

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel – 13 December 2022

Report Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – Q2 2022/23

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 2021-22 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 – September 22 (Q2)

Background Papers

Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Report – September 22 (Q2)

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 continuous improvement and providing performance information to enable scrutiny of 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 local service context.
- 1.3 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 Service – Children in Care.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 **Looked After Children** – At the end of quarter 2 we saw the number of children and young people we look after increase by 6 to 541 when compared to the end of Q1 (535), however, it is 29 below the same period in 2021/22 when there were 570 LAC. A key area of increase over this time period has been linked to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children arriving via the National Transfer Scheme but also being placed as adults by the home office in hotels, who after accessing legal advice seek support a children. This is a regional and national trend and pressure.

During Q2 54 children became looked after equating to 89 year-to-date, compared to 52 in Q2 2021/22 (80 ytd). 46 children ceased to be looked after (105 ytd), compared to 43 (106 ytd) in the same quarter last year.

The benchmark measure of 10k population rate of children looked after has reduced to 94.2 at the end of Q2 compared to 99.2 last year. This is now below our statistical neighbour's average of 99.4 but remains significantly higher than the national average of 67.0.

There are currently 33 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) that are looked after by the local authority (LA). The commissioning team are working to ensure we are able to offer placements and accommodation commensurate to need. We know this is a potential ongoing pressure due to the growing need to support more UASC, and impact on local placement sufficiency is being monitored. The service has also received training from Solihull and ENTRAIID to support confidence building and understanding of the asylum process. Pathways into service have been agreed as well as an approach to commissioning age assessments.

2.2 Plans – the end of the quarter, 90.2% of eligible LAC had an up-to-date plan, which is a decrease (-1.9%) in comparison to last year when it was 92.1% at the same point.

2.3 Placements – The percentage of LAC in a family-based setting has decreased during Q2 reaching 76.5% when compared to 79.8% at the end of Q1 and 80.2% at the end of the Q2 last year. 62.9% of long-term LAC had been in a stable placement for at least 2 years at the end of Q2 showing a reduction of 9.0% when compared to the same period last year (71.9%). Placement stability is an area of focus that the fostering service, responsible Team manager and IRO have been engaged with to review what works and what their roles are in working to prevent placement breakdowns. The fostering service has sought to strengthen placement stability via completing the mapping assessment to identify support needs and ensure these are met via the service. The fostering service is expanding their support offer recruiting additional Family Support workers and an extended on-call support offering after hours and weekend contact, as these have been highlighted as best practice. Team Around the Child meetings are in place to support all placements, with a particular focus at linking in support from the agency or Rotherham Therapeutic Team earlier, to prevent disruption.

The percentage of children having had 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months has risen to 11.4% which is above the latest statistical neighbour (7.8%) and national averages (9.0%). This is also a 1.2% increase on the same period in 2021/22 when there was 10.2% of children at the end of the quarter. The work linked to the team around the child will support strengthening placement stability. Additional support packages to grow foster carers for older children, have also been proposed and piloted, to improve local sufficiency.

2.4 In-house fostering – There were 119 in-house foster carer households registered at the end of the quarter in comparison to 133 (-14) last year. There were 4 foster family approvals in Q2, making 6 approvals year-to-date. However, 4 families also ceased to be foster carers in the quarter bringing the year-to-date total to 11, therefore equating to 5 less foster families at the end of the quarter. At the end of the period there was a total of 9 prospective foster families in the recruitment process, 7 of which have panels scheduled between October 22 and January 23.

Placement sufficiency remains a key focus and Brightsparks continue to support us with fostering recruitment work. After a slower start there has been an increase in potential foster carers progressing to assessment this quarter.

2.5 Youth Offending – Of the 541 children and young people looked after by Rotherham at the end of the quarter, 6 were also known to the youth offending team.

2.6 Adoptions – 13 children have been adopted since April 2022 which is a decrease (-4) when compared to the same period last year when there had been 17 adoptions.

At the end of Q2, the A10 measure (Average number of days between a child becoming LAC and having an adoption placement) was 475.7 days (490.2 days Q2 2021/22) and the A2 measure (Average number of days between placement order and being matched with adoptive family) was 197.8 days (231.4 days Q2 2021/22). This continues the positive reduction and the A2 figure from placement

order to adoptive match indicates that we are matching children and placing with adoptive families sooner. There has been less reduction in the A1, which is linked to the court delays caused by the recent Covid-19 pandemic, but we are starting to see an improvement this year (2022/23).

- 2.7 Health** – Following the Covid-19 pandemic we are now starting to see an improvement in the percentage of up-to-date health and dental checks with 68.5% (36.9% - 21/22) of dental assessments and 83.1% (80.3% - 21/22) of health assessments being up to date at the end of the quarter.

The percentage of LAC having an initial health assessment (IHA) within timescale has also improved in 2022/23 with 77.2% of IHA's being in time year-to-date, compared to 64.8% in 2021/22.

- 2.8 Reviews and visits** – 92.8% of reviews during 2022/23 were completed within the timescales set, which equates to 706 reviews in time out of 761 that were completed April to September 22 (91.7% (341/372) in Q2).

At the end of the quarter, 97.8% of visits were up-to-date and within timescale of the national minimum standard. At the end of the same period in 2021 91.8% were in time, showing a 6.0% increase this year.

- 2.9 Education** – At the end of the summer term 2021/22, 97.5% of school age LAC had a PEP compared to 98.3% summer term 2020/21. Rotherham's local standard which ensures that each PEP is refreshed every term (rather than the annual minimum standard) was 95.0% at the end of the summer term 2021/22, compared to 94.0% summer term 2020/21.

The virtual school continues to develop their PEP to support designated teachers (DTs) in completing the PEP in advance of and during PEP meetings. Clear quality assurance (QA) guidance has been provided to DTs that requires timely completion of PEPs to ensure good or better QA ratings.

- 2.10 Care Leavers** – At the end of Q2 there were 311 young people in the care leavers cohort which shows an increase of 27 when compared to the same point in 2021 (284). 78.1% of these care leavers had an up-to-date pathway plan at the end of the quarter which is a 2.0% improvement when compared to the same period last year (76.1%).

97.4% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation compared to 95.8% at the end of Q2 last year. Of the 8 young people in unsuitable accommodation 4 are in custody. However, the percentage of care leavers in employment, education, and training (EET) shows a 9.6% increase with 71.2% at the end of this quarter compared to 61.6% at the same point in 2021.

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. 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 Assistant 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 Assistant Director and Heads of Service 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)

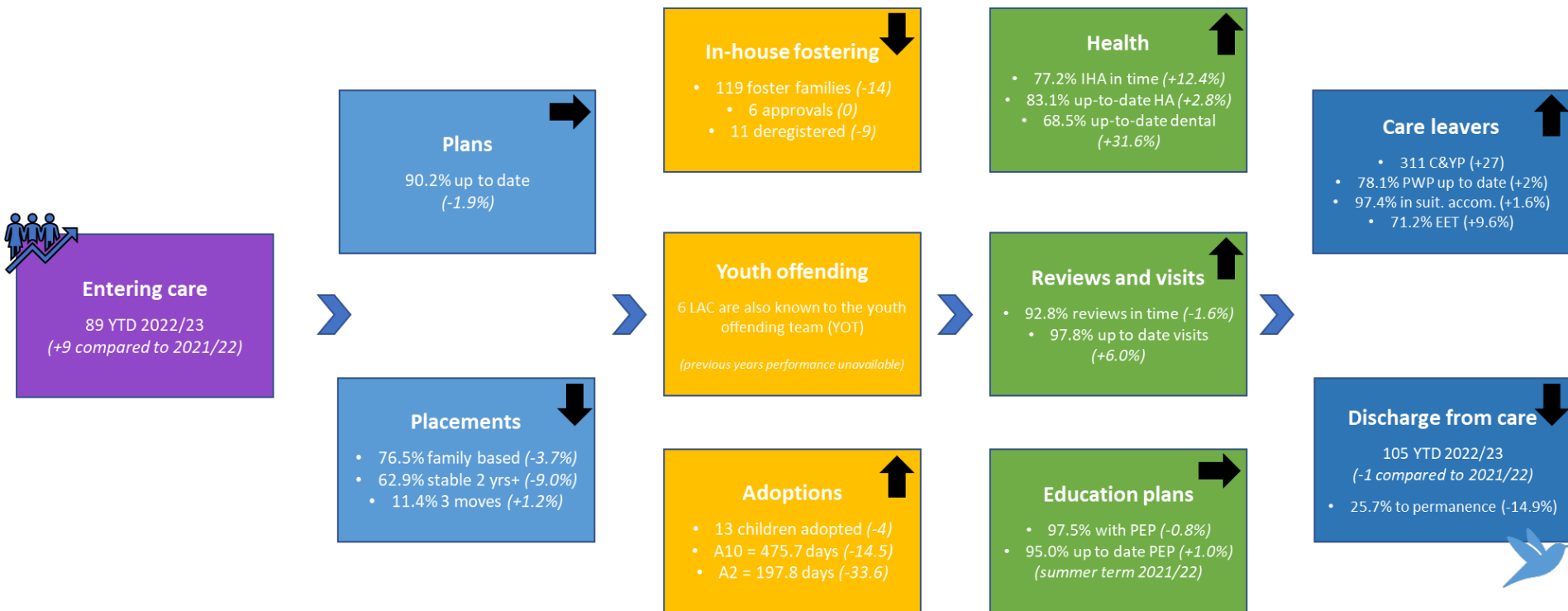
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Performance on a Page

As of 30th September 2022 (Q2 - 2022/23)



All performance is year to date cumulative or as at the end of September 2022 (end of quarter 2) unless otherwise stated. Figures in brackets show the difference compared to the same period in the previous financial year (2021/22).

Good performance
 Bad performance
 Stable performance

Children's and Young People Services Corporate Parenting Performance Report

As at month end: September 2022 (Q2)

Document details

Status: Issue 1

Date created: 01/11/2022

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 resilient, successful and safe”

Looked After Children Performance Summary

As at month end: September 2022 (Q2)

*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

- ↑ - increase in number/percentage (info measures)
- ↓ - remained same as previous month (info measures)
- - decrease in number/percentage (info measures)

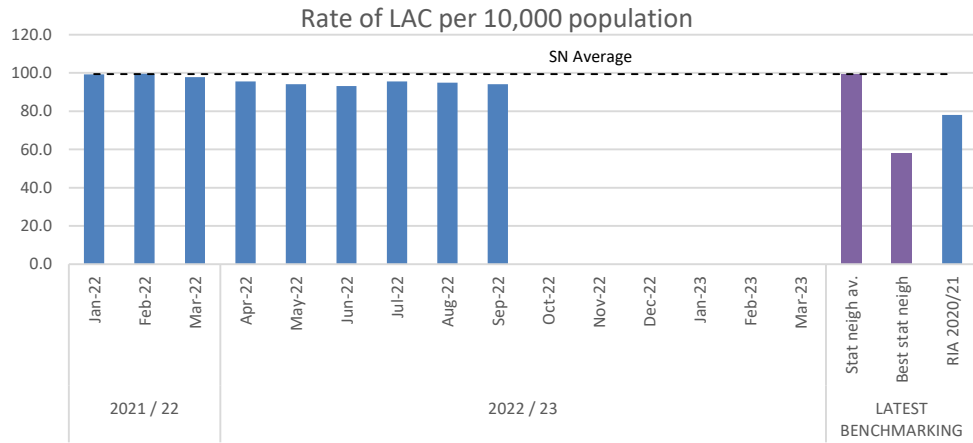
REF NO.	INDICATOR	Success Measures Council Plan Measures	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	2022 / 23				TARGET & TOLERANCES			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE		LATEST BENCHMARKING							
					Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	2022/23 YTD	Good perf is	DOT* (month)	RAG (month)	Red	Amber	Green (target)	2021/22	Yr on Yr trend	Stat neigh av	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qlite threshold	RIA 2020/21
4.1	No. of looked after children	TB5	monthly	Count	549	545	541	-	info	↓				562							
4.2	Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged 0-17	CH04	monthly	Rate per 10,000	95.6	94.9	94.2	-	low	↓	Green	95.2+	-	<95.2	97.8		99.4	58.0	67.0	-	78.0
4.3	No. of admissions of looked after children	TB4	monthly	Count	30	12	12	89	info	→				175							
4.4	No. of looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)		monthly	Count	29	30	33	-	info	↑					New measure 2022/23						
4.5	% of eligible looked after children with an up to date plan		monthly	%	92.9%	92.6%	90.2%	-	high	↓	Yellow	<87%	87%+	95%+	96.6%						
4.6	% of looked after children visits up to date & completed within timescale of national minimum standard		monthly	%	97.3%	96.5%	97.8%	-	high	↑	Yellow	<90%	90%+	98%+	96.8%						
4.7	% of looked after children care plans reviewed within timescales		monthly	%	98.6%	82.4%	91.3%	92.8%	high	↑	Yellow	<87%	87%+	95%+	94.3%						
4.8	% of looked after children having an initial health assessment within timescale		monthly	%	88.9%	93.8%	100.0%	77.2%	high	↑	Green				68.5%						
4.9	% of looked after children with a up to date health assessments		monthly	%	92.2%	89.5%	83.1%	-	high	↓	Red	<87%	87%+	95%+	71.0%						
4.10	% of looked after children with a up to date dental assessments		monthly	%	74.3%	73.0%	68.5%	-	high	↓	Red	<87%	87%+	95%+	44.0%						
4.11	No. of looked after children who are known to the youth offending team (YOT)		monthly	Count	6	6	6	-	info	→					New measure 2022/23						
4.12	No. of children with an Education Health & Care plan in the looked after children cohort		monthly	Count	103	102	100	-	info	↓					New measure 2022/23						
4.13	No. of looked after children having at least one missing episode within the period		monthly	Count	14	14	13	41	info	↓				64	New measure 2021/22						
4.14	No. of children who have ceased to be looked after children		monthly	Count	15	17	14	105	high	↓				212							
4.15	No. of special guardianship orders (SGO) or child arrangement orders (CAO) granted after a period of being looked after children (Legal Status)		monthly	Count	5	3	4	32	info	↑				85	New measure 2021/22						
4.16	No. of looked after children who have ceased to be looked after due to a special guardianship orders(SGO) or child arrangement orders (CAO)	TB5	monthly	Count	0	2	2	14	info	→				42	New measure 2021/22						
4.17	% of looked after children who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (SGO, CAO, Adoption)		monthly	%	26.7%	17.6%	14.3%	25.7%	high	↓	Red	<27%	27%+	35%+	34.8%						
4.18	% of long term looked after children in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years		monthly	%	63.9%	62.7%	62.9%	-	high	↑	Yellow	<62%	62%+	70%+	70.2%		67.1%	71.0%	70.0%	74.0%	-
4.19	% of looked after children who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	OLD	monthly	%	10.9%	11.8%	11.4%	-	low	↓	Yellow	16%+	8%+	<8%	9.3%		7.8%	5.0%	9.0%	7.0%	-
4.20	% of looked after children in a family based setting	OLD	monthly	%	77.8%	77.2%	76.5%	-	high	↓	Red	<77%	77%+	85%+	79.4%						
4.21	% of looked after children placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	TB4	monthly	%	4.6%	4.0%	3.9%	-	low	↓	Green				4.6%						
4.22	% of looked after children in kinship care		monthly	%	8.2%	7.7%	7.2%	-	high	↓	Red	<8%	8%+	12%+	10.5%	New measure 2021/22					
4.23	No. of placements that have been created for children via foster care (approvals)		monthly	Count	1	1	5	11	high	↑				13	New measure 2021/22						
4.24	No. of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOOPA		monthly	Count	2	0	0	6	high	→				4							
4.25	Av. days between a child becoming looked after and having a adoption placement (A10)		monthly	YTD Average	456.3	475.7	475.7	-	low	→	Green	487+	-	<487	418.9		350.1	274.0	367.0	317.5	348.0
4.26	Av. days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)		monthly	YTD Average	182.2	197.8	197.8	-	low	→	Red	121+	-	<121	292.2		160.4	90.0	175.0	135.5	168.0
4.27	No. of care leavers		monthly	Count	314	313	311	-	info	↓				292							
4.28	% of eligible looked after children & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan		monthly	%	83.1%	76.0%	78.1%	-	high	↑	Green				82.8%						
4.29	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation		monthly	%	96.5%	96.2%	97.4%	-	high	↑	Green	<88%	88%+	96%+	96.6%		91.1%	97.0%	88.0%	94.0%	-
4.30	% of care leavers in employment, education or training		monthly	%	72.6%	73.2%	71.2%	-	high	↓	Green	<58%	58%+	66%+	71.6%		53.1%	73.0%	52.0%	58.0%	-
4.31	No. of care leavers who are former unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)		monthly	Count	17	17	17	-	info	→					New measure 2022/23						

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Looked After Children (LAC)

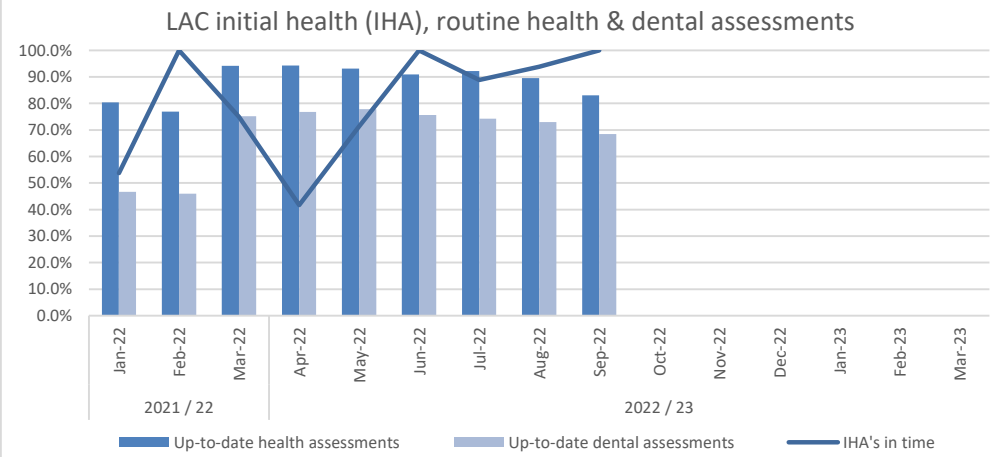
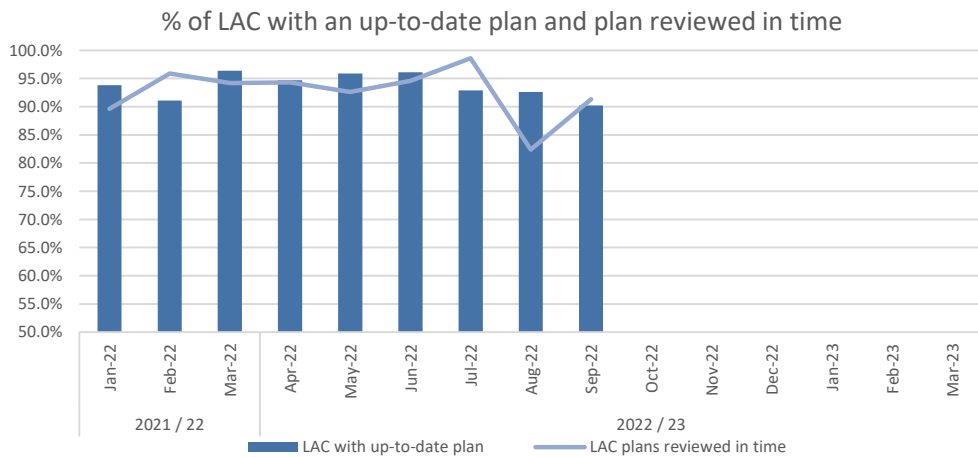
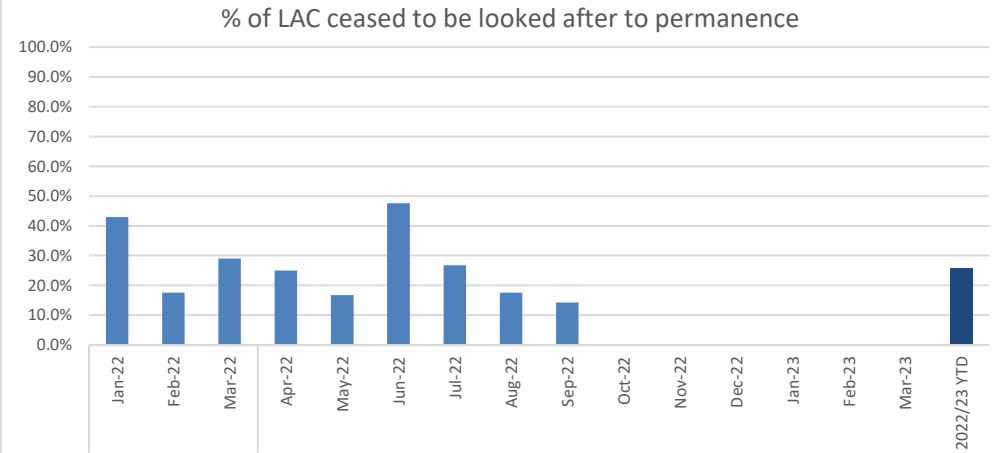
Children in care are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority either voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm. LAC review meetings are convened to consider the plan for the welfare 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.

541 LAC as at period end



89 Admissions (ytd)

105 Discharges (ytd)



97.8% of LAC visits are up-to-date & complete (NMS)

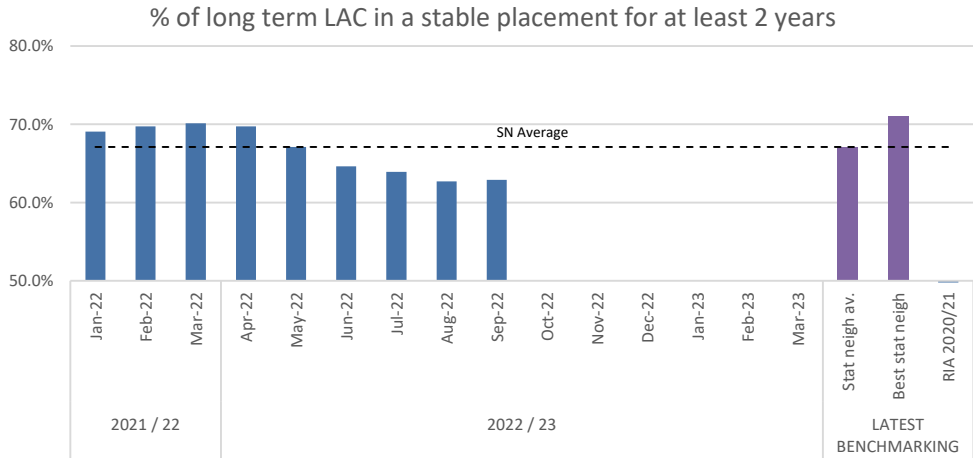
(National minimum standard is within 1wk of placement, then 6wky till in placement for 1yr, then 12wky after.)

77.2% of IHA's completed in time (ytd)

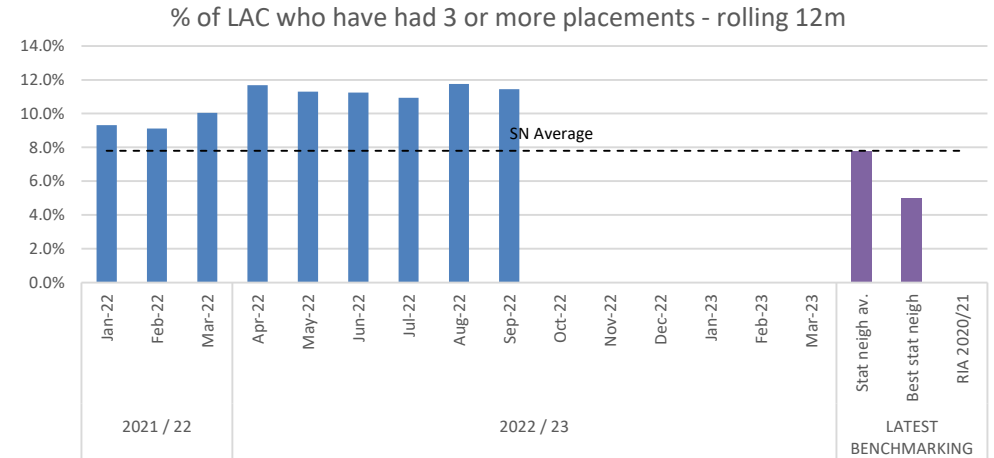
Placements

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.

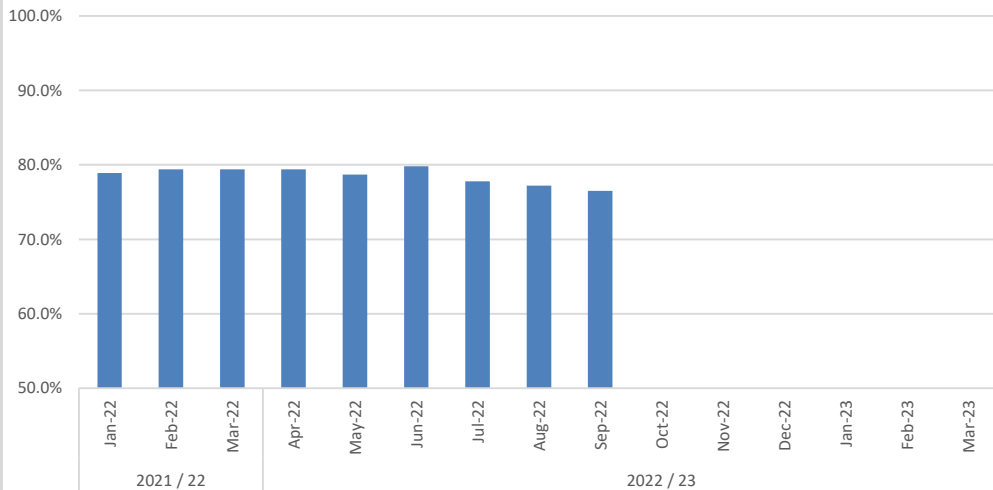
62.9% of long term LAC in a stable placement for 2 years+



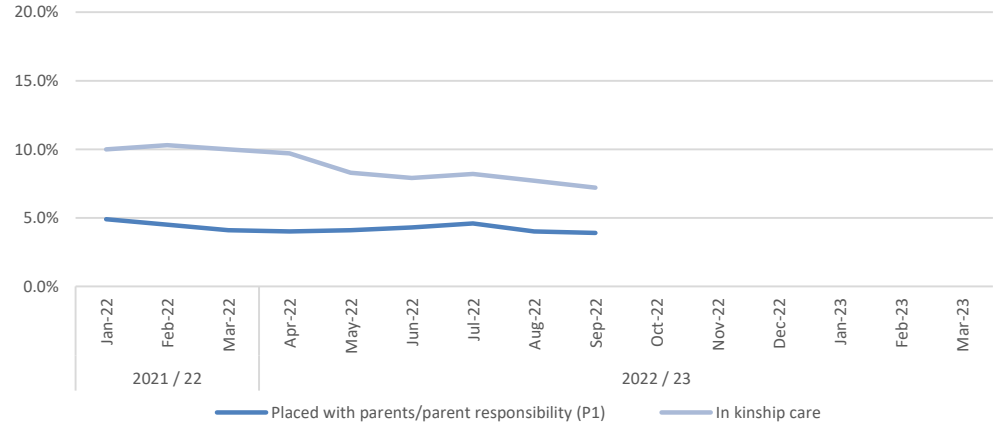
11.4% of LAC have had 3+ placements as at period end



% of children in a family based placement



% of children in a parental or kinship care placement



11 placements created via foster carer approvals (ytd)

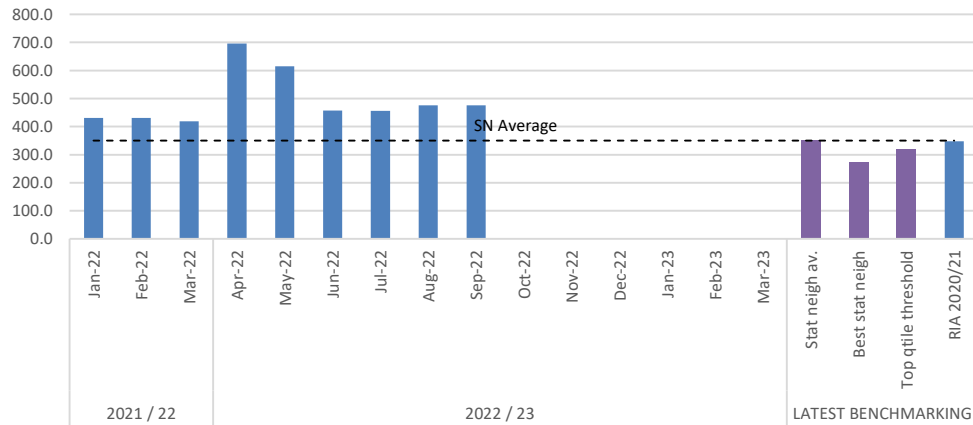
Adoptions & Care Leavers

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.

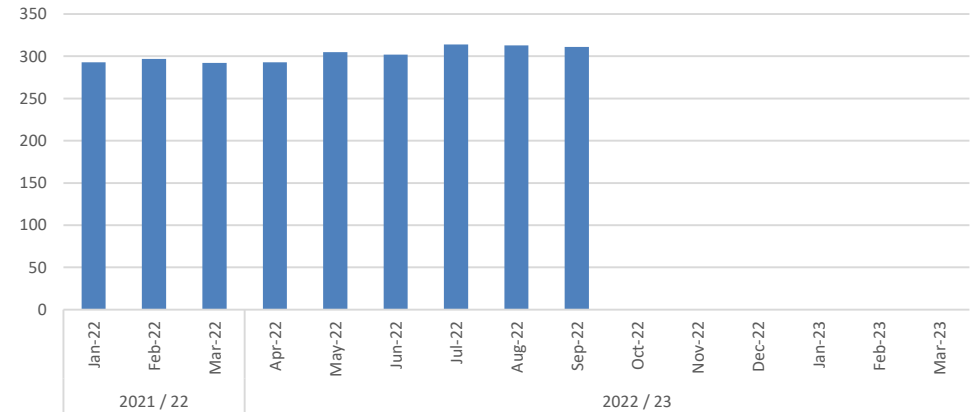
Adoptions

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

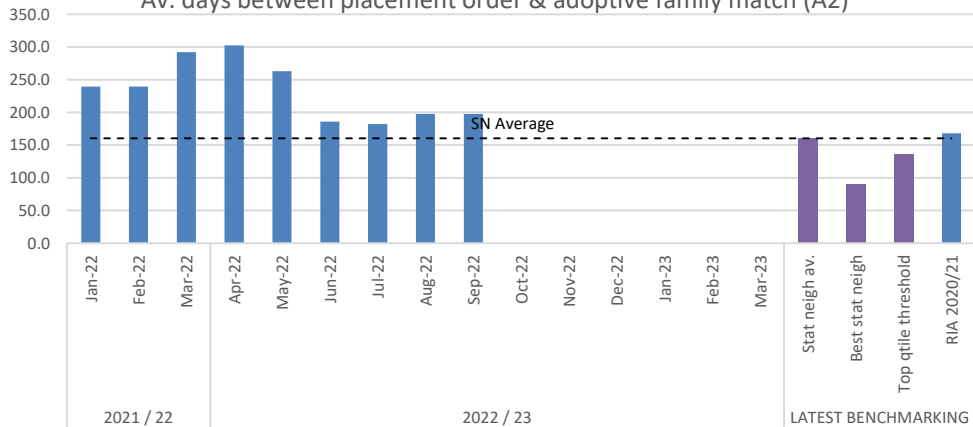


Care Leavers

No. of care leavers



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



311 care leavers as at the period end

78.1% of eligible LAC & care leavers had an up to date pathway plan at the period end

97.4% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the period end

71.2% of care leavers were in employment, education or training at the period end

6 adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA (ytd)