

Agenda

Corporate Parenting Board

Thursday, 27 July 2023, 10.00 am
Worcester Children First Boardroom
(F2:08) County Hall, Worcester

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Corporate Parenting Board

Thursday, 27 July 2023, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Membership:

Cllr Andy Roberts (Chairman)	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Rob Adams	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Lynn Denham	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Lucy Harrison	Redditch Borough Council
Cllr Matt Jenkins	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Matthew Lamb	Worcester City Council
Cllr Steve Mackay	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Fran Oborski	Wyre Forest District Council
Cllr Christine Wild	Malvern District Council
Vacancy	Bromsgrove District Council

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies	
2	Confirmation of the Minutes	1 - 6
3	Marley's poetry	
4	Feedback on the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection	Verbal report
5	Children's participation	Verbal report
6	Quarterly Data, Q4 2022-23	7 - 24
7	Information items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dudley Youth Award Winner's story 	
8	Future Meeting Dates Dates 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 4 October 2023 • Tuesday 21 November 2023 	
9	Any Other Business	

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All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website

Date of Issue: Tuesday 18 July 2023

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Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board

County Hall, Worcester

Tuesday, 31 January 2023, 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Andy Roberts (Chairman), Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Matthew Lamb, Cllr Steve Mackay, Cllr Nyear Nazir, Cllr Fran Oborski and Cllr Margaret Sherrey

Also attended:

Thomas Bourne, Charlie English-Peach, Alice Gillett, Kate Griffiths, Rebecca Haywood-Tibbetts, Adam Johnston, Dr David Lewis, James MacDonald, Laura Marshall, Celena Rossano, Tina Russell and Matthew Stiles

314 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Lynn Denham, Cllr Rob Adams, Bev Downing and Debbie Stokes.

315 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of 29 November 2022 were accepted to be a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

A Member of the Board felt that with any illegal placements (minute 309), it was important to state that any each placement which was used to place a child, was checked by a social worker.

316 Virtual School Annual Report

Matthew Stiles, the Virtual School Head Teacher, summarised the Worcestershire Virtual School Annual Report 2021-22. Having a Virtual School Head Teacher was a statutory duty and they supported the increasing number of children who are looked (CLA) and previously looked after, for up to six years after they were looked after. It was important to promote the needs of this cohort in order to work towards closing the achievement gap with other young people.

Personal Education Plans were produced, looking at wellbeing as well as academic progress, with targets being produced so that outcomes could be

Corporate Parenting Board Tuesday, 31 January 2023
Date of Issue: 03 February 2023

measured. Most children and young people (CYP) in the cohort attended schools with a good or outstanding rating, and there was a robust protocol in place to assess any 'settings of concern' to assess whether it would be best to move a child or not.

Good progress had been made in academic progress, but attendance levels were not as good as with the general population of children; although figures for Autumn 2022 were better than for Autumn 2021.

A spike in the numbers of exclusions and suspensions was causing some concern and the Virtual School was working with schools to get exclusions rescinded if possible.

How schools were using the pupil premium plus grant was assessed and Worcestershire was taking part in the pilot for the 16+ pupil premium plus grant and were finding that it was making a difference. It was hoped that by showing that it was important that the funding would remain.

Matthew responded to various questions from Board members:

- The numbers of CLA who were electively home educated were kept to a minimum.
- With regard to CLA gaining places in schools, Learning Advocates worked with the Admissions Team to try to find the best placement for a child, although CLA already had a high priority on the oversubscription criteria. If a suitable school with places could not be identified within a reasonable distance of where the child was living, the Local Authority had the power to direct an oversubscribed maintained school to take a CLA.
- When it was queried if those children being refused admission to schools were more likely to be neurodiverse, it was explained that schools were being trained to become Trauma and Attachment Aware Schools and were rated dependent on whether they were Thrive trained.
- It was agreed that it was difficult for schools to rescind exclusions in some instances, but work was being done 'upstream' with prevention work with schools and individual children to reduce the likelihood of exclusions being necessary.

In the current year the Virtual School Team had been working hard on more efficient ways of working, working on pastoral care with Trauma Aware Schools and raising educational attainment of CLA in schools.

317 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Update

Alice Gillett, Through Care Group Manager, updated the Board on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). There were currently 82 UASC in Worcestershire, compared to 29 a year ago. Some arrived spontaneously, some from the National Transfer Scheme and some were placed in hotels and then presented as being under 18. The Transfer scheme became mandatory in February 2022 after some areas such as Kent became

overwhelmed. Of the under 18 population in Worcestershire 0.065% were UASC. If the figure rises to 0.1% of the population Worcestershire would not have to take more under the transfer scheme.

Any UASC under the age of 16 have the same Virtual School, reviewing officer and other support as any other child who was looked after. Social Workers were being trained to work with UASC and appreciate their individual cultural needs as well as being able to assess age. UASC would be supported with their emotional health and wellbeing. If there were any trafficking concerns the usual referral processes would be followed.

Hillview, an 8 bedroom building in Malvern, which was not being utilised, was now being used for UASC. Support was being organised to go into the building, a collaboration between health and social care and each individual would have their own social worker and Independent Reviewing Officer.

A discussion took place about how some young people who were obviously children could be assessed as being an adult. It was clarified that the Local Authority had challenged some of the decisions being made at the ports, and Serco were training their hotel staff in safeguarding to ensure that they knew the right route to report any concerns.

Board members asked various questions:

- When asked if UASC were educated about the dangers of trafficking it was explained that Support Workers would start by asking the story of the young person's journey and through that any risks would be identified. Policies for CLA were being amended to ensure they included UASC.
- If UASC became at risk of County Lines and were targeted and recruited would the young person be treated as a suspect or a victim, because as Corporate Parents the Board wished to ensure that they could do their best for the children who were looked after. It was explained that the Partners would need to make a view on each case and it would depend on the level of crime.
- The Chairman asked if there should be a CPB Champion for UASC.

It was confirmed that USAC were incorporated into CLA teams rather than being dealt with separately. There was a specialist UASC Social Worker to ensure that the whole workforce was aware of the issues around UASC. It had been queried whether USAC would be willing to explain their experiences, but it was pointed out that that would give the view of an individual and it would perhaps be better to collect targeted feedback from the cohort.

318 Apprenticeships

James MacDonald, Practice Manager, Throughcare, reminded the Board that one of the Pledges to Looked After Children and Care Leavers was to encourage and support learning and development of life skills. He explained that in the commissioning process every prospective tender for contracts with the County Council must now state how employment and training opportunities for Care Leavers would be provided. WCF officers were working with the

Commissioning Team to ensure they understood the needs of Care Leavers and processes were being developed to enable the commitments made in the contracts to be monitored.

Moving forward, an employer's event was planned for the summer to launch the Care Leavers Covenant. By signing up to the covenant, businesses would be committing to support Care leavers by offering discounts or work experience. It was confirmed that any organisation or business could sign up to the Covenant, whether they were statutory bodies or large or small businesses. Once signed up support would be available through the Care Leavers Covenant website.

Other actions included the Care Leavers Team working with the Skills and Investment team, and also the Apprenticeship Team Manager to increase opportunities for Children in Care and Care Leavers. Bromsgrove and Redditch District Councils were working to develop a Care Leavers employment offer and it was anticipated other District Councils would also get involved.

319 Alfie's Poem

Celena Rossano, Participation Support Worker, explained that the Chair of Speak Out had suggested a book of poetry written by Care Leavers could be produced. The Rees Foundation agreed to support the idea and arranged for a workshop to take place and then a book of poetry written by care experienced people. Charlie read the poem written by Alfie 'Missing Words'.

The Chairman suggested that a letter to say well done should be sent to Alfie.

320 2022-23 Q3 Datasheet

The Board noted the datasheet and Members were told to look at the information for their areas and ask for further details if they had any questions or concerns.

321 Information Items

Fun Day

Celena Rossano announced that the next Looked After Children's Fun Day would take place on Sunday 16 July, 11.00am to 3.00pm at Perdiswell's Young People's Centre.

Members of the Board who had attended the Fun Day in 2022, enjoyed the event and found it was good to see the young people and meet their Foster Carers.

If anyone would be available to help please contact Celena.

Utelka

Utelka, a 21 year old Care Leaver, who had recently graduated, had her song played on Radio one in the week leading up to Christmas. The song was played to the Board at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman wished for a letter of congratulation to be sent to Utelka.

Councillor update

Councillors Nyear Nazir and Margaret Sherrey announced that they would be standing down at the District Elections so this would be their last meeting. They were thanked for their input and support of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Update on Health Assessments

An update was given about the numbers of up to date Health Assessments. There has been a problem with capacity to complete health assessments but three public health nurses and more admin support have recently been recruited so it was hoped that the percentage of up to date health assessments would be improved. Social Workers were being encouraged to request health assessments in a timely manner and the Integrated Care Board were working to ensure the assessments were taking place. Meetings between Health and WCF were happening regularly to assess if things were improving. A report would be brought to the next meeting.

322 Future Meeting Dates

Future meeting dates were:

- Thursday 11 May 2023
- Tuesday 11 July 2023
- Wednesday 4 October 2023
- Tuesday 21 November 2023

The meeting ended at 3.15pm

Chairman

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District Profiles

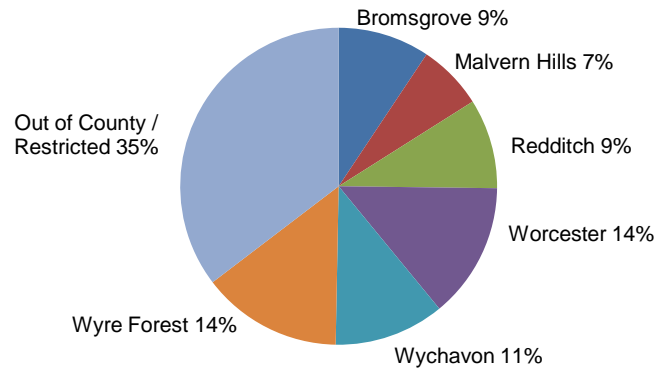
Looked After Children

(Children who are in the care of the Local Authority and for whom the Council has corporate parent responsibility)

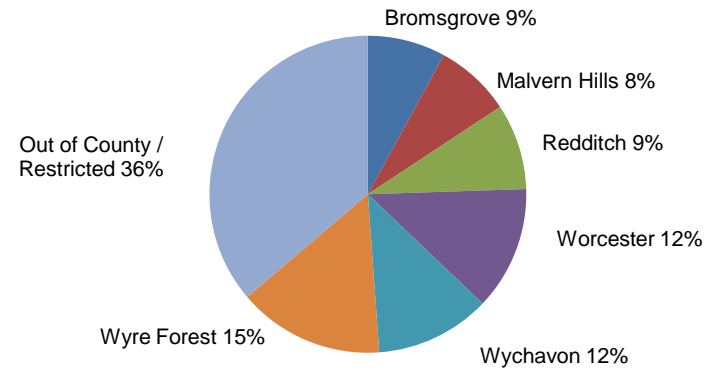
Looked After Children by District of Placement Postcode



Dec 2022

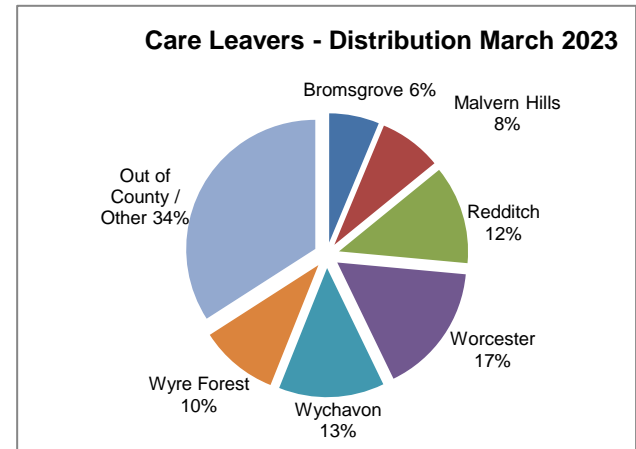
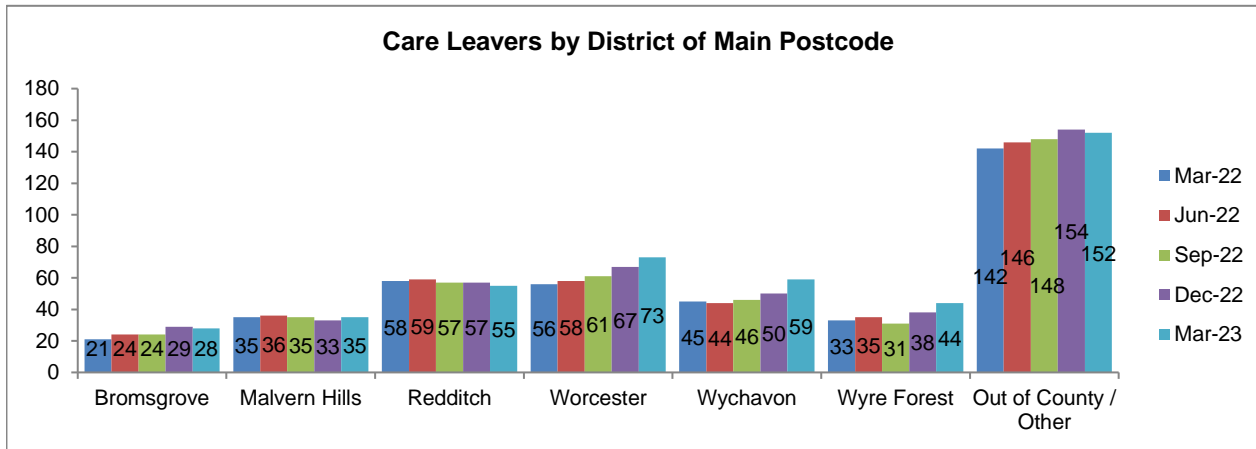


Mar 2023



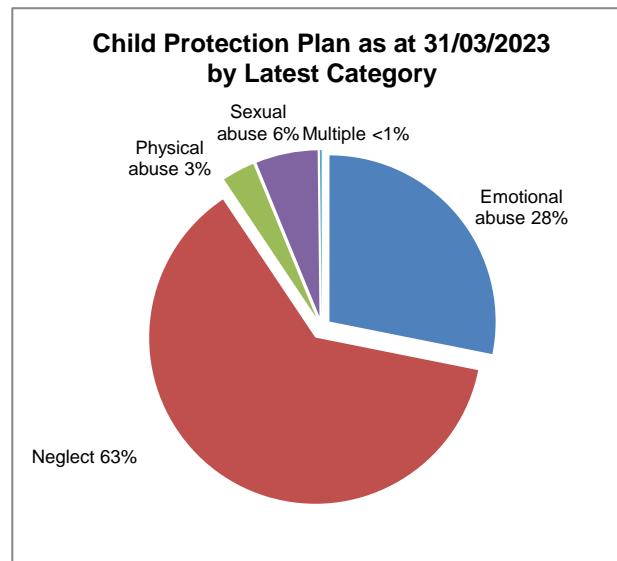
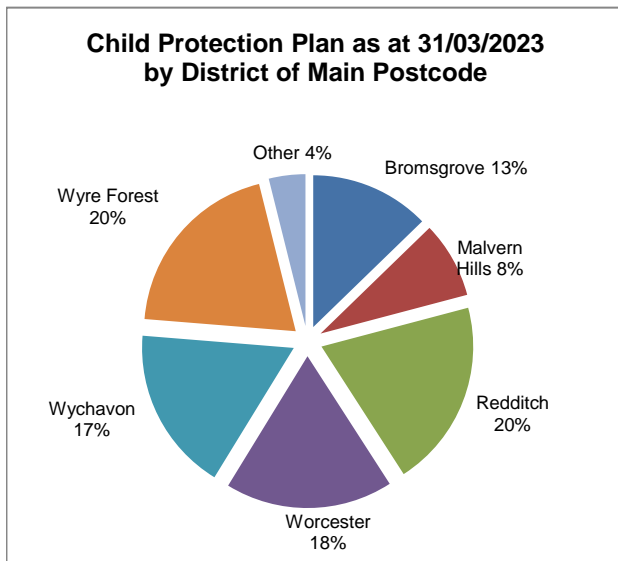
N.B. Numbers below 10 have been suppressed in charts

Care Leavers



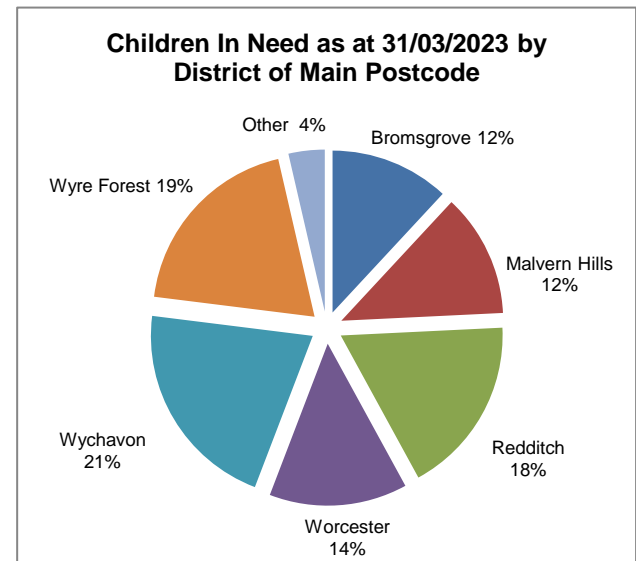
Child Protection

(Children who meet the threshold for significant harm and are subject to a Child Protection Plan)

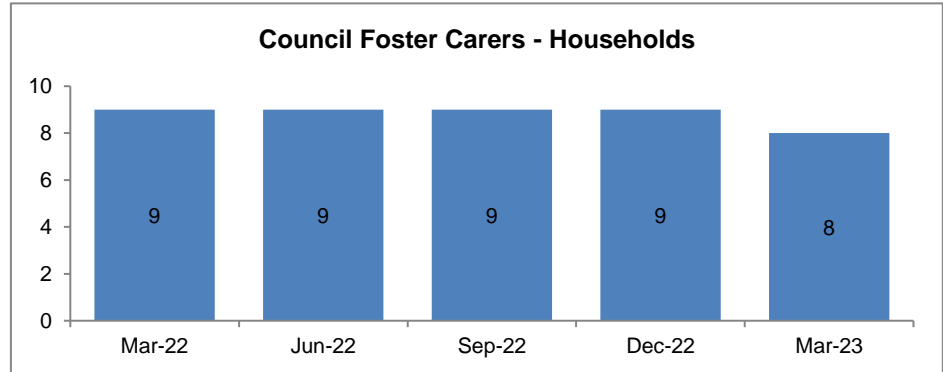
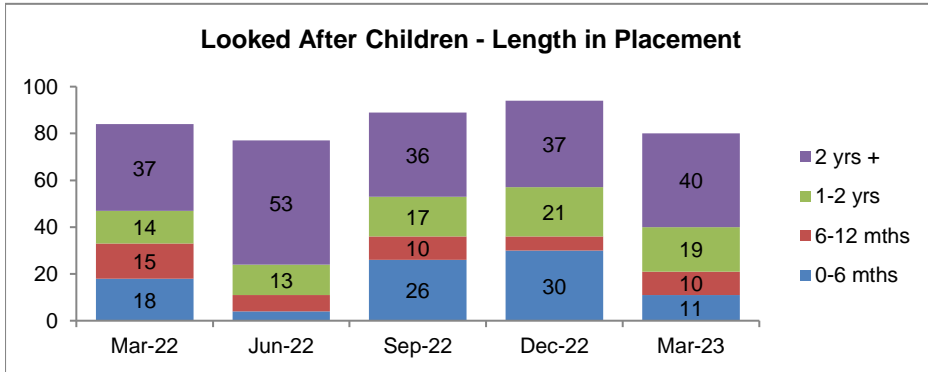
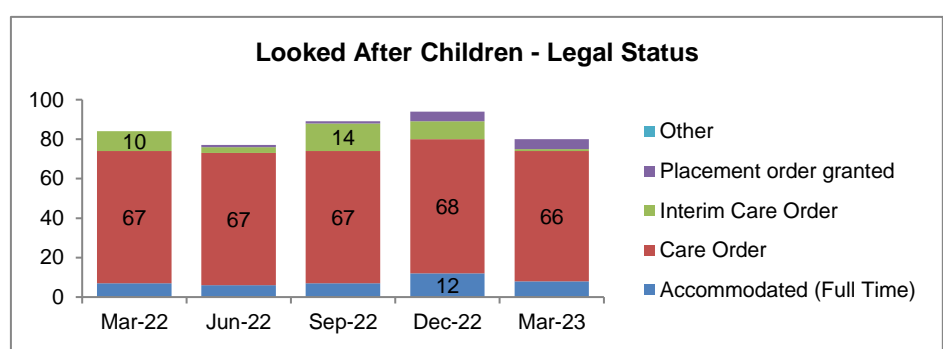
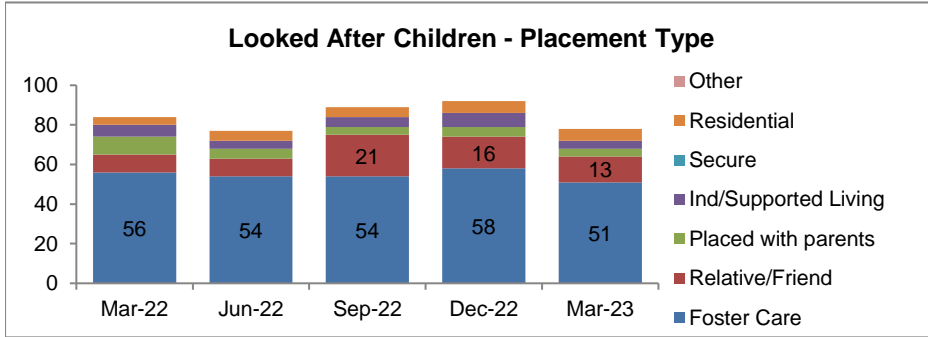
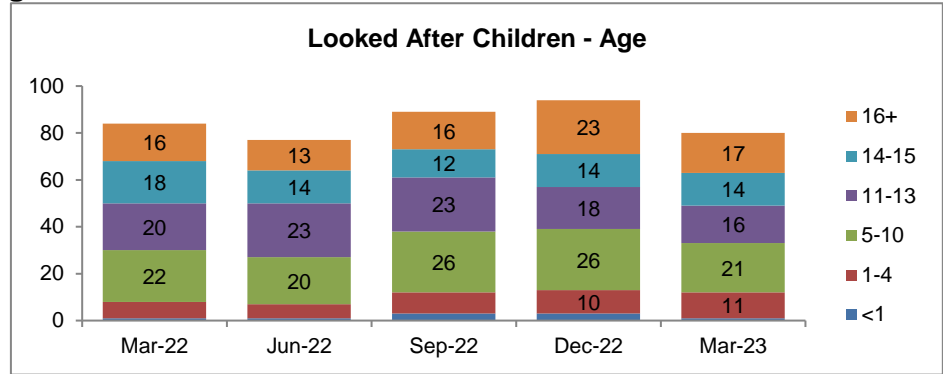
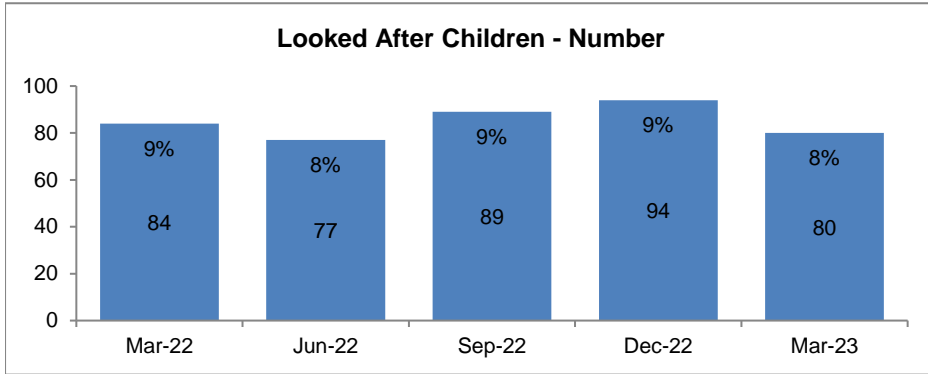


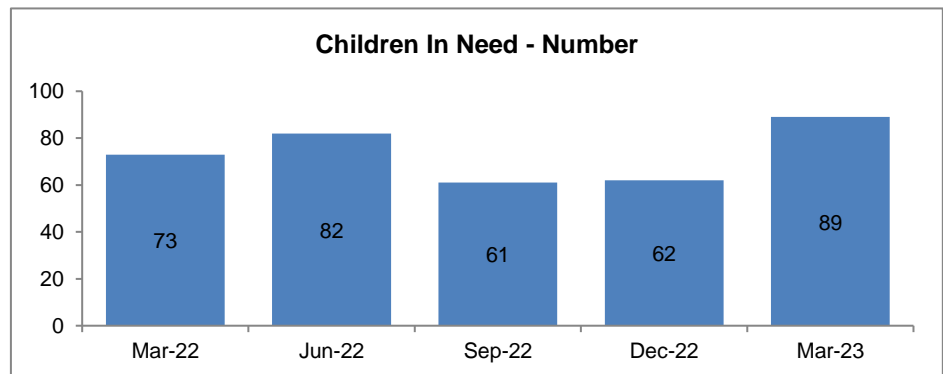
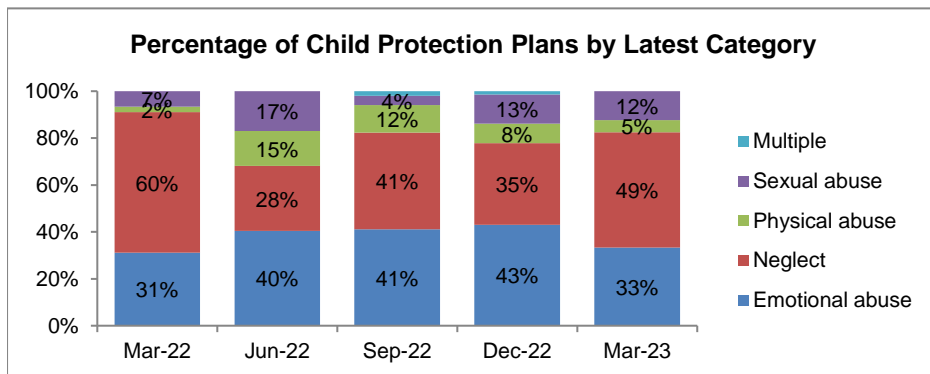
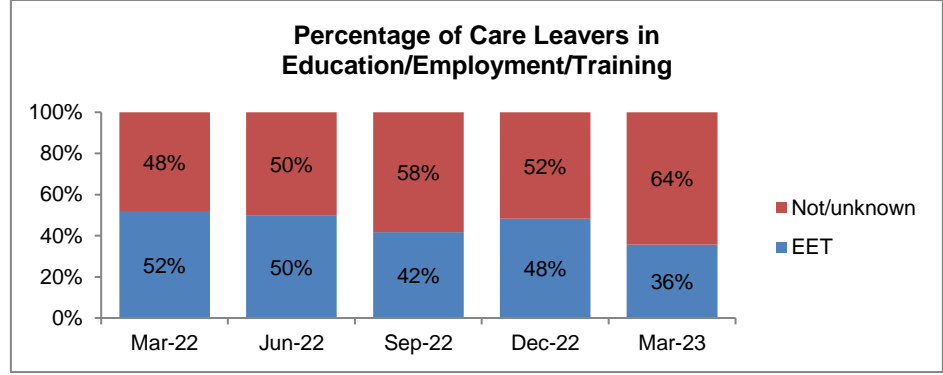
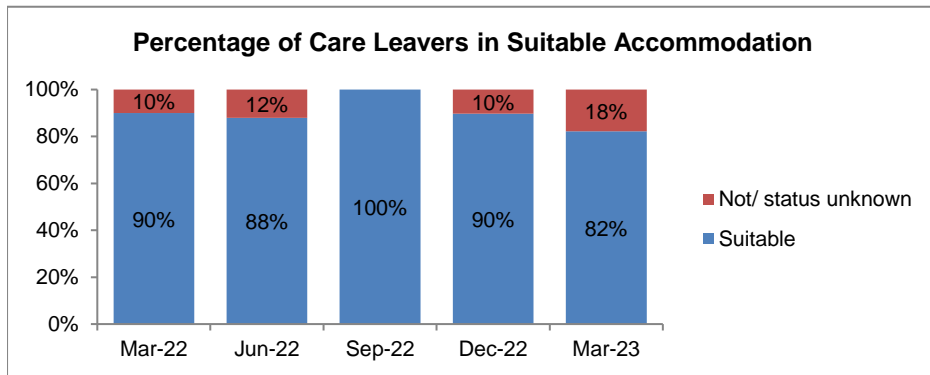
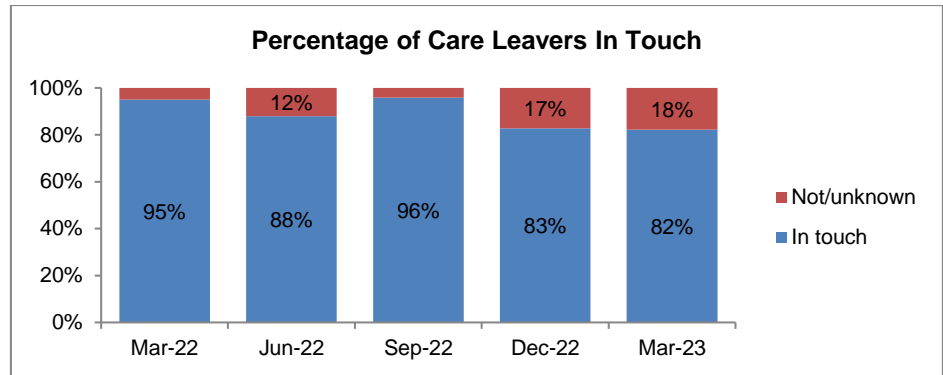
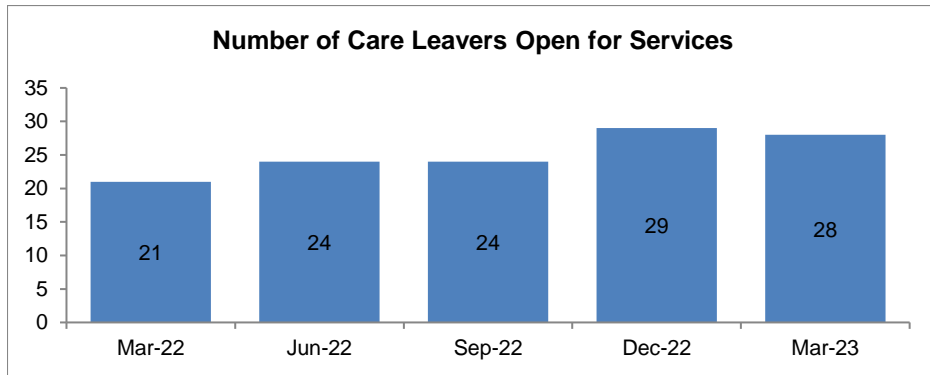
Children in Need

(Children who are open to Social Work intervention and are not Looked After or on a Child Protection Plan)

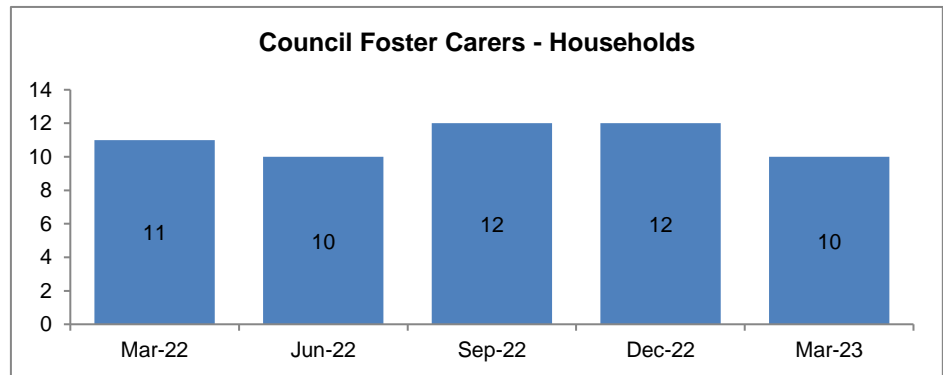
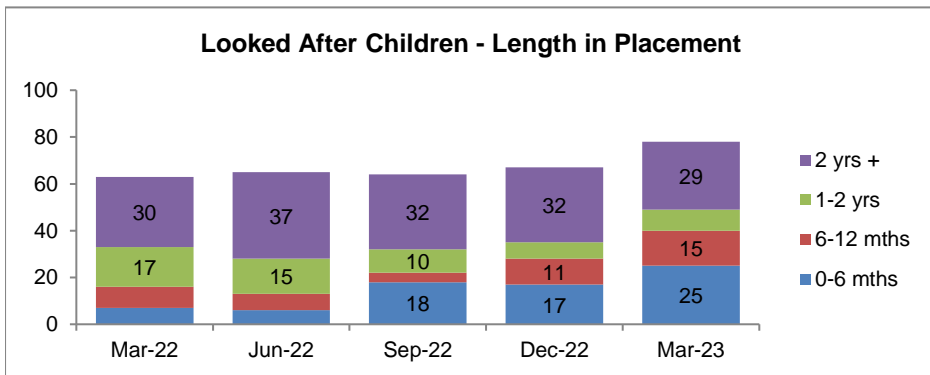
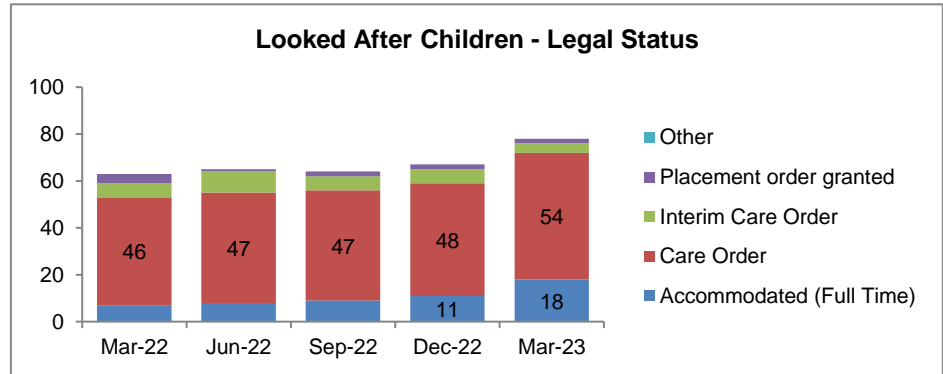
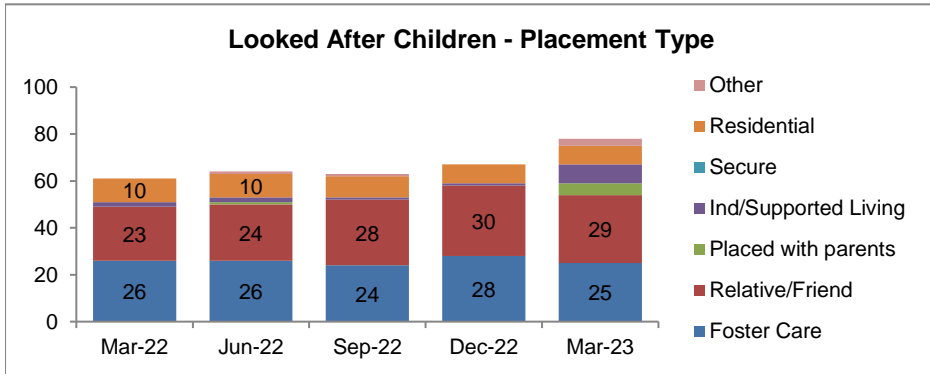
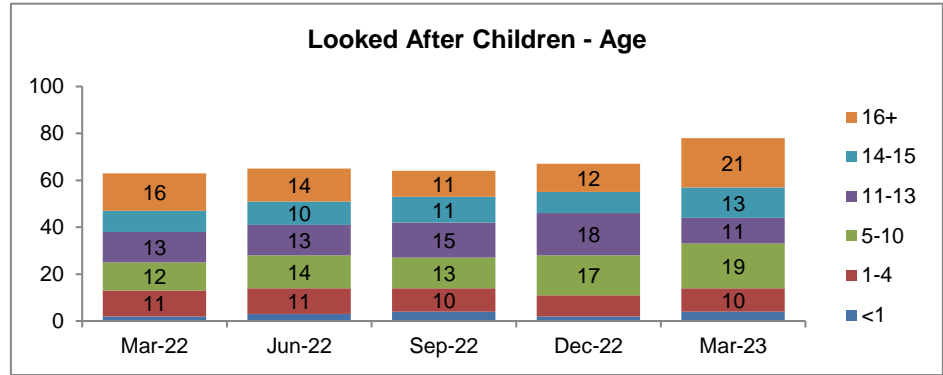
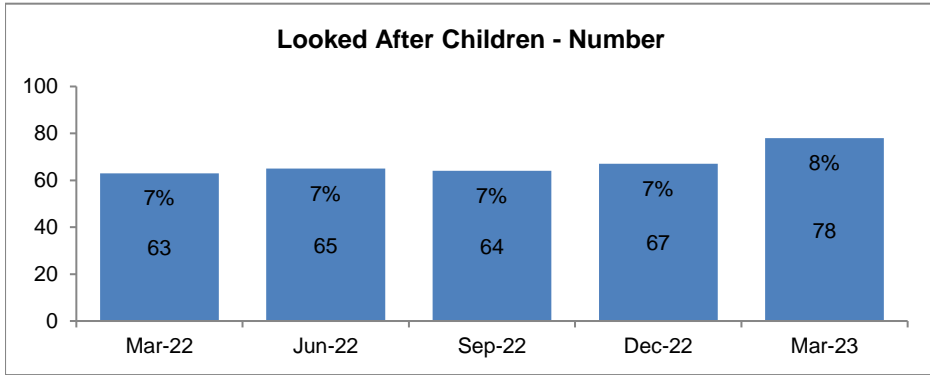


Bromsgrove

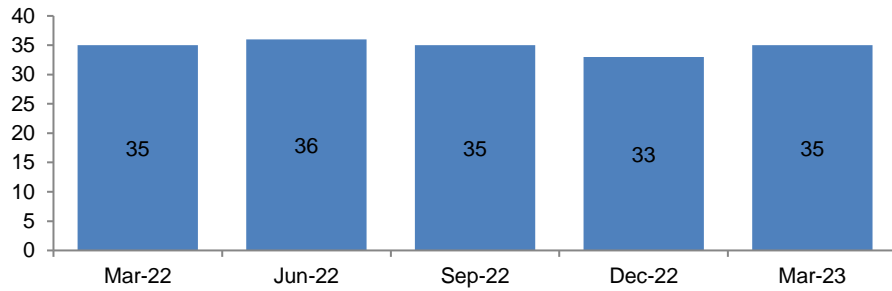




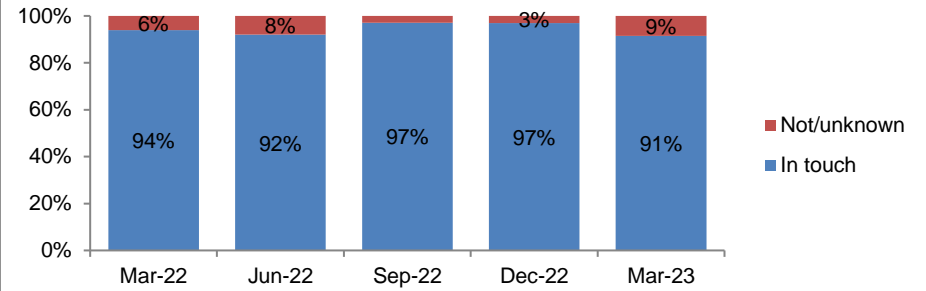
Malvern



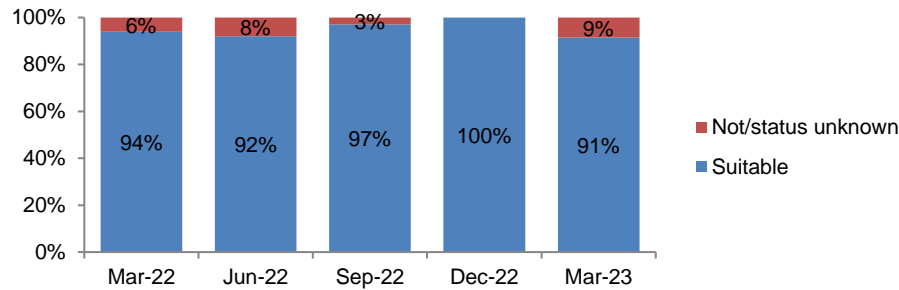
Number of Care Leavers Open for Services



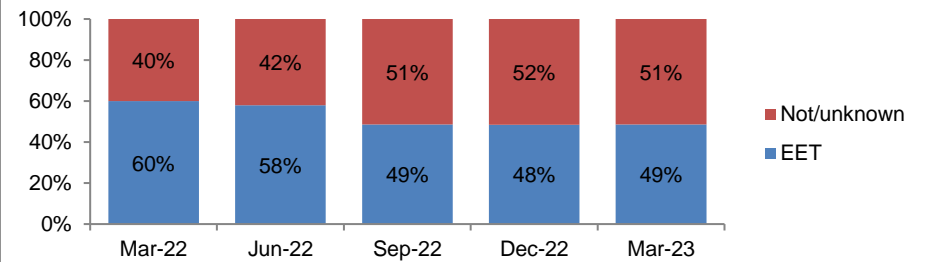
Percentage of Care Leavers In Touch



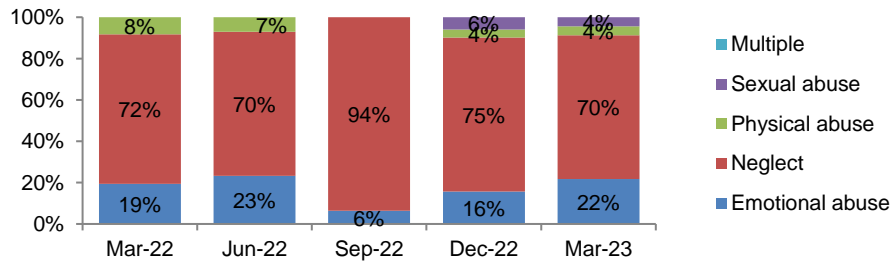
Percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



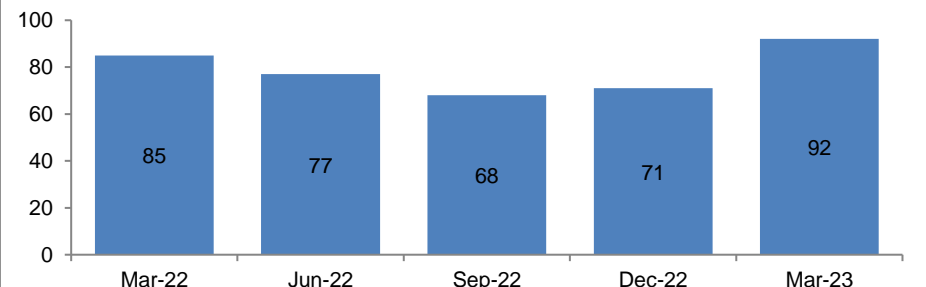
Percentage of Care Leavers in Education/Employment/Training



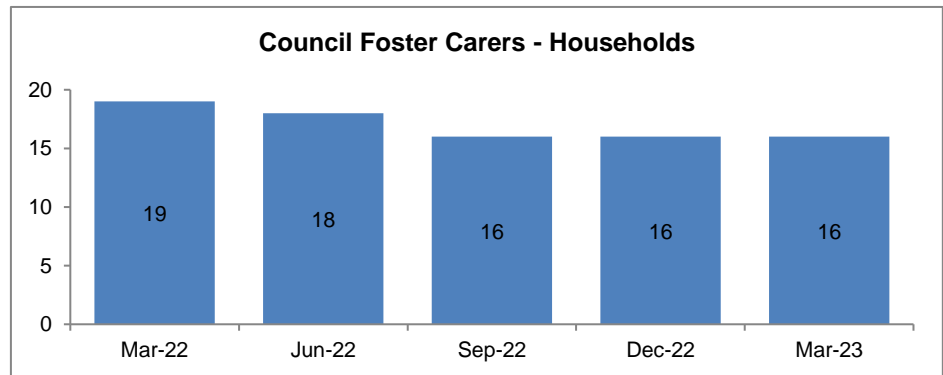
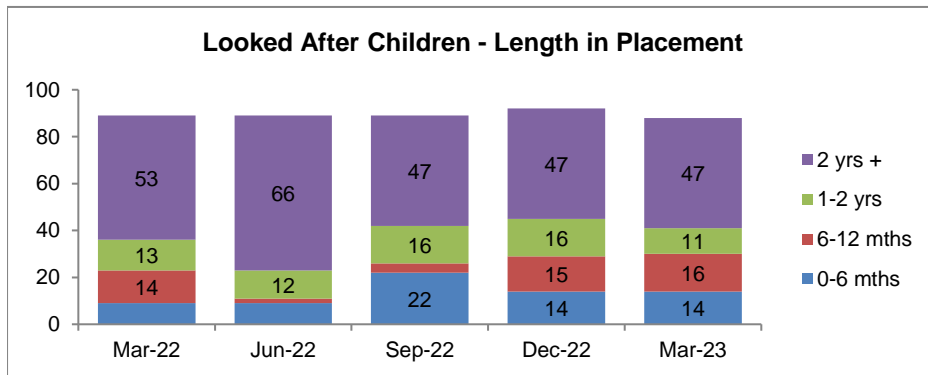
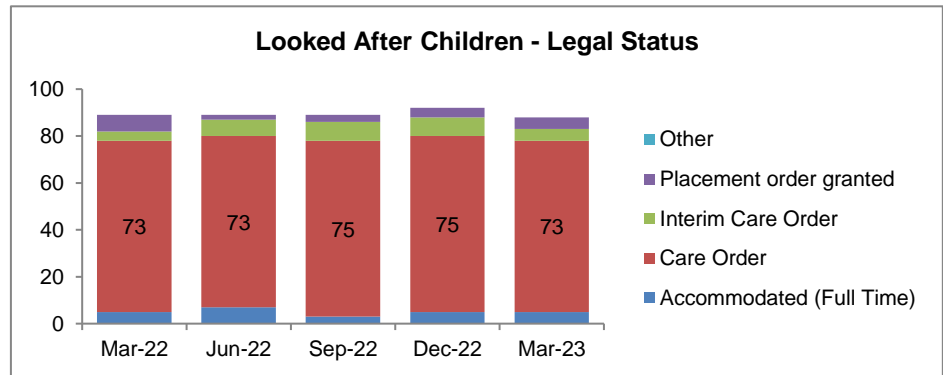
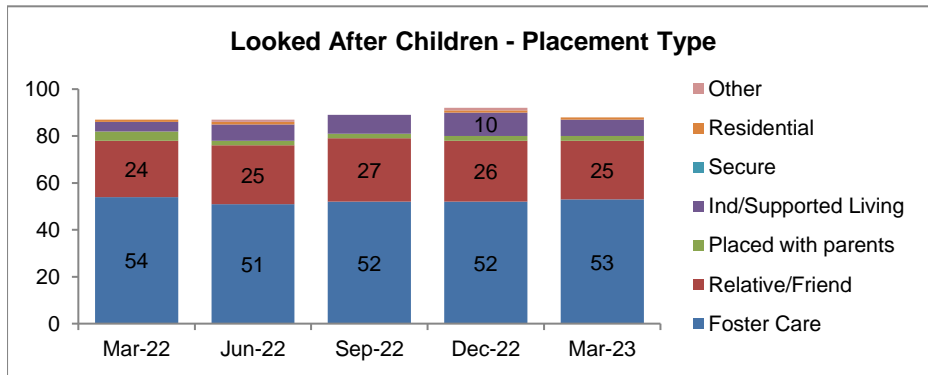
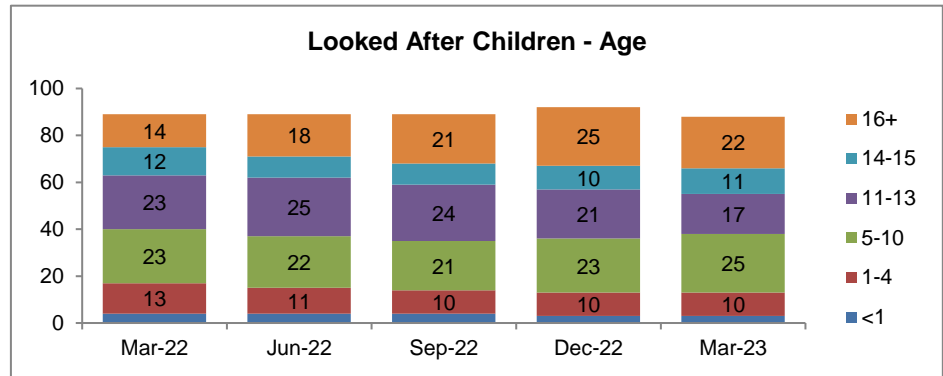
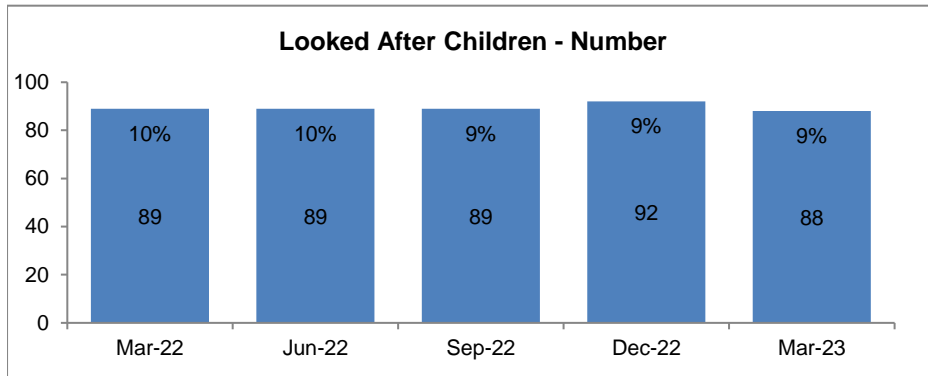
Percentage of Child Protection Plans by Latest Category



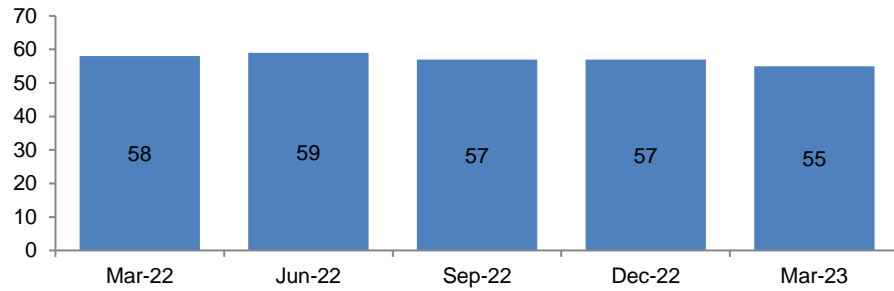
Children In Need - Number



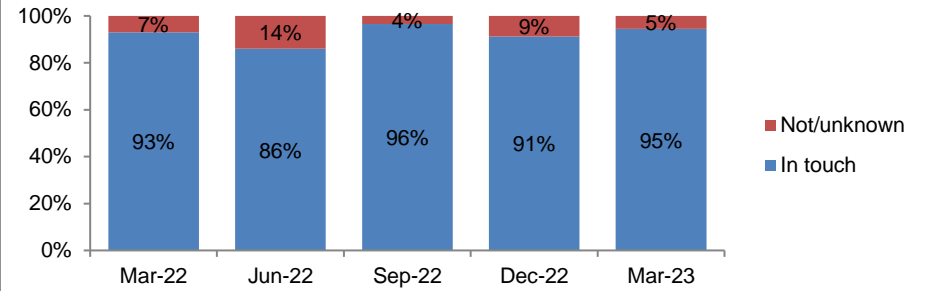
Redditch



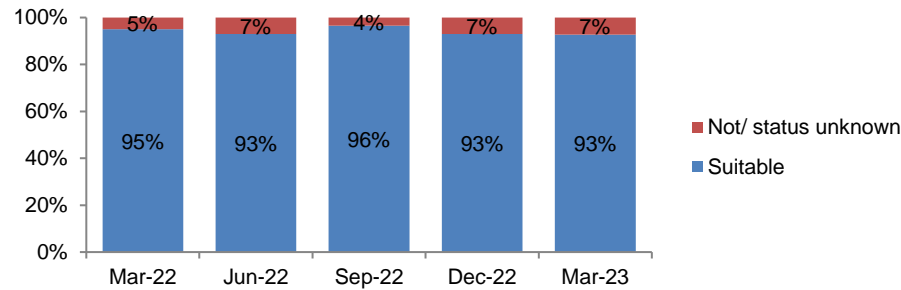
Number of Care Leavers Open for Services



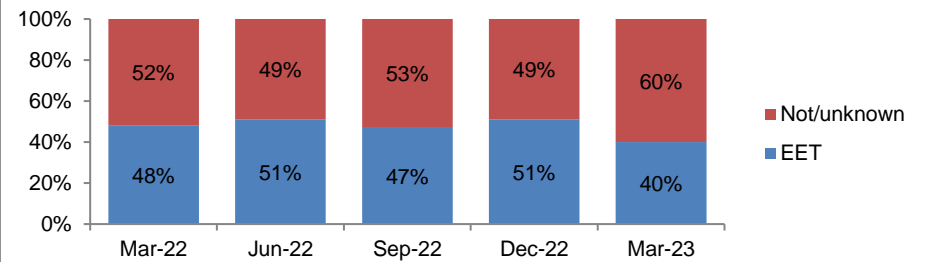
Percentage of Care Leavers In Touch



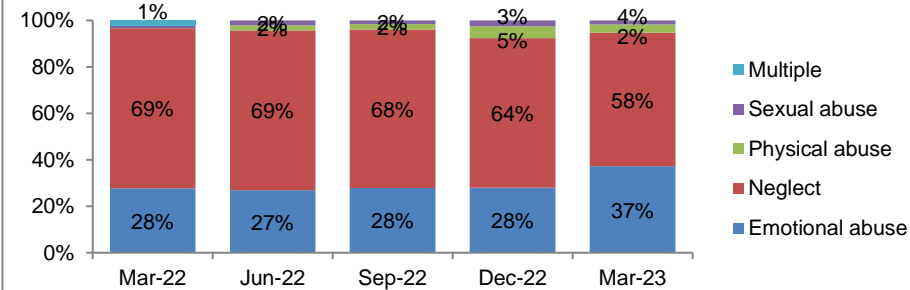
Percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



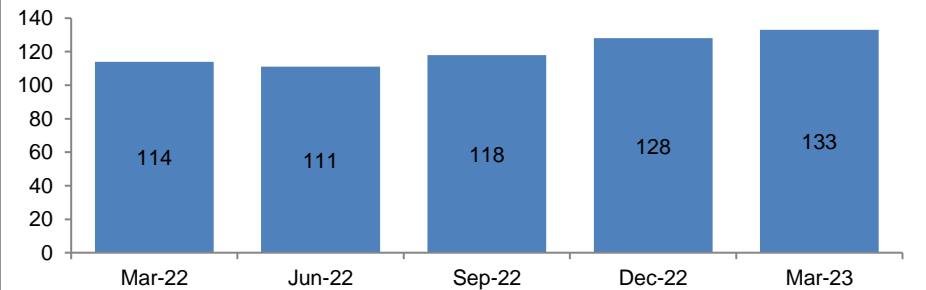
Percentage of Care Leavers in Education/Employment/Training



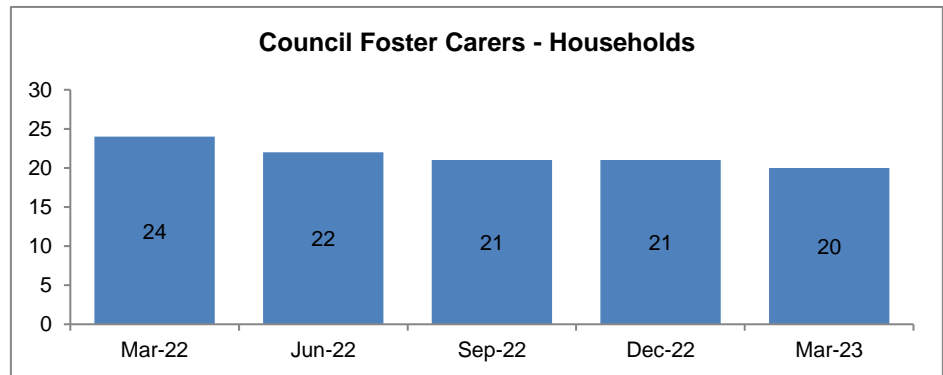
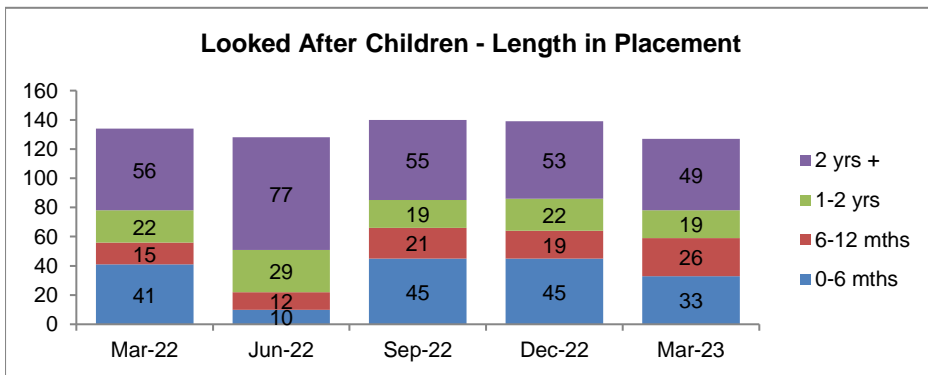
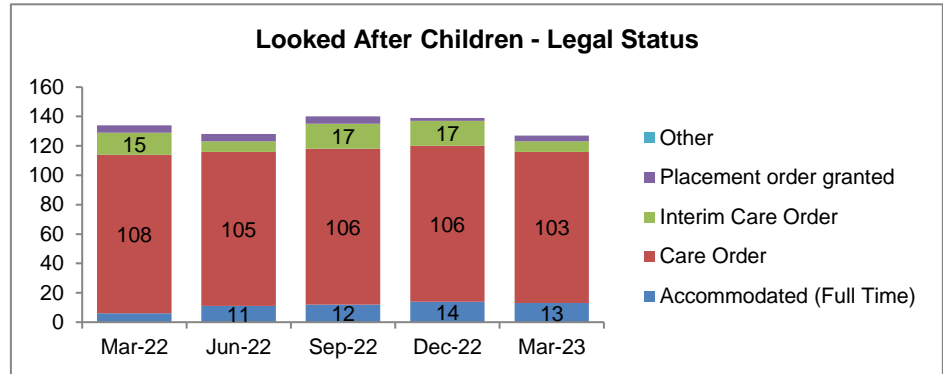
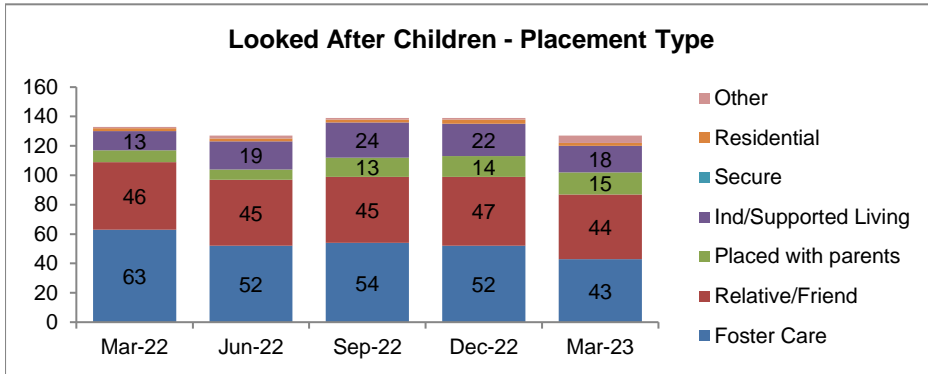
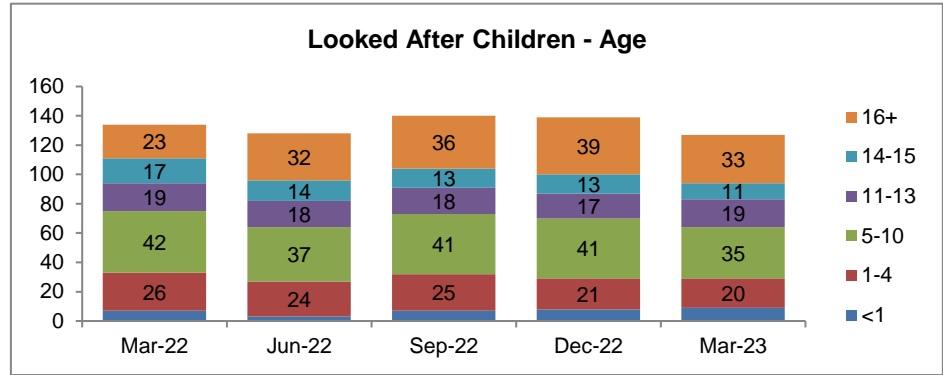
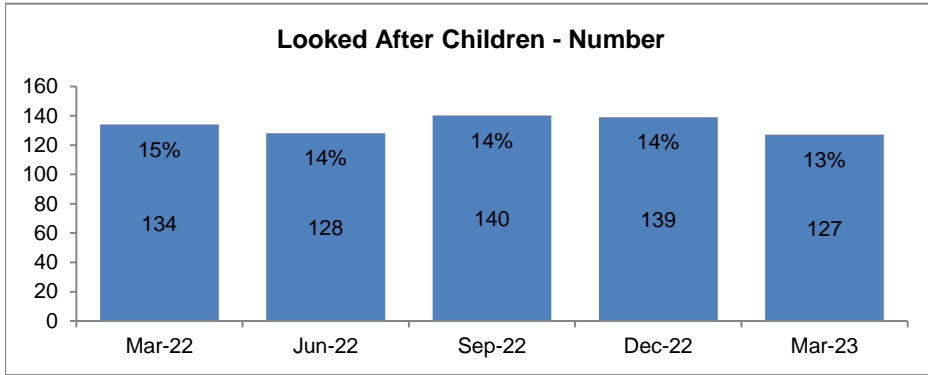
Percentage of Child Protection Plans by Latest Category

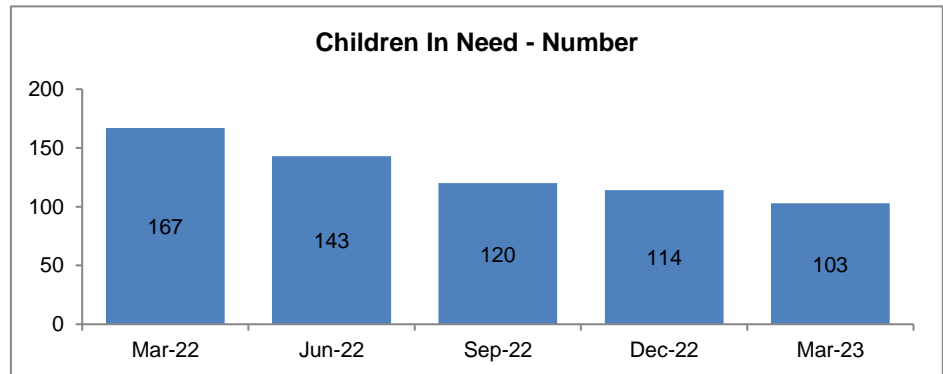
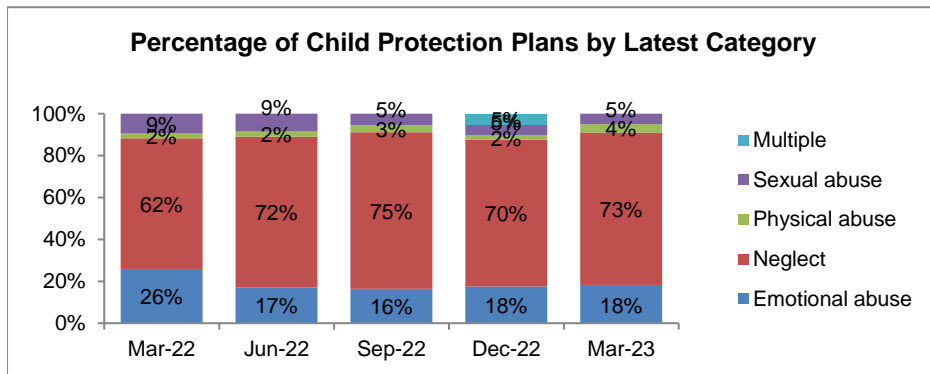
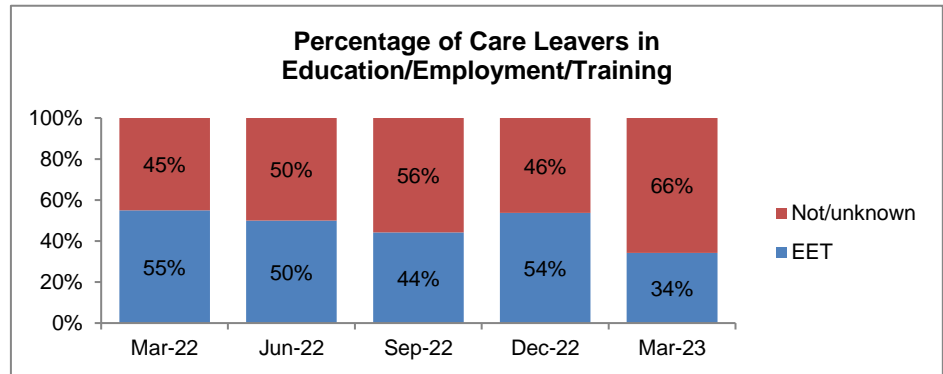
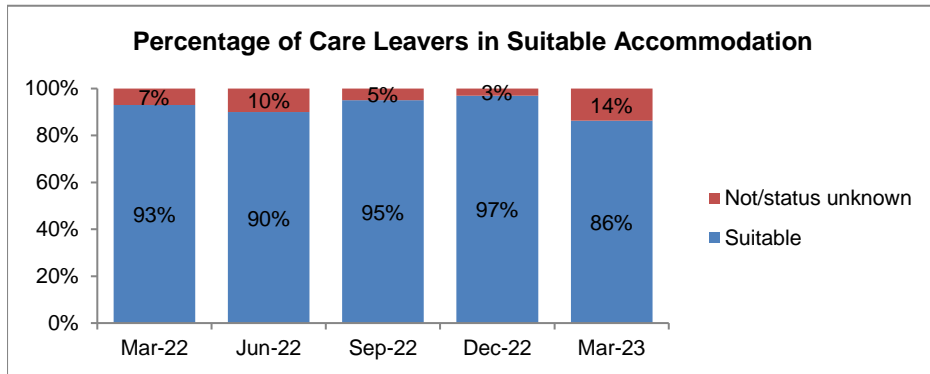
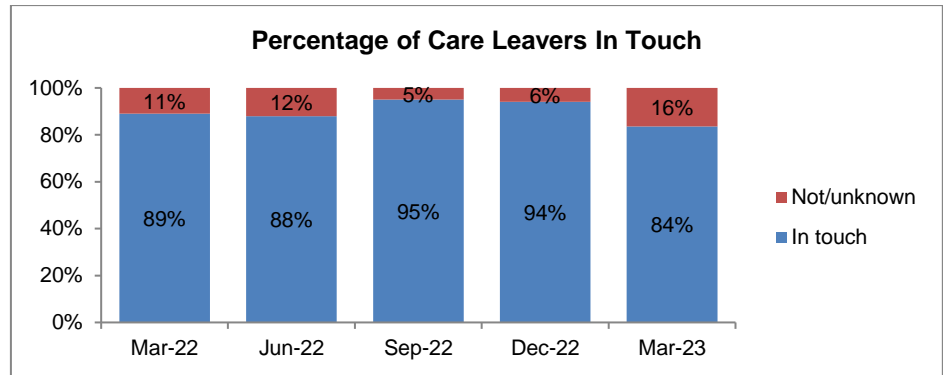
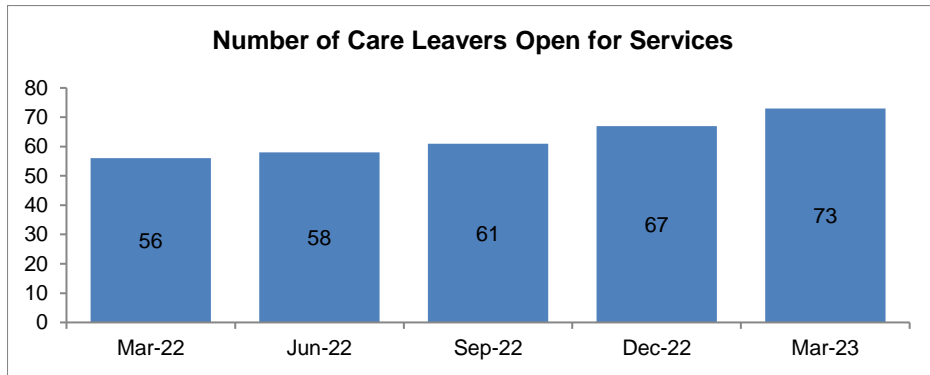


Children In Need - Number

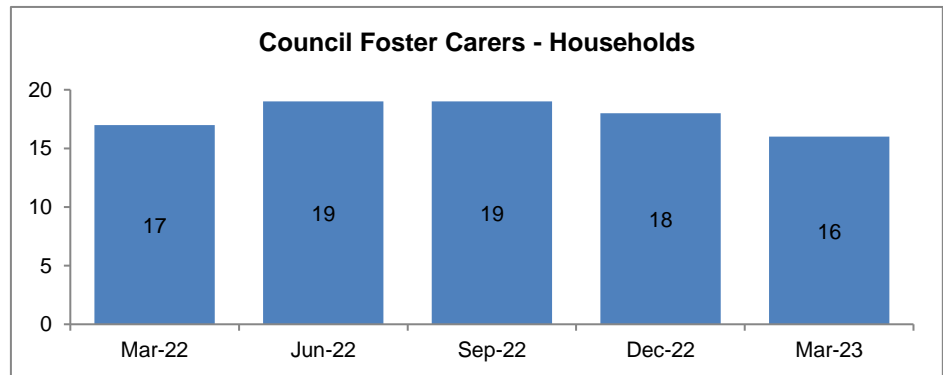
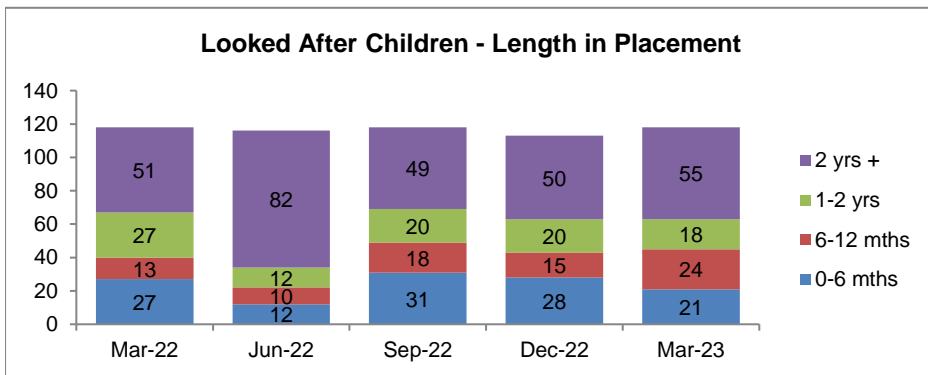
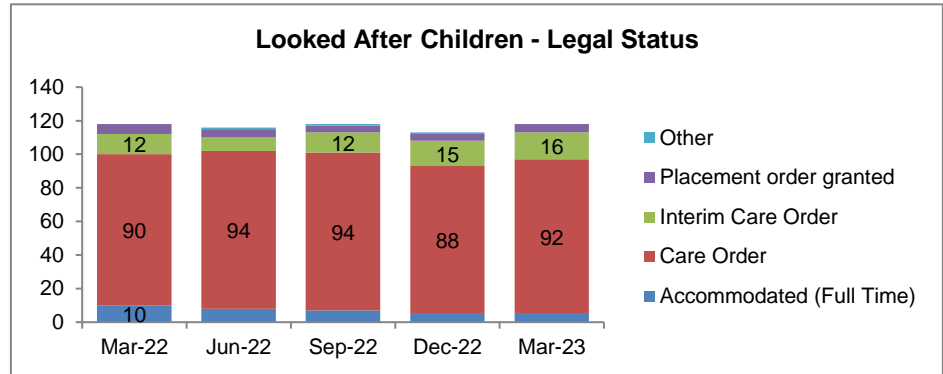
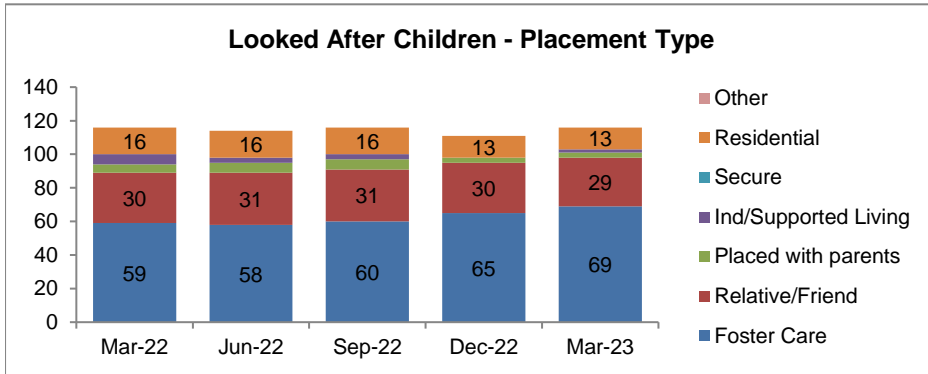
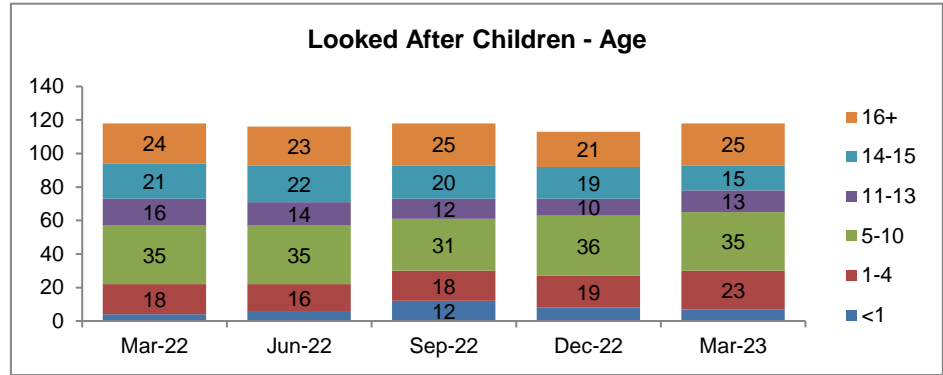
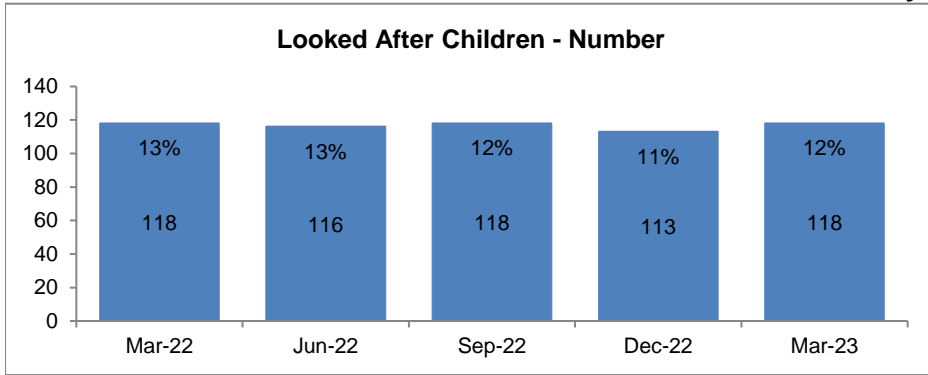


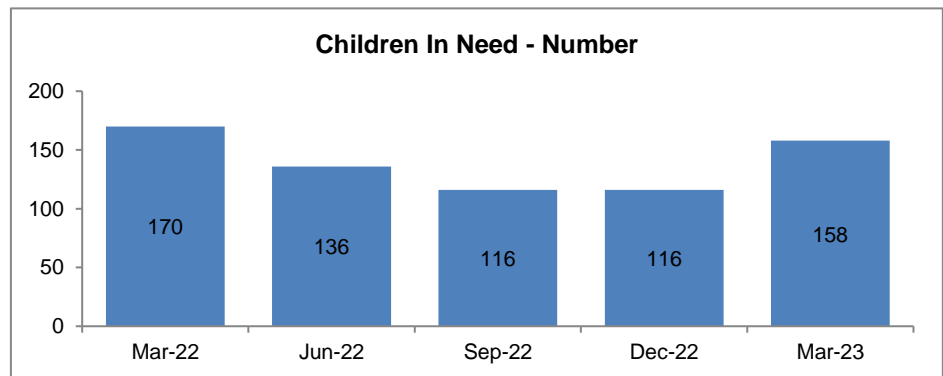
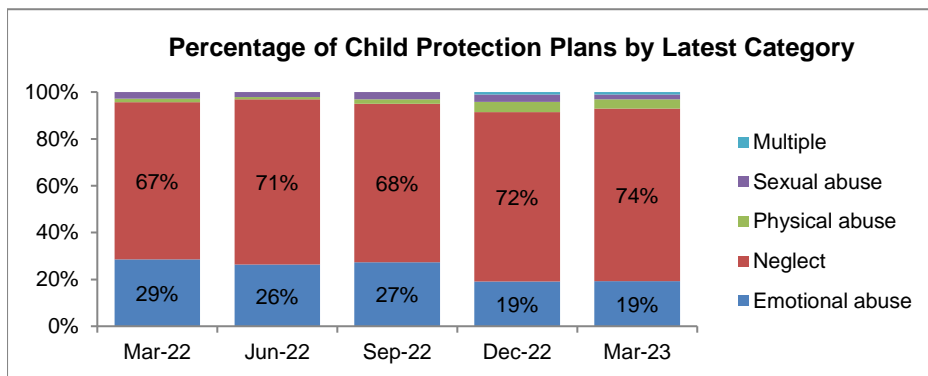
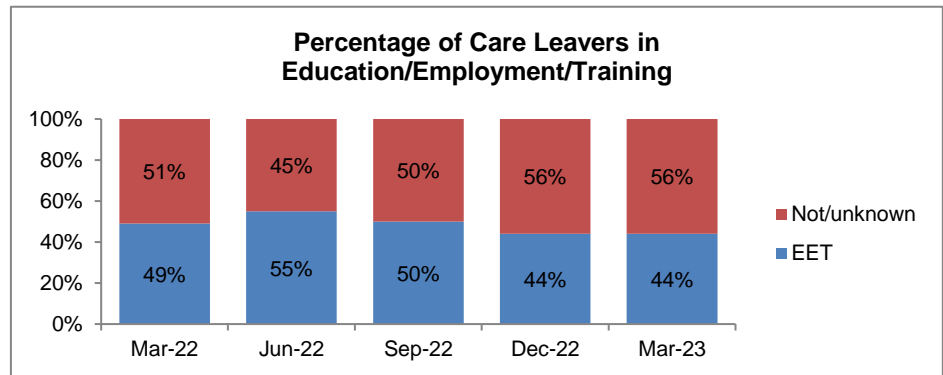
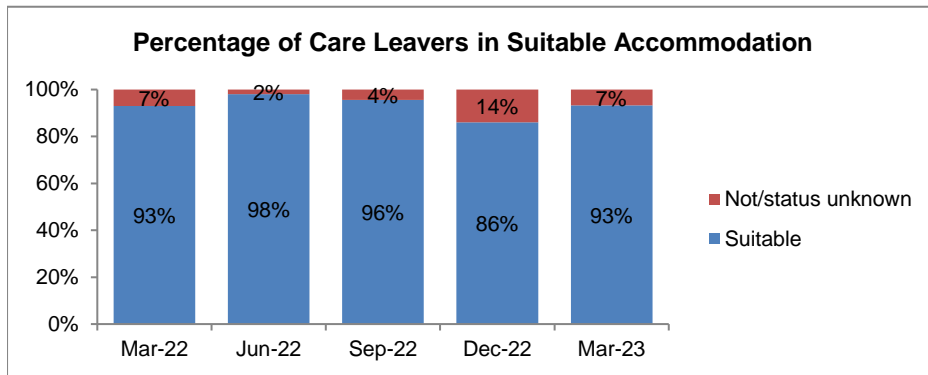
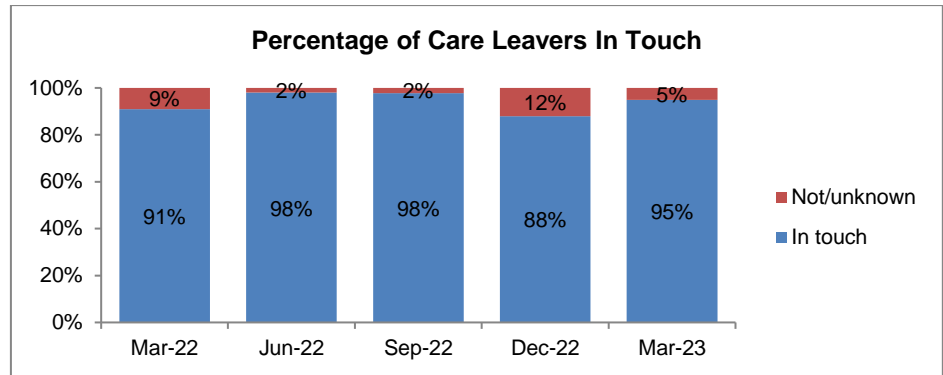
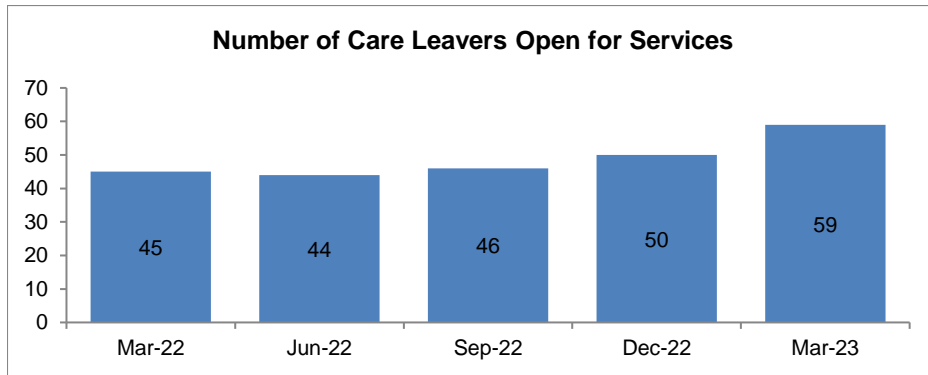
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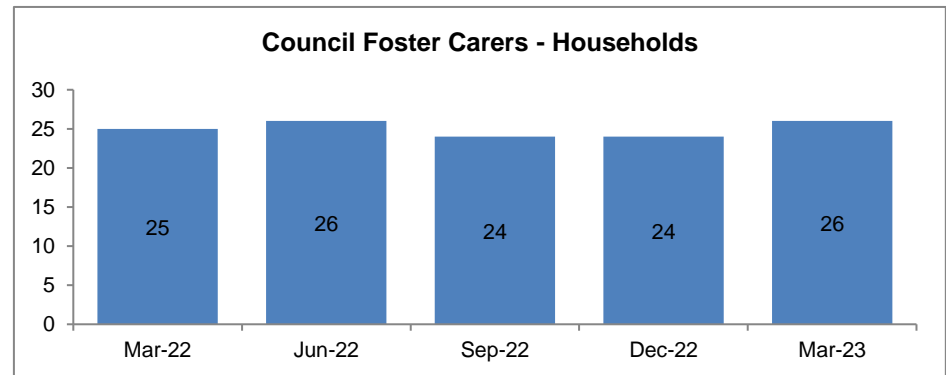
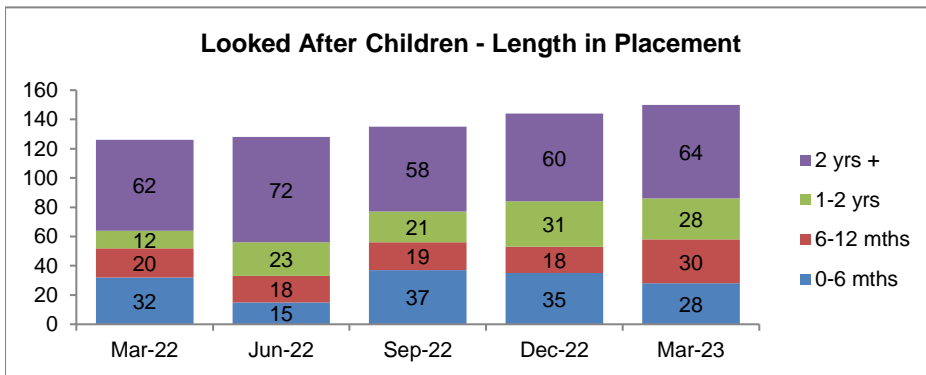
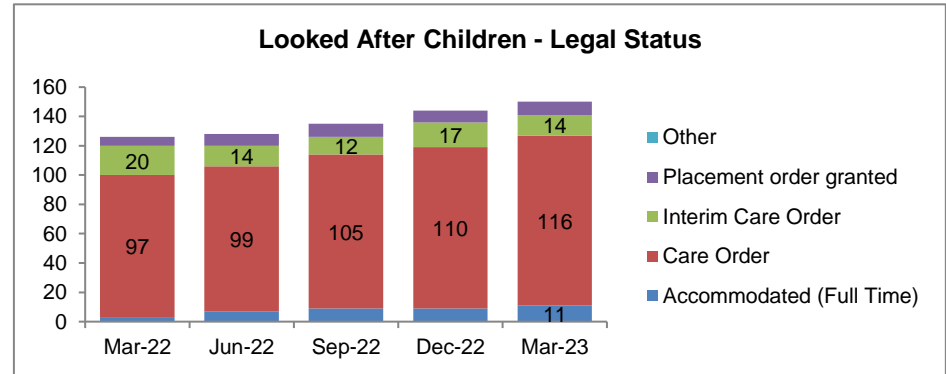
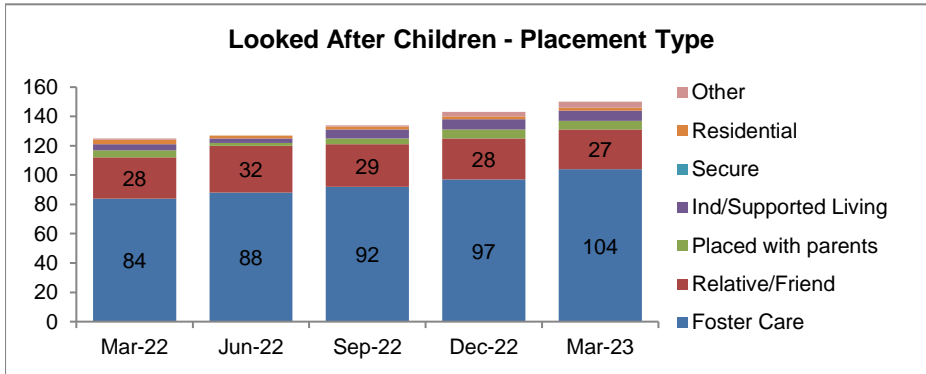
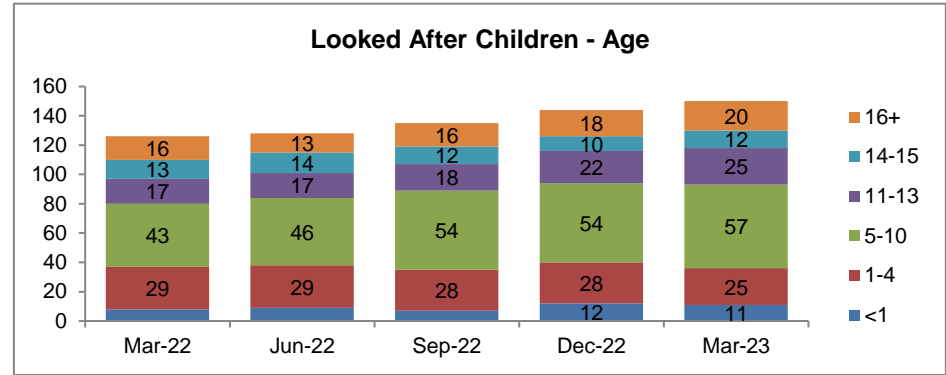
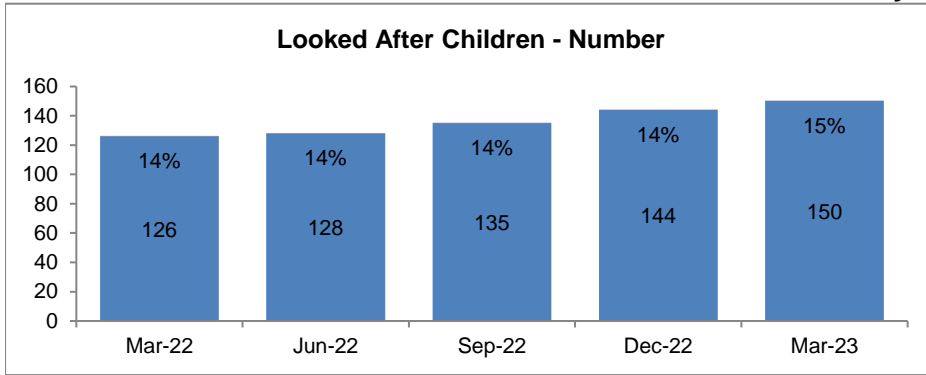


Wychavon

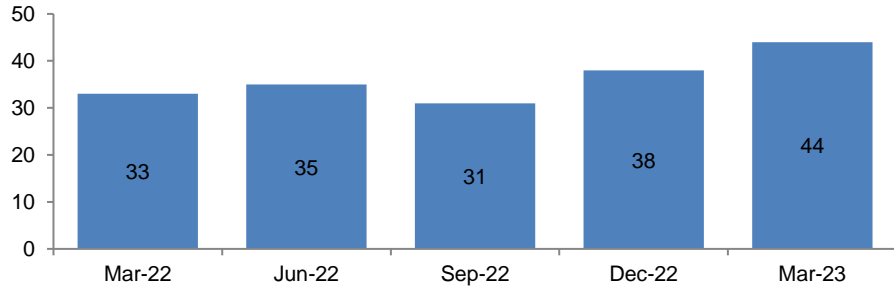




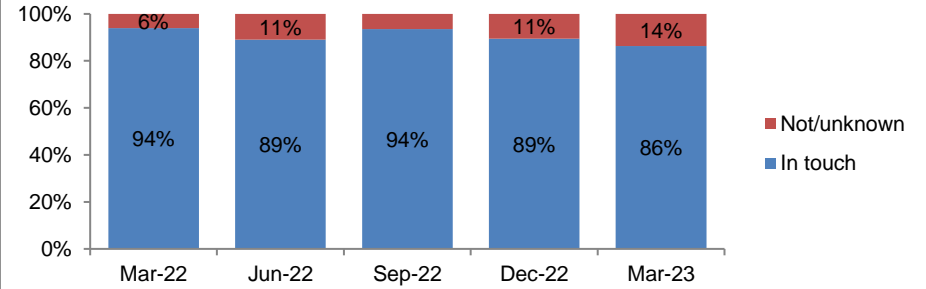
Wyre Forest



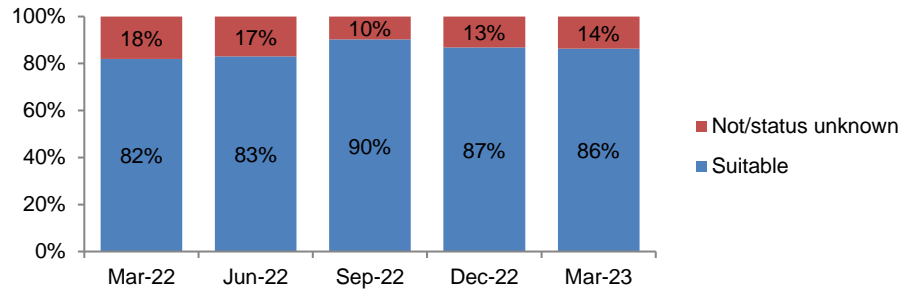
Number of Care Leavers Open for Services



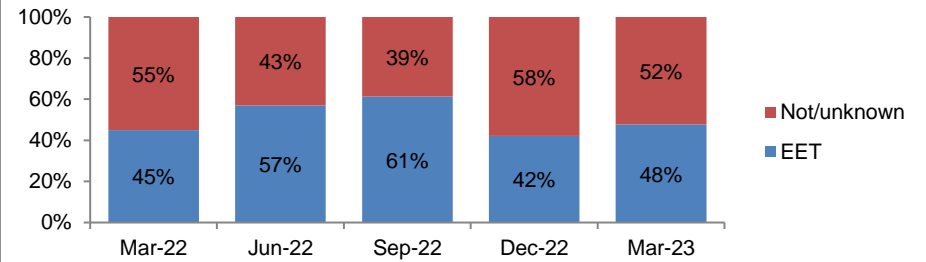
Percentage of Care Leavers In Touch



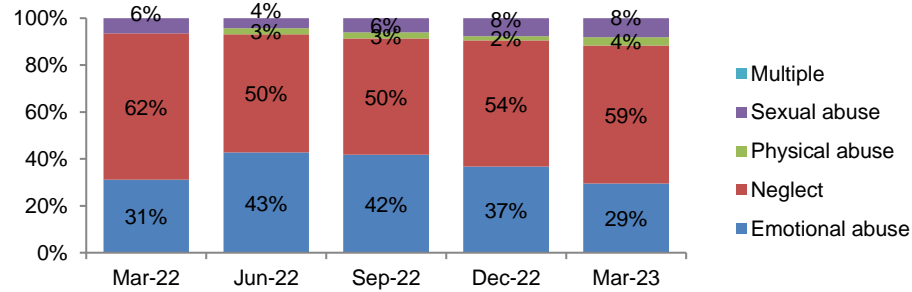
Percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation



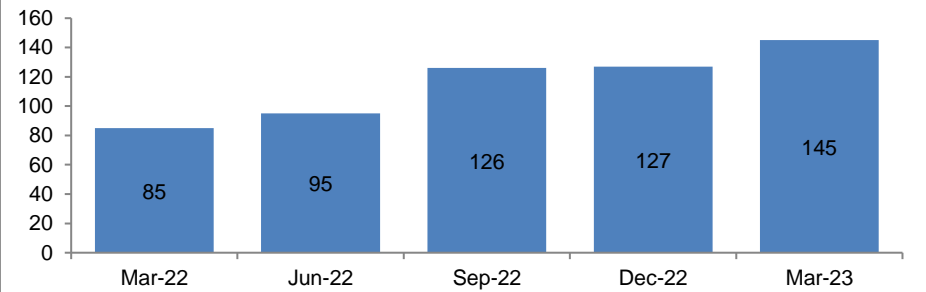
Percentage of Care Leavers in Education/Employment/Training



Percentage of Child Protection Plans by Latest Category



Children In Need - Number

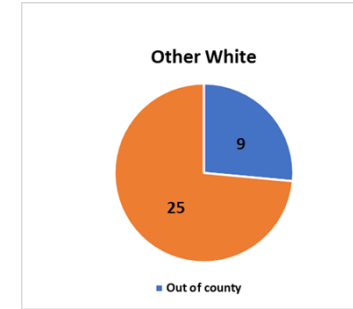
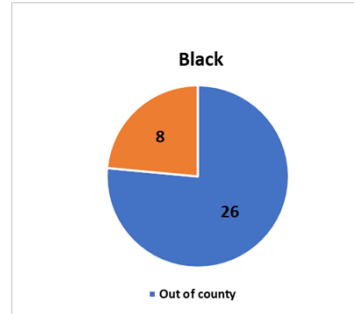
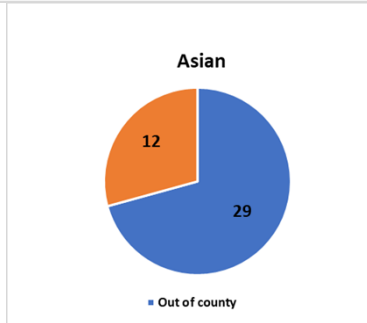
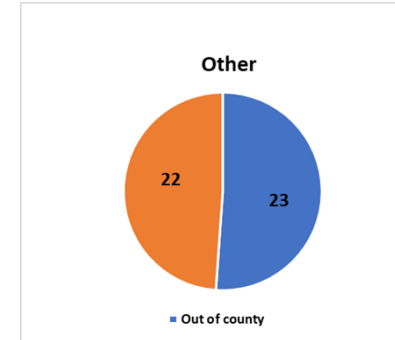
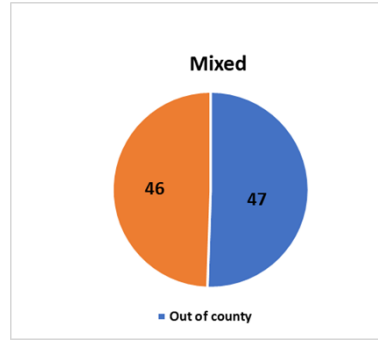
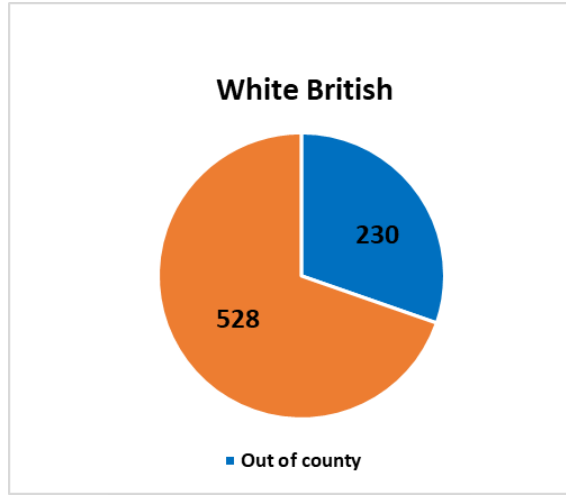


Corporate Parenting Board Dataset

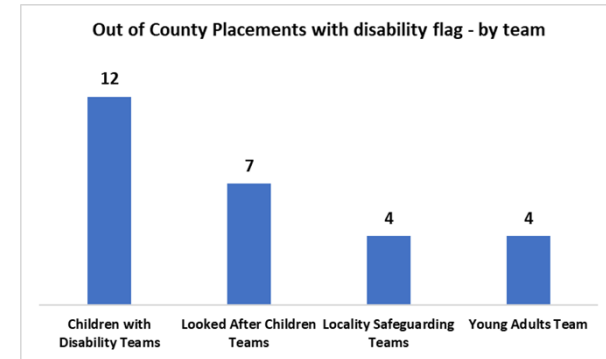
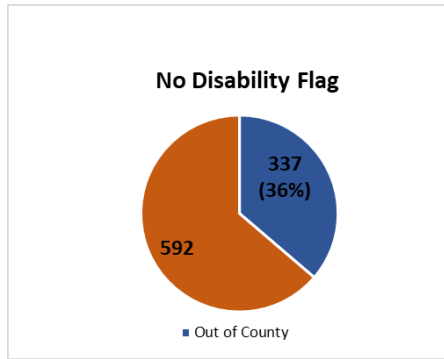
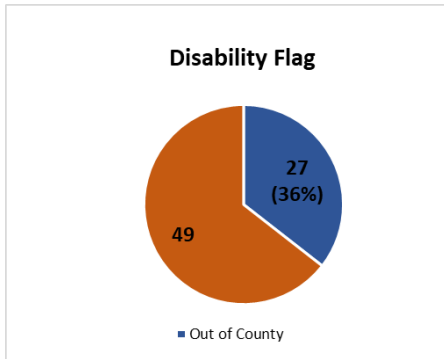
	Measure	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Target	Eng 21/22	Stat Nbrs 21/22
1	Number of Looked After Children	898	892	912	923	947	967	984	994	1004	985	992	1005		{835}	{656}
2	Percentage of Looked After Children subject to s20	11%	11%	12.5%	13%	16%	15%	16%	16%	17%	17%	17%	17.5%		17%	24%
3	Number of Looked After Children who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	32	32	34	34	52	62	65	70	82	76	87	88			
4a	Number of Looked After Children open to Children with Disability teams	32	32	32	32	32	33	30	30	29	27	27	26			
4b	Number of Looked After Children open to Young Adult Teams	11	11	12	9	7	7	10	8	11	13	14	15			
5	Number of Looked After Children placed outside the County	278	292	302	303	317	325	334	340	349	345	355	362 (36%)		43%	34%
6	Number of Looked After Children placed more than 20 miles from home, outside the County	126	144	147	145	150	152	153	157	155	158	164	169 (20%)	12%	16%	17%
7	Number of Looked After Children placed more than 20 miles from home, total	144	158	163	163	170	168	176	180	181	184	191	198 (23%)		21%	25%
8	Percentage of Looked After Children with 3 or more placements in previous 12 months	6.5%	7.1%	7.7%	7.8%	8.7%	8.1%	7.9%	7.9%	8.0%	8.4%	8.6%	9.3%	10%	10%	10%
9	Number of Looked After Children placed in Foster Care/ with a Relative or Friend	664	653	667	673	681	687	696	698	702	698	689	686 (68%)	75%	70%	69%
10	Number of Looked After Children placed for Adoption	23	29	32	26	24	24	23	25	28	26	26	23 (2.3%)		3%	3%
11	Number of Looked After Children placed with parents	43	38	32	33	33	38	36	36	38	36	33	36 (3.6%)		7%	5%
12	Number of Looked After Children in Independent/Supported Living	62	66	65	76	96	105	111	114	114	104	113	111 (11%)			
13	Number of Looked After Children in Children's Homes	100	101	106	105	103	108	109	111	113	115	121	130 (13%)	10%	16%	20%
14	Number of Looked After Children in Secure Accommodation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 (<1%)			
15	Number of Looked After Children in Other	5	4	9	9	9	8	8	9	8	5	9	18 (2%)		4%	4%
16	Number of Looked After Children in Bed and Breakfast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
17	Number of repeat Looked After Children within 12 months	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	1%		
18	Percentage of Looked After Children with an up to date Care Plan or Pathway Plan	98.8%	98.8%	98.6%	98.6%	98.1%	98.4%	98.0%	98.2%	98.4%	98%	98.6%	97.7%	100%		

	Measure	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Target	Eng 21/22	Stat Nbrs 21/22
19	Percentage of Looked After Children with an up to date health assessment	75%	77%	76%	72%	70%	67%	67%	62%	63%	63%	62%	64%	90%	89%	82%
20	% of school age Looked After Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan at term end	100%			100%					100%			100%	95%		
21	Number of Children in care of WCC aged 16/17 that are 'Not in Education/ Employment/ Training' - (placed in or out of county)	35	32	31	29	27	21	29	31	30	29	24	25			
22	Number of Looked After Children who went missing	9	13	13	20	10	15	11	15	10	10	10	7			
23	Number of "missing" incidents involving Looked After Children	18	19	20	34	16	25	15	22	21	22	12	11			
24	Number of Looked after Children recorded as vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation	16	15	17	16	14	13	12	9	8	7	6	7			
25	Number of Looked after Children recorded as experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1			
26	Number of Council foster carers - households			113			115			109			105			
27	Number of care leavers open for services - all ages	392	397	402	404	406	402	410	410	426	440	447	446			
28	Number of care leavers open for services - age 18-20	281	276	275	275	277	279	285	273	272	288	290	288			
29	Number of care leavers open for services - age 21- 25	111	121	127	129	129	123	125	137	154	152	157	158			
30	Percentage of care leavers open for services "in touch" - all ages	89%	92%	91%	94%	93%	95%	93%	93%	90%	91%	91%	90%	95%	{92%}	{94%}
31	Percentage of care leavers open for services in suitable accommodation - all ages	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	94%	94%	95%	95%	94%	94%	95%	{88%}	{90%}
32	Number of care leavers open for services in Bed and Breakfast (all ages)	5	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	2			
33	Percentage of care leavers open for services that are in Education/Employment/Training - all ages	53%	56%	57%	57%	57%	55%	54%	54%	51%	52%	51%	49%	85%	{55%}	{54%}
34	Percentage of care leavers open for services with an up-to-date Pathway Plan - age 18-20	61%	59%	62%	71%	64%	61%	62%	60%	66%	79%	79%	74%	95%		

Out of County Placements by ethnic grouping – March 2023



Out of County Placements by disability – March 2023



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