

PROUD OF OUR **PAST**, OUR **PRESENT** AND FOR OUR **FUTURE**

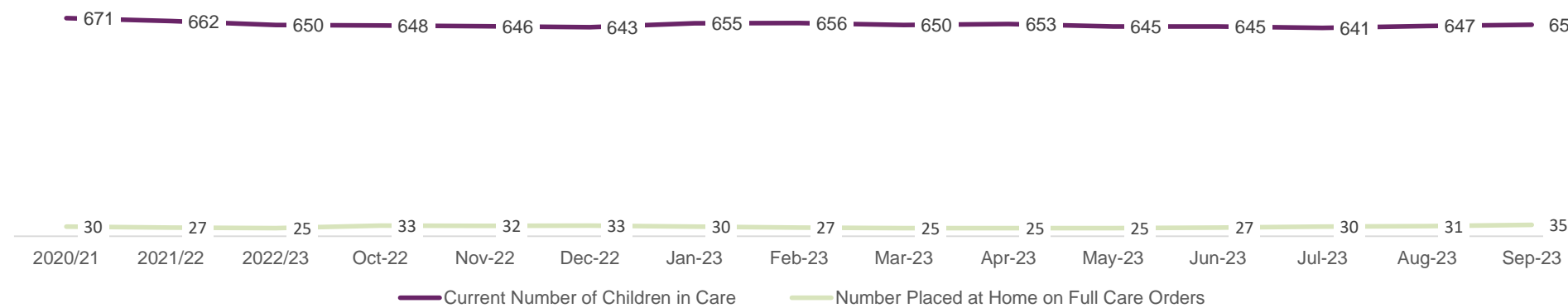
Walsall Children's Services Corporate Parenting Board Quarter 2 - 2023/24



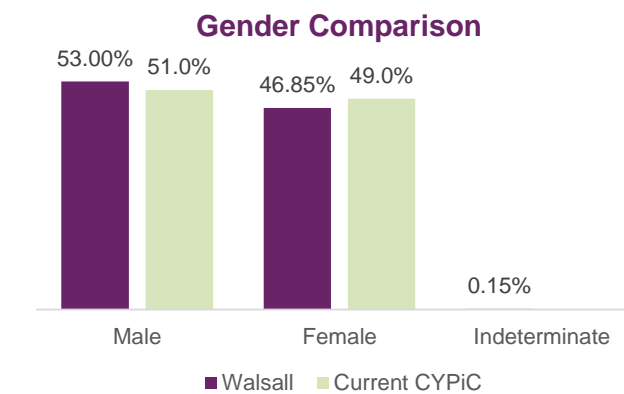
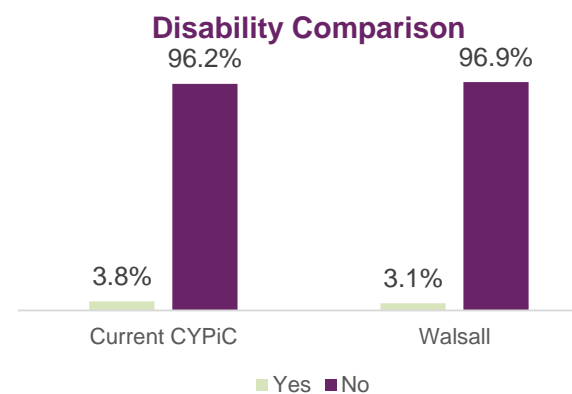
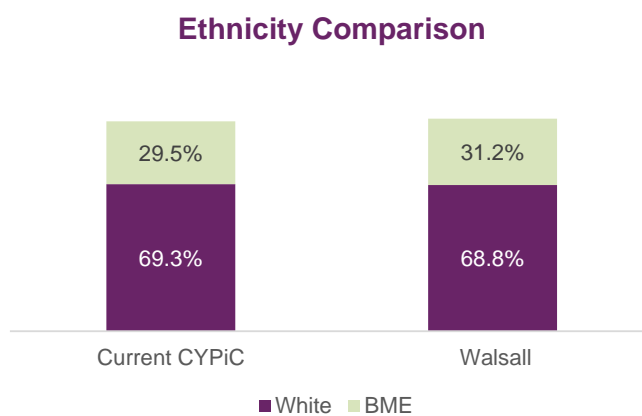
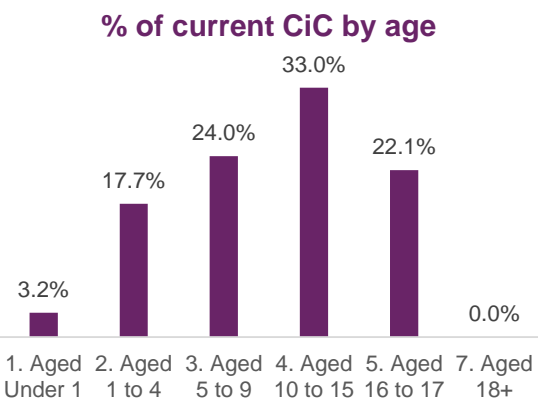
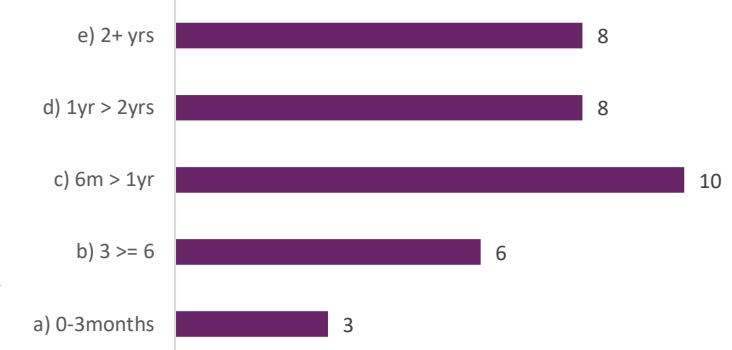
Current Children in Care (CiC) Profile



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



Length of Time placed at home on full care orders



Commentary

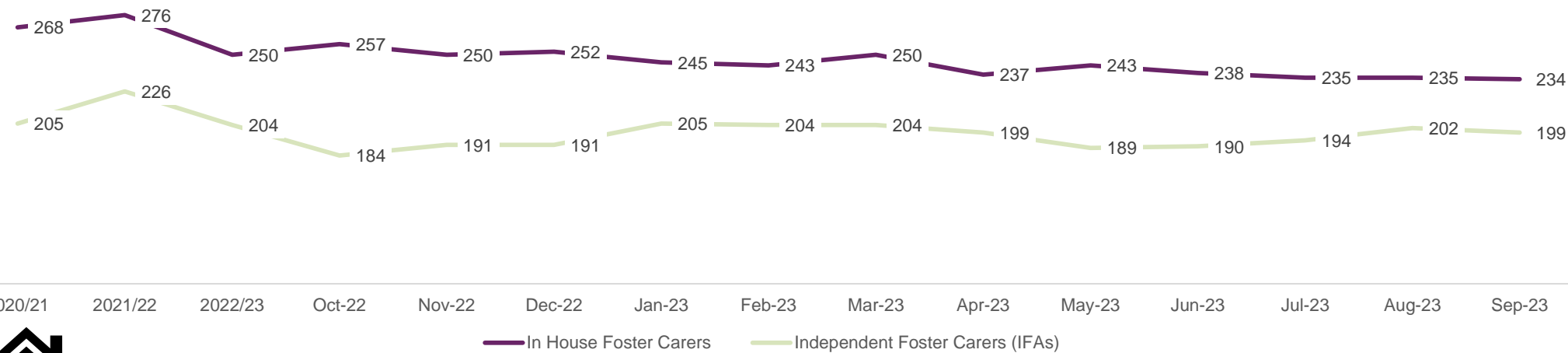
Demographic data has been taken from the 2020 mid-year population estimates. The proportion of children from ethnic backgrounds other than white is increasing, largely within the Asian and Other groups. This is more generally driven by the increasing number of children seeking asylum. A slightly higher percentage of Children in Care have a disability (3.8%), compared to the overall 0-17 population (3.1%). A slightly lower percentage of Children in Care are male (51.0%) compared to the overall 0-17 population of Walsall (53.0%). The number of boys entering care has increased by 16.9%, whereas the number of girls entering care has reduced by 31.9%. The increase in children in remand and seeking asylum contributes to this. Boys are more likely to move into residential care either as a first placement or as a placement move.

Overall the number of children who are entering care is falling. In 2022-23 just 163 children entered care (23.5 per 10,000) compared with 180 children entered care in 2021-22(26.0 per 10,000 population) This is a reduction of 9.4% on 2021-22 and 31.2% on the number that entered care in 2019-20.

The current rate of 94 per 10,000 remains below that of our statistical neighbours but is still higher than the 2022/23 England and West Midlands averages. We currently have 35 children placed at home on full care order, this is a highest its been in a 12 month period. 16 of the 35 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 and IFA's has increased but remains fairly stable.



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

**108
17.4%**

2022/23 Walsall = 18.0%
2021/22 Walsall = 13.0%
2021/22 West Midlands = 16.0%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 16.1%
2021/22 England = 17.0%

% CiC 3 or more placements in a year

**53
8.1%**

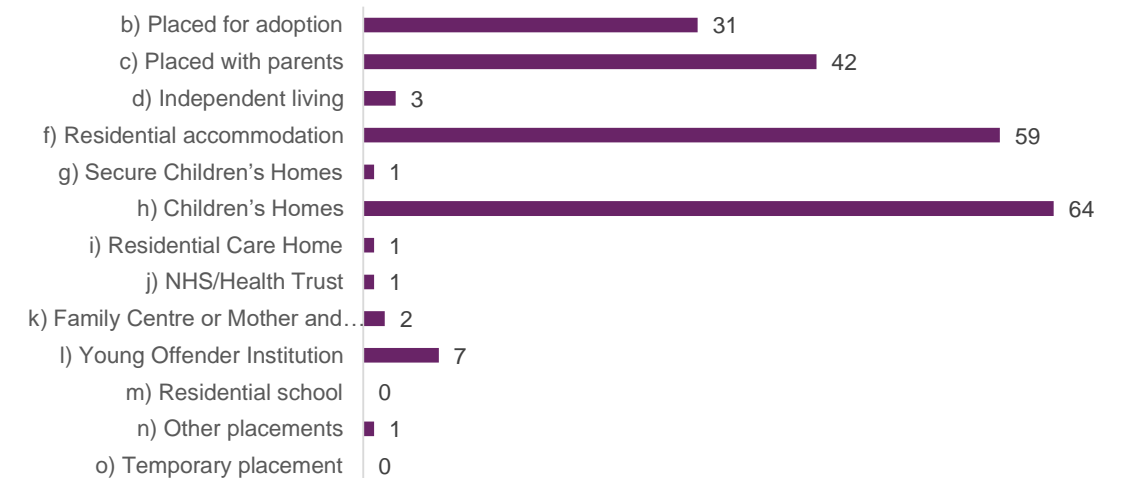
2022/23 Walsall = 9.0%
2021/22 Walsall = 7.0%
2021/22 West Midlands = 10.0%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 9.7%
2021/22 England = 10.0%

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

**173
61.6%**

2022/23 Walsall = 67.0%
2021/22 Walsall = 68.0%
2022/23 West Midlands = 69.0%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 68.2%
2022/23 England = 69.0%

Current CiC by Placement Type (non-fostered)



Commentary

We are seeing a fluctuating picture of children who enter a residential children's home as a first placement. The proportion of children who entered a residential children's home as a first placement was relatively low, prior to 2021-22, with the number of children ranging from between seven and nine. In 2021-22 this increased to 14 (7.8%) but in 2022-23 the number fell back to six (3.6%).

17.4% of Walsall's CiC are placed 20 plus miles from their home address this is a slight decrease on the 2022-23 out-turn of 18%. 8.1% of the CiC population have had 3 or more placements within a year. This is also lower than the 2022-23 out-turn of 9%. The percentage of CiC in the same placement for over 2 years if CiC for over 2.5 years (61.6%) is lower than regional and statistical neighbour averages for 2022/23.

An increase in children remanded to custody in 2022-23 with 14 children entering care compared to 3 in 2021-23. Whilst this increase can be attributed to a significant incident the Youth Justice Partnership are undertaking needs assessment of all children involved in serious violence to influence wider partnership strategy.

Statutory Visits and Reviews



% Visits undertaken to timescale (12 month rolling)

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

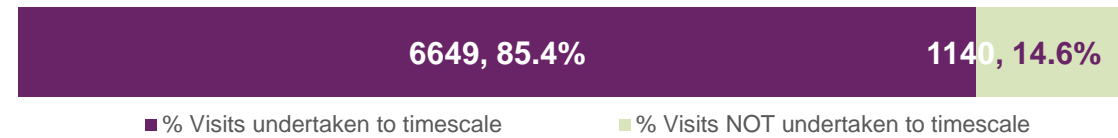
Time Since Last Visit Undertaken	Number	%
a) 0 - 6 weeks	546	83.9%
b) 6 - 12 weeks	75	11.5%
c) 12 - 18 weeks	16	2.5%
d) 18+ weeks	1	0.2%
No Visit Recorded - new in last month	13	2.0%
Total	651	100.0%



Reviews carried out within timescale (12 month Rolling)

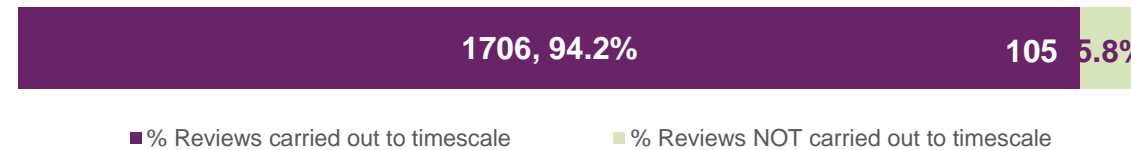
Where reviews for children looked after are carried out within timescale

Time Since Latest Review	Number	%
a) 0 > 3 months	406	62.4%
b) 3 > 6 months	220	33.8%
c) 6 > 9 months	6	0.9%
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	18	2.8%
Total	651	100.0%



2022/23 Year Out-turn = 87%
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 89%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 92%

% of children in care by time since last visit



2022/23 Year Out-turn 95%
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 91%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 95%

% 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 85.4% with 83.9% seen within 6 weeks of the previous visit or coming in care. There were 13 CiC with no visits recorded as 30th Sept 23, these children would have entered into care during the month.

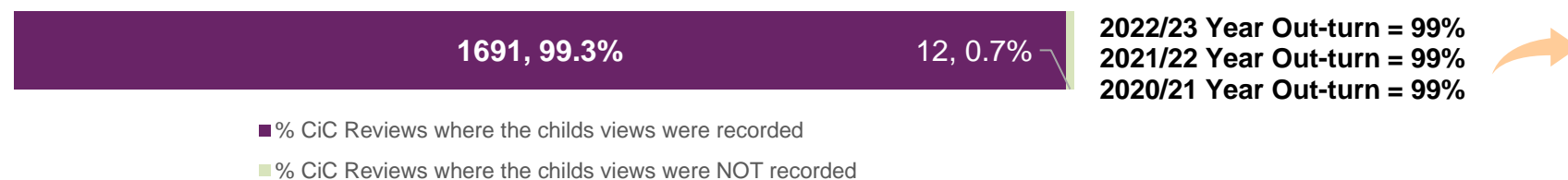
94.2% of reviews have been undertaken within timescales. 96.2% of current Children in Care have had a review within the last 6 months. 2.8% (18) children currently have no review because they were new into care during the last month, however, this review will have been completed on time and will be in the process of being recorded (IROs have 20 working days from the date of review to write their reports).

Views of the child



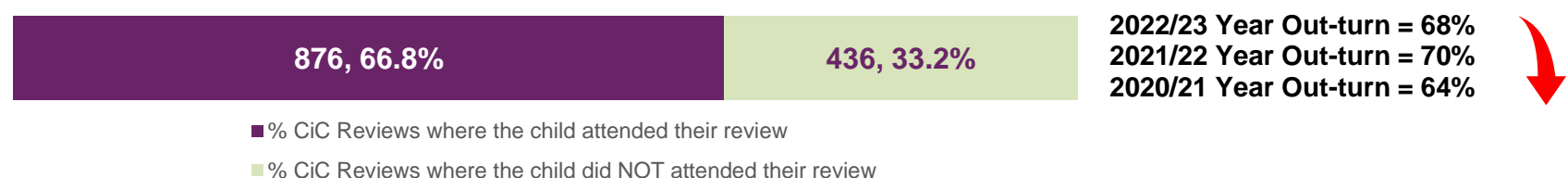
% CiC Reviews where the child's views were recorded (12 month rolling period)

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)

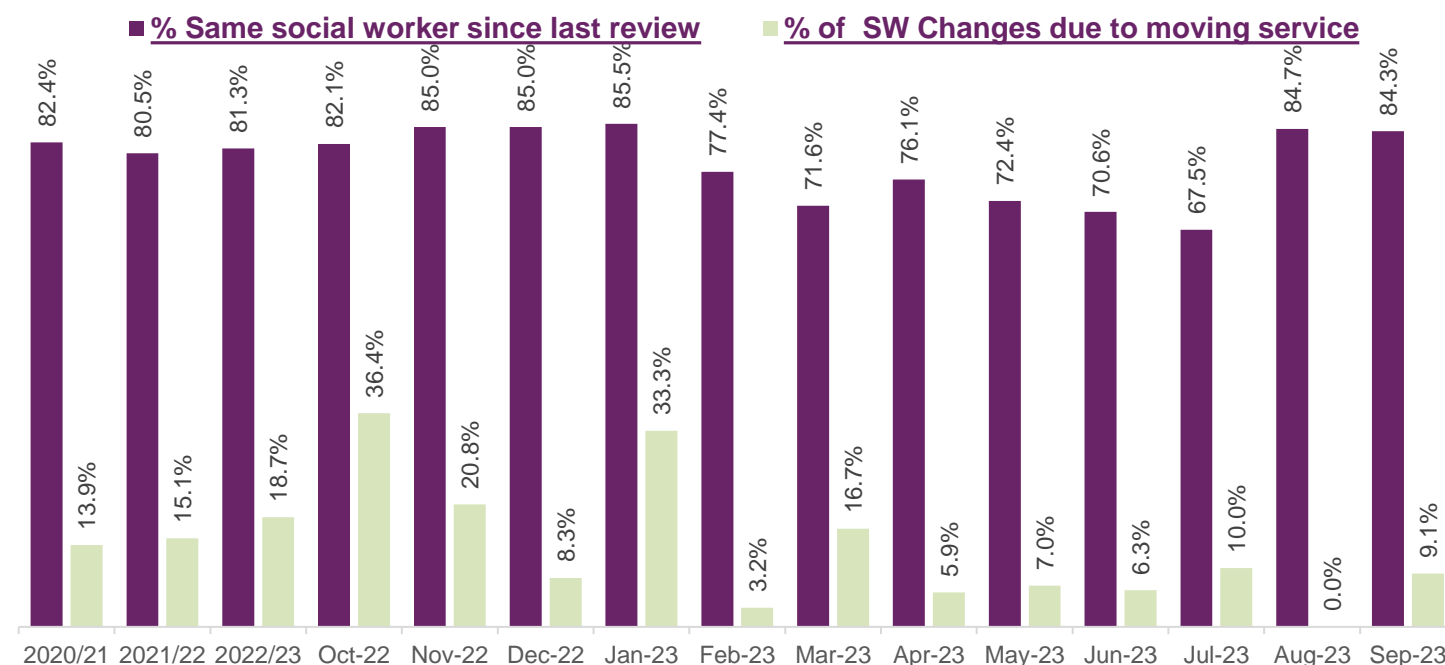


% CiC Reviews where the child attended their review (12 month rolling period)

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



Type of Participation at Review (12 month rolling period)	Number	%
PN0 - child under 4 at time of review	380	N/A
PN1 - child attends and speaks for themselves	811	61.3%
PN2 - child attends and an advocate speaks for them	36	2.7%
PN3 - child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	15	1.1%
PN4 - child attends; does not speak for themselves / convey their views	20	1.5%
PN5 - child does not attend but asks advocate to speak for them	86	6.5%
PN6 - child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	215	16.3%
PN7 - child does not attend nor conveys their view to the conference	11	0.8%
PN8 - where IRO visits/talks to the child to obtain their views for the meeti	118	8.9%
Total Reviews	1703	
No Participation Code Reported	11	0.8%



Commentary

The child's views were recorded at 99.3% of CiC reviews. This is similar to the out-turns for the previous three years, this remains very positive performance.

66.8% of children attended their review in the previous 12 months. This is a slight decrease compared with previous years.

The percentage of children who have kept the same social worker since the last review has remained stable over the last two months for the first time since January 23. Since February 23 the percentage has ranged from a high of 77.4% to a low in July 23 of 67.5%. The 67.5% in July 23 was the lowest it's been in a 12 month period.

The percentage of social worker changes due to moving services has fluctuated throughout the year and in September this was at 9.1%. There were no social worker changes in August 23.

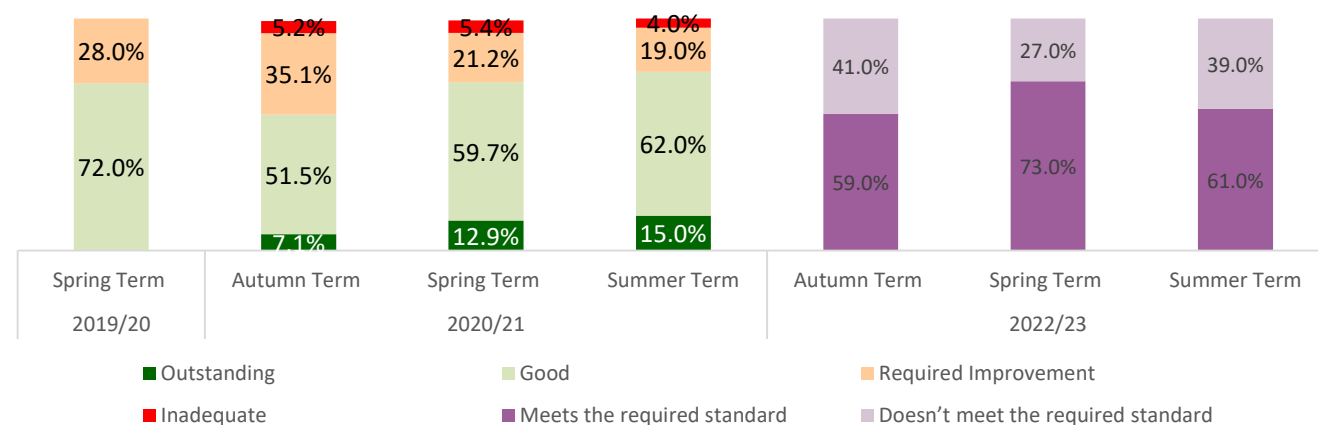
Education



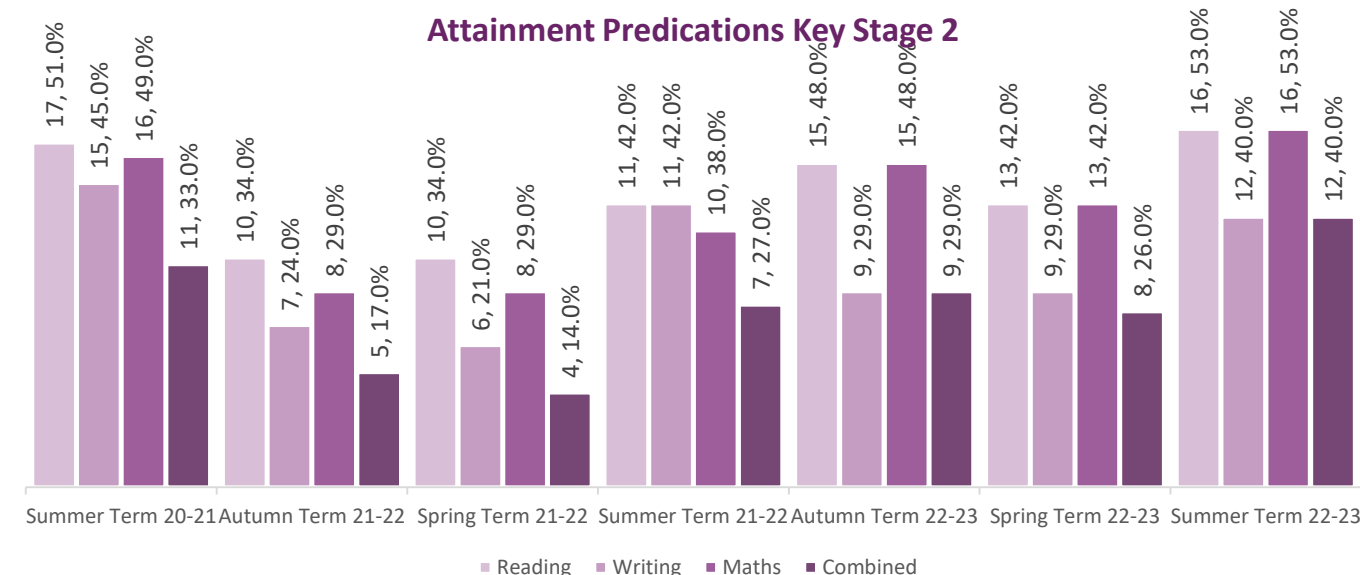
RAG Ratings of PEPs

The quality assurance process changed in 2021/22 from being rated inadequate, requires improvement, good and outstanding, to meets the required and standard and doesn't meet required standard this enables us to distinguish between very good and very poor PEPs'.

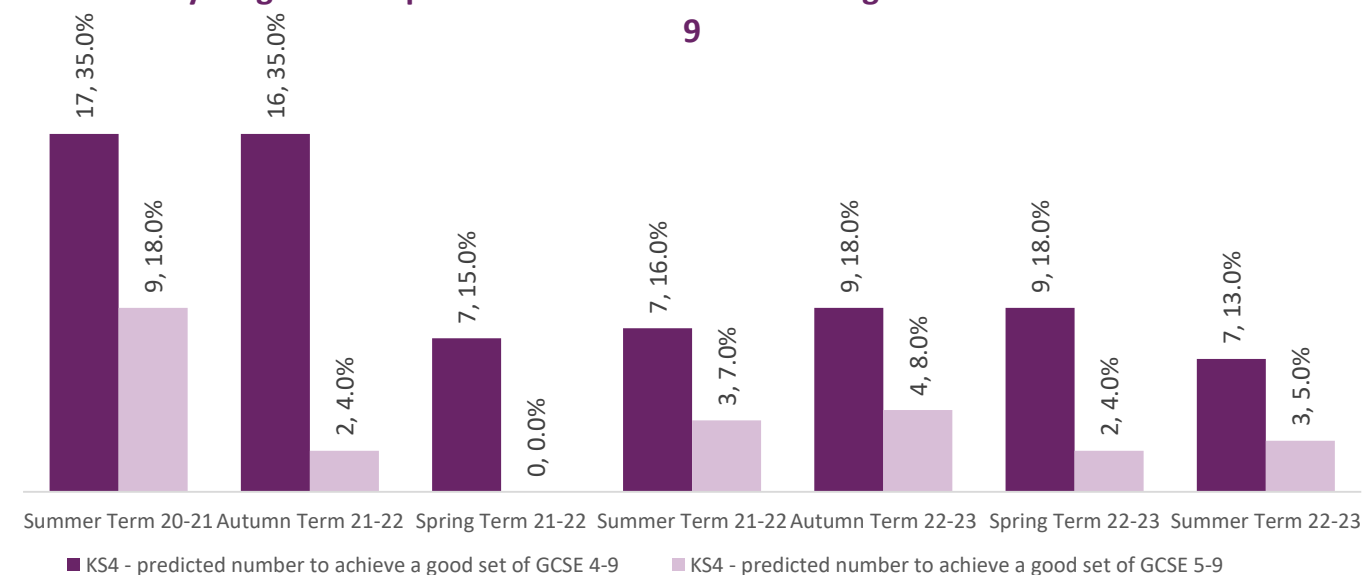
RAG Ratings of PEPs



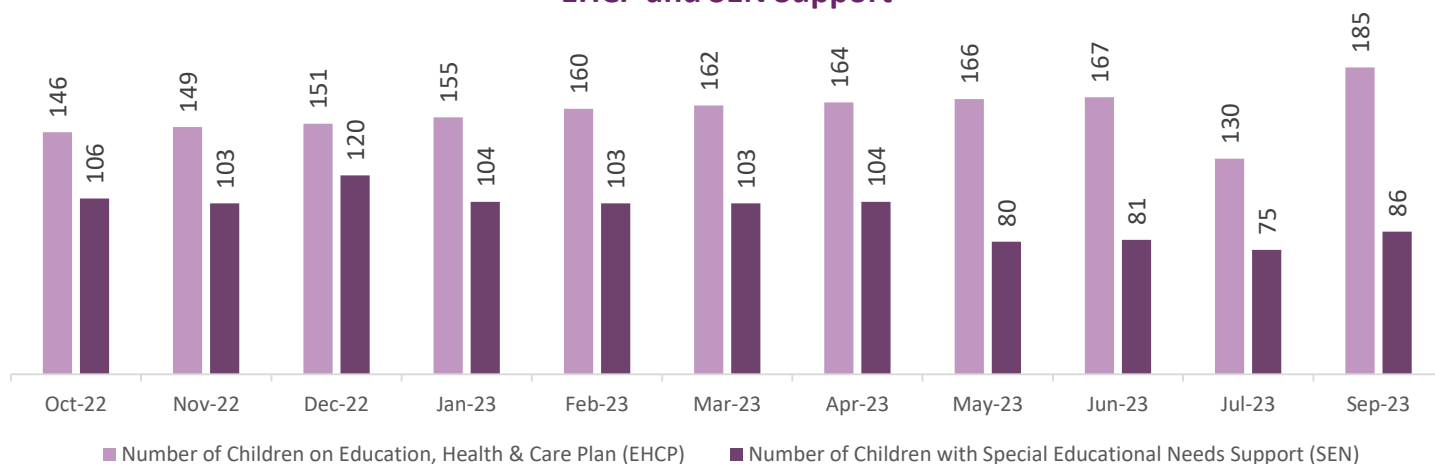
Attainment Predications Key Stage 2



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



EHCP and SEN Support



Commentary

Please Note - The quality assurance process for the rating of completed PEPs has changed from a "RAG" system to "Meets the required standard" and "Doesnt meet the required standard"

KS2 -The percentage of children predicted to achieve the expected level of attainment for KS2 combined in reading, writing and maths in summer 2022-23 was 40% which is a significant Increase compared to summer 2021-22 (27%), and also higher than the previous term (26%)

KS4 -The percentage of children predicted to achieve a good set of GCSE (4-9) reported in summer 2022-23 was 13% which is a decrease compared to summery 2021-22 (16%). Likewise the percentage of children predicted to achieve a good set of GCSE (5-9) reported in summer 2022-23 is 5% which is an decrease compared to sumer 2021-22 (7%).

The number of children with an EHCP has increased throughout the year from 146 in October 2022 and is at curently at 185.

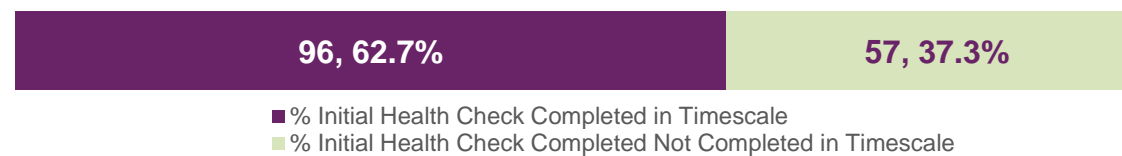
The number of children with SEN support has decreased froma high of 120 in December 2022 to 86 in September 2023.

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 (12 month rolling figure)

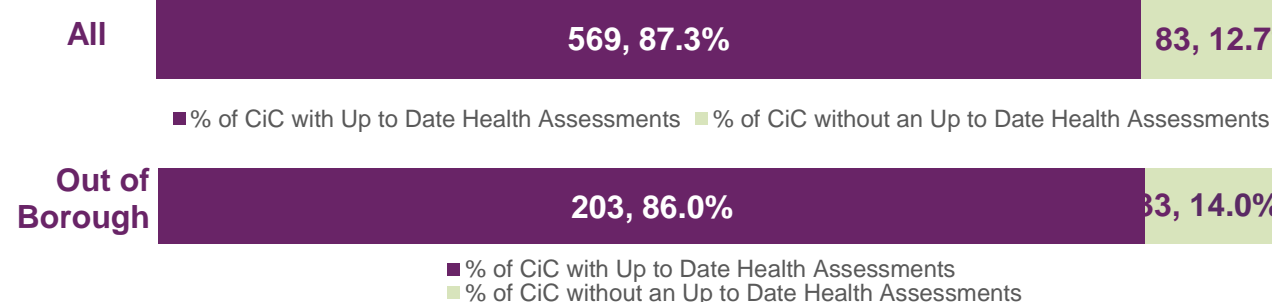


2022/23 Year Out-turn = 66%
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 78%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 75%

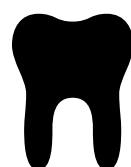


% of CiC with Up to Date Health Assessments

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

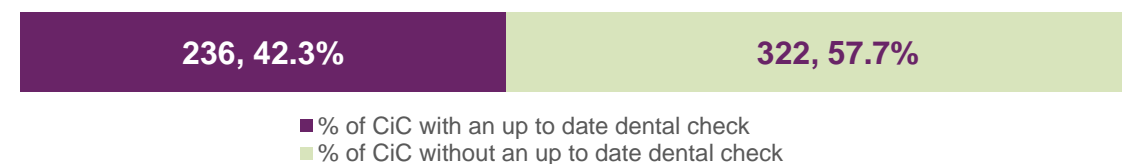


2022/23 Walsall = 86%
2021/22 Walsall = 91%
2022/23 West Midlands = 83%
2022/23 Stat Neighbours = 91%
2022/23 England = 89%



% of CiC with an up to date dental check

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



2022/23 Walsall = 88%
2021/22 Walsall = 88%
2022/23 West Midlands = 70%
2022/23 Stat Neighbours = 79%
2022/23 England = 76%



Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

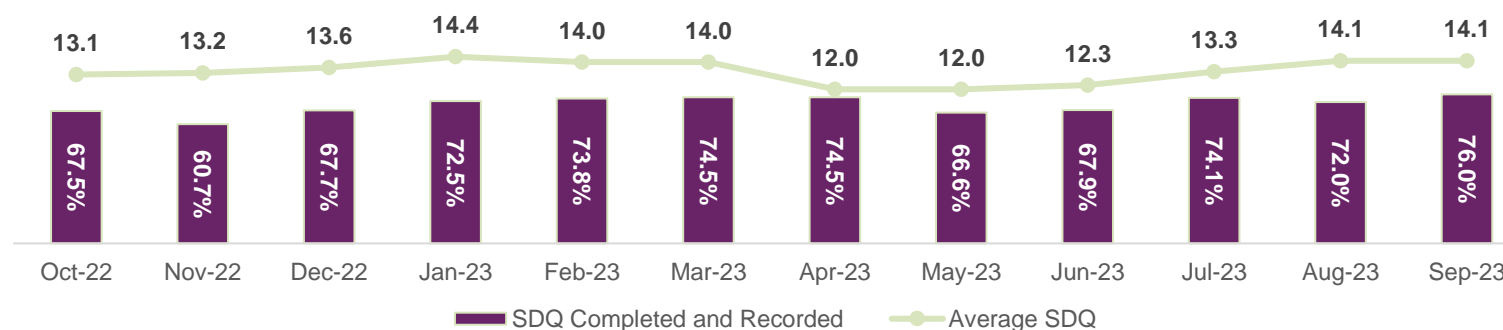
The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire should be completed for every child looked after for at least 12 months and aged 5 to 16 years-old.

Average SDQ Score
12.3

Breakdown

Score	Considered	Number	% of those eligible for SDQ	% against all Children
Score 0 - 13	Normal	178	49%	28.4%
Score 14 - 16	Borderline	54	15%	8.6%
Score 17 - 40	Cause for Concern	133	36%	21.2%

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



Commentary

More children, coming into our care, have complex support needs, with high levels of need associated with exploitation, mental health difficulties, and have required Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. Performance shows an increase in the number of children in care have up to date health checks with 87.3%, compared to 86% at the end of quarter 4 2022-23. There has been an increase in the percentage of children whose initial health checks are done on time 62.7% currently compared to 66% at the end of Q4 2022/23. 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.

The Dental checks indicator is an indicator that increases month on month, so you should see significant impact quarter upon quarter. At the end of Q2, the figure is 42.3%. However, the figure for Q4 2022/23 was 88%.

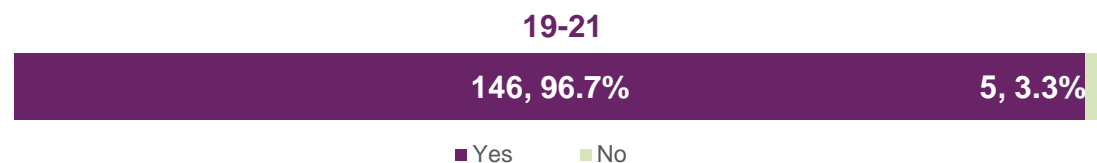
The proportion of SDQ's completed and recorded has fluctuated throughout the period, with 76.0% in September 2023. compared with 67.5% in October 2022. The average SDQ score is currently 12.3. This remains relatively consistent. 133 children currently have an SDQ score that suggests there may be a cause 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

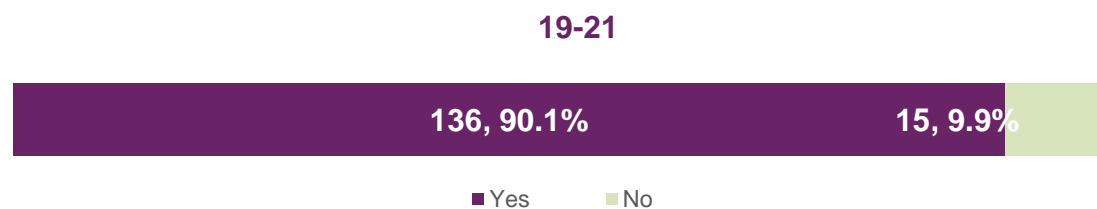


2022/23 Year Out-turn = 99%
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 95%
2022/23 West Midlands = 96%
2022/23 Stat Neighbours = 96%
2022/23 England = 96%



Care Leavers in suitable accommodation

Care Leavers whose accommodation is classed as suitable for ages 19-21 (excluding 'gone abroad', 'deported' and 'residence not known')

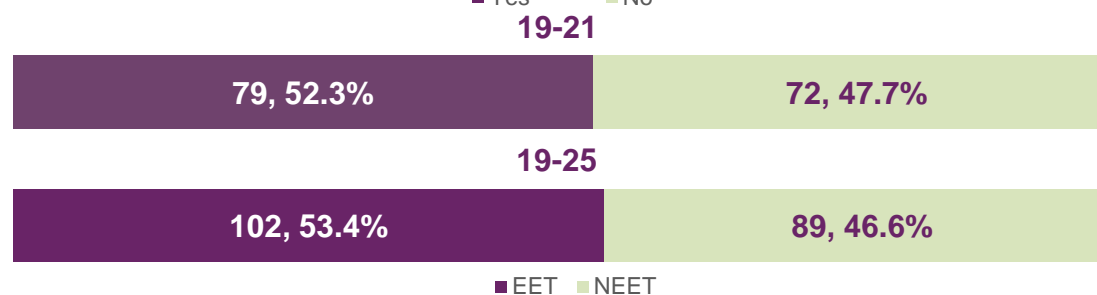


2022/23 Year Out-turn = 96%
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 91%
2022/23 West Midlands = 88%
2022/23 Stat Neighbours = 90%
2022/23 England = 88%



Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

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

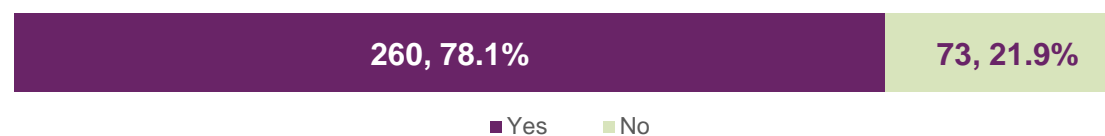


2022/23 Year Out-turn = 54%
2021/21 Year Out-turn = 54%
2022/23 West Midlands = 55%
2022/23 Stat Neighbours = 52%
2022/23 England = 55%



Care Leavers available to work - All Ages

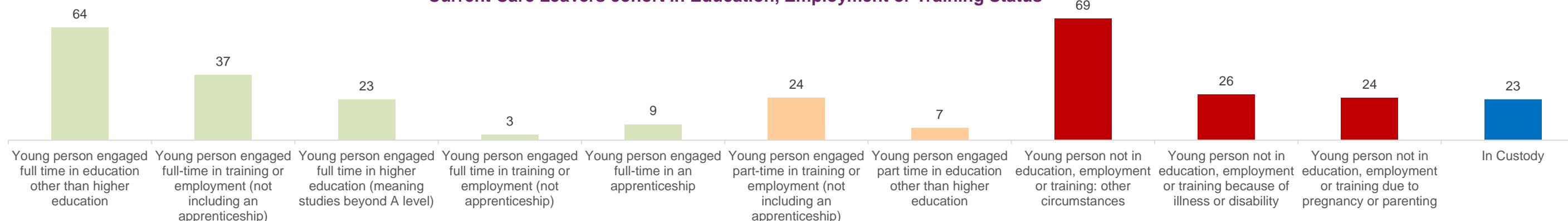
Care Leavers who are available to work this excludes all those that are not available for the labour market due to illness/disability, pregnancy or young mothers or being in custody. (NALM)



2022/23 Year Out-turn = 83%
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 87%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 86%



Current Care Leavers cohort in Education, Employment or Training Status



Commentary

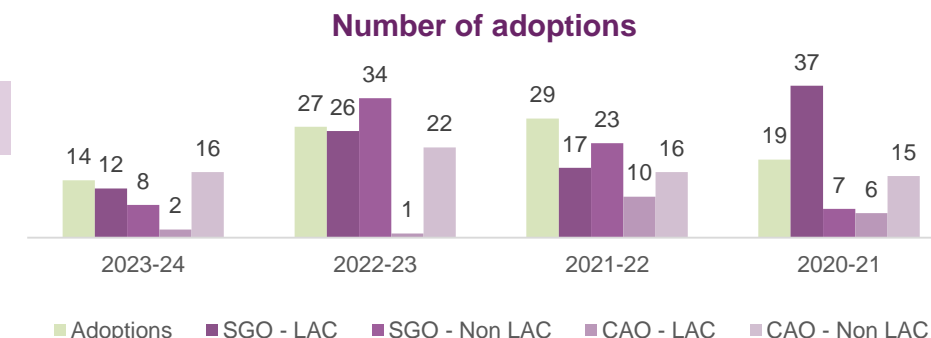
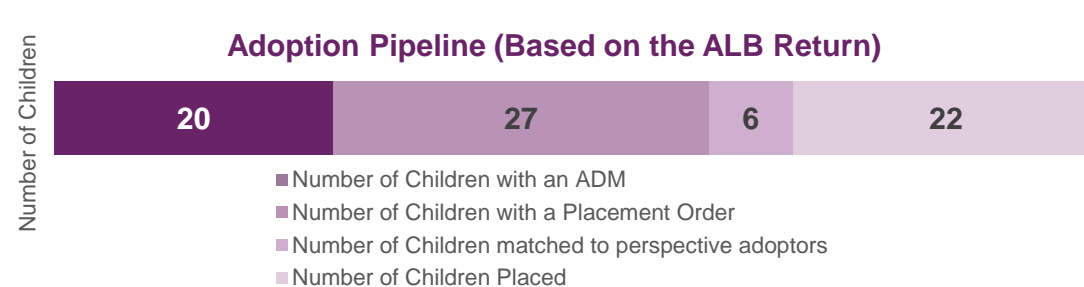
The percentage of 19-21 year old care leavers in education, employment or training at the end of quarter 2 of 2023-24 was 52.3%. This has decreased slightly compared to 2022-23 out turn of 54%. The 19-25 cohort is similar to last years out turn, with 53.4% care leavers in Education, Employment or Training.

78.1% 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. 23 of Walsall's care leavers are currently in custody. The number of of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains high with 90.1%, although this has decreased from 96% at the end of March 2023.

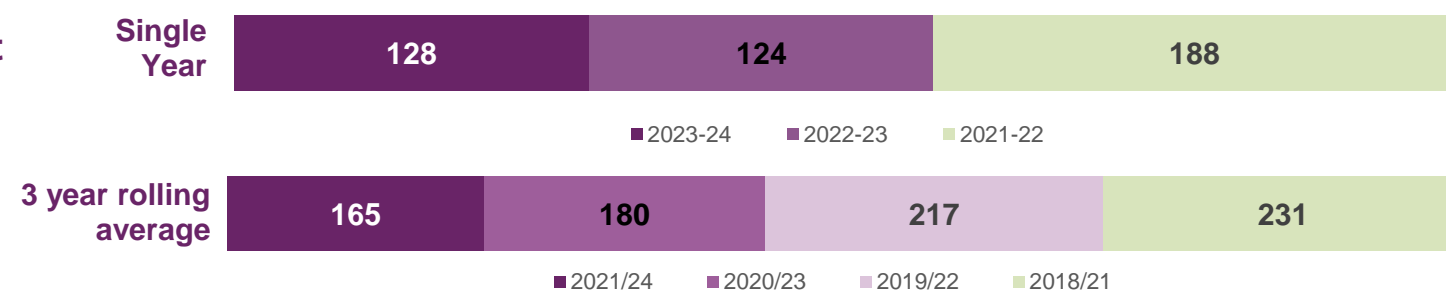
Adoption and Permanency



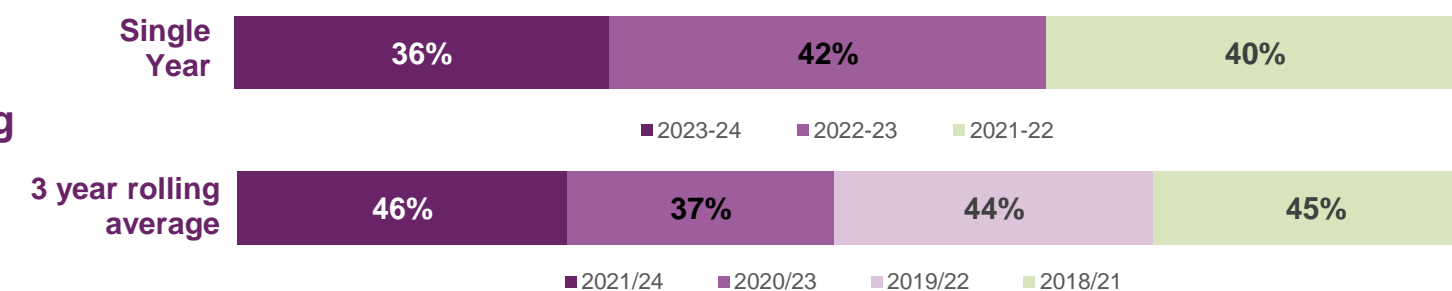
Adoption Pipeline



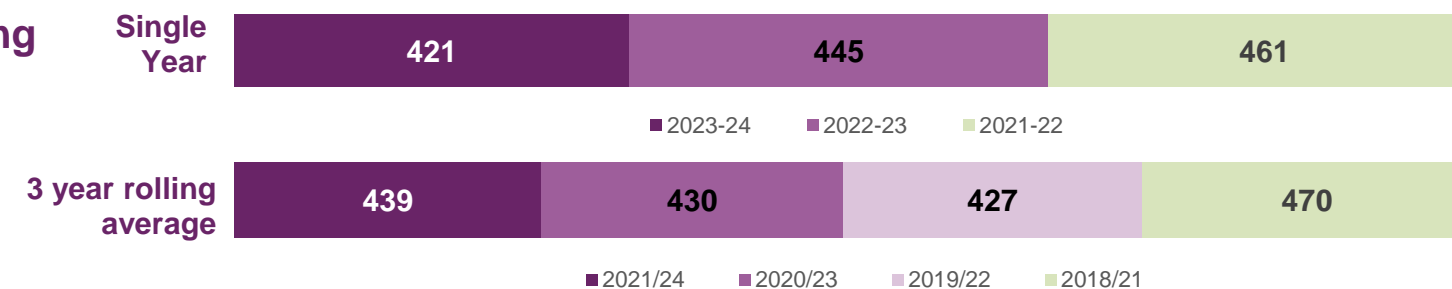
A2 - Average time between receiving court authority to place and finding a match



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 27 adoptions during 2022/23 this based on the latest ALB data. In 2023/24 so far 14 children were adopted.

During 2023/24, children were waiting marginally longer time than in 2022/23 between receiving court authority to place and finding a match - this was 128 days compared to 124 days in 2022/23. 36% of Children wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.

For many children and young people in care, SGOs are a positive way to provide a loving and caring home and enable children to leave care, supporting closer links to their birth families, siblings and wider family and friend networks and, where this is right for the child or young person, we will provide the support needed to enable an SGO to be put in place. In 2022/23 60 children ceased to be looked after due to special guardianship orders this is a significant increase on the 40 in 2021-22. Between October 2022 and September 2023, 20 Children so far have ceased to be looked after due to special guardianship orders (12 - LAC and 8 - Non LAC) and 18 due to child arrangement orders (2 - LAC and 16 - Non LAC).