

Qualitative measures:			Key to direction of travel:				
Positive	Similar	Negative	Increase 10% or more	↑	Similar →	Decrease 10% or more	↓

Benchmarking		
<small>(Updated Mar-19, using 18-19 data)</small>		

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome <small>(what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)</small>	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	% change from Jul-20	% change from Aug-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Aug-20):
M1	Number of contacts received (includes contacts that become referrals)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	<i>There is an effective 'front door' with which anyone with a concern about a child can engage and receive appropriate advice, support and action.</i>	1129	1198	1147	1172	1403	1493	1343	↓ -10%	↑ 20%		1288	1493	Local	Local	Local				The number of Contacts in August has fallen slightly compared with last month, although this remains high as schools are closed.
M2	Number of new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Referrals for children in need of help and support are accepted appropriately by the service.</i>	318	300	286	270	342	388	263	↓ -32%	↓ -24%		342	427	399	357	460				The high numbers of Contacts have not increased the numbers of referrals. MASH report a high number of PPN1 reports from Police during August which have not met threshold for statutory or Early Help services.
M3	Percentage of all contacts that become new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Children and families receive the help they need at the right time, and from the best possible resource - in line with the established continuum of need.</i>	28%	25%	25%	23%	24%	26%	20%	↓ -25%	↓ -36%		27%	35%	Local	Local	Local				As above the conversion rate from Contact to referral is low with a high number of Police reports that do not meet the threshold for a service which could account for this figure.
M2-NI	Number of new referrals of Children in Need (CiN) rate per 10,000 (0-17 year olds)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Referrals for children in need of help and support are comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.</i>	63	59	56	53	67	76	52	↓ -32%	↓ -42%		70	110	Local	Local	Local				This decrease is consistent with the lower level of Contacts converted to referrals.
M8-QL	Percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where time from referral received / recorded to completion by MASH was 24 hours / 1 working day or less	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	<i>The safety of children is supported by referrals being dealt with in a timely manner.</i>	99%	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%	99%	→ 1%	↑ 10%	▲	97%	99%	Local	Local	Local				MASH performance in the 1 working day compliance remains consistently high, achieving 99% compliance for the month of August.
M5-QL (val)	Number of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	tbc	Sarah Ward	<i>The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.</i>	12	17	10	25	17	15	19	↑ 27%	↑ 138%	▼	16	25	Local	Local	Local				This is an area which does need monitoring and I would like a closer look at such cases to review the reasons for referral and whether these are new issues, professional disagreement or anxiety, closure process not being followed correctly/inappropriate closure.
M6-QL	Percentage of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	tbc	Sarah Ward	<i>The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.</i>	4%	6%	3%	9%	5%	4%	7%	↑ 75%	↑ 250%	▼	5%	9%	25%	23%	25%				As above
M4	Number of new referrals of children aged 13+ where child sexual exploitation (CSE) was a factor	tbc	Simon Demison	<i>The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.</i>	1	5	1	3	4	7	7	→ 0%	↑ 250%		4	7	Local	Local	Local				This indicator is weak as showing new children referrals to service where CSE is ticked - the CERAF and subsequent monthly multi-agency risk assessing (High Risk) is a better indicator of number of children identified at risk of sexual exploitation.
M5	Number of children receiving Early Help services who are stepped up for Children In Need (CiN) assessment	tbc	Sean Hollehouse	<i>The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.</i>	22	2	1	10	1	13	4	↓ -69%	↓ -50%		8	22	Local	Local	Local				C-19 impact has resulted in increased hidden harm risks such as DV. All L3/UPP cases have been reviewed & RAG rated & MASH referrals made when necessary. The Early Help Hub Rapid Response Team continue to work with new referred high end early help cases preventing escalation into Social Care. Identified 'vulnerable pupils' within the EH cohort are also reviewed regularly with EWS & schools to share risk information. The number of CSC 'step up' cases in August was lower than average with 4 recorded.
EHZ	Number of Children In Need (CiN) at end of period (all open cases, excluding EHPs, EHAs, CPP and LAC)	tbc	Sarah Ward	<i>Children in need of help and support receive a consistent and effective service.</i>	1379	1334	1292	1311	1313	1313	1232	→ -6%	↓ -34%	▼	1,412	1,798	Local	Local	Local				The PACT teams have been working hard to progress work flow with cases including closure of cases, transfer of cases and step down of cases. As caseloads reduce this allows more time to appropriately progress and close cases. Cases have been impacted by covid for example some delay in court hearings, anxiety about cases closing during lockdown.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	% change from Jul-20	% change from Aug-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Aug-20):
EH5-QL	Number of children open to the authority who have been missing at any point in the period (count of children)	fbc	Simon Demison	The needs and safety of children who have been missing are responded to robustly.	71	82	50	64	57	83	59	↓ -29%	→ 5%	▼	67	83	Local	Local	Local				Numbers of children reported missing during Covid Lockdown (April-June20) were approx 25% down on previous year - July and August back on track with 2019 numbers - all children offered return interview average 88% completion and High Exploitation Risk - good multi-agency oversight.
EH8	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Children receive a comprehensive assessment of their needs; with strengths and areas of risk identified to inform evidence-based planning.	325	342	259	247	265	326	248	↓ -24%	↓ -42%		352	549	318	353	447				The number of single assessment completed in August has reduced by 24%. This figure may be due to less activity in the rest of the service.
EH3a%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 10 days	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	10%	10%	13%	14%	6%	12%	4%	↓ -62%	↓ -54%	▲	9%	14%	19%	15%	17%				The number of single assessments completed in 10 days is currently at 4%. This may be due to the complexity of work that is being referred into children's social care.
EH3b%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 11-25 days	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	39%	41%	43%	49%	44%	40%	32%	↓ -20%	↑ 100%	▲	33%	49%	Local	Local	Local				The number of single assessments completed in 25 days in August is 32%. This does not necessarily indicate anything of concern.
EH3c%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 26-35 days	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	21%	24%	15%	11%	20%	18%	28%	↑ 56%	↑ 175%	▲	17%	28%	Local	Local	Local				The number of single assessments completed between 26 and 35 days has risen to 28% which is likely to be due to the lower numbers above.
EH3d%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 36-45 days	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	12%	12%	8%	13%	15%	23%	24%	→ 7%	→ 8%	▲	15%	24%	Local	Local	Local				The number of single assessments completed in August in 36-45 days is consistent with July. This does not necessarily indicate anything of concern.
EH3e%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed over 45 days	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	18%	12%	21%	14%	15%	7%	11%	↑ 54%	↓ -74%	▼	26%	56%	20%	17%	18%				The number of single assessments completed over 45 days in August has risen to 11%, but remains lower than statistical neighbours, England and the South East Region.
EH4 (val)	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	266	300	204	213	225	303	221	↓ -27%	↓ -12%	▲	248	303	243	285	360				The number of assessments completed within 45 working days has decreased slightly on the month of July.
EH4-QL	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	82%	88%	79%	86%	85%	93%	89%	→ -4%	↑ 53%	▲	74%	93%	76%	81%	81%				The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days continues to be higher than statistical neighbours, England and the South East and currently sits at 89%.
CP1	Number of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Where there are concerns about a child's safety, there is a robust assessment of risk.	118	125	104	112	138	121	81	↓ -33%	↓ -20%		114	171	121	110	148				The number of section 47 enquiries which commenced during August has decreased which is in line with a decrease of referrals into the service.
CP1-NI	Rate of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started per 10,000 children aged 0-17	fbc	Jacqui Schofield	Safeguarding investigations undertaken by the service are at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	23	25	20	22	27	24	16	↓ -33%	↓ -20%		22	34	19	14	14				The rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 has decreased and is less than statistical neighbours.
CP6B	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) at the end of the month, excluding temporary registrations	fbc	Stuart Webb	Child Protection Plans are in place for children where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep them safe.	441	417	399	418	407	426	415	→ -3%	→ -9%		439	490	388	439	527				There has been a small reduction in the number and rate of children subject to CPP; however, Southampton remains an outlier. A further fixed term chair has been appointed to manage demand - with the impact of schools returning in September needing to be monitored robustly. The CP Advisor continues to provide regular reports to senior management outlining practice issues / trends. Achieving stability in the PACT service will be critical in supporting case progression in the longer term.
CP6B-NI	Rate of children with Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10,000 (0-17 year olds) at end of period	fbc	Stuart Webb	The number of children who require Child Protection Plans is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	87	82	78	82	80	84	82	→ -2%	→ -9%		86	96	48	44	41				There has been a small reduction in the number and rate of children subject to CPP; however, Southampton remains an outlier. A further fixed term chair has been appointed to manage demand - with the impact of schools returning in September needing to be monitored robustly. The CP Advisor continues to provide regular reports to senior management outlining practice issues / trends. Achieving stability in the PACT service will be critical in supporting case progression in the longer term.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	% change from Jul-20	% change from Aug-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Aug-20):
CP2	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs), excluding transfer-ins and temporary registrations	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep a child safe, the case is progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference.	23	47	27	52	36	72	22	↓ -69%	↓ -73%		40	77	38	42	51				There has been a decrease in ICPCs in August; attributed to the holiday period. Wherever possible, conferences are scheduled during term time to facilitate the attendance of partners. A comparison with Aug 19 is not useful as this was a peak month during the 2019 increase in safeguarding activity. It is anticipated that the number and rate of ICPCs will increase in September.
CP2-NI	Rate per 10,000 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The rate of Initial Child Protection Conferences is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	5	9	5	11	7	14	5	↓ -68%	↓ -72%		8	16	6	5	5				There has been a decrease in ICPCs in August; attributed to the holiday period. Wherever possible, conferences are scheduled during term time to facilitate the attendance of partners. A comparison with Aug 19 is not useful as this was a peak month during the 2019 increase in safeguarding activity. It is anticipated that the number and rate of ICPCs will increase in September.
CP4 (val)	Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	18	43	25	50	35	58	17	↓ -71%	↓ -71%		35	66	32	36	44				There has been a further reduction in the number and % of children converting from conference to plan. This has been a trend for 3 months and Southampton is now lower than national, regional and SN averages. If the trend continues the service will use its CP managers audits to explore decision making in the assessment service and outcomes at conference.
CP4	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	78%	91%	93%	96%	97%	81%	77%	→ -4%	→ 6%	▲	87%	97%	86%	86%	84%				There has been a further reduction in the number and % of children converting from conference to plan. This has been a trend for 3 months and Southampton is now lower than national, regional and SN averages. If the trend continues the service will use its CP managers audits to explore decision making in the assessment service and outcomes at conference.
CP2b	Number of transfer-ins	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	- n/a	→ 0%		2	5	Local	Local	Local				There was one transfer in during August 2020. The QA unit manager checks on compliance with locally agreed processes in all these cases.
CP2b %	Percentage of transfer-ins where child became subject to a CP Plan during period	tbc	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	100%	-	-	100%	-	-	0%	- n/a	↓ -100%		58%	100%	Local	Local	Local				There was one transfer in during August 2020. The QA unit manager checks on compliance with locally agreed processes in all these cases.
CP3-QL (val)	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) which were held within timescales (excludes transfer-ins)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	14	28	18	47	34	50	16	↓ -68%	↓ -58%	▲	27	53	33	33	40				There has been a small improvement in timeliness; in the context of a smaller cohort of ICPCs. The CP advisor's regular reports provide senior management with detail regarding conference timeliness. The appointment of the additional chair, outlined last month, has progressed.
CP3-QL	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	61%	60%	67%	90%	94%	69%	73%	→ 5%	↑ 55%	▲	63%	94%	84%	79%	77%				There has been a small improvement in timeliness; in the context of a smaller cohort of ICPCs. The CP advisor's regular reports provide senior management with detail regarding conference timeliness. The appointment of the additional chair, outlined last month, has progressed.
CP8-QL	Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 15 working days.	tbc	Sarah Ward	The service is in regular contact with children subject to Child Protection planning to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	81%	64%	40%	72%	75%	75%	85%	↑ 13%	↑ 27%	▲	72%	85%	Local	Local	Local				As always the recording of these visits is impacted by high caseloads and at times the stats are not reflective of the number of visits taking place. Visits are also impacted by families being away/on holiday/illness and poor engagement for example. However, as caseloads are reducing the recording of this work in a timely manner should improve.
CP5-QL (val)	Number of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	4	13	4	13	5	5	2	↓ -60%	↓ -87%	▼	7	20	7	8	9				Two children (one family) had previously been subject to planning in 2018 under the same category (Emotional Abuse).

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	% change from Jul-20	% change from Aug-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Aug-20):	
CPS-QL	Percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	22%	28%	16%	24%	14%	9%	12%	↑ 36%	↓ -52%	▼	18%	33%	22%	21%	21%				Two children (one family) had previously been subject to planning in 2018 under the same category (Emotional Abuse).	
CP9	Number of children subject to Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) in the month	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where children are subject to Child Protection planning, their cases are reviewed regularly to identify progress and any barriers.	107	133	71	72	135	101	73	↓ -28%	↑ 38%	▼	110	136	Local	Local	Local				There has been a reduction in review conferences; attributed to seasonal factors (holiday period). This is also seen in August 2019. Numbers are expected to increase in September.	
CP7	Number of ceasing Child Protection Plans (CPP), excluding temporary registrations	tbc	Stuart Webb	Where it is assessed that risks to a child have reduced there is a review of risk and the case is stepped down effectively.	41	63	25	34	48	38	25	↓ -34%	→ 9%	▲	40	63	34	37	47				There has been a reducing trend for three months. The CP Advisor's reports to senior managers outline the reasons why cases do not progress. Achieving stability in the PACT service will be critical in supporting case progression in the longer term.	
LAC1	Number of Looked after Children at end of period	tbc	Mary Hardy	Where it is assessed that there is no safe alternative, the local authority will take children into its care for their welfare and protection.	485	490	487	488	488	512	493	→ -4%	→ -4%	▼	497	516	496	514	541	515	495	420		
LAC1-NI	Looked after Children rate per 10,000	tbc	Mary Hardy	The level of children in care is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	95	96	96	96	96	101	97	→ -4%	→ -4%	▼	98	102	86	65	53					
LAC2	Number of new Looked after Children (episodes)	tbc	Mary Hardy	Where children meet the threshold and there are no alternatives, they will be safe and have their welfare needs addressed through accommodation by the local authority.	10	17	7	7	10	29	9	↓ -69%	↓ -10%	▼	13	29	16	17	19					
LAC3	Number of ceasing Looked after Children (episodes)	tbc	Mary Hardy	Children will leave care in a planned way with clear networks of support around them.	21	9	6	6	9	6	24	↑ 300%	↑ 118%	▲	13	24	15	16	18					
LAC6 (vii)	Number of adoptions (E11, E12)	tbc	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	4	2	0	0	2	0	4	- n/a	→ 0%	▲	2	4	2	2	3	50				There has been a marked increase in orders being granted as the court begins to hear adoption applications and address the backlog of applications lodged since the commencement of the pandemic. There are still a number of applications waiting to be heard. Children are not exiting care in a timely manner leading to an impact on their permanence journey and on staffing/financial resources in order to maintain these children in care.
LAC6 (%)	Percentage of adoptions (E11, E12)	tbc	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	19%	22%	0%	0%	22%	0%	17%	- n/a	↓ -54%		15%	50%	15%	12%	18%				17% of children leaving care this month was as a result of adoption orders being granted. This is similar to the 12 month average, prior to the impact of the pandemic. The 12 month average has reduced significantly as a result of the low numbers over the last three months. Noted impact of the pandemic.	
LAC7 (vii)	Number of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	tbc	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	3	2	0	0	1	0	6	- n/a	- n/a		2	6	Local	Local	Local				There has been a marked increase in orders being granted as the court begins to hear applications and address the backlog of applications lodged since the commencement of the pandemic. There are still a number of applications waiting to be heard. Children are not exiting care in a timely manner leading to an impact on their permanence journey and on staffing/financial resources in order to maintain these children in care.	

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	% change from Jul-20	% change from Aug-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Aug-20):
LAC12 (%)	Percentage of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	bbc	Mareth Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	14%	22%	0%	0%	11%	0%	25%	- n/a	- n/a		12%	25%	33%	13%	12%				25% of children leaving care this month was as a result of orders being granted. This above the 12 month average, prior to the impact of the pandemic. The 12 month average has reduced significantly as a result of the low numbers over the last three months. Noted impact of the pandemic.
LAC7-QL	Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales	bbc	Mary Hardy	The service is in regular contact with Looked after Children to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	74%	66%	50%	39%	78%	75%	73%	→ -3%	→ -9%	▲	70%	82%	Local	Local	Local				
LAC10 (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA plan	bbc	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	94%	93%	95%	96%	96%	95%	96%	→ 1%	→ 1%	▲	95%	96%	Local	Local	Local				
LAC10-QL	Number of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA Plan	bbc	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	454	457	461	469	467	487	473	→ -3%	→ -3%	▲	471	487	Local	Local	Local				
LAC13	Number of current Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) looked after at end of period	bbc	Mary Hardy	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.	15	15	13	12	12	11	11	→ 0%	↓ -21%		13	15	31	33	51				
LAC14	Number of new unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	bbc	Mary Hardy	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	- n/a	- n/a		0	2	Local	Local	Local				
LAC11-QL	Number of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	bbc	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.	158	157	161	166	171	174	171	→ -2%	→ 2%	▲	164	174	Local	Local	Local				
LAC11-QL (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	bbc	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.	93%	92%	95%	96%	96%	96%	94%	→ -2%	→ -4%	▲	95%	97%	Local	Local	Local				
NI147	Percentage of Care Leavers in contact and in suitable accommodation	bbc	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers are in accommodation that is safe and secure.	83%	84%	81%	83%	86%	86%	84%	→ -3%	→ 1%	▲	82%	86%	81%	85%	84%	92.0%	93.0%	94%	
LAC9 (wa)	Number of Looked after Children (LAC) placed with IFAs at end of period	bbc	Mareth Smith	Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.	146	146	144	143	139	140	142	→ 1%	→ -7%	▼	147	157	Local	Local	Local	112	TBC	TBC	There has been a small increase in the use of independent fostering agencies (IFA) linked with the increase in admission into care. However there is an overall reducing trend in the use of IFAs. The total number continues to be high - reflecting the need to identify external placements due to availability of in house placements (both with regards to numbers and skills/specialism).

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	% change from Jul-20	% change from Aug-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Aug-20):
LAC9	Percentage of IFA placements (of all looked after children)	bbc	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	30%	30%	30%	29%	28%	27%	29%	→ 5%	→ -4%	▼	30%	31%	Local	Local	Local				As above LAC9. Research undertaken by The South East Sector Led Improvement Programme (SESLIP) identified that this percentage is consistent with other local authorities across the South East - our use of in house fosters carers is at 60% and IFA 40% of foster placement.
LAC16	Number of in-house foster carers at the end of period	bbc	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	168	168	166	165	164	165	161	→ -2%	→ -5%	▲	166	172	Local	Local	Local	190	190	200	The number of in house mainstream foster carers has seen a decline as the backlog of recording panel activity is being addressed. The recruitment strategy for 2020-23 has been drafted and endorsed by CLT. Enquires remain consistent at the high teens, but our loss of foster carers is not keeping pace with the gains. Our 6 monthly review of closures/resignations is due to take place and will help us understand reasons for resignations and identify retention issues.