

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Social Care and Scrutiny Panel

Monday 7th Dec 2020

Overview

Futures for Families
Innovate

Children and Young People Looked After



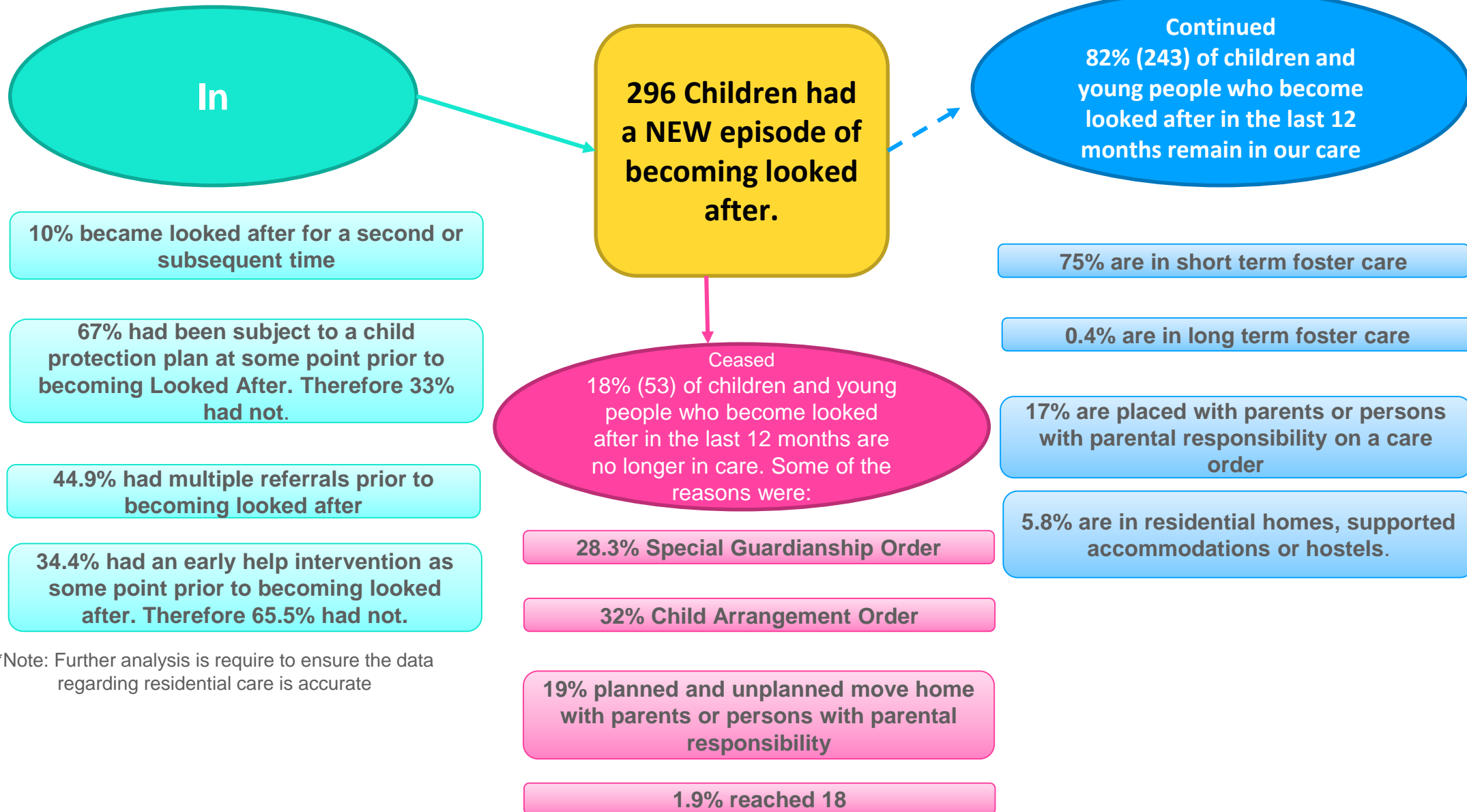
MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER



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

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

An analysis - 12 months of children who became CLA 31/10.



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



FUTURES 
FOR FAMILIES

The logo for Futures for Families consists of the word "FUTURES" in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of "FUTURES" is a stylized orange figure with a red dot for a head, appearing to be in motion. Below "FUTURES", the words "FOR FAMILIES" are written in a smaller, bold, purple, sans-serif font.

Interventions

September

Edge of care fragile placements - 14 young people supported
Regular in-reach support from the hub - 3 young people

October

Edge of care fragile placements - 38 young people supported
Regular in-reach support from the hub - 4 young people

November

Edge of care fragile placements - 39 young people supported
Regular in-reach support from the hub - 5 young people

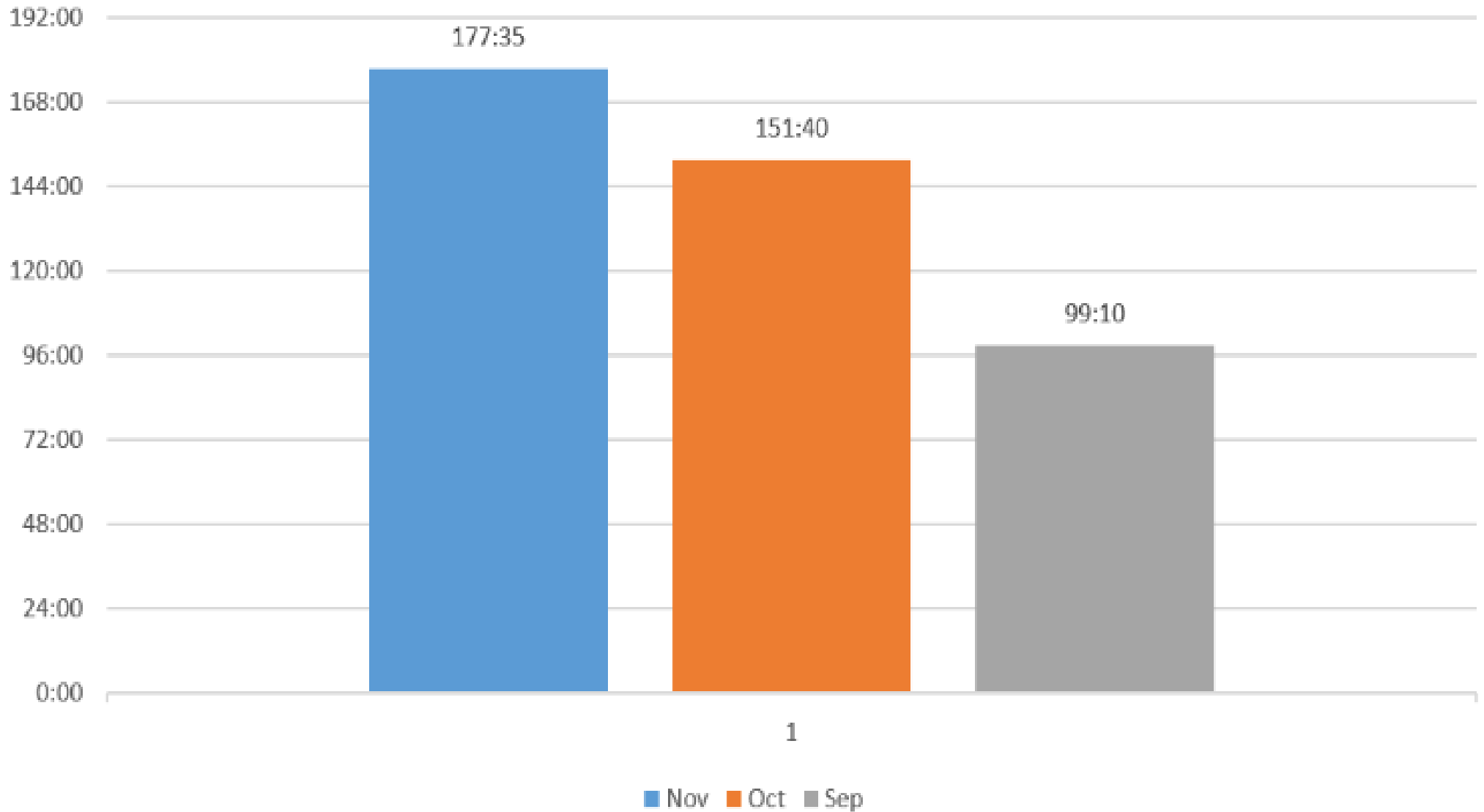
Impact

Deep Dives - 40 young peoples care experiences have been analysed. Outcomes have been shared with the social work teams and principle social worker to improve practice

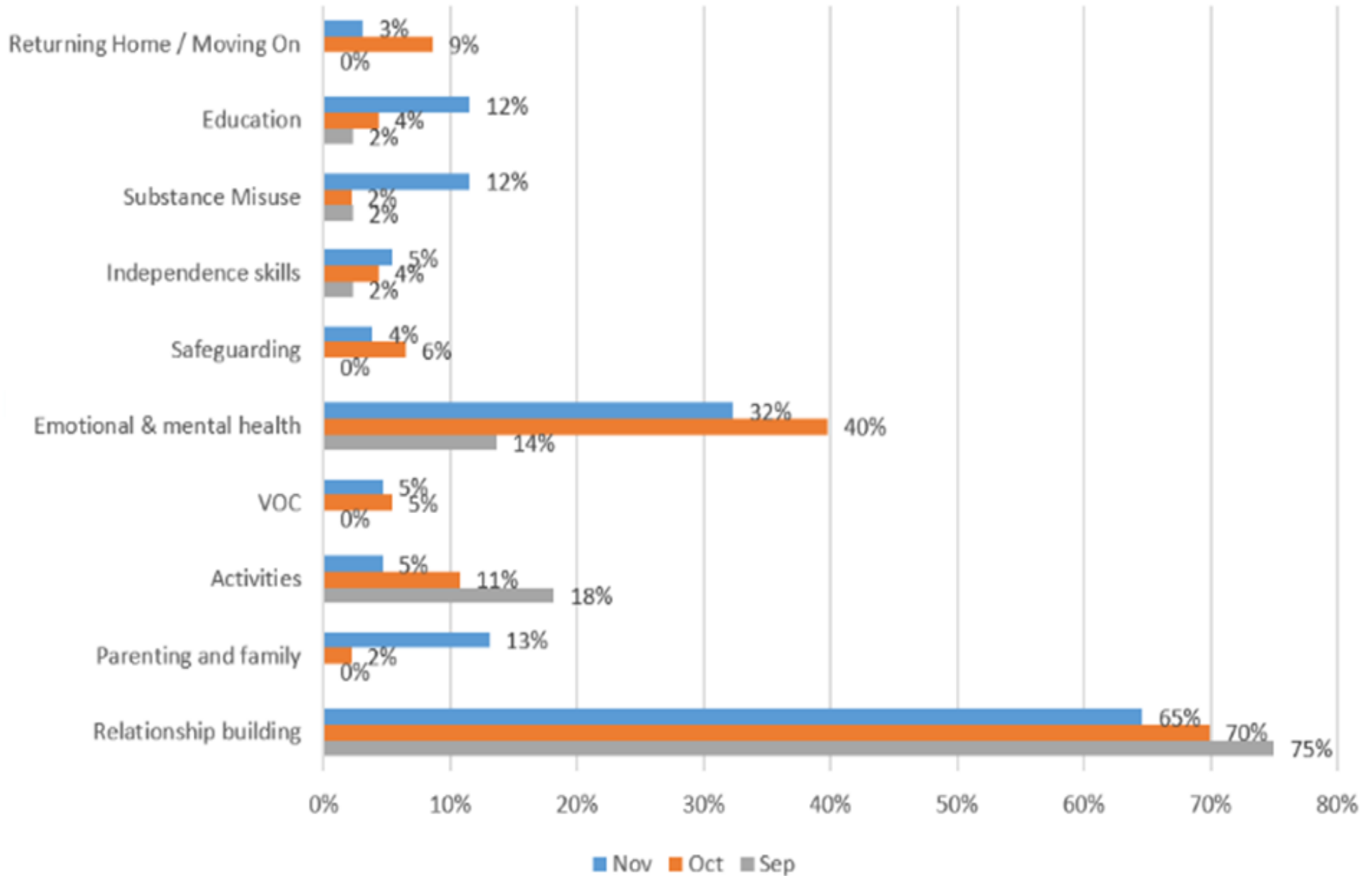
75% of all young people accessing FFF are receiving support (either direct or indirect) from the Life Coach. Of those accessing support 92% had no previous identified need.

Previously 32.5% of young people had an undiagnosed SLC. Of those 92% are male.

Total Direct Support Hours Each Month



Intervention Types



Impact continued.....

In the past 12 months **11 individuals** had a total of **94 missing episodes**.

Due to targeted outreach **100% of those children** have seen a **reduction in their missing episodes of between 50-100%**

36% of those young people have **not had any missing episodes** since receiving support from FFF

FFF are supporting **9 young people to return to their families** or connected carer/foster placement from expensive residential placements.

Innovate Children and Young People's Services

A Commissioned Service

What does our current placement data tell us at a glance?

- We have not achieved long-term permanence for enough children. Therefore too many children do not know where their 'long-term' home is. This undermines their ability to create attachments, feel secure and support their emotional wellbeing.
- Placement with parents: There are too many children placed on a care order (i.e. officially looked after) however remain in their home placed with their parents.
- There are currently too many children in Residential Care and not enough children in Middlesbrough Council employed family foster placements.
- There are not enough Special Guardianship Order's as a plan of permanence despite there being a high proportion of children placed in Connected Carers (placed with family of friends). SGO's are permanent plans for children to remain in the care of family members and the LA discharges the child from being looked after. There was a reduction in the number of SGO's from 10 in Q1 2020/21 to 8 in Q2 2020/21.
- Given the numbers of children looked after and the age demographic of our CLA population, there are not enough children being Adopted. For those being adopted the timeliness of the process is not within the target timescales.

Green shoots – Innovate C/YP Services



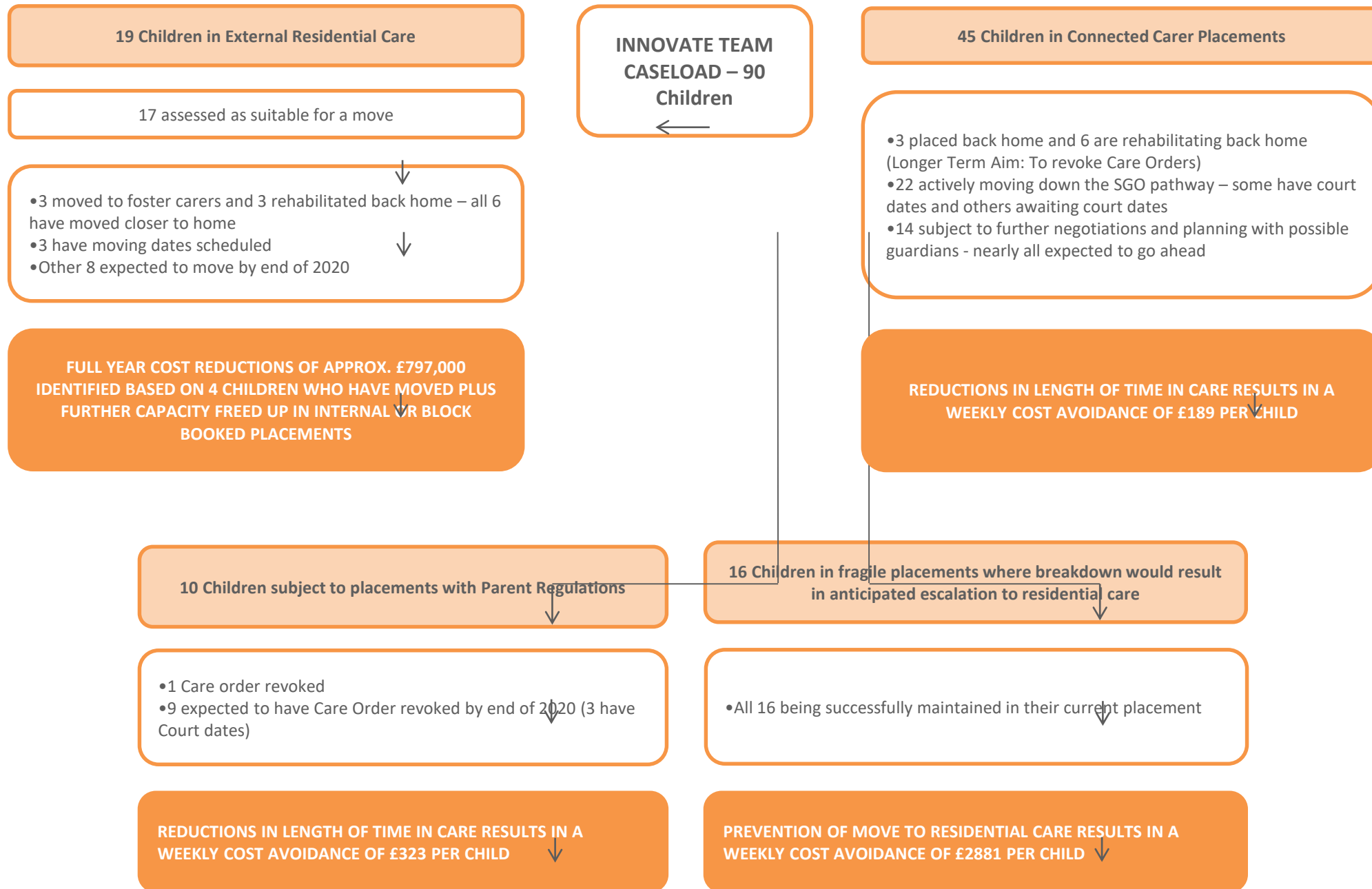
Commissioned in July 2020 to provide a team of Social Workers to progress 90 children subject to a Care Order. The aim of the intervention was to provide permanence for children; achieve placement stability; and support children out of residential placements back into family life, thus improving outcomes for children and reducing Middlesbrough's children Looked After population.

The key cohorts for the Innovate team are as follows:

- In Residential Placements
- Placement with Parents where discharge of care order is required.
- Living with a Connected Foster Carer where the plan was to progress to SGO.
- Living with a Foster Carer where support was required to prevent breakdown and a future move.

Green shoots - Innovate

IMPACT OF THE MIDDLESBROUGH CS INNOVATE TEAM – PLACEMENT, PERMANENCY AND RESOURCE SAVINGS



Green Shoot - Innovate

Case Study One

B H- B was removed from his mother's care due to concerns around Domestic Violence, parental mental health issues and B being out of parental control. B was placed in a residential placement and for the three years he was there, no significant concerns were raised around his behaviour, however there were concerns around B's mental health. B's care plan was residential care until the age of independence. As part of her work the Innovate CYPS Social Worker explored B's low mood and it became evident that he felt that he did not have a voice and had been left in care without being considered. B has 4 siblings, 3 whom are also 'looked after', and one remaining in their mother's care. A robust assessment identified that mother had made and sustained significant positive progress in her life therefore a rehabilitation home plan was agreed for B with a clear support plan including support from Futures for Families. At the time of writing the report B has been at home for 4 weeks and evidence suggests that it is going very well. There is now consideration being given to B's sibling **DC** (also in residential placement) being rehabilitated home. The support plan developed by the allocated Social Worker also included D as it is hoped that the positive progress that B has made will allow him to be a positive role model for his brother. There remains a significant amount of work to be undertaken for this to be successful however we are hopeful this can be achieved.

Case Study

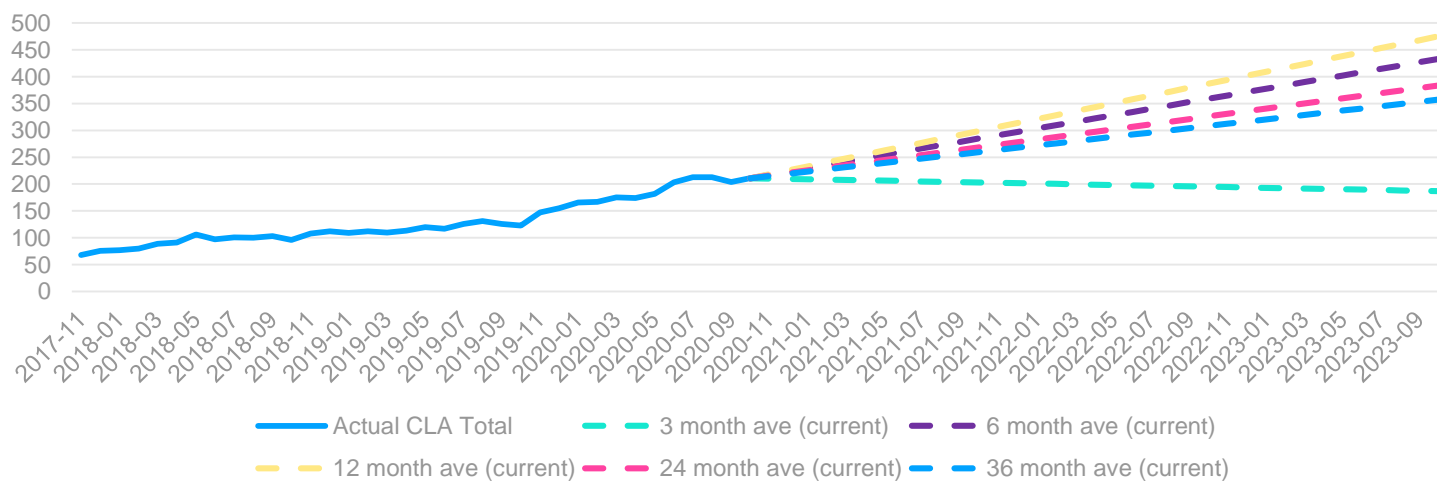
B children have been in mother's care since initial hearing and subsequently a Care Order was made maintaining them at home. Discharge of the Care Order paperwork is in the process of being completed for next week's legal panel, where assessments have been able to evidence positive achievements, mothers capacity to safeguard and sustain this moving forward, and also the remaining vulnerabilities that require short term interventions. Records evidence that since summer of 2019 plans have been to progress discharge, however this drifted. Current assessment identifies short term interventions to strengthen mother's capacity to protect that have always been required but not fulfilled; eg. education work and clear safety planning around keeping children safe from sexual harm due to maternal uncle. Life story work was also outstanding, having never been started. This is now being undertaken.

Possible green shoots: Connected Carers



- Currently 30% of our children in care are in connected carer placements.
- These are placements where children are cared for by family or friends and subject to a care order. More children in care are looked after by a family or a friend than any other placement type.
- In total 167 children ceased to be looked after in the last 12 months of which half (49.4%) exited from a connected carers placement. This means we are better at moving children onto permanence via Special Guardianship Order or return home when children are in connected carers placements than any other placement type.
- In the last 3 months there have been more connected carers placement ceased compared to those that have started. 31 connected carers placement have started compared to 33 that have ceased. Forecasting shows a decline in connected carers based on a 3 month average. This is partly due to an improvement to the through put of children in care case work and a reduction in demand. It is also due to a shift in care planning as Middlesbrough were criticised for an over-reliance on family placements and lack of exploration of other placements which may better meet the child's needs. This is beginning to be explored in case work in greater detail, although remains an area for improvement.

Forecasts - No. of CLA per Placement Type - Foster Placement - Connected Carer



Placement Types Total by Month and Year	Connected Carer Placement Type Total
2019-11	147
2019-12	155
2020-01	166
2020-02	167
2020-03	175
2020-04	174
2020-05	182
2020-06	203
2020-07	213
2020-08	213
2020-09	204
2020-10	211

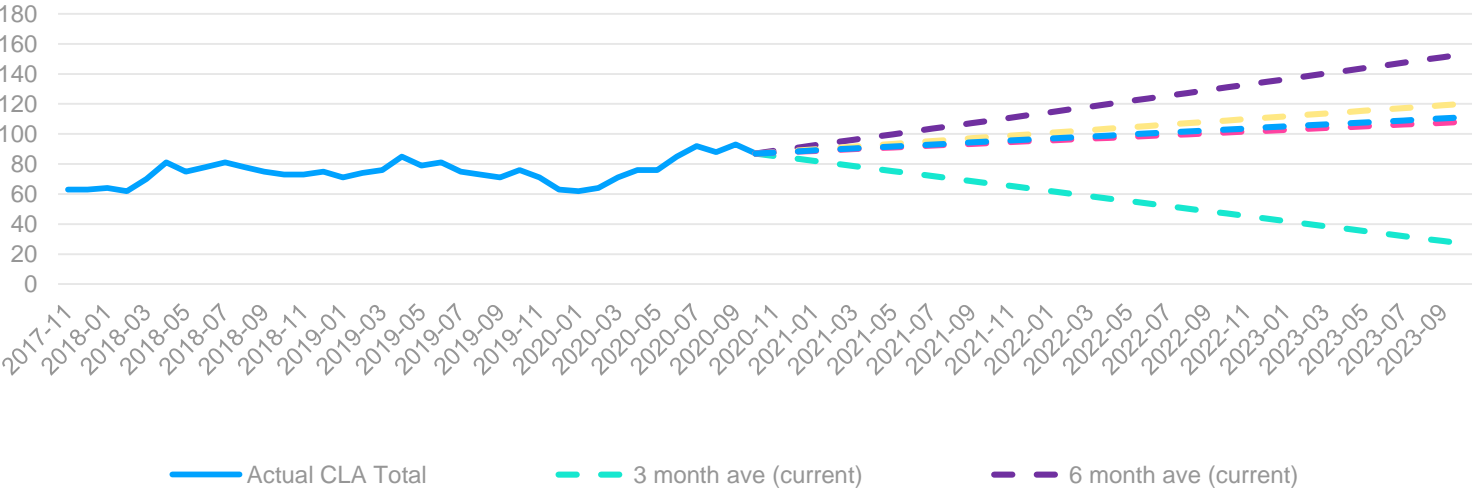
Possible green shoots - Placement with Parent



- This term refers to when a child is subject to a Care Order (I,e, looked after by the LA) and is living with a parent. Placements with parents should be seen as short term and temporary arrangements.
- The number of PWP in Middlesbrough is much greater than all comparators. This is partly due to the legacy of poor practice as the courts have not got confidence in the quality of social work practice and are therefore ordering care orders to support additional oversight. However, audits suggest care orders have not improved social care oversight of the case and the legacy of poor practice, i.e. workers have not effectively worked the case, has meant these families remain on such orders for long periods and the child should either have been taken off a care order much earlier or in some cases the children have languish in neglectful situations for too long and end up entering care.
- End of October 87 children were placed in PWP placements. This has increased 20% in the last 12 months, 13% in the last 6 months and -1% in 3 months.
- On average these children have been in this placements for 16 months. 36 children have been placed with parents for longer than a year. 21 have been open for longer than 2 years.10 have been open for 3 years.
- Throughout in the last 3 months has improved and for the first time ever data reports that more children ceased to be looked after from this cohort of children than those that started to be looked after on this placement type. In the last 3 month there are have been 12 new placement with parents arrangements and 16 children ceased to become looked after under this arrangement.

Placement Types Total by Month	Placement with Parent:
2019-11	71
2019-12	63
2020-01	62
2020-02	64
2020-03	71
2020-04	76
2020-05	76
2020-06	85
2020-07	92
2020-08	88
2020-09	93
2020-10	87

Forecasts - No. of CLA per Placement Type - Placed with Parents



Possible green shoots: External Residential and Fostering

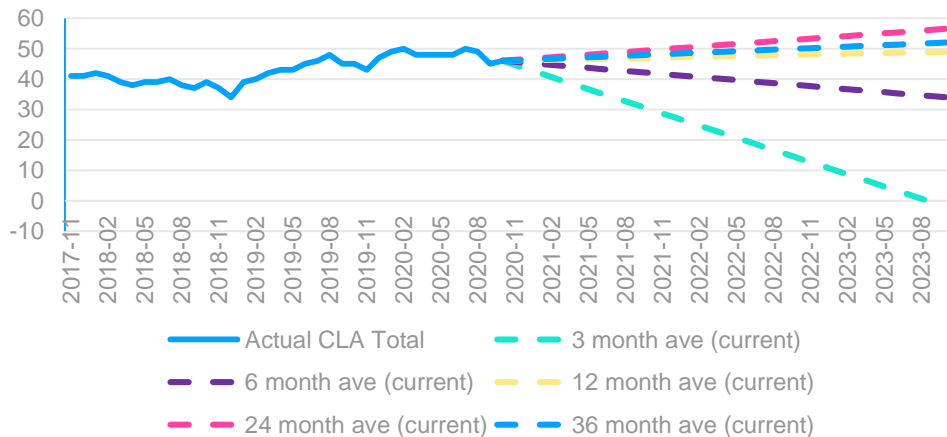
We now have 177 in house fostering placements due to a concentrated effort to make best use of all of the available capacity in the system - This has involved a recruitment drive, the broadening of approval criteria and strengthening of foster care management. We have 154 IFA placements.

There has been a drop in external residential placements (-4% in 6 months) and an increase in fostering placements (14%).

Future for Families are working to support fragile foster placements to prevent children experiencing placement breakdowns and escalating from foster care to residential care. Of the 16 children being supported from within the Innovate team all children have maintained the current placement. The team are currently working with 41 children to strengthen fragile placements, support children to be rehabilitated to the care of family and to prevent children from becoming looked after.

Placement Sufficiency There has been a 14% increase in the number of in house foster carers compared to the same period last year. This allows social workers to maintain children in local foster care placements and reduces the cost of external foster placements.

Forecasts - No. of CLA per Placement Type - Children's Homes (inc Secure) - External



Forecasts - No. of CLA per Placement Type - Foster Placement - In-House

