



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children’s Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 March 2024
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 Quarter 3

Summary:

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2023-24 for Quarter 3. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 3 is included in this report.




Full service level reporting to all scrutiny committees can be found here: [Corporate plan – Performance data - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023- 24 Quarter 3.

1. Background

This report details the Service Level Performance measures for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that can be reported in Quarter 3.

- 1 measure exceeded their target 
- 6 measures achieved their target 
- 0 measures did not meet their target 

1.1 Children are Healthy and Safe

1.1.1 Measures that exceeded their target

None in Quarter 3.

1.1.2 Measures that Achieved their target

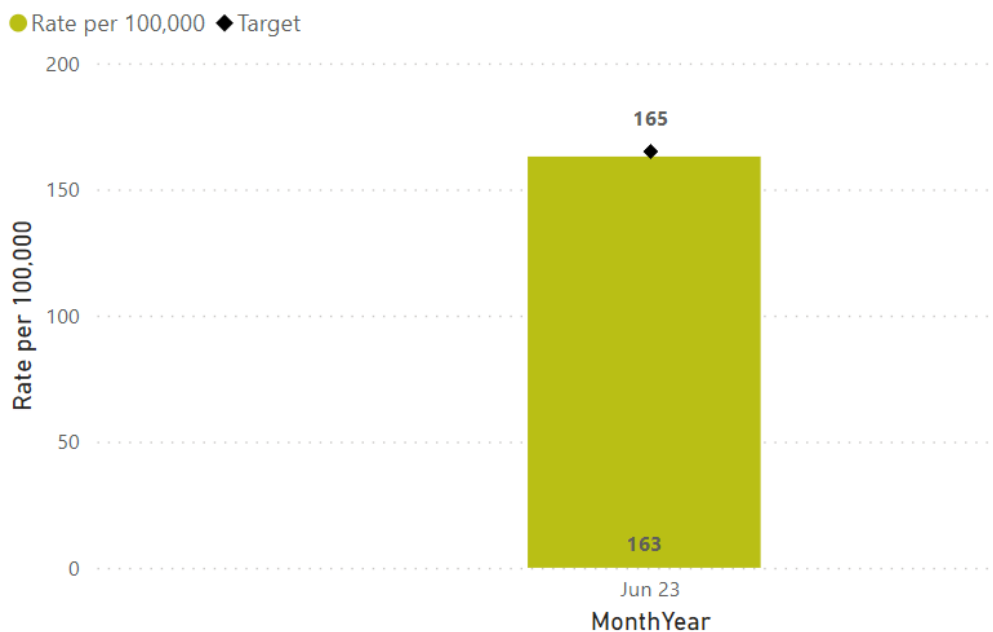
PI 15 Juvenile first time offenders ✓

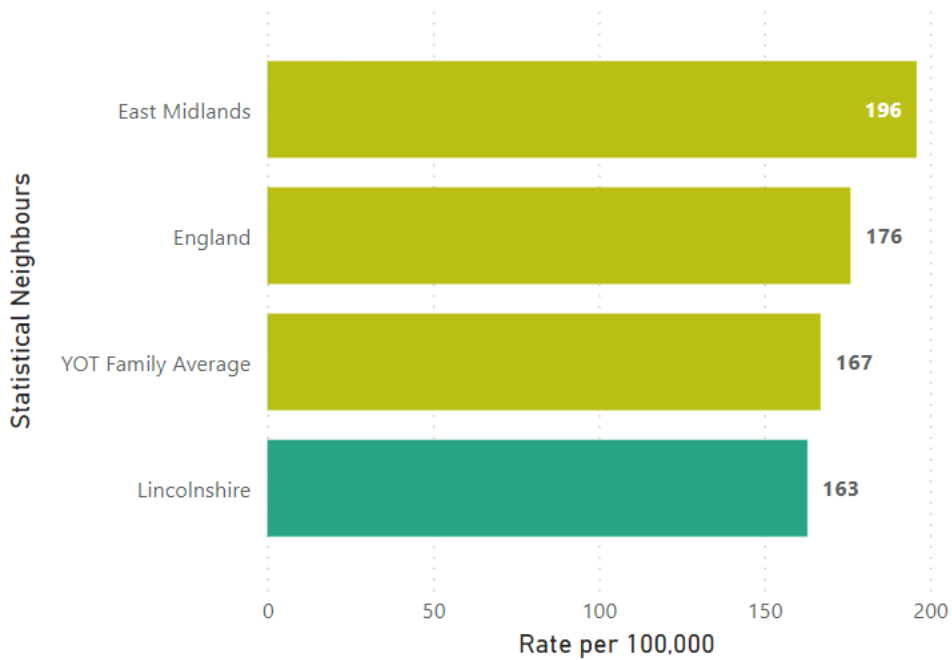
Actual: 163

Target: 165

Whilst this measure was listed previously, it has changed in the way it is calculated, moving from using data from the Police National Computer to using case level data from Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) that is reported quarterly to the Youth Justice Board. Due to the change in data, it was felt that this is not comparable with the data earlier attributed to the measure number and so the measure will start reporting data from Quarter 3 2023/24 and will not report the historical data.

Although we cannot compare with earlier data, the average for our statistical neighbours (excluding Lincolnshire) for the July 2022 - June 2023 period reported in Quarter 3 was 167 per 100,000, so at 163 per 100,000 Lincolnshire is close to the group average for the period in question and Lincolnshire is also significantly below the National level of 176 per 100,000 for the same period. This performance continues to show the success in the Joint Diversionary Panel, and the good work in reducing the criminalisation of our children and young people.





Benchmarking as at June 2023

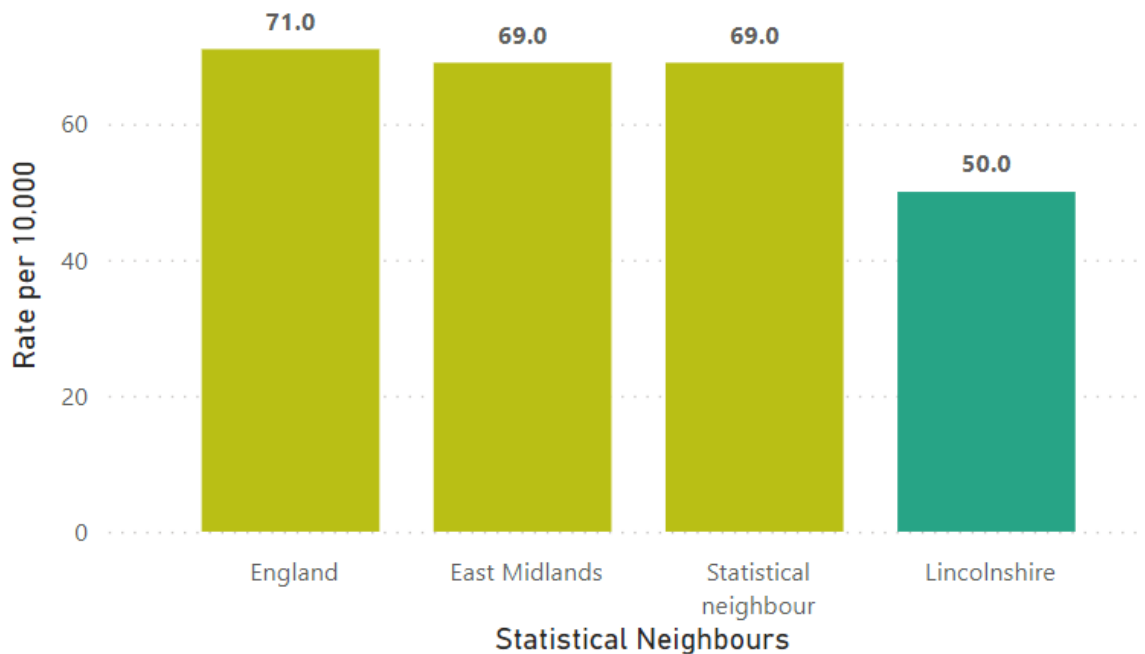
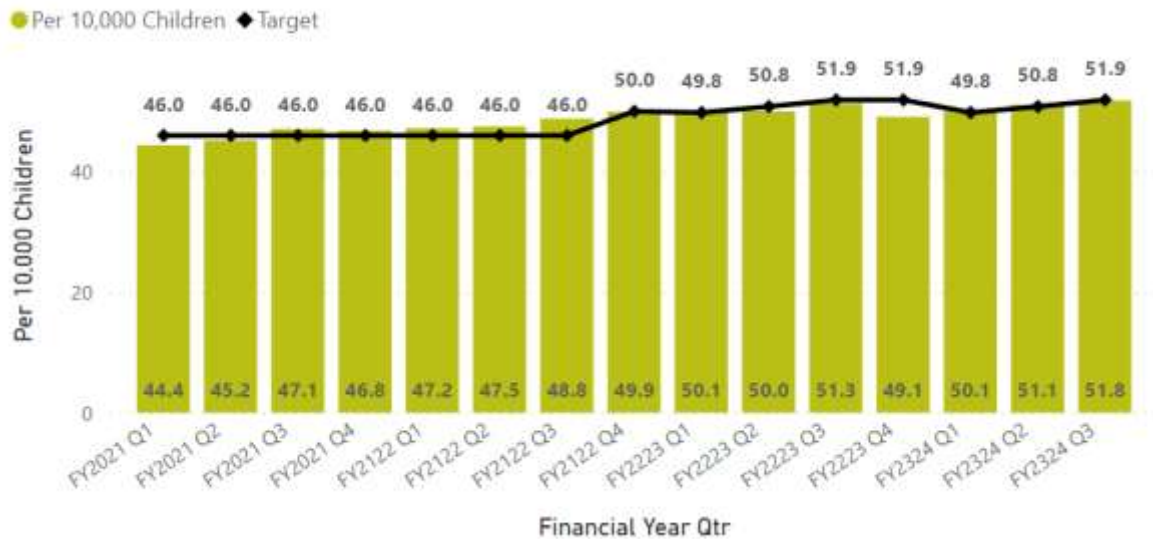
PI 23 Children in Care ✓

Actual: 51.8

Target: 51.9

At 51.8 per 10,000 children in care, this measure is slightly above target (51.9) but is within tolerance, so has therefore been 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 (71 per 10,000 and 69 per 10,000 respectively as of 31 March 2023).



Benchmarking as at March 2023

PI 24 Children who are subject to a children protection plan ✓

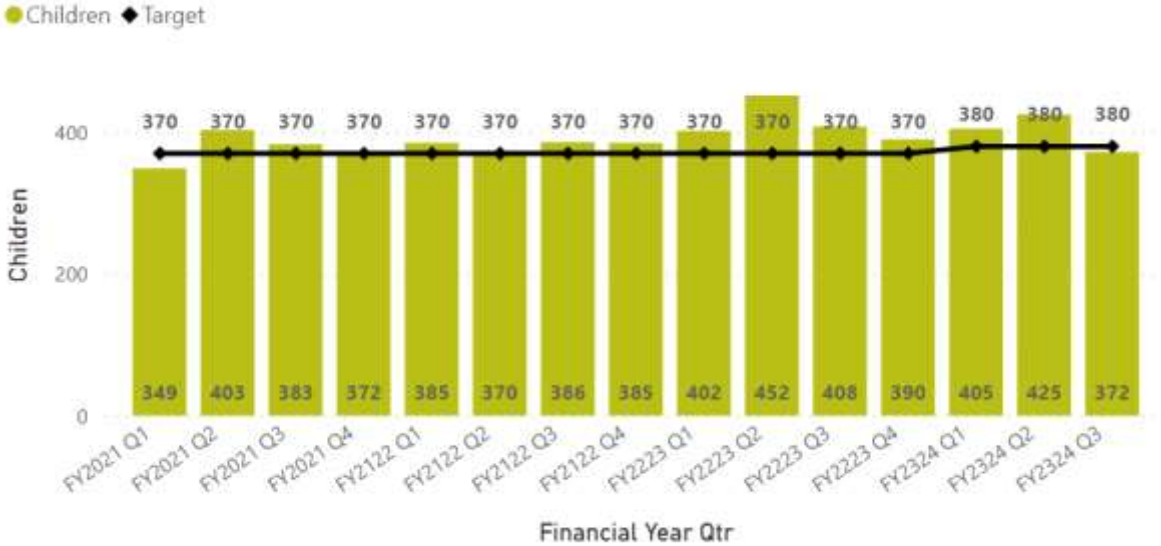
Actual: 372

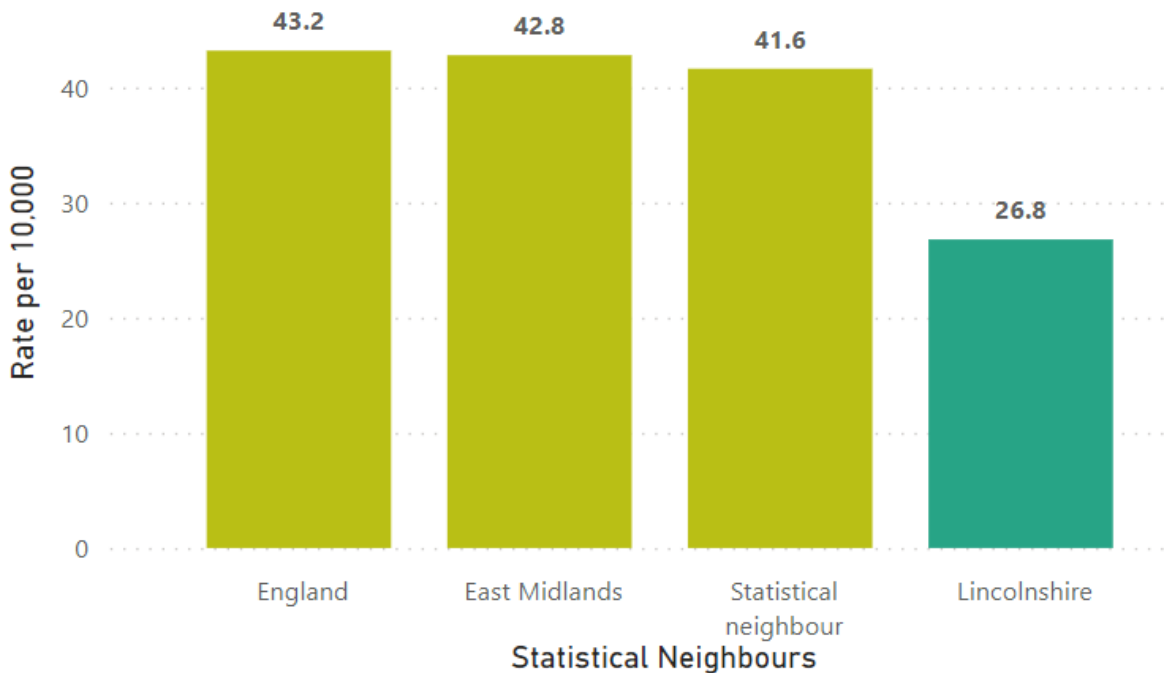
Target: 380

The number of children subject to a child protection plan at the end of Quarter 3 is 372. This reflects an improvement in performance against this measure and takes the number of children on a child protection plan at the end of Quarter 3 very close to the target for performance which is 380. This positive performance is also evidenced when comparing Lincolnshire to the All England and statistical neighbours' rates. The latest national figures

available for this measure are year end 2022/23, when Lincolnshire had 26.8 per 10,000 children subject to a child protection plan compared to the England average of 43.20 per 10,000 and the statistical neighbour average rate of 41.63 per 10,000. Early intervention with families and effective risk management in Lincolnshire continues to take place to ensure that only the right children are subject to a child protection plan. However, child protection plans create safety, and it is important that risk continues to be recognised and managed through plans where appropriate.

The number of children subject to a child protection plan will continue to fluctuate as the decision for a child to be made subject to, or remain on, a child protection plan is based on the risk factors present for the individual child. Additionally, this measure continues to be heavily influenced by families where parents have multiple children. We predicted in Quarter 2 2023/24 a shift back into tolerance range as the year progressed due to the progress that families supported by child protection plans were making. However, we expect to continue to see increased pressures as a result of post covid and social and economic factors contributing to a rise in referrals. This will be particularly evident in those families where there are large sibling groups.





Benchmarking period April 2022 – March 2023

PI 25 Average time taken to move a child from care to an adoptive family ✓

Actual: 532

Target: 500

This measure is a 'rolling' three yearly average. As we have moved forward, the calculation has considered more of the period covered from recovery from the pandemic and the impact of this in terms of court delay for many children, which has in turn increased the rolling average 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 2,000 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.



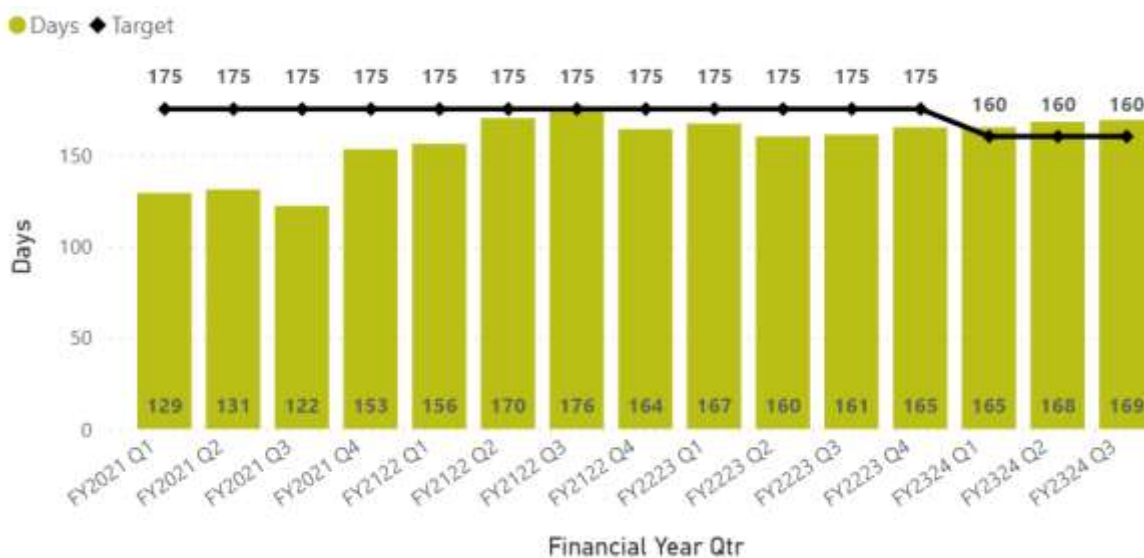
PI 26 Average time taken to match a child to an adoptive family ✓

Actual: 169

Target: 160

There are signs that the timescale is continuing to decline. This has, however, been impacted by 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 as we cannot family find for children whilst an appeal is ongoing.

Despite these challenges, this figure is under the national average of 175 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.





Benchmarking period April 2017 – March 2020

1.1.3 Measures that did not meet their target

None in Quarter 3.

1.2 Learn and Achieve

Not reported in Quarter 3.

1.3 Readiness for Adult Life

1.3.1 Measures that exceeded their target

PI 45 16 -17 year old Children in Care participating in learning ★

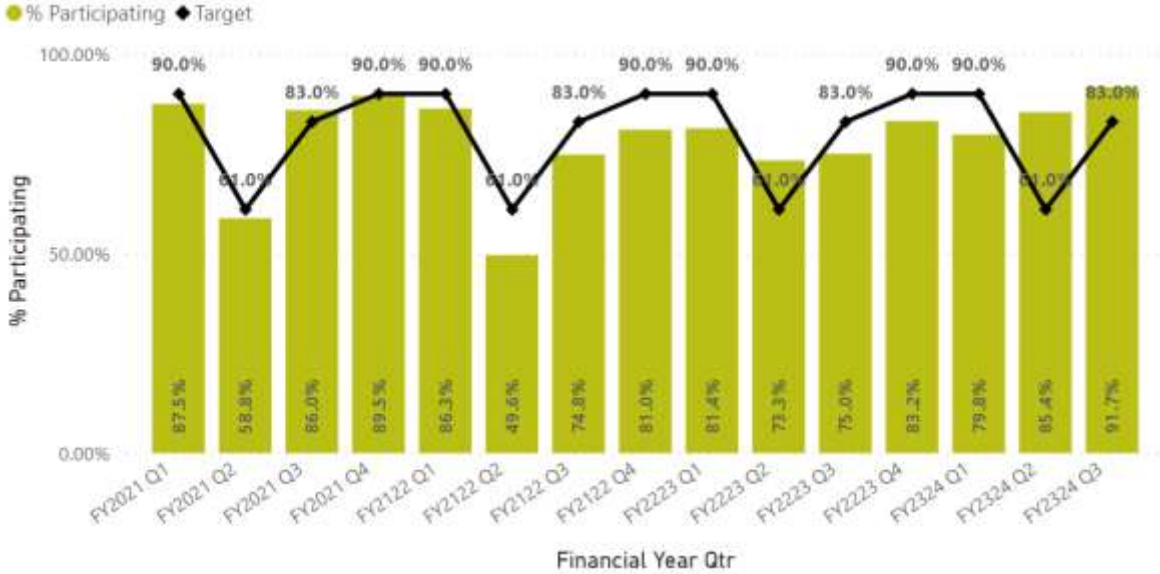
Actual: 91.7

Target: 83

Performance this quarter is above target and an improvement on Quarter 2 2023/24 (85.4%) and Quarter 3 2022/23 (last year) of 75%. At the end of the reporting period, there were 181 young people in care aged 16 and 17 years. Of the 181 young people, 166 met the criteria for engaging in learning and were on roll at local colleges, post 16 providers and school sixth forms. Of the remaining 15 young people, two young people were in full time employment (without training) and 13 young people were not actively engaged in any

education, employment or training. Seven of these young people have remained not engaging in employment, education or training since Quarter 2 2023/24, two young people are new into care and four young people have left their education or training provision due to a change in circumstances.

Personal Education Plans involving the young people and supporting professionals will continue to explore any potential barriers to progressing into employment, education or training and revisit opportunities and appropriate support on a termly basis. Two additional employment coach roles specifically for children in care have been created which will focus on this small group of young people, developing their confidence and skills to promote their transition into work-based training or employment.



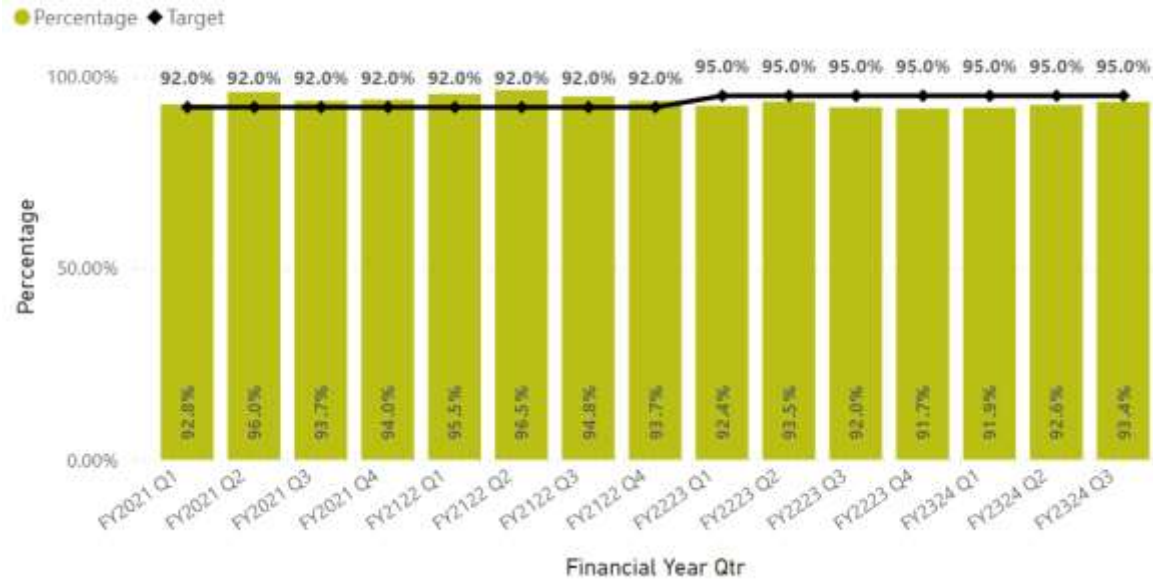
1.3.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 46 Care leavers in suitable accommodation ✓

Actual: 93.4
Target: 95

The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 93.4% (253 out of 271) at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24. 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 mothers’ driveway; this young person is in EET (Employment, Education or Training) but has declined housing and is considered to be unsuitably housed, but it is their choice to

live where they do. There has also been a decline in the number of young people in custody and this has positively impacted on their lives and this statistic.



Benchmarking as at March 2023

1.3.3 Measures that did not meet their target

None in Quarter 3.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023- 24 Quarter 3.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jo Kavanagh, who can be contacted on jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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