

## YOU MATTER TO US - CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

<p><b>Date:</b> Thursday, 30 January 2025 <b>Time:</b> 5.00 p.m. <b>Venue:</b> Mandela Room, Town Hall</p>
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### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes - You Matter to Us - Corporate Parenting Board - 3 October 2024 3 - 8
4. Care Experienced Youth Update 9 - 14  
The Voice and Influence Manager and Care Ambassador(s) will be in attendance to present the report.
5. You Matter to Us - Performance 15 - 26  
The Director of Children's Care will be in attendance to present the Children's Services Analysis Tool (ChAT) data.
6. Children in Care Update 27 - 30  
The Director of Children's Care and the Agency Service Manager will be in attendance to present the report.
7. Virtual School - Virtual College App - Task and Finish Group - Update  
The Head of Virtual School will be in attendance to deliver a verbal update.
8. Looked After Children Progress and Attainment - Autumn Term 2024 31 - 46  
The Head of Virtual School will be in attendance to deliver the presentation.

9. Looked after Children Attendance and Suspension - Autumn Term 2024 47 - 58
- The Head of Virtual School will be in attendance to deliver the presentation.
10. Looked After Children with SEND 59 - 66
- The Head of Virtual School will be in attendance to deliver the presentation.
11. You Matter to Us - Corporate Parenting Board - Work Programme
12. 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, 22 January 2025

#### MEMBERSHIP

Mayor C Cooke (Chair) and Councillors P Storey (Vice-Chair), E Clynch, L Henman, D Jackson, L Mason, J McTigue, M Nugent, Z Uddin and L Young.

#### **Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Chris Lunn, 01642 729742, [chris\\_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

**YOU MATTER TO US - CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

A meeting of the You Matter to Us - Corporate Parenting Board was held on Thursday, 3 October 2024.

**PRESENT:** Mayor C Cooke (Chair), P Storey (Vice-Chair), E Clynch, L Henman, Z Uddin and L Young.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** R Baker (Cleveland Police).

**OFFICERS:** D Alaszewski, V Banks, T Dunn, T Jelfs, C Lunn and N Saunders.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None.

22/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item / Nature of Business
Cllr L Young	Non-Pecuniary	Employed within education setting.

22/3 **MINUTES - YOU MATTER TO US - CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - 18 APRIL 2024**

The minutes of the You Matter to Us - Corporate Parenting Board meeting held on 18 April 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

22/4 **YOU MATTER TO US - PERFORMANCE**

The Director of Children’s Care provided information to the Board in relation to service performance. Members were referred to the ‘Children’s Services Analysis Tool (ChAT)’ document, which was based on Ofsted’s ILACS Annex A dataset (2020) / Inspection Report, and which had been circulated as part of the agenda pack.

It was explained that a focused Ofsted visit had taken place in July 2024. Although the visit itself had lasted two days, when considering such matters as preparation time, preliminary meetings and file reviews, the inspection had run for two weeks overall. Although positive feedback, which recognised that improvements had been made, was received, welcomed, and publicised, it was acknowledged that further improvements were still to be made. The Agency Head of Service had led on the improvement work to date, which had demonstrated both strong oversight and hard work by the teams involved.

The snapshot data for the last six months, which had been circulated to Members, covered the following areas:

- Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care.
- CLA Placements.
- CLA Health and Missing/ Absent from Placement.
- Care Leavers Eligibility, PA Allocation and Pathway Plans.
- Care Leavers Demographics and UASC.
- Care Leavers Pathway Plan and Contact Timescales.
- Care Leavers PA Allocation and In Touch.
- Care Leavers Accommodation Suitability and Type.
- Care Leavers Activity (Education, Employment, or Training).

The Board noted that a reduction in the number of children in care was currently being seen, with 491 children presently in placement. By comparison, in 2018/2019 there were approximately 700 children in care. Work was actively taking place with families in relation to safe assessments; returning children to home; and progressing Special Guardianship Order (SGO) assessment.

Over the last six months, 68 children and young people had entered care, whereas 87 had moved out. 4% of those moving out had been adopted and 26% had resulted from SGO.

Work had been taking place with SHiFT Middlesbrough to provide intense support to 27 young people. With a focus on crime prevention, activities related to youth custody and juvenile detention matters; legal gateway panels had also been revisited.

Regarding health, the Board noted that of the 381 Children Looked After (CLA) for at least 12 months, 90% had received an up to date health assessment. In terms of dental checks, 84% had received a dental check in the last 12 months. The issue of dental hygiene had been of significant concern previously; the Board welcomed this performance, but it was acknowledged that further work was required to raise this further.

Reference was made to a piece of work that had been undertaken in relation to identifying individuals that were, following new legislation, eligible to receive care leavers support. The number of young people classed as care leavers had and would continue to increase; pop-up hubs had been established to support this process, and significant effort made to contact family members, etc. Ofsted had recognised this as a particularly positive piece of work.

A Member referred to figures pertaining to care leavers' Personal Advisor (PA) allocation and keeping in touch. Clarification regarding the number of 17-18 year olds and 19-21 year olds maintaining contact with the Local Authority was requested. In response, it was indicated that for 17-18 year olds this was 82%, and for 19-21 year olds 89%.

A discussion ensued in relation to CLA missing from placement. The following comments were made:

- The Board heard that officers had undertaken work to strengthen reporting measures, such as implementing weekly updates around serious incidents. It was suggested that consideration be given towards future/ forward planning, and the types of areas where 'deep dives' and/ or more information would facilitate the work of the Board.
- The Chair referred to police resources and queried how missing episodes impacted on these. In response, the Cleveland Police representative indicated that, over the last 12 months, there had been a 23% reduction in the number of young people going missing from home; an 18% reduction in the number of high risk young people going missing from home; and an 80% reduction in repeat missing.

It was explained that a specialist team of officers worked on cases involving missing CLA. When a young person went missing, a risk assessment was undertaken to determine whether they were at high or medium/ low risk. High risk cases involved, for example, potential for self-harm; medium/ low risk involved, for example, young people missing for several days at a time. Depending upon the assessment, resources would be allocated as appropriate. In the case of young people missing for several days at a time, for example, it was explained that this had impact on frontline response because those officers would be asked to assist with the missing team resource. It was noted that Cleveland Police had good response plans in place to deal with missing incidents.

The police representative referred to the Philomena Principles passed into care homes and queried how assured partners felt that, when young people had encountered other partner agencies, that they had also come into police contact. In response, the Agency Head of Service for Corporate Parenting explained that there had been good responses in terms of monitoring with MACH, with a positive response and attendance from Cleveland Police. There had been positive responses around escalation too.

In response to an enquiry from a Member, the Board was advised that the 23% reduction in children going missing from home referred to young people reported as missing by parents, services, etc.

A Member queried the work that had been undertaken to help prevent CLA missing episodes. In response, the Board heard that Cleveland Police's missing from home team had met with regulated care providers to discuss prevention matters. Reference was again made to the Philomena Principles, which was about gaining insight into the lives of young people who entered care homes: understanding where family and friends resided; where they would likely go to if missing; obtaining telephone numbers, social media tags, etc. It was about offering front-end support.

- Children's Services had a specific team dealing with incidents of missing CLA; part of

their work was to conduct return interviews with young people.

- The Chair suggested that a 'deep dive' into this area would be useful: to understand the reasons for missing episodes, what the cohorts were, etc. There was significant concern for the Local Authority when missing episodes occurred, and a significant impact on police resources.

A Member referred to Kinship Care, in particular Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs), and queried the support available around these. In response, the Board heard that the number of SGOs had increased slightly. There had been some concerns raised from families around whether support would continue once a SGO was put in place; it was indicated that the SGO policy was currently being reviewed. It was indicated that Child Arrangement Orders were having a positive effect for families. Permanency monitoring was carried out monthly.

In responding to an enquiry regarding the definition, number and thresholds around care leavers, the Board heard that thresholds had not changed. Although the associated processes and legal gateway had been aligned across Tees, Middlesbrough's responses were different - which included work as part of the SHiFT Middlesbrough initiative. Reference was made to earlier intervention work to prevent children entering care; improved educational attainment; and the aim to keep children with their families. It was explained that the length of time young people had been in care, and how many days after their sixteenth birthday they had been in care, which determined their eligibility for support. Pop-up drop in sessions to maintain contact and involvement with services had been held; reference was made to mental health support, and the regulations involved in all this work.

The Chair commented on the importance of reflecting on Middlesbrough's service and provision in comparison to other local areas. Openness, transparency and working effectively with neighbouring Local Authorities to uplift standards and offer the best service possible was key. A Board Member referred to travel and bus companies and commented that effective communication with partners would facilitate the processing of travel permits for young people.

In response to a query from a Member regarding the Keeping in Touch statistics, it was explained to the Board that there had been some issues experienced with data recording for PA allocation and the percentage of 17–18-year-olds in touch with the Local Authority. A pathway scorecard was currently being devised which would improve the accuracy of the data. It was agreed that the updated figures would be provided to Members.

**AGREED that:**

1. **The Keeping in Touch statistics would be updated and provided to Board Members.**
2. **The information, as presented, was noted.**

22/5

**EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE LOOKED AFTER**

The Head of Virtual School delivered a presentation to the Board, which focused on 'Unvalidated End of Key Stage Outcomes for Looked After Children 2024'.

The Board heard that, prior to entering care, many CLA had had a disrupted education, which included poor attendance; multiple school moves; and multiple suspensions or exclusions. Many had also suffered trauma and had attachment disruptions which impacted upon neurological development. Such disruption affected their ability to focus in lessons, and this could continue until they felt safe and secure. Support staff wanted children and young people to feel safe and secure in the school environment, and this did provide challenge.

CLA may also have experienced many changes whilst in care, which included home moves; school moves; and changes of social worker. All of these affected their ability to make good progress at school.

Regarding the virtual school interim outcomes for 2024, the Board was advised that the information being reported on referred to the attainment for all CLA alongside the 'qualifying cohort', which was children who had been in care for 12 months or more as at 31 March 2023. It was explained that there had been a return to pre-pandemic grading in England this summer as exams and assessments for all qualifications had progressed as planned. The Department

for Education (DfE) had confirmed it was not necessary for students to memorise formulae for GCSE Mathematics and equations for GCSE Physics and Combined Science in 2024. The Board noted that this was the final year that formulae would be provided, and from next year onwards, students would be expected to recite them.

A table illustrating statistical data in respect of CLA attainment at Early Years and Key Stage 2 was provided, as follows:

	All CLA N'nal 2024 %	All CLA R'nal 2024 %	CLA Statistic al N'hours 2024 %	CLA 12m+ M'bro 2022 %	CLA 12m+ M'bro 2023 %	CLA 12m+ M'bro 2024 %	M'bro All C'dren 2024 %	All CLA M'bro 2024 %
<b>Early Years GLD</b>	41	42	46	27	44	22.2	62	38
<b>KS2 R/W/M</b>	33	36	38	32	39	31	60	19
<b>KS2 Reading</b>	52	55	58	52	44	56	71	39
<b>KS2 Writing</b>	45	45	51	49	50	50	72	35
<b>KS2 Maths</b>	52	46	44	52	50	50	72.7	35
<b>KS4 Basics 4+</b>	-	-	-	18	16	14	55	15
<b>KS4 Maths 4+</b>	-	-	-	21	24	24	59	26
<b>KS4 English 4+</b>	-	-	-	30	29	24	66	26

In terms of a comparative analysis between Middlesbrough and the wider regional and national data, the Board was advised that although a good indication, it was important to be mindful that the cohorts were small, for example: there were nine children in one of the cohorts this year, and therefore any minor change could alter the statistics significantly. In addition, it was important to recognise and understand the caveats of the data, for example: the support plans that were in place to help children to achieve. Members were advised that Key Stage 4 data would be provided at a future meeting once it had been produced.

The Board heard that a 'deep dive' exercise had recently been undertaken, which had resulted in seven issues being identified. These were: Attendance; Stability home and school; PEP quality; Suspensions; Quality of teaching and learning; Sufficiency of SEN and AP places; and Change of Social Worker. In terms of next steps to address these issues, these were outlined as follows:

- PEP would be completed before a home move.
- The school moves policy would be relaunched.
- The school holiday request policy would be relaunched.
- There would be priority access to specialist schools and AP without drift and delay.
- EOTAs would be tracked and monitored through: priority access to EP assessments; publishing of the Social Worker ed. Handbook; and relaunch of the Virtual School drop ins.

A Member referred to placement moves that occurred in Y11 and the impact that this had on the respective child's education. It was queried whether there was either a policy or formality in place to safeguard against moves in the final year. In response, it was explained that children were not moved in that year unless something occurred that was outside the control of the Local Authority; sometimes placements did break down. In such situations discussions

would take place, with the virtual school being involved to help avoid any disruption.

A Member referred to the issue around the recruitment and retention of social workers. It was queried what impact a high turnover of social workers had on the welfare of children, and what evidence base there was for this. In response, the Board heard that a study had been undertaken in 2015 by the Universities of Oxford and Bristol - 'The Educational Progress of Looked After Children in England: Linking Care and Educational Data'. A link to the research paper would be provided to Members following the meeting. The Director of Children's Care referred to the Council's recruitment strategy and commented that there had been increased stability in terms of recruitment and retention more recently.

A Member commented that Y10 forms part of the GCSE programme and that children should not have been moved during this year. In response, the Head of Virtual School explained that there was national guidance around this; children should not have been moved during key stages.

**AGREED that:**

1. **The Virtual School Head would provide a link to the research referred to during her presentation, which noted the factors that contributed to good educational outcomes for CLA.**
2. **The information, as provided, was noted.**

22/6

**DISCUSSION ITEM - TRAINING FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

The Director of Children's Care opened a discussion regarding potential training opportunities for Board Members, all Elected Members, and officers in relation to the role and responsibilities of Corporate Parents. Reference was made to training that other Local Authorities had undertaken, as well as training and development work that had been offered previously at Middlesbrough.

During the discussion, Members made the following suggestions:

1. That formal training sessions be established for all Board Members and LMT to attend.
2. That informal training sessions be set-up in partnership with Youth Voice for all Board Members to attend.
3. That training for all Elected Members, to explain and emphasise their role as Corporate Parents, be undertaken before Full Council meetings.

The representative from Cleveland Police advised that they would like to be involved in the development of training activities, wherever possible.

**AGREED** that the suggestions made in respect of training and development opportunities for Members and Officers be considered.

22/7

**DISCUSSION ITEM - YOU MATTER TO US MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE**

A discussion ensued in relation to Board membership and attendance/ representation at meetings.

It was commented that a housing representative would be sought and added to the attendee distribution list as soon as possible. Representatives from Health were also being considered.

A Member suggested that when Looked After Children completed Y6, a card with a congratulatory message, signed by all Board Members, be forwarded to them.

A Care Ambassador raised the matter of communication between partners; It was felt that this could be improved. It was commented that, as service users and the voice of over 400 young people, the Care Ambassadors were in the best position to assist partner agencies. Fellow Members of the Board recognised this; the Director of Children's Care highlighted that, having attained lived experience, the voice of those individuals were stronger and louder than others and it was important that these were heard. Board Members wanted to ensure that Care Ambassadors were part of training activities and fully involved in Board meetings. It was

agreed that a standing item for the Care Ambassadors would be included on future meeting agendas.

**AGREED that:**

1. An appropriate housing representative would be sought and invited to future meetings.
2. A standing item for participation representatives would be included on future meeting agendas.

22/8

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

None.



# Care Experienced Youth Voice

May - December 2024

**Middlesbrough's Participation Team facilitates open, safe, and inclusive spaces for people to tell us what is important to them. We capture this information and support them to tell key decision makers, so improvements are made to the support they and others receive.**

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

## **Care Ambassadors**

- Care experienced young adults (two of which are Co opted onto the 'You Matter to Us' Corporate Parenting Board).
- Three young adults volunteer in this role.
- They have an opportunity to support all the engagement activities with cared for and care experienced young people. They also have opportunities to support the wider engagement work - Working with students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, the Youth Council and Parent/Carer engagement as part of the Family Hubs.

## **'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 (two young people in private residential care, two in a independent foster home and one who lives with her aunt who hopes to make it a Special Guardianship arrangement).
- 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.

## **'Voice, Influence and Change'**

- Older care experienced young adults 16-25 years meet monthly at My Place 17:00-18:30pm
- Members include three care ambassadors and three care experienced adults.

**The groups are supported by:-**

**Kathy Peacock - Voice and Influence Manager**

**Adam Hart , Hollie Sharp and Caitlin O'Connor - Volunteer Care Ambassadors**

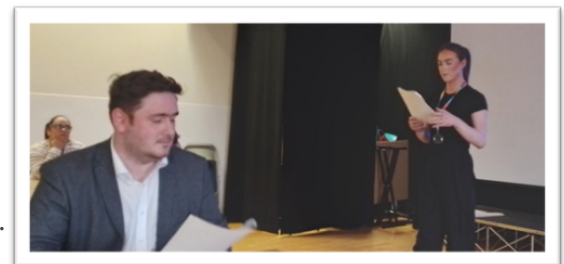
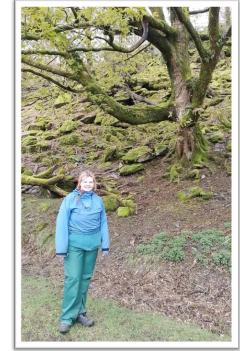
**Kalicha Halake Miyo, Jacob Green, Alisha James - Care experienced adults volunteers**

**Xavier Davies - Older care experienced volunteer**

**Abiola Dodo- Adult - Non care experienced volunteer**

# Care Ambassadors

- One Care Ambassador attended the Regional Children in Care Council residential 12-14th April.
- They attended the Mandatory Children's Services induction events - telling new members of staff what groups they support, what is being achieved and their role as Care Ambassadors.
- They attended the fostering support groups and worked with them to develop the 'You Matter' bags for all children/young people who come into our foster care/residential care. These bags will be available at the end of January 2025 and be distributed by the Social worker.
- They sat on a young person's interview panel to interview candidates for the Family Practitioner role.
- They helped develop a housing engagement event where 10 care experienced young adults talked about what they wanted in terms of good housing that will meet their needs.
- One Care Ambassador attended the 'Raising Aspirations for young people in Care at Teesside University.
- One Care Ambassador has been trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid.
- One Care Ambassador supported the Youth Council to run a workshop at the Headstart Conference.
- One Care Ambassador supported the delivery of the 'My Voice Matters Conference'. She presented at the beginning and at the end of the day.
- Two Ambassadors helped present at the Children's Services Practice week event.
- Two Care Ambassadors worked with SHIFT to create a film about the work they do. This was shown during the SHIFT Launch event.
- Two Care Ambassadors were nominated for an award at the Coram Voice event - They got Highly Commended for their work as Care Ambassadors.



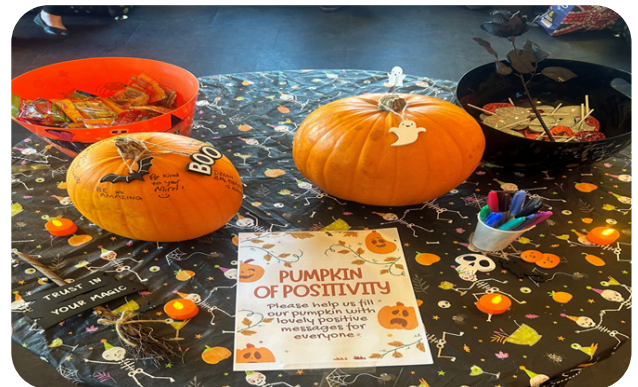
# 'We Matter'

- They came up with the name of the bags to be given to all children/young people when they come into our foster care/residential care - **You Matter**.
- They attended the annual Football event supported by the Middlesbrough Football Foundation
- A Care Ambassador supported a member of 'We Matter' and young people from Redcar and Cleveland to present at the STSCP Conference
- They had a picnic in Stewarts Park
- They held their annual Halloween party for cared for young people.



The young people were asked to write on the Pumpkin of Positivity.  
Some of the things they wrote .....

- *You are amazing*
- *The more you believe the more you achieve*
- *Be kind to your mind*
- *You are loved*
- *Keep smiling*



They held their annual Christmas Party. The Review & Development Unit team asked everyone to write on the Positivitree - One thing you are proud of, or has made you smile

- *My teacher smiles at me every time I see her*
- *Being asked to play my part delivering for young people as executive member*
- *Being part of these events and loving how everybody works together to make them special*
- *Moving to a new school and enjoying it*
- *I am getting a new cat on Friday*



# 'Voice, Influence and Change

- They met with Decision Makers to work on - Changing the Language.



- They met with the OFSTED inspectors who reported - *'Impressive 'Care Ambassadors' and 'Voice Groups' are gaining more influence in service design and delivery on behalf of care-experienced young people as participation and engagement with care leavers evolve. Senior leaders recognise and place value on young people's meaningful contribution to the appointment of key leaders and the co-chairing of strategic boards. Young people told inspectors that they are treated as equals, feel heard and that senior leaders understand better what it is like to be a care-experienced young person in Middlesbrough'.*
- They worked with Pathways to create activities during ' Care Leavers Week.
- They met with an artist to design a LOGO for their group - they will be asked to give their view before it starts being used.
- They met with Key Decision makers to look at progress so far and what they should be concentrating on in 2025.



# Cared For and Care Experienced Youth Voice

## Over the next few months .....

- The Care Ambassadors are writing a proposal exploring what opportunities should be made available to care experienced young adults - Including Apprenticeships and Volunteering. The proposal will explore young people's remunerations, rewards and incentives.
- The Care Ambassadors are working with Pathways to develop an engagement plan with older care experienced young people plan. Areas to be included - Voice, Influence and Change group, social group (Bright Futures), celebration event, care leavers week and training for Social Workers and Personal Advisors. A survey will be sent to all our older care experienced young adults asking them what is important to them.
- An engagement plan for 'We Matter' is being developed and members of the group will be exploring the five key Corporate Parenting 'You Matter to Us' Board strategic priorities 2024-2027
  1. Safe and stable homes
  2. Opportunities to succeed
  3. Support to be healthy and happy
  4. A strong sense of identity and connection
  5. Direct input into their plans and the development of services for them
- We will continue to develop the pledges and create more opportunities for key decision makers to meet directly with those with lived experience, ensure accountability and be able to evidence that services do want to make a difference.
- We continue to develop the Preparing for Independence training either create something in house or through ASDAN.
- The Change the Language guide is due to go live February 2025.



For more information:  
[Kathy\\_peacock@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Kathy_peacock@middlesbrough.gov.uk)



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# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

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

## Middlesbrough

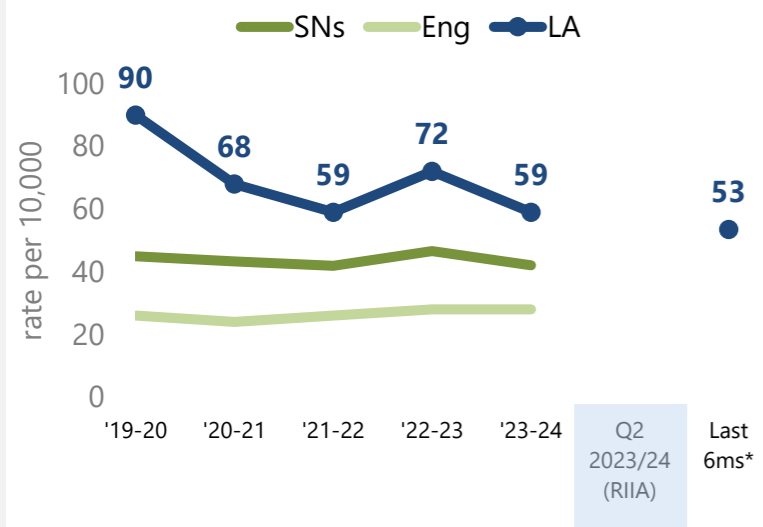
22 January 2025

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

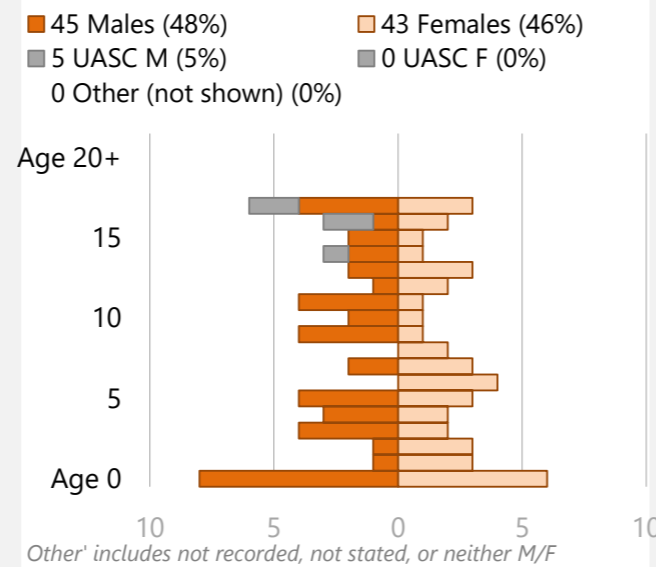
from 23/07/2024 to 22/01/2025

### 93 CLA started in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA started per 10,000 children

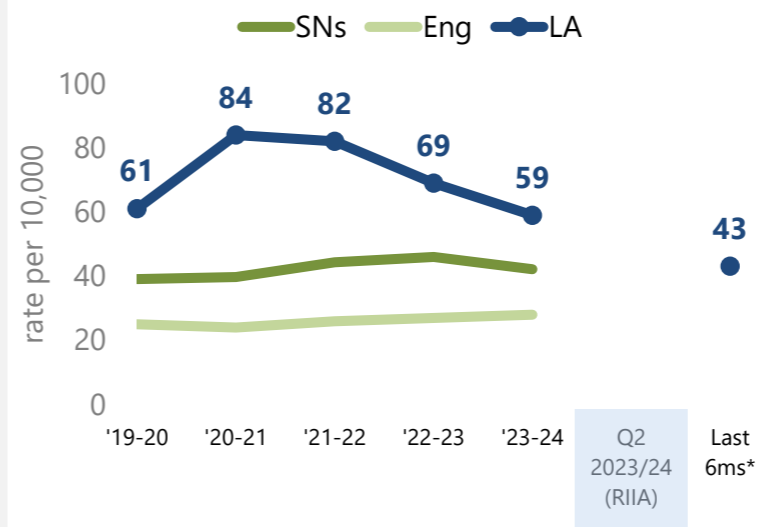


Age and gender

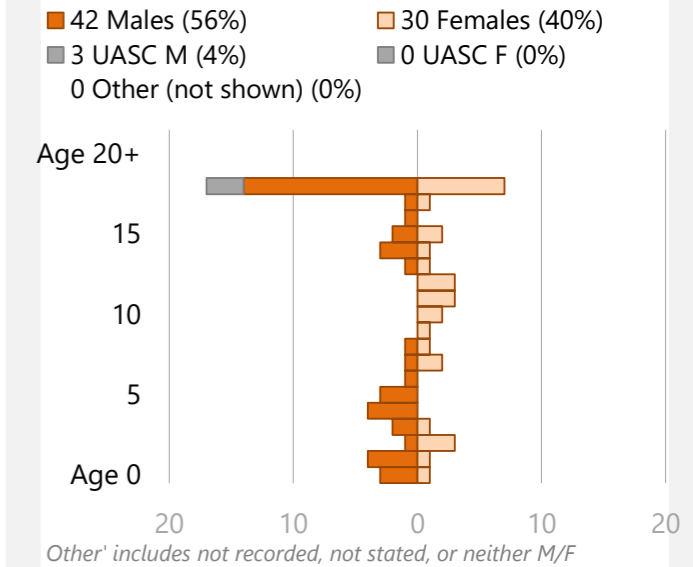


### 75 CLA ceased in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA ceased per 10,000 children



Age and gender



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

Page 16

5 of the 93 CLA starters were unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

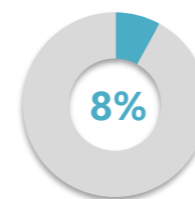
5%

4 of the 93 CLA starters have previously been looked after

4%

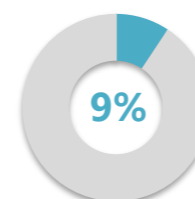
### Reason episode of care ceased

#### Adopted



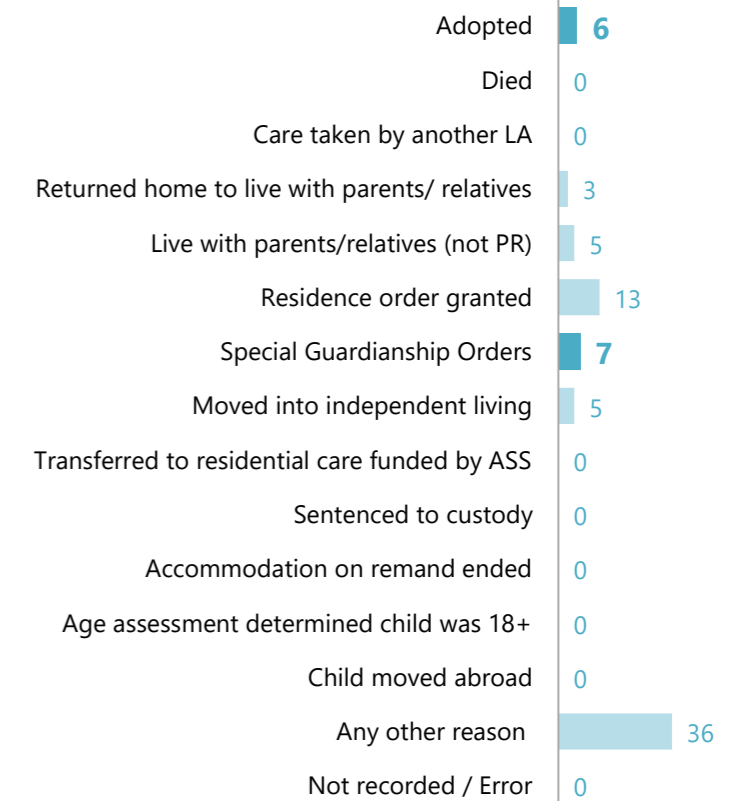
Last 6 months 8%

#### Special Guardianship Order

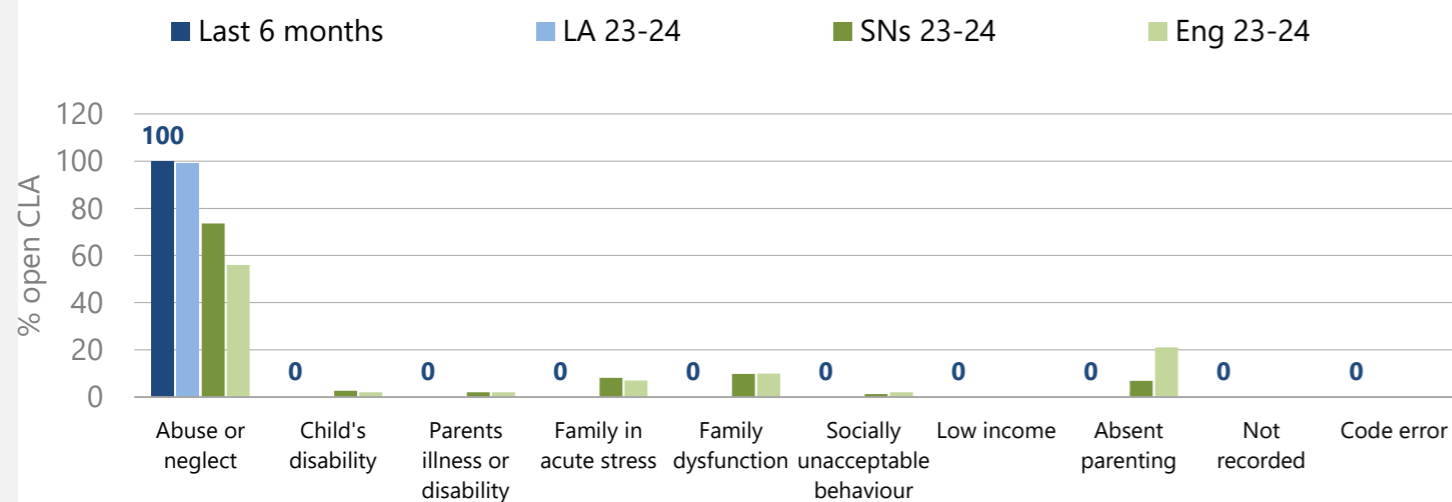


Last 6 months 9%

#### Number of CLA ceased by reason in the period



### Comparing the primary need of CLA starters



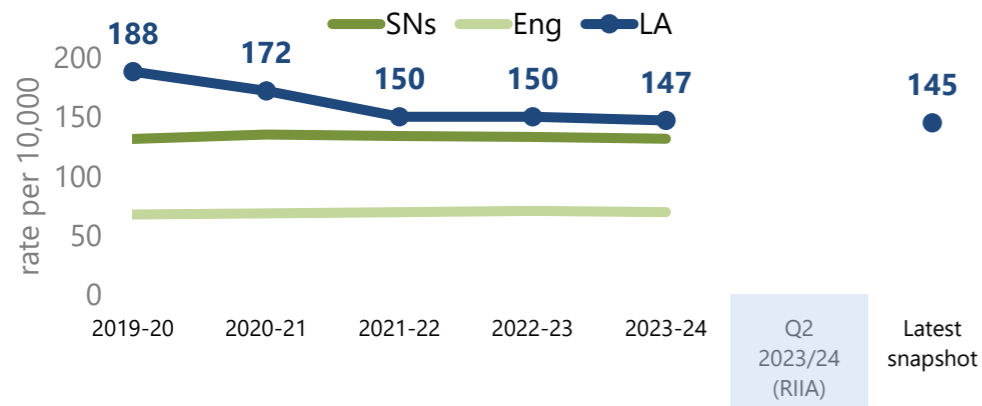


Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care

Snapshot 22/01/2025

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

Rate of CLA per 10,000 children (snapshot)



Ethnic background

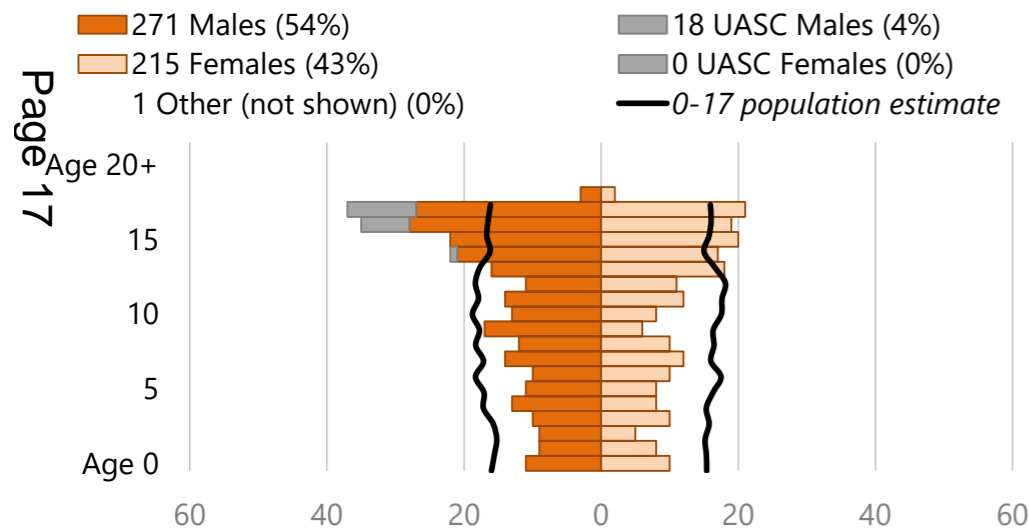
	All CLA	Not UASC	UASC
White	82%	85%	6%
Mixed	9%	9%	6%
Asian or Asian British	3%	2%	22%
Black or black British	3%	3%	17%
Other ethnic group	4%	2%	50%
Not stated	0%	0%	0%
Not recorded	0%	0%	0%

47 children (9%) with a disability

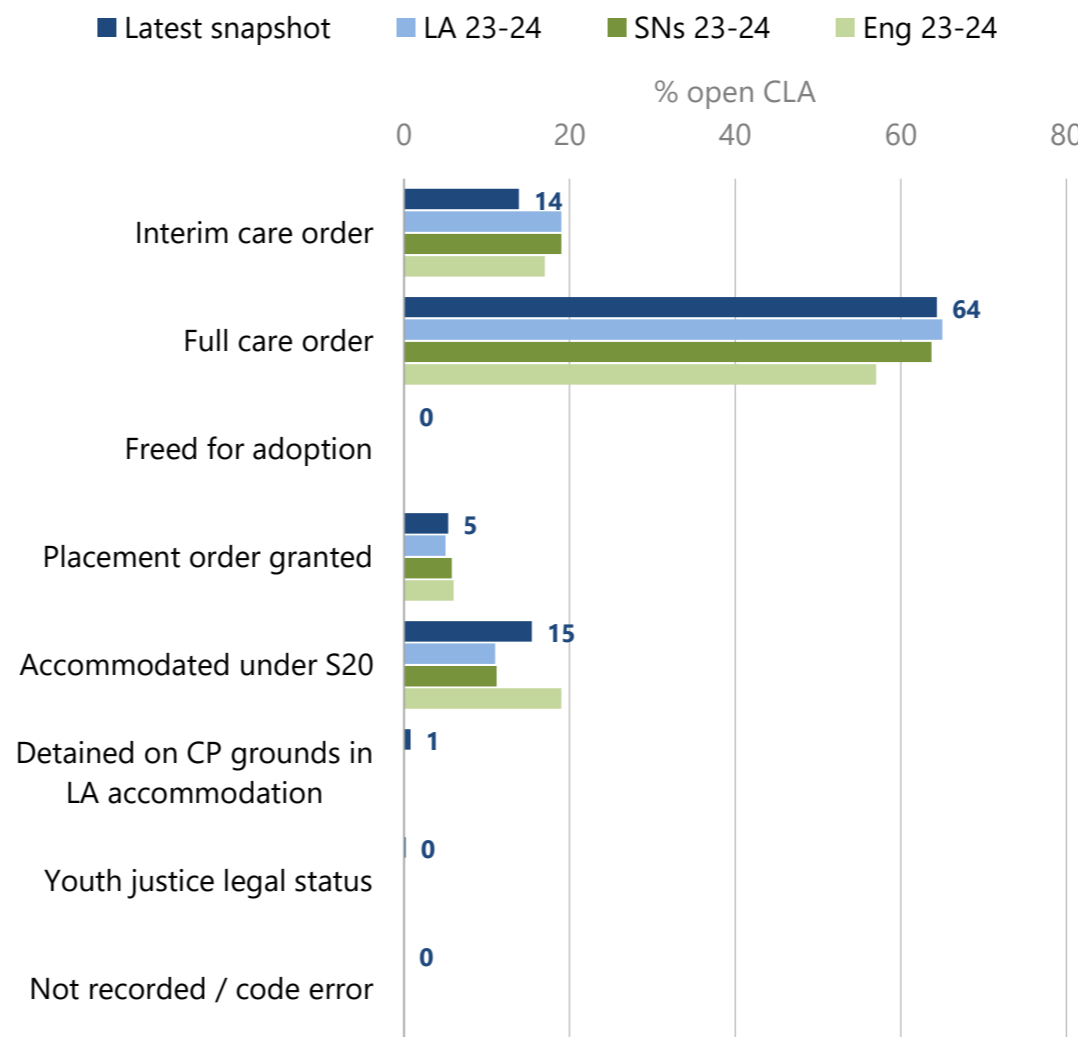
Permanence plan

	Number	%
Return to family	79	16%
Adoption	27	5%
SGO/CAO	44	9%
Supported living	32	6%
L/T residential	43	9%
L/T fostering	208	41%
Other	65	13%
Not recorded	7	1%

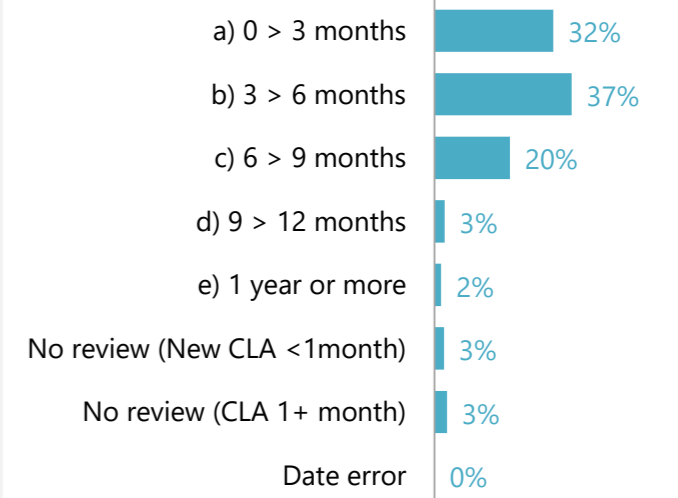
Age and gender



Comparing legal status of open CLA (snapshot)

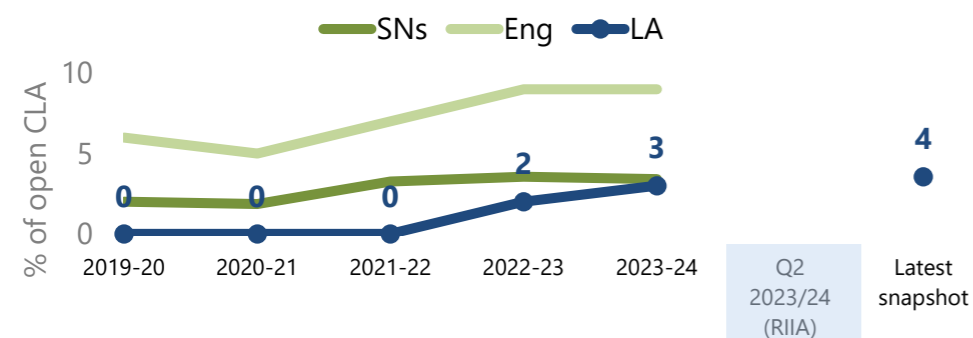


Time since latest review

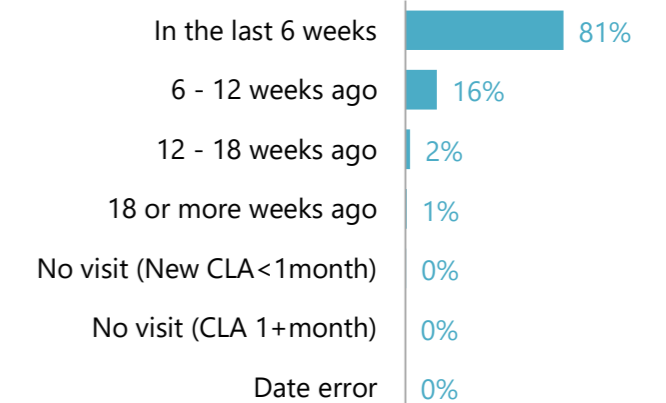


18 open unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

UASC as a percentage of CLA (snapshot)



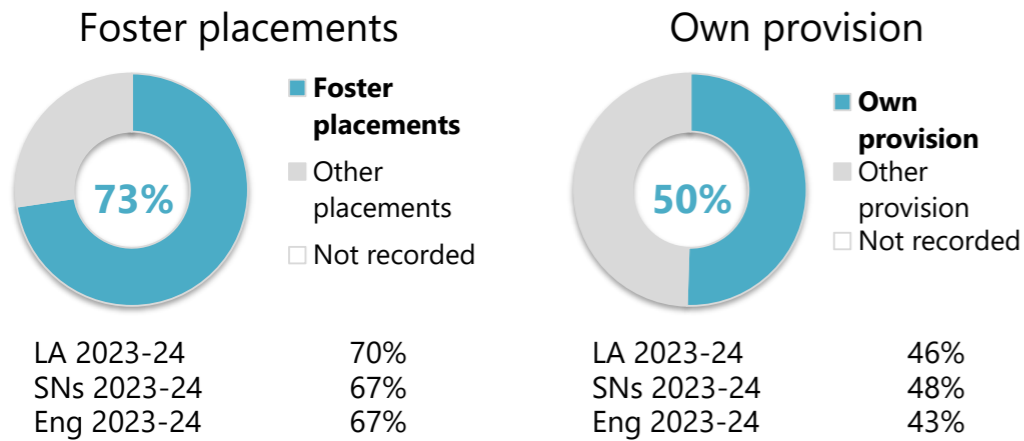
Time since the child was last seen



Children Looked After (CLA) placements

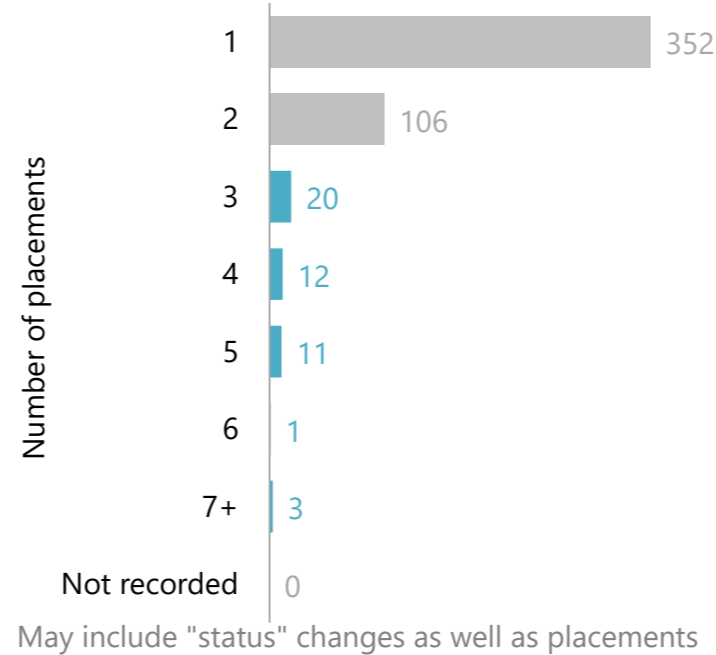
Snapshot 22/01/2025

CLA placements by type and provision



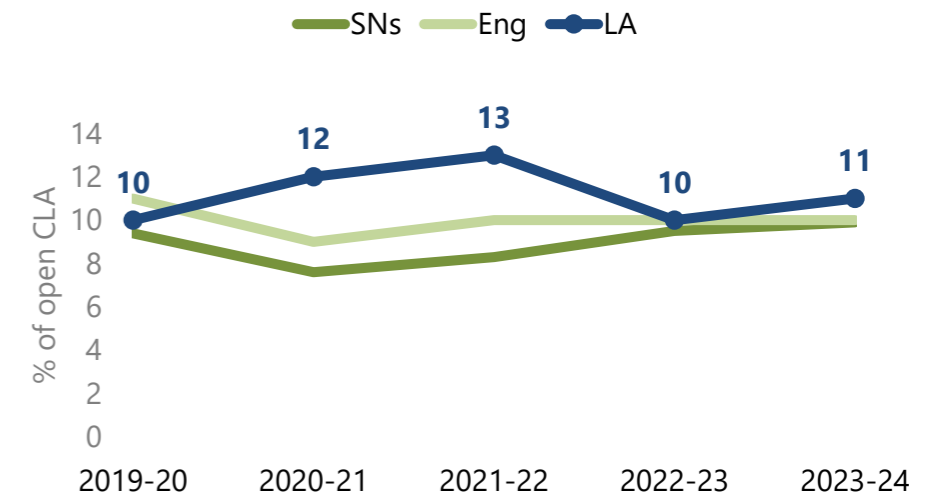
Placement type (open CLA)	Own LA	Private	Other	Total
Foster placement	232	98	37	367
Placed for adoption	0	0	7	7
Placed with parents	0	0	26	26
Independent living	0	0	0	0
Residential employment	0	0	0	0
Residential accommodation	2	15	0	17
Secure Children's Homes	0	0	1	1
Children's Homes	16	39	0	55
Residential Care Home	0	0	0	0
NHS/Health Trust	0	0	1	1
Family Centre	0	0	0	0
Young Offender Institution	0	0	1	1
Residential school	0	0	0	0
Other placements	5	25	0	30
Temporary placement	0	0	0	0
<b>Total placements</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>505</b>

Number of placements in the last 12 months



May include "status" changes as well as placements

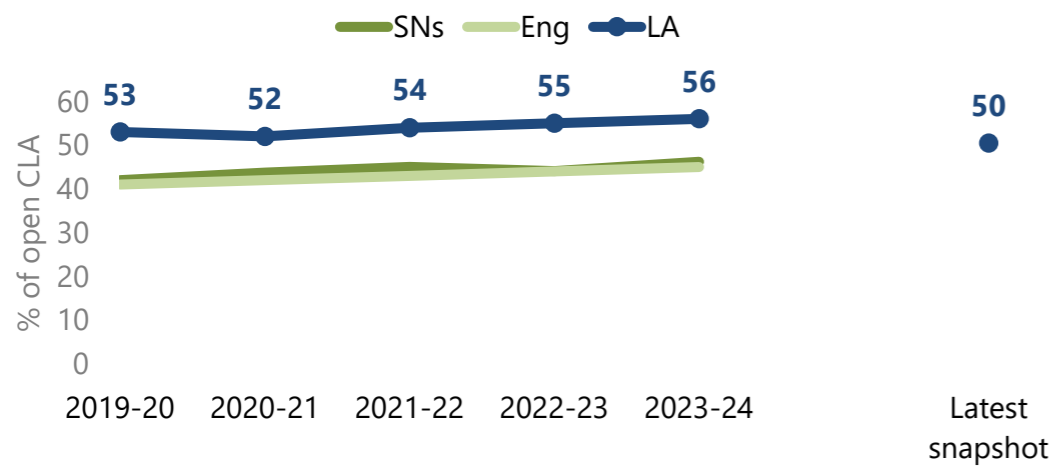
Comparing short term placement stability



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

Page 18

CLA placements out of borough



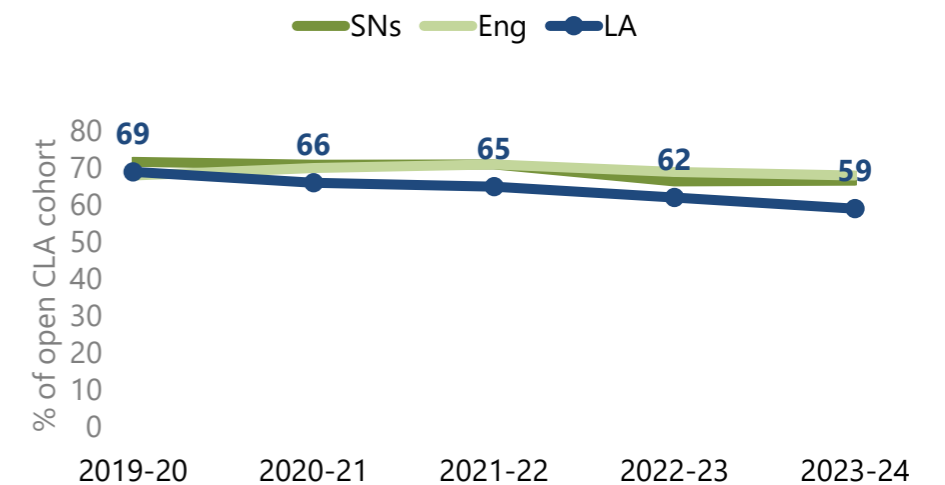
Duration of placements

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

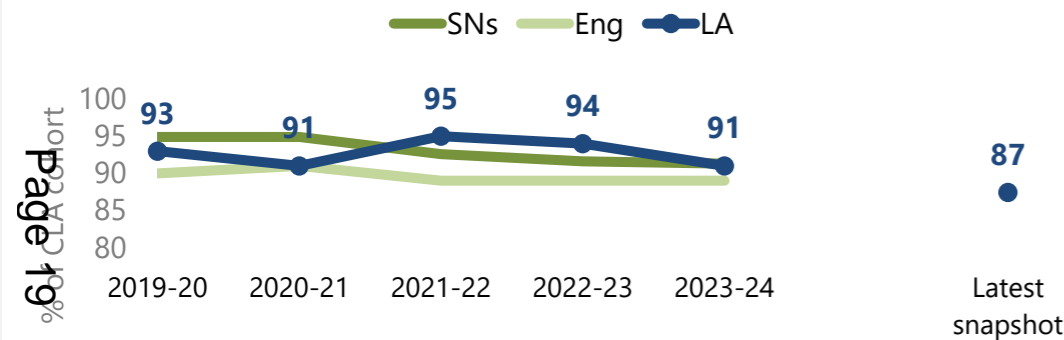
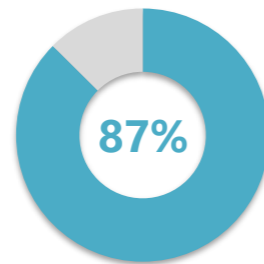
Snapshot 22/01/2025

### Health

374 current open CLA looked after for at least 12 months

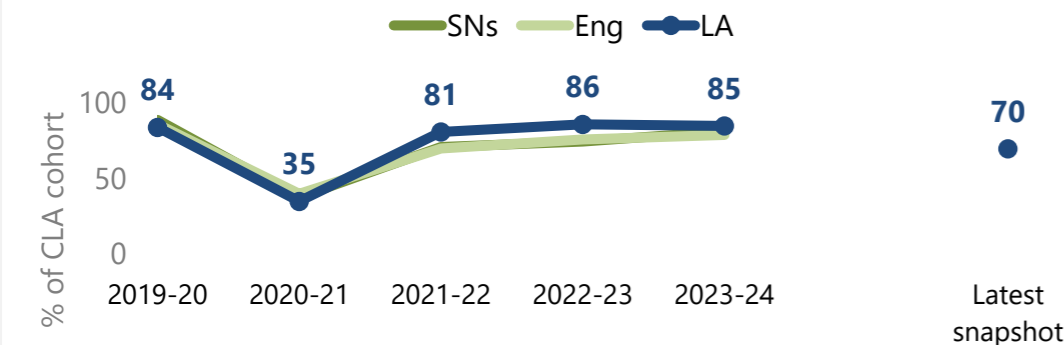
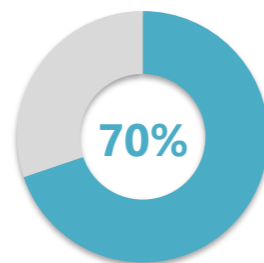
#### Health assessments

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)



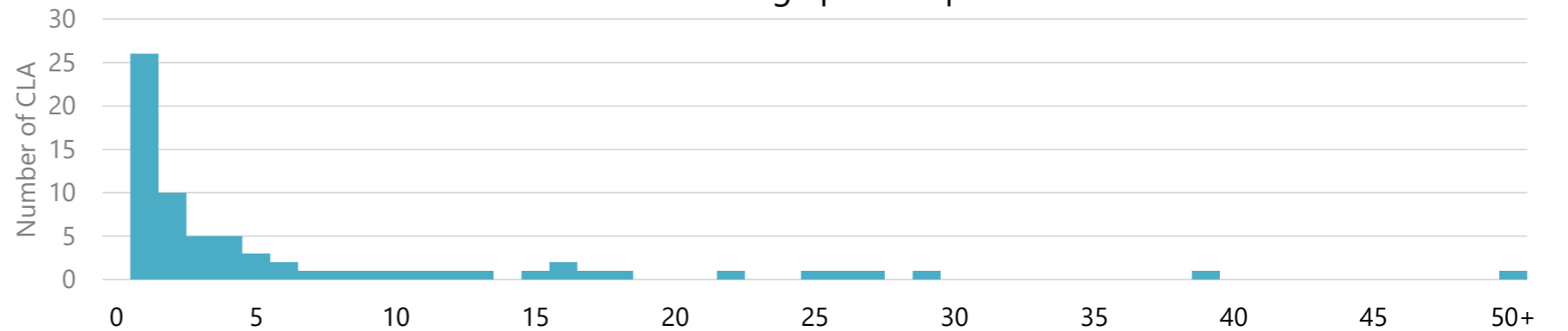
#### Dental checks

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

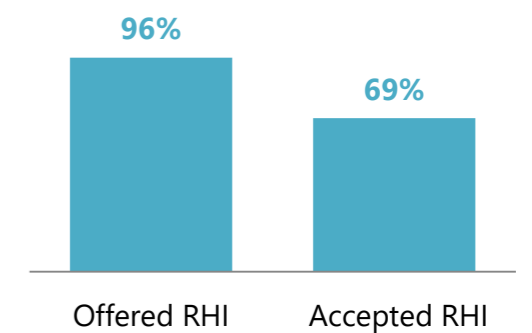


70 of 580 looked after children had a missing incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 23-24	SNs 23-24	Eng 23-24
Number of all CLA with a missing incident	70 of 580	83		
Percentage of all CLA with a missing incident	12%	12%	11%	11%
Total number of missing incidents for all CLA	503	431		
Average number of incidents per CLA who went missing	7.2	5.2	6.7	6.5

#### Missing incidents - return home interviews

	Latest data	
Missing children offered return interview	67 of 70	96%
Missing children not offered return interview	0 of 70	0%
Missing children return interview offer not recorded	3 of 70	4%
Missing children where return interview was n/a	0 of 70	0%



	Latest data	
Missing children accepted return interview	46 of 67	69%
Missing children not accepted return interview	19 of 67	28%
Missing children return interview acceptance not recorded	2 of 67	3%

### Absent from placement

10 of 580 looked after children had an absent incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 23-24	SNs 23-24	Eng 23-24
Number of all CLA with an absent incident	10 of 580	c		
Percentage of all CLA with an absent incident	2%	c	2%	2%
Total number of absent incidents for all CLA	22	c		
Average number of incidents per CLA who were absent	2.2	c	0.8	4.0

Care leavers eligibility, PA allocation and pathway plans

Snapshot 22/01/2025

# 467 care leavers who have reached the threshold for receiving leaving care services

## Care leavers by age and eligibility

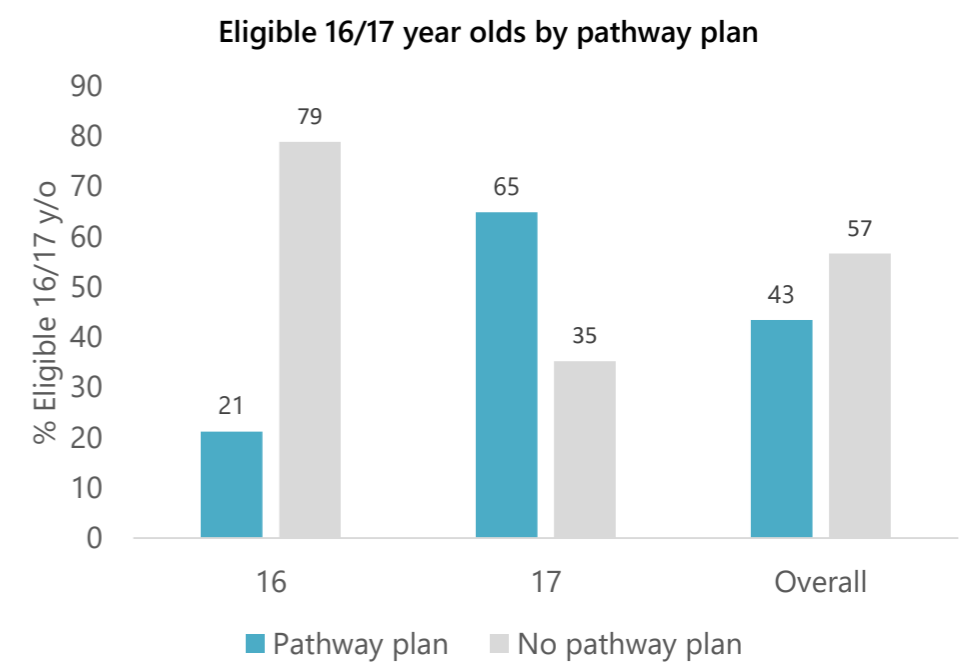
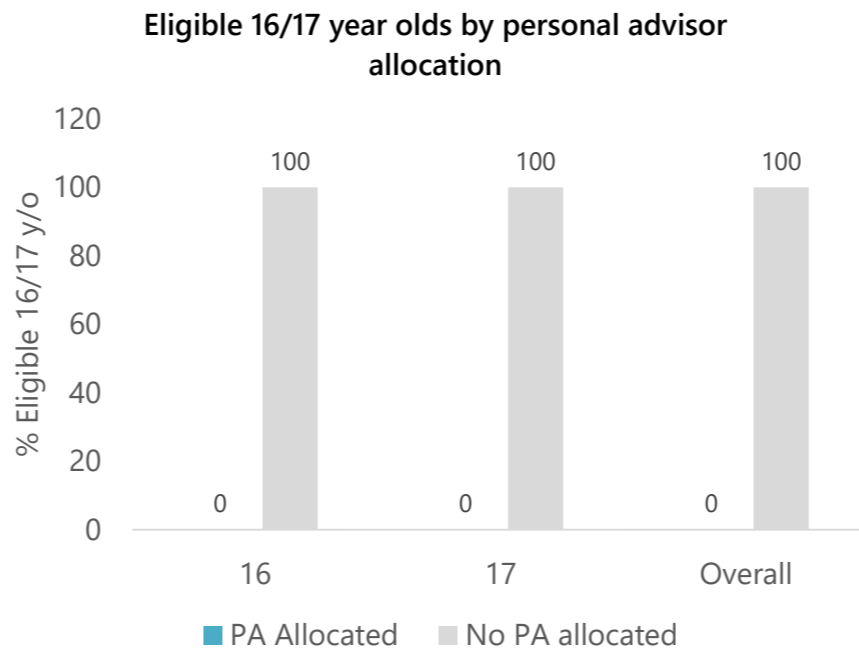
(where highlighted, please check eligibility/age criteria)

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying	Other	Total
16	52	1	0	0	0	53
17	54	4	0	2	0	60
18	0	0	60	3	0	63
19	0	0	56	2	0	58
20	0	0	57	2	0	59
21	0	0	64	0	0	64
22	0	0	35	0	0	35
23	0	0	41	0	0	41
24	0	0	34	0	0	34
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	106	5	347	9	0	467

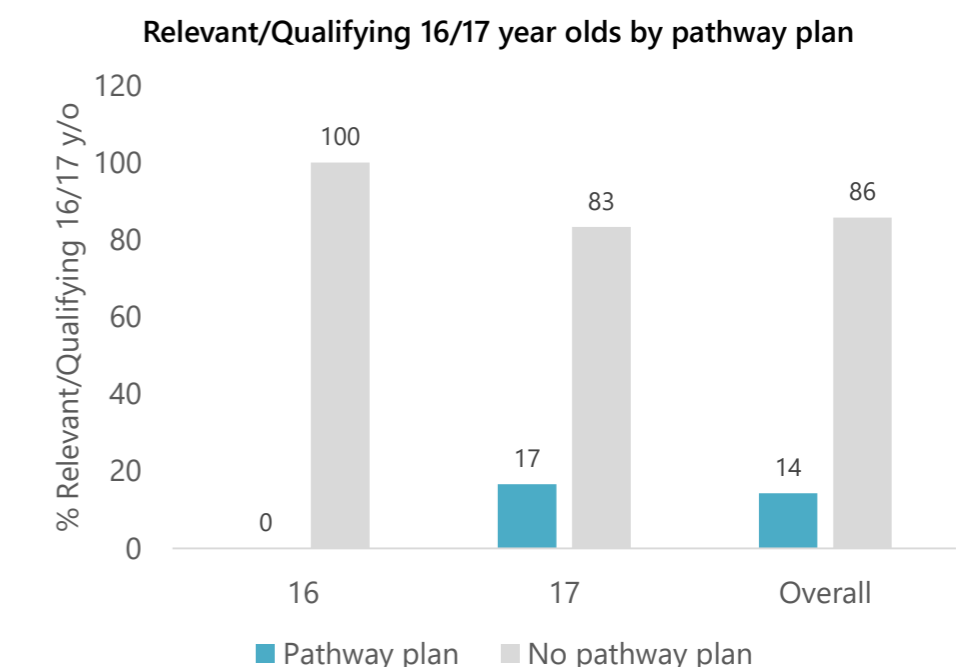
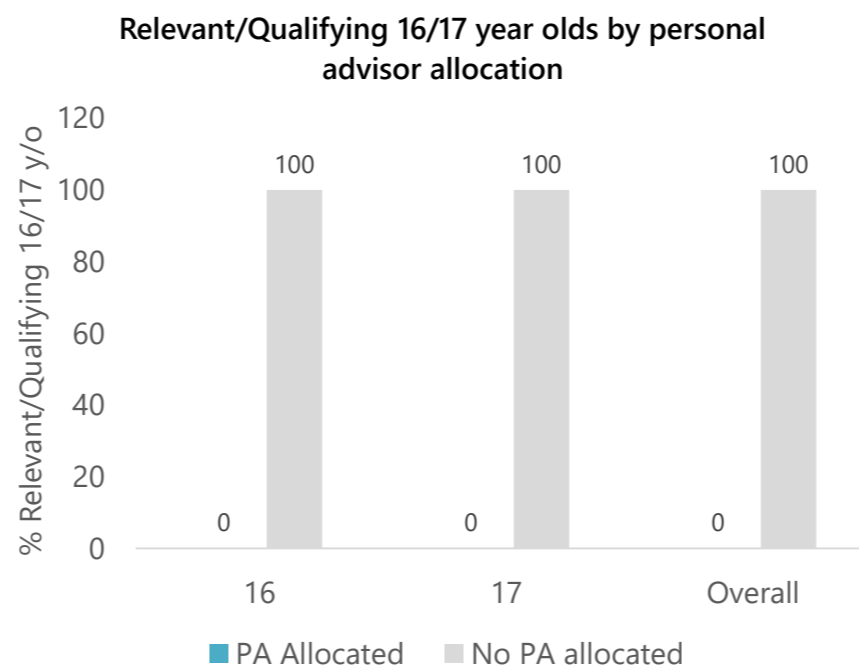
## Care leaver eligibility summary (please refer to DfE guidance for full eligibility criteria)

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

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



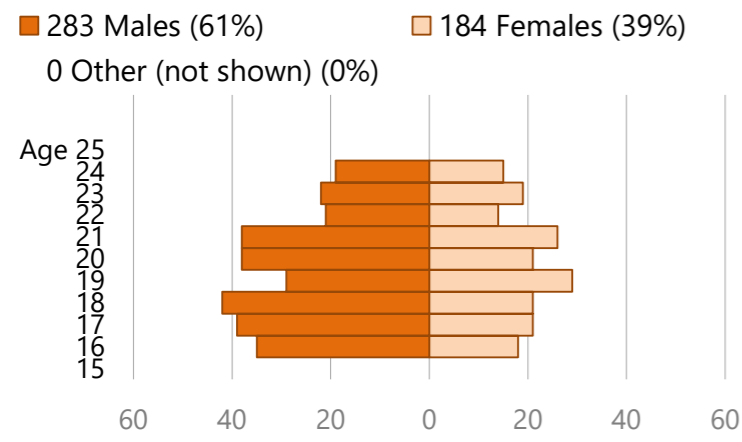
## Relevant and Qualifying Children (16/17 year olds) - comparing personal advisor allocation and pathway plans



Care leavers demographics and UASC

Snapshot 22/01/2025

Age and gender



Ethnic background

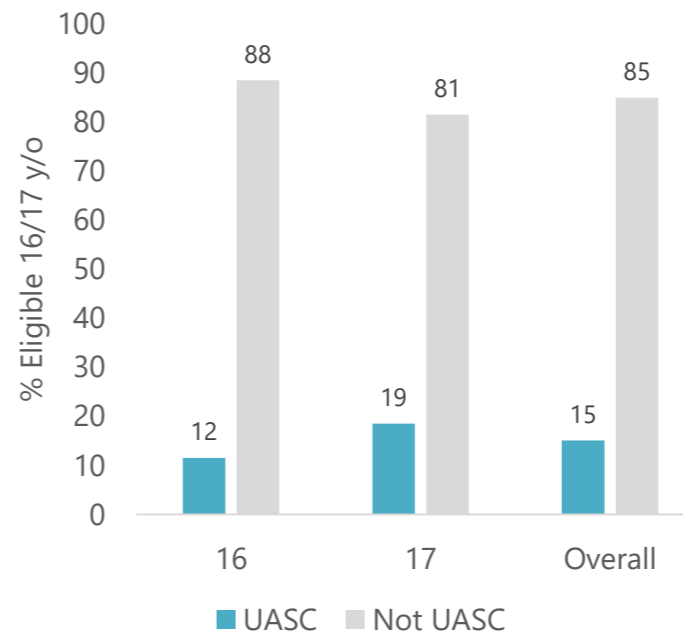
White	75%
Mixed	7%
Asian or Asian British	5%
Black or black British	6%
Other ethnic group	7%
Not stated	0%
Not recorded	0%
#REF!	

45 (10%) care leavers with a disability

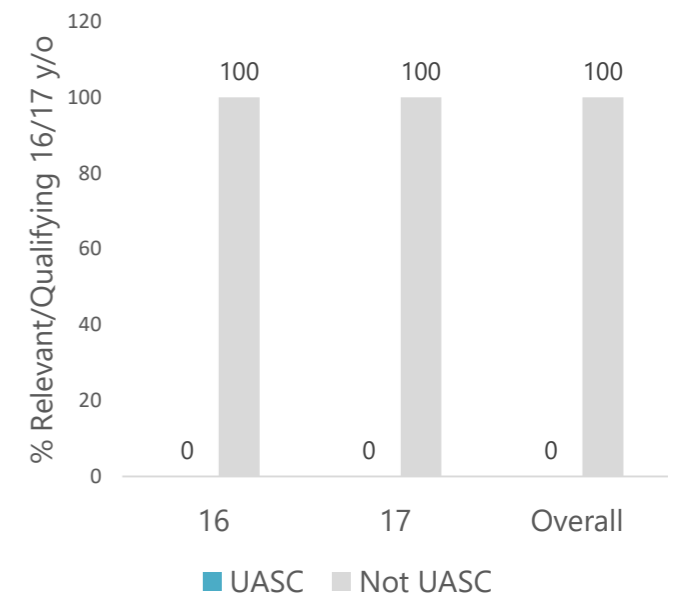
Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

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

Eligible 16/17 year olds by UASC Status



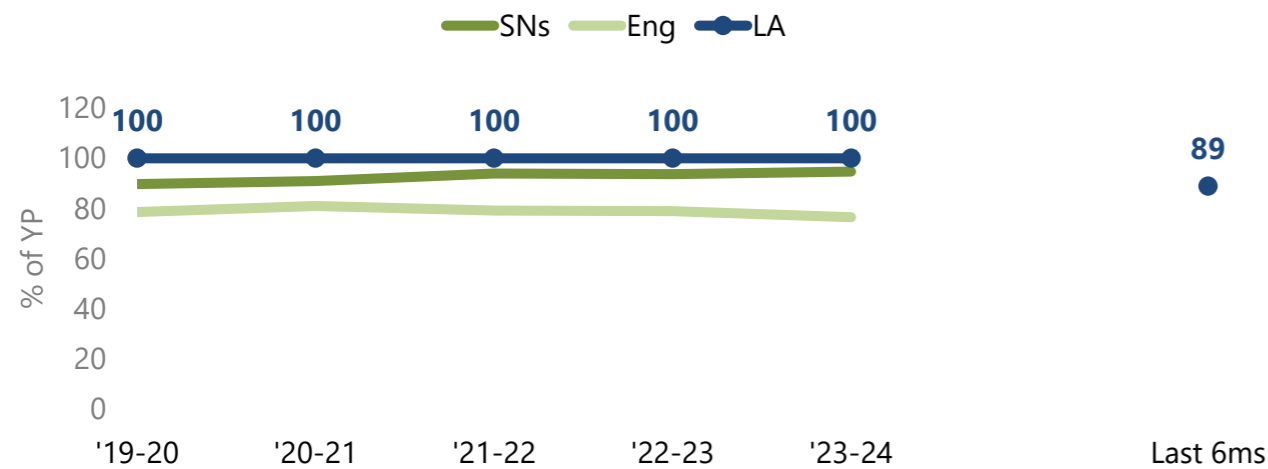
Relevant/qualifying 16/17 year olds by UASC Status



Remained in care until aged 18

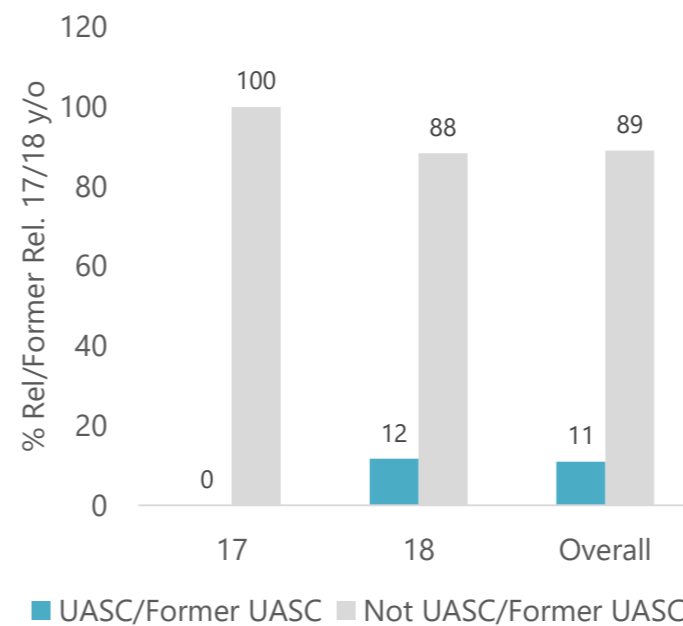
YP who ceased to be looked after aged 16-plus who were looked after until their 18th birthday

Page 21

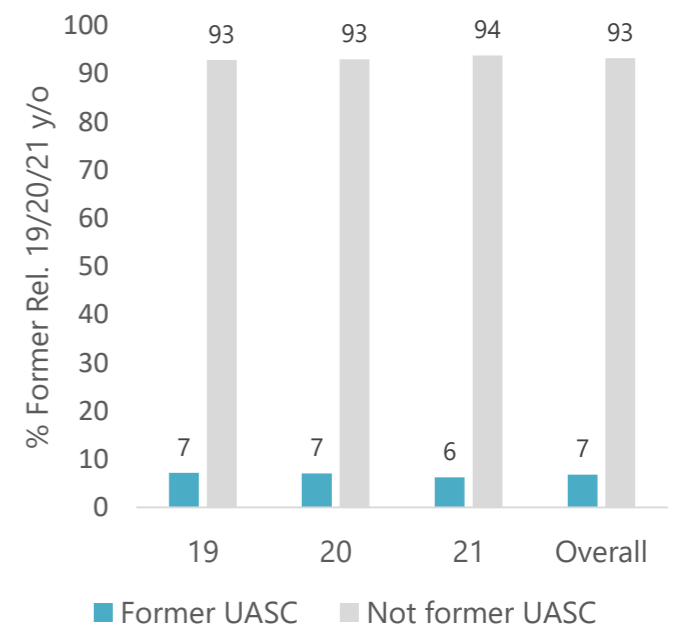


Care leavers - UASC/Former UASC (17/18 & 19/20/21 year olds)

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

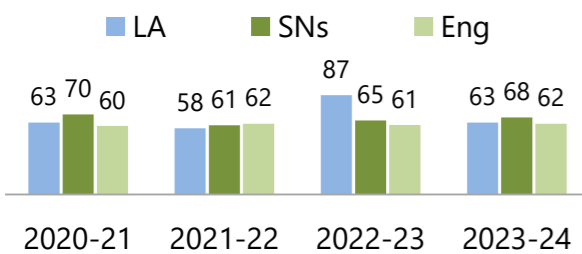


Former relevant 19/20/21 year olds by UASC Status

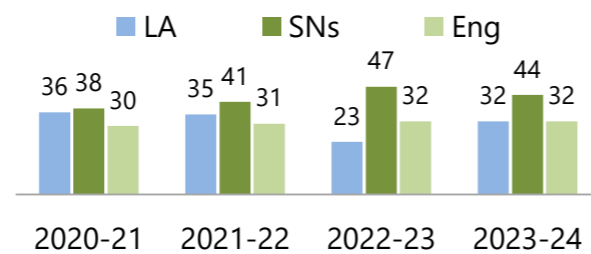


Remain with former foster carer

Aged 18



Aged 19-20

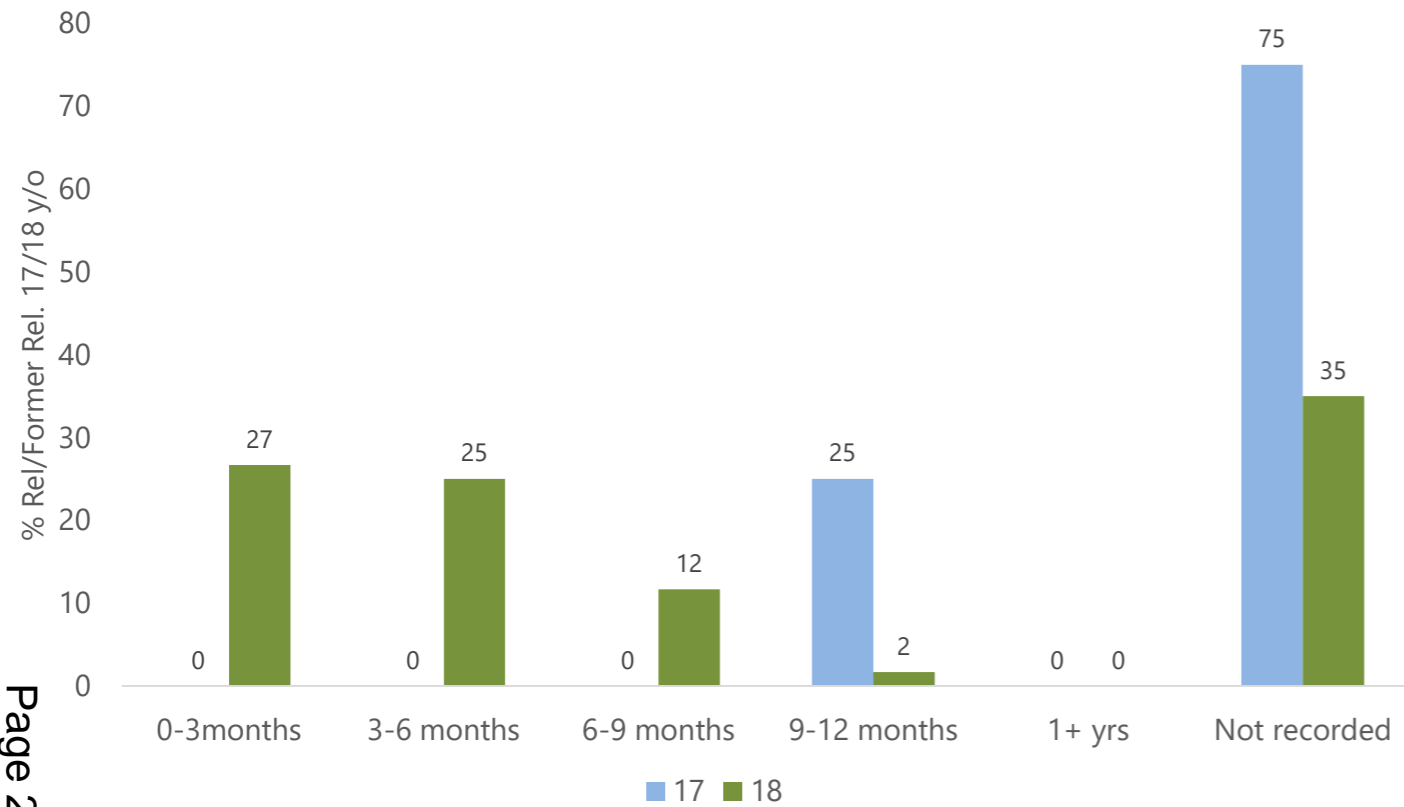


Care leavers pathway plan and contact timescales

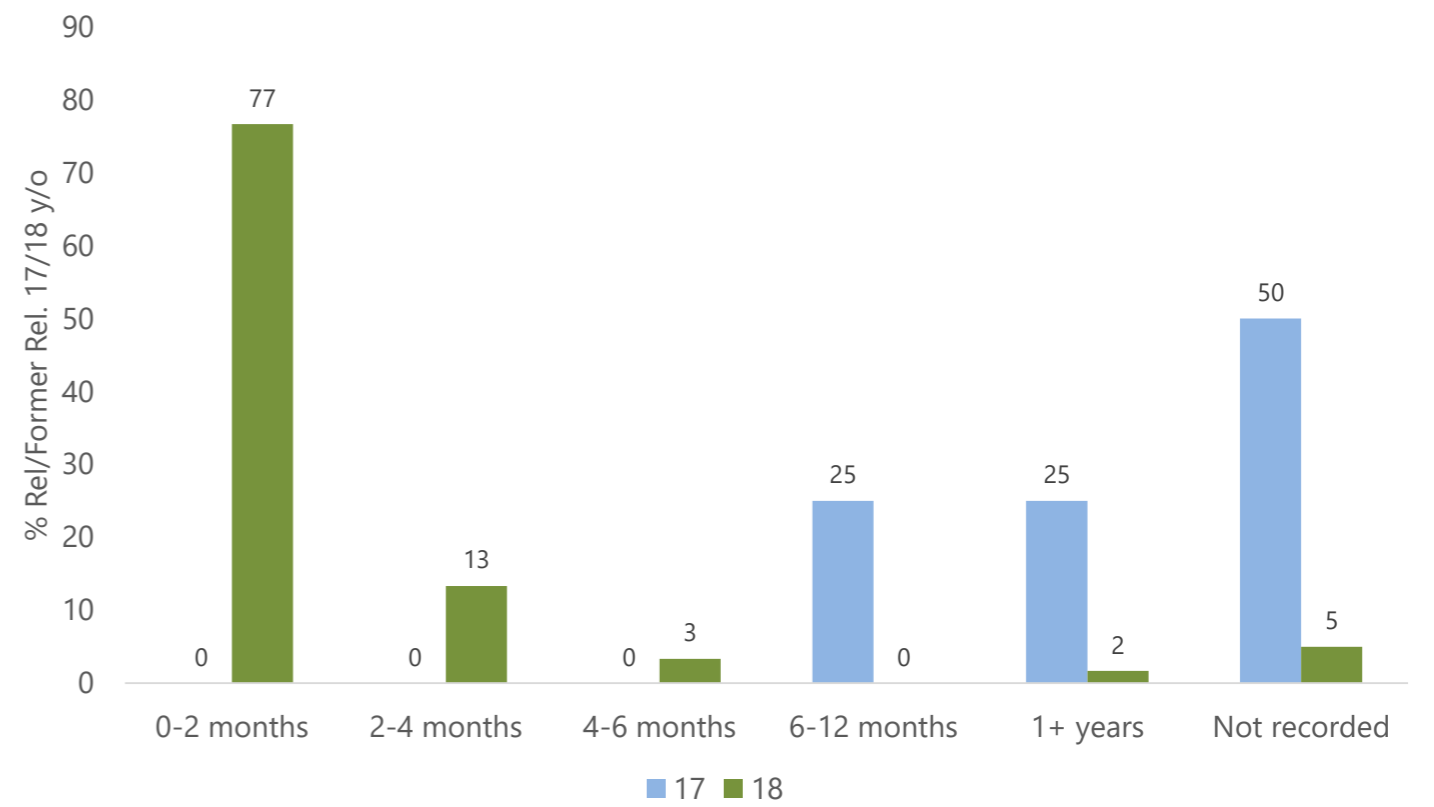
Snapshot 22/01/2025

Page 22

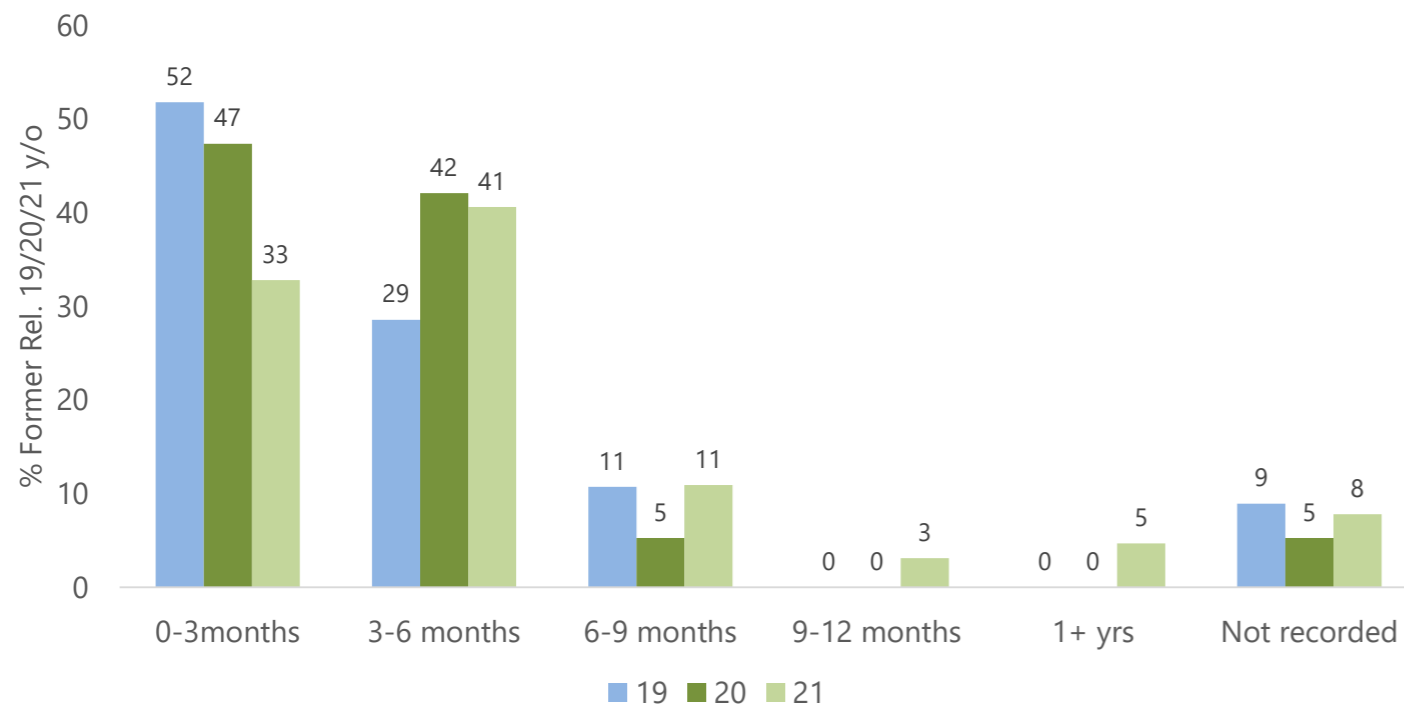
Pathway Plan last updated - 17/18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



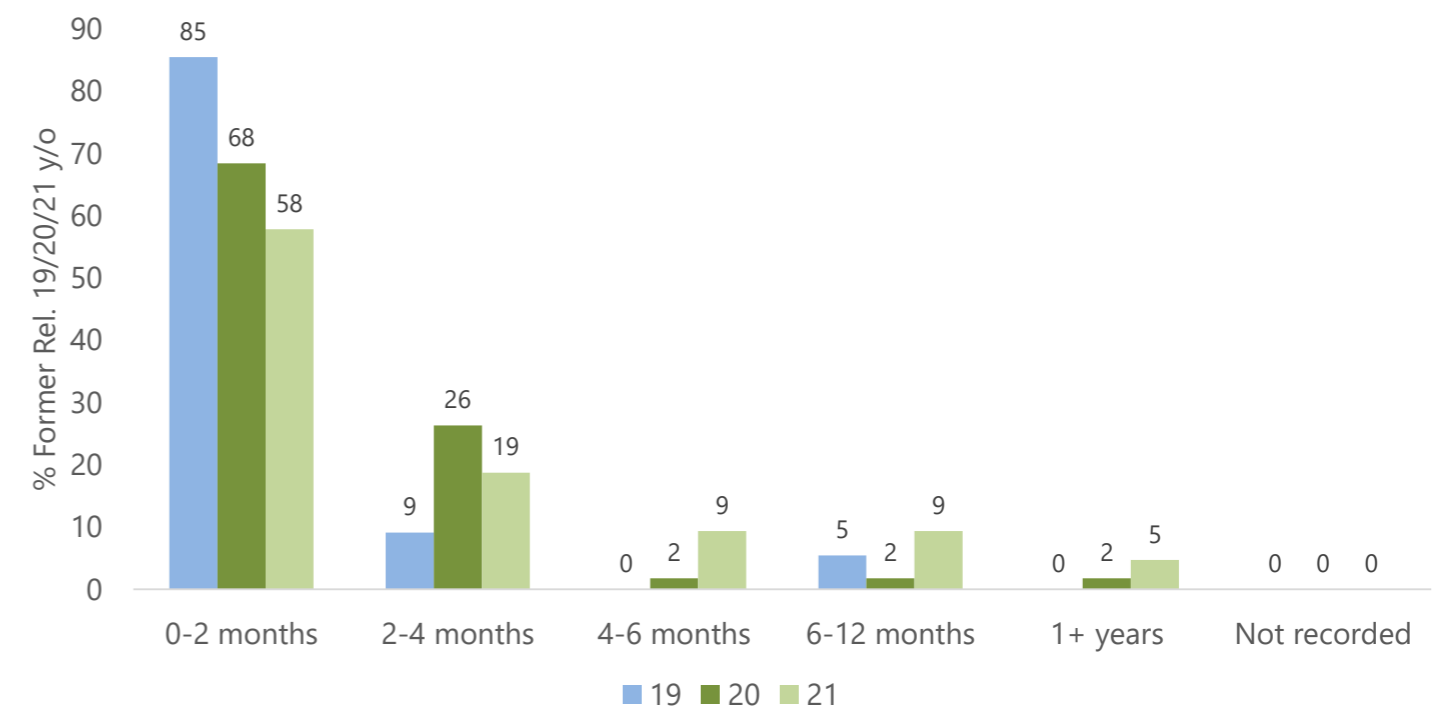
Time since last contact - 17/18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



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



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

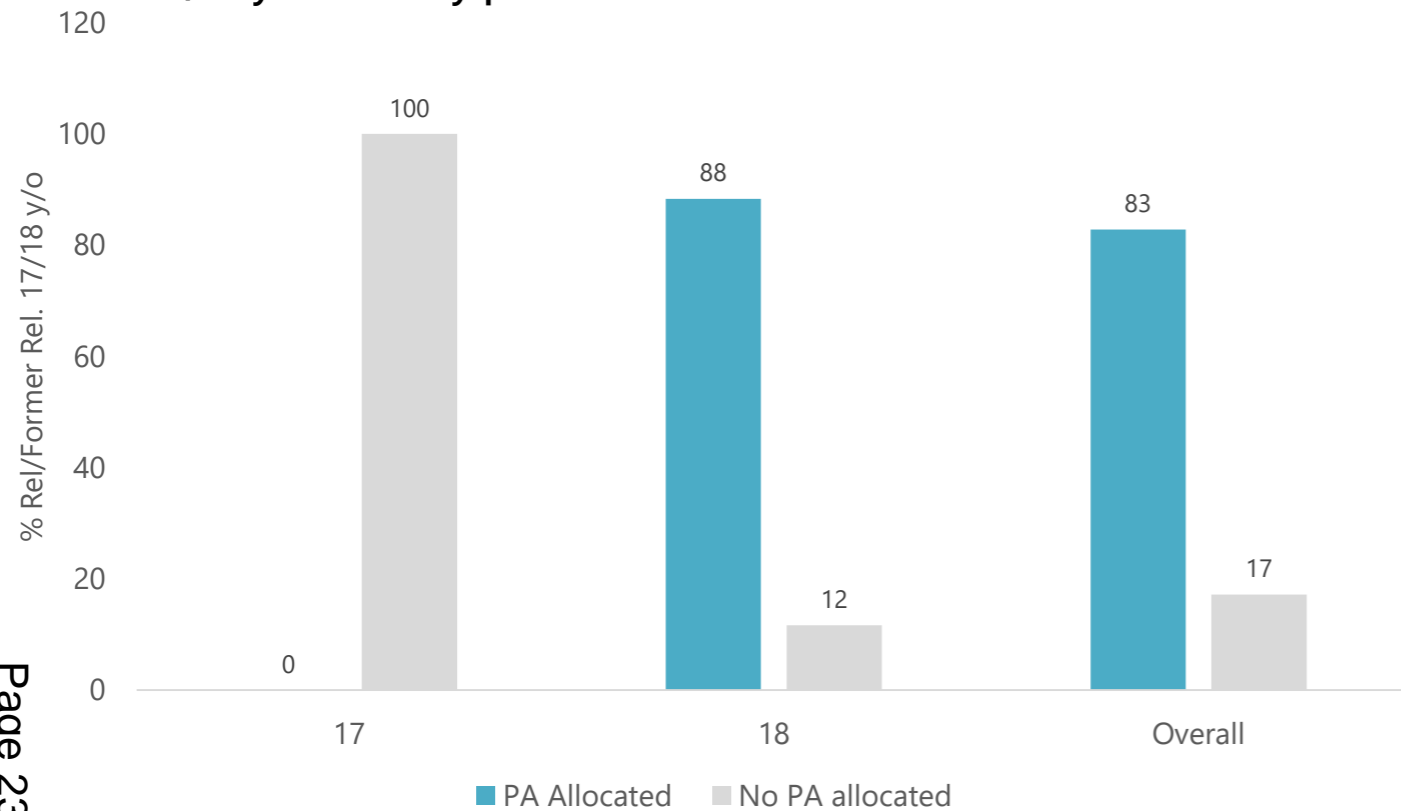


Care leavers PA allocation and in touch

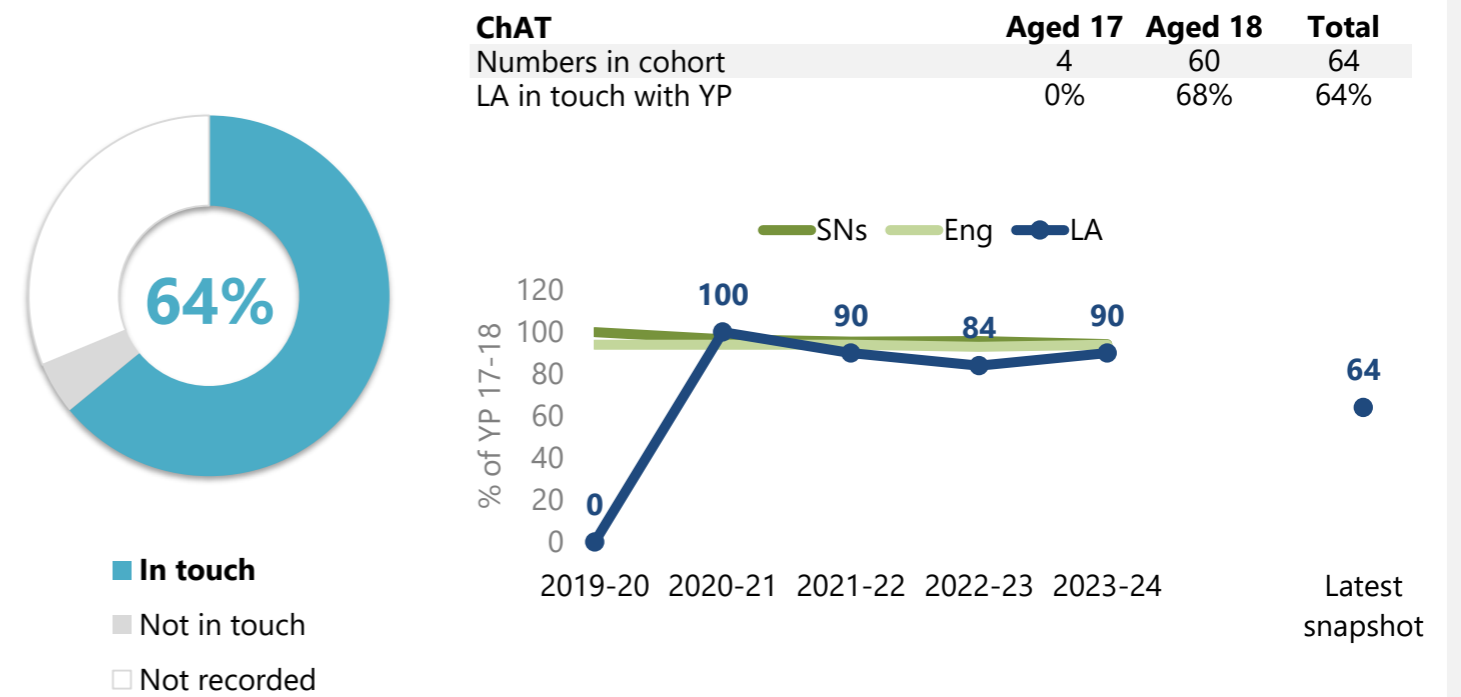
Snapshot 22/01/2025

Page 23

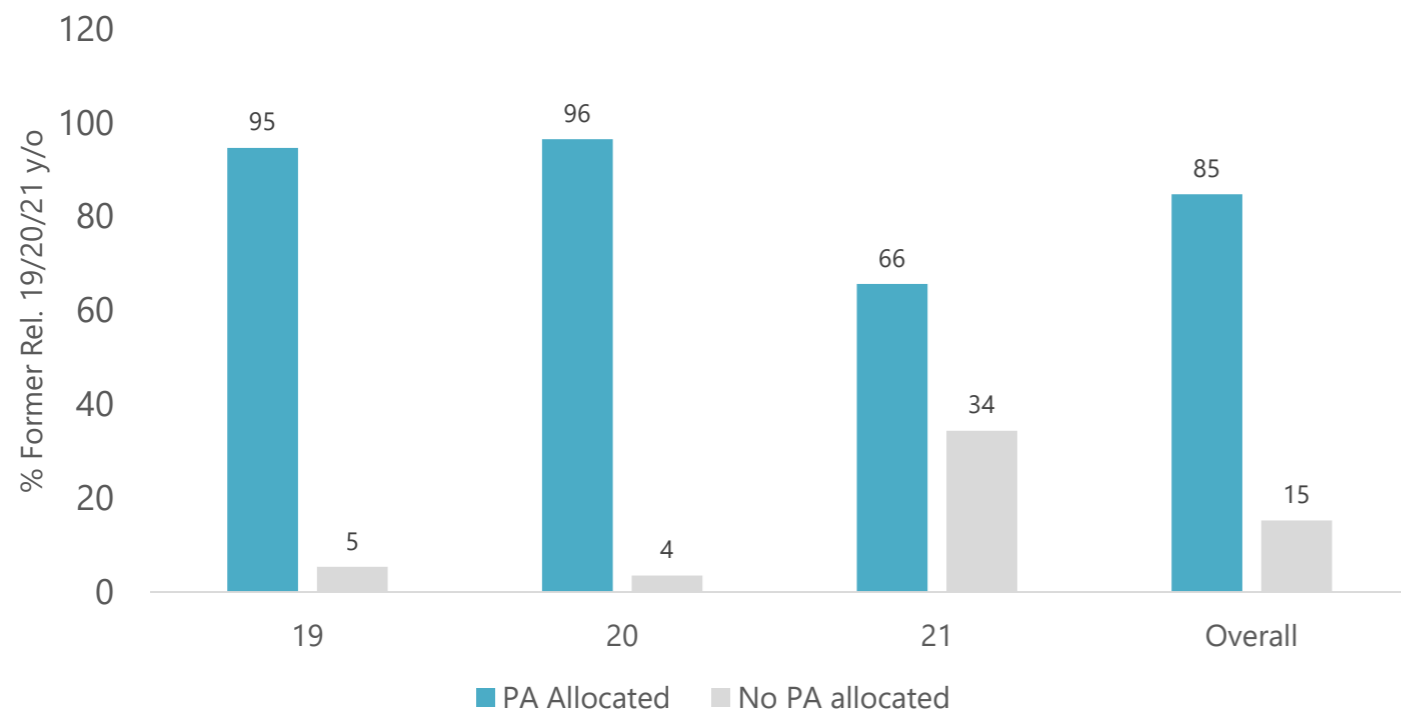
17/18 year olds by personal advisor allocation (relevant/former relevant)



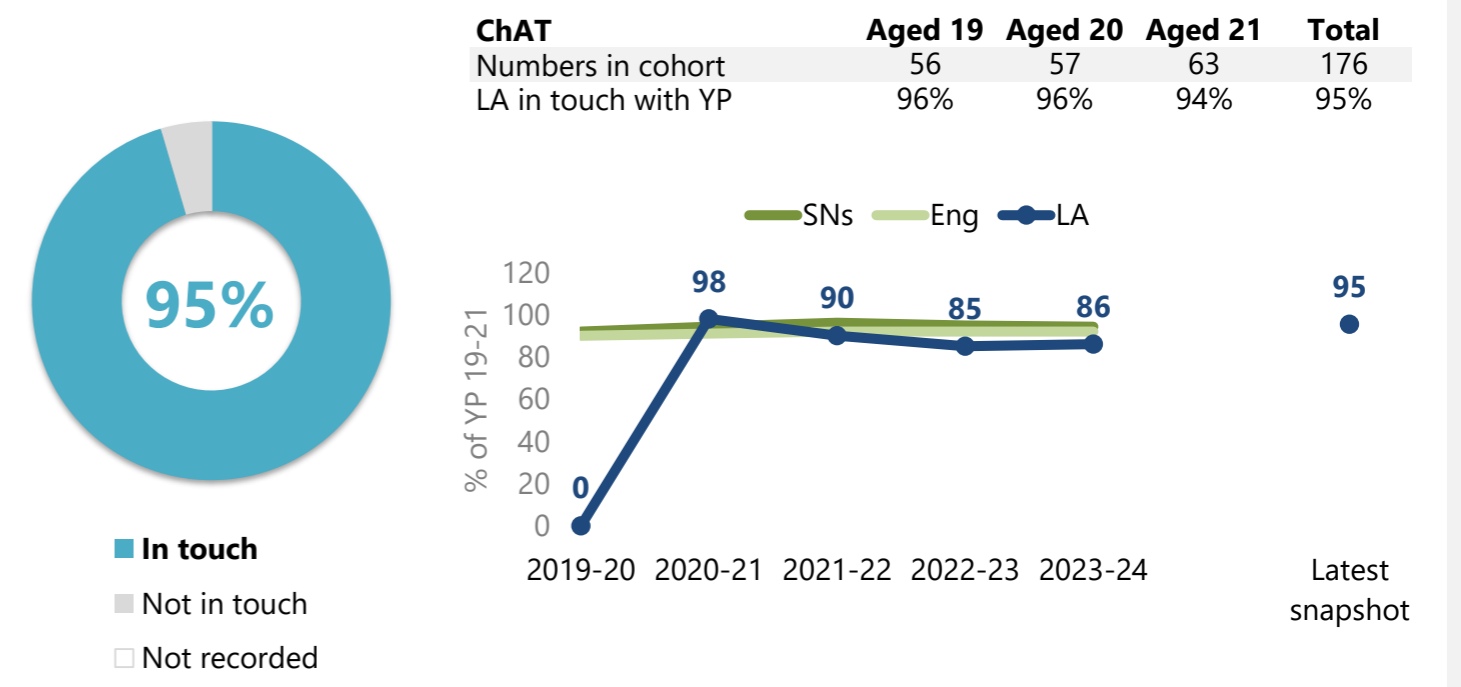
LA in touch with 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



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



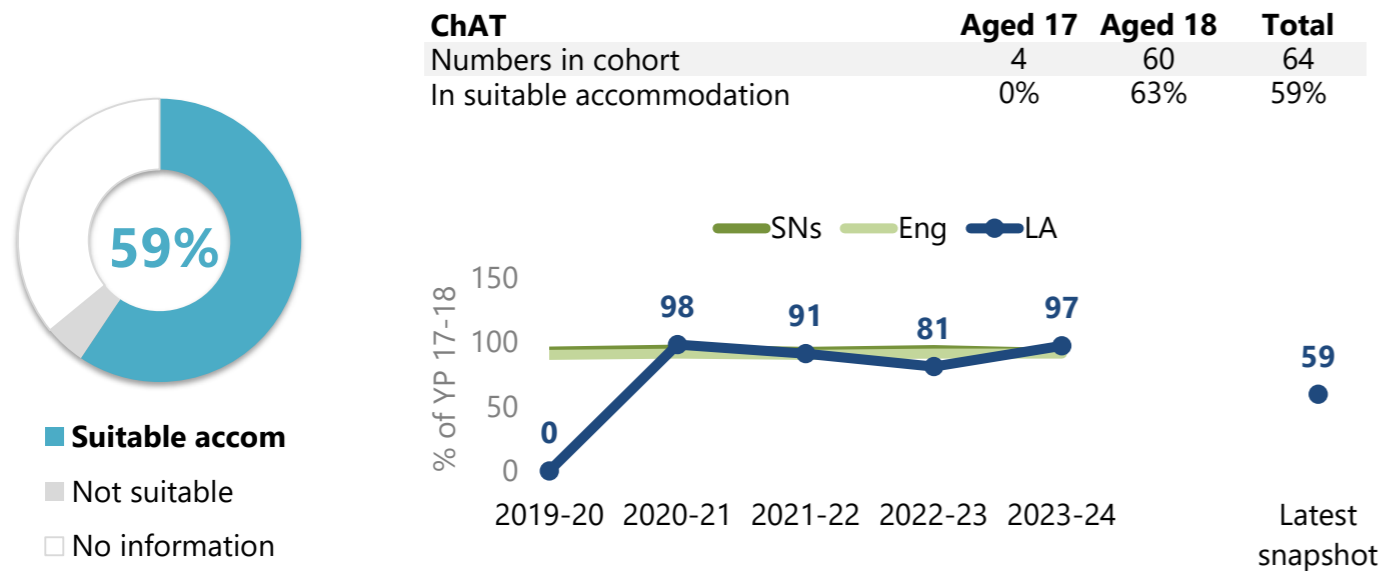
LA in touch with 19-21 year olds (former relevant)



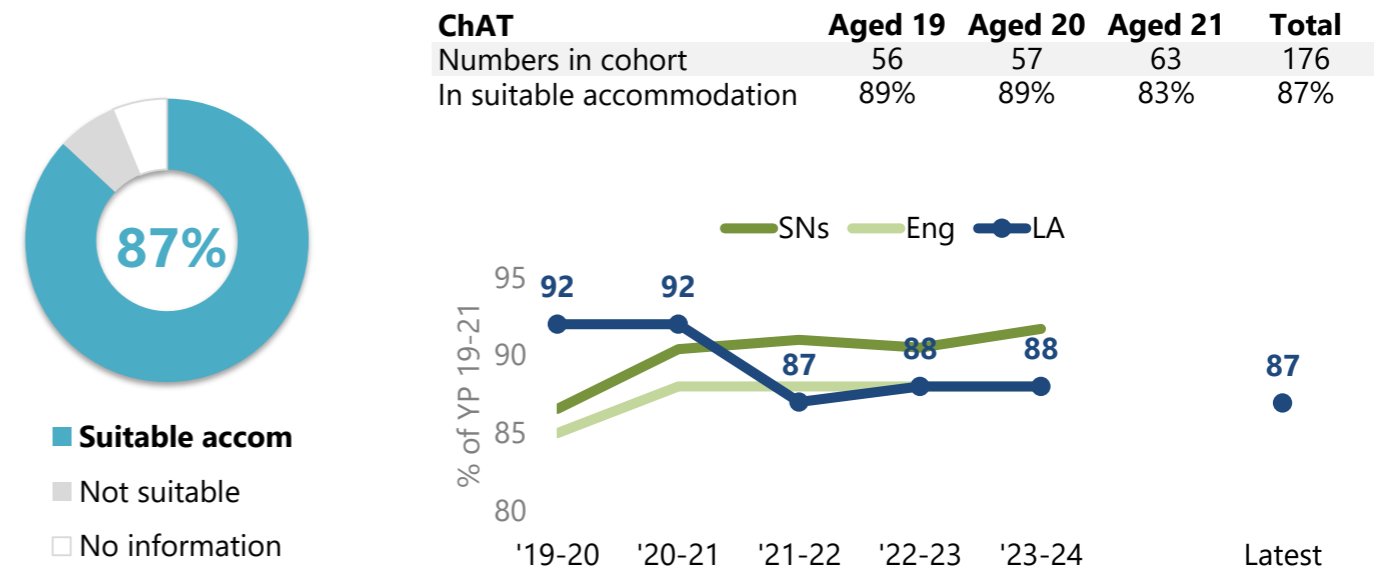
Care leavers accommodation suitability and type

Snapshot 22/01/2025

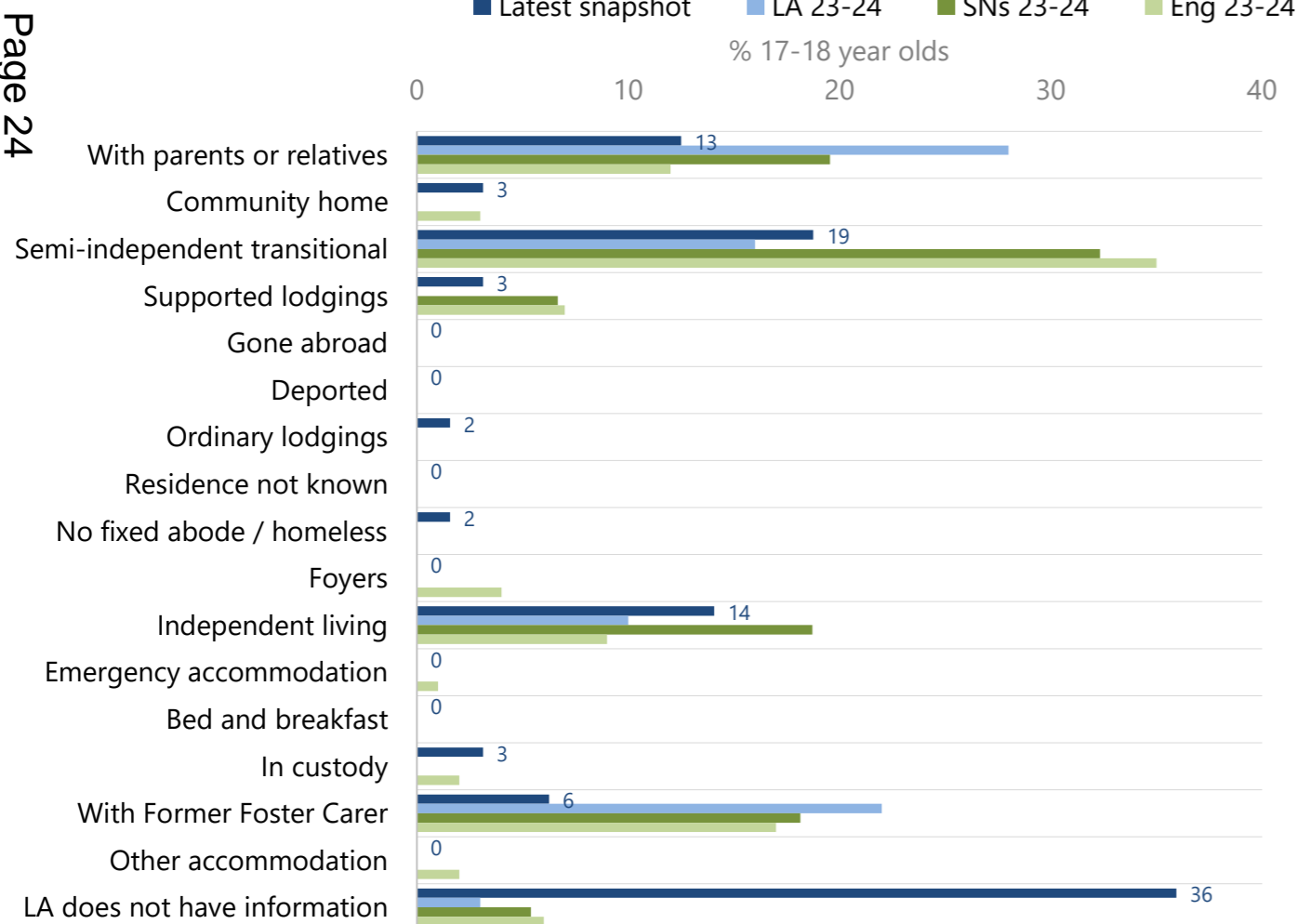
Accommodation suitability of 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)



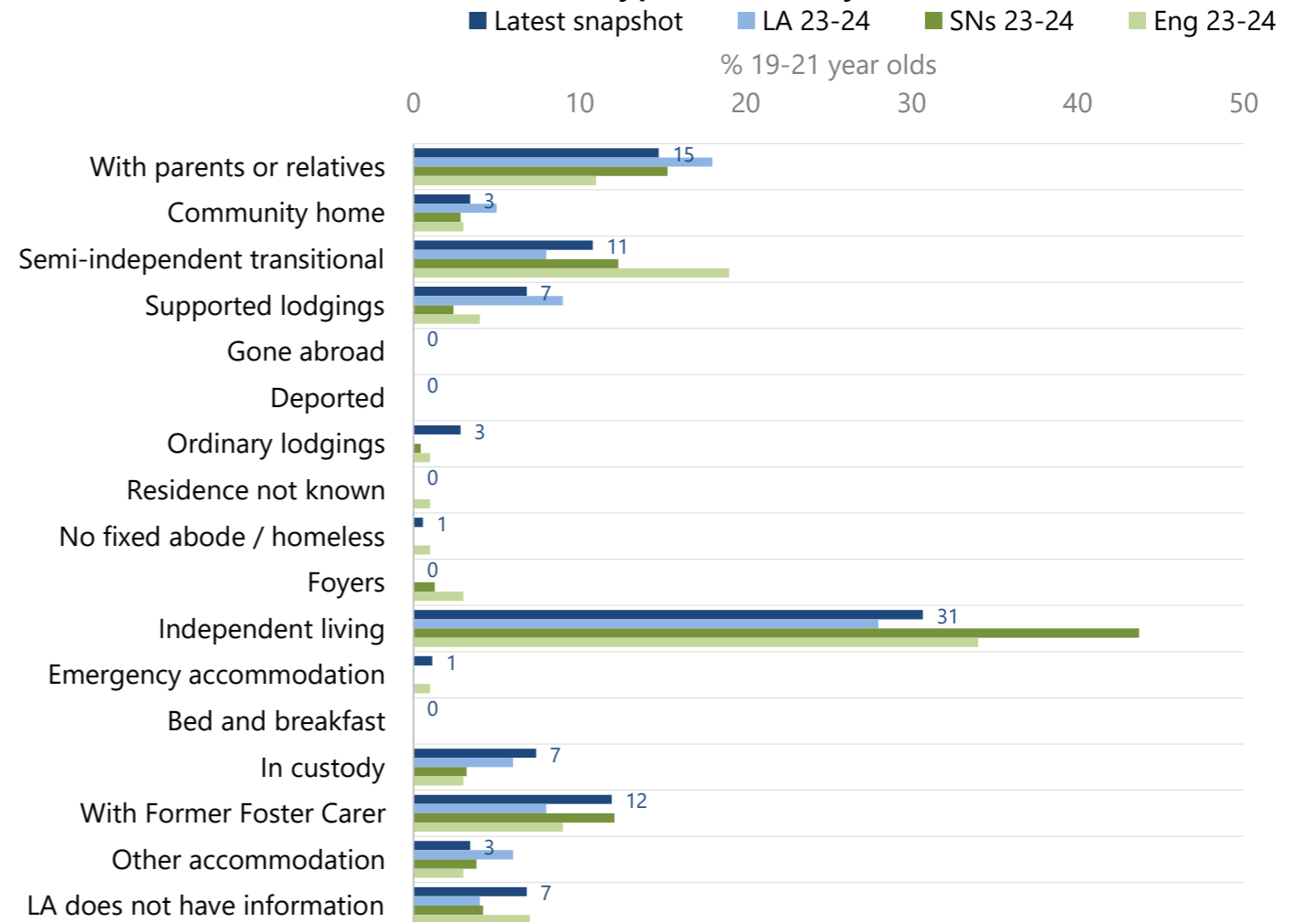
Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)



Accommodation types of 17-18 year olds



Accommodation types of 19-21 year olds



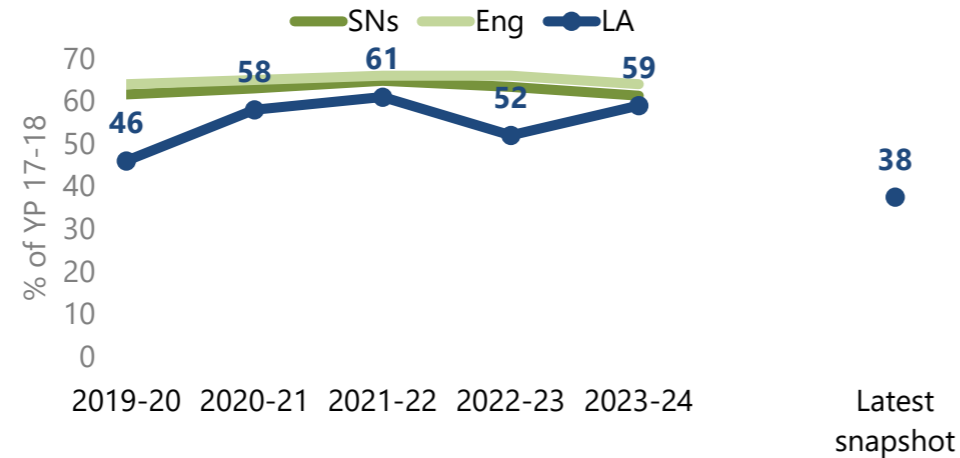
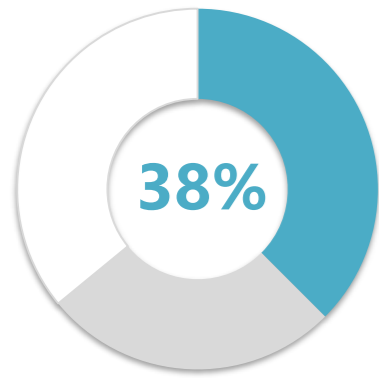


Care leavers activity (Education, Employment, or Training)

Snapshot 22/01/2025

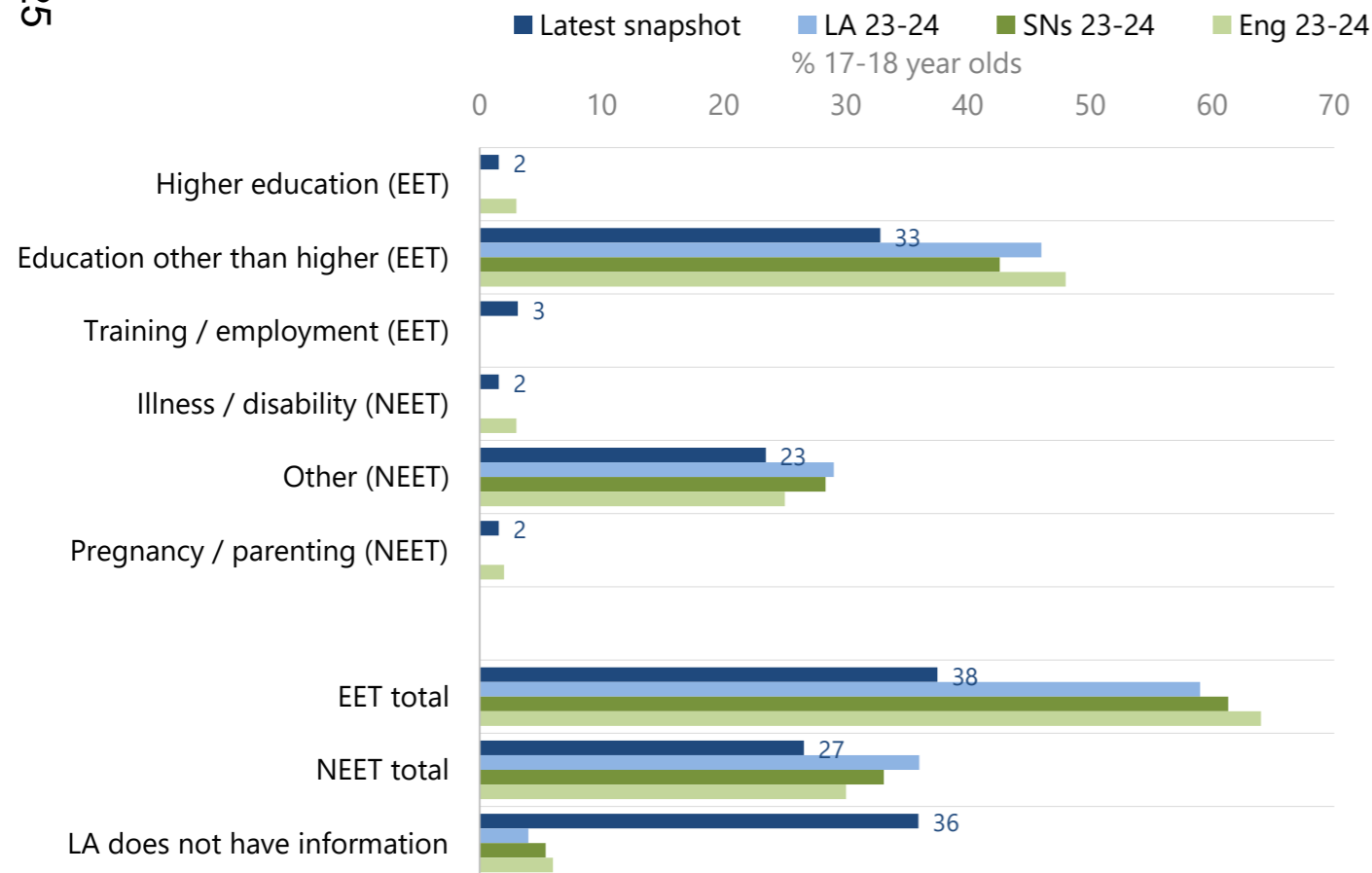
Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 17-18 year olds (relevant/former relevant)

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	4	60	64
In EET	0%	40%	38%



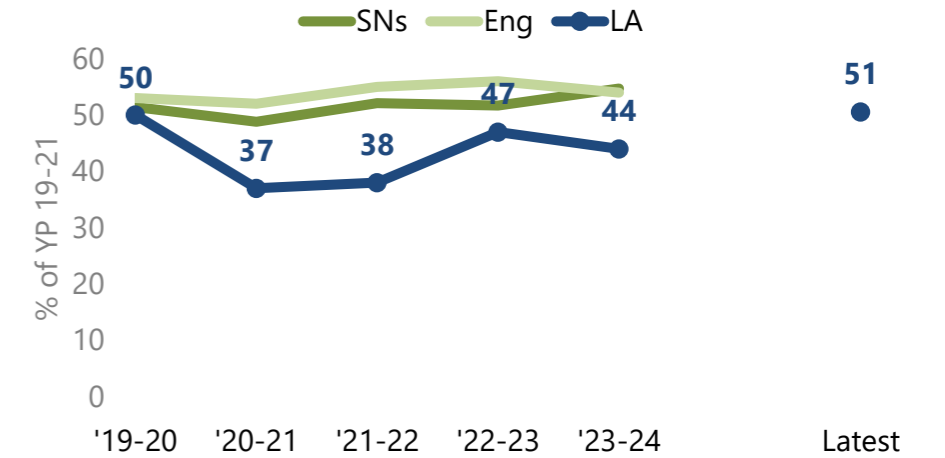
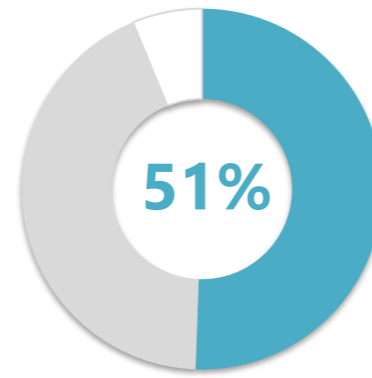
■ YP in EET ■ NEET  
□ No info

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



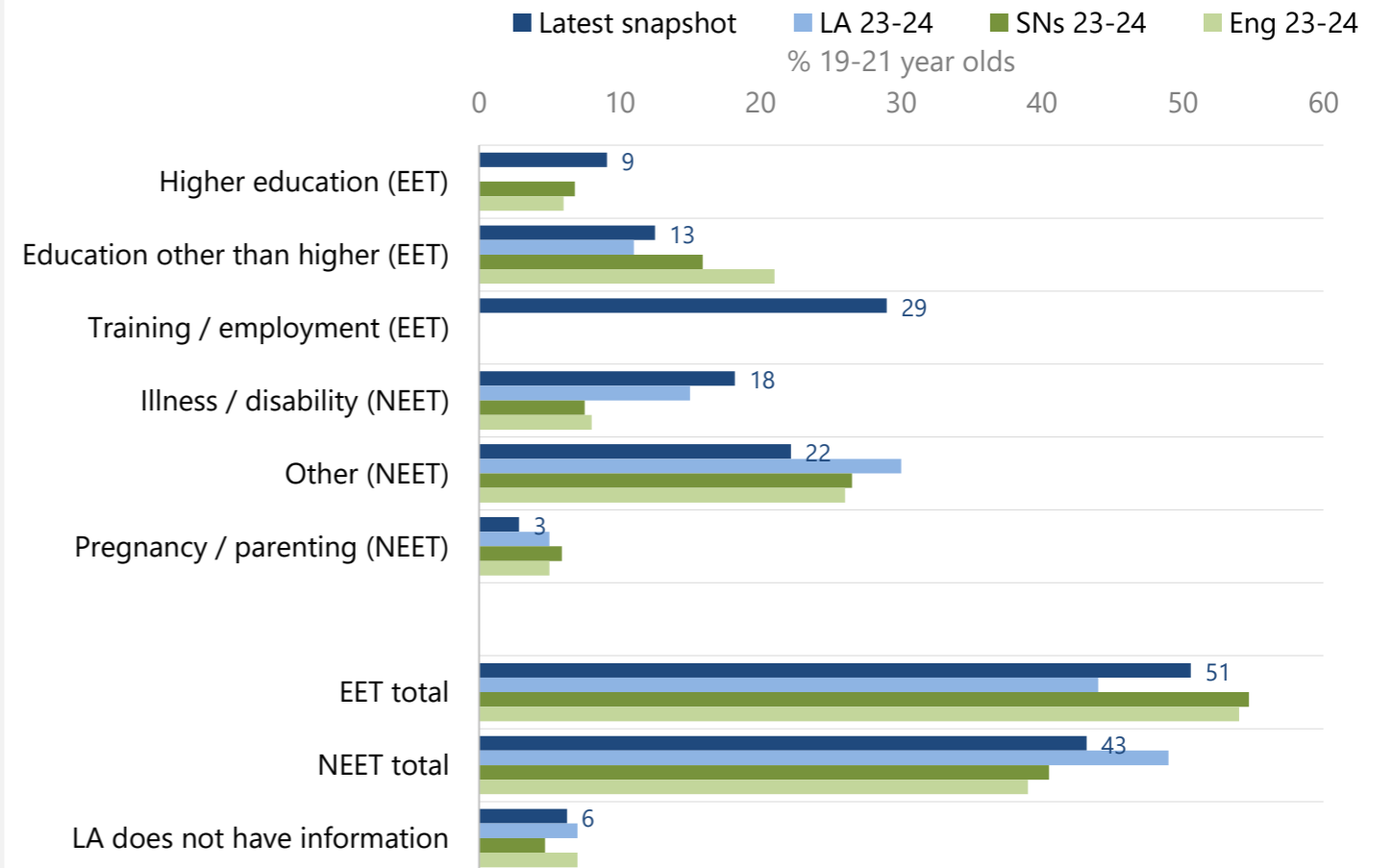
Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds (former relevant)

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	56	57	63	176
In EET	59%	40%	52%	51%



■ YP in EET ■ NEET  
□ No info

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



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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Children’s Care
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Lead Member for Children and Families
<b>Submitted to:</b>	You Matter to Us Corporate Parenting Board
<b>Date:</b>	30 January 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Children in Care Update
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Safe and resilient communities
<b>Key decision:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Report is for information only
<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>	Report for noting.
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<b>Executive summary</b>	<p>The report is an outline of current numbers of children in our care and their circumstances in relation to permanence and Education, Training and Employment.</p> <p>The report is intended for information and further discussion by the committee.</p>
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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the current numbers and brief circumstances of children in our care.
- 1.2 To inform the committee of actions being taken to improve the experience and outcomes for children in our care.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Corporate Parenting Board
  - Acknowledges the information presented
  - Makes any recommendations and actions required

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 Not applicable

## 4. Background and relevant information

### 4.1 Update on children in care data/timescales/ numbers of care proceedings currently/PLO;

We currently have 504 children who are cared for, 340 have plans of permanence and are supported by the Children Looked After Teams. 19 have plans of permanence and are supported by social workers in the Children with Disability Service The remaining children and young people are subject to permanence planning within the Safeguarding and Care Planning Service.

Of those subject to permanence planning a majority are subject to legal processes in order to determine plans of permanence. We have 3 children who are in our care who are currently subject to Deprivation of Liberty Orders under the jurisdiction of the Court of Protection.

We continue to perform well in terms of determination of permanence within the court process in a timely way for our children and young people, although have a small number of proceedings over the 26 week recommended timescale, we are aware of who these children are and why this is the case, and have taken action to mitigate any impact this may have on individual children.

### 4.2 Update overview around children in our care who are NEET and what we are doing to support young people back into education, employment and training;

The personal advisors work with their young people encouraging them and guiding them on how to access education and supporting them to key agencies who can assist them. The key services we use are as follows; the NEET Clinic, the Work Readiness Team, and the Middlesbrough Employability Hub drop in which takes place twice a week.

The NEET clinic provides support from different representatives including SEN, Middlesbrough Employment Hub, Local Colleges, Nacro and Virtual School. Meetings are held monthly to discuss training, education and apprenticeship opportunities. Teams present children and young people to the panel and a discussion is held as to which service would best suit the person based on their needs and wants. They also offer work experiences and supported apprenticeships for children and young people who have an EHCP.

The Middlesbrough Employment Hub which is a one-stop shop to support the people in the area into work. The employment hub offers 1:1 support, small group sessions, support around CV writing, interview preparation and provides access to a DWP Work Coach, a range of Middlesbrough Community Learning courses, academies and training and signposts to other training provisions and support services.

The Work Readiness team is part of Middlesbrough Council and they provide support with CV writing, confidence building and have links with local companies to secure apprenticeships for our YP's

#### **4.3 Update on the DfE work/reunification – how many children have we ended orders for/how many do we have to return to court.**

We were successful in obtaining funding via the DfE to fund an additional 3 social workers; these social workers are working alongside the allocated social workers to review whether children should be returned to their parents or extended families care and their care orders discharged. Two of the DfE social workers have been in post for around 18 weeks and the third for 14 weeks. They are currently assessing 31 children. We are expecting 3 children to return to their parents care during the month of February, applications for discharges of Care Orders will be made on 4 children within the month of February, applications for an additional 2 discharges of Care Orders will be made in March/April, the application for one child's Care Order to be discharged is ready for filing, and 6 applications for Special Guardian Orders will be made by the end of March.

#### **4.4 Care experienced young people updates;**

245 care experienced young people are open to the Pathways service. 217 are aged between 18 and 21, and 28 are aged over 21 and up to age 25. The Pathways service supports 5 young people under the eligibility category of Relevant Child, 347 under the category of Former Relevant Child, 9 under the category of Qualifying Care Leaver and 106 under the category of Eligible Child. There are now 2 Pathways Teams; the Personal Advisors have, on average 18 young people each to support. Since May 2024 changes have been made to ensure the transition pathway is smoother; this includes children and young people from the age of 15 ¾ being heard at the Transitions panel to ensure that Adults Services are aware of any that may need a service post 18 and at housing panel to ensure we have a firm plan around accommodation

#### **5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

Not applicable/report is for information only

#### **6. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

Not applicable/report is for information only

#### **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Not applicable/report is for information only

#### **Appendices**

Not applicable/report is for information only

**Background papers**

Not applicable/report is for information only

**Contact:** Alison Lewis

**Email:** [alison\\_lewis@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:alison_lewis@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

# Looked After Children Progress and Attainment Autumn Term 2024

as of 25/11/2024

CLA Demographics	
Total No. Children	339
No. CLA 12months+	260 (76.7%)
No. Educated IB	204 (60.2%)
No. Educated OB	135 (39.8%)
No. Male	189 (55.8%)
No. Female	150 (44.2%)
No. Primary Phase	154 (45.4%)
No. Secondary Phase	185 (54.6%)
No. with No SEN	134 (39.5%)
No. with SEN Support	115 (33.9%)
No. with an EHCP	90 (26.5%)

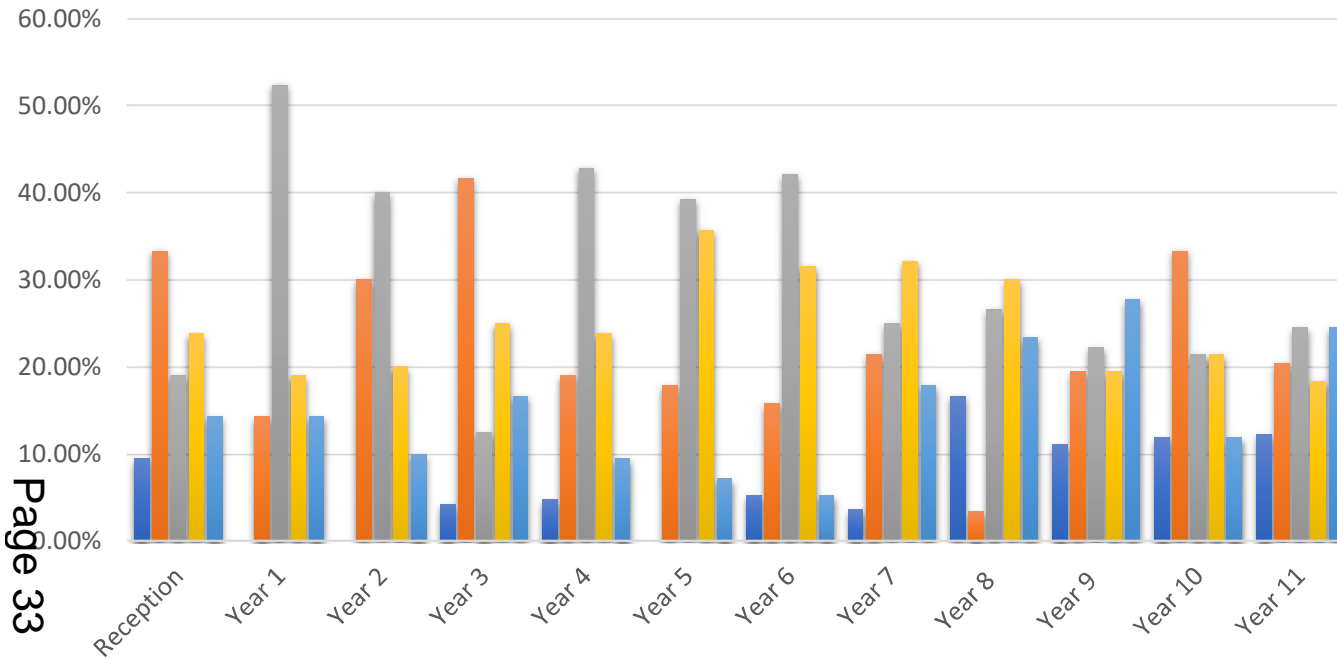


Page 32





## Attitude to Learning by Year Group



Schools report 93% of CLA are engaged and motivated at least some of the time with over a quarter being consistently engaged and well-motivated

CLA in Primary school remain the most engaged and motivated with schools reporting a decline in secondary school.

- Lacks engagement and self-motivation
- Engaged and motivated some of the time
- Engaged and motivated at most times
- Consistently engaged and well-motivated
- Not Completed

# Is Good Progress Being Made Regardless of Attainment?

Progress measures individual growth.

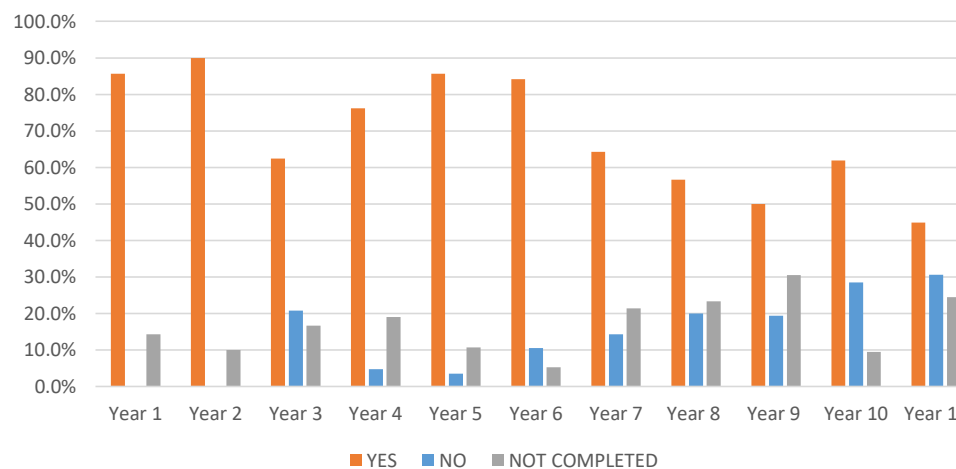
Attainment measures how well a student meets standardised benchmarks.

As looked after children often have gaps in their learning due to their pre-care experiences, it is important to track, measure and contextualise how much a student has learned and improved since coming into care, regardless of their starting point.

2019  
34

Is Good Progress Being Made Regardless of Attainment?	%
Yes	65.4%
No	16.7%
Not Completed	17.9%

Is Good Progress Being Made Regardless of Attainment?



65% of looked after children are making good progress. We are still assessing 18% . Progress is impacted at KS3 and KS4. Year 3 also shows less progress while year 1 and 2 do well with over 85% making good progress in all areas.

12 CLA have EBSA

3 who had a school  
move

14 children were  
not on a school roll

Why is KS4  
data collection  
low?  
Page 35

4 still awaiting PEP  
at the time of data  
capture

1 significant  
medical issues

5 school provided  
no data, challenged  
via PEP QA process

What factors effect progress?

Research tell us...

Page 36



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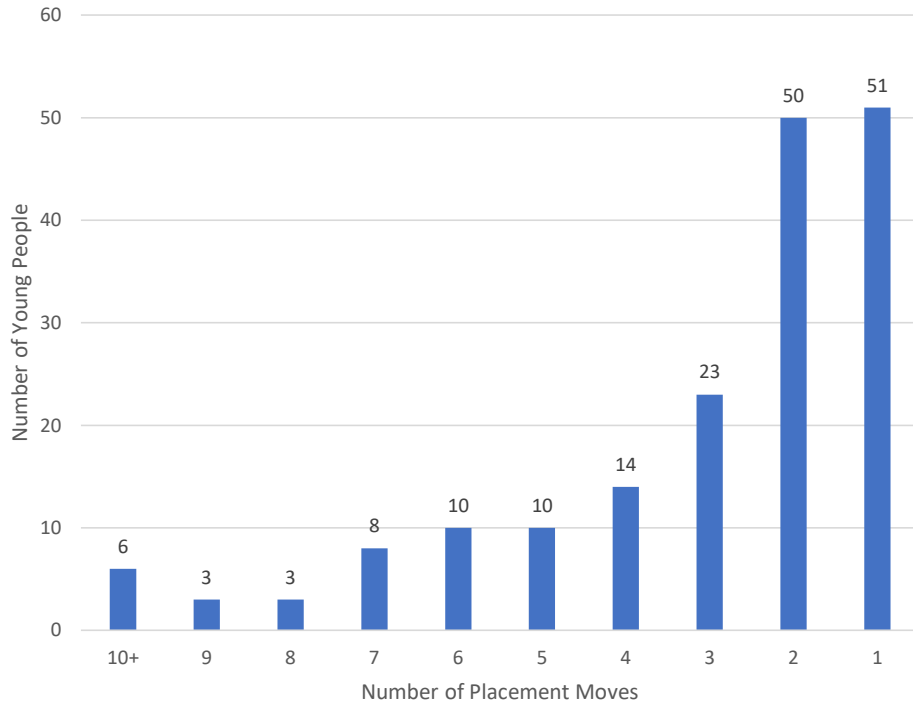
**Placement changes.** Each additional change of care placement after age 11 is associated with one-third of a grade less at GCSE.

From year 7 – 11 there are 185 Looked after children

Page 37

**96% of CLA have moved placement since coming into care**

Year 7-11 Placement Moves



Almost ¼ of secondary school aged looked after children have had 5 or more placement moves since coming into care.



## What does research tell us?

**School changes.** Young people in care who changed school in Years 10 or 11 scored over five grades less than those who did not.

Page 39

21 of 88 students in KS4  
have had a school move

## What does research tell us?

**School absence.** For every 5% of possible school sessions missed due to school absences, young people in care scored over two grades less at GCSE.

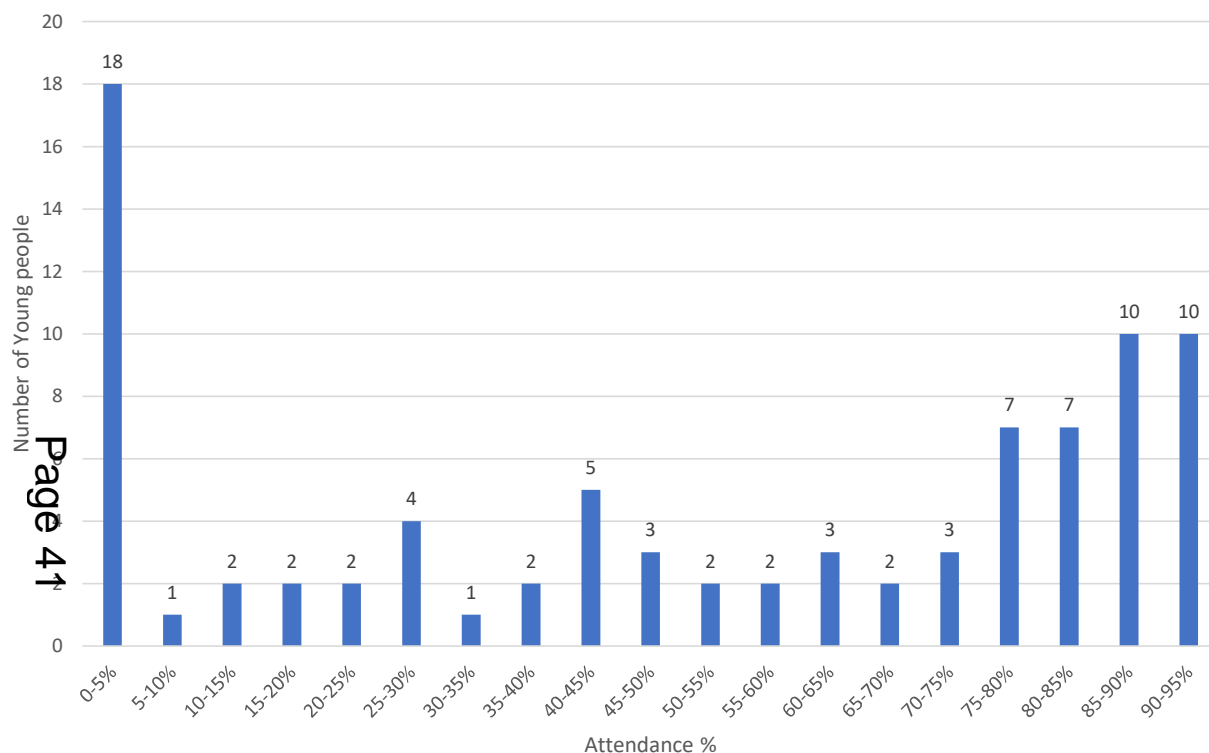
Page 40

### Years 7 – 11

# 86 out of 187 students below 95%



Year 7-11 Attendance



Overall attendance for all statutory school aged CLA from 1st September to 22nd November 2024 was 86.2%. 8.1% of absences were authorised, and 5.8% of absences were unauthorised.

Overall attendance by key stage is:

- KS1 – 94.5%
- KS2 – 97.8%
- KS3 – 85.6%
- KS4 – 70.3%

# What does research tell us?

**School suspensions.** For every additional day of school missed due to fixed-term suspensions, young people in care scored one-sixth of a grade less at GCSE.

Page 42

## Years 6 – 11

# 23 students have been suspended

**Since the start of the academic year, from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, there have been a total of 42 suspensions, for 85 days, by 21 children.**

Of the 21 children that had a suspension this academic year:

- 11 (52.4%) were female.
- 12 (57.1%) were suspended from a school within Middlesbrough
- 1 (4.8%) child was in KS2, 7 (33.3%) were in KS3, and 13 (61.9%) were in KS4.
- 5 (23.8%) had an EHCP, 12 (57.1%) had SEN support, and 4 (19%) had no SEN.

Page 43

**This academic year the Virtual School has worked with key stakeholders to prevent 4 permanent exclusions**

## What does research tell us?

**Placement type.** Young people living in residential or another form of care at age 16 scored over six grades less than those who were in kinship or foster care.

Page 44

# 53 students are not placed in kinship or foster care

# What does research tell us?

**School type.** Young people who were in special schools at age 16 scored over 14 grades lower in their GCSEs compared to those with the same characteristics who were in mainstream schools. Those in pupil referral units with the same characteristics scored almost 14 grades lower.

Page 45

## Years 7 – 11

58 out of 187 students attend a provision other than a mainstream school.

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# Looked after Children Attendance and Suspension Autumn Term 2024

Page 47



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Agenda Item 9

Good school attendance is defined as attending school at least 95% of the time.

This means a student should not miss more than 10 days in a school year.

High attendance rates are crucial because they are directly linked to academic success and overall well-being.

Yearly Attendance	Yearly Days Missed	Yearly Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 Years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	150
95%	10	50	250
90%	20	100	500
80%	40	200	1000
50%	100	500	2500



Overall attendance for all statutory school aged CLA from 1st September to 22nd November 2024 was 86.2%.

8.1% of absences were authorised

5.8% of absences were unauthorised

Overall attendance by key stage is:

KS1 – 94.5%

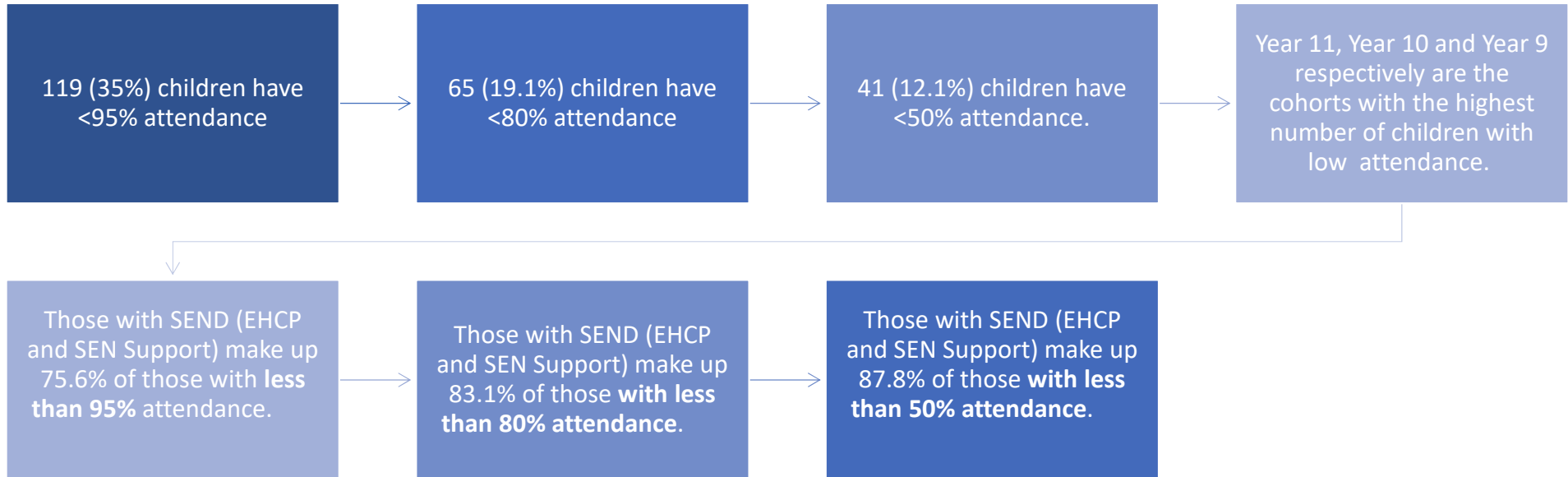
KS2 – 97.8%

KS3 – 85.6%

KS4 – 70.3%

Year Group	Present Days %	Authorised Absence %	Unauthorised Absence %
Reception	88.2%	10.9%	0.9%
Year 1	90.7%	9.0%	0.3%
Year 2	98.5%	1.1%	0.4%
Year 3	97.3%	1.9%	0.8%
Year 4	99.2%	0.7%	0.1%
Year 5	98.3%	1.3%	0.5%
Year 6	95.8%	3.9%	0.3%
Year 7	94.3%	4.6%	1.1%
Year 8	84.1%	7.0%	8.8%
Year 9	80.2%	10.2%	9.7%
Year 10	72.8%	15.2%	12.0%
Year 11	68.2%	16.5%	15.3%

# CLA with less than 95%, 80% and 50%

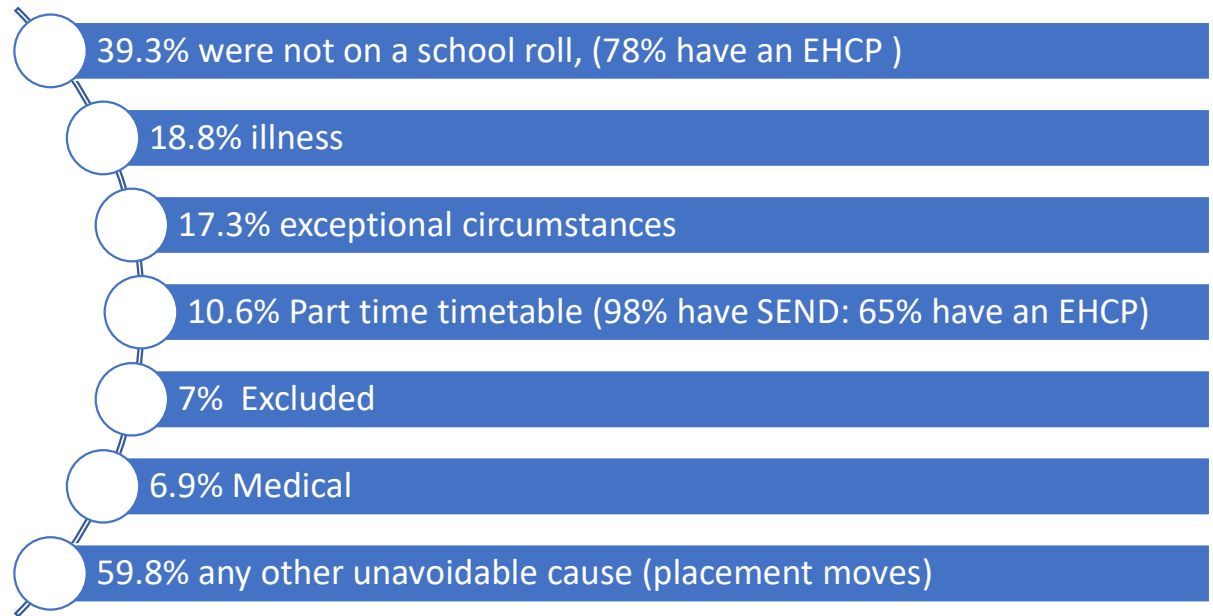


# Severe Absence: less than 50%

	No. Children	%
<b>Less than 50% attendance</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12.1% of SSA cohort</b>
Year 0	0	0% of those <50%
Year 1	1	2.4%
Year 2	0	0.0%
Year 3	0	0.0%
Year 4	0	0.0%
Year 5	1	2.4%
Year 6	0	0.0%
Year 7	2	4.9%
Year 8	5	12.2%
Year 9	6	14.6%
Year 10	10	24.4%
Year 11	16	39.0%
No SEN	5	12.2%
SEN Support	15	36.6%
EHCP	21	51.2%
<b>Total EHCP and SEN Support</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>87.8%</b>

- The majority of primary school CLA are attending school more than 50% of the time
- SA begins to escalate in year 9
- Year 11 has the most CLA who are SA
- Almost 90% of SA CLA have SEND and half of the children who are SA have an EHCP

# Authorised Absence



# Authorised Absence

<b>Demographic</b>	<b>Z: Not on roll</b>	<b>M: Medical or dental appointments</b>	<b>G: Family holiday (not authorised by the school)</b>
Total No. days / %	574 (39.3%)	<b>101 (6.9%)</b>	<b>29 (2.6%)</b>
Year 0	13 (2.3%)	11.5 (11.4%)	6 (20.7%)
Year 1	13 (2.3%)	6 (5.9%)	0
Year 2	0	5.5 (5.4%)	0
Year 3	0	8 (7.9%)	0
Year 4	0	3.5 (3.5%)	0
Year 5	0	2.5 (2.5%)	2 (6.9%)
Year 6	0	6.5 (6.4%)	3 (10.3%)
Year 7	46 (8%)	4 (4%)	0
Year 8	50 (8.7%)	11.5 (11.4%)	0
Year 9	114 (19.9%)	11 (10.9%)	10 (34.5%)
Year 10	78 (13.6%)	19.5 (19.3%)	8 (27.6%)
Year 11	260 (45.3%)	11.5 (11.4%)	0
No SEN	102.5 (17.9%)	31 (30.7%)	8 (27.6%)
SEN Support	24 (4.2%)	22.5 (22.3%)	1 (3.4%)
EHCP	447.5 (78%)	47.5 (47%)	20 (69%)
Total EHCP and SEN Support	471.5 (82.1%)	70 (69.3%)	21 (72.4%)

- CLA children lost 574 days attendance as they were not on a school roll
- 101 days were lost due to medical appointments
- 29 days were lost to authorised school holidays
- The children with the most authorised absences were children with an EHCP, in year 11 because they do not have a school roll.

# Attendance Summary

18% of absences are due to illness

There are 41 looked after children who are severely absent from school

Looked after Children with an EHCP are less likely to be on school roll than those who do not have an EHCP

Looked after children with SEND have the lowest attendance overall

Looked after children in year 10 and 11 have the lowest attendance of any year group

10% absence codes are due part time timetables

60% of authorised absences are due to unavoidable causes (placement moves)



# Suspensions and Exclusions

Permanent exclusion of looked after children is considered a last resort due to the significant impact it can have on their education and well-being.

National guidance encourage Schools to work closely with social workers and virtual schools to provide support and prevent exclusions whenever possible.

Page 55

- No Middlesbrough looked after child has been excluded for 7 years
- Nationally in 22/23 there were 50 looked after children excluded
- There were looked after children excluded in the north east in 22/23
- The Virtual School has worked with partners to avoid 4 exclusion this year

Month	No. of Suspension Episodes	No. of Children Suspended	Total Suspensions (Sessions)	Total Suspensions (Days)
Sept. 2024	10	8	28	14
October 2024	20	13	74	37
1 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	12	9	68	34

Page 56

Since the start of the academic year, from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, there have been a total of 42 suspensions, for 85 days, by 21 children.

Of the 21 children that had a suspension this academic year:

- 10 (47.6%) were male
- 12 (57.1%) were suspended from a school within Middlesbrough
- 1 (4.8%) child was in KS2
- 7 (33.3%) were in KS3
- 13 (61.9%) were in KS4
- 5 (23.8%) had an EHCP
- 12 (57.1%) had SEN support
- 4 (19%) had no SEN



**Early Communication** with stakeholders.

When a school finds that a child's behaviour cannot be managed successfully via the internal behaviour management system, contact should be made with the Virtual School in order to seek support.



**Assess Risk.** The school should assess the level of risk to determine to what extent potential harm to other students' safety, wellbeing and learning can be reduced. The school should complete a Risk Assessment and Inclusion Support Plan – the Virtual School can provide guidance on how to do this.



**Engage behaviour support** Contact the Virtual School for advice or request the Virtual School convene a Cross-Professional CLA Education Meeting. This might include a referral to the inclusion team.



**Internal exclusion.** Should be for the shortest possible time and be subject to regular review.



**Preventative arrangements.** Specific arrangement may also be developed as part of partnership work between schools and appropriate specialist settings.

# Reducing suspensions

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# Looked After Children with SEND

	Total	Post 16	EYFS	SSA
All SEND	57%	23%	1%	76%
Send support	146	27	3	116
EHCP	123	34	0	89

- Compared to national CLA, there is less diagnosed SEND for Middlesbrough CLA
- More Middlesbrough CLA have a SEND support plan than an EHCP
- Nationally CLA with an EHCP is 54% Middlesbrough CLA are below with 22% of school age CLA with an EHCP.

*‘Around 70% of looked after children have some form of SEN, and it is likely that a significant proportion of them will have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.’*

Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities  
January 2015 Statutory guidance.



NCY	Total	Male/Female		In Borough/ Out Borough	
		Male (M)	Female (F)	IB	OB
R	1	1	0	1	0
1	5	3	2	3	2
2	2	0	2	2	0
3	4	4	0	2	2
4	3	2	1	2	1
5	2	2	0	1	1
6	5	2	3	3	2
7 *	7	5	2	5	2
8	6	4	2	2	4
9 *	11	7	4	8	3
10*	19	12	7	6	13
11*	24	15	9	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>

Page 61

- 65% of EHCPs are for SEMH needs
- The second highest primary need is Cognition and Learning and Autistic Spectrum Continuum
- There are 28% more males than females with an EHCP.
- There are more CLA with an EHCP attending a school in Borough however the data shows that more young people in Years 8 and 10 attend an out of Borough school.
- KS4 have the highest number of CLA with an EHCP at 48% .

## Current SEND CLA with no school roll

Number (%) of CME CLA	14 (3.5%)
Number (%) with an EHCP	10 (71%)
Number with SEND support	4 (29%)
Number (%) male	9 (64%)
KS3 students	4 (29%)
KS4 Students	10 (71%)
Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum (UCSA)	3 (21%)

- There are 19 CLA with SEND who are not receiving 25 hours of education, 15 with an EHCP and 4 with SEN support.
- There are 11 CLA with SEND that are not on a school roll, 10 with an EHCP and 1 with SEN support.
- Since the start of the academic year, from 1st September to 22nd November, 5 (23.8%) CLA who have an EHCP have been suspended, 12 (57.1%) with SEN support have been suspended and 4 (19%) with no SEN have been suspended.
- Post-16: 32 (52.5%) of the 61 young people with SEND are EET.

Less than 50% attendance	No. Children	%
No SEN	5	12.2%
SEN Support	15	36.6%
EHCP	21	51.2%
<b>Total EHCP and SEN Support</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>87.8%</b>

## SEND and Inclusion Support

### School Level

- Commissioning of Universal Health Services – SALT, OT, Physiotherapy
- Generic information, advice and guidance
- High Needs Funding for children and young people at SEN support
- Support from other LA services – Social Care, etc
- Schools have teams of support staff – TA'S, ELSA's, specialist interventions (eg- therapy programmes)

### Inclusion and Outreach

- Targeted intervention to support Quality First Teaching and Ordinarily Available Provision
- Allocate and coordinate access to Outreach, Alternative Provision and other appropriate external agencies
- Multi – agency triage meetings to ensure collaborative approach to meeting the child's needs
- Ensure appropriate education by the 6<sup>th</sup> day following a permanent exclusion
- Monitor the progress of children in Alternative Provision to ensure provision is meeting the needs of the child and to identify mainstream readiness
- Support effective transition at key points within the child's education
- Access to Hospital School

### EHCP

- Coordinate the statutory process for EHC assessments and annual review
- Ensure that children and young people with an EHCP receive appropriate provision and school placement to meet their SEN once identified through statutory assessment
- Work as part of a multi agency team to ensure a holistic approach to meeting children and young people's needs
- Coordinate the International New Arrivals Protocol for children and young people who move into Middlesbrough from outside of the UK

## Case Studies Lola

- Attended a mainstream secondary school
- Due to her behaviour often being dysregulated she was placed within the school's Personalised Learning Centre
- Whilst in the PLC, further assessment of her needs were completed and through regular PEP meetings it was highlighted that she would benefit from a higher level of intensive support to meet her SEMH needs
- After 18 months of intensive support and assessment Lola was referred for an EHC assessment and transitioned into an intervention place at the local AP Academy which was able to offer a more nurturing educational environment
- Whilst in this provision a statutory EHC needs assessment was carried out and an EHCP was granted. The AP Academy was named in Section I as an appropriate setting to meet Lola's needs
- Effective and regular collaboration between the Virtual School, AP provider and LA SEND and Inclusion teams ensured that there was an effective and appropriate multi agency response to meeting her needs
- Lola is currently in Year 11 where she is making good academic progress
- The ongoing collaboration of multi-agency professionals will ensure that Lola achieves her aspirations which are to teach sport at primary school and own her own home.





# SEND and Inclusion Priorities 2025



- Reduce suspensions and exclusions for children and young people with SEND
- Reintegration into mainstream for children and young people who have been permanently excluded
- Greater inclusion for children and young people with an EHC Plan in mainstream schools
- Implementation of the Ranges document to support appropriate identification of needs and timely interventions to support children and young people with SEND
- Full implementation of CAPITA Portal for the digitisation of EHC Plans
- Continue to transform Annual Review process for existing EHC Plans

Page 65





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