

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel – 13 May 2022

Report Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – Qtr 3 2021/22

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Suzanne Joyner, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides a summary of performance for key performance indicators across the Looked After Children (LAC) services. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data reports, Appendix 1 which provides performance on a page giving an overview of the services performance in comparison to the same period 2020-21 and Appendix 2 which provides trend data, graphical analysis, and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

Recommendations

1. The panel is asked to receive this report with the accompanying dataset (Appendix 2) and consider any issues arising.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Performance on a page

Appendix 2 Looked after children quarterly performance report – December 21 (Qtr3)

Background Papers

Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Report – December 21 (Qtr3)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

1. Background

- 1.1 This report provides evidence to the council's commitment to improvement and providing performance information to enable scrutiny of the improvements and the impact on the outcomes for children and young people in care. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report which provides trend data, graphical analysis, and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 1.2 Targets, including associated 'RAG' (red, amber, green rating) tolerances, are included. These have been set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, recent performance levels and, importantly, Rotherham's improvement journey.
- 1.3 Please note that all benchmarking data is as at the latest data release by the DfE and relates to 2020/21 outturn.
- 1.4 The narrative supplied within the report has been informed by the Assistant Director for Children's Services and the Head of Children in Care.

2. Key Issues

As stated in other recent reports, services and interventions offered by the council have continued to be impacted upon by Covid-19. RMBC children and young people's service have worked to minimise the negative impact ensuring effective care planning continues to support each young person's stability and progress.

- 2.1 **Looked After Children** – In quarter 3 we saw our population of children and young people looked after rise (+4) to 574.

49 children become looked after in the quarter, making the total year to date 129. When compared to 2020/21, there was an increase with 7 more becoming LAC in the quarter (42 in qtr3 2020/21). Although overall there has been 11 less year to date (140 ytd 2020/21).

42 children ceased to be looked after in the quarter (151 year to date), compared to 41 in the quarter last year (120 year to date). This shows a significant year to date increase in the number of children ceasing to be LAC (+31).

Both the positive reduction in children entering and the positive increase in children leaving care continues to result in an overall year on year decline in the number of looked after children in Rotherham to 574 children (615 – Qtr 3 2020/21). This decrease has reduced the 10k population rate to 99.9 at the end of quarter 3 whereas at the same point last year it was 106.9. In comparison to the latest available benchmarking data (2020), 99.9 is almost in line with our statistical neighbour's average of 99.4 but is still significantly higher than the national average of 67.0.

- 2.2 **Plans** - At the end of the quarter, 91.3% of all looked after children plans were up to date, which is a slight reduction (-0.6%) in comparison to last year when it was 91.9% at the same point.

- 2.3 **Placements** - The percentage of looked after children in a family-based setting continues to be fairly consistent reaching 80.1% at the end of the quarter but shows a small decrease (-0.7%) when compared to the same period last year 80.8%.

71.3% of long-term LAC had been in a stable placement for at least 2 years at the end of quarter 3 showing a positive 3.3% increase when compared to the same period last year (68.0%). Performance continues to be positive despite the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic on placements and remains above the latest stat neighbour (67.1%) and national averages (70%).

Children having had 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months has crept above the latest statistical neighbour (7.8%) and national averages (9.0%) at 9.8% (lower is better with this measure). This is also a 1% increase on 2020/21 when there was 8.8% of children at the end of the quarter.

- 2.4 **In-house fostering** – There were 124 in-house foster carer households registered at the end of the quarter in comparison to 153 (-29) last year, continuing the reducing trend. There has been 8 approvals year to date (20 - 2020/21) and 31 deregistrations (18 - 2020/21).

A key factor in the declining number of fostering placements is that experienced carers who resign are often more established and are often approved for two or more young people. These resignations therefore can have a significant impact on the number of available placements for children as new carers usually start with an approval of only one or, less frequently, two children.

Placement sufficiency remains a key focus and Brightsparks continue to support us in recruitment work. Covid-19 pressures and challenges with recruiting has been a national problem and the service is feeling this impact locally.

- 2.5 **Youth Offending** – Of the 574 children and young people looked after by Rotherham, five were also known to the youth offending team.

(This is a new performance measure, and the performance team are in the process of creating the capability to report on this historically, therefore no comparison to the previous quarter is currently available.)

- 2.6 **Adoptions** – 21 children have been adopted since April 2021 and a number of children remain in the adoption pathway. When compared to the same period last year (26 adoptions 2020/21) this is a reduction of five adoptions. It is worth noting that at this point in 2020/21 the service was seeing an influx of adoptions completing following the court delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 23 completed in the months September, October, November & December 2020 alone.

At the end of quarter 3, the A10 measure (Average number of days between a child becoming LAC & having an adoption placement) was 457.1 days (427.3 days 2020/21) and the A2 measure (Average number of days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family) was 263.9 days (185.4 days 2020/21). These both continue to be higher than recent years as anticipated due to the court delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and Rotherham's policy is to persevere in seeking adoptive placements for all children for as long as it is reasonable to do so. This can inevitably impact on performance figures where targets are set, however, this practice gives the necessary reassurance

that the adoption service is 'doing the right thing' by its children by doing everything it can to secure permanent family placements.

- 2.7 **Health** – The number of up-to-date health and dental checks have both continued to fluctuate since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in particularly with dental checks being affected due to the enforced closure of most dentists or emergency care only being available. At the end of quarter 3 the number of up-to-date dental checks had increased to 42.7%, in comparison to quarter 3 last year where 20.7% were up to date (22.0% increase). Similarly, the percentage of up-to-date health assessments has also increased in the quarter to 83.4% in comparison to 80.1% the same period last year (3.3% increase).

84 initial health assessments have been completed since April 21 with 54 of them being in time (64.3%). This is 14.5% below last year when 78.8% of assessments had been completed in time.

- 2.8 **Reviews & visits** – 94.7% of reviews were completed within timescales set - year to date, which equates to 1167 out of 1232 reviews in time. This is in comparison to 96.2% in the same period last year, a 1.5% decrease.

At the end of the quarter, 96.7% of visits were up to date and within timescale of the national minimum standard. At the same point in 2020 97.1% were in time, showing a 0.4% decrease this year.

- 2.9 **Education** – At the end of the Autumn term 2021 98.3% of LAC had a PEP compared to 97.9% Autumn term 2020 showing a 0.4% increase.

Rotherham has a local standard to ensure that each PEP is of good quality and refreshed every term (rather than the annual minimum standard). At the end of the Autumn term 2021 94.1% of those LAC with a PEP had a PEP completed within the term, a 0.4% decrease on the Autumn term 2020 (94.5%).

- 2.10 **Care Leavers** – At the end of quarter 3 there were 292 young people in the care leavers cohort which shows a reduction of 45 when compared to the same point in 2020 (337).

76.0% of care leaver pathway plans were up to date at the end of quarter 3 which is a 3.1% improvement when compared to the same period last year (72.9%).

The care leavers in suitable accommodation measure continues to remain fairly stable at 95.5% but shows a 1.5% reduction when compared to quarter 3 last year (97.0%).

However, the care leavers in employment, education, and training (EET) measure shows a more significant 6.4% reduction year on year with 58.9% at the end of this quarter compared to 65.3% at the same point in 2020. Covid-19 restrictions around attendance at work and college have not helped young people find routine in terms of attending college or training. Good relationships are in place with providers and the service is supported by Affinity.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The full corporate parenting performance report attached at Appendix 2 represents a summary of performance across a range of key national and local indicators with detailed commentary provided by the service director. Corporate

Parenting Panel members are therefore recommended to consider and review this information.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Not applicable

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not applicable

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Budget Holder will identify any implications arising from associated improvement actions and Members and Commissioners will be consulted where appropriate.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resource implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Managers will identify any implications arising from associated improvement actions and Members and Commissioners will be consulted where appropriate.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The performance report relates to services and outcomes for children in care.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications within this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The Partners and other directorates are engaged in improving the performance and quality of services to children, young people, and their families via the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP). The RSCP Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup receive this performance report within the wider social care performance report on a regular basis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Inability and lack of engagement in performance management arrangements by managers and staff could lead to poor and deteriorating services for children and young people. Strong management oversight by Directorship Leadership Team and the ongoing weekly performance meetings mitigates this risk by holding managers and workers to account for any dips in performance both at a team and at an individual child level.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

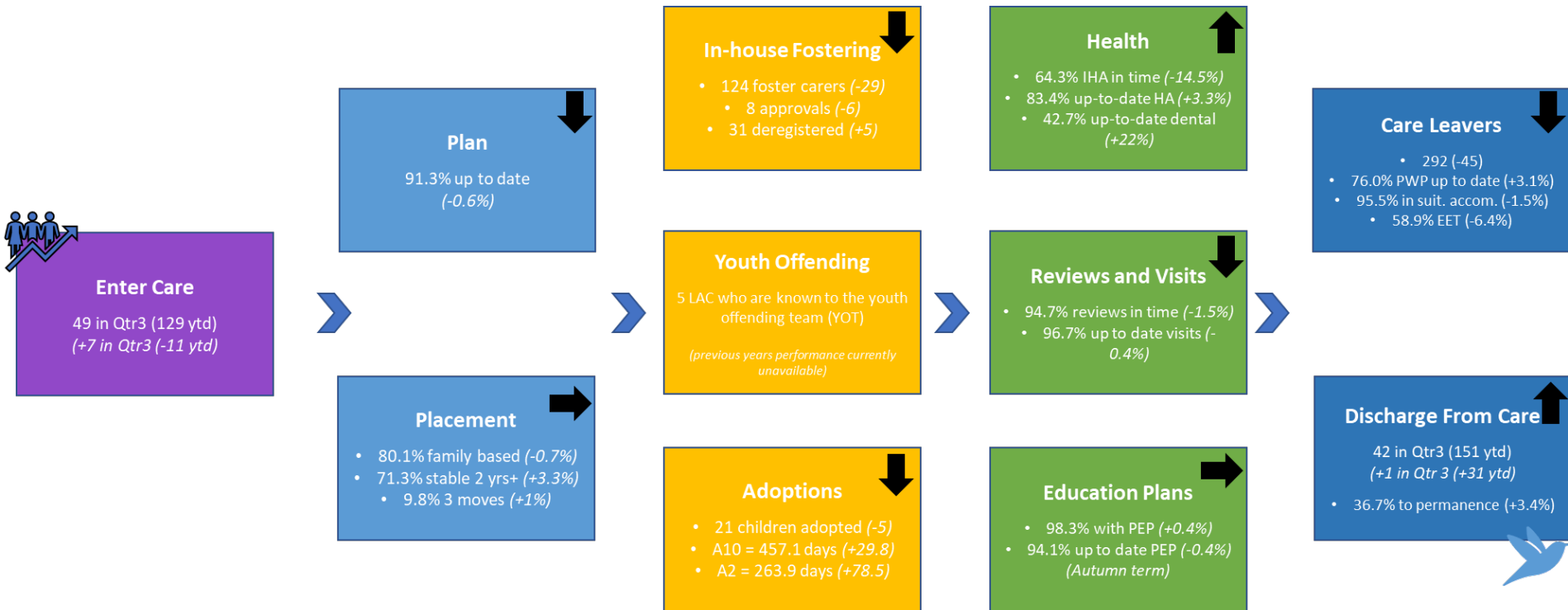
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Performance on a Page

As of 31st December 2021 (End of Qtr 3 2021/22)



All performance is cumulative year to date (ytd) or as at the end of December 21 (end of quarter 3) unless otherwise stated. Figures in brackets show the difference compared to the same period in the previous year (2020/21).

Good performance
 Bad performance
 Stable performance

Children's and Young People Services Corporate Parenting Performance Report

As at month end: December 2021 (Qtr 3)

Document details

Status: Issue 1

Date created: 16/02/2022

Created by: Performance & Quality Team

Contact: cyps-performance@rotherham.gov.uk

***Please note:** Data reports are not dynamic. Although care is taken to ensure data is as accurate as possible every month, delays in data input can result in changes in figures when reports are re-run retrospectively. To combat this at least two individual months data is rerun for each indicator where necessary.*

*Our
Vision*

"Working with Rotherham's children, young people and families to be safe, resilient and successful"

Looked After Children Performance Summary

As at month end: December 2021 (Q

*DOT - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' since the previous month showing if the number or percentage has gone up or down. Colours have been added to help distinguish better and worse performance with the exceptions of measures that are for information only. Key Below:-

- ↑ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = improvement in performance
- ↓ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = decline in performance
- - number/percentage remained same as previous month

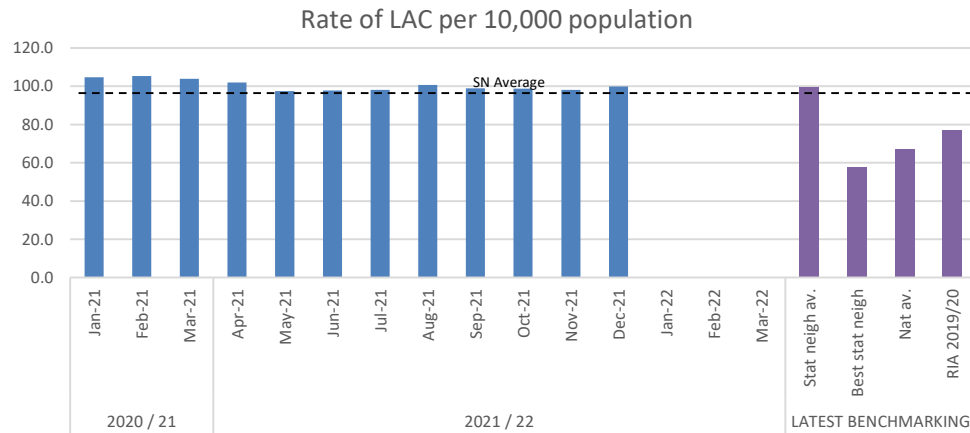
REF NO.	INDICATOR	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	2021 / 22							TARGET & TOLERANCES			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE		LATEST BENCHMARKING					
				Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	YTD	Good perf is	DOT* (month)	RAG (month)	Red	Amber	Green (target)	2020/21	Yr on Yr trend	Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	RIA 2019/20	
3.1	No. of looked after children	monthly	Count	568	567	564	574	-		info	↑				597						
3.2	Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged 0-17	monthly	Rate per 10,000	98.9	98.7	98.2	99.9	-		low	↑		103.6+	98.8+	<98.7	103.8		99.4	58.0	67.0	77.0
3.3	No. of admissions of looked after children	monthly	Count	10	19	11	19	129		info	↑				186						
3.4	% of eligible looked after children with an up to date plan	monthly	%	92.3%	93.3%	94.1%	91.3%	-		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	95.7%					
3.5	% of looked after children visits up to date & completed within timescale of national minimum standard	monthly	%	94.2%	95.1%	98.0%	96.7%	-		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	94.5%					
3.6	% of looked after children care plans reviewed within timescales	monthly	%	93.9%	95.3%	96.2%	97.8%	94.7%		high	↑		<87%	87%+	95%+	96.2%					
3.7	% of looked after children having an initial health assessment within timescale	monthly	%	50.0%	28.6%	100.0%	100.0%	64.3%		high	→				78.8%						
3.8	% of looked after children with a up to date health assessments	monthly	%	87.4%	86.9%	85.0%	83.4%	-		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	88.3%					
3.9	% of looked after children with a up to date dental assessments	monthly	%	44.4%	47.1%	46.6%	42.7%	-		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	20.2%					
3.10	No. of children who have ceased to be looked after children	monthly	Count	19	19	14	9	151		high	↓				183						
3.11	No. of special guardianship orders (SGO) or child arrangement orders (CAO) granted after a period of being LAC (Legal Status)	monthly	Count	14	11	7	4	65		info	↓		New measure - baselining year								
3.12	No. of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a SGO or CAO	monthly	Count	10	0	4	2	34		info	↓										
3.13	% of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (SGO, CAO, Adoption)	monthly	%	68.4%	10.5%	35.7%	33.3%	36.7%		high	↓		<27%	27%+	35%+	32.8%					
3.14	% of long term LAC in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years	monthly	%	71.3%	72.2%	70.9%	71.3%	-		high	↑		<61%	61%+	69%+	69.2%		67.1%	71.0%	70.0%	-
3.15	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	monthly	%	10.6%	11.5%	10.1%	9.8%	-		low	↓		18%+	10%+	<10%	8.9%		7.8%	5.0%	9.0%	-
3.16	% of LAC in a family based setting	monthly	%	80.3%	80.6%	80.5%	80.1%	-		high	↓		<77%	77%+	85%+	79.9%					
3.17	% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	monthly	%	5.5%	5.3%	4.3%	4.9%	-		low	↑				4.2%						
3.18	% of LAC in kinship care	monthly	%	10.4%	9.3%	9.8%	10.1%	-		high	↑		New measure - baselining year								
3.19	No. of placements that have been created for children via foster care (approvals)	monthly	Count	0	1	1	0	9		high	↓		New measure - baselining year								
3.20	No. of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	monthly	Count	0	1	0	0	2		high	→				6						
3.21	Av. days between a child becoming looked after and having a adoption placement (A10)	monthly	YTD Average	490.2	473.3	471.1	457.1	-		low	↓			<487	446.6		350.1	274.0	367.0	360.0	
3.22	Av. days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)	monthly	YTD Average	231.4	214.3	224.3	263.9	-		low	↑			<121	210.6		160.4	90.0	175.0	167.0	
3.23	No. of care leavers	monthly	Count	282	290	292	292	-		info	→				319						
3.24	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan	monthly	%	77.7%	76.6%	79.8%	76.0%	-		high	↓				82.7%						
3.25	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	monthly	%	96.5%	96.6%	94.9%	95.5%	-		high	↑		<86%	86%+	94%+	98.4%		91.1%	97% (Rotherham)	88.0%	-
3.26	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	monthly	%	62.1%	62.8%	58.9%	58.9%	-		high	→		<57%	57%+	65%+	64.9%		53.1%	73.0%	52.0%	-

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Looked After Children (LAC)

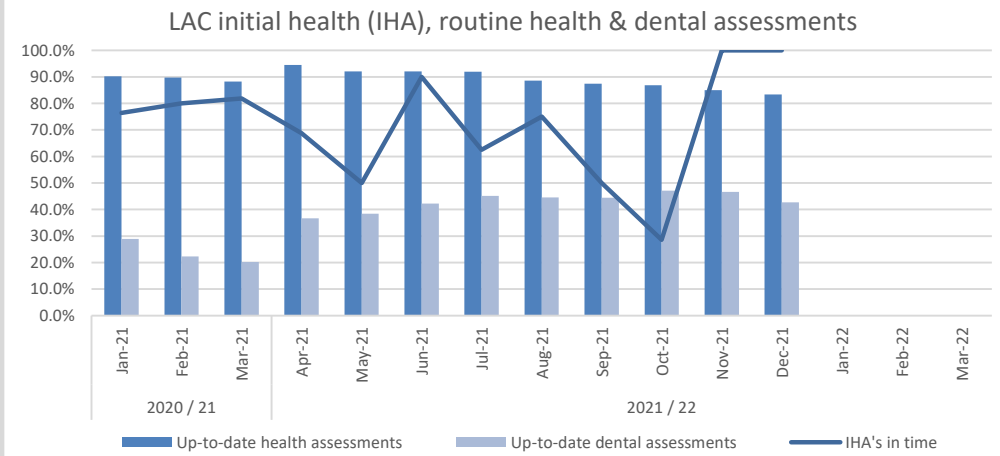
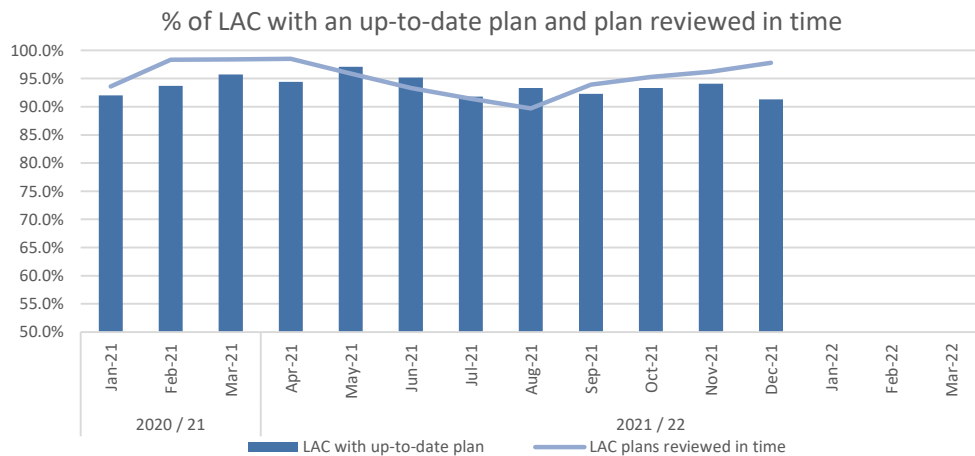
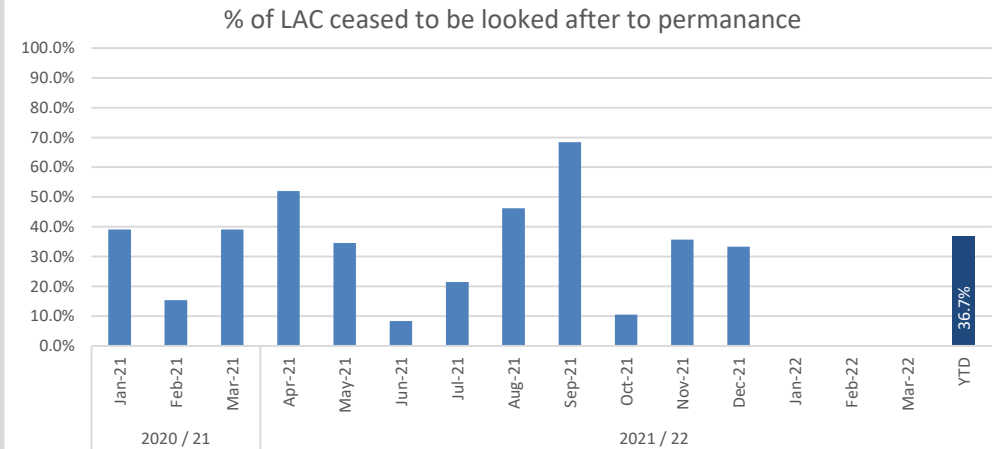
Children in care are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority either voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm. LAC review meetings are convened to consider the plan for the welfare of LAC and how to achieve permanence for them within a timescale that meets their needs. The LA is responsible for visiting LAC wherever they are living to ensure his/her welfare continues to be safeguarded and promoted and the LA should ensure that every LAC has his/her health needs fully assessed and a health plan clearly set out.

574 LAC as at period end



129 Admissions (ytd)

151 Discharges (ytd)



96.7% of LAC visits are up-to-date & complete (NMS)

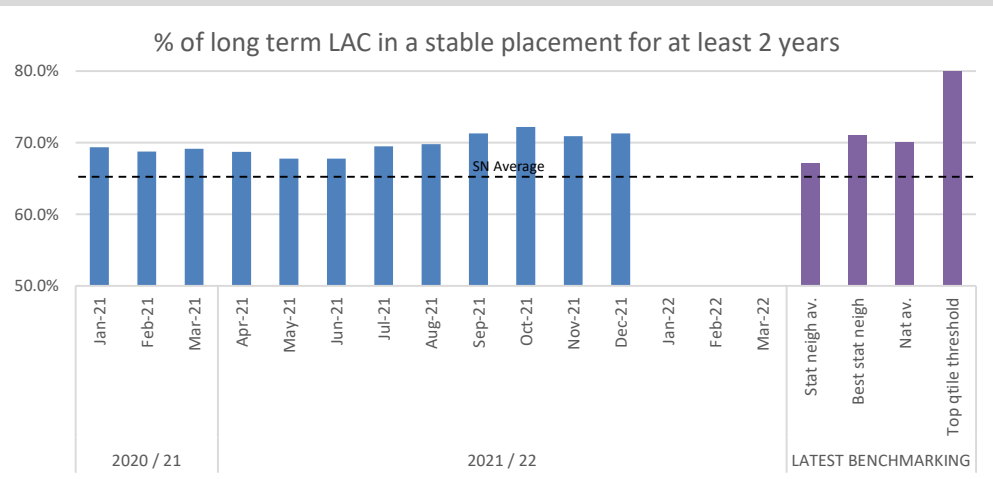
(National minimum standard is within 1wk of placement, then 6wkly till in placement for 1yr, then 12wkly after.)

64.3% of IHA's completed in time (ytd)

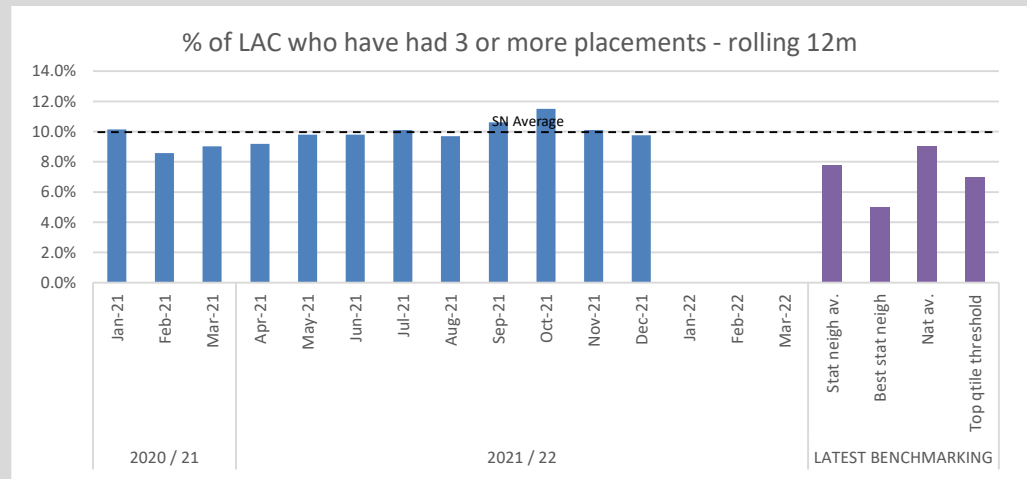
Placements

A LAC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (LAC) and is placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives. A foster care family provide the best form of care for most looked after children. Rotherham would like most of its children to be looked after by its own carers so that they remain part of their families and community.

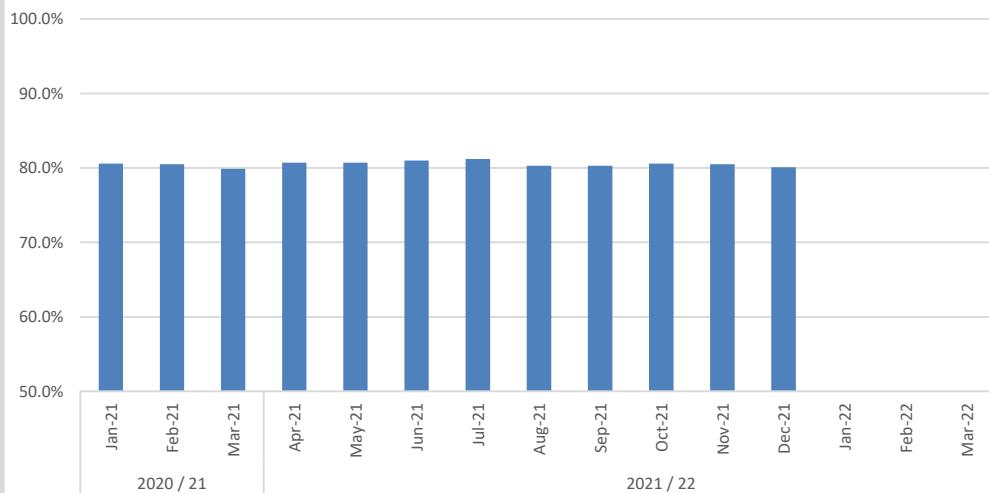
71.3% of long term LAC in a stable placement for 2 years+



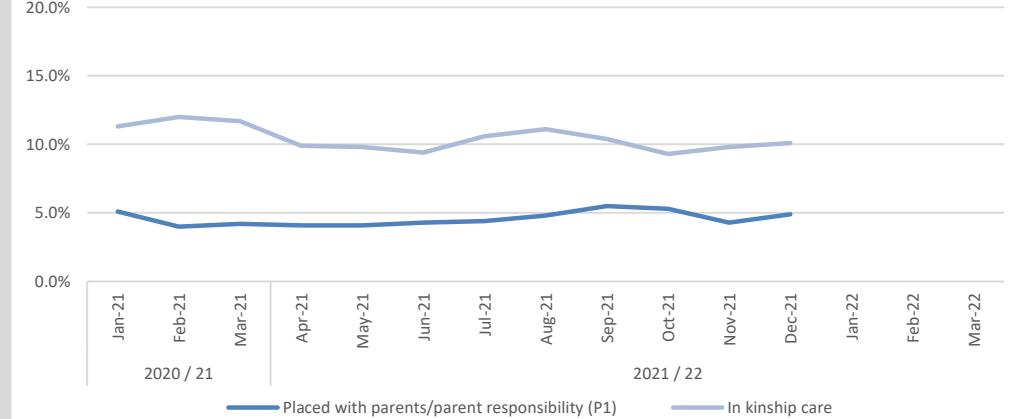
9.8% of LAC have had 3+ placements as at period end



% of children in a family based placement



% of children in a parental or kinship care placement



9 placements created via foster carer approvals (ytd)

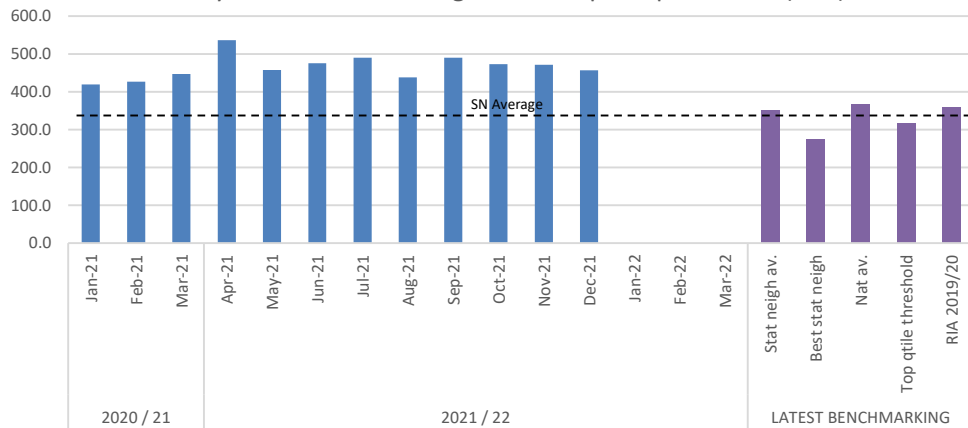
Adoptions & Care Leavers

Following a child becoming looked after, it may be deemed suitable for a child to become adopted which is a legal process of becoming a non-biological parent. The date this is agreed to be in the best interests of the child is known as their 'SHOBPA'. Following this a family finding process is undertaken to find a suitable match based on the child's needs, followed by placement with their adopter(s). Placement are monitored and assessed before the final adoption order is granted.

A care leaver is, a person 25yrs or under; has been looked after by a LA for 13wks+ since 14yrs; and has been looked after by a LA at school-leaving age or after.

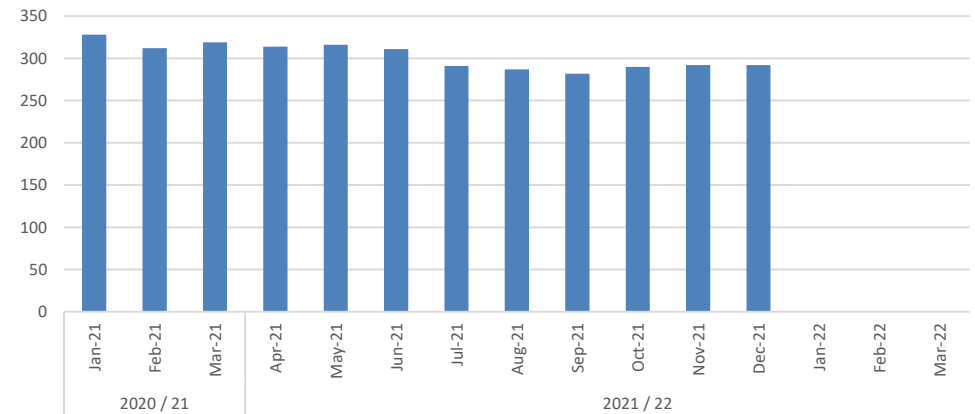
Adoptions

Av. days between becoming LAC & adoption placement (A10)

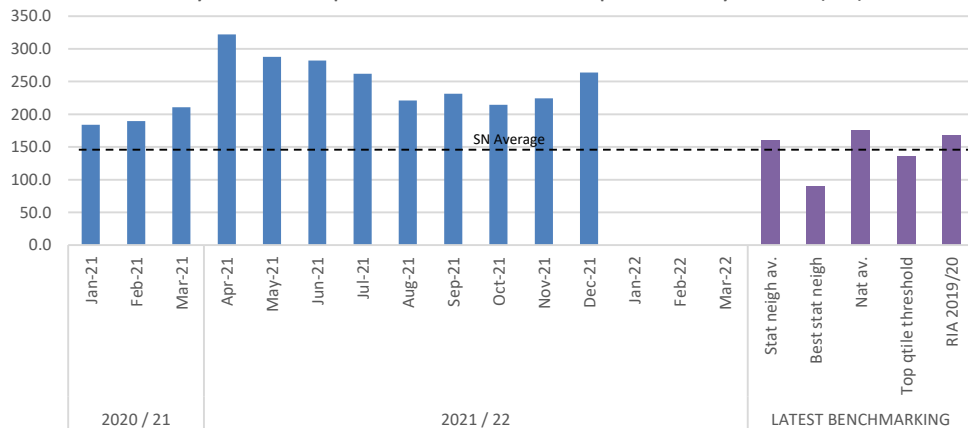


Care Leavers

No. of care leavers



Av. days between placement order & adoptive family match (A2)



292 care leavers as at the period end

76.0% of eligible LAC & care leavers had an up to date pathway plan at the period end

95.5% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the period end

58.9% of care leavers were in employment, education or training at the period end

2 adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA (ytd)