

REPORT TITLE	Children's Services Performance Report
DATE OF MEETING	5th March 2020
REPORT AUTHORS	Kelly Headley, Performance and Improvement Manager Andy Dempsey, Director of Partnerships and Strategy
REASON FOR PRESENTING REPORT	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide Children's Services Leadership Team with an overview of performance against key metrics for January 2020. It highlights areas of good performance and the areas in which further improvement is needed. The report is intended as a high level summary of key activity from contact through to permanence to enable Senior Leadership to understand and address key drivers of/barriers to improved performance.</p> <p>Child level interventions (for missing or overdue visits etc) will continue to be actioned through the locality performance surgeries, with information available to Managers through daily web reporting. This report will also form the basis of reporting to Corporate Leadership, Improvement Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
REPORTING PERIOD	The data provided in this report represents a mature cut of performance data for January 2020 .
OVERVIEW	<p>Initial and end-to-end decision making and enquiry in the MASH has improved, although timeliness of decisions for RED rated contacts has declined. Our response to risk is an area that requires continued drive with the improvement in initial visiting timeliness needing to be maintained. Assessment timeliness remaining static and initial conferences timeliness and completion of return interviews remaining low. While we are able to report in more detail on EH activity we are yet to evidence impact, particularly in terms of cases stepped down from statutory services.</p> <p>Visits to children in our care, care leavers and children subject to a CiN or CP plan are timely for the vast majority of children. Levels of repeat activity in the system have increased in January. Placement stability both long and short term remains a concern and workforce stability, although improving, continues to impact on children. We remain an outlier in the use of Section 20 arrangements for children in care and this is a contributing factor affecting readmissions and placement stability.</p> <p>Viewing the system as a whole, performance continues to be variable over time, between and within localities. Interventions by management are not yet sufficiently impacting upon those factors driving the variability in performance across localities/teams in order to minimise the onward impact for children. There continue to be significant delays in recording information for children across the system which impacts sight of risk and the legal basis under which we are acting.</p>

KEY MESSAGES

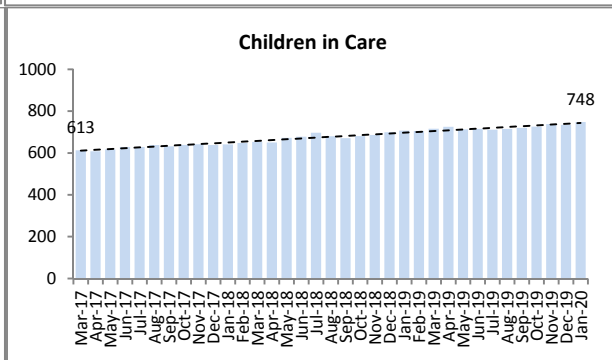
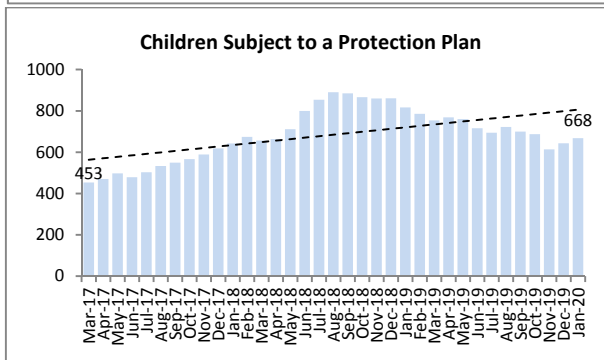
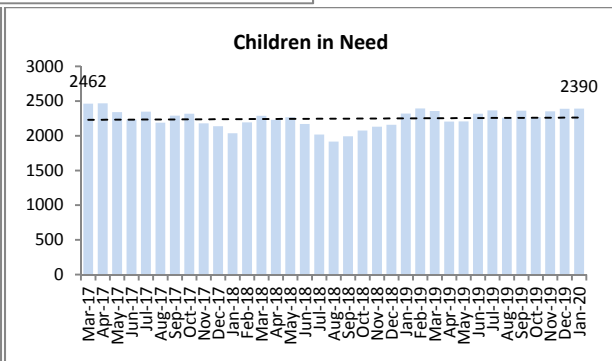
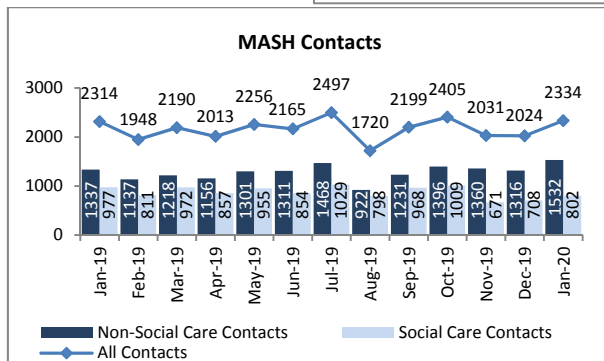
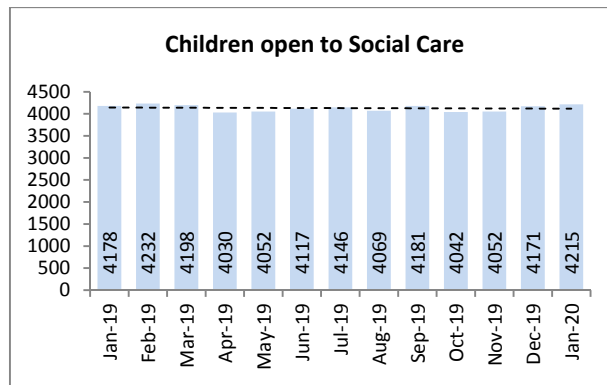
- ★ Timeliness of initial and end-to-end decision making in the MASH was above target, as was timeliness of MASH enquiries
- ★ Timeliness of initial visits increased significantly and is above target for the first time since June 2019.
- ★ Timeliness of Strategy Discussions remains below but within tolerance of target
- ★ Timeliness of S47 enquiries is high
- ★ **Timeliness of visits to Children in Need remains above target**
- ★ The majority of Children in Need have a CiN plan in place in a timely way
- ★ The vast majority of children subject to a protection plan have an up-to-date review and performance is above target
- ★ **The majority of children in care have been seen within timescale**, have an up-to-date review and have a pathway plan in place, performance is above target
- ★ A good proportion of children in care have had a health and dental check within timescales and performance is within tolerance of or above target
- ★ **A high proportion of care leavers** have been in touch with their Social Worker in the last 6 months, **have a Pathway Plan and live in suitable accommodation**. More than half are in education, employment or training

- ▲ **Timeliness of initial visits to children categorised as S47 remained below target.**
- ▲ **Timeliness of decisions for Red rated contacts has declined over the last two months**
- ▲ **Timeliness of visits to children subject to a child protection plan declined for a second month and is below target**
- ▲ Re-referrals and repeat protection plans increased, performance remains worse than target as it does for Readmissions
- ▲ The percentage of assessments completed within timescale has remained static and below target for more than a year however, the number of significantly overdue assessments has improved
- ▲ Timeliness of CiN reviews improved but continues to require improvement for a quarter of children
- ▲ The proportion of children in care with an up-to-date assessment is below target
- ▲ The proportion of return interviews following a missing episode remains low and off target
- ▲ Completion, timeliness and recording of case supervision for children improved slightly but further improvement is needed

- ▲ Timeliness of ICPCs improved but remains well below the target
- ▲ Timeliness of IHAs improved but still remains well below target
- ▲ Children in care continue to experience short and long-term placement instability
- ▲ There is continued instability of Social Workers for children
- ▲ There continue to be significant delays in recording across the system

Note: Bold text indicates those measures that are those monitored through the Accelerated Improvement Plan

Demand Dashboard



KEY: trendline -----

In the last 12 months, the number of children open to Social Care overall has remained steady (within one standard deviation), with increases in children in care and Care Leavers largely offset by reductions in the number of children subject to a protection plan.

Despite the steady volume of cases overall and increased resource above staffing compliment in some areas, we have not seen a significant impact on the proportion of Social Workers with a caseload of 18 cases per fte or fewer. However, the distribution of workers with higher caseloads is likely to have improved within the 19-25 cases and More than 25 cases bandings i.e. 88% of workers have a caseload of 22 cases or fewer compared with 85% in December 2018.

Our referral and re-referral rates remain much higher than comparators, impacting volume within the Social Care system.

The number of Children in Need is also made up of children undergoing assessment, half of which do not lead to a Social Care service. These assessments continue to take too long to complete and impact sight of caseload levels where social work is required.

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Executive Summary

Contact Activity and Assessment

Timeliness of decision making and enquiry in the MASH improved and was within tolerance of or above target at all stages with the exception of decisions for Red rated contacts where performance has declined over two months from 98% to 89%.

The timeliness of initial visits to children improved significantly in January (88%). This is a 12-month high and is above target for the first time since June 2019. Timeliness of visits to children undergoing an S47 enquiry also improved (75%) but further pace for these children is needed.

Re-referrals increased in January (29%) and have been high throughout 2019/20.

Timeliness of completion of Single Assessments has been static and below target for more than a year (76% against a target of 85%). However, there has been a reduction in the number of assessments which are significantly overdue (more than 90 w.days) in the last 3 months (31 down to 5).

Early Help

Timeliness of decision making for contacts received directly by Early Help improved compared to last month but remained relatively low (71%).

Further understanding of My Plan/+ open for more than 12 months would be beneficial and, in particular, those open to education.

A high proportion of episodes continue to be closed and directed to other services/agencies to meet the child and families needs (42%) or were due to non-engagement or withdrawal of consent (39%).

One-third of children who had received direct work from Family Support who had their needs met or partially met (32%).

Timeliness of initial visits for Family Support Workers needs improvement (45%).

One-third of children with an episode open to Family Support had a previous episode within the last 12 months (35%).

Children in Need

Timeliness of visits for our Children in Need continues to be above target (91%).

We develop a plan for our Children in Need in a timely way (94%). Timeliness of reviewing plans improved in January, from 68% to 76% but further improvement is needed to ensure that progress is being made and actions remain appropriate for all children. The FoD has the lowest proportion of reviews in timescale (52%).

There are fewer Children in Need on a plan for more than two years, 17 down from 36 at the same time last year.

Child Protection

Strategy Discussion timeliness remained below but within tolerance of target in January (77%).

Timeliness of S47 enquiries remained high (91%).

Timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences increased in January (55% up from 42%). Performance remains significantly below target (80%) and requires greater pace of improvement.

The number of children subject to a child protection plan increased over the last two months, up from 614 children to 668. With the high volumes of children undergoing Strategy Discussions, S47 Enquiries and ICPCs, it is expected that a continued increase will be seen.

The proportion of children subject to a protection plan who were seen within 10 working days declined slightly for a second month and is below but within tolerance of target (87%).

The majority of children subject to a protection plan have had a timely review (92%).

The proportion of children being made subject to a second or subsequent plan increased significantly in January (35%). This has been impacted by 3 large sibling groups returning to plans.

Children in Care

The number of children in care continued to follow a broadly increasing trend (748 children).

The proportion of children in care under a Section 20 arrangement has reduced marginally and is better than target (27.4% against a target of 28%) but remains high compared to nationally (19%).

Nearly a quarter of our children in care live more than 20 miles from their home (23%).

16% of children returned to care in January. We remain slightly higher than nationally (12.7%). The majority of children returning to care are readmitted following a return home to family.

The majority of children in care have had a statutory visit within timescales (96%), have had a timely review (97%) and have a Pathway Plan where appropriate (84%). Performance in these areas is above target.

A high proportion of children in care have an up-to-date assessment (90%) but performance is below target (95%).

A good proportion of children in care have an up-to-date health check (88%) and dental check (84%) and performance is within or above tolerance.

Timeliness of Initial Health Assessments improved for a second month but remains low (29%) and is below target (50%).

Short and long-term placement stability remains a concern. This is worse than target and comparators.

Children in Care - Education

The vast majority of school aged children in care have an up-to-date PEP.

Fewer children have been Fixed Term excluded than at the same time in the last two academic years, with fewer school days lost.

A growing proportion of children are being educated out of County compared to previous academic years. An increasing proportion of children in care have lower than 90% school attendance. Both of these issues are set against a higher number of children in care than in previous academic years.

Children Leaving Care

The number of care leavers has increased by 7% over the last year. The demographic within the care leaver cohort has also changed, with a 7% increase in young people aged 16-18 and a 10% reduction in the over 21's group.

We have been in touch with 94% of our care leavers in the last 6 months. However, the proportion of 16-18 years olds that we have been in touch with remains lower at 87%. We have seen 75% of

our 16-20 year old care leavers and 98% of our care leavers aged over 21 within relevant timescales. There have been increases in both contact and seeing our younger care leavers but further improvement is needed.

86% of care leavers have an up-to-date Pathway Plan, performance is below but within tolerance of target and remains lower than the first half of the financial year.

A high proportion of our care leavers across all age groups are in suitable accommodation (92%), although performance is again lower for the 16-18 year old age group (83%).

Over half of our care leavers across all age groups (55%) are in education, training or employment.

Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation

Performance for December has improved significantly following a refresh of data, raising a number of concerns relating to return interview practice.

The proportion of children that we spoke with following a missing episode in January remained low at 65% and is below target (80%). We had timely conversations with 82% of those children that we spoke to.

The proportion of children in care missing has reduced from a high of 19% in June 2019 to 15% but has remained static over the last 3 months.

Workforce

74% of our Social Workers have a caseload which meets our commitment of 18 children or fewer per fte. 88% of our workers have a caseload of 22 children or fewer.

The vast majority of children were allocated a Social Worker in a timely way (99%). There is also activity taking place in a timely way for the 99% of children.

37% of children had a case supervision recorded in the case supervision form within the last 2 months (up from 30% in December). Recording, completion and timeliness of case supervisions need to improve.

81% of children had fewer than 3 Social Workers in the last 6 months.

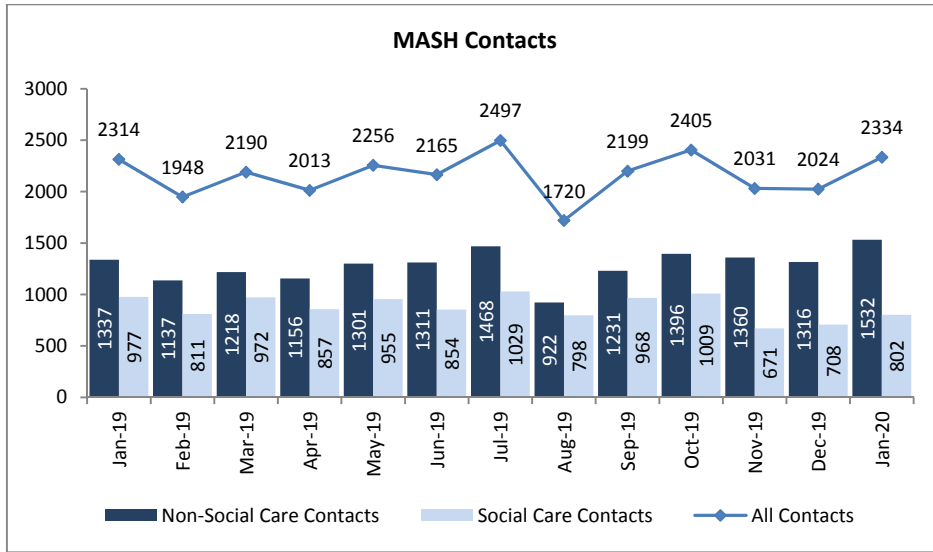
4% of children have had significant instability of Social Worker during their involvement with Social Care (169 children, 20 or more changes of worker).

Stability of Social Worker for our children in care remains low (58%) compared to other authorities rated as Inadequate (around 66%) and good/outstanding LAs (around 75%).

The proportion of children for whom there are delays in recording information remains considerable and delays continue to be lengthy in some cases.

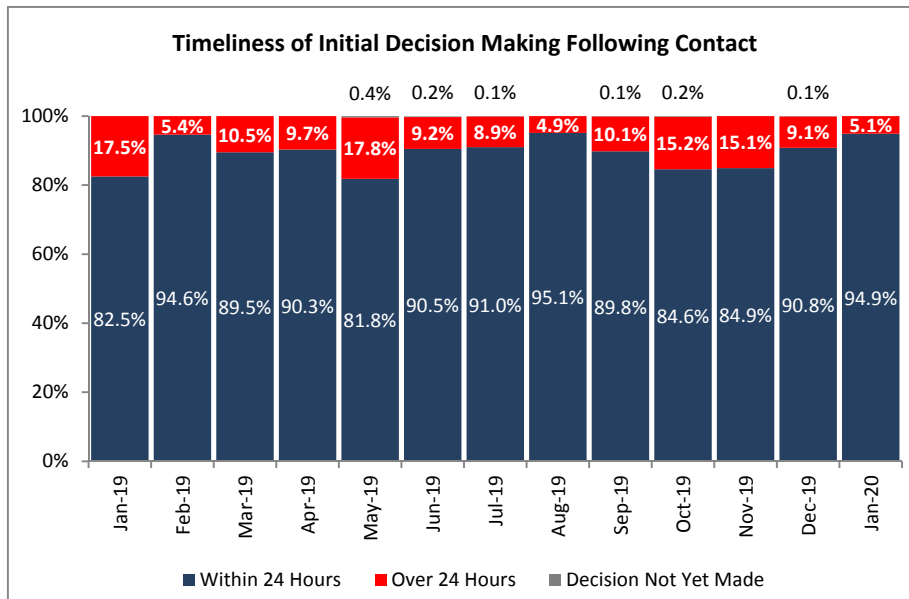
Contact Activity and Assessment

Contacts



2334 contacts were received by MASH in January, this is an increase from December but is around the same post-Christmas level seen last year.

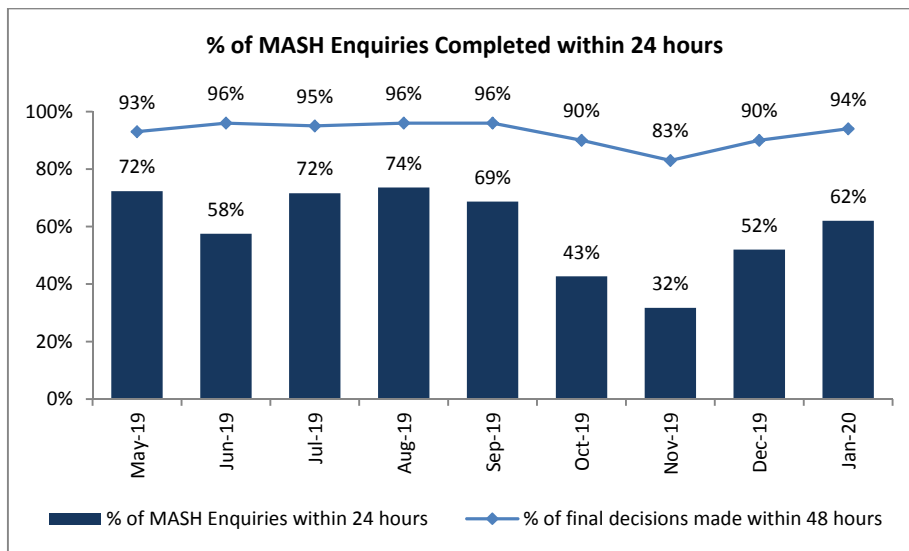
Note: Missing notifications are not included in contact numbers (194).



For 94.9% of contacts received in January, an initial decision was made within 24 hours. This is an increase from 90.8% in December and is above target (90%).

Initial decisions for 99% of contacts were made within 48 hours, this remains the same as December.

For 18 contacts, the time taken to make an initial decision exceeded 48 hours.



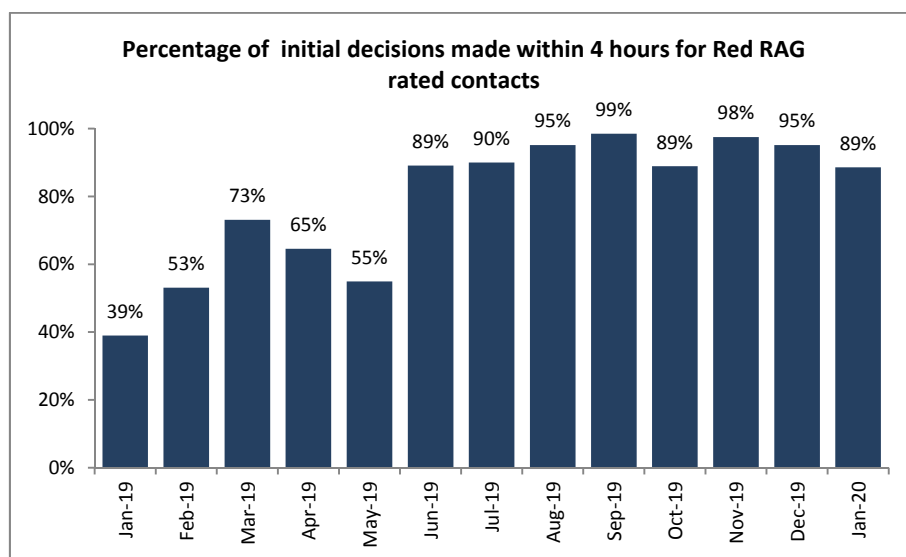
In December, 38% of contacts (880) underwent a MASH Enquiry.

The proportion of MASH enquiries where a decision was made within 24 hours has continued to improve for a second month up from 52% in December (405 of 774 contacts) to 62% in January (543 of 880 contacts).

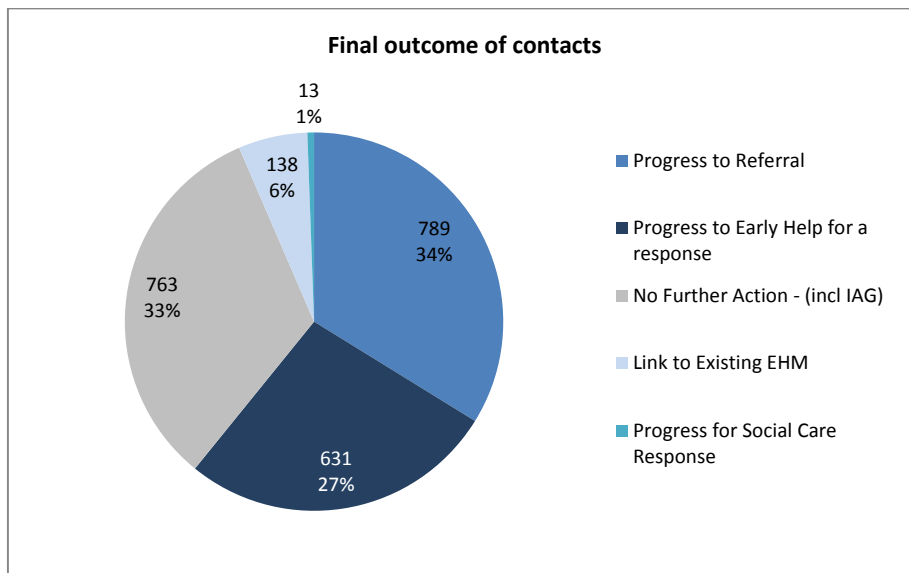
The proportion of MASH enquires where a decision had been made within 48 hours also continued to increase in January (95%, 836 contacts, up from 92%, 714 contacts in December).

Enquiries for the remaining 44 contacts took up to 5 working days, this has remained the same length of time since October but remains higher than months prior to that where the maximum time taken was 3 working days.

Following an initial decision and MASH enquiry where applicable, the final outcome for 94% of all contacts (2191) received in January was decided upon within 48 hours. This has increased from 90% (1815 contacts) in December and is now within tolerance of target. This trend directly correlates with the trend for MASH enquires completed within 24 hours. 87% of contacts where the final outcome was decided upon in over 48 hours underwent a MASH enquiry (124 of 143 contacts).



It is our aim to make decisions quickly for children where clear risk is evident. Timeliness of decision making for red rated contacts declined for a second consecutive month to 89% from 98% in November. This is also monitored in the **Accelerated Improvement plan**.



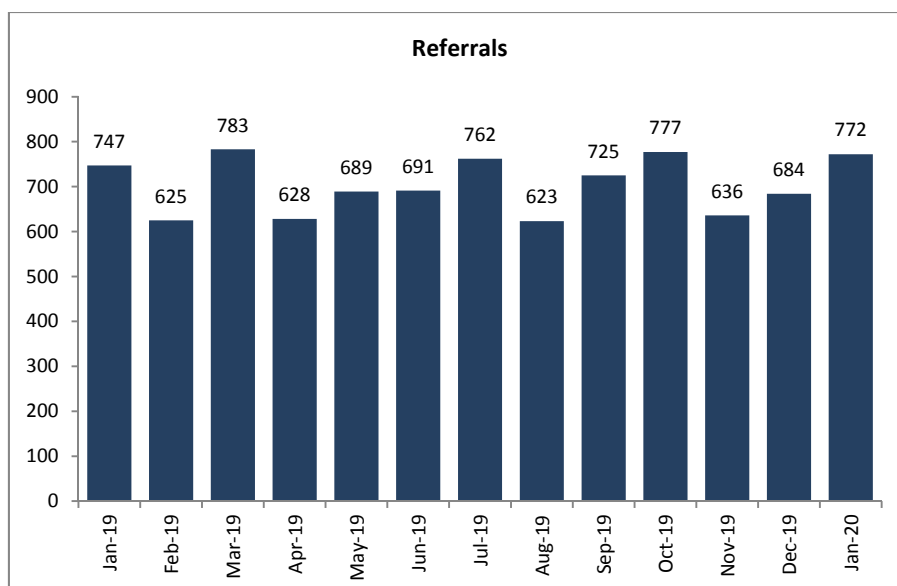
Just over a quarter of all contacts continue to progress to Early Help for a response (27% 631)

A third of contacts received by the MASH resulted in No Further Action (33%, 763). The majority of these (75%, 572) are where we gave information, advice and guidance but will also encompass contacts where appropriate support is already in place, where the contact was not deemed relevant for the service and where a service was offered and refused.

35% of contacts initially progressed to Social Care for a response (802). The outcome for 789 of these was to proceed to referral. This is broadly similar to previous months.

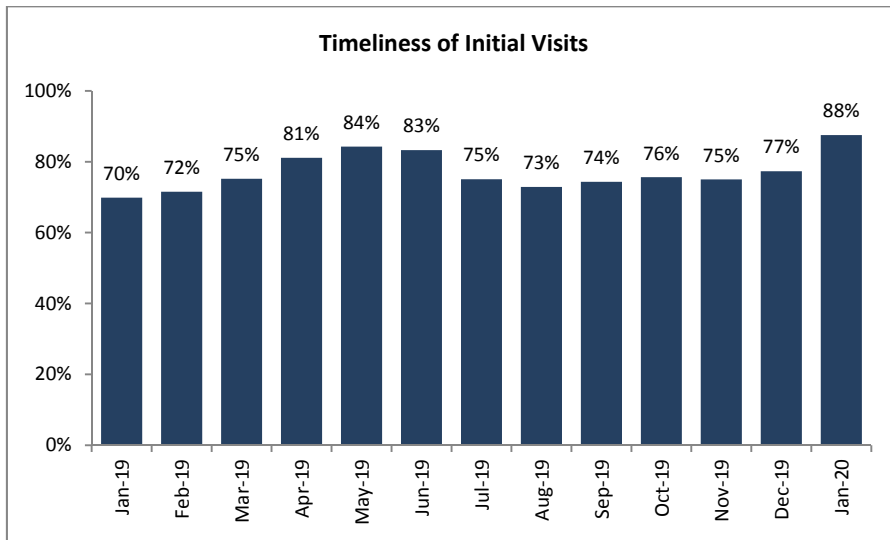
17 referrals were subsequently closed by the MASH following Strategy Discussions. 772 referrals, therefore progressed to Assessment Teams (33%).

Referrals

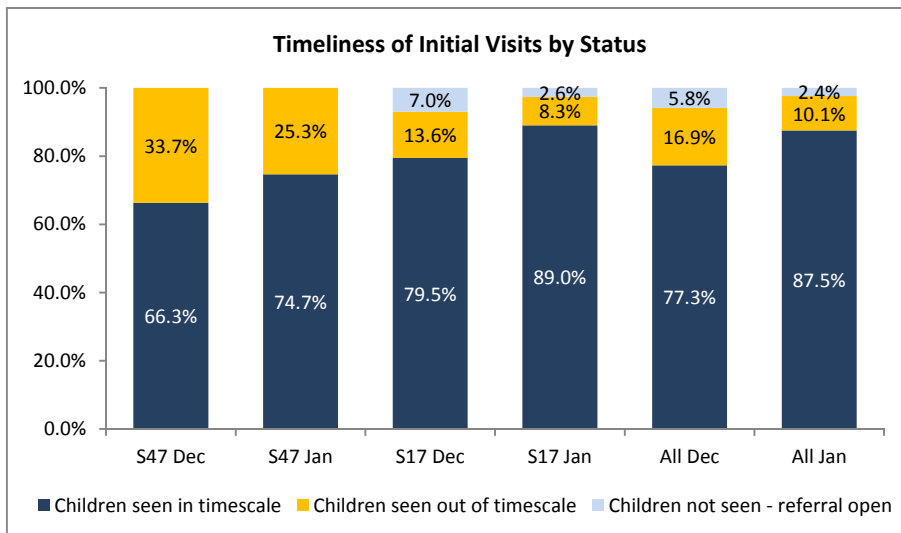


772 referrals were received from MASH into the Assessment teams in January.

157 referrals received in January have subsequently closed (20%). Of these, the outcome for 28 referrals was NFA (18%).



Initial visits for 88% of children (632 of 722) were within timescale in January. This is a significant improvement on previous months and is the highest performance in 12-months. Performance in January is now above target (80%) for the first time since June 2019. This will remain an ongoing area of focus in order for performance to be maintained over the coming months.



There has been an improvement in visits to children proceeding under both S47 and S17 in January. Initial visits for 10% of children were completed but overdue (73 children), while 2% of children referred in January had not been seen and were overdue a visit at the time of reporting (17 children – all of whom are S17). This has decreased since December when 6% of children (36 children) were overdue a visit.

75 children were categorised as S47 in January and 75% of these children received a visit in timescales (56 children). Despite improvement in January, this remains below the **Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP)** target (80%). 19 children were seen outside of timescales: 11 on working days 3-5 following contact and the remaining 8 children in 6-9 working days.

Timeliness of initial visits for children categorised as S17 increased significantly to 89% and is now above the AIP target of 80%.

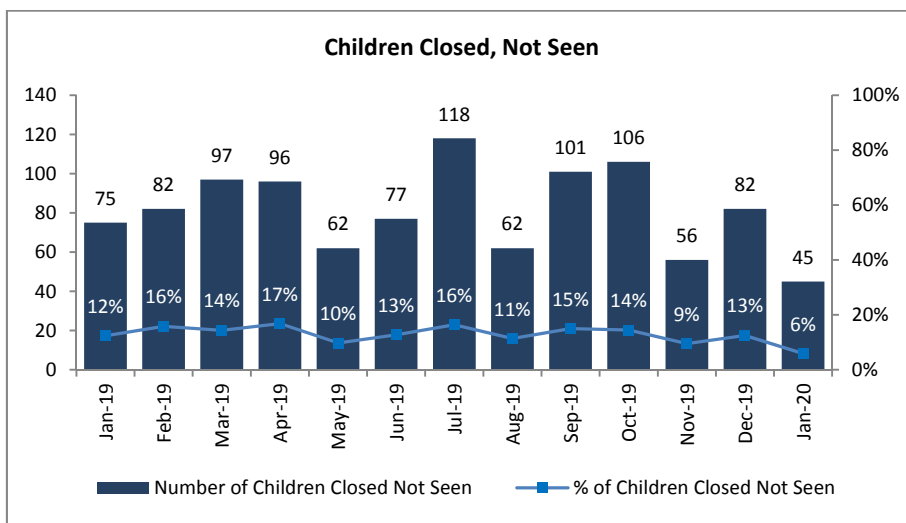
There was 1 young person who was referred in September (categorised as a Care Leaver) whose referral remains open and a visit has not recorded. Management oversight notes indicate that a visit took place in October and requires recording.

In Time – November		In Time – December		In Time - January	
Stroud	91%	Tewkesbury	87%	Stroud	93%
Gloucester	84%	Stroud	82%	Tewkesbury	91%
Tewkesbury	82%	Cheltenham	78%	FoD	91%
Cheltenham	79%	Gloucester	74%	Cheltenham	90%
FoD	68%	FoD	74%	Gloucester	88%
Other	46%	Cotswolds	73%	Cotswolds	71%
Cotswolds	37%	Other	63%	Other	67%

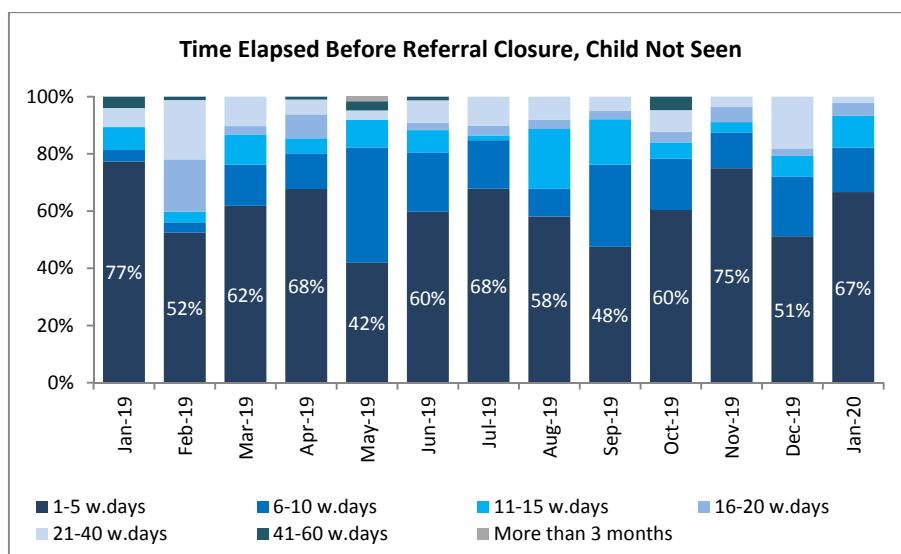
At a locality level, the majority of localities carried out initial visits in a timely way and are now performing above target.

Forest of Dean saw the greatest improvement, from 74% in December to 91% in January (17% points). Increases have been seen across Gloucester (14% points), Cheltenham (12% points), Stroud (11% points) and Tewkesbury (4% points).

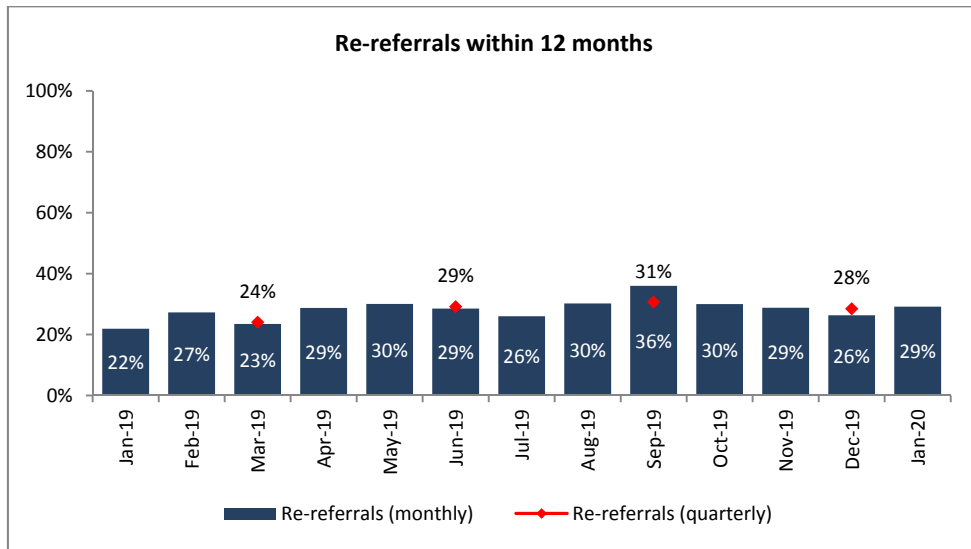
Timeliness in the Cotswolds has decreased slightly from 73% in December to 71% in January and remains below target.



6% of children for whom MASH had decided that a referral and assessment were required had been closed within the month without the child being seen (45 children). This is a reduction compared to last month.

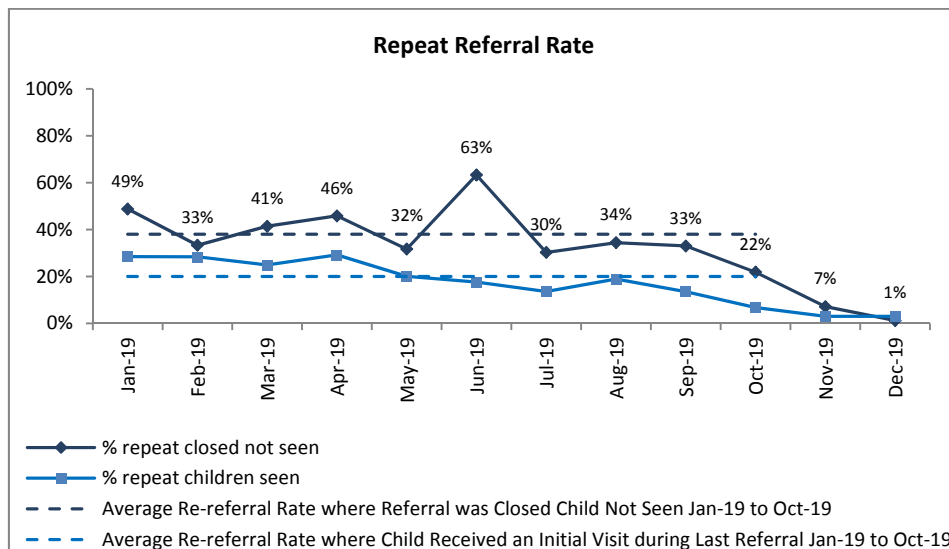


The timeliness of decisions to close a child without seeing them has increased this month, with 30 children closed within 5 working days (67%, up from 51%) but remains lower than November (75%).



The re-referral rate has increased slightly in January (29%), up from 26% in December. Performance remains above the phased improvement target (24%) and higher the peer group comparators (19.7%).

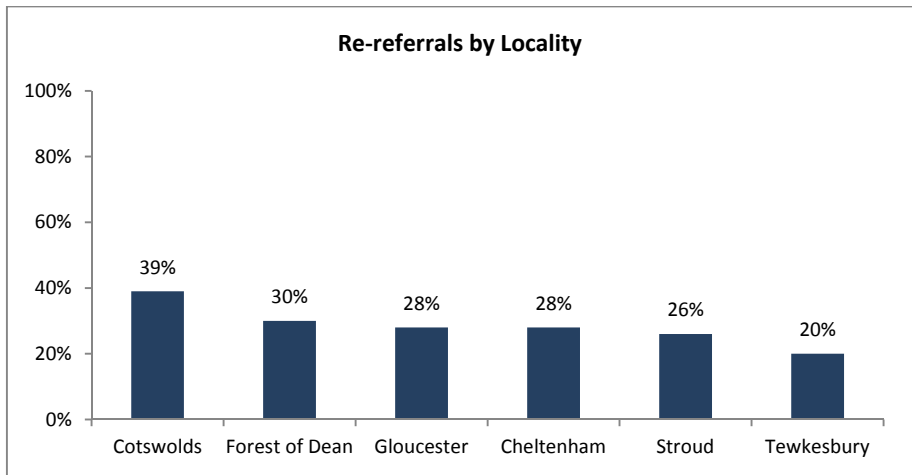
Of the 225 children who were re-referred in January, 48 children were subsequently closed (21% of re-referrals). 30 of these children were closed without being seen (13% of re-referrals).



Of the 893 children closed not seen between January 2019 and October 2019, 336 have subsequently been referred back in (38%).

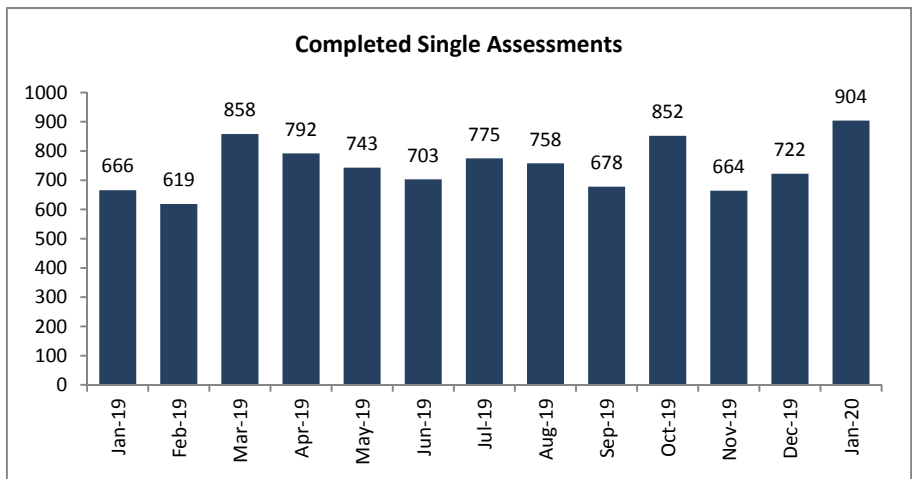
For the 5394 children where an initial visit took place during their last referral between January 2019 and October 2019, 1056 children have been referred back in (20%).

The re-referral rates will inevitably involve some lag therefore most recent data is not representative of the underlying re-referrals rates.

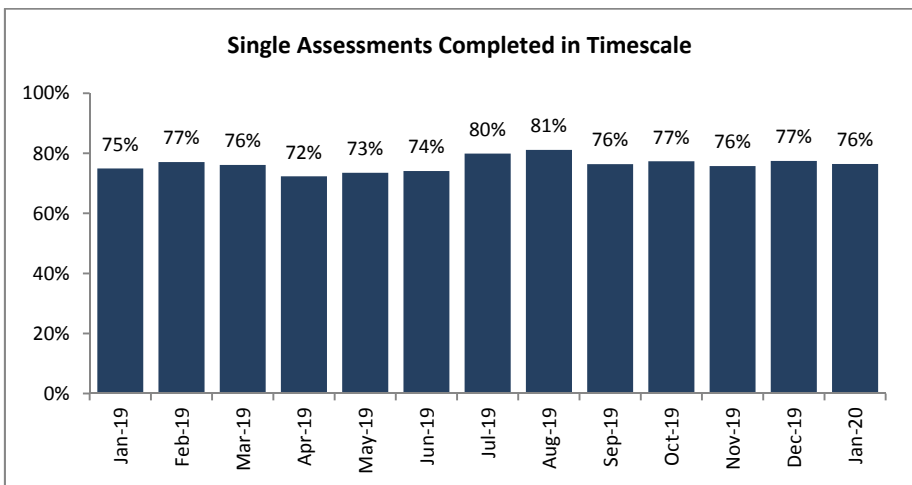


In January, re-referrals were highest in the Cotswolds at 39%, this is an increase of 12% points for the locality compared with December (27%). Forest of Dean re-referral rate has also increased in January, up from 22% to 30%.

Single Assessments



There were 904 assessments completed in January. This is the highest number of completions over the last year.



Peer Group (Mar 19): 81.7%



76% of assessments were completed within 45 working days. Performance has remained broadly static and below target (85%) for more than a year and is lower than our peer group (81.7%). Assessments completed in January were overdue for 213 children (24%).

Completed Assessments in Timescale

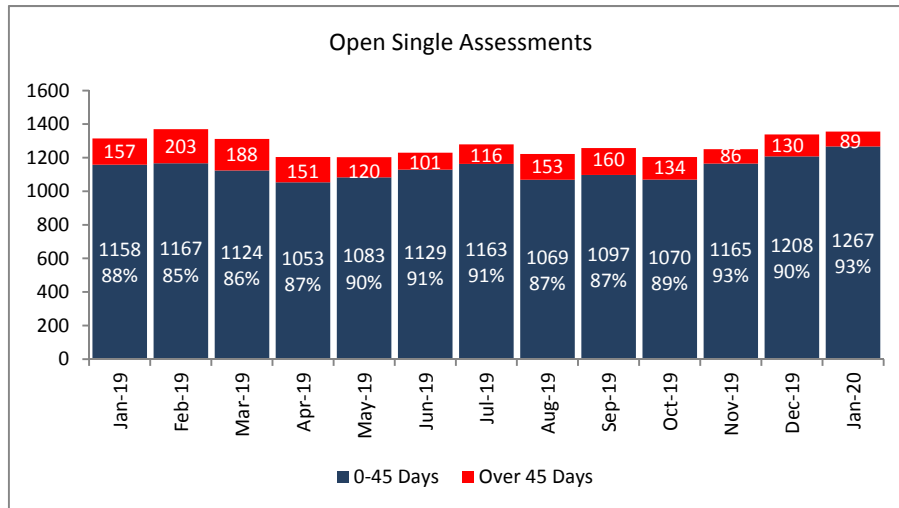
In Time – November		In Time – December		In Time - January	
Stroud	95%	Cheltenham	87%	Stroud	87%
Cheltenham	86%	Stroud	87%	Tewkesbury	87%
Forest of Dean	82%	Tewkesbury	84%	Forest of Dean	78%
Tewkesbury	73%	Other	81%	Cheltenham	77%
Gloucester	69%	Cotswolds	75%	Cotswolds	77%
Cotswolds	63%	Gloucester	67%	Gloucester	70%
Other	62%	Forest of Dean	63%	Other	63%

At a locality level, performance is declining, with only two localities performing above or within tolerance of target in January, compared with three localities in November and December.

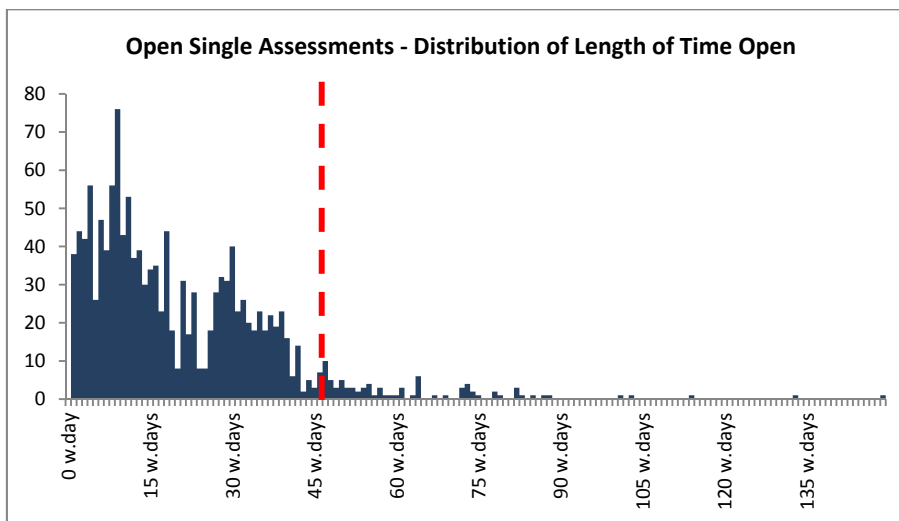
Performance in the Forest of Dean has improved by 15% points in January, up from 63% to 78% but remains below target.

Assessment timeliness in Cheltenham has decreased by 10% points from 87% to 77% and is now below target.

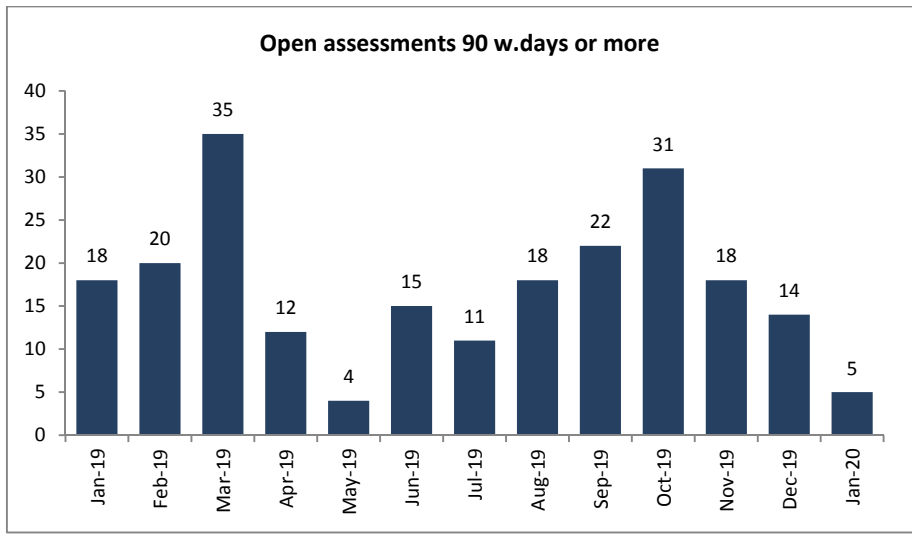
Performance in Gloucester and the Cotswolds also remains off target and these localities continue to hold positions at the bottom of the table.



There were 1356 assessments open at the end of January.



Ongoing assessments for 89 children are currently overdue (7%).



The number of open assessments that have been ongoing for 90 working days or more has decreased again in January and continues a reducing trend for the third month, down from 31 in October.

Overdue assessments exceeding 90 working days

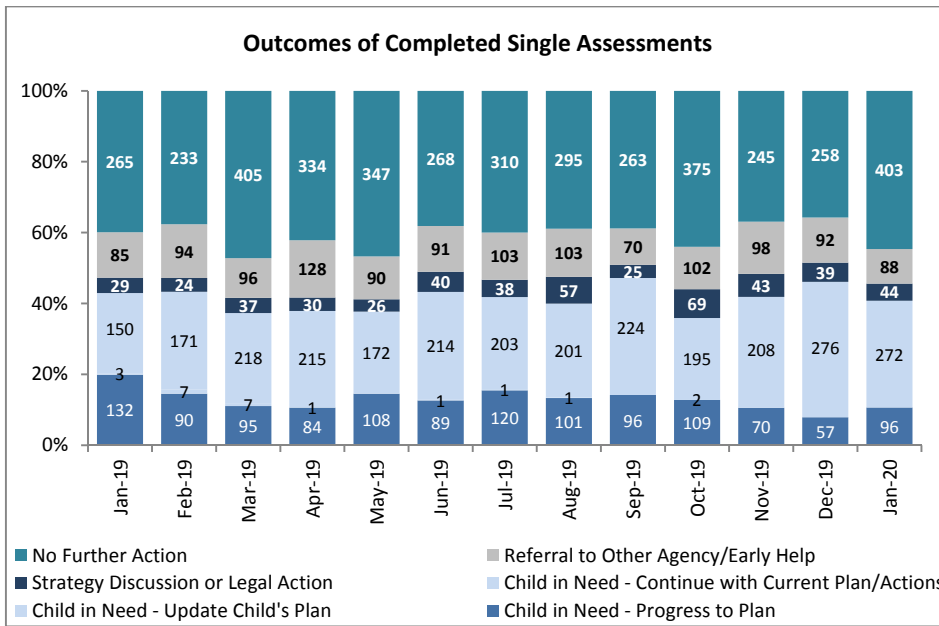
DCYPS	149 w. days
	114 w. days
Cheltenham 11-25	133 w. days
Gloucester Safeguarding 2	103 w. days
Gloucester Safeguarding 1	101 w. days

Open Assessments

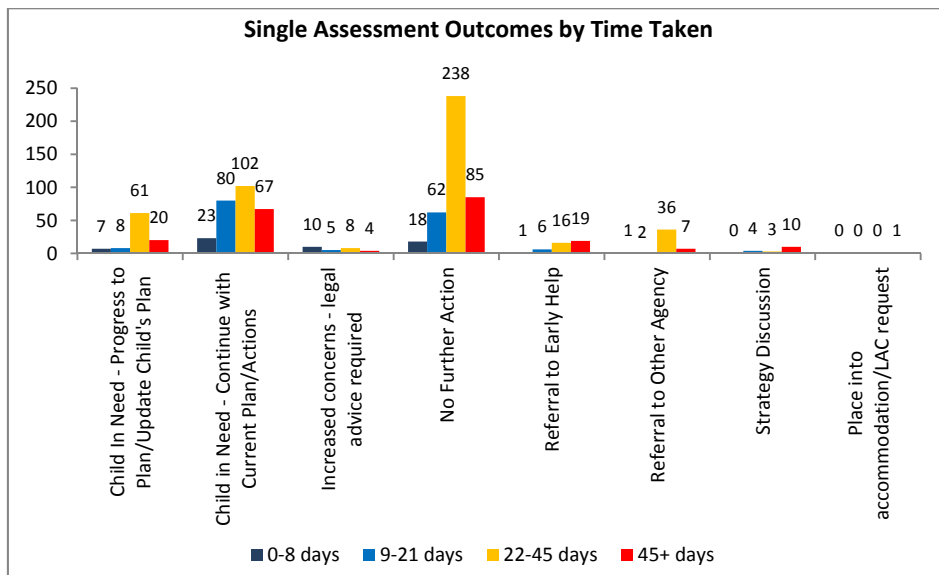
In Time – November		In Time – December		In Time - January	
Cheltenham	97%	Stroud	95%	Stroud	98%
Stroud	97%	Tewkesbury	93%	Cheltenham	96%
Tewkesbury	96%	Cheltenham	92%	Gloucester	95%
Gloucester	92%	Cotswolds	91%	Tewkesbury	94%
Forest of Dean	91%	Forest of Dean	90%	Forest of Dean	92%
Cotswolds	89%	Gloucester	88%	Cotswolds	87%
Other Teams	85%	Other Teams	78%	Other Teams	80%

The proportion of assessments open for 45 working days or less remains high for all localities. However, the pace of completing assessments, and processes to support this, to prevent them from becoming overdue, needs to improve.

Stroud and Tewkesbury are the only localities to maintain above target performance levels once assessments are completed.



45% of completed assessments (403 of 903) resulted in No Further Action, this is an increase on December when 258 assessments resulted in No Further Action (36%). 46 children were referred to another agency (5%).



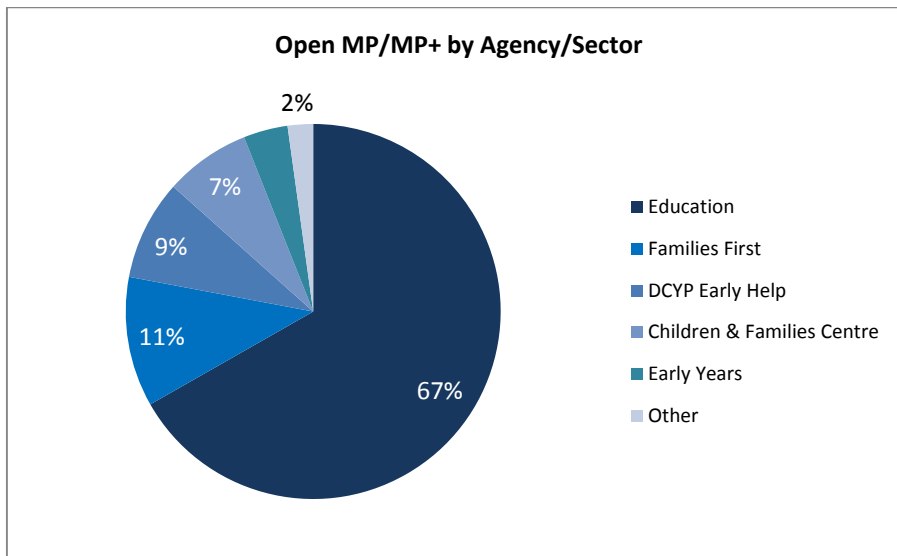
Half of assessments completed in January (449 assessments, 50%) did not lead to the provision of a Social Care or Early Help service (NFA or referral to other agency). For 366 of these, the assessment took 22 working days or more to complete (82%).

The next largest category of assessments taking 22 w.days or more, was for children already subject to a plan where no change to the current plan/actions was needed (169 children of 272).

Early Help and Targeted Support

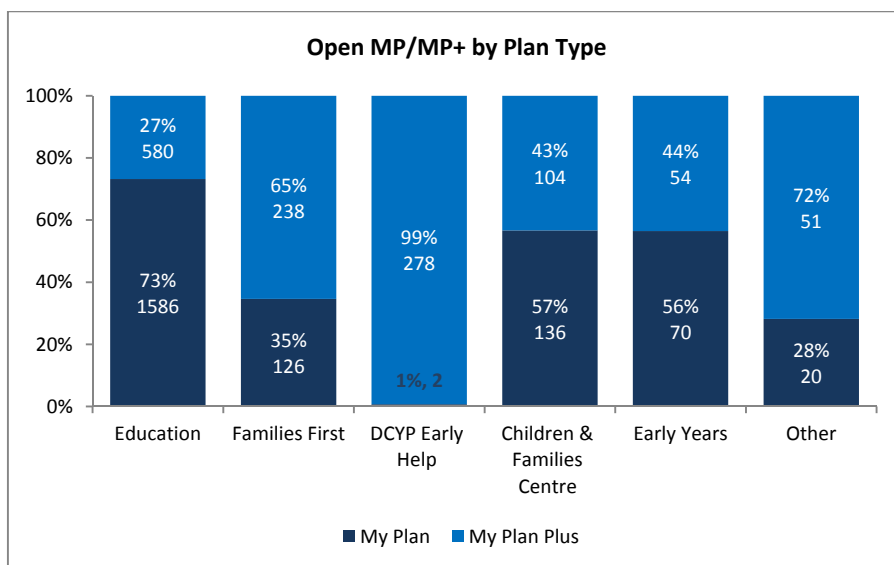
Note: Development of reporting continues in order to expand the range of areas of performance that we have sight of. Performance surgeries have recently begun in order to understand what this information is telling us and to address any data quality issues.

Early Help through the Graduated Pathway

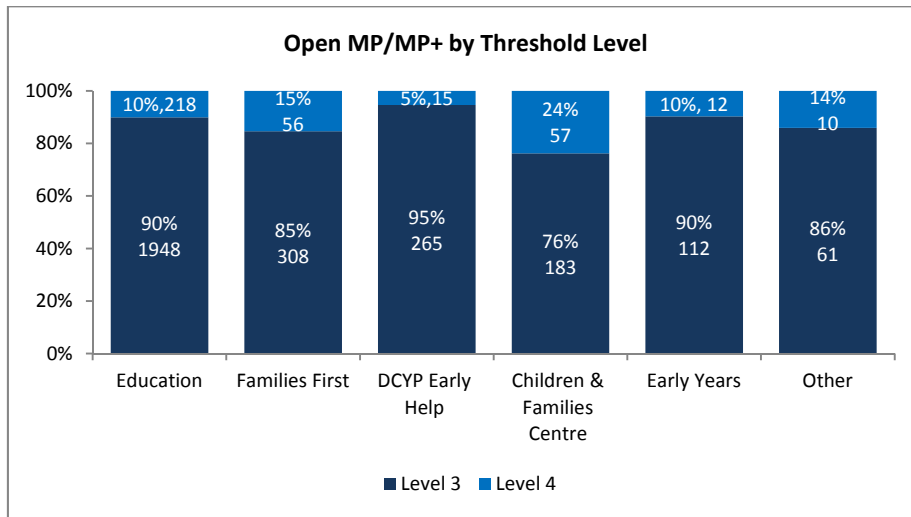


There are currently 3245 open Early Help plans (My Plan/My Plan+). The highest proportion of plans are held by Education (2166, 67%); 1640 (76%) of these plans have been open for over 12 months with the longest plan being open for 11 years.

For 604 plans, the lead practitioner is Families First Targeted Family Support or Children and Family Centres (19%).



At the end of January there were 1940 My Plans and 1305 My Plan+ open. The children being supported out in the community have a higher percentage of My Plans (1676, 71%) where as the children supported by Families First Targeted Family Support, Children and Family Centres or DCYPS Early Help have a higher percentage of My Plan+ (620, 70%).



There are 368 plans which meet a level 4 threshold, a high proportion of these plans are held by education (59%).

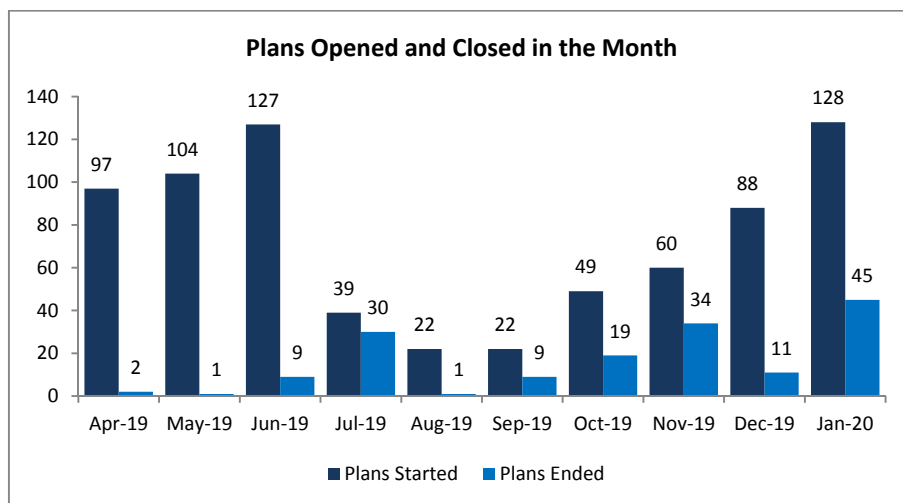
Note: If the child has an EHCP an open My Plan+ will run concurrently with the Social Care plan. In the remaining cases, the My Plan/+ will close once the Single Assessment has been completed by Social Care and the outcome determined (unless the outcome is refer to Early Help).

Length of Time Plans Open

	0-6 months	7-12 months	Over 12 months
Education	263	263	1640
Families First	178	132	54
DCYP Early Help	78	57	145
Children & Families Centre	115	88	37
Early Years	24	31	69
Other	54	10	7
Grand Total	712 (22%)	581 (18%)	1952 (60%)

A high proportion of plans have been open to Early Help for longer than 6 months (78%). Education has the highest proportion of plans open for over 6 months (88%).

Families First at the end of January had 51% of plans where they were the lead professional that had been open to early help for longer than 6 months. Due to a process change in how plans are recorded will mean that there has been an increase in plans with historical start dates.



In January, 128 plans were started and 45 plans were closed. For the fourth month there has been an increase in the number of plans that have been opened within the month.

Contacts

	Contacts created by EH service	Contacts created by MASH	Total
Progress to New Episode	86	510	596
Link to Existing Episode	12	100	112
MASH Enquiry	0	183	183
Total	98	793	891

891 contacts were received in January, 793 of these were received via MASH (89%) and 98 were created directly by the early help service (11%). Of the 891 contacts 183 (21%) went through a MASH enquiry.

Timeliness of initial decision	Contacts created by EH service (No MASH Enquiry)	Contacts created by MASH (No MASH Enquiry)	Contacts created that went through a MASH Enquiry	Total contacts
0-24 hrs	66 (67%)	455 (75%)	22 (12%)	543 (61%)
0-48 hrs	9 (9%)	82 (13%)	74 (40%)	165 (19%)
2-3 days	1 (1%)	27 (4%)	43 (23%)	71 (8%)
3-4 days	2 (2%)	18 (3%)	32 (17%)	52 (6%)
4-5 days	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	11 (6%)	13 (1%)
Over 1 Week	20 (20%)	26 (4%)	1 (2%)	47 (5%)
Total	98	610	183	891

Of the 708 contacts that did not have a MASH enquiry 74% had an initial decision within 24 hours.

Of the 183 contacts that did have a MASH enquiry 75% had a MASH outcome within 72 hours from Contact start.

112 (12%) contacts initial decision took over 72 hours.

Progress to New Episode	753 (85%)
Link to Existing Episode	138 (15%)
Total	891

85% of contacts final outcome following initial decision was to progress to a New Early help episode and 15% were to link to an existing episode.

Timeliness of Secondary Decision	New Episode	Link to Existing Episode	Total
0-24 hrs	350 (46%)	82 (59%)	432 (48%)
0-48 hrs	214 (28%)	17 (12%)	231 (26%)
2-3 days	112 (15%)	21 (15%)	133 (15%)
3-4 days	45 (6%)	10 (7%)	55 (6%)
4-5 days	7 (1%)	0 (0%)	7 (1%)
Over 1 Week	4 (1%)	5 (4%)	9 (1%)
Awaiting decision	21 (3%)	3 (2%)	24 (3%)
Total	753	138	891

Of the 891 contacts received into the early help service secondary decisions for the majority 89% (796 contacts) were made within 72 hours and 74% (663 contacts) were made within 48 hours.

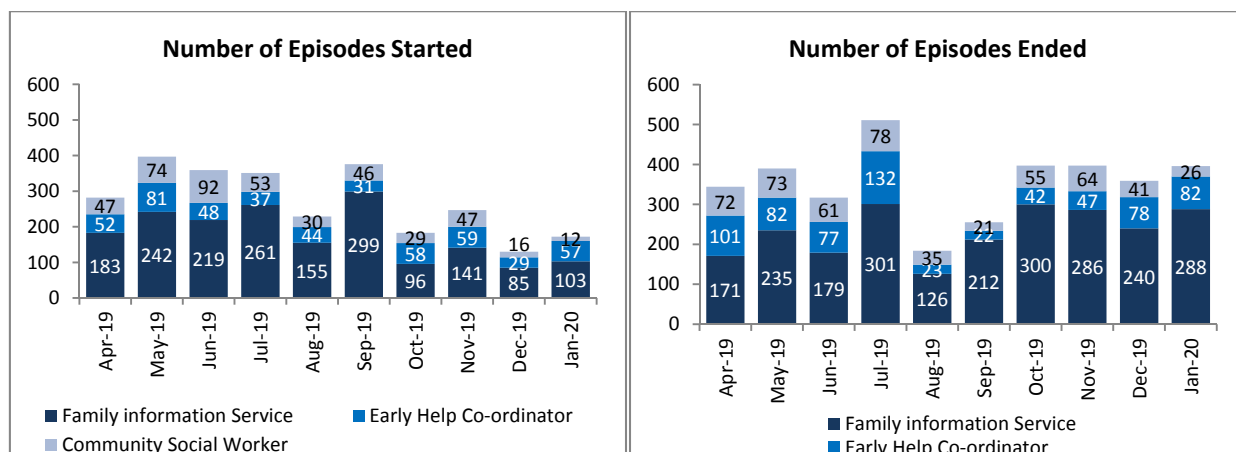
Overall end to end timeliness from contact start to secondary contact decision was 67% (603) of contacts being completed within 72 hours.

Advice, Guidance and Support

Open Episodes by Area of Service (Snapshot end December)

Area of Service	Number of children
Family Information Service	189
Early Help Co-ordinator	105
Community Social Worker	42

At the end of January, 336 children had an open episode where they were receiving Advice, Guidance or Support from a GCC Early Help team (Family Information Service, an Early Help Co-ordinator or a Community Social Worker).



In January, 172 children had an episode started for Advice, Guidance or Support and 396 children who were receiving Advice, Guidance or Support were closed to Early Help.

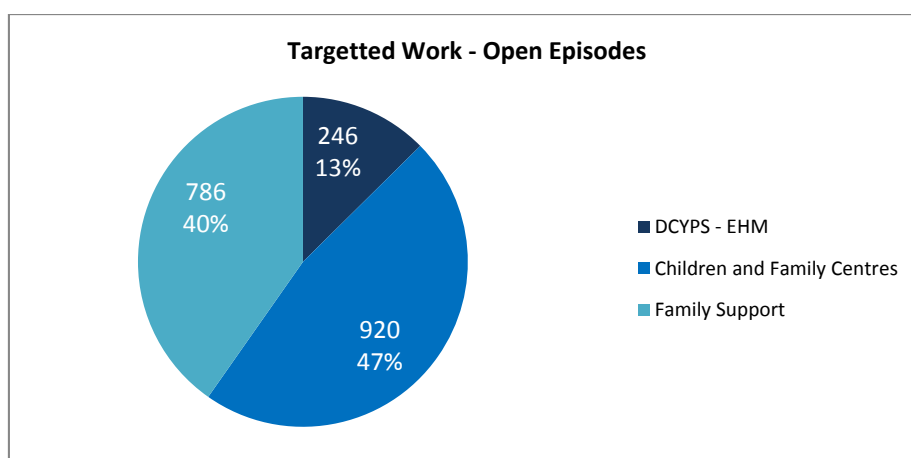
	Outcomes of Closed Episodes		
	Early Help Co-ordinators	Community Social Work	Family Information Service
Child moved out of County	1		
Consent Withdrawn			37
Needs partially or fully met	17	6	18
Needs to be met by other agency/service	51	11	104
Parent/carer/child non-engagement			119
Risk escalated / safeguarding concern	13	9	10
Grand Total	82	26	288

Of the children closed in January, 166 children (42%) were closed due to their needs being met by another agency or service.

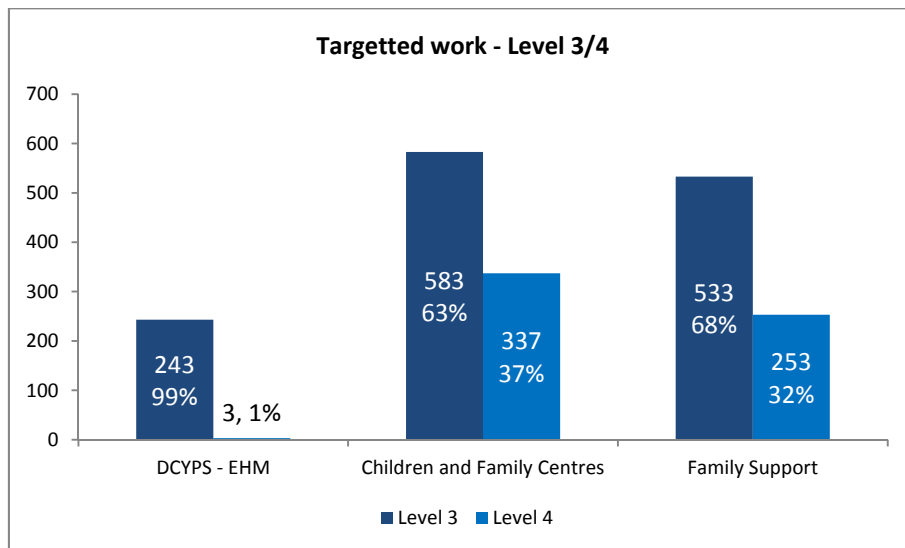
For 20 children, their risk had escalated (6%).

39% of episodes closed in January due to non-engagement or due to consent being withdrawn (156 episodes).

Delivery - All



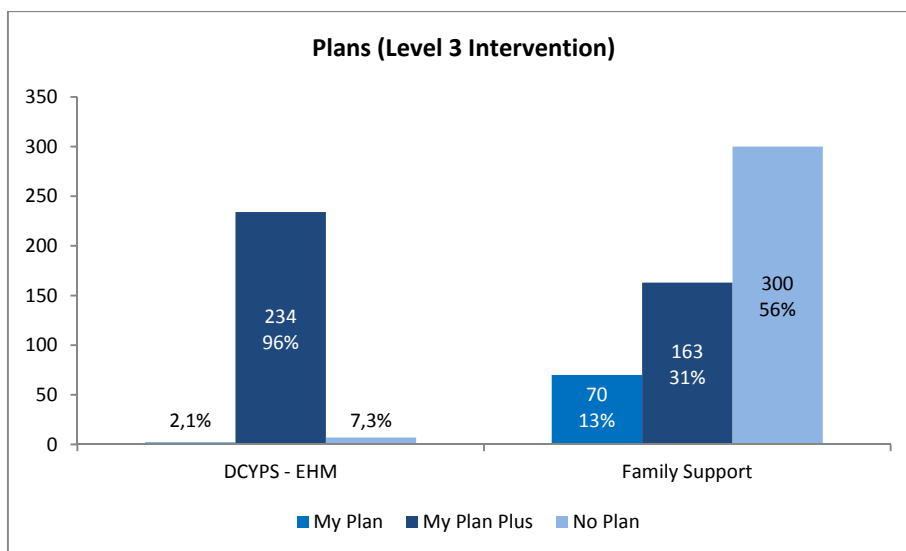
At the end of January, 1706 children had an open episode allocated to a Family Support Worker within Families First or a Children and Family Centre. There are also 246 children allocated to the Disabled Children Early Help team.



30% of children allocated to a Family Support Worker, Children and Families Centre or Disabled Children Early Help team are also open to Social Care (593 children).

Delivery – Targeted Work

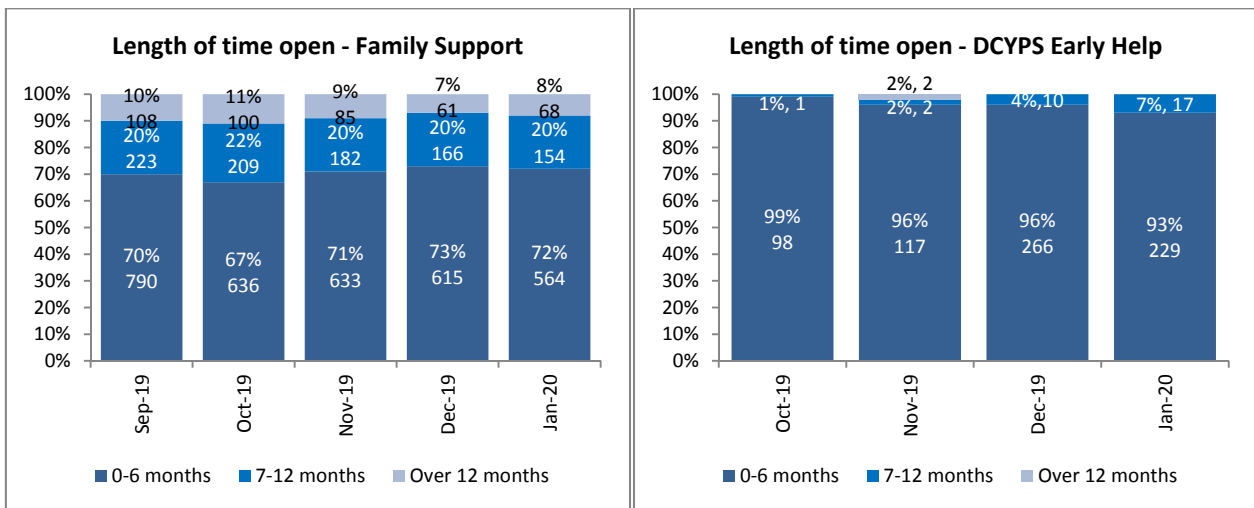
Note: this section excludes Children and Family Centre work while work relating to consistency of data capture and data cleansing is undertaken.



Note: This excludes Level 4 work as these children will have a Social care Plan.

Of the children allocated to a Family Support Worker or Disabled Children Early Help worker, 60% (469 children) have an open My Plan/My Plan+. A high proportion of these plans are a My Plan+ (85% for 397 children).

Changes to case management now ensures that when Families First are providing targeted family support that they are taking on the role of Lead Practitioner and ensuring that there is an up to date My Plan+ in place. This is practice was new in October and will take time to embed.



Length of Time Open by Threshold Level

	0-6 months	7-12 months	over 12 months
Families Support - Level 3	393 (74%)	106 (20%)	34 (6%)
Families Support - Level 4	171 (68%)	48 (19%)	34 (13%)
DCYPS Early Help – Level 3	226 (93%)	17 (7%)	0
DCYPS Early Help – Level 4	3 (100%)	0	0

Family Support: 28% of children have been open to a Family Support worker for more than 6 months (222 children), a reduction of 109 children since September. Of these children, 31% have been open for more than 12 months (68 children).

37% of the children who have been open for over 6 months are also open to Social care (82 children).

Disabled Children: 93% of children open to a Disabled children Early Help worker have been open for 6 months or less.

Repeat Episodes by Threshold Level

	Repeat Episode in last 12 months	Repeat Episode Ever	Repeat Episode in last 12 months %	Repeat Episode Ever %
Family Support Level 3	169	290	32%	54%
Family Support Level 4	105	153	42%	60%
DCYPS Early Help – Level 3	86	194	35%	80%
DCYPS Early Help – Level 4	1	3	33%	100%
Total	361	640	35%	62%

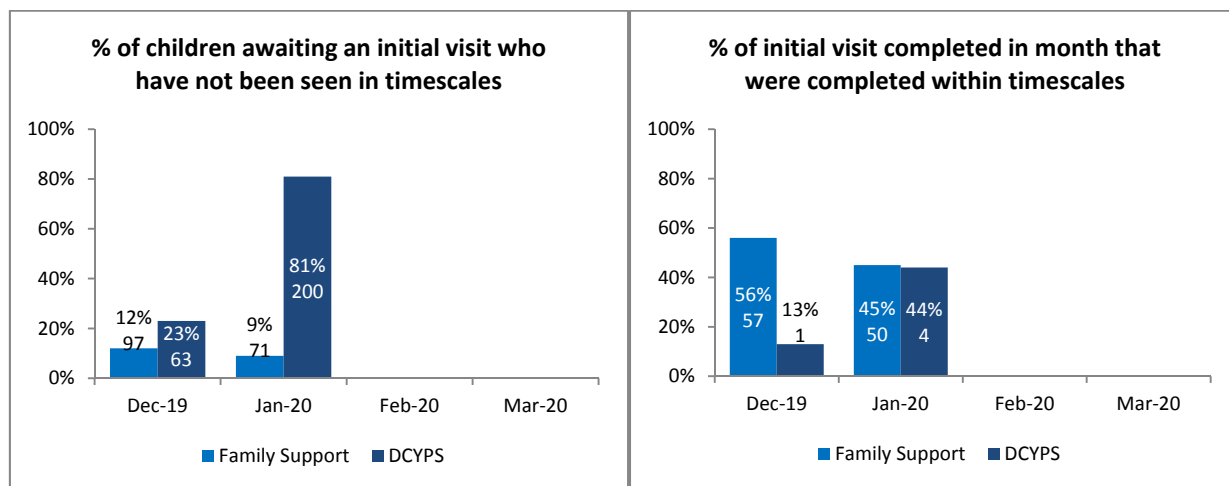
Family Support: 56% of children allocated to a Family Support Worker with an open episode have previously had an episode open to an Early Help service during their involvement with us (443 children). Of these, 274 children have had a previous episode in the last 12 months (35%).

Of the children with a repeat episode in the last 12 months, 105 children are also open to social care (38%).

Disabled Children: 80% of children allocated to a Disabled Children Early Help worker with an open episode have previously had an episode open to an Early Help service during their involvement with us (197 children). Of these, 87 children have had a previous episode in the last 12 months (35%).

Of the children with a repeat episode in the last 12 months, 4 children are also open to social care (5%).

Initial Visits



Family Support: At the end of January, there were 71 children (9%) allocated to a family support worker who had not received an initial visit and whose visit was overdue.

Of the children who received an initial visit in January, 50 children (45%) received their visit within 20 working days of episode start, down from 55% last month.

Disabled Children: At the end of January, there were 200 children (81%) allocated to a Disabled Children Early Help worker who had not received an initial visit and had not been seen in over 5 working days from episode start. 67 children (27%) had not been seen in more than 20 working days.

Of the children who received an initial visit in January, 4 children (44%) received their visit within 5 working days of episode start.

Outcomes of Closed Episodes- level 3

	DCYPS – Early Help	Family Support
Child/older child non-engagement		5
Consent Withdrawn	2	13
Needs met	3	35
Needs Partially met	25	19
Needs to be met by other agency/service	5	55
Parent/carer non-engagement	3	30
Risk escalated / safeguarding concern	2	14
Grand Total	40	171

Family Support: 171 children allocated to a Family Support Worker were closed in January. For 32% of episode closures, children had their needs met or partially met (54 children).

32% of episodes were closed due to another agency/service meeting the child's needs (55 children).

In 28% of cases, episodes were closed following withdrawal of consent or due to parent or child non-engagement, (48 children).

For a small proportion of children, the risk for the child had escalated to a safeguarding concern (8%, 14 children).

Disabled Children: 40 children allocated to a Disabled Children Early Help worker were closed in January. For 69% of episode closures, children had their needs met or partially met (28 children).

13% of episodes were closed due to another agency/service meeting the child's needs (5 children).

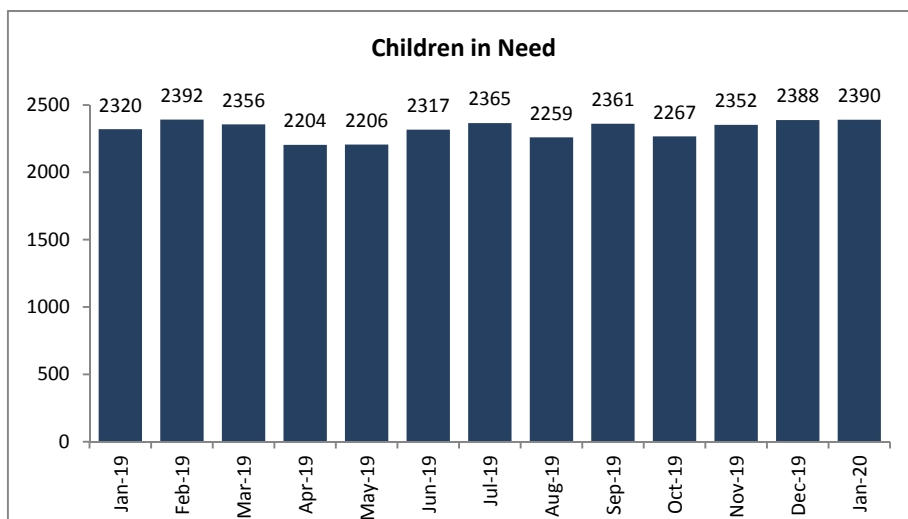
In 13% of cases, episodes were closed following withdrawal of consent or due to parent non-engagement, (5 children).

For 2 children the risk for the child had escalated to a safeguarding concern (5%).

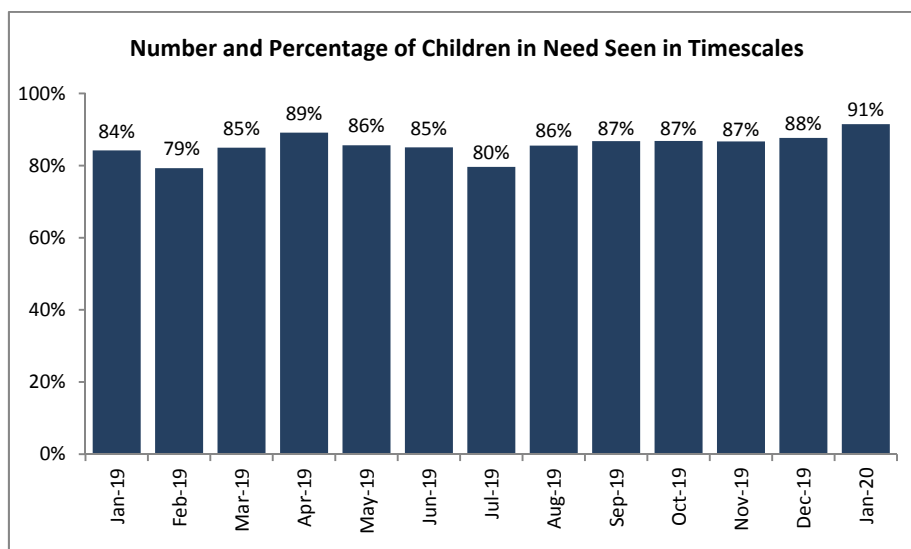
Note: Further development is underway to enable reporting on:

- Assessment timeliness
- Step Up

Children in Need



There were 2390 Children in Need at the end of January.

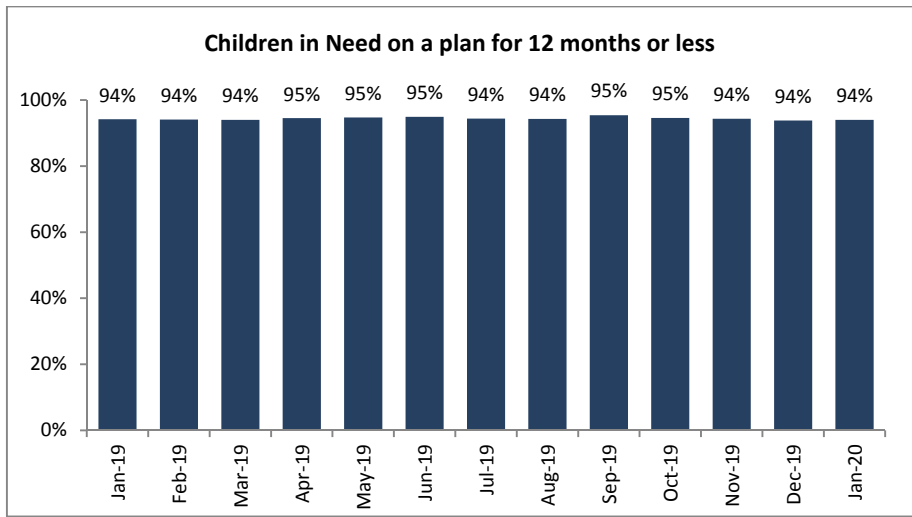


Timeliness of seeing children has been consistently above target for 6 months. Performance achieved a 12-month high in January with 91% of children seen in a timely way. This is a measure in the **Accelerated Improvement Plan**.

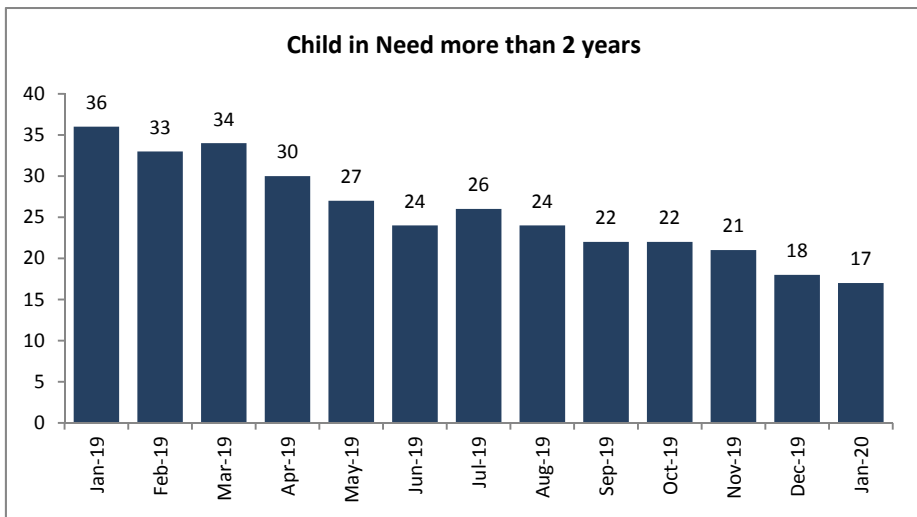
There were 204 children who had not been seen within timescales (9%). 9 children do not appear to have been seen for 3 or more months.

In Time - November		In Time - December		In Time - January	
FoD	92%	Cotswolds	91%	FoD	96%
Stroud	92%	Stroud	91%	Stroud	95%
Cheltenham	91%	Tewkesbury	90%	Gloucester	91%
Tewkesbury	90%	Cheltenham	89%	Cheltenham	91%
Gloucester	84%	Gloucester	87%	Tewkesbury	90%
Cotswolds	79%	FoD	82%	Other	90%
Other	78%	Other	81%	Cotswolds	87%
				DCYPS	86%

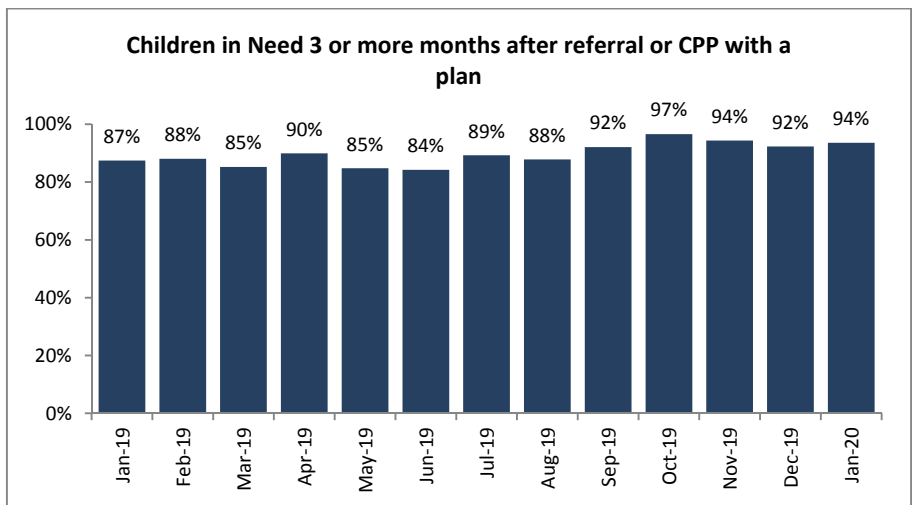
All localities/service areas were performing above target at the end of January.



The majority of Children in Need had been categorised as CiN for 12 months or less (2246, 94%). 6% of children had been categorised as CiN for more than 12 months (144 children).



The number of children who have been on a plan for more than 2 years remains low and has continued to decrease (17 children). 12 of these children are open to Gloucester Safeguarding teams.

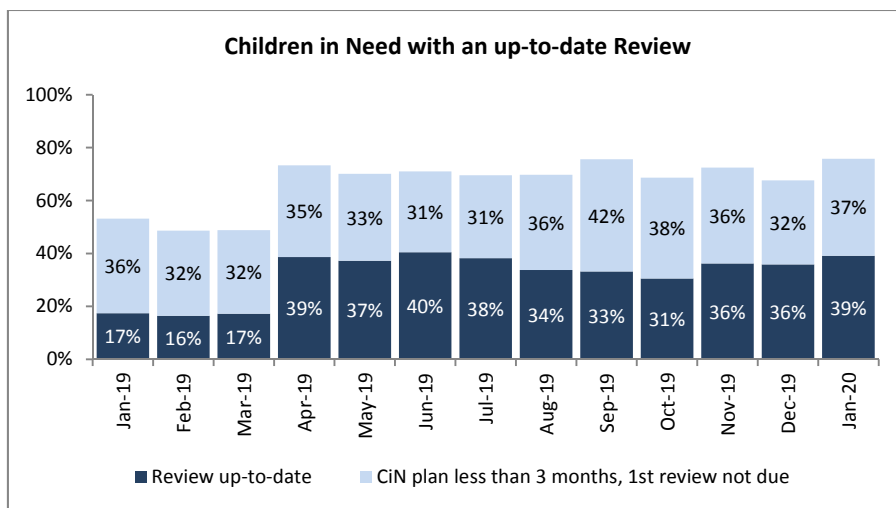


There are 920 children who had been categorised as a Child in Need for 3 or more months following referral or since stepping down from a child protection plan. Of these, 861 have a CiN plan in place (94%).

59 children did not have a CiN plan in place in a timely way (6%) at the end of January.

Assessments for 39 of these children (66%) had been completed by the Social Worker and were in the QA or plan development stage. Assessments for 8 children were ongoing and awaiting completion by the Social worker (14%). The majority of these were allocated to Gloucester, (10 children, 21%).

There were 12 children for whom an assessment has not been started (20%); 7 of these children are privately fostered.



There were 1242 Children in Need with a plan at the end of January.

76% of these children had a timely review or were not yet due a review (941 children). Performance is within tolerance of target but continues to be an area of improvement.

11% of those children who had a Child in Need plan for 3 or more months had not had a review of their plan (133 children).

14% of Children in Need with a plan had had at least one review but were overdue their next review (168 children).

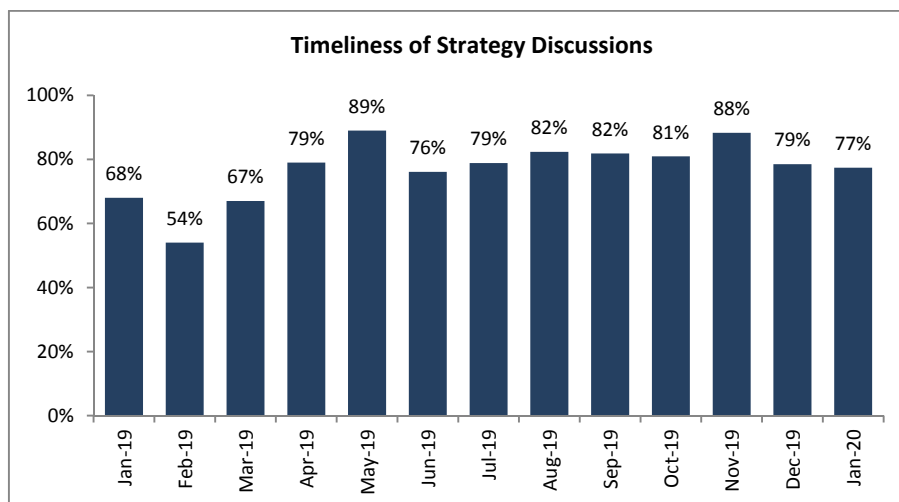
The Forest of Dean has the lowest proportion of reviews being held in a timely way (52%) with 55 of 114 children due a review.

Child Protection

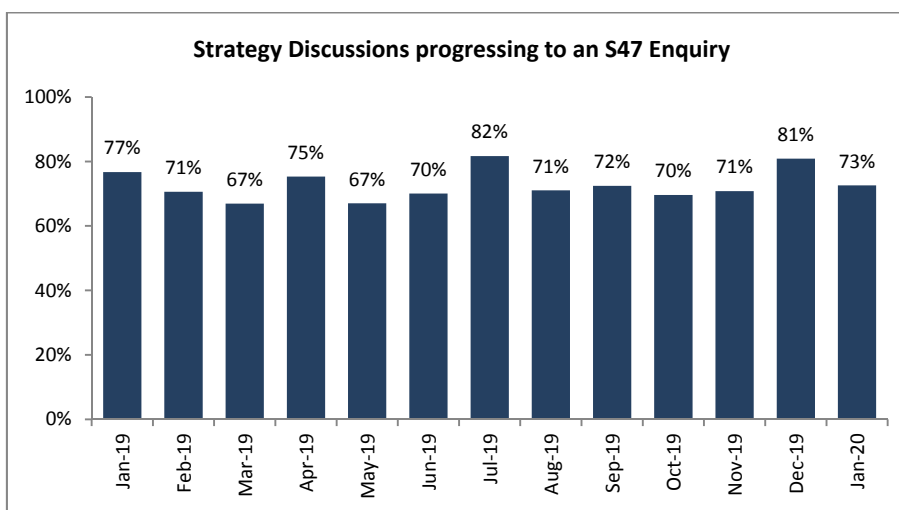
Strategy Discussions



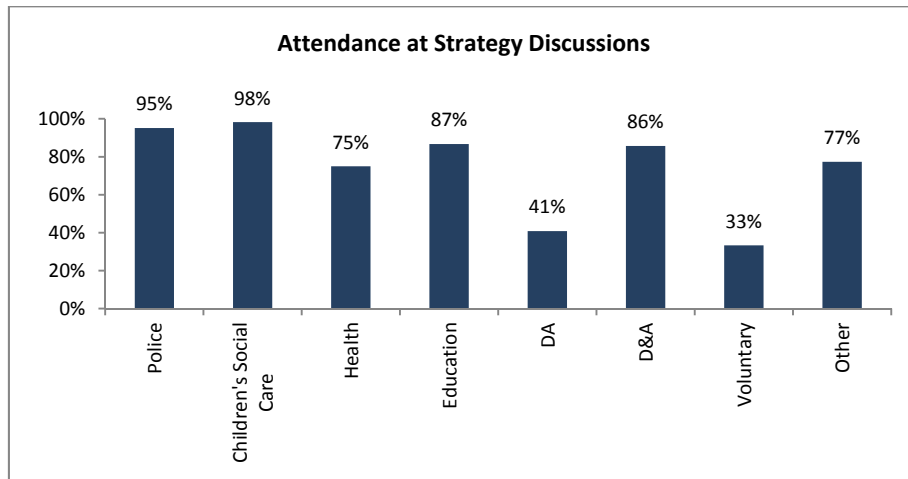
Strategy Discussions took place for 419 children in January which is 17% higher than the 12-month average.



Initial Strategy Discussions were timely for 77% of children in January (298 of 385 children), down from 88% in November; performance is within tolerance of target (80%).



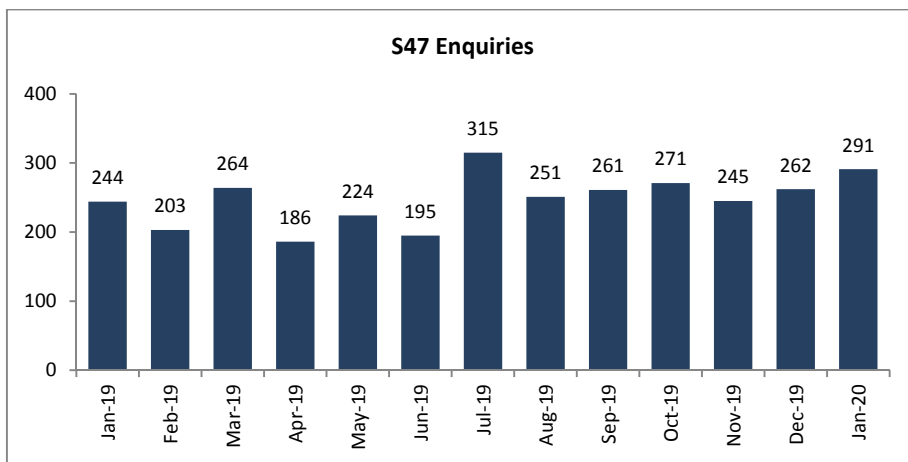
73% of children subject of a Strategy Discussions progressed to an S47 Enquiry (304).



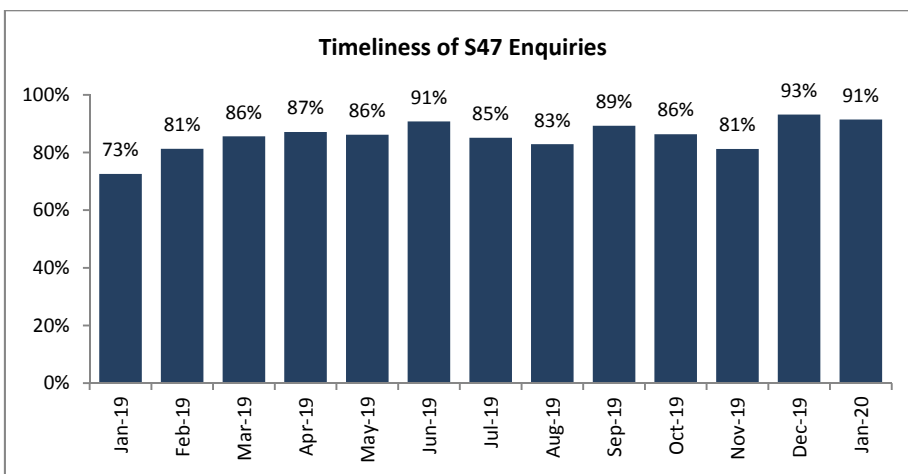
Attendance at Strategy Discussions by mandatory partners is broadly good.

There were 69 Strategy Discussions that don't appear to have benefitted from Health participation, where Health partners were invited (75%). There were also 66 Strategy Discussions to which Health were not invited. Health participation in Strategy Discussions remains lower than the other mandatory partners and is one element of a review being undertaken by MASH partners.

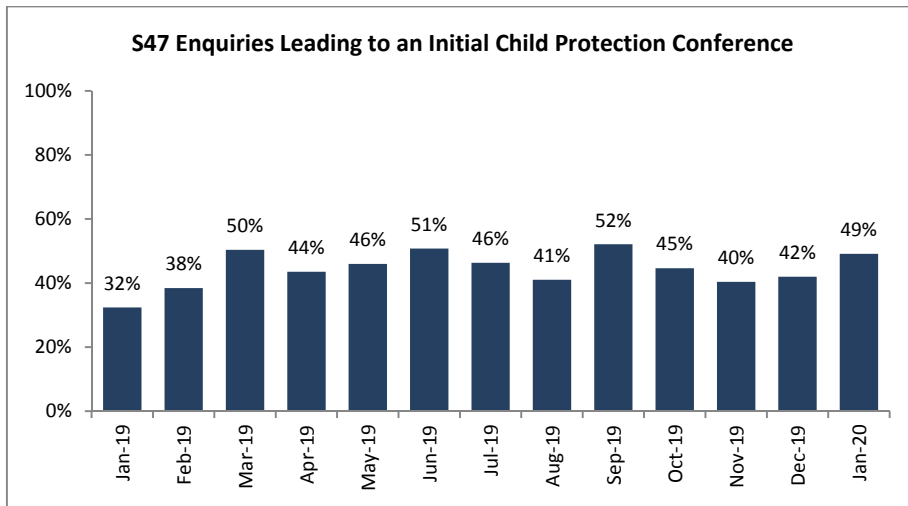
S47 Enquiries



S47 Enquiries were completed for 291 children in January which is 18% higher than the 12-month average.

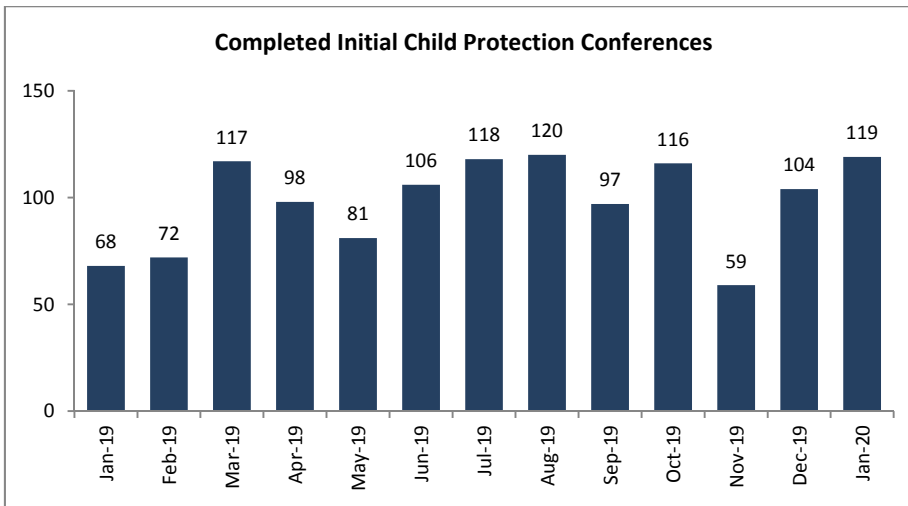


Timeliness remains high, with 91% of S47 Enquiries completed in January completed in 15 working days or fewer (266 children).

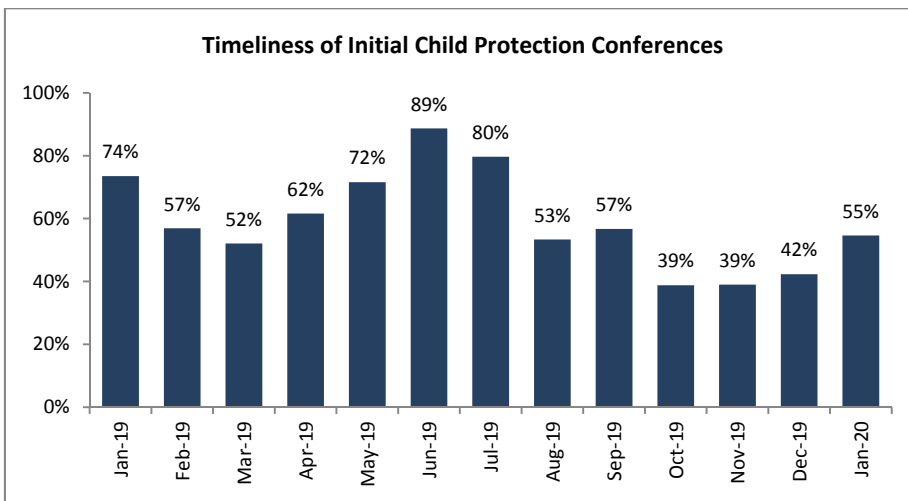


Half of children undergoing S47 Enquiries progressed to an initial child protection conference (49%, 143 children).

Initial Child Protection Conferences



In January, initial child protection conferences were completed for 119 children.



Peer Group (Mar 2019): 73.1%



Timeliness of initial child protection conferences increased in January (conferences for 65 of 119 children were timely, 55%). However, performance remains significantly below target (80%) and peer group comparators (73.1%) and improvement needs greater pace.

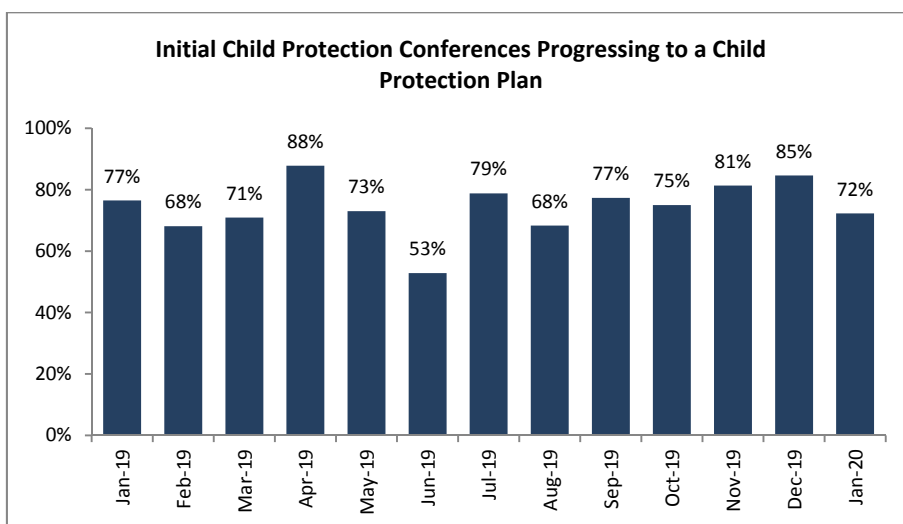
The team continue to interrogate this information to ensure accuracy and drive performance improvements as a continued key management focus.

For 66% of children who had a conference in January, it was completed within 20 working days (79 children). Conference delays for 40 children and families ranged from 4-20 weeks.

The reason for delay in convening the conference was recorded as follows:

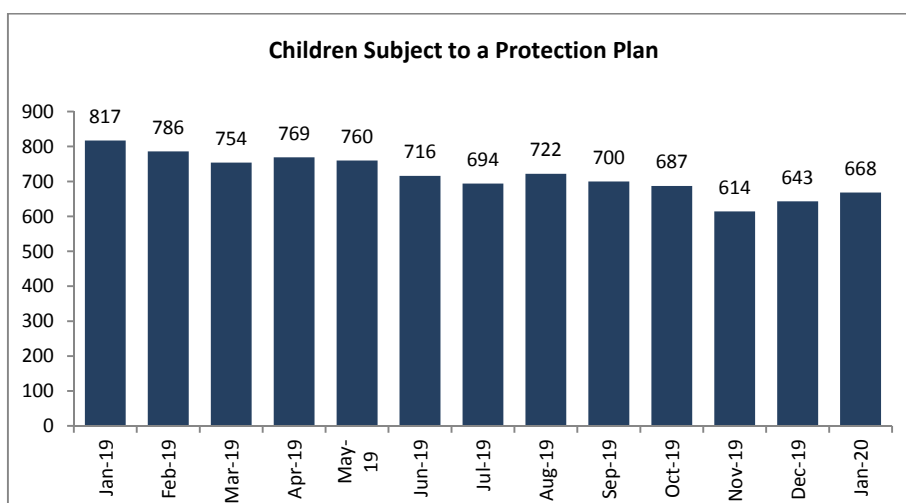
	No. of children	
Chair unavailable	29	54%
Social Service Worker Unavailable	17	31%
Family unavailable	5	9%
Problem due to user error	3	6%
Total	54	100%

For the 54 children where their conference was overdue, availability was the biggest factor affecting delays (51 of 54 children undergoing conference), with Chair availability accounting for 54% of delays and Social Worker (31%) and family (9%) availability accounting for two-fifths of delays.



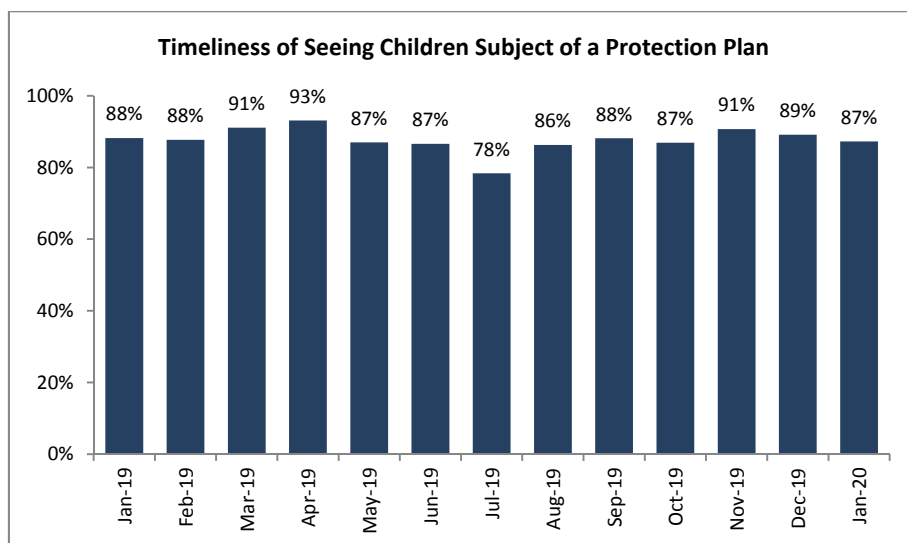
72% of children who had an initial child protection conference in January were made subject of a protection plan (86 children).

Children Subject to a Protection Plan



There were 668 children subject to a protection plan at the end of January, an increase of 54 children since November (up 9%), but a reduction of 22% since the same time last year.

Gloucestershire's current rate of children subject to a protection plan per 10,000 0-17 population (52.0) remains higher than its peer group comparators (37.3) whose rate is also following a reducing trend overall.



Timeliness of seeing children subject to a protection plan declined over the last two months (87%, 583 children), down from 91% and remains below but within tolerance of target (90%). This measure is monitored in the **Accelerated Improvement plan**.

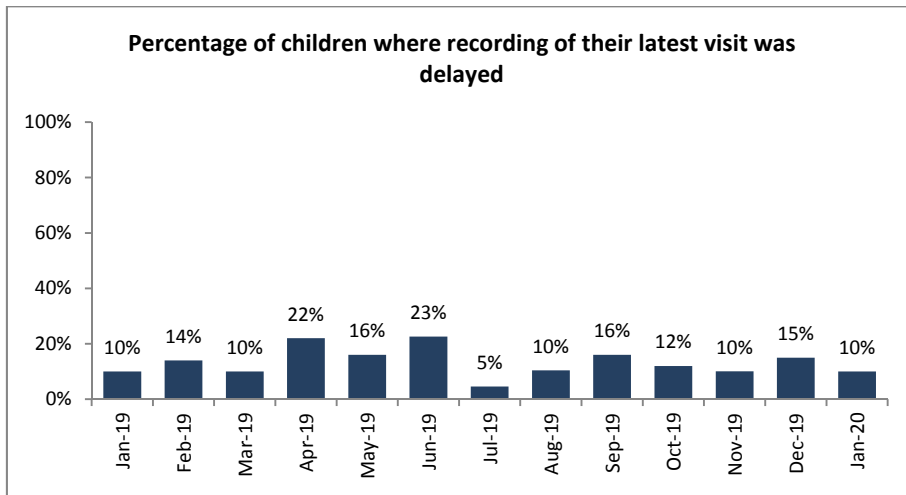
85 children had not been seen within the local standard timescale at the end of January (13%).

The majority of children (663) had been seen within 20 working days (99%).

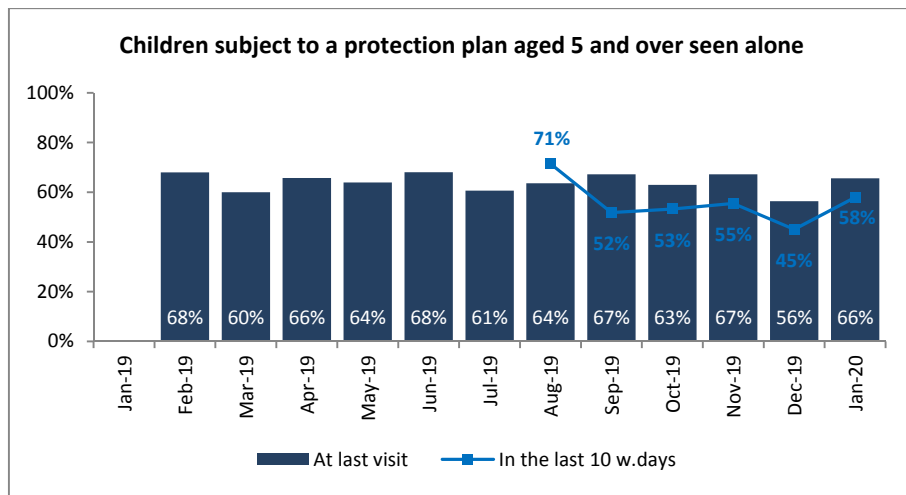
5 children had not been seen within 20 working days (1%). These children had not been seen for between 21-63 working days.

In Time - November		In Time - December		In Time - January	
Cotswolds	96%	Tewkesbury	97%	Other	100%
FoD	95%	Cotswolds	92%	Cotswolds	90%
Gloucester	93%	Gloucester	91%	Stroud	90%
Cheltenham	91%	Cheltenham	89%	Gloucester	89%
Tewkesbury	89%	FoD	86%	Cheltenham	85%
Stroud	82%	Other	80%	FoD	85%
Other	67%	Stroud	78%	Tewkesbury	84%

Timeliness at a locality level has declined month on month, with only two localities performing above target in January, compared to four in November.

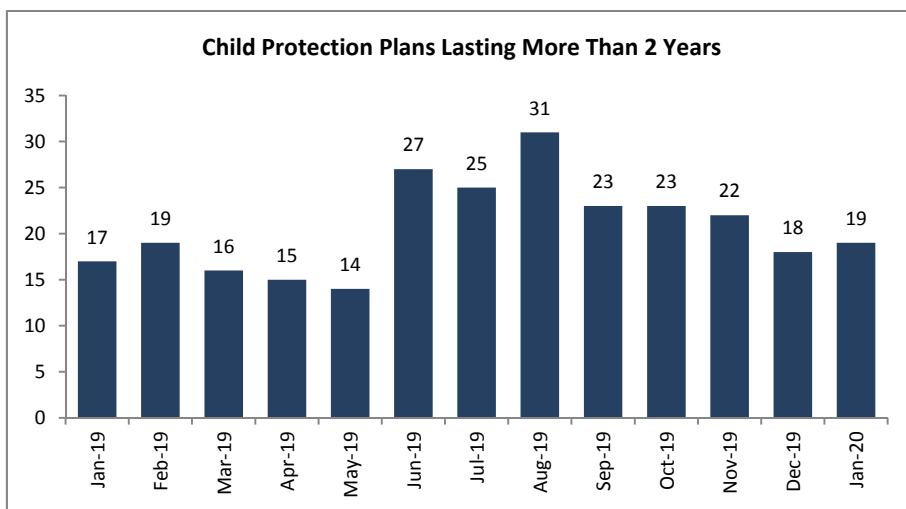


There were delays in case recording for 10% of children subject to a protection plan following their latest visit; this equates to 68 children.



Of the 430 children subject to a protection plan aged 5 and over at the end of January, 58% had been seen alone during the last 10 working days (249 children), this is an improvement compared with the previous 4 months but remains much lower than August (71%).

66% of children had been seen alone during their last visit (282 children).



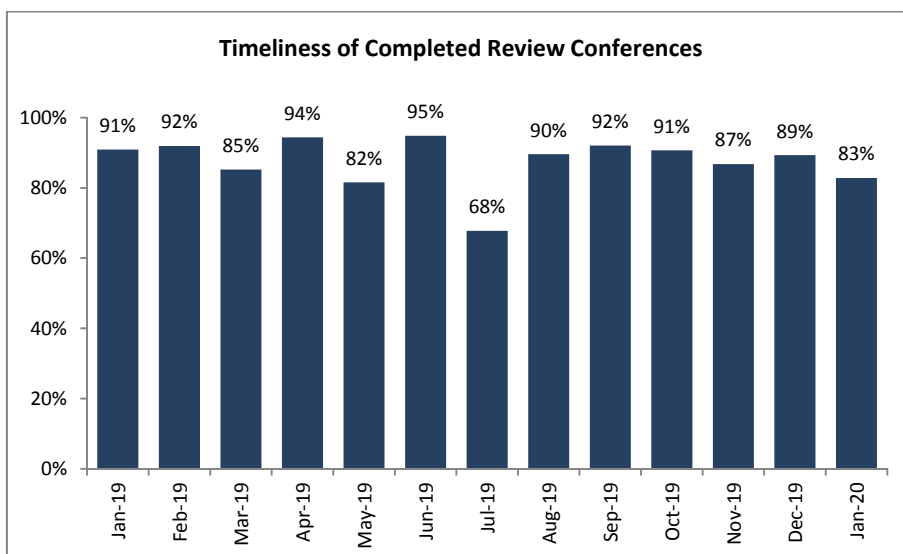
Peer Group (Mar 2019): 2.4%



86% of children have been subject to a protection plan for less than 1 year (575 children).

19 children have been subject to their plan for more than two years (2.8%). This is slightly higher than our Peer Group comparators (2.4%). 10 of these children are in pre or court proceedings, the remaining 9 are not being progressed via a legal process.

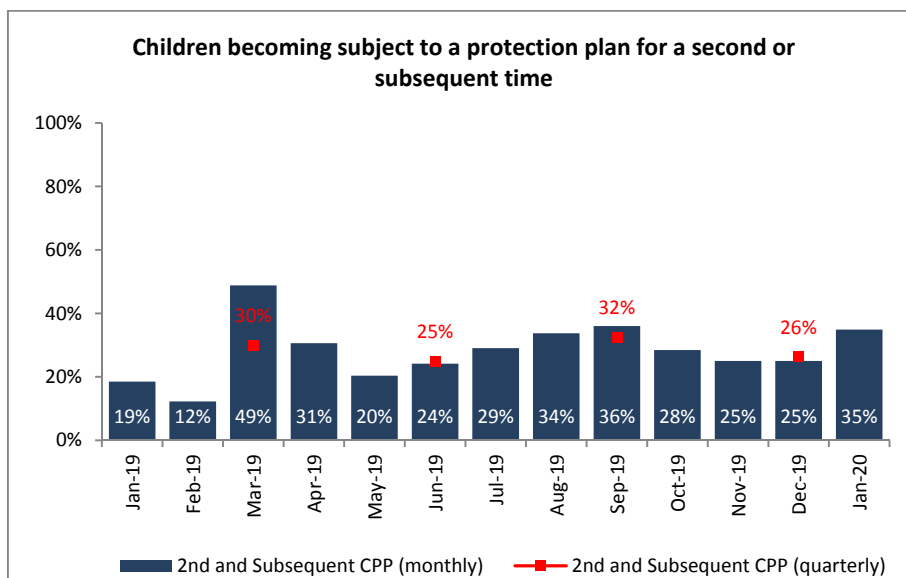
The longest period that children have been subject to a plan is currently 41 months for 3 children.



83% of the children for whom a review conference was completed in January were within timescale; this is a decline in performance from 89% last month.

Of the 447 children who have been subject to a protection plan for more than 3 months, 410 (92%) have had a timely review, down from 95% in December. Performance is within tolerance of target (95%) and is higher than our peer group (75.2%).

There are 37 children whose conference was due in November, December or January but appears not to have taken place (6%).



Peer Group (Mar 19): 22.4%



The proportion of children becoming subject to a second or subsequent protection plan rose significantly (35% up from 25%), following a reduction over the last 3 months. Performance is worse than target (25%) and higher than comparators (22.4%).

Overall, 33% of children subject to a protection plan had a previous plan(s) (222 children).

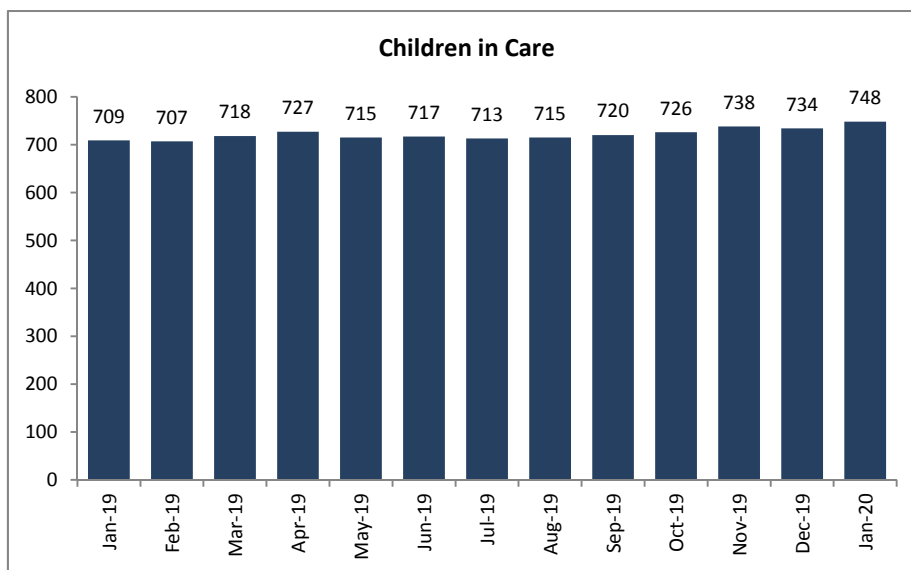
	2 nd /sub plan overall	2 nd /sub plan in Nov		2 nd /sub plan overall	2 nd /sub plan in Dec		2 nd /sub plan overall	2 nd /sub plan in Jan
Cheltenham	39%	29%	Gloucester	40%	30%	Cheltenham	39%	67%
FoD	28%	0%	Cheltenham	35%	20%	Gloucester	38%	32%
Cotswolds	21%	60%	Stroud	24%	33%	Cotswolds	33%	100%
Gloucester	38%	44%	Tewkesbury	24%	20%	Stroud	25%	17%
Stroud	24%	22%	Cotswolds	24%	0%	Tewkesbury	20%	0%
Tewkesbury	24%	6%	FoD	21%	7%	FoD	20%	11%

Three localities are performing better than target in terms of the overall proportion of children subject to a protection plan who had one of more previous plans (Forest, Stroud, Tewkesbury).

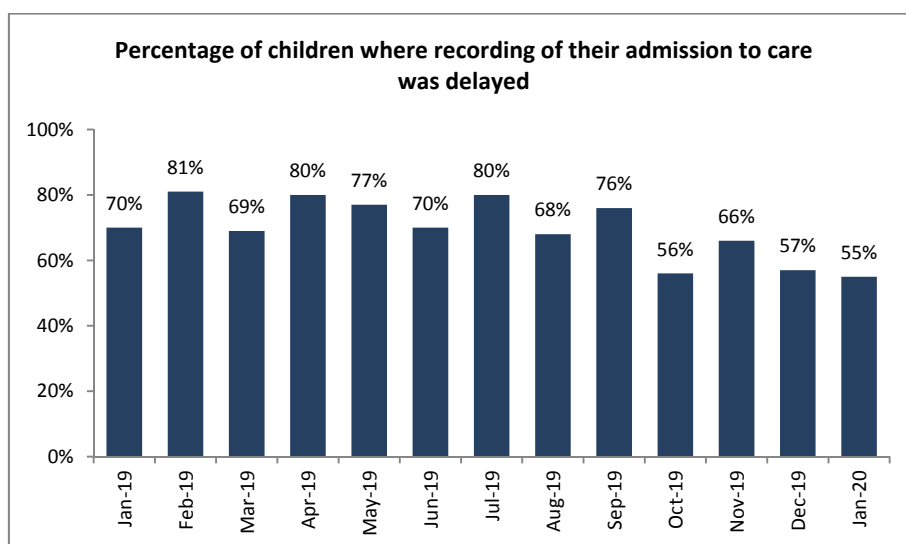
Gloucester and Cheltenham continue to be clear outliers in terms of their respective overall proportion of children on repeat plans (39% and 38% respectively).

In January, performance in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Cotswolds was impacted by a large sibling group in each locality returning to plans.

Children in Care



The number of children in care has increased from 734 children in December to 748 children in January. This is 6% higher than the same time last year and remains higher than our peer group (57.3 compared to 52.7 rate per 10,000 0-17 population).



There is continued fluctuation in delays in recording admissions to care, but the trend is broadly improving trend. However, delays continue to impact too many children.

For those children where an admission in January had been recorded, updates to case records were delayed for 55% of children before the case management system reflected the child's change in status, the legal status and location. This has improved for a second consecutive month down from 66% in November.

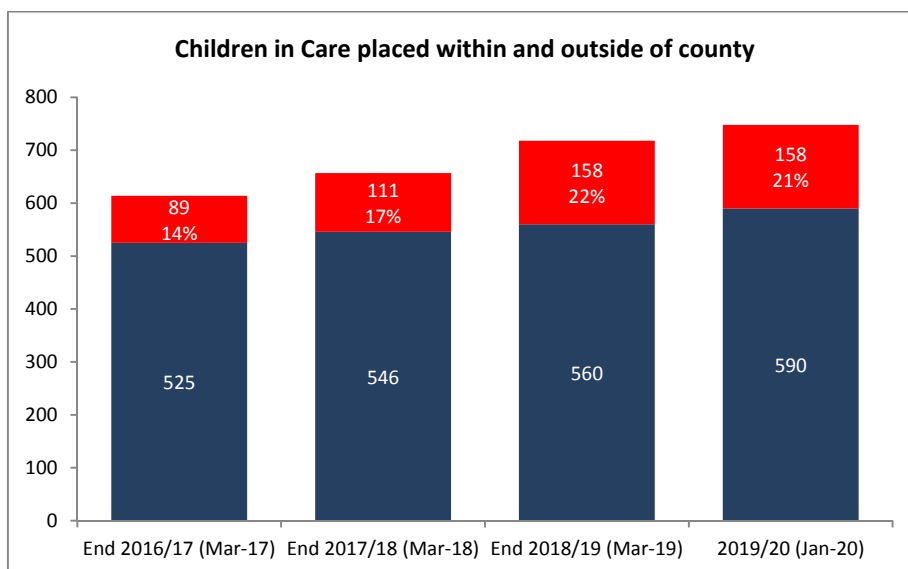
	0-5 w.days	6-10 w.days	11-15 w.days	16-20 w.days	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months
Jan-19	22	5	3	4	7	1	
Feb-19	23	4	1	4	4		
Mar-19	26	5	1				2
Apr-19	26	8		1			
May-19	21	3	4		3	1	
Jun-19	19	6	1	2			
Jul-19	19	2	1	1	1		
Aug-19	26	1					
Sep-19	32	2					
Oct-19	40		1				
Nov-19	30	3	2			1	
Dec-19	27	3			1		
Jan-20	27	4					

The extent of delay in recording admissions on the whole improving however, there was 1 child who entered care in November and 1 child who entered care in December whose their entry to care wasn't recorded until January.

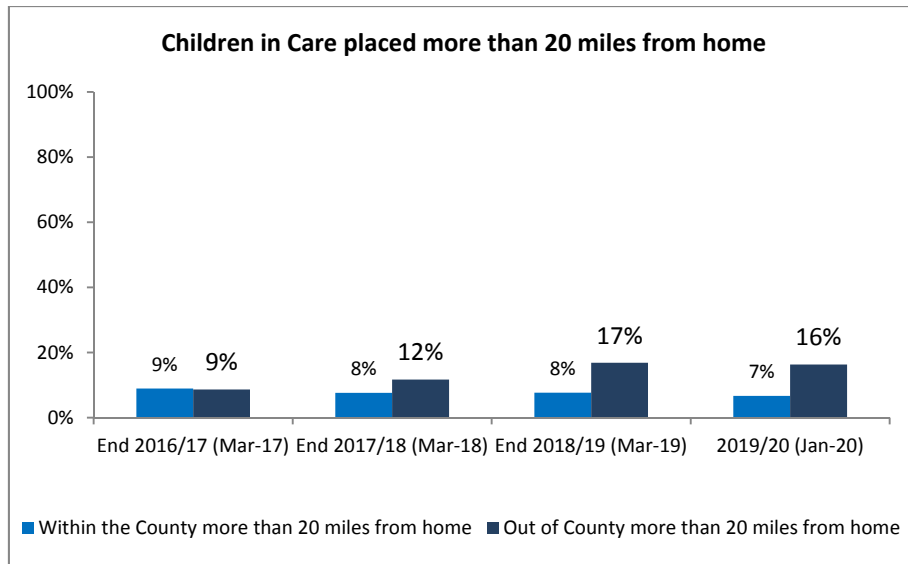
Start Date of S20 Status	Number of children	Percentage
2020	21	10%
2019	117	57%
2018	33	16%
2017	17	8%
2016	12	6%
2015	2	1%
2014	3	1%
	205	

27.4% of children in our care are accommodated under a Section 20 arrangement (205), this is a marginal percentage point decrease compared to last month due to an increased number of children in care overall (28.1%, 206 children) due to the increased number of children in care and is now slightly better than target (28%). However, we remain an outlier compared with the national average (18%, March 2019).

23 of the children accommodated under Section 20 are in court proceedings (3.1%) while 21 children are in pre-proceedings (2.8%).



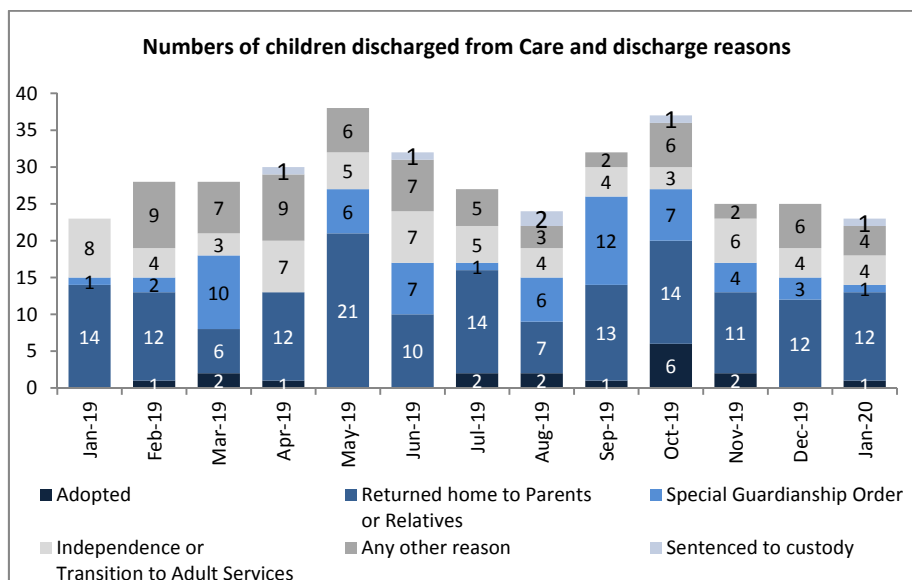
Just over a fifth of our children in care were placed out of County at the end of January (158 children, 21%).



Just under a quarter of children in care are living more than 20 miles from their home (23%, 172 children). There were an additional 25 children (3%) where it was not known if they lived more than 20 miles from home, this is because the child's home post code is not recorded, this includes some Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

122 children living more than 20 miles from home were in out of county placements (16%); this is just above the national England rate (15%) but better than our peer group (19.1%) and the South West (20%).

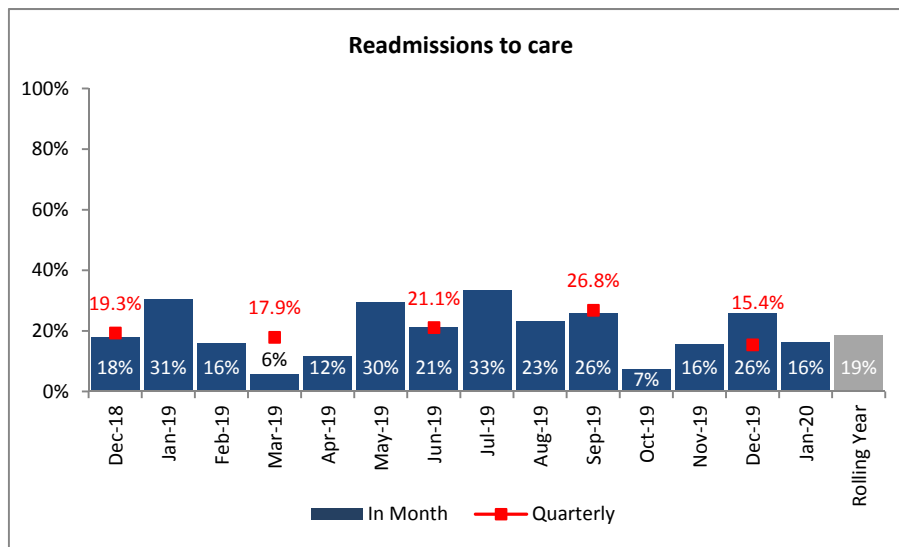
For 50 children, their placement was within Gloucestershire but more than 20 miles from their home (7%).



In addition to delays in recording admissions to care, there are also delays in recording discharges from care and when this responsibility ends. The number of discharges from care rose as follows:

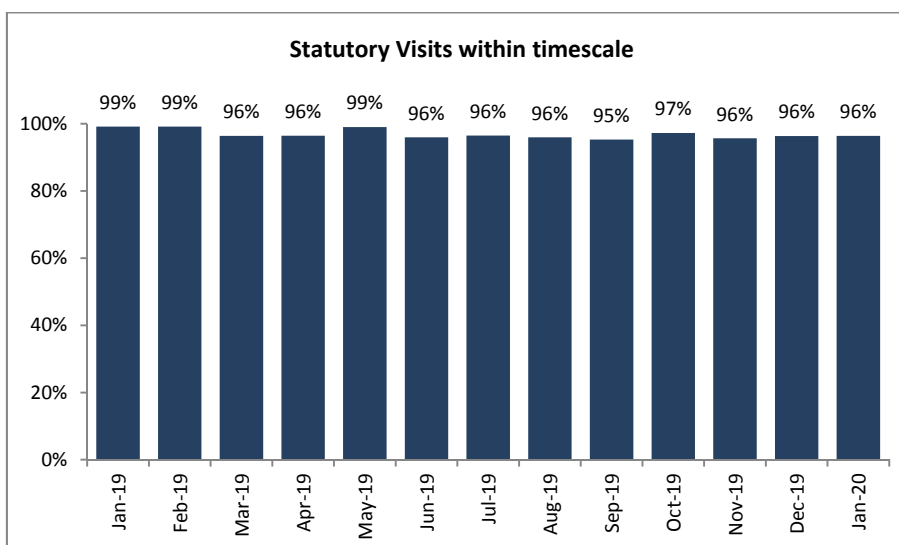
Month of Discharge	Discharges Recorded in December	Discharges Recorded in January
October	36	37
November	23	25
December	21	25

23 children were recorded as having been discharged from care in January; it is likely this number will increase due to delayed recording. Overall the majority of children leave care to live with parents or relatives and this continued to be the case in January (12 children, 52%).



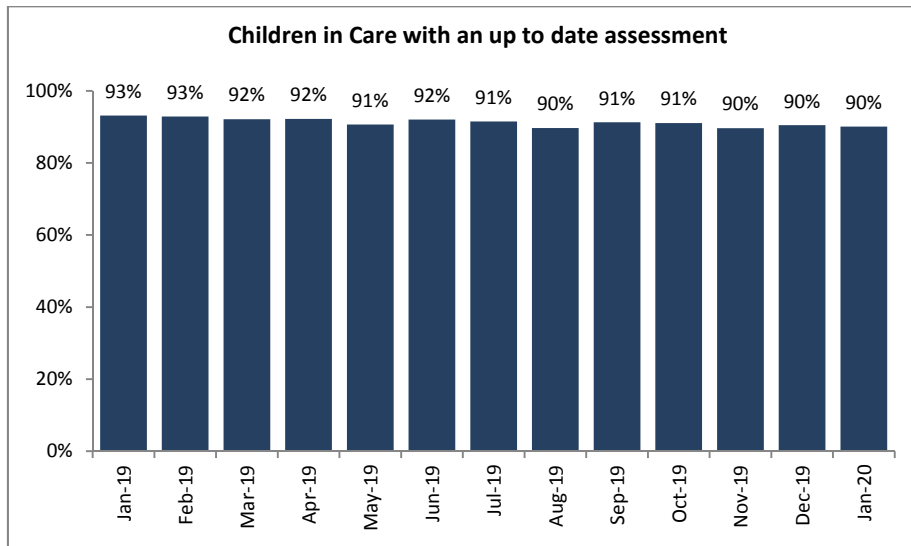
Readmissions reduced in January (16%), returning to the level seen in November following an increase to 26% in December.

All 6 children of the children readmitted in January were readmitted following a return home to family.



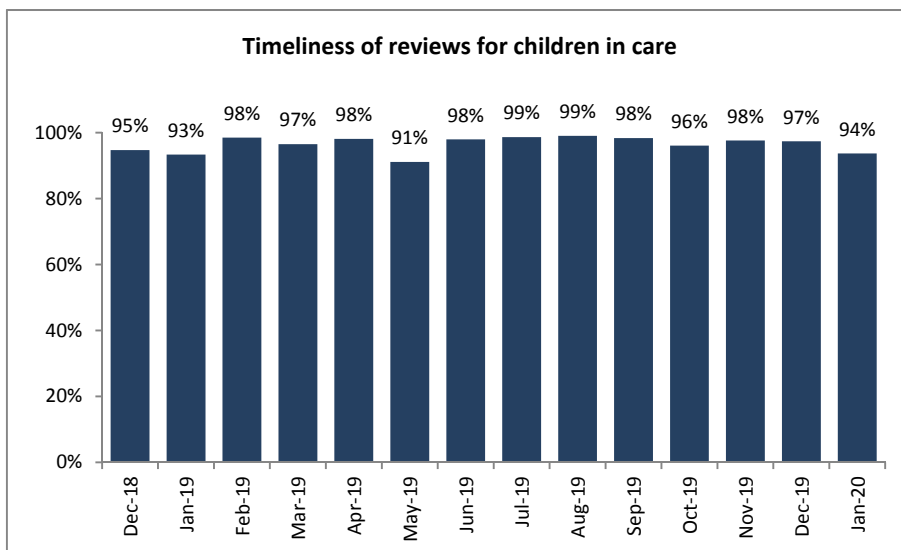
The vast majority of children in care had an up to date Statutory Visit at the end of January (96%); performance is above target (95%). This is a measure in the **Accelerated Improvement plan**.

27 children were overdue a visit at the end of January. For 8 of these children, visits were completed within 5 working days of timescale (30%). There were 3 children for whom no statutory visit was recorded since the child had moved placement, all of whom moved placement in January.



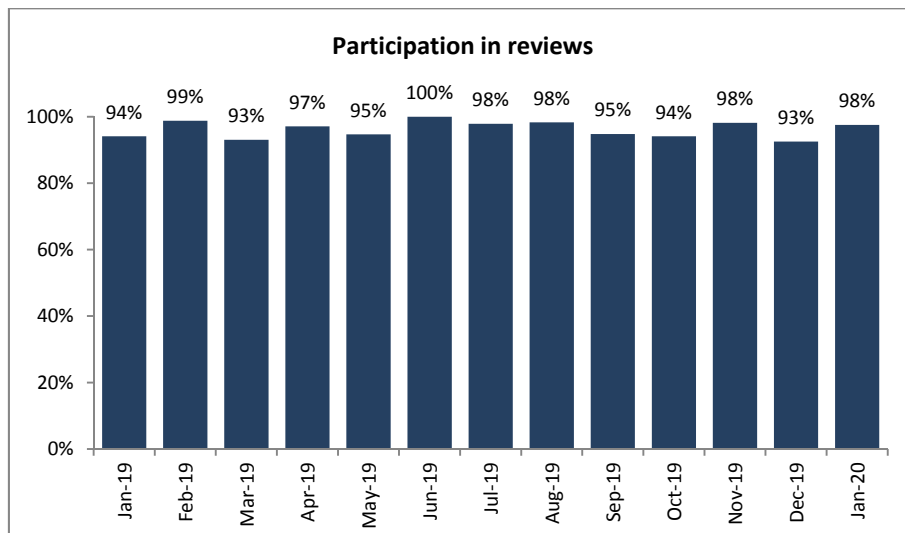
90% of children in care had an up to date assessment at the end of January (610 children), performance remains below target (95%).

There are 67 children whose assessment was overdue, 44 of whom were due an assessment between November 2019-January 2020 (66%). 5 children had not been assessed since entering care with 1 child entering care in 2017, 2 children in 2018 and the remaining 2 children in January 2019.



Reviews for 142 Children in Care took place in January. Although the majority were completed within timescales (94%) performance has declined slightly over the last two months from 98%. This is below target (100%).

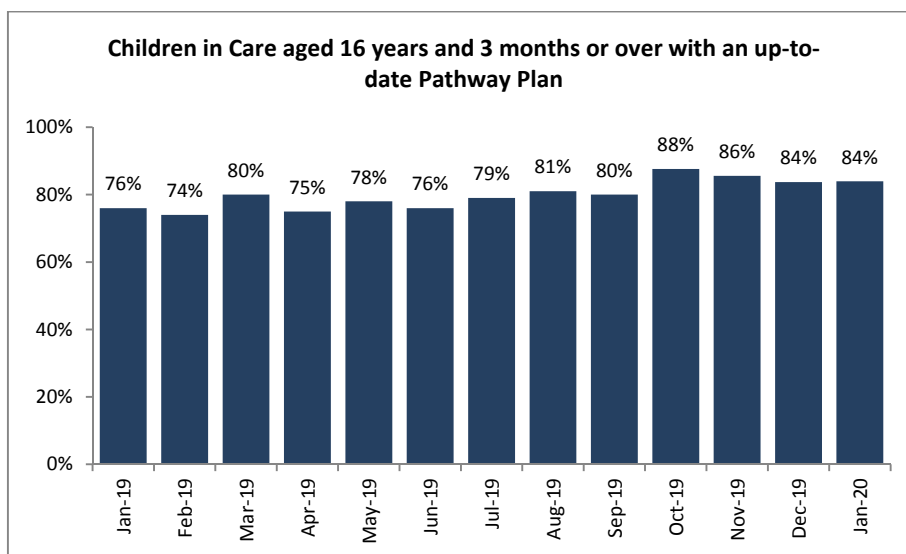
There were 23 children (3%) for whom a review was planned to take place in January and a further 17 children (2%) for whom a review was planned to take place in November or December 2019; LiquidLogic has not yet been updated to reflect whether these reviews took place or not.



Note: Graph excludes children aged under 4 years and young people who have a Pathway Plan as participation in their review is not captured.

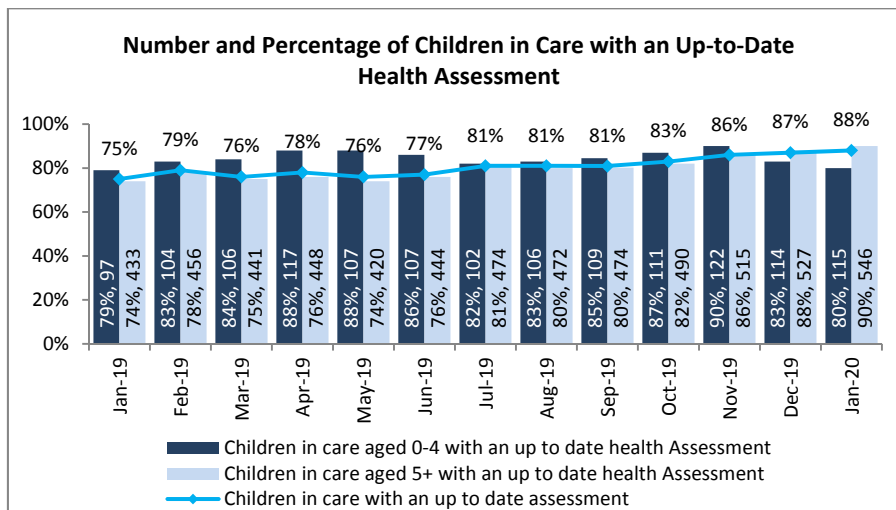
98% of children had their views represented in their review either by attending or via an Advocate, IRO or other media (80 of 82 children), this has increased from 93% in December. This position may change as reviews planned for January are recorded.

Participation cannot be recorded for all reviews as the form for young people on a Pathway Plan does not allow this information to be captured. These young people equate to the 15% of reviews (22 young people) in December.



The proportion of young people with an up-to-date pathway plan remained the same as December (84%), down from 88% in October, but remains above target (80%).

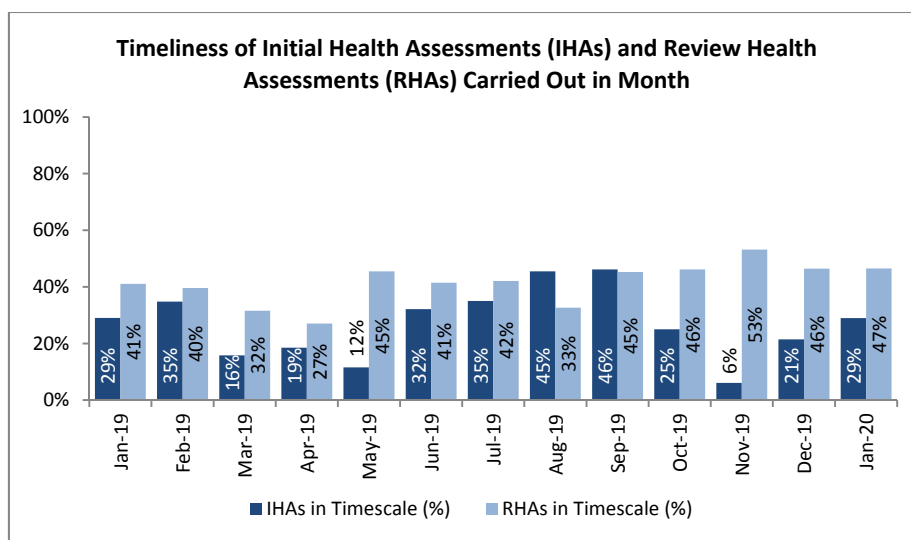
26 children aged 16 years and 3 months who have been in care for more than 3 months have no Pathway Plan in place. There were no children overdue a review of their Pathway Plan.



661 children in care had an up-to-date health assessment (88%), this is a continued improvement in performance up from 75% at the same time last year. Performance is above target (85%).

115 children aged under 5 (80%) and 546 children aged 5 and over (90%) had an up to date health assessment or have been in care less than 20 working days. This is a continued improvement for children aged over 5 but for the younger age group this has continued to decline down from 90% in November.

A health assessment for 12% of children in care (89) was overdue at the end of January. For 23 children their Initial Health Assessment was overdue. For the remaining 66 children their Review Health Assessment was overdue.



Data relating to the number of children who received an Initial Health Assessment in December has been refreshed, again, delayed recording was evident for a small number of children with numbers of IHAs increasing from 24 to 28. As a result of this, the percentage of IHAs that took place within timescales has reduced from the 29% previously reported to 21%.

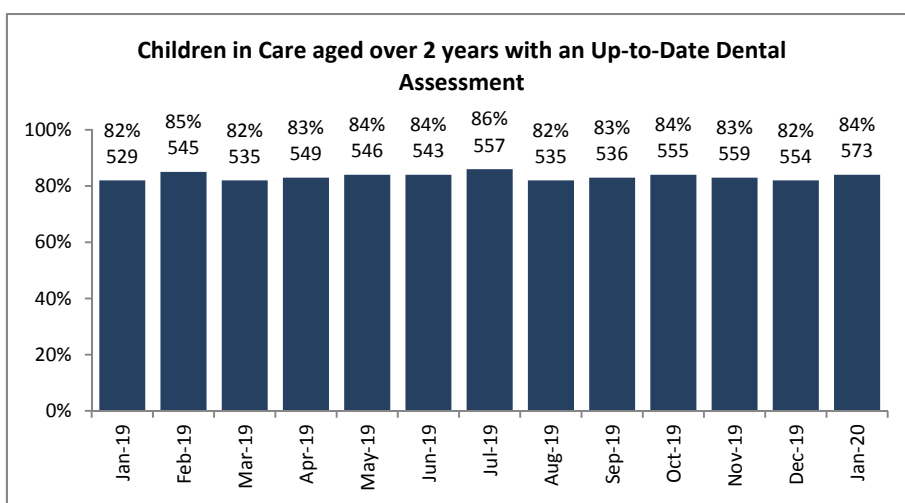
38 children in care received an IHA in January, 29% of these were within timescales (11 children). This is currently an improvement from December. Performance remains below the target (50%).

A new process is being piloted from the end of January in the Gloucester Locality where a provisional IHA appointment is booked as soon a decision is made for a child to enter care. In the current process appointments are only made once the correct paperwork has been completed and a formal request made.

In January, the request date for the IHA was recorded for all but 1 child. For 2 children (5%) the request for their IHA was made on the same day that they entered care and for a further 11 children (29%) the request was made within 5 days of them entering care. For the remaining 24 children their health assessment was requested longer than 5 days after they entered care and for 4 of these children the request was made after the due date of their IHA.

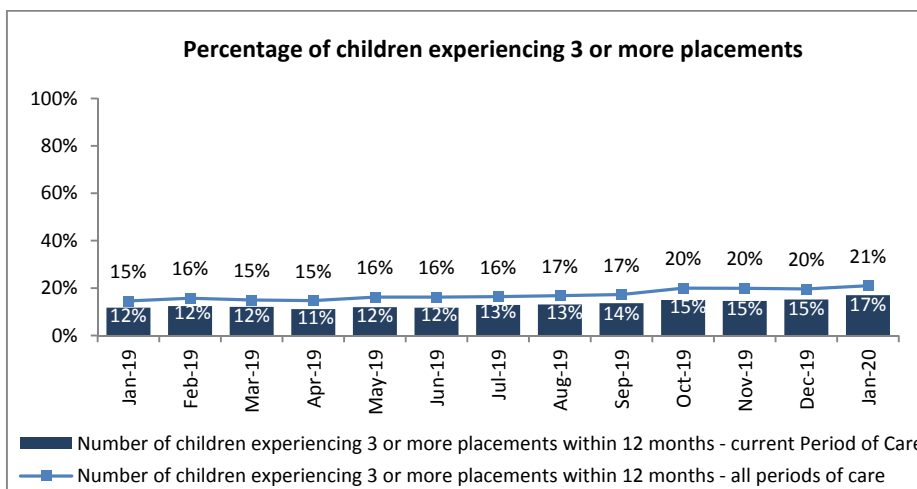
The data relating to the number of children who received a Review Health Assessment in December has been refreshed as a result the number of children who received an RHA in December has increased from 46 children previously reported to 56 children. The number of RHAs within timescales has also increased from 22 children to 25 children so the percentage of children who received a timely RHA remains 46%.

43 children in care received a RHA in January, for 20 children their RHA was within timescales (47%), this is currently a slight improvement from December in proportion although based on lower numbers of RHAs completed. There are, however, further health assessments that are recorded as planned to take place in January and it is not clear whether these have taken place. This will impact on timeliness performance when data is refreshed in the next report.



84% of children in care aged 2 years or older had an up to date dental assessment at the end of January (573 children), this remains within tolerance of target (85%). Performance has remained broadly similar across the last 12 months against an increasing volume of children in care.

There are 110 children whose dental check is overdue (16%).



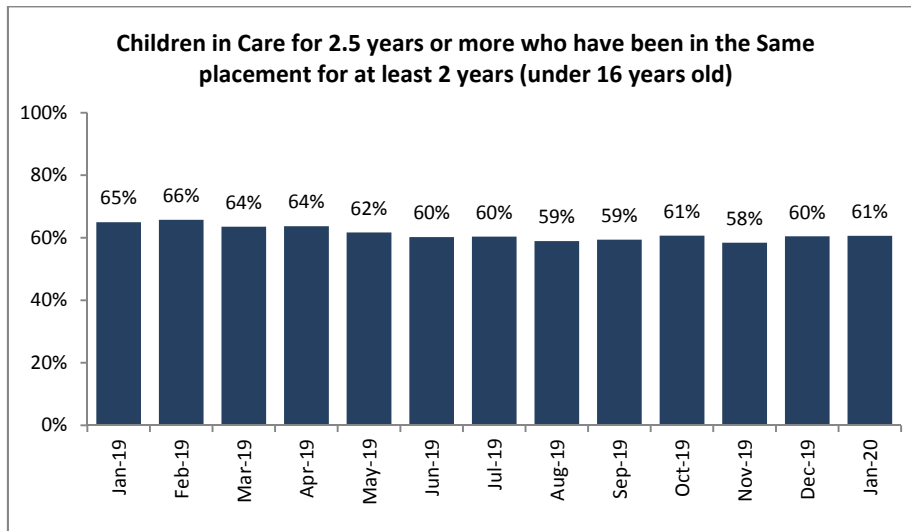
Peer Group – All PoCs (Mar 2019): 9.8%



Short-term placement stability has been following a declining trend and has increased following a 3 month static period.

17% of children in care experienced 3 or more placements within 12 months during their current period of care, an increase from 15% for the last 3 months.

21% have had 3 or more placement moves within 12 months across all periods of care, an increase from 20% for the last 3 months. This remains worse than target (13%) and higher than our peer group (9.8%).

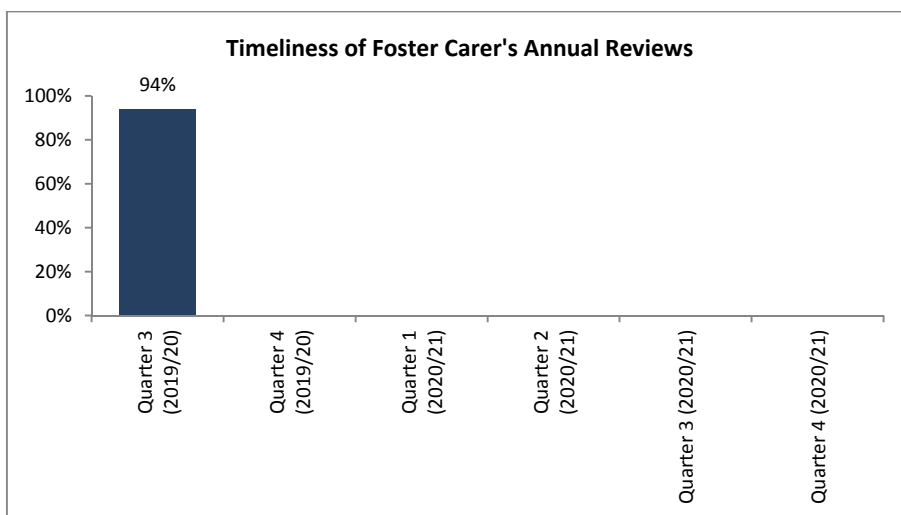


Peer Group (Mar 2019): 70.1% ▲

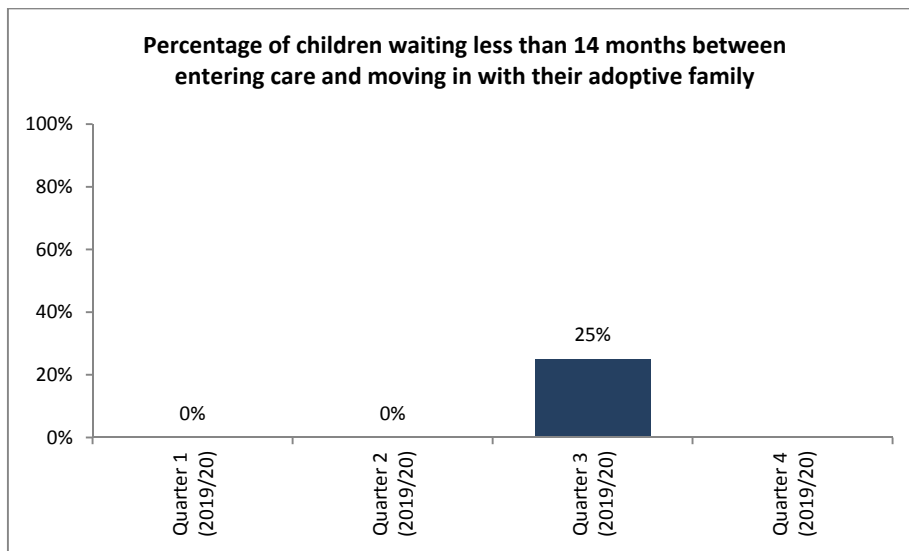
Long-term placement stability has been following a broadly declining trend overall but has increased in the last 2 months from 58% in November to 61% in January.

This remains below target (65%) and our peer group (70.1%)

Current short and long-term stability data is not entirely reflective of the national stability definitions as changes of address are currently counted as a placement move in instances where the Carer has not changed. We are revising reports to ensure that they are representative of actual placement disruption.

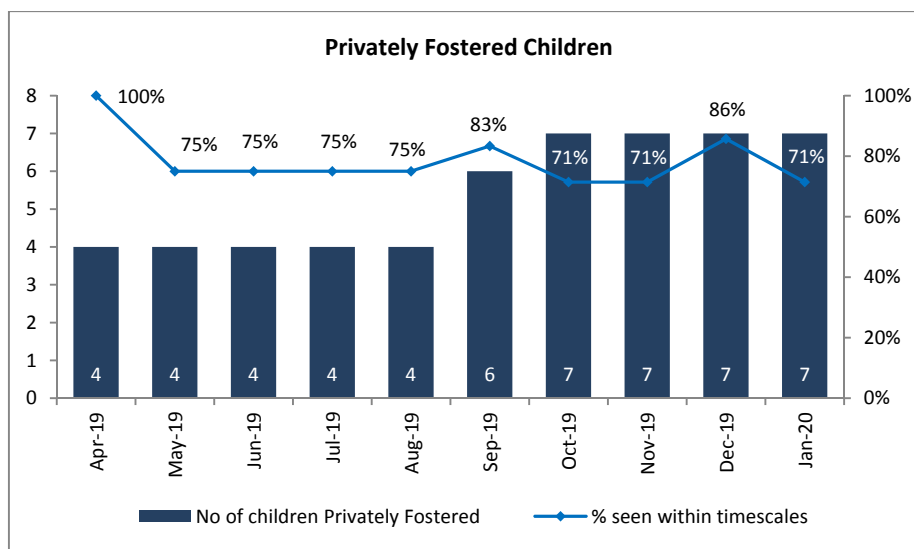


94% of Foster Carers had received an annual review within the last 12 months at the end of December. Note: This is the latest data available



12 children were placed with their adoptive families between September-December 2019. For 3 children (25%) this was within 14 months of the date they came into care.

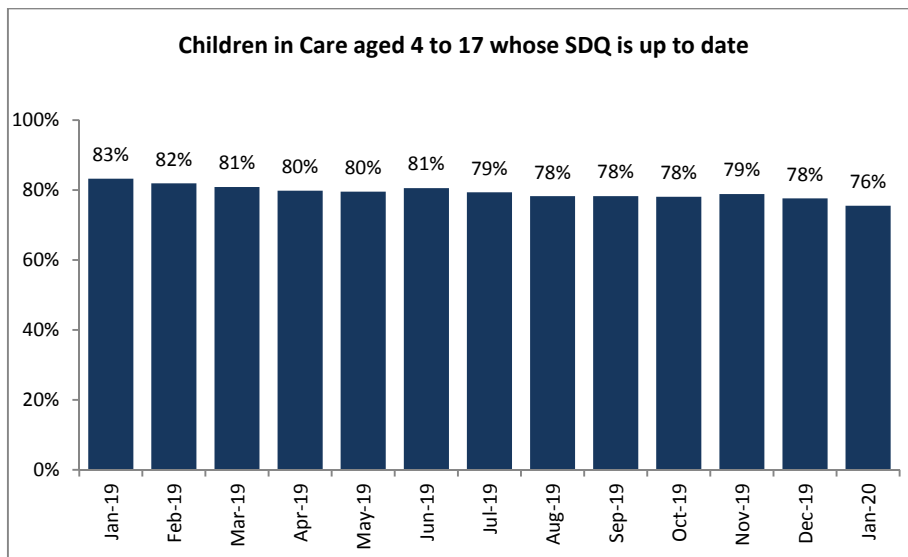
Note: This is the latest data available. Current adoption timeliness data is not reflective of the national definition. Work is being carried out to understand the full definition and what data is required to be able to report to the exact definition.



There were 7 children in Private Fostering arrangements at the end of January.

5 of these children were visited within timescales (71%); this has decreased from 86% in December and is the same proportion as October and November.

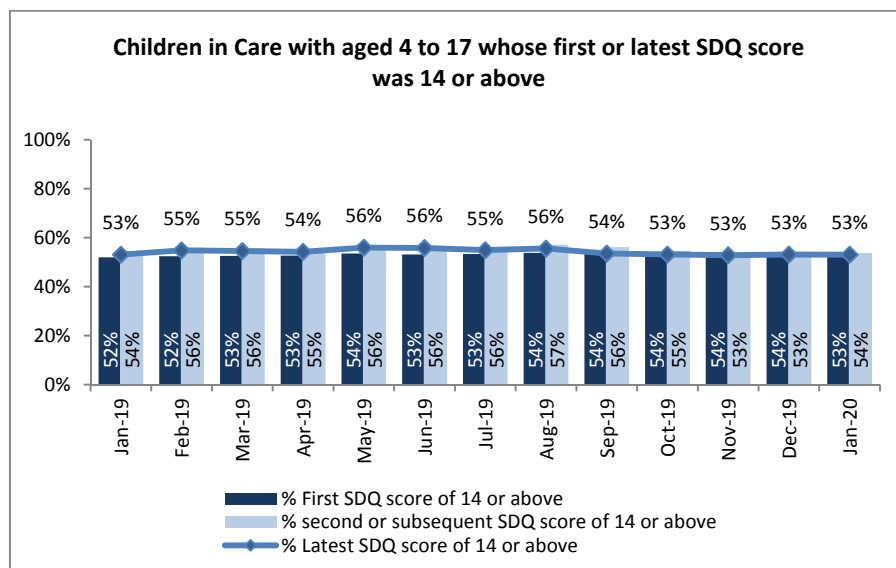
Note: The number of children reported as privately fostered is not reflective of the number of private fostering arrangements that the Private Fostering Team is supporting. The team are carrying out some data cleansing. There is also an issue with the LiquidLogic Pathway which doesn't allow some children to transfer from Becoming Privately Fostered to Privately Fostered. ICT have been approached about the issue.



Note: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire has only recently become available and has undergone further testing. Some anomalies were identified in the data since reporting in December so the previous 12 months data has been refreshed.

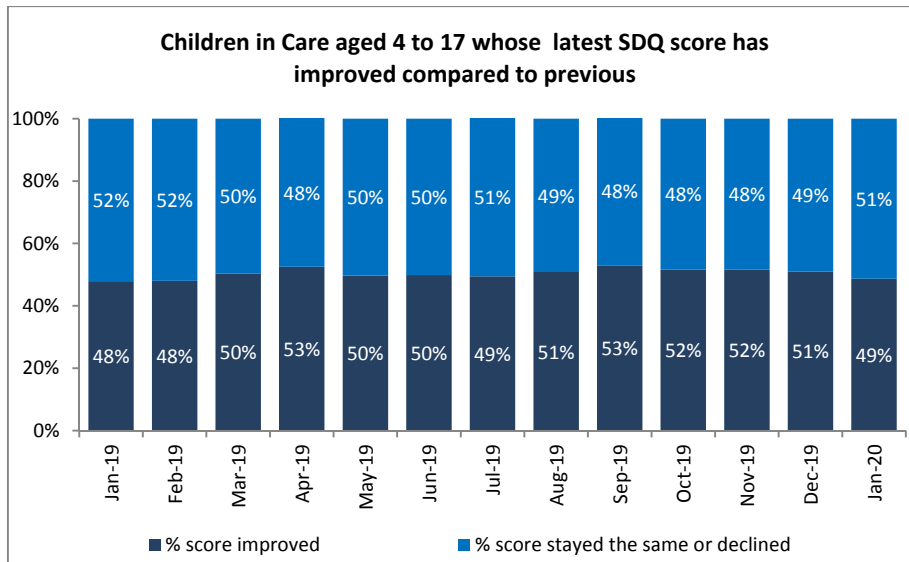
At the end of January, 76% of Children in Care aged 4-17 had an up to date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) or were awaiting their first SDQ (475 of 629 children); performance has been on a declining trend, down from 83% at the same time last year.

154 children were overdue an SDQ at the end of December.

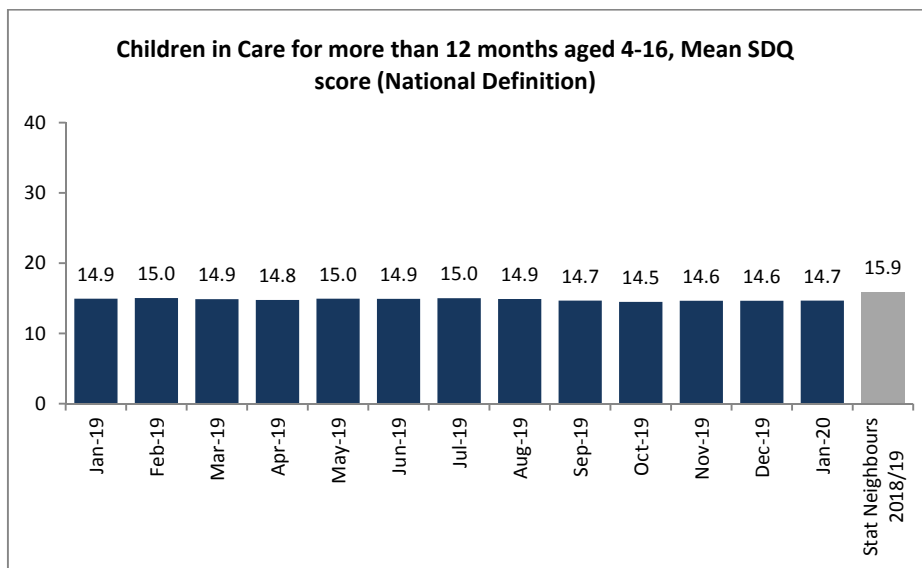


For just over half of the children in care aged 4-17 at the end of January, their first SDQ was a score of 14 or above (borderline emotional health concerns) indicating that at the point they entered care they may have required support around their emotional health. For children that have had more than one SDQ completed a similar proportion (54%) had a score of 14 or above at the end of January. Performance in both of these areas has remained similar over the last 12 months

Overall, at the end of January just over half of children in care aged 14-17 whose latest SDQ score, whether that be their first if they have only received one, or a more recent SDQ if they have received more than one was a score of 14 or above (53%). This has also remained broadly similar over the last 12 months and raises questions about the effectiveness of supporting the improvement emotional health for our children in care.

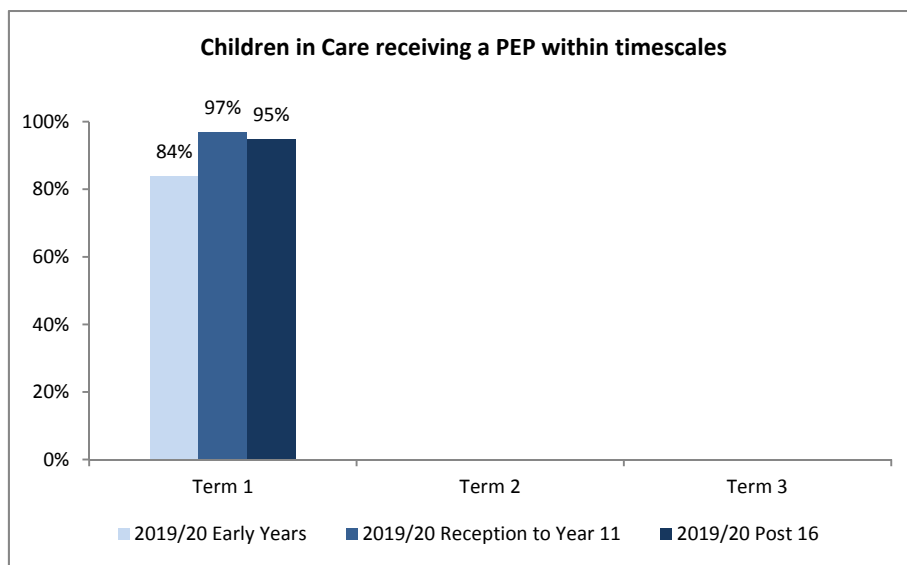


For those children in care who have had more than one SDQ, there is an almost equal division between children whose score has improved compared to the previous SDQ and those where the score has stayed the same or declined (49% and 51% respectively at the end of January) this has remained broadly similar over the last 12 months.



The average emotional health score for our children in care aged 4-16 (age group as defined by the national measure) who have been in care over 12 months is slightly better than our statistical neighbours (14.7 compared with 15.9).

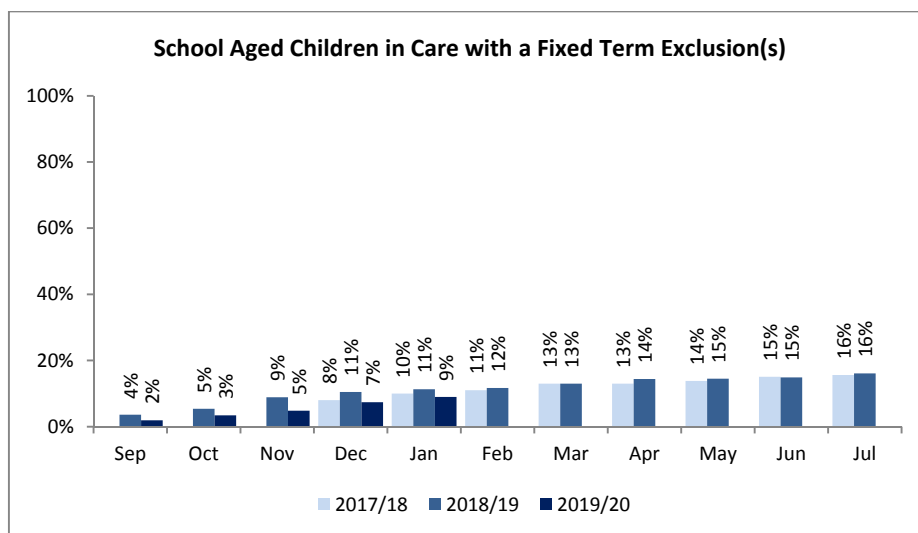
Education – Children in Care



It's a requirement that all children in care have a Personal Education Plan in place and reviewed each school Term. At the end of the first term of the 2019/20 Academic Year, PEPs for 84% of Early Years pupils, 97% of Reception to Year 11 pupils and 95% of Post 16 pupils were within timescales.

Note: This is the latest data available.

At the end of January there was 1 Early Years child, 9 Reception to Year 11 children and 5 Post 16 Young people whose PEP was overdue.

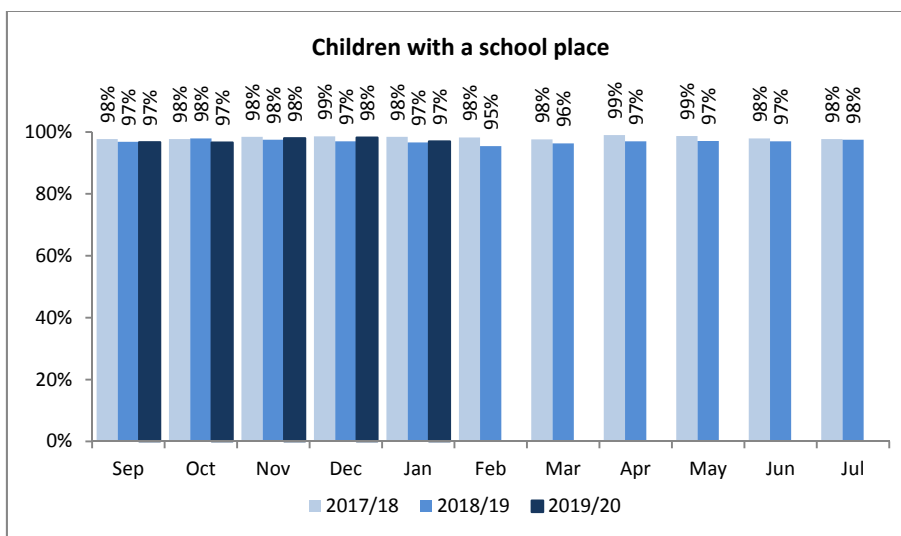


At the end of January, the proportion of children in care who had been fixed term excluded remained lower than the same time in the 2018/19 and 2017/18 academic years (9% compared with 11% and 10% respectively). A total of 158 school days have been lost in the academic year so far, this is also lower than at the same time over the last two Academic Years (311 and 190 school days respectively).

School Moves

At the end of January, 25 children had experienced a school move during the academic year, this is lower than the same time last year (31 students).

One child had experienced 2 moves this academic year (26 moves, 25 children). Changes of school place were largely by children who were in secondary school (19 of 26 moves, 73%). 8 of the school moves were children in Years 10 and 11 (31%).

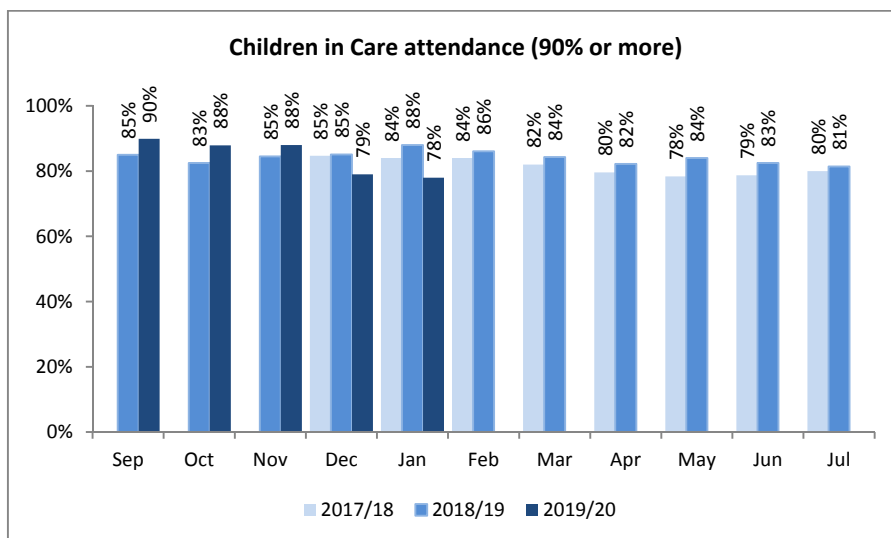


The overwhelming majority of school aged children in care had a school place at the end of January (458 of 470 children, 97%). The proportion of children with a school place is the same as last year (97%) and similar to the same time in the 2017/18 academic year (98%).

12 children did not have a school place at the end of January. There remains 1 child who has not had a school place since November 2018.

Of the 12 children without a school place at the end of January, 5 were recorded as being placed out of county.

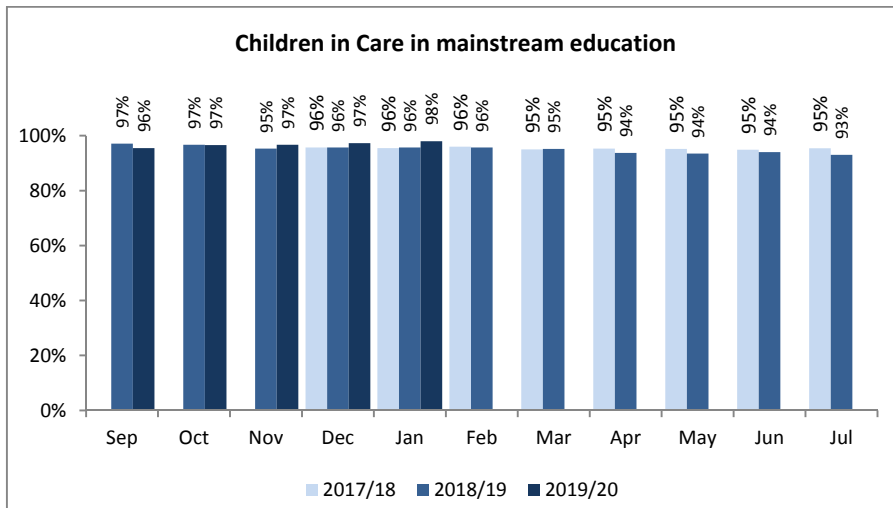
8 of the 12 children in January were in school years 10 or 11.



At the end of January, the proportion of children with an attendance rate of 90% or more had decreased to 78% from 90% in September. This is lower than at the same time in 2018/19 and 2017/18 academic years (88% and 84% respectively).

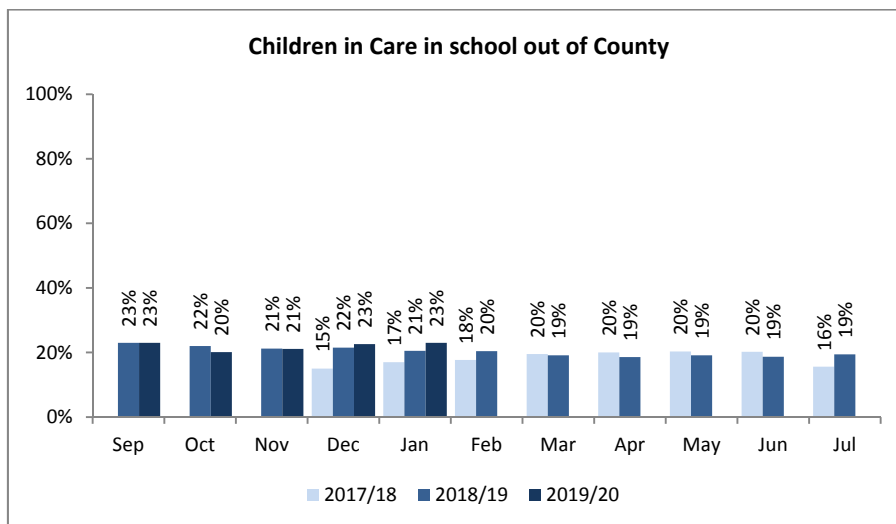
Attendance Rate	Number of school aged children in care	Percentage of school aged children in care attendance
90% or over	366	78%
89% - 76%	39	8%
75% - 31%	39	8%
30% - 16%	7	1%
15% or below	7	1%
No School Place	12	3%
	470	

65 children (14%) have attended for less than three-quarters of school days this academic year, For 7 of these children (1%), attendance was below 15% of school days.



The vast majority of school aged children in care were in mainstream education at the end of January (98%), this is slightly higher than the same time the previous two academic years (96%)

10 children in care were in alternative education at the end of January, all 10 children were in school years 9,10 or 11, the majority of whom were in school years 10 or 11 (8 children).

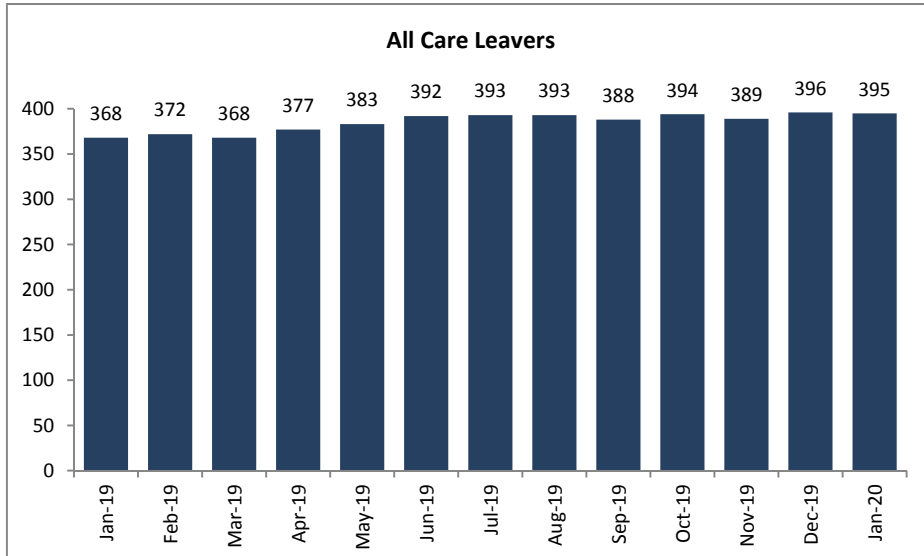


There were 104 students receiving education out of County in January (23%).

The proportion of children in care with a school place out of County is higher than the same time in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 academic years (17% and 21% respectively).

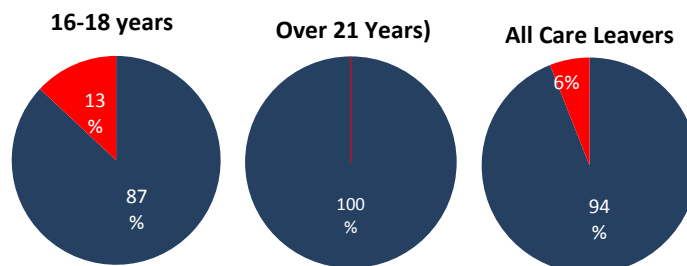
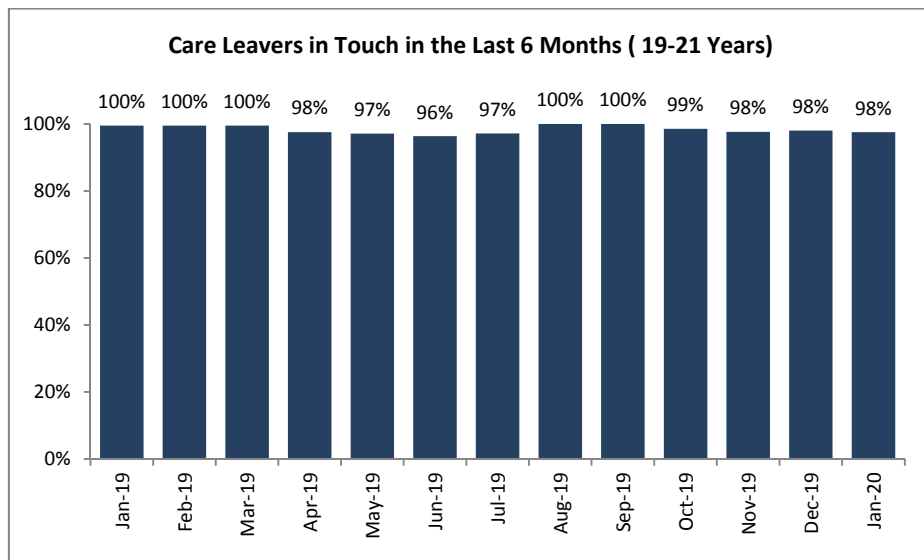
There are 5 children who are recorded as placed out of County that don't currently have a school place; this is depressing the overall percentage of children in school out of County.

Care Leavers



We had 395 care leavers at the end of January; this is a growth of 7% over the last year. This includes 18 young people under the age of 18, as well as those care leavers up to the age of 25 to whom we have an extended duty.

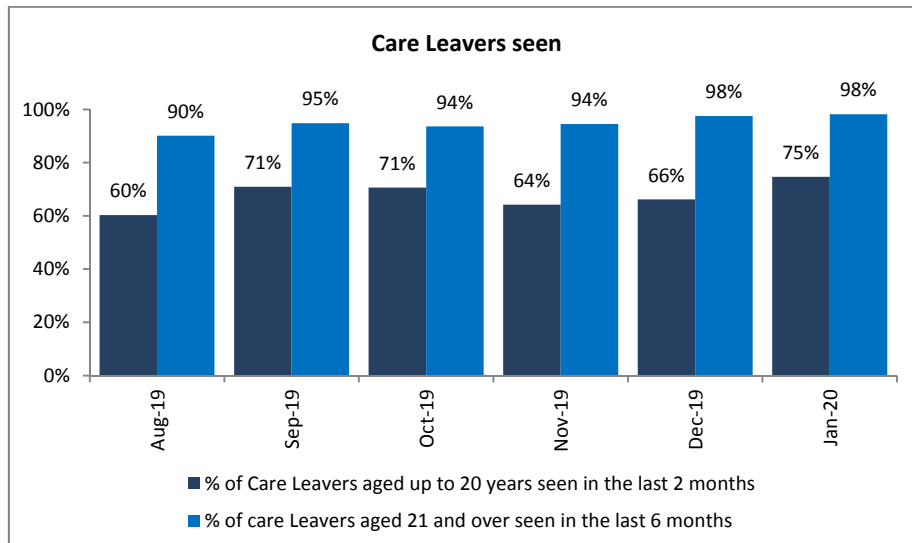
Although the number of care leavers remains similar to last month the age profile has changed slightly between December and January, the number of care leavers aged 16-18 has increased from 115 to 123 (up 7%) and the number of care leavers aged over 21 has reduced from 75 to 68 (down 10%).



We had been in touch with 98% of Care Leavers aged 19-21 (199 of 204 Care Leavers) and with all Care Leavers aged over 21 years.

Contact with our youngest Care Leavers (16-18 years) needs improvement (87%). While this is an increase compared to December (83%), performance has declined from 96% in August.

Overall, we have been in touch with 94% of our Care Leavers, this is better than our peer group (87.1%).

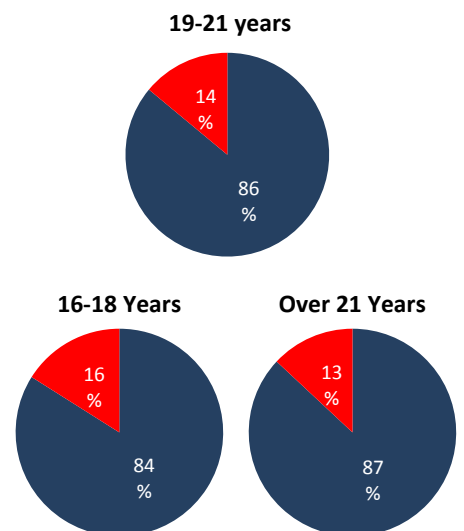
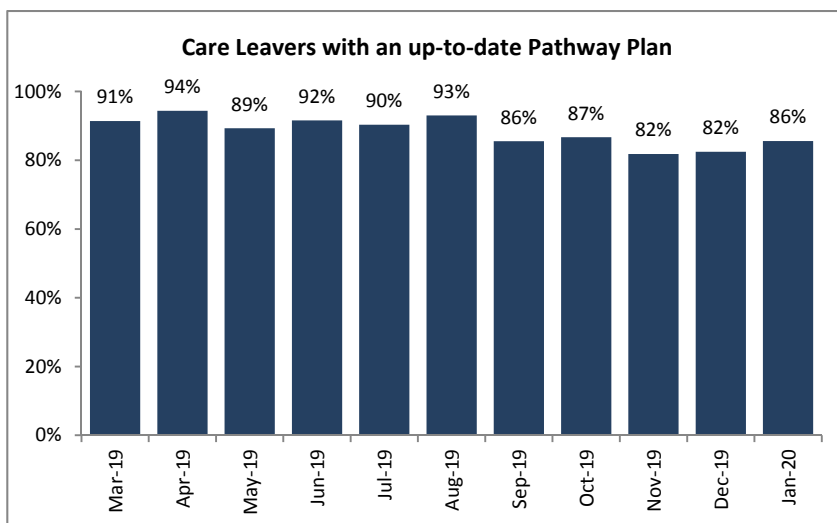


We have an increased duty to see our younger care leavers more regularly (up to their 21st birthday).

75% of Care Leavers aged 16-20 years had been seen within the last 2 months at the end of January (212 Care Leavers); whilst this is an improvement compared to previous months, it is an area that continues to require improvement.

There were 72 Care Leavers who had not been seen within this timescale, 2 of whom had no visit recorded.

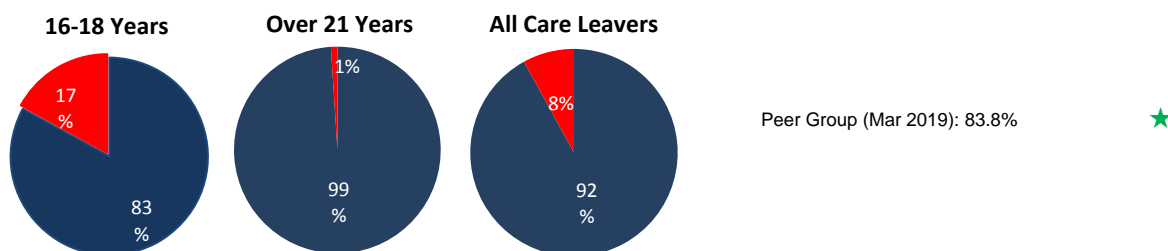
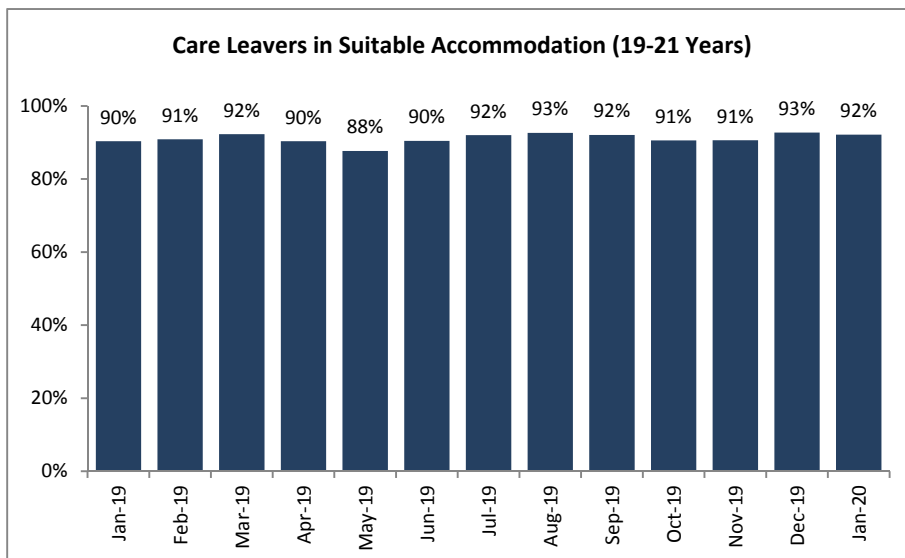
98% of Care Leavers aged over 21 had been seen within the last 6 months or had returned to request Care Leaver support within the last month band had not yet seen (109 Care Leavers). There were 2 Care Leavers in this age group who had not been seen within the last 6 months



86% of Care Leavers had an up to date pathway plan in place at the end of January (338 of 395 Care Leavers).

This is an improvement from December (82%) and has returned to above target (85%) but remains lower than performance achieved during the first half of the financial year. This is an **Accelerated Improvement plan** measure.

There are 57 Care Leavers who do not have a Pathway Plan or whose plan is overdue review. The highest proportion of these is in the 16-18 years age group (20 Care Leavers). There are also 28 19-21 year old Care Leavers and 9 Care Leavers aged over 21 years who do not have an up-to-date Pathway Plan.

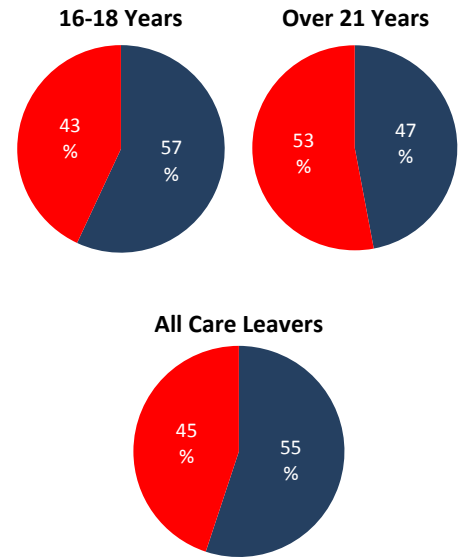
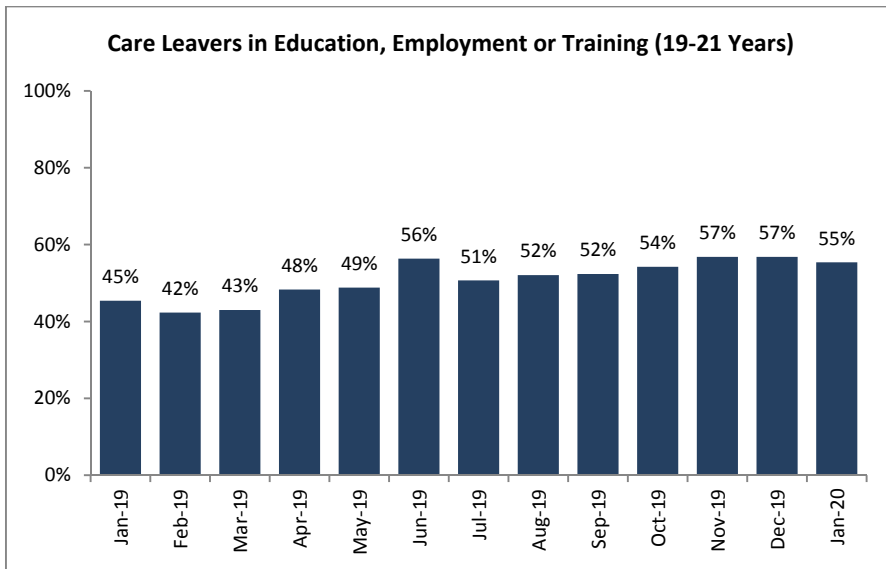


The majority of care leavers aged 19-21 years were living in suitable accommodation at the end of December (92%, 188 of 204 young people). This has reduced slightly from the last month but has remained broadly similar over time and is above our peer group (83.8%). This is an **Accelerated Improvement Plan** measure.

Overall, 92% of Care Leavers (all ages) were living in suitable accommodation; this remains the same as December and has been on a largely improving trend, up from 86% in May 2019.

There were 38 young people of all ages who were classified as living in unsuitable accommodation or where no accommodation suitability had been recorded (25 and 13 young people respectively). Of the 25 young people in unsuitable accommodation, 2 were homeless.

17% of young people aged 16-18 were identified as living in unsuitable accommodation or the suitability of their accommodation had not been recorded (21 young people, 17%). This is an improvement from 24% of young people in December.



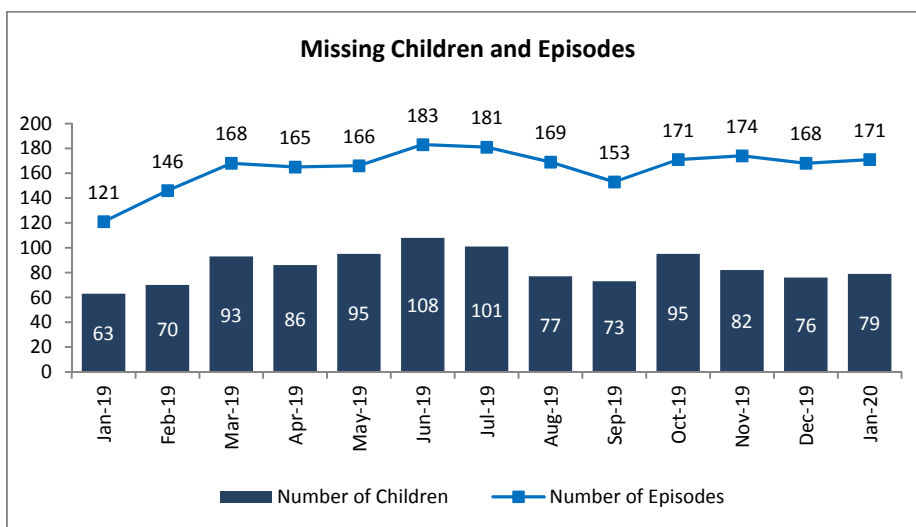
55% of our care leavers across all age groups are in education, employment or training.

55% of 19-21 year olds are in education, employment or training; this is higher than last year (45%). The proportion of care leavers in education, employment or training remains lowest for our over 21 age group (47% for a second consecutive month) but has improved from 43% in October.

17 young people are in higher education (6.3%); this higher than both our peer group (4.7%) and South West and England (6.0%).

Missing Children

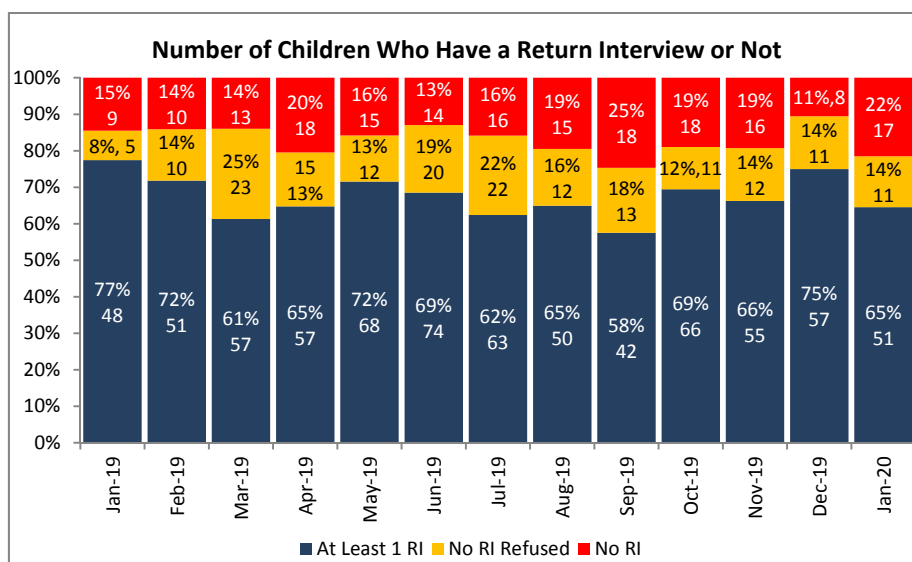
Missing Children



The number of children who went missing in January and the number of missing episodes (79 children, 171 episodes) are both higher than the same time last year (63 children, 121 episodes).

Over the last 4 months, the number of missing children and episodes has not seen the seasonal decrease that has been the trend in previous years as we enter the Autumn and Winter periods. This may indicate that the decline in Return Interview performance is impacting on our ability to stem missing incidents and multiple missing episodes.

The areas that have the highest proportion of missing children are Cheltenham and Gloucester.



During reporting, data is collected for the most recent month and refreshed for the month prior to that. There has been a significant rise in the performance for December 2019 since the time of reporting, up from 62% to 75%.

Return interviews should only be recorded against more than one episode where one or more episode has taken place within the 72 hour timescale for speaking with a child. They should reflect discussion about incidents that have already occurred and not assume that the factors and risks are known where a subsequent episode then takes place.

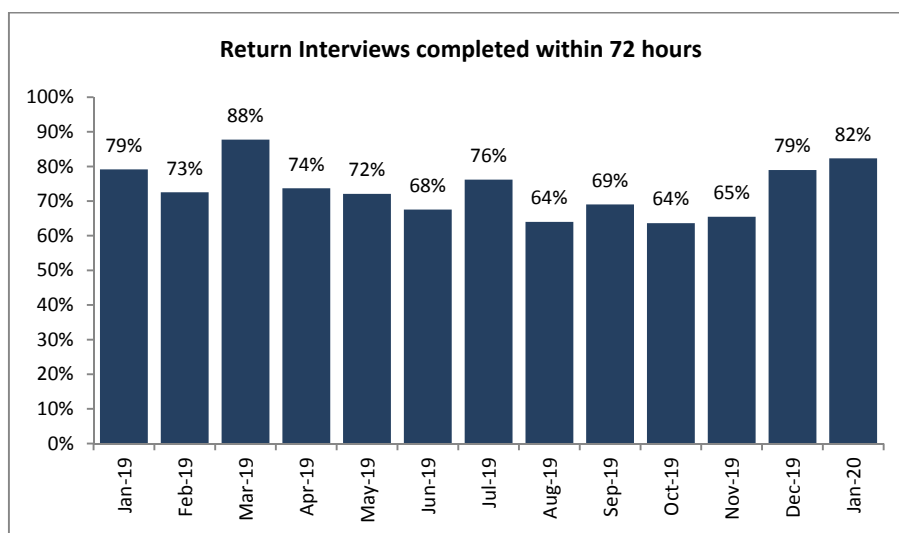
Return interviews for children who had a missing episode in December have been recorded as taking place between November and February. This indicates a number of potential concerns:

- Significant delay in undertaking return interviews (longer than 2 weeks after the episode)
- A return interview being recorded against a group of missing episodes which took place with a lengthy interval in between
- Return interviews that were carried out prior to a subsequent missing episode recorded against the current missing episode because a conversation with the child had taken place recently.

Of the 79 children who had had a missing episode(s) in January, 51 had a return interview at the time of reporting (65%); this is below target (80%).

Performance was particularly low, in the Cotswolds, Gloucester South 11-25 and Forest of Dean in January.

44 of the 51 children who had had at least one return interview, had been spoken to following their most recent episode of missing (86%).

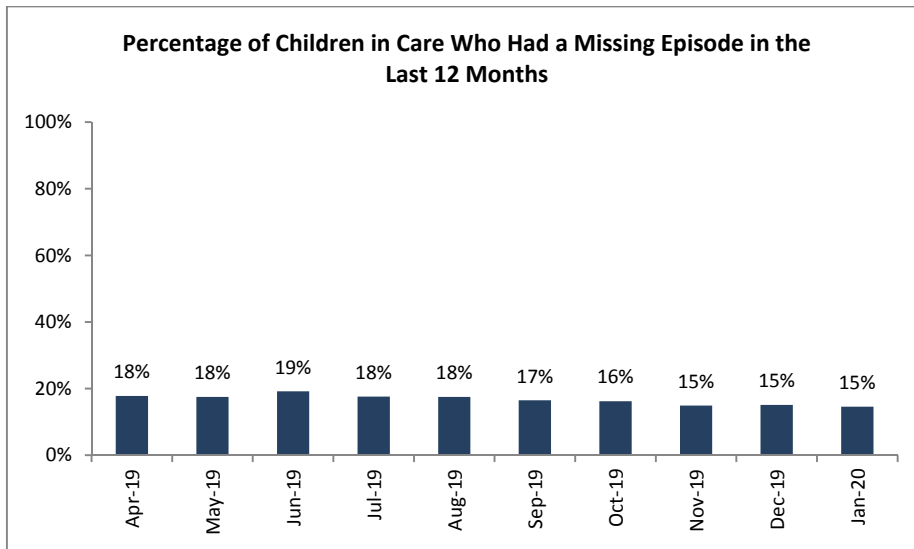


Conversations with 42 of the 51 children who have been spoken to following a missing episode were timely (82%). This is above the target of 80%.

	Number of Children	Number of Episodes
Total	79	171
Children in Care	36, 46%	106, 62%
Under 12's missing more than 4 hours	0	0
Missing overnight for more than 8 hours	42, 53%	79, 46%

53% of the children who went missing in January were missing overnight for more than 8 hours (42 children).

46% of the children who went missing in January were children in care (36 children). 27 of these were missing overnight for more than 8 hours.

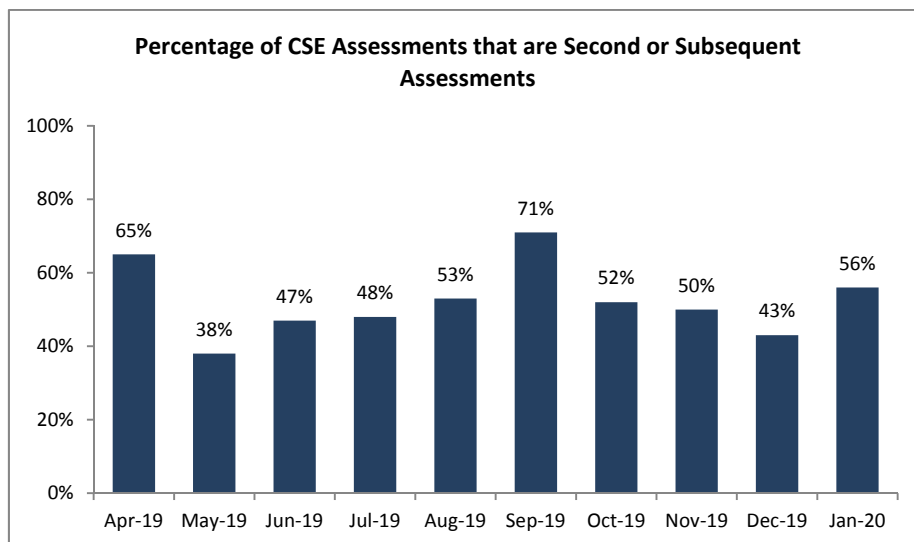


109 children in care have had a missing episode during the last 12 months. This equates to 15% of children in care. This has improved from a high of 19% but has remained static over the last 3 months. Performance remains above our peer group (11.9%).

Child Sexual Exploitation

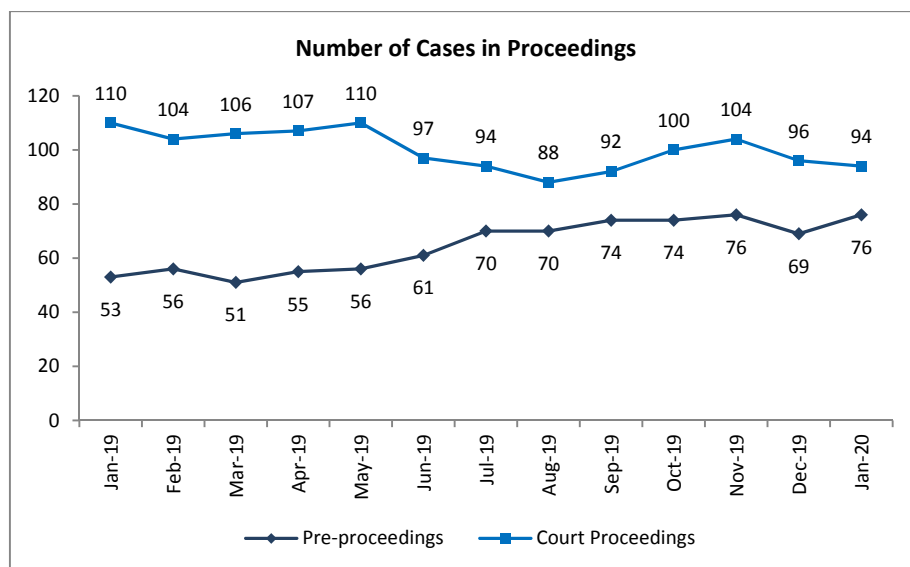
There were 59 children for whom a Child Sexual Exploitation screening tool was completed in January a significant increase on previous months. This is likely due to the CSE/CCE team introducing training and consultations around CCE and CSE to partners raising awareness.

Level of Assessment	Number of Children	Percentage
Mild	22	37%
Moderate	19	32%
Significant	18	31%



The proportion of children assessed as at risk of CSE who had been assessed before and with whom preventative work was taking place has also increased in January, 56% up from 43% in December. 23 (70%) of these children remained rated at moderate or significant risk of CSE.

Legal Proceedings



The number of cases in pre-proceedings has returned to a 12-month high (76 cases). The number of ongoing Court proceedings has continued to decrease for a second month (94 down from 104 in November).

The 76 cases in pre-proceedings at the end of January related to 139 children. 82% of these cases were within timescale (62 cases for 115 children).

There were 14 pre-proceedings cases that were overdue with the longest having been ongoing for 61 weeks.

Pre-proceedings cases open longer than 26 weeks- January

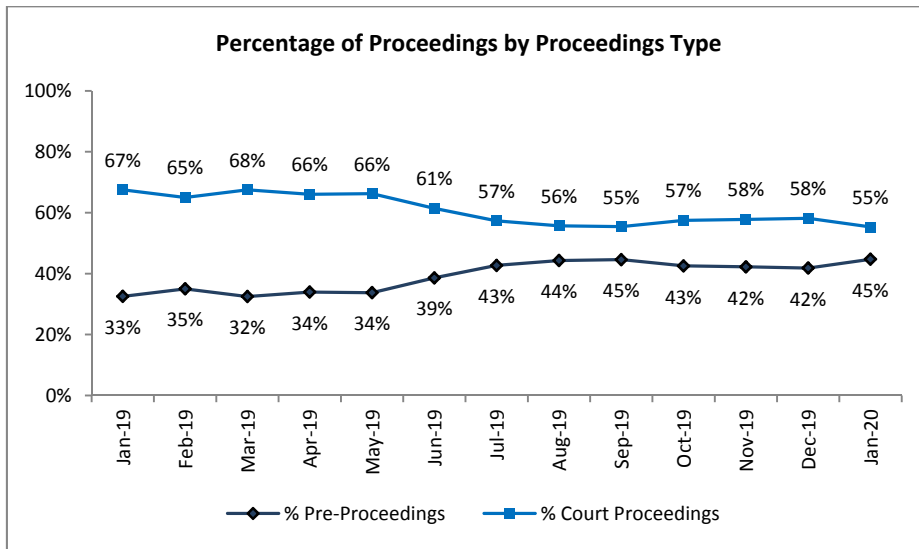
Gloucester	4
Stroud	3
FoD	3
Cheltenham	2
Cotswolds	1
Tewkesbury	1

94 cases for 178 children were in court proceedings at the end of January. 78% of these cases were within timescale (74 cases for 137 children).

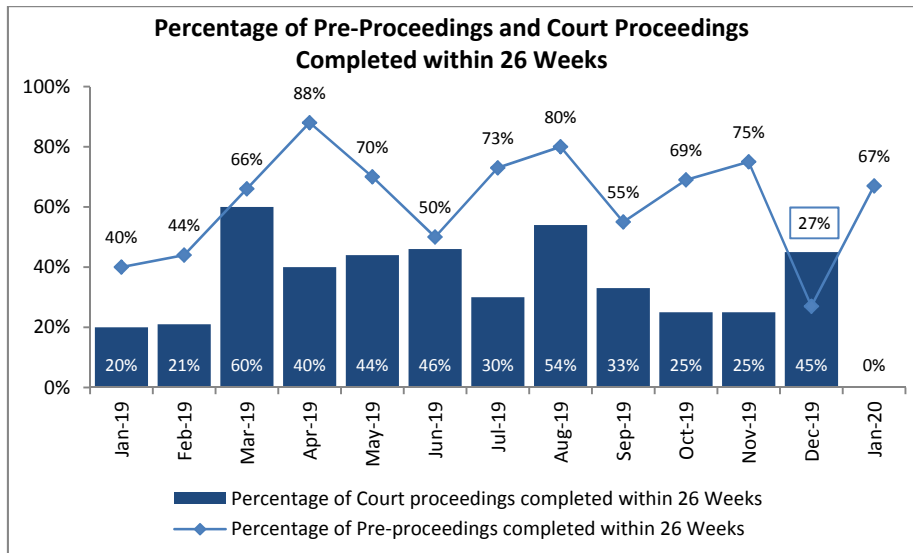
Court cases open longer than 26 weeks- January

Gloucester	6
Other	5
Stroud	3
Cheltenham	3
Cotswolds	2
FoD	1
Tewkesbury	0

We aim for each Solicitor to have a caseload of 8 cases. The average caseload per Solicitor at the end of January was 11 cases.

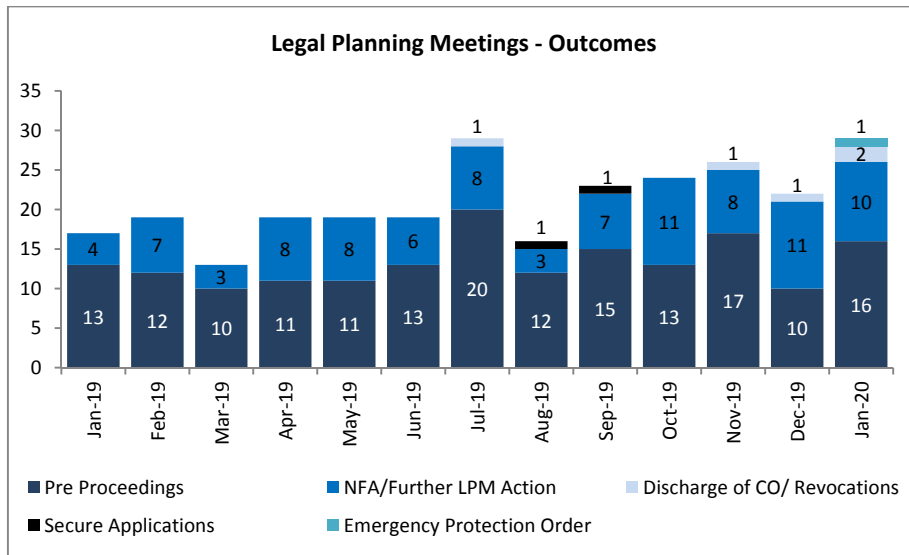


In the last seven months the proportion of proceedings by proceedings type has remained relatively steady (45% in pre-proceedings, 55% in court proceedings), striking an improved balance between pre and court proceedings.



15 pre-proceedings and 5 court cases were concluded in January.

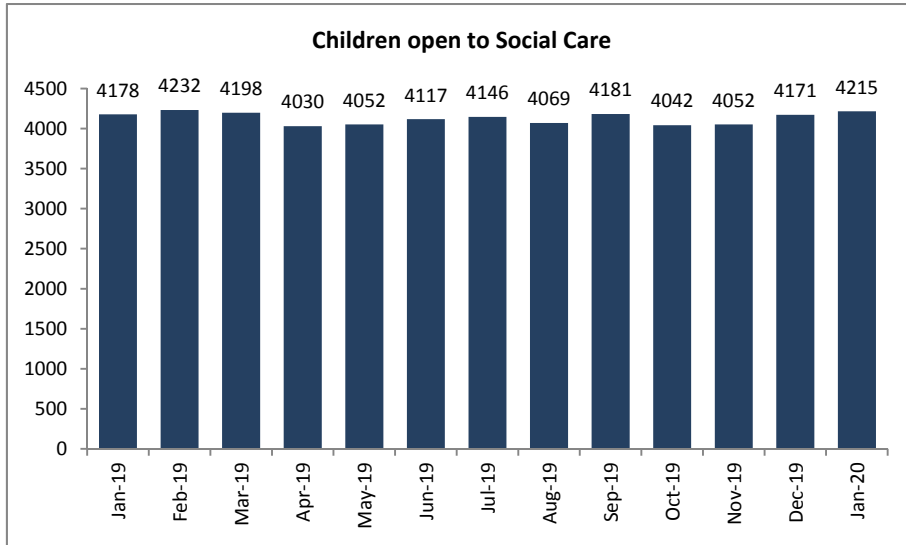
67% of pre-proceedings and 0% of court cases were completed within the 26 week timescale (10 and 0 cases respectively).



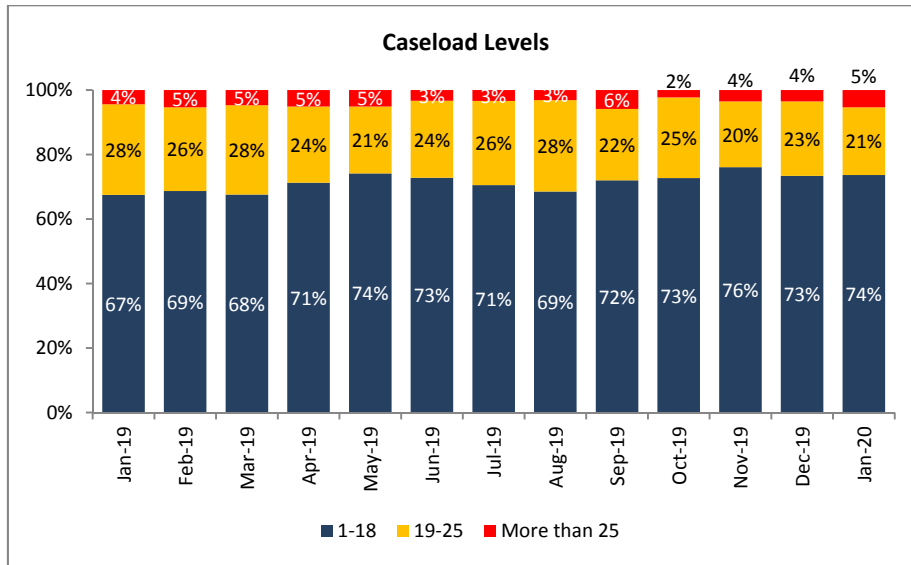
The number of Legal Planning Meetings has been increasing over the last 5 months, with 35 LPMs held for 58 children in January.

Over the last 4 months, an increased proportion of LPMs have resulted in no further action or have required further work and a subsequent LPM to determine whether there were sufficient grounds to proceed (10 LPMs, 29%).

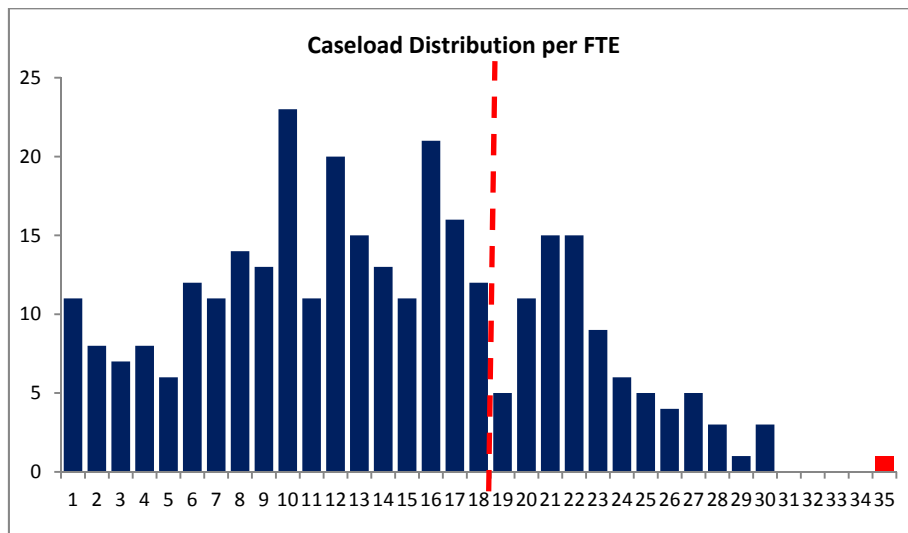
Workforce



There were 4215 children open to Social Care at the end of January.



Children's Services remains committed to achieving a caseload level for Social Workers of 18 children or fewer per fte. In January, 74% of workers (232 workers) were responsible for 18 children or fewer per fte.



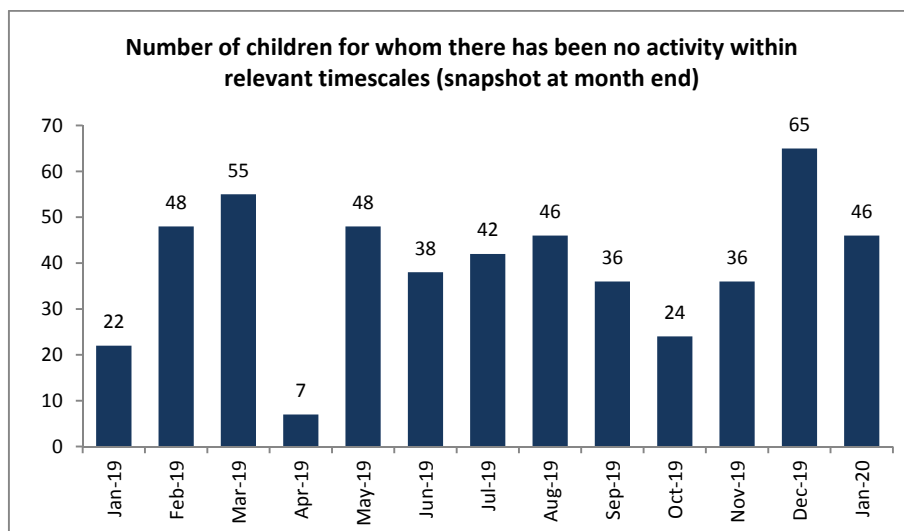
26% of workers continue to have higher caseloads (83 workers). This remains at a similar level to December when 27%, equating to 83 workers, were holding higher caseloads.

The greater majority of workers continue to hold 22 children or fewer per fte (88%).

The number of workers holding more than 25 children as increased since December and is at the highest point in 12 months (17 workers, 5%).

At the end of January, there was 1 worker with a caseload exceeding 30 children per fte. This is a full time worker with a caseload of 35 children.

Inactivity for Children



There is activity within relevant timescales for the vast majority of children (99%, 4169).

There were 46 children for whom there had been no activity within relevant timescales at the end of January, down from 65 children in December.

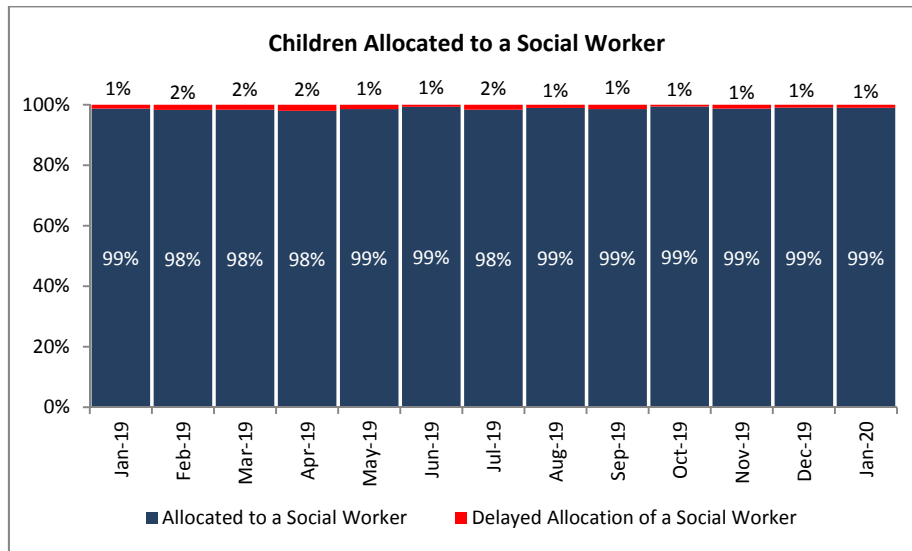
Just over half of the young people are Care Leavers or are held by the Permanency Teams (24 of 46 children).

Just over one-fifth (22%) of the children for whom there has been no activity within required timescales are held by CAT/Safeguarding Teams (10 of 46).

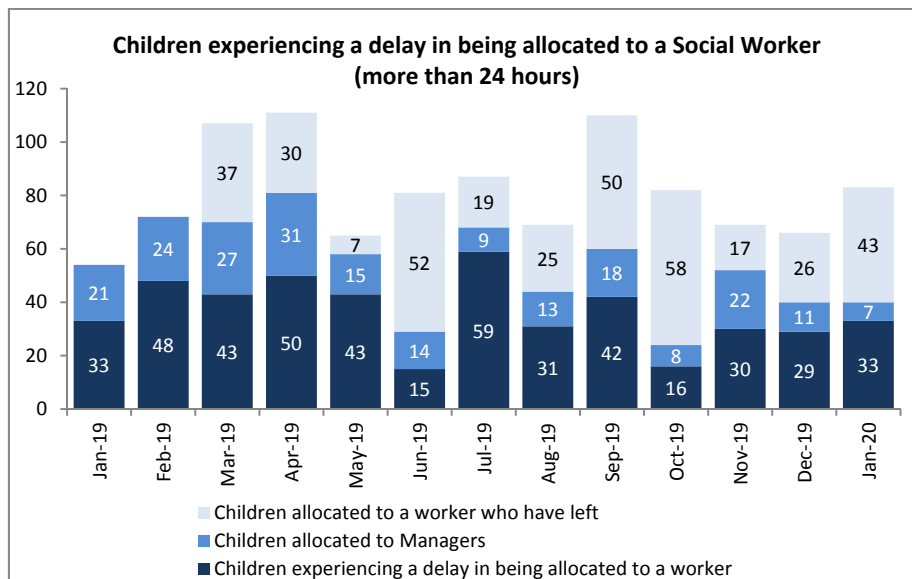
The remaining 12 children are held by DCYPS, FFAST and TACS, with 1 child currently unallocated.

The longest period of inactivity is 18 weeks for a child who is open to the DCYPS team.

Allocating a Social Worker



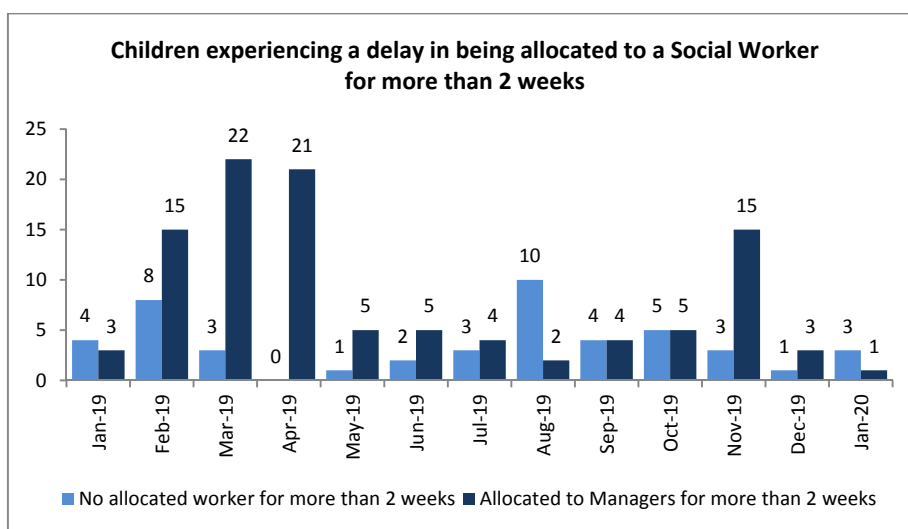
The overall majority of children have an allocated Social Worker (99%).



At the end of January, 40 children were experiencing a delay in being allocated to a Social Worker. Performance in this area continues to fluctuate on a weekly basis.

There were also 4 workers who left in January to whom children were still allocated at the time of reporting. This means that another 43 children had no allocated worker, taking the total number of children who did not have an allocated worker to 83. The number of children who remain allocated to a worker who has left during the month has doubled since December.

The 7 children that were held by a manager are held by 3 teams. 4 of these children are being held by a team manager within MASH as part of the Strategy Discussion process.



The number of children who had no allocated worker or were allocated to a Manager for more than 2 weeks remains the same as December (4 children). This remains at one of the lowest points in the past 12 months.

Case Supervision

A case supervision should take place for each child based on the standards detailed in the Supervision Policy and be recorded on the child's record within 1 working day. The policy states that all children should be discussed within 5 days of allocation or transfer and then every 4-8 weeks or every 3 months (short breaks and adoption support, no other concerns), depending on the status of the child.

	Within 2 months	More than 2 months	No supervision recorded
Gloucester South 11-25	83%	11%	5%
Under 11's	77%	18%	5%
Cotswolds	76%	1%	23%
Stroud	57%	14%	29%
Gloucester North 11-25	43%	55%	2%
Stroud 11-25	41%	54%	5%
Tewkesbury	39%	17%	44%
Forest of Dean	31%	13%	56%
Cheltenham 11-25	23%	42%	35%
Cheltenham	23%	22%	55%
Gloucester	12%	6%	82%
Other	5%	50%	45%
Unallocated	0%	0%	100%

Note: data has been drawn from the case supervision form only within LiquidLogic, following instruction from the Director of Children's Safeguarding to ensure recording is consistent.

At the end of January, 1560 children had a case supervision recorded via the case supervision form within the last 2 months (37%), up from 1250 children (30%) in December.

Some teams continue not to use the supervision form and are recording case supervisions via a case note despite the removal of the supervision case note option.

There are 1880 children for whom a supervision has not been recorded via the case supervision form during their current referral (45%), down from 2135 children (51%) in December.

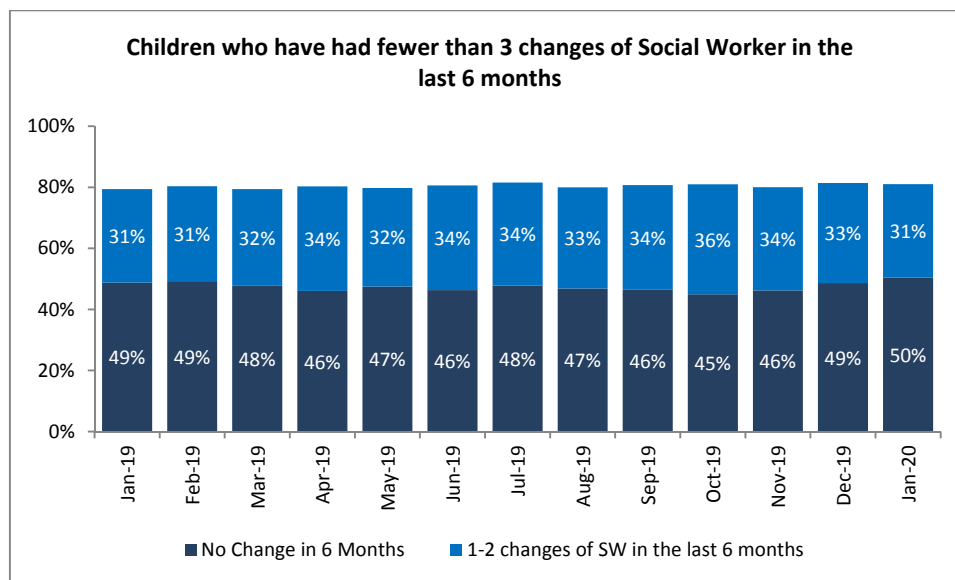
Mind of My Own

Team	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20
Cheltenham CAT/Safe	7	5	5	7	11	5	3	6	10	2	10	5	7
Cotswolds CAT/Safe	2	1	1							1			
FoD Cat/Safe	2	1			5	1				1	7	3	4
Gloucester CAT/Safe	6	8	1	1		3			2		2		15
Stroud CAT/Safe		1											1
Tewkesbury CAT/Safe	3					5							
Cheltenham 11-25			1	1		1	1						2
Gloucester 11-25	3	2	3	1	2			2	3	1	1		
Stroud 11-25	1		1	1		1						1	
Other	3	6	5	3	1	1	6	5	9	9	8	4	5
Young People	16	19	11	11	14	16	8	11	16	12	25	15	24
Statements	27	30	17	14	19	13	10	14	24	14	28	17	34
% young people using Mind of My Own App	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%
	4178	4232	4198	4030	4052	4117	4146	4069	4181	4042	4052	4171	4215

There was an increase in the number of children using the Mind of My Own app in January and also in the number of statements that were received. Only a very small number of workers continue to use the Mind of My Own App with the children that they work with. Usage within teams tends to be isolated to one or two workers.

Cheltenham CAT/Safe continue to have the most consistent engagement with young people via the App. Other Assessment and Safeguarding teams have had little usage throughout 2019.

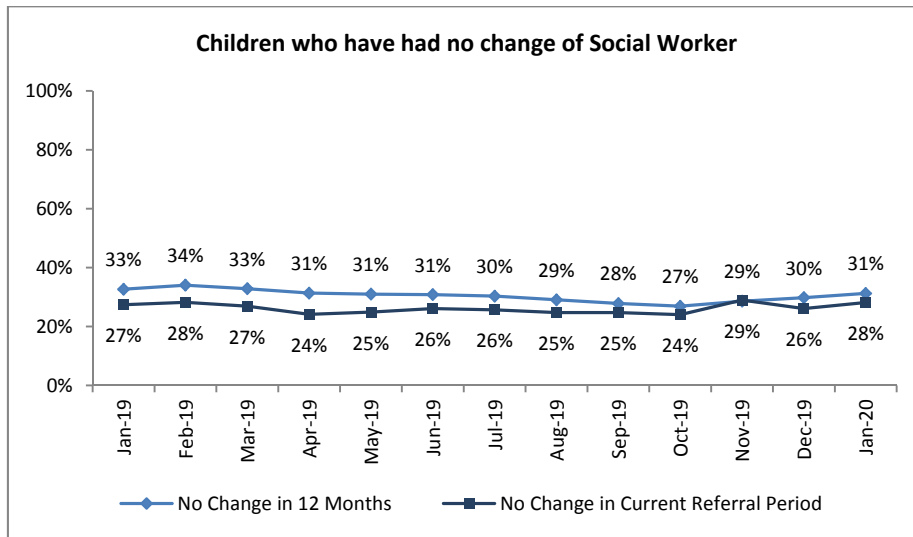
Social Worker Stability



81% of children had fewer than 3 changes of Social Worker in the last 6 months (3417 children); this has remained broadly static throughout 2019/20.

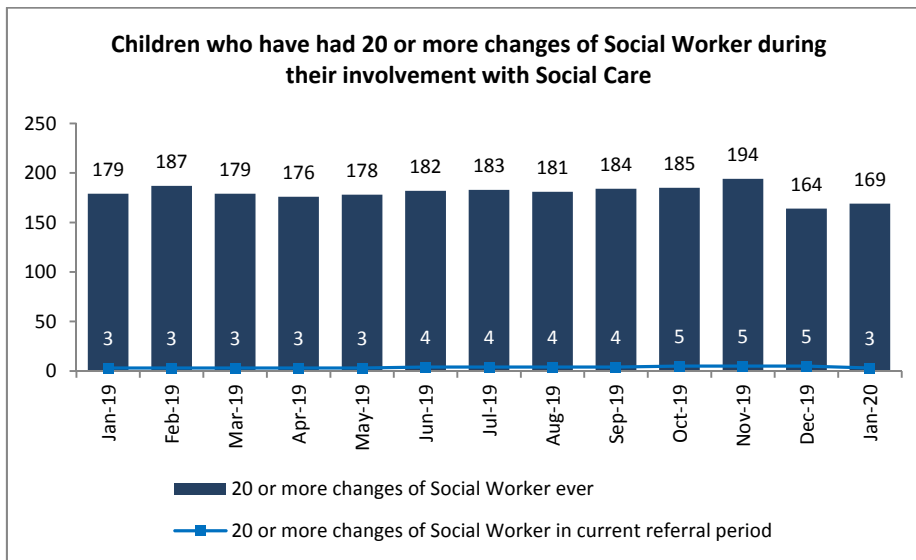
Half of all children open to Social Care have had no change of Social Worker in the last 6 months (50%, 2020 children). This is an improving trend up from 45% in October.

799 children had experienced instability of Social Worker during the last 6 months (19%).



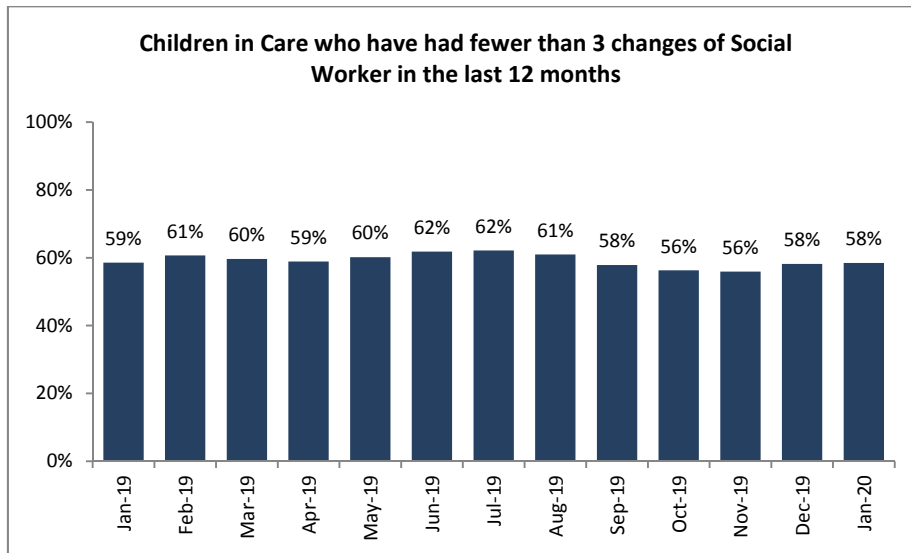
31% of children had the same Social worker for the last 12 months (1317 children). While this has improved over the last three months, up from 27%, this remains lower than February 2019 (34%).

28% of children had the same worker throughout their current referral (1187 children).



169 children had 20 or more changes of Social Worker during their involvement with Social Care (4%) (including where the same worker has been allocated to the child twice where there have been other workers allocated in between allocation periods).

3 young people had 20 or more changes of Social Worker during their current referral.



The proportion of our children in care who have had stability of Social Worker (fewer than 3 changes in the last 12 months) remains low (58%). This is lower than other LAs which have been rated as inadequate by Ofsted where around 2 in 3 children have fewer than 3 changes of Social Worker in 12 months.

57 of the children who have had 20 or more changes of Social Worker during their involvement with us are children in care (8% of children in care overall).