

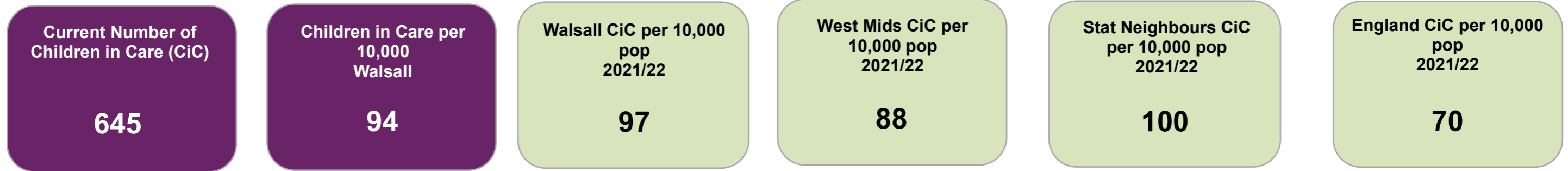
Walsall Children's Services Corporate Parenting Board Quarter 1 - 2023/24



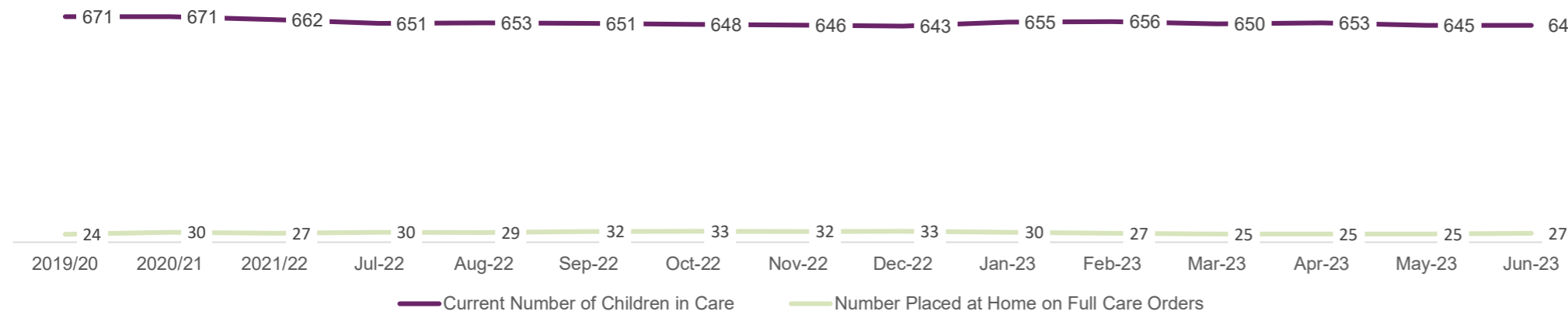
Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

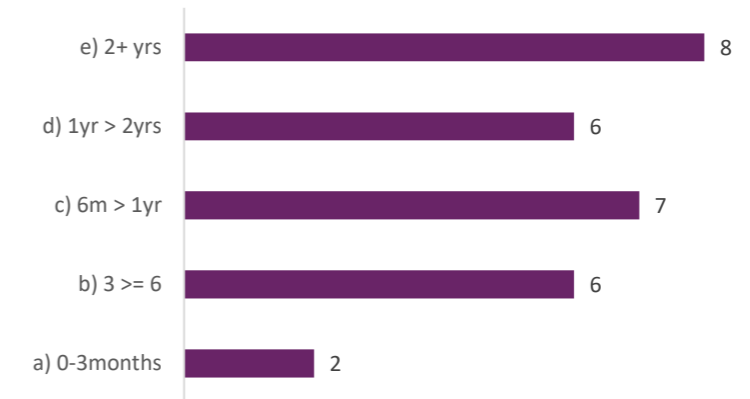
Current Children in Care (CiC) Profile



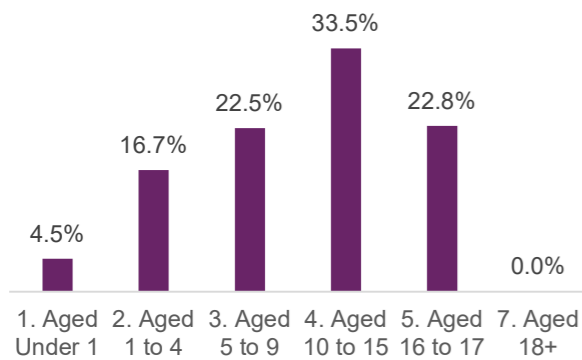
Number of Children in Care in Walsall (12 Month Rolling)



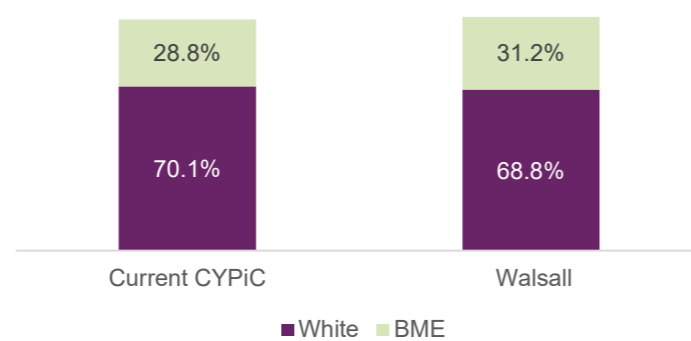
Length of Time placed at home on full care orders



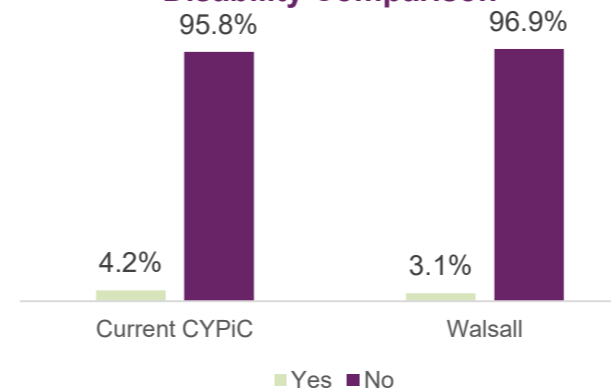
% of current CiC by age



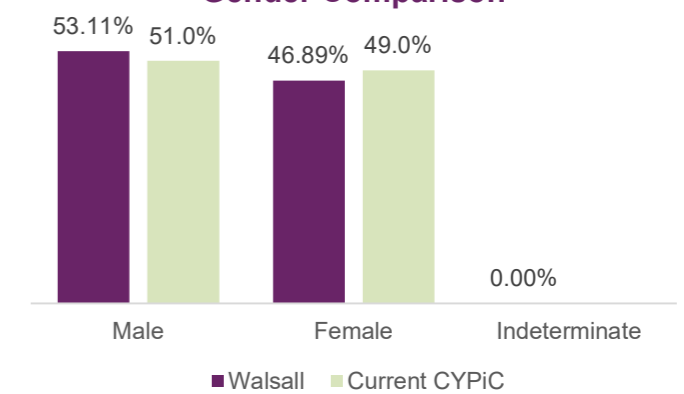
Ethnicity Comparison



Disability Comparison



Gender Comparison



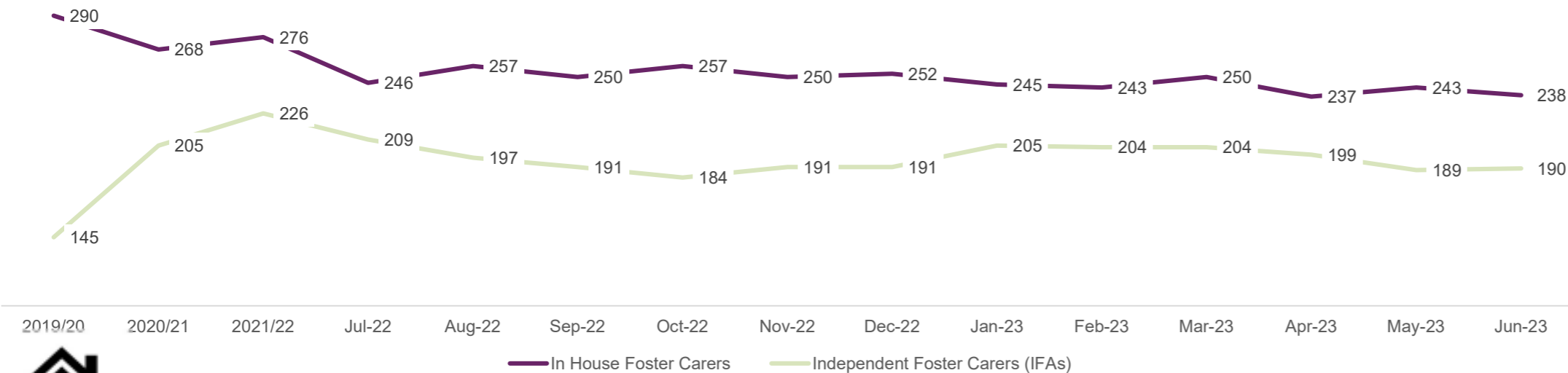
Commentary

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 (4.2%), 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 (53.1%).

The current Children in Care population has continued to decrease slightly from 661 at the end of 2021/22 to 645 at the end of Q1 of the current year (2023/24). The current rate of 97 per 10,000 remains below that of our statistical neighbours but is still higher than the 2020/21 England and West Midlands averages. We currently have 27 children placed at home on full care order, this is a slight increase from 25 at the end of Q4 2022-23. 14 of the 27 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
110
17.7%

2021/22 Walsall = 14.0%
2020/21 Walsall = 12.0%
2021/22 West Midlands = 15.0%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 16.0%
2021/22 England = 16.0%

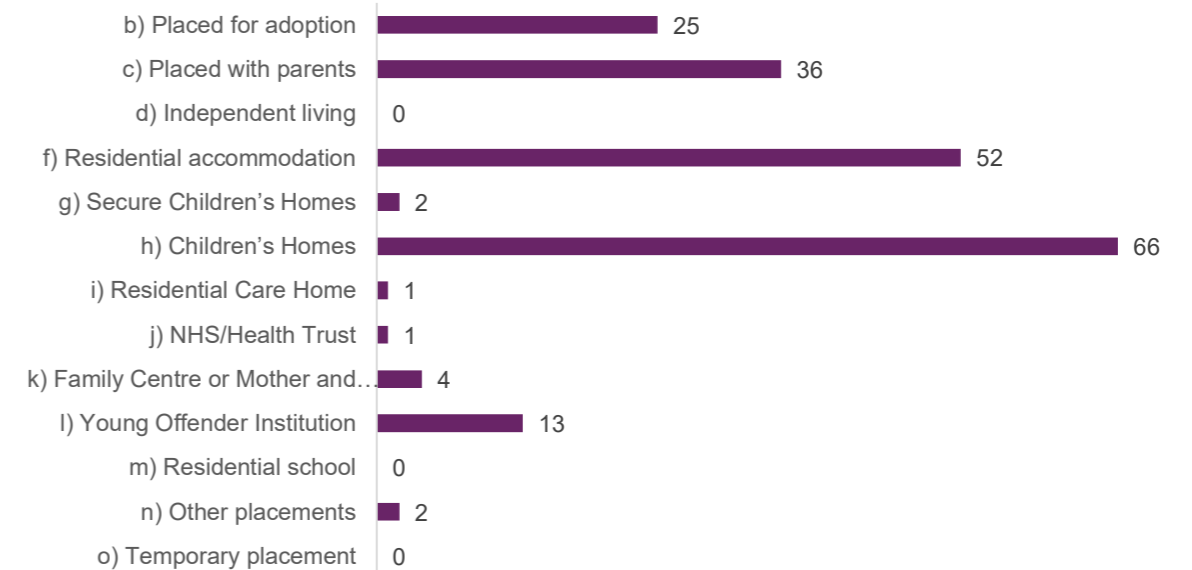
% CiC 3 or more placements in a year
65
10.1%

2021/22 Walsall = 7.0%
2020/21 Walsall = 7.0%
2021/22 West Midlands = 9.0%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 8.1%
2021/22 England = 10.0%

% of CiC in same placement for over 2 years if CLA for over 2.5 years
190
60.8%

2021/22 Walsall = 69.0%
2020/21 Walsall = 68.0%
2021/22 West Midlands = 71.0%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 72.3%
2021/22 England = 71.0%

Current CiC by Placement Type (non-fostered)



Commentary

Trends for children placed with in house foster carers have remained fairly stable during the first quarter of 2023/24. Currently Walsall has 238 children placed with in house foster carers, lower than the out-turn for 2021-22. Walsall has 190 children placed with independent fostering agencies.

16.5% of Walsall's CiC are placed 20 plus miles from their home address this is an increase on the 2020-21 out-turn. 9.0% of the CiC population have had 3 or more placements within a year. This is also higher than the 2020-21 out-turn. The percentage of CiC in the same placement for over 2 years if CiC for over 2.5 years (70.5%) is slightly lower than regional and statistical neighbour averages for 2020/21.

Statutory Visits and Reviews



% Visits undertaken to timescale

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

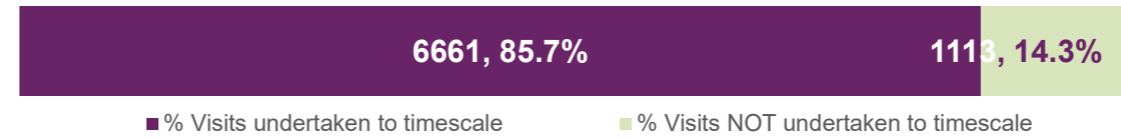
Time Since Last Visit Undertaken	Number	%
a) 0 - 6 weeks	576	89.3%
b) 6 - 12 weeks	65	10.1%
c) 12 - 18 weeks	2	0.3%
d) 18+ weeks	0	0.0%
No Visit Recorded - new in last month	2	0.3%
Total	645	100.0%



Reviews carried out within timescale (12month Rolling)

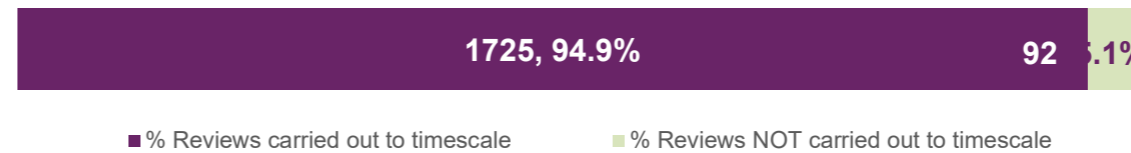
Where reviews for children looked after are carried out within timescale

Time Since Latest Review	Number	%
a) 0 > 3 months	421	65.3%
b) 3 > 6 months	210	32.6%
c) 6 > 9 months	5	0.8%
d) 9 > 12 months	1	0.2%
e) 1 year or more	2	0.3%
No review	0	0.0%
No Review - new in last month	6	0.9%
Total	645	100.0%



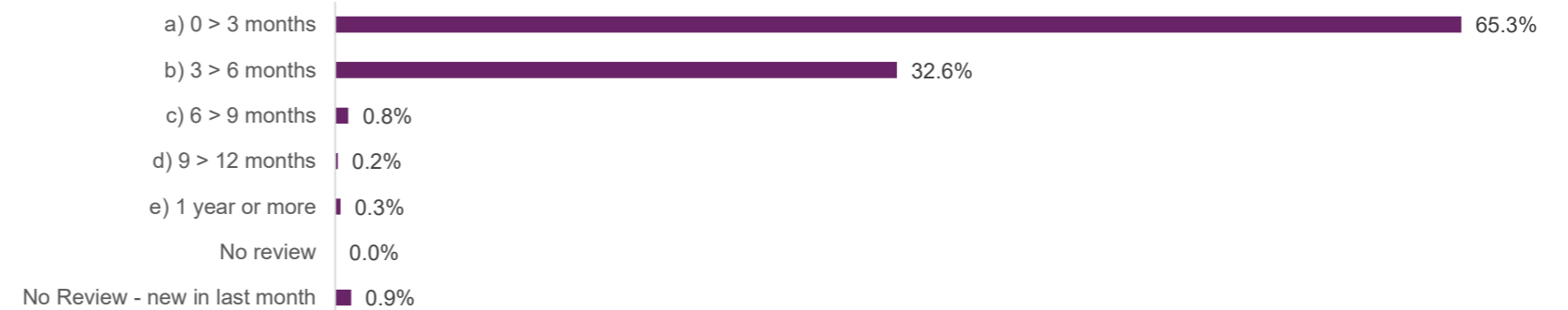
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 89%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 92%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 88%

% of children in care by time since last visit



2021/22 Year Out-turn 91%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 95%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 90%

% 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 85.7% with 89.3% seen within 6 weeks of the previous visit or coming in care. There were 2 CiC with no visits recorded as 30th June 2023, these children would have entered into care during the month.

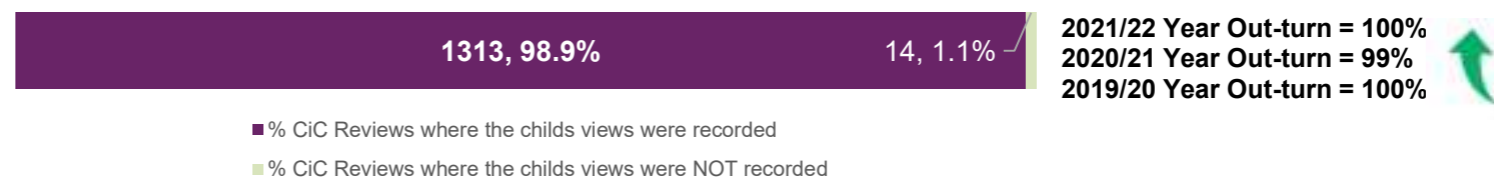
94.9% of reviews have been undertaken within timescales. 97.9% of current Children in Care have had a review within the last 6 months. 0.9% (6) children currently have no review because they were new into care during the last month, however, this review will have been completed on time and will be in 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's physically attends their review.



Type of Participation at Review (12 month rolling period)	Number	%
PN0 - child under 4 at time of review	403	N/A
PN1 - child attends and speaks for themselves	810	61.0%
PN2 - child attends and an advocate speaks for them	40	3.0%
PN3 - child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	13	1.0%
PN4 - child attends; does not speak for themselves / convey their views	31	2.3%
PN5 - child does not attend but asks advocate to speak for them	107	8.1%
PN6 - child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	211	15.9%
PN7 - child does not attend nor conveys their view to the conference	13	1.0%
PN8 - where IRO visits/talks to the child to obtain their views for the meeti	88	6.6%
Total Reviews	1730	
No Participation Code Reported	14	1.1%

Commentary

The child's views were recorded at 99.5% of CiC reviews. This is similar to the out-turns for the previous three years, this remains very positive performance.

69.5% of children attended their review in the previous 12 months. This is a increase compared with previous years and has been supported and enabled through the increased use of technology.

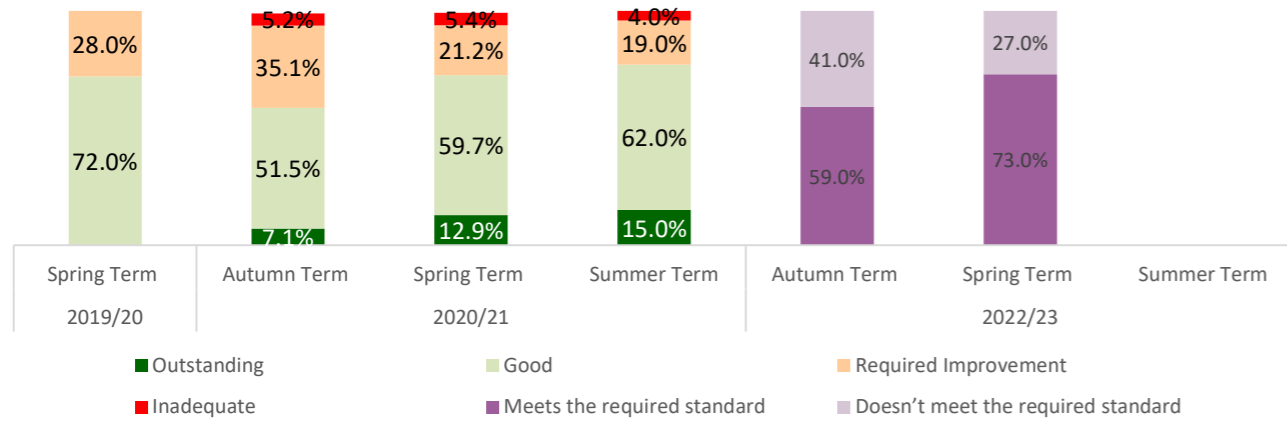
Education



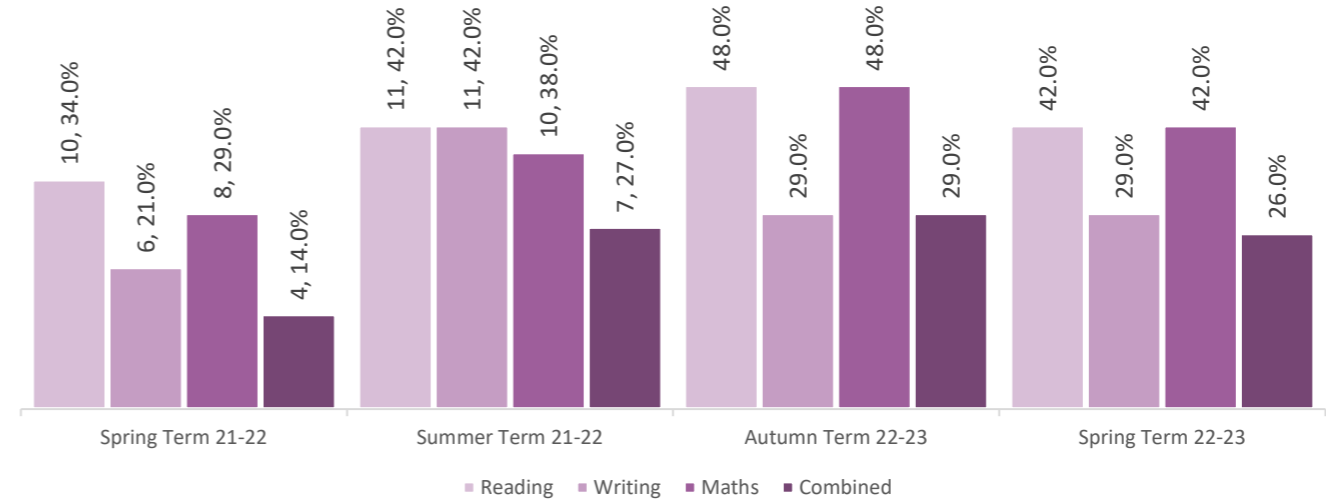
RAG Ratings of PEPS

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'.

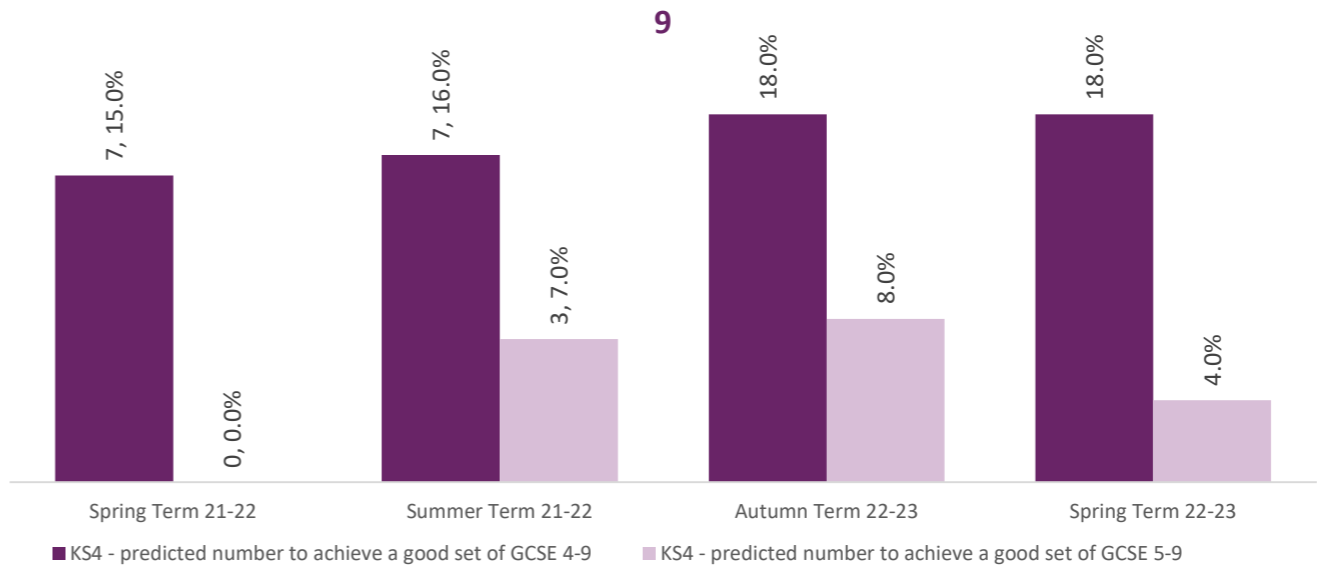
RAG Ratings of PEPS



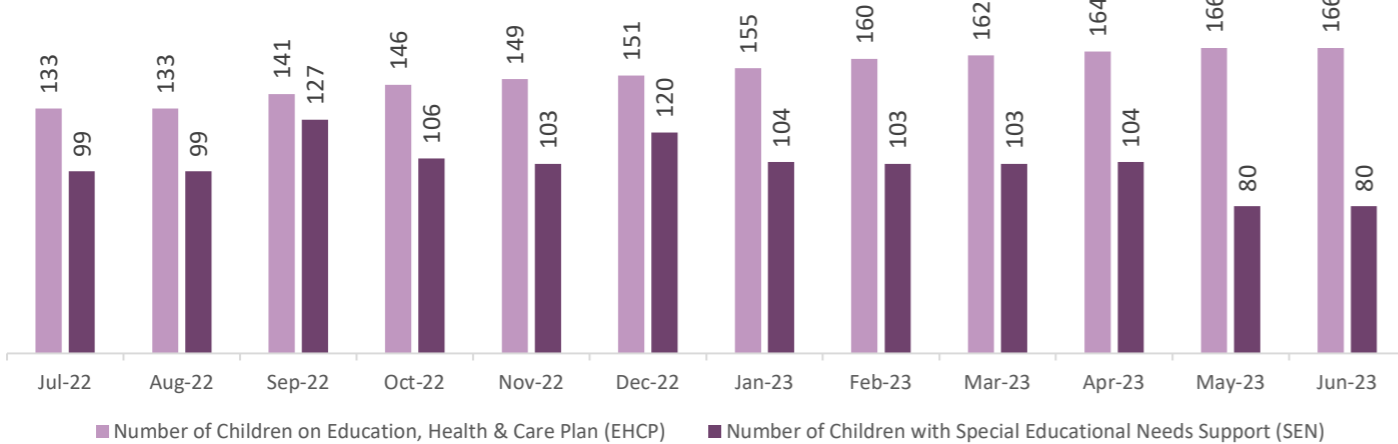
Attainment Predictions Key Stage 2



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 spring 2022-23 was 26% which is a significant Increase compared to spring 2021-22 (14%), but is slightly lower than the previous term (29%)

KS4 -The percentage of children predicted to achieve a good set of GCSE (4-9) reported in spring 2022-23 was 18% which is an increase compared to spring 2021-22 (15%). The percentage of children predicted to achieve a good set of GCSE (5-9) reported in spring 2022-23 is 4% which is an increase compared to spring 2021-22 (0%).

The number of children with an EHCP has increased throughout the year since July 2022 and is at curenly at 166, compared with 133 at the start of Q" 2022/23.

The number of children with SEN support has decreased from 127 in September 2022 to 80 in June 2023. September 2022 (127) was the highest month in the year.

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)

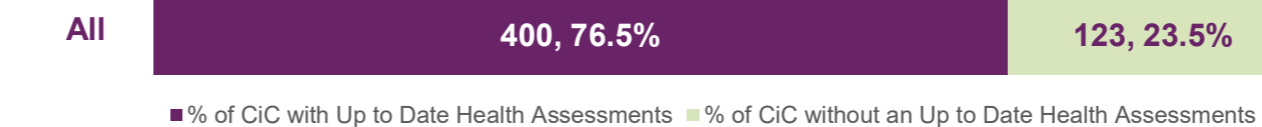


2021/22 Year Out-turn = 78%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 75%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 49%



% of CiC with Up to Date Health Assessments

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

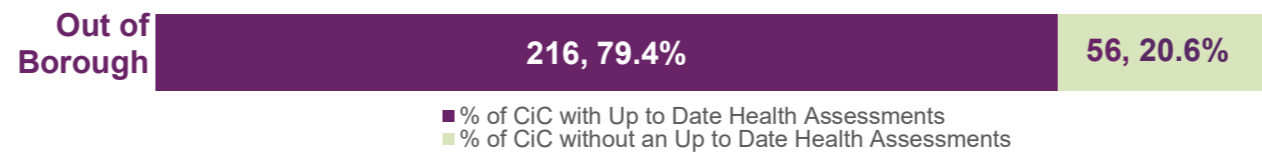


2021/22 Walsall = 91%
2020/21 Walsall = 85%
2021/22 West Midlands = 86%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 94%
2021/22 England = 89%



% of CiC with an up to date dental check

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



2021/22 Walsall = 88%
2020/21 Walsall = 43%
2021/22 West Midlands = 64%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 76%
2021/22 England = 70%



Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

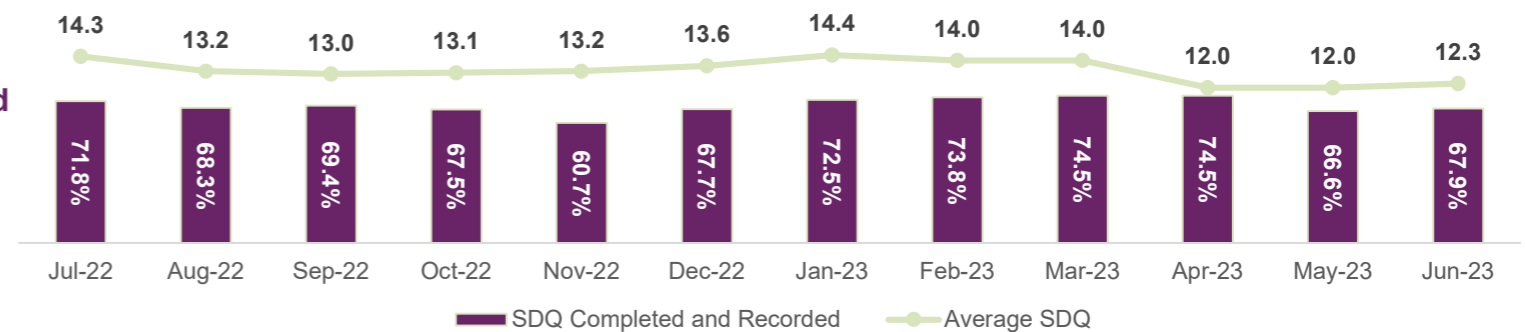
The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire should be completed for every child looked after for at least 12 months and aged 5 to 16 years-old.

Average SDQ Score
12.3

Breakdown

Score	Category	Number	% of those eligible for SDQ	% against all Children Looked
Score 0 - 13	Considered Normal	181	48%	28.1%
Score 14 - 16	Borderline	54	14%	8.4%
Score 17 - 40	Cause for Concern	139	37%	21.6%

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



Commentary

Performance shows a decrease in the number of children in care have up to date health checks with 76.5%, compared to 84.5% at the end of quarter 3 2022-23. There has been an increase in the percentage of children whose initial health checks are done on time 65.9% currently compared to 51.9% at the end of Q3 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 Q1, the figure is 18.9%. However, the figure for Q4 2022/23 was 87.5%.

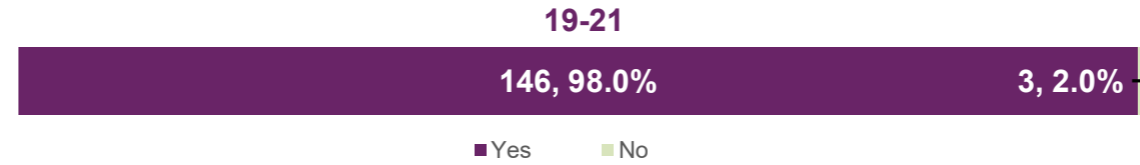
The proportion of SDQ's completed and recorded has remained fairly stable throughout the period, with 67.9% in June 2023. compared with 71.8% in July 2022, at the start of the period. The average SDQ score is currently 12.3. This remains relatively consistent. 139 children currently have an SDQ score 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

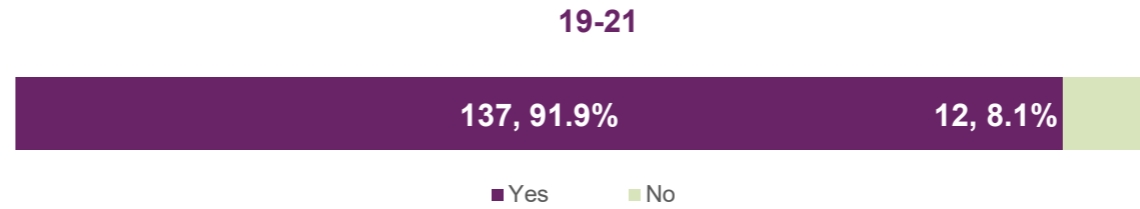


2021/22 Year Out-turn = 95%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 95%
2021/22 West Midlands = 94%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 98.5%
2021/22 England = 95%



Care Leavers in suitable accomodation

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

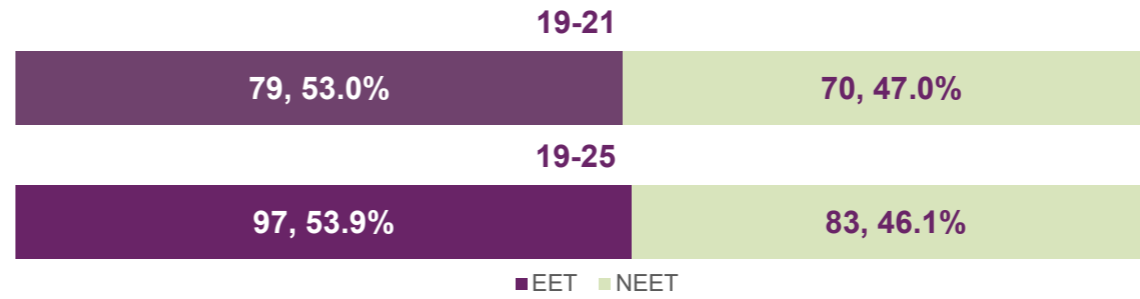


2021/22 Year Out-turn = 91%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 90%
2021/21 West Midlands = 86%
2021/21 Stat Neighbours = 89.5%
2021/21 England = 88%



Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

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

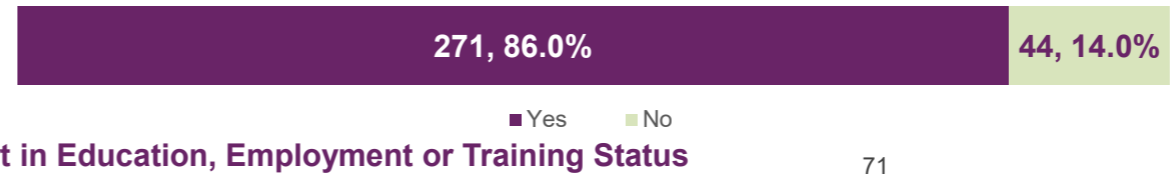


2021/22 Year Out-turn = 54%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 51%
2021/22 West Midlands = 52%
2021/22 Stat Neighbours = 49.6%
2021/22 England = 55%



Care Leavers available to work - All Ages

Care Leavers who are availble 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)



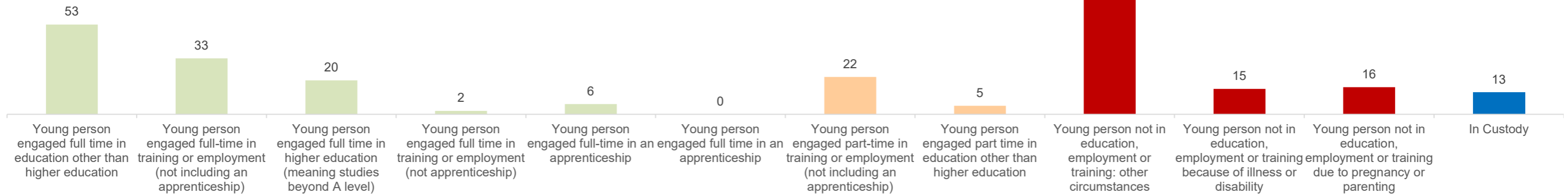
2021/22 Year Out-turn = 57%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 54%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 74%



2021/22 Year Out-turn = 87%
2020/21 Year Out-turn = 86%
2019/20 Year Out-turn = 86%



Current Care Leavers cohort in Education, Employment or Training Status



Commentary

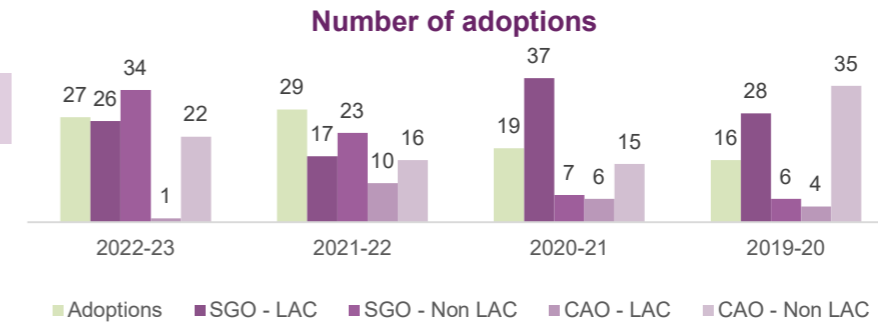
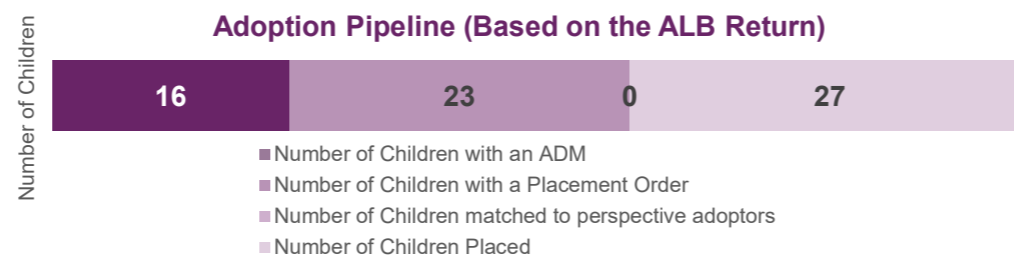
The percentage of 19-21 year old care leavers in education, employment or training at the end of quarter 3 of 2022-23 was 53.0%. This has decreased slightly compared to 2021-22 out turn of 54%. The 19-25 cohort is similar to last years out turn, with 53.9% care leavers in Education, Employment or Training compared with the 57% 2021/22 outturn.

86.0% 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. 13 of Walsall's care leavers are currently in custody. The number of of care leavers in suitable accomodation remains high with 91.9%, although this has decreased from 96.2% at the end of December 2022.

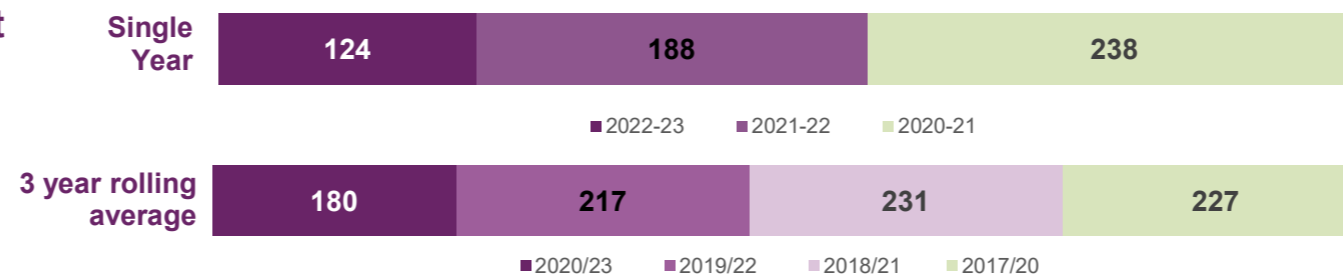
Adoption and Permanency



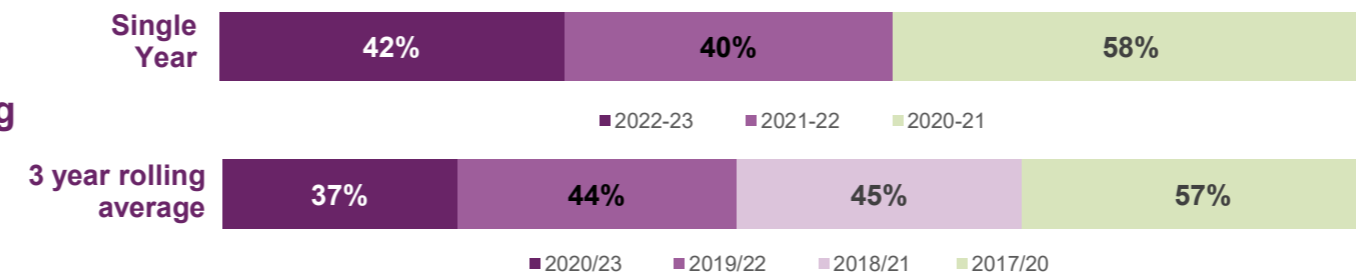
Adoption Pipeline



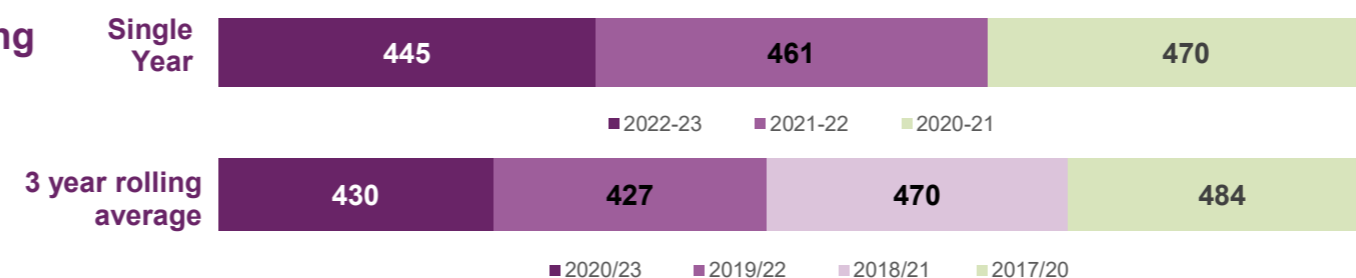
A2 - Average time between receiving court authority to place and finding a match



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 2 children were adopted.

During 2022/23, children had a currently waiting less time than in 2021/22 between receiving court authority to place and finding a match - this was 124 days compared to 188 days in 2021/22. 42% of Children wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. Between April 2022 and Mar 2023, 60 Children have ceased to be looked after due to special guardianship orders (26 - LAC and 34 - Non LAC) and 23 due to child arrangement orders (1 - LAC and 22 - Non LAC).