



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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	03 March 2023
Subject:	Service Level Performance against the Corporate Performance Framework 2022-23 - Quarter 3

Summary:

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022-23 for Quarter 3. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 3 is included in this report.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is undergoing a large system wide Business Intelligence Transformational Change Programme. Part of the Transformation Programme is to fully utilise Microsoft Power BI as a Business Intelligence platform across the organisation.

The Corporate Performance Team (CPT) is a significant driver of this delivery covering all operational and statutory reporting requirements for LCC. CPT has developed a new Power BI dashboard which with effect from Quarter 2 the Service Level Performance will be displayed, replacing the Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO).



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

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the performance of the measures that are either above or below the target range.

1. Background

This report will summarise the Service Level Performance measures for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. There are eight measures that should be reported at Quarter 3. In Quarter 3:

- 1 measure that exceeded their target 
- 4 measures that achieved their target 

- 3 measures did not meet their target ✖

1.1 Children are Healthy and Safe

1.1.1 Measures that exceeded their target

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

Actual: 161

Target: 175

Performance in Quarter 3 remains significantly better than the target range set at the start of the year. 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.



Benchmarking as at March 2020

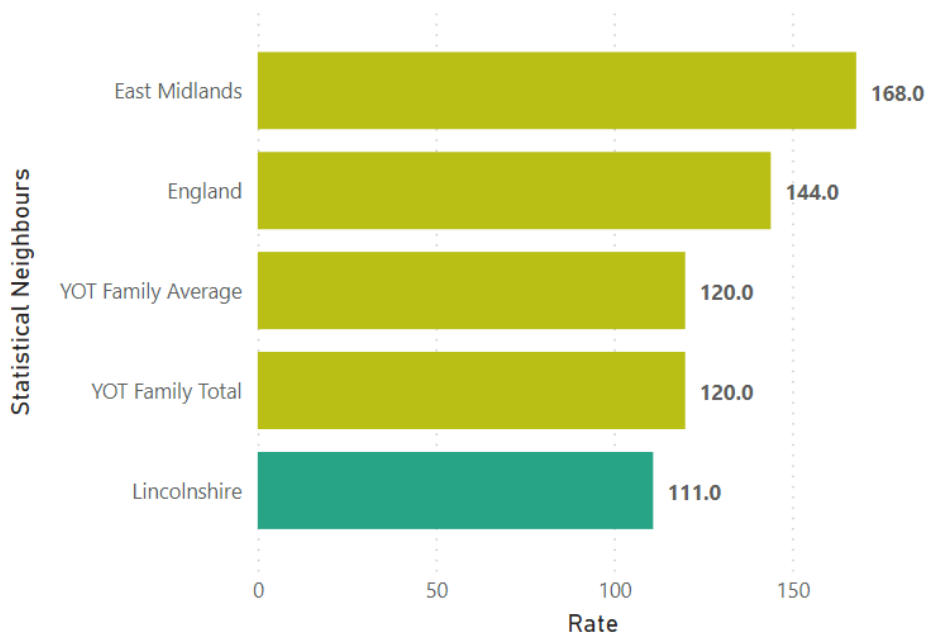
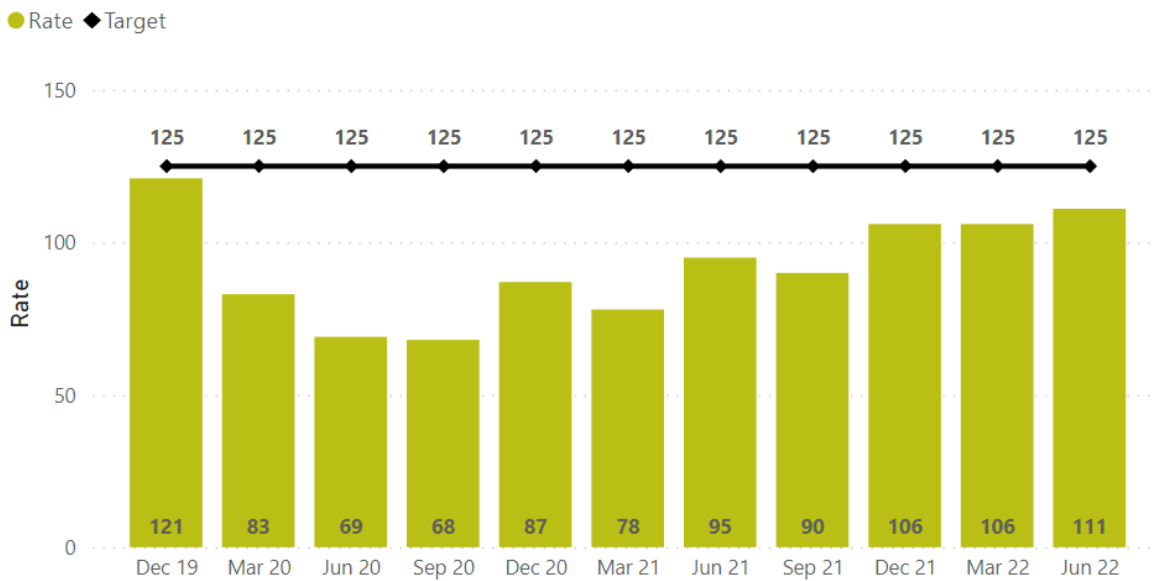
1.1.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 15 – Juvenile first time offenders ✓

Actual: 111

Target: 125

Quarter 3 reports a slight increase in the rate of Lincolnshire's first time entrants into the Youth Justice system since the previous quarter; the actual number of additional young people is three. We are still below our target rate of 125 and significantly lower than that of the National (144), Regional (168) and Youth Offending Team (YOT) Family (120) rates.



Benchmarking as at June 2022

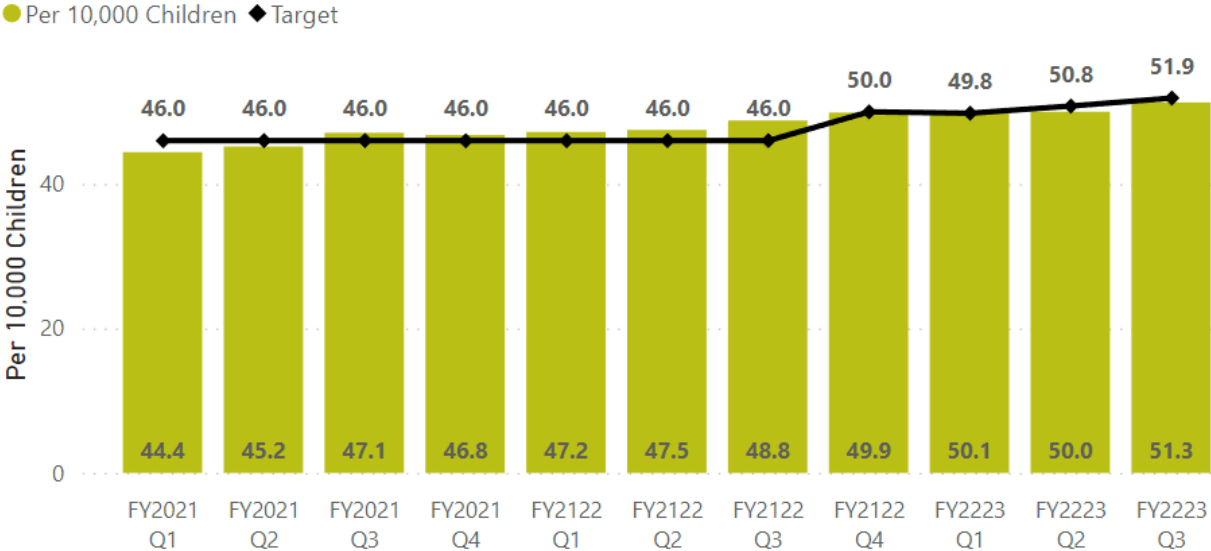
PI 23 – Children in Care ✓

Actual: 51.3
Target: 51.9

This measure continues to achieve target; however, this target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level compared to recent years. Whilst the figure has risen slightly from last quarter, this increase was expected, and the target was profiled at the start of the year to take this into account.

The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the Council’s safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 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 recent growth and the potential for future increase, there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (70 per 10,000 and 65 per 10,000 respectively as of 31 March 2022).





Benchmarking as at March 2022

PI 24 - Children who are subject to a child protection plan ✓

Actual: 408

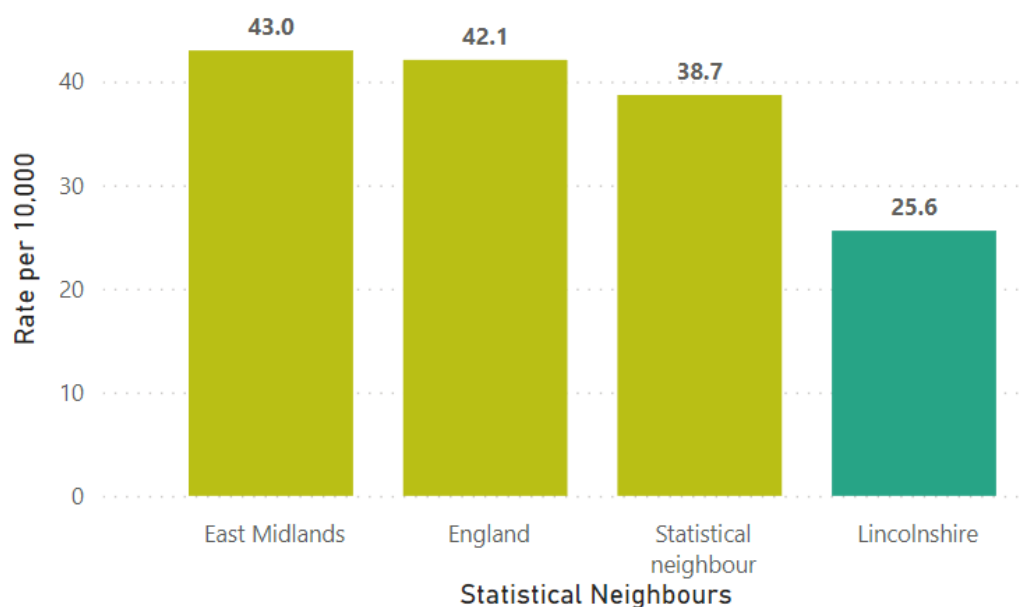
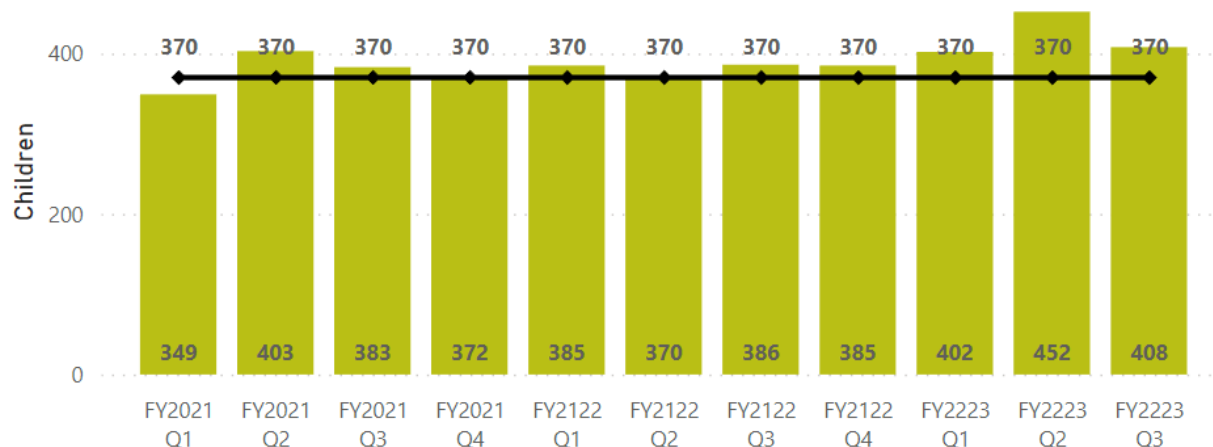
Target: 370

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of Quarter 3 is 408. This is an improvement on the Quarter 2 figure of 452 and a positive trajectory in terms of this measure is anticipated.

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan does fluctuate as the decision for a child to be made subject to, or remain on, a child protection plan is based on the risk factors present for the individual child. We continue to see a lasting impact from the public health pandemic, and the increased pressures and financial hardship upon families and on parenting capacity as a result of the cost-of-living crisis at the current time, which is evident particularly in families where there are a number of children.

Child protection plans create safety, and it is important that risk is recognised and managed through plans where appropriate. Early intervention with families and effective risk management continues to take place to ensure that only the right children are subject to a child protection plan.

● Children ◆ Target



Benchmarking as at March 2022

1.1.3 Measures that did not meet their target

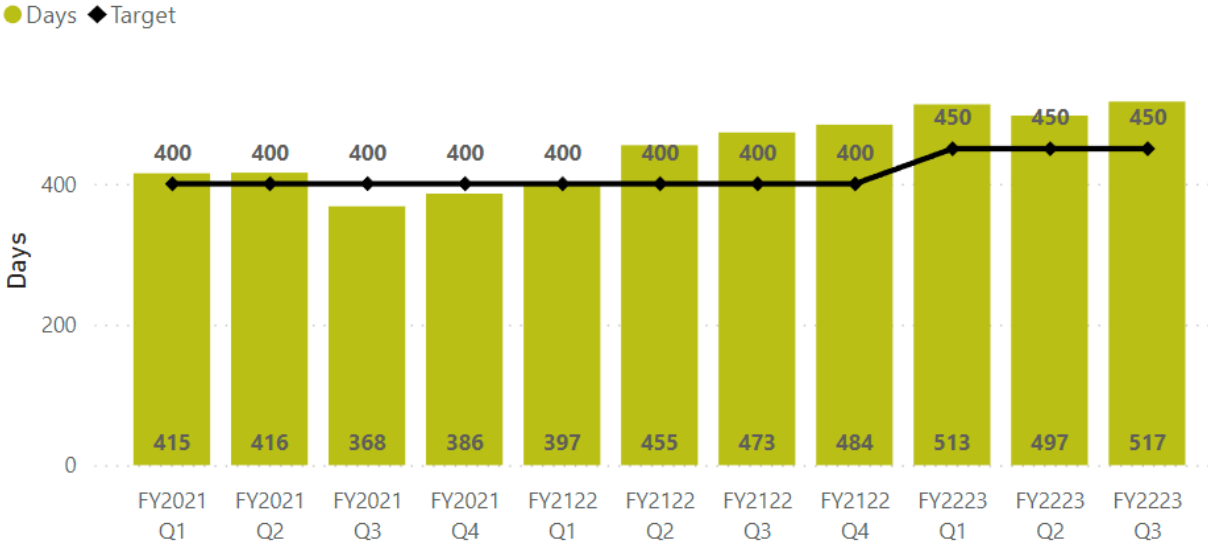
PI 25 - Average time taken to move a child from care to an adoptive family ✘

Actual: 517

Target: 450

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' three 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. It is important to note that the figure presented includes some rare anomalies which have also adversely affected the overall timescales, such as one case which lasted for over 2000 days due to an unusual amount of disruption. There are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality.

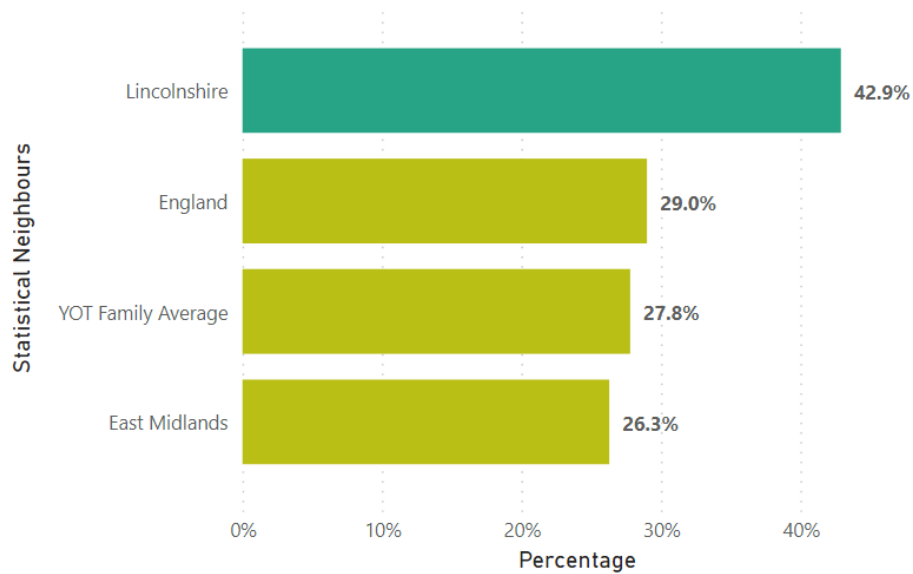
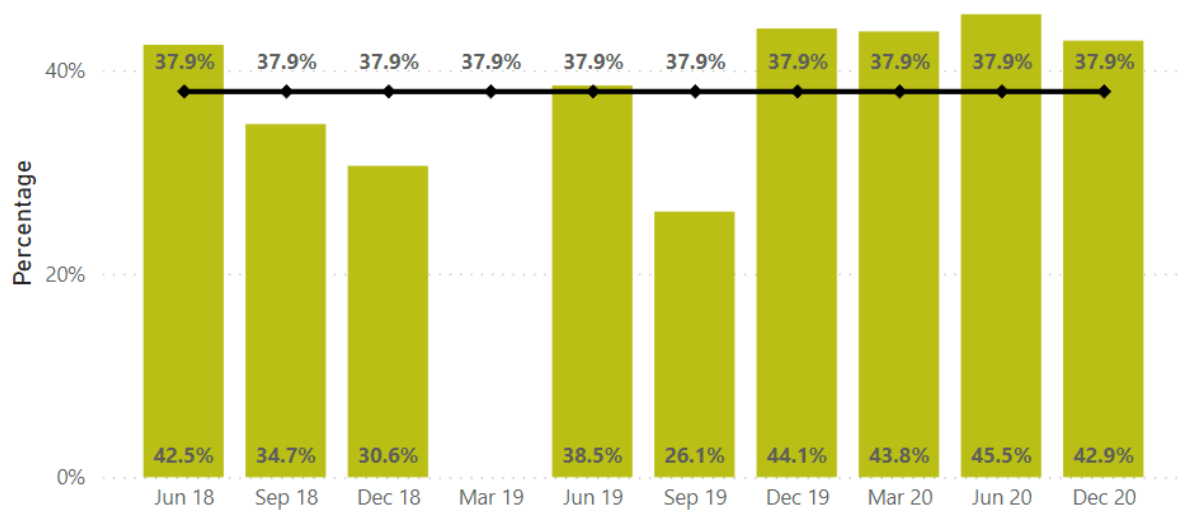


PI 125 - Juvenile Re-offending ✖

Actual: 42.9
Target: 37.9

Lincolnshire's rate of reoffending in Quarter 3 has dropped slightly since the last reportable quarter (Quarter 1). Unfortunately, Quarter 2 data is still unavailable and will be updated as soon as possible. Our rate still sits above that of our target of 37.9% however, as is always the case, the small size of Lincolnshire's youth offending cohort tends to lead to a higher rate of reoffending. The reduced rate in Quarter 3 can also be seen in the National (29.0%), Regional (26.3%) and Youth Offending Team (YOT) Family (27.8%) rates so we hope to see this continue in subsequent quarters.

● Percentage ◆ Target



Benchmarking as at December 2020

1.2 Learn and Achieve

No measures are reported in Quarter 3.

1.3 Readiness for Adult Life

1.3.1 Measures that exceeded their target

None in Quarter 3.

1.3.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 46 - Care Leavers in suitable accommodation ✓

Actual: 92

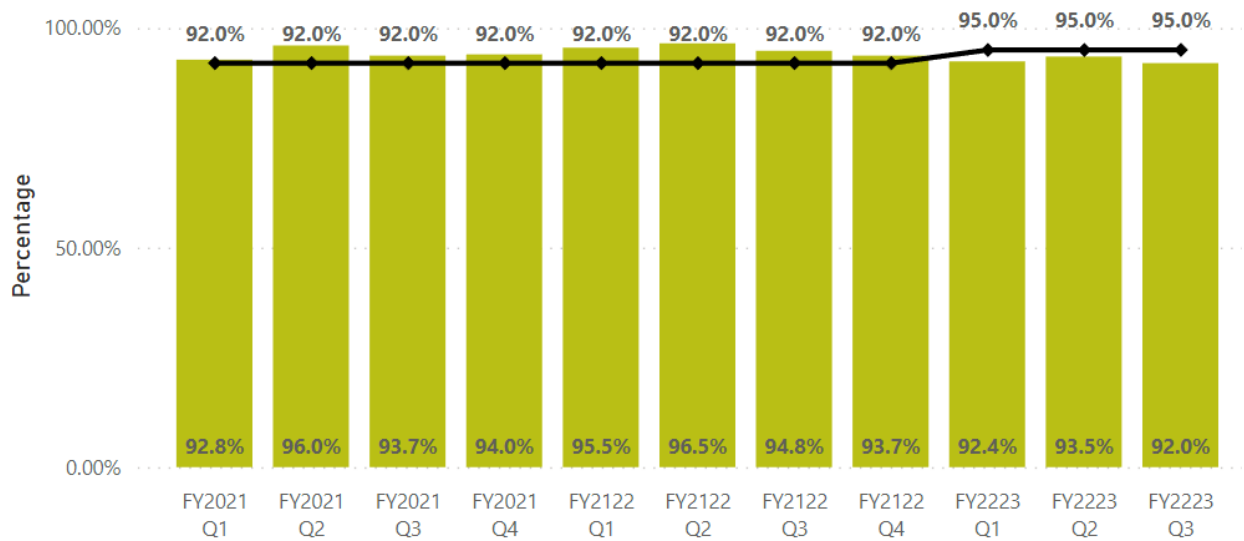
Target: 95

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 a number of young people who are choosing to live with friends and sleep on their sofa. This is deemed unsuitable, but the decision to live on a friend's sofa is the informed choice of the young person. We also know of one young person who is choosing to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers driveway. This is by mutual agreement and the young person is very happy there living close to their support network. This is still deemed as unsuitable. There is also a small number of young people in temporary accommodation, provided by the District Council, whilst the housing authority is addressing homelessness and finding a long term solution with the leaving care service.

In addition to the above, custody is also always deemed unsuitable and there has been a very small increase as two further young people went to prison in this time. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education, training and employment but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation. The numbers of young people in custody affect this figure and is beyond our control. Lincolnshire has eight young people in custody, two of which are serving life sentences. Each young person is offered support and housing options to take up should they wish to.

The Corporate Parenting Manager monitors unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month.



Benchmarking as of March 2022

1.3.3 Measures that did not meet their target

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

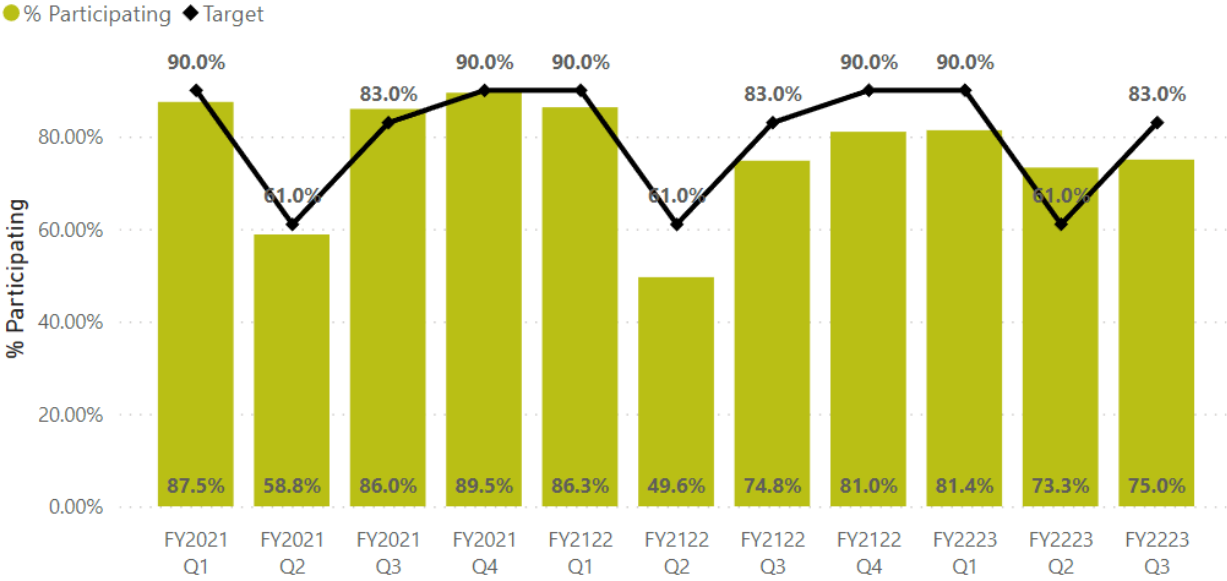
Actual: 75

Target: 83

The performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance by 3%, however, it is a slight improvement on Quarter 3 last year.

All of our 16 and 17 year olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning Process. This brings young people, their social workers, carers and providers together on a termly basis to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning.

As some of our young people in care struggle to access or sustain engagement in learning, access to therapeutic support and/or alternative routes into educational opportunities are explored through the Personal Education Plan and may be supported by Post 16 Pupil Premium funding.



2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to review and comment on the report.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Background Papers

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

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

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