

YOU MATTER TO US- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Date: Thursday 29th February, 2024
Time: 4.00 pm
Venue: Mandela room

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes- You Matter to us- The Corporate Parenting Board- 28 November 2023 5 - 10

Standard Items

4. Care Experienced Youth Voice Update- December 2023- February 2024 11 - 20

Our Care Ambassadors will provide an update to Board from the period December 2023- February 2024.
5. You Matter to Us- Performance data 21 - 32

Dawn Alaszewski, Director of Children's Care will present Middlesbrough's Performance data to the Board.
6. Children in Care Health Update 33 - 38

Maria Farrow-Tait, Interim Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children/ Children in Care (Tees Valley), will provide an

update to the Board from health information relating to our Children Looked After.

Themes- Pledges

7. Corporate Parent Pledges to Care Experienced Young People 39 - 42
- Dawn Alaszewski, Director of Children's Care will lead the discussion regarding the Top 3 priorities for our care experienced young people.

Statutory reports

8. Annual update from South Tees Youth Justice Service 43 - 50
- Paul Harrison, Partnership Manager will provide the Annual update to the Board, with specific reference to the work South Tees Youth Justice Service provide and offer support for children looked after.
9. Fostering update 51 - 56
- Rob Hamer, Interim Head of Service – Placements & Resource will present the fostering report.

Reports for Discussion

10. North East and North Cumbria Care Leavers Project - Middlesbrough 57 - 62
- Adam Hart, Headstart South Tees Apprentice and Care Ambassador will present a report to the Board regarding the NENC Care Leavers project.
- Also in attendance will be Emilia Soulby, Network Development Manager, North East and North Cumbria Child Health and Wellbeing Network and Jo Morgan, System Leader for Cared for Children.

11. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Wednesday 21 February 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors C Cooke - Elected Mayor (Chair), J Walker (Vice-Chair), D Jackson, J Kabuye, T Livingstone, M Nugent, A Romaine, Z Uddin, G Wilson, O'Connor and Sharp

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susie Blood, 01642 729645, susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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YOU MATTER TO US- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

A meeting of the You Matter to Us- Corporate Parenting Board was held on Tuesday 28 November 2023.

PRESENT: Councillors C Cooke - Elected Mayor (Chair), D Jackson, J Kabuye, T Livingstone, M Nugent, G Wilson and Sharp

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: V Davidson-Boyd (Service Manager) (Adoption Tees Valley)

OFFICERS: V Banks, S Blood, T Dunn, R Hamer, G Nicholson, hart, Beevers, Peacock, C Heaphy and D Alaszewski

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors J Walker, A Romaine, Z Uddin, M Storey, P Storey and R Brown

22/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Kabuye, A Romaine, J Walker and Z Uddin.

22/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

22/3 MINUTES- CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD- 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

The minutes from You Matter to Us- The Corporate Parenting Board, held on 13 September 2023 were submitted and approved as a true record.

22/4 MIDDLESBROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL- ISLINGTON MODEL

At the meeting on 13 September 2023, the Panel received an update from Victoria Banks, Virtual School Head regarding the support in place from children looked after and care leavers.

During the meeting, there was reference made to the potential app, specifically for care leavers, which would contain useful information to assist them in their journey to independent living.

The Board were advised that Rob Brown, Director of Education and Partnerships had asked that the Virtual school to explore a Virtual College. The Head of Virtual schools reached out to Persons publishers who support this. Islington Council currently provide an app (Izzy4u) and a conversation had taken place with Matthew Blood, Virtual School Head of Islington to provide further guidance.

The Board were provided with a demonstration of the app, which is hoped to be adapted and introduced in Middlesbrough. The App would provide interactive videos from care experienced children and young people, and would give more credibility from young people, rather than from an adult perspective.

The Virtual School Head advised that the app would only work effectively if it provided current information and was co-designed with care experienced young people. The Director of Children Service’s and Head of Access to Education, therefore advised that a task and finish group would be established and finding would be fed back to the Board in due course.

Following the demonstration, Board members posed a number of queries:

1. Could the app embed function skills?
2. Would there be a facility to provide a chat room function ?
3. Could the app provide pen pictures of key officers of Children Service's?

In response, the Virtual School Head advised that at present the app does not provide this, however it could be something embedded if there was a need. The app does not provide chat rooms, however an email address could be included but this would not be 'live'. In terms of the pen pictures, this is an area which could be developed.

The Board noted that this currently no platform of this nature in Middlesbrough, only a website and brochures. The Care Ambassadors in attendance, felt this was a positive step, as feedback from young people, outlined that they wanted conversations and bitesize information. There was concern that introducing this app would take away the purpose of the Personal Advisor (PA) however the Interim Director of Children's Care felt that that the app would work side by side and provide complimentary information and support. For example, if a care leaver had recently only met their PA, how comfortable would they feel about speaking to them about sexual health? The whole purpose was to support young people going into independence.

One of the Care Ambassadors queries whether the app could provide neutral support for all young people, however the Virtual School Head explained that as this is will be developed by Virtual schools, the support is focused on children and young people with a social worker, who are proven to be more vulnerable and require additional support. However the Virtual School Head welcomed the comments and advised these would be welcome, as well as the Care Ambassadors input in the task and finish group.

AGREED:

- That the information provided be noted.
- That a task and finish group be established and feedback in relation to the development of the App be brought back to a future meeting of You Matter to Us (April 2023)

22/5

CARE EXPERIENCED YOUTH VOICE UPDATE- SEPTEMBER 2023- NOVEMBER 2023

The Chair welcomed Adam and Holly to the meeting, who were in attendance to provide an update from the Care experienced Youth Voice.

A brief overview of the groups were provided:

'We Matter' (Middlesbrough's Children in Care Council)

- Care experienced young people aged 11 - 16 years meet fortnightly at Easterside Hub 17:00 - 18:30pm. We have five members
- They have fun, have a voice and create events to hear from their care experienced peers
- They share their views with key decision makers who act on what they say and positively change services to meet their needs
- They will support teams to act on what they say and help monitor the 'You Said, We Will, We Did reporting tool
- We meet with young people at their residential homes

Older Care Experienced Young People

- We have three older care experienced who have volunteer roles as Care Ambassadors and are co-opted onto the Corporate Parenting Board.
- The Care Ambassadors will support the work of 'We Matter' and create engagement events for their older care experienced peers
- We work with Pathways to support them with their events - Annual celebration event,

Christmas dinner and we will engage with their care experienced young adults at the Forum

Whilst the report provided full details of the activities for each group, Adam provided the following examples :

We Matter

September 2023

The group planned the Teesside engagement event, which then took place on 14 September 2023, where Ralph Presgrave ran a session on staying safe online.

October 2023

Catherine Prest (Fostering) attended to the group on 3 October and talked to the group about meeting potential foster carers and delivering training to current carers. We Matter also held a Halloween Party on 27 October 2023, where 49 young people attended.

Older Care Experienced Young People

July/ September 2023

- Engagement took place with residential services and the group visited staff within homes to discuss plans and focus for their engagement with young people. As a result, engagement with young people within our residential homes has commenced to ensure we capture everyone's voice.
- In July, members attended Pathways 'Core Offer ' launch event and in late August, members attended the Regional Children in Care Council to help plan the conference in November.
- 13 September 2023, our New care ambassadors attended Corporate Parenting Board.

October 2023

Care Ambassadors started to attend Pathways Team meetings and spoke to Dawn Alaszewski and Sharon Hetherington regarding their journey in Pathways.

November 2023

1 November-attended the Regional Children in Care conference, along with Dawn Alaszewski and Rob Hamer. Everyone made a pinky promise.

Holly is now working with young people, Pathways and 16+ provision to design and develop a life skills course and accreditation.

Adam advised that over the next few months, the groups plan to:

1. Continue to work with the teams to promote the 'We Matter' group to increase membership and attendance at the engagement and fun events
2. Have all our care experienced young people/adults set up as volunteers
3. Create ASDAN awards to provide accreditation for their work and the young people they work with
4. Work with the Commissioning team to create 'Young Commissioners'
5. Meet more care experienced young people who live in residential care
6. Support We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to work with the fostering service to talk with potential foster carers
7. Involve We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to undertake Regional Children in Care Council work
8. Hold our Christmas party for care experienced young people - 14th December 5 - 7.30pm Riverside Stadium

AGREED

That the information be noted.

22/6

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD- PERFORMANCE DATA

The Interim Director of Children's Care provided a presentation in relation to the Children's services scorecard, which specifies reference to children in care.

The Board were advised that as of 28 November 2023, there were 514 children looked after in Middlesbrough. The scorecard was showing this as a green action, however the Interim Director advised that she felt the benchmark needed amending as this had been set when Middlesbrough had increasing numbers (702), this would be actioned accordingly.

The Board had been provided the data prior to the meeting for information, however there were a number of points to note:

- Demand to the front door service has slowed down
- Been some significant work undertaken around special guardianship orders (SGOs) and connected persons.
- There were currently a cohort of children who were secure a permanent placement within the next few months, which would decrease the number of children in care/ need.

The Director of Children's Services advised that it was important to look at more mature data and have expectation of stability, taking into consideration the context of Middlesbrough (poverty and deprivation) and ensure our children and young people are safe.

A panel member asked whether higher number of children looked after effected Ofsted's view of the local authority, In response, the Director outlined that Ofsted would look to analyse 10-20 young people in case by audit. The benchmark does need amended to be more realistic of the current situation and officers would bring slightly different data to future meetings.

AGREED

- That the information be noted.
- That the benchmark for children looked after be amended to be reflective of Middlesbrough's current situation.

22/7

PATHWAYS JOURNEY- OUR IMPROVEMENT

Holly Sharp, Care Ambassador provided a presentation in relation to Pathways, which had been delivered to Heads of Services and members of the Corporate Parenting Board on 9 November 2023.

The presentation provided information on what was going well, not so well and future ideas; which included:

- Having earlier support to ensure we are in a better place before moving to the Pathways team
- Having good communication around what we are entitled to, we suggested having training put into place for this to be a success
- Having a positive plan around post 18
- Putting money, we use for social groups into other areas such as housing, so we have a safe space to move into instead of an unsafe area and the money to be beneficial instead of a waste
- Social groups to have a meaning behind them
- Personal advisors to be allocated before 18 this is to build up that relationship so they can have a clear path post 18
- Social worker to understand that they need to listen to both side of stories during crisis and placement breakdown.

It was noted that issues needed to be flagged at an earlier stage and that young people needed to have a more lengthy transition and introduction to their personal advisor (PA) prior to them turning 18.

Rob Hamer, advised the Board that PA's are now introduced at the aged of 17 and have a clear move on plan. A Councillor also had concern that young people are not prepared to move into independent living and It was noted that this was being looked at as part of the wider pathways plan.

AGREED

- That the presentation and actions be noted.
- That the care ambassadors continue to have engagement with Pathways to ensure the plan for future care leavers is clear.

22/8

FEEDBACK FROM 'YOU MATTER TO US ' ENGAGEMENT SESSION - 9 NOVEMBER 2023

The Mayor advised the Board that following Holly's presentation on 9 November 2023, those

present were asked to make a pledge.

There were as follows:

Pledge	Officer
Social groups to have a meaning being them-continue working with care ambassadors to hear voices from older care experienced young people.	Laurie Hunter Communications and Engagement Officer
Proactively work with mental health professionals in order to meet with the needs of the young people who are affected by the mental health issues.	Zafar Uddin Executive Member for Children's Services
Work with housing providers to provide more housing	Chris Cooke The Mayor
Implement training for social care staff to be led by young people.	Joe Tynan Executive Director of Children's Services
To explore care ambassadors' apprenticeships.	Sharron Herrington Service Manager- Pathways
To support the services to progress with all of the future ideas that have been shared by our young people.	Dawn Alaszewski Interim Director of Children's Care
To continue working with our young people to hear what is working and what needs to change.	Dawn Alaszewski Interim Director of Children's Care
Ensure Pathways plans are aspirational supporting young people to have a clear vision in all areas. Capturing clear views and wishes setting realistic steps to achieve.	Gemma McLaren Team Manager- Pathways
Care Ambassadors are very important to help on the awareness and leadership and feedback.	
That our care experienced young people continue to feel part of decision making, by attending meetings, feeling their voices are heard and influencing change.	Susie Blood Democratic Services Officer and Volunteer 'We Matter'
The way we engage with our young people and ensure young people have a greater influence on decisions that affect them.	Adam Hart Headstart South Tees Apprentice
To be on time and to make sure we get full views of all young people.	Lilly Scott. Personal Advisor

The Mayor addressed the Board with specific reference to housing. The young people had mentioned a number of providers who were delivering inadequate housing for care leavers. The Mayor made a promise that these providers were no longer being used and would remain off Middlesbrough council's register.

Rob Harmer also addressed the Board and whilst he was not present at the engagement session, he had pledged the following at the Regional conference:

" Now as Head of Service of Placements, my promise at the regional conference was to ensure that our young people are prepared for adult life and currently the team are putting places in place to ensure this happens"

AGREED:

- That the pledges are noted.
- That the pledges are monitored and updates be provided to the Board.

22/9

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

ORDERED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as

defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

22/10 **ADOPTION TEES VALLEY- MIDDLESBROUGH'S PERFORMANCE AND UPDATE**

The Chair welcome Vicky- Davidson Boyd, Service Manager of Adoption Tees Valley (ATV) to the meeting, who provided an overview of Middlesbrough's performance in relation to the wider region.

Also in attendance were 3 care experienced young people from ATV's Voice and influence group, who shared their view and stories with the Board.

AGREED-

- That the overview of Middlesbrough's performance be noted.
- That the information shared by the young people be circulated to Directors for further discussion.

22/11 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

No Items.

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Report of:	Kathy Peacock – Voice and Influence Manager
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Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board- 29th February 2024
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Subject:	Care Experienced Youth Voice Update Dec 2023 – Feb 2024
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Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
Your Home
Your Family and Friends
Your Education
Your Adult Life
Your Health and wellbeing
Your Voice and Influence

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

Yes – The report contains photographs of young people and should not be shared outside of the CPB

What is the purpose of this report?

To update the Corporate Parents on what care experienced young people have achieved and their plan for the next few months. To have the Corporate Parent’s discuss their involvement with the groups/activities to further support the work.

Report Background

N/A

Appendices

Report attached

Recommendations

N/A

Why is this being recommended?

N/A

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

N/A

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

N/A

Legal

N/A

Financial

N/A

Policy Framework

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Risk

N/A

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

N/A

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Contact: Kathy Peacock

Email: Kathy_peacock@middlesbrough.gov.uk

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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Care Experienced Youth Voice

December 2023 - February 2024

Middlesbrough's Participation Team facilitates open, safe, and inclusive spaces for care experienced young people to tell us what is important to them. We capture this information and support them to tell you so you can improve the support they and others receive.

We support our care experienced young people/adults to be engaged in a variety of different ways.

'We Matter' (Middlesbrough's Children in Care Council)

- Care experienced young people aged 11 - 16 years meet fortnightly at Easterside Hub 17:00 - 18:30pm.
- Members include five young people in foster care, one young person in residential care and our five Care Ambassadors.
- They have fun, have a voice and create events to hear from their care experienced peers
- They share their views with key decision makers who act on what they say and positively change services to meet their needs
- They will support teams to act on what they say and help monitor the 'You Said, We Will, We Did' reporting tool

Older Care Experienced Young People

- We have five older care experienced young adults who have volunteer roles as Care Ambassadors. Three attend the 'You Matter to Us' - Corporate Parenting Board
- They have established a Care Ambassador Forum and will invite older care experienced people to join them, to have a voice and create events for their peers
- The Care Ambassadors support the work of 'We Matter' and the many other engagement activities that take place with young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the fortnightly Youth Council

The groups are supported by

- **Kathy Peacock - Voice and Influence Manager**
- **Laurie Hunter - Communications and Engagement Officer**
- **Susie Blood - Democratic Services Officer**
- **Kelly Cowie - Independent Reviewing Officer (CiCC) and Youth Voice Practice Lead**
- **Adam Hart - CAMHS Head Start Apprentice and Care Ambassador**
- **Holly Sharp - Care Ambassador**
- **Caitlin O'Connor - Care Ambassador**
- **Jacob Green - Care Ambassador**
- **Alisha James - Care Ambassador**

'We Matter'

December 2023

We went bowling to say thank you for all their hard work



They held their Christmas party at the Riverside Stadium



January 2024

9th Jan - We welcomed them back after the Christmas break. They told us they really liked the Christmas party as it was fun, they saw old friends and their respite foster carers. They came up with ideas of what they would like to do as a group in 2024 - Cooking, budgeting, create an independence checklist and go to the theatre.

23rd Jan - Rachel Harston (Middlesbrough accounting officer) came to talk with them about personal finances - how to budget and asking them if they know how much things cost - TV Licence, rent etc

February 2024

6th Feb - Kelly Cowie and her colleague Helen Carling ran a session with the group looking at how they get involved in their Child Looked After review meeting and get their ideas on how to make the meetings better A guide for young people will be created as a result of what they told us.



Older Care Experienced Young People/Adults

December 2023

- Attended the 'We Matter' groups
- The Care Ambassadors supported the Participation Team with the engagement sessions at the special schools in Middlesbrough
- Helped set up the room for the 'We Matter' Christmas party and made sure all the young people had a great time
- Joined the Youth Council for their Christmas meal

January 2024

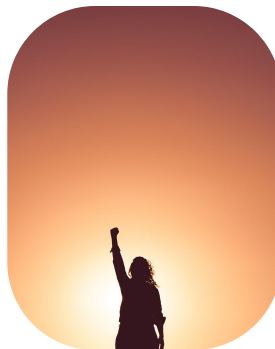
- Attended the 'We Matter' groups
- The Care Ambassadors supported the Participation Team with their engagement sessions at the special schools in Middlesbrough

24th Jan - Interviewed candidates for the Director of Children's Care post

24th Jan - Five older care experienced young adults met with the Care Ambassadors to hear all about the wonderful work they do. The group decided they wanted to create another Forum so they and others can have a voice. The first meeting will be held on the 13th February



30th Jan - The Care Ambassadors, the five young adults who are going to attend the new Forum and two older members of 'We Matter' met with their Corporate Parents to talk more about the Pledges that have been made. An action plan has been created to make sure decision makers act on what they have said.



31st Jan - Helped deliver a slot during the Mandatory Children's Services Induction session, where they explained their roles as a Care Ambassadors

Care Experienced Youth Voice

Over the next few months we plan to ...

- Continue meeting with Corporate Parents and monitor progress with the Pledges
- Continue to work with the 'We Matter' and put on events to engage with more Children Looked After
- Engage with more older care experienced young people through the Forum and encourage them to become Care Ambassadors
- Have all our care experienced young people/adults set up as volunteers
- Create ASDAN awards to provide accreditation for their work and the young people they work with
- Work with the Commissioning team to create 'Young Commissioners'
- Meet more care experienced young people who live in residential care
- Involve 'We Matter' and the Care Ambassadors to take part in the Regional Children in Care Council work, attend the conference on the 3rd April and go on the residential 12-14th April



For more information:
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adam_hart@middlesbrough.gov.uk
laurie_hunter@middlesbrough.gov.uk



Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

Based on Ofsted's ILACS Annex A dataset (2020) / Inspection Report

Middlesbrough

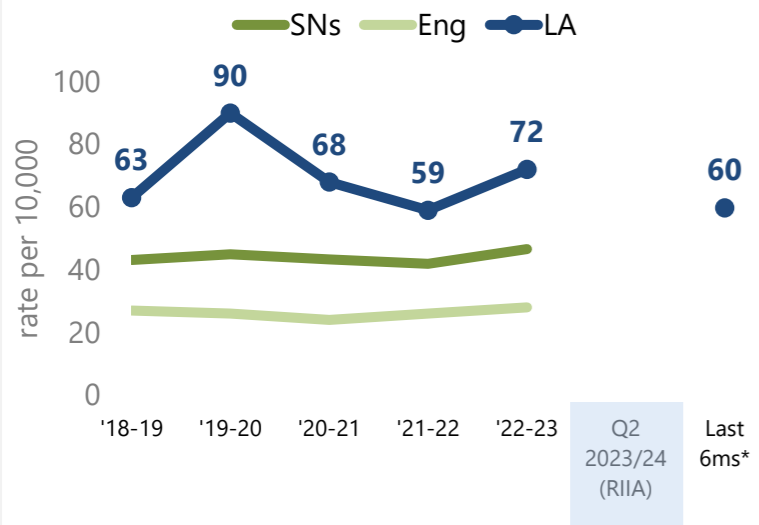
16 February 2024

Children Looked After (CLA) started and ceased in the last 6 months

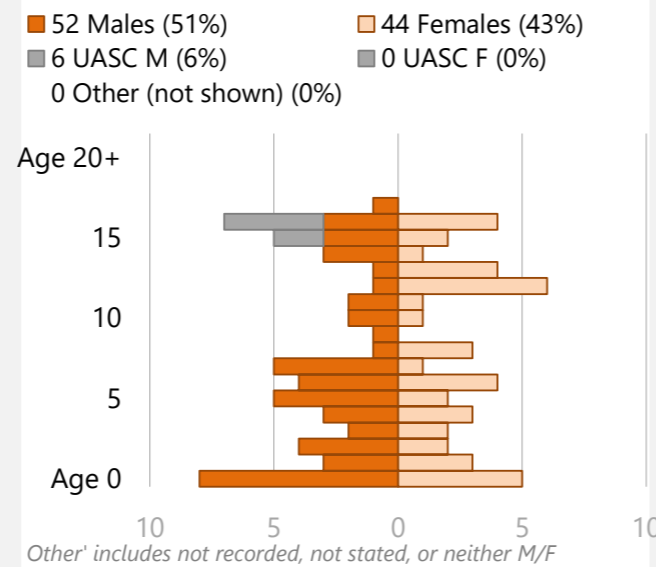
from 17/08/2023 to 16/02/2024

102 CLA started in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA started per 10,000 children

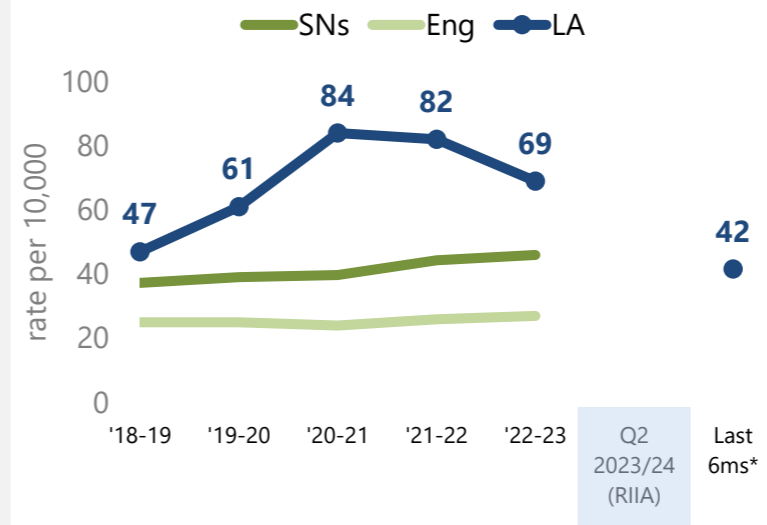


Age and gender

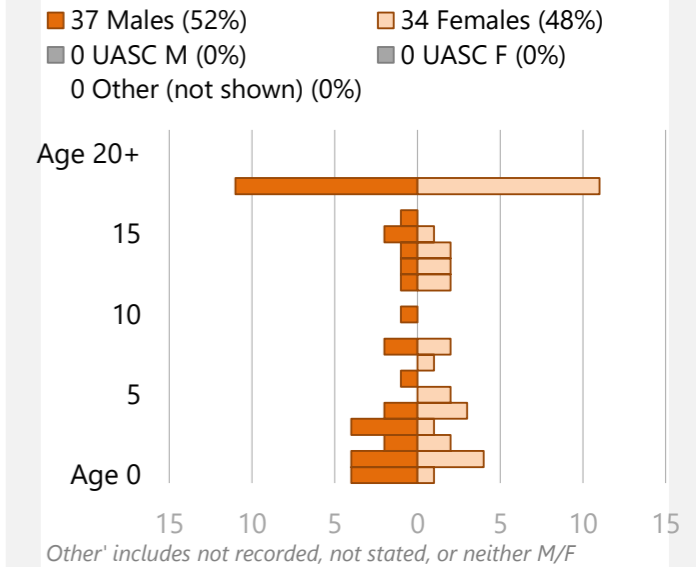


71 CLA ceased in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA ceased per 10,000 children



Age and gender



*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

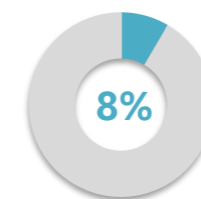
Page 22

6 of the 102 CLA starters were unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) **6%**

3 of the 102 CLA starters have previously been looked after **3%**

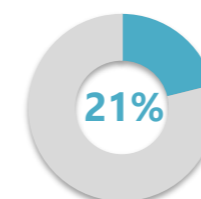
Reason episode of care ceased

Adopted



Category	2022-23 (published)
Last 6 months	8%
LA	11%
SNs	12%
Eng	9%

Special Guardianship Order

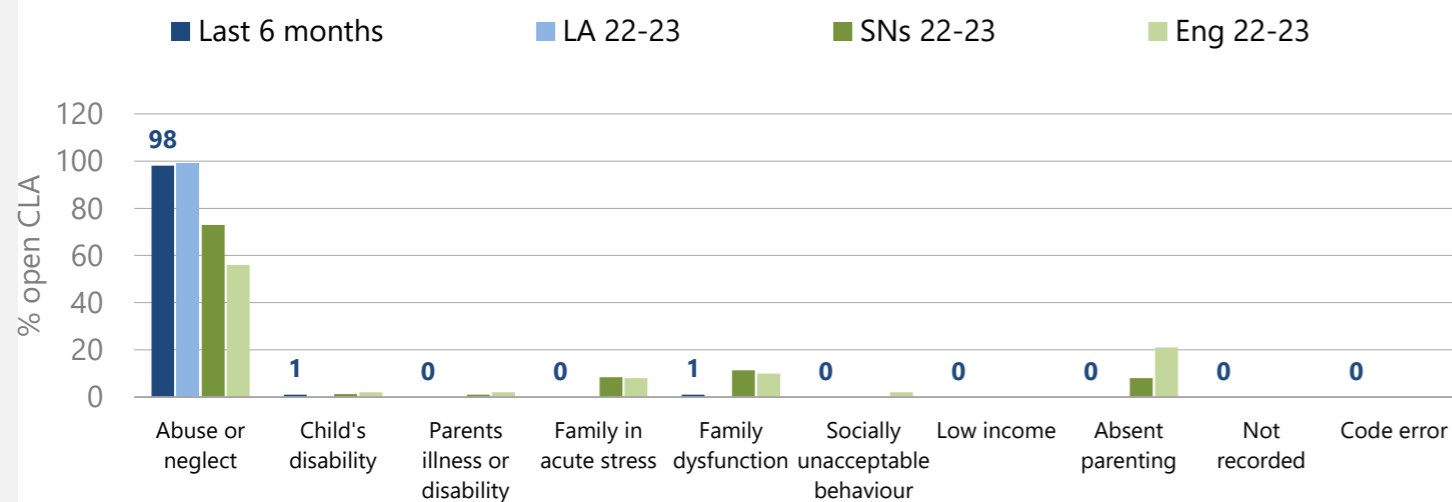


Category	2022-23 (published)
Last 6 months	21%
LA	-
SNs	8%
Eng	12%

Number of CLA ceased by reason in the period

Adopted	6
Died	0
Care taken by another LA	0
Returned home to live with parents/ relatives	7
Live with parents/relatives (not PR)	13
Residence order granted	9
Special Guardianship Orders	15
Moved into independent living	0
Transferred to residential care funded by ASS	0
Sentenced to custody	0
Accommodation on remand ended	0
Age assessment determined child was 18+	0
Child moved abroad	0
Any other reason	21
Not recorded / Error	0

Comparing the primary need of CLA starters

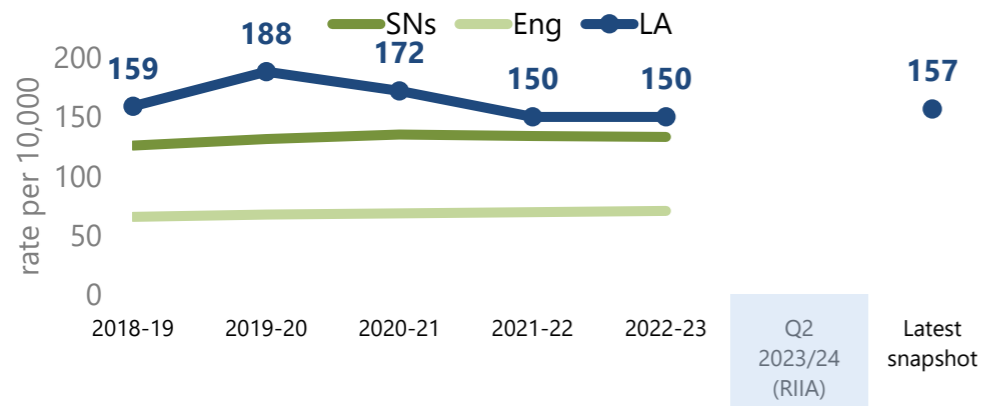


Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care

Snapshot 16/02/2024

535 Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care

Rate of CLA per 10,000 children (snapshot)



Ethnic background

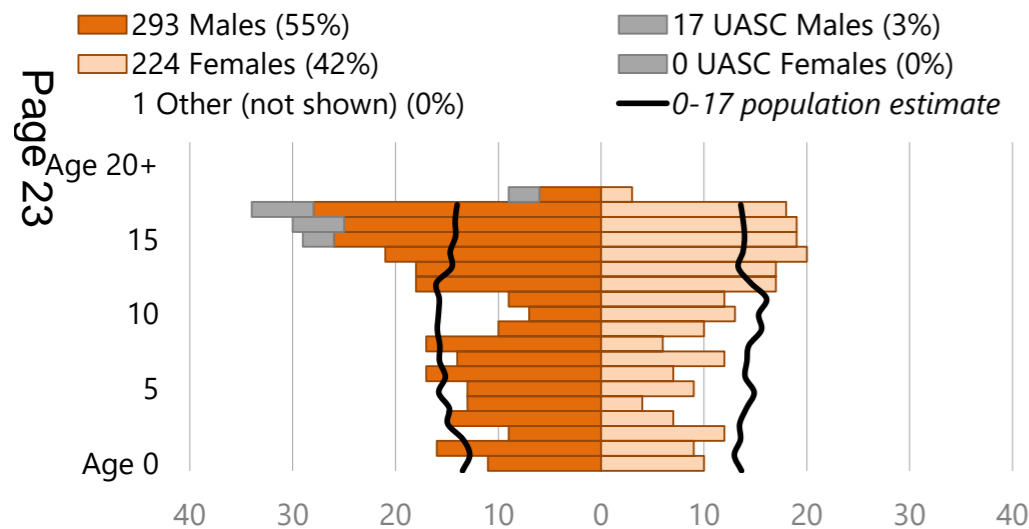
	All CLA	Not UASC	UASC
White	80%	82%	12%
Mixed	8%	8%	0%
Asian or Asian British	3%	3%	12%
Black or black British	4%	3%	24%
Other ethnic group	5%	4%	53%
Not stated	0%	0%	0%
Not recorded	0%	0%	0%

37 children (7%) with a disability

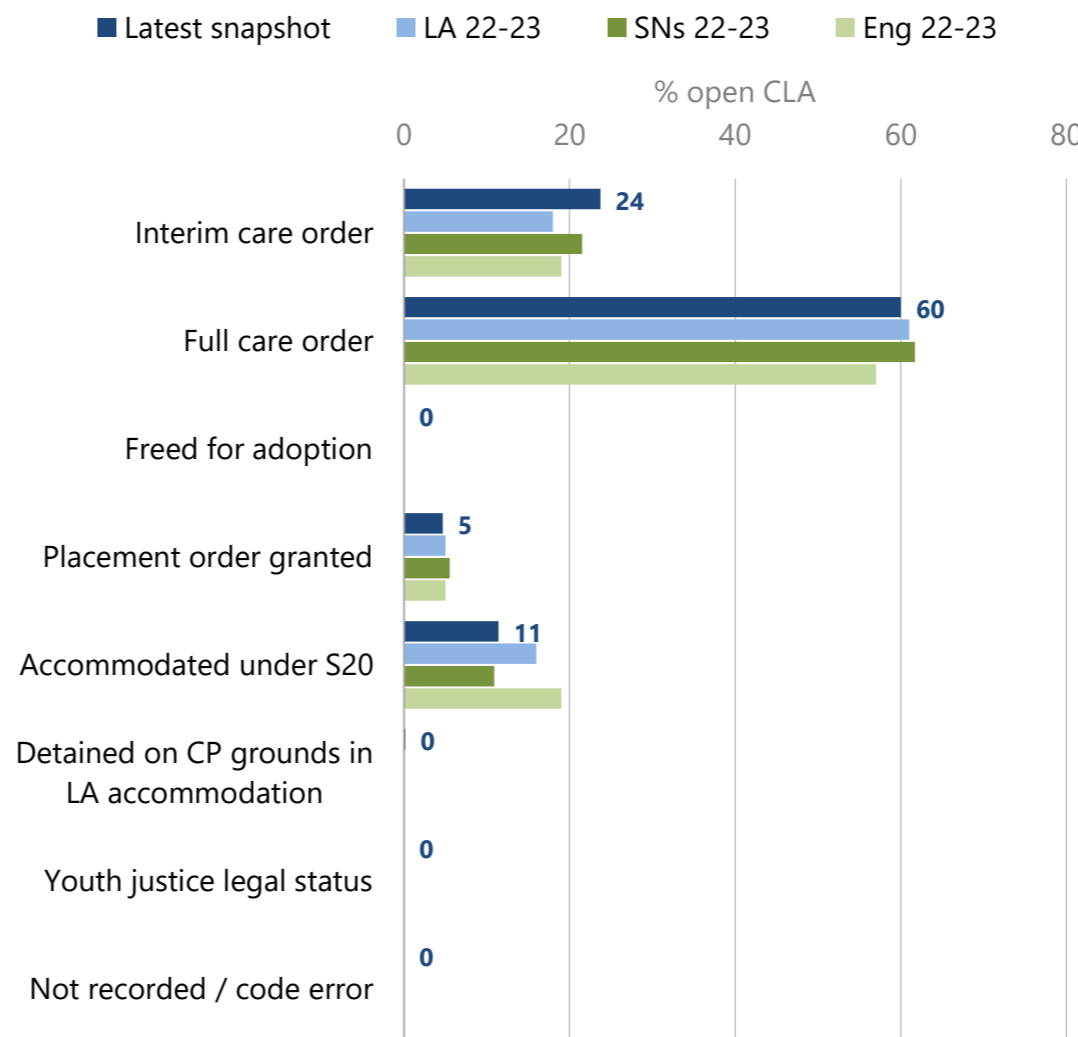
Permanence plan

	Number	%
Return to family	89	17%
Adoption	24	4%
SGO/CAO	47	9%
Supported living	29	5%
L/T residential	46	9%
L/T fostering	212	40%
Other	79	15%
Not recorded	9	2%

Age and gender



Comparing legal status of open CLA (snapshot)

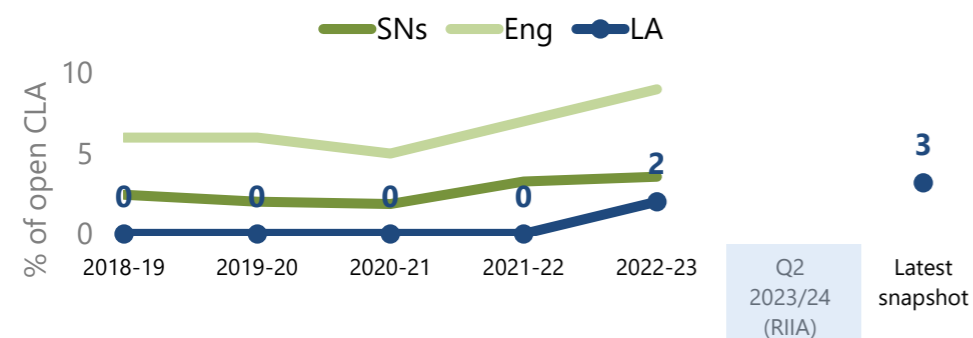


Time since latest review



17 open unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

UASC as a percentage of CLA (snapshot)

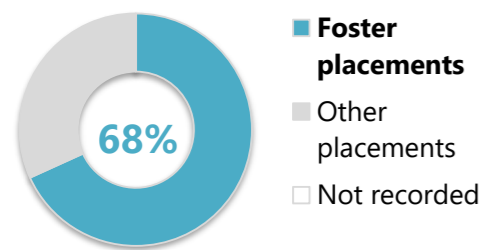


Children Looked After (CLA) placements

Snapshot 16/02/2024

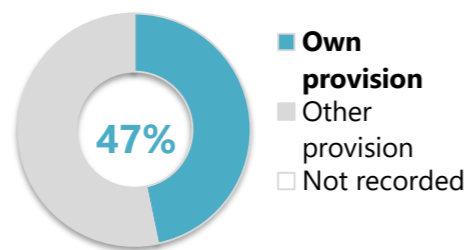
CLA placements by type and provision

Foster placements



LA 2022-23 72%
SNs 2022-23 67%
Eng 2022-23 68%

Own provision

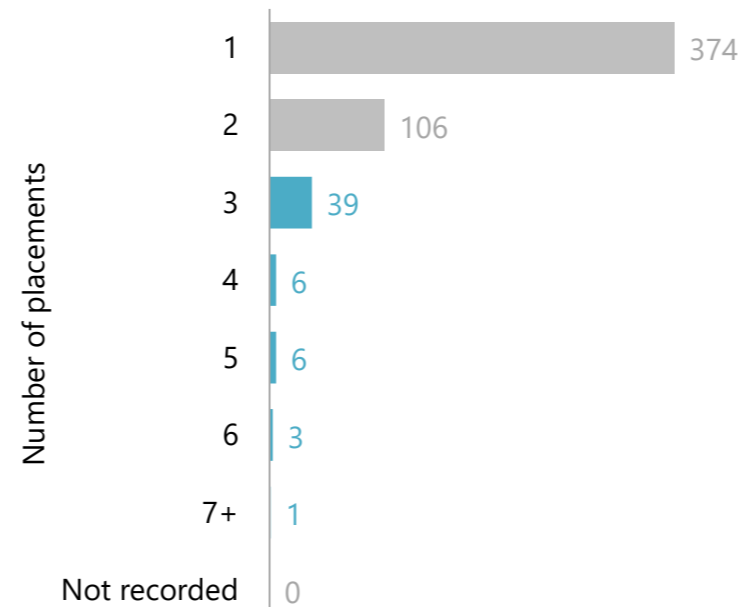


LA 2022-23 47%
SNs 2022-23 50%
Eng 2022-23 44%

Placement type (open CLA)	Own LA	Private	Other	Total
Foster placement	221	109	35	365
Placed for adoption	0	0	6	6
Placed with parents	0	0	49	49
Independent living	0	4	0	4
Residential employment	0	0	0	0
Residential accommodation	11	25	0	36
Secure Children's Homes	0	0	0	0
Children's Homes	18	51	0	69
Residential Care Home	0	0	0	0
NHS/Health Trust	0	0	0	0
Family Centre	0	3	1	4
Young Offender Institution	0	0	2	2
Residential school	0	0	0	0
Other placements	0	0	0	0
Temporary placement	0	0	0	0
Total placements	250	192	93	535

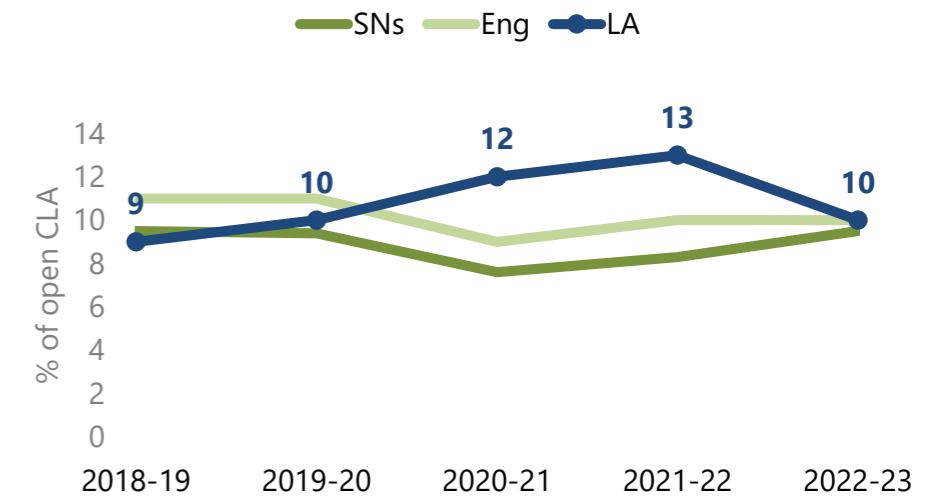
Page 24

Number of placements in the last 12 months



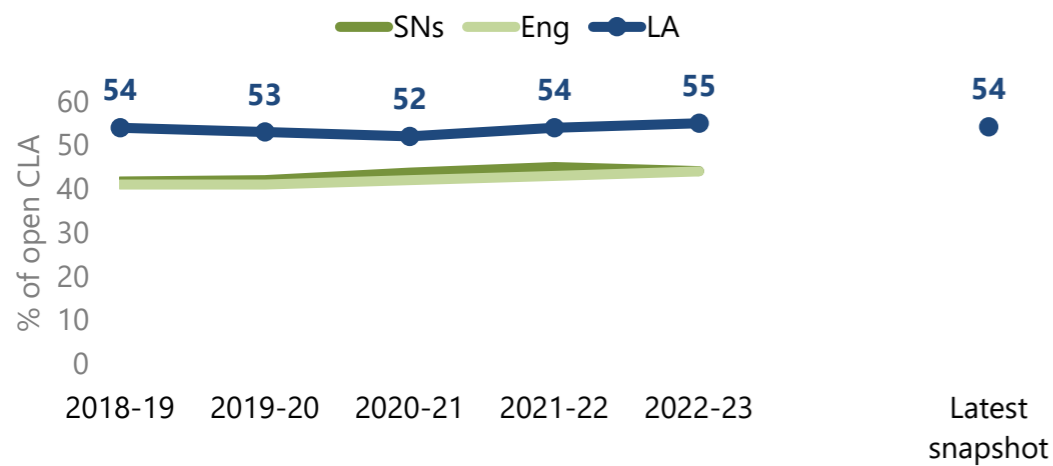
May include "status" changes as well as placements

Comparing short term placement stability



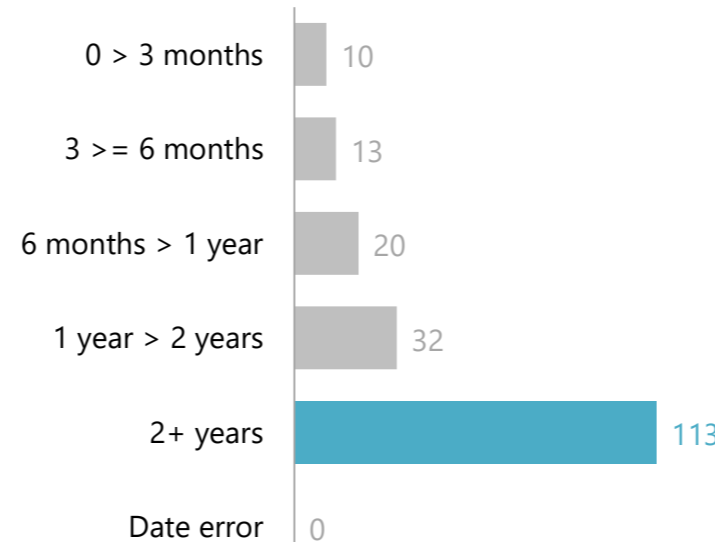
Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present short-term stability alongside published statistics

CLA placements out of borough



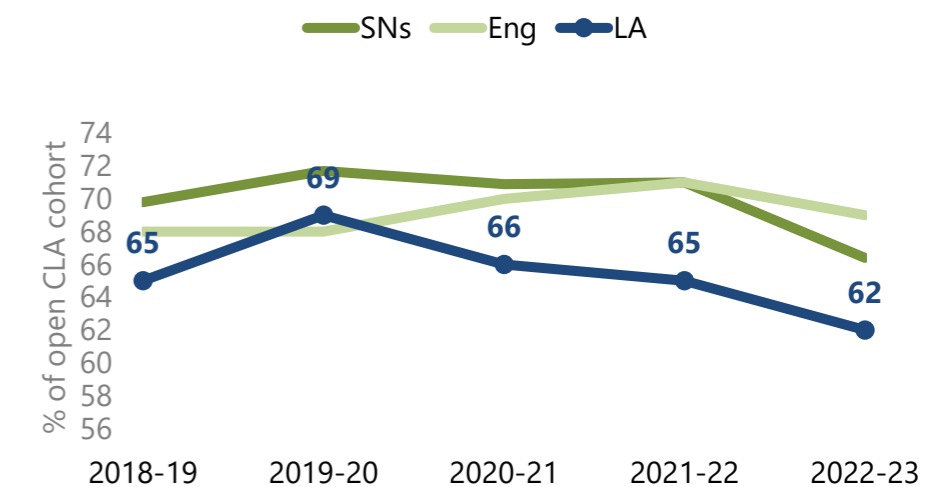
Duration of placements

Duration of latest placement for each current CLA aged under 16 who have been looked after for 2½ years or more



May include "status" changes as well as placements

Comparing long term placement stability



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

Children Looked After (CLA) health and missing/absent from placement

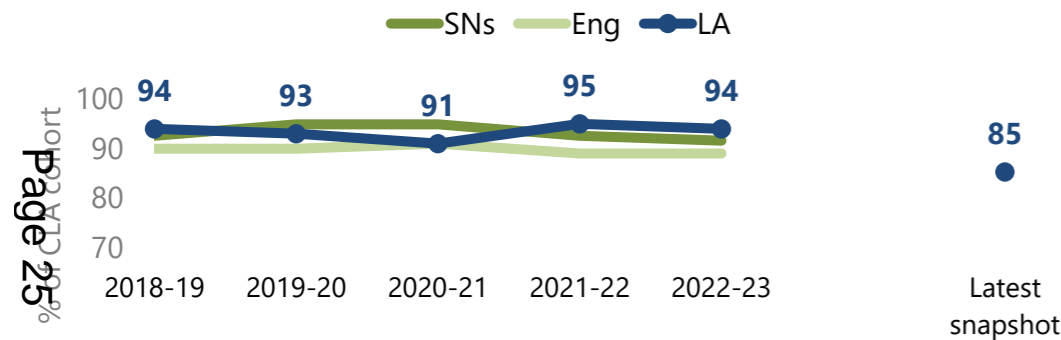
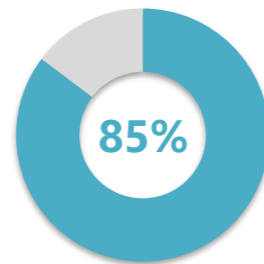
Snapshot 16/02/2024

Health

360 current open CLA looked after for at least 12 months

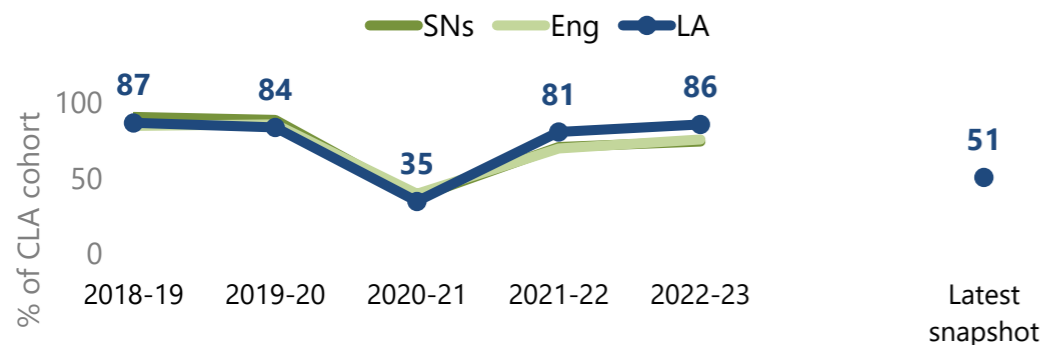
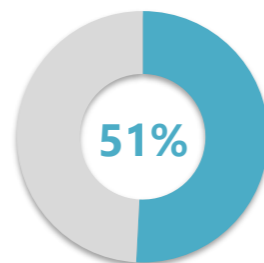
Health assessments

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months with an up to date health assessment (in the last 6 months for CLA aged under 5, and in the last 12 months for CLA aged 5-plus)



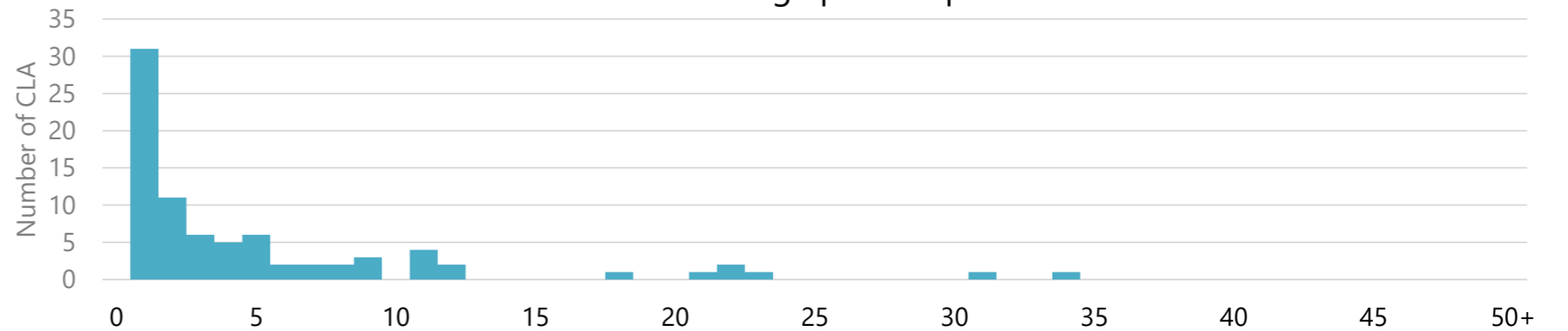
Dental checks

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months who have had a dental check in the last 12 months.



Missing from placement

Number of missing episodes per CLA

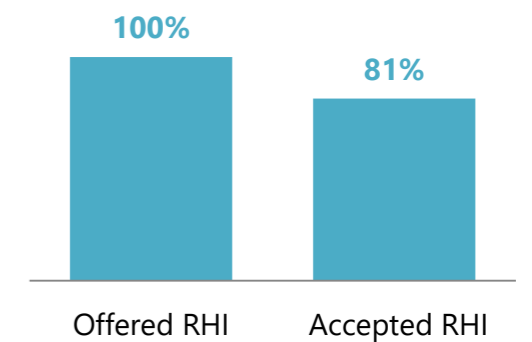


81 of 606 looked after children had a missing incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 22-23	SNs 22-23	Eng 22-23
Number of all CLA with a missing incident	81 of 606	79		
Percentage of all CLA with a missing incident	13%	11%	12%	11%
Total number of missing incidents for all CLA	429	596		
Average number of incidents per CLA who went missing	5.3	7.5	6.8	6.4

Missing incidents - return home interviews

	Latest data	
Missing children offered return interview	81 of 81	###
Missing children not offered return interview	0 of 81	0%
Missing children return interview offer not recorded	0 of 81	0%
Missing children where return interview was n/a	0 of 81	0%



	Latest data	
Missing children accepted return interview	66 of 81	81%
Missing children not accepted return interview	14 of 81	17%
Missing children return interview acceptance not recorded	1 of 81	1%

Absent from placement

1 of 606 looked after children had an absent incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 22-23	SNs 22-23	Eng 22-23
Number of all CLA with an absent incident	1 of 606	0		
Percentage of all CLA with an absent incident	0%	0%	1%	2%
Total number of absent incidents for all CLA	1	0		
Average number of incidents per CLA who were absent	1.0	0.0	1.0	4.0

Care leavers eligibility, PA allocation and pathway plans

Snapshot 16/02/2024

462 care leavers who have reached the threshold for receiving leaving care services

Care leavers by age and eligibility

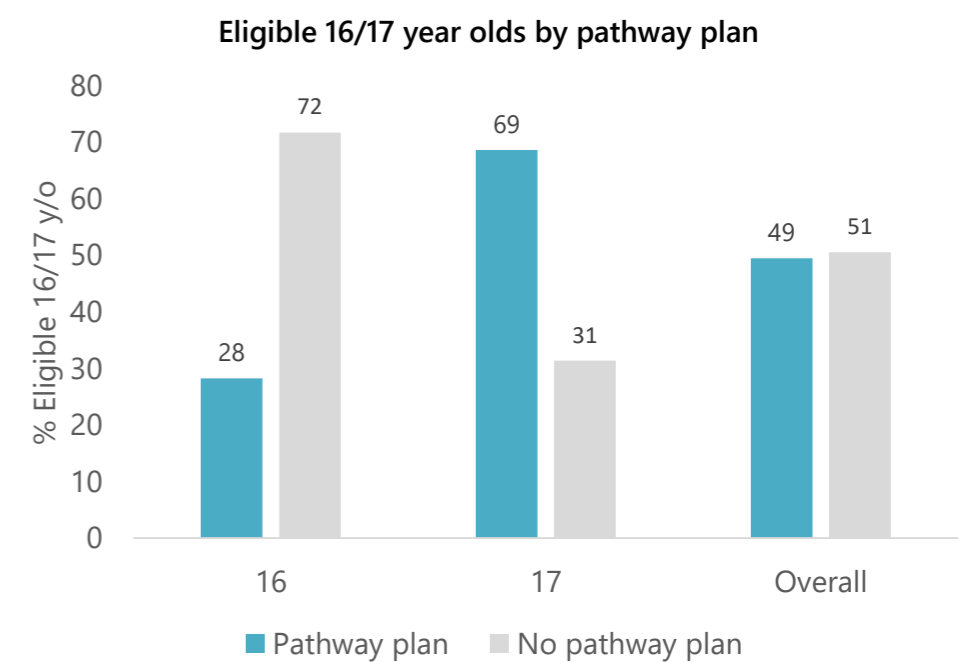
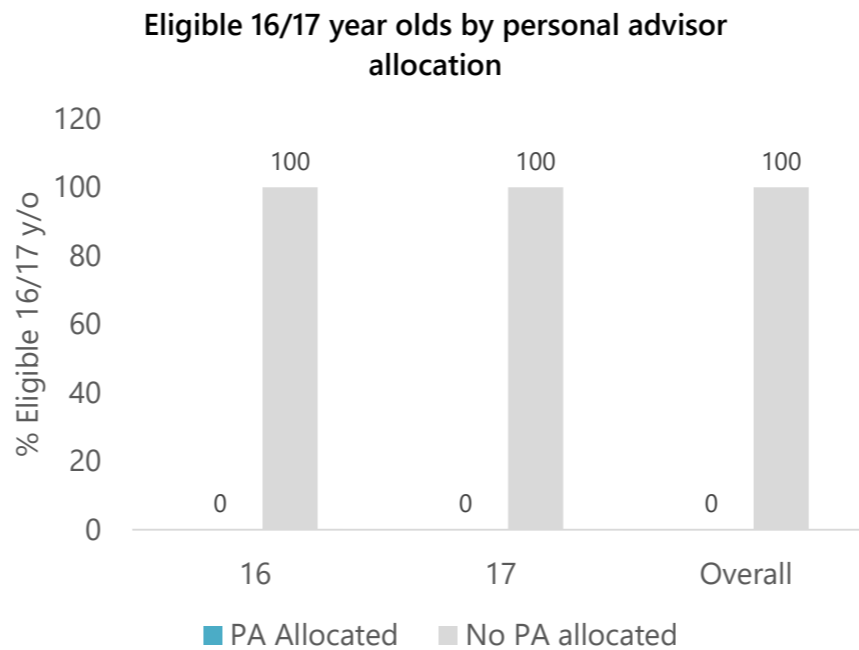
(where highlighted, please check eligibility/age criteria)

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying	Other	Total
16	46	0	0	1	0	47
17	51	5	1	2	0	59
18	0	0	66	2	0	68
19	0	0	61	2	0	63
20	0	0	63	0	0	63
21	0	0	40	0	0	40
22	0	0	38	0	0	38
23	0	0	36	0	0	36
24	0	0	48	0	0	48
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	97	5	353	7	0	462

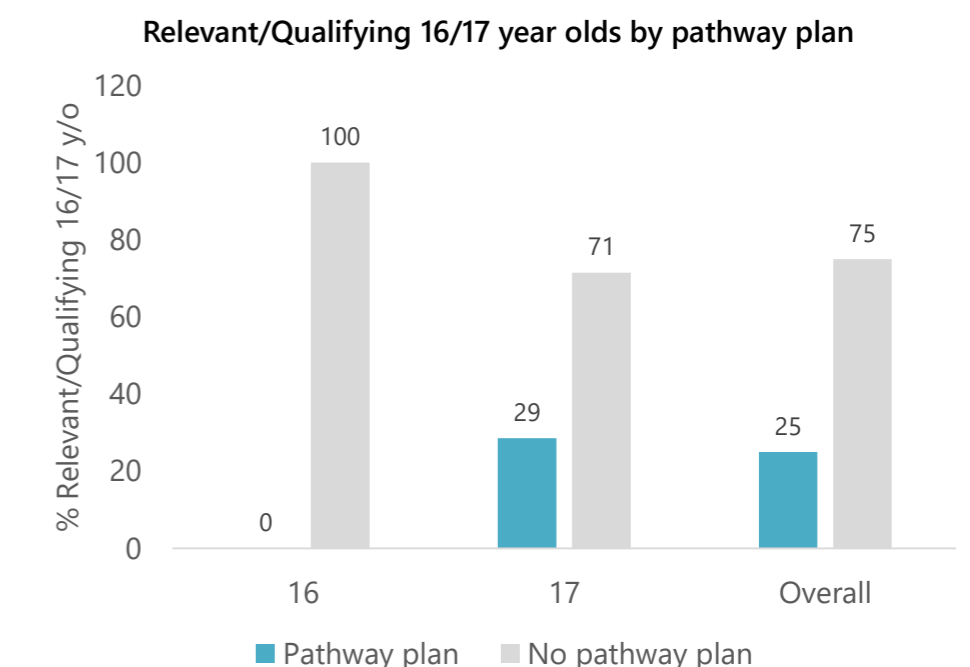
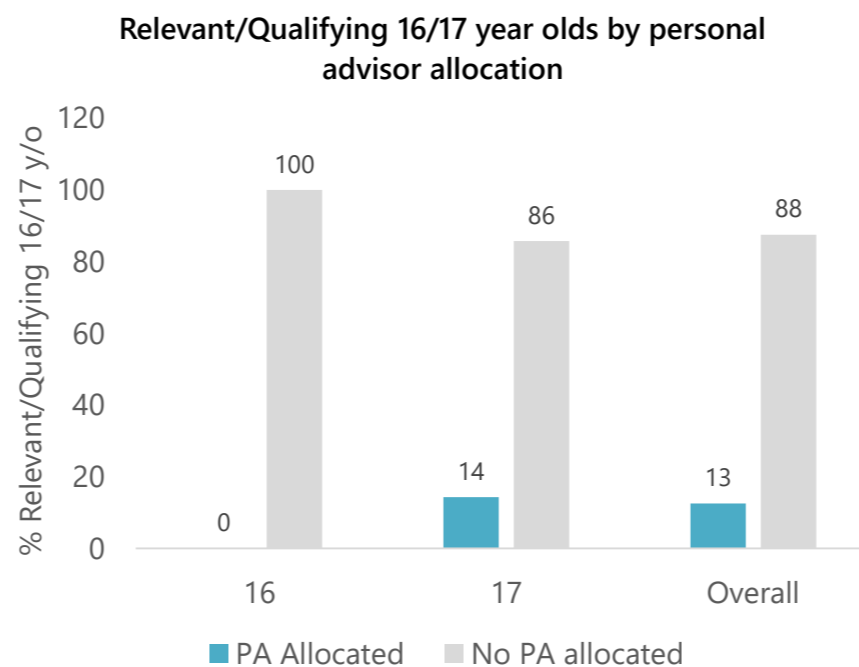
Care leaver eligibility summary (please refer to DfE guidance for full eligibility criteria)

Page 20 of 20	<p>Eligible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Age 16 or 17 ~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) ~ Currently looked after
<p>Relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Age 16 or 17 ~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods) ~ Looked after on or after their 16th birthday ~ No longer looked after
<p>Former Relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Aged between 18 and 25 ~ Previously an eligible or relevant child (see above definitions)
<p>Qualifying (Annex A requires only those requesting and receiving a service)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Aged between 16 and 21 (or 25 if in education) ~ Looked after on or after their 16th birthday ~ Not looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 or ~ privately fostered after the age of 16 but before the age of 18 or ~ were looked after prior to becoming subject to a SGO

Eligible Children (16/17 year olds) - comparing personal advisor allocation and pathway plans



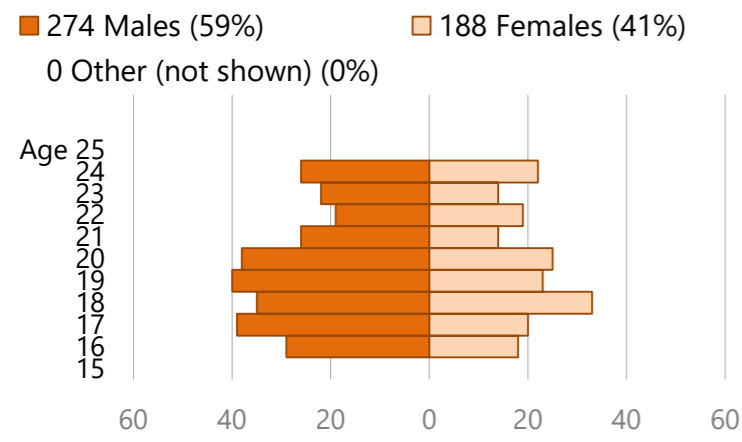
Relevant and Qualifying Children (16/17 year olds) - comparing personal advisor allocation and pathway plans



Care leavers demographics and UASC

Snapshot 16/02/2024

Age and gender



Ethnic background

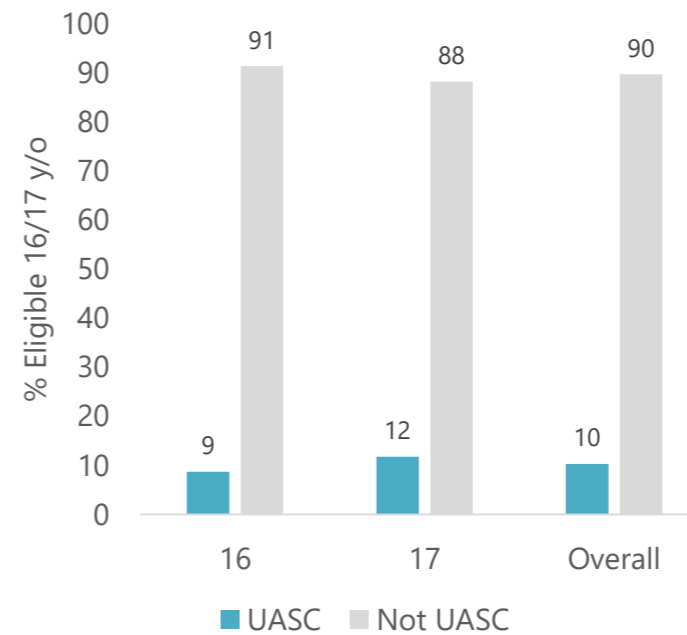
White	77%
Mixed	6%
Asian or Asian British	5%
Black or black British	6%
Other ethnic group	5%
Not stated	0%
Not recorded	0%
#REF!	

48 (10%) care leavers with a disability

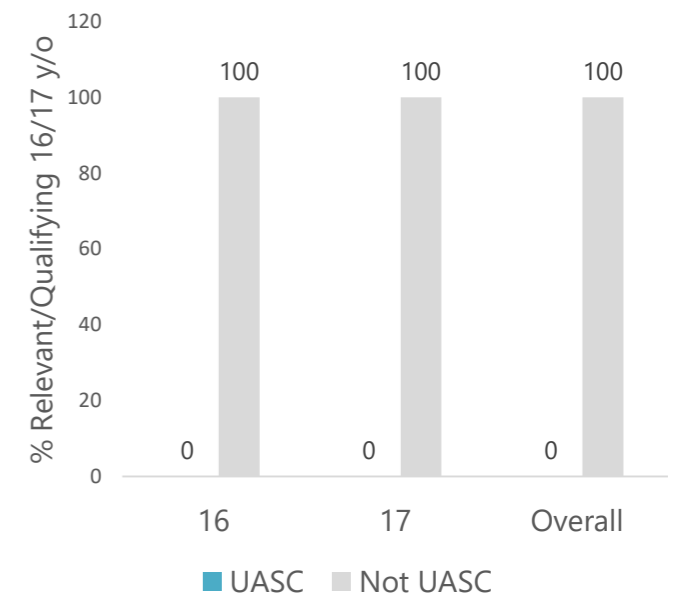
Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

Care leavers - UASC/Former UASC (16/17 year olds)

Eligible 16/17 year olds by UASC Status



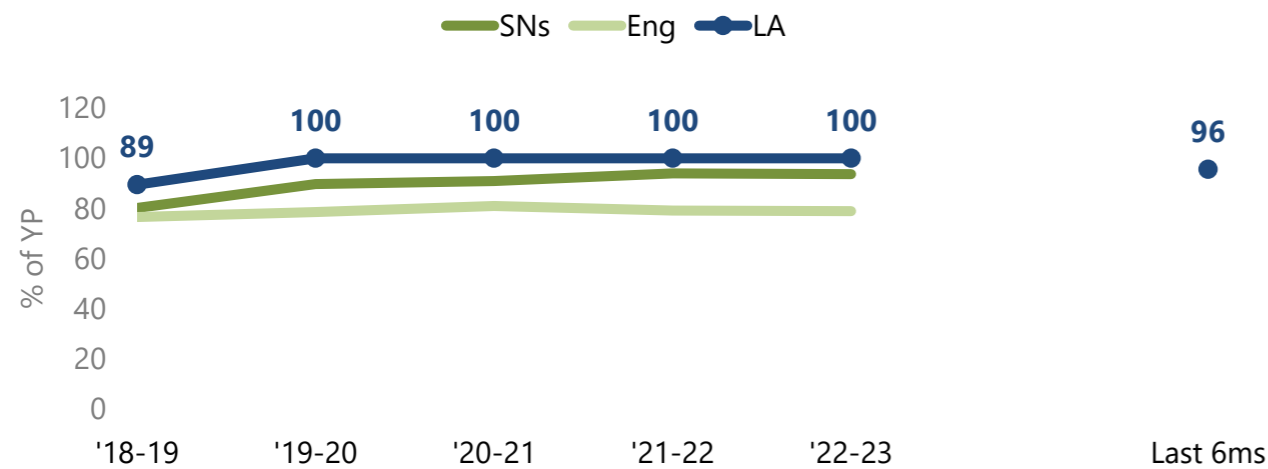
Relevant/qualifying 16/17 year olds by UASC Status



Remained in care until aged 18

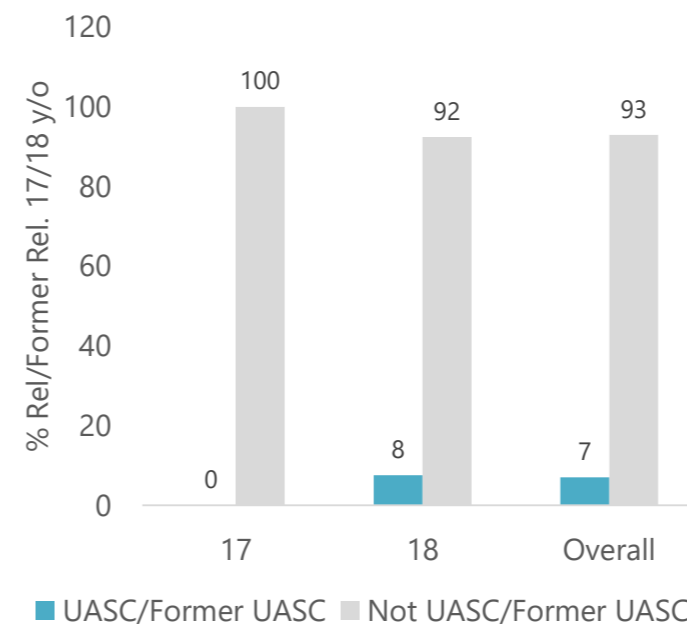
YP who ceased to be looked after aged 16-plus who were looked after until their 18th birthday

Page 27

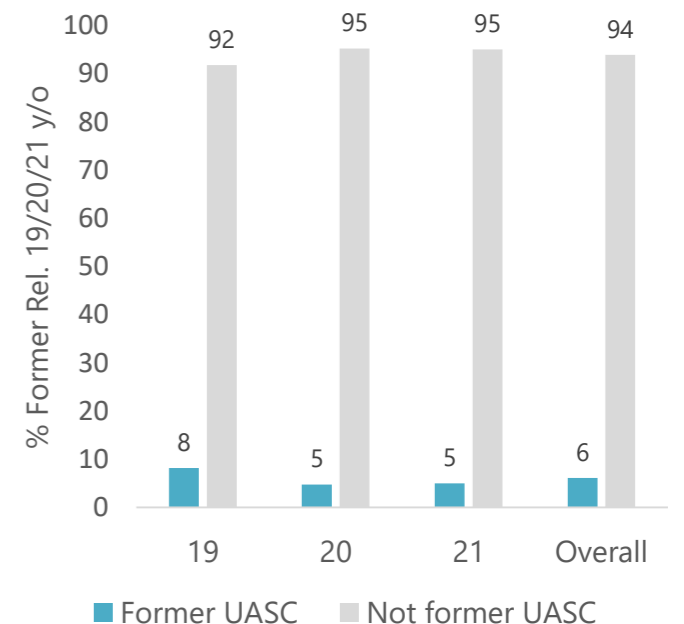


Care leavers - UASC/Former UASC (17/18 & 19/20/21 year olds)

Relevant/former relevant 17/18 year olds by UASC Status

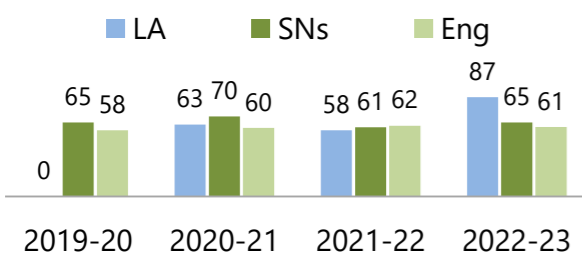


Former relevant 19/20/21 year olds by UASC Status

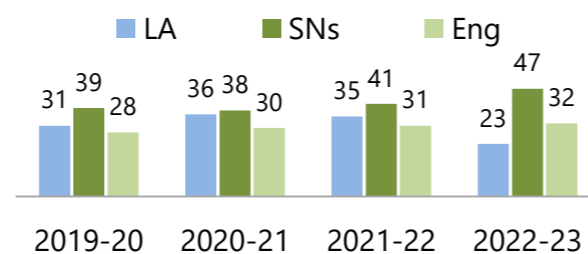


Remain with former foster carer

Aged 18



Aged 19-20

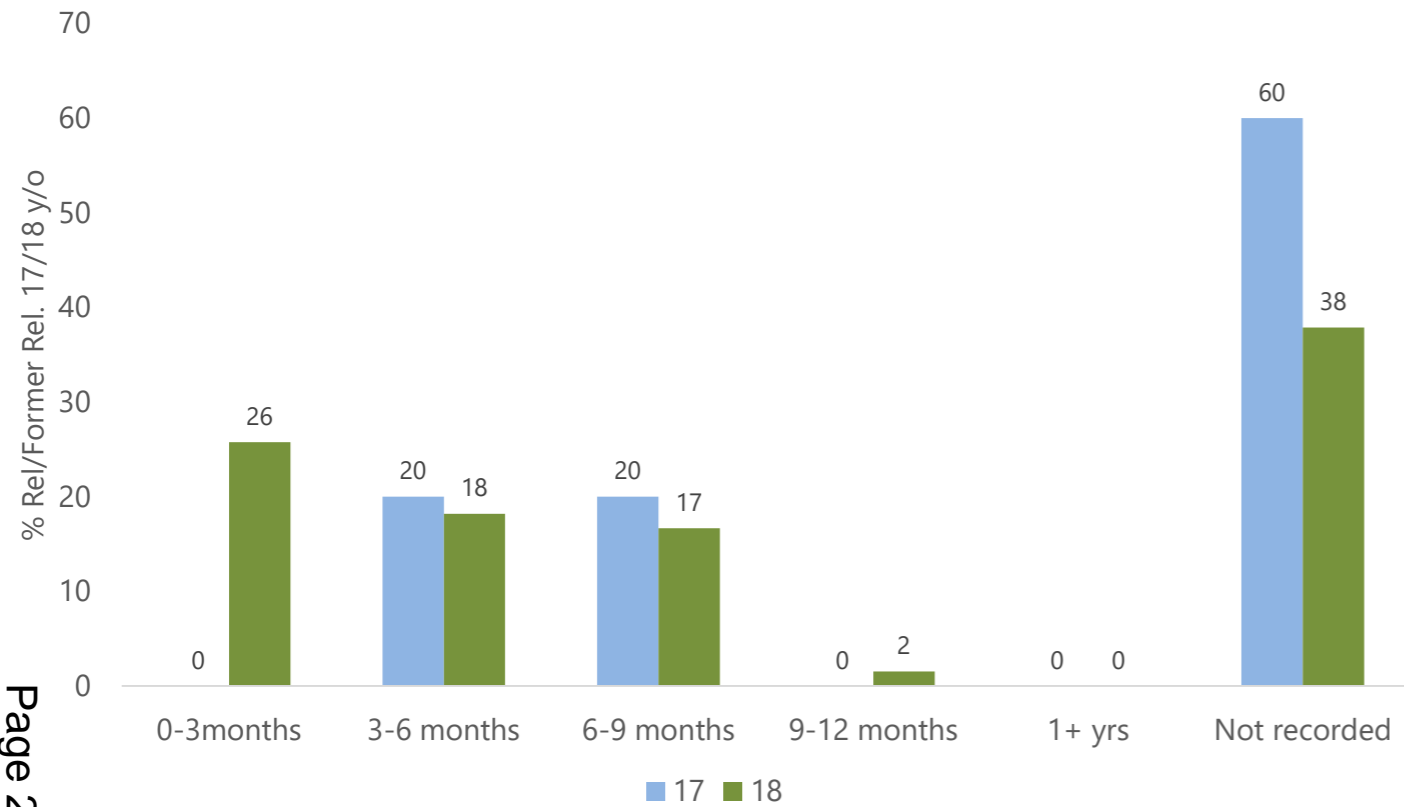


Care leavers pathway plan and contact timescales

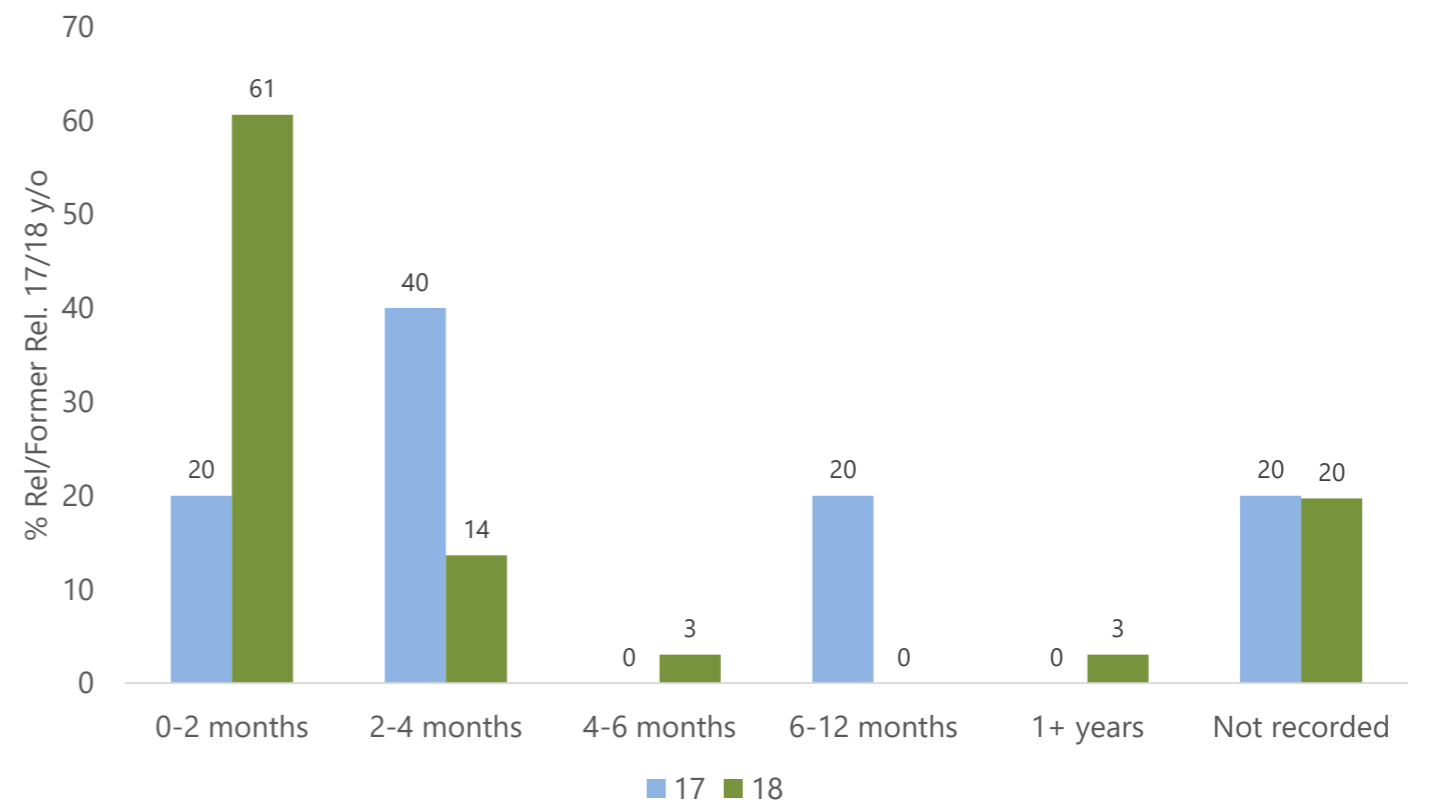
Snapshot 16/02/2024

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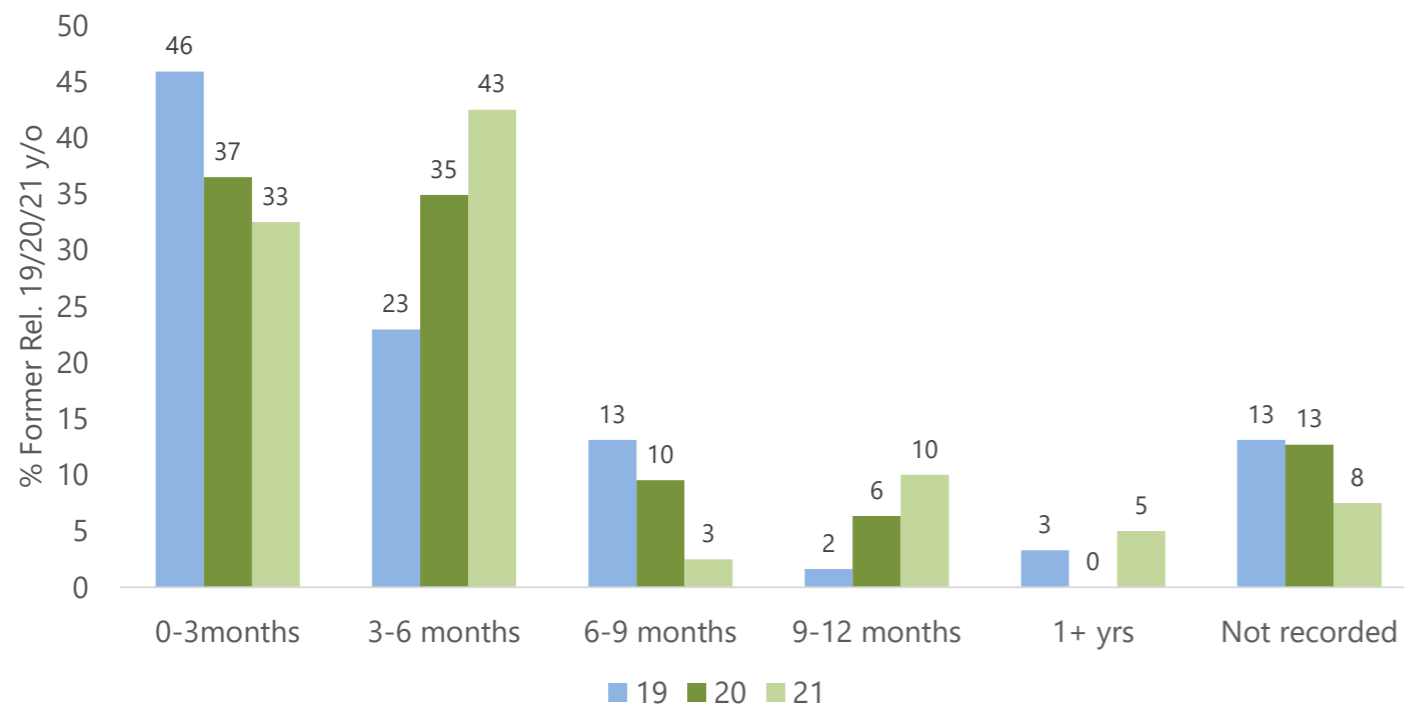
Pathway Plan last updated - 17/18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



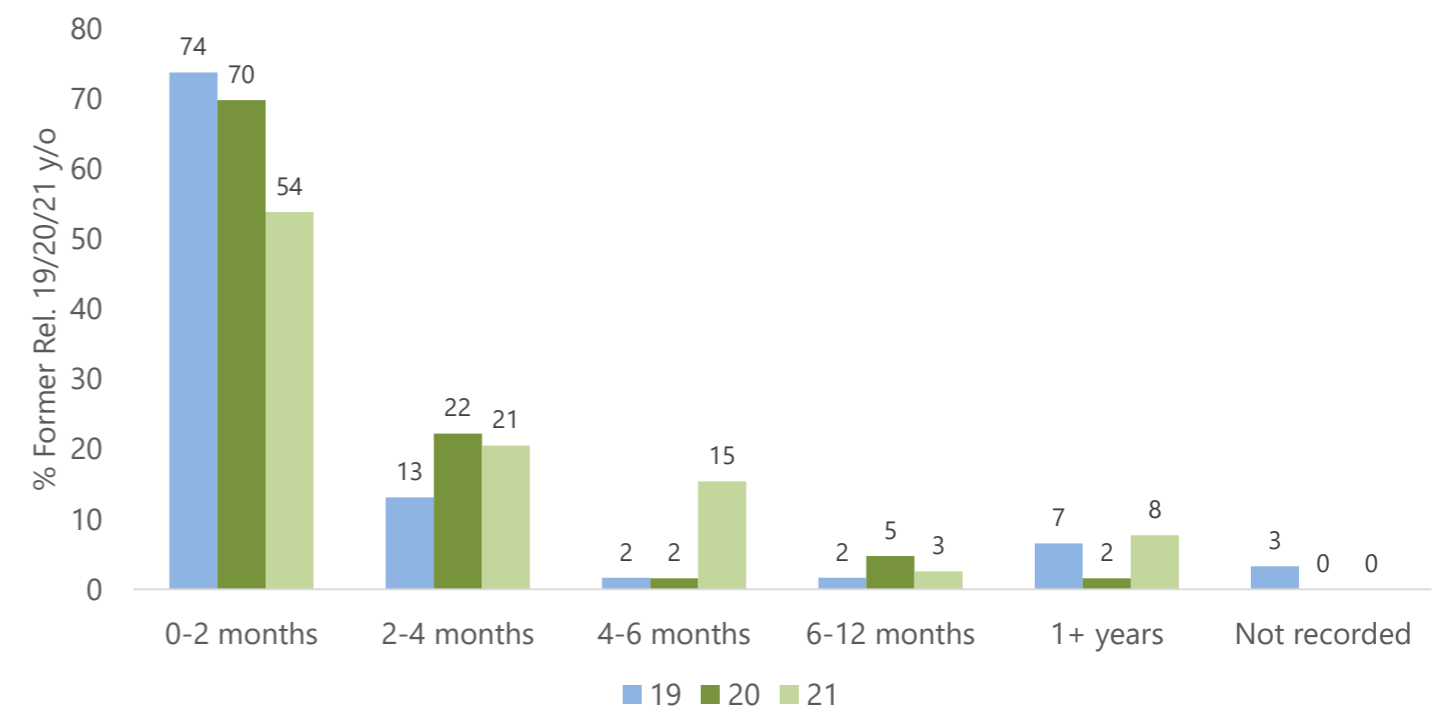
Time since last contact - 17/18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



Pathway Plan last updated 19/20/21 year olds (former relevant)



Time since last contact - 19/20/21 year olds (former relevant)

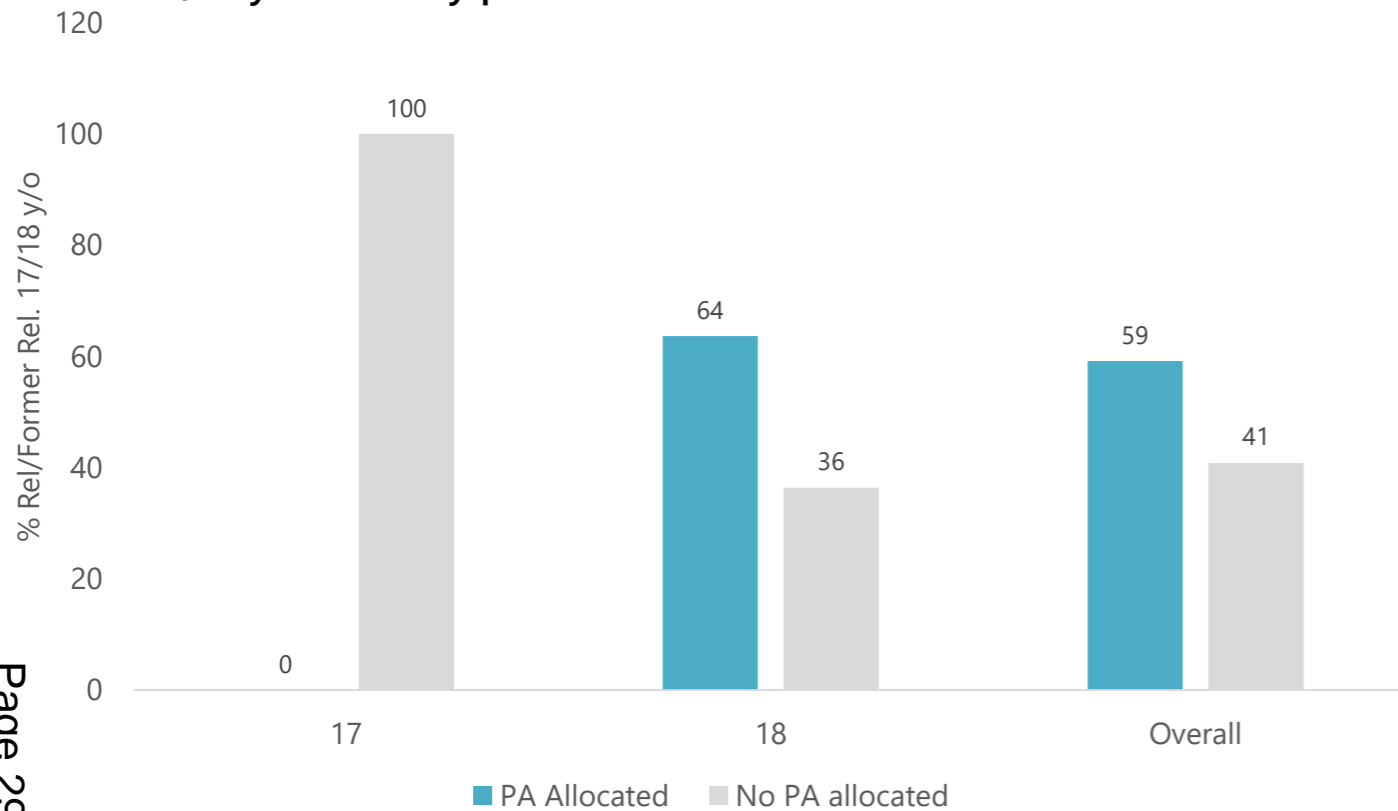


Care leavers PA allocation and in touch

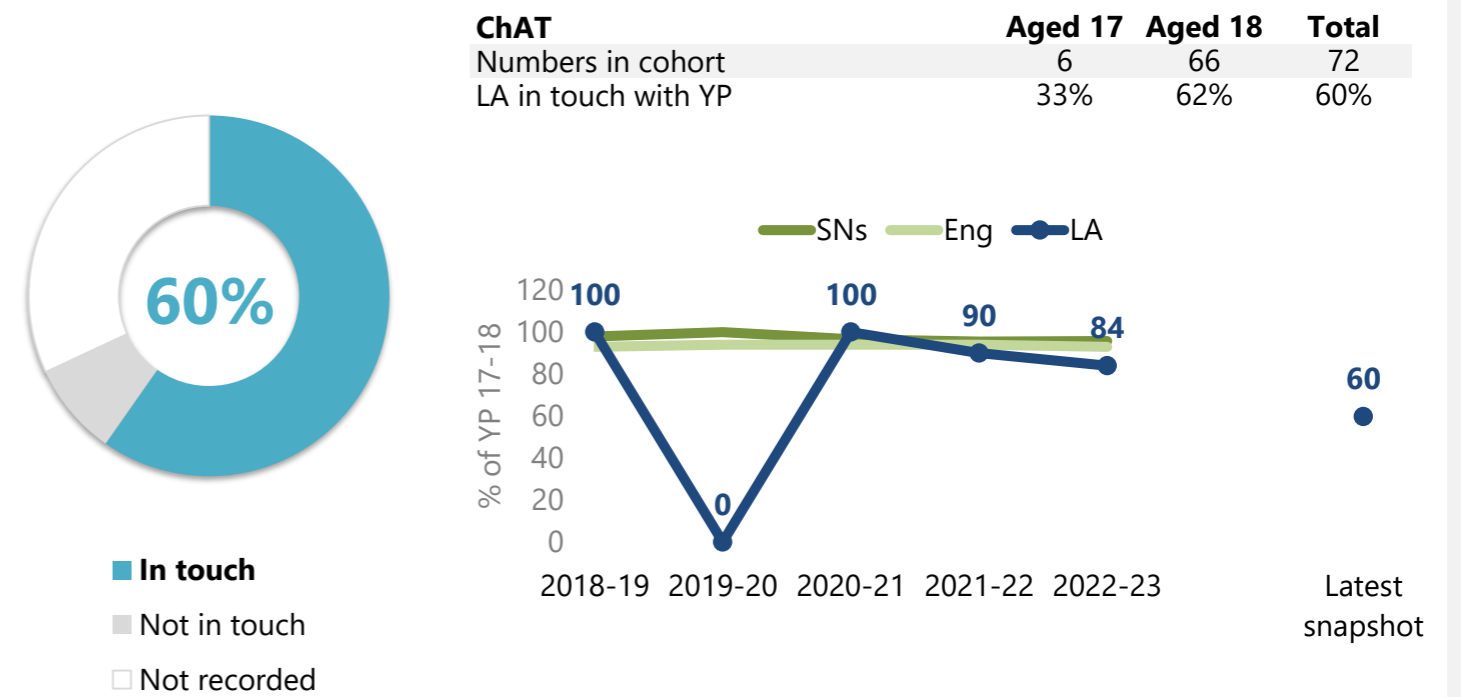
Snapshot 16/02/2024

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17/18 year olds by personal advisor allocation (relevant/former relevant)

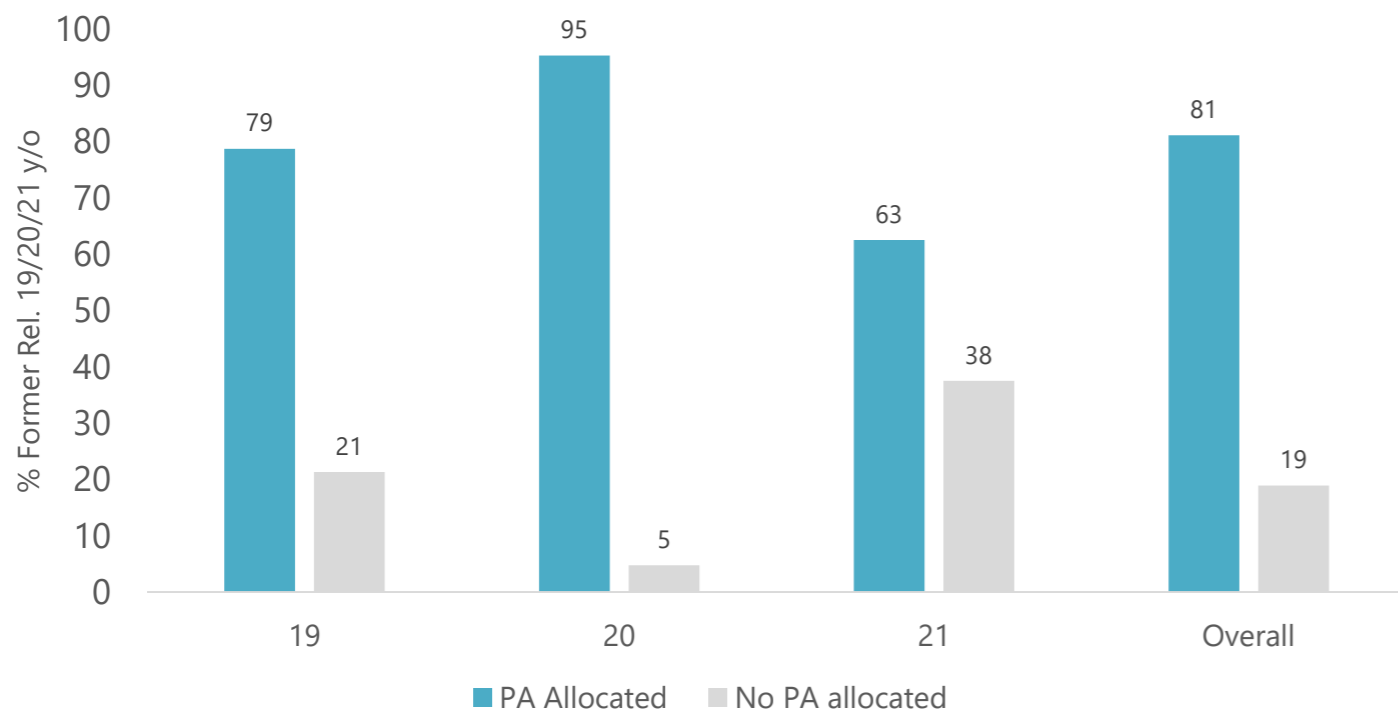


LA in touch with 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)

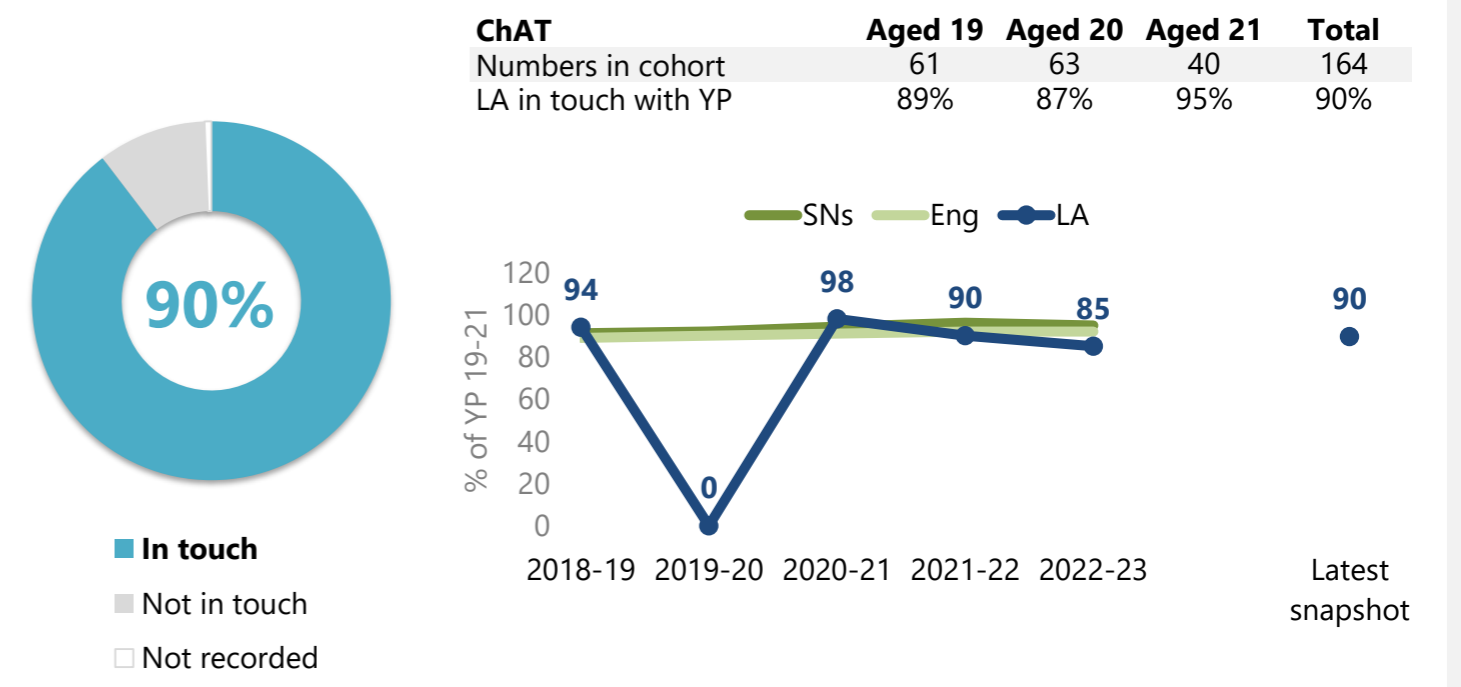


ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	6	66	72
LA in touch with YP	33%	62%	60%

19/20/21 year olds by personal advisor allocation (former relevant)



LA in touch with 19-21 year olds (former relevant)

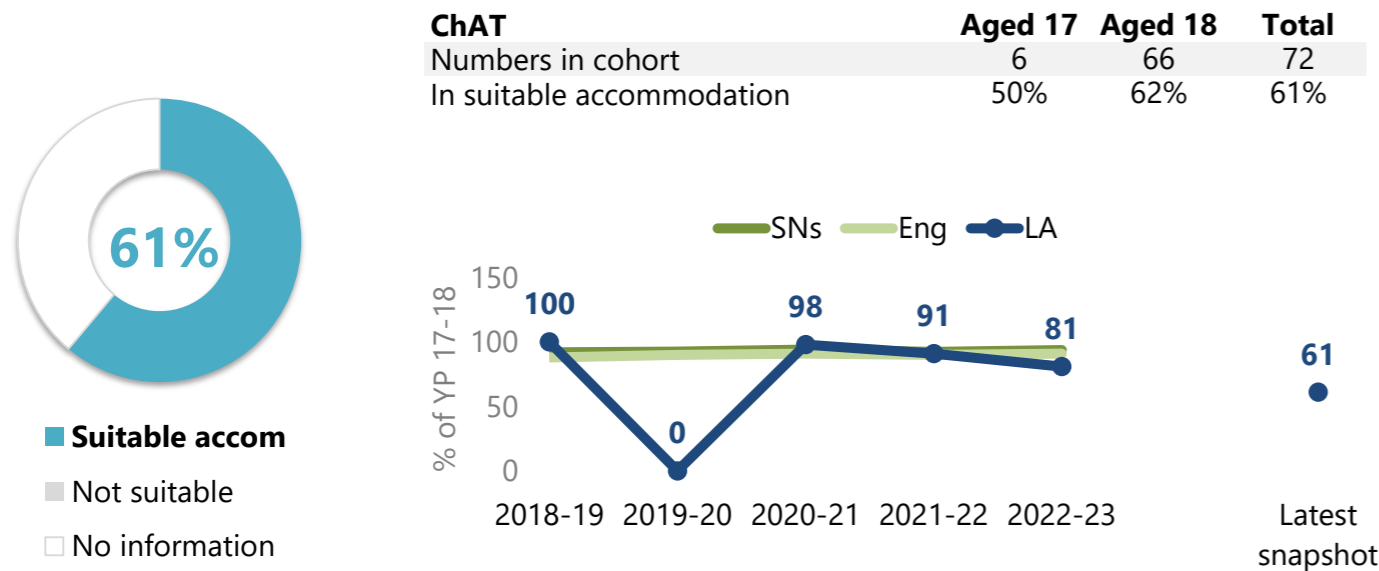


ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	61	63	40	164
LA in touch with YP	89%	87%	95%	90%

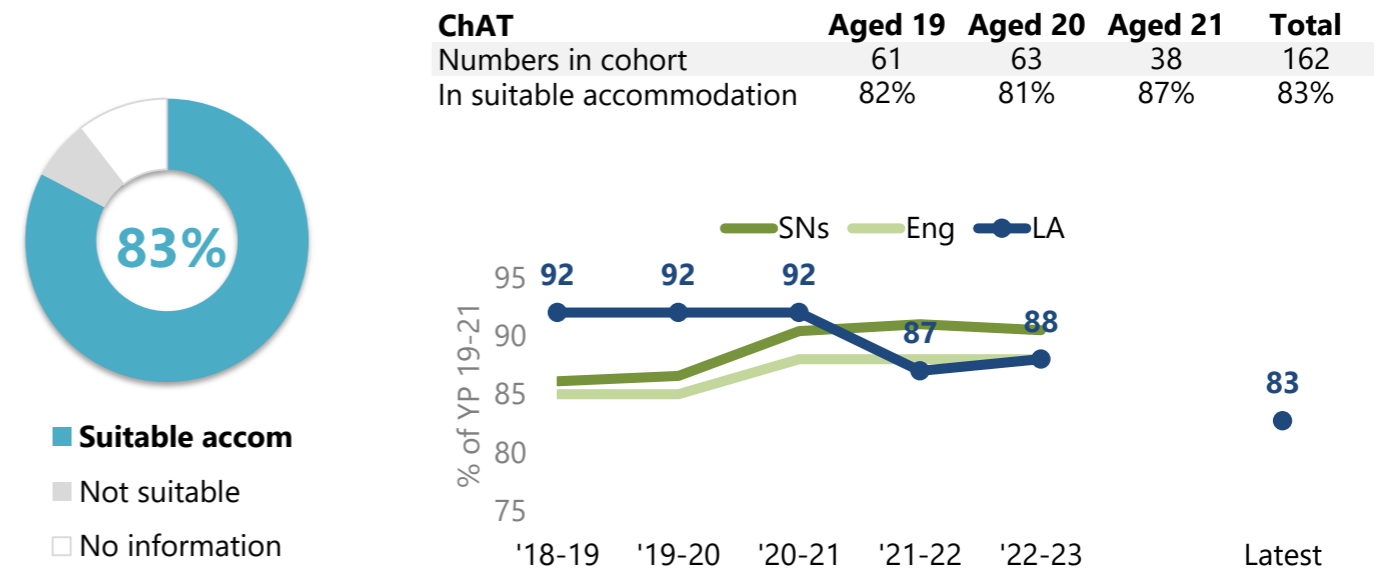
Care leavers accommodation suitability and type

Snapshot 16/02/2024

Accommodation suitability of 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)

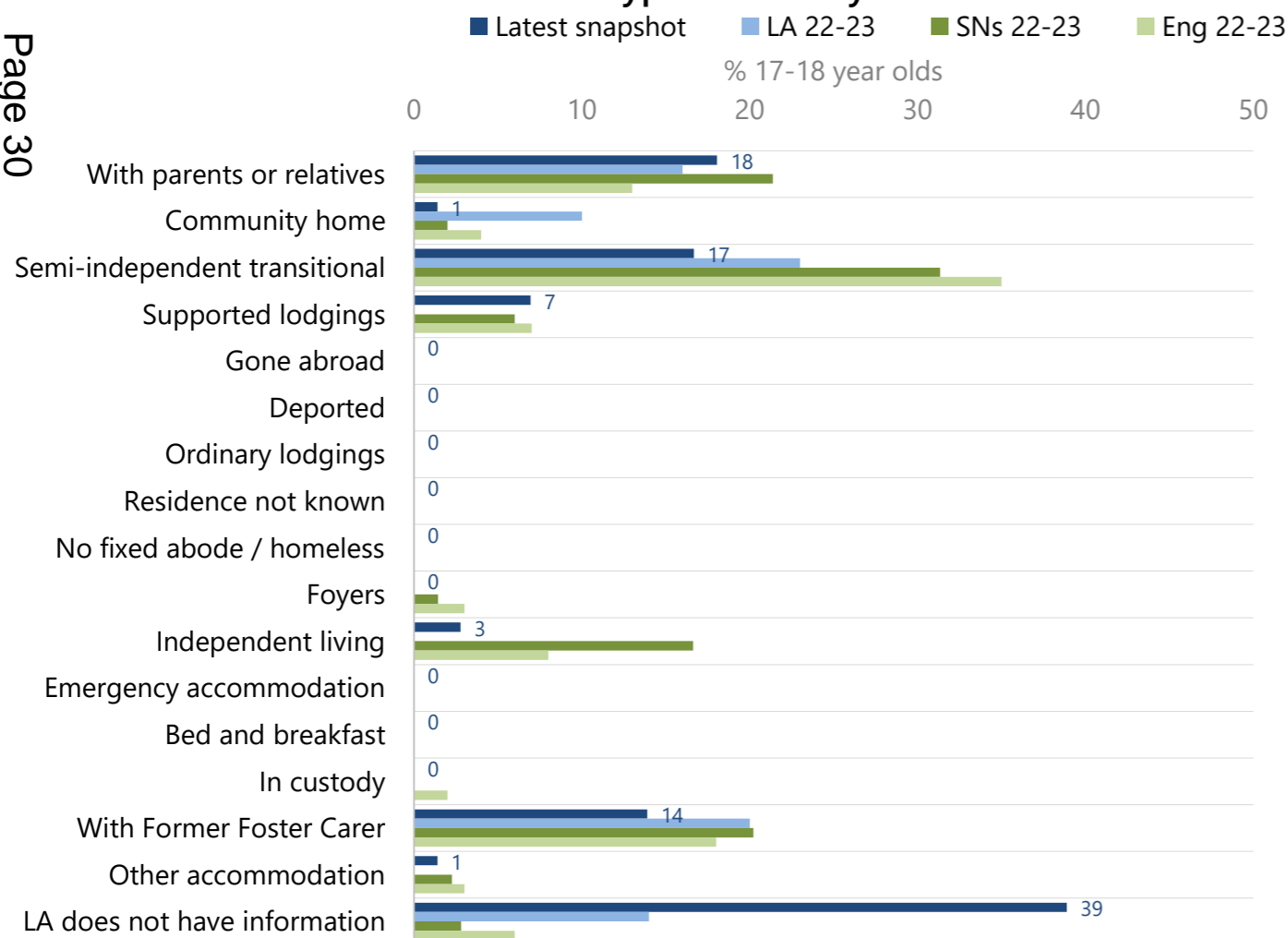


Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)

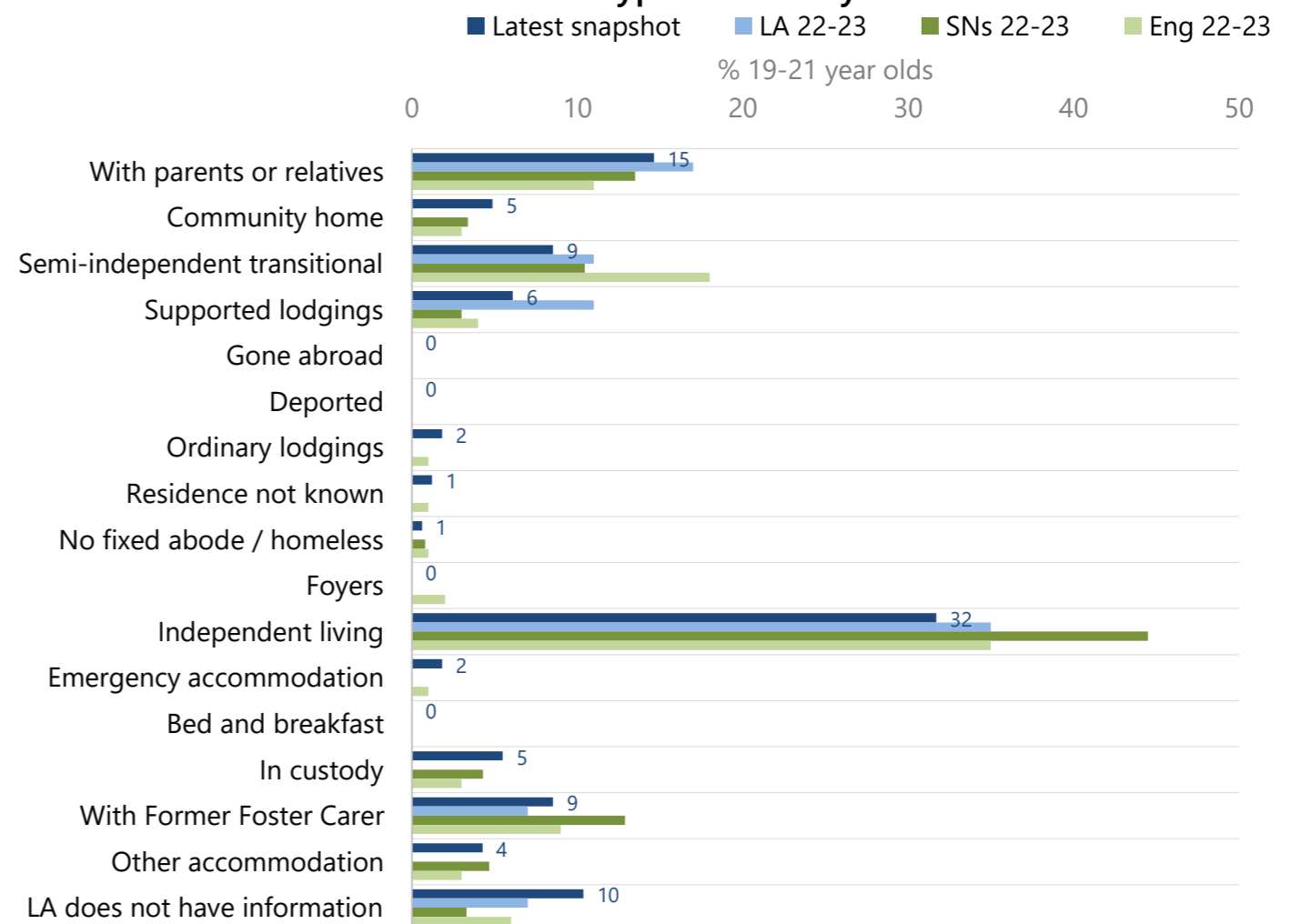


Accommodation types of 17-18 year olds

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Accommodation types of 19-21 year olds

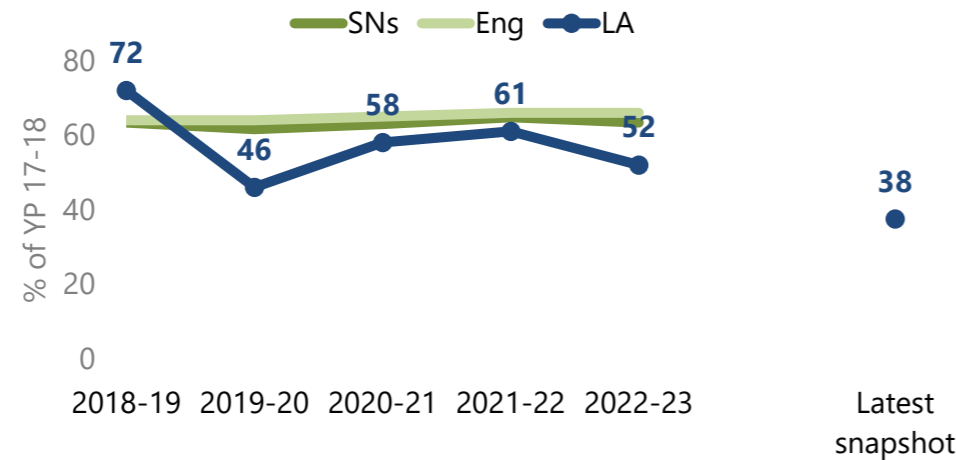
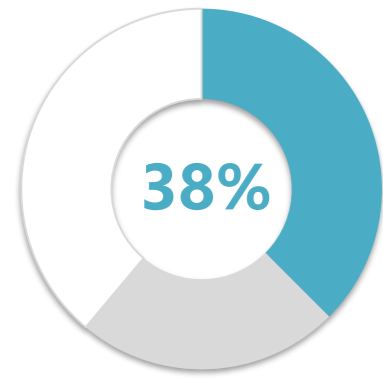


Care leavers activity (Education, Employment, or Training)

Snapshot 16/02/2024

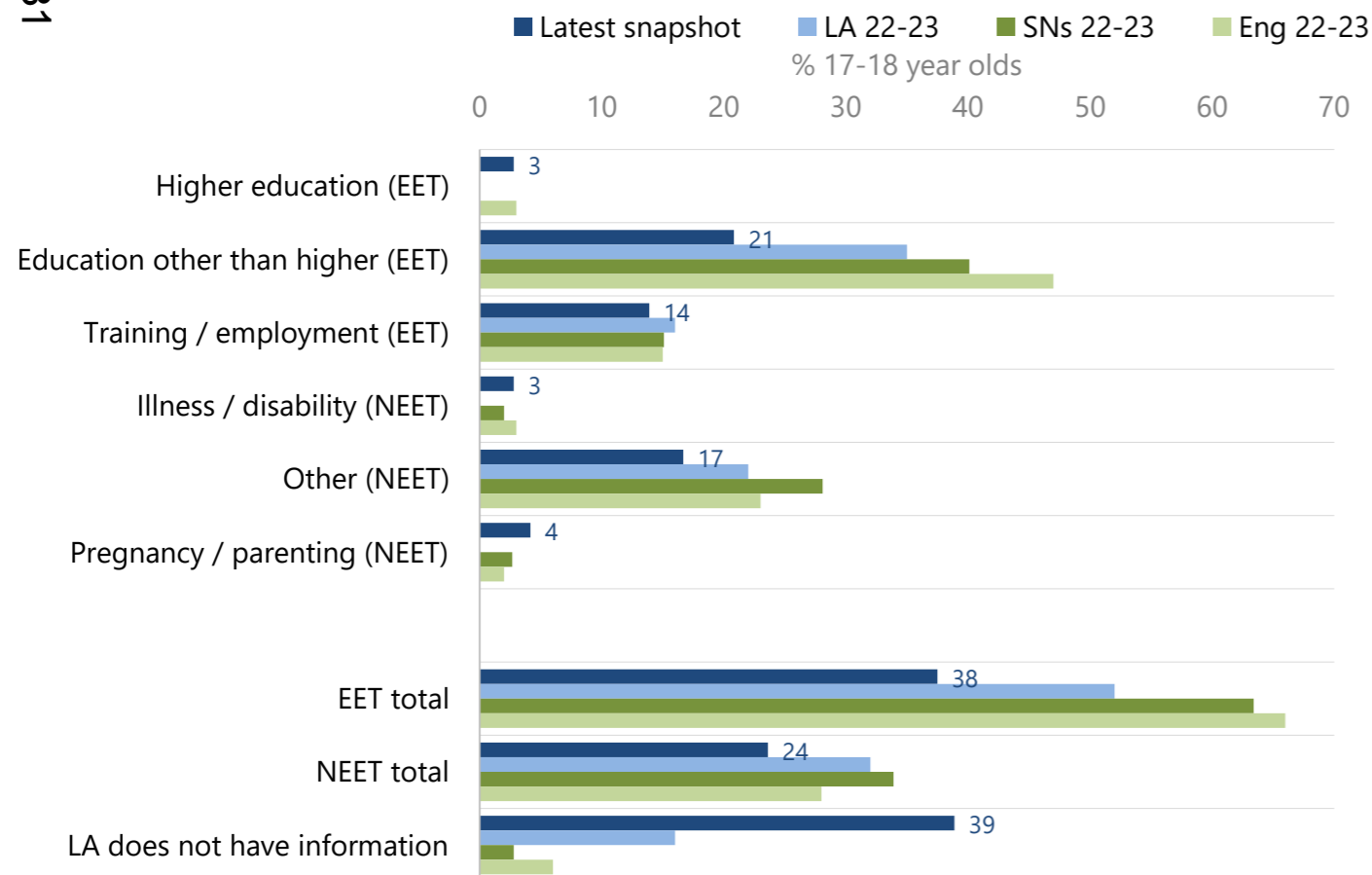
Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	6	66	72
In EET	50%	36%	38%



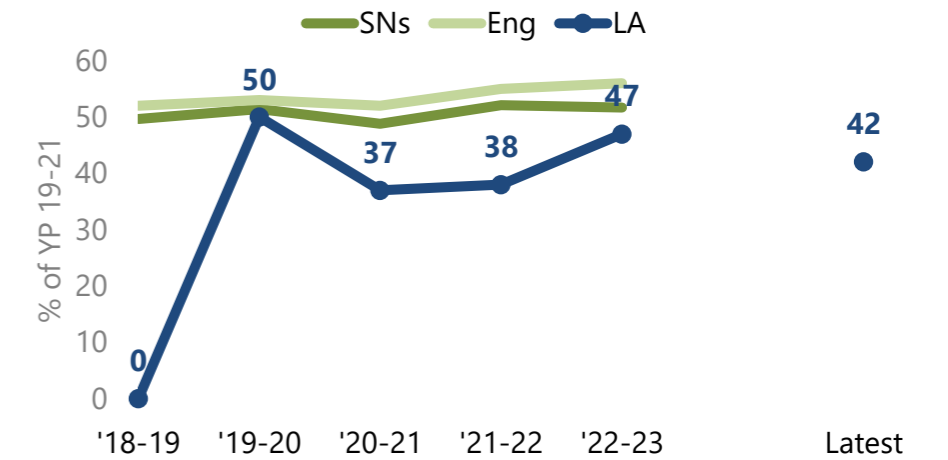
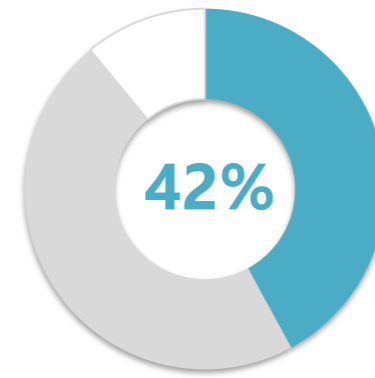
■ YP in EET ■ NEET □ No info

Activity types of 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



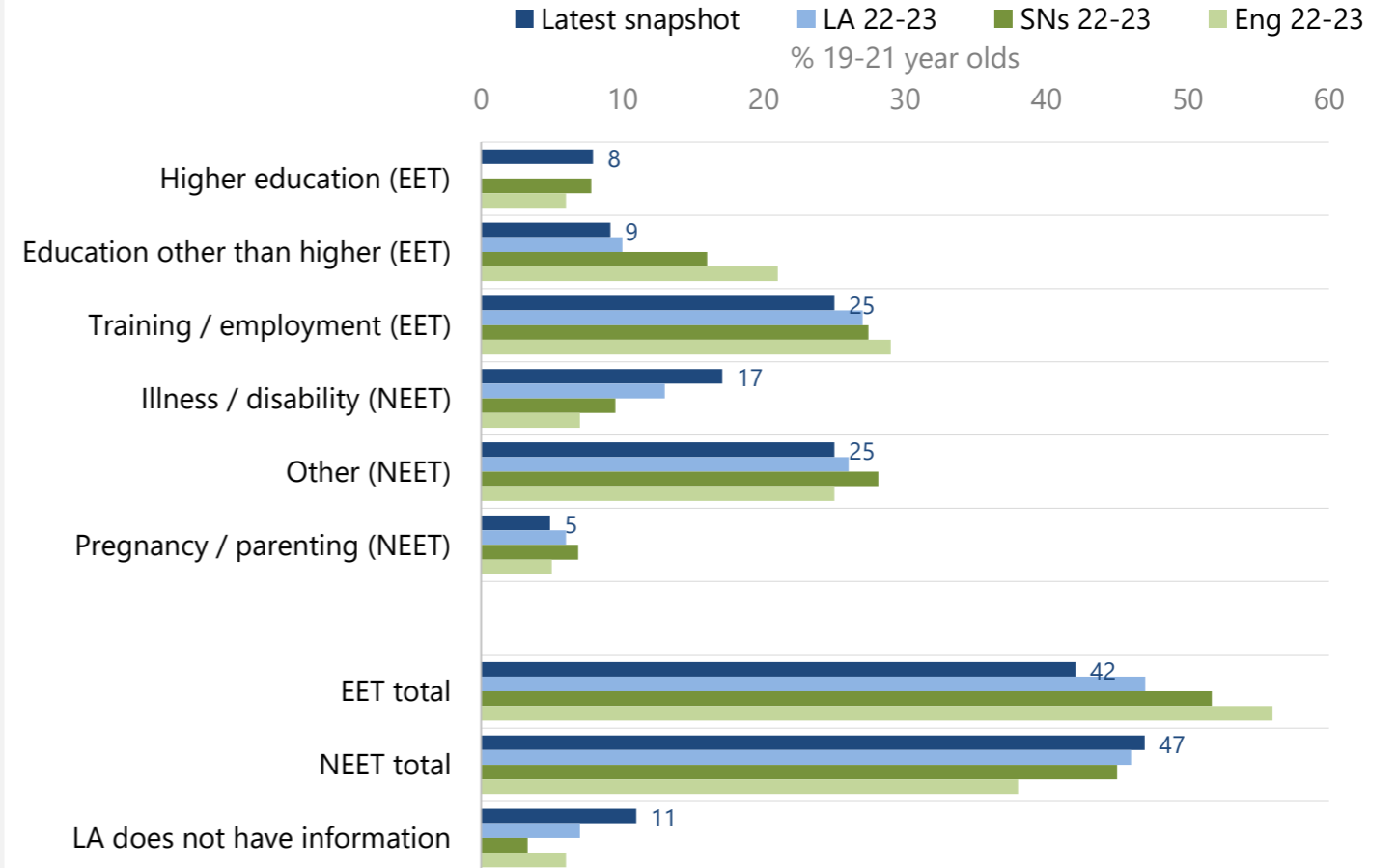
Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	61	63	40	164
In EET	41%	41%	45%	42%



■ YP in EET ■ NEET □ No info

Activity types of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)



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Report of:	Maria Farrow-Tait Interim Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children/Children in Care NENC ICB (Middlesbrough, Redcar, and Cleveland)
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Submitted to:	You Matter to us Corporate Parenting Board- 29.02.2024
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Subject:	Children in Care Health Report Q3
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Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
Your Home
Your Family and Friends
Your Education
Your Adult Life- Transition into adulthood and provision of health passport.
Your Health and wellbeing - To demonstrate the aim of the Looked After Health team is for sustained improvement in the health and wellbeing of children in care and those leaving care.
Your Voice and Influence - To assure the child's voice around health issues are included wherever possible.

1. Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

No

2. What is the purpose of this report?

- Demonstrate the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in care.
- To assure the corporate parenting board that health services to children in care are provided without undue delay or geographical prejudice.
- To demonstrate the aim of the Looked After Health team is for sustained improvement in the health and wellbeing of children in care and those leaving care.
- To assure the child's voice around health issues are included wherever possible.
- Report on compliance to statutory targets from the Looked After Health Team for Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust.

3. Report Overview

- The report below considers compliance for initial health assessments, review health assessments, health registrations and health passports.

4. Initial Health Assessments (IHA)

- Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring a health assessment of physical, emotional, and mental health needs is completed for every child within 20 working days of becoming looked after.

Table 1 - Initial Health Assessments Quarter 3

October		November		December	
No of IHA's required	No of IHA's undertaken in timescales	No of IHA's required	No of IHA's undertaken in timescales	No of IHA's required	No of IHA's undertaken in timescales
18	3	25	1	9	0
QUARTER 3 TOTAL				52	4 (7.6%)

Reason for delay	Number delayed
Delay in receiving medical consent	52 (100%)
Lack of available clinics	43 (82.6%)
Out of area request	5 (9.6%)

5. Review Health Assessments (RHA)

- The RHA must happen at least every six months before a child's 5th birthday and at least once every 12 months after the child's 5th birthday within the month they became looked after.

Table 2 - Review Health Assessments Quarter 3

October		November		December	
No of RHA's required	No of RHA's undertaken in timescales	No of RHA's required	No of RHA's undertaken in timescales	No of RHA's required	No of RHA's undertaken in timescales
37	33 (89.2%)	35	30 (85.7%)	18	15 (83.3%)
QUARTER 3 TOTAL					
*8 (8.8%) of RHA's were completed by the allocated health visitor as this was in the best interests of the child.				90	78 (86.6%)

Reason for delay	Number delayed
Staff capacity	8 (66.6%)
HDFT unable to contact carer	1 (8.3%)
Visit cancelled due to young person being unwell	1 (8.3%)
Ineffective home visit	1 (8.3%)
Out of area request	1 (8.3%)
Young person chose not to engage	4 (22.2%)

6. Health Registrations

Area	Number not registered with a GP	Number not registered with a Dentist	Number of dental referrals
Middlesbrough (at review health assessment)	3 (3.3%)	5 3 RHA's remain outstanding. *2 children are under the age of 1 year.	1

7. Health Passports

	October	November	December
Number of children offered a health passport at 16+	9	3	2
Number of children issued a health passport at 16+	7	3	2

8. Key Issues

- Compliance with initial health assessments within timescales is less than 10%
- Compliance with review health assessments within timescales is less than 90%

9. Challenges

- Delay in receiving medical consent for initial health assessments was 100% in Q3.
- Lack of available clinics for initial health assessments accounted for over 89% of the delays.
- Throughout Q3 the Harrogate and District Foundation Trust team has experienced significant sickness within the team; 0.5WTE B7, 0.8WTE B6 and 1WTE B5 have been absence throughout the quarter which impacted the team's capacity to undertake review health assessments.

10. Action Taken

- Rapid improvement workshop remains in place.
- A service review with the Designated Nurses and the Senior Clinical Commissioning Officer is in progress and regular contract meetings remain in place.
- Tees Valley CiC service introduced the RHA risk assessment tool to ensure that children and young people had their health reviewed in accordance with need as opposed to due date.
- This risk assessment has been used throughout quarter 3 to assess the risk in relation to the team's capacity. The Named Nurse risk assessed the health records of all the children who had been allocated to the staff members not at work. It was reassuring to see that out of 36 risk assessments, there was only one young person who had increasing risk and needed seeing as a matter of urgency.

11. Appendices

Nil

12. Recommendations

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the content of the report.

13. Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report'.

Contact: Maria Farrow-Tait
Email: mariafarrow-tait@nhs.net

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MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER

Corporate Parent Pledges to Care Experienced Young People

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Agenda Item 7

Background

On the **23rd October 2023** care experienced young people met with the Interim Director of Children Care and the Service Manager for Residential and Resources to talk about what more support they wanted to improve their experiences.

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On the **9th November 2023** at the You Matter To Us (Corporate Parenting Board) wider engagement session, Corporate Parents heard what young people had said and made pledges to improve their experiences (see next slide).

On the **30th January 2024** – at the You Matter To Us (Corporate Parenting Board) wider engagement session, Corporate Parents worked with care experienced young people to understand more about what they want.

A plan of action has been developed to monitor progress on each pledge https://middlesbroughcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kathy_peacock_middlesbrough_gov_uk/Documents/Documents/Corporate%20Parenting%20Board/Pledges

Pledge	Who
1/ Social groups to have a meaning, continue working with care ambassadors to hear voices from older care experienced young people.	Participation Team
2/ Proactively work with mental health professionals in order to meet with the needs of the young people who are affected by the mental health issues.	Zafar Uddin - Executive Member for Children's Services
3/ Implement training for social care staff to be led by young people.	Joe Tynan – Executive Director of Children's Services
4/ That all Care experienced young people will have a named worker who they can contact if they have any questions or worries with regards to education.	Victoria Banks – Virtual School
5/ Work with housing providers to provide more housing	Chris Cooke - The Mayor
6/ To explore care ambassadors' apprenticeships.	Sharon Hetherington - Pathways
7/ To support the services to progress with all of the future ideas that have been shared by our young people.	Dawn Alaszewski - Director of Children's Care
8/ To continue working with our young people to hear what is working and what needs to change.	Dawn Alaszewski - Interim Director of Children's Care
9/ Ensure Pathways plans are aspirational supporting young people to have a clear vision in all areas. Capturing clear views and wishes setting realistic steps to achieve.	Sharon Hetherington - Pathways
10/ Care Ambassadors are very important to help on the awareness and leadership and feedback.	Care Ambassadors
11/ That our care experienced young people continue to feel part of decision making, by attending meetings, feeling their voices are heard and influencing change.	Democratic Services in support of 'We Matter' and Care Ambassadors
12/ The way we engage with our young people and ensure young people have a greater influence on decisions that affect them.	Adam Hart Headstart South Tees Apprentice
13/ To be on time and to make sure we get full views of all young people.	Pathways and Personal Advisors
14/ To ensure that our young people are prepared for adult life and currently the team are putting places in place to ensure this happens.	Rob Hamer Interim Head of Service for Placements and Resources RI for residential placements.

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**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**



Report of: *Kay Dargue, Head of South Tees Youth Justice Service*

Submitted to: **Corporate Parenting Board- 29.2.24**

Subject: *Annual update from South Tees Youth Justice Service*

Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy

Your Home

The service work closely with Cleveland Police and residential homes to ensure children who are looked after are not unnecessarily criminalised in their homes.

Your Family and Friends

Your Education

Your Adult Life

Your Health and wellbeing

The service has adopted a trauma informed approach to practice, and a pathway has been developed with FCAMHS for young people with complex needs.

Your Voice and Influence

South Tees Youth Justice Service considers the voice of young people to be important in their work. Young people are listened to and have influence in the plans that are put together to support them.

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

No

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an annual update of the work of South Tees Youth Justice Service, with specific reference to children looked after.

Report Overview

2. This report outlines the ‘offer’ to children who are looked after and also open to South Tees Youth Justice Service. Some brief caseload demographic information is included within the main body of this report to provide some context to the Board.

This report will focus upon the key achievements in the last twelve months and planned development going forwards.

Report Background

3. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) are clear that the justice system must see “children as children first, and offenders second”. In line with the Child First vision, the YJB wants to make sure that children are not unnecessarily criminalised as a result of their vulnerabilities and the challenges they face. South Tees Youth Justice Service embraces the child first ethos and has sought to ensure that all interventions with young people are informed by this approach. Young people are encouraged to engage and participate, and we seek to listen to them and ensure their voice can be heard.
4. South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) have strong partnership arrangements with children’s safeguarding services at strategic and operational levels and engage at a managerial level at a number of multi-agency forums designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people. Reducing the number of Children who are Looked After in the criminal justice system is a key priority for STYJS. We seek to work proactively with those young people who experience significant vulnerabilities including children in local authority care. Our work with looked after children is in line with the National protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers 2018.
5. In 2020, STYJS produced a guide for Youth Justice and Children’s Care practitioners on ‘Working with Looked After Children’. The document sets out the requirements for local authority and YJS staff in order to achieve the best results for Looked After Children within the criminal justice system, so that expectations are clear around each other’s roles and responsibilities. This guide outlines that although many of the working practices undertaken by the YJS and Children’s Services are similar, there is a significant difference in the criteria for which they are undertaken. Therefore, there is a need to have explicit arrangements in place to support each other’s involvement with Looked After Children, be they placed in foster care, residential units, residential schools or within the secure estate.
6. Working as part of a broader partnership, STYJS provides a representative to the two interrelated groups that monitor and review children who are Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked (VEMT). The VEMT practitioner group and the Risk Management Group (where cases are escalated for high level strategic risk management) are key to managing risk for children who go missing or have/at risk of involvement in exploitation. Exploitation and offending are often linked therefore STYJS provides key information to these meetings to ensure there is a holistic overview of the child and safety plans can be updated accordingly for children who are looked after.
7. The Board may recall from previous reports and presentations that STYJS offer a range of additional activity for Children who are looked after including;
 - Work with Cleveland Police and Children’s Home staff to ensure those young people in Children’s Homes who offend have their offending behaviour addressed appropriately, including the use of restorative intervention as a solution to minimise prosecution

- Ensure active STYJS attendance at all planning or strategy meetings for young people with CLA status
- STYJS safeguarding case managers provide an essential link to Children's Services teams in both Local Authorities as well as providing advice and guidance to colleagues on safeguarding issues and processes.
- Ensure all Intervention Plans for CLA are shared with young people, their carers and colleagues from Children's Services
- Joint supervision arrangements between STYJS and Middlesbrough Children's Services are in place offering the opportunity to share decision making and agree strategies to meet the needs of young people known to both services.
- A working agreement between STYJS and Early Help is in place to ensure joint planning and supervision arrangements. The agreement aims to reduce escalation in the criminal justice and / or looked after system by working collaboratively.
- A YJS 'single point of contact' has been provided to the Multi Agency Children's Hub. This offers MACH staff the direct opportunity for information and advice on young people known to our service.
- MACH case admin have access to STYJS case management system 'Childview' which allows for checks to be made as a referral is received to ascertain if the case is open to STYJS and ensure that joint working commences at the earliest opportunity.
- When any Looked After Child is placed out of area (who is subject to a Criminal Court Order) STYJS retain responsibility for the Order. Care taking arrangements will be put in place for the child with the local YJS in line with the national protocol, however STYJS will remain in contact with the child on at least a monthly basis to maintain the relationship with the child.
- The STYJS Team manager is the vice chair of the VEMT practitioner group, providing a key role in safeguarding children as part of a wider partnership.

Caseload demographic

8. The vast majority of looked after children and care leavers do not get involved with the justice system, however they remain over-represented compared with others in the criminal justice system. In December 2022 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published information which showed that children in care appear to enter the justice system earlier than children who have not been in care. Whilst imprisonment is a relatively unusual outcome a high proportion of those in custody have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
9. Information contained within the Local Authority Interactive Tool, shows that in Middlesbrough in 2023, 3% of children who were looked after had been convicted or were subject to a Youth Caution. This in line with the North East (3%) but above the national (in England 2%) figures.
10. Between 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023, the breakdown of cases open to STYJS was as follows;

Middlesbrough		Percentage of Total		
		Female	Male	All
Gender	All cases	14.9%	85.1%	100.0%
	Population Estimate	48.5%	51.5%	100.0%
		Percentage of Gender		
	Asian	0.0%	3.0%	2.6%
	Black	3.4%	1.2%	1.5%
	Chinese	0.0%	3.0%	2.6%
	Mixed	6.9%	4.2%	4.6%
	Not Known	3.4%	6.1%	5.7%
	Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	White	86.2%	82.4%	83.0%
Ethnicity	All	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		Percentage of Gender		
	10-13	20.7%	18.1%	18.5%
	10	0.0%	1.8%	1.5%
	11	3.4%	3.0%	3.1%
	12	10.3%	4.2%	5.1%
	13	6.9%	9.0%	8.7%
	14	20.7%	13.3%	14.4%
	15	24.1%	24.1%	24.1%
	16	10.3%	21.7%	20.0%
	17+	24.1%	22.9%	23.1%
Age	All	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		Percentage of Gender		
	Yes	24.1%	11.4%	13.3%
LAC	No	75.9%	88.6%	86.7%

Note:

Based on Start Dates from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023.

Age is at the time of intervention. Where a young person has had more than one intervention in the time period then age is at the point of the earliest intervention.

A young person is counted as being looked after if they were LAC at the start of any intervention in the time period.

Population Estimate 2021 published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

11. The table above shows that the largest proportion of children open to the service were white British boys aged 15 or over. 13.3% of children open to the service in 2023 were children looked after. The STYJS Executive Management Board meets on a quarterly basis and scrutinises caseload information relating to first time entrants to the system, re-offending and use of custody. This multi-agency Board offers challenge to the service in relation to the data and has responsibility for monitoring and responding to any disproportionality issues.

Key developments in the last 12 months

12. The Service has successfully introduced three key new projects within the last 12 months: Turnaround, Immediate Justice and Custody Navigators. Turnaround is a new programme developed by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), providing funding to Youth Justice Teams to enable them to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for

children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. The overall aims of the Turnaround programme are to:

- achieve positive outcomes for children with the ultimate aim of preventing them going on to offend;
- build on work already done to ensure all children on the cusp of the youth justice system are consistently offered a needs assessment and the opportunity for support;
- improve the socio-emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children; and
- improve the integration and partnership working between YJS's and other statutory services to support children.

13. Turnaround went 'live' in January 2023 and is funded until March 2025. STYJS have been given a target number of children to work with and to date only 1 out of 45 successful closures has gone on to re-offend. Sadly, the eligibility criteria for Turnaround precludes Looked After Children, however it does allow the service to work with children subject to Early Help and Child in Need therefore the service works closely with colleagues in those services with the aim of preventing escalation in both children's care and the criminal justice system.
14. In relation to Immediate Justice, the Government published the 'Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan' in April 2023. The Cleveland Police Force area was identified as one of four areas to receive funding in respect of 'hot spot policing' and additionally 'Immediate Justice' as part of this government plan. In partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the other two Cleveland YJS a model of service delivery for Immediate Justice was developed. Known locally as 'Making Good' STYJS now works with children from the age of 12 who are referred in by Community Safety colleagues following a second incident of anti-social behaviour, thus working with them in a pre-crime space to prevent escalation in to the criminal justice system. Educational and Restorative activity takes place alongside reparative activity, which is victim led. The criteria for this project is less restrictive than Turnaround and all children including those who are looked after are offered this intervention. The project is funded until 31st August 2024.
15. With regards to Custody Navigators, in conjunction with Cleveland's Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), the three YJS's in Cleveland have developed a 'Custody Navigator' model focussing on providing immediate interventions when young people present at custody, followed by advocacy to ensure appropriate longer term local support is offered and accessed. Four case workers are now placed into the custody suite in Middlesbrough to support people who have been detained because of a serious violence offence. This offers the opportunity for 'reachable and teachable' moments to engage with young people involved in serious violent offending, and at an earlier point than ever before. Navigators seek to identify opportunities to develop a trusting relationship whereby the detainee can be referred to appropriate support through a tailored service plan that connects them to services such as counselling, mentoring, or help with conflict resolution, employment or substance misuse. Navigators will liaise with Social Workers of Looked After Children and share information about the custodial episode, and can continue to provide ongoing support to individuals beyond release where appropriate. This pilot will operate across Cleveland until March 2025.
16. A further key achievement for the service has been the introduction of the 'Inclusion pathway'. The Pathway creates a mechanism which enables Case Managers to access support for young people who are at risk of disengagement from education.

The pathway has been designed to promote engagement in the education system, improve attendance, prevent exclusions (fixed-term and permanent), improve attainment and deliver well-targeted educational support. The STYJS Inclusion Pathway was endorsed by the Middlesbrough Council scrutiny panel as a means of raising the needs of young people at risk of exclusion. The Education specialist within the service advocates for Looked After Children in such circumstances to make sure their voice is heard and any additional needs taken in to account.

17. Since January 2023 STYJS has commissioned a highly specialist speech and language therapist (SALT) to meet the needs of the YJS service. The role of the SALT therapist includes direct speech and language therapy intervention with young people, further assessment of children's speech, language and communication needs including the development of personalised plans and recommendations which will influence their experiences within the justice system (Court or Police), and indirect speech and language therapy intervention. The SALT therapist has reviewed all the written information and correspondence used by the service with children and families, and offered staff training to raise awareness of Speech Language and Communication Needs and strategies to support children. This provision is highly valued by staff, and positive comments have been received by parents and carers in relation to the service provided. The importance of this work cannot be underestimated when we know such high numbers of children in custody have additional, and often undiagnosed, needs.

Issues and challenges

18. The three projects described above are all time limited with funding due to end by March 2025. The risk is that funding may not continue, and these highly valued projects may be lost which will be detrimental to the children who could benefit. The challenge for the service will be to find a way to either mainstream the projects into the service, or maintain some elements which of course will need to be funded. The longevity of each of these projects will be determined by external evaluation and consultation with external bodies (such as the MOJ).

Next steps and actions

19. The Service will engage with all external evaluations relating to time limited/funded projects in order to maximise involvement and contributions to consultation processes. The STYJS Board will also be kept abreast of developments on a quarterly basis and may need to escalate discussions to a more strategic level depending upon the outcome of decisions made by external bodies.
20. STYJS will continue to deliver targeted staff development sessions to raise awareness of working with Looked After Children within the criminal justice system, and also continue to deliver sessions as part of the Principal Social Worker's 'Hot Topics' sessions to raise awareness of our work within the Children's Social Care workforce.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

Recommendations

The content of this report is for noting by the Board.

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 23/24

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Agenda Item 9



MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER



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

Fostering Service 2023 – 2024 Data collated as of the 21.2.22

	Quarter 1 (April/June 23)	Quarter 2 (July/Sept 23)	Quarter 3 (Oct/Dec 23)	(Jan / Feb 2024)
Number of Enquiries	22	16	16	10
Number of Initial Visits	12	9	4	3
Number of fostering families	74	76	79	78
Number of children placed	178	180	176	169
Inhouse fostering	162	150	150	147
De - registrations (households)				
Mainstream	0	1	0	5
Connected	7	6	4	2
Foster to adopt	0	0	0	1
Panel activity(households)				
Newly approved;	5	3	2	1
Matches for children and their long-term fostering families with Middlesbrough	1	3	3	0
Reviews	7	11	2	1
Supported Lodgings	5	5	5	5
Enquiries	0	0	0	1

What is working well

- We continue to have the highest number of children placed with in-house fostering families.



June 2022 IFA 145 Inhouse 191 - 57 % Inhouse

June 2023 IFA 162 Inhouse 178 – 52% Inhouse

Sept 2023 IFA 150 Inhouse 180 – 55% Inhouse

December 2023 IFA 150 Inhouse 176 – 54% Inhouse

February 2024 IFA 147 inhouse 169 – 54% Inhouse

- Overall, we have seen a reduction of children in foster care over a 18 months period of 24 children this is for a number of reason however the largest number are children moving from connected care arrangement to family arrangements such as Special guardianship orders. In the previous 11 months there has been 17 connected carers deregistered due to this.
- In February 2023 Middlesbrough council increase the payments to foster carers and introduced level payments instead of banding this has meant that Middlesbrough council are now competitive with IFAs and over the last 12 months we have seen an increase in approved foster carers. In 2023 11 foster carers were approved compared to the previous 12 months where 1 was approved.
- Currently there are a further 7 foster carers in assessment which will increase the number of placements to Middlesbrough children by a further 12 placements.
- There has been a number of new foster carers who have transferred from other LA's and a number from IFA's to Middlesbrough council.
- Over the previous 13 months no connected carers assessments have gone out of the 24-week timescale
- We have timescales and practice guidance on connected assessments making them more robust and child-focused
- We have a stable service with no agency across the three teams.
- A Social Worker is DDP trained to lead and offer Dyadic Developmental Parenting to carers and social worker consultations
- The fostering service now receives the same training offer as both Residential and Resources giving our social workers and carers greater knowledge and support.
- Weekly stability discussion between Futures for Families and Fostering to prevent placement breakdowns for our teenagers within fostering arrangements. This is still early, and impact will be shown in future reports.
- The creation of a dashboard for Fostering in underway this will give managers greater oversight of the service and will enable data to be accessible quicker meaning managers will have more time with staff and the ability to complete observations.

What are we worried about

- The number of children that continue to be placed in unregulated connected care placements as a result of no, or negative assessments.
- There was a failed launch of Mockingbird in May 2023 due to no constations or a hub carer after stepping down.
- The recruitment of foster carers and marketing is handled regionally led by TFC under the umbrella of Foster with Northeast since the inception in September 2023 we have seen a reduction in enquiries leading to initial visits
- Available capacity with foster carers to care for teenagers in an emergency following placement or family breakdowns.

What makes things more complicated

- Having restriction on how we advertise for foster carers given we need to use foster with Northeast material and can't share the benefits of being a carer in Middlesbrough.
- Foster carers raising the instability in the wider social work workforce (Children and Young People having multiple social workers)
- Placements for larger sibling groups are difficult to find
- Some connected carers choosing not to take an SGO due to the financial support offered which is creating a larger number of looked after children.

Plan

- We continue to aim to be able to meet the needs of 70% of our looked-after children through in-house fostering provision by the end of 2025 and need to recruit a substantial number of fostering families to achieve this.
- A planned marketing campaign aligned with the terms of Foster with Northeast to target Middlesbrough residence over the coming 12 months.
- Trauma informed training for foster carers and support in understanding how to create a trauma informed environment with the support from service.
- All young people who are 12 plus to have access and support to the pathway to independence booklet which will offer support in developing skills as they reach adulthood.

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Any Questions



**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**



Report of:	Adam Hart (Headstart South Tees Apprentice)
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Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board – 29/02/2024
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Subject:	NENC Care Leavers Project Progression Update
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Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
Your Home
Your Family and Friends
Your Education
Your Adult Life
Your Health and wellbeing
Your Voice and Influence

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

N/A

What is the purpose of this report?

For information sharing.

Report Overview

This report is an interim update on the Care Leavers project from the NENC Child Health and Wellbeing Network and Middlesbrough Council, for information only. The report highlights brief findings and next steps for the ongoing project.

Report Background

Report Attached

Appendices

Report Attached

Recommendations

N/A

Why is this being recommended?

N/A

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

N/A

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

N/A

Legal

N/A

Financial

N/A

Policy Framework

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Risk

N/A

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

N/A

Background papers

No Background Papers were used

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Care Leavers Engagement Project.

Interim report findings

This report is an update on the progress of the Care Leavers Project, in partnership with the Child Health and Wellbeing Network and Middlesbrough Council for the purpose of presenting as a mid-term finding report.

This report outlines the key findings of a recent questionnaire and summarises the projects' purpose, expected outcomes and next steps.

The project is managed by Adam Hart and Jo Morgan.

Within the footprint of NENC we have high numbers of cared for children and therefore our population of care leavers will also be significant. We hear within research that care leavers are more prevalent to suffer inequalities than their peers who have not been subject to the care system. Within our region we are committed to leveling up and reducing inequalities faced by vulnerable groups. Therefore, this project aims to firstly engage with our care leavers to understand what life is like for them, to gain understanding of their day-to-day experiences which may impact on their wellbeing. Then consider the services a can work together, share good practice, and engage better with our young people to improve life outcomes for them.

Using the Core 20 Plus 5 Toolkit, the population of Care Leavers were identified in Middlesbrough. Considerations of data around mental health, housing, and work/education were identified.

Project Objectives

- 1 To hear the voice of our young people.** To effectively work with our young people. Capture their opinions which could help the development of a co-produced project that is meaningful to them both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- 2 Data collection.** To understand the needs of our young people on leaving care within an area of NENC to provide a representation of our cared for population using publicly available data.
- 3 Share learning** across the NENC footprint via the creation of a report to be shared with key stakeholders.

Research:

- 3 health inequalities were identified through the core 20+5 analysis, those being Food insecurity, emotional health and accommodation. We used these to shape the professional and Young Persons Questionnaires
- A 20-question survey was sent out to all members of Middlesbrough children service staff that asked for feedback on current services, what professionals thought the key issues young people face, and how services could improve to ensure maximum efficiency.
- A 24-question survey was sent out to senior management and team managers to pass on to every young person in their service to gain feedback on young

people's views on services on how we can improve, this is still open for responses.

- 32 professionals responded to the survey.

Interim Professional Research Feedback:

The professionals survey covered three main topics, mental health, housing and cost of living, the topics were highlighted as important through our core 20 + 5 analysis and the questions were structured around this.

Initial findings highlight that the majority of professionals felt that emotional pressure has increased for young people leaving care. Some professionals believed the lack of fostering provision and putting young people in residential homes because of this also has an impact on young people's emotional health. One professional stated the one of the biggest impacts of young people's emotional health is the increases accessibility to street drugs. Professionals suggested that more awareness of VCSE services could help for young people to be identified by more specialised services as some also stated that most referrals go through to CAMHS or a GP.

Concerns about housing mostly came about capacity, with one professional describing it as a "lottery" due to what is available at the time and the location of the property. Some felt the risks in the community was a huge concern and ensuring those young people who are more susceptible to exploitation are placed in an area that doesn't have extreme known criminal and sexual exploitation. Professionals suggested more flexible and social support. A more individual need to the end of care with a step-to-step approach to independence.

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis has been reported nationally as having a great impact on the expenditure of families and individuals. Most professionals noted that one of their biggest concerns was the regular and increased use of foodbanks. Some staff noted that universal credit is also quite low at the current rate being £66.00 p/w and asked the question "why are so many care leavers on UC." Professionals would like to know how the addition to the protected characteristics will impact the offer from the local authority. Raising aspirations and increasing opportunities for care leavers is something that was a key theme across the board when asking professionals what could be done to deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

What Is Next?

Next steps include a detailed analysis of the professional's data and the analysis of young people's responses, with recommendations made from the findings for further project work to support Care Leavers in Middlesbrough. We will continue in partnership and communicate with key stakeholders on project developments.