

**Report for:** Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: January 2023

**Item number:** 6

**Title:** Performance for Quarter 2 2022/23

**Report Authorised by:** Director Children's Services Ann Graham

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non-Key Decision:** Non key

## 1. Introduction

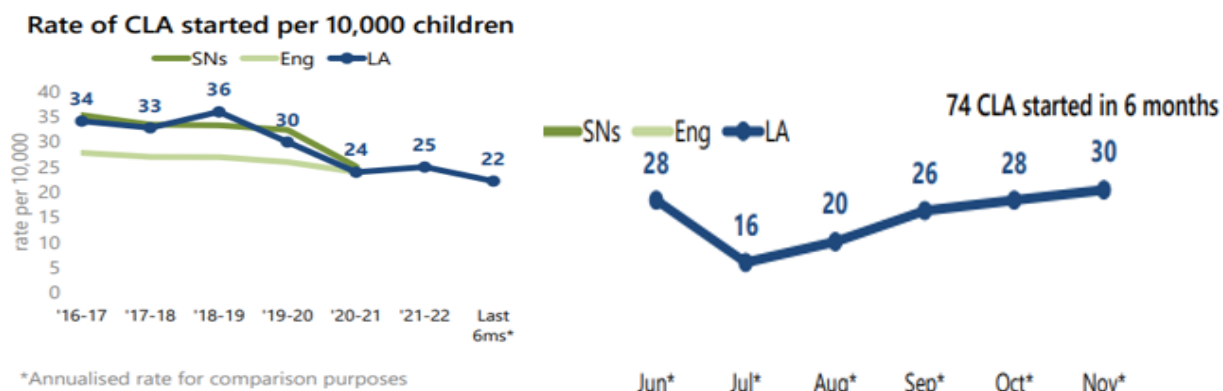
- 1.1. This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for an agreed set of measures relating to looked after children on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.
- 1.2. Section 2 contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus. It provides an overall assessment relating to Children in Care so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authority's role as Corporate Parent.
- 1.3. The report covers the second quarter of the year 2022/23 with updates for October and November 2022 where appropriate.

## 2. Overall Assessment of Performance

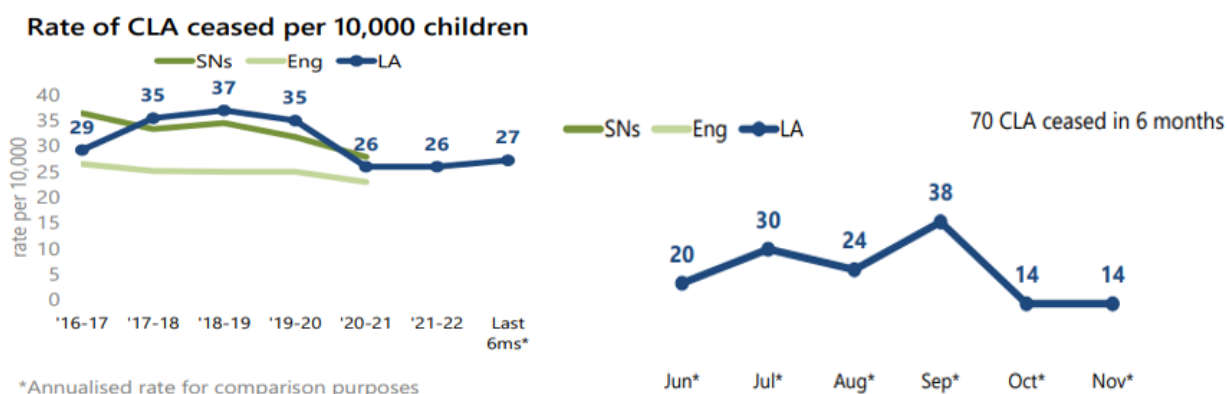
- 2.1. At the end of September **370 children were in care** (rate of 62 per 10,000). This is 17 fewer children than was reported in March 2022 and still within the interquartile range of our statistical neighbours (rate of 60-69). The children in care figure at the end of November was 380.
- 2.2. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker (**UASC**) children remains stable at 25, or 7% of open looked after children's cases and still 34 below the revised national transfer scheme threshold. There is an expectation that the number may increase now that the national transfer scheme threshold has increased from 0.07% of the child population to 0.1% but this has not yet shown in the figures. 0.1% of the child population equates to 59 USAC being placed in Haringey up from the previous quota of 42.

Although the overall rate of children in care has remained stable in the past few years the rate of those becoming and ceasing to be in care has reduced, a trend which has continued in 2022.

- 2.3. The rate of 22 equates to 66 children becoming looked after over the 6 months to September but more recent data shows a slightly increasing trend with an annualised rate of 30 per 10,000 children at the end of November equating to 74 children becoming looked after in the 6 months to November 2022.



- 2.4. 81 children ceased to be looked after over the 6 months to September 2022 or a rate of 27 per 10,000 but the number of children ceasing to be looked after in October and November reduced to nearly half the rate bringing the annualised rate of children ceasing to be looked after down to 14 per 10,000 children or 70 children in the 6 months from June to November.



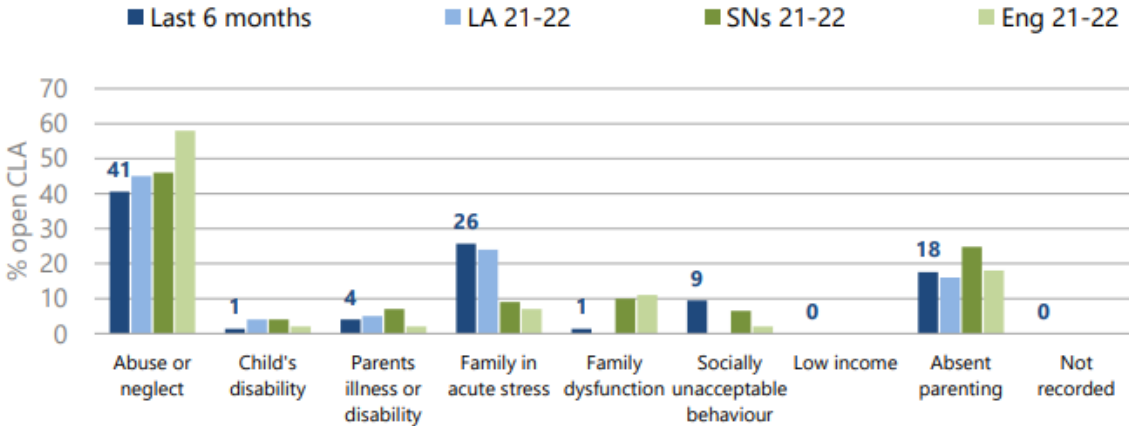
- 2.5. Of the 380 children looked after as at the end of November 61 are aged 3 or under (4 fewer than as of August 2022). 23 of these children have not yet reached 1 year old and 8 were between 1 and 3 months old.

CLA aged 3 or under

March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	November 2022
49	67	60	61

- 2.6. The past 6 months data shows that ‘family in acute stress’ given as the reason for children coming into care has reduced slightly from the 34% reported last time to 26% although still significantly higher than last reported figures for our statistical neighbours. This remains the second most frequent reason for children coming into care with the top reason being Abuse & Neglect accounting for 41% of open cases at the end of November.
- 2.7. A family in acute stress would typically display a combination of factors such as financial, housing, parental mental health and domestic violence, which combine to put parents in a position where they cannot cope without additional support.

**Comparing the primary need of CLA starters**



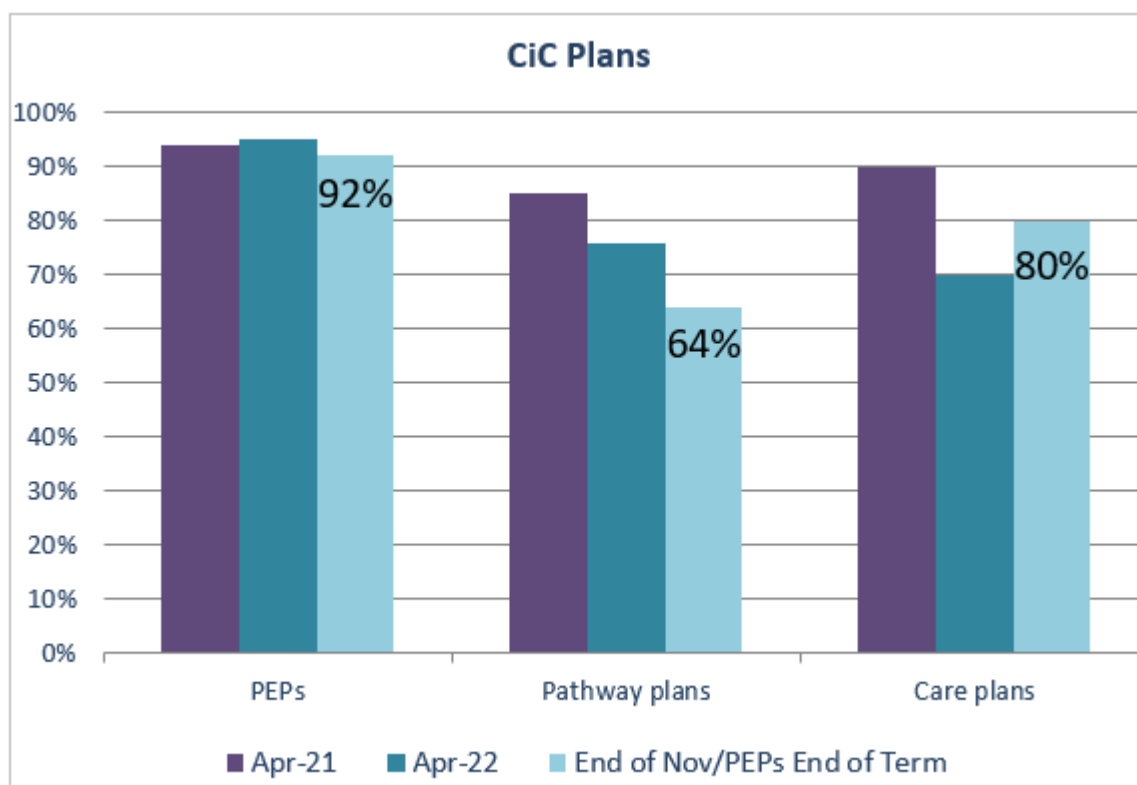
- 2.8. An audit of cases with family in acute stress was undertaken by the MASH Service Manager to further understand this increase. The findings were:
  - 7 out of the 10 cases audited were categorised using family in acute stress when there would have been a more appropriate category that could have been used.
  - 5 out of the 10 were siblings of the lead child
  - 4 out of the 5 siblings had a different category of need which was more appropriate
  - 3 out of the 10 were linked to siblings with mental health concerns
  - None of the category of need changed after the case progressed. This is important because it demonstrates the complexity of issues within families and the range of needs practitioners and social workers are required to address.

As a result of the audit the following actions have been taken:

<b>Actions</b>
Ensuring that the recording system is adjusted to capture parental mental health as a clear category of need and supporting the practitioners through learning to consistently identify and then record the need.

<b>Actions</b>
Amend the referral form so that a child's mental health category of need is clearly identified and including changes to the Mosaic self-harm concerns.
Training sessions to be completed with administrators in MASH to further build their skills to how best to categories referred needs.

- 2.9. Six children have been adopted in the past 6 months, 9% of those who leave care, this is slightly higher than the data for the same time last year. 6 children (9%) also had a special guardianship order granted in the past 6 months as of November 2022.
- 2.10. As of November 2022, 80% of looked after children aged under 16 had an up-to-date Care Plan, (77% in June). This reflects an improvement in performance since April and is now closing the gap to achieve the 90% target.
- 2.11. Of the 106 children in care aged 16 & 17 who require a pathway plan, 64% had up to date plans (80% for those cases in the young adult's service) remaining overall below the 80% target.
- 2.12. Personal education plans (PEPs) have been improved this year and the process is now fully embedded, with PEPs achieved during summer term reaching 93%. The position on young people with an up-to-date PEP at the end of Autumn term is 92%.

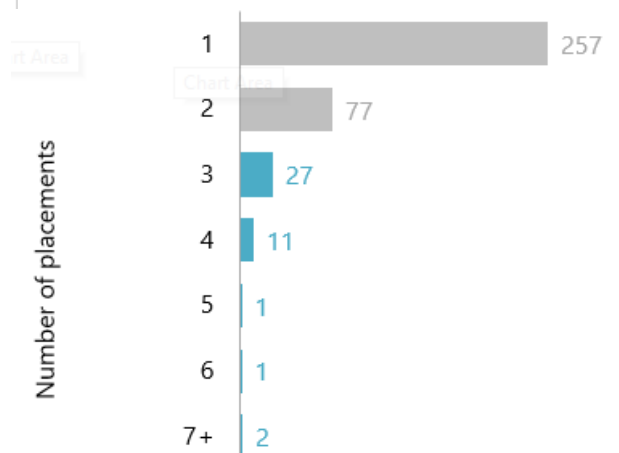
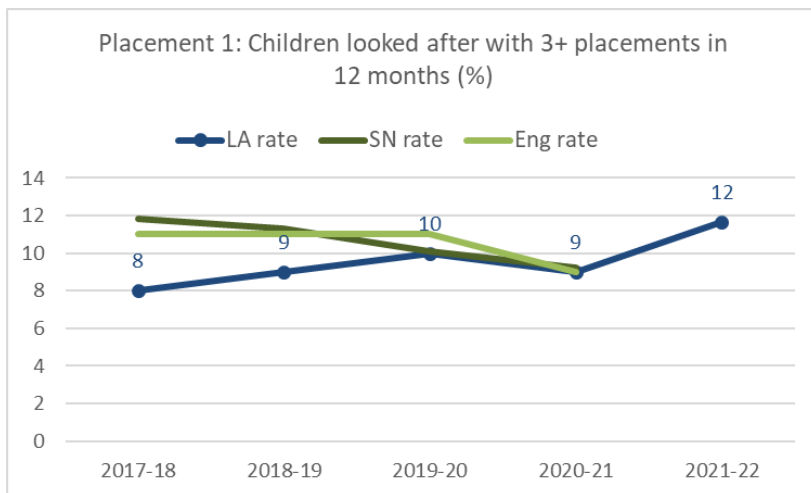


2.13. 78% of **Children in Care** were recorded as having up to date visits within the relevant timescales as of the last week of November 2022. Visits to looked after children continue to be tracked at performance meetings, held by the Head of Service for Children in Care, and along with supervision and management direction noted as consistently and actively monitored.

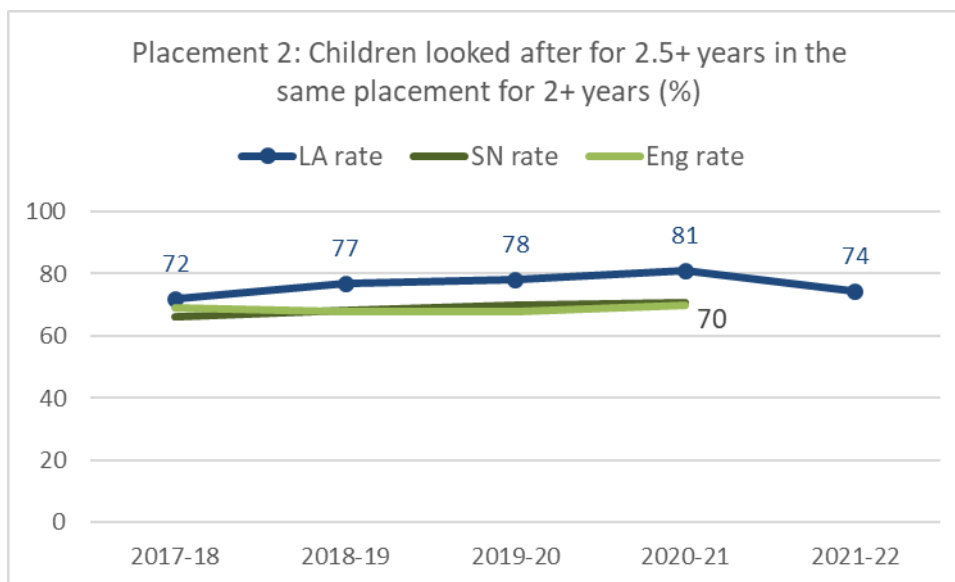
2.14. At the end of March 2022, 12% of children with an open episode of care **had three or more placement moves in the last 12 months**. This is now higher than the London and statistical neighbour average. The following factors have impacted placements moves:

- Placements breaking down due to CLA developing more complex needs as they enter adolescence
- 17-year-olds moving into semi-independent accommodation

The current position is slightly improved at 11.8% (33 children with 3 or more placements out of 279). This means 88% of children in care have had only one, or zero placement moves in the past 12 months.



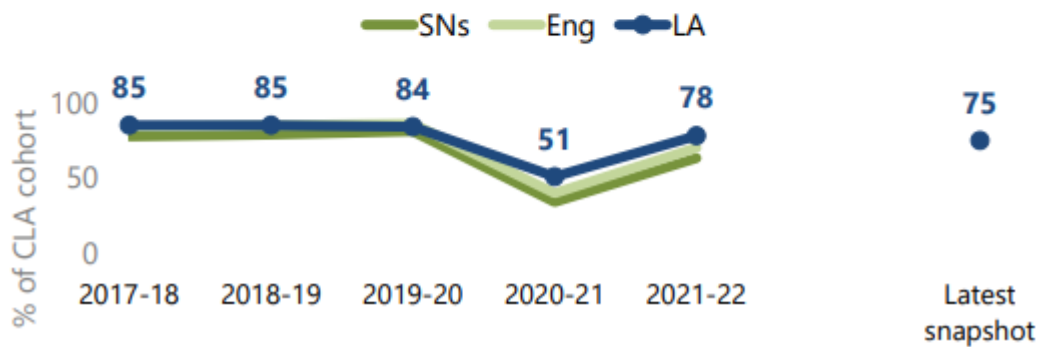
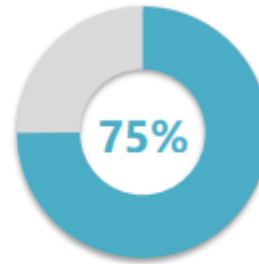
Children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years in the same placement for at least 2 years, has dipped to 56% (73 children) and is below levels reported by our statistical neighbours (average 70%). This indicator can fluctuate, the 56% represents 23 fewer children in the same placement for at least 2 years. This indicator and the three or more placements indicator should be viewed together to gain a view of placement stability for Haringey's children in care.



- 2.15. At the end of March 2022, the number of children who were looked after for at least 12 months with an **up-to-date health assessment** was 96%. The November 2022 figure shows further improvement with 97% with an up-to-date health assessment, well exceeding levels of our statistical neighbours' (92%).
- 2.16. At the end of March 2021 only 51% of eligible children had up to date **dental visits**. This had increased to 78% by the end of March 2022 and is now at 75% albeit that is an improvement from the 63% reported last time. Unfortunately, dental checks have always been a challenging area, even more so during lockdown and with COVID restrictions.

## Dental checks

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months who have had a dental check in the last 12 months.



2.17. There are now 436 **care leavers** in receipt of leaving care services as of the end of November, up 16 since March.

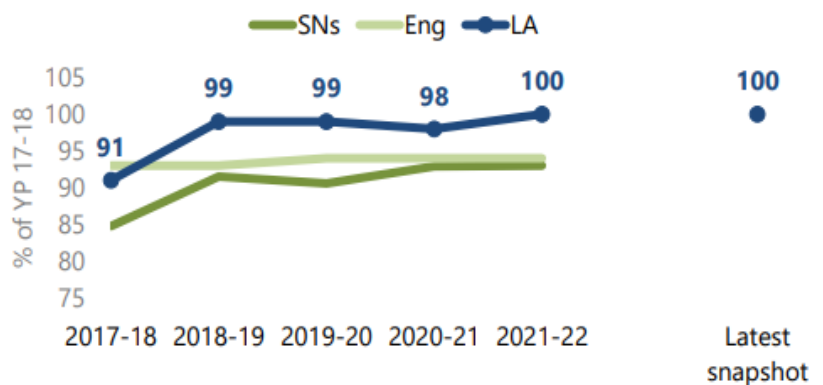
2.18. **99.5% of those aged 19-21** and **100% 17-18-year-olds** were considered as **in touch with the local authority** at the end of November.

## LA in touch with 17-18 year olds

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	3	70	73
LA in touch with YP	100%	100%	100%

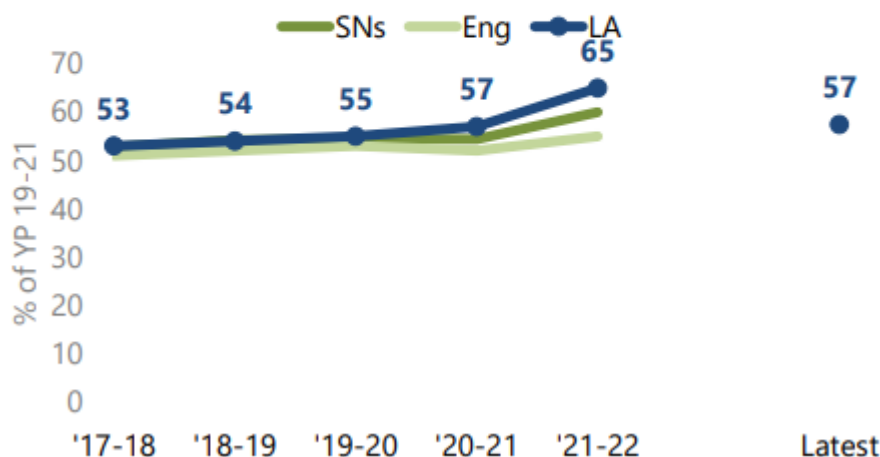


■ In touch  
 ■ Not in touch  
 □ Not recorded

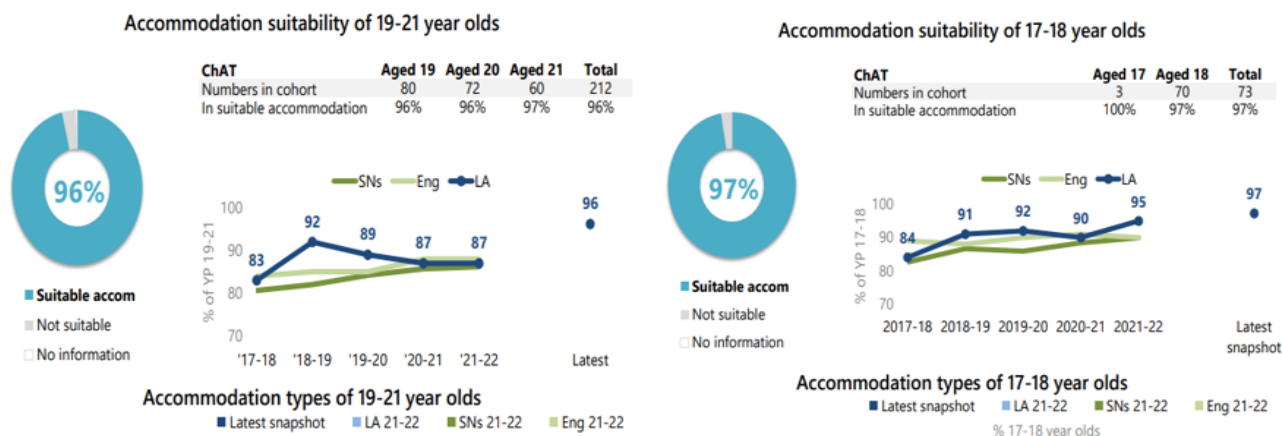


2.19. 214 or 57% of the 19–21-year-olds and 71% of 17–18-year-olds were known to be in **Education Employment or Training (EET)** 19–21-year-old care levers in EET

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	81	73	60	214
In EET	56%	56%	62%	57%



2.20. 96% of **19–21-year-old care leavers** were known to be **in suitable accommodation** (89% in June) and 97% of 17–18-year-olds (87% June).



### 3. Contribution to strategic outcomes

3.1. Borough Plan 2019-2022

3.2. People Priority: A Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential