



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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	08 September 2023
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 - Quarter 1

Summary:

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2023-24 for Quarter 1. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 1 is included in this report.




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 Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023- 24 Quarter 1.

1. Background

This report details the Service Level Performance measures for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that can be reported at Quarter 1.

- 1 measure exceeded their target 
- 5 measures achieved their target 
- 1 measure did not meet their target 

1.1 Children are Healthy and Safe

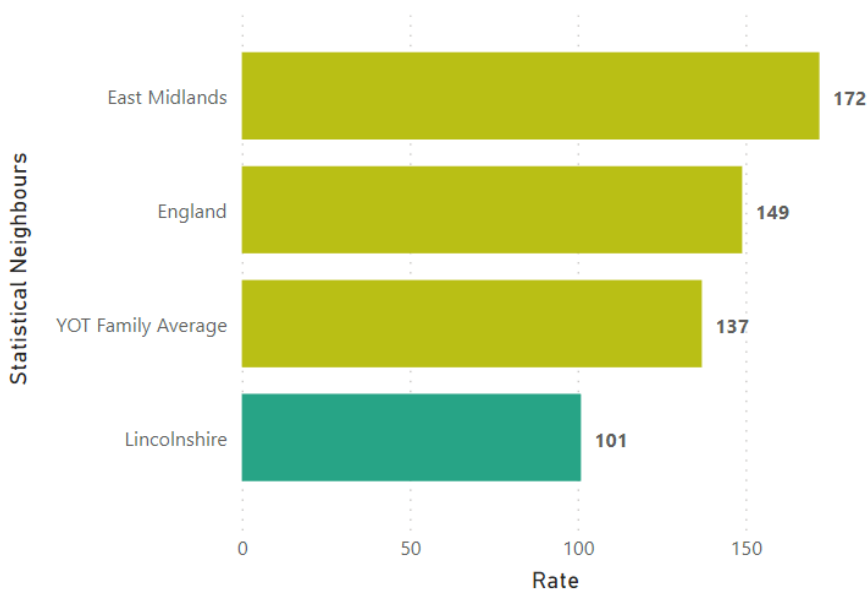
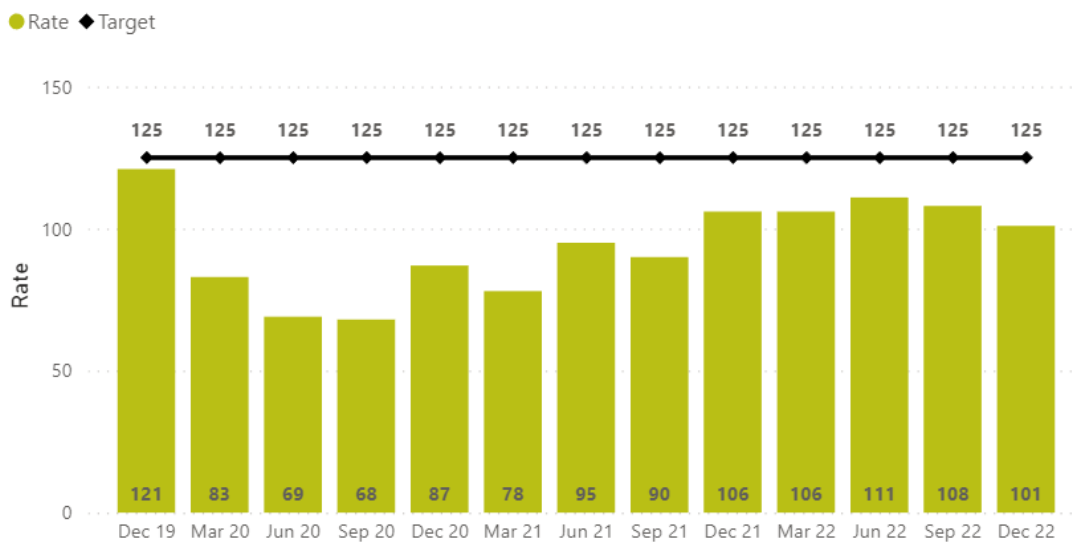
1.1.1 Measures that exceeded their target

PI 15 Juvenile first time offenders ★

Rate: 101

Target: 125

Lincolnshire has seen a continued fall in the rate of first time entrants into the youth justice system from the previous quarter. Further, our strong performance is highlighted when comparing to our Youth Offending Team family, region and the National rate; all of our comparators have seen a further increase in rate. This performance continues to show the success in the Joint Diversionary Panel, and the good work in reducing the criminalisation of our children and young people.



Benchmarking as at December 2022

1.1.2 Measures that Achieved their target

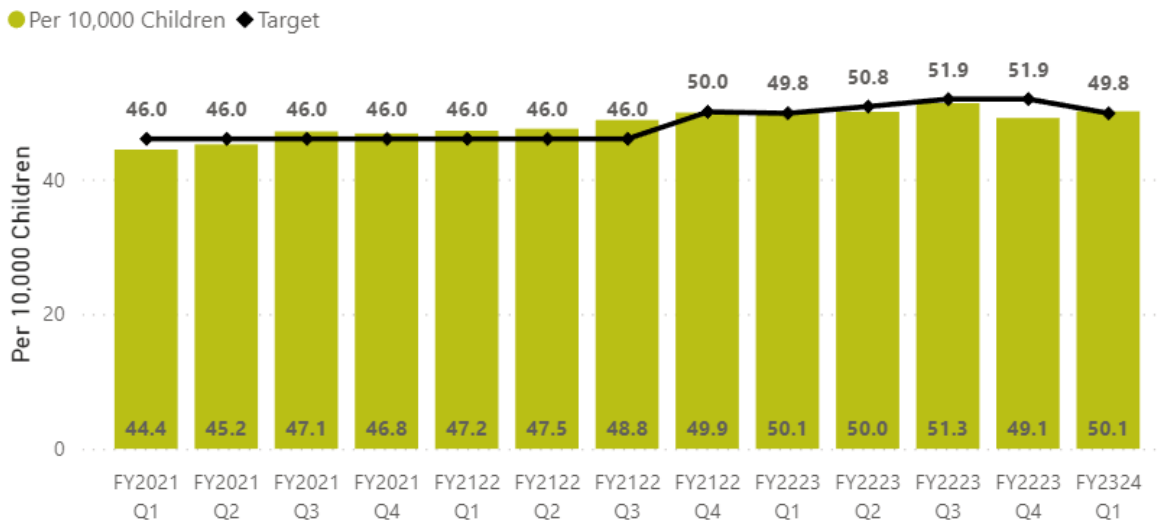
PI 23 Children in Care ✓

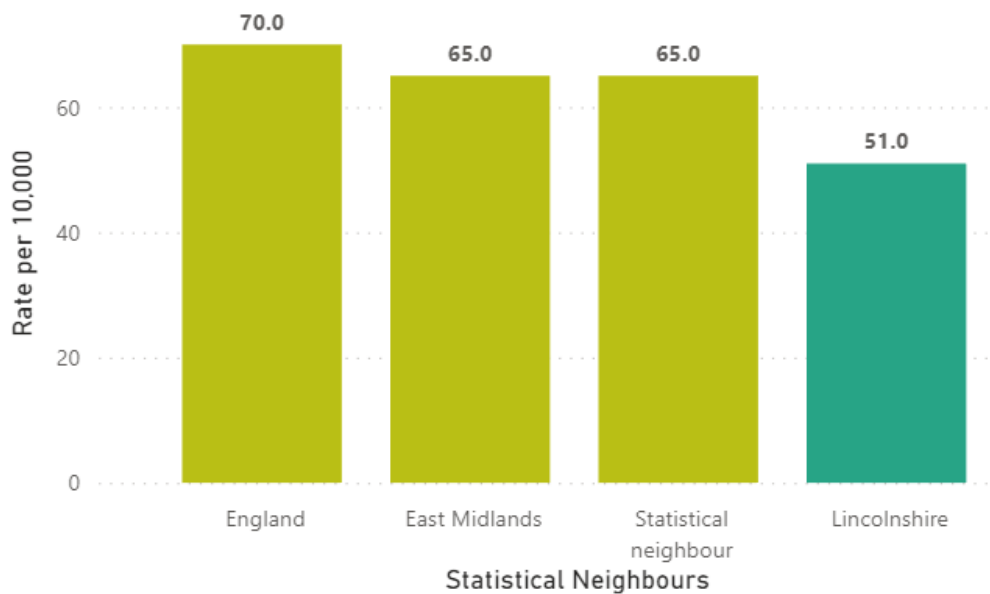
Actual: 50.1

Target: 49.8

This measure is just over the target (49.8%) but is within tolerance and has therefore achieved this quarter. This target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level compared to recent years. The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the Council’s safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 144 children which equates to 0.1% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward.

Despite the recent growth and the potential for future increase there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (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 children protection plan ✓

Actual: 405

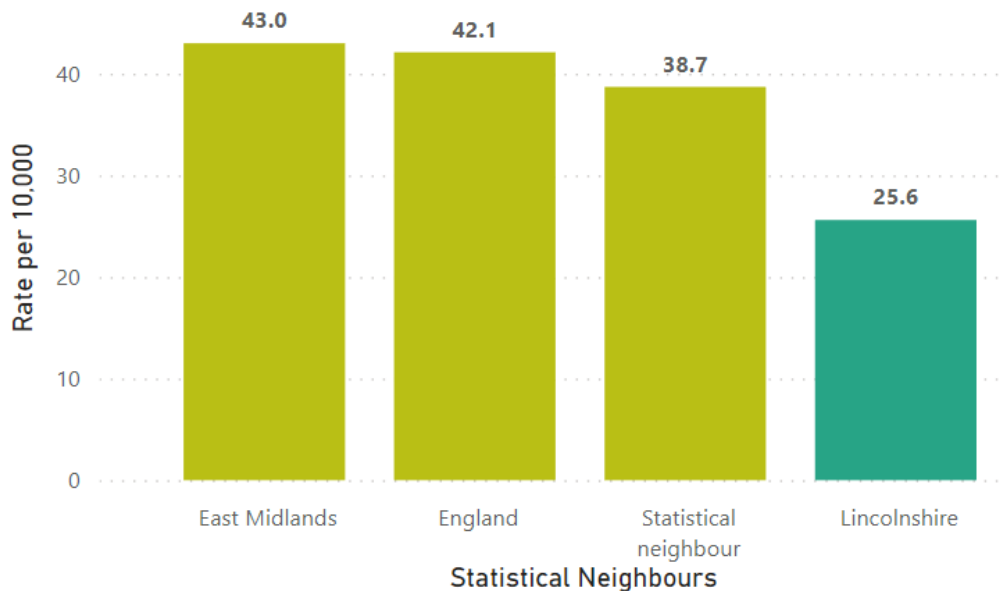
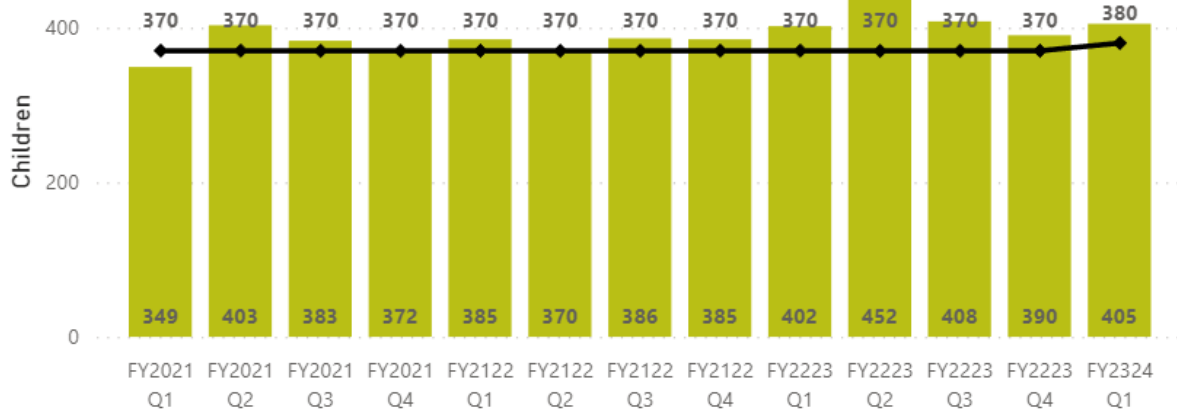
Target: 380

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of Quarter 1 is 405. This is a slight decrease in performance compared to Quarter 4, but the figure remains within the target range and the overall positive trajectory in terms of this measure continues to be seen.

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 increased pressures and financial hardship upon families because of the cost-of-living crisis and pandemic recovery. This is particularly evident in families where there are a number of children and the larger sibling groups do lead to variables being seen in the quarterly reporting as reporting counts individual 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

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

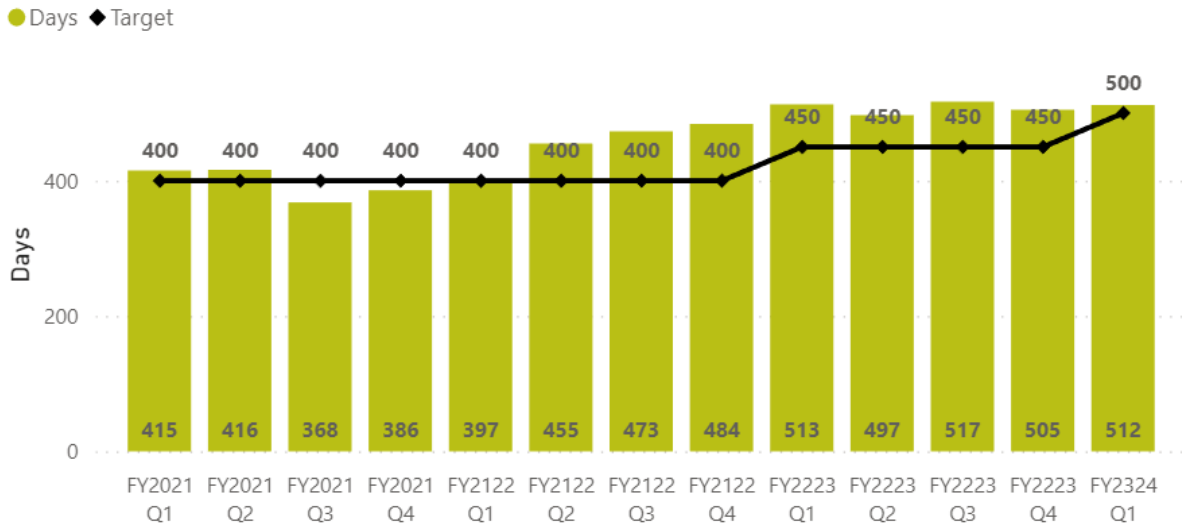
Actual: 512

Target: 500

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, however some encouraging early signs that the figure is starting to decrease for Quarter 1, and this is something that will be closely monitored.

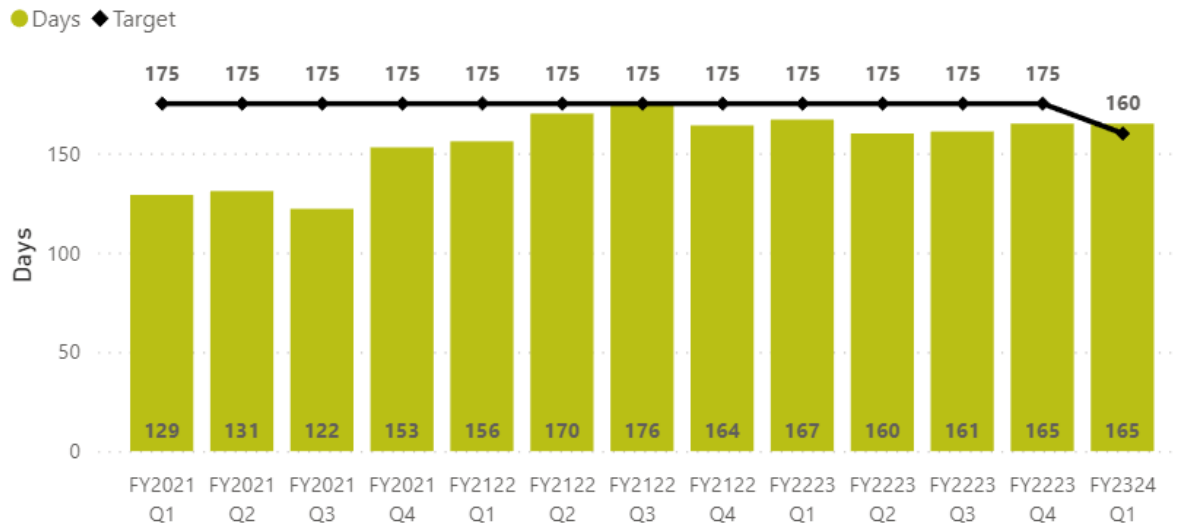
There are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality.



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

Actual: 165
Target: 160

There are signs that the timescale is continuing to decline. This has, however, been impacted by an increase in the number of birth parents who are appealing the decision to make a Placement order which impacts on the timescales for matching.



Benchmarking data April 2017 – March 2020

1.1.3 Measures that did not meet their target

None in Quarter 1.

1.2 Learn and Achieve

Not reported in Quarter 1.

1.3 Readiness for Adult Life

1.3.1 Measures that exceeded their target

None in Quarter 1.

1.3.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 46 Care leavers in suitable accommodation ✓

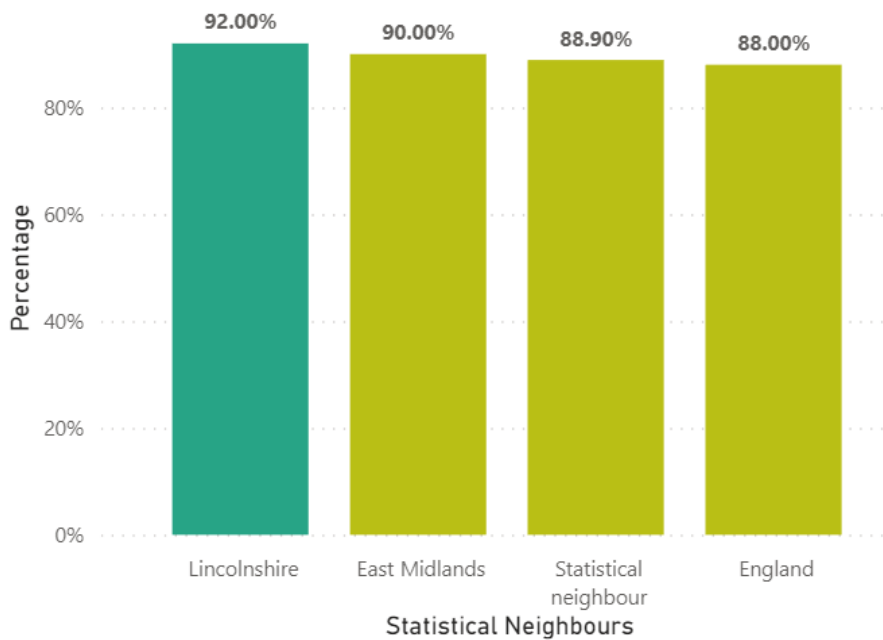
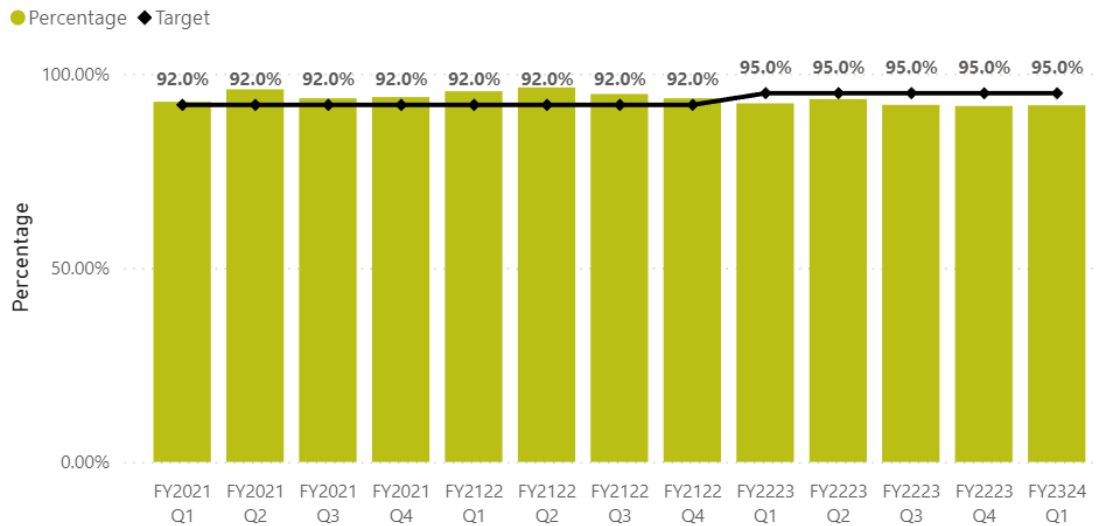
Actual: 91.9

Target: 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 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 and another young person who has turned down accommodation to live on their mother's driveway in a car. Both these young people have had multiple offers of supported living but choose to live where they are. 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 increase in the numbers of young people in custody. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education, employment and training but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation.

The Head of Service continues to monitor unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month.



Benchmarking as at March 2022

1.3.3 Measures that did not meet their target

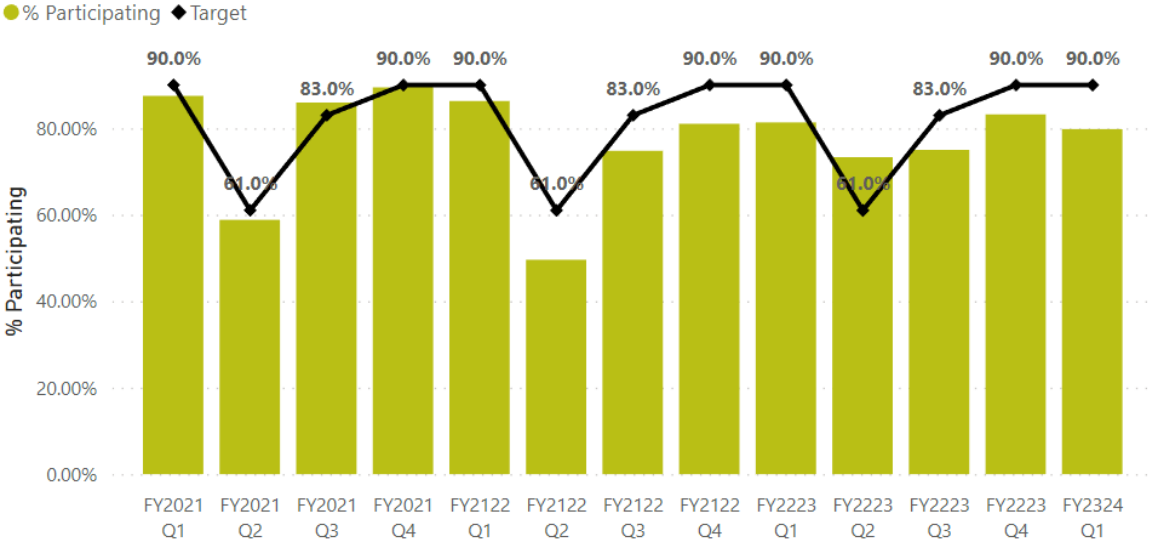
PI 45 16 -17 year old Children in Care participating in learning ✖

Actual: 79.8

Target: 90

The Virtual School co-ordinates Personal Education Plans for all our 16 and 17 year old children in care, ensuring that every young person has a plan which is reviewed termly. These bring young people, their social workers, carers and providers together to focus on educational need, any potential barriers to participation in learning and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately. 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 and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision for the increased number of recently arrived unaccompanied asylum seeking young people aged 16-17 has impacted on this quarter’s performance. Interim tuition provision is commissioned by the Virtual School to ensure young people have access to learning whilst awaiting a place at an educational setting.



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.

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