



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	07 July 2022
Subject:	Children in Care Performance Report Quarter 4

Summary:

This item enables the Panel to consider and comment on the report and accompanying appendices to this report, that provide key performance information for Quarter 4 2021/22 that is relevant to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Actions Required:

Members of the Panel are invited to consider and comment on the performance information contained in the appendices of this report and recommend any actions or changes to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement.

1. Background

Appendix A provides a full and detailed report that covers the measures that are relevant to Children in Care (CiC) used by Children's Services. This is available for questions.

There are 18 measures in total that relate to CiC that are reported on in Quarter 4. Of these measures 10 did not meet their target and two are ahead of the target set by the services.

1.1 Measures that did not meet their target:

1.1.1 Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old- This performance remains slightly under target. The vast majority of CiC within this age group are placed in foster care settings, however this has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic as placement options have reduced as a result of foster carers initially isolating, remaining offline and some very recently returning to fostering. Following the government relaxation and gradual easing the capacity of fostering beds available is still slowly recovering but is still significantly reduced to what it was prior to Covid 19.

There has been an increase in the numbers of younger children requiring residential placements in the past year. These are often children who have experienced a number of foster placement moves who struggle to adjust to the expectations of living in a family environment. Residential care has provided a nurturing environment for this group and has enabled them to settle yet our transformational work which is ongoing supports our practice in identifying local resources for those children who are deemed to have sufficiently progressed and are assessed as suitable for foster care or alternative in house provision. There has also been a concentrated focus on reunifying children with their birth families this year whilst we await revocation of Care Orders or granting of private law orders e.g., Special Guardianship Orders within the Court.

1.1.2 Stability of placements of Children in Care: Number of moves - This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience three placement moves. The target is challenging and has slipped under target again this year although our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of looked after children experienced three placement moves in a year. The year has been challenging for all children but foster carers have proven to be very resourceful and committed to the children they care for. However, placement availability has been negatively impacted as some foster carers have chosen to concentrate on the children already in their care and declined to take additional placements. With a back drop of increased numbers of CiC and a depleted pool of foster carers available, effective matching for children has been more difficult.

1.1.3 Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement - Performance remains below target. For all placements, the service continues to ensure that foster carers are well supported and that potential problems are identified early.

This has been reinforced by 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 we have continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. The impact of reduced carer resources during the pandemic has also played its part and cannot be underestimated. The service have also seen an increase in the number of much younger children with care plans for long term fostering and this will present challenges in achieving placement stability for some children due to the local and national shortage of foster carers who want to care on a long term or permanent basis.

1.1.4 Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date health check - The Covid 19 pandemic has had less negative impact on this area of the children's health than dental care and the immunisation programme. However, the number of CiC has increased and there is evidence of more young people (16/17 age range) exercising their right to refuse an assessment. There have been a number young people in this age range becoming looked after and generally they are not committed to accessing their health assessment.

The CiC 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, however there are still challenges due to the availability of GP appointments across the county. Where there appears to be a particularly long wait for an appointment the nurses are telephoning the carers to undertake a triage to identify to ensure that there are no significant areas of

concern/worry that need to be addressed urgently. However, this does not replace the health assessment which is still completed by the GP.

1.1.5 Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date dental check - This measure continues to improve and is now sitting at 71.5% which is an increase from 65.1% in the last quarter, however this measure remains below the target of 95%. Prior to Covid 19, we were seeing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist. Many of these appear to have made the decision to only provide private dentistry thereby impacting on the number of NHS practices available. This, coupled with the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted significantly on the number of CiC with an up to date dental check.

Access to NHS dentistry is a national issue and the availability of dentists across the county continues to impact on our ability to ensure that all children in care have regular dental checks. Efforts continue to be made to ensure that all CiC are registered with a dentist and dentists are working to ensure that dental checks are being completed, although it is likely to take some more time to deal with the backlog of appointments.

1.1.6 Percentage of Children in Care with an up to date routine immunisations - The number of routine immunisations being completed continues to be impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, with the measure staying broadly static at 76.2% in to 79.3% in the last quarter. The majority of overdue immunisations continue to be the teenage boosters which are undertaken in school. These were clearly delayed due to schools being closed for extended periods of time.

The health immunisation team projected that it will take approximately 18 months for the programme to be fully back on schedule. However, further pressures have been added to their workload due to the need to catch up on those that have been missed/delayed during the pandemic and also the increase in their workload due to all males now being offered the HPV and all school population being offered the Covid 19 and flu immunisations.

1.1.7 Children in Care persistent absence rate - This persistent absence data covers the period September 2020 to July 2021 and includes the periods of government restrictions due to Covid 19. Despite Covid 19 and the various school closures and shielding for vulnerable people, Lincolnshire CiC performance was below the national average when compared to the six years previous to the pandemic persistent absence rate which is an excellent achievement.

During the period of restrictions/lockdowns/closures, CiC and other vulnerable groups were prioritised to continue attending school. The data for persistent absence was in line with that for CiC nationally (30.5%). Throughout this period, Children's Services Teams, carers and school staff worked together to support our CiC overcome the many challenges that emerged throughout the pandemic and to ensure that all CiC attended school either virtually or on a full time or part time basis wherever possible.

1.1.8 Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs - The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic was that examinations were replaced by school-based teacher assessments during this period. Despite falling below the range for percentage of CiC achieving English and Maths Grade 5-9 in both English and Maths combined, the outcomes for the individual subjects of English and Maths

both saw an increase compared to the previous year. There was also an increase across the board for Grade 4 and above in English and Maths combined when compared with the previous year.

1.1.9 16-17 year old Children in Care who are participating in Learning - The performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 4%. All of our 16 and 17-year-olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning process (PEP). This brings social workers, carers and providers together to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning.

Some of our young people in care struggle to access learning and the team also works with those young people not participating in learning to ensure that they can access therapeutic support and/or appropriate educational opportunities when they are ready to do so.

The Virtual School has participated in the National Department for Education (DfE) Post 16 pilot which was completed at the end of March 2022. The pilot has enabled the Virtual School, working in partnership with post 16 providers, Leaving Care and Social Care colleagues, to allocate additional funding through the PEP process to promote young people's access to and engagement in further education. This has assisted the Virtual School to find placements for those young people not participating in learning and provide individual learners with advice and support through the PEP regardless of where placed. The final evaluation of the pilot is currently with the DfE and we are awaiting a decision on the continuation of this additional funding at the end of July 2022.

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET)- This measure remains below target but is slowly improving despite fluctuations and is up from 52.3% to 53.1%. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Service continues to report on a monthly basis the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET and the Corporate Parenting Manager tracks this performance. A survey has been carried out with every Care Leaver who are not in EET and the main barriers reported back are poor mental health (depression and anxiety) lack of qualifications and substance misuse issues. The new Aspirations Worker is focusing on supporting young people back into employment and assisting young people to access the Covid 19 recover initiatives, but issues such as poor mental health and substance use continue to be a barrier. The Leaving Care service is working with the Corporate Parenting Manager to look at the emotional wellness and recovery of young people, alongside the plethora of activity to support young people accessing EET, as mental health/emotional wellbeing is one of the biggest barriers to our young people accessing EET, so much so a Wellbeing Worker is being recruited. A further piece of work is being undertaken to fully understand the lived experiences of these young people in EET and fully appreciate why they are in EET and develop individual plans. It is anticipated that legacy Covid 19 will continue to impact on emotional wellbeing and EET.

1.2 Measures that are ahead of their target:

1.2.1 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 - The performance in Quarter 4 has improved significantly as compared to Quarter 3 where Lincolnshire were slightly above the target figure of 175. The average for the year as a whole was 166 which is an excellent outcome at a time

when there is still an impact due to Covid 19. The target has reduced in line with the national picture and the acknowledgment of additional delay, but the performance of Lincolnshire has continued to be well within the timescales. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is wherever possible a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.

1.2.2 Children in Care Living Within A Family Environment - Performance continues to remain above target in this area and is following an above the target range trend. For many CiC, 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.

2. Conclusion

This report summarises the Quarter 4 performance for Children in Care and Young People, and Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to review and raise any questions on its content and recommend any actions or changes to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

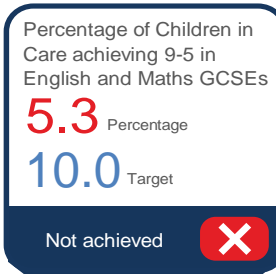
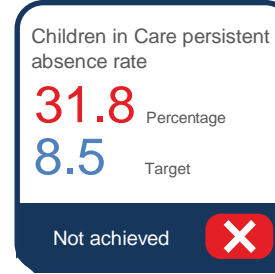
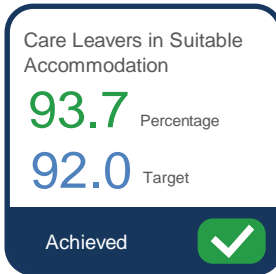
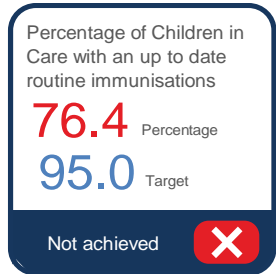
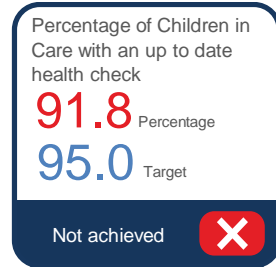
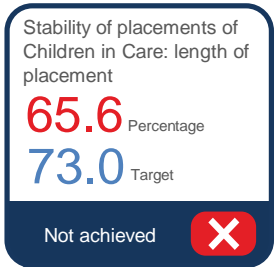
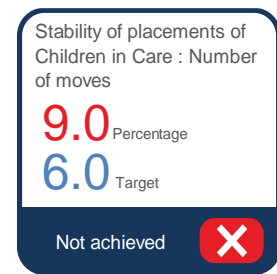
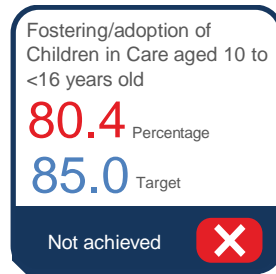
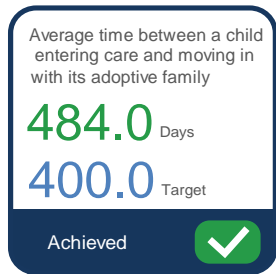
4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children in Care - Performance Measures - Q4

5. 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 Simon Hardcastle, Performance Support Officer – Corporate Transformation, Programmes & Performance, who can be contacted by e-mail at simon.hardcastle@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Corporate Parenting Panel

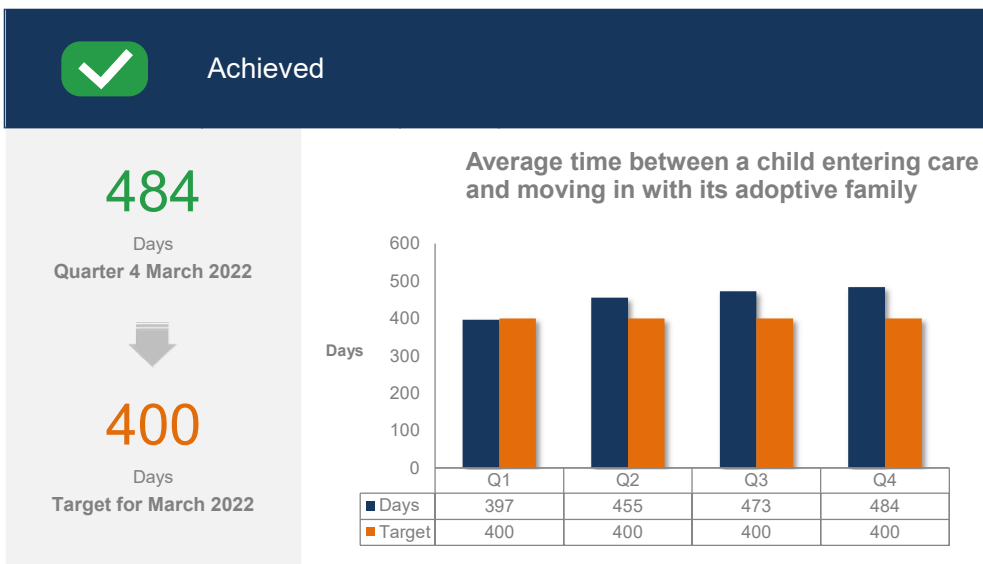


Healthy and Safe

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 2020/21 - Q1: 415, Q2: 416, Q3: 368, Q4: 386

With the recent easing and gradual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire continues to achieve target in this measure. There continues to be some delay in getting cases through the courts during Covid, and this will continue to have some impact on the statistics and data for this year and accounts for the increased timescales. 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. The most recent published comparator data is from the three-year period before the pandemic (2015-18), however, Lincolnshire remains better than the national figure (486) from that period, although it is now higher than the statistical neighbours (456.33).

About the target

Target set significantly better than national average.

About the target range

A lower value of 490 has been set as this would mean performance is worse than the most recent national figures

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available for 2018, however, 2019 figures have not yet been released.

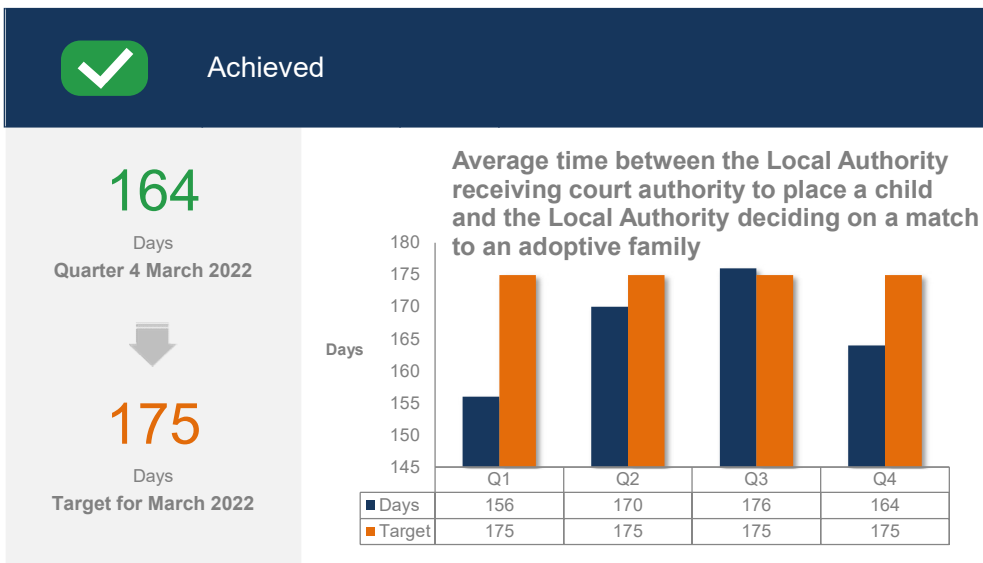


Healthy and Safe

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.



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 129, Q2: 131, Q3: 122, Q4: 153

The performance in quarter 4 has improved significantly as compared to quarter 3 where Lincolnshire were slightly above the target figure of 175. The average for the year as a whole was 166 which is an excellent outcome at a time when there is still an impact due to Covid. The target has reduced in line with the national picture and the acknowledgment of additional delay, but the performance of Lincolnshire has continued to be well within the timescales. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is wherever possible a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.

About the target

Target has reduced to 175 to take into account recent trends of a higher number of adoptions, which is expected to impact figures. However, the revised target remains significantly better than the most recent published National figures.

About the target range

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

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available for 2019



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



Not achieved

80.4

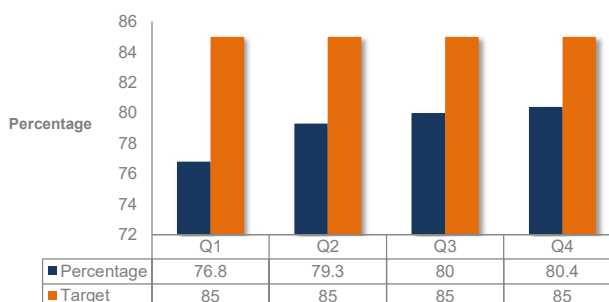
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



85.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 79.8%, Q2: 78.1%, Q3: 76.8%, Q4: 78.9%

This performance remains slightly under target. The vast majority of children in care within this age group are placed in foster care settings, however this has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic as placement options have reduced as a result of foster carers initially isolating, remaining offline and some very recently returning to fostering. Following the government relaxation and gradual easing the capacity of fostering beds available is still slowly recovering but is still significantly reduced to what it was prior to Covid.

There has been an increase in the numbers of younger children requiring residential placements in the past year. These are often children who have experienced a number of foster placement moves who struggle to adjust to the expectations of living in a family environment. Residential care has provided a nurturing environment for this group and has enabled them to settle yet our transformational work which is ongoing supports our practice in identifying local resources for those children who are deemed to have sufficiently progressed and are assessed as suitable for foster care or alternative in house provision. There has also been a concentrated focus on reunifying children with their birth families this year whilst we await revocation of Care Orders or granting of private law orders e.g. Special Guardianship Orders within the Court.

About the target

Target reduced to 85% as performance has remained under target at 82% over the past year. 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 2% variance is set for the upper value and 3% for the lower value.

Meeting the upper tolerance level would achieve a performance level not reached recently and show a change in the overall trend.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking data no longer available



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

49.9

Rate

Quarter 4 March 2022

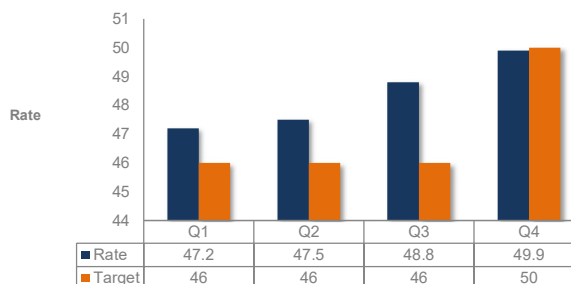


50.0

Rate

Target for March 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 44.4, Q2: 45.2, Q3: 47.1, Q4: 46.8

This measure has achieved target, however this target has been revised in Quarter 4 from 46 to 50 per 10,000 take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme. As with Quarter 3, the number of Children in Care starters over Quarter 4 has remained at a relatively high level whilst the number of care leavers has remained reasonably static. The increase in new entrants to care has continued to keep the Children in Care per 10,000 figure high over the past quarter. The 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 103 children which equates to 0.07% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward. Despite the growth this quarter 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, despite the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (67 per 10,000 and 63.4 per 10,000 respectively as of 31st March 2021).

About the target

Target Remains Same as Previous Year

About the target range

The Upper and lower Target allows for the number of LAC to vary between approximately 626- 699. This is about +/- 35 children from target.

Anything above or below this number would be flagged as worse than target, i.e. indicating a significant variance from the current position.

About benchmarking

Comparator information is available and is showing an increasing trend

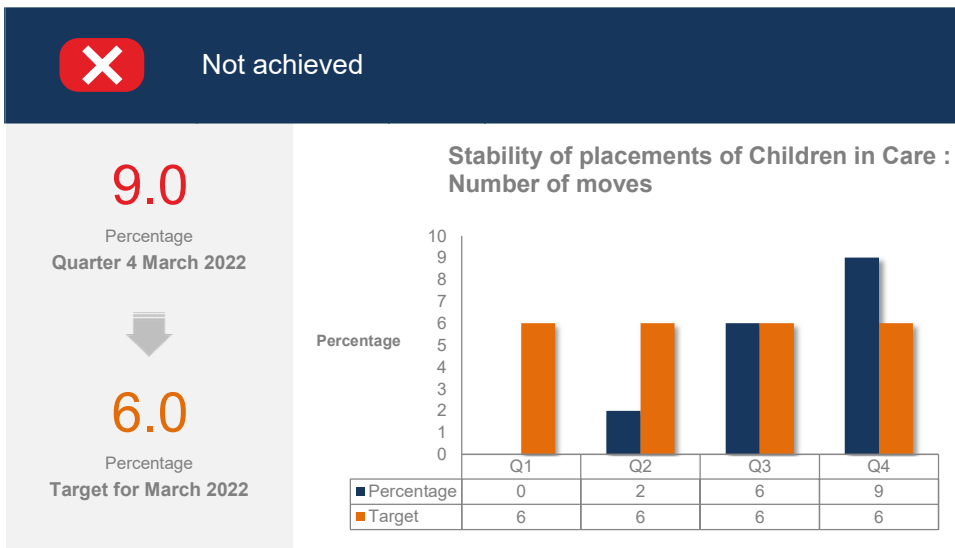


Healthy and Safe

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 1%, Q2: 1%, Q3: 2%, Q4: 8%

This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience 3 placement moves. The target is challenging and has slipped under target again this year although our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of looked after children experienced 3 placement moves in a year. The year has been challenging for all children but foster carers have proven to be very resourceful and committed to the children they care for. However placement availability has been negatively impacted as some foster carers have chosen to concentrate on the children already in their care and declined to take additional placements. With a back drop of increased numbers of children in care and a depleted pool of foster carers available, effective matching for children has been more difficult.

About the target

Target remains same as 2020/21. Performance remains good in comparison with the 11% stated national figure. However we have seen a deterioration this year which reflects the reduced choice of placement options and complexities of young people placed.

About the target range

Achieving the upper tolerance level should maintain LCC's position within the top quartile nationally and still maintain LCC as one of the best performing of our statistical neighbours. Comparative performance within our statistical neighbours is 9.6%. Anything below the lower level should be shown as a significant improvement over last year.

About benchmarking

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

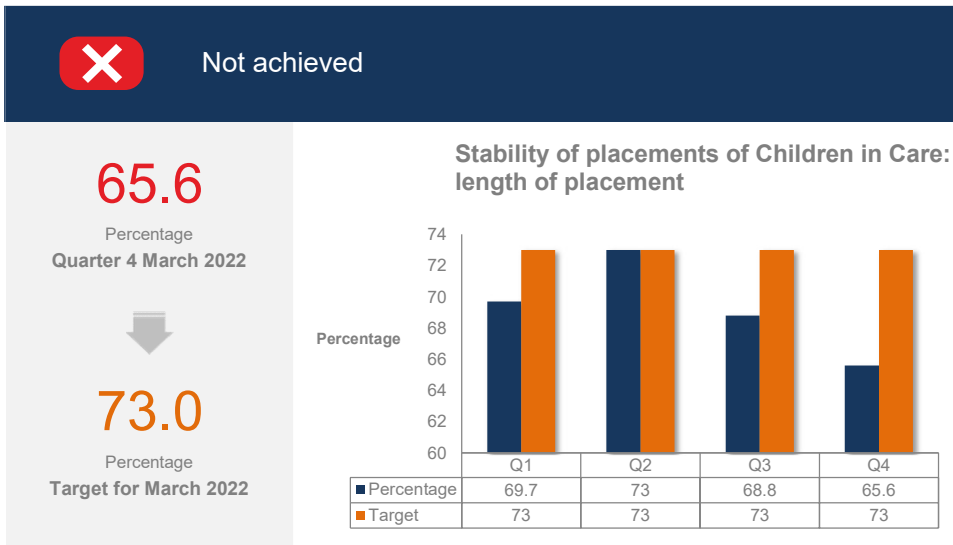


Healthy and Safe

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 2020/21 - Q1: 72.8%, Q2: 69.2%, Q3: 70.9%, Q4: 72.2%

Performance remains below target. For all placements, the service continues to ensure that foster carers are well supported and that potential problems are identified early. This has been reinforced by 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 we have continued to see that some stable placements disrupt unexpectedly and this can have a significant impact upon this indicator. The impact of reduced carer resources during the pandemic has also played its part and cannot be underestimated. The service have also seen an increase in the number of much younger children with care plans for long term fostering and this will present challenges in achieving placement stability for some children due to the local and national shortage of foster carers who want to care on a long term or permanent basis.

About the target

Target remains the same as previous years and above the present performance of statistical neighbours. Tolerances for this measure take into account the current performance.

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

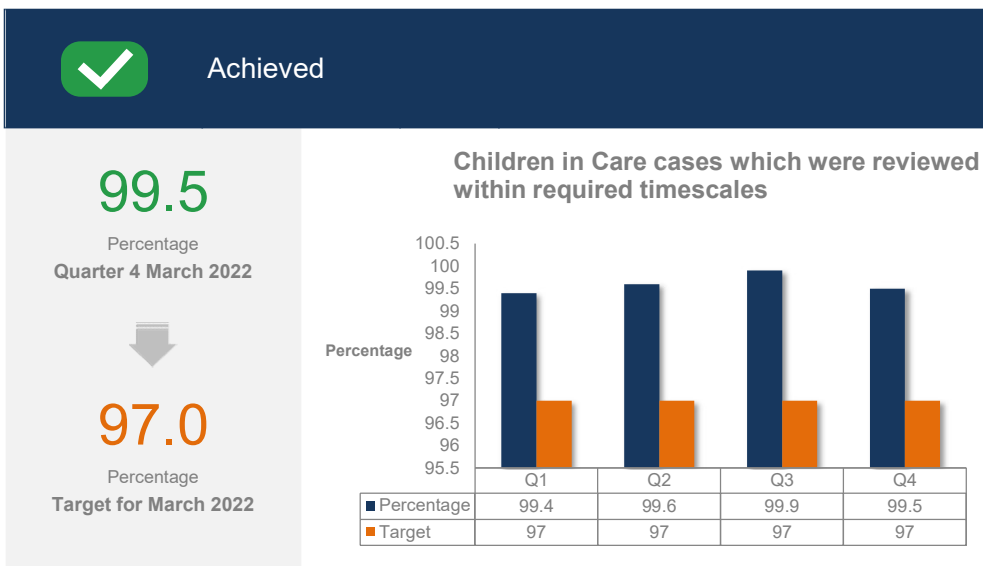


Healthy and Safe

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 99.2%, Q2: 98.6%, Q3: 98.4%, Q4: 98.7%

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 97%, an upper value of 3% 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

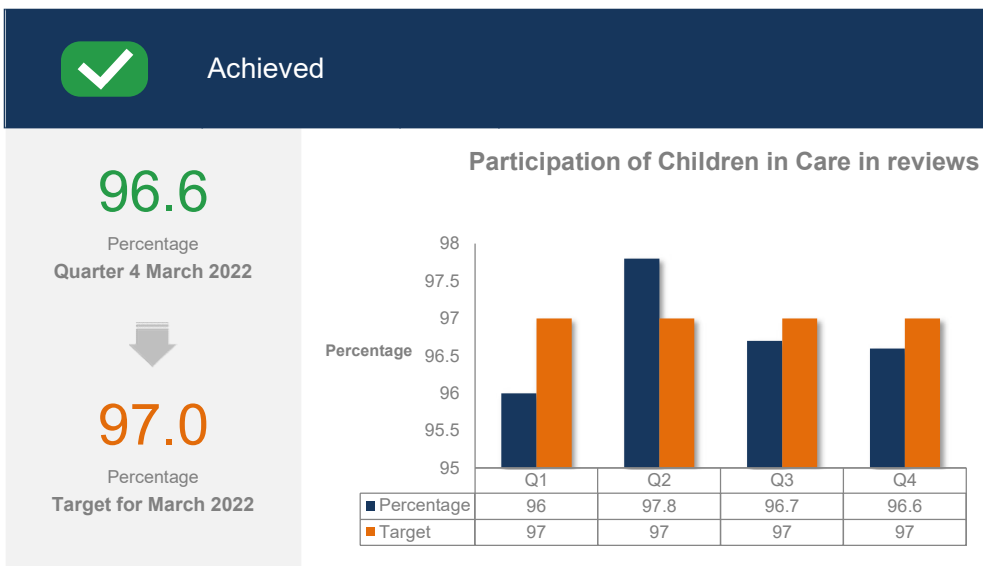


Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Participation of Children in Care in reviews

Percentage of Children in Care who participated in their reviews



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 99.7%, Q2: 99.8%, Q3: 99.2%, Q4: 97.6%

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 97%, an upper value of 3% 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

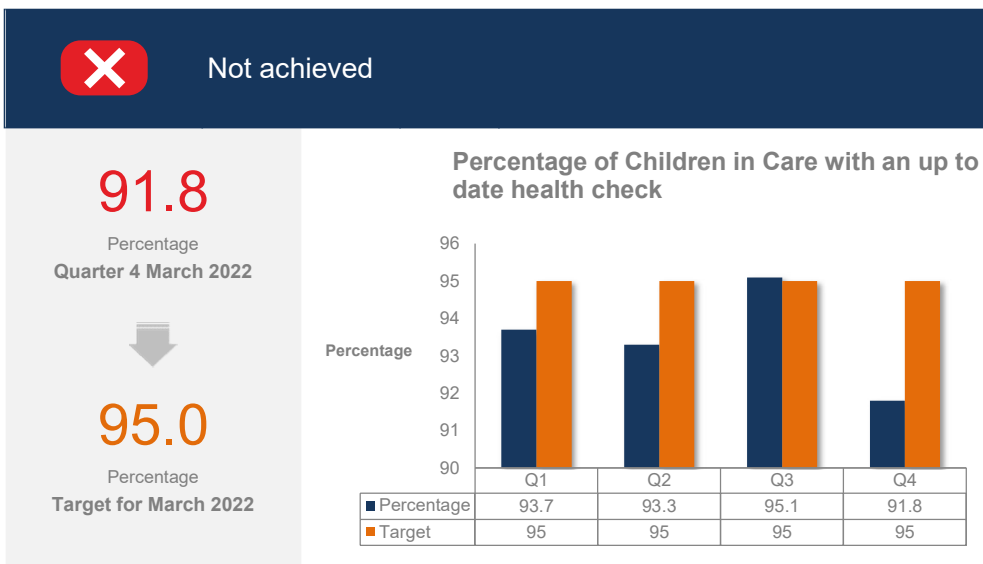


Healthy and Safe

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 93.4%, Q2: 96%, Q3: 94.1%, Q4: 91.2%

The Covid Pandemic has had less negative impact on this area of the children's health than dental care and the immunisation programme. However, the number of children in care has increased and there is evidence of more young people (16/17 age range) exercising their right to refuse an assessment. There have been a number young people in this age range becoming looked after and generally they are not committed to accessing their health assessment. 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, however there are still challenges due to the availability of GP appointments across the county. Where there appears to be a particularly long wait for an appointment the nurses are telephoning the carers to undertake a triage to identify to ensure that there are no significant areas of concern/worry that need to be addressed urgently. However, this does not replace the health assessment which is still completed by the GP.

About the target

Remain 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



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

73.5

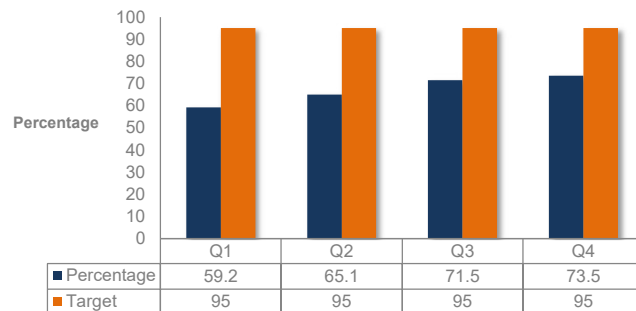
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



95.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 89%, Q2: 76.5%, Q3: 69.9%, Q4: 49.5%

This measure continues to improve and is now sitting at 73.5% which is a slight increase from Q3, however this measure remains below the target of 95%. Prior to Covid, we were seeing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist. Many of these appear to have made the decision to only provide private dentistry thereby impacting on the number of NHS practices available. This, coupled with the impact of the COVID19 Pandemic has impacted significantly on the number of Children in Care with an up to date dental check.

Access to NHS dentistry is a national issue and the availability of dentists across the county continues to impact on our ability to ensure that all children in care have regular dental checks. Efforts continue to be made to ensure that all children in care are registered with a dentist and dentists are working to ensure that dental checks are being completed, although it is likely to take some more time to deal with the backlog of appointments.

About the target

Remain 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



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

76.4

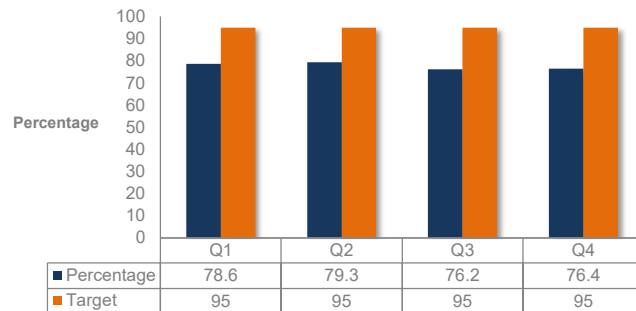
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



95.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 85.8%, Q2: 79.8%, Q3: 76.5%, Q4: 80%

The number of routine immunisations being completed continues to be impacted by the Covid Pandemic, with the measure staying broadly static at 76.2% in to 79.3% in the last quarter. The majority of overdue immunisations continue to be the teenage boosters which are undertaken in school. These were clearly delayed due to schools being closed for extended periods of time.

The health immunisation team projected that it will take approximately 18 months for the programme to be fully back on schedule. However, further pressures have been added to their workload due to the need to catch up on those that have been missed/delayed during the pandemic and also the increase in their workload due to all males now being offered the HPV and all school population being offered the COVID19 and flu immunisations.

About the target

Remain 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. Achievement of this would indicate that all LAC received all their health checks within timescale – achievement of 100%.

A lower tolerance of 1% has been set to allow for under performance. Data from the last two years shows achieving 94% 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



Ready for Adult Life

Ready 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.



Not achieved

81.0

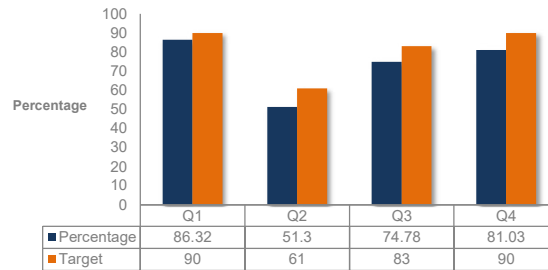
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



90.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 87.5%, Q2: 58.8%, Q3: 85.96%, Q4: 89.47%

The performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 4%. All of our 16 and 17 year olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning Process. This brings social workers, carers and providers together to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. Some of our young people in care struggle to access learning and the team also works with those young people not participating in learning to ensure that they can access therapeutic support and/or appropriate educational opportunities when they are ready to do so.

The Virtual School has participated in the National DfE Post 16 pilot which was completed at the end of March 2022. The pilot has enabled the Virtual School, working in partnership with post 16 providers, Leaving Care and Social Care colleagues, to allocate additional funding through the PEP process to promote young people's access to and engagement in further education. This has assisted the Virtual School to find placements for those Young People not participating in learning and provide individual learners with advice and support through the Personal Education Plan regardless of where placed. The final evaluation of the pilot is currently with the DfE and we are awaiting a decision on the continuation of this additional funding at the end of July 2022.

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



Ready for Adult Life

Ready 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

93.7

Percentage

Quarter 4 March 2022

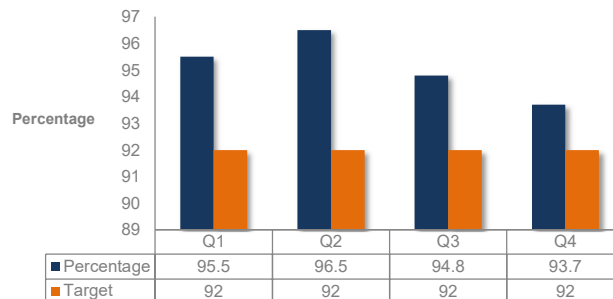


92.0

Percentage

Target for March 2022

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 92.8%, Q2: 96%, Q3: 93.7%, Q4: 94%

The good performance in relation to accommodation continues to be down to good working relationships with District Councils and their willingness to view care leavers as a priority group. The continued flexibility and resilience of our housing provider, Nacro, during and after the pandemic continues to ensure safe accommodation is on offer. The above combined with persistent and creative work of leaving care staff has ensured that nearly all care leavers are suitably accommodated if they wish. A small number of young people in custody are there for deemed to be unsuitably accommodated, and one care leaver declined the support of housing authorities which does impact on the figure.

About the target

Target to remain the same as previous year, we are above both national and similar authority average

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 and we constantly perform better than comparators



Ready for Adult Life

Ready 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

53.1

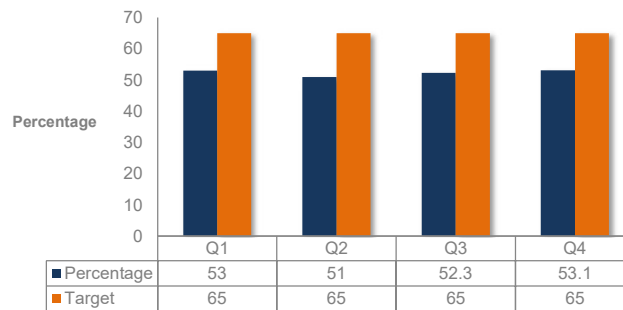
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



65.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 52%, Q2: 55.1%, Q3: 52.8%, Q4: 49.8%

This measure remains below target but is slowly improving despite fluctuations and is up from 52.3% to 53.1%. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Service continues to report on a monthly basis the efforts of the service to re-engage individuals back into EET and the Corporate Parenting Manager tracks this performance. A survey has been carried out with every Care Leaver who are not in EET and the main barriers reported back are poor mental health (depression and anxiety) lack of qualifications and substance misuse issues. The new Aspirations worker is focusing on supporting young people back into employment and assisting young people to access the Covid-19 recover initiatives, but issues such as poor mental health and substance use continue to be a barrier. The Leaving Care service is working with the Corporate Parenting Manager to look at the emotional wellness and recovery of young people, alongside the plethora of activity to support young people accessing EET, as mental health/emotional wellbeing is one of the biggest barriers to our young people accessing EET, so much so a wellbeing worker is being recruited. A further piece of work is being undertaken to fully understand the lived experiences of these young people in EET and fully appreciate why they are in EET and develop individual plans. It is anticipated that legacy Covid-19 will continue to impact on emotional wellbeing and EET.

About the target

Target reduced to 65% 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



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

99.0

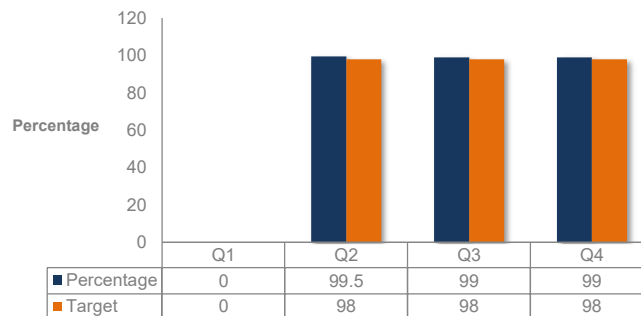
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



98.0

Percentage
Target for March 2022

Percentage of Children in Care with a Personal Education Plan



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: N/A, Q2: 100%, Q3: 100%, Q4: 99%

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.

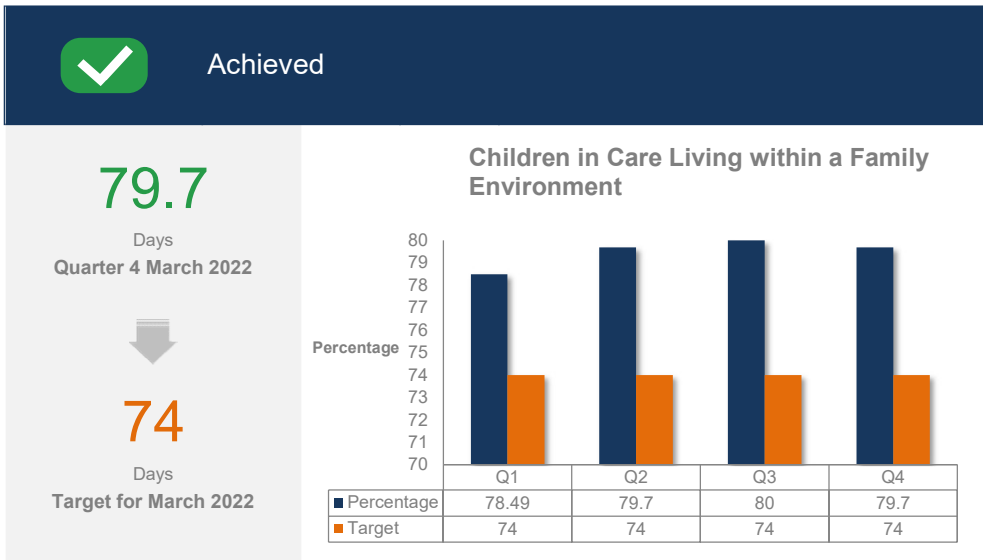


Healthy and Safe

Children are Healthy and Safe

Children in Care Living within a Family Environment

Percentage of Children in Care Living within a Family Environment



About the latest performance

Performance in 2020/21 - Q1: 79.6%, Q2: 78.6%, Q3: 78.6%, Q4: 77.8%

Performance continues to remain above target in this area and is following an above the target range trend. 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

The target has been set to 74%. This is a new Performance Indicator which includes children in care living with parents as well as in foster and adoption placements.

About the target range

We would like to see performance between 70% and 77%, so we have set the lower range to -4% and the upper range to +3%.

About benchmarking

We are unable to benchmark against other local authorities as this measure includes children residing with their parents.



Learn and Achieve

Learn and Achieve

Children in Care persistent absence rate

Persistent absence rate for children in care



Not achieved

31.8

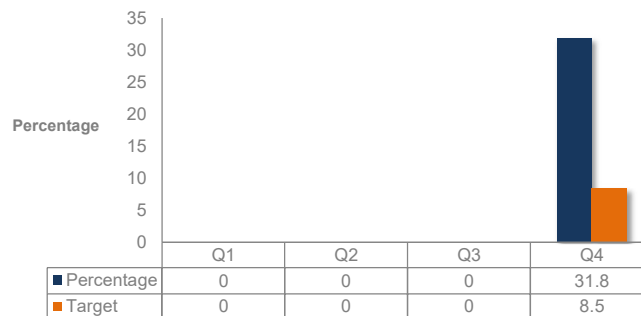
Percentage
Quarter 4 March 2022



8.5

Percentage
Target for March 2022

Children in Care persistent absence rate



About the latest performance

Performance reported Q4 2018/19: 9.8%, Q4 2019/20: 8.2%, Q4 2020/21: N/A

This persistent absence data covers the period September 2020 to July 2021 and includes the periods of government restrictions due to covid: Despite covid and the various school closures and shielding for vulnerable people, Lincolnshire Children in Care performance was below the national average when compared to the six years previous to the pandemic persistent absence date which is an excellent achievement.

During the period of restrictions/lockdowns/closures, CiC and other vulnerable groups were prioritised to continue attending school. The data for persistent absence was in line with that for Children in Care nationally (30.5%). Throughout this period, Children's Services Teams, carers and school staff worked together to support our CiC overcome the many challenges that emerged throughout the pandemic and to ensure that all Children in Care attended school either virtually or on a full time or part time basis wherever possible.

About the target

The most recent data available from the 2018/19 SFR gave Lincolnshire's performance at 8.2%. Lincolnshire's average performance over the past 6 years is 8.5%. This is well above all of our comparators who have averaged 9.6% to 9.7% over the past 6 years.

The suggested target is 8.5%.

About the target range

Target of 8.5% is aspirational relative to our comparators therefore any improvement on this (i.e. hit upper tolerance of 8.4%) should be celebrated. Lower is a 2% variance on target and would mean that we would be roughly in line with average National, regional and statistical comparator performance even if we perform towards to lower threshold of our target.

About benchmarking

Benchmarked against National, Regional and Statistical Neighbours.



Learn and Achieve

Learn and Achieve

Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs

Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs



Not achieved

5.3

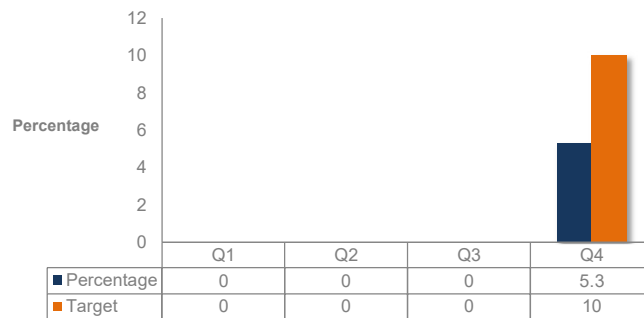
Percentage
Annual



10.0

Percentage
Annual

Percentage of Children in Care achieving 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs



About the latest performance

Performance reported Q4 2018/19: 10.7%, Q4 2019/20: 3.2%, Q4 2020/21: 8%

The impact of the covid pandemic was that examinations were replaced by school - based teacher assessments during this period. Despite falling below the range for percentage of CiC achieving English and Maths Grade 5-9 in both English and Maths combined, the outcomes for the individual subjects of English and Maths both saw increases compared to the previous year. There was also an increase across the board for grade 4 and above in English and Maths combined when compared with the previous year.

About the target

Nationally in 2019, 7% of looked after children achieved grade 9-5 in English and maths. In Lincolnshire in 2019, 3% of looked after children achieved grade 9-5 in English and maths.

The latest 2020 data is yet to be published but early indications suggest Lincolnshire increased to 8% for this measure and national is likely to stay around 7-8%.

The target has been set to 10% to get our performance above national performance for this measure. A figure of 10% also allows for a small increase in this measure nationally if we achieve the target.

About the target range

The tolerances have been made fairly broad on account of cohort size meaning each pupil is worth 2% to Lincolnshire's outcomes. The tolerance allows for flexibility to cohort numbers that will not be finalised for this measure until 31st March 2021.

The upper tolerance I expect would see Lincolnshire's performance be well above the national average and close to the FFT 50 benchmark; an extremely aspirational target for this cohort. The tolerance would mean that we would need to achieve more than one extra pupil achieving the measure in order to pass the upper target threshold.

The lower tolerance would see Lincolnshire's performance roughly in line with the national average. It would also mean that we would need more than one less pupil not achieving the measure in order to pass below the lower target threshold.

About benchmarking

The FFT 50 benchmark for this cohort suggests our pupils would be in the top 50% of similar pupils nationally if approximately 15% achieved this measure in 2021.

Considering that the FFT Benchmark does not account for this cohort being Looked After and is mainly based on KS2 prior attainment data, the FFT 50 benchmark becomes a very aspirational target for our Looked After pupils to meet.

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