

Appendix 1

Middlesbrough Children in Care and Care Leavers Analysis as of January 2024.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This is an appendix to the Executive Report titled 'Increased Residential and Supported Accommodation for Children in our Care and Care Leavers'. The information in this appendix is included to highlight the need for increasing our children and young people's placements in Middlesbrough.

2. The Age of Middlesbrough Children looked after

- 2.1 Middlesbrough Council understands the age profile of Middlesbrough children and young people in care. The table below shows the age of Middlesbrough children and young people. More than half (51.6%) of the 528 Children looked after are aged 12 years or older.

Age of children and young people	Count	%
0	22	4.2%
1	26	4.9%
2	19	3.6%
3	20	3.8%
4	13	2.5%
5	24	4.5%
6	25	4.7%
7	22	4.2%
8	22	4.2%
9	21	4.0%
10	19	3.6%
11	23	4.4%
12	37	7.0%
13	33	6.3%
14	42	8.0%
15	44	8.3%
16	48	9.1%
17	57	10.8%
18	11	2.1%
Grand Total	528	100.0%

3. Category of Need of Middlesbrough Children looked after

- 3.1 Central government ask local authorities to categories the type of need children looked after have. The table below shows the need of children and young people in Middlesbrough who are looked after. More than 4 out of 5 children looked after were referred to Children’s Social Care with the primary reason of “Abuse or Neglect”.

Category of Need	Count	%
N1 Abuse or Neglect	439	83.1%
N2 Disability	2	0.4%
N4 Family in Acute Stress	19	3.6%
N5 Family Dysfunction	62	11.7%
N6 Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	5	0.9%
N8 Absent Parenting	1	0.2%
Grand Total	528	100.0%

4. Children’s Services Analysis Tool (ChAT) information

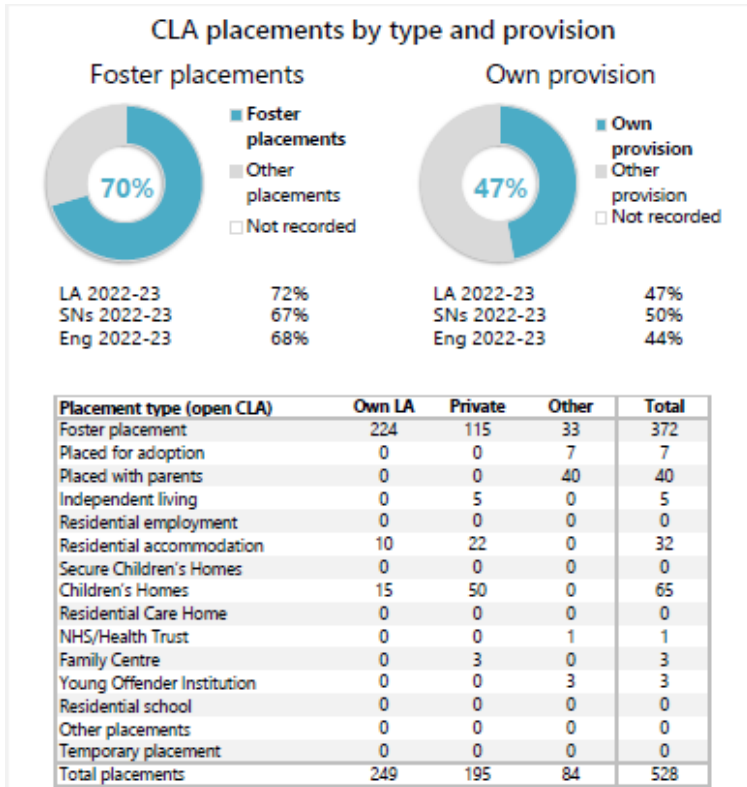
- 4.1 All local authorities across England complete a report called the Children’s Services Analysis Tool (ChAT) which better visualizes the data that is shared. The charts below are also taken from 9th January 2023 Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services Annex A list. The following charts show children looked after placements by type & provision and age & gender.

5. Placement type for Middlesbrough Children looked after

- 5.1 Children looked after are placed with various types of care providers based on their need and availability. These care providers can be either Middlesbrough’s own providers (“in-house”), a private agency (“external”) or other voluntary/public sector provider. Generally residential placement types and those provided by private agencies are the costliest.
- 5.2 For placement types, 7 out of 10 children looked after (70%) were placed with Foster Carers. As a proportion of children looked after placements it is higher than in the England (68%) and Statistical Neighbour (67%) 2022-23 averages.
- 5.3 For placement providers, just under half (47%) were care provisions situated in Middlesbrough. This is a higher proportion than the 2022-23 England average (44%) but lower than the Statistical Neighbour average (50%).

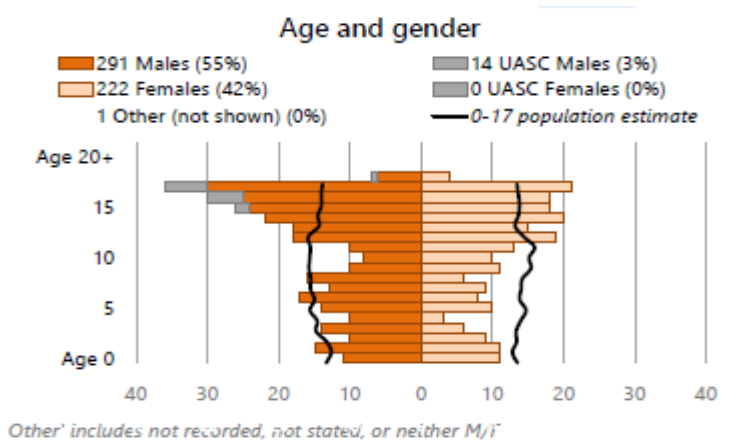
6. The Type of Placements where Middlesbrough Children looked after and Care Leavers Reside

6.1 Out of the 528 Middlesbrough children and young people, there were 50 children looked after placed in private Children’s Homes (9.4% of children looked after).



7. Age and Gender of Children looked after

7.1 The majority of children looked after are Males (55% of children looked after are males).



8. Monthly Placement trends for Middlesbrough Children looked after

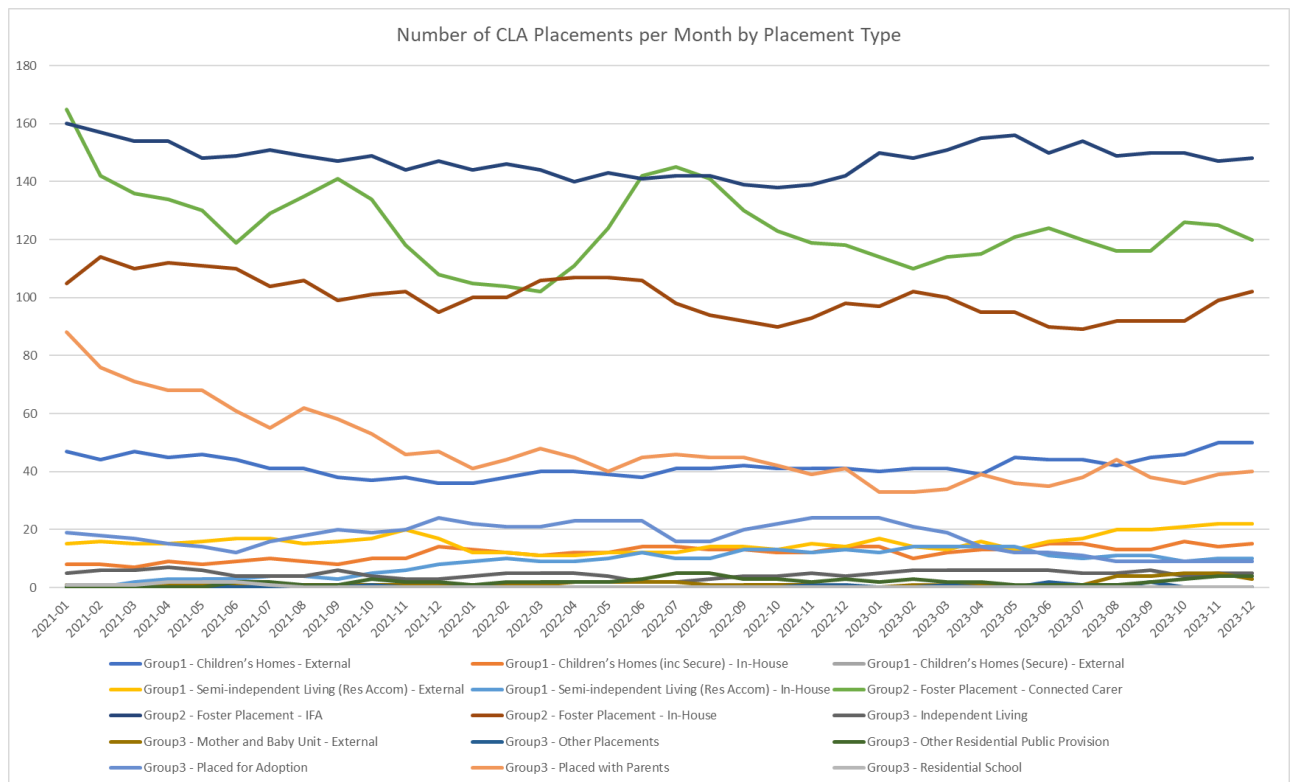
The 4 charts below show the monthly placement trend for children and young people for the last 3 years.

8.1 Children looked after Placement Type by Month

8.1.1 The chart below shows the number of children looked after by placement type, month-by-month, over the last 3 years.

8.1.2 The 3 lines at the top represent the 3 types of fostering placements. There have been consistently more fostering placements provided by private Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) than those in-house, i.e. provided by Middlesbrough.

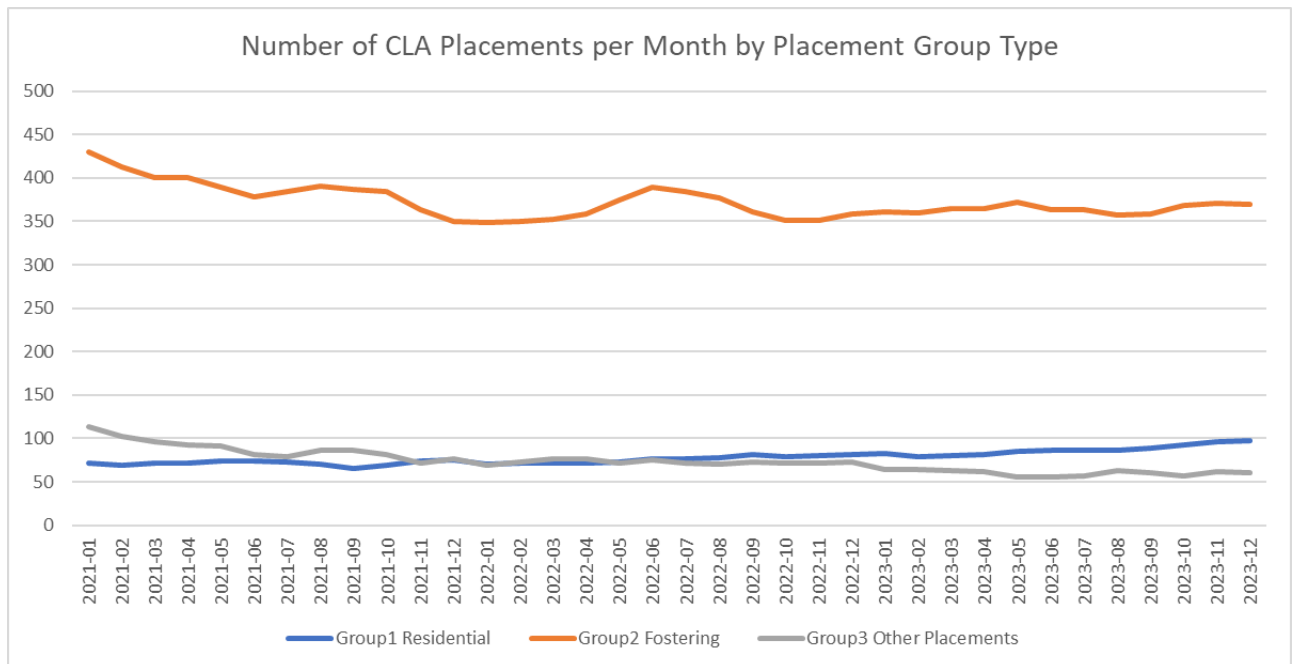
8.1.3 Connected Carer foster placements are more variable, with large increases in the summers of 2021 and 2022, but are generally decreasing. There's been a steady decline in the number of children looked after placed with their own parents too.



9. Number of Children looked after grouped by Fostering, Residential and Other Groups

9.1 The following chart shows the number of children looked after grouped into Fostering, Residential and Other groups.

9.2 The number of fostering placements decreased since June 2022 and is still the most common type of placement. The more costly Residential placements have almost doubled from January 2021 to December 2023, when it totalled 97 placements.



10 Percentage of Children looked after grouped by Fostering, Residential and Other Groups

10.1 The following chart shows the percentage of children looked after grouped into Fostering, Residential and Other groups.

10.2 Whilst the overall number of children looked after, and thus fostering placements have decreased, the percentage of fostering placements remained stable between 69-72%. The proportion of residential placements steadily increased from 11.5% in January 2021 to 18.4% in December 2023.

12. Children looked after trend on 31st March 2023

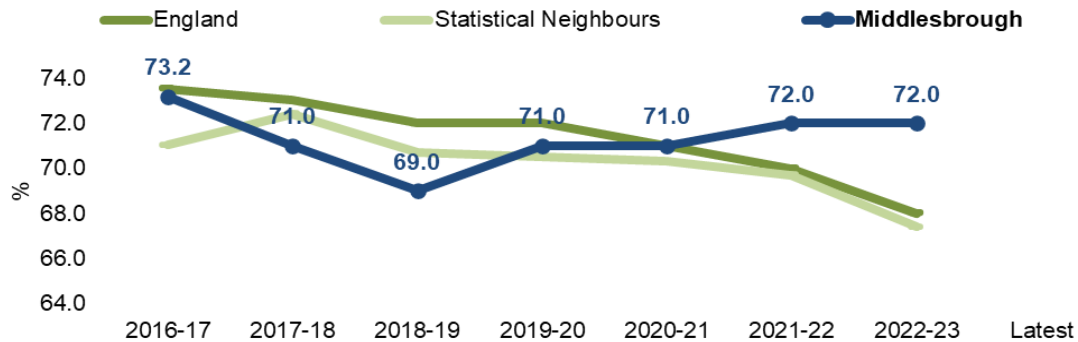
- 12.1 The table and charts below show the children looked after trend on 31st March 2023 which is taken from nationally published data from the past 7 years.
- 12.2 Middlesbrough had an increasing children looked after cohort culminating in a large increase of almost 20% at the end of 2019-20. This coincided with the start of Covid lockdowns. Totals since then have gradually decreased to pre-covid levels but are not yet back those at the end of 2016-17.
- 12.3 In 2019-20 the totals in all placement types increased but as children looked after decreased in the subsequent years, the number of placements in “Secure Units, Children’s Homes and Semi-Independent Accommodation”, i.e., residential placements, stayed at the same level and then, more recently, increased.

		Middlesbrough						
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
: Children looked after at 31 March by placement								
All children looked after at 31 March	Number	440	445	519	619	570	502	513
Foster placements	Number	322	317	360	442	405	359	369
Placed for adoption	Number	x	x	12	17	17	17	20
Placement with parents	Number	56	58	75	71	68	48	34
Other placement in the community	Number	x	x	c	7	6	c	6
Secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation	Number	55	58	59	75	74	71	80
Other residential settings	Number	x	x	c	c	0	c	c
Residential schools	Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other placement	Number	0	0	0	c	0	0	c
% Foster placements	%	73.2	71.0	69.0	71.0	71.0	72.0	72.0
% Placed for adoption	%	x	x	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
% Placement with parents	%	12.7	13.0	14.0	11.0	12.0	10.0	7.0
% Other placement in the community	%	x	x	c	1.0	1.0	c	1.0
% Secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation	%	12.5	13.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	16.0
% Other residential settings	%	x	x	c	c	0.0	c	c
% Residential schools	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Other placement	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	c	0.0	0.0	c

13. Percentage of Children Looked After in Fostering Placements on 31st March over the past 7 years

- 13.1 The chart in 13.2 shows the percentage of children looked after in Fostering Placements on 31st March over the past 7 years.
- 13.2 Nationally the percentage of Foster Placements has declined whilst Middlesbrough’s has remained at 72% and is now above the England and Statistical Neighbour averages in 2022-23.

CLA at 31 March by placement: % Foster placements



14. Percentage of Children Looked After in Residential Placements on 31st March over the past 7 years

14.1 This chart shows the percentage of children looked after in Residential Placements on 31st March over the past 7 years.

14.2 Nationally the percentage of Residential Placements increased, and this is reflected in Middlesbrough’s own percentage increasing from 12.5% in 2016-17 to 16.0% in 2022-23.

CLA at 31 March by placement: % Secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation

