

REPORT TITLE	Children's Services Performance Report
DATE OF MEETING	6th July 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 May 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> <p>Note: Stretch targets were implemented in April. Some measures that were previously meeting target are currently within tolerance or below target due to this continued increase in the standards that we set for the children of Gloucestershire.</p>
REPORTING PERIOD	The data provided in this report represents a mature cut of performance data for May 2021 .
OVERVIEW	<p>While there are many positive areas of performance, the overall picture continues to evidence some variability and instability across the system. This results in a lack of assurance for children around the consistency of service they will receive.</p> <p>In May, our performance in terms of response to risk was largely one of decline with the majority of measures falling below target and moving in a negative direction. In particular need of improvement are the pace of initial visits (and most critically those to children progressing under Section 47), timeliness of convening Strategy Discussions and of return interviews to children following a missing episode. The time taken to visit children at risk of CE or CSE following a screening assessment also needs significant improvement.</p> <p>While it isn't possible to definitively assess impact, ICT instability in May will have been a factor in performance of timeliness across acute measures in terms of decision making following contact and initial visiting. In particular, there were issues in accessing web reports which will have limited sight of children approaching deadlines for their initial visit.</p> <p>The MASH and Assessment teams worked closely to increase off-system communication to mitigate ICT issues and ensure that the focus was on child-centred activity. The Performance team also undertook a high level of manual work to ensure that this activity was reflected accurately in the reporting of timeliness of response to risk measures.</p> <p>Volumes of repeat work reduced across all areas of Social Care in May and were better than target in-month.</p>

Visiting children remains a strength and we continue to see or have contact with the overwhelming majority of children open to Social Care within timescales appropriate to their need and age. Seeing our younger care leavers continues to need improvement, as does our work to ensure that children are supported to give their views.

Performance around assessment, planning and review presents a mixed picture. Sustained focus is needed on improving the proportion of children in care and care leavers with a timely Pathway Plan which have been off target for a significant period. Timeliness of Single Assessment completion and the pace with which CiN plans are put in place and reviewed needs to increase to ensure a strong grip on our Child in Need work.

The direction of travel for all health and well-being related measures was a positive one in May, however the majority remain below target and therefore an area for sustained focus. Health and wellbeing for our children in care therefore remains a concern. Utilisation of available in-house foster placement capacity is good however placement capacity pressures across the system remain evident with more than a quarter of children accommodated out of County and short and long-term placement stability continuing to present challenges. Timeliness of pre and court proceedings to secure permanent arrangements for children is low against target and nationally.

The majority of measures relating to education for children in care and care leavers are worse than target and our peer group.

Management oversight of Social Workers and Foster Carers is positive for the majority of indicators. Supervisions for children and Foster Carers need to be timelier, as do unannounced visits to Foster Carers.

PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

RAG	Measure	Direction of Travel
Response to Risk		
	% of Initial contact decisions made within 24 hours	Declined
	% of end-to-end contact decisions made within 48 hours	Declined, off target for more than 12 months, 14% points below target
	% of decisions for Red rated contacts made within 4 hours	Declined
	% of Initial visits that were within timescale (All)	Declined
	% of Initial visits that were within 5 w.days of referral (S17)	Declined
	% of Initial visits that were within 2 w.days of contact (S47)	Declined more than 30% points
	% of Strategy Discussions that took place within 5 w.days	Declined, down 12% points since Jan-21, 23% points below target
	% of S47 enquiries that were completed within 15 w.days of start fo enquiry	Improved
	% of ICPCs that took place within 15 w.days of start fo S47 enquiry	Improved marginally
	% of children with a missing episode(s) who have had at least 1 return interview	Declined for the 2nd month down 20% points
	% of return interviews which took place with 72 hours of the missing episode	Improved, 20% points below target, off target for majority of 12 months
	% of children in care who have had a missing episode(s) in the last 12 months	Remained the same
Seeing Children		
	% of Children in Need seen within the last 20 w.days	Improved marginally
	% of children subject to a CPP seen within the last 10 w.days	Improved
	% of children in care with an up-to-date Statutory visit	Remained similar
	% of care leavers in touch with their Social Worker in the last 6 months	Improved marginally
	% of younger care leavers seen within the last 2 months (16-20 years)	Remained the same, 25% points below target
	% of older care leavers seen within the last 6 months (21 years and over)	Improved
Child's Voice		
	% of children subject to CPP aged 5 and over seen alone within the last 20 w.days	Improved 14% points since Jan-20, 10% points below target
	% of children subject to CPP aged 8 and over completing a My Views form for their conference	Stayed the same, 15% points below target
	% of children in care aged 5-15 participation in their review	Declined
	% of children in care with an IRO casenote recorded in the last 6 months	Remained similar
V. Low	% of children aged 5 years and over where their IRO has been in touch in the last 6 mths	Improved
V. Low	% of children aged 5-11 years seen by their IRO in the last 6 months	Declined

RAG	Measure	Direction of Travel
Assessment , Planning and Review		
	% of Single Assessments completed within 45 w.days	Improved marginally
	% of children in care with an up-to-date annual assessment	Improved marginally
	% of Children in Need with a plan in place within 10 w.days of assessment completion or step down	Declined, down 18% points, 43% points below target
	% of children in care aged 16 years and 3 months or over with an up-to-date Pathway plan	Improved marginally, off target for majority of 12 months
	% of care leavers with an up-to-date Pathway plan	Improved, 10% points below target and off target for 8 months
	% of Children in Need with an up-to-date review (snapshot, overall)	Declined marginally
	% of Children in Need whose Initial CiN Review completed in-month was timely	Increased, 12% points below target
	% of Children in Need whose subsequent CiN Review completed in-month was timely	Declined marginally
	% of children subject to a protection plan with an up-to-date review	Improved marginally
	% of children in care with an up-to-date review	100% for more than 12-months
	% of Children in Need on a plan for less than 12 months (excl CIN on short breaks)	Remained similar
	% of children subject to a CPP for more than 2 years	Stayed the same

Repeat Work

	Repeat referrals in-month (previous referral start within previous 12-mths of current referral start)	Decreased
	% of CP plans starting in month that are second/subsequent plans	Decreased
	% of children entering care who have been in care previously within the last 12 months	Decreased

Health and Wellbeing

	% children in care with an up-to-date health assessment (snapshot, overall)	Improved marginally, off target for 6 months
	% children in care with an up-to-date health assessment - (snapshot, 0-4 years)	Improved, off target for more than 12 months, 12% points below target
	% children in care with an up-to-date health assessment - (snapshot, 5 years+)	Improved marginally
	% of timely of IHAs - in-month	Improved
	% of timely of RHAs - in-month	Improved, off target for more than 12 months, 62% points below target
	% of children in care with and up-to-date dental check	Improved for 2nd month, up 20% points since March, 22% points below target
	% of children in care with an up-to-date SDQ	Remained similar

RAG

Measure

Direction of Travel

Stability and Permanence

	% of children in care Out-of-County more than 20 miles from home	Increased marginally
	% of children in care accommodated under S20	Remained similar, outlier compared to peer group
	Utilisation of available in-house Foster placement capacity	Improved
	% of children in care experiencing 3 or more placements in 12 months (All PoCs)	Decreased marginally
	% of children aged under 16 in care for at least 2.5 yrs who have been in the same placement for at least 2 yrs	Declined for 4th month
	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	Remained similar
	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation - (19-21 years)	Improved marginally
Good	% of children with fewer than 3 Social Workers in 6 months	Remained similar
V. Low	% of children in care with fewer than 3 Social Workers in 12 months	Remained similar
Low	% of pre-proceedings ongoing for more than 26 weeks	Improved
V.Low	% of court proceedings ongoing for more than 26 weeks	Declined
	% of pre-proceedings completed for more than 26 weeks	Remained similar, 23% points below target
	% of court proceedings completed for more than 26 weeks	Improved marginally, 26% points below target

Education - Children in Care/Care Leavers

	% of school aged children in care with an education placement	Remained the similar
	% of school aged children in care whose school place is out-of-County	Remained the similar
	% of school aged children in care fixed-term excluded	Remained the similar
	% of school aged children in care with good attendance (more than 90% of school days attended)	Declined, over 15% points below target
	% of school aged children in care experiencing a school move	Increased, worse than national level
	% of care leavers in education, employment or training	Remained similar, off target for more than 12 mths, 25% pts below target
	% of care leavers in education, employment or training - (19-21 years)	Declined marginally for 2nd month, off target for more than 12 months
	% of care leavers in Higher Education	Remained similar

RAG**Measure****Direction of Travel****Management Oversight**

	% of Foster Carers with an up-to-date annual review	Declined
	% of Foster Carers with an up-to-date DBS check (Main Carer)	Remained similar
	% of Foster Carers with an up-to-date medical check (Main Carer)	Remained similar
	% of Foster Carer who have had an unannounced visit within timescale	Remained similar
	% of Foster Carers with an up-to-date supervision	Declined, further work needed to better reflect performance in this area
	% of children open to Social Care who have an up-to-date case supervision	Improved marginally
	% of children who have had activity recorded on their case file in a timely way	Remained similar
	% of Social Workers with 18 or fewer Children	Declined, 22% points below target
	% of Social Workers with 25 or fewer Children	Declined marginally
	% of children allocated a worker within 2 weeks	Remained similar

KEY

	Above or within tolerance of target
	Below Target but not significantly so and/or not for a significant period
	Significantly below target and/or off target for a significant period
	White with text to indicate high/low: no target set

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Executive Summary

Contact Activity and Assessment

The Neglect toolkit is not being appropriately utilised by multi-agency partners at the contact stage. Of the 245 contacts relating to Neglect from professional referral sources, no neglect toolkits were completed in May (0%). This is an area that we have not impacted as yet and requires improvement through the MASH Board to support the level of vulnerability of these children being quickly understood and the right help put in place.

Response to initial risk in terms of initial and end-to-end decision making and decisions for Red rated contacts all declined in May and were either within tolerance of or worse than target.

The timeliness of initial visits to children overall also declined and was below target. The pace of our response for children identified as at potential risk (children progressing under Section 47) dropped from 96% to 64%.

Timeliness of completion of Single Assessments remains worse than target. Significant swings in performance at a locality level continue. Performance met target in only one locality in May. Half of assessments continue to conclude with no requirement for a Social Care service.

The number of ongoing assessments increased for the fourth month and is at the highest level since October 2020. that are overdue for children is at the highest in 12 months. The assessments for 29 children have been ongoing for more than 60 working days.

Early Help

A high proportion of contacts progressing to Early Help are repeat contact (77%), with a quarter of these received within 2 weeks of the previous contact and more than half of those were for the same reason as the previous contact.

There continue to be a high proportion of My Plan/+ open for more than 12 months, in particular, to education. These plans may need review.

Over one-quarter 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 is following an improving trend but remains low (22%). Under half of assessments were completed within timescale and only 31% of ongoing assessments are within timescale. Quality of recording assessment data is inconsistent across the Early Help services and is impacting on this performance measure.

A significant proportion of episodes for families receiving advice, guidance and support (23%) or targeted support (18%) continue to be closed due to non-engagement or withdrawal of consent.

Children in Need

Half of Children in Need starting a plan in May had a plan in place in a timely way. While this is a significant improvement over the last two months, performance has reverted to a similar level seen in previous months and is below target. Pace of plan development following step down is impacting performance and needs improvement.

We continue to see and work with the vast majority of our Children in Need regularly. However, there has been a further increase in the number of children not seen for 6 weeks or more (57 up from 31 in March).

The majority of Children in Need have had a timely review although performance is currently below the target as it was stretched in April. The Forest of Dean saw another significant drop in CiN review timeliness in May, with timeliness down 23% points in the last two months. Timeliness of reviews for children in Gloucester is low and remains static. Of the reviews completed in May that were overdue, the majority were for children awaiting an initial review.

Child Protection

Pace of strategy discussions declined for a third month and needs to significantly improve for performance to meet target and ensure a timely response to risk for children. The overwhelming majority of S47 Enquiries were timely, supporting the greater majority of initial child protection conferences to be completed with pace.

Neglect is cited as a factor in the current category of abuse in around 60% of cases for children subject to a protection plan. A Neglect Toolkit has been completed for a quarter of these children (27%). Use of the toolkit needs significant improvement.

The majority of children subject to a protection plan were seen in a timely way in May, although performance declined slightly for the second month. Improvement is needed to strengthen the voice of children subject to a protection plan in terms of both timeliness of seeing children aged 5 years and over alone and use of My Views form which are 10% points and 15% points below target respectively.

The vast majority of children subject to a protection plan had an up-to-date review.

Only a small proportion of children have been subject to a protection plan for more than two years and all but three of these are in proceedings.

Children in Care

A quarter of children in care are accommodated under a Section 20 arrangement. Performance is within tolerance of target but remains an outlier compared with the national average. Proceedings are underway for just under a quarter of these children in order to secure permanence arrangements.

The proportion of our children in our care are living in placements out of County is high and increasing (27%), with the majority of these children living more than 20 miles from home. Almost 95% of available 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 greater majority of our children in care had a timely statutory visit and assessment at the end of May. All reviews undertaken have been timely for more than 12 months and a high proportion of children aged 5-15 years old had their views represented at their review either by attending or via an Advocate, IRO or other media.

Pathway planning for children in care has been below target for a year and performance has been broadly static; this area needs improvement. Timeliness of developing initial pathway plans for children who are reaching the appropriate age or have come into care is impacting performance with 33 young people who have no Pathway Plan in place. There are no children in care with a Pathway Plan that is overdue review.

The overwhelming majority of children in care have evidence of the IROs footprint on their case notes in the last 6 months. However, both contact and visiting by IROs for children in care need to increase. Half of children in care aged 5 years and over have had contact with their IRO in the last 6 months. For 5-11 year olds, it is considered particularly important that contact with their IRO is face to face. One-fifth of children in this age group have been visited by their IRO in the last six months (21%).

The majority of children in care have an up-to-date health check but performance has been below target for more than 6 months. Performance needs improvement, in particular, for our younger children in care with a health check overdue for almost one-fifth of this group. Timeliness of review health assessments is impacting performance overall.

While the proportion of children in care aged 2 or older with an up to date dental assessment remains significantly below target, performance has increased for the second month up 20% points since March to 63%.

A good proportion of children in care aged 4-17 had an up to date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire; performance is within tolerance of target.

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

The greater majority of our Foster Carers have had a timely annual review and unannounced visit and have an up-to-date DBS check. 71% of Foster Carer had received a supervision in the last month, providing support, development and advice for Foster Carers and assurance in terms of quality and risk. Work is being undertaken to enable reporting against a two-month timescale for a minority of Foster Carers to ensure that it is fully reflective of practice standards and performance in this area.

The overwhelming majority of children in care have an education placement and are attending a DfE registered setting, although almost 30% of these children are receiving education out of County.

14% of children in care have had fixed term exclusion since the start of the Academic year with a total of 325 school days lost. Around 80% of children in care have good attendance (90% or more of school days attended) while one-fifth of children are persistently absent from school, missing a significant amount of education. Almost one-fifth of children in care have had a school move this academic year which may cause disruption for them.

Children Leaving Care

We have been in touch with the greater majority of our Care Leavers in the last 6 months; although performance is below target. There was an improvement in seeing our older Care Leavers in May, with performance now within tolerance of target. However, we need to see more of our Care Leavers in a timely way, where performance is 25% points below target.

Pathway plans timeliness improved in May, however, performance remains below target. Gloucester North and Cheltenham 11-25 teams are impacting performance overall.

The vast majority of our care leavers live in suitable accommodation. Half of our Care Leavers are in some form of education, employment or training. Performance is significantly below the target that has been set in response to the challenge from Ambassadors that we should have higher aspirations for their education and employment outcomes and greater confidence in them to achieve success. Increased funding has been put in place to increase support and drive improvement for our Care Leavers. A lower proportion of our Care Leavers are in Higher Education than South West and National levels.

Missing Children and Child Exploitation

An increase in the number of missing children and episodes was seen in May as restrictions further eased. However, this remains lower than the Summer season in 2019.

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. Performance is around 20% points below target in both of these areas.

Timeliness of seeing children rated them as at Moderate or Significant risk of exploitation following an initial screening tool being completed continues to need significant improvement (39% seen within 5 working days).

Legal Proceedings

Two-thirds of ongoing pre and court proceedings remain within timescale. 118 children are experiencing delays in permanence arrangements being secured for them through proceedings. By completion of pre and court proceedings, timeliness is even lower with just over half of pre-proceedings and one-third of court proceedings completed within 26 weeks so far in 2021.

Workforce

The proportion of Social Workers with a caseload in line with our target of 18 children or fewer has reduced for the second month, down from 79% to 73%. The overwhelming majority of workers hold 25 children or fewer (97.5%); this is within tolerance of target.

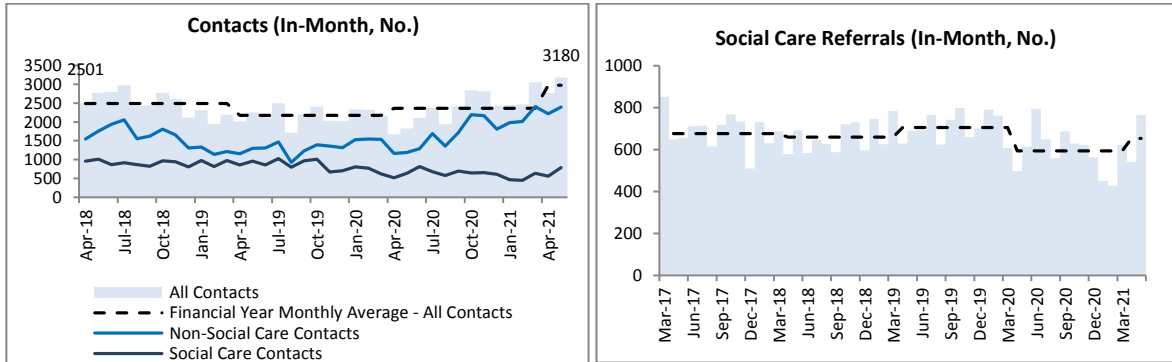
Almost all children were allocated a Social Worker and have activity taking place for them in a timely way. The majority of children also had a timely supervision recorded, evidencing practice oversight. There are a small number of children referred between December-April for whom a supervision hasn't taken place during their current referral and is overdue.

85% of children had fewer than 3 Social Workers in the last 6 months, up from 78% in December. While stability of Social Worker for our children in care remained the same, this is against a growing number of children in care overall. However, this 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.

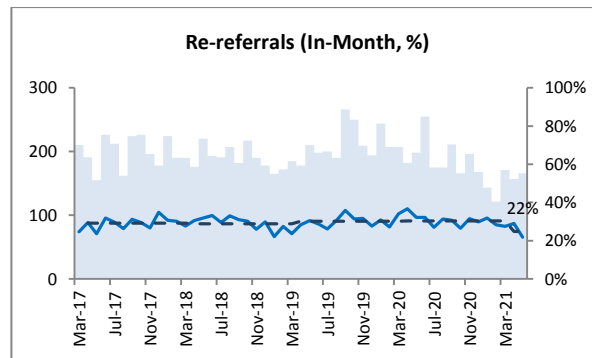
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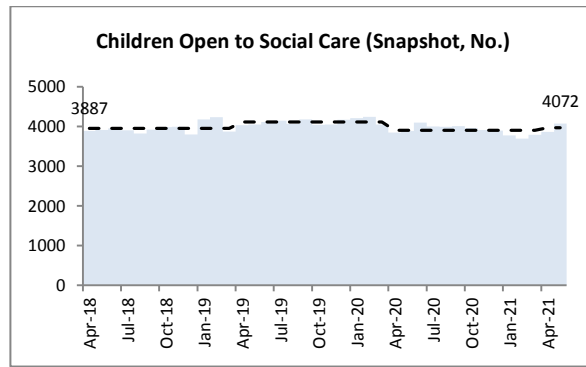
The number of contacts reached the highest level recorded in May (3,180).

The trend in increased contacts requiring a lower threshold of support continues (2,395). Contact volumes requiring a non-Social Care response were up by more than 1,200 contacts compared to April 2019/20 and 2020/21. A significant proportion of these contacts are dealt with at the point of contact following the receipt of information, advice or guidance and do not require ongoing support from Early Help. However, the number of contacts progressing to an episode remained high for the third month and is more than double the level at the same time last year.

Contacts which required a Social Care response and subsequent referrals for assessment increased by over 200 children in May. A high proportion of assessments completed continue to be directed out of the Social Care system to Early Help, other agencies or not requiring a service.

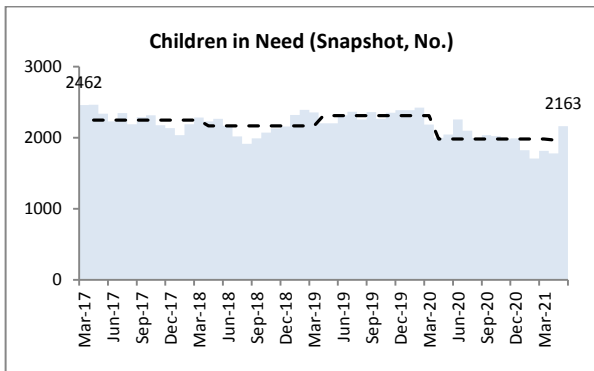


166 children were re-referred in May (21.7%); performance was better than target (22.5%).

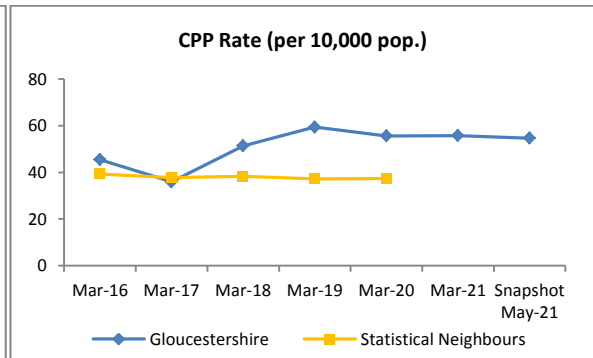
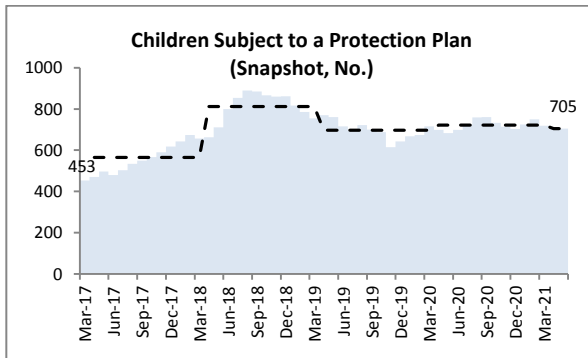


There were 4,072 children open to Social Care at the end of May. This is an increase over the last 3 months, up from a 3-year low of 3,696 in February. As a result, the proportion of workers holding 18 children of fewer has reduced from 79% in March to 73% in May.

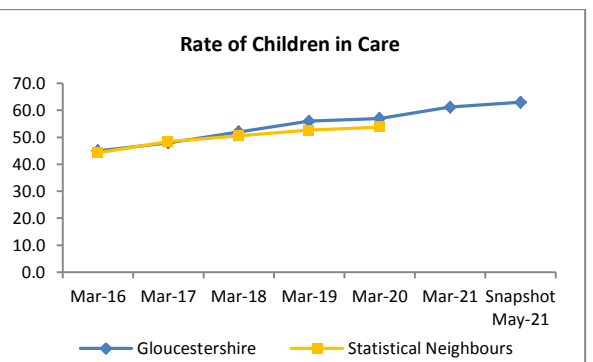
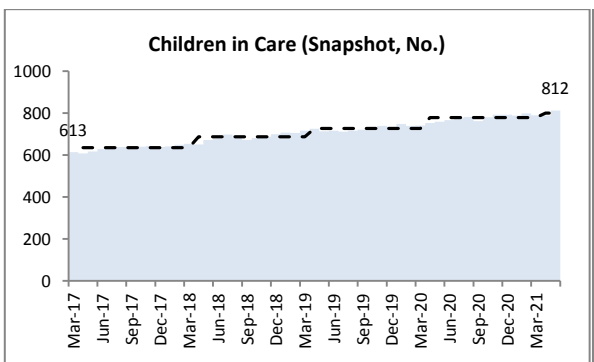
Children in need of support, protection or care



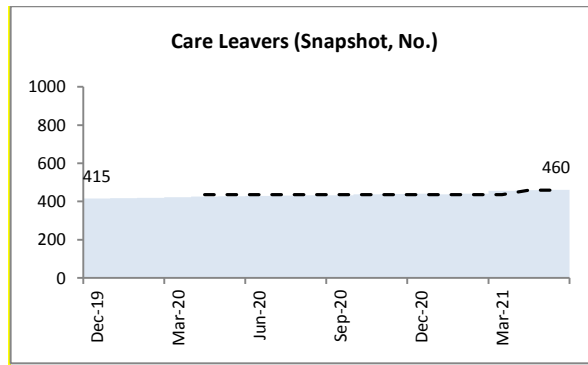
The number of Children in Need increased significantly in May but remains lower than in previous years (2,163 up from 1,778 in April).



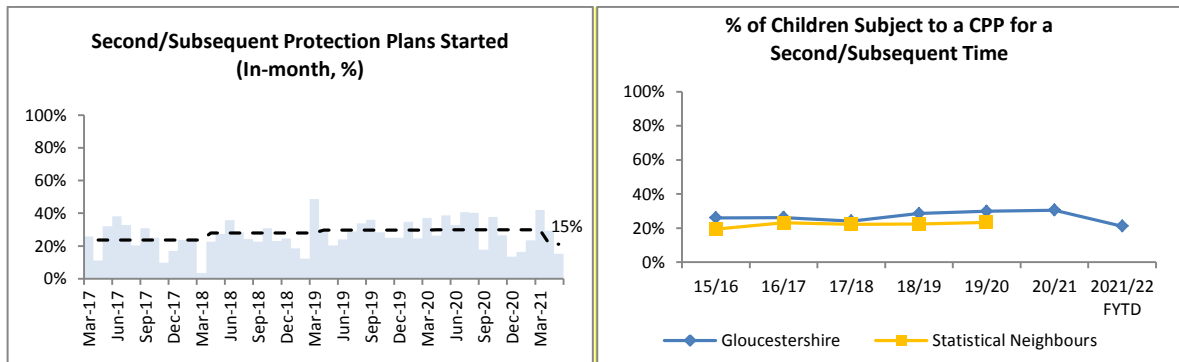
There were 705 children subject to a protection plan at the end of May. We continue to have a much higher rate of children subject to a protection plan per 10,000 0-17 yrs population (54.7) than our peer comparators historic levels (37.3, Mar-20).



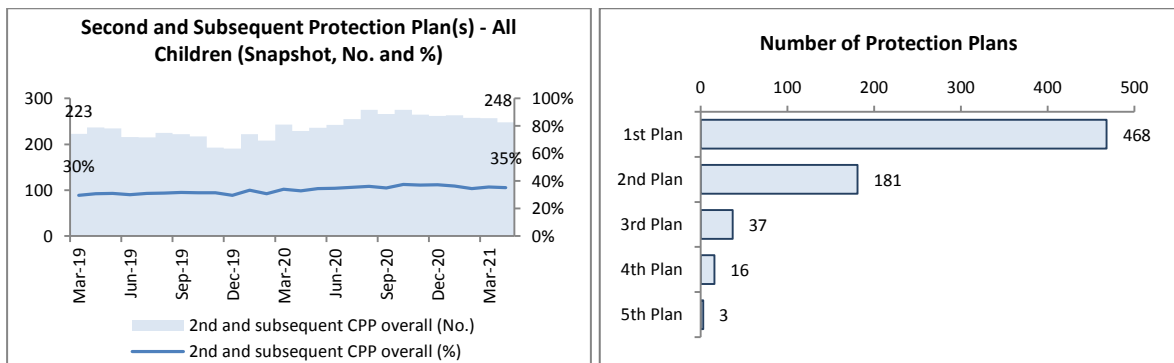
The number of children in care remained high at the end of May (812). The rate of children in care in Gloucestershire per 10,000 0-17 yrs. population (63.0) is higher than our peer comparators historic levels (53.8, Mar-20).



The number of Care Leavers has steadily increased over time, from 415 young people in December 2019. There are currently 460 Care Leavers and this figure is projected to continue to rise in the coming years.

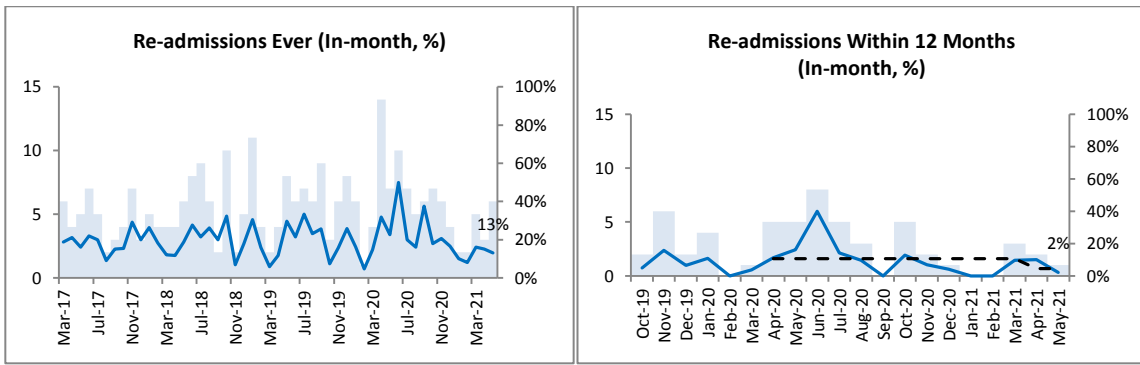


There was a reduction in the proportion of children becoming subject to a protection plan who had a previous plan for the second month and performance was better than target (15% against a target of 25%). In 2020/21 21% of children made subject to a protection plan had had a previous plan, this is better than our peer comparators historic levels. However, performance is prone to fluctuation and needs to be sustained over time.



Overall, 248 children subject to a protection plan have had a previous plan(s) (35%), down from 275 children in October 2020 (38%). This is reflective of the level of reduction in children subject to a protection plan over the same period 733 down to 705.

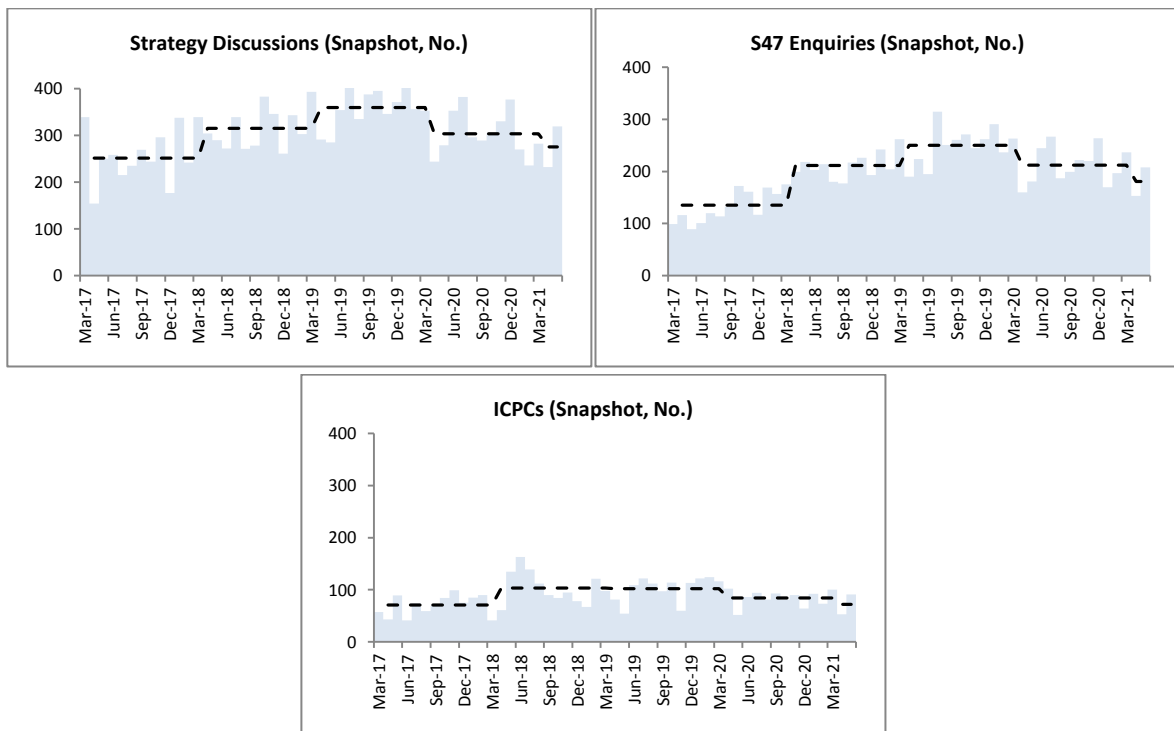
56 children have had 3 or more protection plans (8%).



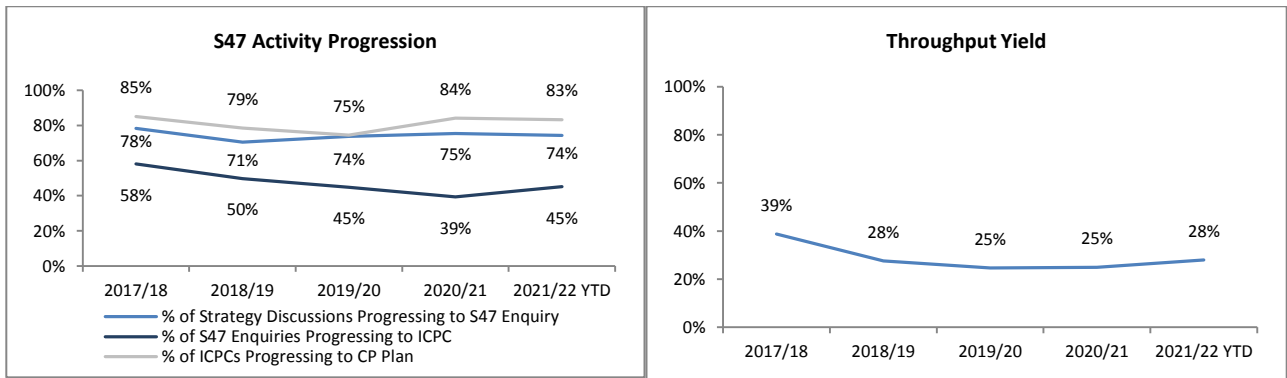
46 children were admitted to care in May. This is a significant increase compared to the previous month (20). The number of children who return to care fluctuates from month to month due to the relatively low numbers of children entering care overall. 1 child was readmitted to care within 12 months of their previous period of care (2% of admissions overall). This is better than target (12.7%) and national levels (11.4%, Mar-20).

Disruption throughout childhood due to re-admissions to care is slightly higher, with 6 children who had been in care previously re-admitted in May (13%).

S47 Activity



Strategy Discussions, S47 Enquiries and ICPCs all increased in May, although activity remained lower than the monthly average for previous financial years.

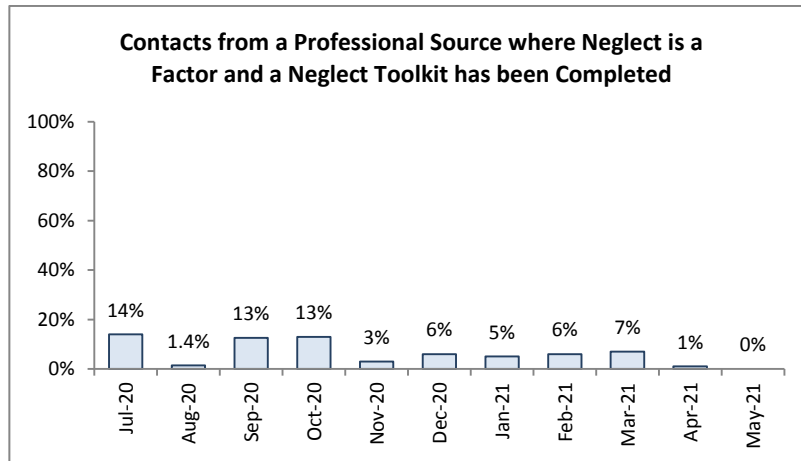


So far in 2021/22, a slightly higher proportion of S47 enquiries have proceeded to conference, resulting in a rise in the throughput yield of S47 activity from 25% to 31%. However, this only relates to outcomes for two months of the financial year and is likely to be subject to change.

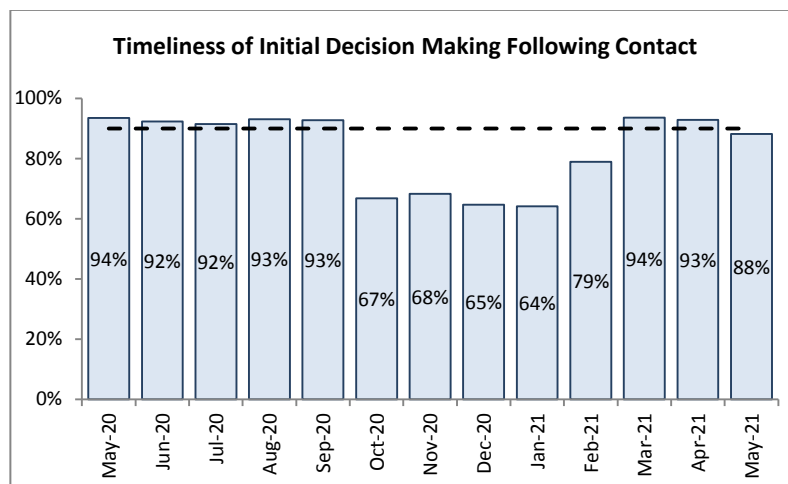
Contact, Referral and Assessment

Contacts

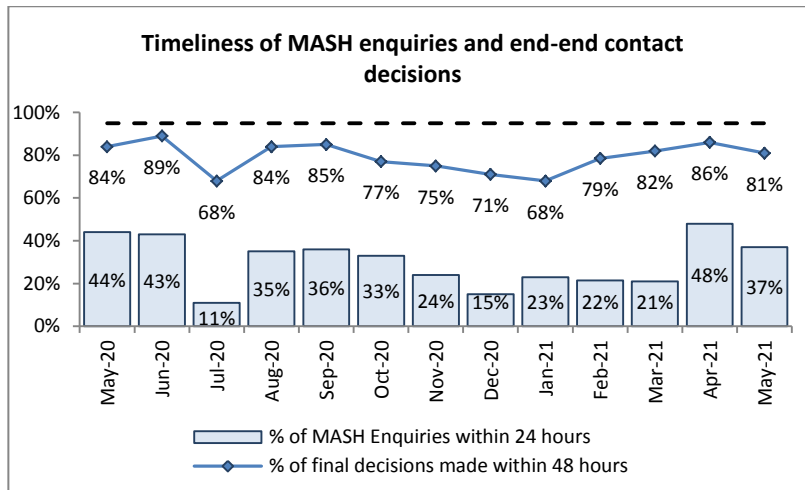
Note: Missing notifications are not included in contact numbers (139). There were 2 contacts where at the time of reporting a final decision had not been made and a further 7 contacts where the final outcome was unknown. Network stability may have impacted timeliness of decisions being made in May.



There were a total of 308 contacts where Neglect featured as a presenting reason in May, 63 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 245 contacts relating to Neglect from professional referral sources, no neglect toolkits were completed (0%). The toolkit is not being appropriately utilised and improvement is needed.



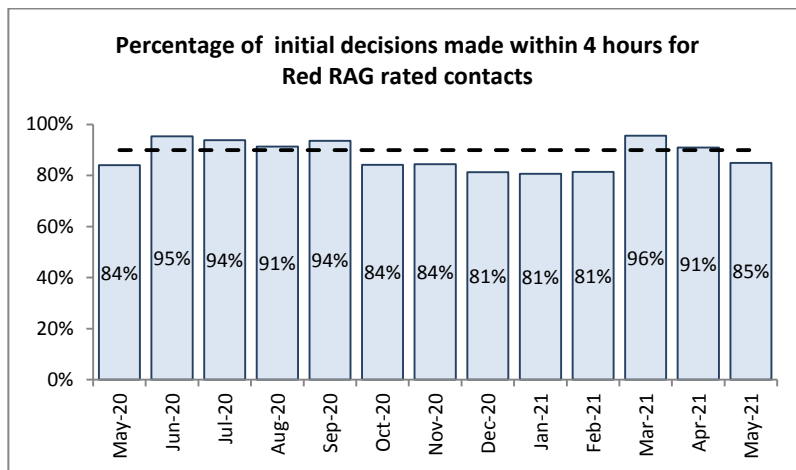
Timeliness of initial decision making decreased in April (88%, 2,776 out of 3,149 contacts) and is below but within tolerance of target (90%).



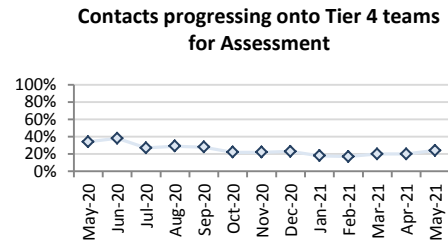
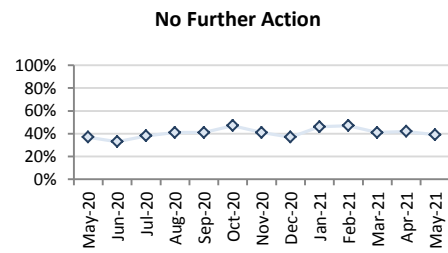
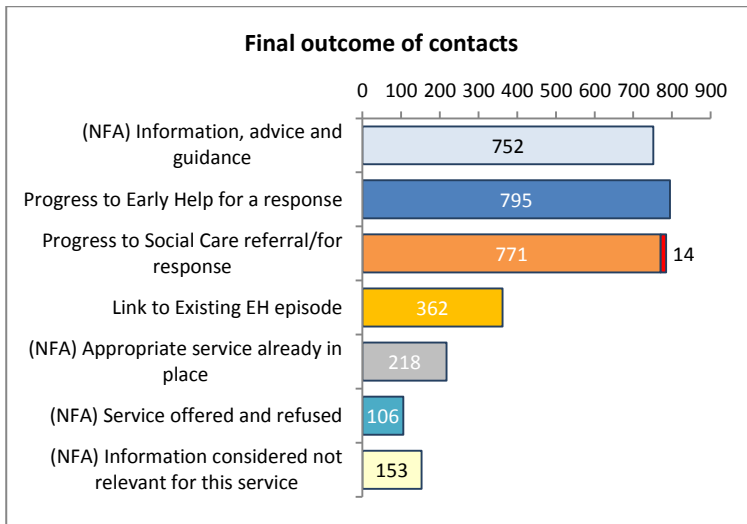
In May, just under one-third of contacts underwent a MASH enquiry (33%, 1,058 contacts).

37% of MASH enquiries were completed within 24 hours (388 contacts), this is down from 48% in April.

Following an initial decision and MASH enquiry where applicable, the final outcome for 81% of contacts (2561 contacts) was decided within 48 hours. This has decreased since April having followed an improving trend for three months (86%) and remains below target (95%).



It is our aim to make decisions quickly for children where clear risk is evident. Timeliness of decision making for Red rated contacts decreased from 91% to 85% in May (68 out of 80 contacts). Performance is below target (90%). Improvement is required in order to ensure that response to risk is swift for these children.

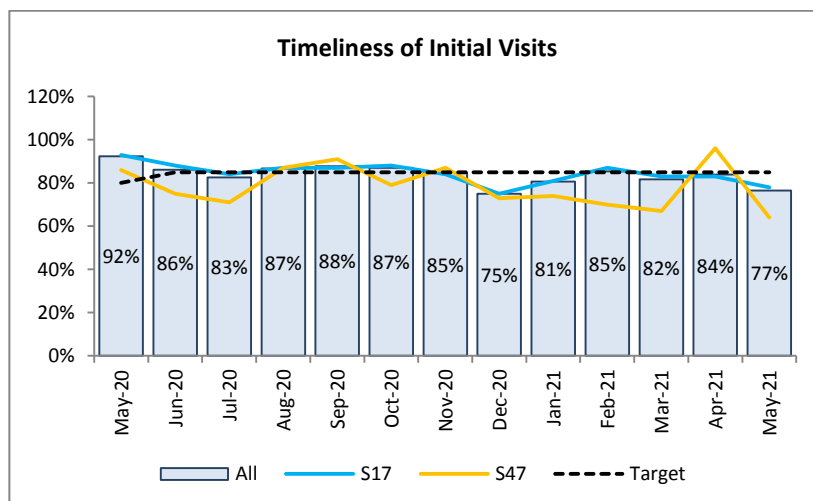


39% of contacts resulted in No Further Action (1229 of 3180 contacts). In almost two-thirds of cases where the outcome was NFA, information, advice and guidance was provided (61% of contacts NFA'd, 752 contacts).

785 contacts initially progressed to Social Care for a response. The outcome for 771 of these was to proceed to referral. 7 referrals were subsequently closed by the MASH. Just under one quarter of contacts were therefore referred to teams for assessment (24%, 764 contacts), this has increased since April (20%).

One-quarter of contacts progressed to Early Help for a response (795, 25%). A further 11% of contacts related to an existing Early Help Episode (362 contacts).

Referrals



Note: timeliness of initial visits, particularly for children progressing under S47 may have been impacted by network stability and issues accessing web reports in May.

Timeliness of initial visits decreased in May (77%, 548 of 716 children). Performance is below target (85%).

Timeliness of seeing children progressing under S47 underwent a significant decrease (64% compared to 96% in April). Performance for those children progressing under S17 also dropped to below target with 78% of children receiving their initial visit within timescales.

Initial visits for 15% of children were completed but overdue (109 children), while 8% of children referred in May had not been seen and were overdue a visit at the time of reporting (59 children).

There were 3 children whose referrals started in April, 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 May, of the 657 initial visits that took place, recording indicated that 27 children were seen virtually i.e. via Skype, What's App, Facetime (4%).

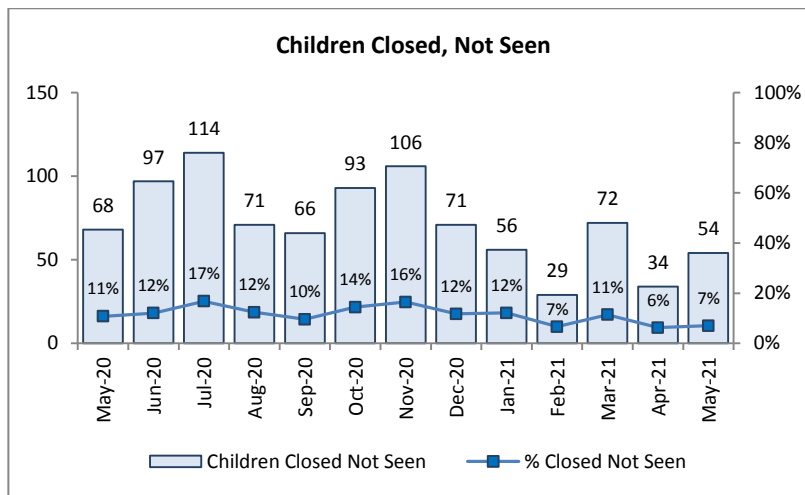
Timeliness of initial visits

	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
Cheltenham	74%	73%	76%
Cotswolds	92%	97%	76%
DCYPS	100%	88%	100%
FoD	90%	80%	72%
Gloucester	80%	75%	71%
Other	11%	64%	86%
Stroud	97%	97%	91%
Tewkesbury	69%	97%	79%

Timeliness of initial visits to children in all localities, with the exception of Stroud, is below target.

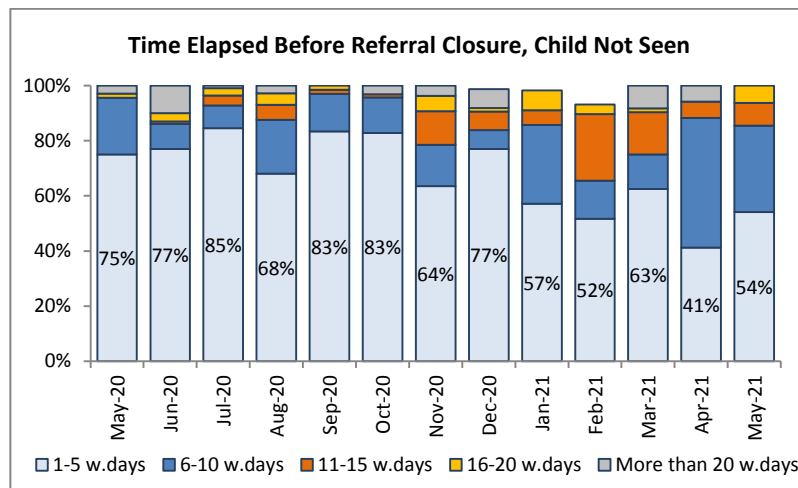
Performance in Tewkesbury continues to fluctuate with performance up by 28% points between March and April and decreasing by 18% points in May. The Cotswolds also saw a large drop in performance in May, from 97% to 76%.

Timeliness of initial visiting is static in Cheltenham, while in FoD and Gloucester performance has declined over the last two months, down almost 20% points and 10% points respectively.



7% of children who were referred to Social Care in May were closed within the month without the child being seen (54 children) (Note: this includes referrals closed by MASH but excludes any OLA referrals). This has increased since April.

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 28% compared to 18%).



Pace of decision making for children whose referral was closed without them being seen increased to in May but remains low. The decision for just under half (46%) of children referred but closed without a visit took more than 5 working days.

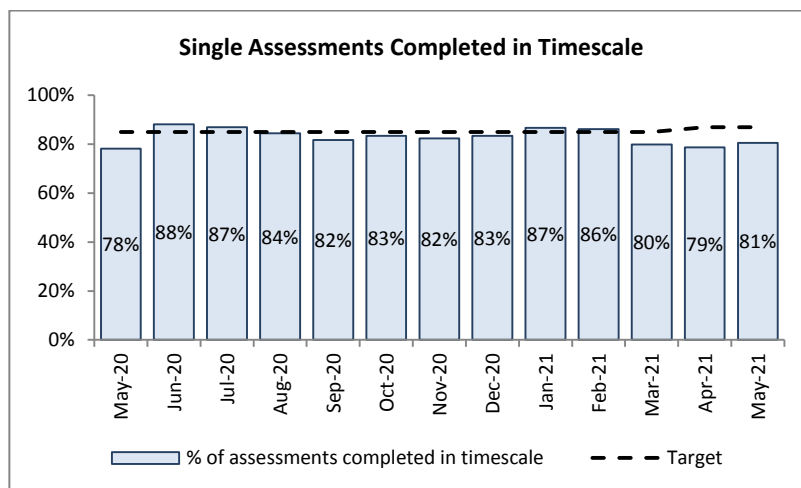
Re-referrals by Locality

	Last 12 months			Mar-21			Apr-21			May-21		
	Mar	Apr	May	1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%
Cheltenham	31%	28%	26%	75	37	33%	77	26	25%	110	25	19%
Cotswolds	33%	34%	32%	52	25	32%	25	10	29%	62	9	13%
FoD	27%	28%	27%	74	24	24%	41	26	39%	73	13	15%
Gloucester	36%	36%	34%	121	44	27%	85	43	34%	183	56	23%
Stroud	29%	28%	28%	54	21	28%	59	19	24%	65	14	18%
Tewkesbury	26%	27%	25%	61	14	19%	74	28	27%	88	26	23%
DCYPS	36%	38%	34%	1	0	0%	7	1	13%	4	0	0%
County	30%	30%	29%	452	171	27%	385	157	29%	598	166	22%

Note: The target for re-referrals has changed for 2021/22, down from 25% to 22.5%.

All localities have seen a reduction in the proportion of re-referrals received in May and are either performing better than or within tolerance of target.

Single Assessments



Timeliness of single assessment completion remained similar for the third month (81%) and performance is below target (87%) and our peer comparators (84.3%, Mar-20).

Assessments completed in May were overdue for 128 children (19%).

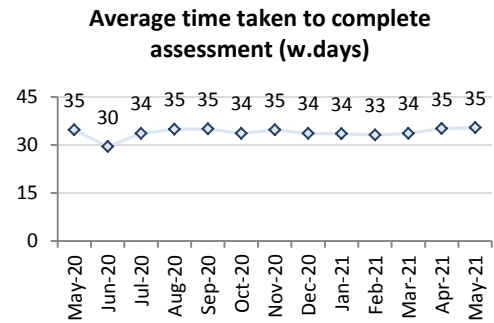
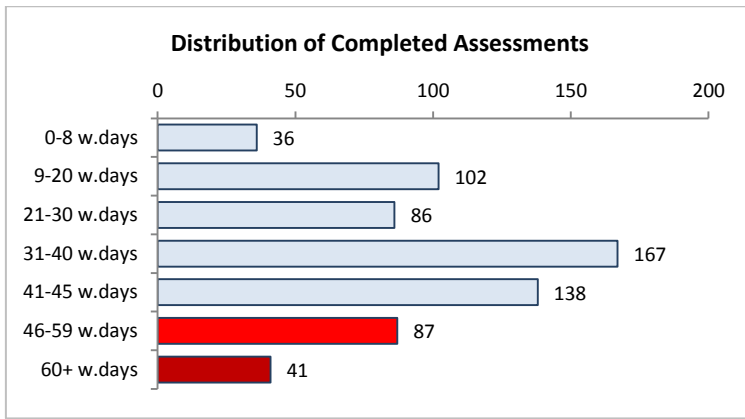
Completed Assessments in Timescale

	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
Cheltenham	78%	85%	83%
Cotswolds	98%	100%	86%
DCYPS	89%	50%	14%
FoD	82%	98%	86%
Gloucester	89%	68%	75%
Other	81%	73%	77%
Stroud	100%	76%	90%
Tewkesbury	74%	71%	78%
Target	85%	87%	87%

Timeliness of assessments continues to be impacted by Tewkesbury and Gloucester where performance remains below target.

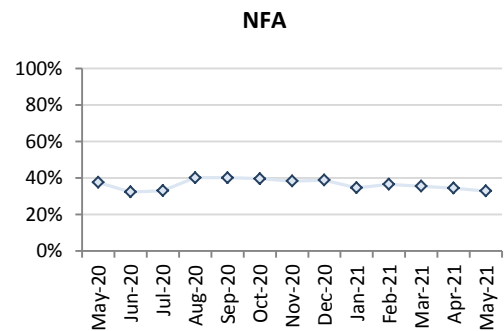
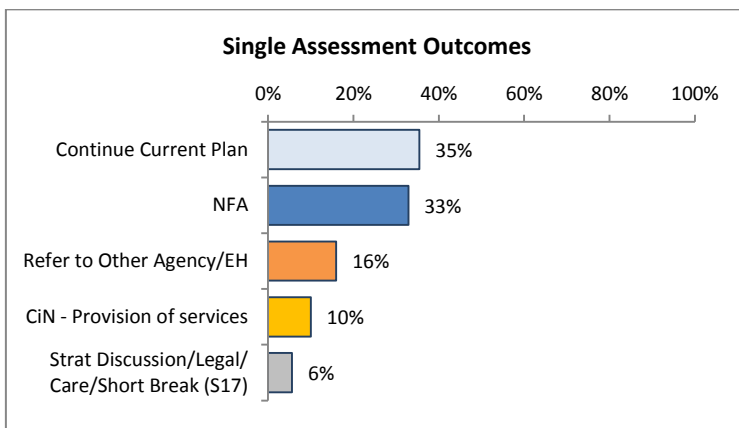
Large fluctuations were seen in the Cotswolds and FoD where timeliness declined almost 15% points and in Stroud where performance increased around 15% points and was the only locality to exceed target in May.

Timeliness for children held by the DCYPS team has declined significantly over the last two months, from 89% to 14%.



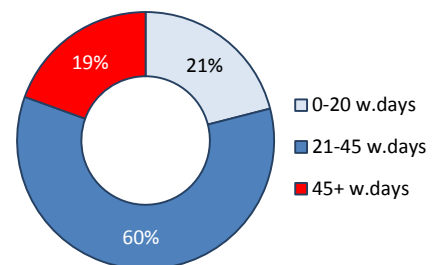
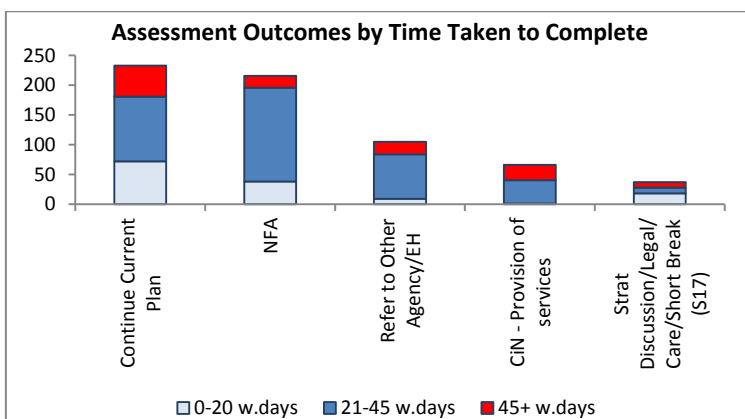
Almost half of assessments were completed between 31 and 45 working days in May (46%), this raises questions about pace for children prior to impending deadlines and increases the risk of assessments becoming overdue.

41 assessments took 60 or more working days to complete; 8 of these took 90 or more working days.



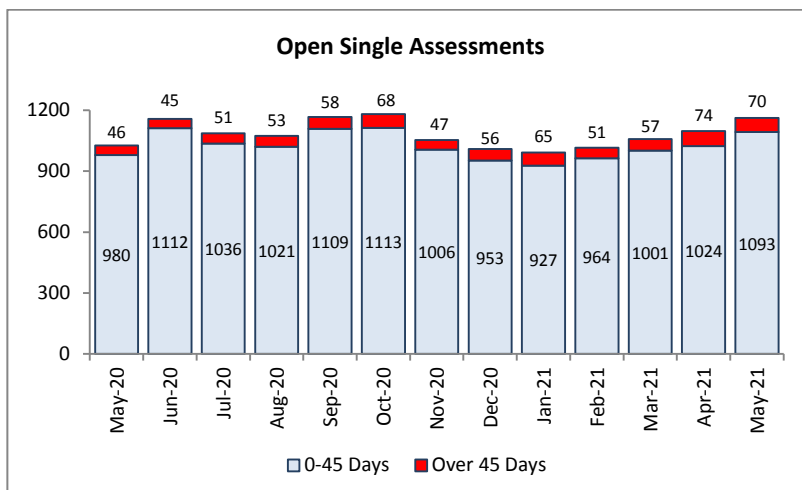
One-third of completed assessments continue to result in No Further Action (33%, 216 of 657 assessments), although this has followed a broadly reducing trend since August when two-fifths of assessments required no further action (40%).

16% of children for whom an assessment was completed in May were referred to Early Help or another agency (105 children).

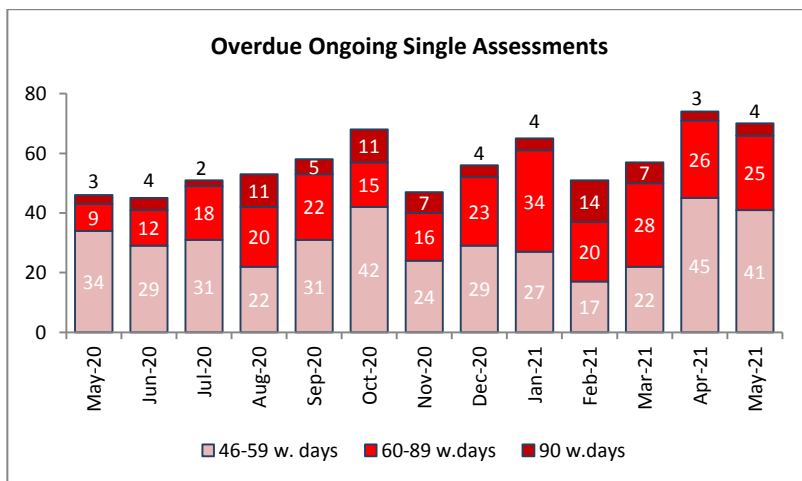


One-fifth of assessments completed in May were concluded within 4 weeks (21%, 138 assessments), while three-fifths of assessments took between 21-45 w.days to complete (60%, 391).

Almost half of assessments completed in May were directed out of the Social Care system to Early Help, other agencies or did not require a service (49%, 321 assessments), with 274 of these taking more than 20 working days to complete (85%). 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.



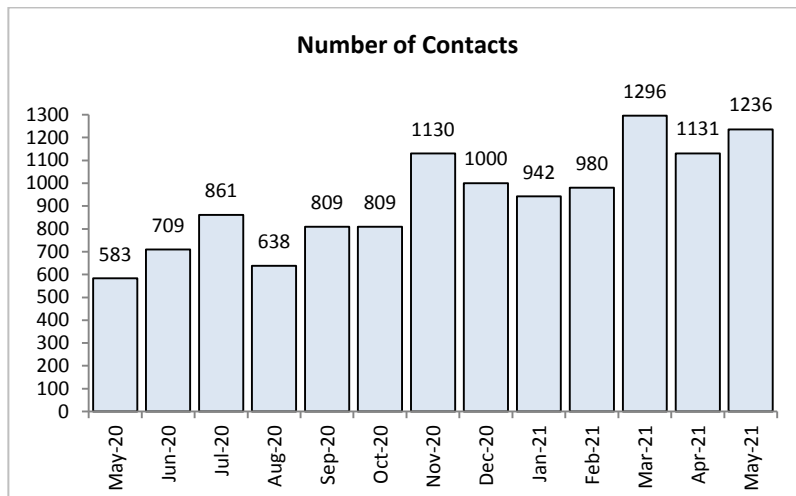
There were assessments open for 1,163 children at the end of May. This is an increase for the fourth month, up from 992 in January, and is the highest level of assessments being undertaken since October 2020. The majority of open assessments were within timescale (94%, 1,093).



There were 70 ongoing assessments that were overdue at the end of May; including 4 assessments ongoing for more than 90 working days.

Early Help and Targeted Support

Contacts



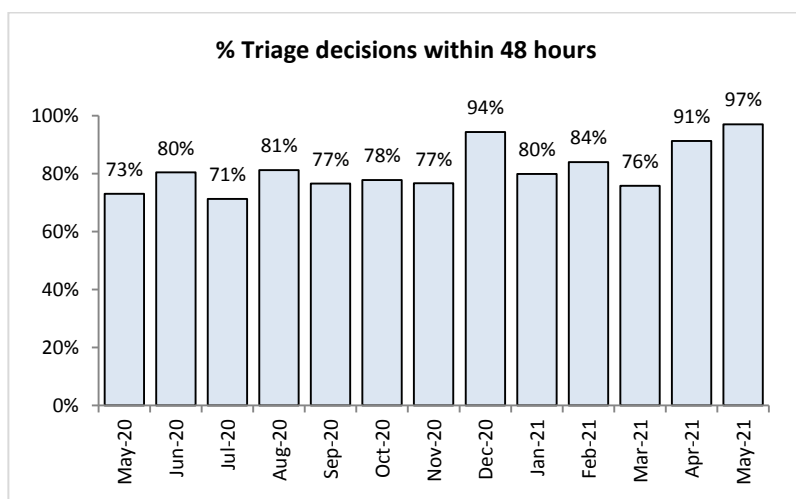
The number of contacts progressing to Early Help remained high for the third month (1,236 contacts) and are more than double the level received the same time last year.

94% (1157) of contacts progressing to Early Help were received via the MASH.

Repeat Contacts May

First contact	281	23%
Within 2 weeks	283	23%
Within 6 weeks	154	12%
Within 3 months	137	11%
Within 6 months	78	6%
Over 6 months	303	25%

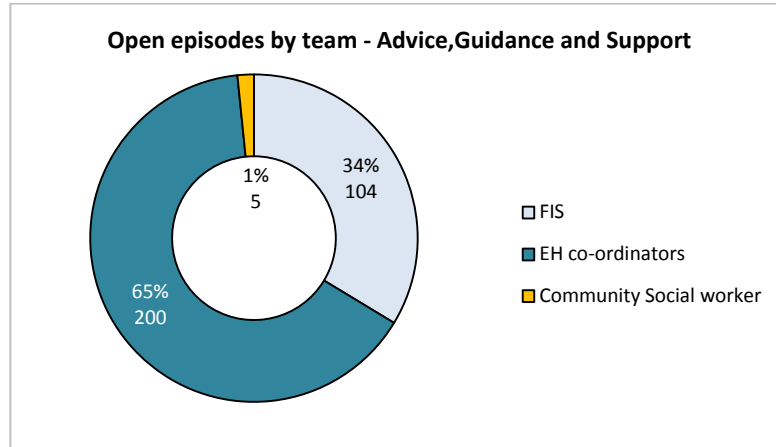
77% (955) of contacts progressing to Early Help in May were repeat contacts. Of these, 283 contacts were received within 2 weeks of the previous contact (23% of repeat contacts); 149 (53%) of these contacts were repeat for the same reason as the previous contact.



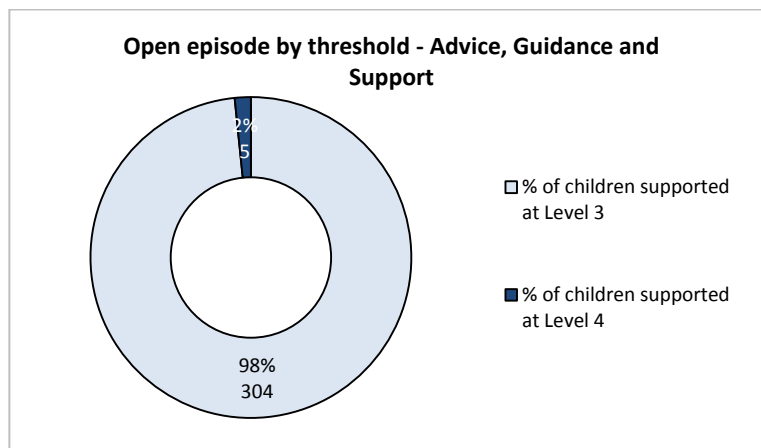
Of the contacts referred to Early Help in May, 97% had an Early Help triage decision made within 48 hours (to determine what type of Early Help support is required, 1,199 contacts).

82% of contacts had a new episode or were linked to an existing episode within 72 hours of the contact starting (1,012 contacts).

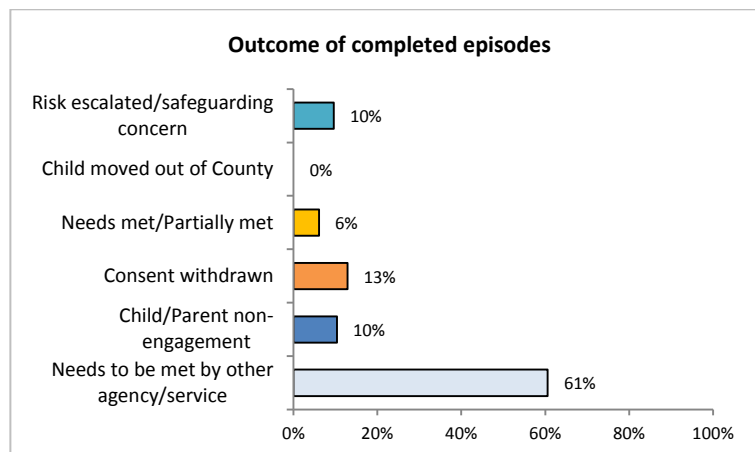
Advice, Guidance and Support



At the end of May, there were 309 episodes open requiring advice, guidance and support. The majority of these episodes are held by the Early Help Co-ordinators (65%).



The majority of episodes open where advice, guidance and support is being given, are providing Level 3 support (98%, 304 episodes).

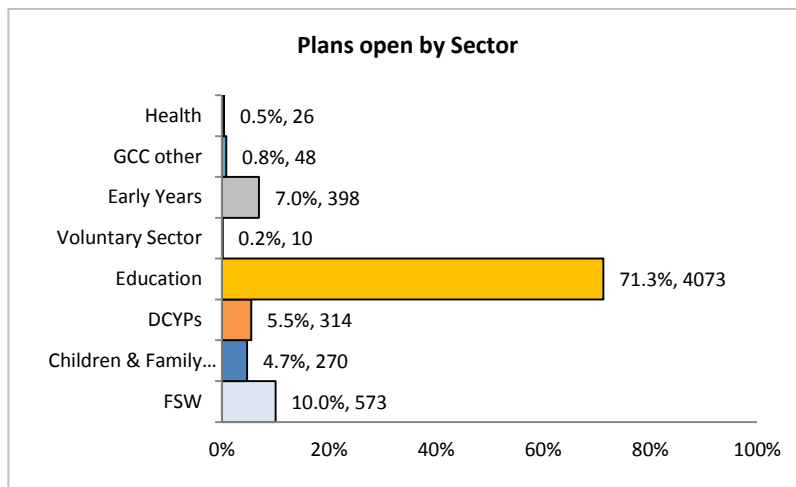


396 episodes were closed in May. Just over three-fifths of episodes closed were due to their needs being met by another agency/service (61%), while just over one-quarter of episodes closed due to non-engagement or consent being withdrawn (23%).

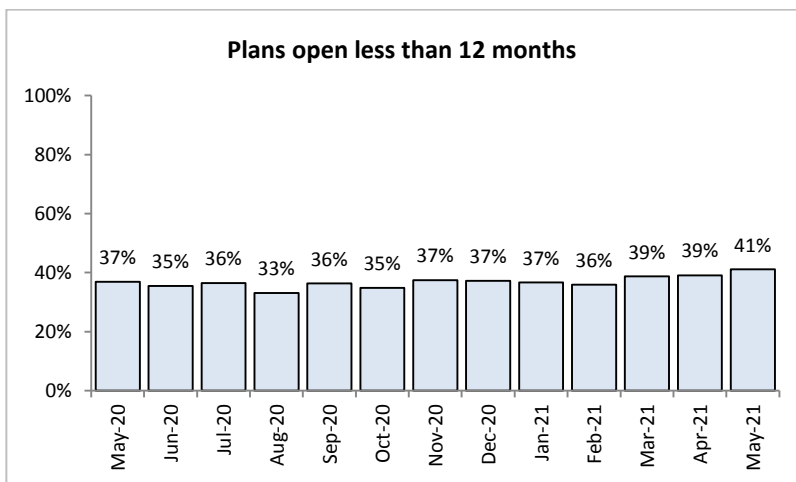
Step up following Advice, Guidance and Support

The episode closed for 38 children due to escalation of risk or safeguarding concern which resulted in a step up to Social Care (10%).

My Plan/My Plan Plus

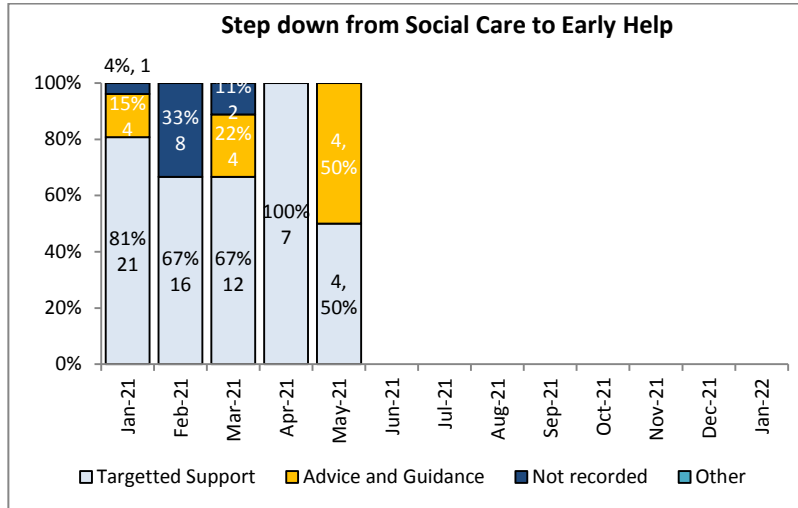


At the end of May there were 5,712 open plans: 3,769 My Plans and 1,943 My Plan Plus. Over two-thirds of My Plan/My Plan Plus were allocated to Education (71% 4,073 children).



Just over two-fifths of plans had been open for less than 12 months (41%, 2,348 plans). 3,364 plans have been open for more than 12 months (59%).

Step down to Early Help



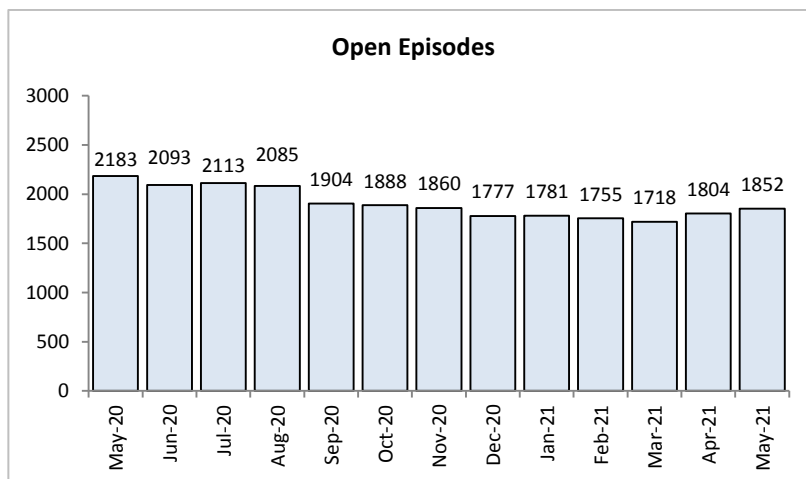
Step down to Early Help is part of a phased reduction of support following a Social Care intervention. This helps to embed change so that it is sustained once families transition to independently managing their child's care and protection

There were 8 children who stepped down in May following a Child in Need plan. This equates to 12% of CiN plans ended in May.

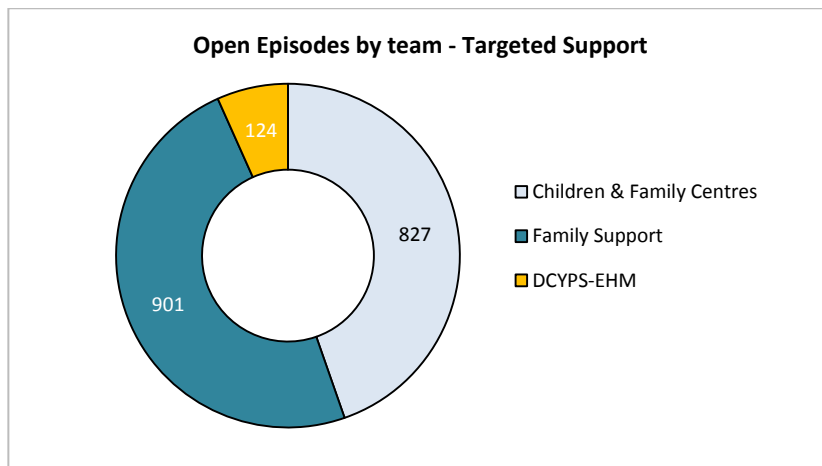
4 children stepped down to a Targetted Support service. Of these, 2 children stepped down to a Family Support Team and 2 children stepped down to a children an family centre.

Further process and practice improvements are needed to embed this process in order to understand how often step down support is utilised.

Delivery – Targeted Work

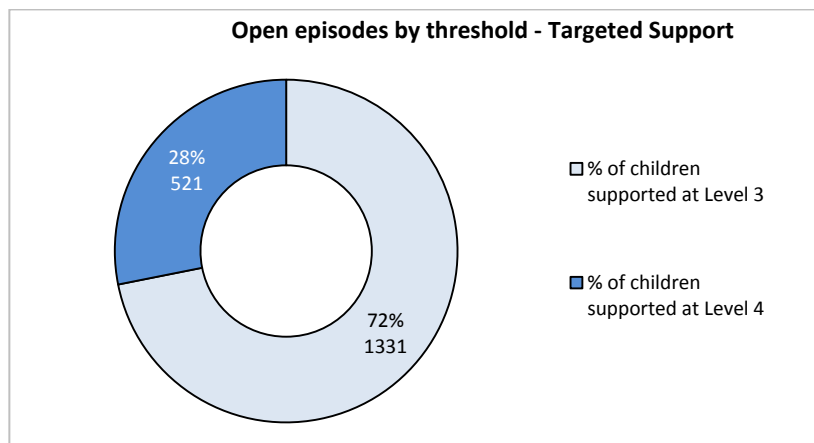


At the end of May, there were 1,852 open episodes for children receiving a Targetted Support service. This is an increase of around 130 children in the last two months but remains much lower than at the same time last year.

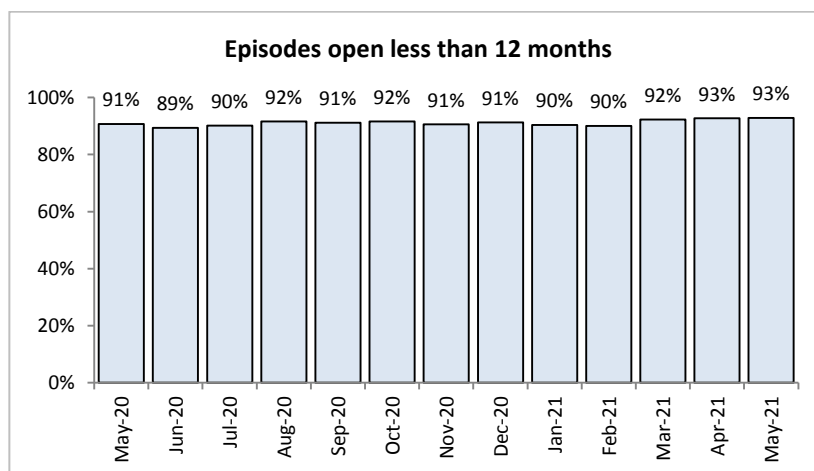


Family Support and Children and Family Centres hold a similar proportion of open episodes where targeted support work is being delivered (47% and 45% respectively).

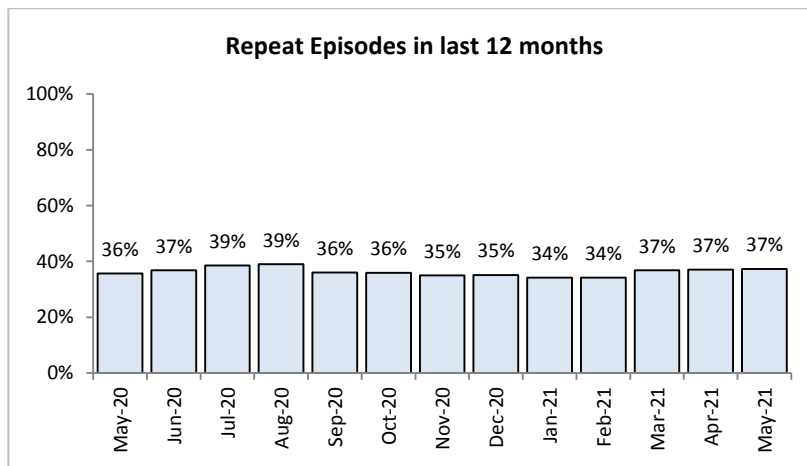
There are 124 children with an open episode, as well as 147 children open to review, within the DCYPS Early Help service.



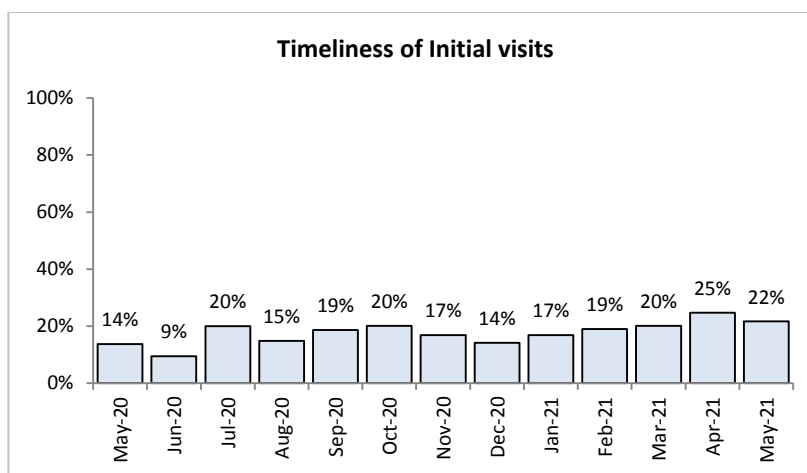
Just over a quarter of the open episodes where Targeted Support work is taking place, are supporting children who are open to a Social Care intervention (28%, 521 episodes). 267 of these children are allocated to Children and Families Centres, 251 to a Family Support team and 3 children to DCYPs Early Help service.



The vast majority of the open episodes have been open for less than 12 months, 93% 1,720 episodes.

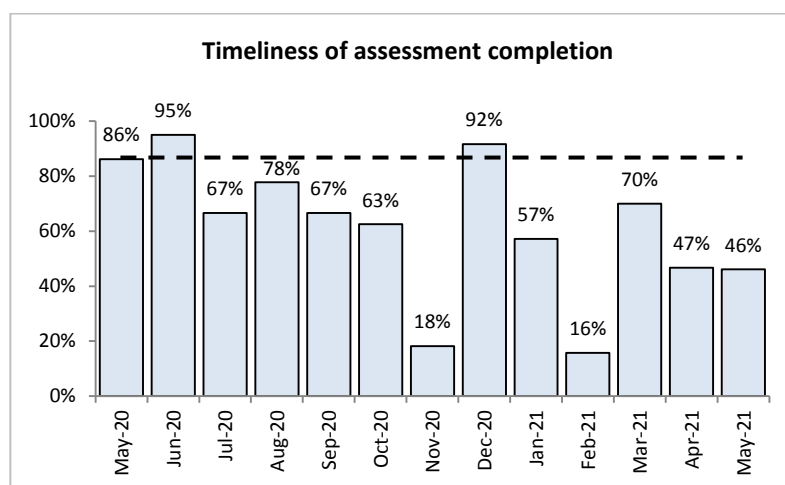


Repeat work with children and families receiving Targeted Support remained high in May (37%, 691 children).



Of the children receiving or awaiting their initial visit, only 22% were within timescales; performance remains very low. Timeliness is mainly being impacted by the Children and Family Centres (11% seen within 10 working days), although Family Support performance also needs significant improvement (29%).

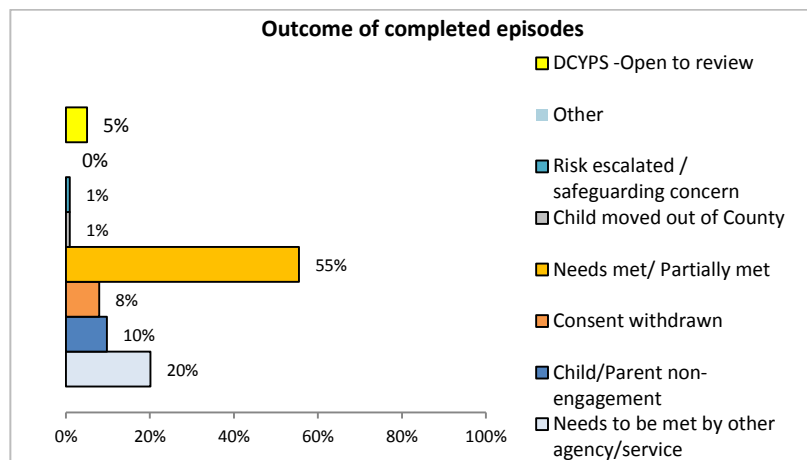
Timeliness of initial visits for children supported by DCYPs Early Help declined for a second month, from 82% in March to 76% in May.



Fewer than half of assessments were completed within timescale in May (46%). This is significantly below target of 85%.

Of the assessments currently ongoing, only 31% have been open for less than 30 working days.

Quality of recording assessment data is inconsistent across the Early Help services and is impacting on this performance measure.



328 episodes receiving Targeted Support work were closed in May. Just over half of these were closed due to the needs of children and families being met or partially met (55%).

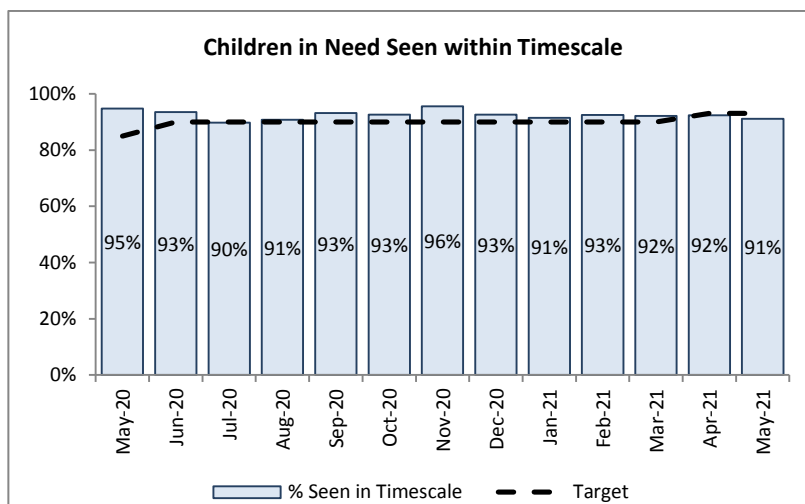
One-fifth were closed due to needs being met by another agency/service (20%).

Around one-fifth were closed due to non-engagement or consent being withdrawn (18%).

Step up following Targeted Support

For 3 children, the risk had escalated and they were stepped up to Social Care due to Safeguarding concerns (1%).

Children in Need



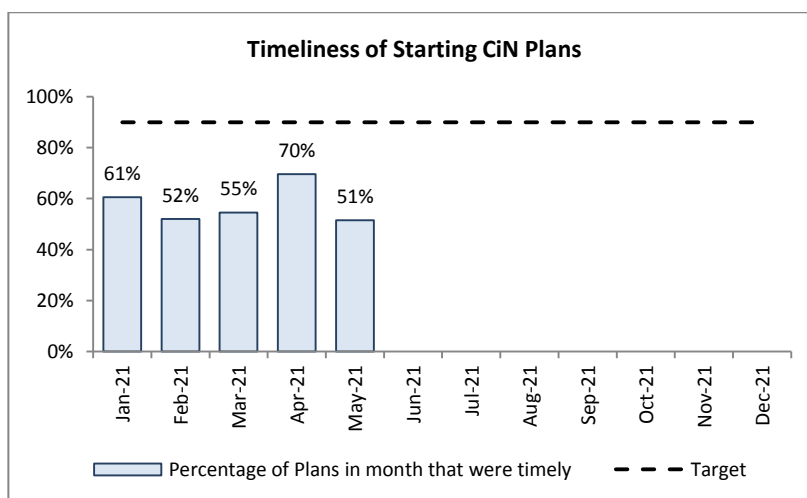
The majority of Children in Need continue to be seen in a timely way (91%); performance is within tolerance of target.

There were 192 children who had not been seen within timescales (9%). 57 children do not appear to have been seen for 6 weeks or more, up from 31 children in March.

Of the 1,971 Children in Need, 62 children were seen virtually (3%).

	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
Cheltenham	93%	93%	94%
Cotswolds	93%	96%	99%
DCYPS	93%	92%	94%
FoD	97%	80%	85%
Gloucester	91%	91%	88%
Other	86%	95%	91%
Stroud	93%	97%	94%
Tewkesbury	88%	94%	93%

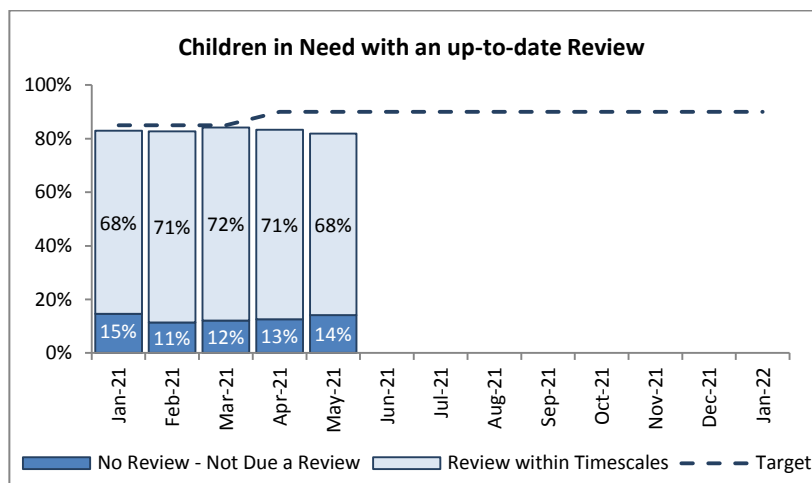
Performance was above or within tolerance of target for majority of teams in May. The FoD and Gloucester are the only localities performing below target (85% and 88% respectively). However, timeliness of seeing children in the FoD has increased slightly (up 5%) having seen a significant drop in performance in April, down 17% points.



In May, 167 CiN plans were started. Of these, plans for 86 children were put in place in a timely way (51%); performance is below target (90%).

Of the plans that were not timely, 67 took longer than 10 working days to put in place following CP/IRO review and 14 took longer than 10 working days following Single Assessment completion.

There were 1,301 children who did not have a plan in place at the end of May, for 150 of these children a plan was overdue (12%). The majority of delays are following step down from a protection plan or care (98 children).



There were 862 Children in Need with a completed plan at the end of May. 82% of these children had a timely review or were not yet due a review (706 children). This is below the stretch target (90%).

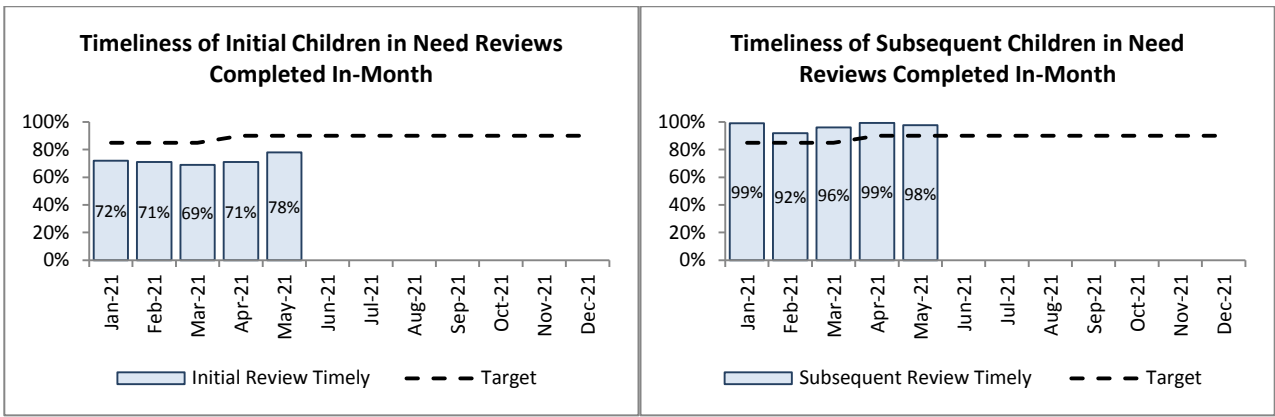
13% of those children who had a Child in Need plan had not had a first review of their plan in a timely way (110 children).

5% of Children in Need with a plan had had at least one review but were overdue their next review (46 children).

Mar-21		Apr-21		May-21	
Cheltenham	87%	Cheltenham	86%	Cheltenham	84%
Cotswolds	91%	Cotswolds	94%	Cotswolds	93%
DCYPS	92%	DCYPS	90%	DCYPS	89%
FoD	85%	FoD	72%	FoD	62%
Gloucester	77%	Gloucester	78%	Gloucester	74%
Other	40%	Other	82%	Other	57%
Stroud	95%	Stroud	97%	Stroud	95%
Tewkesbury	70%	Tewkesbury	71%	Tewkesbury	80%

Completion of timely CiN reviews is below target in Cheltenham, Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Forest of Dean localities. Performance in the Forest of Dean has declined a further 10% points in May and is down 23% points overall since March. Timeliness of reviews in Cheltenham, Gloucester has remained relatively static while Tewkesbury has improved up 9% points.

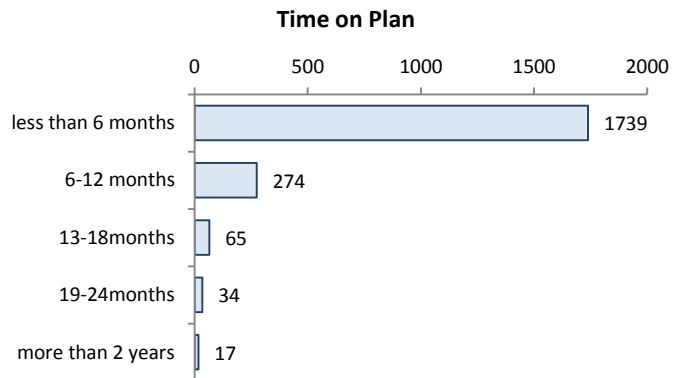
The Stroud and Cotswolds have each maintained a consistently high level of timeliness over the last 3 months.



There were 211 Children in Need reviews completed in May. 67 initial reviews (of 86) and 122 subsequent reviews (of 125) were timely (78% and 98% respectively). Timeliness of subsequent reviews is above target (90%) but improvement is needed around pace of initial reviews.

Of the reviews completed in May, 22 were overdue (19 initial reviews and 3 follow up reviews).

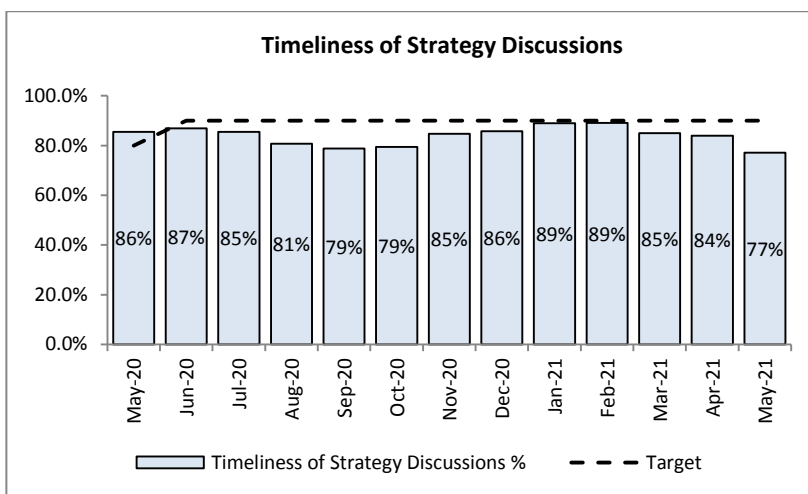
95% of children have been categorised as a Child in Need for 12 months or less; this is better than target (90%) (excludes short breaks)



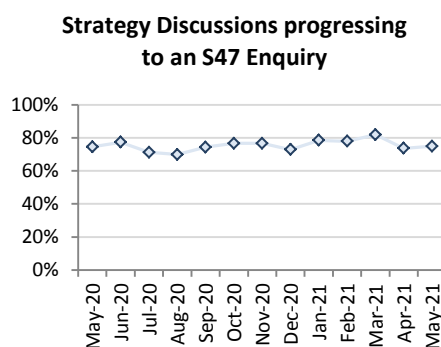
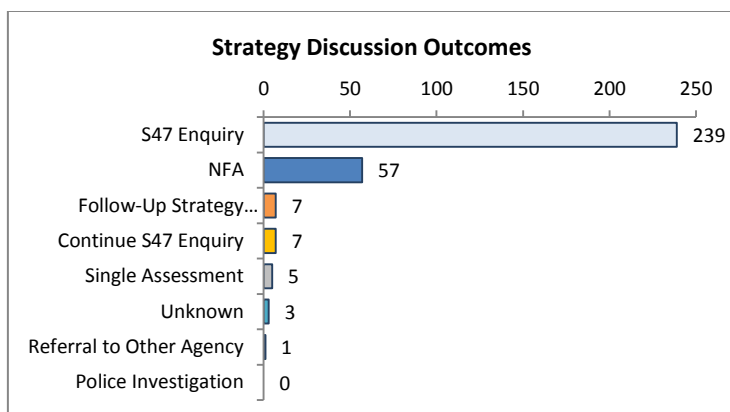
The number of children who have been on a plan for more than two years remains low (17, 1%) (excludes short breaks).

Child Protection

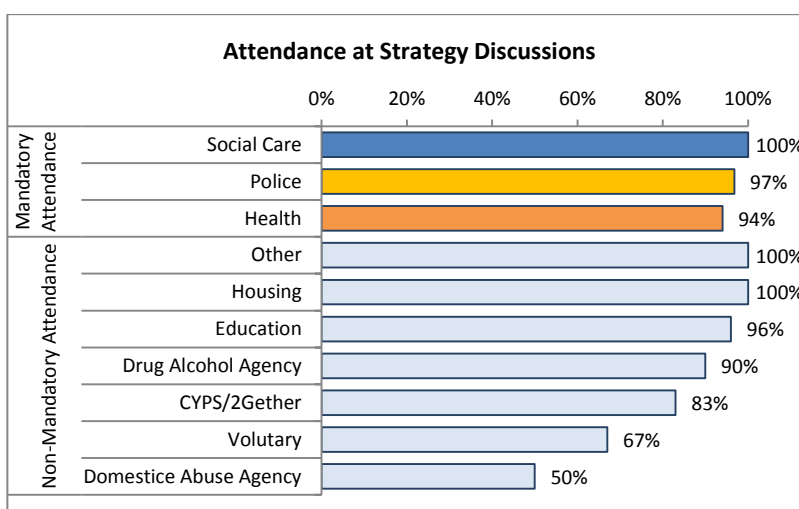
Strategy Discussions



Timeliness of initial Strategy Discussions declined for the third month from 89% to 77% (216 of 280 children) and was significantly below target (90%).



The majority of Strategy Discussions continued to progress to an S47 enquiry (75%, 239 of 319).

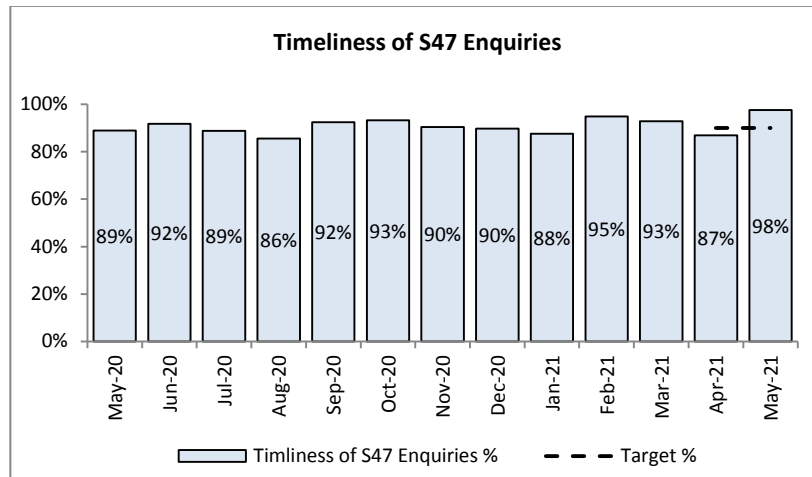


Attendance at Strategy Discussions by mandatory partners was good in May.

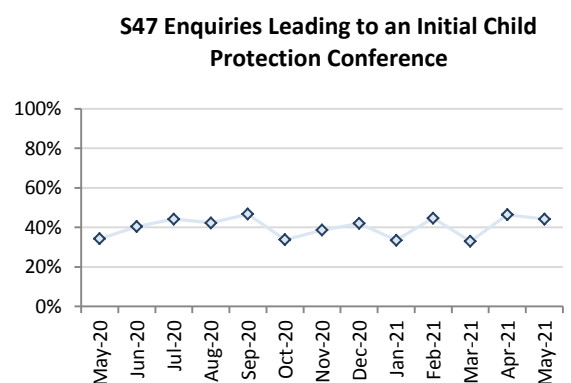
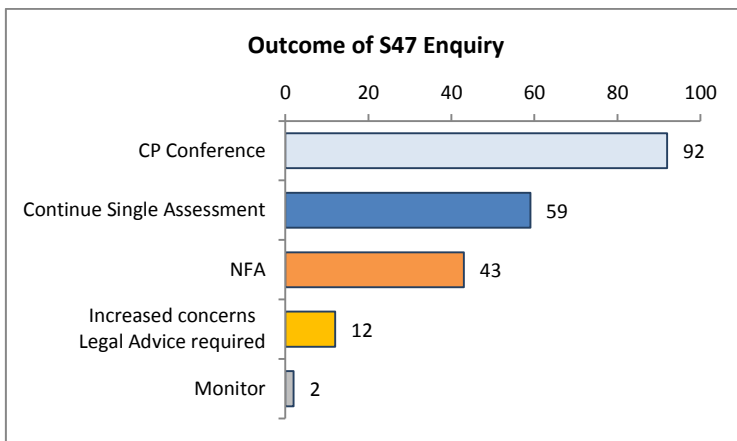
There were 13 Strategy Discussions that don't appear to have benefitted from Health participation, where Health partners were invited. There were also 9 Strategy Discussions that Social Care were invited to but which they did not attend.

There were 129 discussions between multi-agency partners that were recorded as Strategy Discussions where one of the mandatory partners was recorded as not invited: Health (97), Police (7) and Social Care (25).

S47 Enquiries



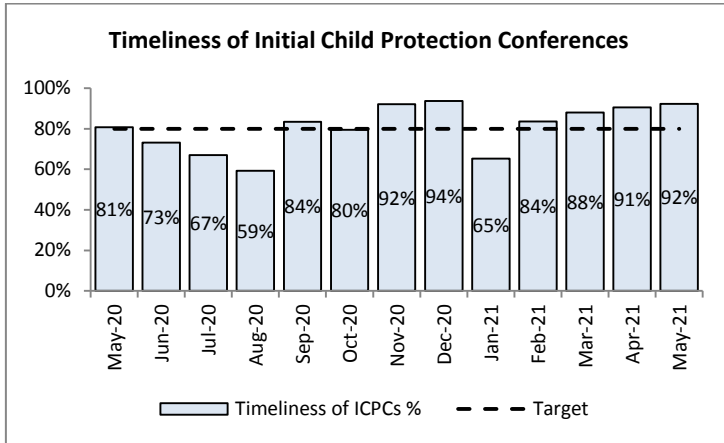
Timeliness of S47 Enquiries increased in May and was at a 12-month high (98%, 203 of 208 children). Performance was better than target (90%).



Just under half of children progressed to an initial child protection conference following an S47 enquiry in May (44%, 92 children of 208).

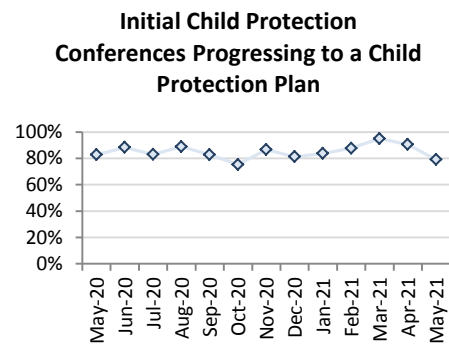
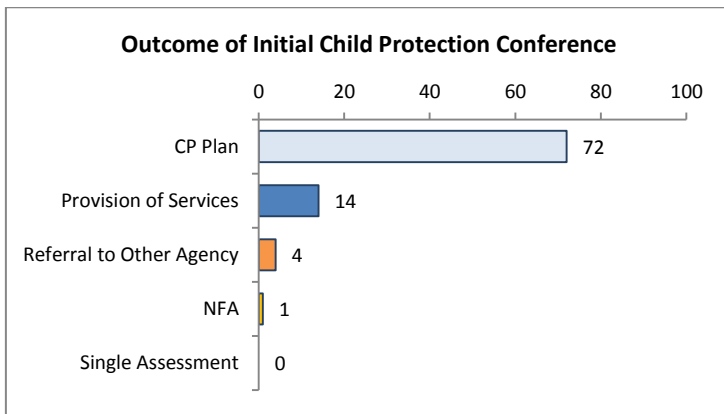
A single assessment was progressed for 28% of children following an S47 Enquiry in May and for one-fifth of children no further action was required (21%).

Initial Child Protection Conferences



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

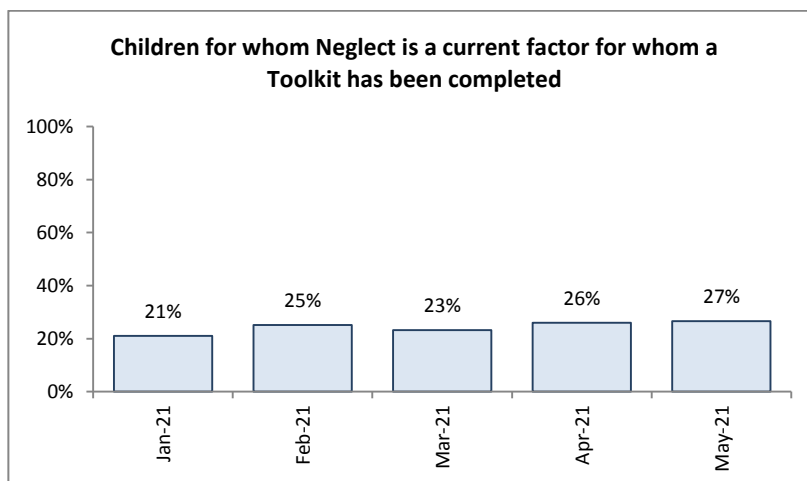
Timeliness of initial conferences remained high, with performance better than target and peer comparators (92%, 84 of 91 children, against a target of 80%).



The majority of children who had an initial child protection conference in May were made subject of a protection plan (79%, 72 children), although this is down from 95% over the last two months.

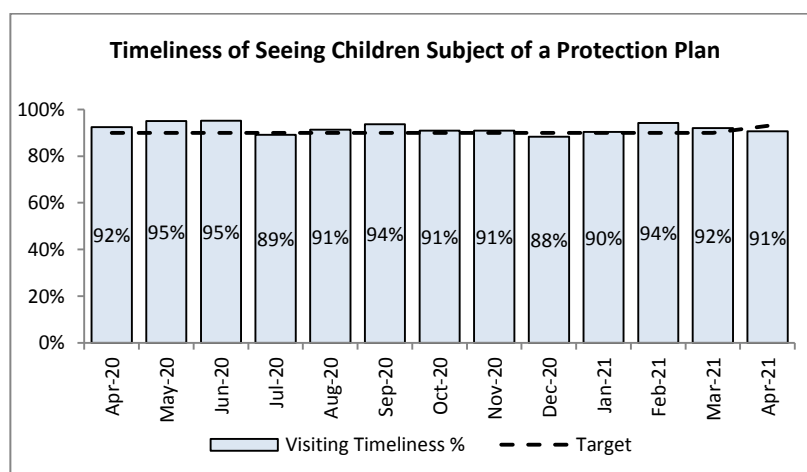
For 19 children undergoing an ICPC a protection plan was not deemed to be required.

Children Subject to a Protection Plan



Neglect is cited as a factor in the current category of abuse for 424 children subject to a protection plan (60% of cases). A Neglect Toolkit has been completed for 110 of these children (26%).

Of the 51 children made subject to a protection plan in April, Neglect was a factor for 30 of them. A Neglect toolkit had not been completed for any of these children (0%). Use of the toolkit needs significant improvement.



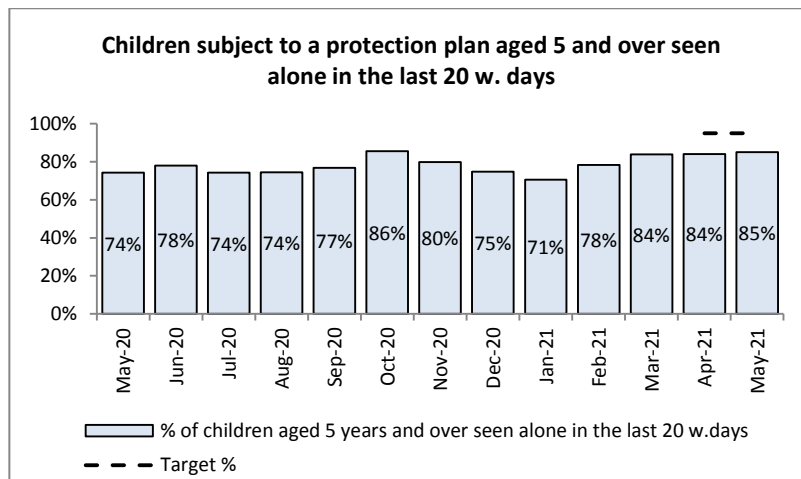
The majority of children subject to a protection plan were seen in a timely way in May, although performance did decline slightly for the second month (91%, 654 of 705 children). Performance is below but within tolerance of the new stretch target for 2021/22 (93%).

2 children were seen virtually in May (0.3% of children subject to a protection plan).

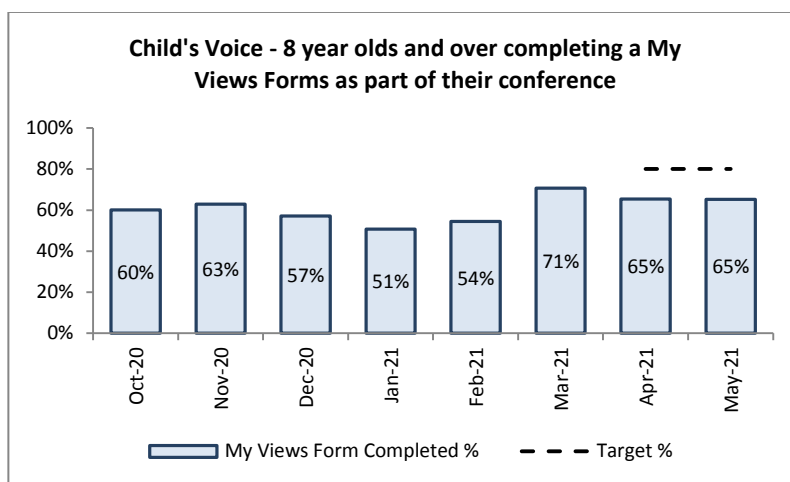
51 children had not been seen within 10 working days at the end of May (9%); 12 of these had not been seen in more than 20 working days.

	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
Cheltenham	97%	94%	94%
Cotswolds	94%	95%	95%
DCYPS	89%	100%	100%
FoD	95%	70%	85%
Gloucester	85%	91%	90%
Stroud	92%	96%	95%
Tewkesbury	97%	95%	99%

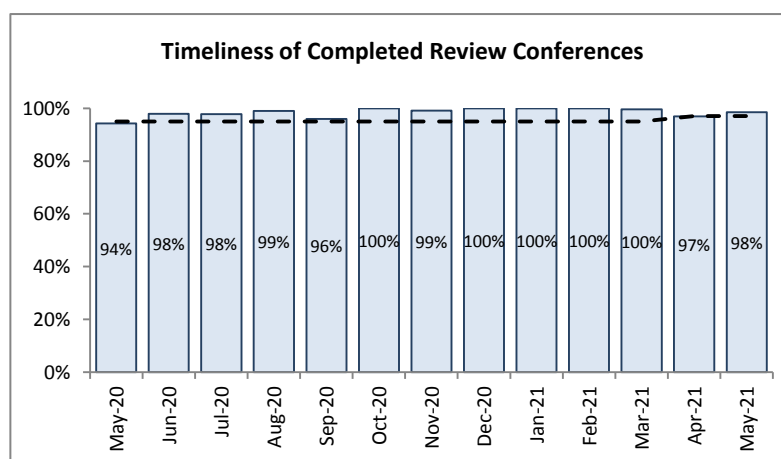
Timeliness of seeing children was above or within tolerance of target in all localities except Forest of Dean, although performance did improve from 70% to 85%.



85% of children subject to a protection plan aged 5 and over had been seen alone within the last 20 working days (417 of 490 children). Performance is worse than target (95%).

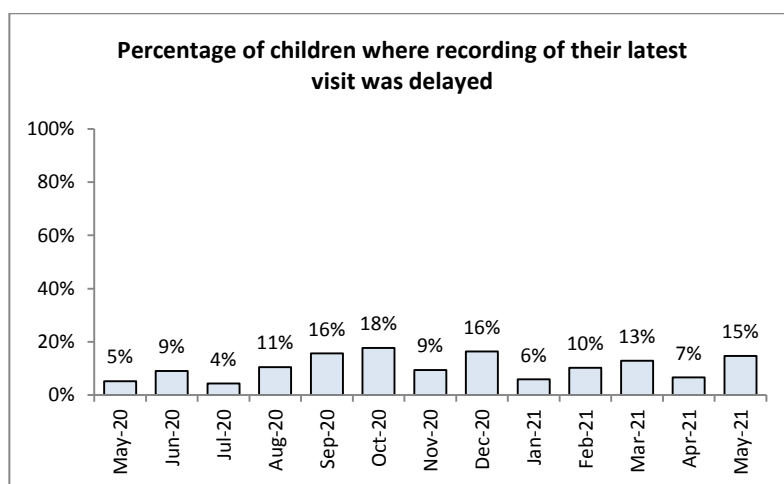


There were 147 children subject to a protection plan who had a conference in May who were aged 8 or over. Of these, 96 children completed a My Views form as part of their conference (65%). Performance is below target (80%). A slightly higher proportion of children completed a My Views form for initial conferences than review conferences (76% compared with 61%).



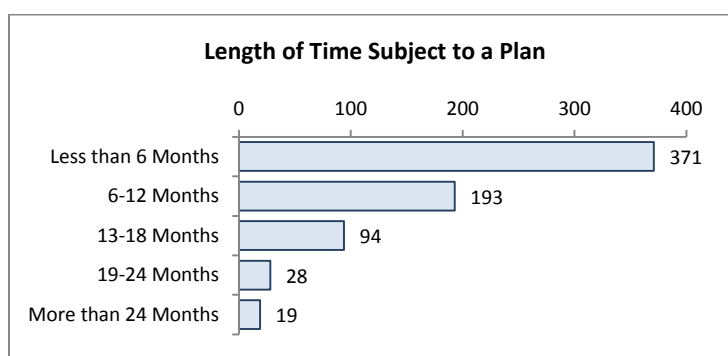
Review conferences for 198 children took place in May. Conferences for 195 children were timely (98%); performance was meeting target which was increased for 2021/22 from 95% to 97%.

Of the 555 children who have been subject to a protection plan for more than 3 months, all but two children have a review that is up-to-date (99.6%).



Recording of a visit was delayed for 15% of those children seen in May.

79% of children have been subject to a protection plan for less than 1 year



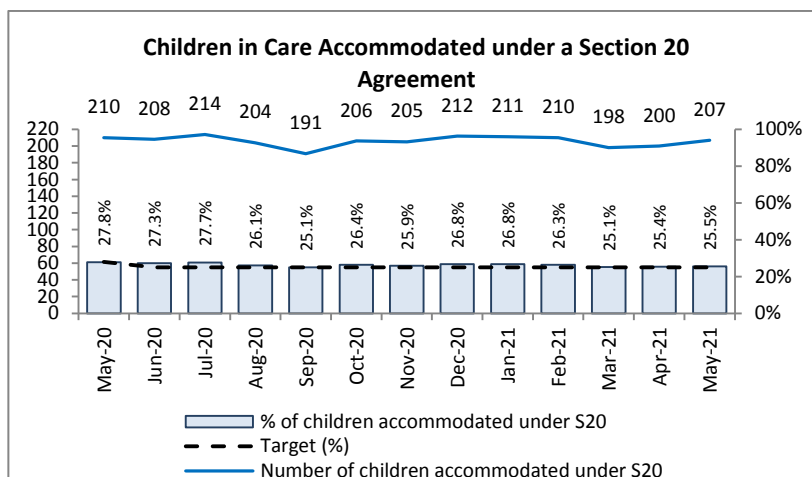
19 children have been subject to their plan for more than two years (2.7%). This is in line with our Peer Group comparators (2.8% Mar-20) but marginally worse than target (2%). 16 of these children are in pre (11) or court (5) proceedings.

Second and subsequent protection plans

	Mar	Apr	May	Mar			Apr			May		
	Overall			1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%	1st	2nd/sub	%
Cheltenham	36%	34%	29%	11	4	27%	6	1	14%	11	1	8%
Cotswolds	39%	37%	33%	12	5	29%	3	0	0%	4	0	0%
FoD	39%	38%	40%	5	8	62%	0	1	100%	10	2	17%
Gloucester	32%	32%	32%	17	18	51%	9	5	36%	18	5	22%
Stroud	40%	40%	41%	4	2	33%	7	5	42%	1	3	75%
Tewkesbury	37%	35%	32%	8	4	33%	9	2	18%	14	0	0%

All localities are holding worse than target proportions of children subject to a second or subsequent plan overall. However, There has been an improvement in the number of localities performing better than target in-month over the last two months (five, up from zero).

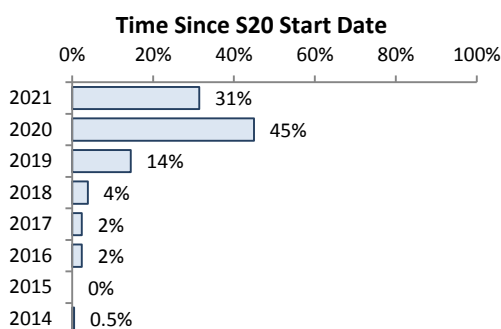
Children in Care



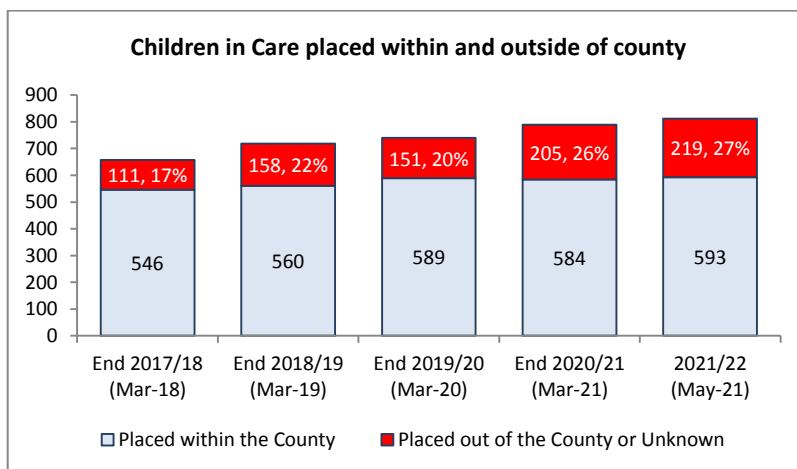
A quarter of children in care were accommodated under a Section 20 agreement at the end of May (25.5%, 207 children). This is within tolerance of target (25%) but remains significantly higher than the national average which is following a reducing trend (17%, March 2020).

51 children accommodated in care under an S20 agreement are in proceedings (25%):

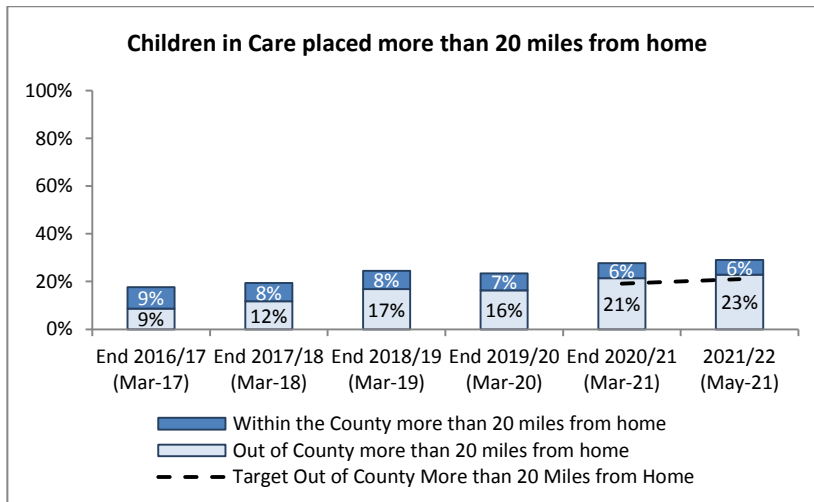
- 40 children are in pre-proceedings (19%)
- 11 children are in court proceedings (5%)



Three-quarters of the children accommodated under a Section 20 agreement came into care in 2020 or 2021 to date (76%).



Slightly more of our children in care live within Gloucestershire than in previous years. However, the number of children in care continues to increase, resulting in more children needing to be placed out of County (219 children, 27% - this includes 8 children where it is not possible to report whether they live in or out of County).

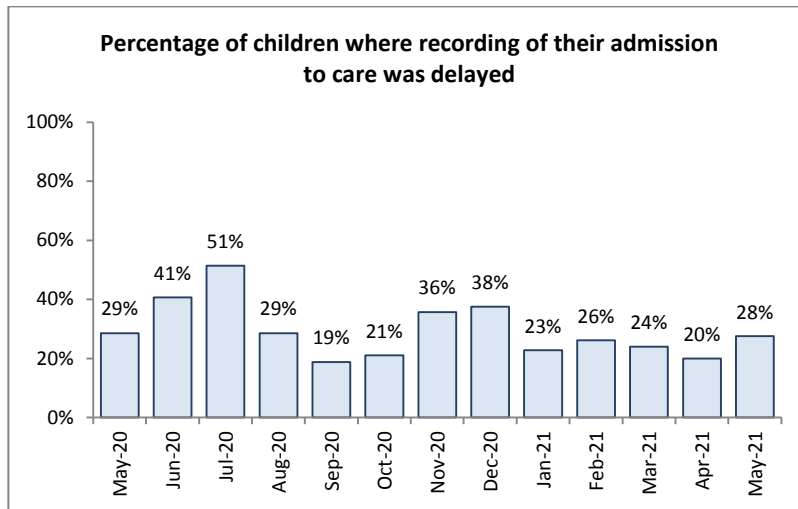


29% of children in care are living more than 20 miles from their home (236 children).

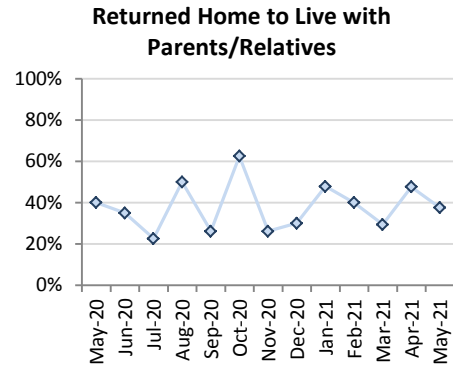
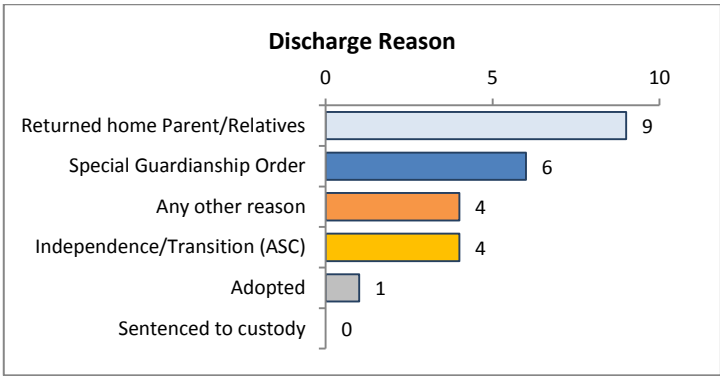
There were another 24 children (3%) where it is not possible to report if they live more than 20 miles from home because the child's home post code is not recorded.

186 children living more than 20 miles from home were in out of County placements (22.9%); this is worse than our peer group (21.0%, Mar-20) and target (21.0%).

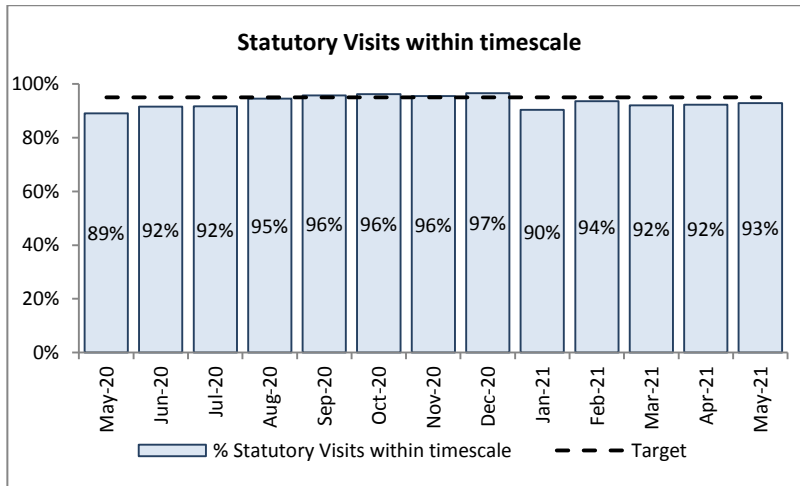
For 50 children, their placement was within Gloucestershire but more than 20 miles from their home (6%).



Recording admission to care was delayed for over a quarter of children in care in May (28%) This continues to require improvement to ensure that case recording is reflective of a child's circumstances in a timely way.

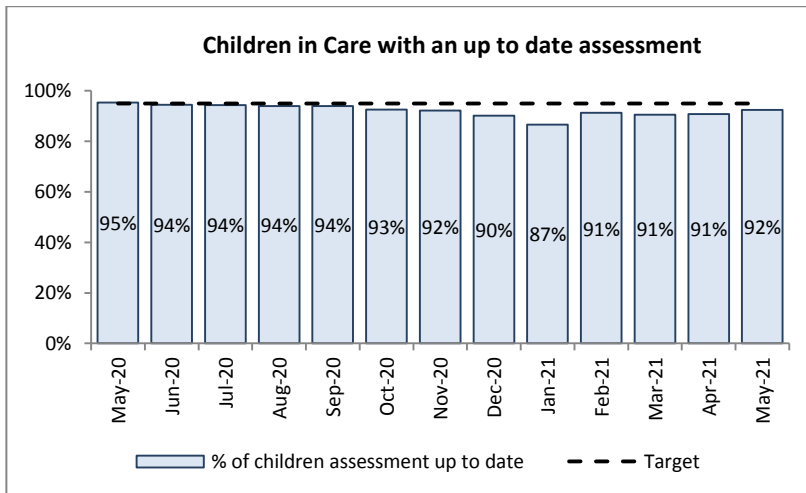


24 children left care in May; two-fifths of these returned home to parents/relatives (38%).



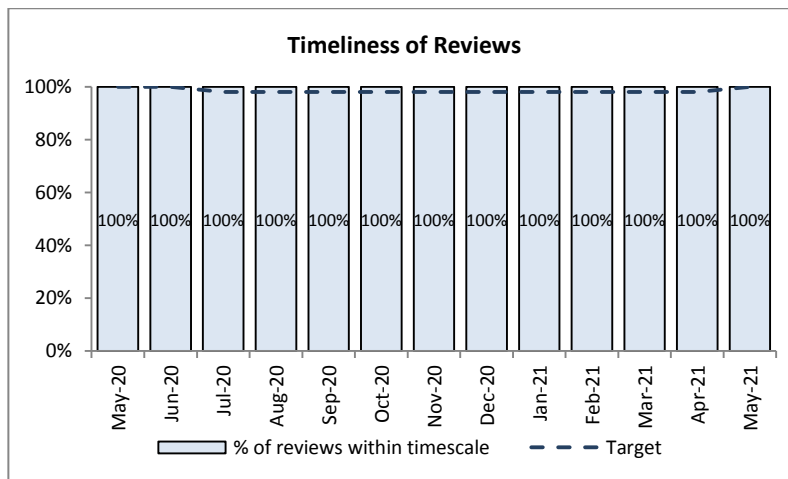
93% of children in care had an up to date Statutory Visit at the end of May (754 children). Timeliness of Statutory Visits remains below but within tolerance of target for the fifth month (95%).

5 children had been seen in timescale via another visit type and 3 children had been seen virtually (1% of children in care).

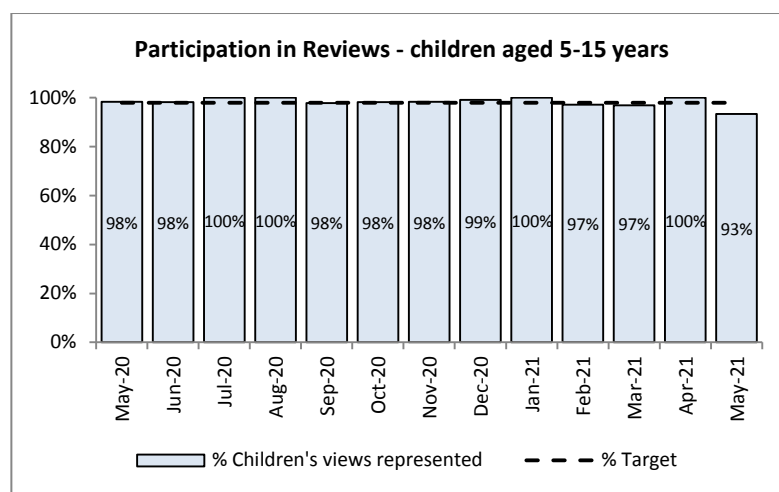


The proportion of children in care with an up to date assessment remained similar for the fourth month (92%, 684 out of 740 children). Performance remains below but within tolerance of target (95%).

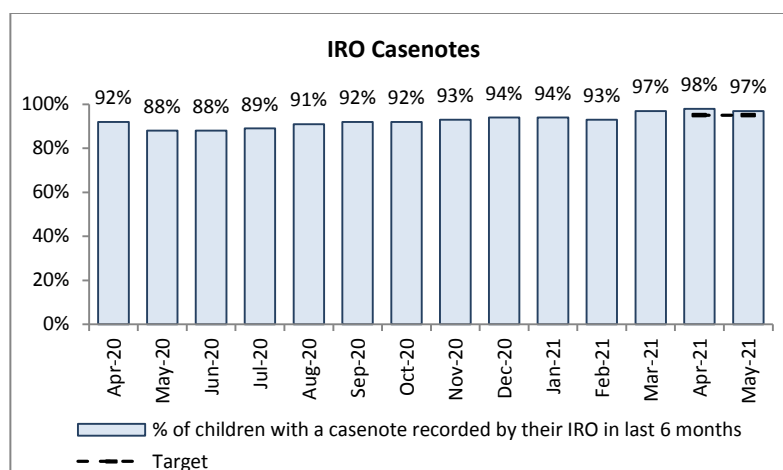
There were 56 children for whom an assessment was overdue at the end of May.



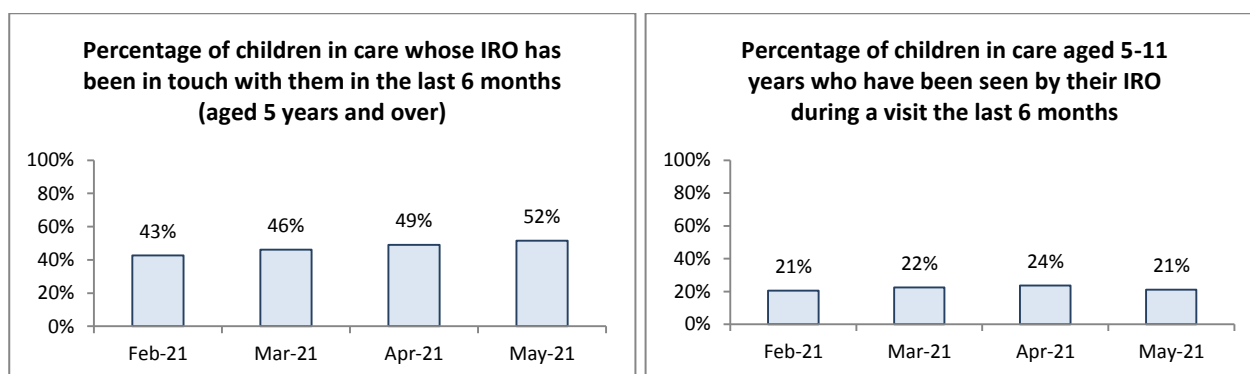
Reviews took place for 140 children in May, all of which continue to be timely; performance is above target (100%).



93% of children aged 5-15 years had their views represented in their review in May, either by attending or via an Advocate, IRO or other media (85 children).



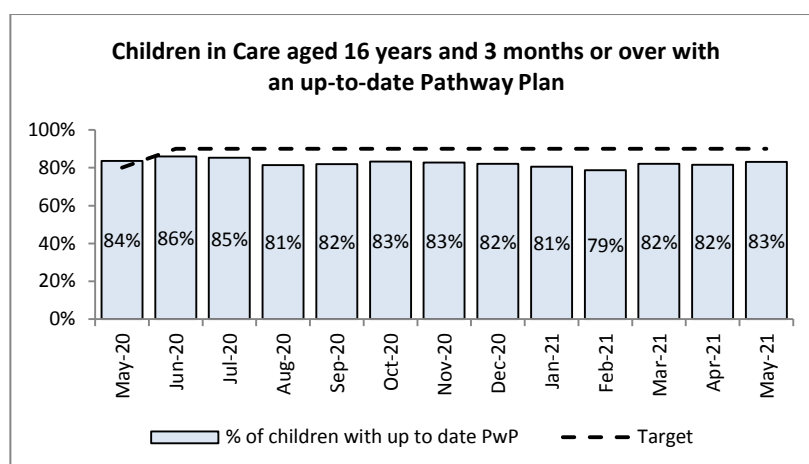
The vast majority of children in care had evidence of the IROs footprint on their case notes in the last 6 months (97%). Performance has remained steadily high for the last three months and is above target (95%).



IROs had been in contact with just over half of children in care aged 5 years and over in the last six months (52%). This is an improvement for the third month but remains low.

For 5-11 year olds, it is considered particularly important that contact with their IRO is face to face. Just over one-fifth of children in this age group have been visited by their IRO in the last six months (21%), this is a decline from just under a quarter at the end of April (24%).

Both contact and visiting by IROs for children in care need to increase.



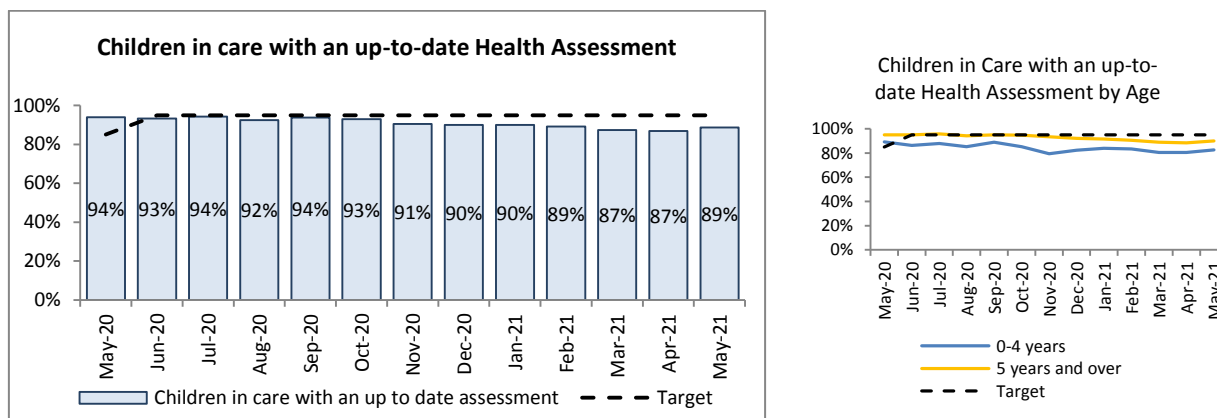
In May, the proportion of children in care aged 16 years and 3 months who have been in care for more than 3 months with an up-to-date Pathway Plan in place increased marginally (83% up from 79% in February, 162 out of 195 children). Performance has remained below target for 12 months (90%).

Timeliness of developing initial pathway plans for children who are reaching the appropriate age or have come into care is impacting performance with 33 young people who have no Pathway Plan in place. There are no children in care with a Pathway Plan that is overdue review.

	Up-to-date or not yet due	No PwP	% Up-to-date
DCYPS	12	0	100%
Stroud	2	0	100%
Gloucester South 11-25	38	1	97%
Cheltenham 11-25	31	3	91%
Stroud 11-25	37	4	90%
Gloucester North 11-25	23	9	72%
Gloucester	10	4	71%
Tewkesbury	5	4	56%
Cheltenham	3	6	33%
Forest of Dean	1	2	33%

Despite only holding a small number of children who should have a pathway plan, four localities are performing below target in the timely development of plans.

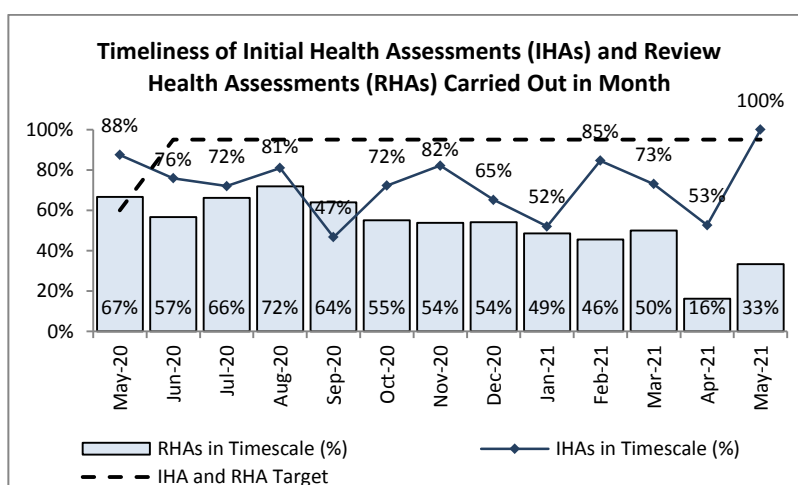
Gloucester North 11-25 holds one-third of the children overdue a pathway plan.



Overall, the proportion of children with an up-to-date health assessment increased slightly from the 12-month low seen last month but remains below target (89% against a target of 95%, 720 children).

Timeliness of health assessments for both our younger children in care (Under 5 years) and our older children in care (aged 5 years and over) have increased but remain below target (83% and 90% respectively against a target of 95%).

A health assessment for 92 children in care (11%) was overdue at the end of May. Timeliness of review health assessments is impacting performance and accounts for 73 of the 92 children overdue. 19 children are awaiting their Initial Health Assessment which was overdue.

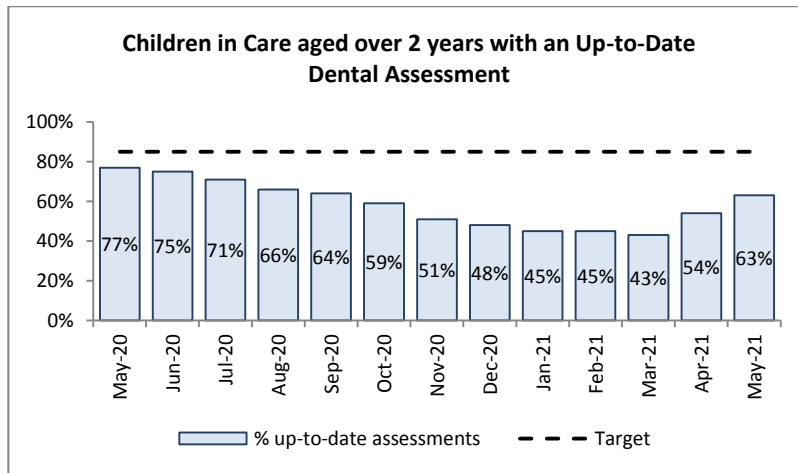


20 children in care received an IHA in May; all of which were within timescale (100%). This is a significant increase from 53% in April and is a 12-month high. Performance is above target (95%).

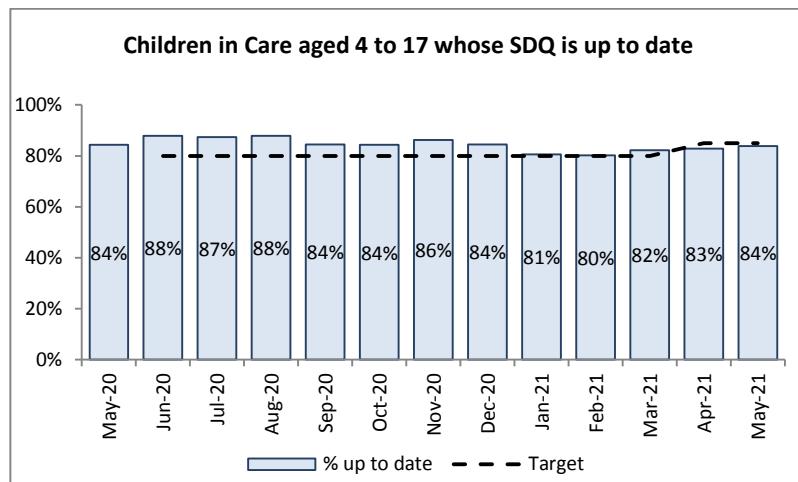
IHA timeliness for children entering care in May

IHA requested, no appointment recorded	13	31%
IHA appointment planned within timescale	10	24%
Received an IHA in timescale	9	21%
IHA appointment planned out of timescale	8	19%
No appointment request recorded	2	5%

In May, 36 RHAs took place, this remains low compared to previous months (the average for the last 12 months is 54 per month). Of these, 12 assessments took place within timescales (33%). Performance remains very low and is significantly below target (95%).

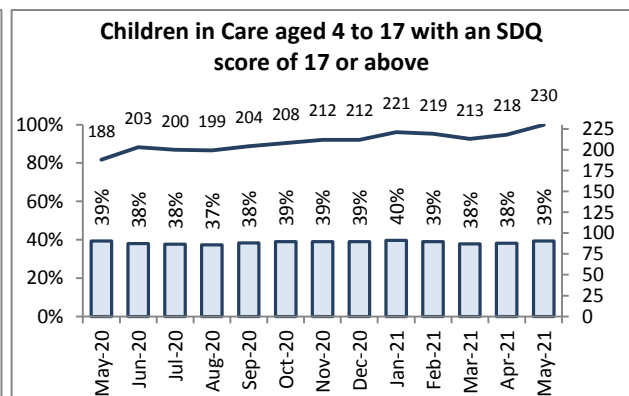
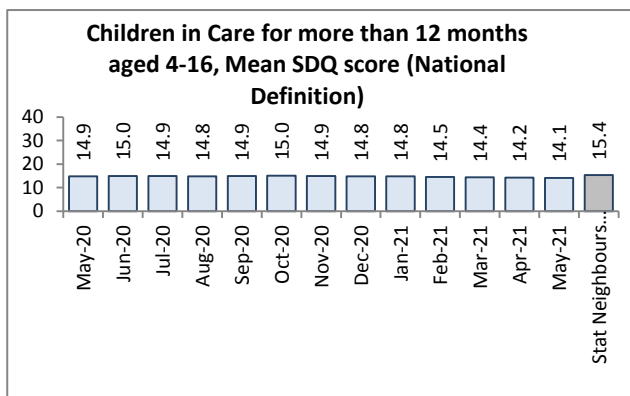


While the proportion of children in care aged 2 or older with an up to date dental assessment remains significantly below target (85%), performance has increased for a second month, up 20% points since March (63%, 466 out of 743 children).



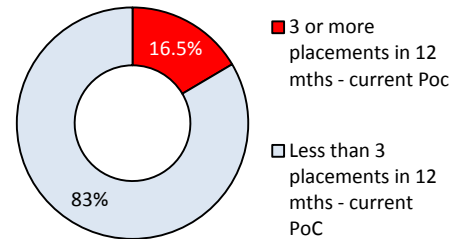
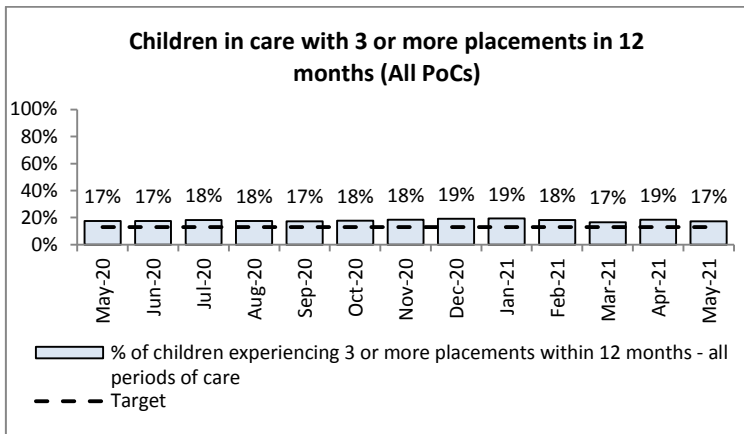
The majority of children in care aged 4-17 had an up to date Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) or were awaiting their first SDQ which was not yet due (84%, 570 of 680 children). This is a slight increase for the third month from 80% in February. Performance is below but within tolerance of target (85%).

We do not have timely sight of the emotional health of 110 of our children in care aged 4 to 17 (16%).



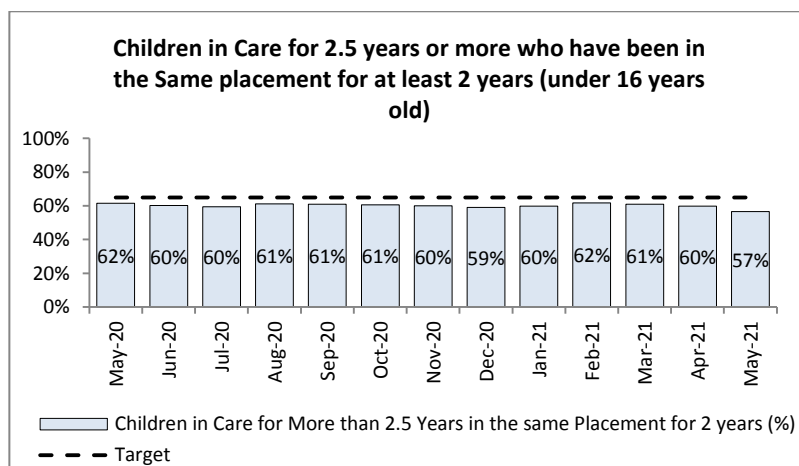
The average emotional health score for our children in care aged 4-16 (defined by the national measure) who have been in care over 12 months has continued to improve (down from 15.0 in Oct-20 to 14.1) and is better than our statistical neighbours (15.4%, Mar-20).

However, the number of children in care aged 4-17 with an SDQ score of 17 or above is following an increasing trend (230 children, 39%). Note: a score of 17 or above indicates that emotional well being is a cause for concern.

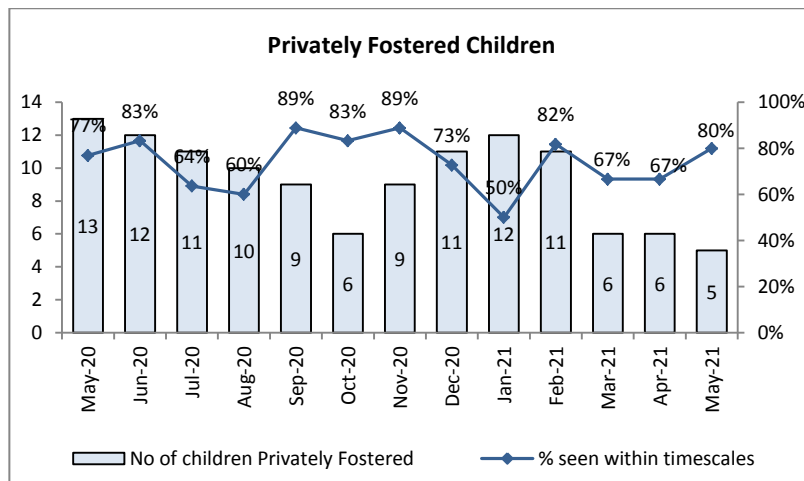


17.2% of children in care have had 3 or more placements in the last 12 months across all periods of care (140 children). This has fluctuated month on month. Performance remains worse than target (13%) and higher than our peer group comparators (11.0%, Mar-20).

16.5% of children in care have had 3 or more placements within the last 12 months during their current period of care (140 children).



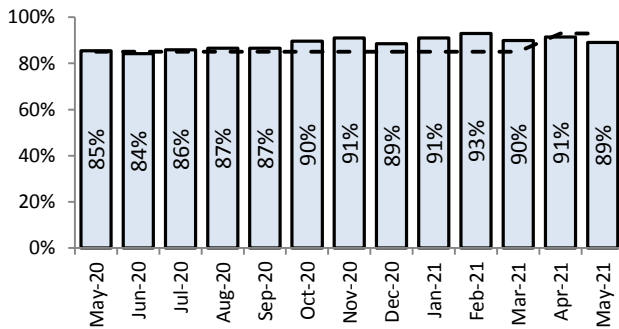
The number of children in care experiencing long-term placement stability has declined for the third month, from 62% to 57% (119 children). This is below target (65%) and our peer group (68%, Mar-20).



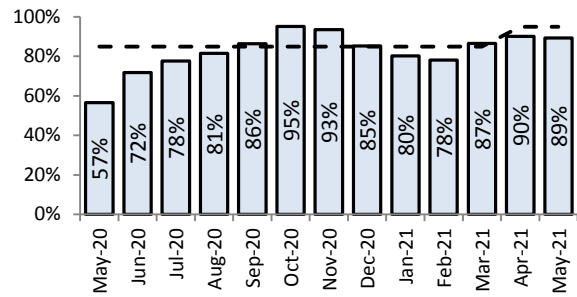
The number of Private Fostering arrangements has remains low and has reduced to 5 children in May. 4 children have an up to date visit (80%).

Foster Carers

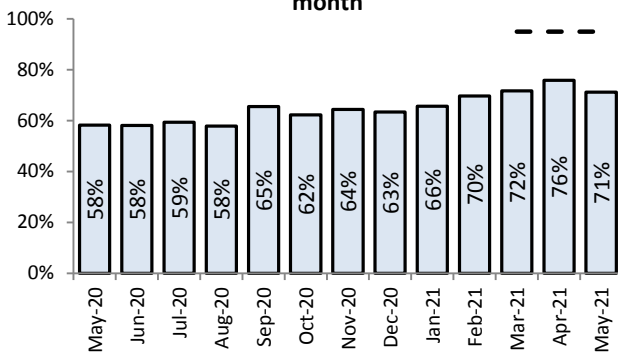
Foster Carers with an up to date Annual Review



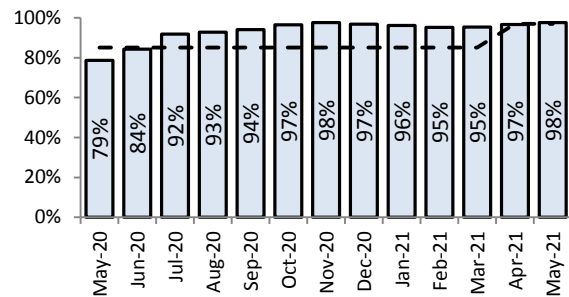
Foster Carers with an up to date Unannounced Visit



Foster Carers who had supervision in the month



Main Foster Carer with an up to date DBS Check

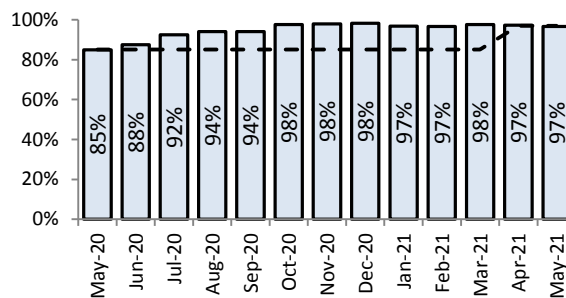


There has been a slight decline in the proportion of Foster Carers with an up to date annual review (89%) and unannounced visit (89%). Annual reviews remain within tolerance of target (93%) but unannounced visits are slightly below target (95%).

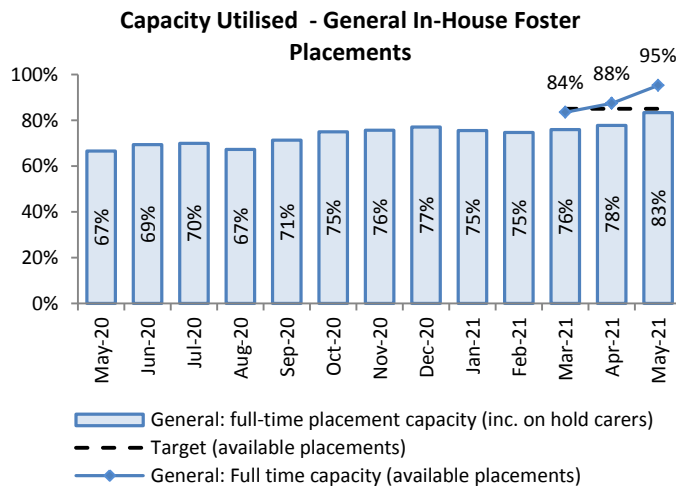
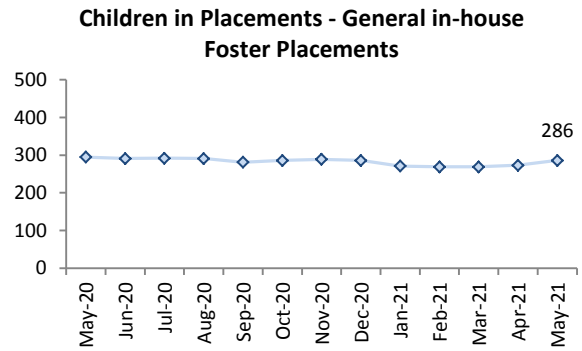
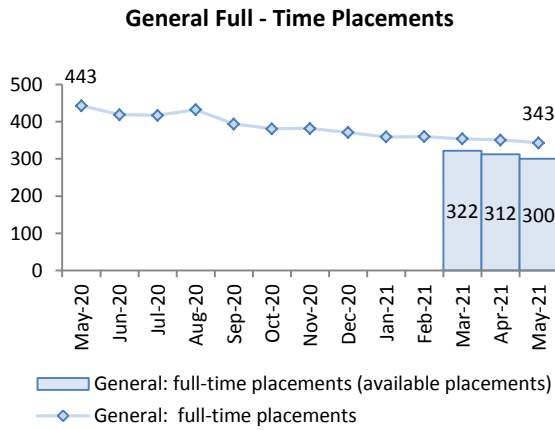
A high proportion of Main Foster Carers have an up to date DBS check (98%) this is above target (97%).

71% of Foster Carers received a supervision in May, a decline from 76% in April. Performance remains below target (95%). Work is being undertaken to categorise which Foster Carers only require a supervision every two months on the case management system which will support reporting to better reflecting how well we are performing in this area.

Main Foster Carers with an up to date Medical



The vast majority of main Foster Carers also had an up-to-date medical at the end of May (97%); performance is meeting the stretch target that has been put in place for 2021/22 (97%).



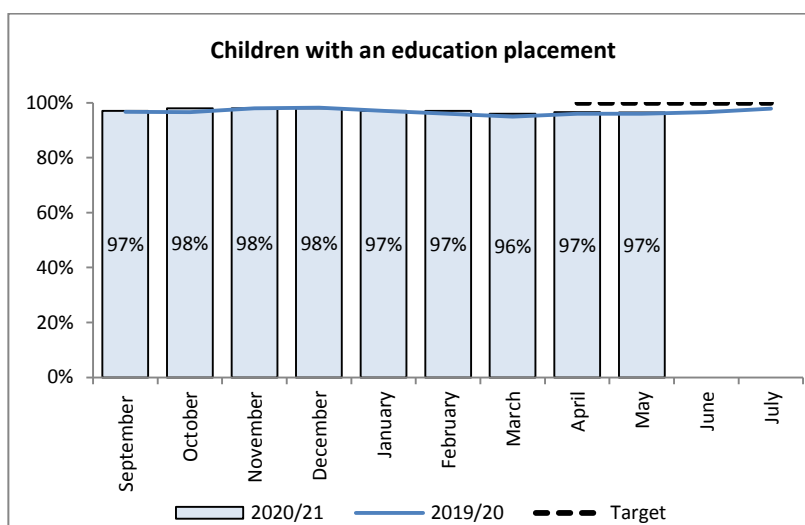
There were 201 households approved for general full-time foster care at the end of May with the capacity to offer care to 343 children.

There were 2 children being provided care due to additional beds in a carer's home being used (to accommodate sibling groups). There were, however, 45 fewer placements available due to carers currently being unable to accommodate children. The most common reasons for this in May is due to carers being on hold for personal reasons (-11 placements), sickness (-8 placements) or placed on hold due to standards of care or an allegation (-8 placements, 3 Foster Carers).

There were 286 children living in in-house Foster Carer placements at the end of May, were all placements available, this would equate to 83% of in-house foster placement capacity being utilised. However, taking into consideration Foster Carers who are accommodating more children than they are approved to do so (sibling groups) and approved Foster Carers who are currently unable to accommodate children, the available capacity of General in-house foster placements being utilised increases to 95%. Performance is above target (85%). Work is continuing to improve the quality of information captured.

Education – Children in Care

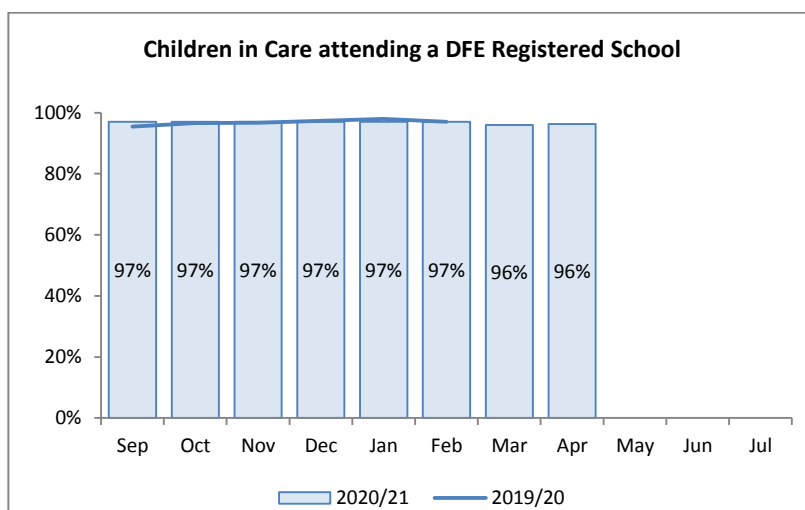
Note: PEP completion will be reported following the end of each school term.



The majority of school aged children in care had an education placement (school place) at the end of May (97%, 499 of 517 children). This is below but within tolerance of target (100%).

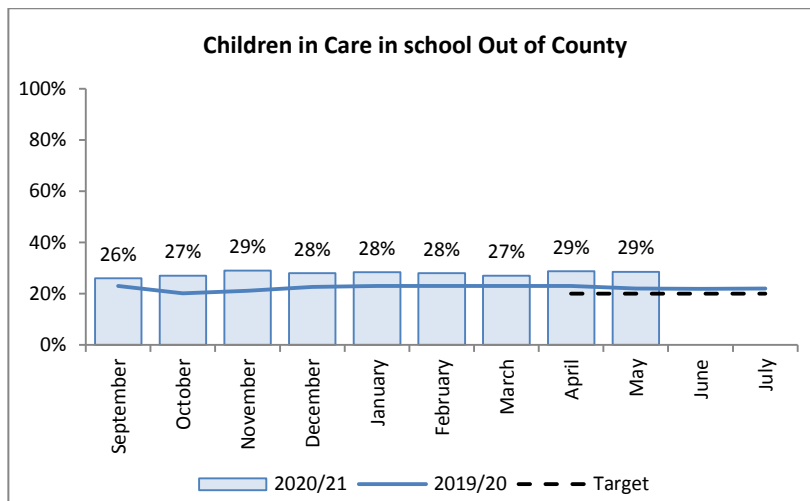
There are 19 children who did not have a school place, 12 of whom had been without a school place for more than 20 days. For 3 children education provision is expected to start soon.

Time without a school place		No. of children
Less than 20 days		5 children
	Sep 2019 – prior to child entering care	1 child
More than 20 days	Sep-Nov 2020	7 children
	Jan-Mar 2021	6 children

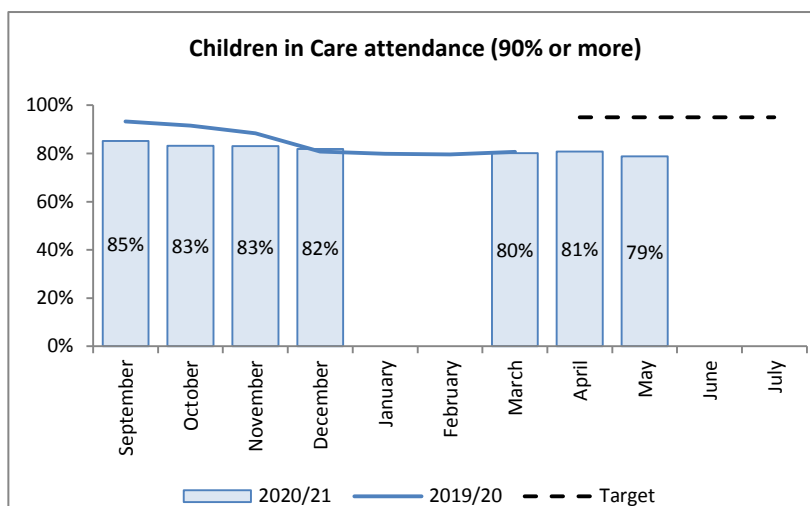


The majority of school age children in care with a school place were attending a DFE registered school at the end of May (96%, 478 children).

21 children were attending Alternative Provision Schools (or Pupil Referral Units if placed out of county) which equates to 4% of the cohort of those who have school place



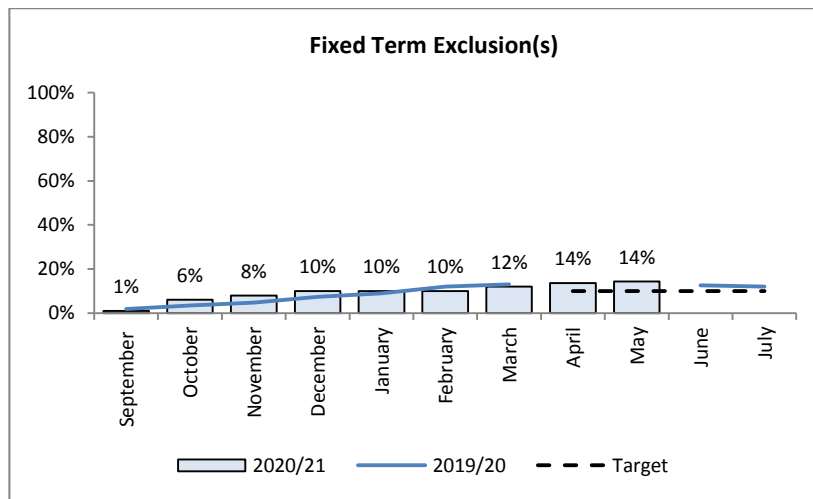
There were 142 students receiving education out of County in May (29%). This has been higher throughout the 2020/21 Academic year than during the previous one and is worse than target (20%).



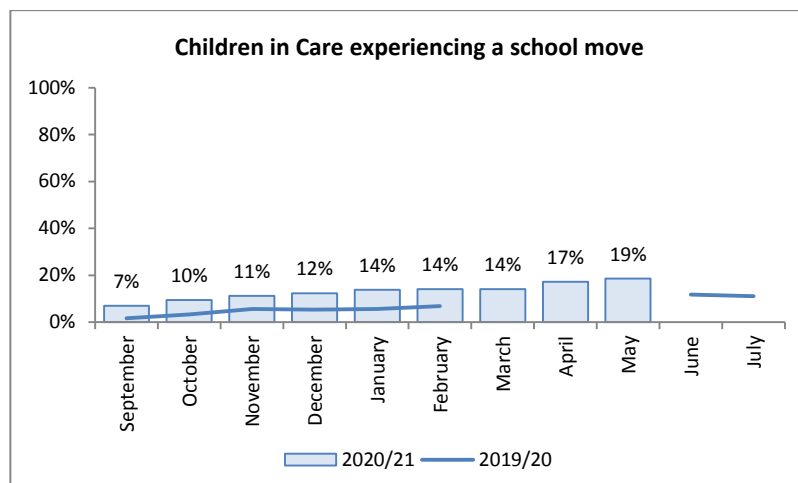
At the end of May, 79% of school age children in care in education had an attendance rate of 90% or more (393 out of 499 children). This remains below target (95%) and peer comparators (89.9%).

Attendance Rate	No. of school aged children in care	% attendance of school aged children in care
90% or over	393	78.8%
89% - 76%	42	8.4%
75% - 31%	30	6.0%
30% - 16%	13	2.6%
15% or below	13	2.6%
Attendance Unknown	8	1.6%
	499	

56 children (11%) had attended for fewer than three-quarters of school days of the academic year to date. For 13 of these children attendance was below 15% of school days. The attendance rate for 8 children was unknown.

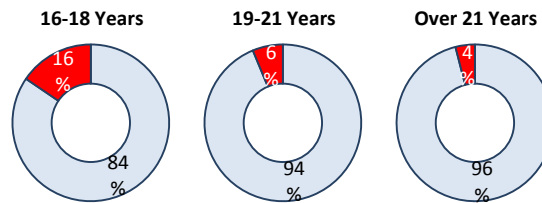
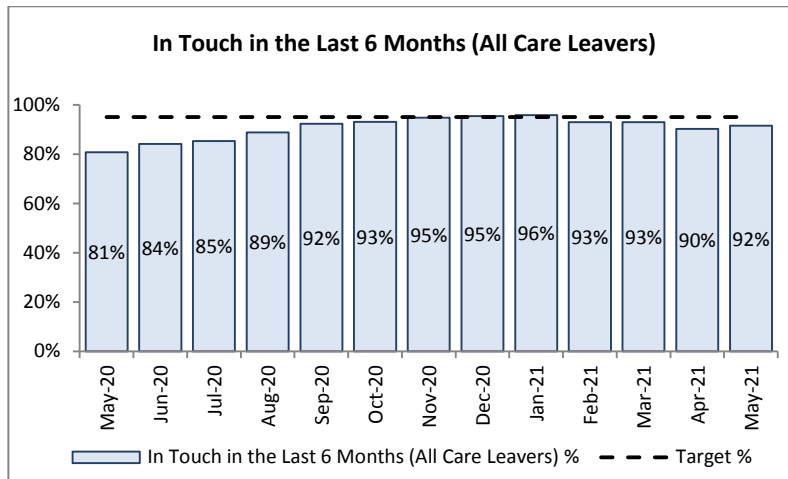


At the end of May, 14% of school aged children in care had been fixed term excluded (74 children). This is worse than target (10%) and peer comparators (12.6%). A total of 325 school days have been lost up until the end of May due to exclusions.

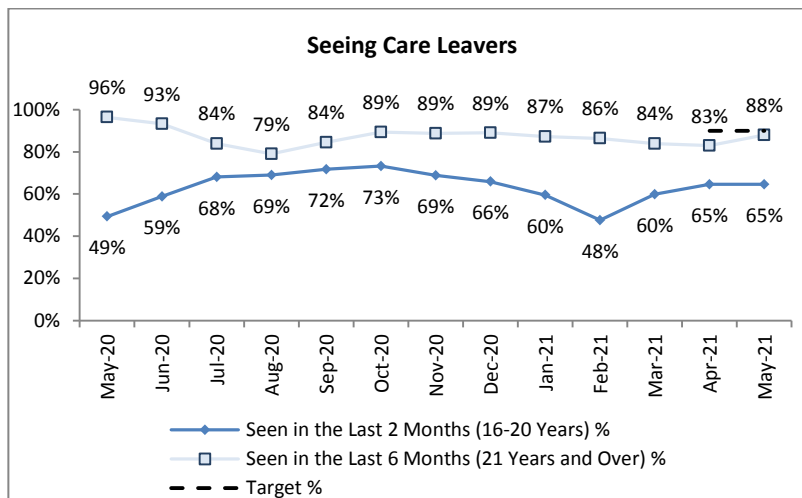


In May, 9 school aged children in care in education experienced a school move bringing the number of children changing schools so far this academic year to 93 children (19%).

Care Leavers

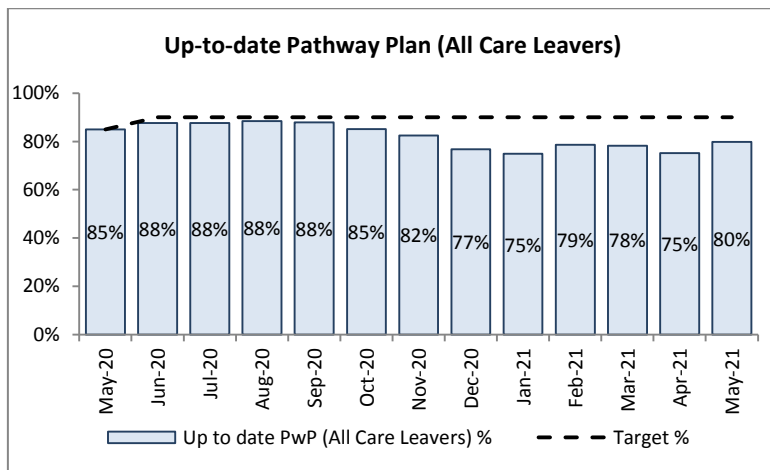


Overall, we have been in touch with 92% of our Care Leavers (421 of 460 Care Leavers); this is within tolerance of target (95%). Performance is better than our peer group (88% Mar-20).



The proportion of Care Leavers aged 16-20 years seen within the last 2 months remained the same in May (65%, 217 of 336 Care Leavers). Performance continues to be too low and is significantly worse than target (90%).

Timeliness of seeing our older Care Leavers (aged over 21) improved for the first time since October to 88% (109 of 124 Care Leavers) and was within tolerance of target (90%).



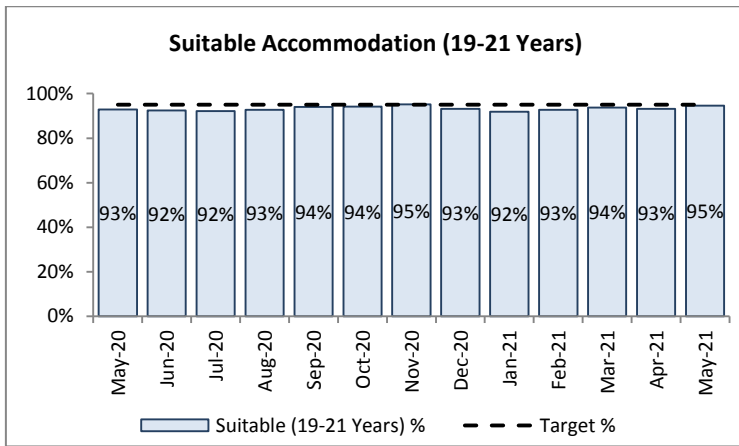
Pathway planning for our Care Leavers improved in May (80%, 367 of 460 Care Leavers) but is still 10% points worse than target (90%).

There are 93 Care Leavers who do not have a Pathway Plan or whose plan is overdue review. Of these, timeliness of reviewing pathway plans is impacting performance (84 children), with the majority held by 11-25 teams. Only a small number of children didn't have a pathway plan (9 children); they were all held by Safeguarding teams.

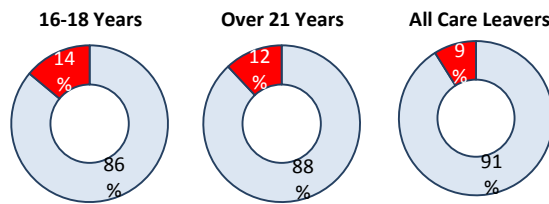
	In Time	Overdue or No PWP	% In Time
DCYPS	2		100%
Stroud 11-25	106	7	94%
Gloucester South 11-25	99	13	88%
Cheltenham 11-25	76	28	73%
Gloucester North 11-25	81	37	69%
Gloucester	2	1	67%
Cheltenham	1	2	33%
Cotswolds		1	0%
FoD		1	0%
Unallocated		1	0%
Tewkesbury		2	0%

All locality teams where Care Leavers were held were performing below target in May. Cheltenham 11-25 and Gloucester North 11-25 also continued to perform below target and were particularly impacting overall performance due to the number of children held.

Stroud 11-25, who are responsible for 113 Care Leavers, continued to perform above target.



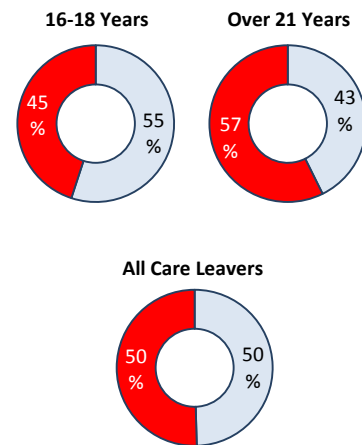
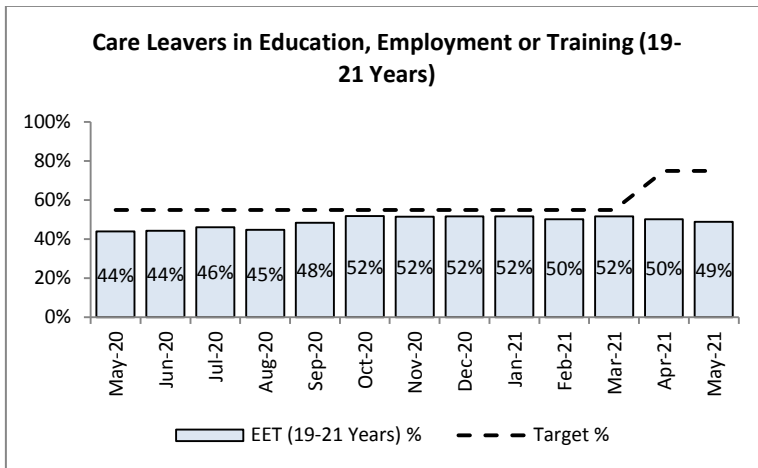
Peer Group (Mar-20)
 19-21 Year Olds: 80.7% ★



Overall, 91% of Care Leavers were living in suitable accommodation at the end of May. This is within tolerance of target (95%). Performance is being impacted by the living arrangements for our youngest and oldest Care Leavers is worse than target (86% and 88% respectively).

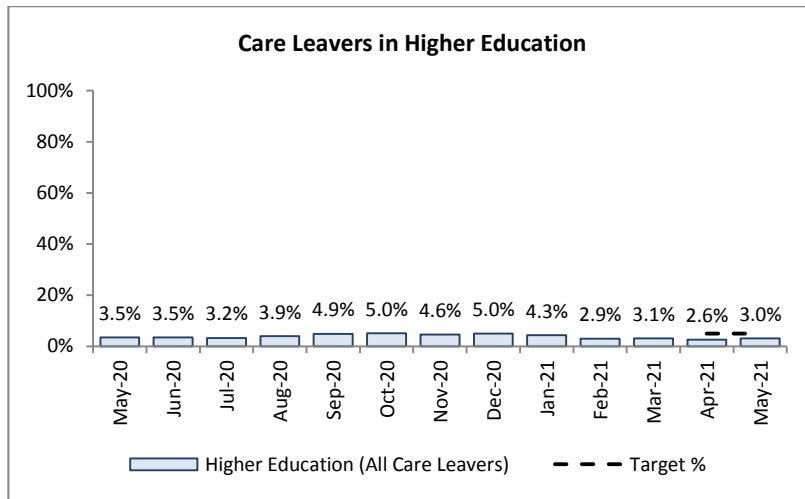
Performance for our older 19-21 years olds is within tolerance of target (94.5%).

Overall there were 41 young people who were classified as living in unsuitable accommodation or where accommodation suitability had not been recorded.



Half of our Care Leavers are in employment, education or training (50%); performance is below target (75%).

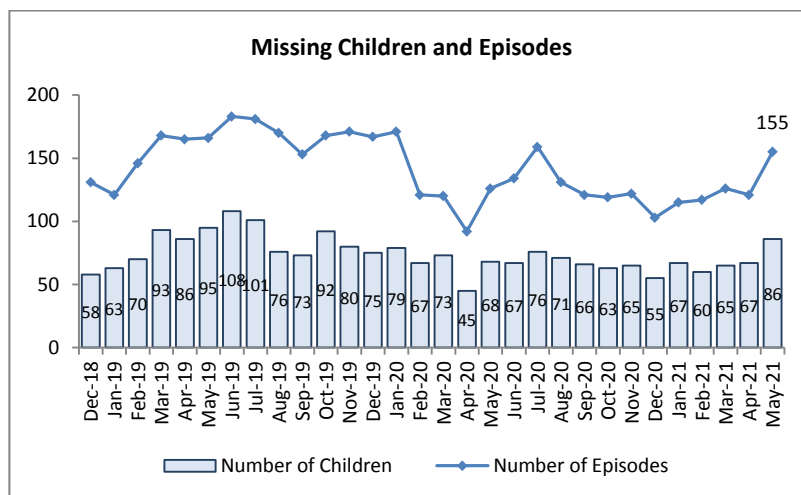
232 of our Care Leavers are not in employment, education or training or do not have their employment, education or training situation recorded.



14 Care Leavers were in full-time higher education at the end of May, (3.0%). This is below our peer group (4.4%, Mar-20), the national level (6.0%) and the South West (4.0%). Performance is also worse than target (5%)

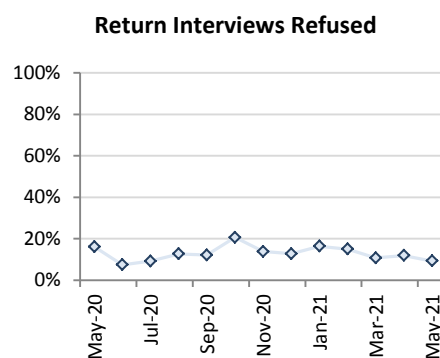
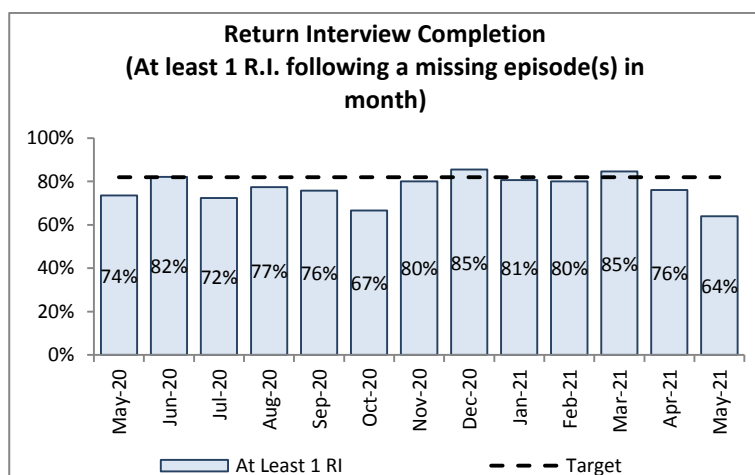
Missing Children and Child Exploitation

Missing Children



There were 155 missing episodes for 86 children in May. Of the 33 children (53 episodes) not open to Social Care at the time of their most recent missing episode, 10 children are now open to Social Care.

The trend in the number of children going missing and the number of episodes for which they are missing has been much lower with less seasonal variation since the first lockdown was implemented, with the exception of an increase in July 2020 when restrictions were eased. Following the easing of restrictions in May 2021 there has been a similar increase to the one seen last July both in the number of children missing and missing episodes, although this still remains lower than during the Summer season of 2019.



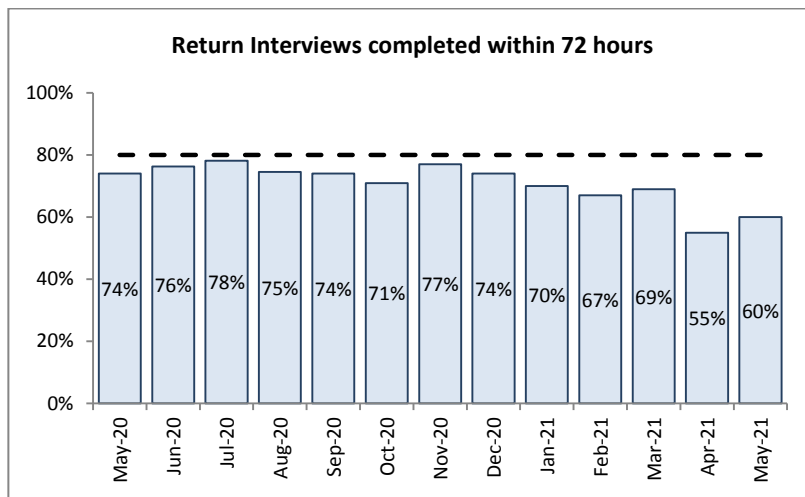
We spoke with 55 of the 86 children who went missing in May (64%); this is significantly below target (82%). There continue to be delays in conversations taking place with children who have been missing, or recording of those conversations, with return interview completion performance rising from 70% to 76% when refreshed for April.

Of the children open to Social Care at the time of their most recent missing episode, 70% received a Return Interview (37 children out of 53 children who went missing).

Two-fifths of children that went missing in May are not open to social care (38%). Of these children, just over half received a Return Interview (18 children out of 33 children, 55%) which has significantly impacted performance overall.

9% of children who went missing in May refused to speak to someone about going missing (8 children).

44 of the 55 children who had had at least one return interview, had been spoken with following their most recent episode of missing (80%).



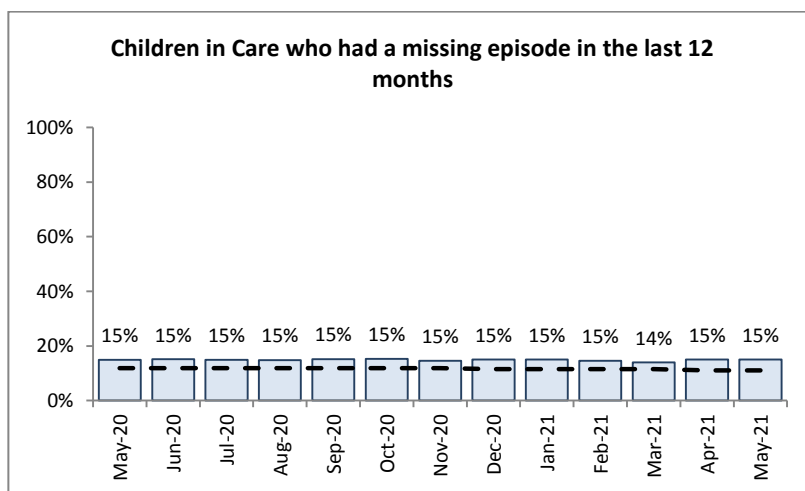
Conversations with 33 of the 55 children who have been spoken to following a missing episode were timely (60%); this is below target (80%).

	Number of Children	Number of Episodes
Total	86	155
Children in Care	38, 44%	76, 49%
Under 12's missing more than 4 hours	1, 1%	1, 0.6%
Missing overnight for more than 8 hours	40, 47%	71, 46%

In May, just under half of children who had a missing episode went missing overnight for more than 8 hours (40 children, 47%).

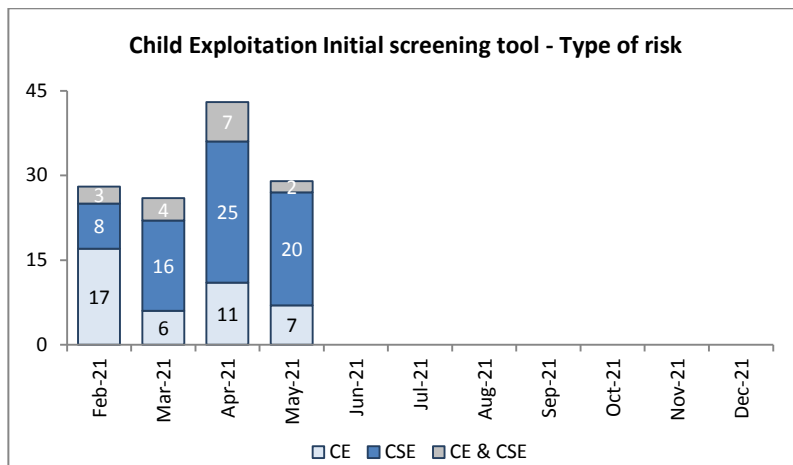
Almost half of the children who went missing in May were children in care (38 children, 44%). 22 of these young people were missing overnight for more than 8 hours.

1 Child under 12 was missing for more than 4 hours in May.

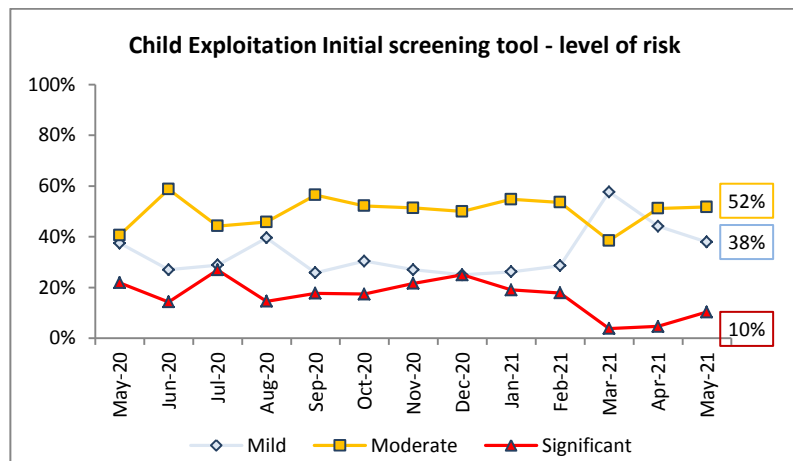


15% of our children in care at the end of May have had a missing episode in the last 12 months (124 children). This is worse than target (11%).

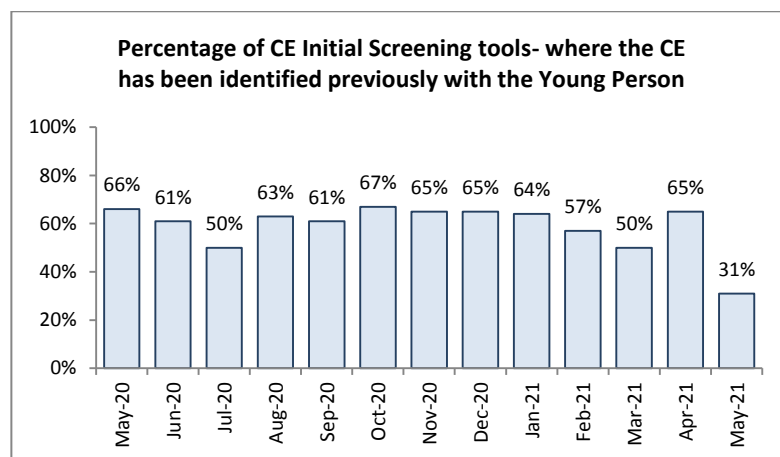
Child Exploitation Initial Screening tools



There were 29 children for whom an Initial Screening tool was completed in May, down from 43 in April. The majority of these were for children assessed as at risk of CSE (Child Sexual exploitation) (20 children, 69%).

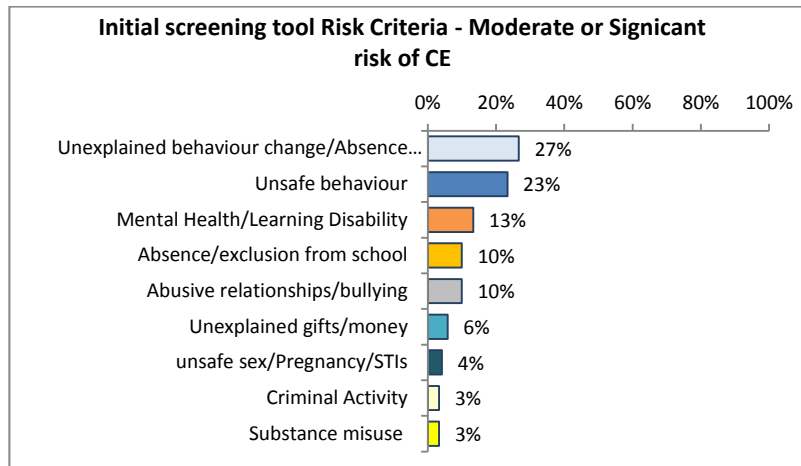


Over half of the children assessed in May were considered to be as being at moderate risk (52%, 15 children). The proportion of children assessed as at high risk has increased slightly in May (10%), but remains low.



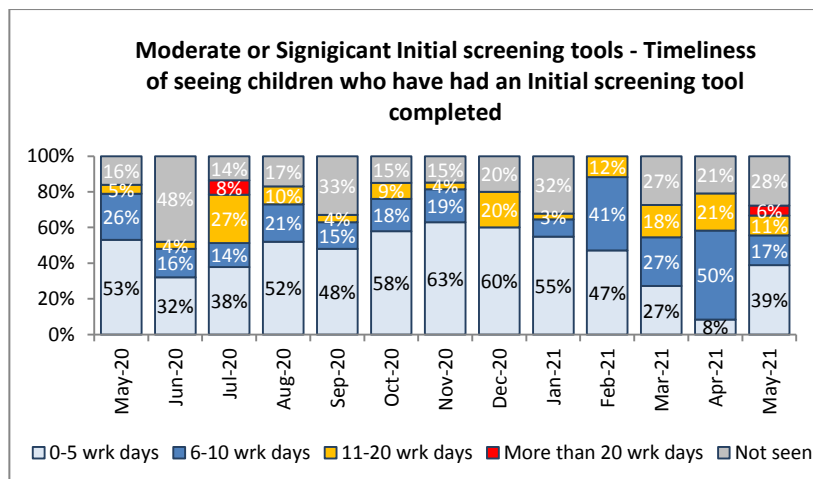
Just under one third of the children who were assessed as at risk of CE or CSE in May, had previously been identified at risk of exploitation (9 children, 31%). 5 of these children remained rated at moderate or significant risk of CE or CSE.

Initial Screening tools – Moderate or Significant risk



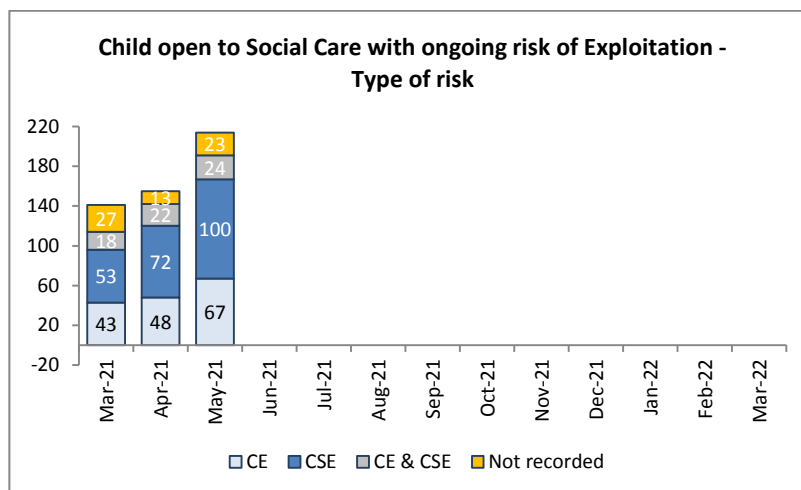
Of the 18 children for whom an initial screening tool was completed rated at Moderate or Significant risk, the most commonly identified risk criteria was Unexplained behaviour changes/absence or family breakdown (27%); the majority of concerns linked to extreme behaviour changes.

3 were children in care, 11 were Children in Need and 4 children were subject to a child protection plan.

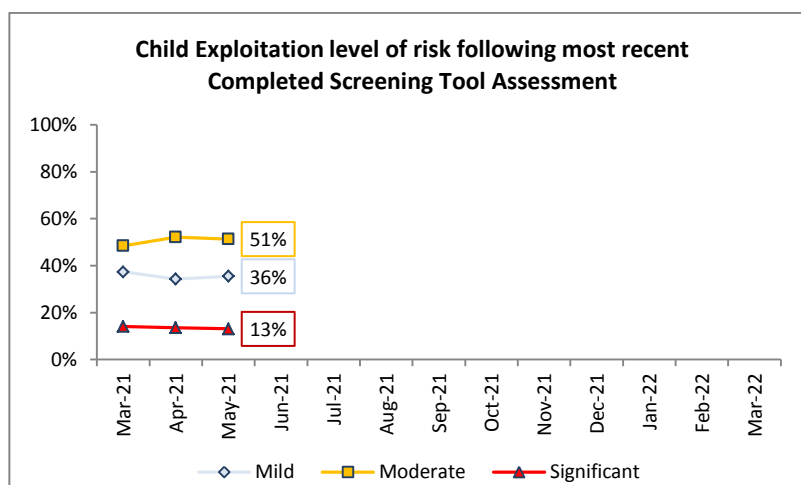


There had been a downward trend in timeliness of seeing children rated at Moderate or Significant risk since November. However, performance improved in May with 39% of children being seen between 0-5 working days following the initial screening tool. This continues to remain too low. Five children had not been seen at the time of reporting and were overdue a visit and 1 child was seen in over 20 work days following initial screening tool.

Children Open to Social Care with an ongoing risk of Exploitation



At the end of May, there were 214 children open to social care with an ongoing episode of Exploitation. A screening tool has been completed for 183 of these children (86%).



Of the 183 children who have a completed screening tool, 113 are deemed to be at a moderate or significant level of risk (64%).

83% of children have an up to date screening tool: either their initial screening tool occurred within the last 3 months or they have had a review within the last 3 months. Timeliness of review has decreased over the last 3 months. 31 children had their last review over 3 months ago or their current review is in Draft.

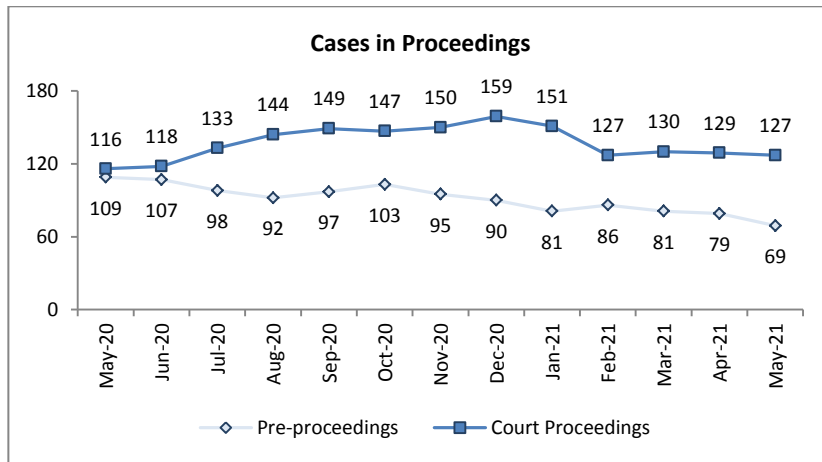
Of the 113 children who had a completed screening tool at the end of May and who were rated risk level Moderate or Significant, 43 children are in care, 48 are Children in Need and 22 children are subject to a protection plan.

CE/CSE episodes ending

For 6 children their episode of Exploitation ended in May, 4 children remained at Mild risk of CSE/CE and were closed following their 1st review. For 1 child their risk reduced from Moderate to Mild risk and closed following their 2nd review. For 1 child their episode was closed without an initial screening tool being completed.

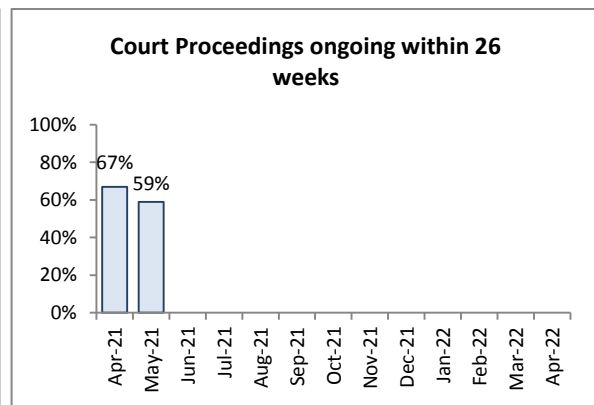
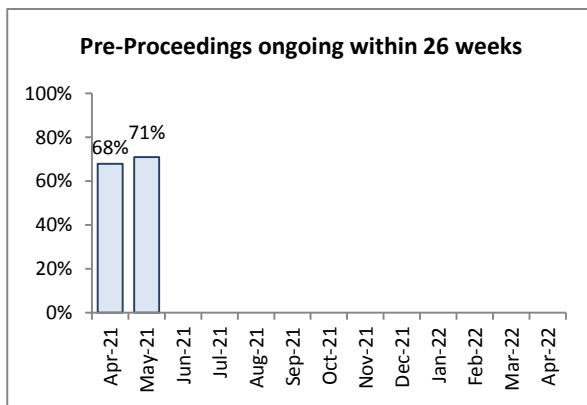
Legal Proceedings

Note: Data used for reporting between January to May has been taken from records held by Legal Services while data is populated and cleansed on the case management system. Data reported may not therefore be comparable to previous trend data.



	Pre-proceedings		Court proceedings	
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
Completed or issued to court proceedings in-month	8	10	11	15
Ongoing from previous month	60	110	116	197
New in-month	9	19	11	17
Total end May-21	69	129	127	214

196 cases are currently ongoing. There were 69 cases in pre-proceedings at the end of May, equating to 40% of proceedings overall; these related to 129 children. 127 cases (equating to 60% of proceedings), for 214 children were in court proceedings at the end of May.



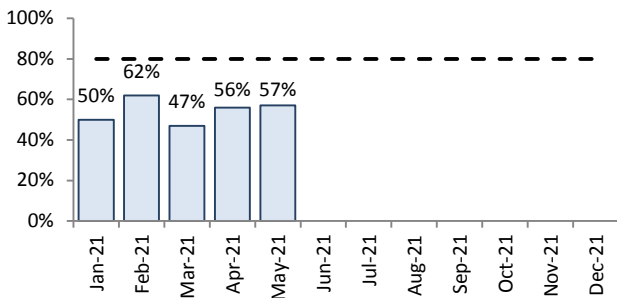
Pace of proceedings needs improvement with around two-thirds of ongoing cases within timescale.

20 pre-proceedings cases for 30 children are ongoing and overdue (29% of cases). The longest case has been ongoing for 64 weeks.

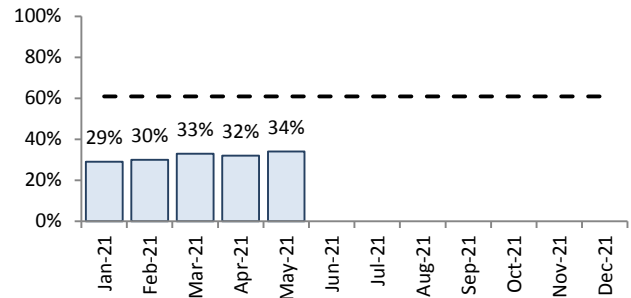
52 court cases for 88 children were overdue at the end of May (41% of cases).

Pre-proceedings cases open longer than 26 weeks		Court cases open longer than 26 weeks	
Gloucester	5	Gloucester	18
FoD	5	Stroud	10
Tewkesbury	3	Cheltenham	8
Cheltenham	2	FoD	7
Cotswolds	2	Tewkesbury	5
DCYPS	2	Cotswolds	3
Stroud	1	Other	1

Pre-Proceedings completed within 26 weeks (Calendar year to date)



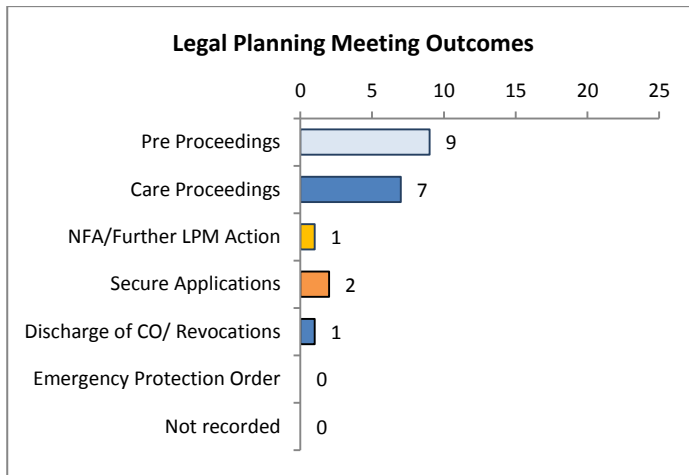
Court proceedings completed within 26 weeks (Calendar year to date)



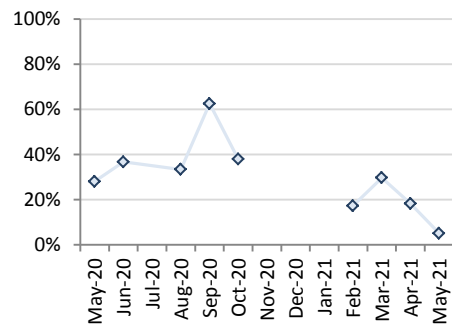
Legend: % Pre-proceedings completed within 26 weeks - - - Target % Court proceedings completed within 26 weeks - - - Target

Calendar year to date, under three-fifths of pre-proceedings (57%, 29 cases for 39 children) and just over one-third of court proceedings (34%, 25 cases for 31 children) were completed within timescales. This is significantly below target (80% and 60% respectively).

Legal Planning Meetings



NFA/Further LPM Required

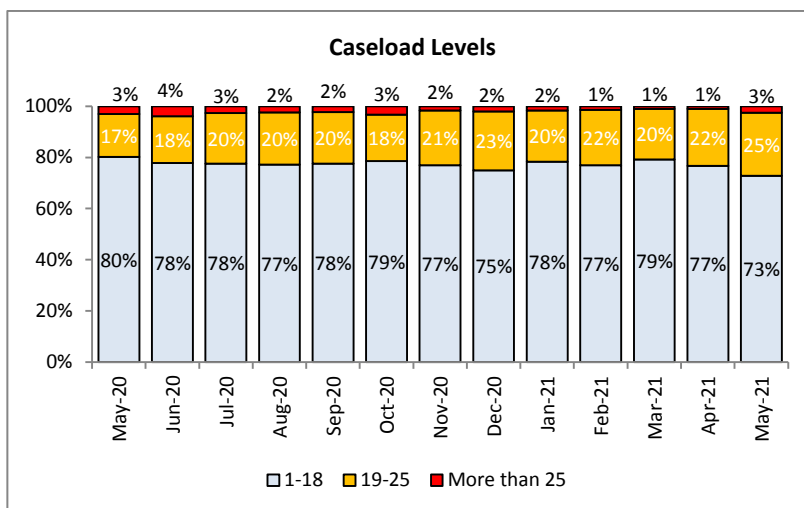


There were 20 legal planning meetings held in May. Of these, 1 resulted in no further action or required further work and a follow up LPM in order to make a decision (5%).

Caseload

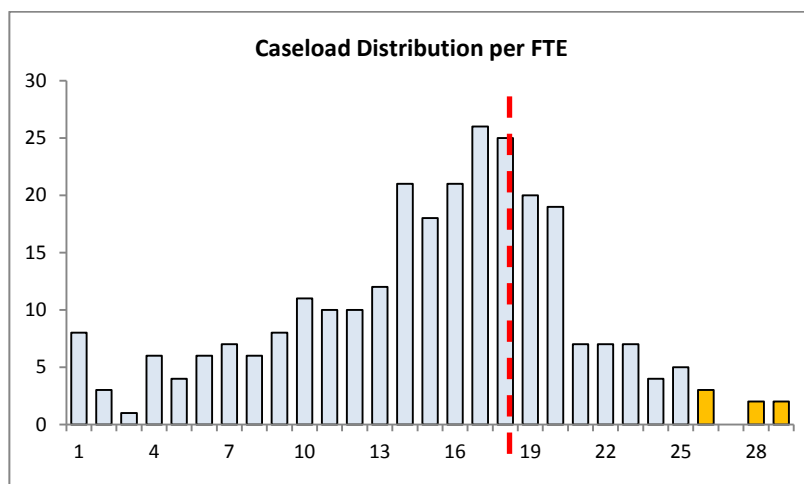
We aim for each Solicitor to have a caseload of 12 cases or fewer. The average caseload per Solicitor at the end of May was 9 cases.

Workforce



Children's Services remains committed to achieving a caseload level for Social Workers of 18 children or fewer per fte. In May, 73% of workers were responsible for 18 children or fewer per fte (203 workers). This is a decline for the second month from 79% in March and is below target (95%). This reflects the increase in children open to Social Care over the last 3 months, up by 376 children.

A quarter of teams have workers who all hold a caseload of 18 children or fewer (25%, 11 teams).



27% of workers have higher caseloads (76 workers). However, the greater majority of workers hold 22 children or fewer per fte (92%).

97.5% of workers hold 25 children or fewer. This has decreased slightly since last month (98.9%); performance is within tolerance of target (100%).

At the end of May, 7 workers held more than 25 children.

Inactivity for Children

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

There is activity within relevant timescales for the vast majority of children (99.7%, 4060); performance is within tolerance of target (100%).

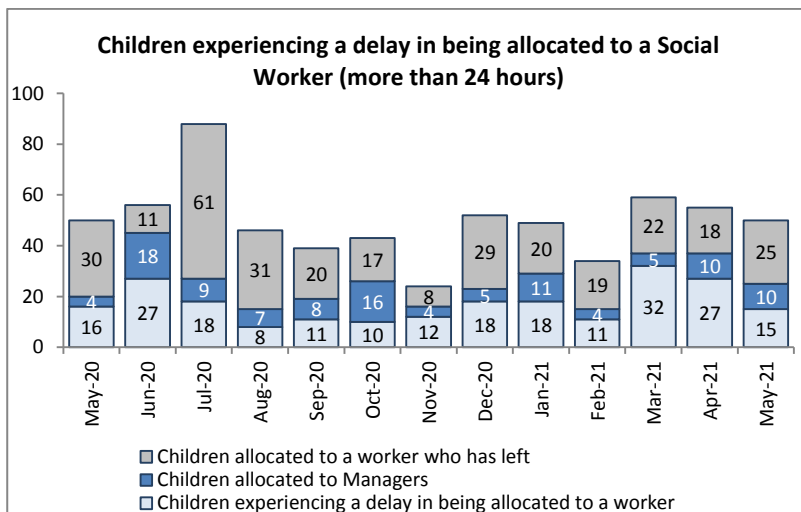
There were 12 children for whom there had been no activity within relevant timescales at the end of May. 5 of these children were held by 11-25 teams, 4 by Assessment or Safeguarding Teams and 3 by DCYPS, FFAST and TACS.

Allocating a Social Worker

May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
99.5%	98.9%	99.3%	99.6%	99.7%	99.3%	99.6%	99.4%	99.2%	99.6%	99.0%	99.0%	99.7%

The overwhelming majority of children have an allocated Social Worker (99.7%). At the end of May, 25 children were experiencing a delay in being allocated to a Social Worker.

In addition, 25 children continued to be allocated to workers that had left during May, this increases the total number of children without an allocated worker to 50.

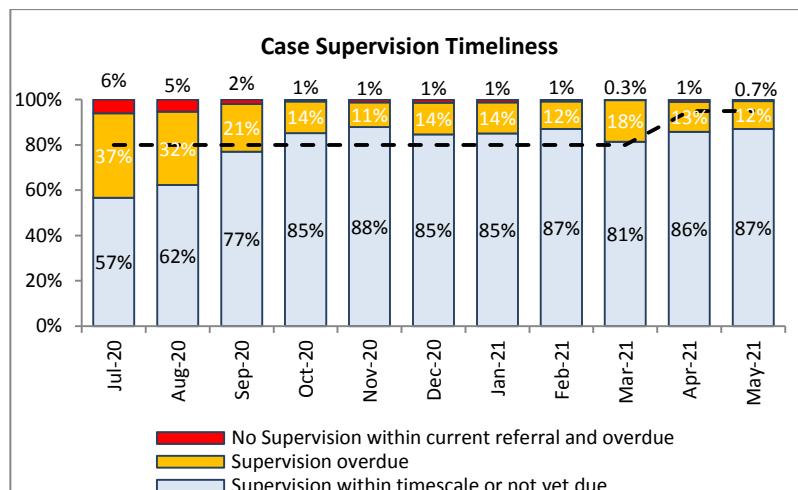


8 children have been allocated to a Manager for more than 2 weeks

There were 2 children who have not had an allocated worker for more than two weeks

99.8% of children had been allocated to a worker within two weeks; this is within tolerance of target. For a small number of children (10) the delay in allocation had exceeded two weeks.

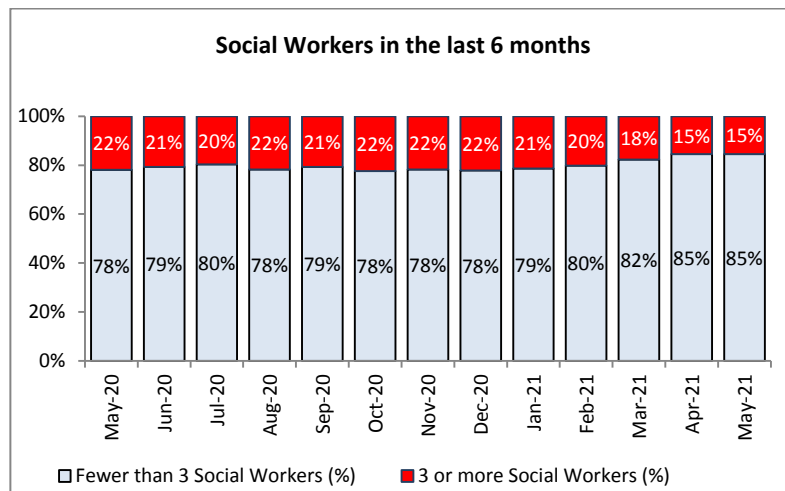
Case Supervision



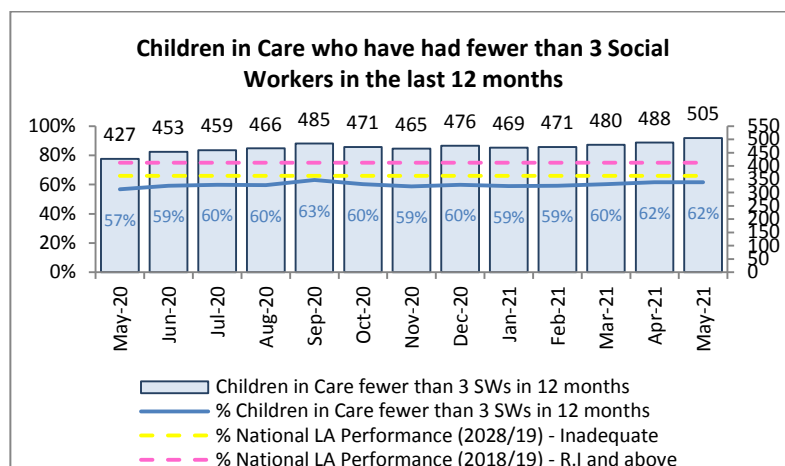
At the end of May, 3,542 children had a case supervision recorded within the timescale appropriate to their status, or were not yet due a supervision (87%). Performance remains below the stretch target implemented in April (95%)..

A supervision was overdue for 497 children in May (12%), while 28 children do not have a case supervision recorded during their current referral and an initial supervision is overdue (0.7%); 1 child in this group was referred in December, 1 in January, 7 in March and 17 in April.

Social Worker Stability



85% of children had fewer than 3 Social Workers allocated in the last 6 months. This remains positive compared to previous months, up from 78% in December.



The proportion of children in care who have had stability of Social Worker (fewer than 3 Social Workers in the last 12 months) remained similar, 62%. This is against a growing number of children in care overall and therefore accounts for more children (up for the fourth month from 469 to 505).

Stability of Social Worker is better than the same time last year (57%). However, performance remains lower than other LAs which have been rated as inadequate by Ofsted where around 2 in 3 children in care have fewer than 3 Social Workers in a 12 month period and LAs rated R.I. and above where 3 in 4 children in care have fewer than 3 Social Workers.