

4 January 2022		ITEM: 5
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Children's Social Care Performance – Quarter 2 2021-22		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Anna Watkins, Business Intelligence Analyst		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director, 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 some of the performance is within the context of COVID-19 and the lockdown restrictions which have been in place over the period; this report focusses on Quarter 2 of 2021-22 (July to September 2021).

Thurrock continues to provide services to approximately 308 Children Looked After (CLA) and approximately 307 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 continues to be a focus for improvement, 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 has 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 improvements and areas for 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 some areas of 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.

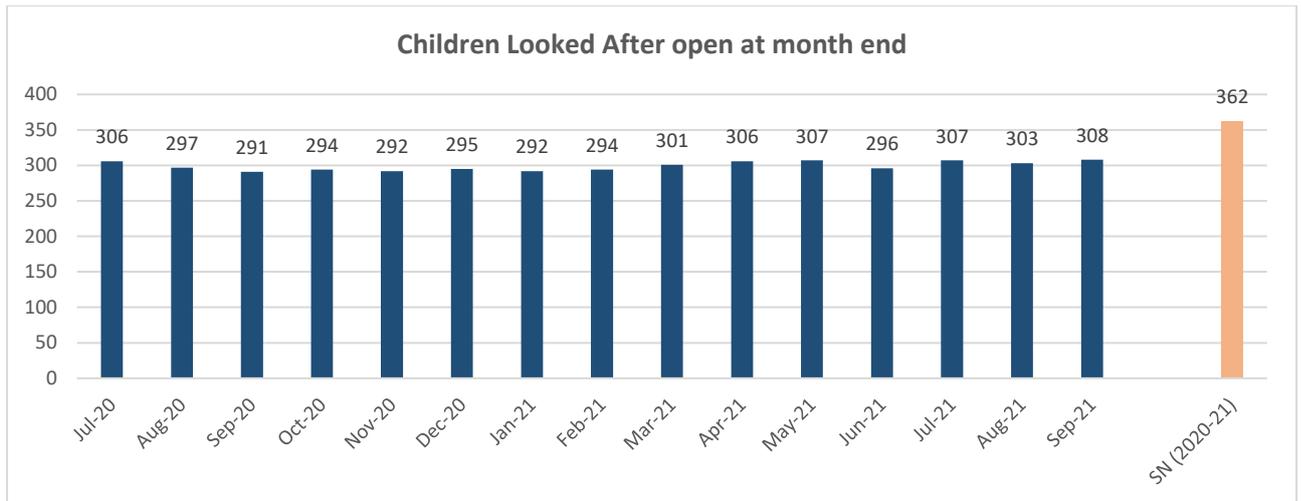
2.3 This data has been presented and discussed with the Children & Families Performance Group.

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 of children have shown a sustained small increase in quarter 1 & 2. Increases in looked after numbers are explored further in this report. 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)

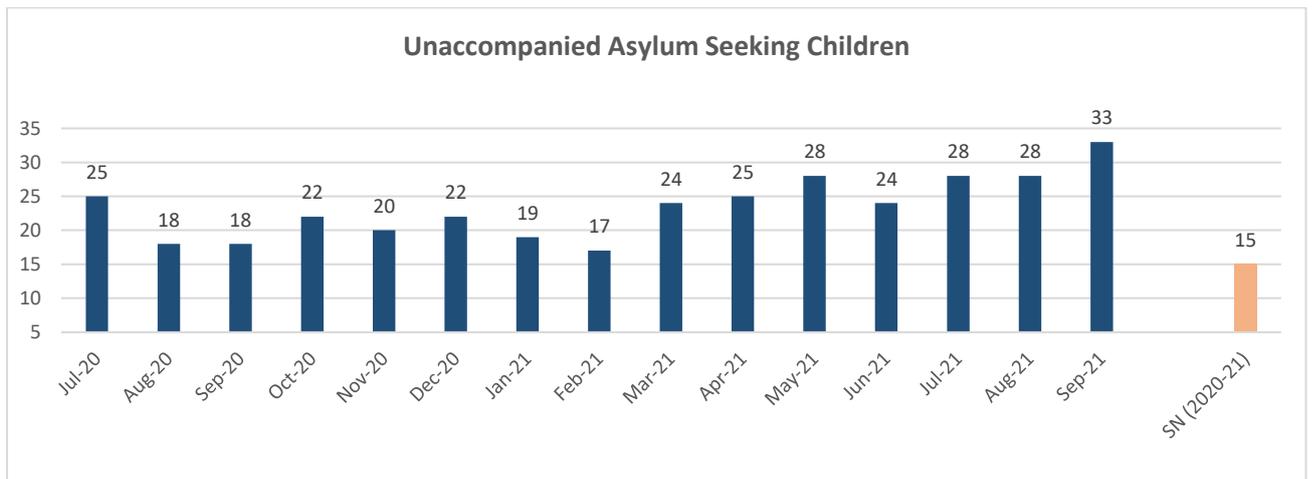
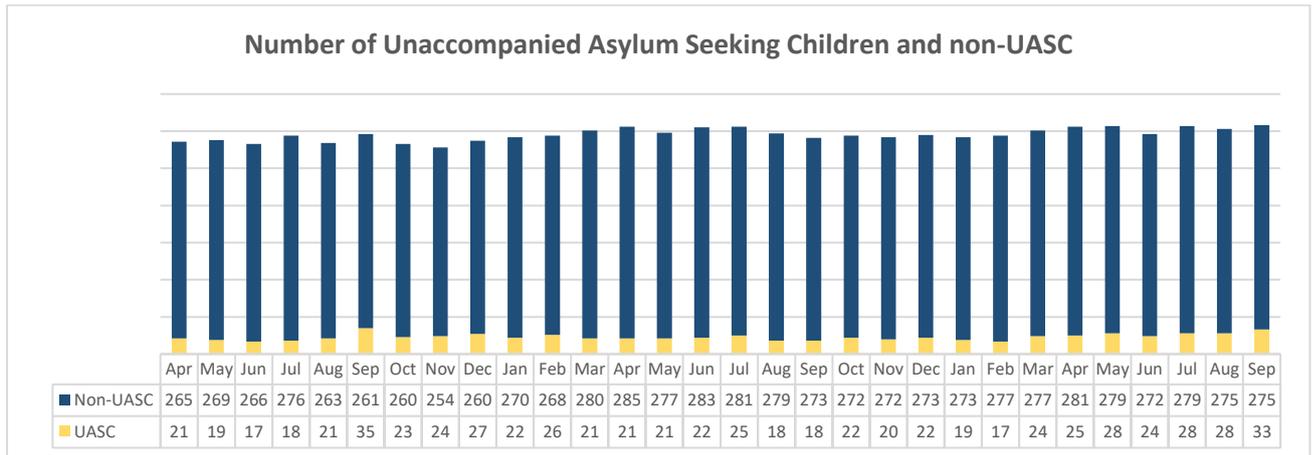
UASC are a subset of the Children Looked After number above. Local Authorities through agreement have a simple formula to ensure a fair distribution of the responsibility for looking after unaccompanied children. Each local authority has a 0.07% ceiling for how many UASC and unaccompanied asylum seeking 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 is 31 children and was previously 27. 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 July and September 2021, there have been 8 new UASC arrivals into Thurrock. This increased the CLA cohort of UASC to 33 in September 2021. There is ongoing work with the Home Office to ensure timely and smooth transition for this cohort.

When a local authority reaches its allocated number there are arrangements in place for new arrivals to be transferred via the National Transfer Scheme

(NTS). The NTS replaced the Eastern Region¹ Transfer scheme in July 2021, which worked efficiently and effectively with the transfer of UASC usually within 10 days of arrival.

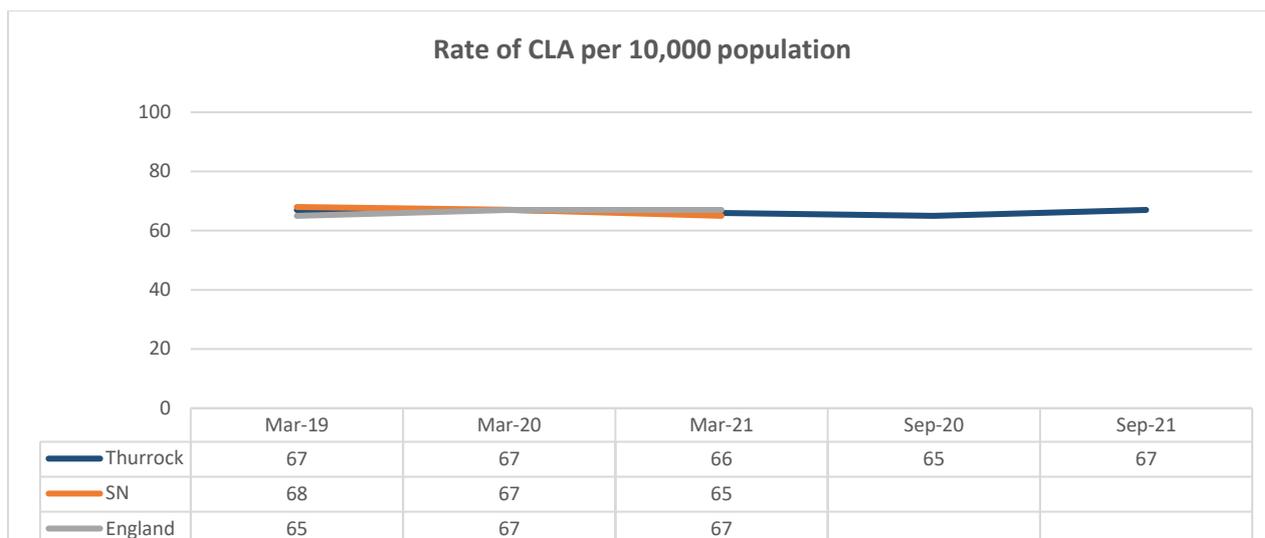
The NTS is operated by Central Government with the Home Office responsible for administration of the scheme. The Eastern Region Co Coordinator who previously ensured the smooth transfer process in the region is no longer responsible for the transfers, however their role is to liaise with the Home Office co-ordinator.



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 September 2021 there were 308 Children Looked After in Thurrock with the rate of 67 per 10,000. Based on the benchmarking data 2021, Thurrock is above the Statistical Neighbour average of 65 and in line with England averages of 67 as at the end of September 2021.

¹ The Eastern Region comprises of Bedford Borough, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend, Suffolk and Thurrock local authorities



3.4 CLA episodes started and ended

It is normal for the number of children leaving care to fluctuate. During 2020-21, the number of Thurrock children who ceased to be looked after was 148, 33 were UASC compared to 235 during 2019-20 when 88 were UASC.

The most common reason for episodes ending in 2020-21 was children returning home to live with parents, relatives, or other person with parental responsibility and moving to an independent living arrangement. Similarly this was the case in 2019-20.

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. 21 cases out of the total of 53 as at November 2021 were over 40 weeks.

Four factors contribute and impact on the numbers of children in care in Thurrock;

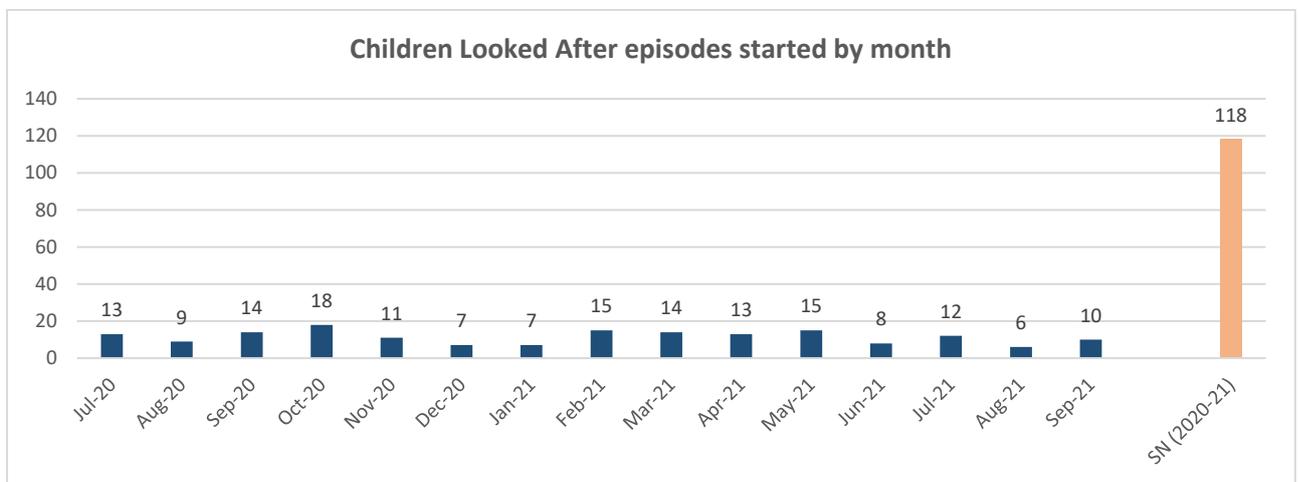
- Numbers of children entering care
- Numbers of children leaving care
- Numbers of UASC entering care
- Numbers of UASC who remain looked after by Thurrock

The below chart shows entries and exits in and out of care over the last few years and evidences fewer numbers of UASC entering care in Thurrock and a stabilising of UASC numbers in line with 0.07 of the child population and transfers taking place appropriately.

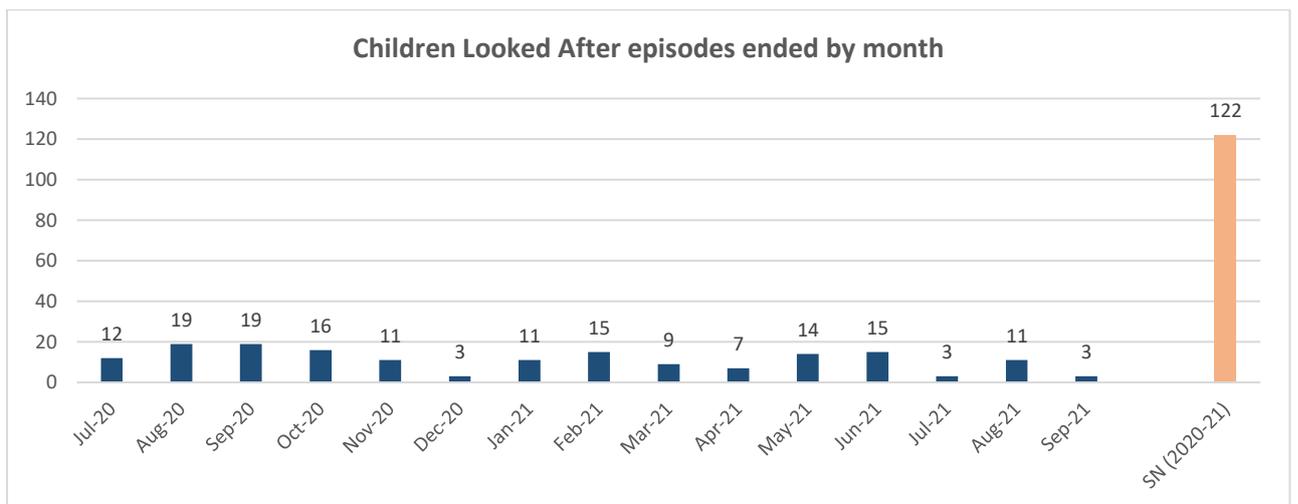
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22(Q1 &2)
Entering Care total	203	242	150	63

Entering Care UASC (% of CLA population)	91 (44.8%)	75 (30.9%)	36 (24%)	20 (31.7%)
Exiting Care	211	235	148	56
CLA No, at end of reporting period	290 Reduction of 9	298 Reduction of 8	298 No change	305 Increase of 7
Average UASC Population	39	23	21	27.8

All cases are reviewed to ensure the correct children come in to care and court proceedings are only issued where necessary. Children and Families are supported to remain together to stabilise families who may be in crisis.

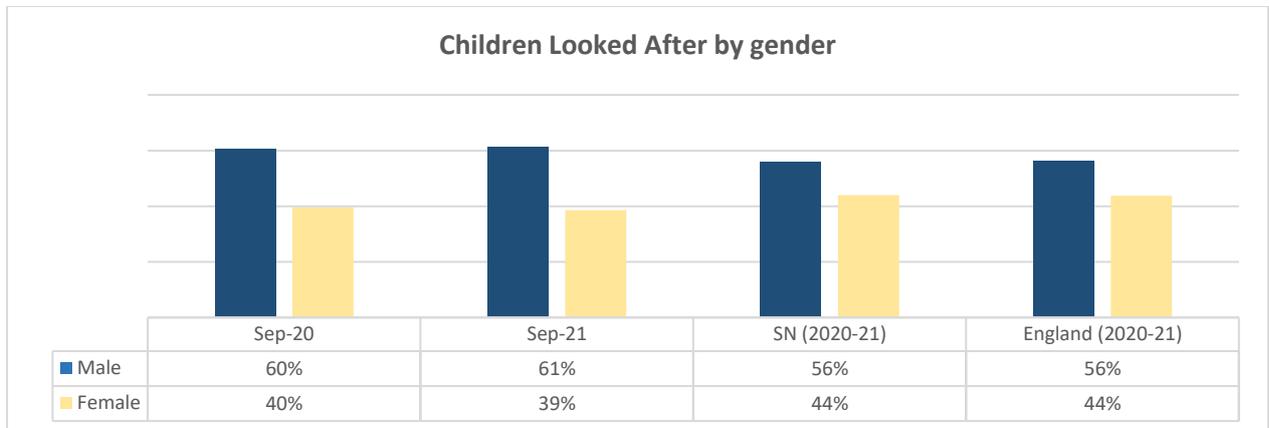


3.5 CLA episodes ended in month



3.6 CLA by gender

Based on the benchmarking data in 2020-21, the gender breakdown is in line with the Statistical Neighbour and England averages.

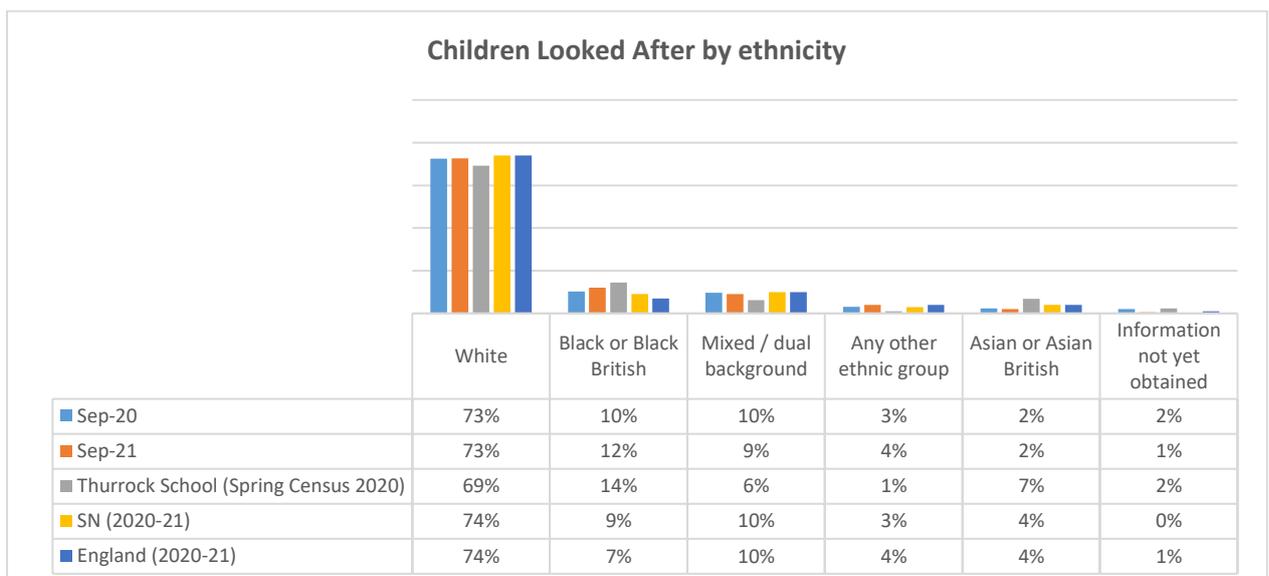


3.7 CLA by ethnicity

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

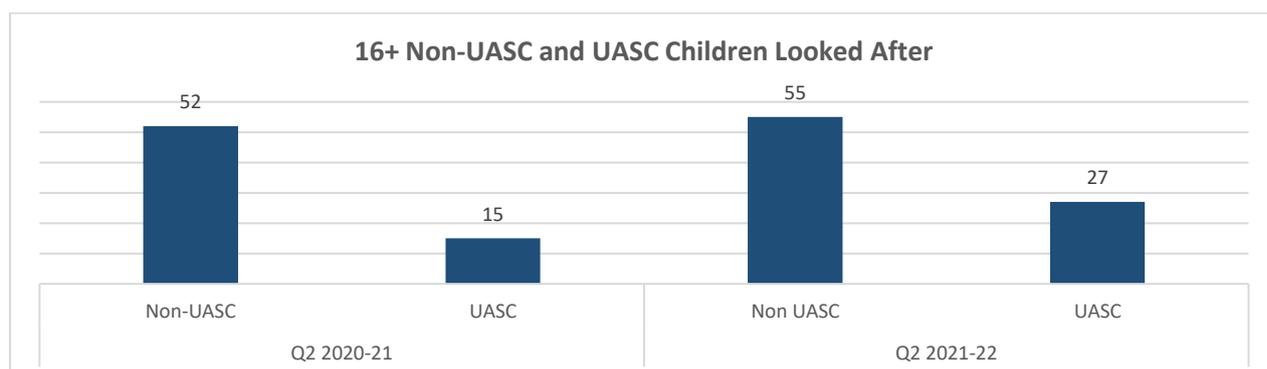
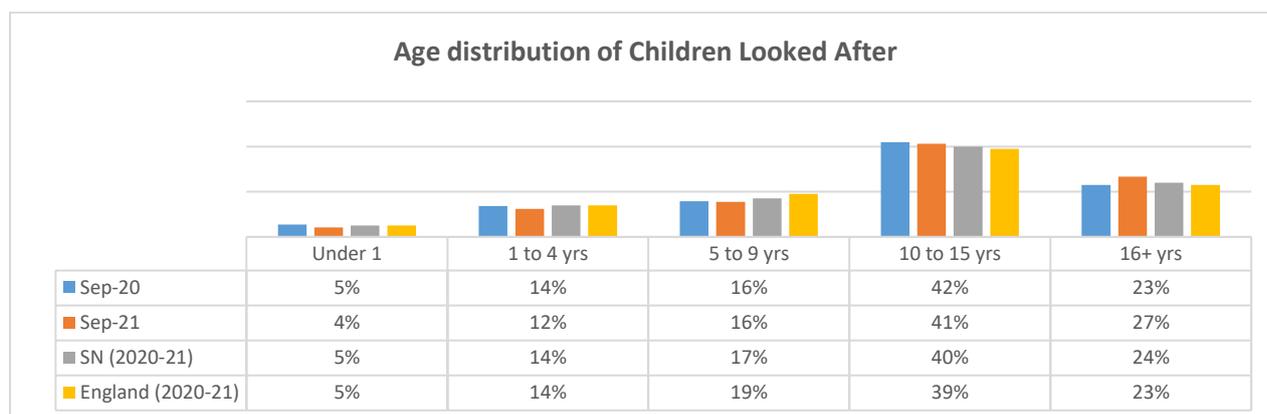
Thurrock's Children Looked After are predominantly White which is in line with Thurrock's School Census in Spring 2020 and the Statistical Neighbour and England averages as at March 2021.

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

Based on the benchmarking data as at March 2021, the age profile of the Children Looked After cohort remains mostly stable and in line with the Statistical Neighbour and England averages. Since September 2020, the number of 16+ Children Looked After has increased by 4%. This increase is directly related to number of UASC who are predominantly male increasing from 15 in September 2020 to 27 in September 2021.

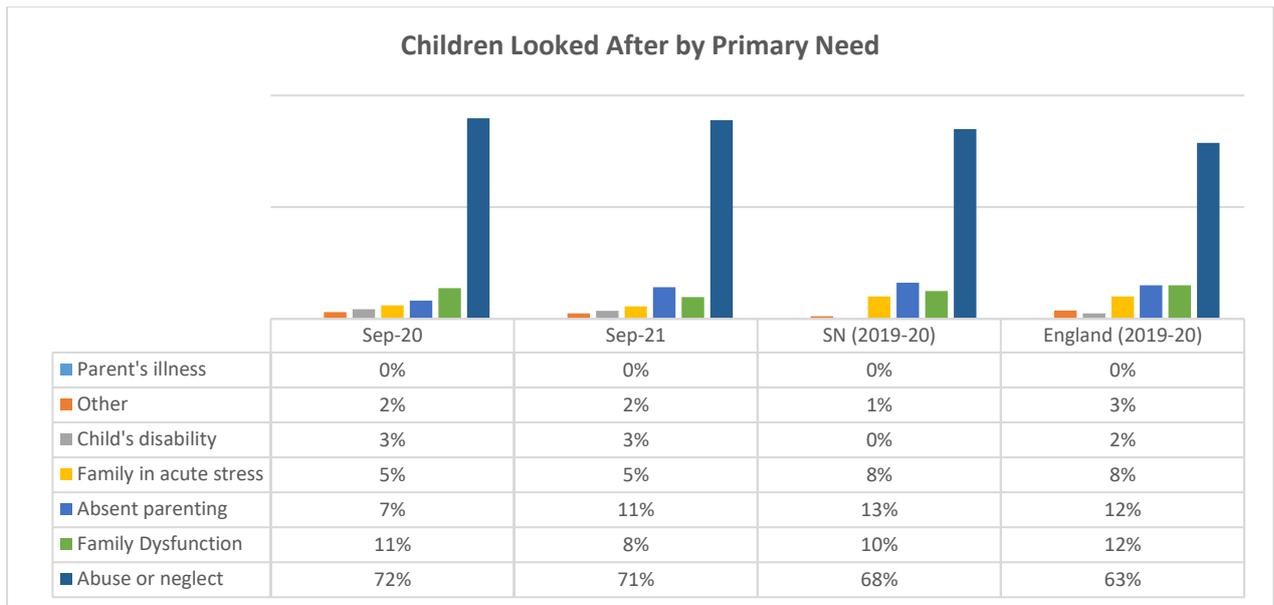


3.9 CLA with a disability

The number of children looked after with a disability has remained stable since September 2020. At the end of September 2021, 22 of the total CLA cohort were recorded as having a disability. 19 of these children were boys aged seven and over and three girls aged 11 and over. All 19 of these children were placed within 20 miles or less from their home. One case with two children is subject to care proceedings.

3.10 CLA by Category of Need

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 provide support and intervention to enable families to remain together and ensure that children only become looked after, when absolutely necessary.

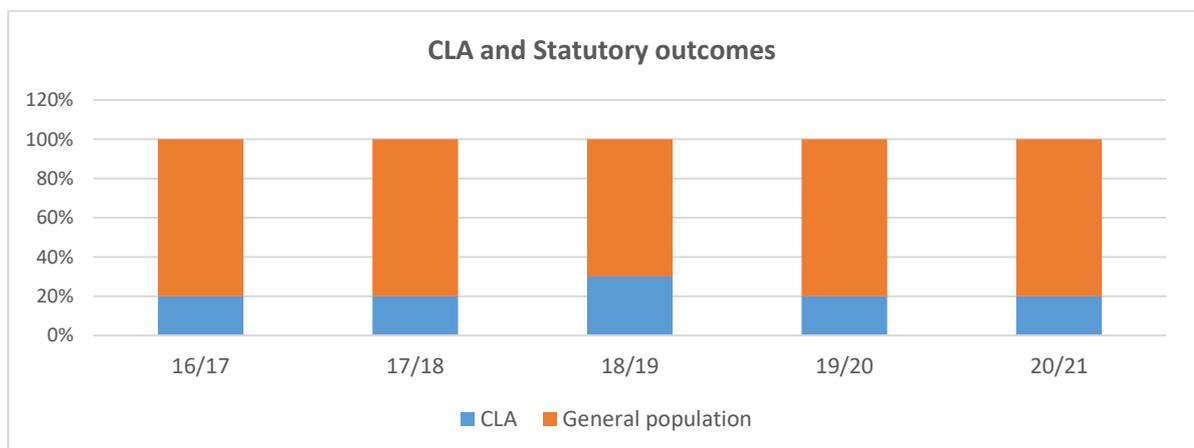


4. Number of CLA open to the Youth Offending Service (YOS)

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, 9 of these were looked after children of which 7 were looked after by Thurrock. The 9 children looked after represented 20% of the young people open to YOS, 56% were from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background (BAME).



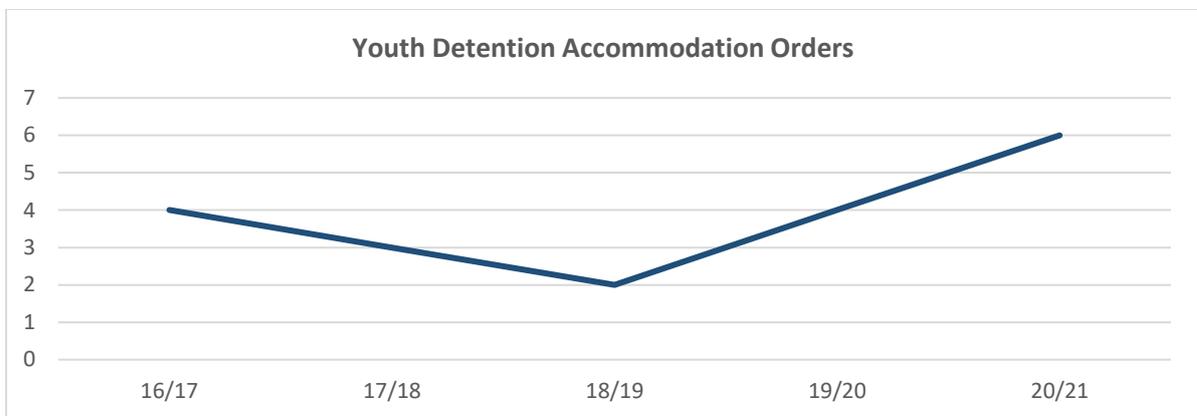
The above graph represents the percentage of Children Looked After versus the total number of young people in the Youth Justice System for the last five years. Despite an increase from 20% to 30% in 2018-19 the numbers of

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 in 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, the number of children subject to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) was under 5. 75% of these children are from the BAME community. The majority of the Remands into custody were made in the first four months of 2021 when there was a rise in gang related violence and knife crime.

The over representation of BAME young people in the Criminal Justice system is reflected nationally. Research into this area evidences that young black males children are not always given the same opportunities for Diversion (Early Intervention), as young white male children, 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 children 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. The Essex wide Criminal Justice Board is also sponsoring some work in this area.

4.3 Out of court disposal panel

In 2020-21, 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 protocol² 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.

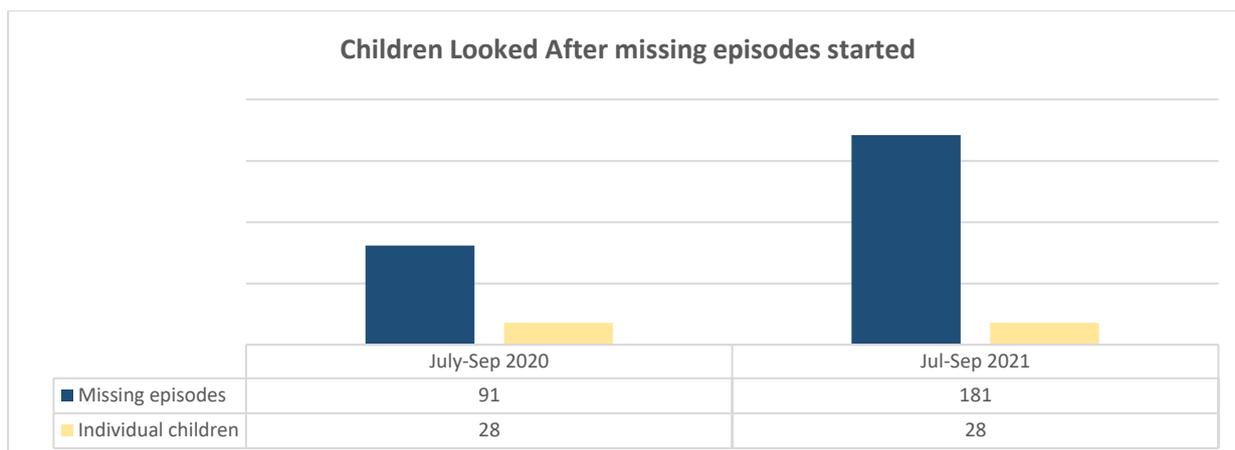
At Q2 2021-22 the out of court disposal panel has dealt with 33 offences relating to 24 children.

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 July and September 2021.

Between July and September 2021, there were total of 181 missing episodes compared to 91 missing episodes in the same period in 2019-20 reflecting lower level of missing at the height of COVID. The number of young people that went missing has remained at 28 for both 2019-20 and 2020-21.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-on-reducing-criminalisation-of-looked-after-children>



Between July and September 2021:-

- 7 children had between 10 and 28 missing episodes
- 6 children between 3 and 8 episodes
- 15 children between 1 and 2 missing episodes

The most common reason for children going missing was contact with family and friends, representing 52% of missing episodes in September 2021.

Out of the 28 individual children who went missing, 16 went missing for 24 hours or less and 5 of these children went missing for 2 hours or less

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.

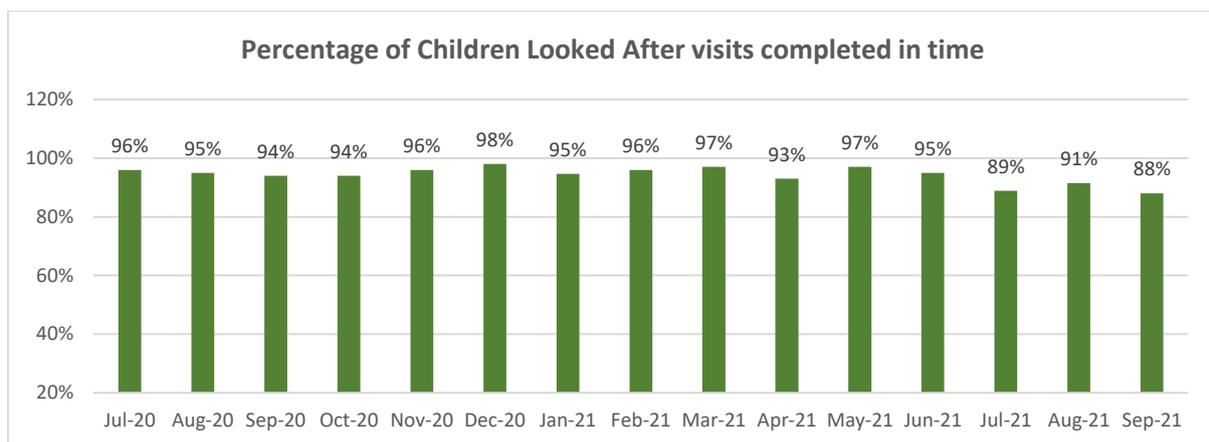
Between July and September 2021, the average take up was 48% by all young people offered a RHI compared to 60% between July and September 2020. The offer of an RHI via Inspire is not always accepted by young people for a number of reasons including not wanting to reveal their whereabouts when missing and not believing that they were missing but out. All young people who have a missing episode are reviewed at the weekly Risk Management Meeting.

The graph below shows the percentage of return to home interviews taken up by young people through Inspire over the last 12 months. There has been an increase in the number of missing episodes in a cohort of 7 young people who have consistently refused return home interviews. We are reviewing how we

engage this cohort of young people and alternatives such as whether there is anyone within the network better placed to have these conversations when they return from missing episodes including their social worker and how this information is captured. Part of this review will include gaining an understanding from young people about what works for them, what the barriers are to taking up a return home interview and working with representatives from the National Working Group who are supporting Inspire to improve the take up of that offer

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. There has been a slight dip in performance in the last quarter and there is focused work within the service to ensure sustained improved performance and that children are seen and spoken to. The average quarterly visits completed in time between July and September 2021 was 89% compared to 95% between July and September 2020.



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 other health providers for children placed outside of Thurrock. Sometimes notifications for an IHA cannot be made 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 October 2020 and September

2021, with 84% of notifications being made within 5 working days. The numbers of IHA's requests required each month can be small and therefore fluctuations can be impacted on by very small numbers

Two performance measures inform the data and success in children having an initial health assessment in time;

- Whether the referral for an initial health assessment is made by the local authority within 5 days
- An initial health assessment takes place within 20 working days of a child entering into care

Impact of Covid

One initial Health Assessment was delayed because of self-isolation due to Covid.

Three initial assessments were delayed due to sickness or capacity in health services.

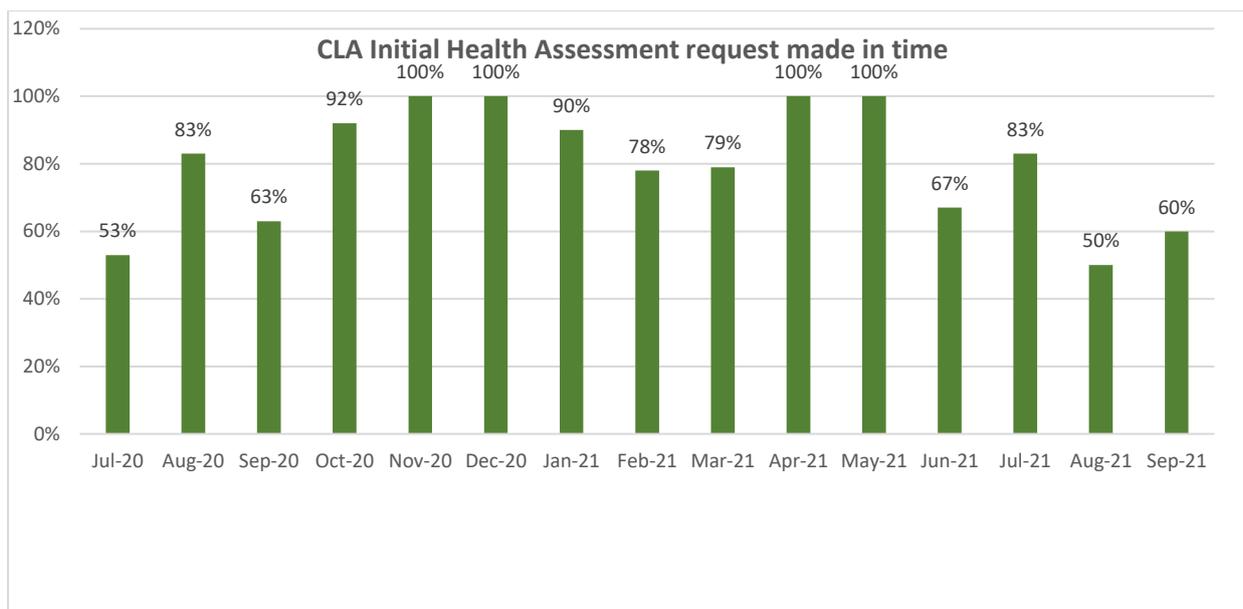
IHA request made to health by social care within 5 days of child becoming looked after.

The average percentage completed in time from April to September 2021 was 77.6%

Between April and September 2021 there were eleven children with a delayed referral. Reasons for delays included; parents refusing or delaying in providing written consent; procedural issues such as a child moving placement and the paperwork needing to be resubmitted and; request for consent being late or a child who is able to give consent refusing or going missing.

Initial Health Assessment taken place within 20 working days of a child entering care

The average percentage of initial assessments completed in time between April and September 2021 was 60%. Reasons for delays in children having an initial health assessment in time included parents refusing or delaying in providing written consent; procedural issues such as a child moving placement and the paperwork needing to be resubmitted; capacity within health due to sickness, and other reasons such as clashes in appointments for the young person or a child being ill.



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 Head teacher is a key document, which must be produced as part of reporting arrangements. The Virtual school report is on this evening's committee meeting.

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

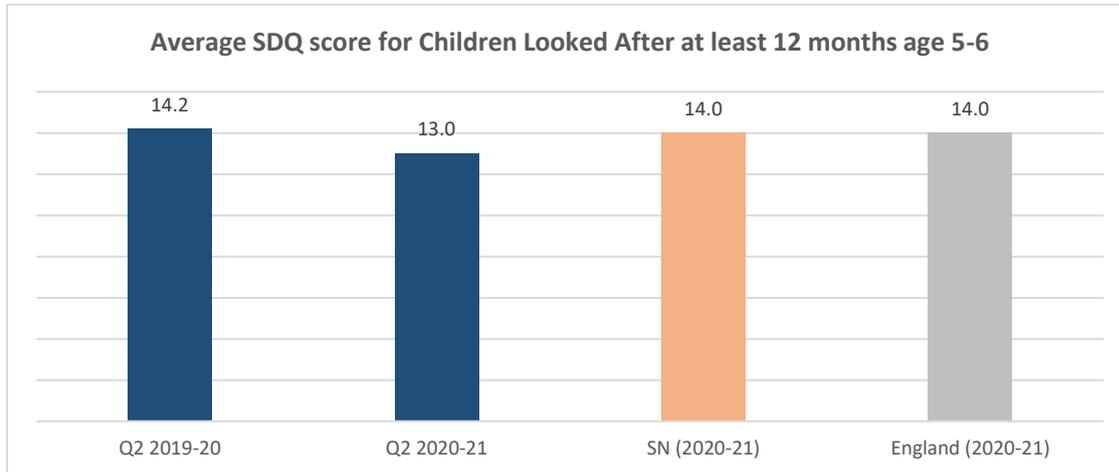
5.5 CLA Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

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 5-16 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 and 30 September 2021, a total of 5 children were adopted. 8 children are currently placed in adoptive placements and 2 have adoption hearings planned.

There are 3 children subject to Placement Orders but are not yet placed with an adoptive family; 2 children have been linked with prospective adopters and progressing to matching and one child is waiting for the outcome of an application for permission to revoke the Placement Order.

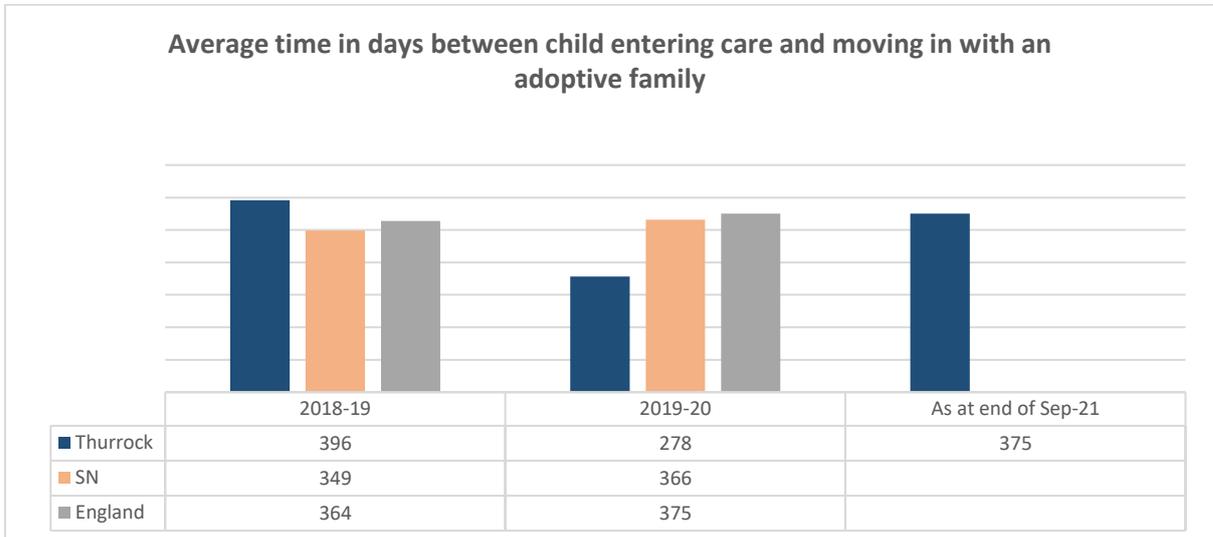
Between April and September 2021, 5 children subject to Placement Order have been subject to legal challenge by the birth parents; 4 of these children are now placed in their adoptive placements; and the legal outcome for 1 child is awaited.

There are 6 children who are waiting for a final hearing with a care plan for adoption (i.e. Care Order and Placement Order) and there are 9 children with an Agency Decision Maker (ADM) decision for adoption who are still in proceedings.

6.1 Timeliness of Adoption

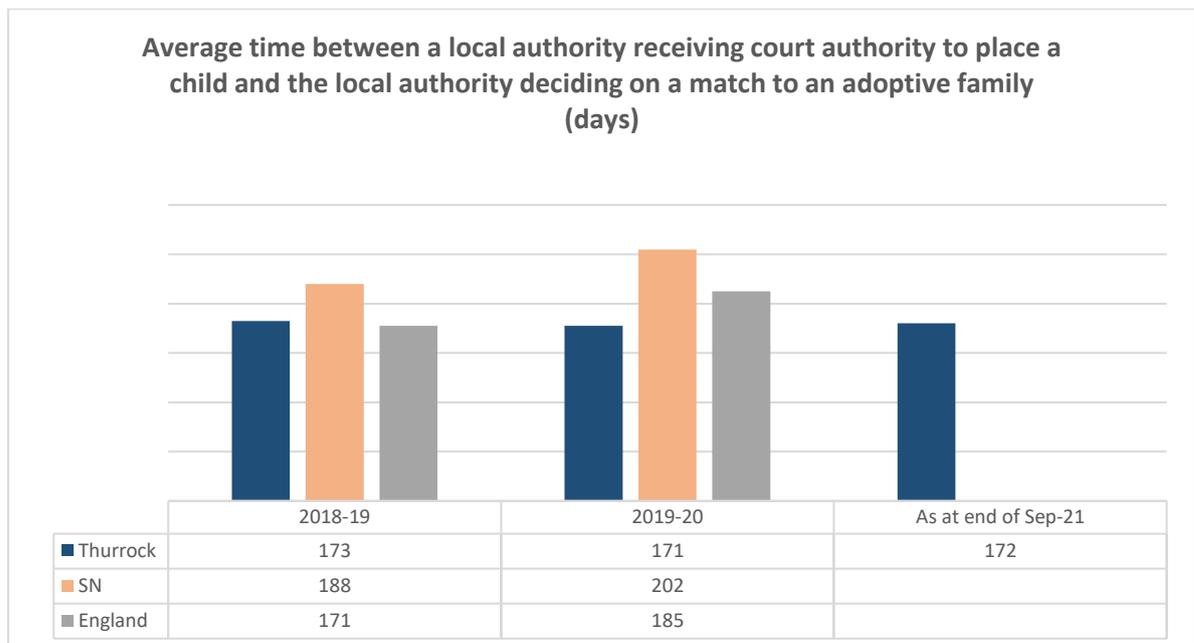
The timeliness of adoption is measured as a 12 month rolling average; it is the length of time from the child entering care to moving in with an adoptive family. As at end of September 2021, Thurrock's average was 375 days.

Based on the latest benchmarking data as at the end of March 2020, Thurrock is marginally above the statistical neighbour average of 366 days and in line with England average of 375 days.



As at end of September 2021, the average time in days between Thurrock receiving a Placement Order (court authority) to place a child with the adoptive family was 172 days.

Based on the benchmarking data as at end of March 2020, Thurrock is below our statistical neighbour average of 202 days and England average of 185 days, which is positive performance.



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.

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. Securing 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.

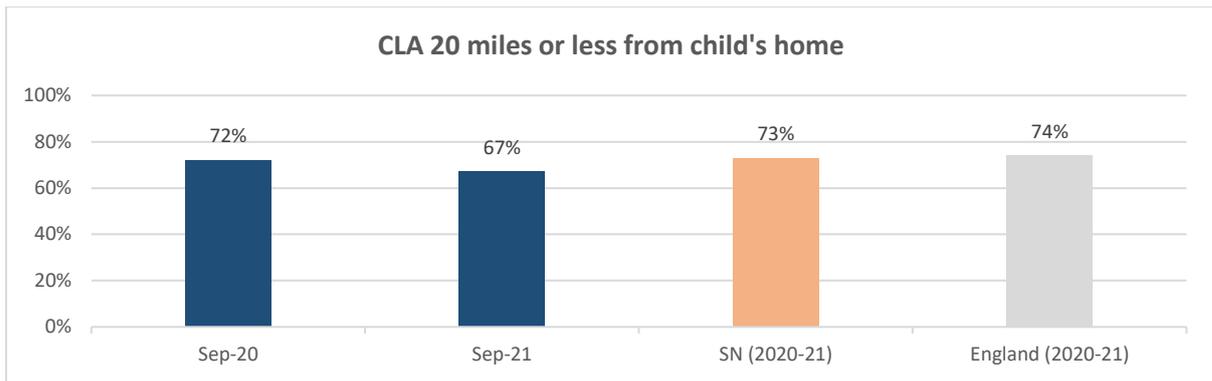
As at the end of September 2021, there were 56 (18%) children aged 0-5, the total cohort of CLA being 308. The majority of children under five who are not able to return home, are moved on to permanent placements through adoption or permanent alternative carers. There have been significant delays, as a result of COVID-19, resulting in children being subject to court proceedings for longer periods, and transition to their permanent homes being delayed.

6.3 CLA placement distance

It is good practice to ensure that children remain within their communities. At the end of September 2021, 67.2% of the Children Looked After cohort were placed within 20 miles or less from their homes, which represents 207 of 308 children looked after. Based on the latest benchmarking data available in March 2021, it reflects the national average of 74%.

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 care³, (the interim report published by the Competition and Markets Authority, October 2021, has noted the pressure on Local Authority placement services) and the local authority continues to seek Ofsted registered provision and sometimes this is outside of the Thurrock and Essex area.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-market-study-interim-report/interim-report>.



7. Care Leaving Service

A Care Leaver, as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000⁴, 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:

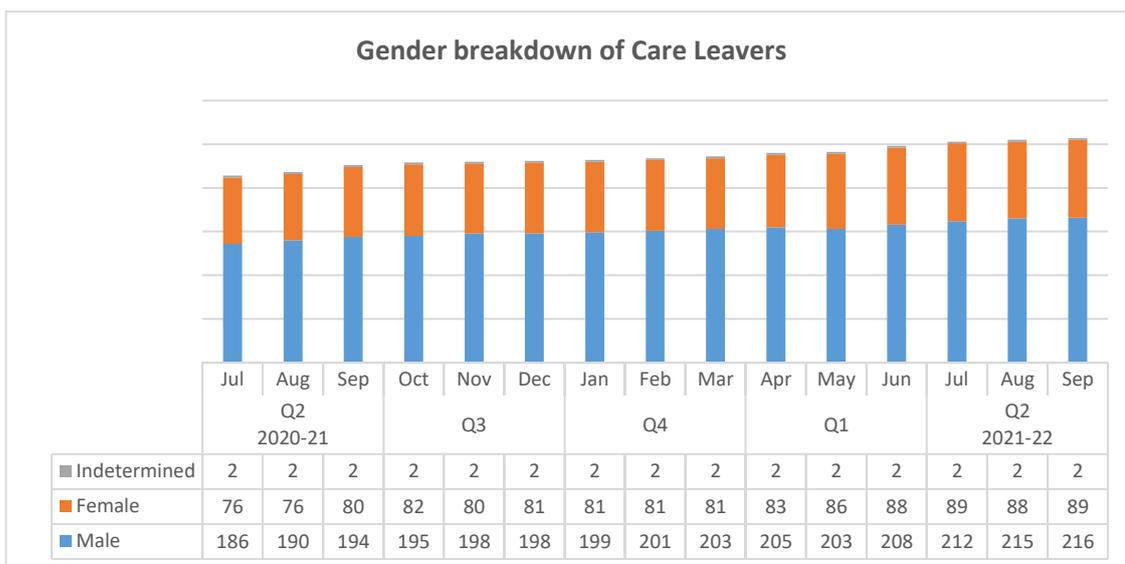
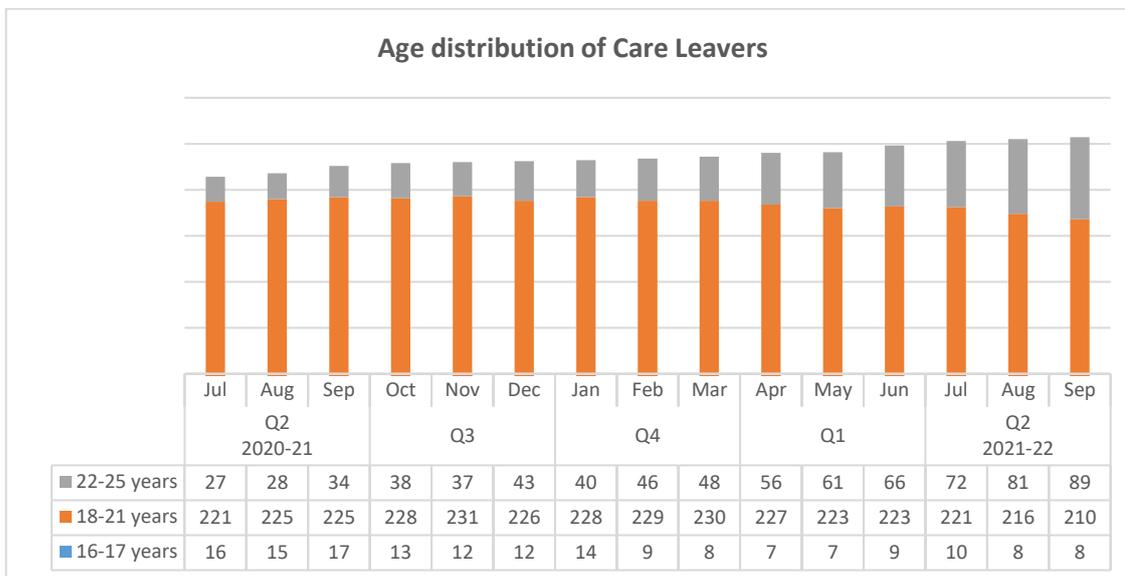
- Eligible child - a young person who is 16 or 17 and who has been looked after by the local authority/health and social care trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who is still looked after
- Relevant child - a young person who is 16 or 17 who has left care after their 16th 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 **care leaver cohort** (Relevant and Former Relevant Children whose 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday falls within Financial Year) 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 September 2021, 307 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 chart below reflects the increased number of care leavers aged 22 and above from 34 care leavers in Quarter 2, 2020-21, to 89 care leavers in Quarter 2 2021-22.

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents>

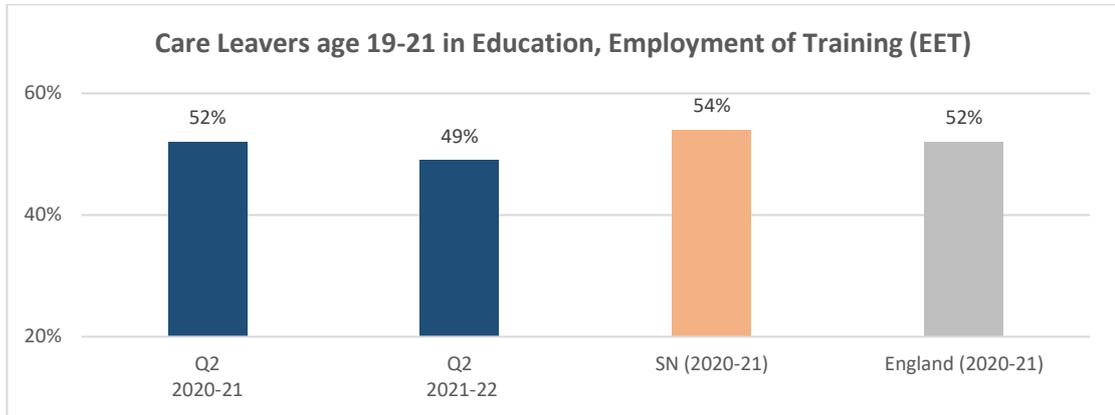
The charts below show the Care Leaver cohort broken down by age groups and gender.



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

At the end of September 2021, 49% of the Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 year old were in part or full time education, employment or training compared to 52% in September 2020. 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

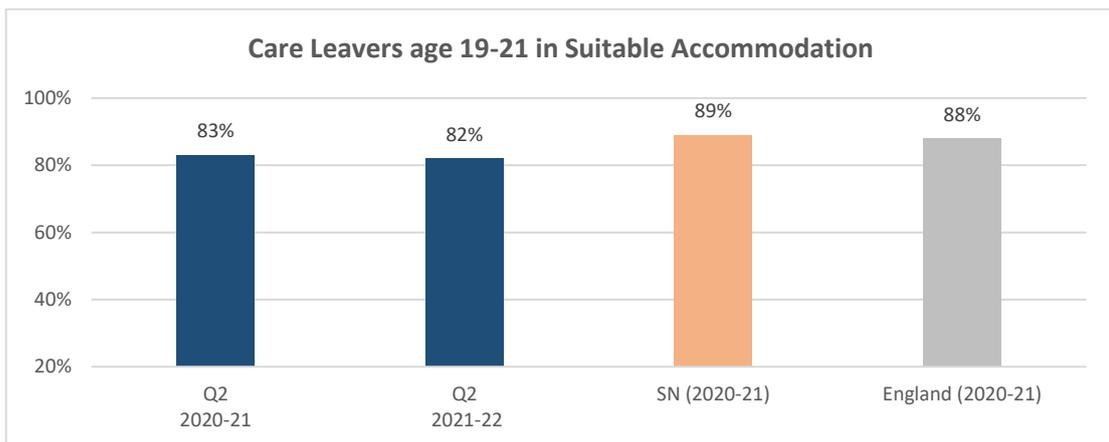
Young People which has limited opportunities to engage in work experience and continue with employment.



7.2 Care Leavers age 19 to 21 years in Suitable Accommodation

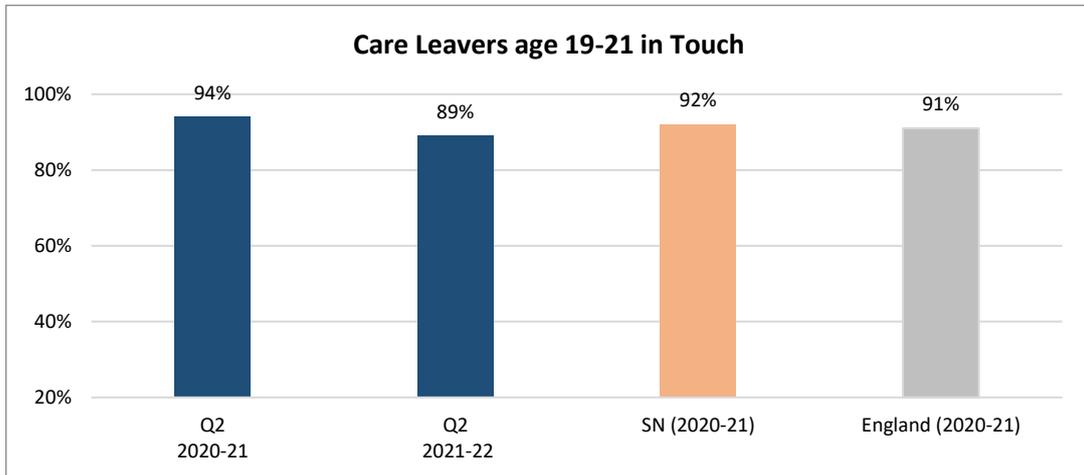
At the end of September 2021, the number of 19 to 21 year old Care Leavers reported to be in suitable accommodation was 82%. There are some care leavers who are not in touch with the service. Reasons for accommodation being deemed unsuitable include care leavers who are UASC and missing, young people declining to say where they are living or care leavers who are in prison.

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 September 2021, Thurrock was in touch with 89% of Care Leavers. Thurrock's performance is slightly below the statistical neighbour average of 92% and England average of 91% at the end of September 2021.



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

11.2 Legal

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

No implications identified

11.3 Diversity & Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project
Monitoring Officer
Adults, Housing & Health

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 Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

- 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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