

14 September 2021		ITEM: 5
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Children's Social Care Performance – Quarter 1 2021-22		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Anna Watkins, Business Intelligence Analyst		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Interim Assistant Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director Of Children's Services		
This report is: Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the performance across Children Looked After and Aftercare. The overall performance for the service is good and this is within the context of COVID-19 and the lockdown restrictions which have been in place over the period; this report focusses on Quarter 1 of 2021-22 (April to June 2021).

Thurrock continues to provide services to approximately 296 Children Looked After (CLA) and approximately 298 Care Leavers. Children and young people are visited regularly and the management of missing children is consistent and reflects good partnership with the police and Thurrock Community Safety. The work with health colleagues continues to ensure that there is a positive focus on Initial Health Assessments for children entering into care.

The Care Leaving Service reflects a trajectory of good performance. There continues to be a focus on improvement of the service, particularly to keep in touch and support young people into employment or education and to ensure they have the right accommodation to meet their needs.

Children are generally placed with foster carers or where possible, with family members. To support children being placed locally in their communities and recruit foster carers there is a new fostering brand and recruitment campaign.

It has been previously reported to Corporate Parenting Committee that permanency planning has been particularly impacted by COVID-19. There have been delays in timetabling for final court hearings. The court have agreed to prioritise cases where

the care plan is one of adoption, to prevent the delay for younger children in court cases.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That members note the areas of improvement in Children's Social Care and note the work that is undertaken to ensure good and improving performance.

1.2 Note the impact of COVID 19 on performance.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This report provides a summary of Children's Social Care performance. It highlights key demand indicators for Children Looked After such as the number of children who are looked after, benchmarking data and key performance indicators.

2.2 Thurrock produces a number of data sets and performance reports to meet its internal and external reporting requirements. The data in this report is from the At a Glance monthly performance report, regional benchmarking data and national data sets. External reporting requirements include the annual statutory data return to the Department for Education (DfE) that all Local Authorities must provide.

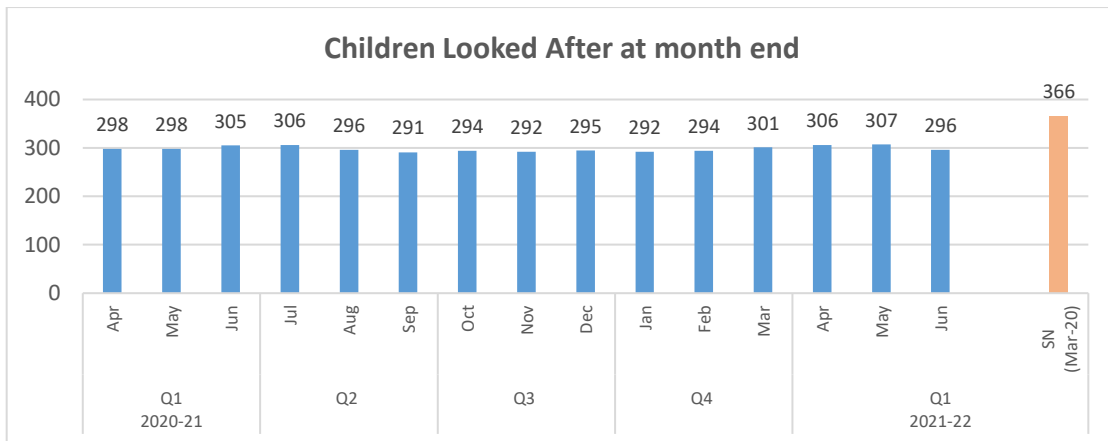
2.3 This data has been presented and discussed with the Children & Families Performance Group.

2.4 Teams and Managers use the data to understand and respond to changes in activity levels, to monitor and respond to the quality and timeliness of services and to collate information about how well children are doing. The information is also discussed with front line workers.

3. Performance Data for Children Looked After

3.1 Number of Children Looked After (CLA)

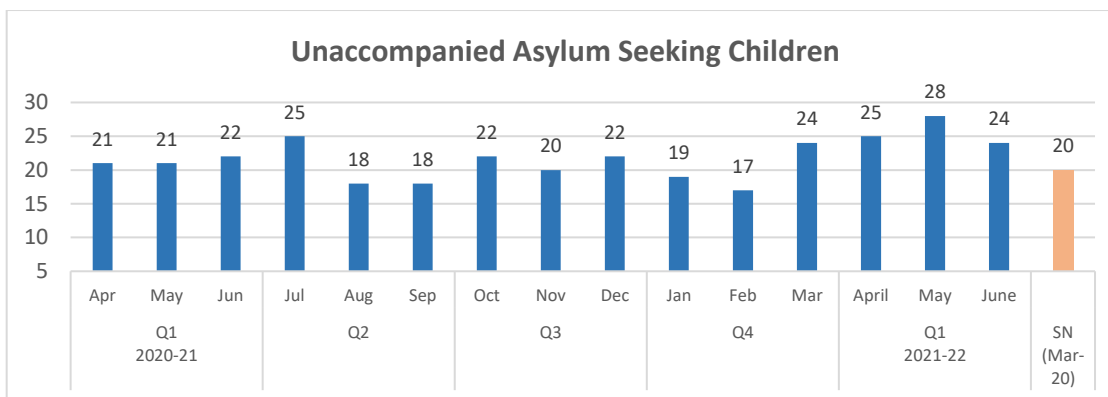
The graph below shows the number of children who were Looked After at the end of each month. The numbers have remained stable. The small fluctuations are normal and to be expected. There is monitoring of children who may need to become Looked After and there are regular reviews of children entering care. Where possible, children are returned to their family where safe and appropriate.



3.2 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

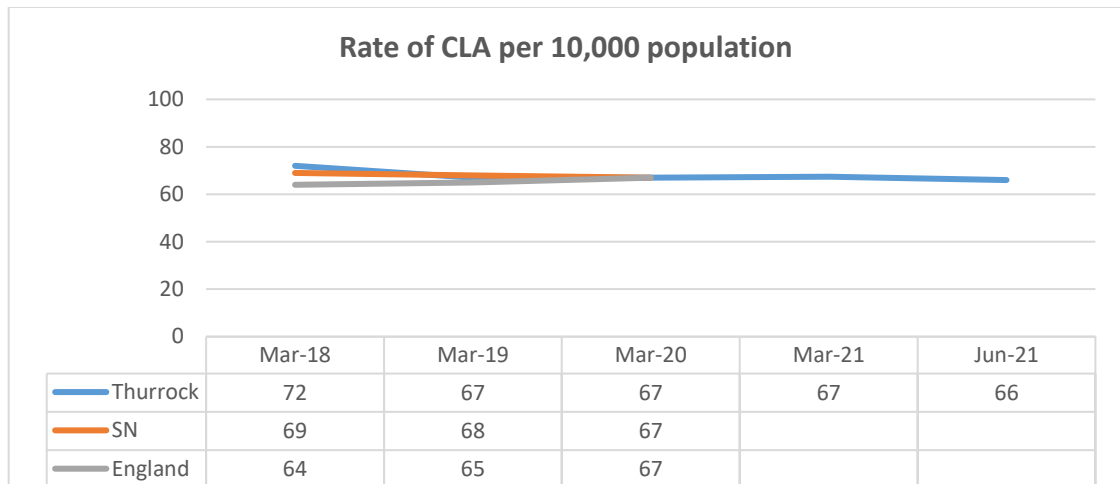
UASC are a subset of the Children Looked After number above. Local Authorities through agreement have determined a simple formula to ensure a fair distribution of the responsibility for looking after unaccompanied children. Each local authority has a 0.07% ceiling for how many UASC and unaccompanied asylum seeking children a region or local authority is reasonably expected to be looking after at any time, as a proportion of its total number of children.

Thurrock's allocated number was 28, however, this has now increased to 31 children. There was a reduction in the entry of UASC into Essex Ports in 2020 to 2021 as the preferred route appears to have been through Dover. Between April and June 2021, there have been 12 new UASC arrivals into Thurrock. This has increased the CLA cohort of UASC to 24 in Q1 2021-22.



3.3 The Rate of CLA per 10,000 population

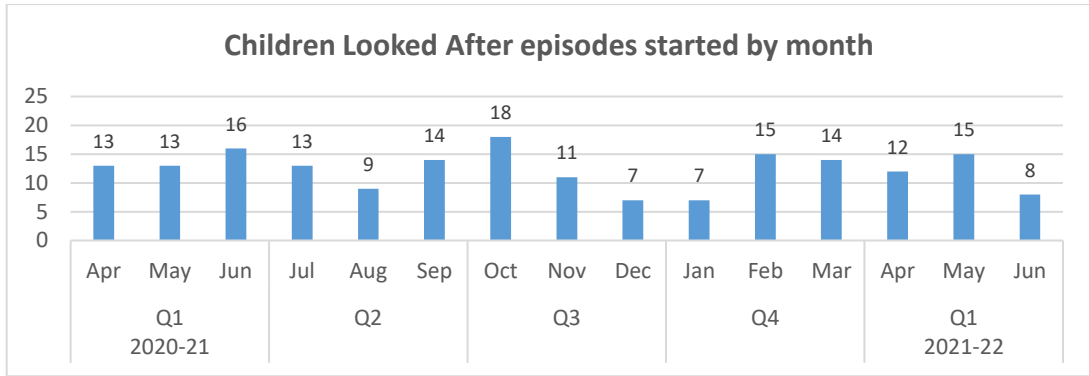
The graph below shows the rate of Children Looked After per 10,000 population of under 18 year olds in Thurrock. At the end of June 2021 there were 296 Children Looked After in Thurrock which shows a rate of 66.3 per 10,000 of children who are looked after. Based on 2020 benchmarking data, Thurrock is slightly below the Statistical Neighbour and England average of 67.0 as at the end of June 2021.



3.4 CLA episodes started in month

It is normal for the numbers of children entering care to fluctuate. The fluctuation and the relatively small numbers make it difficult to identify significant trends. There has been a decrease in the number of children entering care. For example, 35 children started to be looked after between April and June 2021 compared to 42 between April and June 2020. During the 2020-21 financial year, 150 children started to be looked compared to our statistical neighbour of 132 in 2020. This difference can be attributed to the higher number of UASC arriving in Thurrock and then becoming looked after children.

All cases are reviewed to ensure the correct children come in to care and court proceedings are only issued where necessary. The numbers of children entering care is being monitored as lock down restrictions ease.

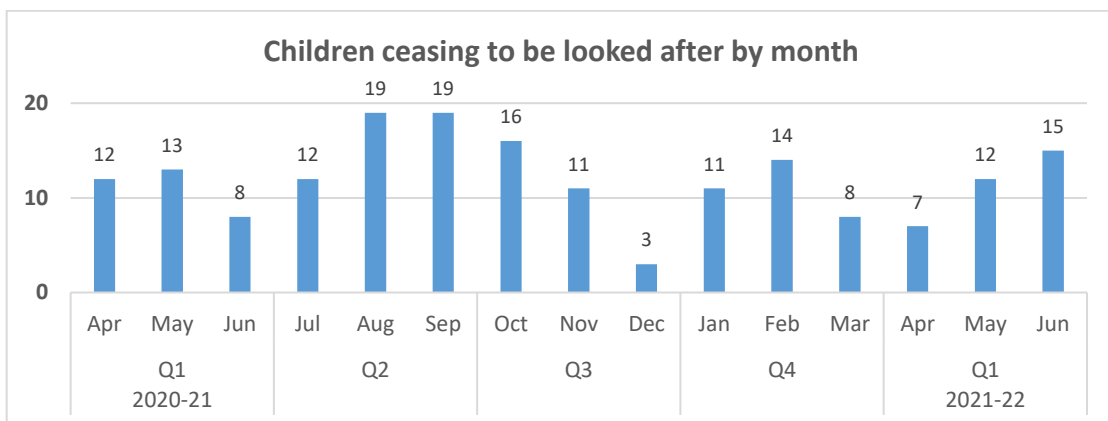


3.5 CLA episodes ended in month

It is normal for the number of children leaving care to fluctuate. The fluctuation and the relatively small numbers make it difficult to identify significant trends. Between April and June 2020 and April and June 2021, the number of children ceasing to be looked after reflect a very similar position.

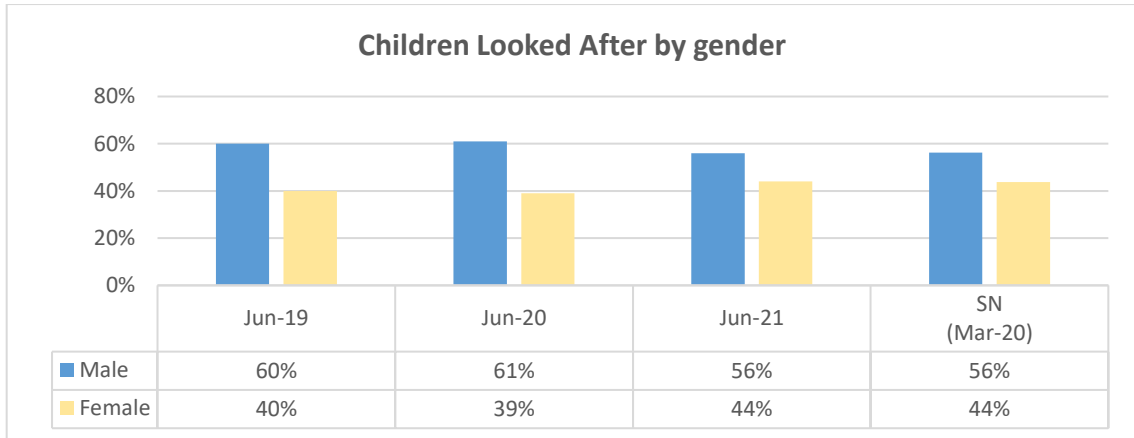
During the financial year 2020-21, the number of Thurrock children who ceased to be looked after was 180 compared to our statistical neighbour of 142 in 2020. This difference is also likely to be as a consequence of UASC children transferred within the Eastern Region.

There is currently a delay in the timeliness of court proceedings, preventing children from leaving care to their permanent placement (Adoption, SGO or returning home). This is a direct result of COVID which has caused delays in concluding proceedings for children.



3.6 CLA by gender

Based on the benchmarking data in 2019-20, the gender breakdown is in line with the Statistical Neighbour and England averages.

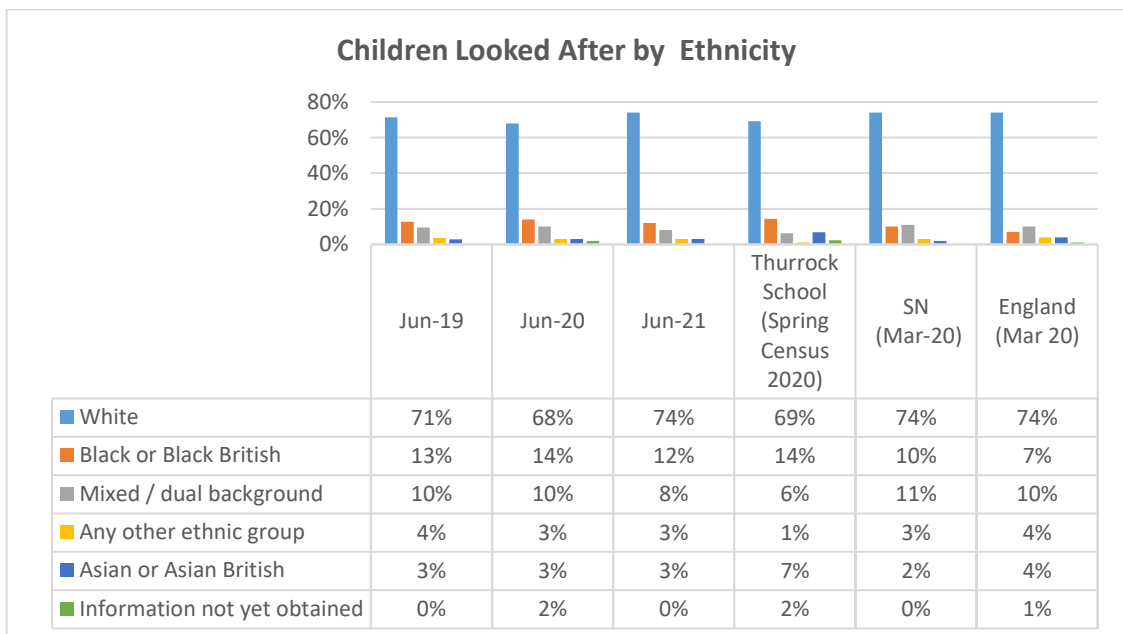


3.7 CLA by ethnicity

Statistical Neighbour and England averages are included. However, for Thurrock, school census data provides a more appropriate comparison, given the population of Thurrock.

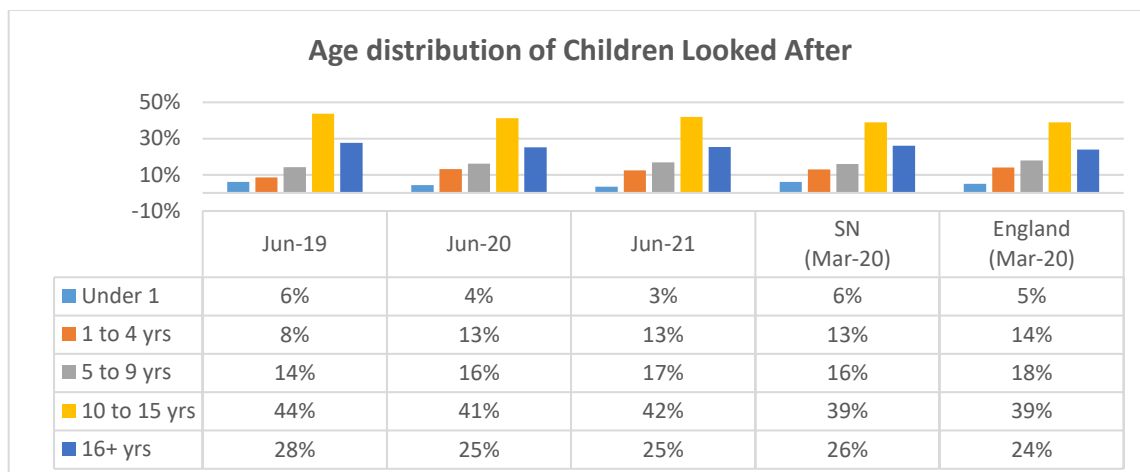
Thurrock's Children Looked After are predominantly White which is in line with Thurrock's School Census in Spring 2020 and the Statistical Neighbour and England averages.

While the numbers of Children Looked After who are Asian/Asian British and Black/Black British have slightly decreased since June 2019, there have been no particular issues influencing this change.



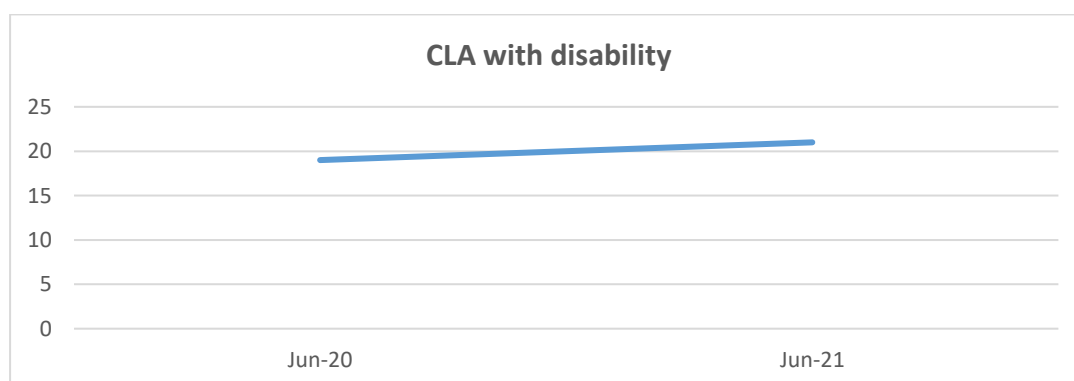
3.8 CLA age profile

The age profile of the Children Looked After cohort remains mostly stable and in line with the Statistical Neighbour and England averages. Since June 2019, the number of children aged 5 to 9 years have increased. This has partly been caused by delays in final court hearings. Children are not able to move to their final permanent placement (SGO, Adoption) where court proceedings are continuing.



3.9 CLA with a disability

The number of children looked after with a disability has remained relatively stable since June 2020. At the end of June 2021, 21 of the total CLA cohort were recorded as having a disability. 17 of these children were boys aged seven and over and 4 girls aged 11 and over. 12 of these children were placed 20 miles or less from their home in June 2020 and June 2021.

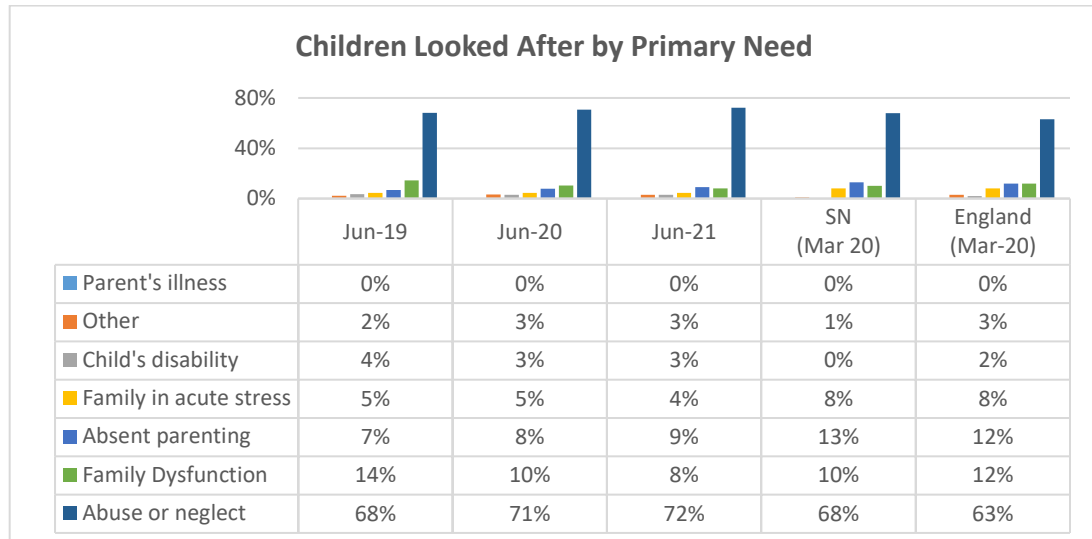


3.10 CLA by Category of Need

There has been a slight increase in the percentage of children becoming Looked After as a result of 'Abuse or Neglect'. The majority of children become

Looked After as a result of the significant harm they are experiencing or likely to experience. Where possible, Social Care are providing support and intervention from Social Workers and the Families Together Team who provide an Edge of Care service to enable families to remain together and ensure that children only become looked after, when absolutely necessary. Thurrock works to minimise the use of 'other' as a category.

Local Authorities use slightly different definitions of the categories and this makes it hard to meaningfully benchmark.



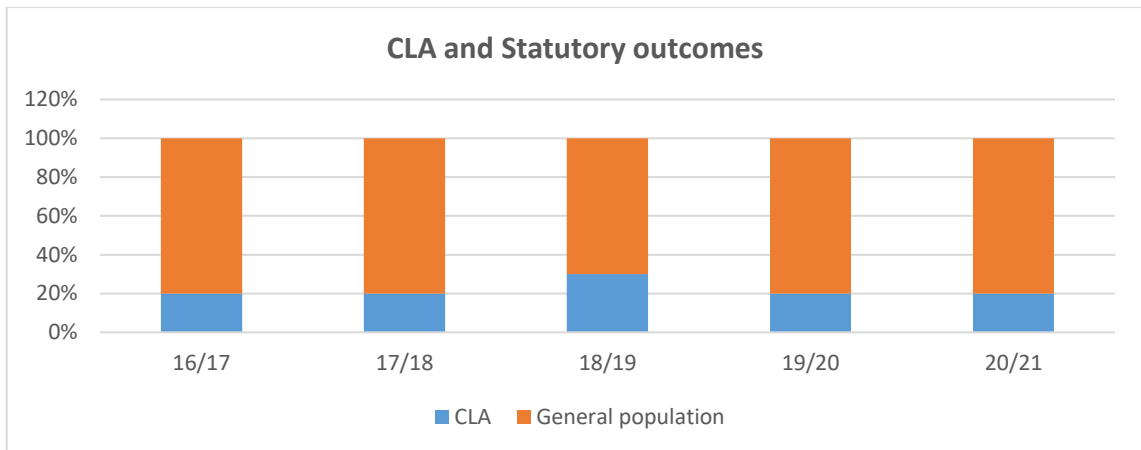
4. Number of CLA open to the Youth Offending Service (YOS)

4.1 Statutory Interventions

A statutory intervention is undertaken when a child has been convicted by the courts or made subject to a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution and consequently has YOS intervention.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, there were 46 children open to the Youth Offending Service on statutory outcomes, out of which 9 were Children Looked After, representing 20%. However, 2 of these children were looked after by other authorities and placed in Thurrock.

Out of the 9 Children Looked After, 56% were from the BAME community.

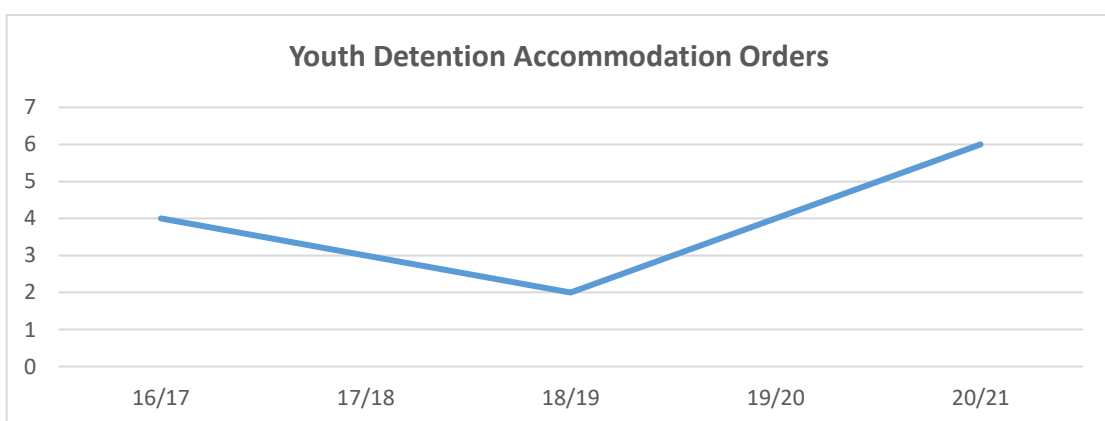


The above graph represents the percentage of Children Looked After versus the total number of young people in the Youth Justice System for the last five years. Despite an increase from 20% to 30% in 2018-19 the numbers of Children Looked After has been relatively static at around 20%. There were no notable reasons for the increase in 2018-19.

The throughput of the Youth Offending Service in 2020-21 was significantly affected by COVID-19 and the closure of the Courts. This has resulted in delays of children being sentenced and lower numbers of young people being referred to YOS for statutory intervention.

4.2 Youth Detention Accommodation

Under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, any child that is made subject to a Youth Detention Accommodation Order (remand in custody) by the Courts automatically becomes looked after by the local authority.



Of the 6 children made subject to Youth Detention Accommodation Orders in 2020-21, 5 (83%) were from the BAME community. This is reflective of over representation of children from the BAME community in the criminal justice

system and in particular the figures in relation to children in custody, locally and nationally.

Between 01 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, there were 4 Thurrock children subject to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA), 75% of these children are from the BAME community. A YDA is a remand in custody, they are not custodial sentences, and the child has yet to be convicted so have not been sentenced; there is therefore no lower disposal at that point.

The majority of the Remands into custody were made in the first four months of 2021 when there was a significant rise in gang related violence and knife crime. The types of offences that have led to Remands in Custody are, Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm (wounding) with Intent, Murder, Robbery, possession of a bladed article and possession with intent to supply Class A and Class B drugs.

In Q1 2021-22 the number of children looked after and open to YOS has increased to 35%. The cohort consists of seven children, four of which have been remanded into custody (Youth Detention Accommodation, as above). These 4 young people became 'Looked After' as a result of being remanded into Custody and were not CLA before then. They were all remanded for serious offences that involved gang related violence and/or knife crime. One of the other children is looked after to another authority and two children who are looked after are open to YOS ongoing intervention.

The over representation of BAME young people in the Criminal Justice system is a national issue. Research into this area evidences that young black males are not always given the same opportunities for Diversion (Early Intervention), as young white males, from the Police and the Courts.

Essex wide, we are working with our partners to identify the root causes for over representation via the Essex Criminal Justice Board. Locally we are monitoring the numbers of black young men coming to the Out of Court Disposal Panel, where early intervention and diversion can be offered. The data in relation to our BAME young people in custody, on Court Orders, or receiving diversion intervention is scrutinised via the Youth Crime Governance Board on a quarterly basis and is a priority within our Youth Justice Board Plan 2021-24.

4.3 Out of court disposal panel

In 2020-21 financial year, the out of court disposal panel dealt with 43 offences relating to 33 Thurrock children, of which 5 children had looked after status. All 5 children were diverted away from the criminal justice system with identified support from the YOS partnership.

Thurrock YOS and Essex Police are committed to the national protocol¹ aimed to reduce the criminalisation of Children Looked After. This approach will be supported with a local pan-Essex protocol to ensure there is a focus on diverting any child (where possible) who is Looked After from the Criminal Justice System.

In Q1 2021-22 the out of court disposal panel has dealt with 22 offences relating to 15 children, none had looked after status.

5. **CLA missing episodes started**

The graph below shows the number of missing episodes started and the count of the individual children who went missing between April and June 2021. Since June 2020, the number of episodes have remained relatively stable, however, the number of individual children that have gone missing has increased; this is likely to be as a result of lockdown restrictions easing. The number of missing children in April to June 2019-20 was 28 and 112 missing episodes, this reflects a pre-COVID position. In 2021-22, there is an increase of 6 young people having 119 missing episodes; which is a small fluctuation within the total number of children who are looked after. Between April and June 2021, the most common reason for children going missing was contact with family and friends, representing 44% of missing episodes.

There has been a strong focus on Thurrock missing children and good joint working with the multi-agency partnership. There is a weekly missing meeting with partners that includes Essex Police and liaison with Thurrock Community Safety colleagues. A Contextual Safeguarding approach has been embedded which is assisting with the partnership working and social work practice. Ofsted completed a focussed visit in June 2021 and reviewed Thurrock's approach to the protection of vulnerable children from extra-familial risk, including children and young people who go missing. The Ofsted Report noted:-

'Cases involving children who are repeatedly reported missing are escalated appropriately to strategy discussions for further consideration of risk and protection needs. Risk management meetings maintain oversight of missing children, ensure the timely follow-through of actions and ensure that professionals appropriately share intelligence to reduce incidents of going missing'. (Source p.3 Ofsted Report August 2021²)

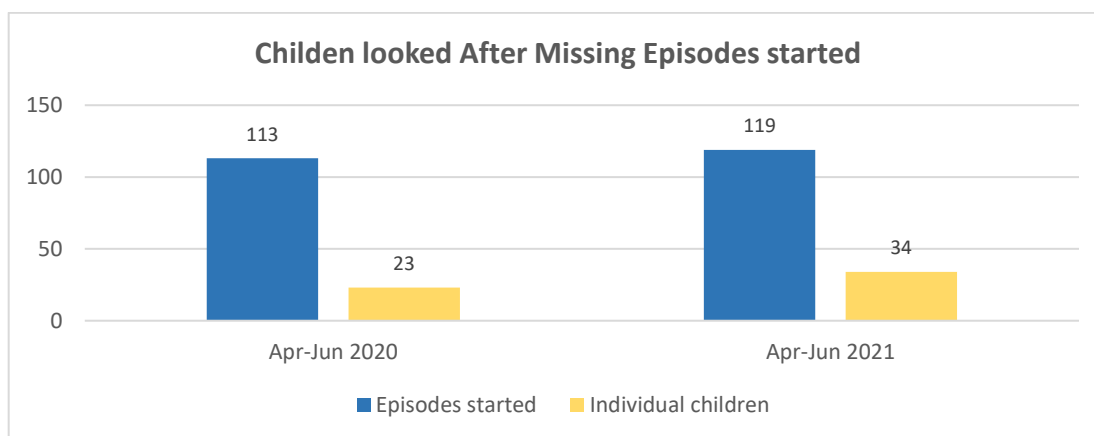
The report also highlighted the good practice in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children:-

'When unaccompanied young people go missing for prolonged periods, they are kept under review. In line with good practice, staff continue to make efforts

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-on-reducing-criminalisation-of-looked-after-children>

² [50167523 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/50167523)

to trace their whereabouts and follow up on any sighting leads. Checks are carried out with the National Referral Mechanism, the Home Office and other local authority areas, and new intelligence considered until their whereabouts are known'. (Source p.3 Ofsted Report August 2021³)



5.1 CLA return to home interview (RHI)

Since April 2020, Inspire Youth Hub have been commissioned to undertake independent Return Home Interviews (RHI). All children are offered a RHI within 72 hours following each missing event, with the aim of understanding the young person's circumstances and the reasons why they go missing. Key Workers from placements, Foster Carers and Social Workers will discuss missing incidents with children. There is a network of support provided to children to try to engage with them and understand the reasons for their missing episodes. The Participation Team have been able to engage and seek feedback from young people and this has been invaluable.

The offer of an RHI is not always accepted by young people. The graph below shows the percentage of return to home interviews taken up by young people. During the month of June 2021, the take up was 40% by all young people offered a RHI.

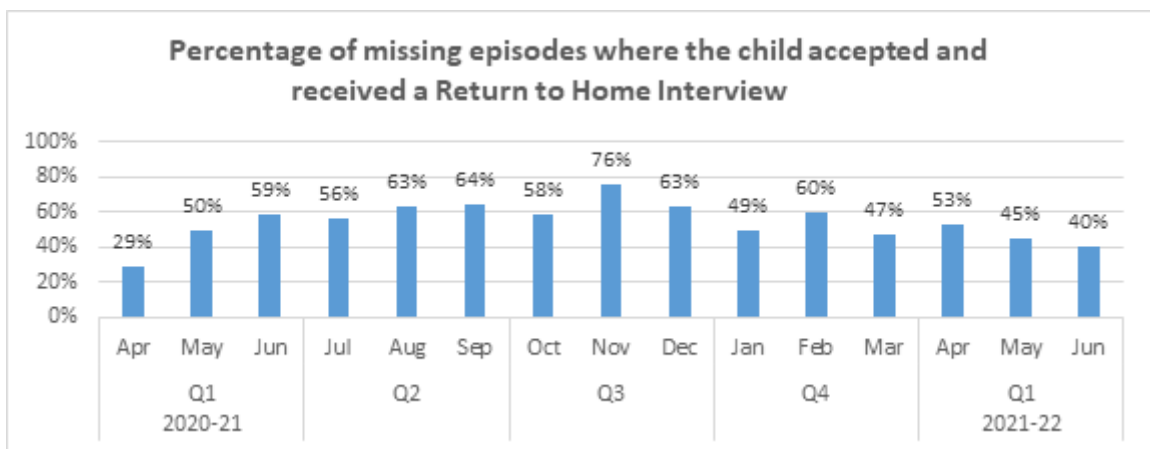
An area for development is ensuring that although the offer of RHIs is in place for all missing young people upon return, a different approach to the engagement of young people is being considered to improve the take up of that offer. RHIs are to be completed face to face by Inspire youth workers and with increased persistence, so young people can build relationships with the youth workers, who are independent to the young person's social worker.

'The Ofsted focussed visit noted the following in relation to RHIs 'All children are now offered RHIs. However, while the take-up of these interviews has improved and is currently at 58%⁴, it is still too low. Some children who are reluctant to

⁴ This figure was obtained during the inspection as a rolling 12 month total

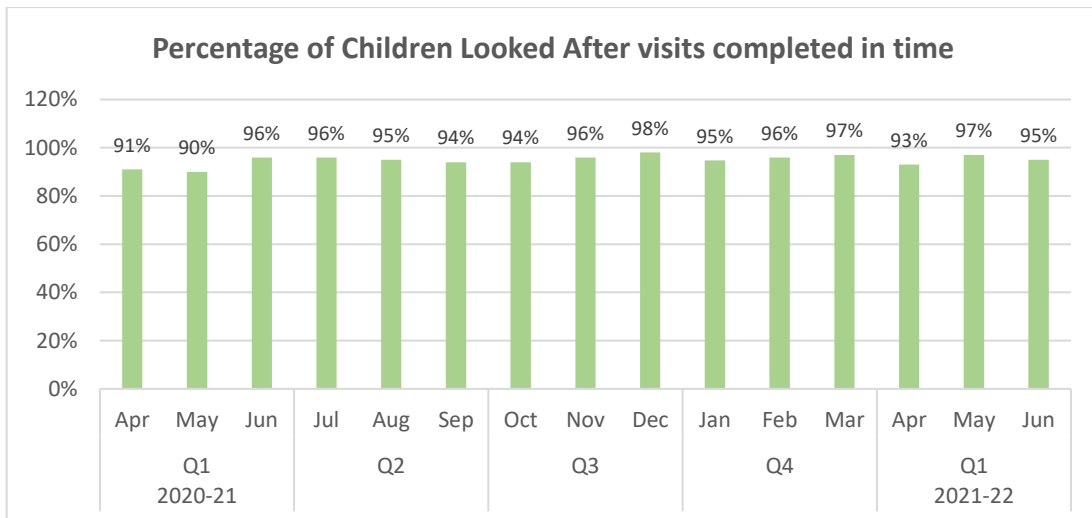
take up the RHI offer benefit from direct engagement with their social workers after each episode of going missing. However, this activity is not formally monitored; neither is it evident for all children.’ The recommended action from Ofsted relating to RHI’s was ‘To improve the involvement of children in the take-up of return home interviews and the information the authority relies on to capture activity and the impact of these interviews.’

Further work is underway looking at how we can engage young people in return home interviews. Understanding from young people what works for them, what the barriers are to taking up a return home interview and making sure that we are capturing not only return home interviews undertaken by Inspire, but also the information from visits by social workers and other professionals who may be working with young people.



5.2 Timeliness of social worker visits

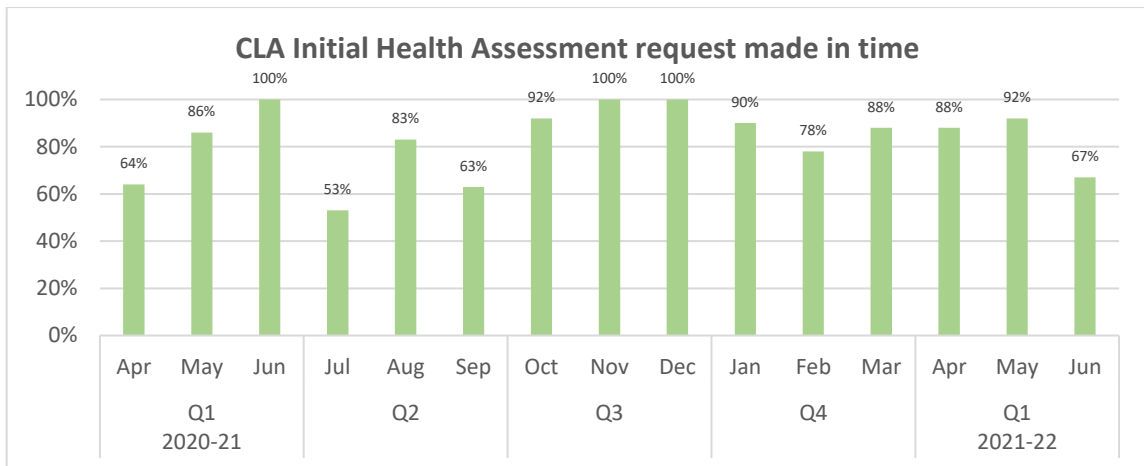
Social workers are required to visit a child/young person within one week of the start of any placement. Visits are then due in accordance to the time agreed within the Care Plan. This can vary from 20 to 65 working days, permitted within regulations. Performance has improved since last year and there is focused work to ensure this performance is maintained. 95% is very good performance as there are often practical reasons for a visit being late and there are safeguards to ensure that missed visits take place quickly after the due date.



5.3 CLA Initial Health Assessments (IHA)

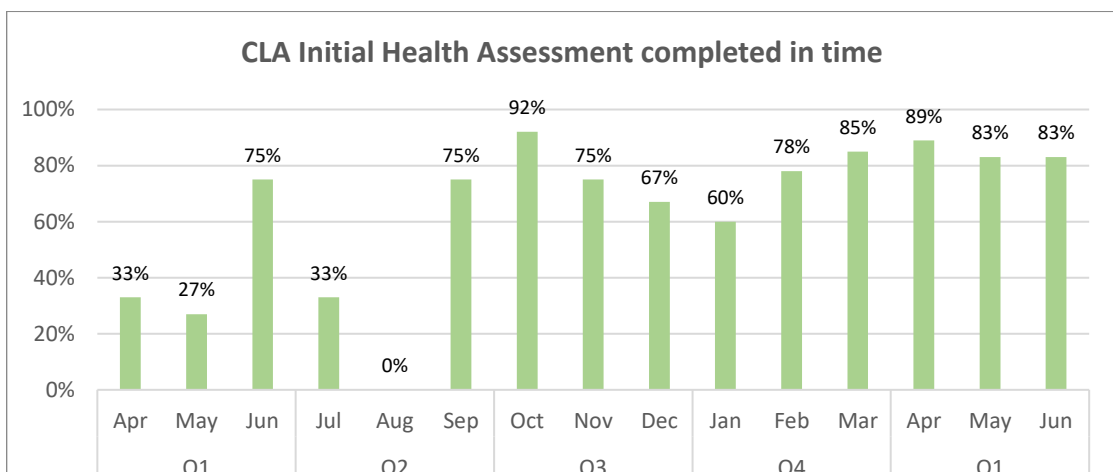
Every child who becomes looked after should have an Initial Health Assessment within 20 working days of entering into care. To achieve good performance for this indicator, there is reliance on working with Thurrock Social Workers, the children's families, Thurrock health care providers, and also other health providers (including those who are in Youth Offending Institutions, YOI) for children placed outside of Thurrock. Sometimes notifications for an IHA cannot be processed if parents have not provided consent for medical treatment and there is no court order which gives the Local Authority responsibility for consenting to health care. There is a weekly IHA tracking meeting to ensure that there is a focus on meeting the 5 day target to notify Health colleagues that a child has become looked after and to ensure that an Initial Health Assessment is offered and completed within 20 working days.

Performance for IHA requests being sent to Health have shown a sustained improvement in the 12 month period between July 2020 and June 2021, with over 80% of notifications being made within 5 days. Between April and June 2021, the average requests made within timescale was 85%. The numbers of IHA's requests required each month can be small and therefore fluctuations can be impacted on by very small numbers. In June 2021, 2 of 6 children accounted for 33% requests made out of time.



The chart below reflects the timeliness of IHA appointments being completed within 20 days. Between April and June 2021, the average IHA completed in timescale was 85% despite there being additional pressures in the Health Service due to COVID-19 and improvements in performance have been sustained.

In some circumstances an IHA appointment was offered by Health within 20 working days; however there are occasions when the initial appointment offered was not suitable for the young person and a further appointment was provided.



5.4 CLA in Education

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, all national academic testing was cancelled. In line with Department for Education guidance, schools will not be publishing their data for 2021.

The annual report of the Virtual School Headteacher is a key document which must be produced as part of reporting arrangements. The 2019-20 report was presented to Corporate Performance Board in January 2021.

In addition to the annual report, the Virtual School Headteacher and her team members provide reports to the Governing Body every term. These detail a range of information such which is provided to ensure that we are held

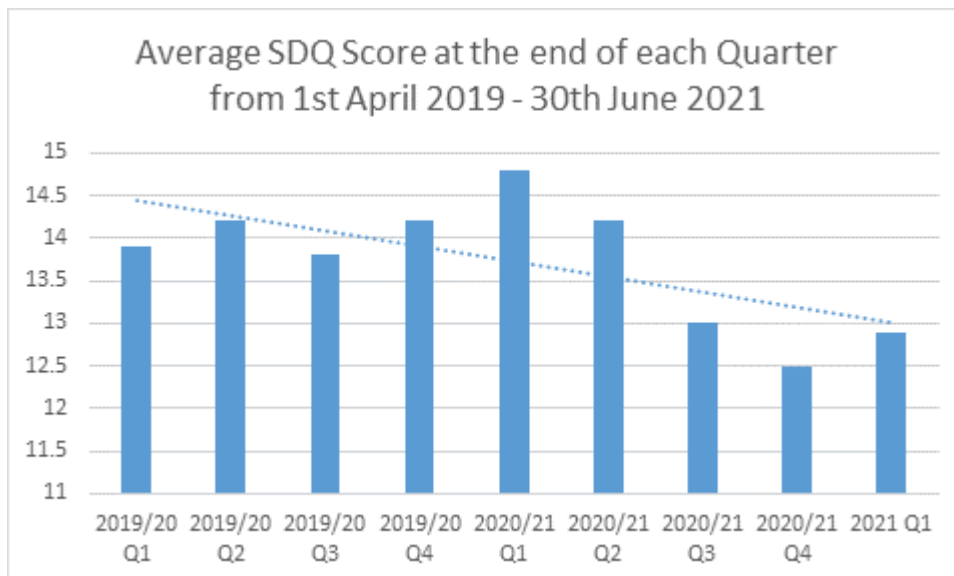
accountable and that the delivery of services is efficient. (Please see Agenda item 8 within Corporate Parenting Committee Pack January 21)⁵

5.5 CLA Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

SDQ scores are a measure which provides an indication of the mental wellbeing of Looked After Children. Thurrock has a statutory responsibility to collect SDQ scores annually for all children aged 4-18 who have been in our care for more than 12 months. Thurrock Childrens Services collate the SDQ scores termly via the Personal Education Plan supported by the Virtual School and Children's Social Care collecting the views of carers, school staff and children.

For each child where their score indicates a level of need (scoring 13 or higher) their case is individually reviewed by a multi-agency panel to ensure appropriate services are in place. Children benefit from a suite of local services including EWMHS, Kooth (online Counselling) and commissioned therapeutic services. For children placed out of area NHS provision or commissioned services are secured.

Comparing quarterly average scores shows some variability but a generally improving trend. During COVID-19 the average scores have not increased and the mental wellbeing of Children Looked After is being appropriately reviewed, with support and intervention provided as necessary.



6. Number of children adopted

Between 01 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, a total of 8 children were adopted. 5 children currently are placed in adoptive placements and have adoption

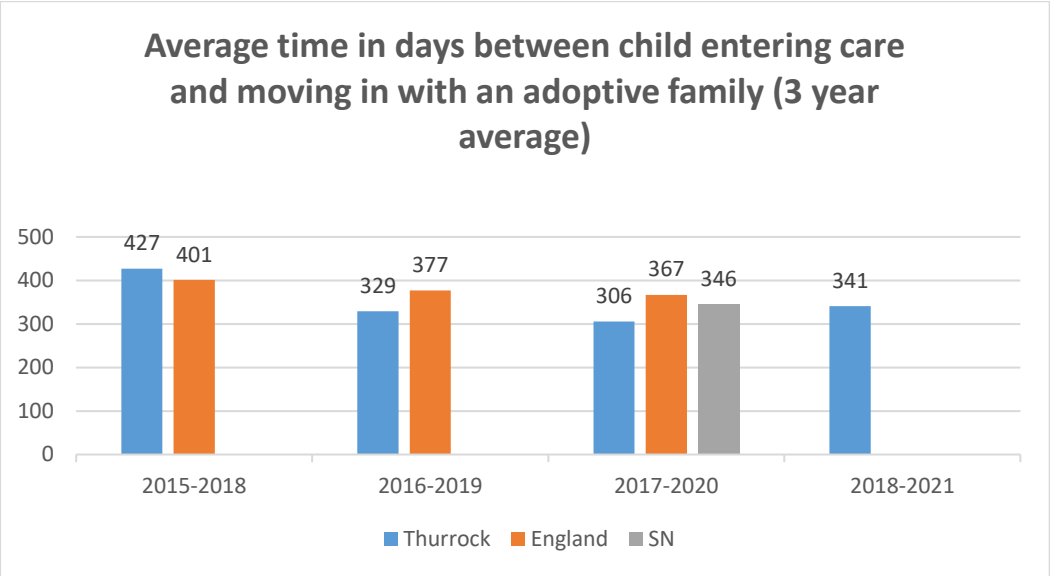
⁵ [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Corporate Parenting Committee, 05/01/2021 19:00 \(thurrock.gov.uk\)](#)

hearings planned. There are 6 children who were made subject to Placement Orders in Q4 but are not yet placed with an adoptive family. There are 11 children who are waiting for a final hearing with a care plan for adoption (i.e. Care Order and Placement Order).

Due to COVID-19, there has been a significant delay in court proceedings which has impacted on the numbers of children adopted or placed for adoption in the period April 2020 to March 2021. There are likely to be an increased number of children adopted through 2021-22, with likely increased court hearings as the pandemic has eased.

6.1 Timeliness of Adoption

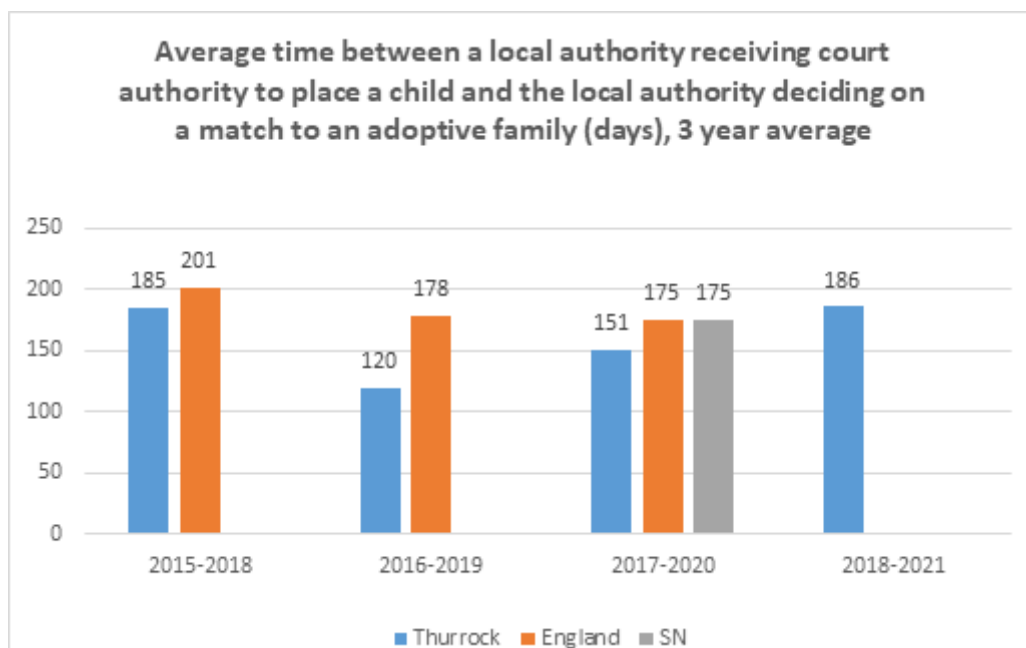
The timeliness of adoption is measured as a 3 year average, it is the length of time (in days) from the child entering care to moving in with an adoptive family. As at end of March 2021 the 3 year average was 341 days; this is below both England and statistical neighbour averages, which is positive.



When the above indicator is looked at over a 1 year period Thurrock is performing very well at 278 days against the England average of 375 and statistical neighbour average of 355 days. Benchmarking data for 2018-2021 has not yet been published.

As at end of June 2021, the average time in days between Thurrock receiving a Placement Order (court authority) to place a child with the adoptive family was 174 days, this is lower than our 2018-2021 3 year average outturn of 186 days, which is positive. This is also marginally below our national and

statistical neighbours of 175 days for 2017-2020. Benchmarking data for 2018-2021 has not yet been published.



This is an area for the Service to focus to ensure there is timely matching and placing of children with their adoptive families. The impact of COVID 19 will affect the timeliness of children being placed for adoption due to the delays in timetabling of final hearings for Placement Orders, and further delay as a result of birth parents re-applying to the court to revoke Placement Order, sometimes as soon as the Order has been made. The application by birth parents to revoke a Placement Order prevents the placement of children with adoptive families. There can be a further appeal if the birth family do not agree with the chosen adoptive placement. There have been, between April 2021 and June 2021, 5 children subject to Placement Order court appeals.

As at the end of June 2021 there were 5 children placed in adoptive placements, and 2 children had been adopted.

6.2 CLA permanency

Purposeful early permanency planning continues to ensure that children are in the right placement at the right time to meet their needs. Secure Placements where needed and supporting children, where appropriate, to remain at home with their families is the priority. Children are placed for adoption only once all family and friend options have been exhausted.

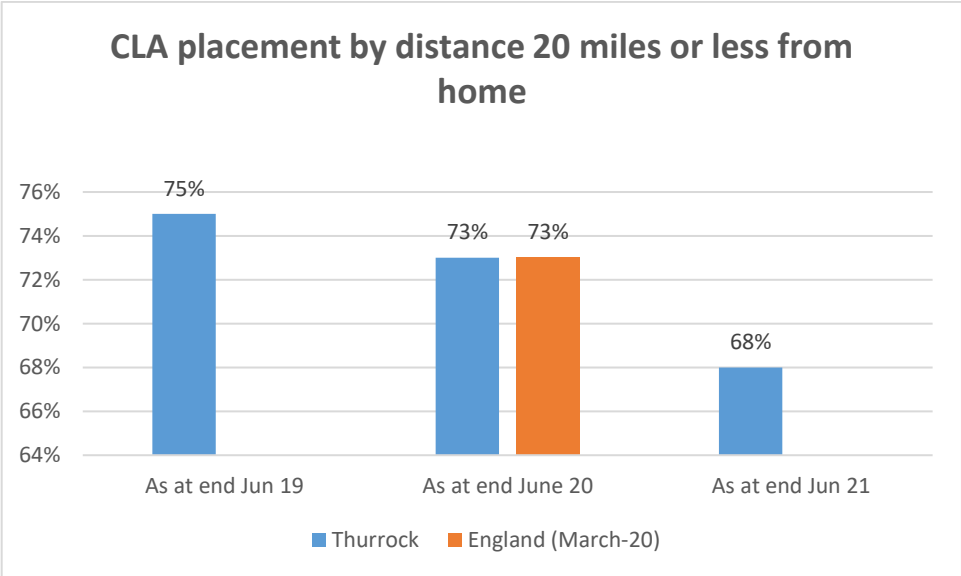
As at the end of June 2021, there were 54 (18%) children who are aged between 0-5, the total cohort of CLA being 297. The majority of children under five who are not able to return home, are moved on to permanent placements through adoption or permanent alternative carers. There have been significant

delays, as a result of COVID-19, resulting in children being subject to court proceedings for longer periods, and transition to their permanent homes being delayed. There are 25 cases in court proceedings over 26 weeks and 6 of these children have a plan for adoption.

6.3 CLA placement distance

It is good practice to ensure that children remain within their communities. At the end of June 2021, 68% of the Children Looked After cohort were placed 20 miles or less from their homes, which represents 203 of 297 children. This falls below the latest national average of 73%, which represents March 20.

This is an area of intense focus for the Placement Service. The fostering recruitment campaign seeks to increase local placements. However it is not only Thurrock Local Authority who are finding the recruitment of local foster carers a challenge. Local placements are not available from Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) or Residential care homes. There is a national shortage of fostering and residential care and the local authority has been seeking Ofsted registered provision and sometimes this is outside of the Thurrock and Essex area. In June 2021 there has been an increase of 14 children placed outside of Thurrock and at a distance of greater than 20 miles from their home, in comparison to June 2020. When extending the placement distance to 50 miles from home, for June 2021, 240 of 297, 81% are placed within that radius.



7. Care Leaving Service

A Care Leaver, as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000⁶, is a person who has been 'looked after' or 'in care' for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who was in care on their 16th birthday.

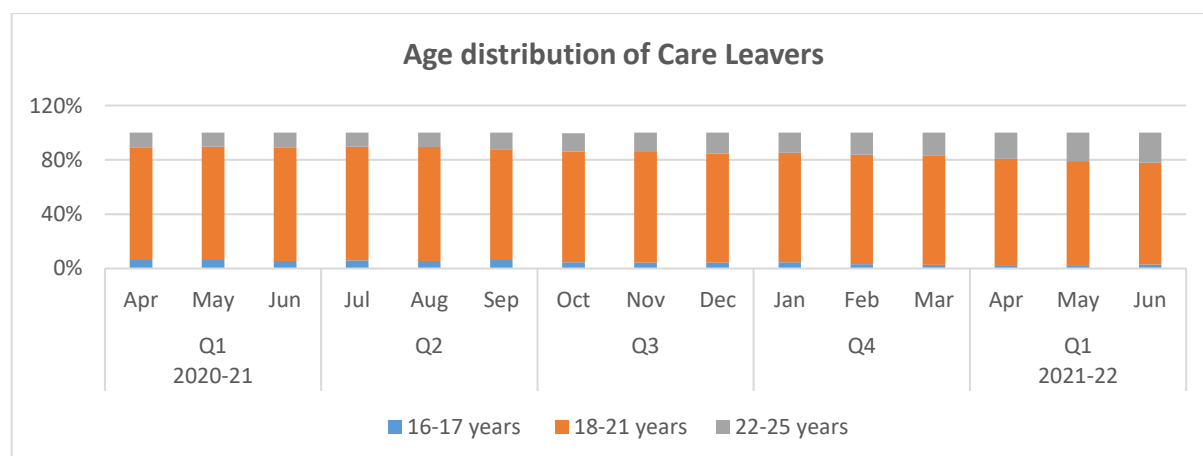
A young person's status as a care leaver can be divided into the following:

- Eligible child - a young person who is 16 or 17 and who has been looked after by the local authority/health and social care trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who is still looked after.
- Relevant child - a young person who is 16 or 17 who has left care after their 16th birthday and before leaving care was an eligible child.
- Former relevant child - a young person who is aged between 18 and 25 (or beyond if being helped with education or training) who, before turning 18 was either an eligible or a relevant child, or both.

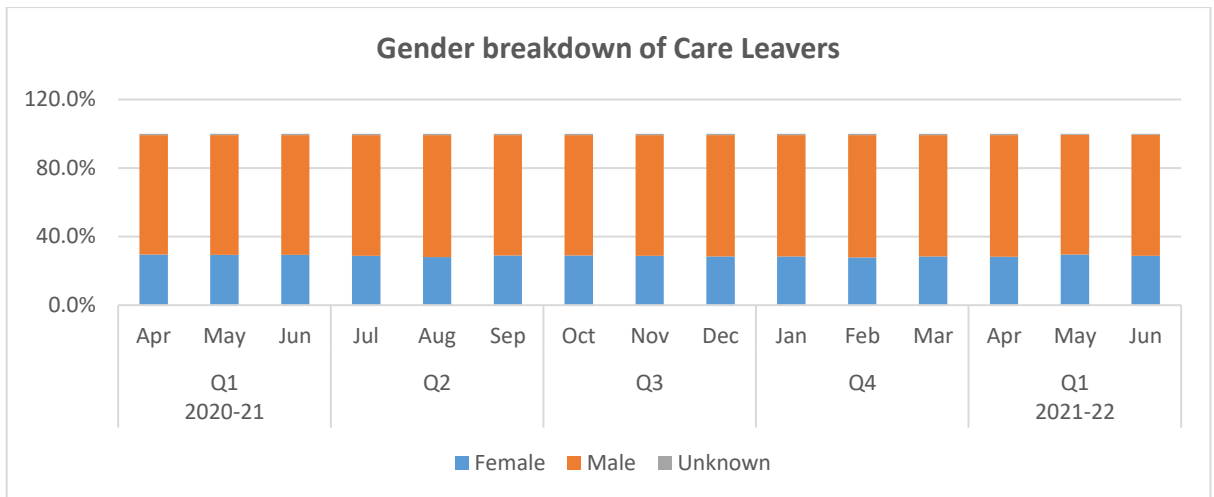
The graph below shows the total number of Young People age 16-25 years who are in receipt of a Care Leaving service. The numbers are increasing and this is in part due to legislative changes that placed additional responsibilities upon Care Leaving services (Children and Social Work Act 2017). Section 3 of the Act now requires Local Authorities to appoint a Personal Adviser for Care Leavers (who request one) up until the age of 25.

As at end of June 2021, 298 Care Leavers were being supported and were receiving an Aftercare service. This is an increase from the previous year and this cohort now has a wider remit as all Care Leavers can request support services until the age of 25, under the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The charts below show the Care Leaver cohort broken down by age groups and gender.

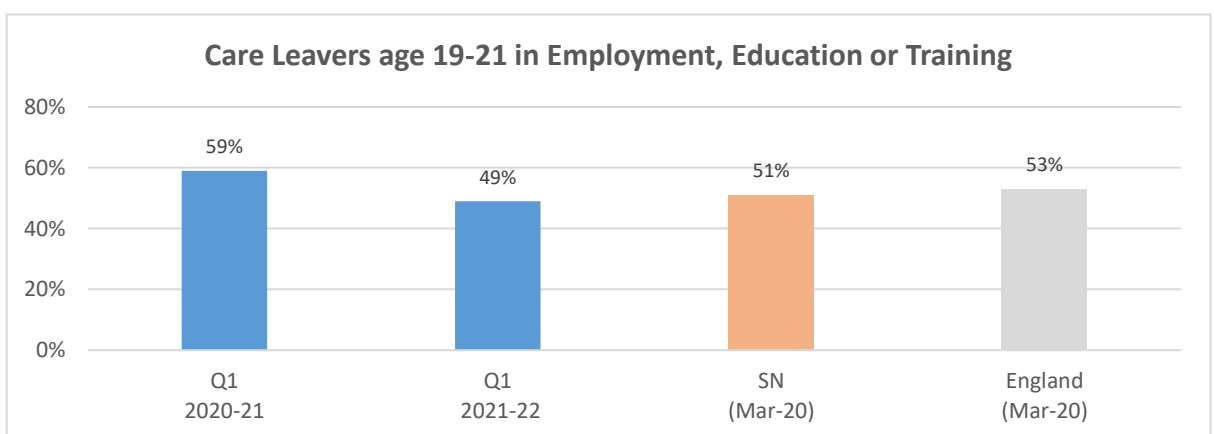


⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents>



7.1 Care Leavers age 19-21 years in Education, Employment or Training (EET)

At the end of June 2021, 49% of the Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 year old were in part or full time education, employment or training compared to 59% in June 2020. Compared to the statistical neighbour and England averages in 2019-20, Thurrock’s performance was good in 2019-20; the decrease in performance for 2020-21 can be singularly attributed to COVID. To strengthen oversight and planning to ensure our young people have support and opportunities for Education, Employment and Training (EET) there are two monthly panels which focus on pre and post 18 year olds who do not have an EET offer. These panels are attended by the Aftercare Service, Inspire Youth Hub and the Virtual School. The panel seeks to understand the issues for individual young people and align their interests to an EET offer. The panel discussions have highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on Young People which has limited opportunities to engage in work experience and continue with employment.

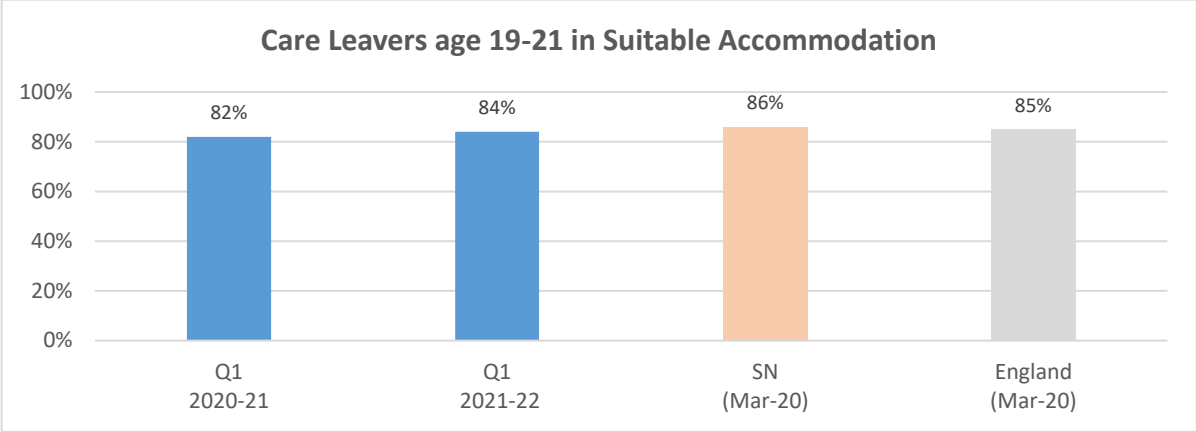


7.2 Care Leavers age 19 to 21 years in Suitable Accommodation

At the end of June 2021, the number of 19 to 21 year old Care Leavers reported to be in suitable accommodation was 84%. Thurrock’s performance

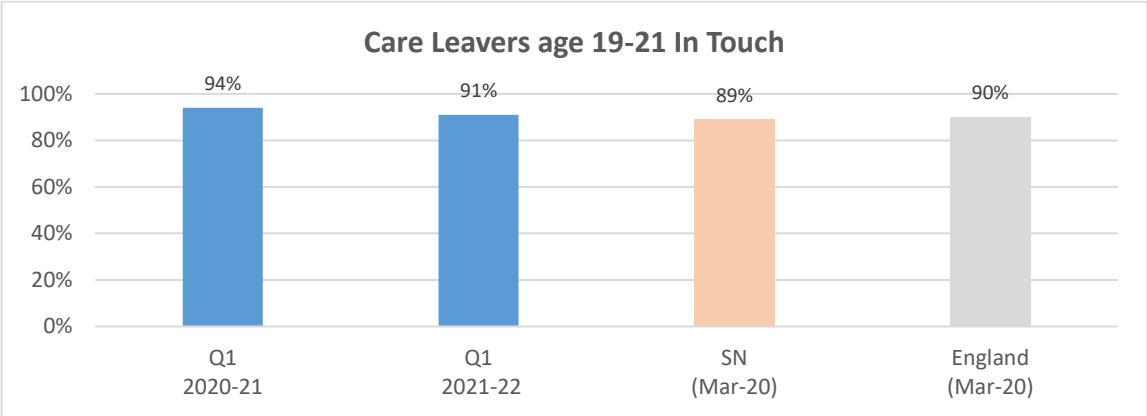
against bench marking data remains in line with the Statistical Neighbour average of 86% for 2019-20 and England average of 85% for 2019-20.

Increased housing support is being provided to young people by the Aftercare Service, Head Start Housing and Thurrock Housing Department. The 'Housing Offer' to Care Leavers has been updated with the Joint Housing Protocol 2020, ensuring good partnership working with clear pathways for young people to access housing, as well as ensuring they are prepared for their tenancies.



7.3 Care Leavers age 19-21 years 'In Touch'

Local Authorities are expected to stay in touch with Care Leavers and provide statutory support to help care leaver's transition to living independently. At the end of June 2021, Thurrock was in touch with 91% of Care Leavers. Thurrock's performance is good with consistent performance above both the statistical neighbour average of 89% and England average of 90% for both 2019-20 and 2020-21.



8. Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 Corporate Parenting Committee to note and comment on current performance position.

9. Consultation (including Overview & Scrutiny, if applicable)

9.1 Not applicable

10. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

10.1 None

11. Implications

11.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

No implications identified within the report.

11.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
**Interim Deputy Head of Legal Social
Care & Education**

No implications identified within the report.

11.3 Diversity & Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Smith**
**Strategic Lead: Community
Development and Equalities**

There are no direct diversity and equality implications arising from this report. However, the service does collect diversity monitoring data for looked after children, this data is given within this report. The data is utilised to consider issues of equality and to ensure that performance considers the impact on children with protected characteristics.

11.4 **Other implications (where significant)** – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder

- Not applicable

12. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Not applicable

13. **Appendices to the report**

- None

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