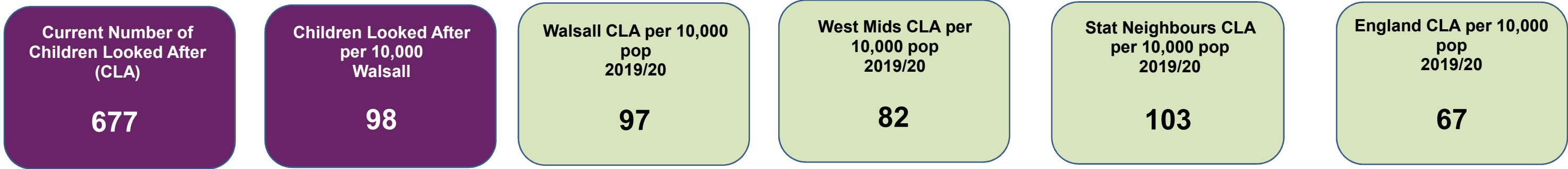


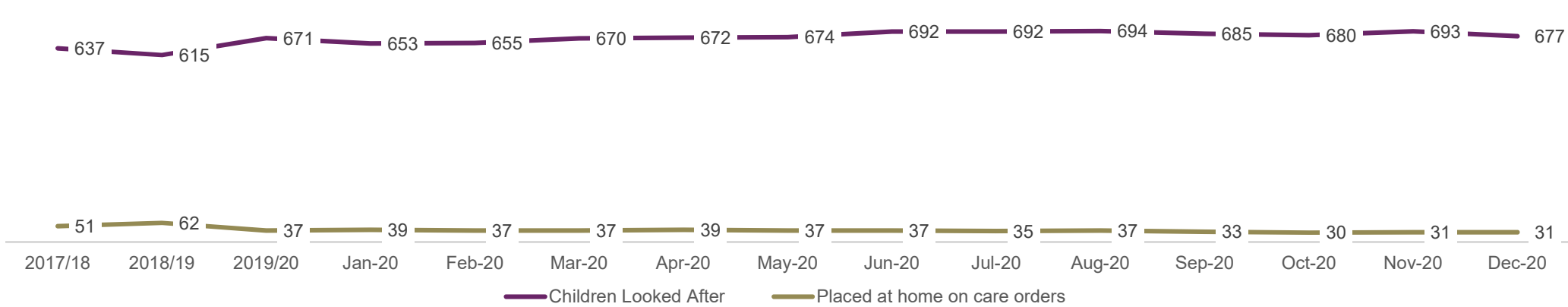
Walsall Children's Services Corporate Parenting Board February 2021 Quarter 3

**Please Note: where there is an 2019/20 benchmarking data has
been updated where available**

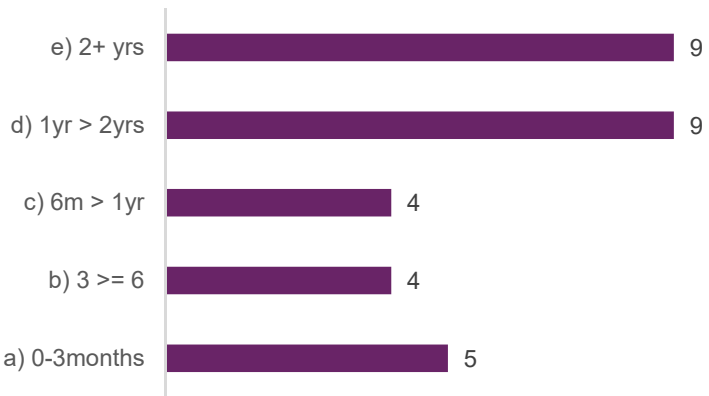
Current Children Looked After (CLA) Profile



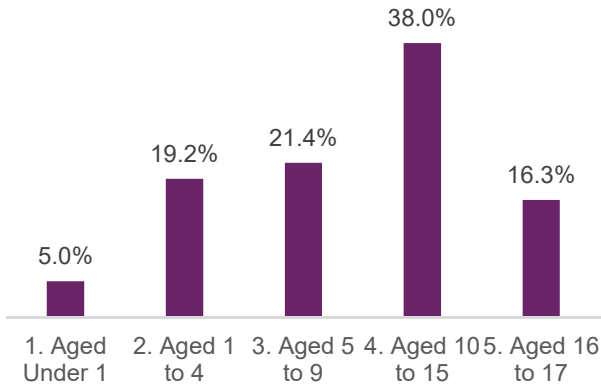
Number of Children Looked After in Walsall (12 Month Rolling)



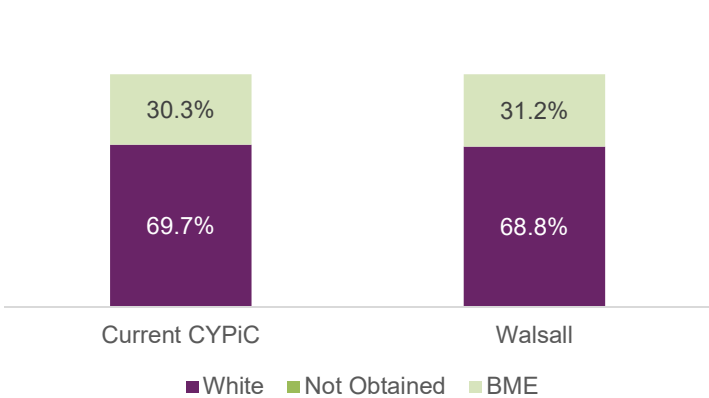
Length of Time placed at home on full care orders



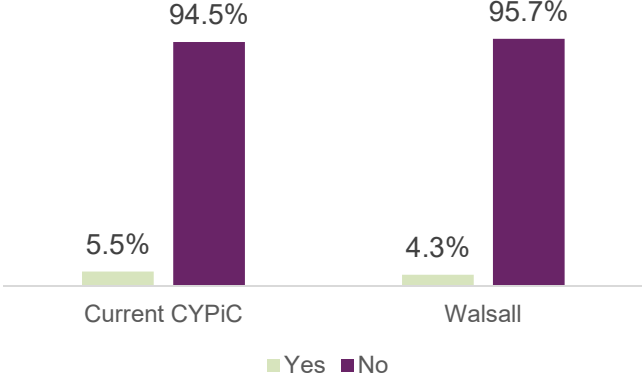
% of current CLA by age



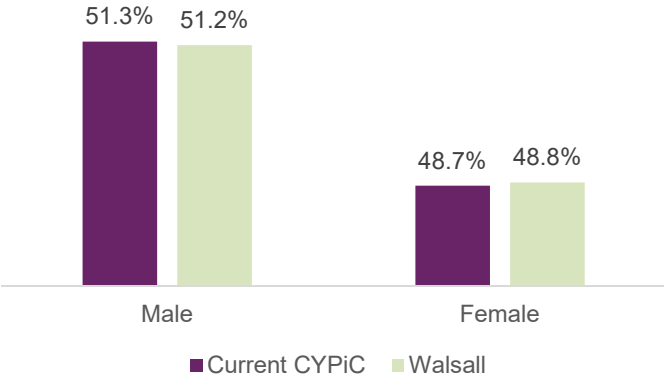
Ethnicity Comparison



Disability Comparison



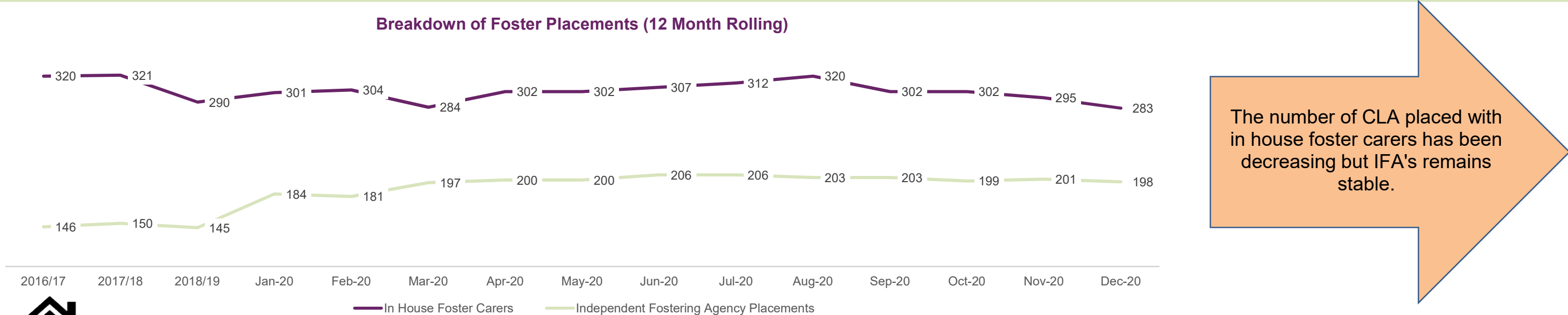
Gender Comparison



Commentary

Demographic data has been taken from the 2019 mid-year population estimates. A slightly lower proportion of Children Looked After are from BME backgrounds compared to the Walsall Child and Young Person population (0-17s). The current Children Looked After population has continued to decrease slightly from 692 at the end of Q1 to 677 at the end of Q3. The current rate of 98 per 10,000 remains below that of our statistical neighbours but is still considerably higher than the 2019/20 England and West Midlands averages. We currently have 31 children placed at home on full care order, this has decreased from 33 at the end of quarter 2. 18 of the 33 have been placed at home for over a year. Work is continuing with the courts to revoke care orders for children who are placed at home where appropriate.

Breakdown of Foster Placements (12 Month Rolling)



% CLA placed 20 mile+ from home, outside of LA boundary

108
16.2%

2019/20 Walsall = 11.0%
2019/20 West Midlands = 14.0%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 18.1%
2019/20 England = 16.0%

% CLA 3 or more placements in a year

68
10.0%

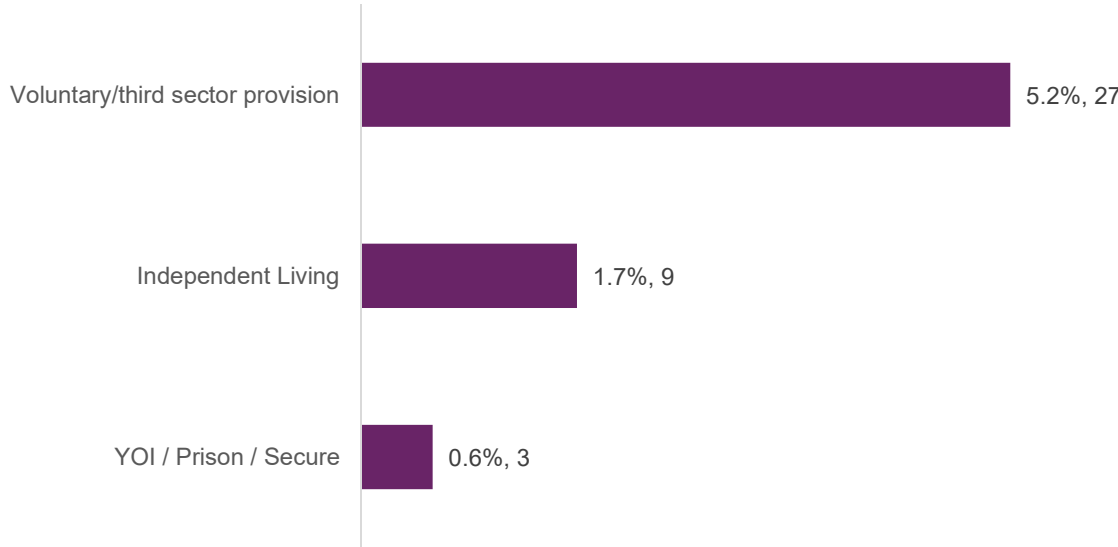
2019/20 Walsall = 9.0%
2019/20 West Midlands = 10.0%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 9.4%
2019/20 England = 11.0%

% of CLA in same placement for over 2 years if CLA for over 2.5 years

205
60.3%

2019/20 Walsall = 68.0%
2019/20 West Midlands = 69.0%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 67.1%
2019/20 England = 68.0%

Current CLA by Placement Type (non-fostered)



Commentary

Trends for placements with in house foster carers have decreased during quarter 3, following a peak of 320 during August 2020. Currently Walsall has 283 in house foster carers. The figure is the lowest figure during the current reporting period, and lower than the out-turn for the previous three years. Walsall has 198 independent fostering agency placements. This figure has decreased slightly since the end of quarter 2, but has remained fairly constant during the reporting period and is considerably higher than the figure for the previous three years..

Just over 16% of Walsall's CLA are placed 20 plus miles from their home address and 10% of the CLA population have had 3 or more placements within a year. Both figures have increased compared to the 2019-20 out-turn. The figure for 3 or more placements is now higher than Statistical Neighbour averages for the same period. The figure for CLA placed 20+ miles away from home is now higher than the West Midlands regional average, whilst the figure for 3 or more placements is in line with the regional average.

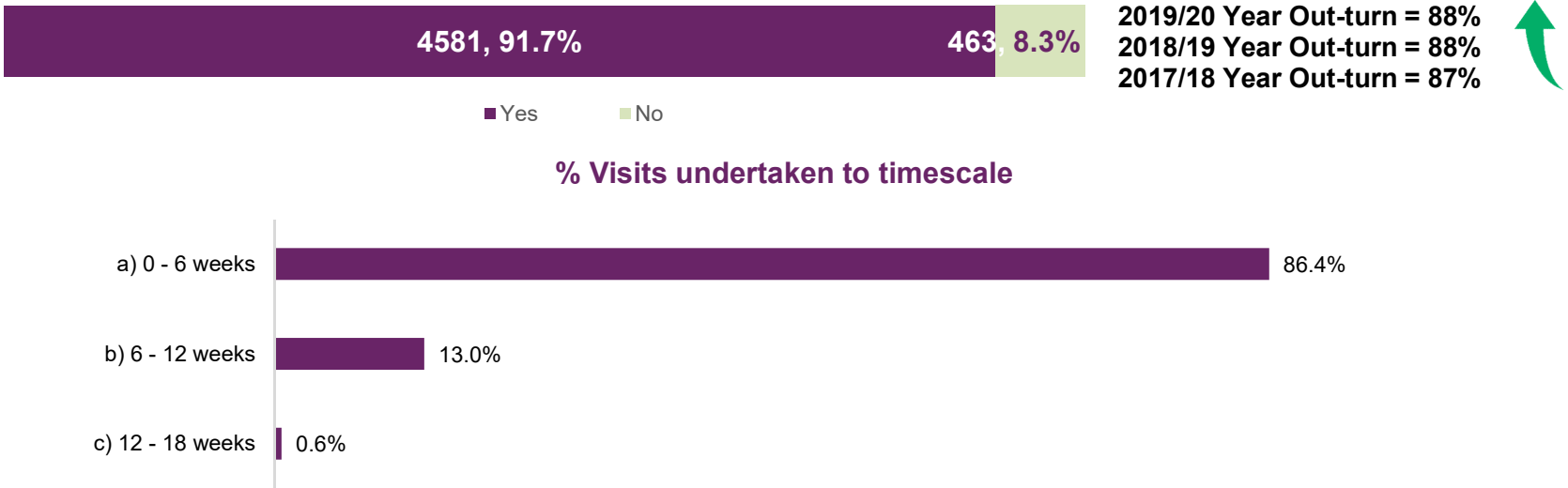
Statutory Visits and Reviews



% Visits undertaken to timescale

Where a statutory visit has been undertaken to timescale in accordance with the childs plan.

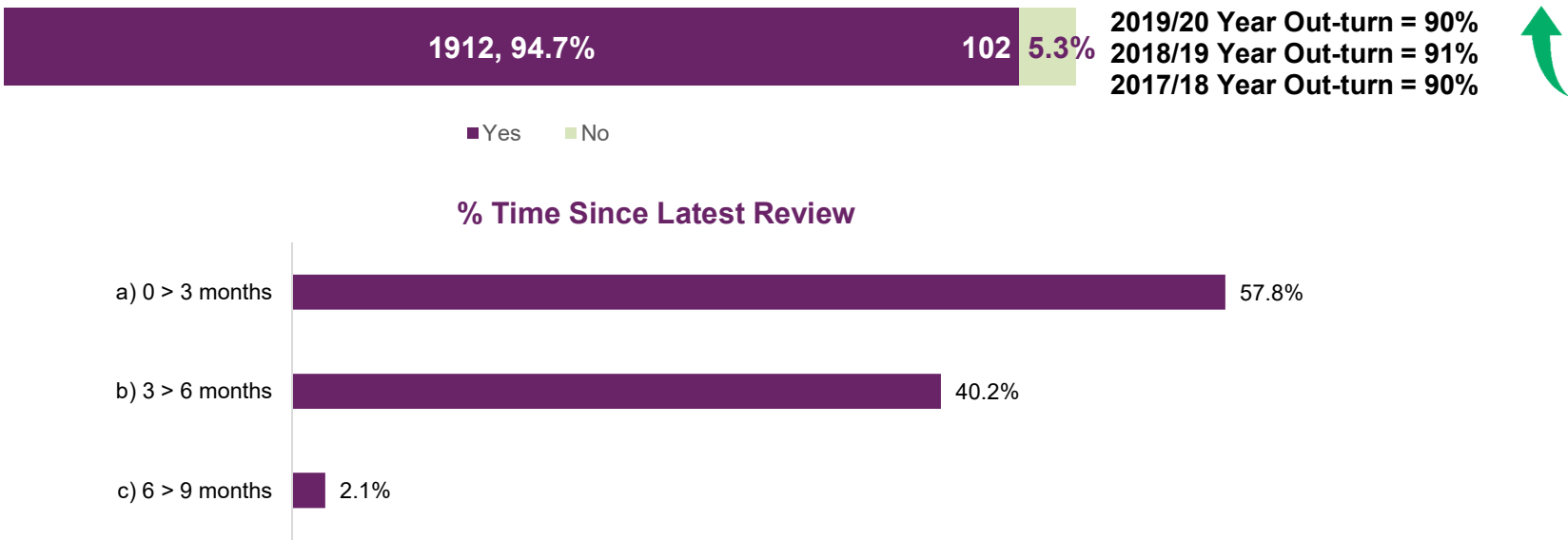
Time Since Last Visit Undertaken	Number	%
a) 0 - 6 weeks	585	86.4%
b) 6 - 12 weeks	88	13.0%
c) 12 - 18 weeks	4	0.6%
d) 18+ weeks	0	0.0%
No Visit Recorded	0	0.0%
Total	677	100.0%



Reviews carried out within timescale

Where reviews for children looked after are carried out within timescale

Time Since Latest Review	Number	%
a) 0 > 3 months	391	57.8%
b) 3 > 6 months	272	40.2%
c) 6 > 9 months	14	2.1%
d) 9 > 12 months	0	0.0%
e) 1 year or more	0	0.0%
No review	0	0.0%
No Review - new in last month	0	0.0%
Total	677	100.0%



Commentary

The proportion of CLA where a statutory visit has been undertaken to timescale in accordance with the child’s plan is 91.7% with 90.3% seen within 6 weeks of the previous visit or coming in care. There were 2 CLA with no visits recorded at 31st December 2020

94.7% of reviews have been undertaken within timescales. This is higher than the 2018/19 out-turn of 91%. 97.1% of current children looked after have had a review within the last 6 months. 1.6% (11) children currently have overdue reviews.

Views of the child



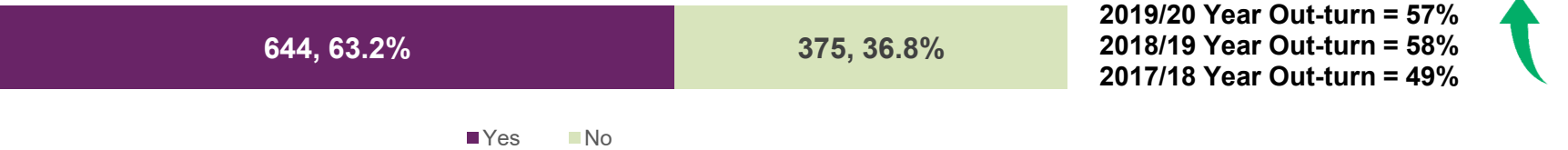
% CLA Reviews where the childs views were recorded

The proportion of CLA reviews where the child's views were recorded (this is where the review took place and a "PN" code has been selected)



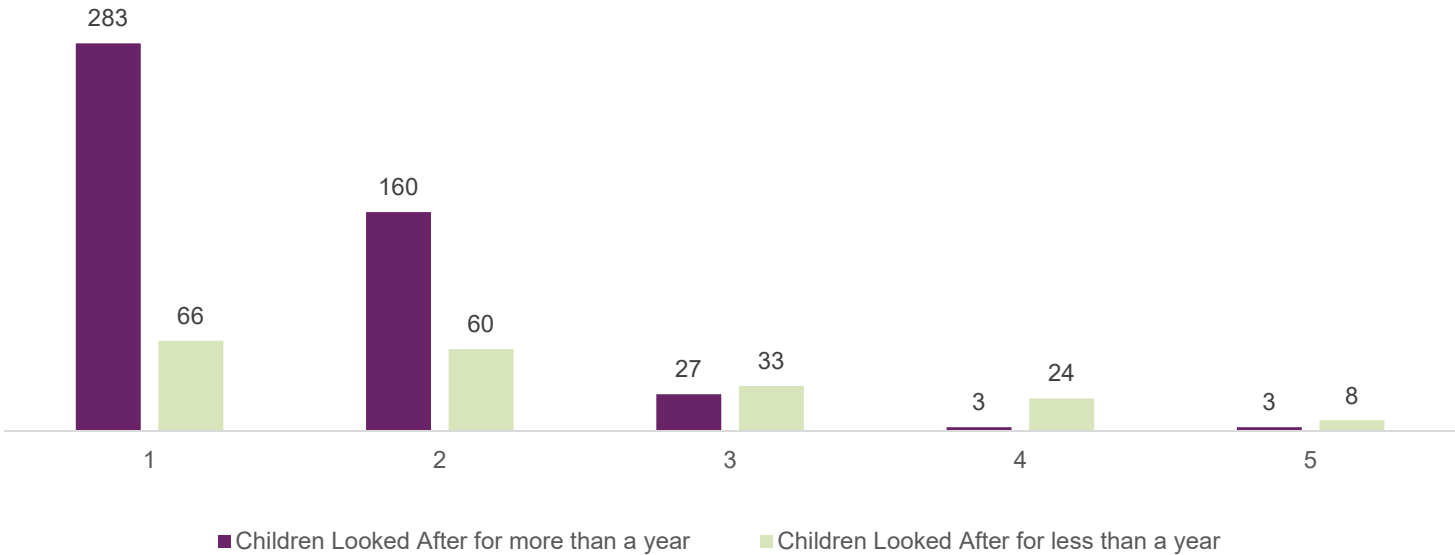
% CLA Reviews where the child attended their review

The proportion of CLA reviews where the child's physically attends their review.



Type of Participation at Review	Number	%
PN0 - child under 4 at time of review	371	N/A
PN1 - child attends and speaks for themselves	593	58.2%
PN2 - child attends and an advocate speaks for them	14	1.4%
PN3 - child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	15	1.5%
PN4 - child attends; does not speak for themselves / convey their views	22	2.2%
PN5 - child does not attend but asks advocate to speak for them	73	7.2%
PN6 - child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	267	26.2%
PN7 - child does not attend nor conveys their view to the conference	21	2.1%
Total Reviews	1390	
No Participation Code Reported	14	1.4%

Number of CLA who have remained with the same social worker for the past 12 months



Commentary

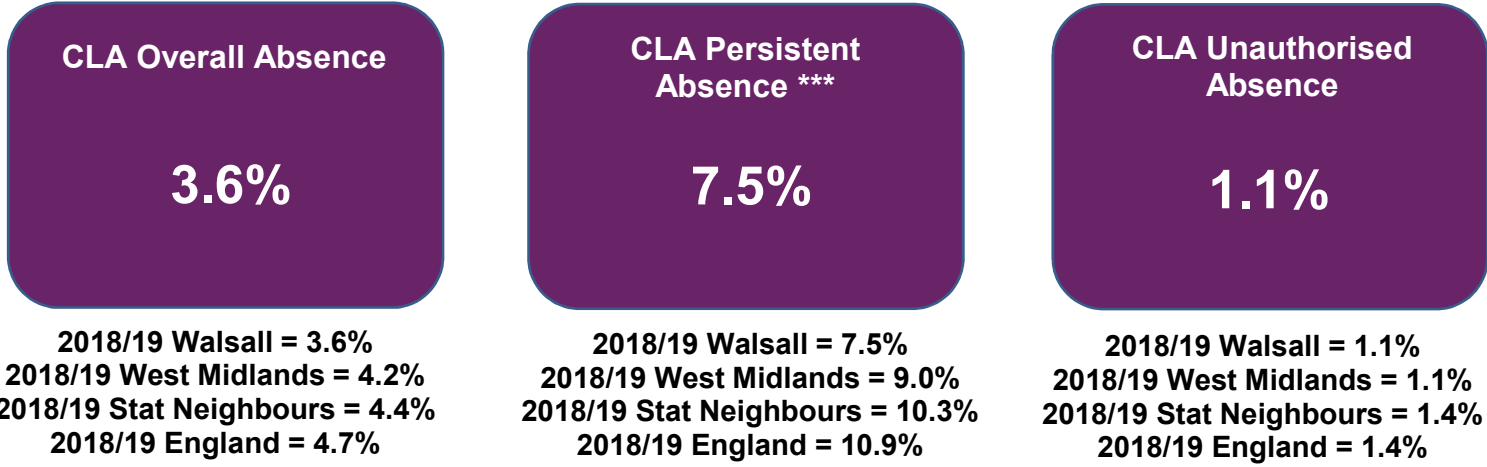
The child's views were recorded at 99% of CLA reviews. This is lower than 2019/20 and 2018/19, but higher than 2017/18. In 2019/20, 63.2% of children attended their review. This is higher than the out-turn of 57% in 2019/20. The number of children experiencing a change of social worker has increased slightly compared to the previous year. The number of CLA who have remained with the same social worker for the past 12 months is 283 compared with 302 during quarter 2.

Figures highlighted are provisional				
KS2	Maths	Reading	Writing	RWM
Walsall Current - CLA 2019	55%	34%	55%	28%
Walsall Borough 2019	77%	70%	77%	61%
Stat Neighbours CLA 2019	56%	52%	55%	43%
England 2019 CLA	51%	49%	50%	37%
KS4	%	%	Attain 8	Prog 8
Walsall - CLA - 2019	C*	18%	21.0	-0.88
Walsall Borough 2019	36%	58%	44.0	-0.11
Stat Neighbours 2019 CLA*	N/A	22%	17.12	-1.28
England 2019 CLA	7%	18%	19.2	-1.23
Ofsted Rated Schools		Exclusions**		
No Students Attending Good or Outstanding Schools	EYFS	97%	Atleast one fixed term Exclusion	7.7%
	Primary	79%		
	Second	69%		
	Combin	75%		

* 'C' Where the data is deemed to be sensitive all figures have been replaced with the letter c (confidential). In addition, secondary suppression may be applied to preserve confidentiality.

**A pupil is classed as persistently absent if they miss 10% or more possible sessions (due to authorised or unauthorised absence).

***There have been no permanent exclusions



CLA with an up to date ePEP

The proportion eligible CYPiC with an up to date Electronic Personal Education Plan (ePEP)

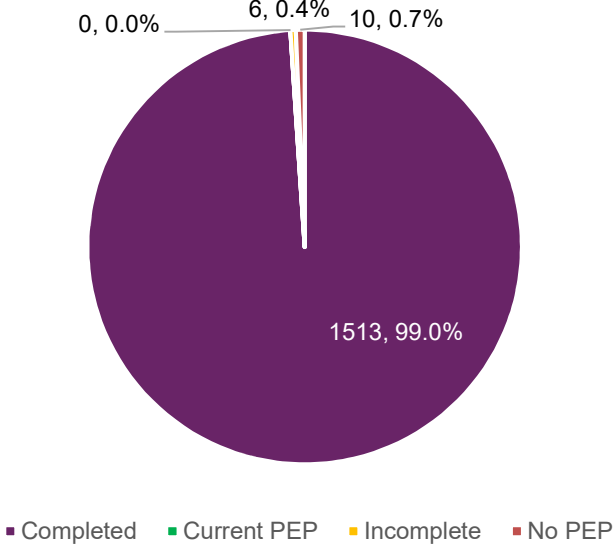
Methodology

Attainment in English and maths (9-5) From 2017, this measure looks at the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in both English and maths. Pupils can achieve the English component of this with a grade 5 or above in English language or literature. There is no requirement to sit both exams.

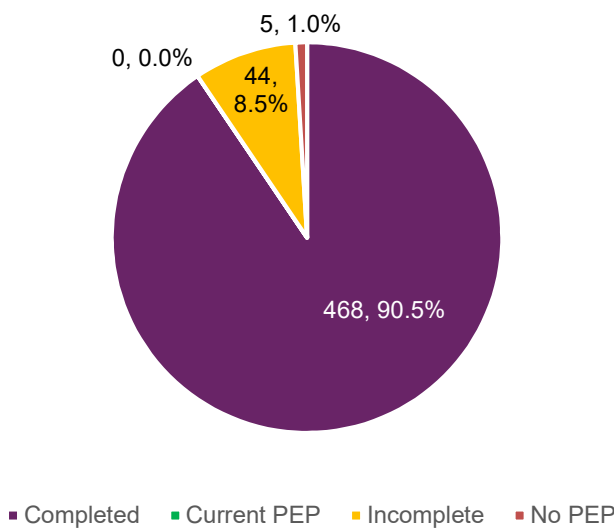
Attainment 8 - Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications including English (double weighted if the combined English qualification, or both language and literature are taken), maths (double weighted), three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and three further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the DfE approved list.

Progress 8 - Progress 8 aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4. It compares pupils' achievement – their Attainment 8 score – with the average Attainment 8 score of all pupils nationally who had a similar starting point (or 'prior attainment'), calculated using assessment results from the end of primary school.

ePEPs Complete/Current/Incomplete Academic Year 2019/20



ePEPs Complete/Current/Incomplete Autumn Term to Date



Commentary

The proportion of ePEP's that were completed at the end of the autumn term (31st December 2020) was 90.5% , The percentage of ePEP's that have been rated as good in terms of quality is 69%, with 31% rated as requiring improvement. CLA overall absence, Persistent Absence and Unauthorised Absence are currently all below both Statistical neighbour and England averages. The percentage of CLA attending Good or Outstanding schools is 75%, whilst this figure rises to 97% for Early Years pupils.

Health and Well-being

% Initial Health Check Completed in Timescale

Assessments in timescale of CLA admission for those in care for 28 days or more



2019/20 Year Out-turn = 49%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 75%
2017/18 Year Out-turn = 63%

% of CLA with Up to Date Health Assessments

Where the child is over 5 and has been looked after for over a year



2019/20 Walsall = 80%
2019/20 West Midlands = 87%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 90%
2019/20 England = 90%

% of CLA with an up to date dental check

Where a dental check has been completed within 12 months



2019/20 Walsall = 92%
2019/20 West Midlands = 82%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 90%
2019/20 England = 86%

Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

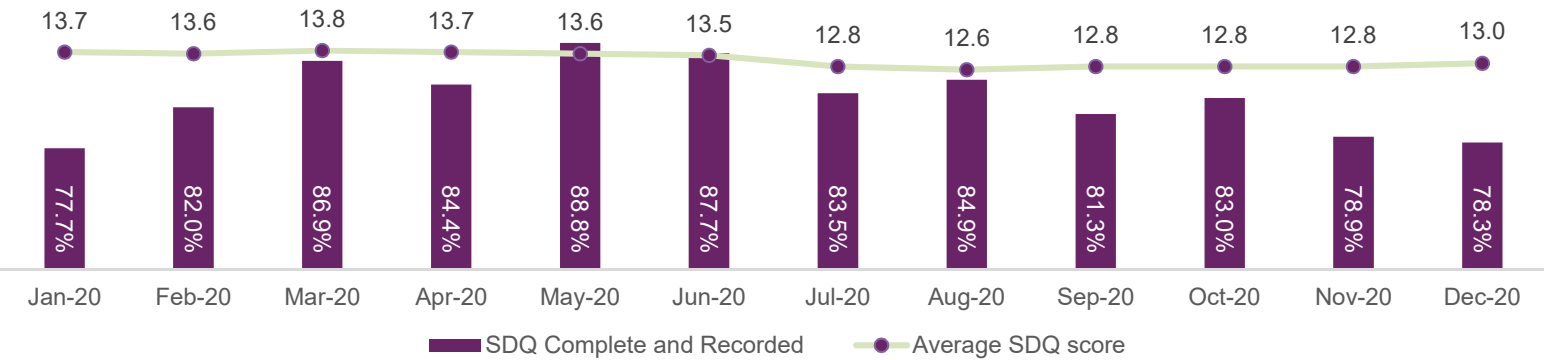
The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire should be completed for every child looked after for at least 12 months and aged 5 to 16 years-old.

Average SDQ Score
13.0

Breakdown

		Number	% of those eligible for SDQ	% against all Children Looked
Score 0 - 13	Considered Normal	129	50%	19.1%
Score 14 - 16	Borderline	34	#DIV/0!	5.0%
Score 17 - 40	Cause for Concern	93	#DIV/0!	13.7%

Number of children looked after for at least 12 months aged 5 to 16 with an SDQ score (Rolling 12 months)

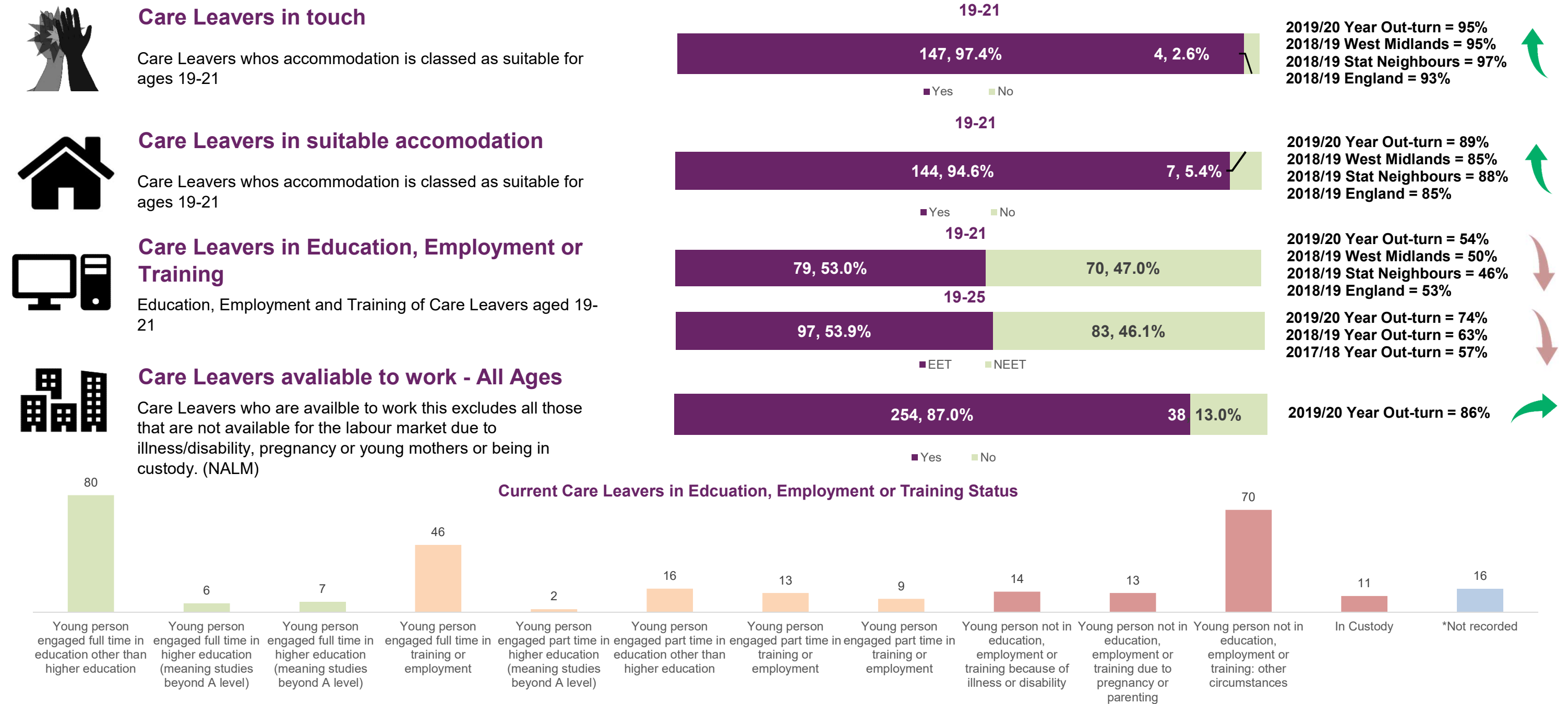


Commentary

The percentage of children looked after with an initial health check decreased to 67.2% during the quarter 3 of 2020-21, from 86.6% in quarter 2 - however, we are assured that health checks are taking place and the decrease in performance is due to recording and reporting issues which are being addressed. The percentage of children looked after with an up to date dental check has increased slightly during quarter 3, but is still below the out-turns for the previous three years. Dental checks were affected by dentists being closed at various points during the pandemic. Significant work has been undertaken, and continues to be taken in partnership with health to improve the processes and accuracy of data recording in relation to health assessments and to ensure that children and young people receive their assessments on time.

The proportion of SDQ's completed and recorded has continued to decrease during quarter 3, following increases between January and June 2020. The average SDQ score is currently 13.0. This has increased since the previous quarter, where the average SDQ score was 12.8, but is lower than the average for quarter 2 during 2019-20 (14.0) (Lower is better). 126 children currently have an SDQ score that suggests there is cause for concern in their emotional and mental well-being based on the answers they gave to the questionnaire.

Care Leavers

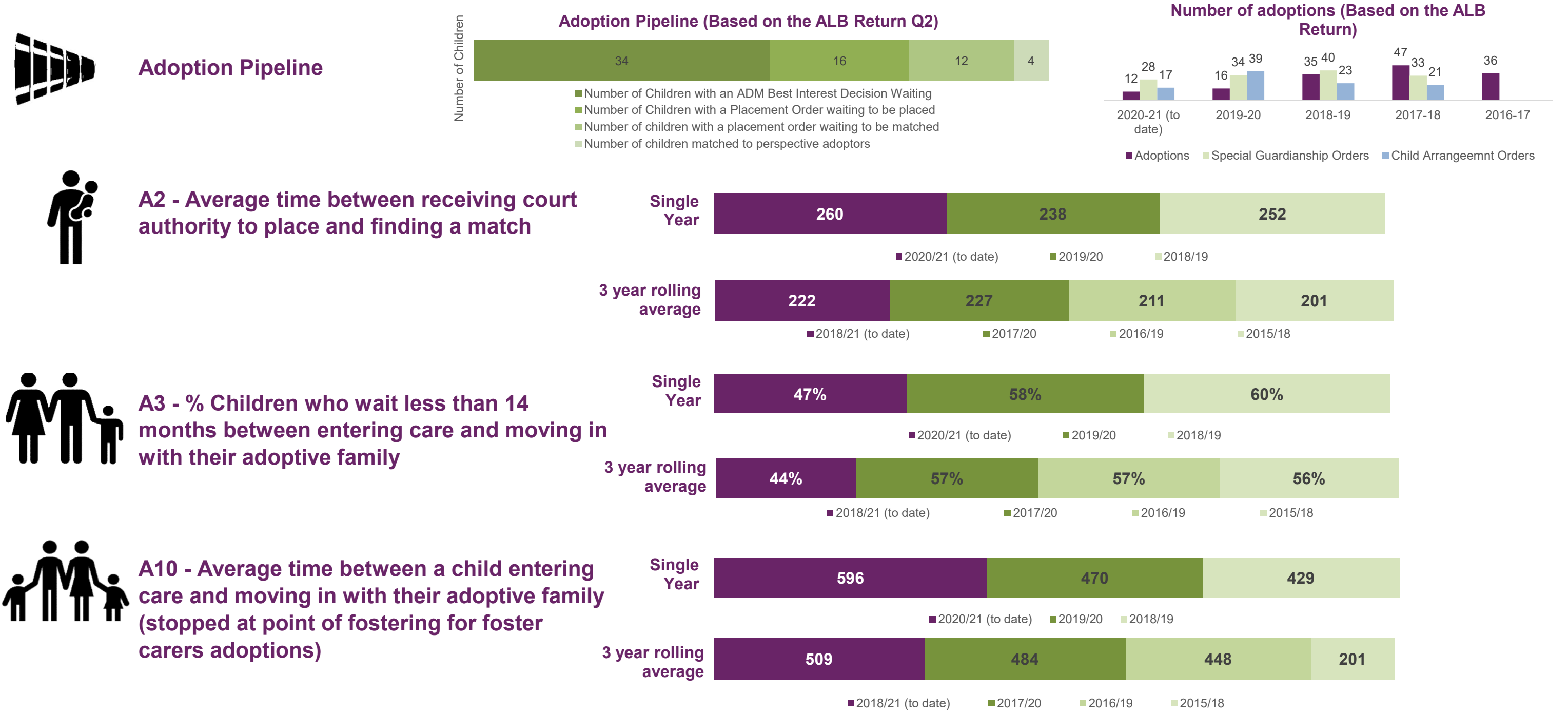


Commentary

The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training for the 19-21 and 19-25 cohorts has seen a slight increase this quarter. 53.02% care leavers aged 19-21 are in Education, Employment or Training compared to 51.02% for quarter 2. However, this is still below the out turns of 54% for 2019-20 and 63% for 2018-19. Managers had expected this figure to continue to decrease during quarter 3, as the government's furlough scheme was expected to come to an end. This reduction is still expected, but has been delayed somewhat, due to the extension of the furlough scheme.

86.99% of care leavers are available to work - excluding those not available for the labour market (NALM) due to illness, disability, pregnancy or being a young mother or because they are in custody. 11 of Walsall's care leavers are currently in custody, an increase of 3 since the end of Q2. The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased to 94.6%. The proportion of care leavers in touch with the council has also increased and is currently at 97.35%, which is above the 2019/20 out turn of 95%, and higher than regional and national averages for the same period.

Adoption and Permanency



Commentary

In 2019/20, 16 were children were adopted. This is a reduction of over 50% compared with 2018/19. By the end of quarter 3 of the 2020/21 reporting year, 12 children had been adopted, indicating that the final figure for 2020/21 will be similar to 2019/20. Children had a longer wait in 2020/21 between receiving court authority to place and finding a match - this was 260 days compared to 238 days in 2019/20. 47% of Children wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. Between April and December, 28 Children have ceased to be looked after due to special guardianship orders and 17 due to child arrangement orders.