

Scrutiny Panel

Director of Children's Services
Sue Butcher

Overview

The purpose of this document is to present data metrics request by the Panel.



MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER



**Our mission is to show
Middlesbrough children
that they matter.**

Discussion Point

1. The number of Middlesbrough children who are

- Children in Need
- Children subject to Child Protection Plans
- Children Looked After

And how this has increased from previous years, and how this figure compares locally and nationally.

2. Within the numbers of CLA , a breakdown of

- gender;
- age groups;
- ethnicity and
- the Ward in which they lived at the point they were taken into care.

3. The key reasons/issues leading to a child/sibling group being taken into care.

4. A breakdown of the numbers and types of plans for looked after children, e.g. long term fostering, return home with parents, adoption,

Discussion Points (2)

5 Details of

- The average timescale for a child's plan to be approved from the point they are taken into our care?
- How many looked after children are awaiting a plan and, of those with approved plans, how long have they waited/been waiting to achieve their permanency outcome?
- How does this compare locally and nationally?

6. For example, is there a national benchmark regarding timescales around the length of time a child should wait until they achieve permanency and if so how does Middlesbrough perform on this?

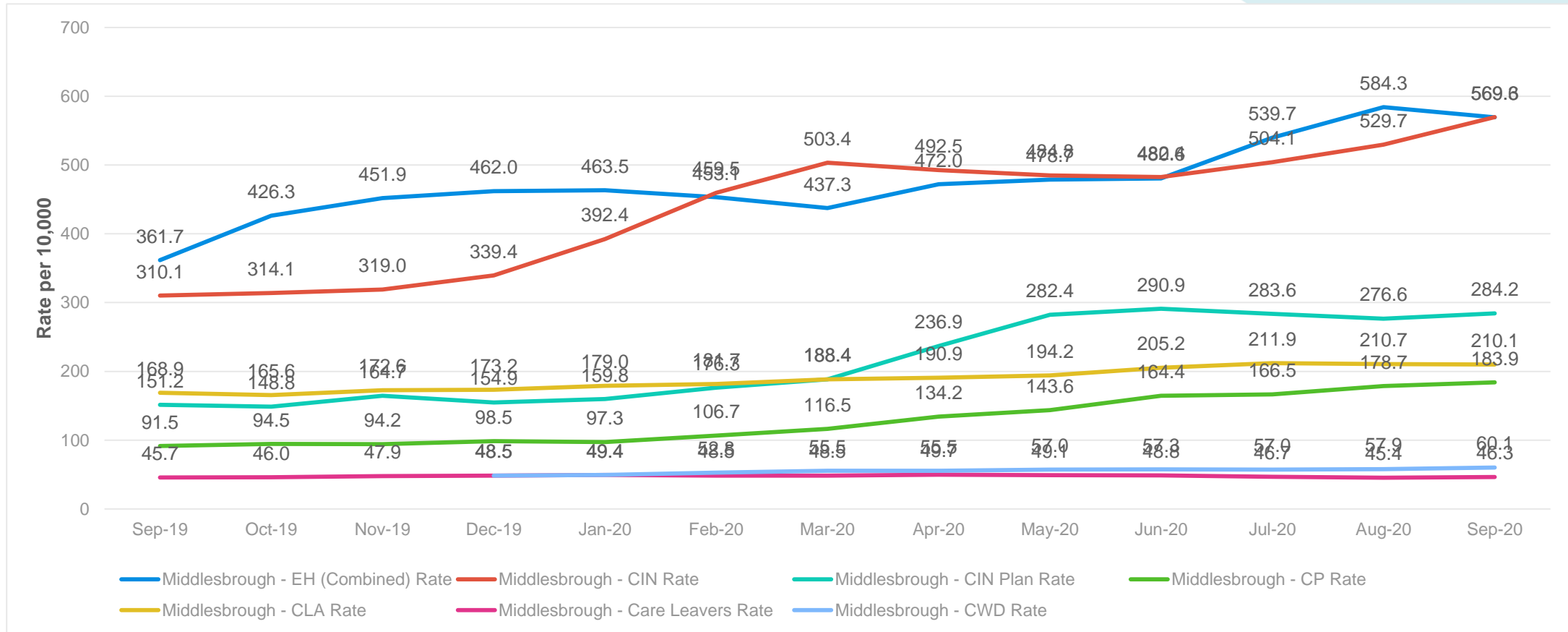
7. Further details around how the plan for a child is made and determined.

8. How are children matched with suitable foster carers and how is the placement supported to ensure it is successful?

9. How many placements breakdown and what are the reasons for this?

10. Reference to any relevant legislation and any other relevant information you consider to be appropriate.

Demand



	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
Middlesbrough - EH (Combined)	1,186	1,398	1,482	1,515	1,520	1,486	1,434	1,548	1,570	1,576	1,770	1,916	1,867
Middlesbrough - CIN	1,017	1,030	1,046	1,113	1,287	1,507	1,651	1,615	1,590	1,582	1,653	1,737	1,868
Middlesbrough - CIN Plans	496	488	540	508	524	578	618	777	926	954	930	907	932
Middlesbrough - CP	300	310	309	323	319	350	382	440	471	539	546	586	603
Middlesbrough - CLA	554	543	566	568	587	596	618	626	637	673	695	691	689
Middlesbrough - Care Leavers	150	151	157	159	162	159	159	163	161	160	153	149	152
Middlesbrough - CWD		164	158	159	162	173	182	182	187	188	187	190	197

Demand (2)

Regional comparators show the levels of demand in our system:

- Highest rate of children becoming Looked After per 10,000
- Highest rate of Looked After Children at end of quarter
- Highest rate of children ceasing to be Looked After per 10,000
- Lowest rate of children who left care who were adopted

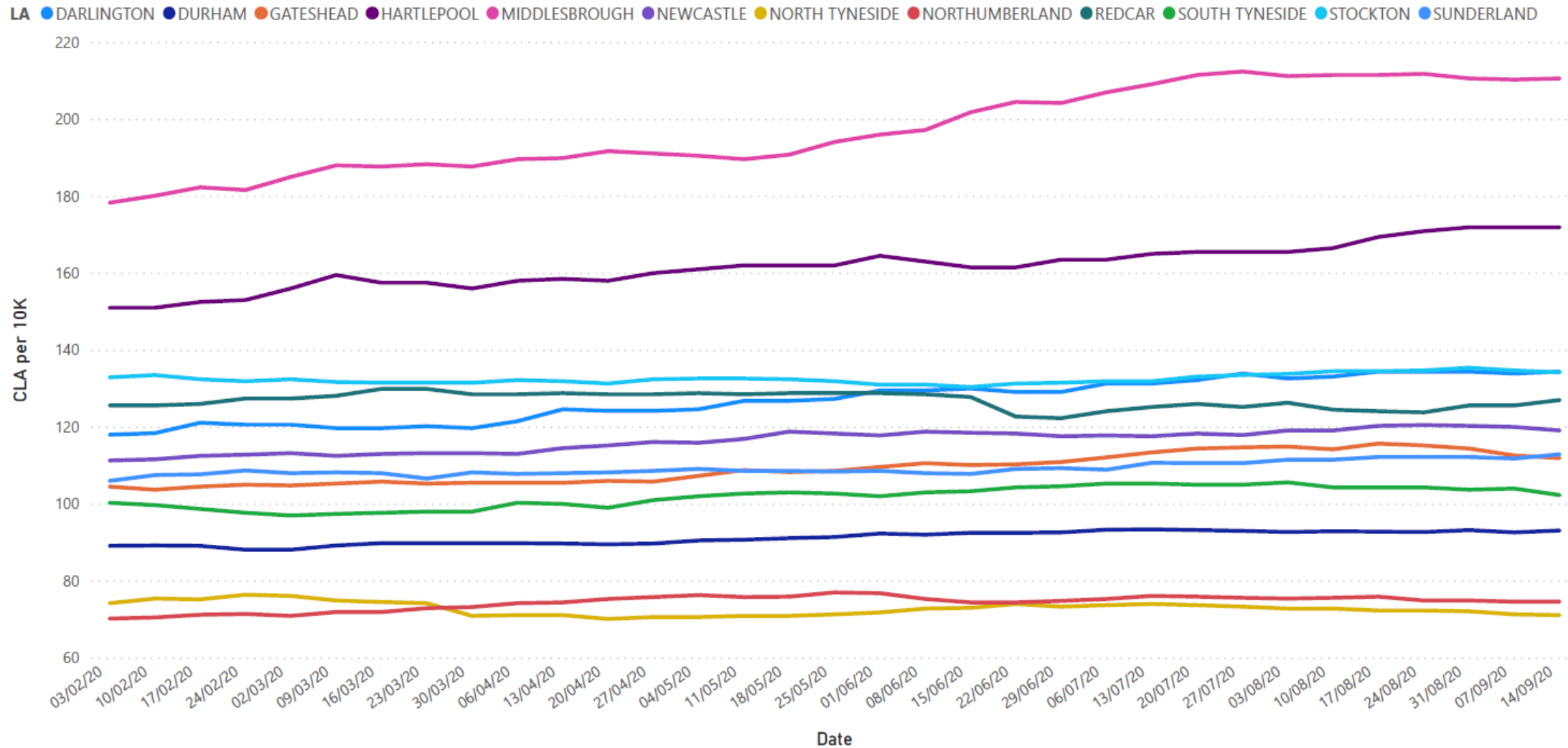
Demand (3)

Regional CLA rates- latest week

LA	CLA per 10K	CLA rate higher or lower than 16 March	Change in CLA numbers since 16-March	% change to 16-March
	▲			
NORTH TYNESIDE	71.20	Lower than 16-March rate	-14	-4.50%
NORTHUMBERLAND	74.70	Greater than 16-March rate	16	3.80%
DURHAM	93.20	Greater than 16-March rate	34	3.70%
SOUTH TYNESIDE	102.40	Greater than 16-March rate	14	4.70%
GATESHEAD	112.00	Greater than 16-March rate	24	5.80%
SUNDERLAND	113.00	Greater than 16-March rate	27	4.60%
NEWCASTLE	119.20	Greater than 16-March rate	36	5.40%
REDCAR	127.10	Lower than 16-March rate	-8	-2.20%
STOCKTON	134.30	Greater than 16-March rate	12	2.10%
DARLINGTON	134.50	Greater than 16-March rate	33	12.20%
HARTLEPOOL	172.00	Greater than 16-March rate	29	9.20%
MIDDLESBROUGH	210.70	Greater than 16-March rate	75	12.20%

Demand (4)

CLA per 10K for all LAs



Who are our Children in Care?

Middlesbrough currently has 689 CLA. This is a rate of 210.1. We currently have the highest rate in the North East and the second highest rate nationally.

Age

- The current ages of our CLA are:-
 - 5.6% are aged under 1 years;
 - 21.4% are aged 1-4 years;
 - 23% are aged 5 to 9 years;
 - 35.4% are aged 10-15 years;
 - 14.5% are aged 16 years and over.
- 20 young people (3%) in care started their care episodes when they were 16 +
- 55 (8%) children in care over 10 years were brought into care when they were 5 years old or younger.
- 15.1% of children who become looked after are newborn i.e. aged 0 – 1. Greater than national trends.

Ethnicity

- 84.9 % of current CLA are White. This is an **over representation** against the school population at 78%.
- 6.1 % are mixed ethnicity in line with the school population (6%)
- 2.3 % are Asian. This is an **under representation** against the school population of 11%.
- 5.0 % are Black. This is an **over representation** against the school population of 2%.
- 0.9% are 'Other'. This is an **under representation** from the school population of 4%.

Geography

We have greater numbers of CLA from some of our wards.

Although deprivation is a key factor in understanding our demand the way we work and safeguard in certain communities could also be a driver in understanding demand.

1 in 15 children are CLA in North Ormesby. Proportionately we do not work with families at a Child Protection threshold to the same level. Similar for Newport.

- North Ormbsey: 3.9 children CLA for every child on a CP Plan.
- Brambles and Thorntree 1.3 children CLA for every child on a CP Plan.

Who are our Children in Care: Unborn and Children under one year?

Unborn	CP	CIN
Starting in the last 3 years	13%	6%
Starting in the last 12 months	9%	5%
Starting in the last 6 months	7%	5%

0-1 years	CLA	CP	CIN
Starting in the last 3 years	23%	13%	6%
Starting in the last 12 months	21%	6%	5%
Starting in the last 6 months	17%	6%	5%

	CP (unborn)	CP (unborn)	CLA (0-1 years)	CLA (0-1 years)
Starting in the last 3 years	13%	166	23%	162
Starting in the last 12 months	9%	59	21%	59
Starting in the last 6 months	7%	28	17%	27

What is this data telling us?

- A large proportion of our CLA cohort (approximately 20% are 1 and under. Further work is required however initial indications show this this high compared to our statistical and regional comparators.
- The data would indicate that the majority of children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan pre-birth, go on to become looked after.

What do we need to explore?

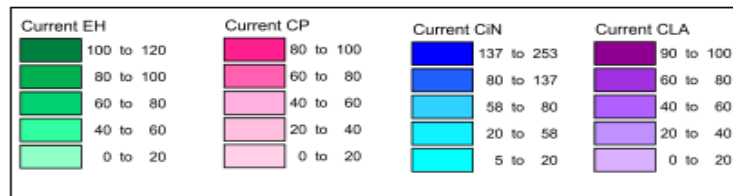
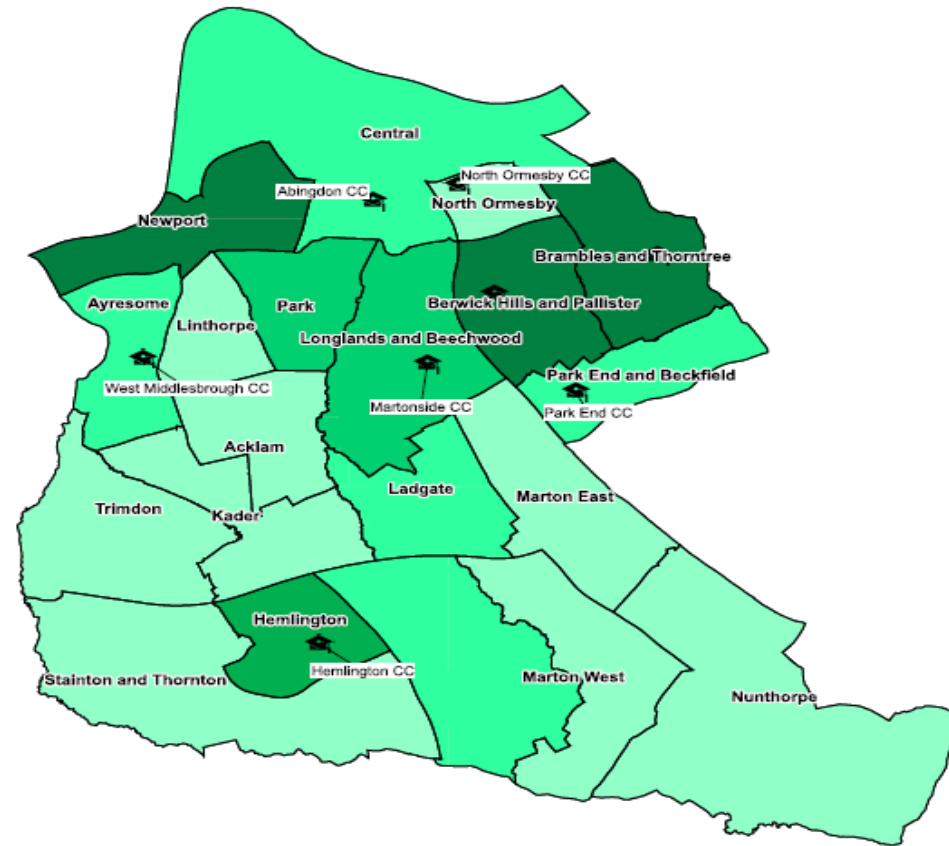
- Are Safeguarding Unborn Babies procedures effective? Do they allow sufficient time to assess and support change? Are midwives identifying early enough? Do we know the older siblings already?

What are we doing about it?

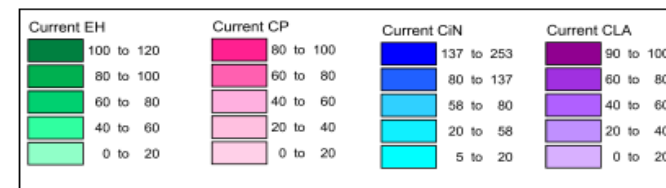
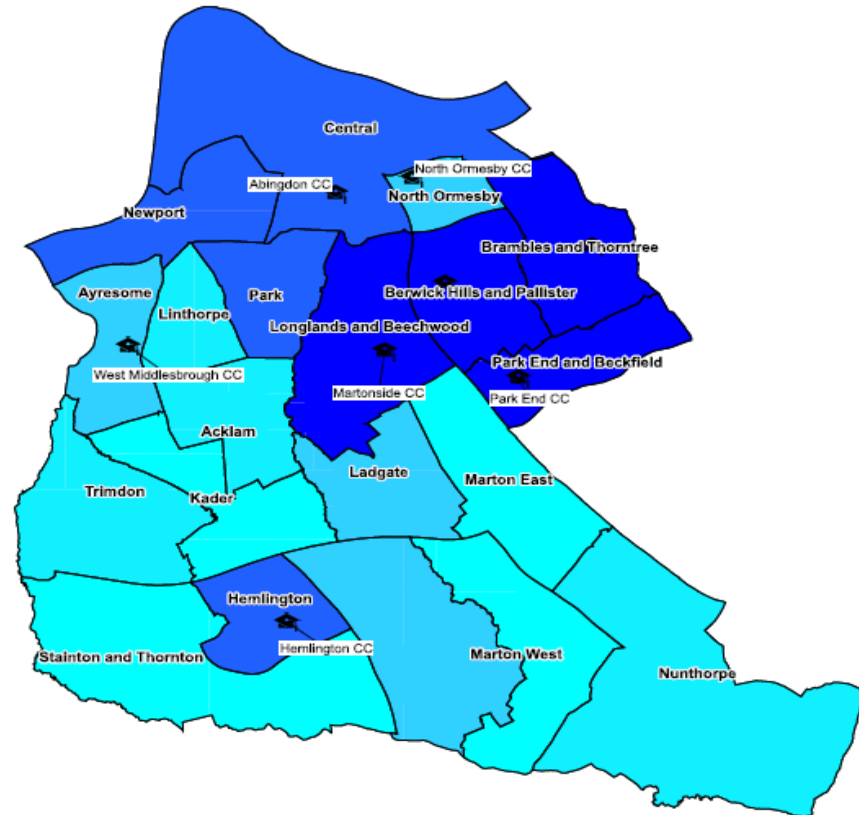
- PAUSE
- Vulnerable Parenting Pathway

Who are our Children in Care?

Early Help

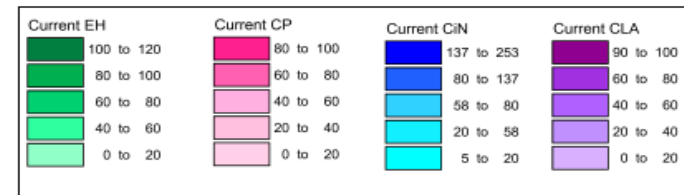
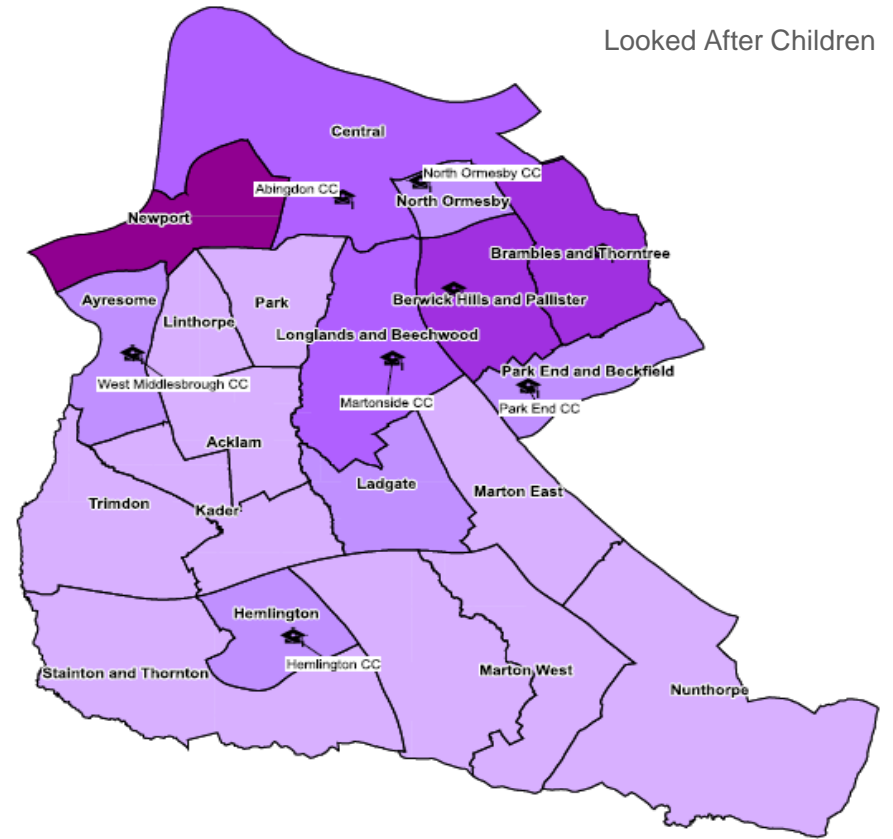
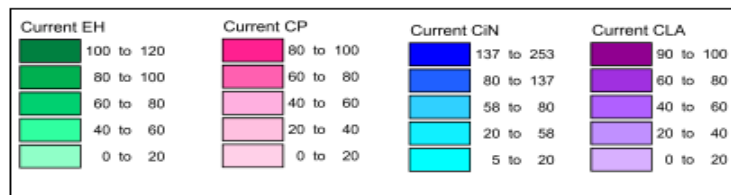
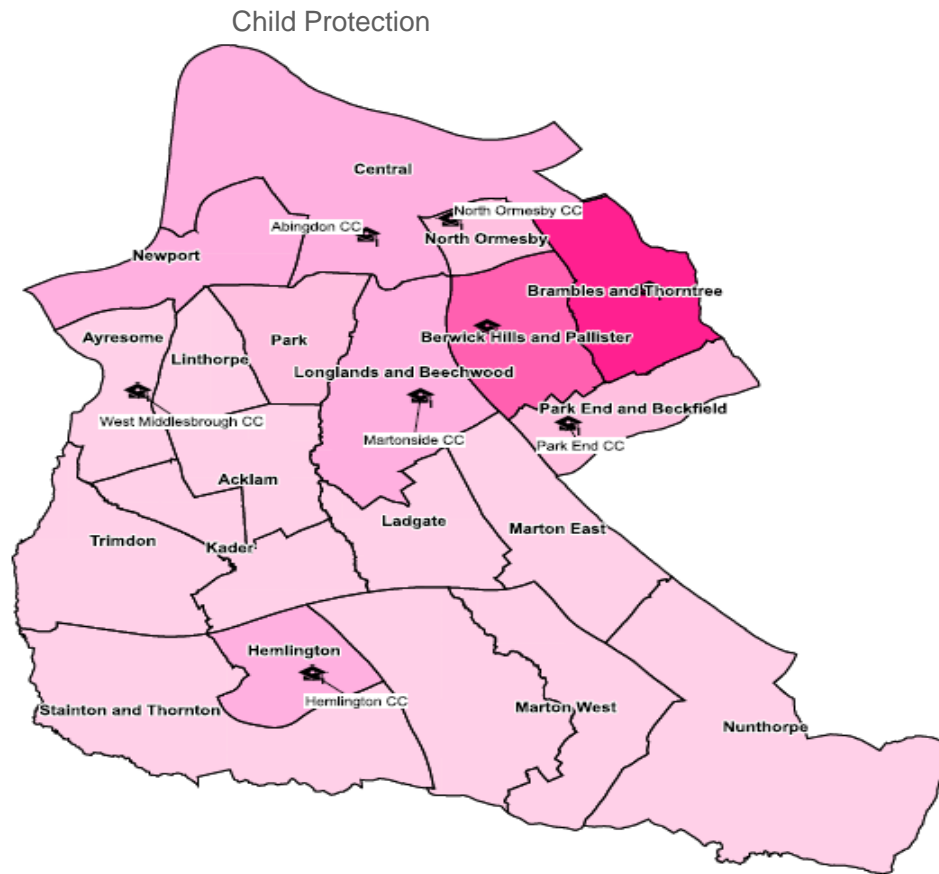


Child in Need



*case work only. This does not include the early help work of the NEET team and Children Centres.

Who are our children in care?



*postcodes for CLA are of home postcodes and NOT of placements postcodes.

What does this mean?

There is a high level of need in **Brambles and Thorntree and Berwick Hills and Pallister**. There is a greater proportion of Early Help and Child in Need activity and less CLA in these areas.

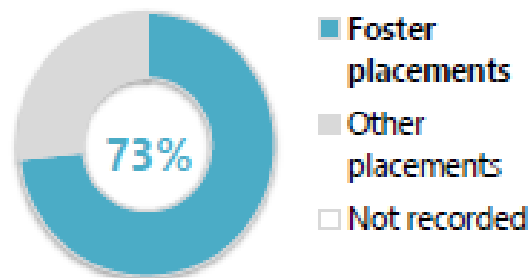
The graphs show a gap in CP provision in the more ethnically diverse wards. **Newport** has the highest proportion of CLA interventions however is 5th highest of CP and CIN.

In North Ormesby 1 out of 17 are looked after. This is the most deprived ward with the greatest proportion of social care intervention per head (children). However, we are doing very little early help case work (ranks 12th). Further understanding is required to understand if families arrive in **North Ormesby** in crisis and their level of need is too great or if could we be doing more to prevent escalation?

Placements and planning

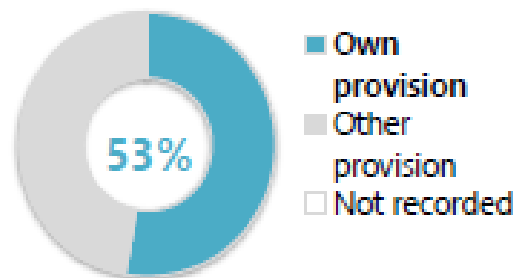
CLA placements by type and provision

Foster placements



LA 2018-19 69%
SNs 2018-19 71%
Eng 2018-19 72%

Own provision



LA 2018-19 42%
SNs 2018-19 59%
Eng 2018-19 50%

A breakdown of the numbers and types of plans for looked after children, eg long term fostering, rehabilitation home with parents, adoption, etc.

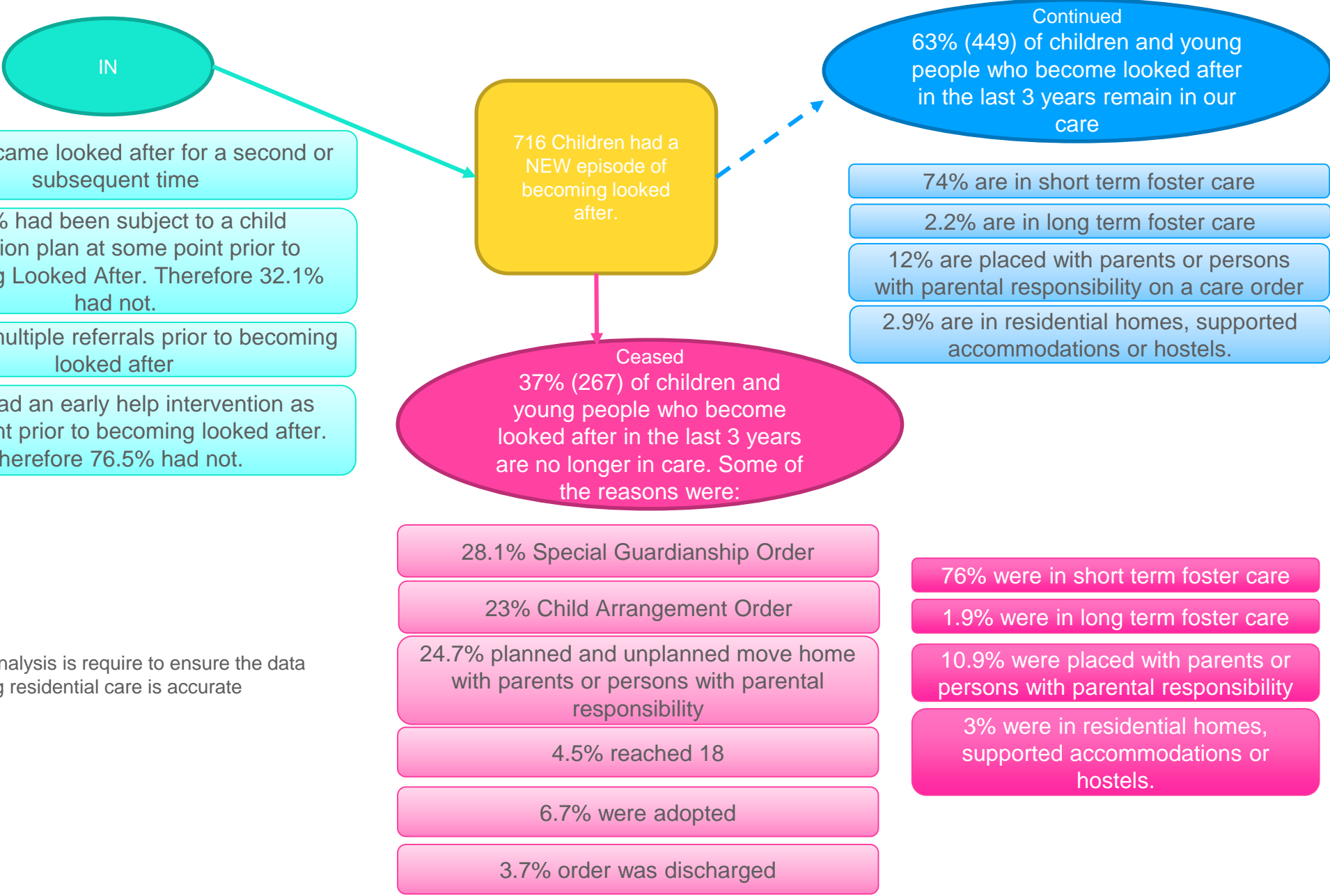
- The majority of children are in family placements.
- Work has been commissioned via Innovate to support this work stream.

Placement type (open CLA)	Own LA	Private	Other	Total
Foster placement	350	123	32	505
Placed for adoption	3	0	15	18
Placed with parents	0	0	81	81
Independent living	0	5	0	5
Residential employment	0	0	0	0
Residential accommodation	1	16	0	17
Secure Children's Homes	0	0	0	0
Children's Homes	10	43	3	56
Residential Care Home	0	2	0	2
NHS/Health Trust	0	0	1	1
Family Centre	0	2	0	2
Young Offender Institution	0	0	1	1
Residential school	0	0	1	1
Other placements	0	0	0	0
Temporary placement	0	0	0	0
Total placements	364	191	134	689

Placements and planning

What is the journey of children and young people to care and where do they go?

An analysis spanning 3 years of children who became looked after



11.5% became looked after for a second or subsequent time

67.9% had been subject to a child protection plan at some point prior to becoming Looked After. Therefore 32.1% had not.

57% had multiple referrals prior to becoming looked after

23.5% had an early help intervention as some point prior to becoming looked after. Therefore 76.5% had not.

716 Children had a NEW episode of becoming looked after.

Continued
63% (449) of children and young people who become looked after in the last 3 years remain in our care

- 74% are in short term foster care
- 2.2% are in long term foster care
- 12% are placed with parents or persons with parental responsibility on a care order
- 2.9% are in residential homes, supported accommodations or hostels.

Ceased
37% (267) of children and young people who become looked after in the last 3 years are no longer in care. Some of the reasons were:

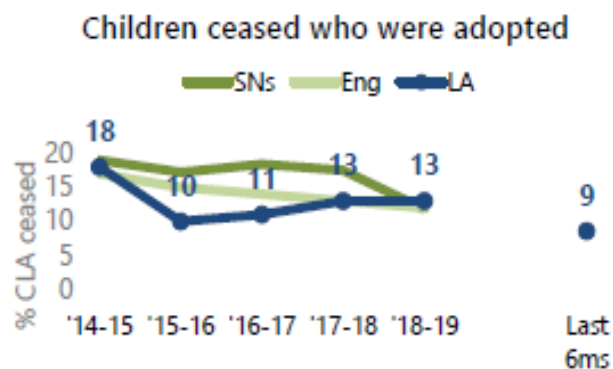
- 28.1% Special Guardianship Order
- 23% Child Arrangement Order
- 24.7% planned and unplanned move home with parents or persons with parental responsibility
- 4.5% reached 18
- 6.7% were adopted
- 3.7% order was discharged

- 76% were in short term foster care
- 1.9% were in long term foster care
- 10.9% were placed with parents or persons with parental responsibility
- 3% were in residential homes, supported accommodations or hostels.

*Note: Further analysis is require to ensure the data regarding residential care is accurate

Placements and planning

Of the 70 children who ceased to be looked after in the last 6 months, 6 was/were adopted (9%)



Children aged 5-plus who were adopted

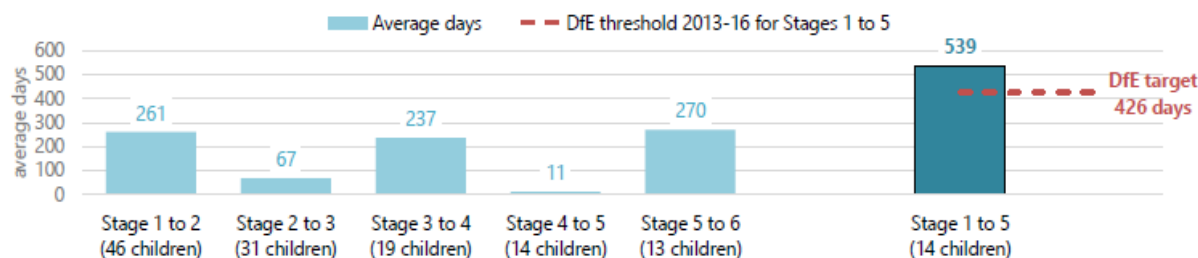
4.9% 2 of the 41 children aged 5-plus who ceased to be looked after in the last 6 months were adopted

Comparing 5-plus adoptions

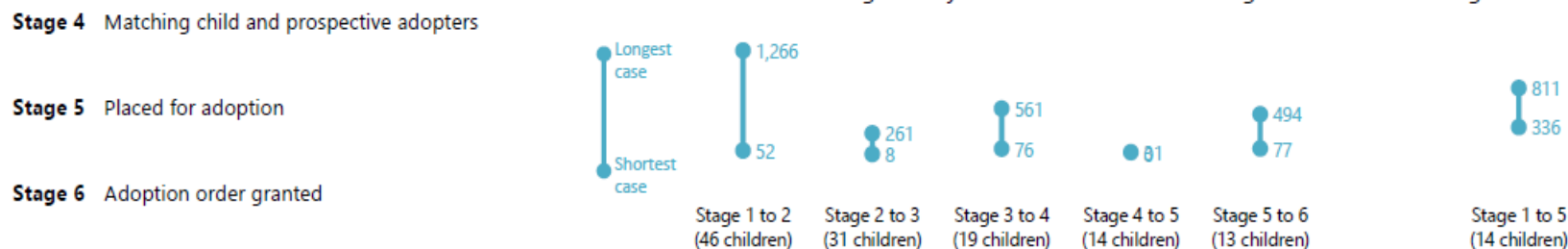
LA last 6 months	4.9%
LA 2013-16 (3 yr average)	0.0%
SNs 2013-16 (3 yr average)	5.0%
Eng 2013-16 (3 yr average)	6.6%

Timeliness of each stage of the adoption process

Average duration of each stage (number of days)



Range in days between shortest and longest cases at each stage

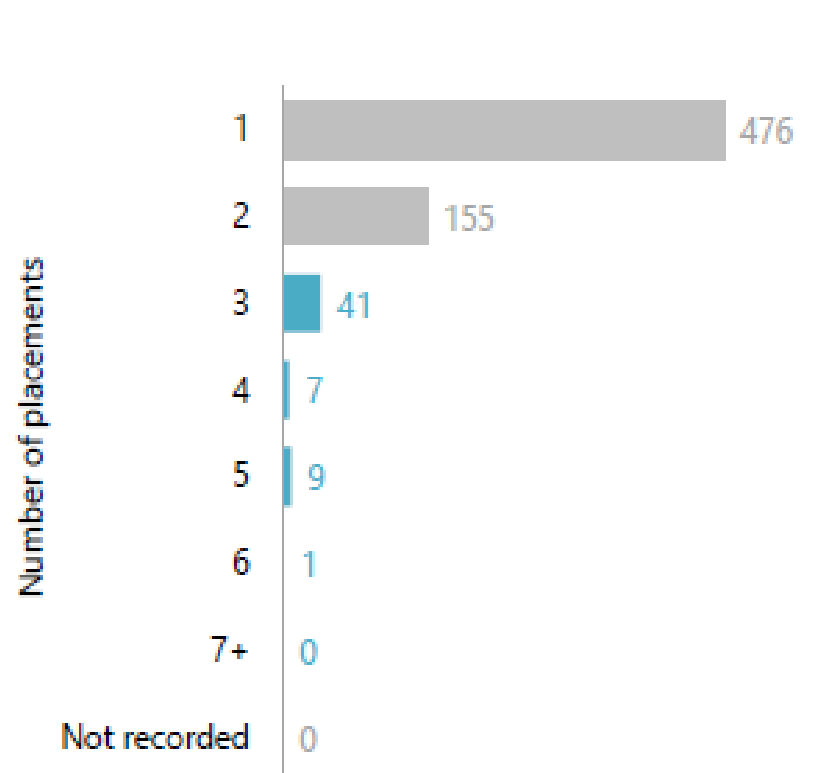


What does this mean?

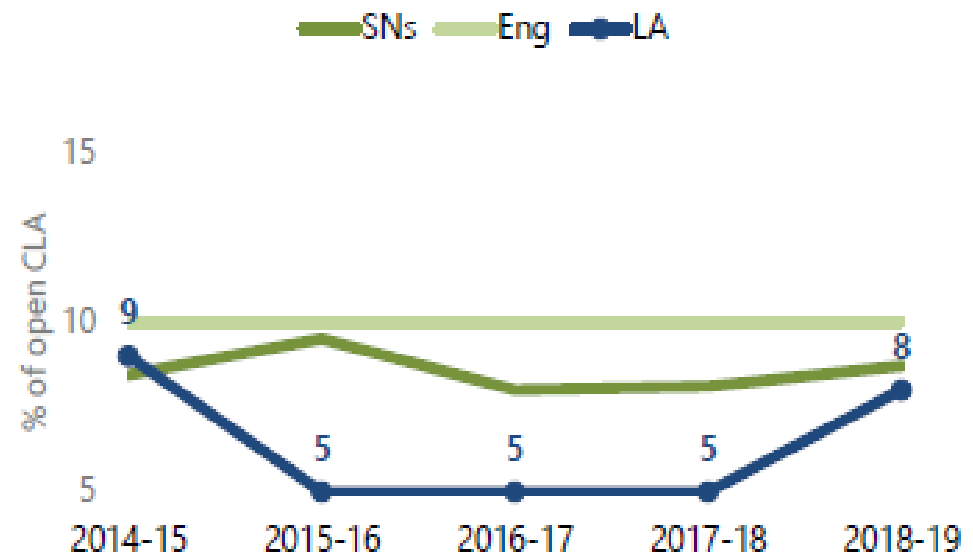
- Too many children are becoming looked after without effective earlier interventions to prevent them coming into care. In particular, a high proportion of new born are coming into care and interventions with vulnerable parents may not be effective.
- Not enough children are exiting care and reaching permanence in a timely way (note there has been limitations to the way we have recorded and track permanence to date. Further work has been identified to support our analysis of this area).
- There are currently too many children who remain looked after and who need to achieve permanence in a more timely way.

Placement breakdowns

Number of placements in the last 12 months

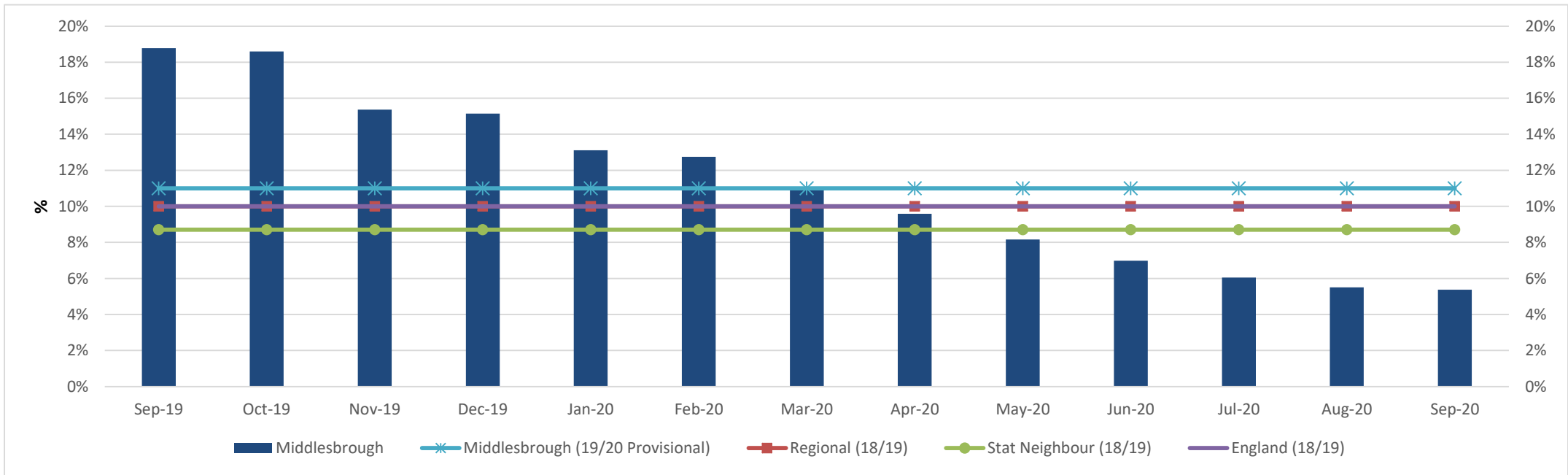


Comparing short term placement stability



Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present short-term stability alongside published statistics

3 placements or more



	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
Middlesbrough's No. of CLA 3+	104	101	87	86	77	76	68	60	52	47	42	38	37
Middlesbrough's % of CLA 3+	18.8%	18.6%	15.4%	15.1%	13.1%	12.8%	11.0%	9.6%	8.2%	7.0%	6.0%	5.5%	5.4%

What does this mean?

- Children who are currently open, there have been 213 placement moves over the span of them being in care. However, these could have been planned placement moves and not necessarily a breakdown.
- The number of children with 3 placement moves or more is decreasing and we are performing better than statistical comparators.
- Further data on placement breakdowns to follow unpicking the impact of COVID 19 on placement breakdowns and the impact of the Futures for Families Service.