

# **People & Communities Sufficiency Statement**

Looked After Children & Care Leavers  
2017 – 2020

Version 1.  
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## 1. Purpose of Sufficiency Statement

- 1.1 The purpose of this strategy is to demonstrate how Cambridgeshire County Council will meet the placement needs of our current and future Looked after Children and Care Leavers, and improve their outcomes, in light of our understanding of their needs and current provision.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire have invested in Early Help services with a view to deescalating need and risk to help meet our commitment to enable children and young people to live in their own families whenever safe to do so.
- 1.3 Cambridgeshire is committed to improving outcomes for looked after children and young people. We would like to increase the number of children and young people who achieve permanence through adoption, special guardianship orders or placement with family and friends. Where practicable Cambridgeshire aims to work with and support families to enable children and young people to return home, and stay in their homes and communities.
- 1.4 Cambridgeshire is dedicated to ensuring that the 'Right Families access the Right Services at the Right time', and we believe that this will lead to improved outcomes for looked after children and young people.
- 1.5 All data is at the 31<sup>st</sup> March unless otherwise specified
- 1.6 Action points can be found throughout the document, **written in bold**, and link into the emerging trends and priorities for the Council.

## 2. Local and National Guidance

- 2.1 Local Authorities are required to take steps to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for children in care within their local area.
- 2.2 In 2010, the statutory guidance for the Sufficiency Duty was issued. This guidance is explicit in placing a duty on local authorities to act strategically to address gaps in provision by ensuring that they include, in relevant commissioning strategies, their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty.
- 2.3 The Children Act 2008 defines sufficiency as "a whole system approach which delivers early intervention and preventative work to help support children and their families where possible, as well as providing better services for children if they do become looked after. For those who are looked after, Local Authorities and their Children's partners should seek to secure a number of providers and a range of services, with the aim of meeting the wide-ranging needs of looked after children and young people within their local area".
- 2.4 Under the guidance, the sufficiency duty is as follows:
  - From April 2010, local authorities will include in relevant commissioning strategies their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty
  - From April 2011 working with their partners, local authorities must be in a position to secure, where reasonably practical, sufficient accommodation for looked after children in their local authority area
- 2.5 The strategy is set within the context of national policy, legislation and guidance, and is linked to key planning documents. All figures are taken from the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2017 unless stated otherwise.

### 3. Our vision for children in care

- 3.1 We want Cambridgeshire to be a place where all families have the opportunity to thrive, and, we will ensure, where it is safe and in their best interests, our children will live within their families and communities. We will support those families with high quality services that support good outcomes for all our children. We want to ensure that families are supported by the right part of the service, and are supported to make positive and sustained change.
- 3.2 Cambridgeshire are working to the following aims for children:
- Keep children and young people safe at home and in their communities.
  - Improve health outcomes for every child and young person and narrow the gap in learning and health outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.
  - Improve education outcomes for children and young people in care.
  - Reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care.
  - Improve the placement stability and long term outcomes for our children and young people.
  - Ensure that children are supported to reach their full potential.
- 3.3 Cambridgeshire County Council aims to include children and young people in all aspects of the commissioning cycle, including the provision and procurement of services, reviews and evaluation.

### 4. Our priorities

- 4.1 Our strategic priorities are listed below:
- Ensuring the Right Families access the Right Services at the Right time.
  - Delivering high quality effective assessments and interventions with children, young people & families
  - Creating permanency for our children through effective planning and high quality provision.
  - Closing the wellbeing and achievement gaps for our vulnerable groups
  - Ensuring we as a workforce are effective, well trained, robustly managed and operate displaying respect and dignity.
- 4.2 Cambridgeshire's priority is to enable children and young people to remain in or return to their family home wherever this is possible and safe to do. When this is not possible, Cambridgeshire is dedicated to providing good quality placements for our looked after children; we aim to provide children with permanent placements (either through adoption, special guardianship orders, or placements with family and friends). We are developing our services to ensure that we work with families wherever possible to make positive and sustained change to prevent children entering the care system.
- 4.3 As an Authority we need to look at how we commission services, and how we intend to work together with service users and providers to ensure that we meet the needs of children and young people. We want to work collaboratively to meet these challenges and continue to ensure high quality care and accommodation for looked after children and care leavers.

## 5. Views of Children and Young People about choice and sufficiency of placements and children's services

- 5.1 Cambridgeshire have a range of processes in place to consult and engage with children and young people and fulfil our commitment to engage and consult with, and involve children and young people in the design and delivery of services.
- 5.2 Three short films have been made with our Looked After and care leaver young people. These films explore young people's views on coming into care, and are available to watch below:

['My name is Joe'](#)

['Finding my way'](#)

['Our House'](#)

- 5.3 Feedback from children and young people about the current accommodation and placement offer has presented the following themes:
- **Feeling safe and supported.** Young people spoke about the importance of feeling safe and supported in placements; including helping with support for mental health, and the effect of emergency placements resulting in feeling unsafe. Young people identified feeling supported by a range of people including support staff, carers, family, social workers and the participation team.
    - It is proposed that Cambridgeshire review how to better communicate to children and young people about their placements prior to moving, particularly for those young people moving in an emergency or without having visited the placement prior to the move. Voices Matter conducted a consultation with in house fostering and developed child and young person friendly profiles for in house foster carers. **These profiles should be developed for all foster carers and children's homes and supported accommodation providers will be required to produce a similar document introducing that provision.**
  - **Communication.** Young people spoke about the importance of communication; both professionals and support staff being honest and open with young people, and the need for young people to be involved and consulted. Residents meetings, speaking to young people individually and feedback processes that are easily accessible are some of the examples young people presented when discussing the importance of communication.
  - **Location.** A common theme in young people's feedback was the location of their placements, including liking placements because of the location proximity to their communities, disliking placements because of distance from school and the restrictions this can have on ability to take part in after school clubs, and the benefits of living in an area with good travel links.
  - **Internet access & Wi-Fi.** A frequent response identifying what could be better or is missing, particularly from older young people and those living in supported accommodation provisions was access to the internet / Wi-Fi.
- 5.4 The Children in Care Pledge was developed in partnership with young people, senior managers and lead members and sets out Cambridgeshire's promise and commitment to our Looked After Children and Care Leavers (appendix 3).

## 6. Cambridgeshire Demographics

- 6.1 Cambridgeshire is a large, rural county, covering 3,389km<sup>2</sup> in the east of England. Four of our five district councils are classified as rural and almost 40% of our population live in villages with fewer than 10,000 residents. Just under a third of Cambridgeshire is classified as “countryside”. Cambridgeshire borders Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough.
- 6.2 Cambridgeshire has 5 regions governed by district and city councils<sup>1</sup>, each of which are responsible for the provision of adequate local authority housing within said district/city.
- 6.3 Health Services within Cambridgeshire commissioned by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Local Authority Public Health function predominantly and are delivered mainly by two organisations; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) and the Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS). The CPFT deliver NHS services to the community, including physical, mental health and specialist services. CCS deliver the LAC Health Team. Primary care services within Cambridgeshire (i.e. GP services, dentists, opticians) are not the responsibility of either the CCG or CPFT, and instead are commissioned by NHS England.
- 6.4 Cambridgeshire has a population of approximately 653,410 across its five districts; 143,300 are young people are aged 0 – 18 years<sup>2</sup>.
- 6.5 Current forecasts suggest a 23% rise in population between 2016 and 2036, and 17% increase in the population of young people aged 0 – 14 years<sup>3</sup>.
- 6.6 Cambridgeshire remains one of the fastest growing populations in the UK and is 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, right across the county. New development areas are already underway (i.e. Alconbury Weald, Northstowe, Cambridge North West), with further growth expected. Cambridgeshire has seen substantial increases in its migrant population, with over 100 languages now spoken in the County<sup>4</sup>. 7.4% of Cambridgeshire’s population belong to a BME group<sup>5</sup>, significantly lower than the national average (14.5%).
- 6.7 16 areas (out of a total of 375 ‘Local Super Output Areas’) across Cambridgeshire are within the 20% most deprived nationally (an increase from 9 areas in 2010); 75% of these areas fall within the Fenland district. Conversely, South Cambridgeshire has the lowest levels of deprivation across the county, though it is of note that with the exception of Cambridge City, all districts across Cambridgeshire have seen increased levels of deprivation (from 2010 to 2015)<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council & Cambridge City

<sup>2</sup> Source Cambridgeshire Research Group population estimates base-2013 (figures rounded to the nearest 10).

<sup>3</sup> <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/populationanddemographics>

<sup>4</sup> Cambridgeshire Insight. <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/populationanddemographics/ethnicity>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cambs.police.uk/about/policingInCambs/about.asp>

<sup>6</sup> Cambridgeshire Insight <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/census-2011/county-overviews>

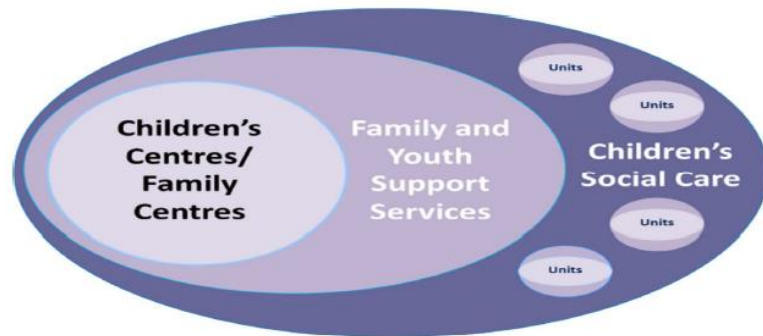
<sup>6</sup> Source: Briefing Note: Findings for Cambridge for IMD Index 2015

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/default/files/imd-2015-findings-for-cambridge.pdf>

Cambridge Summary Report V1.2 <http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/file/2728/download>

## 7. About Children's Services in Cambridgeshire

- 7.1 Cambridgeshire has implemented a district delivery model across children's services. The district delivery model integrates social care units, targeted Early Help support and Children's Centre services.



- 7.2 Cambridgeshire is made up of 5 Districts, with 7 teams operating across the 5 Districts. Each Team is led by a District Manager - Early Help and a District Manager - Safeguarding who lead an integrated offer to children and families to ensure the best use of resources for maximum impact.
- 7.3 Each District Team has between four to five social work units which are small teams lead by a Consultant Social Worker. In each unit there is a Senior Social Worker, two further Social Workers, a Unit Coordinator and a half time Clinician working together in a systemic way with children, young people, and families to support them to thrive and prosper in Cambridgeshire. Clinicians work jointly with social work colleagues to develop systemic social work practice within the social work units. Cambridgeshire's systemic approach to social work practice requires professionals to look at the whole system around the child or young person, not just the presenting problem. Unit clinicians contribute systemic and psychological expertise to the care planning process for all children who become looked after or are adopted. This includes decisions about sibling assessment, contact arrangements, placement needs, transition planning, adoption support plans and identifying specific therapeutic needs. The overarching aim of this work is to ensure placements are secure, appropriate to the needs of the child and stable. They are also actively engaged in supporting relationally focused social work activity directed to achieving better outcomes for children and young people in care.
- 7.4 Services and staff will be based across a range of locations within these areas:

North	South
<p>Fenland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March, Chatteris and Whittlesey</li> <li>• Wisbech</li> </ul> <p>Huntingdonshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingdon and St Ives</li> <li>• St Neots, Ramsey, Sawtry and Yaxley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridge City</li> <li>• East Cambridgeshire</li> <li>• South Cambridgeshire</li> </ul>

- 7.5 Each Early Help team is multidisciplinary and work with children and families from 0-19 (25 if there are special educational needs). Children and families supported by the Early Help teams will have one or more of the following vulnerabilities that adversely affect their ability to achieve good outcomes:

- Domestic abuse
- Substance misuse
- Child and parental mental health
- Children with SEND and their families
- Children and young people who under achieve due to a number of socio-economic factors
- Children and families with multiple problems

- 7.6 Other functions within the district delivery model include the Integrated Front Door which operates countywide and is the single point of entry for all notifications regarding safeguarding and request for Early Help services. The Integrated Front Door consists of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and the Early Help Hub.
- 7.7 Cambridgeshire is committed to ensuring that the children's centre service offer is at the heart of district-based provision. This will ensure that children's centre services are clearly accessible for our most vulnerable families, and able to respond to the increasing complexities and higher levels of need emerging in the county.
- 7.8 The public consultation for the Children's Centre service provision went live from July - September 2017, following which will be a further period of transition to new service delivery models from November 2017, with an intended completion date of April 2018. The proposed new model (pending the outcome of the consultation) seeks to focus on providing Children's Centre services flexibly across a range of locations, in the following four ways:
- Child and Family Centres – These are proposed to be in our areas of highest need and population and will be family friendly buildings.
  - Child and Family Zones – these will be places where services will be delivered either from some of our existing centres or other suitable buildings such as community centres, libraries, health centres etc.
  - Outreach Programme – We know that in a county with a significant rural population it is essential that we have a flexible and responsive outreach service offer.
  - Online Offer – We will develop a comprehensive online offer, providing information and advice that guides and supports families in accessing good quality help in and across their area.
- 7.9 In addition to the district teams and functions, Cambridgeshire operates Countywide services that support vulnerable young people. These include in house fostering and residential services, the 14 – 25 Looked After Children and Care Leavers service, Alternatives to Care, Youth Offending Service and the externally operated Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption Service. The Disabled Children's Early Help Team, 2 Disabled Children's Social Care Units, 2 Social Care Teams and the Young Adults Team sit within the Countywide SEND 0 – 25 Service.
- 7.10 **The Hub**
- Work is currently underway to implement the No Wrong Door model in Cambridgeshire, which will be known as 'The Hub'. This model aims to provide young people with complex needs who are experiencing family breakdown, those looked after, and those leaving care with flexible accommodation and support from a single multi-agency service. The service comprises direct support staff undertaking residential and/or outreach work, clinical staff, speech and language therapists, police officers and business support staff and will provide a range of placement types including children's home provision, foster care, supported lodgings, supported accommodation and flexible accommodation options (including short breaks and activity based opportunities). Young people are able to receive wraparound support from drug and alcohol services, youth offending services, housing providers, CAMHS and looked after children's health services.
- The aims of The Hub are to:



- Reduce high risk behaviour
- Empower young people to build and restore relationships
- Maximise opportunity for planned transitions
- Support achievement
- Develop self-esteem, self-worth and resilience and
- Ensure young people in crisis receive well organised and appropriate support.

It is expected that the primary benefits for the cohort of young people supported by The Hub include:

- Reduction in the number of children and young people entering care;
- Better outcomes for children in respect of a range of areas including reducing risks from Child Sexual Exploitation, missing episodes and self-harm;
- Reduction in offending;
- improvements in emotional well-being;
- more stable and sustained return home and prevention of becoming looked after;
- Better care leaver outcomes such as improved rates of young people in education, employment and training (EET), including young parents
- Improved placement stability
- Reduce need for specialist placements
- Increased workforce development opportunities for foster carers, staff and other professionals.
- Wider community and professional partnership engagement in supporting children and young people on the edge of care, looked after children and care leavers.

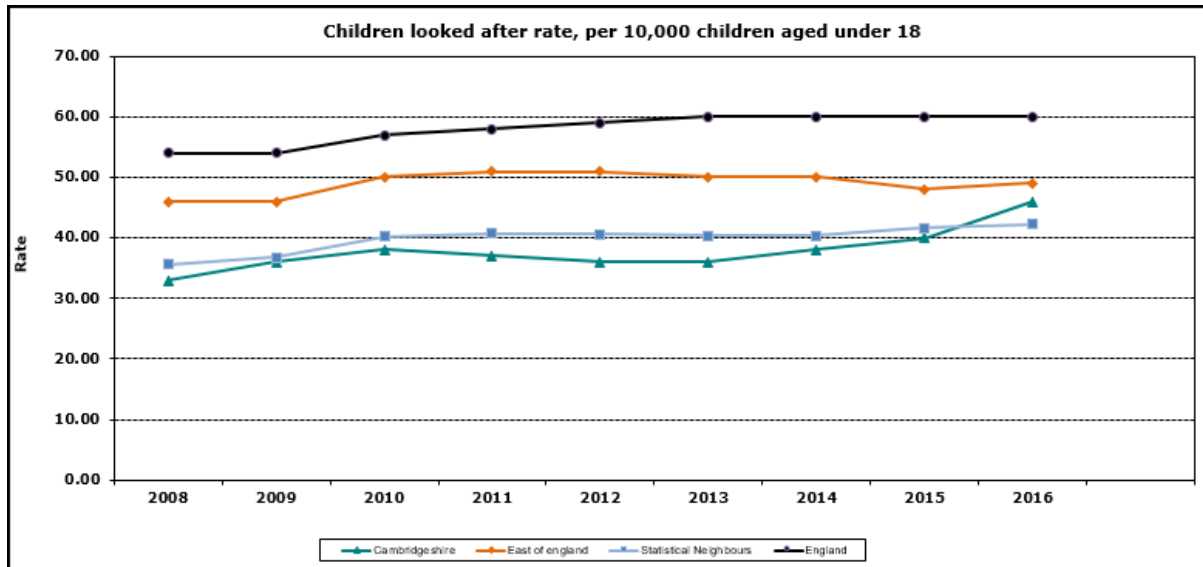
## 8. Working with Peterborough City Council

- 8.1 Devolution and shared personnel have encouraged and developed closer working relationships between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 8.2 Cambridgeshire currently share a Chief Executive and Executive Director with Peterborough. Gillian Beasley was appointed as the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council in 2015. Wendi Ogle-Welbourn was appointed to the role of Executive Director for People and Communities (previously known as Children, Families and Adults) in 2016. Recent restructures within the People and Communities Service has seen shared Director's roles across the two authorities; this is aimed at strengthening both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's approach to managing the financial challenges and practice and use of resources<sup>7</sup>.
- 8.3 Working closely with Peterborough supports us to:
- ◆ Share what we each do well
  - ◆ Soften boundaries for young people
  - ◆ Reduce duplication and increase capacity
  - ◆ Increase expertise & creativity
  - ◆ Increase ability to draw down funds for innovative projects
  - ◆ Help each other out
  - ◆ Ensure budgets are appropriately managed and savings targets achieved through collaborative approaches across authorities.

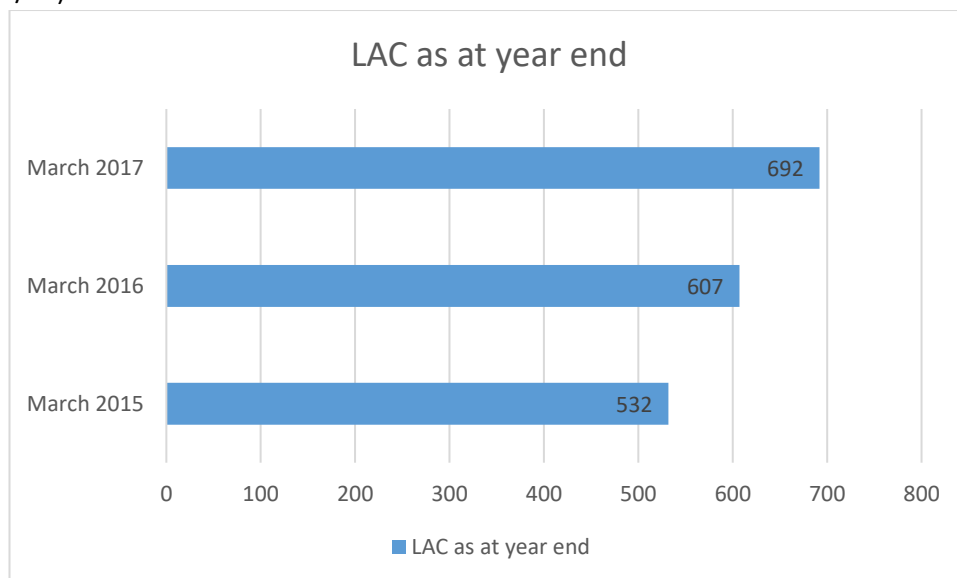
<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/proposed-shared-roles-will-look-to-improve-lives-of-children-families-and-adults-across-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

## The Profile of Looked After Children and Young People in Cambridgeshire

### 9. Introduction



- 9.1 Cambridgeshire's increased Looked After population now exceeds comparable statistical neighbours for the rate of LAC per 10,000<sup>8</sup>, though we continue to have a lower rate than both regional and national averages.
- 9.2 Figures for 2016/17 (appendix 1) shows that Cambridgeshire's population of Looked After Children has increased significantly, increasing 14% year on year over the past three years, a cumulative increase of 30% (2014/15 – 2016/17).

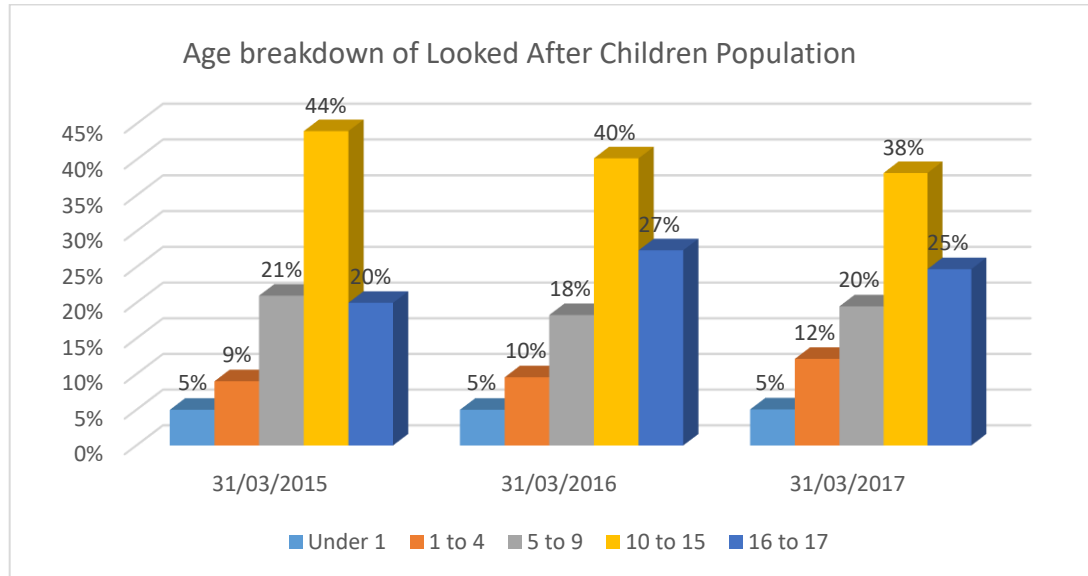


<sup>8</sup> Comparable rates for March 2017 have yet to be released. This section will be updated once this data is available.

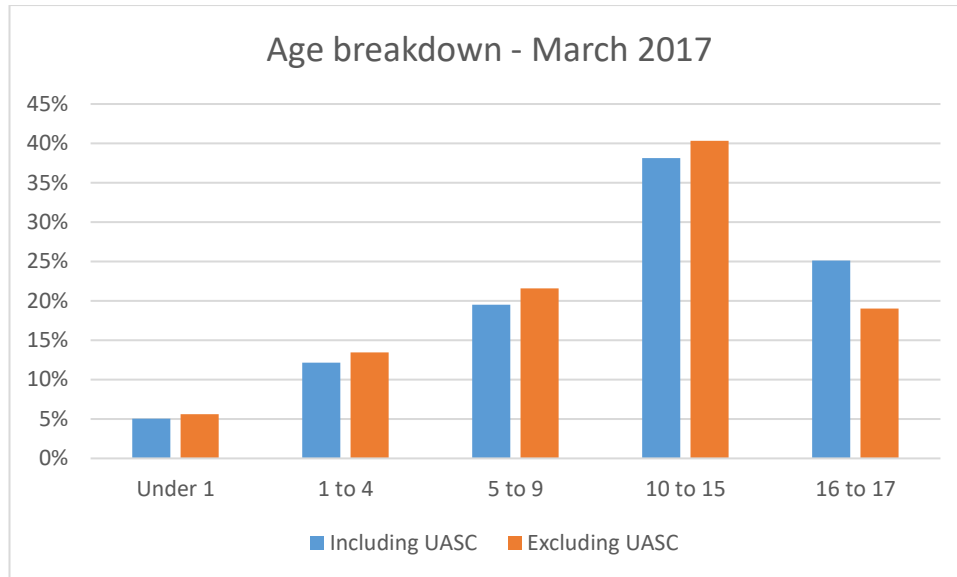
- 9.3 Increases in the population of Cambridgeshire would ordinarily be expected to be associated with an increase in the population of looked after children and young people. Despite this demographic pressure Cambridgeshire endeavour to work with its partners and through the development of effective prevention and early help services to seek to maintain or reduce overall numbers of children and young people in care.

## 10. Age breakdown

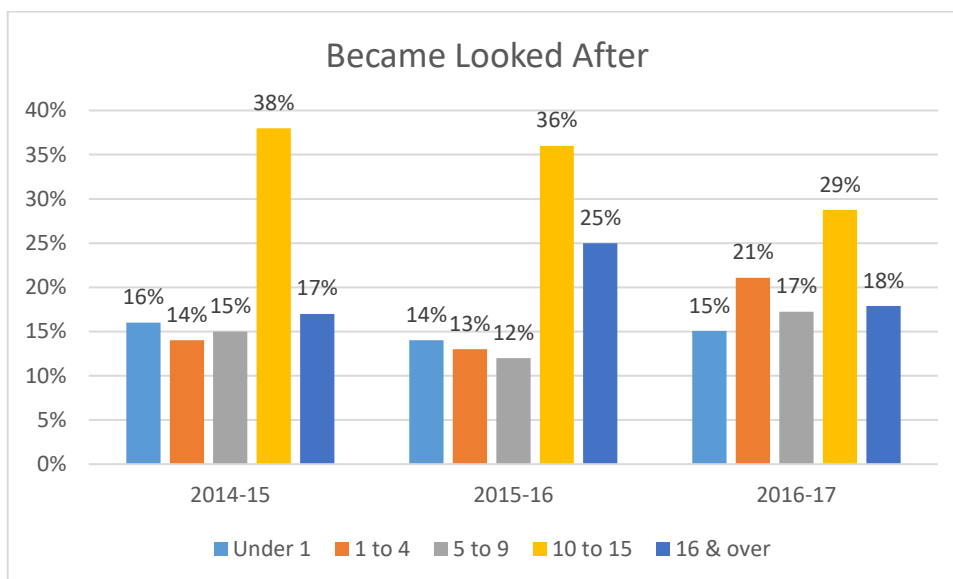
- 10.1 The age breakdown of our looked after children population has changed dramatically over the past 3 years.



- 10.2 The proportion of Cambridgeshire's Looked After population aged 9 and under has increased gradually from 14% in 2015 to 17% in 2017. 53% of the children and young people who became looked after in 2016-2017 were of this age group.
- 10.3 Cambridgeshire's looked after population aged between 10 and 15 years has gradually reduced from 44% in 2015 to 38% in 2017. Similarly the proportion of young people within this age bracket who have become looked after have reduced from 38% in the 2014-15 period to 29% in the 2016-17 period.
- 10.4 In 2015 20% of Cambridgeshire's Looked After Children were 16 & 17 years old. This had increased to 27% for 2016, due in part to the significant increase to Cambridgeshire's population of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. The proportion of young people aged 16 and 17 who Became Looked After has increased to 27% from 10% for the 2015/16 period. Whilst Cambridgeshire has seen an increase in the number of looked after young people aged 16 & 17 (particularly those becoming looked after), this is not a continuing trend; with data for the 2016/17 period demonstrating a reduction in both.
- 10.5 Cambridgeshire's unaccompanied asylum seeking population has affected the age breakdown of the wider Looked After population, particularly in the 16+ age group.



Removing the unaccompanied asylum seeking young people population demonstrates more reduction in the proportion of young people aged 16 +, with 19% (174) young people in this cohort at March 2017. This is a reduction from 20% the previous year, and a return to the proportion for 2015. It is of note that the population of young people aged under 5 has increased to 19% (as at March 2017, from 15% in March 2015) when UASC data is excluded.

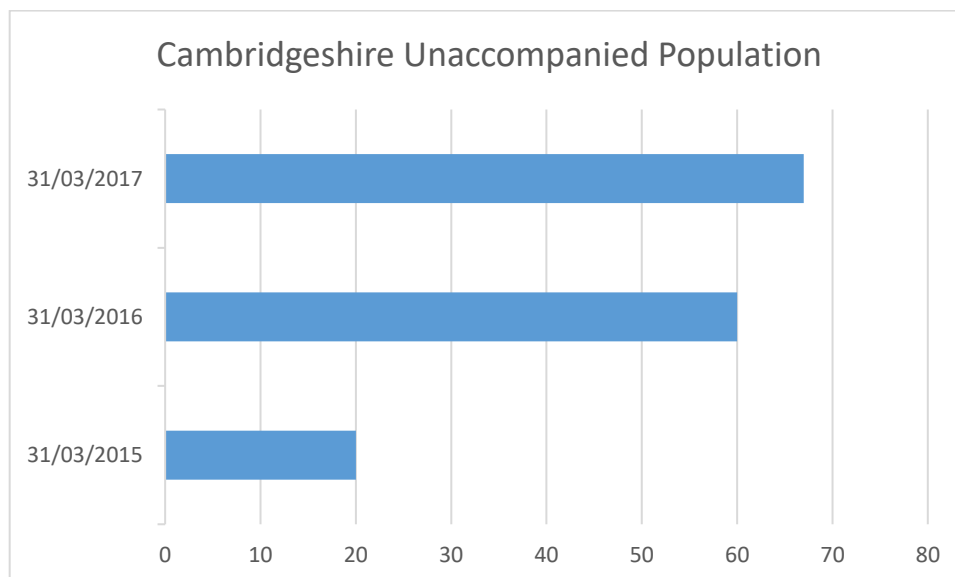


10.6 This increase in the 2015-16 period in the number of 16 & 17 year old Looked After young people has put pressure on our accommodation services for looked after children and young people. In particular this has impacted capacity within our supported accommodation and housing benefit sustainable provisions. Usage of

this type of accommodation has increased from 4% (22 young people) at the March 2015, to 12% (79 young people) at March 2017.

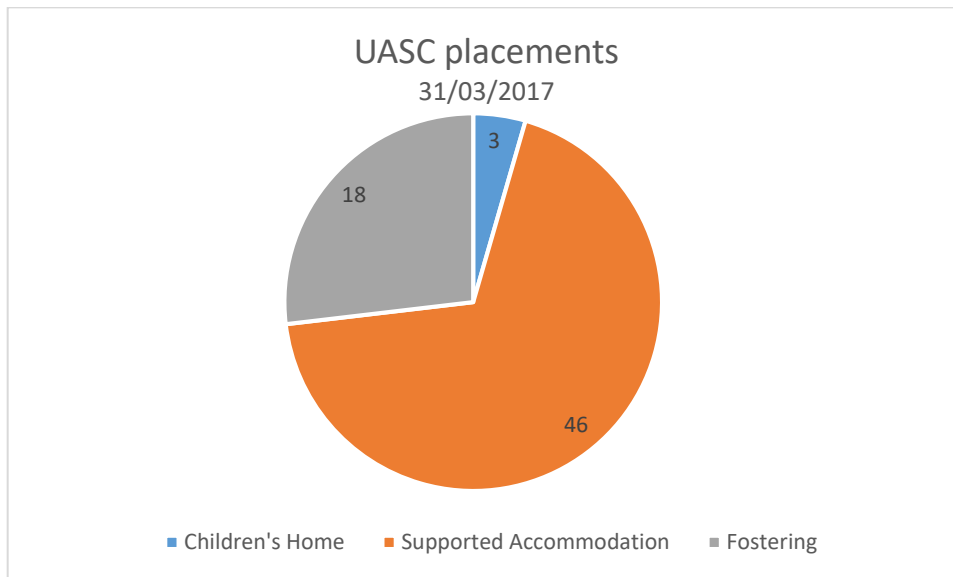
- 10.7 In the period April 2016 – March 2017 158 referrals were made to supported accommodation providers, 68 of which were emergency referrals (required within 24 hours), and 47 of those 68 were for young people new into care. The housing benefit sustainable provisions have very limited capacity to take emergency referrals so we rely heavily on provisions that are not housing benefit sustainable and not always in county. In addition, typically emergency referrals are for young people where either little is known about them or there has been a significant issue within their placement that has led to immediate notice being given, therefore their referral often presents them as being high risk or high need and therefore harder to place in provisions where support and supervision is minimal. **Cambridgeshire have a need for resilient 16+ provisions better able to manage young people with complex and challenging behaviours, to help reduce the number of placement moves for this cohort of young people.**
- 10.8 Similarly, fostering providers, including our in house service, have been unable to manage demand of placements for this cohort of young people. In the same period 24 referrals were made for fostering placements for 16 and 17 year olds; only 7 of these placements resulted in a suitable fostering placement, and only 2 of those were with our in house service. **There is a need for Cambridgeshire to review processes which seek to avoid 16 & 17 year olds from coming into care, and to increase suitable housing provisions within the district to meet the needs of this cohort.** Whilst a significant proportion of Cambridgeshire's 16 and 17 year old population are unaccompanied asylum seeking young people the Local Authority has a duty to provide sufficient accommodation, and when those young people turn 18 their accommodation is able to be funded either by housing benefit (if the young person has leave to remain) or the Local Authority continues to have a duty to fund (until their status is determined).

## 11. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children



- 11.1 Despite significant increases to the number of Cambridgeshire unaccompanied asylum seeking children over recent years, this cohort of young people has remained fairly stable throughout 2016/17 and represents 9.9% of

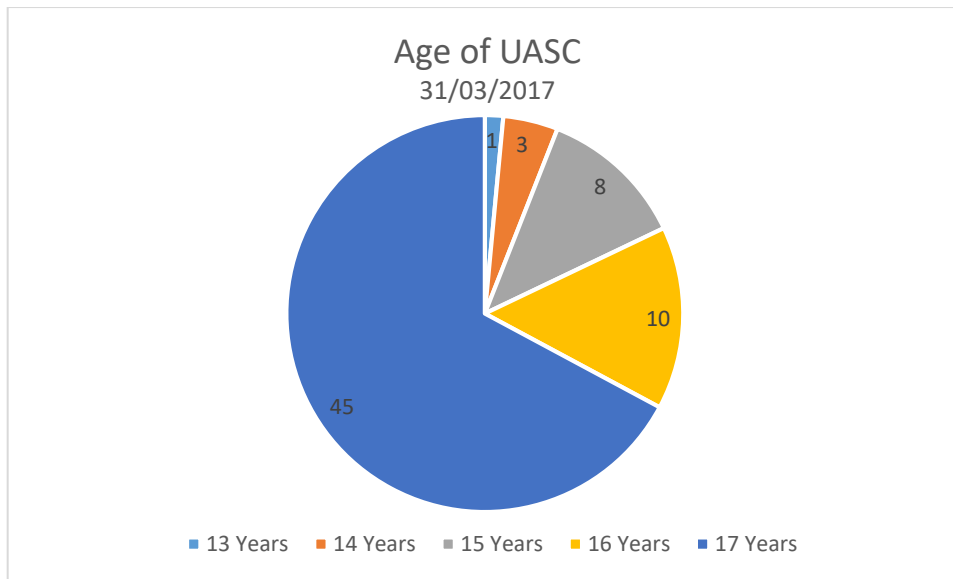
Cambridgeshire's total LAC population. Other Local Authorities have seen similar, and even greater increases to their unaccompanied asylum seeking child population. Regional neighbours across the east of England have seen the UASC population rise by 55% from a combined 290 (2015) to 450 (2016).



- 11.2 To ensure that Local Authorities are not facing an unmanageable number of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people to accommodate and support central government developed a voluntary agreement for Local Authorities to ensure the 'fairer distribution of unaccompanied children across all local authorities'<sup>9</sup>. This agreement places a ceiling on Authorities for the number of unaccompanied children they must accommodate before those young people are transferred to the responsibility of other Local Authorities. For Cambridgeshire this equates to 92 unaccompanied asylum seeking young people<sup>10</sup>.
- 11.3 At the end of March 2017 73% (49 young people) of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people were placed out of county. Of those 49 young people in placements outside of Cambridgeshire 36 are in supported accommodation provisions (the majority of which are in Peterborough).
- 11.4 67% of the 18 unaccompanied asylum seeking young people in fostering placements are with external fostering providers; greater than the 57% of the overall proportion of external fostering placements. Local Authorities receive a set fee per young person from central Government to meet all costs for the accommodation and support of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, this cost is not dependent on the young person's needs. More expensive (and often out of county) placements place further burden on budgets. **There is a need for Cambridgeshire to develop in house fostering placements to the meet the needs of these young people.**

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/534258/Interim\\_National\\_UASC\\_transfer\\_protocol.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/534258/Interim_National_UASC_transfer_protocol.pdf)

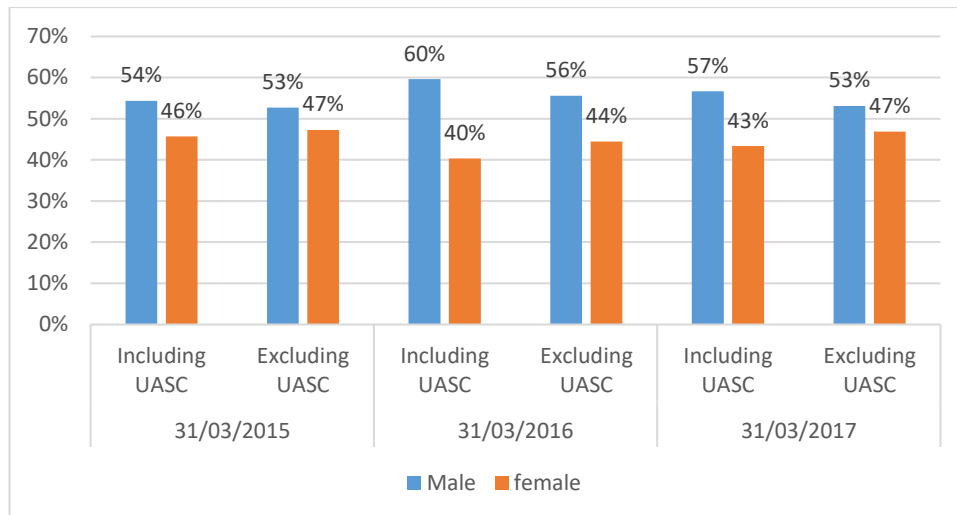
<sup>10</sup> ONS Mid-year population estimate for 2014: 131,490 @ 0.07% = 92



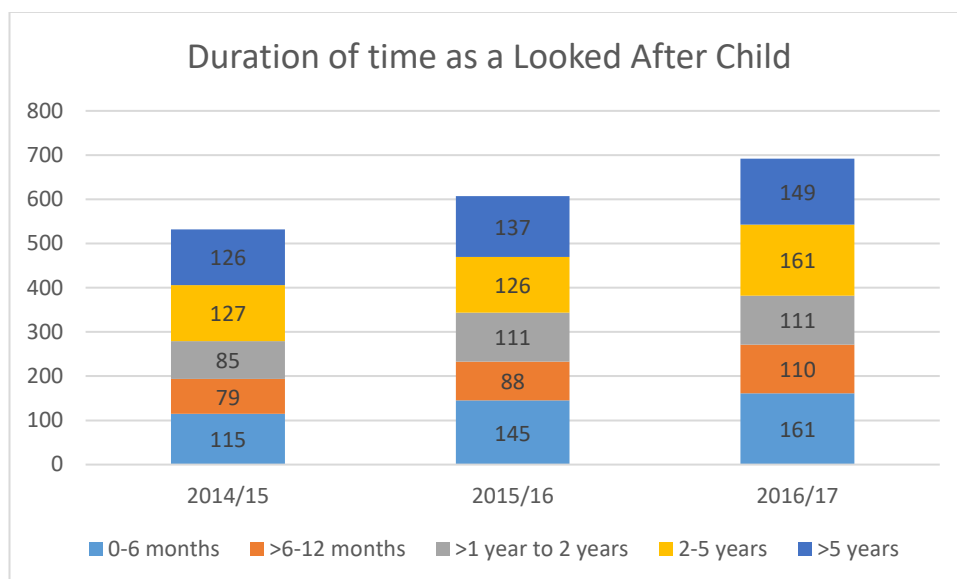
- 11.5 Most unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are assessed as being 16/17 years old and are placed in supported accommodation provision (the majority of which are in Peterborough). Monitoring visits to young people happen within statutory timescales, but there is a risk that these young people can experience social and cultural isolation as a result of language barriers and being at distance from their home authority. As such there is a need for providers to be active in supporting the development of safe supportive links for these young people.
- 11.6 The increased population of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, the majority of whom are aged 16+ and are placed in supported accommodation provision, has put pressure on the ability of supported accommodation services' capacity to provide placements to Cambridgeshire's young people. **In particular 16 plus provisions and in house fostering placements are required for these young people.**
- 11.7 These young people are supported to access health and education services in the same way as all other LAC. However, there can be challenges in obtaining good information about their family history such as medical conditions. All children have health assessments and access treatment as needed. The Virtual School support UASC to access Education as a Second Language courses, but enrolment can take several weeks and this causes frustration for young people who are keen to learn and progress.
- 11.8 **Work is underway to improve links with local colleges and speed up the admission process for our unaccompanied asylum seeking young people.** Cambridgeshire are targeting this work at those colleges identified as having areas for improvement with admissions processes for unaccompanied young people.

## 12. Gender

- 12.1 The gender split of our looked after population continues to be an average of 57/43 split across males and females.
- 12.2 This difference is lessened when the unaccompanied asylum seeking population is removed from the data set. Overwhelmingly our unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are male (90% at March 2017).



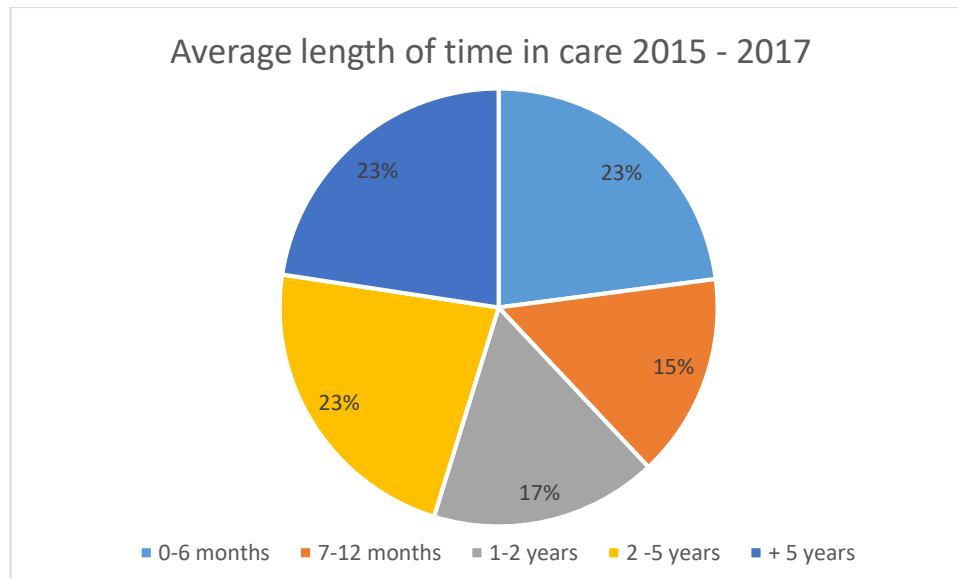
### 13. Length of time in care



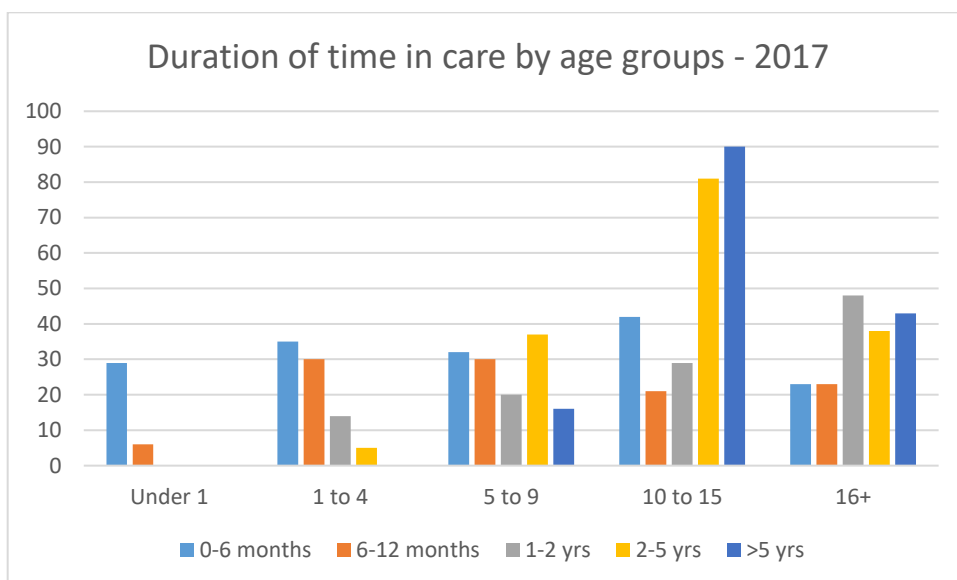
13.1 The proportion of time in care for Cambridgeshire's Looked After population has remained consistent, despite increases to the overall number of looked after children and young people. On average<sup>11</sup> across the previous three years 55% of young people are looked after for less than two years, and 45% for longer than two years.

<sup>11</sup> Based on end of year data for the 2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17 periods





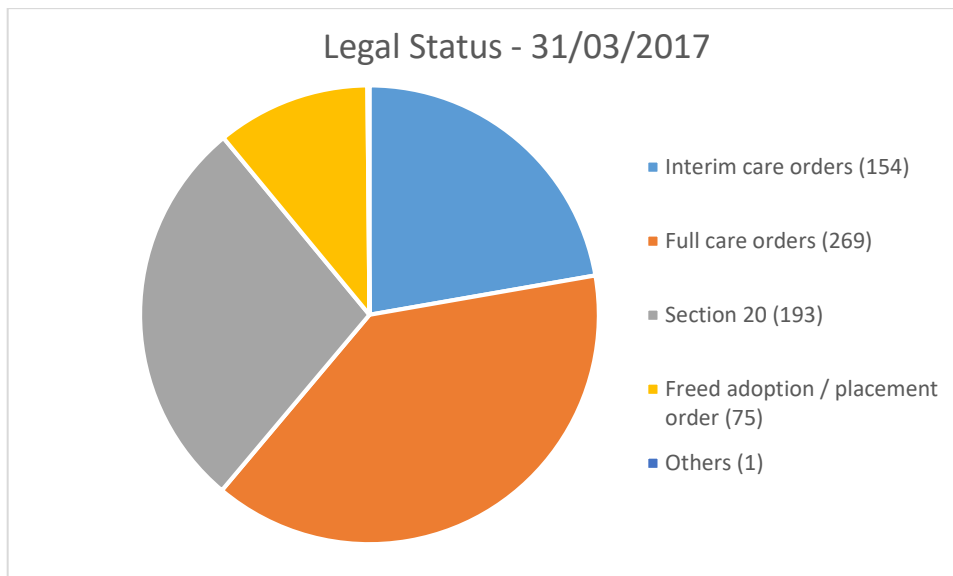
13.2 Young people aged 10 – 15 years are consistently the cohort in care the longest. This suggests that longer term placements are needed for young children in anticipation of young people being looked after for periods of two years or more. At the end of March 2017 25% of Cambridgeshire’s Looked After population were aged 10 – 15 years and had been looked after for two years or more; by comparison 20% of the rest of the population had been Looked After for this period.



## 14. Legal status

14.1 22% of Cambridgeshire’s Looked After Children population are subject to court proceedings, and therefore will not be in a permanent placement. A further 28% of children and young people are accommodated with parental agreement, without an order. 50% 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, at approximately a 50/50 split, to meet the needs of the Looked After Children population.



## 15. Children with disabilities

- 15.1 The development of a 0–25 year SEND Service and Lifelong SEND Pathway will provide a seamless service to children and young adults who have special educational needs or disability. We are in the process of bringing together the SEN teams with the Children and Young Adults Disability Social care to provide an integrated SEND 0 – 25 service.
- 15.2 The number of children with disabilities who are looked after long-term has increased by 2 since March 2016, and is now at 42. This is 6.1% of the Looked After Children population. Just over half of children with disabilities are placed out of county and are mostly in specialist residential school placements. Whilst this does reflect the complex needs of this cohort of children, **there continues to be a need both to increase the number of specialist foster placements for children with disabilities and to develop in county special school provisions.** In addition, over 20% of the looked after children population have an EHCP plan 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.**
- 15.3 Cambridgeshire’s short breaks and shared care service is externally commissioned, and provides services to children and young people with a disability in Cambridgeshire across 3 registered children’s homes within Cambridgeshire. Two of these provisions are for Shared Care / Full Time Accommodation, whilst the third is our Short Break provision, aimed at providing disabled children and young people (0 – 19yrs) with a short break service, either during the day or for overnight stays, depending on the child’s assessed needs. These provisions are primarily used as preventative, respite services, however there is scope to employ these provisions as a ‘step down’ from out of county 38 and 52 week residential schools. The Family Link Service provides fostering provisions for children and young people with a disability aged between 0 – 19, and can provide families with a short break service either during the day or for overnight stays, depending on the child’s needs
- 15.4 50% of Looked after Children who are open to a disability unit are placed out of county, this is more than 15% more than the proportion of LAC (excluding those placed with family or in pre-adoptive placements) who are

placed out of county. **More in county provision is needed for Looked After children with autism, challenging behaviour and significant learning disabilities.**

	In County	Out of County	TOTAL
In house fostering	12	0	<b>12</b>
IFA Foster Care	2	12	<b>14</b>
Residential Special School	0	7	<b>7</b>
Children's Home	6	2	<b>8</b>
Supported Accommodation	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	

- 15.5 All of Cambridgeshire's Looked After young people placed in residential special education school placements are out of county. Cambridgeshire has a **continuing need to develop both residential school provisions and children's homes provisions in county**. This should be considered alongside the wider need to develop in county SEND provisions. These provisions are often funded by social care, education and health budgets, with the education funding being drawn down from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 15.6 Cambridgeshire currently has 6 area special schools (for children and young people aged 2 – 19), with a further 3 planned (at Littleport, Alconbury Weald & Northstowe). Additionally there are three special schools within the county for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH).

## 16. Education

- 16.1 It is now a requirement for all Local Authorities to have a Virtual School, with the aim of ensuring that all Looked After Children have the opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. The role of the virtual school teacher is to support and challenge professionals involved with Cambridgeshire's Looked After Children, to ensure that they receive an education which best meets their needs and enables them to meet their potential.
- 16.2 Cambridgeshire's Looked After Children's average Key Stage 4 attainment 8 score is 23.3. This is higher than both regional (22.7) and national comparators (22.8), though less than our statistical neighbours (23.85). This average for Looked After Children is far below both Cambridgeshire's and the national average for all Key Stage 4 children and young people (51.5 and 48.5 respectively), and suggests a need for improved educational outcomes for looked after children.
- 16.3 Progress from Key Stage 2 English and Maths grades demonstrate that Cambridgeshire's looked after young people consistently have better outcomes than regional and statistical neighbours, and are better than or equal to national averages for looked after young people<sup>12</sup>. This suggests that whilst there remains a large gap in outcomes for looked after young people nationally, Cambridgeshire's looked after population achieve better outcomes than our comparators.
- 16.4 As at 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 five of Cambridgeshire's Looked after children were not on a school roll, with 4 of those 5 being unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, 32 LAC access education via alternative provision, 31 are not accessing education, employment or training (NEET), and 243 of Cambridgeshire's Looked After population access education out of county. This data is taken from the end of term; as such some of these figures are higher than usual data due to the number of young people having moved and are due to start school in September.

	Cambridgeshire Looked After Children (exc. UASC)	UASC
No of LAC not on a School Roll	1	4

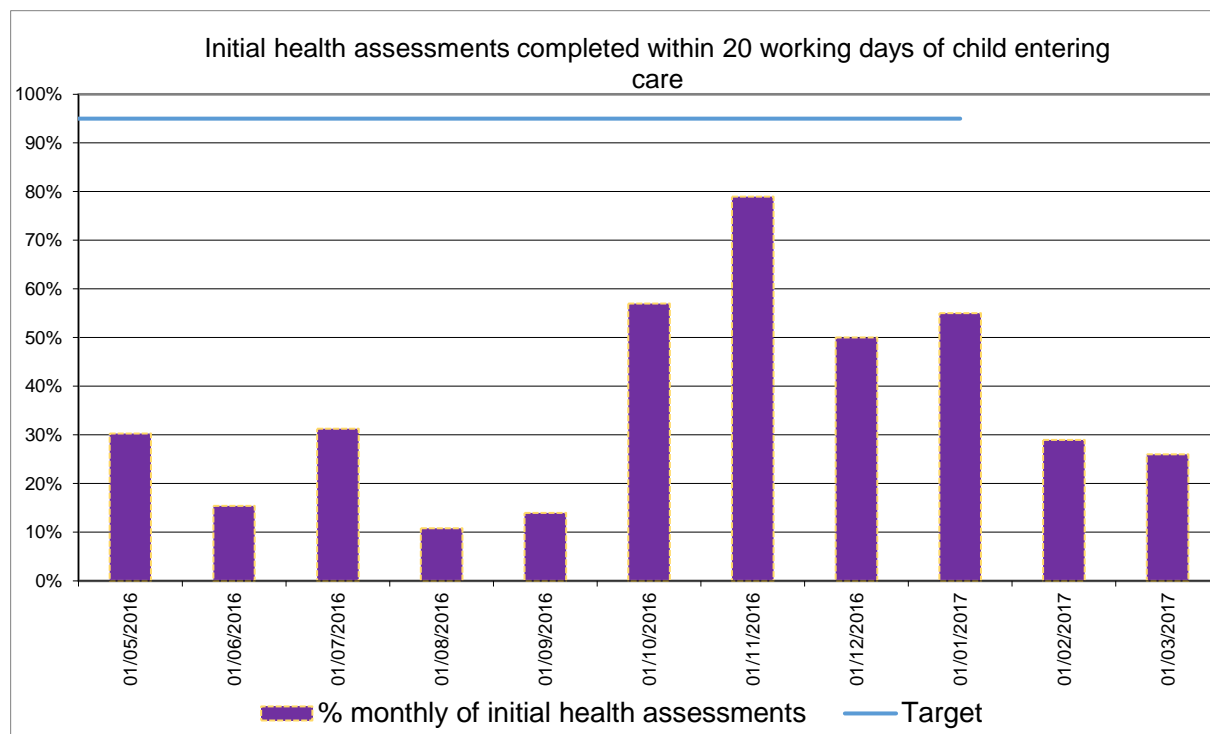
<sup>12</sup> LAIT tool <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

No of Cambs LAC on Alternative Provision	32	2
No of Cambs LAC placed Out Of County	206	37
No of Cambs LAC with SEN / EHC	142	1
No of Cambs LAC who are NEET	24	7

16.5 All Cambridgeshire schools have a designated teacher for looked after children and young people, as per statutory requirements. Cambridgeshire keep records of all designated teaches both in county and for looked after children and young people placed out of county. Cambridgeshire provide a variety of training opportunities for designated teachers.

## 17. Health

17.1 The Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS) LAC Health team works in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure that Cambridgeshire's Looked After children receive health services that are equal to those received by non-looked after children.



17.2 Completion of initial health assessments within 20 working days of the child or young person entering care is far below the target at 20%. These assessments help to determine children's emotional health and wellbeing as well as their physical and dental health. Reasons for delays are::

- Assessment for out of county children needing longer time for completion due to factors within each Locality which are outside of the control of the Cambridgeshire LAC Health Team
- Carers not being able to attend appointments offered
- Appointments not being attended
- Delay in receiving consent from Social Care in a timely manner or consents needed to be sent back to Social Care due to poor quality

- Loss of the coordinator role within the Single Point of Access at Social Care – The above improvement in timescales (October 2016 – January 2017) has been during the time when this coordinator role had been in place. Since the loss of this role, timescales have again worsened.
  - Reasons for delay in organising health assessments for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People are described below in Paragraph 1.8.
- 17.3 Health Outcomes for children are often poor because of neglect of the children's health needs by their birth family and health history is lost due to placement moves while being LAC. Since September 2014, all medical files for children looked after by Cambridgeshire Community Services have been updated. Health colleagues therefore are aware of the full past medical history for all children who are Cambridgeshire's responsibility which is an important step to improve outcomes for this population. Furthermore A quality checklist has been developed and embedded in practice to ensure high quality health assessments for looked after children and young people in Cambridgeshire.
- 17.4 The Cambridgeshire Children's Looked After Health audit for Autumn 2015 identified improvements on the previous year<sup>13</sup>:
- The proportion of young people with an immunisation status provided increased to 68% from 3%.
  - 70% of children and young people had dental checks (up from 31%).
  - 76% of children and young people's eye test status was covered (increased from 45%).
  - 5 children and young people who required a Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire completing did not have it actioned; a reduction from 31 children the previous year.
- 17.5 As in the general population, obesity is also a regular problem for the looked after children. A recent (small) notes review by the LAC Health Team has demonstrated that 12 of the 66 children and young people reviewed (18%) had a Body Mass Index (BMI) above the 91<sup>st</sup> centile. All 12 children and young people showed reduction in obesity levels since coming into care. **Health colleagues together with Social Care are promoting access to Public Health measures for foster carers to better be able to support children with healthy eating and regular physical exercise.**
- 17.6 Emotional Health and Wellbeing is an area of high need for looked after children and young people. Many young people have issues which do not reach the threshold for mental health services. There are regular meetings with the CCG looking at the mental health and emotional wellbeing needs for Cambridgeshire's looked after young people.
- 17.7 The recent Joint CQC & Ofsted Inspection for SEND in Cambridgeshire (March 2017) recognised that Health reviews for looked after children and young people who have special educational needs and / or disabilities provide a comprehensive picture of physical and emotional health needs.
- 17.8 The increased unaccompanied asylum seeking population has increased pressure on LAC Health teams. This cohort of young people present practical challenges to meet health needs in a timely manner; young people do not have NHS numbers and are not recognised by national systems, often translation services are required and this must be coordinated with clinic and transport availability. Many young people need re-assessment of their age by Social Care after referral to the LAC Health Team which again is impacting on timescales. Furthermore unaccompanied asylum seeking young people arrive without a medical history, without evidence of immunisation and protection against blood borne viruses.
- 17.9 An assessment of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, conducted in Kent in 2015, highlighted the need for catch-up immunisation for this cohort of young people. In particularly screening for latent Tuberculosis was identified across approximately 70% of young people (based on their country of origin). Public Health

<sup>13</sup> Autumn 2016 data is not yet available

England has developed a schedule for catch-up immunisations. Developing a process for blood borne virus testing for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people was a priority for CCS LAC Health teams in 2016/17; this service is expected to start, pending clarification of the number of young people still in care, requiring retrospective testing.

- 17.10 Care Leaver Health Passports have been introduced which contain a personal summary of the young person's health history and needs. These are now regularly given out to young people and shared with their GP.

## 18. Youth Offending Service

- 18.1 The Youth Offending Service is multi-disciplinary, working to prevent and reduce offending behaviour amongst young people who are at risk of or have entered the criminal justice system. The service works with young offenders ranging from those who have been arrested and received an out of court disposal, a court community disposal or a custodial sentence. The work focuses on effective assessment, planning, intervention, review and risk management. To divert young people from offending effectively, the service input involves team members whose roles include overall case responsibility, offending behaviour, parenting, substance misuse, psychology, accommodation, victims, restorative justice, diversionary activities, education, training and employment.
- 18.2 Given the wider involvement that the YOS have as part of CCC in terms of corporate parenting, the service works closely alongside others in children's services both in terms of safeguarding and early help. Risk assessment, management and planning are undertaken in conjunction with social workers and other involved professionals and plans are managed jointly to include Looked After Children's reviews and plans.
- 18.3 In 2016/17 there were 459 active YOT programmes for a total of 392 young people. Of the programmes starting in 2016/17, 15% were for currently looked after children whilst a further 9% had been looked after previously.



- 18.4 The number of young people open to both social care and youth offending services has remained a consistent proportion of the looked after population. It is often challenging to find suitable in county placements for these young people.

March 2015 – 24 (4.5%)

March 2016 – 30 (4.9%)

March 2017 – 31 (4.5%)

- 18.5 A significant number of young people worked with by the YOS are from other Local Authorities. In the 2016/17 period Cambridgeshire's YOS team were involved with 21 young people Looked After from other Local Authorities.
- 18.6 There are often issues in relation to placements for Cambridgeshire Looked After young people, often involving issues around bail or remand status where offending has taken place. There are also significant numbers of young people who are placed in Cambridgeshire private sector residential placements from other Local Authorities who are on court orders. Cambridgeshire YOS will also work on a care taking basis with these young

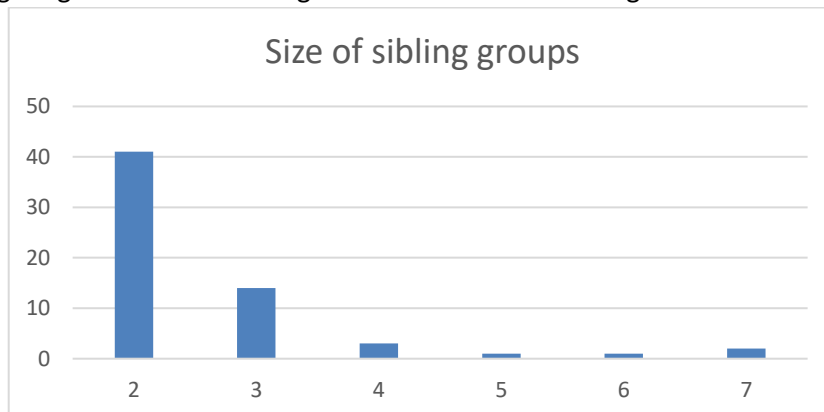
people while they are on court orders and while placed in Cambridgeshire. The home Local Authority and home YOS will always maintain final case responsibility while these young people are looked after.

- 18.7 It is notable that there is a significant number of young people on court orders who are Looked After. There are current concerns about increases in violence, possession of weapons and involvement in drug dealing networks by some young people in Cambridgeshire. This is particularly mirrored by Looked After young people in that they are often more vulnerable to negative influences including gang involvement and often have much less positive family or other support. There is a strong multi-agency focus on these young people both strategically and practically.

## Placement Data 2015 - 2017

### 19. Fostering

- 19.1 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. In the period from April 2016 – March 2017 773 referrals were made, 562 of which were for fostering, and 29 referrals (5% of fostering referrals) of those fostering referrals resulted in either a children's home or supported accommodation placement; 14 of these referrals were for placements needed within 24 hours. Referrals for placements needed within 24 hours can be challenging to appropriately match the young person with their placement, particularly where capacity is low. The 14 emergency placements which were initially fostering requests and resulted in children's home and supported accommodation provisions were primarily for young people who were new into care (9). **Child Protection planning must be robust and action should be taken in a timely manner when safeguarding risks continue, to mitigate this trend and reduce the number of young people becoming looked after in an emergency when they are already known to social care.**
- 19.2 42% of fostering placements (excluding family and friend fostering) are out of county providers (195 of the 461 fostering placements at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were out of County).
- 19.3 Of 62 sibling groups (consisting of 161 children and young people) placed in foster care, 69 groups of placements were made. 60 of these groups were on plan, 9 were not (i.e. the plan for the sibling group was to place the group together). Over 50% (40) of the sibling groups placed were with IFA foster carers, 25 of these sibling groups were placed together according to the plan for the children and young people. Cambridgeshire do not anticipate targeting recruitment strategies for its in house fostering service to meet this need.

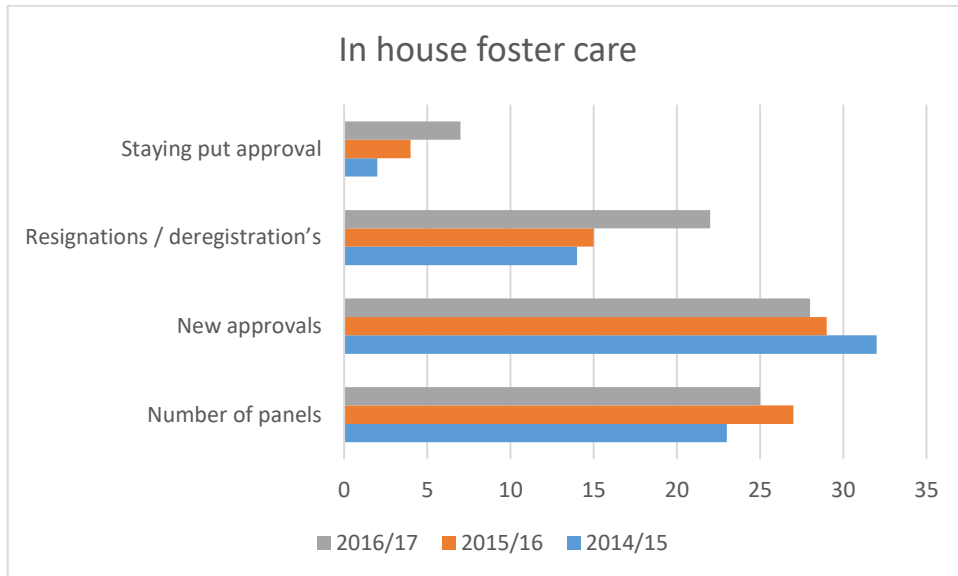


- 19.4 The average age of the placements made to Cambridgeshire's in house fostering service in the 2016/17 period was 6 years. 40% of the placements made to in house fostering were for children under 1 years old; this age group make up 5% of Cambridgeshire's overall looked after population at March 2017. Conversely, just 29% of the placements made to in house fostering were for young people aged 10+. 414 referrals were made for fostering in the 2016/17 period; 201 of those were for children and young people aged 10 + (49%), demonstrating that **recruitment strategies for foster carers should be directed more towards the provision of placements for this cohort of young people.**
- 19.5 Cambridgeshire is part of the regionally commissioned rolling select list for foster care provision (ER4). Currently Cambridgeshire have 51 providers on this contract. 57% of fostering placements (excluding family and friend) are made to independent foster care agencies (289 of 461 placements at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017). This framework



currently expires in March 2018, with the option for a further extension to December 2018. Cambridgeshire are currently reviewing this extension option, and will be putting forward an options appraisal for approval shortly.

- 19.6 Whilst Cambridgeshire has continued to grow its in house fostering service, the number of carers retiring or deregistering has also increased. Cambridgeshire's in house fostering service (at March 2017) had 125 households approved for fostering (growth of 15% from the previous year<sup>14</sup>), providing 252 beds.



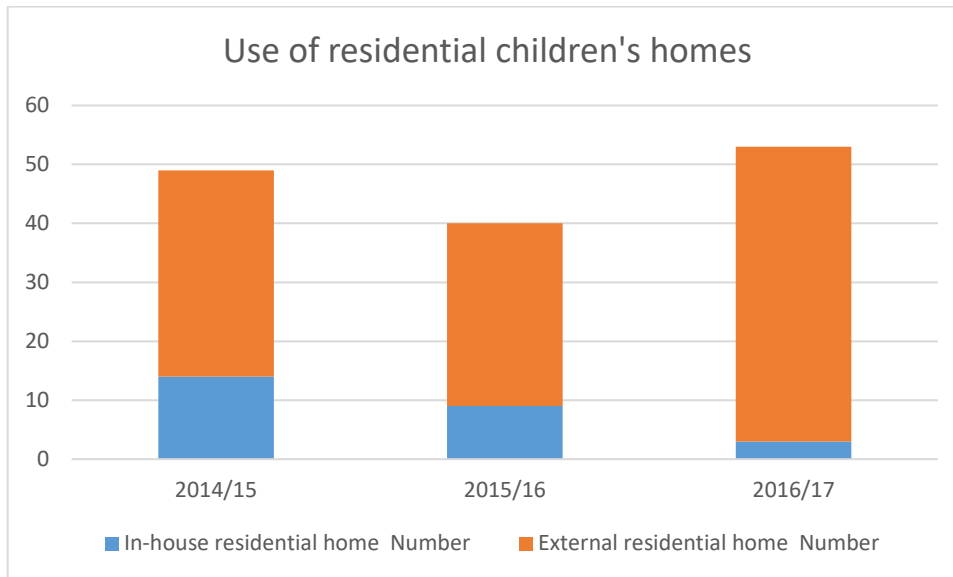
- 19.7 The in house fostering service also provides supported lodgings placements for young people. Currently the service has 5 households registered to deliver supported lodgings placements. **There is a focus to grow this service to meet the needs of young people over the age of 16 years who require supported living. Cambridgeshire's identified need for increased fostering capacity is particularly prevalent for in county provisions, sibling placements and placements for older children (13+). Cambridgeshire is committed to developing its in house service.**
- 19.8 There are 49 children who receive short breaks via the LINK Family service in 22 households. There are 4.5 retained carers who provide a short break placement for children up to 208 nights per year and carers who offer specific number of days. The service is popular and there are currently (August 2017) eleven children waiting for placements, with specific specialist needs and they are being carefully matched.
- 19.9 Cambridgeshire are keen to continue to develop the LINK Family Service, and in particular is looking to meet demand for children and young people who require two carers. The LINK service work closely with colleagues in the SEND 0 – 25 Service to identify those children and young people who require the service or may do so in future. This continued development of the service includes considering maintenance to carer properties to enable the continued support of children as they grow up and considering a shared property within the community for use by carers to provide care and support to children with the most complex of needs providing support to some of the younger and more active children and young people who need a safe a structured environment).

## 20. Residential Children's Homes

- 20.1 Cambridgeshire's use of external residential homes has increased significantly over the previous year, with 94% (50 of 53) of residential placements being made to external provisions. This is due to the closure of an in house

<sup>14</sup> At June 2016 109 households were registered to provide 222 beds with our in house fostering service.

provision, coupled with an increase in need. Despite the increased use of external children's homes, Cambridgeshire's overall use of residential provision remains far below the national average. Since March 2015 the proportion of Cambridgeshire Looked After Children placed in residential children's homes has fallen from 9.2% (49 placements) to 7.7% (53 placements); compare to a national average of 12%.

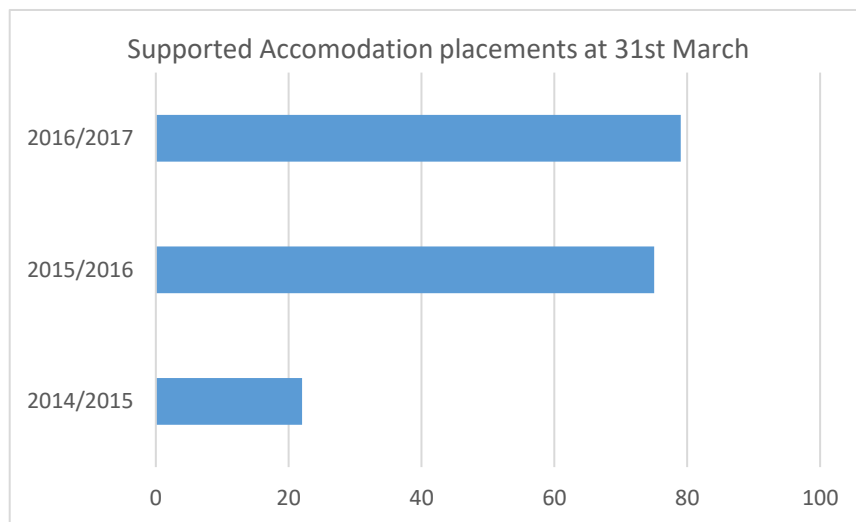


- 20.2 19 of the 53 young people in Children's residential homes (at March 2017) access education provisions within the residential home too. These provisions range from linked schools on site with children's homes, residential schools registered as children's homes also, and children's homes with outreach tutoring and education services. **There is a need to review these placements where young people are accessing education provisions as part of their care, to ensure that these young people are accessing the most suitable placement;** fostering placements are likely to be suitable for these young people.
- 20.3 Some of Cambridgeshire's Residential placements are joint funded across Health and/ or education. 13 young people have joint funded placements, with the CCG funding the health element of 5 placements, education budgets part funding 7 placements, and 4 placements a part of a joint funded 'block' arrangement for shared care and short break services (see section 22).
- 20.4 Cambridgeshire's low use of residential provision demonstrates a reduced need for this provision, particularly in county. **It is proposed that going forward use of residential placements is targeted towards children and young people requiring specialist provisions;** because of the need for specialist provision, Cambridgeshire does not expect that these provisions will be in county necessarily, and resolve to identifying the right placement for young people at the right time; geography will not be a barrier to this.
- 20.5 The majority of young people in children's home placements are aged between 11 and 15. Historically, where a young person's needs have reduced, or their independence has increased, the Council would work towards moving young people from residential to supported accommodation (with varying levels of support) at the end of their GCSEs following their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, with a view of progressing their move to independence. More recently there has been a national move towards allowing young people to stay in residential care post 16 if they are doing well and choose to stay; Cambridgeshire supports this approach.

- 20.6 Cambridgeshire currently has one in house children's home, (registered for occupancy levels of 6, including a PACE bed [the Police and Criminal Evidence Act<sup>15</sup> prescribes a duty for Local Authorities to provide accommodation for young people when they are moved from Police Custody to Local Authority accommodation]) and a Framework agreement for the provision of Children's home services. Cambridgeshire's Framework began in January 2015 for a period of 2 years, with the option to extend for a further 12 months, and initially had 21 providers, though not all providers have agreed to the extension. The Framework was not successful in developing and increasing in county provision; just 5 of the 21 providers had 1 or more children's home in county.
- 20.7 The Framework expires in December 2017; work is currently underway to explore options and opportunities for a replacement arrangement.

## 21. Supported Accommodation

Supported accommodation referrals made across a 12 month period				
	Total	Referral for UASC	Emergency referrals	Resulted in Supported Accommodation placement
2014/2015	100	21	42	58
2015/2016	154	71	106	105
2016/2017	156	50	68	111



- 21.1 2015/16 saw a sudden increase in the number of supported accommodation placements requests and used. This is likely linked to the significant increase in the number of 16 and 17 year olds who were looked after in the same period. The number of Looked After Children and young people placed in supported accommodation provisions at March 2016 was a 350% increase on the previous year. The placement composition for 2017

<sup>15</sup> Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 38(6)

demonstrates that this sudden increase has since stabilised (as has the population of 16 & 17 year old young people).

## 22. Short Breaks & Shared Care

- 22.1 Cambridgeshire's Short Breaks Duty Statement can be found [here](#)<sup>16</sup>, this is still relevant but is currently being updated. Since April 2011 all Local Authorities have been required by statute to meet their short breaks duty, providing short breaks for disabled children and young people.
- 22.2 Services provided through the short breaks duty includes:
- Group based support –
    - Holiday schemes
    - After school clubs
    - Sports groups
  - Individual short breaks
    - Care in the home
    - Community child minders
    - Support from complex health & palliative care teams
  - Overnight breaks
    - Family LINK carers
    - Overnight night provision in specialist residential homes
    - Occasional or one off activity breaks.
- 22.3 Cambridgeshire's Short Breaks and Shared Care Residential provision is currently provided by Action For Children. This contract commenced in October 2015 for an initial period of 4 years, with the option to extend for 2 further 24 month periods. This service is currently being reviewed, in line with Cambridgeshire's commissioning governance, to inform any future commissioning intentions.

## 23. Placement stability

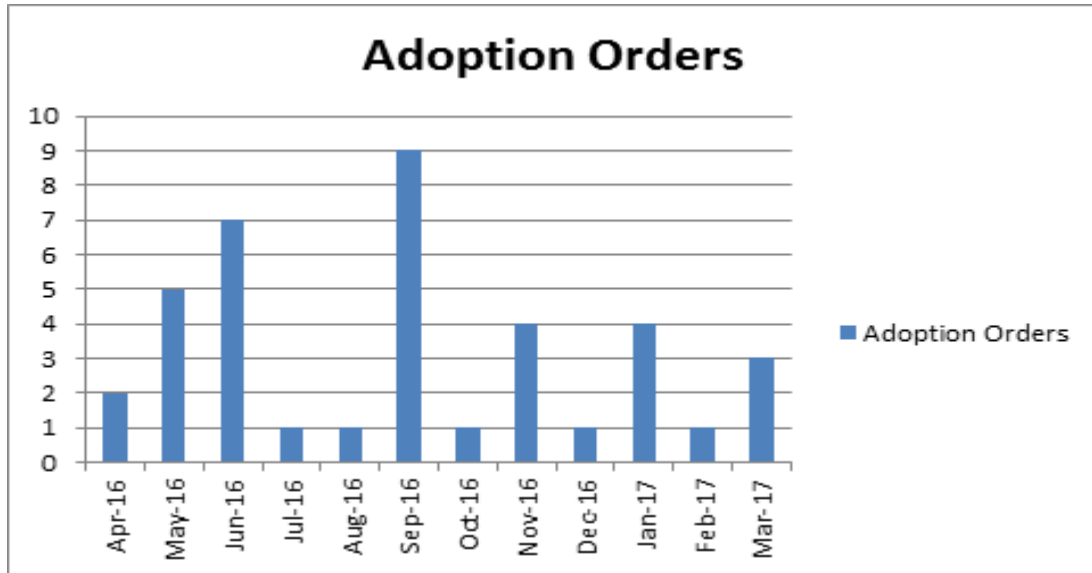
- 23.1 Within the 2016/17 period 79 children had experienced 3 or more placement moves; this equates to 11.7% of Cambridgeshire's looked after children population. Whilst comparable figures for this period are not yet available, the previous year saw 10% of looked after children in Cambridgeshire have 3 or more placement moves compared to an average of 9.7% for our statistical neighbours.
- 23.2 The number of looked after children and young people with 3 or more placement moves within a 12 month period is relatively stable;
- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | 58 (10.8% of Looked after population) |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 | 75 (12.3% of Looked after population) |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | 79 (11.7% of Looked after population) |
- 23.3 41% of looked after children with 3 or more placement moves (in the 2016/17 period) were aged 16 and 17.
- 23.4 In 2015/16 an average of 60% of Cambridgeshire's Looked after children achieved placement stability (having been in the same placement for 2.5 years or more). This has since increased to an average 69% across the 2016/17 period, with the national target being 70%. Analysis suggests that this improvement is as a result of improved matching processes and support mechanisms for children and carers.

<sup>16</sup> [http://www5.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20136/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities\\_local\\_offer/527/disabled\\_childrens\\_social\\_care/4](http://www5.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20136/special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_local_offer/527/disabled_childrens_social_care/4)

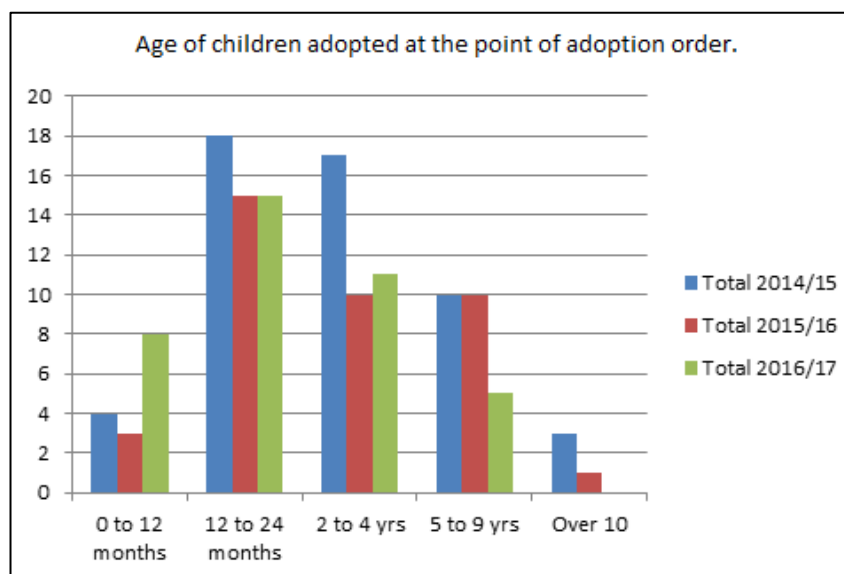
## 24. Adoption

24.1 Cambridgeshire's Adoption service is provided by CORAM Cambridgeshire Adoption.

24.2 39 children were granted adoption orders during the 2016/17 year; an increase of 1 on the previous year. 11 of these children had been placed via early permanence (where a child is placed with adopters, who are also approved foster carers, initially the placement is one of fostering, but can progress to adoption once court proceedings are concluded).



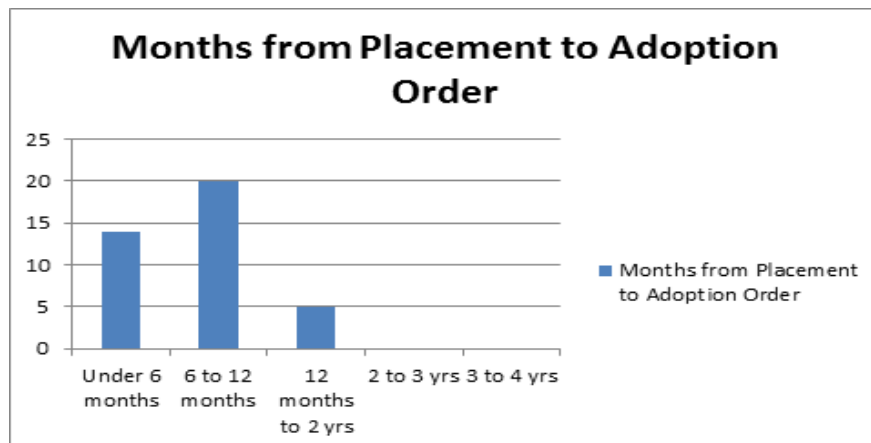
24.3 The oldest child in this cohort adopted was 9 years 6 months at the time that the order was made the youngest was 7 months.



24.4 12 of the children adopted were part of a sibling group (and all were placed as part of sibling groups of two).

24.5 In the 2016/17 year Cambridgeshire children adopted waited an average of 277 days between entering care and moving in with their adoptive families and 104 days between their placement order being made and being matched with their adoptive families. 92% of children move into their adoptive families within 14 months of

becoming looked after and 100% were placed within 12 months of their Adoption Decision Making (ADM) decision.



- 24.6 The Scorecard was introduced by the Department for Education in 2010, to address the delays in the adoption system. This indicator is based on a local authority's average performance over a 3 year period. This performance is based on timescales for children adopted in the reporting period. These timescales are subject to decreasing thresholds year on year.

Scorecard data for:	Indicator 1 timescales	Indicator 2 timescales
2010 to 2013	20 months	6 months
2011 to 2014	18 months	5 months
2012 to 2015	16 months	4 months
2013 to 2016	14 months	4 months

- 24.7 Whilst the threshold for the 3 year average timescales for indicator A1 was missed, children who had been adopted, entering care and moving into their adoptive family was 482 days, by 2 days over the threshold. However Cambridgeshire's performance was provisionally ranked 11<sup>th</sup> nationally. This suggests that other LA's had also struggled to meet the threshold for this indicator. This timescale is most susceptible to impacted from delays within the system including court timescales.
- 24.8 For indicator A2, the 3 years average time between children who had been adopted receiving a placement order and being matched with their adoptive family was 120 days and was within the threshold. Cambridgeshire is provisionally ranked 6<sup>th</sup> nationally.
- 24.9 141 cases were open to Family Finding at the end of March 2017, with a total of 183 new children referred during the 2016/17 year. The cases open to the family finding units include includes 17 children with PO's active family finding is progressing for them. The Family Finding team have reported an increase in the number of large sibling group sand children who have experienced significant trauma and abuse whilst in their birth families care. Similarly challenges remain in identifying placements for children with autism.

## 25. Care Leavers

25.1 A care leaver is defined as a relevant or former relevant child whose 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday fell within the collection year. A relevant child is defined under the Children Act<sup>17</sup> as:

- A young person aged 16 or 17
- Who is no longer looked after
- Before ceasing to be looked after, was an 'eligible child'

Or

- A young person aged 16 or 17
- Not subject to a care order
- Detained, or in hospital on their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Immediately before being detained or admitted to hospital had been looked after for at least 13 weeks which began after they reached age 14.

Former relevant children are defined under Section 23C (1) of the Children Act 1989. A former relevant child is one who is:

- Aged 18 or above,

AND EITHER

- has been a relevant child and would be one if he were under 18,

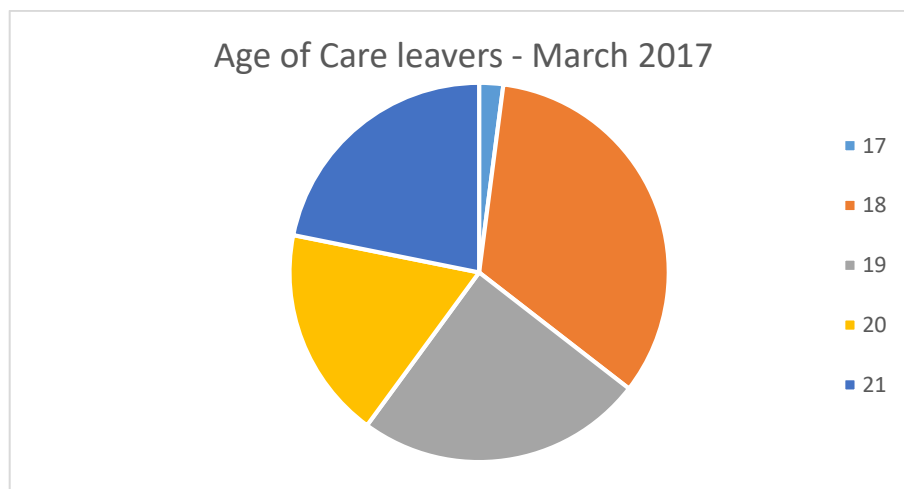
OR

- Immediately before he ceased to be looked after at age 18, was an eligible child.

An eligible child is:

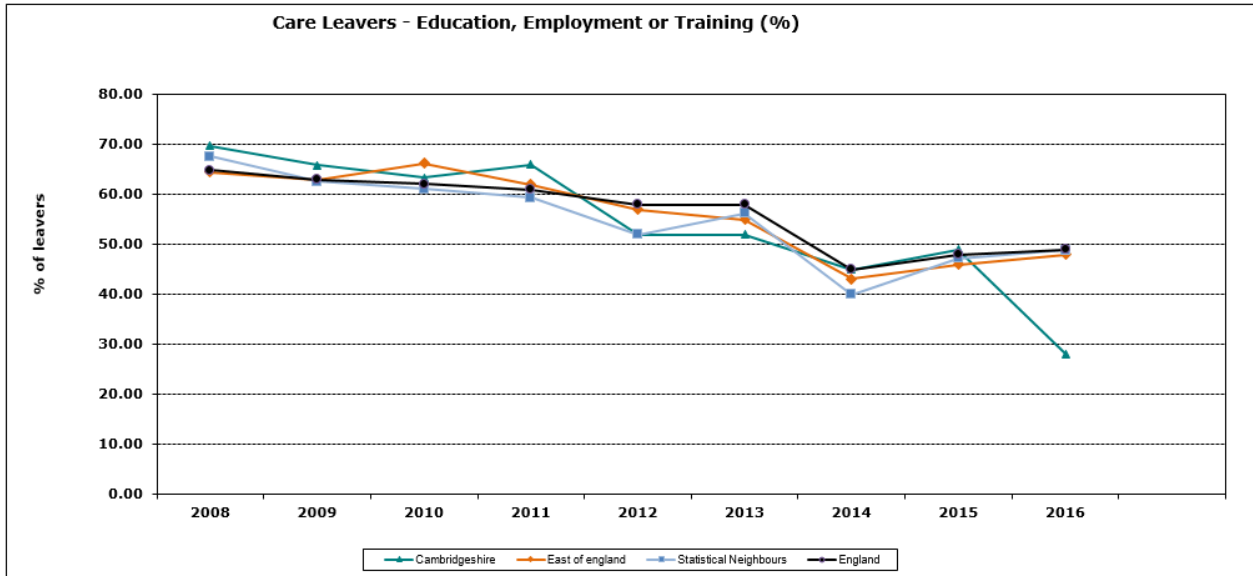
- A young person aged 16 or 17
- Who is looked after, and
- Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks which began after they reached the age of 14, and
- Ended after they reached the age of 16.

25.2 At March 2017 Cambridgeshire's cohort of care leavers consisted of 293 young people aged 17 – 21.



<sup>17</sup> Section 23a(2) of the Children Act 1989

25.3 Key Performance Indicator data at March 2017 suggests that 54% of Cambridgeshire's Care Leavers aged 17 – 21 are in employment, education or training (EET), and 46% are not in employment, education or training (NEET). This data is comparable nationally, and considers the EET / NEET status of a young person at the point of their birthday in the reporting period.



This demonstrates an improvement on previous years' EET status, and an improvement against both regional and national comparators<sup>18</sup>.

25.4 Performance data at the end of March 2017 (a snapshot of the EET / NEET status of all care leavers aged 17 – 21 at the 31<sup>st</sup> March) demonstrates an improved proportion of 61.5% of care leavers in employment, education or training.

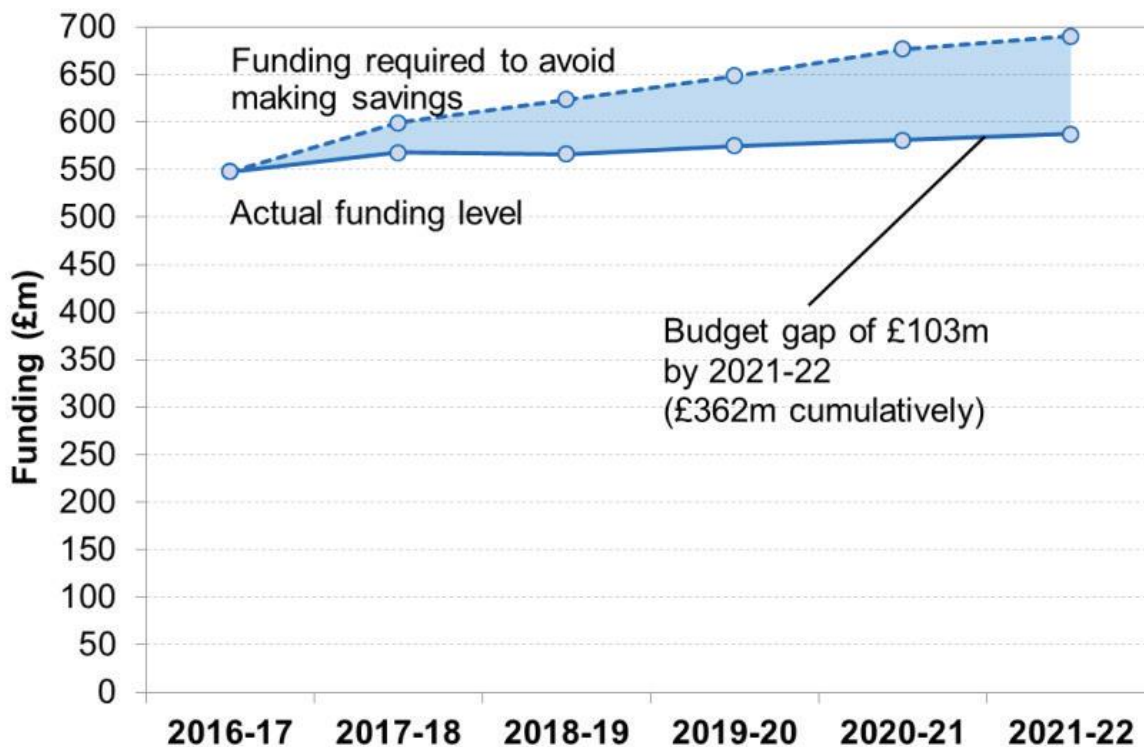
<sup>18</sup> Based on 2016 data. Comparable data for 2017 has yet to be released.



## Placement financial comparison

### 26. Managing general cost pressures

26.1 Cambridgeshire County Council faces significant financial challenges, with public spending cuts and increased demand for services. In order to meet statutory requirements to submit a balanced budget, Cambridgeshire is tasked with achieving £103m in savings across the period 2016 – 2021.

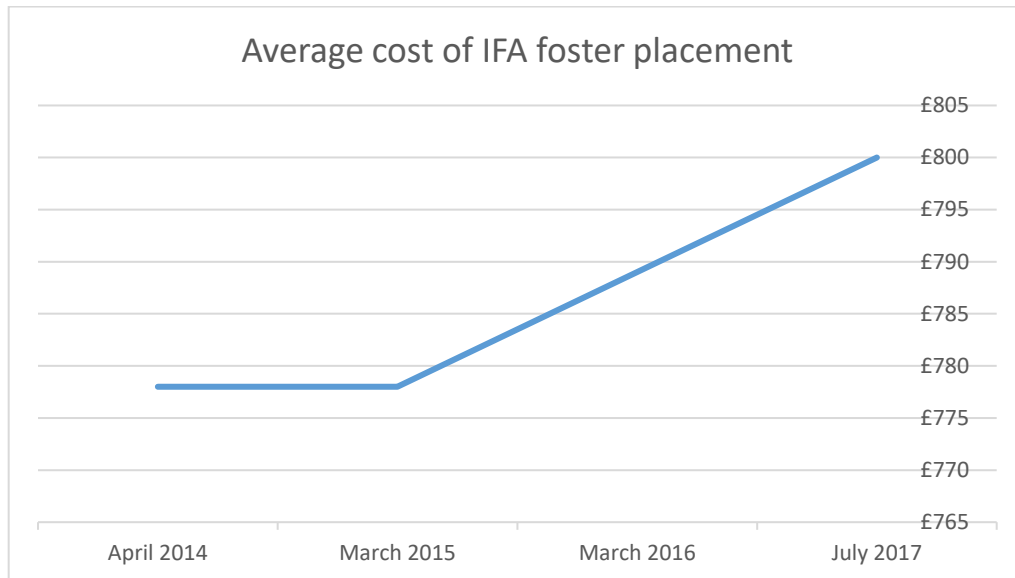


26.2 The Placement Budget for 2017/18 is £23,379,000. This cost includes:

- In house fostering placements
- External fostering placements (IFA)
- In house residential children's homes
- External children's homes (including specialist residential homes for children with disabilities).
- Social care funded 52 week residential school placements for children with disabilities
- Placed for adoption
- Supported Accommodation

26.3 This does not include the placement costs for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people; this is kept separate for Home Office Funding purposes.

- 26.4 Over recent years Cambridgeshire has consistently spent approximately £16.5 million on external 'purchase' placements (i.e. fostering, children's homes, supported accommodation), despite an increased number of placements to fund; this was an average 315 placements in 2015/16 and an average 322 in 2016/17. Current forecasting suggests that funding for external placements will total £14.9m this financial year.
- 26.5 Cambridgeshire's spend per looked after child<sup>19</sup> decreased in 2016/17 to £41,236 (from £44,309 in the previous period). Currently we are forecasting spend of £41,461 per looked after young person for the current period.
- 26.6 The average cost paid by Cambridgeshire for external fostering placements has increased recently to £800 per week, from £778 in April 2014. Recent comparable data demonstrates that Cambridgeshire's average of £776 per week for the 2015/16 period is far below that of the national average for the same period (£858 per week).



- 26.7 Cambridgeshire have adopted the following mechanism in order to meet savings targets and enable continued delivery across People & Communities' (previously Children, Families & Adults) services<sup>20</sup>:
- **Demand Management:** Prioritising commissioning of preventative and early intervention services which will prevent service users from needing to access services in the first place, or delay the point at which the service becomes more urgent.
  - **Market Development:** Develop the market for the provision of care and support with our partners to ensure diversity, capacity, and best value so that outcomes can be delivered sustainably for our citizens.
  - **Optimise Services:** Transforming services and identifying solutions to issues that are based on evidence that they work – this must demonstrate that we are meeting needs in the most cost effective way.
  - **Collaborative commissioning:** Jointly commissioning services with partners where there are economies of scale and/or improved outcomes for our citizens
  - **Return on Investment:** Commission and invest on the basis of a transformed service that also reduces costs over the whole life of an individual

<sup>19</sup> Average cost per LAC is based on the total placement cost, excluding staff costs & overheads divided by the yearly average number of LAC

<sup>20</sup> <https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance-and-budget/Section%203A%20-%20CFA%20Finance%20Tables%202017.pdf?inline=true> page 1

## 27. Emerging Trends

27.1 The following emerging trends have been identified as areas that will have an impact on Cambridgeshire and council services.

- Residential Placements (Section 28)
- Lack of capacity and resilient placements (Section 29)
- Placements in other local authorities (Section 30)
- Complex needs and challenging behaviours (Section 31)
- Children with disabilities (Section 32)

## 28. Residential placements

28.1 Whilst Cambridgeshire's use of Residential placements is lower than national averages, usage has increase over recent years. This is in part because of a lack of suitable fostering provisions (particularly emergency fostering placements), rather than the plan for a young person. Anecdotal evidence suggests that lack of capacity particularly in emergencies is a national trend and not a challenge solely faced by Cambridgeshire. Other Local Authorities have explored more creative approaches to commissioning children's residential provisions, including the Thames Valley cross regional model, and the North Yorkshire No Wrong Door model.

28.2 Cambridgeshire are implementing The Hub, based on the North Yorkshire No Wrong Door model, and are currently exploring commissioning options for external residential provision. It is expected that The Hub will reduce the number of young people requiring residential placements (North Yorkshire saw a 63% reduction in the number of residential beds used<sup>21</sup>, though it is of note that whilst Cambridgeshire expect to see a reduction, we are not working to the same targets as our counterparts).

## 29. Lack of capacity and resilient placements

29.1 Lack of capacity is a trend across all placement types, however particular focus is given to the need for fostering placements for sibling groups, emergency placements and placements for older young people aged 13+ (particularly those young people with complex needs and involvement with the youth offending service).

29.2 Lack of capacity within the fostering sector has impacted on other provisions of accommodation for looked after children; residential provisions are used where fostering placements are required (particularly in emergencies) and are unavailable, and in turn the residential sector is unable to meet demand.

29.3 The increased cohort of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people has affected the capacity for 16+ placements (i.e. supported accommodation and benefit sustainable provisions). This sector should be reviewed strategically to consider capacity and funding options to ensure sustainable provision for older looked after young people and care leavers.

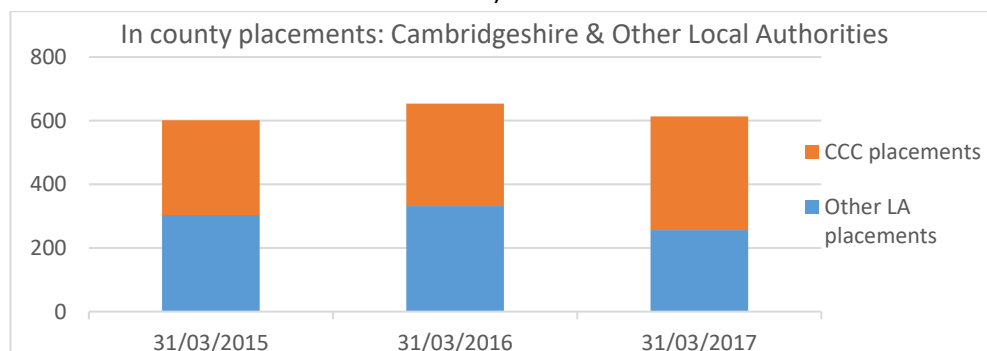
29.4 41% of young people experiencing 3 or more placement moves are aged 16 or 17. This trend matches anecdotal reports of young people 'moving around' supported accommodation and housing benefit sustainable provisions. This may be the result of insufficient funding, inappropriate placement options or inappropriate expectations of placements. Cambridgeshire has a particular need to commission a range of resilient placement options for young people aged 16+. Similarly Cambridgeshire has a need to develop a prevention service to prevent young

<sup>21</sup> No Wrong Door Stakeholder presentation

people from coming into care, and to link with colleagues in Housing teams across the districts to develop housing options.

### 30. Placements in other local authorities

- 30.1 47% of Cambridgeshire looked after children are placed in out of county placements. 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.
- 30.2 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 are also exploring opportunities for the utilisation of Local Authority owned property (and using Local Authority links to access property from housing association providers) to develop in county supported accommodation provision.
- 30.3 Cambridgeshire's move towards a shared Commissioning Directorate will provide opportunities for shared commissioning across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This will help to meet the health needs of children and young people placed in Peterborough.
- 30.4 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.
- 30.5 The number of young people placed in Cambridgeshire by other Local Authorities has fallen to 256 at March 2017 (from 332 the previous year). The number of Cambridgeshire, in county placements has not increased by the same amount, suggesting either a decrease in capacity across the county, or increased number of vacancies within Cambridgeshire. This needs exploring further, with a particular focus on in county children's homes (a large percentage of these homes are not on our Frameworks).



- 30.6 There are 19 children's homes within Cambridgeshire (18 of which are independent of the Council and operated by external providers<sup>22</sup>), including 3 registered homes providing short breaks and shared care for disabled children and young people. 58% of these homes are in the Fenland district; this has impacted on local services in the area (including local schools and increased pressure on police services) and led to areas of increased risk of exploitation due to the concentrated number of homes. There is a clear need to develop children's home provisions across the county, not in the Fenland area.

<sup>22</sup> Some of which are commissioned by the Council, both via Frameworks and Service contracts to provide care, support and accommodation to Cambridgeshire children and young people.

30.7 See appendix 4 for density map of Cambridgeshire placements across the UK.

## 31. Complex needs and challenging behaviours

- 31.1 Complex needs and behaviours such as youth offending, mental health needs and risk of exploitation represent components of the more challenging behaviours attributed to the current cohort of some of Cambridgeshire's looked after young people.
- 31.2 This increase in challenging behaviours has contributed to the increase in placement breakdowns and increased proportion of emergency placements.
- 31.3 Sir Martin Narey's report on residential care in England included a review of the criminalisation of children in care, concluding that 'children in homes, and children in care generally, are still significantly more likely – by a factor of six - to be subject to criminal proceedings than other children'<sup>23</sup>. Having consideration to these statistics, the continued trend for 5% of Cambridgeshire's looked after children to have involvement with the youth offending service remains an area for improvement.
- 31.4 Cambridgeshire anticipate that the introduction of The Hub (based on the No Wrong Door model) will effect a reduction in the number of arrests made by police, and the number of charges<sup>24</sup>, and in turn will positively impact on the criminalisation of looked after young people and the involvement of the youth offending service.

## 32. Children with disabilities

- 32.1 It is an emerging trend that Cambridgeshire's current short break and shared care and education offer isn't effective at meeting the increased population of Children and young people with complex & challenging behaviour and mental health needs. This has resulted in a continued use of out of county residential special schools. There is a significant lack of in county independent special schools to meet the needs of this cohort of young people.
- 32.2 Cambridgeshire's Link Carer offer (foster carers providing respite services for children and young people with a disability) works to reduce the need for an escalation of resource for children and young people. Currently there are 49 Cambridgeshire young people accessing short breaks via Family Link Carers. Children and young people who are being referred for these services have more complex needs including children who need a high level of physical care and there is a need for some carers to have adaptations to their home to manage their care. A fuller analysis of the children's need and age group is being undertaken to inform future recruitment needs and planning.

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/534560/Residential-Care-in-England-Sir-Martin-Narey-July-2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/534560/Residential-Care-in-England-Sir-Martin-Narey-July-2016.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> North Yorkshire saw a reduction of 38% & 52% in the number of arrests and charges respectively in the first 18 months of the model.  
No Wrong Door Stakeholder presentation

## Priorities

Cambridgeshire has developed priorities to enable the challenges identified through this document to be met. These priorities will inform and link with service plans and commissioning intentions across People and Communities.

### 33. Priority One: Deliver high quality, effective assessments and purposeful interventions with children, young people and families.

#### Objectives:

- Feedback is routinely and consistently sought from children and families; districts can demonstrate that their feedback has influenced the way we work with families
- All families receive a high quality, timely and outcome focused systemic assessment
- Families are supported to make positive and sustained change and the workforce is able to deliver successful interventions to families
- Families are supported by the right part of the service within districts and experience seamless transitions in response to differing levels of need.
- Child protection planning is robust and action taken in a timely manner when safeguarding risks continue.
- A workforce that operates displaying respect and dignity at all times.
- Mosaic system is ready for implementation.

#### How we will meet objectives:

Cambridgeshire is dedicated to the development of measurement tools and mechanisms for the collection and qualitative and quantitative evaluation of feedback. Feedback will be used to shape the services delivered and capture themes.

Training will be developed to support the delivery of and improved understanding, and competence / confidence in producing 'high quality assessments'. Assessments to inform timely and robust decision making regarding care planning for children in care or where there is a risk of family breakdown.

Targeted group work and evidenced based parenting programmes will be made available across all districts as part of a consistent offer. District teams will link with internal community development services to promote opportunities to build resilience in the universal sector.

Thrive model to be developed to support the delivery of the right service at the right time. Emotional Health & Wellbeing lead workers to be introduced across the Districts.

Cambridgeshire is dedicated to continuously improving:

- The timeliness and quality of statutory visits; an audit of visits will be reported into performance boards on a quarterly basis.
- Timely completion of S. 47 investigations, demonstrating effective risk assessment
- Multi-agency strategy discussions,

- Court practice, and
- Permanency practice

Children who have been subject to child protection plans for more than 9 months will have their plans considered within a legal planning meeting.

Cambridgeshire are dedicated to developing a 'can do' culture, which is evidenced in feedback across families and professionals. Professionals will develop and demonstrate a cultural competence enabling them to respond effectively to diverse needs.

Cambridgeshire are investing in the MOSAIC system. This is an IT system which will operate across Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care and other Children's Services. It is expected that MOSAIC will improve customer service, improve collaboration and support strong and consistent frontline practice.

The clinical team currently lead on a pilot project to reduce the number of children with challenging behaviour and learning disabilities who are placed out of county in residential schools. The project commenced in April 2017 and will conclude in April 2019. The model of intervention is Positive Behaviour Support. The overarching aims are to identify how we can replicate the success of similar projects in other areas and impact on local systems to provide a more robust, joined up, effective service for children and families.

Preventative work targeted at keeping young people aged 16+ at home is needed.

Cambridgeshire is currently reviewing the '16+ offer' for supported accommodation and housing benefit sustainable housing for this cohort of young people. This review includes consideration for preventative work. Furthermore it is anticipated that The Hub will include provision targeted at this cohort of young people, and providing family support services with the view of enabling young people to stay living at home.

#### Barriers/issues

- Partnership working required across organisations within the universal sector to enable the development of services.
- Culture change is often a slow process

## 34. Priority two: Increased development of in house fostering service

#### Objectives:

- Increase number of local in house foster carers providing good quality foster care placements to a range of young people, including targeted recruitment of carers for sibling groups and older young people (i.e. 11yrs +) with complex and challenging behaviours.



- **Increasing training and development of carers to reduce placement breakdowns.**
- **Develop support to foster carers**

#### **How we will meet objectives:**

Carer recruitment is ongoing, and marketing objectives for the 2017/18 period include further development of Information Sessions, and work to develop this presence in communities where there is a shortage of carers. Cambridgeshire will also look to develop the fostering offer in collaboration with neighbouring authorities; this should include a recruitment strategy which links with Peterborough's recruitment of foster carers.

Cambridgeshire's fostering recruitment strategy is targeted towards carers who will provide resilient placements for children with complex behaviours, sibling groups and young people aged 13 +. Similarly, Cambridgeshire's Fostering Service is working to develop the supported lodgings offer for young people aged 16 +, who require semi-independent living. This offer will support the lack of capacity across the Supported Accommodation sector.

Cambridgeshire are developing an 'emergency foster care' offer, initially to be operated within the in house fostering service. High care skills level carers will be 'on call' to accept emergency placements for a short term period, allowing for placements to be made (and matched) in a planned way.

The continued development of Cambridgeshire's Link fostering service aims to prevent, where possible family breakdown and the breakdown of fostering placements as well as the progression into child protection and looked after status.

The clinical team has developed and delivered a programme of foster carer training based on best practice evidence to equip carers to meet the needs of children and young people in care, who may have complex relational and mental health difficulties. Clinical support and the development of systemic thinking in the fostering service is essential in enabling carer resilience and in delivering positive outcomes for children.

#### **Barriers / issues**

- Recent recruitment of new carers has brought new challenges to the fostering service – a third of new recruits (2016/17) are new to fostering and have required high levels of support during their placements and throughout their first year of fostering.
- Cambridgeshire does not actively undertake marketing activity to recruit IFA foster carers. However, carers do sometimes choose to leave IFA's and register with the Local Authority's service. Carers transferring to our in house service from external agencies does not necessarily immediately increase capacity of foster care.



## 35. Priority three: Placement stability and range of high quality placement provision

### Objectives:

- Ensure that looked after children and young people have good quality foster care placements close to home by increasing the number of local foster care placements to meet a range of needs.
- Increase the number of children in care who achieve permanence through adoption, special guardianship orders or placement with family and friends.
- Develop a wider range of placements at lower cost and high quality.
- Ensure suitable placements are available to support young people with additional needs.
- Develop in county, high quality supported accommodation placements.
- Improve the support to placements in order to avoid disruption and breakdown.
- Increased proportion of Looked After Children to have a clear permanence plan in place within 4 months.
- Ensure care plans are up to date
- Ensure a range of high quality and resilient placement options for children and young people with disabilities.

### How we will meet objectives:

Cambridgeshire are committed to ensuring that positive family relationships are enabled and preserved. Early viability assessments are undertaken and family network meetings are held for all children at key points in their journey.

Cambridgeshire will work with families to develop their understanding of what we do, and the role that they will play. Care plans, CIN and Child Protection plans will be developed to include family roles and long term planning.

Where possible, Cambridgeshire are committed to successful reunification; systemic family work, consultation and unit working to enable children to safely live with their birth families or return home from care.

Education has a key role in developing resilient placements and permanence. Children and young people's views on school, and its role in their lives will be collected and incorporated into plans for permanence. Similarly, the Virtual School and the child's school's views will be considered at the earliest stage when planning for permanence of with any changes to placement plans.

Cambridgeshire intends to develop and improve its offer of work experience, internships and apprenticeships, with a view of looked after children and care leavers having a priority to these opportunities.

Cambridgeshire are dedicated to ensuring that young people are free from their own and others' offending behaviour and exploitation. Safety plans actively consider the risk of offending and all

forms of exploitation for young people over the age of 12. Restorative practice models are implemented in settings for looked after children.

Cambridgeshire aim to ensure children and young people have a sense of belonging. We will endeavour to maintain local connections for young people, particularly when placed out of county, and aim to ensure that all young people are supported to create and improve upon their talents and interests.

The clinical team works to support the development of good quality, stable placements for looked after children. Supervision groups and individual consultation sessions are available to supervising social workers. This is coherent with the concepts covered in foster carer training, offering further opportunities to ensure the clinical offer impacts on the quality of care experienced by children and young people. A programme of foster carer training based on best practice has been developed to equip carers to meet the needs of looked after children and young people with complex relational and mental health difficulties.

High quality services and provisions will be implemented, including The Hub (No Wrong Door model), and increase in house service (with particular focus on fostering and supported lodgings provisions). Cambridgeshire are exploring opportunities to develop in county supported accommodation provisions using Local Authority owned properties, both as part of The Hub, and with contracted providers.

Cambridgeshire are committed to supporting providers to improve placement stability.

Cambridgeshire's Short Breaks, Shared Care and SEND services will be reviewed with the view of ensuring a varied range of services and provisions for children and young people with disabilities, enabling young people to remain at home for as long as possible as much as possible whenever it is safe to do so, to encourage in county provisions and to be better able to provide step-down provisions for children and young people, as well as escalations in resource.

#### **Barriers / Issues**

- Recent recruitment of new carers has brought new challenges to the fostering service – a third of new recruits (2016/17) are new to fostering and have required high levels of support during their placements and throughout their first year of fostering.
- Additional resources would be required within the Kinship team to enable early viability assessments.
- Changes of social worker has had some impact on some Looked After Children.

### 36. Priority four: Ensure looked after children and young people have access to the right health resources, including additional support where a need is identified.

#### Objectives:

- Ensure looked after children and young people have access to the right health resources, including additional support where a need is identified.

#### How we will meet objectives:

The clinical team can offer specialist assessment and intervention for young people whose needs are not well understood or easily met by the available resources locally. These include assessments of executive functioning, cognition, trauma symptoms and attachment. Specialist interventions include dyadic developmental psychotherapy, cognitive analytic therapy, and cognitive behaviour therapy. This is not the primary purpose of the clinical team and so this offer is limited to a very small proportion of the Looked After Children population. The clinical team work closely with partner agencies from education and mental health services to identify and respond to the needs of young people in creative and collaborative ways within current resource constraints. Multi-agency work in Cambridgeshire to establish clear pathways to identify and meet the emotional health and wellbeing needs of young people who are looked after is currently underway; this includes work to meet the needs of young people with an identified mental health need who do not meet the threshold for CAMH services.

#### Barriers / Issues

- Partnership and multi-agency working is required across organisations.
- Transitions between services need to be improved to ensure young people receive consistent and effective services.

## 37. Conclusion

- 37.1 Cambridgeshire's Commissioning intentions are governed by the Joint Commissioning Board; a partnership body across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. This Board is responsible for ensuring Commissioning activity is undertaken in line with budgetary and strategic priorities.
- 37.2 Over the next 18 months a number of commissioning decisions will impact on the looked after children's sufficiency in addition to a range of preventative options currently being implemented such as: :
- The Hub
  - Re-commissioning of Residential Children's Homes and Fostering arrangements
  - Strategic review of Supported Accommodation and Housing Related Support services for 16 – 25 year olds.
  - Development of in house fostering and supported lodgings services
- 37.3 This Statement will be updated annually and is available to the public via the Council's website.

## Appendix 1

	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017
LAC as at year end	532	607	692
<b>By Age</b>			
Under 1	29	28	35
1 to 4	48	58	84
5 to 9	111	111	135
10 to 15	235	244	264
16 to 17	109	166	174
Over 18	0	0	0
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	289	362	392
Female	243	245	300
<b>Legal Status</b>			
Interim care orders	80	96	154
Full care orders	216	251	269
Section 20	171	198	193
Freed adoption / placement order	65	60	75
Others	0	2	1
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
White British	433	451	503
White Irish	1	5	3
White Other	17	26	41
Traveller of Irish Heritage	2	1	5
Gypsy/Roma	0	0	3
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	10	10	16
Mixed White and Black African	2	3	2
Mixed White and Asian	9	7	7
Any other mixed background	16	19	18
Indian	1	1	3
Pakistani	4	5	3
Bangladeshi	7	8	7
Any other Asian background	3	5	7
Caribbean	4	3	3
African	6	5	15
Any other Black background	2	4	5
Chinese	0	1	1
Any other ethnic group	11	49	48
Not stated / not yet obtained	4	4	2

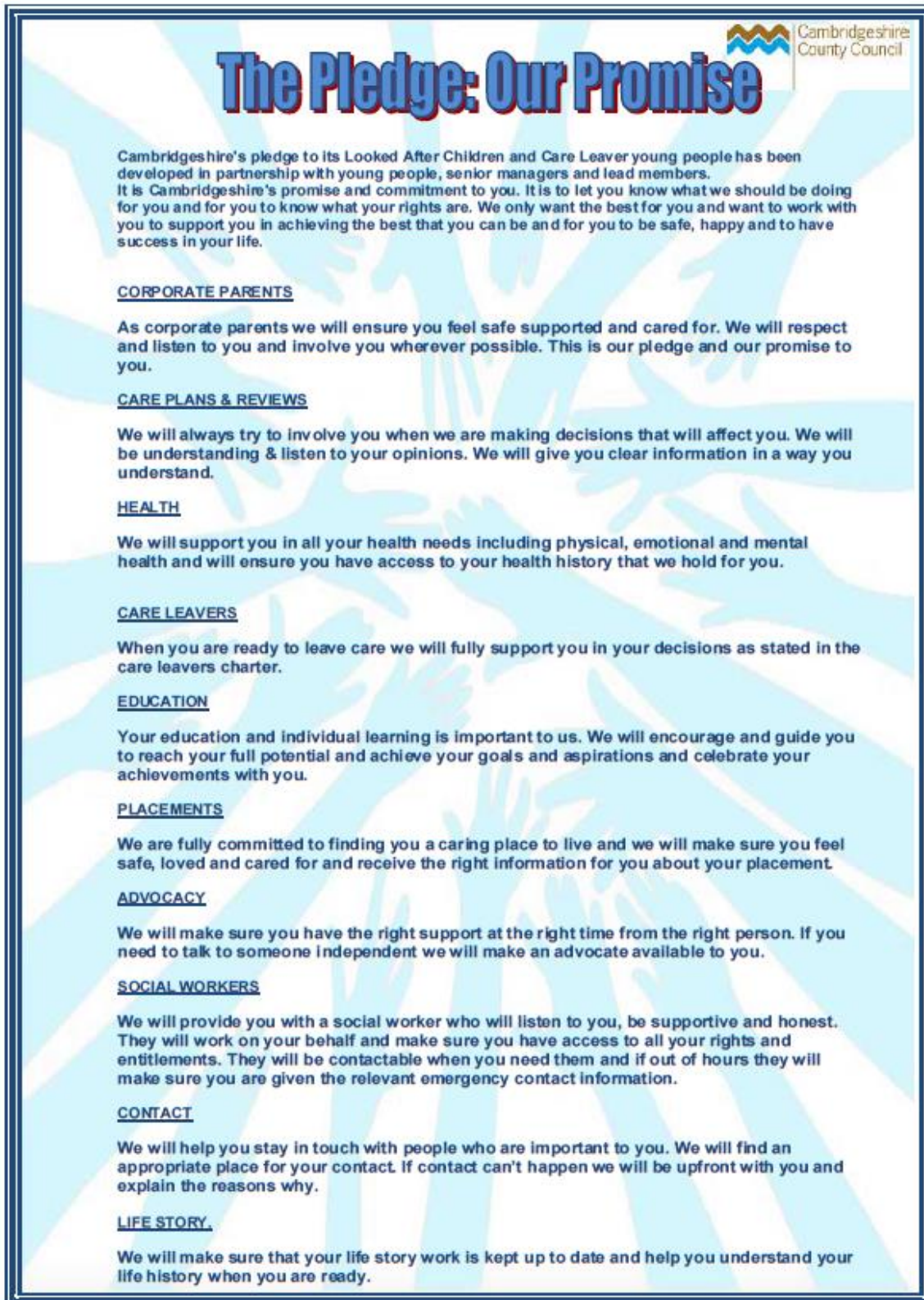
## Appendix 2

	March 2015	March 2016	March 2017
<b>Placement Data</b>			
Foster placement with relative or friend	32	58	50
<i>Inside local authority</i>	24	34	32
<i>Outside local authority</i>	8	24	18
Placement with other foster carer	385	385	461
<i>Inside local authority</i>	223	217	266
<i>Outside local authority</i>	162	168	195
Secure unit	0	1	2
Residential Children's Homes	49	40	53
Residential accommodation not subject to Children's Homes Regulations	22	75	79
Residential schools	0	0	0
Other residential settings	4	1	0
Placed for adoption (including placed with former foster carer)	24	29	34
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	5	6	9
Independent living	10	11	3
Residential Employment	0	0	0
Young offender institution or Prison	1	1	1
<b>Placement data (for children under 10 years of age)</b>			
Foster placement with relative or friend	15	20	23
<i>Inside local authority</i>	11	8	18
<i>Outside local authority</i>	4	12	5
Placement with other foster carer	218	149	192
<i>Inside local authority</i>	138	105	139
<i>Outside local authority</i>	80	44	53
Secure unit	0	0	0
Residential Children's Homes	4	0	4
Residential accommodation not subject to Children's Homes Regulations	0	0	0
Residential schools	0	0	0
Other residential settings	2	0	0
Placed for adoption (including placed with former foster carer)	24	28	33
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	1	0	2
Independent living	0	0	0
Residential Employment	0	0	0
Young offender institution or Prison	0	0	0
<b>Category of need for children in care</b>			
Abuse or neglect	382	427	511
Disability	24	24	25


Parental illness or disability	23	21	21
Family in acute stress	22	23	20
Family dysfunction	43	40	36
Socially unacceptable behaviour	10	7	4
Low income	0	0	0
Absent parenting	28	65	75



## Appendix 3



# The Pledge: Our Promise

 Cambridgeshire  
County Council

Cambridgeshire's pledge to its Looked After Children and Care Leaver young people has been developed in partnership with young people, senior managers and lead members. It is Cambridgeshire's promise and commitment to you. It is to let you know what we should be doing for you and for you to know what your rights are. We only want the best for you and want to work with you to support you in achieving the best that you can be and for you to be safe, happy and to have success in your life.

**CORPORATE PARENTS**

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.

**CARE PLANS & REVIEWS**

We will always try to involve you when we are making decisions that will affect you. We will be understanding & listen to your opinions. We will give you clear information in a way you understand.

**HEALTH**

We will support you in all your health needs including physical, emotional and mental health and will ensure you have access to your health history that we hold for you.

**CARE LEAVERS**

When you are ready to leave care we will fully support you in your decisions as stated in the care leavers charter.

**EDUCATION**

Your education and individual learning is important to us. We will encourage and guide you to reach your full potential and achieve your goals and aspirations and celebrate your achievements with you.

**PLACEMENTS**

We are fully committed to finding you a caring place to live and we will make sure you feel safe, loved and cared for and receive the right information for you about your placement.

**ADVOCACY**

We will make sure you have the right support at the right time from the right person. If you need to talk to someone independent we will make an advocate available to you.

**SOCIAL WORKERS**

We will provide you with a social worker who will listen to you, be supportive and honest. They will work on your behalf and make sure you have access to all your rights and entitlements. They will be contactable when you need them and if out of hours they will make sure you are given the relevant emergency contact information.

**CONTACT**

We will help you stay in touch with people who are important to you. We will find an appropriate place for your contact. If contact can't happen we will be upfront with you and explain the reasons why.

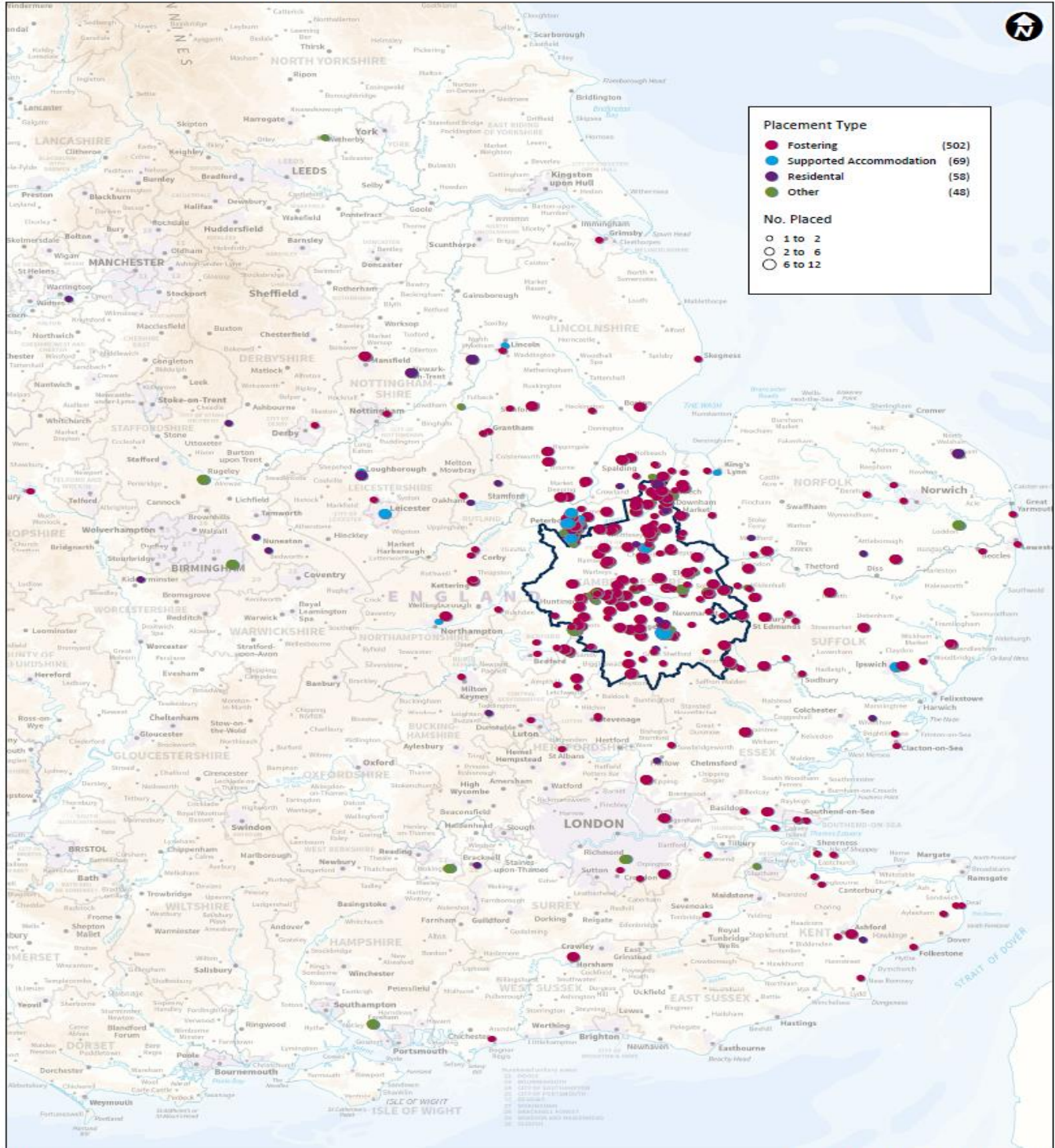
**LIFE STORY**

We will make sure that your life story work is kept up to date and help you understand your life history when you are ready.



## Appendix 4

### LAC Placements By Type



## Appendix 5

### LAC External Placements Budget / Expenditure 2015/16 - 2017/18

Placement Type	2015/16			2016/17			2017/18 *		
	Budget £'000	Expenditure £'000	Outturn £'000	Budget £'000	Expenditure £'000	Outturn £'000	Budget £'000	Expenditure £'000	Outturn £'000
Residential - disability	381	331	-50	306	189	-117	143	133	-10
Residential - secure accommodation	0	70	+70	0	0	+0	0	0	+0
Residential schools	828	983	+155	675	1,196	+521	1,160	2,025	+865
Residential homes	2,342	4,157	+1,815	3,138	3,922	+784	3,018	5,324	+2,306
Independent Fostering	9,813	9,639	-174	7,173	9,615	+2,442	10,304	10,931	+627
Supported Accommodation	1,170	1,239	+69	1,135	1,367	+232	1,244	1,827	+584
16+	203	261	+58	85	472	+387	608	89	-519
Growth **	0	0	+0	0	0	+0	868	796	-72
Pressure funded within directorate ***	0	-188	-188	0	-99	-99		-2,260	-2,260
<b>Total External Placements</b>	<b>14,737</b>	<b>16,492</b>	<b>+1,755</b>	<b>12,512</b>	<b>16,664</b>	<b>+4,152</b>	<b>17,344</b>	<b>18,866</b>	<b>+1,522</b>
Fostering - In house	3,472	3,379	-93	3,674	3,300	-374	3,640	3,520	-120
Kinship	733	790	+57	375	498	+123	478	438	-40
In-house Residential	1,588	1,588	+0	1,586	1,533	-53	556	556	+0
<b>Total In-House Placements</b>	<b>5,793</b>	<b>5,757</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>5,635</b>	<b>5,331</b>	<b>-304</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>-160</b>
Adoption	2,550	3,121	+571	3,000	3,342	+342	3,236	3,445	+209
Concurrent Adoption	3	181	+178	100	92	-8	91	37	-54
<b>Total Adoption</b>									
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>20,530</b>	<b>22,249</b>	<b>+1,719</b>	<b>18,147</b>	<b>21,995</b>	<b>+3,848</b>	<b>22,018</b>	<b>23,379</b>	<b>+1,362</b>

<b>Total LAC Numbers (non-UASC) ****</b>	549	610	622
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<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER LAC *****</b>	£44,309	£41,236	£41,461
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY COST PER LAC *****</b>	£849.75	£790.82	£795.18

\* 2017/18 data is the annual forecast as at end of Aug-17.

\*\* Represents expected growth in LAC numbers for current f/y.

\*\*\* Represents the saving required to bring the external placements CR figure down to the outturn position reported.

\*\*\* LAC numbers for 2017/18 are as at 31-Aug-17

\*\*\*\*\* Average cost per LAC is based on the total placement cost divided by the yearly average number of LAC