

Walsall Children's Services Corporate Parenting Board September 2021 Quarter 2

Please Note: 2020-21 benchmarking data has now been added
where applicable.



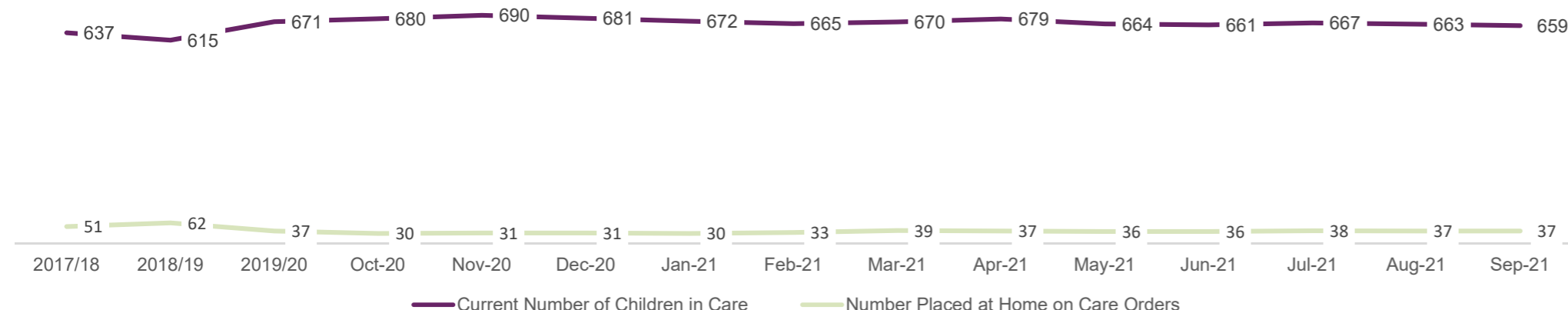
Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

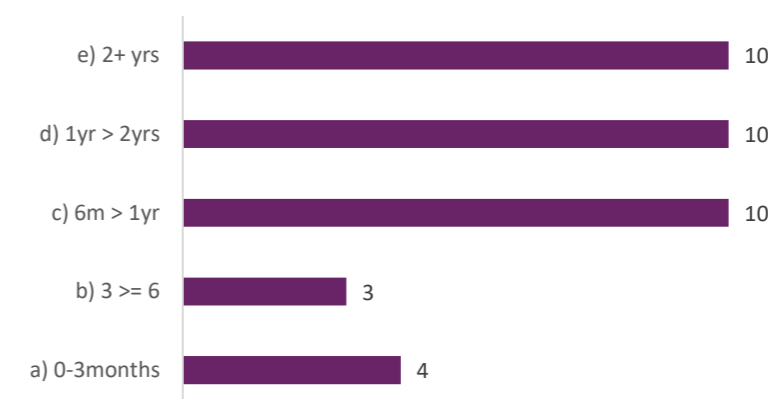
Current Children in Care (CiC) Profile



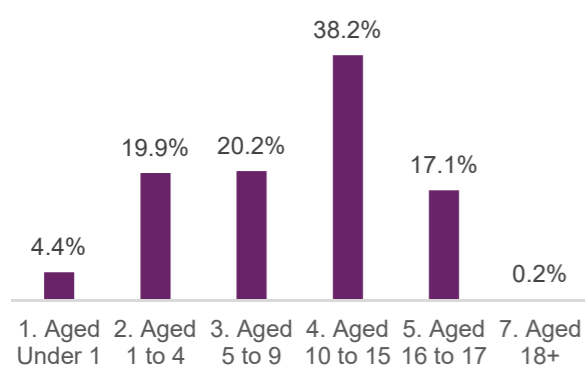
Number of Children in Care in Walsall (12 Month Rolling)



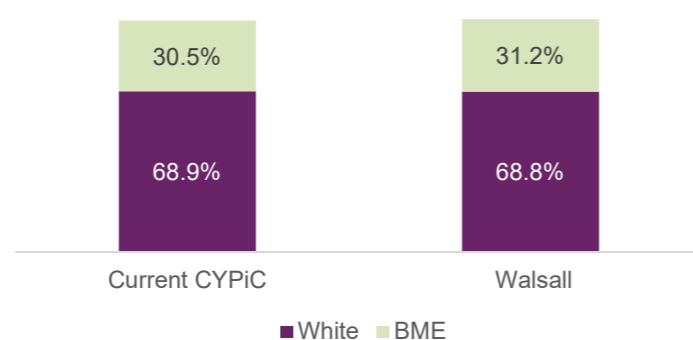
Length of Time placed at home on full care orders



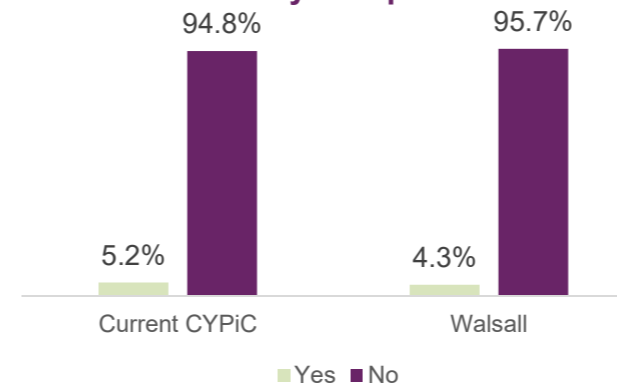
% of current CiC by age



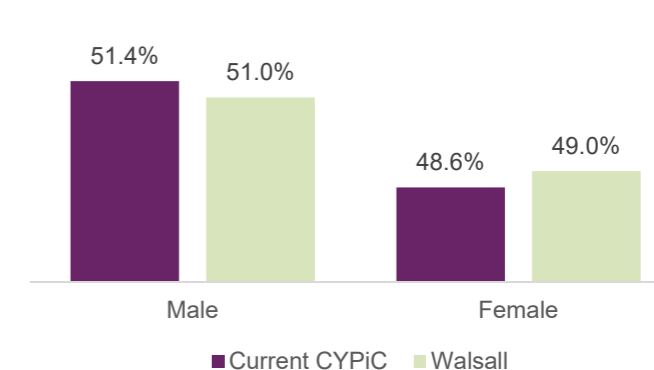
Ethnicity Comparison



Disability Comparison



Gender Comparison



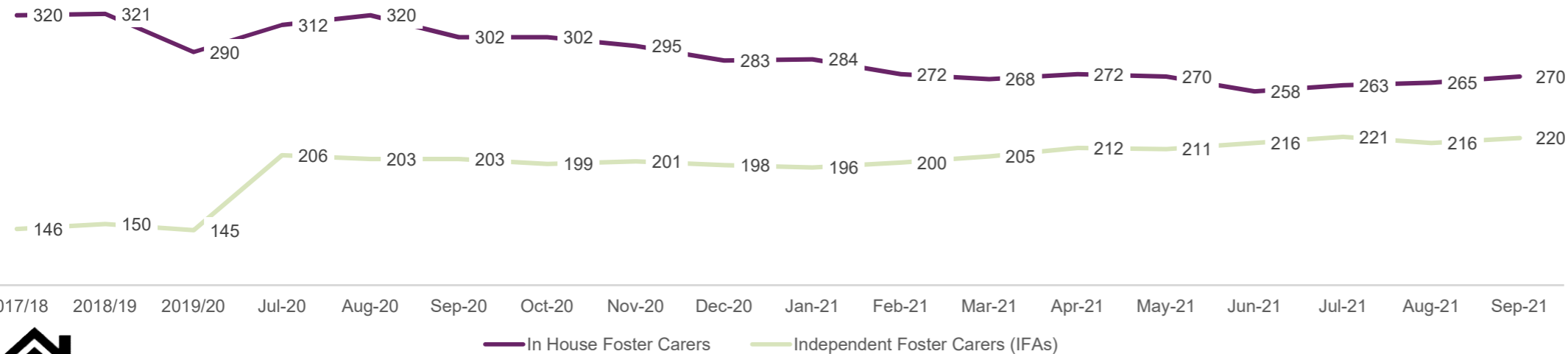
Commentary

Demographic data has been taken from the 2020 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 (5.2%), compared to the overall 0-17 population (4.3%). A slightly higher percentage of Children in Care are male (51.4%) compared to the overall 0-17 population of Walsall (51.0%).

The current Children in Care population has continued to decrease slightly from 670 at the end of 2020/21 to 659 at the end of Q2 of the current year (2021/22). The current rate of 96 per 10,000 remains below that of our statistical neighbours but is still higher than the 2019/20 England and West Midlands averages. We currently have 37 children placed at home on full care order, a slight increase from 36 at the end of Q1. 20 of the 37 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
90
13.8%

2020/21 Walsall = 11.0%
2019/20 Walsall = 10.0%
2020/21 West Midlands = 14.0%
2020/21 Stat Neighbours = 16.3%
2020/21 England = 16.0%

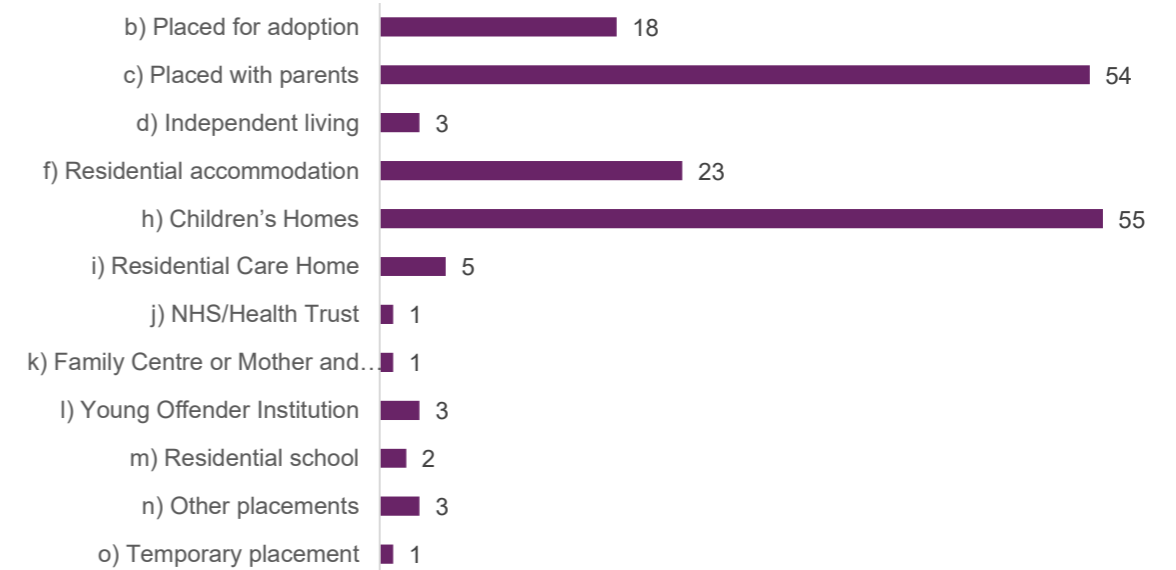
% CiC 3 or more placements in a year
51
7.7%

2020/21 Walsall = 7.0%
2019/20 Walsall = 9.0%
2020/21 West Midlands = 8.0%
2020/21 Stat Neighbours = 7.1%
2020/21 England = 9.0%

% of CiC in same placement for over 2 years if CLA for over 2.5 years
210
64.0%

2020/21 Walsall = 67.0%
2019/20 Walsall = 66.0%
2020/21 West Midlands = 71.0%
2020/21 Stat Neighbours = 71.5%
2020/21 England = 70.0%

Current CiC by Placement Type (non-fostered)



Commentary

Trends for children placed with in house foster carers have increased during the second quarter of 2021/22, following sustained decreases during the previous 3 quarters of the reporting period. Currently Walsall has 270 children placed with in house foster carers, lower than the out-turn for the previous three years. Walsall has 220 children placed with independent fostering agencies. This figure has increased slightly during quarter 2, but has remained fairly constant during the reporting period.

13.8% of Walsall's CiC are placed 20 plus miles from their home address and 7.7% of the CiC population have had 3 or more placements within a year. This is an improvement on the 2020-21 out-turn and better performance than comparators in 2019-20. The percentage of CiC in the same placement for over 2 years if CiC for over 2.5 years (64.0%) is also improving but remains slightly lower than regional and statistical neighbour averages for 2019/20.

Statutory Visits and Reviews



% Visits undertaken to timescale

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

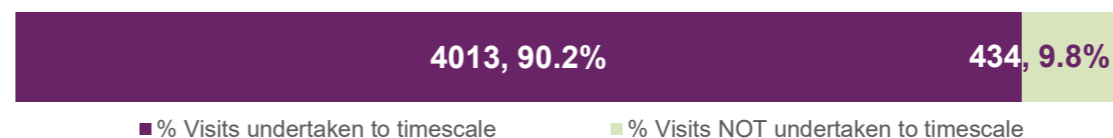
Time Since Last Visit Undertaken	Number	%
a) 0 - 6 weeks	597	90.6%
b) 6 - 12 weeks	57	8.6%
c) 12 - 18 weeks	3	0.5%
d) 18+ weeks	0	0.0%
No Visit Recorded - new in last month	2	0.3%
Total	659	100.0%



Reviews carried out within timescale (12month Rolling)

Where reviews for children looked after are carried out within timescale

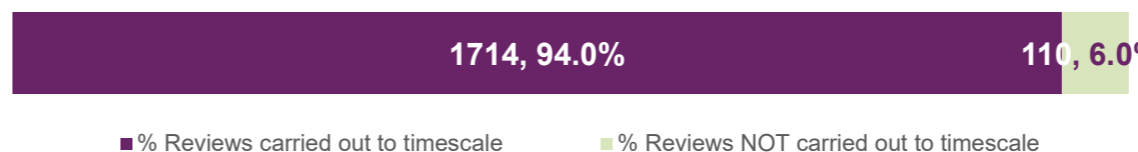
Time Since Latest Review	Number	%
a) 0 > 3 months	391	59.3%
b) 3 > 6 months	219	33.2%
c) 6 > 9 months	40	6.1%
d) 9 > 12 months	0	0.0%
e) 1 year or more	0	0.0%
No review	1	0.2%
No Review - new in last month	8	1.2%
Total	659	100.0%



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



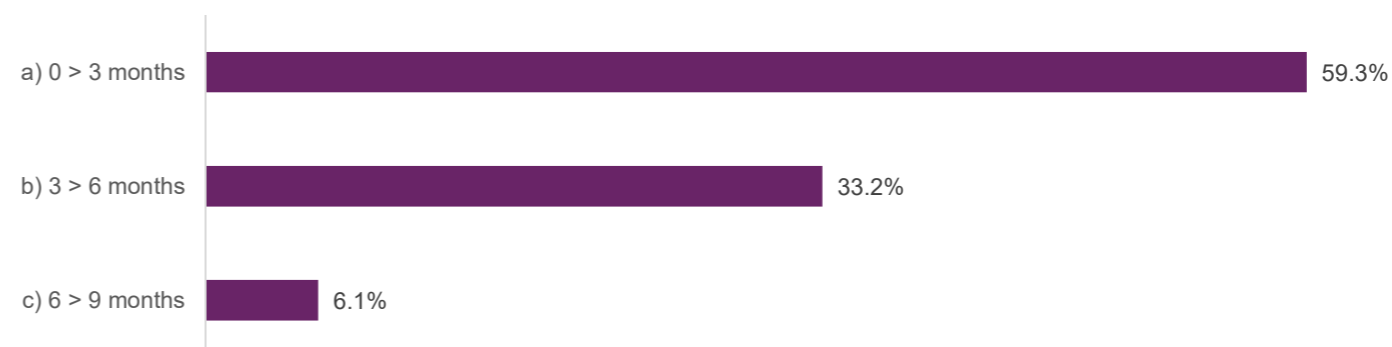
% of children in care by time since last visit



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 90.2% with 90.6% seen within 6 weeks of the previous visit or coming in care. There were 2 CiC with no visits recorded at 30th September 2021, these are new children who have entered into care during the month.

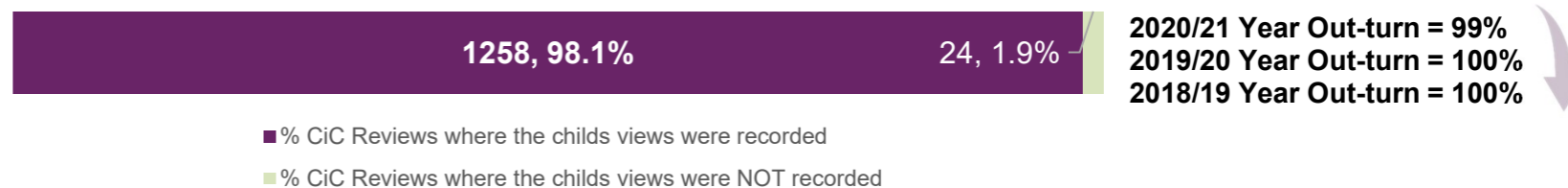
94.0% of reviews have been undertaken within timescales. This is good performance. 92.5% of current Children in Care have had a review within the last 6 months. 6.1% (40) children currently have overdue reviews, however, a proportion of these reviews will have been completed on time and will be in the process of being recorded (IROs have 20 working days from the date of review to write their reports).

Views of the child



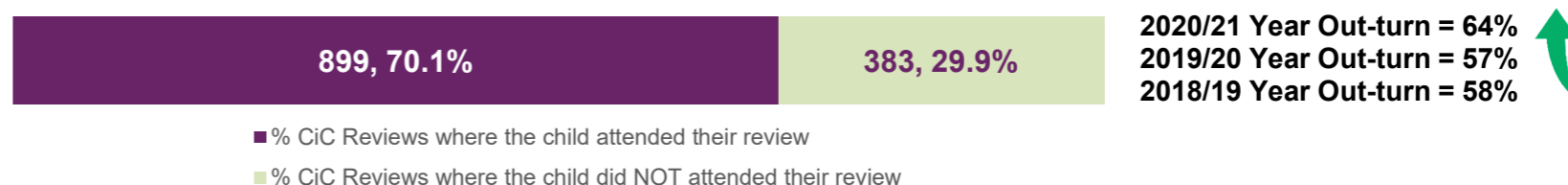
% CiC Reviews where the child's views were recorded (12 month rolling period)

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)



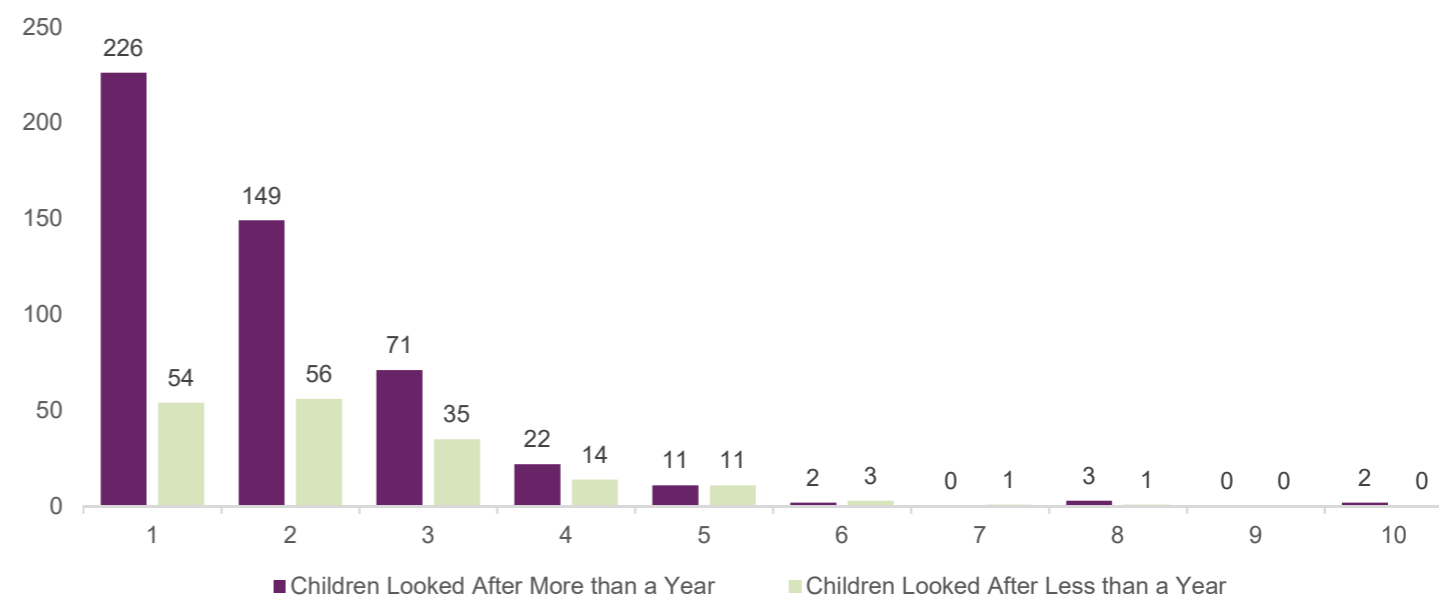
% CiC Reviews where the child attended their review (12 month rolling period)

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



Type of Participation at Review (12 month rolling period)	Number	%
PN0 - child under 4 at time of review	433	N/A
PN1 - child attends and speaks for themselves	832	64.9%
PN2 - child attends and an advocate speaks for them	31	2.4%
PN3 - child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	9	0.7%
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	74	5.8%
PN6 - child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	259	20.2%
PN7 - child does not attend nor conveys their view to the conference	26	2.0%
Total Reviews	1715	
No Participation Code Reported	24	1.9%

Number of Social Workers children have had in the past 12 months



Commentary

The child's views were recorded at 98.1% of CiC reviews. This is slightly lower than the out-turns for the previous three years, but remains very positive performance.

70.1% of children attended their review in the previous 12 months. This is a significant increase compared with previous years and has been supported and enabled through the increased use of technology.

It is positive that the number of children experiencing a change of social worker has decreased slightly compared to the previous quarter. The number of CiC for more than 1 year who have remained with the same social worker for the past 12 months is 226. This has increased slightly from 222 at the end of the previous quarter.

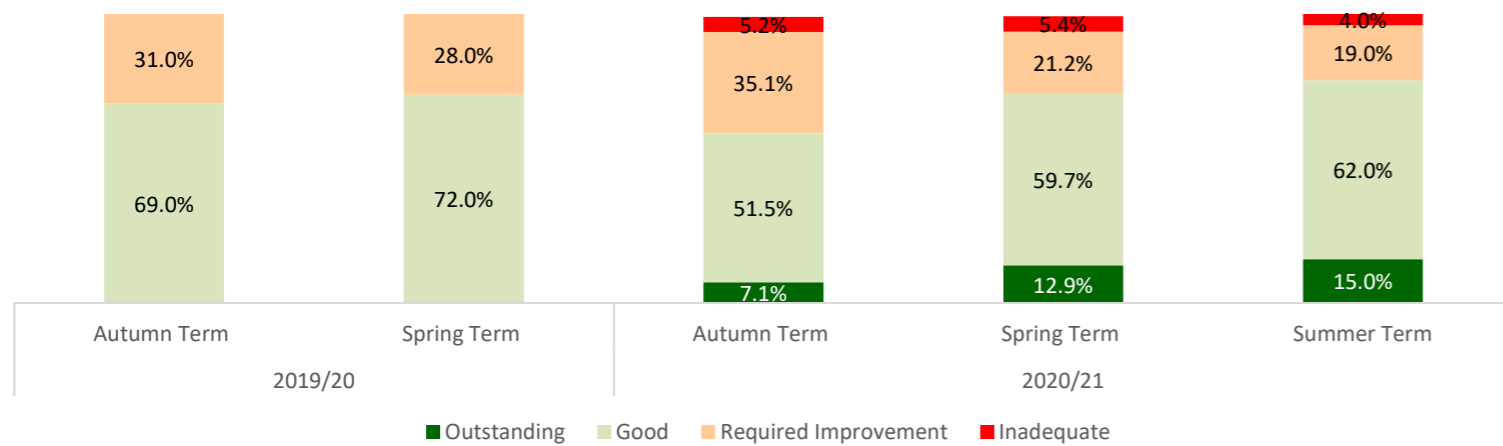
Education



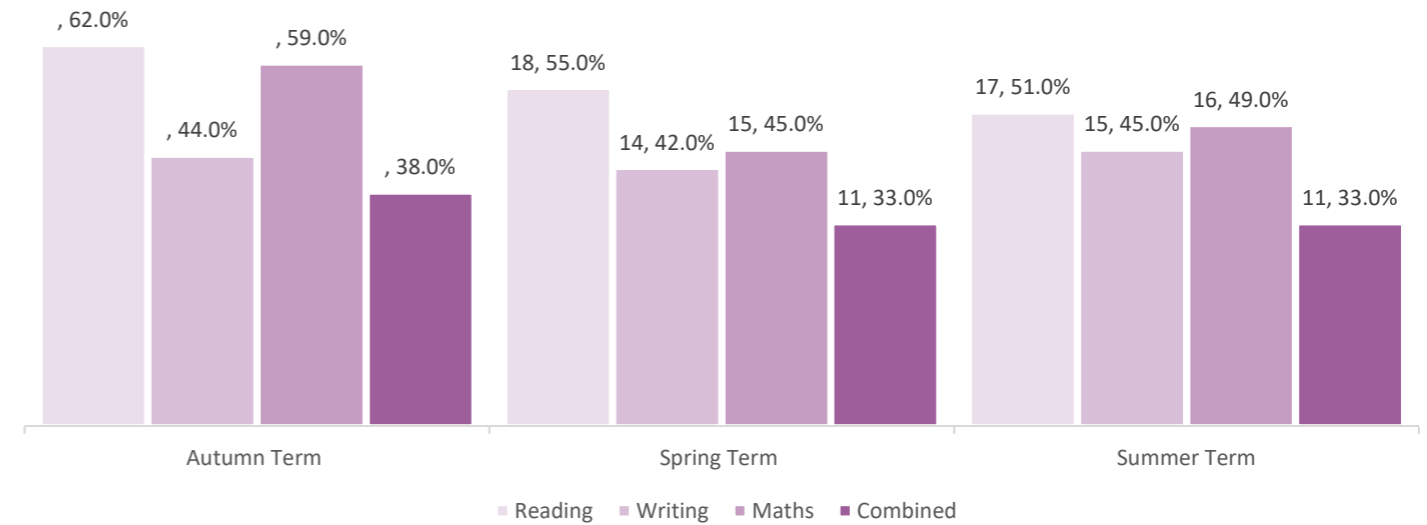
RAG Ratings of PEPS

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'.

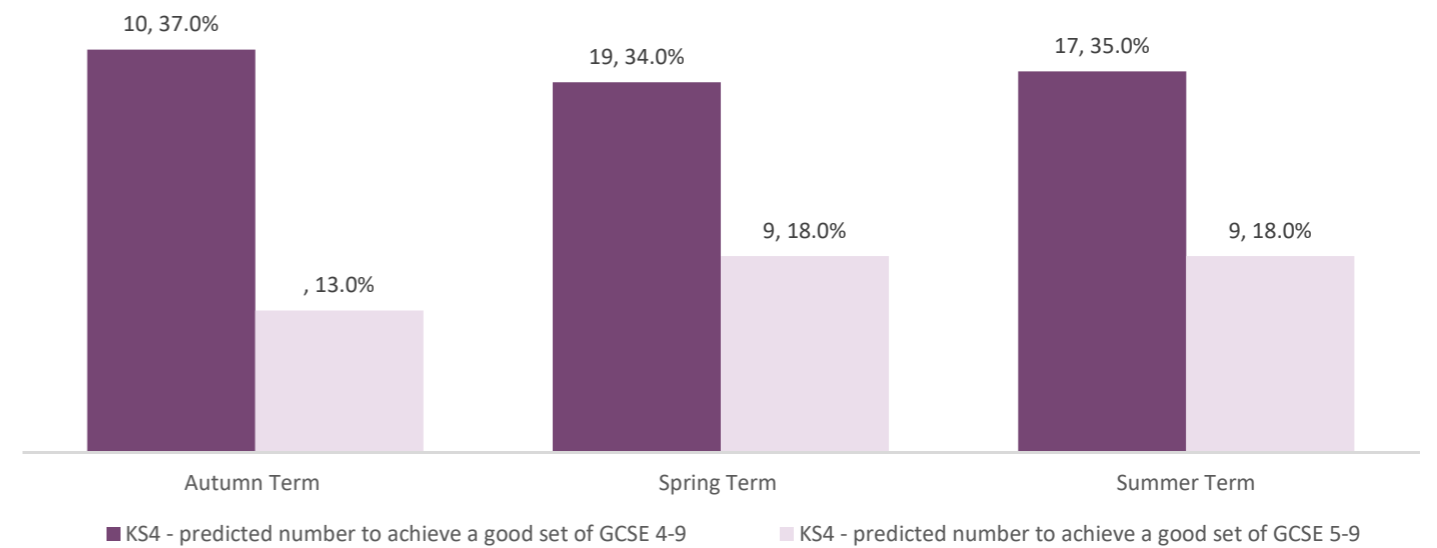
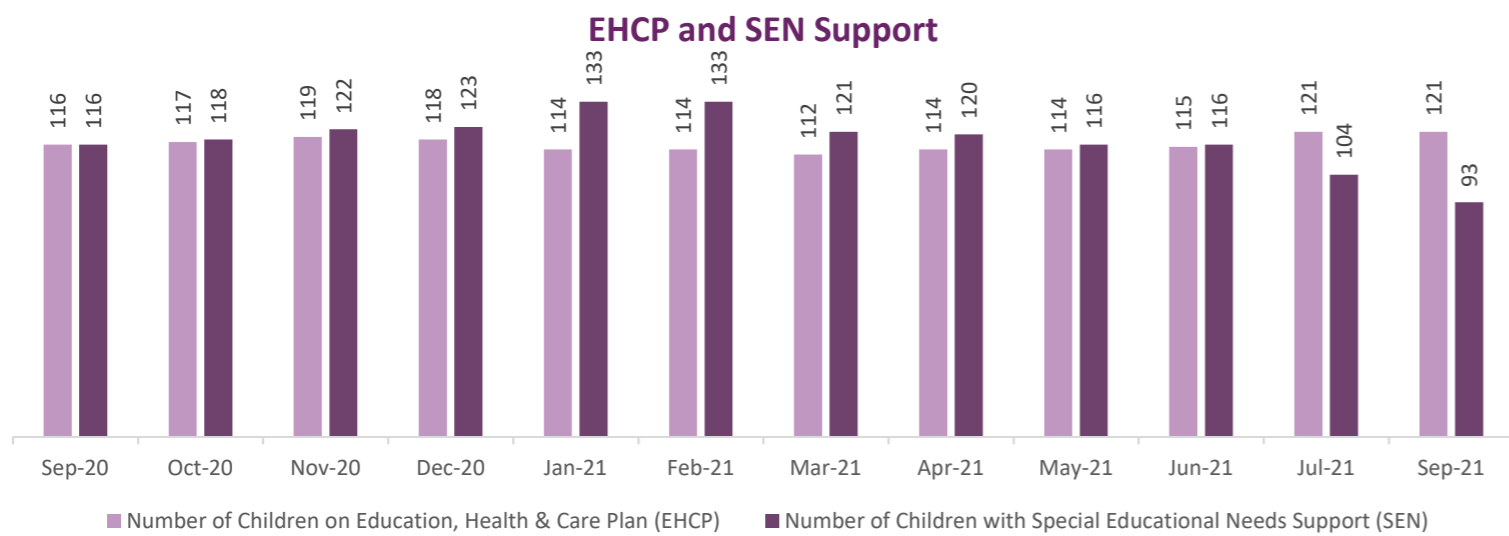
RAG Ratings of PEPS



Attainment Predictions Key Stage 2



Key Stage 4 KS4 - predicted number to achieve a good set of GCSE 4-9 & 5-9



Commentary

KS2 -The percentage of children predicted to achieve the expected level of attainment for KS2 in reading in summer 2020-21 was 51%, writing was 45% and mathematics was 49%. Compared with the summer term 2019-20 reading has increased from 48%, writing has decreased from 48% and mathematics has decreased from 52%. Combined stands at 33%, a decrease from last academic year.

KS4 -The percentage of children predicted to achieve a good set of GCSE (4-9) reported in summer 2020-21 was 35% which is an increase compared to summer 2019-20 (29%). The percentage of children predicted to achieve a good set of GCSE (5-9) reported in summer 2020-21 is 18% which again is an increase compared to summer 2019-20 (15%).

The number of children with an EHCP has remained static between July 2021 and September 2021 at 121, compared with September 2020 this has increase from 116.

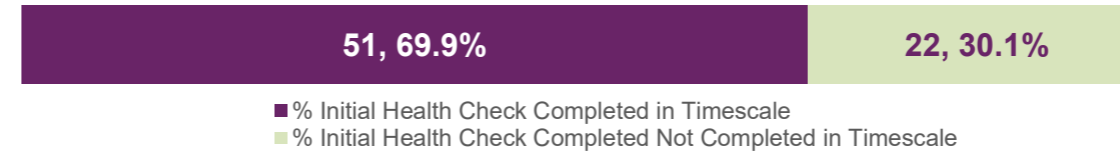
The number of children with SEN support has decreased from 104 in July 2021 to 93 in September 2021, compared with September 2020 (116) this is significantly lower.

Health and Well-being



% Initial Health Check Completed in Timescale

Assessments in timescale of CiC admission for those in care for

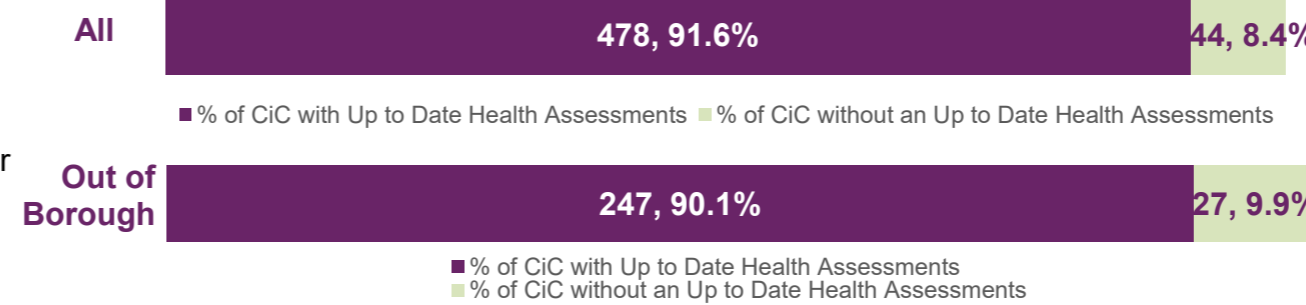


2020/21 Year Out-turn = 75%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 49%
2018/19 Year Out-turn = 75%



% of CiC with Up to Date Health Assessments

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

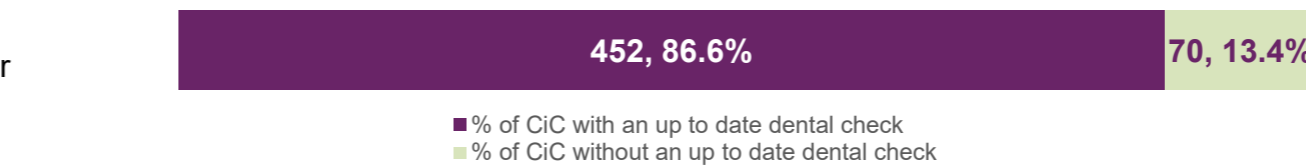


2020/21 Walsall = 85%
2019/20 Walsall = 80%
2019/20 West Midlands = 87%
2019/20 Stat Neighbours = 90%
2019/20 England = 90%
*These figures include Health Checks, Dental Checks and Immunisations.



% of CiC with an up to date dental check

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



2020/21 Walsall = 43.0%
2020/21 Walsall = 92%
2020/21 West Midlands = 33%
2020/21 Stat Neighbours = 33%
2020/21 England = 40%



Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

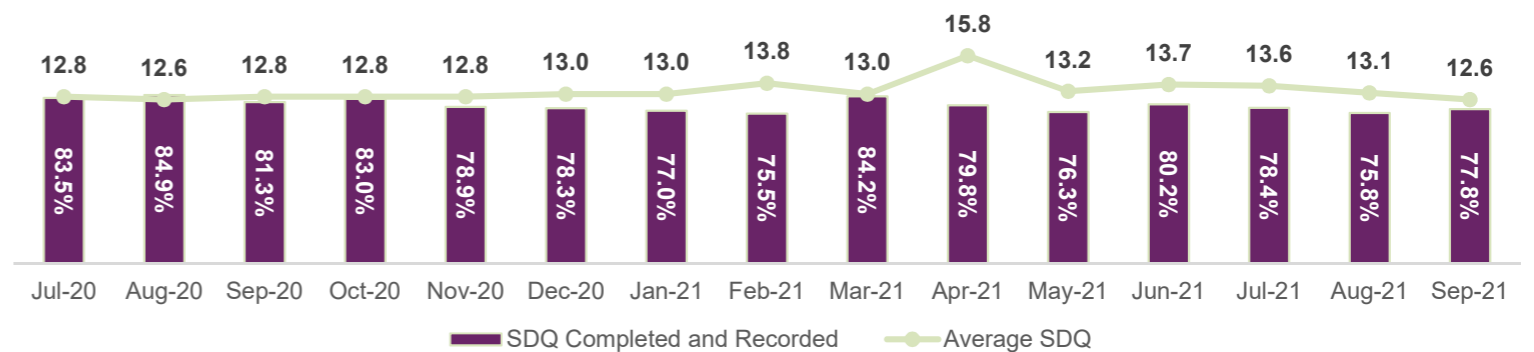
The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire should be completed for every child looked after for at least 12 months and aged 5 to 16 years-old.

Average SDQ Score
12.6

Breakdown

Score	Considered	Number	% of those eligible for SDQ	% against all Children
Score 0 - 13	Normal	228	54%	36.0%
Score 14 - 16	Borderline	50	12%	7.9%
Score 17 - 40	Cause for Concern	148	35%	23.3%

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



Commentary

Performance shows that the vast majority of children in care have up to date health checks. There has been a slight dip in the percentage of children whose initial health checks are done on time, but this indicator is affected by small numbers. Social Care and Health colleagues continue to work closely together to ensure that processes for notifying health when a child enters care are robust and the finalisation of health assessments is timely.

Similarly a high and climbing proportion of children have up to date dental checks. This is a significant improvement on 2020-21 and indicates that the backlog in dental checks as a result of Covid is being cleared.

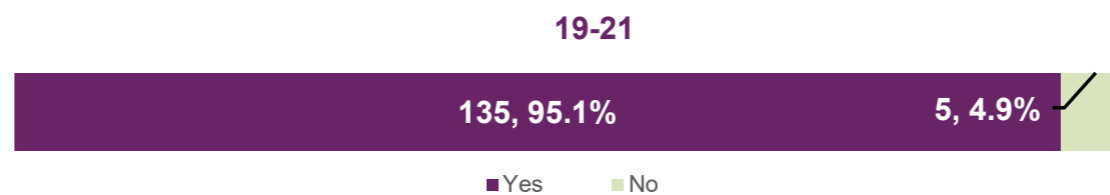
The proportion of SDQ's completed and recorded has decreased slightly to 77.8%, compared to 80.2% at the the end of quarter 1. The average SDQ score is currently 12.6. This has improved since the previous quarter (Lower is better). 148 children currently have an SDQ score that suggests there may be a 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

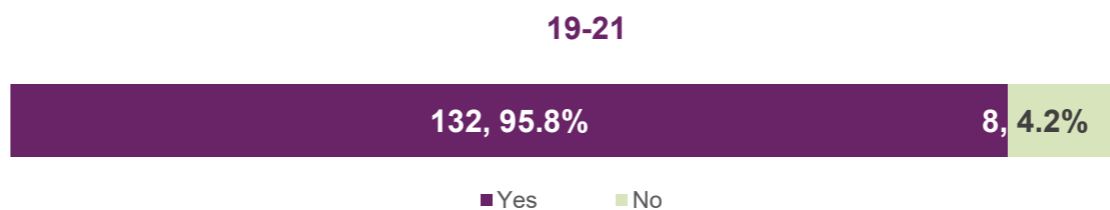


2020/21 Year Out-turn = 94%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 95%
2020/21 West Midlands = 95%
2020/21 Stat Neighbours = 96.7%
2020/21 England = 95%



Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

Care Leavers whose accommodation is classed as suitable for age

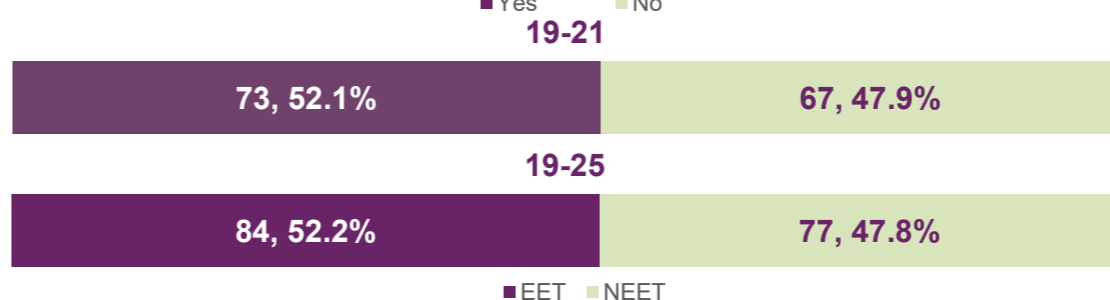


2020/21 Year Out-turn = 89%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 89%
2020/21 West Midlands = 87%
2020/21 Stat Neighbours = 89.5%
2020/21 England = 88%



Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

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

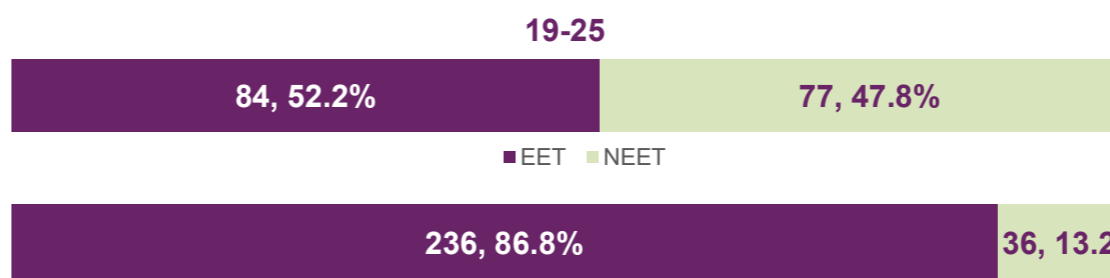


2020/21 Year Out-turn = 50%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 54%
2020/21 West Midlands = 50%
2020/21 Stat Neighbours = 46.4%
2020/21 England = 52%



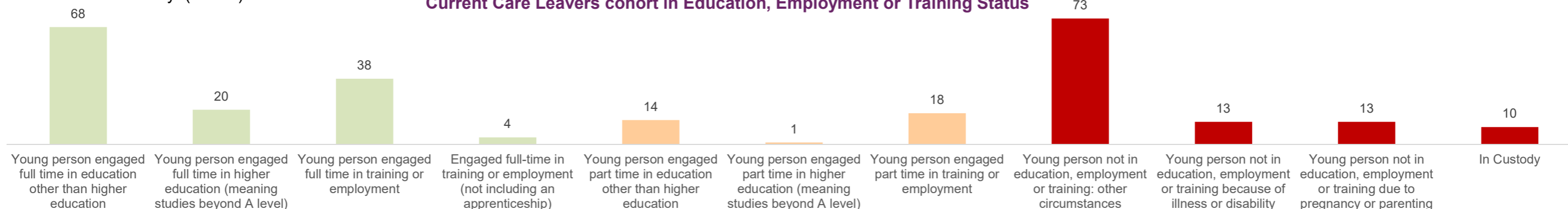
Care Leavers available to work - All Ages

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%

Current Care Leavers cohort in Education, Employment or Training Status



Commentary

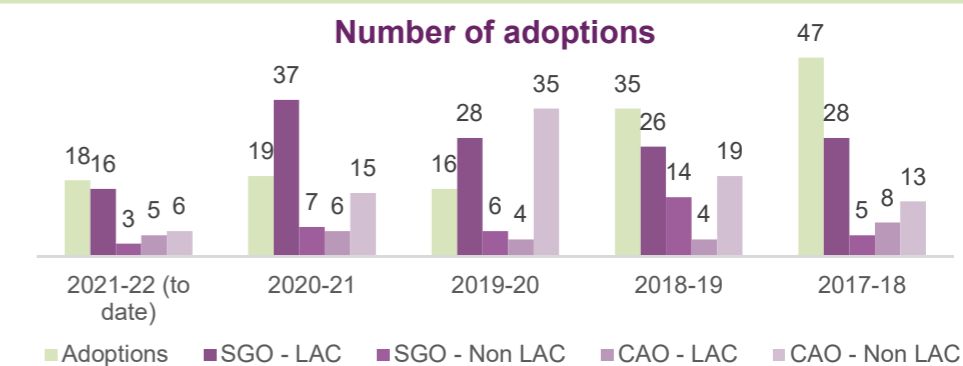
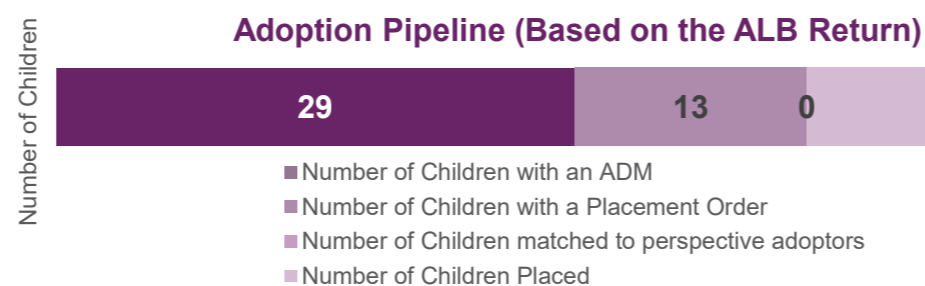
The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training for the second quarter of 2020-21 was 52.1%. This has decreased compared to 56.3% at the end of quarter 1. The 19-25 cohort has also seen a decrease during quarter 2, with 52.2% care leavers in Education, Employment or Training compared with 57.1% at the end of Q1. Managers had expected these figures to decrease as the government's furlough scheme comes to an end and a dip over the summer is often seen on a seasonal basis as educational courses come to an end over the summer.

86.8% 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. 10 of Walsall's care leavers are currently in custody, an increase of 3 since the end of Q1. The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains high - of the eight 19-21 year olds that are not in suitable accommodation, 7 are in custody and 1 is in temporary supported accommodation.

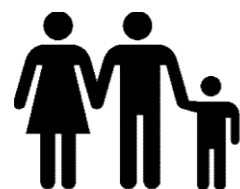
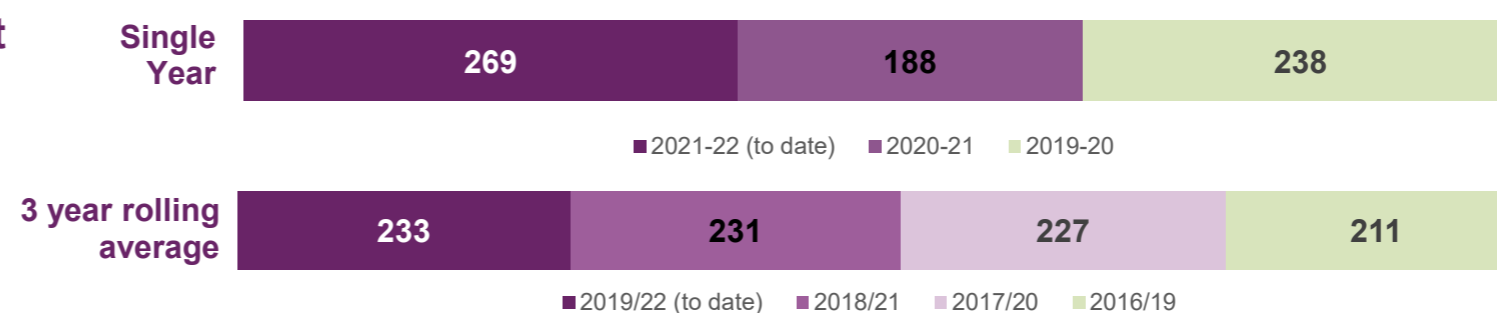
Adoption and Permanency



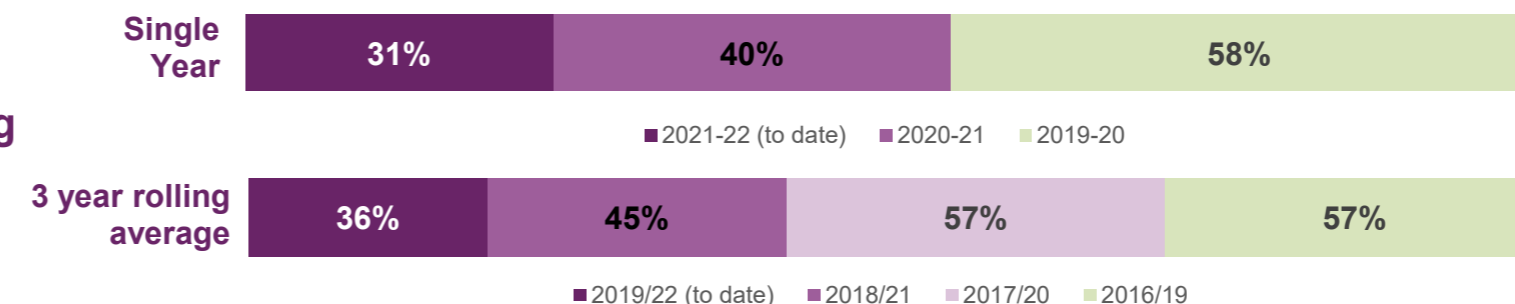
Adoption Pipeline



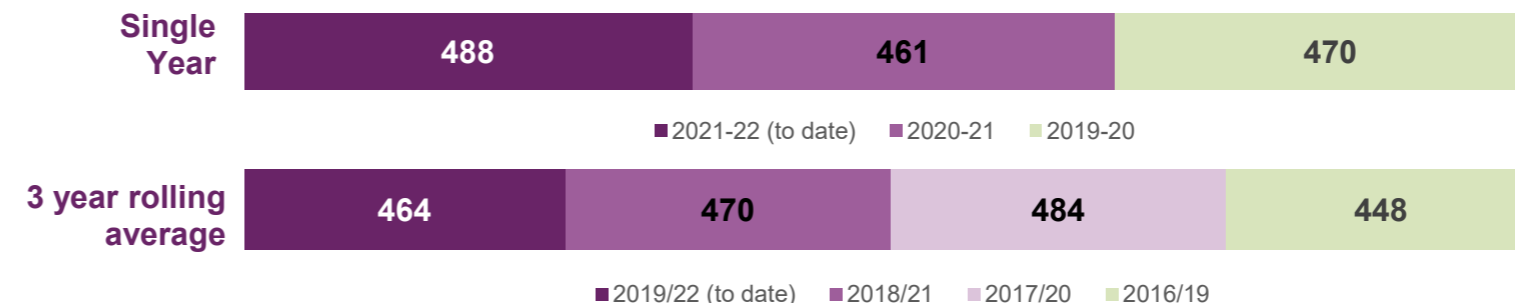
A2 - Average time between receiving court authority to place and finding a match



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 were 18 adoptions during the first two quarters of 2021/22, based on the latest ALB data. In 2020/21, 19 were children were adopted. This was an 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 269 days compared to 188 days in 2020/21. 31% of Children wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. Between April and September 2021, 14 Children have ceased to be looked after due to special guardianship orders and 3 due to child arrangement orders.