



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Tuesday, 12 November 2019
:

Committee:
People Overview Committee

Date: Wednesday, 20 November 2019

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Members of the Committee

Peggy Mullock (Chair)
Kevin Turley (Vice-Chair)
Roy Aldcroft
Rob Gittins
Christian Lea

Matt Lee
Elliott Lynch
Cecilia Motley
Kevin Pardy
David Vasmer

Co-opted Members (Voting):

Carol Morgan
Sian Lines
Vacancy
Vacancy

Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Diocese of Hereford (CE)
Parent Governor – Secondary Schools
Parent Governor – Primary & Special Schools

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting):

Mark Hignett

Voluntary and Community Sector
Assembly

Substitute Members:

Julian Dean
Roger Evans
Kate Halliday
Roger Hughes

Claire Wild
Leslie Winwood
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies and Substitutions

To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded they must not participate in the discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 17 July 2019, are attached for confirmation.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 10.00am on 18 November 2019

5 Members' Question Time

To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice.

Deadline for notification: 10.00am on 18 November 2019

6 Chair's Update

To receive updates on items not on the agenda

7 Children's Services Performance Dashboard (Pages 5 - 18)

The report of The Children's Social Care, Early Help and Strengthening Families Specialist is attached.

8 Residential Care for Looked After Children (Pages 19 - 24)

The report of the Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding is attached.

9 Ofsted Feedback and Action Plan - Focussed Visit into Achieving Permanency (Pages 25 - 34)

The report of the Executive Director of Children's Services is attached

10 Unregistered Placements (Pages 35 - 38)

The report of the Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding is attached

11 Work Programme (Pages 39 - 50)

The report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer is attached.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the People Overview Committee will be held on Friday 29 November 2019 at 2.00pm at The Shirehall



PEOPLE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019

10.00 - 11.30 am in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Peggy Mullock (Chairman), Kevin Turley (Vice-Chair), Christian Lea, Elliott Lynch, Cecilia Motley, Kevin Pardy and David Vasmer

15 Apologies and Substitutions

15.1 Apologies were received from Sian Lines (Diocese of Hereford).

15.2 There were no substitutions.

16 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

16.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interests made.

17 Minutes

17.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2019 had been circulated.

17.2 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the People Overview Committee held on 5 June 2019 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

18 Public Question Time

18.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

19 Members' Question Time

19.1 There were no questions from Members

20 Committee Update

20.1 There were no updates.

21 Warmer Homes

21.1 Members received an update from the Senior Technical Officer. He advised that a scheme had been developed which would provide 150 gas first time heating

systems and 150 off gas solutions using LPG. He commented that LPG was expensive, and that an oil-based solution was being investigated.

- 21.2 The Senior Technical Officer informed the meeting that there was a proposal being developed around renewable energy solutions but there was a problem in that the Council would not get any return on its investment as it would not receive the FIT.
- 21.3 Members welcomed the progress being made and expressed concern that it appeared that barriers were put in the way of progressing schemes.
- 21.4 The Chairman thanked the Senior Technical Officer for his update and for the good work that was being carried out.

22 Social Worker Recruitment and Retention

- 22.1 Members received the report of the Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding which gave an update on the recruitment and retention of Children’s Social care social workers.
- 22.2 The Director of Children’s Services stated that the recruitment and retention of social workers was not just an issue for Shropshire as there was a national shortage of social workers which made recruitment more difficult.
- 22.3 The Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding informed Members that there were now fewer social workers leaving the Council and that retention was better through either progression opportunities or through other opportunities created across the service such as the additional posts created in the Fostering and Adoption team.
- 22.4 The Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding stated that there had been a commitment to ensuring that Shropshire was a leading employer and that work was ongoing to improve the market place offer to social workers.
- 22.5 The Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding informed the meeting that the Council was participating in two graduate training programmes “Frontline” and “Step Up” and that this year 4 permanent social workers had been recruited through the Frontline programme and 2 from the Step Up programme
- 22.6 A Member asked whether there were cases where social workers that leave the Council then return as agency social workers. The Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding advised that this did happen
- 22.7 A Member asked whether it was known why social workers left the Council. The Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding stated that all leavers attended an exit interview in order that Managers may understand the reasons for staff leaving and that in the majority of cases staff left for personal reasons.
- 22.8 The Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services thanked the Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding and her team for all the work they do.

23 School Improvement

- 23.1 Members received the report of the Principal Education Improvement Adviser which gave an update on the Education Improvement Service.
- 23.2 The Principal Education Improvement Adviser reminded Members that the Education Improvement Service underwent a major restructure in 2018 due to funding pressures, a review of priorities and the need to create a more flexible workforce to meet the impact of future academisation of schools in Shropshire. He informed the meeting that the Council had specific statutory responsibilities for all schools in Shropshire whether they were a maintained school or an Academy
- 23.3 Members expressed concerns regarding Academies, as it appeared that there was little the service could do. The Principal Education Improvement Adviser advised the meeting that there was an Academy Protocol in place which allowed for annual visits during which an assessment of risk was made. The Director of Children's Services commented that the Council was actively involved with Academies, and that concerns could be escalated to the Regional Schools Commissioner, who held termly meetings with all local authorities within his area.
- 23.4 Members asked that the Regional Schools Commissioner be asked to attend a future meeting of the Committee.
- 23.5 The Chair thanked the Principal Education Improvement Adviser for his report.
- 23.6 Resolved:
- a) That the contents of the report be noted
 - b) That the regional Schools Commissioner be invited to a future meeting of the Committee

24 Work Programme

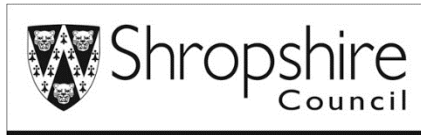
- 24.1 The Scrutiny Work Programme had been circulated.
- 24.2 The Scrutiny Officer advised members that the next meeting would focus on the Criminal Exploitation of Children and that an additional meeting had been arranged for October 9th.
- 24.3 The Chairman asked Members to advise the Scrutiny Officer of any topics that they wished the Committee to discuss.

25 Date of Next Meetings

- 25.1 Members were advised that the next meeting of the People Overview Committee would be held on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at 10.00am and that an additional meeting of the Committee has been scheduled for Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 10.00am

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



<u>Committee and date</u>	<u>Item</u>
People Overview Committee	
20 November 2019	<u>Public</u>

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT – Q2 2019/20

Responsible Officer John Foster

e-mail: John.foster@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 258527

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report presents People Overview Scrutiny Committee with Children's Social Care performance measures for Quarter 2 2019/20.

2. Recommendations

- A. Members consider the report and identify whether there are any specific topics or emerging issues they would like to consider in more detail.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 Effective monitoring and follow-up against key measures of success provides the opportunity to manage risks and ensure that Children and Young People in Shropshire remain safe and achieve the desired outcomes.
- 3.2 Poor performance could have implications for vulnerable families who are supported by Council services. In turn, there may be significant financial, legal and reputational risk to the Council, Schools (and Academies), and partners from across the public and voluntary and independent care sectors.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 This report does not have any direct financial implications.

5. Introduction

- 5.1 Each of the three social care work areas covered by this report contain a range of associated performance measures. The frequency of the availability of the data varies from monthly and quarterly updates to annual updates.
- 5.2 A key theme of the past 18 months in Children's Services has been increased level of demand. This increase largely happened between the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

While, in many areas of the service, growth has stabilised during 2019/20, demand continues at the higher level and has not returned to the lower 2017/18 levels.

6. Front Door

- 6.1 8,422 contacts were received by Children's Services between 1st April and 30th September 2019. This is higher than in previous years, and a linear forecast suggests a year-end figure of around 16,800. This would represent a 22% increase against the 2018/19 year-end position of 13,760.

Around 44% of contacts this year required some further action, including updating existing cases (21%), the creation of a social care referral (9.2%) and the provision of information, advice and signposting (8.1%).

- 6.2 In 2018/19, referrals to Children's Social Care were a significant growth area, increasing 25.9% to 1822 at year end, from 1447 In 2017/18.

In 19/20 to date there have been 915 referrals, a 3% increase on the 888 received in the same period in 2018/19. This data suggests growth in this area may have slowed and stabilised at the increased level.

Despite the increase, benchmarking data indicates that Shropshire's referral levels are below most of its statistical neighbour (SN) group. The average for the group being 501.76 referrals for every 10,000 U18 residents, where Shropshire's y/e 18/19 figure gives a rate of 304.7.

The main referral source this year has been the Police, followed by education, family members and health services. These levels are largely consistent with data seen across England.

- 6.3 In 19/20 to date, 17% of referrals had a previous referral recorded within the preceding 12 months. 17% was also the year-end figure for 2018/19 suggesting the re-referral rates remain static.

Shropshire has comparatively low levels of re-referrals, with the SN average being 21.2% and the England average being 21.9%.

- 6.4 On average, 286 social work assessments are completed each month, though this figure includes review assessments, as well as those following on from referral.

At Q2, 85% of assessments had been completed within the recommended 45 working days. This is a fall from the same point in 2018/19 where 94.8% were within timescale. This decrease coincided with the introduction of the new case management system, Liquid Logic, suggesting the implementation may have impacted timeliness. Workshops are being held with frontline staff, to look at all areas of the service to identify and resolve issues.

Despite the fall in timeliness, Shropshire is still performing at a higher level than both statistical neighbours (77.1%) and the England average (82.7%)

7. Case Management

- 7.1 At Q2 19/20, there were 398 looked after children in Shropshire. This is an increase from the 395 children looked after at the end of 18/19.

The increase in looked after children has slowed during 19/20, with a net increase of 3 children to date. In 2018/19 there was a net increase of 58 children over the full year. Data suggests this is due to fewer children becoming looked after, as numbers ceasing to be looked after remained stable.

The rate of children looked after has increased during Q2 to 66.6 children per 10,000 U18s. This is higher than the SN average (56.9) and England average (64), though this benchmarking data is from y/e 2017/18.

- 7.2 The rate of children subject to Child Protection Plans (CPPs) has fallen during Q2. At the end of the quarter, there were 45.3 CPPs per 10,000 U18s, falling from a peak of 55 at the end of 2018/19.

Shropshire is now in line with the national average CPP rate (45.3), though remains higher than the SN rate (38.9).

Data suggests that fewer children are starting CPPs, and more are ceasing, leading to the decrease.

- 7.3 Of the active CPPs at the reporting date, 53% have neglect listed as their primary category of abuse. 38% have emotional abuse, 7% sexual abuse and 2% physical abuse.

Shropshire differs slightly from the national averages, which are: neglect 48.2%, emotional abuse 38.3%, 4% sexual abuse and 6.7% physical abuse. Some authorities also report against multiple categories, nationally this is reported at 2.8%.

- 7.4 At Q2, 13% of CPPs starting during the year were for children who had had a previous plan at any point. This is lower than 18/19 year-end figure of 21%. It's also lower than the national average (20.2%) and the SN average (23%).

- 7.5 Child protections plans that are open for over 2 years can be an indication of drift in casework. Benchmarking for this measure compares the proportion of ceasing CPPs that had been open for 2 years or longer.

At the end of Q2 in Shropshire, 2.1% of CPPs ceasing CPPs had been open for two years or longer. This is lower than the year end 2018/19 position of 7%, and below the SN average (2.58%). Shropshire remains slightly above the national average (1.8%).

2.2% of active CPP cases had been open for 2 years or longer at the end of Q2.

- 7.6 A child in need (CiN) is one that has been assessed by social care to be in need of a service. The rate of CiN in Shropshire fell slightly during Q2 to 273.1 per 10,000

U18s. The chart in Appendix A illustrates the significant increase seen in the CiN rate between 17/18 and 18/19 and a subsequent period of stability at the new, higher level.

Despite the increases, Shropshire's rate remains below that of its SN group (293.96) and the England average (341).

8. Looked After Children, Placements and Care Leavers

- 8.1 The age profile of Shropshire's current looked after children (as at 5/11/19) shows that 58% are age 10 or over. This is contrasted with the age range of only those children who became looked after during 19/20 so far. Here, the highest proportion (58%) of children are between 0 and 9.

Slightly more of Shropshire's current looked after children are male (52%) than female (48%).

- 8.2 Fostering placements make up the highest proportion of looked after placements in Shropshire, with 69.2% of children placed with foster carers. 15.1% of children are placed in homes/hostels and 7.1% are placed with their parents. 2.7% of Shropshire's looked after children are placed for adoption.

- 8.3 Most looked after children in Shropshire (85%) are subject to a court order, which are usually sought by a local authority in respect of children who they believe are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm.

64% are subject to a full care order, 18% subject to an interim care order, and 3% subject to a placement order.

The remaining 15% are looked after under section 20 of the Children's Act 1989, which means that the parents have agreed for their child to live elsewhere for a period, either to provide time to make changes in their circumstances or to facilitate further investigation.

- 8.4 The remainder of this report discusses performance relating to care leavers. Benchmarking for care leavers is a new development and focuses only on those young people whose 19th, 20th or 21st birthday in the reporting period. For Q2, this means that only those young people having their birthdays between April and September are included in the cohort.

- 8.5 For care leavers aged 18 to 20, there is a proactive duty on the local authority to keep in touch. Shropshire Council is in touch with 96.3% of all care leavers in this cohort as at Q2. This is slightly higher than the national average (93%).

- 8.6 85.2% of the care leavers in the reporting cohort are living in suitable accommodation, which can include independent living, supported accommodation or living with parents. The national average for this measure is 84%.

- 8.7 53.7% of care leavers in the reporting cohort are in education, employment or training. This is higher than the national average of 51%.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Ed Potter, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Local Member

All

Conflicts of interest declared by members

Appendices

A. Q2 19/20 performance dashboard

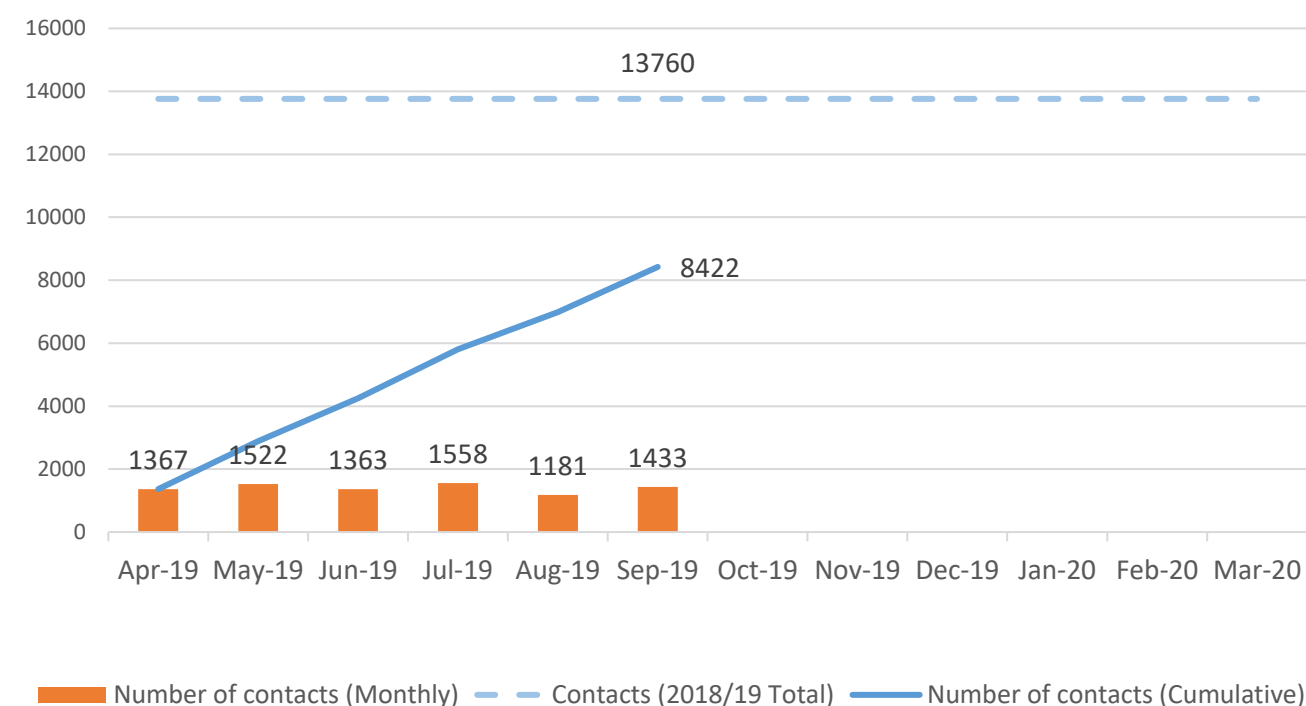
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Children and Young People's Services

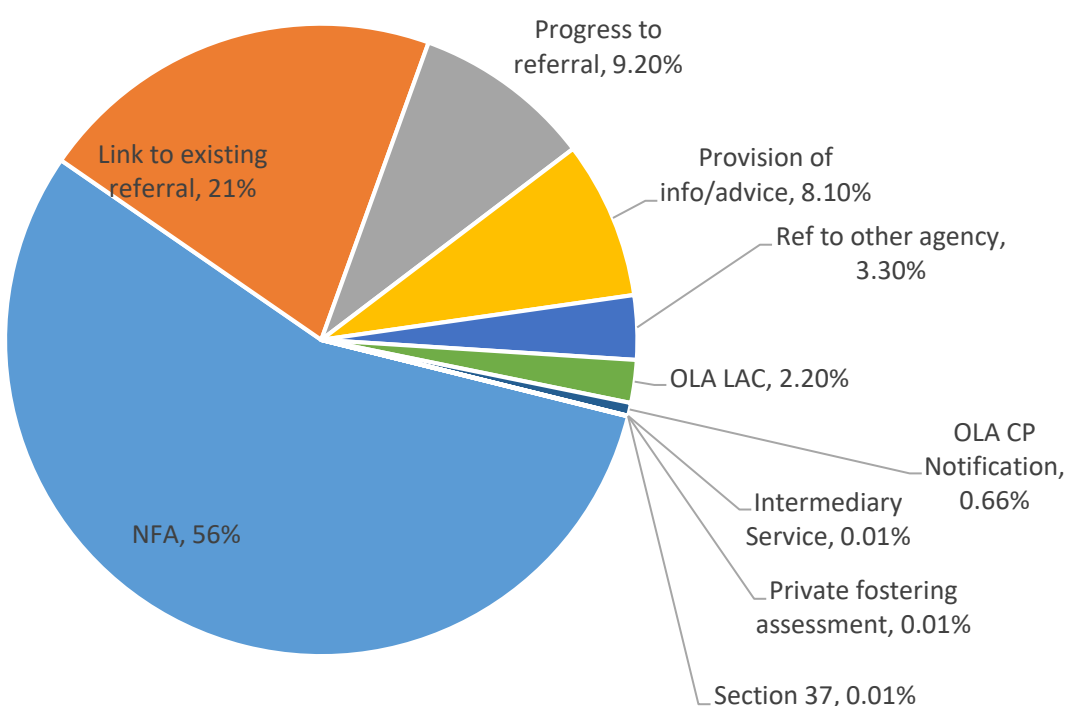
Performance Report
Quarter 2 2019/20



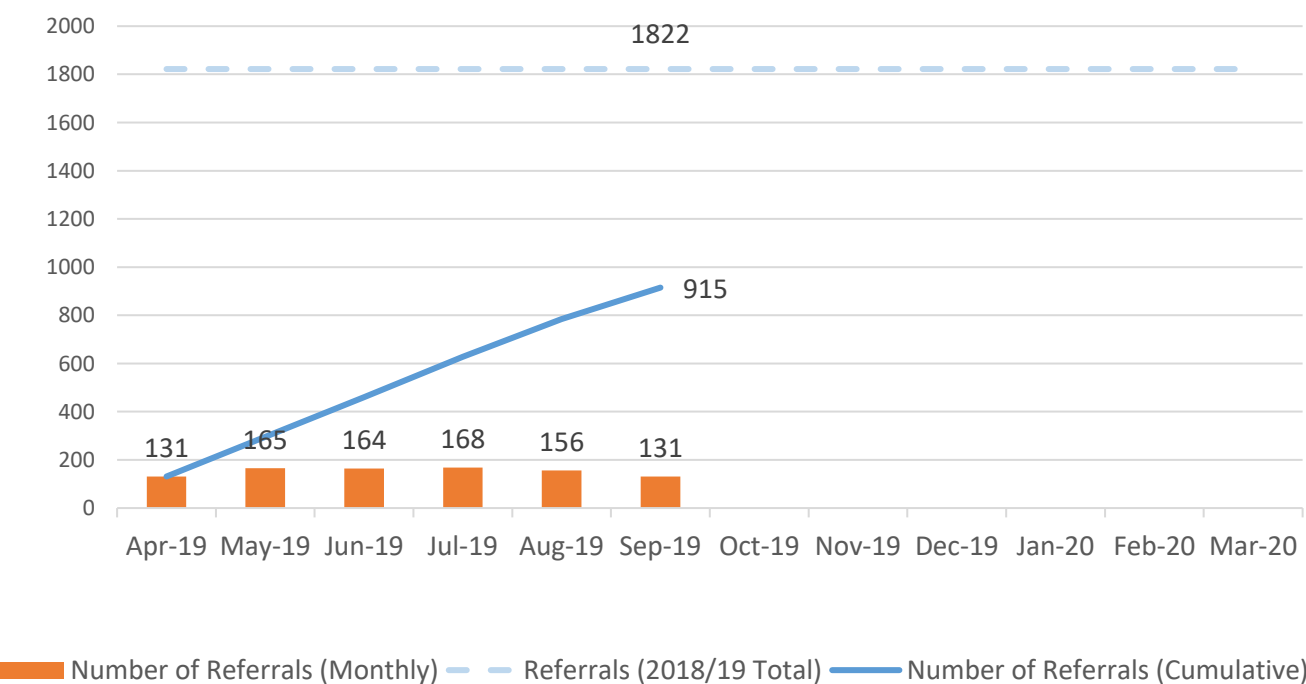
1: Total contacts received



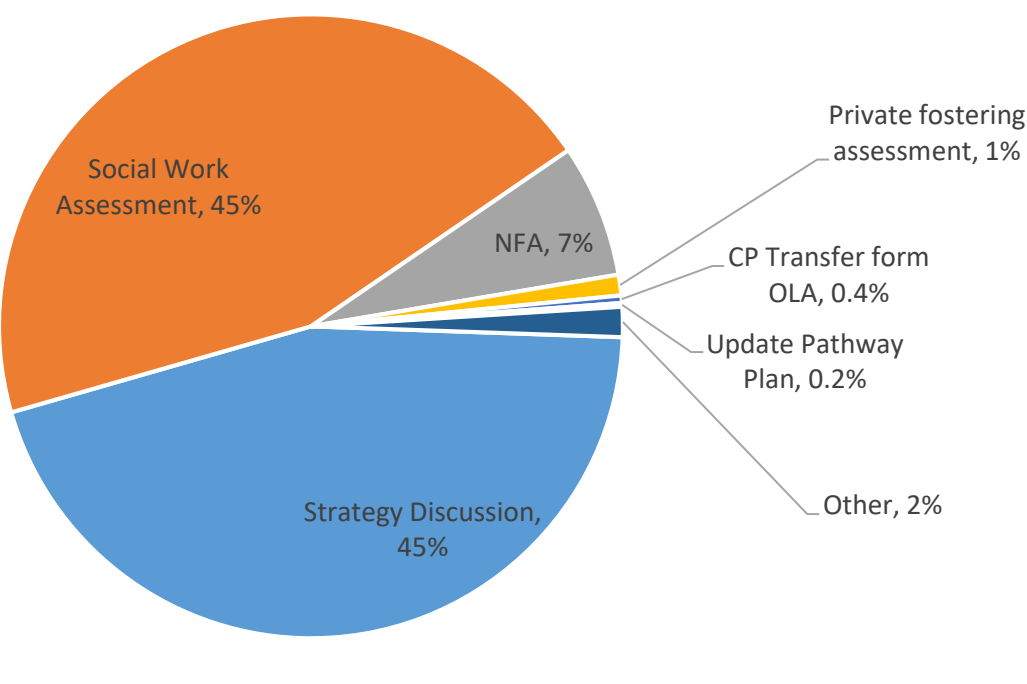
2: Contact outcomes -2019/20 to date



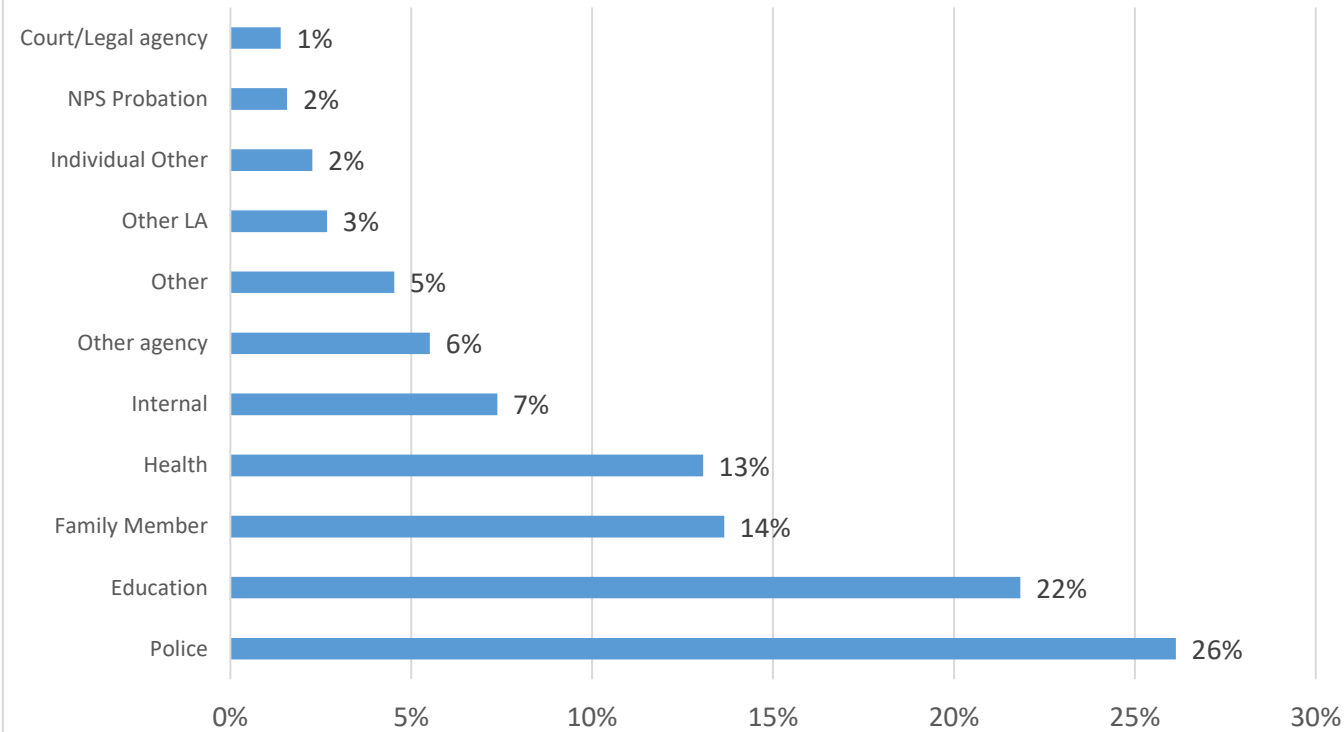
3: Referrals to Children's Social Care



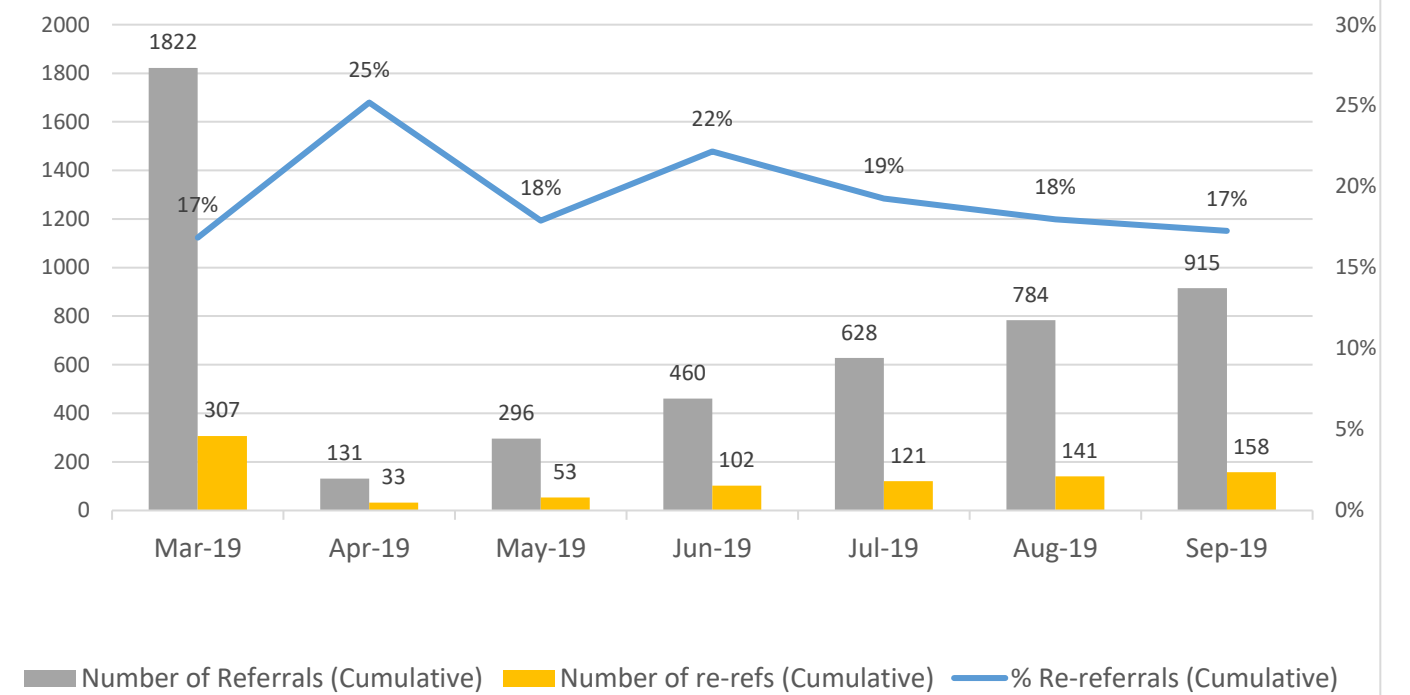
4: Referral outcomes - 2019/20 to date



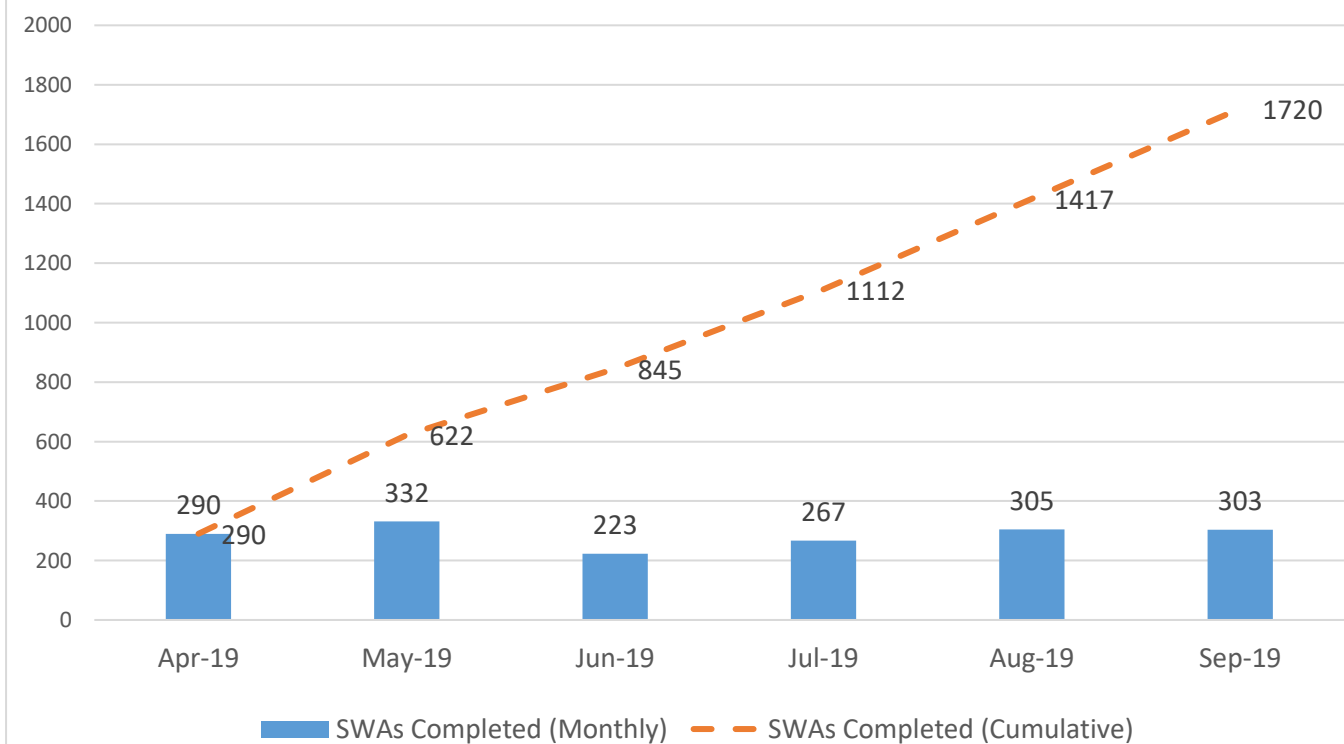
5: Referral sources - 2019/20 - year to date (3/11/19)



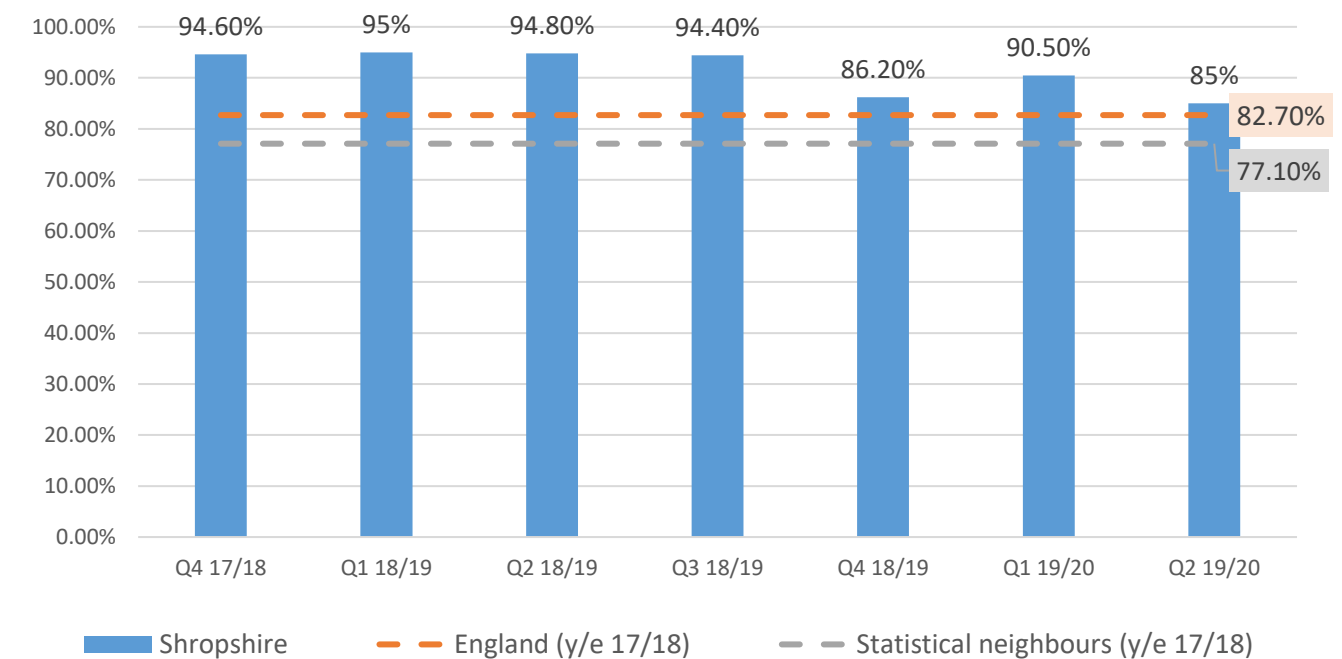
6: Re-referrals to Children's Social Care (cumulative year to date)



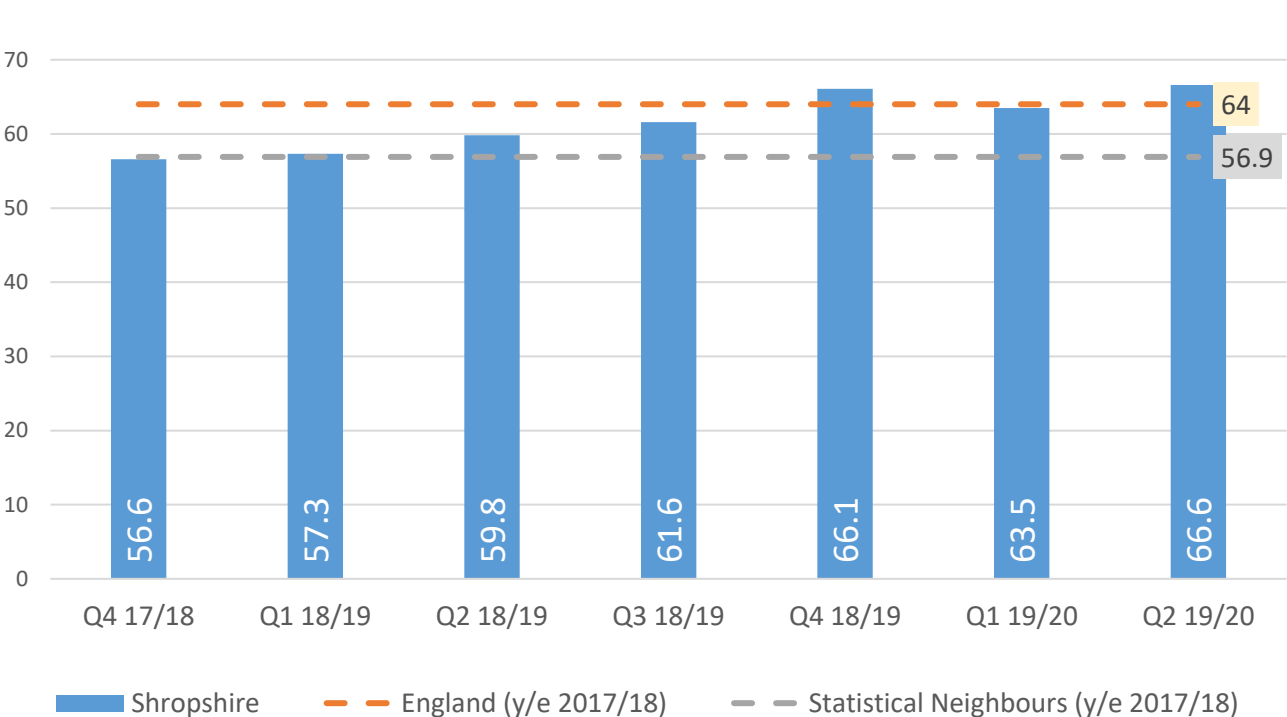
7: Social work assessment completed - year to date



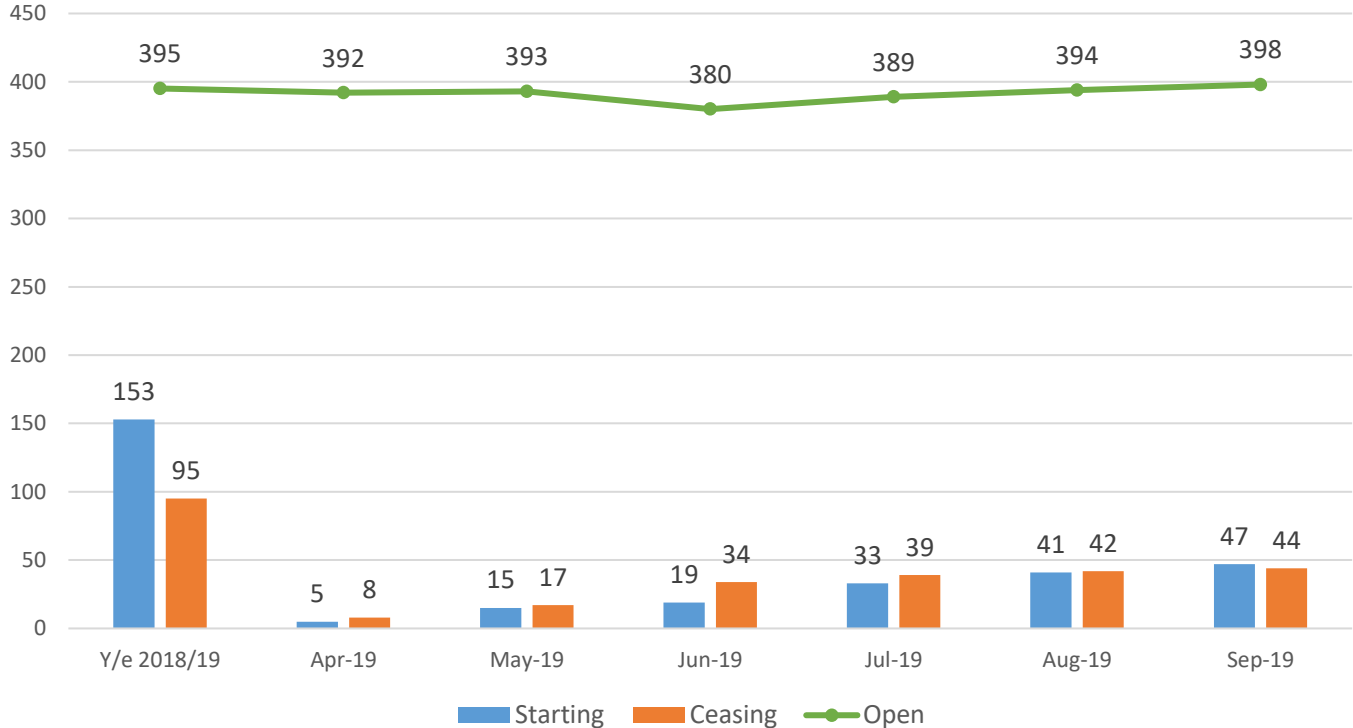
8: Assessments completed within 45 working days (cumulative - year to date)



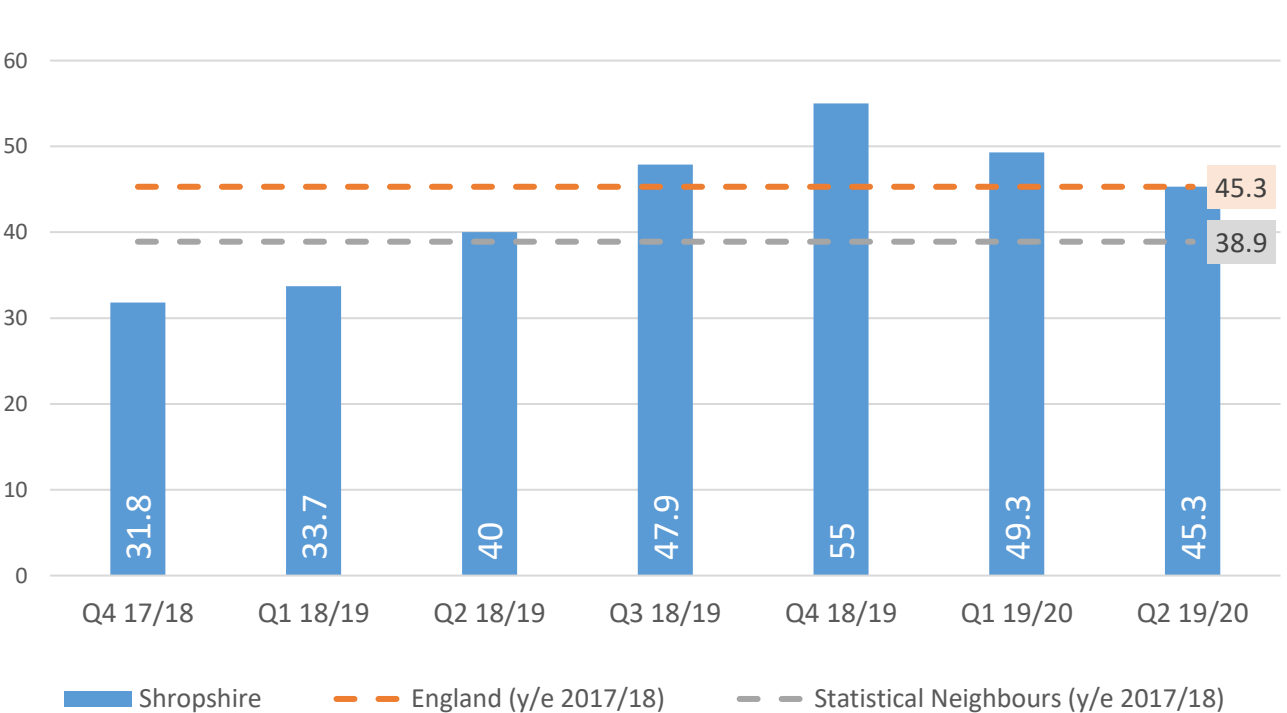
9: Looked after children - rate per 10,000 U18



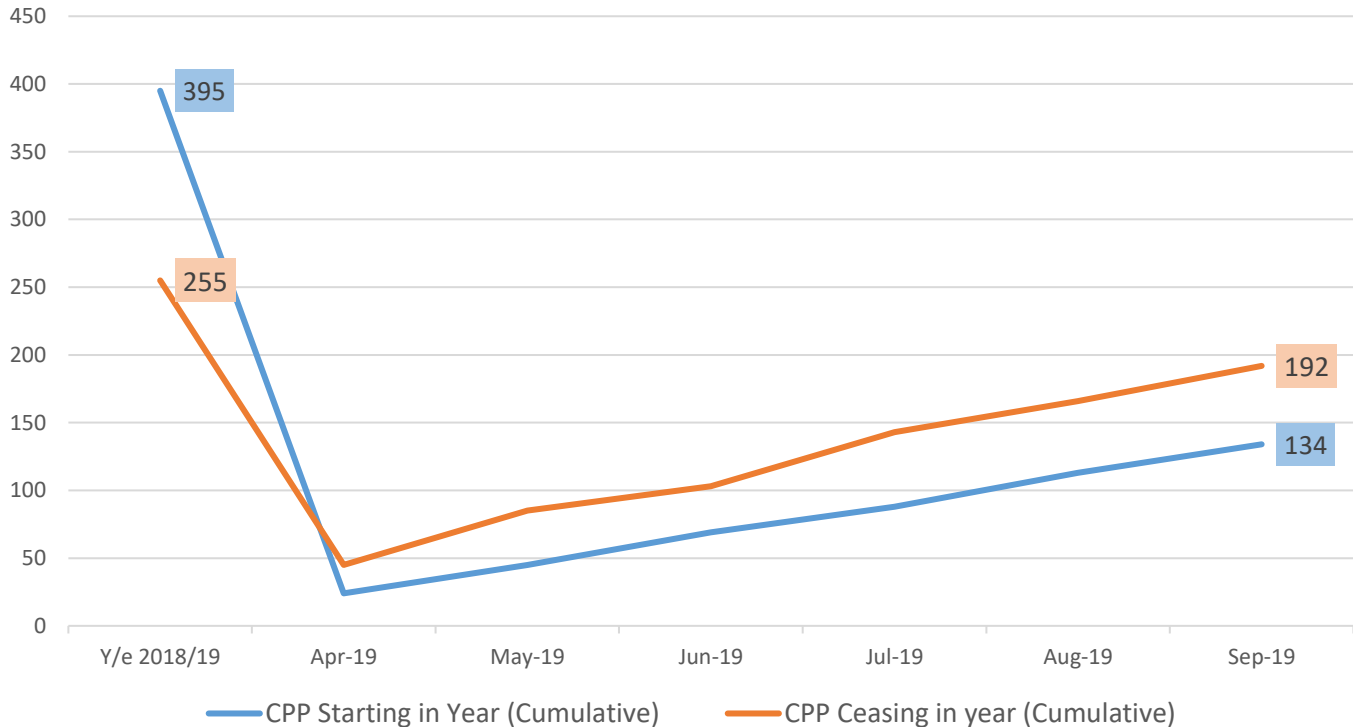
10: Looked after children - starting, ceasing and number at month end



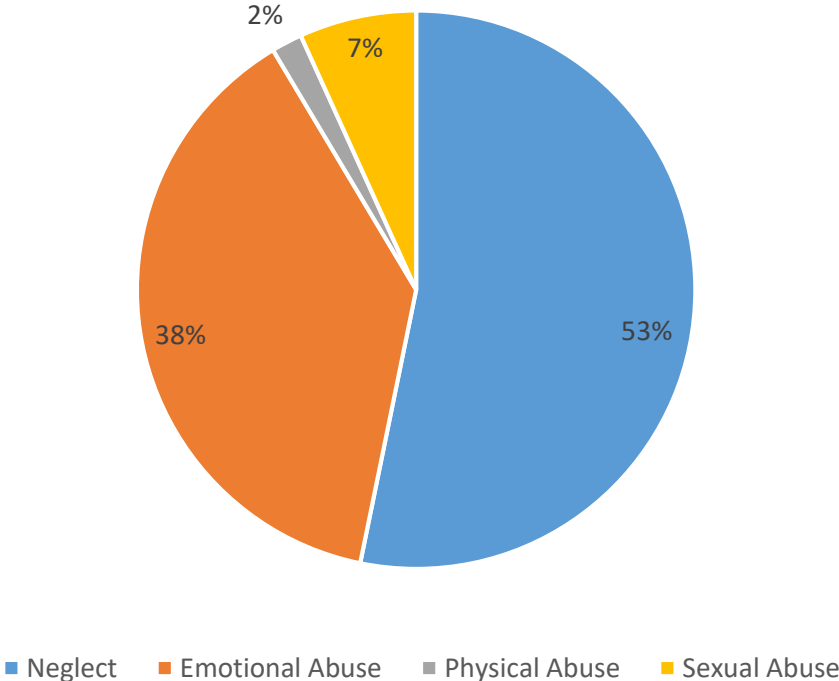
11: Child Protection Plans - rate per 10,000 U18



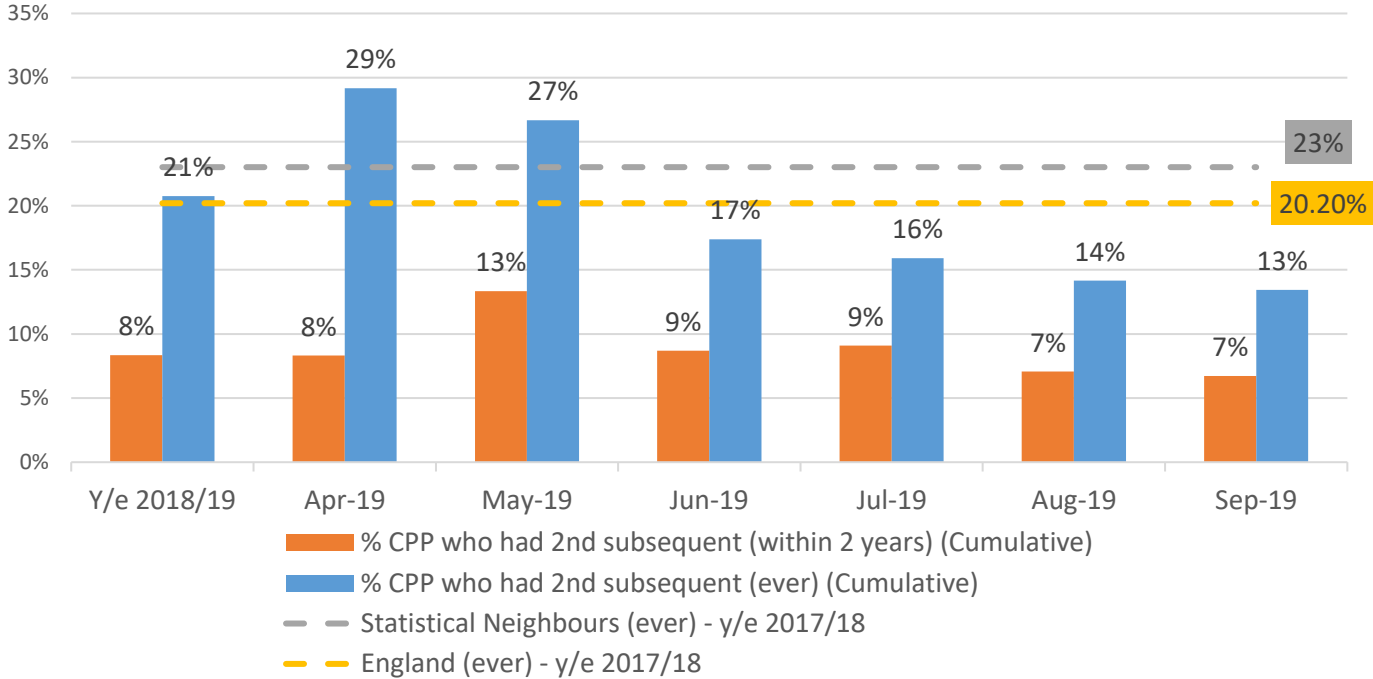
12: CPP Starting and ceasing (cumulative)



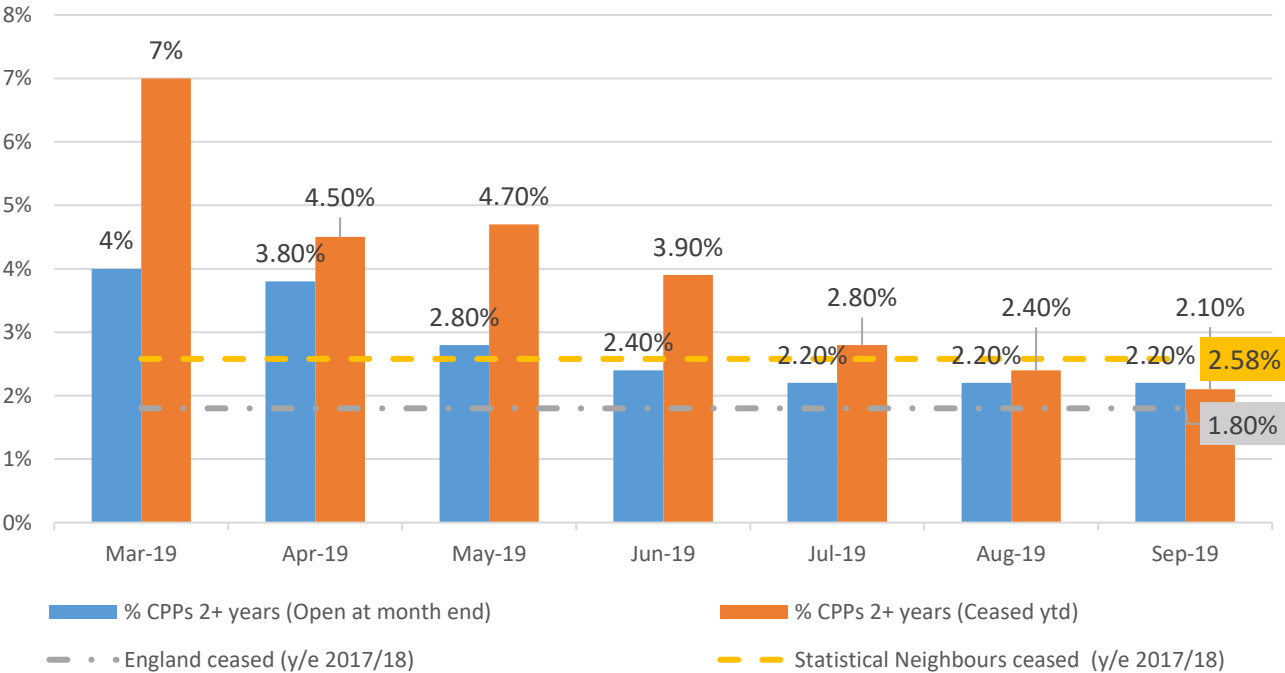
13: Current CPP - latest category of abuse (3/11/19)



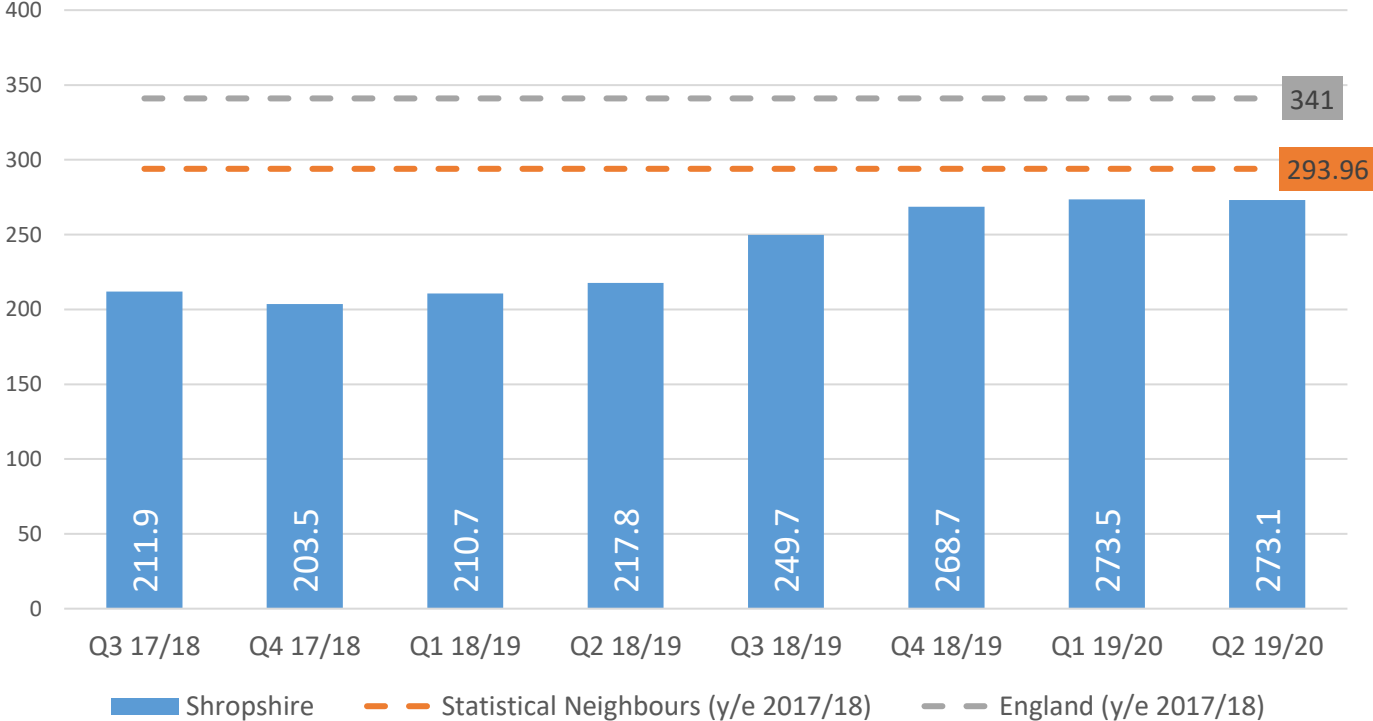
14: % of children who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time



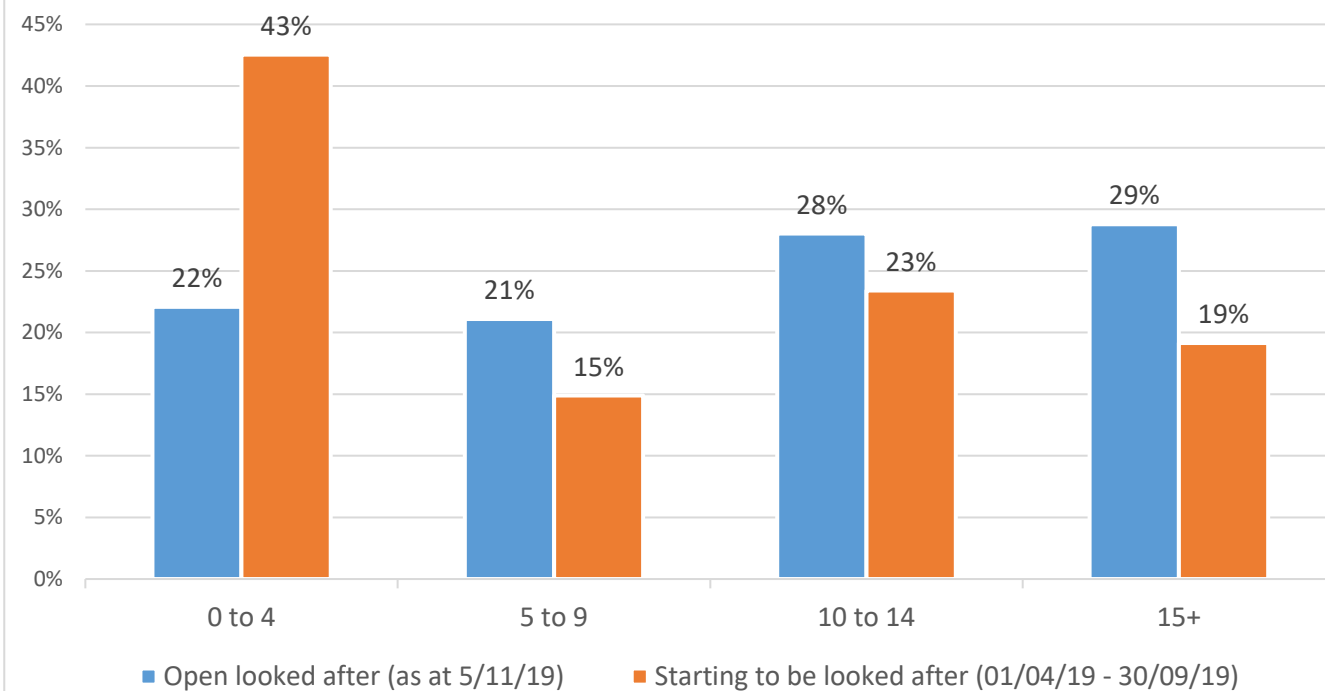
15: % of child protection plans open 2+ years (active and ceased ytd)



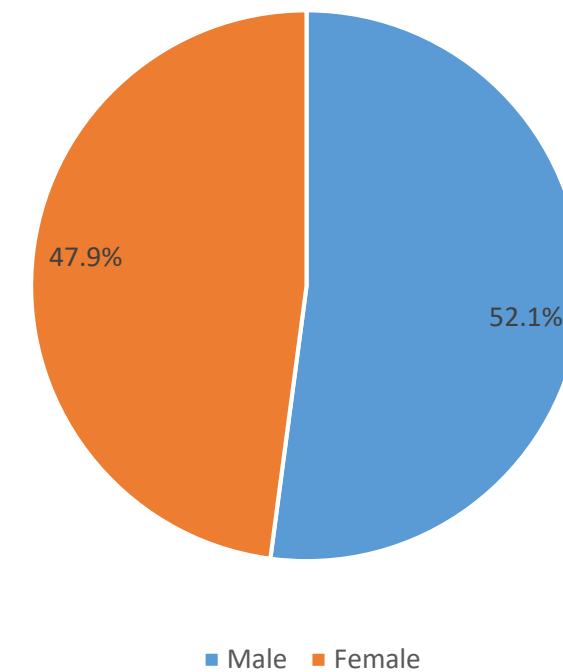
16: Children in need (national definition) - rate per 10,000 u18



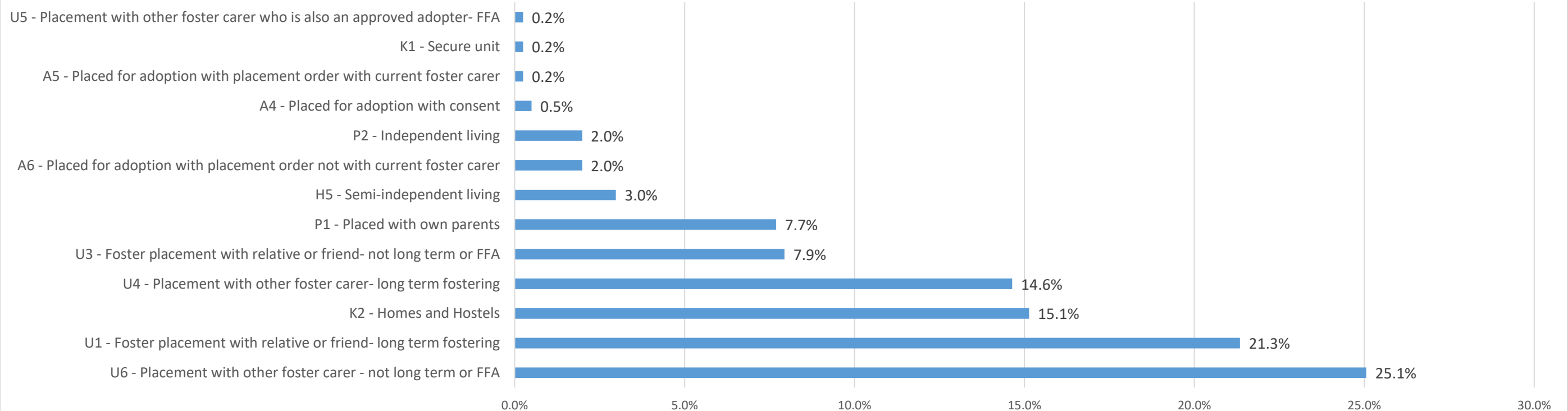
17: Age profiles of looked after children (open and starting during 19/20 ytd)



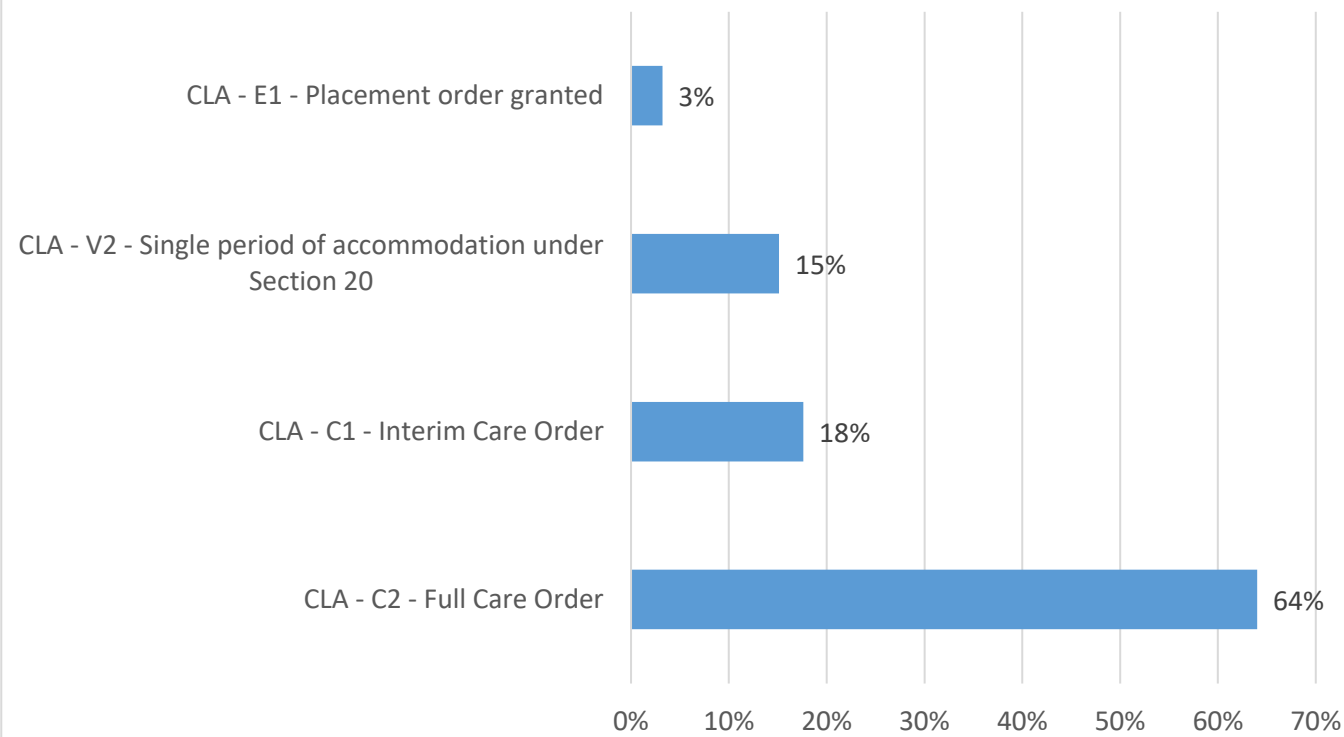
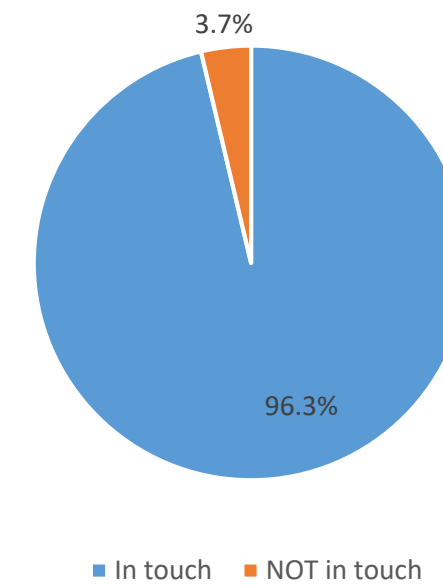
18: Looked after children as at 5/11/19 - gender profile



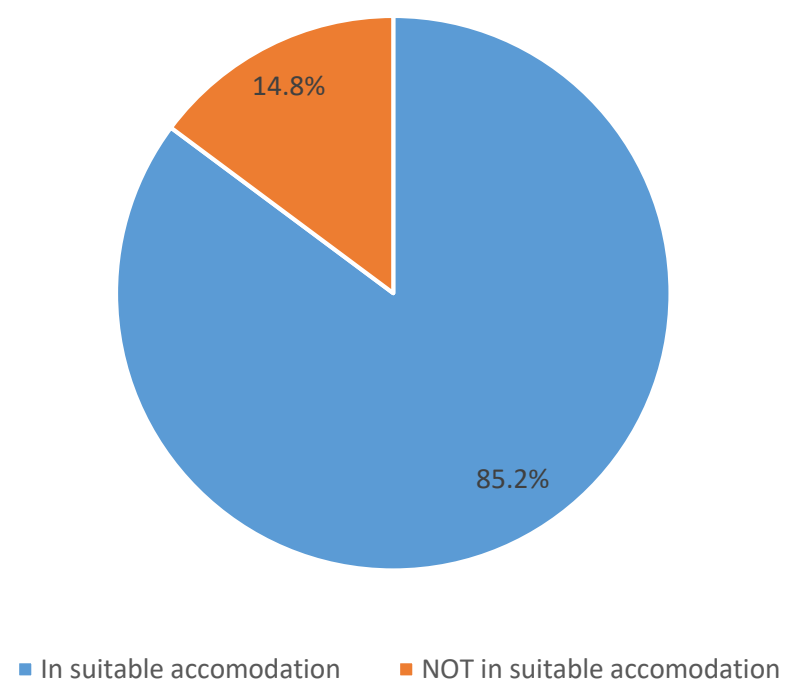
19: Current looked after children (5/11/19) by placement type



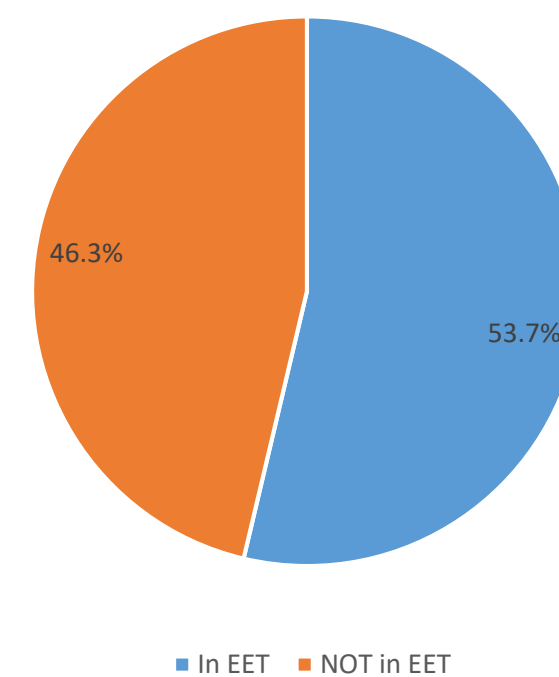
20: Current looked after children (5/11/19) - current legal status


21: Care leavers 19-21 the LA is in touch with
(all care leavers data in this report uses the West Mids benchmarking definition of those CL who have had their 19/20/21 birthday in reporting period (ytd))


22: Care leavers 19-21 in suitable accommodation



23: Care Leavers 19-21 in employment, education or training (EET)



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<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
People Overview Committee	
20 November 2019	<u>Public</u>

RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOME DEVELOPMENTS

Responsible Officer: Sonya Miller, Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding
Email: sonya.miller@shropshire.gov.uk

1. Summary

In February 2019, full Council meeting endorsed the plan by Children's Services to open and run three new children's homes to be run by Shropshire children's services. These homes would specifically focus on the more complex, hard to place and therefore more costly children, and those who were in the process of being able to return home or step down to foster care. This report provides an update on progress so far.

2. Recommendations

That Members of the People Overview Committee note the content of this report.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB this will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

4. Financial Implications

The total capital costs extracted from the original Financial Case included likely acquisition, planned refurbishment and fit out as follows:

Acquisition cost:	£1.300m
Legal Advice Stamp Duty and Other Fees:	£0.175m
Adaptations and fit out:	£0.525m
Total	£2.0000

An update on costs so far for each individual home is set out at 5.7 below.

5. Background

5.1 In February 2019, full Council meeting endorsed children's services plan to open three new children's homes to be run by Shropshire children's services. The focus was agreed to specifically focus on those more complex, hard to place and therefore more costly children, and those who are in the process of being able to return home or step down to foster care. The project remit was to require the acquisition initially of two new properties, in semi-rural locations, followed by a 3-bedded short stay home for children where there is a high likelihood of them being able to return home or step down to foster care as this would enable intense work with the family/foster family to effect positive transitions.

5.2 The project deliverables were agreed as the following

- Placement stability for a greater number of children within Shropshire where they can access school, health and leisure services and maintain ongoing relationships with their family of origin.
- A skilled and experienced residential workforce who can manage the needs of our more complex young people.
- The ability to support our young people to develop their independence skills whilst remaining in a residential resource, this is especially important for our young people who may have additional needs and who need a more robust and supported approach to their preparation for independence which is often not available with other semi-supported accommodation providers.

5.3 Project update

The search for appropriate properties commenced immediately following full council approval. The first two properties were identified and offers accepted on both properties in April 2019.

- 5.4 In May 2019, the Residential Project Manager commenced their post, their remit was to manage the purchase and set up of the residential homes from a procedural, regulatory and budget perspective.
- 5.5 The sale of the first two properties was completed at the end of June 2019. The first manager was appointed at the end of May and is instrumental in ensuring the Ofsted criteria and regulatory framework is adhered to for both homes. The Ofsted registration process for the first home commenced on the 1st September 2019. The second manager has now been identified, they will commence post once the renovations are underway. The registration process for this property will commence by mid-November 2019.
- 5.6 Shropshire Council Property Services Group (PSG) have been consulted with throughout the process of purchase and now subsequent plans to renovate the two properties.
- 5.7 Update on individual homes:**
- 5.7.1 Home No 1. - Devon, Montford Bridge.**
- The Renovation quote has come in under budget at £ 87,056.66. £1000,000 was allocated in the budget for this. The remaining £12,943.34 is a contingency fund for any extra renovations which may be required after Ofsted have inspected the property prior to opening.
- 5.7.2 Renovation work commenced on 28/10/19 and is scheduled to complete by 31st January at the latest, if not before. (This includes a two week 'tools down' holiday period for the contractor between 24th December 2019 – 6th January 2020.) There was some initial delay due to the identification of bats in the loft.
- 5.7.3 Recruitment of staff for the homes commenced in mid-September. 14.2 FTE staff are required for each home. 9 positions have currently been filled for the Devon home and interviews are scheduled over the next fortnight to fill the remaining 5 positions. Staff are scheduled to start employment on 13th January 2020 to complete 3 weeks of induction training before the opening of the home.
- 5.7.4 Ofsted registration stages 1 & 2 and have been submitted, only stage 3 is outstanding. This must be processed once all of the renovations have been completed and the property can be inspected. Ofsted have provisionally booked in the date of 12th February 2020 for the inspection visit to complete the registration.

5.7.5 Costings to furnish the home with toughened furniture have been quoted as £11,175.50. Another £9,000 will be required for other furnishings e.g. – T.V. curtains, cutlery etc. = £20,000 approx. spend. Funds are also required for I.T. equipment and internet set up which is currently being processed by the I.T. department. The budget allocated for total furnishings is £50,000, so the total cost of all of furnishings should remain within budget.

5.7.6 Neighbourhood engagement has commenced. Neighbours have been informed of the set-up of the home and a consultation is being arranged to provide the local community with more information and to answer any questions residents may have.

5.7.7 House No. 2 - 3 Wilcott, Nescliffe

5.7.8 We are awaiting completed building, electrical and mechanical schedules of work from Property Services Group (PSG). There was some delay in the confirmation of the work needed to be undertaken on this house due to some fire safety concerns, these have now been addressed having been assessed by two separate fire officers. The renovation works must then go out through the tender process for a fortnight once the schedules have been completed. Once tender quotes have been received, we are hoping for renovation works to commence in December 2019.

5.7.9 We are aiming to open the Nescliffe home in March 2020. A Registered Manager has just been confirmed for the Nescliffe home, therefore Ofsted stages 1 & 2 can be submitted shortly, leaving only stage 3 to be processed once the renovations have been completed, Ofsted are aware of our plans and regular communication has been maintained with the nominated Ofsted officer. She is awaiting the completion of stage 1 & 2 so that she can commence the registration process.

5.7.10 Neighbourhood engagement – A neighbourhood consultation has been arranged for 7th November 2019 to provide the local community with more information and to answer any questions residents may have.

5.8 Recruitment:

5.8.1 Recruitment for staff has been for all 3 homes in the project, however positions are to be filled in order of priority, therefore to fill the Devonian home primarily and then Nescliffe and the third home. Recruitment was identified as a priority at the last project board meeting to avoid the homes opening without sufficient staff and therefore incurring extra expenditure due to hiring agency staff to fill the void. Advertising expenditure was approved to aid recruitment.

- 5.8.2 Posters and flyers have been distributed across the Shropshire region, a news story was aired on Shropshire Radio's breakfast show. Two recruitment open days have taken place which provided more information for potential candidates. Adverts have been placed in the jobs section of the Shropshire Star, The Express and Star and 5 other weekly publications. The vacancies have been advertised on the council's Facebook and Twitter page.
- 5.8.3 A further radio news story is to be recorded at the homes soon and radio adverts maybe utilised if required.
- 5.8.4 Neighbourhood engagement – A neighbourhood consultation has been arranged for 7th November 2019 to provide the local communities with more information and to answer any questions residents may have.

5.9 Home No. 3 – To be purchased

- 5.9.1 We are actively searching for the third larger home. The third home is a 5-6 bedded property to house 4 young people. 4 properties have been viewed however, they were not suitable due to close proximity to other neighbours, amount of renovations required etc. Estate agents have been contacted and are actively suggesting properties to the project manager according to the desired requirements.

5.10 Ifton Heath Home

- 5.10.1 Renovations were completed as requested by the Ofsted inspection. Ofsted registration was completed and approved on the week commencing 7th October 2019. This is now registered as a solo provision children's home.

6. Concluding comments

- 6.1 Significant progress has been made with the project to date, whilst we are yet to acquire the third home, we are confident that we will secure a third property either by the end of 2019 or very early into 2020. The requirements for the third home are different to the first two and is therefore taking longer to source. Whilst some properties have been viewed, these have not fulfilled the criteria we are looking for.
- 6.2 The first two homes are well under way despite some initial delay due to fire safety concerns at property number two and the identification of bats in property number one. Staff recruitment is progressing and key posts have now been offered and filled initially for property and number one, the focus will soon move to recruitment for property number two.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

28 February 2019 Exempt Council Report: Growth of Residential Children's Services for Shropshire Council

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

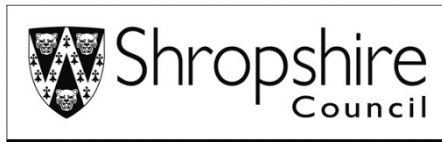
Cllr Ed Potter

Local Member

All Members

Appendices

None



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
People Overview Committee	
20 November 2019	
	<u>Public</u>

OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT TO SHROPSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Responsible Officer

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Tel: 01743 254201

1. Summary

This report provides an update on the recent focused visit made by Ofsted to Shropshire Children's Services, along with a copy of the Ofsted feedback letter and Shropshire's Permanency Action Plan.

2. Recommendations

That scrutiny members note the content of the Ofsted feedback letter and comment on Shropshire's Action Plan.

REPORT

A short focused visit by Ofsted took place on 4 and 5 September 2019. This visit focused on Shropshire Council's arrangements for achieving permanency for Looked After Children, and the progress made against the recommendations made in the 2017 report following their full inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and review of the safeguarding children board.

The focused visit lasted 2 days and was undertaken by 2 Ofsted inspectors. The inspectors looked at a range of evidence and met with social workers and managers.

The inspectors' judgement was that since its last inspection in 2017 Shropshire

Council Childrens Services has made progress and improvements in services for children who need permanent arrangements for their care, whilst noting that there are still some areas for improvement. The full outcome letter is attached at Appendix A and Shropshire's Action Plan to address these areas is attached at Appendix B.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Ofsted inspection report on Shropshire Children's Services 2017

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Ed Potter

Local Member

All Members

Appendices

Appendix A: Ofsted feedback letter following the focused visit

Appendix B: Shropshire's Permanency Action Plan

27 September 2019

Karen Bradshaw
Shropshire Council
Shire Hall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Dear Ms Bradshaw

Focused visit to Shropshire local authority children's services

This letter summarises the findings of a focused visit to Shropshire local authority children's services on 4 and 5 September 2019. The inspectors were Peter McEntee, Her Majesty's Inspector, and Alison Smale, Her Majesty's Inspector.

Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for achieving permanence.

Inspectors looked at a range of evidence, including case discussions with social workers and team managers. They also looked at local authority performance management and quality assurance information and children's case records.

Overview

Since its last inspection in 2017, the local authority has made progress in improving services for children who need permanent arrangements for their care.

For almost all children who come into care, swift decisions are made about their permanent care plans. The local authority is successful in ensuring that most children who cannot live with their parents are placed quickly in alternative living arrangements, including placements with relatives (connected carers), adoption, long-term fostering and, for a few, specialist residential living.

Placement stability has improved, with fewer children experiencing multiple moves. Adoption is carefully considered for all children who cannot return home. Brothers and sisters are placed together whenever possible and adoption disruption is rare. Special guardianship orders (SGO) are considered for children living in long-term fostering arrangements. Plans for children in care who are living with their parents

under placement with parents (PWP) regulations are not sufficiently clear about what parents need to do to achieve good enough standards of parenting.

Senior leaders have implemented the use of a permanency tracking tool, but it is not yet able to provide the local authority with enough information to allow a fully effective analysis of performance. The recently developed permanency forum is not yet embedded sufficiently to ensure a management overview of all relevant cases.

What needs to improve in this area of social work practice

- The functioning of the permanency tracker to ensure that it enables the local authority to analyse practice and progress towards permanence.
- A greater understanding among staff of the purpose of the permanency forum and a review of its scope to ensure that PWP arrangements are considered in the forum on a regular basis.
- That recorded outcomes of reviews of children looked after arrangements have actions that are bounded by timescales for completion, and all expectations of parents are made clear in recommendations.

Findings

- Progress and improvements have been made since the last inspection. Senior managers and staff have a clear understanding of the importance of making permanent living arrangements for children coming into care as quickly as possible. As a result, almost all children have a plan for permanence at, or close to, their second children looked after review.
- Children are placed in permanent placements quickly, with very few experiencing multiple moves before finding a good-quality permanent home. The implementation of a placement stability panel has had a significant impact on reducing placement moves for children. Few children looked after who are considered by the placement stability panel have experienced three or more placements in the time they have been in care.
- Almost all children are considered for adoption where this is appropriate, and the local authority is successful in placing groups of brothers and sisters, older children and those who have significant health needs. There has been only one disruption in the last two years, and the number of rescinded plans is low. Although numbers are small, the local authority has used fostering to adopt successfully, enabling children to be placed in permanent homes at the earliest possible stage.
- The local authority undertakes parallel planning for children's futures. Long-term alternative homes are sought for children during care proceedings, reducing the possibility of delay in determining where they will finally live. However, for a small

number of children, early opportunities to parallel plan were missed by social workers and managers, and this resulted in delay in securing permanence for these children.

- Leaders and managers ensure that viability assessments of relatives and connected carers are used effectively to promote children's opportunities to live safely or keep in touch with their extended family.
- The local authority is successful in achieving permanence and legal stability by seeking special guardianship orders for children already living in established long-term foster care or with their connected carers. It does not, however, always ensure that discussions about this possibility are clearly recorded. This makes it difficult to establish, in some cases, whether this option has been discussed and, where appropriate, revisited.
- Children with disabilities who are in care have their permanence plans considered on a timely basis. At the age of 16, they are allocated a worker from adult services to reinforce long-term planning for their care arrangements after they become 19. This supportive joint working is helping to provide a more seamless service for these young people and an easier transition to adulthood and continuing care.
- Plans for children in care who are placed with parents are too generic. The expectations of parents and what they need to do to improve or maintain good parenting are insufficiently clear or detailed.
- Children's assessments of need are updated regularly. Many of these are detailed and provide a clear analysis of children's current needs and, where necessary, a review of the current care plan. Care plans are up to date in almost all cases and are clear about a child's plan for permanence. However, plans often lack timescales for actions to be completed. While no detriment to individual children was seen, this means that, particularly in complex cases, the progress of the plan can be difficult to follow.
- Children looked after reviews are held within statutory timescales, but many lack clear timescales for taking actions. Review minutes often refer to other documents as sources containing more details about issues and actions. This means that minutes and recommendations are unclear for parents, older children and social workers. This in turn may lead to confusion about what is expected of whom and by when.
- Social workers' case supervision is inconsistent in quality. The best examples detail reflective discussion and include clear actions and timescales for completion. Some poorer examples, however, are very brief and contain little direction or reflection. In case management teams, there are gaps in supervision, in some cases for several months. This means that front-line managers are not

always providing critical evaluation and challenge, and in a small number of cases progressing decisions, relating to children's permanence plans.

- Social workers know their children well and understand their needs and personalities. Children benefit from carers who are well supported through a range of effective and valued services such as the carer intervention specialist. This service effectively supports carers when children's needs are more complex. If there is potential instability in a child's permanent home, this is identified, and a package of support is provided through the placement stability meeting.
- Senior managers have implemented a number of initiatives to improve the overall scrutiny of permanence planning and the effectiveness of practice. This includes a permanency tracker, but its use is limited as a tool for analysis, as there is insufficient data in place to allow this. On this basis, it is not yet useful as a strategic tool that enables the authority to identify any weaknesses in practice or in its processes. A permanency forum operates to ensure that early permanence plans are in place. However, it is not yet embedded, and some staff are unsure about its purpose and function. The cases of children in care living at home with their parents are presently not reviewed by the forum and this is a missed opportunity as the permanence plans for these children are not formally resolved.
- Leaders and managers undertake regular monitoring activity through case and thematic audits, which has included a focus on permanence planning and practice. This has provided them with an accurate understanding of the quality of practice in the authority and how much progress has been made towards good-quality permanence work.

Thank you and your staff for the positive engagement with the focused visit. Ofsted will take the findings from this focused visit into account when planning your next inspection or visit.

Yours sincerely

Peter McEntee
Her Majesty's Inspector

PERMANENCE ACTION PLAN

Action Required	Expected Outcome	Person Responsible	By When	Update
Permanency LCS Focus Workshop to be convened	To address issues with permanency recording and reporting needs within LCS	Pippa Murphy	By September 2019	Workshop took place on 24 th September 2019. Action log in place. COMPLETE
Permanency coordinator to add family finding details and discussions about permanency options i.e. SGO as a case note to liquid logic, setting out any rationale for decision-making.	Family finding will be accurately recorded on the child's case file.	Clare Jervis	Start September 2019	IN PROGRESS
Permanency Focused briefings to take place	Social workers to attend to have greater understanding of permanency and processes so that Permanency Forum will become better embedded into practice. 4 one-hour sessions to be run in September/October. Independent Review officers are also to be included in these sessions.	Elaine Storey	December 2019	Delayed so that actions from LCS workshops can be incorporated.
All children entering care (including those remaining at home with parents) to be presented at Permanence Forum prior to their second statutory review.	To ensure clear plans for permanence are in place by the second statutory review and to ensure all appropriate permanence options have been considered.	Lisa Preston/Clare Jervis	September 2019	IN PROGRESS 18/10 Perm forum – placement with parents considered
Terms of Reference for Permanence Forum to be updated to reflect that all new children in care cases to be presented prior to 2 nd statutory review, including PWP and that meetings will be chaired by a manager.	To ensure expectations of Permanence Forum are clearly understood by all.	Lisa Preston	November 2019	IN PROGRESS Lisa to update TOR
Review of Permanence Tracker to ensure that it provides a strategic overview of	To provide a strategic oversight of practice in relation to permanence planning in Shropshire.	Lisa Preston/Clare	In place	COMPLETED Having

PERMANENCE ACTION PLAN

effectiveness of practice in relation to permanence planning.		Jervis / Elaine Storey		fortnightly tracking meetings which are cohort specific. Review in 6 months – End of March / beg April
Quarterly overview report to be produced from the tracker to highlight progress and areas of focus going forward.		Claire Jervis / Pippa Murphy	December meeting	Claire to produce for next meeting for comments.
Minutes of statutory reviews to clearly reflect plans for permanence even where parallel or triple planning in place. Minutes of statutory reviews to have actions that have clear timescales and all expectations in relation to parents are made clear in recommendations. Minutes of statutory review meetings not to make reference to other documents but to clearly set out necessary information.	To ensure that statutory review minutes reflect the child's plan for permanence with time defined and clear actions.	Siobhan Hughes /IROs	October 2019	Siobhan spot checking in supervision. Undertake audit in January 20.
Action learning set to take place with IROs and CP Chairs regarding the recording of permanency.	IROs challenge of permanency to be consistently recorded on the child's case file.	Siobhan Hughes	October 2019	Continue to end of Dec or until audit evidence embeds impact
Workshop with IROs to be carried out revisiting the Care Planning Regs and IRO Handbook	The knowledge and challenge of the IROs to be evident in case recording and QA process.	Siobhan Hughes	October 2019	Superseded by the above action
Updating Placement types and legal status	MISC to ensure that placement types and legal status are up to date	Pippa Murphey/Jo	September 2019	Placement codes now done

PERMANENCE ACTION PLAN

		Rollason		by CPS and legal status are checked in 1-1's by MISCs Follow up at SLT.
Compliance audits to be carried out to ensure that all relevant court documents are available on case files.	For clear information sharing and case up to date	Steve Ladd/ Emily Dixon	November 2019	Emily to liaise with Steve's cover and dip sample the audits. Ensure currently active cases are been moved forward rather than focus on historical data. Have agreed naming convention.
Audit of IRO and manager's scrutiny of permanence	To ensure IRO and managers scrutiny of permanence is consistently recorded across case files.	Siobhan Hughes /Elaine Storey / Steve Ladd	December 2019	ON TRACK
Audit of permanency plans by the second review	To ensure that all current cases have a permanency plan by the 2 nd review.	Siobhan Hughes/ All IROs	October 2019	COMPLETE Superseded by focus visit – outcomes became action plan. To be included in January audit.
Matching reports to be checked and added for all children who have been	There will be clear matching for all children who have been matched permanently.	Lisa Preston	September 19	COMPLETE Going on both

PERMANENCE ACTION PLAN

matched in the past 12 months and all matches to be added as they are made going forward.				child and carers file
Revision to the “when a child becomes looked after checklist”	Revised checklist tool to include stages needed for child to achieve permanence	Pippa Murphy	December 2019	To be informed by outcomes of review workshops
Process to be established so that CPS Duty have responsibility for updating placement codes on LCS.	To ensure that Placement Codes are correctly recorded on the system.	Lisa Preston/Siobhan Hughes	November 2019	Clarity needed re how and LCS being relied upon. Separate alert. Lisa to check.
Themed audit of cases where children are placed at home with parents to be undertaken. Plan for children placed at home with parents to clearly set out expectations of parents in caring for their child.	To provide assurance on the effectiveness of arrangements where children are placed at home with their parents under placement with parent regulations.	Siobhan Hughes/Steve Ladd/Siobhan Hughes	November 2019	IN PROGRESS Siobhan to lead
Recordings of supervision to clearly set out any discussions about possible permanence options and rationale for decision making. Recordings of supervision to be reflective with clear actions and timescales for completion of actions. Supervision to give consideration to the child’s plan and to offer critical challenge to drive forward planning for children.	Recordings of supervision to be consistently reflective, with clear actions and timescales so that they drive forward planning for children.	Elaine Storey/Steve Ladd/Siobhan Hughes	October 2019	Discussions had with team managers. Training issues and needs identified. Add to Child Journey audit tool. Review through extended SLT to dip sample audit in December.



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
People Overview Committee 20 November 2019	<u>Public</u>

SHROPSHIRE'S USE OF UNREGULATED AND UNREGISTERED SETTINGS

Responsible Officer: Sonya Miller, Interim Assistant Director, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding
Email: sonya.miller@shropshire.gov.uk

1. Summary

This report sets out information and assurance for Members regarding Shropshire's approach to the use of unregistered and unregulated settings for children and young people. Unregulated settings are homes/placements that Ofsted or the CQC have not inspected and agreed registration.

2. Recommendations

That Members of the People Overview Committee note the content of this report.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

This paper sets out Shropshire's use of unregulated placements and how this is kept to a minimum. There is a balance to be had between the Human Rights of the young person to have a safe home to live in and the need to place them in regulated placements. Shropshire Children's Services work to risk assess and mitigate any risk of placing a young person in an unregulated placement and wherever possible we use our own staff and provision,

whether that be assessed Supported Board and Lodgings or bespoke provision for highly complex young people.

4. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications from this report. All finance is included in relevant budget monitoring reports.

5. Background

- 5.1 There are a few situations where the decision is made to place a young person in 'other arrangements' that are not registered children's home and operate as a semi-independent provision. Unregistered provisions are not regulated by Ofsted and are mostly used for young people age 16/17 years in preparation for their independence. Despite their being no regulations governing semi-independent provisions, there is a responsibility placed on Local Authorities to assess the quality and suitability of these settings in accordance with the regulation 27 and Schedule 6 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review regulations 2010. These are referred to in the regulations as 'unregulated settings'.
- 5.2 There has been increasing Government scrutiny in recent years about the use of unregulated settings. The Government is concerned that the provision is being over used to place vulnerable and high-risk young people and in some situation's children under 16 in these provisions. Any increase nationally, in the use of these provisions must be seen in the context of a lack of appropriate and sufficient 'regulated' placements for children and young people which has placed Local Authorities with the challenge of having no available identified placements, especially for older, vulnerable and complex young people.
- 5.3 Whilst the Government and Ofsted accept that unregulated settings can be extremely effective for some young people transitioning to adulthood, their main concern is where providers are not just providing accommodation, which is acceptable, but they are providing care and accommodation, which should be a regulated activity. Examples of this could be where a young person is unable to self-medicate or to conduct themselves in the community without high levels of support and supervision.
- 5.4 Most semi -independent provisions are unregistered and therefore unregulated. The number of providers offering services is extensive, filling a gap in availability of regulated children's homes settings are often in high demand and are a costly option for young people.

5.6 Shropshire's use of unregistered settings:

At the point of writing, Shropshire has 12 young people in semi-supported accommodation which are unregistered. All of these young people are age over 16 years, and all are year 12 and year 13, so have completed their statutory education. Some of these young people are receiving an element of care, such as support hours to prepare for independence or to undertake specific tasks in the community to support transition to adulthood such as support with visits to supermarkets, banks etc. One young person is receiving significant support and is being provided with 1:1 support, this provision is in the process of becoming a registered provision. Shropshire are carefully monitoring this placement and we are satisfied we are meeting our obligations in line with the legislative framework outlined above.

5.7 Alongside these young people in semi-supported accommodation, we also have a number of 16- and 17-year olds and care leavers placed within internal supported board and lodgings (SBL) providers. These carers whilst unregulated have had their suitability to offer SBL scrutinised by a qualified social worker, presented to foster panel and approved as a provider by the Agency Decision Maker, which for Shropshire is a service manager.

5.8 There have been a number of Freedom of Information requests in recent months querying our use of unregulated settings for children under the age of 18 and most notably under the age of 16.

5.9 Shropshire's return for those 16-18 year olds has indicated that our overall use is low, this is highlighted in our current figures described above. For previous years, our use has been 0 placements on the 31st March 2016, 4 on the 31st March 2017 and 11 on the 31st March 2018. Whilst our use has increased in recent years, for the last two years it has remained fairly stable, this has to be seen in the context of our overall increase in looked after children numbers.

5.10 For those children below the age of 16, Shropshire's use is extremely low and has centred around the needs of two very specific young people whom scrutiny has previously been appraised off. Further details of these 2 specific situations are not provided due to confidentiality and the specific details will make the young people identifiable. The Director is fully appraised of these situations. Neither is currently placed in an unregulated setting.

5.11 Conclusion

There is an appropriate focus by the Government and from Ofsted on the high use of unregistered settings for a number of young people up and down the county. Whilst Shropshire's use is low, we have on rare occasions had to resort to using unregistered providers to care for our

young people in the absence of alternative options. These decisions are taken in consultation with the Assistant Director and Director, the placements are carefully monitored and the unregulated solution is used for as short a time as possible. The priority is the immediate safety of that child or young person. Shropshire are taking steps to manage our resource for some of our more complex children by expanding our homes, whilst a real positive step forward, there is a possibility Shropshire will in the future have to consider alternative resources. If this were to occur, we have mechanisms in place to monitor and support such placements, most notably the recently implemented Children's Commissioning Manager who will be working with providers to both quality-assure provision through contract monitoring, and to ensure our placement sufficiency is developed using internal carers and commissioned provision.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Ed Potter

Local Member

All Members

Appendices



<u>Committee</u>	<u>Item</u>
People Overview Committee	
20 November 2019	<u>Public</u>

Place Overview Committee Work Programme 2019 – 2020

Responsible officer

Tom Dodds, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

tom.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk

[01743 258518](tel:01743 258518)

1.0 Summary

1.1 This paper presents the People Overview Committee's proposed work programme for the year ahead. The committees have based their programmes on topics from Shropshire Council's Strategic Action Plan. Committees will also

- scrutinise thematic priorities
- respond to emerging issues and
- follow up on previous work.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee members to:

- confirm the proposed committee work programme attached as **appendix 1**.
- suggest changes to the committee work programme and
- recommend other topics to consider

3.0 Background

3.1 Overview and Scrutiny's committees base this work programme on topics from Shropshire Council's Strategic Action Plan. They also

- scrutinise thematic priorities
- respond to emerging issues
- follow up on previous work
- carry out cross-committee work through task and finish groups.

3.2 On 4 September 2019, elected members met to discuss the council's corporate plan, and identify themes from the plan for each committee to scrutinise. In doing this, overview and scrutiny ensures that the basis of its work aligns with council

objectives. The groups identified a number of themes for each committee, which were then shaped by the scrutiny chairs and leaders of political groups into a set of work priorities for each committee.

- 3.2 A refreshed overview and scrutiny work programme for this committee is attached as **appendix 1**.

4.0 Next steps

- 4.1 Overview and scrutiny updates this report on an ongoing basis and presents it to each overview and scrutiny committee. This will allow members the opportunity to contribute to its development at each committee meeting.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

All

Local Member

All

Appendices

Overview and scrutiny work programme

Overview and scrutiny task and finish groups

Appendix 1
Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2019 to 2020

People Overview Committee

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Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Children's services performance dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise safeguarding and early help performance. • Identify any specific patterns or changes that need to be looked at in detail. 	Overview report	Executive Director, Children's Services	Ensure that Shropshire Council is targeting support where needed to improve safeguarding.	20 Nov 2019
Residential care for looked after children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive a verbal update on the local authority's development of its residential care for its looked after children. 	Verbal update	Fostering and adoption manager	Shropshire Council provides the best care it can for its looked-after children.	20 Nov 2019
Care Leaver Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the new Care Leaver Covenant 	Verbal update	Assistant Director, Safeguarding	Shropshire Council provides opportunities for care leavers	20 Nov 2019
feedback and action plan Ofsted Inspection of focussed visit into achieving permanency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive an update on the recent Ofsted focussed visit. • Scrutinise the action plan resulting from the visit. 	Overview report	Assistant Director, Safeguarding		20 Nov 2019

People Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Unregistered placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascertain the extent to which we use unregistered placements Understand how we manage emergency placements 	Overview report	Fostering and adoption manager		20 Nov 2019
Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the nature of exploitation and its prevalence in Shrewsbury. Understand how the police and local authority work together to tackle child criminal exploitation. 	Background papers Presentations	Executive Director, Children's Services Director, Adult Services Chair of Safeguarding Partnership	Children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from criminal exploitation.	29 Nov 2019
Shropshire Music Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the role the service plays in the education of children in Shropshire. 	Overview report Presentation			15 Jan 2020
Children's Services budgets 2019-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise proposed budgets for children's services Identify specific topics from the budget for further scrutiny 	Budget overview Presentation	Executive Director, Children's Services	More detailed scrutiny of the council's budget.	15 Jan 2020

People Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Transitioning to adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how the local authority supports looked after children, as well as children and young people with a special educational need or disability, as they transition into adulthood. 	Overview report Presentation	Executive Director, Children's Services	Shropshire's most vulnerable children and young people have a smooth and positive transition into adulthood.	15 Jan 2020
Housing support for looked-after children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				15 Jan 2020
SEND inspection preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise preparations for future inspection of services for SEND children; or Scrutinise findings of the inspection and any resulting plan for improvement. 	Overview report Presentation	Executive Director, Children's Services	The council has made good preparations for any future service inspection.	18 Mar 2020

People Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Safeguarding partnership (joint committee with Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the reports of safeguarding partnership. Scrutinise the effectiveness of new working arrangements 	<p>Overview report</p> <p>Presentation</p>	Independent Chair, Safeguarding Partnership	Safeguarding arrangements are robust and well planned.	April 2020
Drug and alcohol services for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise how the service supports children and young people Understand the role that the service plays in supporting other services for children and young people. 	<p>Overview report</p> <p>Presentation</p>	Service lead	Drug and alcohol services support children and young people, directly and through supporting other services.	June 2020
Short breaks for respite care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider existing services for respite care. Explore any potential new ways to support carers. 	<p>Overview report</p> <p>Presentation</p>	Head of Fostering and Adoption	Parents and carers have good access to respite care.	June 2020

People Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Supporting the children and young people directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how other directorates ensure that their services meet the needs of children and young people. 	Overview report Presentation	Director of adult services Director of Place	Shropshire Council's policies and services meet the needs of people of all ages.	July 2020
Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive an update on developing new pathways to tackle exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults. 	Overview report Presentation	Executive Director, Children's Services	Children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from criminal exploitation.	July 2020

Appendix 2

Current and proposed task and finish groups

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Financial Strategy and Innovation and Income Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the process and activity stages for developing the Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23 and how these translate into the Council's annual budgets • To consider and scrutinise the proposals and emerging plans for the whole Financial Strategy and 2019/20 budget, including how they align to the four pillars. This will be through their development and their implementation, in particular for innovation and raising income. • To consider the alignment of the Financial Strategy and the new Corporate Plan being developed autumn 2018. • To consider the recommendations and areas for action identified in the Corporate Peer Challenge report relating to the Financial Strategy, and how they are being addressed. • To consider the direct and indirect impacts, including risks, of 2019/20 Budget proposals on current services and customers. • To complete specific pieces of work to identify and work up alternatives to emerging plans, including the feasibility of any alternative proposals • Make evidence based recommendations in relation to plans and approaches for innovation and income generation, and alternative proposals for future budget setting. 	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee
Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand how community transport operates in Shropshire, and the demand for community transport services. • Identify how the community transport groups, the council, and other partners can work together to provide community transport to people in Shropshire who do not have access to public or private transport. 	Communities Overview Committee

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Engaging Diverse Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review and propose the scope of Place Plans including their geography and subject areas • To propose options to ensure Place Plans are developed from the bottom-up • To understand how rural enterprise features in our procurement / commissioning processes. • To proposed opportunities to engage with Strategic Levels within the Council and partners in Place Planning • To engage with Town and Parish Councils on options to reset their relationship with Shropshire Council • To identify appropriate and effective mechanisms to communicate with and engage with diverse communities that can be used to inform co-design and collaboration on a range of matters • Make evidence based recommendations 	Communities Overview Committee
Brexit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the information brought together to develop a view for Shropshire of the possible implications of Brexit for the Shropshire economy and the achievement of the Economic Growth Strategy. • To identify, with the relevant officers, the key evidence and related requirements of what Shropshire would require from a future UK funding approach. • To make evidence based recommendations to Cabinet. 	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand how Shropshire Council currently uses Section 106, CIL and NHB and the impact that this has had • To understand how Section 106, CIL and NHB could be used in Shropshire to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity • To learn from other places how they have used Section 106, CIL and NHB to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity • To make evidence based recommendations on how Section 106, CIL and NHB could be used in Shropshire to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity 	Performance Management Scrutiny
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review Shropshire Council's existing work to reduce its CO²e output. • To scrutinise existing council policy and practice and recommend policy changes that would support further carbon reduction. • To identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce spending and generate income by adopting low-carbon technology and practices. 	Place Overview Committee

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Youth work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand different models of providing Youth Services in a place like Shropshire. • To review information and evidence of need and demand for youth work in Shropshire. • To engage with Town and Parish Councils and explore their thoughts on their role in youth work. • To identify opportunities to lever in additional resources to deliver youth work • To identify how the impact of youth work should be measured and reported • To make evidence based recommendations on the options for youth work in Shropshire. 	Communities Overview Committee
Dog fouling and dangerous dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To scrutinise how the local authority tackles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dog fouling ○ dog attacks ○ stray dogs • licenced dog breeding 	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee
Signs, banners and street furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand existing policies, charges and administrative arrangements • Scrutinise existing policy and suggest draft policy. • Identify opportunities to set and administer policy and licencing arrangements with town and parish councils. • Look at how other local authorities set and administer policy, to identify potential ways to improve arrangements in Shropshire. 	Place Overview Committee

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