

North Somerset Council

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

DATE OF MEETING: 05 MARCH 2020

SUBJECT OF REPORT: PERFORMANCE MONITORING

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

**OFFICER / MEMBER PRESENTING: EIFION PRICE, ASSISTANCE 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:

- any recent Ofsted inspections of council services
- an analysis of the performance of the relevant Key Corporate Performance Indicators (KCPIs) for quarter 3 (Q3) 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 for quarter 3 (Q3) of the financial year 2019/20.

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

INSPECTION AND IMPROVEMENT

One inspection related to North Somerset Council services and / or North Somerset schools were carried out since the last report to this panel and published on the Ofsted website. Services and / or schools are graded either 'Outstanding', 'Good', 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'.

Backwell Secondary School

- Inspection date: 28 January 2020
- Report published: 11 February 2020
- The school is 'Good'.
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50145349>

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).

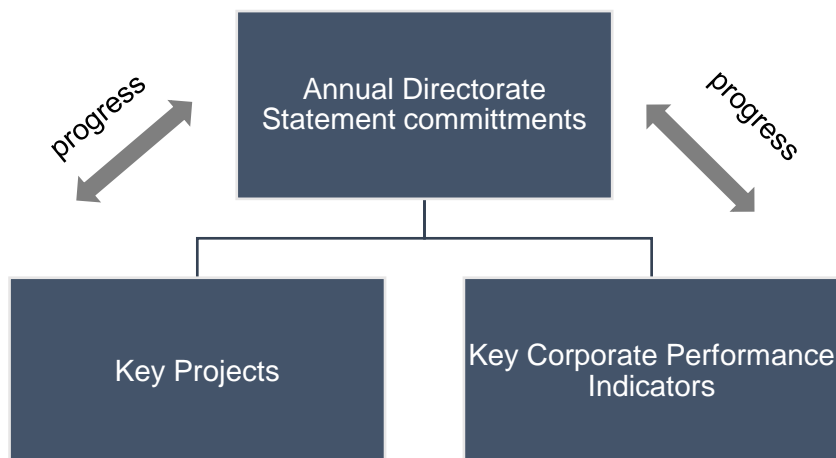


Fig 1.1 Measuring corporate performance

Table 1.1 shows the end year position (data as of Q3 for the 2019/20 financial year) of all KCPIs related to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

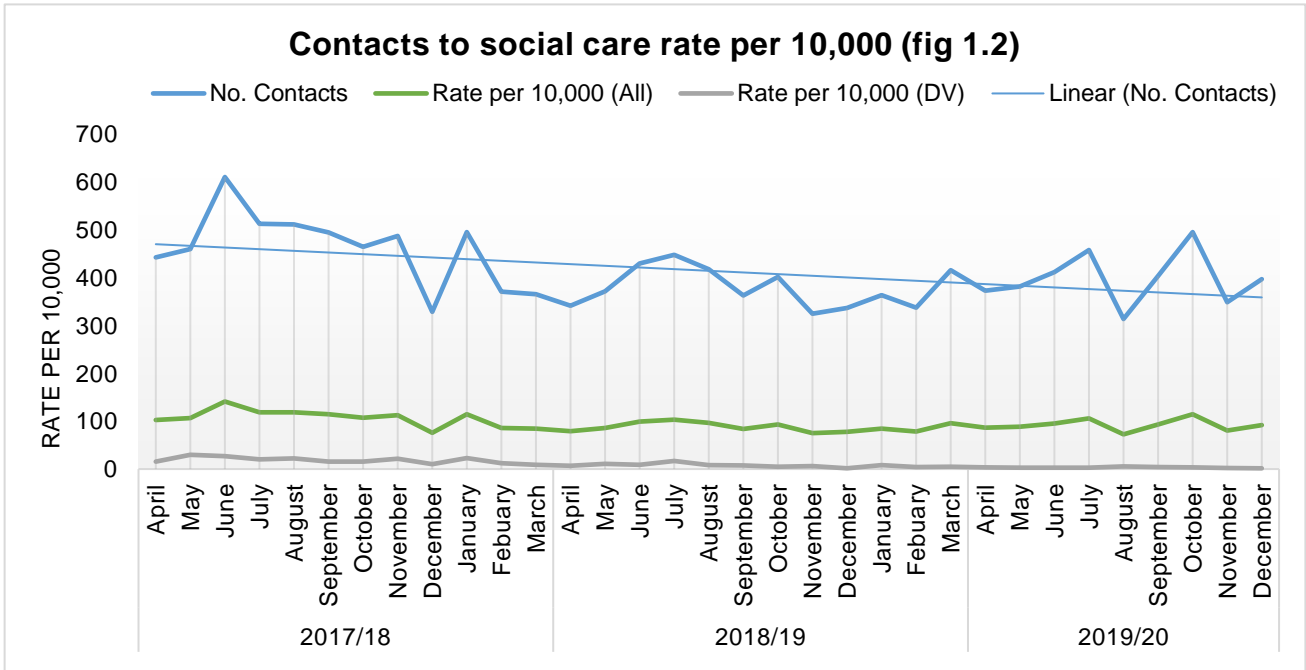
Table 1.1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Met target	Comments	National benchmarking
EYFS: Reducing the gap between FSM and Non-FSM (ELGs)			22.0%	GREEN	The achievement gap has decreased by four percentage points since 2018. Although it remains higher than the national figure of 17%, North Somerset has now progressed to the 80th rank (out of 151 LAs) for pupils with FSM achieving the good level of development. This is an improvement from 2018 where North Somerset was ranked 114.	17% (2019)
KS1: Reducing the gap between FSM and Non-FSM (reading / writing / maths)			20% (reading) 24% (writing) 20% (maths)	GREEN	Whilst all the KS1 achievement gaps have reduced, they remain higher than the national averages.	18% (reading) 19% (writing) 17% (maths)
KS2: Reducing the gap between FSM and Non-FSM (combined)			30%	RED	The achievement gap at the end of key stage 2 has increased from 27% in 2018 to 30% in 2019 and is higher than the 27% North Somerset target. It is also higher than the national and south west figures (21% and 24%).	21% (2019)
Please note, additional analysis related to these attainment measures will be presented at the next panel.						
The number of care leavers participating in Achieving Aspirations	33 care leavers	50 care leavers	57 care leavers (Nov 2019)	GREEN	Up to the end of November (the projects quarterly reporting period) 57 Care leavers had received information advice and guidance to support them into work, training or education. Funding for the work and progression coach ceased at the end of quarter 3. An evaluation of the project is now underway with lighter touch support continuing through the employer engagement lead until the end of March 2020.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
Increase in the number of Early Help episodes (e.g. Children's Centres, HIF)	1,213 episodes	901 episodes	989 episodes	AMBER	The general trend is of a steady increase in the number of open episodes on the Early Help system. The exception to this is the decline in the number of open episodes during quarter 2 and quarter 3 as a result of a series of data cleaning exercises which initiated the closure of a large number of long-standing, inactive episodes.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available

Table 1.1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Met target	Comments	National benchmarking
Decrease in the number of Children in Need	535 children	632 children	661 children	GREEN	The number of Children in Need has fluctuated throughout the year but remains within target.	153 per 10,000 compared to 334 per 10,000 nationally
A decrease in the number of children on a Child Protection Plan	121 children	114 children	95 children	GREEN	Quarter 3 has seen a significant decrease in the number of children on a Child Protection Plan.	22 per 10,000 compared to 44 per 10,000 nationally
Reduction in the number of Children Looked After (overall)	239 children	249 children	238 children	RED	The numbers of Children Looked After has decreased during quarter 3. To note, as of quarter 3, 14 of our CLA were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.	55.1 per 10,000 compared to 65.0 per 10,000 nationally
Reduction in the number of children aged >10yrs entering care in the quarter (aligned to SIB, not inc UASC)	Supressed	Supressed	Supressed	GREEN	Numbers have remained relatively stable since quarter 4 2018/19. <i>Please note the number of children has been supressed due to confidentiality.</i>	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
Increase the number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme	1,655 families	1,750 families	1,801 families	GREEN	We continue to increase the number of families engaged in the High Impact Families Programme, with the programme on track to meet its year-end target.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available
Increase in the number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme showing significant and sustained progress	532 families	706 families	803 families	GREEN	The number of families engaged in the High Impact Families programme showing significant and sustained progress has shown good progress in quarter 3.	Locally defined measure, no benchmarking data available

KEY SERVICE MEASURES FOR SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING

Contacts

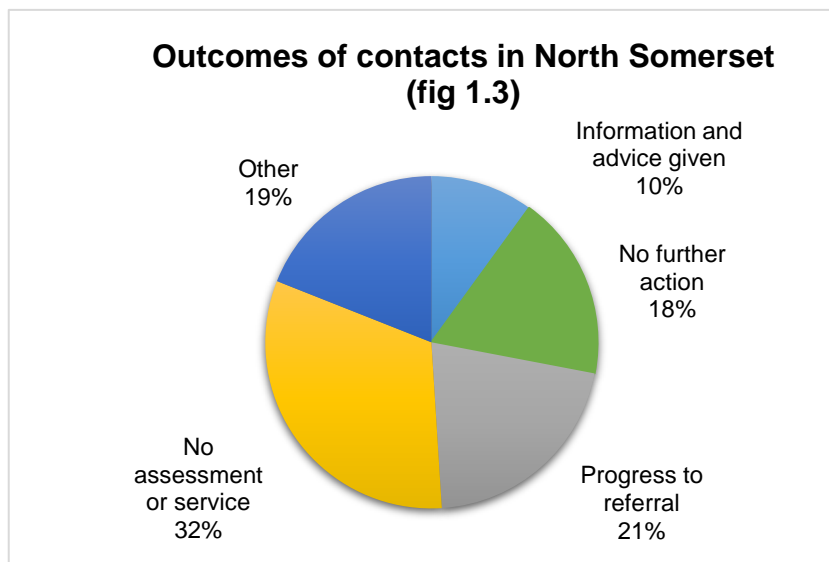
Where there is a need for advice and / or information or support from Children’s Support and Safeguarding (social care) a contact is made. Within North Somerset since 2017/18 contacts have reduced, with the trend line in fig 1.2 showing a downwards trend (linear). In Q3 of 2019/20 there was a slight increase with a rate of 92 contacts per 10,000 children, an increase when compared to a rate of 78 contacts seen during the same period in 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 third quarter of 2019/20, with 4% of all contacts being for domestic violence, which compares to 9% for the same period in 2018/19. However, the service around One Front Door has likely diverted some of these contacts.

Outcomes for contacts to Children’s Support and Safeguarding vary (fig 1.3), but as at the end of Q3 the main outcomes were:

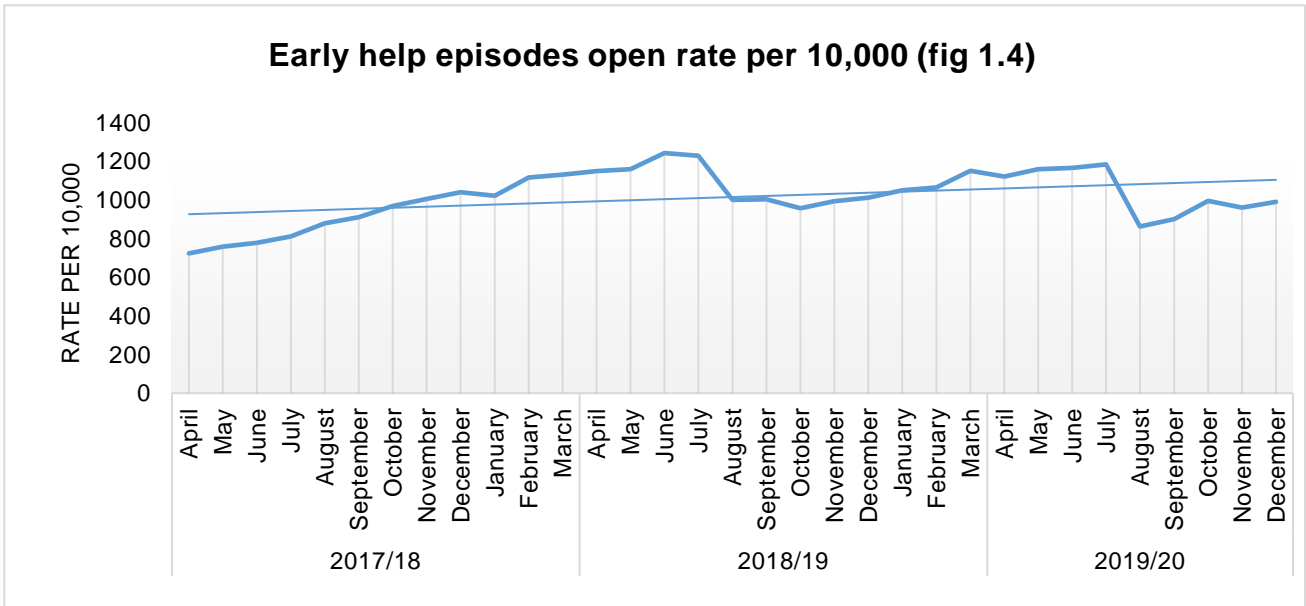
- Information and advice given (10%)
- No further action (18%)
- Progress to referral (21%)
- No assessment or service (32%)
- Other (19%)



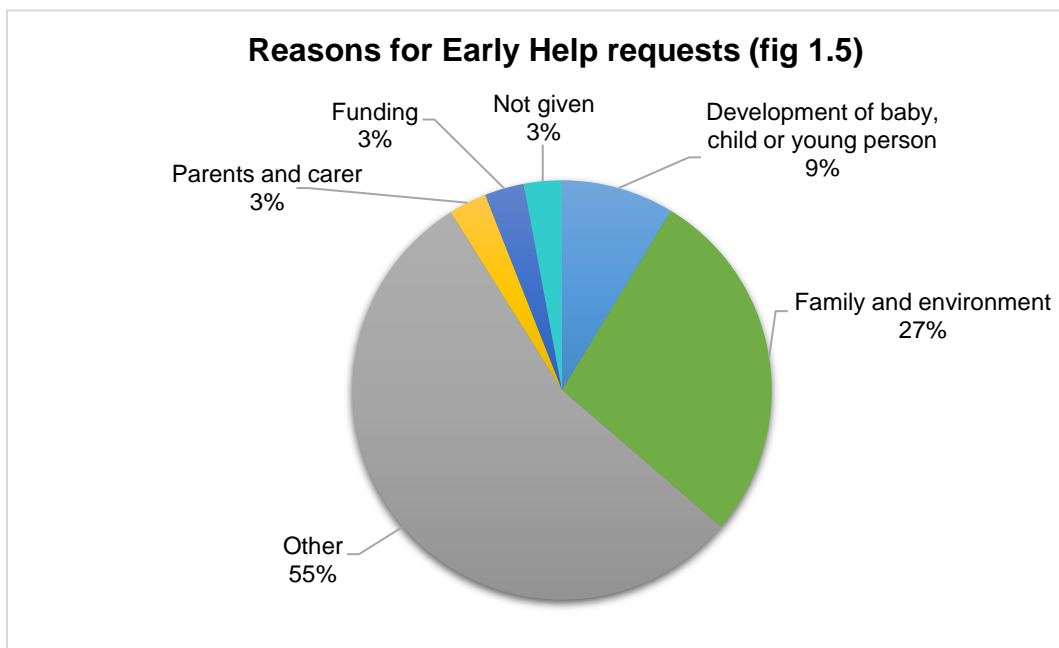
Early Help

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. 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 Q3 2019/20, 989 families were being supported through Early Help (an Early Help episode). This compares to 1,012 families at the end of Q3 2018/19. The liner trend in Early Help episodes continues to be upwards despite there being a dip in the number and rate from August 2019 as a result of a data cleaning exercise (fig 1.4).

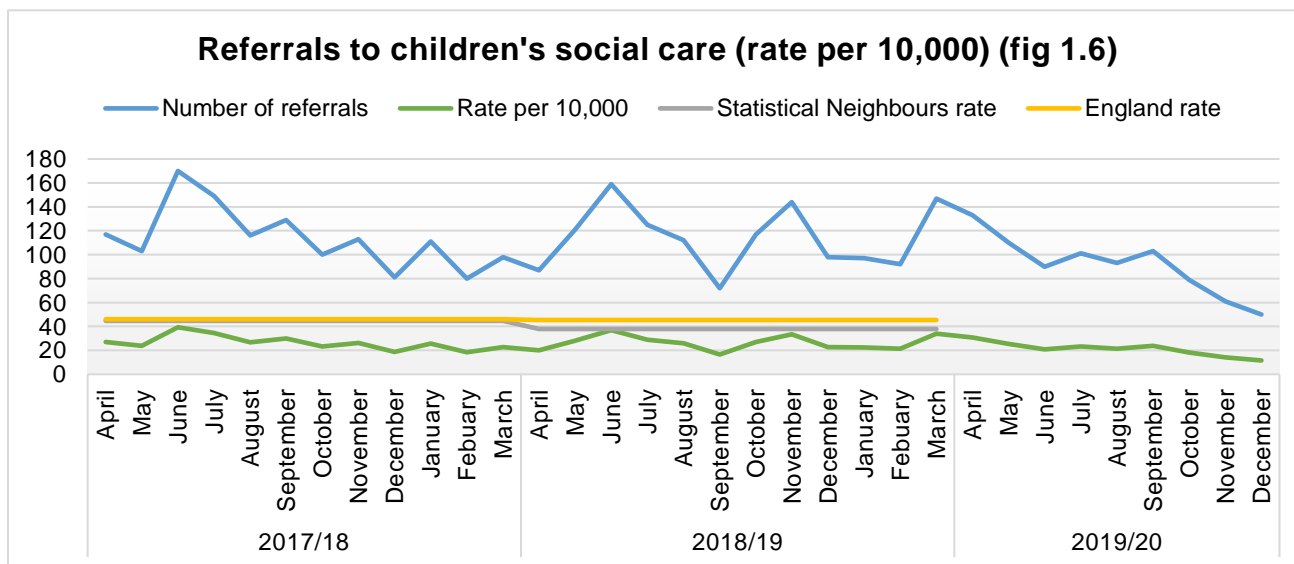


Reasons for requests for Early Help vary but the main reason outside of ‘other’ is for help with the ‘family and environment’ which includes family stability and well-being, support for parents, additional support around housing, employment and finance as well as social and community elements. To note,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



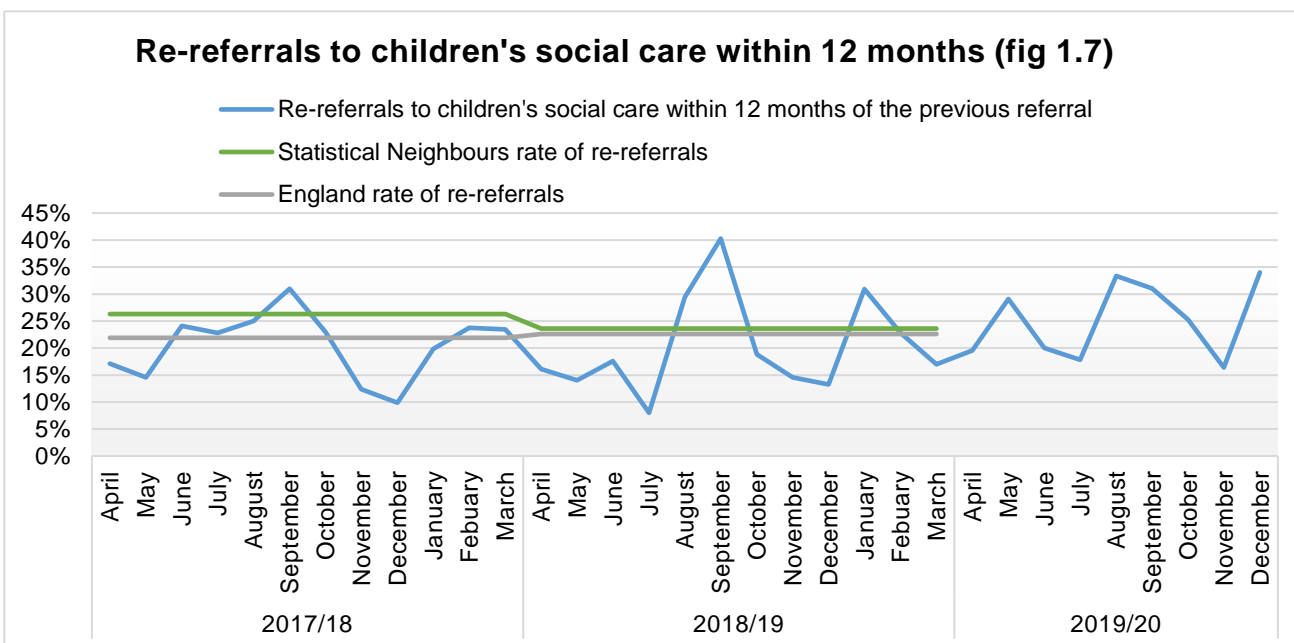
If a contact is made which requires further support beyond advice and / or information, then it will progress to a referral to social care. The number and rate of referrals varies by month, although over the previous two years (2017/18 and 2018/19) the annual averages have remained similar.

The North Somerset referral rates continue to remain lower than both our statistical neighbours and the national rate (fig 1.6). At the end of Q3 2019/20, the rate of referrals was 11.6 per 10,000 children which is significantly lower than at Q3 2018/19. Referral outcomes vary but during Q3, 94% went on to receive some further service and 6% closed 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. As at the end of Q3 2019/20, over 30% of all referrals were re-referrals; this is the highest it's been since September 2018 (fig 1.7).

The average rate of re-referrals for the first three quarters of 2019/20 is 25%, which is higher than both our statistical neighbours and national average, though it should be noted that in some months referral numbers were quite small, so the percentage is more subject to fluctuations.



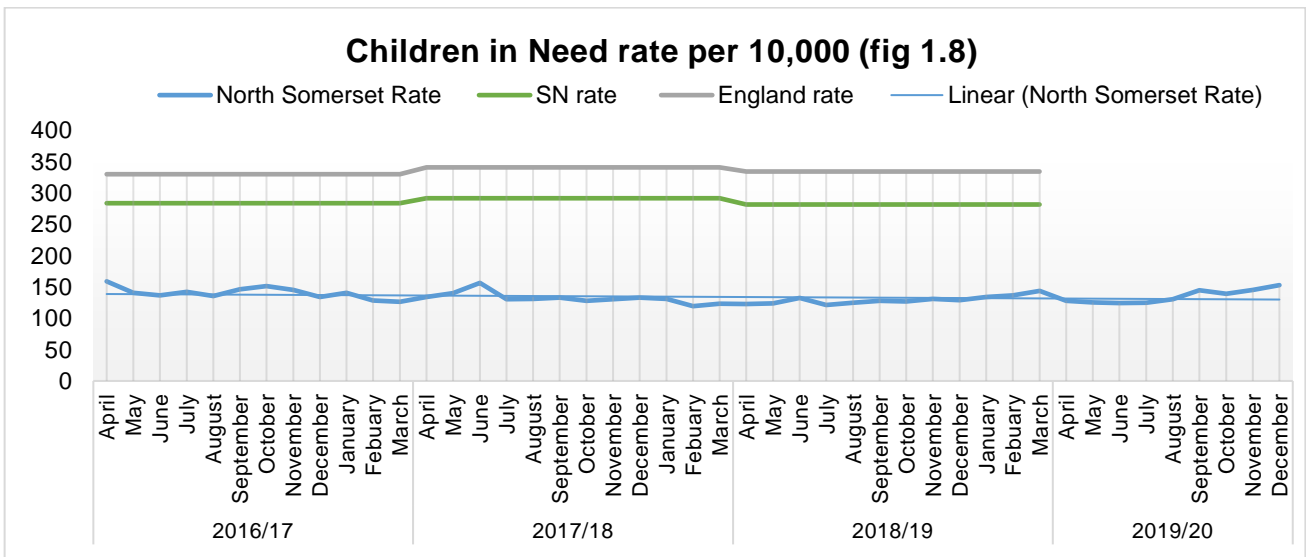
Children in Need

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 was introduced to include Children Looked After and children on a Child Protection Plan.

At the end of Q3 2019/20, the rate was 153 Children in Need per 10,000 children. The numbers and rates have been steadily rising since the end of Q2 predominately due to the change in the measures definition. However, the rate is still significantly lower than our statistical neighbours and England rate (fig 1.8).



Hotspot analysis of Children in Need was undertaken at the end of the 2018/19 financial year. Fig 1.9 shows several significant hotspots within Weston-super-Mare but also smaller hotspots across other areas of the district.

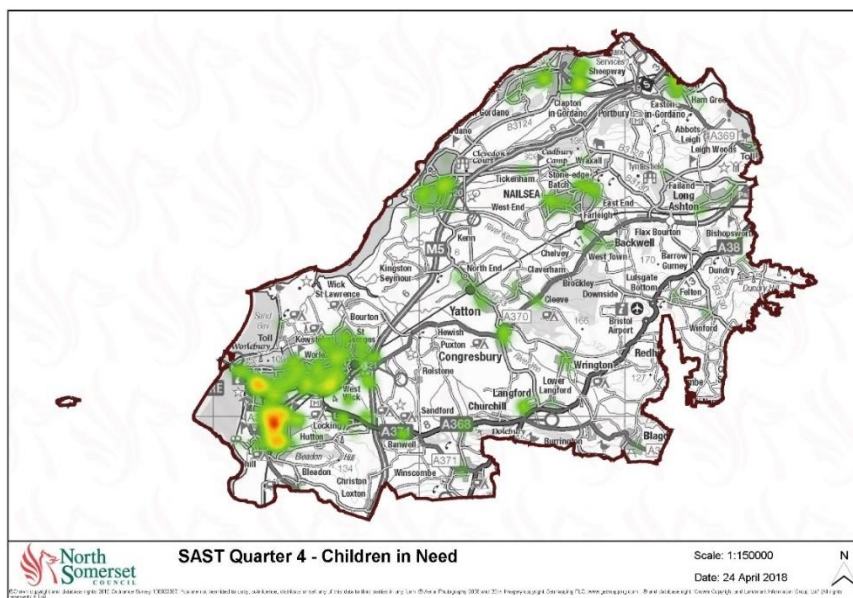
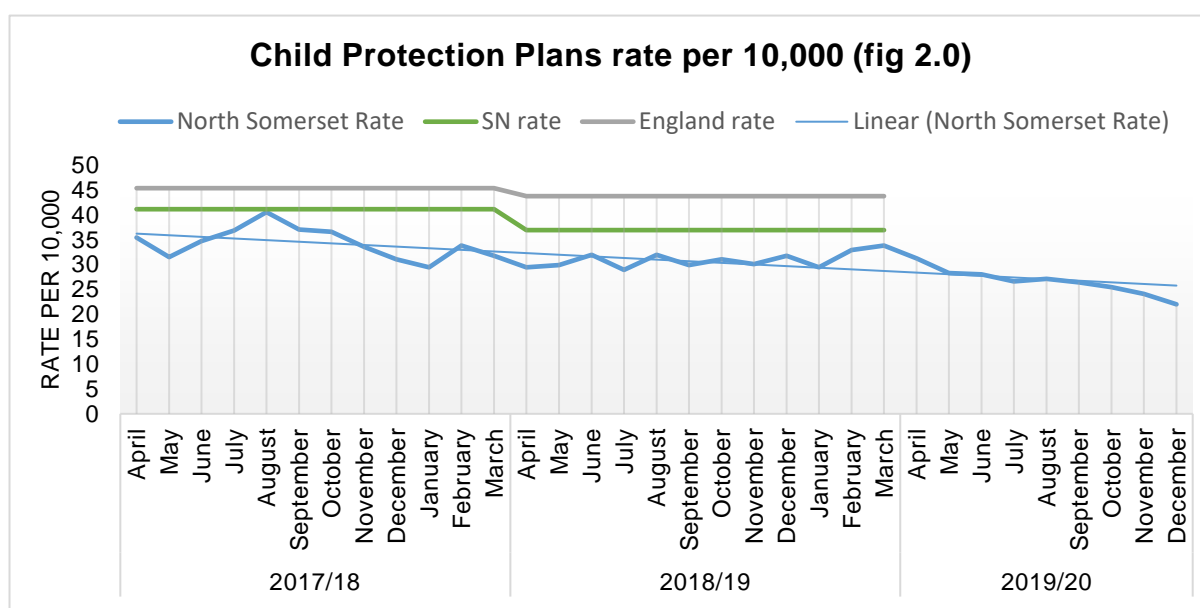


Fig 1.9 Hotspot analysis of Children in Need

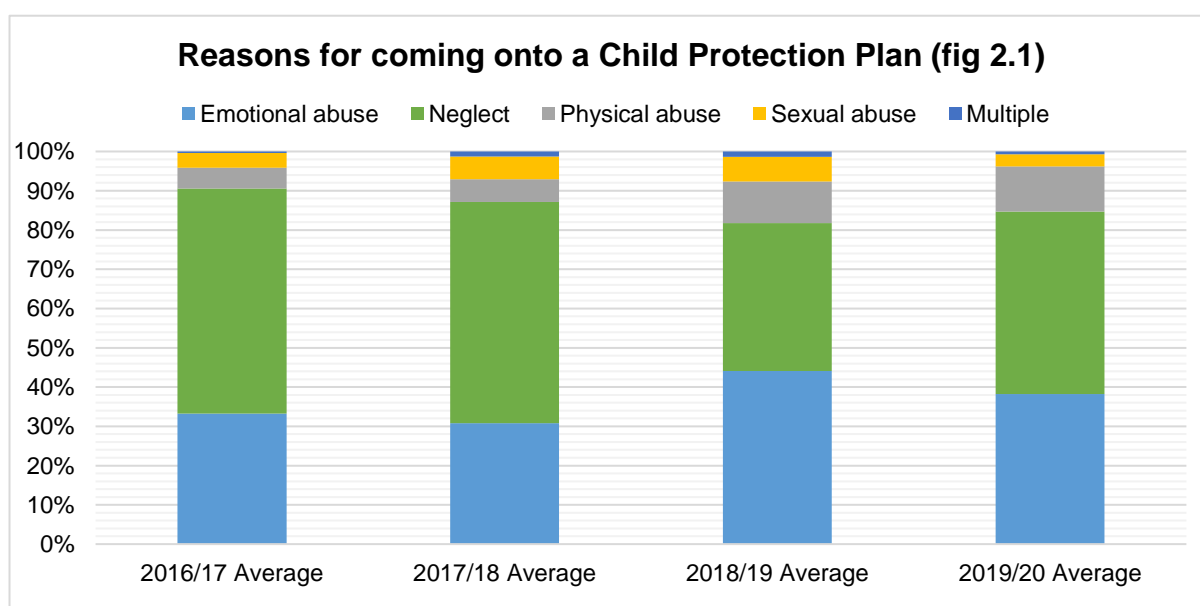
Child Protection Plans

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 Q3 2019/20, there were 95 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is the lowest number since December 2015 when the number was 98. 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 national rate and the rate of our statistical neighbours (fig 2.0).



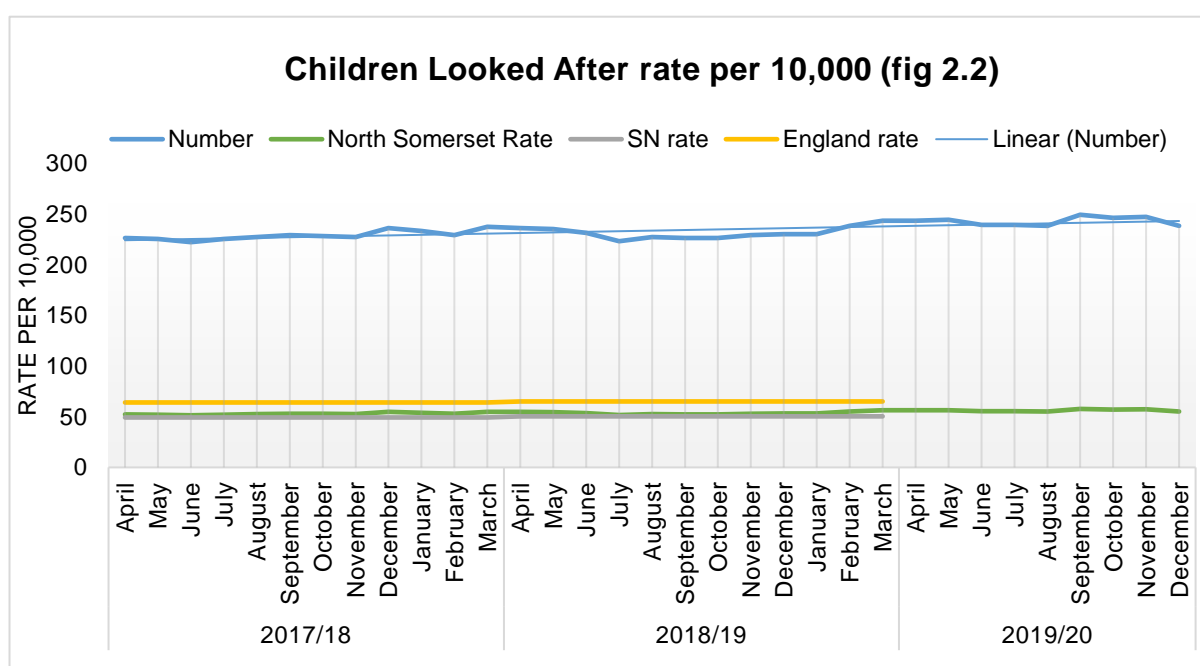
The principal reasons for children being brought onto a Child Protection Plan continue to be emotional abuse and neglect, followed by physical abuse and then sexual abuse (fig 2.1).



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.

At the end of Q3 there were 238 looked after children, this equates to a rate of 55 children per 10,000 which is lower than the national rate but above our statistical neighbours. It is noted that of the of the 238 children 14 were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.



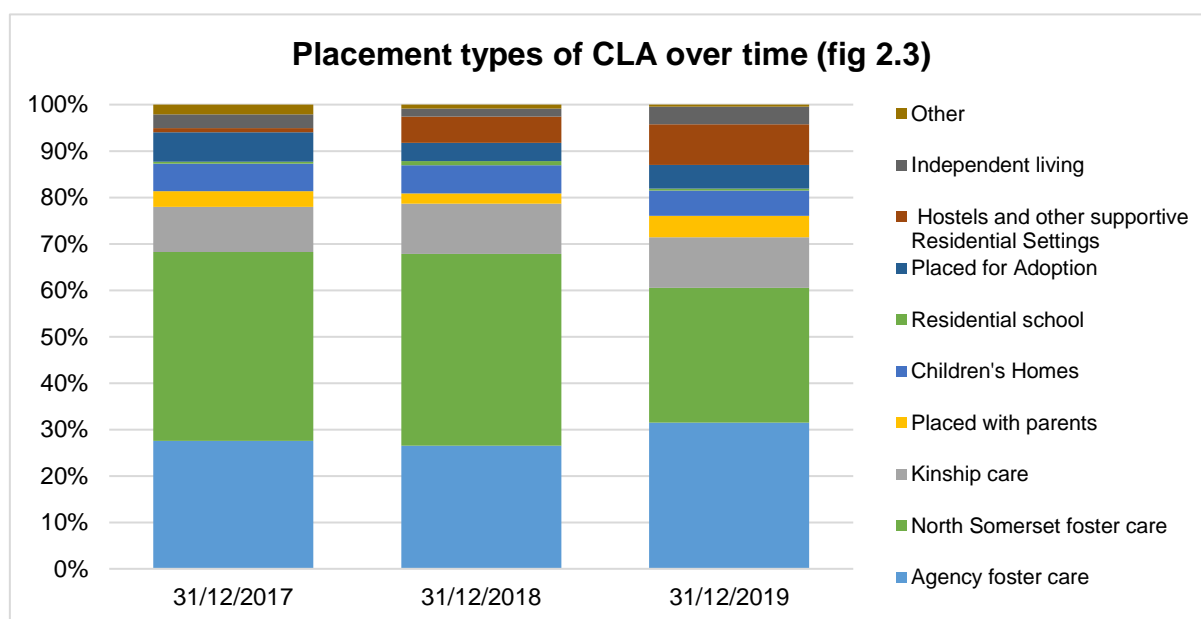
The reasons for a child becoming looked after have remained fairly steady over the past few years (table 1.2), with 'abuse or neglect' being the main reasons followed by 'family in acute stress', 'family dysfunction' and 'absent parenting (and other)'.

Table 1.2	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%
2017/18	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	40.2%	3.7%	3.7%	30.1%	15.8%	6.5%

Placement types of Children Looked After

There are various arrangements for a looked after child's living arrangements known as placements. Nearly two thirds (61% at the end of Q3 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 2.3 shows snapshot figures of where children looked after were placed at the end of Q3 in 2017, 2018 and 2019. There is a difference between the proportion of children in North Somerset foster care at the end of Q3 2019/20 when it was 29% compared to the same time in the two previous years when it was 41% in both 2017 and 2018. Conversely at the end of Q3 2019/20 the numbers of CLA looked after by an agency foster carer had increased to 75 compared to around 61 in 2018 and 65 in 2017.



At the end of Q3 2019/20, where specified (i.e. excluding adoptive placements), 39% of children were placed outside of North Somerset which is similar to the previous quarter. 65% 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 150 registered foster carers. The majority provide care for the council's looked after children. As of the end of Q3 there were:

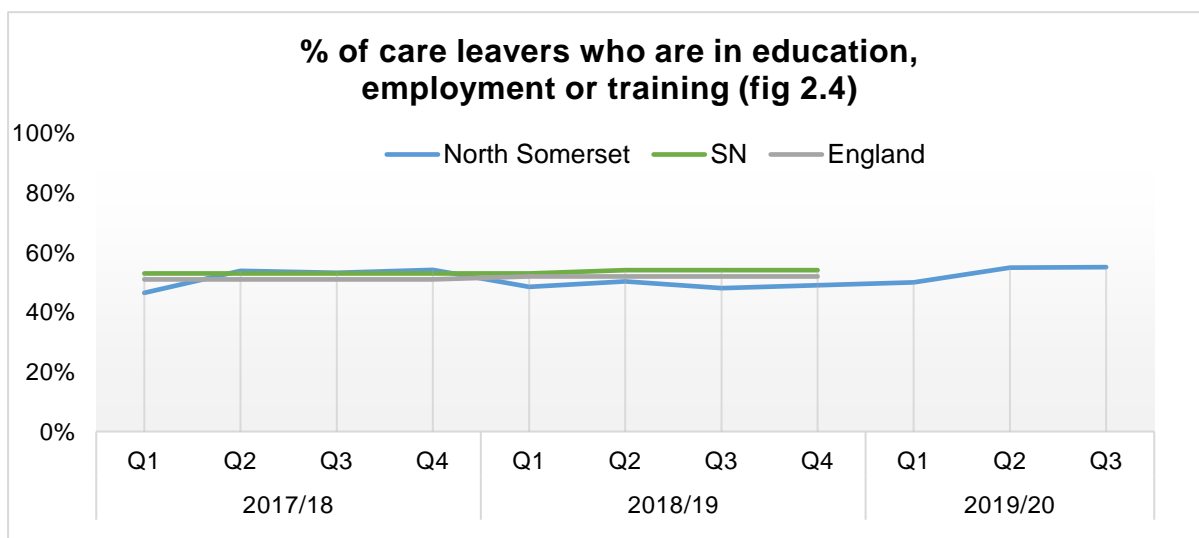
- 70 registered households that are known as mainstream foster carers that are 'sourced' by the council
- 25 kinship carers that are friends or family of the looked after child
- and 6 Supported Lodgings households that provide support for a small number of older young people.

The council also provides short term respite care for a number of Children in Need via the Family Link scheme where there are currently 4 households registered.

Care Leavers

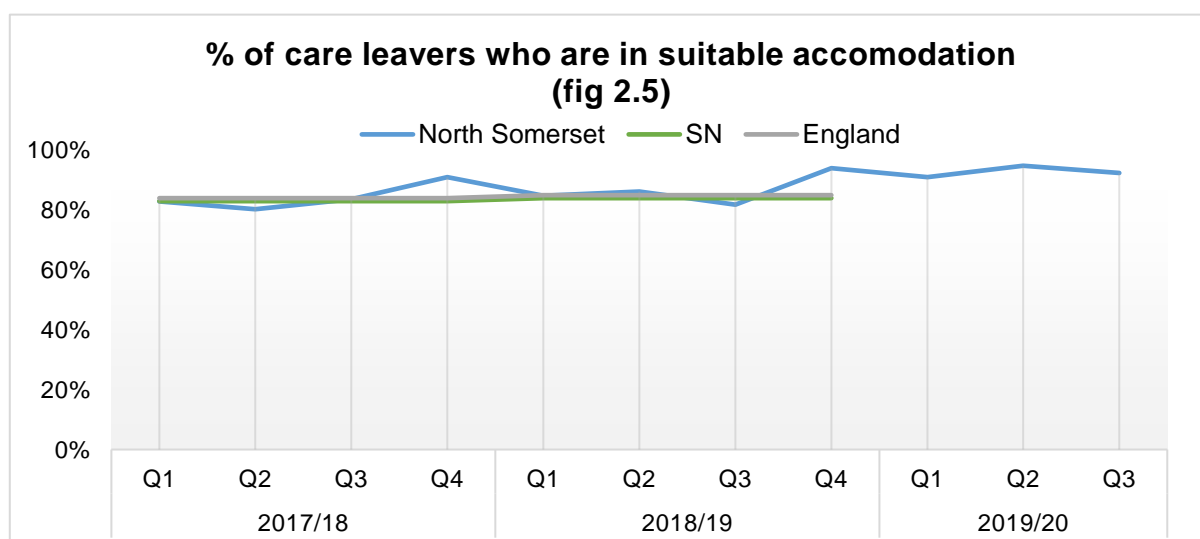
The council has responsibility to continue to help and support a number of young people that were previously in their care. Key areas of support are in housing and accommodation and employment and education.

At the end of Q3 2019/20, 55% of the care leavers aged 17-21 years (70 out of 127) 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 2.4)



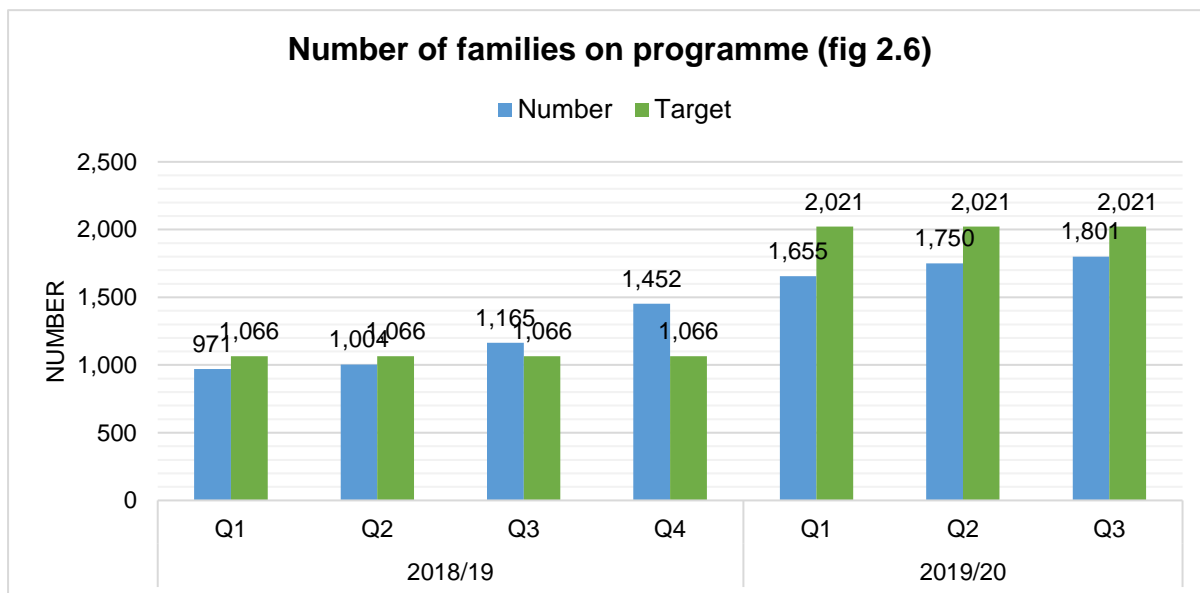
The various reasons given for not being in EET include: unable to work due to illness or mental health, being pregnant or young parents caring for children, being in custody, and missing refugees / or previously unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Of the 27 young people that don't fall into these categories, 10 are classified as 'no EET information recorded' and 17 as 'other'. 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 95% over the last three years seeing a sustained rate of above 90% over the past 12 months to 92% at the end of Q3 2019/20. This compares favourably against the most recent statistical neighbour and national averages of 84% and 85% (fig 2.5).



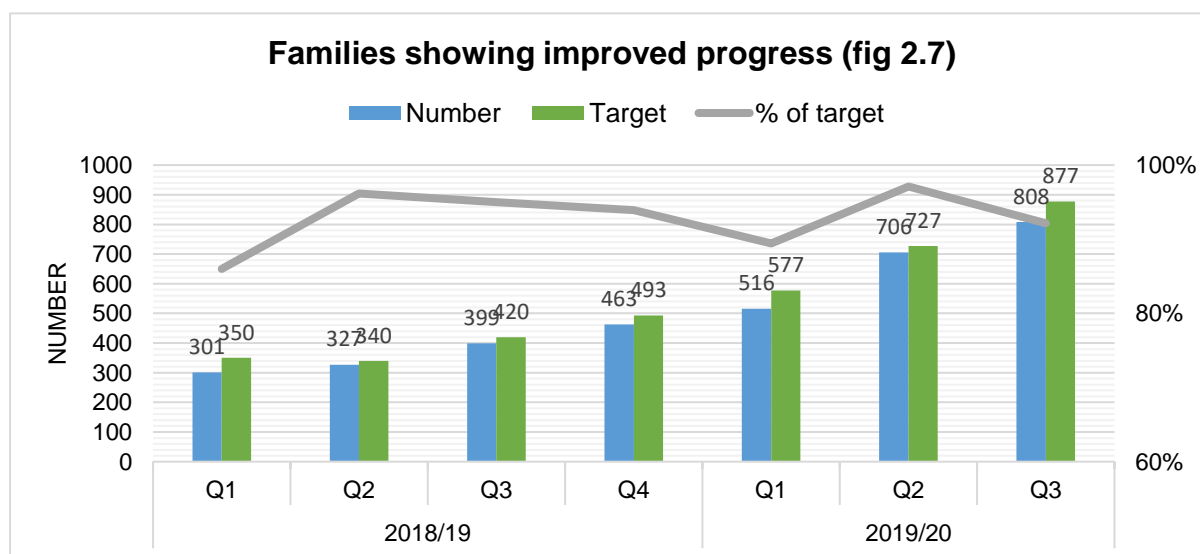
High Impact Families

As at the end of Q3 2019/2020, we have 1,801 families attached to the High Impact Families programme against a target of 1,010 (fig 2.6). Of these 808 are families who have shown significant and sustained progress, 700 are 'live' families who are actively being worked with and a further 293 families we are 'watching' to ensure that they have made sustained and significant progress.



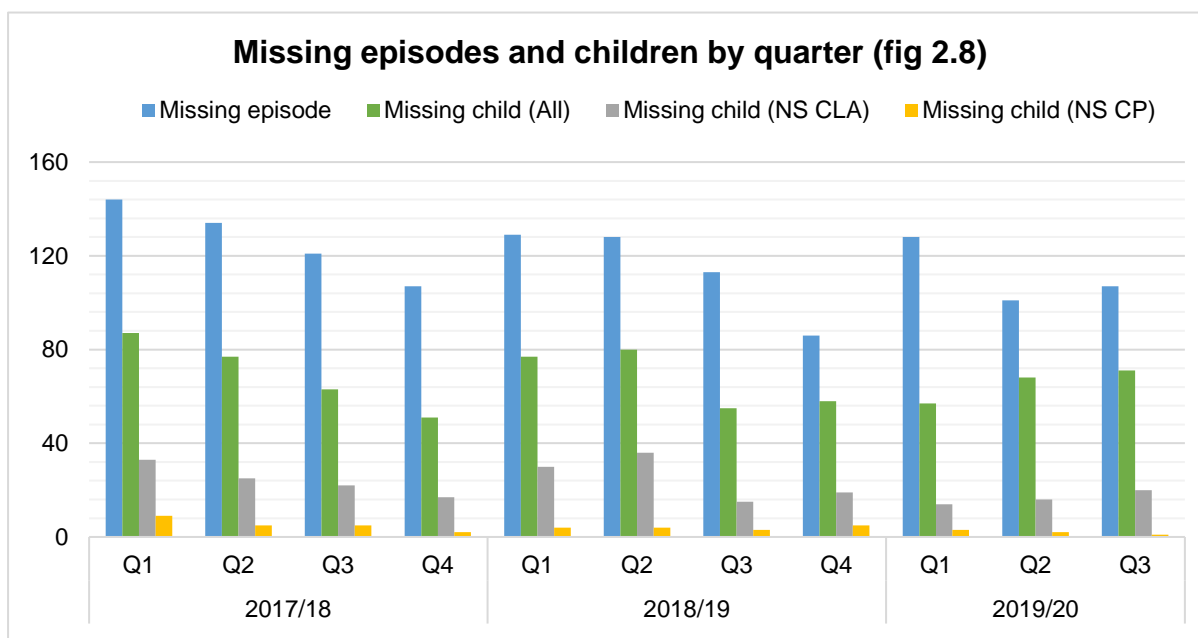
We have a Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) target of 1,010 families showing significant and sustained progress as part of this programme (PBR). The current conversion rate based on the 1,010 attached families in our programme and those who have shown progress gives our current conversion rate as 80%.

792 families have shown *sustained and significant progress* (SSP) while 16 families have been helped back into employment (EMP) (fig 2.7).



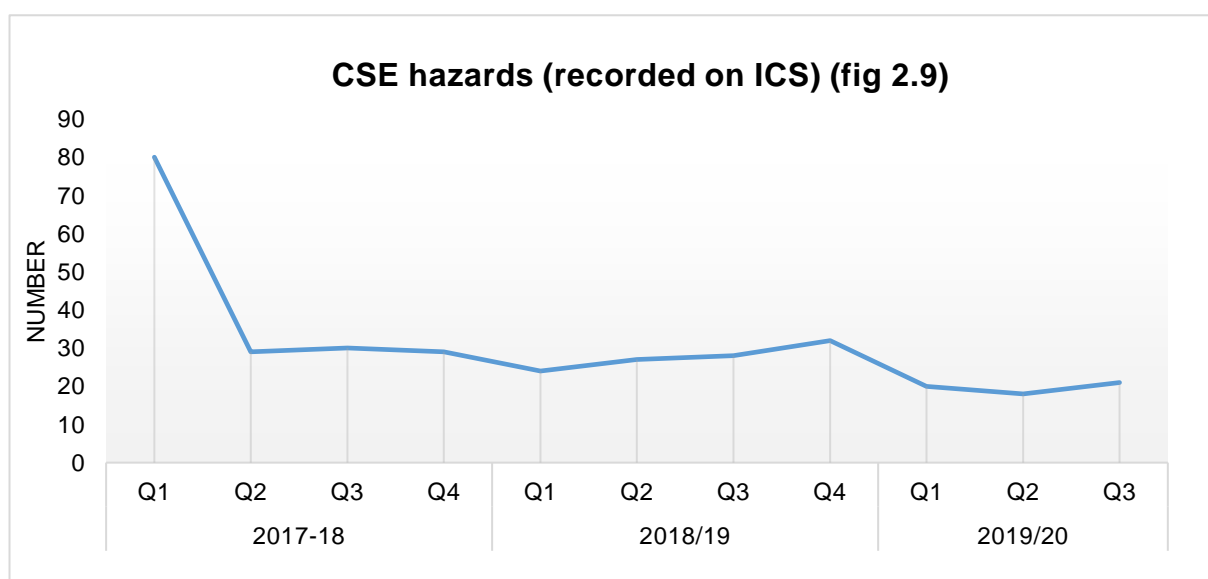
Missing Children

During Quarter 3 2019/20, there were 107 episodes of children going missing relating to 71 children. Of these, 20 were CLA and one was a child on a Child Protection Plan. The number of CLA going missing has seen a downward trend (fig 2.8). 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 2.9 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 between Q2 2017/18 and Q3 2019/20 have been constant. At the end of Q3 of 2019/20 the number of hazards open was 21.



To note:

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

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

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 Leadership Team and the appropriate internal groups where applicable.

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

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