

# Agenda

## Corporate Parenting Board

**Tuesday, 21 November 2023, 2.00 pm**  
**Worcester Children First Boardroom**  
**(F2:08), County Hall, Worcester**

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## Corporate Parenting Board

**Tuesday, 21 November 2023, 2.00 pm, Worcester Children First Boardroom (F2:08), County Hall, Worcester**

### Membership:

<b>Cllr Steve Mackay (Chairman)</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council</b>
<b>Cllr Rob Adams</b>	<b>Wychavon District Council</b>
<b>Cllr David Chambers</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council</b>
<b>Cllr Lynn Denham</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council</b>
<b>Cllr Esther Gray</b>	<b>Bromsgrove District Council</b>
<b>Cllr Lucy Harrison</b>	<b>Redditch Borough Council</b>
<b>Cllr Matt Jenkins</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council</b>
<b>Cllr Matthew Lamb</b>	<b>Worcester City Council</b>
<b>Cllr Fran Oborski</b>	<b>Wyre Forest District Council</b>
<b>Cllr Christine Wild</b>	<b>Malvern Hills District Council</b>

## Agenda

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3	<b>Health Assessments</b> To receive a presentation at the meeting.	
4	<b>Care Leavers Covenant</b> To receive a presentation at the meeting.	
5	<b>Quarterly Data, Q2 2023-24</b>	7 - 24
6	<b>Work Programme</b>	25 - 26
7	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

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Date of Issue: Friday 10 November 2023

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## Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board

### County Hall, Worcester

**Wednesday, 4 October 2023, 2.00 pm**

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#### **Present:**

Cllr Steve Mackay (Chairman), Cllr Rob Adams, Cllr Esther Gray, Cllr Lucy Harrison, Cllr Matt Jenkins, Matthew Lamb, Cllr Fran Oborski and Cllr Christine Wild

#### **Also attended:**

Marley Bourke, Tom Bourne, Sally Branchflower, Jo Clements, Beverley Downing, Eloise Gauntlett-Shea, Alice Gillett, Rebecca Haywood-Tibbetts, Adam Johnston, Simon Lewis, Celena Rossano, Matthew Stiles and Debbie Stokes.

#### **332 Apologies (Agenda item 1)**

Apologies were received from Cllr Lynn Denham, David Lewis, and Tina Russell.

#### **333 Confirmation of the Minutes - 27 July 2023 (Agenda item 2)**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27 July 2023 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment to the list of attendees to note that Cllr Esther Gray was present.

#### **334 IRO Annual Report (Agenda item 4)**

The Board received a presentation on the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report from Sally Branchflower, Practice Manager IRO and Jo Clements, IRO.

Celena Rossano reported the feedback she had received from a meeting held with a group of looked after children. Comments included the following:

- IRO meetings were quite formal, felt like a tick box exercise and a means of keeping track of young people
- It would be helpful if there was not a constant change of IRO

- The language used in meetings was too formal particularly when the IRO was new to the job
- Too many reviews took place using the same information
- There was no choice as to when meetings were held
- Avoid having other unknown people attending meetings
- Top tips for future meetings:
  - Not too formal and no jargon
  - Avoid the feeling in meetings that young people were under scrutiny
  - Do not hold meetings in formal meeting rooms
  - The same IRO to attend meetings to build up trust and allow young people to open up.

Sally Branchflower welcomed the feedback and requested that she be invited to similar meetings in the future to learn directly from the young people. Adam Johnston added that some young people experienced changes of social worker but IROs tended to be a more consistent factor in their lives.

The Chairman also welcomed the feedback and acknowledged the desire for Sally Branchflower to receive feedback in person. However, he highlighted the importance of keeping any such meeting as informal as possible to encourage honest feedback from young people.

In the ensuing debate, the following points were made:

- In response to a query about staffing levels, Sally Branchflower indicated that she had a great team providing a great service. Staffing levels were adequate but she would always like more staff. It was important that the service was kept under review to avoid any drop in performance
- How did IROs communicate with very young children? Jo Clements explained that the service used more than one means of sourcing information from young children whether through play, drawing or observation eg non-verbal signs, but also listening to those adults around them. Adam Johnston added that IROs were very experienced at understanding the signals provided by young children in terms of their communication
- How did the service reach out to the 7% of children and young people who felt that their emotional health and well-being was not being supported? Sally Branchflower responded that the key issue was the timing of conversations and getting to know children better and understand their emotional struggles
- In response to a query about Covid, Jo Clements considered that the service had caught up with where it was before Covid by learning to adapt to new ways of working, particularly in relation to how and where meetings were held. Adam Johnston added that emotional well-being of children and isolation were issues for young people living semi-independently that Covid had exacerbated. However, Covid enabled the service to understand better ways to communicate with young people. Beverley Downing indicated that there was a robust system of communication between her team of specialist nurses, the IROs and

social workers to ensure that the emotional well-being of young people was being addressed

- It was queried whether IROs received any additional training to handle those young people who had become involved with the criminal justice system? Sally Branchflower indicated that the service was aware of the processes and challenges involved but welcomed any suggestions to improve working practices. Adam Johnston highlighted the importance of the Dispute Resolution process and its role in highlighting emerging issues of concern and avoiding drift and delay. It enabled the impact on a child to be assessed and any issues to be addressed at an early stage
- In response to a query, Sally Branchflower explained that the Post 18 Needs Assessment carried out 12 weeks before a young person turned 18 was for those young people who were in danger of becoming homeless.

**The Board noted the IRO Annual Report.**

### **335 Cross boundary contact with young people (Agenda item 3)**

The Board received a presentation from Alice Gillett, Group Manager on cross boundary contact with young people.

In the ensuing debate, the following points were made:

- Adam Johnston explained that there were currently 130 looked after children/young people living at some distance from Worcestershire. Alice Gillett added that some young people ended up out of county for family network reasons
- Celena Rossano reported feedback from a discussion group held with looked after young people. A young person had commented that he/she was not happy living in Birmingham and it was a real challenge and time-consuming to travel to meetings. In relation to public health, comments were made about the different levels of support received in different areas
- Eloise emphasised the concerns of young people moving out of county that their relationship with CAMHs would break down as a result
- Rebecca Haywood-Tibbetts reported that at present, there was an issue with young people moving out of county being automatically placed at the bottom of the waiting list for CAMHs support in the area they moved into. The aim was to ensure that when young people transferred to another local authority area that they maintained their existing place on the CAMHs waiting list rather than drop to the bottom
- There was a general issue with the support provided by schools for children and young people with autism and ADHD. Would the existing level of support provided by this Council be transferred with that looked after child to the new local authority area? Matthew Stiles responded that the support should transfer with the EHCP however there were issues caused by different ways of working in different local authorities. All schools should be able to provide the necessary support and be held to account if they did not. Beverley Downing added that looked after

children should receive the same level of service out of county but unfortunately that was not always the case. Despite efforts to improve matters, the reality was that waiting lists for assessments out of county were long and very often added delays occurred due to requirements for reassessments by clinicians

- Marley reported the difficulties he had experienced when he moved from Redditch to Stafford particularly in terms of the delays in the receipt of educational support
- Were the majority of children deliberately placed out of county or were the moves as a result of foster moves? Adam Johnston indicated that the majority of out of county placements were as a result of the locality of the placement that became available. On occasion, the placement might arise from family connections in the area or in the best interests of child.

**The Board noted the presentation on cross boundary contact with young people.**

### **336 Quarterly Data, Q1 2023-24 (Agenda item 5)**

Beverley Downing expressed her concern about the accuracy of the data nationally for the percentage of Looked After Children with an up-to-date health assessment. In this county, every effort was made to ensure timely, appropriate health assessments were provided by quality specialist nurses. Alice Gillett commented that the problem with the national data was that there were so many variables across different local authorities that made meaningful comparison difficult.

**The Board:**

- a) Noted the datasheet;**
- b) Requested that future quarterly data be amended to provide a breakdown of unaccompanied asylum seekers by nation; and**
- c) Agreed that a report be brought to a future Board meeting on the learning from the audit of mental and physical health and well-being.**

### **337 Future Meeting Dates (Agenda item 6)**

Noted.

### **338 Any Other Business (Agenda item 7)**

Celena Rossano read out a number of well-done/ celebrating achievements messages that she had received from children and young people.



The meeting ended at 3.50pm.

Chairman .....

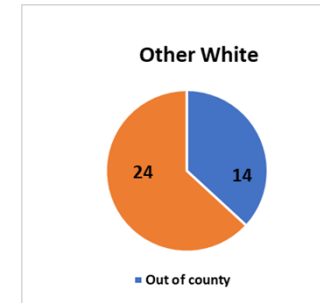
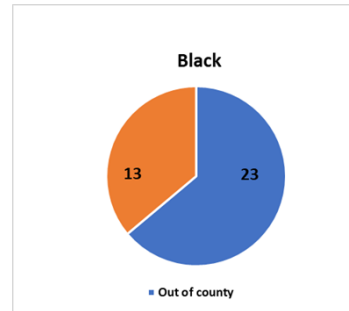
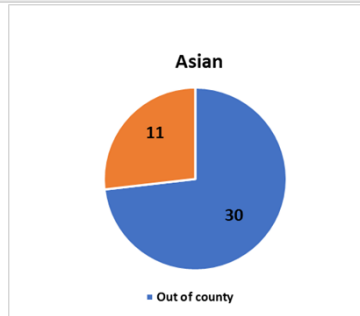
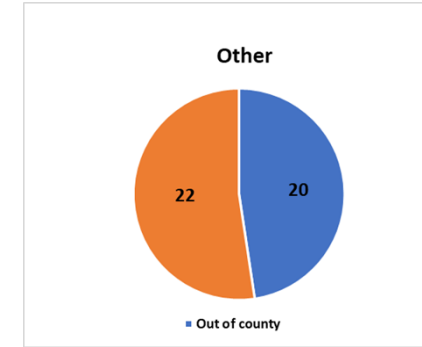
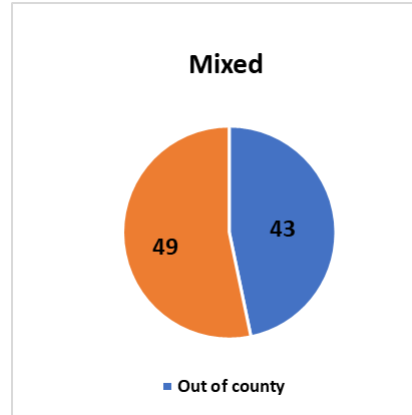
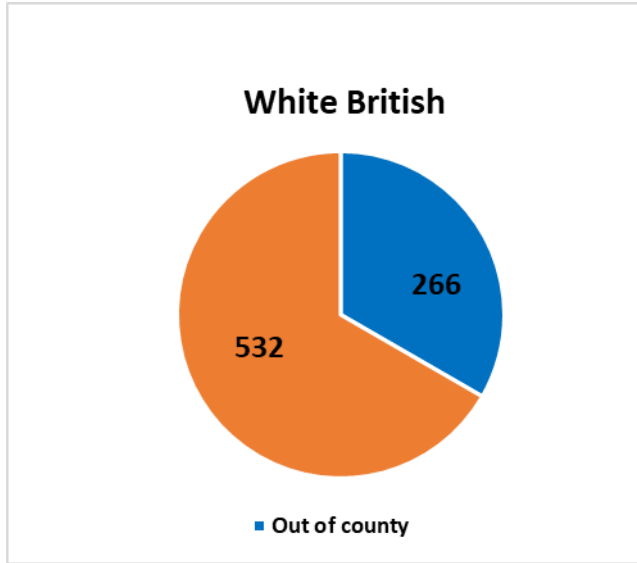
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# Corporate Parenting Board Dataset

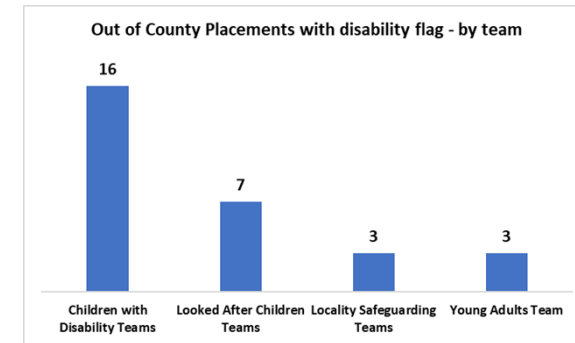
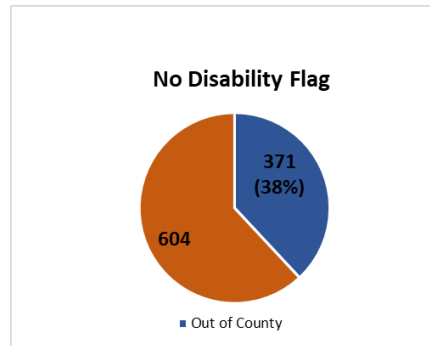
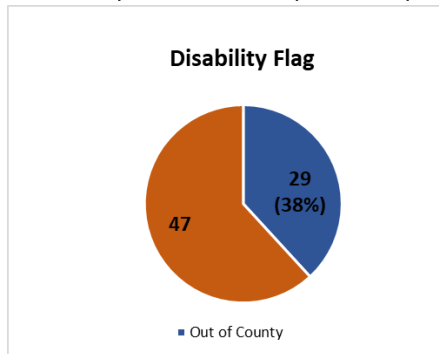
	Measure	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Target	Eng 21/22	Stat Nbrs 21/22
1	Number of Looked After Children	984	994	1004	985	992	1005	993	999	1010	1023	1034	1051		{835}	{656}
2	Percentage of Looked After Children subject to s20	16%	16%	17%	17%	17%	17.5%	16%	16%	17%	17%	17%	19%		17%	24%
3	Number of Looked After Children who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	65	70	82	76	87	88	83	74	77	77	78	84			
4a	Number of Looked After Children open to Children with Disability teams	30	30	29	27	27	26	25	25	26	27	29	33			
4b	Number of Looked After Children open to Young Adult Teams	10	8	11	13	14	15	15	15	15	14	15	14			
5	Number of Looked After Children placed outside the County	334	340	349	345	355	362	364	370	377	389	392	400 (38%)		43%	34%
6	Number of Looked After Children placed more than 20 miles from home, outside the County	153	157	155	158	164	169	173	176	178	181	179	182 (20%)	12%	16%	17%
7	Number of Looked After Children placed more than 20 miles from home, total	176	180	181	184	191	198	199	203	204	206	207	209 (23%)		21%	25%
8	Percentage of Looked After Children with 3 or more placements in previous 12 mths	7.9%	7.9%	8.0%	8.4%	8.6%	9.3%	9.5%	9.3%	9.0%	8.8%	9.0%	8.2%	10%	10%	10%
9	Number of Looked After Children placed in Foster Care/ with a Relative or Friend	696	698	702	698	689	686	674	687	689	699	704	709 (68%)	75%	70%	69%
10	Number of Looked After Children placed for Adoption	23	25	28	26	26	23	23	23	26	24	25	25 (2.4%)		3%	3%
11	Number of Looked After Children placed with parents	36	36	38	36	33	36	36	38	36	36	38	42 (4%)		7%	5%
12	Number of Looked After Children in Independent/Supported Living	111	114	114	104	113	111	116	106	110	108	105	113 (10.8%)			
13	Number of Looked After Children in Children's Homes	109	111	113	115	121	130	130	134	138	141	149	152 (14.5%)	10%	16%	20%
14	Number of Looked After Children in Secure Accommodation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0			
15	Number of Looked After Children in Other	8	9	8	5	9	18	13	11	10	14	13	10 (1%)		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	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1%		
18	Percentage of Looked After Children with an up to date Care Plan or Pathway Plan	98.0%	98.2%	98.4%	98%	98.6%	97.7%	97.3%	98.2%	98.3%	98.7%	99%	98.3%	100%		

	Measure	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Target	Eng 21/22	Stat Nbrs 21/22
19	Percentage of Looked After Children with an up to date health assessment	67%	62%	63%	63%	62%	64%	66%	64%	67%	69%	69%	69%	90%	89%	82%
20	% of school age Looked After Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan at term end			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)	29	31	30	29	24	25	32	32	34	39	29	31			
22	Number of Looked After Children who went missing	11	15	10	10	10	7	6	8	14	13	9	9			
23	Number of "missing" incidents involving Looked After Children	15	22	21	22	12	11	10	11	31	36	27	16			
24	Number of Looked after Children recorded as vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation	12	9	8	7	6	7	8	8	11	11	11	10			
25	Number of Looked after Children recorded as experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	3	7	4	4	4			
26	Number of Council foster carers - households			109			105			103			103			
27	Number of care leavers open for services - all ages	410	410	426	440	447	446	445	460	465	475	482	508			
28	Number of care leavers open for services - age 18-20	285	273	272	288	290	288	283	296	294	297	301	324			
29	Number of care leavers open for services - age 21- 25	125	137	154	152	157	158	162	164	171	178	181	184			
30	Percentage of care leavers open for services "in touch" - all ages	93%	93%	90%	91%	91%	90%	93%	91%	90%	90%	88%	86%	95%	{92%}	{94%}
31	Percentage of care leavers open for services in suitable accommodation - all ages [NB methodology change from Sep'23]	94%	94%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	94%	93%	93%	85%	95%	{88%}	{90%}
32	Number of care leavers open for services in Bed and Breakfast (all ages)	3	3	2	3	3	2	4	5	5	5	5	4			
33	Percentage of care leavers open for services that are in Education/Employment/Training - all ages	54%	54%	51%	52%	51%	49%	53%	52%	51%	50%	49%	51%	85%	{55%}	{54%}
34	Percentage of care leavers open for services with an up-to-date Pathway Plan - age 18-20	62%	60%	66%	79%	79%	74%	67%	65%	60%	53%	55%	62%	95%		

Out of County Placements by ethnic grouping – Sept 2023



Out of County Placements by disability – Sept 2023



### Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children – Nationality

Afghani	39
Sudanese	22
Eritrean	9
Iranian	3
Syrian	3
Iraqi	2
Burkina Faso	1
Gambian	1
Kurdish	1
Libyan	1
Palestinian	1
Yemeni	1

## District Profiles

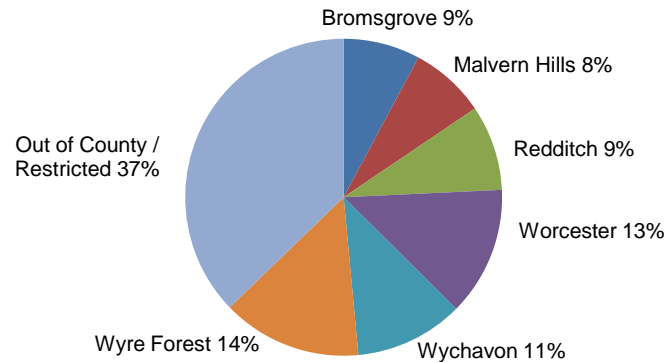
### Looked After Children

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

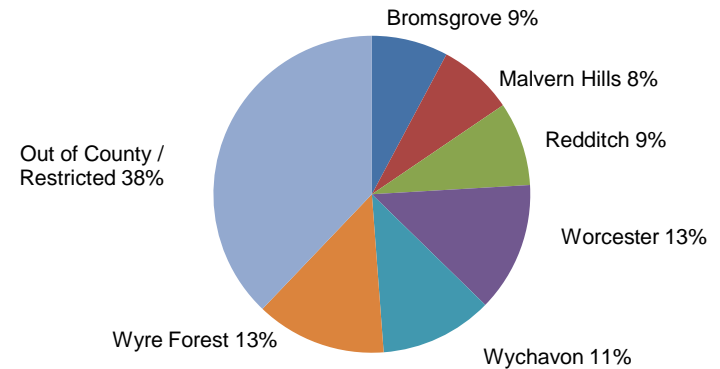
**Looked After Children by District of Placement Postcode**



**Jun 2023**

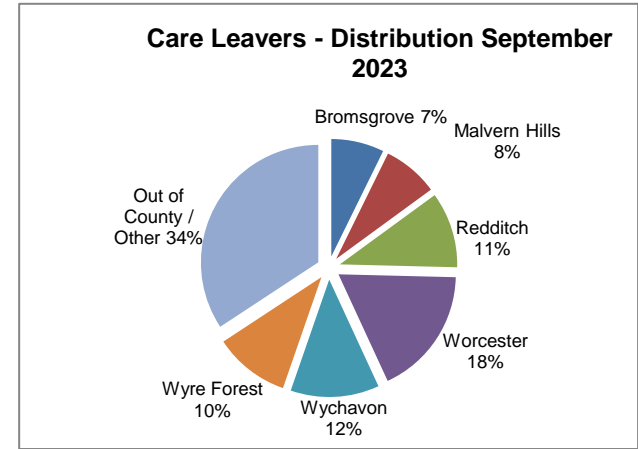
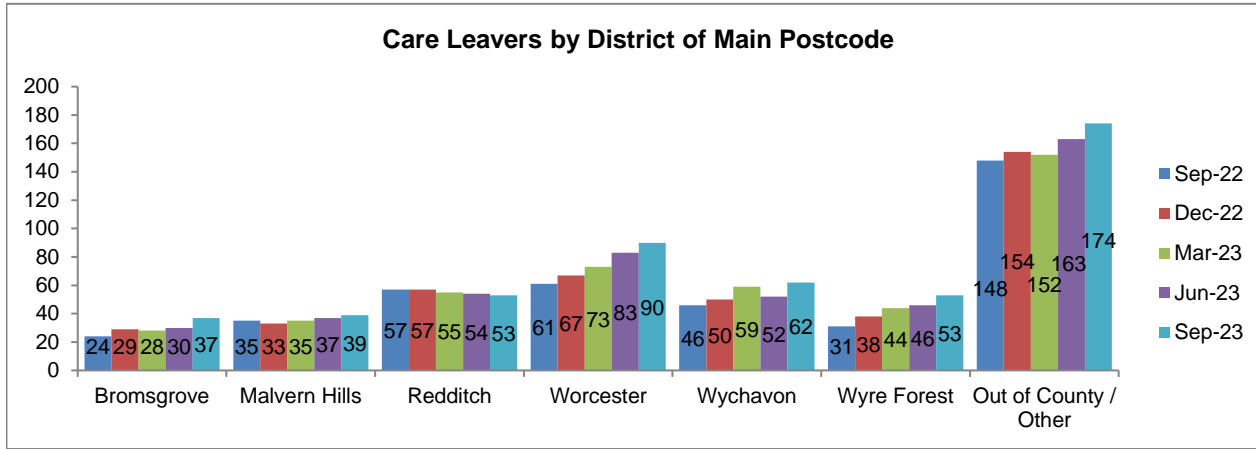


**Sep 2023**



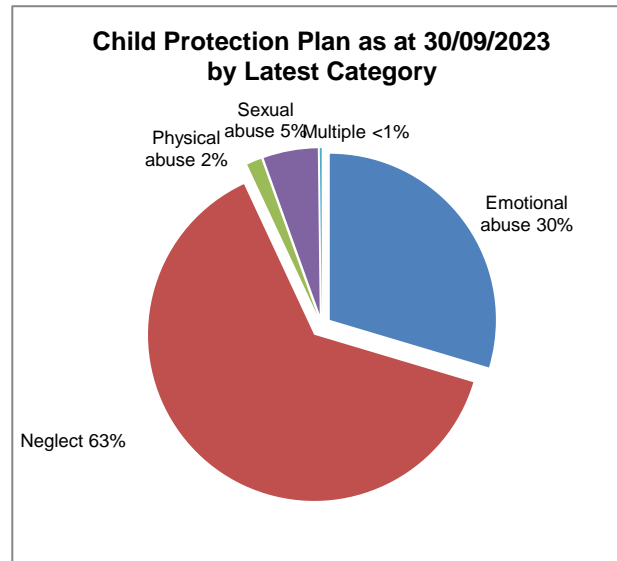
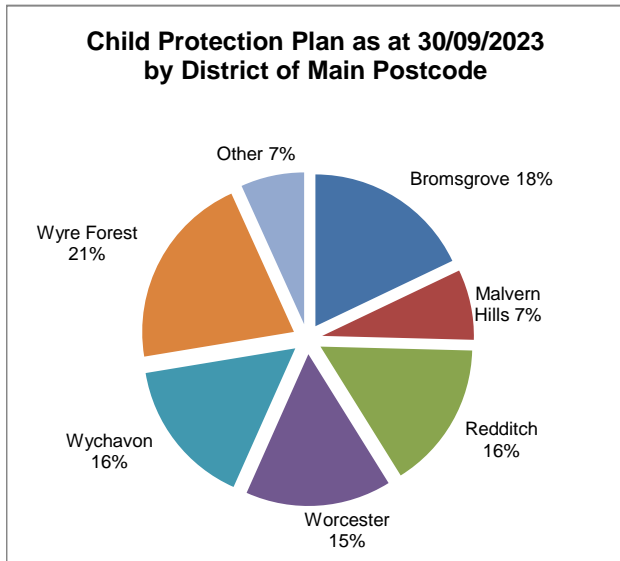
N.B. Numbers below 10 have been suppressed in charts

## Care Leavers



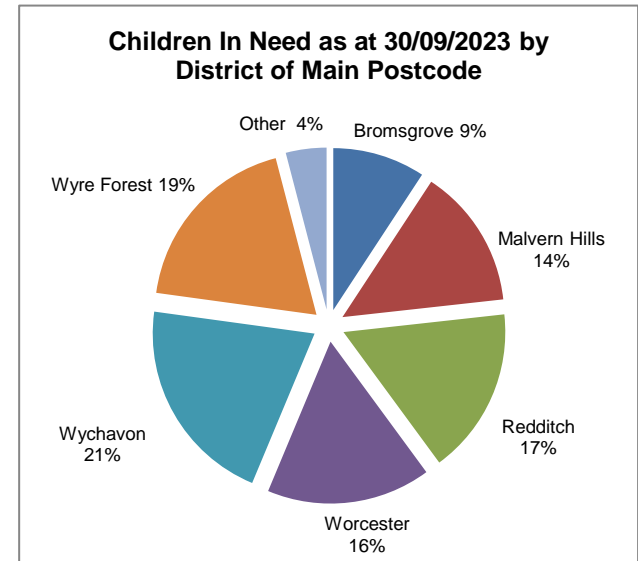
## Child Protection

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



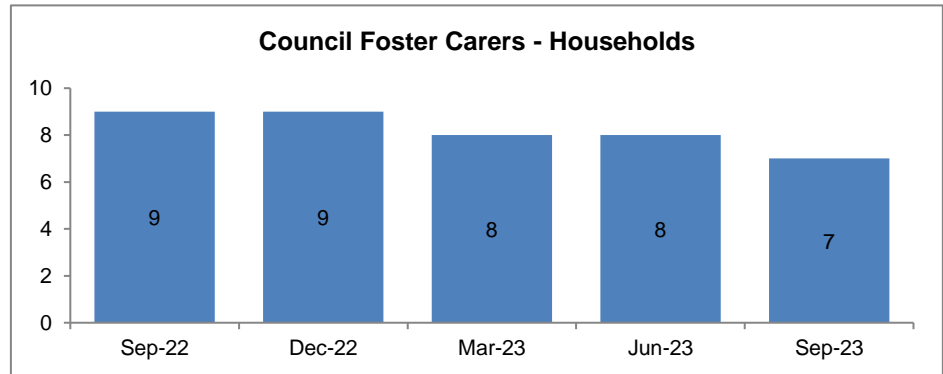
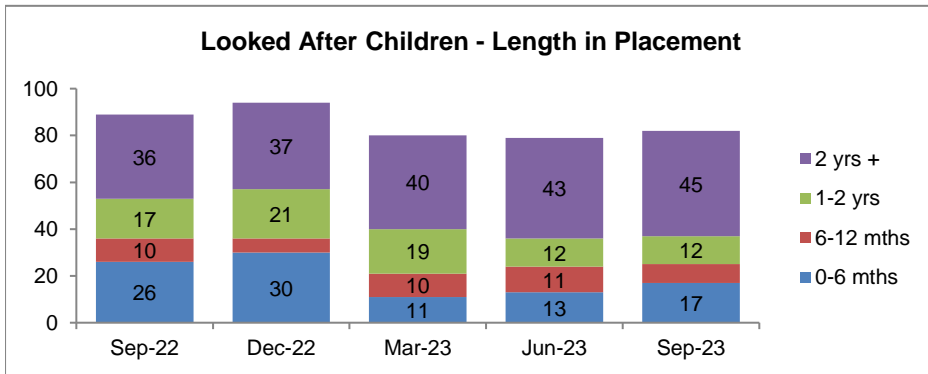
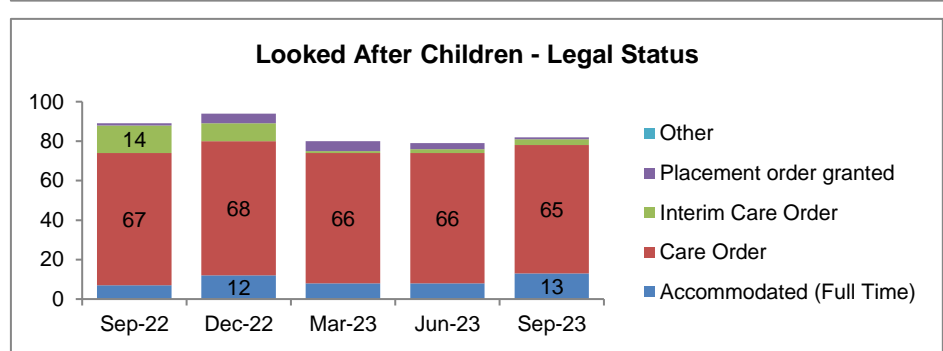
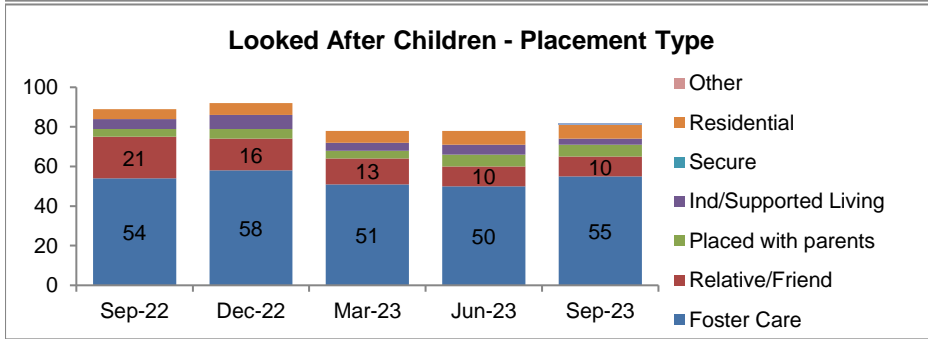
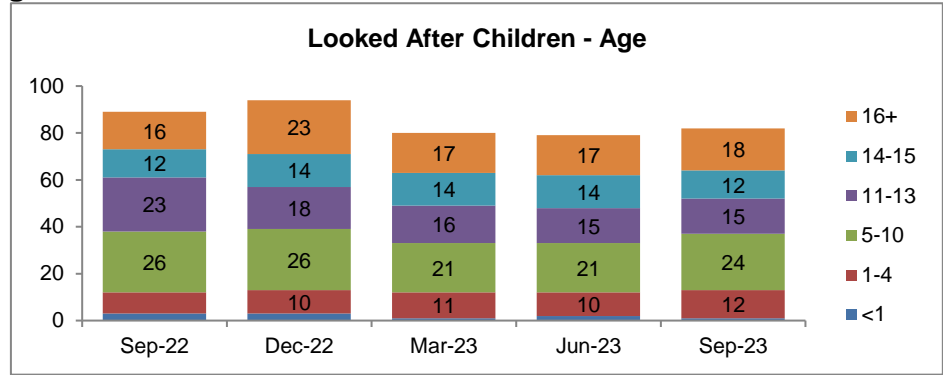
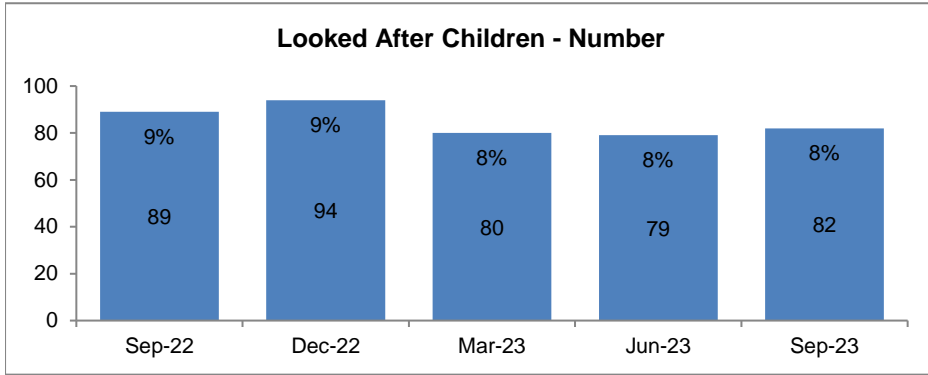
## Children in Need

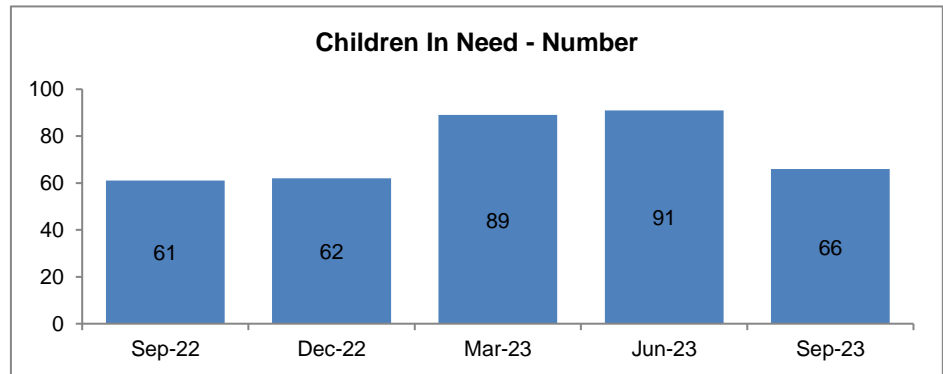
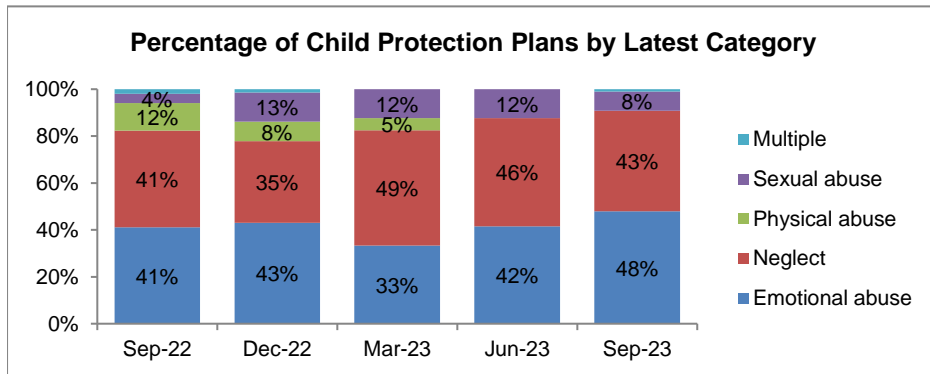
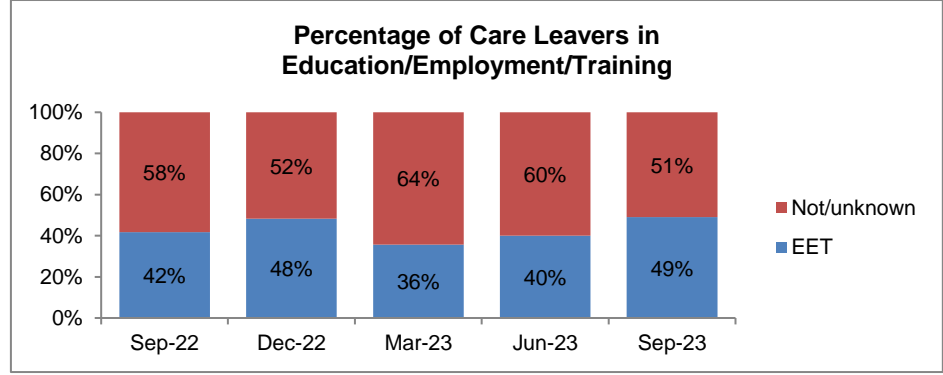
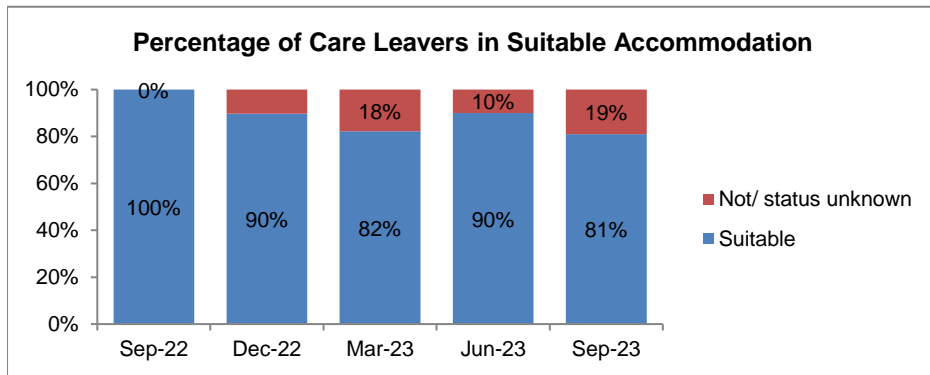
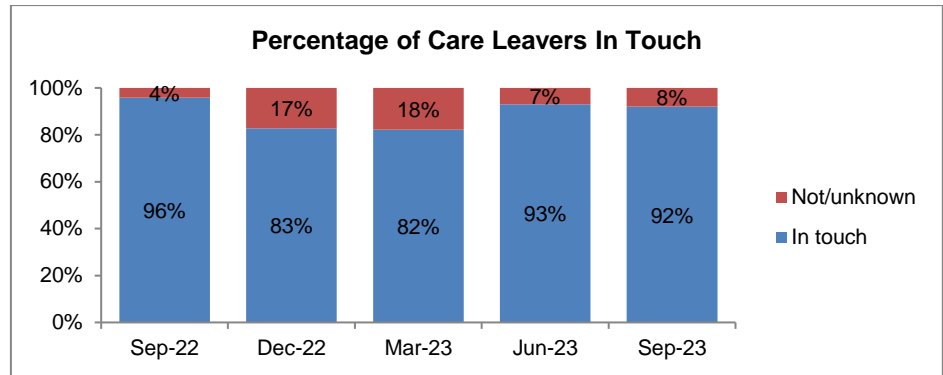
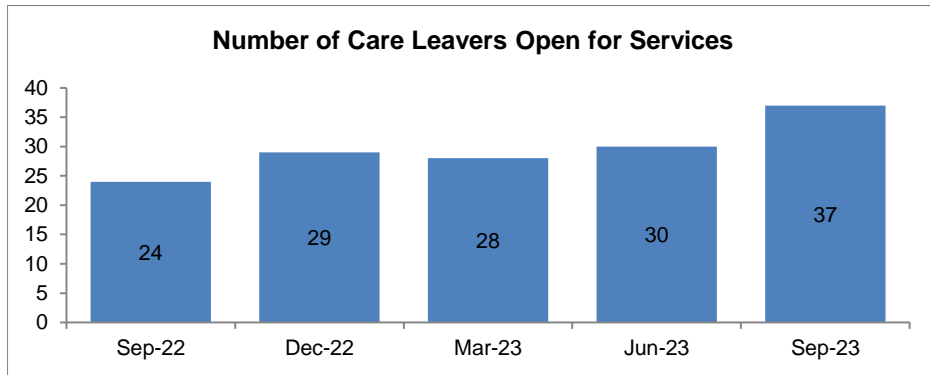
(Children who are open to Social Work intervention and are not Looked After or on a Child Protection Plan)



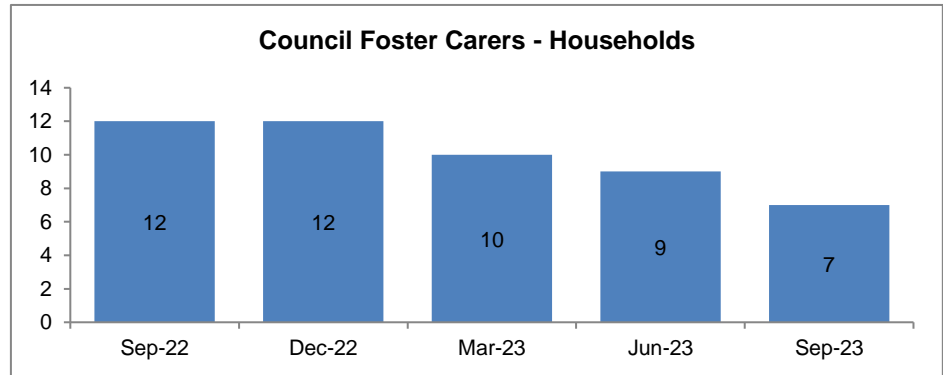
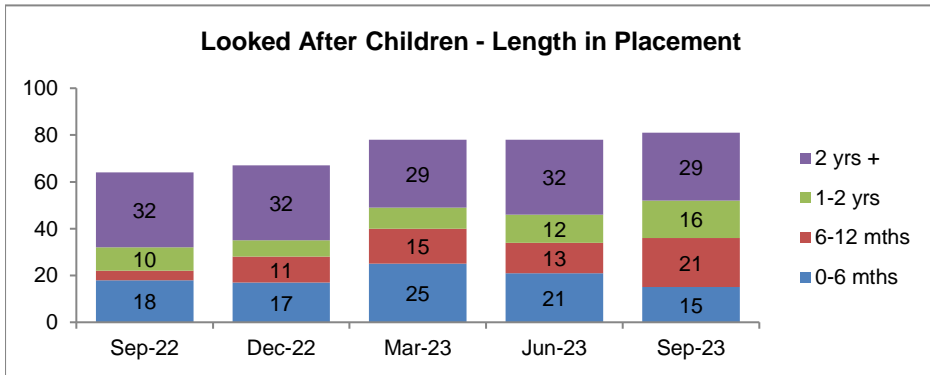
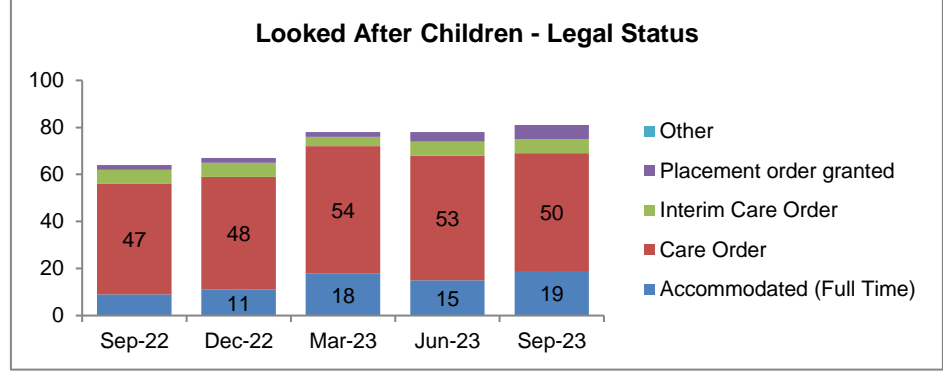
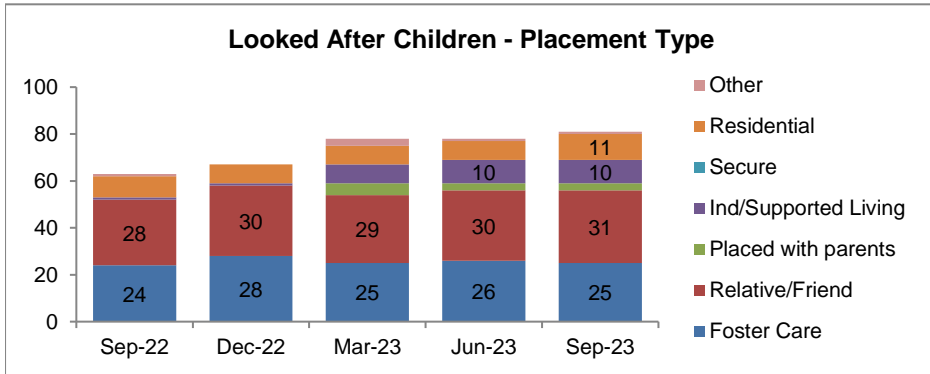
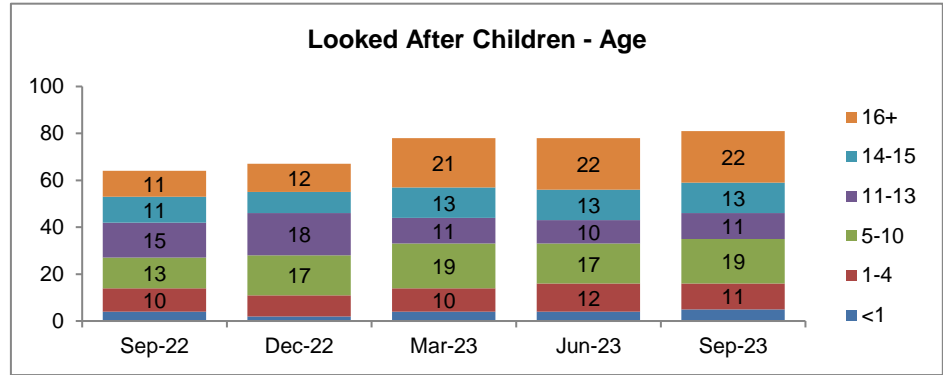
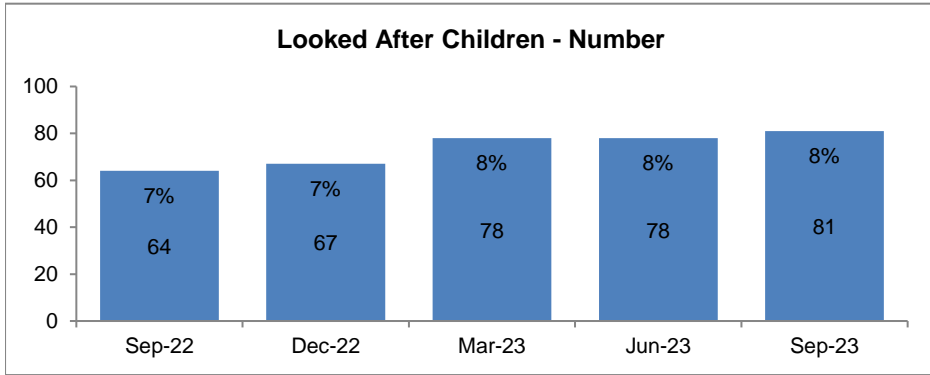


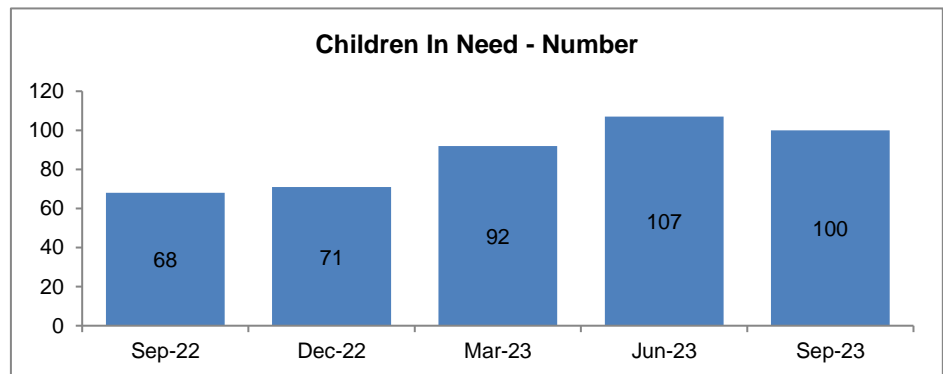
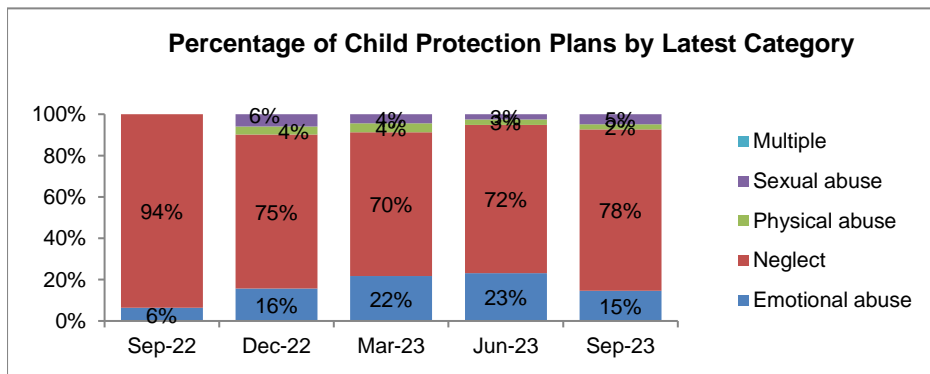
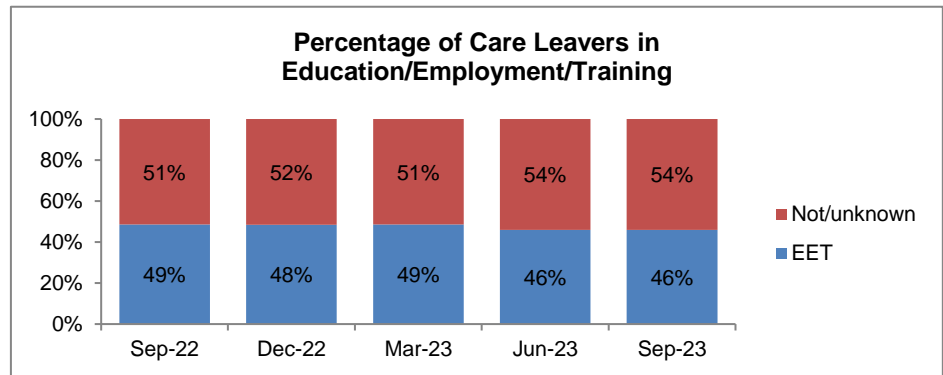
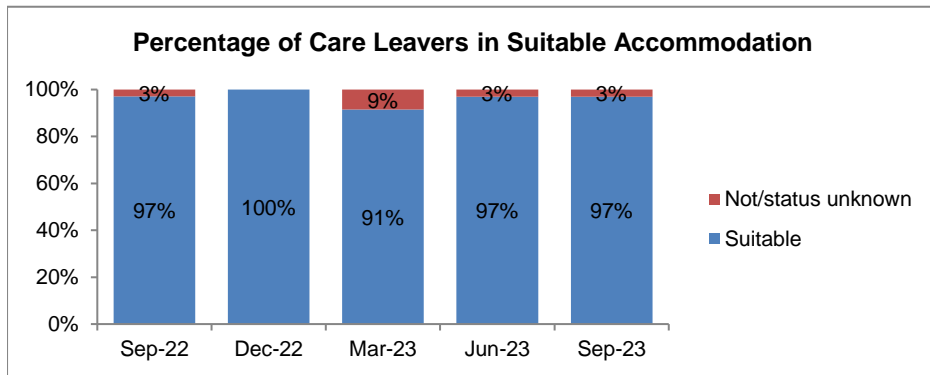
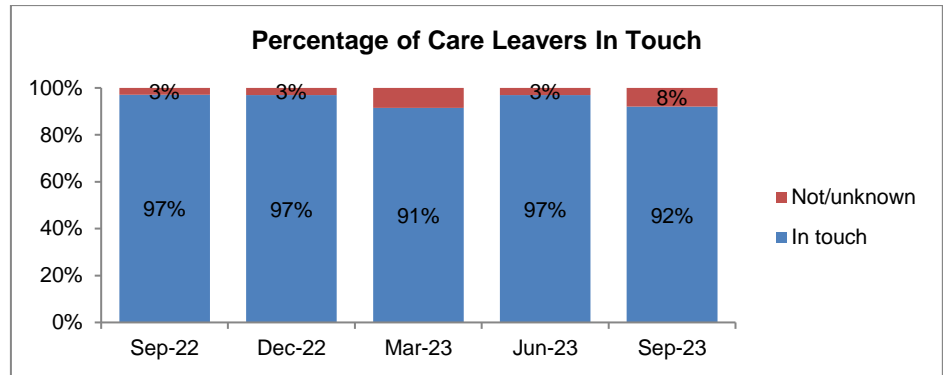
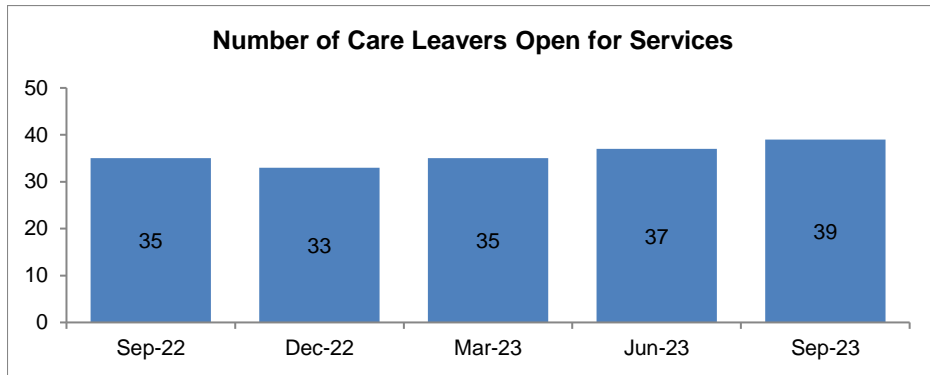
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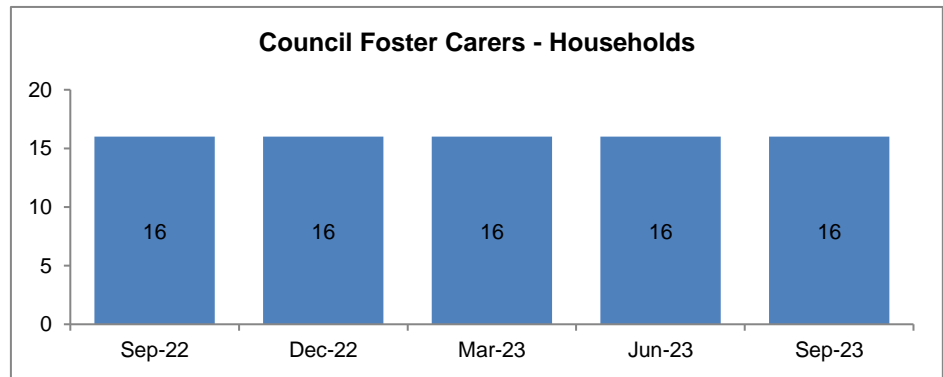
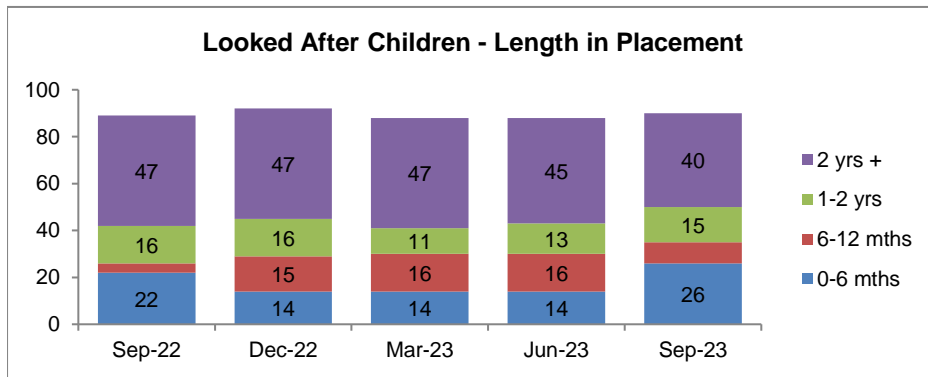
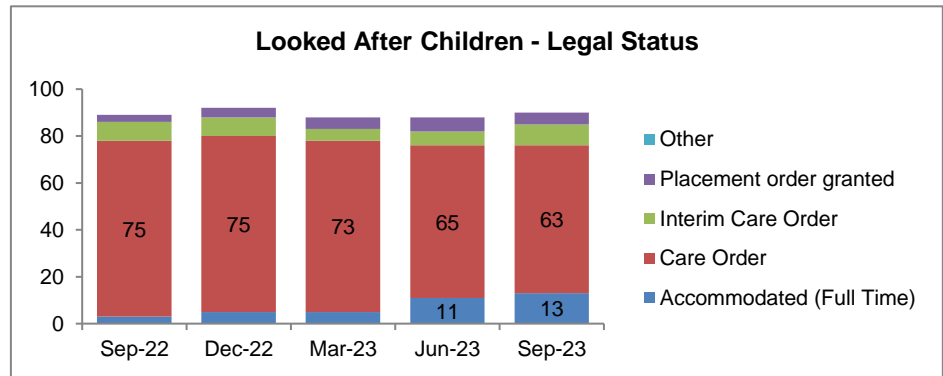
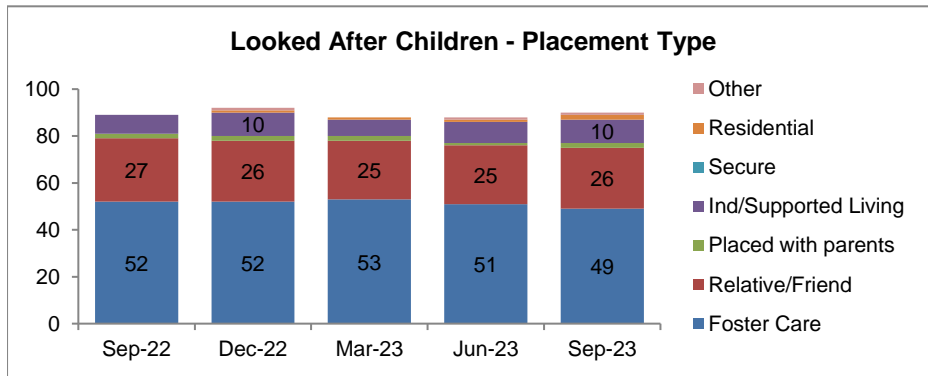
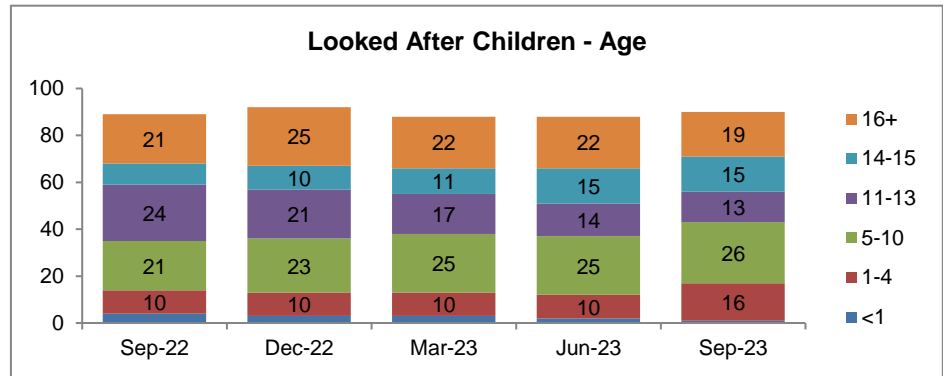
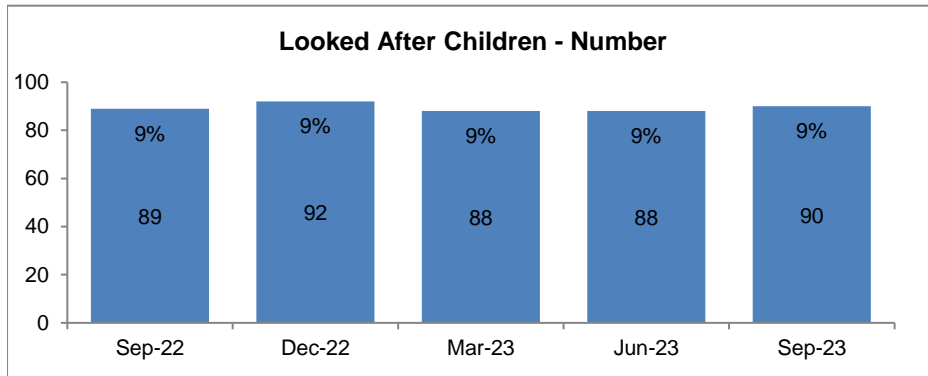


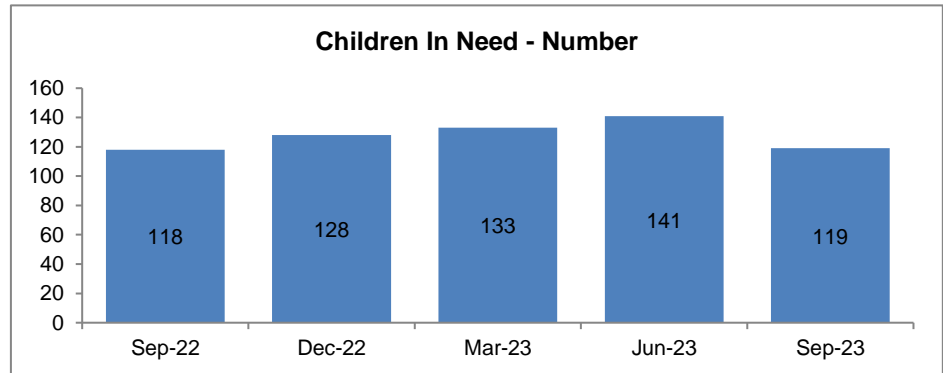
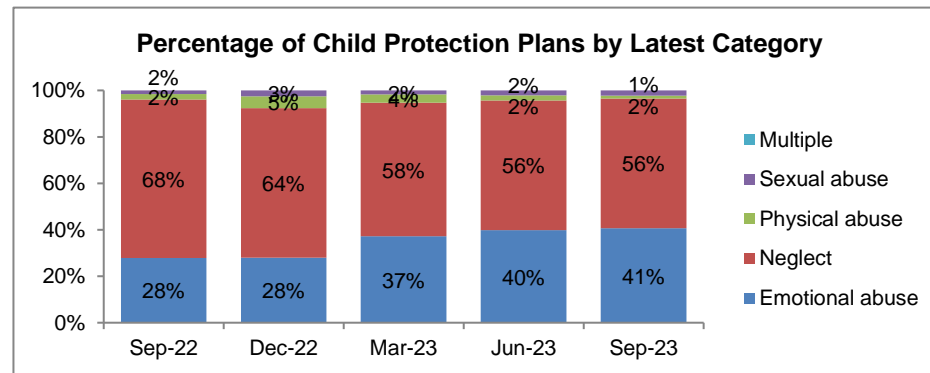
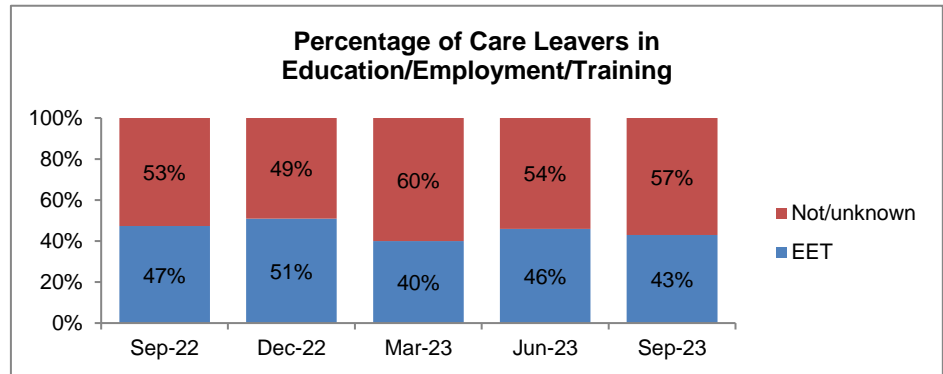
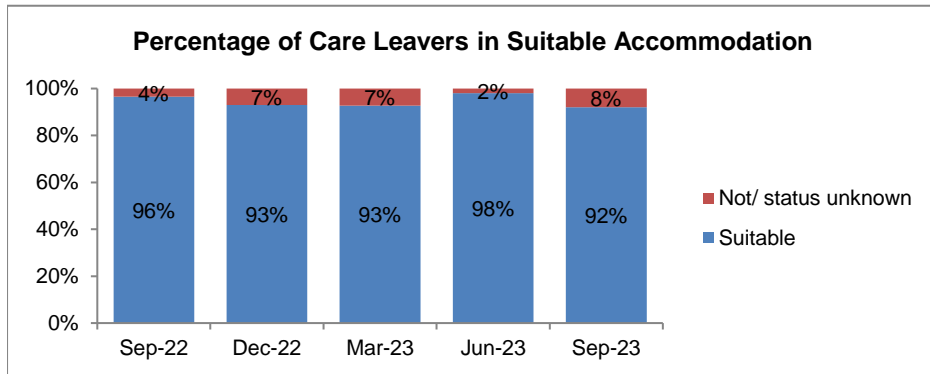
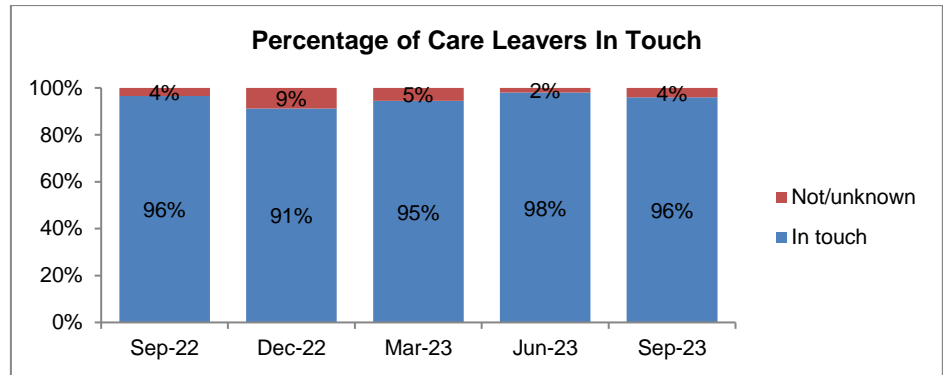
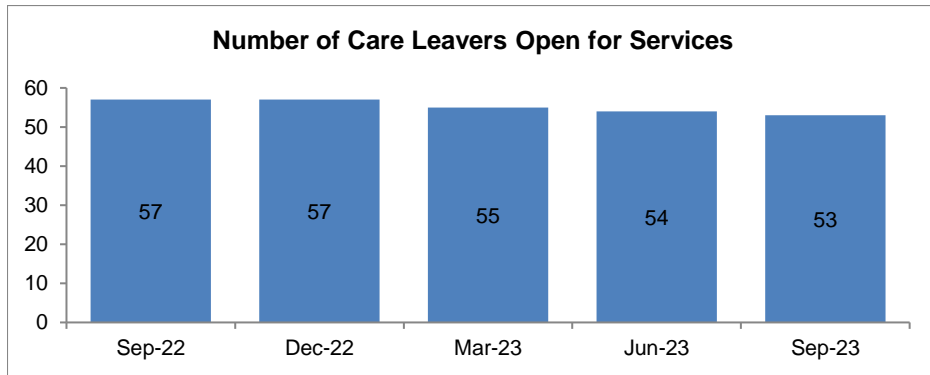
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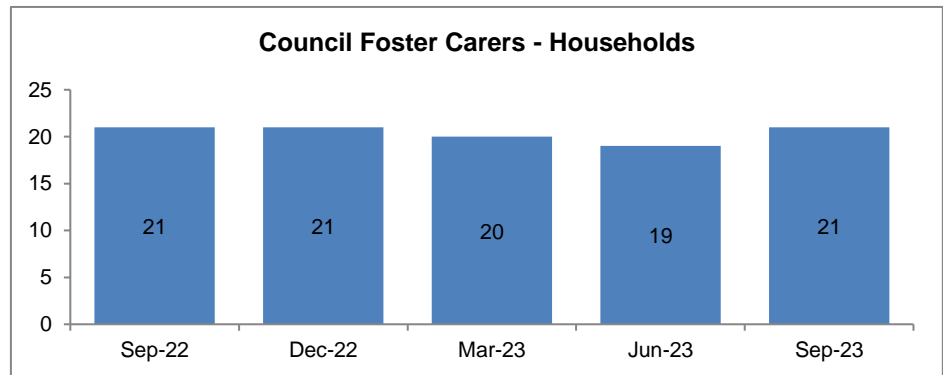
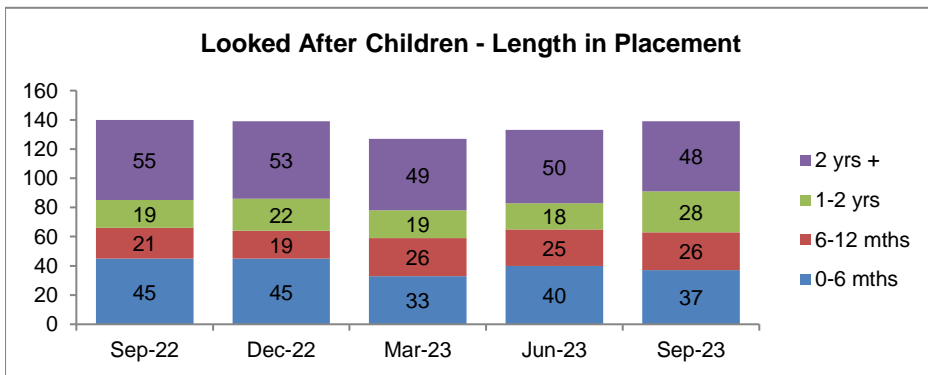
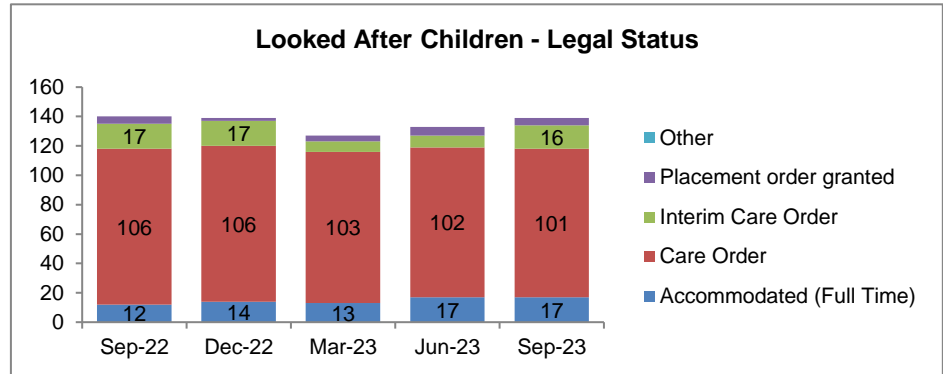
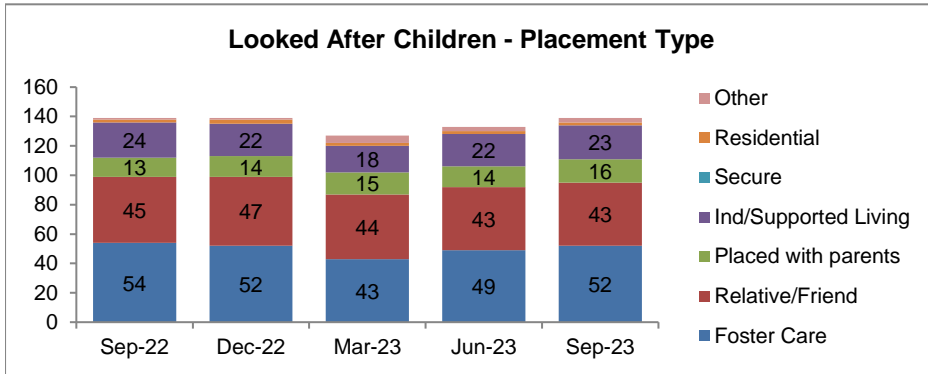
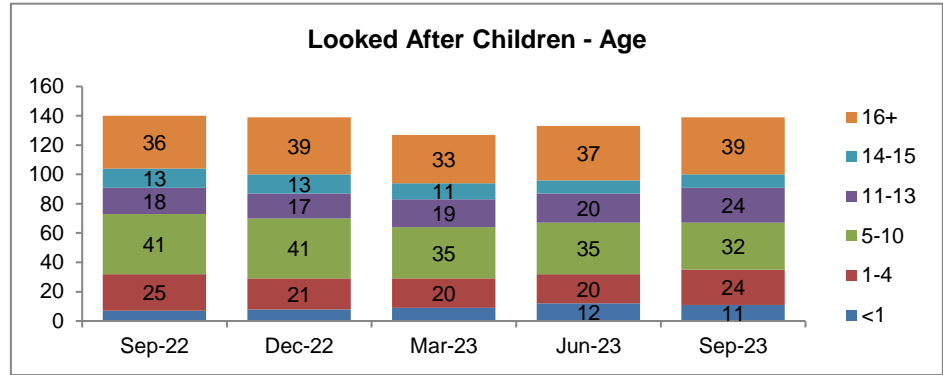
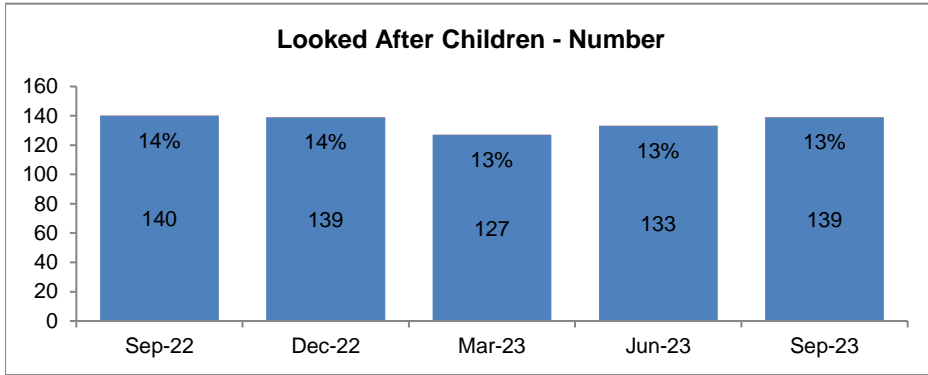


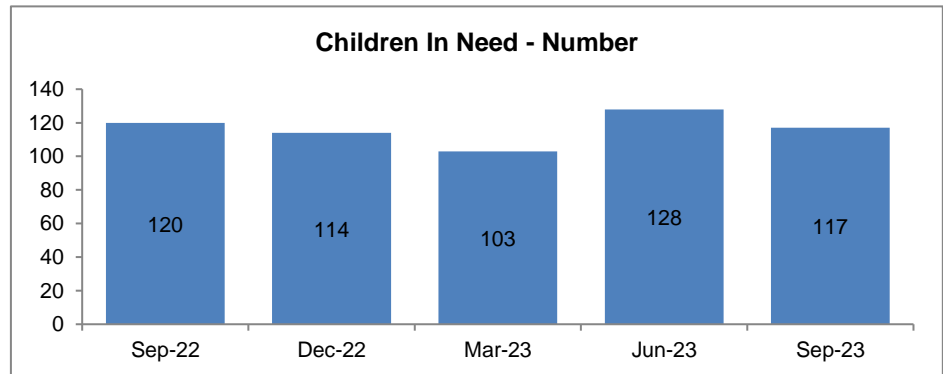
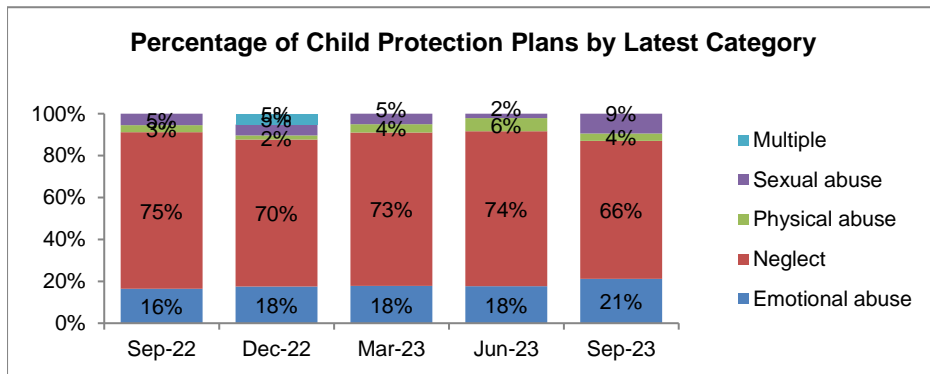
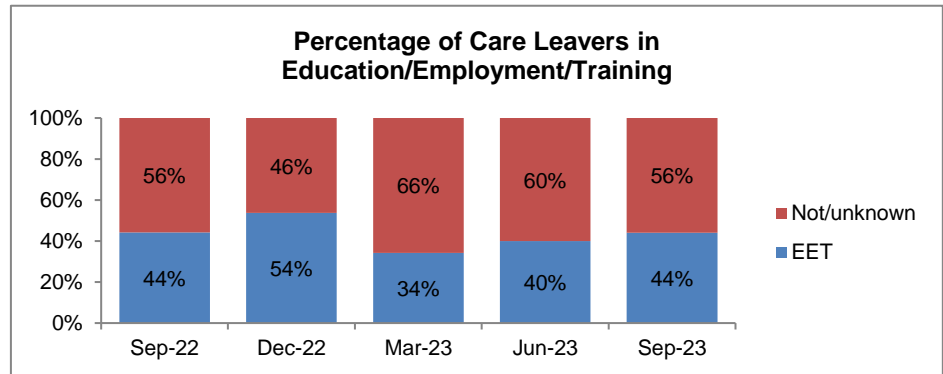
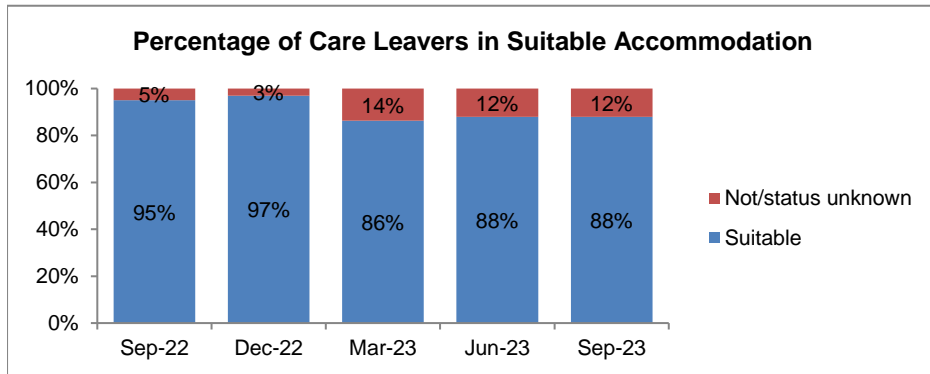
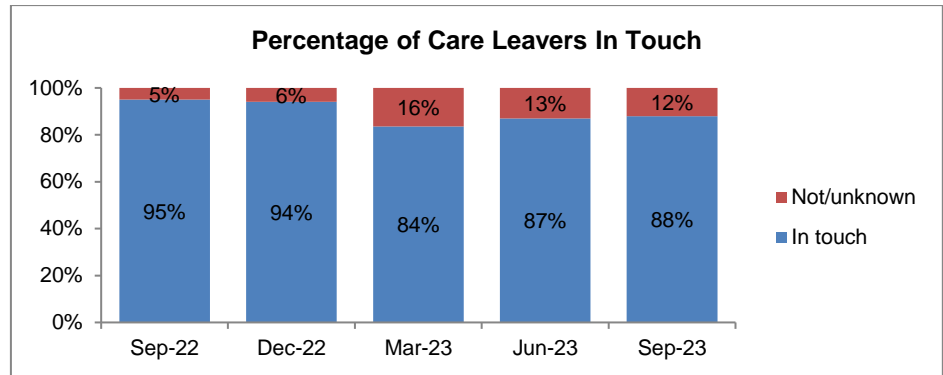
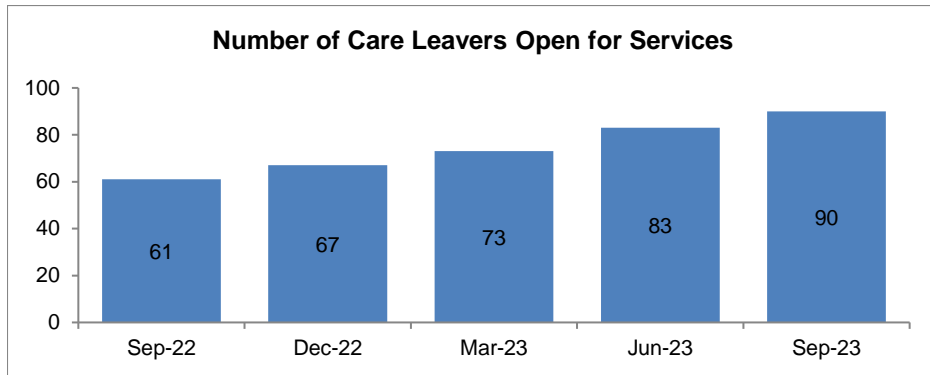
## Redditch





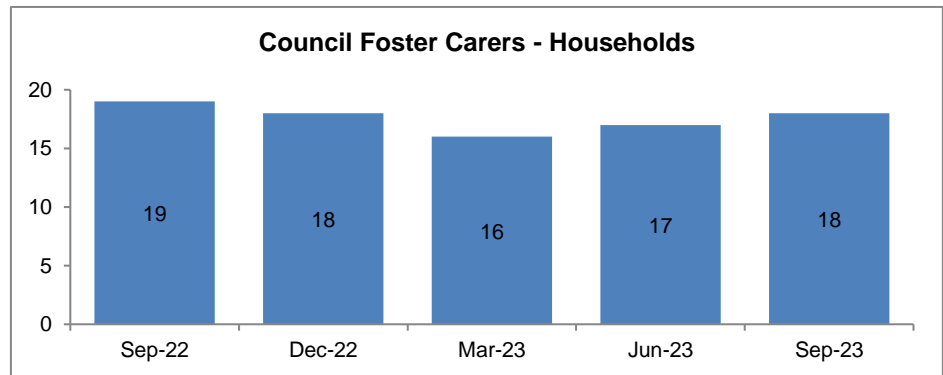
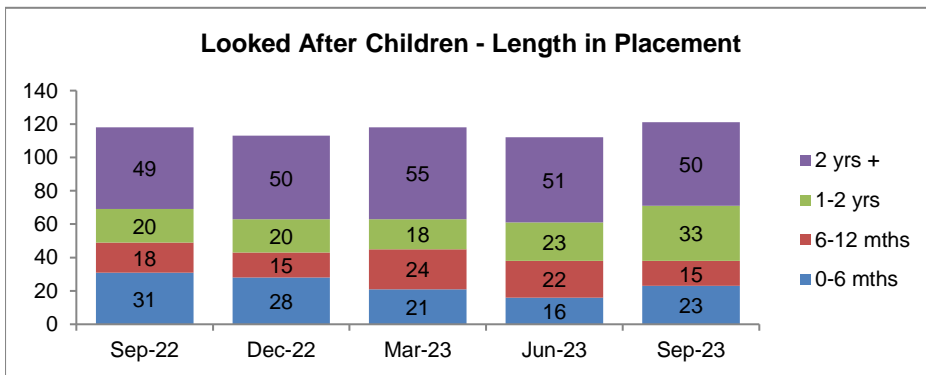
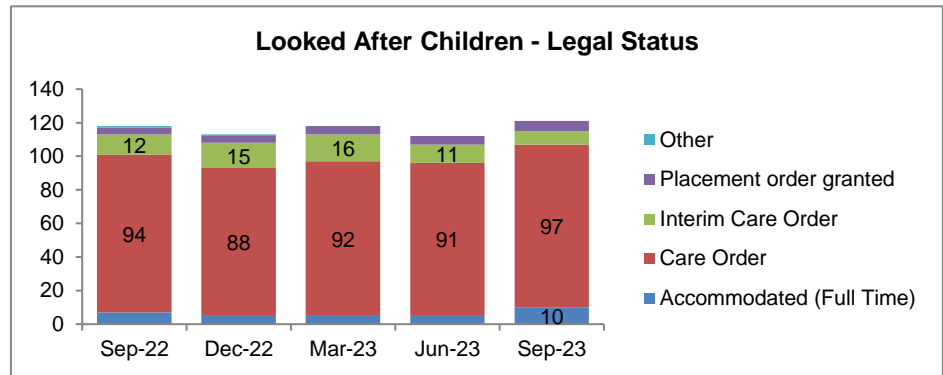
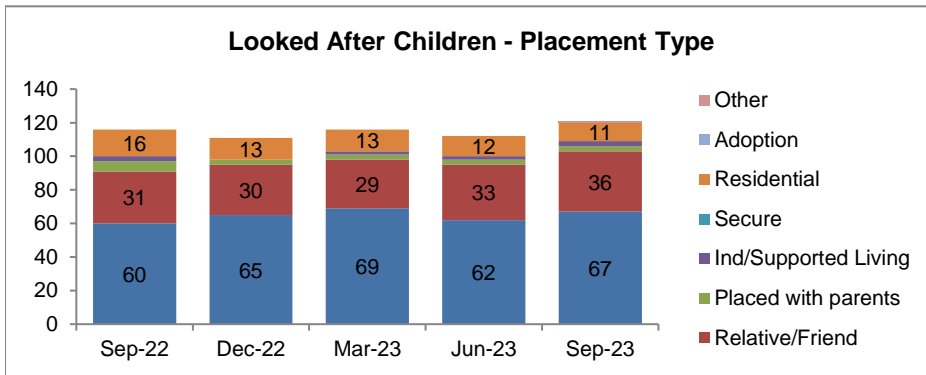
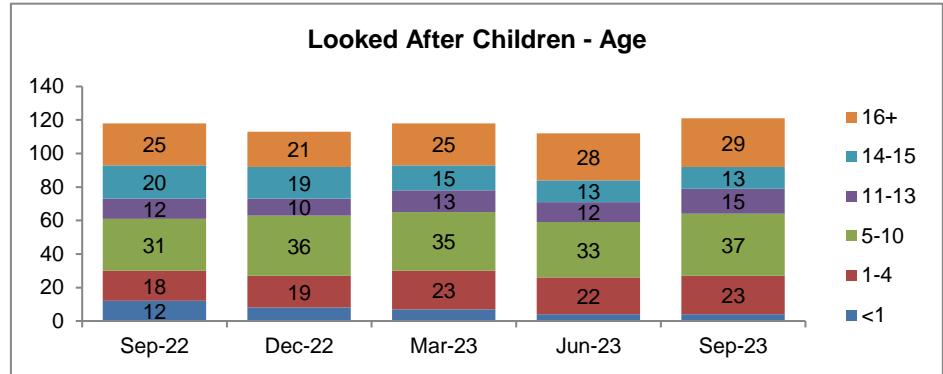
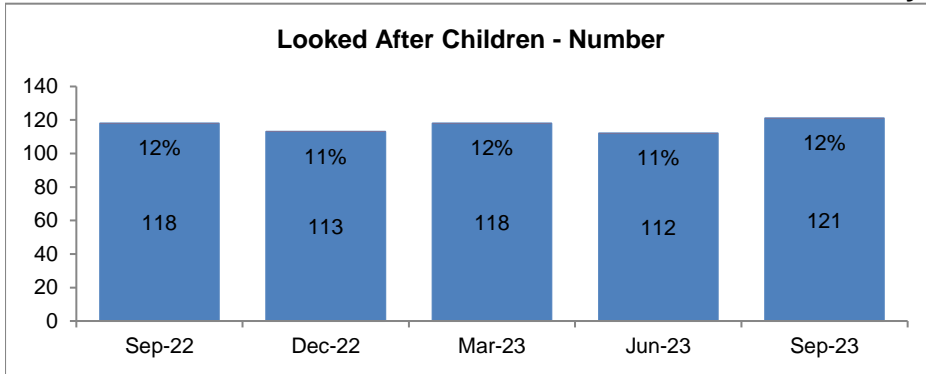
## Worcester

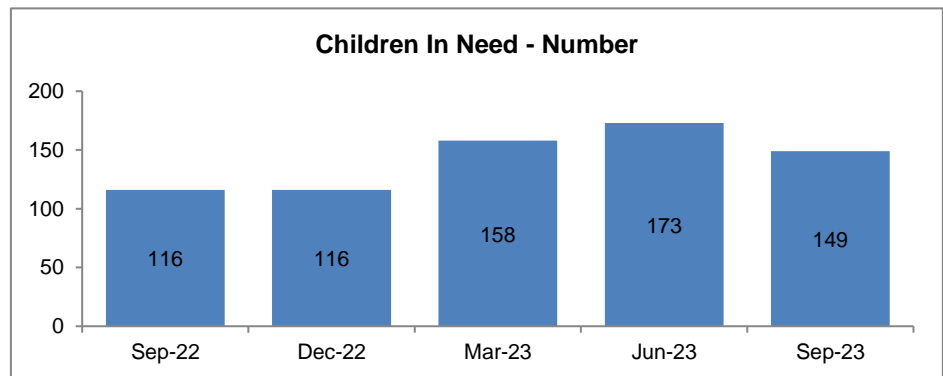
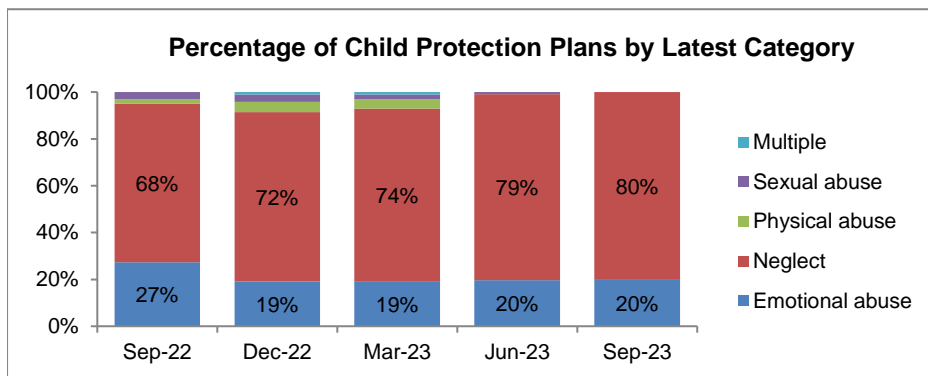
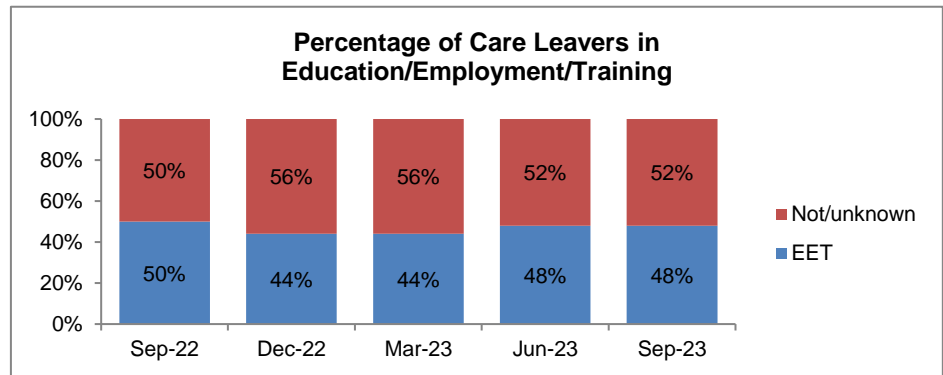
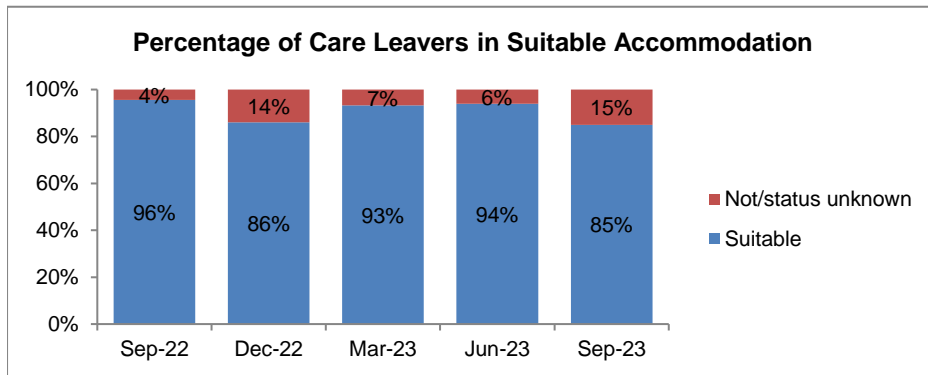
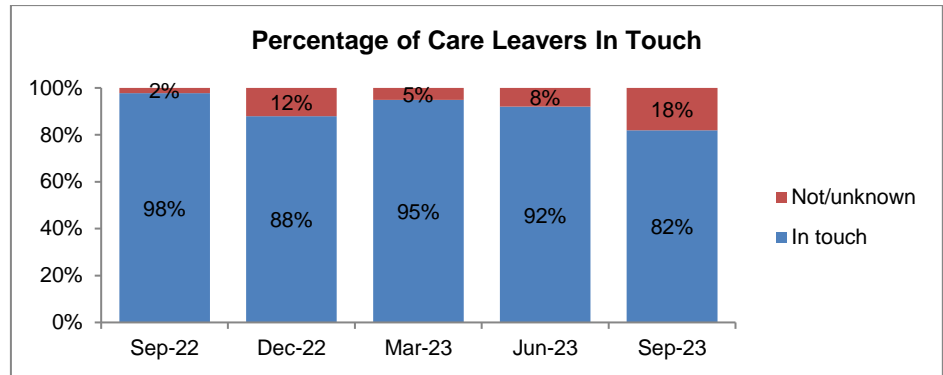
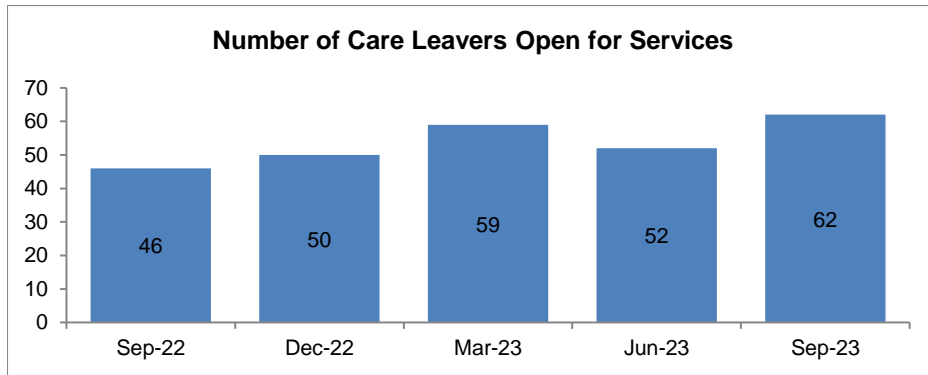




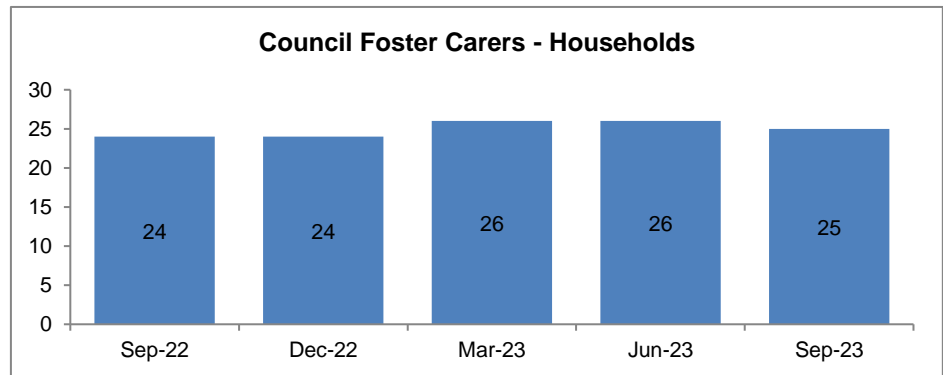
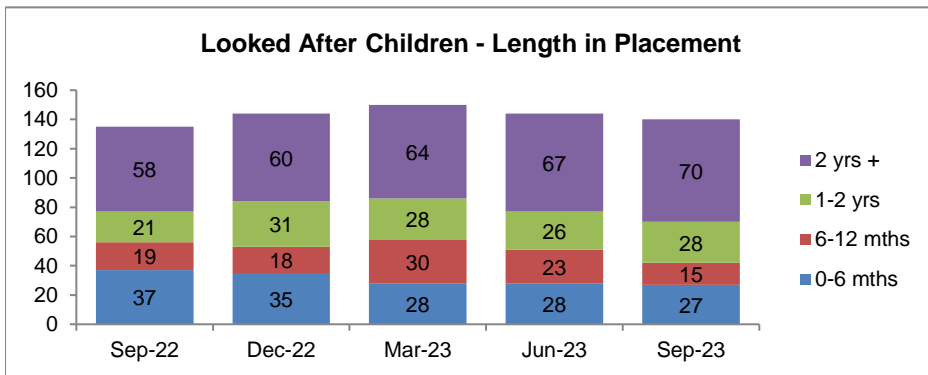
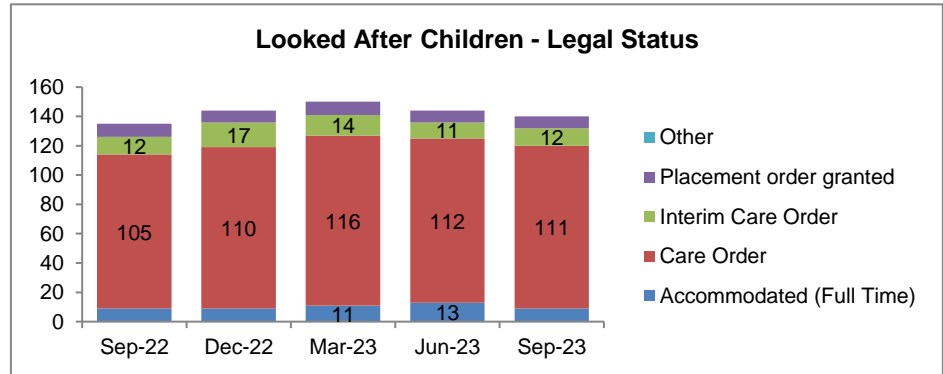
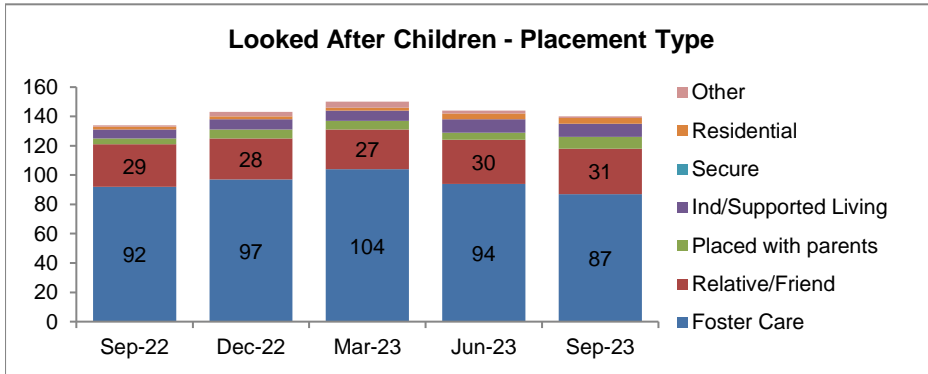
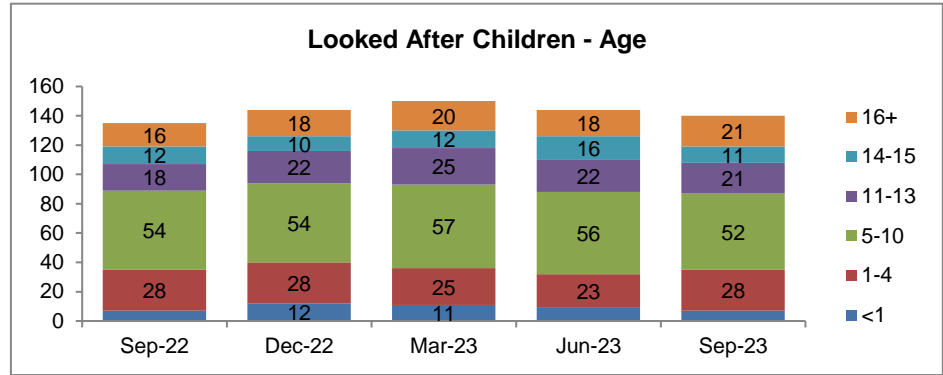
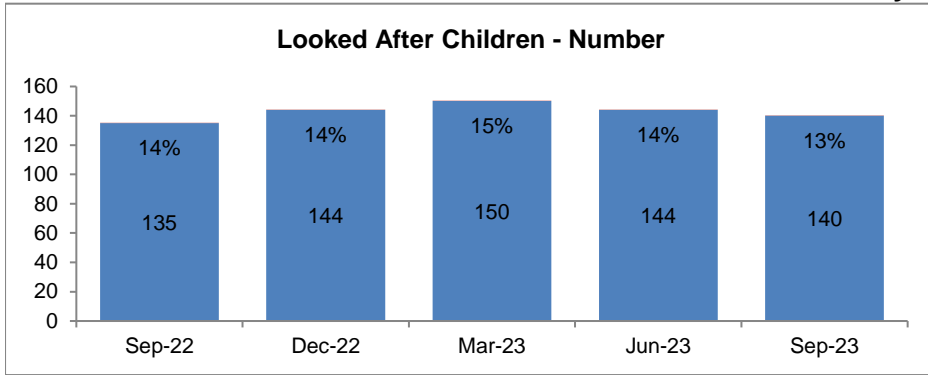


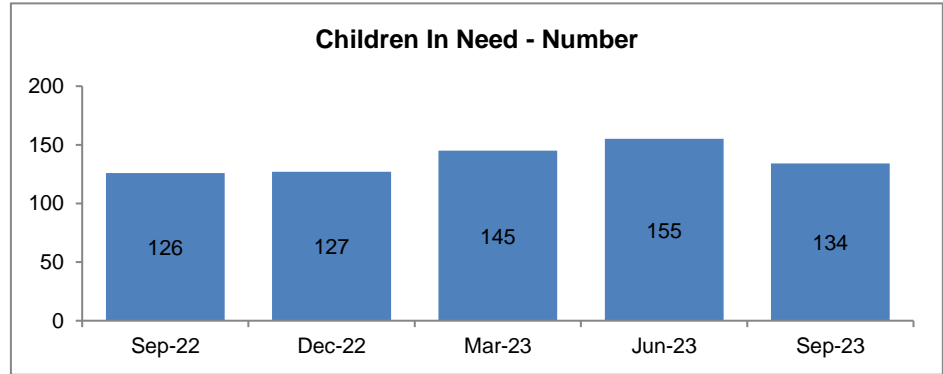
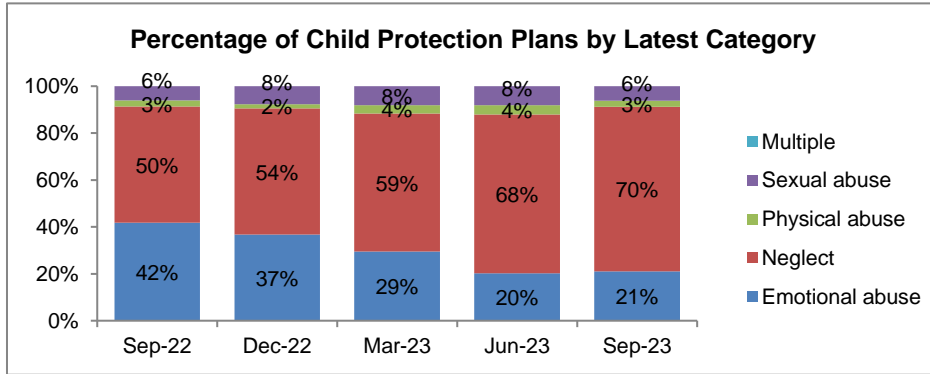
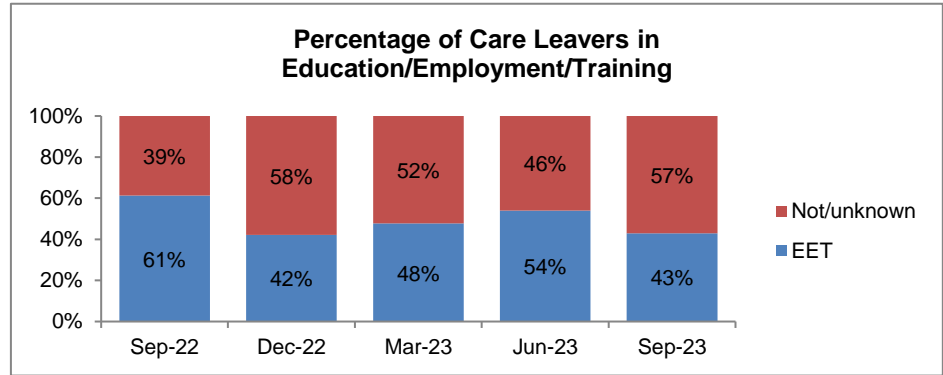
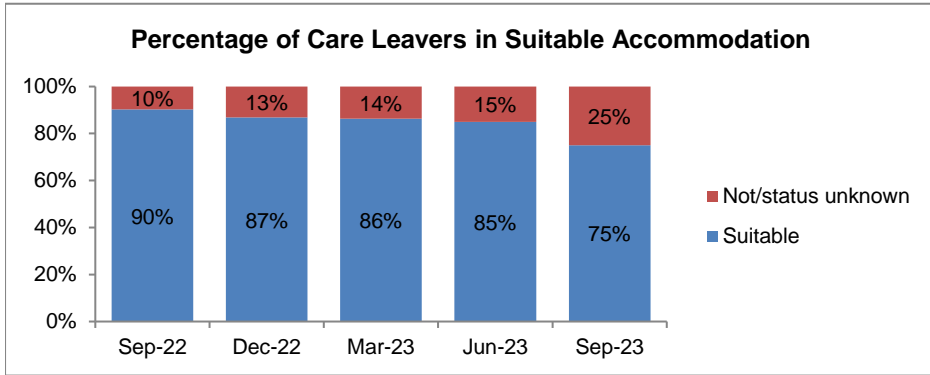
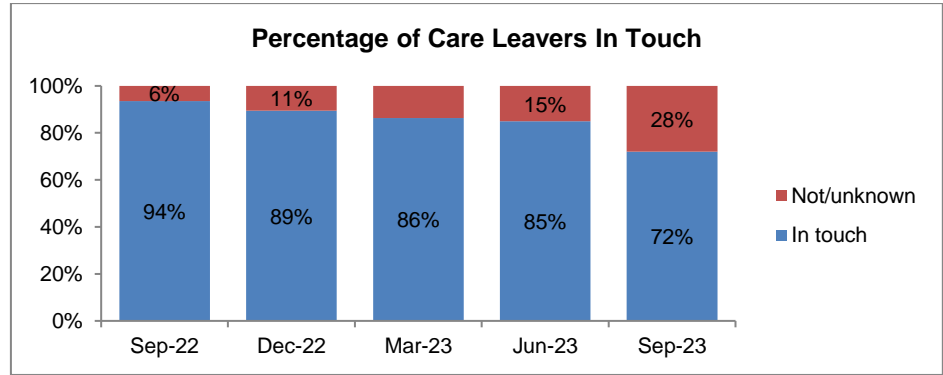
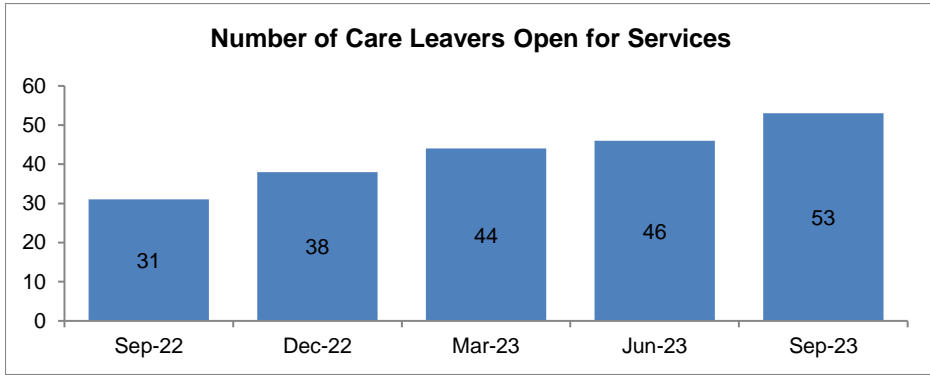
## Wychavon





## Wyre Forest





## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD 21 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

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#### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Board is asked to note its future work programme and consider whether there are any matters it would wish to be incorporated.**

#### **Work Programme**

##### **30 January 2024**

Participation annual report

##### **9 May 2024**

Care Leaver annual report

##### **9 July 2024**

CPB annual report

##### **8 October 2024**

IRO annual report

##### **20 November 2024**

VS annual report

#### **Contact Points**

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer  
Tel: 01905 846621  
Email: [slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk)

#### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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