

**MEETING**

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

**DATE AND TIME**

**MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2021**

**AT 7.00 PM**

**VENUE**

**HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

**TO: MEMBERS OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE  
(Quorum 3)**

Chairman: Councillor David Longstaff  
Vice Chairman: Councillor Felix Byers

**Councillors**

Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb  
Councillor Rohit Grover  
Councillor Danny Rich  
Councillor Val Duschinsky  
Councillor Nagus Narenthira

Councillor Anne Hutton  
Councillor Julian Teare  
Councillor Linda Freedman  
Councillor Reuben Thompstone

**Substitute Members**

Councillor Saira Don  
Councillor Eva Greenspan  
Councillor Kathy Levine

Councillor Arjun Mittra  
Councillor Ammar Naqvi  
Councillor Stephen Sowerby

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is **8<sup>th</sup> September at 10AM**. Requests must be submitted to Pakeezah Rahman at [pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk)

**You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.**

**Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance**

Governance Service contact: Pakeezah Rahman [pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk) 020 8359 6452

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454

**ASSURANCE GROUP**

*Please consider the environment before printing.*

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Minutes of the last Meeting	5 - 10
2.	Absence of Members	
3.	Declarations of Members Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests	
4.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (if Any)	
5.	Public Questions and Comments (if Any)	
6.	Members' Items (if Any)	
7.	Family Services Quarterly Update	11 - 50
8.	Family Friendly Update	51 - 64
9.	Voice of the Child Report	65 - 76
10.	Annual Report from the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel - <b>TO FOLLOW</b>	
11.	Therapies	77 - 82
12.	Committee Work Programme	83 - 86
13.	Any other Item(s) that the Chairman decides are Urgent (if Any)	

### FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Hendon Town Hall has access for wheelchair users including lifts and toilets. If you wish to let us know in advance that you will be attending the meeting, please telephone Maria Lugangira maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk. People with hearing difficulties who have a text phone, may telephone our minicom number on 020 8203 8942. All of our Committee Rooms also have induction loops.

### FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by uniformed custodians. It is vital you follow their instructions.

You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings

Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions.

Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Decisions of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee

7 June 2021

Members Present:-

AGENDA ITEM 1

Councillor David Longstaff (Chairman)  
Councillor Felix Byers (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor  
Pauline Coakley Webb  
Councillor Linda Freedman  
Councillor Rohit Grover  
Councillor Anne Hutton  
Councillor Nagus Narenthira

Councillor Danny Rich  
Councillor Julian Teare  
Councillor Reuben Thompstone  
Councillor Saira Don (In place of  
Councillor Val Duschinsky)

## 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting dated the May 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

## 2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Val Duschinsky. Councillor Saira Don was substituting.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

Councillor Anne Hutton declared a non-pecuniary interest) by virtue of being a Trustee of the Barnet Carer's Centre which has a contract with council, providing some of its children services.

Councillor Danny Rich declared a non-pecuniary interest) by virtue of being a Trustee of the Barnet Carer's Centre which has a contract with council, providing some of its children services.

Councillor Felix Byers declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of being a Trustee of UNITAS Youth Zone.

## 4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN COMMENTS (IF ANY)

None.

## 6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

## 7. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

The Executive Director for Children Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on Elective Home Education in Barnet and sought approval for the Draft Elective Home Education Policy and for consultation on the draft policy. This item was accompanied by a separate exempt report which was discussed in the private session.

The Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) took the Committee through the Draft Elective Home Education Policy which was prepared in line with new guidance issued by the Department for Education in 2019.

He explained that amongst some of its key areas, the policy aimed to tighten up the reporting requirements by schools if a child leaves to be home educated. It also tightened up the procedures in respect of information sharing between schools, the EHE advisory teacher, BELS and other agencies such as social care, GPs, etc. This purpose, to ensure that as well as having the duties that the council has in respect of Home Education, there is the overriding safeguarding duty. This policy aims to strengthen the link between the two.

He explained that there is limited right of access to children under Home Education guidance. The council do not have the right to go into family homes nor do they have right to make parents come to meeting. This policy sets out the steps and procedures to follow in order to move from checking on Home Education to checking on safeguarding, and there are various triggers in place for this. For example, if the child was known to social care, officers would liaise with social care about visits. There is a full time Elective Home Officer who checks that the home education being provided is suitable, i.e. that they are making progress in literacy and numeracy, that life skills are being taught and to look out for any warning signs. There is no requirement for home educating parent to educate their children in line with the national curriculum.

Councillor Nagus Narenthira, duly seconded moved the following motion.

*‘The Committee requests that the Chair of Barnet’s Children Education and Safeguarding Committee write to the Secretary of State for Education to request that should parents elect to educate their child at home, then they must register their intent to do so with the Local Education Authority.*

*The Committee also requests to ask for a definition on what is considered a ‘suitable education’ for children who are in receipt of Elective Home Education.*

*The Committee is concerned that the current terminology is not specific enough and such children may therefore not be in receipt of an education sufficient to enable them to follow their subsequent chosen career paths.’*

Following the discussion on the proposed motion, the Councillor Narenthira and the Committee agreed to the following amendment highlighted.

*‘The Committee is concerned that the current terminology is not specific enough and such children may therefore not be in receipt of an education sufficient to enable them to follow their subsequent chosen career paths.*

*The committee requests that the Chair of Barnet's Children Education and Safeguarding Committee write to the Secretary of State for Education to request that should parents elect to educate their child at home, then they must register their intent to do so with the Local Education Authority.*

*The committee also requests to ask for a definition on what is considered a 'suitable education' for children who are in receipt of Elective Home Education.*

*The Committee is concerned that, **although some children may benefit from elective home education**, the current terminology is not specific enough and such children may therefore not be in receipt of an education sufficient to enable them to follow their subsequent chosen career paths.'*

The Committee further requested they can be provided with a definition of what is considered a 'suitable education' for children who are in receipt of Elective Home Education. **[Action for the Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning]**

The Committee had the opportunity to question officers and discuss the report.

**RESOLVED;**

- 1. That the Committee note the report.**
- 2. That the Committee approves the Draft Elective Home Education Policy set out in Appendix A as a basis for consultation with families who educate children at home and other stakeholders.**
- 3. That the Committee note the information set out in the exempt Appendix B.**
- 4. That the Committee authorise the Executive Director, Children's Services to approve the final version of the policy, in consultation with the CES Chairman, taking account of consultation responses.**

**8. POST-16 EDUCATION AND SKILLS STRATEGY**

The Chairman introduced the report sought the Committees approval for the Post-16 Education and Skills Strategy for Barnet for the period 2021 to 2024. The Strategy sets out the challenges facing young people in Barnet in accessing appropriate education, training and employment and the council's plans for extending the opportunities available to young people, particularly those from disadvantaged groups, and for keeping the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) to a minimum.

The Committee had the opportunity to question officers and discuss the report.

**RESOLVED -**

- 1. That the Committee note the report.**
- 2. That the Committee approves the Post-16 Education and Skills Strategy set out in Appendix A.**
- 3. That the Committee authorises officers to work with secondary schools interested in developing dedicated technical and vocational education**

**provision to identify suitable premises and by considering a joint approach to central government to secure the necessary capital and revenue funding.**

**9. FAMILY SERVICES QUARTERLY UPDATE**

The Director for Children Services introduced the report which proved the Committee with an update on Family Services progress against key areas and asks Members to note and scrutinise performance data, that can be found in Appendix 1.

The Committee had the opportunity to question officers and discuss the report.

**RESOLVED - That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the performance information summarised in the report, and provided in Appendix 1.**

**10. FAMILY SERVICES ANNUAL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REPORT 2020/21**

The Director of Children's Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with an overview of the complaints and compliments received in Family Services in the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021. The report also reflected the progress that the service had made in how complaints could be used to learn and improve service delivery.

The Committee had the opportunity to question officers and discuss the report.

**RESOLVED - That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee note and agree the report.**

**11. COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED The Committee noted the work programme.

**12. ANY ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (IF ANY)**

None.

**13. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED - That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) –Information relating to any individual.**

**14. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION - APPENDIX B [EXEMPT]**

**RESOLVED – That the information contained within the exempted report be noted.**

**15. ANY OTHER EXEMPT ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

None.




The meeting finished at 8.45 pm

(

This page is intentionally left blank

AGENDA ITEM 7

	<p><b>CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> September 2021</p>
<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Family Services Quarterly Update</b></p>
<p><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff</p>
<p><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix 1 – ChAT Data Report Appendix 2 – Ofsted Focussed Visit Letter</p>
<p><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Chris Munday Executive Director for Children and Young People <a href="mailto:Chris.Munday@barnet.gov.uk">Chris.Munday@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary</b></p>	
<p>This report gives an update on Family Services progress against key areas and asks Members to note and scrutinise performance data, that can be found in Appendix 1.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the performance information summarised in the report, and provided in Appendix 1.</li> <li>2. That the Children, Educations and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note the outcome of the Ofsted Focussed visit and provide comments on the findings published in the letter provided in Appendix 2.</li> </ol>

# 1. FAMILY SERVICES UPDATE

## 1.1. Service Performance Data

- 1.1.1. Following a period of increased referral activity, the latest performance data shows that numbers have been stabilising as we headed towards the school summer holidays. We will continue to closely monitor this data as schools reopen in September, comparing the increase to historical annual figures to note any anomalies that might have been caused due to Covid.
- 1.1.2. The ChAT data in appendix 1 shows a similar number of contacts into the MASH during July 2021 as in the previous month, and a slight reduction in the number of open Early Help Assessments, from 1763 to 1759. This illustrates that the previously increased demand for lower level support for young people and their families around anxiety due to the lockdown has stabilised, though the overall number of Early Help Assessments remains higher than usual.
- 1.1.3. We continue to see an increase in the number of Strategy Discussions and child protection enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, up 28% in July from the previous month. This is showing that the system continues to identify child protections concerns which correlates with the continued high number of referrals from education.
- 1.1.4. The number of children in care has decreased since the last CES meeting, currently at 325 young people. We continue to receive referrals of unaccompanied asylum seeking children from the hotels run by the Home Office.
- 1.1.5. During the summer we have welcomed new social workers from Hong Kong and South Africa, following our successful overseas recruitment campaign. We have started to notice more staff movement now that restrictions have been lifted, which is slightly increasing the number of agency social workers. Recruitment of this staff cohort can be a challenge for Barnet, as Local Authorities with inadequate or requires improvement Ofsted gradings are sometimes increasing the rates of pay for agency staff. We continue to build relationships with agencies to try and find solutions, and we are launching a new recruitment campaign in the coming months for permanent staff.

## **1.2. Ofsted Focussed Visit**

1.2.1. Local authorities judged to be good or outstanding at their most recent inspection will usually receive a short inspection about every three years after the previous inspection. In between inspections, the local authority will usually receive one focused visit or a JTAI. Ofsted inspectors conducted a focussed visit on 23 and 24 June. The visit was carried out in line with the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework, and looked at the local authority's arrangements for children in care. Their findings were published on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and are included in this report in appendix 2.

1.2.2. Inspectors found that, despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, services for children in care have continued to improve since the last inspection in May 2019. Leaders understand what further improvements can be made and have plans in place to deliver this. Ofsted spoke to partners including CAFCASS and the judiciary, who reported positive partnership working and this has contributed to our "well coordinated and effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic".

1.2.3. Inspectors highlighted two areas of social work practice that need to improve:

- Case recording, including the recording of supervision, visits and direct work with children, and the rationale for decision-making on placements
- The completion and quality of 'All about me' plans.

We fully accept these recommendations and will be detailing our plans to make improvements to these areas of practice in our annual self assessment, which we will meet with Ofsted about in November and will be presented to the CES committee thereafter.

## **1.3 Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) & Barnet Active, Creative and Engaging holidays (BACE)**

1.3.1 We have been working in partnership with the Young Barnet to deliver holiday provision to run across Easter, Summer and Christmas following the extension of the Government's Holiday Activities and Food programme. In

Barnet we have delivered this work under the Barnet Active, Creative and Engaging holidays (BACE) programme.

1.3.2 Our BACE Summer Camps have run for 4 weeks over the school holidays and we have had excellent feedback from the children and young people, parents and the providers. BACE Summer Camps have been attended by over 2500 young people with Young Barnet Foundation's providers taking this total in excess of 3000, with over 15,000 hot meals having been served.

1.3.3 Children and Young People have taken part in activities such as multisport, magic, inflatables, healthy baking, nutritional workshops, healthy snack sessions, nerf guns, mini Olympics and Chickenshed performances. The mobile libraries have also been attending the Summer Camps and have handed out over 300 book goodie packs and Give Help Share held nutritional sessions and also handed out over 500 healthy snack packs for the CYP's to take home.

1.3.4 We have also worked with Big Ideas to deliver training for our providers and materials to take part in Foundation Stones and No Barriers:

- Foundation Stones is an activity where providers work with the CYP's to paint stones showing their hopes for the future and remembrance for the holocaust, the stones are then given back to Big Ideas where they are incorporated as part of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. The activity is about each stone being a commitment to remember and learn from the past.
- No Barriers is an activity to promote inclusion and celebrate differences through football.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1. Members are asked to consider and scrutinise the work of Children and Young People's Services, and to fulfil the council's statutory obligations in this regard.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

Not applicable.

## 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

Not applicable.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

### 5.1. Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1. Family Friendly is a key part of the Barnet Plan for 2021-2025 with the vision of “Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best”.

### 5.2. Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1. There are no additional financial implications arising directly from this report.
- 5.2.2. The revenue forecast outturn position for Children and Family Services for 2021/22 is a £3.670m overspend; of this £2.794m is due to Covid-19 therefore the underlying budget position is £0.876m overspend. This is further analysed in the paragraphs below.

Table 1: Children's and Family Services Month 4 Forecast Outturn

Children's Family Services	2021/22 Budget	M4 Forecast	Variance to Budget	of which: COVID Impact	M4 Non-COVID Variance	Month 3 Non-COVID Variance	In-Month change
Service Area	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children Social Care	48,569	50,998	2,429	1,620	809	834	(26)
Early Intervention and Prevention	12,726	12,656	(70)	532	(602)	(628)	26
Education and Skills	6,322	6,787	465	642	(177)	(177)	0
Family Services Management	(802)	(831)	(29)	0	(29)	(29)	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>66,815</b>	<b>69,610</b>	<b>2,795</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
18-25	6,124	7,000	876	0	876	876	0
<b>Total Children's and Families Services</b>	<b>72,939</b>	<b>76,610</b>	<b>3,671</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>0</b>

- 5.2.2.1. The total COVID financial impact at month 4 is estimated to be £2.794m, shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Children's and Family Service Covid-19 Financial Impact

Service Area	COVID-19 Impact	Commentary
	£'000	
Children's Social Care	500	Increased use of Section 17 payments to support family's needs
	455	Additional Staff COVID cover
	375	Therapies (OT, physio, SLT)
	131	Onwards and Upwards client subsistence
	159	Various misc others
<b>Children's Social Care</b>	<b>1,620</b>	
Early Intervention & Prevention and Education & Skills	460	Mental Health support teams to be rolled out across all schools. Represents estimated 21/22 cost- £1.040m to be spent in future years
	142	Young people support on pathway to employment. Represents estimated 21/22 cost- £858k to be spent in future years
	500	High quality education: Language development, social, emotional, and mental health needs, narrowing the gap
	72	Various misc others
<b>Early Intervention and Prevention and Education and Skills</b>	<b>1,174</b>	
<b>Children's and Family Services Total</b>	<b>2,794</b>	

5.2.2.2. This leaves an overspend of £0.876m which can be attributed to BAU and is made up of various factors. The main areas are:

- 18-25 which is projecting a £0.876m overspend.
- Placements and leaving care are showing a combined overspend of £0.619m. This is largely driven by overspends in family assessment, remand and external semi-independent.
- Education and Skills are underspent by £0.177m due to not requiring the full schools condition survey budget this year. This underspend will be used to offset overspends elsewhere within CFS.
- Underspends of £0.442m make up the difference of which the main ones relate to staffing vacancies in various services.



5.2.3. The forecast position for the DSG for 21/22 is an underspend of £1.527m.  
See table 3 below for the breakdown of this.

Table 3: Children's and Family Service Covid-19 Financial Impact

M4 DSG Forecast	Budget	21/22 Forecast	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Schools</b>			
Individual Schools Budget	150,222	150,222	0
Growth Fund	2,814	73	(2,741)
Central Schools expenditure	2,193	2,193	0
ESG retained funding	700	700	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>155,929</b>	<b>153,188</b>	<b>(2,741)</b>
Early Years Block	30,189	30,189	0
High Needs Block	55,270	56,484	1,214
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>85,459</b>	<b>86,673</b>	<b>1,214</b>
DSG Income	(241,387)	(241,387)	0
<b>Total DSG</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,526)</b>	<b>(1,527)</b>
Contribution/(drawdown) to/from DSG Reserve	0	1,526	1,526
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

5.2.3.1. Despite a large allocation increase for the High Needs Block there is still an overspend projected of £1.214m. This is due to the estimated increase in new EHCP's of 28% compared to 20% last year and placements in independent settings. This is an early estimate of the projected overspend and more accurate figures will be known in September once EHCP's are confirmed.

5.2.3.2. Work will be taking place in the year to look at a 3-year forecast for high needs to identify whether the new increased funding from the DfE is sufficient for the anticipated levels of demand. This work will also include a forecast on the growth fund following potentially 2 years of large underspends.

5.2.3.3. This forecast takes the reserve balance to £4.770m as illustrated below:

- DSG Brought Forward 1/4/21- £3.244m
- In Year underspend- 1.526m
- Forecast DSG Carried Forward 31/3/21- £4.770m

5.2.4. CFS have a savings target of £2.775m for the financial year. As at M4, we are reporting 100% achievement of these targets. However it is important to note that these targets are under review for deliverability and this will be updated for the next committee meetings.

Service Area	Savings target 2021/22	Savings Forecast to be made as at 31/07/2021	(Gap)/Over to plan	Service area gap %
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Children and Family Services	(2,775)	(2,775)	0	0%

### 5.3. Social Value

5.3.1. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

### 5.4. Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1. Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where

practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must consider how the child or young person can be supported to facilitate their development and to help them achieve the "best possible educational and other outcomes".

- 5.4.2. Local authorities have specific duties to care leavers under the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The corporate parenting duties and powers under the 1989 Act include:
- 5.4.3. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
- 5.4.4. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- 5.4.5. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- 5.4.6. to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- 5.4.7. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- 5.4.8. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and,
- 5.4.9. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.
- 5.4.10. The Council's Constitution, Article 7 notes that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has 'Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.'

## **6. Risk Management**

- 6.1. Specific risk management is being carried out for Children and Young People's Plan. Any Family Services risks are recorded on the Family Services Risk Register and monitored each quarter by the Senior Leadership Team with escalations to CMY if necessary.

## **7. Equalities and Diversity**

- 7.1.** The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public-Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
- 7.2.** eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- 7.3.** advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- 7.4.** foster good relations between people from different groups
- 7.5.** The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services
- 7.6.** Equalities and diversity considerations are a key element of social work practice. It is imperative that help and protection services for children and young are sensitive and responsive to age, disability, race and ethnicity, faith or belief, sex, gender reassignment, language, maternity / parental status and sexual orientation. We continue to closely monitor this, as report appendixes notes, in our performance data.

## **8. Corporate Parenting Principles**

- 8.1.** In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy Keep on Caring which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require all departments within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'
- 8.2.** The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:
- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
  - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;

- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

## **9. Consultation and Engagement**

**9.1.** Consultation and engagement with young people is central to social work practice and service improvement across Family Services. An overall Engagement and Participation strategy will be developed and co-produced in the next quarter following the collation of different workstreams. The strategy will outline how we embed our service user feedback and child participation into service delivery and development. Three new roles have been created to support consultation and engagement activity (a Service Development Officer and two Child Participation roles based in BICS and Onwards and Upwards) in Family Services. A full update has been provided in the earlier section on this paper.

**9.2.** The Voice of the Child Annual Report is included as a separate paper to this committee and details consultation and engagement activity with the young people who access our services.

## **10. Insight**

**10.1.** Insight data will continue to be regularly collected and used in monitoring the progress and impact of the Children and Young People's Plan and to shape ongoing improvement activity. This report updates the Committee on our performance data.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.



Data to Insight is a national project commissioned by the ADCS,  
DfE and Ofsted to help local authorities make better use of data.

# Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT)

Based on Ofsted's ILACS Annex A dataset (2020) / Inspection Report

**Barnet**

09 August 2021

Headline figures	Page 3
Contacts in the last 6 months	Page 4
Early Help in the last 6 months	Page 4
Referrals in the last 6 months	Page 5
Assessments in the last 6 months	Page 6
Section 47 enquiries in the last 6 months	Page 7
Children in Need (CIN) - total, started, and ceased in the last 6 months	Page 8
Children in Need (CIN) with an open episode of need	Page 9
Child Protection Plans (CPP) started and ceased in the last 6 months	Page 10
Child Protection Plans (CPP) currently open	Page 11
Children Looked After (CLA) started and ceased in the last 6 months	Page 12
Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care	Page 13
Children Looked After (CLA) placements	Page 14
Children Looked After (CLA) health and missing/absent from placement	Page 15
Care leavers currently in receipt of leaving care services	Page 16
Care leavers accommodation suitability and type	Page 17
Care leavers activity (Education, Employment, or Training)	Page 18
Children adopted, waiting to be adopted, or had an adoption decision reversed in the last 12 months	Page 19
Adoption benchmarking	Page 20
Prospective adopters in the last 12 months	Page 21
Demographics of children across all areas of children's social care	Page 22
Comparisons of headline figures and performance data to published statistics	Page 23



Headline figures

**Contacts**

Contacts in the last 6 months 10,676

**Early Help / Common / Targeted Assessments**

Early Help in the last 6 months 1,759

**Referrals**

Referrals in the last 6 months 1,553

**Social Care Assessments**

Total assessments in the last 6 months 1,452

Assessments completed in the last 6 months 1,068

Ongoing assessments 384

**Section 47 enquiries and Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCS)**

Section 47 enquiries in the last 6 months 463

ICPCs that started from an S47 in the last 6 months 102

**Children in Need (CIN)**

Total CIN in the last 6 months 2,523

CIN started in the last 6 months 899

CIN ceased in the last 6 months 1,124

Current children in need (snapshot) 1,432

**Child Protection Plans (CPP)**

Total CPP in the last 6 months 233

CPP started in the last 6 months 98

CPP ceased in the last 6 months 62

Current children subject of a child protection plan (snapshot) 171

**Children Looked After (CLA)**

Total CLA in the last 6 months 406

CLA started in the last 6 months 100

CLA ceased in the last 6 months 81

Current children looked after (snapshot) 325

**Care leavers**

Care leavers currently in receipt of leaving care services 361

**Adoptions**

Children adopted, waiting to be adopted, or had an adoption decision reversed in the last 12 months 39

Children adopted in the last 12 months 13

Children waiting to be adopted (snapshot) 19

Children with decision reversed in the last 12 months 7

**Adopters**

Prospective adopters in the last 12 months 0

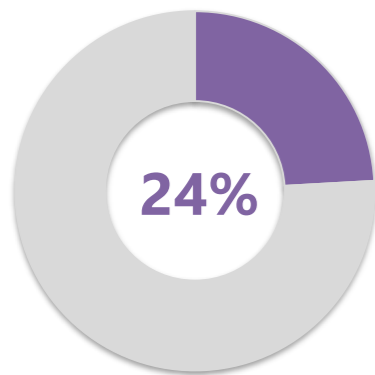
## Contacts in the last 6 months

from 11/02/2021  
to 10/08/2021

10676 contacts

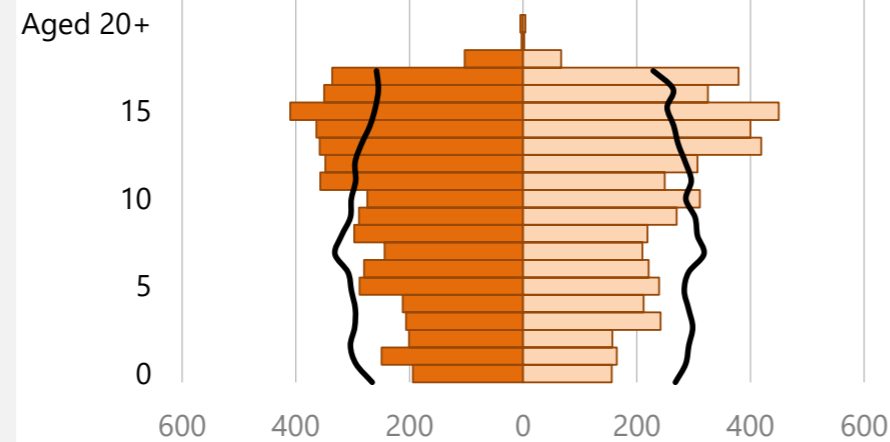
### Children who also appear on the Referrals list

Yes No



### Age and gender

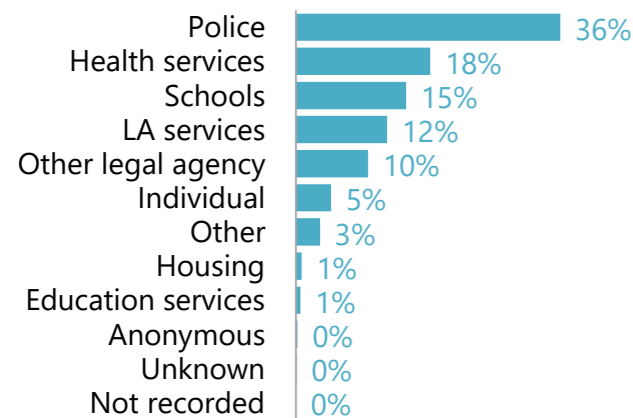
5368 Males (50%)  
5004 Females (47%)  
304 Other (not shown) (3%)  
— 0-17 population estimate



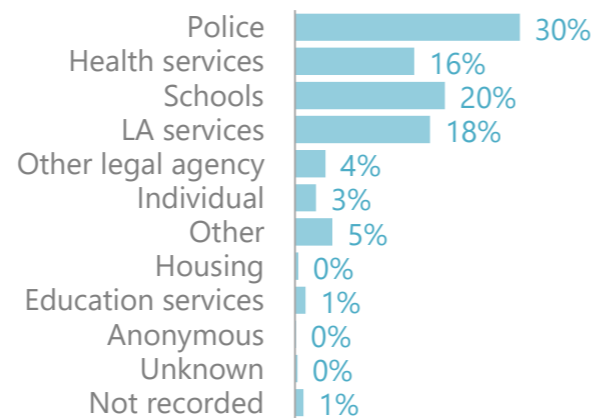
Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

### Source of contacts compared to source of referrals

#### Contact source



#### Referral source comparison



### Children with multiple contacts in period



### Ethnic backgrounds

White	31%
Mixed	12%
Asian or Asian British	9%
Black or black British	14%
Other ethnic group	11%
Not stated	23%
Not recorded	1%

See page 22 for comparisons

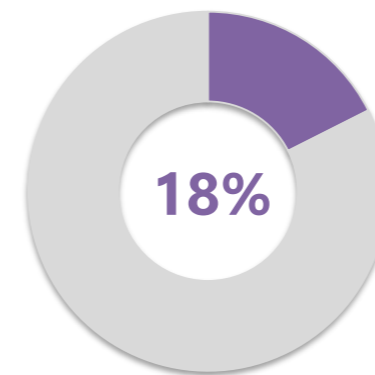
## Early Help in the last 6 months

from 10/02/2021  
to 09/08/2021

1759 Early Help / Common / Targeted Assessments

### Early Help cases that also appear on the Referrals list

Yes No



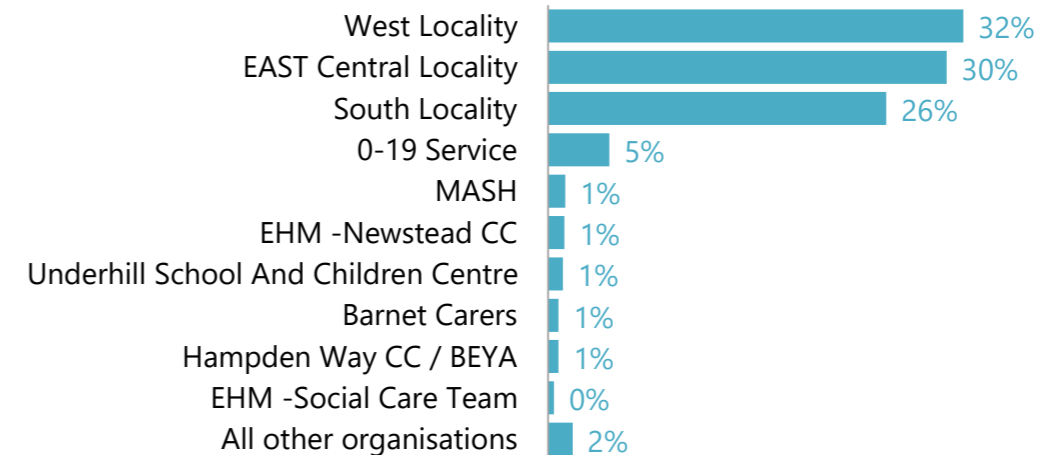
### Age and gender

906 Males (52%)  
826 Females (47%)  
27 Other (not shown) (2%)  
— 0-17 population estimate

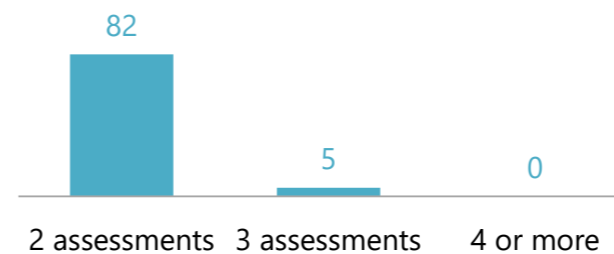


Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

### Organisation completing assessment



### Children with multiple records in period



### Ethnic backgrounds

White	37%
Mixed	12%
Asian or Asian British	13%
Black or black British	15%
Other ethnic group	12%
Not stated	11%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

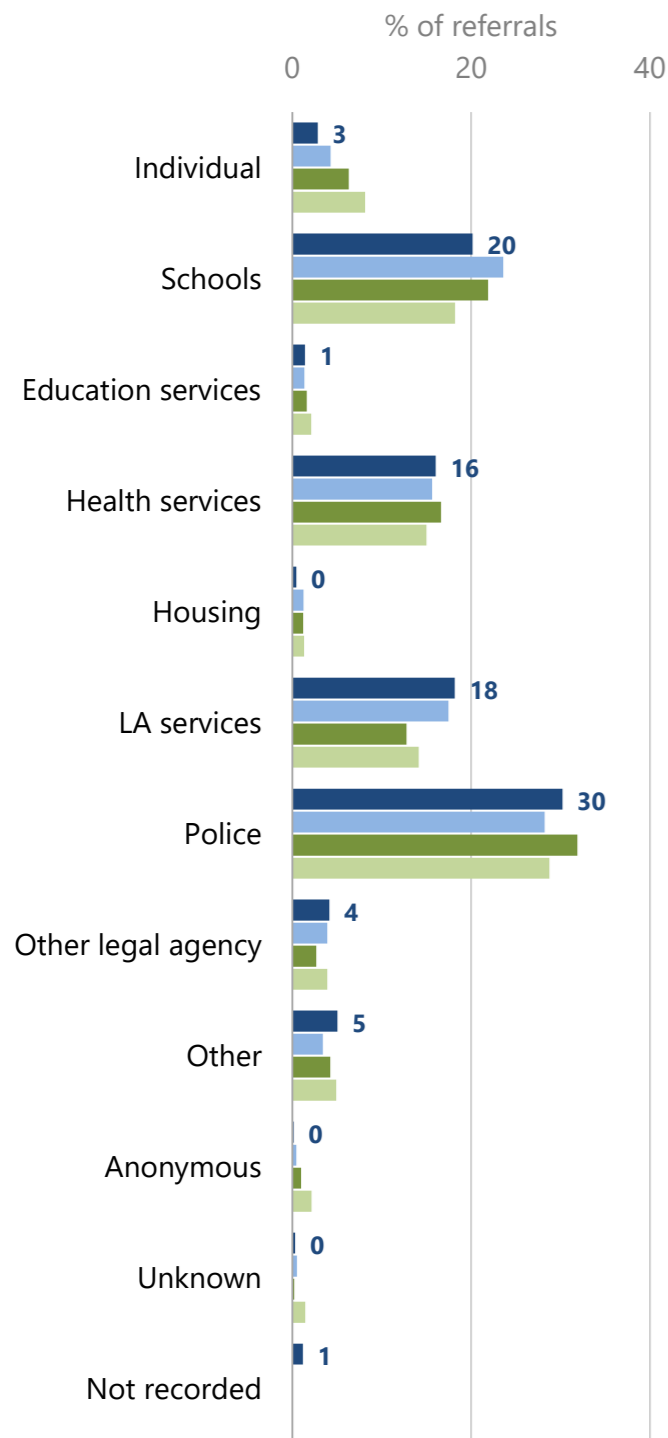
## Referrals in the last 6 months

from 11/02/2021  
to 10/08/2021

### 1553 referrals

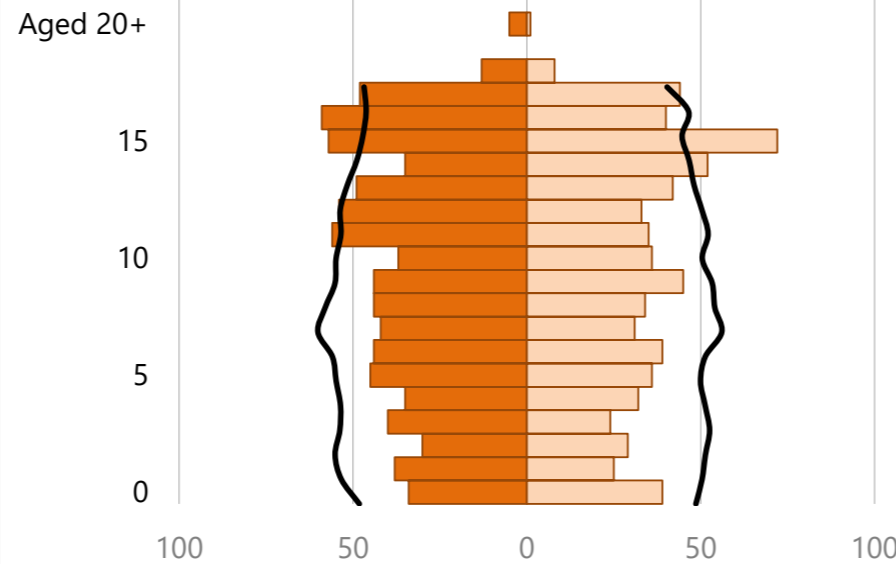
#### Source of referral

■ Last 6 months ■ LA 19-20 ■ SNs 19-20 ■ Eng 19-20



#### Age and gender

809 Males (52%)  
697 Females (45%)  
47 Other (not shown) (3%)  
— 0-17 population estimate



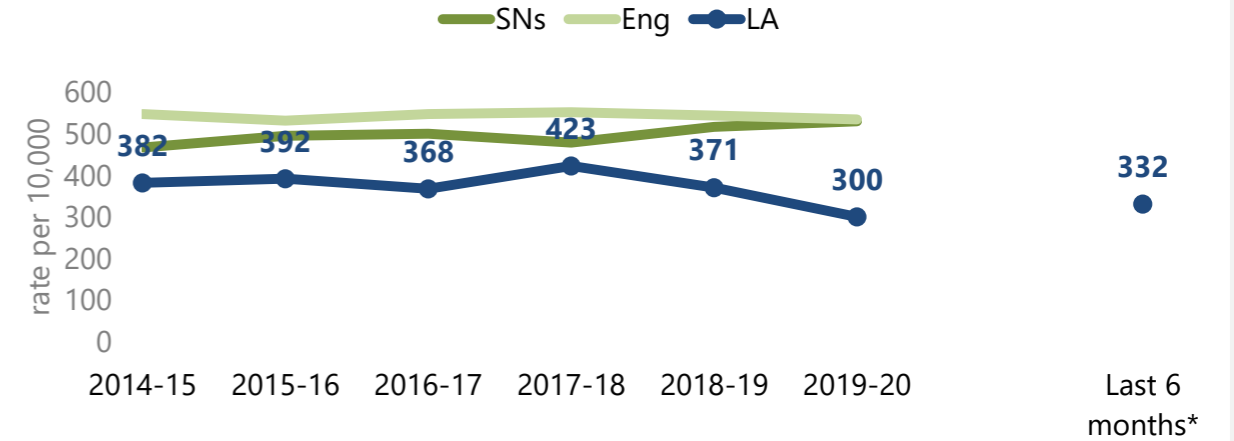
Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

#### Ethnic backgrounds

White	34%
Mixed	17%
Asian or Asian British	11%
Black or black British	18%
Other ethnic group	12%
Not stated	9%
Not recorded	0%

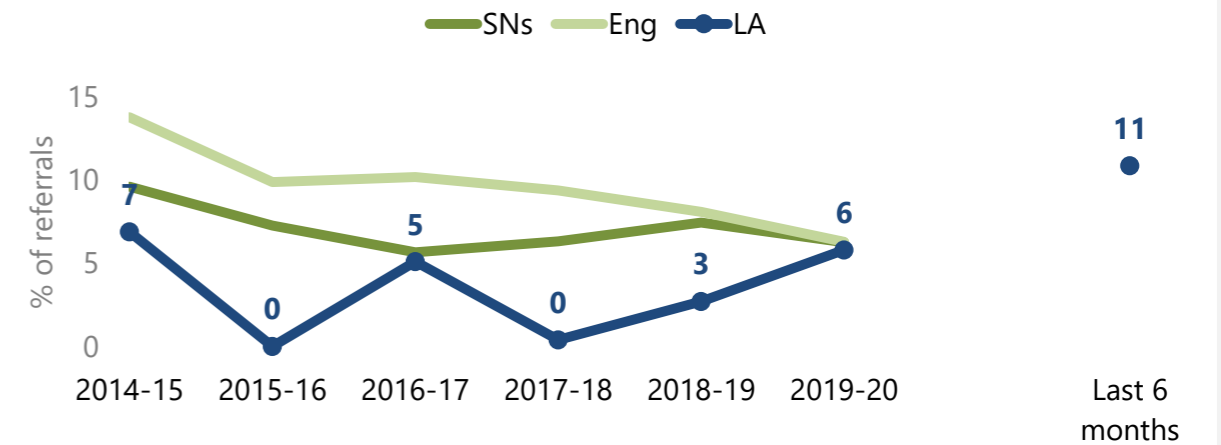
See page 22 for comparisons

#### Rate of referrals per 10,000 children aged 0-17



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

#### Referrals with No Further Action (NFA)

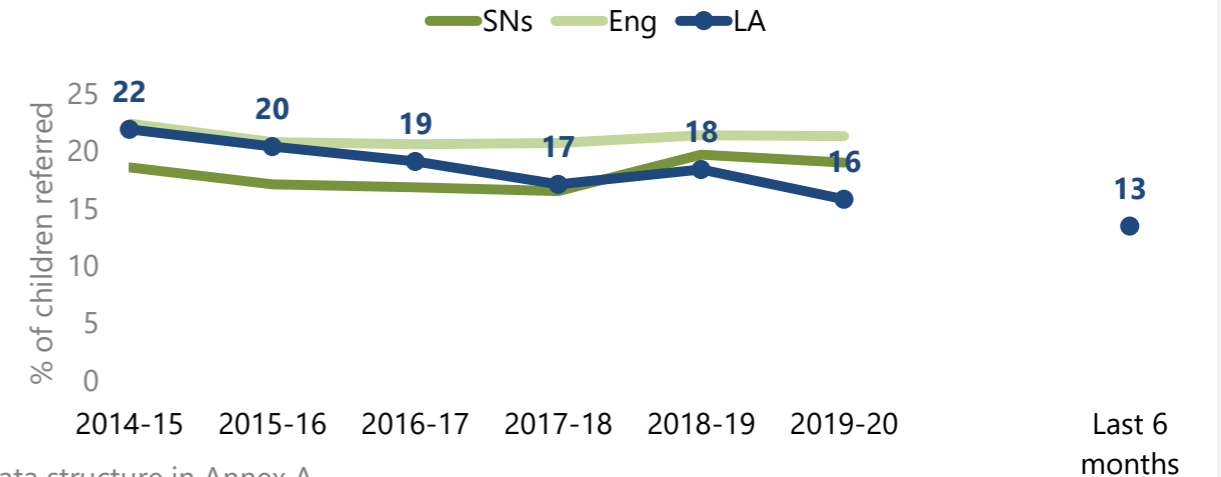
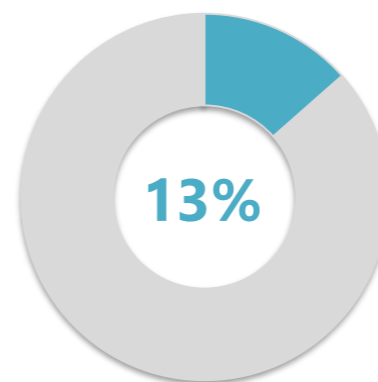


#### Re-referrals: children with a previous referral within 12 months of their latest referral

200 children with previous referrals within 12 months of latest referral

■ Re-referral ■ First referral □ Not recorded

First referral	1,284
1 prev referral	173
2 prev referrals	21
3 prev referrals	3
4+ prev referrals	3
Not recorded	0

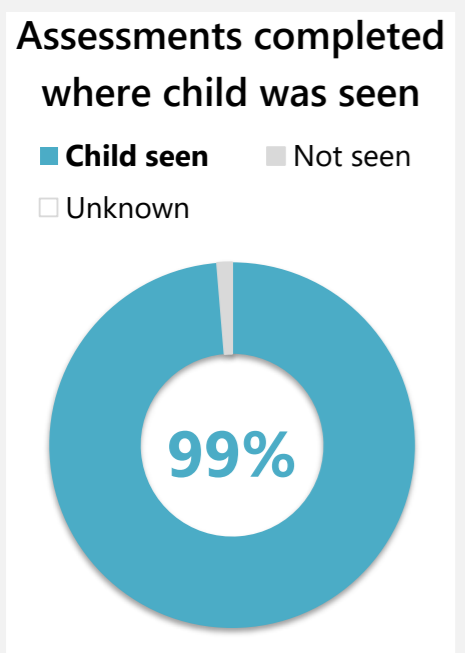
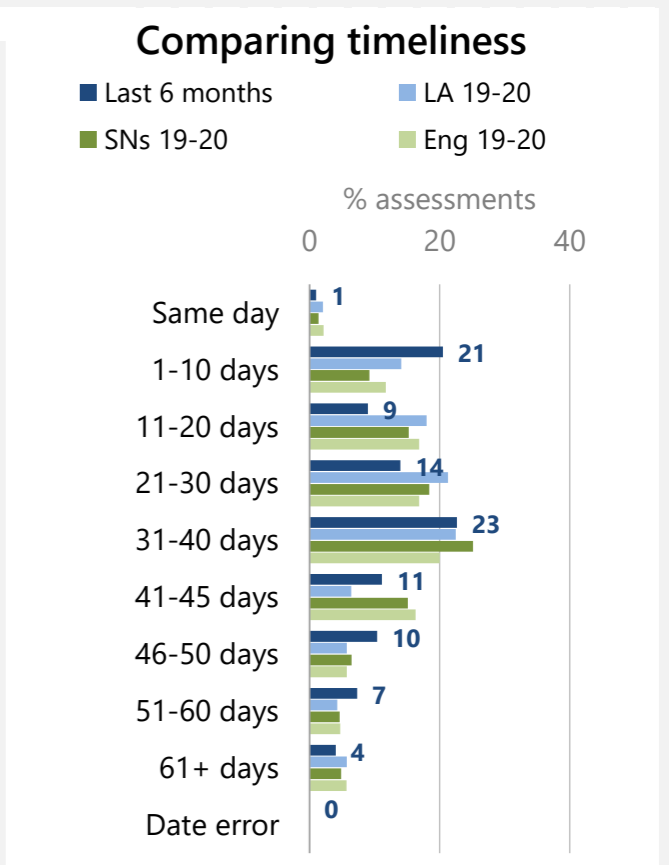
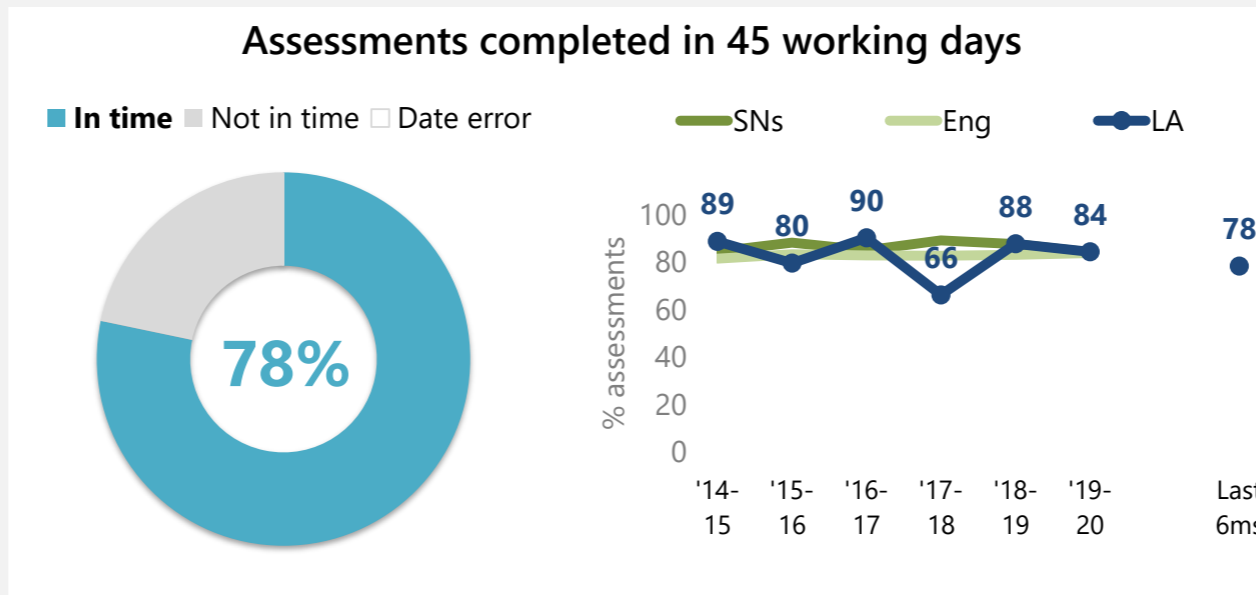
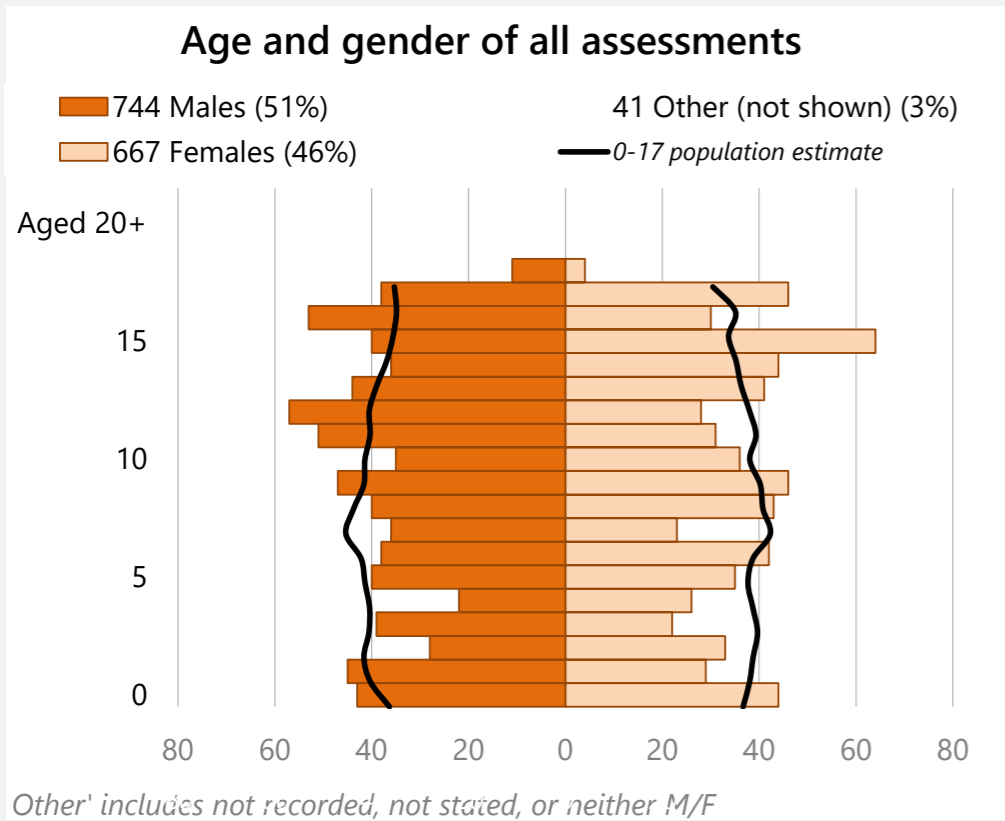
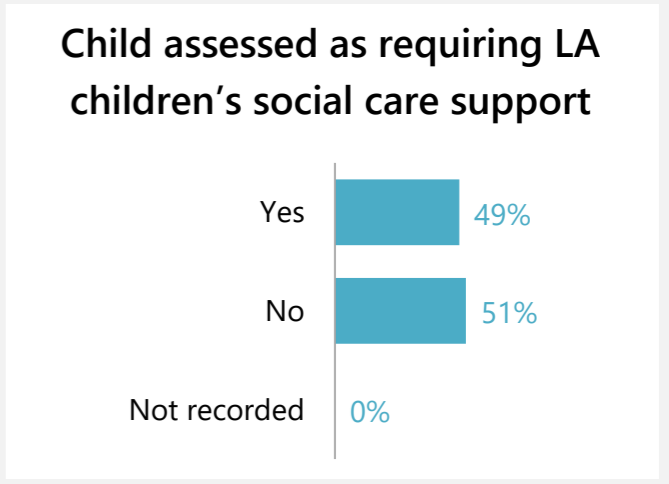
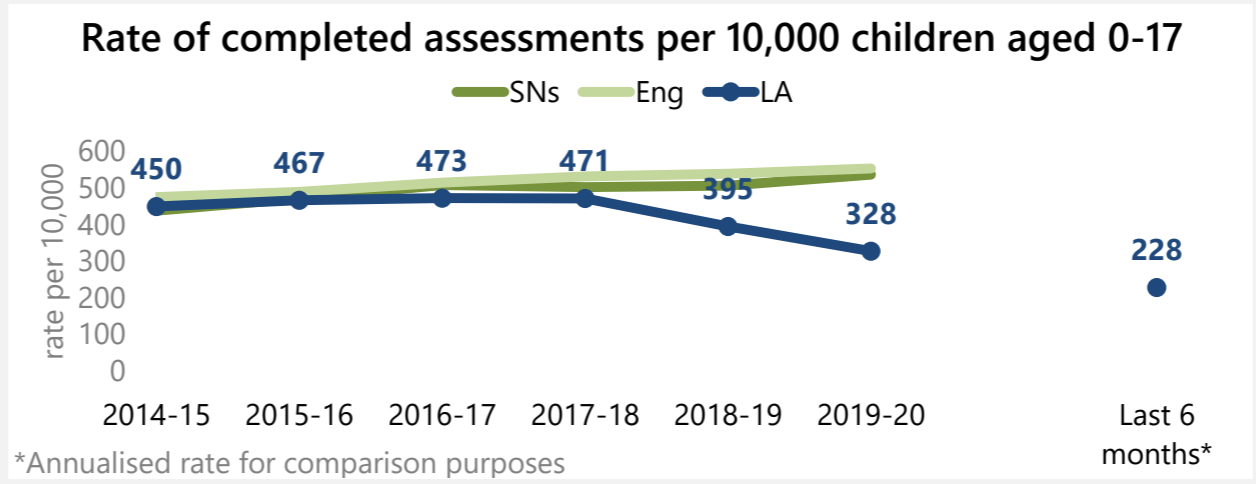


\*"Last 6 months" calculation differs slightly from national statistics, due to data structure in Annex A

Assessments in the last 6 months

from 10/02/2021  
to 09/08/2021

1452 total assessments  
384 open assessments  
**1068 completed assessments**

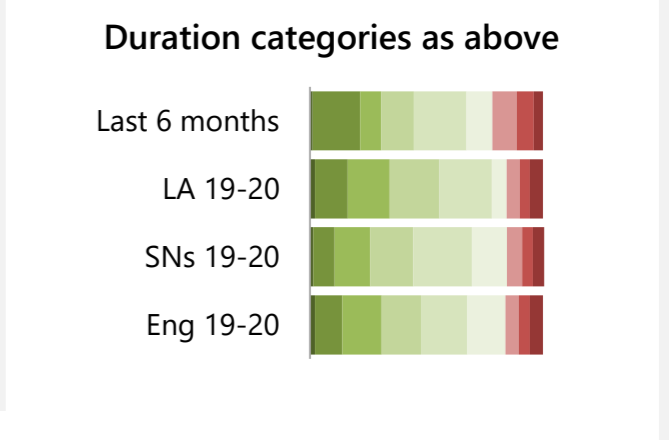
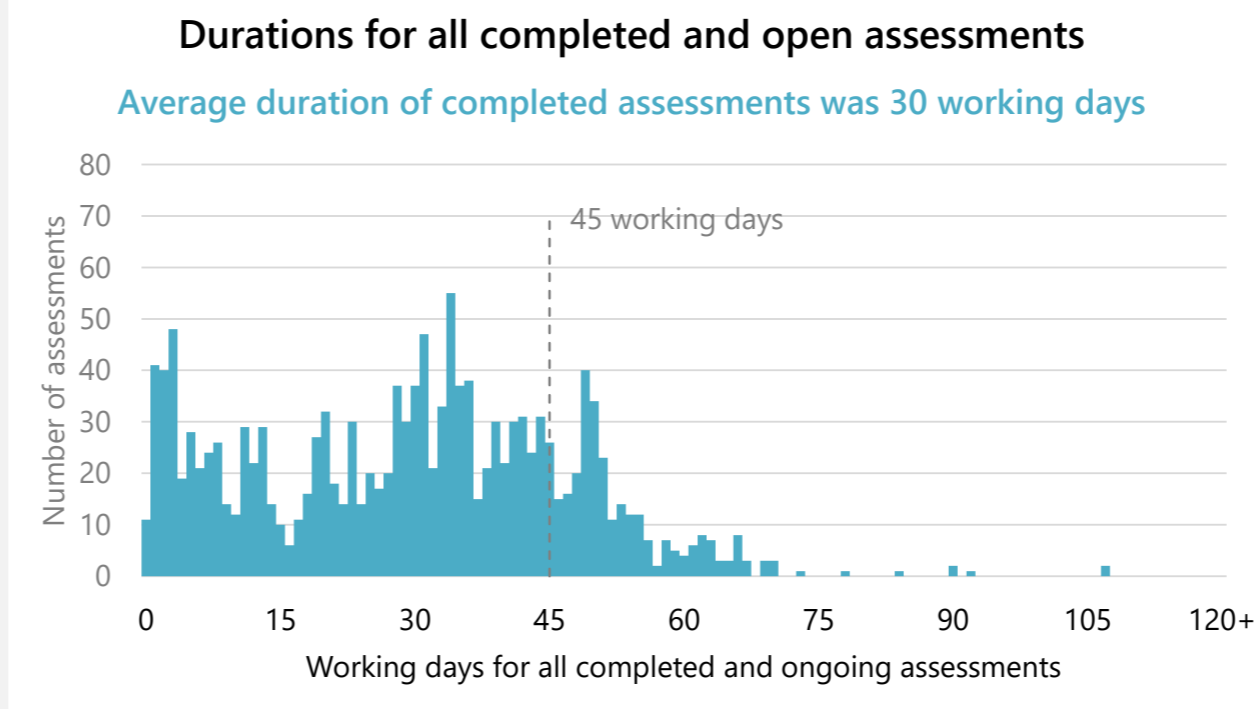


### Ethnic background

White	37%
Mixed	18%
Asian or Asian British	10%
Black or black British	20%
Other ethnic group	12%
Not stated	4%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

66 assessments (5%) for children with a disability

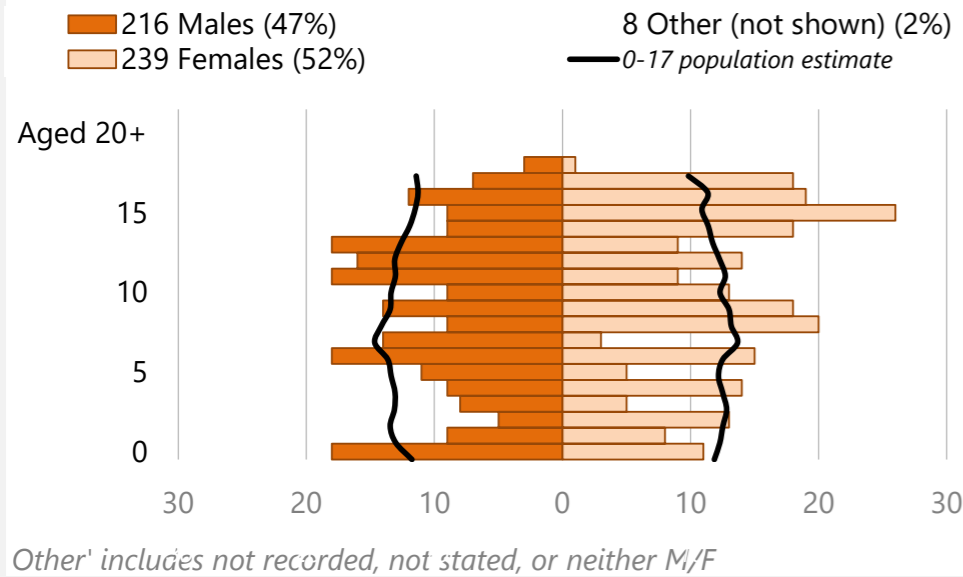


Section 47 enquiries in the last 6 months

from 10/02/2021  
to 09/08/2021

463 Section 47 enquiries

Age and gender

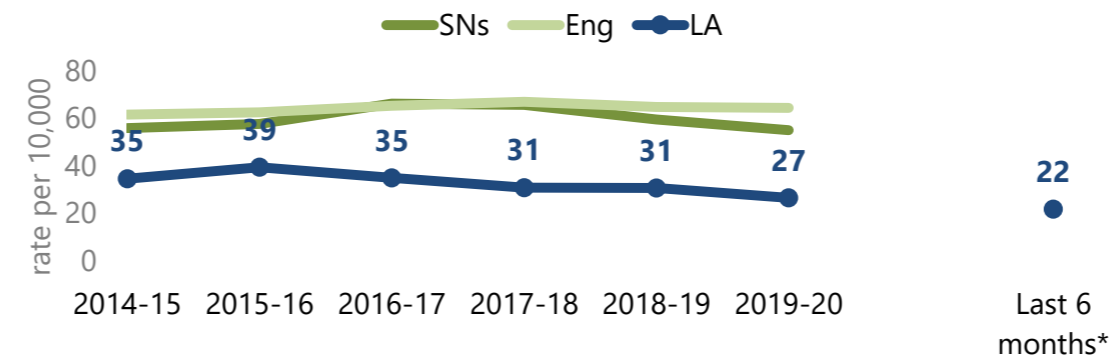


102 Initial Child Protection Conferences (from S47 in period)

75% of completed S47s **did not require an ICPC**

ICPC not required may include S47s for open CPP where ICPC was not required, and may exclude children where an ICPC was required but has not yet occurred

Rate of ICPCs per 10,000 children aged 0-17



4 child(ren) with a repeat ICPC within 12 months of latest Section 47\*

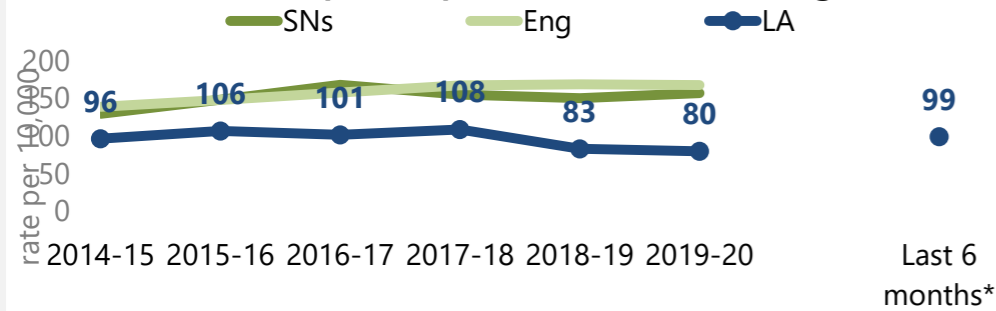
\*Including where latest S47 did not result in ICPC

85%

of ICPCs resulted in a child protection plan

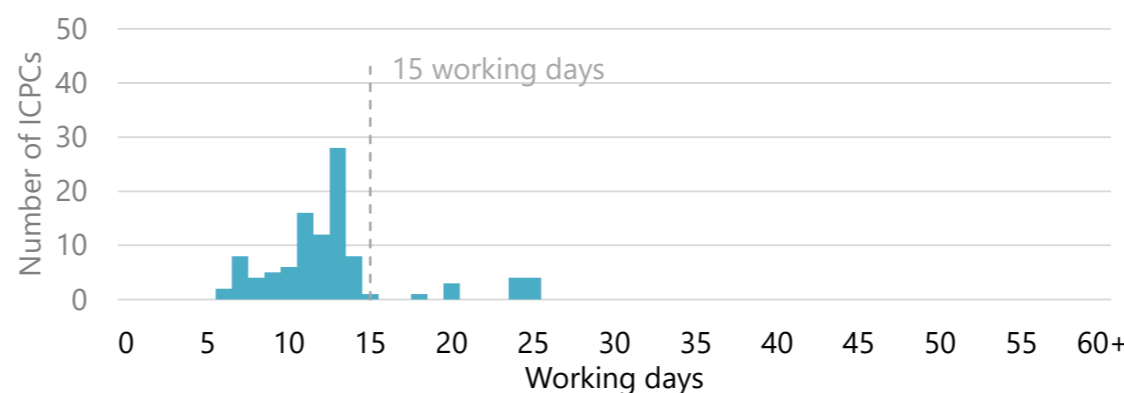
\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

Rate of S47 enquiries per 10,000 children aged 0-17

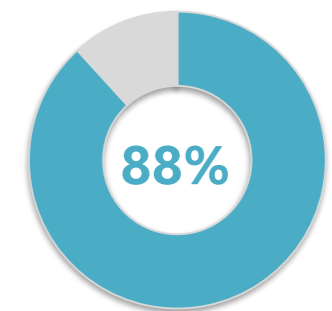


\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

ICPCs occurred within 15 working days of the strategy discussion date

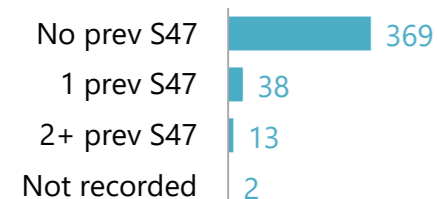


In time  
Not in time  
Date error



11 S47s (2%) for children with a disability

Children with a repeat S47 within 12 months of latest

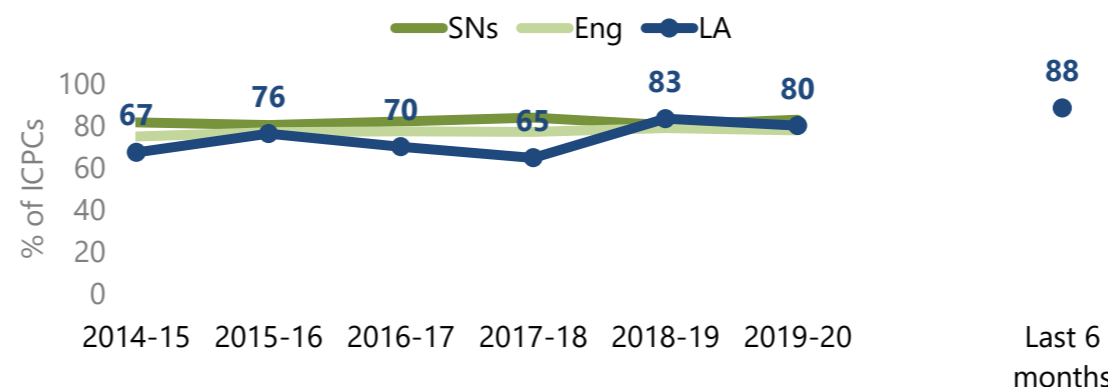


Ethnic background

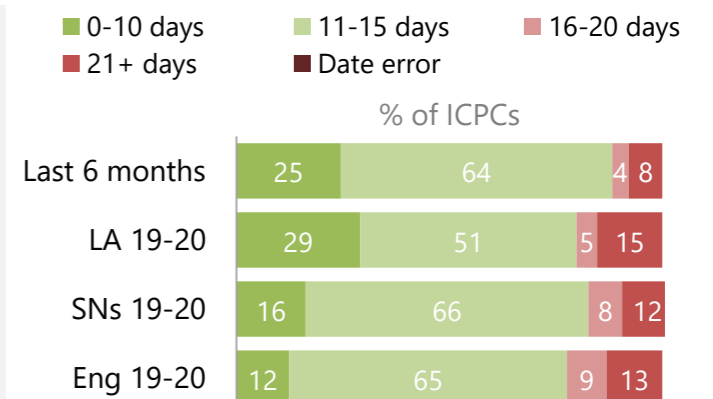
White	32%
Mixed	19%
Asian or Asian British	11%
Black or black British	21%
Other ethnic group	14%
Not stated	2%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

Trend of ICPC timeliness (within 15 days of S47 start)



Comparing ICPC durations



Children in Need (CIN) - total, started, and ceased in the last 6 months

from 10/02/2021  
to 09/08/2021

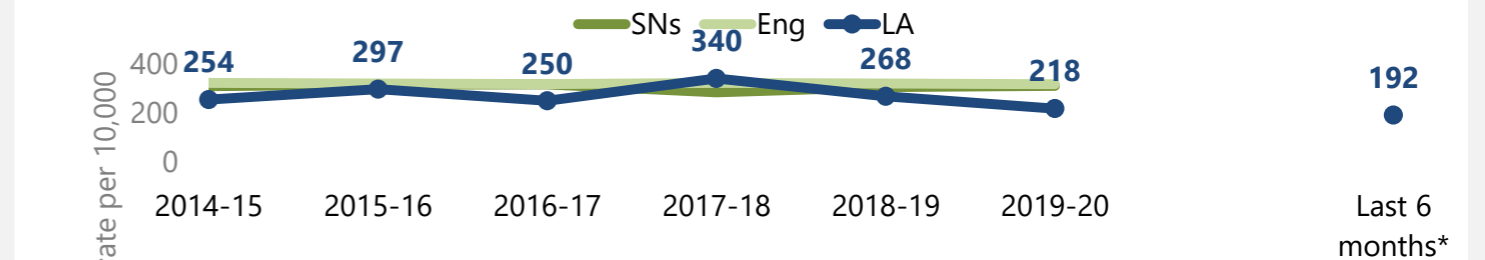
## 2523 total CIN in 6 months\*

#

\*Note: the numbers of children in need reported in ChAT are not directly comparable to published CIN census statistics due to an undercount of referrals and care leavers.

## 899 CIN started in 6 months

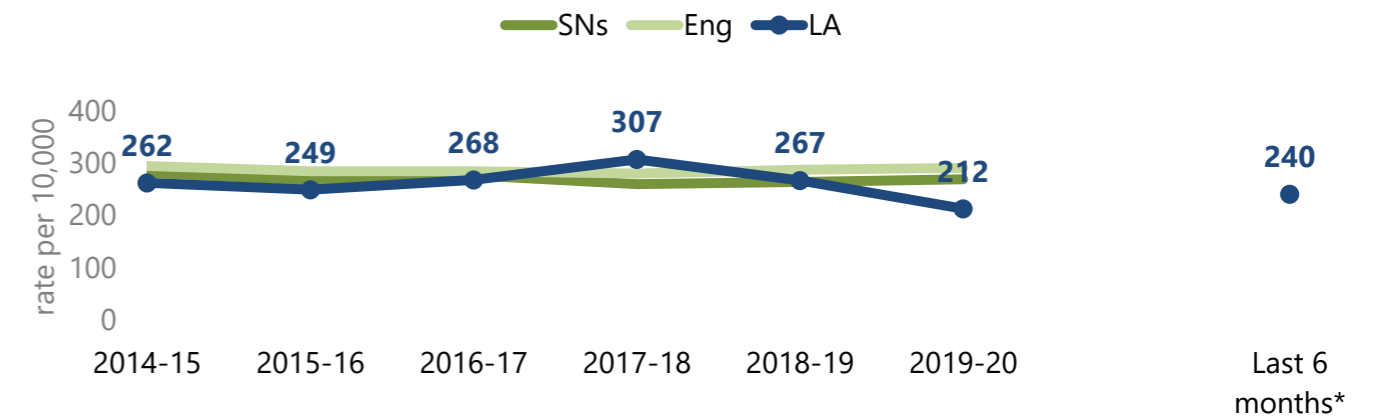
Rate of children who started an episode of need per 10,000 children aged 0-17



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

## 1124 CIN ceased in 6 months

Rate of children who ended an episode of need per 10,000 children aged 0-17

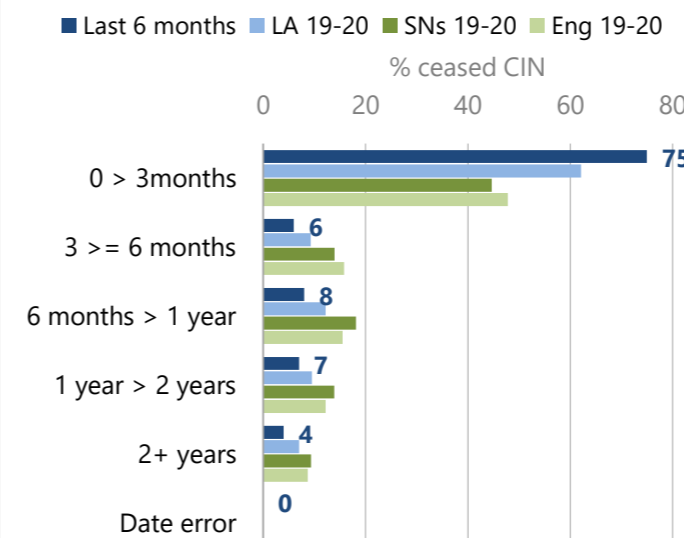


\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

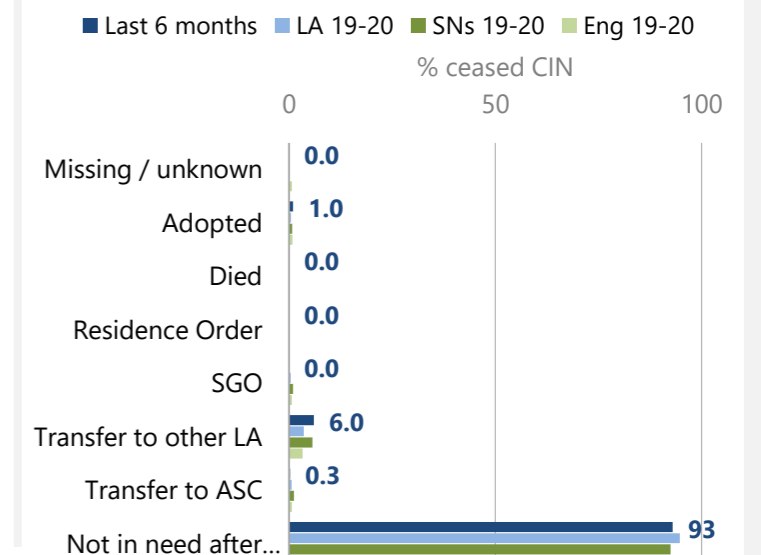
### Cases included in Annex A / ChAT

Case status of children on CIN list	Number	Percentage
Looked after child	325	13%
Child protection plan	171	7%
Child in need plan	378	15%
Open assessment	384	15%
Closed episode	1,124	45%
Case status not recorded	141	6%
<b>Total (excluding case status unknown)</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>94%</b>

### Comparing CIN ceased durations



### Comparing CIN ceased reasons



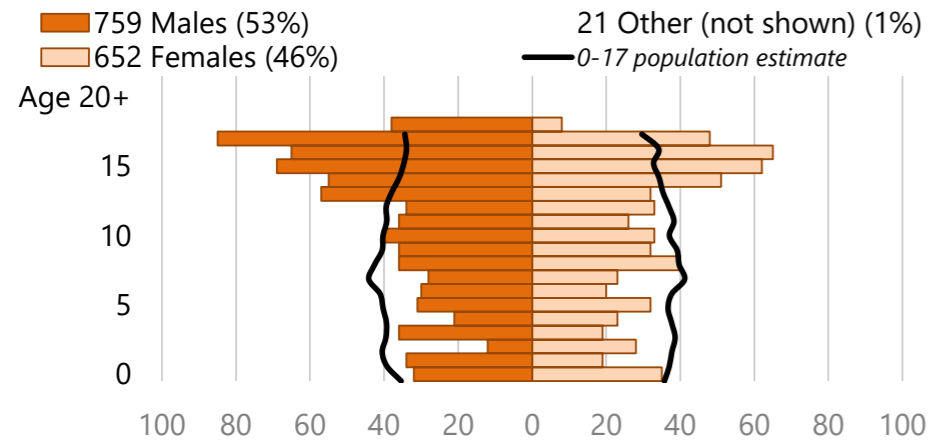
Children in Need (CIN) with an open episode of need

Snapshot 09/08/2021

# 1432 Children in Need with an open episode of need\*

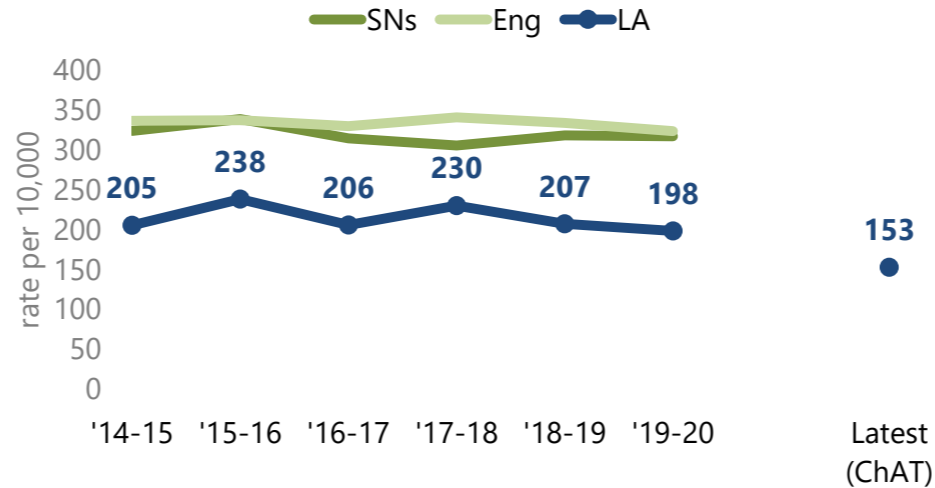
\*Note: Annex A figures in this section are not directly comparable to the published Children in need census statistics (see note on page 8)

### Age and gender

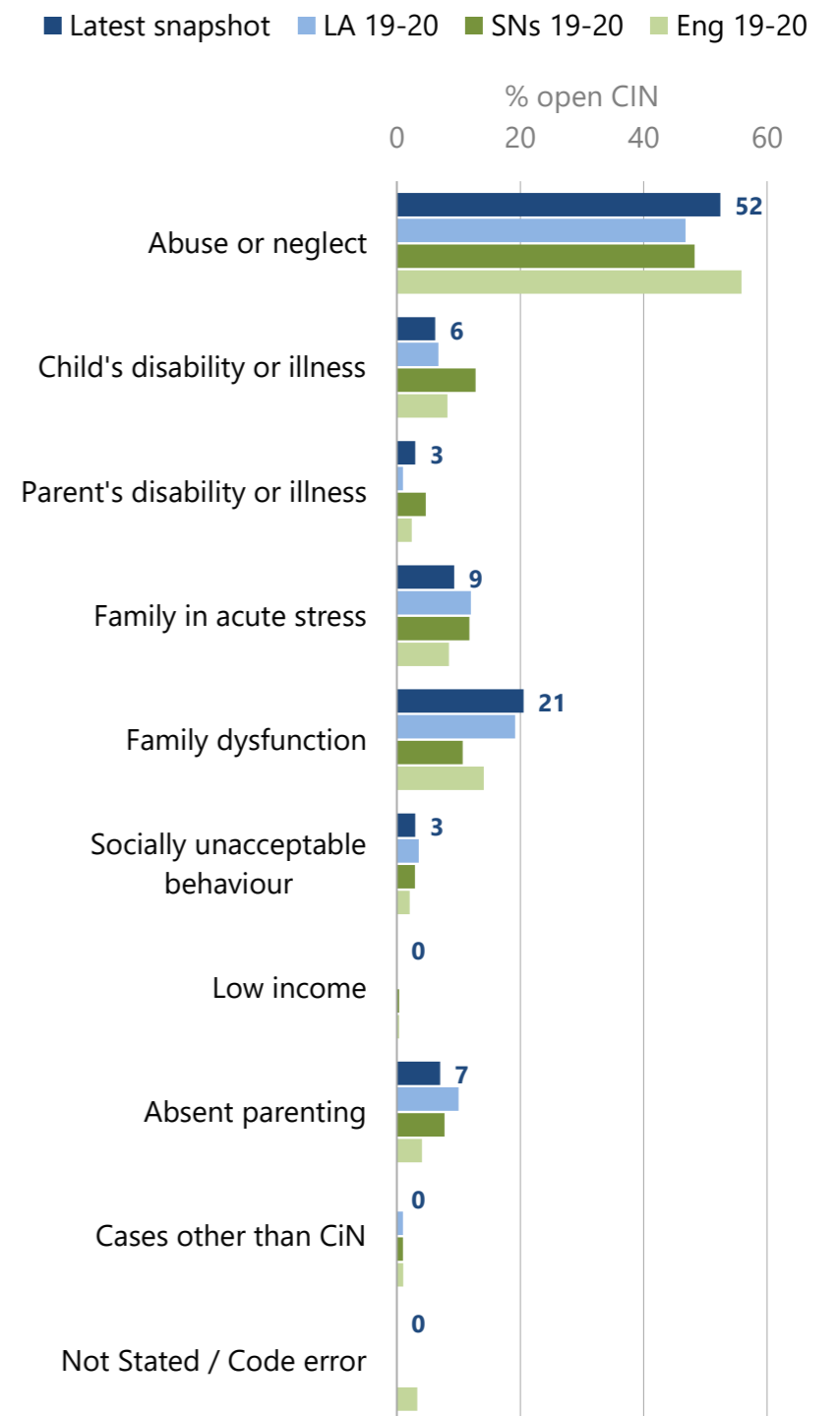


'Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

### Rate of open CIN per 10,000 children aged 0-17\*

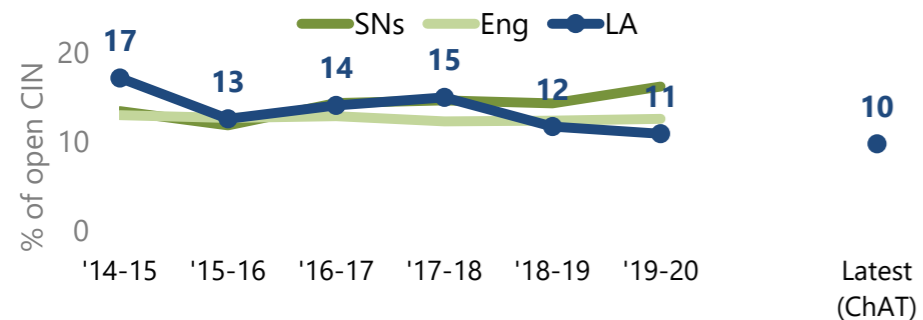


### Comparing primary need of open CIN

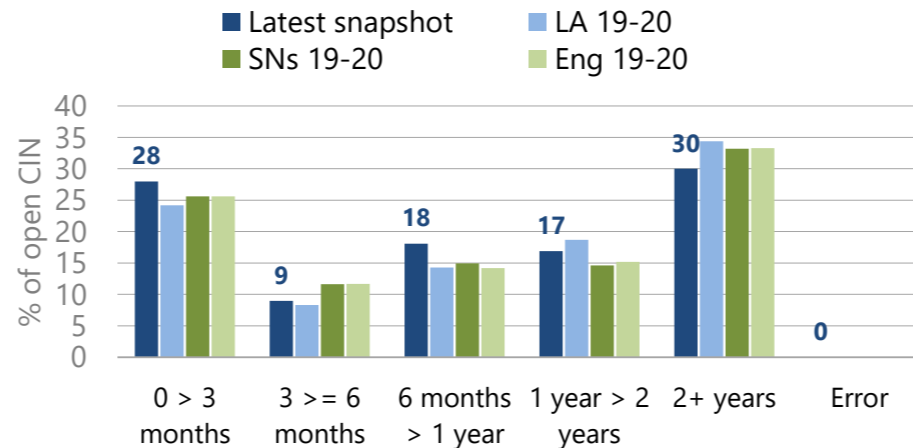


### 140 children (10%) with a disability

#### CIN with an open episode of need with a disability



### Comparing episode duration of open CIN

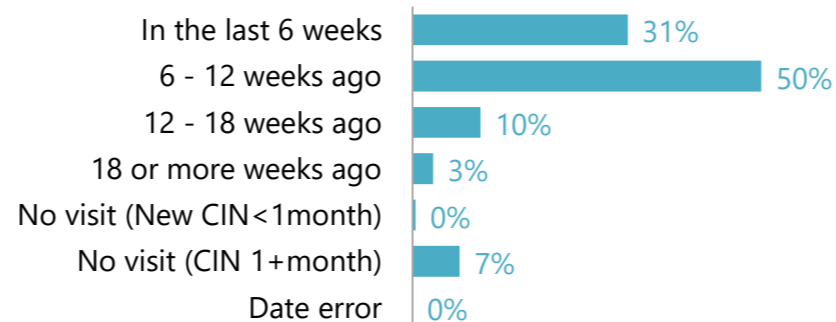


### Ethnic background

White	37%
Mixed	16%
Asian or Asian British	9%
Black or black British	19%
Other ethnic group	15%
Not stated	4%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

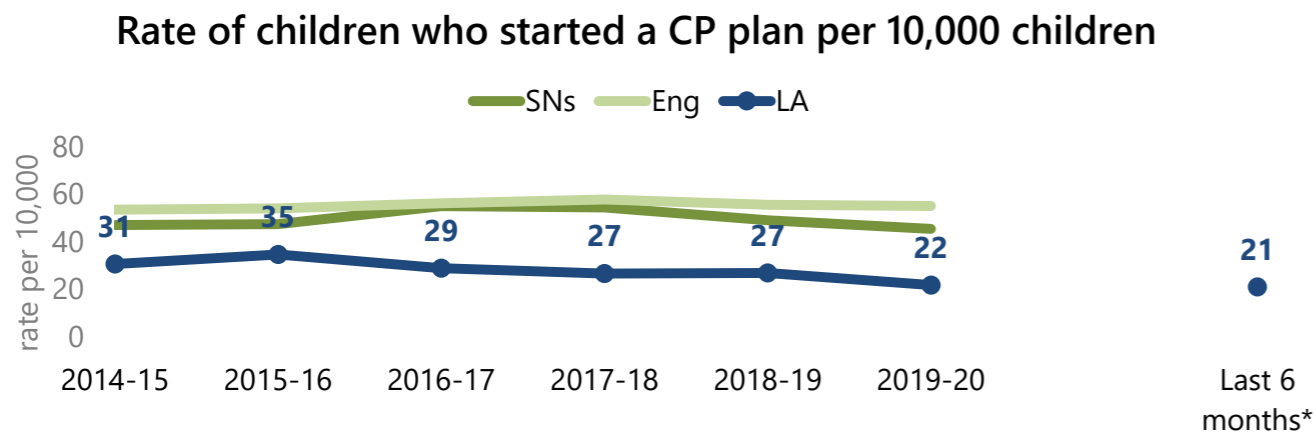
### Time since the child's latest social worker visit



Child Protection Plans (CPP) started and ceased in the last 6 months

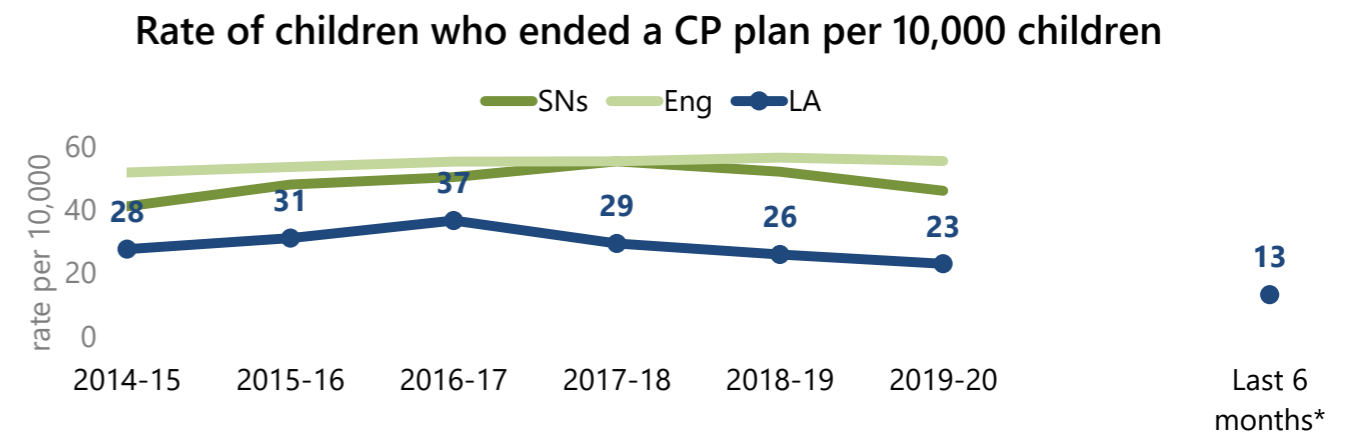
from 10/02/2021  
to 09/08/2021

### 98 CPP started in 6 months



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

### 62 CPP ended in 6 months

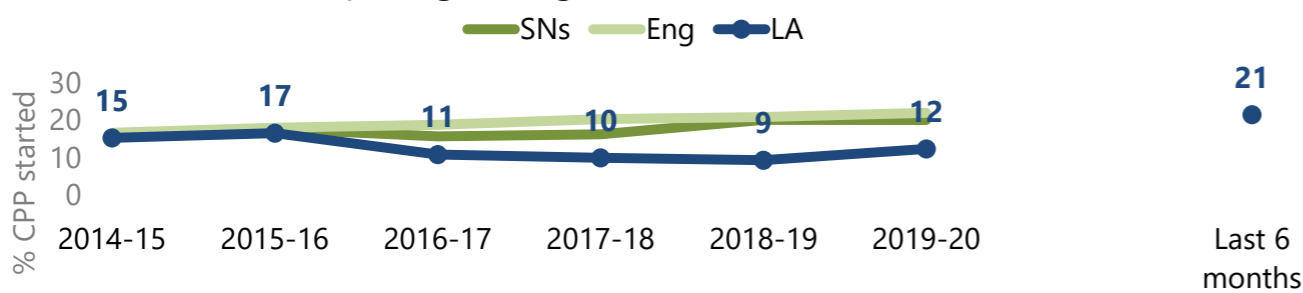


\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

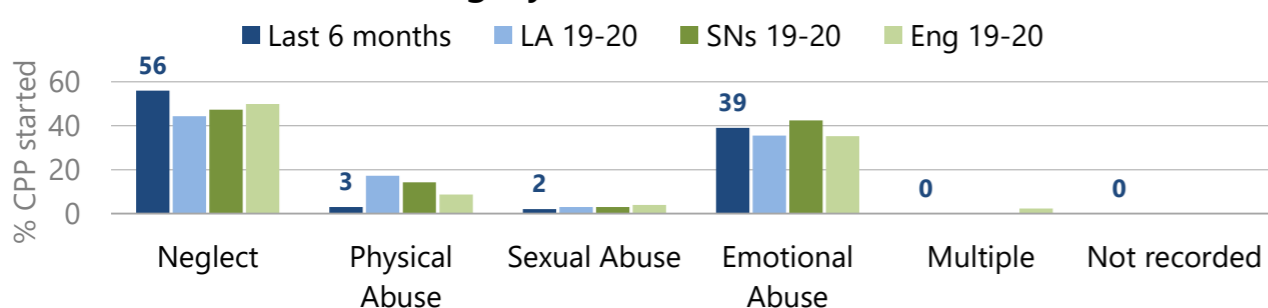
### Re-registrations for children who started on a CP plan (ever)



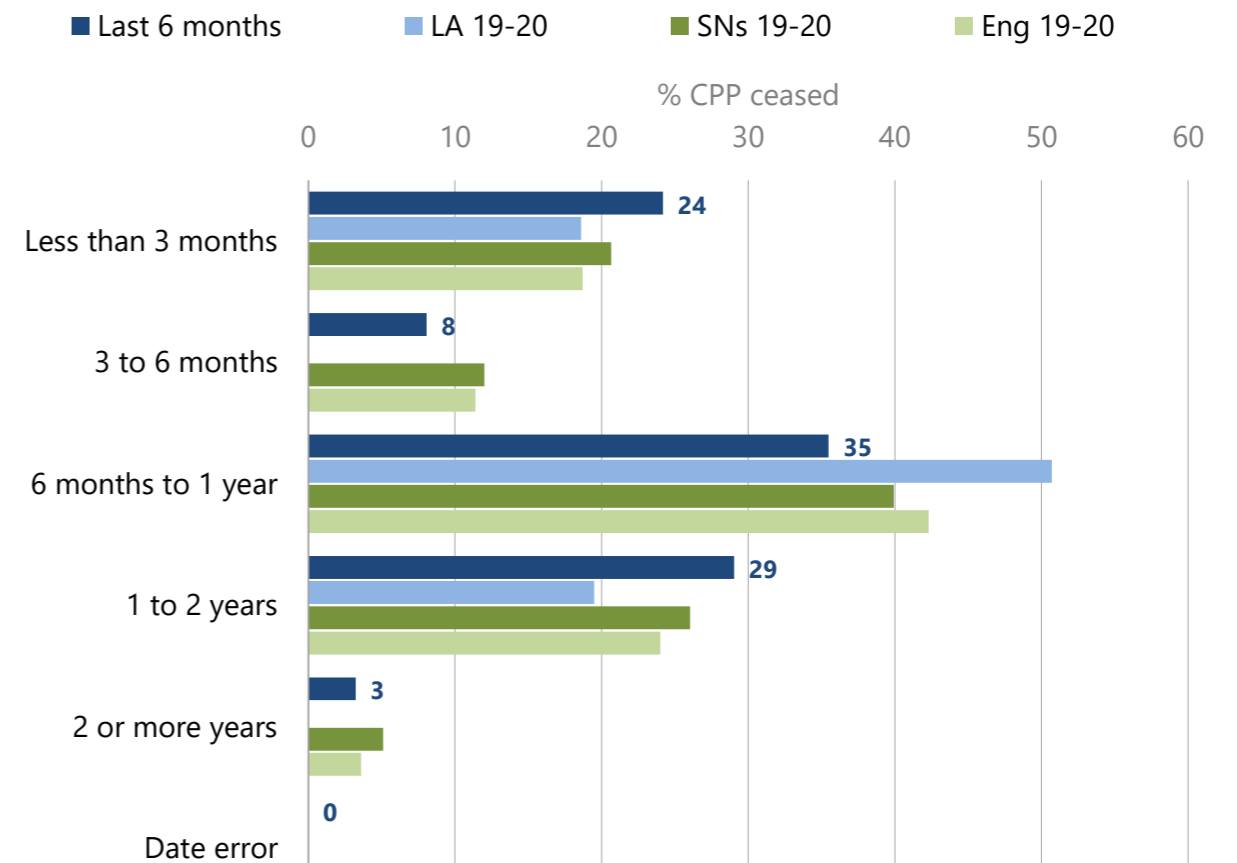
### Comparing re-registrations for CPP started



### Initial category of abuse for CPP started



### Comparing plan durations for CPP ended



2 of 62 children ended a CP plan after 2 years or more

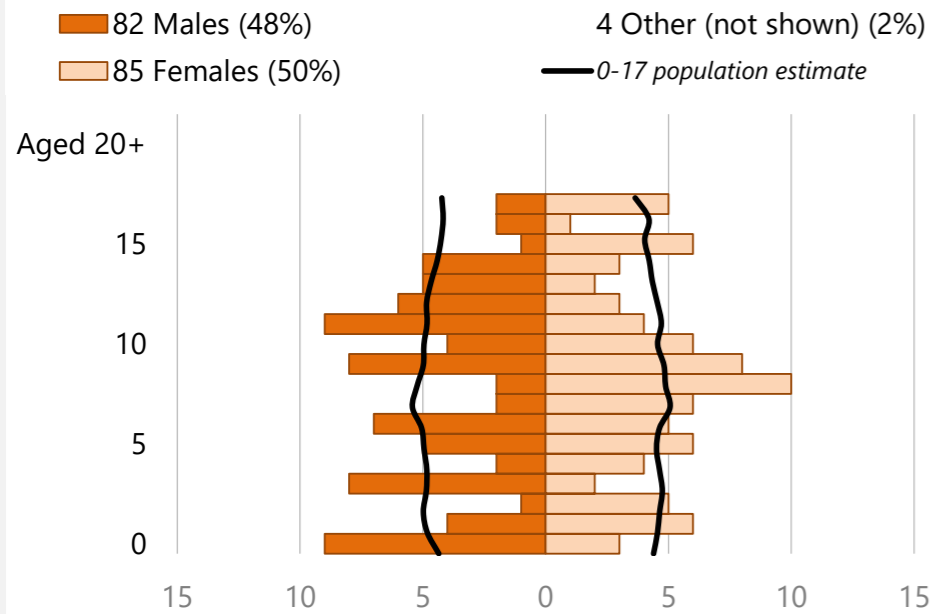


Child Protection Plans (CPP) currently open

Snapshot 09/08/2021

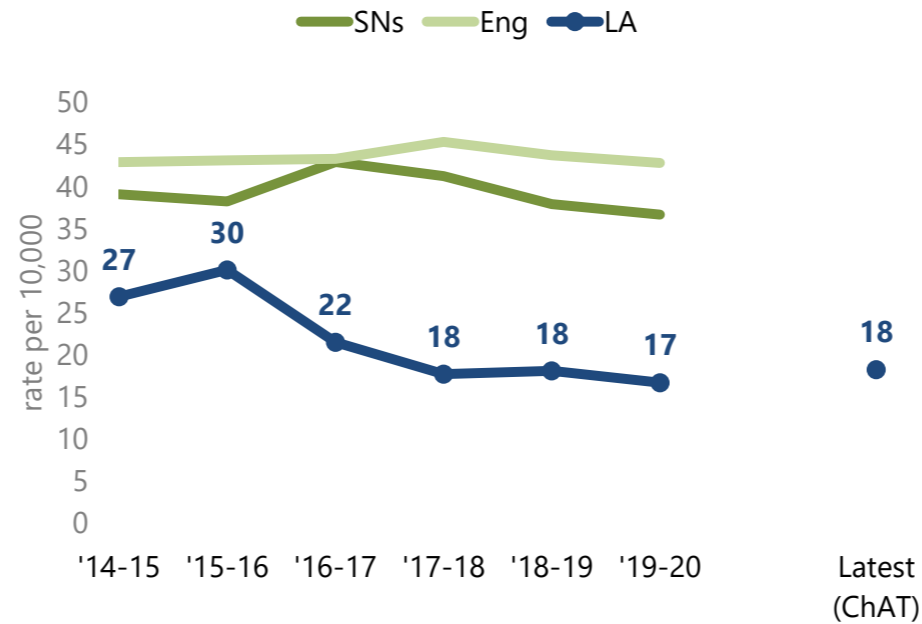
# 171 children currently subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

### Age and gender

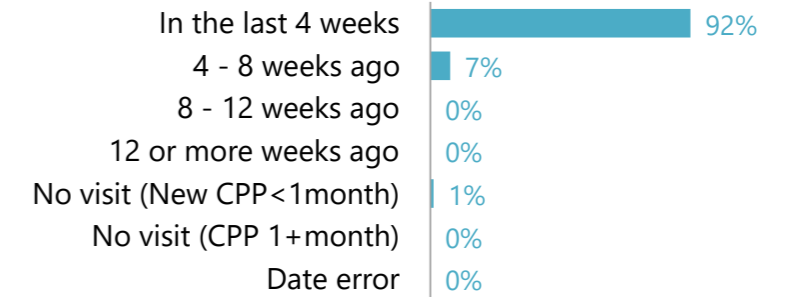


Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

### Rate of CPP per 10,000 children aged 0-17

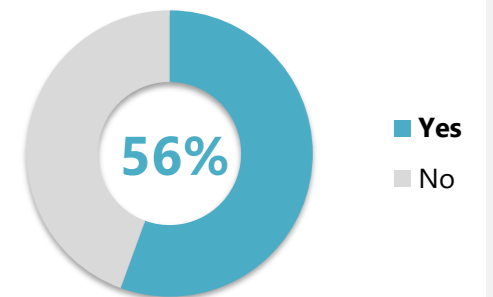


### Time since the child was last seen



Open CPP **seen alone** at their last social work visit

(excludes Not recorded or N/A)



### Ethnic background

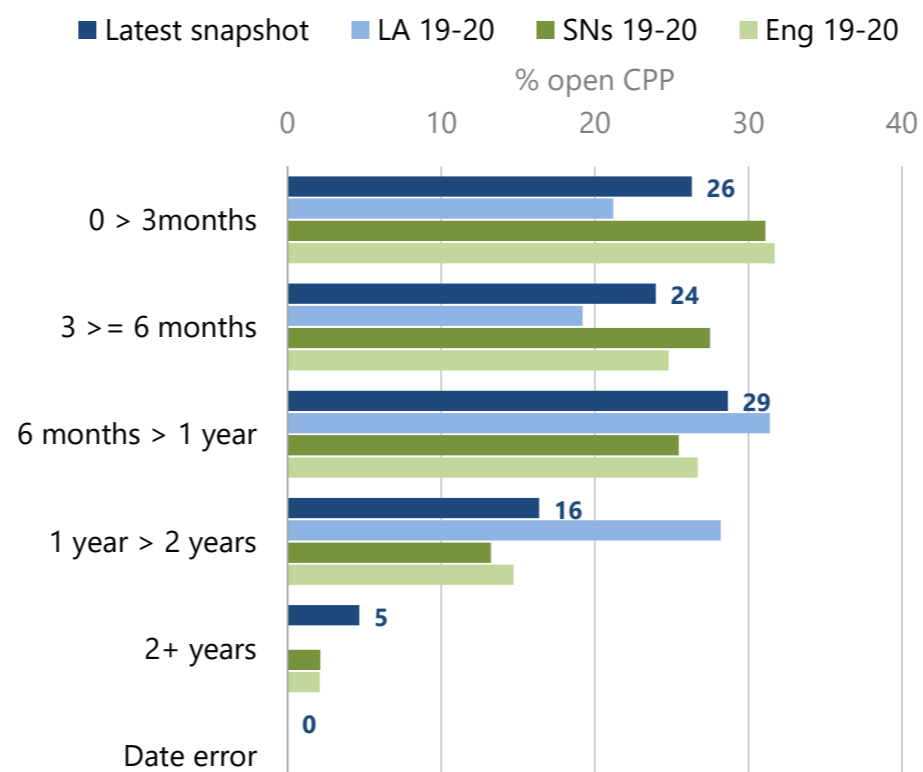
White	41%
Mixed	20%
Asian or Asian British	8%
Black or black British	19%
Other ethnic group	12%
Not stated	1%
Not recorded	0%

See page 20 for comparisons

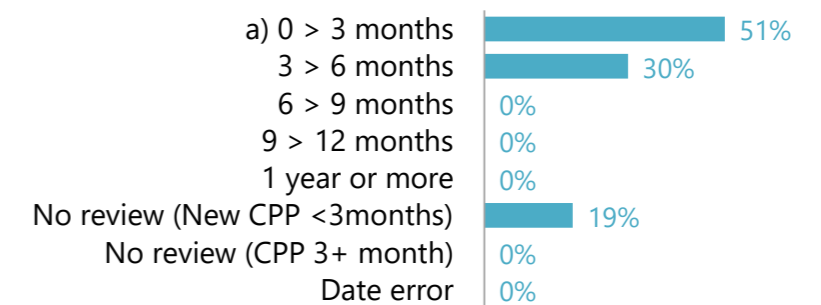
### 12 children (7%) with a disability

13 open CP subject to Emergency Protection Order or Protected Under Police Powers in last 6 months

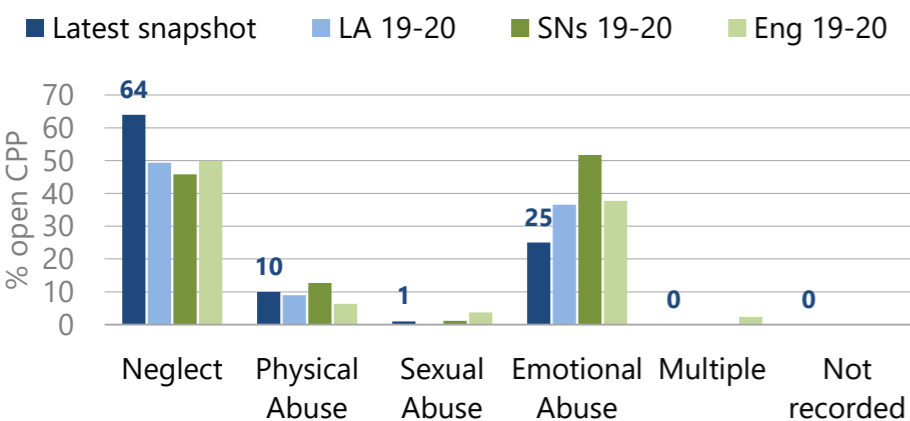
### Comparing duration of open CP plans



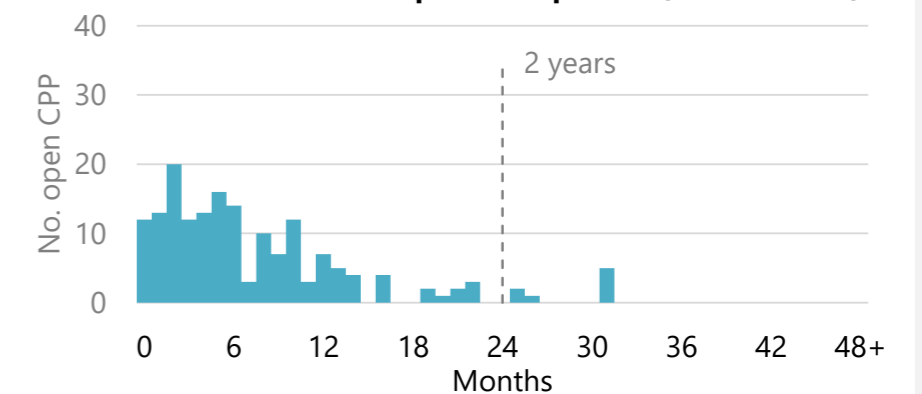
### Time since the child's latest review



### Latest category of abuse for current CP plans



### Duration of current open CP plans (in months)

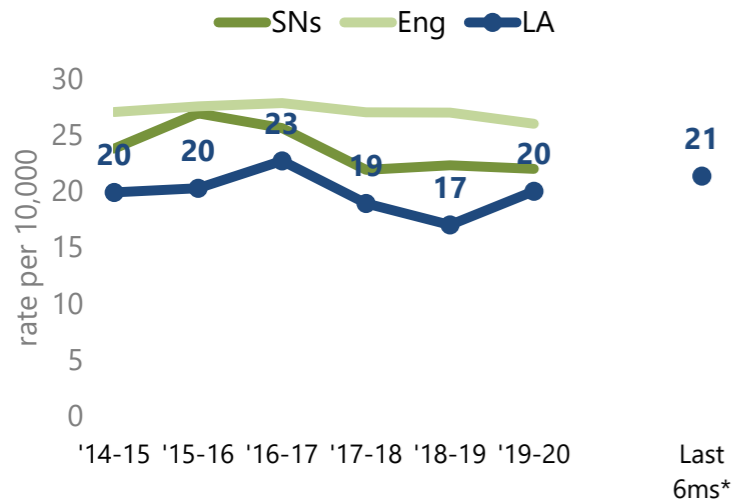


Children Looked After (CLA) started and ceased in the last 6 months

from 10/02/2021  
to 09/08/2021

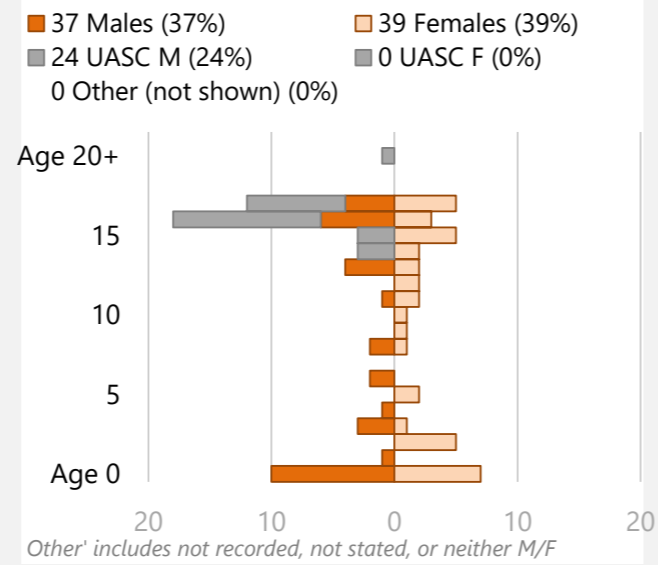
### 100 CLA started in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA started per 10,000 children



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

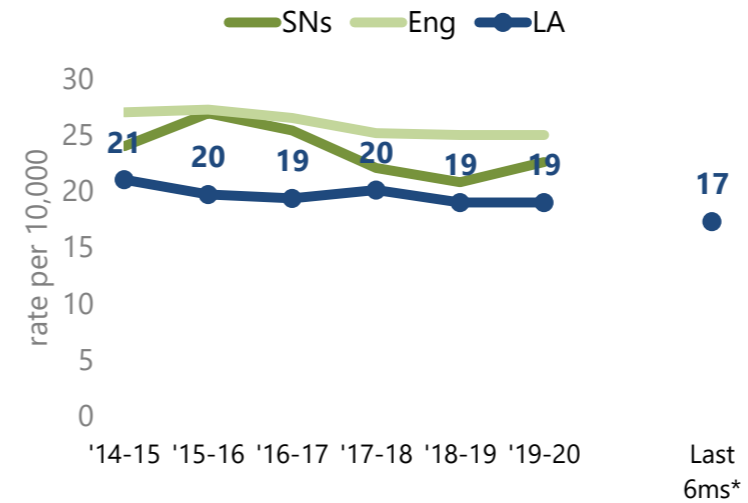
Age and gender



Other includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

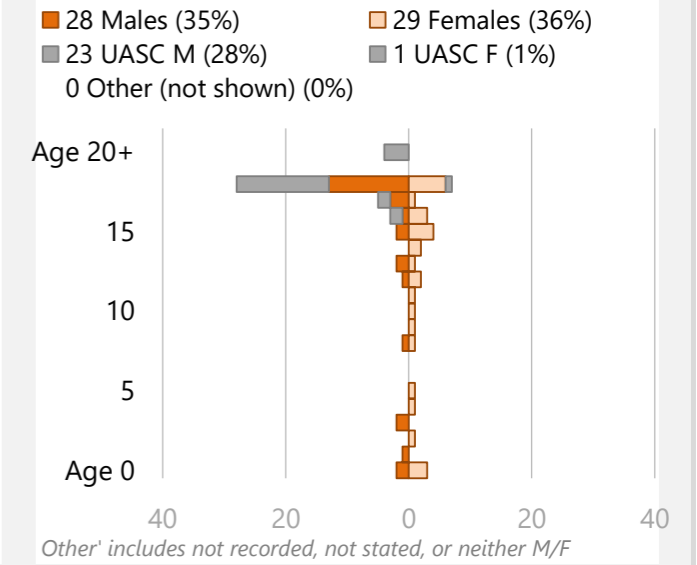
### 81 CLA ceased in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA ceased per 10,000 children



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

Age and gender

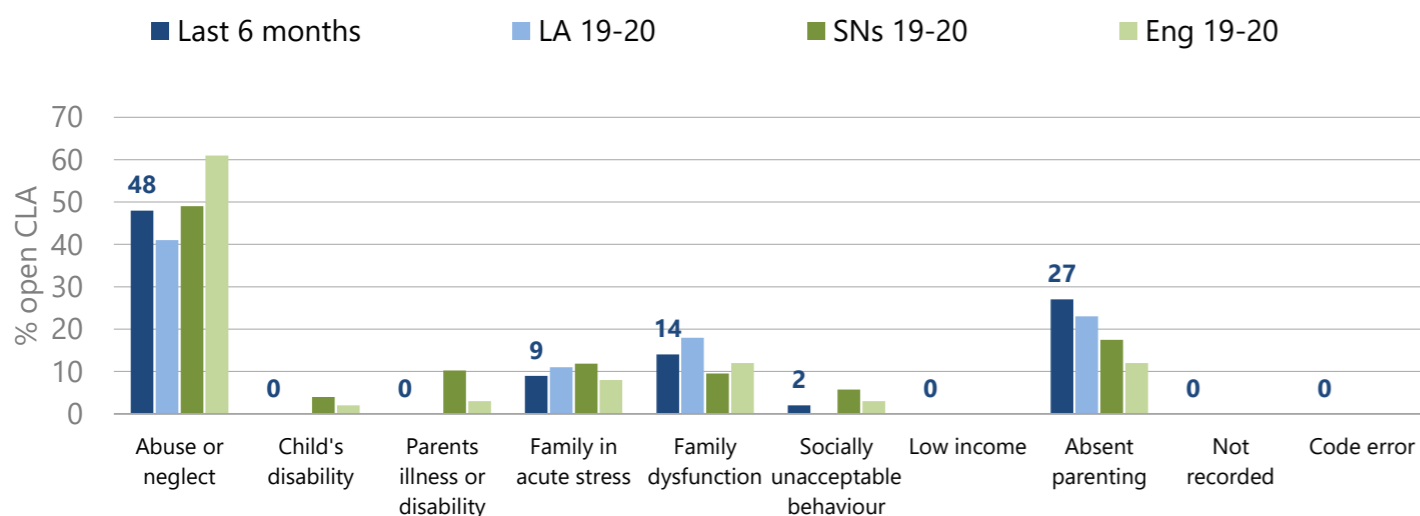


Other includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

**27%** of the 100 CLA starters were unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

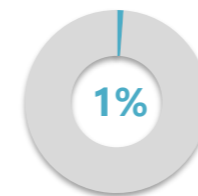
**8%** of the 100 CLA starters have previously been looked after

Comparing the primary need of CLA starters



Reason episode of care ceased

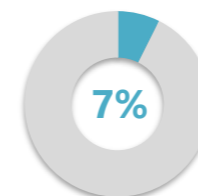
Adopted



Last 6 months  
1%

2018-19 (published)  
LA 7% SNs 8% Eng 12%

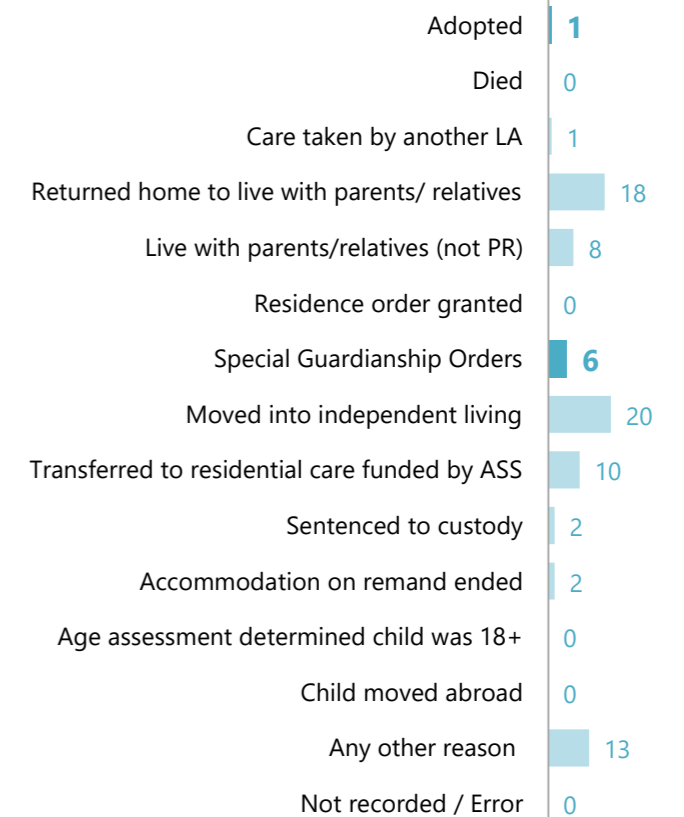
Special Guardianship Order



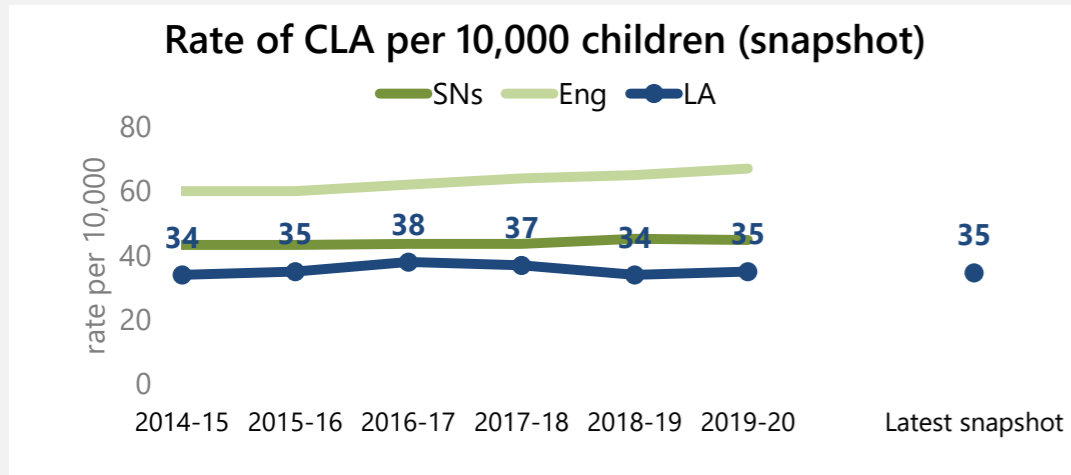
Last 6 months  
7%

2018-19 (published)  
LA 3% SNs 19% Eng -

Number of CLA ceased by reason in the period



### 325 Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care



#### Ethnic background

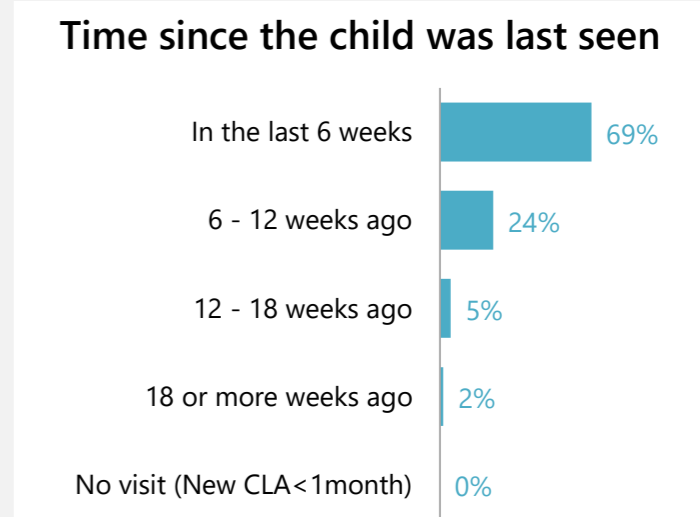
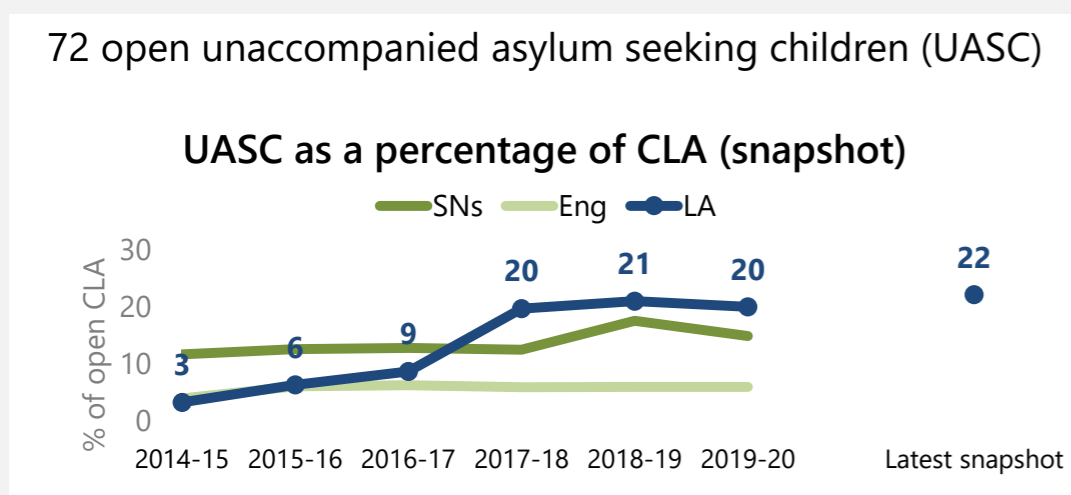
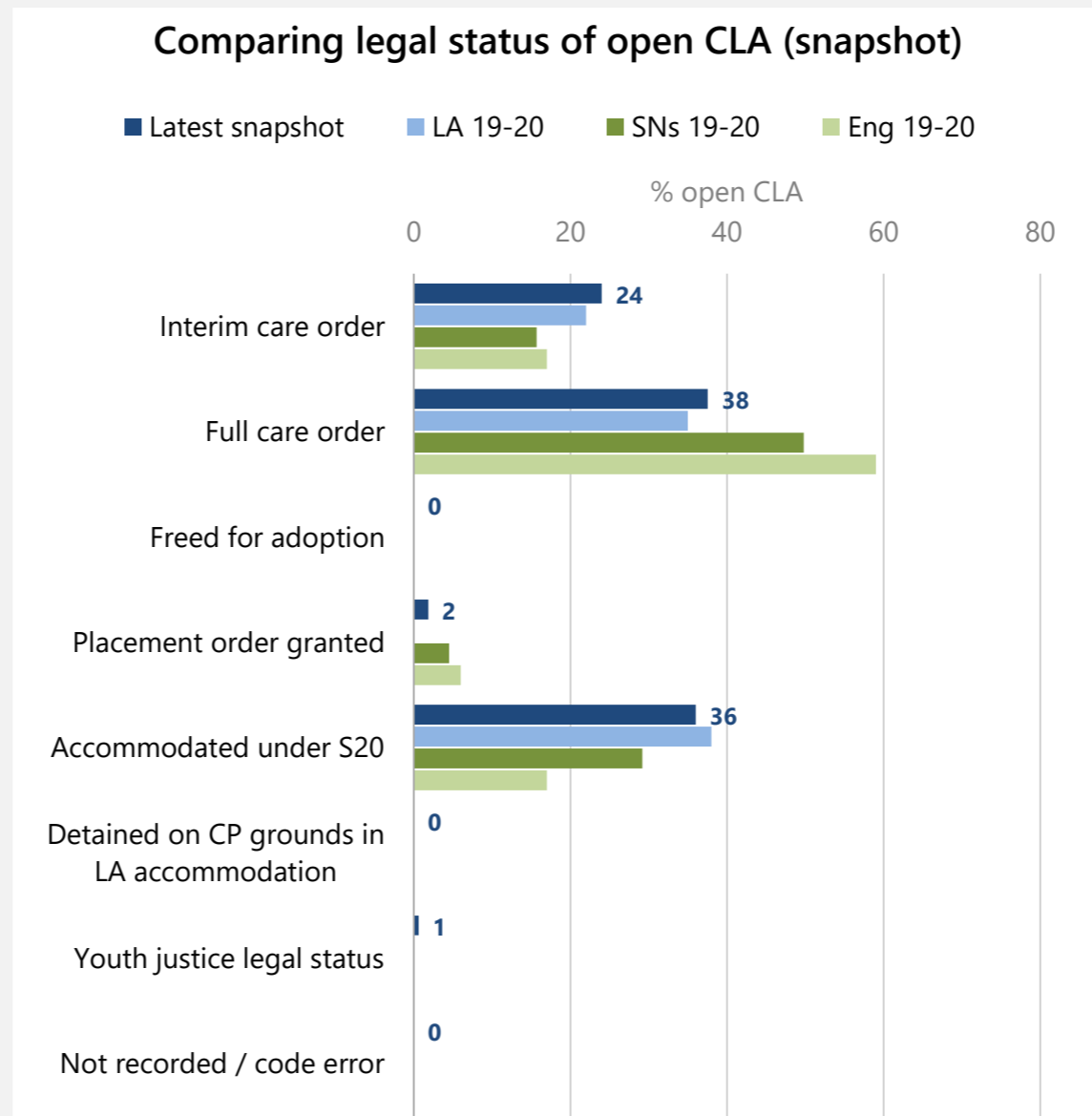
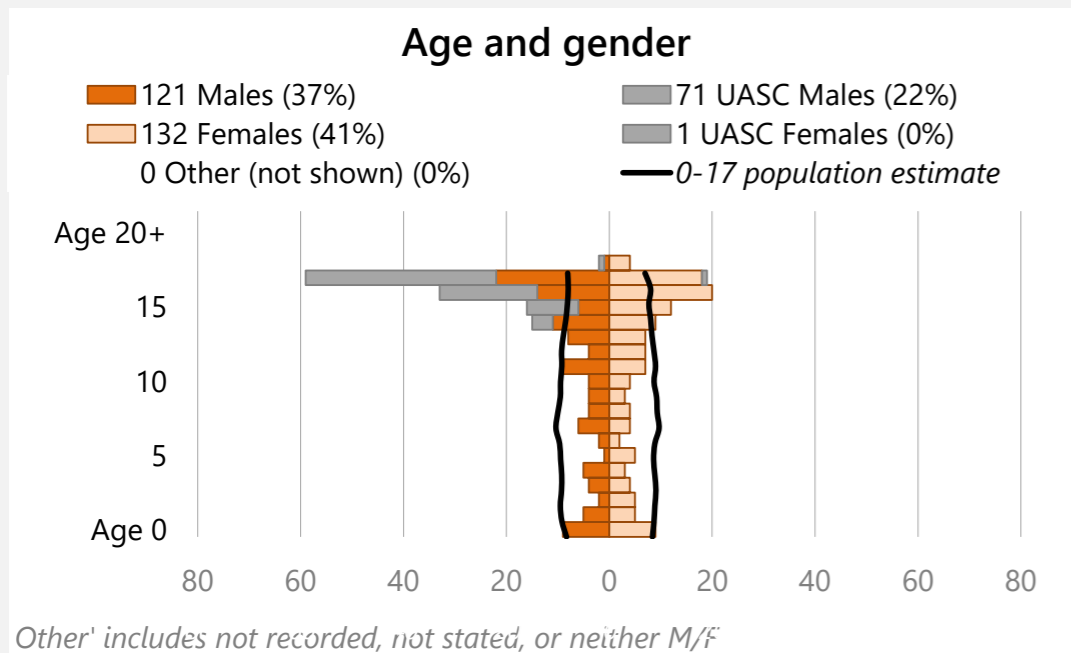
	All CLA	Not UASC	UASC
White	35%	44%	4%
Mixed	20%	26%	0%
Asian or Asian British	8%	5%	19%
Black or black British	19%	19%	19%
Other ethnic group	17%	6%	54%
Not stated	1%	0%	3%
Not recorded	0%	0%	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

26 children (8%) with a disability

#### Permanence plan

	Number	%
Return to family	0	0%
Adoption	0	0%
SGO/CAO	0	0%
Supported living	0	0%
L/T residential	0	0%
L/T fostering	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Not recorded	0	0%

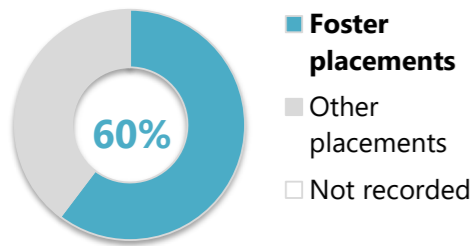


Children Looked After (CLA) placements

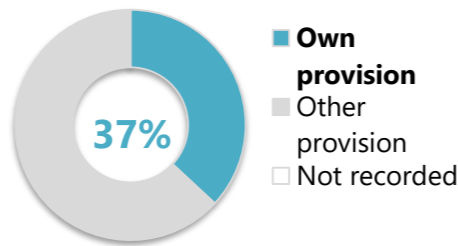
Snapshot 09/08/2021

CLA placements by type and provision

Foster placements



Own provision

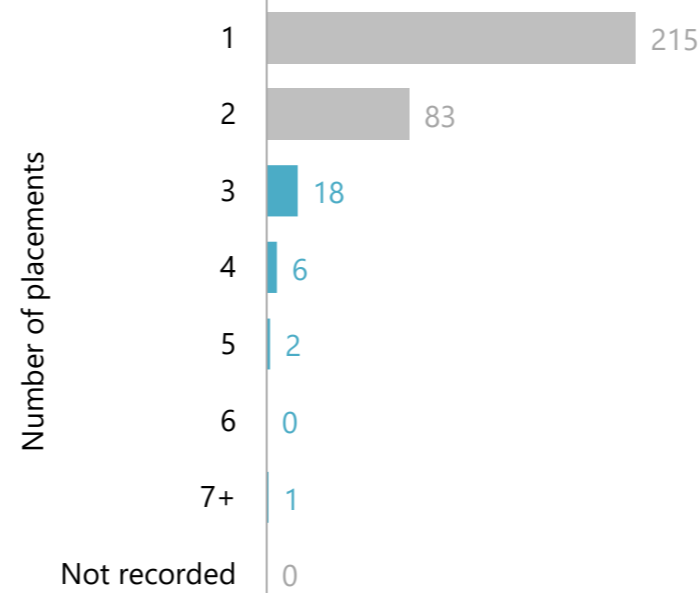


LA 2018-19 65%  
SNs 2018-19 70%  
Eng 2018-19 72%

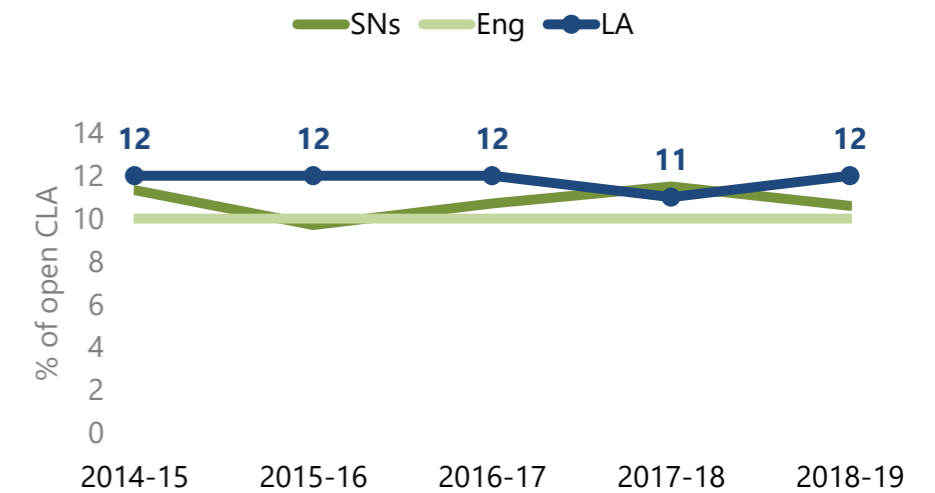
LA 2018-19 47%  
SNs 2018-19 41%  
Eng 2018-19 50%

Placement type (open CLA)	Own LA	Private	Other	Total
Foster placement	102	92	2	196
Placed for adoption	3	0	6	9
Placed with parents	0	0	11	11
Independent living	0	0	0	0
Residential employment	0	0	0	0
Residential accommodation	7	53	0	60
Secure Children's Homes	0	1	0	1
Children's Homes	8	29	1	38
Residential Care Home	0	0	0	0
NHS/Health Trust	0	0	1	1
Family Centre	0	6	0	6
Young Offender Institution	0	0	1	1
Residential school	0	2	0	2
Other placements	0	0	0	0
Temporary placement	0	0	0	0
Total placements	120	183	22	325

Number of placements in the last 12 months

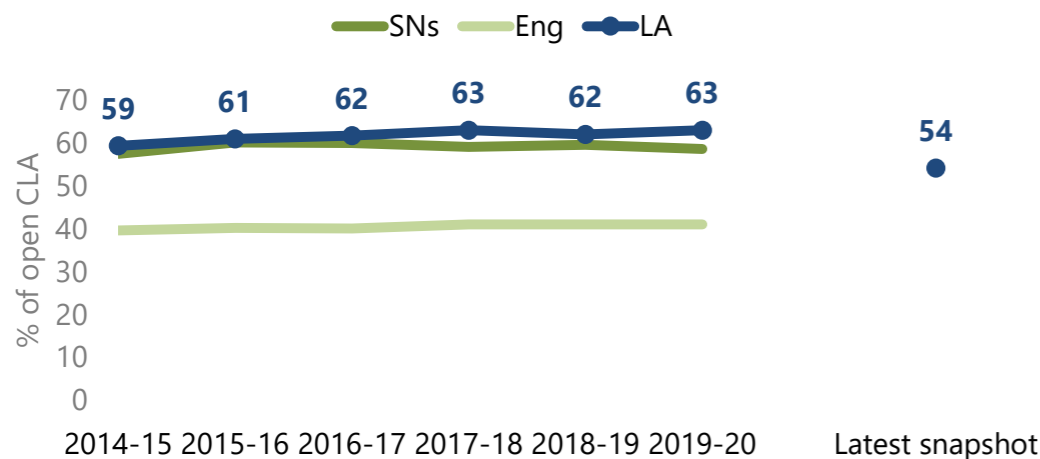


Comparing short term placement stability



Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present short-term stability alongside published statistics

CLA placements out of borough

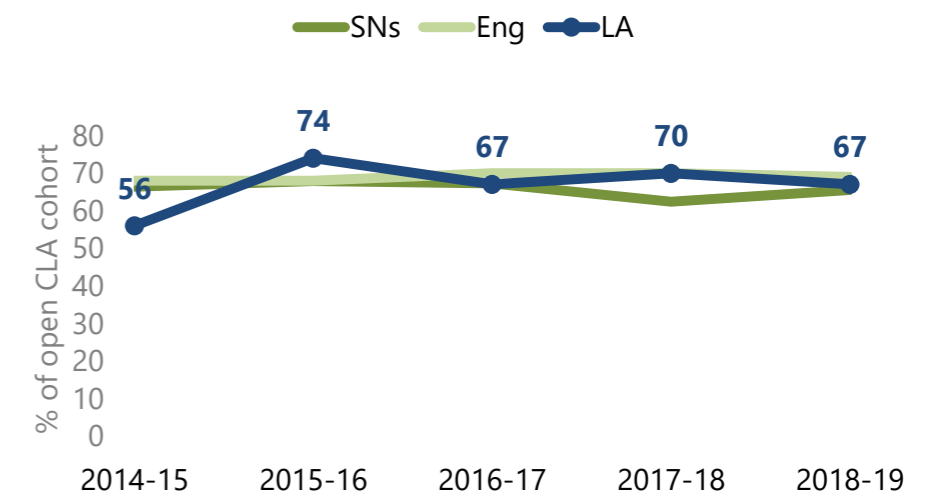


Duration of placements

Duration of latest placement for each current CLA aged under 16 who have been looked after for 2½ years or more



Comparing long term placement stability



Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present long-term stability alongside published statistics

Children Looked After (CLA) health and missing/absent from placement

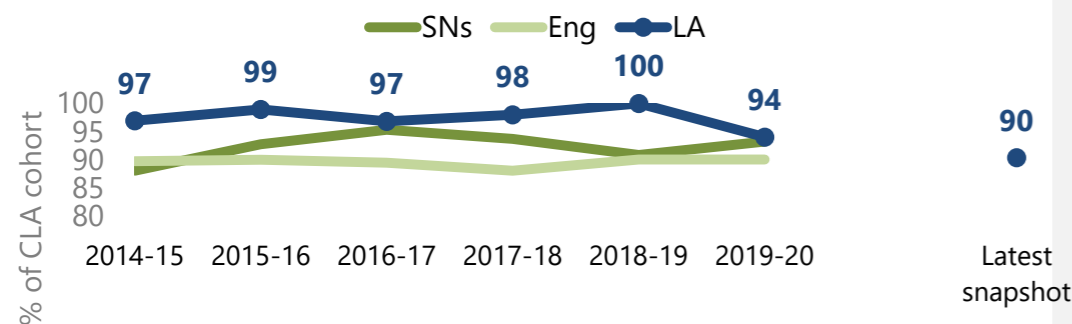
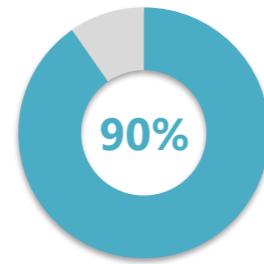
Snapshot 09/08/2021

### Health

196 current open CLA looked after for at least 12 months

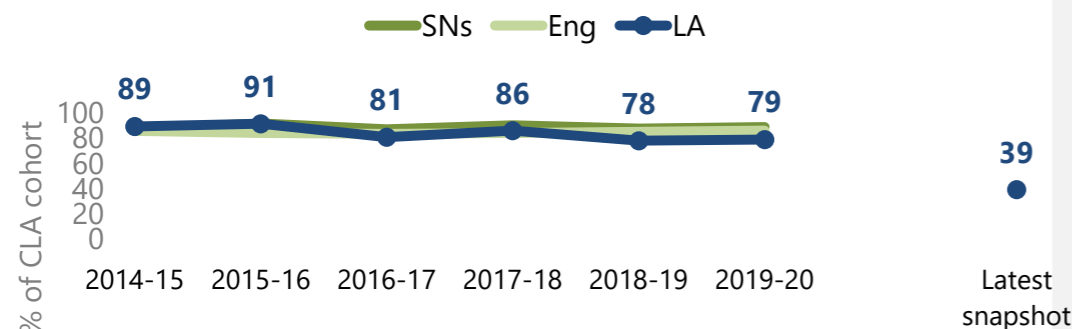
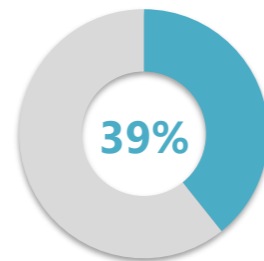
#### Health assessments

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months with an up to date health assessment (in the last 6 months for CLA aged under 5, and in the last 12 months for CLA aged 5-plus)



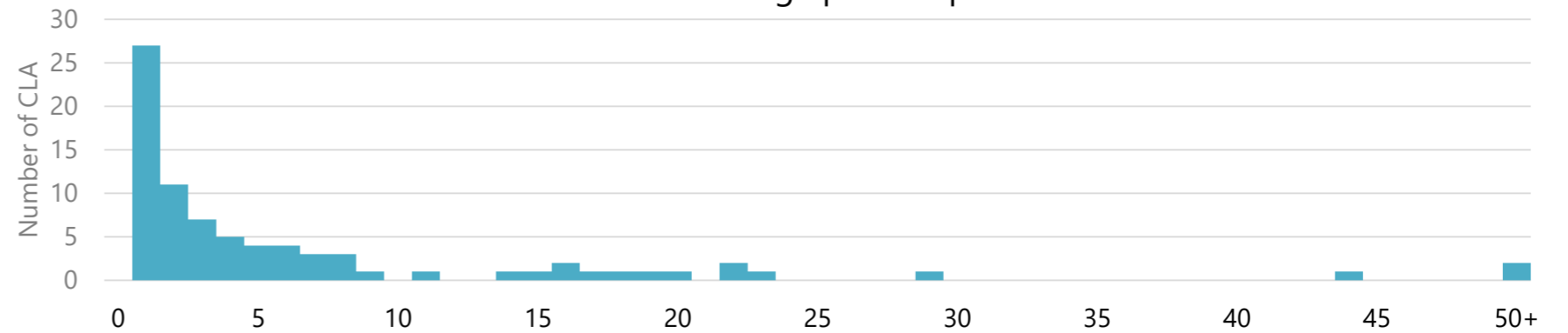
#### Dental checks

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months who have had a dental check in the last 12 months.



### Missing from placement

Number of missing episodes per CLA

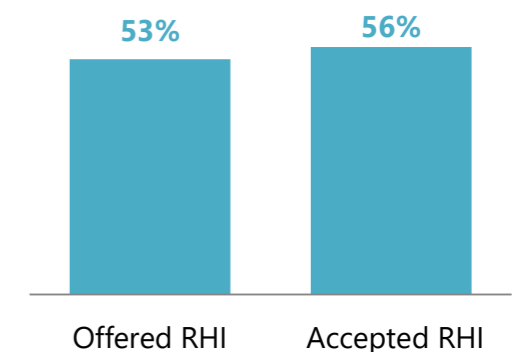


81 of 406 looked after children had a missing incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 19-20	SNs 19-20	Eng 19-20
Number of all CLA with a missing incident	81 of 406	81		
Percentage of all CLA with a missing incident	20%	16%	13%	11%
Total number of missing incidents for all CLA	605	542		
Average number of incidents per CLA who went missing	7.5	6.7	6.4	6.5

#### Missing incidents - return home interviews

	Latest data	
Missing children offered return interview	43 of 81	53%
Missing children not offered return interview	25 of 81	31%
Missing children return interview offer not recorded	0 of 81	0%
Missing children where return interview was n/a	13 of 81	16%



	Latest data	
Missing children accepted return interview	24 of 43	56%
Missing children not accepted return interview	12 of 43	28%
Missing children return interview acceptance not recorded	7 of 43	16%

### Absent from placement

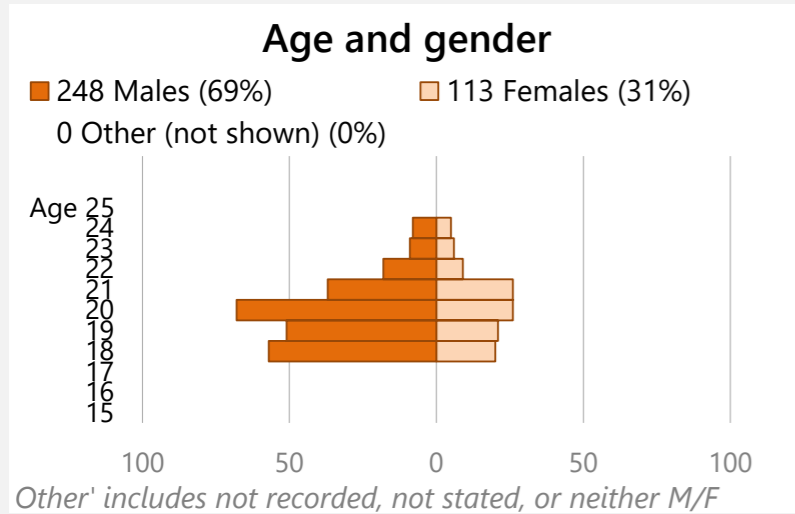
19 of 406 looked after children had an absent incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 19-20	SNs 19-20	Eng 19-20
Number of all CLA with an absent incident	19 of 406	51		
Percentage of all CLA with an absent incident	5%	10%	7%	3%
Total number of absent incidents for all CLA	60	240		
Average number of incidents per CLA who were absent	3.2	4.7	4.0	4.0

Care leavers currently in receipt of leaving care services

Snapshot 09/08/2021

### 361 care leavers

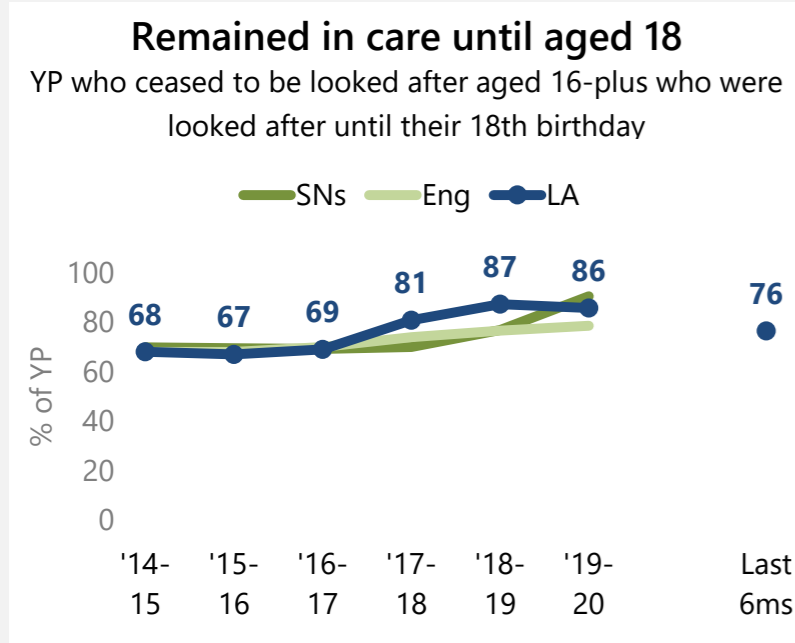


#### Ethnic background

White	29%
Mixed	13%
Asian or Asian British	13%
Black or black British	22%
Other ethnic group	22%
Not stated	0%
Not recorded	0%

See page 22 for comparisons

38 (11%) care leavers with a disability



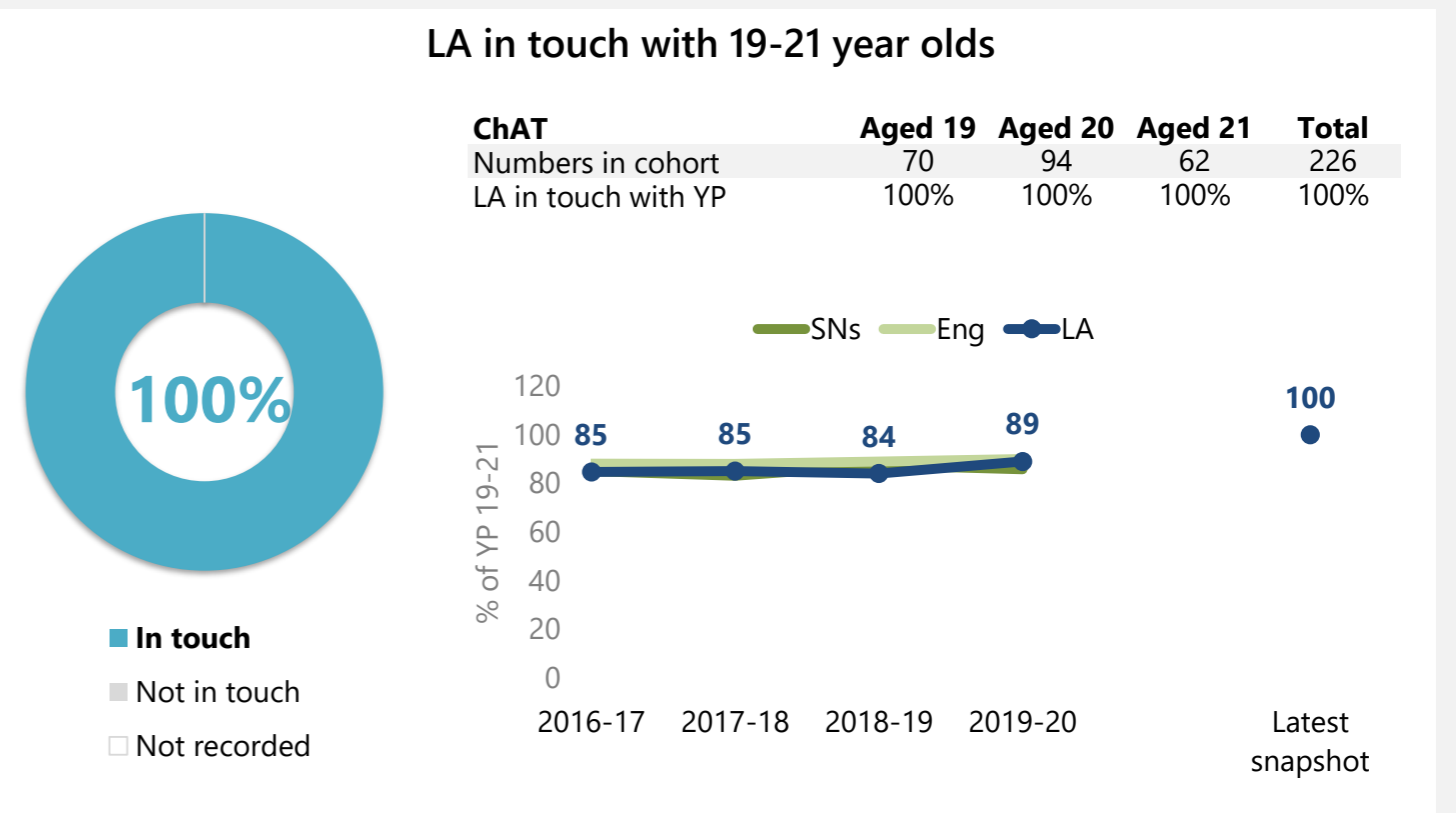
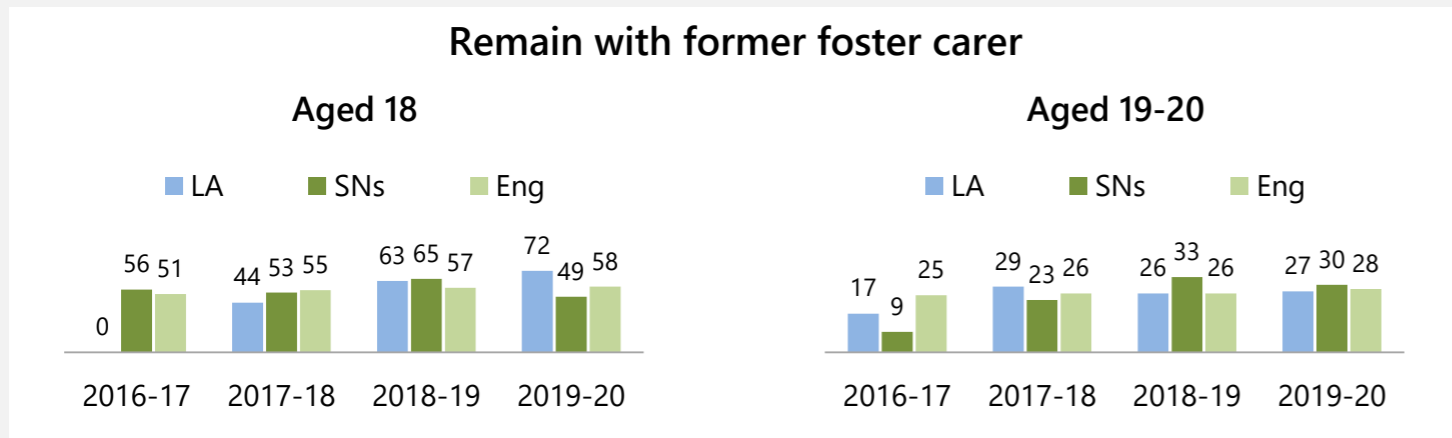
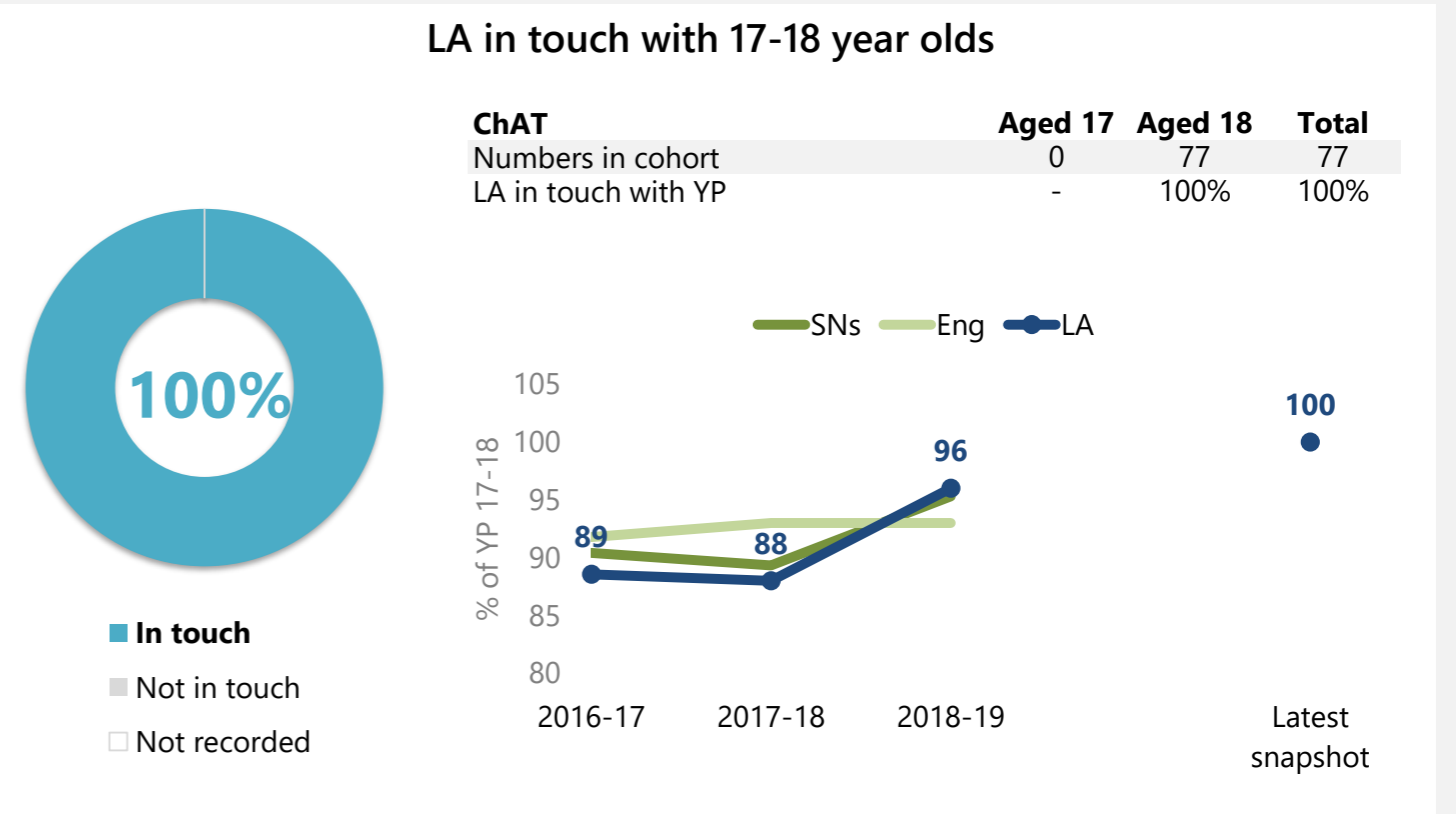
#### Eligibility category

Relevant	0
Former relevant	357
Qualifying	3
Other	1
Not recorded	0

Relevant = YP aged 16-17 no longer looked after and eligible for leaving care services.

Former relevant = YP aged 18-25 eligible for leaving care services.

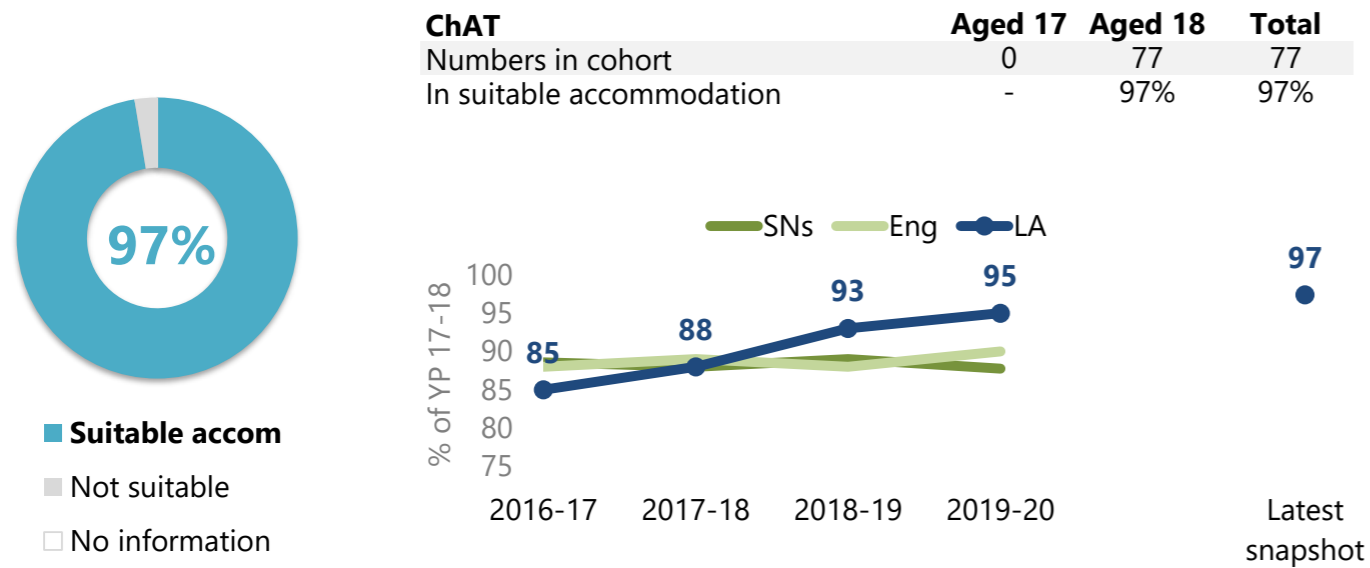
Qualifying = YP aged 18-25 in receipt of support but not eligible for full leaving care services.



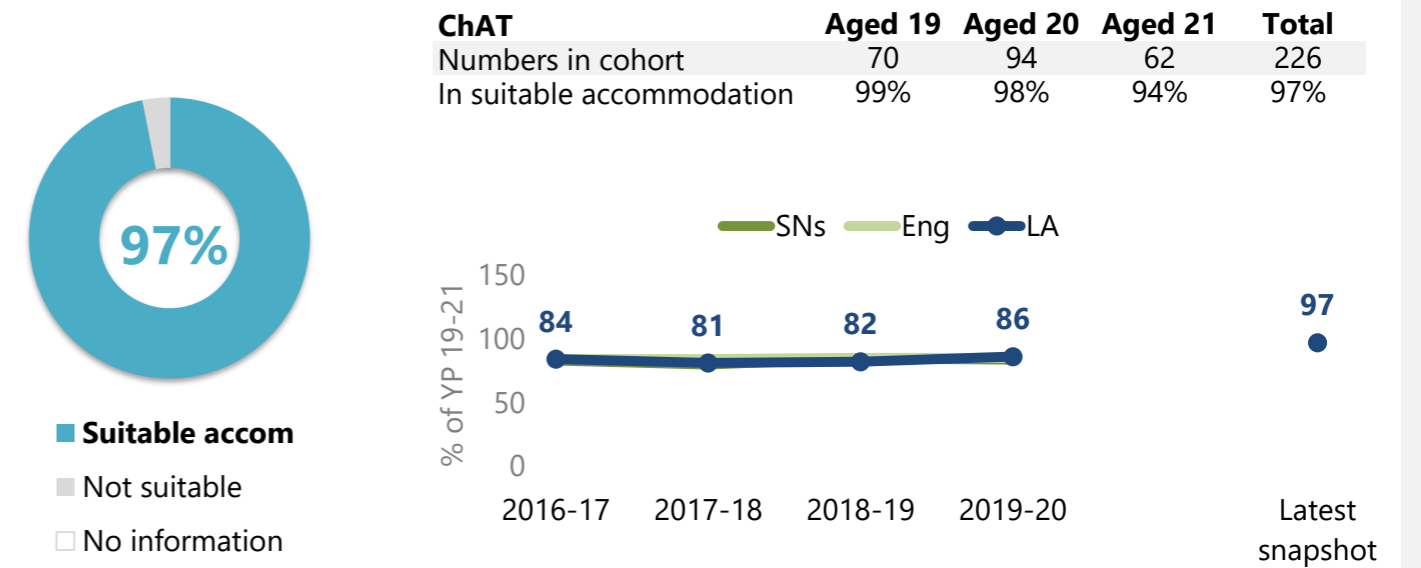
Care leavers accommodation suitability and type

Snapshot 09/08/2021

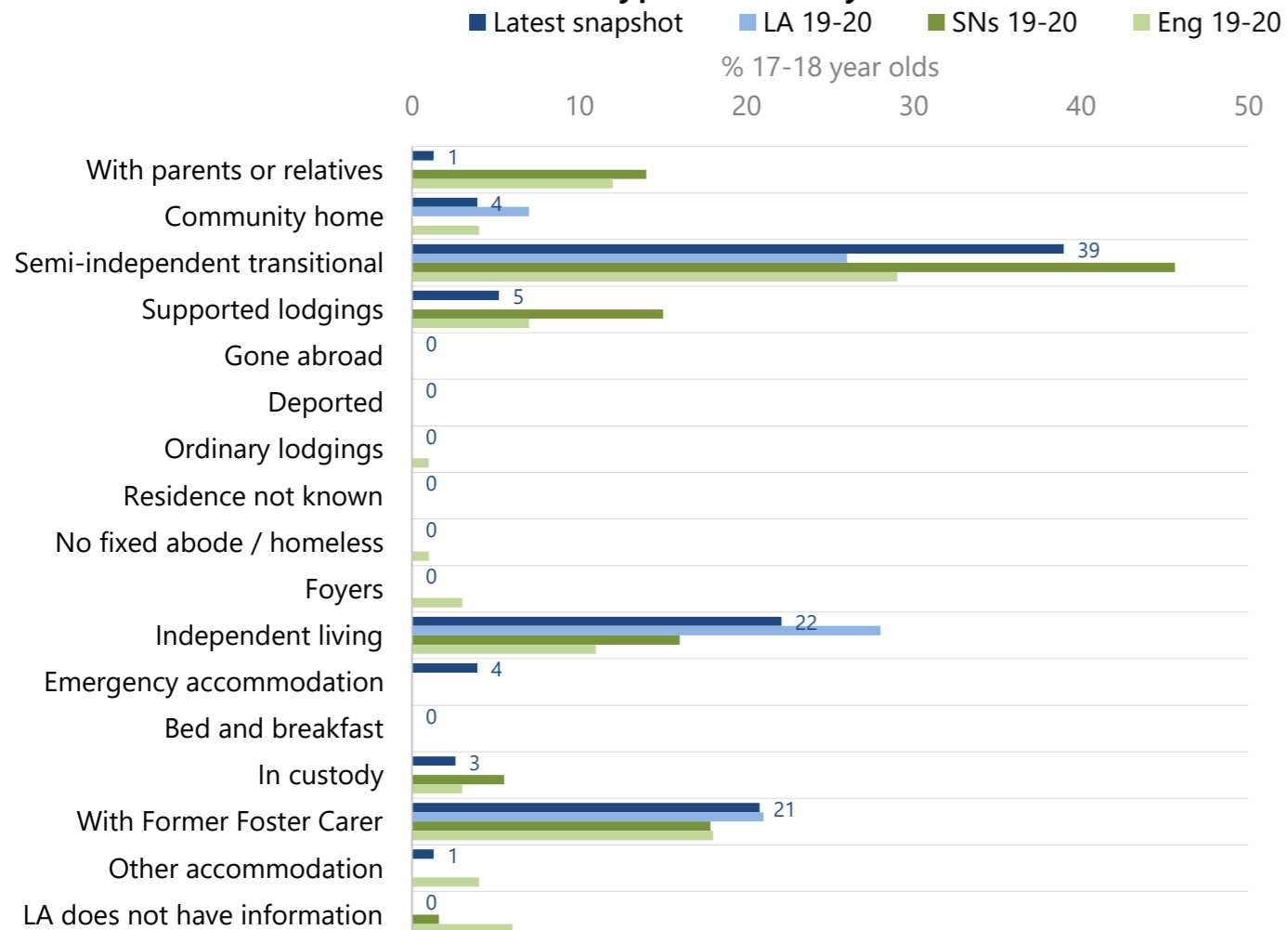
Accommodation suitability of 17-18 year olds



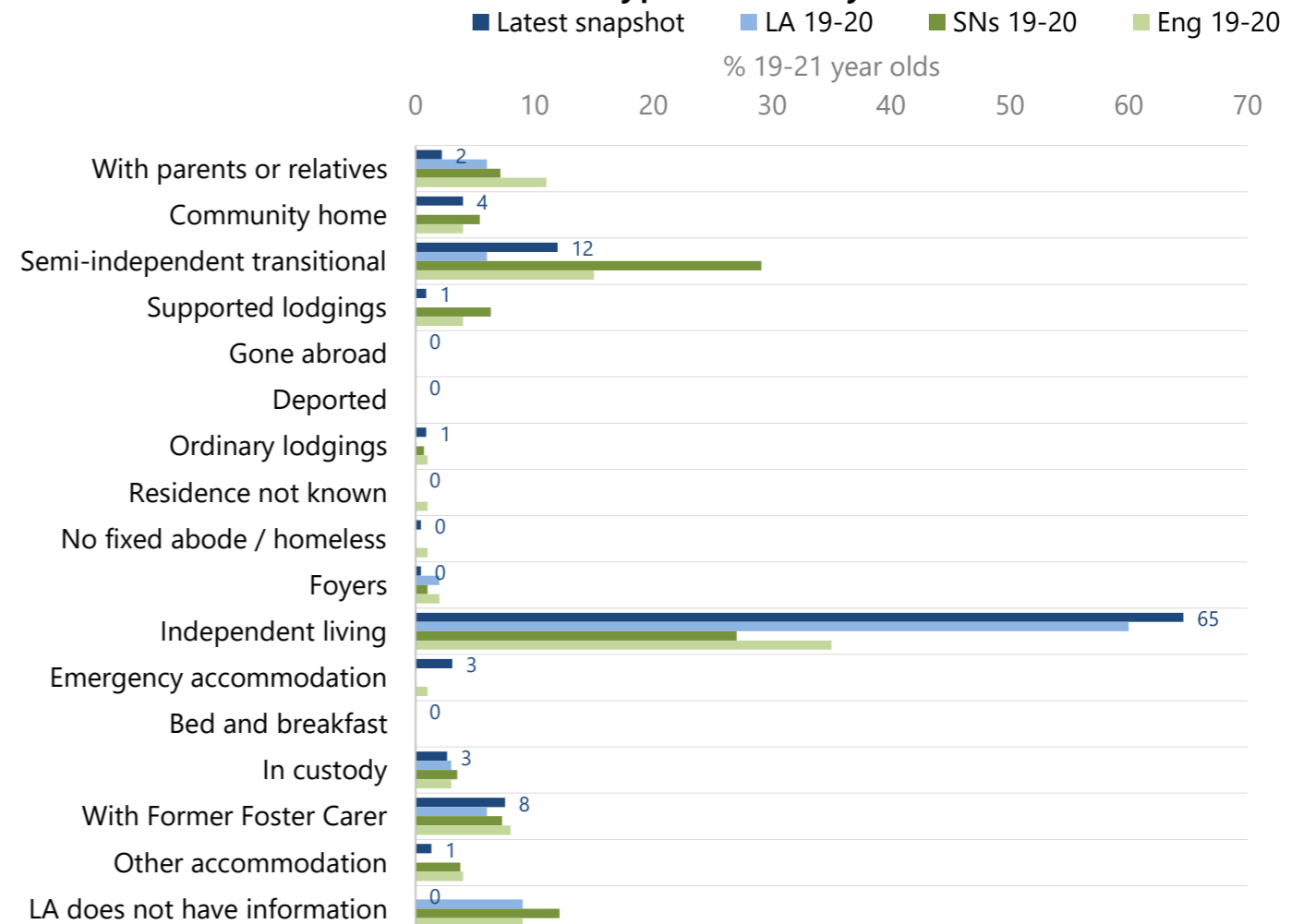
Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds



Accommodation types of 17-18 year olds



Accommodation types of 19-21 year olds

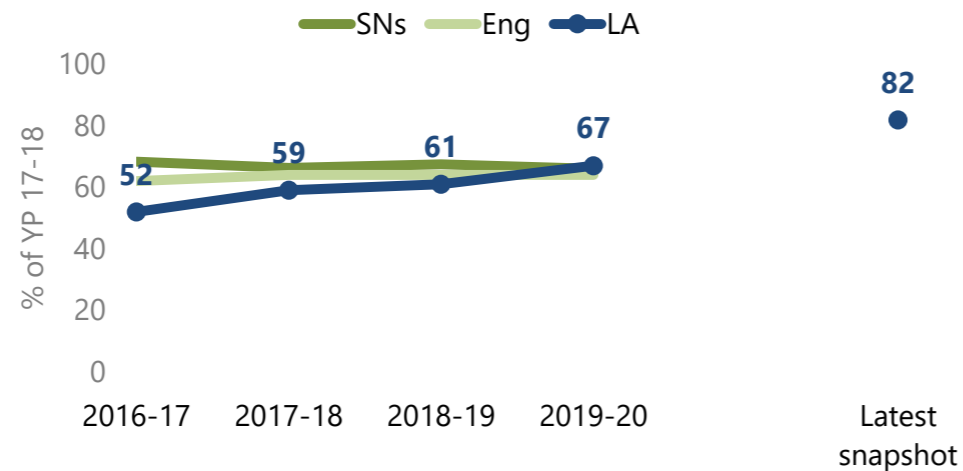
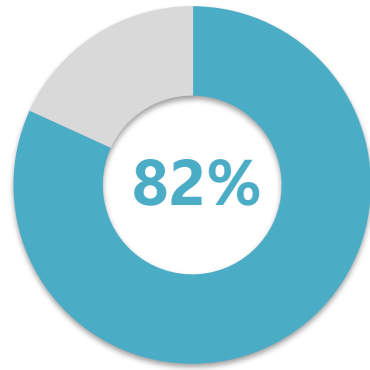


Care leavers activity (Education, Employment, or Training)

Snapshot 09/08/2021

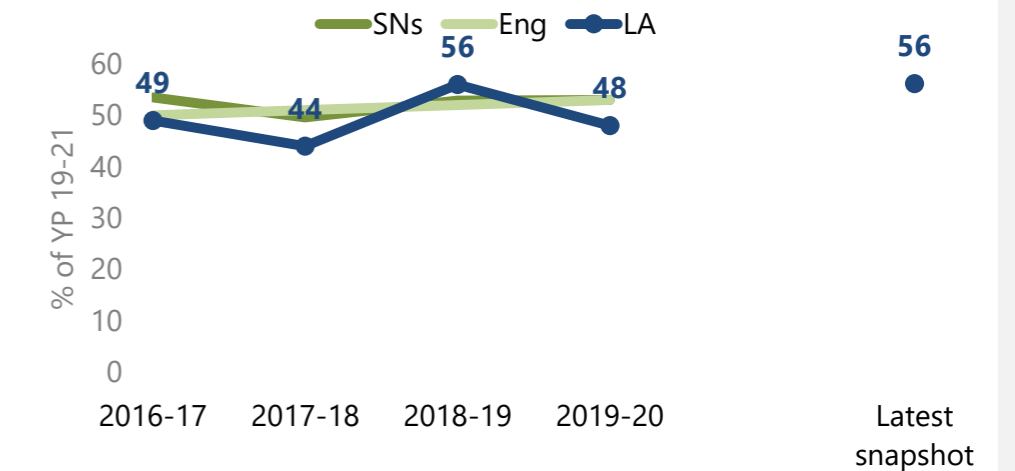
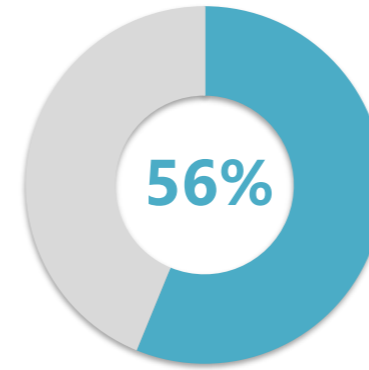
Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 17-18 year olds

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	0	77	77
In EET	-	82%	82%



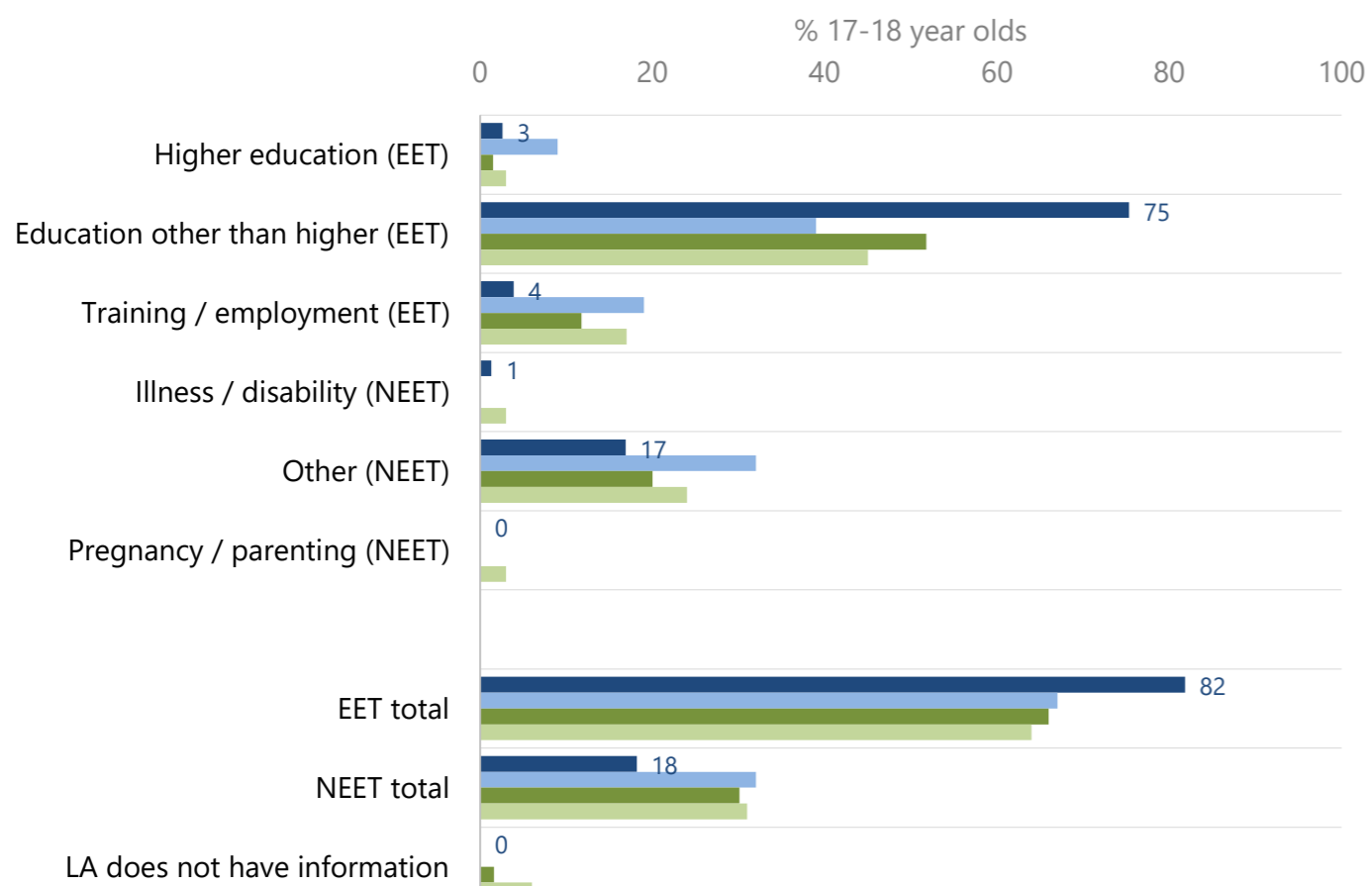
Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	70	94	62	226
In EET	63%	53%	53%	56%



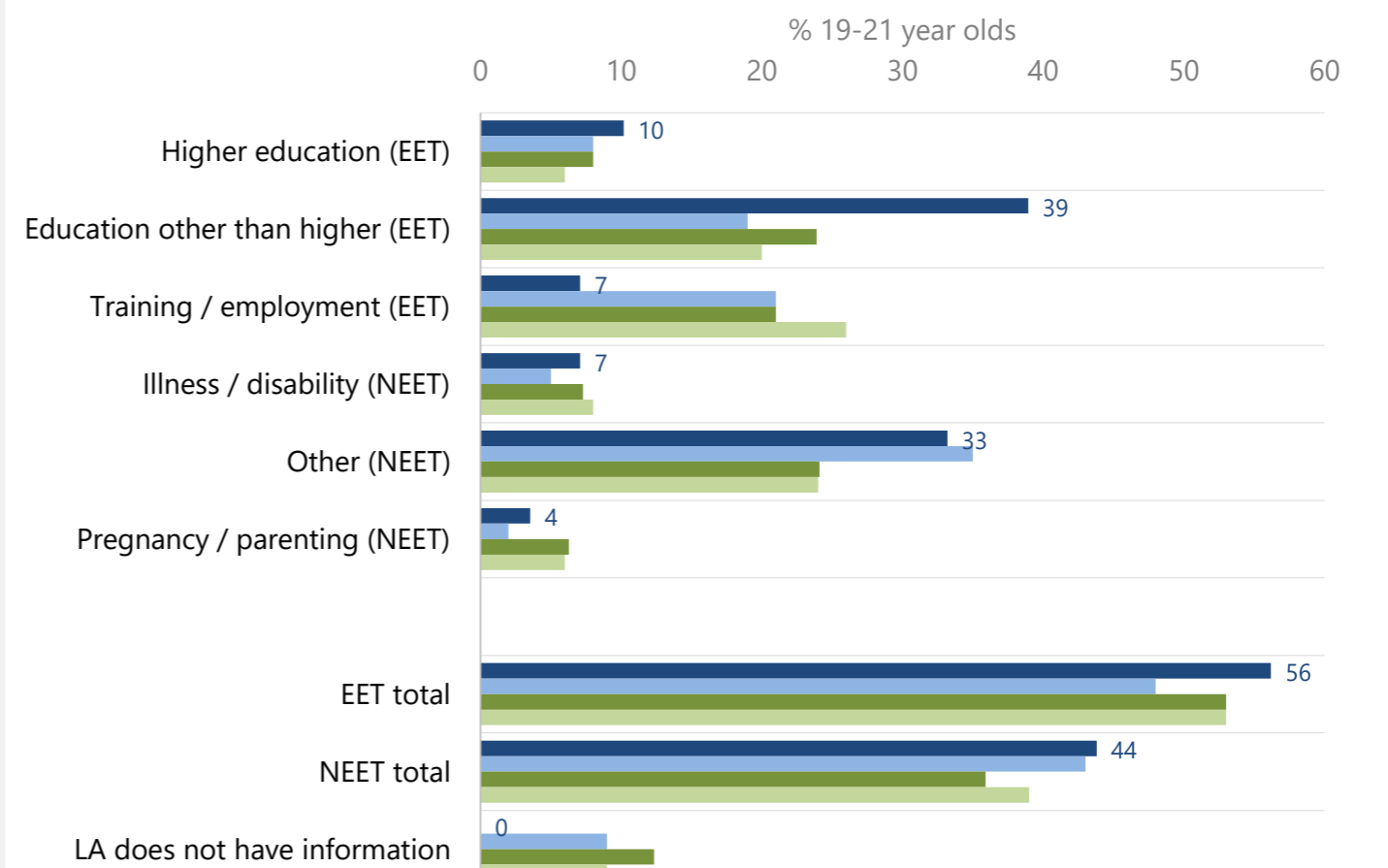
Activity types of 17-18 year olds

Legend: Latest snapshot (dark blue), LA 19-20 (light blue), SNs 19-20 (green), Eng 19-20 (light green)



Activity types of 19-21 year olds

Legend: Latest snapshot (dark blue), LA 19-20 (light blue), SNs 19-20 (green), Eng 19-20 (light green)





Children adopted, waiting to be adopted, or had an adoption decision reversed in the last 12 months from 10/08/2020 to 09/08/2021

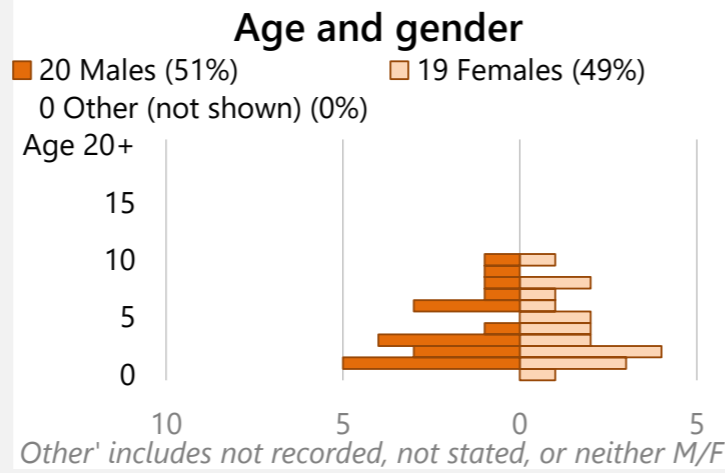
### 39 children

- 13 Child/ren adopted last 12 months
- 19 Child/ren waiting to be adopted (18 Child/ren waiting with placement order)
- 7 Child/ren with decision reversed

#### Ethnic background

White	46%
Mixed	44%
Asian or Asian British	3%
Black or black British	8%
Other ethnic group	0%
Not stated	0%
Not recorded	0%

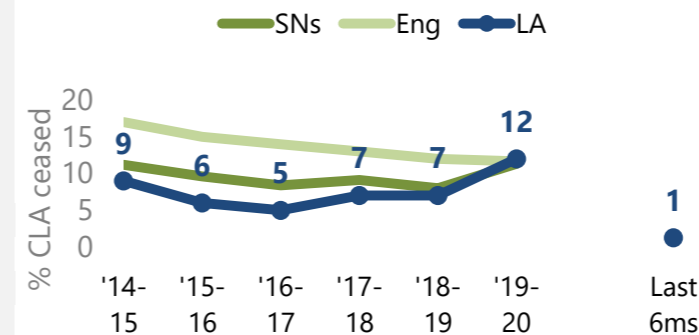
See page 22 for comparisons



1 children (3%) with a disability

### Of the 81 children who ceased to be looked after in the last 6 months, 1 was/were adopted (1%)

#### Children ceased who were adopted



#### Children aged 5-plus who were adopted

1.4%

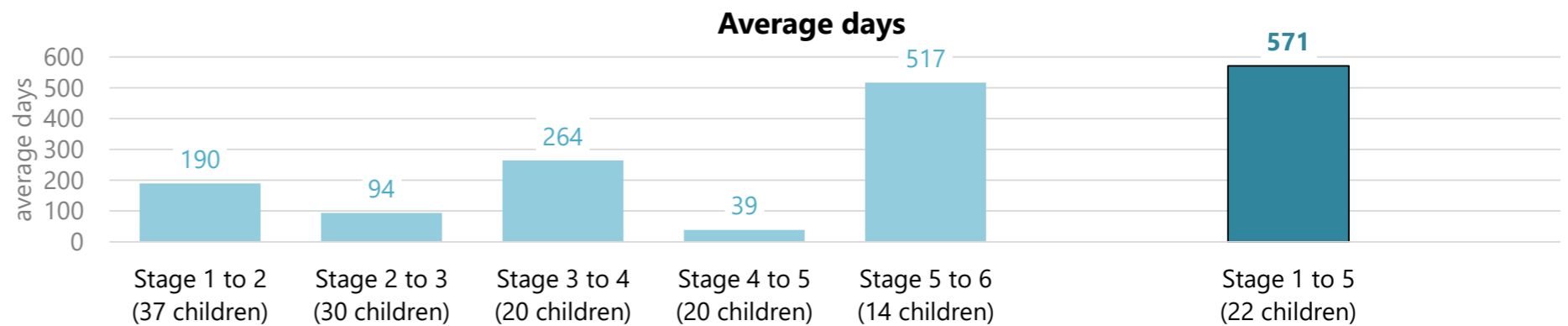
1 of the 71 children aged 5-plus who ceased to be looked after in the last 6 months were adopted

#### Comparing 5-plus adoptions

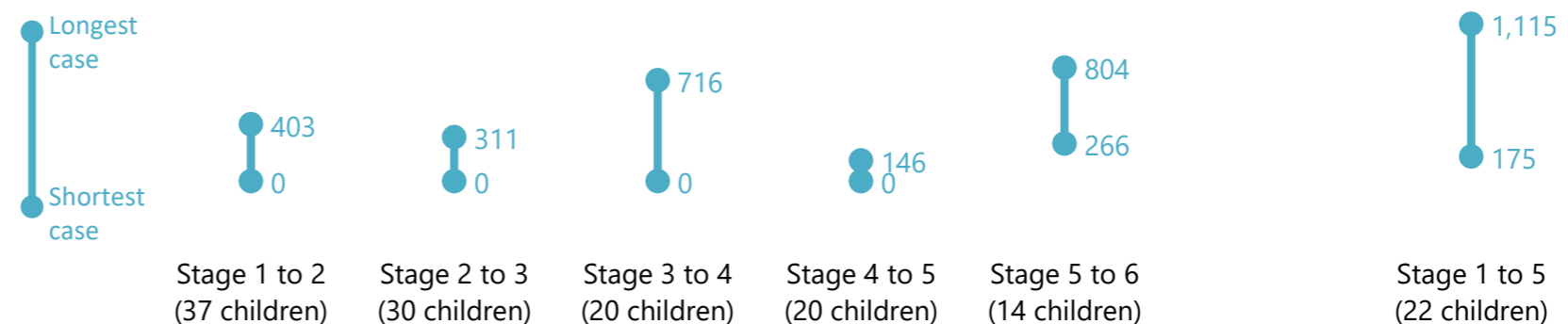
LA last 6 months	1.4%
LA 2013-16 (3 yr average)	2.0%
SNs 2013-16 (3 yr average)	5.0%
Eng 2013-16 (3 yr average)	5.0%

### Timeliness of each stage of the adoption process

Average duration of each stage (number of days)



Range in days between shortest and longest cases at each stage

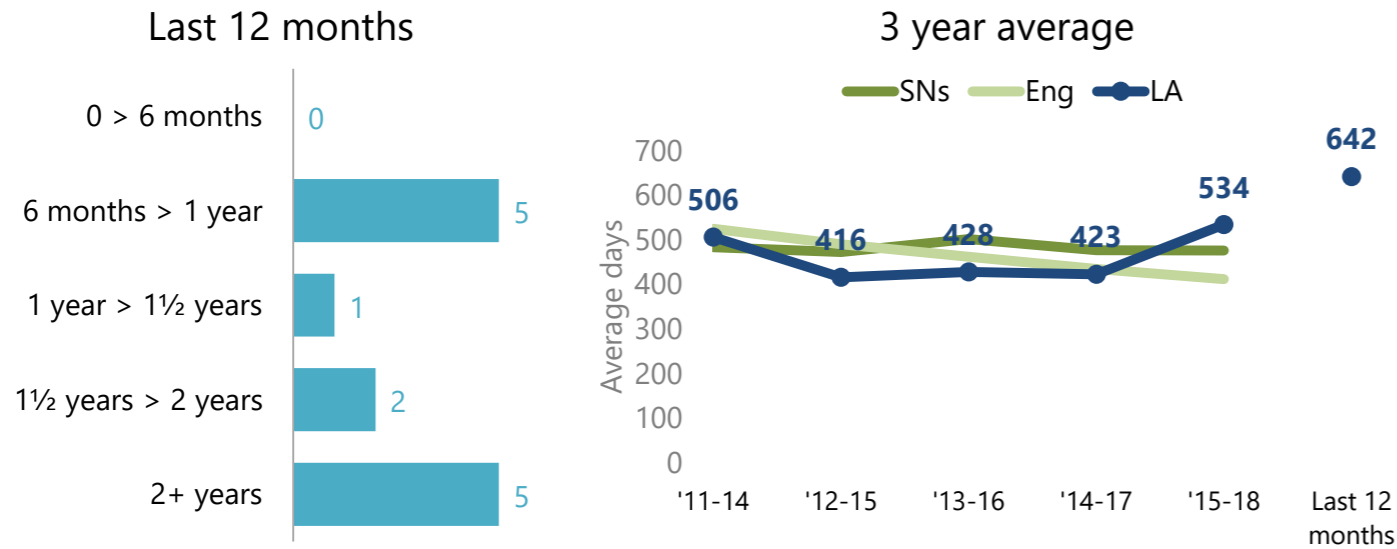


Adoption benchmarking

from 10/08/2020  
to 09/08/2021

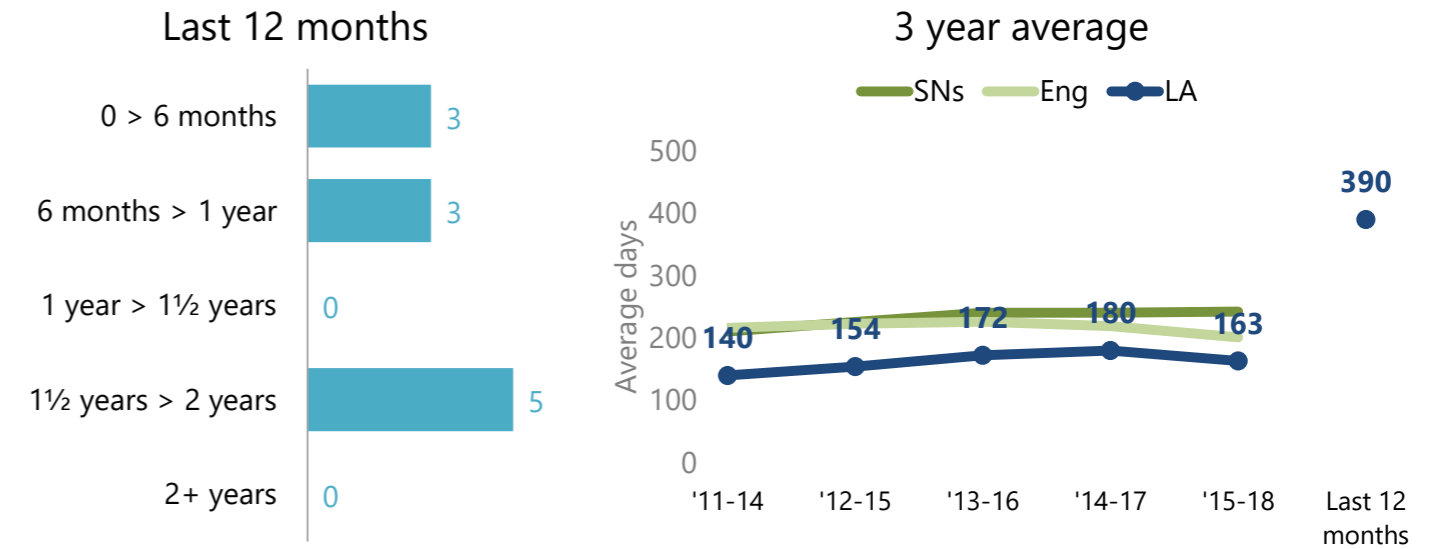
(A10) Time between entering care and placed with family for adopted children

**642 days** Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family for adopted children (adjusted for foster carer adoptions)  
**13 children**



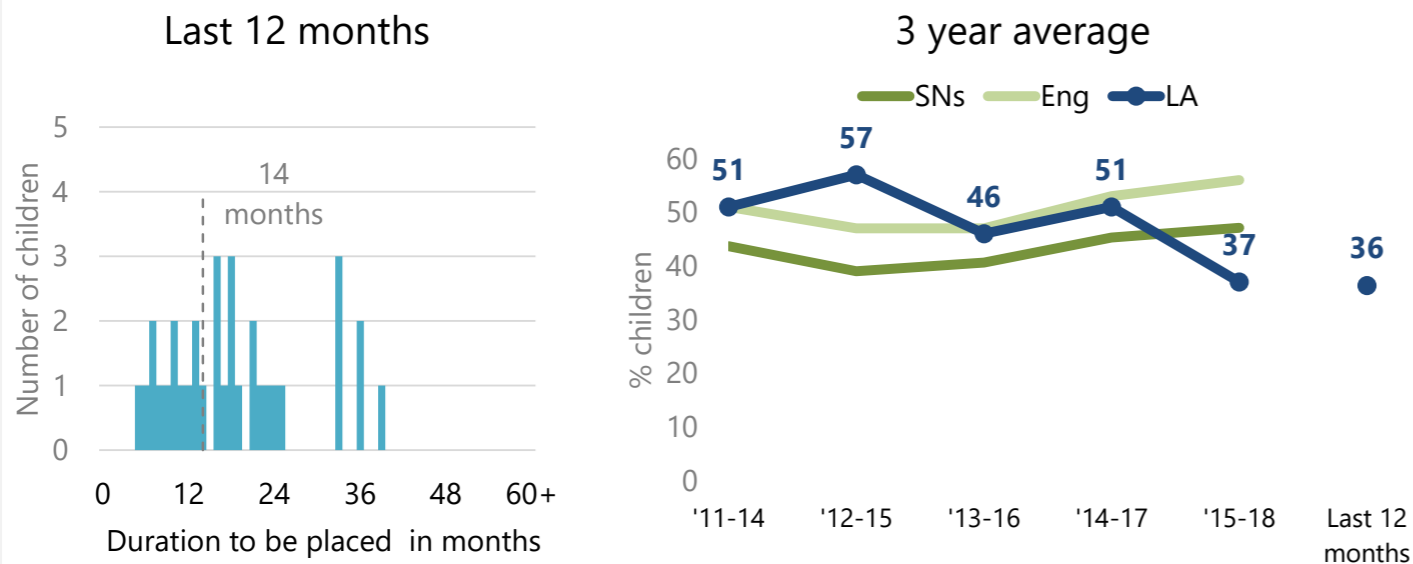
(A2) Time between placement order and deciding on a match

**390 days** The average number of days from the date of the placement order to the date the child was matched to prospective adopters  
**11 children**



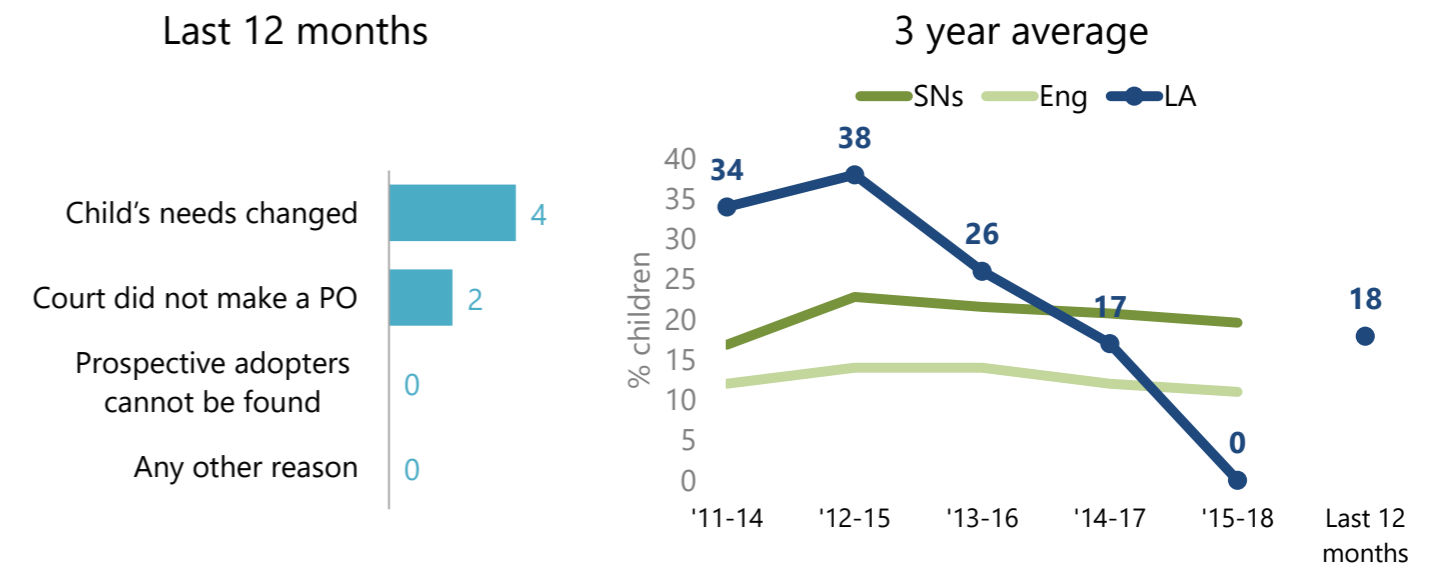
(A3) Time between entering care and placed for adoption

**36%** Children placed who waited less than the threshold between entering care and being placed for adoption (threshold: 14 months for 2013-16)  
**12/33 children**



(A5) Permanence decision changed away from adoption

**18%** Children where there was a decision that the child should no longer be placed for adoption  
**7/39 children**



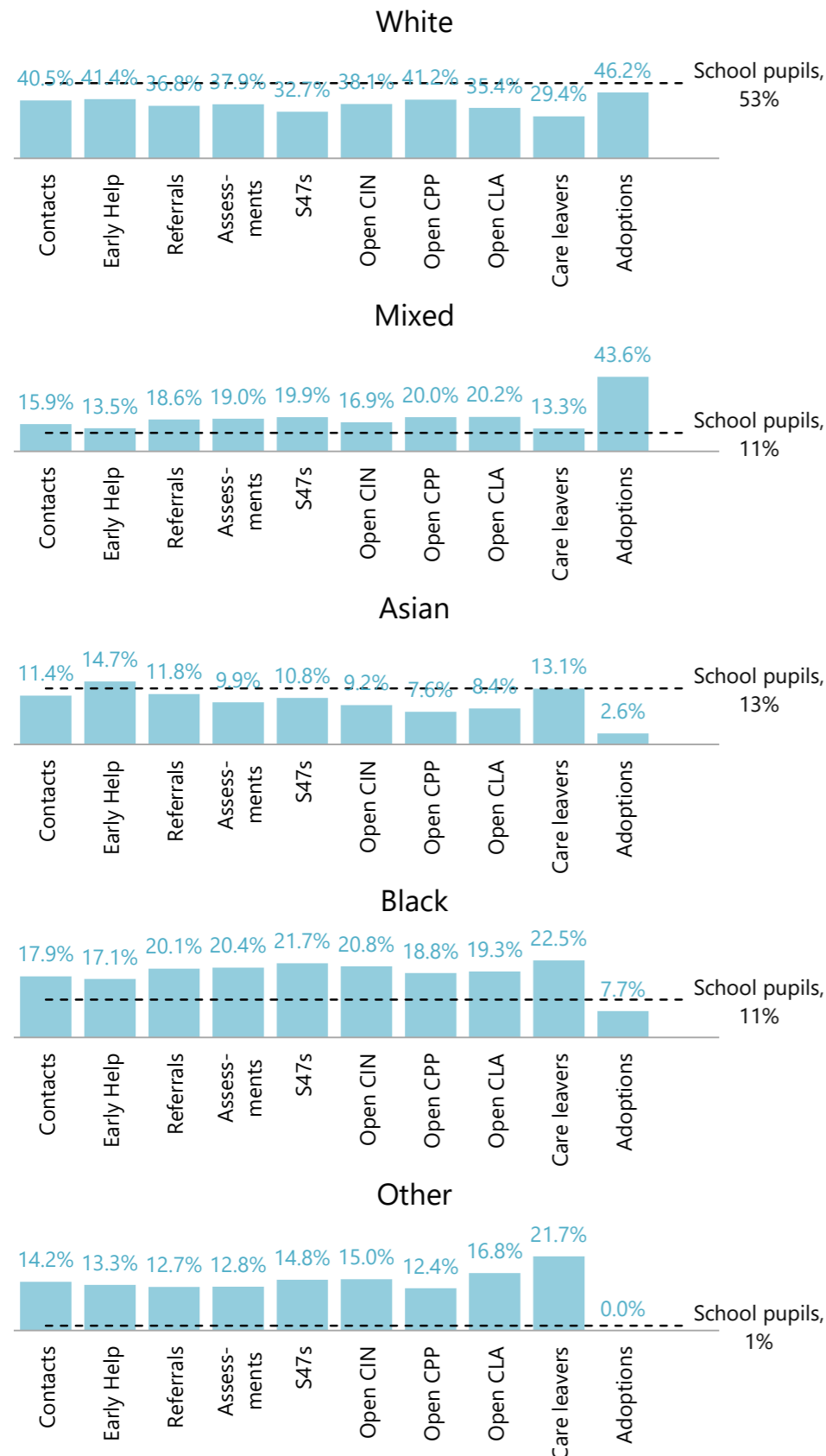
**DATA NOW HELD BY THE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY**

## Demographics of children across all areas of children's social care

Snapshot 09/08/2021

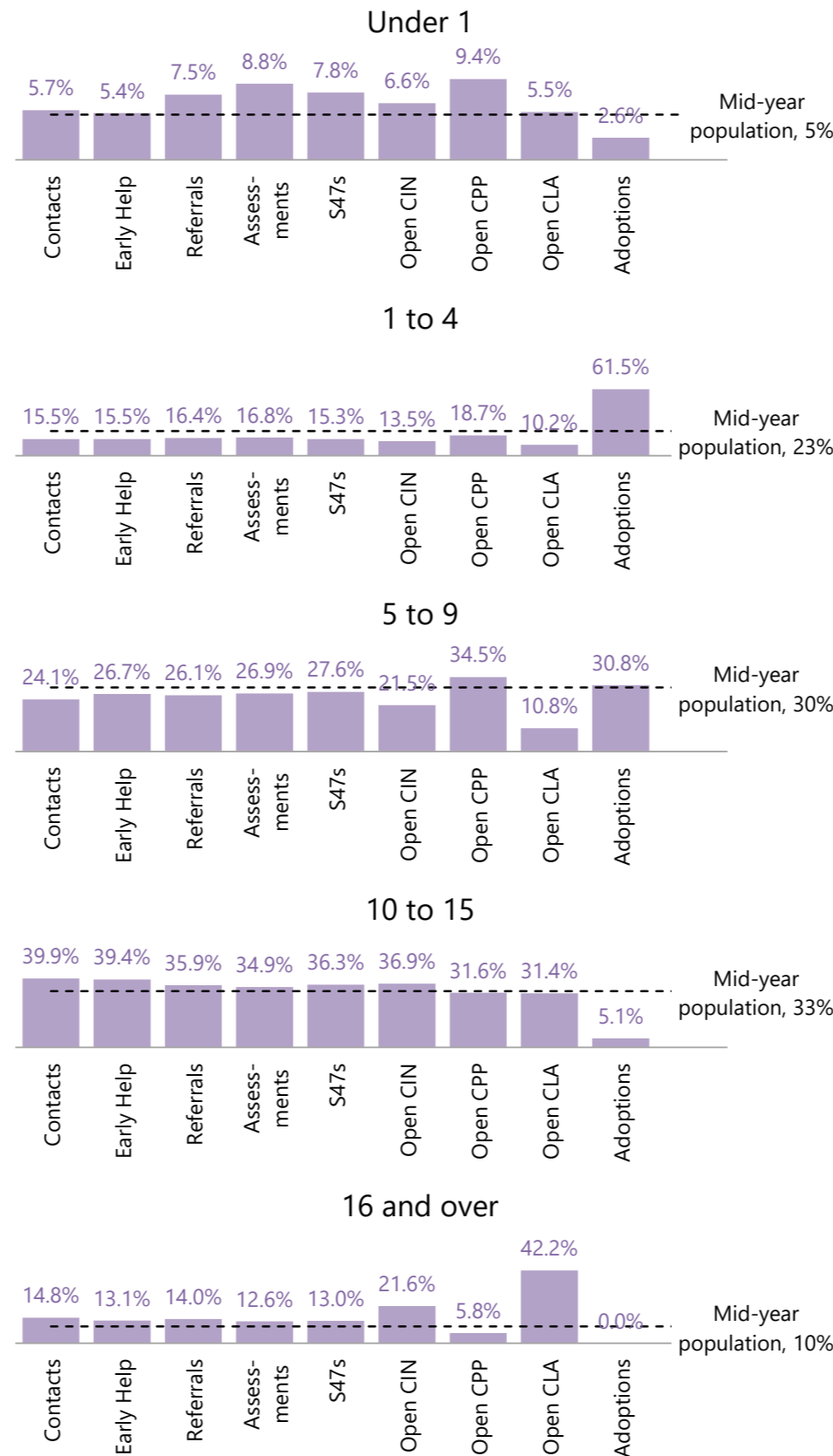
### Ethnicity

ChAT\* compared to pupils in the LA schools (Jan-20)  
\*percentage of known ethnicity only



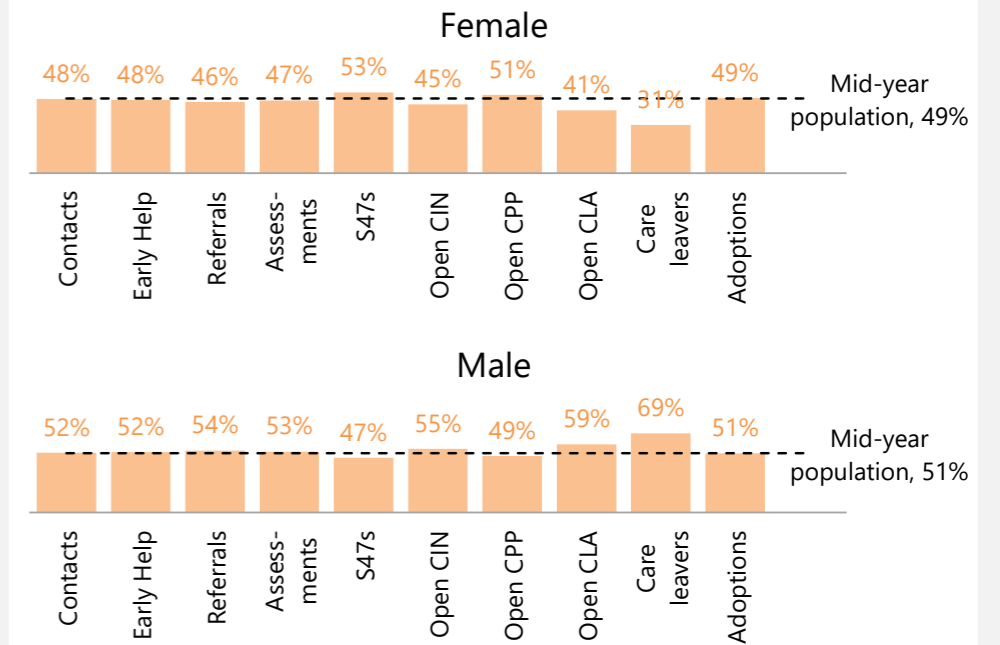
### Age

ChAT\* compared to mid-year population estimates (ONS-2019)  
\*percentage of known age only



### Gender

ChAT\* compared to mid-year population estimates (ONS-2019)  
\*percentage of Male / Female genders only, excludes Other



### Comparing CLA demographics

CLA figures compared to published population statistics

#### Ethnicity

	LA Latest snapshot			LA 2020			Eng 2020		
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
White	35	53	lower -33%	39	53	lower -26%	74	74	no dif 0%
Mixed	20	11	higher 85%	22	11	higher 104%	10	6	higher 59%
Asian	8	13	lower -37%	6	13	lower -54%	4	12	lower -65%
Black	19	11	higher 73%	15	11	higher 36%	7	6	higher 21%
Other	17	1	higher 1092%	16	1	higher 1048%	4	0	higher 769%

#### Age

	LA Latest snapshot			LA 2020			Eng 2020		
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
Under 1	6	5	higher 6%	5	5	lower -4%	5	5	lower -3%
1 to 4	10	23	lower -55%	10	23	lower -56%	14	22	lower -37%
5 to 9	11	30	lower -64%	13	30	lower -56%	18	29	lower -39%
10 to 15	31	33	lower -4%	35	33	higher 7%	39	33	higher 18%
16-plus	42	10	higher 333%	36	10	higher 270%	24	10	higher 139%

#### Gender

	LA Latest snapshot			LA 2020			Eng 2020		
	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference	CLA	Pop	% difference
Male	59	51	higher 15%	59	51	higher 15%	56	51	higher 9%
Female	41	49	lower -16%	41	49	lower -16%	44	49	lower -10%

Comparisons of headline figures and performance data to published statistics

The table below shows the Local Authority's latest data for each indicator as calculated in ChAT, and the direction of travel since the latest published statistics (where available).

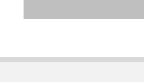
Decreasing, low is good



Increasing, high is good



No change, not RAG rated



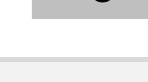
Lowest 25% quartile, low is good



Highest 25% quartile, high is good



Mid 50% range, not RAG-rated



Indicator	Latest data (ChAT)			Latest published statistics for all local authorities					Date
	LA	Direction of travel		LA	SNs	Eng	LA compared to mid-50% range of all LAs		
Referrals received (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	332	Increase	➤	300	531	535	Lower	○	2019-20
Referrals to social care that were within 12 months of a previous referral (%)	13	Decrease	➤	16	19	21	Lower	○	2019-20
Assessments completed (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	228	Decrease	➤	328	537	554	Lower	○	2019-20
Assessments completed within 45 working days (%)	78	Decrease	➤	84	84	84	In range	○	2019-20
Children subject to section 47 enquiries (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	99	Increase	➤	80	157	167	Lower	○	2019-20
Children subject of an initial child protection conference (annual rate per 10,000 of children)	22	Decrease	➤	27	55	64	Lower	○	2019-20
Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 working days of the start of the section 47 enquiry (%)	88	Increase	➤	80	83	78	In range	○	2019-20
Children in need (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	153	Decrease	➤	198	317	324	Lower	○	2019-20
Children who are the subject of a child protection plan (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	18	Increase	➤	17	37	43	Lower	○	2019-20
Children who became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (%)	21	Increase	➤	12	20	22	Lower	○	2019-20
Children who ceased to be on a CP plan whose plan lasted 2 years or more (%)	3	-	↑ ↑	c	5	4	Higher	○	2019-20
Children who are looked after (snapshot rate per 10,000 children)	35	Decrease	➤	35	45	67	Lower	○	2019-20
Children looked after who had a missing incident in the period (%)	20	Increase	➤	16	13	11	Higher	○	2019-20
Children looked after who were away without authorisation in the period (%)	5	Decrease	➤	10	7	3	Higher	○	2019-20
Children looked after who had their teeth checked by a dentist in the last 12 months (%)	39	Decrease	➤	79	89	86	Lower	○	2019-20
Children looked after who had their annual health assessment (%)	90	Decrease	➤	94	93	90	In range	○	2019-20
Children who ceased to be looked after in the period who were adopted (%)	1	Decrease	➤	12	11	12	In range	○	2019-20
Children who ceased to be looked after in the period due to a Special Guardianship Order (%)	7	-	↑ ↑	-	-	-	Higher	○	2019-20
Children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday (%)	76	Decrease	➤	86	90	79	In range	○	2019-20
Care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation (%)	97	Increase	➤	86	84	85	In range	○	2019-20
Care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment, or training (%)	56	Increase	➤	48	53	53	In range	○	2019-20
A1 - Average time between entering care and moving in with family for children who were adopted (days)	642	Increase	➤	576	577	486	Higher	○	2015-18
A2 - Average time between LA receiving placement order and LA deciding on a match with family (days)	390	Increase	➤	163	242	201	In range	○	2015-18

This page is intentionally left blank

2 August 2021

Mr Chris Munday  
Executive Director, Children's and Family Services  
London Borough of Barnet  
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale  
NW9 4EW

Dear Chris

### **Focused visit to the London Borough of Barnet local authority children's services**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's social care system has delivered child-centred practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

This letter summarises the findings of a focused visit to Barnet local authority children's services on 23 and 24 June 2021. Her Majesty's Inspectors for this visit were Tara Geere and Christine Kennet.

Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for children in care.

This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. However, the delivery model was adapted to reflect the COVID-19 context. The lead inspector and the director of children's services agreed arrangements to deliver this visit effectively while working within national and local guidelines for responding to COVID-19. This visit was carried out fully by remote means. Inspectors used telephone and video calls for discussions with local authority staff, managers, leaders and partner agencies, including the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) and the judiciary.

### **Headline findings**

Despite the significant challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the committed and stable senior leadership team has continued to improve services to children in care in Barnet. Leaders have an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their services. They have identified areas for improvement and have appropriate plans in place to address these issues. Leaders recognise that some changes in response to the key areas highlighted at the last inspection in 2019 still require further strengthening. The vast majority of children in care benefit from living in placements that meet their individual needs and impact positively on their experiences and progress.

## **What needs to improve in this area of social work practice**

- Case recording, including the recording of supervision, visits and direct work with children, and the rationale for decision-making on placements.
- The completion and quality of 'All about me' plans.

## **Main findings**

Senior leaders and partner agencies in Barnet have worked together to deliver a well-coordinated and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has included surge testing and support to asylum-seekers placed without notice by the Home Office in dispersal centres within the borough. Despite the ongoing pressures, leaders have continued to prioritise children's services, underpinned by strong corporate and political support. At the beginning of the pandemic, all children's cases were risk assessed to establish visiting schedules to children in accordance with their vulnerability. Social workers have continued to keep these arrangements under regular review.

When children cannot live safely with their families, decisive action is taken so that children come into care in a timely manner to protect and safeguard their welfare. Practice leaders have built strong relationships with Cafcass and the Family Court.

The vast majority of children in care benefit from living in placement arrangements which meet their individual needs. Children told inspectors that they valued their carers and felt well supported. The rationale for placement matching and for decisions to move older children into unregulated provision is understood by staff. However, managers' decisions are not consistently recorded on case files.

A small number of children have had to move home too many times. As a result, placement stability is being closely monitored by senior leaders. Any concerns identified are responded to with a range of additional support, including increased frequency of visits by workers, strengthened management oversight and placement stability meetings, so that children remain in their homes if appropriate.

The director of children's services is leading the Barnet placement transformation programme to develop more local placements for children and young people. He is also leading pan-London work on placement sufficiency. Throughout the pandemic, managers have continued to recruit new foster carers and hosts for supported living arrangements.

Leaders have strengthened the systems and processes to monitor placements and to track arrangements to secure permanence for children and young people. An increasing number of children are benefiting from being placed in matched long-term arrangements, although these are not consistently celebrated formally. Life-story work is not routinely evidenced on files for children in long-term foster care,



although consultation on how to undertake this specialist work is available from the special guardianship team.

Out-of-borough placements are not routinely informed by consultations with host authorities. This means that children may not receive services promptly to meet their needs, such as education. Notification letters do not provide sufficient information about how the proposed arrangements are expected to meet the child's needs.

Disabled children in care benefit from the work of the staff in the 0-25 team. Workers know their children and families well and demonstrate a strong awareness of their complex needs and increased risks due to additional vulnerabilities.

Barnet has seen a significant rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children within the borough. These children benefit from effective, timely work to ensure that their needs are assessed and responded to. Their educational, emotional and physical health needs are well considered, and translators are used to support children's engagement if necessary.

Since the last inspection, senior leaders have focused on improvements to planning for children in care. However, completion of the 'All about me' plan is not consistent, especially when children's cases are in the court arena. Stronger examples of these plans demonstrate clear co-production with children, although the language used in plans is not always child friendly.

Case recording does not always do justice to the child-centred and creative work that is being undertaken by social workers, particularly in relation to the recording of visits and the direct work undertaken with children.

Senior leaders, managers and social workers demonstrate a clear focus on hearing the voices of children and young people to develop and further improve services. The Barnet children in care council, 'Barnet on Point' (BOP), has continued to support children and young people in having their views heard throughout the pandemic. Children have been engaged through a range of activities, including virtual cook-alongs, consultations, celebration events and the recently commissioned Bright Spots survey.

The corporate parenting panel has continued to provide scrutiny to the service throughout the pandemic, obtaining children's feedback to focus improvements for children and young people in Barnet.

When children in care go missing, they receive a timely offer of a return home interview, although not all children take up the offer. This limits the understanding of the push and pull factors for children. To mitigate this, social workers undertake a robust analysis of risk using a child exploitation and missing (CEAM) tool. This is assisting in ensuring that missing children are routinely discussed at CEAM strategy meetings, to inform analysis and to develop plans to reduce risks.

Throughout the pandemic, there has been close collaboration with the looked after children's health service to help to improve the health outcomes of children in care. Despite the challenges that the pandemic has caused for health services, health assessments of children in care have continued to be prioritised and, before dental surgeries reopened, emergency dental treatment was available if required. Children benefit from the integrated clinical service that is fully embedded into family services.

The virtual school acted swiftly at the start of the first national lockdown to work with school leaders to identify and support vulnerable pupils. School attendance for children in care has been closely monitored and has significantly improved over the lockdown periods. Social workers have maintained close liaison with carers and the virtual school to ensure planned returns to school for pupils following lockdowns. Children's educational experiences have been further supported through the use of additional tuition, distribution of laptops and development of online learning resources to support foster carers. COVID-19-specific personal education plans (PEPs) have been developed to focus on supporting children during this period.

Since the last inspection, leaders have strengthened the offer of independent visitors and of advocacy. Advocacy is offered as routine. Children benefit from this support to help them to share their views and opinions in a range of meetings.

Independent reviewing officers (IROs) provide effective oversight of children's planning at timely reviews. Minutes from reviews have been significantly improved by writing them to the children. However, leaders are aware that these could be further strengthened by ensuring that actions are focused on children's lived experiences.

Social workers are supported by a well-established learning and development programme that has continued with online training. The proportion of permanent social workers has increased in the last year. Staff talk positively about their manageable caseloads. They report feeling supported by visible and approachable managers and senior leaders through the challenges of the pandemic and the home-working arrangements. Staff have had regular team meetings and good access to IT equipment, while also having access to office bases if necessary. Staff value regular supervision, however, recording does not always do justice to the quality of the reflection reported by social workers.

Ofsted will take the findings from this focused visit into account when planning your next inspection or visit.

Yours sincerely

Tara Geere  
Her Majesty's Inspector



## Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee

### 13 September 2021

<b>Title</b>	Family Friendly Update
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children Services Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7099

### Summary

This report provides an update on progress against the Family Friendly vision set out in the Children and Young People's Plan and asks the Committee agrees for the Council to commission the independent Youth Perception Survey to be undertaken and for the Council to stop taking part in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme.

### Officers' Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the report.
2. That the Committee agrees that the Council commissions the independent Youth Perception Survey to be undertaken in November 2021.
3. That the Committee agrees for the Council to stop taking part in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme.

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The vision set out in the Children and Young People’s Plan 2019-2023 is ‘to make Barnet the most Family Friendly borough, where children, young people and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to.’ The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of progress against the vision, looking at each of the outcomes set out in the Children and Young Peoples Plan.
- 1.2 The report provides a RAG rating for a range of measures against each of the outcomes in the Children and Young People’s Plan, as well as against Life Chances. The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on children and young people, with a greater impact in some of the outcomes and measures listed below. For each of the measures therefore, there is a RAG rating pre-pandemic and post-pandemic and then information and data is provided against each of the measures to show the rationale for the RAG ratings.

### Family friendly vision

	Pre-pandemic	Post-pandemic
<b>Children and young people say that Barnet is family friendly</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

- 1.3 The Youth Perception Survey is undertaken every two years and involves face to face in-depth interviews with a representative sample of 500 11-18 year olds across Barnet. It is undertaken by an independent research company and results can be compared to both previous years and the Residents Perception Survey.
- 1.4 One of the questions asked in the survey is whether young people feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live. In the most recent survey in November 2019, 84% of young people thought that Barnet was a family friendly place to live, up from 81% in 2016 and more positive than adults (75%).
- 1.5 One of the recommendations in this report is to agree for the Youth Perception Survey to be undertaken again in November 2021 and this will provide insight about whether the pandemic has impacted on young people’s view of how family friendly Barnet is.

### Safe and Secure

	Pre-pandemic	Post-pandemic
<b>A strong children’s social care service that builds resilience</b>		

- 1.6 A report on social care performance comes to each Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee and includes a commentary on the Children’s Assessment Tool data. Evidence from audits, performance reporting and service user feedback shows continued improvement since the good Ofsted inspection in 2019.

1.7 Ofsted undertook a 'focused visit' on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June looking at services for Looked After Children. This is covered in a separate paper to this committee and also shows continued improvement to these services since the good inspection in 2019.

	Pre-pandemic		Post-pandemic	
<b>Crime figures show children and young people are resilient</b>				

1.8 The measure 'crime figures show children and young people are resilient' remains green/amber.

1.9 The Youth Perception Survey in November 2019 showed that crime remained the biggest concern amongst young people with 57% of young people saying that it was one of their top three concerns. In relation to personal safety, it was knife crime that most young people (71%) were concerned about followed by gangs (52%).

1.10 The evidence shows, however, that Barnet is one of the safest places in London to live and work:

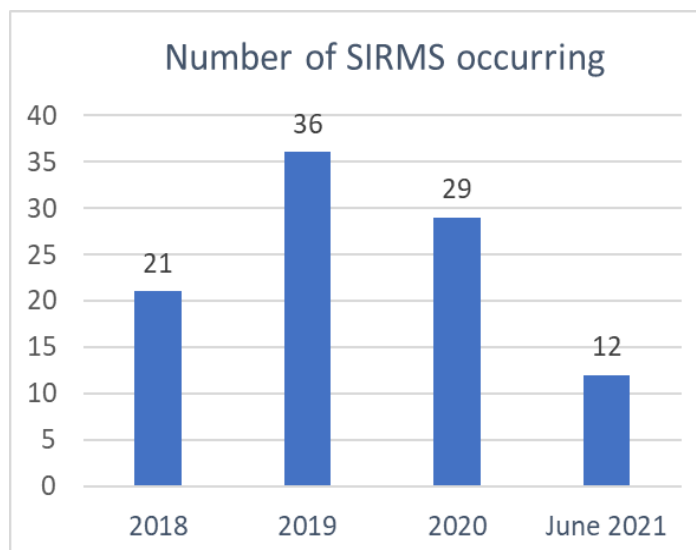
- Crime rates are low at 70.5 per 1000 compared to a London average of 92.9 per 1000.
- Violence with injury is the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in London and violence without injury is the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in London.

During lockdown, crime figures went down:

- 6.2% decrease in violence with injury offences
- 51.7% decrease in knife crime injury non Domestic Abuse related (under 25)

1.11 A Serious Incident Response Meeting (SIRM) is held when a young person under the age of 25 years is either the victim or perpetrator of an incidence of serious violence. The SIRM data below shows that the number of SIRMs reduced from 36 in 2019 to 29 in 2020 and there have been 12 to date this year as of June. In 28 of the 29 cases in 2020 and in all the cases in 2020, the young person in the SIRM was the victim. All SIRMs in 2020 were male.

**Table 1 – Number of Serious Incident Response Meetings by year**



- 1.12 In relation to youth offending, rates of First Time Entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice System are reducing and are relatively low compared to London and national.
- Youth Justice Board data shows a 28% reduction in FTE to the Youth Justice System, dropping from 221 to 157 in the period from Jan-Dec 2017 to Jan-Dec 2019.
  - Barnet's FTEs per 100,000 rates were 162 per 100,000 compared to 260 per 100,000 nationally.
- 1.13 Re-offending rates are also reducing and remain low compared to both London and national.

**Table 2 – Re-offending rates compared to London and National**

	Barnet	London	National
Oct 18 - Dec 18	32.1%	41.8%	38.5%
Oct 17 – Dec 17	33.6%	42%	36%

## Education and Learning

	Pre-pandemic	Post-pandemic
High quality learning and resilient schools		

- 1.14 Barnet continues to be known for the quality of its schools. In the 2019-20 school year 96.7% of Barnet schools were good or outstanding; this includes Primary, Secondary, Nursery and Special Schools and Pupil Referral Units, with 41.8% Outstanding. Inspections ceased in March 2020 and have only recently re-started.

**Table 3 – % of schools that are good or outstanding**

	Primary	Secondary	Primary and Secondary
Barnet	95.5	100	96.5
Inner London	95.3	88.6	94
Outer London	93	88	91.9
England	87.8	76.5	85.9

- 1.15 An annual report on education standards and performance comes to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee. Recent reports have shown that education performance is consistently amongst the best in the country:
- Barnet is in the top 10% of local authorities for attendance at both primary and secondary.
  - At Key Stage 2, Barnet is 7th in the country for the number of pupils reaching the expected standards in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.

- The attainment of disadvantaged pupils at KS2 for 2019 is in the top 10% of LAs for Maths (8th), GPS (13th), Reading (13th) and in the top 10% for Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined (ranked 9th out of 151 LAs).
- In Key Stage 4 Barnet's Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores in 2019 ranked Barnet as 2nd out of 151 Local Authorities. Barnet's Attainment 8 score increased in 2020 to 60.1 whilst the ranking remained 2<sup>nd</sup>, the same as 2019.
- Barnet was in the top 5% nationally in both Progress 8 (4th) and Attainment 8 (5th) for disadvantaged pupils.
- The Progress 8 scores for looked after children was better than national and London averages and statistical neighbour LAs. This data relates to the 2018/19 academic year.

1.16 The impact of the pandemic on children's education is well known. During school closures pupils did not learn as much or as deeply as they would have done in school. Pupils', their families' and staff well-being and resilience became less secure. The impact of the pandemic has not been even among pupils and many of those pupils in need are now more in need. There has been 500k allocated by LBB to the Recovery, Reset and Renaissance Project, delivered by BELS with schools.

	Pre-pandemic	Post-pandemic
<b>Co-produced SEND strategy and outcomes</b>		

1.17 The SEND Strategy 2021-24 was updated in the light of the pandemic, in partnership with parent carers, children and young people with SEND, schools and settings, health and VCS partners. The SEND Assurance visit from Ofsted and CQC in Oct 20 highlighted how leaders in health, education and social care had changed and adapted ways of working in response to Covid.

1.18 Therapies has continued to have capacity and recruitment issues, which have increased through the pandemic. Actions have been taken to address these issues. There is a separate report to this Committee about the change in the provider for the Therapies service. There has been a successful accelerator bid for an additional £1.5m of NHS funding for the service. An additional 375k of Council Covid funding has also been allocated to tackle the backlog.

1.19 Outcomes for children with SEND are good:

- The percentage of children with SEN Support achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the Early Years Foundation Stage is above the national average.
- Educational attainment in 2019 at Key Stage 2 for children with SEN Support for Reading, Writing and Maths combined is in the top 10% (7<sup>th</sup>) and the proportion of children with an EHC Plan for the same measure is in the top 15% (19<sup>th</sup>).
- Progress in Key Stage 2 for children with SEN Support in 2019 is in the top 10% for Reading (10<sup>th</sup>) and Maths (14<sup>th</sup>) and exceeds national, London and statistical neighbour averages.

- KS2 progress for children with an EHCP in 2019 is in the top 10% for Maths (14<sup>th</sup>) and in the top 25% for Reading and Writing.
- In 2019 Barnet ranked in the top 10% of LAs for both Attainment 8 and Progress 8 for pupils at SEN Support. In 2020 Barnet was once again ranked within the top 10%.

## Health and wellbeing

	Pre-pandemic		Post-pandemic	
<b>Health outcomes show children are resilient</b>				

1.20 Children's health outcomes remain generally good with the only red indicators in the Child Health Profile being:

- Population vaccine coverage with MMR one dose (by aged 2) – 2019-20 = 83.4%
- A and E attendances 0-4 years – 2018-19 = 810.0
- HPV vaccine coverage for 12/13 year old girls - 2019-20 = 2.1%
- Family homelessness – 2019-20 = 19.8

1.21 In Barnet, the estimated prevalence of mental disorders (2015) in CYP aged 5-16 was 8.3%, which was the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest of all London local authorities and lower than London overall (9.3). However, Barnet has a significantly higher percentage of school age pupils with social, emotional, and mental health needs (2.61% in 2018) compared to the national (2.39%) and London (2.41%) averages.

1.22 The pandemic has increased the need for mental health support. The Centre for Mental Health has estimated that about 1.5 million children (15% of 5-19 year olds) will need new or additional mental health support (15% of the number of children aged 5-19) as a direct result of the crisis. Mental health services across Barnet responded to the restrictions of the pandemic, stepping up digital online and telephone services. There was an increase in demand to BICS and Kooth. An additional £1.5m of Covid funding has been agreed to roll out Mental Health Support Teams across all schools.

## Family and Belonging

	Pre-pandemic		Post-pandemic	
<b>The housing system supports children, young people and families</b>				

1.23 The number of care leavers rose from 259 in October 2018, to 343 in October 2020 meaning that additional housing, both permanent and transitional, is needed. There are also 50 16-year olds and 88 17-year olds in care who will potentially need a housing offer over next 2 years. This issue has been amplified by the pandemic with a requirement for local authorities to house rough sleepers (195 housed in Barnet), and guidance issued by



the DfE that meant the council were unable to move care leavers onto their permanent housing option between April and October 2020.

1.24 As of October, 87 care leavers were banded 2 and awaiting permanent housing. The Care Leaver Housing Protocol set out the target for Barnet Homes of providing long-term housing for 48 new care leavers in 20/21. The target has been increased to 56 for 21/22. 30 additional flats or HMOs are required to accommodate care leavers.

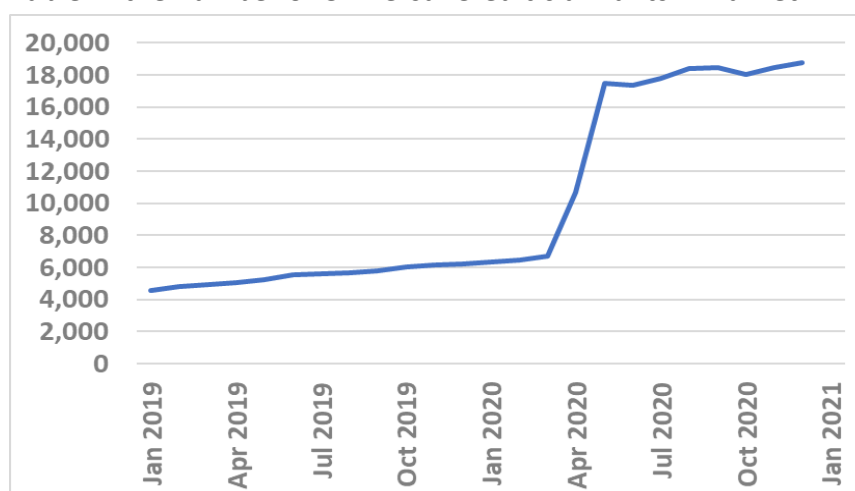
1.25 With regard to family housing:

- There has been a decrease in the number of families living in temporary accommodation (1,235 in May 21, down from 1,493 in April 20) but an increase in the number placed outside Barnet (513 in May 21, up from 458 in April 20).
- There has been a slight increase in the number of lettings to families with 550 lettings in 2021, up from 455 lettings in 2020.
- There has been a decrease in the number of families on the waiting list for permanent housing from 1797 in April 20 to 1623 in May 21.

	Pre-pandemic	Post-pandemic
Revenues and benefits support families' resilience		

1.26 The number of Universal Credit claimants is the best indicator of underemployment in the borough. Table 4 below shows that there was a 7-10% unemployment rate at the end of 2020, which is three times higher than same quarter in previous year.





**Table 4- the number of Universal Credit claimants in Barnet**



1.27 The increasing number of families that are now reliant on benefits is also shown in the increase in the number of families that are eligible for Free School Meals, which increased from 8,693 in January 2020 to 10,486 in January 2021, an increase of 21%.

1.28 A report on the Covid 19 Winter Fund Scheme came to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Through this scheme 33,867 vouchers were given out to support vulnerable families with children particularly affected by the pandemic where alternative sources of assistance were unavailable.

## Culture, communication and co-ordination

	Pre-pandemic		Post-pandemic	
<b>We involve children and young people in decision making</b>				

1.29 The Family Services quarterly update report that came to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 included an update on the service user engagement and child participation activities taking place across Barnet Family Services and outlined the proposed development of this workstream.



- 1.30 The most recent Youth Perception Survey in November 2019 showed that:
- 60% of young people in Barnet feel that the Council involves them when making decisions, up from 46% in 2016
  - 69% of young people in Barnet feel that the Council listens to them, up from 39% in 2016.
  - 67% of young people in Barnet feel that the Council does something about the things that concern them, up from 47% in 2016.
  - 60% of young people in Barnet feel that the Council keeps them informed up from 40% in 2016.

	Pre-pandemic		Post-pandemic	
<b>Revenues and benefits support families' resilience</b>				

1.31 As set out above, children and young people's participation and involvement in decision-making continues to develop and evidence from Youth Perception Survey is that more young people feel that they are being listened to and are involved in decision making.

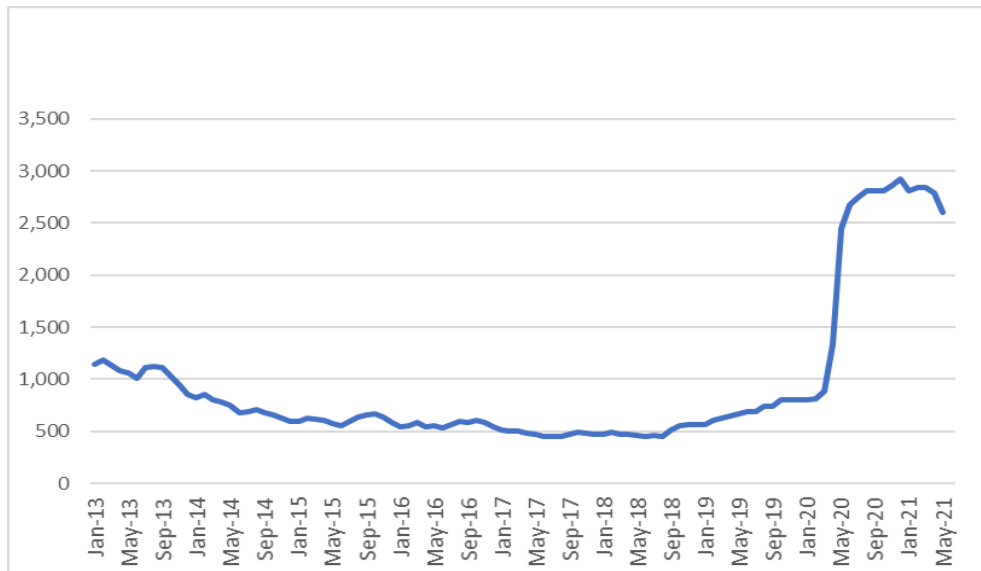
1.32 The UNICEF programme has specific requirements, such as on member training, and significant reporting requirements with little flexibility to achieve the certification. The Child's Rights Officer required to undertake this work left and has not been replaced. Continuing with the programme would require recruiting to this role as well as paying £25,000 per year to be part of the programme until the certification has been achieved. It will take a minimum of a further two years to get the certification.

## Life Chances

	Pre-pandemic		Post-pandemic	
<b>Young people are supported on a pathway to high quality employment</b>				

- 1.33 Overall, the number of Barnet young people aged 16 and 17 who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) has been low. In January to March 2020 it was only 1.0%, the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in London. 1.5% were NEET or 'not known' the best in London.
- 1.34 Young people have however been disproportionately affected by the pandemic in terms of employment. The table below shows that the number of young people that are out of work went from 810 in February 2020 to 2820 at the beginning of 2021.













**Table 5- the number of 18-24 year olds in Barnet that are out of work**



	Pre-pandemic	Post-pandemic
<b>Disproportionality in outcomes for different groups of young people is diminished</b>		

- 1.35 The North London Disproportionality Dataset shows, for 2019, the ratio of black pupils in Barnet attaining the expected standard at KS2 and 4 compared to white pupils is low. Black pupils in Barnet are more than twice as likely to have a fixed term or permanent exclusion than white pupils and more than five times as likely to receive a youth caution or court sentence that white children.
- 1.36 The unemployment rate amongst black people has been at least twice as high as the rate for white people for at least two decades. Furthermore, BAME millennials are almost forty-seven percent more likely to be on zero-hour contracts. Those from BAME backgrounds have also been impacted disproportionately by the pandemic in terms of employment.
- 1.37 Men from 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds' reported a 14% deterioration in mental health from the pandemic while white males reported 6.5%. Contributing factors included bereavement, loneliness and worries about coronavirus and misinformation.
- 1.38 Table 6 below summarises all of the RAG ratings post-pandemic

**Table 6 - How do we know if we are family friendly? Post-pandemic**

Outcome	Measure	Rating
<b>FAMILY FRIENDLY VISION</b>	Children and Young People say that Barnet is family friendly	
<b>SAFE &amp; SECURE</b>	Strong Children's Social Care Service that builds resilience	
	Crime figures show CYP are resilient	
<b>EDUCATION &amp; LEARNING</b>	High quality education and resilient schools	
	Co-produced SEND strategy and outcomes	
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING</b>	Health outcomes show children are resilient	
<b>FAMILY &amp; BELONGING</b>	The housing system supports CYP and families	
	Revenues and benefits support families' resilience	
<b>CULTURE, COMMUNICATION &amp; CO-ORDINATION</b>	We involve CYP in decision making	
	UNICEF badges	
<b>LIFE CHANCES</b>	Young people are supported on a pathway to high quality employment	
	Equalities– disproportionality in outcomes for different groups of young people is diminished	

## 2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to agree that the Council commissions the independent Youth Perception Survey to be undertaken in November 2021 because it is two years since the last Youth Perception Survey. The survey of more than 500 young people provides insights into the views of young people across Barnet as to whether progress is being made against the vision to be family friendly, what is important to young people and what young people are concerned about. This year it will provide insights into the impacts that Covid has had on how young people feel.
- 2.2 Members are asked to agree for the Council to stop taking part in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme because the programme has specific requirements, such as on member training, and significant reporting requirements with

little flexibility to achieve the certification. Continuing with the programme would require recruiting a new Child's Rights Officer as well as paying £25,000 per year to be part of the programme until the certification has been achieved. It will take a minimum of a further two years to get the certification. Children and young people's participation and involvement in decision making continues to develop and there is not sufficient added value from being part of the UNICEF Programme to justify the continued funding commitment.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The alternative is not to commission the Youth Perception Survey. This is not recommended because it would not realise the benefits set out above.
- 3.2 The alternative is to continue to be part of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme. This is not recommended because the added value from being part of the Programme is not sufficient to justify the funding commitment.

### **4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 If it is agreed to proceed with the Youth Perception Survey then this will be undertaken by ORS, working with secondary schools in Barnet, during November and December. A presentation on the findings from the survey will come to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in March 2022.

### **5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 Family Friendly is a key part of the Barnet Plan for 2021-2025 with the vision of "Creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best". This report provides an overview of progress against this vision and the Youth Perception Survey will provide further evidence of how young people feel about living in Barnet.

#### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The funding set out in this report to address additional needs arising from Covid through the Recovery, Reset and Renaissance Project and through rolling out the Mental Health Support Teams to all schools has been allocated from the Council's Covid funding and has been agreed at Policy and Resources Committee.
- 5.2.2 The funding for the Youth Perception Survey is from within existing resources and requires no additional funding.

#### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to

safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must consider how the child or young person can be supported to facilitate their development and to help them achieve the "best possible educational and other outcomes".

5.3.2 The Council's Constitution, Article 7 notes that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has 'Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.'

## **5.4 Insight**

5.4.1 A range of data has been used to inform this report on progress against the family friendly vision. The Youth Perception Survey will provide further insight about the views of young people across Barnet.

## **5.5 Social Value**

5.5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## **5.6 Risk Management**

5.6.1 None

## **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 The Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;

- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

The report includes an assessment of progress against the measure that differences in outcomes for different groups of young people are diminished.

## **5.7 Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy Keep on Caring which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require all departments within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'

5.7.2 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows: 1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people; 2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings; 3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people; 4. to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners; 5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people; 6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and; 7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

5.7.3 This report includes an assessment of progress against the housing system supporting care leavers being placed in suitable housing.

## **5.8 Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 The Youth Perception Survey will involve interviews with more than 500 young people across Barnet.

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

This page is intentionally left blank



AGENDA ITEM 9

	<p><b>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</b></p> <p><b>Monday 13 September 2021</b></p>
<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Annual Report on the work of the UK Youth Parliament members, Youth Ambassador, Barnet Youth Assembly and Barnet Youth Board and Youth Engagement</p>
<p><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff</p>
<p><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Liz Shaw - Practice and Learning Manager</p> <p><a href="mailto:Liz.shaw@barnet.gov.uk">Liz.shaw@barnet.gov.uk</a></p> <p>0208 359 5553</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	
<p>This report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides an update to the committee on the work of UK Youth Parliament members, Youth Assembly, Youth Board and other youth engagement activity delivered in 2020/21</li> <li>• Provides an outline of the adaptations made in response to Covid-19 restrictions to enable youth engagement to continue</li> <li>• Asks members and the committee for their continued to support for young people as they share their hopes for Barnet and positively engage with the council.</li> </ul>	

<b>Recommendations</b>
1, Committee notes the impact of the campaigns of the UK Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors
2. Committee notes the resilience that young people have shown to adapt to changes with programmes and opportunities by continuing engaging in forums, consultations, coproduction, and engagement activities
3. Committee notes and considers the issues highlighted in 8.2 in wider policy decisions

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

1.1 This report provides an overview to the Children, Education and Safeguarding (CES) Committee on the work and campaigns carried out in 2020/21 on the following areas:

- The election of the Members of Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors for Barnet
- Make Your Mark Ballot
- Barnet Youth Assembly
- London Youth Assembly and
- BING – Barnet Inclusive New Generation, Barnet’s SEND youth voice forum.

1.2 Young people have identified common themes across the spectrum of activities undertaken, highlighting and debating issues that are relevant to them and their peers. Members are asked to note the themes highlighted in this report and consider how they can be built into future policy decisions.

## **2. REVIEW OF THE 2020-21 UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND YOUTH AMBASSADOR FOR BARNET**

2.1 The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) provides a platform for children and young people to voice their opinions on issues affecting them and their peers across the UK to bring about social change. Each Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) and Youth Ambassador has campaigned on an issue that is important to them.

2.2 In 2020, the role of deputy members of Youth Parliament was replaced with two Young Ambassador positions for Barnet. This enables the Youth Ambassadors to focus on representing the voice of young people in Barnet on a local level and at

Youth Parliament on a national level. The Youth Ambassadors chair Barnet Youth Board and work closely with the Members of Youth Parliament and London Youth Assembly members ensuring there is a link on a local, regional and national level.

2.3 The 2020/21 Member term of office was extended from one to two years due to missing out on a large portion of the Youth Parliament programme whilst the British Youth Council re-worked the programme to virtual meetings. (four weekend conventions, two residentials and a House of Commons sitting were all cancelled). Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic and resultant personal impact, the Members of Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors have remained committed to the programme and have taken part as often as they have been able.

2.4 The Youth Ambassadors have also had the opportunity to attend British Youth Council events alongside the Members of Youth Parliament

2.5 In response to the Covid-19 pandemic:

2.5.1 Tani, Member of Youth Parliament was involved in hosting the “Covid vs. Young People” Q&A live with Dr Nick Dattani and Dr Elliott Roy-Highley, which gave young people the opportunity to have their questions answered by medical professionals.

2.5.2 Elected young people were also involved in the production of a video to encourage children and young people back to school and were engaged with vaccination publicity.

2.5.3 Two members contributed to an international research project looking at the impact of Covid-19 on young people’s lives.

2.5.4 They also attended a Webinar organised by the UN Envoy on Youth in Partnership with WHO and UNICEF on “#copingwithcovid”.

2.6 Members of Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors attended Anti-racism in London’s Recovery event chaired by Debbie Weeks-Bernard, London’s Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement. This event explored practical interventions to combat racism bringing together perspectives from the UK, North America and Europe.

2.7 Members of Youth Parliament attend fortnightly meetings with Youth Ambassadors and London Youth Assembly members to share what they are learning and leading on with their own groups on a local, regional and national level. This ensures the voices of the young people in Barnet are heard at all levels and that opportunities and feedback is shared with young people across the borough. Some campaigns and priorities i.e. Mental Health have been common to the Youth Board, Youth Assembly and London Youth Assembly.

However, each group has worked on different areas chosen by the elected youth representatives who have worked together to avoid duplication and share resources and training opportunities.

### 3. MAKE YOUR MARK BALLOT 2020

3.1 The UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark gives a unique opportunity to reach all young people aged 11-18 across the UK and give them the chance to have a say on the biggest issues facing them. Issues are selected for the ballot paper by all Members of Youth Parliament. (The ballot paper is made up of 5 UK issues and 5 local/ England issues)

3.2 Make Your Mark is run by the British Youth Council who responded to the pandemic by changing the voting system from physical ballot papers to an online system. In 2020 there were 2,704 votes cast, compared to 12,783 in 2019 which reflects a significant reduction in young people taking part. The reduction was noted nationally and is a likely impact of the disruption caused by Covid-19, in particular to education settings where the ballot is usually promoted.

3.3 Campaign priority topics are usually selected at a House of Commons debate, where the top 5 issues are chosen for the UK and England. As this was not possible due to the pandemic 3 topics were chosen instead, Stop Plastic Pollution, Free University Tuition and Mental Health.

- **Stopping Plastic Pollution:** Climate change and plastic pollution were both in the top 5 devolved/UK issues for 2020. UK Youth Parliament will be campaigning to address climate change at the UK level with a particular focus on making sure we stop non-essential single-use plastics by 2025
- **Mental Health:** A movement for change - UK Youth Parliament will be campaigning alongside Young Minds to build a movement for change and ensure that children and young people's mental health is at a heart of the government's approach to the pandemic recovery. They will work towards creating a blueprint for children and young people's mental health and setting up local mental health support hubs.
- **Transforming Education:** Young people voted for free university tuition as one of the top three priorities for the coming year. UK Youth Parliament will be campaigning alongside the National Union of Students to create a campaign for free, lifelong and inclusive education and advocate for the Government to adopt it as they move forward in the Covid-19 recovery.

## **4. BARNET YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

4.1 The Chair of the Barnet Youth Assembly says “Barnet Youth Assembly is a forum for young people from across the Borough who discuss how Barnet can be improved for young people. It is a platform for young people to raise issues, discuss solutions and oversee projects that will create positive change for the wider community. Each Assembly focuses on matters that are significant and essential to young people. Through discussion, debating motions, collaboration and action, Barnet Youth Assembly is the driving force behind ensuring that young people’s voices are heard in the decision-making processes”.

4.2 With the onset of the pandemic all meetings of the Assembly were suspended until suitable arrangements could be put in place. Despite it being challenging to establish what the Assembly would look like in a remote and safe on-line setting, meetings were able to re-commence in November 2020 and held once a month via Microsoft Teams.

4.3 Barnet Youth Assembly is chaired by the London Youth Assembly members who are voted for by the current cohort of Barnet Youth Assembly members. Interviews with the Chair and Deputy Chair have been published in Barnet First Magazine.

## **5. BARNET YOUTH BOARD**

5.1 Barnet Youth Board has been chaired by the Member of Youth Parliament. During the pandemic meetings have been run virtually, this has had some success and is likely to influence a move to hybrid meetings in the future as they enable more young people to be able to take part

5.2 During the pandemic young people have been affected by the stress of lockdown restrictions, online learning and other pressures from Covid 19 which has meant engagement with formal meetings wasn’t always consistent. We have adapted our youth engagement practice to make meetings interactive and enable members to still share their views in other ways if they were unable to attend the live sessions.

5.3 Youth Board members have made contributions to and helped to shape the following;

- Life Chances Strategy

- Public Health impact assessment looking at how young people were affected by shielding (either themselves or someone in their household)
- Transport Strategy
- Hendon and Edgware Planning Consultation
- Education and Inclusion Strategy
- Barnet's Corporate Plan

5.4 Youth Board members have worked with a variety of services from across the council. An example of this is a safeguarding workshop on 'Healthy Relationships and Domestic Abuse'. The findings from the workshop were then shared by young people as guest speakers at the Professional and Young Peoples Forum.

5.5 Two young people have been involved in the interview panels assisting the recruitment of a Youth Engagement Officer for the Barnet Integrated Clinical Services and a Service-user Development Officer in Family Services. It is planned that young people are provided with training to aid their participation in a broader range of interviews for roles across Family Services.

5.6 Members from BING (Barnet Inclusive New Generation, Barnet's SEND youth voice forum) and BOP ("Barnet on Point" Child in Care Council) are included in any consultation or co-production activities which the Youth Board take part in. Adaptions and support are offered as appropriate. Whilst challenging during the pandemic, creative ways to enable young people to take part have been found using a range of on-line platforms and by introducing virtual meetings.

5.7 Youth Forum members were involved in naming and creating content for the Barnet Youth Instagram page which has been rebranded to attract stronger young people engagement.

## **6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND**

6.1 Children and Young People with SEND told us that they wanted to meet monthly and work with Barnet services and professionals to ensure there is co-production with young people and they are enabled to have their say in decisions, policies and strategies which affect children and young people with SEND

6.2 Barnet Inclusive Next Generation (BING) (formerly Barnet Development Team Youth, BDTY) is a group of children and young people aged 11-25 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), who want to be part of a supportive group where they have the space to express their views, share what is important to them, and make sure they are involved in decisions about their lives. BING has 6 active members who represent young people with a range of special

needs including: autistic spectrum conditions, learning difficulty, physical disability, and multiple health needs or chronic illness.

6.3 The young people at BING are supported by professionals from Barnet Education Learning Service (BELS) SEND and Inclusion Team and the Voice of the Child Team. The group meets monthly and invites professionals and services within Barnet Council and the Health Service to listen to young people's experiences and make changes for young people. As a result, young people have influenced a number of aspects of service delivery including:

- The Local Offer website review – a Young People's Zone and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Zone have been launched and revised based on young people's feedback on layout and content.
- Barnet SEND Information Advice and Support Services (SendIASS) consultation – young people gave their feedback on how to improve access to this service and support online, using platforms and chats, as a result of the pandemic.
- The Surveying Autistic Young People Project – this will ask children and young people about their experiences of secondary school. The Autism Advisory Team will develop the survey under the guidelines of children and young people. This project aims to change the way professionals create surveys for autistic CYP moving forward.

## **7. EFFECTIVENESS, FEEDBACK AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED**

7.1 The pandemic has had a significant impact on the landscape of youth participation. There has been a decrease in usual activity during 2020/21 due to lockdowns and social distancing requirements. However, it is important to acknowledge that officers have enabled these forums to continue and have made good use of technology to undertake engagement activities safely and productively. Young people have remained committed to youth engagement programmes and continued to raise issues of importance to them. They too have shown resilience and flexibility in the face of the challenges presented by Covid-19.

7.2 Adaptations implemented during the pandemic have provided opportunities for future engagement, particularly using technology i.e. on-line polling and the use of virtual or hybrid meetings alongside face to face events. The hiatus has also provided an opportunity to review and refresh the programme and undertake work to develop the membership base for the year ahead. Liaison has taken

place with 5 specific schools to encourage young people with a range of diverse characteristics and circumstances to take part in the Youth Assembly and Youth Board. This is already looking promising with considerable interest being shown by potential new members.

## **8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 Despite the pandemic Barnet's youth representatives, including the Barnet's UK Youth Parliament members, the London Youth Assembly and the Barnet Inclusive Next Generation have worked hard on their campaigns, co-development work and engaging their peers. Barnet Council should recognise their achievements in 2020/21.

8.2 There are noted themes that have been raised across the different youth forums in which Barnet young people participate. These include anti-racism, climate change, mental health and the impact of the pandemic. Members are invited to consider these important issues in wider policy decisions.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

Not applicable.

## **10. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

The continuation of support for children and young people's voices to be heard through the various youth engagement fora referred to in this report.

## **11. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **12.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

Work by the UK Youth Parliament, London Youth Assembly and other youth representatives are incorporated into the decisions made by Barnet, which incorporates the views of young people across the borough and this feeds into the council's priorities, the Corporate Plan 2021-25 and the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Youth Assembly will enable young Barnet residents to have a voice and engage with the council to highlight issues that are important to them. This resonates with the commitment in the Corporate Plan to help residents help themselves. It provides a



platform for developing skills such as public speaking and critical thinking, which positively contribute to the future of young people.

## **12.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Funding for the UK Youth Parliament is contained within the existing budgets within Family Services.

## **12.3 Social Value**

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## **12.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

Council Constitution, Article 7 (Committees, Forums and Working Groups) states that the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee is responsible for ‘...all matters relating to children, schools and education.’

The Council has a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and it this is consistent with the child’s safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child’s needs.

## **12.5 Risk Management**

Any risks relating to the reformulated Barnet Youth Assembly, or other Barnet youth representation network will be identified and managed by the Voice of the Child and Governance Teams.

## **12.6 Equalities and Diversity**

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public-Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010

- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

Officers responsible for youth engagement will consider how:

- Children and young people are encouraged to put themselves forward for the Youth Assembly, UKYP or London Youth Assembly, so that a range of young people from different backgrounds are represented.
- The best ways to communicate with all children and young people, to ensure that they are informed about what is happening, and the opportunities to contribute.

### **12.7 Corporate Parenting**

UKYP and Youth Ambassador election was promoted with children in care with the support of the targeted Voice of the Child Participation Officer.

A close working relationship between the Universal Voice of the Child Participation Officer and the Targeted Voice of the Child Participation Officer for Children in Care has enabled opportunities and tailored support to be offered to the members of the Children in Care Council to participate in local, regional and national events.

### **12.8 Consultation and Engagement**

The different local youth forums (including student councils and voluntary and community groups) and Members of Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors for Barnet will be the key bodies to engage the views of all children and young people to shape strategy and co-produce work. Youth representatives will have regular consultations and engagements with the Voice of the Child Participation Officer. The officer will support the development of their campaigns and projects while working closely with them throughout their term in office. During the pandemic this will include both virtual meetings and where possible face to face events.

### **12.9 Insight**

Young people's feedback will be a key part of future insight into what children and young people think of living in Barnet and shaping services that work for them. This will include the youth participation survey.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[The Barnet Corporate Plan](#)

[The Barnet Children & Young People's Plan](#)

This page is intentionally left blank



**Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee  
13 September 2021**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Children's Integrated Therapies - award of contract to new provider</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	Yes
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	No
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	<p>Chris Munday Executive Director for Children and Young People <a href="mailto:Chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk">Chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Collette McCarthy Assistant Director Children and Young People <a href="mailto:Collette.mccarthy@barnet.gov.uk">Collette.mccarthy@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

**Summary**

A report was presented to Urgency Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 setting out the requirement to undertake an urgent procurement, led by North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG) as the lead commissioner, to secure a new provider for the Children's Integrated Therapy Service. This was due to the incumbent provider; North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT) stepping away from North Central London Integrated Care Partnership (NCL ICP) and serving notice on the contract.

The committee agreed the following recommendations to be implemented:

- 1. That Urgency Committee agree to jointly procure the Integrated Therapies Service with the CCG, as lead commissioner, through a Negotiated Procedure**
- 2. That Urgency Committee agrees to enter into a two-year contract with the successful bidder and agrees to the Council's contribution of £583,905 for each of the two years**
- 3. That authority is delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Chairman of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee, to implement the decision**

#### **Officers Recommendations**

**That Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee note the award of a two year contract (1<sup>st</sup> September 2021-31st August 2023) with Whittington Health NHS Trust for the provision of Children's Integrated Therapies.**

**Total cost of a two-year contract is £ 6,611,024. The Local Authority's contribution is £1,167,810 through DSG and BELS core funding**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 Following approval by Urgency Committee the Council entered into a joint procurement exercise with NCL CCG (the lead commissioner) to identify a provider to deliver children's therapy provision. This report informs committee of the outcome of that exercise which is to award a two-year contract to the Whittington Health NHS Trust. The report also informs committee of the work that is taking place to recover the service and improve performance.
- 1.2 At the beginning of the pandemic, health services were re-directed to support hospitals in the treatment and care of patients with Covid-19 and have been required to give ongoing support to help deal with the pandemic. This has reduced the capacity of some of the services in health, including therapies to deliver on their core duties. There have been considerable difficulties with capacity, recruitment and retention of staff over the last 12 months. These difficulties are not isolated to Barnet, and many other local authorities are also experiencing problems in delivering therapy services.
- 1.3 Prior to the procurement exercise, to secure a new provider, the local authority, BELS, the CCG and NELFT (incumbent provider) have been working very closely to prioritise and increase the therapy support available to children and families, and schools. This included working with individual private therapists and other private providers to secure more therapists to undertake assessments and delivering therapies to children with therapy provision in their EHC Plan.
- 1.4 In addition to the work being undertaken to obtain and deliver more therapy support BELS has also put together a recovery package of support for schools. This includes offering all mainstream primary and secondary schools in Barnet access to a qualified private Speech and Language Therapist who will train school staff and facilitate small group support for pupils with a lower level

of need who will benefit from a language enrichment programme. This started in June and will be repeated in the Autumn term. From September, the Language Enrichment Programme will be extended to Early Years providers, including PVI's, and there will also be a Language Enrichment training programme for parents and carers. BELS have also commissioned two private Occupational Therapists to deliver a programme of support for Reception, Yr1 and Yr2 pupils from September. This is for children with 'low level' Occupational Therapy needs, including core stability, fine motor skills and handwriting skills. To help increase OT capacity, BELS are working with an independent OT provider to offer a seconded role of OT Assistant to a Teaching Assistant in one of the special schools.

- 1.5 Transfer of the service from NELFT to Whittington Health NHS Trust will begin in September with mobilisation complete by the end of the year and no later than end March 2022.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Whittington Health submitted a bid that met all quality criteria and demonstrated ability to deliver children's integrated therapy services, as specified within the specification and accompanying documents. They demonstrated that they have experience of delivering similar services within the North Central London ICP footprint.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMEND**

- 3.1 Contract extension-is not an option-NELFT has served notice.
- 3.2 Enter into a Section 75 agreement directly with another NHS Trust within the NCL sector-not a recommended option as the NCL CCG has established that there are several interested providers within the sector.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 CCG and Council commissioners will jointly monitor contract performance and will work collaboratively with Whittington Health on a plan of recovery and improvement.
- 4.2 There will be a phased mobilisation of the new contract starting in September with aim to complete by the end of the year but no later than March 2022.
- 4.3 Staff consultation prior to TUPE transfer will take place during the autumn for 45 day.
- 4.4 A full procurement exercise will be undertaken at the end of the contract term to establish a longer-term provider.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.2 Provision of a well performing therapies service supports the council's priorities: Family Friendly - enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best; Clean, Safe and well run-providing good quality services; Healthy-enabling CYP to live healthy, happy lives.

### **5.3 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.4 Total cost of a two-year contract is £ 6,611,024. The Local Authority's contribution is £1,167,810

through DSG and BELS core funding.

- 5.5 A joint procurement using negotiated procedure was led by NCL Clinical Commissioning Group as Lead Commissioner. One bid was received by Whittington Health NHS Trust. Evaluation undertaken by a panel of NHS and Council Officers and parent carers concluded that the Whittington Health NHS Trust meets all quality requirements and that the contract should be awarded.

## 5.6 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.6.1 Regulation 32 (2) (c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 allows contracting authorities to award public contracts by a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract on Find a Tender where "insofar as is strictly necessary where, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authority, the time limits for the open or restricted procedures or competitive procedures with negotiation cannot be complied with". For reasons set out in the report, the Council was not able to undertake a full procurement exercise and will be awarding a contract, to maintain this crucial service in line with Regulations 32 (2) c of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 5.6.2 The Lead Commissioner has determined the approach and gauged levels of risk associated with this approach.
- 5.6.3 Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 imposes the duty to secure special educational provision and health care provision in accordance with the child's EHC Plan.
- 5.6.4 Under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules the Authorisation and Acceptance Thresholds authorisation to award a contract where the contract value exceeds £500k, is if within Budget Officer Delegated Power Report, which has been published.

## 5.7 Insight

- 5.7.1 Information provided during the procurement exercise informed the decision to award contract.

## 5.8 Social Value

- 5.8.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public
- 5.8.2 services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## 5.9 Risk Management

- 5.9.1 Risks are monitored by the project group overseeing the procurement and the improvements and escalated through the individual escalation routes of the CCG and Local Authority.

## 5.10 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.10.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public-Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:



- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and
- other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

5.11 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

5.12 Equalities and diversity considerations are a key part of delivering an accessible and responsive therapies services. Data will be monitored regularly to enable providers and commissioners to identify and respond to any practice issues that need addressing.

### 5.13 **Corporate Parenting**

5.13.1 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing,
- of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

5.13.2 Ensuring that our looked after children receive timely and quality therapy provision is essential to supporting positive development and outcomes.

### 5.14 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.14.1 There has been regular engagement with the Barnet Parent Carer Forum and with schools to obtain their feedback on provision and to inform them of what is happening to make improvements. Parents, carers, schools and partners were written to at the end of May and there were two 'open sessions' on therapies for parent carers which took place in July. Senior officers from the local authority, BELS, Whittington Health, NELFT and the CCG attended these sessions to respond to questions and concerns. Parent Carers were involved in the procurement exercise as members of the panel evaluating the bid.

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Agenda for Urgency Committee on Thursday 8th July, 2021, 12.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda/2021/07/08/urgency-committee)

This page is intentionally left blank

**London Borough of Barnet  
Children, Education and  
Safeguarding Committee  
Forward Work Plan  
2021 - 2022**

Contact: Maria Lugangira 020 8359 2761, [maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk)

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
<b>Monday 13 September 2021 [deadline for cleared reports Wednesday 1 September]</b>			
Family Friendly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>
Annual Report from the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>
Voice of the Child Report	Annual Report on Barnet Youth Parliament and VOC.	Voice of the Child Coordinator Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>
<b>Thursday 18 November 2021 [deadline for cleared reports Tuesday 9 November]</b>			
Business planning 2021-25	To agree the committee's business planning proposals for the medium term financial strategy period of 2021-25 and recommend the proposals to Policy and Resources Committee	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Key</b>
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>
<b>19 January 2022 [deadline for cleared reports Monday 10 June]</b>			

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
Barnet Safeguarding Children multi-agency Annual Report	To consider and comments on the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People  Assistant Director, Education, Strategy and Partnerships	<b>Non-key</b>
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>
Annual Report on School Funding	To note and approve the recommendations.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>
<b>21 March 2022 [deadline for cleared reports Thursday 10 March]</b>			
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	<b>Non-key</b>

This page is intentionally left blank