

Walsall Children's Services Corporate Parenting Board July 2021 Quarter 4

Please Note: 2019/20 benchmarking data has been updated where available.



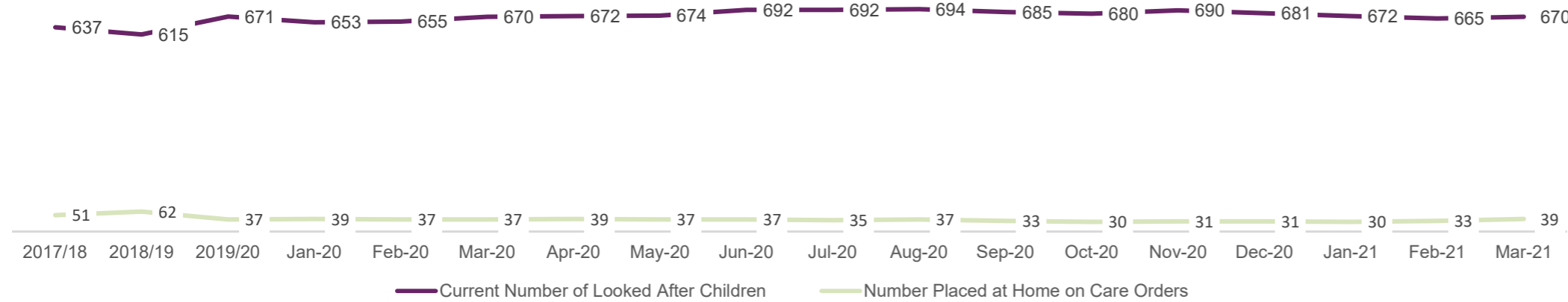
Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

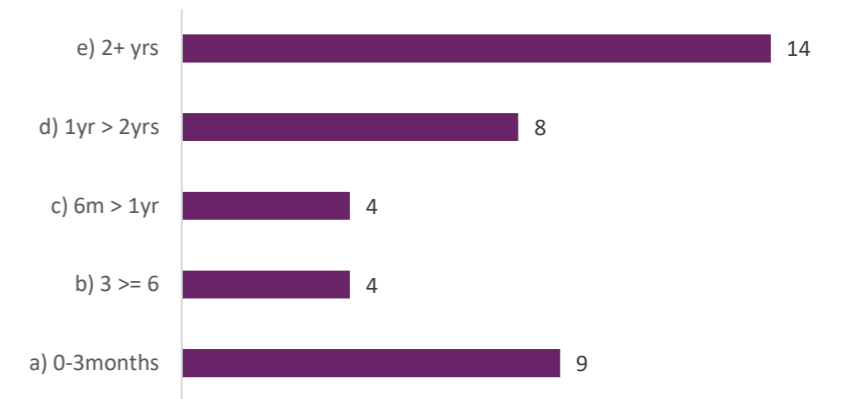
Current Children Looked After (CLA) Profile



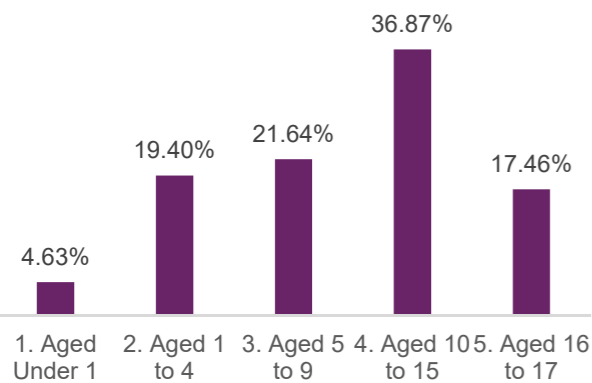
Number of Children Looked After in Walsall (12 Month Rolling)



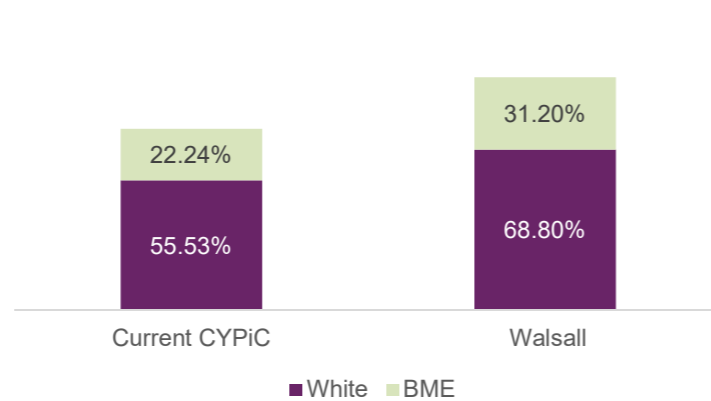
Length of Time placed at home on full care orders



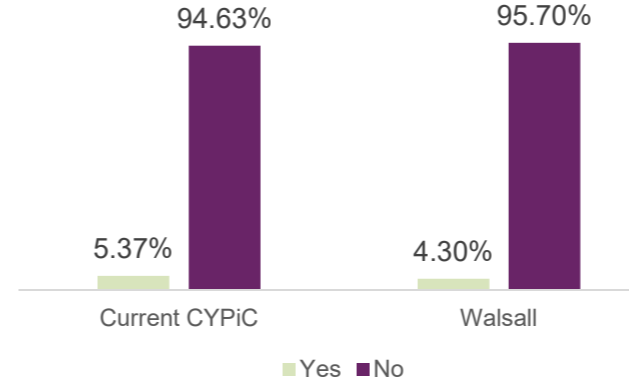
% of current CLA by age



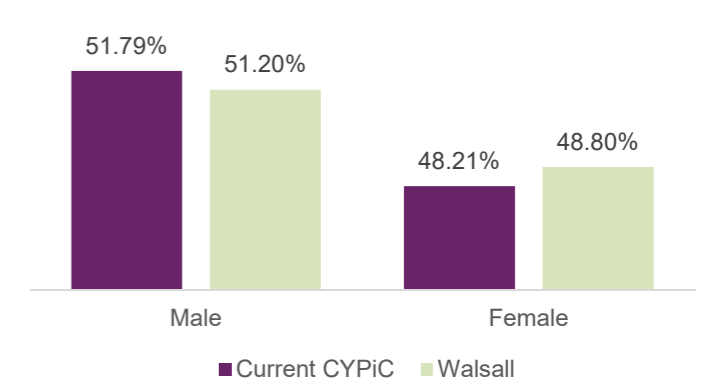
Ethnicity Comparison



Disability Comparison



Gender Comparison

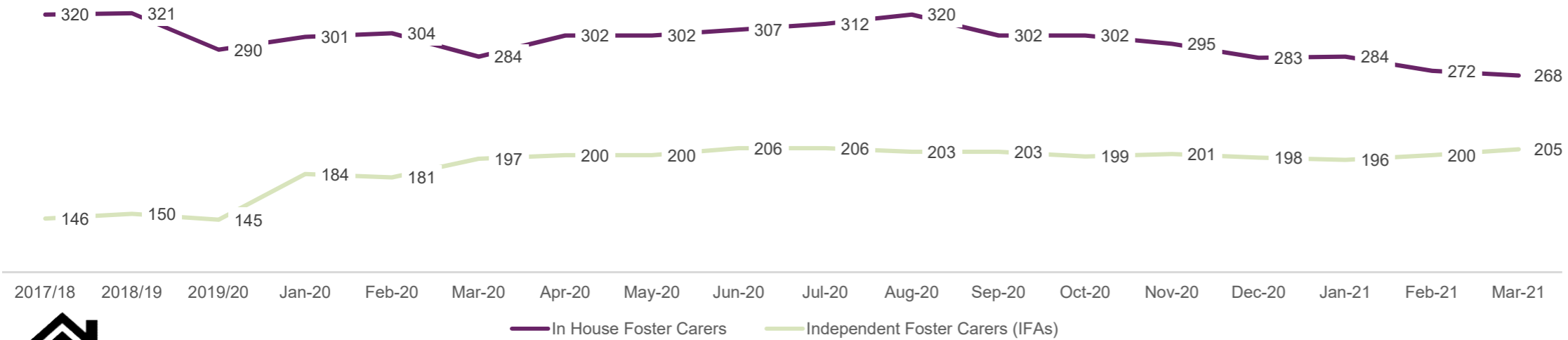


Commentary

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 670 at the end of Q4. The current rate of 97 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 39 children placed at home on full care order, this has increased from 31 at the end of quarter 3. 22 of the 39 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.

CLA Placement Analysis

Breakdown of Foster Placements (12 Month Rolling)



The number of CLA placed with in house foster carers has been decreasing but IFA's remains stable.



% CLA placed 20 mile+ from home, outside of LA boundary
96
14.5%

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

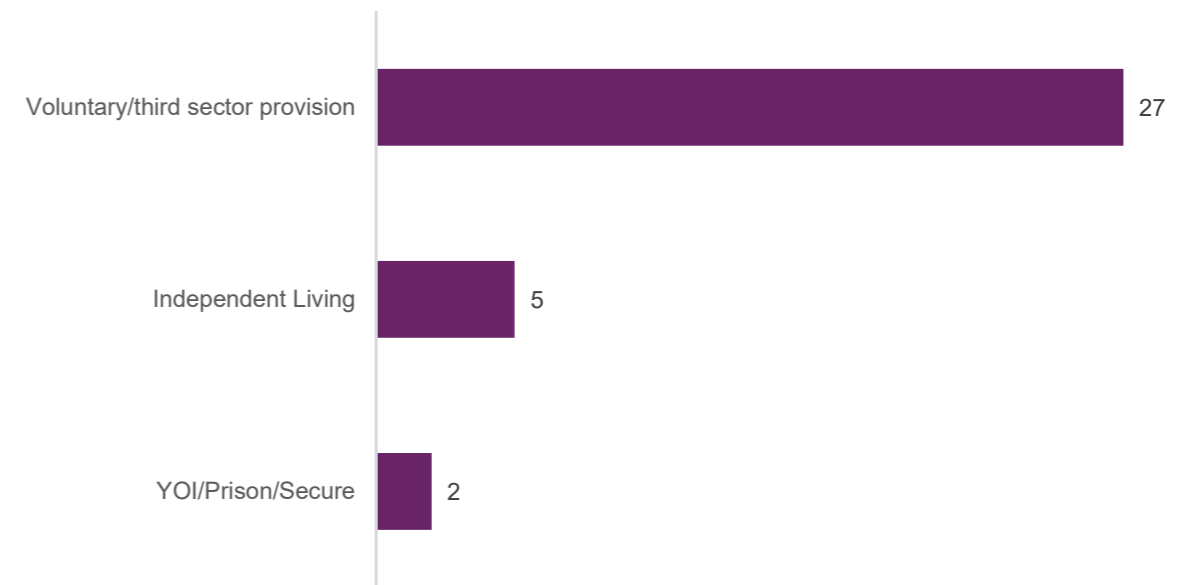
% CLA 3 or more placements in a year
50
7.5%

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
213
62.5%

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 children placed with in house foster carers have continued to decrease during quarter 4, following a peak of 320 during August 2020. Currently Walsall has 268 children placed with 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. We are currently exploring the reasons for this in detail, however, it will have been affected by increasing numbers of connected carers securing SGOs. Walsall has 205 children placed with independent fostering agencies. This figure has increased slightly since the end of quarter 3, but has remained fairly constant during the reporting period and is considerably higher than the figure for the previous three years.

14.5% of Walsall's CLA are placed 20 plus miles from their home address and 7.5% of the CLA population have had 3 or more placements within a year. Both figures have have decreased compared to quarter 3, with the latter figure now below the 2019/20 outturn for Walsall. The percentage of CLA in the same placement for over 2 years if CLA for over 2.5 years has increased compared to quarter 3, but remains lower than the Walsall outturn for 2019/20. The figure for CLA placed 20+ miles away from home remains higher than the West Midlands regional average, whilst the figures for the other two placement indicators are lower than regional, national and statistical neighbour averages.

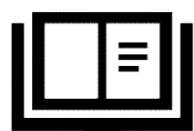
Statutory Visits and Reviews



% Visits undertaken to timescale

Where a statutory visit has been undertaken to timescale in accordance with the child's plan.

Time Since Last Visit Undertaken	Number	%
a) 0 - 6 weeks	647	96.6%
b) 6 - 12 weeks	20	3.0%
c) 12 - 18 weeks	1	0.1%
d) 18+ weeks	0	0.0%
No Visit Recorded - new in last month	2	0.3%
Total	670	100.0%



Reviews carried out within timescale (12month Rolling)

Where reviews for children looked after are carried out within timescale

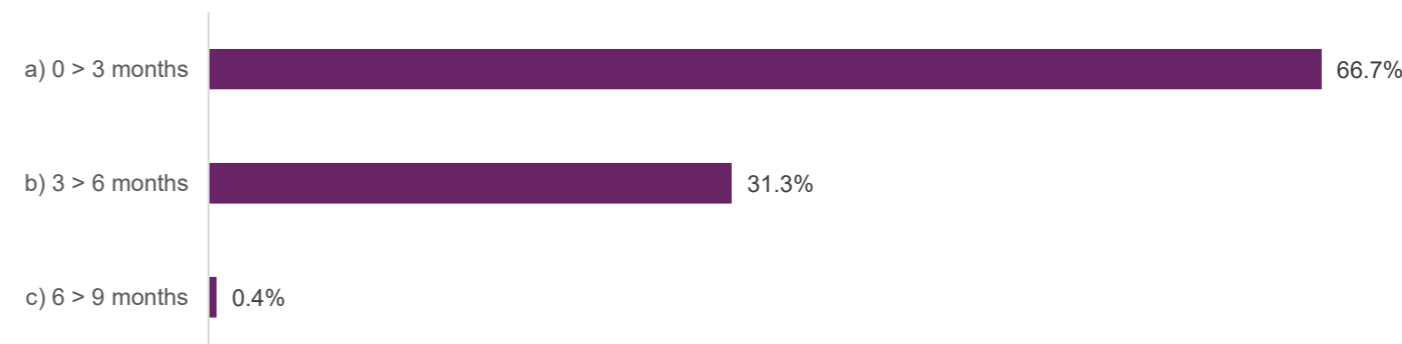
Time Since Latest Review	Number	%
a) 0 > 3 months	447	66.7%
b) 3 > 6 months	210	31.3%
c) 6 > 9 months	3	0.4%
d) 9 > 12 months	0	0.0%
e) 1 year or more	0	0.0%
No review	0	0.0%
No Review - new in last month	10	1.5%
Total	670	100.0%



% Visit Undertaken to Timescale



% Time Since Latest Review



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 96.6% seen within 6 weeks of the previous visit or coming in care. There were 2 CLA with no visits recorded at 31st March 2021, these are new children who have become LAC during the month.

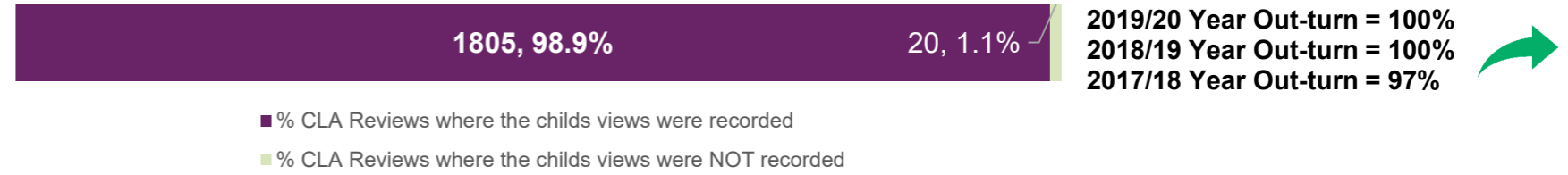
95.3% of reviews have been undertaken within timescales. This is higher than the 2019/20 out-turn of 90%. 98.0% of current children looked after have had a review within the last 6 months. 0.4% (3) children currently have overdue reviews.

Views of the child



% CLA Reviews where the child's 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)

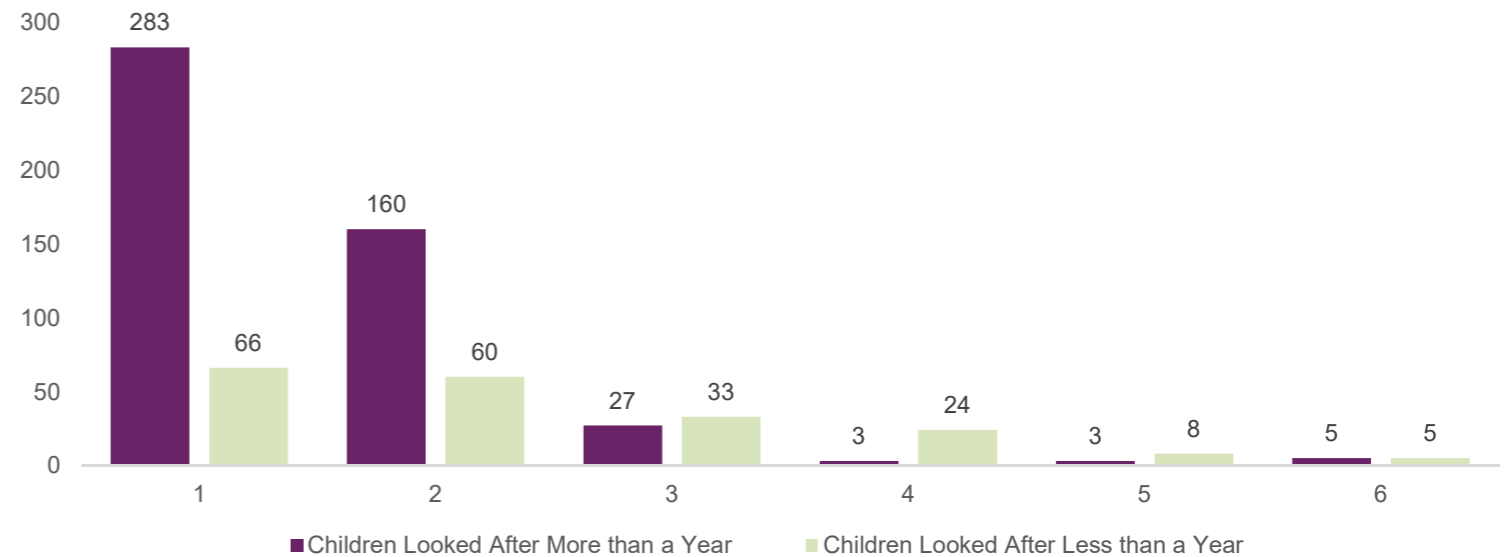


% CLA Reviews where the child attended their review

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



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



Type of Participation at Review	Number	%
PN0 - child under 4 at time of review	475	N/A
PN1 - child attends and speaks for themselves	827	61.3%
PN2 - child attends and an advocate speaks for them	19	1.4%
PN3 - child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	16	1.2%
PN4 - child attends; does not speak for themselves / convey their views	29	2.1%
PN5 - child does not attend but asks advocate to speak for them	90	6.7%
PN6 - child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	324	24.0%
PN7 - child does not attend nor conveys their view to the conference	25	1.9%
Total Reviews	1825	
No Participation Code Reported	20	1.5%

Commentary

The child's views were recorded at 98.9% of CLA reviews. This is lower than 2019/20 and 2018/19, but higher than 2017/18. In 2019/20, 64.4% 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, and has remained the same since quarter 3.

Education - Termly Data (Note 2019 is the latest published data we have, due to the covid-19 pandemic, the next release is due March 2021)

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	52%	52%	55%	42%
England 2019 CLA	51%	49%	50%	37%
KS4	%	%	Attain 8	Prog 8
Walsall - CLA - 2020	15.8%	29%	23.0	-0.88
Walsall Borough 2020	40.9%	65%	47.4	-0.11
Stat Neighbours 2020 CLA*	N/A	27%	22.2	-1.21
England 2020 CLA	10.9%	24%	21.4	-1.23
Ofsted Rated Schools		Exclusions**		
No Students Attending Good or Outstanding Schools	EYFS	39	At least one fixed term Exclusion 2019	8.6%
	Primary	160		
	Secondary	161		
	Combined	360		

**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

Progress 8 data is based on 2019, the DfE are reporting on it for 2020.

CLA Overall Absence

3.8%

2018/19 Walsall = 3.6%
2018/19 West Midlands = 4.2%
2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 4.4%
2018/19 England = 4.7%

CLA Persistent Absence ***

8.6%

2018/19 Walsall = 7.5%
2018/19 West Midlands = 9.0%
2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 10.3%
2018/19 England = 10.9%

CLA Unauthorised Absence

1.2%

2018/19 Walsall = 1.1%
2018/19 West Midlands = 1.1%
2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 1.4%
2018/19 England = 1.4%



RAG Ratings of PEPS

The quality assurance process changed in 2020/21 from PEPs being rated good and requires improvement to being rated inadequate, requires improvement, good and outstanding, this enables us to distinguish between very good and very poor PEPs'.

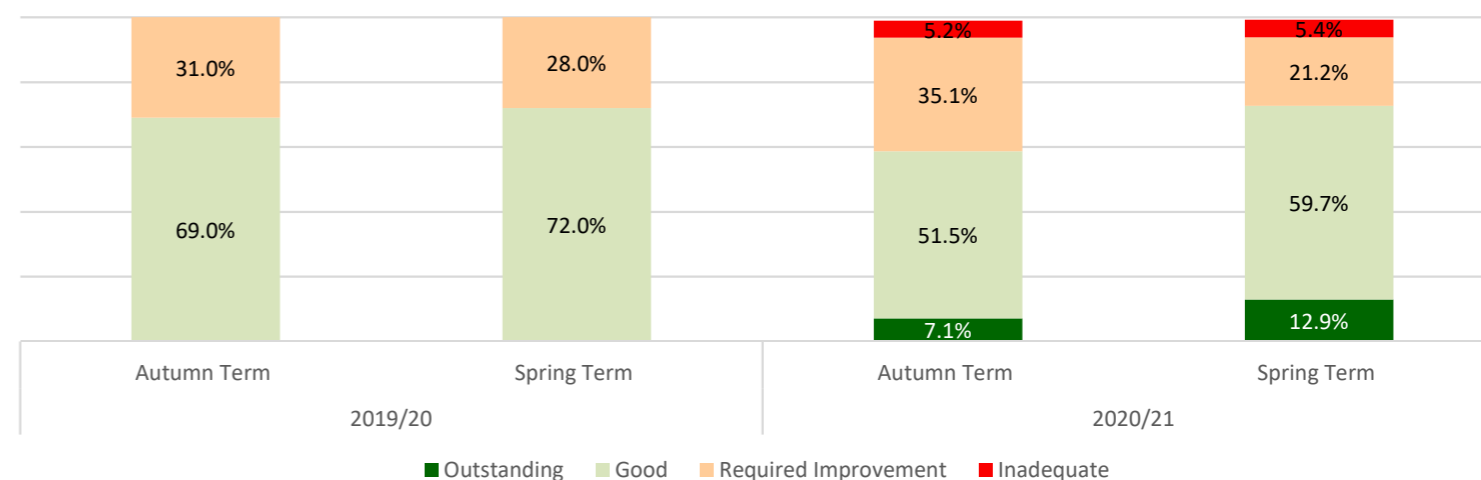
Methodology

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.

RAG Ratings of PEPS



Commentary

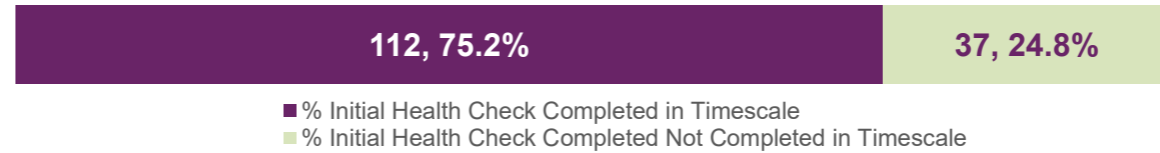
The proportion of ePEP's that were completed at the end of the spring term was 99.6% , The percentage of ePEP's that were completed for a full academic year was 99.9%. CLA overall absence, Persistent Absence and Unauthorised Absence are currently all below both Statistical neighbour and England averages. The percentage of PEPs RAG rated as outstanding has increased in spring term from 7.1% to 12.9%, PEPs RAG rated Good have also increased from 51.5% in Autumn Term to 59.7% in Spring Term

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

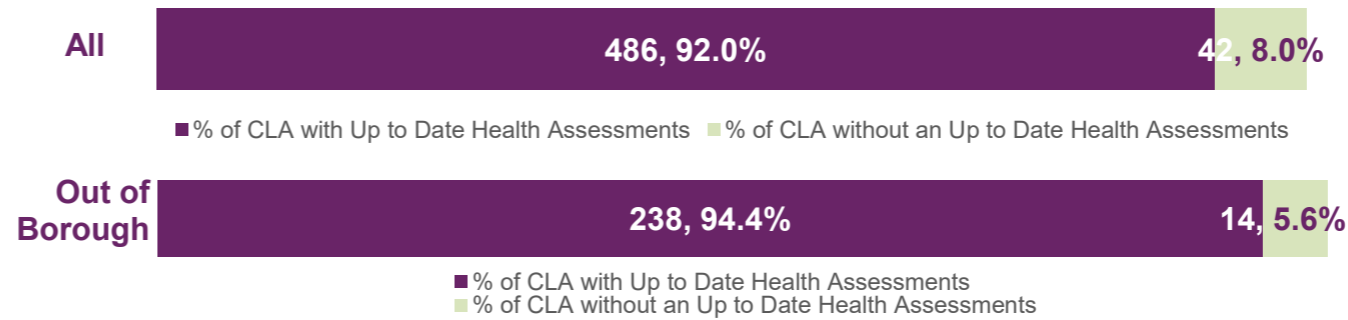


2019/20 Year Out-turn = 49%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 75%
2017/18 Year Out-turn = 63%



% of CLA with Up to Date Health Assessments

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

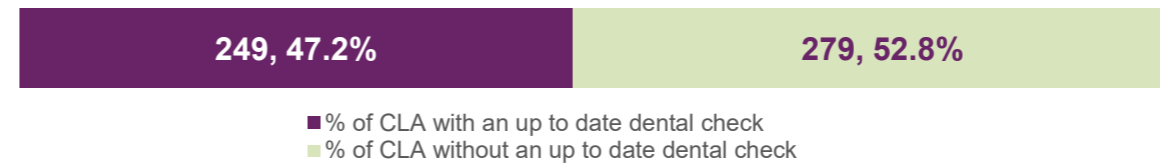


2019/20 Walsall = 80%
2019/20 West Midlands = 87%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 90%
2019/20 England = 90%



% 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.

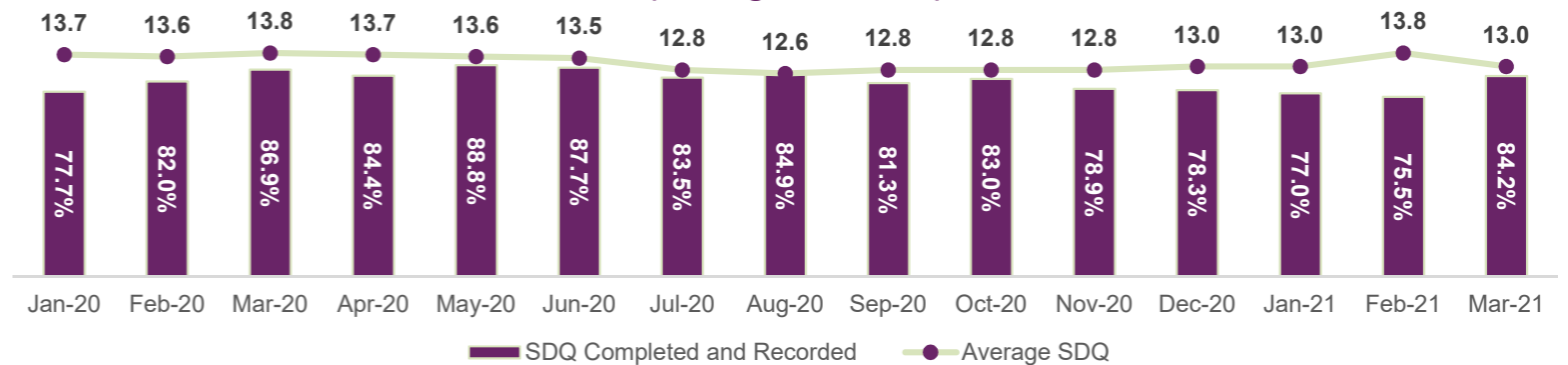
Average SDQ Score

13

Breakdown

Score	Considered	Number	% of those eligible for SDQ	% against all Children Looked
Score 0 - 13	Normal	253	55%	39.3%
Score 14 - 16	Borderline	52	11%	8.1%
Score 17 - 40	Cause for Concern	158	34%	24.5%

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 increased to 73.8% during the quarter 3 of 2020-21, from 67.2% in quarter 3. The percentage of children looked after with an up to date dental check has increased further during quarter 4, 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.

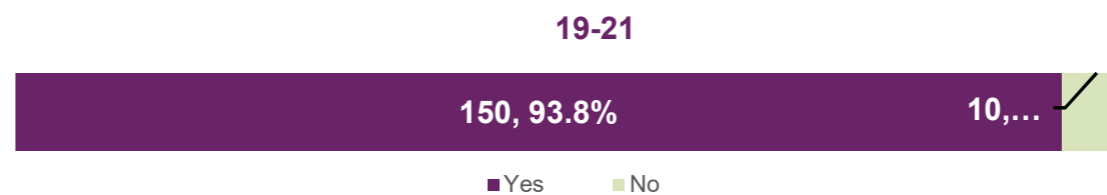
The proportion of SDQ's completed and recorded has increased by the end of quarter 4, following decreases between May 2020 and February 2021. The average SDQ score is currently 13.0. This has remained the same since the previous quarter, and is lower than the average for quarter 4 during 2019-20 (13.8) (Lower is better). 158 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



Care Leavers in touch

Care Leavers where the local authority is in touch aged 19-21

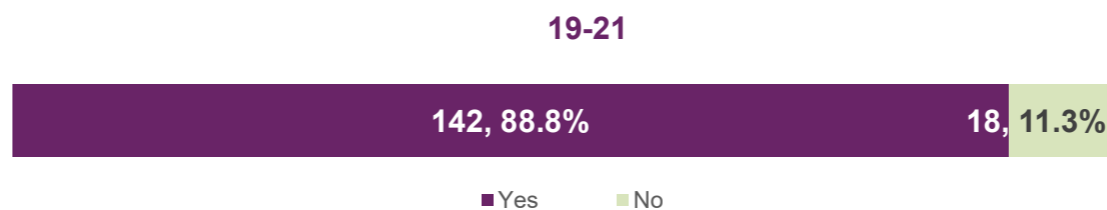


2019/20 Year Out-turn = 95%
2018/19 West Midlands = 95%
2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 97%
2018/19 England = 93%



Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

Care Leavers whose accommodation is classed as suitable for age

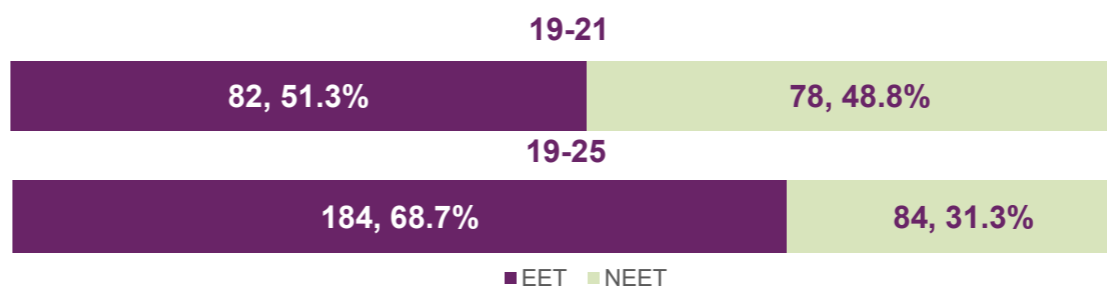


2019/20 Year Out-turn = 89%
2018/19 West Midlands = 85%
2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 88%
2018/19 England = 85%



Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

Education, Employment and Training of Care Leavers aged 19-21



2019/20 Year Out-turn = 54%
2018/19 West Midlands = 50%
2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 46%
2018/19 England = 53%

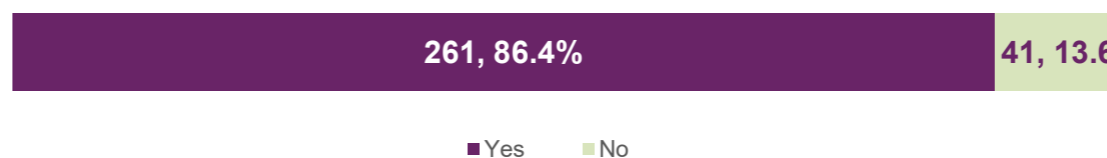


2019/20 Year Out-turn = 74%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 63%
2017/18 Year Out-turn = 57%



Care Leavers available to work - All Ages

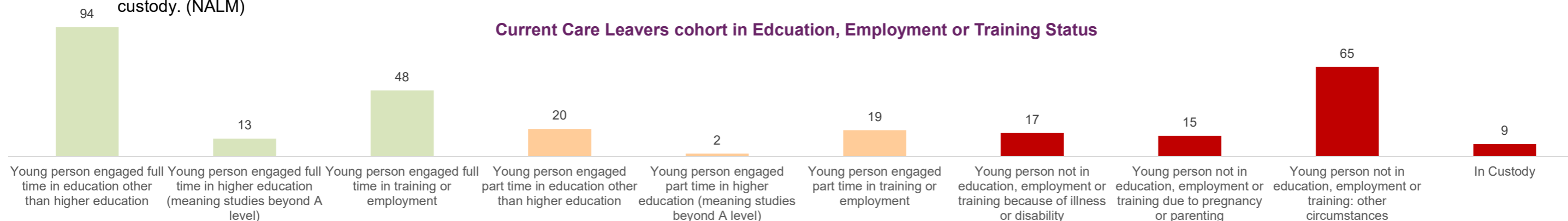
Care Leavers who are available to work this excludes all those that are not available for the labour market due to illness/disability, pregnancy or young mothers or being in custody. (NALM)



2019/20 Year Out-turn = 86%



Current Care Leavers cohort in Education, Employment or Training Status



Commentary

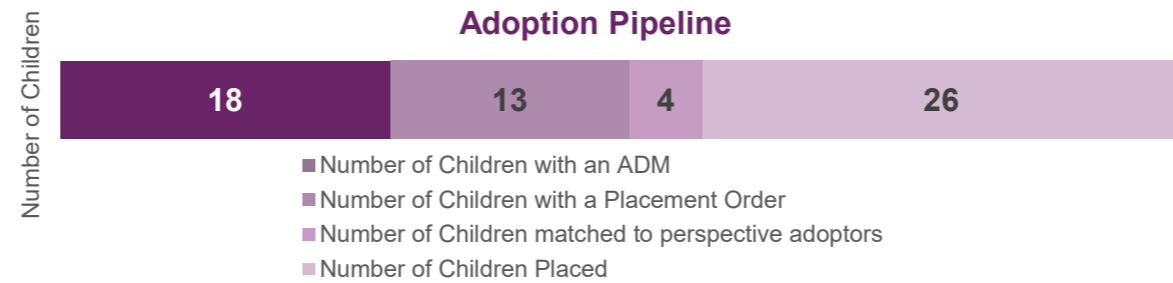
The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training for the 19-21 has seen a decrease compared to the 2019-20 outturn where it was 54%, this has dropped to 51.3% in 2020-21 the 19-25 cohort has seen another increase during quarter 4. 68.7% care leavers aged 19-21 are in Education, Employment or Training compared to 53.02% for quarter 3. This is below the out turns of 74% for 2019-20 and 63% for 2018-19. Managers had expected this figure to decrease during quarter 4, 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.

86.4% 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. 9 of Walsall's care leavers are currently in custody, a decrease of 2 since the end of Q3. The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased to 95.3%. The proportion of care leavers in touch with the council has decreased slightly and is currently at 96.7%. This is still above the 2019/20 out turn of 95%, and higher than regional and national averages for the same period.

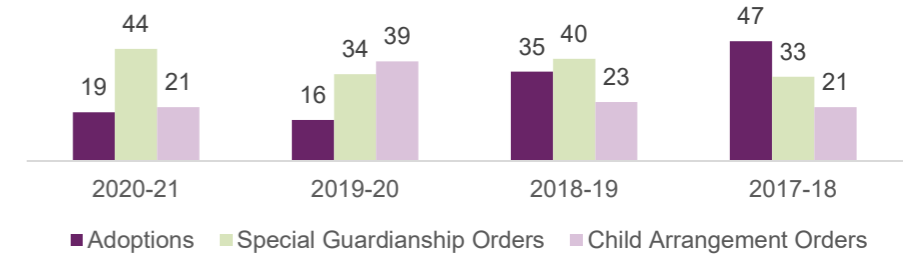
Adoption and Permanency



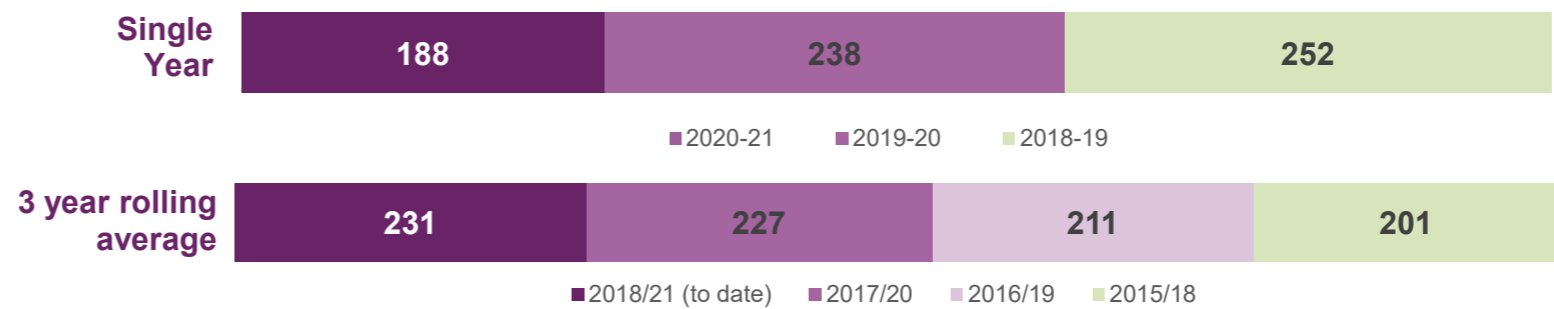
Adoption Pipeline



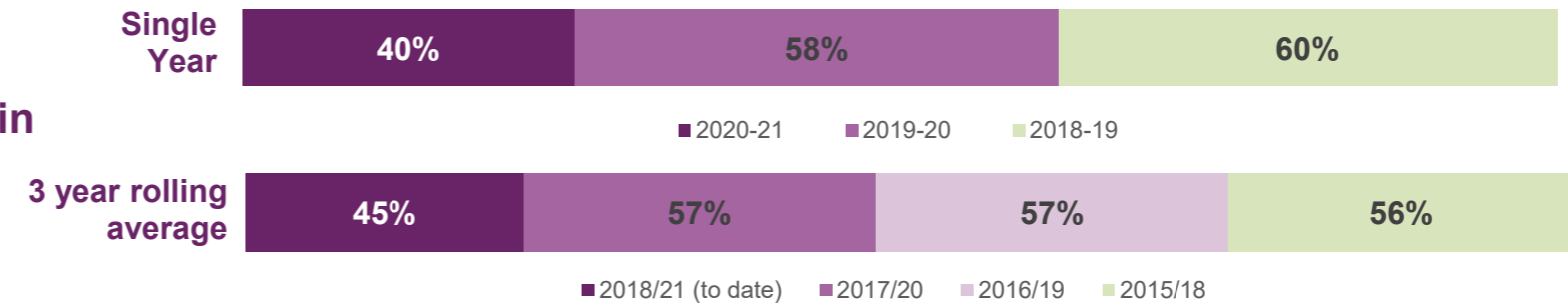
Number of adoptions



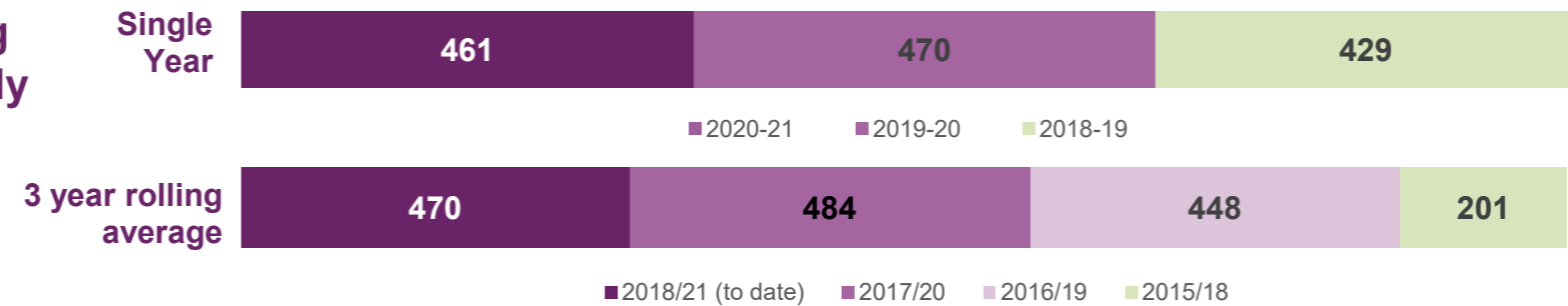
A2 - Average time between receiving court authority to place and finding a match



A3 - % Children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family



A10 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (stopped at point of fostering for foster carers adoptions)



Commentary

In 2020/21, 19 children were adopted. This is a 19% increase with 16 during 2019/20. Children had a shorter wait in 2020/21 between receiving court authority to place and finding a match - this was 188 days compared to 238 days in 2019/20. 40% of Children wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. Between April 2020 and March 2021, 44 Children have ceased to be looked after due to special guardianship orders and 21 due to child arrangement orders.