

REPORT TITLE	Children's Services Performance Report
DATE OF MEETING	8th March 2021
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 2021. It highlights areas of good performance and those 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> <p>Note: This report reflects the working arrangements put in place to mitigate the spread of Covid 19 following local and national guidance. Our practice standards have remained in place and we have chosen not to relax these using the freedoms and flexibilities provided by the <u>Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (NO. 2) Regulations 2020</u>. These arrangements place an emphasis on continuing to engage and support children and families face to face whenever safe to do so, following our established Covid safety procedures.</p>
REPORTING PERIOD	The data provided in this report represents a mature cut of performance data for January 2021 .
OVERVIEW	<p>After a sustained period of improvement over the first half of the year, that enabled us to stretch some targets there has been slippage over the last few months against what had been an increasingly strong picture of performance.</p> <p>Growing fatigue due to the pandemic, both for our Social Workers and for the families, we're working with, intermittent ICT issues, as well as ongoing restrictions on how we are working are likely to be contributing factors. Overall around one-third of measures improved in January (16), while two-thirds declined (35). For the first time we are now able to report on the destination of cases stepped down from social care and will shortly be reporting on cases escalating from early help/family support to social care. These are important steps in understanding the impact of our work.</p> <p>A number of measures around response to risk are now below target, these include the timeliness of initial and end-to-end contact decision making and of initial child protection conferences. These measures have seen significant drops in performance.</p> <p>Our performance in terms of seeing children remains good. Visits for children in care that comply with statutory visiting criteria were impacted somewhat by a brief pause on face to face visiting at the start of January due to need to review our Covid working systems. However, children were seen via other methods and taking these contacts into account performance remains above target. Improvement is needed for our younger care leavers.</p> <p>Performance of assessment, planning and review is more mixed. Focus is needed on improving the proportion of children in care and care leavers with a Pathway Plan and on embedding new stretch practice standards around Child in Need Reviews.</p>

Levels of repeat work show improvement in some areas. Two measures were performing better than target in January and are therefore categorised as Green; however, caution should be exercised until a positive trend over time is evident.

Measures relating to the health and wellbeing of our children in care are off target and moving in the wrong direction. The majority of measures underpinning stability and permanence for our children in care are also off target and declining.

Management Oversight of Social Workers and Foster Carers is good for the majority of indicators. The latter has been enhanced by the ability to now report through the case management system.

PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Response to Risk

RAG	Performance Measure	Direction of Travel
	Initial contact decision making	Static performance for 4 months around 30% points below usual level
	End-to-end contact decision making	Declining trend, over 25% points below target
	Decisions for Red rated contacts	Stayed the same
	Initial visits (All and S17)	Improved
	Initial visits (S47)	Improved marginally
	Timeliness of Strategy Discussions	Improved for 3rd month
	Timeliness of S47 enquiries	Declined for 2nd month
	Timeliness of ICPCs	Declined 29% points
	Return interviews following a missing episode	Declined
	Timeliness of return interviews	Declined for 2nd month
	Children in care missing in the last 12 months	Stayed the same for majority of 12 months

Seeing Children

	Visits to Children in Need	Declined for 2nd month
	Visits to children subject to a protection plan	Improved
	Statutory visiting	Declined - due to pause of F2F visiting at beginning of Jan to review risk assessment and safety measures in light of new COVID strains
	Care leavers in touch in the last 6 months	Improved
	Visiting with older care leavers	Declined marginally
	Visiting with younger care leavers	Declined for 3rd month

Assessment, Planning and Review

	Single Assessment completion	Improved
	Assessment for children in care	Declined for 4th month
	CiN plan in place in a timely way	Declined but remains high
	Pathway planning for children in care	Declined for 2nd month
	Pathway planning for Care Leavers	Declined for 4th month
	Up-to-date CiN review	Improved (Low due to new, stretch practice standards implemented)
	Children subject to a protection plan with an up-to-date review	100% for 2nd month
	Reviews for children in care	100% for 10 months
	Children subject to a protection plan for more than 2 years	Reduced

Repeat Work

	Repeat referrals	Increased and off target for more than 12 mths
	Repeat protection plans	Increased but low for the second month
	Readmissions	Decreased for the 2nd month

Health and Wellbeing

	Children in care with a timely health assessment	Stayed the same
	Timeliness of IHAs and RHAs	Declined over 30% points in 2 months and Declined and low
	Up-to-date dental checks	Declining trend continued
	Children in care with an up-to-date SDQ	Declined for the 2nd month

Stability and Permanence

Children in care Out-of-County more than 20 miles from home	Increased, growing pressure
Children in care accommodated under S20	Stayed the same
Utilisation of in-house Foster placement capacity	Declined marginally
Short-term placement stability	Stayed the same
Long-term placement stability for children in care	Improved marginally
Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Improved
Care Leavers EET	Declined
Stability of Social Worker	Broadly static for more than 12 months
Children in care stability of Social Worker	Broadly static for majority of 2020/21

Management Oversight

Timeliness of case supervision	Stayed the same
Foster Carer annual reviews	Improved
Foster Carer DBS checks	Declined marginally for 2nd month
Foster Carer medical checks	Declined marginally
Foster Carer unannounced visits	Declined for 3rd month
Foster Carer supervision	Stayed the same
Delays in recording across the system	Continued evidence of delays or absence of recording

KEY

Green	Above or within tolerance of target/high performance
Yellow	Below Target but not significantly so and/or not for a significant period
Red	Significantly below target and/or off target for a significant period
Bold	Monitored through the Accelerated Improvement Plan

Contents Page

Overview	.....	1
Performance Dashboard	.....	3
Executive Summary	.....	6
Demand Dashboard	.....	9
Contact, Referral and Assessment	.....	16
Early Help	.....	23
Children in Need	.....	29
Child Protection	.....	31
Children in Care	.....	37
Children in Care Education	.....	47
Children Leaving Care	.....	50
Missing and CSE	.....	53
Legal Proceedings	.....	57
Workforce	.....	59

Executive Summary

Contact Activity and Assessment

The Neglect toolkit continues to be significantly under utilised at the contact stage (5%). This requires improvement to support the level of vulnerability of these children being quickly understood and the right help put in place.

There was further slippage in our response to initial risk in January with timeliness of initial and end-to-end decision making and decisions for Red rated contacts remaining static or declining. The timeliness of initial visits to children improved but response for children progressing under Section 47 was below target.

Timeliness of completion of Single Assessments improved and was better than target. More than half of assessments concluded with no requirement for a Tier 4 service. For a small number of children, assessments continue to take more than 60 working days to complete.

Early Help

Work is needed to obtain a deeper understanding of the two-thirds of My Plan/+ open for more than 12 months, in particular, those open to education. These plans may need review.

Just under one-third of the work undertaken by Targeted Support is in support of children open to a Social Care intervention.

Timeliness of initial visits to children requiring targeted support work remained low (17%) and assessment timeliness saw a significant drop of 35% points.

A significant proportion of episodes for families receiving advice, guidance and support (28%) or targeted support (23%) continue to be closed due to non-engagement or withdrawal of consent.

15% of children whose CiN plan closed in January were stepped down to Early Help as part of a phased transition towards independently managing the child's care and protection needs.

Repeat work has reduced (from 40% in August 2020) but remains high with one-third of children open to Targeted Support having had a previous episode in the last 12 months.

Children in Need

We develop our Children in Need plans in a timely way and continue to see and work with our Children in Need regularly. Timeliness of reviewing Children in Need improved but is significantly below target following more challenging practice standards having been implemented.

Child Protection

Pace of strategy discussions continued to improve and is within tolerance target. Timeliness of S47 enquiries remained high. However, timely completion of initial child protection conferences declined almost 30% points.

We saw the majority of children subject to a protection plan in a timely way in January and reviews for all children were up-to-date.

Just over half of children were recorded as seen alone during the last 10 working days. This have been impacted by an increased number of visits undertaken virtually in January due to a pause in face to face visiting at the start of the month. However, performance had been in decline prior to this. Just over two-fifths of children undergoing conference expressed their views by completing a My Views form. 14% of children who had a conference in January were referred to the Advocacy service for support.

Only a small proportion of children have been subject to a protection plan for more than two years and all of these are in proceedings. The length of time children remain subject to a protection plan may be impacted by a backlog of court cases due to restrictions around face to face hearings during the pandemic.

Children in Care

Just over a quarter of children in care are accommodated under a Section 20 arrangement. Performance is worse than target and remains an outlier compared with the national average. Proceedings are underway for a small number of these children in order to secure permanence arrangements.

A growing proportion of our children in our care are living in placements out of County (25% up from 20% at the end of March), although only one-fifth of these children live more than 20 miles from home. Three-quarters of in-house foster placement capacity is currently being utilised. This is a key element of the wider programme of work to better utilise available capacity and increase the number and range of placements as part of our Sufficiency Strategy.

The majority of our children in care had a timely statutory visit at the end of January. Timeliness of assessment declined slightly for the fourth month and is below target. However, all reviews undertaken were timely for the 10th month in succession. Pathway planning for children in care has been below target for the majority of 2020/21 and needs improvement.

Almost all children had their views represented at their review either by attending or via an Advocate, IRO or other media. A high proportion of children in care have evidence of the IROs footprint on their case notes in the last 6 months. The proportion of children who have had a visit from their IRO in the last 6 months improved for the fifth month (14%) but significant improvement continues to be required.

The majority of children in care have an up-to-date health check. Performance needs improvement for our younger children in care with a health check overdue for 16% of this group. Timeliness of dental checks continued a declining trend with more than half of children in care overdue a check. Around two-thirds of children in care have an up-to-date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, this is a declining trend.

Challenges around short and long-term placement stability continue to impact our children in care with performance worse than target and statistical comparators.

Oversight and risk management of Foster Carers is largely positive and following an improved trajectory. Unannounced visiting needs to improve following a 15% point decrease over the last 3 months. Around two-thirds of supervisions, which provide support, development and advice for Foster Carers and assurance in terms of quality and risk, were timely which needs improvement.

The overwhelming majority of children in care have a school place and are attending mainstream education settings. Although almost 30% of these children are receiving education out of County.

While the proportion of children with a fixed term exclusion is similar to the same period during the last academic year, a much higher number of school days have been lost (226 compared with 158 days).

Children Leaving Care

We have been in touch with the vast majority of our care leavers in the last 6 months. We need to see more of our younger Care Leavers in a timely way (60%).

Pathway plans are in place for three-quarters of our care leavers; performance is following a declining trend and is below target.

The greater majority of our care leavers live in suitable accommodation. Half of our Care Leavers are in some form of education, employment or training.

Missing Children and Child Exploitation

We need to speak to more children following a missing episode in order to improve our response to risk when it arises. Timeliness of conversations following a missing episode also needs to improve

Two-thirds of the children who were assessed as at risk of exploitation had been assessed previously; this has remained at a similarly high level for the last four months. The majority of children continue to be rated as at Moderate or Significant risk following a repeat assessment. This raises questions about the impact of work to support the reduction of risk and protection in place for these children.

Timeliness of seeing children rated them as at Moderate or Significant risk of exploitation declined with just over half of children seen within 5 working days and one-third not seen.

Legal Proceedings

Completion of pre-proceedings needs improvement with half of cases concluded within timescale in January. Timeliness of completion of court proceedings is also low but is likely to be impacted by restrictions on face to face court hearings during the pandemic.

Recording in this area needs improvement. There is a high proportion of data missing from the case management system in relation to all steps in the proceedings process affecting sight of progress for children. As a result, reporting has had to regress to using records held within the Legal Service in January.

Workforce

Just under 80% of Social Workers have a caseload in line with our target of 18 children or fewer; the greater majority of workers continue to hold 22 children or fewer (95%).

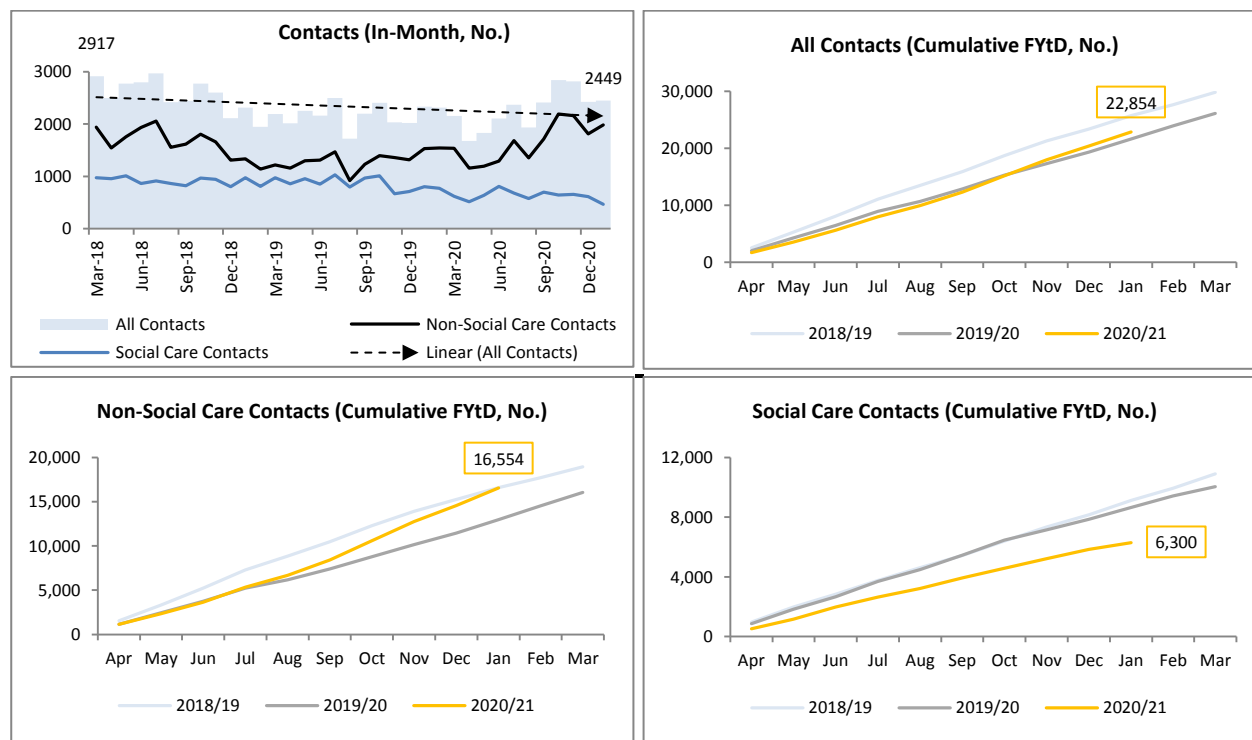
Almost all children were allocated a Social Worker in a timely way and there is activity taking place in a timely way for the vast majority of children. The greater majority of children also had a timely supervision recorded, evidencing practice oversight.

Just under 80% of children had fewer than 3 Social Workers in the last 6 months. Stability of Social Worker for our children in care remains low and is worse than other authorities rated as Inadequate.

Demand Dashboard

This section of the report is intended to give insight into the overall volumes and pressures at key points in the system.

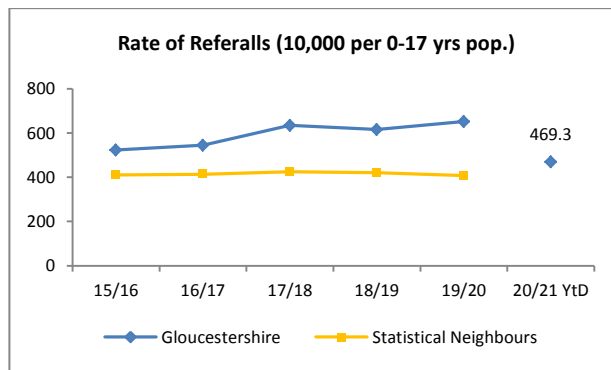
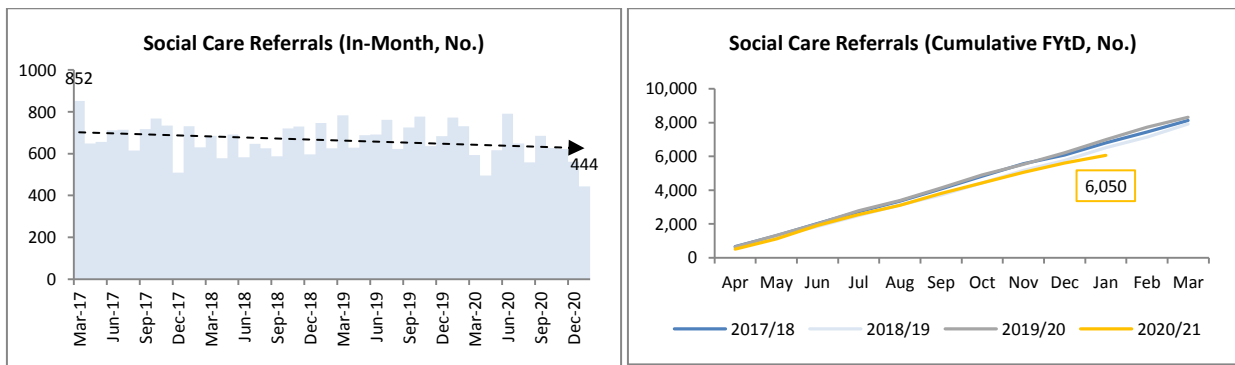
KEY: trendline - - - - -



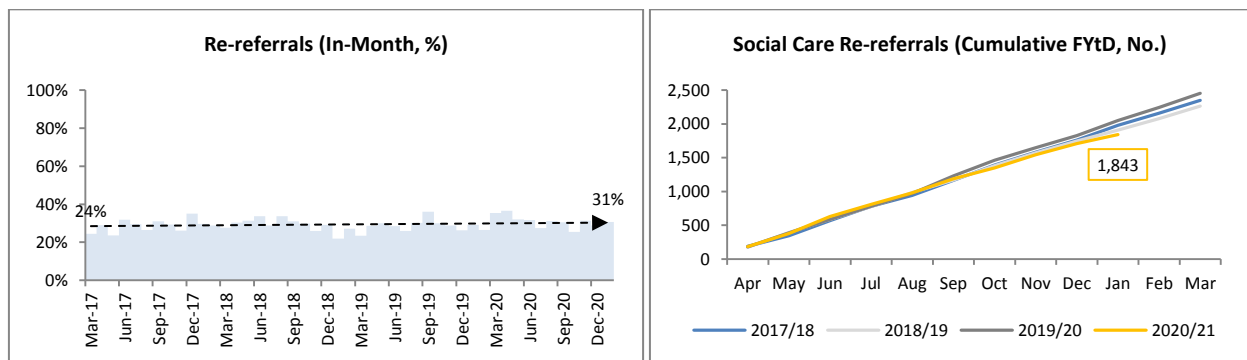
Ordinarily we see an increase in contacts in January, however, the number of contacts remained similar to those received in December as the country entered a third lockdown (2,449). However, demand remains high which continues to indicate that there may be high anxiety levels across the Safeguarding system as well as increasing social breakdown linked to the pandemic.

The overall volume of contacts FYtD, is now slightly higher than 2019/20 (+6%, up just over 1,200 contacts). However, the trend in contacts requiring a lower threshold of support compared with last year continues.

Contacts which require a Social Care response remain down just over one-quarter compared with 2019/20 (27%, around 2,350 contacts). There continue to be more people who require advice or support from our Early Help system compared to last year. One-third of these contacts are dealt with at the point of contact following the received of information, advice or guidance and do not require ongoing support from Early Help (31%). Currently contact volumes requiring a non-Social Care response are up more than one-quarter compared with last year FYtD (27%, just over 3,550 contacts).



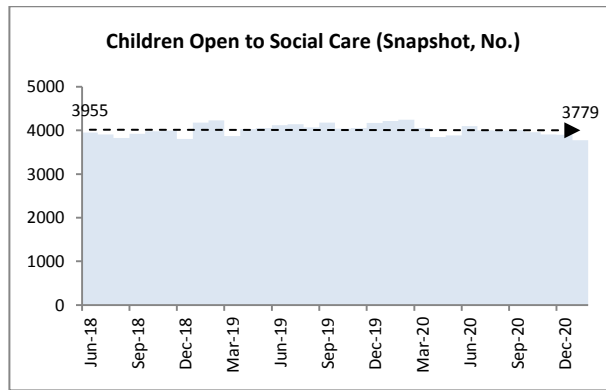
In 2020/21, referrals remain below levels seen over the previous 3 years and are currently 13% lower than last year FYtD, equating to just under 950 children. In January, the lowest level of referral was seen in 4 years following a third lockdown. Despite lower referrals throughout 2020/21, the rate of referrals in Gloucestershire remains high compared with other areas. We have a greater rate of referrals between April-January than our peer comparators had throughout the last full financial year (469.3 compared with 407.5 (Mar-20)).



As with the lower number of children being referred to Social Care, fewer re-referrals have been received by the service FYtD compared to last year (down 10%, just over 200 re-referrals - this may include multiple re-referrals for the same child within a 12-month period).

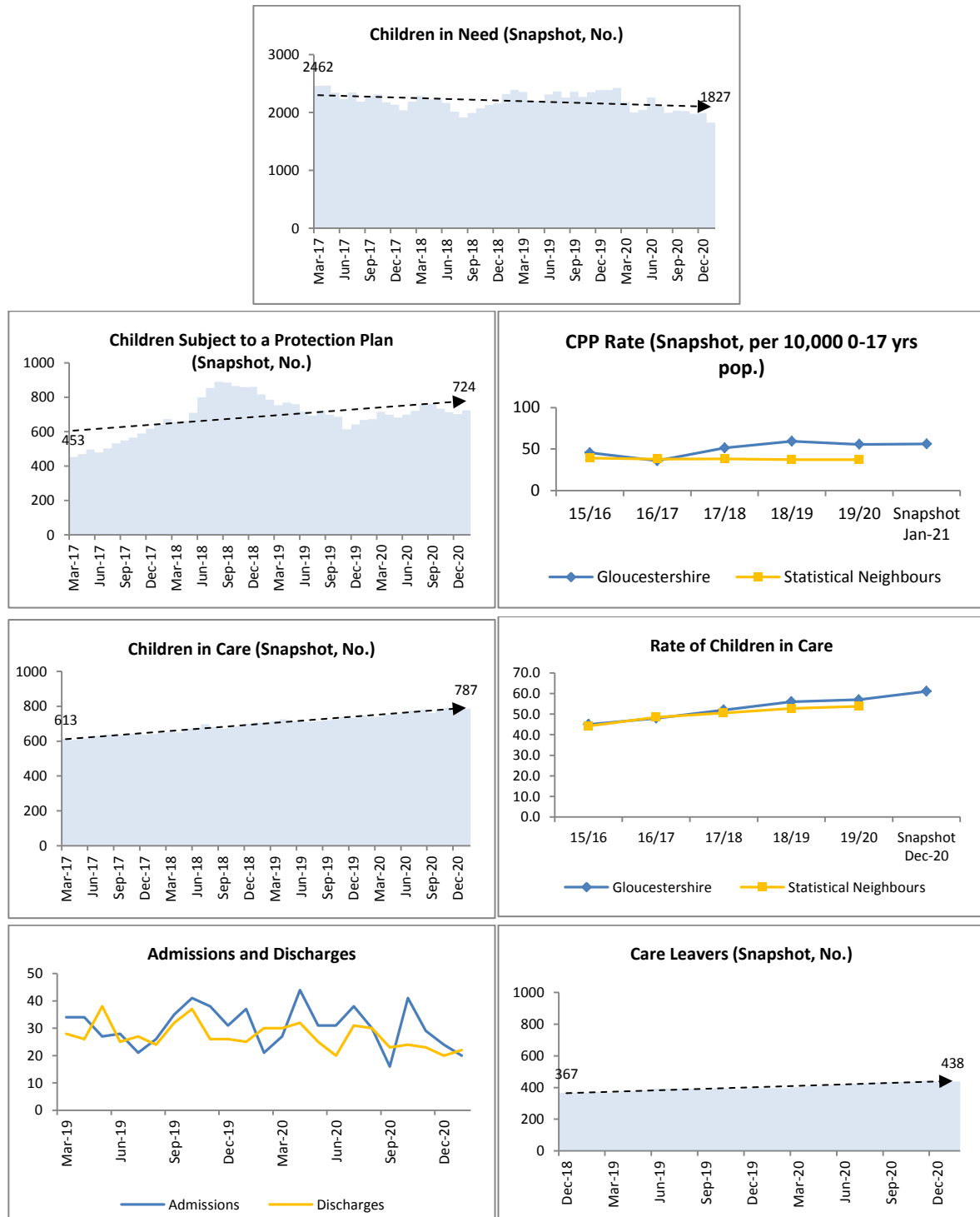
136 children were re-referred in January (31%), this is a 4-year low but equates to a high proportion of re-referrals due to the lower volume of referrals overall. Nevertheless, performance remains worse than target (24%) and worse than our peer group comparators which have a lower proportion of re-referrals against a much lower levels of referrals overall (20.3%, Mar-20).

Overall, one third of referrals in 2020/21 have been re-referrals (30%, 1,843 of 6,050 referrals) raising continued questions around decision making, understanding of thresholds, risk management and quality of practice both within Children’s Services and across the wider safeguarding partnership.



While the overall number of children open to Social Care hasn't seen significant variation over time, it reduced to a low of 3,779 in January (10% down compared to the same time last year). While this has not impacted the proportion of workers holding 18 children or fewer (78%), the vast majority of workers held 22 children or fewer (95%, compared with 88% at the same time last year).

Children in need of support, protection or care



The number of Children in Need has been lower throughout 2020/21 and reduced further in January. Demand is currently down 16% compared with March 2020 (equating to over 350 children).

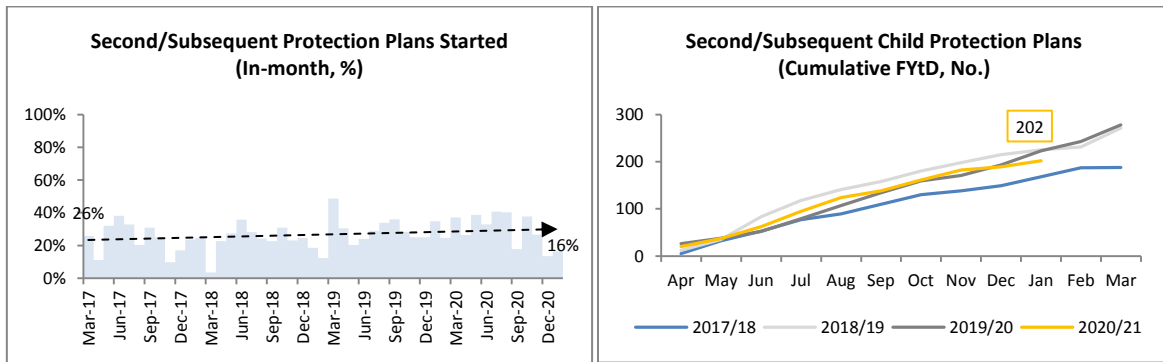
The number of children subject to a protection plan increased in January (724 from 703), this is a similar level to the end of 2019/20 prior to lockdown (+1%). However, we continue to have a much higher rate of children subject to a protection plan per 10,000 0-17 yrs population (56.1) than our peer comparators (37.3, Mar-20); this is 50% higher than our peer comparators.

The number of children in care remains high (787), up 6% compared with March 2020 (almost 50 children). Nationally, the rate of children in care is increasing. However, the rate of children in care in

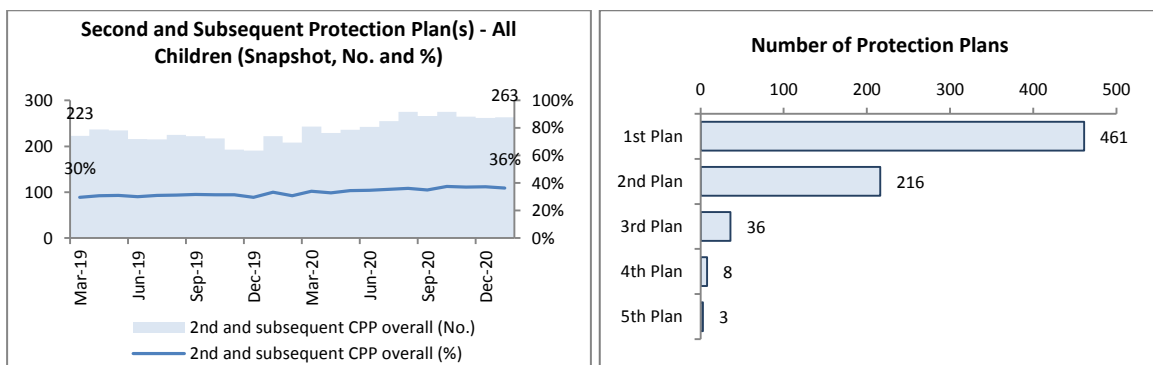
Gloucestershire per 10,000 0-17 yrs. population (61.1) is higher than our peer comparators (53.8, Mar-20).

In 2020/21, there have been a higher number of admissions to care (this may include children who have come into care more than once) than discharges (304 compared with 250). In 2019/20 the number of admissions and discharges were more in line with each other resulting in a lower and relatively steady number of children in care overall.

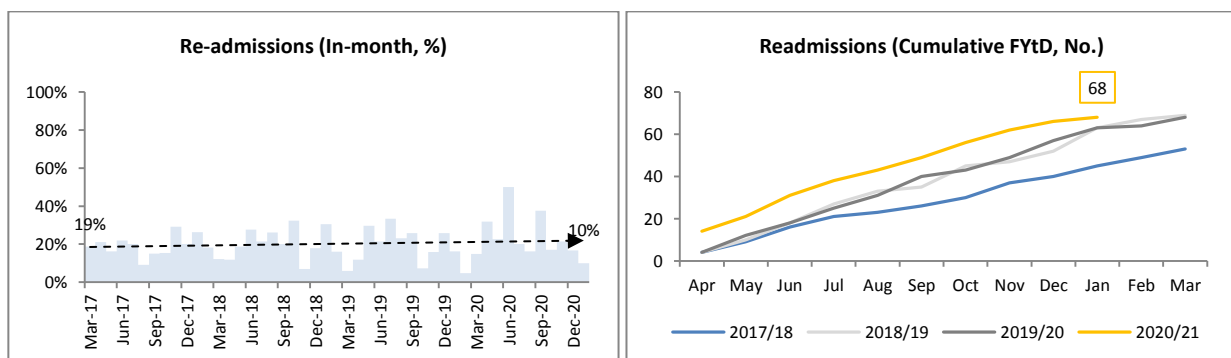
The number of Care Leavers has steadily increased over time. There are currently 438 Care Leavers up from 410 in April 2020, an increase of 7% in 2020/21.



The proportion of children becoming subject to a protection plan in January who had a previous plan remained low (16%). Performance is better than target but this needs to be sustained over a period of time in order to demonstrate improved practice. The number of children returning to protection plans in 2020/21 is lower than the same time last year (202 children compared with 223 children, down 9%). This equates to 29% of children starting a second or subsequent plan in 2020/21, compared to our peer comparators for whom under a quarter of children started a second/subsequent protection plan throughout 2019/20 (23.3%, Mar-20).



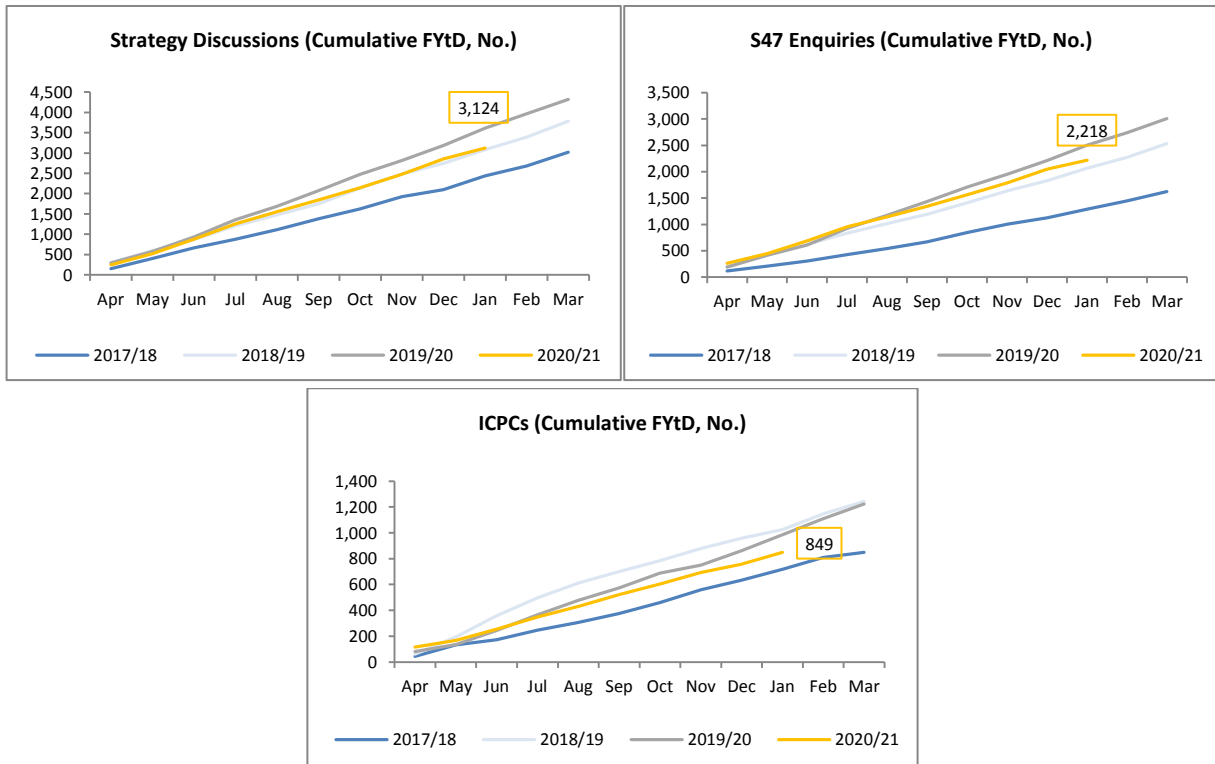
Overall, 263 children subject to a protection plan have had a previous plan(s) (36%). 47 children have had 3 or more protection plans (6%).



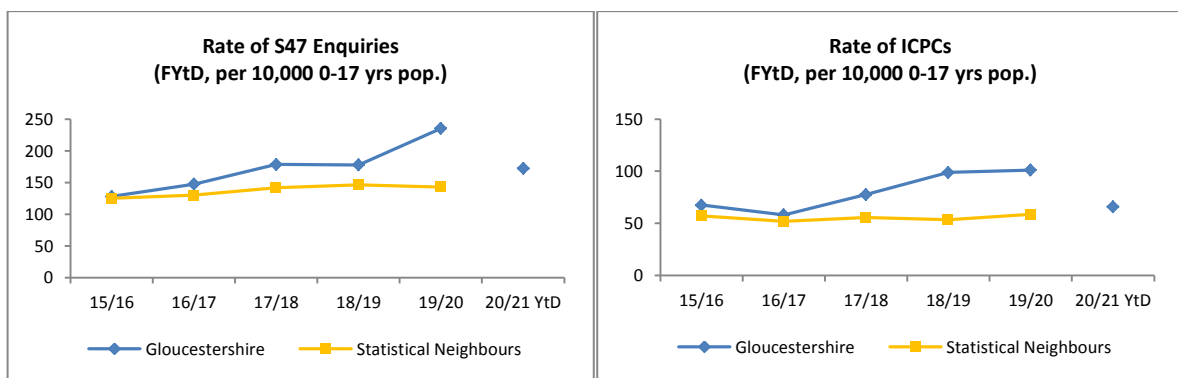
Readmissions to care have been higher in 2020/21 compared with last year (68 compared with 63, up 8% - this may include multiple re-admissions for the same child). Readmissions FYtD remain higher than target (22% against a target of 12.7%) and national levels (12.7%, Mar-18).

However, readmissions were low in January (10%) and better than target for the first time in 12 months.

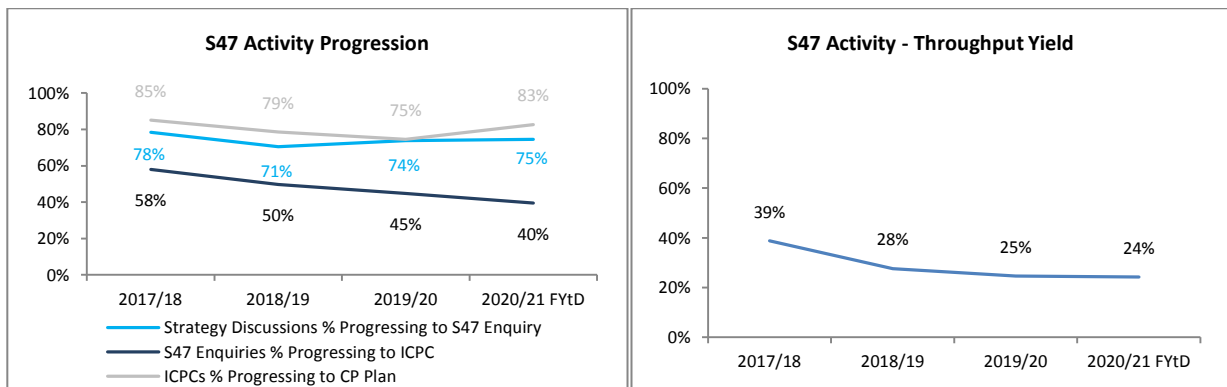
S47 Activity



In 2020/21, the number of Strategy Discussions, S47 enquiries and ICPCs undertaken remain lower than last year (down 13%, 12% and 14% respectively, equating to 485, 287 and 135 fewer discussions, enquiries and conferences).



Although the volume of S47 Enquiries and ICPCs that have been undertaken in Gloucestershire in the first 10 months of 2020/21 is lower than the previous year, rates are already higher than our peer group comparators during the full year of 2019/20.



Three-quarters of children undergoing a Strategy Discussion have progressed on to an S47 Enquiry in 2020/21 (75%).

For children for whom an enquiry is undertaken, progression to an initial child protection conference is much lower, with around two-fifths of children proceeding to conference since April (40%). This may indicate that further information is derived from the enquiry which enables a further assessment of risk and the decision that this can be managed at a lower threshold. However, it may also raise questions about understanding of thresholds and risk anxiety across the Safeguarding partnership which is resulting in a high volume of Strategy Discussions taking place and progressing to enquiry. The proportion of S47 enquiries leading to an ICPC has followed a declining trend over recent years, down from 58% in 2017/18.

A good proportion of children who have had an ICPC this financial year were made subject of a child protection plan (83%) but almost one-fifth of children undergoing conference are found not to require a protection plan raising questions about decision making and over-intervention for families.

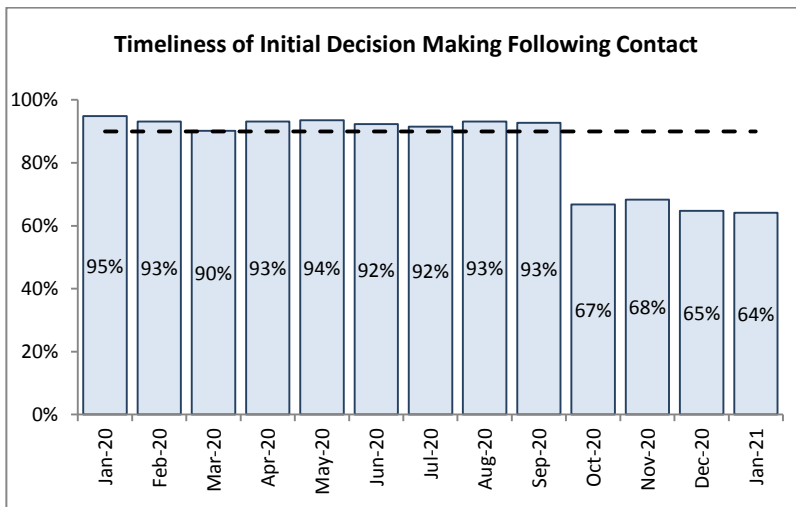
The throughput yield from Strategy Discussion to a child protection plan (i.e. the proportion of Strategy Discussions and subsequent S47 activity which took place that resulted in a protection plan) is 24%. This indicates that a significant amount of S47 activity is taking place in the system that doesn't result in a statutory level of need. Throughput yield has also followed a declining trend, down from 39% in 2017/18.

Contact, Referral and Assessment

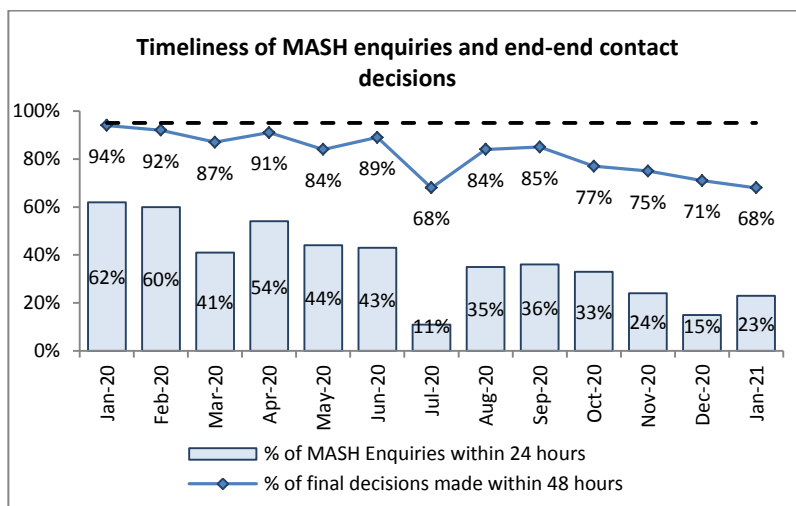
Contacts

Note: There was one contact where the final outcome was unknown. Missing notifications are not included in contact numbers (124).

There were a total of 209 contacts where Neglect featured as a presenting reason in January, 46 of these contacts were from an anonymous source or from an individual (such as a relative) so a Neglect toolkit would not be expected from the referrer. Of the 163 contacts relating to Neglect from professional referral sources, only 8 neglect toolkits were completed (5%). Significant improvement continues to be needed.



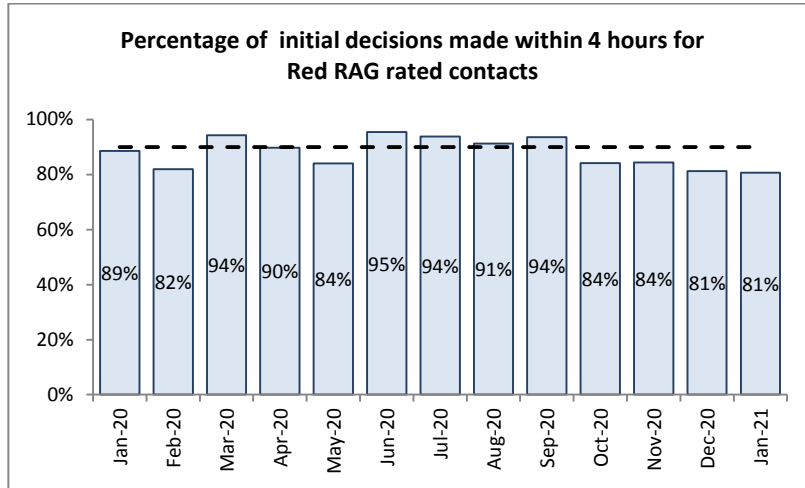
Timeliness of initial decision making remained low in January (64%), performance was significantly below usual levels and target (90%) for the fourth month.



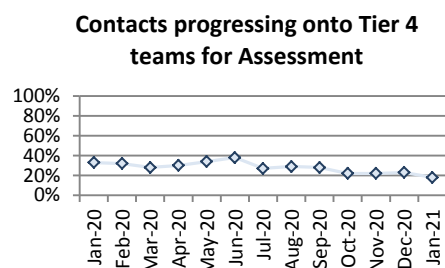
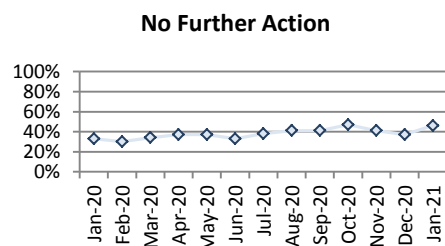
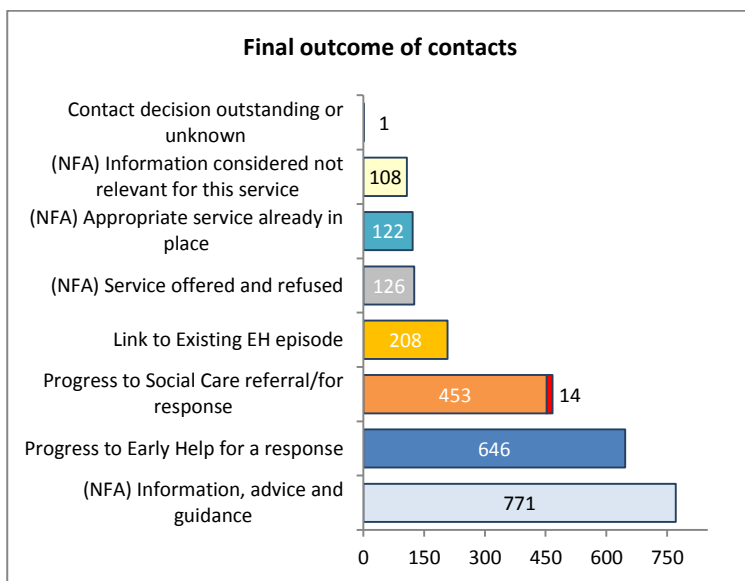
In January, just under one-third of all contacts underwent a MASH enquiry (32%, 787 contacts).

23% of MASH enquiries were completed within 24 hours (183 contacts); this is an increase but remains low and continues to impact decision timeliness overall.

Following an initial decision and MASH enquiry where applicable, the final outcome for 68% of contacts (1660 contacts) was decided upon within 48 hours. This is a decline for the fourth month, down from 85%, and is below target (95%).



The number of contacts Red RAG rated in January was much lower than previous months (31 compared with 123 in December). It is our aim to make decisions quickly for children where clear risk is evident. Timeliness of decision making for Red rated contacts remained the same in January (81%, 25 of 31 contacts) although this relates to a much lower number of contacts. Performance is below target (90%) and is monitored in the **Accelerated Improvement plan**.

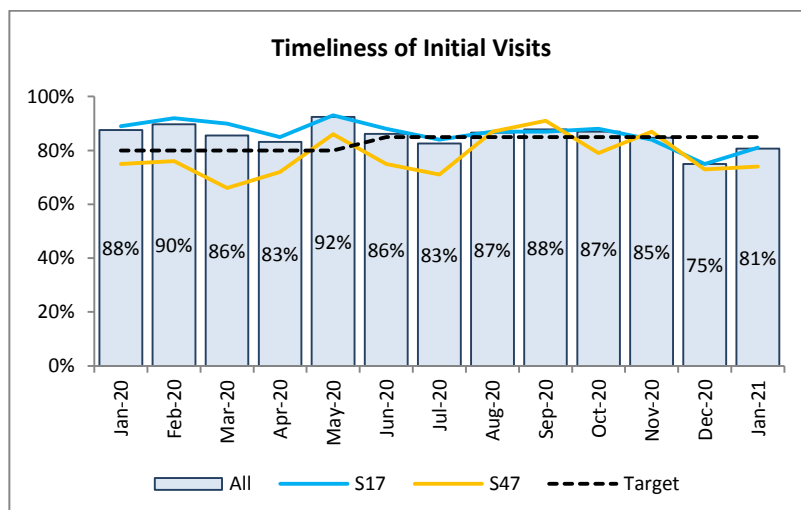


467 contacts initially progressed to Social Care for a response. The outcome for 453 of these was to proceed to referral. 9 referrals were subsequently closed by the MASH. Just under one-fifth of contacts were therefore referred to teams for assessment (18%, 444 contacts).

Just over one-quarter of contacts progressed to Early Help for a response (646, 26%). A further 8% of contacts related to an existing Early Help Episode (208 contacts).

Just under half of all contacts received by MASH resulted in No Further Action (46%, 1127 contacts). In one-third of cases where the outcome was NFA, information advice and guidance was provided (31% of contacts NFA'd, 771 contacts).

Referrals



Timeliness of initial visits improved in January (81%, 333 of 413 children, up from 75%). Performance is within tolerance of target (85%).

Timeliness of seeing children progressing under S17 was within tolerance of target (81%) while those progressing under S47 remained below target in January (74%). These measures are monitored in the **Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP)**.

Initial visits for 14% of children were completed but overdue (59 children), while 5% of children referred in January had not been seen and were overdue a visit at the time of reporting (21 children).

There were 3 children whose referrals started in December to whom an initial visit has not yet taken place.

We continue to adjust the way in which contact is undertaken with a small number of children i.e. where Coronavirus symptoms may be present within the home. In January, of the 392 initial visits that were undertaken, recording indicated that 54 children were seen virtually i.e. via Skype, What's App, Facetime (14%).

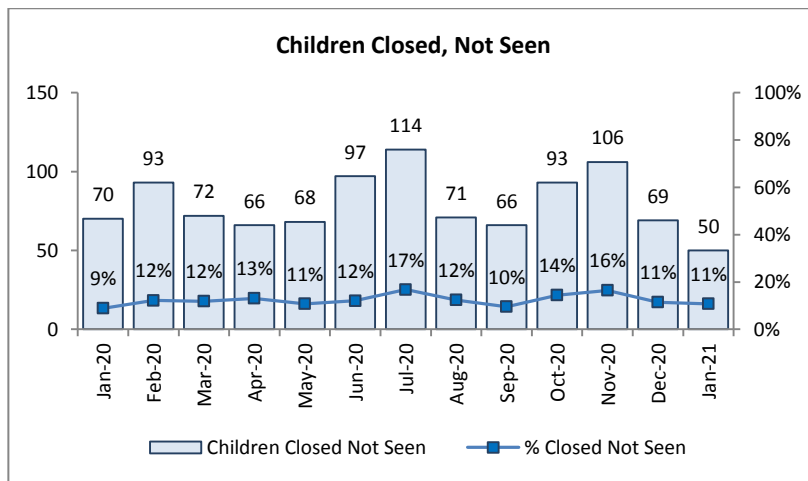
Timeliness of initial visits

In Time – November		In Time – December		In Time - January	
DCYPS*	100%	Cheltenham	93%	Tewkesbury	92%
Cheltenham	99%	Stroud	92%	Stroud	90%
Stroud	89%	Cotswolds	86%	Cotswolds	85%
FoD	86%	FoD	75%	Cheltenham	83%
Cotswolds	86%	Gloucester	71%	FoD	78%
Tewkesbury	86%	Tewkesbury	52%	Gloucester	76%
Gloucester	79%	Other	31%	Other	58%
Other	44%	DCYPS*	n/a	DCYPS*	50%

*DCYPS – November relates to 1 referral, December relates to no referrals and January relates to 2 referrals.

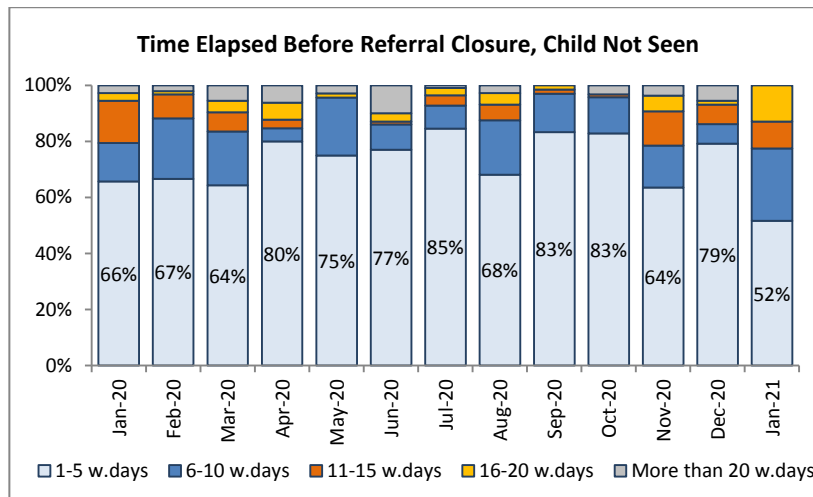
Timeliness of initial visits was below target in two localities, however both of these have seen slight improvements since December (Gloucester up 5% points and FoD up 3% points). The largest increase in performance this month was 40% points for Tewkesbury, moving from poorest performing locality in December to best performing in January.

Timeliness in Cheltenham declined 10% points and was below but within tolerance of target.



11% of children who were referred to Social Care in January were closed within the month without the child being seen (50 children), this includes referrals closed by MASH.

Children whose referral is closed without a visit taking place continue to experience a higher chance of being re-referred than those children who are seen (on average 30% compared to 19%).



Pace of decision making for children whose referral was closed without them being seen declined in January, with the decision for just under half of referrals closed taking more than 5 working days (down from 79% in December). This is a 12-month low and needs improvement.

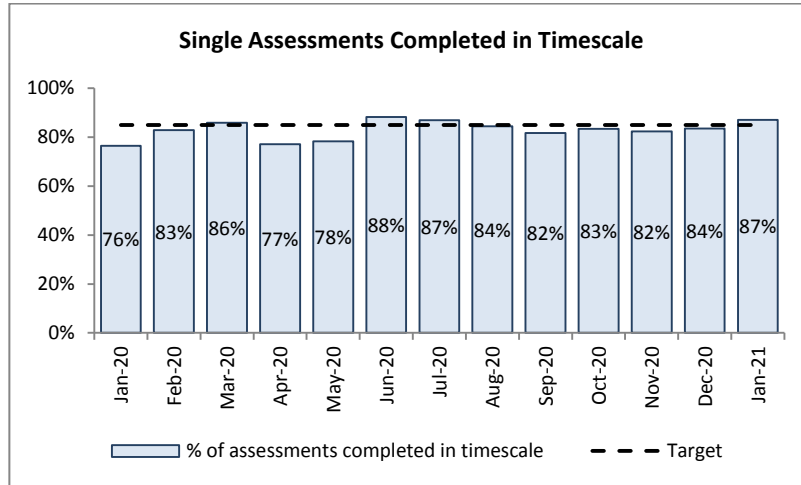
Re-referrals by Locality

	Last 12 months			Nov			Dec			Jan		
	Nov	Dec	Jan	1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%
Cheltenham	29%	30%	29%	47	25	35%	52	20	28%	38	14	27%
Cotswolds	40%	39%	34%	30	27	47%	51	21	29%	31	8	21%
FoD	30%	28%	28%	68	32	32%	61	9	13%	42	15	26%
Gloucester	34%	38%	38%	123	58	32%	107	55	34%	89	52	37%
Stroud	24%	25%	26%	79	26	25%	53	25	32%	41	29	41%
Tewkesbury	23%	24%	22%	66	16	20%	66	22	25%	39	11	22%
DCYPS	11%	11%	36%	1	0	0%	0	0	n/a	0	2	100%
County	29%	29%	29%	427	195	31%	399	162	29%	308	136	31%

Tewkesbury is the only locality performing better than target in relation to the proportion of re-referrals received over the last 12 months (22%).

Of the referrals received in January, Tewkesbury and Cotswolds both had better than target levels of re-referrals.

Single Assessments



Peer Group (Mar-20): 84.3%



The majority of assessments completed in January were within timescale (87%). Timeliness is above target (85%) for the first time since July 2020. Performance is also better than our peer comparators (84%, Mar-20).

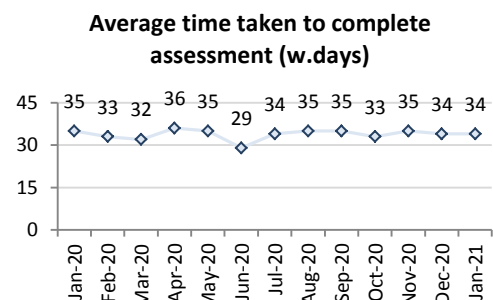
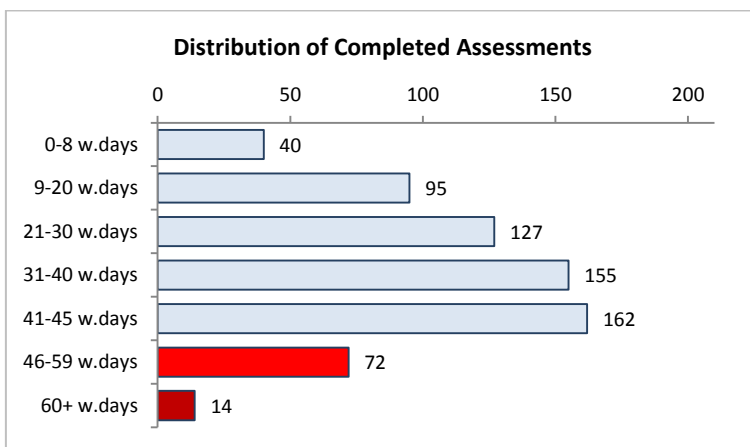
Assessments completed in January were overdue for 87 children (13%).

Completed Assessments in Timescale

In Time – November		In Time – December		In Time - January	
Cheltenham	93%	Tewkesbury	98%	DCYPS*	100%
Tewkesbury	88%	Cheltenham	92%	Stroud	96%
Stroud	88%	Forest of Dean	86%	Cotswolds	93%
DCYPS*	83%	Cotswolds	83%	Tewkesbury	91%
Cotswolds	80%	Stroud	82%	Cheltenham	88%
Forest of Dean	77%	Other	80%	Other	88%
Other	74%	Gloucester	79%	Forest of Dean	86%
Gloucester	71%	DCYPS*	53%	Gloucester	74%

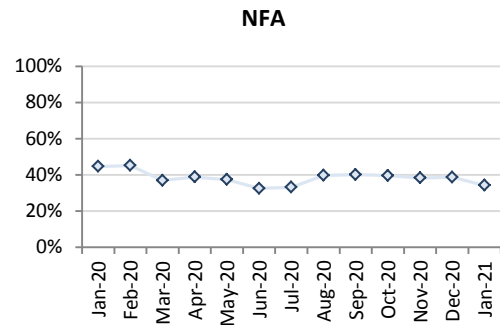
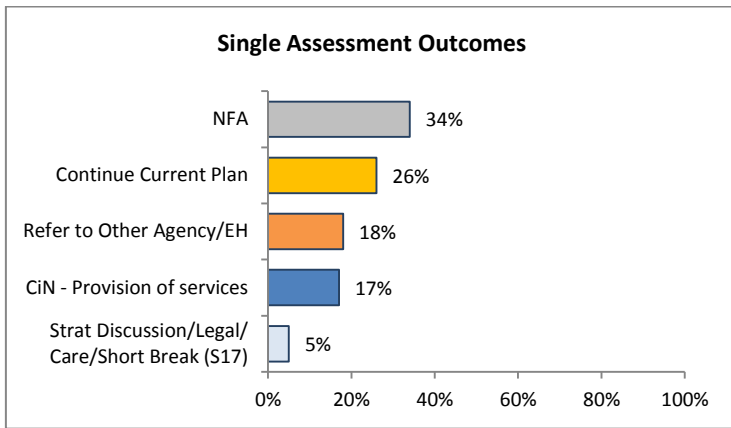
*DCYPS – November relates to 6 assessments, December relates to 15 assessments and January relates to 8 assessments.

Performance for all localities was above target in January, with the exception of Gloucester (74%). This has improved since December when only 3 localities were performing above target.



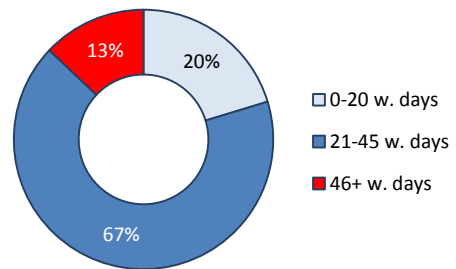
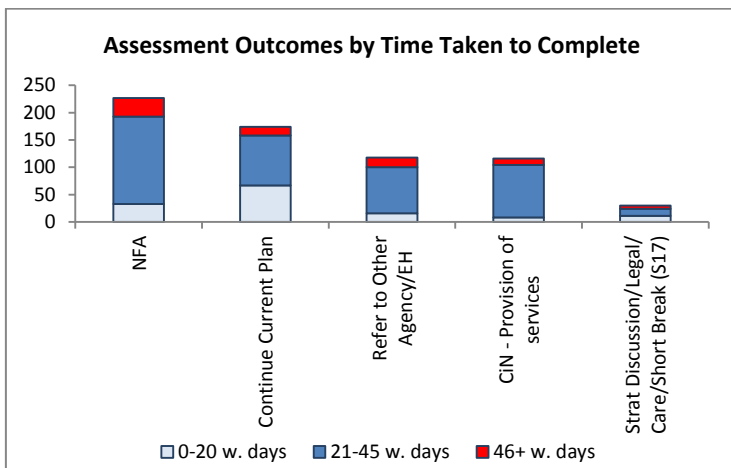
Almost half of assessments were completed between 31 and 45 working days in January (48%), this raises questions about pace for children prior to impending deadlines and increases the risk of assessments becoming overdue.

14 assessments took 60 or more working days to complete; 2 of these took 90 or more working days.



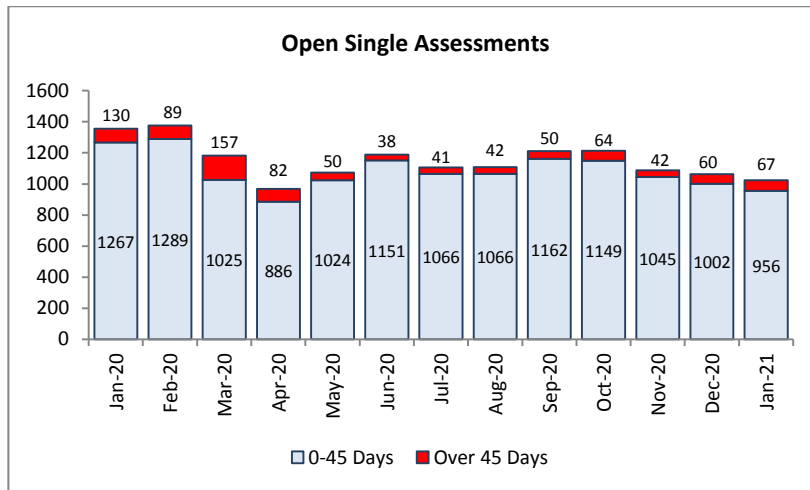
The proportion of completed assessments resulting in No Further Action decreased this month (34%, 227 of 665 assessments).

18% of children for whom an assessment was completed in January were referred to Early Help or another agency (118 children).



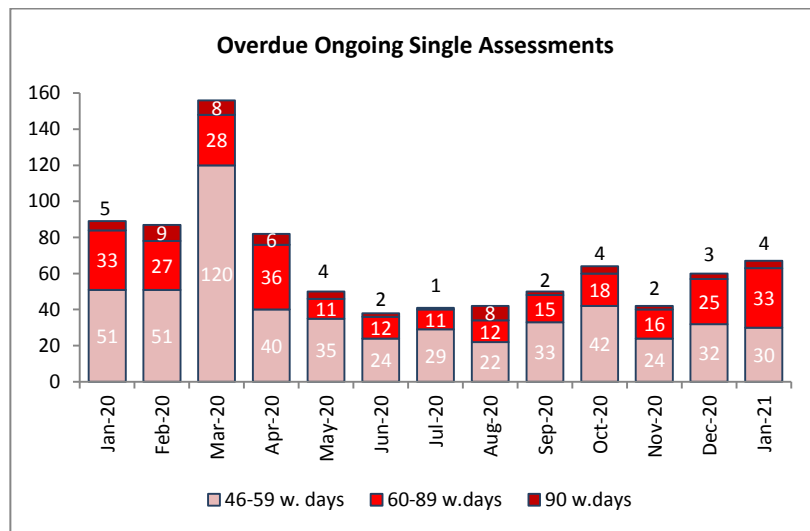
Just under one-fifth of assessments completed in January were concluded within 4 weeks (20%, 135 assessments), while 67% of assessments took between 21-45 w.days to complete (444).

Just over half of assessments completed in December were directed out of the Tier 4 system to Early Help, other agencies or did not require a service (52%, 345 assessments), with 287 of these taking more than 20 working days to complete. Management oversight discussions at 8, 20 and 30 working days need to strengthen in order to increase the number of proportionate assessments completed and the speed of completing them.



There were 1,023 assessments open at the end of January; this is a decrease for the fourth month from 1,212.

The majority of open assessments were within timescale at the end of December (93%, 956).



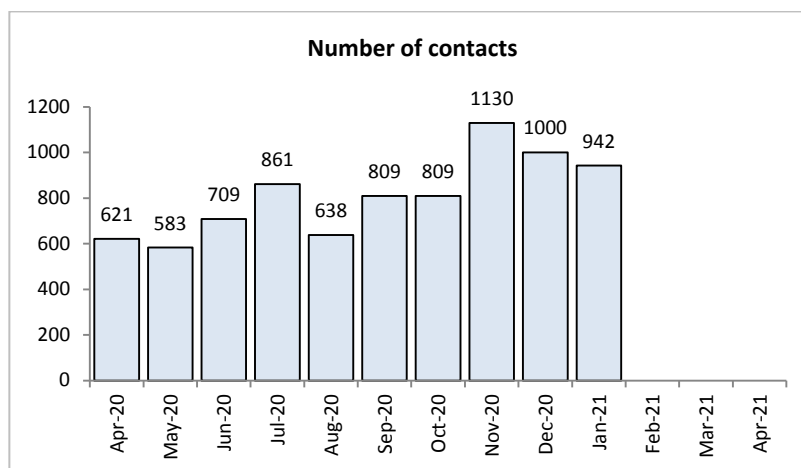
The number of assessments that are ongoing and already overdue increased for the second month (67, up from 42 in November).

The extent to which ongoing assessments are overdue has increased slightly with assessments ongoing for between 60-89 working days doubling in the last 2 months (33 up from 16). Assessments have been ongoing for 4 children more than 90 working days compared with 2 children in November.

Early Help and Targeted Support

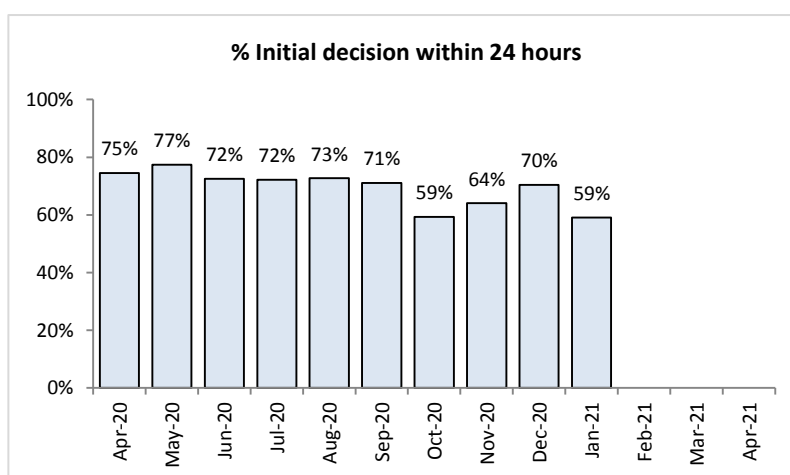
This section provides a summarised overview of Early Help activity comprising of the Family Support Service, Children and Family Centres, work with DCYPS and support provided by other agencies. More detailed dashboards are available to the service leads.

Contacts



The number of contacts progressing to Early Help decreased for a second month in January (942 from 1000) but remained much higher than the majority of 2020/21 to date.

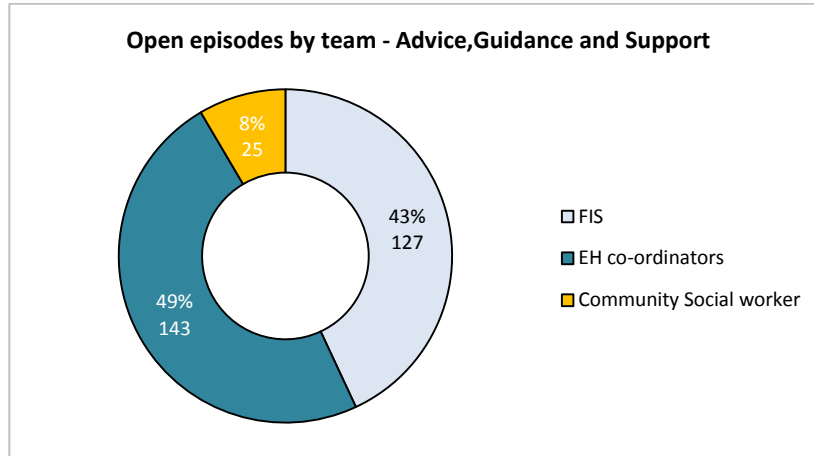
91% (854) of contacts progressing to Early Help were received via the MASH.



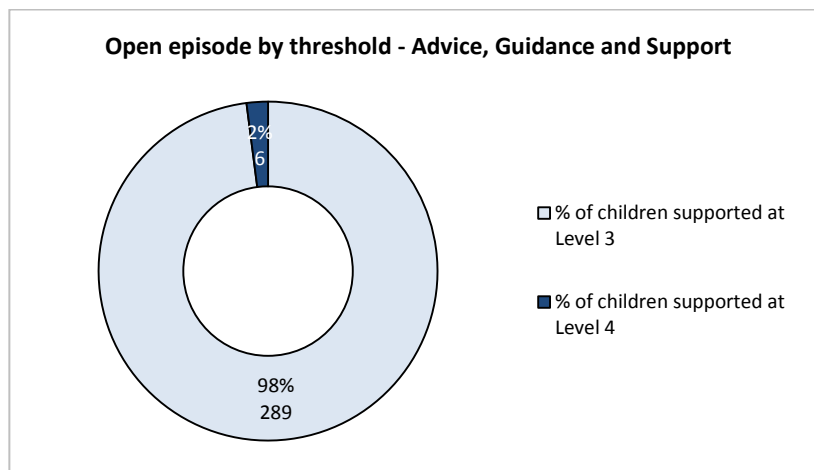
A decision for a referral to Early Help was made for 59% of contacts within 24 hours (556 contacts).

68% of contacts had a new episode or their contact linked to an existing episode within 72 hours (636 contacts).

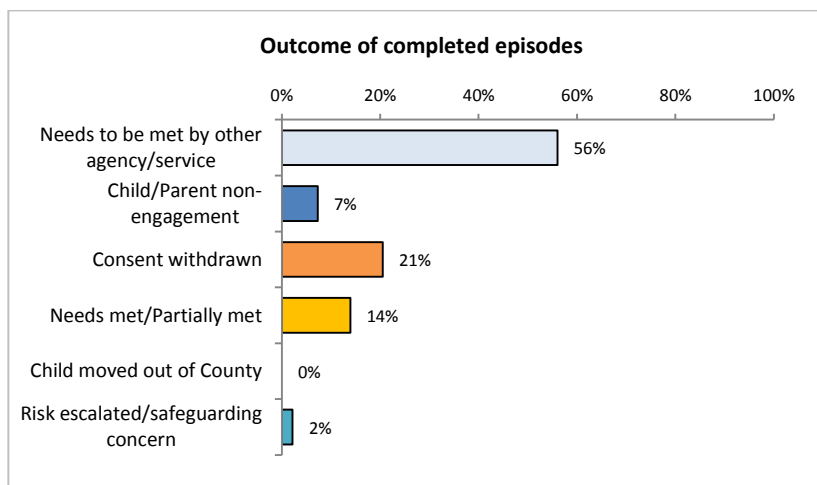
Advice, Guidance and Support



At the end of January, there were 295 episodes open requiring advice, guidance and support. Just over 92% of these episodes are held by the Family Information Service and Early Help Co-ordinators.

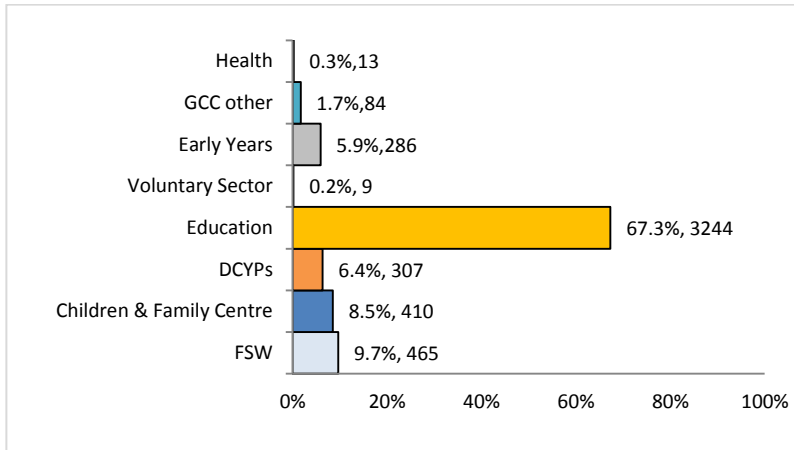


The overwhelming majority of episodes open where advice, guidance and support is being given, are providing Level 3 support (98%, 289 episodes).



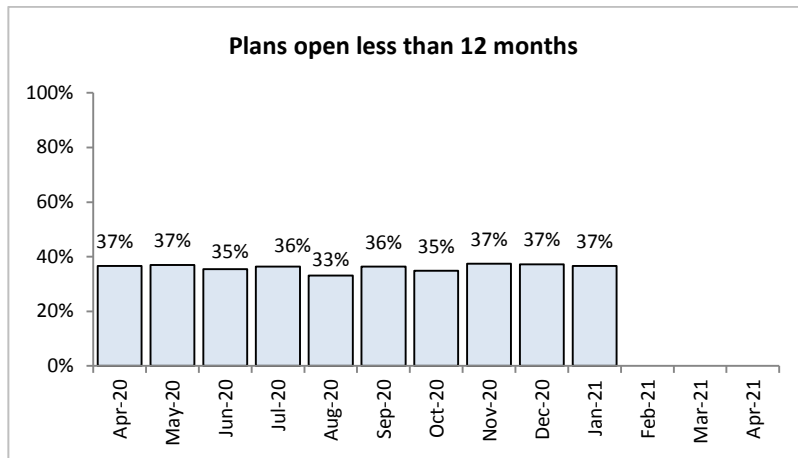
273 episodes were closed in January. Just under three-fifths episodes closed were due to their needs being met by another agency/service (56%), while just over one-quarter of episodes closed due to non-engagement or consent being withdrawn (28%).

My Plan/My Plan Plus



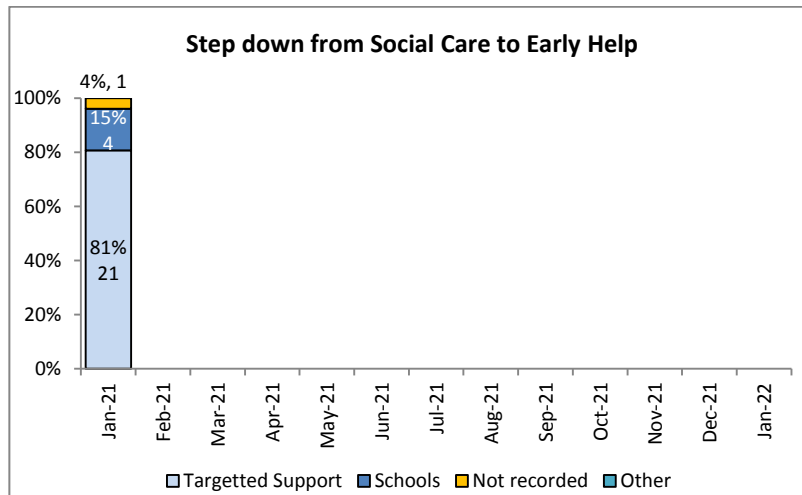
At the end of January there were 4,818 open plans: 3,015 My Plans and 1,803 My Plan Plus.

Over two-thirds of My Plan/My Plan Plus were allocated to Education (67% 3,244 children). Many of these plans have been open for a long period of time (over 12 months) and need review.



Just under two-fifths of plans had been open for less than 12 months (37%, 1,765 plans). 3,053 plans have been open for more than 12 months (63%).

Step down to Early Help



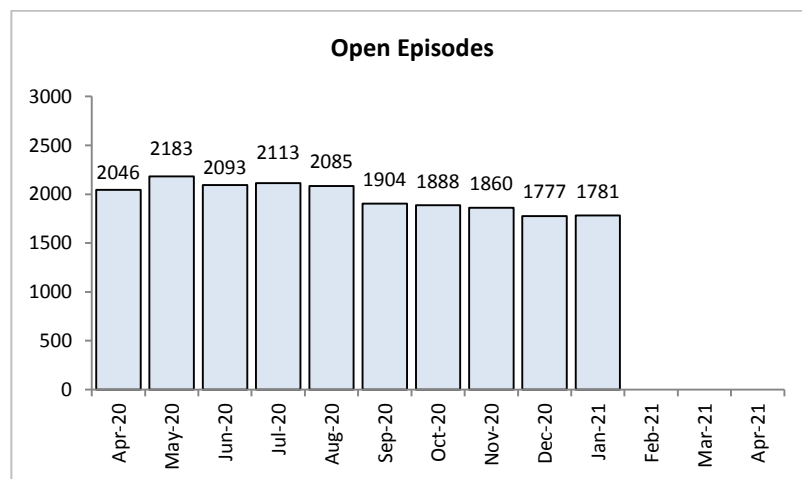
Step down to Early Help is part of a phased reduction of support following a Tier 4 intervention. This helps to embed change so that it is sustained once families transition to independently managing their child's care and protection

There were 26 children who stepped down in January. All the children who stepped down in January did so following a Child in Need plan. This equates to 15% of CiN plans ended in January.

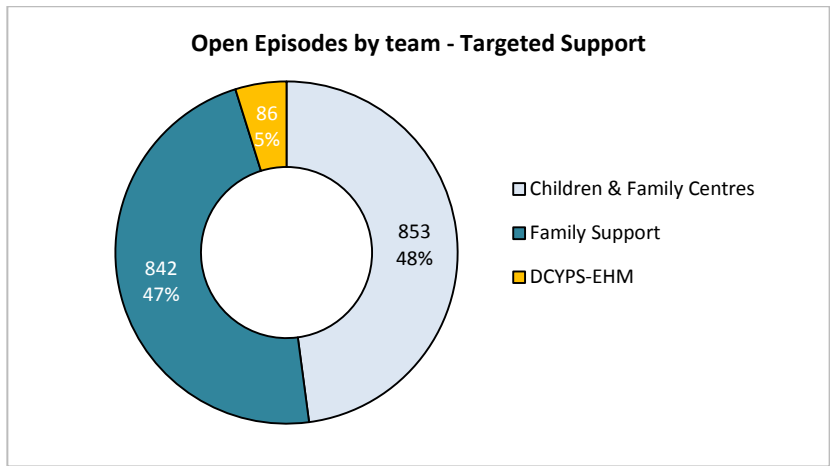
21 children stepped down to a Targetted Support service. Of these, 10 children stepped down to a Family Support Team and 11 children stepped down to a Children's and Family Centre. 4 children will receive ongoing support from their school.

This is a new process and it is likely that recording within the Referral closure record and use of the Transfer form need to improve in order to understand how often step down support is utilised.

Delivery – Targeted Work

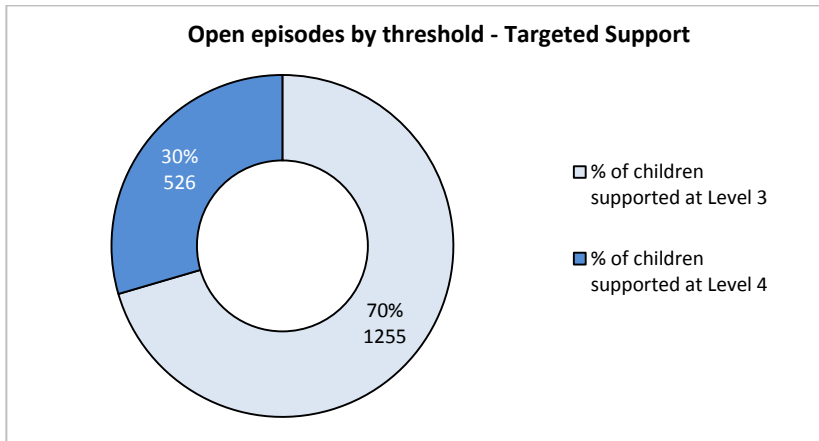


At the end of January, there were 1,781 open episodes for children receiving a Targetted Support service.

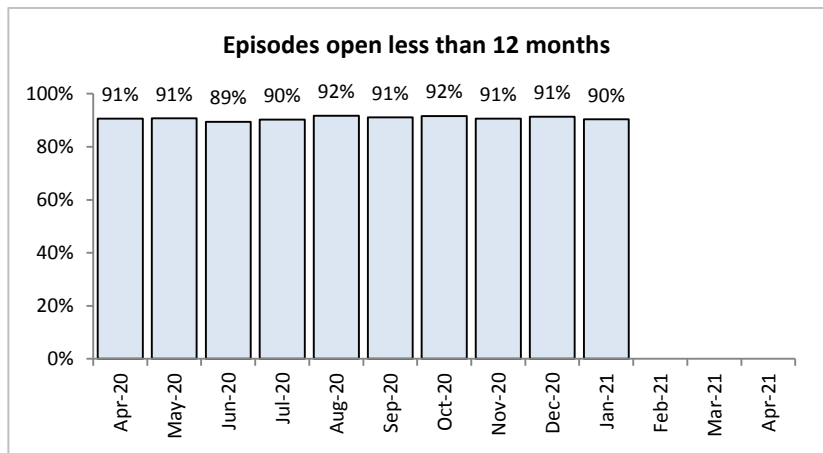


Family Support and Children and Family Centres hold a similar proportion of open episodes where targeted support work is being delivered (47% and 48% respectively).

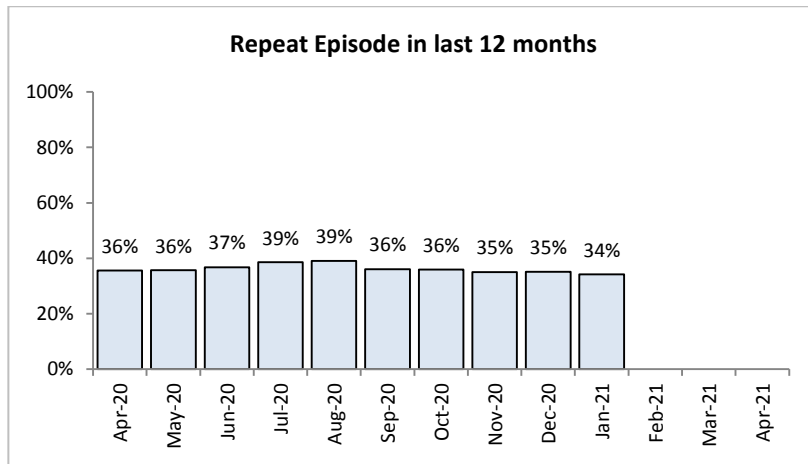
There are 86 children with an open episode, as well as 191 children open to review, within the DCYPS Early Help service.



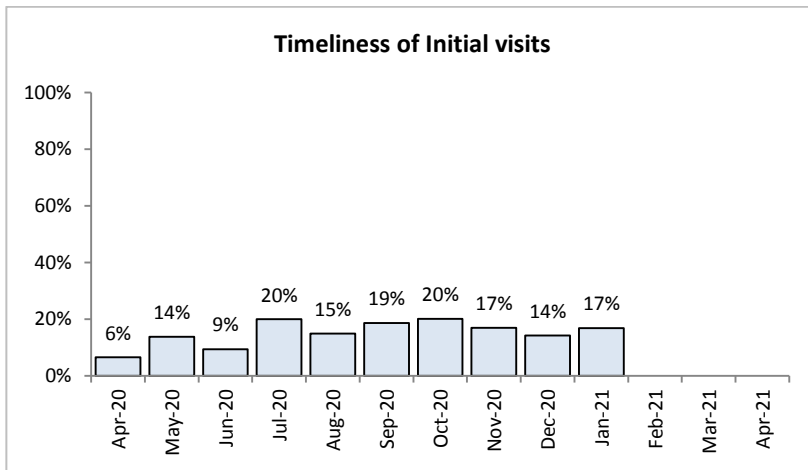
Just under one-third of the episodes open are supporting children who are open to a Social Care intervention (30%, 526 episodes). 262 of these children are allocated to Children and Families Centres, 260 to a Family Support team and 4 children to DCYPs Early Help service.



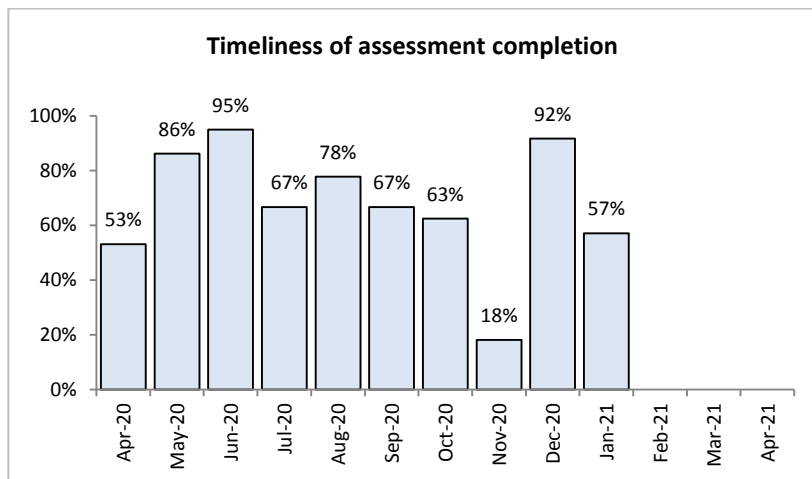
The majority of the open episodes where Targeted Support is being delivered have been open for less than 12 months (90% 1,610 episodes).



Repeat work with children and families has reduced since August (39%) but remains high, with just over one-third of children with an open episode receiving Targeted Support having had a previous Early Help episode in the last 12 months (34%, 609 children).

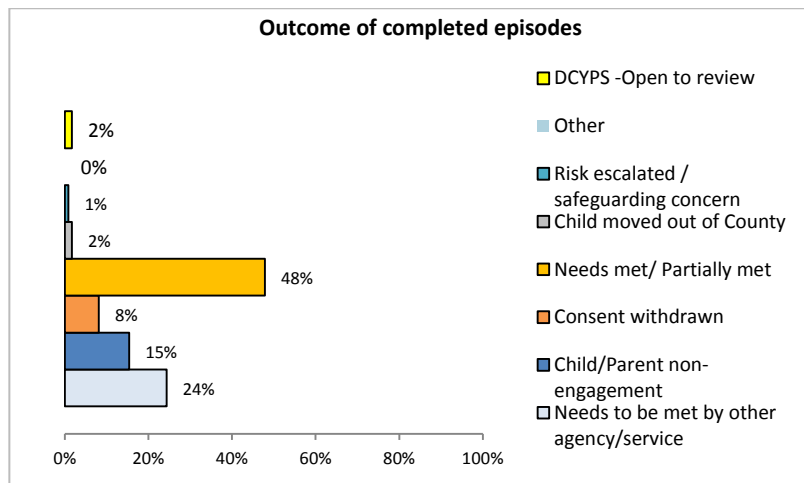


Of the children receiving or awaiting their initial visit, only 17% were within timescales. Performance is mainly being impacted by the Children and Family Centres (7% seen within 10 working days).



57% of assessments completed in January were completed within timescales a significant decrease compared to December.

Of the assessments currently ongoing, only 8% have been open for less than 30 working days. This is being impacted by poor recording within the My Plan form.



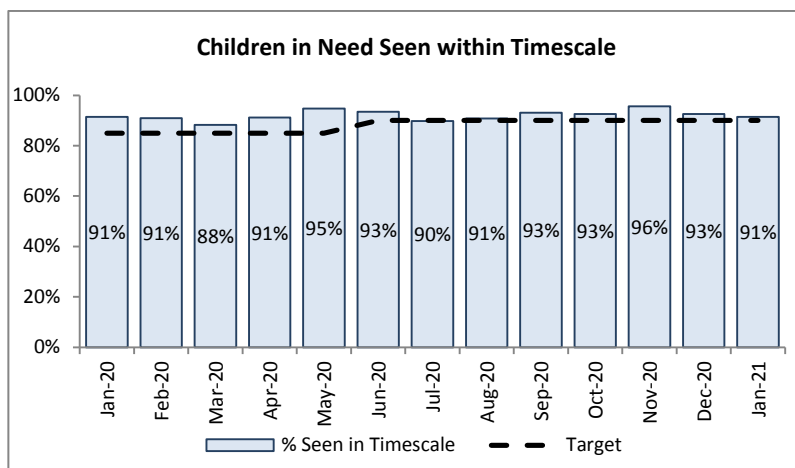
234 episodes receiving Targetted Support work were closed in January. Just under half of these were closed due to the needs of children and families being met or partially met (48%).

Just under one-quarter were closed due to non-engagement or consent being withdrawn (23%).

Step up following Targetted Support

For 2 children, the risk had escalated and they were stepped up into the Tier 4 system due to Safeguarding concerns.

Children in Need



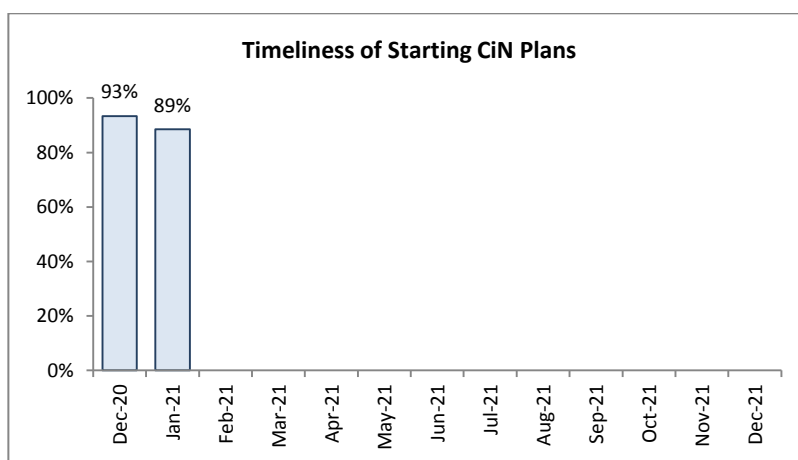
The majority of Children in Need continue to be seen in a timely way (91%) and performance is above target. However, performance has declined for a second month, from 96% in November. This is a measure in the **Accelerated Improvement Plan**.

There were 157 children who had not been seen within timescales (9%). 46 children do not appear to have been seen for 6 weeks or more.

Of the 1827 Children in Need, 250 children were seen virtually (14%). This is higher than in previous months due to a suspension of face to face visiting in the first week of January in order to consider the increased risk posed by the new strain of the Coronavirus and determine what tightened safety measures may be required.

In Time -November		In Time -December		In Time -January	
Cotswolds	99%	Cotswolds	98%	Cotswolds	98%
Cheltenham	97%	Other	95%	Other	96%
Gloucester	96%	Stroud	95%	Stroud	95%
FoD	95%	Cheltenham	94%	FoD	92%
Stroud	95%	FoD	93%	Gloucester	90%
DCYPS	94%	Tewkesbury	91%	Cheltenham	90%
Other	94%	Gloucester	89%	Tewkesbury	87%
Tewkesbury	93%	DCYPS	89%	DCYPS	86%

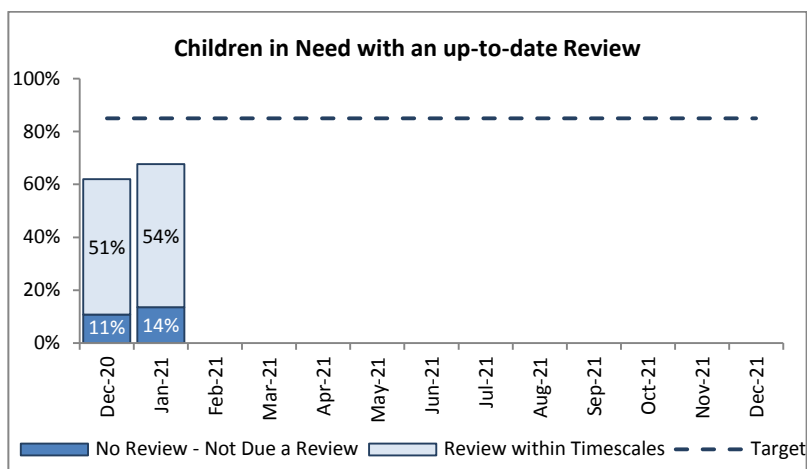
The majority of localities are seeing children in a timely way. Timeliness of seeing children in Tewkesbury and DCYPS is below but within tolerance of target.



In January, 174 CiN plans were started. Of these, plans for 154 children were put in place in a timely way (89%).

Of the plans that were not timely, 13 took longer than 10 working days to put in place following CP/IRO review and 7 took longer than 10 working days following Single Assessment completion.

There were 751 children who did not have a plan in place at the end of January, for 36 of these children a plan was overdue (5%).



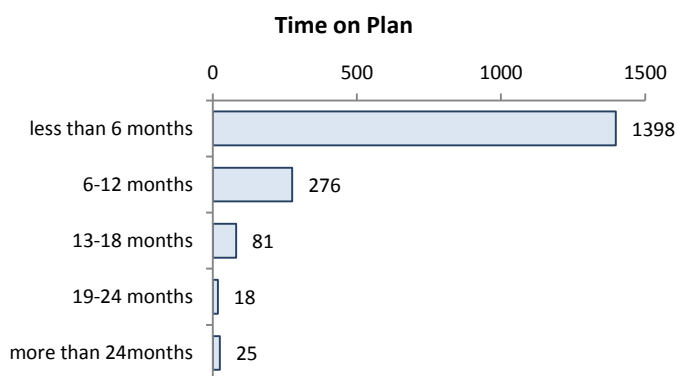
There were 1,076 Children in Need with a plan at the end of January. 68% of these children had a timely review or were not yet due a review (729 children). Timeliness of reviews is below target (85%) but had improved since December (62%). Performance levels are being impacted by the change in practice standards, and in particular the tightening of the timeliness of the initial review of the CiN plan (previously around 7% overdue). Performance is expected to improve as the new practice standards become firmly embedded.

21% of those children who had a Child in Need plan had not had a first review of their plan (223 children).

12% of Children in Need with a plan had had at least one review but were overdue their next review (124 children).

Only Stroud and Cotswolds localities are performing within tolerance or above target. The Forest of Dean and DCYPS held the lowest proportion of children with a timely review of their plan (50% and 53% respectively).

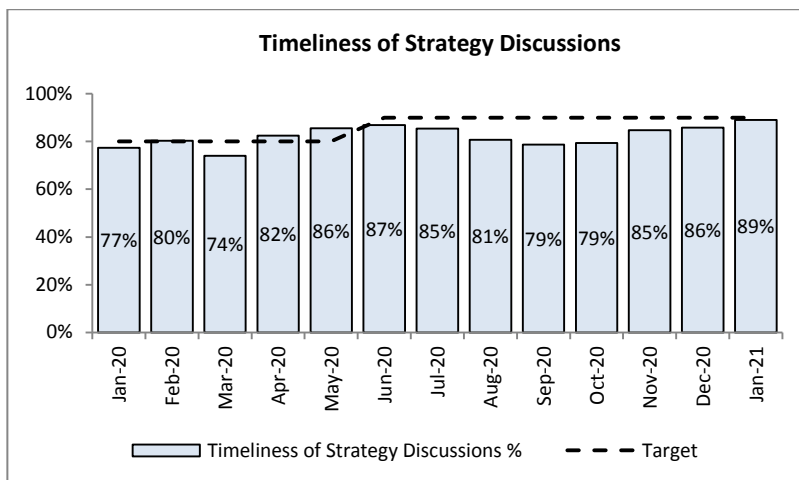
93% of children have been categorised as a Child in Need for 12 months or less; this is better than target (90%) (excludes short breaks)



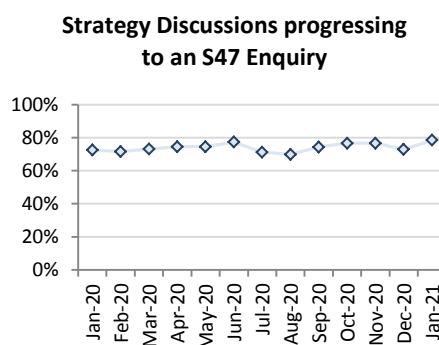
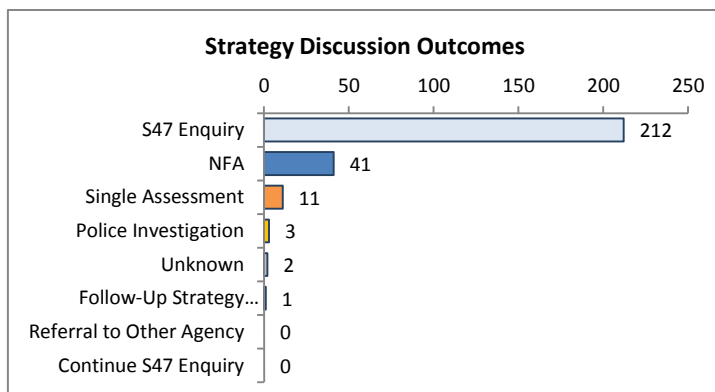
The number of children who have been on a plan for more than two years remains low (25, 1%) (excludes short breaks).

Child Protection

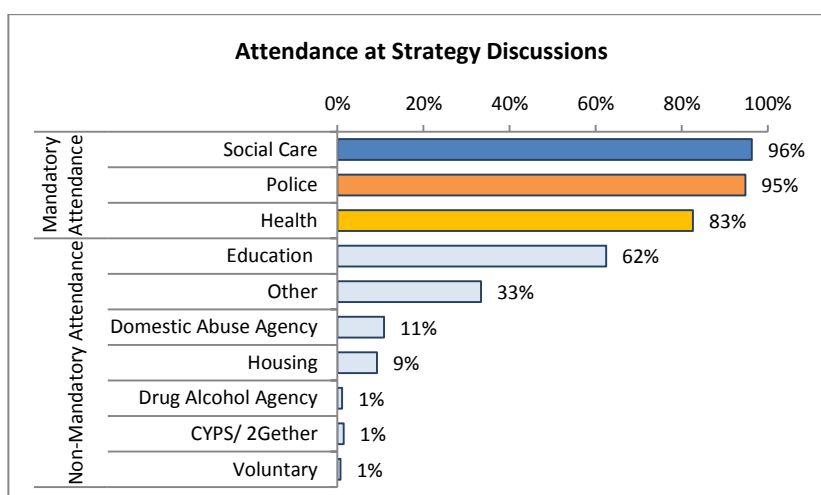
Strategy Discussions



Timeliness of initial Strategy Discussions improved in January (89%, 227 of 255 children) and was within tolerance of target (90%).



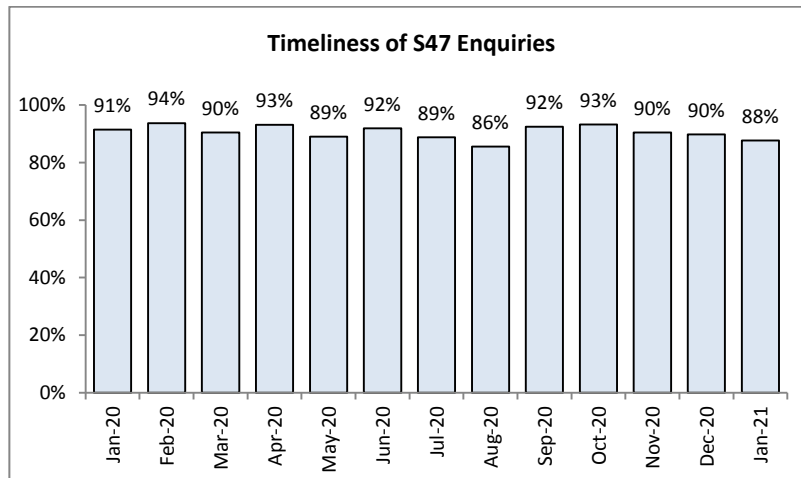
The majority of Strategy Discussions continued to progress to an S47 enquiry (79%, 212 of 270).



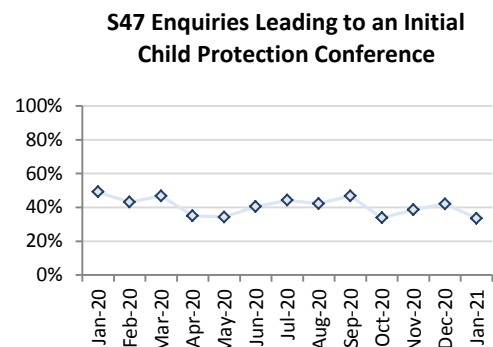
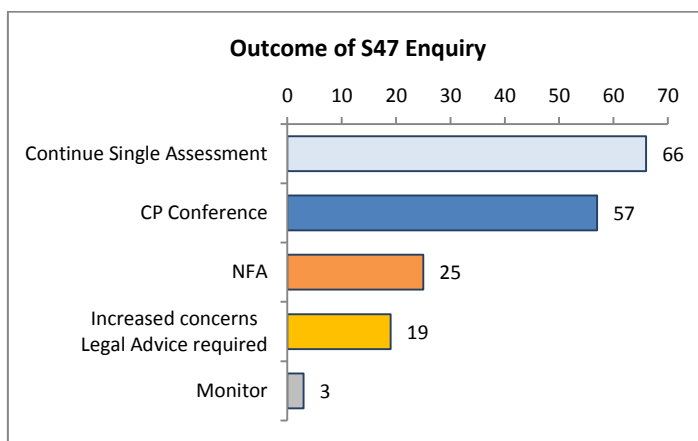
Attendance at Strategy Discussions by mandatory partners was good in January. There were 45 Strategy Discussions that don't appear to have benefitted from Health participation, where Health partners were invited. There were also 10 Strategy Discussions that Police were invited to but which they did not attend and 14 Strategy Discussions without attendance from Social Care following invitation.

There was a significant reduction in the number of discussions between multi-agency partners that were recorded as Strategy Discussions where one of the mandatory partners was recorded as not invited (15 down from 87): Health (12), Police (0) and Social Care (3).

S47 Enquiries



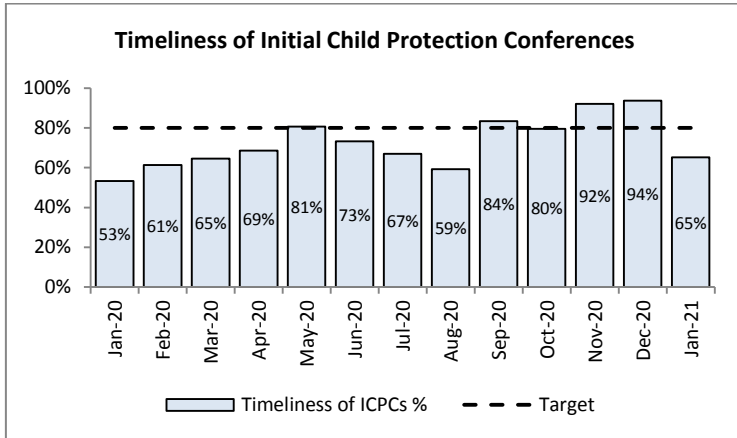
Timeliness of S47 Enquiries has declined over the last 3 months, (from 93% in October to 88%, 149 of 170 children).



One-third of children progressed to an initial child protection conference following an S47 enquiry in December (34%, 157 children of 170). This is low compared to a 12-month average of 41% and a peak of 49% at the same time last year.

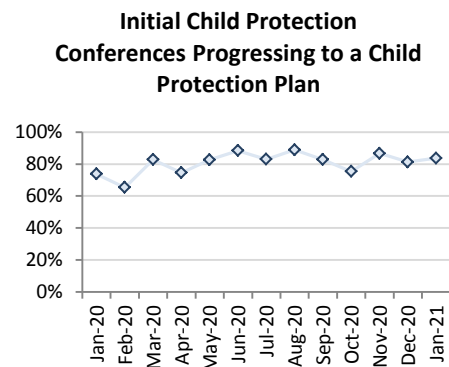
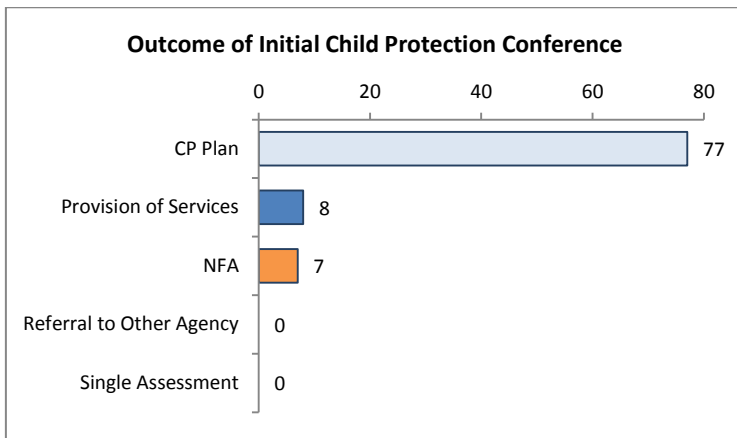
A single assessment was progressed for two-thirds of children following an S47 Enquiry in January (39%, 66 children). This is similar to the previous month.

Initial Child Protection Conferences



★ Performance is better than the peer comparator average: **75.5%** (Mar 2020)

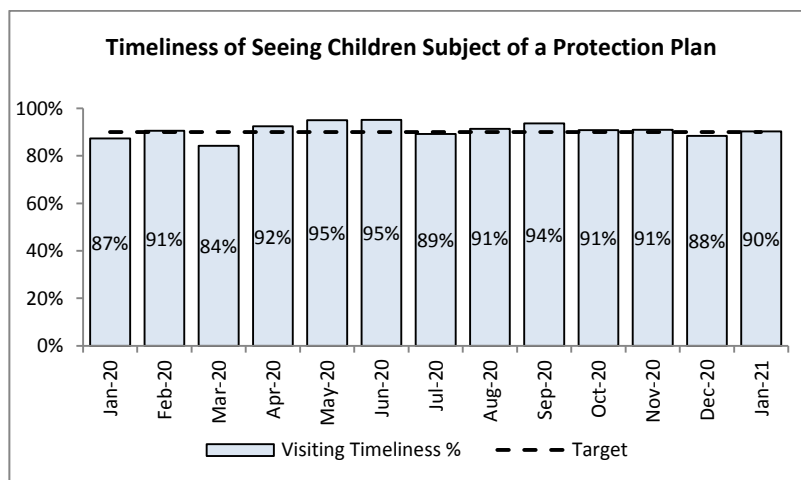
Timeliness of initial conferences declined by almost 30% points in January (94% to 65%, 60 of 92 children); performance was below target and peer comparators.



The majority of children who had an initial child protection conference in January were made subject of a protection plan (84%, 77 children).

For 15 children undergoing an ICPC a protection plan was not deemed to be required.

Children Subject to a Protection Plan



The majority of children subject to a protection plan were seen in a timely way in January (90%, 650 children), performance is on target (90%). This measure is monitored in the **Accelerated Improvement plan**.

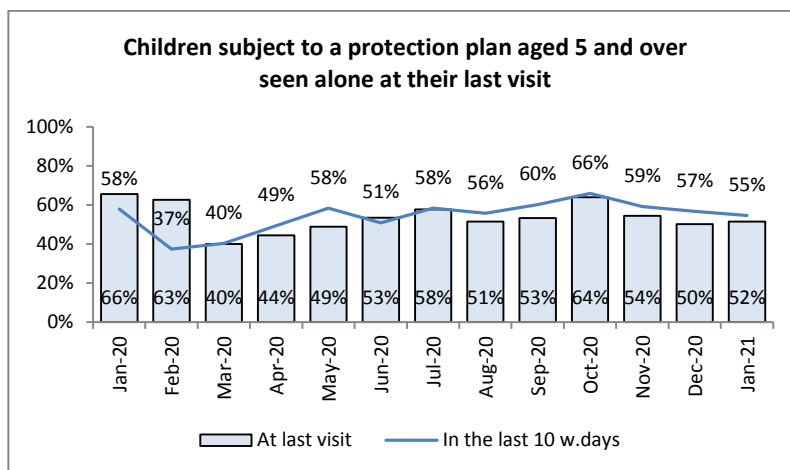
48 children were seen virtually in January (7% of children subject to a protection plan). As with Children in Need visits, this is higher than in previous months due to a suspension of face to face visiting in the first week of January in order to consider the increased risk posed by the new strain of the Coronavirus and determine what tightened safety measures may be required.

74 children had not been seen within 10 working days at the end of January (10%); 4 of these had not been seen in more than 20 working days.

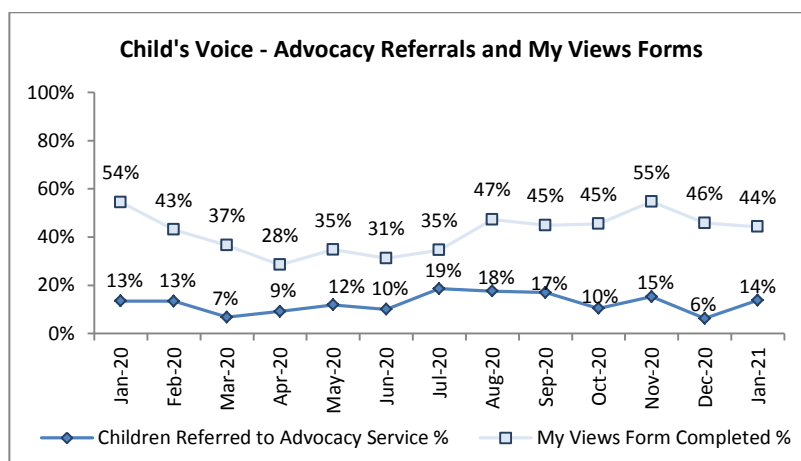
In Time - Nov		In Time - Dec		In Time - Jan	
DCYPS	100%	DCYPS	100%	DCYPS	100%
Other	100%	Other	100%	Stroud	100%
Cotswolds	98%	Cotswolds	97%	Other	100%
Cheltenham	94%	Tewkesbury	95%	Cotswolds	98%
Stroud	93%	Stroud	91%	Cheltenham	96%
Tewkesbury	92%	Cheltenham	90%	Tewkesbury	90%
Gloucester	88%	Gloucester	88%	Gloucester	87%
FoD	85%	FoD	67%	FoD	75%

Overall timeliness of seeing children is being impacted by the Forest of Dean where performance is 15% points below target.

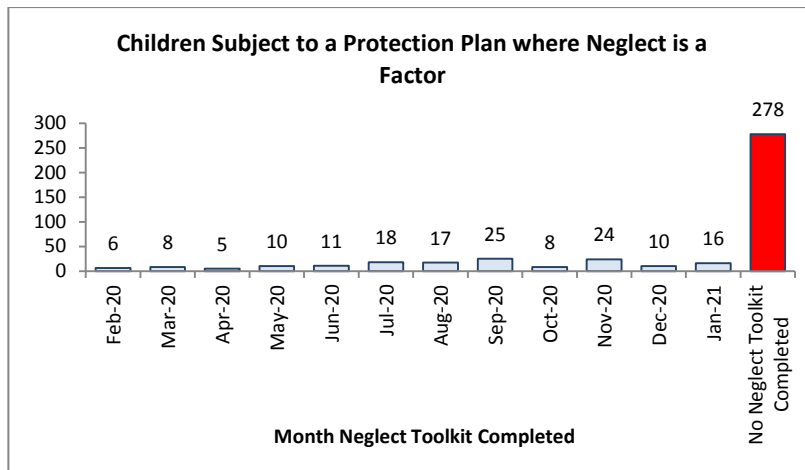
Gloucester's performance remained static and is below but within tolerance of target.



The proportion of children aged 5 and over seen alone continued to decline in January, with 55% of children seen alone within the last 10 working days compared with 66% in October. This may be, in part, due to an increased number of visits undertaken virtually in January due to a pause in face to face visiting at the start of the month, although performance had been in decline in November and December.

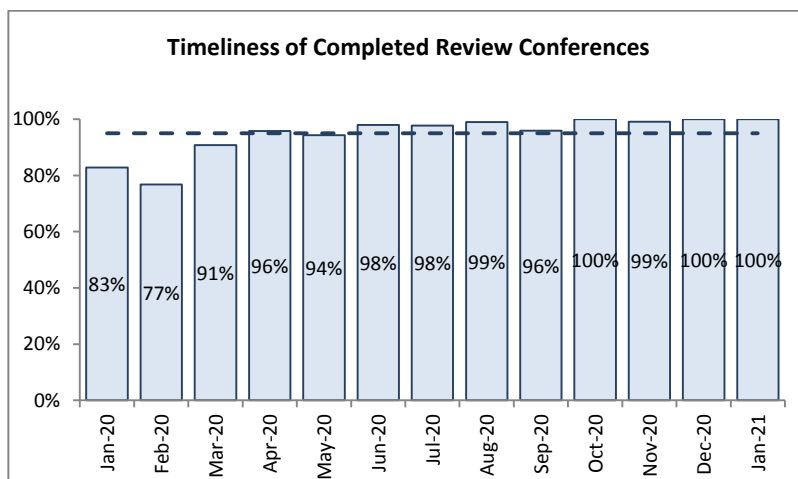


Under half of children undergoing a conference in January completed a My Views form (44%). This is a reduction for the second month, down 11% points since November (55%). The proportion of children referred to the Advocacy service in January increased to a similar level to that seen throughout the year (14%).



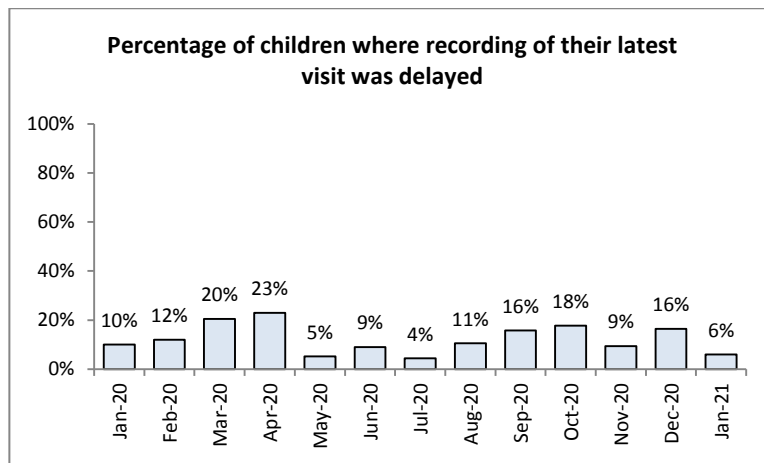
Of the 436 children subject to a protection plan where Neglect is a factor, a Neglect Toolkit has been completed for 158 of them (36%). For a small number of children the Toolkit was completed up to 12 months ago.

For 278 children experiencing Neglect, a Neglect Toolkit has not been completed (64%).

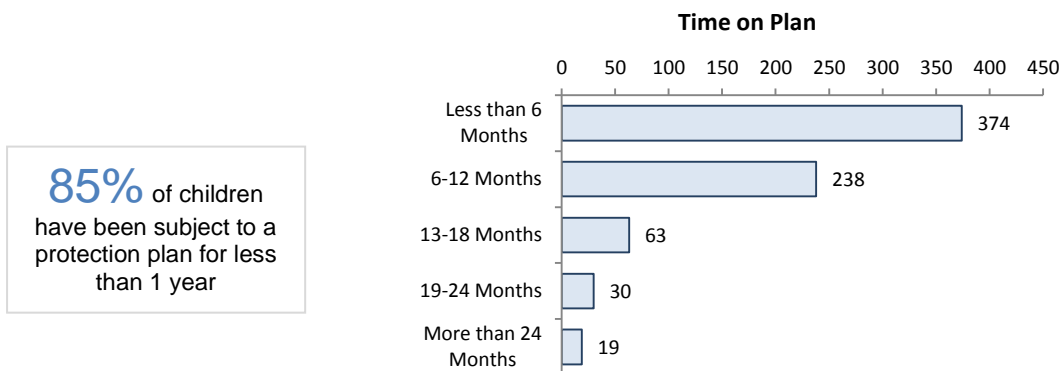


Review conferences for 154 children took place in January, all of which were within timescale (100%); performance is above target (95%)

Of the 568 children who have been subject to a protection plan for more than 3 months, all children have a review that is up-to-date (100%).



Recording of a visit was delayed for 5% of those children seen in January.



19 children have been subject to their plan for more than two years (2.6%). This is slightly lower than our Peer Group comparators (2.8% Mar-20) but marginally higher than target (2%). All of these children are in pre (3) or court (16) proceedings.

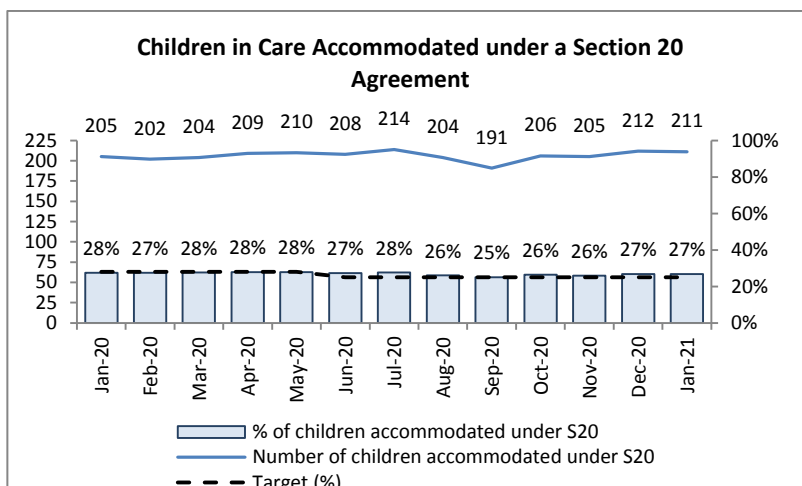
3 children have been subject to a protection plan for 4 years and 5 months; court proceedings for these children have been ongoing for 34 weeks.

	Nov			Dec			Jan					
	Overall			Nov			Dec			Jan		
	1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%			
Cheltenham	37%	39%	39%	18	1	5%	9	2	18%	6	4	40%
Cotswolds	46%	44%	44%	1	0	0%	4	2	33%	6	0	0%
FoD	34%	35%	34%	5	2	29%	3	0	0%	8	1	11%
Gloucester	34%	32%	31%	20	3	13%	19	2	10%	21	0	0%
Stroud	43%	43%	37%	4	9	69%	8	1	11%	15	2	12%
Tewkesbury	39%	41%	42%	9	6	40%	1	0	0%	8	5	38%
DCYPS	17%	17%	17%			n/a			n/a	1	0	0%
Other	50%	67%	67%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	1	50%

All localities are holding worse than target proportions of children subject to a second or subsequent plan overall.

Cheltenham and Tewkesbury were the only localities to have worse than target levels of children returning to a plan in January (40% and 38% respectively).

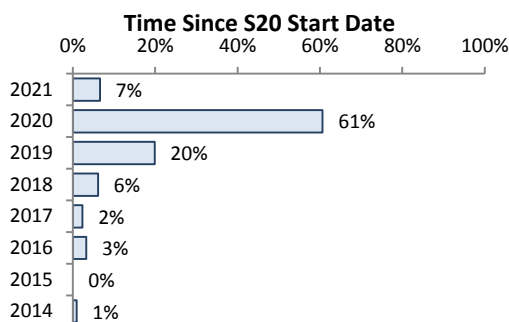
Children in Care



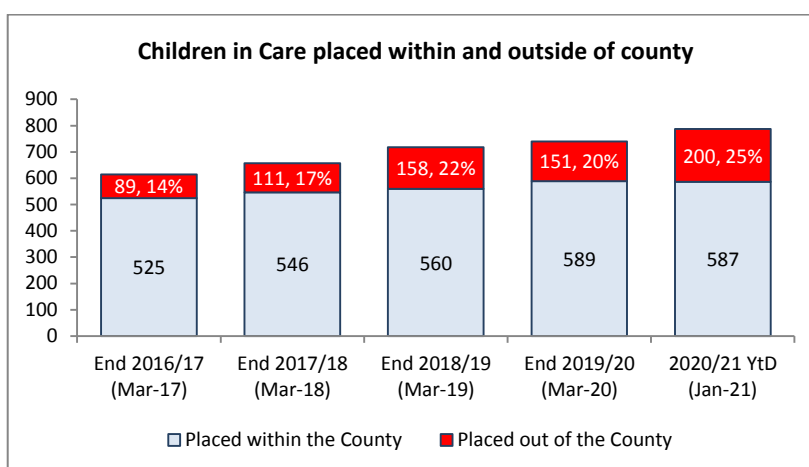
Just over a quarter of children in care were accommodated under a Section 20 agreement at the end of January (27%, 211 children). This is worse than target (25%) and remains significantly higher than the national average which is following a reducing trend (17%, March 2020).

32 children accommodated in care under an S20 agreement are in proceedings (15%):

- 14 children are in pre-proceedings (6.5%)
- 18 children are in court proceedings (8.5%)

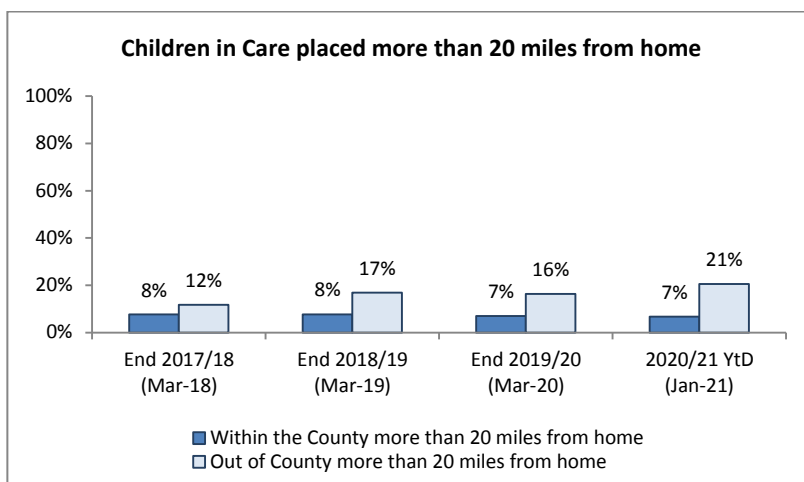


Just over two-thirds of the children accommodated under a Section 20 agreement came into care in 2020 or January 2021 (68%).



While the volume of children in care has continued to increase year on year, we are generally accommodating more children each year within Gloucestershire.

However, there are a growing proportion of children being accommodated out of County: a quarter of our children in care (200 children, 25%), up from 20% in March 20.

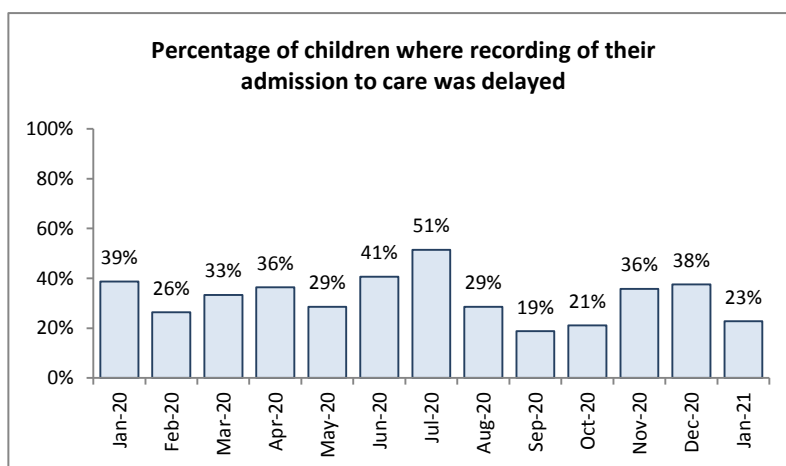


Just over a quarter of children in care are living more than 20 miles from their home (28%, 215 children, up from 173 children at the end of March 20).

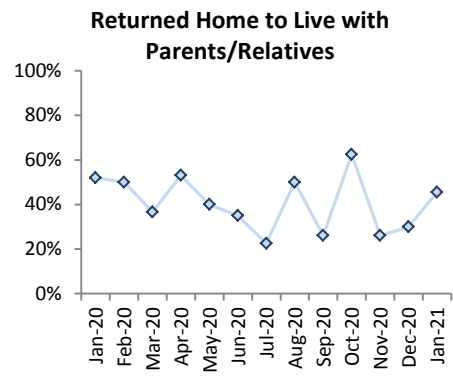
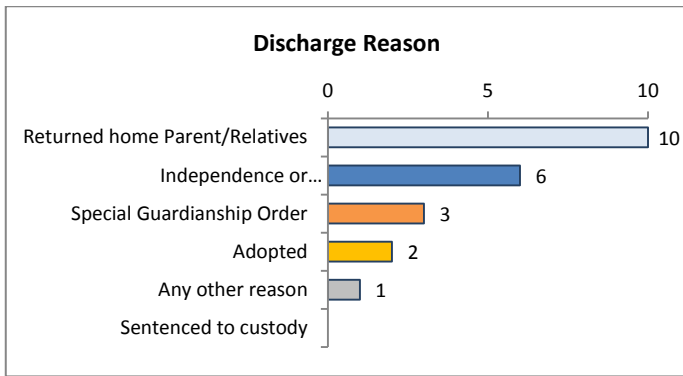
There were another 29 children (4%) where it is not possible to report if they live more than 20 miles from home, this is because the child's home post code is not recorded.

162 children living more than 20 miles from home were in out of County placements (20.6%); this has increased in line with the national trend and as is similar but slightly worse than our peer group and target (20.1%, Mar-20).

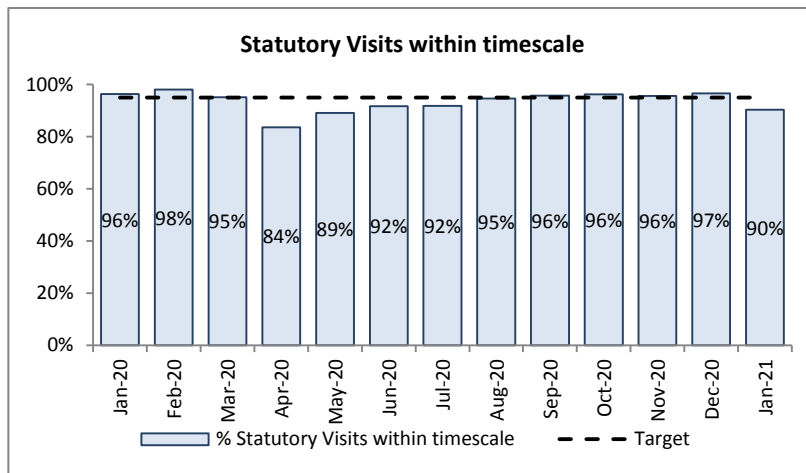
For 53 children, their placement was within Gloucestershire but more than 20 miles from their home (7%).



Recording admission to care was delayed for just under a quarter of children in care in January (23%). This continues to require improvement to ensure that case recording is consistently reflective of a child's circumstances in a timely way.

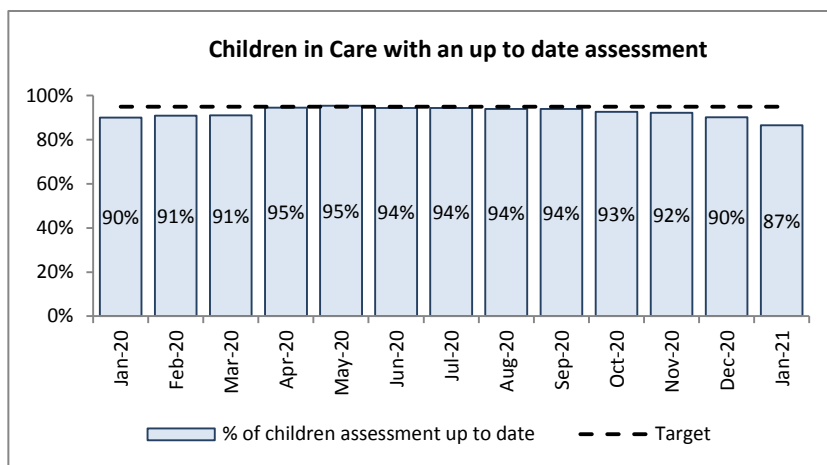


Returning home to parents/relatives continues to be the onward living arrangements to which most children are discharged (10 children, 45%).



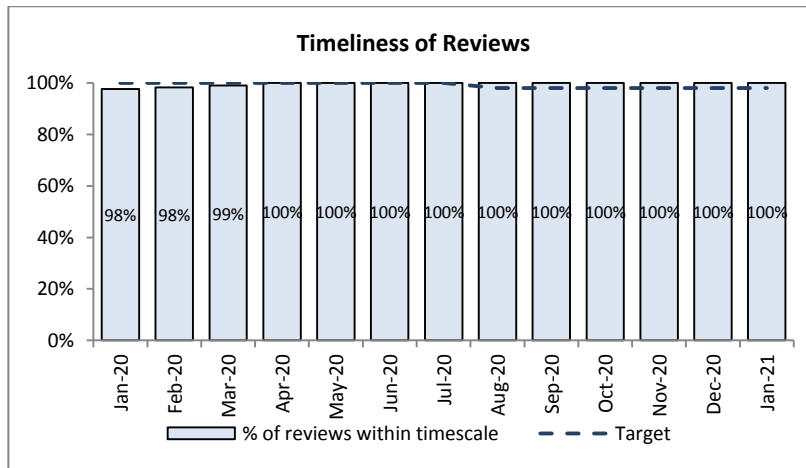
90% of children in care had an up to date Statutory Visit at the end of January (711 children). This decline was expected due to a pause in face to face visiting at the start of the month while current safety measures were risk assessed in light of the new COVID strains. Performance is below target (95%). This is a measure in the **Accelerated Improvement plan**.

A further 4 children were seen via another face to face visit type and 40 children had been seen virtually (6% of children in care). While this does not meet the statutory visit criteria, performance of seeing children would be above target when taking these contacts into account.

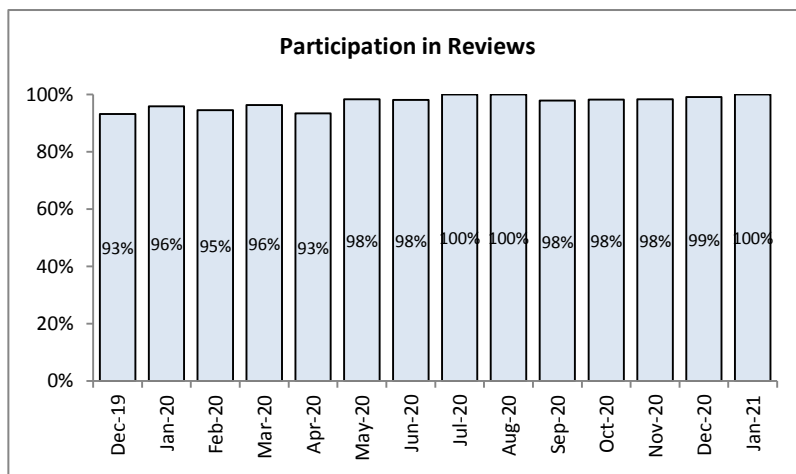


The proportion of children in care with an up to date assessment has followed a declining trend for four months, from 94% in September to 87% in January (628 out of 725 children). Performance is below target (95%).

There were 97 children for whom an assessment was overdue at the end of January.

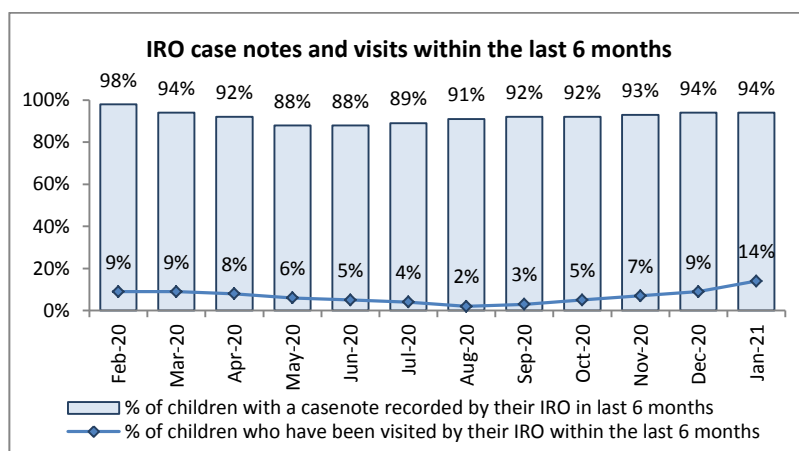


All reviews have taken place within timescale for the majority of the year. Reviews took place for 167 children in January. Performance is above target (98%).

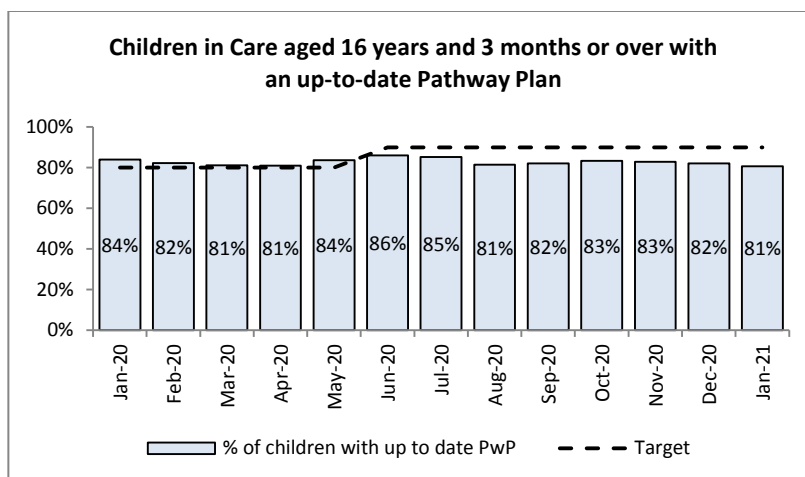


Note: Graph excludes children aged under 4 years and young people who have a Pathway Plan as participation in their review is not captured within the PWP form. These young people equate to the 14% of reviews (24 young people) in January.

100% of children had their views represented in their review either by attending or via an Advocate, IRO or other media (119 children).

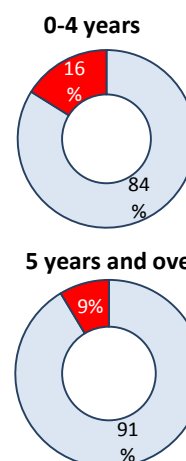
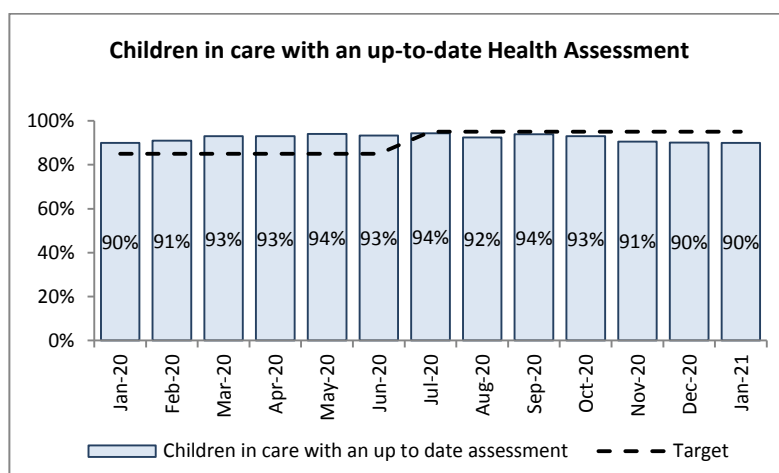


A high proportion of children had evidence of the IROs footprint on their case notes in the last 6 months (94%). Performance has followed an improving trend, up from 88% in June. Only 14% of children in care have had a visit from their IRO in the last 6 months. This has increased month on month from 2% in August but performance remains very low.



81% of children in care aged 16 years and 3 months who have been in care for more than 3 months, had an up-to-date Pathway Plan in place. Performance has continued to decline and remains below target (90%).

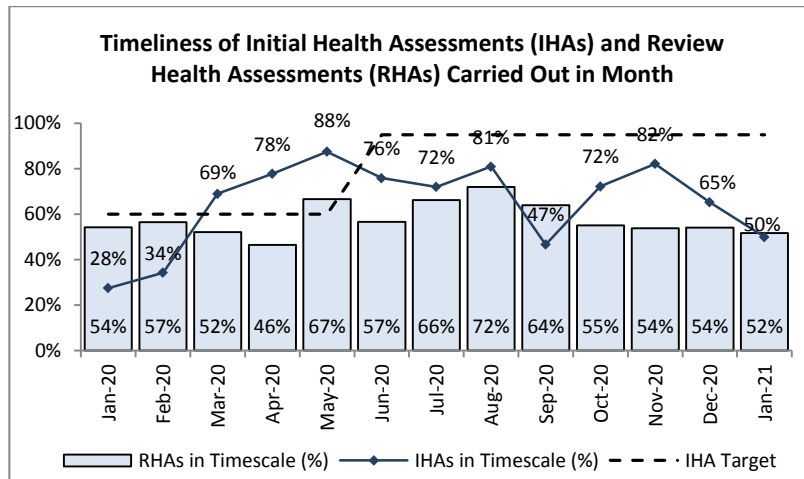
Timeliness of developing initial pathway plans for children who have come into care is impacting performance with 37 young people who have no Pathway Plan in place. However, for those children who were in care and already had a pathway plan in place, all plans are up-to-date (100%).



Overall, the proportion of children with an up-to-date health assessment remained static in January, 90% (708 children). Performance is below target (95%).

Timeliness of health assessments for our younger children in care (Under 5 years) increased for the second month, from 79% in November to 84% in January but remains below target. Performance for our older children in care (aged 5 years and over) has reduced for the third month from 95% in October to 91% and is below but within tolerance of target (95%).

A health assessment for 79 children in care (10%) was overdue at the end of January. For 7 children their Initial Health Assessment was overdue. For the remaining 72 children their Review Health Assessment was overdue.

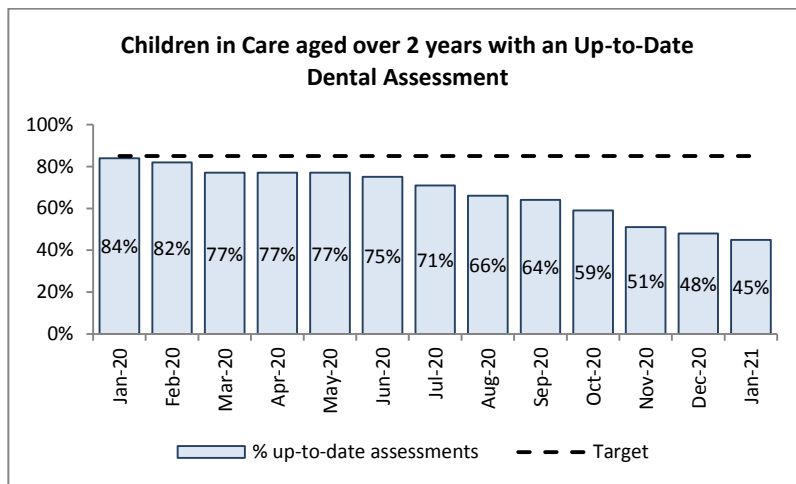


26 children in care received an IHA in January; 13 of these were within timescale (50%). This is a significant decline over the last two months from 82% in November and is below target.

IHA timeliness for children entering care in January

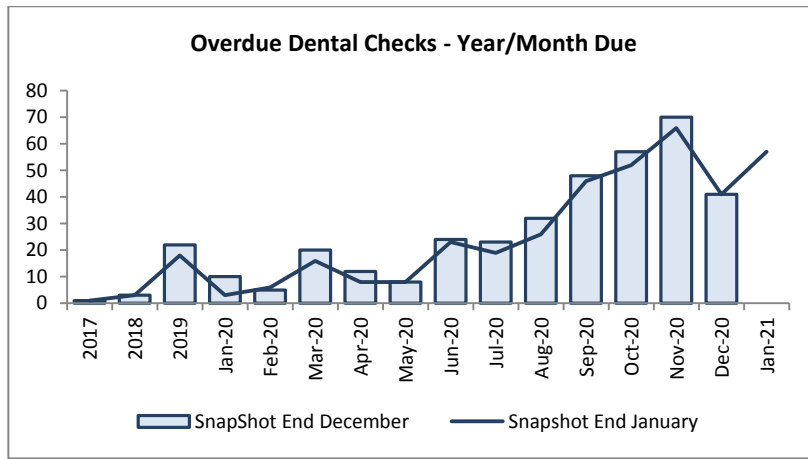
Entered and left care in-month before an IHA could take place	0	n/a
Received an IHA in timescale	12	60%
IHA requested, no appointment recorded	4	20%
No appointment request recorded	2	10%
IHA appointment planned within timescale	1	5%
IHA appointment planned out of timescale	1	5%
Received an IHA out of timescale	0	0%

60 children in care received an RHA in January. For 31 children, their RHA took place in timescales (52%).

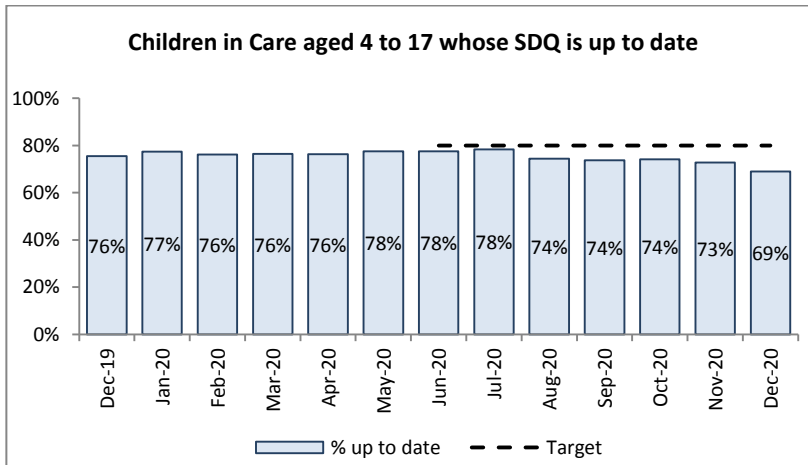


The proportion of children in care aged 2 or older with an up to date dental assessment continued to follow a declining trend, (45%). Performance is below target (85%).

There are 393 children whose dental check is overdue (52%).

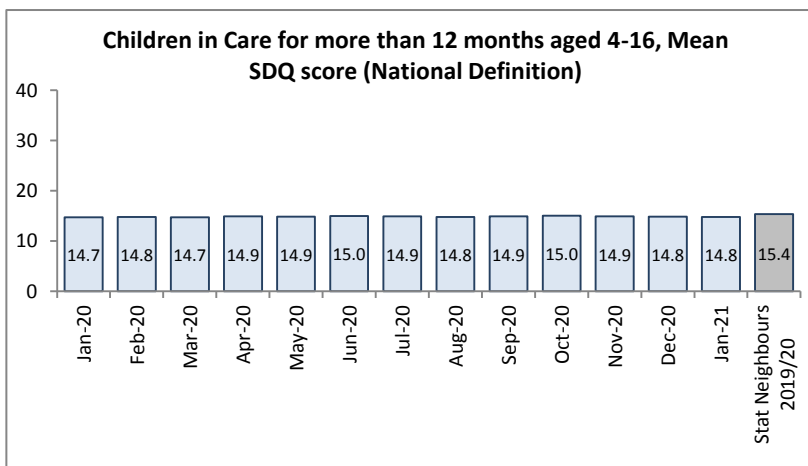


While dental check timeliness declined owing to more dental checks becoming overdue in January than had been completed, some dental checks are taking place. There has been a small reduction of 41 children overdue a dental check since last month. This may be due in part to children leaving care (22) but would not account fully for this reduction.

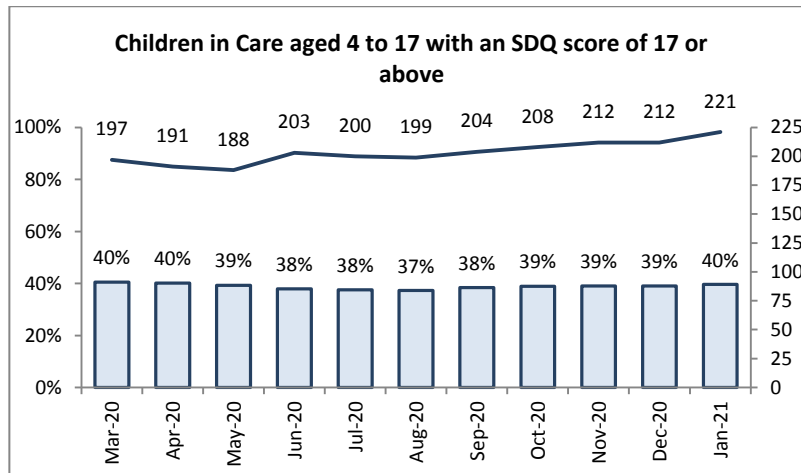


Just over two-thirds of children in care aged 4-17 had an up to date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) or were awaiting their first SDQ (69%, 457 of 663 children). This is a continues a declining trend in performance, from 78% in July and is below target (80%).

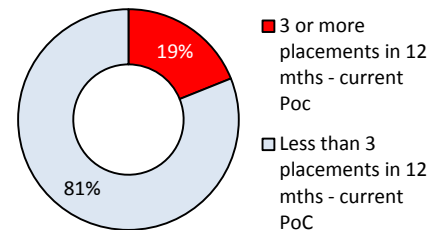
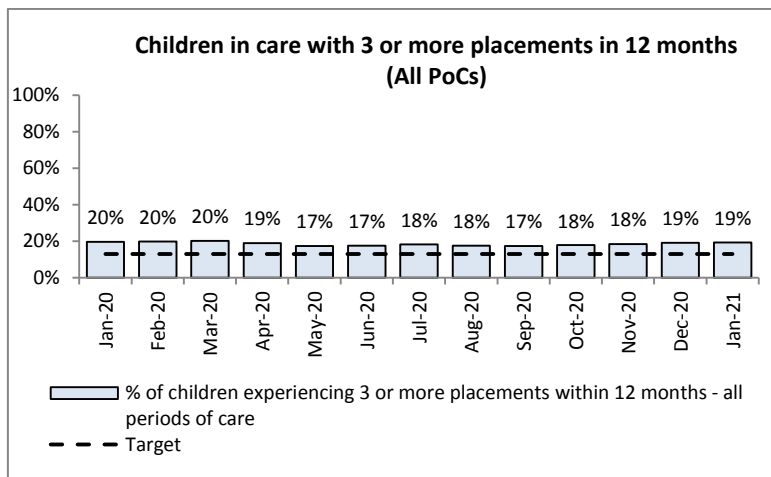
We do not have timely sight of the emotional health of just under a third of our children in care aged 4 to 17 (206 children, 31%).



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 (14.8 compared with 15.4, Mar-20).

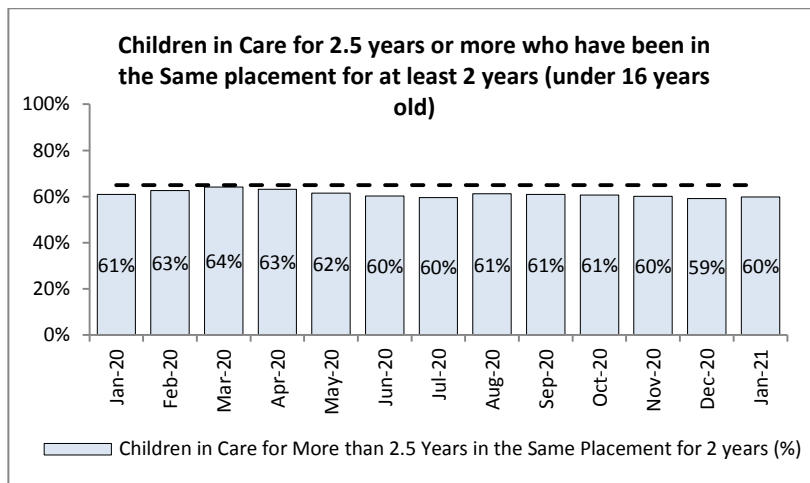


Two-fifths of our children in care aged 4-17 have an SDQ score of 17 or above following their latest SDQ, indicating that their emotional well being is a cause for concern (40%, 221 children). This represents a growing number of children due to the increase in children in care overall.

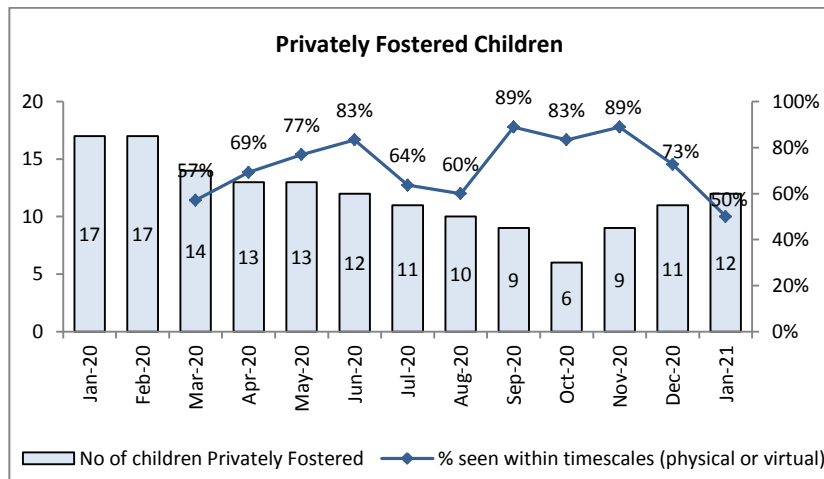


19% of children in care have had 3 or more placements in the last 12 months across all periods of care (152 children). Short-term instability is worse than target (13%) and almost double that of our peer group comparators (11.0%, Mar-20). This is an **Accelerated Improvement plan** measure.

19% of children in care have had 3 or more placements within the last 12 months during their current period of care (149 children).



The number of children in care experiencing long-term placement stability remained similar to previous months (128 children, 60%). This is below target (65%) and our peer group (68%, Mar-19). This is an **Accelerated Improvement plan** measure.



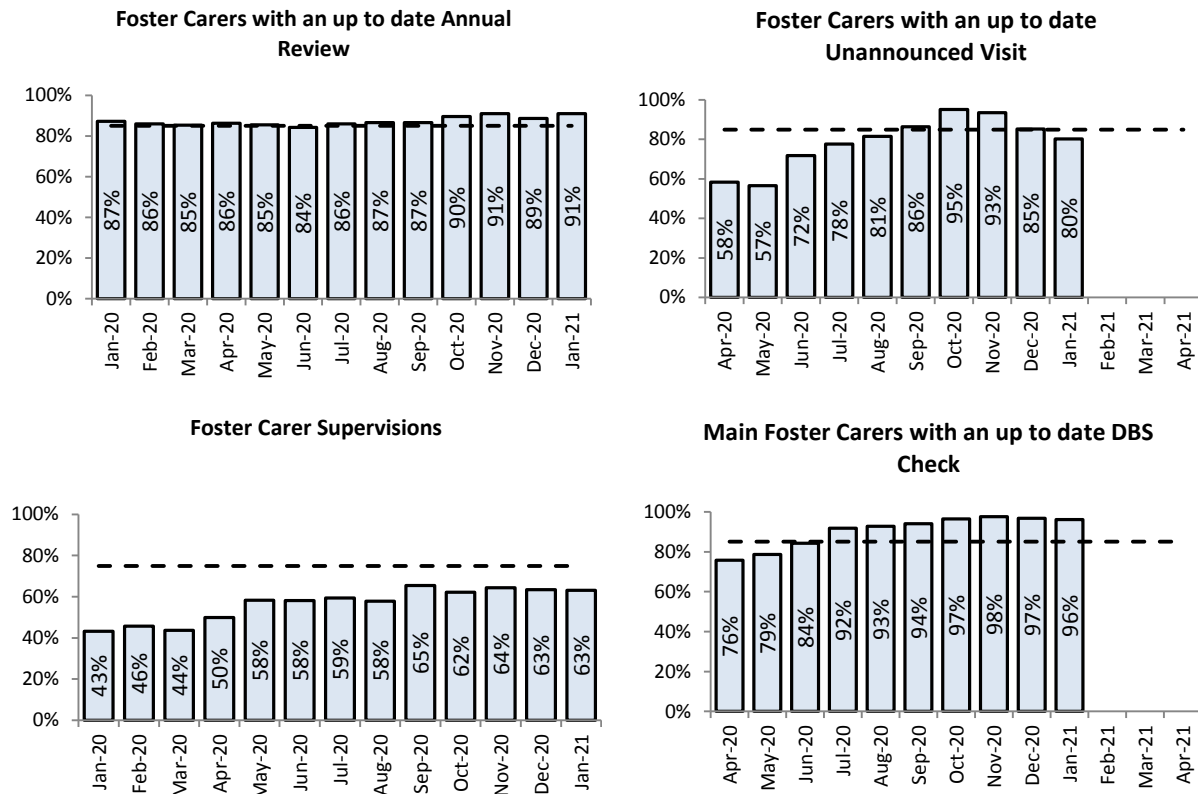
The number of Private Fostering arrangements increased slightly for the third month but remains low (12 children).

6 children received a Statutory Visit within timescales in January (50%). Two children who did not receive a Statutory Visit in timescale were seen virtually within timescales.

Four children, whose Private Fostering arrangement started in January, had not been seen and were overdue an initial visit.

Foster Carers

There remain some data quality issues that need to be resolved i.e. Foster Carers with no allocated team.

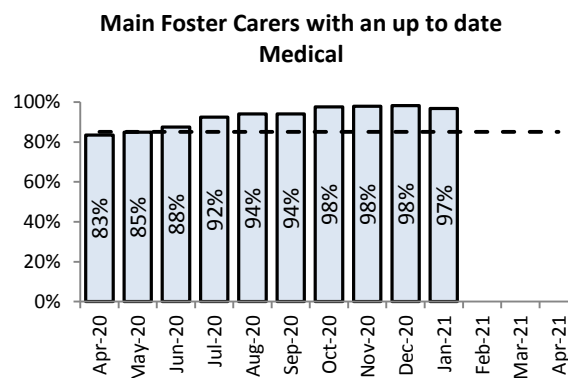


A high proportion of Foster Carers have an up-to-date Annual Review (91%) and have an up-to-date DBS check (96%). Performance is above target (85%) in these areas.

The proportion of Foster Carers who have had an up-to-date unannounced visit has declined for a third month from 95% to 80% and is below target.

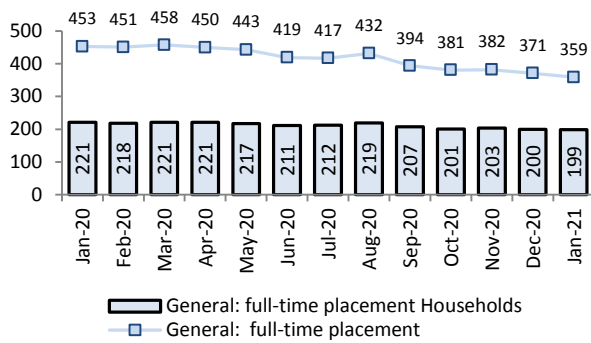
Performance of Foster Carer supervisions has remained relatively static over the last five months, although this is a much better position compared to 12 months ago. Just over three-fifths of Foster Carers received a supervision in January (63%) against a target of 75%.

81% of Foster Carers had received a supervision within the last 2 months; this is also below target (90%).

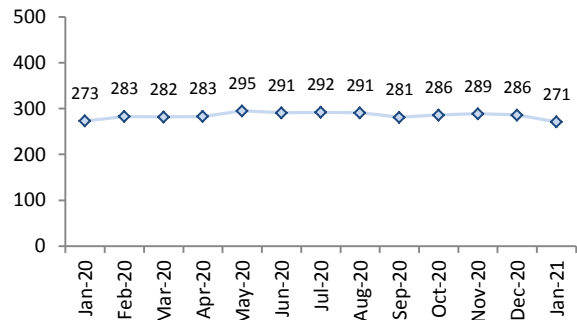


The vast majority of main Foster Carers also had an up-to-date medical at the end of January (97%); performance is above target (85%).

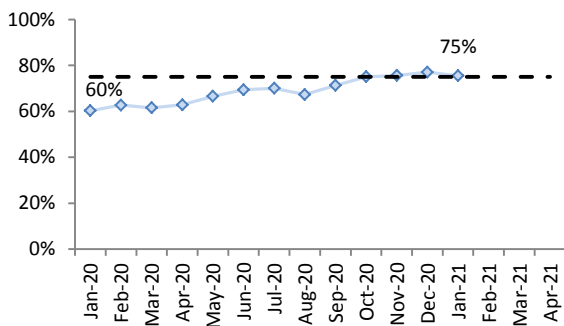
Approved Households and Placements - General Full-Time



Children in Placements: General in-house - Full Time



Capacity - General In-house Foster Placements



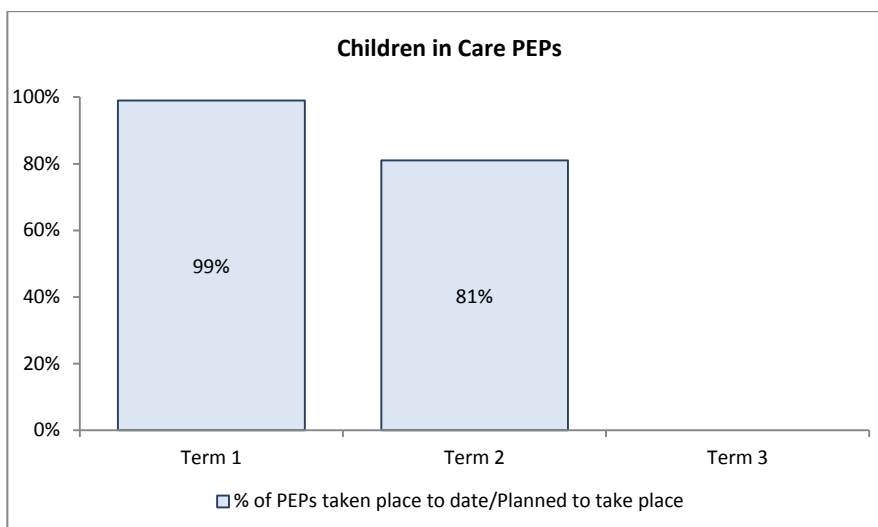
There were 199 households approved for general full-time foster care at the end of January with the capacity to offer placements to 359 children.

There were 271 children living in these placements, equating to three-quarters of in-house foster placement capacity being utilised (75%). Performance is meeting target.

Utilisation of in-house foster capacity has followed a broadly improving trend, rising from 60% in January 2020. However, the number of approved Fostering households and associated placements has reduced throughout the last 12 months, (some of which will be as a result of the data cleansing that has taken place).

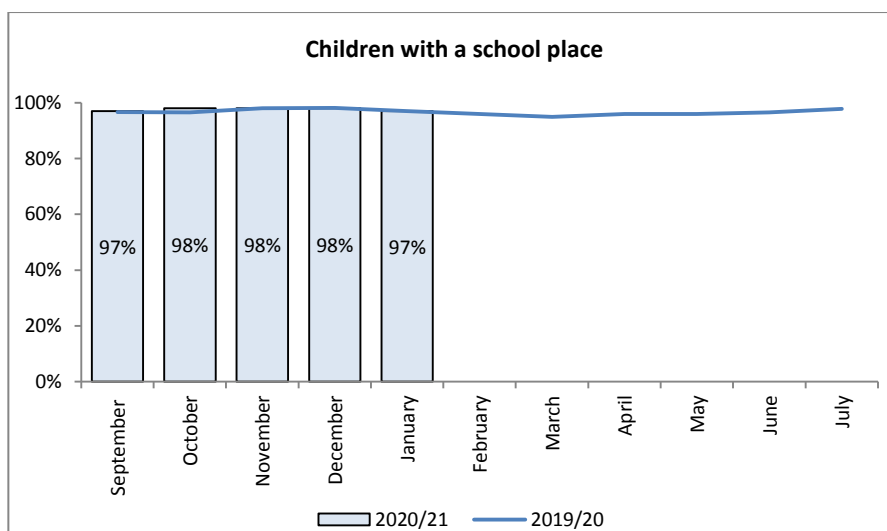
Note: The current data doesn't take into consideration Foster Carers who are taking a break or unable to accommodate children and the reasons for this. A solution is currently being implemented on the case management system which will give a much better understanding of capacity, as well as of the foster carers who can't currently accommodate children and the reasons

Education – Children in Care



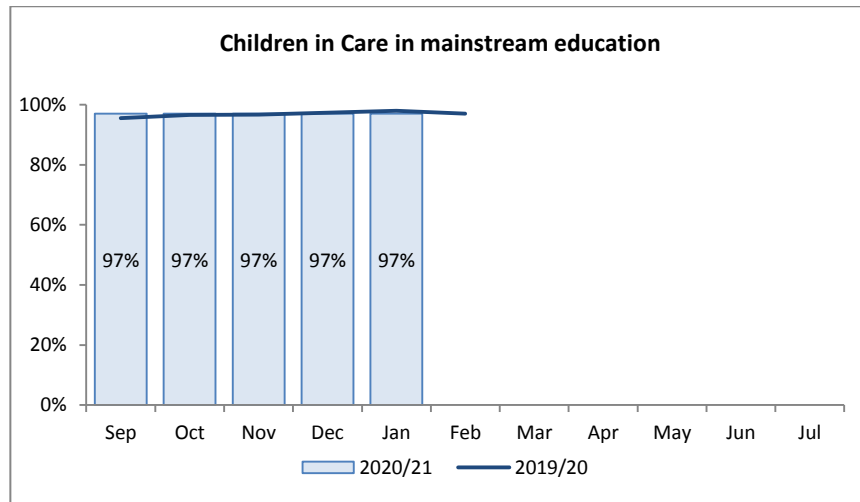
At the end of January, PEP meetings had **taken place or were planned** for 81% of Early Years, Reception to Year 11 and Post 16 children in care (513 of 637 children) in Term 2.

	Term 1		Term 2	
	Number	%	Number	%
Early Years	33 of 34 children	97%	27 of 37 children	73%
Reception to Year 11	461 of 466 children	99%	375 of 469 children	80%
Post 16	139 of 142 children	98%	111 of 131 children	85%



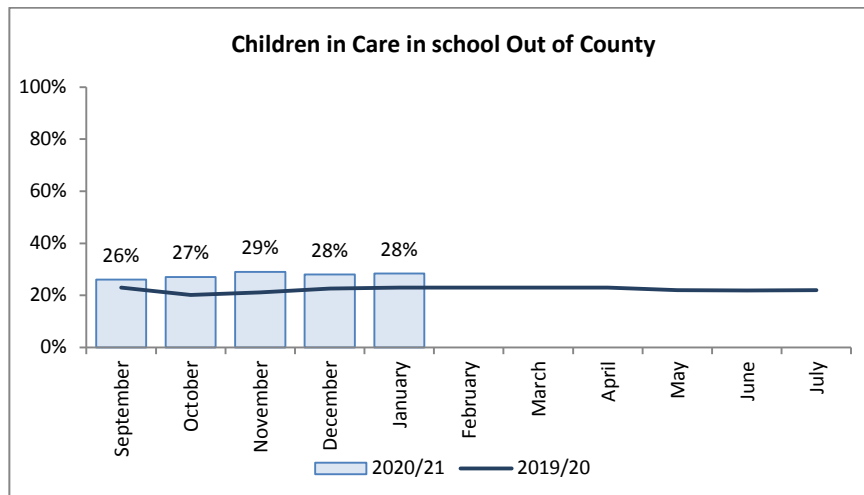
The majority of school aged children in care had a school place at the end of January (97%, 462 of 474 children).

There are 12 children who did not have a school place. 11 of these children had been without a school place for more than 20 days. For 8 of the 12 children an education programme is in place.

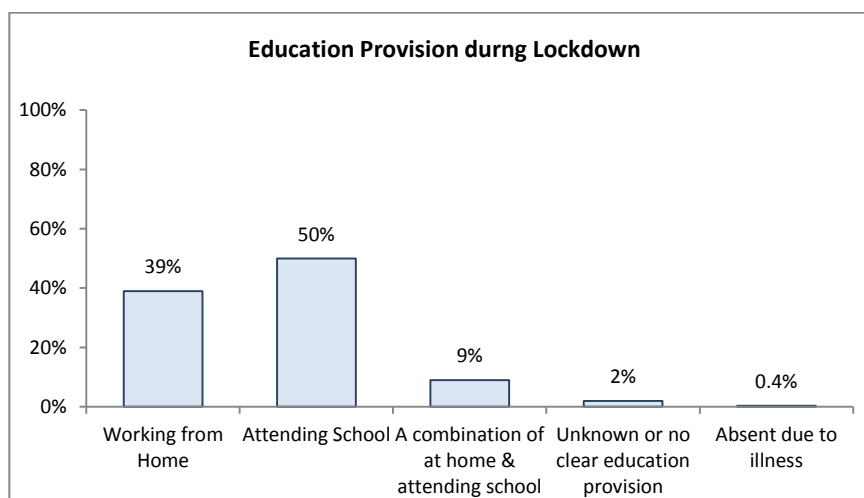


The majority of school age children in care with a school place were attending mainstream provision at the end of January (97%, 447 children).

15 children were attending alternative provision.

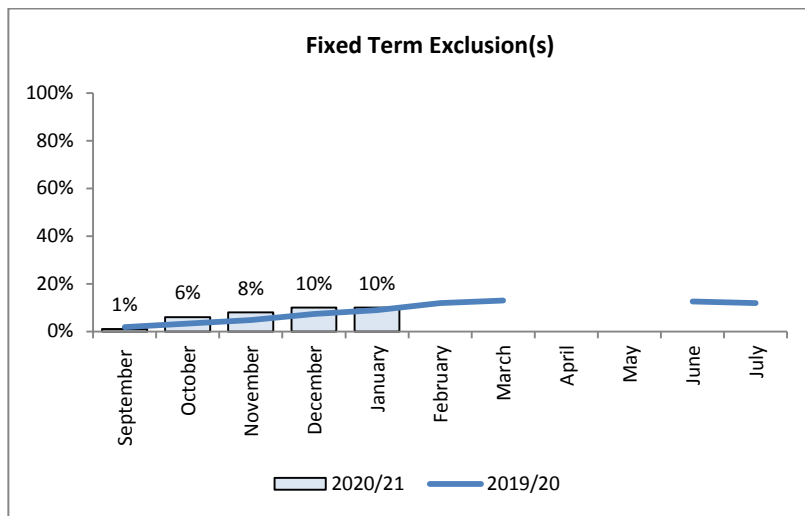


There were 131 students receiving education out of County in January (28%). This has been consistently higher during the 2020/21 Academic year than during the previous one.



During a national lockdown the priority is for all children to continue to have access to Education. At the end of January the majority of children in care continued to have access to education.

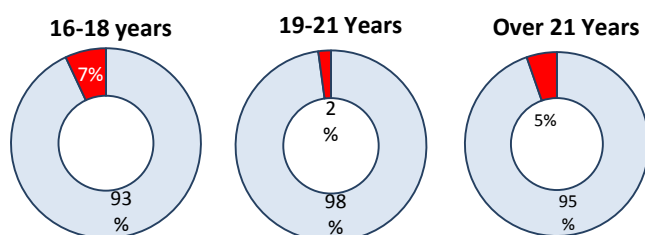
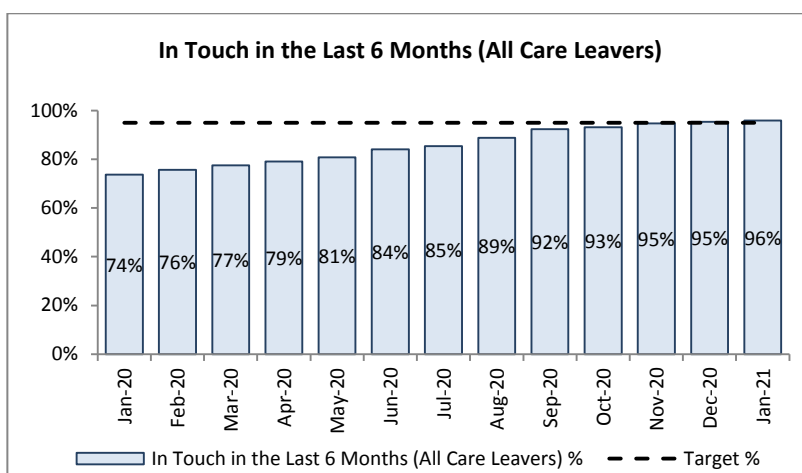
Half of school age children in care (50%, 238 children) continued to attend school, while two-fifths of children were learning remotely from home (42%, 184 children).



At the end of January, 10% of school aged children in care had been fixed term excluded (49 children).

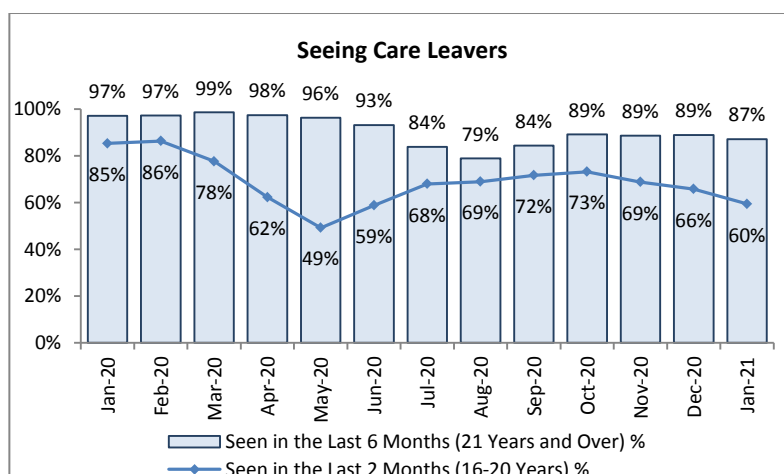
A total of 226 school days have been lost up until the end of January, this is more than the days lost during the same period in the 2019/20 Academic year (158 days).

Care Leavers



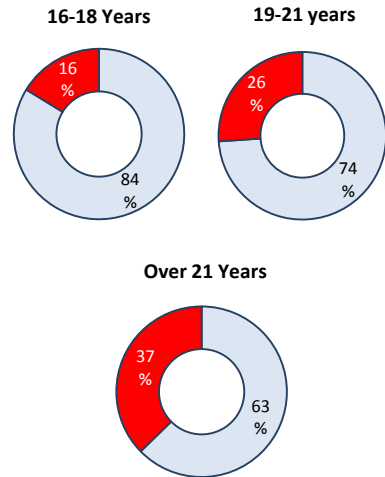
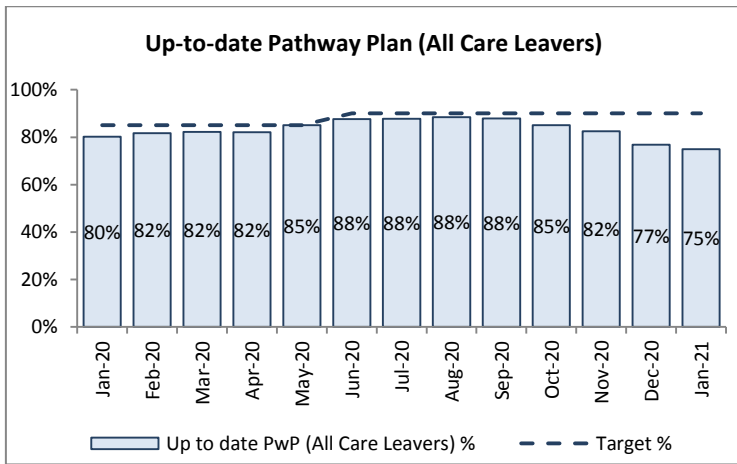
Overall, we have been in touch with 96% of our Care Leavers (420 of 438 Care Leavers); this is above target (95%) and above our peer group (88% Mar-20).

Contact with our younger Care Leavers continued to improve and is now within tolerance of target (93%, 120 out of 129 care leavers).



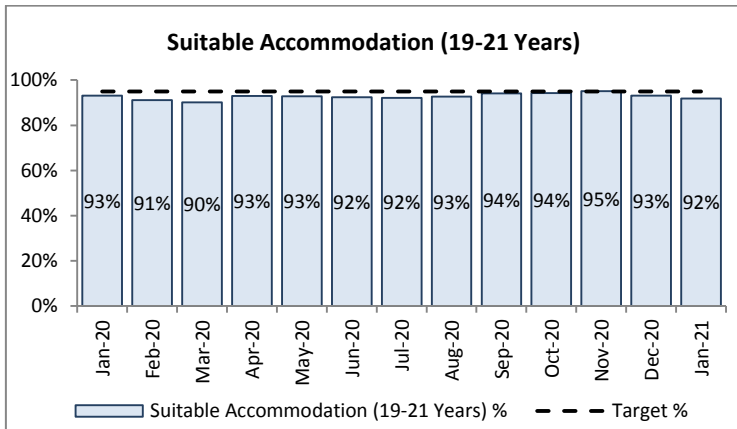
The proportion of Care Leavers aged 16-20 years seen within the last 2 months continued to decline in January (60%, from 73% in October, 191 of 321 Care Leavers).

Timeliness of seeing our older Care Leavers (aged over 21) remained similar for the fourth month and is lower than performance achieved in the first half of 2020 (87%, 102 of 117 Care Leavers).

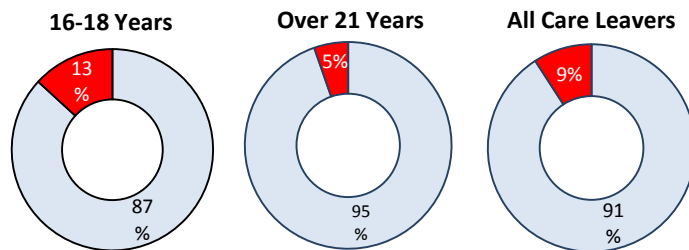


Pathway planning for our Care Leavers continued to decline in January (75%, from 88% in September, 328 of 438 Care Leavers). This is an **Accelerated Improvement plan** measure. Performance is below target (90%).

There are 110 Care Leavers who do not have a Pathway Plan or whose plan is overdue review.



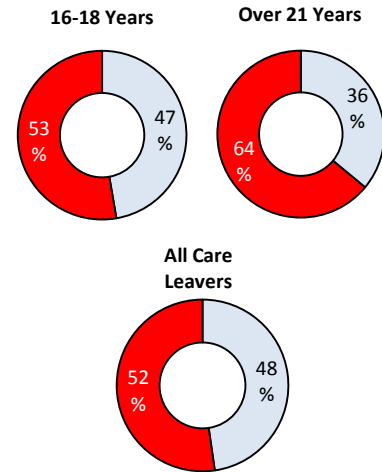
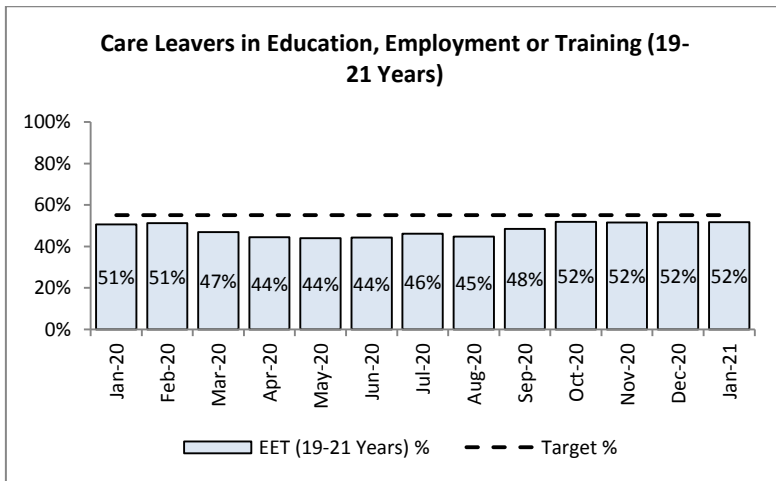
Peer Group (Mar-20)
19-21 Year Olds: 80.7% ★



Overall, 91% of Care Leavers were living in suitable accommodation at the end of January. Performance for older Care Leavers, (19-21 years and over 21 years) remains below but within tolerance of the target (95%).

While performance is improving, living arrangements for our younger Care Leavers are not as good, with 87% living in suitable accommodation; this remains below target (95%).

Overall there were 40 young people who were classified as living in unsuitable accommodation or where accommodation suitability had not been recorded.

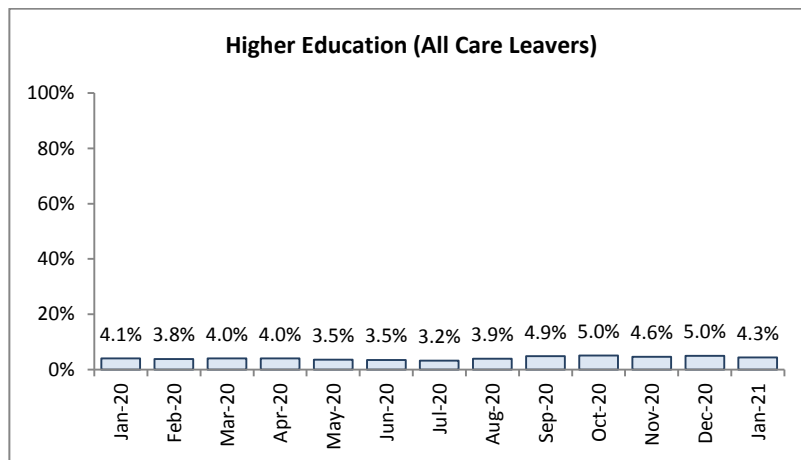


Just under half of our Care Leavers are in employment, education or training (48%); performance is below target (55%).

229 of our Care Leavers are not in employment, education or training or do not have their employment, education or training situation recorded.

52% of our 19-21 year old Care Leavers are in employment, education or training; this is below target (55%). However, performance is better than our peer group (49.8%, Mar-20). This is an **Accelerated Improvement plan** measure.

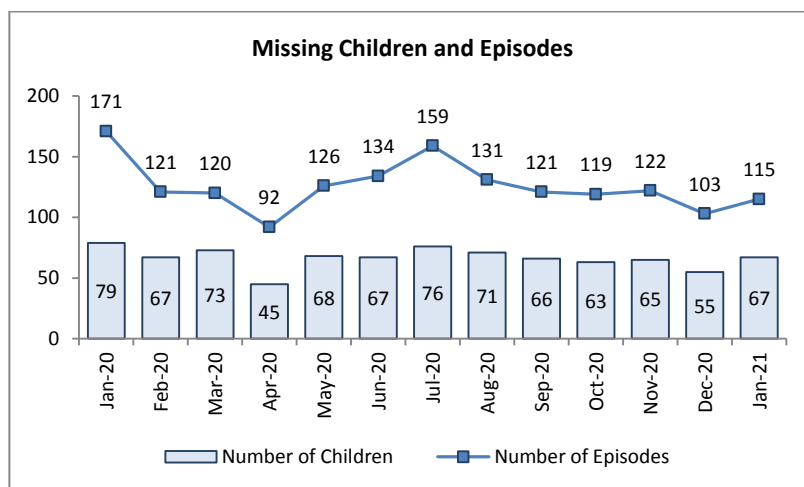
The proportion of our older Care Leavers in employment, education or training declined from 47% in December to 36% in January and is significantly below target.



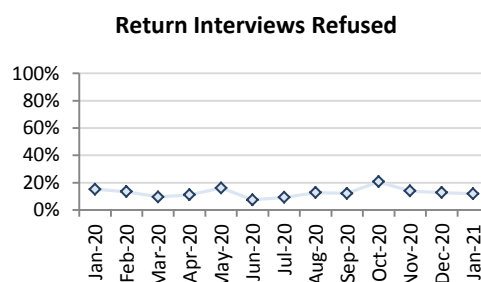
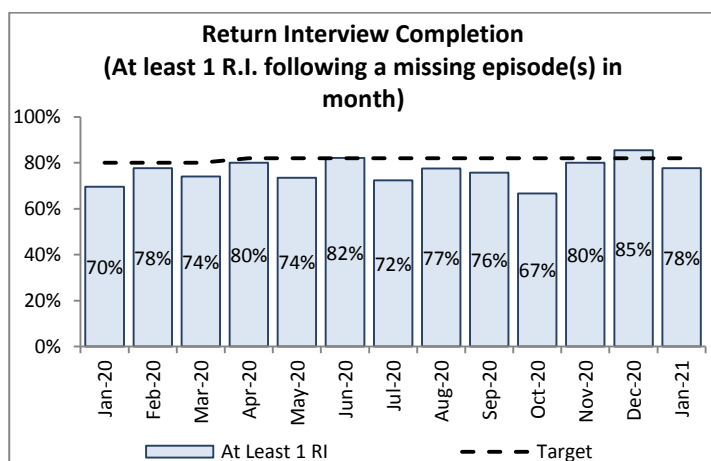
Care Leavers progressing to full-time higher education reduced in January, (4.3%, 19 young people). This is just below our peer group (4.4%, Mar-20) and below the national level (6.0%) but remains higher than the South West (4.0%).

Missing Children and Child Exploitation

Missing Children



There were 115 missing episodes for 67 children in January. This is a relatively steady picture over the last 6 months and lower than the same time last year.

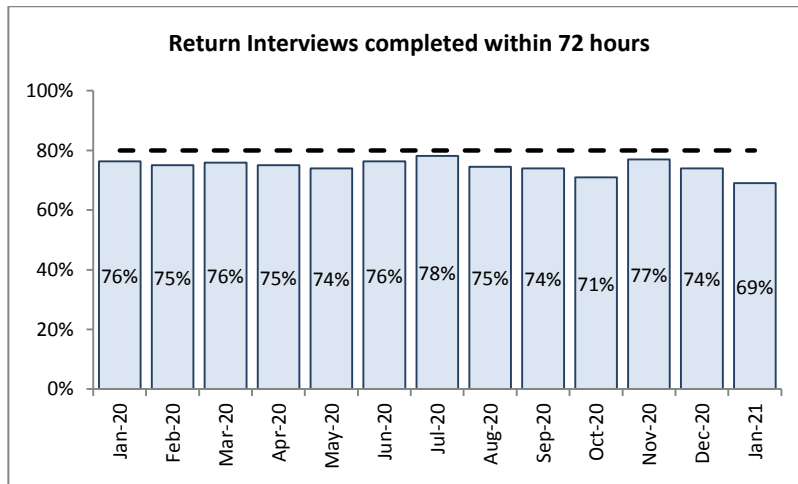


We spoke with 52 children who went missing in January (of 67 children, 77.6%); this is below target (82%).

Overall performance was impacted by Gloucester and Tewkesbury Localities and Gloucester North 11+ teams where return interview completion was below target.

12% of children who went missing in January refused to speak to a Social Worker following their missing episode (8 children).

43 of the 52 children who had had at least one return interview, had been spoken with following their most recent episode of missing (83%).

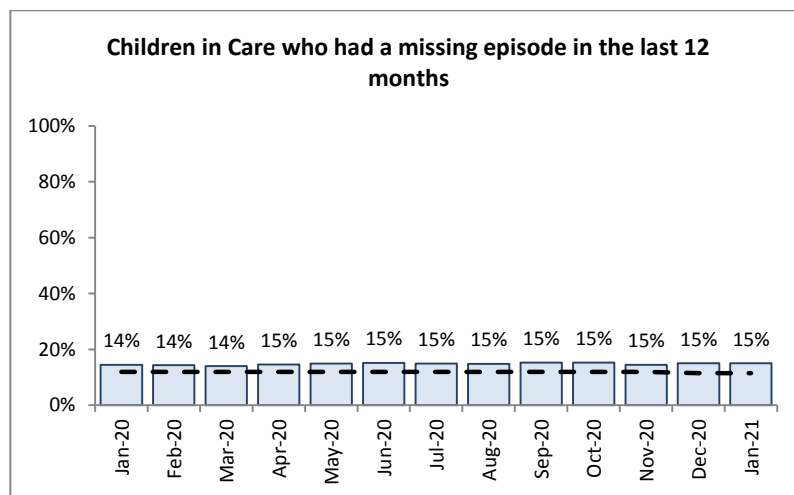


Conversations with 36 of the 52 children who have been spoken to following a missing episode were timely (69%); this is below target (80%).

	Number of Children	Number of Episodes
Total	67	115
Children in Care	30, 45%	61, 53%
Under 12's missing more than 4 hours	0	0
Missing overnight for more than 8 hours	30, 45%	46, 40%

In January, just under half of children who had a missing episode went missing overnight for more than 8 hours (30 children, 45%).

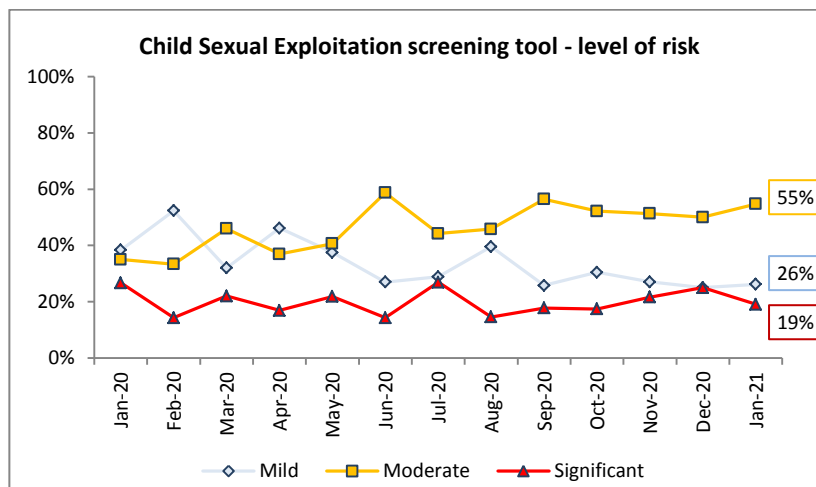
Just under half of the children who went missing in January were children in care (30 children, 45%). 18 of these young people were missing overnight for more than 8 hours.



15% of our children in care at the end of January have had a missing episode in the last 12 months (115 children). This is worse than target (11.9%).

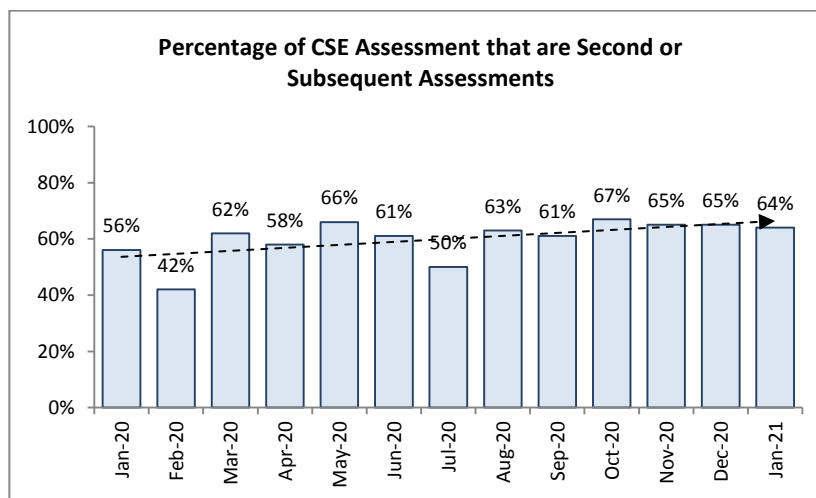
Child Exploitation

Note: This section currently relates to CSE. Work is underway to implement a new area in the Case Management System which will enable increased data capture which will support reporting on CE in line with the national approach.



There were 42 children for whom a Child Sexual Exploitation screening tool was completed in January more than double the assessments completed in December. Just under three-quarters of these children were assessed as being at moderate or significant risk (74%, 31).

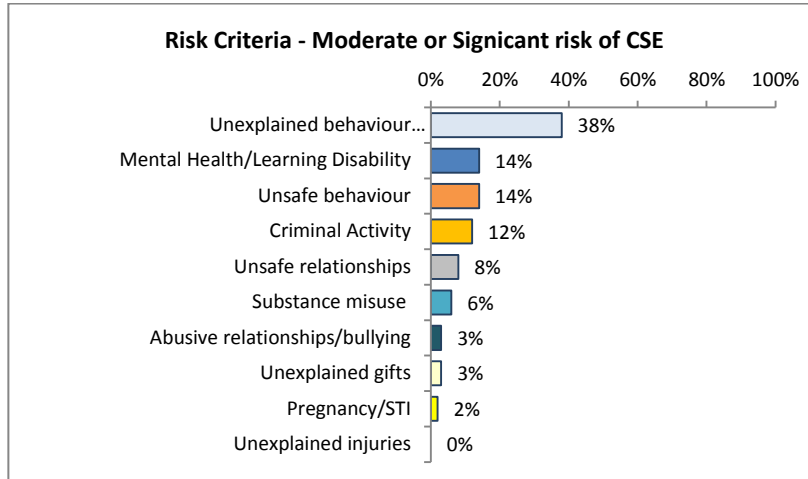
Risk ratings have increased over the last 12 months with assessments resulting in a Moderate risk rating have followed an upward trend, while the proportion of assessments rated as Mild risk have reduced.



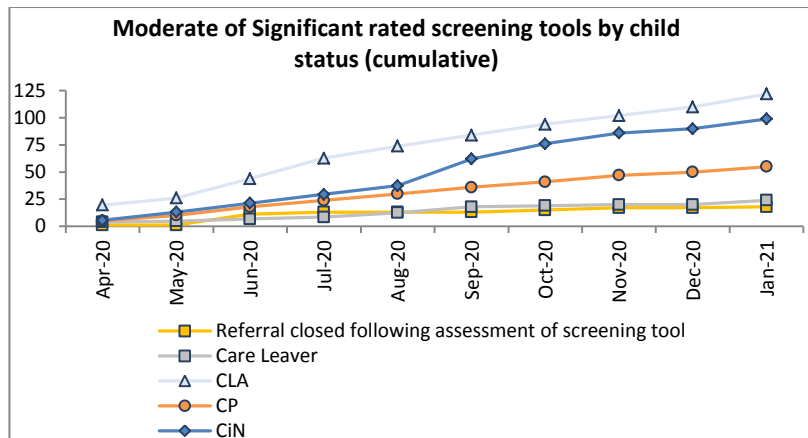
Just under two thirds of the children who were assessed as at risk of CSE in January, had been assessed before (27 children, 64%). 22 of these children remained rated at moderate or significant risk of CSE.

We are undertaking an increasing proportion of repeat assessments and following which, the majority of children which continue to be rated as at Moderate or Significant risk. This raises questions about the impact of work to support the reduction of risk and protection in place for these children.

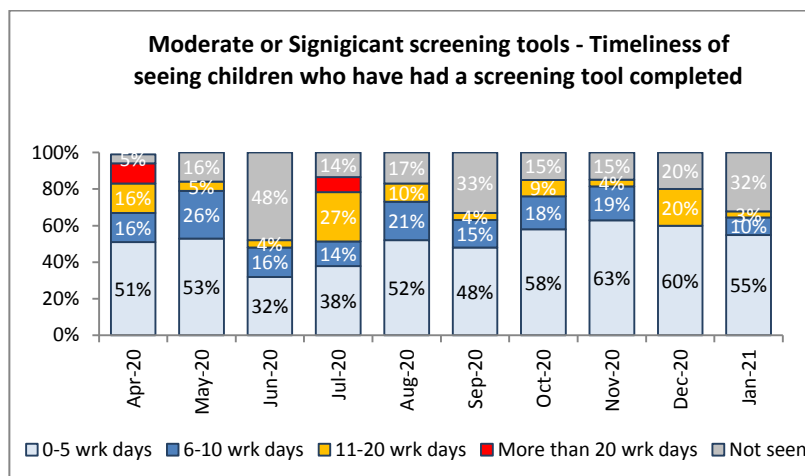
Screening tools – Moderate or Significant risk



Of the 31 children for whom a screening tool was completed in January rated at Moderate or Significant risk, the most commonly identified risk criteria was Unexplained Behaviour Changes/Absences/Family Breakdown (38%).



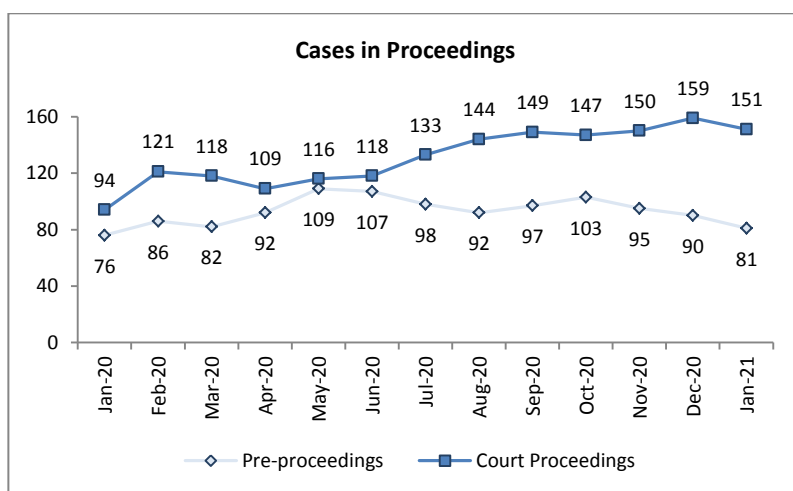
In 2020/21, Almost two-fifths of screening tools rated moderate or significant have been for children in care (38% FYtD, 122 children) while just under a third were for Children in Need (31% FYtD, 99 children).



Timeliness of seeing children rated at Moderate or Significant risk declined in January, with 55% of children being seen between 0-5 working days following screening tool (down from 63% in November) and one-third of children having not been seen at the time of reporting (32%).

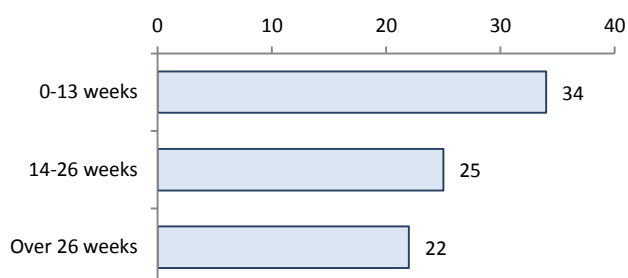
Legal Proceedings

Note: Data used for reporting in January has been taken from records held by Legal Services as the case management system has not been populated and is therefore not reflective of current activity. Data reported in January may not therefore be comparable to previous trend data.



The number of cases being undertaken remains high (232 cases). There were 81 cases in pre-proceedings at the end of January, equating to 35% of proceedings overall; these related to 121 children. 151 cases (equating to 65% of proceedings), for 255 children were in court proceedings at the end of January.

Duration of ongoing pre-proceedings

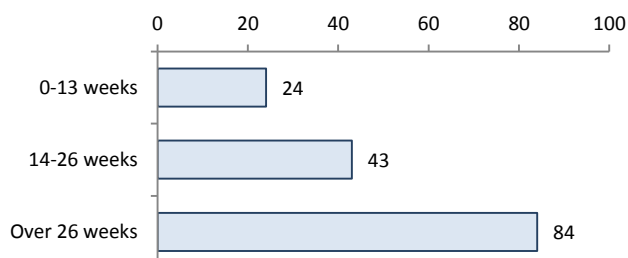


Pre-proceedings cases open longer than 26 weeks

Gloucester	8
FoD	5
Cheltenham	3
Tewkesbury	2
Stroud	2
Cotswolds	2
Other	0

Just over a quarter of pre-proceedings cases are overdue (27%, 22 cases; 33 children). The longest case has been ongoing for 85 weeks.

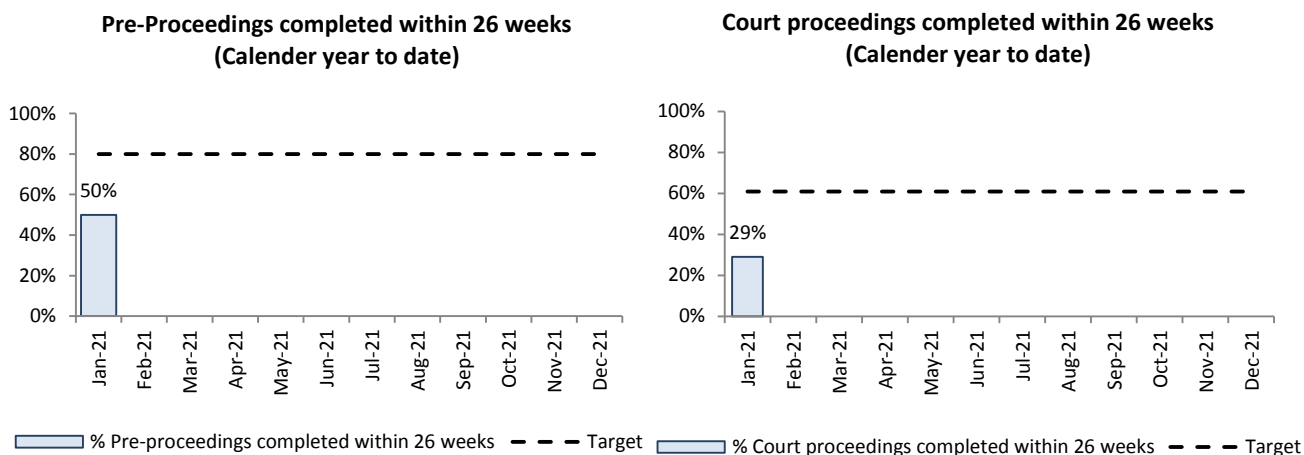
Duration of ongoing court proceedings



Court cases open longer than 26 weeks

Gloucester	25
Cheltenham	21
Stroud	15
Tewkesbury	9
FoD	7
Cotswolds	5
Other	2

More than half of court cases were overdue at the end of January (56%, 84 cases, 157 children). Timeliness of court proceedings is being impacted by delays arising as a result of the COVID pandemic. Some hearings have been heard virtually but some require in-person hearings and there is a backlog of these cases in the courts.



In January, half of pre-proceedings (50%, 4 cases; 5 children) and just under one-third of court proceedings (29%, 4 cases; 4 children) were completed within timescales. This is significantly below target.

As with ongoing court proceedings, timeliness of completion of proceedings is being impacted by COVID restrictions.

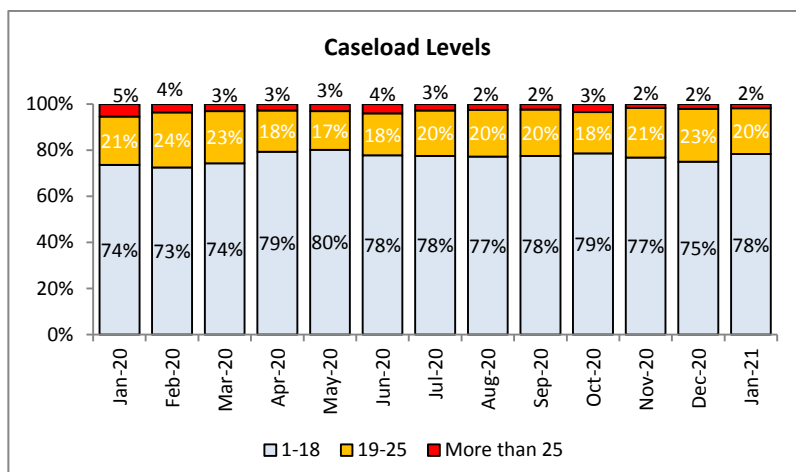
Legal Planning Meetings

There were 26 legal planning meetings held in January.

Caseload

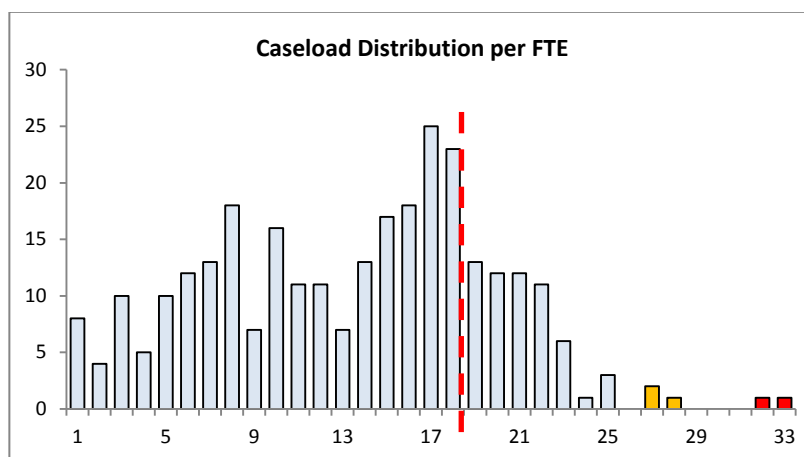
We aim for each Solicitor to have a caseload of 12 cases or fewer. The average caseload per Solicitor at the end of January was 10 cases.

Workforce



Children’s Services remains committed to achieving a caseload level for Social Workers of 18 children or fewer per fte. In January, 78% of workers were responsible for 18 children or fewer per fte (228 workers); this is below target (95%) but has increased this month from 75% in December.

Just over one-third of teams have workers who all hold a caseload of 18 children or fewer (34%, 16 teams).



22% of workers have higher caseloads (63 workers). However, the greater majority of workers continue to hold 22 children or fewer per fte (95%).

The proportion of workers holding more than 25 children remains similar to last month (2%, 5 workers); this is worse than target (0%).

At the end of January, there were two workers holding the equivalent of more than 30 children per fte, these were with part-time workers in Cotswolds Assessment Team (32 children fte) and Gloucester Safeguarding Team 5 (33 children fte).

Inactivity for Children

Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21
98.0%	99.6%	99.7%	99.6%	99.9%	99.8%	99.3%	99.0%	99.6%	99.8%	99.2%	99.2%	99.5%

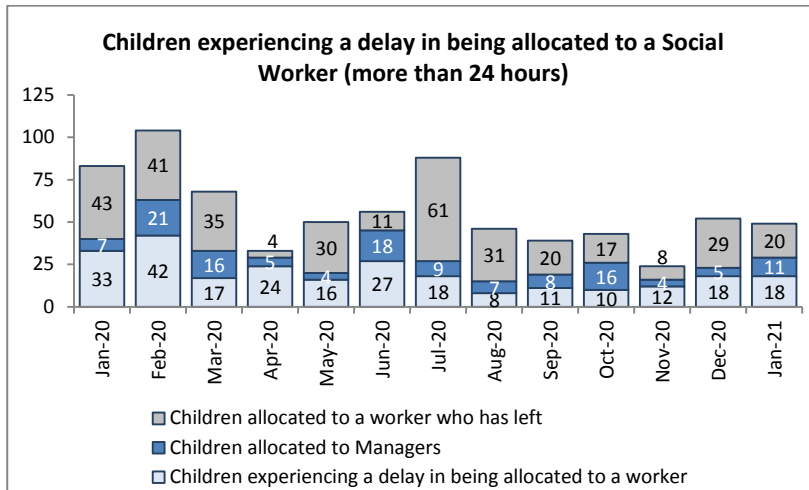
There is activity within relevant timescales for the vast majority of children (99.5%, 3760); performance is within tolerance of target (100%).

There were 19 children for whom there had been no activity within relevant timescales at the end of January; 11 of these children were held by 11-25 teams, 1 held by DCYPS, and the remaining 7 held by Safeguarding teams.

Allocating a Social Worker

Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21
99.1%	98.5%	99.2%	99.2%	99.5%	98.9%	99.3%	99.6%	99.7%	99.3%	99.6%	99.4%	99.2%

The overwhelming majority of children have an allocated Social Worker, with performance levels remaining consistently high (99.2%).



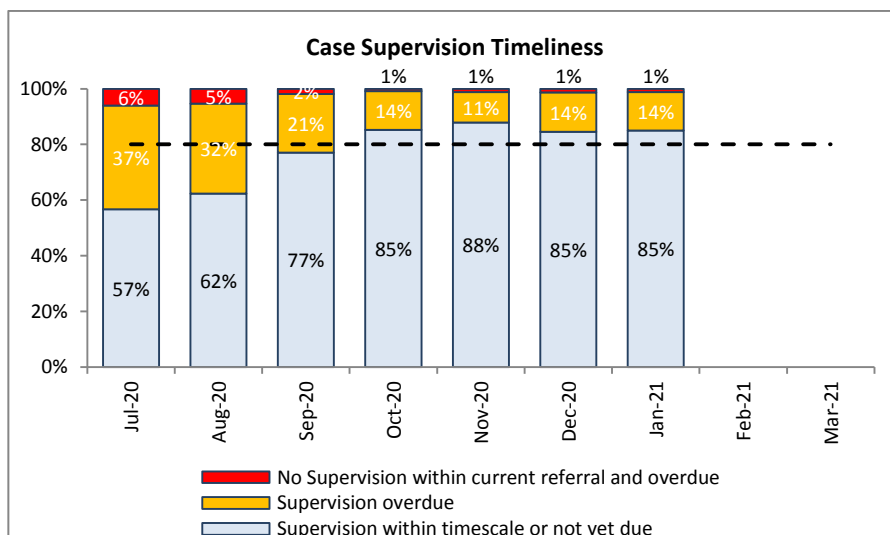
1 child has been allocated to a Manager for more than 2 weeks

There was 1 child who has not had an allocated worker for more than two weeks

At the end of January, 29 children were experiencing a delay in being allocated to a Social Worker. For a small number of children (2) the delay in allocation had exceeded two weeks.

In addition, 20 children continued to be allocated to workers that had left during January, this increases the total number of children without an allocated worker to 49.

Case Supervision



At the end of January, 3,196 children had a case supervision recorded within the timescale appropriate to their status, or were not yet due a supervision (85%). Performance remained the same as December and is above target (80%). This is an **Accelerated Improvement Plan** measure.

A supervision was overdue for 517 children in January (14%). While 45 children do not have a case supervision recorded during their current referral and an initial supervision is overdue (1%).

- 20 of these children were held in Gloucester Assessment Team 1
- 5 children in this group were referred in November
- 1 child held by the Forest of Dean Safeguarding Team 1 was referred in October

Almost two-thirds of teams are performing above target (28 of 43 teams, 65%). 9 teams had undertaken a timely supervision for all of the children held (100%).

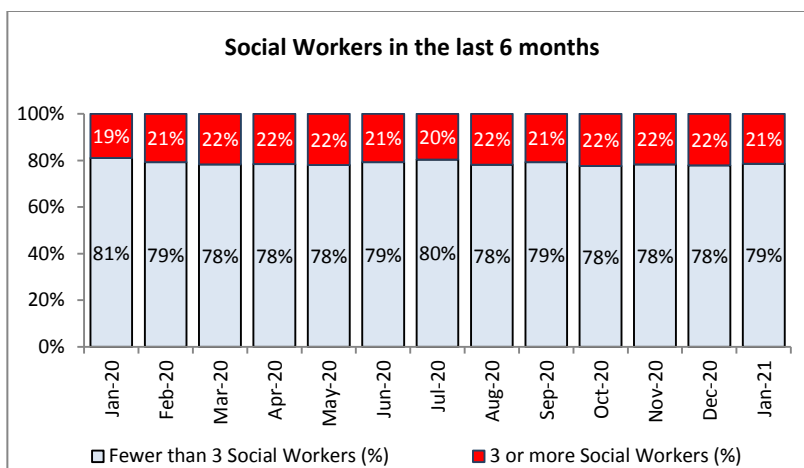
Mind of My Own

Children open to Social Care using the Mind of My Own app

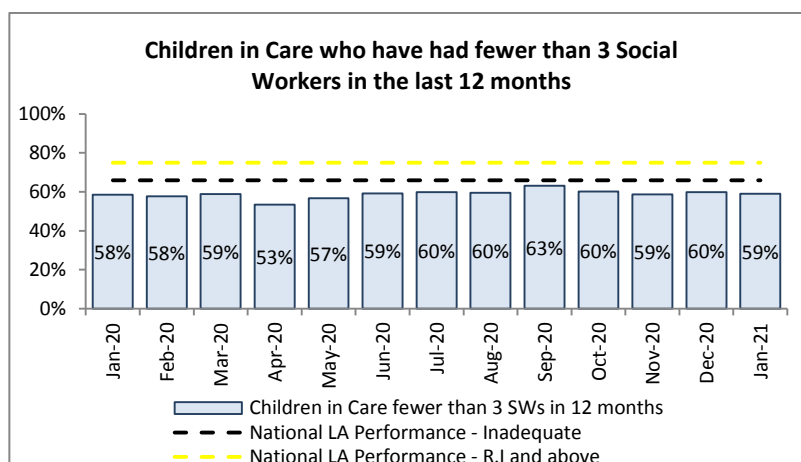
Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21
0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	1.6%	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%

The number of children using the Mind of My Own app and the number of statements received from children increased in January, 18 young people with 18 statements received.

Social Worker Stability



79% of children had fewer than 3 Social Workers allocated in the last 6 months. Performance has remained broadly the same over the last 12 months.



Two-fifths of our children in care have had stability of Social Worker (fewer than 3 Social Workers in the last 12 months). This is lower than other LAs which have been rated as inadequate by Ofsted where around 2 in 3 children have fewer than 3 Social Workers in a 12 month period and LAs rated R.I. and above where 3 in 4 children have fewer than 3 Social Workers.