



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

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>21 July 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Service Level Performance against the Corporate Performance Framework 2022-23 - Quarter 4</b>

**Summary:**

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022-23 for Quarter 4. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 4 is included in this report.

Appendix A details the proposed key performance indicators to be reported to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24.

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:

- 1) review and comment on the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2022-23 Quarter 4.
- 2) review and agree the 2023-24 Performance Indicators for Children and Young People as shown in Appendix A.

## 1. Background

This report details the Service Level Performance measures for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that can be reported at Quarter 4.

- 3 measures exceeded their target 
- 3 measures achieved their target 
- 4 measures did not meet their target 

## 1.1 Children are Healthy and Safe

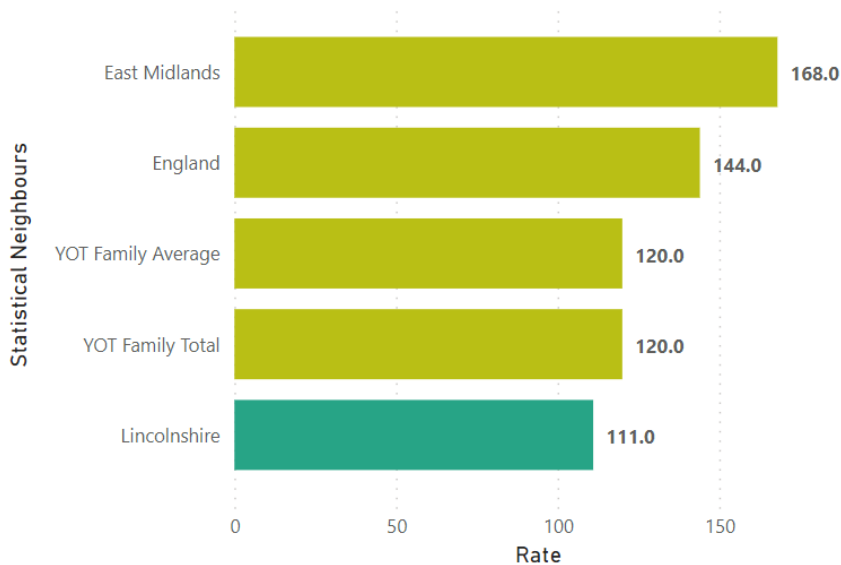
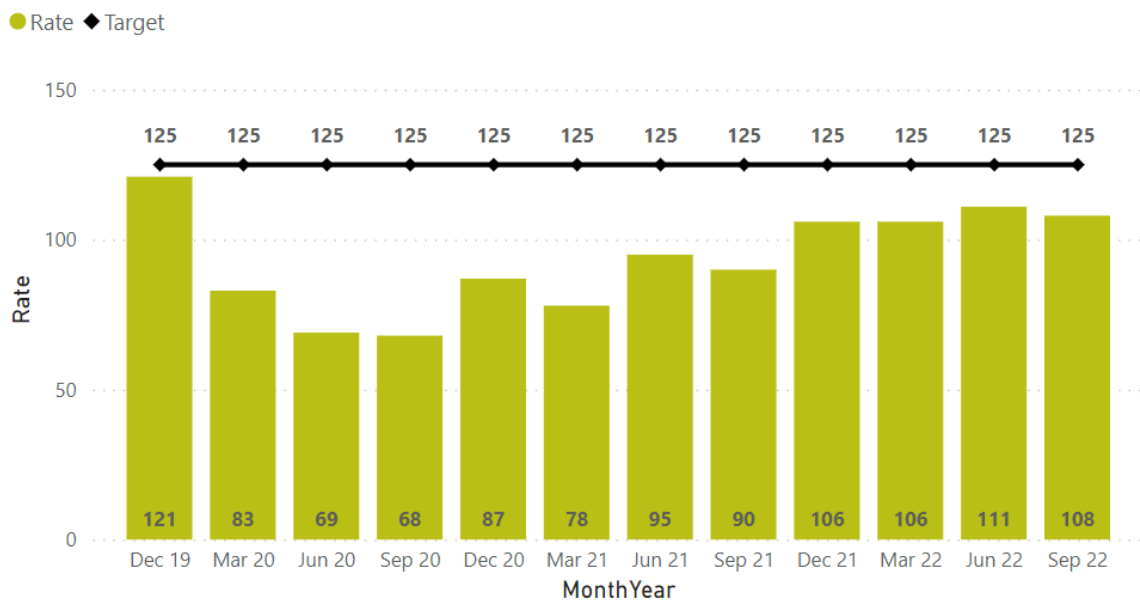
### 1.1.1 Measures that exceeded their target:

#### PI 15 Juvenile First Time Offenders ☆

**Actual: 108**

**Target: 125**

Lincolnshire's rate of juvenile first-time entrants in Quarter 4 has reduced in comparison to last quarter, to a rate of 108. This comes at a time where all of our comparators have had a quarterly increase. This further highlights the positive work we complete with our children and young people and the continued success of the Joint Diversionary Panel.



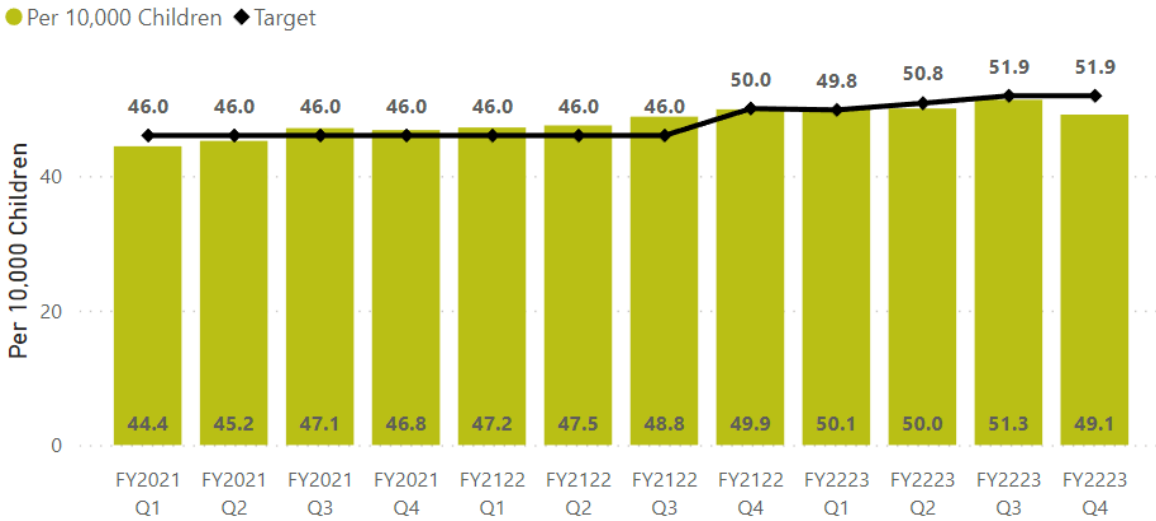
Benchmarking as of June 2022

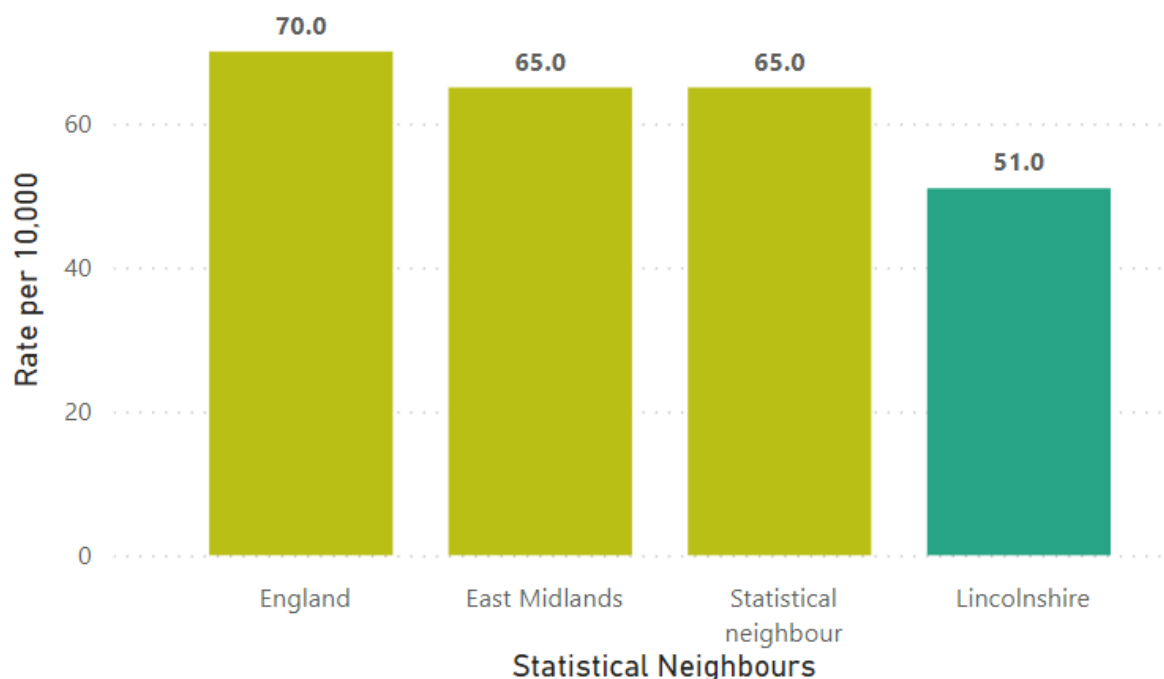
**PI 23 Children in Care (per 10,000 children) ☆**

**Actual: 49.1**

**Target: 51.9**

This measure has exceeded the 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. 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 of March 2022

### 1.1.2 Measures that Achieved their target

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

**Actual: 390**

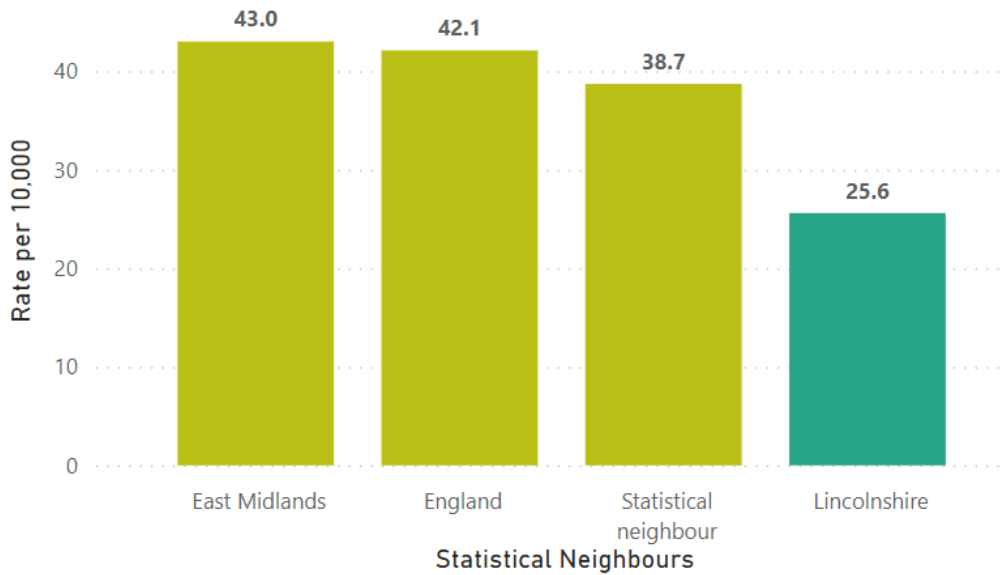
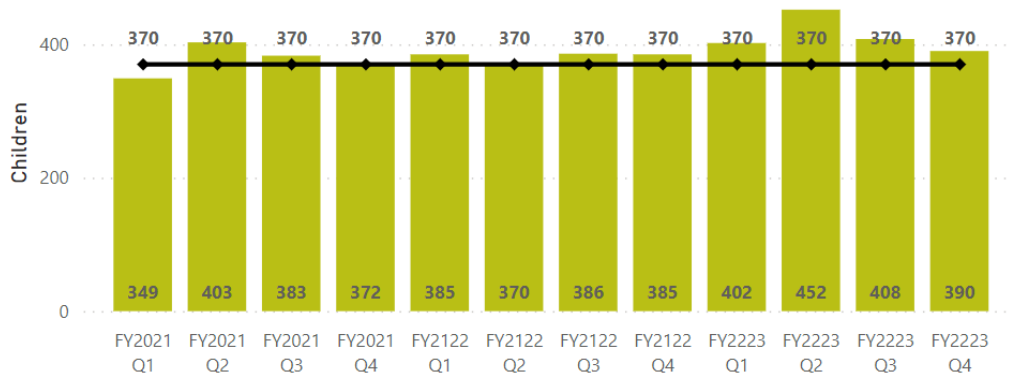
**Target: 370**

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of Quarter 4 is 390. This is an improvement on the Quarter 3 figure of 408. The positive trajectory in terms of this measure has continued with the current performance being within the tolerance range for this measure.

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 some impact from the public health pandemic, and there are increased pressures and financial hardship upon families because of the cost-of-living crisis. This is particularly evident 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



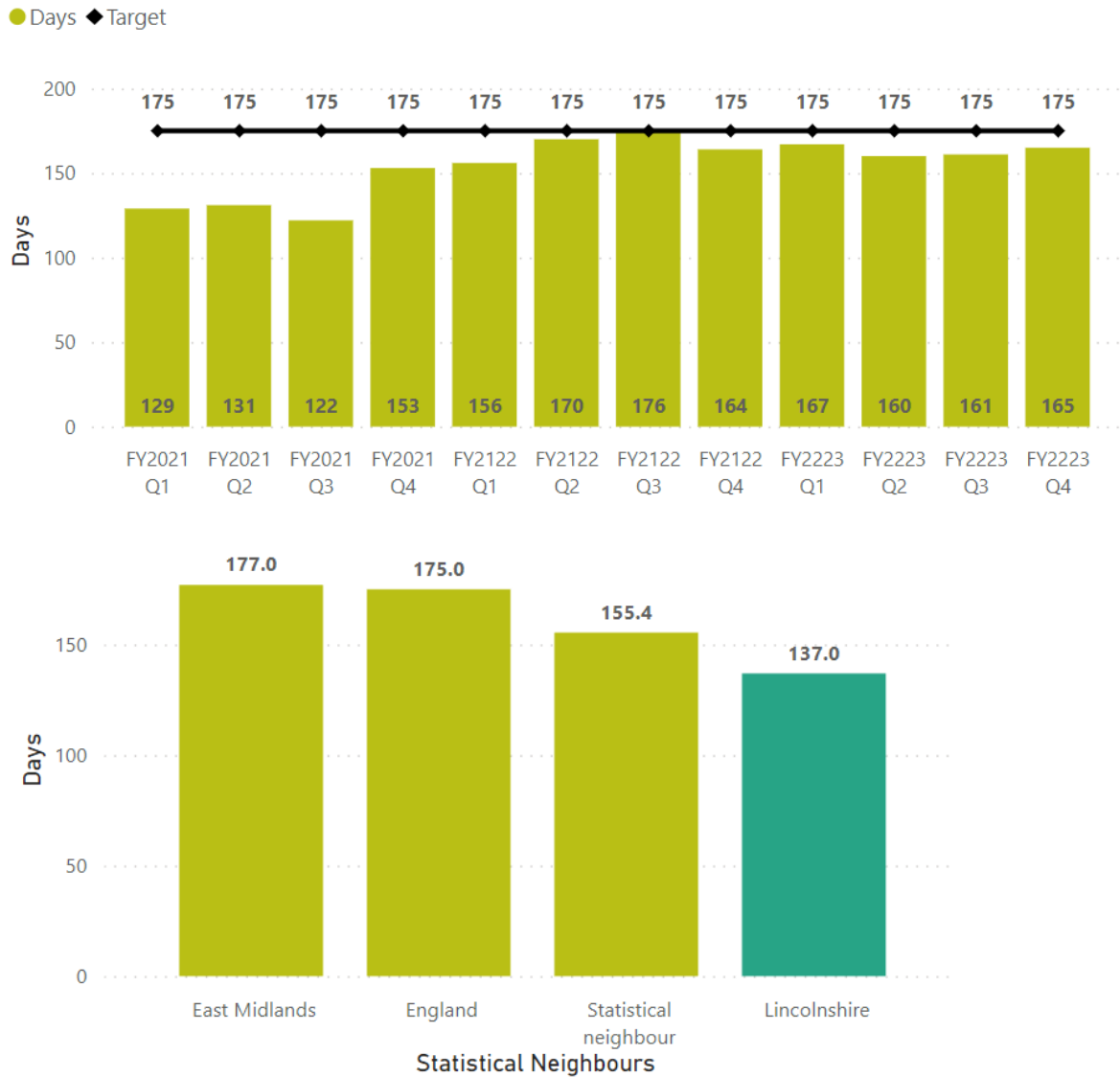
Benchmarking as of March 2022

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

**Actual: 165**

**Target: 175**

Performance in Quarter 4 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 of March 2020

**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 ❌**

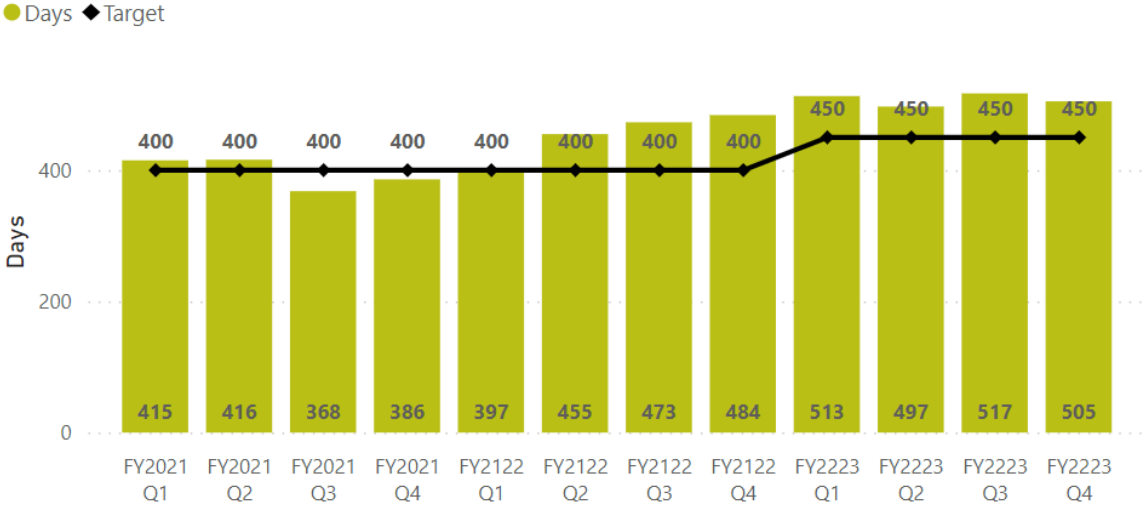
**Actual: 505**

**Target: 450**

There has been continued significant delay in the length of time care proceedings are taking. 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 as well as an increase in the number of children deemed harder to place in general.

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.

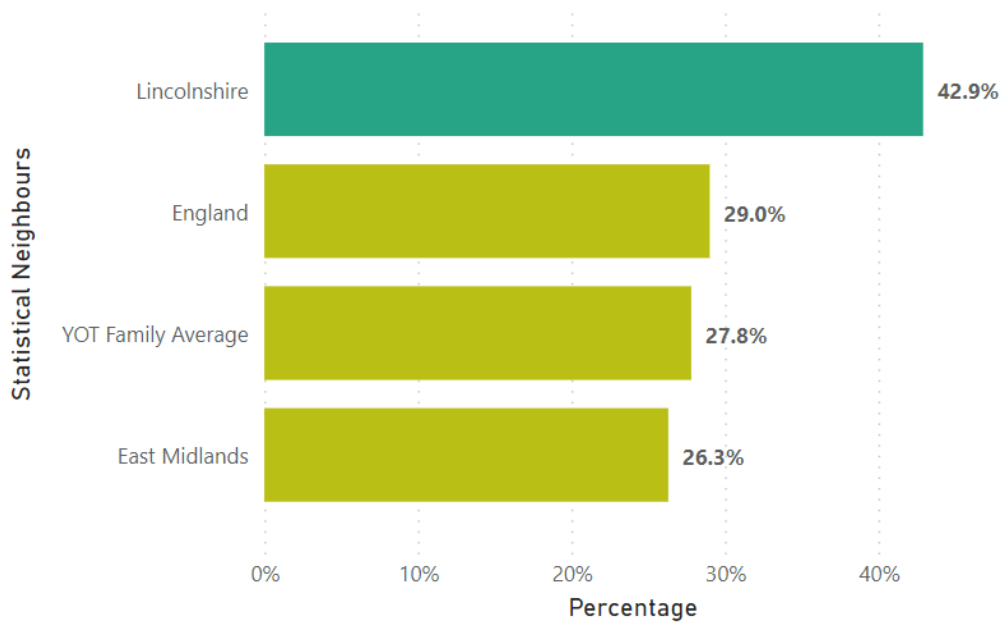
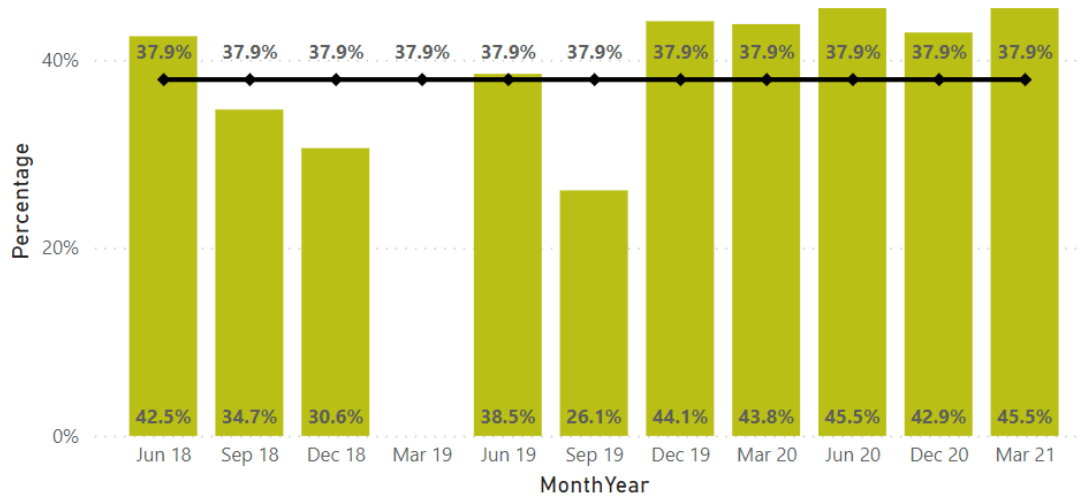


**PI 125 Juvenile Re-offending ❌**

**Actual: 45.5**  
**Target: 37.9**

Lincolnshire's rate of juvenile reoffending this quarter has risen slightly to 45.5%. As always, we suffer a trade off between our rate of reoffending and our lower number of first time entrants. The latter results in a small cohort number which in turn causes a larger rate of reoffending. The rise this quarter actually only relates to one additional young person committing a further offence in the period. All comparators have seen rises in reoffending rates in the current quarter.

● Percentage ◆ Target



Benchmarking as of December 2020

**1.2 Learn and Achieve**

All academic achievement data reported relates to examinations/assessments in the summer of 2022. Results are delayed due to grading challenges and appeals, therefore final published data is released during the Quarter 4 reporting period.

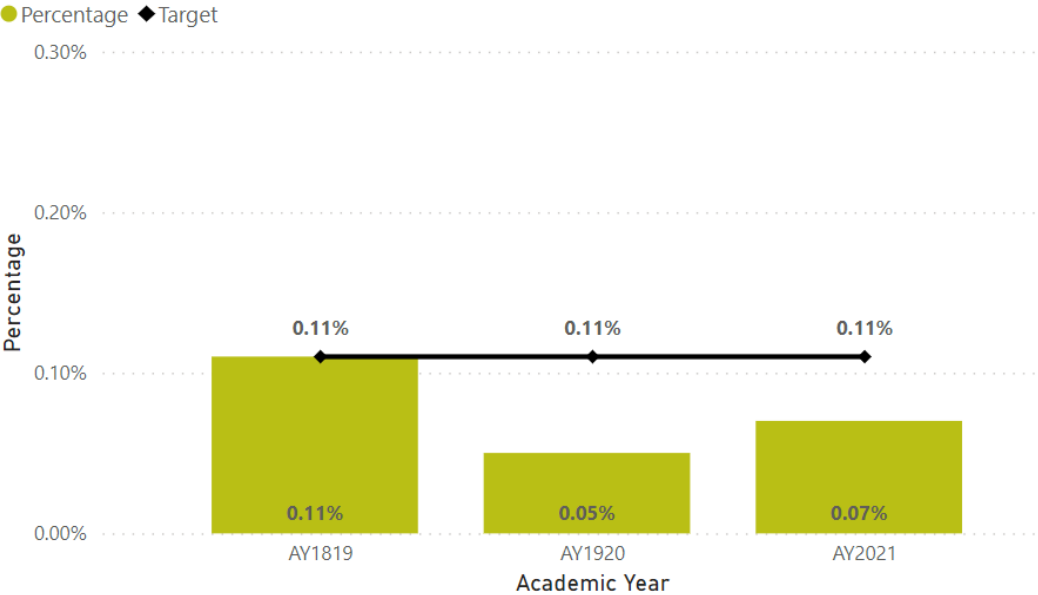


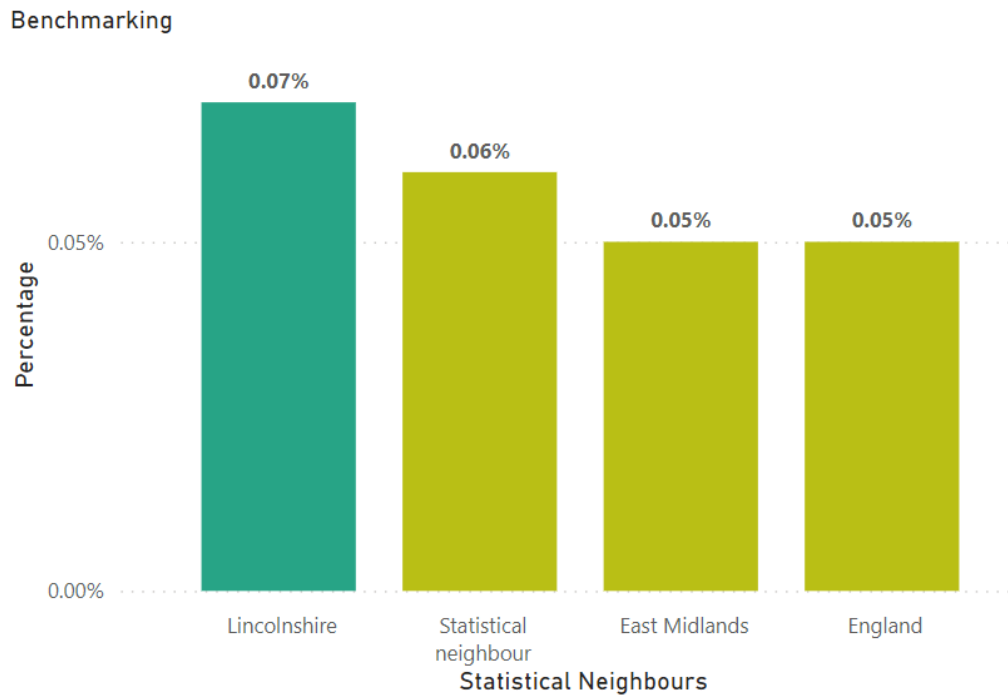
1.2.1 Measures that exceeded their target:

PI 67 Permanent exclusions ☆

Actual: 0.07  
Target: 0.11

Since the Inclusive Lincolnshire Strategy was introduced in 2015/16, the rate of permanent exclusions has continued to decrease; in line with internal target setting and drawing it mainly in line with the national average since 2016/17. The trend of reducing permanent exclusions has been established and continues to be supported robustly by the Pupil Reintegration Team. The rate of permanent exclusions remains relatively low, however this has been severely impacted on due to the abnormal school operating circumstances over this period as a result of the pandemic. Target setting going forward has been adjusted accordingly given the unpredictability of the impact of the pandemic and schools' recovery.





Benchmarking as of August 2021

### 1.2.2 Measures that Achieved their target

None in Quarter 4.

### 1.2.3 Measures that did not meet their target:

**PI 42 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and their non-FSM Eligible peers nationally at KS4 ✘**

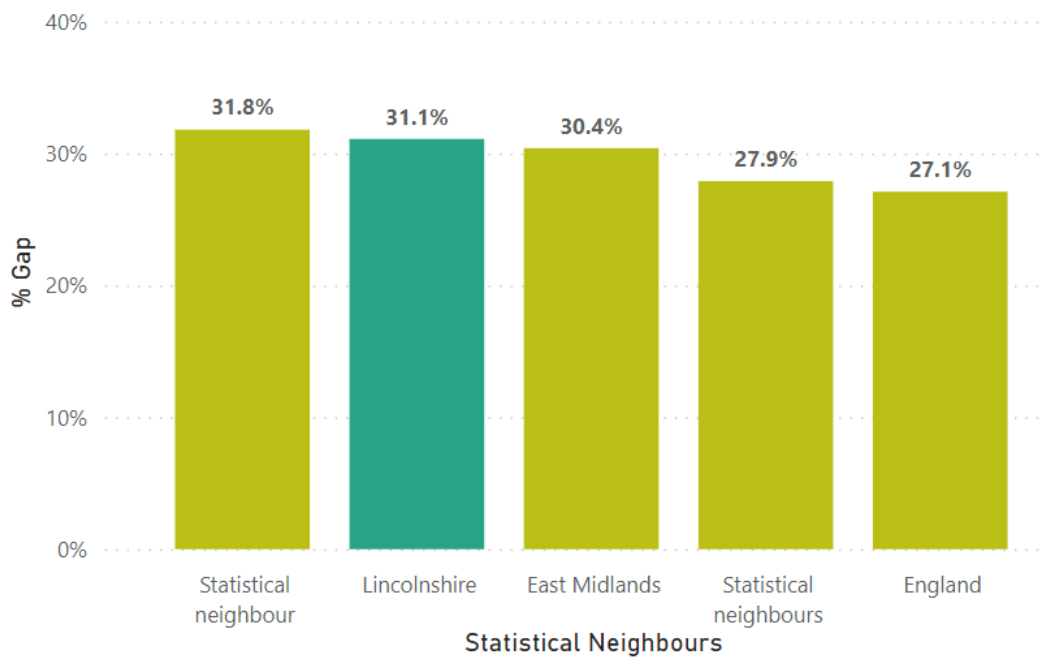
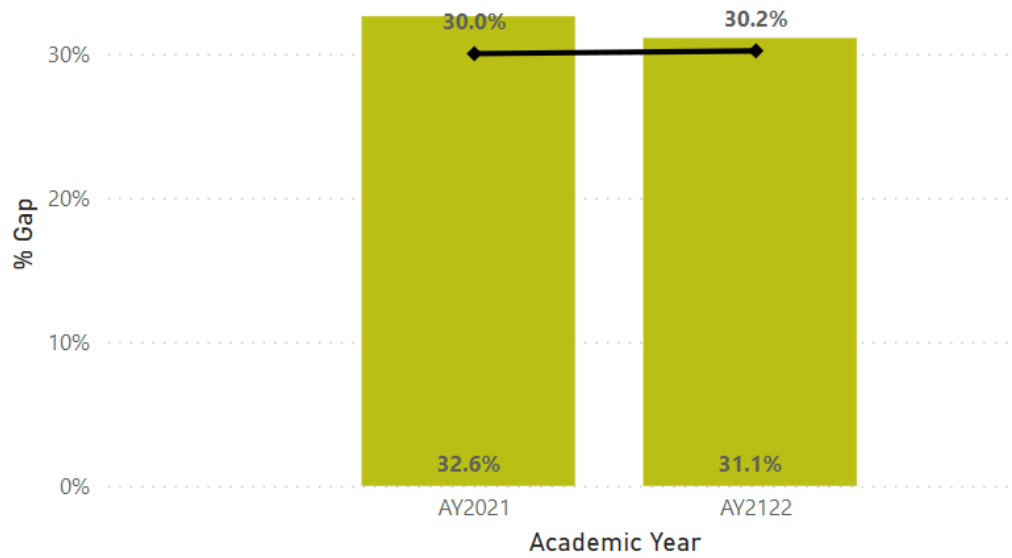
**Actual: 31.1**

**Target: 30.2**

As expected, and in large part due to the impact of Ofqual's grade distribution system for the 2021-22 academic year (that proportions of students being awarded each grade were based on an average of 2019 and 2021 distribution), both the Free School Meal (FSM) cohort and their non-FSM peers saw declines between 2021 and 2022, in Lincolnshire and nationally. The gap between Lincolnshire FSM and National Non-FSM pupils narrowed in 2022 by 1.5 percentage points (pp) to -31.1pp, as Lincolnshire FSM pupils saw less of a decline (-0.1pp) than National non-FSM pupils (-1.4pp) between the years.

The service is developing a coordinated Education Strategic Plan with sector partners. This seeks to address the ambition and specifics of the Education and Levelling Up white papers. Strategy aims include integrated working with services areas beyond education so that all of the factors affecting schools and settings within communities are addressed.

● % Gap ◆ Target



Benchmarking as at August 2022

### **1.3 Readiness for Adult Life**

#### **1.3.1 Measures that exceeded their target**

None in Quarter 4.

### 1.3.2 Measures that Achieved their target

#### PI 46 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation ✓

**Actual: 91.7**

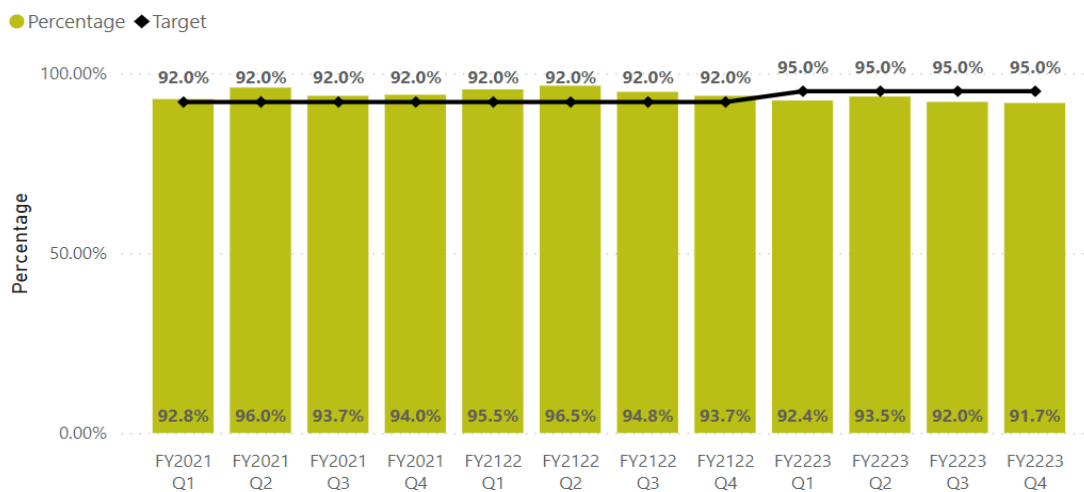
**Target: 95**

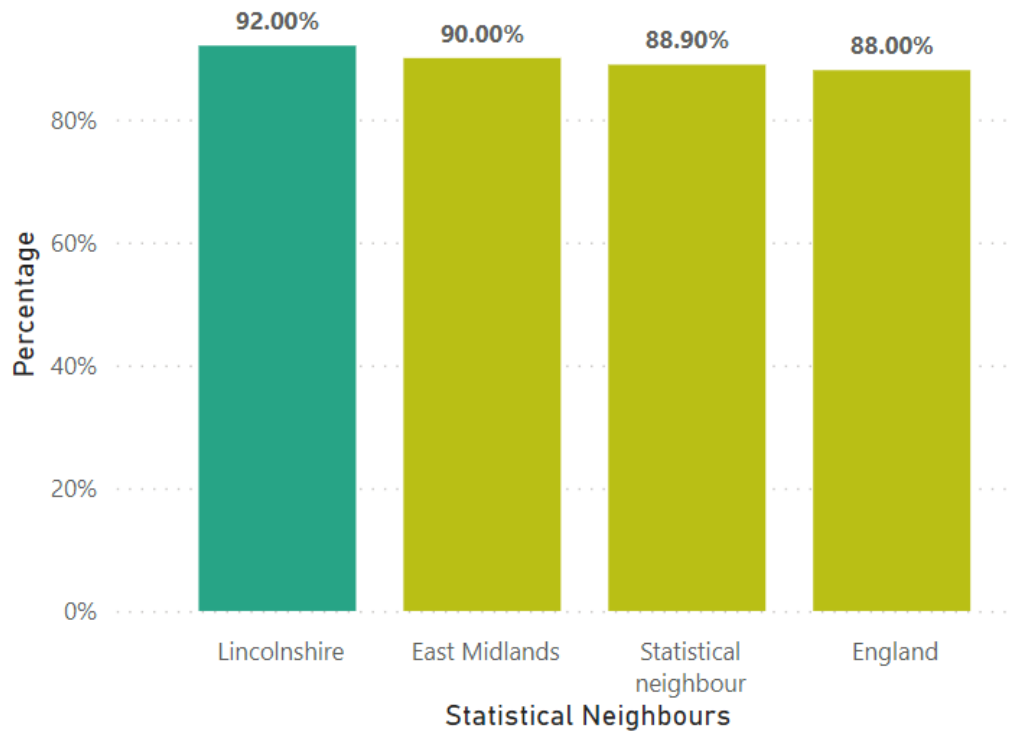
Ordinarily, the proportion of young people in suitable accommodation for 19-, 20- and 21-year-olds runs at between 94% and 95%. The most recent Ofsted inspection reported a percentage of 94% in suitable accommodation.

The definition of the suitability of accommodation is very strict, and whilst the definition would deem some of the accommodation options unsuitable, the young person might be making an informed choice (as an adult) about where they live and how they live. For example, the monthly tracker continues to identify a small number of young people who are choosing to live with friends and sleep on their sofa. This is deemed unsuitable, but the decision to live on a friend's sofa is the informed choice of the young person. We also know of one young person who still chooses to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers driveway. This arrangement is by mutual agreement and the young person is very happy there living close to their support network. This is still deemed as unsuitable by the criteria. 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. There has, however, been a small decrease of young people who 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 Corporate Parenting Manager continues to monitor unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month.





Benchmarking as of March 2022

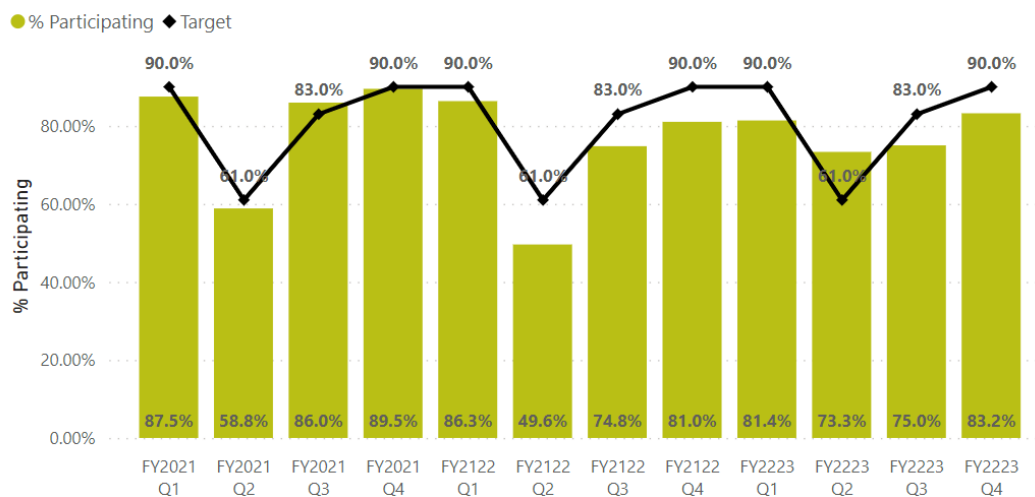
### 1.3.3 Measures that did not meet their target:

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

**Actual: 83.2**

**Target: 90**

Although the performance for this quarter is below the lower target tolerance for this performance indicator by 2%, it does show a 8% improvement on Quarter 3 and a slight improvement on Quarter 4 last year. The Virtual School co-ordinates termly Personal Education Plans for all our 16 and 17 year old children in care. These bring 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. Challenges in securing mid year school places for recently arrived unaccompanied asylum seeking young people aged 16 has impacted on this quarter's performance.



## 2. Conclusion

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

## 3. Consultation

- a) No Risks and Impact Analysis identified.

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	2023-24 Service Level Performance Indicators

## 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 Jo Kavanagh, who can be contacted on [jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk)