

Name of meeting: Childrens Scrutiny Panel
Date: 14 January 2019
Title of report: Number and Age of Children in Care

Purpose of report

To provide information to Childrens Scrutiny relating to the number and profile of children in care. Including information related to those placed outside of the District.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? | NA |
| Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?) | NA |
| The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny? | NA |
| Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name | N/A |
| Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? | NA |
| Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support? | NA |
| Cabinet member portfolio | Cllr V Kendrick Childrens Portfolio |

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public

1. Summary

The data below illustrates the trend relating to the number of children and young people in our care and the age, gender, ethnicity profile of those children over the last twelve months.

The current number of LAC equates to a rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17 of **63.6** (65.2). This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 84.9 and a national average of 62.0 based on published data for March 2017.

Kirklees (Sep 18) = 63.6

Statistical Neighbours = 84.9

England = 62.0

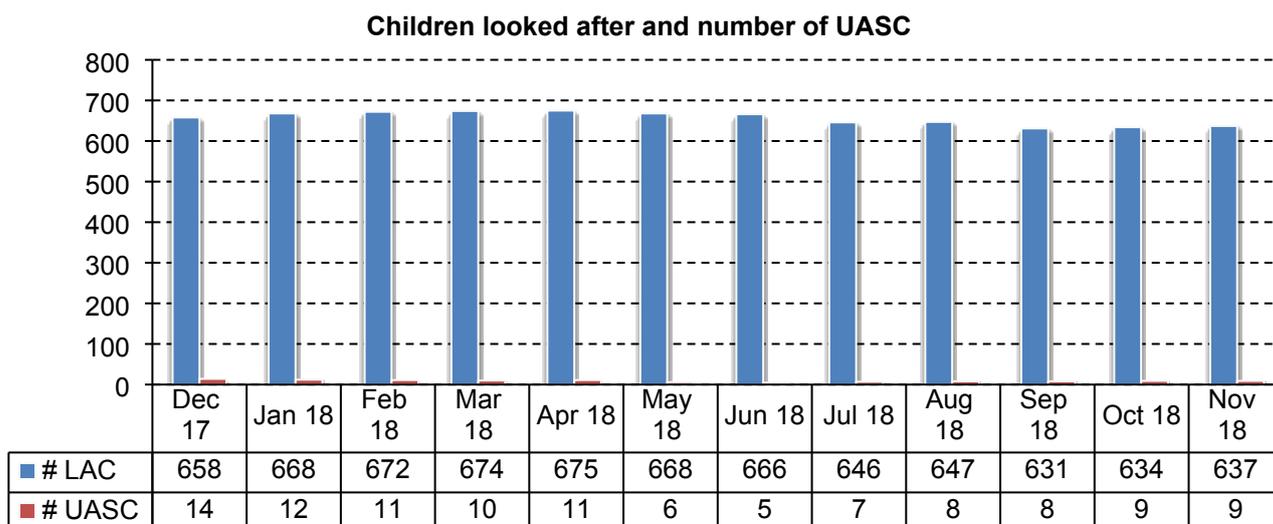
This graph shows the number of looked after children (excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

The current number of LAC equates to a rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17 of **63.8** (63.9). This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 86.1 and a national average of 64.0 based on published data for March 2018 (NB: The number of children in Kirklees aged 0-17 has been revised for the calculation from 99,192 to 99,815 as per the data published by Department for Education in October 2018)

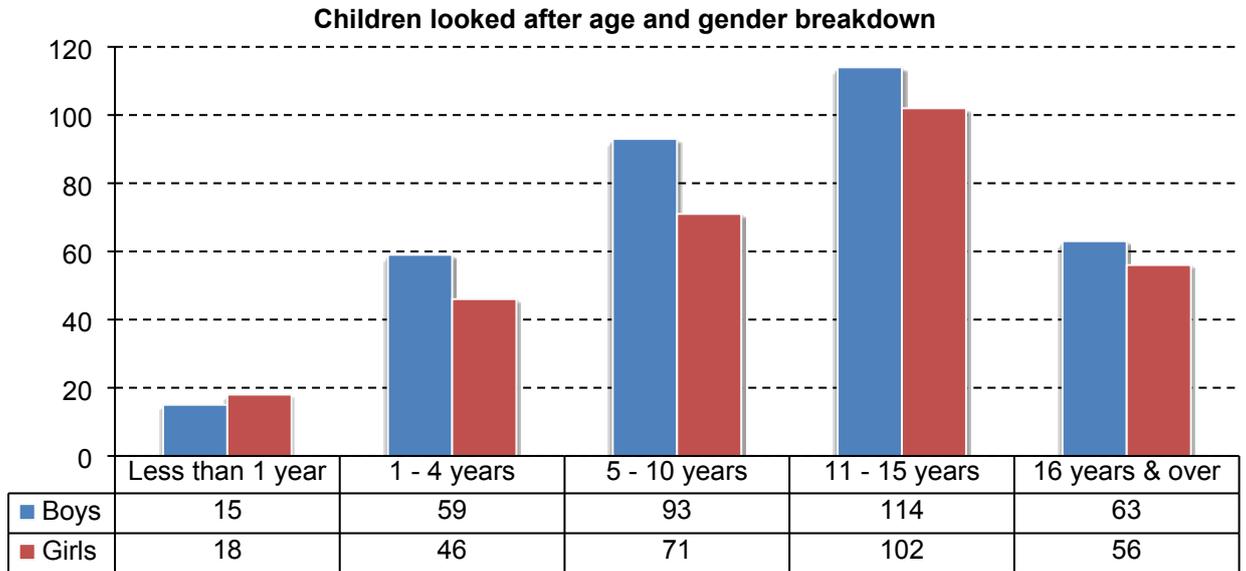
Kirklees (Nov 18) = 63.8

Statistical Neighbours (2018) = 86.1

England (2018) = 64.0



This graph shows the breakdown by age and gender of the children in care. The largest age group for boys is 11 - 15 years with **114** (113) children and the largest age group for girls is 11 - 15 years with **102** (104) children.



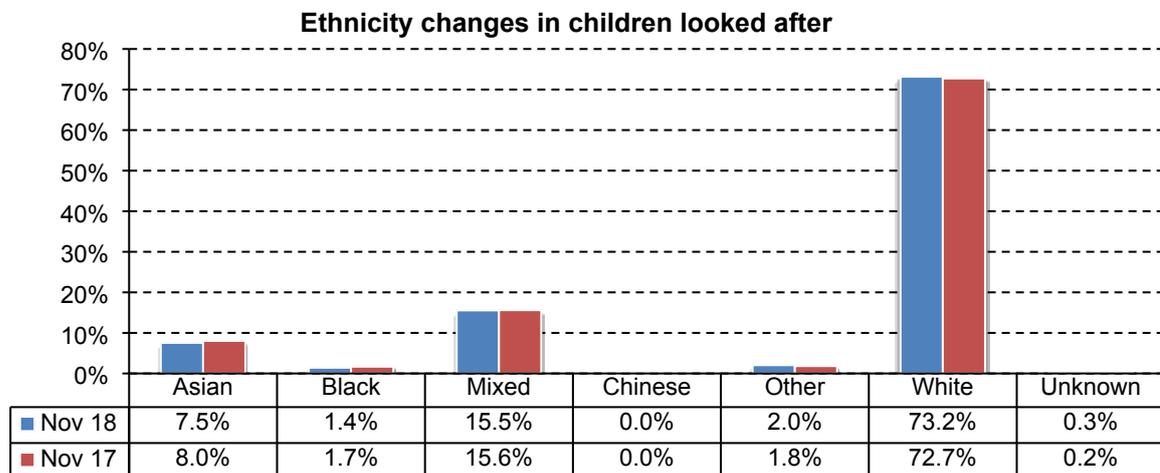
This graph shows the breakdown by age and gender of the children in care. The largest age group for boys is 11 - 15 years with **114** (113) children and the largest age group for girls is 11 - 15 years with **102** (104) children.

Children placed more than 20 miles outside of Kirklees

This graph shows a continuing decline in children placed outside of Kirklees District, we continue to be proactive in recruiting new foster carers for our children within district.

| | 31 Jul 2018 | | 31 Aug 2018 | | 30 Sep 2018 | | 31 Oct 2018 | | 30 Nov 2018 | |
|---|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | Number | % |
| Placed outside Kirklees & over 20 miles from home address | 110 | 17.0% | 112 | 17.3% | 107 | 16.6% | 107 | 16.9% | 103 | 16.2% |

This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of November 2018 and the same point 12 months ago. This has been relatively stable throughout the period.



2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

Not applicable

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

Not applicable

3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

This information is provided at the request of Childrens Scrutiny to monitor the number of children in care their age and location of placements.

3.4 Reducing demand of services

Not applicable

3.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Not applicable

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

5. **Next steps**

A similar report will be presented to future Children's Scrutiny Panel meetings.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

Steve Comb Head of Corporate Parenting

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable

10. **Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)