

**HDFT**  
**Children in Care Scrutiny Panel Report**  
**February 2023**

**Introduction**

From 01<sup>st</sup> April 2022 the responsibility of initial health assessments (IHA's) and review health assessments (RHA's) for South Tees NHS Trust was amalgamated into a Tees Valley Children in Care contract.

HDFT is responsible for the timely co-ordination of IHA's which includes gathering consent and pertinent health and social information on a child entering the care system to inform the IHA appointment. The IHA appointment is completed by the acute hospital trust and disseminated to social care.

It is the responsibility of the Tees Valley Children in Care (TV CiC) service to co-ordinate and undertake RHA's for any child in care in the borough of Middlesbrough. TV CiC practitioners will also undertake RHA's for a child placed out of area within a 30-mile radius of their home address.

The TV CiC service is comprised of the following substantive staff:

- 0.5 WTE Band 8a Named Nurse Children in Care
- 1.0 WTE Band 7 Specialist Nurse Children in Care
- 3.3 WTE Band 6 Nurse Children in Care
- 3.8 WTE Band 5 Staff Nurse Children in Care
- 0.9 WTE Band 4 Data & Analyst Administrator
- 2.5 WTE Band 3 Administrator

The CiC practitioners undertake RHA's with the best interests of the child at the heart of interventions. We liaise with caseload holders (Health Visitors and School Nurses) prior to and following the RHA to ensure that the assessment is informed and is a holistic approach.

As there is a limited number of staff within the Tees Valley CiC service, we are only able to offer a 'single episode of care' at the point of RHA. If there are any immediate public health messages to be delivered, then the specialist CiC nurse will do so at the point of the RHA being undertaken. If there are any longer pieces of care to support the child or young person then this will be referred to the 0-19 caseload holder (health visitor / school nurse) to provide ongoing support with.



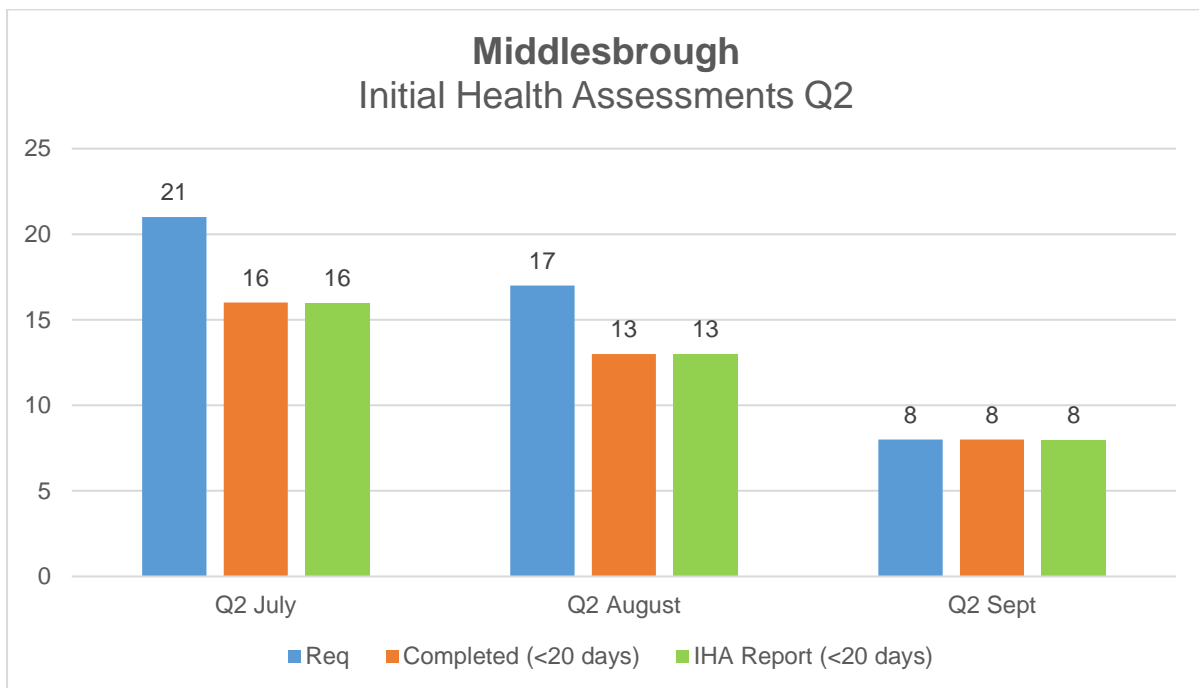
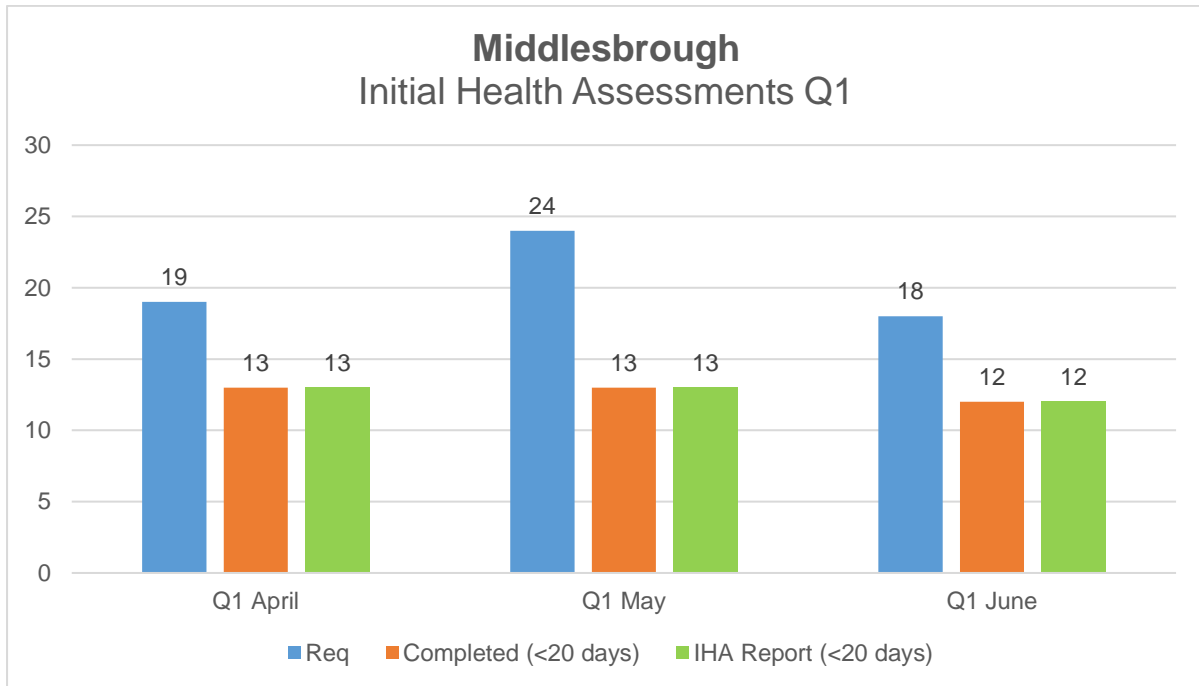
CiC Pathway V2.pdf

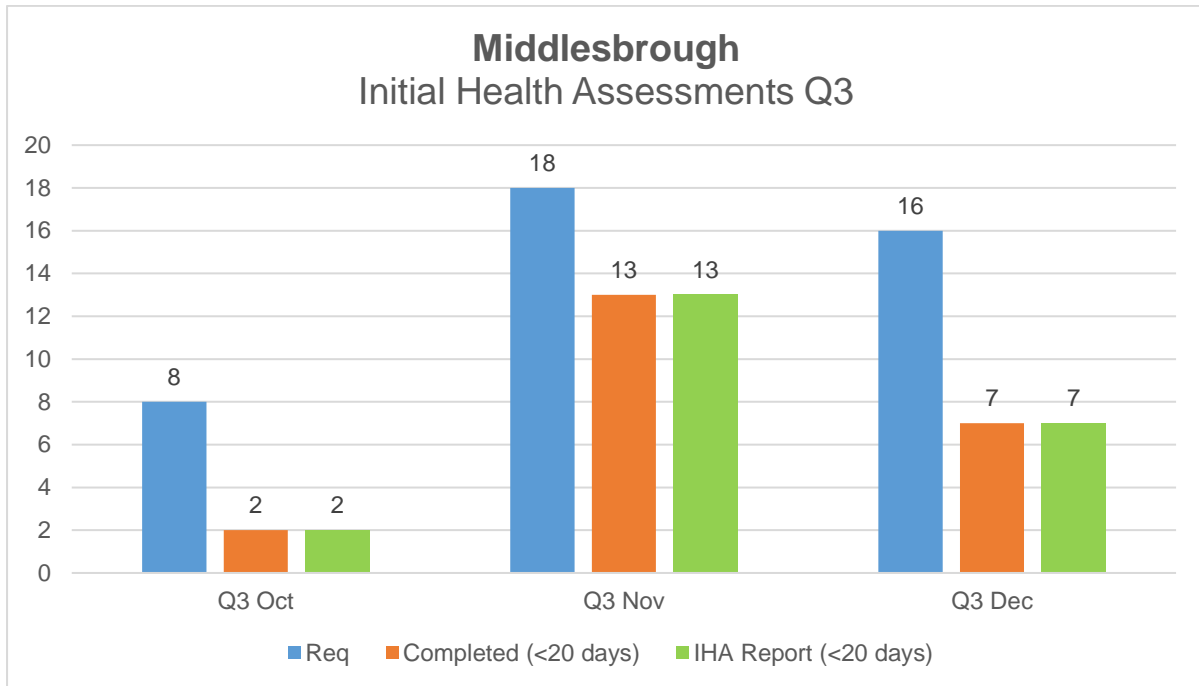
### **Initial Health Assessments (IHA's)**

Since 01<sup>st</sup> April 2022 HDFT co-ordinates the completion of any Initial Health Assessments and monitors the completion and reporting of these by Community Paediatricians from South Tees NHS Trust.

Since the transfer of responsibility to HDFT we are notified by the Local Authority of a child entering the care system and we collate notification consent and request that an IHA appointment is provided by South Tees NHS Foundation Trust. All IHA assessments continue to be undertaken face to face.

The acute hospital trust is then responsible for assessing the child, completing the report and disseminating to HDFT and to the local authority.





Exceptions include:

- Delay in notification and medical consent.
- Child was not brought to IHA appointment.
- Out of area CiC teams not performing IHA within statutory timescales.

There have been significant, ongoing challenges in relation to IHA compliance which HDFT, the local authority and the acute hospital trust recognise and are working in an attempt to rectify the situation.

All three partners meet on a weekly basis and discuss any outstanding IHA appointments, establish if additional clinic appointments are required and liaise in relation to child was not brought. HDFT have also raised with the local authority that a delay in providing notification consents is creating a delay in the child being booked to attend for an IHA.

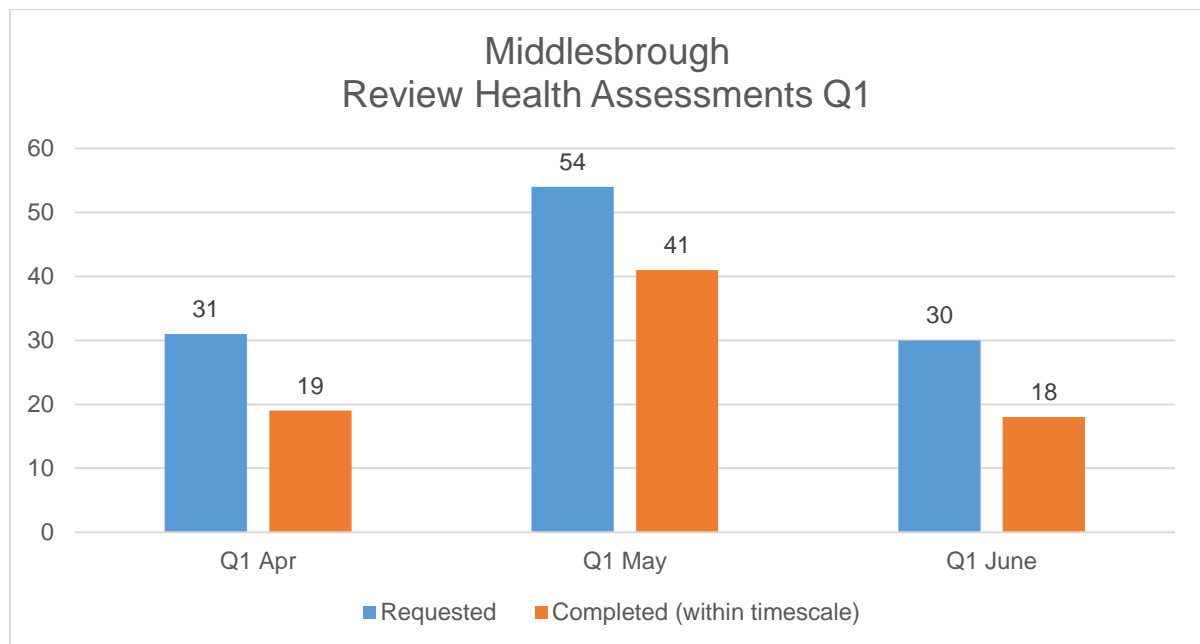
It remains the responsibility of the social worker to notify the parent / carer of the appointment details and if for whatever reason the appointment is to be cancelled / rearranged then this must be agreed by the service manager.

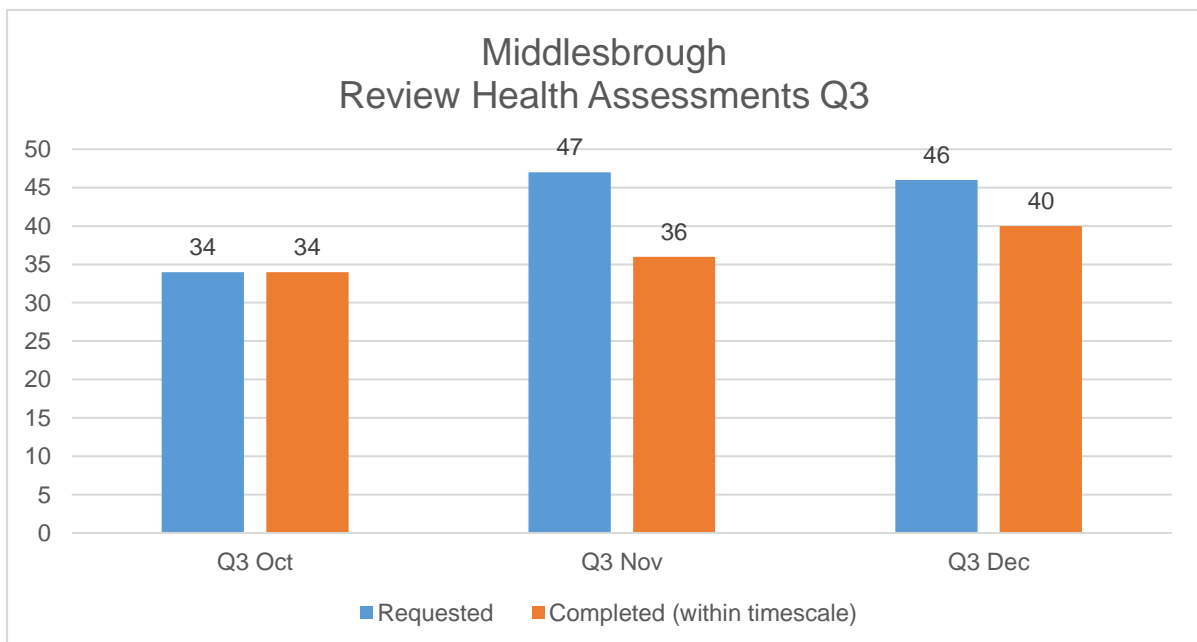
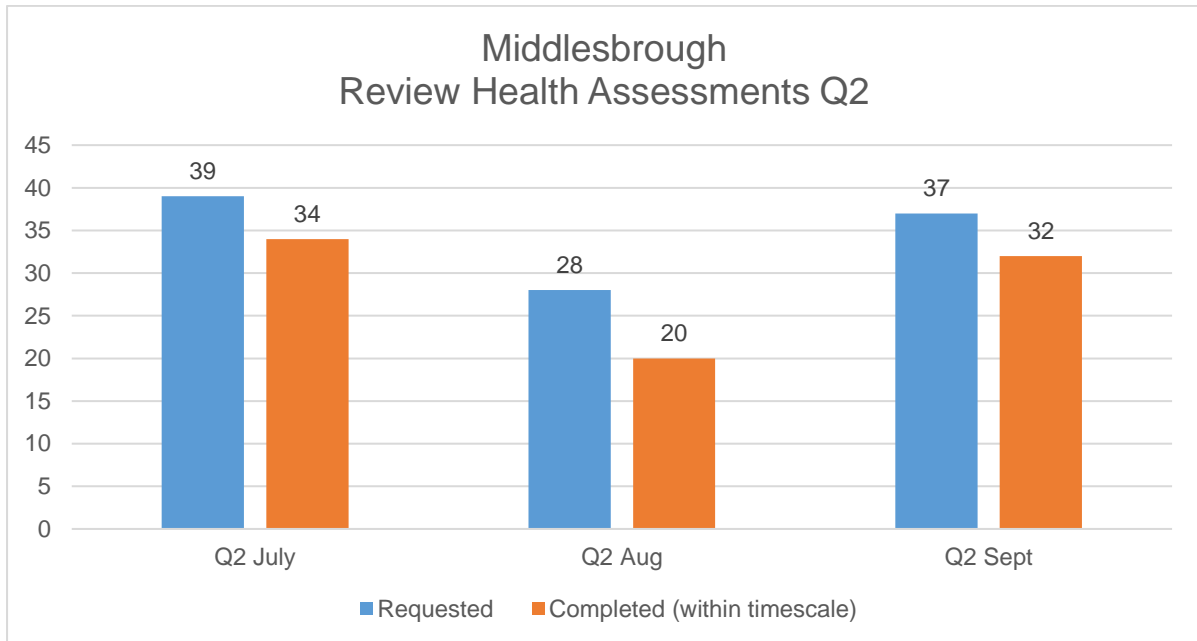
### Review Health Assessments

As per statutory guidance set out in 'Promoting the Health of Looked After Children' (DFE, DOH 2015), children in care under the age of 5-year are provided a health review twice yearly and children in care over the age of 5-year have an annual review.

All RHA's are undertaken at a face to face contact, usually in the child's home, though HDFT have the philosophy that they will see a child in the venue of their own request.

**Compliance to Review Health Assessments (RHA) completed within timescales.**





Exceptions include:

- Delay in receiving new placement notification from Social Worker.
- Changes to placement.
- Failed attempts to contact Young Person / carer.
- Out of area CiC team not undertaking RHA within statutory timescales.
- Placement procedure and workload pressures of Tees Valley CiC Mobilisation.

- Young person refusal.
- Child request to undertake RHA once exams had finished

HDFT have also implemented a School Based Immunisation & CiC Pathway that ensures the immunisation uptake for CiC is satisfactory. This has been devised and implemented into practice since May 2022 and as a result we have been successful in 12 CiC having their outstanding immunisations administered.



Children in Care &  
School Based Immuni



case study -  
immunisation pathway

In addition, HDFT have been instrumental in the dental pilot pathway which has been devised to support children and young people in care accessing timely dental support.



Tees Valley  
Safeguarding Dental C

## Summary

HDFT were commissioned in April 2022 to co-ordinate and deliver on IHA's and RHA's. Despite the challenge that has been encountered through mobilisation we have been able to offer a service to our CIC to ensure their physical and emotional health needs are being addressed.