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Appendix 1



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Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2017-2018

Looked After Children & Care Leavers

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1. Introduction

1.1. Local Context

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is committed to providing high quality, cost effective public services that reflect the views and wishes of the people of Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire remains an identified Government Growth Area, so CCC is continuing to improve services against a backdrop of growth in housing, employment and the economy – right across the county.

This report provides information on activity in respect of Looked After Children and Care Leavers from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

1.2. Performance Data Sources

- 'One' (Integrated Children's System) - Internal database
- Access to Resources Team placements dataset
- Business Intelligence Analytical Team

1.3. Corporate Parenting

The role of the Corporate Parenting Committee is to ensure that the Council fulfils its responsibilities to Looked After Children and Care Leavers in accordance with the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-2018 and the Council's Pledge to Looked After Children.

Corporate Parents including Members, Officers and Partners are to oversee the effective consultation and engagement of children, young people and carers in the planning and delivery of services.

The Corporate Parenting Committee meet every second month and Looked After Children and Care Leavers Performance Data is discussed at each meeting. 2 Care Leavers are Co-Opted Members of the Committee. They also sit on the Children in Care Council, Voices Matter, meaning they are well placed to advise, consult and challenge and to represent the views of the wider Looked After population.

1.4. Our Commitment in The Pledge to Looked After Children and Care Leavers

"As Corporate Parents we will ensure you feel safe, supported and cared for. We will respect and listen to you and involve you wherever possible. This is our pledge and our promise to you".

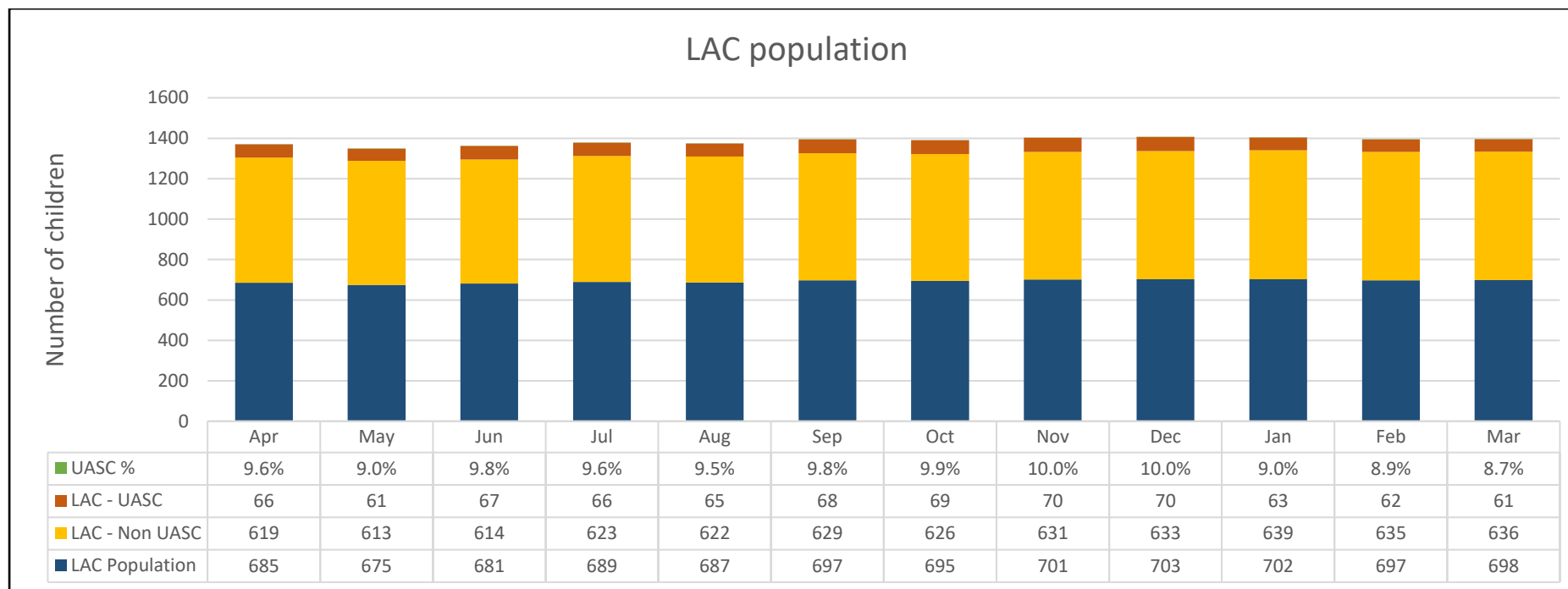
1.5. Executive Summary - The Report refers to Cambridgeshire's performance from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 and in this summary, figures relate to those recorded at the end of that period

- 1.89% increase (from 685 at the start of the period to 698 at the end) in number of Looked After Children
- Unaccompanied children seeking asylum (UASC), make up 8.7% for the total looked after population in Cambridgeshire at the end of March 2018
- More children exited care than became looked after for 6 months of the year by the end of March 2018
- There are similar numbers of boys and girls looked after 56% boys and 44% girls
- Children enter care at all ages, but there is a spike in teenagers becoming looked after
- 9% of children have disabilities
- The proportion of children from different ethnicities has remained similar to last year
- 57.73% of children have their futures secured with permanent plans. 20.91% are subject to care proceedings and 21.34% are accommodated by parental agreement
- 55% of all looked after children were placed within Cambridgeshire boundaries. 30.94% of children live more than 20 miles over Cambridgeshire borders. 70% are placed in neighbouring authorities.
- 231 children are in in-house placements through the mainstream Fostering, Kinship Care and Supported Lodgings services
- 33 children receive Short Break Care through the Link Scheme. 10 young people are in Staying Put Arrangements and there are also 28 Children in Private Fostering arrangements
- 10.7% of children moved 3 or more times and some of these moves were on to permanent placements
- The timeliness of children having their initial health assessments needs improving
- There has been a marked improvement in statutory visit performance during this reported period
- The timing of Looked After Child Reviews is strong
- Performance in relation to children waiting less than 14 months to be adopted has been 100% for 10 months of the year
- The percentage of looked after children going missing increased to from 7% in 2016-2017 to 9% last year 2017-2018
- There has been an increase in the recorded numbers of boys and girls at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang Exploitation

2. Looked After Children – Population

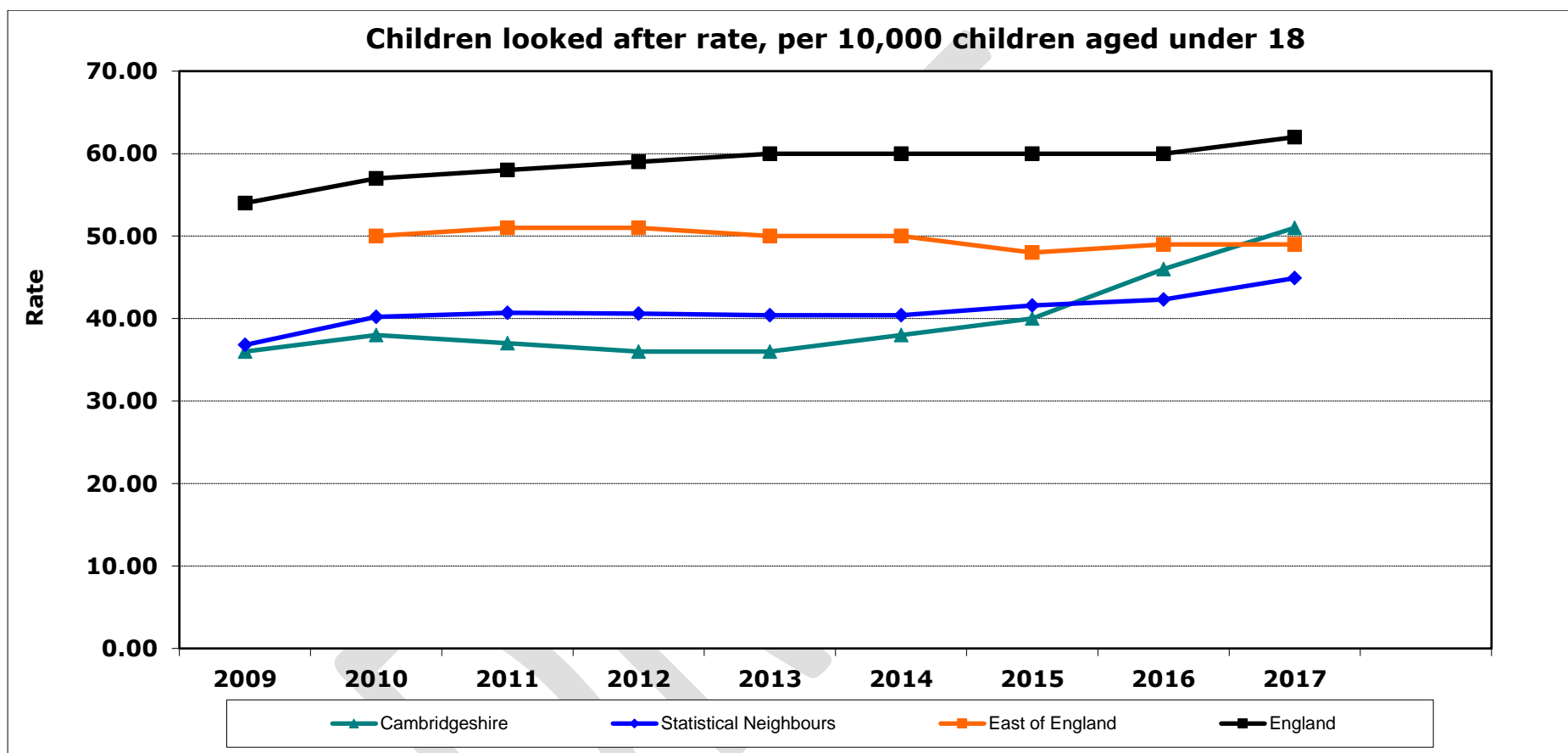
Looked After Children (LAC)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
LAC Population	685	675	681	689	687	697	695	701	703	702	697	698	693
LAC - Non UASC	619	613	614	623	622	629	626	631	633	639	635	636	627
LAC - UASC	66	61	67	66	65	68	69	70	70	63	62	61	66
UASC %	9.6	9.0	9.8	9.6	9.5	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	9.0	8.9	8.7	9.5%
Rate per 10,000	51.0	50.2	50.7	51.3	51.1	51.9	51.7	52.2	52.3	52.3	51.9	52.0	51.5
Became Looked After	21	17	13	36	38	32	23	22	26	24	23	25	25
Ceased Looked After	17	26	19	38	22	23	26	17	21	28	24	21	24

Between April 17 and March 18 (to be referred to as this reporting period) the number of children looked after by Cambridgeshire County Council increased by 1.89%, from 685 to 698 children. Cambridgeshire remains an identified Government Growth Area, so Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to improve services against a backdrop of growth in housing, employment and the economy throughout the County. This increase is built into the Local Authorities Sufficiency Statement for Children and Young People.



Cambridgeshire is one of the fastest growing cities in England and whilst it is in a strong economic position, its rate of growth does place a number of challenges which impact on Children's Social Care. These include increased pressure on suitable and affordable housing for families and residents in poverty. Research indicates that these factors are among the multitude of reasons children become looked after.

2.1. Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000



The averages presented here are simple averages for the authorities listed. They provide a simple comparator of the performance indicators without placing too much emphasis on any one Local Authority.

The increase in the Looked After population has placed significant demands all of Cambridgeshire Children's Services, including the Fostering Service. As an Authority, there are a variety of mechanisms used to review and evaluate the thresholds applied to every single case of a child becoming Looked After. The Threshold and Resources Panel (TaRP) is chaired by an Assistant

Director and is used to consider the appropriateness of referrals. There is also a schedule of audits lead by the Partnership and Quality Assurance Service used to look at the work and progress of children's care plans though to permanency.

2.2. Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted undertook a focussed Inspection in March 2018 into Cambridgeshire's arrangements for Children in Need and those subject to a Child Protection Plan. Findings concluded that there are strong partnership working arrangements which ensures that children in Cambridgeshire are protected. Children's needs are quickly identified and the services provided reduce risks and enable children to remain at home with their families. This means that Cambridgeshire is working with the right children and in the right way, and at the right time, so the Authority is confident in knowing its business.

2.3. Impact of the District Based Model

The reorganisation of Children's Services 12 months ago to a district-based structure has not resulted in all of the positive changes envisaged for Looked After Children. However the new structure proposed from Autumn 18 should address this. The Local Authority is confident that the right children are entering care and that social workers build meaningful relationships with children. However, systems to re-assess and support children to exit care need strengthening.

2.4. Audit and Quality Assurance

The Partnerships and Quality Assurance Service has undertaken work to look at why there is a 'bulge' in Cambridgeshire's numbers in care. It has concluded that permanence planning for children is strong, although opportunities to fully review care plans and potentially reunify children with their families when there has been proven and sustained changes in circumstances, are being overlooked.

2.5. Reunification Programme

The Local Authority has invested in the NSPCC Reunification Package. This builds a strong and recognisable framework around re-assessing a family's capacity to change and to safely meet the needs of their children. This programme is being rolled out during 2017-2019 and it is envisaged as having a significant impact on the target to reduce looked after numbers.

2.6. Beginning and Ceasing to be Looked After

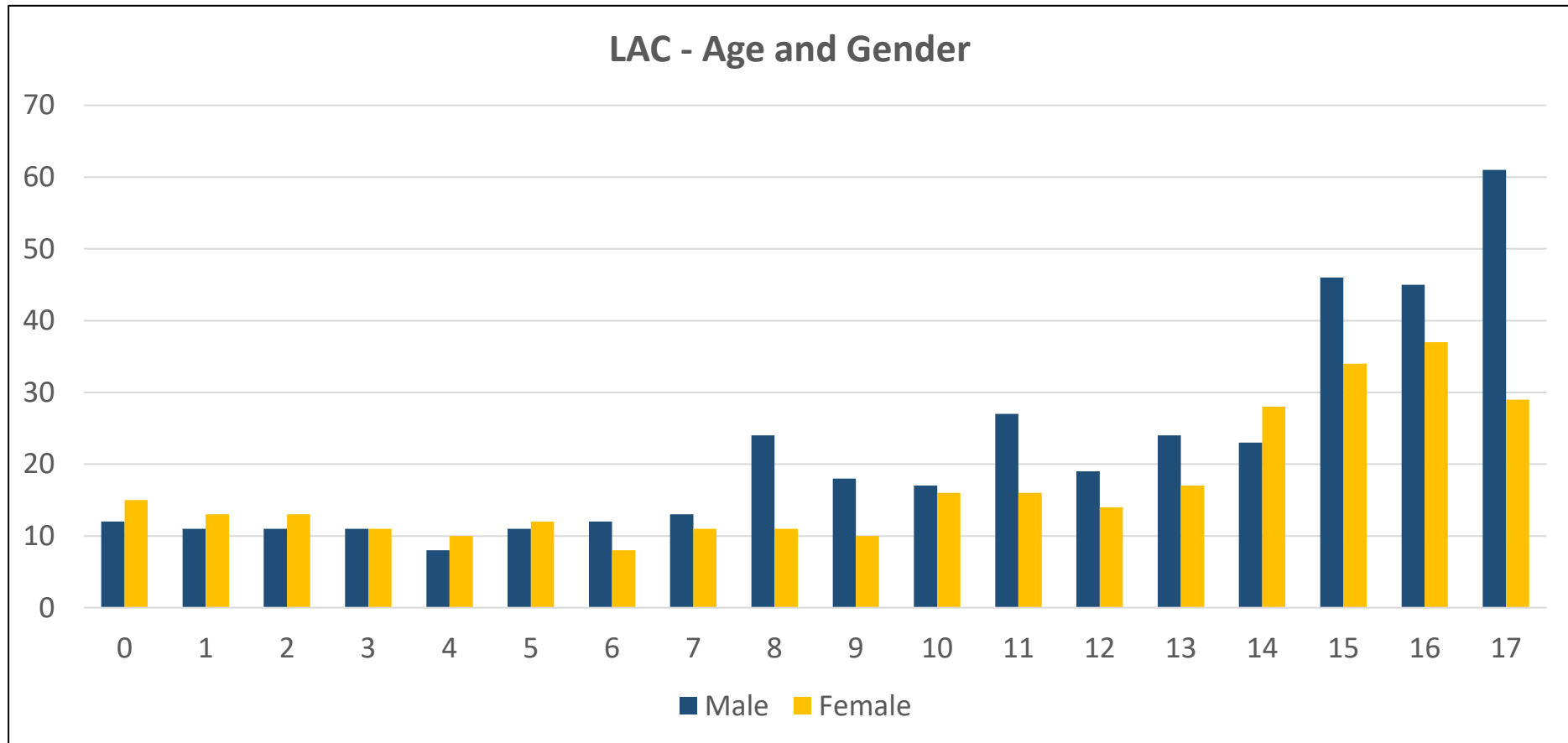
It is encouraging to note that in this reporting period, more children exited care than became Looked After for 6 months of the year. These are most likely to be care leavers who reached their 18th birthday, but for whom the Local Authority continues to hold responsibility.

2.7. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Unaccompanied children seeking asylum make up 8.7% of the total Looked after Population in Cambridgeshire. The national increase in the number of unaccompanied children arriving in the UK does place a greater demand on the Local Authority. This is because unaccompanied children are not 'already in the system', as 'Children in Need' of services, or subject to a Child Protection Plan. The challenge in planning services for unaccompanied children is around the unpredictability of their arrival in the UK. However, the National Transfer Scheme (a voluntary transfer arrangement between local authorities to ensure a more even distribution of caring responsibilities across the country) does mean that Local Authorities are looking after a proportionate number of unaccompanied children.

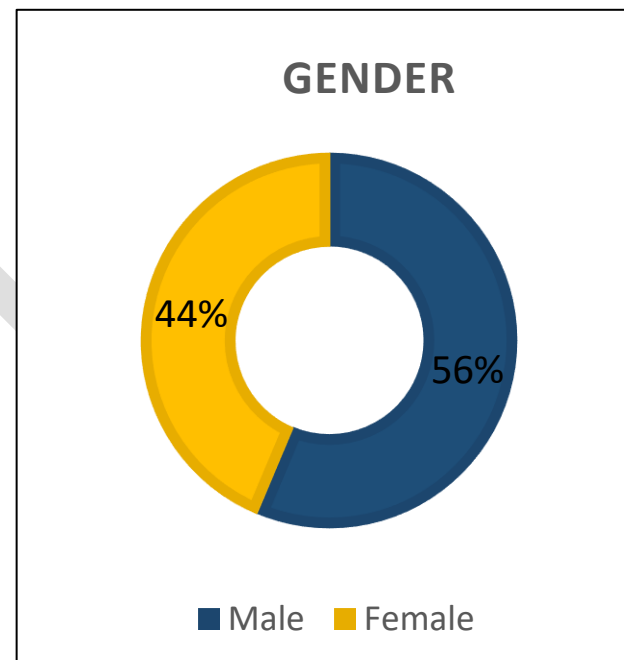
Of the 72,670 children being Looked After in England at 31 March 2017, 4,560 were unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This was a 6% increase in looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children from the previous year. At 31 March 2017, nationally, unaccompanied asylum seeking children represent 6% of the Looked After children population.

3. Looked After Children – Demographics as at 31st March 18



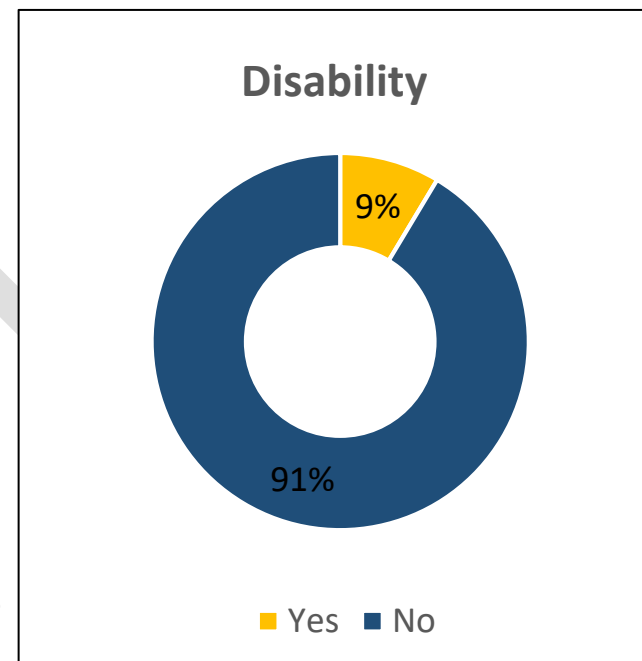
3.1. Age and Gender

Overall, the male to female gender split is fairly even within the Looked After population. The data around gender and age highlights that in Cambridgeshire, there are higher numbers of children, and boys in particular entering care in their later teenage years, 15- 17 years. This figure has been increasing over time and is due in part to the significant increase to Cambridgeshire's population of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. Children's Services will have been working with the families of teenagers 'On the Edge of Care' for periods of time. However, analysis from audit work carried out within Partnerships and Quality Assurance Service indicates that some interventions may have happened too late, resulting in the need for emergency care placements. Children entering care in their mid-teens are also less likely to return home to their families so this places a sustained pressure on Leaving Care Services. The Local Authority has a continued role with Care Leavers, whether Eligible, Relevant or Former Relevant. Duties to Care Leavers were extended on 1st April 2018 and Local Authorities now must offer help to all Care Leavers up to the age of 25, even if they are not in education.

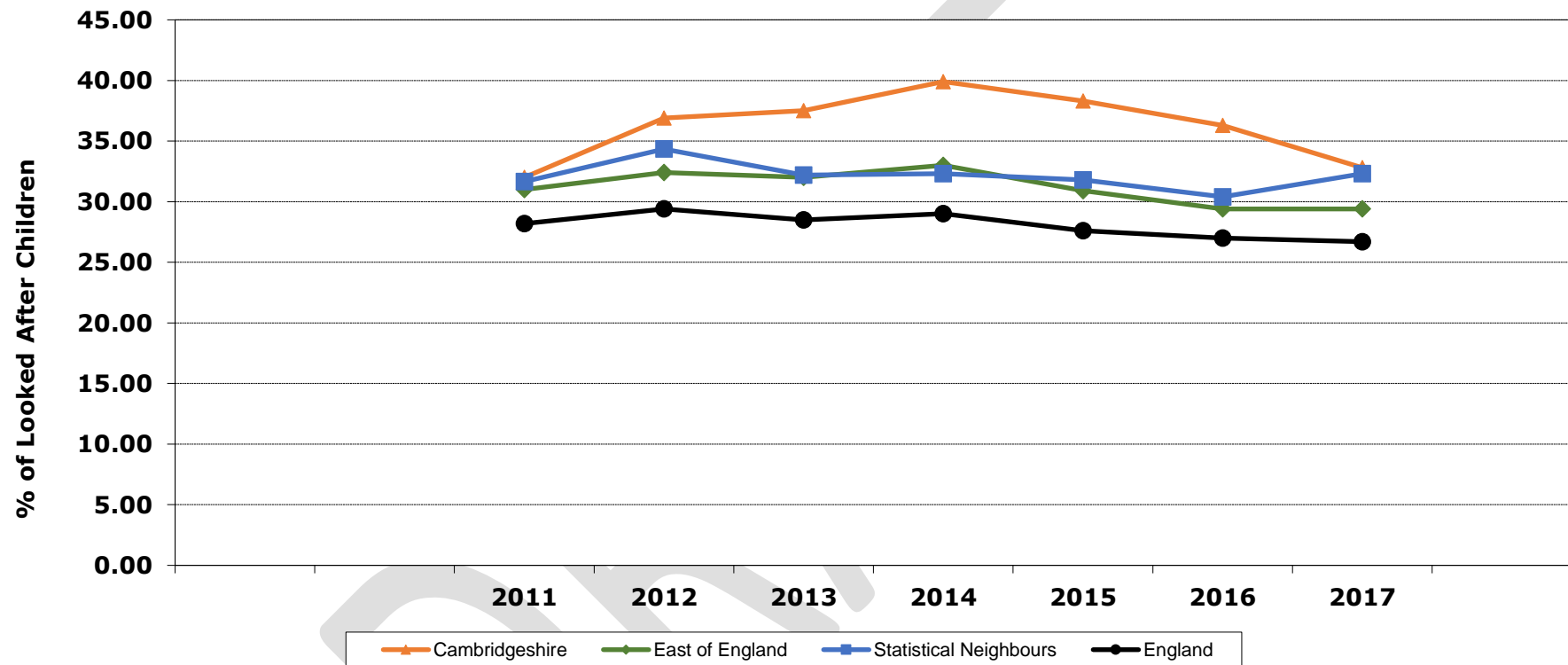


3.2. Disability

Children with disabilities have a range of physical needs and learning difficulties. Some of these children require very specialised, and sometimes medical care to meet their needs. This means that a proportion of children with disabilities are accommodated in residential settings. Some of these homes are out of County due to the special nature of the care provided. Whilst this does reflect some of the complex needs of this cohort of children, there continues to be a need to increase the number of specialist foster placements for children with disabilities. In Cambridgeshire, children with disabilities make up 9% of the Looked After population. This figure has remained stable for two years and is in line with that of statistical neighbours. In addition, approximately 32% of the Looked After population have an Education Health and Care Plan (formerly called a Statement of Special Educational Needs) for a range of reasons including learning difficulties and behavioural issues. This means that carers with a range of skills are required to meet the needs of children with a range of additional needs.

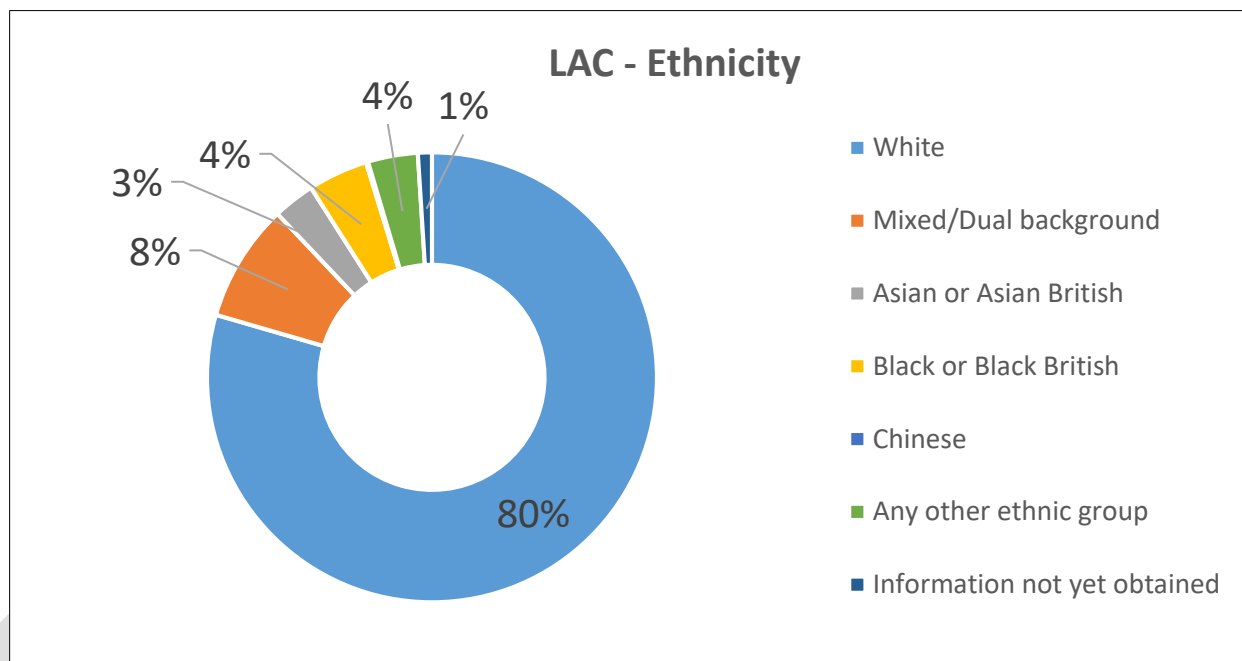


% of children looked after who have a statement of SEN/EHCP



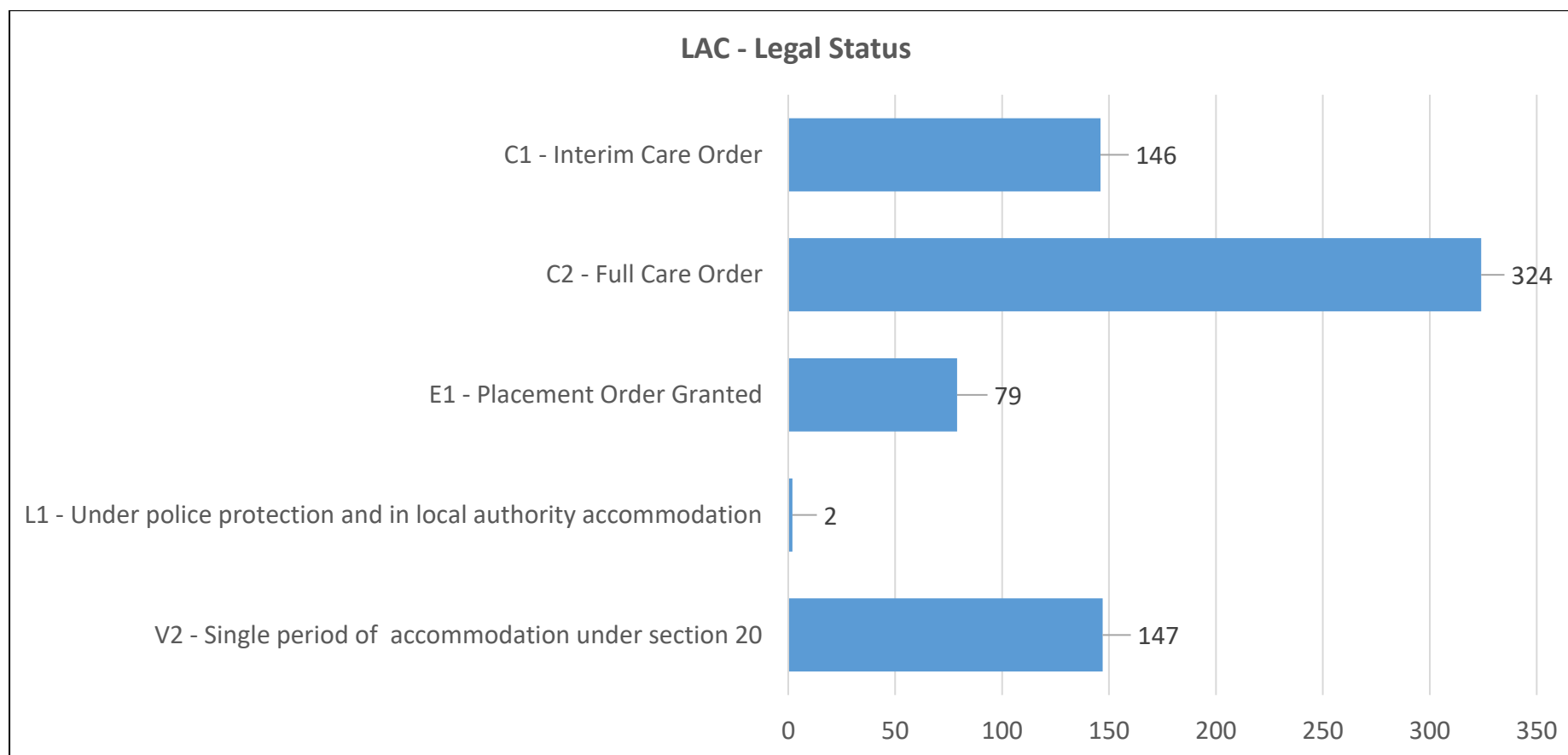
3.3. Ethnicity

The Ethnicity of Looked After population has does reflect the local population.



3.4. Legal Status 31st March 18

20.91% of Cambridgeshire's Looked After Children population are subject to court proceedings, and therefore will not be in a permanent placement. A further 21.34% of children and young people are accommodated with parental agreement, without legal order. 57.73% of children and young people are subject to full care orders, placement orders, and adoption. This continuing trend demonstrates Cambridgeshire's need for a mix of long and short medium term placements for children and young people, to meet the needs of the Looked After Children population.



3.5. In and Out of County Placements

In this reporting period, 55% of all Looked After children were placed within Cambridgeshire boundaries. Using the Department for Education (DfE) measurement of children living 20 plus miles over Local Authority borders, Cambridgeshire's figures are 30.94%. The national target is 20%.

Cambridgeshire has historically had a high number of children placed out of County. Analysis into the reason for this trend concludes that as a University City, some potential foster carer candidates actually prefer to be recruited as host families to

overseas students visiting for short periods. This option requires little or no training and short-term commitment which may be more appealing to families thinking of entering a fostering type role. An additional factor which influences foster carer recruitment is around the demographic of the County. There is affluence around the City, but there are areas of deprivation that cover wide parts of the County, particularly in Fenland.

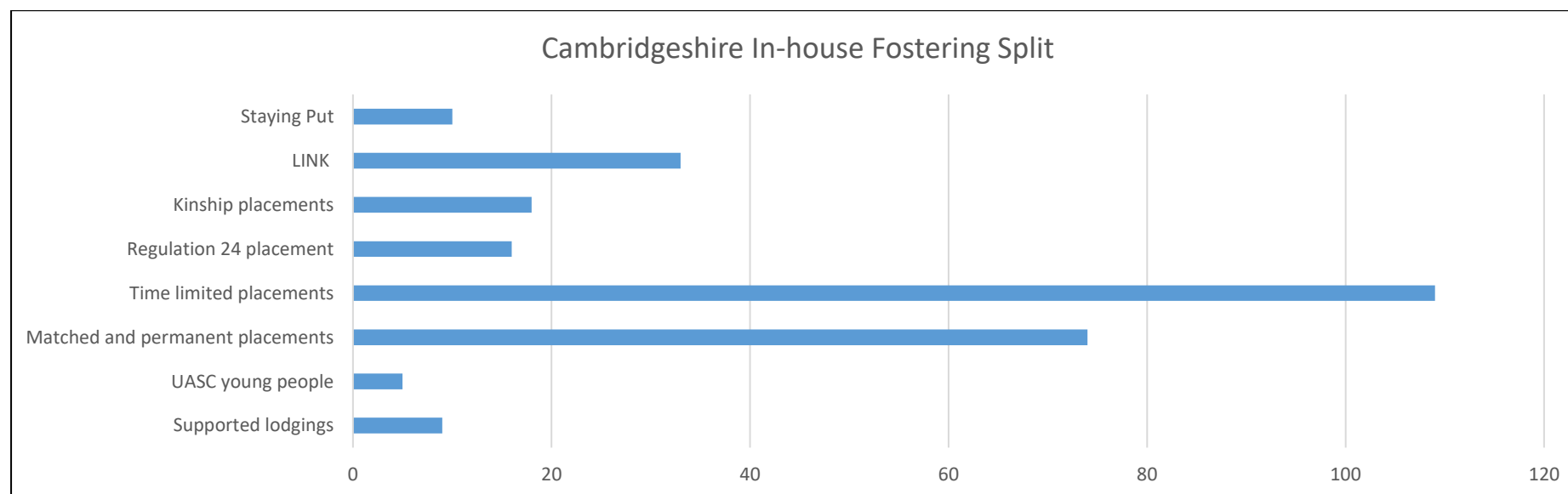
The Local Authority is challenged in the lack of availability of suitable accommodation for Care Leavers. Many of this group are placed in Peterborough and almost all young people seeking asylum are placed in that area. In terms of resources and services, including Mosques and bi-lingual shopping facilities, Peterborough offers greater diversity and support for young people from overseas. Additionally, as a neighbouring Authority, and with a great many shared services Cambridgeshire Looked After children are not disadvantaged by living in Peterborough, in the same way that a child might be considered to be if they live much further afield.

3.6. Fostering Activity

Whilst Cambridgeshire has continued to grow its in house fostering service, the number of carers retiring or deregistering has also increased. At the end of this reporting period, Cambridgeshire's Fostering Service provides 231 in house placements through the mainstream Fostering, Kinship Care and Supported Lodgings services. In addition, there are 33 children receiving Short Breaks Care through the Link Scheme. 10 young people are in Staying Put Arrangements. There are also 28 children in Private Fostering arrangements.

Cambridgeshire continues to have a growing need for foster care placements. The fostering sector is not always able to meet the needs of fostering referrals. Referrals for placements always take into account the needs of the child, location and suitability of the match with carers. Children are only placed out of County, where placements are not available with in-house carers.

The numbers are made up as follows:



4. Looked After Children - Placement Types In and Out of County as at end of March 2018

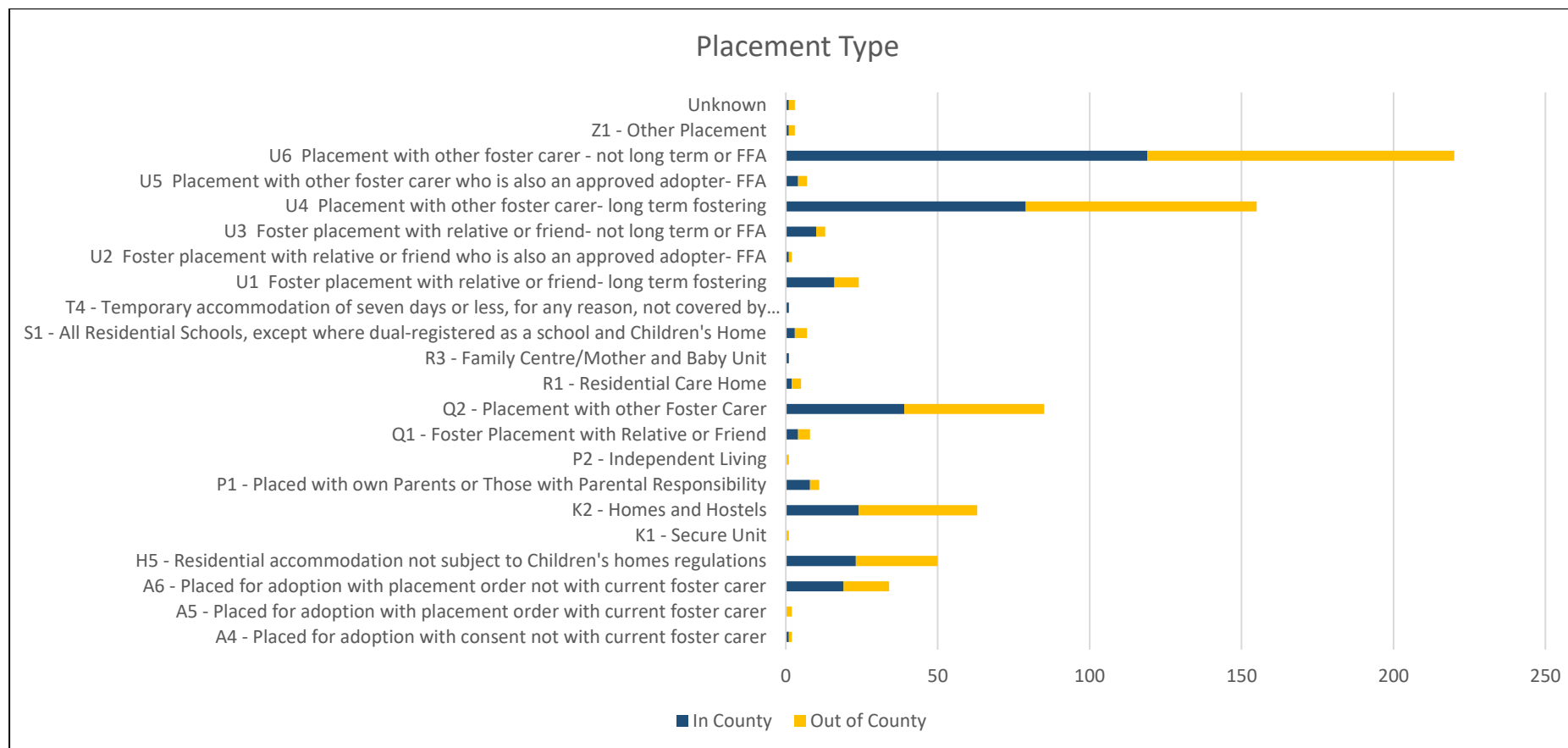
All LAC children placed IN county	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
LAC placed In county	366	353	301	361	364	385	372	376	371	367	362	357
Children placed out of county (not incl: UASC)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
LAC placed out of county	272	276	330	282	277	261	271	273	279	286	283	290
% Non-UASC placed out of county	43.9	45.0	53.7	45.3	44.5	41.5	43.3	43.3	44.1	44.8	44.6	45.6
LAC placed out of county & 20 miles +	196	199	195	204	206	195	203	203	206	212	209	216
% Non-UASC placed out of county & 20 miles +	31.7	32.5	31.8	32.7	33.1	31.0	32.4	32.2	32.5	33.2	32.9	34.0
UASC placed out of county	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
UASC placed out of county	47	46	50	46	46	51	52	52	53	49	52	51
% UASC placed out of county	71.2	75.4	74.6	69.7	70.8	75.0	75.4	74.3	75.7	77.8	83.9	83.6

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there is a range of placement options to meet the needs of Looked After children in their community and this includes foster care, residential care and other routes to permanence such as family and friends care, special guardianship and adoption. This duty is supported by statutory guidance that makes it clear that children should live in the local authority area, with access to local services and close to their friends and family, when it is safe to do so. The guidance emphasises that 'having the right placement in the right place, at the right time', with the necessary support services such as education and health in place, is crucial in improving placement stability, which leads to better outcomes for looked after children.

Cambridgeshire's Commissioning Team work to ensure a range of placements are available for Looked After children and young people. 45% of Cambridgeshire Looked After children are placed in out of county placements, a reduction of 2% from 2016-17. Some out of county placements present particular challenges in ensuring positive outcomes for looked after children, including access to health services, continuing links to local community, and maintaining education provisions. Of these out of county placements over 70% are placed in neighbouring authorities: because of the proximity of these placements it is easier to support these young people compared to those young people at far greater distances.

Cambridgeshire's commitment to developing its in-house fostering and supported lodgings offer is expected to contribute towards the continued development of in county provision. Cambridgeshire now has a shared Commissioning Directorate with Peterborough and this has created a significant development for shared commissioning across the Authorities.

The Positive Behaviour Support model (lead by the Clinical team) seeks to reduce the number of out of county residential placements, by developing robust local services to provide effective support for children and young people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviours.

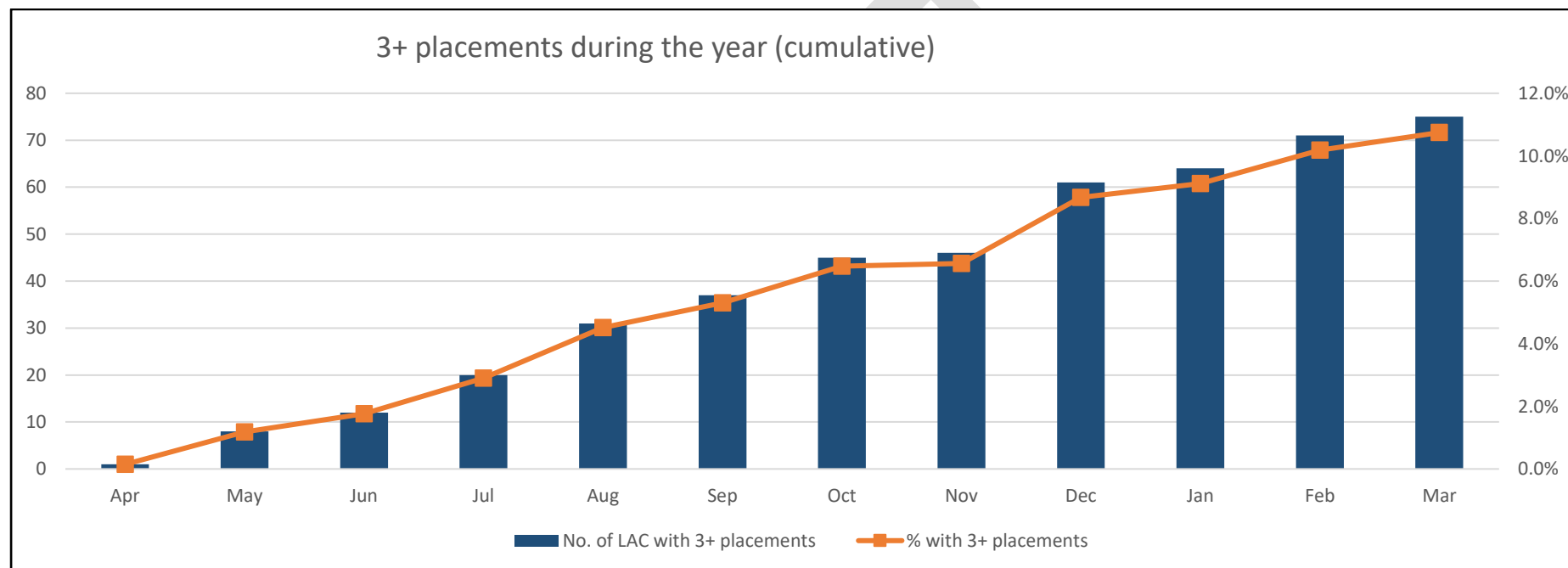


Children placed at a distance do not always experience the same equity of services as children closer to home. It is known that this group access education and health services in the same way as children in County, although they can experience delays in having their health assessments. Children placed away from home do travel for their contact, but the frequency and supervision arrangements for contact are not altered by distance.

What is different for all Cambridgeshire children however is the availability to Clinical support. Children placed away from home participate in meetings about them and are usually visited by staff within statutory timescales. However, drop-in visits and catch ups

do not happen in the same way and this can mean that relationships with new professionals take longer to form for children Out of County. These children do not have a voice in Participation Services in the same way as others. This again is an issue nationally.

5. Looked After Children – Placements During the Year (Cumulative)



At the end of this reporting period, 75 children experienced 3 or more placements. This equates to 10.7% of the Looked After population and this is in line with the figures for England which sit at 10%.

It is important to explore the reasons children move. Planned moves may occur on the basis that a child ceases to be Looked After, adoption, a Court Care Plan for permanence is ratified and a child requires a long-term placement, insufficient placement choice and/or emergency admission which may mean that children are moved to more appropriate placements when they become available. Cambridgeshire data indicates that placements moves are most likely amongst children who have been Looked After for less than twelve months. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the first 12 months is a critical time when Social Workers

continue to work with families and Courts to assess and determine the long term needs of children. After this time, the long term plan is known and actioned.

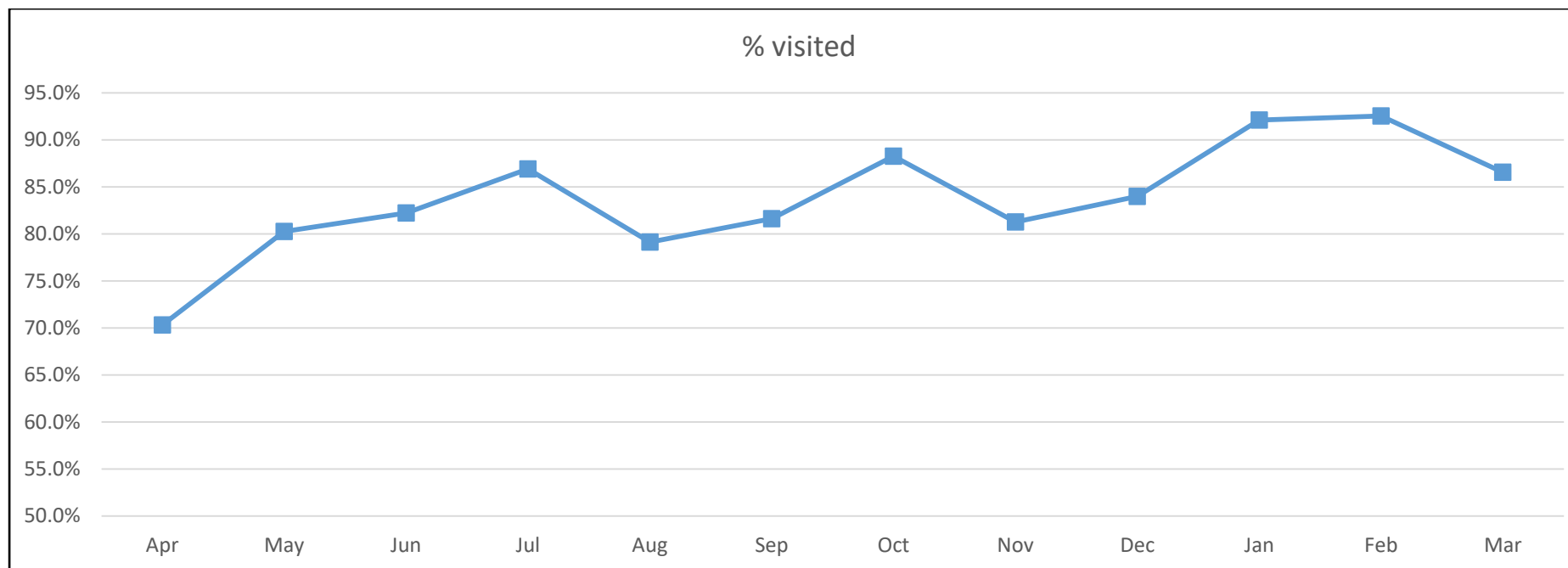
Many children who move 3 or more times do so for positive reasons. However, there are a small but not insignificant number of children who move around within the looked after system beyond the first 12 months. Audit work highlights that these young people are in the older age range, 13+. These children tend to be accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act. The question as to 'why' seems in part to be that some of these children exit care on a relatively frequent basis when family crisis have abated and in an unplanned way. Consequently the return home is unsustainable, causing the young person to experience a further care episode in a short space of time. Cambridgeshire has invested in the NSPCC's reunification programme which is currently being delivered to staff. It is envisaged that the impact will lead to improved quality assessments and managed returns home where it is safe for children to do so. This should help with a reduction in children experiencing multiple placement moves.

There has been a decrease in the number of foster carers being recruited nationally. However, Cambridgeshire Fostering Service has had a **more** positive 12 months in recruiting carers than in previous years. As with last year, a number of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) carers looking after Cambridgeshire children have chosen to move across to the County's in house provision and have in turn been able to offer their additional 'bed spaces' to Cambridgeshire children. Cambridgeshire's fostering recruitment campaign is ongoing.

The Authority is challenged by the accommodation offer to young people leaving care. The vast majority of provision accessed is in Peterborough and this is particularly significant in the availability of placements to young people seeking asylum.

6. Looked After Children - Visits, Reviews and Health

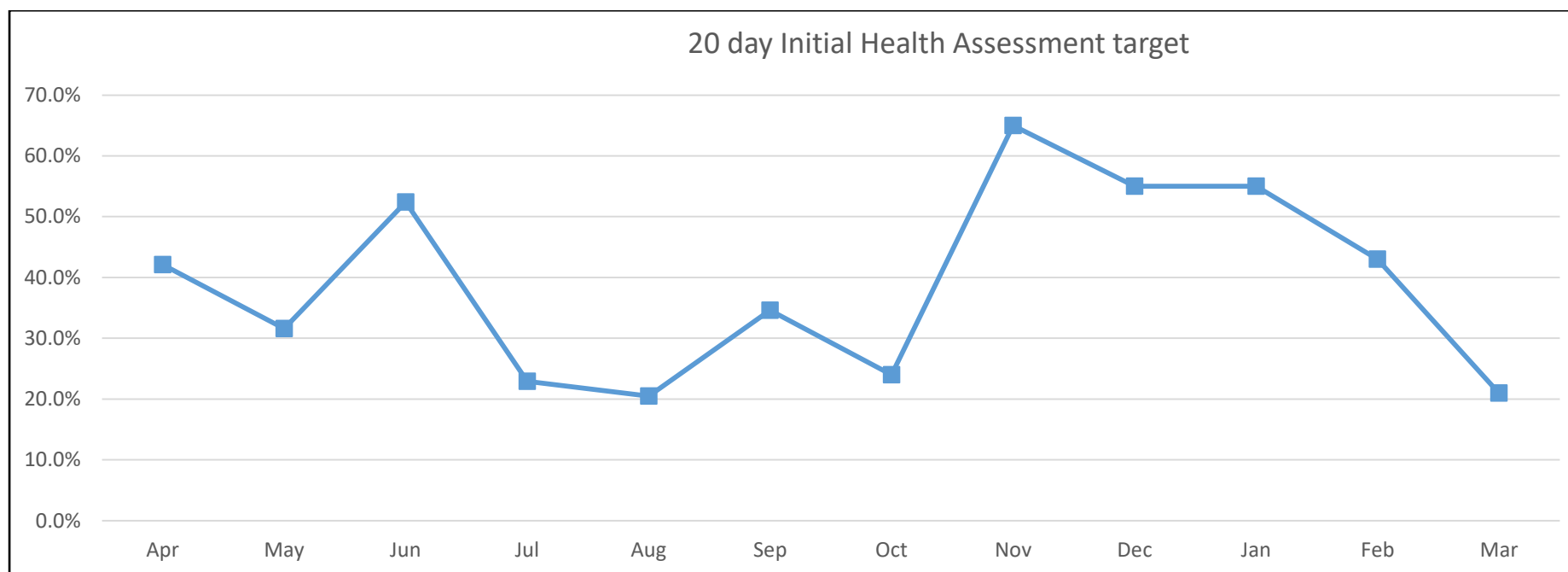
Visits and Reviews	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
Children to be visited	465	471	495	466	503	462	477	470	437	519	429	521	476
No. not seen in timescale	138	93	88	61	105	85	56	88	70	41	32	70	77
% visited	70.3	80.3	82.2	86.9	79.1	81.6	88.3	81.3	84.0	92.1	92.5	86.6	83.8%
Late Reviews this month	4	0	7	1	3	9	5	3	1	4	8	8	4
Cumulative late reviews	4	4	11	12	15	24	29	32	33	37	45	53	
% reviews in timescale	97.3	100.0	95.3	99.3	98.2	93.7	97.3	98.3	99.5	97.8	93.9	93.9	97.0%



Looked After Children are required to be visited 6 weekly in their first year of entering care, and between 6 weekly and 3 monthly thereafter. There has been a marked improvement in statutory visit performance during this reported period. Delays in visits happening is around cancelled visits, and staffing capacity. Some Cambridgeshire children are in stable placements a significant distance from Cambridgeshire and this involved a full working day in travelling and conducting visits to sometimes one child. The frequency of these visits is set in statute. However, it is important to point out that Looked After Children have a range of professionals around them including their carers, teachers, health professionals. So, whilst late visits do not mitigate the need for children to be seen regularly, equally, it does not mean that children go 'unseen' by professionals in their network.

Performance around the timing of Looked After Child Reviews is strong with 100% achieved in May 2017.

6.1. Health Assessments



Performance around newly looked after children having their health assessment in 20 days of becoming looked is below where it needs to be. The Looked After Health Team are responsible for conducting Initial Health Assessments for Cambridgeshire children in area and up to 20 miles outside our borders. **30.94%** of the looked after population are placed more than 20 miles outside of Cambridgeshire. This means that the Health Assessments for these children are organised by the hosting Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire cannot specifically determine when the assessment takes place. The 20 day timescale is national guidance so all Health Trusts do work to the same arrangements, but it is important to highlight that Health Authorities prioritise seeing children from their local area, before assessing the needs of children placed in their area by other Authorities. Reasons for the delay in assessments taking place include the absence of parental consent in their child having an assessment, Health services having limited clinics available and sometimes needing to co-ordinate assessments with interpreters therefore impacting on time.

Although outside of this reporting period, new arrangements have been put in place to raise standards in this area of practice and results are proving positive.

7. Looked After Children - Care Leavers and Adoption

Care Leavers	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Care leaver cohort	27	30	21	27	20	15	29	12	19	39	26	29
Care leavers in suitable accommodation - Yes	15	16	16	14	10	13	26	12	15	35	23	26
Care leavers in suitable accommodation - Unknown	10	12	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Care leavers who are EET -Yes	6	5	9	13	8	9	23	8	12	25	15	18
Care leavers who are EET - Unknown	10	12	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Care leavers in touch - Yes	23	21	21	23	18	12	24	11	14	37	24	29
Care leavers in touch - Returned Home	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Care leavers in touch - No Longer Required	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

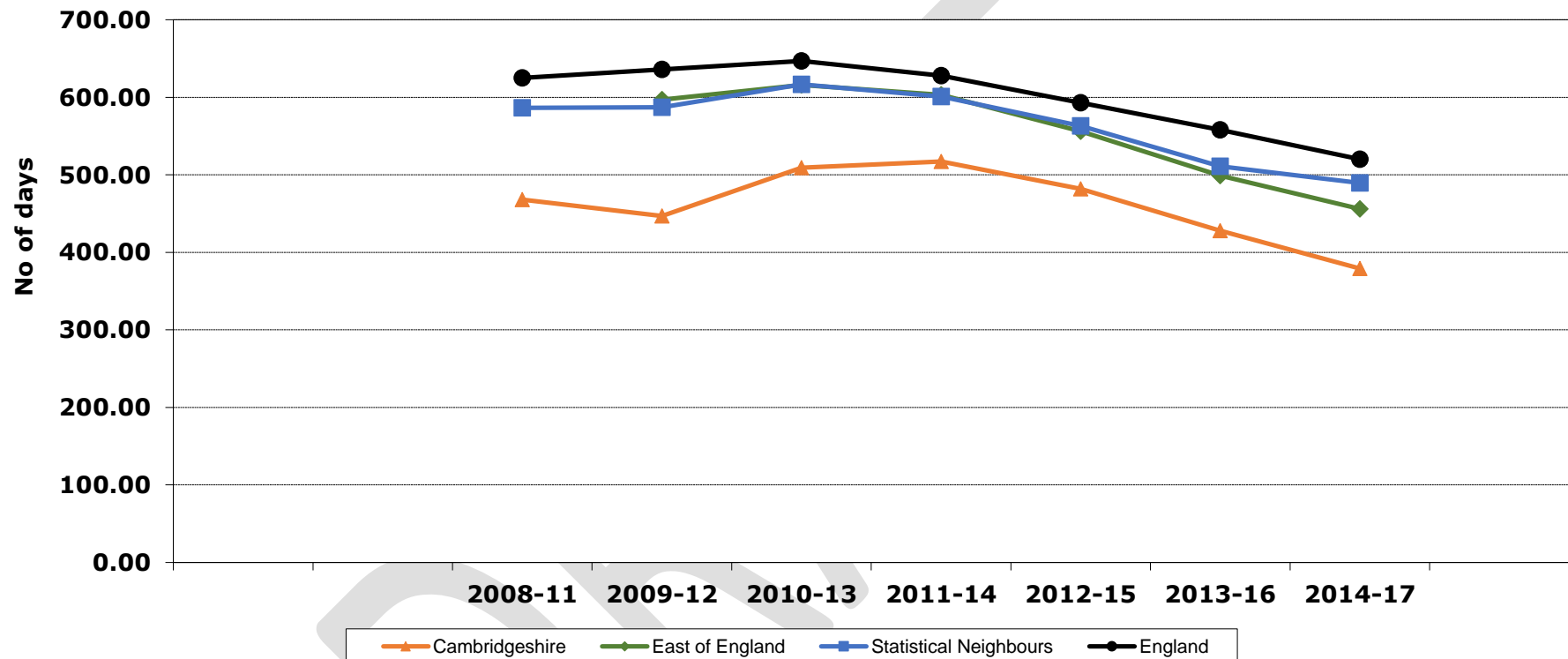
The data relating to care leavers is presented in the same way all Local Authorities are required to report in to the Department for Education. The Care Leaver Cohort are the Care Leavers whose 17th, 18th 19th, 20th and 21st birthdays fell within the reporting month. There are approximately 275 care leavers within the 15-25 service in total.

Corum Cambridge Adoption	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Number of adoptions per month	2	6	1	4	0	1	2	4	3	6	2	6
Average time between child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family (days)	365	310	938	352	N/A	168	381	284	617	417	210	326
Average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match	146	127	757	132	N/A	46	179	111	226	223	52	75
% Children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family	100	100	0	100	N/A	100	100	100	66.7	83.3	100	100

Performance in relation to children waiting less than 14 months to be adopted has been 100% with the exception of during the months December and January.

Compared to statistical neighbours and England, Cambridgeshire has a lower average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family.

Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family

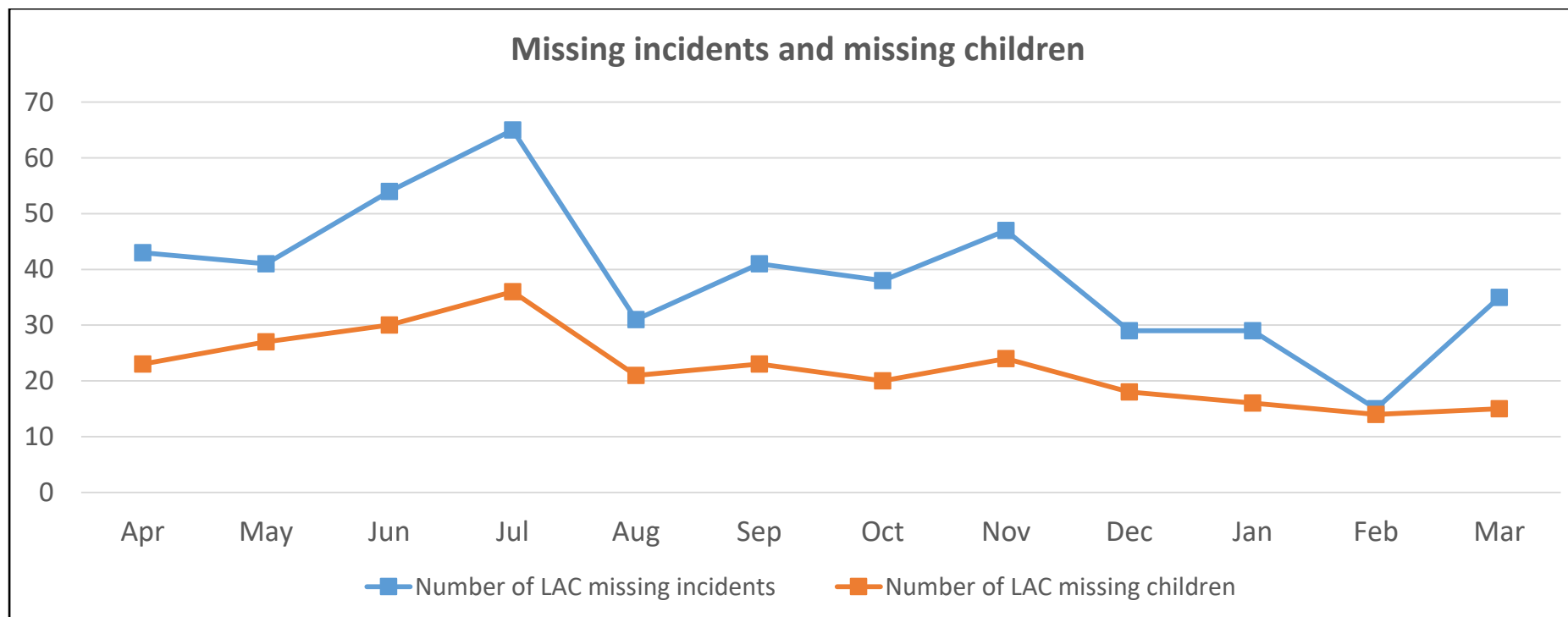


8. Looked After Children – Education, Employment and Training

Education	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
% yr 12s who are in learning	93.9	93.9	93.8	93.8	92.8	89.7	94.6	96.2	96.1	95.6	95.5	95.2
% yr 13s who are in learning	90.7	90.7	90.8	90.8	90.6	88.9	90.6	91.7	91.6	91.3	91.0	91.0
% of 16-18 yr olds who are NEET	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.6

9. Looked After Children - Missing

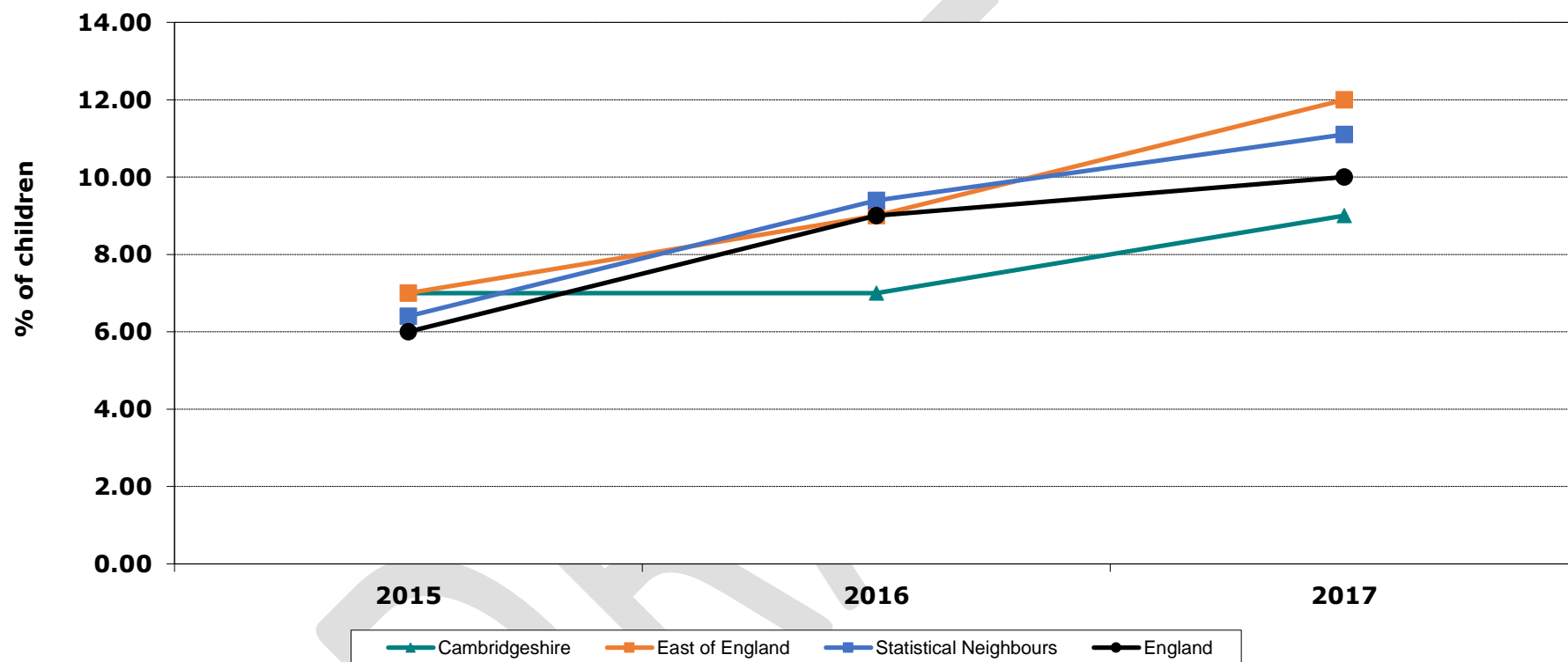
LAC - Missing	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Number of LAC missing incidents	43	41	54	65	31	41	38	47	29	29	15	35
Number of LAC missing children	23	27	30	36	21	23	20	24	18	16	14	15



Each time a child goes missing is recorded as a single missing episode. 1 child went missing 10 times during the reporting month. There is a multi-agency approach to missing and supporting children to tell their story. Children are monitored individually and patterns are examined to identify individuals and locations of concern and to plan intervention to break dangerous cycles.

The percentage of Looked After Children going missing increased to from 7% in 2016 to 9% last year. Despite the increase the percentage is less than England and our statistical neighbours.

Percentage of Children Looked after whom had a missing incident during the year



10. All Children - Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (All Children)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Gender												
Male	11	13	12	6	25	27	26	25	21	26	40	39
Female	49	60	56	60	69	81	88	84	83	89	88	88
Age of children												
0-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9-12	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	2	2	2	2
13-16	48	53	54	51	69	81	82	73	73	81	93	90
17+	8	3	10	10	21	22	27	32	29	32	33	35

Gang Exploitation (All Children)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Gender												
Male	27	25	22	25	27	23	22	22	19	21	28	27
Female	2	3	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	5	4	4
Age of children												
0-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
13-16	19	18	13	13	14	12	12	11	11	13	23	22
17+	10	10	10	13	15	14	14	15	13	13	8	8

As part of a child's assessment practitioners assess a child or young person's level of risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). CSE is defined as children under 18 in exploitative situations, contexts or relationships where they receive 'something' (e.g. food,

accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

As part of a child's assessment practitioners assess a child or young person's level of risk of gang exploitation. The definition of being at risk of gang-related exploitation is: 'There are tangible indicators/evidence that suggests risks that a young person is being groomed and/or coerced into moving or selling drugs and being involved in other violence related gang activity, e.g. missing episodes with limited information on whereabouts and/or involvement with groups involved in the supply of drugs and carrying of weapons'.

Figures in respect of boys at risk of CSE stayed relatively stable in the period between August and January. When comparing the figures from the start to the end of this reporting period, there has been an increase of 254% for boys and 79% for girls. It is important to note that the actual numbers are relatively small and so percentages seem very high. Child Sexual Exploitation and Gang Exploitation are not a new phenomenon, however, systems to identify children at risk in these categories have improved so the recorded numbers have increased. The number of children with gang involvement has remained relatively stable during 2017-18.

11. Glossary

- **Eligible child** is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who is still being looked after.
- **Relevant child** is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who has left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16, but who were looked after immediately before being detained.
- **Former relevant child** is a young person over 18 who was previously 'eligible' or 'relevant'. Councils support this group until aged 21, or longer if they are in education or training.
- **Qualifying child** is any young person under 21 (or 24 if in education or training) who stops being looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or being privately fostered, after the age of 16. This also includes young people who are under a special guardianship order.
- **Former relevant child pursuing education** is any former relevant child whose case was closed, for any reason. If we are informed that they are planning to continue education or training they can ask the council to assess whether they can get any support. Any help would last until their 25th birthday.
- **Care Leaver Cohort** - the Care Leavers whose 17th, 18th 19th, 20th and 21st birthdays fell within the reporting month.
- **Suitable Accommodation** – whether accommodation is deemed 'suitable' is judged on an individual case. The Department for Education judge the following accommodation types as suitable ('Parents or relatives', 'Community home or other form of residential care', 'Semi-independent', 'transitional accommodation', 'Supported lodgings', 'Ordinary lodgings' without formal support, 'Foyers and similar supported accommodation' and 'Independent living').

- **In Touch** - there should be “contact” between the authority and the young person around 3 months before and one month after the Care Leaver’s birthday. This is designed to monitor the situation of young people when they have left care, rather than their situation immediately before they left care.
- **EET** - Education, Employment and Training
- **NEET** - not in Education, Employment and Training
- **Missing Children Incident** - each episode of a child going missing is recorded as a missing incident