

Children's Social Care Performance & Practice Report

Quarter 1 2024/25

Scrutiny

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Quarter 1 2024-25 Performance Summary

Referrals: 123 referrals, involving 210 children were started in Q1 2024/25, a decrease on the 226 referrals in Q1 2023/24. 81.0% (170 / 210) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day in Q1 2024/25, not meeting our 90% target, however the timescale is comparable to Q1 2023/24 (81.1%). 0.5% took over 3 working days to be completed in Q1 2024/25 which is outperforming our target of 5%.

Re-Referrals: In Q1 2024/25, 40 of the 210 children referred (19.1%), from 24 families, was a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is above target (18%), but a large reduction on the 86 children re-referred during Q1 2023/24. Due to the reduction in referrals being open to social care, it has resulted in a high percentage calculated, although the actual number is the lowest seen in a quarter since Q4 2021/22.

Building Stronger Families: At the end of Q1 2024/25, there were 205 families, 416 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 60 families with 108 children were open to an external agency supporting the families.

282 children from 125 families closed to the Building Stronger Families team (BSF) in Q1 2024/25. 80.8% (101 / 125) of the families (225 children), made a degree of progress during this time resulting in either a step down to universal services or closure. This is a positive increase compared to the 71.7% of families that closed in Q1 2023/24 with a degree of progress.

Missing: The total number of missing episodes in Q1 2024/25 was 49 involving 31 individual children and young people. This is a reduction compared to Q1 2023/24 which saw 117 episodes of missing involving 58 individual children. The reduction is mainly seen in the missing of CiC young people.

In Q1 2024/25, 100% of all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered, 81.6% of which were offered within 72 hours and 71.1% of the children engaged in their RHI.

Children & Families Assessments: 259 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q1 2024/25. This is below the 418 assessments started in Q1 2023/24, but still nearly double the number started in Q1 2021/22 (135). 89.6% of C&F assessments were completed with the 45 day timescale. This is a positive increase to previous years and evidence of targeted work and support.

Section 47 Enquiries: 66 section 47 enquires were started in Q1 2024/25, involving 120 individual children, 10 of which were already on an open Child Protection (CP) plan. This a reduction on the 111 section 47 enquiries started during Q1 2023/24.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 73.5% 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, during Q1 2024/25.

We work with partner agencies who need notice so that they can prepare reports and arrange for someone to attend the meeting. The decision that there is a need for an Initial Child Protection Conference is one that needs to be made within a short timeframe. Generally, this means that the decision needs to be made in less than 10 working days.

When dealing with complex situations this can be a challenge for the social worker and their managers. Performance has dropped in recent times due to late notification by the Social Work Teams that a Child Protection Conference is needed. This is being continually monitored through Performance Clinics. This measure is below the target of 95%.

Child Protection Plans: 115 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of June 2024 with a rate of 51.7 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. Of the 30 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2024/25, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending (23.3%), and 9 children (30.0%) had been subject to a CP plan for a second time ever. The target for this measure is 6%, but due to the lower numbers starting a plan, this has resulted in a very high percentage.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 77.5% (666 / 859) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q1 2024/25 and 94.9% (815 / 859) of the visits were completed within 15 working days. Although below target (90%), this is an improvement on Q1 2023/24 where 70.1% of visits occurred within timescale.

Children in Care: 291 children were in care as at June 2024, 19 (6.5%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. 10 children from Darlington came into care in Q1 2024/25 from 9 families. This is a significant decrease when compared with the 46 children who came into care in Q1 2023/24. 1 young person came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child). 18 children and young people, from 18 families ceased to be in care in Q1 2024/25.

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker, 80.0% of the initial CiC reviews and 81.2% of subsequent review were carried out in timescale.

At the end of March 2024, to enable better quality reviews to be undertaken, the decision was taken by the Senior Leadership Team that if the Social Worker's report was not completed for the Child's Looked After Review, then the meeting would be rearranged. In Quarter 1, this decision has impacted on the number of reviews held within the required timescale (both initial and subsequent reviews). The decision was taken due to reviews being held without full information being available. This is being monitored through Performance Clinics.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 84.6% (695 / 822) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q1 2024/25. This is an improved performance compared to Q1 2023/24 (81.8%) but remains below target of 90%.

Children in Care Placements: 8.7% of our CiC, as of June 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is below target (10%), an improvement as we have remained above target for some time. Currently, 59.0% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is below our 68% target and due to some safeguarding placement moves taking place in June, it has taken us below 60% which is the lowest performance in over a year.

9.3% of our CiC have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of June 2024, positively the lowest number of children in over a year. 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: 70% of IHA's completed in Q1 2024/25 were completed within the required timescale of 5 days and 88.9% of those children received a health assessment within 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 72.5% of children due a review health assessment by June 2024 have had one completed and 26% of the children in care have an up-to-date health check. Currently only 2.9% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a health review.

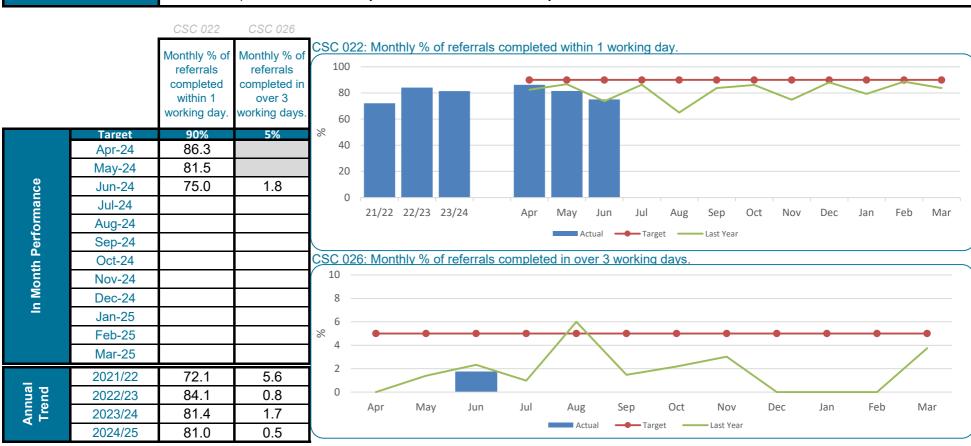
26.5% of children due a dental health assessment by June 2024 have had one completed. Currently 5.9% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. The young people are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

Care Leavers: 93.8% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 96.5% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of June 2024. 12.5% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education including studies beyond A level, and 70.3% young people were in training or employment (34.4% in full time and 35.9% in part time). 5.3% young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 77.2% young people were in training or employment (22.8% in full time and 54.4% in part time).

REFERRALS: TIMELINESS

DEFINITION

Percentage of referrals completed within 1 working day and over 3 working days. Referrals completed within 1 working day indicates that decisions regarding the services required are made in a timely manner to minimise drift and delay and to ensure that children are safe.



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.

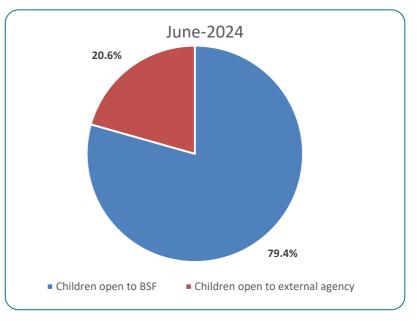
CSC 034 % of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly) % re-referrals Monthly number % of referrals that are repeat of re-referrals 40 that are rethat are repeat within 12 referrals within 12 months 30 (monthly) months (cumulative) % 20 Target 18% 10 12.5 Apr-24 12.5 10 13 May-24 17.2 24.1 **Month Performance** 17 19.1 22.4 Jun-24 May Jul Oct Feb Mar Jun Dec Jul-24 Monthly % Last Year Aug-24 CSC 032: % re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative) Sep-24 Oct-24 30 Nov-24 25 Dec-24 _ 20 Jan-25 % 15 Feb-25 Mar-25 10 5 2021/22 106 10.9 Annual Trend 286 17.9 2022/23 21/22 22/23 23/24 2023/24 333 24.2 Actual — Target — Last Year — National — North East — Stat Neighbour 19.1 40 2024/25

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.

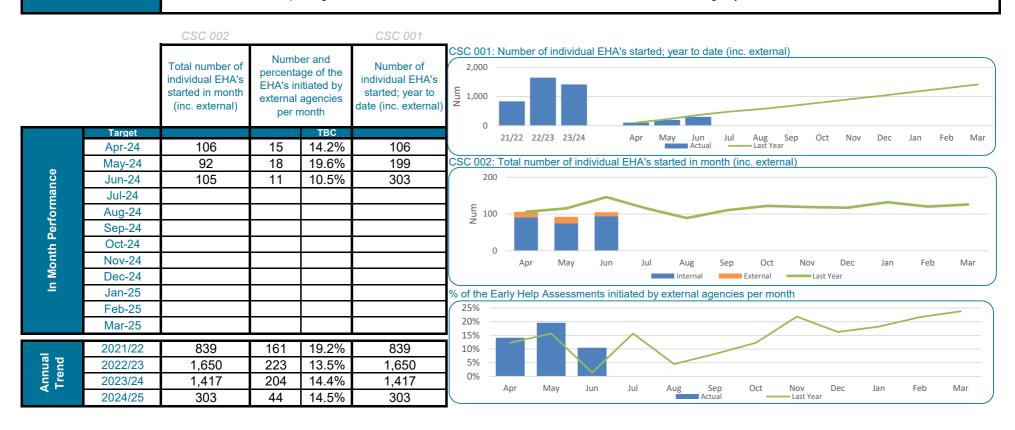
		Open to BSF at month end		Open to an exat mor	% of children open to BSF	
		Children	Families	Children	Families	%
	Apr-24	418	201	128	65	76.6%
	May-24	429	208	117	63	78.6%
e c	Jun-24	416	205	108	60	79.4%
In Month Performance	Jul-24					
orr	Aug-24					
erf	Sep-24					
두	Oct-24					
ont	Nov-24					
∑	Dec-24					
=	Jan-25					
	Feb-25					
	Mar-25					
	2021/22	411	191	73	35	84.9%
Annual Trend	2022/23	490	218	125	68	79.7%
\nn Tre	2023/24	423	197	125	64	77.2%
4	2024/25	416	205	108	60	79.4%



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.



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.

		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	
		Episode	Child	Episode	Child	Episode	Child
	Apr-24	19	12	7	2		
	May-24	16	12	8	4		
Se	Jun-24	14	11	6	4	2	2
nan	Jul-24						
In Month Performance	Aug-24						
erf	Sep-24						
H.	Oct-24						
out	Nov-24						
M	Dec-24						
=	Jan-25						
	Feb-25						
	Mar-25						
	2021/22	582	174	253	31	22	4
Annual Trend	2022/23	691	162	383	31	2	2
Tre	2023/24	423	122	152	27	13	6
-	2024/25	49	31	21	8	2	2

ASSESSMENTS DEFINITION Monthly and cumulative number of Children & Families (C&F) assessments completed for a child. CSC 035 CSC 036 CSC 037: Monthly number of C&F assessments completed Rate of C&F Monthly number Number of C&F assessments assessments 180 of C&F completed per 160 assessments completed year 10,000 of the 0-17 140 completed to date population. 120 100 80 Apr-24 89 89 40.0 60 86 177 79.5 May-24 40 20 In Month Performance 84 116.4 Jun-24 259 Jul-24 May Jul Feb Mar Apr Jun Oct Dec Jan Aug-24 Last Year Sep-24 CSC 035: Rate of C&F assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population. Oct-24 Nov-24 700 Dec-24 600 Jan-25 500 Feb-25 400 300 Mar-25 200 100 806 806 356.1 2021/22 Annual Trend 1,461 2022/23 1461 645.5 21/22 22/23 23/24 Feb 1,554 698.3 1,554 2023/24 Actual ——Last Year 2024/25 259 259 116.4

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.

		CSC 038	CSC 040		
		% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date)	Monthly % completed within 45 working days		
	ı arget	90%	90%		
	Apr-24	73.0	73.0		
	May-24	85.3	97.7		
ce	Jun-24	89.6	98.8		
In Month Performance	Jul-24				
orr	Aug-24				
Perf	Sep-24				
th F	Oct-24				
oni	Nov-24				
≥	Dec-24				
_	Jan-25				
	Feb-25				
	Mar-25				
	2021/22	85.4			
nua	2022/23	70.0			
Annual Trend	2023/24	62.7			
	2024/25	89.6	98.8		

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

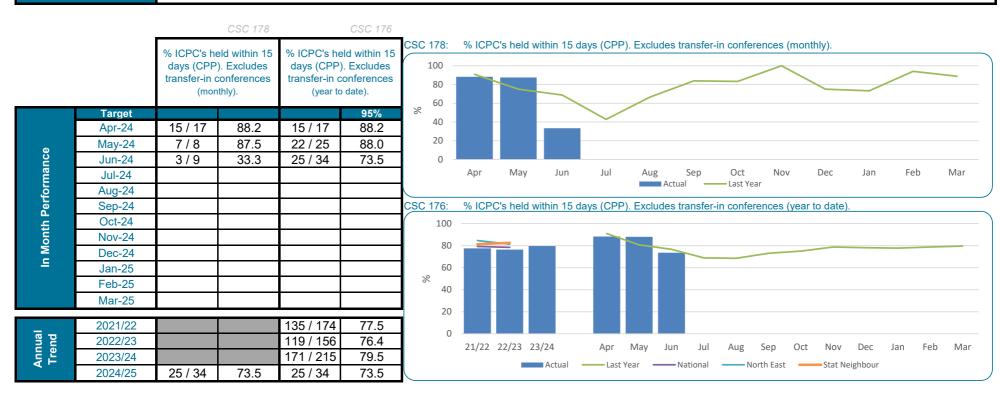


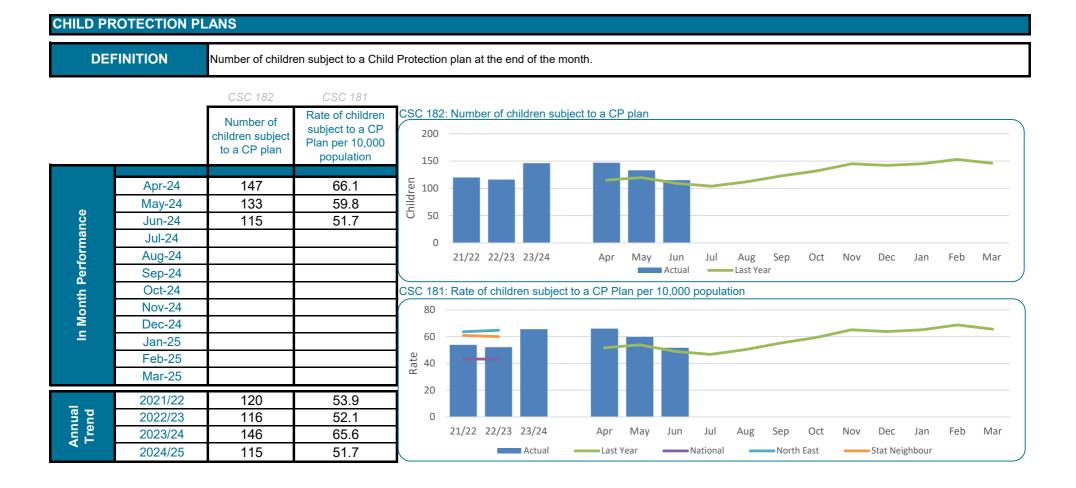
SECTION 47 ENQUIRES: STARTED DEFINITION Number of children who have had a section 47 enquiries started monthly and year to date and the actual number of enquires started. CSC 166 CSC 164 Number of children; showing the total including and excluding those already on CPP Rate of section 47 Section 47 Number of enquiries started Of which also 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) 60 40 Apr-24 28 52 2 23.4 May-24 20 36 5 38.7 In Month Performance 18 32 3 53.9 Jun-24 Jul-24 Apr May Jul Aug Mar Open CP plan Aug-24 Sep-24 Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (inc. children already on CPP) Oct-24 Nov-24 300 Dec-24 250 Jan-25 200 gg 200 200 Feb-25 Mar-25 100 2021/22 317 633 14 284.5 Annual Trend 351 681 30 308.3 2022/23 21/22 22/23 23/24 Oct Nov Dec Jan 2023/24 372 693 22 311.4 Rate — Last Year — National — North East — Stat Neighbour 2024/25 66 120 10 53.9

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.

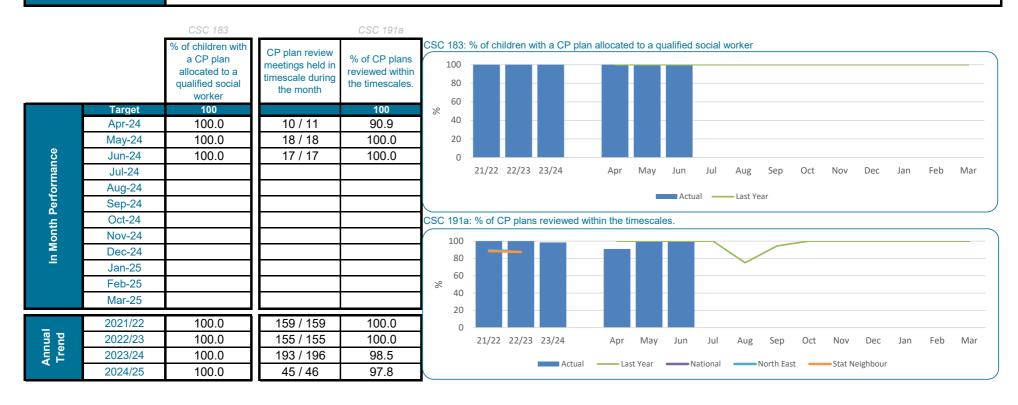




CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

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.

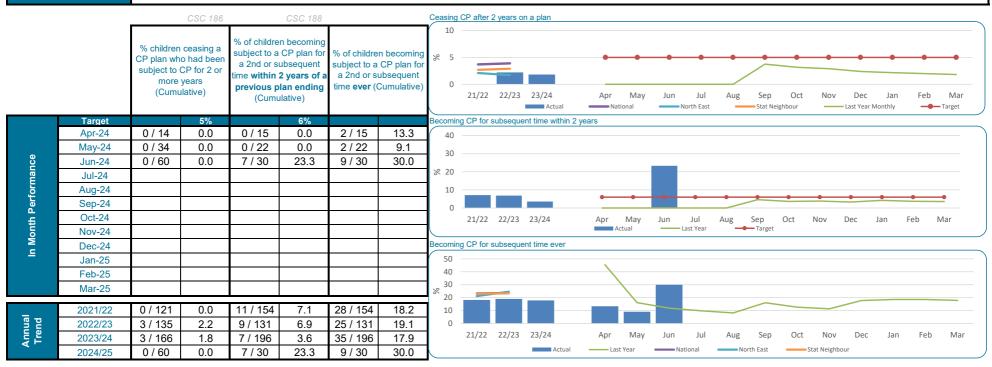


CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: TIME PERIODS

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.



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.

% CP visits % CP visits % CP visits % CP visits completed completed completed completed within within 10 within 15 within 15 10 working days working days working days working days 80 year to date within the within the year to date (cumulative) (cumulative) month month 60 90 90 90 % Target 90 40 77.0 93.3 77.0 93.3 Apr-24 78.5 May-24 80.1 96.5 94.9 20 In Month Performance Jun-24 74.8 94.8 77.5 94.9 Jul-24 May Apr Aug-24 Sep-24 Oct-24 Nov-24 100 Dec-24 Jan-25 Feb-25 Mar-25 96.8 2021/22 82.9 20 Annual Trend 67.8 90.0 2022/23 69.0 90.4 2023/24 21/22 22/23 23/24 2024/25 74.8 94.8 77.5 94.9



% Child Protection statutory visits completed year to date



291

2024/25

19

130.8

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). CSC 201 CSC 207 CSC 201: Total number of Children in Care Total number Of which are Rate of CiC per of Children in identified as 10,000 400 a UASC Care population 350 Children 250 200 **Target** 95 298 19 133.9 Apr-24 May-24 294 19 132.1 **Month Performance** 291 19 130.8 Jun-24 150 Jul-24 100 21/22 22/23 23/24 Aug-24 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar CiC of which are UASC Last Year ex UASC Sep-24 Oct-24 CSC 200: Rate of CiC per 10,000 population Nov-24 200 Dec-24 므 150 Jan-25 Feb-25 8 gt 000 Mar-25 50 273 3 123.0 2021/22 Annual Trend 17 2022/23 322 142.3 21/22 22/23 23/24 May Jun Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar 2023/24 300 18 134.8

Actual

----- Last Year

National

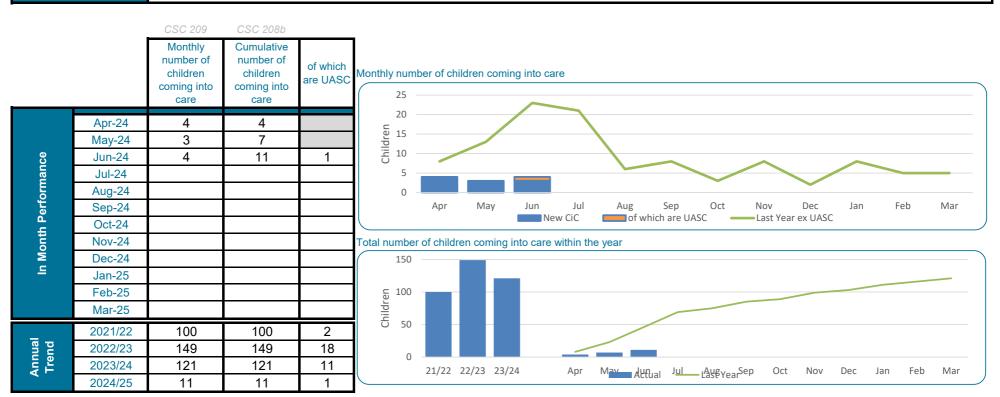
North East

----Stat Neighbour

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.



CHILDREN IN CARE: CEASING CARE

DEFINITION

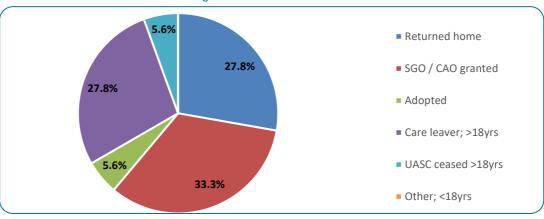
Number of children ceasing to be a Child in Care during each month and year to date and their destination when they ceased being in care. This could be due to returning home to parent or other person with no PR (planned and unplanned), having a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (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.

CSC 212 CSC 211 Monthly Cumulative number of number of children children ceasing ceasing care care 5 5 Apr-24 12 May-24 9 Performance 18 4 Jun-24 Jul-24 Aug-24 Sep-24 Oct-24 Month Nov-24 Dec-24 <u>_</u> Jan-25 Feb-25 Mar-25 2021/22 99 99 Annual Trend 100 100 2022/23 2023/24 143 143 18 18 2024/25

CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing care



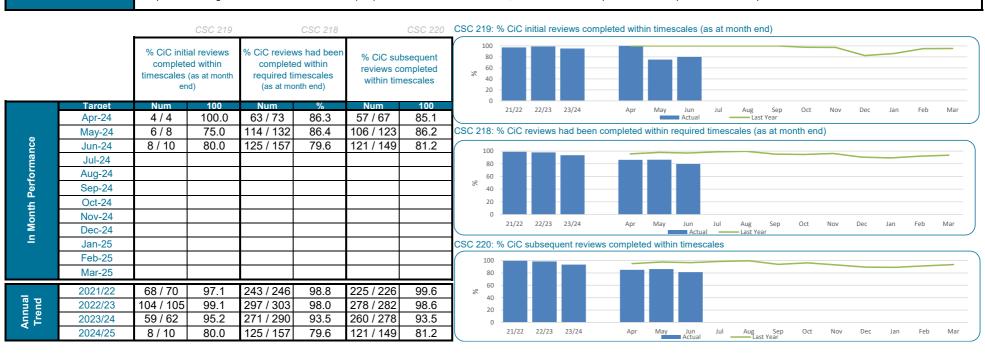
Cumulative reason for children ceasing care



CHILDREN IN CARE: REVIEWS

DEFINITION

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. Percentage of the current Children in Care (CiC) who have had their initial review, and all of their subsequent reviews completed within the required timescales.

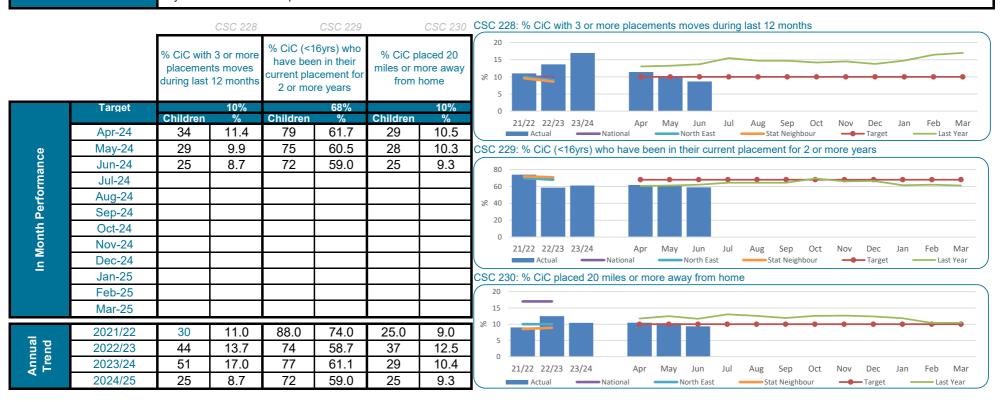


CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS DEFINITION Percentage of Children in Care (CiC) who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales each month and year to date. CSC 260b CSC 260a CSC 260a: % CiC visits completed in timescale within the month % CiC visits % CiC visits completed in completed in 100 timescale year to timescale within 80 the month date 60 **Target** 90 90 % 82.1 82.1 Apr-24 40 May-24 85.7 83.7 20 **Month Performance** 86.6 84.6 Jun-24 Jul-24 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Aug-24 Last Year -----Target Sep-24 CSC 260b: % CiC visits completed in timescale year to date Oct-24 Nov-24 100 Dec-24 80 <u>_</u> Jan-25 60 Feb-25 Mar-25 40 2021/22 90.1 20 Annual Trend 83.4 2022/23 2023/24 81.0 21/22 22/23 23/24 Feb Mar Jun Aug Oct Nov Last Year 2024/25 86.6 84.6

CHILDREN IN CARE: PLACEMENTS

DEFINITION

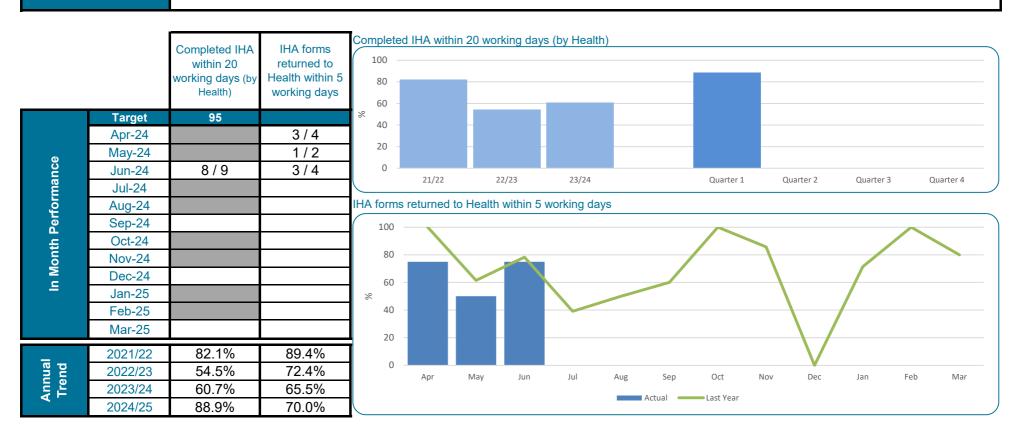
Of those Children in Care (CiC) at the point in time (excluding series of short-term placements), the percentage that had 3 or more separate placements in the previous 12 months; who (under the age of 16 years) had been in their current placement for 2 or more years. and who were placed more than 20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



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.

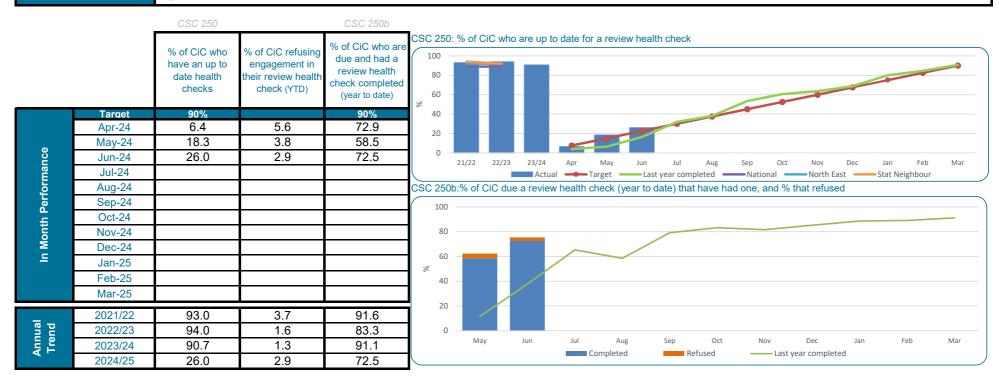


CHILDREN IN CARE: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

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).

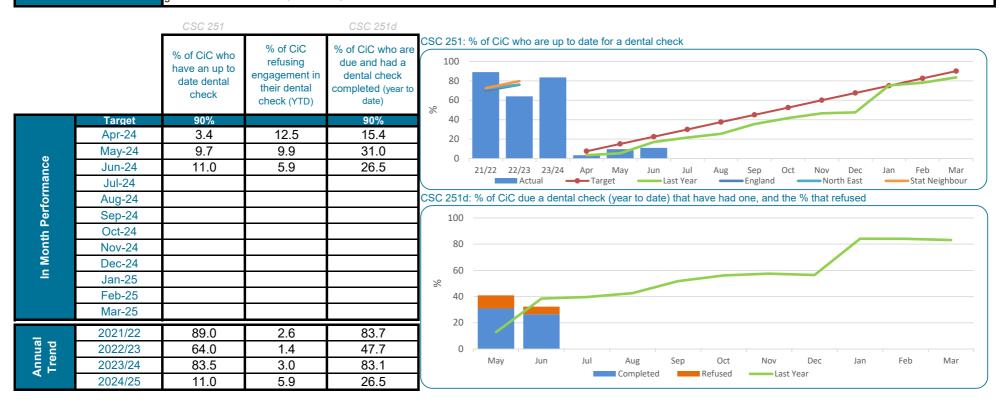
Children in Care share many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, but often to a greater degree. These indicators track the participation of our Children in Care's health as a proxy for monitoring the general health and wellbeing of the children, as well as providing a check on the effectiveness of joint working with Health to secure good health outcomes for Children in Care.



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.



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.

		CSC 286	CSC 294			_
		19-21 ye	ar olds	22-25 year olds		
		% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET	% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET	CSC 286: % Care leavers in suitable accommodation
	Target	90%	30%			60 - 60 - 60 - 60 - 60 - 60 - 60 - 60 -
Performance	Apr-24	100.0	21.2	96.8	21.0	
	May-24	95.4	18.5	96.6	16.9	40 - 40 - 40 - 40 - 40 - 40 - 40 - 40 -
	Jun-24	93.8	23.4	96.5	17.5	20
	Jul-24					0
	Aug-24					21/22 22/23 23/24 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar 19-21yrs 22-25yrs Last Year Fengland North East Stat Neighbour
	Sep-24					19-21yrs 22-25yrs Last Year England North East Stat Neighbour
	Oct-24					CSC 294: % Care leavers NEET
Month	Nov-24					50 ————————————————————————————————————
	Dec-24					10
≞	Jan-25					40
	Feb-25					30
	Mar-25					% 20
<u> </u>	2021/22	98.0	20.0	97.3	18.4	10
Annual	2022/23	96.3	20.4	95.9	18.4	0
	2023/24	98.4	22.6	97.9	14.6	21/22 22/23 23/24 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar
	2024/25	93.8	23.4	96.5	17.5	19-21yrs