

TITLE	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 July 2014
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Judith Ramsden, Director Children's Services Felicity Budgen, Head of Social Care and Intervention

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

We are legally responsible for the Children and Young People who are in our care and/or are leaving our care because they are unable to live with their parents due to harm, neglect or other significant concerns. As Corporate Parents we have a collective duty and responsibility to replicate the quality and care afforded by a good parent to all young people.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Corporate Parenting Annual report to be confirmed and noted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report sets out our annual update on the Corporate Parenting arrangements in Wokingham. An analysis of the key performance data for the children we look after and the progress and outcomes of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) are included in this report.

Background**Analysis of Issues**

This report includes analysis in a number of areas pertaining to our Looked After Children

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

n/a

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)

n/a

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

n/a

List of Background Papers

n/a

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Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2013-14

1. Introduction

In Wokingham we are all legally responsible for the children and young people who are in our care and/or leaving our care because they are unable to live with their parents due to harm, neglect or other significant concerns. As Corporate Parents we have a collective duty and responsibility to replicate the quality of care afforded by a 'good parent' to all OUR children and young people.

This report sets out our annual update on the Corporate Parenting arrangements in Wokingham. An analysis of the key performance data for the Children we look after and the progress and outcomes of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) will be considered and an action plan identifying the key priorities for the year ahead will be proposed. The report will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board for endorsement and approval to submit to the Full Council in July 2014.

2. The Corporate Parenting Strategy

We deliver our legal responsibilities as Corporate Parents through our Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The revised Corporate Parenting Strategy is due to be adopted by the Board in May 2014. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is a three year strategy, revised annually, which sets out how Wokingham Borough Council intends to fulfil its Corporate Parenting responsibilities in a way that puts children and young people at the heart of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services. The strategy sets out how we can continue to learn from children and young people in care, as well as those who are no longer in our care, and enable them to actively participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

The priorities set out in the CPB strategy 2011-14 were reviewed in February 2014. Many of the priorities were re-affirmed but the CPB wanted to emphasise its commitment to securing permanency and raising the aspirations of Children in Care and Care Leavers. The CPB will confirm these new priorities in the review of the Corporate Parenting Board Strategy 2014-15

The 6 Strategic Priorities

Priority 1: To strengthen the Corporate Parenting Role and Corporate Parenting function of the council as a whole.

Priority 2: To strengthen the voice of children in our care and young people leaving care to enable their participation in the planning, reviewing and service design.

Priority 3: To consolidate progress and continue to improve the timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options.

Priority 4: To improve a care leaver's journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: Education, Employment and Training, independent living, Housing options and Health.

Priority 5: To improve the educational outcomes for children in care and young people leaving care by including their aspirations.

Priority 6: To improve health provision for children in care and young people leaving care.

- **Related strategies and reviews supporting our role as 'Corporate Parent' are set out in Appendix 2.**
- **Progress so far in delivering against the Corporate Parenting Strategy 6 priorities is set out in Appendix 3.**

3. Analysis of Performance Data 2013/14

The Corporate Parenting Score Card Appendix A sets out graphically our performance across all the key indicators for looked after children.

The data provided for Wokingham for 2013/14 are provisional at this point. Finalised data will be provided later in the year. The national data set for the 2013/14 year will not be published until August 2014. For this reason, not all indicators have comparator information. Where comparisons with statistical neighbour, regional and national averages are possible, these are made using the most recent data available, and will be updated once the national dataset is available.

Headline messages from the Performance Data.

Looked After Children Cohort (Appendix 1)

75 Children were LAC at the March 2014 snap shot. A total of 109 different children had care episodes in the last year 2013/14

During the year, there were 23 new admissions to care and 34 children leaving care. This is an overall reduction in number from 86 in March 2013 to 75 in March 2014.

The rate of children LAC per 10,000 children population is 24. This is significantly below the national average of 60 children per 10,000, but in line with our geographical neighbours.

The longitudinal trend is upwards with 14 children per 10,000 being LAC in 2004 and data over the past 10 years showing a gradual but steady increase in numbers of LAC. This increasing trend is in line with the national context.

Gender (Appendix 1)

Significantly more boys are LAC than girls in Wokingham. Currently 27 (36%) of LAC are girls and 48 (64%) are boys. This reflects a significant difference in the gender balance in comparison with available national data. Nationally 45% of children in care are girls and 55% are boys.

The reason for disparity is not yet clearly understood and will require further analysis. However services and support for families with boys across the levels of needs may need to be reviewed to ensure that families are getting the right service at the right time in order to prevent the need for reception in to care.

This is of concern nationally, as boys make up the majority of the LAC population and are statistically less likely to find permanent options through Family and Friends care, SGO or Adoption permemancy options. Boys are more likely to require residential care and are more likely to be placed in an Independent Fostering option. This is the case in Wokingham

Nationally the educational outcomes for some boys are poorer than for girls and this trend may also be impacting on our children.

Sufficiency – Placement choice (Appendix 1)

Currently 13 children are placed in residential school or children's homes. This proportion is higher than expected and accounts for 17% of the total LAC population. (The significant majority are boys- 75%)

The reason for this is due to lack of suitable foster placements and on occasions the specialist nature of the care required which cannot always be provided by Health, Education and Social Care agencies within the area.

There is a significant challenge here for all agencies to work together provide local services which meet children's needs so that children can remain within there communities and maintain strong links with families and friends when this is safe to do so.

16 children remain placed with family and friends carers or are placed with their parents as part of a reunification plan. Children placed with parents under the regulations (4) will need further review as revocation may now be in these children's best interests and they may no longer need to be Children Looked After.

42 children (56%) are placed with foster carers. 23 children are with 'in house' foster carers the remainder (19) are placed with Independent Foster Agency foster carers.

1 young person is residing within an independent living setting and 3 children are placed for adoption and are subject to a placement order pending the final adoption hearing.

(Whilst no longer part of the LAC 75 cohort we currently support 31 children for whom Special Guardianship support packages have been agreed by the court and 17 children for whom an ongoing residence order allowances has been granted.)

Children Subject to the Public Law Outline process (PLO) (Appendix 1)

13 children (17%) are subject to interim care orders and are subject to the PLO process. On average decisions about permanency and final court determination should now take no more than 26 weeks to resolve in the new single court system. (Justice Review Board expectation from April 2014)

The average length of time a Wokingham child remains subject to an interim care order is just under 26 weeks. (Berkshire average figure provided by the LJB.)

Children who are accommodated in local authority care at the request of/or with the agreement of those with Parental responsibility. (Appendix 1)

Whilst the number of children who are accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 has decreased from 28 in March 2013 to 21 in 2014 this remains 28% of the total LAC population and will require further analysis in order to ensure that, the accommodation status is being applied appropriately and children are not 'drifting' in the system with no clear permanency plan.

Ethnicity and Cultural considerations (Appendix 1)

It can be misleading to analyse ethnicity as the Wokingham cohort is statistically small, however 63 children are identified as 'White' with the remainder (12) being identified as 'Asian', 'Asian British' or 'Mixed Ethnicity'.

Comparisons with the ethnic breakdown in Wokingham (January 2013 Census) however indicates that children in care from Asian heritage are underrepresented in the LAC population. This reflects the national figures for LAC with Asian children being underrepresented in the national LAC cohort.

Age Breakdown of Looked After Children. (Appendix 1)

The March 2014 snapshot identified that 15 children within the LAC cohort are aged under 5 (20%) and 6 children age aged 5-9 (8%).

38 (51%) of children are aged 10-15 (26 boys and 12 girls).
The remaining 16 young people are 16 and 17(21%)

The 10- 15 cohort of 38 children makes up a disproportionately high number of the LAC population and does not reflect the anticipated trend of higher LAC numbers being identified in the younger age groups. These children are increasingly subject to care proceedings earlier and for shorter periods of time as prevention and 0 to 5 early intervention strategies become embedded nationally and the outcomes of the Justice Review affect court timescales.

The % of 10-15 year old LAC has disproportionately increased in the last year from 36% to 51% of the total population.

It is not clear why this increase has occurred 18 children were taken into care and remained in our care within the last period within this age group.

Category of Need (Appendix 1)

57% of children received in to care were reportedly abused or neglected.1% was received into care due to disability issues and 26% due to family stress and dysfunction. 4% of children came in to care due to parental illness or disability. Most children will have come from households where, alcohol, substance misuse, domestic violence and or parental mental ill health or disability has been contributory factors.

Looked After Children with Special Educational Needs (Appendix 1)

LAC with special educational needs (March 2013 figure) account for 56% of the LAC cohort. (29 children). These are spread evenly across the years groups 3 to 12.This is not statistically remarkable but does highlight that many of Wokingham's' children need additional support in order to access educational opportunities.

Stability of placement (Appendix 1)

The stability of a child's placement is an important indication and predictor of further outcomes for individual children. The % of LAC who have been in a stable placement for over 2 years is 78% this is a steady improvement on 2011/12 (60%) and 2012.13 (68.8%)

The comparator data over a rolling 12 month period suggests that Wokingham's children have experienced better stability (8%) with less placement disruption than

the national average. (11%) However the most recent quarterly figures show a slight worsening in the stability % locally.

In the last year 2013/14 8 young people in our care reached their 18th birthday. Of these 8 eligible young people, 4 chose to 'STAY PUT' and remain with their carers and 4 chose to move on to more independent arrangements.

All children's plans and progress have to be reviewed within government guidelines/timeframes by Independent Reviewing Officers. 100% of children in Wokingham received their statutory review within the timescale in 2013/14.

Educational Outcomes (Appendix 1)

A report will be provided in autumn 2014 from the Head Teacher for Looked after Children detailing results and achievements. However attendance at school of our LAC cohort remains at over 94% with 3 children not achieving 100% attendance being monitored and supported.

Personal Education Plans are managed and monitored by the Head Teacher for Looked After Children. Children require a PEP from the age of 9 months and PEP's should support early year's provision as well as statutory education. The latest snapshot indicates that 92.7% of PEP's are completed on time.

Whilst the last available data (comparable with national and regional data for Young People in Education, Employment and Training (EET) on their 19th Birthday) - appears to demonstrate Wokingham is performing better than most in terms of outcomes for its care leavers. More current data suggests that in February 2014 18 young people were not in Education Employment and Training (NEET) and 14 were in EET.

Whilst the number of young people in the cohort has decreased overall in the past year, the number who remains NEET has remained constant thus Wokingham has 56% of care leavers in the NEET cohort. This is a deterioration and reversal of the figures from a year ago.

The number of Care leavers in suitable accommodation has fluctuated over the past year. The cohort is small and the DfE definition and indicator is very specific. Whilst all care leavers were in suitable accommodation on their 19th birthday, this situation does change and ensuring a range of local suitable options are available remains a challenge for children's and housing services.

Health Outcomes (Appendix 1)

The DfE return based on Health and dental Assessments completed in time is compiled over the financial year; however more meaningful data can be captured using rolling year data.

This show that health assessments and dental checks when children first enter care are not always completed in a timely way, with dental visits and health checks occurring only 66.7% of the time. Whilst results will be lower as a result of odder children refusing to attend dental checks and new entrants also impacting on the data snapshot overall you would expect that all children would receive a timely health and dental check as soon as they are received to care.

4. Areas for service improvement and development to improve impact and outcomes for 'our' looked after children.

Whilst good progress has been made across the range of priorities, the following key areas require further development in the next year. Some of these are a result of legislation changes and others in response to our current performance data and service gaps. These areas fit within the 6 priorities for 2014/15: and are set out below

Priority 1: To strengthen the Corporate Parenting Role and Corporate Parenting function of the council as a whole.

- Deliver on the whole Council prioritisation of CIC and care leavers, which will be demonstrated in a range of Council wide strategies and service plans that reflect these needs.
- Establish a forward plan which allows flexibility to allow for reports on new legislation or initiatives; formal meetings to be held quarterly. Adopt the new model of reports at the CPB as agreed at the in October.
- Invest in the Board and offer 2 training or information sessions per year.
- Development of the "champion" role for elected members who are part of the CPB.
- Build into the forward programme reports to the CPB in relation to children on the edge of care.

Priority 2: To strengthen the voice of children in our care and young people leaving care to enable their participation in the planning, reviewing and service design.

- Ensure that as Corporate parents we continue to deliver on 'the Pledge'
- Involve children and Young people through the 'Children in Care' Council in recruitment and training of staff, and consultation and decision making about service development and the allocation of resources
- Ensure through Training and development that all staff are able to appropriately seek the views of the children they work with and ensure these are considered and acted upon.

- Sign up to the Care Leavers Charter
- Ensure that the Missing and Absent Policy and procedures are well understood by both Staff and Foster Carers and children and young people are listened too and supported following their return.
- Continue to improve the IRO service.

Priority 3: To consolidate progress and continue to improve the timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options.

- Delivering on the sufficiency duty - increasing the range and quality of local foster care within a 20 mile radius;
- Improve placement stability; by reviewing thresholds for entry into care especially for children 'Accommodated Section 20'; reviewing all children in the 10 to 15 year cohort; improving care planning so that it effectively meets the needs of the carer and the child.
- Evaluate the strategies put in place to increase stability of social workers to enable CIC and care leavers to have a social worker with whom they build up trust and confidence;
- Develop a policy to support twin tracking 'Fostering to Adopt' options.(Part 1 of Children and Families Act 2014)
- Implement the Specialist Foster Placement Scheme and empower foster carers to parent as well as care.
- Embed Permanency Procedures into our practice-(Permanency policy will be a requirement soon- with a duty to publish)
- Increase the number of CIC who remain in foster care until they are 18 years old.
- Ensure that Young People who want to 'Stay put' within their own foster families can do so up until the age of 21- development and implement the draft 'Staying Put Strategy'. (Part 1 of Children And Families Act 2014)
- Delivering on the sufficiency duty - increasing the range and quality of local supported lodging placements within a 20 mile radius;
- Develop and implement a range of interventions which support the development of secure and positive attachments between carers and the children they look after.
- Prepare and supporting foster carers to develop attachments, provide stability and create a sense of belonging that sustains through difficult periods
- Continue to improve the IRO service

Priority 4: To improve a care leaver's journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: Education, Employment and Training, independent living, Housing options and Health.

- Deliver on Education, Health and Housing/ Accommodation strategies and plans respectively; (See Appendix 2 and 3)
- Securing apprenticeships for our Children in care and Care Leavers in their own right and ones that lead to longer term employment.
- Continue to improve the IRO service.

- Sign up to Care Leavers Charter
- Implement the DfE - Permanence for Looked after Children proposals for children 'returning home' to ensure support is in place before a child returns home.

Priority 5: To improve the educational outcomes for children in care and young people leaving care by including their aspirations.

- Increase the number of CiC who remain in foster care until they are 18 years old.
- Develop further the role of Virtual Head Teacher for Children in Care
- Evaluate the strategies put in place to increase stability of social workers to enable CiC and care leavers to have a social worker with whom they build up trust and confidence;
- Deliver on Education, Health and Housing/ Accommodation strategies and plans respectively;
- Ensure that CiC access all available additional educational support with the implementation of timely high quality PEP's and 100% school attendance.

Priority 6: To improve health provision for children in care and young people leaving care.

- Deliver on the Health strategies and plans for CiC and care leavers.
- Improve the speed at which children and young people have their health and dental assessments when first entering Local Authority care.
- To ensure that the emotional well-being of all CiC continues to be prioritised and supported through the CAMHS strategy.
- To develop and implement a range of interventions which support the development of secure and positive attachments between carers and the children they look after.
- Preparing and supporting Foster carers to develop attachments, provide stability and create a sense of belonging that sustains through difficult periods
- Ensure that the Education (Part 1) and SEN (D) reforms (Part 3) in the Children and Families Act 2014 are implemented for our LAC.

These activities will form the basis of our Action Plan for the coming year and will be regularly reported upon through the CPB meeting and scrutiny framework.

Judith Ramsden
Brian Grady
May 2014



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Appendix 1

Wokingham Borough Council

Corporate Parenting Report Card (Appendix 1)

April 2013 – March 2014

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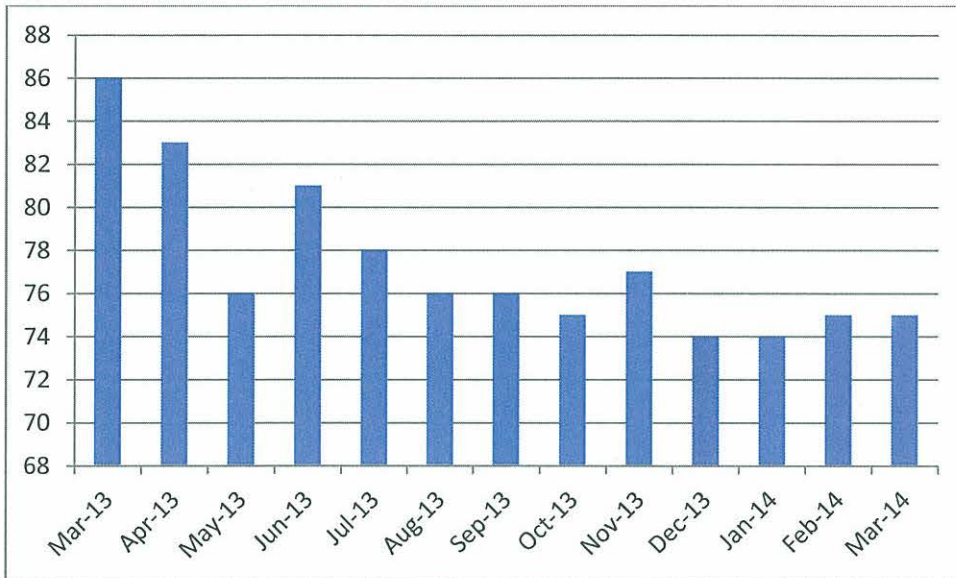
Statistical Neighbours

Statistical neighbours are local authorities which have similar characteristics to Wokingham. Wokingham's statistical neighbours are Windsor & Maidenhead, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Surrey, Hampshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Central Bedfordshire, Bracknell Forest & Cheshire East.

LAC Analysis

Total Number of Looked After Children

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Total LAC	72	86	83	76	81	78	76	76	75	77	74	74	75	75

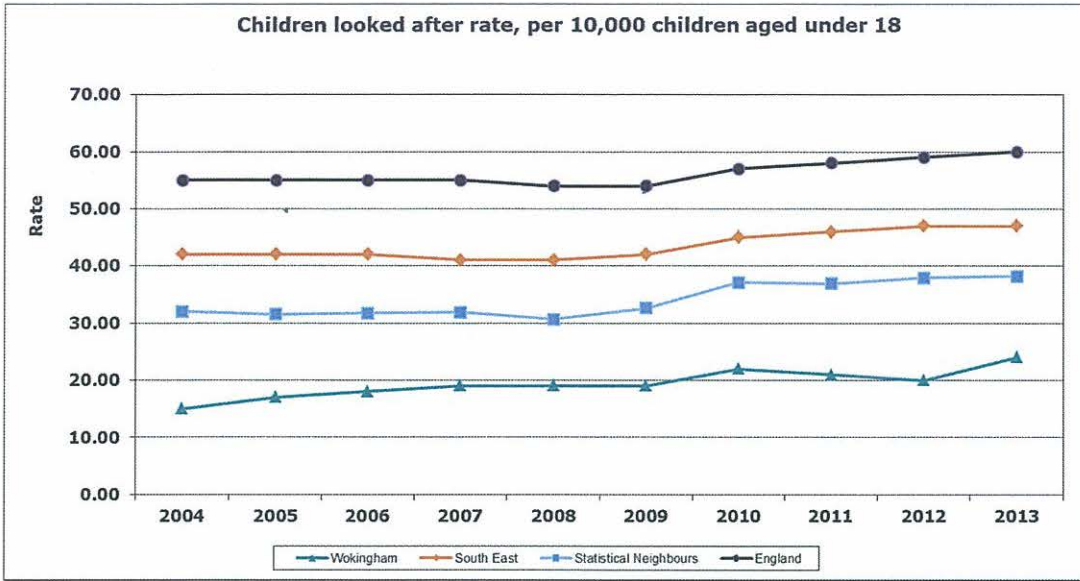


The total number of Looked After children in Wokingham has decreased by 11 children during the current financial year.

Comparisons with Geographical and Statistical Neighbours

Geographical Neighbours	2010	2011	2012	2013
Wokingham	22	20	20	24
West Berkshire	34	34	35	40
Bracknell Forest	33	32	38	39
Surrey	32	30	35	33
Windsor & Maidenhead	32	31	30	32

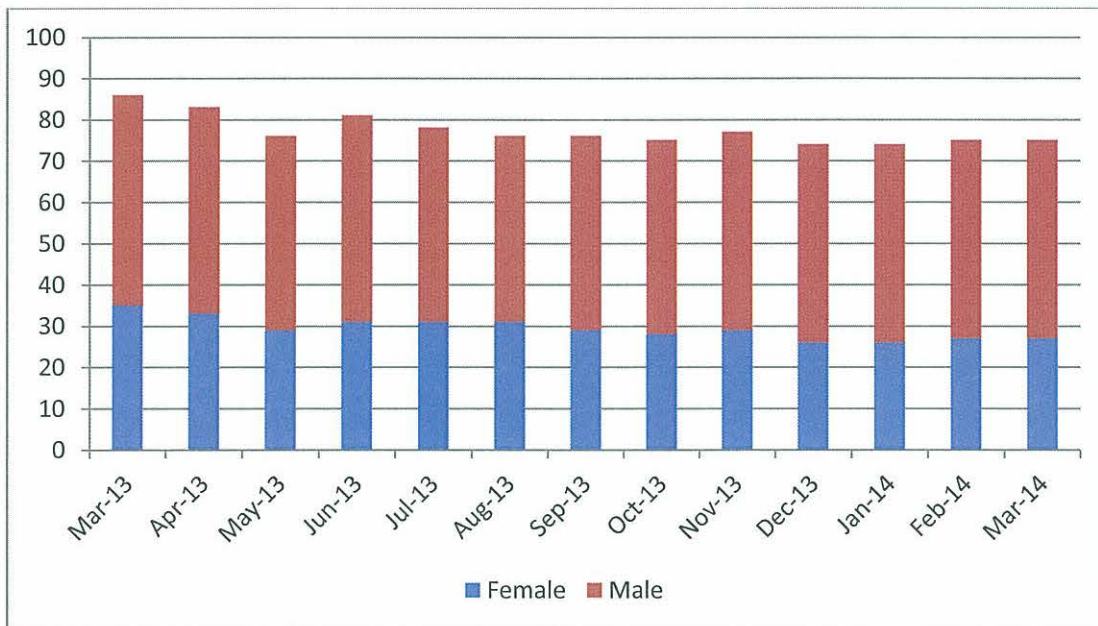
Local Authority, Region and England		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
872	Wokingham	19.00	22.00	21.00	20.00	24.00
989	South East	42.00	45.00	46.00	47.00	47.00
	Statistical Neighbours	32.63	37.10	36.90	37.90	38.20
970	England	54.00	57.00	58.00	59.00	60.00



((Data from Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT))

Looked After Children by Gender

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Female	27	35	33	29	31	31	31	29	28	29	26	26	27	27
Male	45	51	50	47	50	47	45	47	47	48	48	48	48	48
% Female	37.5%	40.7%	39.8%	38.2%	38.3%	39.7%	40.8%	38.2%	37.3%	37.7%	35.1%	35.1%	36.0%	36.0%
% Male	62.5%	59.3%	60.2%	61.8%	61.7%	60.3%	59.2%	61.8%	62.7%	62.3%	64.9%	64.9%	64.0%	64.0%
Total	72	86	83	76	81	78	76	76	75	77	74	74	75	75

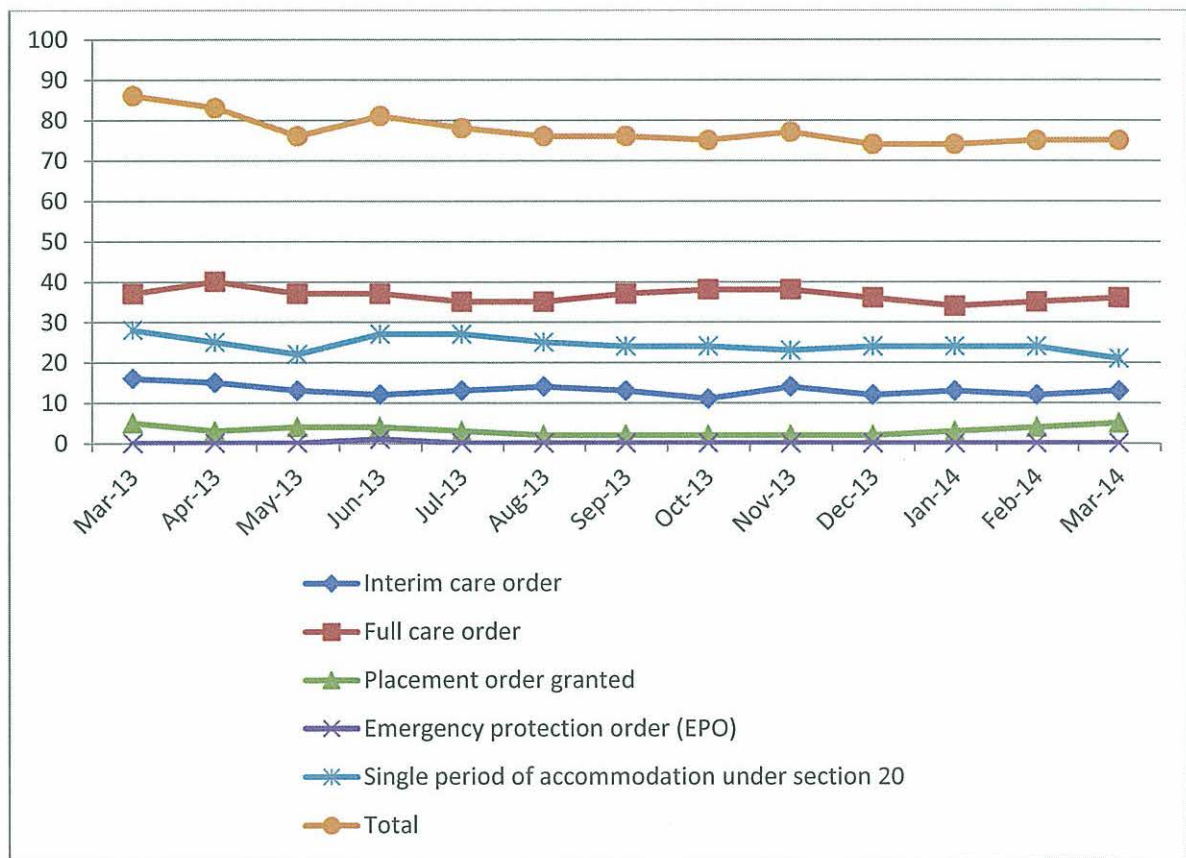


Looked After Children by Placement Types

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Placed for adoption with parental/guardian consent with current foster carer	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer	2	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Children's Homes	3	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	5	6
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	4	5
Independent living	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Foster placement with relative or friend	14	19	19	12	14	13	12	12	12	13	11	11	11	11
Placement with other foster carer	38	43	45	41	44	43	43	44	43	44	44	45	44	42
Residential Care Home	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
NHS/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young Offender Institution or prison	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Residential schools, except where dual-registered as a school and Children's Home.	5	9	7	6	7	6	6	6	5	5	4	4	5	4
All types of temporary move	1	0	0	3	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts unknown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	72	86	83	76	81	78	76	76	75	77	74	74	75	75

Looked After Children by Legal Status

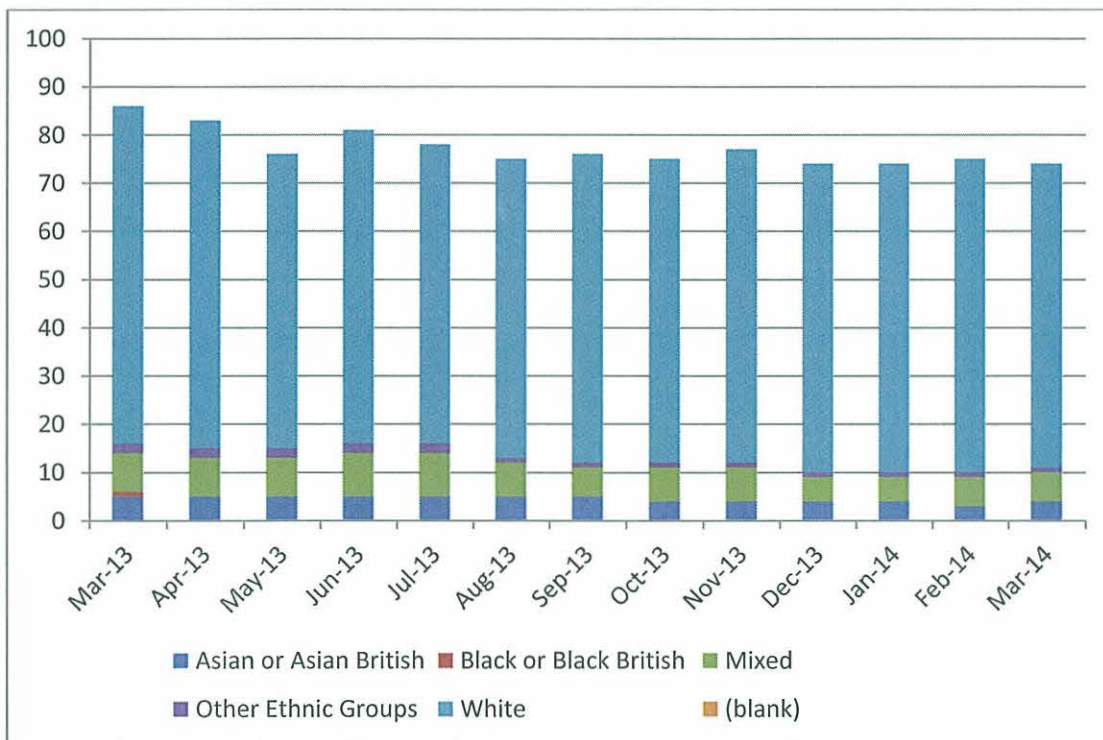
	Mar-12	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Interim care order	17	16	15	13	12	13	14	13	11	14	12	13	12	13
Full care order	30	37	40	37	37	35	35	37	38	38	36	34	35	36
Placement order granted	3	5	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	5
Emergency protection order (EPO)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single period of accommodation under section 20	22	28	25	22	27	27	25	24	24	23	24	24	24	21
Total	72	86	83	76	81	78	76	76	75	77	74	74	75	75



Although individual children might have changed status, the mix of statuses has not altered significantly during the year.

Looked After Children by Ethnicity

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Asian or Asian British	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	4
Black or Black British	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed	6	8	8	8	9	9	7	6	7	7	5	5	6	6
Other Ethnic Groups	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
White	64	70	68	61	65	62	62	64	63	65	64	64	65	63
(blank)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	72	86	83	76	81	78	75	76	75	77	74	74	75	75



With so few children in the cohort, it can be misleading to analyse ethnicity; for example, a family of 4 children would represent around 6% of the cohort.

Comparison of the ethnicity of children in care with the ethnic breakdown of children in Wokingham's schools in the January 2013 census.

This shows that children in care from a mixed heritage background appear to be over represented, whilst Asian and white children are under-represented.

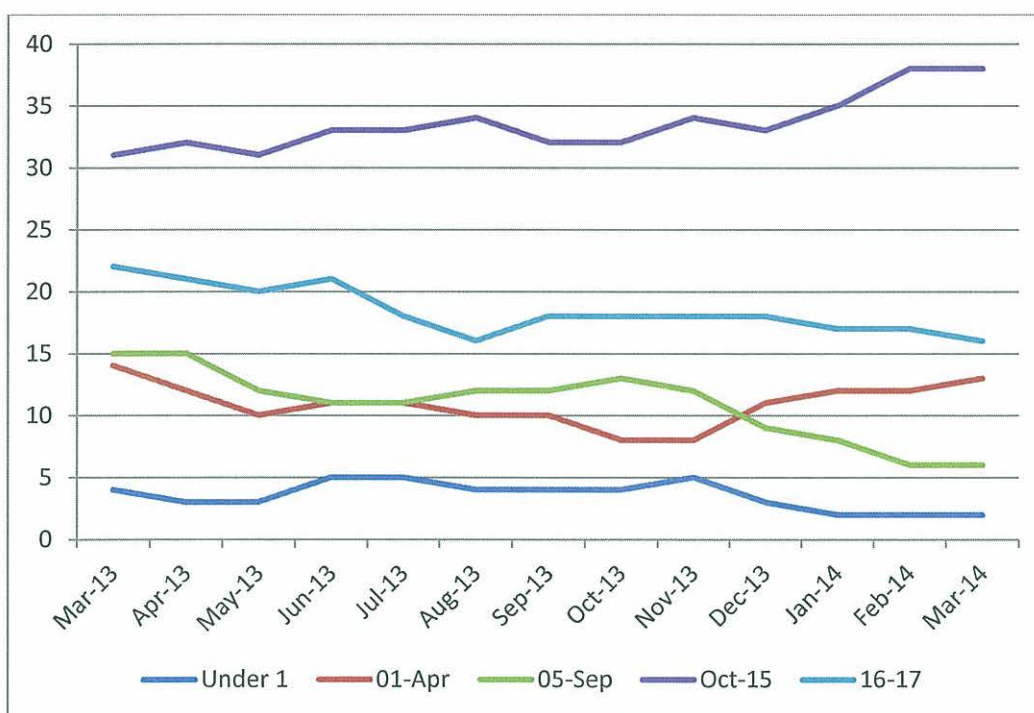
	Jan 2014 school census		LAC as at March 2014	
	Primary	Secondary	No	%
White	78.7%	79.3%	63	84.0%
Mixed	6.0%	5.1%	6	8.0%
Asian or Asian British	11.5%	11.0%	4	5.3%
Black or Black British	2.4%	3.4%	0	0.0%
Other ethnic groups	0.8%	0.5%	2	2.7%
Not Stated	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	75	100.0%

Nationally there is a similar picture with children of mixed heritage being over represented in the LAC cohort and Asian children being under represented.

	Jan 2013 school census		National LAC %
	Primary %	Secondary %	
White	76	79	78
Mixed	5	4	9
Asian or Asian British	10	9	4
Black or Black British	6	5	7
Other ethnic groups	2	2	2
Not Stated	1	1	1

Looked After Children by Age Groups

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Under 1	2	4	3	3	5	5	4	4	4	5	3	2	2	2
1-4	12	14	12	10	11	11	10	10	8	8	11	12	12	13
5-9	13	15	15	12	11	11	12	12	13	12	9	8	6	6
10-15	25	31	32	31	33	33	34	32	32	34	33	35	38	38
16-17	20	22	21	20	21	18	16	18	18	18	18	17	17	16



Age Breakdown	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 17
National 2012/13	6%	18%	19%	36%	20%
Wokingham 2013/14	3%	17%	8%	51%	21%
Wokingham 2012/13	5%	16%	17%	36%	26%
Wokingham 2011/12	3%	17%	18%	35%	28%

Analysis of children looked after – age on entering care - September 2013 snapshot.

		Age on coming into care					
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 17	Total
Age as at Sept 2013	Under 1	4					4
	1 - 4	5	5				10
	5 - 9		1	11			12
	10 - 15			14	18		32
	16 - 17		1	5	10	2	18
	Total	9	7	30	28	2	76

Analysis of 'categories of need' for children coming into in care - March 2014 snapshot

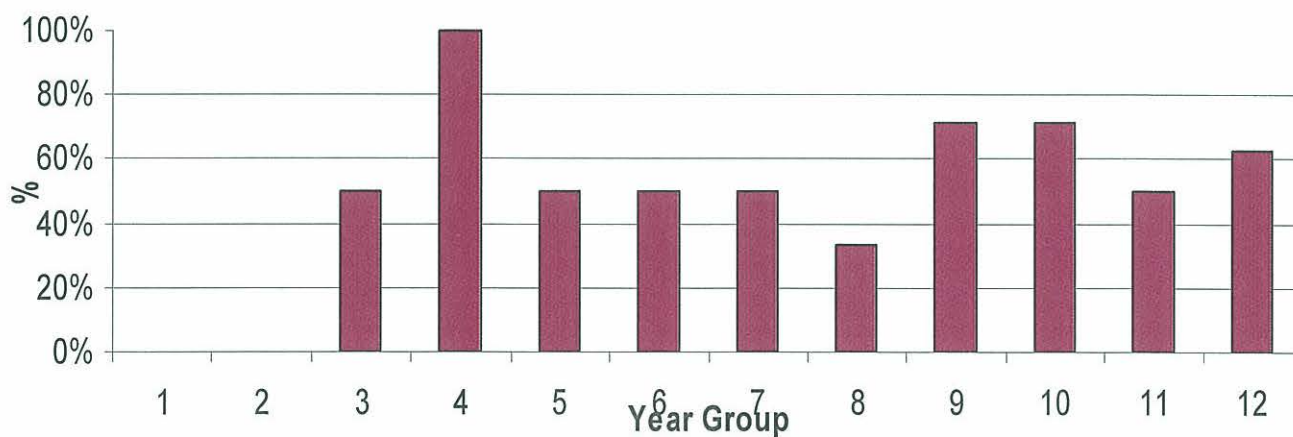
Abuse or neglect	57%
Disability	13%
Parental illness or disability	4%
Family in acute stress	13%
Family dysfunction	13%
Socially unacceptable behaviour	0%
Low income	0%
Absent parenting	0%

Looked After Children with Special Education Needs By Year Group

Looked After Children with Special Education Needs (March 2013)

NCY	School Action	School Action Plus	SEN	Total with Special Needs	Total LAC in Cohort	% of Cohort
FS1	0	0	0	0	1	0%
1	0	0	0	0	1	0%
2	1	2	0	3	6	50%
3	0	1	0	1	1	100%
4	0	0	3	3	6	50%
5	0	0	1	1	2	50%
6	1	0	1	2	4	50%
7	0	0	1	1	3	33%
8	1	0	4	5	7	71%
9	0	0	5	5	7	71%
10	0	0	3	3	6	50%
11	0	0	5	5	8	63%
Total	3	3	23	29	52	56%

% of Looked After Children with Special Education Needs by Year Group



For further information on how children with special needs are supported, please read Head Teacher for Looked after Children's report autumn 2013.

Summary of Indicators

Description	Actual 2010/11	Actual 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	2013/14 provisional results	Direction of Travel	Comments
1. Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following agency adoption decision	83.3%	100.0%	60.0%	66.7%	↑✓	3 children have been adopted during the period April – March 2014. Children have also left care on Residence Orders and Special Guardianship Orders.
2. Stability of placements of looked after children: More than 3 placements in a year	5.6%	4.2%	9.3%	8.0%	↓✓	This is now monitored on a rolling 12 months basis, to better reflect the true position for the current cohort of children.
3. Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement over 2 years	61.5%	60.0%	68.8%	78.0%	↑✓	
4. Proportion of Looked after children reviews during the period that were completed on time*	N/A	N/A	96.9%	100.0%	↑✓	
5. Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation on their 19 th birthday	100.00%	88.9%	100.0%	N/A		Due to the definition of this indicator, it is completed as part of closedown
6. Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training on their 19 th birthday	42.90%	55.6%	62.9%	N/A		Due to the definition of this indicator, it is completed as part of closedown
8.1 Looked After Children achieving level 4 and above in English at Key Stage 2	0.00%	57.1%**	N/A	1/1	N/A	The cohort of children in these indicators is fixed as at 30 September each year. A separate report was supplied by the Head Teacher for Looked After Children last autumn.
8.2 Looked After Children achieving level 4 and above in Maths at Key Stage 2	100%	71.4%**	N/A	1/1	N/A	
9.1 Looked After Children achieving 5+ or more A*-C GCSE's (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English & Maths)	0.00%	20.0%**	N/A	2/7	N/A	
10. PEPs	N/A	75%	N/A	92.7%	↑✓	

(* - This indicator has been set locally)

** - Figures for 2010/11 Academic Year – data suppressed due to low numbers

Key to Traffic Light Icon

	Performance is within 5% of target or better
	Performance is within 5% and 10% of target
	Performance is more than 10% off target

Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following agency adoption decision

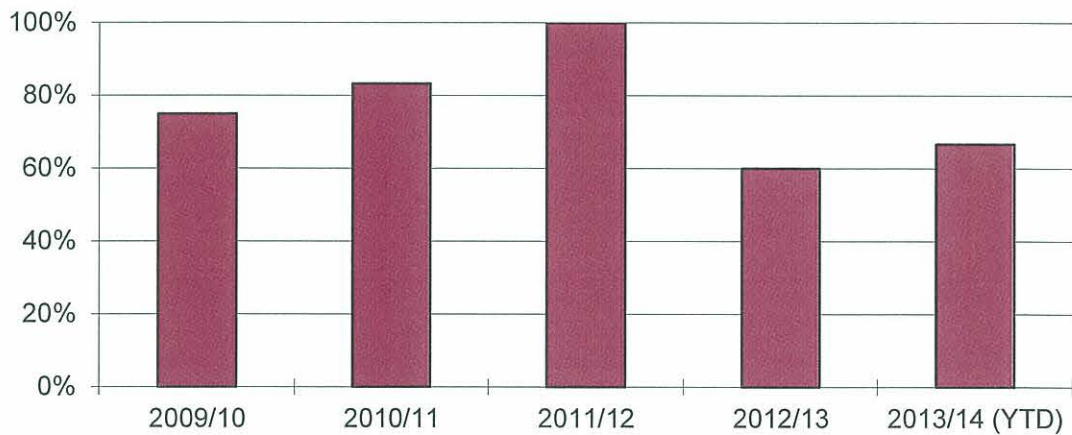
• Definition

The percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 6 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in the placement on adoption.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
Timeliness of placements of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	0/0 -	2/2 100.0%	0/1 0.0%	0/0 -	2/3 66.7%

Good performance is typified by a higher percentage

Timeliness of placements



Overarching adoption result in Wokingham

	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	Children who wait less than 20 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (number and %)
LA's 3 year average (2010-13)	606	150	15 (65%)
1 year trend - Improvement from 2012 to 2013	n/a	n/a	n/a
3 year trend - Improvement from 2009-12 to 2010-13	Average time in 2010-13 was longer than in 2009-12	Average time in 2010-13 was longer than in 2009-12	n/a
England 3 year average (2010-13)	647	210	11,360 (55%)
Distance from 2010-13 performance threshold	Threshold met	Threshold met	n/a

There were 3 adoptions during the 2013/14 financial year; 2 of these children were placed within 6 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption.

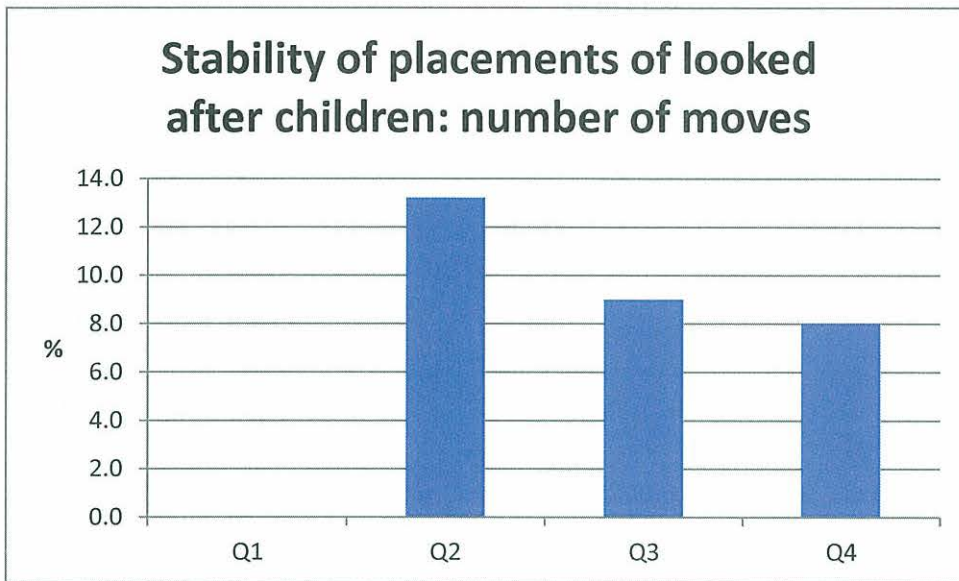
2. Stability of Placement of Looked after children: number of moves

• Definition

The percentage of children looked after at 31 March who had three or more placements over a 12 month rolling period.

This indicator has been modified and monitoring now reflects the figures we present corporately based on a rolling 12 month period, rather than within the current financial year. Good performance is typified by a lower percentage.

	Target 13/14	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves	7 to 9%	N/A	13.2%	9.0%	8.0%

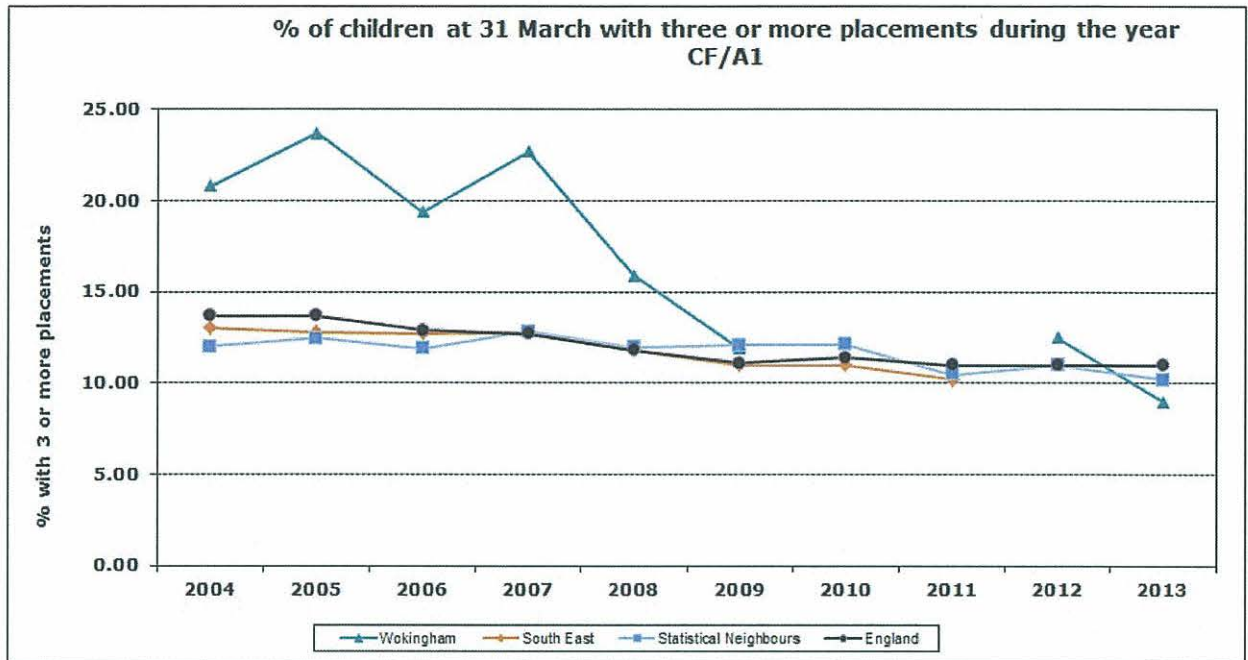


Corporately it has been decided to monitor this indicator over a rolling 12 months, to better reflect changes in performance over the year. For the 12 months from April 2013 to March 2014, the current result is 8.0%, which is within the 7-9% target range set corporately.

Placement Stability – 2004 to 2013 (Data as of 31st March)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Wokingham	20.80	23.70	19.40	22.70	15.90	11.90	5.20*	5.60*	12.50	9.00
South East	13.00	12.80	12.70	12.80	11.80	11.00	11.00	10.20	-	-
Statistical Neighbourhoods	12.00	12.44	11.89	12.81	11.97	12.09	12.12	10.45	10.99	10.20
England	13.70	13.70	12.90	12.70	11.80	11.10	11.40	11.00	11.00	11.00

Nationally this performance indicator is known to be of little use in comparisons between authorities, and there is now an option for recording all temporary placements as T0 – this inflates the published data for 3+ moves.



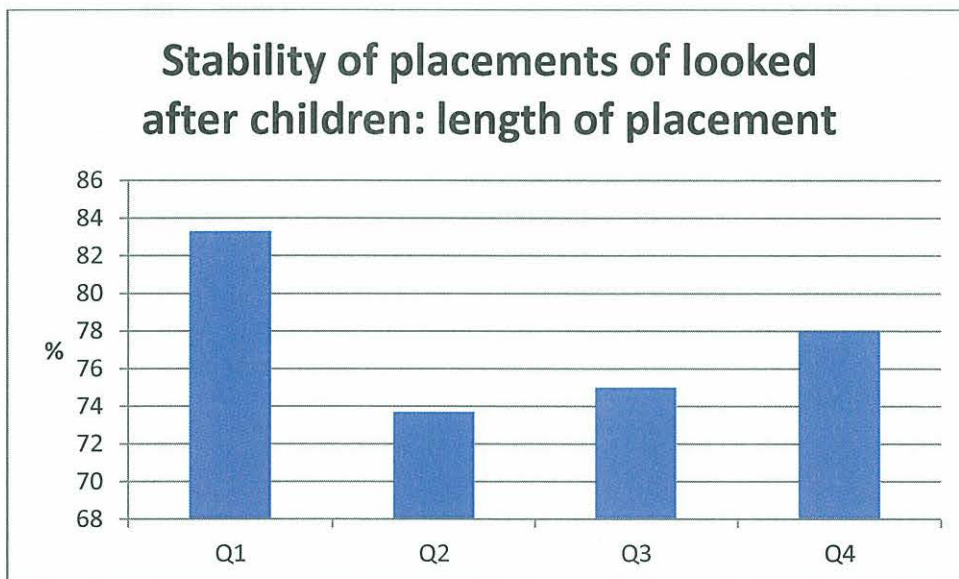
(Data from Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT) * -Data suppressed in Statistical First Release)

3. Stability of placement of looked after children: length of placement

• **Definition**

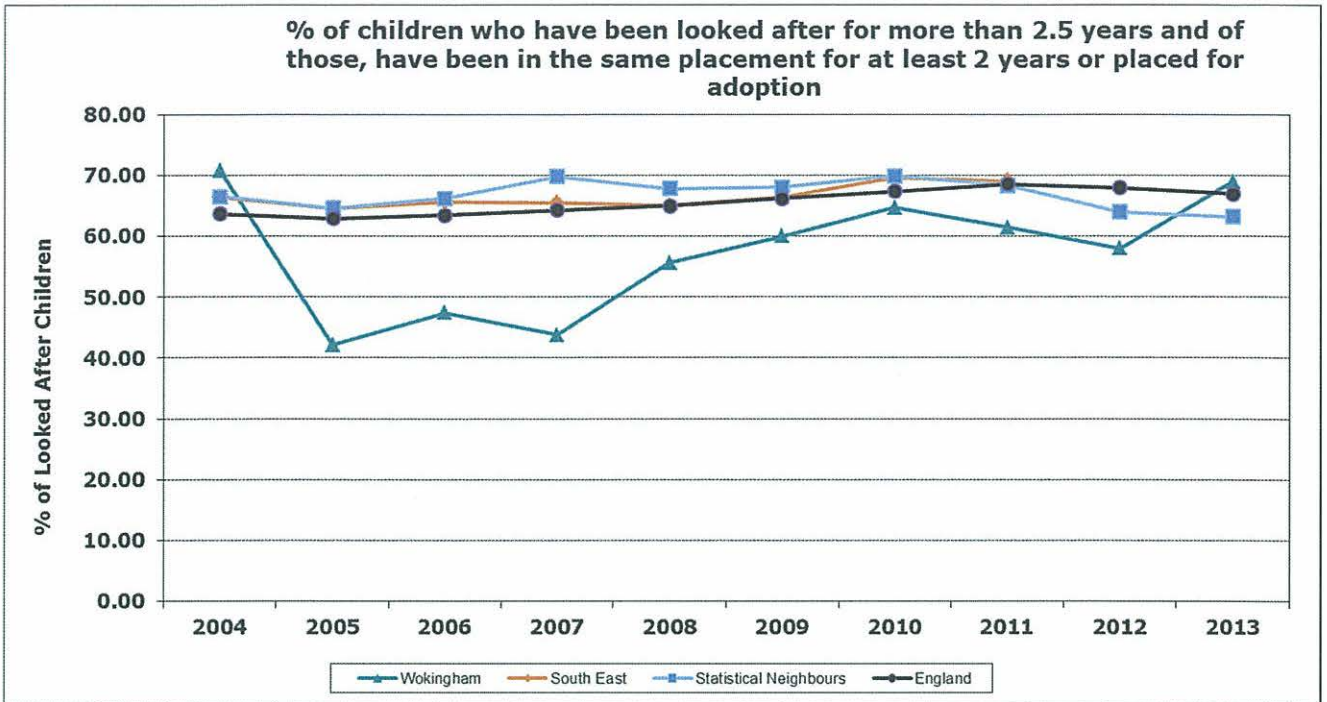
The percentage of children looked after, aged under 16, who have been looked after continuously for at least 2½ years, who have been living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or have had a placed for adoption placement and previous placement totalling at least 2 years.

Wokingham		Target 13/14	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	None Currently Set		83.3%	73.7%	75.0%	78.0%



Local Authority, Region and England		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
872	Wokingham	70.80	42.10	47.40	43.80	55.60	60.00	64.70	61.50	58.00	69.00
989	South East	66.50	64.60	65.70	65.50	65.00	66.40	69.60	69.10	-	-
	Statistical Neighbours	66.58	64.66	66.20	69.83	67.85	68.05	69.96	68.40	64.00	63.20
970	England	63.70	62.90	63.50	64.30	65.00	66.20	67.40	68.60	68.00	67.00

((Data from Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT))



((Data from Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT))

Proportion of Looked After Children's reviews during the period that were completed on time

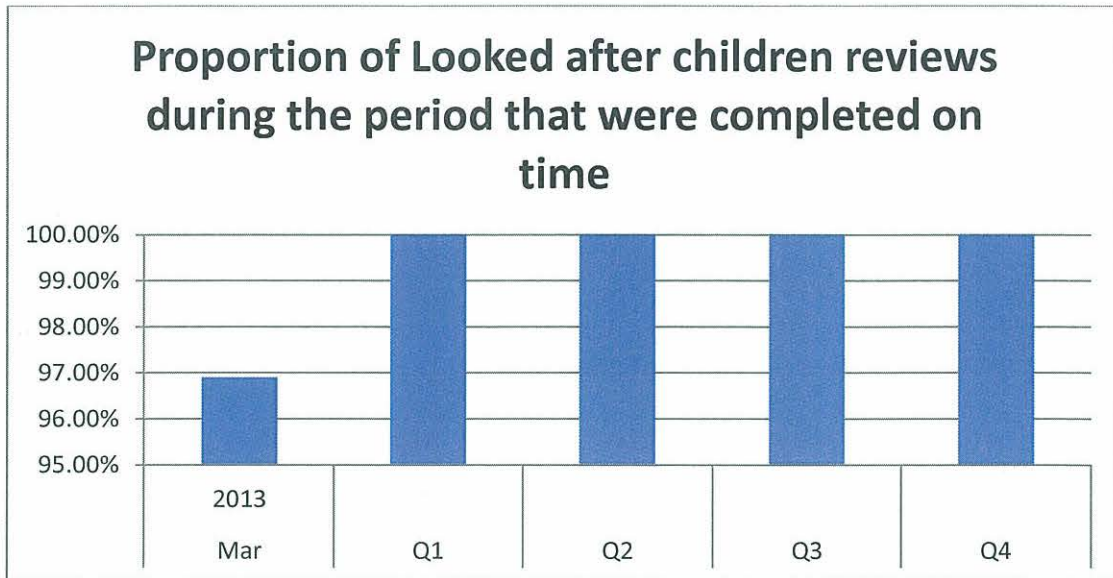
• Definition

The percentage of looked after children cases which have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March which were reviewed on time.

Good performance is typified by a higher percentage.

This is a local indicator designed to help us monitor the overall timeliness of reviews. Being a local indicator, there is no external comparator information available.

	Mar 2013	Target 13/14	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Proportion of Looked after children reviews during the period that were completed on time	96.9%	100%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



5. Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation

• Definition

The percentage of former care leavers (Looked After on 1 April in their 17th year) who were in suitable accommodation on their 19th birthday (actually within 3 months before or 1 month after their birthday) and who remained in contact with the authority.

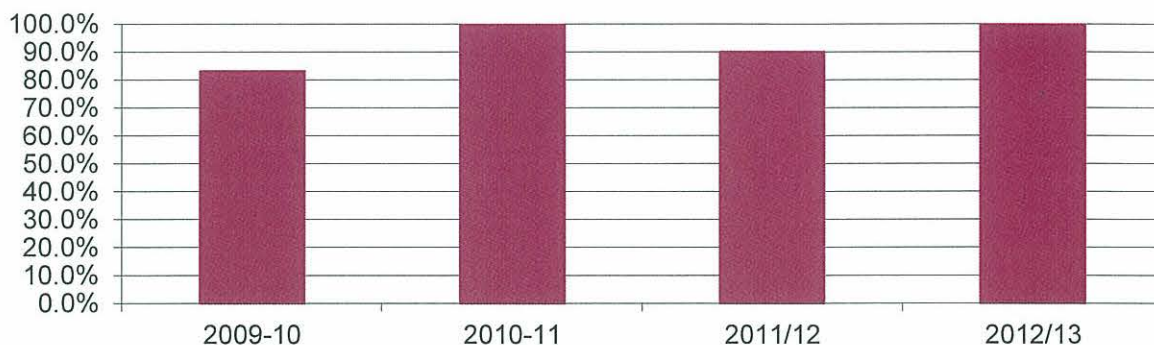
Accommodation is regarded to be suitable if it provides safe, secure and affordable provision for young people. It would generally include short-term accommodation designed to move young people on to stable long-term accommodation, but would exclude emergency accommodation used in a crisis.

Good performance is typified by a high percentage.

	England 2011/12	Statistical Neighbours 2011/12	2011-12	2012-13
Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation	88.3%	85.6%	8/9 88.9%	13/13 100%

No data has been provided for this indicator as at the end of March, due to the small numbers of children involved and the complexity of the definition.

Care Leavers in suitable Accommodation



The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has fluctuated over the last three years. Each cohort is relatively small and the definition of the indicator is very specific.

6. Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training

• Definition

The percentage of former care leavers (Looked After on 1 April in their 17th year) who were in education, employment or training on their 19th birthday (actually within 3 months before or 1 month after their birthday) and who remained in contact with the authority.

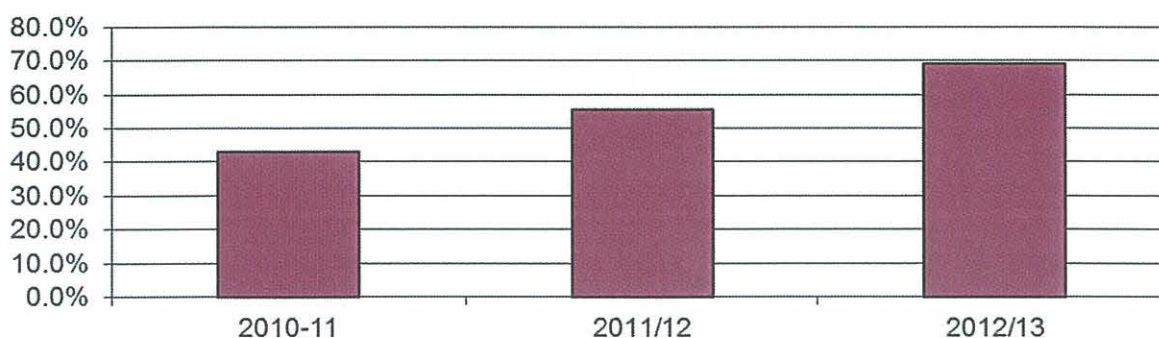
Good performance is typified by a high percentage.

Percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training

	England 2011/12	Statistical Neighbours 2011/12	2011-12	2012-13
Care Leavers in Education, Employment & Training	58%	57.8%	5/9 56%	9/13 69.2%

No data has been provided for this indicator as at the end of March, due to the small numbers of children involved and the complexity of the definition.

Care Leavers in Education, Employment & Training



The percentage of care leavers in Education, Employment and Training has showed an upward trend to 2013 however 2014 has demonstrated a reversal of this trend As this indicator measures a specific cohort of young people, it is not possible to track meaningfully during the year, so has not been reported in the performance table. However we can use a proxy measure looking at the outcomes for all care leavers over 18.

• Definition

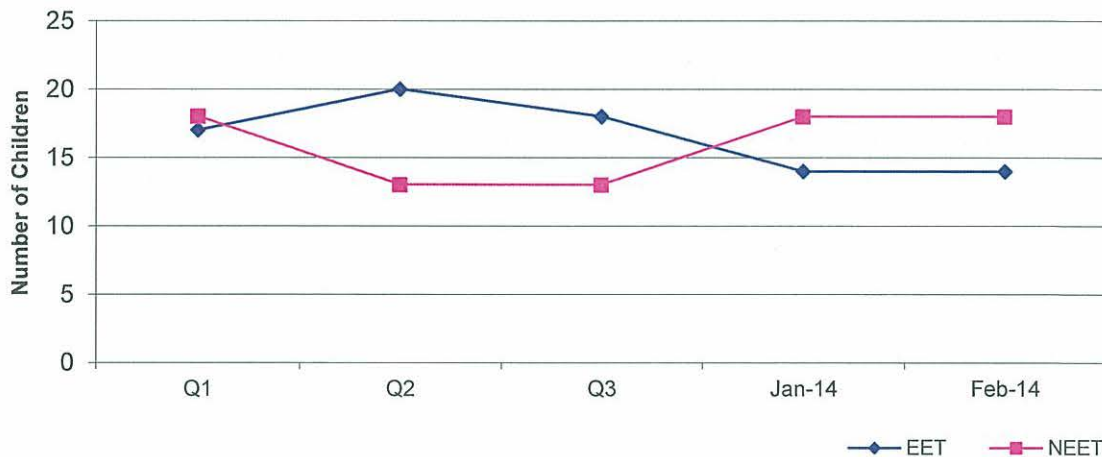
EET – the number of care leavers aged 18 and over, who are in Education, Employment or Training.

NEET – the number of care leavers aged 18 and over, who are not in Education, Employment or Training

Numbers of Care Leavers in EET & NEET

Wokingham	Q1	Q2	Q3	Jan-14	Feb-14
EET	17	20	18	14	14
NEET	18	13	13	18	18

Numbers of EET & NEET



The number of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has decreased during the year from 17 to 14, however the number of care leavers classified as NEET has remained fairly constant at 18, apart from Q2 and Q3 where the numbers dropped to 13.

7. Primary Attainment Analysis

A separate educational report was provided in autumn last year, from the Head Teacher for Looked after Children, detailing results and achievement.

8. Secondary Attainment Analysis

A separate educational report was provided in autumn last year, from the Head Teacher for Looked after Children, detailing results and achievement.

9. Looked After Children - School Attendance

There are currently 3 children whose attendance is causing concern; this monitoring is based 94% attendance, not the 85% persistent absence threshold.

National data was published recently on Looked After Children's attendance at school, which showed:

	Type of absence	England	Wokingham
		%	%
2009	Authorised	4.5	5.9
	Unauthorised	1.7	4.6
	Total	6.2	10.5
2010	Authorised	4.3	4.6
	Unauthorised	1.5	2.0
	Total	5.8	6.6
2011	Authorised	4.0	4.2
	Unauthorised	1.5	1.3
	Total	5.5	5.5
2012	Authorised	3.4	2.3
	Unauthorised	1.2	0.3
	Total	4.7	2.5

NB This data only includes attendance information on children in maintained schools, not those in PVI specialist provision

10. Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

It is misleading to sum activity across the year as children enter and leave Looked After status during the year, so a snapshot year-to-date percentage of 92.7% has been supplied for the end of March 2014.

It is local policy to provide PEPs for all children, irrespective of their age. The Early Years Team are now preparing plans for younger children, with the Head Teacher for Looked After Children preparing PEPs for those aged 3 or above.

Health & Dental assessments for Looked After Children

Although the return submitted to the DfE is based on health and dental assessments completed during the financial year, monitoring activity on progress is best tracked over a rolling 12 month period.

Our latest monitoring on this basis shows:

	March 2014 dataset
Dental check in last 12 months (and LAC for previous 12 months)	83.3%
% new LAC visiting dentist within 3 months of entering care	66.7%
% of all LAC visiting dentist within previous 6 months	52.0%
Health assessment in last 12 months (and LAC for previous 12 months)	100.0%
% new LAC having health assessment within 3 months of entering care	66.7%
% of all LAC with a health assessment at any time	88.0%
% of LAC with under 5 with development check in previous 6 months	91.7%

The rolling 12 months approach tends to understate performance, especially for newer entrants to the care system. Results are also distorted by older children who have the right to refuse dental checks.

APPENDIX 2

Related strategies and reviews supporting our role as Corporate Parent

Wokingham's Children in Care strategy was developed within in partnership with Children in Care, Care Leavers and partner agencies.

It sets out key objectives for children in care and care leavers, namely that they:

- Feel safe and are safe;
- Have at least one trusted and constant adult in their life;
- Are healthy, thrive emotionally , educationally and socially; and
- Are well supported in their transition to adult life.

In Wokingham we have a high number of children in care with a statement of Special Educational Need. The Special Education Needs review (2012) impacted positively on the outcomes for children in care in Wokingham by reducing the number of children who are accommodated within specialist boarding schools outside of Wokingham. The Children and Families Act 2014 will enable the local authority to offer personal budgets to families with children with special needs up to the age of 25. It is likely this will have an impact on the way we accommodate children with special needs in the future and this will need to be reviewed once the legislation is implemented locally.

The Care Act 2014 is also due to be enacted later this year and will significantly change the way carers are assessed and establishes a duty on local authorities to ensure all carers, including young carers, to provide funding for services if they meet the eligibility criteria. Similarly to other local authorities Wokingham has established a Project Group to determine exactly how the changes will affect local services and the way they can be delivered.

Wokingham Borough Council developed a Permanency Procedure this year Wokingham's which is based on ten principles. These principles incorporate National Adoption Standards and Regulations for England as well as values contained in the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Wokingham's performance in finding permanent options for children previously looked after by the authority is increasing. To date, this year the total number of stable placements of looked after children with a length of placement over two years has risen from 68.8% to 78.3%. Whilst this is an improving situation the aim of the Permanency Procedure is to help us to achieve our aim of finding permanent, stable placements for all children in our care.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established Health and Wellbeing Boards as a forum where local leaders from the health and social care system work together to

improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

Wokingham's Health and Wellbeing Board took on its statutory function from April 2013. The Health and Wellbeing board recently set up a Children's and Young Peoples Partnership sub group, which has its inaugural meeting next month. The Health and Wellbeing Board has developed a Wokingham Health and Wellbeing strategy.

The Health and Wellbeing Board provide oversight and accountability for looked after children and young people, which sets out the action plan and priorities for improving the health outcomes of children in care and care leavers.

Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board

The Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) works to safeguard children and young people and protect those who are at risk. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) were established by the government to ensure that organisations work together to protect children. The objectives of the WSCB Board as set in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 are;

- To work with agencies to safeguard children and promote their welfare
- To ensure that our safeguarding methods are effective in protecting children

The WSCB scrutinises the safeguarding of children in care, and will hold the CPB to account in this regard.

In 2012 a survey on how safe Wokingham's Children in Care and Care Leavers felt was carried out. The questionnaire used for this survey was based on the one used for the Children's Care Monitor 2011 which was produced by the Children's Rights Director for England. The same questionnaire was used for this year's survey. In total 41 young people responded to this survey. Of this 11(31%) were Care Leavers (10 female and 1 male) aged 17-20 and 30 (50%) were Children in Care; 20 males and 10 females. Three responses were received in Widget form. In the last survey 68% of Care Leavers responded and 46% of Children in Care. The lower response rate from Care Leavers may be explained by the lower reward offered this year for completing the survey.

The fear of being bullied remains at 44% which indicates that young people who are not actually experiencing bullying are still worrying that they may experience it. There is a marked increase in the perception that the young people get little or no support from carers to prevent them being bullied. However overall this survey identifies that more children feel safe and fewer are experiencing bullying. See (Appendix 5) for further detail of the results of the Safety Questionnaire.

The Corporate Parenting Board will report to the Local Safeguarding Children Board annually on the annual safeguarding survey.

Safer Communities Partnership

The Safer Communities Partnership is responsible for the deliverables and action plan of the partnership Domestic Abuse strategy. Domestic abuse is an important consideration in Wokingham, with approximately 70% of child protection cases being triggered by concerns about domestic abuse. Consultation with Children in Care and care leavers views on safeguarding and staying safe also highlighted priority concerns regarding cyber bullying and safety; this work will be picked up in this action plan and developed through the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board Business Planning.

Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Wokingham Borough Council plays a central role in the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which is a partnership between businesses and the six Thames Valley unitary authorities. The Partnership helps set local economic priorities and lead economic growth in the area, as well as having responsibility for training and employment. The partnership will be supported to promote positive employment training and education opportunities for children in care and care leavers, including a focus on apprenticeships and alternative employment and training opportunities.

APPENDIX 3

Delivery against Corporate Parenting Strategy priorities

This report is currently informed by national data and local data to provide analysis and evidence about how the local authority is delivering on its objectives.

The Board receives annual reports from the Independent Reviewing Officer. The core purpose of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) role is to ensure that the care plan for the child fully reflects the child's needs and to ensure that each child's wishes and feelings are given full and due consideration. The IRO also has a duty to monitor the local authority's overall performance as a corporate parent and to bring any areas of poor practice in the care and planning for looked after children to the attention of senior managers. The Independent Reviewing Officer annual report was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board in May 2013. An updated report is due to be presented in May 2014.

- (i) To strengthen the Corporate Parenting Role and Corporate Parenting function of the council as a whole.

The CPB has grown in maturity and the priority to strengthen the Board has been achieved during the past two years. However, the Board retains this priority for 2014/15 to ensure the approach and delivery of the Council as a whole in relation to CIC and care leavers is strengthened.

The Corporate Parenting Board, chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services, continues to meet regularly six times each year. There continues to be a high attendance at meetings including councillors and senior officers from Children's Services, foster carers, the Children in Care Council and improved attendance by health partners. A kinship carer is now a member of the Board.

The Board has developed a strong overview of the progress of children in care and scrutinises the quality, effectiveness and performance of services that support them. The report card has been developed and there is a good awareness of the data available.

The Board agreed to strengthen its understanding of need. For example, the Children's Social Care and Housing Partnership group completed the first needs analysis of care leavers which formed the basis of planning for 2013/14. Subsequently, a Young People's Housing Strategy has been developed and is due to be incorporated into Wokingham's overarching Housing Strategy in 2014. The CIC Council were consulted and identified the following needs in relation to housing:

- Housing Needs Guidance for Young People (Designated Housing Officer for Care Leavers)
- Safer accommodation
- More accommodation (including supported lodgings)
- Firmer assessment processes
- Less cross-boundary placements
- More apprenticeships

- Training flat – graduated independence
- Automatic processing of Children in Care onto housing register as their vulnerability factors are congruent to homelessness risk factors

The Board is developing a culture of celebration for Children in Care. The Awards day was a priority for the Board and was based on young people's feedback through the Children in Care Council. The 2012 and 2013 awards days proved to be a success.

The development of the Pledge demonstrates the Board's commitment to ensuring that the voice of children in care is heard – the CICC were empowered to develop the Pledge for the first time and it was endorsed by full council on 21 November 2011. The Pledge was reviewed in October 2013 and a report on the work of the CICC went to CPB in November 2013.

Wokingham has endeavoured to make an impact on delivering a more stable workforce to meet the needs of CIC and care leavers. As of April 2013 the turnover of permanent staff was still high. However, results from a staff survey undertaken in 2013 underpinned the work we have undertaken in 2013-14 to strengthen retention and the skill and motivation of the staff team.

This work has included the following:

- Implementation of a robust induction model (e.g. staff invited to attend 'Manager Leading Change' meetings to meet all managers when they start)
- Two listening events were held in the summer and winter of 2013. Lead Member for Children's Services attended and an open dialogue was encouraged. Excellent engagement by some teams but less so in other teams.
- Bespoke leadership programme developed for Children's Team – attended by managers, assistant managers and members of team identified for progression planning purposes.
- Children in Care Council representatives invited to help with staff interviews.
- Extensive training on offer to all staff
- A celebration of social work event took place in November 2013 at which members of Wokingham's Safeguarding Children Board, partner agencies and staff were invited.
- Monthly staff newsletter celebrating good work.
- Quarterly social work development workshops (members of the Children in Care Council presented their annual review at one of these workshops)

It is too early to assess the impact of the above but the effects will be reviewed. It is also worth noting a Council wide restructure is currently being undertaken and this may have an impact on the Council's ability to retain key staff.

- (ii) To strengthen the voice of children in our care and young people leaving care to enable their participation in the planning, reviewing and service design.

The Board has developed a strong relationship with the Children in Care Council (CICC); receives reports on the child and young people's experience and meets directly with children and young people in care to take into account their experiences of Wokingham as a Corporate Parent and to improve the support and services provided to them.

Work enabling us to hear the voice of children and young people over the year included:

- Reviewed 'The Pledge' to children in care
- Increased Children in Care Council membership
- Conducted interviews
- Kept in contact with other Children in Care Councils
- Responded to government letters and questionnaires
- Commented on Health packs for CiC for Lac nurses
- Set up CiCC Facebook page with just CiCC as members
- Are represented on the Corporate Parenting Board
- AND.....

A major piece of work the Children in Care Council undertook jointly in 2013 with the local authority was to develop The Pledge for Care Leavers. It was agreed at CPB in July 2013 The Pledge for Care Leavers will be reviewed in Autumn 2014.

- (iii) To consolidate progress and continue to improve the timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options

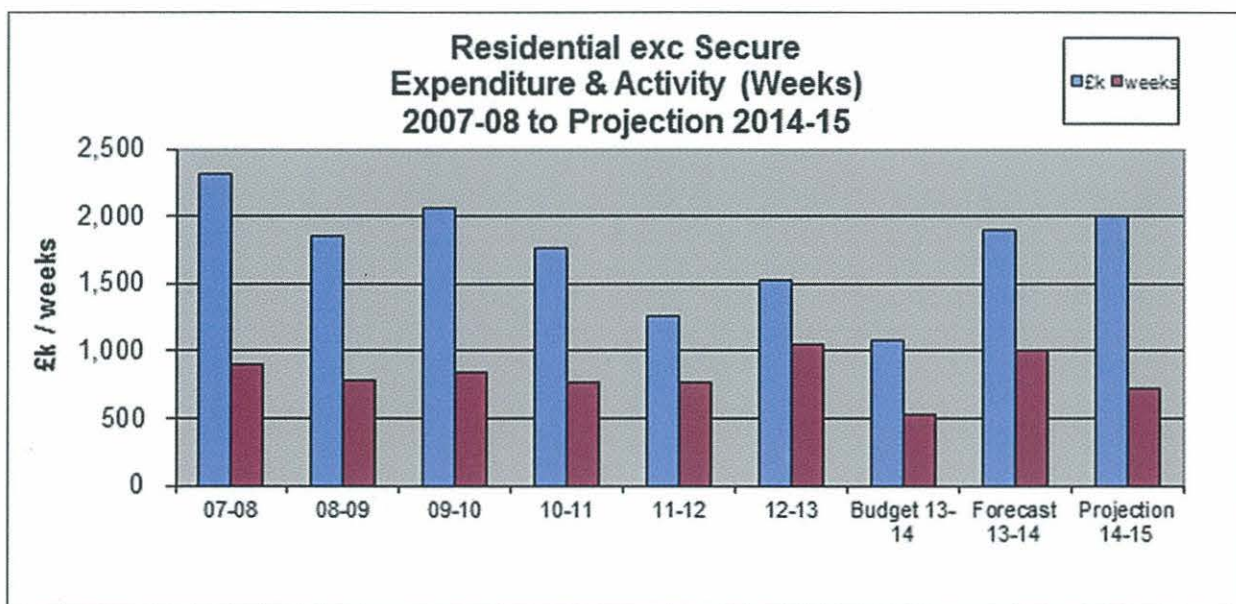
Wokingham's Foster Care Forum is now well established with meetings being held termly (three terms a year). Three Foster Care Forums were hosted in 2013/14: Foster Care Forums have provided Carers with opportunities to express their views regarding the Service that they and Children in Care receive from the Authority directly to the Managers of the Service. Forums have also been hosted in the evening in order that Carers who are not available between the hours of 9-5 can attend.

Two new foster carers were appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board as the previous two carers finished their term of appointment in March 2013. Unfortunately the Family and Friends Carer who was appointed to the Board alongside Mainstream Carers recently withdrew their membership. The tenure for foster carer representatives on the Corporate Parenting Board is two years.

A Foster Carer Charter will be launched in 2014. An update on the Charter will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board later in 2014.

Wokingham joined a regional preferred provider framework (PPF) from which to commission private sector care options. This forms part of our strategy to create more 'local' placements options for our CIC and care leavers. Such arrangements offer better opportunities for quality assurance and value for money.

Children's Social Care has continued to deliver on its commitment to accommodate children within family settings and has reduced the use of residential care; children with special educational needs who are placed within residential boarding schools have been excluded from the figures represented below.



The local authority has sought to strengthen the commissioning / contracting arrangements in relation to commissioning foster carers or care providers. The review which took place in 2012 recommended changes. One key change was to strengthen the commissioning arrangements regarding foster carers or care providers by creating a Strategic Commissioning Division which oversees placements for both children and adults, with an aim to provide a seamless service. This will be embedded and reviewed during 2014.

The revised priority within the CPB strategy is to improve the number of foster care options as well as deliver permanence for our CIC.

The national data set for April 2013 – February 2014 (YTD) sets out our achievements in regards to adoption as a route to permanence for CIC. In January 2014 Wokingham was named as one of only 36 local authorities that met both of the Government's timeliness thresholds for 2010-13.

The percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 6 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in the placement on adoption was 66.7%. To date, this is an increase of 7% from 2013-14.

The Government is increasing these threshold targets next year. Coupled with the introduction of a new two-stage approval process for adoption, which the local authority will be required to implement, we will have to ensure our processes are robust.

For further analysis of statistics for looked after children see (Appendix 1) 'Corporate Parenting Report Card'.

- (iv) To improve a care leaver's journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: Education, Employment and Training, independent living, Housing options and Health.

Ownership of the whole spectrum of deliverables and outcomes has yet to be realised and will be a key priority of 2014/15. This is particularly relevant due to the changes required in the Children and Families Act 2014, such as the right for care leavers to request they stay with their foster family until the age of 21.

The Children's Social Care and Housing Partnership group was one of the main delivery vehicles established to deliver improved housing and accommodation outcomes for care leavers. A Young People's Housing Strategy has been developed and will be incorporated into Wokingham's overarching Housing Strategy in 2014. Actions to take forward in relation to Care Leavers include:

- A process where every Care Leaver is on the Housing Needs register when they reach 16
- Every Care Leaver housed by 21 years of age
- Extra points awarded monthly so that this can be achieved
- Young Peoples' Housing Panel tracks progress and raises urgencies/concerns
- Deposit Loan Scheme remains available
- To enable the implementation of the duty contained within the Children and Families Act 2014 to reform children's residential care to make sure homes are safe and secure, and to improve the quality of care vulnerably children receive

Wokingham's data relating to care leavers entering higher education has been suppressed due to low numbers as have a number of our statistical neighbours, however some of our statistical neighbours have achieved in this area. The Head Teacher for CIC is seeking to understand this difference and apply learning locally.

The Health Care Provider Trust has refocused its service to meet the needs of care leavers; a pathway has been developed to ensure 16-18 year olds are supported in leaving care, and a copy of their health history is shared with them in line with statutory guidance. The team now undertake the review of health assessments for young people who are 16 years plus.

- (v) To improve the educational outcomes for children in care and young people leaving care by including their aspirations

In 2012/13 the CPB endorsed the CIC Education Strategy and associated action plan. A revised strategy is due to be presented to CPB in 2014. This is delivering the strategic framework through which to improve outcomes. Capacity and focus has been increased through personnel changes and in changes to the approaches taken to support CIC and care leavers to achieve. A permanent Head Teacher of the virtual school has been appointed.

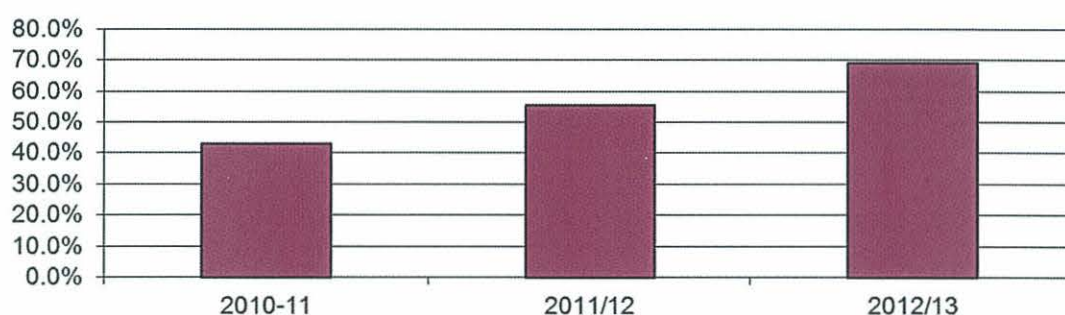
All schools have been strongly advised to appoint a designated governor for Children in Care. However, this is not a statutory requirement. A governor briefing session for designated governors is due to take place in September 2014.

Following the head teachers input all CIC know who is their designated teacher and that they are their main point of contact.

The Virtual Head Teacher is implementing the action plan which has included ensuring termly Personal Education Plans (PEPs) were in place since September 2013. This has added value in real terms to the focus and input to CIC and care leavers.

The percentage of care leavers in Education, Employment and Training has shown an upward trend recently, and this improvement was maintained for the 2012/13 cohort of young people.

Care Leavers in Education, Employment & Training



However, the number of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has decreased during the year from 17 to 14 for 2013-14. The number of care leavers classified as NEET has remained fairly constant at 18, apart from Q2 and Q3 where the numbers dropped to 13.

(iv) To improve health provision for children in care and care leavers

Two areas had been prioritised in 2013-14: the development of a strategic framework and improvements in the operational support for CIC and care leavers in regard to their health outcomes.

The Health Strategy for CIC and care leavers was issued in November 2012, a significant piece of Pan Berkshire work was presented to the March CPB, and is still in place.

The health provider has made a series of system changes to support the improvement of health outcomes for CIC and care leavers including increasing capacity.

A step change has been delivered in regard to ensuring the health needs of our CIC are met, significant improvements have been delivered in recent years in regard to

the timely completion of health assessments, dental check ups, completion of the Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire- a tool in meeting the emotional needs of CIC as well as a different and improved pathway for the medical assessments of children in care with complex health needs.

Please see the table below for outputs achieved to date 2013-14.

Although the return submitted to the Department of Education is based on health and dental assessments completed during the financial year, monitoring activity on progress is best tracked over a rolling 12 month period.

Our latest monitoring on this basis shows:

	Health Assessment	Dental Assessment
Within 2013/14	74.7%	78.7%
Due during March 2014	25.3%	21.3%

The rolling 12 months approach tends to understate performance, especially for newer entrants to the care system. Results are also distorted by older children who have the right to refuse dental checks.

The CAMHS partnership is focusing on understanding the numbers of Children in Care receiving services to ensure we are meeting the needs of children in care and on developing outcome impact measures based on the Strength and Difficulty Questionnaires which will be included in future reports to the Corporate Parenting Board..

APPENDIX 4

Children in Care Council report – April 2012-August 2013

APRIL 2012 –



AUGUST 2013

Purpose

Our purpose is to be a second voice for all the children in care and care leavers. As ambassadors of this group, some of our key terms of reference are....

- To influence strategy
- To ensure that Children in Care and Care leavers are receiving what they are entitled to and highlight the areas where they may need more support.
- To present information to senior managers and the Corporate Parenting Board.
- To monitor the Pledge.



Membership

- ❖ Since our last report we reached our target of 8 members however; One young person reached 21 and stopped being a care leaver
- ❖ Our virtual member resigned due to other commitments
- ❖ One member completed her University degree and therefore will be leaving the council
- ❖ Two new young people have applied to be members
- ❖ Overall this leaves one vacancy on the Council

Training / Keeping Up To Date

- ❖ Updated terms of reference
- ❖ Agreed rules for the council
- ❖ Agreed function of individual rules
- ❖ Identified consultation hierarchy
- ❖ Reviewed how the CiCC function overall
- ❖ Agreed members are to be called Care Ambassadors
- ❖ Produced a business plan

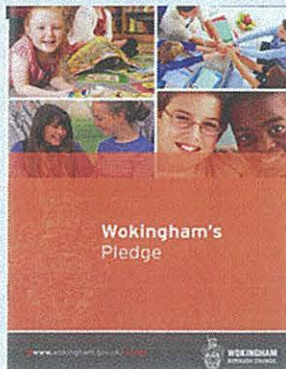
Consultation

- Survey to all children in care and care leavers
- Did a presentation on the CiCC on the 2012 awards day
- Placed a suggestion box in the Here4U team building
- Sent a newsletter to all CiC and CL at Christmas



Reviewing The Pledge

- We devised and sent out a questionnaire
- Compiled a report from responses
- Presented findings to CPB
- Presented findings to the whole council
- Need for Care Leaver's Pledge identified
- Produced Care Leaver's Pledge
- Presented to CPB and adopted



We've been busy!

- Conducting interviews
- Proposed budget accepted
- Kept in contact with other CiCCs
- Responded to government letters and questionnaires
- Commented on Health packs for CiC for Lac nurses
- CiCC Facebook page with just CiCC as members
- Contributed to an article about experiences at Christmas for the Who Cares Magazine
- Spoken to inspectors
- Are represented on the Corporate Parenting Board
- Reviewed the entitlement leaflets
- AND.....



Open Evenings

- First Open Evening held July 2012 at Here4U
- Second Open Evening held July 2013 at Shute End



Care leaver's week

In conjunction with the Here4U team, we promoted Care Leaver's week.



Achievements

- **Produced a new consultation form for young people**
- **Produced a form to check the effectiveness of reviews**
- **Produced a new foster carer review form**
- **Had suggestion for improvements to The Family Centre accepted**



Other Issues

- Judith Ramsden the Head of Safeguarding and Social Care keeps in close touch with the CiCC to discuss general issues



Some examples are:

- How we check young people have the information they need
- Respite Care
- NI numbers
- Support after 21
- Laptop and internet entitlement
- Social Events
- Passports



Aims for the future

- Facilitate two open evenings a year
- Produce a check list on CiC for social workers
- Run one of the social worker development mornings
- Produce a new CiCC flyer
- Investigate how CiC are prepared for independence



AND WE'VE HAD FUN

Snow tubing this August and helping at the 'can day'



A meal out at Christmas



Appendix 5

ISSUE ADDRESSED

Children in Care and Care Leavers views on safeguarding /staying safe

METHODOLGY

In 2012 a survey on how safe Wokingham's Children in Care and Care Leavers felt was carried out. The questionnaire used for this survey was based on the one used for the Children's Care Monitor 2011 which was produced by the Children's Rights Director for England. The same questionnaire was used for this year's survey (Appendix 1).

All Wokingham's Children in Care aged 7-17 and all Wokingham's Care Leavers were sent the questionnaire directly, with the exception of disabled Children in Care whose carers were asked to support the children in responding to the survey. The disabled children had a choice of completing the questionnaire's in either written or widget form.

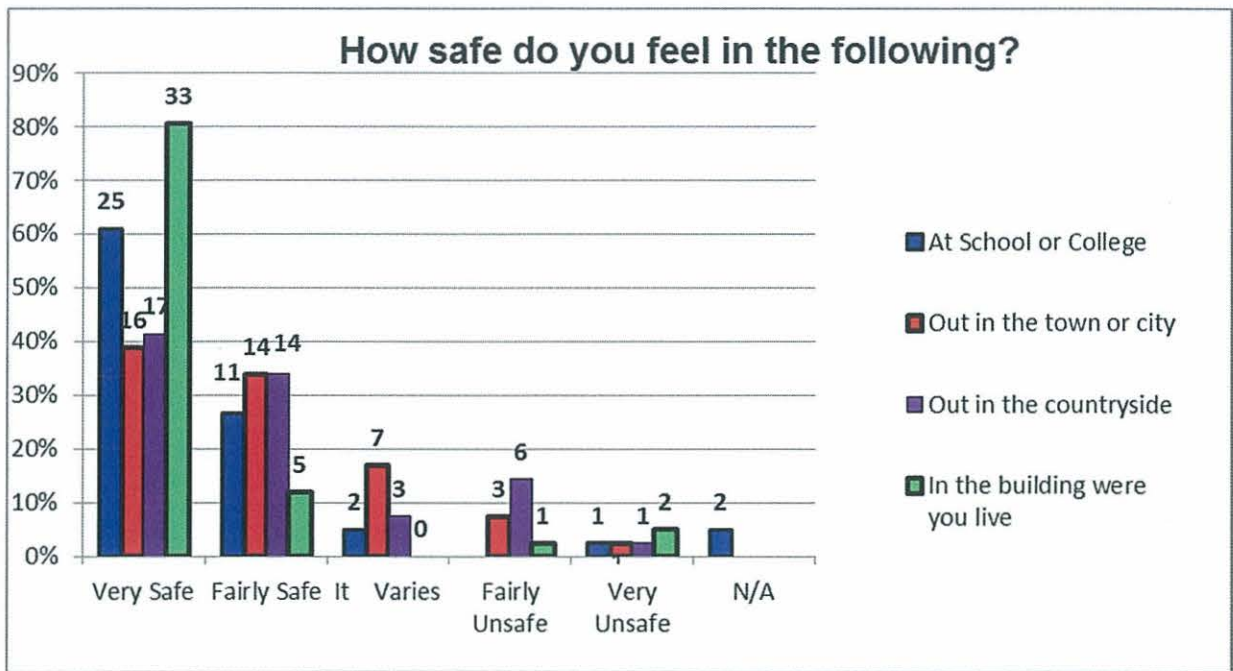
In total 41 young people responded to this survey. Of this 11(31%) were Care Leavers (10 female and 1 male) aged 17-20 and 30 (50%) were Children in Care; 20 males and 10 females. Three responses were received in Widget form. In the last survey 68% of Care Leavers responded and 46% of Children in Care. The lower response rate from Care Leavers may be explained by the lower reward offered this year for completing the survey.

RESULTS

1. All young people felt:

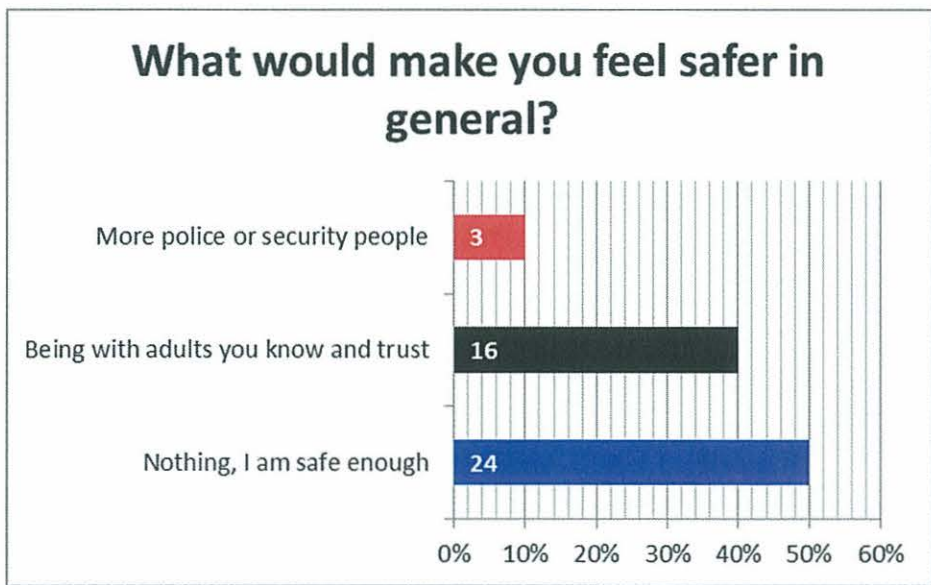
- Safest in the building where they lived
- Next safest at their school or college
- Next safest in the countryside
- Least safest in town

This is the same order as the previous survey but the difference between the countryside and town has lessened and is now negligible.



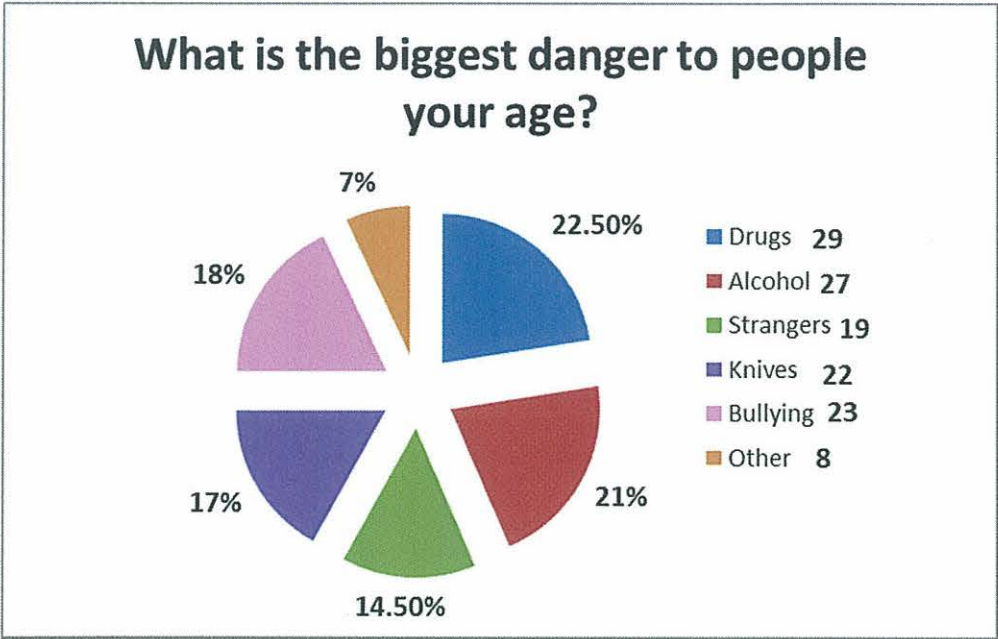
Two young people identified that they did not feel safe where they lived, both are Children in Care, one was involved in a specific incident that has been addressed which had made him feel unsafe, the other is a young person who is disabled who wishes to return home and therefore feels 'unsafe' in Care. This child's Care Plan is being carefully scrutinised with a view to changing placement. One Care Leaver identified feeling fairly unsafe where she lived. This young person has mental health issues and identifies that she feels unsafe in all places and situations; she is receiving support from adult services.

2.



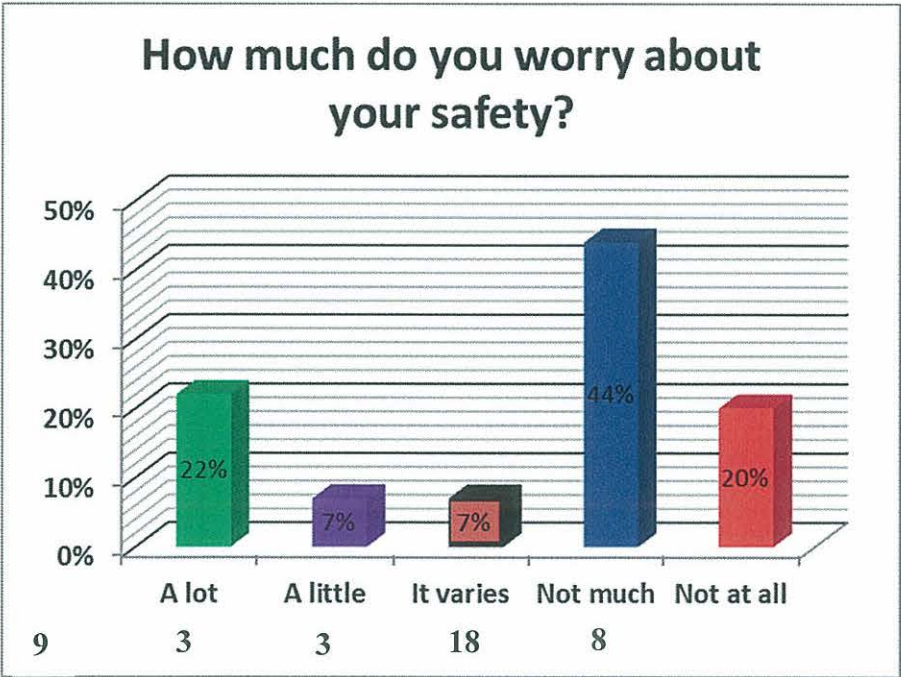
Both groups put the two top choices in the same order but the older group did not identify having more police around as being a safety factor. Both groups added that they felt safer if they were with people they knew i.e. friends. Last year the top two choices were the other way around and this indicates an increase in the number of young people who are feeling 'safe enough'.

3.



Both groups identified drugs and alcohol as the biggest threat to young people. Knives and bullying were on a par for both groups with strangers being a slightly lower threat. The younger group suggested that cyber bullying, criminal activity and being taken away from your family were other dangers; the older group only suggested that sexual activity could be a danger. These findings are very similar to the previous results.

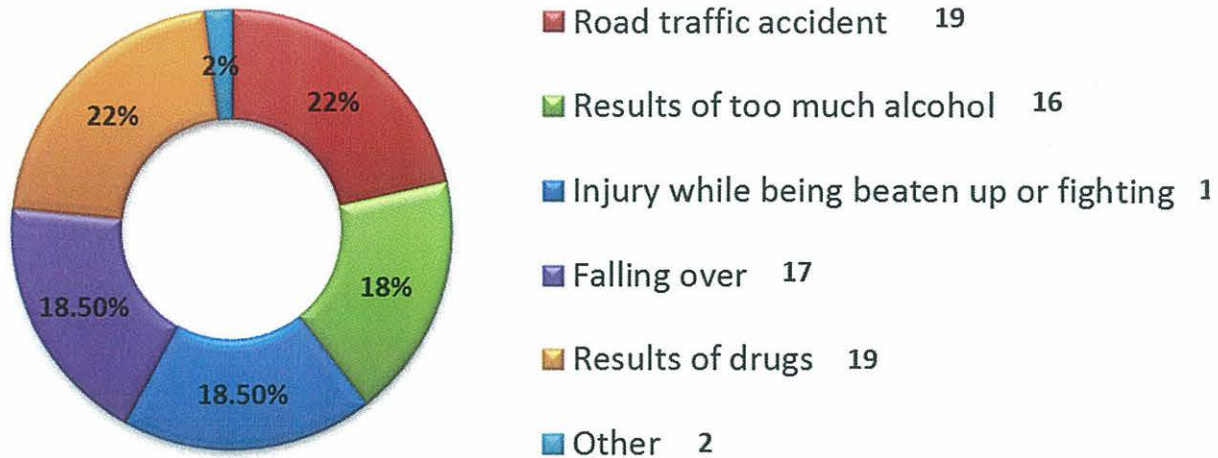
4.



Answers were consistent in both groups and similar to the previous results.

5.

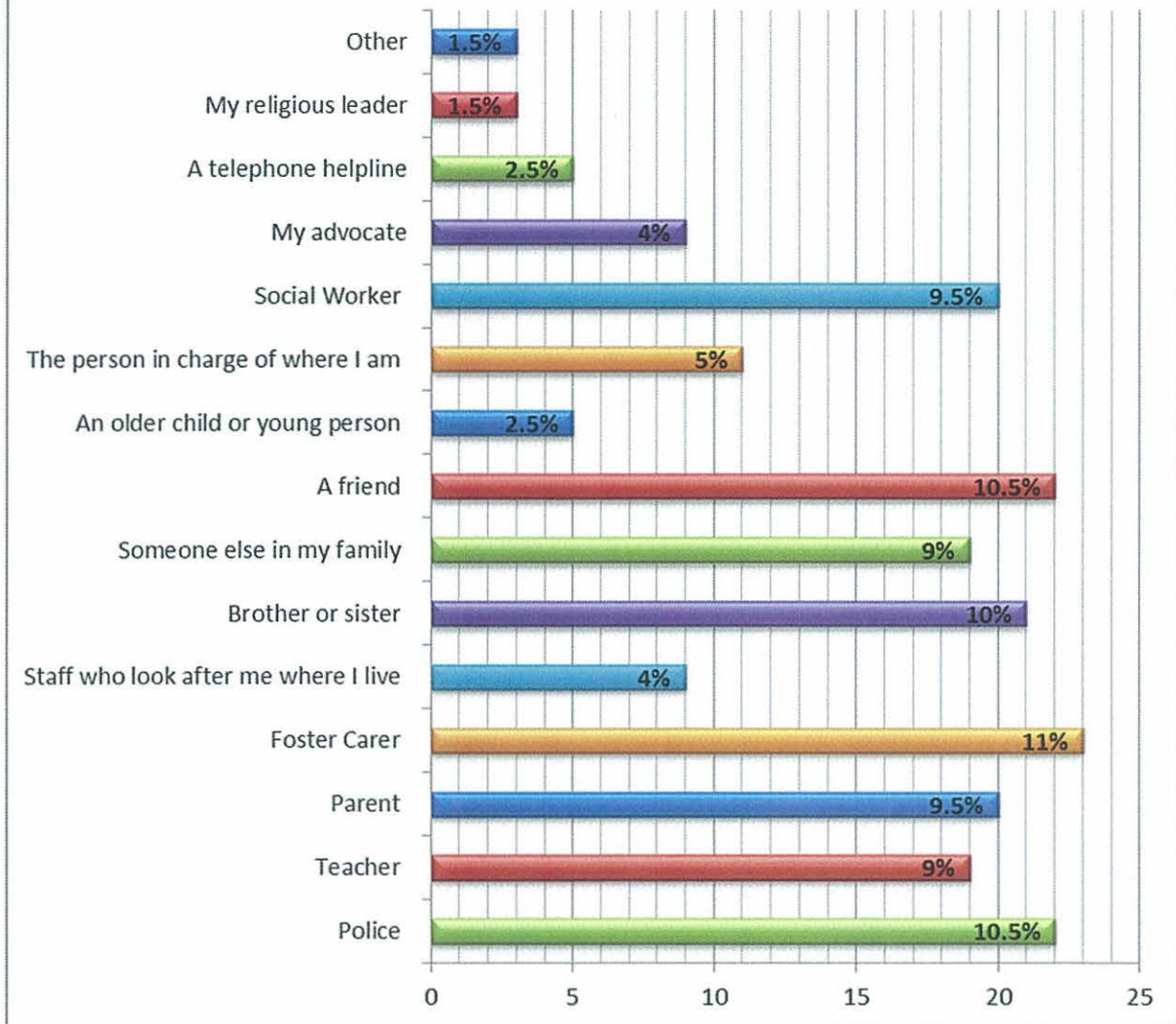
What accidents are most likely to happen to people your age?



The groups varied more in their responses this year. The younger group felt falling over the highest danger, which they felt was the least likely to happen last year. They felt that road traffic accidents were the second most likely event, with injury while being beaten up, coming third. For the older group accidents related to drugs and alcohol were the most likely, with injury while being beaten up being their third most likely event as well. An added suggestion that might lead to accidents was 'getting in with a bad group of lads'. The different age range of these groups most likely explains the different responses.

6.

Who would you go to for help if you felt you were not safe?

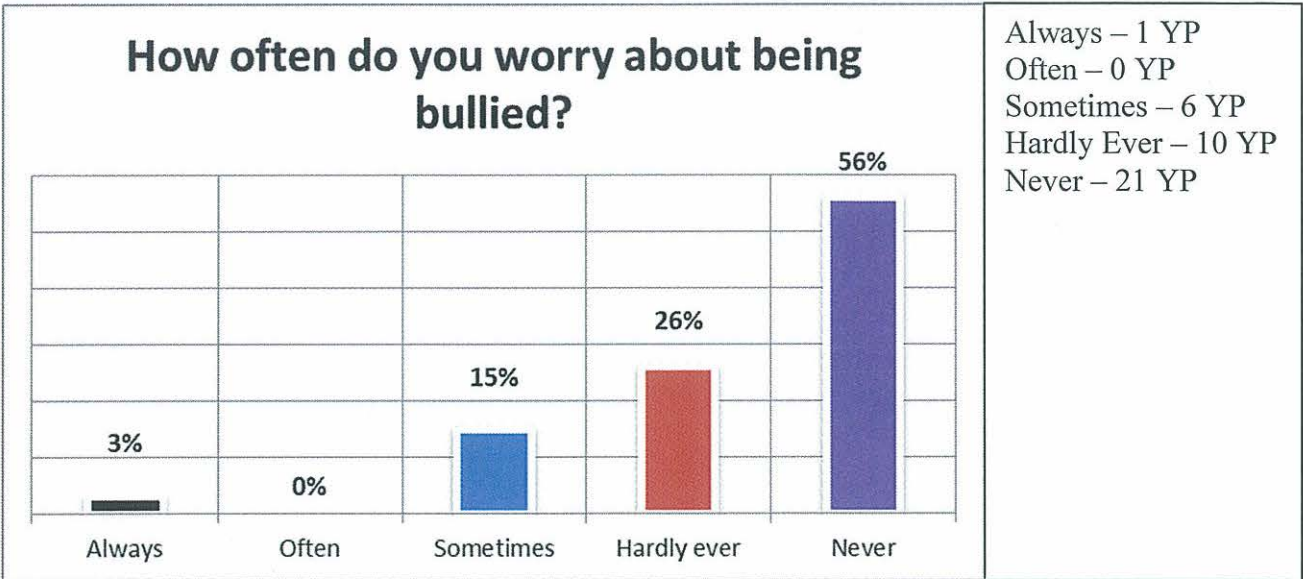


Order Of Preference

Children in Care	Care Leavers
Carers	Police
Teacher	Family member
Friend/Social worker	Friend

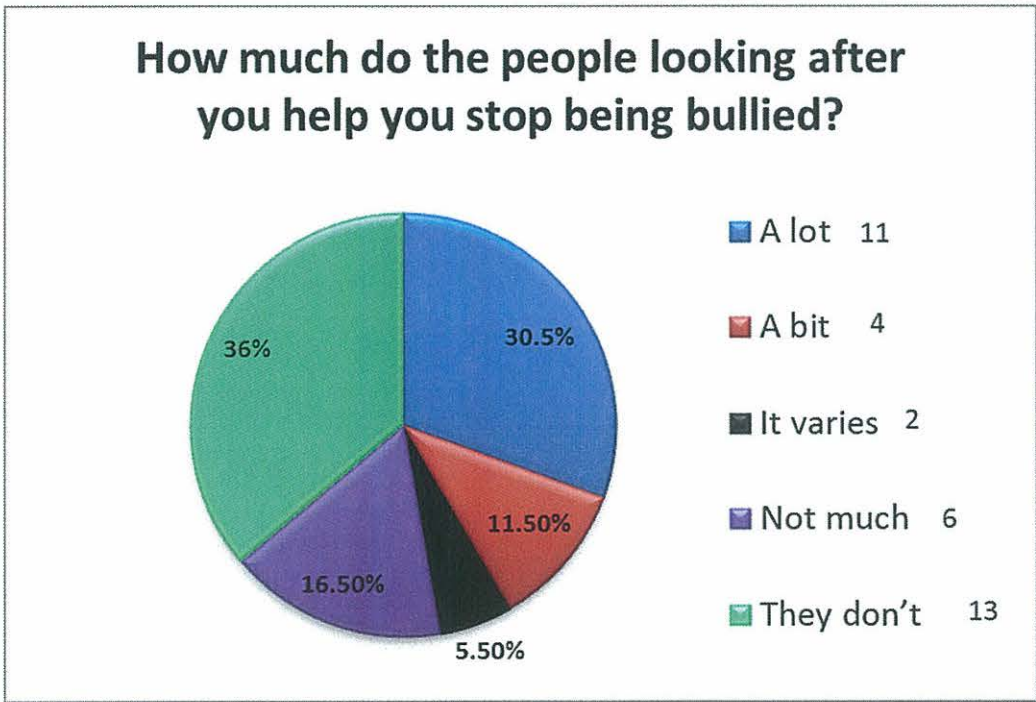
The numbers in these choices are very similar which can be seen by the overall percentages above. The most obvious different is that older young people see the police as their first choice of those to go to if they are not safe which might reflect a better understanding of the dangers they may encounter.

7.



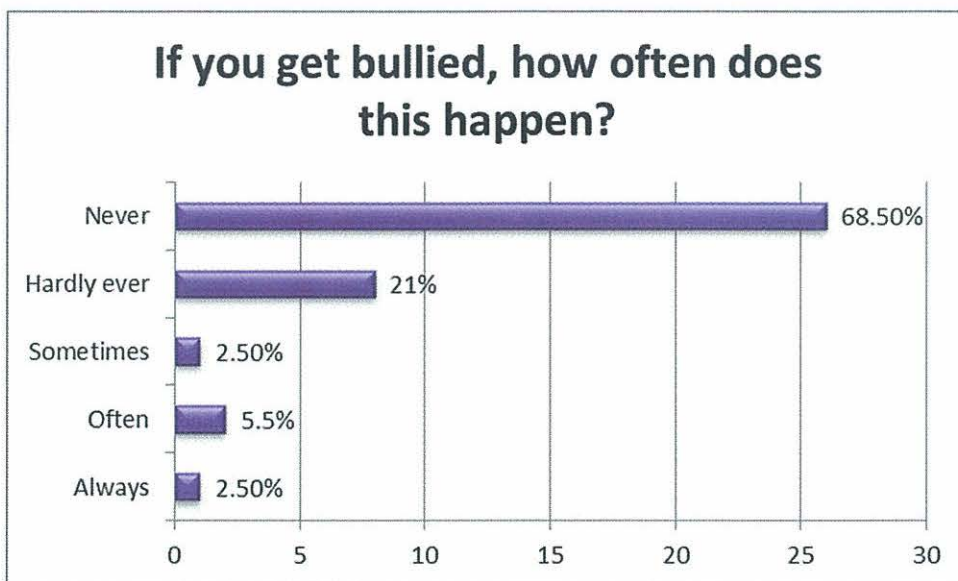
Both groups gave very similar responses. The number of young people reporting that they are not worried about being bullied has increased.

8.



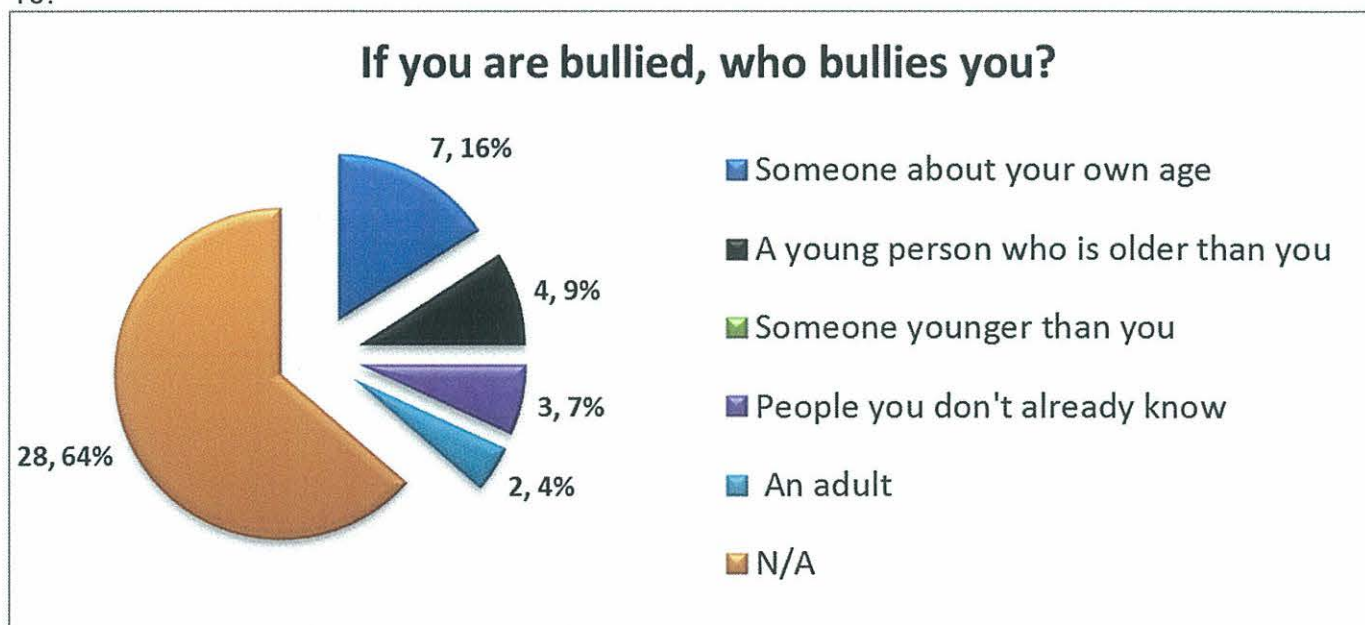
There is a marked increase in the number of younger people saying that their carers are not helping to prevent them being bullied although the older group's responses are similar to the results of the last survey. Overall last year 37% of young people answered that they got no or little support from carers to prevent them being bullied. This year that figure has risen to 52%.

9.



In the last survey 44% of the responders said they did not experience bullying, this year that has increased to 68%.

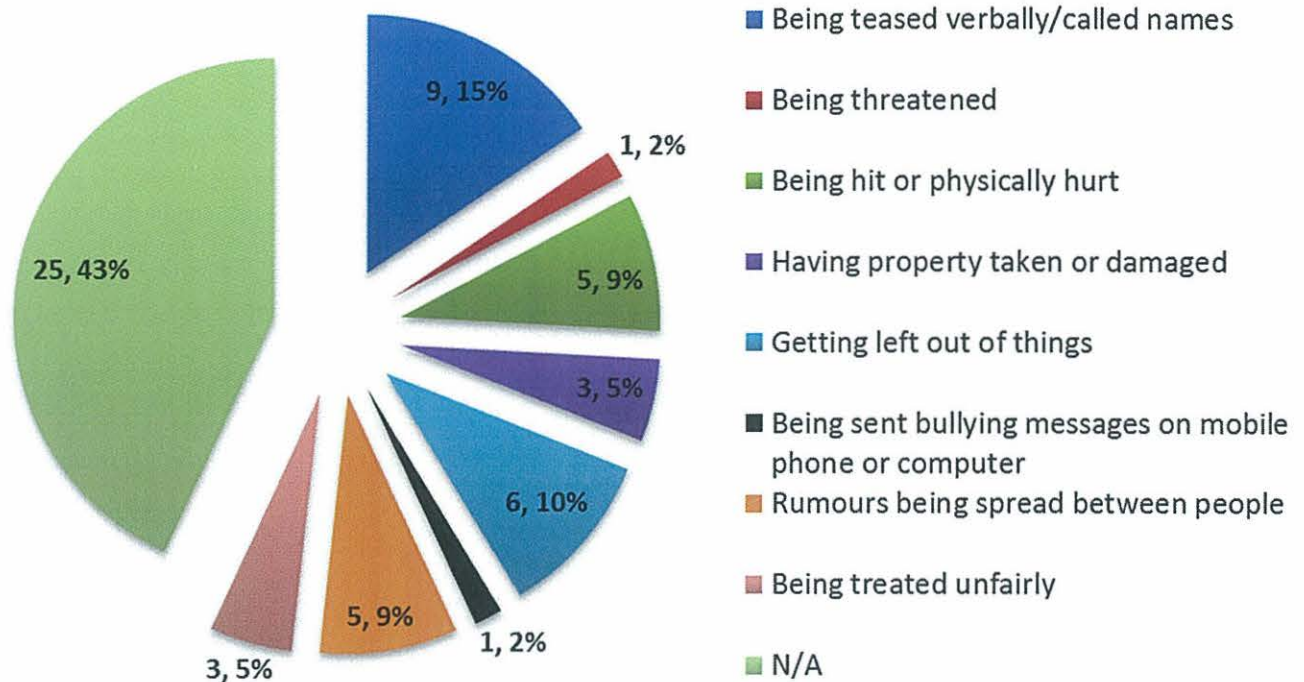
10.



The Care Leavers did not identify anyone who bullies them therefore the results above relate only to Children in Care. It is positive that 64% of the children report that they are not being bullied. Two young people identified being bullied by adults and therefore both were contacted to follow up on this information. One young person was referring to previous familial abuse and the other had made a complaint about an incident involving an adult and he informed that this complaint had been successfully concluded.

11.

If you are bullied, what sort of bullying happens to you?



One Care Leavers identified people spreading rumours about them, other than this the above types of bullying experienced in this chart relates only to Children in Care.

CONCLUSION

The fear of being bullied remains at 44% which indicates that young people who are not actually experiencing bullying are still worrying that they may experience it. There is a marked increase in the perception that the young people get little or no support from carers to prevent them being bullied. However overall this survey identifies that more children feel safe and fewer are experiencing bullying.

Chris Ames
Children's Rights and Advocacy Officer
13th March 2014