

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 20th February 2017

Title of report: Stability Triangle and Performance Reporting

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To update the Board on progress regarding the Corporate Parenting agenda. The attached is the latest available performance data drawn from regular reporting within Children's Services via the monthly "Performance & Quality Assurance Report" and "Weekly Compliance Data".

1.2 The Board has specifically requested information on the key performance indicators applicable to children and young people who are looked after or making the transition from care and maintaining the "stability triangle".

2. Summary

2.1 The 'stability triangle' covers three areas to enable a child to succeed, based upon relationships with significant people, placement & accommodation and engagement and sustained involvement in education, training and employment. Professor Mike Stein has completed extensive research with looked after children and young people leaving care. In his paper, "Resilience and Young People Leaving Care (2005)", he discusses that young people are more likely to move on from care in a positive way where:

- Child/ young person has developed a secure attachment base and is able to reasonably maintain relationships
- Child/ Young person has engaged in education and more likely to attend further or higher education or be in sustained employment.
- Child/ young person has experienced stability and continuity, developing good practical skills and high resilience and having a planned gradual move from care to independence.

2.2 In regards to key performance indicators, Kirklees Council is required to capture and collate information for all it's looked after children and care leavers as part of the SSDA903. It is a requirement of all local authorities in England to collect this information and to submit this annually to central government.

For children who were looked after during the year, the information relates to their legal status, why children came into care (their category of need), the placement information covering the type of placement and the distance from the child's home address. The SSD903 information also captures changes to placement arrangements including children placed for adoption or under special guardianship orders. Additionally information

regarding health checks, dental checks and Strengths and Difficulties questionnaires to support emotional health are captured as well as also relating to education and whether children have an in date personal education plan and whether children's care plans are reviewed in line with the guidance outlined with the Care Planning, Placement & Review Regulations (Dept. of Education, 2015) and the Independent Reviewing Officer's Handbook (Dept. of Education, 2010).

For young people who have recently left care, information is collated relating to whether we are in touch, whether the young person is in suitable accommodation and education, training and employment.

2.3 Kirklees Council Children's Services Information Unit collates information which is shared with Team Managers, Service Managers, Heads of Service and Senior Leadership Team each week around key performance targets. Each month, a Performance Clinic is held with Team Managers, Senior Managers and Senior Leadership Team. This allows discussion to analyse the information, identifying trends or gaps in data and identifying areas for improvements and planning solutions.

Further work needs to be completed across all service areas to ensure that as a service we are getting information and data that we require in regards to meeting our legal obligations eg. where care plan's or visits are out of date, the outcomes from Strengths and Difficulties questionnaires, capturing care leaver data more smartly. The further challenge is to ensure that wishes and feelings of children and young people and participation of looked after children and young people is included in the wider performance agenda, allowing children and young people to measure what would make the difference in how we work alongside them.

3. Information required to take a decision

The Corporate Parenting Board to discuss the content of the report and identify any additional information they would like to receive as part of their scrutiny and oversight.

4. Implications for the Council

5. Consultees and their opinions

N/A

6. Next steps

Corporate Parenting Board to discuss in the context of all the performance information presented and identify any additional information the Board may require going forward.

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

- (1) That Board members note the content of the report and exceptions to planned performance and ensure that mitigating action is sufficient to drive improvements in performance throughout the services involved.
- (2) That the Corporate Parenting Board discuss the report in the context of all the performance information presented and identify any additional information the Board may require going forward.

8. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

9. Contact officers

Julie Mepham, Head of Corporate Parenting

Abi Ajayi – Interim Service Manager – Performance Intelligence

Belinda Cashman, Project Manager – Looked After Children 15+ and Leaving Care Service – 01484221000 email: Belinda.Cashman@kirklees.gov.uk

10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Minutes and Reports discussed at Corporate Parenting Board, 16.1.17

11. Assistant Director responsible

Carly Speechley, Family Support and Child Protection

Corporate Parenting Board

22 February 2017

Children's Performance and Intelligence Unit

Executive summary

Children in care

There has been an increasing trend in the numbers of children in care over the past year; however in January 2017, there was a reduction in the overall numbers of children in care. Males (54.2%) constitute a higher proportion of the children in care cohort. The highest numbers of children in care fall with the 10-15 age range. White and mixed ethnic groups are over represented within the children in care cohort in comparison to the wider 0-17 Kirklees population.

Children admitted to care

The data shows that a higher rate of children coming into care than benchmark comparators. The highest number of children admitted into care fall within the 5-9 age range. Over 51% of children admitted into care were on an interim care order and 7.1% were admitted on police protection orders.

Where do place children in care

68% of children in care are placed with foster carers; however this is a lower proportion than benchmark comparators. Kirklees has a high proportion of children in care placed in residential settings.

61% of all children that were placed with parents are aged between 1 and 9 years old.

39% of children in care are placed outside the Kirklees boundary, with 17.2% placed outside the boundary and at least 20 miles from their home address.

Stability for children in care

Over a period of a year from when children come into care, 12.5% of children had 3 or more placement moves. The data indicates that younger children are more likely to experience placement moves.

36% of children in care of school age over the past 2 years remained in the same school. Preschool aged children in care and those in year 12 are more likely to experience a change of social worker.

68% of children in care had a timely visit by their social worker, and 92% of cases were reviewed on time.

Outcomes of children in care

Health outcomes - 96% of children in care had an up to date health check, 84.6% had an up to date dental check.

Emotional well-being – the average SDQ score for children in care was 13.3, where a score over 17 indicates concerns. This is based on over 89% return of questionnaires

Children leaving care

At the year ending of December 2016, 261 children have been discharged from care, which was less than the number of children that came into care over the same period.

Care leavers

This is a slightly different cohort from the one above. This cohort consists of children that are eligible for care leavers' services after they leave care.

35.6% of care leavers were in education, training or employment by the end of January
82% of care leavers were deemed to be in suitable accommodation.

Permanent options

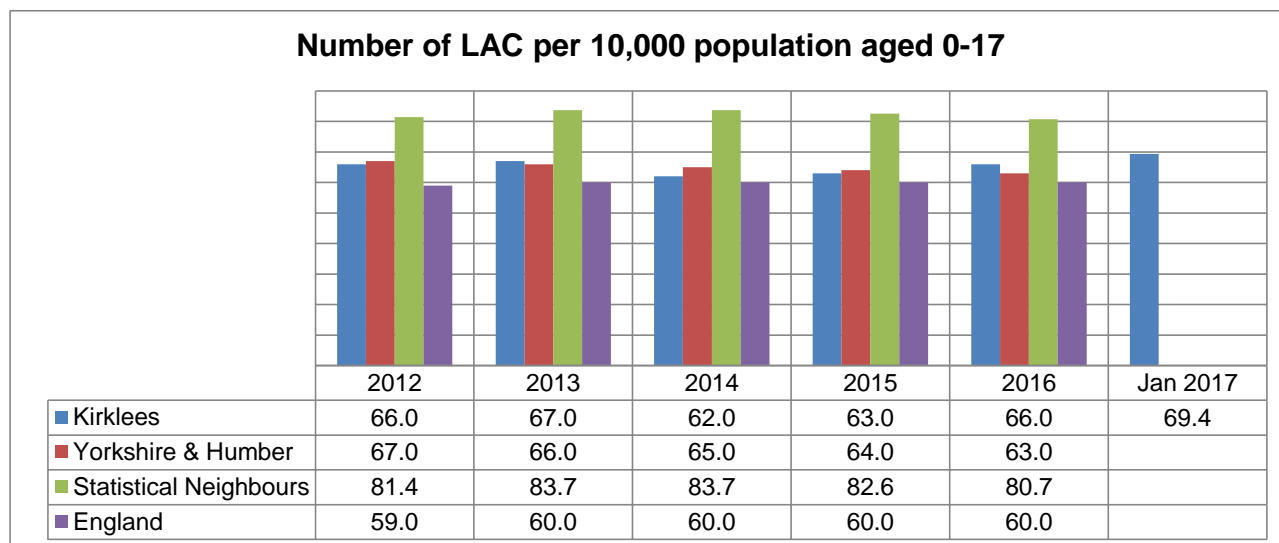
34 children were adopted from care during the year 16/17, 43 children were subject to special guardianship orders and 9 children were subject to child arrangement orders.

1) Looked After Children Profile

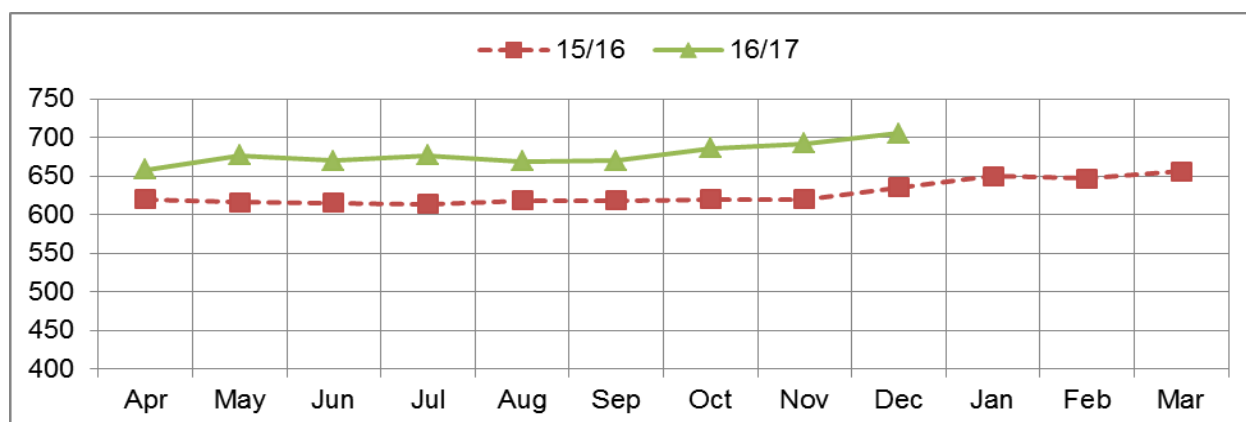
1.1) Number of Looked After Children

As at the end of December 2016 there were 705 children in care in Kirklees. This had increased steadily over the year to this point. However, there has been a reduction since then to 685 as at 24 January 2017.

685 LAC equates to 69.4 per 10,000 and remains well below Statistical Neighbour average of 80.7 (as at 31 March 2016) but significantly higher than the Yorkshire & Humber and England averages, as shown in the chart below. As at the end of January the number of children in care dropped further to 679 (68.7 per 10,000)

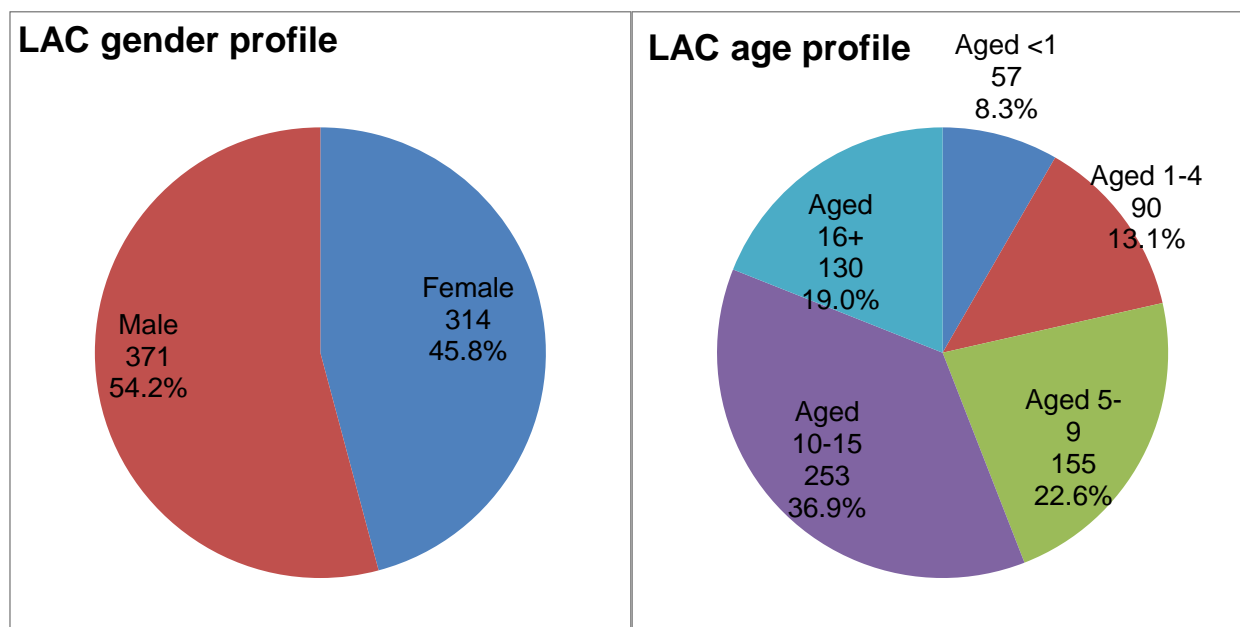


15/16	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Kirklees Total	620	616	615	614	618	618	620	620	635	650	647	656
Per 10,000	62.8	62.3	62.2	62.1	62.6	62.6	62.8	62.8	64.3	65.8	65.5	66.4
16/17	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Kirklees Total	658	677	670	677	669	670	686	692	705	679		
Per 10,000	66.6	68.5	67.8	68.5	67.7	67.8	69.4	70.0	71.4	68.7		



1.2) LAC Population Profiles

Of the current LAC population, 54.2% are male and 45.8% female. In terms of the age profile, 55.9% are aged 10 and over which presents challenges given the issues with sufficiency of placements for teenagers. As at 24 January there were 57 babies (aged <1) in care.

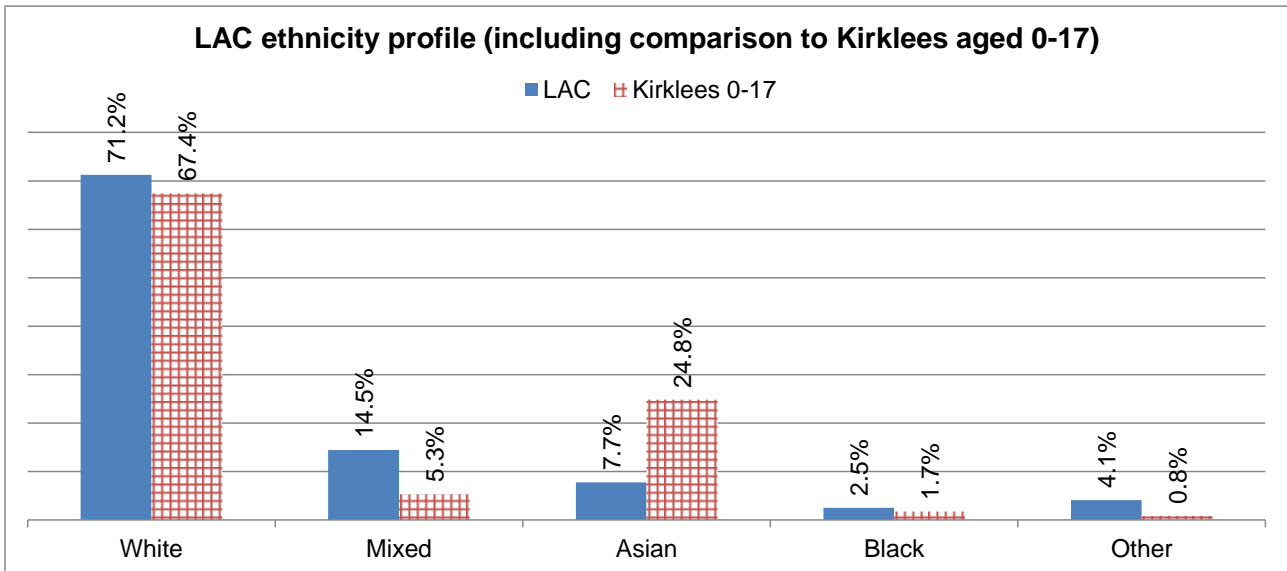


Age Range	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Under 1	26.7%	26.9%	24.2%	29.2%	15.4%	44.4%	23.3%	26.3%	26.5%
Aged 1-4	26.7%	30.8%	15.2%	20.8%	23.1%	18.5%	23.3%	13.2%	20.6%
Aged 5-9	16.7%	11.5%	21.2%	25.0%	38.5%	22.2%	33.3%	10.5%	29.4%
Aged 10-15	13.3%	26.9%	24.2%	25.0%	15.4%	14.8%	10.0%	31.6%	17.6%
Aged 16+	16.7%	3.8%	15.2%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	10.0%	18.4%	5.9%

Ethnicity of LAC

The ethnicity of current LAC has some significant variances to the overall Kirklees population aged 0-17.

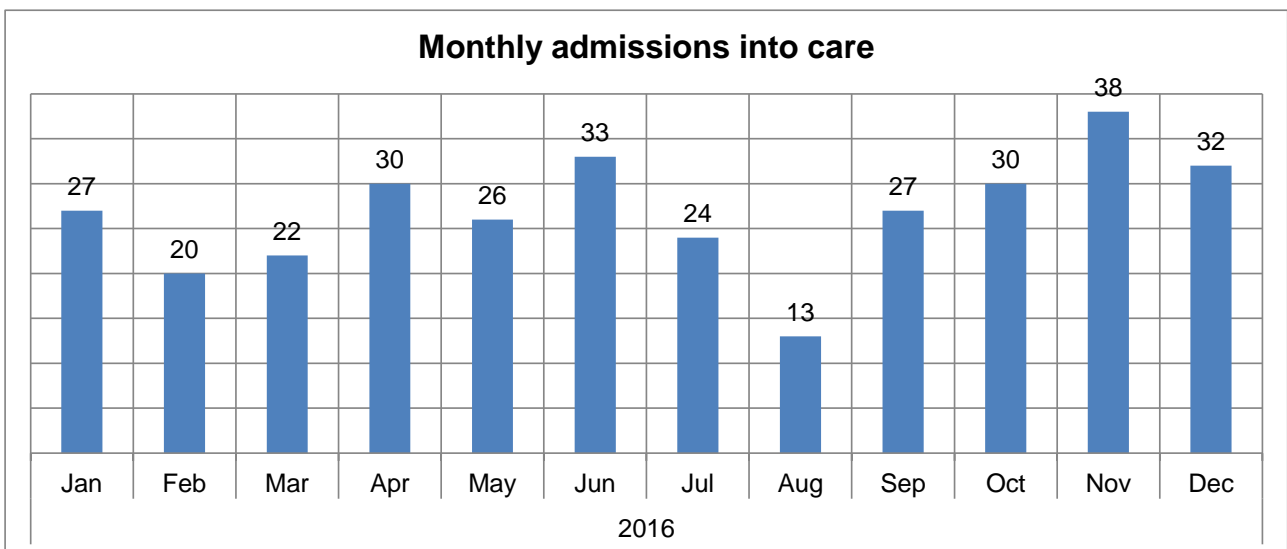
- White ethnicities account for 71.2% of the LAC population compared to 67.4% of the Kirklees 0-17 population.
- The most significant variances are in Mixed ethnicities (14.5% of LAC compared to 5.3% Kirklees) and Asian (7.7% of LAC compared to 24.8% Kirklees).



2) Admissions into Care (new into care)

2.1) Number of Admissions

In the 12 months to 31 December 2016, 322 children were admitted into care, an average of nearly 26 per month. November was the busiest month for admissions with 38.

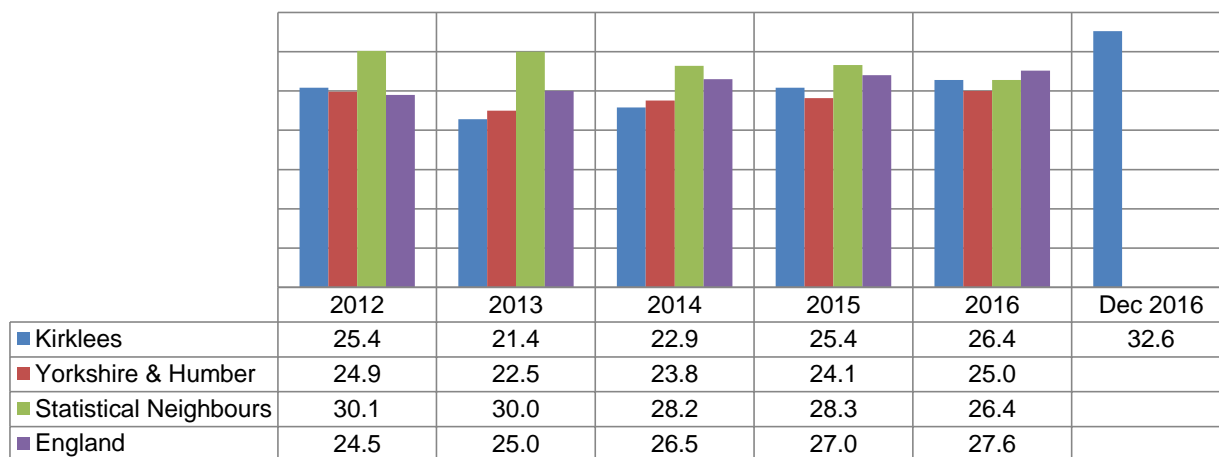


How do we compare to benchmarks

The rate of admissions into care in the 12 months to 31 December 2016 has been at a high level (32.6 per 10,000 population aged 0-17), hence the increasing trend in the overall number of LAC.

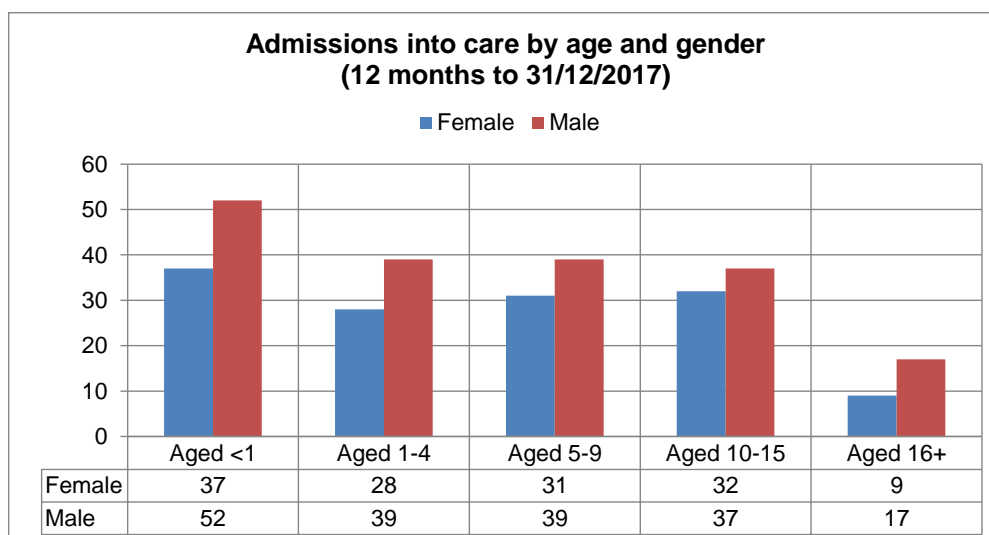
The rate per 10,000 has been significantly higher than 2015/16 and comparator averages (statistical neighbours = 26.4).

Admissions into care per 10,000 population aged 0-17



2.2) Admissions – Profiles

Of the admissions into care in the 12 months to the end of December, 57% were male. The percentage of admissions that were male was higher for all age ranges, especially in the 16+ range, with 65.4% of admissions being male.

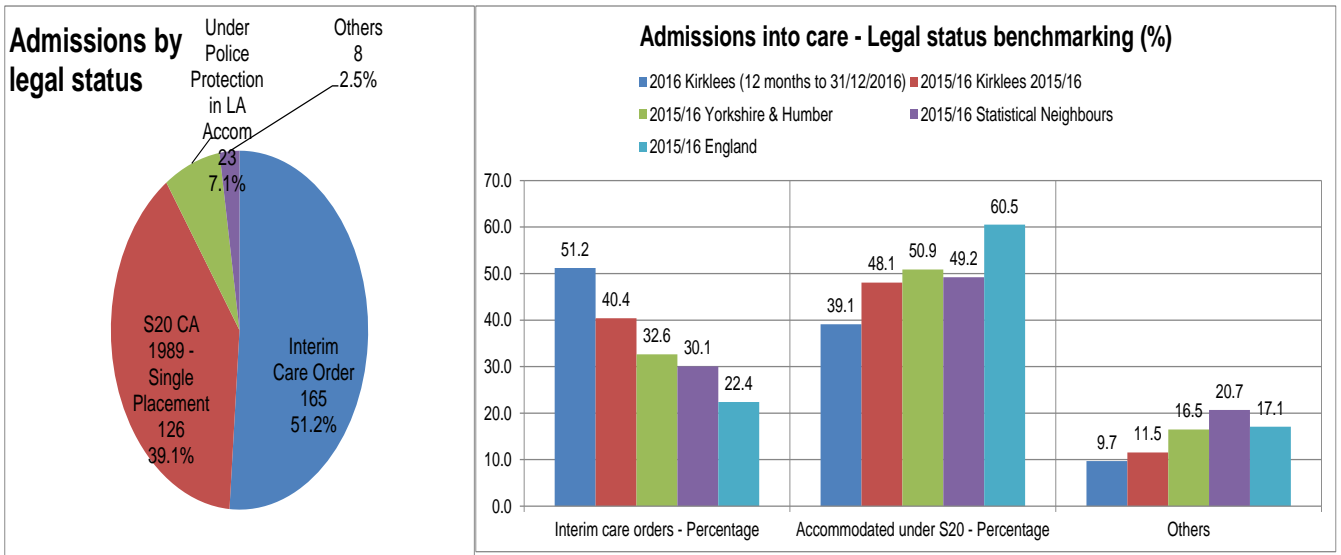


Legal status on admission into care

The majority of admissions are under Interim Care Orders (51.2%). This compares to a Statistical Neighbour average of 30.1% for 2015/16.

Section 20 arrangements account for a lower percentage than in 2015/16, although there were higher numbers in November and December of these arrangements.

This suggests more children are coming into care because they cannot be cared for within their own families rather than families asking for help.



3) Placement Types

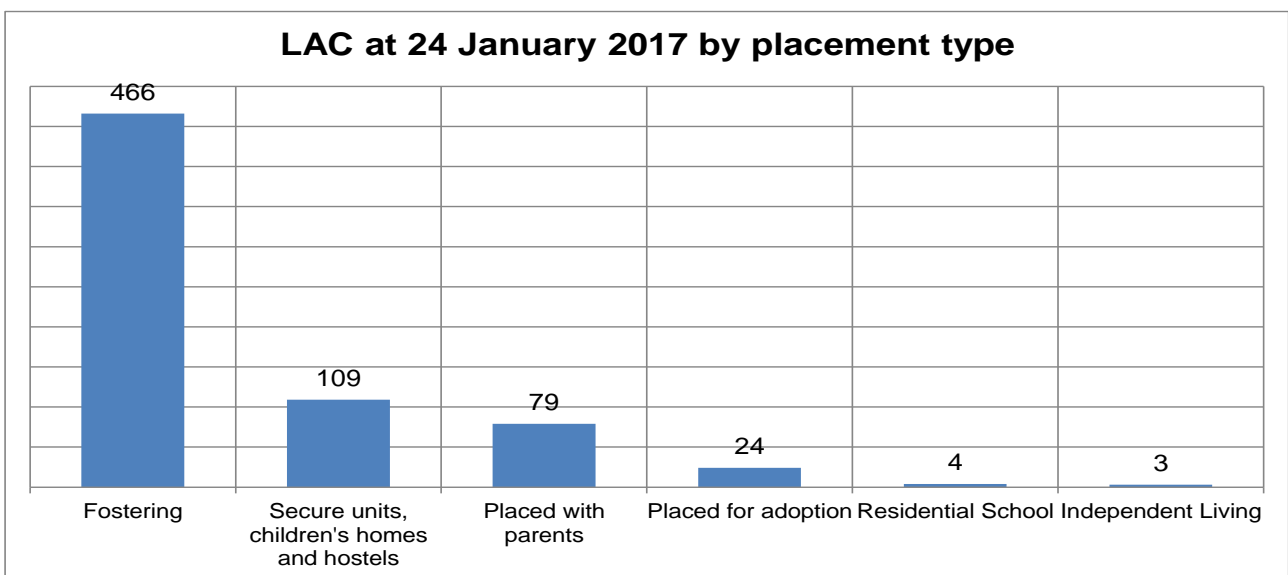
3.1) Placement Split (number in each placement type)

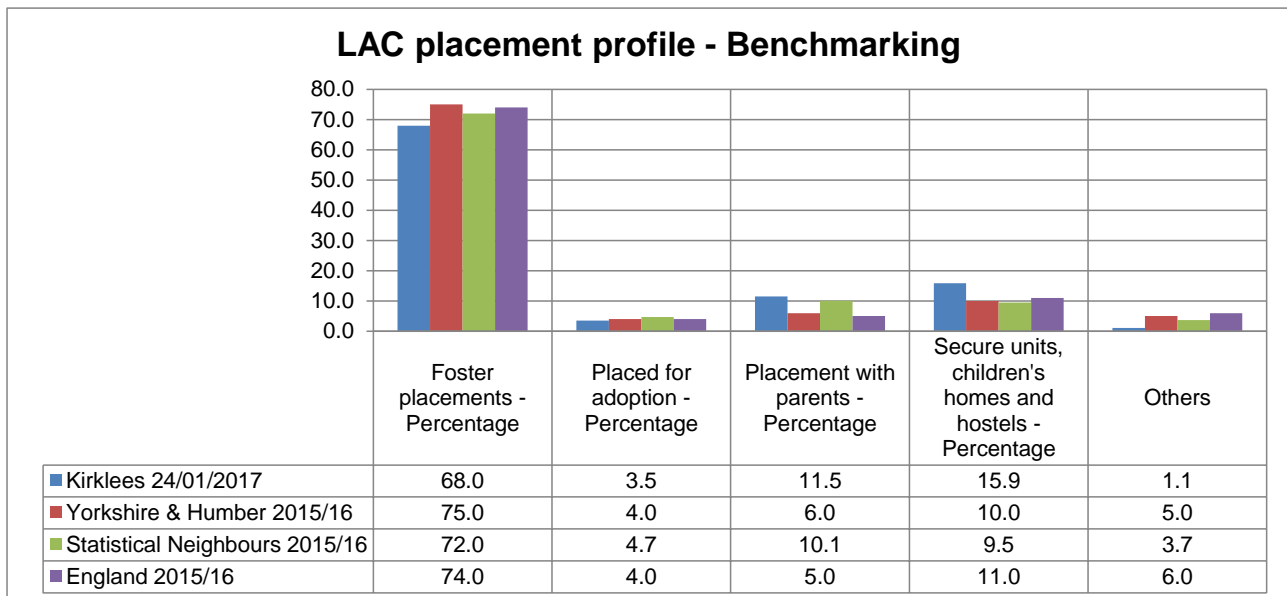
The majority of placements are in fostering, accounting for 68% of arrangements.

How do we compare to benchmarks

The proportion of children in care placed with foster carers (68%) is below comparators, the statistical neighbour average is 72% and the England average is 74%.

Kirklees has a high percentage of placements in residential settings at 15.9% compared to 9.5% statistical neighbour average.





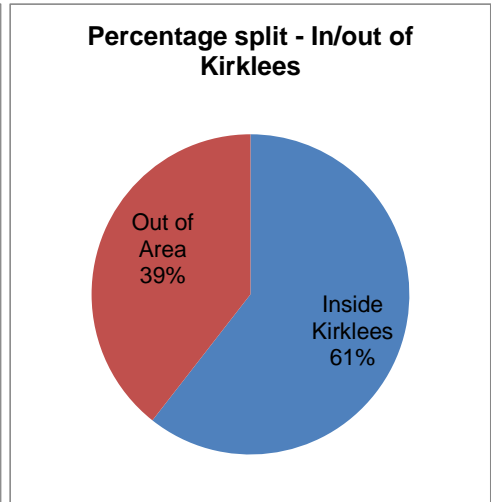
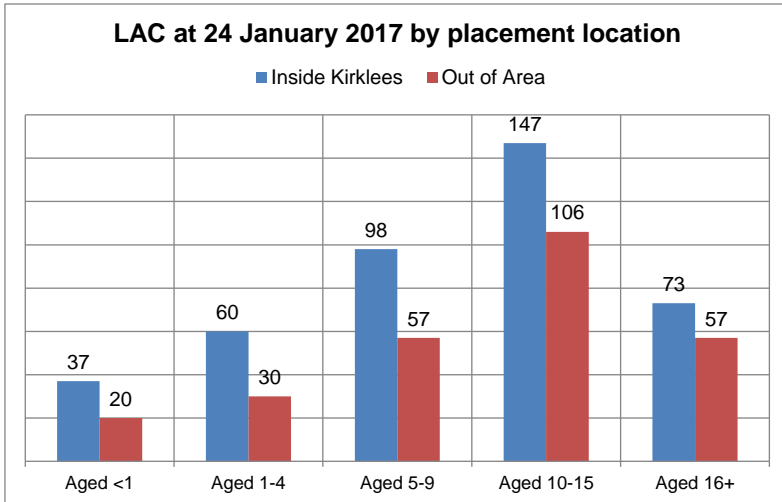
3.2) Placement Types – Profiles

The table below shows the type of placement by age range. 61 of the 109 children placed in residential settings are aged 16+, or 56%.

Placement Type	Aged <1	Aged 1-4	Aged 5-9	Aged 10-15	Aged 16+	Total
Fostering	34	48	126	200	58	466
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	6		6	36	61	109
Placed with parents	10	26	22	15	6	79
Placed for adoption	7	16	1			24
Residential School				2	2	4
Independent Living					3	3
Total	57	90	155	253	130	685

There is a reducing percentage of placements that are outside Kirklees. This is due to children coming into care being placed within the boundary where possible.

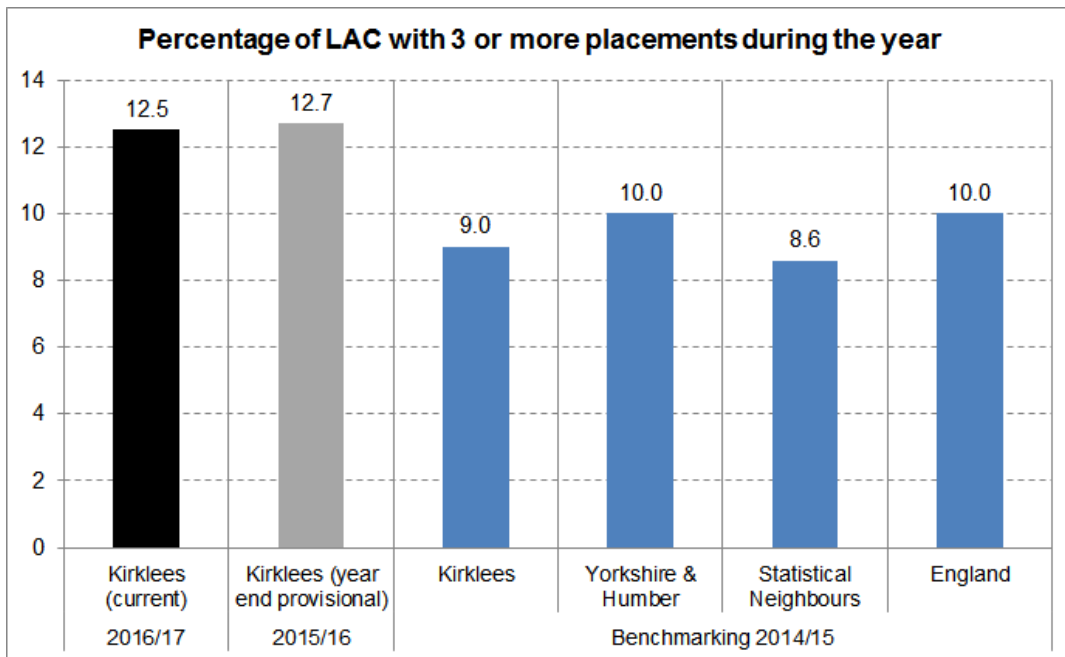
In terms of outside placements there are some children in care whose home address is outside the boundary and therefore are closer to their home address when placed outside the boundary. Kirklees has a number of approved foster carers that live outside the Kirklees boundary therefore affecting the number of children placed outside the LA.



At 27th January 2017, 30% of children had been in care for more than 5 years

3.3) Changes of Placement

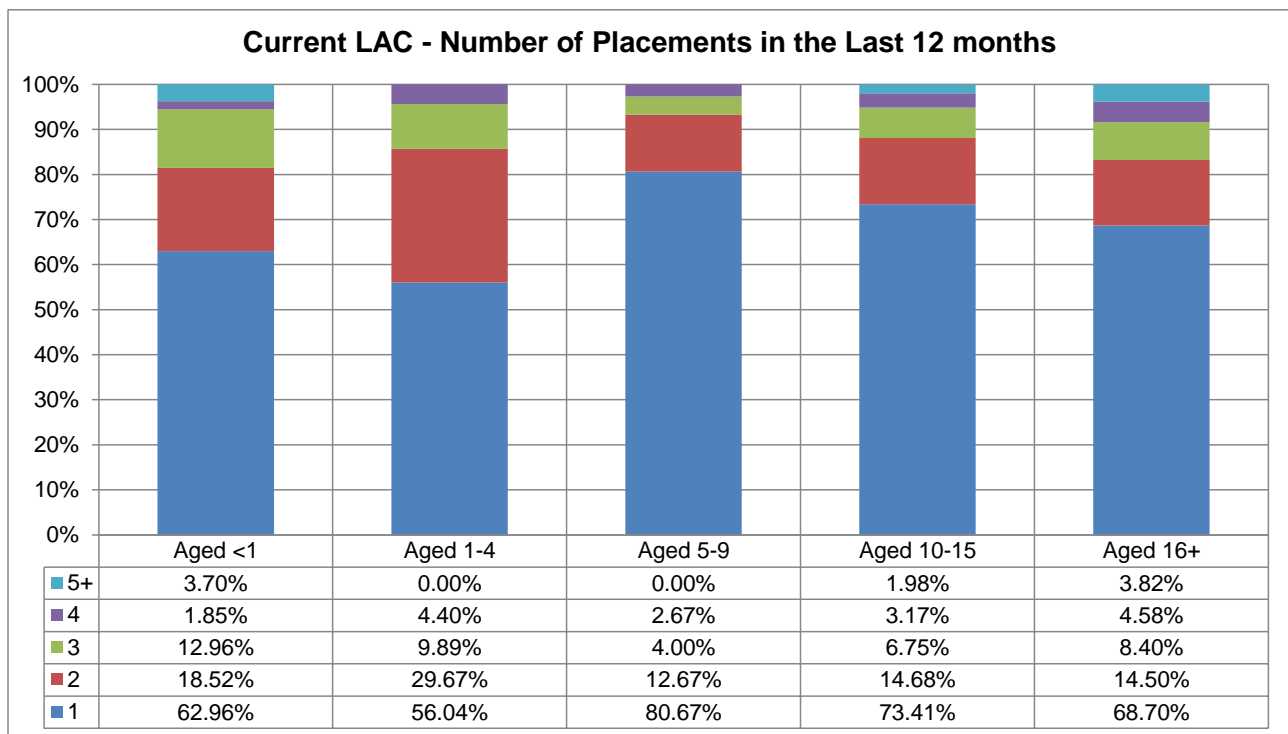
Of the 678 children looked after as at 2/2/1, (85 out of 678) 12.5% have had more than 3 placements in the last 12 months. This compares to the last published outcome for Statistical Neighbours (2014/15) of 8.6% and 10.0% nationally. See the chart below:



Further analysis of the placements of the current LAC population shows that 70.9% of Kirklees LAC have had one placement in the last 12 months and that higher numbers of placement moves are more prevalent in the youngest and oldest age groups.

	Number of placements in 12 months					Total
	1	2	3	4	5+	
Aged <1	34	10	7	1	2	54
Aged 1-4	51	27	9	4		91
Aged 5-9	121	19	6	4		150
Aged 10-15	185	37	17	8	5	252
Aged 16+	90	19	11	6	5	131
Total	481	112	50	23	12	678

Children aged 10-15 were the age group with the highest number of 3 or more placement moves within a year.



A point to note is that boys are more likely to have multiple placements than girls, apart from those aged under 1, as shown by the higher average number of placements in the table below:

	Average number of placements		
	Female	Male	All
Aged <1	1.61	1.45	1.52
Aged 1-4	1.43	1.81	1.63
Aged 5-9	1.18	1.38	1.29
Aged 10-15	1.38	1.38	1.38
Aged 16+	1.40	1.52	1.47
Total	1.37	1.47	1.42

Schools changes for children who have been in care over the past 2 years

Number of School moves

Age range	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	No change	Total
0-4								143	143
05-11	89	84	20	6	1			30	230
12-16	81	56	12	6	4	2			161
16+	27	14	8	2	2		1	59	113
Total	197	154	40	14	7	2	1	232	647

The table above includes children who have been in and out of care over the past two years that attended school with the number of school changes over the period

35% of children of school age were recorded as having no school change at all, 54% of children in care had between 1 and 2 school changes over the past 2 years, and 9% had 3 or more changes.

Change of Social worker for children in care

Social Worker Changes between weeks by NC Year
(Snapshots of LAC on 19/01/2016 and 26/01/2016)

NC Year	Total
Nursery 2	1
Reception	3
NC Year 1	2
NC Year 2	1
NC Year 4	1
NC Year 5	1
NC Year 6	1
NC Year 7	2
NC Year 9	1
NC Year 10	2
NC Year 11	1
NC Year 12	7
Not School Age	12
Total	35

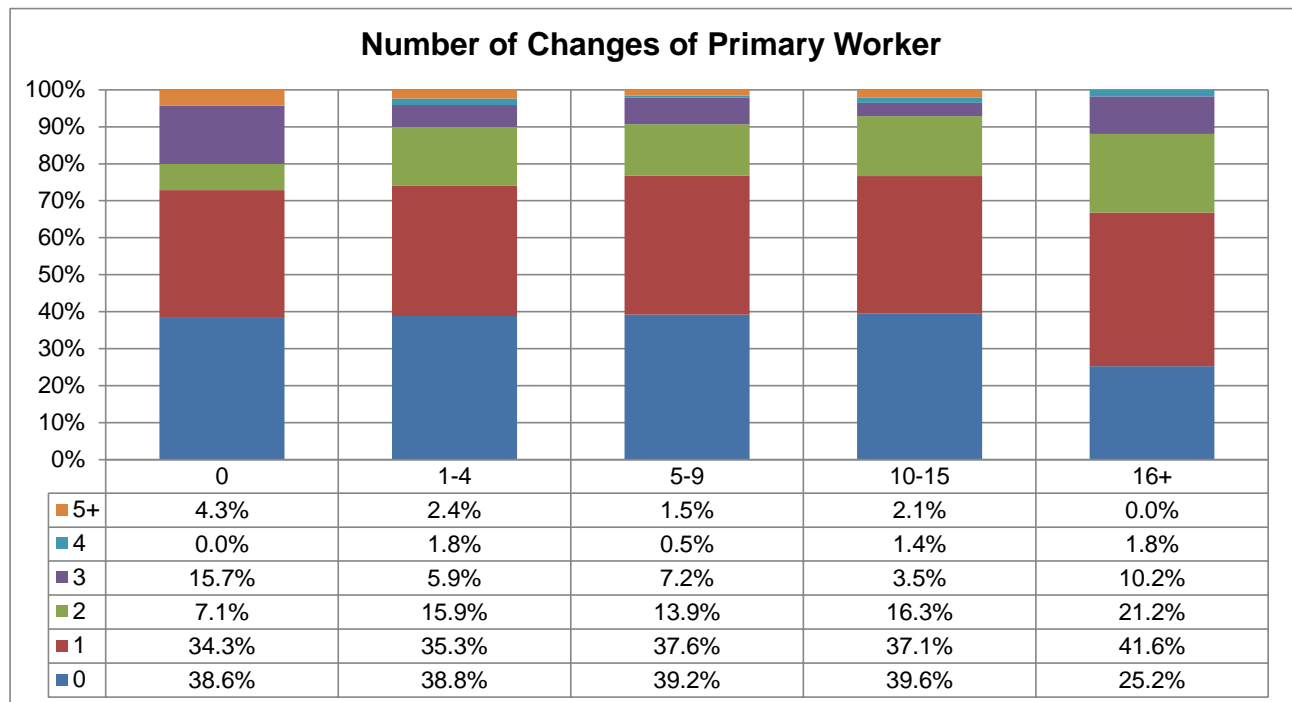
The table above gives details of children in care on two specific dates with the school year and the number of social worker changes. It shows that younger children below school age are more likely to have a change in social worker.

3.4) Changes of Primary Worker

During the 12 months to the end of January 2017, there were 943 separate periods of care, i.e. where a child or young person has been looked after at some point during the period. An analysis of how many changes of primary worker have taken place in the 12 month period has shown the findings below:

	Number of Changes of Primary Worker						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Aged <1	27	24	5	11		3	70
Aged 1-4	66	60	27	10	3	4	170
Aged 5-9	76	73	27	14	1	3	194
Aged 10-15	112	105	46	10	4	6	283
Aged 16+	57	94	48	23	4		226
Total	338	356	153	68	12	16	943

Children aged 10-15 and those aged 16+ experienced a considerable amount disruption in terms of change in worker



This data shows that a child aged 16+ is very likely to have a change of worker. This is to be expected however due to the move into leaving care services.

However, there have been a large number of changes of worker during the year with 64.2% having had a change of some kind and 26.4% having had more than one change. 16 children and young people have had 5 or more changes of primary worker. The average number of changes by age range is shown below:

	Average number of changes of primary worker
Aged <1	1.19
Aged 1-4	1.04
Aged 5-9	0.97
Aged 10-15	0.97
Aged 16+	1.22
Total	1.06

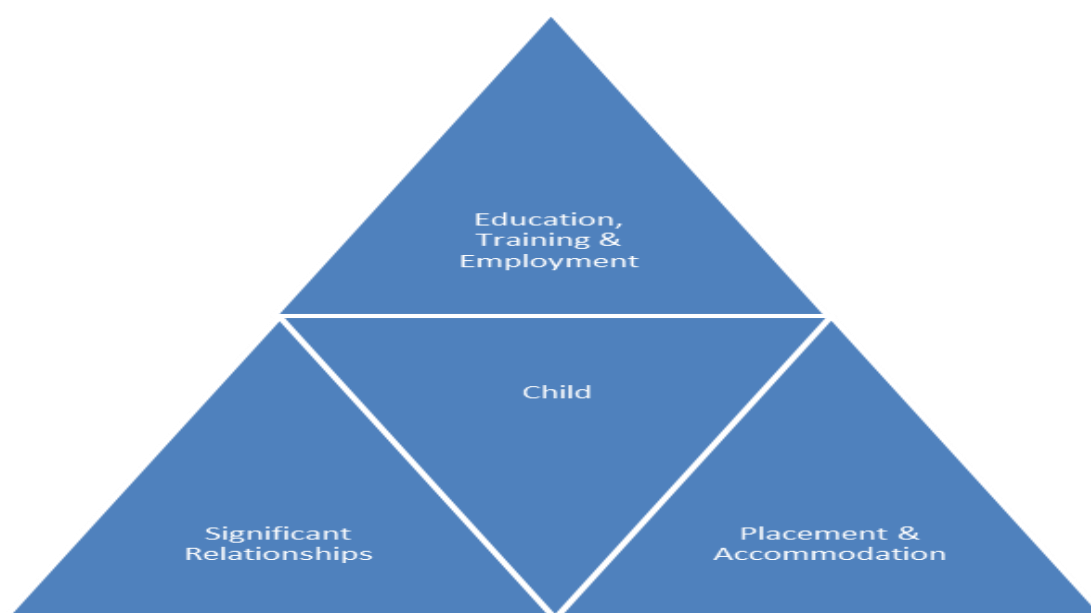
Stability Triangle and Performance Indicators

Significant Relationships:

- Caseloads and case allocation
- Visits to looked after children every 6 weeks
- Percentage of children placed outside Kirklees and over 20 miles from home
- Length of placement –continuously in same placement 2 years or more
- Placement type – adoption, special guardianship or kinship care
- Health Checks and Strengths & Difficulties questionnaire's
- Number of LAC reviews were children have participated

Education, Training & Employment:

- In date Personal Education Plan (PEP)
- Care Leavers in Education, Training & Employment 18 -21



Placement & Accommodation:

- Placement Type – foster care, residential, adoption, with parents, other
- Looked After children placed outside Kirklees Council area
- Change of placement
- Looked After Children with 3 or more placements during the year
- Length of placement –continuously in same placement 2 years or more
- Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation 18– 21

Significant relationships

(This section of the report relates to data at the end of January 2017)

- Caseload – each social worker in the looked after team has an average caseload of 14 children per worker
- Timely statutory visits to children in care – 410 out of 675 (69.2%) children received timely visits
- 117 out of 681 (17.2%) children in care are placed outside the Kirklees boundary and 20 miles from home
- 186 out of 255 children in care have been placed in the same placement for 2 years or more
- SDQ scores – The average SDQ score for children in care was 13.3, with a total of 345 questionnaires returned out a 386. 34.2% of children in care who had a returned survey scored 17 or more
- Over the year ending 31 January 2017, 1932 children participated in 2022 review

Education, Training and employment

- 420 out of 453 (92.7%) children in care of school age had an up-to date PEP
- 63 out of 151 care leavers aged 18 – 21, as at the end of January 2017 were in education, training or employment.

Placement and accommodation

- 224 children were placed with foster carers as at the end of January 2017
- 24 were placed for adoption
- 79 were placed with parents

- 85 out of 679 (12.5%) children had 3 or more placement changes during the year ending 31 January 17

- 124 care leavers aged 18-21 out of 151 (82%) were reported as being in suitable accommodation.

4) Outcomes for Looked After Children

4.1) Health Outcomes

Health outcomes in general compare well to benchmarking, as shown in the tables below. There are some issues with dental checks however and the outcome has reduced from a 2015/16 outcome of 94.5%. Work is taking place to ensure that these outcomes, produced from CareFirst recording, reflect the actual position.

Health checks

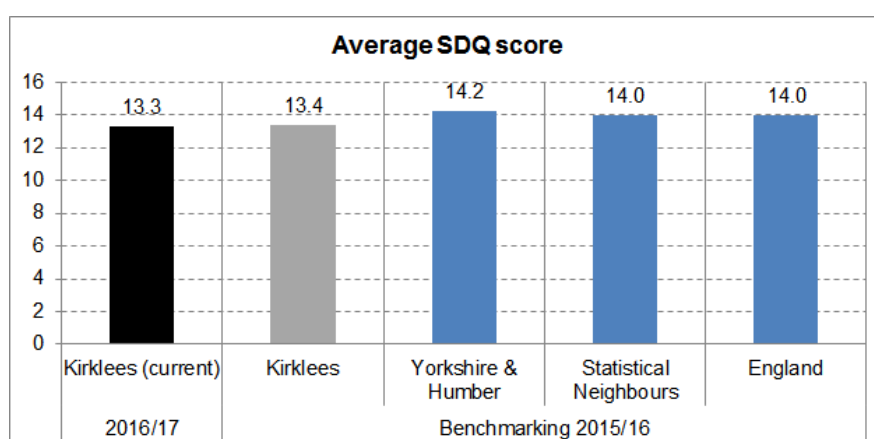
Number of LAC in cohort	Number with up to date health check	% with up to date health check	Statistical Neighbours 2015/16	England 2015/16
677	649	95.9%	91.8%	90.0%

Dental Checks

Number of LAC in cohort	Number with dental check in last 12 months	% with up to date dental check	Statistical Neighbours 2015/16	England 2015/16
543	460	84.7%	89.1%	84.1%

4.2) Emotional and behavioural health of children in care

The emotional and behavioural health of children in care is measured via the Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). A score of over 17 signifies concerns. The average score of 13.3 is below comparators; however it should be noted that as at 31 December 2016 there were 135 LAC with a score of 17 or above (34.9% of the cohort). Further consideration is being given to access to CAMHS for children with high SDQ scores



4.3) Statutory Visits

As at 24 January 2017, 68% of all LAC had statutory visits within the last 6 weeks. Looking at only those LAC who had been in care for less than 12 months, 73.9% had been visited in the last 6 weeks. This represents a significant improvement, both in the outcome and the recording of visits on the Case Management System (CareFirst).

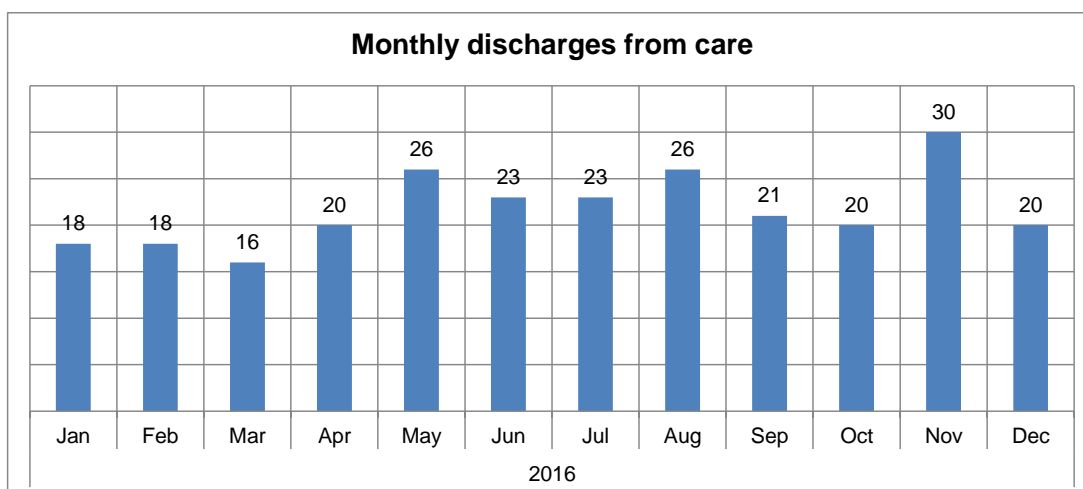
4.4) Reviews

In the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 December 2016, 2,025 LAC reviews had taken place of which 1,949 were in timescales, or 96.2%. Participation of children in their own reviews was 91.6% (1056 out of 1153). Unfortunately there is no national comparator data for these measures but they continue to be monitored on a monthly basis in Kirklees.

5) Discharges from Care (Leaving Care)

5.1) Number of Discharges from Care

In the 12 months to the end of December 2016, 261 children were discharged from care. This is well below the number of admissions. The monthly data is shown in the chart below:



The rate per 10,000 aged 0-17 of discharges from care is higher than previous years (excluding 2013/14), although this is to be expected with higher LAC numbers. This is shown in the table below:

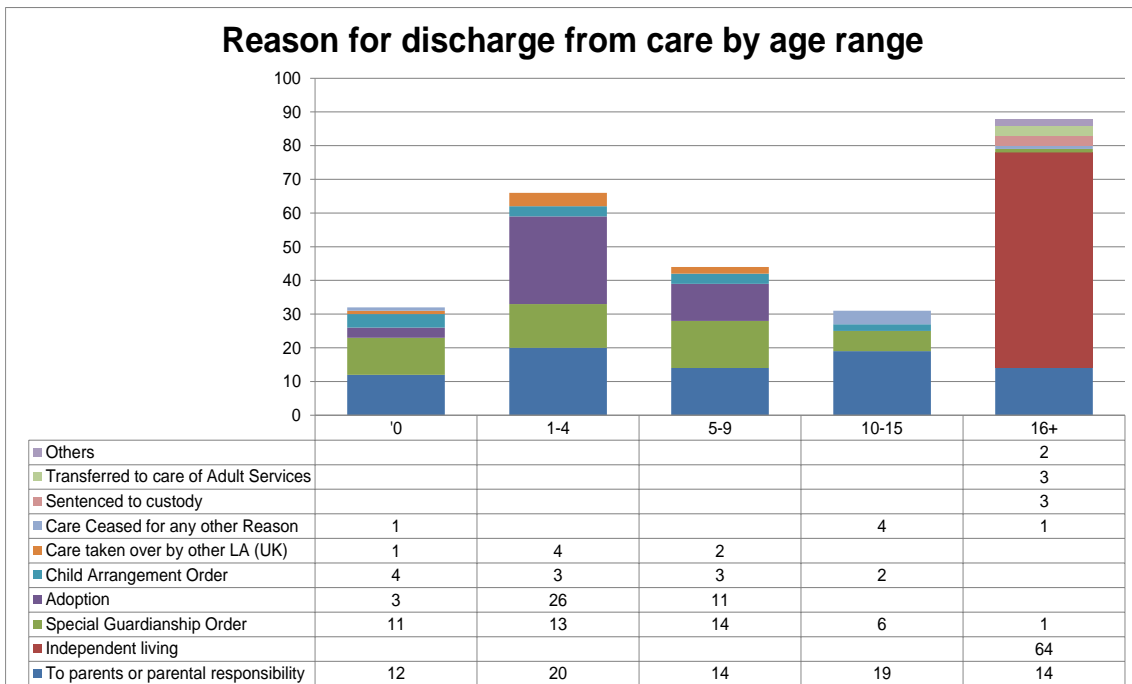
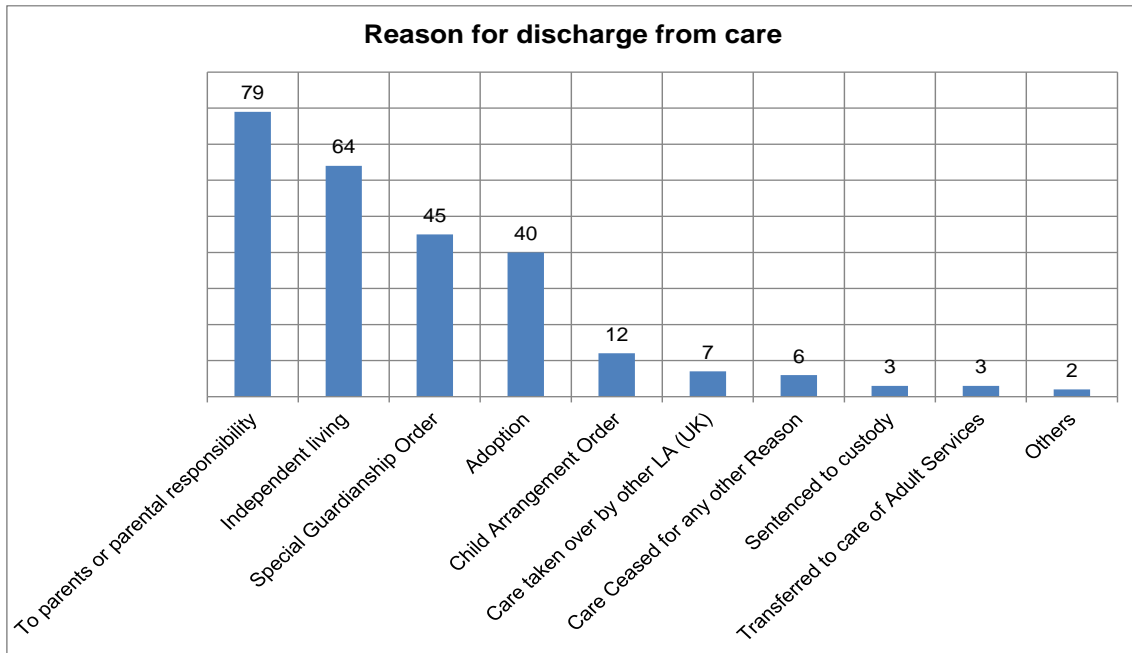
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Dec 2016
Kirklees	19.8	21.4	27.5	23.9	23.4	26.4
Yorkshire & Humber	23.2	23.8	24.7	25.7	25.7	
Statistical Neighbours	26.9	27.8	28.2	29.7	28.4	
England	23.7	24.7	26.4	27.0	27.4	

5.2) Reason for Discharge from Care

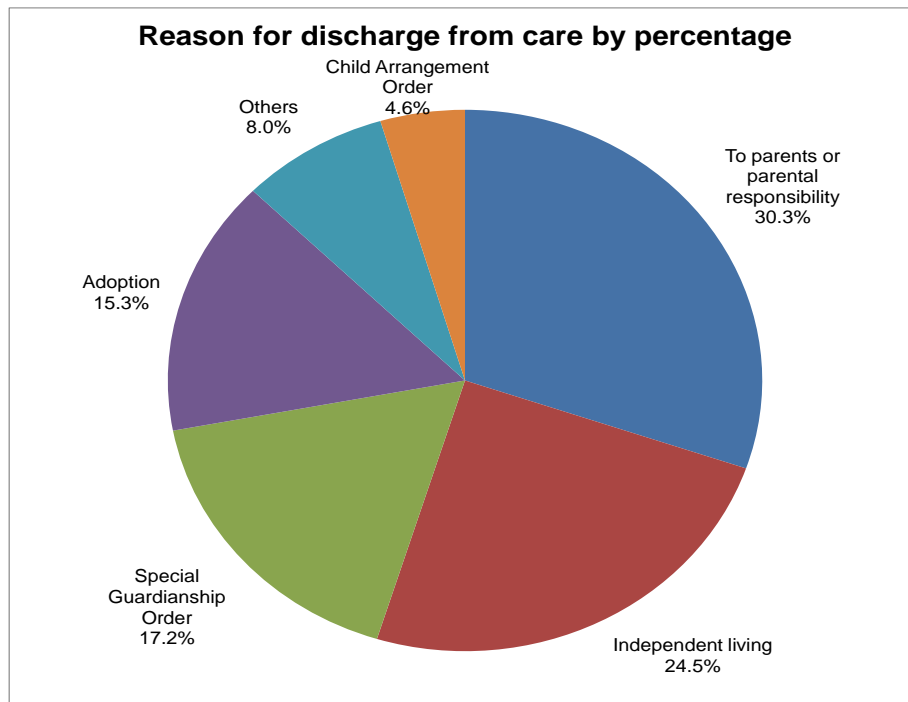
There are a number of reasons for discharges from care. The most common is that children return home to parents (or those with parental responsibility), accounting for 79 cases or 30.3%.

At aged 16+ however, this accounts for just 15.9% with 72.7% going to some form of independent living.

The permanency outcomes of Adoption, Special Guardianship Order and Child Arrangement Order are dealt with in more detail in section 7 of this report.



total	32	66	44	31	88	261
-------	----	----	----	----	----	-----

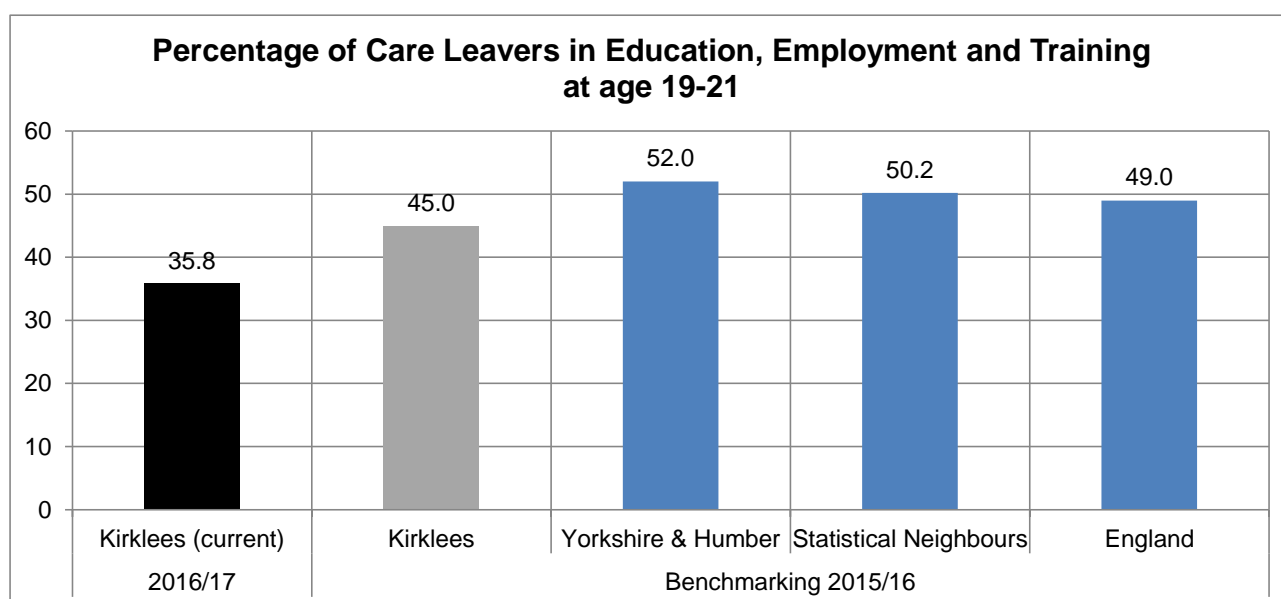


6) Care Leavers

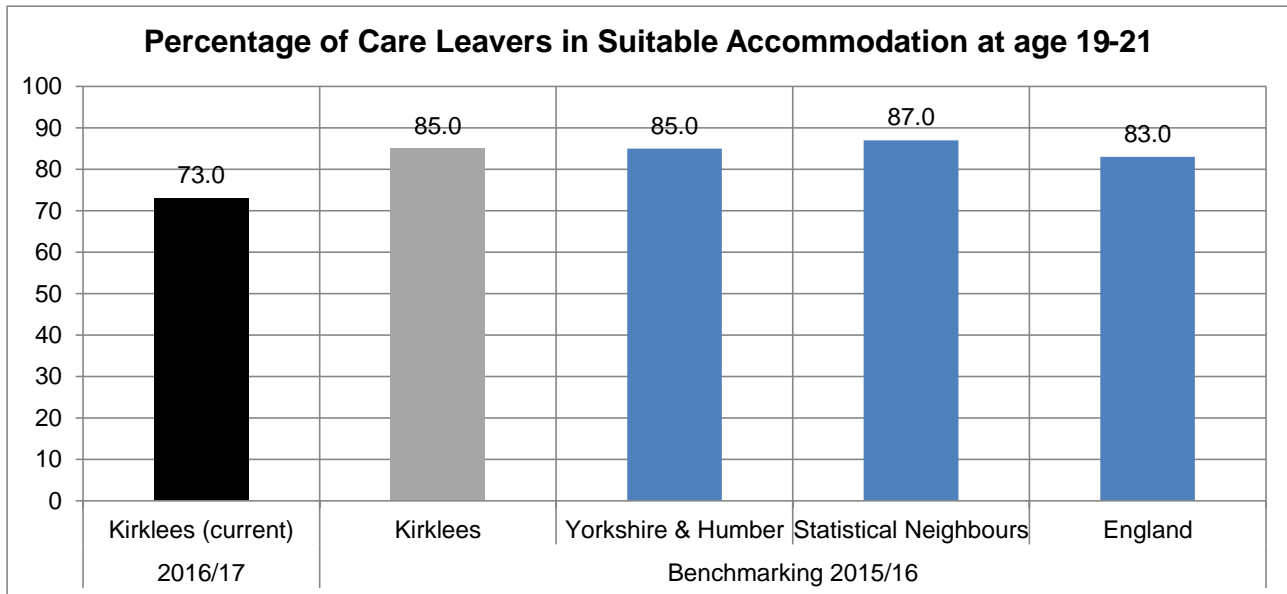
6.1) Care Leavers Outcomes

As distinct from discharges from care, this section relates to those young people who have left care and are eligible for Leaving Care services from Kirklees. As at the end of December 2016, the cohort consisted of 204 children.

According to the latest data, there are some issues with outcomes for this group of young people. As at 24 January 2017, 35.8% (49 out of 137) of the cohort were recorded as being in employment, education or training (EET). This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 50.2% in 2015/16. There are also challenges with the percentage in suitable accommodation.



Data shows some issues with recording of children that have been in touch with the LA, this affects the figures relating to education training and employment as they are a proportion of all care leavers. Work is being carried out to improve recording.



73% (100 out of 137) of care leavers were reported to living in suitable accommodation.

7) Permanency

7.1) Permanency Options – Adoption Activity

The table below gives details of children who were adopted from care up to 24 January 2017 (the latest available data at the time of the report). There are expected to be over 40 adoptions this financial year.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 to 24 Jan
Number of children adopted during the year/quarter	30	55	45	40	34
Number of children ceased to be looked after during the year	210	270	235	230	226
% of children adopted during the year	14%	21%	18%	18%	15%

However, as a percentage of those discharged from care, the number of children adopted account for 15% currently, a reduction on previous performance and below comparators, as shown below:

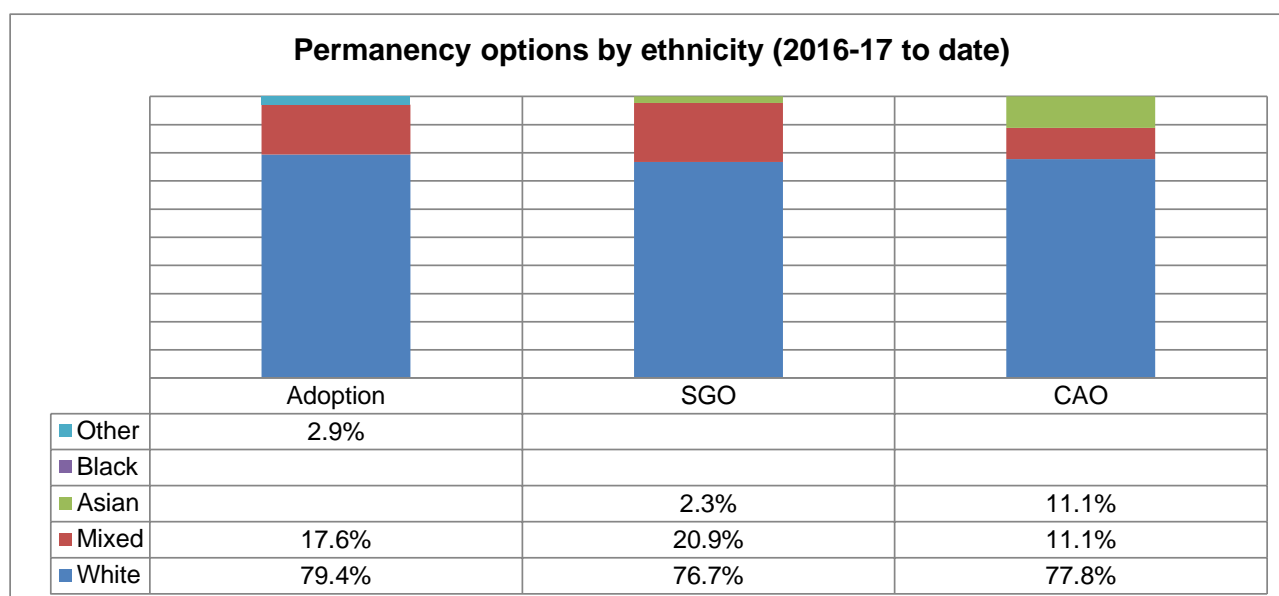
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 to 24 Jan
Kirklees	14.0	21.0	18.0	18.0	15.0
West Yorkshire	19.8	23.5	24.0	26.5	
Yorkshire & Humber	19.0	22.0	23.0	21.0	
Statistical Neighbours	19.7	21.2	24.6	21.2	
Metropolitan Authorities	18.3	18.9	19.8	18.7	
England	14.0	17.0	17.0	15.0	

7.2) Permanency Options - Profiles

The oldest child adopted during 2016/17 to date has been 6 years old with the large majority between 1 and 4 years old. The distribution of those subject to SGO and CAO is more evenly spread across the ages, although there is a low number of children aged 10 and over going on to these permanency options.

Age	Adoption	Special Guardianship Order	Child Arrangement Order	Total
Aged <1	3	13	1	17
Aged 1-4	23	13	2	38
Aged 5-9	8	11	3	22
Aged 10-15		5	3	8
Aged 16+		1		1
Total	34	43	9	86

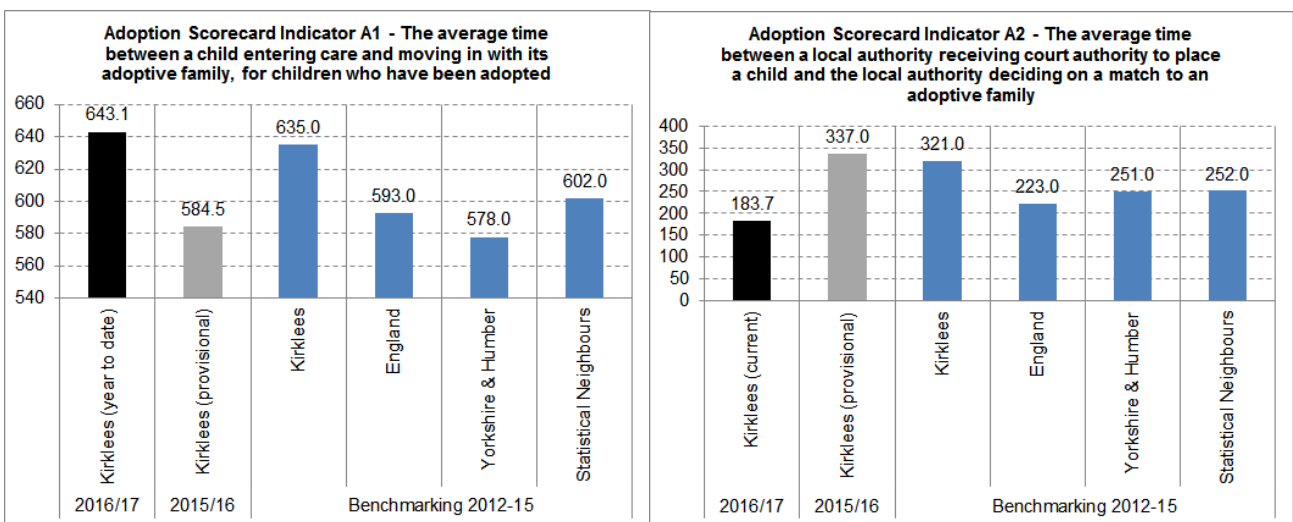
The ethnicity profile shows a similar level of permanency arrangements for White ethnicities. However, there are low numbers in the Asian and Black groups, although the number of Mixed ethnicity children is comparatively high.



7.3) Adoption Scorecard

Outcomes against the adoption scorecard indicators are shown below. There have been some significant improvements in the outcome for A2, (the average time between placement order and a child being matched to the adoptive family). This was a provisional 337 days in 2015/16, but has since improved to 183.7 days this year to date. This compares well to comparator data, but is still not in line with the government’s threshold for this indicator of 121 days.

However indicator A1, (the time from when a child enters care to moving in with the adoptive family), remains challenging due to a number of “legacy” cases that have moved through to adoption in this financial year. These include cases that were placed with parents for a significant time prior to the decision to move to adoption. The current outcome of 643 days is expected to reduce to below 600 days by the end of the year, but is still well above the 426 day threshold set by the government.



In terms of indicator A3, (the percentage of children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family), there has been a great deal of improvement. The difference between A1 and A3 outcomes shows the effect the small number of “legacy” cases has on the average timescales.

