

London Borough of Haringey

Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Analysis

October 2017

Contents

Part 1: Looked After Children, August 2017	
❖ Summary of current LAC position	3
❖ LAC by age	4
❖ LAC by gender	4
❖ LAC by ethnicity	5
❖ Presenting needs	5
Part 2: Stability of Placements	
❖ Placements	6
❖ Locality of placements	7
❖ Residential and Semi-independent placements	8
❖ Placement moves	8
Part 3: Fostering and Adoption	
❖ Applications received and approved places	10
❖ Utilisation of in-house carers	11
❖ Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs)	11
❖ Adoptions	12
❖ Adoption Child timeliness	12
Part 4: Needs Analysis	
❖ Children becoming looked after	12
❖ Children ceasing to be looked after	13
Part 5: Expenditure	
❖ <i>Further analysis required</i>	

“We will work together to ensure that every child in Haringey will have the very best start in life, including through world class education, delivering the best outcomes for our children, young people and families, which are sustainable and designed around their needs”
(Haringey Corporate plan, 2015-18)

Part 1: LAC Position, August 2017

Summary of current position

Between 2013/14 and 2015/16, there had been a decline in the number of children looked after in Haringey. At the end of 2015/16, the number of looked after children in Haringey was below the statistical neighbour average. There has since been an increase, positioning the current LAC number closer to comparative boroughs (424).

As at the end of August 2017, 422 children were looked after in Haringey, 5% decrease since the end of March 2017.

Figure 1: Number of Looked After Children

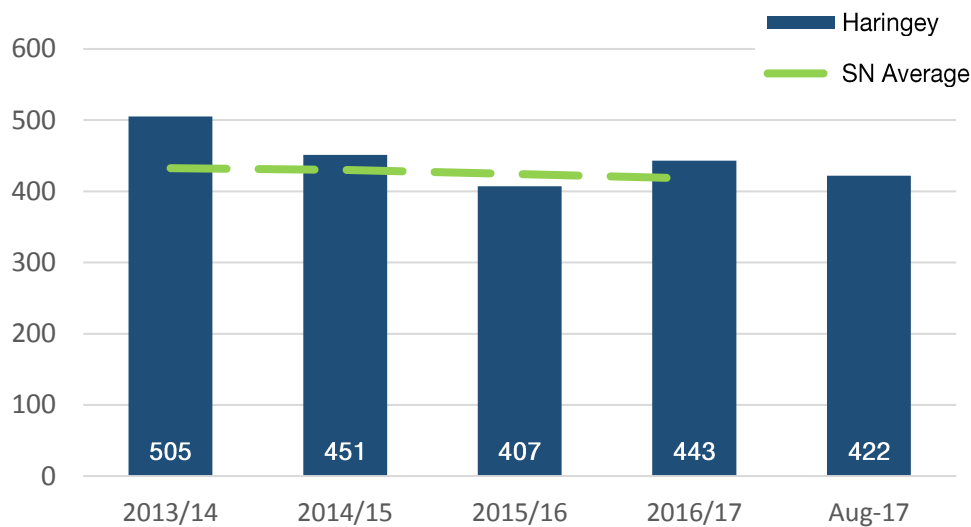
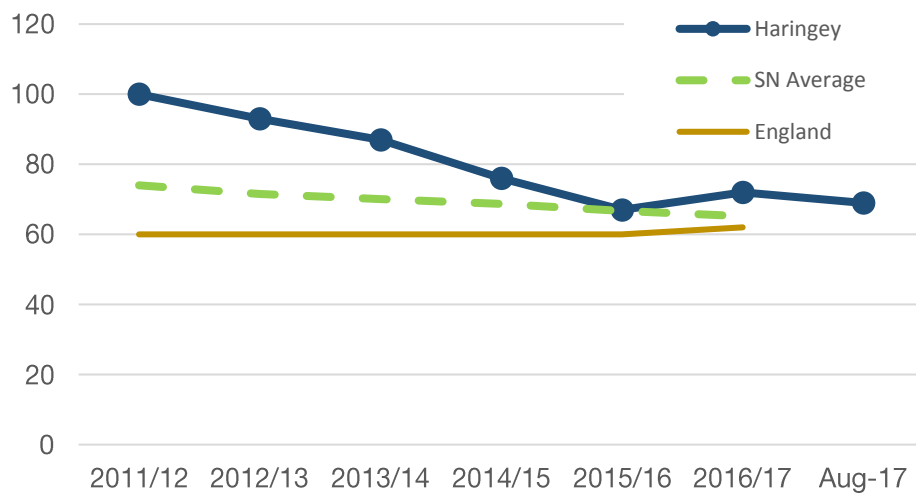


Figure 2: Rate of Looked After Children, per 10,000 children

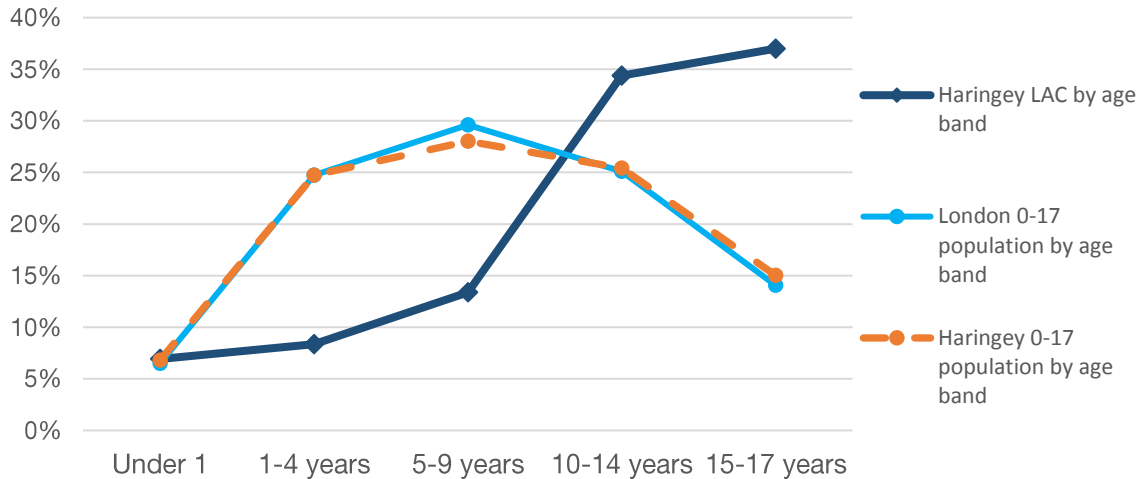


Contrary to national trends, Haringey's LAC rate per 10,000 children has seen a significant decline since 2011. In 2015/16 we were in line with statistical neighbours however most recent data positions us slightly above.

LAC by age

At the end of August, the largest proportion of looked after children were aged between 15-17 years. Of these, **41%** have been in care for more than 5 years, **29%** have looked after for less than 1 year, whilst **16%** were for 1-2 years and **14%** for 3-4 years.

Figure 3: LAC by age, August 2017

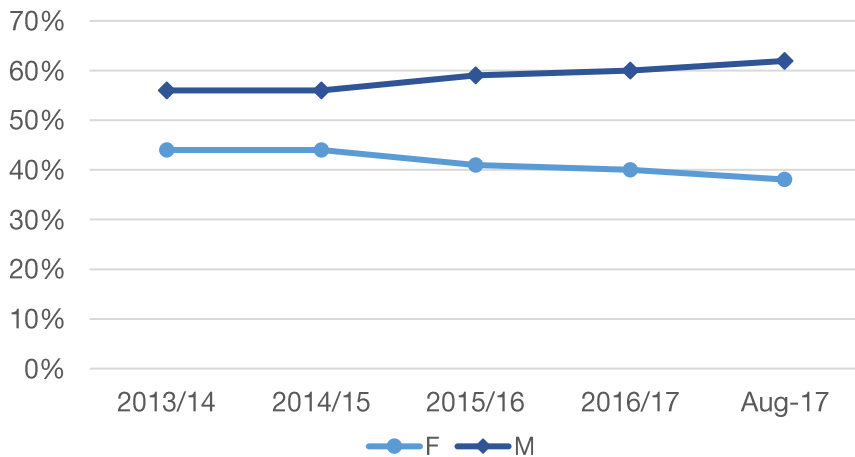


43% of 15-17 year olds are in care due to abuse or neglect; **28%** due to absent parenting. Of the 43 15-17 year olds in care due to absent parenting, **37** are unaccompanied asylum seekers.

LAC by gender

62% of current LAC (August 2017) are male; considerably higher than the proportion of under 18 males in Haringey (**51%**). Comparatively, there have been more males than females looked after in Haringey over the last 5 years. However, we have seen an increasing trend of males and a decrease of females since 2014/15.

Figure 4: LAC by gender, 2013/14 to August 2017

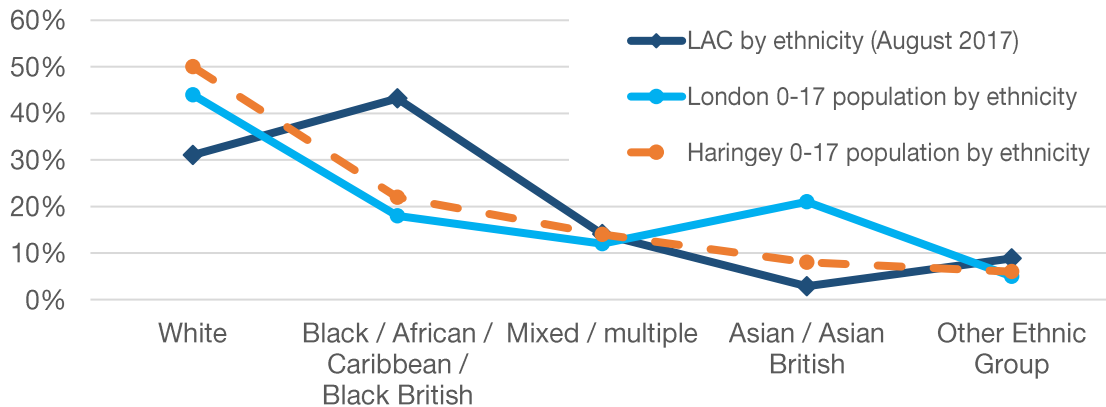


Highest proportion of males cared for are aged 10-14 years and of females 15-17 years old.

LAC by ethnicity

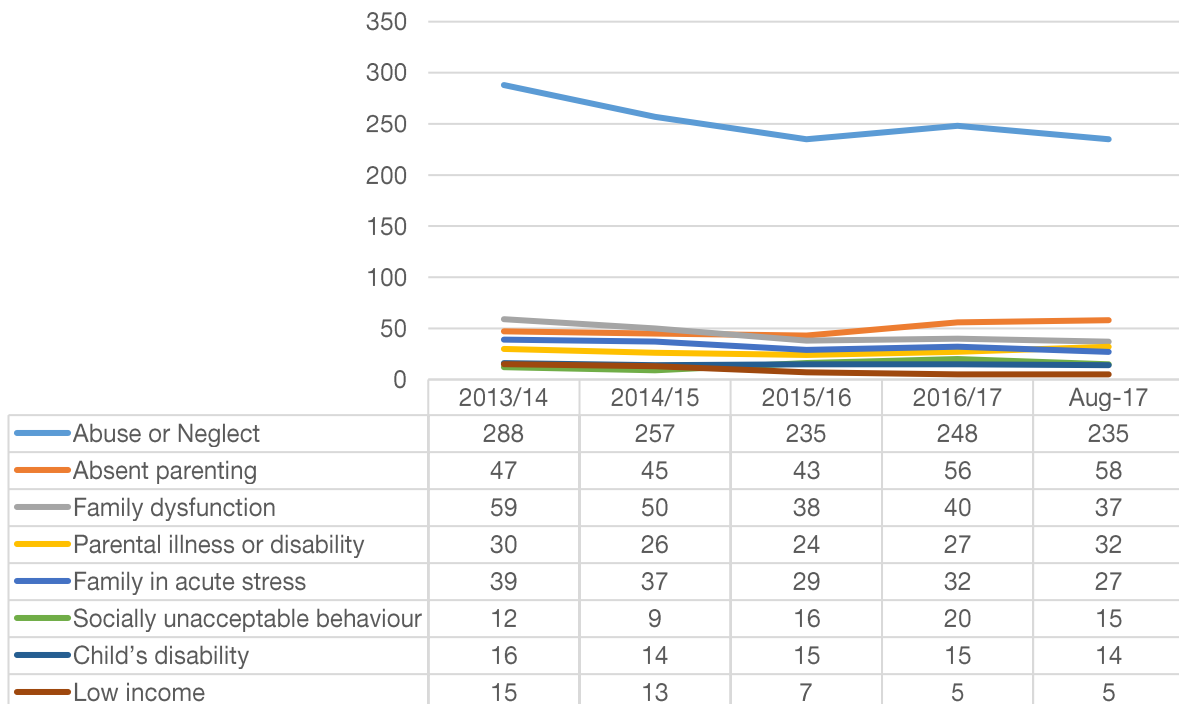
Children of Black ethnicity represent the largest ethnic group of children looked after in Haringey (43%), followed by children of White ethnicity (31%). However, this is disproportional to the proportion of white and black under 18s in Haringey. Haringey LAC of white descent is lower than the proportion of Haringey 0-17 population whilst LAC of black ethnicity is significantly higher.

Figure 5: LAC by ethnicity, August 2017



Presenting Needs

Figure 6: LAC by presenting needs, 2013/14 to August 2017



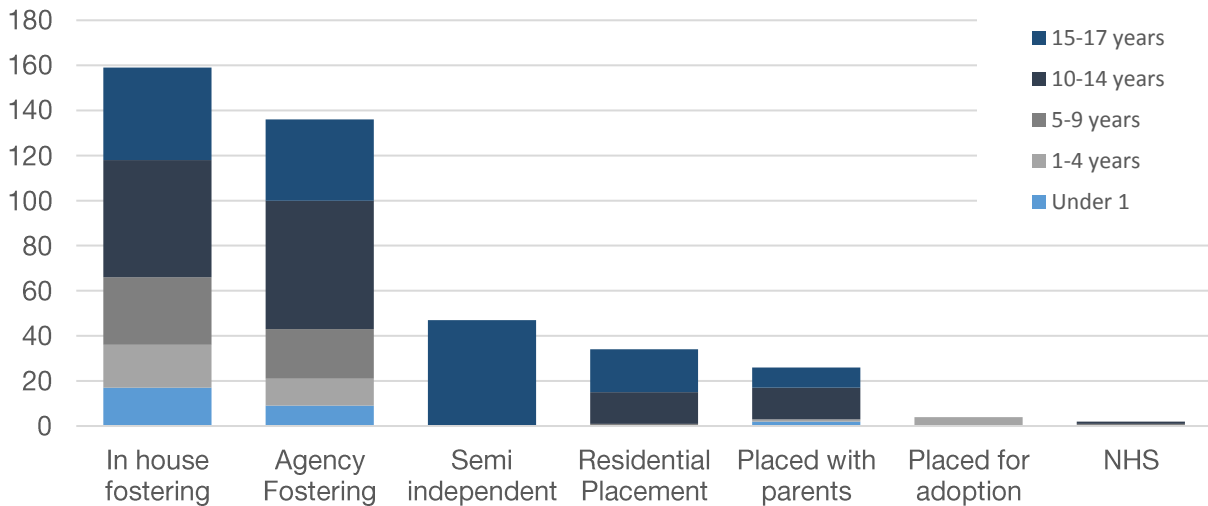
Although the proportion of LAC by presenting needs has fluctuated over the years, the majority were in care due to abuse or neglect. Since 2015/16 we have seen an increase of children in care due to absent parenting. Of the 58 LAC with absent parents at the end of August, 40 (69%) were Unaccompanied Asylum seekers.

Part 2: Stability of Placements

LAC Placements

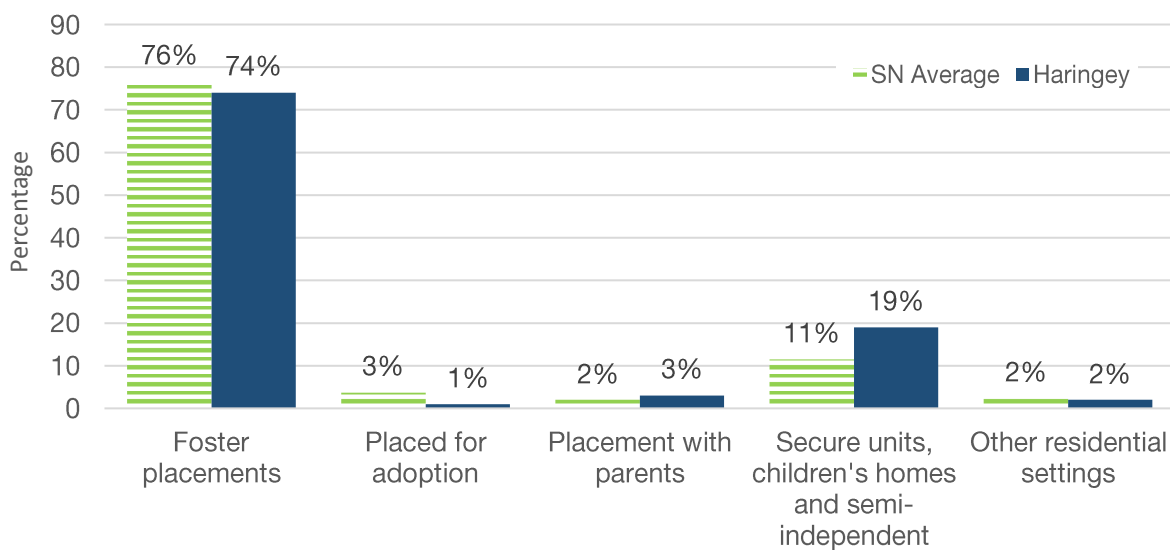
The highest proportion of LAC as at the end of August, were placed with in-house foster carers followed by agency foster carers.

Figure 7: Placements by age, August 2017



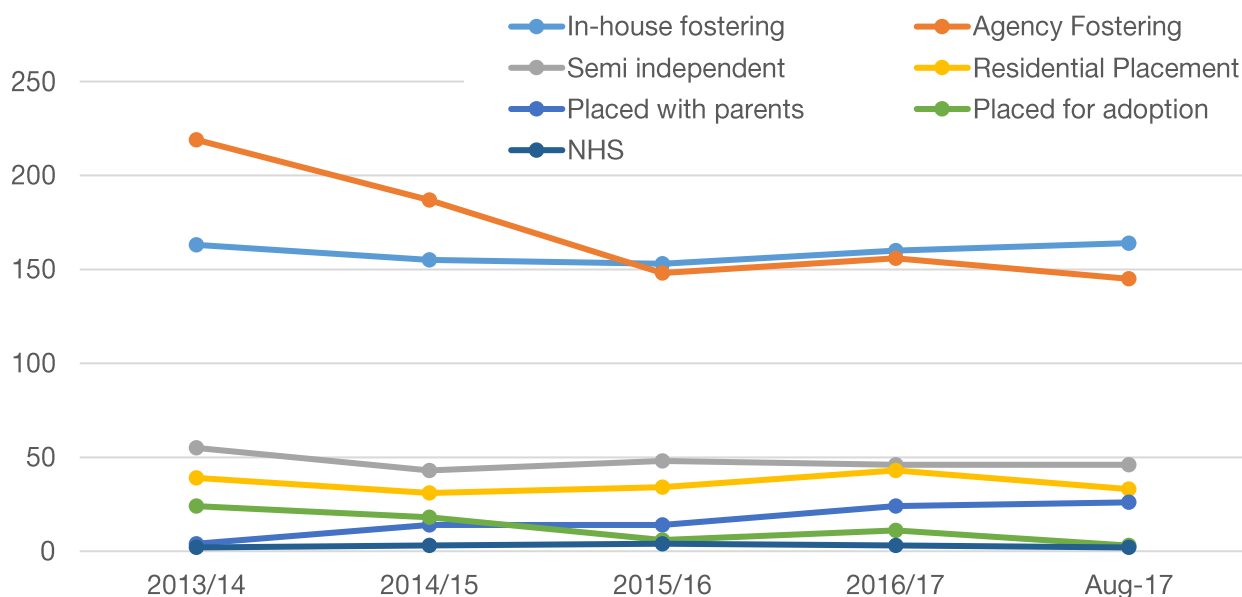
All LAC placed in residential settings were aged 15-17 years whilst all children placed for adoption were 1-4 years. LAC aged 5-9 years were either placed with in-house or agency foster carers. Majority of children in foster placements were aged 10-14 years.

Figure 8: Placement comparison to statistical neighbours as at 31st March 2016 (2016-17 placement data not available as yet)



At 31st March 2016, the proportion of LAC by placements in Haringey were similar to that of statistical neighbours. However, the percentage of LAC placed in secure units, children homes and semi-independent settings were slightly above the statistical neighbour average.

Figure 9: LAC placement types, 2013/14 to August 2017



We have seen an overall downward trend of children placed with agency foster carers, and an increase in trend of children placed with in-house carers. There has also been an increase in the number of children being placed with their parents/guardians since 2013/14 and a reduction in children placed with prospective adopters.

Locality of Placements

Table 1: Locality of placement, by placement type (August 2017)

Locality	Agency Fostering	In house fostering	NHS	Residential Placement	Semi independent	Total LAC
IN	1%	18%	0%	0%	3%	22%
OUT	37%	25%	0%	8%	7%	78%
Total	38%	43%	0%	9%	10%	100%

Most of Haringey's LAC at the end of August who were placed within the borough were placed in either in-house foster placement whilst the highest percentage of LAC outside the borough were placed with agency foster carers.

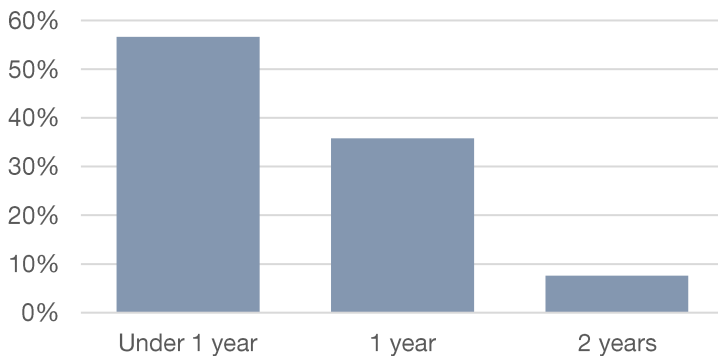
Table 2: Placements within 20 miles? (August 2017)

Within 20 miles or more	Agency Fostering	In house fostering	NHS	With parents	Residential Placement	Semi independent	Total LAC
No	10%	3%	0%	0%	4%	1%	18%
Yes	26%	38%	0%	4%	4%	9%	82%
Total	36%	41%	0%	4%	8%	10%	100%

The majority of LAC placed 20 miles or more from Haringey are placed with agency foster carers, followed by residential placements.

Residential and Semi-independent placements, by length of stay

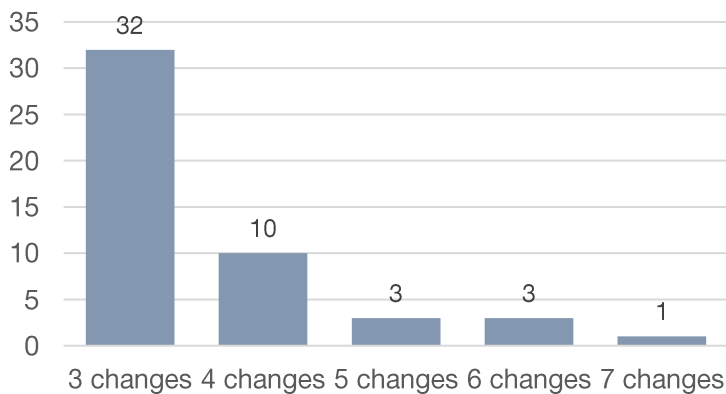
Figure 10: Duration of semi-independent placements (includes both placements which ceased for new placement to begin and placements which ceased as child no longer looked after)



Majority (57%) of children placed with semi-independent providers stayed in their placements for under 1 year before their placement ceased; 36% for 1- 2 years and 8% for more than 2 years. Of those currently in semi-independent placements 59% have been placed for under a year. Please note 18+ data relating to semi-independent placements is not included in the above.

Placement moves

Figure 11: LAC at 31st August, by number of changes



12% of children looked after at the end of August have had 3 or more placement changes in the last 12 months.

There has been an increase in trend in the proportion of LAC with 3+ placements changes in the year. Latest data positions us considerably higher than the same period last year and above local target (see below).

Figure 12: % of LAC with 3+ placement moves in 12 months, last 12 months

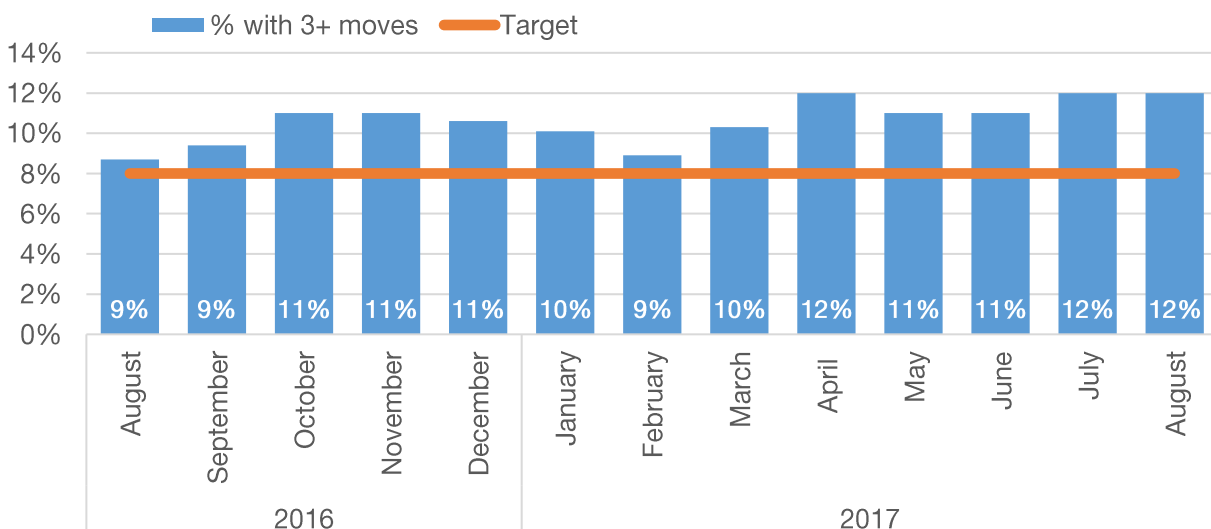


Figure 13: Current placement of LAC with 3 or more placement moves, August 2017

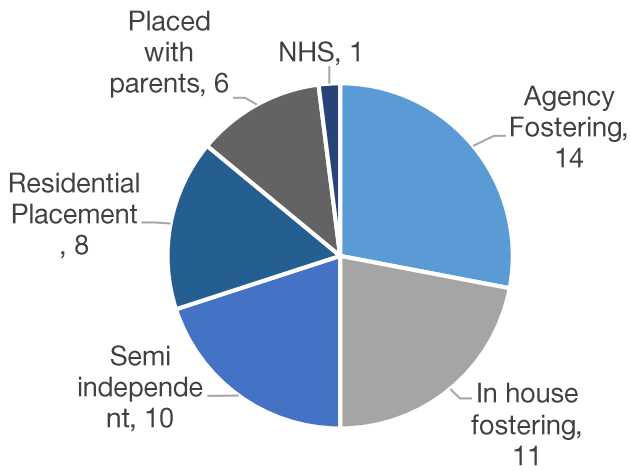


Figure 14: Previous placement of children currently placed in agency foster care with 3+ placements moves in last year

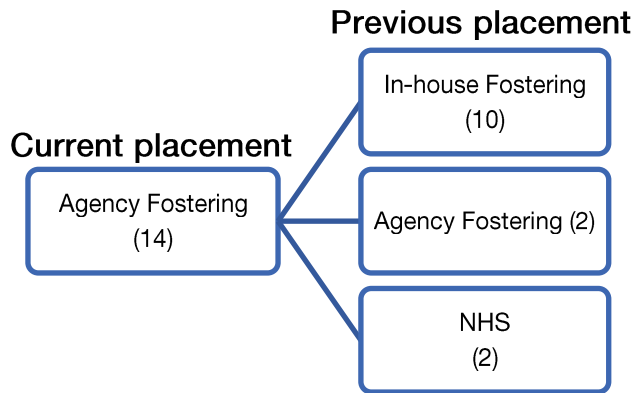


Figure 14: Number of unplanned placement changes, 2013 to August 2017

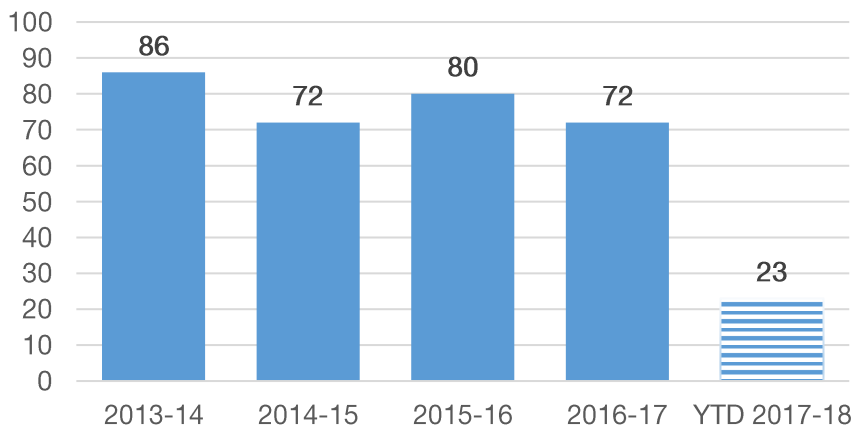
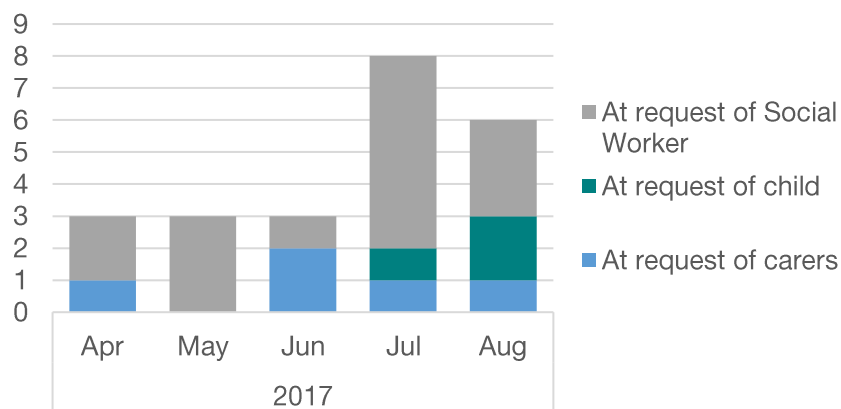


Figure 15: Number of unplanned placement changes by end reason, April to August 2017



Majority of the children (20) who had an unplanned placement change were above the age of 10.

Part 3: Fostering and Adoption

Fostering applications and approvals

The number of initial enquiries has fluctuated since 2013/14 however reached a peak in 2015/16; there has since been a decline. Throughout 2016/17 6% of initial enquiries lead to successful applications which were approved.

Figure 16: Number of initial enquiries from new prospective fostering households and fostering applications approved

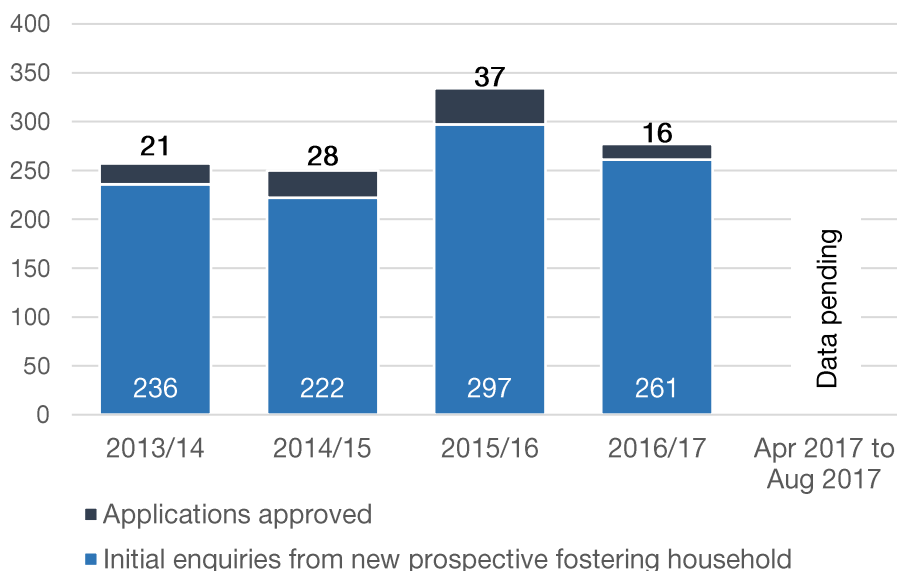
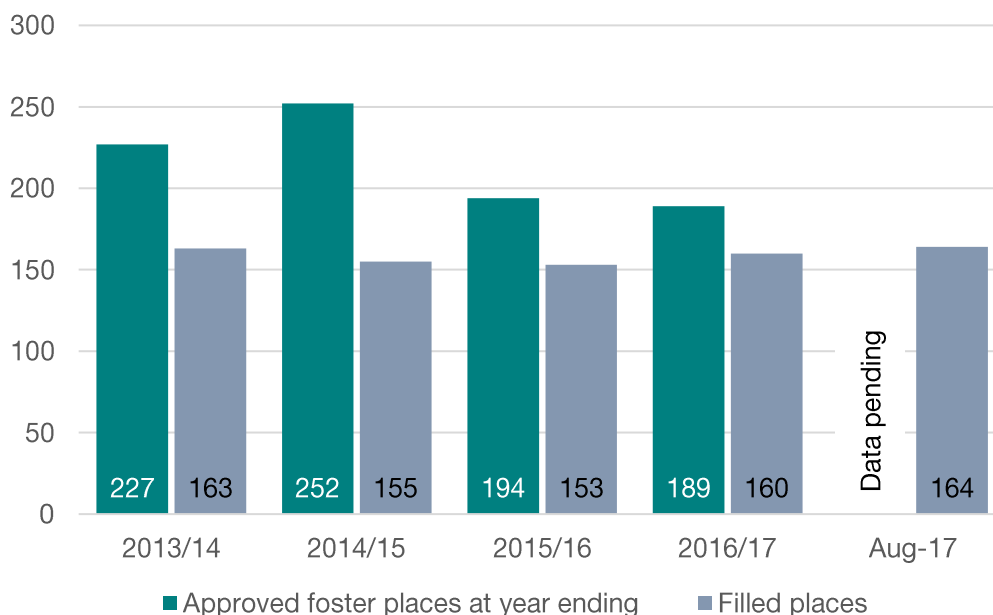


Figure 17: Number of foster places and filled places



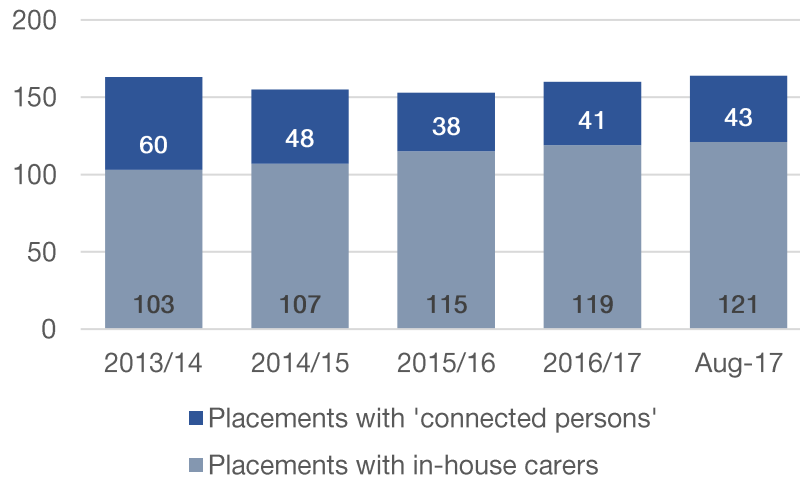
The proportion of approved foster places filled has varied over the years however, at the end of 2016/17 85% of places were filled; the highest since 2013/14.

At the end of August, 164 of foster places were filled; 39% of all children looked after.

Utilisation of in-house foster carers and 'Connected Person' households

The number of children placed with in-house foster carers has shown an increase since the end of 2013/14 to August 2017 whilst the number of children with 'connected persons' has decreased.

Figure 18: Children placed in in-house foster placements, by placements with 'connected persons' and placements with in-house carers



Special Guardianship

We saw a peak in Special Guardianship Orders being achieved in 2014/15 (35 children). However, there has since been a significant decline.

35% (34) of SGOs achieved since April 2013 were **made to former foster carer(s)** whilst **65% (62)** were made to carers **other than the former foster carer(s)**.

Figure 17: SGOs, by years

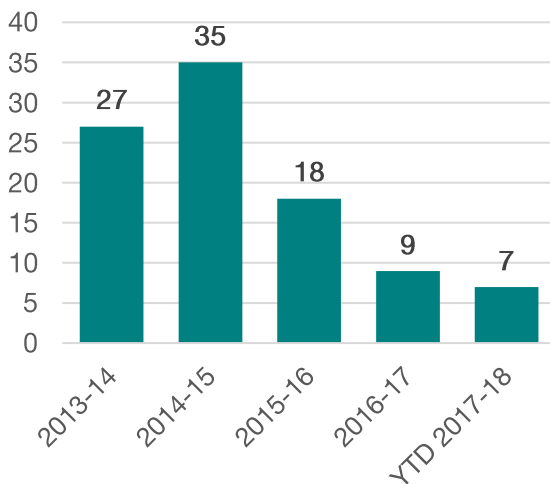
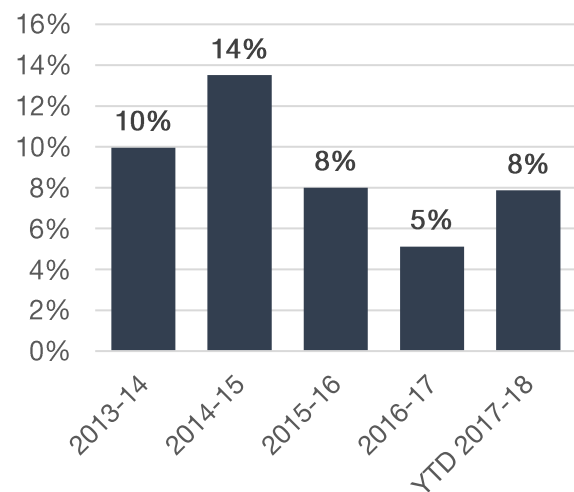


Figure 18: % of permanency achieved of LAC ceased



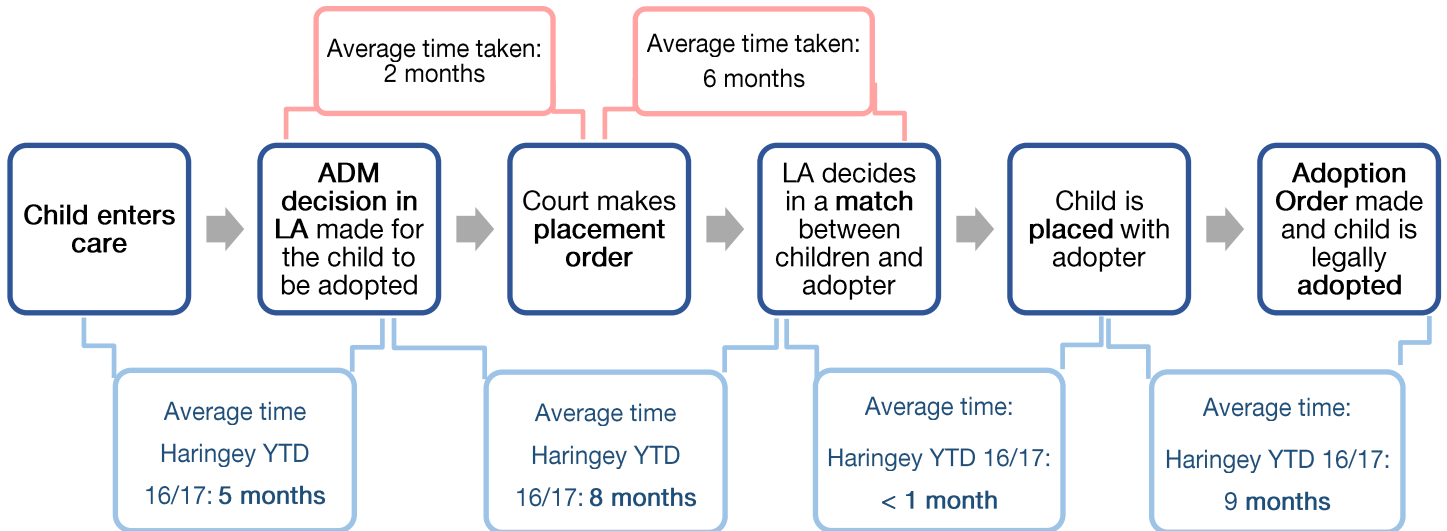
In the year to August 2017, there have been 7 SGOs – 5 more achieved in comparison to the same period last year. Of these, the average number of days spent in care was 251 days (8 months).

Adoptions

At the end of August, 28 children awaiting adoption had not been placed whilst 3 children awaiting were placed with prospective adopters. An adoption order was granted for 10 children were adopted in the year to August; permanency being achieved for 11% of children who have ceased to be looked after in the year.

Adoptions (Child timeliness)

The flow chart below shows the average time taken for each stage of a child's journey in the year to August 2017 (based on 10 adopted children):

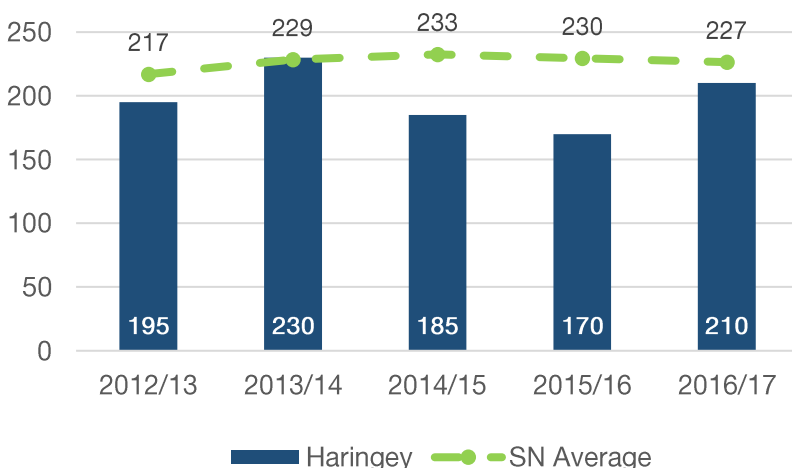


At the end of August, the average number of days between entering care and placed for adoption for those who have been adopted was 419 days; decline since 2016/17 (560 days).

Part 4: Children becoming and ceasing to be looked after

Children becoming looked after

Figure 19: LAC starters by years, Haringey and comparative boroughs

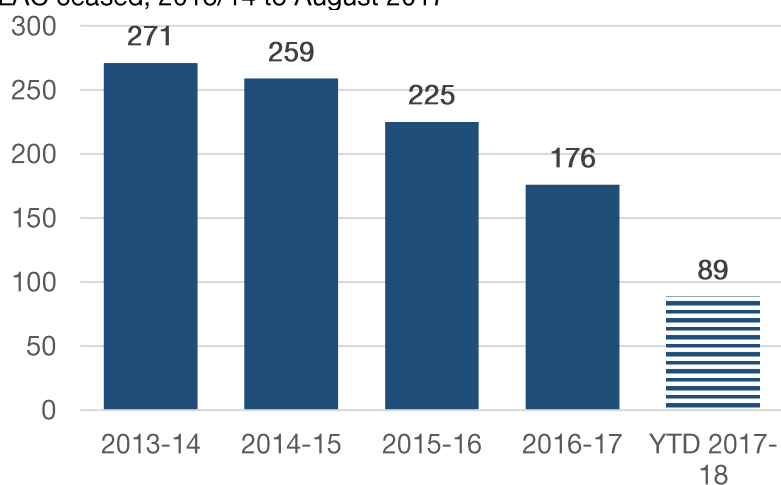


There has been a reduction in the number of children becoming LAC in Haringey since 2013/14 positioning us below the statistical neighbour average. In 2016/17 we saw an increase narrowing the gap slightly however we continue to remain below our comparative boroughs.

Children ceasing to be looked after

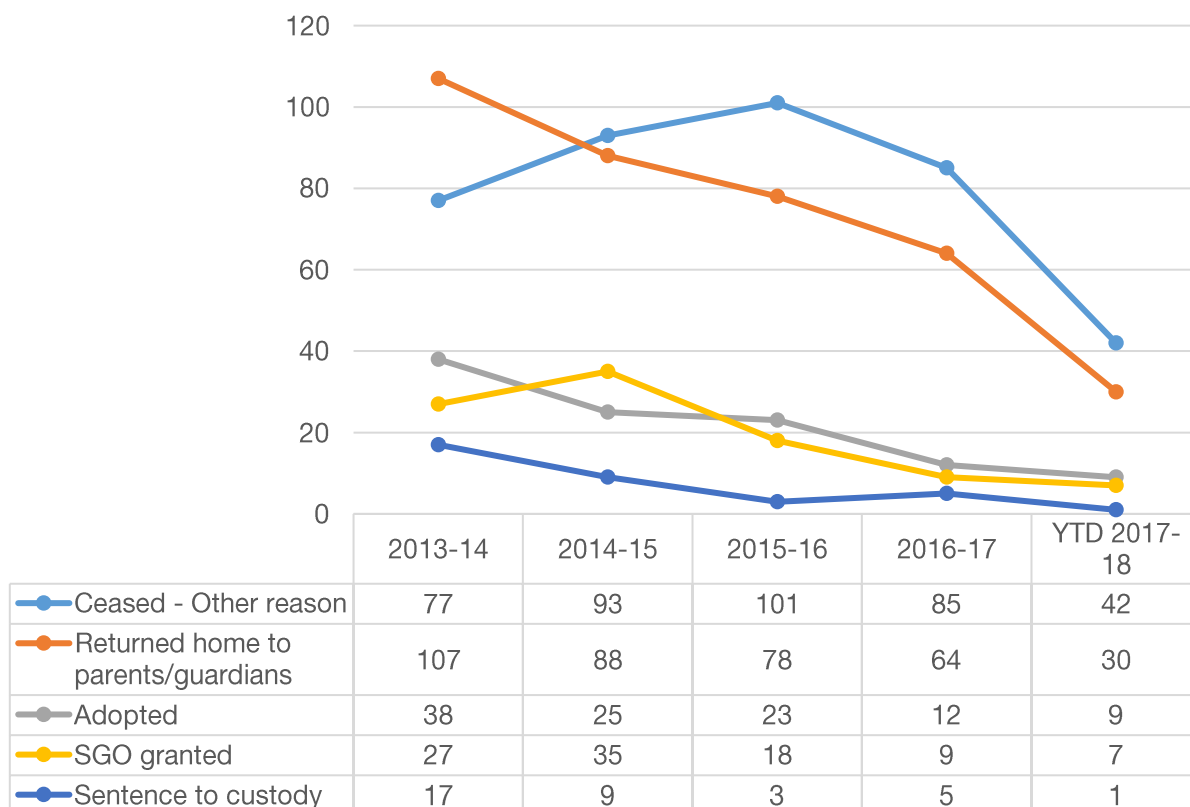
Since 2013/14, there has been a reduction in the number of children ceasing to be looked after.

Figure: Number of LAC ceased, 2013/14 to August 2017



Highest proportion of children leaving care either ceased for any other reason (including turned 18 years of age) or returned home to their parents.

Figure: Top 5 reasons LAC ceased, 2013/14 to August 2017

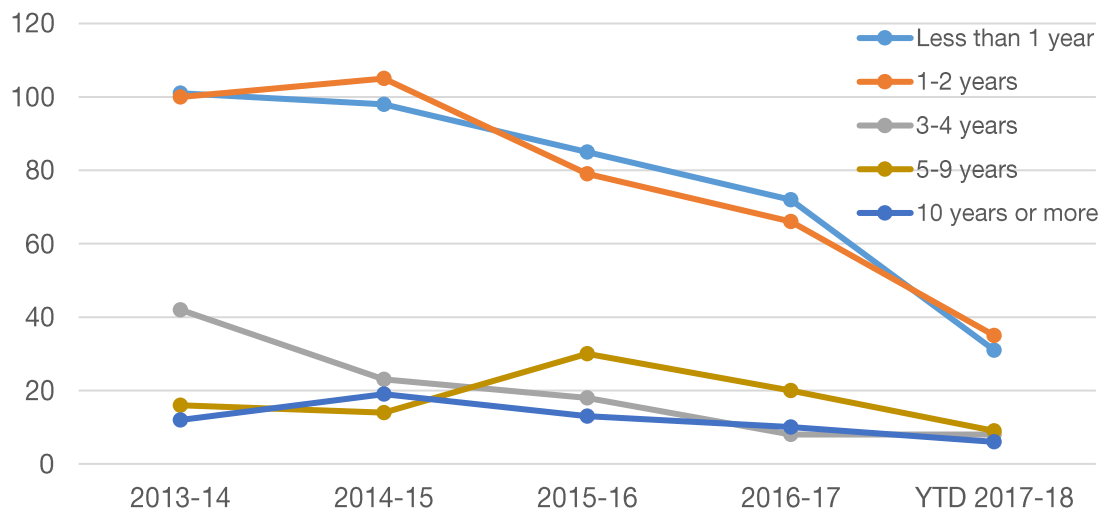


There was a peak of SGOs granted in 2014/15 which has since continued to decline; similarly, since the peak of adoptions in 2013/14 we have seen a reduction.

Length of time in care

Of those that have ceased since 2013/14, majority were in care for up to 2 years.

Figure: LAC ceased by length of time in care, 2013/14 to August 2017



Part 5: Expenditure

Further analysis required