

# **North Somerset Council**

## **REPORT TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE OF MEETING: 24 OCTOBER 2019**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: EIFION PRICE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel is asked to note the performance information presented in this report and to give comment on both areas for improvement and areas of good performance.

#### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel receive regular performance management reports to help members evaluate the extent to which the council and its partners are achieving key plans and objectives for children and young people's services, and to provide appropriate challenge and suggestions to improve performance.

This report presents the following standard items:

- an analysis of the performance of the relevant Key Corporate Performance Indicators (KCPIs) for Q1 of the financial year 2019/20 that fall under the remit of the Panel.
- an overview of the performance of various Key Service Measures for Support and Safeguarding services within the council.

To note, updates on children's attainment for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 including any attainment gap will be provided on publication of results, likely to be available for the next Panel meeting.

#### **2. POLICY**

The council's Performance Management Framework includes a requirement for quarterly reporting of our performance position so that members and officers can monitor progress against our key plans and objectives and take appropriate action where progress is below target or needs additional focus.

#### **3. DETAILS**

##### **KEY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Each year the Directorates within North Somerset Council produce an Annual Directorate Statement (ADS). This in effect translates the commitments in the North Somerset Corporate Plan into a series of Directorate level commitments. These commitments are then measured

by a combination of Key Projects and Key Corporate Performance Indicators (KCPIs). North Somerset Council Scrutiny Panels are then updated quarterly with all KCPIs related to their area of work (fig 1.1 and table 1.1).

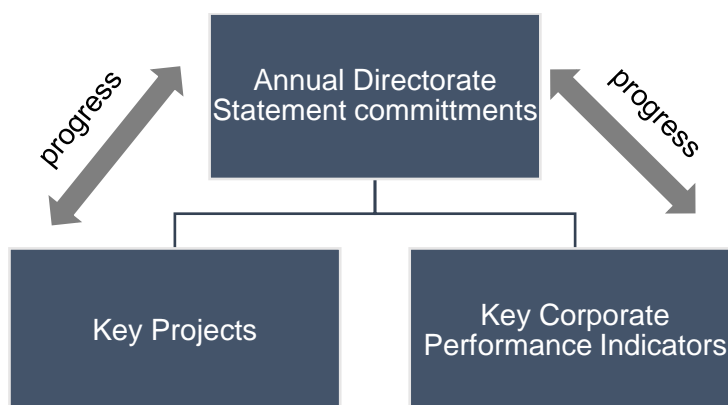


Fig 1.1 measuring corporate performance

Table 1.1 shows the end year position (data as of Q1 for the 2019/20 financial year unless otherwise stated) of all KCPIs related to the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel.

Table 1.1	Q1	Met target	Comments	National benchmarking
An increase in the number of Early Help episodes	1,213 episodes	GREEN	Early Help interventions including parenting classes continue to be offered across North Somerset, with over 1,200 families having received Early Help in Q1.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
A decrease in the number of Children in Need	864 children	GREEN	The number of Children in Need has fluctuated throughout the year but remains within target. North Somerset has remained below national and statistical neighbour’s averages (as a rate per 10,000).	Better than (277 per 10,000 compared to 341 per 10,000 nationally)
A decrease in the number of children on a Child Protection Plan	121 children	RED	Q1 continued to see an decrease in the number of children on a Child Protection Plan. North Somerset has remained below national and statistical neighbour’s averages (as a rate per 10,000).	Better than (31.7 per 10,000 compared to 45.3 per 10,000 nationally)
Increase the number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme	1,655 families	GREEN	This measure met its Q1 target, with more families being worked with under the High Impact umbrella.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
Increase the number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme showing significant and sustained progress	532 families	AMBER	The number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme showing significant and sustained progress increased in Q1 of 2019/20 but was slightly below target.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
A reduction in the number of children over the age of 10 years becoming looked after	Supressed	GREEN	2018/19 has seen a decrease in the number of children over the age of 10 years entering care. <i>Please note the number of children has been supressed due to confidentiality.</i>	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
A reduction in the number of Looked After Children overall	239 children	RED	The numbers of Children Looked After has increased in recent quarters. North Somerset remains below national averages (as a rate per 10,000 for this indicator) but above statistical neighbours. To note, as of Q1, 15 of our CLA were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.	Better than (55.0 per 10,000 compared to 64.0 per 10,000 nationally)

Table 1.1	Q1	Met target	Comments	National benchmarking
The number of children we could not offer a place to on the National Offer Day (primary)	Nil	GREEN	All primary Reception applicants were offered a place on National Offer Day. The national statistics show that 0.1% of North Somerset applicants weren't offered a place. This equates to 2 children who live abroad, who applied for a North Somerset place, but could not be offered one of their preferences.	Better than (99% were offered one of their top three preferences compared to 97.5% nationally)
The number of children we could not offer a place to on the National Offer Day (secondary)	Nil	GREEN	All secondary Year 7 applicants were offered a place on National Offer Day. The national statistics show that 0.1% of North Somerset applicants weren't offered a place. This equates to 1 child who lives abroad, who applied for a North Somerset place, but could not be offered one of their preferences.	Better than (99.3% were offered one of their top three preferences compared to 93.0% nationally)
Increasing number of apprentices employed by the council	18	GREEN	There are currently 18 apprentices employed on the NSC apprenticeship scheme. In addition, there are 45 existing staff members undertaking an apprenticeship qualification.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
Maintain a low level of under 18 conceptions	12.6 per 1,000	GREEN	This has decreased compared to the previous year. <i>To note, data is from 2017</i>	Better than (12.6 per 1,000 compared to 17.8 per 1,000)

## KEY SERVICE MEASURES

Each year the Children and Young People's Support and Safeguarding Service updates its Performance Management Framework. As well as including the KCPIs within table 1.1, the framework also includes a number of Key Service Measures (KSMs) many of which are in response to statutory Ofsted guidelines.

These KSMs are reported to management teams and they seek to provide an overview of the journey of a child or young person from initial contact with Support and Safeguarding Services through to the provision of other services (fig1.2). More guidance on this journey can be found at the end of this report under 'useful links'.

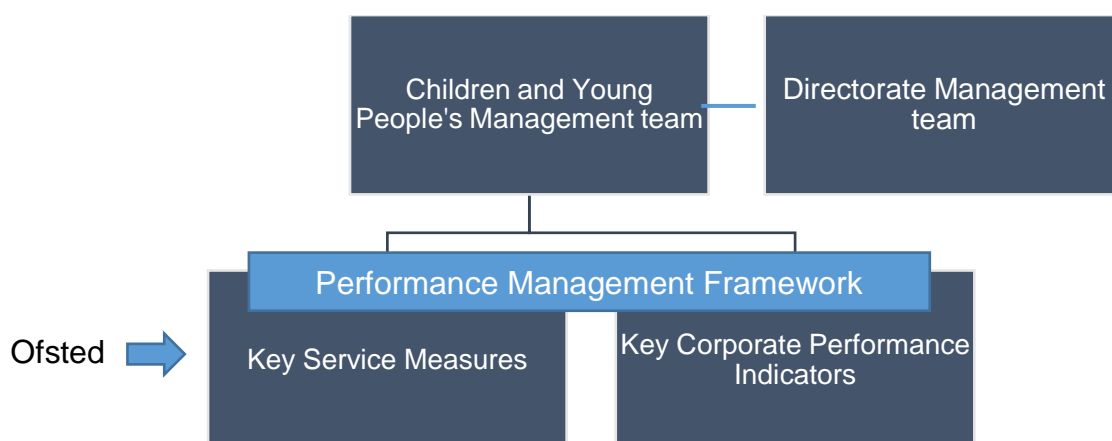
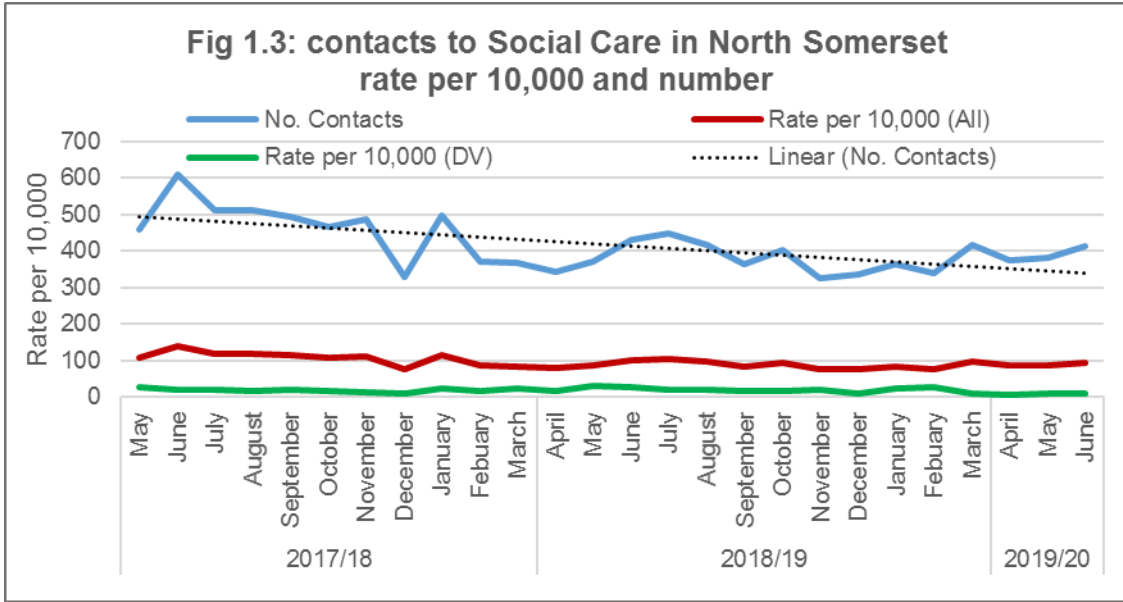


Fig 1.2 measuring service performance

## Contacts

Where there is a need for advice and/or information or support from Children’s Support and Safeguarding (social care) a contact is made. Within North Somerset since 2017/18 contacts have reduced, with the trend line in fig 1.3 showing a downwards trend (linear).

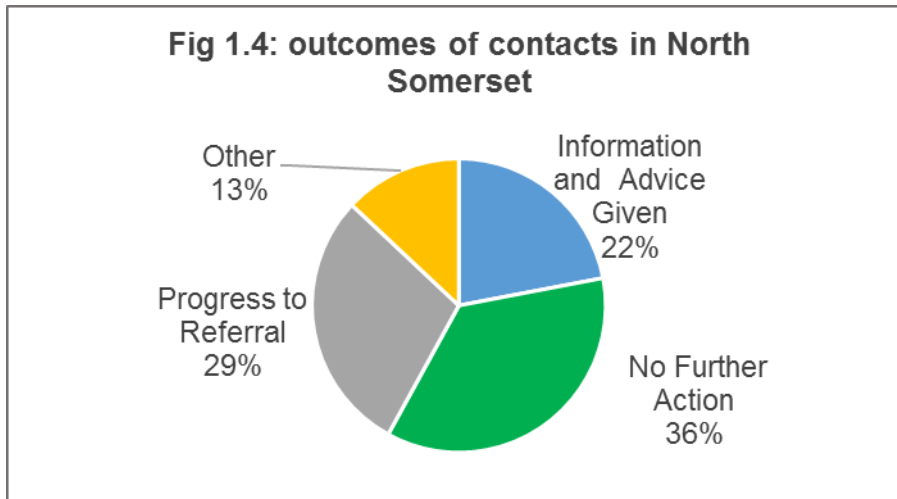
In Q1 of 2019/20 there was a slight increase with a rate of 90 contacts per 10,000 children, a similar rate during to that seen during 2018/19.



The number and rate of domestic violence/abuse (DV) contacts has fallen over the past three years and continued to fall in the first quarter of 2019/20, with 4% of all contacts being for domestic violence where previously this figure would have been higher (around 10%). However, a new service the [One Front Door](#) has likely diverted some of these contacts.

Outcomes for contacts to Children’s Support and Safeguarding vary (fig 1.4), but as at the end of 2018/19 the main outcomes were:

- Information and advice given (22%)
- Progress to referral (29%)
- No further action (36%)



## Early Help

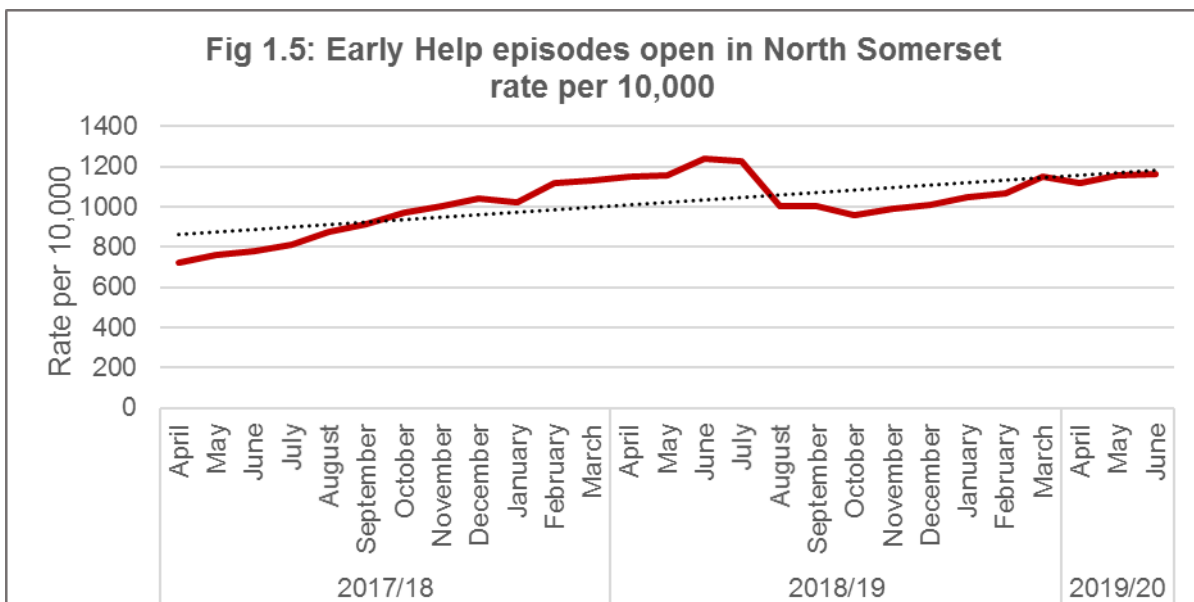
Early Help is a service that is available for children, young people and their families who may need extra support in their lives. Early Help is entirely voluntary and can be accessed without a referral.

*“Every family has its ups and downs. Being a parent is hard work and there are no instructions. Sometimes, you or your children may need extra support. This may be before your children are born, when they are very young, or throughout their school years. There is nothing to be ashamed of in asking for help. Early Help helps you recognise what’s going well for you, where you may benefit from extra help, and who is the best person to work with you and your family to make this happen.”*

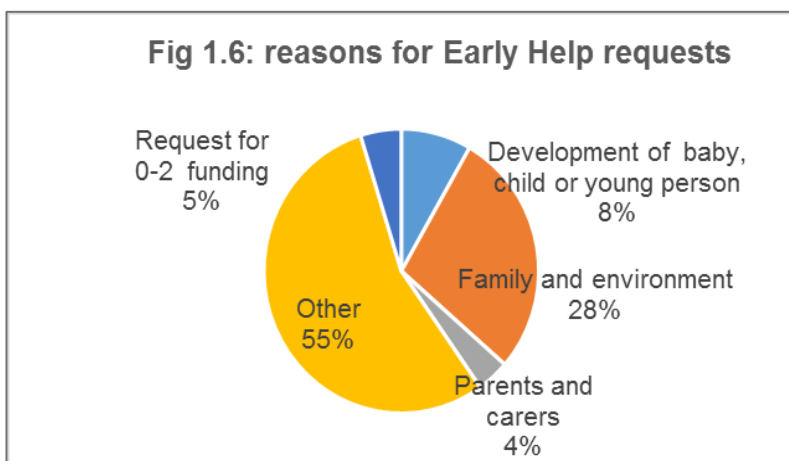
North Somerset Early Help

Services that offer Early Help include schools across North Somerset, Children’s Centres, and High Impact Families. Services might include family support, parenting classes and help into employment.

At the end of Q1 2019/20, 1,165 families were being supported through Early Help (an Early Help episode). The liner trend in Early Help episodes is upwards despite there being a dip in the number and rate from August 2018 as a result of a data cleaning exercise (fig 1.5).



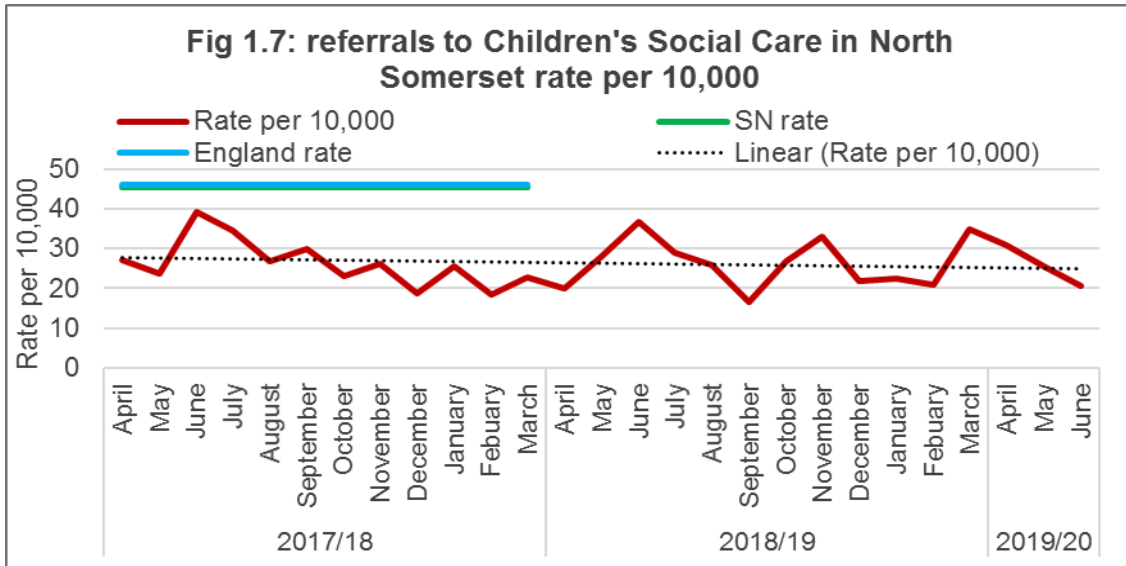
Reasons for requests for Early Help vary but the main reason outside of ‘other’ is for help with the ‘family and environment’ which includes additional support around housing, employment and finance as well as social and community elements. To note, ‘other’ includes requests for specific services.



## Referrals

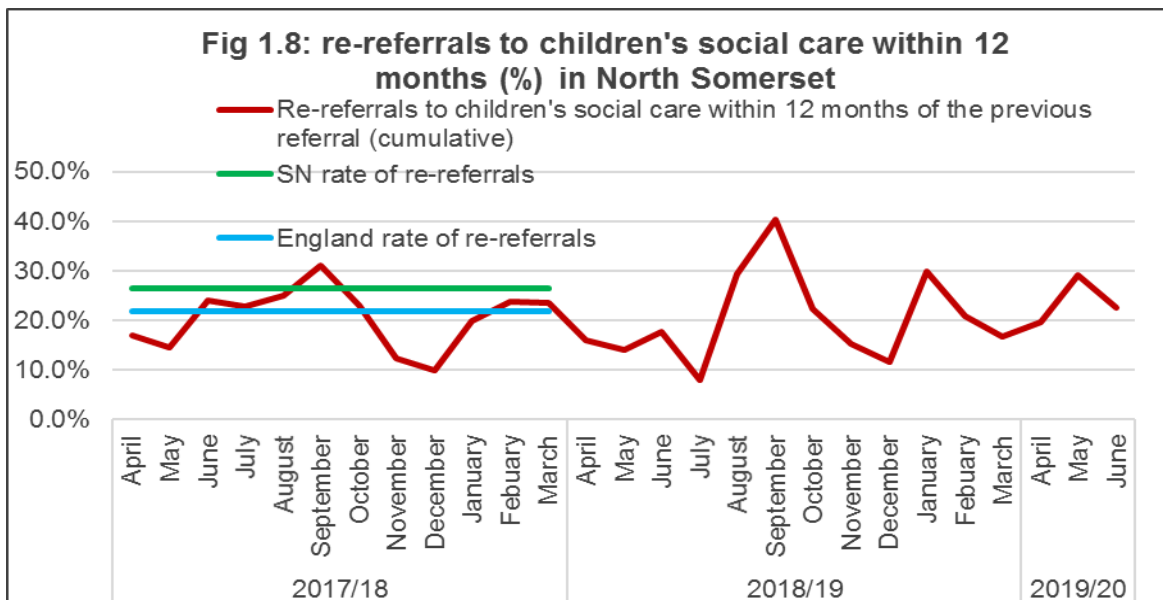
If a contact that is made which requires further support beyond advice and/or information then it will progress to a referral to social care. The number and rate of referrals varies by month, although over the previous two full years (2017/18 and 2018/19) the annual averages have been similar.

The North Somerset referral rates are lower than both the statistical neighbours and the national rate (fig 1.7). At the end of Q1 2019/20, the rate of referrals was 21 per 10,000 children which is lower than at the same time in previous years.



Referral outcomes vary but on average over 95% go on to receive some further service, with less than 5% closing with no further action.

Re-referrals is a measure of where children with a previous referral in the last 12 months are re-referred into Support and Safeguarding. In the first quarter of 2019/20, 23% of all referrals were re-referrals. This is higher than seen in previous quarters and higher than the regional and national averages, though it should be noted that in some months referral numbers were quite small so the percentage is more subject to fluctuations.



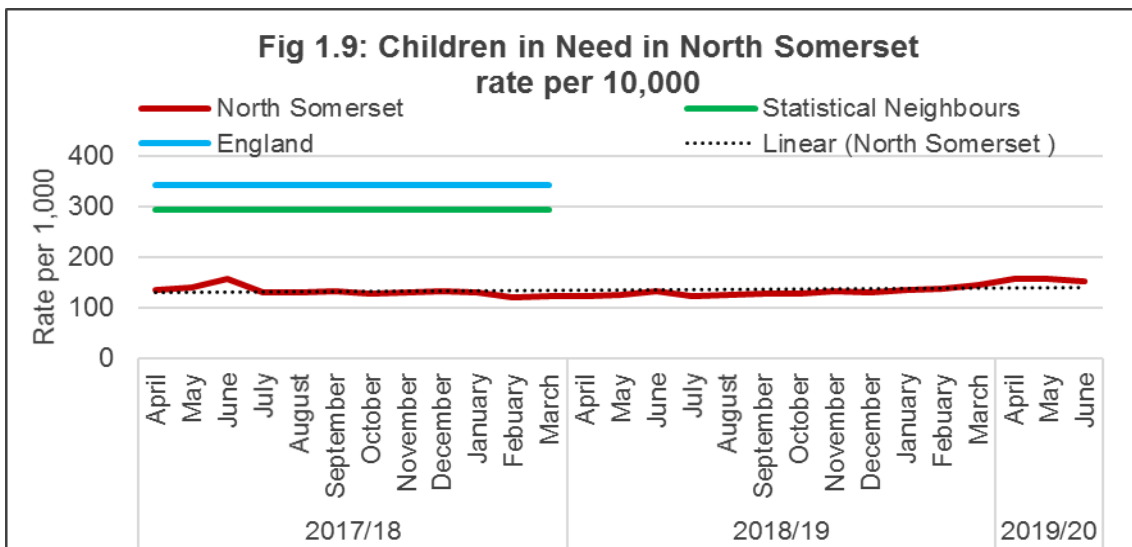
## Children in Need

A child can be considered in need if:

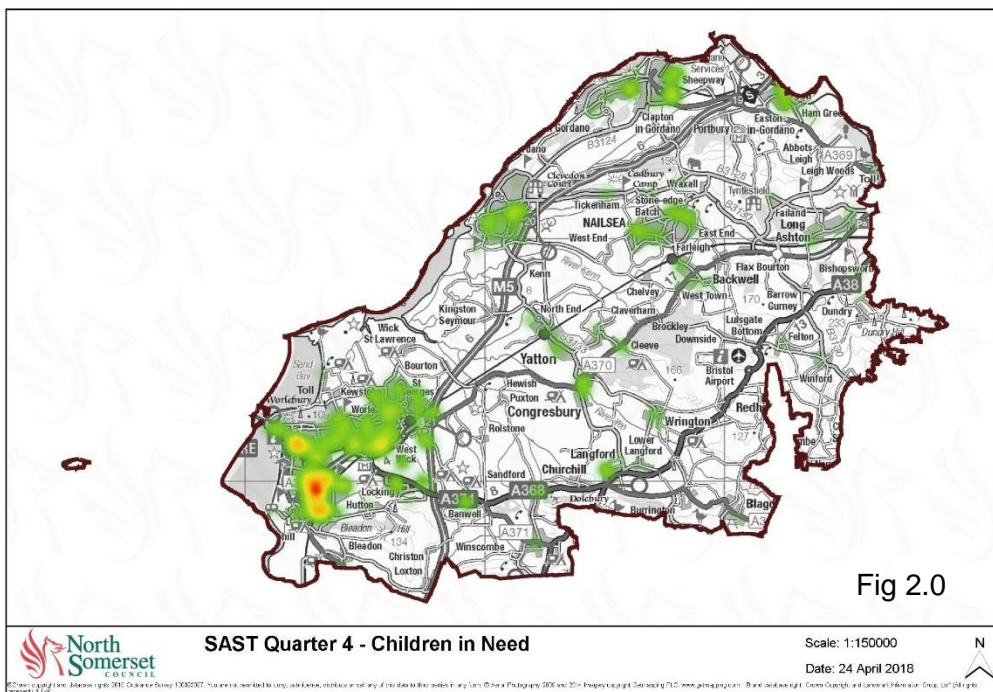
- there is a need for local authority services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development
- there is a need for local authority services to prevent significant or further harm to health or development
- they are disabled.

During Q1 of 2019/20, the new Ofsted Children in Need definition started to be used. This includes children on a Child in Need Plan, Children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and all Looked After Children (CLA). Previously CLA and children on a CPP were not included.

At the end of Q1 2019/20, the rate was 151 Children in Need per 10,000 children. The numbers and rates have gone up compared to previous years due to this change in definition however the rate is still significantly lower than statistical neighbour and England rates (fig 1.9).



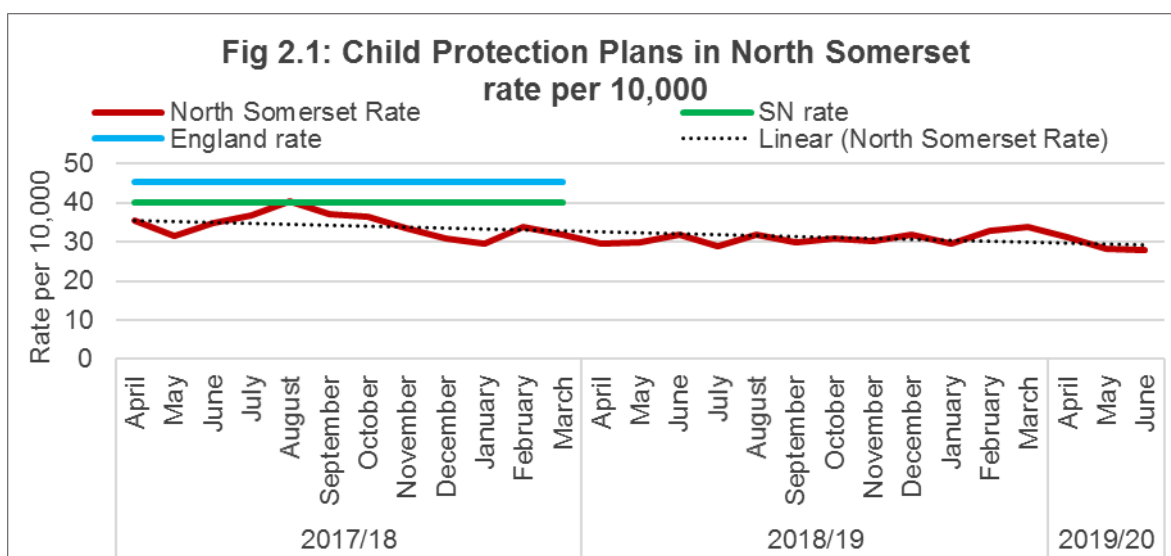
Hotspot analysis of Children in Need was undertaken at the end of the 2018/19 financial year. Fig 2.0 shows several significant hotspots within Weston-super-Mare but also smaller hotspots across other areas of the district.



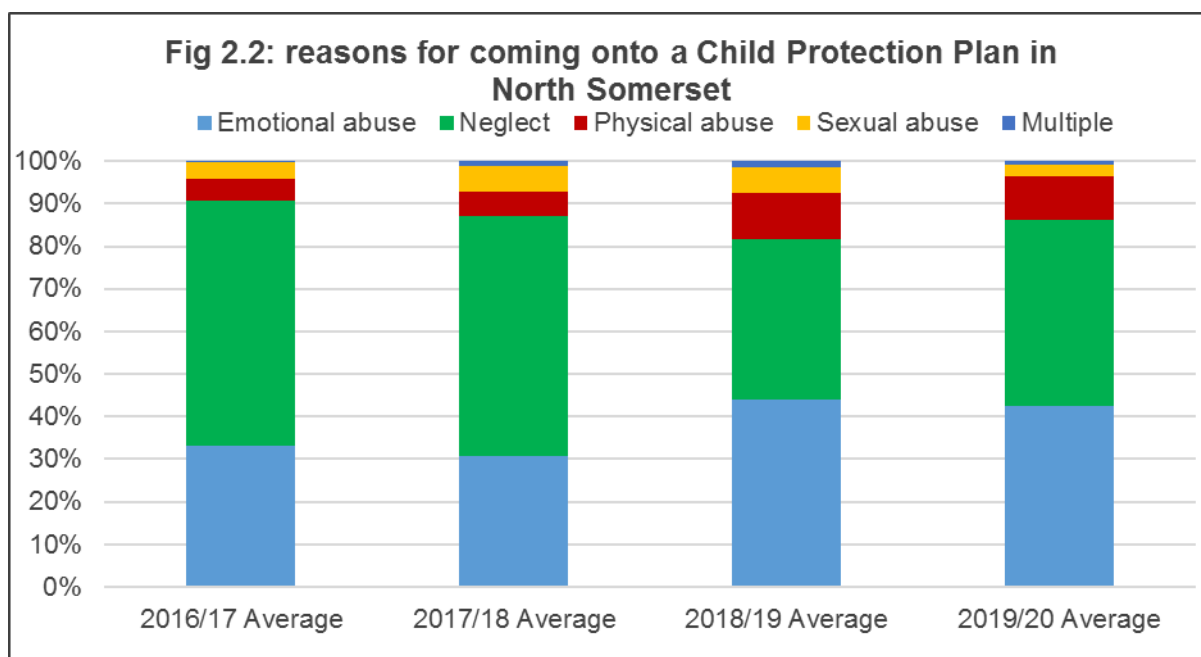
## Child Protection Plans

Some children are in need because they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. In this case a Child Protection Conference is held. If the Child Protection Conference decides that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, the local authority will draw up a Child Protection Plan. It sets out how the child can be kept safe, how things can be made better for the family, and what support they need.

At the end of Q1 2019/20, there were 121 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is the lowest number since January 2016. Over the past three years there has a downward trend (linear) in the rate of children subject to Child Protection Plan and the rate is significantly below the rate of our statistical neighbours and nationally (fig 2.1).



The reasons for children being brought onto a Child Protection Plan have not differed *significantly* over the past few years, with emotional abuse and neglect being the main reasons from coming onto a plan followed by physical abuse and then sexual abuse.





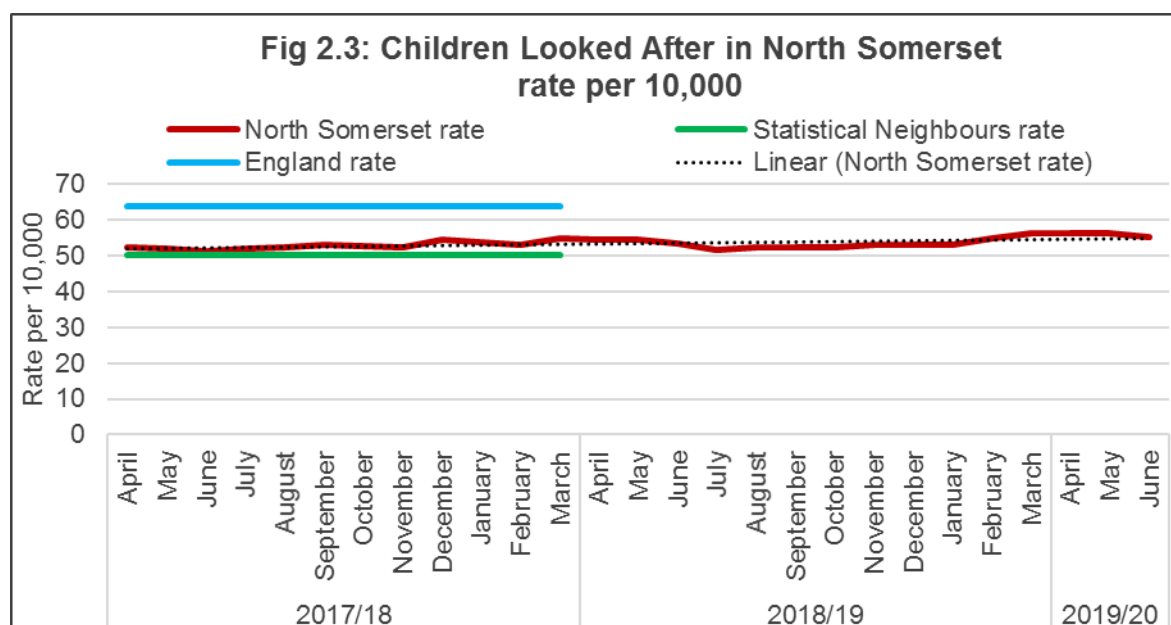
## Children Looked After

When a child becomes 'looked after' the council takes on a parenting role, either with the agreement of the parents or through a court order which gives the local authority a share of parental responsibility. Looked after children cease to be looked after on reaching their eighteenth birthday, if they have not ceased previously.

The reasons for increases and decreases in numbers of looked after children are complex. The Assistant Director and service leaders tightly monitor all requests for a child to be looked after. Every looked after child is reviewed to ensure that care plans are being progressed and plans to return children home wherever possible are being actioned.

In North Somerset at the end of Q1 2019/20, there were 239 looked after children (of which 15 were Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children), with a rate of 55 per 10,000. This rate is below that of the national rate but continues to remain slightly above that of our statistical neighbours (fig 2.3).

To note, the current trend (linear) of Children Looked After is slightly upwards.



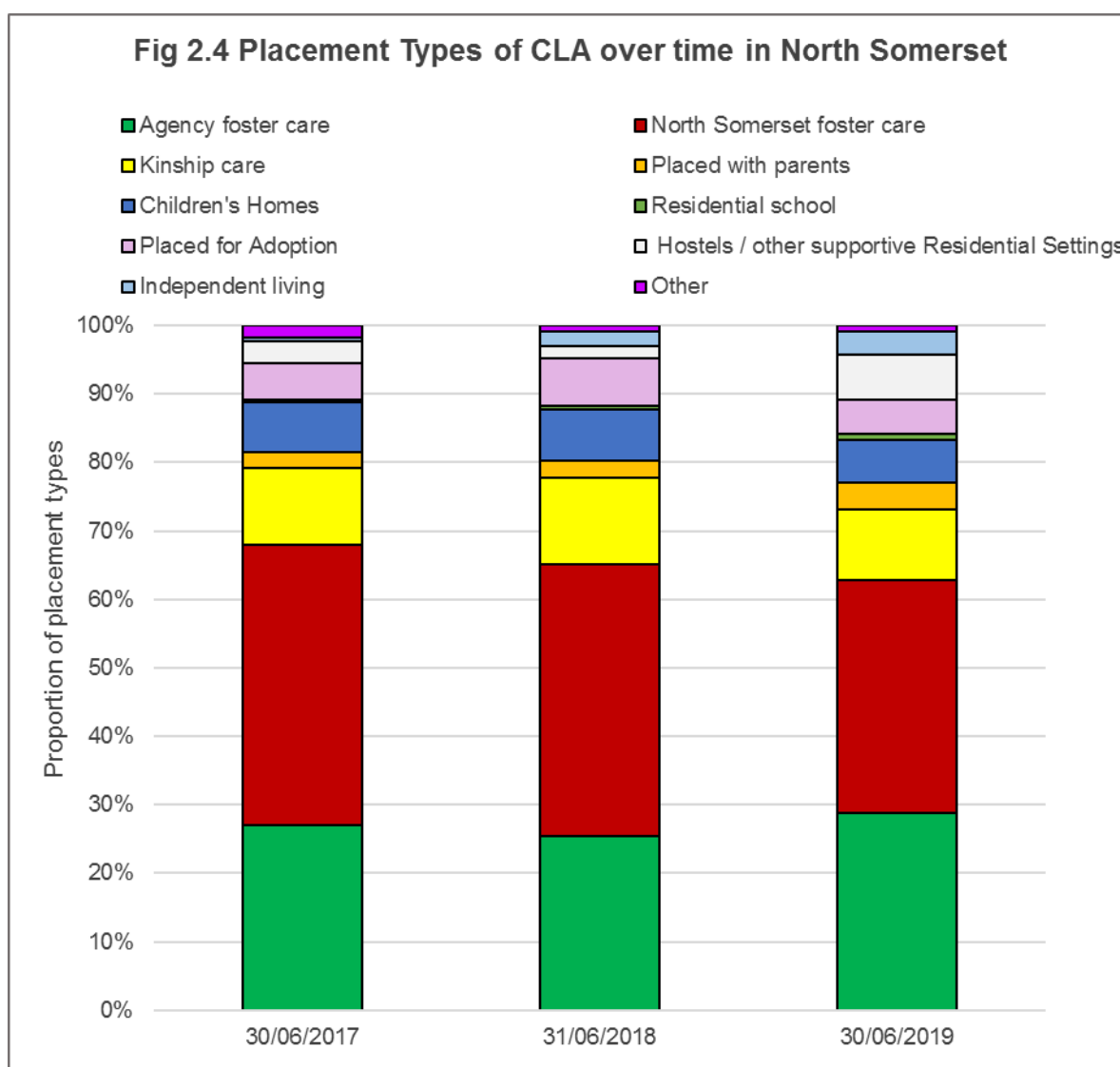
The reasons for a child becoming looked after have remained fairly steady over the past few year (table 1.2), with 'abuse or neglect' being the main reasons followed by 'family in acute stress', 'family dysfunction' an 'disability (parental or child)'.

	Abuse or Neglect	Disability	Parent Illness or Disability	Family in Acute Stress	Family Dysfunction	Absent Parenting and other
2016/17	43.0%	3.7%	2.6%	25.8%	19.1%	5.5%
2016/17	40.0%	3.4%	2.2%	27.8%	20.9%	5.6%
2018/19	41.1%	3.4%	2.2%	27.1%	20.9%	5.2%
2019/20	41.3%	3.5%	2.2%	26.7%	20.4%	5.8%

## Placement types of Children Looked After

There are various arrangements for a looked after child's living arrangements known as placements. Nearly three quarters (73% at the end of Q1 2019/20) of North Somerset's looked after children live in foster care. Other placement types include children's homes, supportive hostels and adoption placements.

Fig 2.4 shows snapshot figures of where children looked after have been placed at the end of Quarter 1 in 2017, 2018 and 2019. There is a difference between the proportion of children in North Somerset foster care at the end of Q1 2019/20 when it was 34% compared to the same time in the two previous years when it was 41% and 40% in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Conversely at the end of Q1 2019/20 the numbers of CLA looked after by an agency foster carer had increased to 69 compared to around 60 at the same time in the previous two years.



At the end of Q1 2019/20 where specified i.e. excluding adoptive placements, 38% of children were placed outside of North Somerset which is similar to the previous quarter. A high proportion (64%), nearly two thirds, of children looked after by agency foster carers are outside of North Somerset, again similar to the previous quarter.

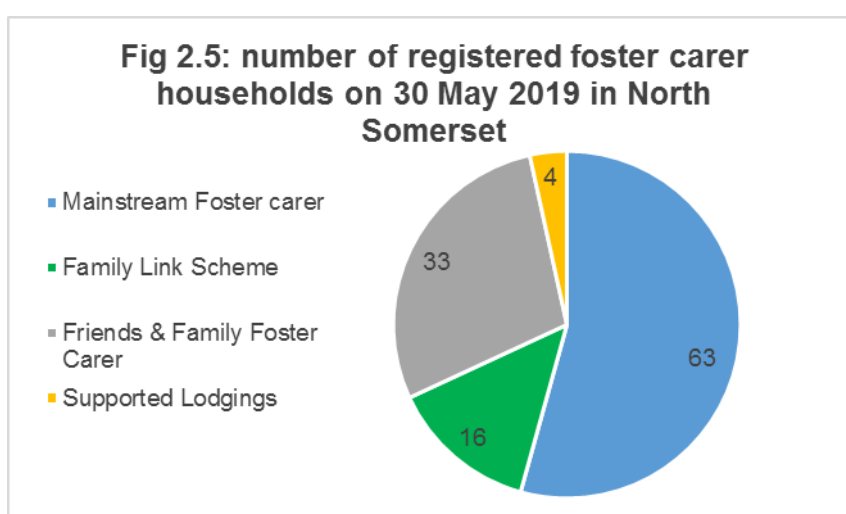
## Foster Carers

North Somerset Council is responsible for over 100 registered foster carers. The majority provide care for the council's looked after children.

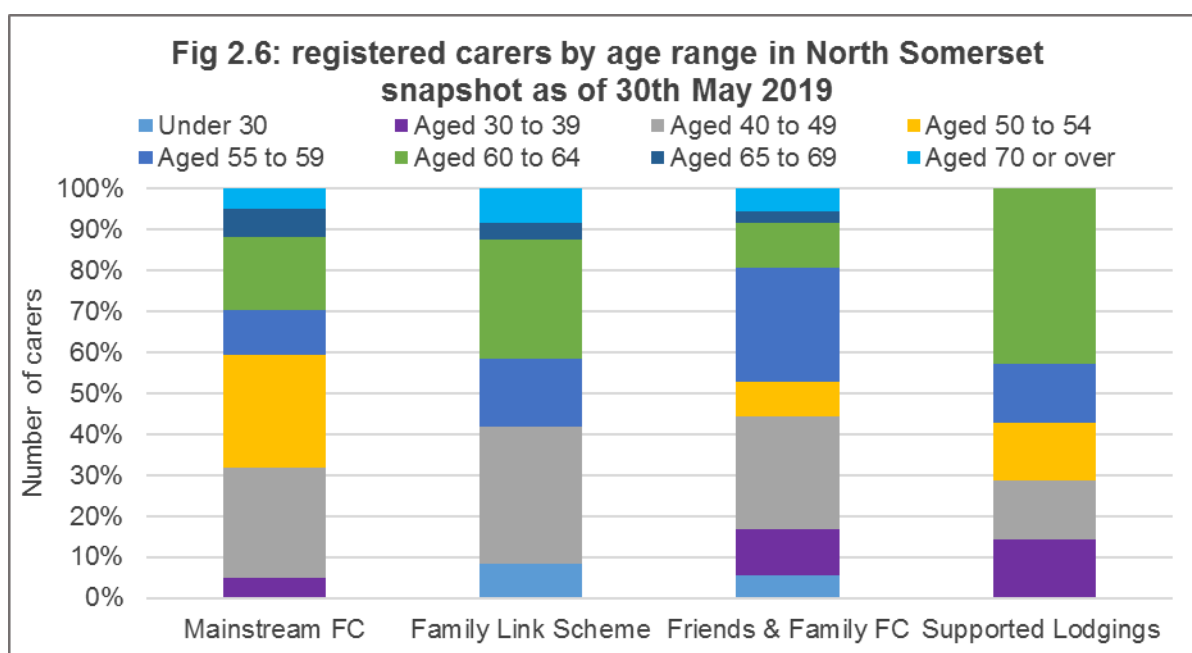
As of end May there were:

- 63 registered households that are known as mainstream foster carers that are 'sourced' by the council
- 16 kinship carers that are friends or family of the looked after child
- and 4 Supported Lodgings households that provide support for a small number of older young people.

The council also provides short term respite care for a number of Children in Need via the Family Link scheme where there are currently 16 households registered (fig 2.5).



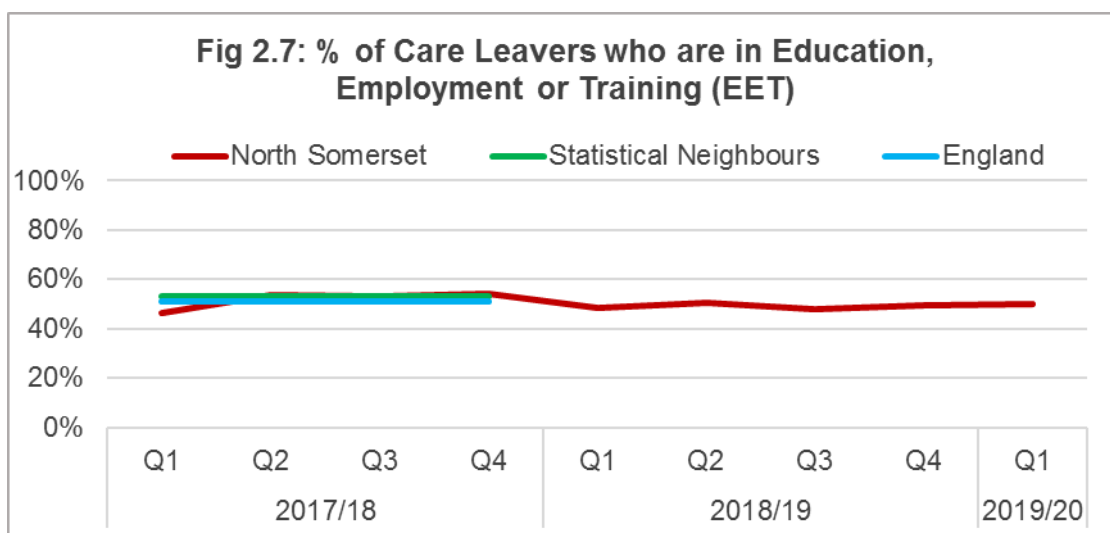
In terms of the age split for registered foster carers, a significant proportion across all care types are aged between 40 and 54 (46%), but there are differences in age ranges across specific care types such as supported lodgings.



## Care Leavers

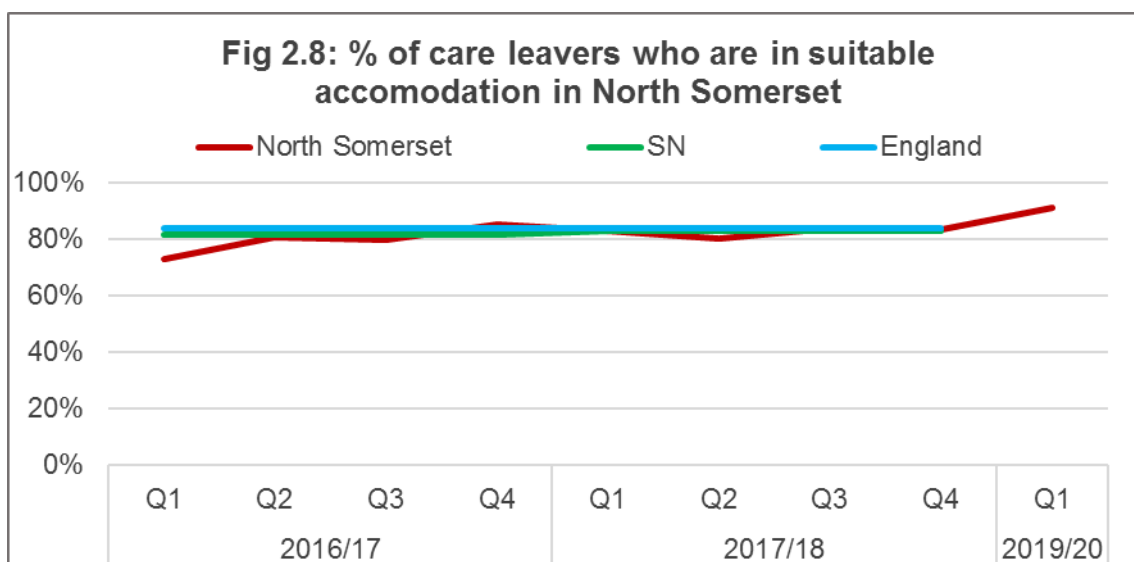
The council has responsibility to continue to help and support a number of young people that that were previously in their care. Key areas of support are in housing and accommodation and employment and education.

At the end of Q1 2019/20, half of the care leavers aged 17-21 years (61 out of 122) were in employment, education or training (EET). The proportion of care leavers in EET has been around the 50% mark over the last three years. This is in line with statistical neighbours and national figures (fig 2.7)



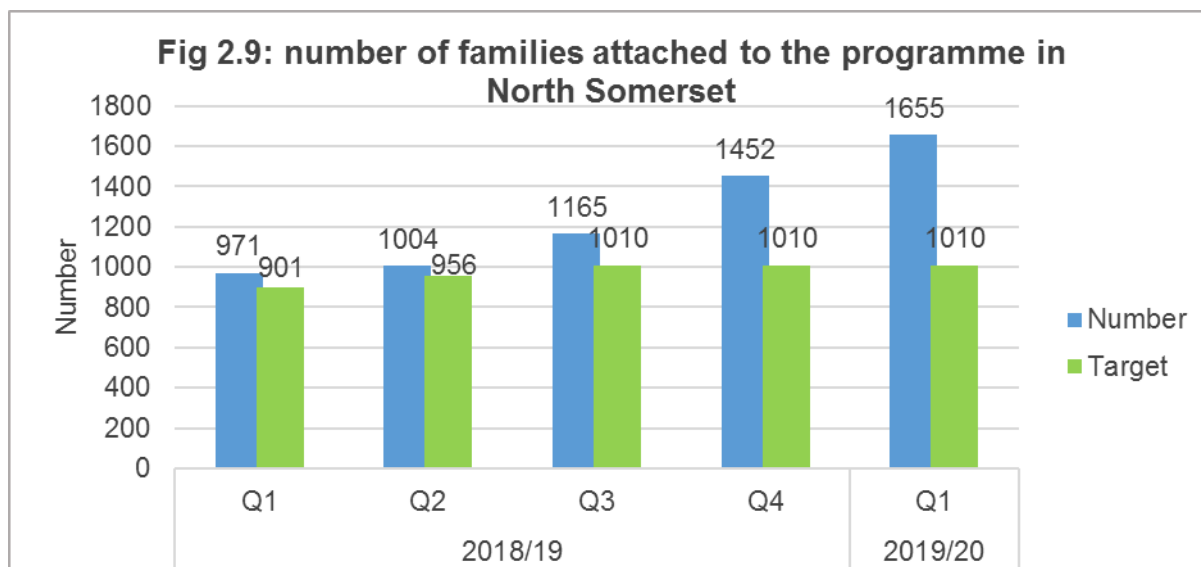
Of those that were not EET there are varying reasons including unable to work due to illness or mental health, being pregnant or young parents caring for children, in custody, missing refugees/or previously unaccompanied asylum seeking children. There are 29 young people that don't fall into this category and targeted work is being carried out to enable these young people to go back into education or work.

Care Leavers in suitable accommodation has ranged between 80% and 91% over the last three years seeing a sustained improvement over the last 6 months to 91% at the end of Q1 of 2019/20. This compares favourably against the most recent statistical neighbour and national averages of 83% and 84% (fig 2.8).



## High Impact Families

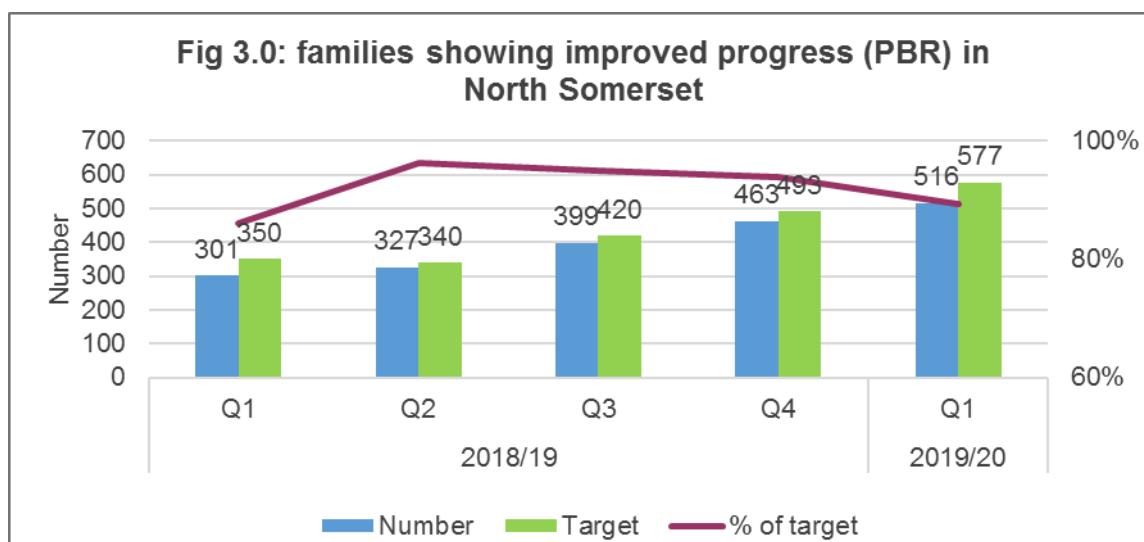
As at the end of Q1 2019/2020, we have 1,655 families attached to the High Impact Families programme against a target of 1,010 (fig 2.9). From the 1,655 families we have on the programme, 516 are families who have shown significant and sustained progress, 841 are 'live' families who are actively being worked with and a further 298 families we are 'watching' to ensure that they have made sustained and significant progress.



We have a Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) target of 1,010 families showing significant and sustained progress as part of this programme (PBR).

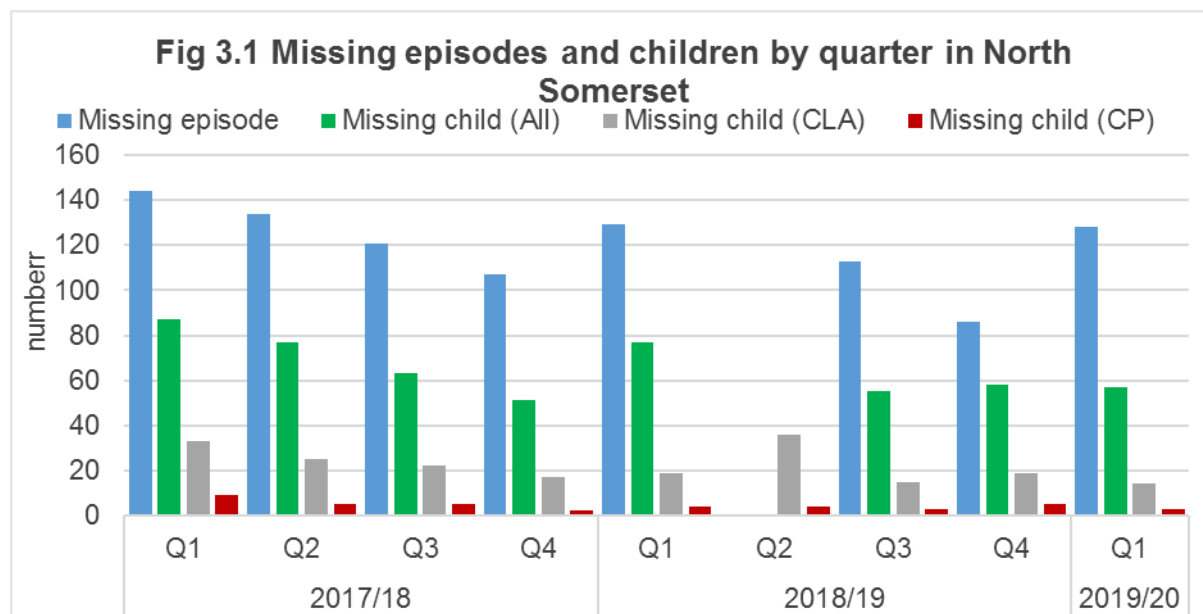
503 families have shown this *sustained and significant progress* (SSP) while 13 families have been helped back into employment, *adult back into employment* (EMP).

The current conversion rate based on the 1,010 attached families in our programme and those who have shown progress gives our current conversion rate as 51%.



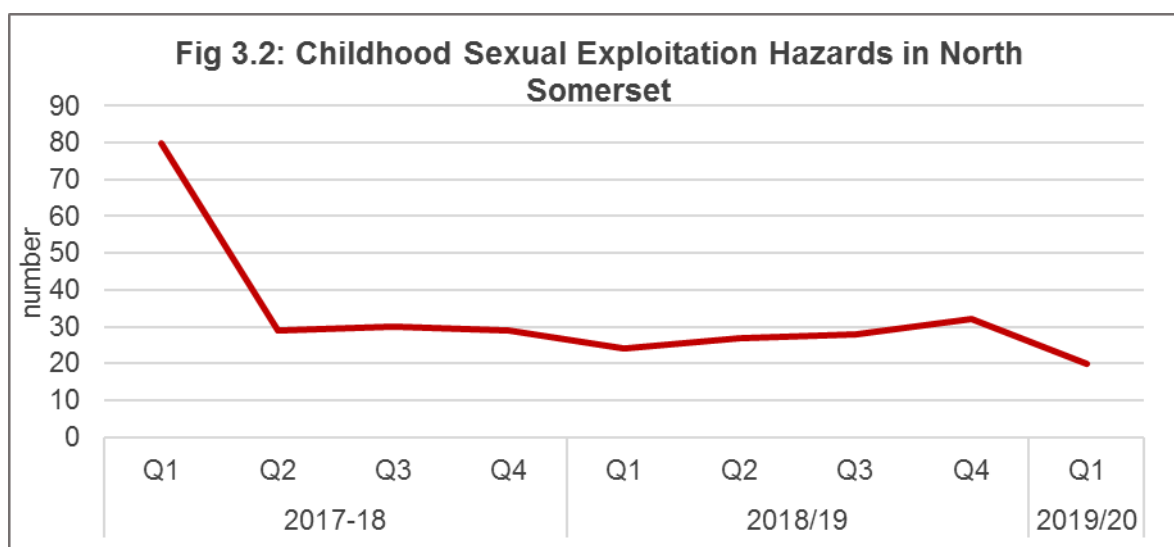
## Missing Children

During Quarter 1 2019/20, there were 128 episodes of children going missing relating to 57 children. Of these a quarter (14) were CLA and three were children on a Child Protection Plan. The number of CLA going missing has seen a downward trend (fig 3.1). The number of missing episodes appears to have seasonal aspects with the numbers being lower during the cooler months.



## Childhood Sexual Exploitation

Recording of Childhood Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has been developed over the last few years. Fig 3.2 shows the number of open hazards on the children's recording system (LCS) at the end of each quarter. In Q1 of 2017/18 there was a large increase in CSE hazards due to work which was done to increase recording. The numbers during 2017/18 and 2018/19 have been fairly constant. At the end of Q1 of 2019/20 the number of hazards open decreased to 20 due to some work being done to close off old hazards and hazards relating to young people aged 18 or over.



**To note:**

**List of statistical neighbours (from LAIT, updated March 2018)**

- Worcestershire
- South Gloucestershire
- West Sussex
- Hampshire
- East Sussex
- Gloucestershire
- Essex
- Dorset
- Leicestershire
- Warwickshire

**Useful links**

- [North Somerset Children's Safeguarding Board](#)
- [North Somerset's threshold guidance](#)
- [Children's Act 1989](#)
- [Census 2011](#)
- [Business Intelligence](#)

**4. CONSULTATION**

Directors have been fully consulted over the content of this report.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications as a consequence of this report.

**6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

N/A

**9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The equality objectives (part of the Corporate Performance Management Framework) are regularly monitored and are reported to the Corporate Management Team and the Council's Equality Scheme Implementation Group.

**10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

It is important that we are aware of the areas in which we are performing well and where further action is needed to address any concerns.

**11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

N/A

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2018/19 Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 and 2019/20 Q1 CMT performance reports
- 2018/19 Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 and 2019/20 Q1 Directorate performance reports
- Support and Safeguarding Team quarterly reports (2016/17 to 2019/20)
- P&C Annual Directorate Statement
- North Somerset Council Corporate Plan