

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

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	09 September 2022
Subject:	Children in Care Performance Measures Quarter 1 2022/23 (April to June 2022)

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 1 2022/23 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 15 measures in total that relate to CiC that are reported on in Quarter 1. Of these measures 8 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 Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family - With the continued delays in cases getting through the court and the gradual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire has failed to meet this target this quarter, as all of the children captured in this data will have been delayed in the Covid pandemic. There has been significant 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 averages, 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).

1.1.2 Fostering/adoption of Children in Care aged 10 to <16 years old - This performance remains slightly under target. Most children in care within this age group are placed in foster care settings, however this target was impacted upon by the Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent recovery. Despite the gradual easing placement options had been reduced initially owing to isolation, carers being offline and reluctant to take placements and latterly despite many households returning to their fostering role the suitability to match new placements with existing children in care has and continues to be a challenge.

Consequently, the numbers of younger children requiring residential placements in the past year has risen. These are often children who have experienced several 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. The continued effort of the transformational work 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 continues to be a focus on reunifying children with their birth families where possible alongside the revocation of Care Orders or granting of private law orders e.g., Special Guardianship Orders within the Court where it is safe and in the best interests of the children.

1.1.3 Participation of Children in Care in reviews - This is a cumulative measure that builds throughout the year. Whilst performance appears to have dropped slightly below target for the first quarter of 2022/23, closer inspection of the records of children listed as not participating in their reviews indicates that there are some issues with recording on Mosaic at present that are pulling this figure down. The numbers shown at present therefore do not give an accurate reflection of the current percentage of participation. Work is currently underway to correct these records, following which the performance is expected to improve significantly and it is anticipated that we will meet target tolerance going forward.

1.1.4 Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date health check - 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 has been a number of 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.

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 71.1% which is a slight decrease from Q4 and remains below the target of 95%. This is due to the ongoing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist which has been the case for several years now. Many Dentists 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.

1.1.6 Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to-date routine immunisation - The number of routine immunisations being completed continues to be impacted by the Covid Pandemic and remains below target. 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.

1.1.7 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. 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.

1.1.8 Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training - This measure remains below target but is slowly improving despite fluctuations and is up from 53.1% to 54.3%. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in Education, Employment or Training (EET). The Service continues to report monthly 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 Stability of placements of Children in Care: Number of moves - This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience 3 placement moves. The target is challenging and slipped under target last year although our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of children in care experienced 3 placement moves in a year. At this stage performance remains good however this may change at year end. The start of year performance is promising however there remain ongoing challenges in respect of placement resources and suitability of matching some children with the right fostering household/provision. Whilst placement availability has gradually increased post pandemic there continues to be some foster carers/providers who are unable to take additional placements owing to their existing commitments however matching the child/ren to the most appropriate carer remains a priority in promoting placement stability and improving outcomes for all children in care.

1.2.2 Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales - For children in care we consistently aim to hold reviews within timescales, working in collaboration with social care and partners to achieve this. Performance reflects the commitment of Children's Services to achieve these expectations.

2. Conclusion

This report summarises the Quarter 1 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

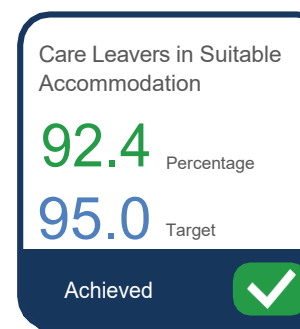
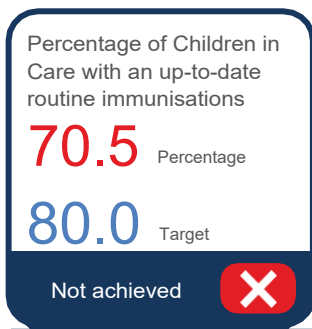
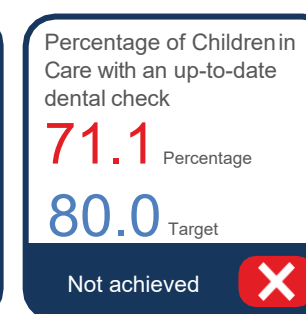
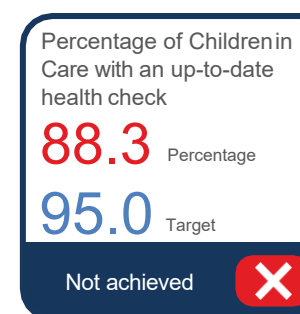
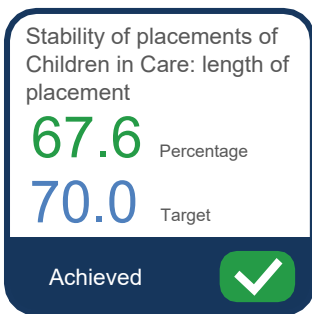
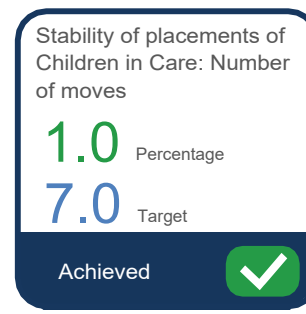
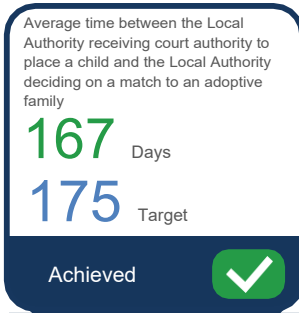
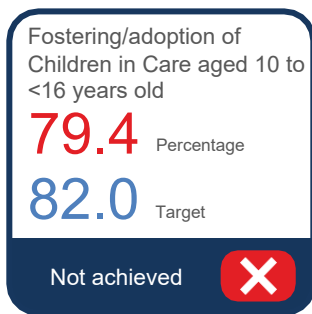
4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children in Care - Performance Measures – Q1

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.





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.



Not achieved

513

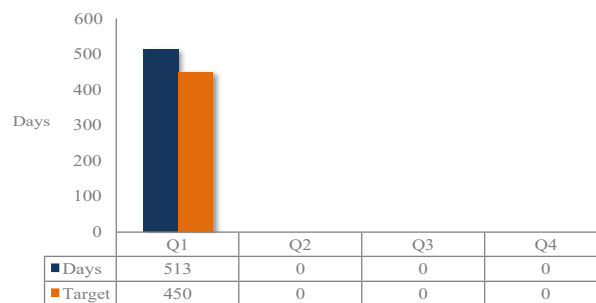
Days
Quarter 1 June 2022



450

Days
Target for June 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 397, Q2: 455, Q3: 473, Q4: 484

With the continued delays in cases getting through the court and the gradual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire has failed to meet this target this quarter, as all of the children captured in this data will have been delayed in the Covid pandemic. There has been significant 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

There has been delay in court proceedings that will have impact on our average days over the next year. Also we have at least one sibling group that have been hard to place, which will have an impact on our performance for this year.

About the target range

A lower value of 495 - if we were to go above 495 days, we would want to highlight this to Scrutiny members.

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available up to 2015-2018, however, this has now been discontinued as a national measure.



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

167

Days

Quarter 1 June 2022

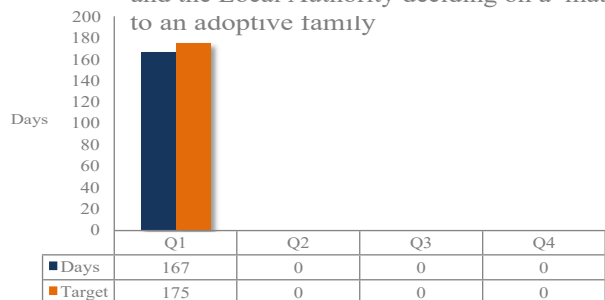


175

Days

Target for June 2022

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 2021/22 - Q1: 156, Q2: 170, Q3: 176, Q4: 164

The performance in quarter 1 has continued to improve and has now been achieved. 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

The target has remained the same for this year. There has been delay in court proceedings that will have impact on our average days over the next year. Also we have at least one sibling group that have been hard to place, which will have an impact on our performance for this year.

About the target range

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

About benchmarking

Benchmarking information is available.



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

79.4

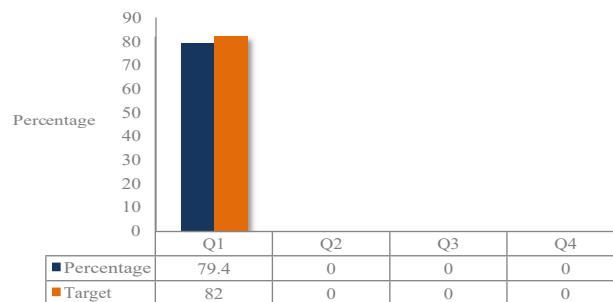
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



82.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 76.8%, Q2: 79.3%, Q3: 80%, Q4: 80.4%

This performance remains slightly under target. Most children in care within this age group are placed in foster care settings, however this target was impacted upon by the Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent recovery. Despite the gradual easing placement options had been reduced initially owing to isolation, carers being offline and reluctant to take placements and latterly despite many households returning to their fostering role the suitability to match new placements with existing children in care has and continues to be a challenge.

Consequently, the numbers of younger children requiring residential placements in the past year has risen. These are often children who have experienced several 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. The continued effort of the transformational work 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 continues to be a focus on reunifying children with their birth families where possible alongside the revocation of Care Orders or granting of private law orders e.g. Special Guardianship Orders within the Court where it is safe and in the best interests of the children.

About the target

Target reduced to 82% as performance has remained under target at 80% 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

50.1

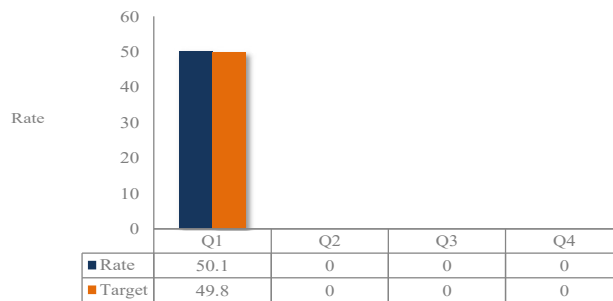
Rate
Quarter 1 June 2022



49.8

Rate
Target for June 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 47.2, Q2: 47.5, Q3: 48.8, Q4: 49.9

This measure has achieved target; however, this target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme. As with Quarter 4 2021/22, the number of Children in Care starters over Quarter-1 2022/23 has remained at a relatively high level whilst the number of care leavers has been below this. 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

The target has increased this year, due to the increases in the National Transfer Scheme. 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

Comparator information is available.



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

1.0

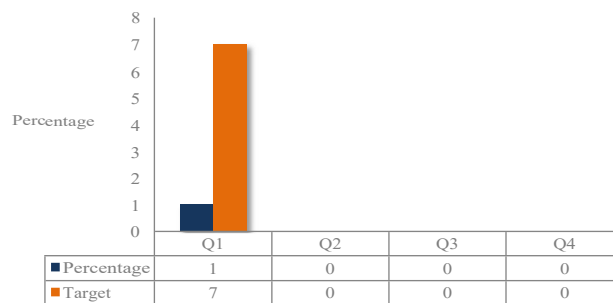
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



7.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

Stability of placements of Children in Care :
Number of moves



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 0, Q2: 2, Q3: 6, Q4: 9

This is a cumulative indicator identifying those children who experience 3 placement moves. The target is challenging and slipped under target last year although our performance is generally better than other East Midland authorities where an average of 8% of children in care experienced 3 placement moves in a year. At this stage performance remains good however this may change at year end. The start of year performance is promising however there remain ongoing challenges in respect of placement resources and suitability of matching some children with the right fostering household/provision. Whilst placement availability has gradually increased post pandemic there continues to be some foster carers/providers who are unable to take additional placements owing to their existing commitments however matching the child/ren to the most appropriate carer remains a priority in promoting placement stability and improving outcomes for all children in care.

About the target

Target has increased by 1%. Performance at the end of 2021/22 was 9%, the same as the most recently published national figure. There has been an increase in children entering care with complex needs, which has led to an increase in the number of placements.

About the target range

Achieving the upper tolerance level should put LCC's position within the top quartile nationally. Comparative performance within our statistical neighbours was 8%. Anything within the target range 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



Achieved

67.6

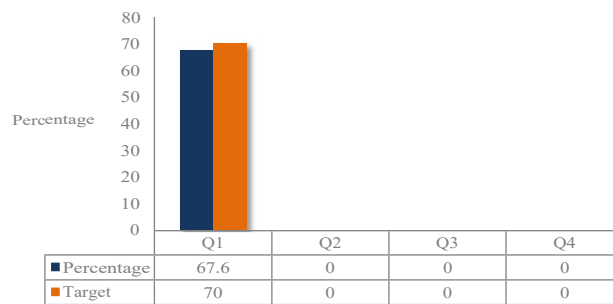
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



70.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

Stability of placements of Children in Care:
length of placement



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 69.7%, Q2: 73%, Q3: 68.8%, Q4: 65.6%

Current performance has met the targets set.

About the target

Target has been reduced to 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



Achieved

99.9

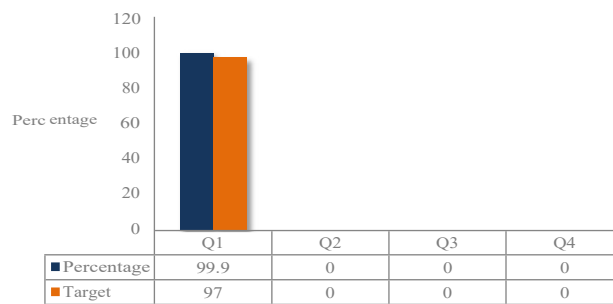
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



97.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

Children in Care cases which were reviewed within required timescales



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 99.4%, Q2: 99.6%, Q3: 99.9%, Q4: 99.5%

For children in care we consistently aim to hold reviews within timescales, working in collaboration with social care and partners to achieve this. Performance reflects the commitment of Children's Services to achieve these expectations.

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



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



Not achieved

94.8

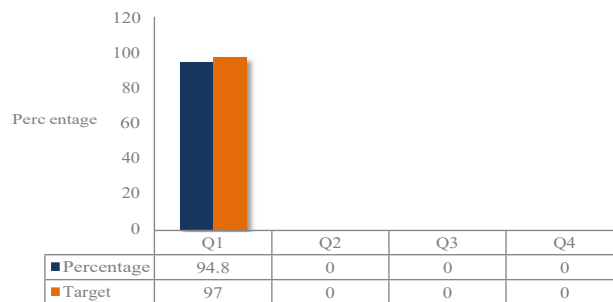
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



97.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

Participation of Children in Care in reviews



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 96%, Q2: 97.8%, Q3: 96.7%, Q4: 96.6%

This is a cumulative measure that builds throughout the year. Whilst performance appears to have dropped slightly below target for the first quarter of 2022/23, closer inspection of the records of children listed as not participating in their reviews indicates that there are some issues with recording on Mosaic at present that are pulling this figure down. The numbers shown at present therefore do not give an accurate reflection of the current percentage of participation. Work is currently underway to correct these records, following which the performance is expected to improve significantly and it is anticipated that we will meet target tolerance going forward.

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



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

88.3

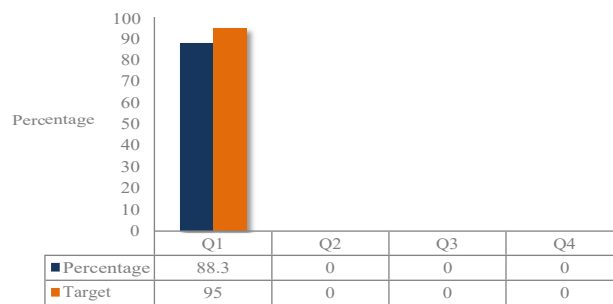
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



95.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 93.7%, Q2: 93.3%, Q3: 95.1%, Q4: 91.8%

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

71.1

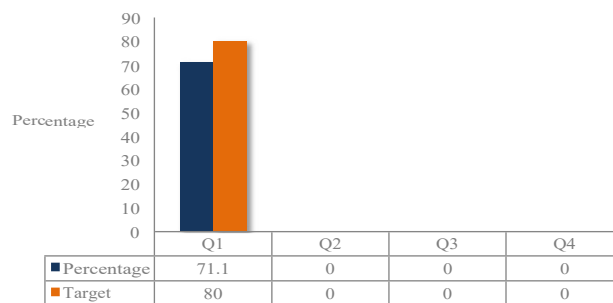
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



80.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 59.2%, Q2: 65.1%, Q3: 71.5%, Q4: 73.5%

This measure continues to improve and is now sitting at 71.1% which is a slight decrease from Q4 and remains below the target of 95%. This is due to the ongoing increased difficulties in children being able to register with a National Health Service Dentist which has been the case for several years now. Many Dentists 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

Target has been reduced to 80% to take into account current performance.

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



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

70.5

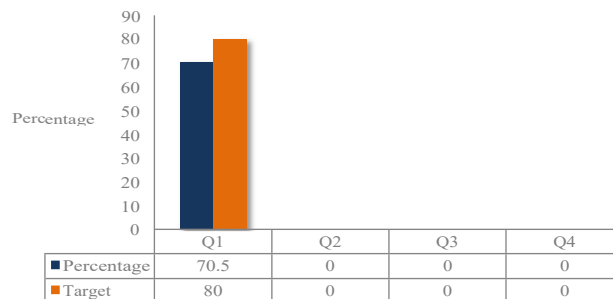
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



80.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 78.6%, Q2: 79.3%, Q3: 76.2%, Q4: 76.4%

The number of routine immunisations being completed continues to be impacted by the Covid Pandemic and remains below target. 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

Target has been reduced to 80% to take into account current performance.

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



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

80.4

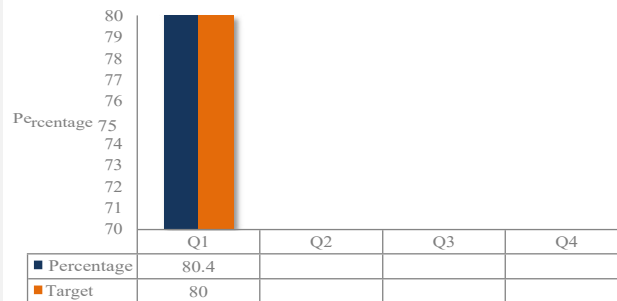
Days
Quarter 1 June 2022



80

Days
Target for June 2022

Children in Care Living within a Family Environment



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 78.5%, Q2: 79.7%, Q3: 80%, Q4: 79.7%

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

Target has increased, due to performance remaining above target for the previous year

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



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

81.4

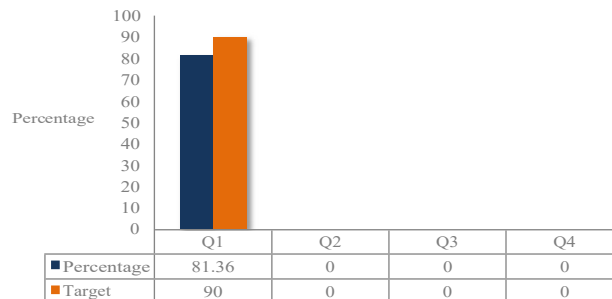
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



90.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

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



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 86.3%, Q2: 51.3%, Q3: 74.8%, Q4: 81%

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.

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

92.4

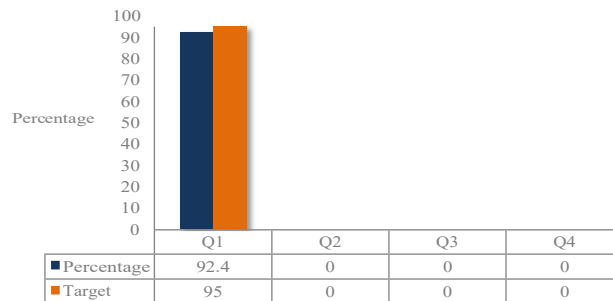
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



95.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 95.5%, Q2: 96.5%, Q3: 94.8%, Q4: 93.7%

Ordinarily the proportion of young people in suitable accommodation for 19-, 20- and 21-year-olds runs at between 94% and 95%. 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 identified 5 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 friends sofa is the informed choice of the young person. The numbers of young people in custody affect this figure and this is also considered unsuitable, however this is beyond our control. Lincolnshire currently has 7 young people in custody. Lincolnshire has no homeless young people. Everyone has a form of accommodation of their choosing, and if it is deemed unsuitable, each young person is offered support and options to take should they wish to. The Corporate Parenting Manager monitors unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month. 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

We have performed consistently higher than our previous years target. We have increased it to the upper target range from this last year and adjusted our target range as appropriate.

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.



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

54.3

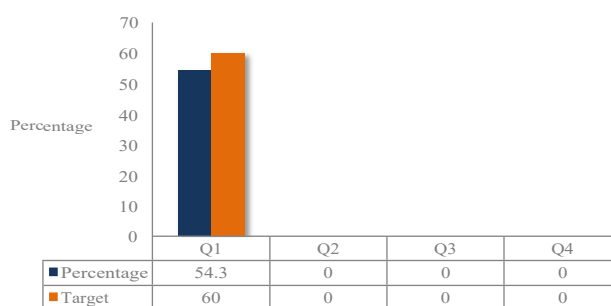
Percentage
Quarter 1 June 2022



60.0

Percentage
Target for June 2022

Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training



About the latest performance

Performance in 2021/22 - Q1: 53%, Q2: 51%, Q3: 52.3%, Q4: 53.1%

This measure remains below target but is slowly improving despite fluctuations and is up from 53.1% to 54.3%. The Leaving Care Service continues to monitor every single young person who is not in EET. The Service continues to report monthly 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 60% 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