

North Somerset Council

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

DATE OF MEETING: 29 OCTOBER 2020

SUBJECT OF REPORT: PERFORMANCE MONITORING

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: CAROLANN JAMES – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SUPPORT & 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 1 2020/21, 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.

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

Four inspections 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'.

Mary Elton Primary School

- Inspection date: 4 March 2020
- Report published: 24 June 2020
- The school is 'Requires Improvement'
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50152316>

St Francis Catholic Primary School

- Inspection date: 29 January 2020
- Report published: 30 June 2020
- The school is 'Inadequate'
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50152680>

Nailsea Secondary School

- Inspection date: 11 March 2020
- Report published: 7 July 2020
- The school is 'Requires Improvement'
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/501527>

North Somerset Council

- Inspection date: 2 March 2020
- Report published: 10 June 2020
- Inspection of children's social care services
- Overall grade is 'Requires improvement to be good'
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80528>

For all North Somerset schools (as of October 2020):

Primary schools

- 16% Outstanding (10)
- 70% Good (44)
- 8% Requires Improvement (5)
- 3% Inadequate (2)
- 3% not yet inspected (2)

Secondary schools

- 37% Outstanding (4)
- 18% Good (2)
- 37% Requires Improvement (4)
- 0% Inadequate (0)
- 8% not yet inspected (1)

Special schools and PRUs

- 100% Good (4)

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).

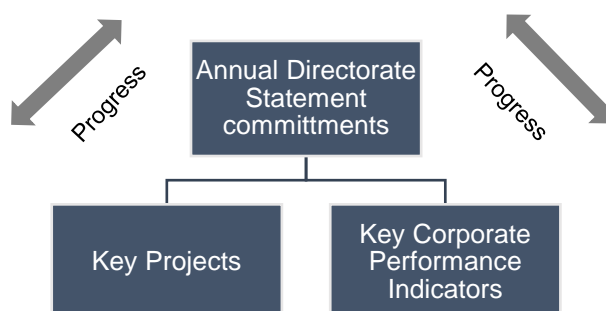


Fig 1.1 measuring corporate performance

Table 1.1 shows the Quarter 1 position of all KCPIs related to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

EO: Equality Objective

Table 1.1	Year-End 2019/20	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Predicted Year-End Status	Comments	National benchmarking
The number of early help interventions	1,050 families	1,035 families				GREEN	Above target.	Local measure
The percentage of care leavers who are EET (in education, employment or training) (aged 19 - 21 years) EO	46.5%	37.0%				RED	Awaiting confirmation of annual targets given recent challenges.	England, 52% South West, 54%
The percentage of care leavers who are EET (in education, employment or training) who are education / work ready (aged 19 - 21 years) EO	63.9%	51.5%				RED		
The percentage of care leavers who are in suitable accommodation EO	93.5%	94.2%				GREEN	Continues to exceed it's target of >90%.	England, 85% South West, 88%
The number of domestic abuse crimes EO	2,671 crimes	722 crimes				Not targeted		Local measure
The rate of children looked after entering care (overall) EO	5.6 per 10,000	3 per 10,000				Not targeted	Rate per 10,000 has reduced since Quarter 4 2019/20.	Local measure
The number of North Somerset foster carers EO	62	65				GREEN	Above target.	Local measure
The number of new SEND school places to be commissioned in the next five years based on agreed capital schemes EO	18	18				GREEN	On target, profiled over the coming years.	Local measure

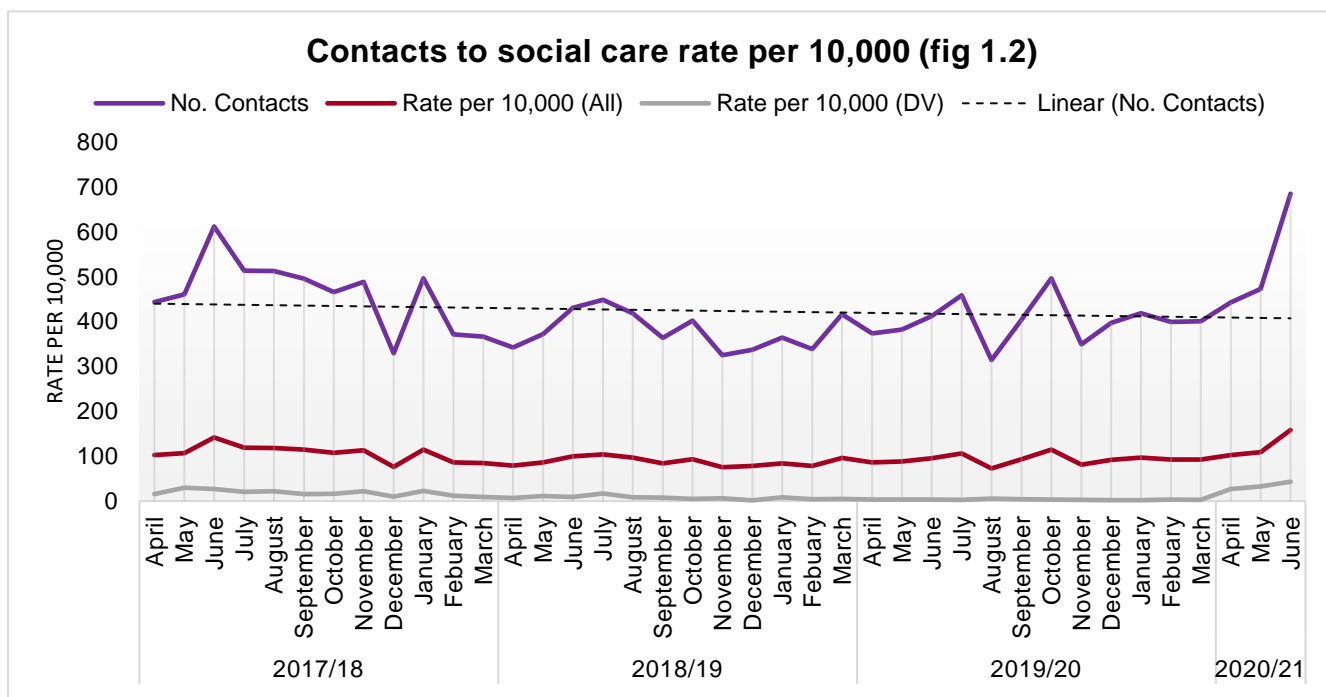
KEY SERVICE MEASURES FOR SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING

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. For the past three years North Somerset's has reported a declining trend on contact numbers.

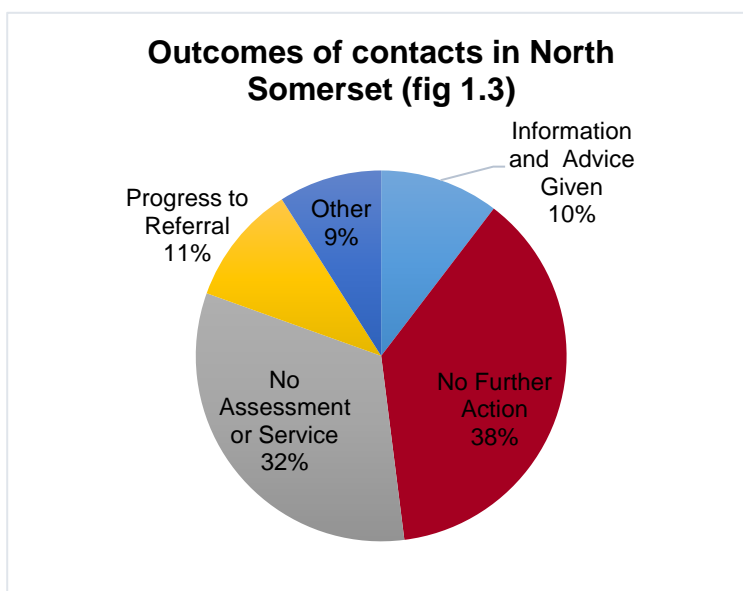
However, during Quarter 1 of 2020/21 there has been an increase with a rate of 158 contacts per 10,000 children compared to a rate of 109 contacts during the previous quarter.

The number and rate of domestic violence / abuse (DV) contacts has also experienced a significant increase during Quarter 1 2020/21. Increasing from 259 (DV) contacts in Quarter 4 2019/20 to 445 in Quarter 1 2020/21.



Outcomes for contacts to Children's Support and Safeguarding vary (fig 1.3), but as at the end of Quarter 1 the main outcomes were:

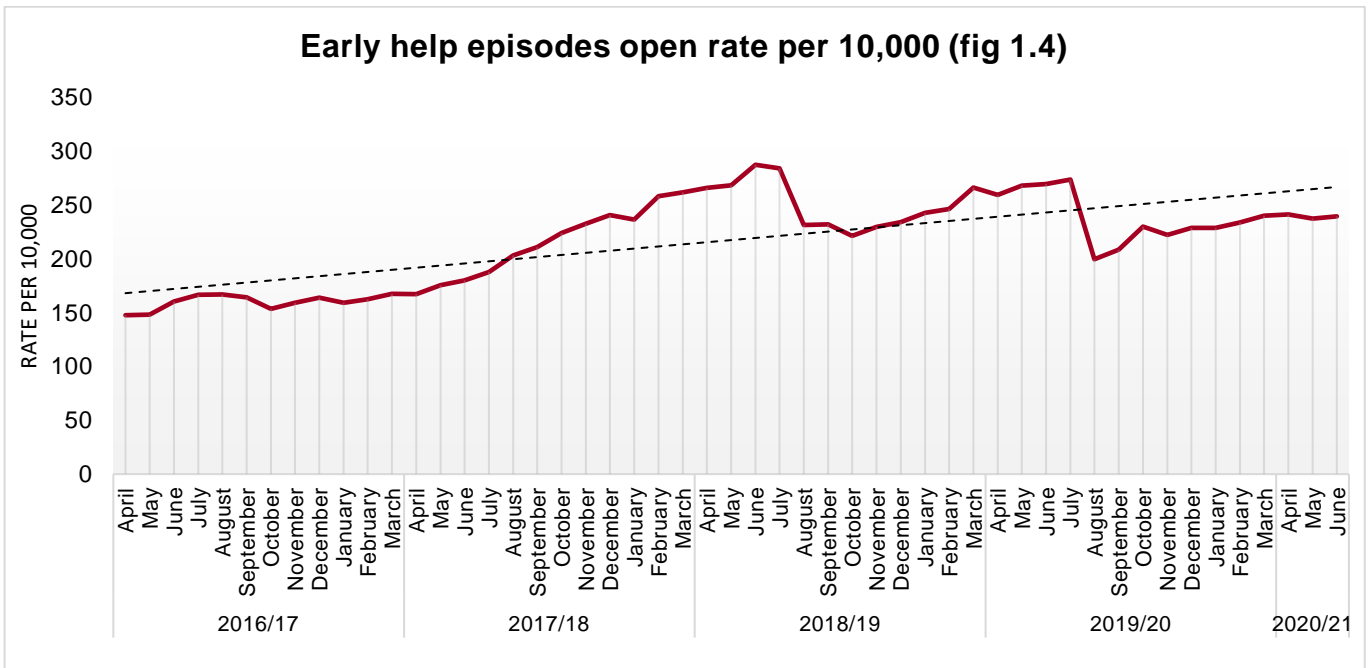
- No Further Action (38%)
- No Assessment or Service (32%)
- Progress to referral (11%)
- Information and Advice Given (10%)



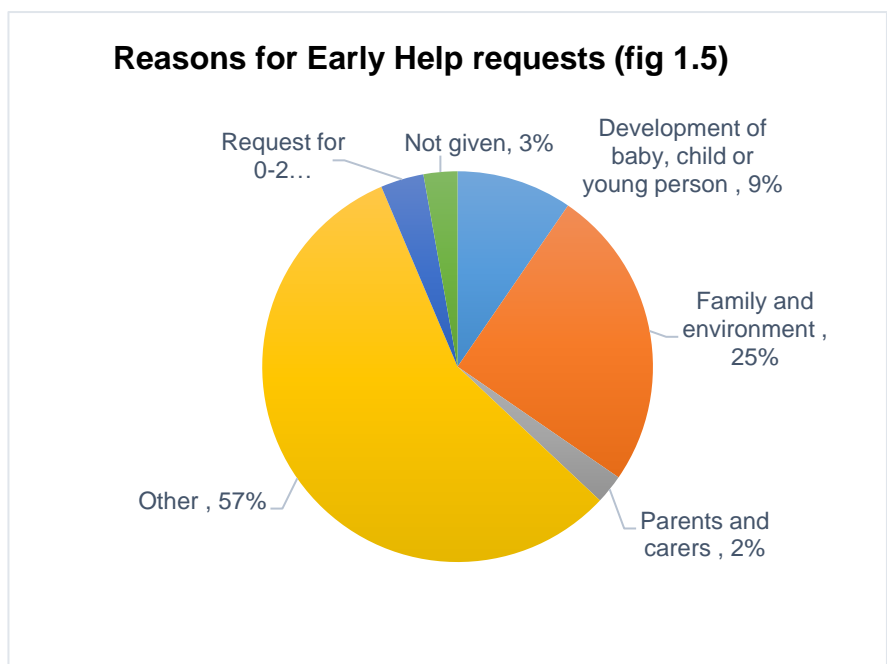
Early Help

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 Troubled Families. Services might include family support, parenting classes and help into employment.

At the end of Quarter 1 there were 1,035 open Early Help episodes. This is a rate of 239.5 per 10,000 children and is a slight decrease on the previous quarter where there were 1,037 open episodes.



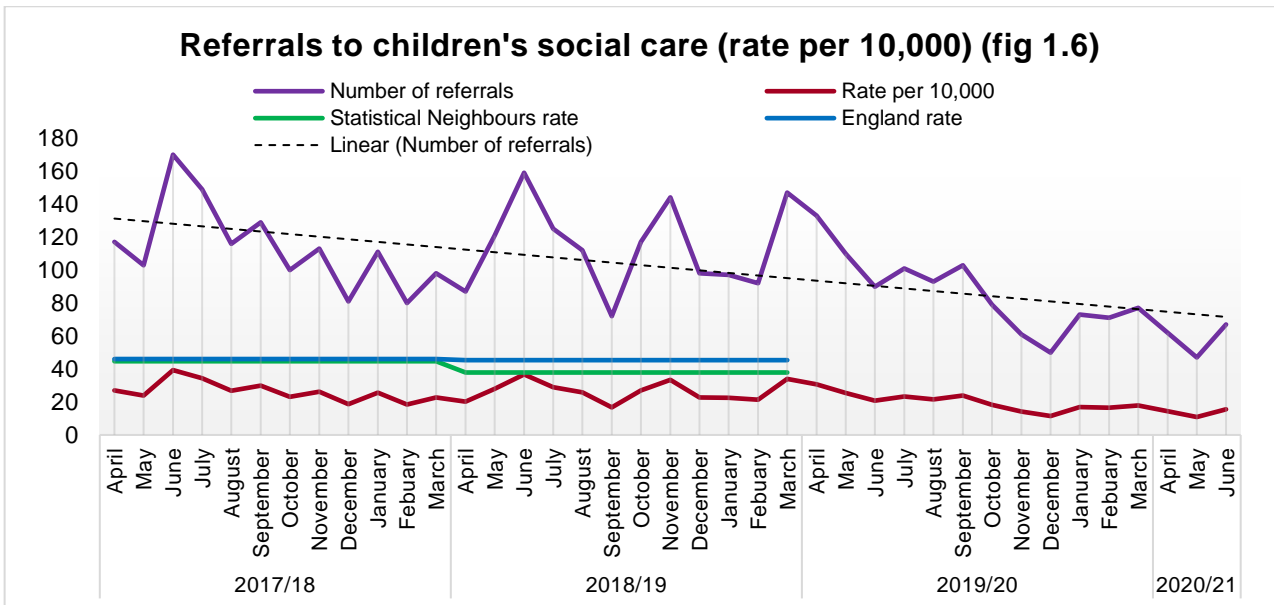
In Quarter 1, 57% of all open episodes were categorized as ‘Other’, following a similar trend to the previous two quarters. 25% of episodes were for Family and Environment and 10% were for Development of baby, child or young person. 3% of episodes had no given reason.



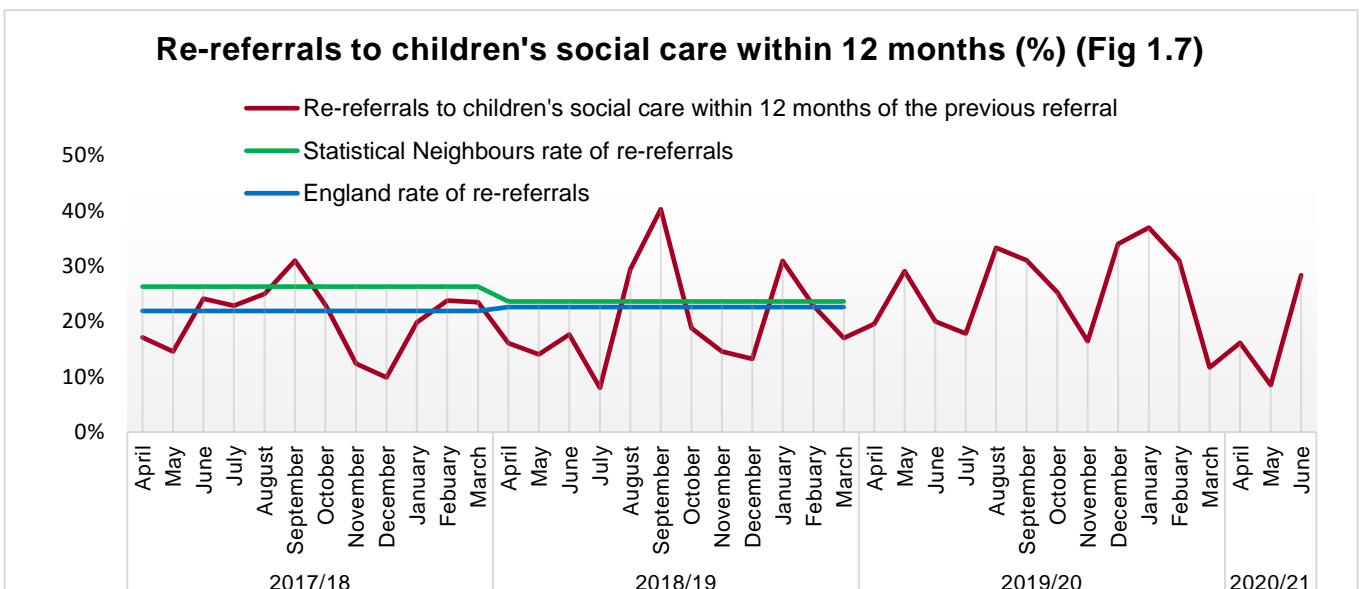
Referrals

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. Whilst the annual averages for 2017/18 and 2018/19 remained similar at 114, the 2019/20 annual average reported 87 referrals (a 24% reduction), and the trend line in fig 1.6 indicates a steady downward direction.

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 Quarter 1 2020/21, the rate of referrals was 15.5 per 10,000 children which is significantly lower than the referral rate of 20.8 at Quarter 1 2019/20. Referral outcomes vary but during Quarter 1, 98% went on to receive some further service and 2% 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 Quarter 1 2020/21, 28% of all referrals were re-referrals, this compares to 20% for the same period in 2019/20 (fig 1.7). The average rate of re-referrals for 2019/20 was 26%, which is higher than the average for 2018/19 (20%), and is higher than the statistical neighbours and national average.

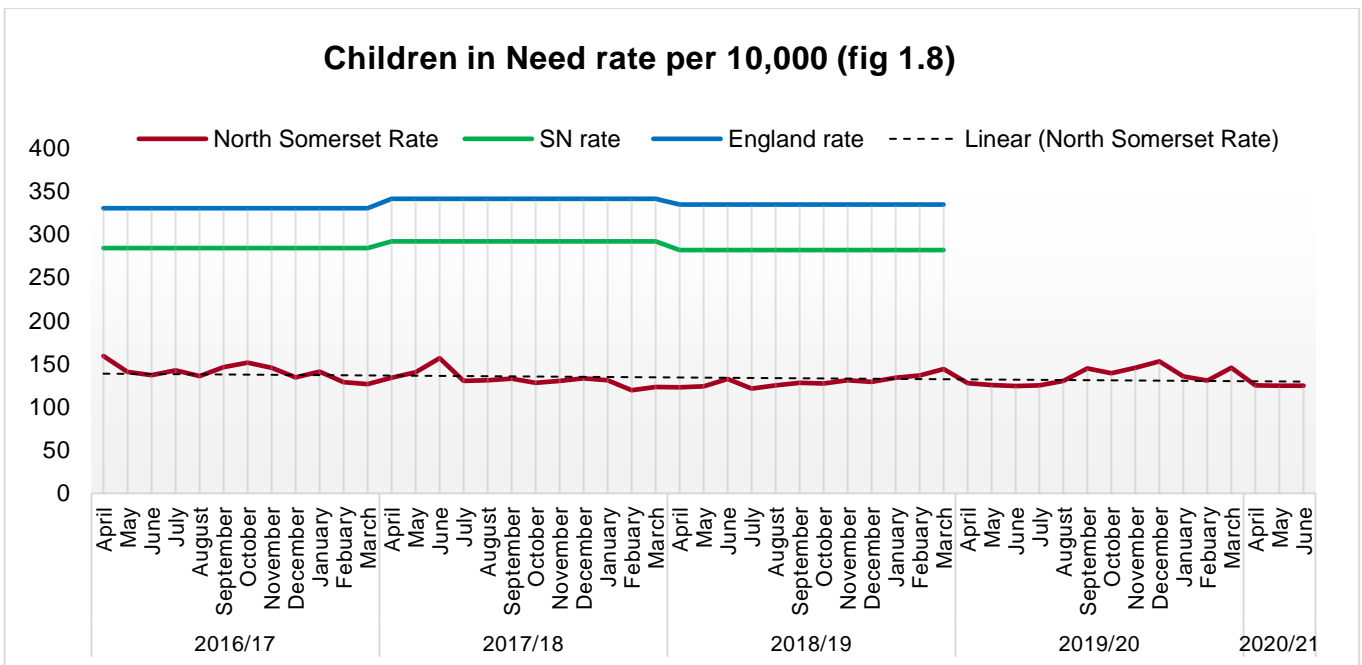


Children in Need

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.

At the end of Quarter 1 2020/21, the rate was 124 Children in Need per 10,000 children. The numbers and rates have remained relatively stable during Quarter 1 and continues to be significantly lower than our statistical neighbours and England rate (fig 1.8) however it should be noted that there are differences in the way the measure is calculated.



A hotspot analysis of Children in Need was undertaken at the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

Fig 1.9 shows several significant hotspots within Weston-super-Mare but also smaller hotspots across other areas of the district.

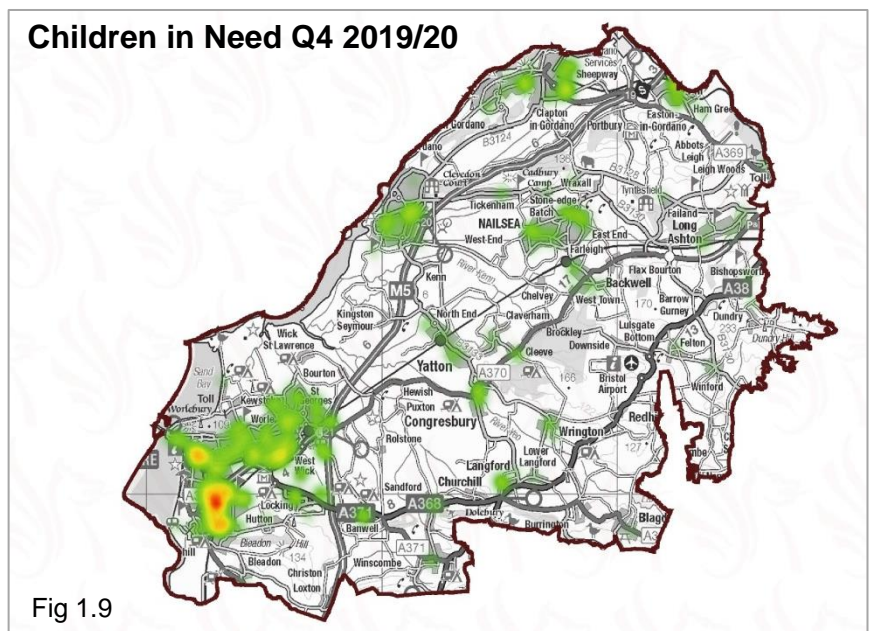


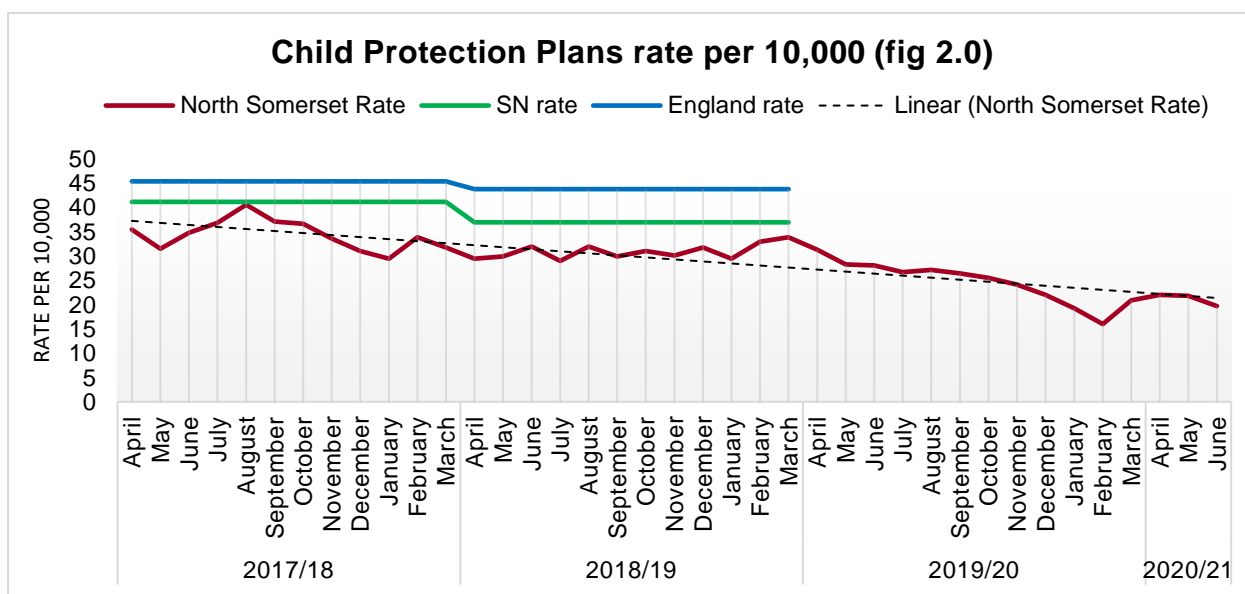
Fig 1.9

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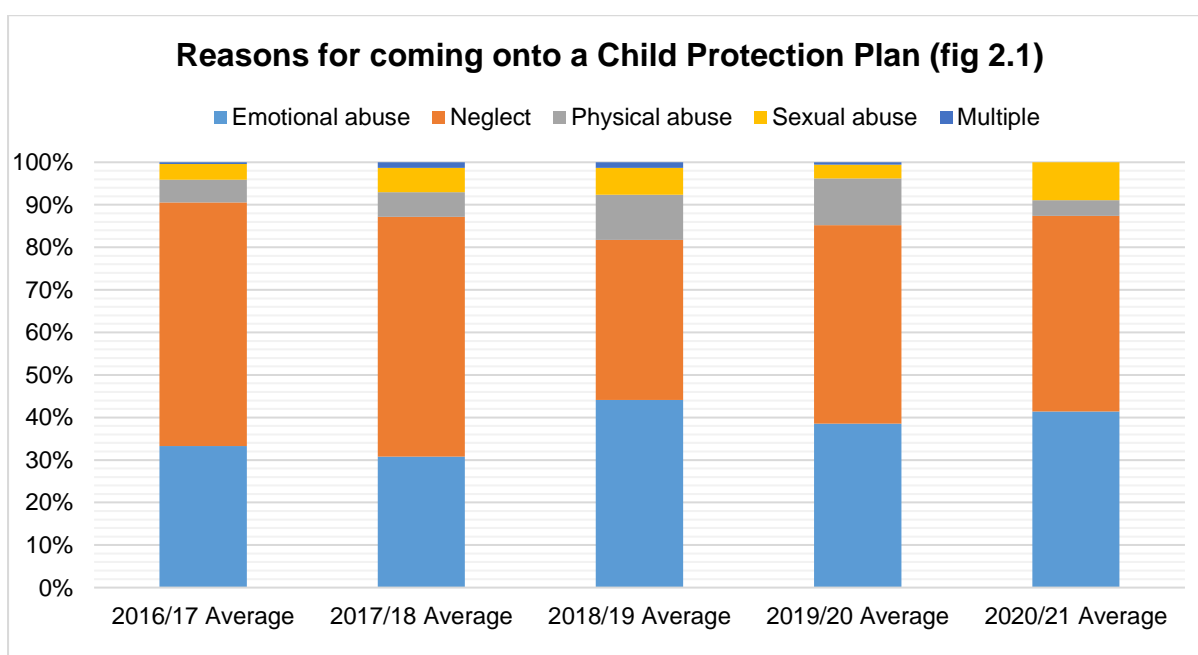
Child Protection Plans

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 Quarter 1 2020/21, there were 85 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. Over the past three years there has been a continual 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).



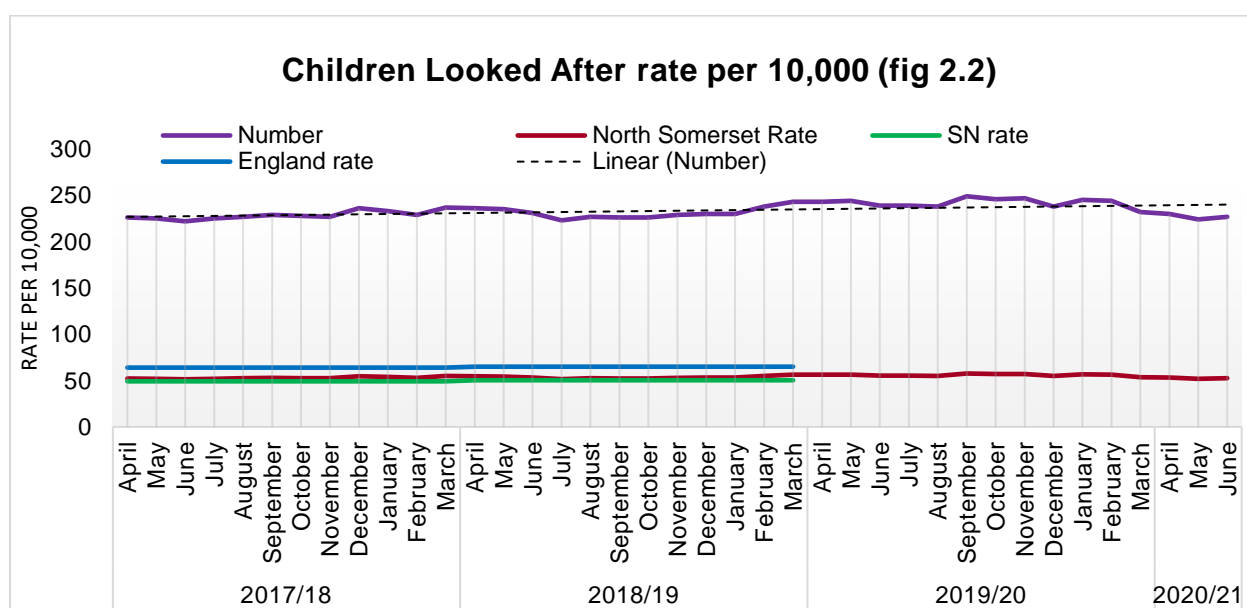
The principal reasons for children being brought onto a Child Protection Plan continue to be emotional abuse and neglect, followed by physical abuse and then sexual abuse.



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 Quarter 1 there were 227 looked after children, this equates to a rate of 52.5 children per 10,000 which is lower than the national rate but a little above our statistical neighbours. It is noted that of the of the 227 children 12 were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.



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' and 'absent parenting (and other)'.

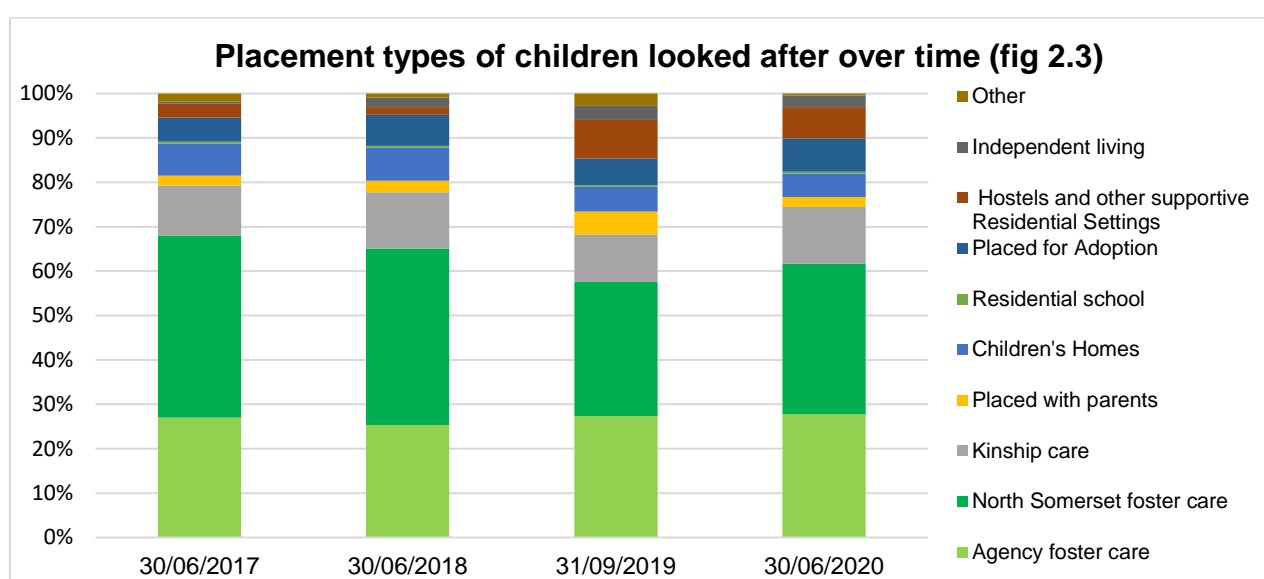
(table 1.2)	Abuse or Neglect	Disability	Parent Illness or Disability	Family in Acute Stress	Family Dysfunction	Absent Parenting and other
2016/17	43.0%	3.8%	2.7%	25.8%	19.1%	5.5%
2017/18	40.8%	3.4%	2.2%	26.9%	20.6%	6.0%
2018/19	40.4%	3.6%	3.1%	29.3%	17.5%	6.0%
2019/20	39.6%	3.5%	3.7%	29.7%	16.3%	7.2%
2020/21	38.8%	3.2%	3.9%	28.4%	18.9%	6.9%

Placement types of Children Looked After

There are various arrangements for a looked after child's living arrangements known as placements. Nearly two thirds (62% at the end of Quarter 1 2020/21) 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 having been placed at the end of Quarter 1 in 2017, 2018 and 2020. There was no available data for Quarter 1 2019, so the Quarter 2 period has been selected as an alternative.

The percentage of agency foster carers has remained relatively stable during the last four years, fluctuating between 27% and 25%. As at Quarter 1 2020/21 33.9% of looked after children were placed with North Somerset foster carers, this is an increase of a 3.7% point compared to the previous reporting period in fig.2.3.



At the end of Quarter 1 2020/21, (where specified i.e. excluding adoptive placements), 37% of children were placed outside of North Somerset which is similar to the previous quarter. A high proportion (63.5%), almost 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 110 registered foster carers. The majority provide care for the council's looked after children. As of the end of Quarter 1 there were:

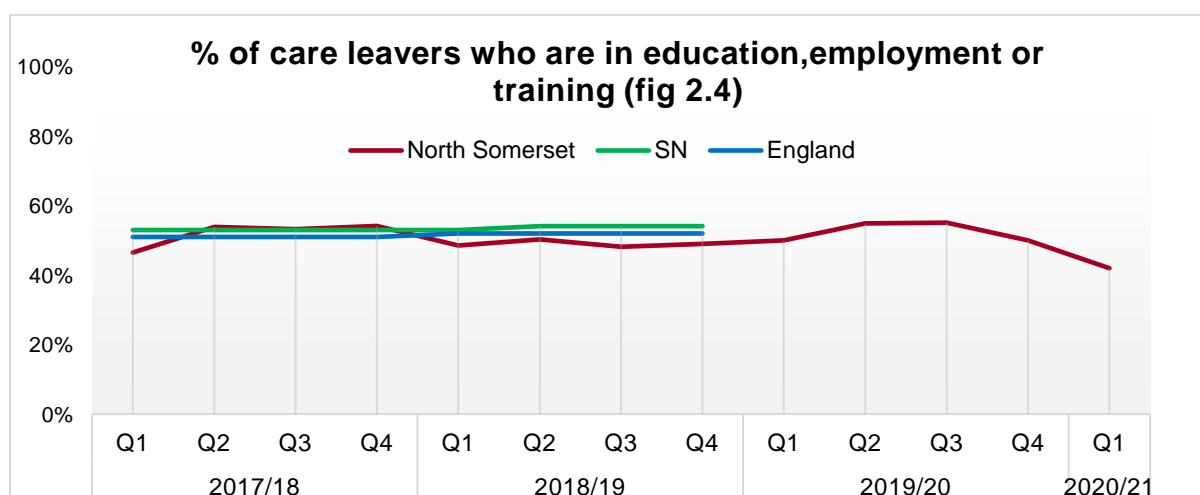
- 65 registered households that are known as mainstream foster carers that are 'sourced' by the council
- 28 kinship carers that are friends or family of the looked after child
- and 8 Supported Lodgings households that provide support for a small number of older young people.

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

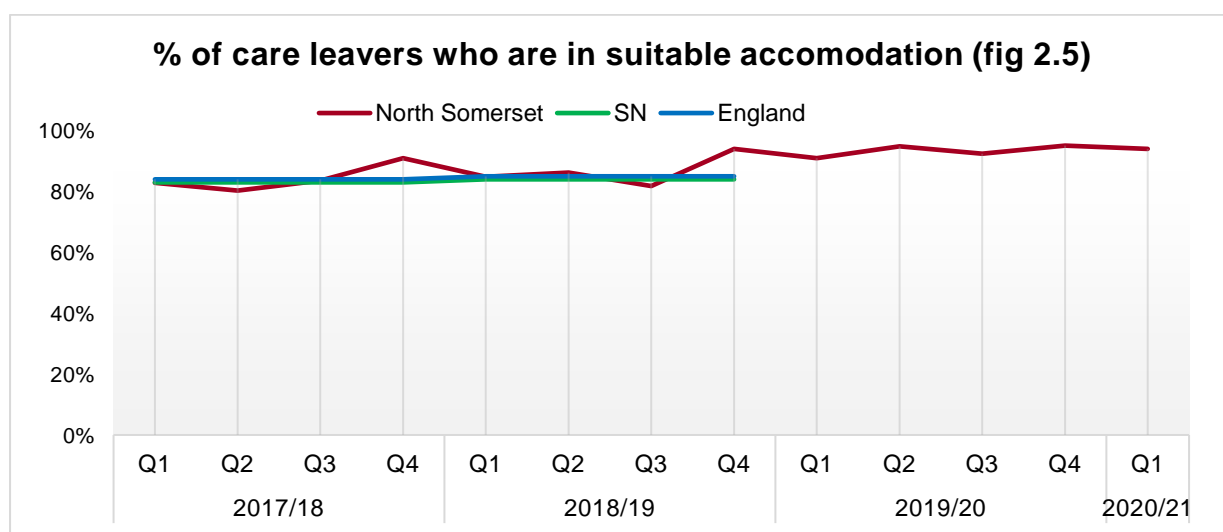
The council has responsibility to continue to help and support a number of young people that that were previously in their care. Key areas of support are in housing and accommodation and employment and education.

At the end of Quarter 1 20120/21, 42% of the care leavers aged 17-21 years (56 out of 132) were in employment, education or training (EET). This is a noticeable decrease as the rate has been around 50% for the part three years, which was in line with statistical neighbours and national figures (fig 2.4).



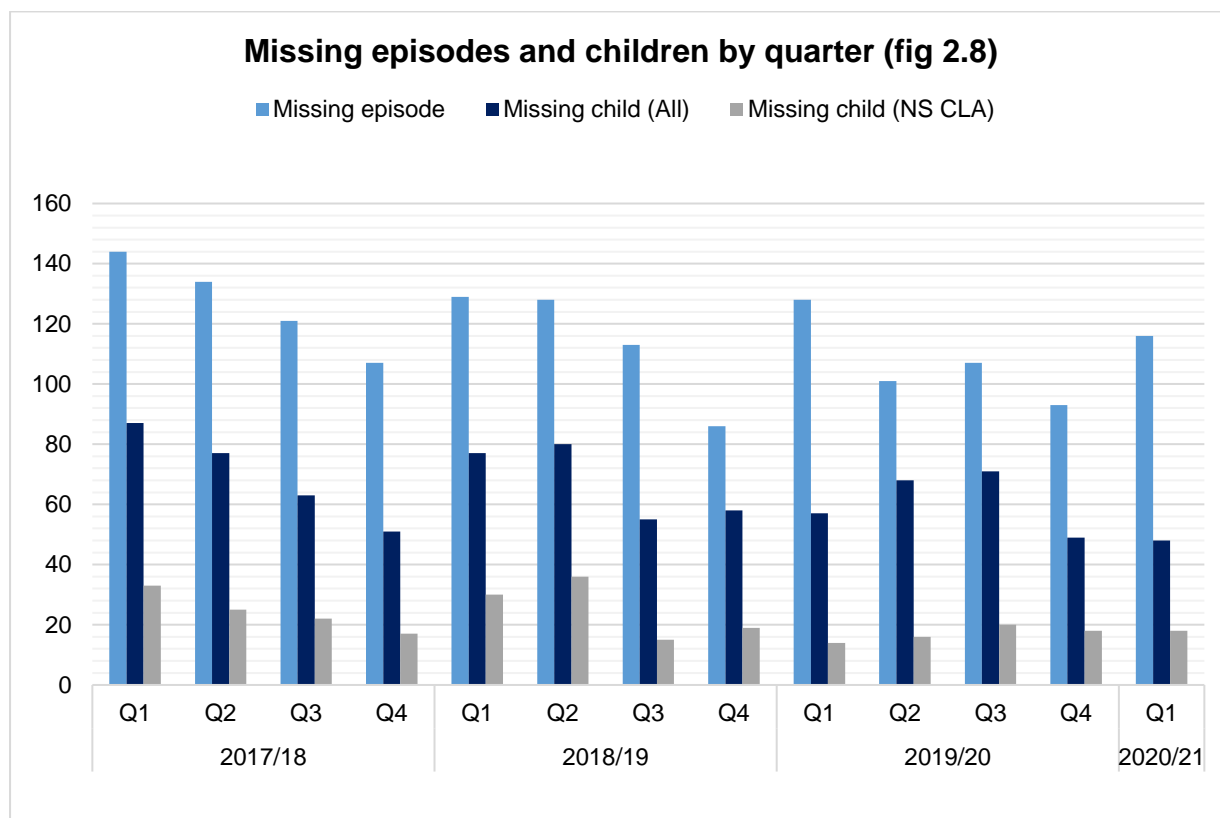
There are varying reasons for young people being out of training or employment including being unable to work due to illness or mental health, being pregnant or young parents caring for children, in custody, missing refugees / or previously unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Targeted work continues 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 94% and above over the past 12 months. This compares favourably against the most recent statistical neighbour and national averages of 84% and 85% (fig 2.5).



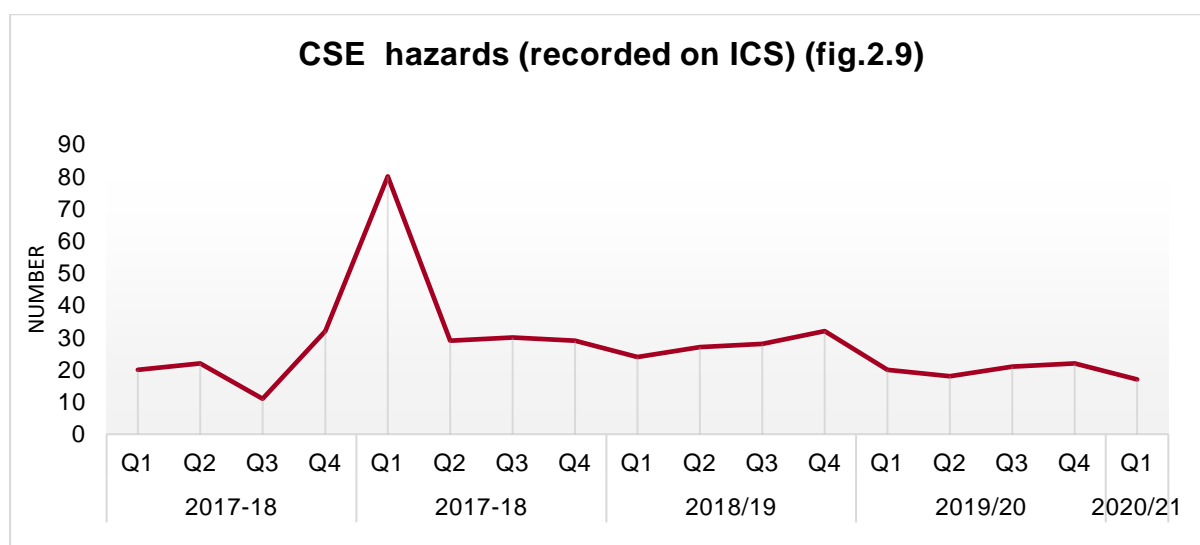
Missing Children

During Quarter 1 2020/21, there were 116 episodes of children going missing relating to 48 children. Of these, 18 were children look after. The number of children look after going missing has remained at 18 for the second consecutive quarter.



Childhood Sexual Exploitation

F 2.9 shows the number of open hazards on the children's recording system (LCS) at the end of each quarter. As at Quarter 1 2020/21 there were 17 open childhood sexual exploitation hazards. This compares to 22 open hazards in the previous quarter.



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

- Support and Safeguarding Team quarterly reports (2016/17 to 2020/21)
- P&C Annual Directorate Statement
- North Somerset Council Corporate Plan