

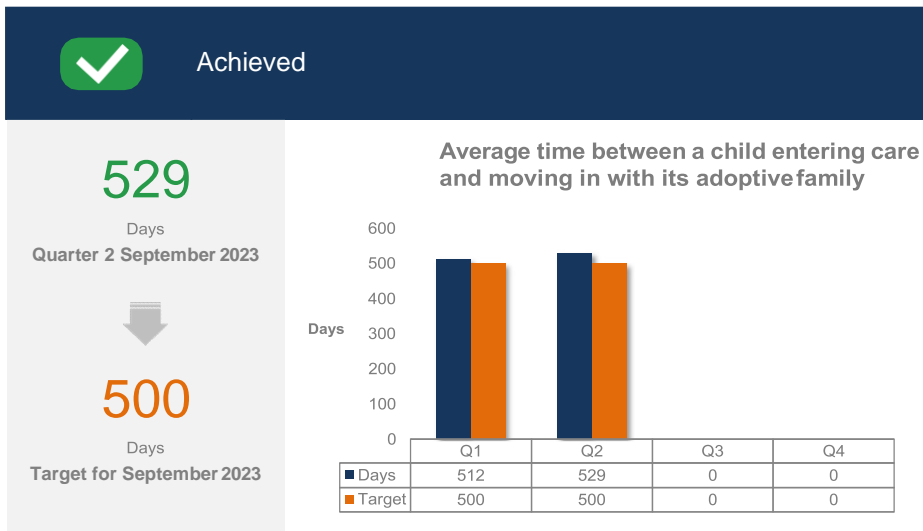


Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family

Average number of days between the child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. A lower number of days taken to move a child from care into an adoptive family indicates a better performance.



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 513 , Q2: 497, Q3: 517, Q4: 505

This measure is a 'rolling' 3 yearly average, as we have moved forward the calculation has considered more of the period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. There were children who experienced significant delay within the care proceedings that impacts on this figure.

It is important to note that the figure presented also includes some rare anomalies which have also adversely affected the overall timescales, such as one case which lasted for over 2000 days due to an unusual amount of disruption as well as an increase in the number of children deemed harder to place in general.

In addition to this there are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality. These children have experienced a longer period of stability that does not really show within the figures.

About the target

There has been delay in court proceedings that will have impact on our average days over the next year.

About the target range

If we were to go above 550 day we would want to highlight this to Scrutiny members.

About benchmarking

No benchmarking information is available.



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Average time between the Local Authority receiving court authority to place a child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family

Average number of days between the local authority receiving the court order to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family.
A lower number of days taken to match a child to an adoptive family indicates a better performance.



Achieved

168

Days

Quarter 2 September 2023

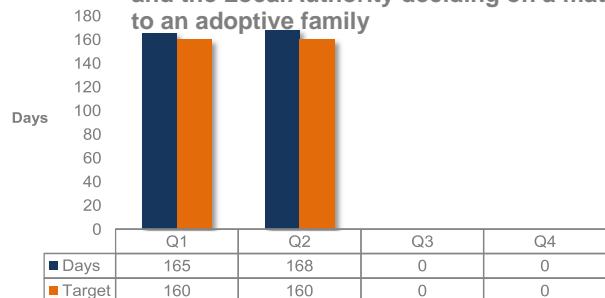


160

Days

Target for September 2023

Average time between the Local Authority receiving court authority to place a child and the Local Authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 167, Q2: 160, Q3: 161, Q4: 165

There are signs that the timescale is continuing to decline, this has, however been impacted in an increase in the number of birth parents who are appealing the decision to make a Placement order which impacts on the timescales for matching which has been seen in this quarter. This impacts on the timescales for this measure as we cannot family find whilst an appeal is ongoing.

Despite these challenges this figure is under the national average of 178 days, meaning that once we have authority to place for adoption, Lincolnshire is able to move children onto their adoptive families in a timely manner.

About the target

There are signs that this timescale is going down, and this has been helped by the family finding processes in the region as well as in house

About the target range

Both upper and lower tolerances have been set at 10 days (average

About benchmarking

No benchmarking information is available.



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old

Percentage of Children in Care aged 10 to under 16 who have been fostered or placed for adoption



Achieved

82.8

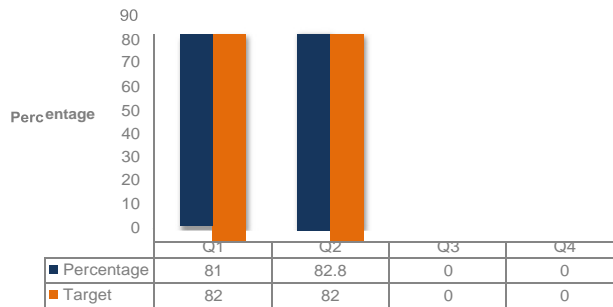
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2023



82.0

Percentage
Target for September 2023

Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 79.4%, Q2: 80%, Q3: 80.7%, Q4: 80%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target to remain the same as previous year at 82% performance has improved over the last year and has remained above 80%. This is indicative of a reduction in the number of foster carers, challenges in foster carer recruitment and children with complex needs.

About the target range

A 3% variance is set for the upper value and 2% for the lower value.

About benchmarking

benchmarking data no longer available.



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Number of Children in Care per 10,000 under 18s

Children in Care per 10,000 population aged under 18. There are a number of reasons why a child may be 'looked after' by the local authority. Most often it is because the child's parents or the people who have parental responsibilities and rights to look after the child are unable to care for the child, have been neglecting the child or the child has committed an offence. The local authority has specific responsibilities and duties towards a child who is being looked after or who has been looked after. This measure is reported taking a snapshot in time. So for example Q2 is performance as at 30th September.

A lower rate of children looked after by the Local Authority indicates a better performance.



Achieved

51.1

Rate

Quarter 2 September 2023

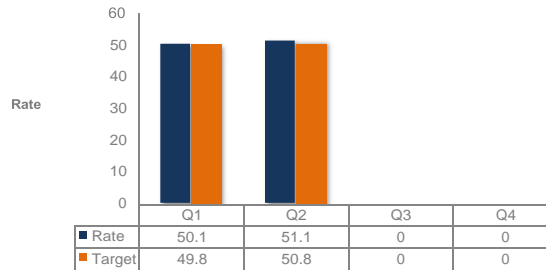


50.8

Rate

Target for September 2023

Number of Children in Care per 10,000 under 18s



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 50.1, Q2: 50, Q3: 51.3, Q4: 49.1

At 51.1 per 10,000 children in care, this measure is slightly above target (50.8) but is within tolerance, so has therefore achieved this quarter. This target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level compared to recent years. The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the Council's safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 144 children which equates to 0.1% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward.

Despite the recent growth and the potential for future increase there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (70 per 10,000 and 65 per 10,000 respectively as of 31st March 2022).

About the target

The target remains the same as last year due to sustained consistency. The unsettling situation in the Ukraine may impact and the increasing number of children who are presenting with more complex needs.

About the target range

The target varies per quarter to take into account variances in the projected Children in Care cohort throughout the year. The tolerance allows for the number of Children in Care to vary by approximately -35 children and +70 children either side of the target each quarter.

Anything above or below this number would be flagged, indicating a significant variance from the current position.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Stability of placements of Children in Care : Number of moves

Percentage of Children in Care with three or more placements



Achieved

2.6

Percentage

Quarter 2 September 2023

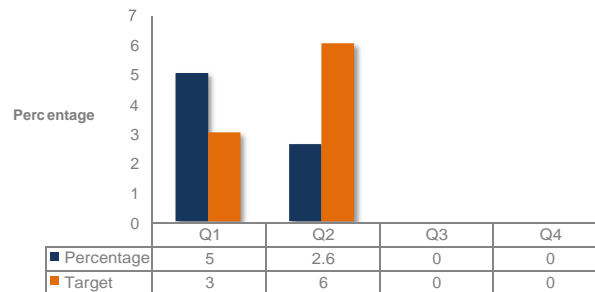


6.0

Percentage

Target for September 2023

Stability of placements of Children in Care : Number of moves



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 1%, Q2: 5%, Q3: 6%, Q4: 9%

This indicator identifies those children who experience 3 placement moves within the year. At this point, the performance is well within the target range of 6% however, as the measure is cumulative, we would expect this to continue to increase until the end of the financial year.

For all placements, the service continues to ensure that foster carers are well supported and that potential problems are identified early to support them in continuing to care for children whose needs are varied and complex. This has been supported using the Valuing Care toolkit and the embedded caring2learn approach which has supported and empowered foster carers to share, find and deliver solutions within a context of a tailored fostering service training and support offer. Nevertheless, the service has continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. The service has also seen an increase in the entrants of older children (teenagers) which poses some challenge in terms of identifying longer term accommodation options whilst the younger cohort of children with care plans for long-term fostering presents challenges in achieving placement stability due to the local and national shortage of foster carers who want to care on a longer term or permanent basis. In addition to positive fostering recruitment, it is hoped with the increased cost of living the increase in fostering allowance has enabled the service to retain our valued volunteers.

About the target

Target is set at 9% current performance at qtr 3 is showing 7%, however we know that the data cleaning for the 903 will increase this figure to 9% which was similar to last years position.

About the target range

We have applied a tolerance for each quarter to allow for the cumulative performance throughout the year. Our stat neighbours for last year were performing at 9% which matches our target for this year.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis

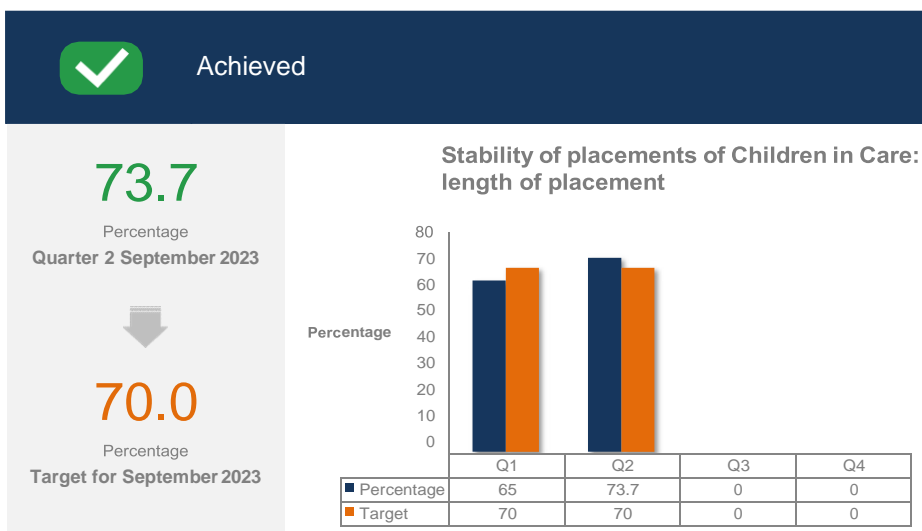


Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement

Percentage of Children in Care in the same placement for at least two years



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 67.6%, Q2: 70.3%, Q3: 69.9%, Q4: 64.2%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target to remain the same as the previous year. Performance over this year has remained consistent at around 69%.

About the target range

Tolerances for this measure take into account the current performance.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales

Percentage of Children in Care cases that have been reviewed within timescales



Achieved

99.6

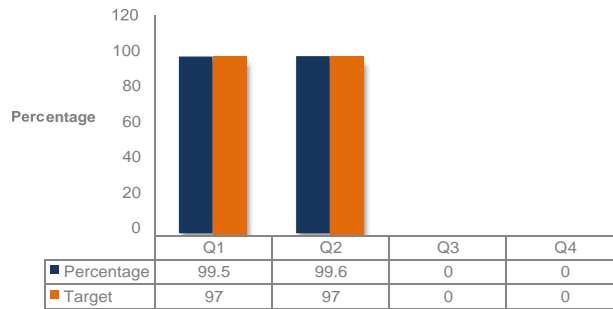
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2023



97.0

Percentage
Target for September 2023

Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 99.9%, Q2: 99.5%, Q3: 99.1%, Q4: 98.8%

This is testimony to the hard work across Children's Services that to date only 1 review has gone out of timescales.

About the target

Target remains at 97% to take into account current performance.

About the target range

As the target is 95%, an upper value of 4.5% has been set.

A lower value of 95% has been set to highlight any performance lower than 95%

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Participation of Children in Care in reviews

Percentage of Children in Care who participated in their reviews



Achieved

99.8

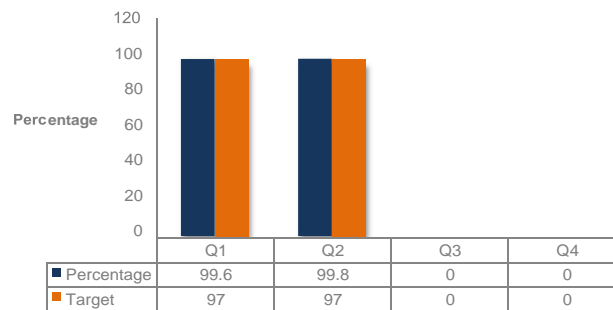
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2023



97.0

Percentage
Target for September 2023

Participation of Children in Care in reviews



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 94.8%, Q2: 94.6%, Q3: 98.6%, Q4: 98.6%

This is a cumulative measure and there will always be some young people who chose not to participate in reviews despite our best endeavours so the fact that we have exceeded the target is a testimony to the hard work in engaging young people in their care plans.

About the target

Target remains at 97% to take into account current performance.

About the target range

As the target is 95%, an upper value of 4.5% has been set.

A lower value of 95% has been set to highlight any performance lower than 95%

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check record



Not achieved

87.9

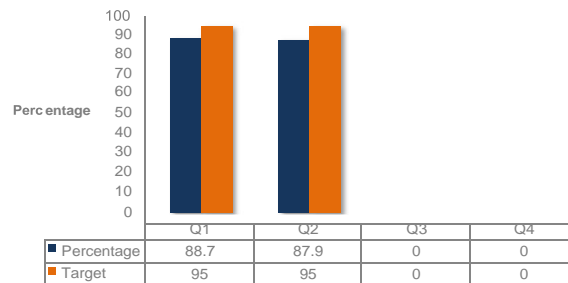
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2023



95.0

Percentage
Target for September 2023

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 88.3%, Q2: 90.1%, Q3: 89.6%, Q4: 90.9%

The number of children in care has increased and there is evidence of more young people aged 16/17 entering care and exercising their right to refuse an assessment. These include young asylum seeking children who have come through the national transfer scheme. This age group of children are often not committed to accessing their health assessment, although they continue to access healthcare when required. The Children in Care Teams continue to encourage and promote health assessments with their young people but have to accept their right to refuse.

There has been a lot of activity to improve the timeliness of Initial Health Assessment and this measure has improved.

About the target

Target remains as previous year, tolerance allows performance to be in line with this year's performance.

About the target range

An upper tolerance of 4.5% has been set. This would mean that if all checks were done within timescale we would have achieved an excellent outcome, which would be shown as better than target.

A lower tolerance of 2% has been set to allow for under performance. Data from the last two years shows achieving 93% is very achievable and performance has not often fallen below this marker.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check



Not achieved

68.5

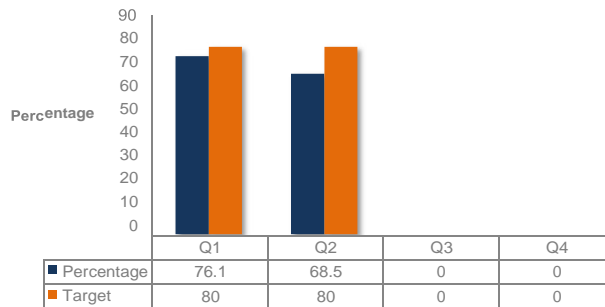
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2023



80.0

Percentage
Target for September 2023

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 71.1%, Q2: 72.5%, Q3: 72.9%, Q4: 77.5%

This measure is now sitting at 68.5% which remains below the target of 80%. This is due to the ongoing increased difficulties in children being able to access appointments with a National Health Service Dentist which has been the case for several years now. Availability continues to be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, with Dental Practices closing and many restricting their practice to private patients only. In recent months we have worked jointly with health and social care and colleagues in the dental services across the county to agree a pathway for Children in Care to improve their access to dental services. For children who are not registered with a dentist at their health assessment appointments, carers are encouraged to register a child with a dentist as soon as possible.

About the target

Target remains as last year due to sustained consistency.

About the target range

An upper tolerance of 5% has been set. This would mean that if all checks were done within timescale we would have achieved an excellent outcome, which would be shown as better than target.

A lower tolerance of 5% has been set to allow for under performance.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations recorded



Not achieved

71.7

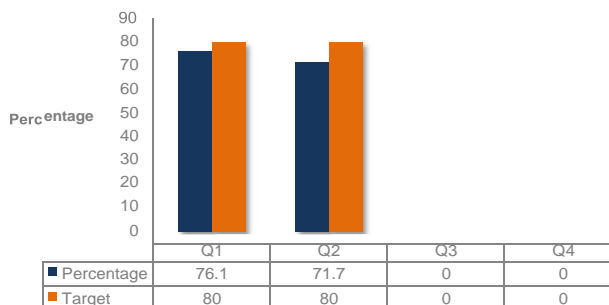
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2023



80.0

Percentage
Target for September 2023

Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 70.5%, Q2: 69%, Q3: 70.6%, Q4: 75.5%

The percentage of Children in Care with up to date routine immunisations continues to be impacted by factors such as the Covid Pandemic and an increase in Immunisation team workload due to all males now being offered the HPV and all of the school population being offered the COVID19 boosters and flu immunisations. The percentage of children who are up to date with their immunisations is at a higher rate of coverage compared with those of their peers in the general population. All outstanding immunisations are checked quarterly by the CiC/YP health team. Health and Social care colleagues are working together to improve the timely recording of immunisations.

About the target

Target remains as last year due to sustained consistency.

About the target range

An upper tolerance of 5% has been set. This would mean that if all checks were done within timescale we would have achieved an excellent outcome, which would be shown as better than target.

A lower tolerance of 5% has been set to allow for under performance.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis



Children Are Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Children in Care Living within a Family Environment

Percentage of Children in Care Living within a Family Environment



Achieved

84.3

Days

Quarter 2 September 2023

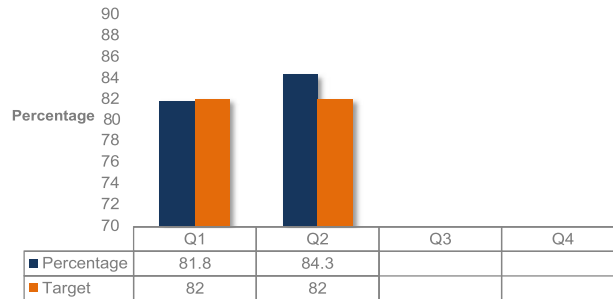


82

Days

Target for September 2023

Children in Care Living within a Family Environment



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Q1: 80.4%, Q2: 79.2% , Q3: 79.0%, Q4: 77.3%

Performance in 2022/23 - Excluding UASC Q1: 84.2%, Q2 83.7%, Q3: 84.0%, Q4: 83.0%

Performance in 2023/24 - Including UASC Q1: 76.3%, Q2: 77.7%

Performance in 2023/24 - Excluding UASC Q1: 81.8%, Q2: 84.3%

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) have a large impact on the total percentage of children in care living within a family environment as the majority of them are over 16 and are more suited to semi-independent living arrangements. The number of UASC has been rising steadily, making up around 9% of the total child in care population in Lincolnshire at the start of the 2023/24 business year. To illustrate the underlying level of children living within a family environment without the distortion of UASC, we are now providing figures both including and excluding UASC in the Corporate Plan, but this commentary will focus on excluding UASC, with an updated target of 82%.

At 84.3% in quarter 2, this measure is performing above the target, but within target tolerance of 80-85%. It has increased markedly since Q1, which had a figure of 81.8% (excluding UASC). Family placements are a continued focus for the Council as for many children in care, a family placement is deemed the most suitable means of offering care and maintaining children within their family networks. The Council continue to explore enabling children and young people to remain within their family or extended network if they cannot, for whatever reason, live with their parents.

About the target

Target increased to 82% to take account of move to showing figures with unaccompanied asylum seeking children removed.

About the target range

We aim to have the majority of our children in care placed within a family environment where appropriate. Anything above 84% is worthy of celebration and anything below 79% needs to be addressed with actions.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking data is not available due to the measure being a local measure



Learn and Achieve

Learn and Achieve

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan



Achieved

100.0

Percentage

Quarter 2 September 2023

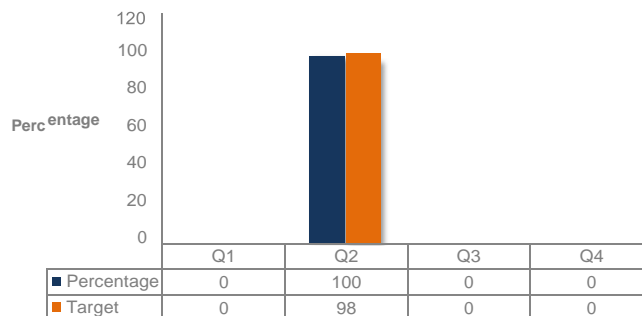


98.0

Percentage

Target for September 2023

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: N/A, Q2: 100%, Q3: 99%, Q4: 99.5%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target remains at 98%, reliability of the EPEP system and timely notification of Virtual school should see the performance being reached.

About the target range

Lower tolerance is set to 2% below the target which would represent poor performance. The tolerance range reflects the need for emergency placements out of county/in county for a small proportion of children in care.

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis.



Readiness for Adult Life

Readiness for Adult Life

16-17 year old Children in Care who are participating in Learning

This measures young people recorded as being Children in Care participating in learning at the end of the reporting period and will not take into consideration the length of time that they have been in local authority care.

Numerator: Number of Children in Care participating in learning at the end of the reporting period.

Denominator: Number of Children in Care at the end of the reporting period.

The percentage is calculated as follows: Numerator divided by the denominator multiplied by 100. The parameters of this measure were previously defined as recording 16-18 year old Children in Care participating in learning. As of Q1 2017/18 onwards, the Department for Education no longer require monitoring of children aged 18, and so the measure has been amended accordingly, restricting data provision to 16-17 year old Children in Care only. A higher percentage of Children in Care participating in learning indicates a better performance.



Achieved

85.4

Percentage

Quarter 2 September 2023

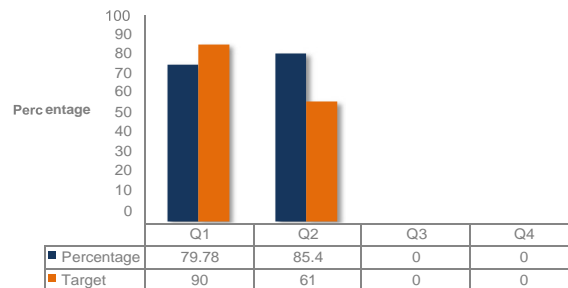


61.0

Percentage

Target for September 2023

16-17 year old Children in Care who are participating in Learning



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 81.4%, Q2:73.3% , Q3: 75%, Q4: 83.2%

Performance this quarter is significantly above target and an improvement on last year's Q2 performance of 73.3%. At the end of the reporting period, there were 192 young people in care aged 16 and 17. 164 young people met the criteria for engaging in learning and were on roll at local colleges, post 16 providers and school sixth forms. Of the remaining 28 young people, 2 young people were in full time employment (without training), 10 young people were accessing interim/online ESOL provision whilst awaiting a college place and 3 young people were awaiting confirmation of a college place. Personal Education Plans for the 13 young people not actively engaged in learning aim to identify any potential barriers to progressing into employment, education or training and explore opportunities and appropriate support on a termly basis. Working in partnership with the Lincolnshire Leaving Care service, work experience placements are sought for those young people wanting to seek employment and short training course opportunities are revisited every term.

About the target

Target remains the same as the previous year. Q2 & Q3 targets lower to allow for the expected dip at this time of year due to September being the start of the tracking process

About the target range

The target range is set at a level to allow for 2 percentage points above the target and 5 percentage points below the target.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is not available for this cohort



Readiness for Adult Life

Readiness for Adult Life

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

A care leaver is a young person who reaches the age of 18 who had been in local authority care.

Numerator: Number of care leavers turning 19 years of age in the year who are living in accommodation deemed as "suitable".

Denominator: Number of care leavers turning 19 years of age in the year.

The percentage is calculated as follows: Numerator divided by the denominator multiplied by 100. A higher percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation indicates a better performance.



Achieved

92.6

Percentage

Quarter 2 September 2023

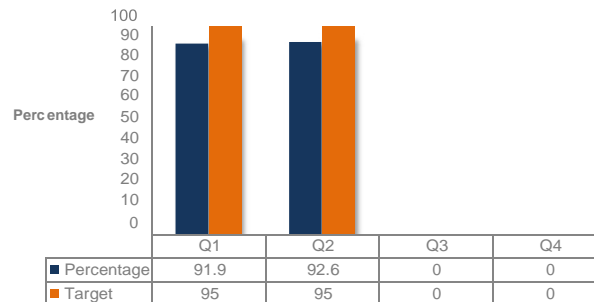


95.0

Percentage

Target for September 2023

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 92.4%, Q2: 93.5%, Q3: 92%, Q4: 91.7%

The definition of the suitability of accommodation is very strict, and whilst the definition would deem some of the accommodation options unsuitable, the young person might be making an informed choice (as an adult) about where they live and how they live. For example, the monthly tracker continues to identify a small number of young people who are choosing to live with friends and sleep on their sofa. This is deemed unsuitable, but the decision to live on a friend's sofa is the informed choice of the young person. We also know of one young person who still chooses to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers driveway and another young person who has turned down accommodation to live on their mothers driveway in a car. Both these young people have had multiple offers of supported living but choose to live where they are. This is still deemed as unsuitable by the criteria. There is also a small number of young people in temporary accommodation, provided by the District Council, whilst the housing authority is addressing homelessness and finding a long-term solution with the leaving care service.

In addition to the above, custody is also always deemed unsuitable. There has however been a small increase in the numbers of young people in custody. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education training and employment but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation.

The Head of Service continues to monitor unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month.

About the target

Target has remained the same. Performance in the low nineties and if we achieve this or higher this reflects good performance overall.

About the target range

The lower target has been set at the 25% quartile. Meaning if we fall below this we will not be in the top 25% of authorities. The upper target has been set 5% above this.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available.



Readiness for Adult Life

Readiness for Adult Life

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

The number of care leavers turning 19 years of age in the year who are in either Education, Employment or Training



Not achieved

49.1

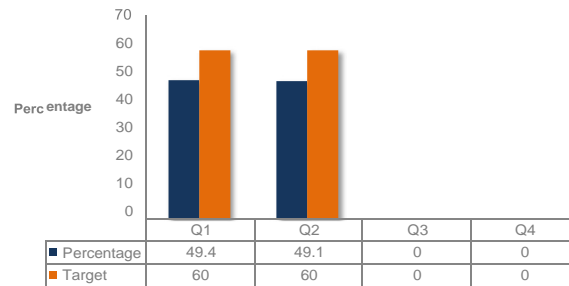
Percentage
Quarter 2 September 2023



60.0

Percentage
Target for September 2023

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training



About the latest performance

Performance in 2022/23 - Q1: 54.3%, Q2: 50.7%, Q3: 47.3%, Q4: 47.1%

This measure remains below target and fluctuates throughout the year by a few percentage points either way. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Service continues to report monthly on the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET. LCC tracks this performance regularly and monitors those young people who fall into NEET and those that re secure EET.

Our EET statistics are slightly below our stat neighbours who run at 55%. However, our in touch with service statistic for care leavers is way above national average at 98% in comparison to 93% for our stat neighbours.

About the target

Target to remain the same as this is based on both recent performance and in comparison with other local authorities nationally.

About the target range

Tolerances for this measure take into account the current performance

About benchmarking

We can compare ourselves both nationally and with similar authorities on an annual basis

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