

Public Document Pack

Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group

Monday, 25th July, 2022

6.00 pm

Meeting Room A

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd March 2022**
CPSAG Minutes 3rd March 2022 (002) **2 - 7**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
Declarations of Interest **8**
4. **Vice Chairs Update**
5. **Participation Update**
6. **Foster Carers Association Update**
7. **Corporate Parenting Dashboard**
CLA - July 2022 - Dashboard **9 - 12**
8. **Care Leavers/Ofsted Action**
9. **Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**
For the Group to confirm 5th October as the revised date for the next meeting.

Date Published: 21st July 2022
Denise Park, Chief Executive

Agenda Item 2

CORPORATE PARENTING SPECIALIST ADVISORY GROUP
Thursday, 3rd March 2022

PRESENT – Councillors: McFall (In the Chair), Bateson, M Desai, S Desai, Fielding, Floyd, Gunn, S Hussain, Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood, McGurk, Rawat, Riley, Salton, Taylor and Whittle.

OFFICERS –

Jayne Ivory – Director Children’s Services & Education

Emma Ford – Deputy Director, Children’s Social Care

Joanne Siddle – Deputy Director, Schools & Education

Imran Akuji – Head of Service, Partnerships, Intensive Support, Policy and Performance

Elizabeth Clarkson – Participation & Inclusion Manager, Children’s Services

Helen Kane – Service Leader, Placements

Jeremy Wood – Team Manager, Childrens

Carol Smith – FCA Committee

Sam Briggs – FCA Secretary

Amelia Brummit - Specialist Safeguarding Practitioner, NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG

Care Leaver

RESOLUTIONS

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Cllr Pat McFall, welcomed all present to the virtual meeting. Apologies were received from Martin Eden, Judith Fennell, Paula Quinn and from the following Councillors: Damian Talbot, Julie Slater, Abdul Patel, Mohammed Khan, Jane Oates, Jacquie Slater, Stephanie Brookfield, Zamir Khan, Mark Russell, Dave Smith, Jean Rigby, John Slater and Dave Harling.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on this Agenda

RESOLVED - There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 10th January 2022

RESOLVED – The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th January 2022 were approved as a correct record with no matters arising. It was agreed that an update on Oral Health would be well received at a future meeting.

4. NEET Update

Imran Akuji was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair, and provided an update on Care Leavers aged between 17-24 years that were not currently in Education, Employment and Training.

The Group were informed of the latest position of Care Leaver activity (17-18 year olds) as at 18th February 2022, based on a cohort of 25, that we had a higher percentage of young people in higher education than regional and England averages. For ‘Education other than Higher’ (up to and including A Level) Blackburn with Darwen was lower than the regional and England average. The total EET was the same as regional but below the England average and subsequently NEET was above the England average.

The Group then compared those figures to the Care Leaver activity (19-21 year olds) and it was noted that we had a higher percentage of young people in Higher Education than the England average and the same as the regional average. In training and employment we were lower than the regional average but higher than the England average. Blackburn with Darwen had a significantly higher percentage of care leavers with an illness and disability than regional and England averages. EET continued to be lower, with NEET above England and regional averages

In terms of support and engagement, Imran highlighted the following:

- Covid has had an impact, and NEET figures had increased during the pandemic. This had particularly affected Year 12 students who missed out on the usual transition arrangements such as college/sixth form visits and face-to-face meetings with staff and other students. The virtual alternatives were not as effective. This has resulted in some drop-out (which has also happened for non-looked after young people).
- The Virtual School was working hard to re-engage young people up to age 18, and provide additional support through the New Directions Service
- The reach of the New Directions Service would be expanded to support young people aged 18 years to age 25
- A Virtual College would be established to include Children in Our Care aged 16-25 to prepare for adulthood, working with Adult Services and Children's Services

Finally, the Group heard of the work that was still to be done:

- Raise awareness of the apprenticeship offer from BwD, including pre-apprenticeship work placements and work experience
- More consistent active support, encouragement, advice and guidance for young people to continue their education and training (Virtual School, New Directions Service, Virtual College proposal)
- Develop a better understanding of the factors influencing NEET
- Develop a Care Leavers Service Plan to be shared at the next Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group meeting
- Improve the consistency of routine conversations with care leavers about their ambitions to tailor the support they need to help them achieve (relationship with Personal Advisor)
- Launch the support hub at the Limes- primarily a community Hub for supporting our young people -Children In Our Care, Care Leavers, Foster Cares – the ethos it is their building
- Review and relaunch the 'Care Leavers Charter' to keep young people well informed of their rights, entitlements and responsibilities e.g. financial and practical support (including Bursary, Council Tax support)
- Participation - The Voice group is impactful and ensures that young people's voices are heard and effectively responded to. Recruiting additional members would increase diversity and representation
- Continue to recognise the educational achievements of Children in Care and Care Leavers through our annual Celebration of Achievement Event so they know their success is valued

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and that Imran come back to a future meeting to provide a further update.

5. Participation Update

The Group was provided with an update from Care Leaver, and heard that both the Junior and Senior voice groups had met with the Ofsted Inspectors last month at Kaleidoscope Youth Centre.

Care Leavers had also participated in the Senior Voice / Leaving care session where they had been asked about their experience of leaving care service. The Care Leavers informed them that they were working with the Council to co-design an easy to understand document on how children in care could access their information and it was hoped that this information would be given to every child in care in BwD. It was also hoped that this information would be updated on the YPS website which was currently being re-developed and would have a dedicated section for children in care which would have useful information on the services and support they might need.

The Group heard that as a result of low numbers in the senior voice group since Christmas, YPS had been contacting teams and social workers and the foster carers association to promote these sessions.

Funding had been secured to host the circus skills project again which proved very popular last September, these sessions would commence this Thursday for 5 weeks for both juniors and seniors and it was also hoped that a range of outdoor activities in addition to the voice work that takes place, could be offered come Spring.

The Group heard that care leavers, along with the SYA youth forum had been involved in the co-design of the Young Inspectors residential last weekend and whilst the weather had been terrible the group still managed to get outside and participate in some fantastic team building activities.

There had also been an opportunity to participate in a video for the NHS with the youth forum encouraging 12 – 15 year olds to get vaccinated and the importance of still testing and keeping each other safe.

The Group were informed that young people from BwD would be recruited to become young inspectors over the next coming weeks through nominations from schools, colleges and youth organisations and it was hoped that the first inspection would be completed March/April.

Finally, the Group heard that Care Leaver had recently been supporting Elizabeth Clarkson in the recent Youth Elections and the Make Your Mark national referendum in which over 5150 young people had taken part. It was highlighted that the top 3 issues for Make Your Mark in BwD were:

- 1) Jobs, Money, Homes and Opportunities
- 2) Education and Learning
- 3) Health and Wellbeing

The Group expressed their thanks for a comprehensive presentation.

Discussions also took place regarding financial training and assistance that young people would benefit from (HSBC, DWP, Finance department) and it was agreed that this would be looked at in the future.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

6. Corporate Parenting Dashboard

The Group was presented with an update Emma Ford on the latest monitoring report of Children in Our Care as of the 21st February 2022, and heard that the total number of children in care was 389.

Of those, 47% were female and 53% were male. Members noted the age profiles of children in care with 103 children aged between 15 to 17 years old. 73 children were aged between 12 to 14 years, 51 children aged between 9 to 11 years, 46 children aged between 6 to 8 years, 50 children aged between 3 to 5 years and 66 children aged between 0 to 2 years. The Group then looked and the age range of children entering care between February 2021 and January 2022.

Emma informed the Group that 78% of children in our care were of white / UK ethnicity followed by 8% being Asian / Pakistani ethnicity.

Of the total number of Children in Our Care, Emma highlighted that a high proportion of children were placed in the following:- 130 were placed in in-house foster placements, 52 placed with parents, 62 placed with family and friends, 68 placed with agency foster placements. The total number of children entering care so far in 2022 was 4 and the number of children leaving care was 8.

The Group also noted the destination of care leavers with 6% having reached 18, 16% had returned to parents, 12% had moved in with relatives and 20% had been adopted.

The Group then looked at the data for performance compared with national, regional and statistical neighbour averages.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

7. Corporate Parenting Strategy

Jayne Ivory informed the Group of how the strategy set out how corporate parents in Blackburn with Darwen would work together to ensure that children and young people in care, and those who had left care, could grow up to lead happy, healthy lives and experience success.

The strategy outlined Blackburn with Darwen's priorities as follows:

- Participation – the priority was about empowering children and young people to express their voices and influence the decisions being made
- Placements – this priority was about making sure children and young people were provided with a safe, comfortable and caring home
- Education – this priority was about making sure children and young people could be happy and successful in their learning
- Health – this priority was about looking after the health of children and young people including their physical and emotional needs
- Identity – this priority was about supporting children and young people to build a sense of identity so that they know their own history

- Preparation for Adulthood – this priority was about developing life skills children and young people needed to live independently when they grow older

The strategy also included messages from children in care who has been asked to share their views and experiences of being in care.

Discussions took place around the possibility of a task and finish group being set up in order to ensure that these priorities were being driven forward. It was agreed that this would be discussed in further detail and that an update be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

8. Update on Apple Trees and Lytham Road Inspection

Jeremy Wood and Helen Kane attended the meeting to provide updates on the recent inspections that took place at Apple Trees and Lytham Road.

Jeremy informed the Group that the Apple Trees inspection took place on 30th November and 1st December 2021. The overall judgement rating was outstanding. The whole team at Apple Trees felt very proud and were congratulated by the Group for this achievement.

Helen informed the Group that the Lytham Road inspection took place on 13th and 15th December 2021 and the overall judgement was 'requires improvement to be good'. The Group heard that Helen and the team were looking to share good practices in order to improve on this and were currently working on an improvement plan. Despite the judgement, there were strengths to be celebrated such as the recent decoration of the games room which had been well received by the children.

Both Jeremy and Helen were thanked for their updates and their continued hard work.

RESOLVED – That the updates be noted.

9. Subject Access Requests for Care Leavers Files

Emma Ford informed the Group that Zahida Khan and Joanne Grime had been working hard behind the scenes to improve accessibility for care leavers wanting to access their personal files. They had met with young people and key stakeholders in order to better understand what was needed from the request. A full update would be given at the next meeting.

Care Leaver informed the Group that the files needed to be young person friendly so that it could easily be accessed by them. It was noted that once a file had been accessed, support was only offered once to them after they had viewed the file, with no further follow up. Depending on what information was on file, it could be triggering for some care leavers so it was suggested that ongoing support be made available to care leavers.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and a further update be provided at the next meeting.

10. Foster Carer’s Update

Carol Walsh and Sam Briggs were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair, and together they updated the Group on the following:-

- Approximately 100 children would be taking part in a swimming gala on Saturday at Darwen Leisure Centre and the FCA would be using the time as an opportunity to carry out a recruitment drive
- The TeePees had been booked again for the 10th July but the FCA were short of funds. A fundraising event would be taking place at Feniscowles Cricket Ground and any donations / raffles prizes were welcome
- Concerns were raised why the FCA had to pay to use Council venues – it was agreed this would be looked into
- Discussions also took place around preparing young people for adulthood especially around managing money
- Foster Carers had attended a recent Youth Justice training course which had proved very beneficial

On behalf of the Foster Carers Association, Carol and Sam expressed their sincere thanks to both Councillors McFall and Bateson for their hard work and dedication to Children’s Services over the years.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

11. Out of Hours Services update

Helen Kane informed the Group that the Out of Hours service was currently being looked into. A couple of options were being explored in order to support foster carers and young people and a full update would be available at a later meeting.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and that an update of out of hours contacts for foster carers be provided at a future meeting.

Signed:

Date:

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

MEETING: Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group

DATE: 25.07.2022

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

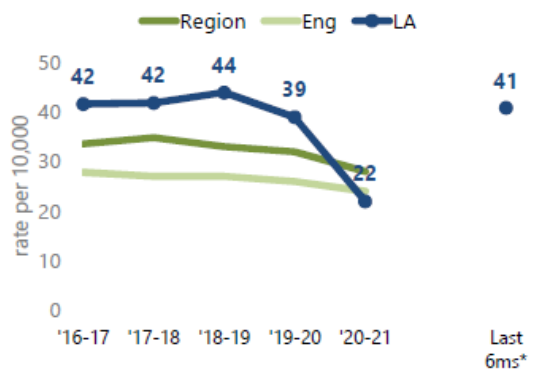
SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

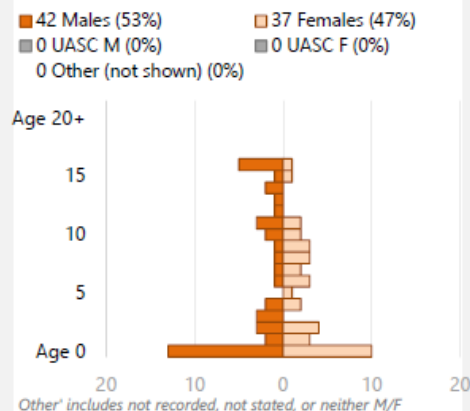
(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)

79 CLA started in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA started per 10,000 children



Age and gender



*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

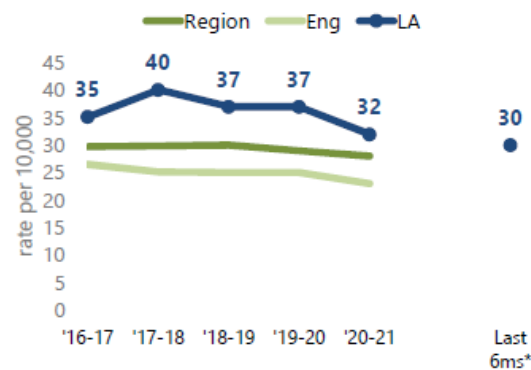
0 of the 79 CLA starters were unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

13%

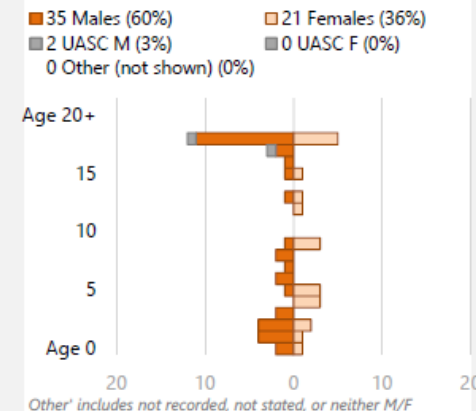
10 of the 79 CLA starters have previously been looked after

58 CLA ceased in the last 6 months

Rate of CLA ceased per 10,000 children



Age and gender



*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

Reason episode of care ceased

Adopted



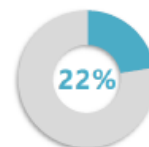
Last 6 months
16%

2020-21 (published)	LA	Region	Eng
	17%	11%	10%

Number of CLA ceased by reason in the period

Adopted	9
Died	0
Care taken by another LA	0
Returned home to live with parents/ relatives	5
Live with parents/relatives (not PR)	7
Residence order granted	2
Special Guardianship Orders	13
Moved into independent living	0
Transferred to residential care funded by ASS	0
Sentenced to custody	0
Accommodation on remand ended	0
Age assessment determined child was 18+	0
Child moved abroad	0
Any other reason	22
Not recorded / Error	0

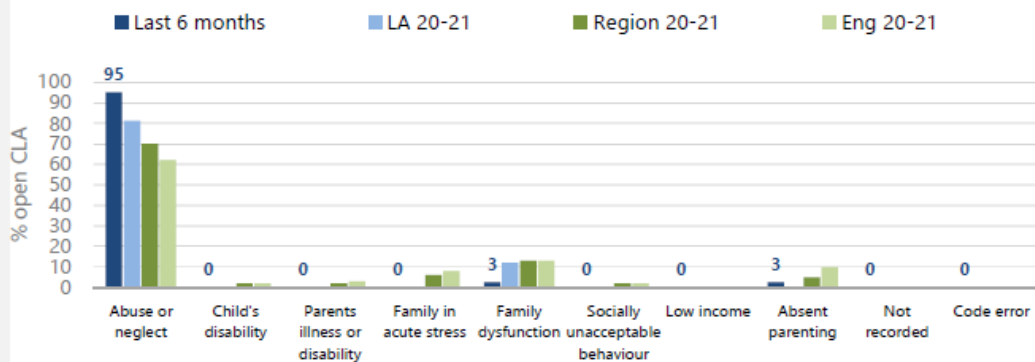
Special Guardianship Order



Last 6 months
22%

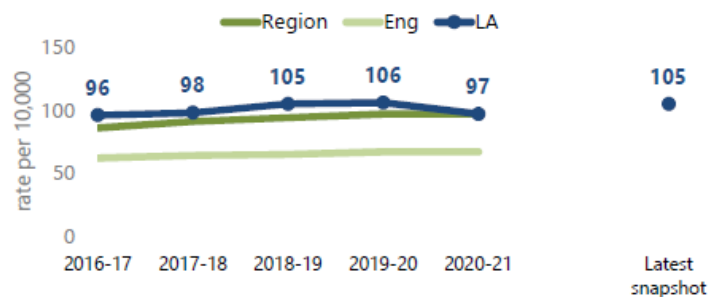
2020-21 (published)	LA	Region	Eng
	25%	17%	14%

Comparing the primary need of CLA starters



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

Rate of CLA per 10,000 children (snapshot)



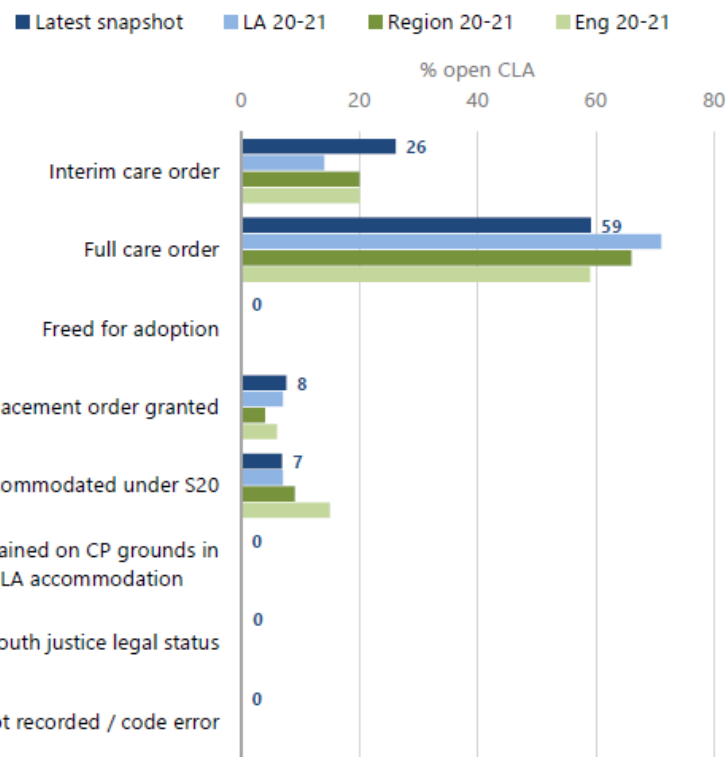
Ethnic background

	All CLA	Not UASC	UASC
White	79%	80%	0%
Mixed	6%	6%	0%
Asian or Asian British	9%	9%	29%
Black or black British	0%	0%	0%
Other ethnic group	6%	5%	71%
Not stated	1%	1%	0%
Not recorded	0%	0%	0%

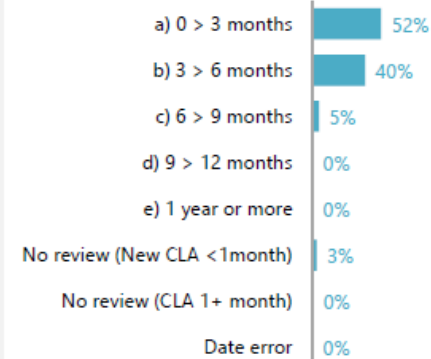
25 children (6%) with a disability

See page 22 for comparisons

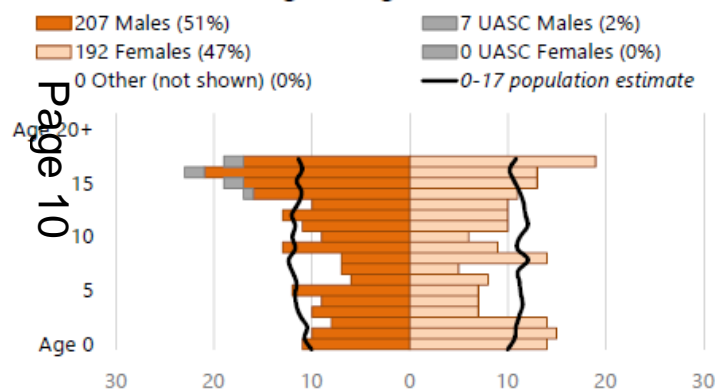
Comparing legal status of open CLA (snapshot)



Time since latest review



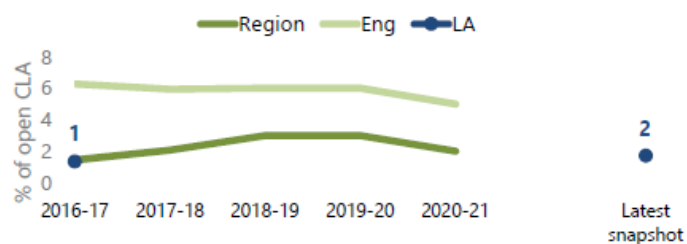
Age and gender



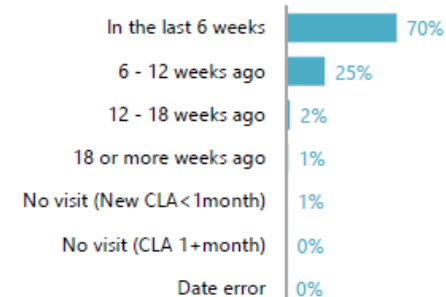
Other includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

7 open unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

UASC as a percentage of CLA (snapshot)

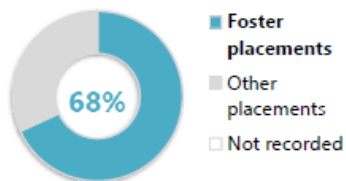


Time since the child was last seen



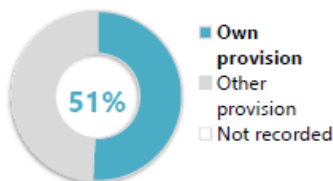
CLA placements by type and provision

Foster placements



LA 2020-21: 66%
 Region 2020-21: 67%
 Eng 2020-21: 71%

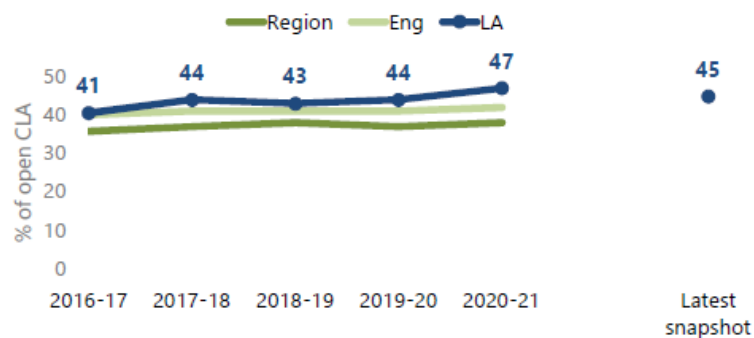
Own provision



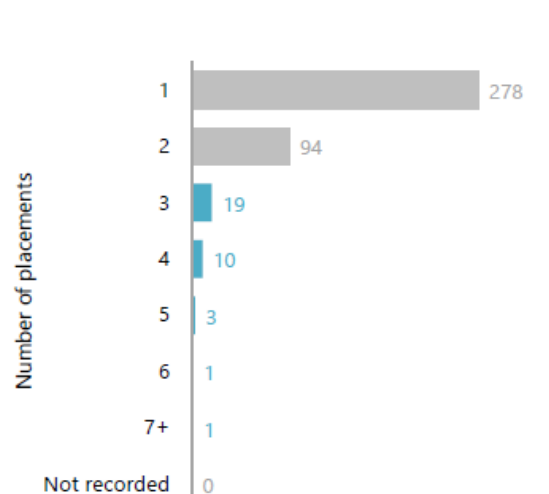
LA 2020-21: 56%
 Region 2020-21: 50%
 Eng 2020-21: 48%

Placement type (open CLA)	Own LA	Private	Other	Total
Foster placement	190	80	7	277
Placed for adoption	8	0	5	13
Placed with parents	0	0	56	56
Independent living	0	0	0	0
Residential employment	0	0	0	0
Residential accommodation	1	18	0	19
Secure Children's Homes	0	2	0	2
Children's Homes	4	27	1	32
Residential Care Home	0	0	0	0
NHS/Health Trust	0	0	0	0
Family Centre	0	2	0	2
Young Offender Institution	0	0	1	1
Residential school	0	0	0	0
Other placements	4	0	0	4
Temporary placement	0	0	0	0
Total placements	207	129	70	406

CLA placements out of borough

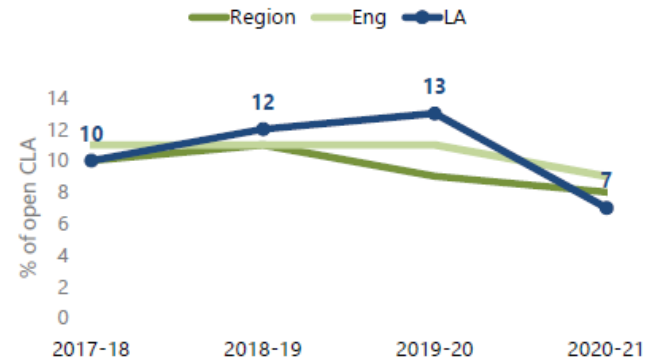


Number of placements in the last 12 months



May include "status" changes as well as placements

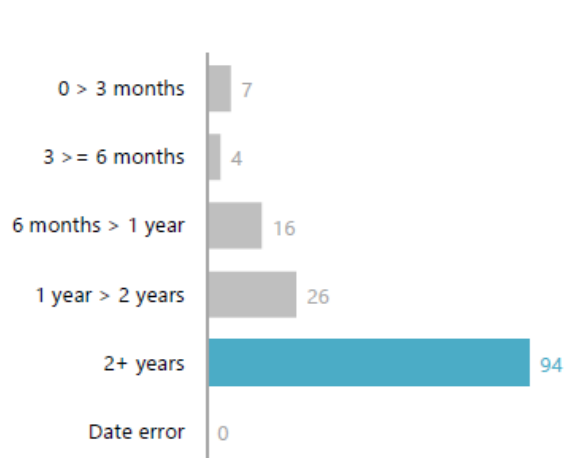
Comparing short term placement stability



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

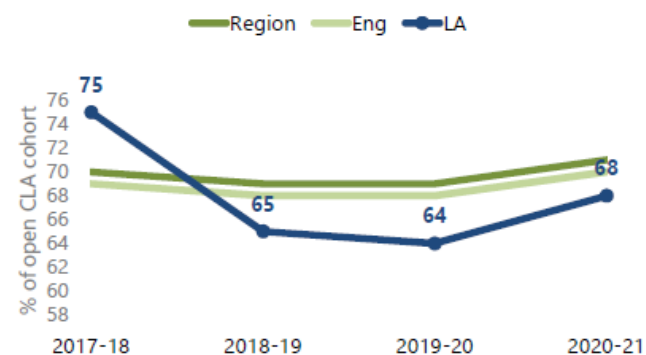
Duration of placements

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



May include "status" changes as well as placements

Comparing long term placement stability



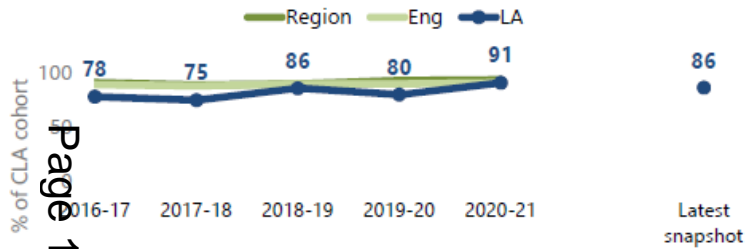
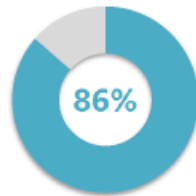
Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present long-term stability alongside published statistics

Health

279 current open CLA looked after for at least 12 months

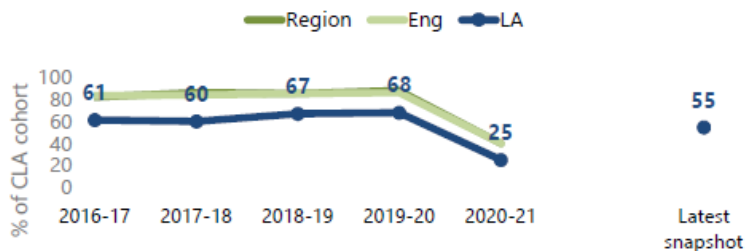
Health assessments

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)



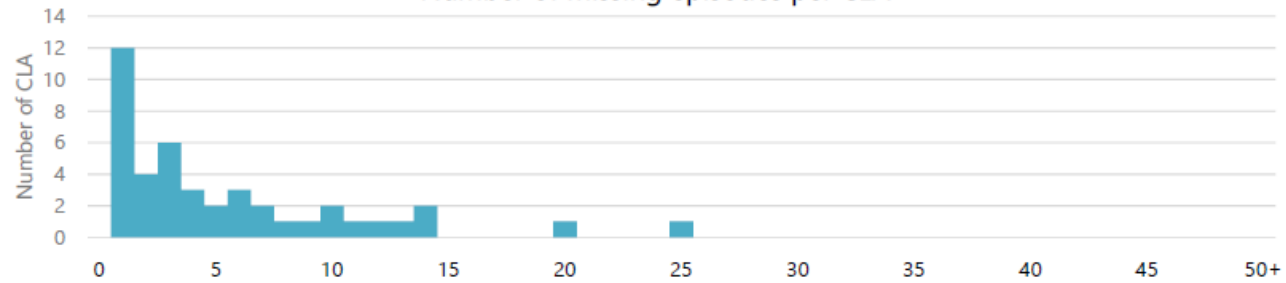
Dental checks

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

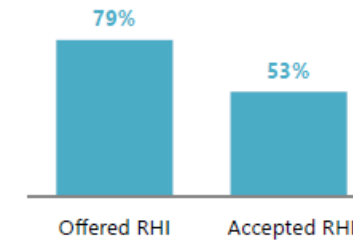


43 of 466 looked after children had a missing incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 20-21	Region 20-21	Eng 20-21
Number of all CLA with a missing incident	43 of 466	32		
Percentage of all CLA with a missing incident	9%	6%	10%	10%
Total number of missing incidents for all CLA	238	129		
Average number of incidents per CLA who went missing	5.5	4.0	6.9	6.6

Missing incidents - return home interviews

	Latest data	
Missing children offered return interview	34 of 43	79%
Missing children not offered return interview	3 of 43	7%
Missing children return interview offer not recorded	6 of 43	14%
Missing children where return interview was n/a	0 of 43	0%



	Latest data	
Missing children accepted return interview	18 of 34	53%
Missing children not accepted return interview	16 of 34	47%
Missing children return interview acceptance not recorded	0 of 34	0%

Absent from placement

0 of 466 looked after children had an absent incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 20-21	Region 20-21	Eng 20-21
Number of all CLA with an absent incident	0 of 466	0		
Percentage of all CLA with an absent incident	0%	0%	2%	2%
Total number of absent incidents for all CLA	0	0		
Average number of incidents per CLA who were absent	-	0.0	3.5	4.0

Please note: this section has not been updated