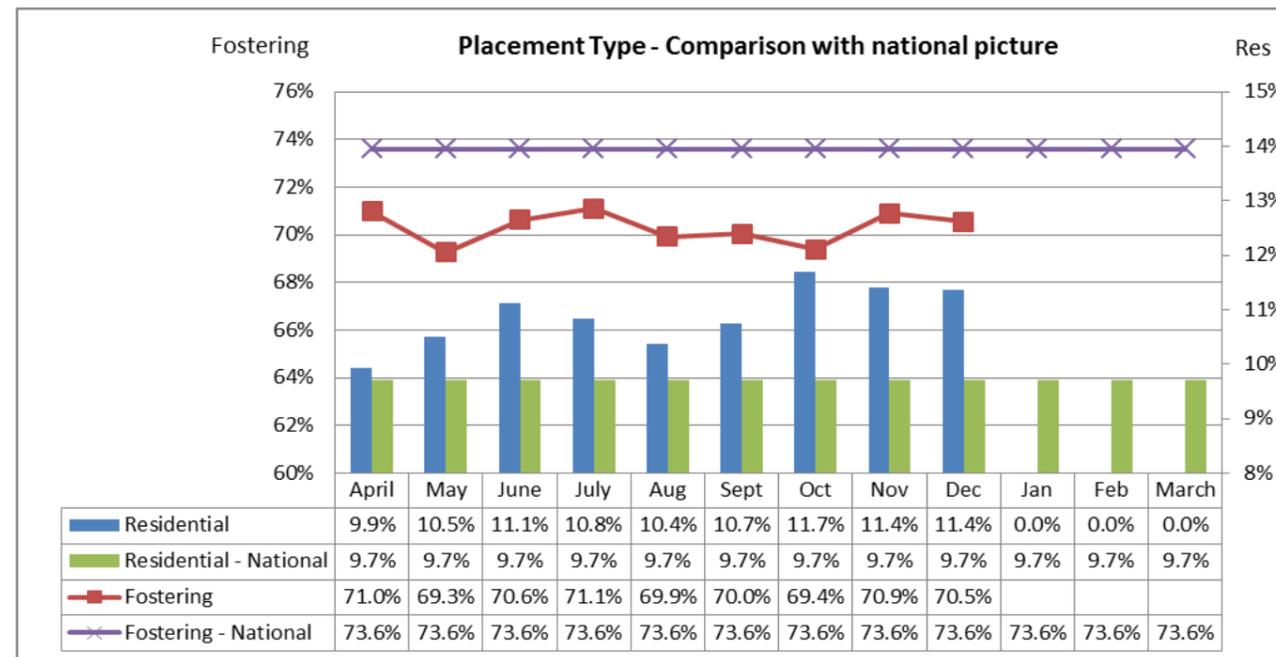


Type of placement - Costs	Ave Unit Cost £ / Week	Number
Agency Residential	3,546	63
Secure Units	0	0
In-house Residential	2,748	25
Independent Fostering Agency	792	231
In-house Fostering	476	189
Kinship Fostering	389	137
Placement Plus	964	4
External Supported Living	858	26
Internal Supported Living	244	20
Internal Supported Living -Complex Needs	1,079	6
Safe Base / Supported Lodging	305	7
Student Accommodation	99	7
Staying Put Arrangements	177	39
TOTAL	954	754



ANALYSIS

Analysis - Family Front Door - Social Work Assessments - 90% of SWA now being completed in 45days and importantly a good range of timelines within this to **reflect proportionate assessments**. A rise in repeat assessment in September is reflective of some past poor decisions making - the role of Targeted Early Help is also significant in this as **"step down" have been insufficient in timeliness and quality** which means families haven't been supported appropriately and needs and risk have re-emerged. Our move to six teams Feb 18 with 1:5 manager: social worker ratios aims to ensure SW receive regular supervision and QA of assessment and decisions.

However challenges at FFD remain with high rates of agency TM/SW; although some good conversations have taken place in response to our Recruitment pay award and the rate of agency has dropped from 65.45% Dec to 60.93% January 18. **Dec17 we appointed to a new post for Group Manager for Targeted Family support** which sits within the social work service - this role alongside the development of our Targeted Early Help offer is crucial priority for us in achieving our vision to help families early and at the lowest level it is safe to do.

Analysis - Child Protection - Following an increase in Child Protection cases post Ofsted, peaking in Aug 17, we have seen a steady reduction in the number of children now at its lowest level year to date at 41 per 10k Dec 17. The overall number is reflected by the pattern September – Dec where more children have been removed from a plan than started.

Thresholds for Intervention – Our Vision - We want to ensure we are supporting parents at the lowest level that it is safe to. do so Whilst we will take protective steps to protect children where they need protection and or where there are no sustained outcomes we will use Targeted Family Support or Children in Need support to support families to sustained positive care for their children. This means as an authority we will see our LAC and CIN numbers rise and our Child Protection numbers drop. It will be important to monitor this through audit but also cross ref KPI being; Repeat Assessments and Children subject to Child Protection Plans. **Outcomes for children on CP plans** - Year to date 22.73% of children being removed from a CP plan is due to them being received into LA care – the majority after 9-15 months on a CP plan. This is reflective of our focused work to review cases at 9mths where there is no clear sustained outcome and significant harm threshold continues to be met. For these cases the Snr Manager holds a Legal Planning Meeting to review threshold for pre and care proceedings. Year to date 74% of children have had CP plan ended due to the Significant Harm threshold no longer being met. **Repeat Child Protection Plan** - We saw a rise in this overall cohort May - July 17 reflective of poor decision making historically where children were removed from plans without either without evidence of improved safety in their CP planning period and or without sufficient support being in place to help families sustain outcomes. The number of children on repeat CP (specifically those within 2yrs) is figure we need to see reduced consistently over the next 18mths to evidence good practice taking place now.

Analysis - Children in Need

Children in Need continue to represent approx. 34 % of our cases open in Safeguarding teams. Approx 55% of our current CIN cases have been open to the service more than 9 months. Our aim is to provide focused CIN intervention within 16 weeks and then to have a review by Snr manager and a decision as to the need to step up or step down preventing drift for these children.

Overall we can see an improvement in the % of children on CIN plans open over 9mths from 15% in Qtr. 1 down to 12% in qtr. 3. Our own case management information by GM/TM though tells us we still have a number of CIN in the system that are in need of closure (work is completed) and a number of CIN co worked by Targeted Family Support and social workers which have been identified through audit and Essex Team Diagnostics as children who's cases need to close to the Social Work Teams as level 3.

Analysis - Missing Children

We are seeing a slight de-crease in the number of children going missing each moth from Home or Care but this is a single month picture and yet to show sustained improvements. Review of management oversight and responses to young people missing completed and new standards . Dec 17 Audit undertaken of 22 missing notifications to review compliance with standards and quality of decision making. Findings TM decision making appropriate 70% where it wasn't appropriate poor rationale/ insufficient ref to historical concerns - No children left at risk - Welfare Return interviews were identified as required but timeliness in these being undertaken and YP engagement in them limited. **Successful appointment of 3 fte dedicated Missing Children**

Officers (who take up post Feb 18) aims to improve timeliness and success rates in completing Welfare Return Interviews for children missing from Home and Care - these staff are managed by CSE lead manager to ensure there is condition of information sharing on risk for CSE and Missing

Analysis -Child Sexual Exploitation

All children are now flagged as CSE in FWI and regular reporting on number currently vulnerable to, experiencing or moved away from risk is available in the CSE This reliable data now gives us a base line and we can identify children with reduced risk as well as review cases of ongoing high through the CSE operational group.

Multi-agency and single agency briefing for staff around best practice in managing and supporting young people (CSE) have been completed and best practice documents from Barnardo's uploaded to practice standards website. **National CSE awareness week** is 18th March and we have a range of activities planned with partners

Analysis - Looked After Children - Children Entering Care and Stability since Sept 17 we have seen more children leaving than entering the care. This has meant our overall numbers of children in our care are stabilising, although we are still higher than Eng./SN. The rise in qtr. 4 (16/17) and qtr. 1 (17/18) is a reflection of protective safeguarding for children who were drifting in pre proceedings and unprotected in drifting child protection plans. The service is dealing with "real time" cases now and as such we don't expect to see a peak rise. (NB peaks in Looked After Children numbers can often follow SCR/Ofsted inspections/public awareness campaigns to protect children from harm) **Reviews and Participation** - we have improved the timeliness of children's Looked after review and are focused on sustain this improvement - we have too many children who don't attend their review in person and this is a focus of the service business plans Our **stability for Children in placements** has improved reducing from 13% of children with 3 or more placements at April 17 down to 10% Dec. The stability of care placement is dependant on appropriate decision making and matching at the point of placement and the support offer to carer and children when things in placement become a challenge.

We continue to have more **children placed out of county 87 children (11%)** then we would like and challenges in identifying placement to meet the complex needs of children entering the care system are also being considered through the regional ADCS and Commissioning forums.

Our number of **children in Residential care** is 11.4% which is higher than the national average of 9.7%. However the number of children in external residential care is an improving picture with 53% in external residential care Dec 16 down to 49% Dec 17. Our percentage of children in **Foster Care placements** is 70.5% which is lower than the national average of 73.6%. A concerning picture continues with the number of our children in external fostering provision increasing from 51% in Dec 16 up to 53% Dec 17. These issues will be reviewed and addressed in a sufficiency strategy for 18/19 and are a focus of our work within the Service improvement plan.

Placement Type and Costs - We have a high number of children in **high cost residential placements** (63) which is the main reason for the significant overspend predicted, with the annual cost being £11.6m which is £5m greater than forecast. Based on the opening financial forecast, it was expected that the number in this type of placement would have reduced to 35 at this point in the year. Delays in developing the in-house service has contributed to this position. The average unit cost of agency residential is increasing and is £798/week higher than internal (£42k/annum/placement).

The numbers of placements with **internal foster carers** has decreased by 5 this month and is much lower than the target and is 11 less than at the start of the year. The number of children in internal fostering and placement plus is lower than expected. The unit cost of IFAs is £316/week higher than internal (£16k/annum/placement).

The number in kinship placements is significantly higher than forecast and stands at 56 higher than at this point last year which reflects the conversations social workers are having with connected people prior to placing with foster carers. The number in non-related internal fostering and placement plus is lower than expected. The unit cost of kinship is £87/week lower than internal £5k / annum / placement)

The costs of **external supported living** is increasing and quality decreasing with most WM LAs reporting a similar position. It is essential we continue with the development of in-house resources in order to provide good quality and cost effective placements to support the development of independence skills for our 17 year olds.

We have 72 young people who are still in a **placement who are over 18**. Some of these are in Staying Put arrangements and some remain in supported living whilst the service works with them