

# **North Somerset Council**

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 10TH MARCH 2022**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: BECKY HOPKINS – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S FAMILY 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 3 2021/22, 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

7th December 2021 Children Services focussed visit by Ofsted. Letter published on the 31st of January 2022.

For all North Somerset schools (as of December 2021):

##### Primary schools

- 16% Outstanding (10)
- 73% Good (47)
- 5% Requires Improvement (3)
- 3% Inadequate (2)
- 3% not yet inspected (2)

##### Secondary schools

- 36% Outstanding (4)
- 18% Good (2)
- 45% Requires Improvement (5)
- 0% Inadequate (0)
- 0% not yet inspected (0)

##### 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).

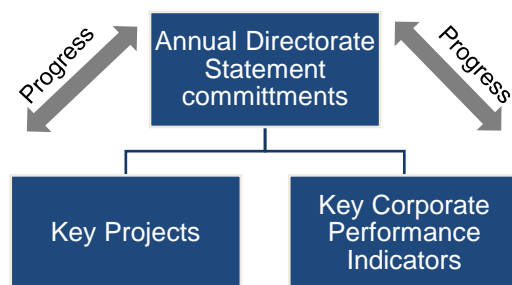


Fig 1.1 measuring corporate performance

Table 1.1 shows the Quarter 3 position of all KCPIs related to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

Table 1.1

	Year-End 2020/21	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Predicted Year-End Status	Comments	National benchmarking
Rate of children / families subject to an Early Help plans per 10,000 at the end of the month	218.9 per 10,000	122.9 per 10,000	106.7 per 10,000	121.0 per 10,000		AMBER		Local measure
The percentage of early help children stepped up to Children's Social Care in quarter	5%	4.0%	3.5%	4.0%		AMBER		Local measure
The percentage of families disengaging with Early Help (families withdrawn consent/engagement)	tbc	7.25%	10.0%	7.0%		GREEN		Local measure
The number of children and young people subject to s20 voluntary accommodation	tbc	48	41	46		target tbc		Local measure
The number of 12 to 17 year-old young people becoming looked after	tbc	5	13	4		target tbc		Local measure
The average duration of care for 12 to 17 year-old young people (at the end of the month)	tbc	1,714 days	1,576 days	1,598 days		target tbc		Local measure
Rate of new referrals to Children's social care per 10,000 in the last month	14.2 per 10,000	16.0 per 10,000	16.0 per 10,000	41.08 per 10,000		not targeted		England, 38.7 per 10,000 South West, 36.2 per 10,000
Percentage of re-referrals to Children's social care within 12 months of the previous referral in the last month	22.6%	11.4%	7.0%	18.0%		AMBER		England, 22.6% South West, 21.0%
Assessment timeliness % completed within 45 working days in the last month	87.2%	88.5%	88.0	74.0%		AMBER		England, 83.8% South West, 82.6%
Assessment Timeliness % completed within 20 working days in the last month	12.8%	13.1%	27.0%	17.0%		AMBER		Local measure

Table 1.1

	Year-End 2020/21	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Predicted Year-End Status	Comments	National benchmarking
Rate of Children in Need per 10,000 at the end of the month (based on the CiN census definition)	193.5 per 10,000	220.5 per 10,000	212.0 per 10,000	211.3 per 10,000		not targeted		England, 323.7 per 10,000 South West, 296.9 per 10,000
Rate of children with Child Protection plans per 10,000 open at the end of the month	21.3 per 10,000	16.7 per 10,000	13.7 per 10,000	18.26 per 10,000		not targeted		England, 42.8 per 10,000 South West, 37.7 per 10,000
Child protection plans for a second or subsequent time as a % of new child protection plans - 12 month rolling	24.8%	25.0%	27.0%	21.0%		not targeted		England, 21.9% South West, 24.4%
The rate of children in care at month end (per 10,000)	48.9 per 10,000	47.6 per 10,000	44.0 per 10,000	43.8 per 10,000		not targeted		England, 67.0 per 10,000 South West, 57.0 per 10,000
Number of Children in In-house Foster Care (Inc. connected carers & Reg 24) at end of the month	100 (46%)	107	106	115		GREEN		England, 36,070 (45%)
Number of young people living in independent accommodation at end of the month	9 (4%)	4	3	25		GREEN		Local measure
Percentage of children in care with 3+ placement moves in the current financial year	11.3%	2.3%	10.80%	13.0%		AMBER		England, 11% South West, 12%

Table 1.1

	Year-End 2020/21	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Predicted Year-End Status	Comments	National benchmarking
Stability of long-term placements	72.6%	68.5%	70.0%	73.0%		GREEN		England, 68% South West, 68%
% of care leavers who are EET (in education, employment or training) (aged 19 to 21 years) (at the end of the month)	39.8%	42.3%	52.0%	59.0%		GREEN		England, 53% South West, 53%
% of care leavers, 19-21 years of age with positive outcomes in housing at end of the month	92.8%	88.0%	91.0%	96.0%		GREEN		England, 85% South West, 85%
The percentage of care leavers who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) who are education/work ready (aged 19 to 21 years) (at the end of the month)	tbc	33.0%	23.0%	20.0%		target tbc		Local measure

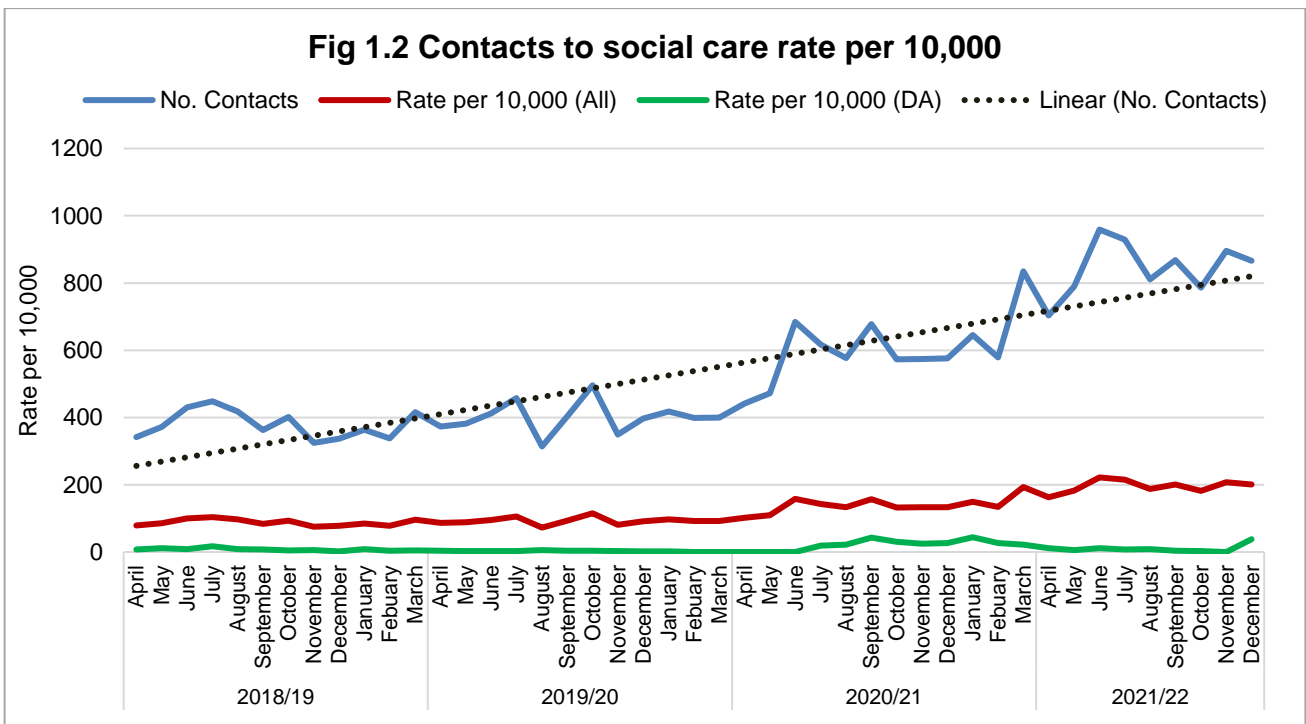
# KEY SERVICE MEASURES FOR SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING

## Contacts

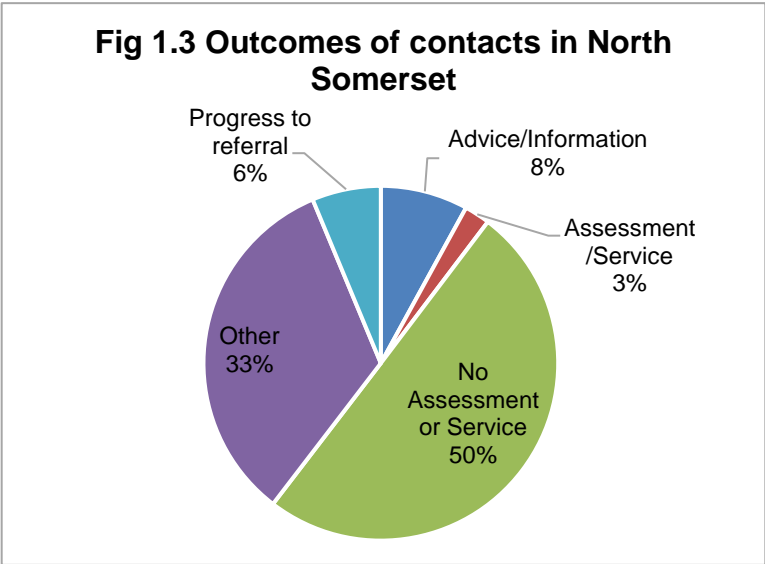
Where there is a need for advice and / or information or support from Children’s Services a contact is made. From February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 we have operated a single ‘Front Door’ for all new contacts ensuring children receive the Right Help, Right Time. For the past three years North Somerset’s has reported a declining trend on contact numbers.

However, since Quarter 1 of 2020/21 there has been an increase in the number of contacts. During Q3 2021/22, the average rate of contacts per 10,000 children was 197 compared to a rate of 133 contacts during the same time last year. This may have a direct link with the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a peak of 445 domestic abuse contacts during Quarter 1 2020/21, we have seen a significant reduction in numbers during Quarter 2 and Quarter3 2021/22 with 86 and 41 DA contacts respectively.



Outcomes for contacts to Family Support and Safeguarding vary (fig 1.3), but as at the end of Quarter 3 the main outcomes were: No Assessment or Service (50%), Other (33%), Progress to referral (6%) and Advice/information (8%) and Assessment/Service (3%).

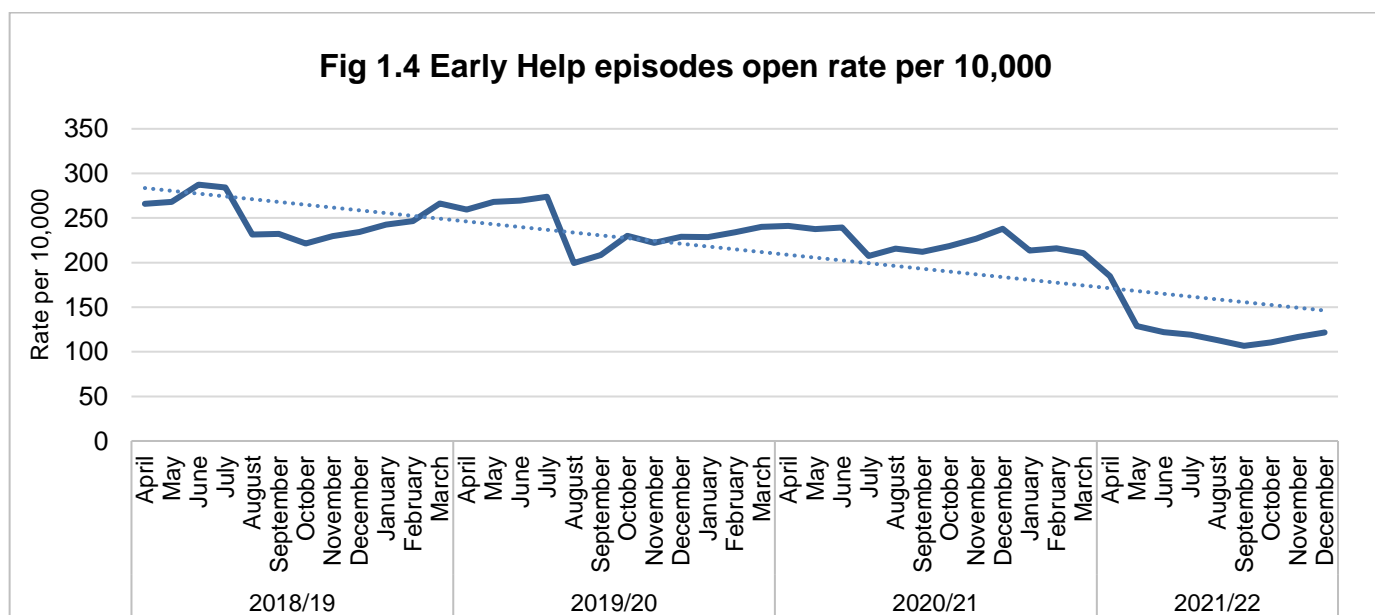


## Family Wellbeing (Early Help)

Across the partnership of both statutory and voluntary sectors we work together, share information, and put the child and their family at the centre, providing effective support to help them solve problems and find solutions at an early stage to prevent problems escalating. There may be times when the needs of the family are such that intensive early help or specialist statutory intervention is required. All children and young people will receive Universal Services, such as maternity services at birth; health visiting, school nursing and family support delivered from our Children and Family Hubs; school and youth services for older children. Universal Services seek, together with parents and families, to meet all the needs of children and young people so that they are happy, healthy, and able to learn and develop securely. Universal services are provided as a right to all children, including those with additional and intensive needs.

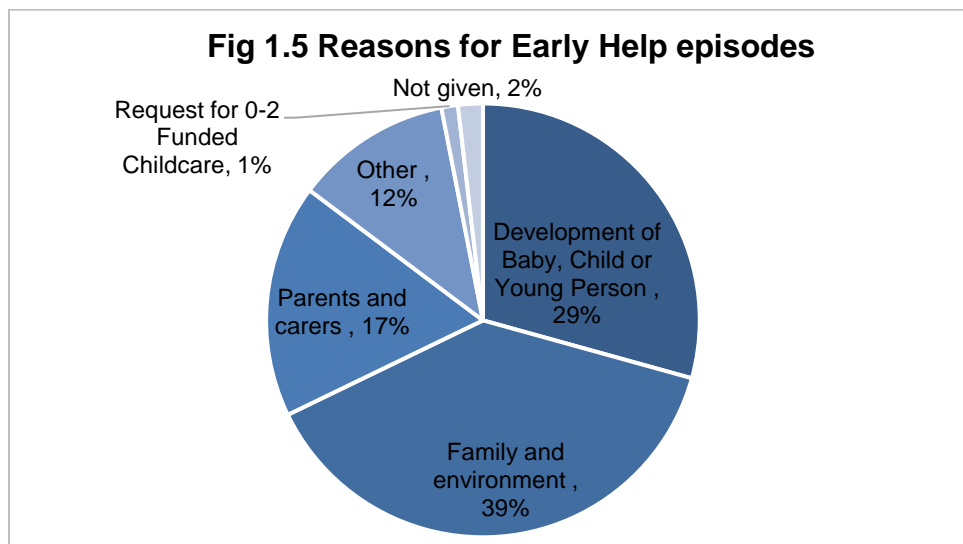
However, some children, either because of their own additional needs or due to their circumstances, will need extra help to be healthy, safe and to achieve their potential. In North Somerset, we want to offer help and support to these children and their families at an early point, in a voluntary way that does not leave them feeling singled out as different.

Early help may occur at any point in a child or young person's life and includes both support and interventions early in life as well as support and interventions early in the development of a problem. We seek to offer support early to help families solve problems or to reduce the impact of problems that have already emerged. To do this we need to work together in an open way with the child and their family to identify strengths and needs, to find practical and achievable solutions, and to provide the right amount of information, advice and support providing Right Help, Right Time, Right Place. We have following realignment of Children's Services renamed North Somerset's Council early help provision to Family Wellbeing and our Family Wellbeing (Early Help) service will support children and their families at an intensive level of need (just below the level of need for statutory intervention) as well as providing supports across both the universal level of need such as children's centres and nurseries.



At the end of Quarter 3 there were 526 Early Help episodes open (rate 121 per 10,000), an increase from Quarter 2 2020/21 where the rate was 106 per 10,000. This decline is due to change in recording not demand or intensity of provision.

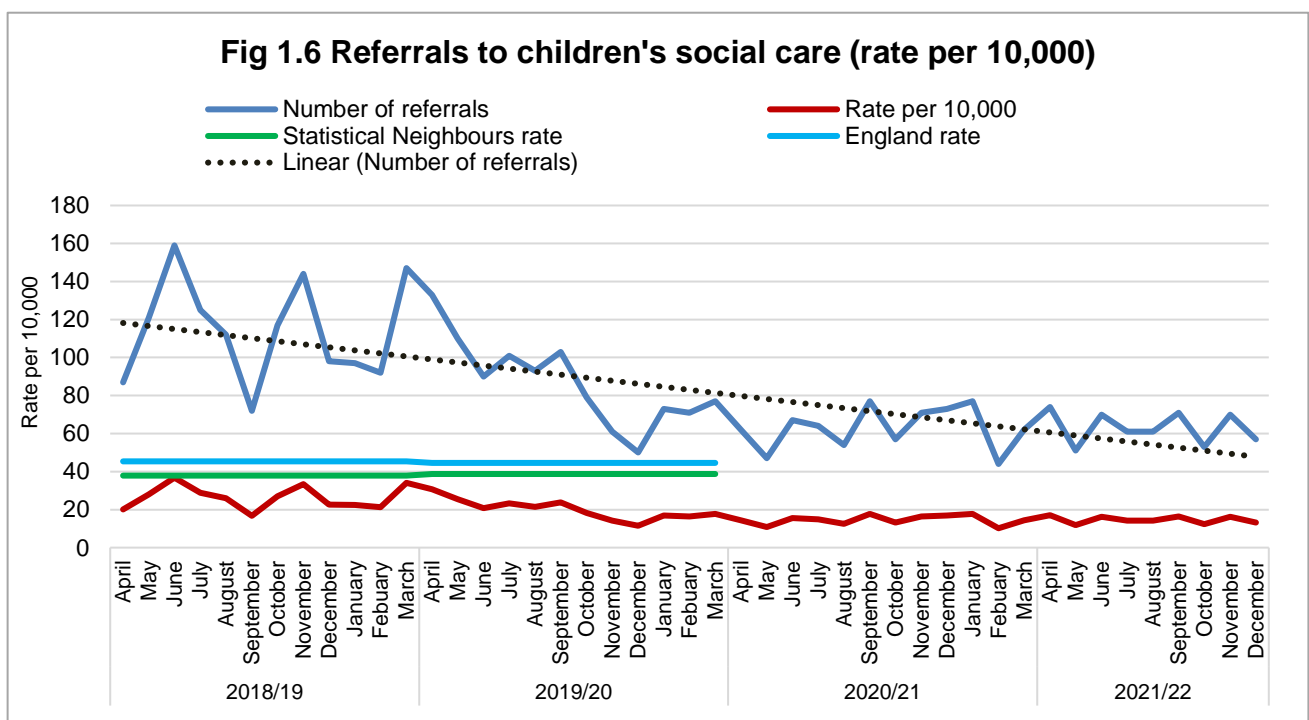
In Quarter 3, 39% of all open episodes were categorised as Family and Environment, 29% were for Development of Baby, Child, or Young Person, 17% were for Parents and Carers, 12% Other, 2% were for 0-2 Funded Childcare and 2% did not have a reason recorded.



## Referrals

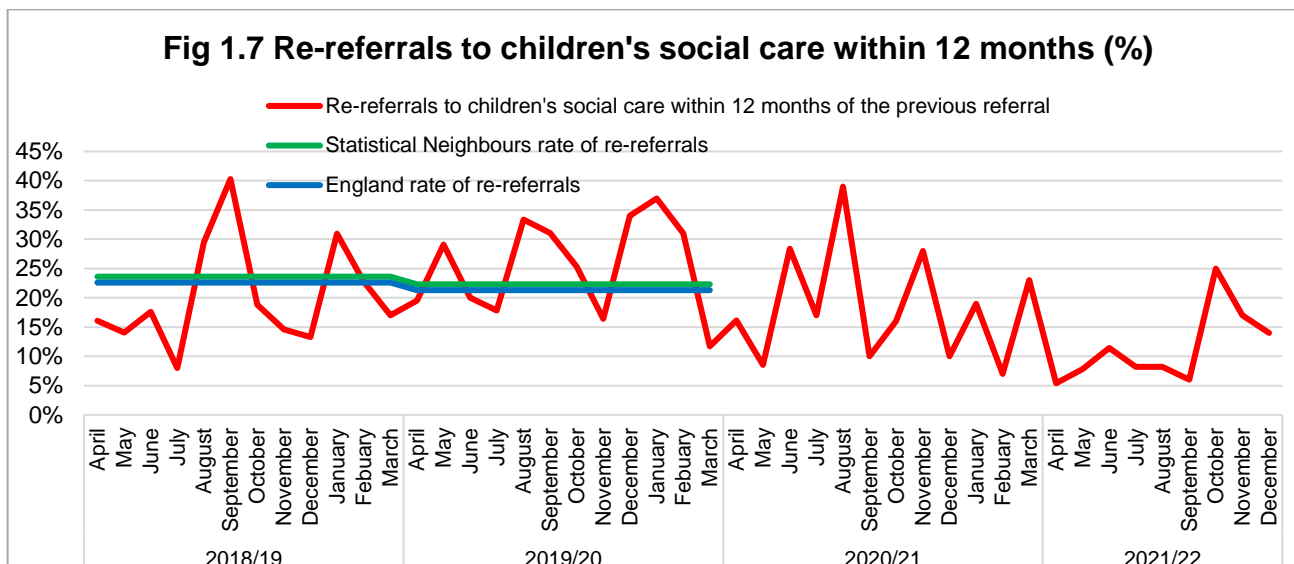
If a contact is made which requires further support beyond advice and / or information and requires statutory intervention, then it will progress to a referral to one of our Family Support and Safeguarding teams. The number and rate of referrals varies by month. Whilst the annual averages for 2017/18 and 2018/19 remained similar at 114, the 2019/20 annual average reported 87 referrals (a 24% reduction), and the annual average reported for 2020/21 is a reduction again with an average of 63 referrals. This is shown in the trend line in fig 1.6 which indicated 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). During Quarter 3 2021/22, the average rate of referrals was 13.9 per 10,000 children which is below the average referral rate of 15.5 during Quarter 3 2020/21. It is our view that this is due to our strong early help offer.





Re-referrals is a measure of where children with a previous referral in the last 12 months are re-referred into Family Support and Safeguarding. During Quarter 3 2021/22, the average rate of re-referrals was 19% which compares to 18% for the same period in 2020/21 (fig 1.7) and is lower than the statistical neighbours and national average. This is a positive story, indicating that intervention is successful.

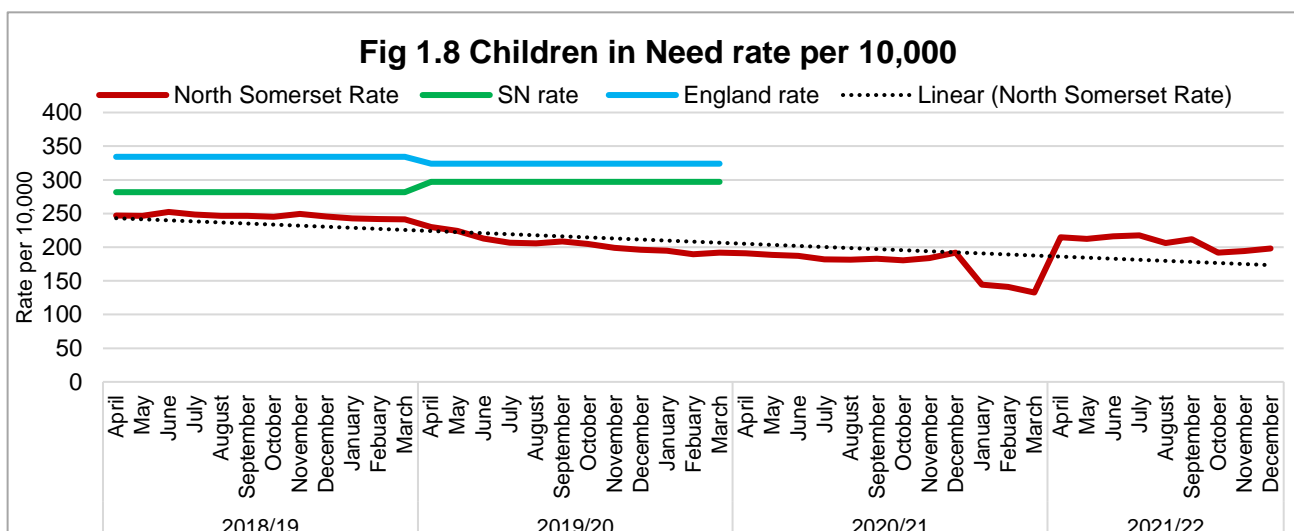


## Children in Need

A child can be considered in need if:

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

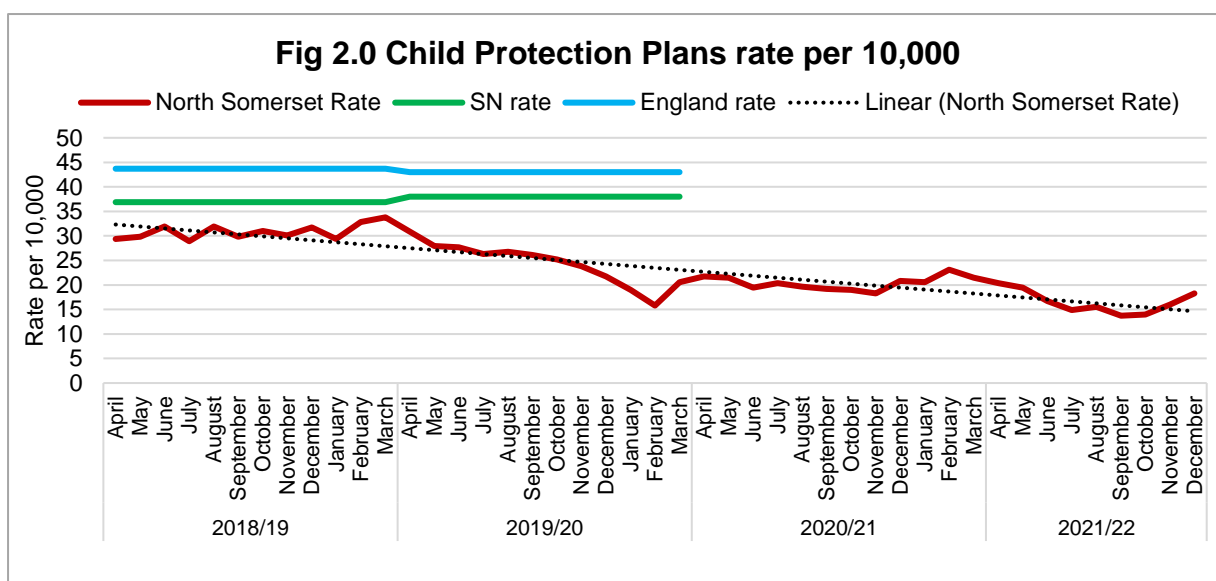
At the end of Quarter 3 2020/21, the rate was 198 Children in Need per 10,000 children. The numbers and rates have fluctuated since Quarter 4 20/21 and has seen an increase in the last 2 quarters. This increase can be attributed to a change in March 2021 where a number of disabled children receiving early support were moved from the EHM system to LCS as part of the Controcc project to facilitate direct payments. However, even with this increase the rate for children on a Child in Need plan in North Somerset is below that of statistical neighbours and England averages (fig 1.8).



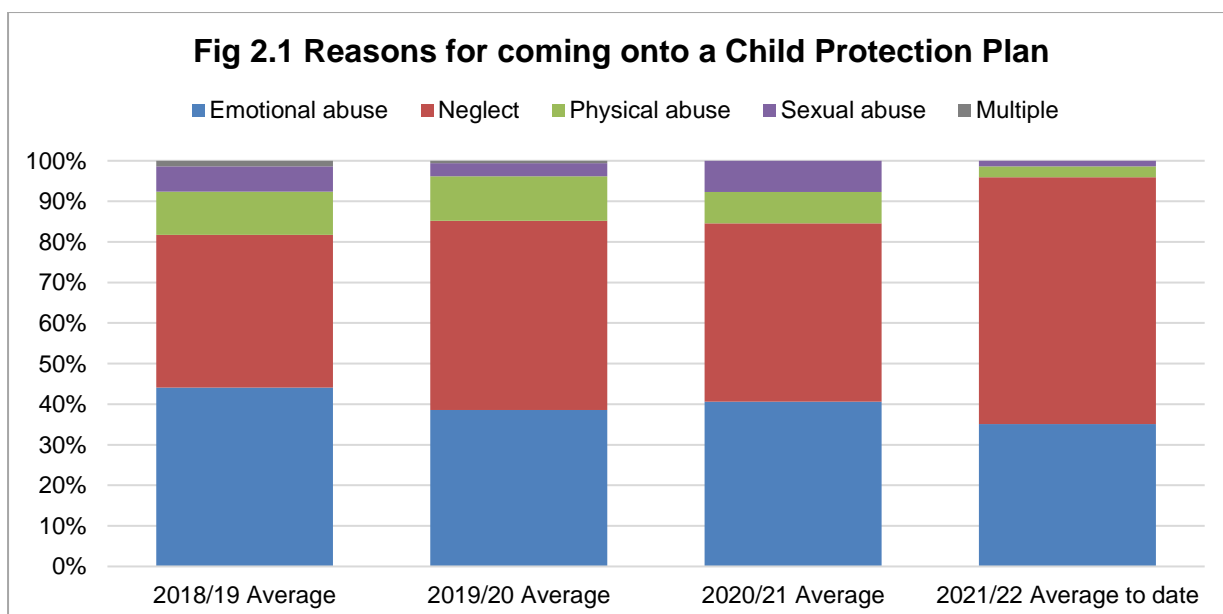
## Child Protection Plans

Some children are in need of statutory intervention because they are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm. In these cases 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 and partner agencies working with the child and their family will develop a Child Protection Plan and the child will be subject of this child protection plan. The child protection plan sets out how the child can be kept safe, the strengths, the concerns and what needs to change and in what timescales.

At the end of Quarter 3 2021/22, there were 80 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. Over the past three years there has been a continual, overall downward trend (linear) in the rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan and the rate is significantly lower than the national rate and the rate of our statistical neighbours, (fig 2.0).



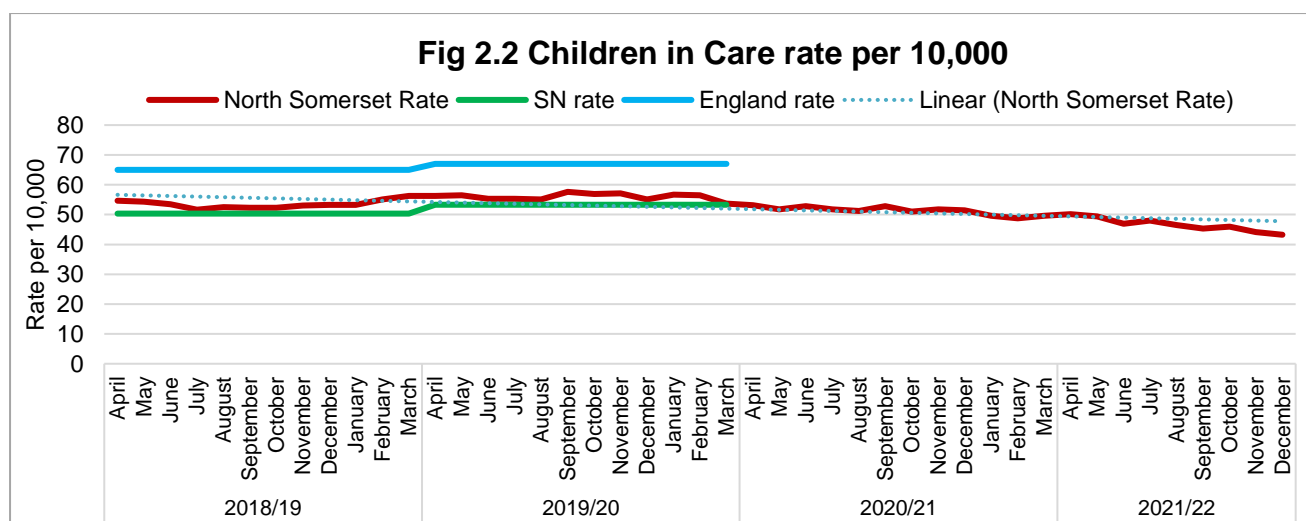
The principal reasons for children being subject of a Child Protection Plans continue to be neglect and emotional abuse, followed by physical abuse and then sexual abuse.



## Children in Care

In some cases, it is necessary for some children for their own safety and wellbeing to enter our care. This will be either through a voluntary arrangement with the parents under Section 20 of the Children Act where parental responsibility remains fully with the parent or through a court order, which gives the local authority a share of parental responsibility. In statutory terms these children are referred to as 'looked after' but we prefer to refer to them as children in our care. Young people cease to be looked after on reaching their eighteenth birthday, if they have not ceased previously. Senior managers oversee all requests for a child to become looked after. Every such child's care plan is reviewed to ensure that their care plan meets their needs and wishes, and plans are being progressed and permanency for that child is secured at the earliest opportunity.

At the end of Quarter 3 2021/22, there were 189 children in care. It is noted that of the of the 189 children 16 were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. This gives a rate of 43.2 per 10,000 children. This rate is lower than both the national rate at 67 and our statistical neighbours' rate at 53. In comparison at the end of Quarter 3 2020/21 there were 225 children in care.



The reasons for a child entering our care has 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)'.

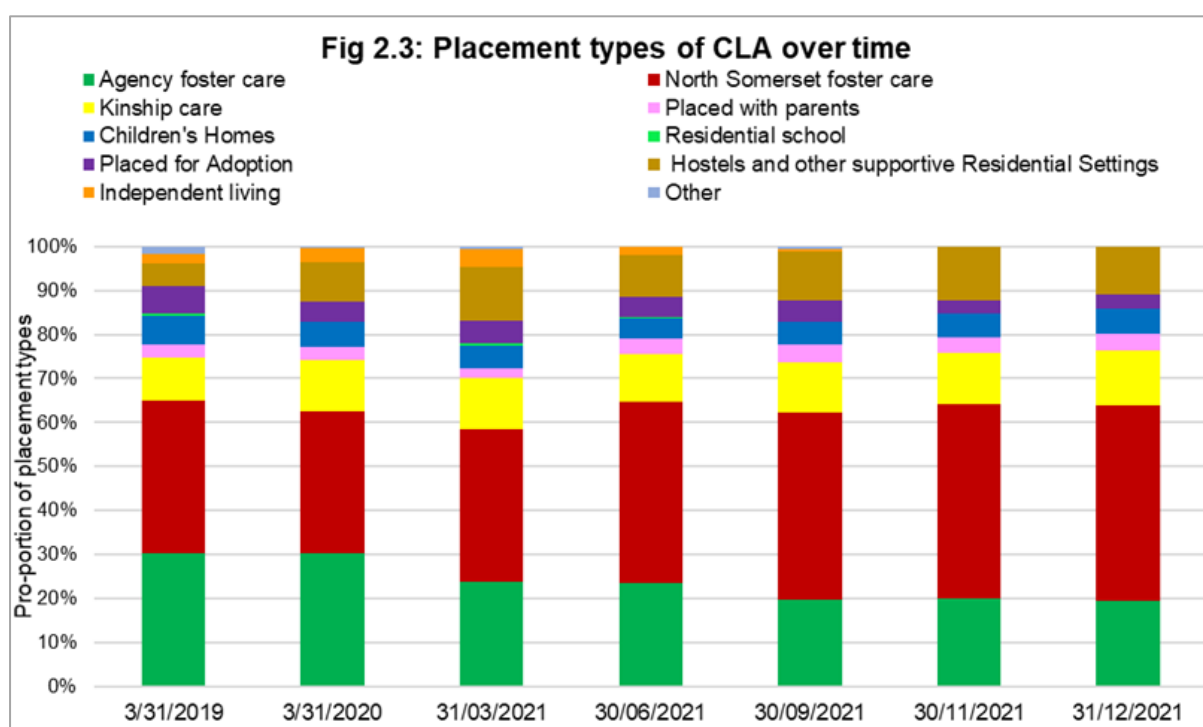
(table 1.2)	Abuse or Neglect	Disability	Parent Illness or Disability	Family in Acute Stress	Family Dysfunction	Absent Parenting and other
<b>2016/17</b>	43.0%	3.8%	2.7%	25.8%	19.1%	5.5%
<b>2017/18</b>	40.8%	3.4%	2.2%	26.9%	20.6%	6.0%
<b>2018/19</b>	40.4%	3.6%	3.1%	29.3%	17.5%	6.0%
<b>2019/20</b>	39.6%	3.5%	3.7%	29.7%	16.3%	7.2%
<b>2020/21</b>	41.0%	3.0%	3.0%	28.0%	17.0%	8.0%
<b>2021/22 to date</b>	43.0%	3.0%	3.0%	25.0%	18.0%	8.0%

## Placement types of Children in Care

There are various arrangements for a looked after child's living arrangements known as placements. More than three quarters (77% at the end of Q3 2021/22) of North Somerset's Children in Care live in foster care. This is higher than the latest figure nationally (71%). Other placement types include children's homes, supportive residential placements, independent living and adoptive placements.

Fig 2.3 provides snapshot figures of where our children in care have been placed at the end of Quarter 3 in 2021/22, compared to the previous quarters in 2021/22 and the year-endings for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

At the end of December 2021, out of the 77% Children in Care placed in foster care, 45% were placed within North Somerset foster care, 19% within agency foster care and 13% within kinship care. The percentage of children placed within North Somerset foster care is up 8% when compared to the same time last year.



At the end of Q3 2021/22, 71% of all Children in Care were placed inside North Somerset (up from 65% same time last year) and 26% were placed outside local boundary (down from 32% same time last year). The figures are also better than the England averages of 57% placed inside LA boundary and 40% placed outside. This excludes children placed for adoption.

## Foster Carers

North Somerset Council has within its own resource 90 registered foster carers.

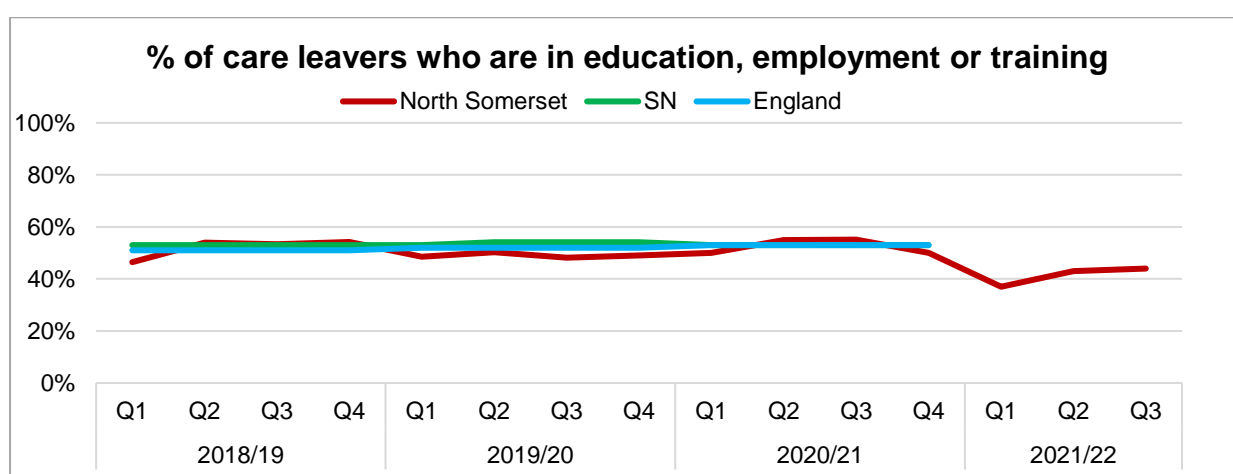
As of the end of Quarter 3 there were:

- 63 registered households that are known as mainstream foster carers that are 'sourced' by the council
- 20 kinship carers that are friends or family of the children in care
- 5 Supported Lodgings households that provide support for a small number of older young people.
- 2 short term respite carers (Family link scheme) providing short term respite care for a number of children in need

## 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.

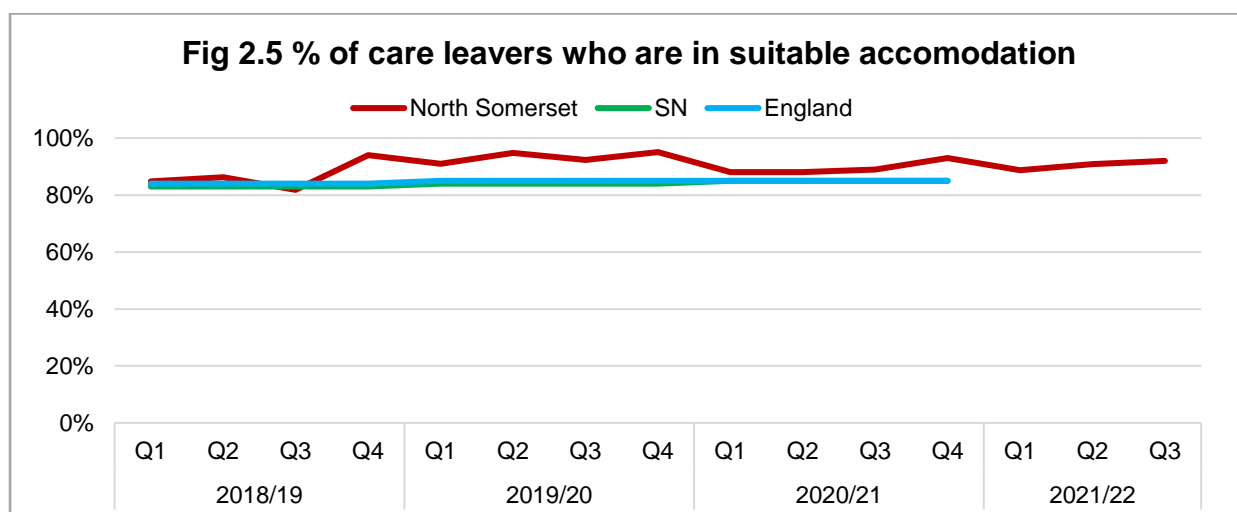
The percentage of 19-21 year-old care leavers who were in education, employment and/or training (EET) in North Somerset at the end of Quarter 3 2021/22 was 61%. This is higher than the same time last year at 44% and higher than that of our statistical neighbours at 53% and England data at 53%.



There are varying reasons for young people being not in education training or employment (NEET) including emotional and mental health needs, young parents caring for children, in custody, previously unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who have not been given leave to remain in the UK post 18.

There is targeted work being undertaken through our children's improvement plan to address this. This includes working across the partnership to consider what further steps we can take to both prepare our young people for employment and support them into education, employment, or training (EET). Additionally, through support services such as of Kickstart and support through the Social Impact Bond (SIB) RREBBOT west as well as targeted work in the leaving care team.

The percentage of 19-21-year-old care leavers who were in suitable accommodation at the end of Quarter 3 2021/22 in North Somerset was 92% which is better than the same time last year at 89%. This compares favourably against the most recent statistical neighbour and national averages of 85% (fig 2.5).



## Contextual safeguarding

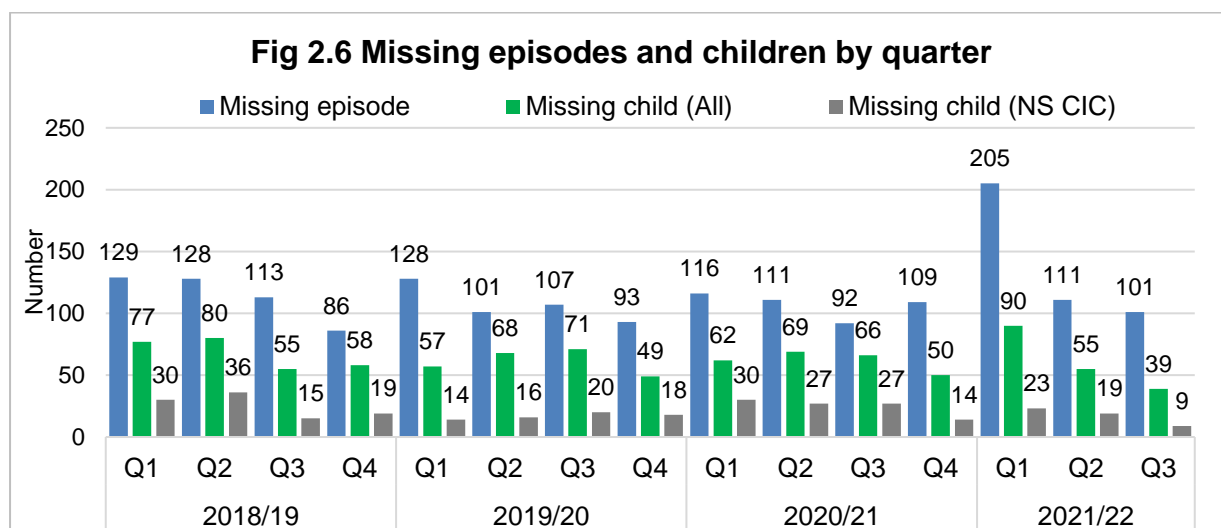
Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers can at times have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors. Work on this area is another key area of our children's improvement plan working across the partnership.

## Missing Children

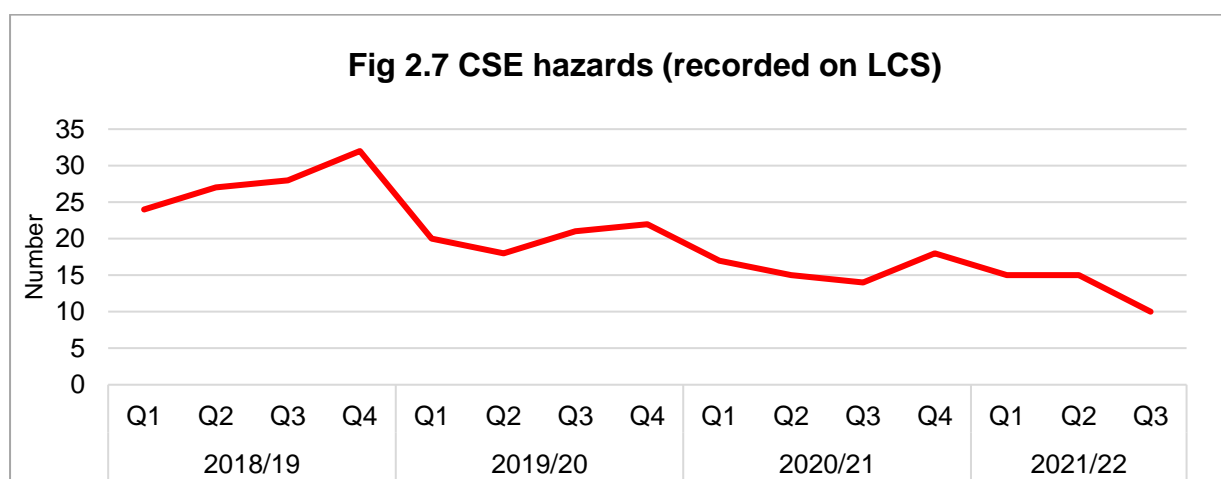
During Quarter 3 2021/22, there were 101 episodes of children going missing which related to 39 individual children who went missing (38% out of all missing episodes). Out of those 39 children, 9 children were children in care, 5% out of the children in care cohort during Q3.

The cumulative percentage of children in care who had a missing episode during 2021/22 is 9% which compares to 11% national average and 12% of our statistical neighbours.



## Child Sexual Exploitation

Fig. 2.7 shows the number of open hazards on the children's recording system (LCS) at the end of each quarter. At the end of Quarter 3 2020/21 there were 10 open child sexual exploitation hazards. This compares to 14 open hazards same time last year



**To note:**

**List of statistical neighbours (from LAIT, updated March 2021)**

- 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

### **AUTHORS**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Support and Safeguarding Team quarterly reports (2016/17 to 2021/22)
- P&C Annual Directorate Statement
- North Somerset Council Corporate Plan