Children Looked After
Placed Out of County Summary Report

This summary report gives an overview of the process to notify other Local Authorities of children being placed by Worcestershire in their area and a data summary of the number of children placed by Worcestershire out of area.
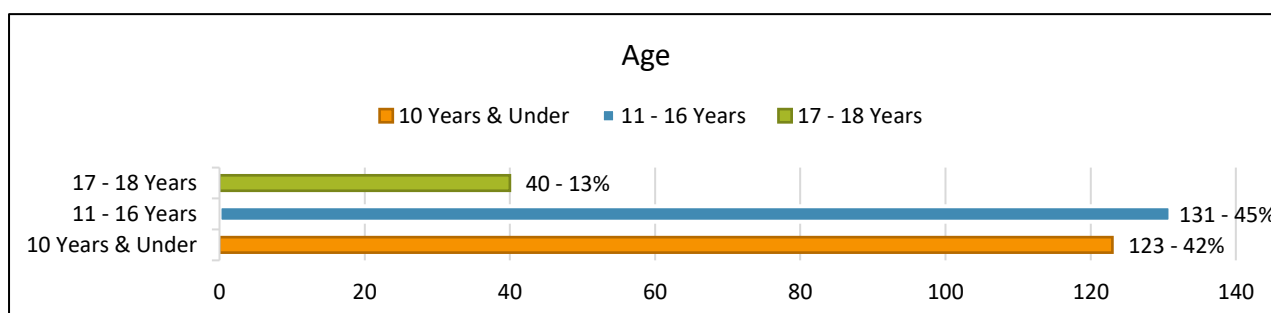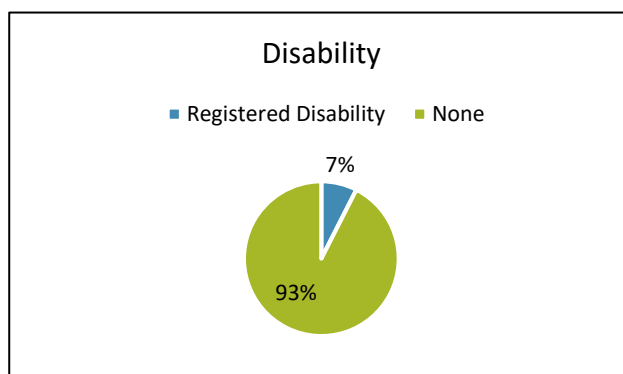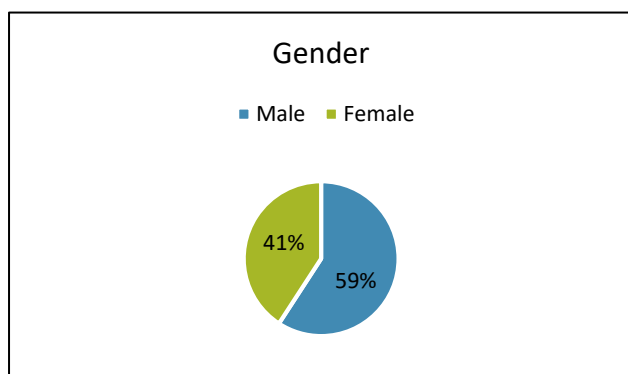
1. <u>Worcestershire Children placed in other Local Authorities</u>
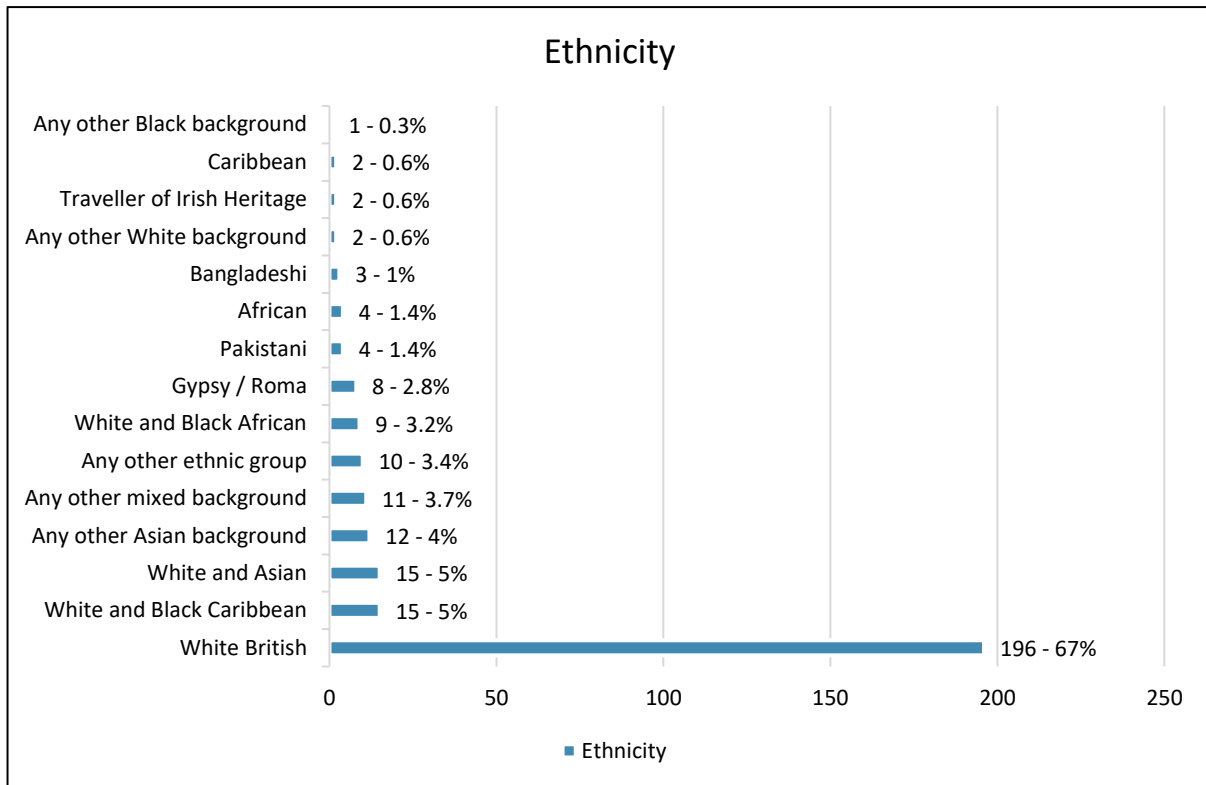
The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review statutory guidance and the associated regulations updated in 2013, outline duties on local authorities to notify other local authorities if they place a child in care within their area.

Children's Social Care have a centralised function for the notification of our looked after children being placed in other Local Authority areas; to ensure this system is effective and no child is missed, we have an automated internal notification system, so when a child is placed out of area and Liquid Logic is updated with their new address, the Safeguarding Quality Assurance (SQA) Service receive a notification of this change.

This enables us to work with the Social Work Teams to ensure the notification is completed; this also includes notifying the local Health Authority of a looked after child being placed in their area.

As of the 24th of June 2022, WCF had 294 looked after children placed outside of the Worcestershire area. The following graphs give a data narrative of this cohort of children and young people.

Gender

- Male ■ Female

41% 59%

Disability

- Registered Disability ■ None

7% 93%

Age

- 10 Years & Under ■ 11 - 16 Years ■ 17 - 18 Years

Age Group	Value
17 - 18 Years	40 - 13%
11 - 16 Years	131 - 45%
10 Years & Under	123 - 42%

Dated: 27th June 2022

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Count
Any other Black background	1 - 0.3%
Caribbean	2 - 0.6%
Traveller of Irish Heritage	2 - 0.6%
Any other White background	2 - 0.6%
Bangladeshi	3 - 1%
African	4 - 1.4%
Pakistani	4 - 1.4%
Gypsy / Roma	8 - 2.8%
White and Black African	9 - 3.2%
Any other ethnic group	10 - 3.4%
Any other mixed background	11 - 3.7%
Any other Asian background	12 - 4%
White and Asian	15 - 5%
White and Black Caribbean	15 - 5%
White British	196 - 67%

The majority-of children placed outside of the area are male and in the age cohort of 11 – 16, followed by those agreed 17 & 18. A very small number of children placed out of area have a disability and this amounts to 7%, this is 22 children. The-majority of children are White British totalling 67%.

Placement Type:

Placement Type

- Residential — 24%
- IFA — 34%
- WCF Fostering IFA — 22%
- Adoption Placement — 8%
- Placement with Parents — 2%
- Semi-Independent — 9%
- Secure Placement — 0%
- Youth Offenders Institute — 1%

Dated: 27th June 2022
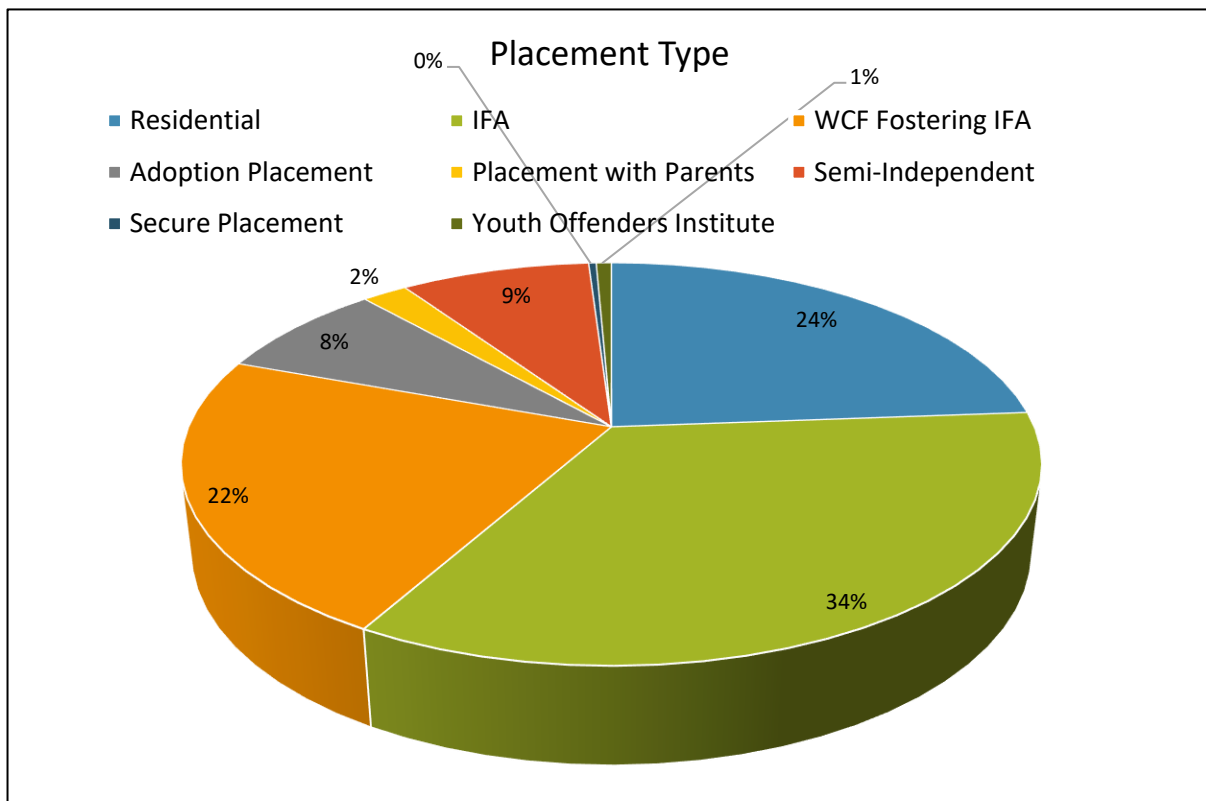
There are a range of Placement Types, children placed with Foster Carers are the highest volume of this cohort and between WCF Fostering and other Fostering Agencies, 46% are placed with carers, this is followed by children placed in a Residential setting at 34%.

Of the 66 children placed out of county with WCF Carers, 44 of these are Kinship Carers, evidencing keeping families within the extended family is a preferred care plan for children.

Of the children placed out of area, 153 (52%), are placed within a Worcestershire neighbouring authority.

In total 32% (294) of Worcestershire looked after children are placed outside of the Local Authority area. However, of the 294, 66 are placed with WCFF carers, 23 are placed with Adopters, 6 have returned to their parents care under Placement with Parent Regulations, and 3 young people are in specialist secure/Youth Offenders Placements that do not operate within the Worcestershire Boundary – this accounts for 98 of children placed out of area. This means 21% of Worcestershire looked after children are placed outside of area following these specific circumstances.

2. Children placed within Worcestershire by other Local Authorities Review

We have a centralised process of other Local Authorities notifying us that a looked after child has been placed in our area and we are able to track this through our Dashboard. As of 24th June 2022, there are 480 children placed in Worcestershire by other Local Authorities; although these children are placed in our area, Children's Social Care have no Statutory Responsibility for this cohort of children.

Our central BSO for tracking OLA Notifications, has done a focused piece of work in liaising with other LAs, in ensuring we are being notified of such placements and that this information is regularly updated – we record the child and their details on Liquid Logic; any key information is also saved to the file.

To support other Local Authorities knowledge of our notification process and services available in the Local Authority area we developed and sent the attached letter to all other Local Authorities. Letter available on line at [Agenda for Corporate Parenting Board on Tuesday, 12th July, 2022, 2.00 pm - Worcestershire County Council (moderngov.co.uk)](#)

Dated: 27th June 2022