

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel – 19 March 2024

Report Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – Q3 2023/24

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Nicola Curley, 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 Children in Care (CiC) 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 2022-23 and Appendix 2 which provides trend data, graphical analysis, and latest 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 Children in care performance – December 23 (Q3 2023/24)

Background Papers

Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Report – December 23 (Q3 2023/24)

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 latest benchmarking data against national, regional, 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 2022/23 outturn.
- 1.4 The narrative supplied within the report has been informed by the Head of Service – Children in Care.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 **Children in Care** – At the end of Q3 (2023/24) we saw the number of children in care (CiC) decrease by 44 to 507 when compared to the end of Q3 in 2022/23 when there were 551 CiC. 122 children have become looked after since April 2023, this is a decrease of 25 when compared to the same period in 2022/23 (147). Since April 2023 156 children have ceased to be in care, 3 more than in the same period last financial year (153).

The benchmark measure, rate of children in care per 10,000 population has decreased (-9.2) further to 88.6 at the end of Q3 compared to 97.8 last year. This remains below the latest (2021/22) statistical neighbour's average of 102.4 but remains significantly higher than the national average of 70.0.

There are currently 43 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in the care of the local authority (LA), a decrease of 1 when compared to the end of Q3 in the last financial year. The commissioning team are working to ensure we can 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.

- 2.2 **Plans** – At the end of Q3, 76.3% of eligible CiC had an up-to-date plan, which is a 13.9% decrease in comparison to last year when it was 90.2%. This is likely to be because of some instability in staffing in the children in care team. This has included a change in management of the service, some unexpected sickness, and some vacancies. It is expected that this will improve in the next quarter. This is also due to a change in the way in which we report performance in respect of children's plans, measuring them from the point of the children in care review, instead of measuring every six months.

2.3 Placements – At the end of Q3 75.7% of CiC were in a family-based setting compared to 77.1% at the end of Q3 2022/23.

63.3% of long-term CiC had been in a stable placement for at least 2 years, a 2.8% decrease when compared to Q3 2022/23 (66.1%). 63.3% continues to be below the latest stat neighbour (71.1%) and national (71.0%) averages. 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. Placement stability meetings take place at appropriate intervals to prevent placement breakdown. The attendance and function of these meetings is to be reviewed to maximise the support available for placements.

The percentage of children having had 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months has fluctuated over the last 12 months but was 9.3% at the end of Q3 the same as in Q3 2022/23. 9.3% remains below both the latest national average (10.0%) and statistical neighbour average (9.5%). 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 have been 15 foster family approvals (25 new placements) since April 2023, however, 15 families have ceased to be foster carers (loss of 23 placements), which equates to a gain of zero foster families but two placements at the end of the quarter. There have been occasions where foster carers have resigned due to seeking permanent arrangements for the children in their care, such as Special Guardianship Order's or Adoption. It should be noted that most foster carers who have resigned or been de-registered, did not actively have any children in their care in the months leading up to their deregistration. If we were to discount carers that had not been active in the last 3 months before deregistration, we would report a net gain of 9 carers and 17 placements. This is expected to rise between now and the end of April.

Placement sufficiency remains a key challenge and Brightsparks continue to support us in fostering recruitment work. We have a target set to increase the number of fostering families by 20 this financial year.

Current projections (end of January) are positive, and if each panel that is booked during the remainder of Q4 goes as expected we are projecting to have approved 21 foster families (33 new placements) by the end of the financial year 2023/24, against 17 deregistration's (26 placements) which will give us a gain of 4 families (7 placements).

2.5 Youth Justice – Of the 507 children and young people in care by Rotherham at the end of the quarter, 7 were also known to the Youth Justice Service. At the same time last year there were 8.

2.6 Adoptions – 13 children have been adopted since April 2023 which is a decrease of four when compared to the same period last year.

At the end of Q3, the A10 measure (Average number of days between a child becoming looked after and having an adoption placement) was 343.2 days, a significant reduction on 551.8 days at the same point in 2022/23. The A10 measure performance has been previously directly linked to the court delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The reduction in days is a sign the delays are improving.

The A2 measure (Average number of days between placement order and being matched with adoptive family) was 191.5 days at the end of Q3, an 18.9 day decrease when compared to 210.4 days last year.

2.7 Health – The percentage of CiC having an initial health assessment (IHA) within timescale has increased to 76.9% at the end of Q3 when compared to 71.1% at the same point last financial year. Similarly, the number of up-to-date health checks also increased to 88.1% when compared to 74.5% at the same point last year. We often see a delay in accurate performance figures being reported via Liquidlogic due to delays in assessments being signed off and delayed inputting. The named nurse for CiC & Care Leavers can confirm that the below figures are correct for the end of December 23 (Q3):

- Under 5's placed in Rotherham 94%.
- Over 5's placed in Rotherham 95% when those that decline are deducted from figures.
- Under 5's placed out of Rotherham 97%.
- Over 5's placed out of Rotherham 95% when those that decline are deducted from figures.

Up to date dental checks has also increased from 59.6% at the end of Q3 last year to 68.0% (2023/24). Dental assessments are a national issue and remains an area of focus to ensure it does not become a trend here in Rotherham.

2.8 Reviews and visits – 89.4% of reviews since April 23 were complete within the timescales set, which equates to 966 reviews in time out of 1080. In the same period 2022/23, 92.2% were complete in time (1042/1130).

At the end of Q3, 94.1% of visits were up-to-date and within timescale of the national minimum standard. At the end of the same period in 2022/23 96.4% were in time, showing a 2.3% decrease this year.

2.9 Education – At the end of Q3 we can report that 99.1% of CiC had an up-to-date PEP at the end of the autumn term (Term 1 2023/24). This shows a 7.2% increase when compared to the end of the same term 2022/23.

2.10 Care Leavers – There were 337 young people in the care leavers cohort at the end of Q3 which shows an increase of 15 when compared to 2022/23 (322). The Leaving Care Cohort remains high with the level of UASC growing making up 39 of the current cohort (20 at the end of Q3 last year).

72.7% of care leavers had an up-to-date pathway plan at the end of Q3 which is a 2.1% decrease when compared to the same period last year (74.8%). 95.5% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation compared to 97.2% last year.

This remains above the latest stat neighbour (87.7%) and national (88.0%) averages. Of the 14 young people in unsuitable accommodation 7 (50%) are in custody.

72.4% of care leavers were in employment, education, and training (EET) at the end of Q3 compared to 73.0% at the end of Q3 in 2022/23. However, this remains above the latest stat neighbour (52.9%) and national (56.0%) averages.

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 monthly 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)

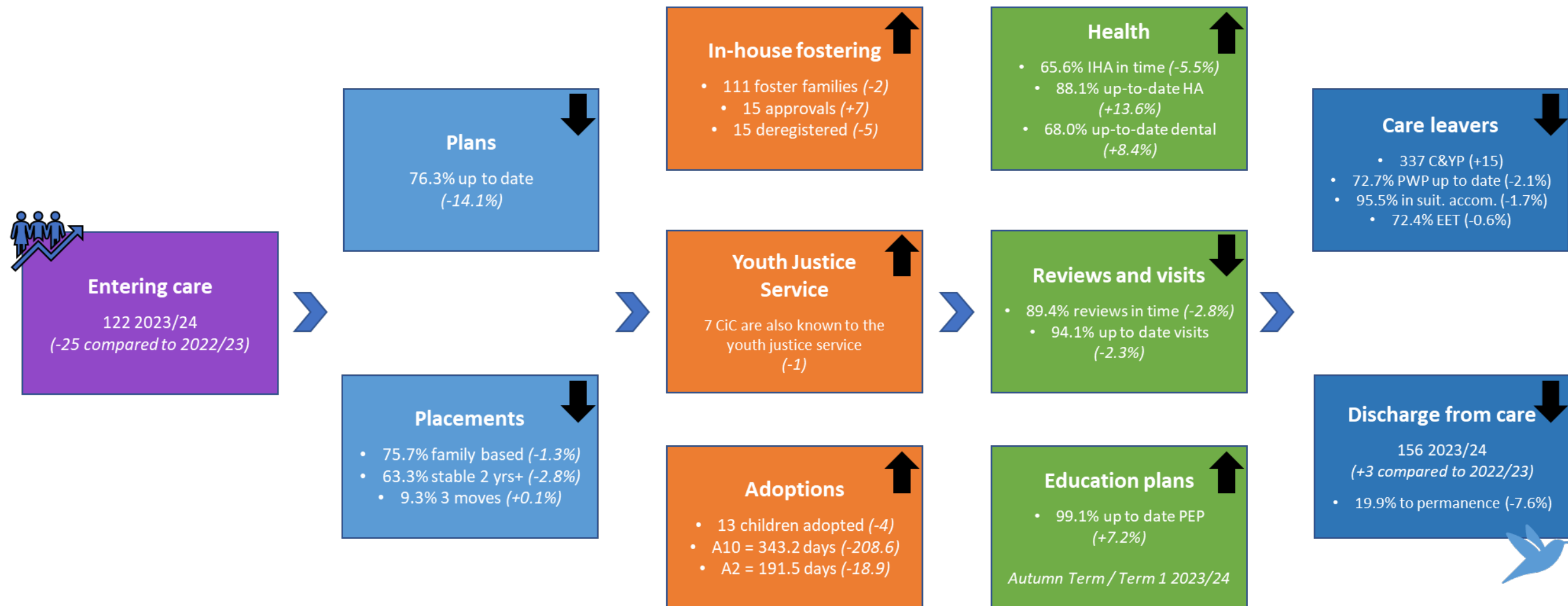
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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Performance on a Page

As of 31st December 2023 (Q3 - 2023/24)



All performance is 2023/24 year to date (YTD) cumulative or as at the end of December 2023 (end of Q3) unless otherwise stated. Figures in brackets show the difference when compared to the same period in the previous financial year (2022/23).

 Improving performance/meeting target
  Declining performance/not meeting target
  Stable performance

Appendix 2: Children in Care Performance Summary

As at month end: December 2023

*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	Council Plan Measures 22/25	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	2023/24							TARGET & TOLERANCES			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE		BENCHMARKING								
					Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	2023/24 YTD	Good perf is	DOT* (month)	RAG (month)	Red	Amber	Green (target)	2022/23	Yr on Yr trend	Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qtile threshold	RIA 2023/24	
4.1	No. of children in care		monthly	Count	514	508	507	519	518	507	507		info	↓				545							
4.2	Rate of children in care per 10,000 population aged 0-17	CH04	monthly	Rate per 10,000	89.8	88.8	88.6	90.7	90.5	88.6	88.6		low	↓		95.2+	-	<95.2	96.7		102.4	56.0	70.0	-	83.0
4.3	No. of admissions of children in care		monthly	Count	17	11	16	32	46	44	122		info	↑				181							
4.4	No. of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in care(UASC)		monthly	Count	45	44	43	39	45	43	43		info	↓				36	New measure 2022/23						
4.5	% of eligible children in care with an up to date plan		monthly	%	76.6%	79.3%	76.3%	80.5%	80.5%	76.3%	76.3%		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	94.7%						
4.6	% of children in care visits up to date & completed within timescale of national minimum standard		monthly	%	95.5%	93.9%	94.1%	95.0%	94.6%	94.1%	94.1%		high	↑		<90%	90%+	98%+	95.6%						
4.7	% of children in care care plans reviewed within timescales		monthly	%	87.7%	83.6%	82.3%	91.9%	92.1%	84.5%	89.4%		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	91.5%						
4.8	% of children in care having an initial health assessment within timescale		monthly	%	92.3%	44.4%	#####	50.0%	70.6%	76.9%	65.6%		high	↑				61.5%							
4.9	% of children in care with a up to date health assessments		monthly	%	90.7%	89.7%	88.1%	93.5%	92.4%	88.1%	88.1%		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	78.7%						
4.10	% of children in care with a up to date dental assessments		monthly	%	77.8%	75.1%	68.0%	87.0%	82.5%	68.0%	68.0%		high	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	69.4%						
4.11	No. of children in care who are known to the Youth Justice Service (YJS)		monthly	Count	9	8	7	8	10	7	7		info	↓				9	New measure 2022/23						
4.12	No. of children with an Education Health & Care plan in the children in care cohort		monthly	Count	86	84	84	91	88	84	84		info	→				95	New measure 2022/23						
4.13	No. of children in care having at least one missing episode within the period		monthly	Count	13	12	9	26	27	23	48		info	↓				59							
4.14	No. of children who have ceased to be children in care		monthly	Count	22	16	16	56	46	54	156		high	→				195							
4.15	No. of special guardianship orders (SGO) or child arrangement orders (CAO) granted after a period of being children in care(Legal Status)		monthly	Count	9	4	6	22	18	19	59		info	↑				72							
4.16	No. of children in care who have ceased to be looked after due to a special guardianship orders(SGO) or child arrangement orders (CAO)		monthly	Count	4	1	1	8	5	6	19		info	→				39							
4.17	% of children in care who have ceased to be in care due to permanence (SGO, CAO, Adoption)		monthly	%	22.7%	6.3%	6.3%	26.8%	19.6%	13.0%	19.9%		high	→		<27%	27%+	35%+	30.4%						
4.18	% of long term children in care in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years		monthly	%	63.1%	63.4%	63.3%	67.5%	63.3%	63.3%	63.3%		high	↓		<62%	62%+	70%+	65.2%		71.1%	77.0%	71.0%	74.1%	-
4.19	% of children in care who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	OLD	monthly	%	9.2%	10.1%	9.3%	8.7%	8.3%	9.3%	9.3%		low	↓		16%+	8%+	<8%	9.7%		9.5%	6.0%	10.0%	8.0%	-
4.20	% of children in care in a family based setting	OLD	monthly	%	75.1%	76.0%	75.7%	77.5%	75.7%	75.7%	75.7%		high	↓		<77%	77%+	85%+	77.0%						
4.21	% of children in care placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)		monthly	%	4.7%	4.9%	3.9%	5.0%	4.8%	3.9%	3.9%		low	↓				5.7%							
4.22	% of children in care in kinship care		monthly	%	5.8%	6.3%	7.5%	6.6%	6.0%	7.5%	7.5%		high	↑		<8%	8%+	12%+	8.1%						
4.23	No. of placements that have been created for children via foster care (approvals)		monthly	Count	9	0	2	5	9	11	25		high	↑				21							
4.24	No. of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA		monthly	Count	1	0	0	4	0	1	5		high	→				12							
4.25	Av. days between a child becoming looked after and having a adoption placement (A10)		monthly	YTD Average	384.8	384.8	384.8	242.1	352.0	384.8	384.8		low	→		487+	-	<487	492.5		350.1	274.0	367.0	317.5	-
4.26	Av. days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)		monthly	YTD Average	191.5	191.5	191.5	264.3	216.7	191.5	191.5		low	→		121+	-	<121	197.4		160.4	90.0	175.0	135.5	-
4.27	No. of care leavers		monthly	Count	324	322	337	329	322	337	337		info	↑				319							
4.28	% of eligible children in care & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan		monthly	%	79.6%	77.6%	72.7%	80.9%	80.1%	72.7%	72.7%		high	↓				74.5%							
4.29	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation		monthly	%	95.7%	95.7%	95.5%	96.0%	96.3%	95.5%	95.5%		high	↓		<88%	88%+	96%+	97.2%		87.7%	95.0%	88.0%	93.0%	-
4.30	% of care leavers in employment, education or training		monthly	%	70.7%	71.4%	72.4%	70.8%	70.2%	72.4%	72.4%		high	↑		<58%	58%+	66%+	69.6%		52.9%	72.0%	56.0%	61.0%	-
4.31	No. of care leavers who are former unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)		monthly	Count	37	37	39	31	36	39	39		info	↑				29	New measure 2022/23						

CHILDREN IN CARE

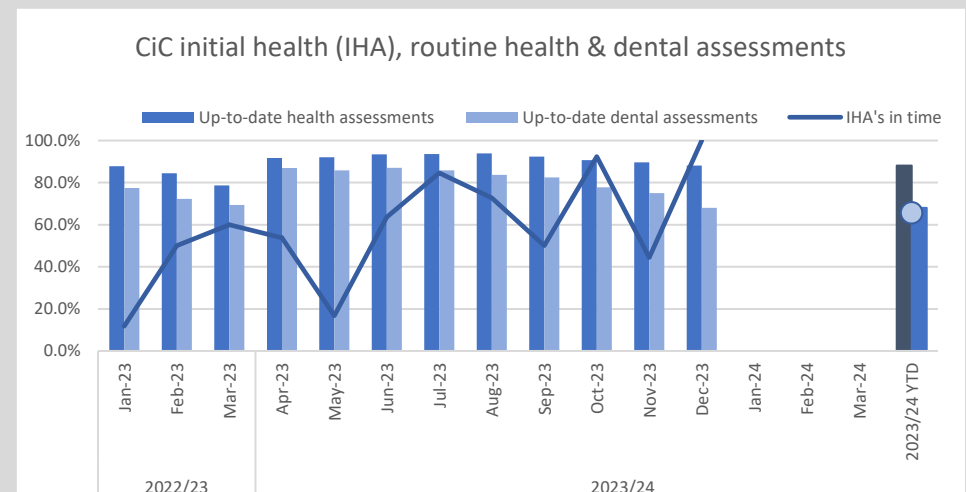
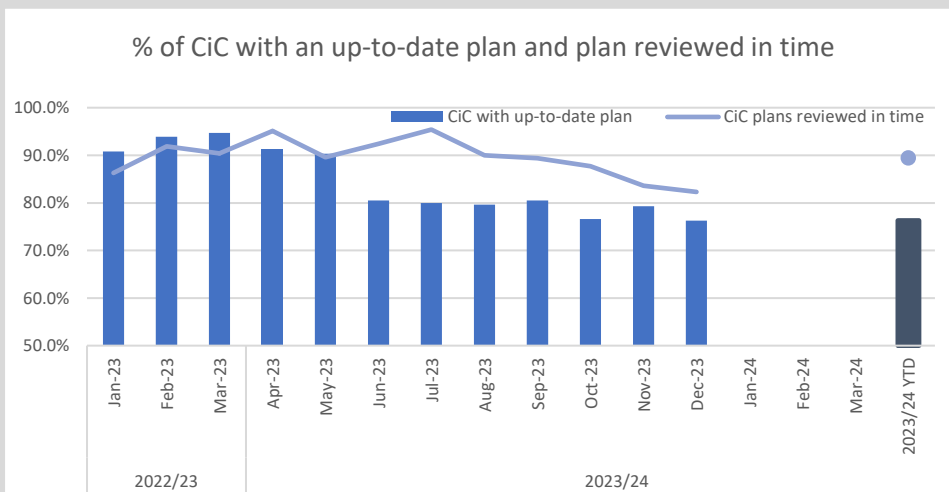
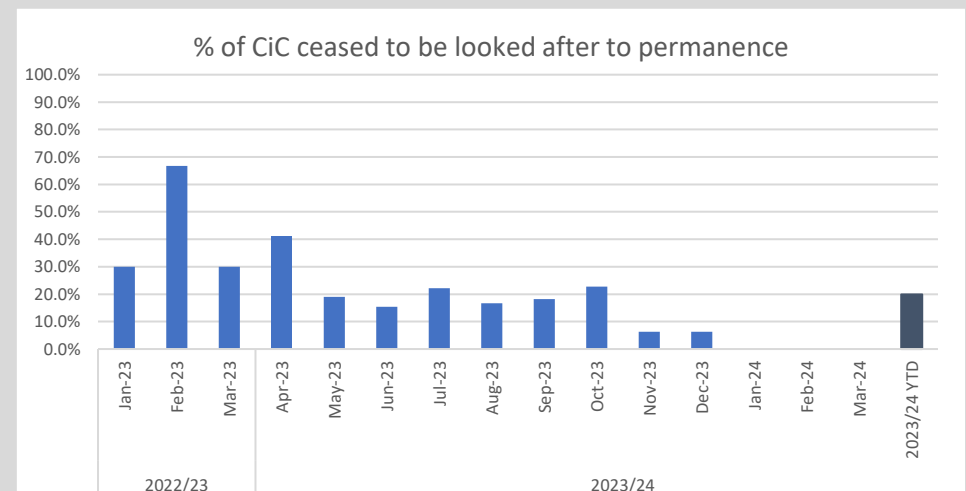
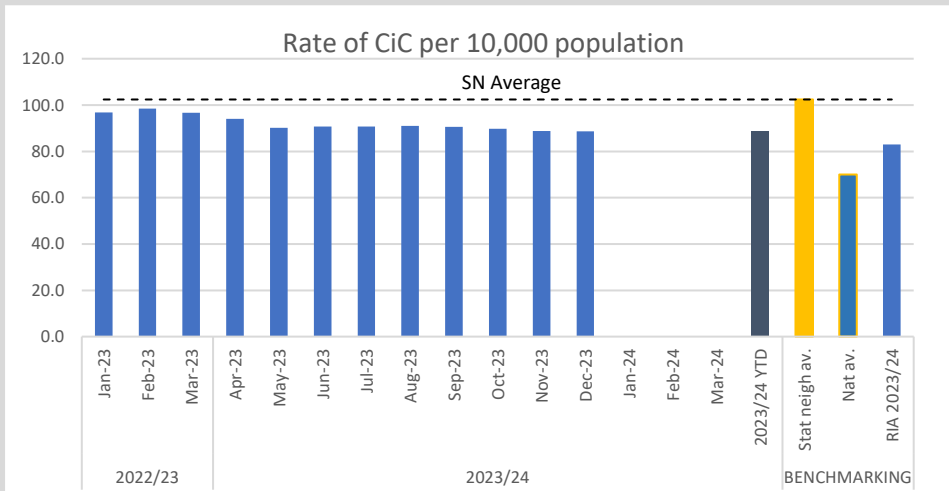
Children In Care (CiC)

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. CiC review meetings are convened to consider the plan for the welfare of CiC and how to achieve permanence for them within a timescale that meets their needs. The LA is responsible for visiting CiC wherever they are living to ensure his/her welfare continues to be safeguarded and promoted and the LA should ensure that every CiC has his/her health needs fully assessed and a health plan clearly set out.

507 CiC as at period end

122 Admissions (ytd)

156 Discharges (ytd)



94.1% of CiC visits are up-to-date & complete (NMS)

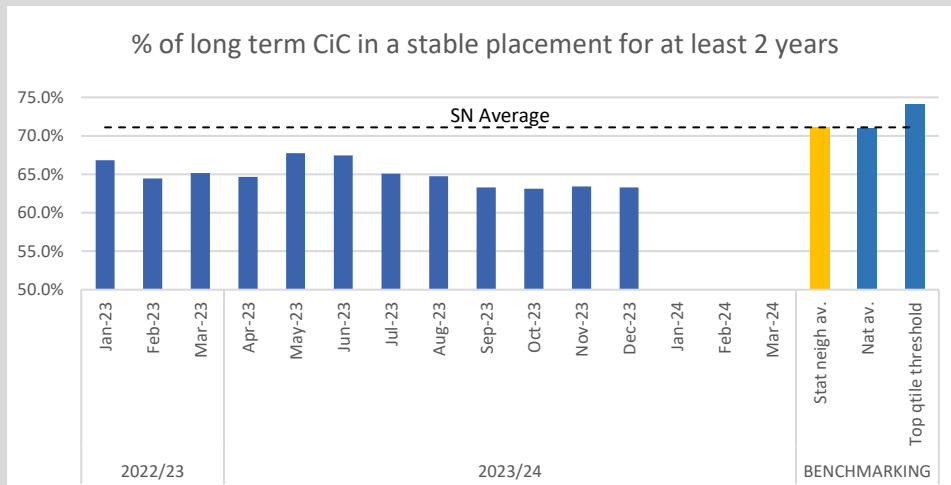
(National minimum standard is within 1wk of placement, then 6wkly till in placement for 1yr, then 12wkly after.)

65.6% of IHA's completed in time (ytd)

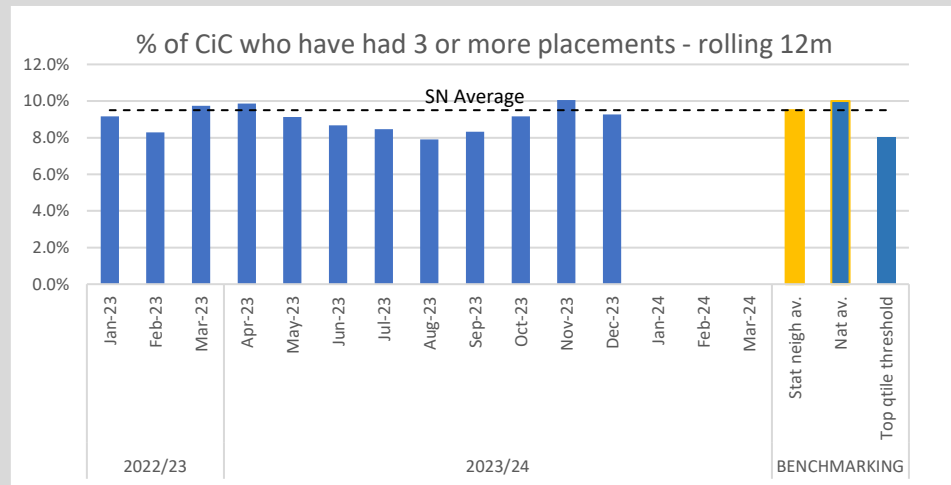
Placements

A CiC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (CiC) 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.

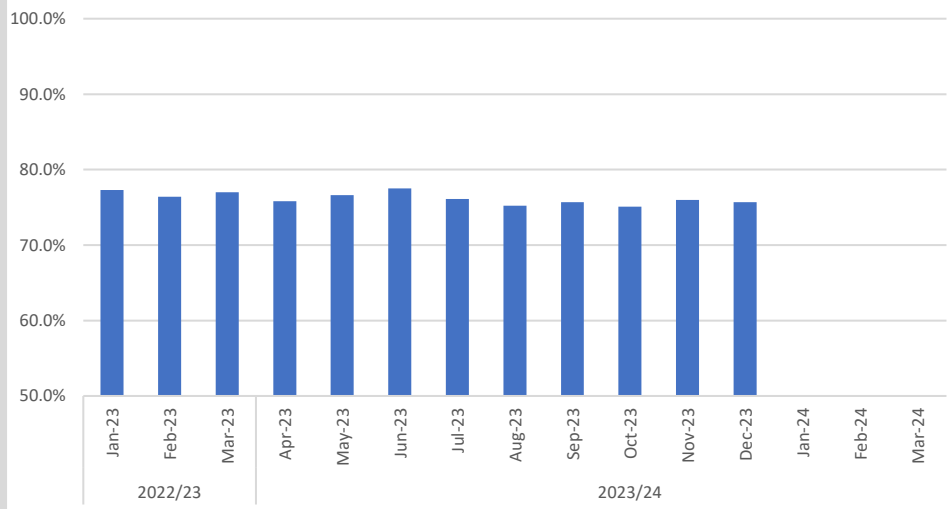
63.3% of long term CiC in a stable placement for 2 years+



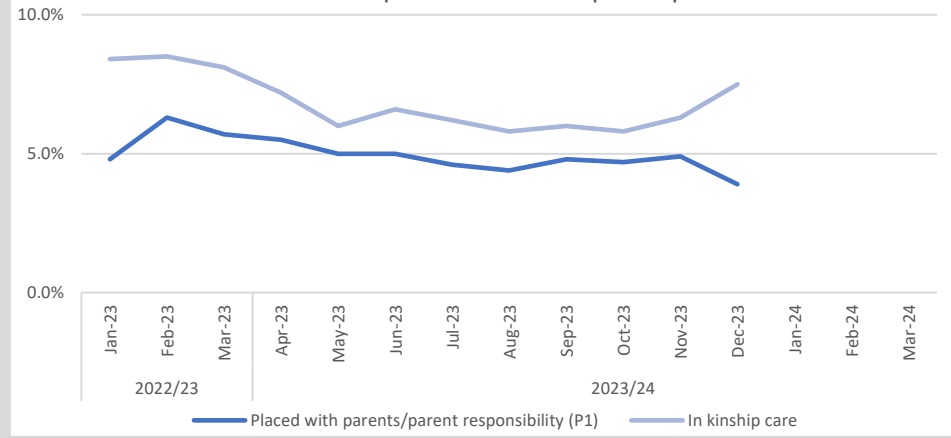
9.3% of CiC have had 3+ placements as at period end



% of children in a family based placement



% of children in a parental or kinship care placement



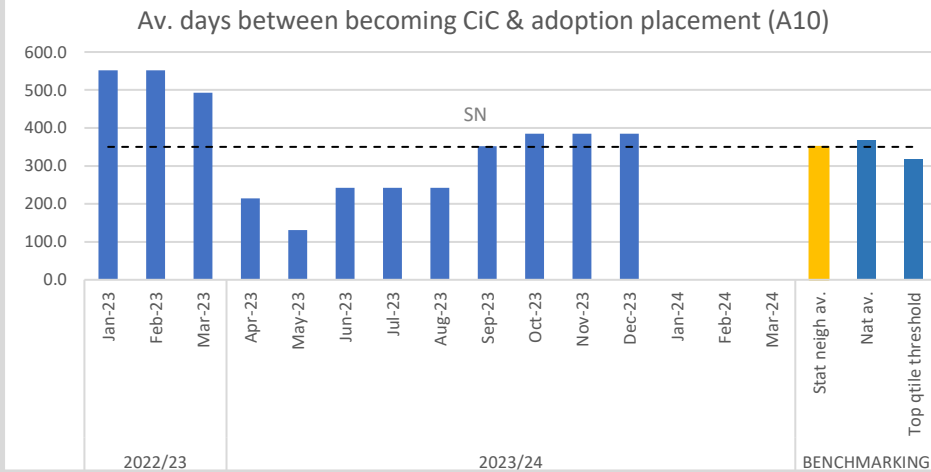
25 placements created via foster carer approvals (ytd)

Adoptions & Care Leavers

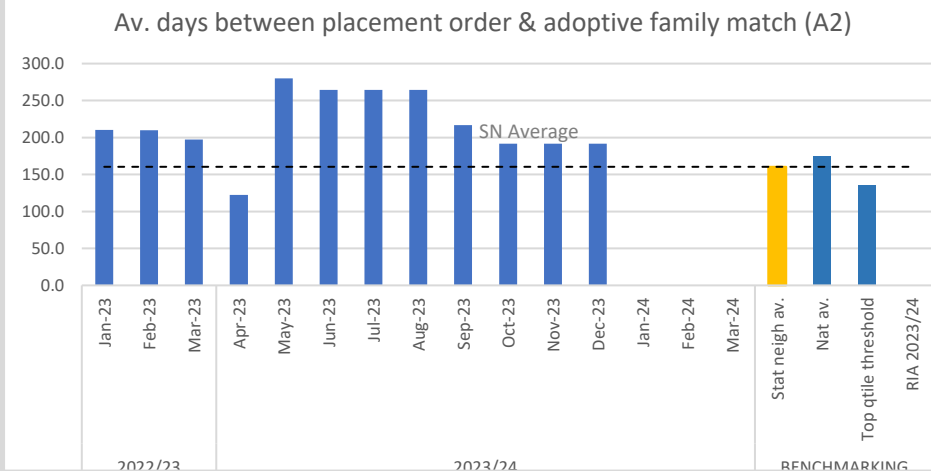
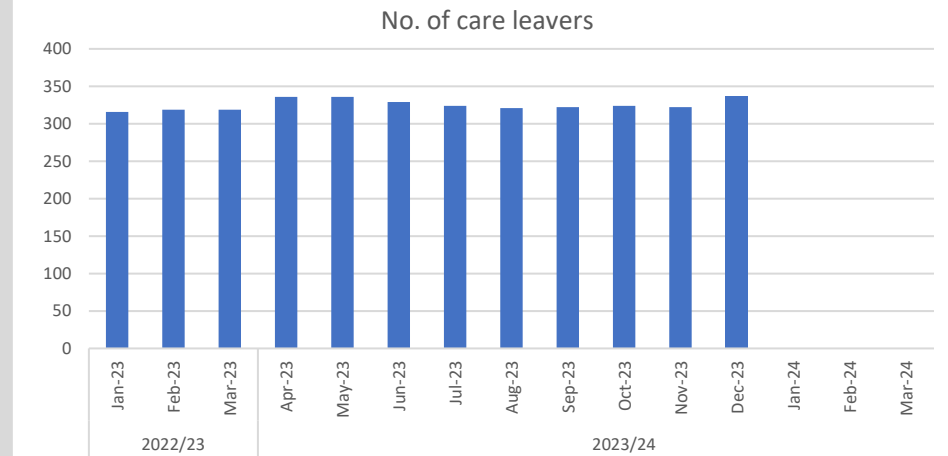
Following a child becoming looked after, it may be deemed suitable for a child to become adopted which is a legal process of becoming a non-biological parent. The date this is agreed to be in the best interests of the child is known as their 'SHOBPA'. Following this a family finding process is undertaken 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



Care Leavers



337 care leavers as at the period end

72.7% of eligible CiC & 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

72.4% of care leavers were in employment, education or training at the period end

5 adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA (ytd)