

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024
7.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall
Contact: Madia Afzal, Democratic Services Officer
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AGENDA

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Committee Members:

Councillors: A Shaheed (Chair), Hemraj (Vice Chairperson), Allen, Asif, Cole, Fenner, S Lane, D Over, Rangzeb, B Rush and Skibsted

Substitutes: Councillors: A. Bond, Fox, Ray and Sabir

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Madia Afzal on telephone on 01733 452509 or by email on: madia.afzal@peterborough.gov.uk



Annual Corporate Parenting Report

2022-2023

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FOREWORD SUMMARY



The Peterborough Corporate Parenting Committee (CPC) oversees the duties of the Council and its partners' duties in respect of children in care and care leavers to ensure these are being fulfilled. It also seeks to improve the life chances of children in care and care leavers in Peterborough.

During 2022-2023 our children in care (CiC), care leavers, their carers, and the services that support them, have faced challenges because of the economic impact of COVID-19 and the impact that this had on emotional, mental, and physical well-being as well as the services that were in place to support and respond to need. Despite this there has been a great deal of activity progressed during this year including the development and publication of our

CiC promise, a corporate parenting strategy to ensure that we continue to focus on ensuring that our children and young people can achieve their potential in all areas of development, and initiatives to increase our recruitment of foster carers.

The formal and informal Peterborough Corporate Parenting Committees have strived to ensure that the children and young people in our care had their needs understood and met throughout this period. There is a great deal to undertake in 2023-2024 to ensure that our children and young people receive excellent care to enable them to thrive and achieve their potential in all areas of life as they transition from children through to adult life.

GOVERNANCE AND BACKGROUND

Peterborough City Council (PCC) and relevant partners hold corporate parenting responsibilities set out within the Children Act 1989 and The Children and Social Work Act 2017. This means that there is a shared responsibility by the councils, the elected members, employees, and partner agencies to support children and young people in care or care leavers to have the best start in life.

Being a good Corporate Parent means:

- we accept children in our care are our responsibility
- we provide them with the same outcomes as any other reasonable parent.
- prioritise their needs.

This is achieved by working closely with the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and the Care Leaders Forum (CLF) to ensure we are listening to and acting on their views to continuously improve our services to ensure that we care and support all children and young people that we look after and our care leavers.

Every child needs to be loved, cared for, and to feel safe, and PCC's corporate parenting responsibility is to provide that care, protection, love and safety to the children and young people we look after and our young people who are care leavers. Statutory guidance 'Applying corporate parenting

principles to looked after children and care leavers' (2018) notes the following:

the critical question that local authorities should ask in adopting a [corporate parenting] approach is: 'would this be good enough for my child?' (pg 5 para 1.1)

DfE (2018) report noted that nationally sixty percent of children in care were received into care because they had suffered abuse or neglect and as an impact of this many have poorer educational and health outcomes than their peers.

To ensure that PCC fulfils its statutory duties towards children in care and care leavers our Corporate Parenting Committee meets quarterly to hold PCC and relevant partners to account for delivering on all their corporate parenting responsibilities. The Corporate Parenting Committee is chaired by Councillor Dennis Jones and informal meetings of the Corporate Parenting Committee are co-chaired by young people who are care experienced. Meeting attendees include young people from the CiCC and the CLF, Health colleagues, and representatives from across the council where services are relevant to improving the opportunities for children in care and leaving care young people.

The PCC Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2023 sets out the vision for our children and young people in care and identified measurable improved outcomes to be achieved aligned to seven priority areas that we will deliver for our children and young people:

- Keeping you safe
- Respecting you
- Being honest
- Making decisions together
- Where you live
- Your health
- Your relationships

Our priority areas for our care experienced young people also include:

- Respect
- Helping you be the best you can
- Clear communication
- Finding a home
- Support

The implementation of the strategy has been overseen by the Corporate Parenting Committee during 2022-2023. Oversight has included quarterly feedback reports 'You Said, We Did' led by the participation service and our Children in Care and Care Leavers to ensure that the strategy remained a relevant and live document during the year. The Corporate Parenting Strategy aligns to the Seven Principles of Corporate Parenting, which have been developed to ensure that all core requirements for children to thrive are in place for all children in care and care leavers. The seven principles ensure that our children in care and care leavers are at the centre of every decision made for them when planning, delivering, or evaluating services.

Seven principles of corporate parenting:

Health and Wellbeing of Children in Care and Care Leavers

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.

The Voice of Children in Care and Care Leavers

2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
3. To consider the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people.

Aspiration and Achievement

4. To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people.

Quality, Planning, Stability and Permanence

6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.

Care Leavers and Transition

7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independence.

This annual report will provide an evaluation of the work completed with our children in care and care leavers matched to the seven principles of corporate parenting, that have been overseen and scrutinised by the Corporate Parenting Committee between April 2022 and March 2023.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

Principle 1: To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.

Achievements

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) completed a project designed to destigmatise mental health and highlight the importance of seeking help and support for young people. This culminated in an animation video with an original spoken word piece that will be shared across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire schools and services in June 2023. The purpose of this was to strengthen mental health awareness and encourage young people to talk about their mental health.

During an informal meeting of the Corporate Parenting Committee in January 2023, the Chair of Health Scrutiny and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health, and Public Health, noted that they had raised questions with the NHS about what actions were being undertaken to improve mental health services and support. This topic remained on the Scrutiny Committee's agenda to ensure that actions were being completed.



YOUUnited, an NHS service that provides a central front door for referrals for children and young people aged 5-17 presenting with concerns for their emotional well-being and mental health, was launched in 2021. YOUUnited comprises of four partners: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT), Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS), Ormiston Families, and Centre 33. The service receives referrals from professional, parents, carers, and young people and assesses the level of need and intervention required and refers to the most appropriate services. Data regarding the number of referrals received and the impact of services was not captured within 2022-23, however this will be reported on in next financial year 2023-2024.

Centre 33 has offered services to children and young people in Peterborough outside the YOUUnited central front door since October 2019. The service, 'Someone to Talk to', offers holistic support to 13-25 year olds, including, but not limited to, housing,

sexual health, relationships and domestic abuse, with a large proportion of these young people also presenting with some mental health difficulties. Since its inception in October 2019 there has been a steady increase in the number of young people accessing the support offered. During 2022-2023 985 young people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough accessed the someone to talk to support area of the service offer. Of those young people 496 accessed the higher-level flexible support aspect of the someone to talk to service, which is an increase of 98 young people compared to the previous year, and an increase of 187 compared 2020-2021.

In January 2020 a five-year national initiative was rolled out to provide support for mental health through the implementation of mental health support teams. The teams offer 1:1 short term intervention to young people; provide support to the mental health lead within schools; and provide support to develop a whole school approach to responding to mental health. In 2022, 50% of Peterborough schools were





included within this initiative and 100% will be part of this by 2025. This service provides early support to young people and schools to reduce unnecessary escalation of emotional and mental health concerns. This means that young people have their needs responded to quickly and other targeted services are not overwhelmed.

There was an improvement in timeliness of Annual Health Assessments with 89.7% of young people receiving their assessment within statutory timescales in comparison to 83% in March 2022. We aim to achieve 93% of annual health assessments in timescale during the next financial year.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a document that is required to be completed prior to a Health Assessment being completed and this had not been the case in most health assessments completed. During the first quarter of 2022 the Children in Care Council reviewed the SDQ and made amendments to the document so that it was more relevant and accessible to children and young people. The 22 changes that had been suggested were all accepted and embedded within the revised SDQ and it is anticipated that this will be completed prior to health assessments because young people have a better understanding of the questions and the purpose of the SDQ.

Health Passports are completed for all young people who are leaving care aged 17 and 100% of young people have a health passport with 66 provided to young people during this reporting year. The Health Passport provides the young person with important information about their health, including a health chronology, and all immunisations dates which could be useful when a young person is entering adulthood and when planning to have their own children or applying for a job.



In addition, a wallet passport is provided, which holds the young person's NHS number, details of their GP, dentist, opticians, and any known health conditions, which are provided to support the young person to transition smoothly into adulthood. Young people who decline a health assessment are contacted to seek consent for the health passport to be completed with the support of their carer, the social worker and the health professional, and the health passport is then given to the young person by the most appropriate professional. An audit of the impact of Health Passports on transition for young people was undertaken, but due to a lower than expected return on questionnaires, this is something that will be further considered during the next financial year.

During the third quarter of this reporting period the Children in Care Council provided feedback on the priority areas identified by Peterborough to ensure that services and care are high quality and focused on improving lives for young people. The Children in Care Council fed back

noting that there was a 'huge shortage of mental health support.

A Mental Health 3–5-year strategy was developed and launched in July 2022. The strategy included the requirement to understand the level of demand for Mental Health services across Peterborough with an expectation that this would be fed into the JSNA. This work will provide specific information regarding the needs of our children in care and our care leavers. The work will enable a better understanding of the service offer matched to demand. In March 2023 foster carers were provided with trauma informed practice training to improve their understanding and care for children and young people living with them. The Mind of My Own One App has continued to be available for young people to express their wishes and feelings and support them to engage with their reviews and shape the services that they receive. This year has seen the App being used less than previous years, which may be linked to the strength of the participation work that has enabled young people to share their views in different ways.

Areas for development 2023-2024

Timeliness of Initial Health Care Assessments (IHA) was poor with only 24.5% completed within timescale compared to 41% for the same period last year. This was linked to referrals being made late and the capacity of health practitioners to undertake the IHAs. Joint working between Health and Children Social Care will begin in 2023 to agree a process that will improve this area of practice. This is an important area because the IHA helps us to ensure that physical and mental health needs are identified as soon as a child is cared for by PCC and services identified to address need.

Only 79.4% of our CiC received a dental health check within expected timescales. The impact of COVID has meant a reduced availability of NHS dentists locally and nationally. Identifying accessible NHS dental treatment for our CiC and care leavers is a priority area in 2023.

The Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire (SDQ), which is expected to be completed for every CiC to support the completion of a Health Assessment, had not been completed to the level required prior to the

assessment, with only a small percentage being returned prior to a Health assessment being completed. This meant that time within the assessment was taken up completing the SDQ rather than assessing the young person's health needs. This will be addressed by Children Services and Health in 2023-2024 to ensure the correct person with the most knowledge of the child supports with the completion of the SDQ prior to the health assessment being completed.

During 2022-2023 there continued to be significant pressures on Tier 4 CAMHS services, which can be linked to the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown. During that time there was an increase in demand for mental health services for children, and waiting times increased. Compounding this was the limited availability of staff as some of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) staff had been redeployment to support the COVID vaccination response. These pressures resulted in waiting lists for the CAMHS service. This was responded to through the introduction of a new assessment process to identify young people that would need a short intervention (1-2 sessions), to respond to need.



THE VOICE OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

Principle 2: To encourage young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.

Achievements

A total of 1012 Child Care Reviews (CCR) were held and 99.3% took place within statutory timescales. Most of these meetings were held using a hybrid model with the social worker and IRO meeting with the child face to face.

All children over the age of four participated in their CCR to inform the shaping of their plan, in the way that best suits them, attending part or all their meetings, using the paper consultation booklet, the Mind of My Own app, or sending their views through their IRO or another trusted adult.

48% of children over the age of four years attended part or all their meeting in person which is 17% more than the previous year. Of the children who did not attend their review, 36% sent their views in advance and 16% briefed their advocate with their views. Others gave their views via other means including meeting with the IRO prior to their review.

In response to feedback from our children and young people the Participation Service held face-to-face and virtual events with our CiC and care leavers during school holiday.



The events were designed to:

- Build relationships
- Get ideas for engagement and service improvements
- Give young people a chance to connect with others in a similar situation
- Increase awareness of and involvement in the CiCC
- Recruit to other participation groups and opportunities.

In late July 2022 a CiC Awards and Celebration Day, designed by young people from the Children in Care Council and Awards Planning Committee, was held to recognise the skills and attributes held by our children in care and care leavers that included helpfulness, resilience, bravery, strength, hard work, and passion.

The annual virtual art exhibition was launched during the summer on themes chosen by the CiCC. Young people and foster carers were invited to watch the video alongside members of the Corporate Parenting Committee and Social Work teams.

The participation team 'get your voice heard' leaflet details participation opportunities for young people who are cared for, or care experienced and include activities to help children and young people to:

- Meet other children and young people.
- Build confidence and transferrable skills including communication skills
- Gain valuable experience which can be included on CVs.
- Share their knowledge and expertise of Children's Social Care
- Improve services for children and young people

The Children in Care Council met predominantly face to face over the last year and received regular updates from all participation groups. Activities including the 'Children in Charge' Youth Club, Young Inspectors, Young Recruiters, Young Trainers, and other feedback are discussed with the CiCC, who identify action for themselves as well as overseeing the service response to feedback.

The Children in Care Council was involved in creating the Ideal Worker and Ideal Foster Carer animation videos, to explore further ways to improve training for professionals in Children's Social Care and continue to work on the recent Every Word Matters project, looking at the language used around children with social care experience.

The Children in Care Council drafted a new version of the Children in Care Promise, which has been printed and shared with Children in Care, Children's Services and Corporate Parents. The young people made sure the promise was realistic, relevant and that the language and style were child friendly. The Children in Care Promise was also translated into six other languages to reflect the needs of Children in Care.

Members of the Children in Care Council attended a regional youth voice conference hosted by the British Youth Council in February 2023, alongside the Peterborough Youth Council. During the day, they participated in public speaking workshops and developed their campaigning skills through a mock simulation.

The Participation Team established a Care Leaders Forum (CLF) for Care Leavers to look at issues specifically relevant to them. The group has met both virtually and face to face to maximise opportunities for care leavers to participate.

Feedback from the CLF included:



The participation team developed an offer to young people who are placed out of area to enable them to share their views and feed into the Children in Care Council and CFL forum. This offer was virtual and is being developed to enable face to face meetings.

Young Inspectors reinspected supervised contact centres across Peterborough during October and November 2022 following their initial inspection in 2021. As a result of this work and being involved in some of the improvements including the painting of a mural at one of the centres, the Inspectors won the 2023 National Coram Participation Award. Feedback from the young people involved in the project included:



Young Inspectors completed an inspection of a local authority children's home in February 2023, which offers short breaks and shared care placements to children and young people with severe disabilities between the ages of 5 and 19. The subsequent report and action plan was shared with the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Feedback from the group included:



Young recruiters were involved in interviewing more than 60 candidates for roles across Children's Services throughout the year. This included a recently established working relationship with Anglia Ruskin University. Young people's involvement in recruitment strengthened the service's decision-making and demonstrates to candidates the local authority's commitment to hearing the voice of the child.

As part of the foster carers annual review, the views and wishes of children and young people are obtained. Both the positive feedback from children and any areas of development for the carer are acted upon and shared as part of this process

Areas for improvement during 2023-2024

Participation is a strong area of practice within Peterborough, however an audit of CiC in September 2022 identified that although our children and young people had a good understanding of their plan, they were less aware of why they had been separated from their families, with a small number of those audited

evidenced that this had not been discussed. This position was corroborated by the young people who raised this through their feedback to the informal corporate parenting committee in 2022. Children and young people have asked to be better informed, and we need to strengthen this area.

Children and young people have asked for us to act on what they say, and progress actions agreed in a timely manner. This is an area that needs strengthening to ensure that we are clear when there are delays and that there are valid reasons aligned to timescales for completion.

Contact centres were improved with the oversight of the young inspectors, however contact centres will require further improvements in 2023 to ensure that there is capacity to ensure all children have contact that require this. CiC and Care Leavers who live in homes that are 20 miles or more from Peterborough do not always have the same opportunities to engage in participation activities. This is an area to be strengthened within the next reporting year.



THE VOICE OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

Principle 3: To consider the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people.

Achievements

After the success of their ideal foster carers video, Young Trainers worked with the Children in Care Council to launch a video on what makes the ideal workers, including Social Workers, IROs and Designated Teachers, for use in recruitment, induction, and training of workers. Feedback on both videos was overwhelmingly positive, including:

Please pass on a huge thank you on behalf of us all in our fostering service to everyone who gave up their time to put this together and share their thoughts on what makes an ideal foster carer. It is a really excellent video, so thoughtful and thought-provoking - I can almost hear the conversations in Foster Carer training that will flow from this...

I've watched it this morning and wanted to say that I thought it was brilliant. It is really clear and explains all the really important messages. I think it's really important to remember about when we arrange meetings so it doesn't interrupt lessons that are important, and having time afterward to feel ready to go back into learning.

"EVERY WORD MATTERS!"

words that you don't like?



**FOSTER CARER
FOSTER CHILD
PLACEMENT**



NAMES & LABELS



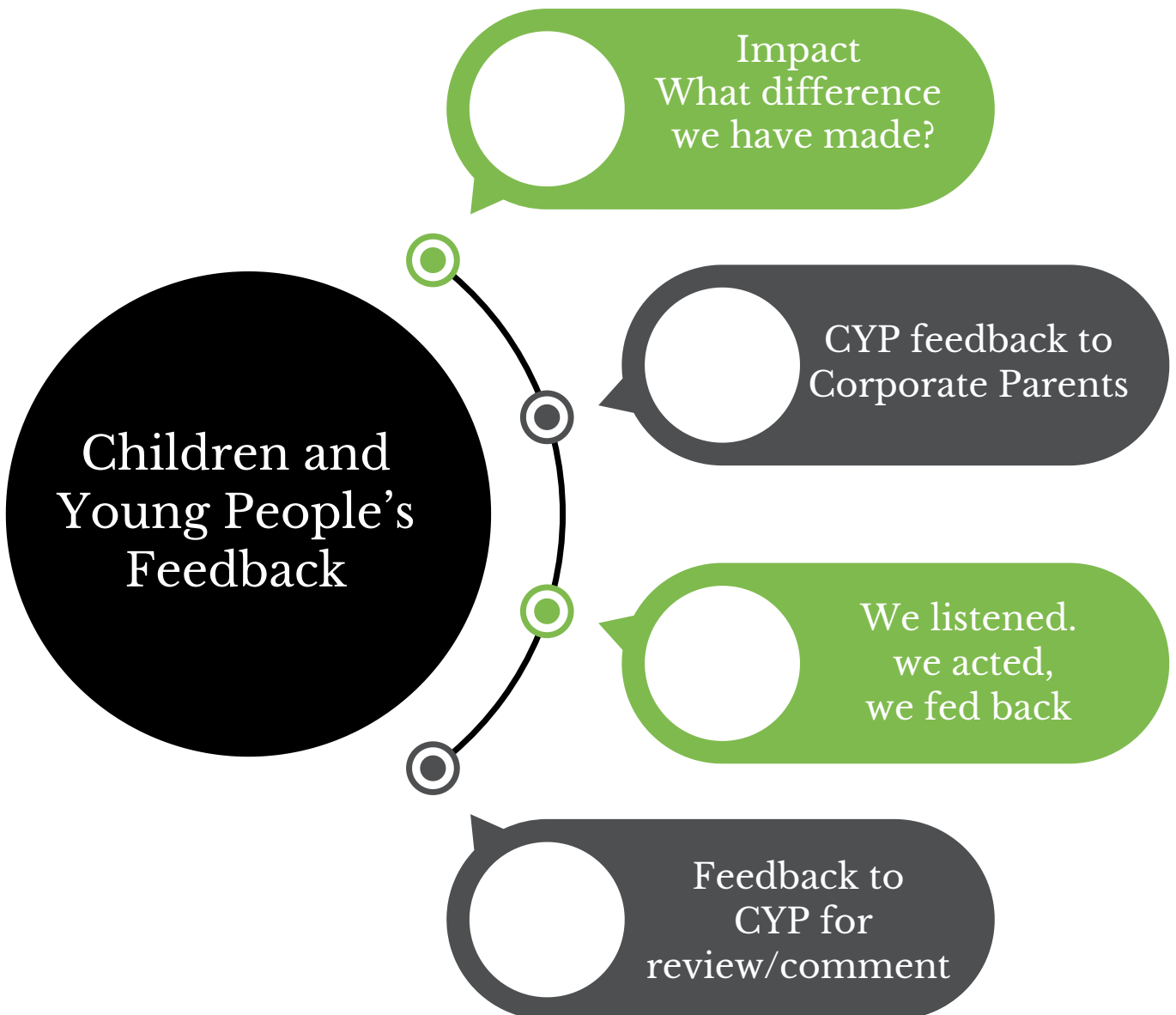
PARTICIPATION

Young Trainers were involved in each new foster carer training course in 2022/2023, sharing their expertise to improve the knowledge and skills of new and prospective foster carers. They also delivered training to the ASYE social workers in February 2023.

The Participation Strategic Group is attended by Children’s Social Care Service Managers and Heads of Service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. This group has ensured participation activity is on the agenda at all levels and that each service has a Participation action plan, which is

reviewed by young people. The group ensures that the feedback loop is maintained and has driven service engagement in participation opportunities including a focus on young people recruitment, team champions, and consultation work with the CiCC.

A strong and effective Corporate Parenting feedback loop is in place to ensure that the voice of our young people and care leavers is heard, listened to, and acted on. This feedback loop includes CPC, Fostering Service, Senior leaders, virtual school and is facilitated through the participation service.



ASPIRATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

Principle 4: To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the Local Authority and its relevant partners.

Achievements

The Children in Care Council has continued to consult on key issues important to children and young people to help improve services for Children in Care, and enjoy having the opportunity to do so and knowing what action has been taken as a result:

We get to have an impact on things that young people need and could help other young people.

I'm here... to give young people a voice and to give young people what I never had which is my passion.

Consultation work in the year included:

- Participating in a focus group around mental health and wellbeing with the Youth MP.
- Coproducing the new Virtual School website.
- Consulting on Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and the PEP process.
- Reviewing the Young People's Booklet about Child Protection Meetings.
- Being consulted and involved in Peterborough's plans for a Youth Zone, including visiting Barent Youth Zone to tour facilities.
- Sharing feedback on the review meetings and booklet.



Peterborough Virtual School (PVS) support children and young people in care between the ages of 2 and 18. The Virtual School brings together information about children and young people who are cared for by Peterborough as if they attend a single school.

Additionally, Peterborough Virtual School provides information and advice for children previously in care including those who have been adopted from care and those under special guardianship and child arrangement orders. Peterborough Virtual School is responsible for children previously in care attending a Peterborough school or education setting.

Statutory reporting regarding Children in Care educational achievements focuses on children that have been Children in Care for a year or more. In key stage 4, out of 34 young people, 7 achieved a grade 4 or higher in Maths and, seven young people achieved a grade 4 or higher in English. Of these young people, six achieved both English and Maths at grade 4 or higher and 3 of these achieved both at grade 5 or higher. Three young people achieved attainment 8 grades of 52, 57 and 58 respectively.

Analysis of the group of six young people who achieved good grades shows common characteristics of their journeys:

- No disruption to secondary education – all attended 1 secondary school only.
- All achieved age related expectations at the end of Year 2 and Year 6
- School attendance was high >97%
- Pupil premium plus grant was spent on academic interventions including tuition.
- Minimal changes of homes – 4 had only 1 home, 1 had 2 and the 3rd had 3 homes.
- On average they had been in care for 8 years.
- All have progressed onto level 3 courses.

A range of additional qualifications were gained by young people beyond GCSEs. These included functional skills qualifications in both English and Maths, BTEC level 1s and 2s and AQA single awards. One young person with complex SEND achieved her functional skills in English, City and Guilds for Working Life and a double WEJEC Humanities Pathway



A student may appear in multiple columns.

Academic Cohort 2022-2023	ESOL Courses for EAL Students (including pre-entry & transition courses)			Functional Skills (English & Maths Courses)		Individual Curriculum Education	NVQ, BTEC and other Vocational Courses			GCSE / A-Level	
	Pre-entry or Transition	Pass	Withdrew or did not pass	Pre-entry or Transition	Withdrew or did not pass	Course ongoing	Grade awarded	Course ongoing	Withdrawn or not recorded	Grade awarded	Withdrew or not recorded
Year 12	15	6	2	6	2	2	10	1	6	8	2
Year 13	13	10	6	2	-		7	-	19	12	-
Total Post-16 Cohort	15	16	8	8	2	2	17	1	25	20	2

Two young people have progressed onto Higher Education courses are undertaking degrees in initial teacher training and nursing. The table below shows the destinations of young people at the end of Years 12 and 13.

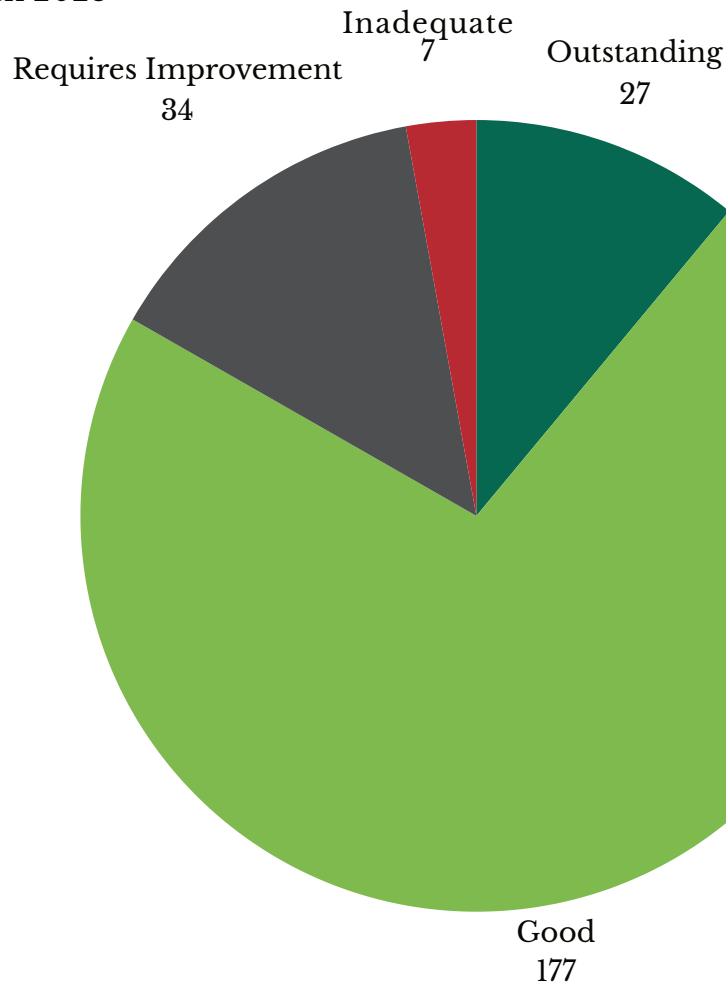
Academic Cohort 2022-2023	Year 12	Year 13
UK higher education institution	-	2
Further education	33	25
Other education destinations	4	-
Sustained employment destination	-	1
Not recorded as sustained destination	-	2
Activity not captured	10	25

% CLA attending school judged to be good or better	
Year 2	83% (5 of 6 pupils)
Year 6	82% (18 of 22 pupils)
Year 11	89% (40 of 45 pupils)

The lower percentage of children attending a school judged to be good or better in Years 2 and 6 is due to several of the schools converting to academies and have not been re-inspected yet, therefore previous judgements remain. It is expected that conversion to an academy and membership of a multi academy trust will drive improvements. Peterborough Virtual School monitors all children, but those in schools judged to be less than good, are subject to closer scrutiny.

Ofsted Judgement - Reception to Year 11

January to March 2023



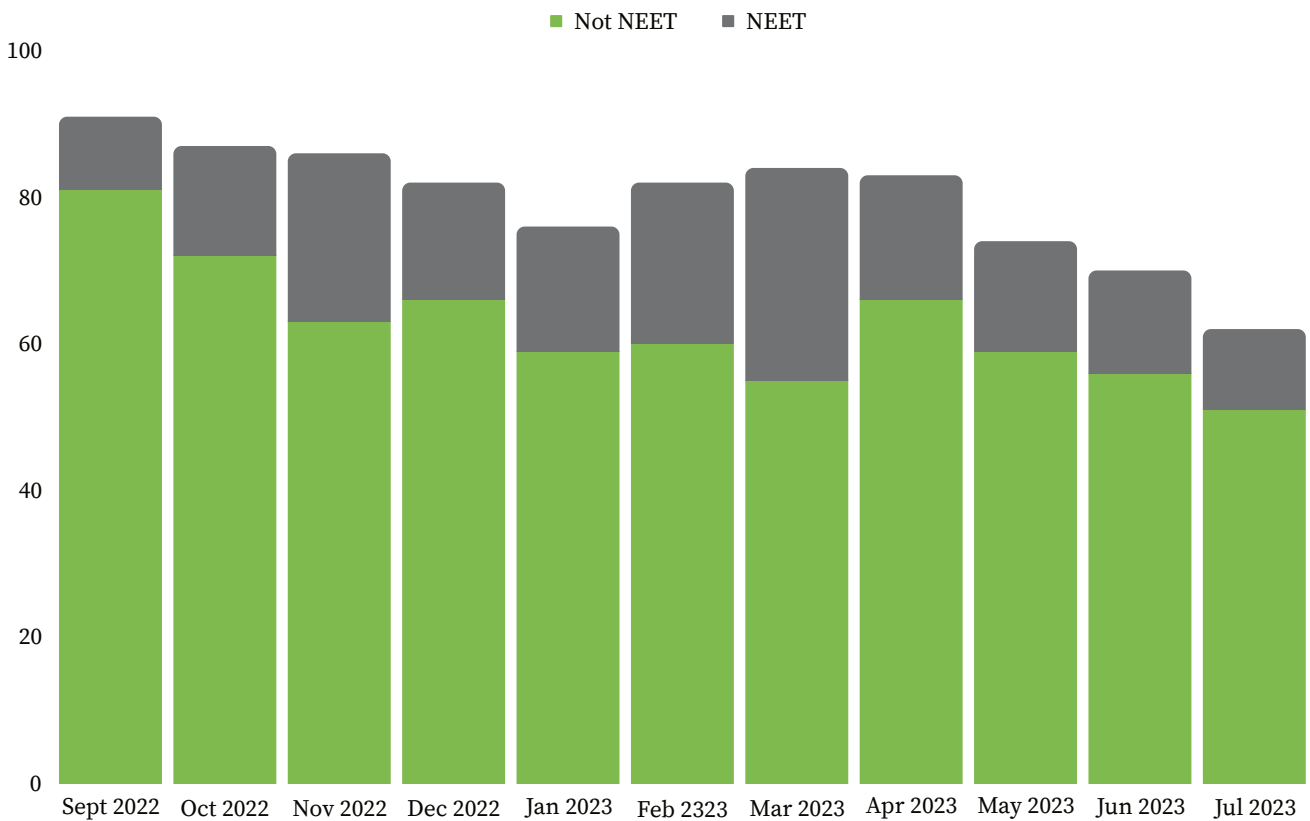
Next academic year an enhanced offer will be made for schools and settings who are not good or outstanding to ensure that any children attending are not disadvantaged.

Nationally, attendance has improved for all children including those in care over the last academic year, however it is still significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels. Attendance data always runs a year behind the other data releases, the 2022-23 data is not due for release until March/April 2024.

Peterborough children in care have an absence rate of 7.2%; this compares favourably against the Eastern Region (8.5%) and statistical neighbours (8.09%) averages.

The cohort of young people not in education or training (NEET) fluctuates across the academic year; to be determined as NEET a young person must be beyond statutory school age (Year 12 and upwards) and not accessing any education, employment, or training. Specific trigger points include the end of October which is the point at which colleges review engagement and officially enrol the young person, and a second trigger point is Christmas.

Total Post-16 Cohort - 2022-2023 Academic Year



The above table shows number of NEET young people (aged 16 and 17) in care over the 2022-2023 academic year. This year the average percentage was higher than previous years due to high number of withdrawals and disengagement sometimes linked to emotional mental health. It should be noted that the decline in numbers within the total cohort declines over the academic year when young people reach their 18th birthday.

The number of care leavers in March 2023 that turned 18-21 during this reporting year was 115 and of those 41 were (35.7%) were identified as NEET. This includes those young people that are pregnant, teenage parents, have a disability and have presenting illness as well as those in prison. Although this is 0.7% off the 35% target set for the year, Peterborough's performance is above statistical neighbours, and England.

The Peterborough Virtual School offered a range of training opportunities for foster carers; the fostering service is shared across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and therefore some of these sessions were completed in collaboration with Cambridgeshire Virtual School. This year courses were attended by an average of 65% of those booked, with some sessions reaching attendance of 90%.

77% of session evaluations (of which 60% completed) highlighted an improvement in knowledge. All courses were delivered virtually. Fostering shared their Carer training survey results with PVS and the PVS intends to deliver e-learning and a Foster Carers Conference in the next academic year.

Below is the training delivered in this reporting year:

- How to support your child with their education – Early Years/Preschool
- How to support your child with their education – Primary
- How to support your young person with their education – Secondary
- How to support your child with their education – Post 16 (for young people in Y9-Y13)
- How to support your child/young person with transitions (Primary to Secondary school)
- Supporting school readiness and transitions to school (Early Years)
- Supporting your child as a reader (FS and KS1)
- How to support your Separated Migrant Child (SMC)
- My future self - How to support your child to develop high aspirations.
- Supporting your younger child as a writer (KS1)
- Supporting Children with Maths at KS1 and KS2

The Peterborough Virtual School Educational Psychologist is also available for consultation.

During the academic year 2022-2023, 1108 Personal Education Plans (PEP) meetings were held. PEP meetings are led by the Designated Teacher in

settings and attended by Social Worker, Carer and the child/young person if they wish to. 100% of Peterborough's CiC had a Personal Education Plan (PEP) in place throughout the year. This is reflective of the strong partnerships between PVS, Designated Teachers, carers, and social workers.

All PEPs are quality assured by Peterborough Virtual School staff and those judged to be below an acceptable standard trigger additional support and challenge from the VS team. Most PEPs (95%) are judged to be 'on target' meaning following quality-assurance, the PEP meets the expected standard in all areas. For those that fall 'below target,' PVS staff will provide support, training, and challenge to the relevant professionals to ensure rapid improvements are made.

An audit of ePEPs undertaken in April 2022 identified good practice in completing PEPs ensuring that all areas of a child's needs in relation to learning were addressed with evidence of effective and collaborative multi-agency working to meet children's educational and developmental needs.

Throughout the year there was a significant increase in the numbers of separated migrant children coming into the care of Peterborough City Council.





In March 2023 Peterborough was caring for 47 separated Migrant Children, which is an increase of 19 compared to March 2022. This is attributable to an increase in the National Transfer Scheme allocation from 0.007% to 0.01% of the total child population. This has placed a significant strain on college places due to limited ESOL (English as a Second Language) places. Typically, the number of separated migrant children arriving increases in the Spring due to improving weather conditions and therefore NEET figures peaked in March 2023. Considerable strategic work was undertaken by Peterborough Virtual School in partnership with Further Education providers at this point and almost all young people requiring ESOL provision were able to start on a bespoke ESOL Transition programme by Peterborough College in April 2023. The limited availability of ESOL provision remains a priority for the forthcoming year.

An additional educational psychologist for CLA and children recently adopted was recruited to strengthen the response to CLA within education. The areas of focus for this post are:

- Developing team confidence – Change management
- Relational practice – trauma informed to support a culture shift within schools.
- Child level consultancy
- Stabilise school places - Team around children

Areas for improvement 2023-2024

To continue to recruit foster carers to offer caring and stable homes to our children and young people they care for.

To continue to strengthen the offer from the Peterborough Virtual School so that children in our care are supported to achieve their potential within education.

Strengthen the support offered to our leaving care young people to ensure that they have the correct skillset, support, and direction to enable them to transition into adult life. This will need to include regular face to face visits with their Personal Advisors, as feedback from our care leavers highlighted that face-to-face added value to them.

To ensure equality of educational support and quality regardless of the school or educational provider for all Children in Care and Leaving Care Young People.

Although audit identified that children were offered support within school, those children placed outside a 20-mile radius of Peterborough do not have the same access to support from the clinical team that is offered to young people living within a 20 mile radius of Peterborough and this will require further consideration to ensure equality of service regardless of your home.

ASPIRATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

Principle 5: To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people.

The Participation Service commissioned two Leadership Training events for Children in Care across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The training, facilitated by the British Youth Council, was open to children and young people from the CiCCs, CLF, Young Inspectors, Young Trainers and Young Recruiters as part of their ongoing training and development. The sessions were followed by lunch for participants and fun activities. Feedback from the group included:

I plan to use the skills I have learned at school and at my army cadets

I made a new friend and I really enjoyed it.

It was good – I learned a good way to solve problems using the ABCD method.

I like how it was for us and helps us get better skills.

It was enjoyable, interesting and inspiring

I plan to use the skills for future groups I teach.

The decision making was really good, I can use that straightaway and actually it would have helped me make decisions quicker if I'd known before.

The Fostering service supports foster carers to have high aspirations for children and young people to enable them to meet their potential. Every new foster carer is allocated an experienced foster carer mentor who guides them through their first year of fostering. There are facilitated support groups where foster carers can share their experience and knowledge in addition to attending training to ensure that they are able to support children and young people achieve best outcomes.

A thematic audit of Children in Care in September 2022 identified that there was evidence that most young people in foster homes were having their needs met in relation to forming relationships, receiving affection, and being nurtured, a critical component for children especially when supporting them to seek high and achievable aspirations for themselves.

Where children were living in residential or semi-independent placements, there was some evidence that the majority had positive relationships with trusted adults. However, for these children, records could be improved by evidencing how their needs, relating to relationships, affection and nurture were being met.

ASyEs were invited to lead on relationship building with the participation team. This was to raise awareness of the work of the participation team and embed the

importance of working alongside children and young people from an early stage in the career of the social worker.

Areas for improvement 2023-2024

Supporting Children in Care and care leavers with their emotional and mental health has been an area of focus for 2022 and will be for 2023 to ensure that there is a proportionate response to the needs of our CiC and care leavers at point of need.



QUALITY, PLANNING, STABILITY AND PERFORMANCE

Principle 6: For children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.

Local Authorities are required to take steps to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for children in care within their local area. The Peterborough sufficiency statement was published in 2021 and since the sufficiency statement was published Peterborough has seen significant pressures occurring both nationally and locally, affecting the sufficiency of provision across children services including (but not limited to), COVID -19 Pandemic, Brexit, and the recent cost of living crisis. Despite current pressures, Peterborough City Council has remained committed to securing the best possible outcomes for children and young people in Care, leaving care, or at significant risk of coming into care.

Peterborough's Children in Care Population has increased by 15% since April 2021, from 369 to 412 (in March 2023). Similarly, Peterborough has seen increases to the number of children placed in externally commissioned homes (18% increase, from 185 in April 2021, to 219 in March 2023); this use of external provision continues to constitute 52% of Peterborough's homes.

Achievements

Peterborough City Council operates a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) (in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council) for the provision of Children's External homes (including Independent Fostering Agency [IFA] placements).



As of March 2023, there were 44 IFAs on the DPS, 90% of whom are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. This is an increase since March 2020. Good and outstanding carers are more likely to offer stability of care for our children and young people and to be willing to work with support services so that challenges in homes can be addressed to reduce the risk of breakdown in homes through the offer of meaningful and targeted support. Stability meetings are held as soon as issues are identified, and these meetings include partner agencies and commissioners to ensure that the correct support is given to reduce the risk of breakdowns in homes and increase the likelihood of strong and supportive care. Data shows that Peterborough performs well in this area with only 6.8% of our children experiencing three or more home moves in a one-year period compared to a national figure of 10%. Care plans for children and young people that have experienced high homes moves are reviewed to ensure that the care plan provides the necessary support to mitigate against further placement breakdown.

Of the 412 Children in Care in March 2023, 109 (26%) were placed outside the 20-mile radius of Peterborough.

An audit undertaken in September 2022 identified that children placed out of area received the same service that children in area received. The audit found that, in the main, children and young people were placed in good quality, stable out of area homes that met their individual, often complex, needs and risks. There was evidence that interim support was put in place or panel funding agreed to mitigate any delay in meeting children's education or health needs in their placement area. For a small number of children, progress to their care plan was impacted by them being placed out of area, relating to access to resources and support. There was evidence that practitioners were working hard to mitigate and address this, but the impact on care planning was evident.

When children were missing, return home interviews were completed and appropriate risk assessment tools used to understand risk. For a small number of children, progress to their care plan was impacted by them being placed out of area, relating to access to resources and support. There was evidence that practitioners were working hard to mitigate and address this, but the impact on care planning was evident.





Peterborough has seen 66% growth in residential homes, from 9 (including Local Authority Secure Welfare and Short Break homes) in January 2021, to a total of 15 homes in March 2023. This far exceeds the growth seen across England (7%) and the Eastern Region (15%) and comes at a time where sufficiency nationally is in crisis. This provision is not PCC Local Authority owned, rather private sector business creating additional residential provision in the region.

During this financial year the fostering service recruited four new fostering households, however during that same period 12 fostering households resigned leaving a net loss of 6 households. In March 2023, 58% of our Children in Care were living with in-house foster carers and this can be linked to the investment in a dedicated Fostering Resource Team, which has improved sufficiency of use of in-house carers, which has increased the number of children living with in-house carers. Although several fostering households resigned, the focused retention activity, led by the Fostering Resource Team, saw a reduction overall in resignations of foster carers.

Our Fostering Community is supported by a locally delivered extensive training programme, locally delivered peer support groups, locally based experienced Foster Carer Mentors, and well-established Foster Carer forums across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which provide invaluable support, advice, and guidance to Foster Carers and to the service. The training programme for in house foster carers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, ensures foster carers have the knowledge and skillset to keep children and young people safe, and mentoring support to strengthen the fostering community and enable effective learning and support for new foster carers. The training offer has included safeguarding children and safer care practice, keeping children safe on social media, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, and self-harm. Foster carers work closely with therapists, schools, and health services to ensure that they can support children to a high standard and keep them safe. During 2022-2023 97 training courses were offered through face to face, Teams, and e learning. In total 911 foster carers attended across the year.

In addition to this, three six-week courses were offered to exploring the foundation for attachment and 40 foster carers attended.

A strategy to improve recruitment of foster carers was developed and is being implemented. The purpose of the strategy is to increase the number of foster carers that can offer quality care and support to teenage children, and to increase diversity, skills, and experience of foster carers to ensure that we have the correct foster homes to meet the needs of our children. As part of this, our corporate parenting champions spoke on Salam Radio, a Muslim community radio station based in Peterborough that also streams live on social media, regarding the need for diversity in foster homes to support our young people that need care. This resulted in two prospective carers contacting the fostering service to express an interest in fostering, one of whom is progressing through the assessment process.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is responsible for investigating allegations which are made against an adult who has responsibility for and care for a child. The LADO investigated 12 referrals relating to foster carers during the reporting period. Four of the referrals were regarding Independent Fostering Agencies and eight were regarding in house foster carers.

All referrals were timely, and the meetings were attended by the supervising social worker and the team manager. Of the 12 LADO investigation in this reporting year 3- remain ongoing, 2 were substantiated, 4 were unfounded, and 2 were a mixture of unfounded and unsubstantiated.

In August 2022 a threshold decision dip sample was undertaken, which included a review of decision making of the most recent young people received into our care, excluding separated migrant young people. The review identified that children were received in to care appropriately with the correct threshold applied. Some children entered care following a period of Pre-Proceedings (PLO) and Interim Care Order applications to Court. When a child was received into our care in an unplanned way such as through Police Protection, there was evidence of timely multi-agency information gathering to contribute towards threshold decisions and to secure appropriate homes for them.

Where S20 of the Children Act 1989 had been agreed, there was clear approval and communication between senior management to discuss the plan for the child. For children where reunification with parents was the preferred plan, consideration was given to the length of time that would be required to address



specific concerns and ensure a safe and lasting transition home. In a small number of cases the planned length of time under S20 had to be extended due to unforeseen circumstances and revised plans and authorisation was added to the child's record as appropriate.

However, completion of profile and matching forms was noted as being delayed in almost all child cases reviewed, with forms remaining in draft for extended periods beyond their stated due date.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Annual Adoption report 2022 – 2023 identified that 28 children in Peterborough had a plan for adoption and of those 17 children were made subject to a Placement Order. The Adoption Agency has a success rate of being able to place 71% of those children who had a placement order with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough adopters. Those placed outside the timescale of 1 year from the Placement Order being granted were harder to place with seven being part of sibling groups and the other four being over 4 years old or with complex developmental needs. This was fed into the marketing strategy for 2023-2024.

Over the year 21 children were adopted in Peterborough, which meant that 19% of Peterborough's Children in Care left care via adoption. This is a higher achievement nationally (10%), and Eastern Region (12%)

There are close relationships between the Recruitment & Assessment team and the Family Finding Teams which has enabled early identification of matches within the agency. This has also enabled early identification of children where an interagency match will be needed.

The Family Finding Team Manager for adoption attends the Permanency Planning Meetings that are held by the Safeguarding teams. These meetings track all children subject to Public Law Outline and Care Proceedings and this ensures that the Family Finding team is aware of all children that have a parallel plan for adoption and ensure any adoption links are started early in the child's journey. The Team Manager is also able to support and influence plans for children to ensure adoption is considered as a parallel plan at the earliest opportunity.

Peterborough has made positive progress over the year to improve the time elapsed from a child entering care and being placed for adoption. In March 2022 the average number of days in care was 478 and in March 2023 the elapsed time reduced to 415 days. This can be linked to the following practice:

- Increasing the use and promotion of early permanence placements.
- Early referrals to the family finding team, which allows earlier linking.
- Family finding attending the permanence planning meeting chaired by safeguarding, as allowed for the earlier identification of children.

The adoption agency reported that there had been no adoption breakdowns within the reporting year. The adoption panel met on 35 occasions within the year and all but one match was approved.

There was a slight increase in number of children and young people missing from care in this reporting year from 56 in March 2022 to 61 in March 2023 having at least one episode of missing in the year. An audit completed in April 2022 to understand the quality of service response to children that go missing identified that there was improvement in practice since



the previous audit, noting that exploitation risk assessment tools were used to understand current risks, MACE was referred to when that was required, children were offered a return home interview (RHI), and the voice of the young person was evident within those recordings, and strategy meetings captured the reason for a strategy meeting. However, the audit identified some areas for improvement to ensure that our young people that go missing are safeguarded and that there is a plan in place to mitigate further episodes of missing and risk.

During 2022 Peterborough developed a job description for a child exploitation co-ordinator with a responsibility to ensure that children may be at risk or are at risk of exploitation receive appropriate support and intervention. This post will be recruited to during the next financial year. The Safe Team provides practical advice and support to our Children in Care that are at risk of child exploitation. A child exploitation risk assessment tool was developed and rolled out, however audit identified that this was not consistently completed for all children at possible risk of exploitation. Training on the completion of the tool was undertaken with schools to support appropriate and timely identification of risk and emerging concern.

A critical area for all our children and young people cared for by Peterborough is to ensure that children and young people are rehabilitated home if there is a plan for this and it is safe and stable enough to do so. In April 2022 a business case was put forward to build a reunification team that would sit with the corporate parenting service, with a focus on reunification of young people who were in care that would be able to return home if support was provided. The team was agreed, and recruitment started. The impact of this area of activity will be reported in the next reporting year.

Areas for improvement 2023-2024

In March 2023 6% of our care leavers were in unsuitable accommodation. Working to achieve sufficiency of suitable accommodation is a priority and we will work together as a partnership to improve the offer available to care leavers.

Peterborough is working to ensure that we have sufficiency of foster carers to meet the demand for our children to live locally in Peterborough. Despite the sharp focus on this area there was a reduction in capacity of 4 households, and 7 beds fewer than the March 2022. A fostering, recruitment, marketing, and communication strategy 2022-2023 has been launched to increase the number of in house foster homes and to encourage people from all communities to consider fostering so that we can match the children that we care for with the best carers to meet their needs.

In March 2023 35.7% of our care leavers were not in education, employment, or training. Although this is a high percentage, we remain in a better position than statistical neighbours, England and nationally. We will continue to maintain a focus on this area to ensure that our care leavers are provided with the opportunity to

achieve potential.

The percentage of children in care that received a timely statutory child in care visit in year was 90%. This falls below our target of 98% and managers will work closely with social workers to ensure visits to our children are completed in timescale.

Homes stability for long-term children in care with stable homes over 2 years deteriorated over this year from 81% in March 2022 to 69.5% in March 2023. Peterborough remains committed to providing stable and secure home lives to the children that we care for, and we will work with providers and carers over the next year to ensure that children and carers are supported appropriately. A foster carer recruitment strategy has been developed and implemented with a key focus on recruiting local in house foster carers especially able to respond to our 11+ young people.

Our response to children missing from home and care requires strengthening. An audit undertaken in April 2022 identified that the response to children missing was not consistent and there is a requirement to have a strong focus on this area to support improvements and safeguard our children.





Children cared for out of area do experience some inequality of support because they are not within a 20-mile radius of Peterborough, and this included access to resources and support. This is an area that will require further development to ensure that children placed out of borough are placed in areas where resources are available. Child Sexual Exploitation risk assessments were completed, however there was evidence of risks not being updated and this is practice which requires strengthening.

Support for children placed out of area when there is evidence of exploitation is not as strong as for a child placed within the area. The Safe Team does not offer support to young people out of area and Return Home Interviews are completed by the allocated worker and not the Met Hub. This will require further scrutiny in 2023-24 to ensure all children receive the correct services regardless of where their placement is.

The exploitation team will review the child exploitation tool in the next reporting period to ensure that is fit for purpose and easy to use. A data analyst will be recruited to in the next financial

year to better understand exploitation and missing within Peterborough to support all partners to act to reduce risks to young people.

The exploitation team will develop a contextual safeguarding framework to support all partners to know how to identify contextual safeguard and what to do to support a young person at risk of exploitation. This will include all children and hold a specific focus for our CiC.

In February 2023 the National Regional Adoption Agency released the National Standards for Early Permanence and these are standards that all Local Authorities are expected to achieve. Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Adoption Agency has developed a working group, headed up by the Head of the Regional Adoption Agency, to develop an action plan to ensure successful implementation of the standards. This has started internally with the RAA, however this will be broadened to include colleagues in the Safeguarding & Children in Care services so there can be a joined up approach.

CARE LEAVERS AND TRANSITION

Principle 7: To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independence

Achievements

As part of the Care Leaver offer, PCC has partnered with Right Resolution, a local organisation that supports young people leaving care. Right Resolution and the Leaving Care team co-deliver monthly drop-in sessions for care leavers where they offer holistic support to young people to reduce social isolation, provide a valuable support network and help them achieve their individual aspirations. This offer has supported up to 45 care leavers between the age of 16-24 at any one time.

The Care Leavers Forum has shared feedback on pathway planning and is working with the Leaving Care Team to co-produce training materials on money management for young people and consult on areas to be included in foster care training, including a focus on a trauma informed approach.

The Care Leavers Forum has engaged with a Housing Officer to share ideas around support needed for young people entering independent living. Attendees from the forum have also worked with Anglia Ruskin University to attend Social Work Lectures and talk about positive social work practice and support the interview process for students applying for the social work degree.

The fostering service and Children in Care Service has worked hard to ensure that young people wishing to remain with



their foster carer in a Staying Put arrangement is able to do this during this financial year. Twenty-eight children between the ages of 17 and 24 remained with their foster carers under staying put arrangements, which is a slight increase to the previous year (21/22). There is specific training for foster carers related to supporting young people to development their independence skills within staying put arrangements.

A thematic audit of Leaving Care young people undertaken in August 2022 identified that transitions for young people leaving care were planned well and unexpected changes were responded to swiftly, however better contingency planning is required to mitigate against unexpected changes. Pathway plans were initiated when a young person reached the age of 16, where appropriate. Some young people commenced in care later, mainly because they came into care after their 17th birthday, however all Pathway Plans were started within three months of the young person being received into care. While the majority of Pathway plans identified short, medium, and long-term aspirations for young people, several plans audited were not clear and they were not always linked to timescales.

For the vast majority of 19–21-year-olds pathway plans were updated within timescales and all plans had review dates within them, however, in a small number of records, changes had occurred for the young adult that should have triggered an earlier review, and this had not happened.

In November 2022 Pathway Plan training for Social Workers and Personal Advisers was delivered and trainers included young people from the Care Leaders Forum (CLF). Members of the

CLF had previously reviewed and made changes to the pathway plan format and training was delivered to support the roll out of the new pathway plan.

In all the young people's files audited accommodation was appropriate and included in planning. All homes were deemed suitable and evidenced the ability of the home to meet the young person's needs. Visits to our leaving care young people occurred at least within the 8-week statutory time scale unless there had been agreement with the young person to alter the visiting frequency. There was evidence within visits that pathway plans were reviewed in 50% of the records reviewed and pathway plans were updated using the voice of the young person.

An audit of care leavers undertaken in June 2022 identified that there was good evidence to show that children in care and care leavers were supported to obtain, or had important documents such as national insurance numbers, birth certificates and passports. However, this was not the case for separated migrant children / separated migrant care leavers.

Areas for improvement 2023 to 2024

To work alongside our young people transitioning to independent living to ensure that they are provided with good quality advice regarding money management, planning, accessing housing support, and independent living.

To ensure that plans for our leaving care young people include contingency planning to mitigate against unexpected changes that can impact negatively on their transitions.

Pathway plans to be strengthened and to include SMART actions with realistic timescales.

Assessments and plans need to include the voice and views of the young person.

To review the capacity of the Leaving Care service to ensure that there is sufficiency to meet the service demands appropriately.

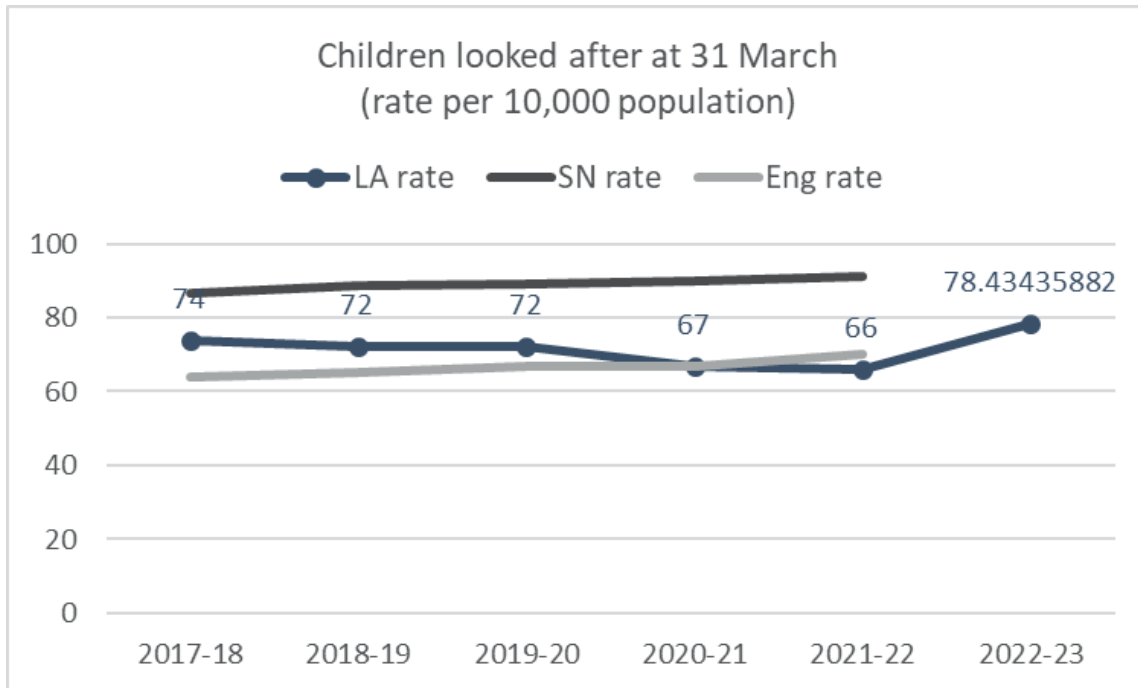
Although audit in June 2022 identified that all important documents were available to young people leaving care, this was not the case for our separated migrant young people. This area is complex and further work will be required to ensure that we have done all that we can to support all young people to transition into adulthood as smoothly as possible.

Areas for focus in 2023-24

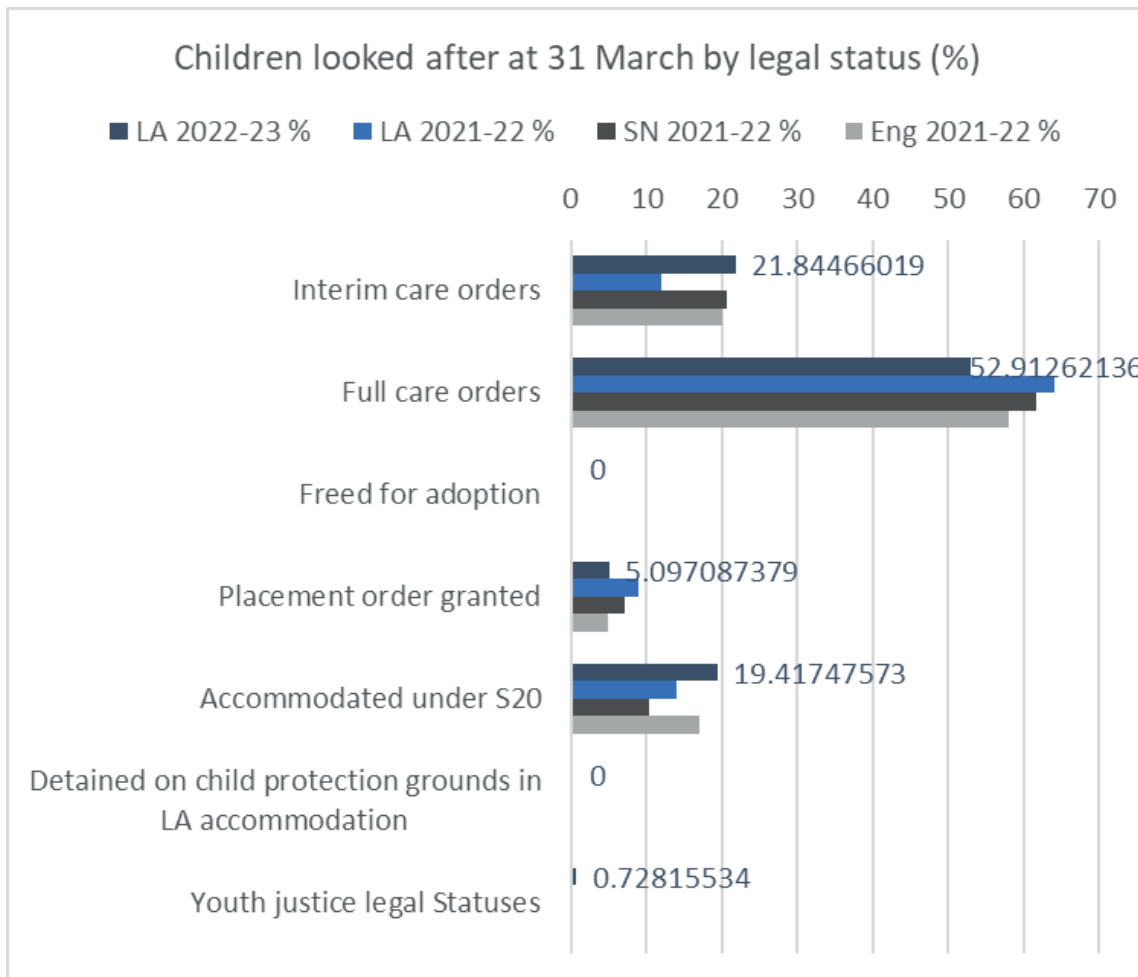
- To undertake an effective corporate parenting self-assessment using the Local Government Association self-assessment tool.
- To review the focus and workplan of the Corporate Parenting Committee following the completion of the self-assessment.
- Review the Corporate Parenting scorecard data to ensure that it provides an overview of the areas of focus as well as usual business.
- To strengthen the role and remit of the Corporate Parenting Champions.
- To review the membership of the Corporate Parenting Committee to ensure that all areas of the council are represented that can improve the lived experiences of our children looked after and care leavers.
- Recruitment and retention of foster carers.
- Strengthen the support offered to our care leavers and ensure that the service is sufficient to meet the needs of these young people.
- Strengthen the way in which our young people can engage with and have access to key resources and activities who are living in homes 20 + miles from Peterborough.
- Review and strengthen the local offer of services available for children and young people requiring mental health support to ensure sufficiency to meet demand across the spectrum of need.
- Strengthen the health data reporting for mental health support to our CiC and care leavers. To include the impact of the service offer on improved outcomes for CiC and care leavers.
- Maintain a strong focus on physical health of our children in care and care leavers to ensure there are no delays in accessing dental care and health assessments / subsequent treatments.



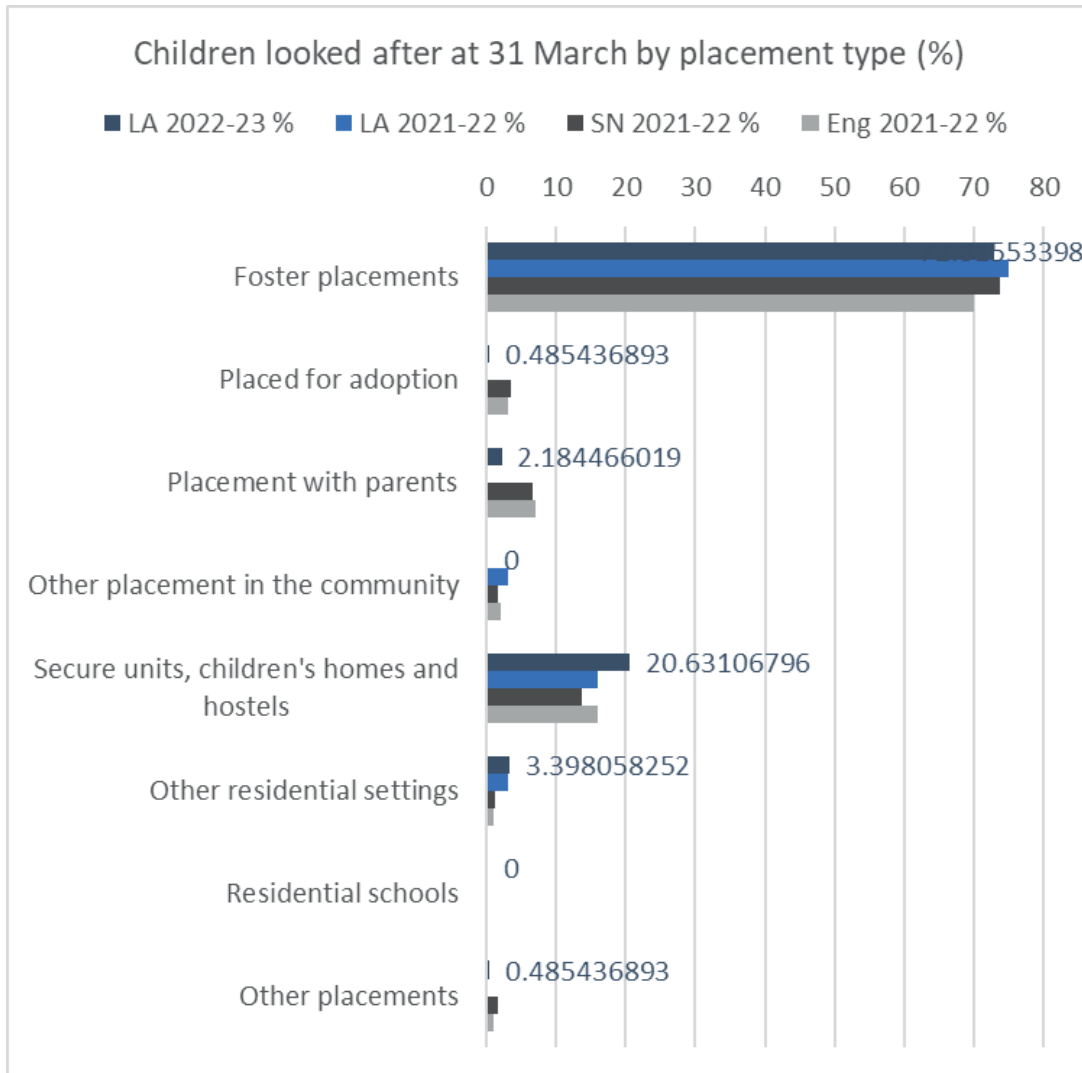
CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT EXTRACT MARCH 2023



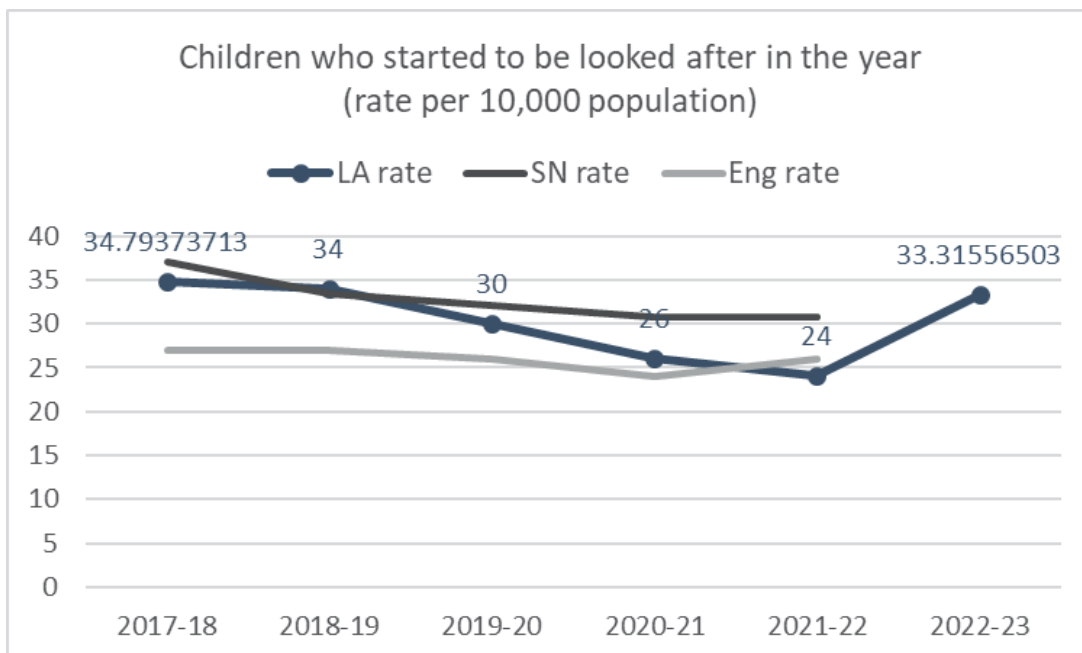
During this reporting year PCC saw an increase in the number of children looked after by PCC. This increase placed PCC above England and below our statistical neighbours.



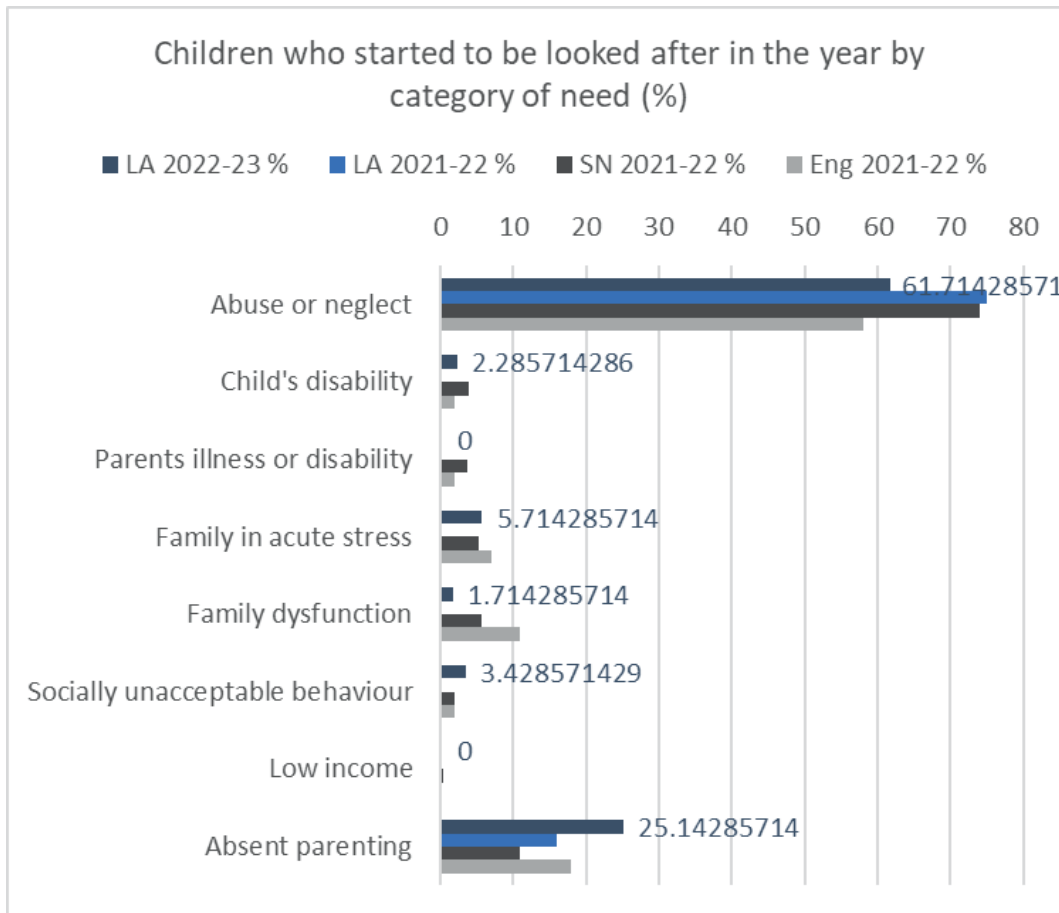
The table above shows that almost 80% of our Children in Care have a legal status that has been agreed through family court processes.



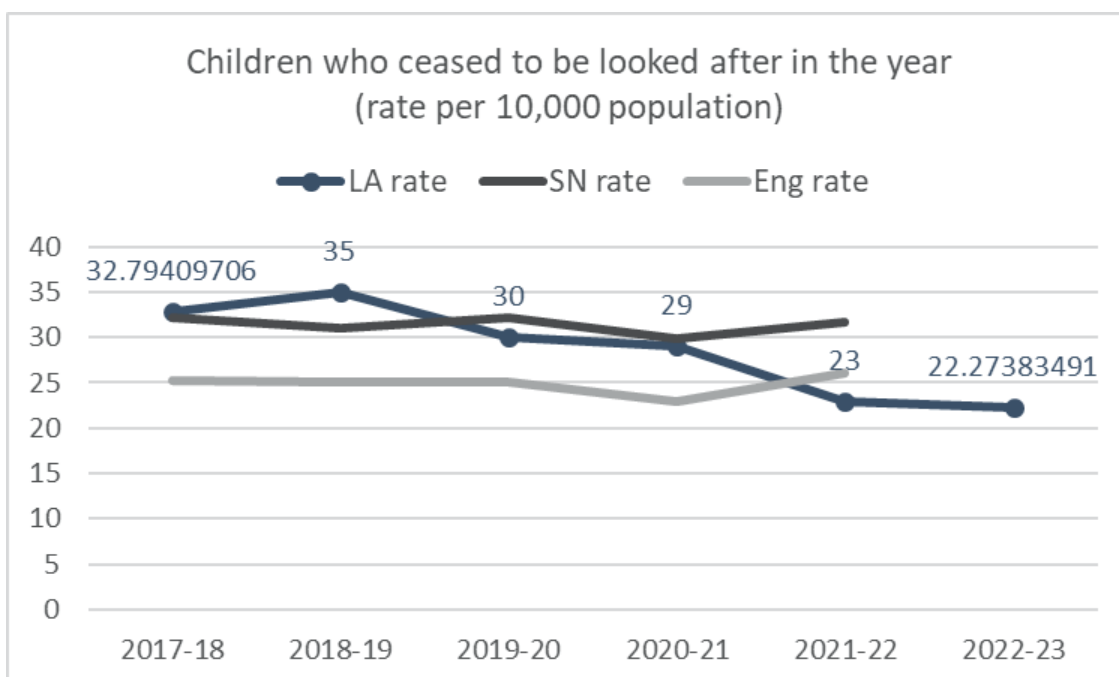
The table above shows that the majority of our Children in Care are cared for within foster homes.



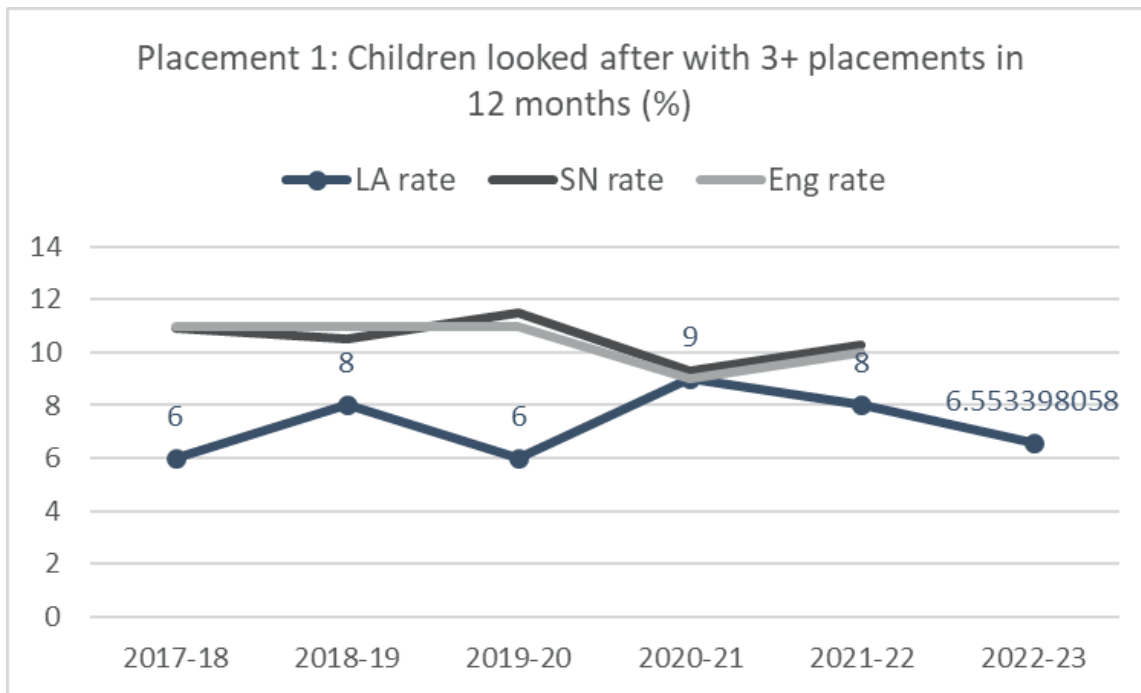
There was a significant increase of children being cared by PCC in this reporting year with an increase of 43 children and young people from 369 in March 2022 to 412 in March 2023



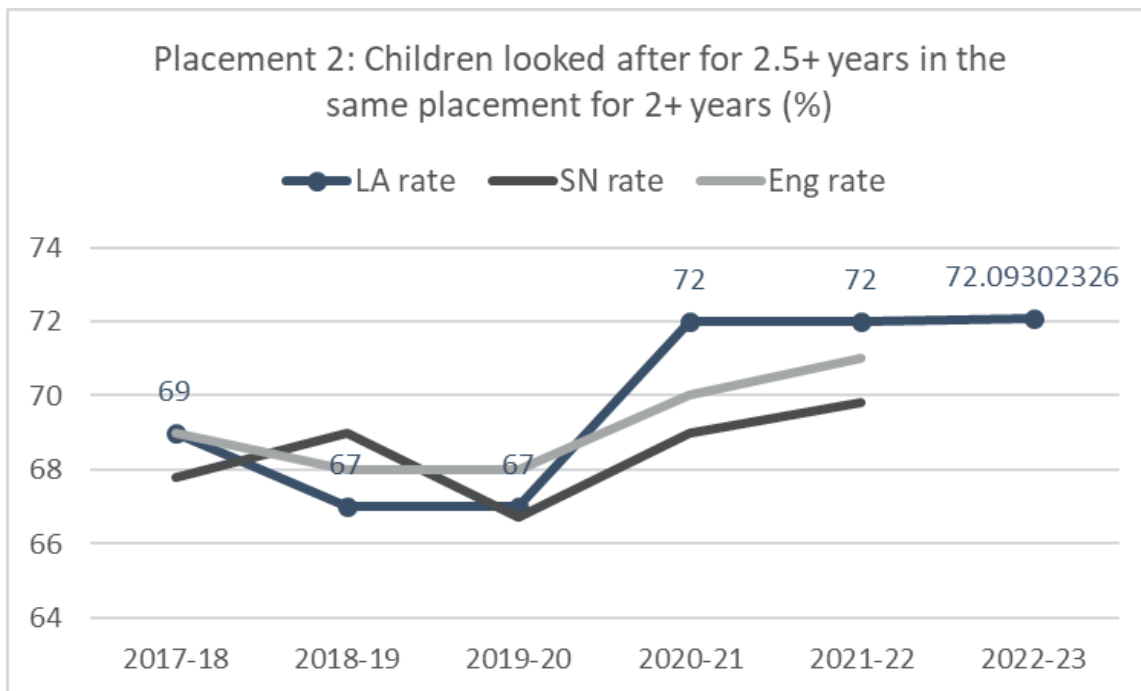
The table above shows that the majority of our Children in Care are received into care because of abuse or neglect (62%) and 25% of our children and young people were received into our care due to absent parenting. This number is higher because PCC has seen an increase in the number of separated migrant young people coming to PCC.



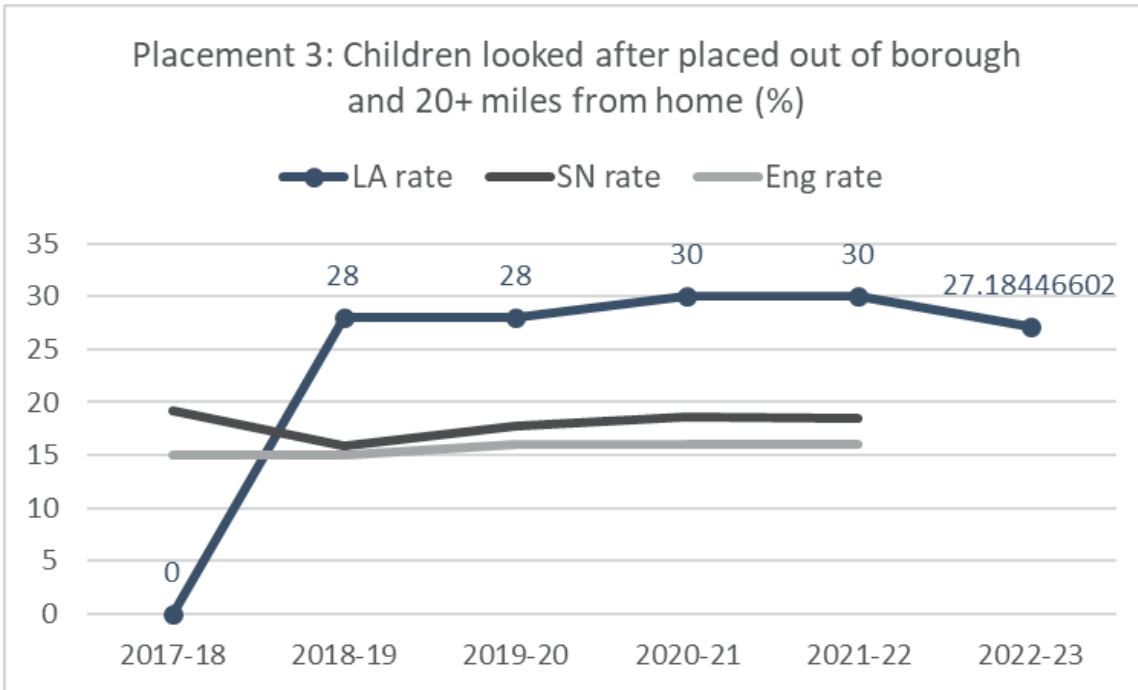
The table above shows that there was a reduction in the number of children and young people ceasing to be cared for by PCC in this reporting year. Data for England and statistical neighbours has not been released for 2022-2023.



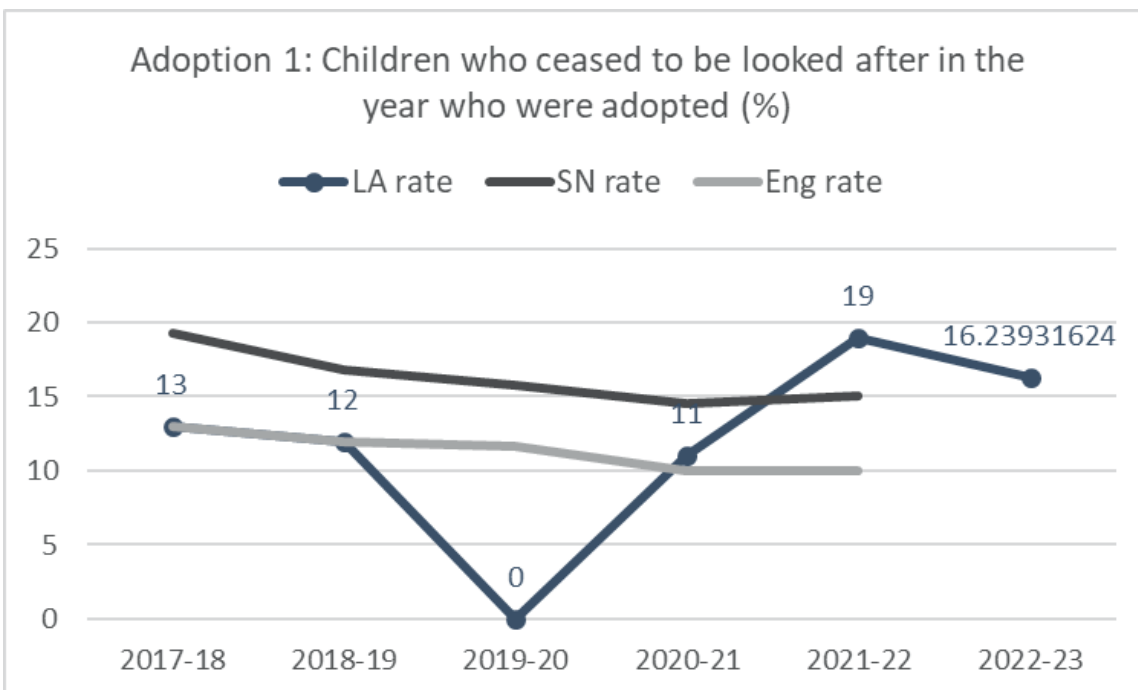
The table above shows that 6.5% of our Children in Care experienced three or more placement moves in a year. This is lower than statistical neighbours and the national rate.



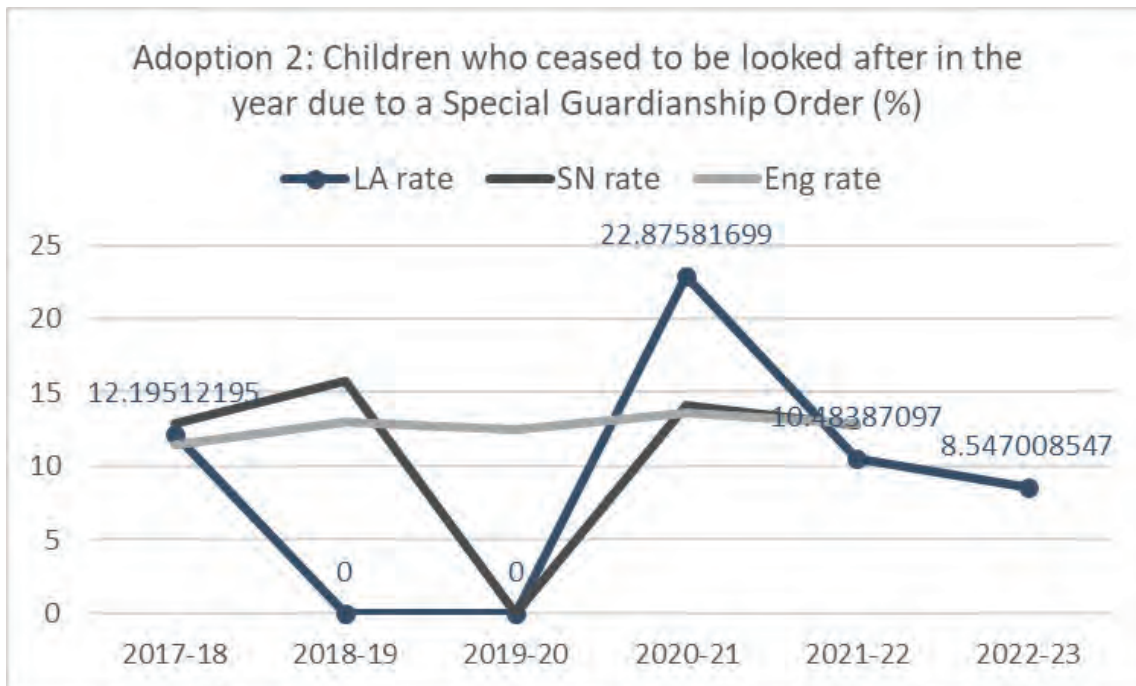
The table above shows that PCC has maintained a good level of stability for our Children in Care with 75% of all Children in Care living within a stable home for 2+ years. This is above statistical neighbours and England data for the last financial year: there is no comparable data available for this reporting year.



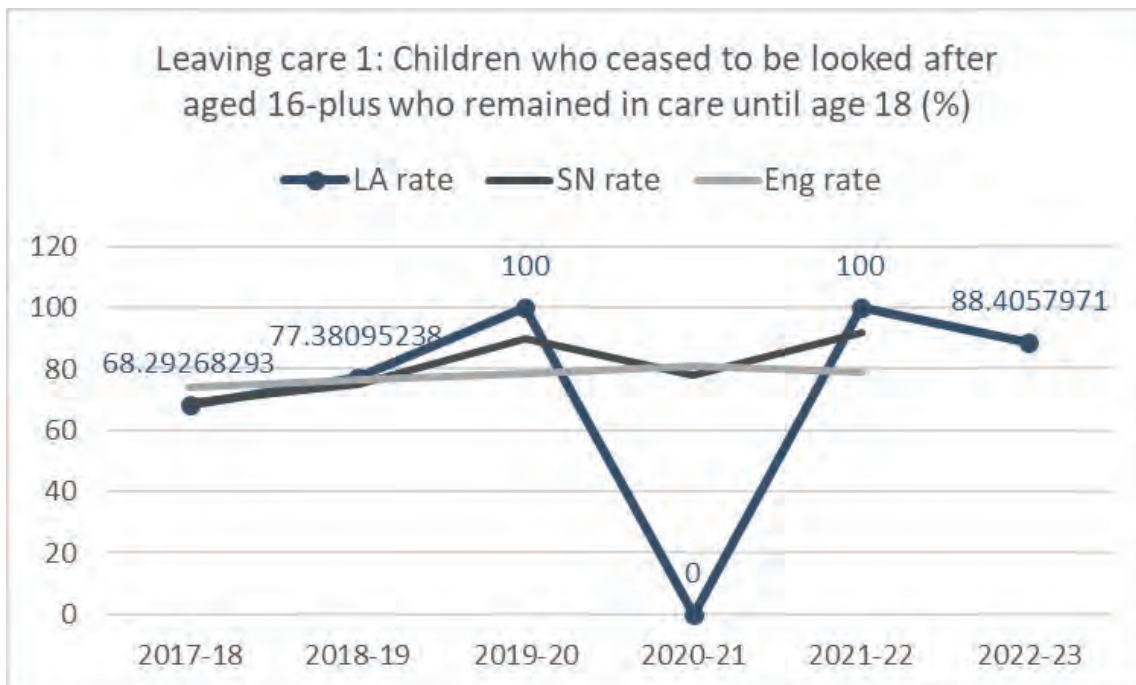
27% of our Children in Care are living in homes that are 20+ miles from PCC. This is higher than statistical neighbours and England. PCC is actively working to recruit foster carers within Peterborough so that our children can be cared for in an area that they know. There is no comparable data available currently.



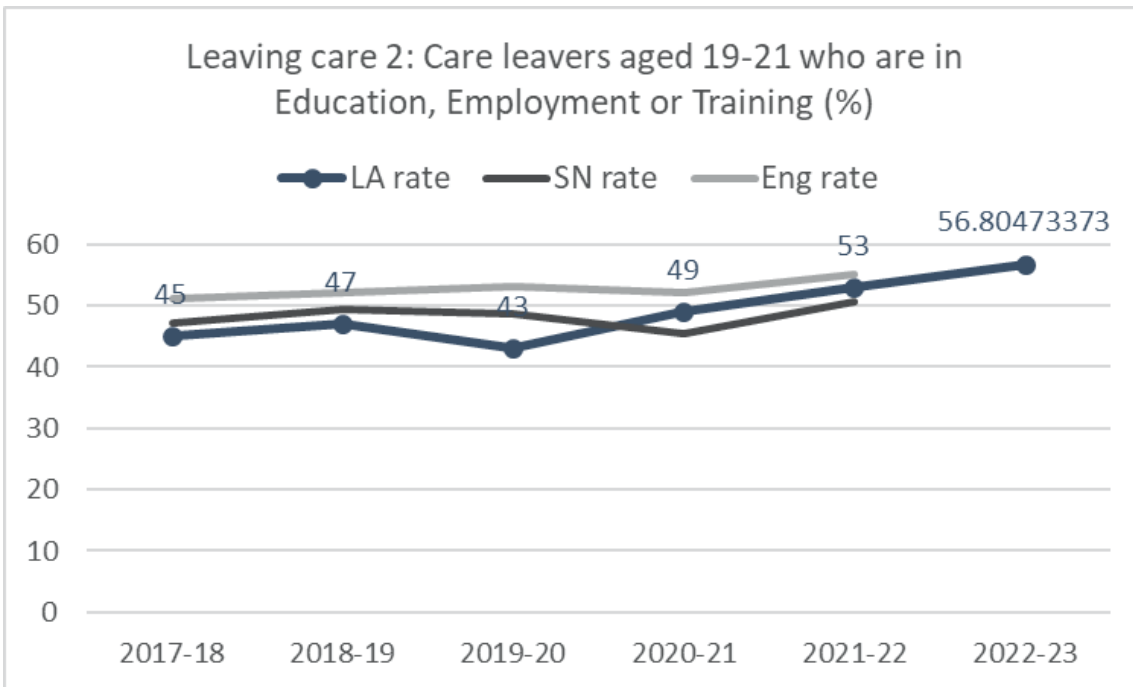
16% of children that ceased to be looked after in the year were adopted. There is no comparable data available currently.



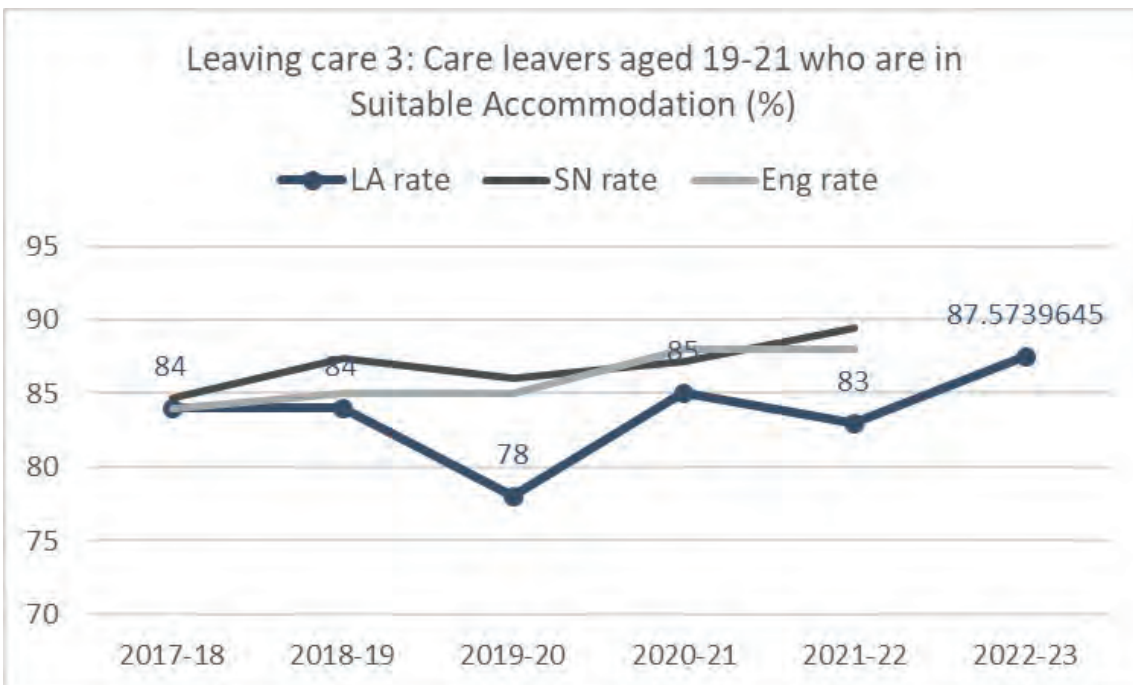
8.5% of children that ceased to be looked after in the year moved because they were subject to a Special Guardianship Order. This shows a slow decline since 2020-2021.



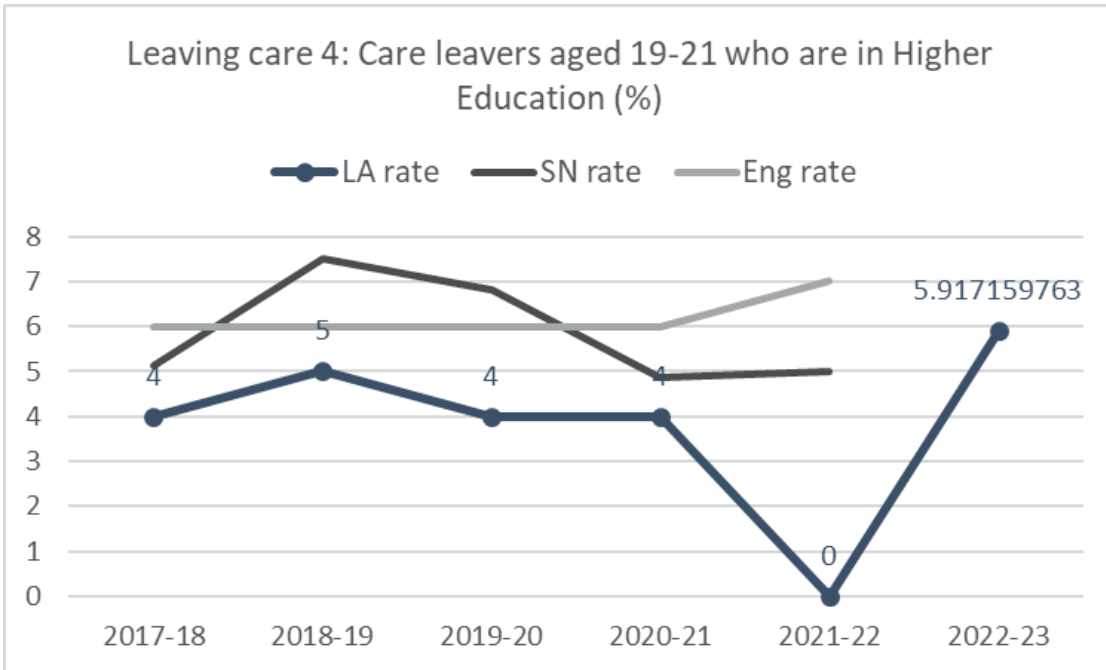
88.4% young people aged 16 remained in care until they were 18. This is a drop of 18% from the previous year, however PCC continues to compare favourably against statistical neighbours and England.



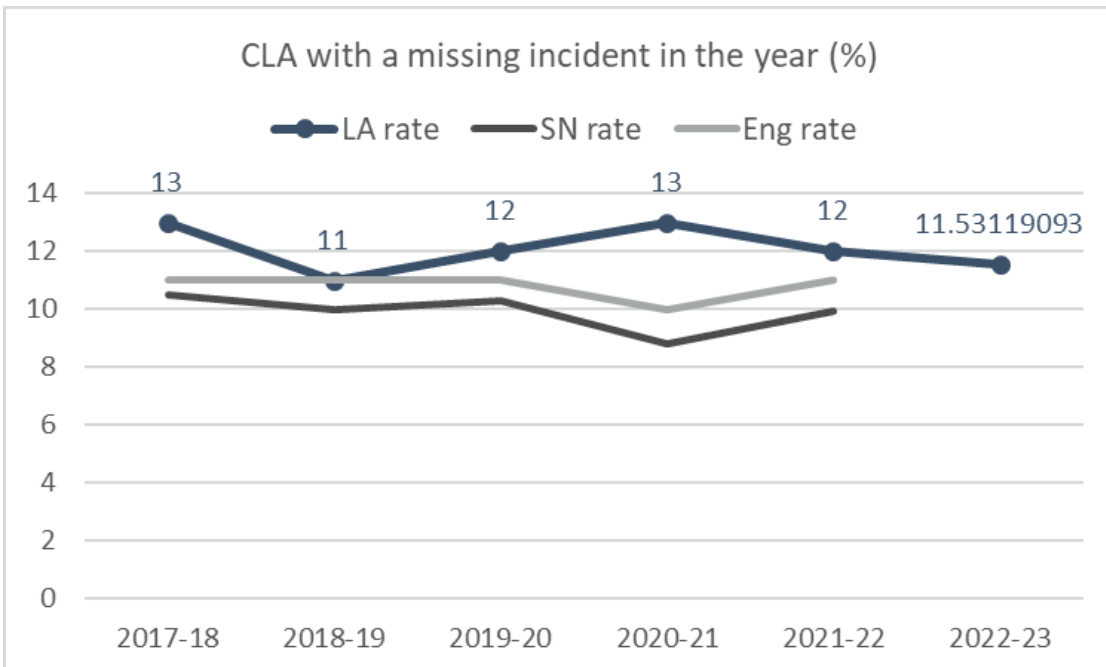
PCC has continued to improve in this area with 56.8% of our Care Leavers being in education, employment, or training. PCC compares favourably against statistical neighbours and England.



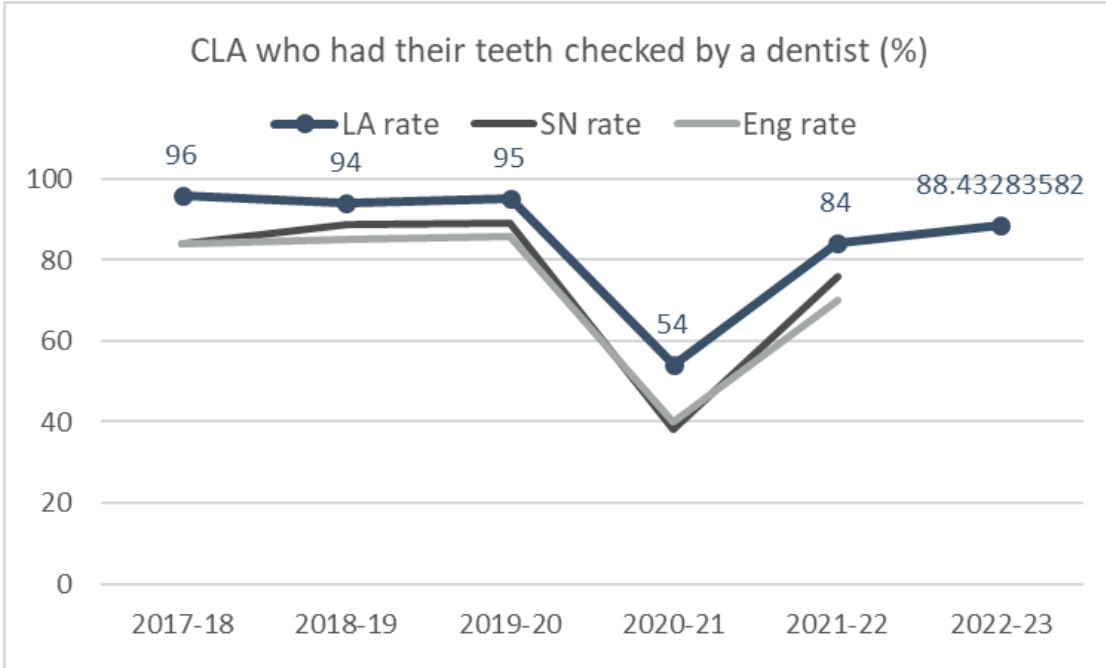
87.6% of PCC care leavers were in suitable accommodation. This is an improvement on the previous reporting period and aligns us with England and statistical neighbour trajectory.



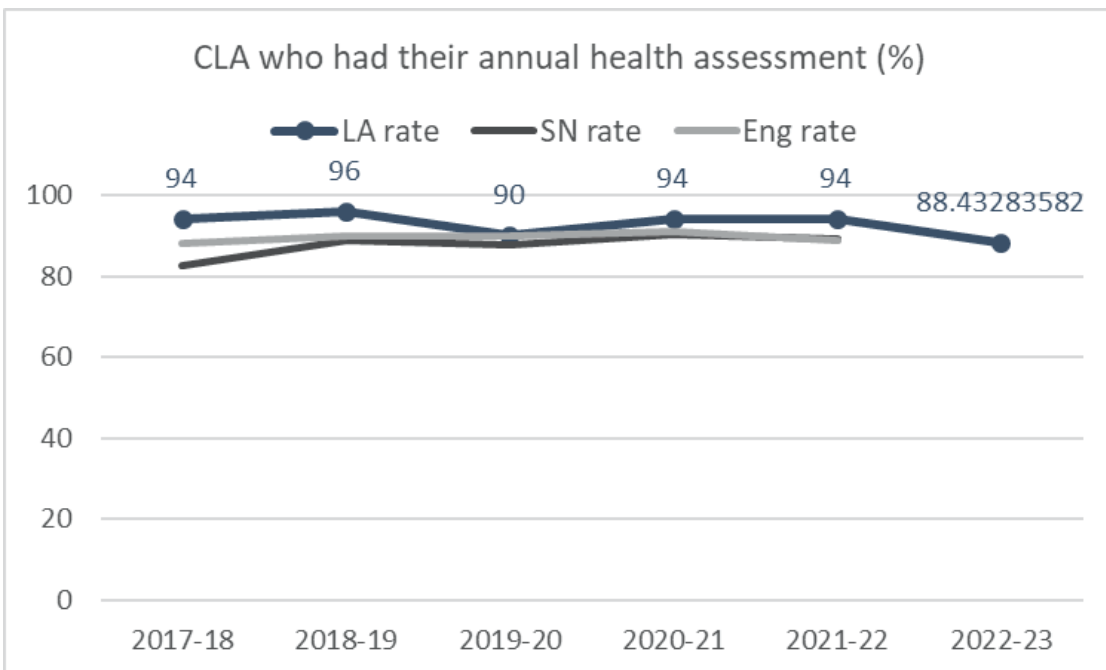
There has been a significant increase of care leavers accessing higher education during this reporting period.



11.5% of our Children in Care had one or more missing incident in the year. This is a reduction from the previous two reporting years and brings PCC to a comparable figure with England and statistical neighbours.



During 2020-2022 there was a significant drop in children accessing the dentist because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has improved gradually 2021 but is not at pre COVID number yet.



There has been a decline in the percentage of annual health assessments completed during this reporting year.

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