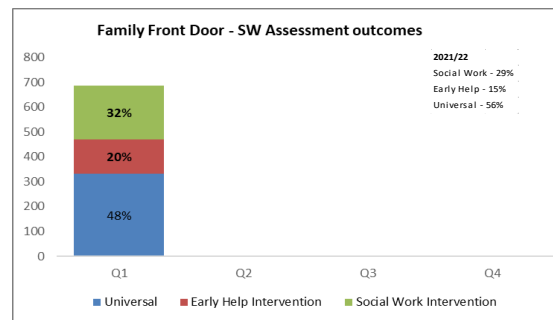
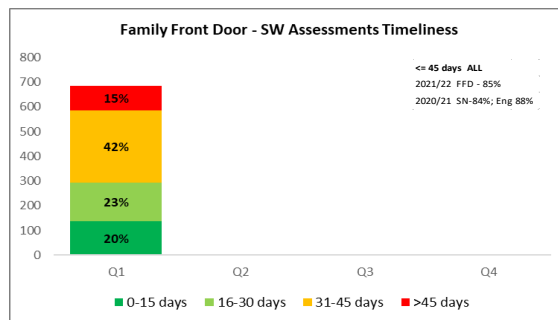
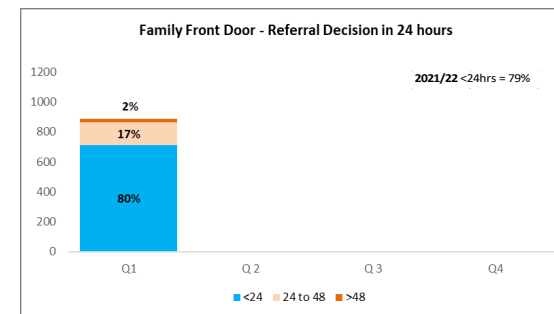
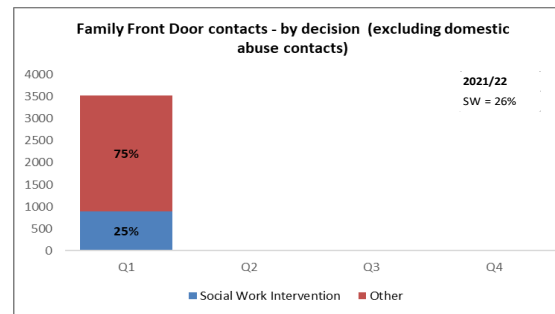
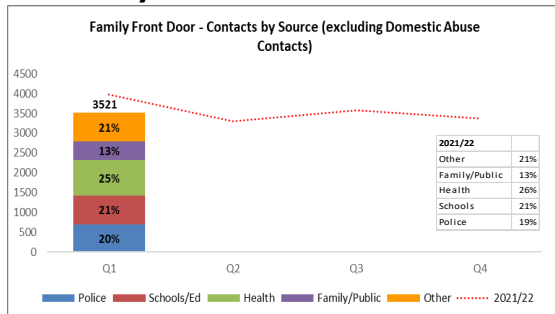


Family Front Door



Family Front Door

Contacts at the family front door have re-established a relatively consistent pattern in qtr. 1 to that of qtr. 2/3/4 last year with an average of 3500 per quarter, indicating a stable and reduced number of incoming contacts from qtr. 1 in 21/22 (3981) However this reduction is still consistently 1000 per qtr. above what we saw pre covid at 2500.

25% of contacts converted to a social work assessment a slightly reducing trend from averages of 27-29%. However audit shows us that whilst these contacts do not require a SWA the information shared within them is an appropriate and benefits from the ability to triangulate that info/incident with other known factors which may build a picture to raise the level of concern.

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership have agreed funding for increased SW/staffing capacity at FFD to enable us to manage high levels of information sharing.

The Early Help portal is being accessed by professional and 60% of referrals accepted at level 3 but a much lower % accepted at level 2 where universal early help was assessed to be able to meet need. Therefore we continue to challenge our partnership on the accessibility and effectiveness of early help at universal / level 2 for families.

Parents "struggling with parenting" has risen to our top concern for Contacts, above parental Mental Health, and is a change we need to consider as we look at the offer of Early Help but also impact for social care families.

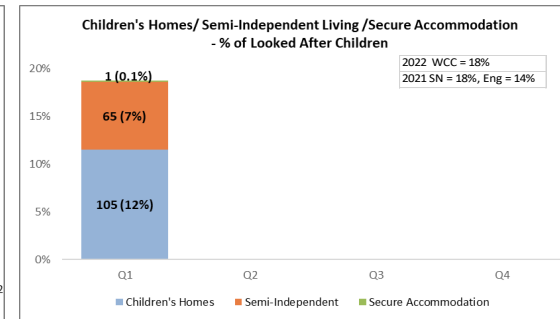
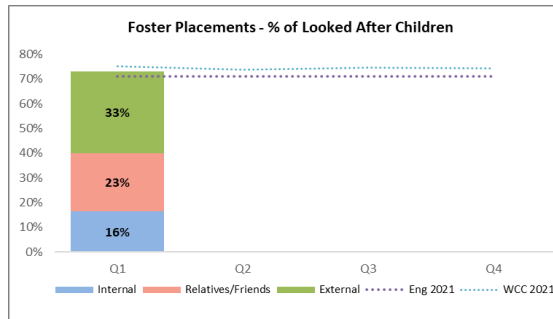
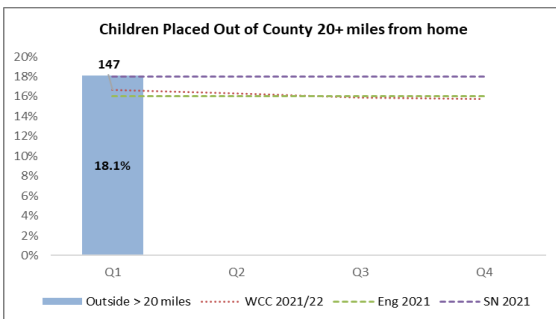
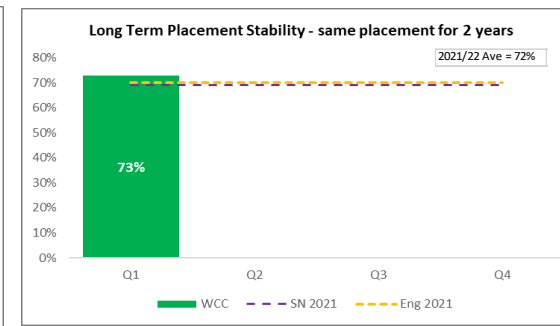
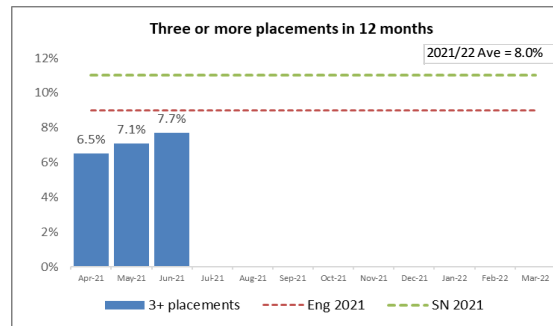
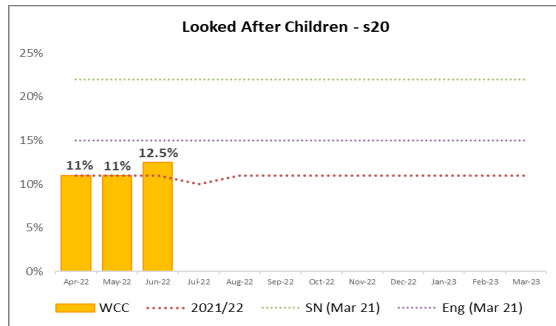
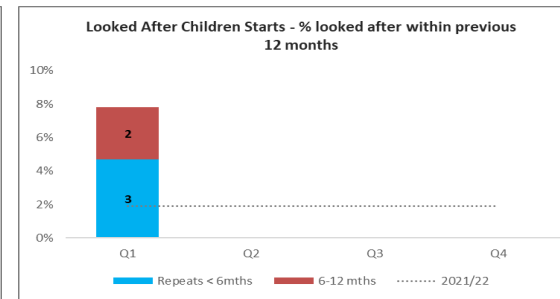
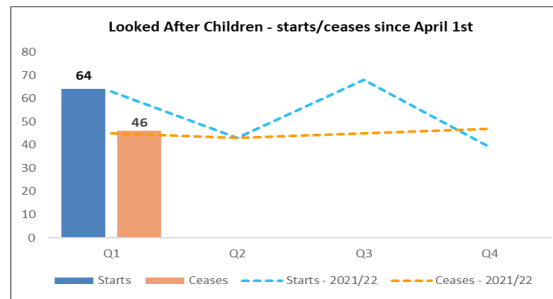
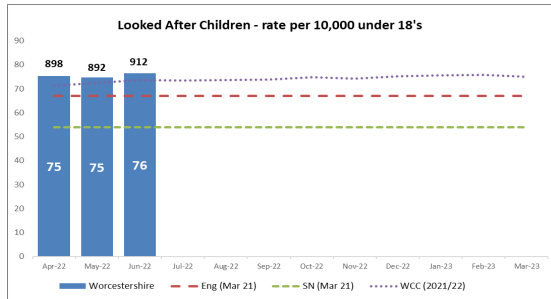
A new targeted parenting course is now available for families open to Childrens Social Care offering the course in smaller groups and with direct support, we need to evaluate take up and outcome of this new approach.

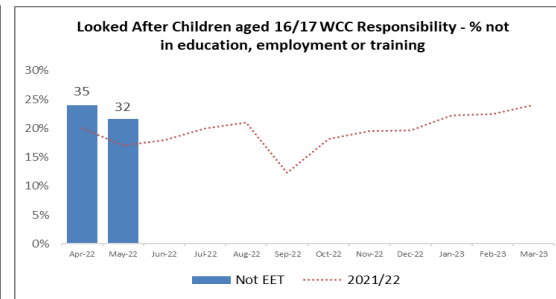
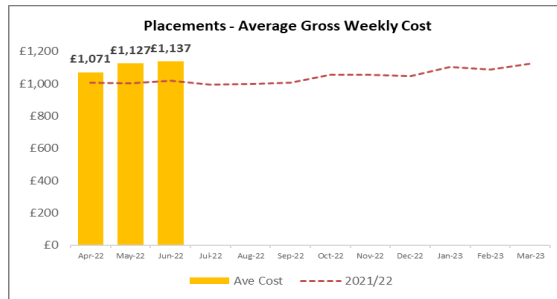
Workflow on Social Work Assessments is good with only 2% now being open over 45days, a significant drop from the unusual rise to 17% in Feb 21 when we took action to add capacity from our staff. This worked well and normal workflow has resumed with 85% of SWA being completed in best practice timescale.

Strategy discussion outcomes remain consistent with the largest number having a joint S47 enquiry and agency contributions to these strategy discussions remain good.

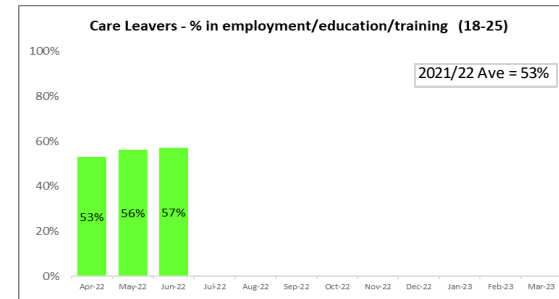
We are preparing for a likely increase in FFD contacts and SWA's in October 22 when our local child death goes to trial and will receive significant media coverage. Adding SW and Admin capacity to manage this proactively will be important to ensure staff remain able to manage the workflow.

Through Care - Looked After Children and Care Leavers





No comparator data is available for this indicator



Care Leavers 19-21 in Employment, Education or Training as at 30 Jun 2022: **60%**. Latest comparative figure for age 19-21 using national annual snapshot methodology (2020/21) - Statistical Neighbours: **50%**, England: **52%**

Looked After Children

The quarterly data is a snapshot of the flow of children into and out of care. The overall annual figure and "duration" of time in care show the impact of our work to prevent care and achieve permanency for those children who need to be received into care for the safety and welfare. In qtr. 1 we have seen **64 new care and 46 exits**, the same number as last year. We see a slight increase in the number of **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children entering our care** as we have continued to accommodate unplanned arrivals and be a part of the now mandatory National Transfer scheme. However at 3.7% of our Looked After population we remain below the England average of 5%. We are also below the population target of 0.07% as we currently sit at 0.03%

Placements : At 72% we have slightly more children in foster care of our overall looked After population (Eng. Ave 71%), however we have a decreasing number of children in our internal(WCF) foster care provision now at 39%, a continued declining trend seen through 21/22. This is a major area of our work but is seeing insufficient outcomes as foster carers leave the profession to retire or find it too challenging and we are unable to recruit new carers for the complex children entering care.

However Kinship Carers are increasing and represent 59% of our WCF children in foster care population. We also see better stability for young people in Kinship placements with a minority breaking down requiring residential care.

Whilst we have overall 18% of children in Residential/Semi Indp and Secure provision in line with our SN, we are above the Eng. of 14%. When we break that down we see a slight increase to 7% of young people in supported semi-independent living up from 6% at year-end reflecting our work to support YP aged 17 to have supported year of living as they transition from residential care to young adults. We can also see an increased number of children in residential care at 12% up from 11% at year-end 21/22.

The sufficiency challenge exists where we see birth family and or placement breakdown and a lack of foster care provision able to meet needs and a demand for Residential care. During 21/22 a total of 61 young people needed a residential placement :

33% came from an existing residential provision

34% from Foster Care: 5 children from WCF (only 1 being a kinship foster care placement) and 16 (26%) coming from Independent Foster Agency (IFA) breakdown

22% breakdowns from home with 8/14 being Children With Disability /SEND

Qtr. 1 we see a similar pattern emerging with 22 young people requiring residential placements (6 from agency residential, 5 from home and 4 from IFA.

Residential care is commonly not providing stability or positive outcomes for young people and as such our placement sufficiency strategy continues to look at reducing the need for residential

Stability and Duration

Our children placement experience continues to show a positive picture with only 7.1% of children experiencing three or more placements in 12 months below our own 21/22 figure of 8% and below Eng. and SN 9 and 11% respectively. We also have positive outcomes for long term stability with 73% of our children remaining in the same placement for over two years compared to Eng. 70% and SN at 69%.

We can see in our "duration" in care a continuing improved picture with 31% of children in care achieving permanence out of care in less than 12 months (29% last year) and 48% in less than 2 years consistent for two year, despite Covid. Reflecting the timeliness of our permanency planning through care proceedings. The rising higher figure of 43% of those leaving care after three years reflects the cohort of children who have been stable in their long term care arrangements moving to independence at 18. Our End of Care data shows an increased number of children achieving permanency and those being successfully rehabilitated to parental care following PWP or Care Order revocation, both our targeted groups

Care Leavers

The increase in care leavers in touch and open for a service is a positive reflection of our relationships and good care leaver offer to our young people as they attain adulthood.

Quarter 1 brings us to the end of an unstable period in care leavers management .

This had caused some anxiety within the staff team and a period of more limited managerial oversight which has negatively impacted on the accuracy of data inputting to our 903 statutory returns. Work to ensure our data is reflective of the work undertaken and the outcomes being achieved in Education and Housing is underway.

A review of the service end of 21/22 has increased management capacity from 2.5 to 4fte Team Managers and an additional experienced senior practice manager who joined the service in June to coordinate service developments and stabilise the service. We have a planned QA deep dive as part of the WCF programme underway reporting October 22

In 2021/22 we developed and launched a programme of seeking feedback from Care Leavers of how they experience our services, the below section summaries their views...170 young people gave their feedback and views.

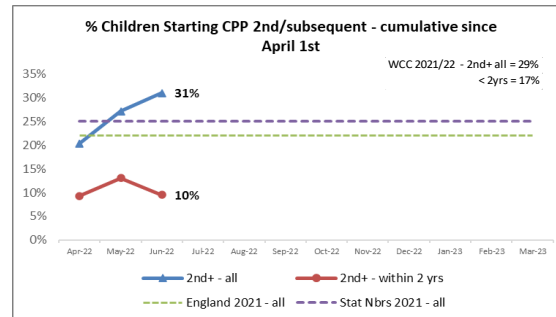
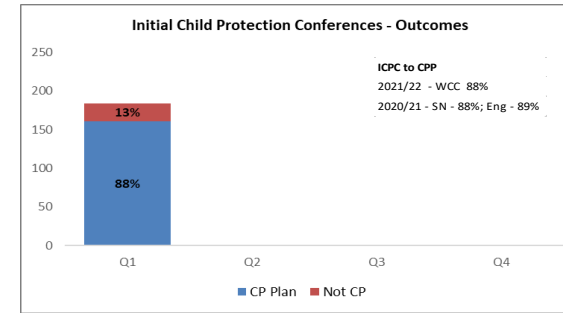
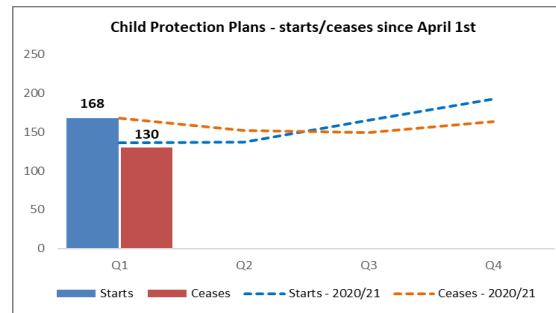
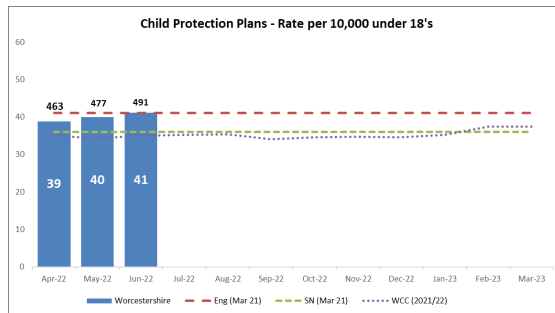
95% felt listened to and understood by their PA,

88% felt included in their Pathway Planning, however, 67% said they had received a copy of their plan.

90% said that it was easy to contact their PA.

November 22 we are launching our "Connect" scheme to match care leavers with volunteer WCF staff to act as befrienders to those who feel isolated - Aug 22 we have a staff raffle to raise funds for the launch and Care Leaver activities through 22/23 and to raise the profile and needs of these young adults

Child Protection



Our rate of child protection at 41 per 10,000 has been a rising trend and take us now to being in line with Eng. average. We have seen through the latter part of 21/22 an increase in the complexity of cases coming into the safeguarding system and is a reflection of the continued impact of COVID where risk factors in assessments have identified domestic abuse / parental mental health as our top two risk factors and child mental health rising from the fourth the third most common factor.

However it remains the case that it is parental, drug misuse / alcohol misuse / Domestic Abuse and mental health and the combination of those that remain in the top five high risk factors leading to children needing protection.

This increased complexity has resulted not only in a rise in the number of children starting with a plan but a reduction in those ceasing on a plan. This combination of issues is harder to "turn around" and we have seen an increase in the numbers of cases progressing to PLO and care proceedings in the first qtr. of this year than in previous years.

We have also seen an increase in those children on a plan due to emotional abuse to 30% from an average of 27% and this predominantly reflective of risk associated with the mental health of parents and children and young people

The number of 47 enquiries starting is in line with our own averages for 21/22 but was generally against the regional trend which has seen a down turn until qtr. 4 when seven LA also showed an increase from a previous quarterly rate. Eng. national data is at 164 per 10k whereas WCF is at 206.

As our rate of S47's is higher than Eng./SN and our rate of those progressing to ICPC is lower this suggests we are doing too many S47. We need to look at a joint Police/CSC audit across FFD and Locality to look at this issue.

Our timeliness and outcome of conference are good and consistently in line with SN/Eng. averages.

Child Participation : we have very good outcomes with 17% of young people attending their own conferences (up from an qtr. average of 10%) and 12 % speaking for themselves at conferences up from 5% averages last year.

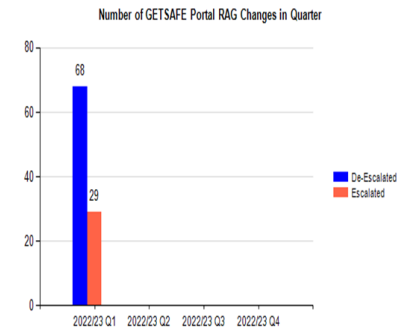
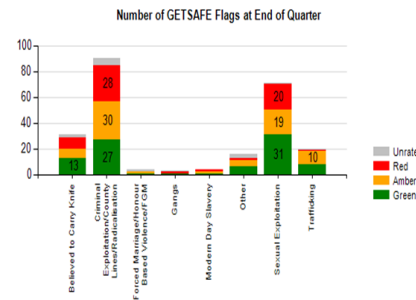
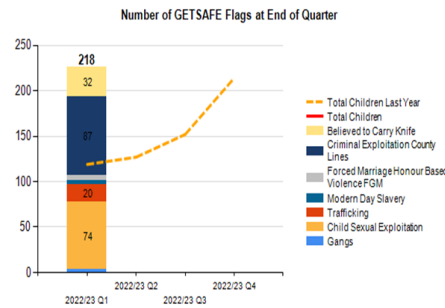
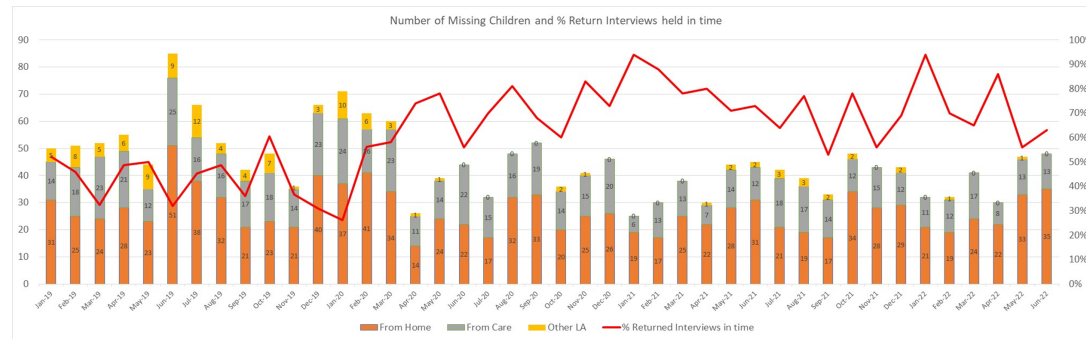
Children subject to a repeat plan within two years at 10% in Qtr. 1 needs to be understood as a full year for true comparison.

The number of children subject to repeat plan at any point in time at 31% is higher and above SN / Eng. averages. Regional data shows that this is a very up and down indicator across the local authorities with disparity also between quarters.

Audit of our repeat plans shows us appropriate threshold decision making with new needs and risk emerging in families that have historically made sustained changes and the impact of Covid is a real factor in how these risk have re-emerged.

These complexities are leading to the rising number of children still on a plan at 12 months where changes has been harder to achieve and "threshold still met" decisions at Review Child Protection Conferences.

Children In Need



Children in Need

Our overall CIN cohort at 261 per 10k is in line with SN and a little below Eng. average of 314. Qtr. 1 "new" CIN shows a higher rate than we saw in qtr. 1 last year.

Qtr. 1 we see 16% of our CIN "step up" to CP or Care, consistent 20/21 that 10-18%. That's an 84% success rate to "step down"

A focus on our CIN (as of May 21) is the expansion of our Supporting Families First, our "Edge of Care/Child Protection" multi-disciplinary team.

In qtr. 1 we continue to see positive outcomes with 66% of cases closing after and intervention,

The service user experience tells us the majority of families and children and parents feel happier, healthier and safer following intervention.

Only 3% of children becoming looked after and 26% progressing to child protection. The team manage a range of complex risks that exist within these families and a % escalation to CP/Care is to be expected if we are working at the right threshold

Outcomes for 50 (sustainability cohort) now 12 months on, sees that 40% children have remained closed sustaining the positive outcomes and a further 26% remain at the children need level only. Only one child has since become looked after and six escalated to child protection

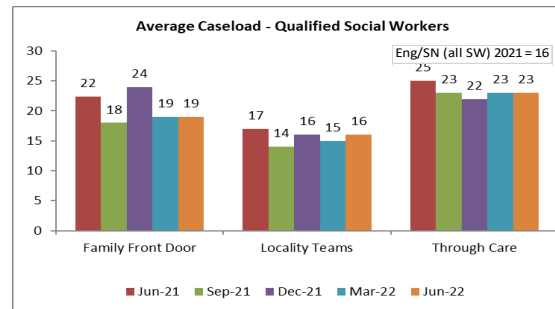
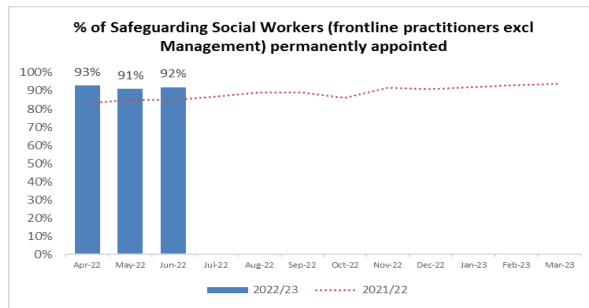
Missing

We continue to see a seasonal influenced pattern of missing children per qtr. with Qtr. 1 21/22 being similar to the same period last year. Timeliness of return interviews in timescale is relatively constant with a small number out of timescale.

Get Safe

We have significantly developed our Get Safe data and profile to understand the picture of exploitation and see through the three charts what that profile of risk looks like. With top categories of risk being criminal exploitation county lines and child sexual exploitation. We track individual children the second chart shows how we have identified those children as; Red as "experiencing"; an immediate plan of intervention, Amber "believed to be experiencing" and liaison with partners around a plan of proactive support a Green where we identify the child to engaging them in universal level 2 support and diversionary activities. The last chart shows the number of children who we have successfully stepped down in their risk rating during the Qtr. or been stepped up.

Staffing



Whilst qtr. 1 data shows 92% permanency in safeguarding staff, **we know of qtr. 2 data will show a drop in this as June/July we saw a higher than usual number of staff leaving.** Analysis of this shows the greatest percentage going to **agency for higher pay or leaving the profession.**

High caseloads and repeated staff turnover impacts on the capacity of social workers to do the required day to day work but also targeted work such as assessment planning for rehabilitation. It also impacts on confidence in risk management and from our partners is they experience multiple SW changes.

To address pressures we have secured an **additional three Advanced Social Work Practitioners to take pod caseloads responsibilities down in Supporting Families First.** We have also **increased managerial capacity to reduce supervisory ratio's in Care Leavers.**

We also recognise the likelihood of increased work from Oct as our own Child Death goes to trial and becomes publicly reported, and likely to increase of professional and public anxiety for the safety of children. We have identified one off funding for an **increase in support workers across the services to manage demand and support SW in field work visits during this high profile period.**