


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

532.0 Days


500.0 Target

Achieved 

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

169 Days

160 Target

Achieved 

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

81.1 Percentage

82.0 Target

Achieved 

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

51.8 Rate

51.9 Target

Achieved 

Stability of placements of Children in Care: Number of moves

4.9 Percentage


9.0 Target

Achieved 

Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement

70.6 Percentage

70.0 Target

Achieved 

Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales

99.5 Percentage

97.0 Target

Achieved 

Participation of Children in Care in reviews

99.8 Percentage


97.0 Target

Achieved 

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

88.7 Percentage


95.0 Target

Not achieved 

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

76.3 Percentage


80.0 Target

Achieved 

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

76.1 Percentage

80.0 Target

Achieved 

Children in Care Living within a Family Environment

86.4 Days

82.0 Target

Achieved 

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan

100.0 Percentage

98.0 Target

Achieved 

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

91.7 Percentage


83.0 Target

Achieved 

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

93.4 Percentage

95.0 Target

Achieved 

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

46.9 Percentage

60.0 Target

Not achieved 

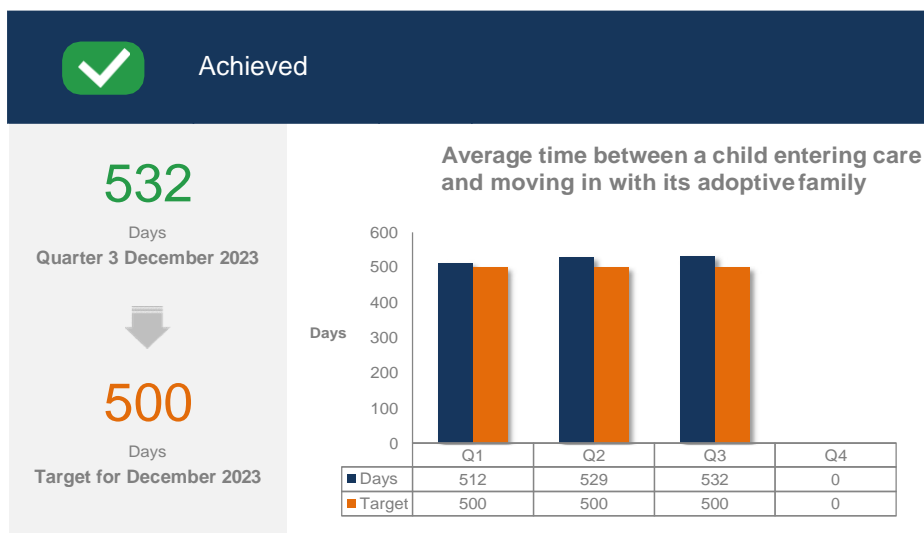


Children Are Healthy and Safe

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 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 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

169

Days

Quarter 3 December 2023

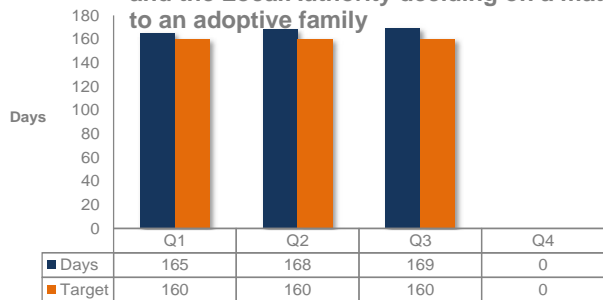


160

Days

Target for December 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 as we cannot family find for children 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

81.1

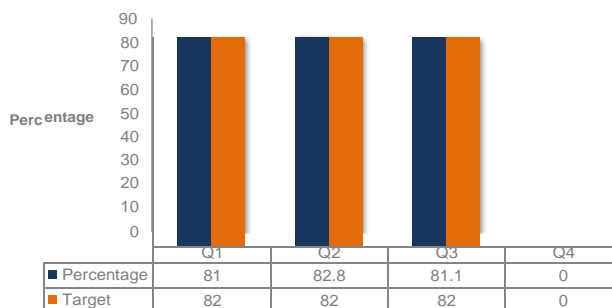
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



82.0

Percentage
Target for December 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

51.8

Rate

Quarter 3 December 2023

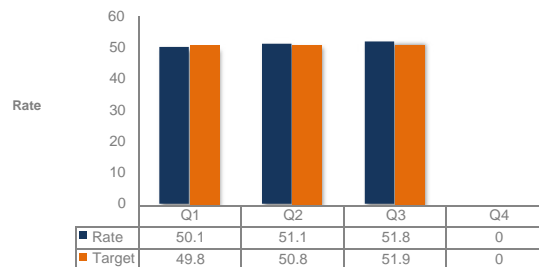


51.9

Rate

Target for December 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 51.8 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 31st March 2023).

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

4.9

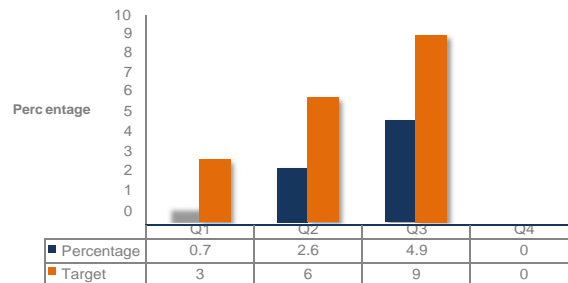
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



9.0

Percentage
Target for December 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 at 4.9% however, as the measure is cumulative, we may expect this to increase by the end of the financial year. The service acknowledges that having a stable placement is a key factor in producing good outcomes for children in care and continues to strive to ensure that children and young people who need to be in care can grow and develop in high quality homes that meet their immediate needs and provide them with permanence at the very earliest.

The service continues to ensure that foster carers are recruited and well inducted to this rewarding voluntary role. All carers are well supported and that any potential challenges in placements are identified early to support fostering families in continuing to care for children whose needs are complex and varied. 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. Children's Services has also seen an increase in the entrants of older children (aged 11 years and over) which poses some challenges 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 significant local and national shortage of foster carers.

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

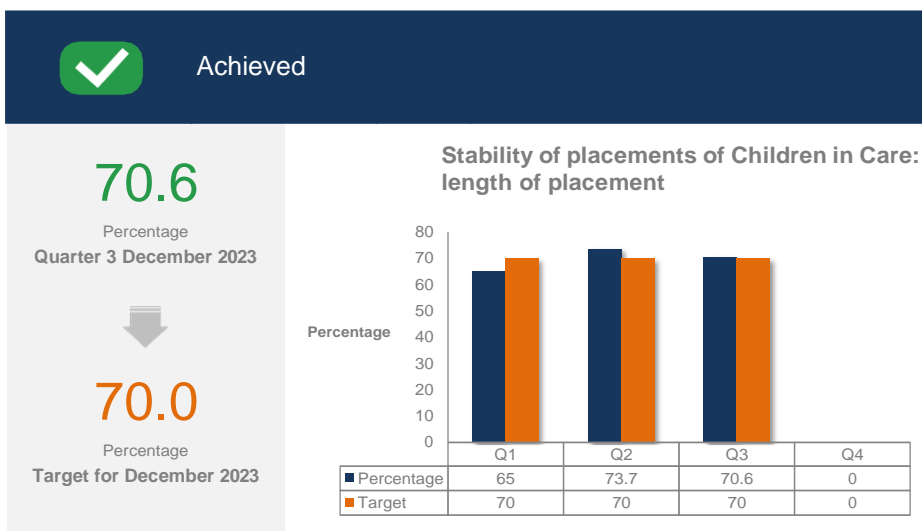


Children Are Healthy and Safe

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

99.5

Percentage

Quarter 3 December 2023

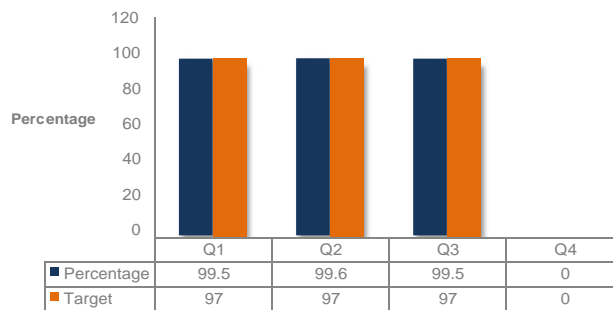


97.0

Percentage

Target for December 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%

Current performance has met the targets set.

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 3 December 2023

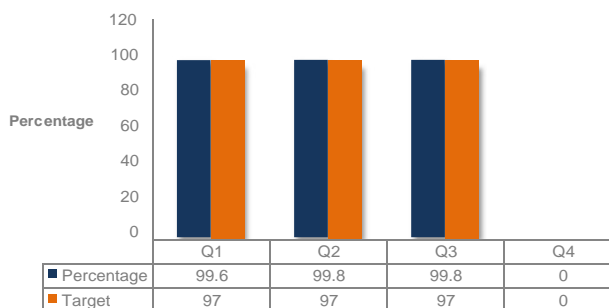


97.0

Percentage

Target for December 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%

Current performance has met the targets set.

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

88.7

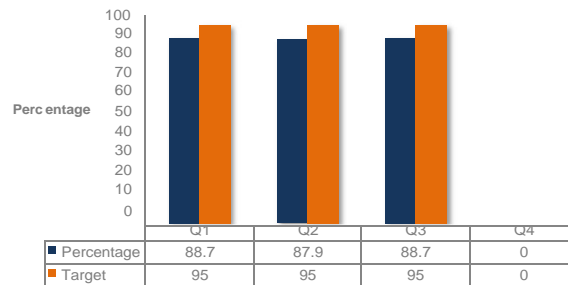
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



95.0

Percentage
Target for December 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 up-to-date health checks for Children in Care for a year or more has risen from 87.9% last quarter to 88.7% this quarter, and there has been much work in the Service to improve the timeliness of health checks. However, the number of children in care has increased since the start of the 2023/24 business year and some are exercising their right to refuse an assessment. Whilst these include young asylum seeking children who have come through the National Transfer Scheme, it is not evident that they are particularly at risk of refusing their health assessment compared to the rest of the Child in Care cohort. Work is currently ongoing to identify which categories of children are most at risk of refusing or avoiding their health check. The Children in Care Teams continue to encourage and promote health assessments with their young people, however these young people can refuse to accept their Health assessments.

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



Achieved

76.3

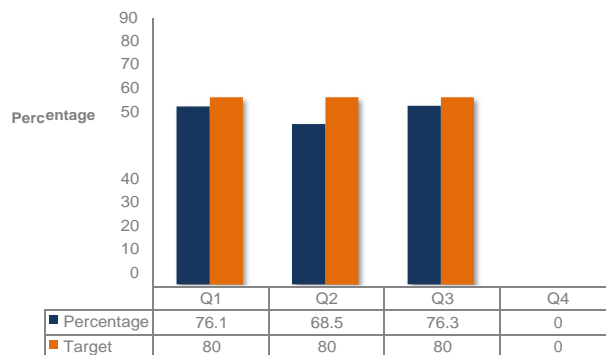
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



80.0

Percentage
Target for December 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%

Current performance has met the targets set.

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



Achieved

76.1

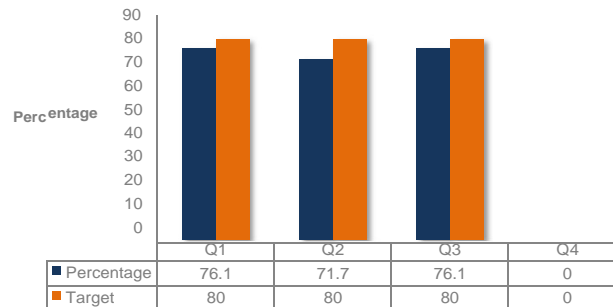
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



80.0

Percentage
Target for December 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%

Current performance has met the targets set.

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

86.4

Days

Quarter 3 December 2023

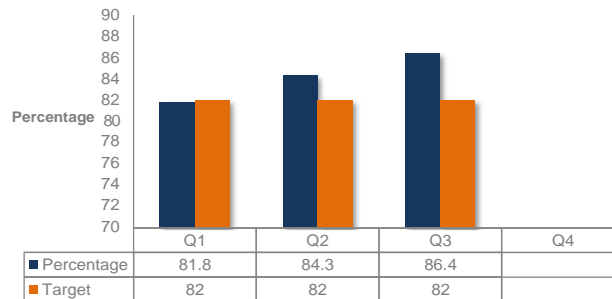


82

Days

Target for December 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 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Q1: 84.2%, Q2 83.7%, Q3: 84.0%, Q4: 83.0%

Performance in 2023/24 - Including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Q1: 76.3%, Q2: 77.7%, Q3: 79.0%

Performance in 2023/24 - Excluding Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Q1: 81.8%, Q2: 84.3%, Q3: 86.4%

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 Unaccompanied children 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 cohort 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%.

In Quarter 3, this measure is performing better than the target tolerance range of 80-85%. It has increased markedly since Quarter 2, which had a figure of 84.3% (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 remains as last year due to sustained consistency.

About the target range

We aim to have the majority of our children in care placed within a family environment where appropriate. Anything above 82% is worthy of celebration and anything below 77% 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

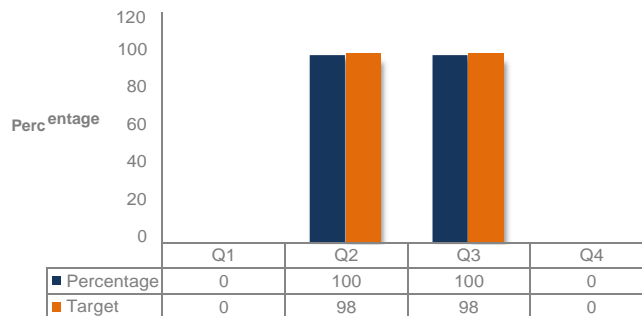
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



98.0

Percentage
Target for December 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

91.7

Percentage

Quarter 3 December 2023

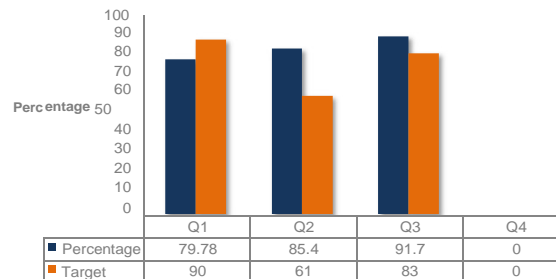


83.0

Percentage

Target for December 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 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, 2 young people were in full time employment (without training) and 13 young people were not actively engaged in any education, employment or training. 7 of these young people have remained not engaging in employment, education or training since Quarter 2 2023/24, 2 young people are new into care and 4 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.

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

93.4

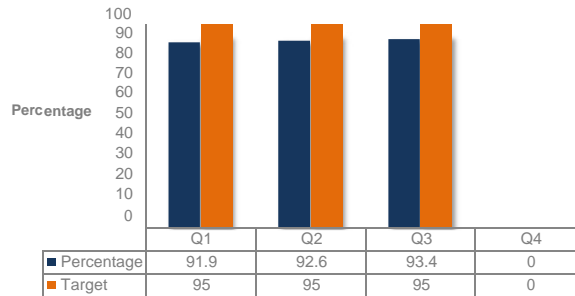
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



95.0

Percentage
Target for December 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 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 mother's 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.

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

46.9

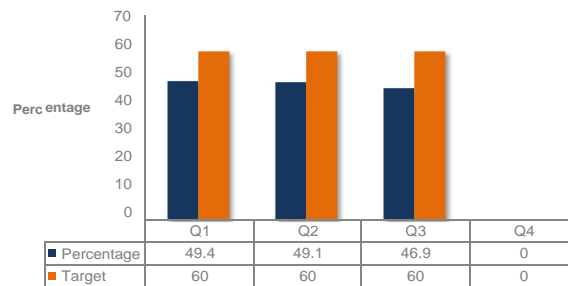
Percentage
Quarter 3 December 2023



60.0

Percentage
Target for December 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. Performance has varied between quarters, in Q2 we reached 49%, but this has fluctuated down again in Q3. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in Education, Employment or Training (EET), and the Service continues to report monthly on the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET.

At the point of writing this Q3 commentary, additional data analysis steps have been followed - of the 326 young people in cohort:

- 2 young people were in custody.
- 17 were young parents and not currently able to work/access education due to parenting.
- 11 were unable to access employment due to their immigration status.
- 4 young people were not in contact with the service, so we do not know their EET status.
- 28 were unable to work due to illness/disability.

The young people where we were unable to affect change represents 15% of the cohort. This means the EET situation where change can be affected is 31.9%. LCC tracks this performance regularly and monitors those young people who fall into NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and those that are in secure EET.

New data cleaning steps are being implemented to ensure the recording of EET is improved. In addition, we have invested in a shared post across LCC and leaving care of an Employment and Aspirations Coordinator. The purpose of this role is to work with our young people who do not see education as their next step, but instead we offer support, careers advice and guidance, and direct support to assist young people from the age of 16 up to 19 to access and sustain employment.

Our EET statistics are slightly below our stat neighbours who run at 55%. However, the "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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