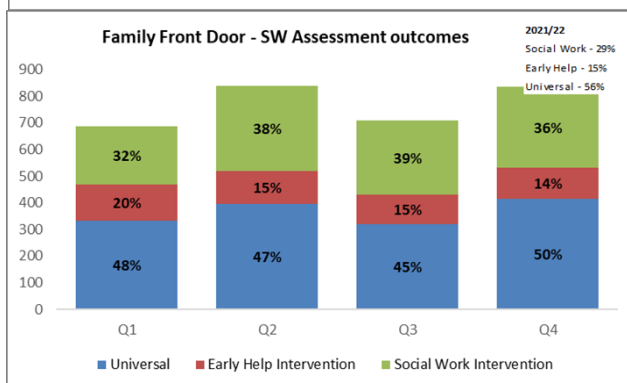
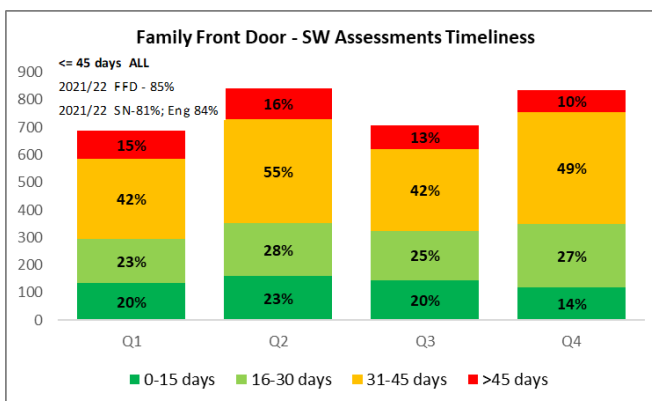
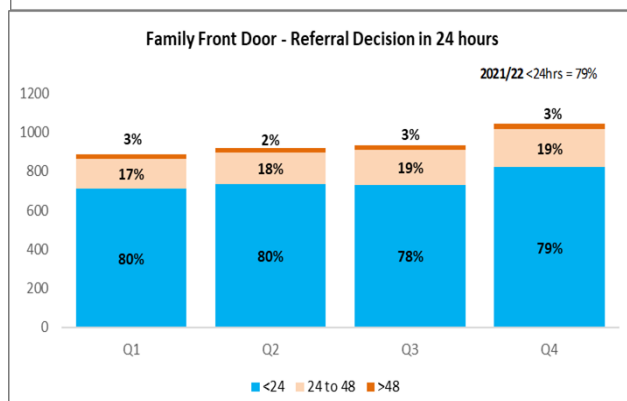
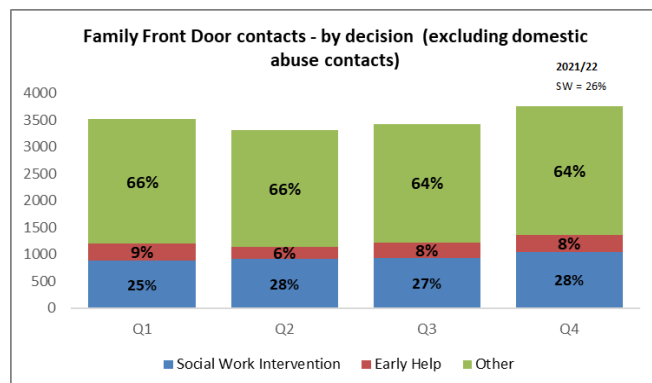
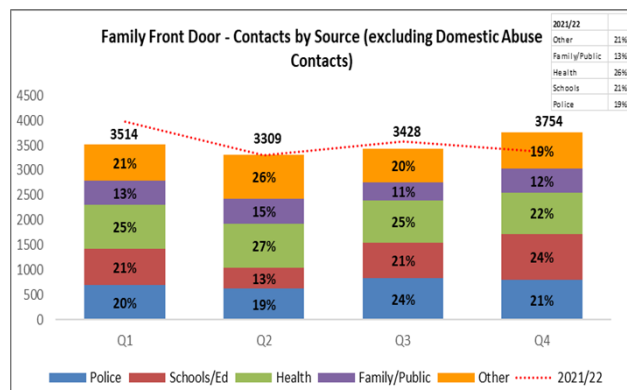


# Worcestershire Children’s Social Work – Summary Data for Scrutiny Panel

2022/23 - Quarter Four

## Family Front Door



Family Front Door - Top Ten Risk Factors at End of Assessment

Relates to	Risk Factor	2022/23		2021/22		2020/21	
		Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
Parent/Carer	Domestic Violence	1	35%	1	32%	1	36%
Parent/Carer	Mental Health	2	33%	2	30%	2	35%
Parent/Carer	Alcohol	4	15%	4	14%	3	18%
Parent/Carer	Drug	5	14%	5	11%	5	12%
Child	Mental Health	3	18%	3	20%	4	17%
Child	Abuse or neglect – 'EMOTIONAL ABUSE'	6	13%	6	10%	6	12%
Child	Abuse or neglect – 'NEGLECT'	7	11%	11	6%	9	7%
Child	Domestic Violence	8	10%	7	10%	8	8%
Child	Learning Disability	9	8%	8	10%	7	9%
Child	Physical Abuse - adult on child	10	8%	16	4%	13	5%
Percent of Assessments with "Trio of Harm" present		10%		10%		12%	

Qtr4 shows a consistent pattern of 36% of contacts meeting the CSC threshold. 28% of "Contacts" leading to a Referral and Social Work Assessment and a further 8% leading to a targeted EH intervention through WCF. While this leaves 64% of contacts not meeting social care threshold, we are still on Covid recovery and FFD is still acting in a key role in line with Working Together as the point of contact for professionals and the public where they have a concern for the welfare or safety of a child. We continue to see a steady rate of contacts coming from our public giving us confidence the general public know where to refer their concerns

Our rate of referrals is in line with our regional SN but remain below Eng. and are relatively consistent as a service. An average of **79% of "Contacts" have a decision in 24hrs and a further 19% completed in 48hrs** to ensure the right decision is made regarding the need for SWA.

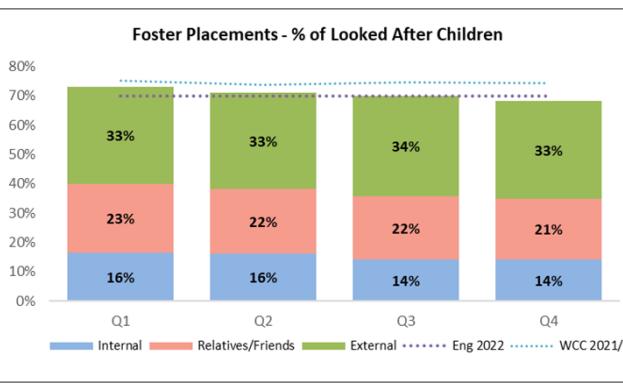
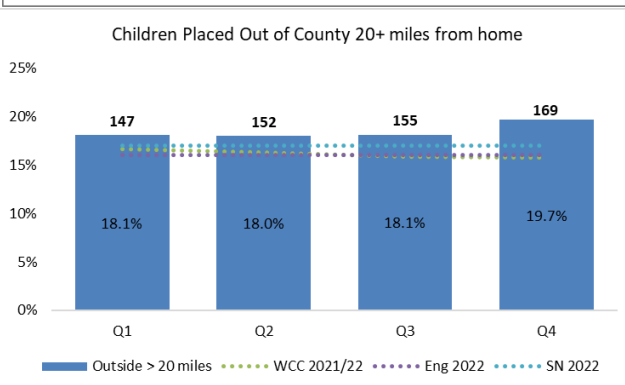
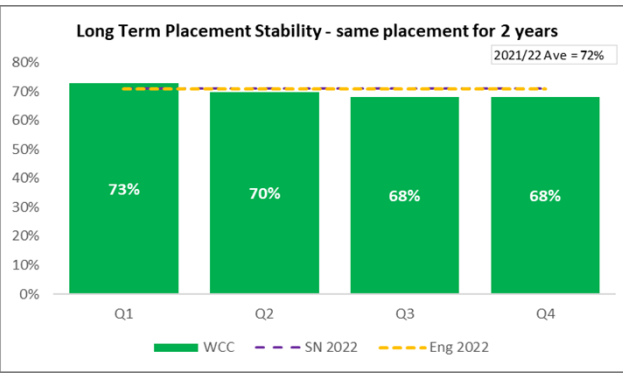
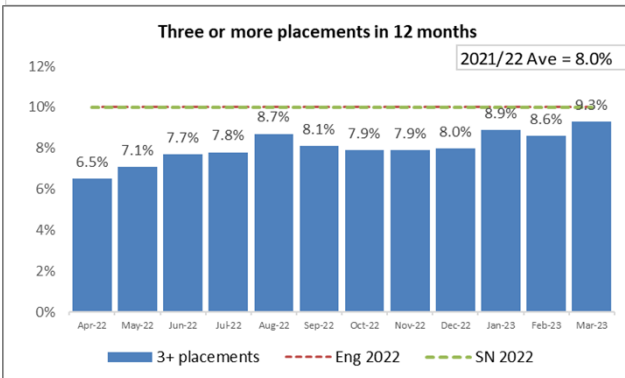
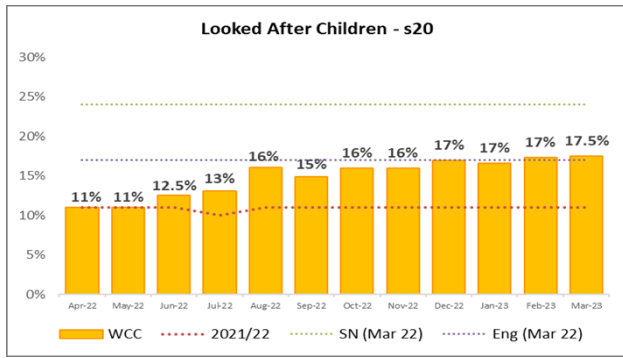
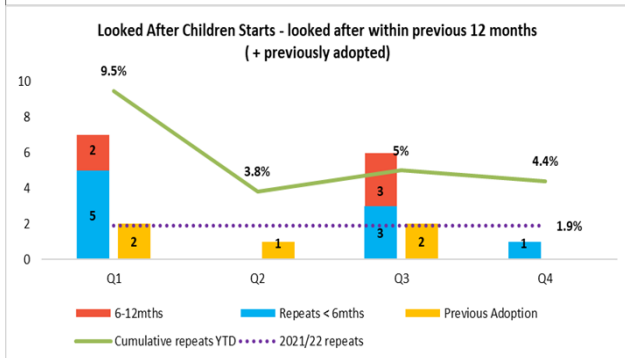
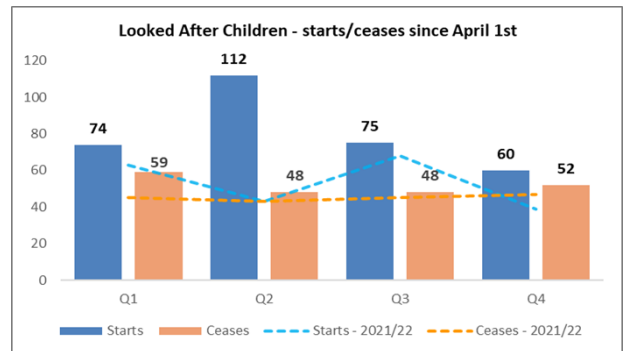
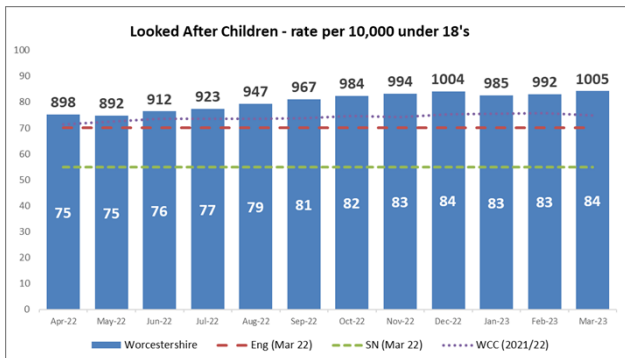
**90% of SWA are completed in timescale.** Those completed within the 45 days range and reflect proportionality in our SWA's.

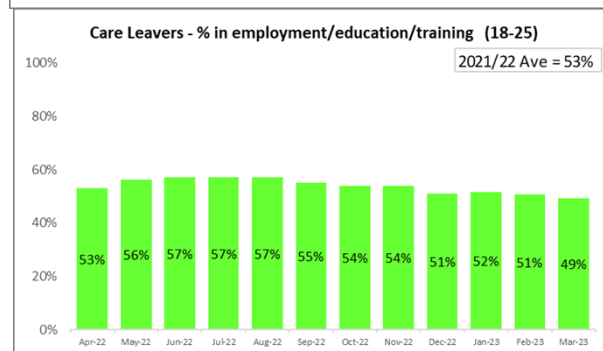
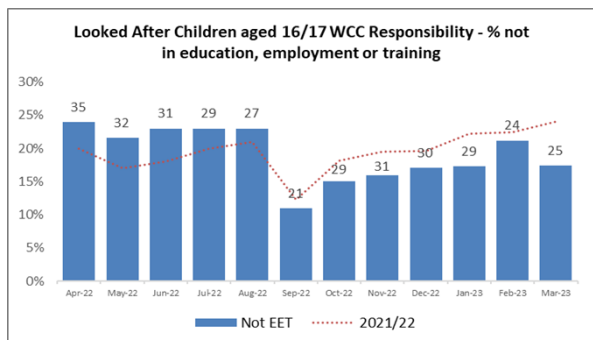
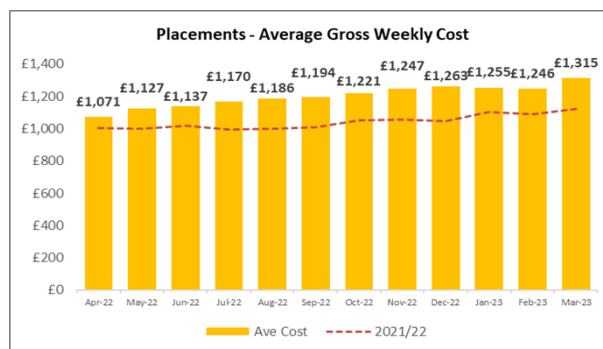
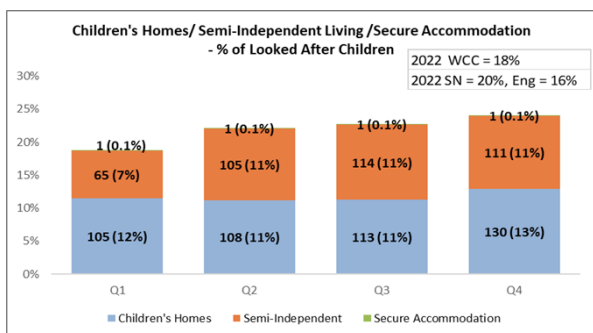
Positive outcomes for children/services are then reflected in **52% of our SWA resulting in WCF continued intervention** -36% for a SW intervention and 16% referred into targeted early help at level 3. The percentage **of children subject to a repeat assessment in 12 months** is consistent over the annual period and we remain lower for repeat SWA than Eng. and in line with our regional SN evidencing quality of decision making in assessment and intervention outcomes for children, "Right service right time".

**Risk assessment factors for contacts show our primary reason for contacts is** "Parents struggling with managing their children's behaviours" and **"Child and or Parental mental health" being and "Neglect"** being 2nd and 3rd most common. For 23/24 we are breaking down risk factor in contact as we do risk factor in SWA so we can identify better needs regarding MH of children and parents separately. **Child Mental Health continues to be the 3rd for our second year after parental DA and Parental.** Our JSNA / agency reports / data and feedback and national research continue to shine a light on unmet EHWB needs of Children, including ASD/ADHD, at the early stages leading to risk and complexity increasing and as such a need for children social care intervention.

**We continue to work with Health and Public Health to evaluate the effectiveness of the EHWB early help offer and accessibility to CAMHS through our Children and Young People Strategic Partnership, our 0-25 partnership, Scrutiny, the ICB and our internal work with the Hereford and Worcester care trust.**

# Throughcare – 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 31 Mar 2023: **53%**. Latest comparative figure for age 19-21 using national annual snapshot methodology (2021/22) - Statistical Neighbours: **54%**, England: **55%**

### Looked After Children

We continue to see a pattern this year whereby the number of children entering care exceeds those leaving care and as such the overall number continues to rise. **It is essential to balance our care prevention and family support approach with taking action to protect and to act on our statutory duties to accommodate those children in need of support and care including unaccompanied children and young people, who are 73 in total (23%) of all new accommodations this year, and those 16/17yrs who are vulnerable and homeless who represent 5 new accommodations.**

Through our Children in Need offer, delivered by Supporting Families First who work to prevent risk and needs escalating to either care or CP we see only 4% of children entering care. Our repeat care data shows a very small number of children return back to care within 6/12mths where they have been successfully moved to alternative permanency arrangements. The rise in our S20 cohort of looked after children is a direct result of our increase in UASC who account for over 50% of S20 children.

We have started recording our Adoption breakdown data to enable us to audit the pattern and trends we are seeing in practice with Adoption breakdowns in teenage years. This year's data show five new care entrants from Adoption breakdowns, two of which were WCC Adoptions one from 2007 and one from 2008.

Tracking of the demand for new residential placements (81 through 22/23) shows a continued primary cause as being placement breakdown of existing children in care placements. The primary age is 11yrs – 15yrs representing 74% where it seems the “teenage years” prove too challenging for the carer to continue to commit to the young people, some of whom have been with them for years and or the re-connection with birth family becomes a driver to breakdown care placements. Business planning 23/24 continues our work to see what we can do differently to prevent placement breakdown.

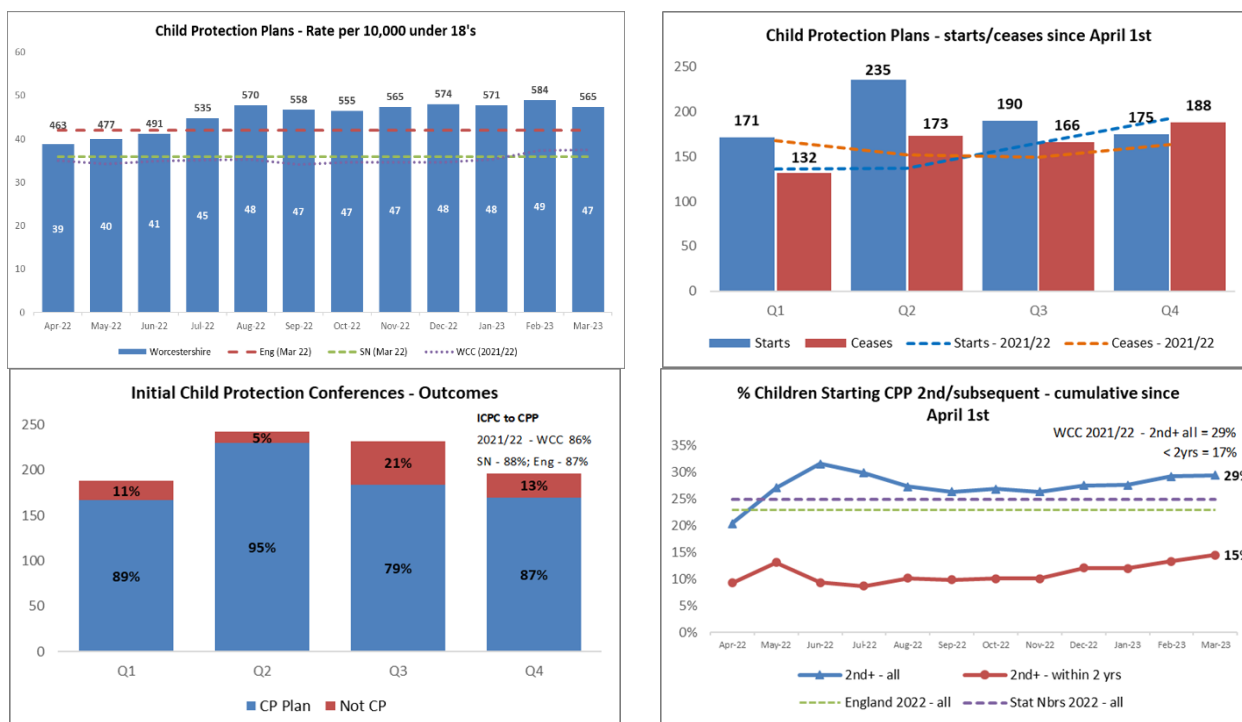
**This is impacting on our long term stability in placements which has seen a reduction to 68% from 72% in 21/22 and our short term stability is at 9%, up from 8% last year, with the trend showing an increase as once a breakdown in a long term placement occurs young people find it very difficult to re-settle.**

Our Foster Care recruitment continues to be a challenge and we have been unable to attract carers wanting to care for older children or larger sibling groups and as such see an increase in externally placed children and a decrease in those placed in house via WCFF. The buddy system introduced last year has been slow to attract new carers and nationally recognised limitations in the placement market have led us to see a greater dependence on IFA and a small increase in those placed over 20miles. Foster care recruitment and placement breakdown are priorities in our 23/24 business planning.

### Care Leavers

**Our data shows we compare at Eng./SN averages for each Care Leavers 19 to 21 who are - In Touch / Engaged in employment, education or training and at 94% is above average for those who are in Suitable Accommodation.** However, this remains a focus and through both Corporate Parenting Board and through the virtual school 16+ pilot and WCC skills we are focusing work on our care leavers not in employment, education or training both preventing this number increasing and trying to change the position for those hardest to reach.

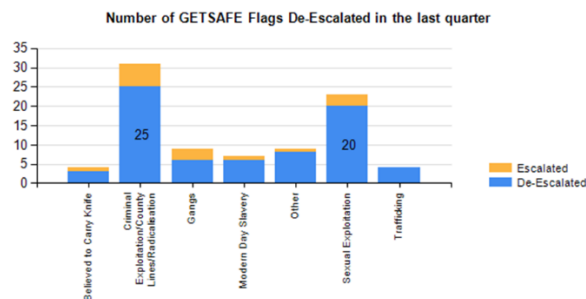
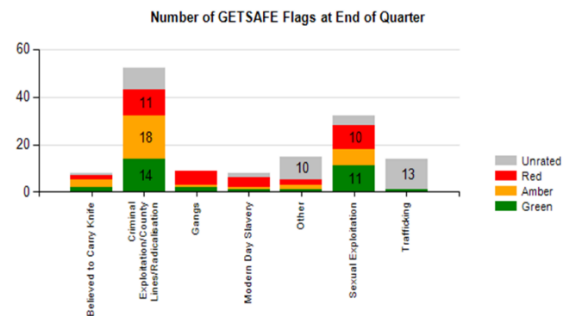
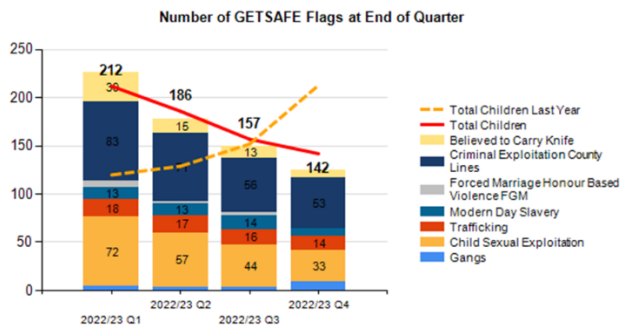
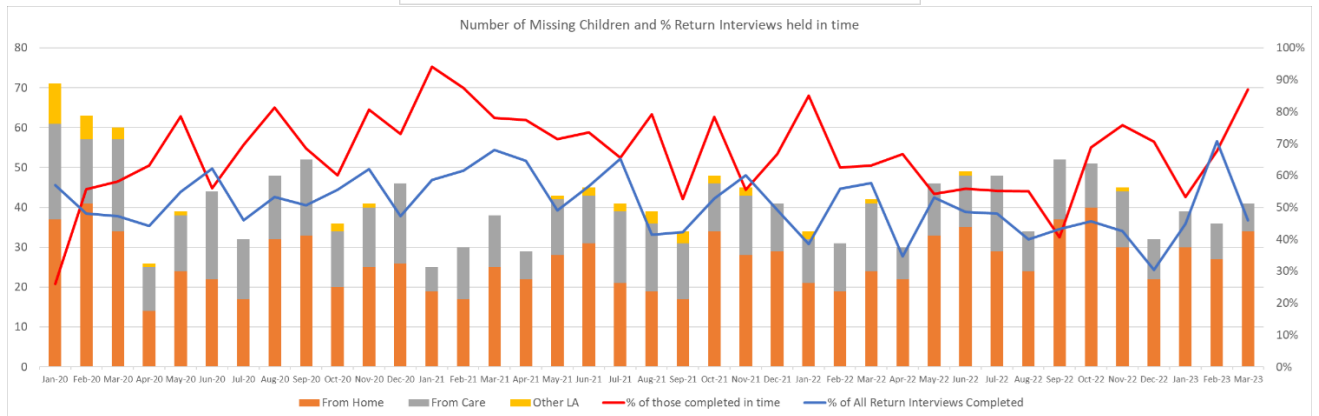
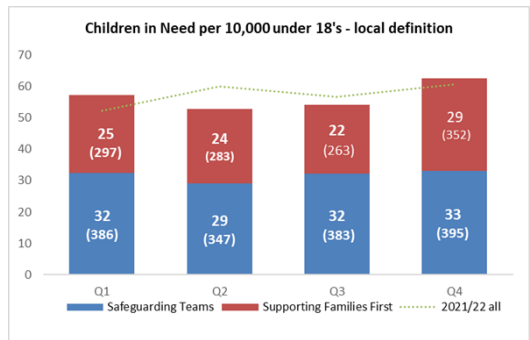
## Child Protection



As we continue to be successful in preventing care and managing risk within families our child protection processes show higher rates and an overall higher rate of CP compared to Eng. averages and our SN. **However, outcomes:** 547 to ICPC at 32% are in line with Eng. averages at 34% and our regional SN neighbours (Staffs) as are ICPC outcomes at 87% resulting in a plan. It's important for us to put our position into context and effectiveness of intervention.

Repeat CP within two years. **We have undertaken two audits this year in response to data trend and these audits showed appropriate re-application of CP threshold and highlighted Covid impacts where families had been adversely affected with re-emergency of MH and substance misuse. We have also seen some sibling groups impacting on data for example two sibling groups of five.**

# Children in Need



## Children In Need

Following the success of our "edge of Care" approach from Jan 2020 as part of business development in 21/22 WCF developed practice to manage the majority of our Children in Need cases through the multi-disciplinary Supporting Families First in an attempt to provide support and prevent risk and needs escalating to the level of Child Protection and or Care. The service has worked with 758 children over the year 22/23 and Outcome data shows positive outcomes with 76% of children successfully closing after a positive intervention. 19% have stepped up to Child Protection

and 2% have become looked after children. These data statistics show SFF are working at the right threshold to prevent risk escalating and requiring protection or care interventions. **The "sustainability" cohorts measured within SFF relate to 50 children worked with Jan 2020, and 51 CIN worked with since May 21 who were then successfully closed to the SFF their outcomes are measured annually to evidence the sustainability of their progress. This data shows of the 101 children closed to SFF for 2-3 years only 12 returned to service and became Looked After and 15 returned to service and become CP.**

### Missing

A detailed audit undertaken July 22 of missing cases identified that WCF have a consistent and effective response pathway for children that go missing from care or home. They are offered a timely WRI, 1 in 2 children are engaging in an interview and there is a robust and multi-agency response including appropriate pathways for children including those identified at risk of criminal exploitation. When speaking with children about their whereabouts when missing they overwhelmingly report they have been with friends and have frequented the local area.

Children missing from care overwhelmingly report when they go missing it is to be with their family. We have no missing UASC young people and this is not a common problem in WCF as reported to be in other LA's. Some staffing issues with vacancies in our Missing Officer team has impacted on capacity to offer interviews for short periods during 22/23 but overall the team and its positive impact can be seen in the data which shows on a child-by-child basis we see a reduction in incidents and as a service we have seen a good impact of the Missing Persons Officer role since its creation in 2019 where we saw 744 children with a missing incident down 647 in the first year and then down to below 500 for the years 2021 and 2022.

### Get Safe

We have significantly developed our Get Safe data and profile to understand the picture of exploitation and can 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 and Green where we identify the child to engage 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 and we can see effective work taking place with young people to reduce risk.

The GM and Senior Leadership Team receive a weekly report from WCF GET SAFE team on children missing from home and care who also have a Get Safe flag to have sight on the Worcestershire picture but also to ensure we address and co-ordinate Get Safe / Mace and Missing strategy meeting for these vulnerable children.

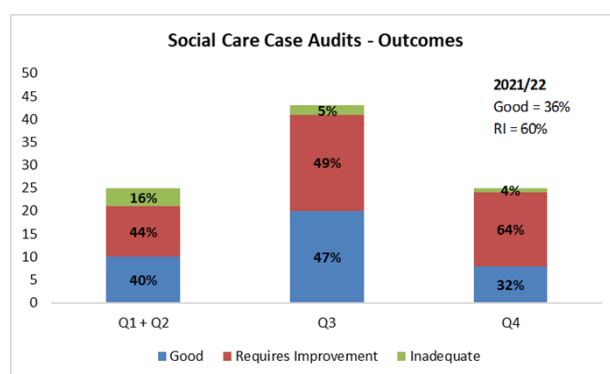
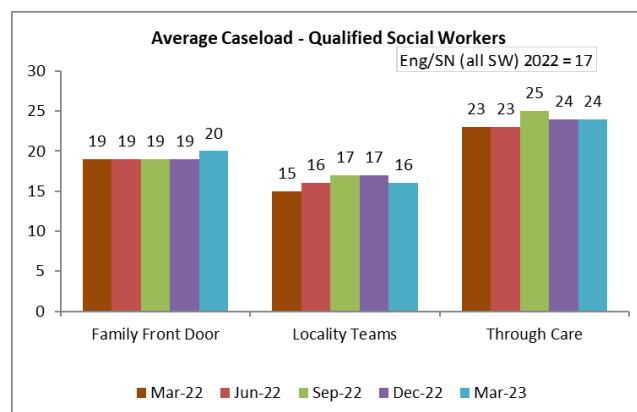
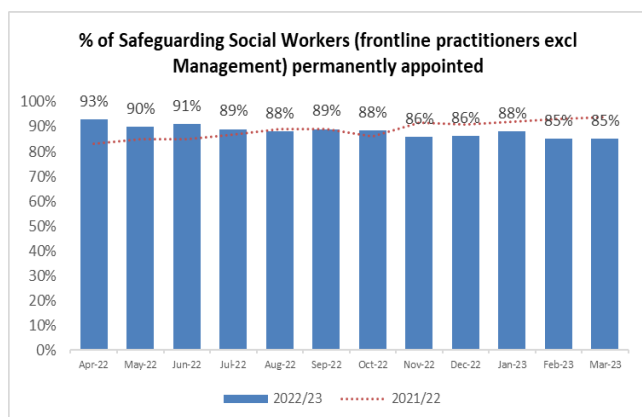
### Children with Disabilities

Children in Need include those with disabilities we are supporting. We continue to support a high number of children with disabilities through community and overnight short breaks. The CWD services shows appropriate evidence of safeguarding awareness and intervention with the CIN/CP and LAC levels of needs having been identified and assessed for some children.

We have now completed the 0-25 All Age Disability organisational structure and developments are underway to build practice and processes between the CWD and Young Adults Team to ensure we have a 0-25 approach with early information sharing and good transitions to Adult Services where this is appropriate



## Workforce and Quality of Practice



Whilst we have had a small drop to 85% of permanency in the Social Work workforce this still represents a high sustained percentage in the context of the national and regional shortages and challenges. Workforce permanency in social care and safeguarding stands at 86% and management at 95% and is an important factor in the overall stability of the workforce.

In year SW staffing challenges have led to periods of higher caseloads for individuals which are monitored closely and Through Care development of service has seen interim use of IRO's covering statutory visits to 91 stable Looked After children they knew well until we were able to resource a senior worker supported by family support workers to manage this group of children and young people.

We seek to cover all vacant and maternity and LTS posts with agency but agency recruitment has been a challenge at key times both in terms of timely availability and also quality of agency SW.

The service has responded with innovative ways of using our own quality and experienced qualified SW staff to ensure we promote relationship based practice and prevent any drift and delay in case work.

Quarter 4 saw an increase in RI and decrease in Good judgements. For Qtr. 4 we selected cases held by agency staff given our agency increase and a change from what has been our long term agency. The reduction in quality is reflected in outcomes of the full report.

However, our five year analysis shows a significant and sustained improvement in cases judged as "good" an associated reduction in those rated RI and Inadequate. Our moderation and follow up processes keep our bar high for learning and improvement and mean we impact on the child case as well as take on service learning.

In our last social care staff survey Dec 2022 we heard from over 600 staff - 84% told us they received regular supportive and reflective supervision, 84% said their worries and concern were listened to and dealt with, 75% said they felt valued at work and 79% said WCF was an inclusive service that was proactive in addressing anti discriminatory practice and 65% said they had a manageable case load.