 / 128 75.0 Oct-23 78.7 Nov-23 22 / 22 100.0 118 / 150 Dec-23 18 / 24 75.0 136 / 174 78.2 11 / 15 73.3 147 / 189 77.8 Jan-24 159 / 202 78.7 Feb-24 16 / 17 94.1 8/9 88.9 171 / 215 79.5 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	171 / 215	79.5	171 / 215	79.5

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







CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

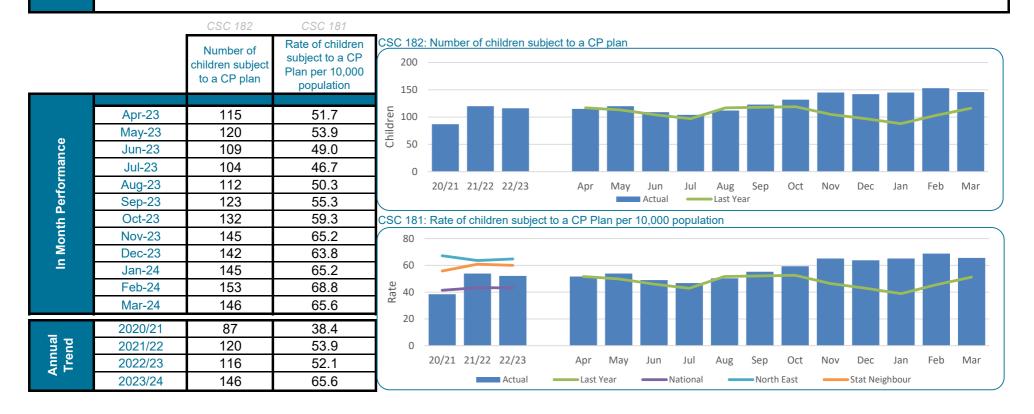
DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

146 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2024 with a rate of 65.6 per 10,000 population with a CP plan.

This is an increase on previous years and comparable to the increase in CiN plans open and decrease in Children in Care.



Feb-24

Mar-24

2020/21

2021/22

2022/23

2023/24

Annual Trend 100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

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

98.5% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.

18 / 18

25 / 25

138 / 138

159 / 159

155 / 155

193 / 196

CSC 191a CSC 183: % of children with a CP plan allocated to a qualified social worker % of children with CP plan review a CP plan % of CP plans meetings held in 100 reviewed within allocated to a timescale during qualified social the timescales. 80 the month worker 60 100 100 **Target** 40 Apr-23 100.0 14 / 14 100.0 May-23 100.0 13 / 13 100.0 20 Performance 100.0 17 / 17 100.0 Jun-23 100.0 19 / 19 100.0 20/21 21/22 22/23 Feb Jul-23 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan 100.0 75.0 Aug-23 6/8 Actual ——Last Year 17 / 18 94.4 Sep-23 100.0 Month | Oct-23 100.0 16 / 16 100.0 CSC 191a: % of CP plans reviewed within the timescales. 100.0 11 / 11 100.0 Nov-23 100 100.0 21 / 21 100.0 Dec-23 2 80 16 / 16 Jan-24 100.0 100.0

20/21 21/22 22/23

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Actual —— Last Year —— National —— North East —— Stat Neighbour

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

60

40

20

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

98.5

CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: TIME PERIODS

DEFINITION

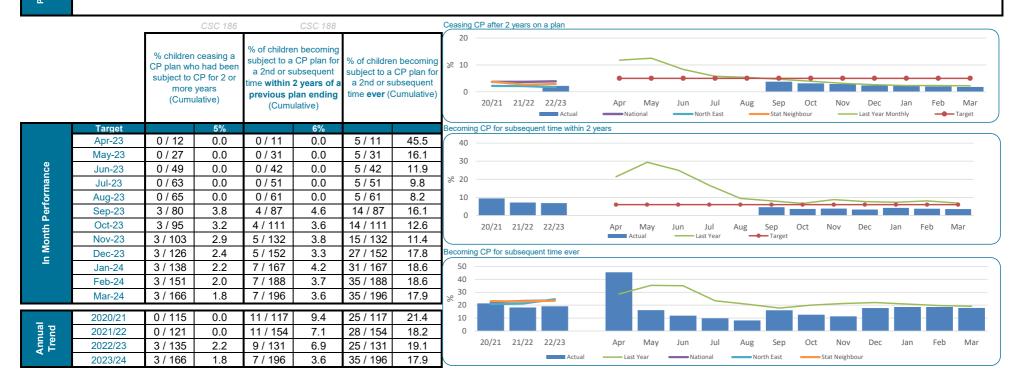
Percentage of children ceasing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan who had been subject to a Plan for 2 or more years, and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for the 2nd or subsequent time within a) 2 years of a previous plan, and b) with a previous plan at any point.

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.

RFORMANC

Of the 196 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending (3.6%), and 35 children (17.9%) had been subject to a CP plan for a second time ever.

3 of the 166 children who have ceased to be subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, did so after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years.



CHILD PROTECTION: STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION

ANALYSIS

PERFORMANCE

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.

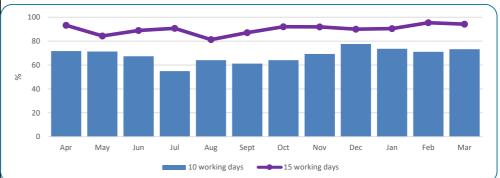
69.0% (2,050 / 2,973) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2023/24 and 90.4% (2,688 / 2,973) of the visits were completed within 15 working days.

In comparison to 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has had a 16.5% increase (from 2,553 to 2,973 visits) along with the percentage that were carried out within timescale (67.8% within 10 days and 90.0% within 15 days).

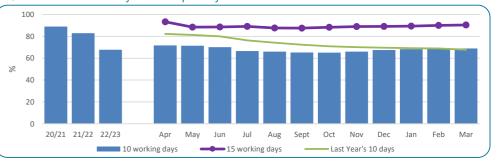
The timeliness of CP visits carried out within 10 working days is still below the 90% target.

% CP visits % CP visits % CP visits % CP visits completed completed completed completed within within 15 within 10 within 15 10 working days working days working days working days year to date within the within the vear to date (cumulative) month month (cumulative) 90 90 **Target** 90 90 71.7 93.3 71.7 93.3 Apr-23 May-23 71.3 84.3 71.5 88.4 **Month Performance** 67.3 70.1 88.9 88.6 Jun-23 54.9 90.8 89.1 Jul-23 66.5 Aug-23 64.1 81.3 66.0 87.6 61.2 87.1 65.2 87.5 Sep-23 64.0 88.3 Oct-23 92.0 65.0 Nov-23 69.2 92.0 66.0 88.9 77.6 90.0 67.5 89.1 Dec-23 ⊑ 73.6 90.5 68.3 89.3 Jan-24 71.1 95.4 90.0 Feb-24 68.6 73.2 94.2 69.0 90.4 Mar-24 2020/21 89.0 98.4 Annual Trend 2021/22 82.9 96.8 2022/23 67.8 90.0 2023/24 73.2 94.2 69.0 90.4

% Child Protection statutory visits completed within the month



% Child Protection statutory visits completed year to date



CHILDREN IN CARE

DEFINITION

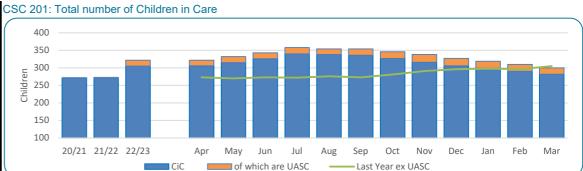
Number of Children in Care (CiC) at the end of each month and of which are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC).

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

300 children were in care as at March 2024, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers.

The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has started to fall this reporting year and was at 134.8 at the end of March 2024, compared to 142.3 at March 2023 and closer to pre-covid levels of 120.0 at March 2021.

CSC 207 Total number Of which are Rate of CiC per of Children in identified as 10,000 a UASC Care population **Target** 95 322 144.7 Apr-23 16 332 17 149.2 May-23 Month Performance 343 17 154.1 Jun-23 358 18 Jul-23 160.9 354 16 159.1 Aug-23 354 18 159.1 Sep-23 346 19 155.5 Oct-23 22 338 151.9 Nov-23 Dec-23 327 21 147.0 므 319 20 143.4 Jan-24 20 139.3 Feb-24 310 18 300 134.8 Mar-24 272 2 2020/21 120.0 Annual Trend 273 3 2021/22 123.0 322 17 142.3 2022/23 2023/24 300 18 134.8



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

121 children came into care in 2023/24 from 81 families. This is a decrease when compared with the 149 children who came into care in 2022/23 from 104 families. 11 of the young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child) during 2023/24, a reduction on the 18 who came into care during 2022/23.

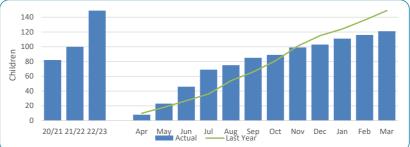
The primary and secondary presenting issues for the children coming into care in 2023/24 are predominantly due to; substance misuse (22.2%, 7.0% of which was alcohol related), neglect (17.8%), physical abuse (14.6%), domestic abuse (13.5%) and mental health concerns (12.4%).

		CSC 209	CSC 208b			First placement type in care										
		Monthly number of children coming into care	Cumulative number of children coming into care	of which are UASC	Placed with parent (P1)	Connected Carer (U1&U3)	Foster care (U5&U6) - Internal	Foster care (U5&U6) - External	NHS/ Medical trust (R2)	Family centre/ Mother & Baby unit (R3)	Homes and Hostels (K2)	Res accom. / Indepent. living (H5&P2)	Other placement (Z1)	YOI - (R5)		
	Apr-23	8	8				1						7			
	May-23	15	23	2		2	3					3	7			
8	Jun-23	23	46		7	6	4			1			5			
nan	Jul-23	23	69	2	4	1	5					2	11			
Performance	Aug-23	6	75		1		1	1					3			
erf	Sep-23	10	85	2			1		1		2		6			
듄	Oct-23	4	89	1			3	1								
Month	Nov-23	10	99	2	2		5		2			1				
<u>≥</u>	Dec-23	4	103	2			2					1	1			
_	Jan-24	8	111				3		2				3			
	Feb-24	5	116				3		2							
	Mar-24	5	121				3					1	1			
_	2020/21	82	82	2	11	18	19	2	11	1	3	16	16	1		
Annual Trend	2021/22	100	100	2	15	10	27	14	14	0	2	17	17	1		
Anr	2022/23	149	149	18	22	13	42	11	5	2	5	13	36			
	2023/24	121	121	11	14	9	34	2	7	1	2	8	44	0		

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.

143 children and young people, from 112 families ceased to be in care in 2023/24. This is the highest yearly number of children ceasing care we have seen. We have also seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care who have previously been in care (13 in 2023/24 and 22 in 2022/23).

Of the 143 children and young people who did cease CiC:

- 42.7% returned home to their parent(s).
- 30.1% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative.
- · 8.4% were adopted
- 8.4% due to turning 18 and becoming a care leaver.
- 7.0% were UASC turning 18 and becoming a care leaver.
- 3.5% for other reasons (UASC following an age assessment, ceased care as it was identified they were over the age of 18, transferred to another LA)

The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) has doubled when compared to 2022/23 (21.0%), 2021/22 (28.3%) and Q1 2020/21 (27.5%).

		CSC 212	CSC 211		Reason	for ceasing	to be a Chile	d in Care		CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing 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	20 ————————————————————————————————————
	Apr-23	8	8	5	2			1		5
	May-23	4	12	1	1	1	1			
erformance	Jun-23	13	25	6	2	4		1		Apr Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar
nai	Jul-23	8	33	5	2			1		Actual ——Last Year
orr	Aug-23	10	43	6			2	2		Cumulative reason for children ceasing care
eri	Sep-23	10	53	3	3	2	2			3.5%
Å.	Oct-23	14	67	7	7					7.0% Returned home
Month	Nov-23	18	85	10	6	2				
	Dec-23	13	98	4	5			2	2	■ SGO / CAO granted
⊑	Jan-24	17	115	5	7	2	2	1		42.7% Adopted
	Feb-24	15	129	3	6	1	2		3	8.4%
	Mar-24	13	143	6	2		3	2		■ Care leaver; >18yrs
_	2020/21	80	80	22	39	7	9		3	
and and	2021/22	99	99	28	34	15	19		3	■ UASC ceased >18yrs
Annual Trend	2022/23	100	100	21	39	17	21		2	• Other; <18yrs
	2023/24	143	143	61	43	12	12	10	5	- Other, (10)13

CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

The percentage of Children in Care (CiC) which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time and the percentage of Children in Care that were allocated to a qualified social worker at the end of the month. The purpose of the review is to consider the plan for the child's welfare, to monitor the progress of the plan and amend it as necessary in light of changed information and circumstances. The statutory intervals are within 20 working days of placement, then within 3 months and 6 monthly thereafter, but reviews may be rescheduled or held inside these intervals if there are significant changes to the child's care plan.

PERFORMANC E ANALYSIS

100% of Children in Care (CiC) are allocated to a qualified social worker.

271 of the 290 reviews (93.5%), were completed within required timescales during 2023/24.

% of Children whose reviews had % Children in Care been completed within required allocated to a 100 qualified social timescales 80 (as at month end) worker 60 Target 100 Num Apr-23 100.0 65 / 68 95.6 40 100.0 139 / 142 97.9 May-23 20 **Month Performance** 100.0 194 / 200 97.0 Jun-23 100.0 98.8 Jul-23 252 / 255 20/21 21/22 22/23 99.7 Aug-23 100.0 291 / 292 100.0 321 / 337 95.3 Sep-23 100.0 315 / 333 94.6 Oct-23 309 / 321 100.0 96.3 Nov-23 100 Dec-23 100.0 285 / 315 90.5 2 100.0 274 / 307 89.3 Jan-24 Feb-24 100.0 278 / 302 92.1 40 100.0 271 / 290 93.5 Mar-24 20 100.0 249 / 250 99.6 2020/21 Annual Trend 2021/22 100.0 243 / 246 98.8 20/21 21/22 22/23 2022/23 100.0 297 / 303 98.0 2023/24 100.0 271 / 290 93.5

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

100
80
40
20
20/21 21/22 22/23 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

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



CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

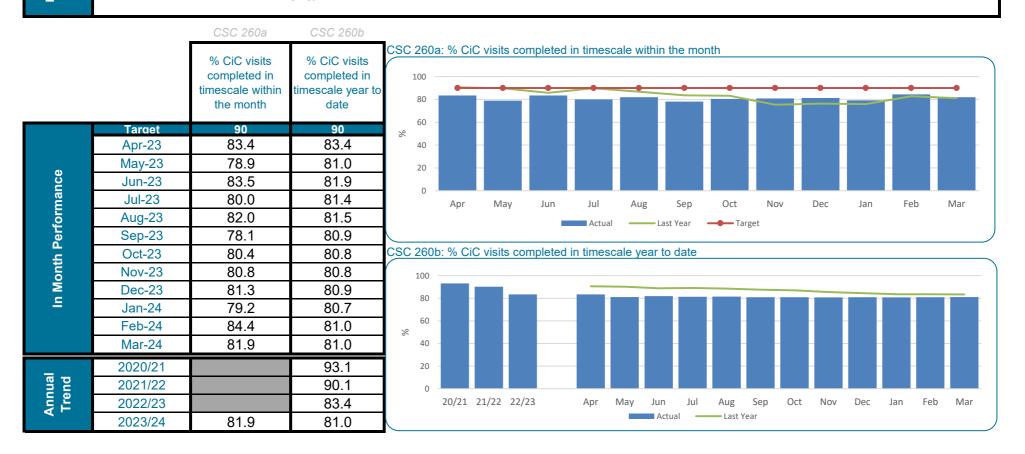
DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

81.0% (3,079 / 3,801) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2023/24. This is a year-on-year decrease in performance from 93.1% in 2020/21, 90.1% in 2021/22 and 83.4% in 2022/23.

We have seen an increase in the number of visits required over the past 3 years, however this year's total is comparable to the 3,856 CiC visits that were carried out in 2020/21.



CHILDREN IN CARE: PLACEMENTS

DEFINITION

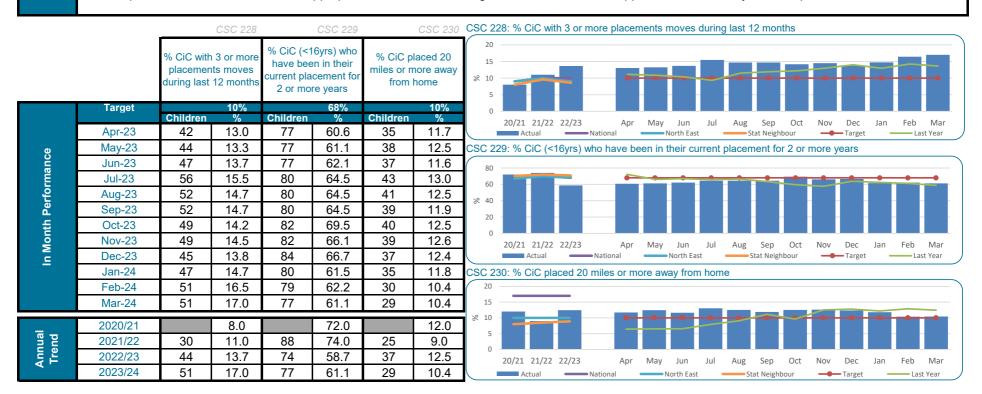
Of those Children in Care (CiC) at the point in time (excluding series of short-term placements), the percentage that had 3 or more separate placements in the previous 12 months; who (under the age of 16 years) had been in their current placement for 2 or more years. and who were placed more than 20 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.

17.0% (51 children) of our Children in Care, as at March 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is negatively above internal target (10.0%) and has never been below target in a month during 2023/24.

Currently, 61.1% (77 / 126) of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is negatively below our 68% target however an improvement when compared to 2022/23.

10.4% (29 / 278) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at March 2024 which is the lowest number of children this year and compared to March 2023 which saw 37 children placed 20 or more miles from the family home.

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



CHILDREN IN CARE: INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child coming into our care year to date (data from Health), 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.

Jul

Aug

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

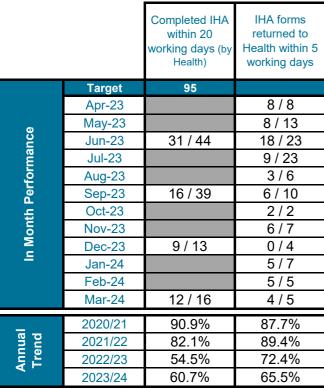
65.5% of IHA's completed in 2023/24 were completed within the required timescale of 5 days and 60.7% of those children received a health assessment within 20 days.

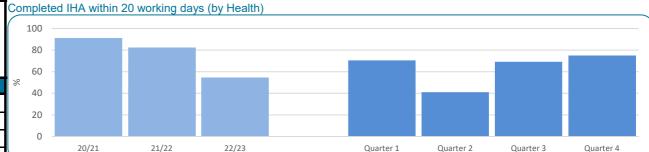
IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days

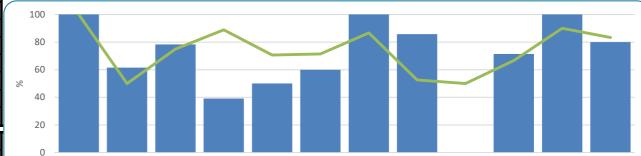
May

Jun

Apr







Sep

Actual Last Year

Oct

Nov

Dec

Feb

Mar

Jan

CHILDREN IN CARE: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

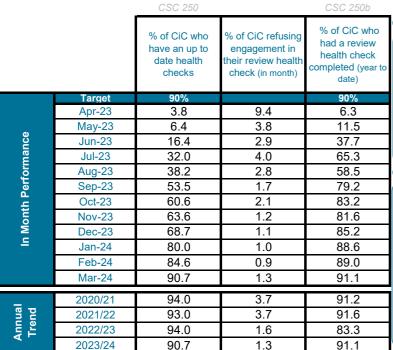
Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed and the percentage who have an up to date Health Check (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March).

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.

ERFORMANC

91.1% of children due a review health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 90.7% of the children in care have an up to date health check.

Currently only 1.3% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a health review. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.







CHILDREN IN CARE: DENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

83.1% of children due a dental health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 83.5% of the children in care have an up to date dental check.

Currently 3.0% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

CSC 251: % of CiC who are up to date for a dental check % of CiC % of CiC who % of CiC who had refusing 100 have an up to a dental check engagement in date dental 80 completed (year to their dental check date) check (in month) 60 % 40 90% Target 90% Apr-23 3.5 3.6 8.9 20 5.5 3.4 12.8 May-23 **Month Performance** 17.1 1.7 38.5 Jun-23 20/21 21/22 22/23 Apr May Aug Sep Oct Nov ----Target 21.7 - England Stat Neighbour Actual ----Last Year North East Jul-23 1.5 39.7 25.4 1.3 42.7 CSC 251d: % of CiC due a dental check (year to date) that have had one, and the % that refused Aug-23 Sep-23 35.5 1.2 51.8 100 56.2 Oct-23 41.6 1.1 80 46.6 0.5 57.6 Nov-23 47.5 0.9 Dec-23 56.5 60 <u>_</u> Jan-24 75.2 1.8 84.2 % 1.3 Feb-24 78.1 84.1 40 3.0 83.5 Mar-24 83.1 20 57.2 2020/21 68.0 2.8 Annual Trend 89.0 2.6 83.7 2021/22 64.0 May Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Feb Mar 2022/23 1.4 47.7 Completed Refused Last Year 2023/24 83.5 3.0 83.1

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.

98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 97.9% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2024.

Of the care leavers, as at 31st March 2024 aged 19-21, 17 of them were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 6.5% NEET because of illness or disability
- 11.3% NEET because of other circumstances
- 4.8% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

This equates to 22.6% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.

Of the 48 care leavers, as at 31st March 2024 aged 22-25, 7 of them were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 4.2% NEET because of illness or disability
- 6.3% NEET because of other circumstances
- 4.1% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

This equates to 14.6%.

19.4% young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (8.1% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 58.1% young people were in training or employment (29.0% in full time and 29.0% in part time).

8.3% young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (4.2% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 77.1% young people were in training or employment (27.1% in full time and 50.0% in part time).

Stat Neighbour

		<u> </u>	<u> </u>			
		CSC 286	CSC 294 ear olds	22-25 ye	ar olds	1
		% Care leavers in suitable accommodation		% Care leavers in suitable accommodation		CSC 286: % Care leavers in suitable accommodation
	Target Apr-23	90% 98.4	30% 21.9	95.3	15.6	
	May-23	98.4	25.0	95.3	17.2	
Performance	Jun-23	98.4	27.0	95.2	19.0	
ma	Jul-23	100.0	26.2	95.1	19.7	80
lo.	Aug-23	98.4	25.4	94.7	19.3	20/21 21/22 22/23 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb 19-21yrs 22-25yrs Last Year England North East Stat Neighbour
Per	Sep-23	98.4	23.8	94.6	21.4	13 21/13 22 25/13 22 25/13 22 25/13 23 21 21/24 25/14
	Oct-23	98.4	24.2	96.4	26.8	CSC 294: % Care leavers NEET
Month	Nov-23	98.4	27.4	94.4	25.9	50 —
	Dec-23	98.4	25.8	96.3	20.4	40
_	Jan-24	98.4	25.8	96.2	21.2	
	Feb-24	96.7	24.6	98.0	14.0	30
	Mar-24	98.4	22.6	97.9	14.6	
_	2020/21	100.0	21.0	92.9	17.9	10
and and	2021/22	98.0	20.0	97.3	18.4	
Annual	2022/23	96.3	20.4	95.9	18.4	20/21 21/22 22/23 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb
	2023/24	98.4	22.6	97.9	14.6	19-21yrs