

Walsall Children's Services Corporate Parenting Board September 2021 Quarter 1

Please Note: 2020-21 benchmarking data is not yet available so comparisons are against 2019-20 data.



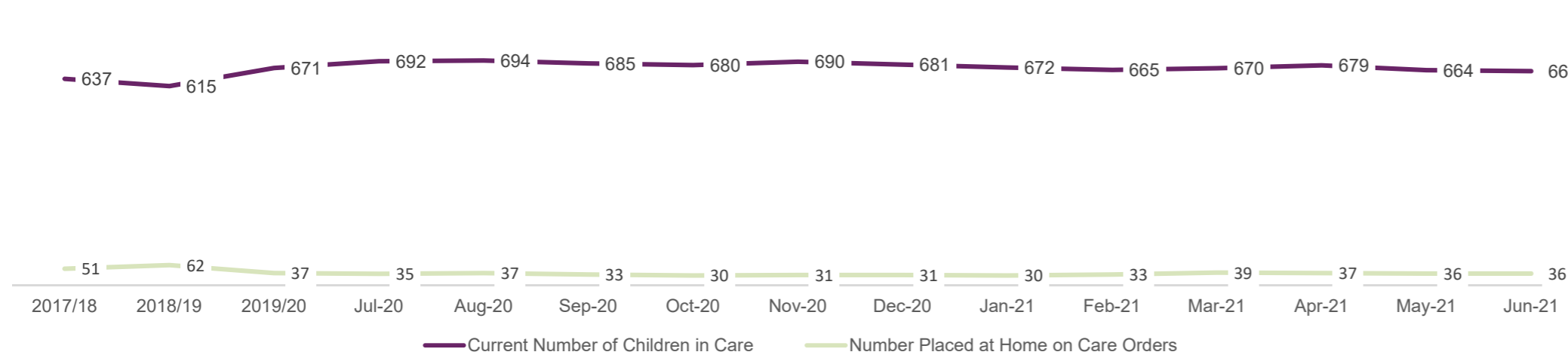
Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

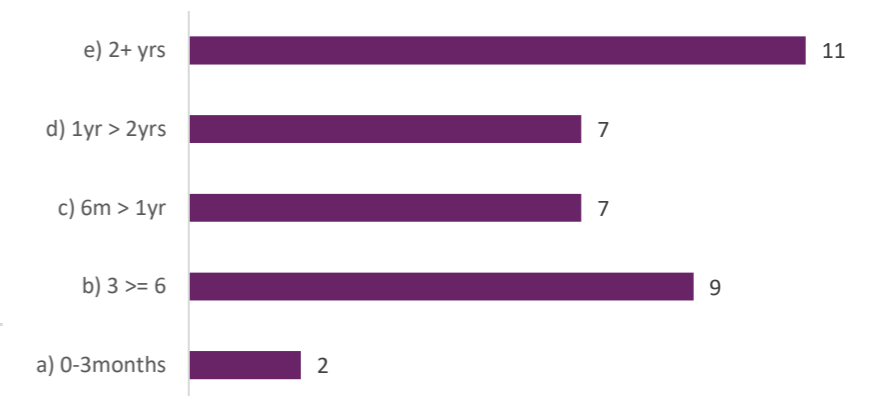
Current Children in Care (CiC) Profile



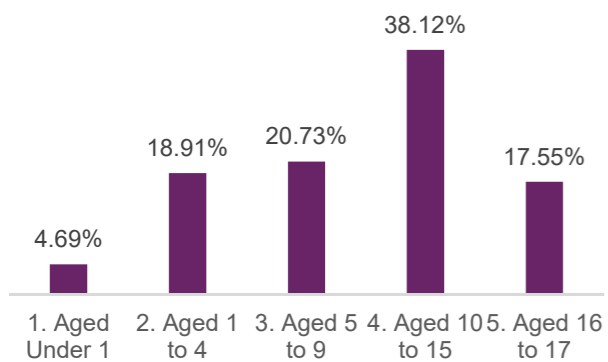
Number of Children in Care in Walsall (12 Month Rolling)



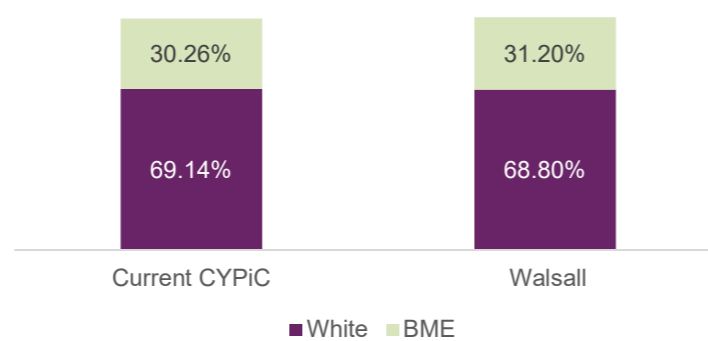
Length of Time placed at home on full care orders



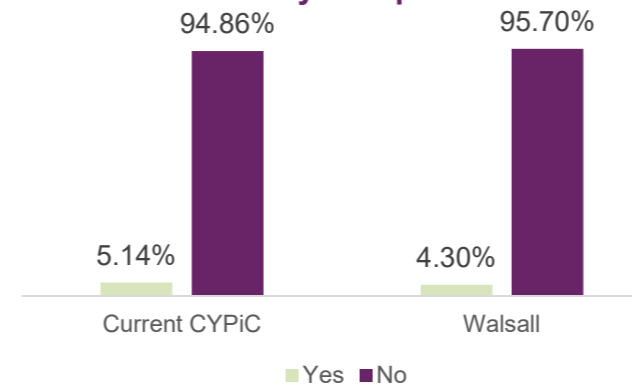
% of current CiC by age



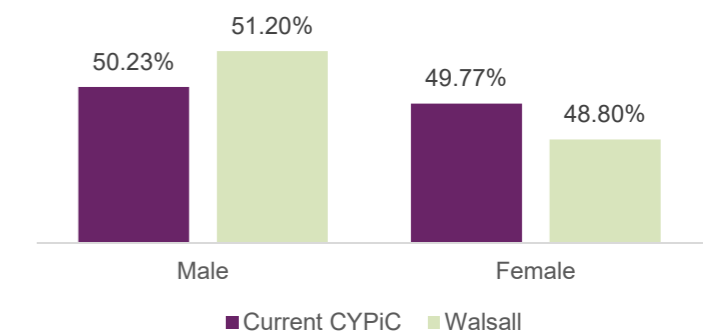
Ethnicity Comparison



Disability Comparison



Gender Comparison



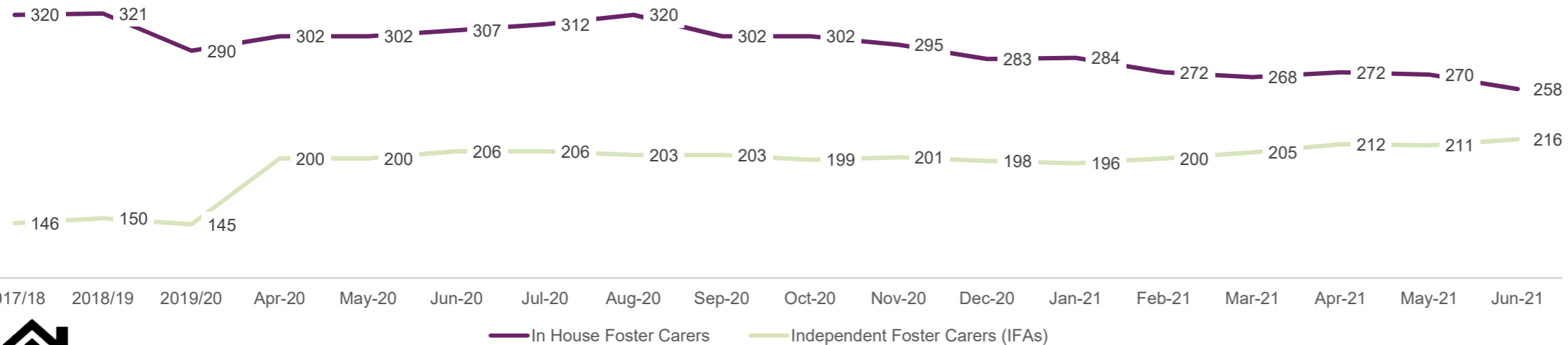
Commentary

Demographic data has been taken from the 2019 mid-year population estimates. A slightly lower proportion of Children in Care are from BME backgrounds compared to the Walsall Child and Young Person population (0-17s). A slightly higher percentage of Children in Care have a disability (5.14%), compared to the overall 0-17 population (4.30%). A slightly higher percentage of Children in Care are female (48.80%) compared to the overall 0-17 population of Walsall (51.20%).

The current Children in Care population has continued to decrease slightly from 670 at the end of 2020/21 to 661 at the end of Q1 of the current year (2021/22). The current rate of 96 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 36 children placed at home on full care order, this has decreased from 39 at the end of 2020/21. 18 of the 36 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.

CiC Placement Analysis

Breakdown of Foster Placements (12 Month Rolling)



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



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

88
13.5%

2020/21 Walsall = 14.5%
2019/20 Walsall = 11.0%
2019/20 West Midlands = 14.0%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 18.1%

% CiC 3 or more placements in a year

39
5.9%

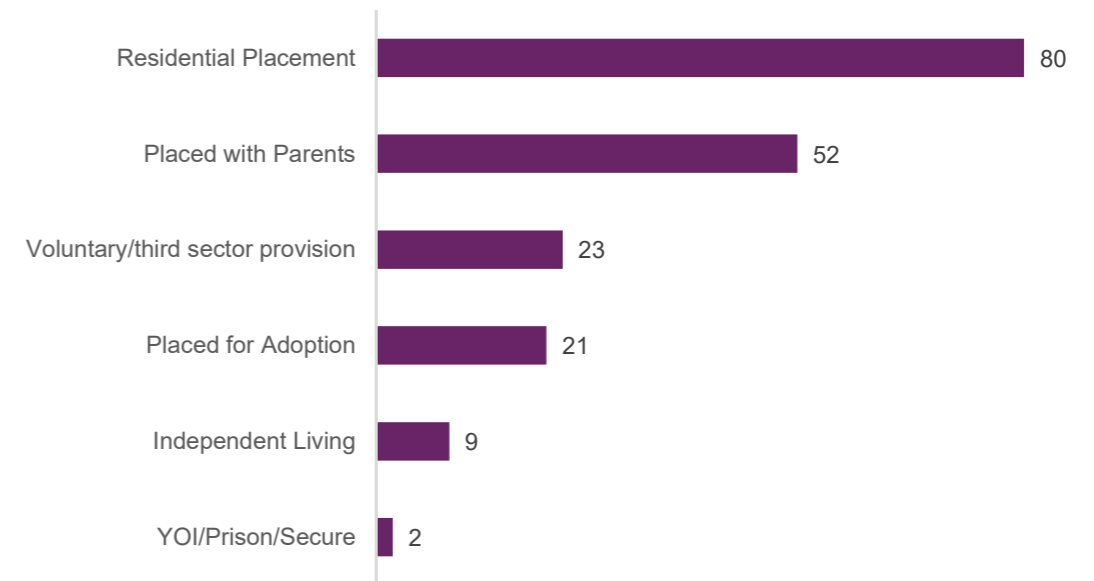
2020/21 Walsall = 7.5%
2019/20 Walsall = 9.0%
2019/20 West Midlands = 10.0%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 9.4%
2019/20 England = 11.0%

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

219
65.8%

2020/21 Walsall = 62.5%
2019/20 Walsall = 68.0%
2019/20 West Midlands = 69.0%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 67.1%

Current CiC by Placement Type (non-fostered)



Commentary

Trends for children placed with in house foster carers have continued to decrease during the first quarter of 2021/22, following sustained decreases during the previous 2 quarters. Currently Walsall has 258 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. Walsall has 216 children placed with independent fostering agencies. This figure has increased further during quarter 1, but has remained fairly constant during the reporting period.

13.5% of Walsall's CiC are placed 20 plus miles from their home address and 5.9% of the CiC population have had 3 or more placements within a year. Both figures have have decreased compared to quarter 4, of the previous year, with the latter figure now much lower than the 2019/20 outturn for Walsall. The percentage of CiC in the same placement for over 2 years if CiC for over 2.5 years has increased compared to the final quarter of 2020/21, but remains lower than the Walsall outturn for 2019/20. The figure for all three indicators are lower than regional, national and statistical neighbour averages.

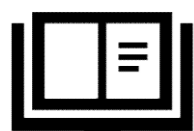
Statutory Visits and Reviews



% 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	612	92.6%
b) 6 - 12 weeks	39	5.9%
c) 12 - 18 weeks	5	0.8%
d) 18+ weeks	1	0.2%
No Visit Recorded - new in last month	4	0.6%
Total	661	100.0%



Reviews carried out within timescale (12month Rolling)

Where reviews for children looked after are carried out within timescale

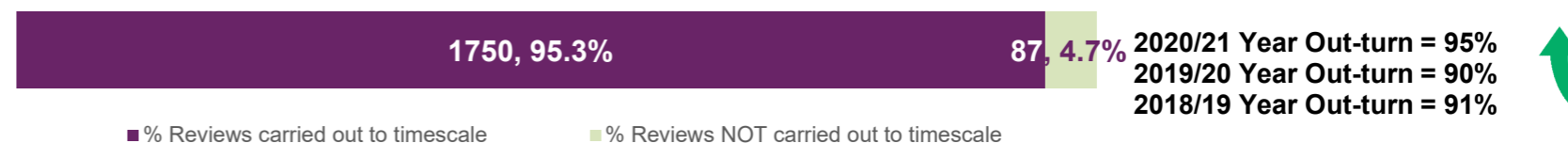
Time Since Latest Review	Number	%
a) 0 > 3 months	355	53.7%
b) 3 > 6 months	293	44.3%
c) 6 > 9 months	4	0.6%
d) 9 > 12 months	1	0.2%
e) 1 year or more	0	0.0%
No review	0	0.0%
No Review - new in last month	8	1.2%
Total	661	100.0%



2020/21 Year Out-turn = 92%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 88%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 88%



% of children in care by time since last visit



2020/21 Year Out-turn = 95%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 90%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 91%



% Time Since Latest Review



Commentary

The proportion of CiC where a statutory visit has been undertaken to timescale in accordance with the child's plan is 90.3% with 92.6% seen within 6 weeks of the previous visit or coming in care. There were 4 CiC with no visits recorded at 30th June 2021, these are new children who have entered into care during the month.

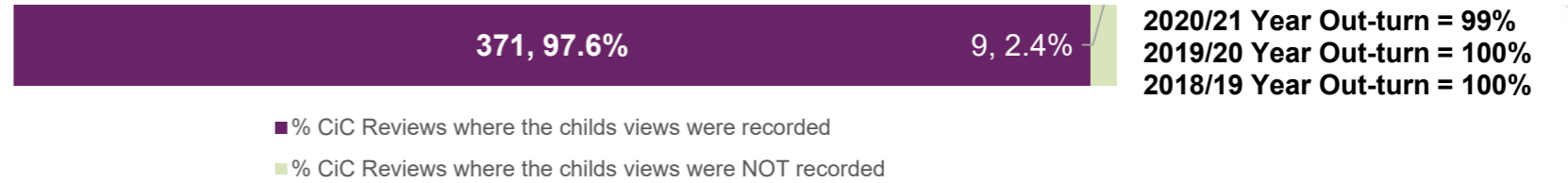
95.3% of reviews have been undertaken within timescales. This is higher than the 2019/20 out-turn of 90%. 98.0% of current Children in Care have had a review within the last 6 months. 0.8% (5) children currently have overdue reviews.

Views of the child



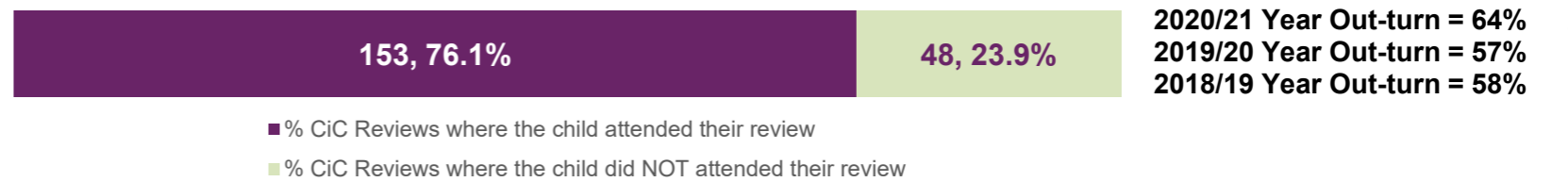
% CiC Reviews where the child's views were recorded

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

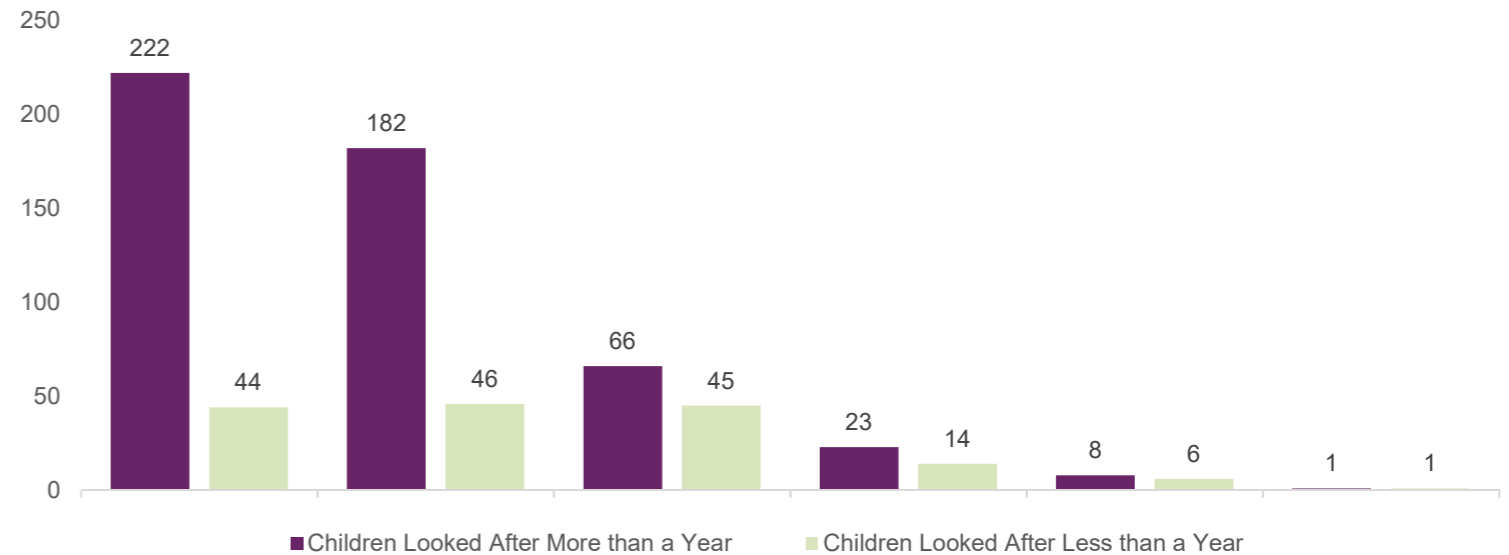


% CiC Reviews where the child attended their review

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



Number of CiC 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	447	N/A
PN1 - child attends and speaks for themselves	852	65.3%
PN2 - child attends and an advocate speaks for them	29	2.2%
PN3 - child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	16	1.2%
PN4 - child attends; does not speak for themselves / convey their views	27	2.1%
PN5 - child does not attend but asks advocate to speak for them	67	5.1%
PN6 - child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	263	20.2%
PN7 - child does not attend nor conveys their view to the conference	22	1.7%
Total Reviews	1751	
No Participation Code Reported	28	2.1%

Commentary

The child's views were recorded at 97.6% of CiC reviews. This is lower than 2019/20 and 2018/19, but higher than 2017/18. In 2019/20, 76.1% of children attended their review. This has increased from 64.4% at the end of the previous quarter, and is also higher than the out-turn for the previous three years. The number of children experiencing a change of social worker has increased slightly compared to the previous year. The number of CiC for more than 1 year who have remained with the same social worker for the past 12 months is 222. This has decreased from 283 at the end of the previous quarter.

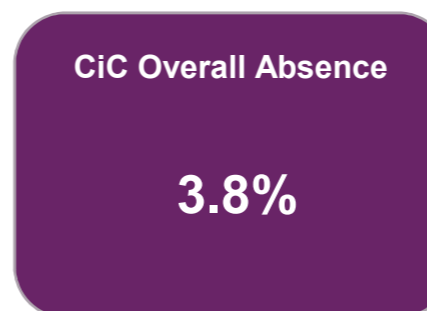
Education - Termly Data (Note 2019 is the latest published data we have, due to the covid-19 pandemic, the next release is due sometime in 2021)

Figures highlighted are provisional				
KS2	Maths	Reading	Writing	RWM
Walsall Current - CiC 2019	55%	34%	55%	28%
Walsall Borough 2019	77%	70%	77%	61%
Stat Neighbours CiC 2019	52%	52%	55%	42%
England 2019 CiC	51%	49%	50%	37%
KS4	%	%	Attain 8	Prog 8
Walsall - CiC - 2020	15.8%	29%	23.0	-0.88
Walsall Borough 2020	40.9%	65%	47.4	-0.11
Stat Neighbours 2020 CiC*	N/A	27%	22.2	-1.21
England 2020 CiC	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		

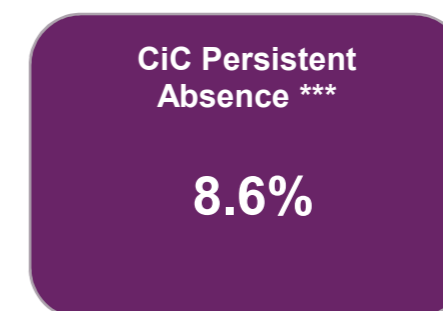
**A pupil is classed as persistently absent if they miss 10% or more possible sessions (due to authorised or unauthorised absence).

***There have been no permanent exclusions

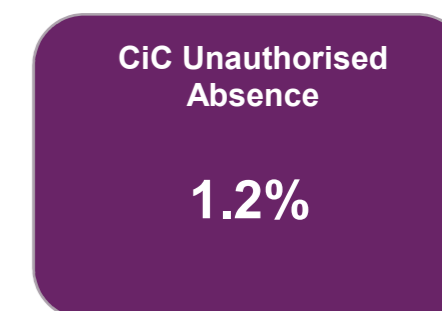
Progress 8 data is based on 2019, the DfE are reporting on it for 2020.



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



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



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'.

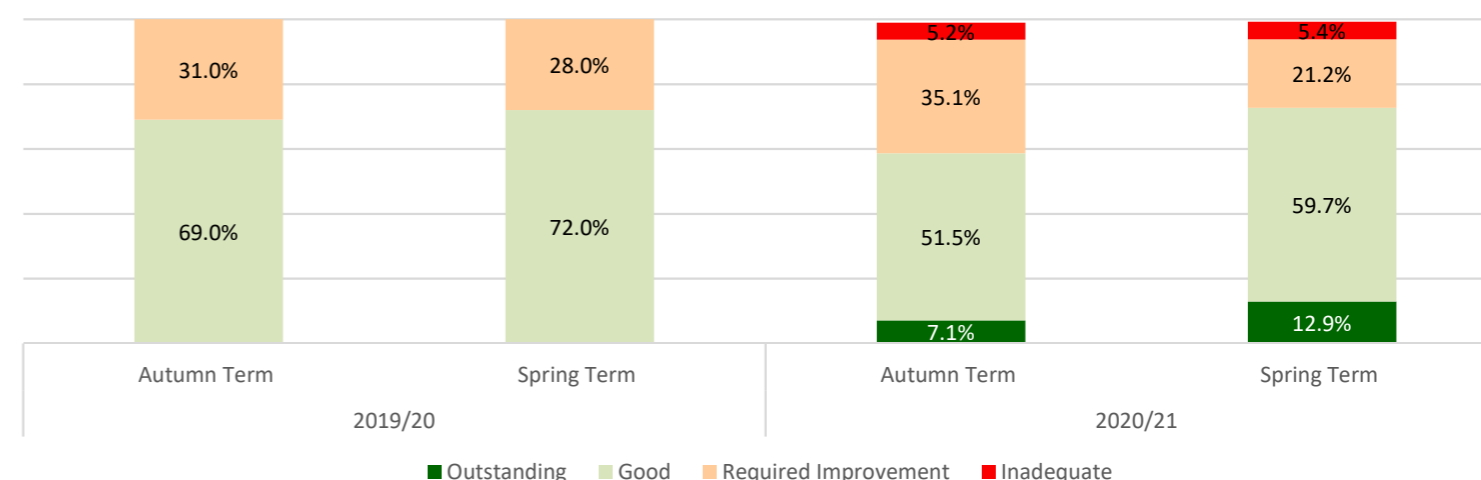
Methodology

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%. CiC 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 CiC admission for those in care for 28 days or more

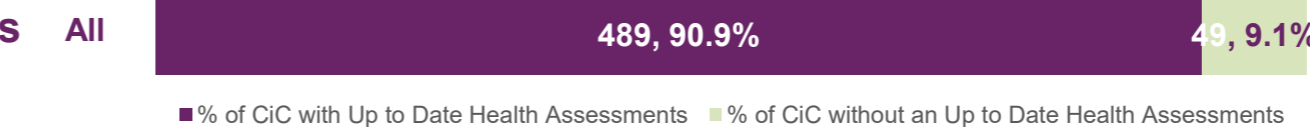


20120/21 Year Out-turn = 75%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 49%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 75%

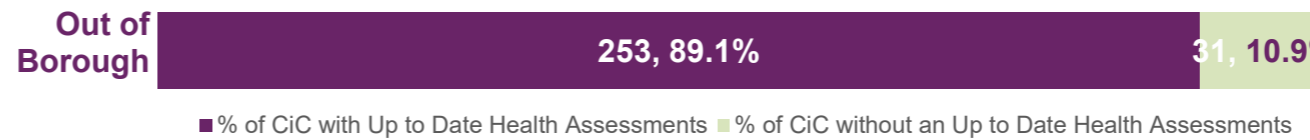


% of CiC with Up to Date Health Assessments

Where the child is over 5 and has been in care for over a year

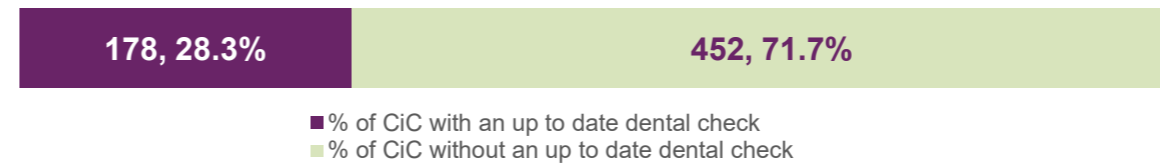


2020/21 Walsall = 92%
2019/20 Walsall = 80%
2019/20 West Midlands = 87%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 90%



% of CiC with an up to date dental check

Where a dental check has been completed within 12 months



2020/21 Walsall = 47.2%
2019/20 Walsall = 92%
2019/20 West Midlands = 82%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 90%



Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

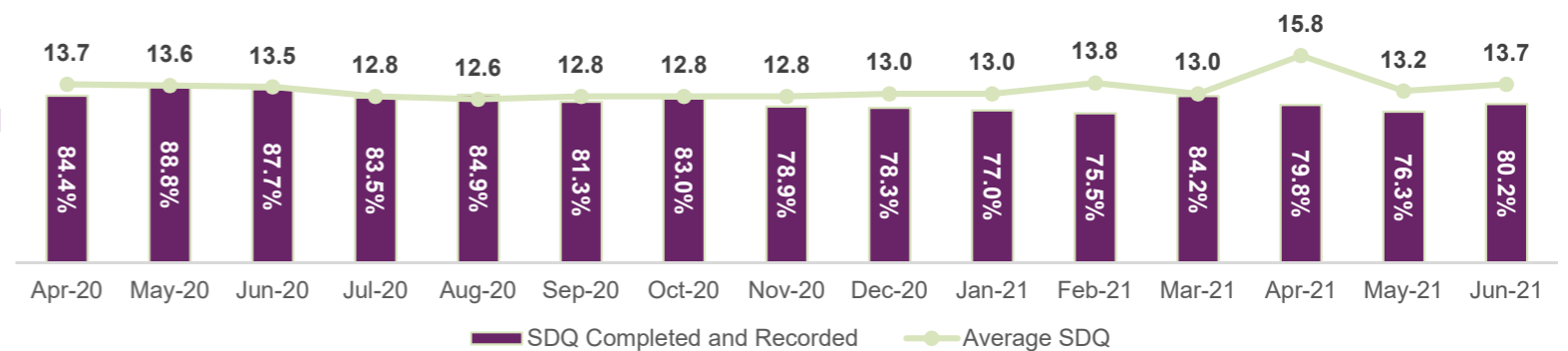
The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire should be completed for every child looked after for at least 12 months and aged 5 to 16 years-old.

Average SDQ Score
13.7

Breakdown

Score	Considered	Number	% of those eligible for SDQ	% against all Children Looked
Score 0 - 13	Normal	242	54%	38.1%
Score 14 - 16	Borderline	51	11%	8.0%
Score 17 - 40	Cause for Concern	154	34%	24.2%

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 in care with an initial health check decreased from 75.2% during the final quarter of 2020-21, to 71.4% in quarter 1 of 2021/22. The percentage of children in care with an up to date dental check is a cumulative figure, and currently stands at 28.3%. 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.

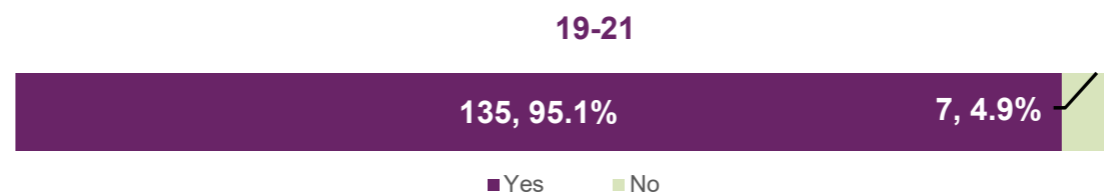
The proportion of SDQ's completed and recorded has decreased slightly to 80.2%, compared to 84.2% at the the end of quarter 4. The average SDQ score is currently 13.7. This has increased since the previous quarter (13.0), and is slightly higher than the average for quarter 1 during 2020-21 (13.5) (Lower is better). 154 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

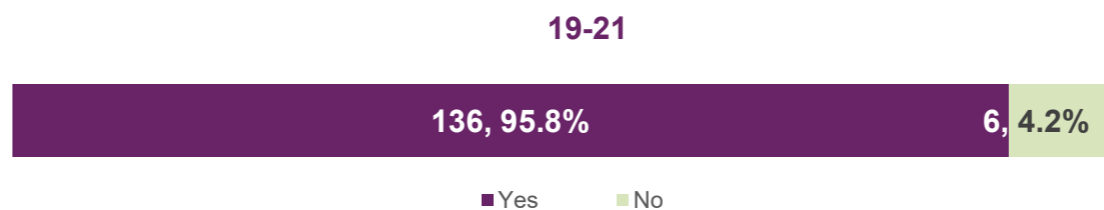


2020/21 Year Out-turn = 94%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 95%
2019/20 West Midlands = 95%
2018/19 Stat Neighbours = 96.5%



Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

Care Leavers whose accommodation is classed as suitable for age

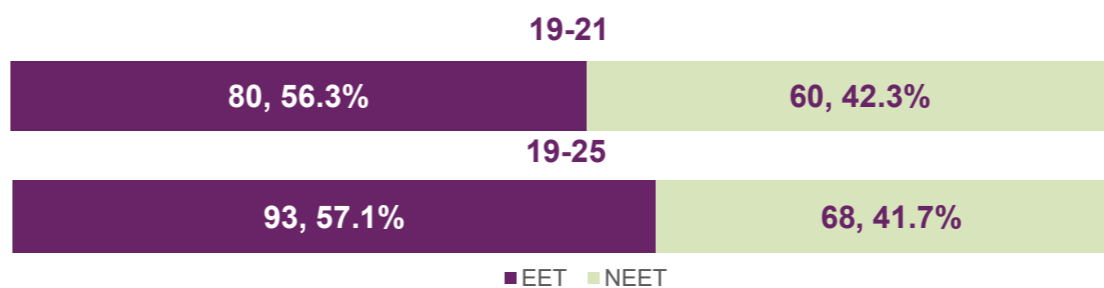


2020/21 Year Out-turn = 89%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 89%
2019/20 West Midlands = 85%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 86.4%



Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

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

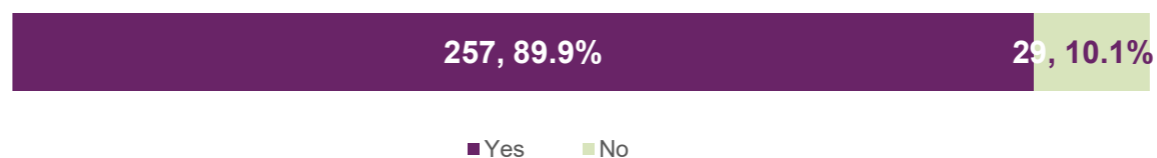


2020/21 Year Out-turn = 51%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 54%
2019/20 West Midlands = 50%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 45.6%



Care Leavers available to work - All Ages

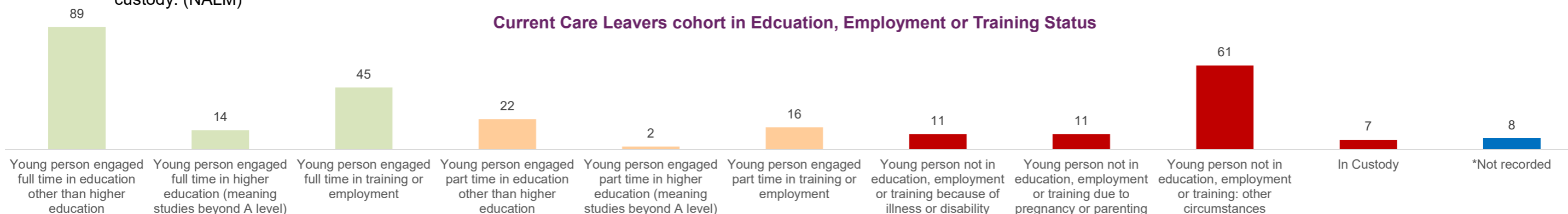
Care Leavers who are available to work this excludes all those that are not available for the labour market due to illness/disability, pregnancy or young mothers or being in custody. (NALM)



2020/21 Year Out-turn = 54%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 74%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 63%

2020/21 Year Out-turn = 86%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 86%

Current Care Leavers cohort in Education, Employment or Training Status



Commentary

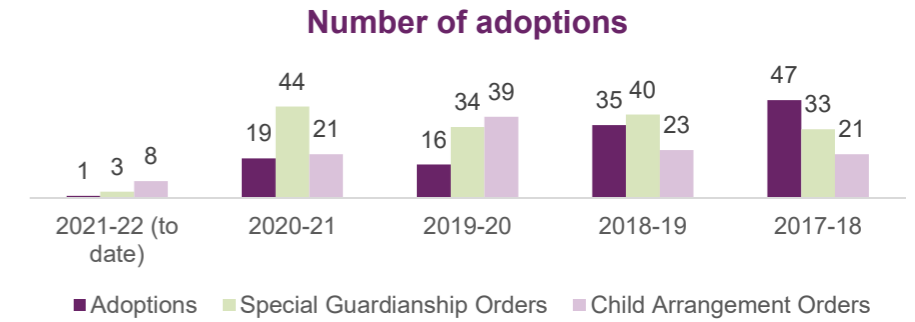
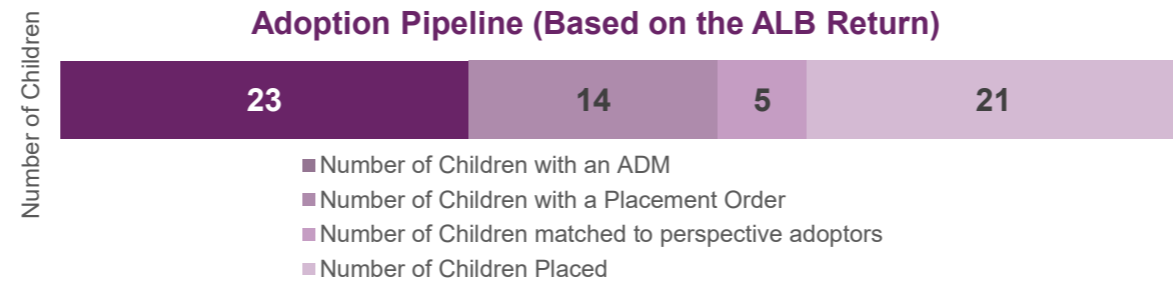
The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training for the first quarter of 19-21 was 56.3%. This is continuing to improve following reductions during the pandemic. The 19-25 cohort has seen another increase during quarter 1, with 57.1% care leavers in Education, Employment or Training compared to 54.3% for quarter 4 of 2020/21. Managers had expected this figure to decrease 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.

89.9% 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. 7 of Walsall's care leavers are currently in custody, a decrease of 2 since the end of Q4. The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has increased to 95.8%. The proportion of care leavers in touch with the council has increased from 94% to 95%.

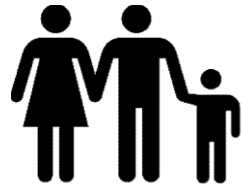
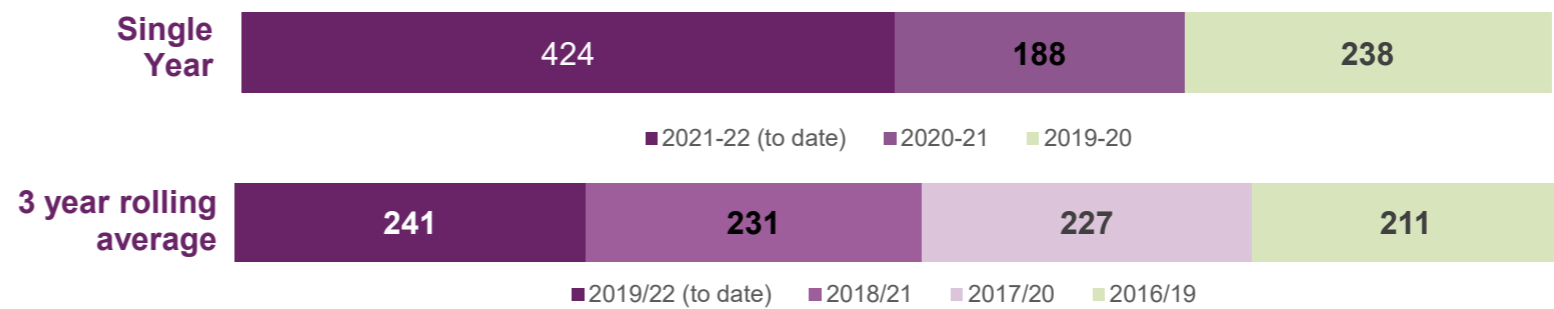
Adoption and Permanency



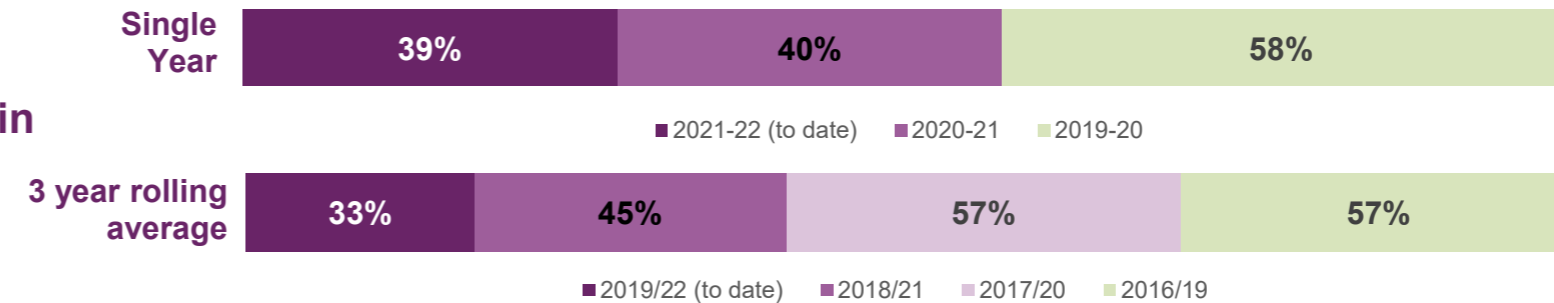
Adoption Pipeline



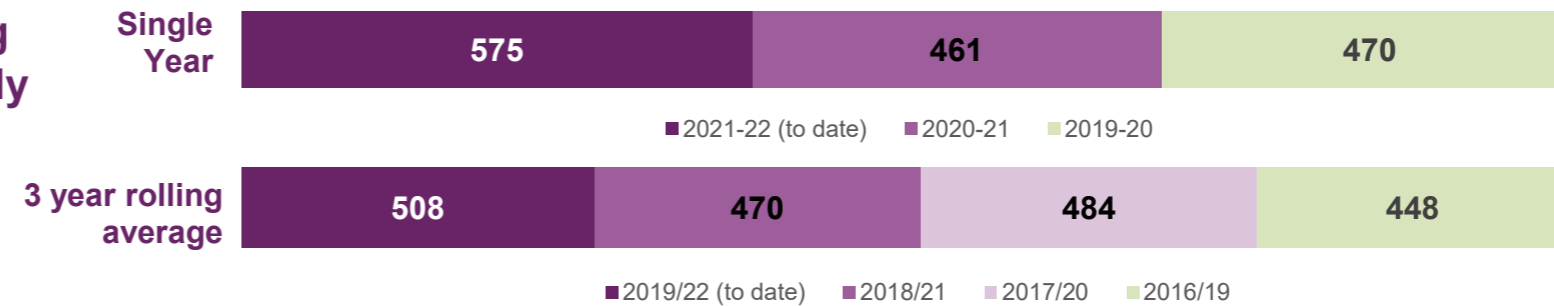
A2 - Average time between receiving court authority to place and finding a match



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

There was one adoption during the first quarter of 2021/22, based on the latest ALB data. In 2020/21, 19 children were adopted. This is a 19% increase compared to 16 during 2019/20.

So far during the current year, children had a longer wait than in 2020/21 between receiving court authority to place and finding a match - this was 241 days compared to 231 days in 2020/21. 39% of Children wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. Between April and June 2021, 3 Children have ceased to be looked after due to special guardianship orders and 8 due to child arrangement orders.