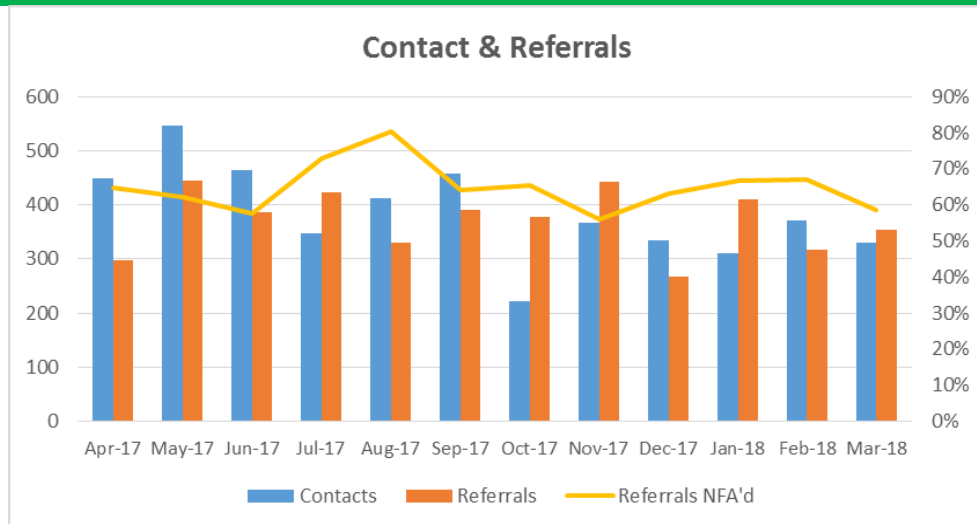


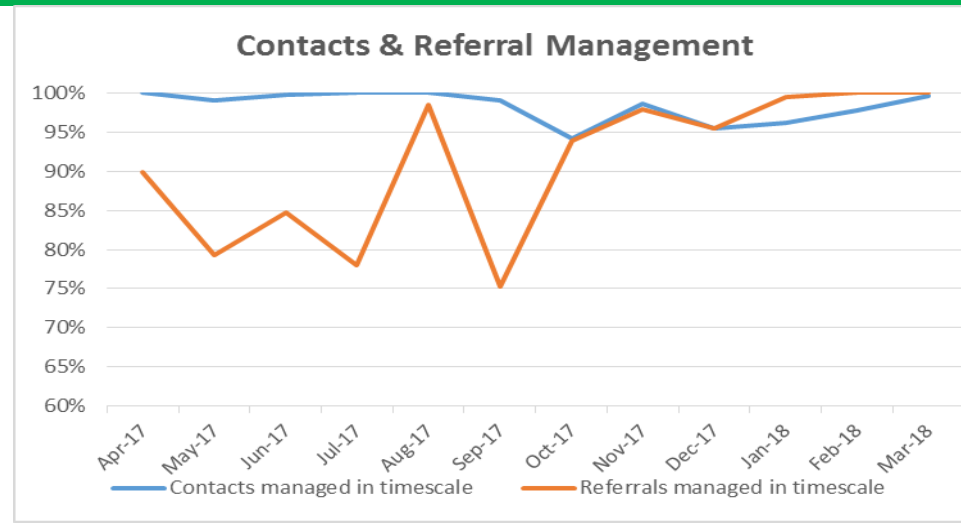
## Referrals & Assessment



**Contacts and Referrals:** The graph above shows the numbers of contacts received per month. During the 2017/18 reporting year, there was an average of 385 contacts received per month, and an average of 370 referrals received.

During the last quarter, the average number of contacts was 336, this is lower than the annual average, but a noticeable increase compared to the third quarter.

A piece of work is being undertaken to look at the rate of referrals that are NFA'd to assist with ongoing improvement work.



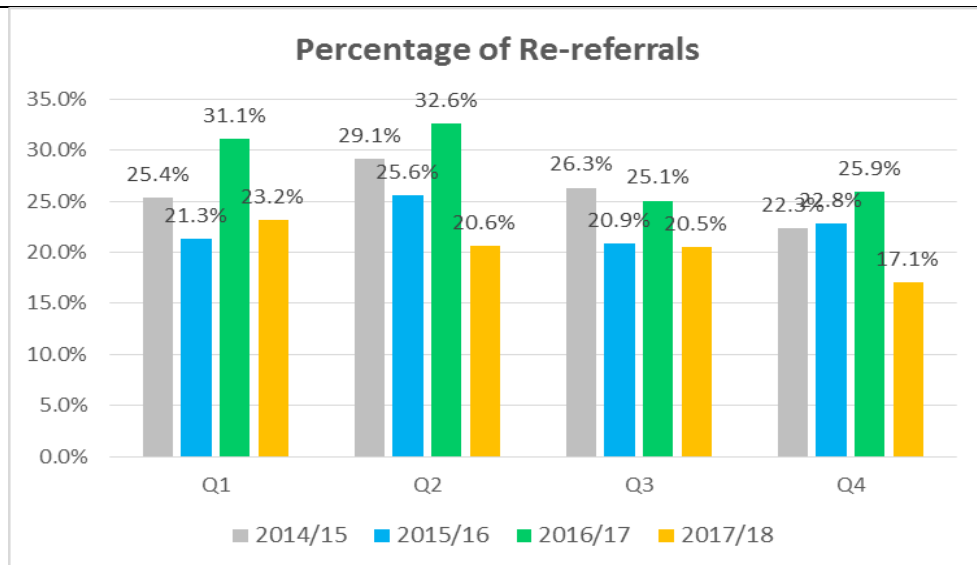
**Contact & Referrals Management:** The above graph shows the proportion of contacts and referrals which have been managed within the 24 hour timescale.

During the calendar year, on average contacts have been managed within 24 hours in 98.6% of occasions. During the most recent quarter, the average was just short of this at 97.9%. For referrals, the average for the most recent quarter was 99.8% of referrals being managed in timescales, as can be seen from the graph above – this shows a significant improvement during the year.

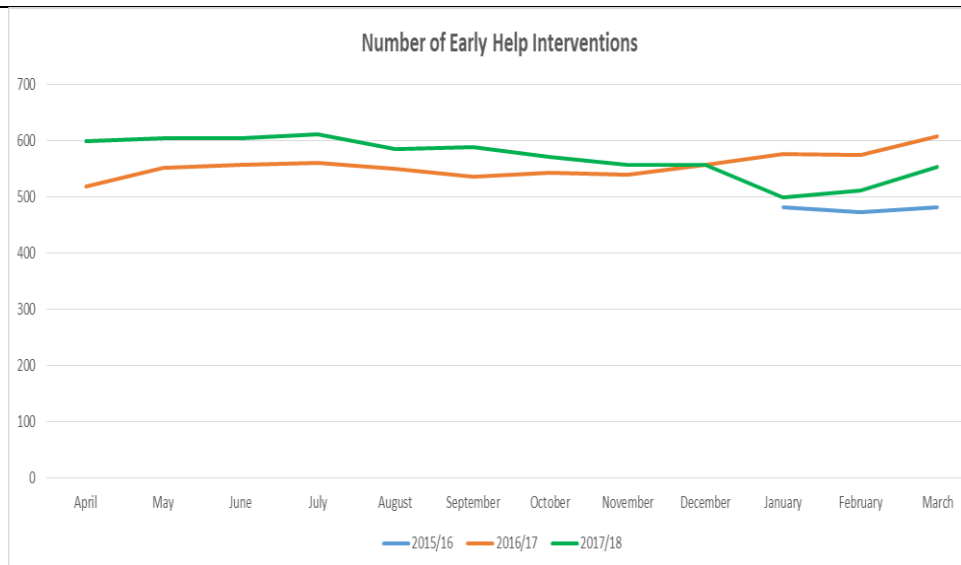
Contact & Referral Source by Agency	Contacts	Percentage of Contacts	Referrals	Percentage of Referrals	Referrals NFA'd
Anonymous	5	0.5%	22	2.0%	63.6%
Education Services	5	0.5%	25	2.3%	72.0%
Health services - A&E	8	0.8%	31	2.9%	74.2%
Health services - GP	6	0.6%	16	1.5%	50.0%
Health services - Health Visitor	6	0.6%	22	2.0%	40.9%
Health services - Other eg. hospice	6	0.6%	16	1.5%	100.0%
Health services - Other primary health services	25	2.5%	117	10.8%	76.9%
Health services - School Nurse	1	0.1%	5	0.5%	100.0%
Housing or housing association	1	0.1%	7	0.7%	28.6%
Individual - acquaintance eg. neighbours / child minders	2	0.2%	23	2.1%	47.8%
Individual - family member / relative / carer	148	14.7%	83	7.7%	69.9%
Individual - other individuals e.g. strangers / MPs	2	0.2%	8	0.7%	62.5%
Individual - self	9	0.9%	8	0.7%	75.0%
LA services - external eg. from another LAs	15	1.5%	21	1.9%	57.1%
LA services - Other internal department eg. youth offending	6	0.6%	28	2.6%	64.3%
LA services - Social care eg. adults social care	26	2.6%	53	4.9%	62.3%
Other - eg. children's centres / independent agency providers / voluntary organisations	23	2.3%	60	5.6%	85.0%
Other Legal Agency - incl. courts, probation, immigration, CAF/CASS or prison	16	1.6%	56	5.2%	78.6%
Police	666	65.9%	287	26.6%	63.1%
Schools	31	3.1%	191	17.7%	46.1%
Unknown	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	100.0%

**Contact/Referral by agency:** The table above shows the amount of contacts and referrals received during the final quarter.

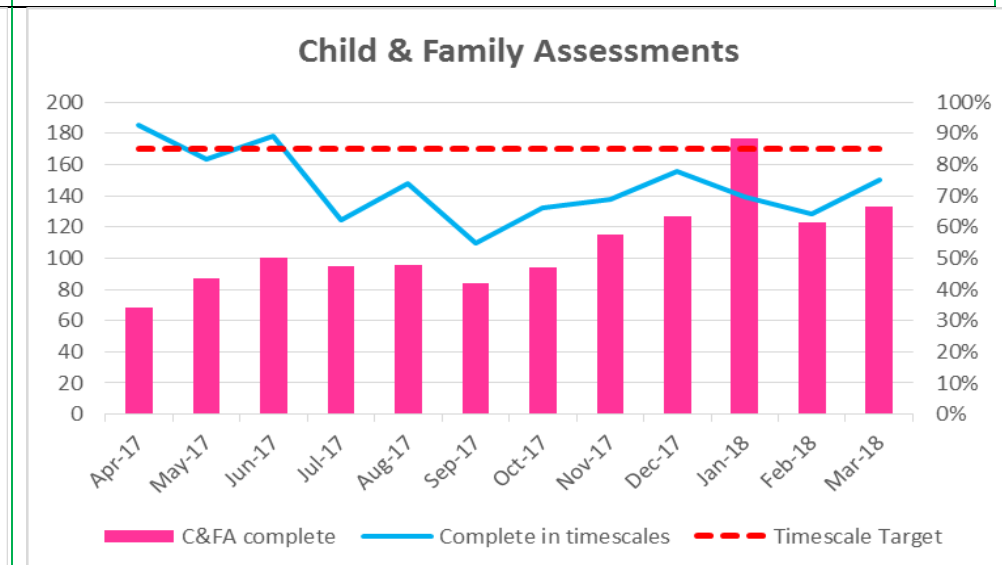
As can be seen from this table, the majority of our activity is driven by the Police, with Health Services and family members being second/third highest referrers.



**Percentage of Re-referrals:** The proportion of re-referrals in the final quarter was 17.1%. This is slight drop compared to previous periods and represents a downward trend over a longer time period; this is below the West Midlands average of 22% as shown in the validated CIN census return for 2017.



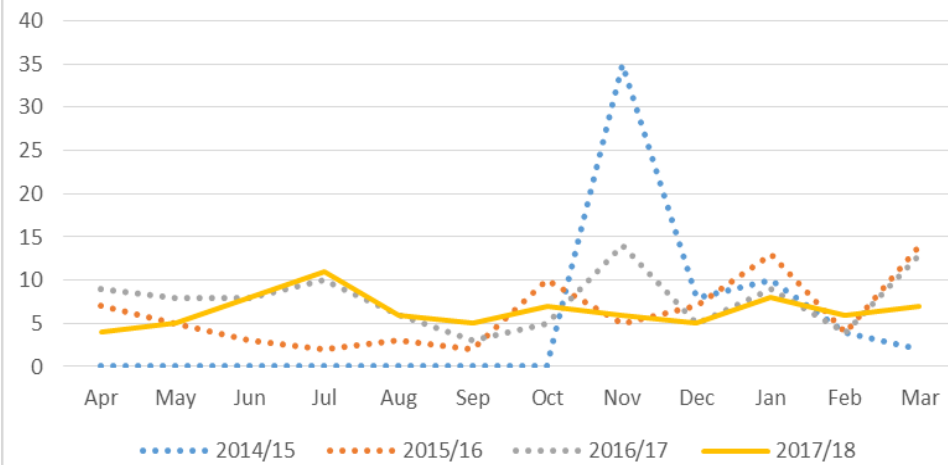
**Early Help Interventions:** As can be seen from the above graph, the number of cases open to Early Help has slightly reduced during the year. The new Early Help Assessment (EHA) replacing the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) was launched in January 2018 causing an expected further dip. Over 360 professionals have now been trained in the new EHA positive feedback has been received about it. The number of EHA's is likely to rise over the next few months as the trained professionals start to use it with families.



**Child & family Assessments:** There has again been an increase in the number of assessments completed during the period, with a significant spike in January (177 completed compared to an average of 108 per month during 2017/18).

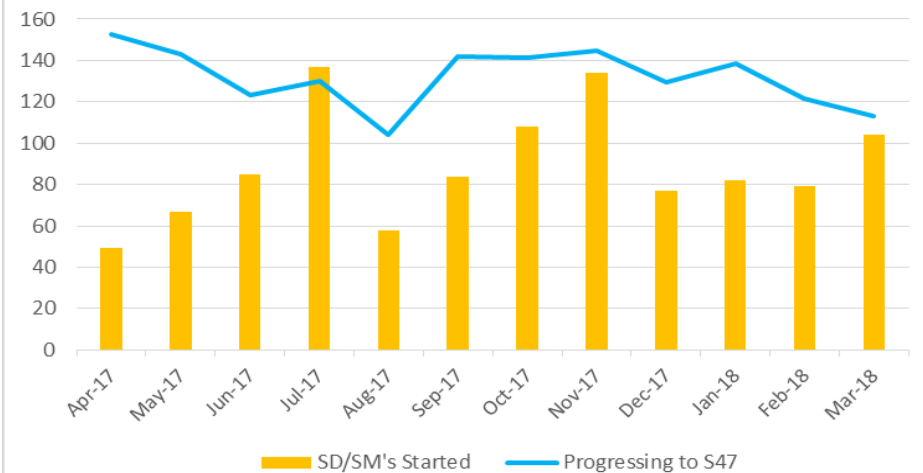
Following an upward trend in the percentage of assessments completed in time during Q3, this has fluctuated a little during the fourth quarter. For the whole year, 72% of assessments were completed within timescales.

Number of CSE Assessments



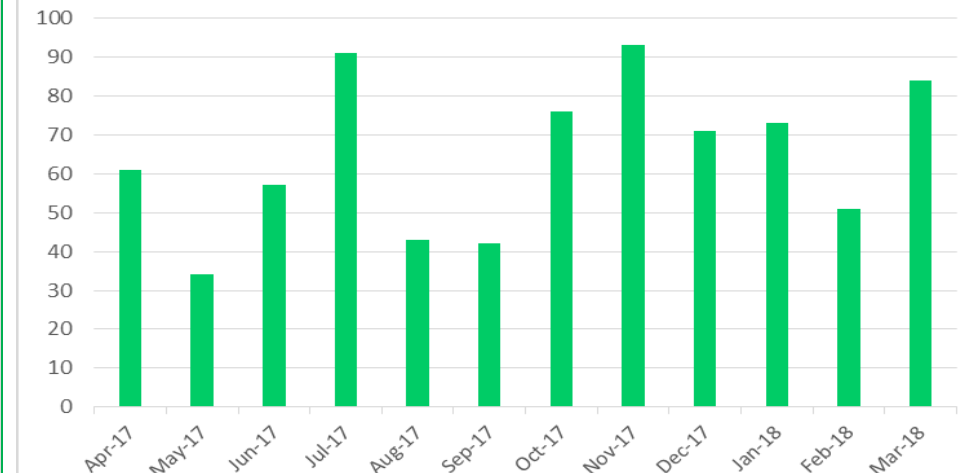
**CSE Assessments:** The numbers of CSE assessments completed during the last quarter remains consistent with previous quarters, with an average of a little over 7 assessments completed per month during this period. 18 of the 21 assessments were completed for females.

Strategy Discussions/Meetings



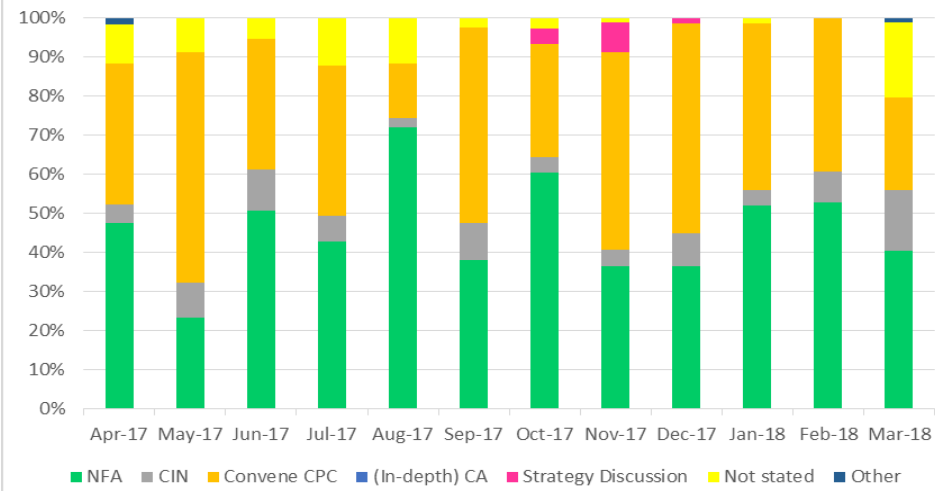
**Strategy Meetings:** The final quarter has seen a reduction in the number of Strategy Meetings held compared to the high number held in Quarter 3. In addition to the reduced numbers of strategy meetings coming through, there was also a reduction in the proportion of these being progressed to Section 47 (69% in Q4, 74% in the year to date)

Section 47 started in month



**Section 47s:** The graph above left shows that there has been a higher number of Section 47s started per month, during the second half of the reporting year; 55 per month in April – September, 75 between October and March. Numbers have fluctuated more in the last quarter, with March recording the third highest number of Section 47s in recent years. This will be reviewed to assist with ongoing improvement work.

Outcomes of Section 47



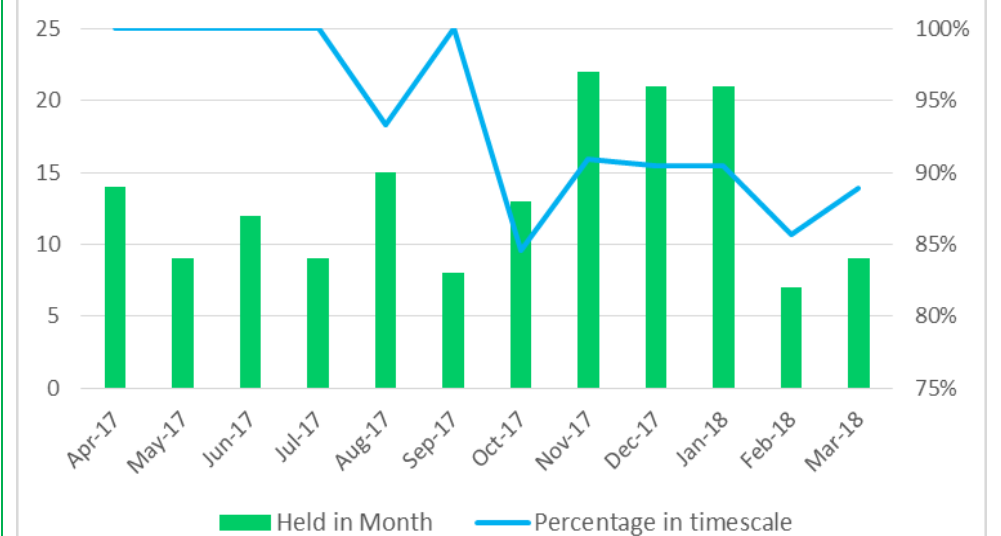
**Section 47 Outcomes:**

The graph to the left shows the outcome of section 47's started in the period. This evidences that a slightly larger proportion of cases were NFA'd at this stage compared to the average across the year (48% in the last quarter). 34% of cases within the quarter resulted in an Initial Child Protection Conference being convened and 10% of cases were made CIN. This reduction in cases progressing to ICPC has in turn helped to reduce the number of children on CP plans during the quarter. This will need to be reviewed to assist with ongoing improvement work as compared to the all England and West Midlands average this is low.

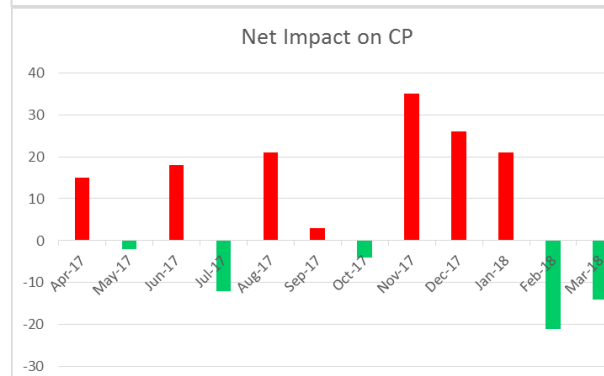
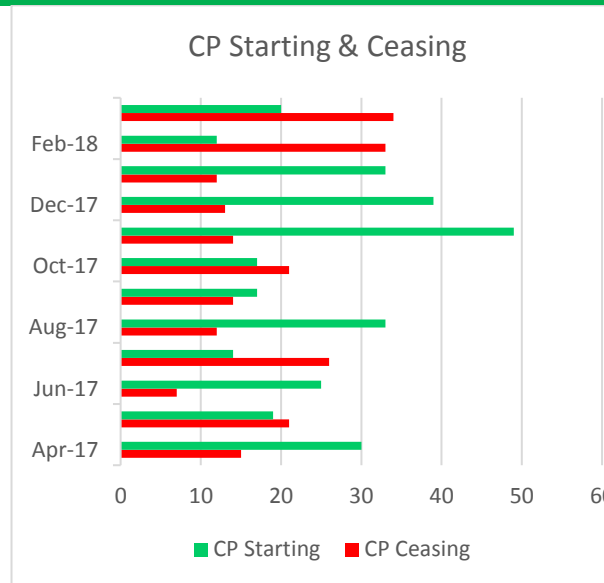
**Initial Child Protection Conferences:**

In addition to increased numbers of ICPCs being held during the last 2 quarters, there have also been occasional delays with the timing of conferences. This has predominantly been due to the periods of bad weather which required conferences to have been re-scheduled.

Initial Child Protection Conferences



## Child Protection Plans



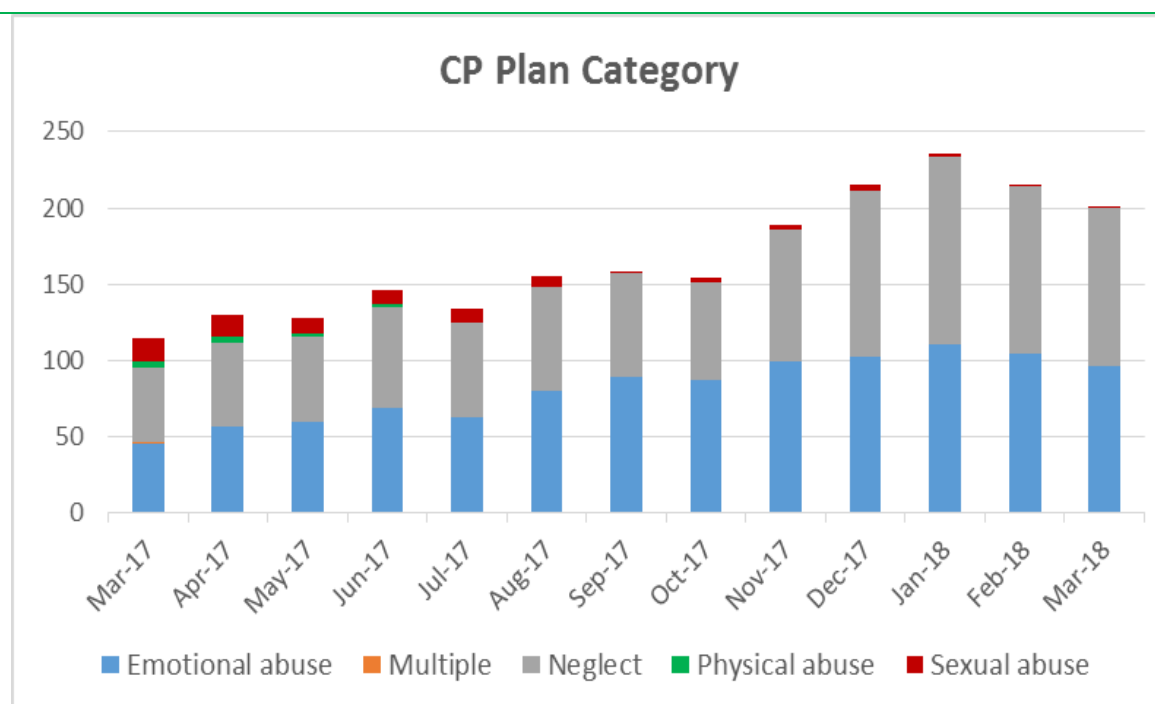
Current CP at Month End:

# 201

**Number of children subject to Child Protection Plans:** Following a steady rise in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan during the first half of 2017/18, there was a real spike towards the end of the 2017 calendar, resulting in a high of 236 children on a Plan at the end of January. The numbers have reduced to 201 at the end of March.

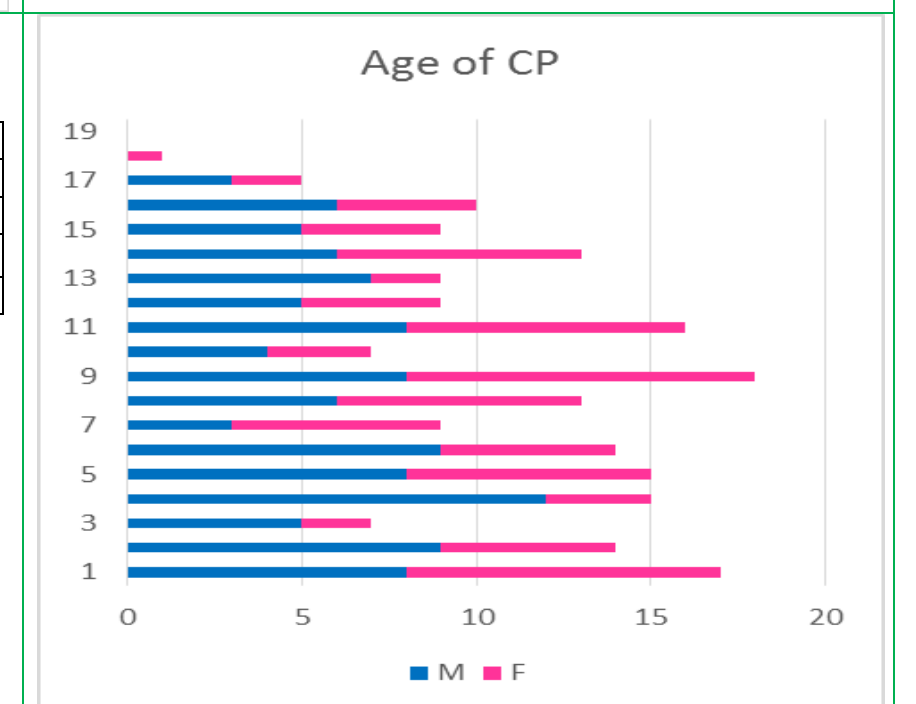
The current number of children on a plan gives Herefordshire a rate of 56 per 10,000. This is higher than the 16/17 English average (43), West Midlands rate (45) and that of our statistical neighbours (37). It is understood regionally however that rates of CP cases are on the increase.

As per the graph to the left (Net Impact on CP), numbers in red above the line are where we have increase the number of CP in the month (starters minus cessations), and those below the line in green show where the numbers have reduced during the period.



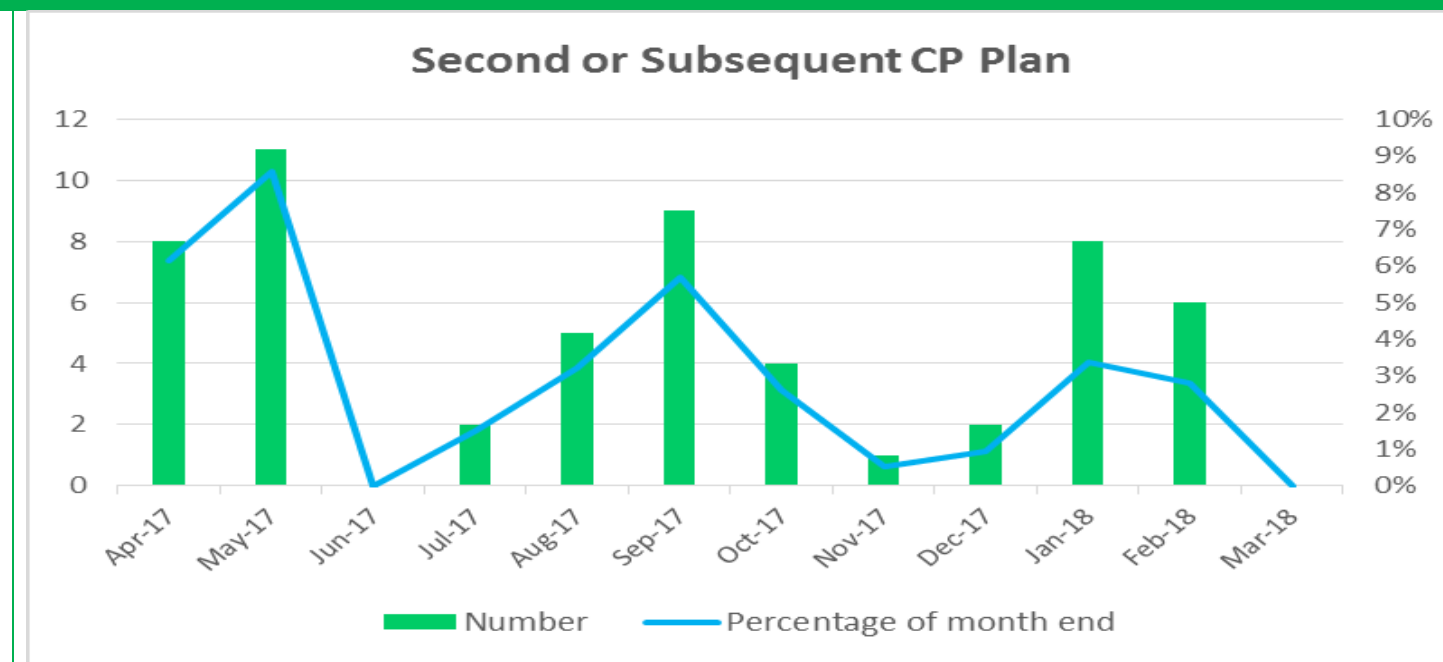
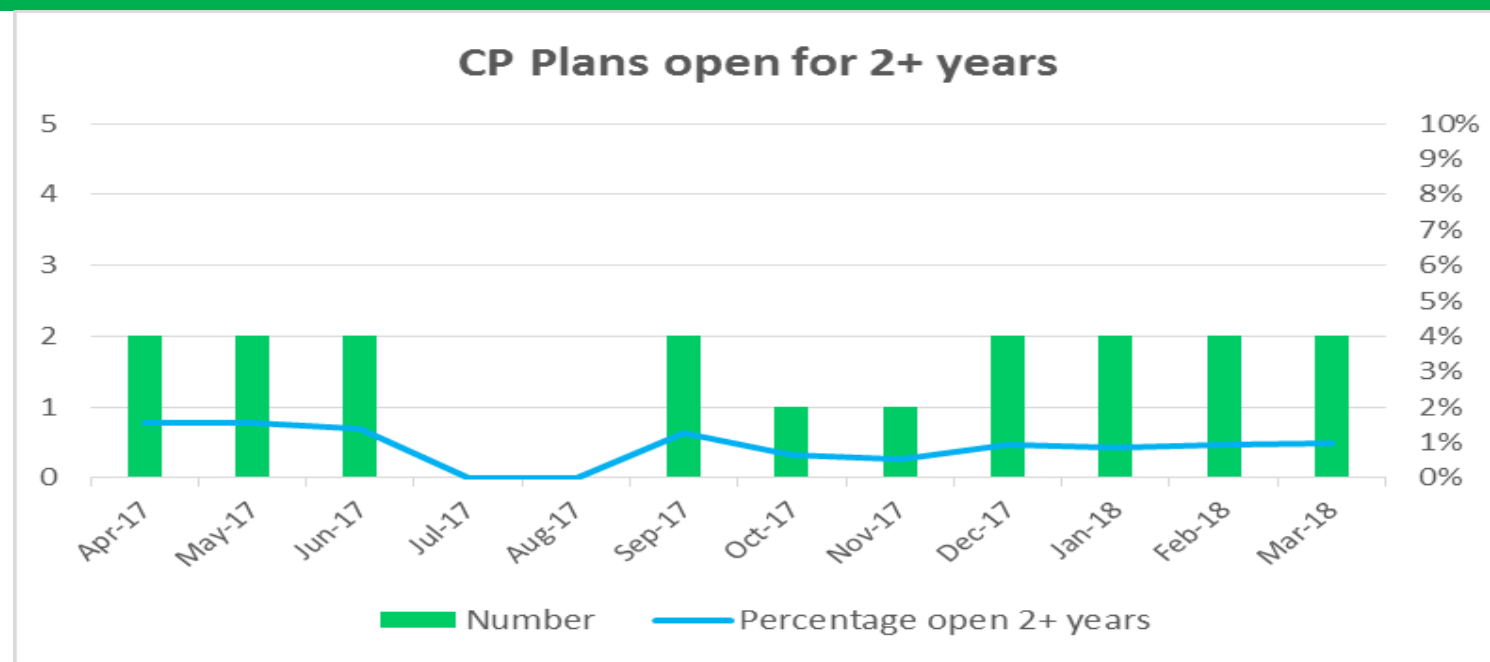
	Q1 17/18	Q2 17/18	Q3 17/18	Q4 17/18
<b>Emotional Abuse</b>	69 (47%)	89 (56%)	103 (48%)	96 (48%)
<b>Neglect</b>	66 (45%)	68 (43%)	108 (50%)	104 (52%)
<b>Physical Abuse</b>	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	9 (6%)	1 (1%)	4 (2%)	1 (0%)

The above table gives the categories of CP plans as at the last day of the quarter



**Reason for Child Protection Plans:** During the year, there has been a decrease in the proportion of CP plans (on a snapshot day) of children on plans, where the category of abuse is either Physical or Sexual Abuse. This has been offset by an increase in the numbers of children on plans with either Emotional Abuse or Neglect. Plans for Emotional Abuse have increased by 109% (from 46 to 96) in the last 12 months, and plans for Neglect have increased by 113% since March 2017.

## Child Protection Plans

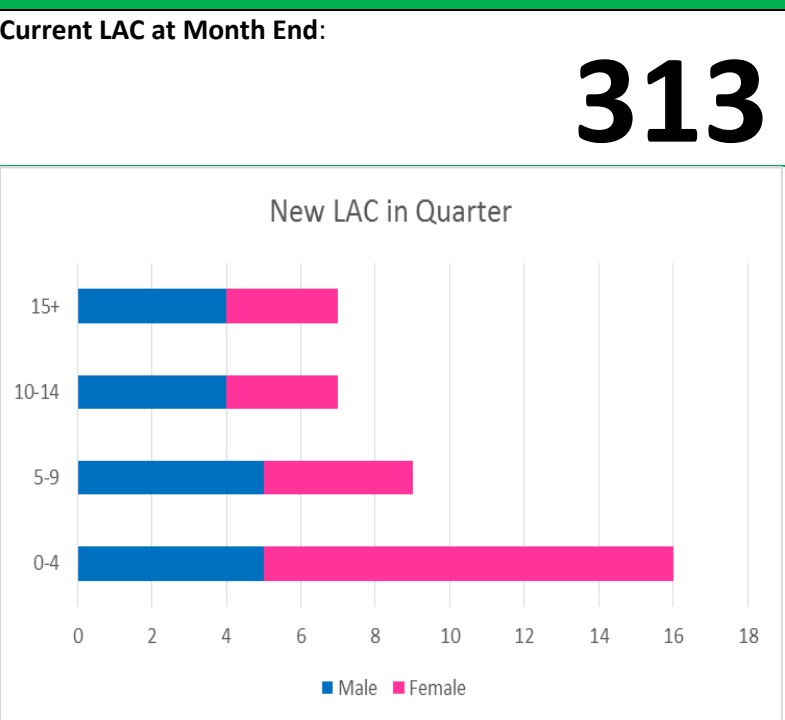
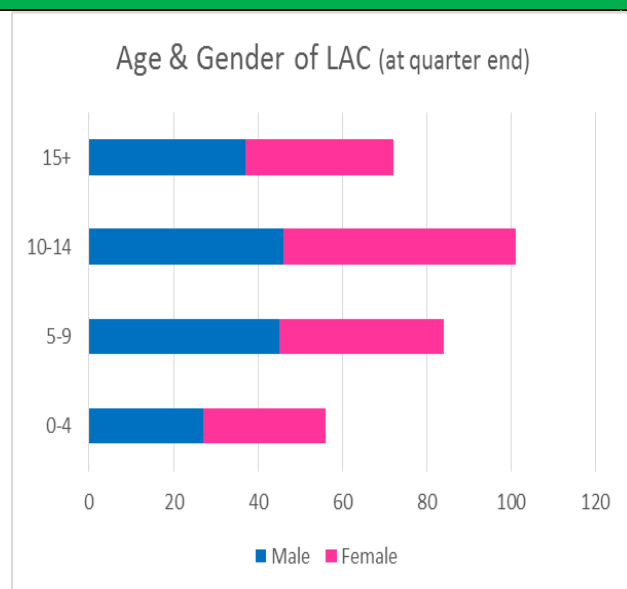
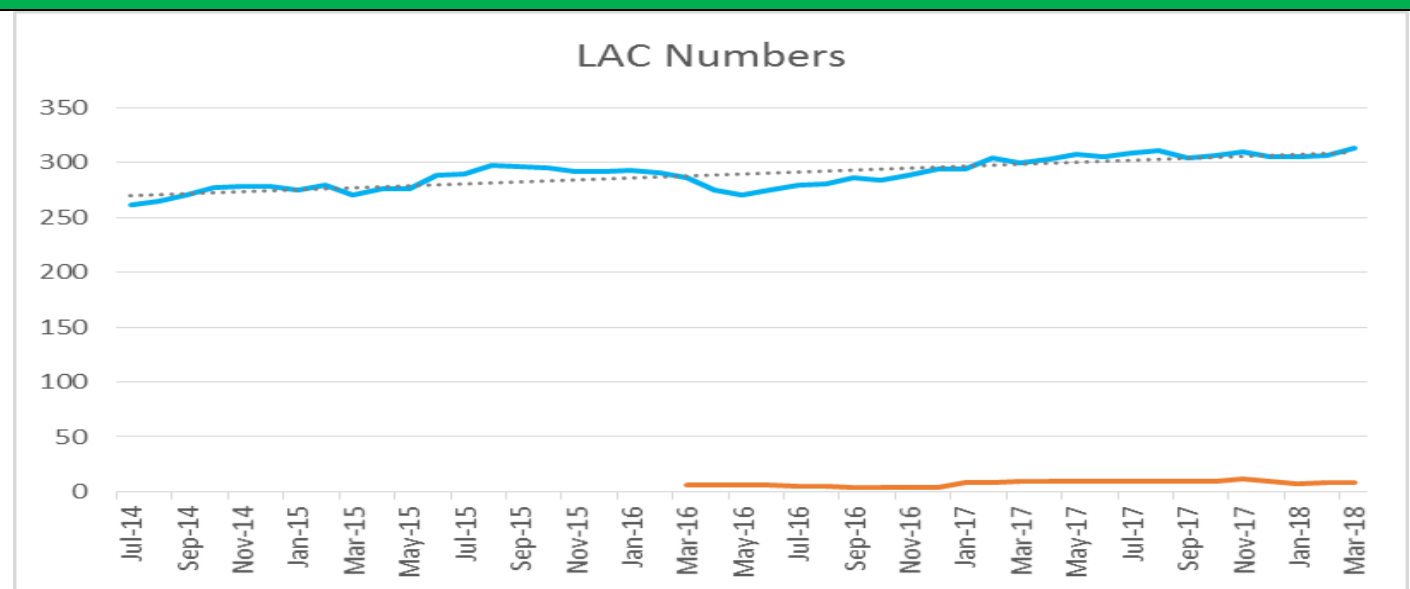


**Child Protection Plans open for 2 or more years:** The number of children on a plan for 2 or more years has remained consistent throughout the last quarter, with only 4 children being subject to plans for more than 2 years. This equates to less than 1% of our overall CP population.

**Second and Subsequent Child Protection Plan:** During the last quarter, the number of children subject to their second, or subsequent plan, as at the snapshot date at the end of the month did peak January and February – aligned with the increased numbers of plans, this has however reduced down for those children on a plan at the end of March.

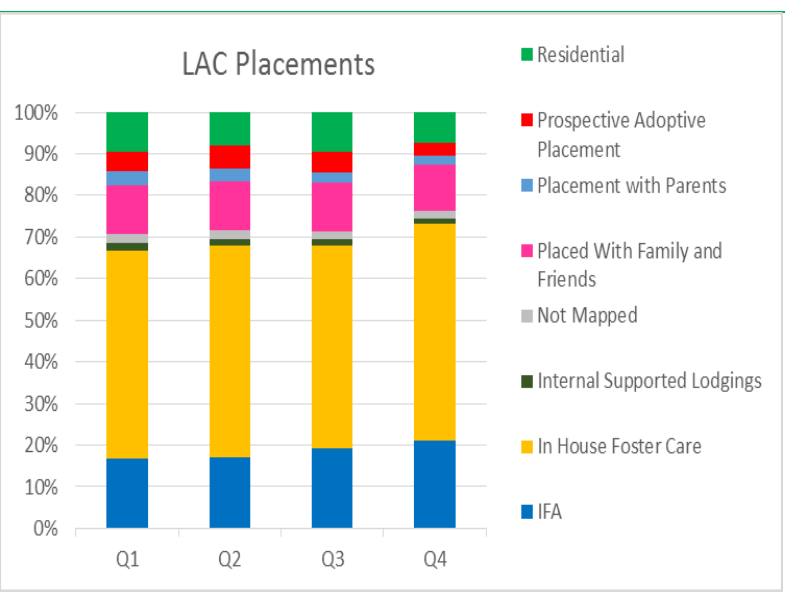
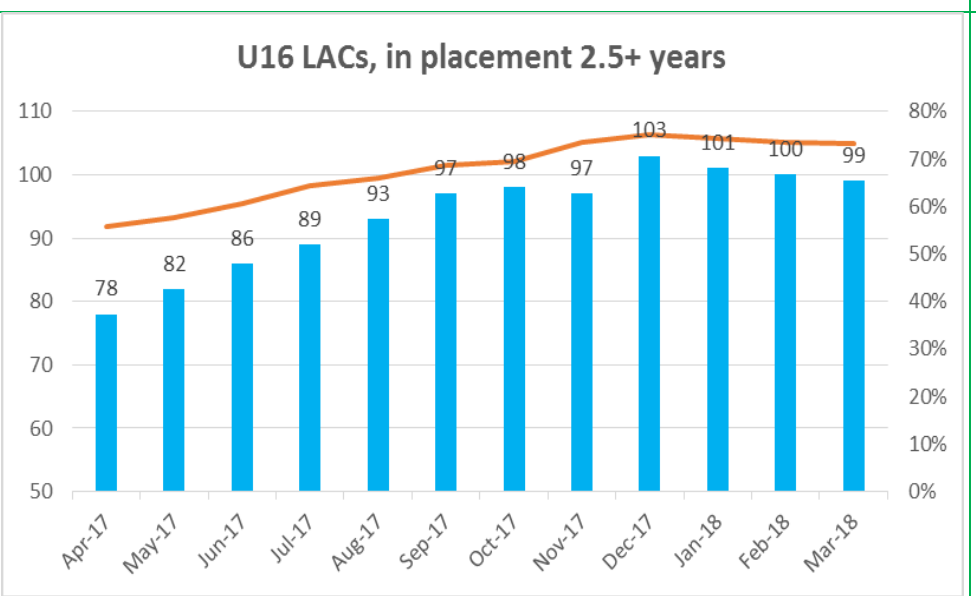
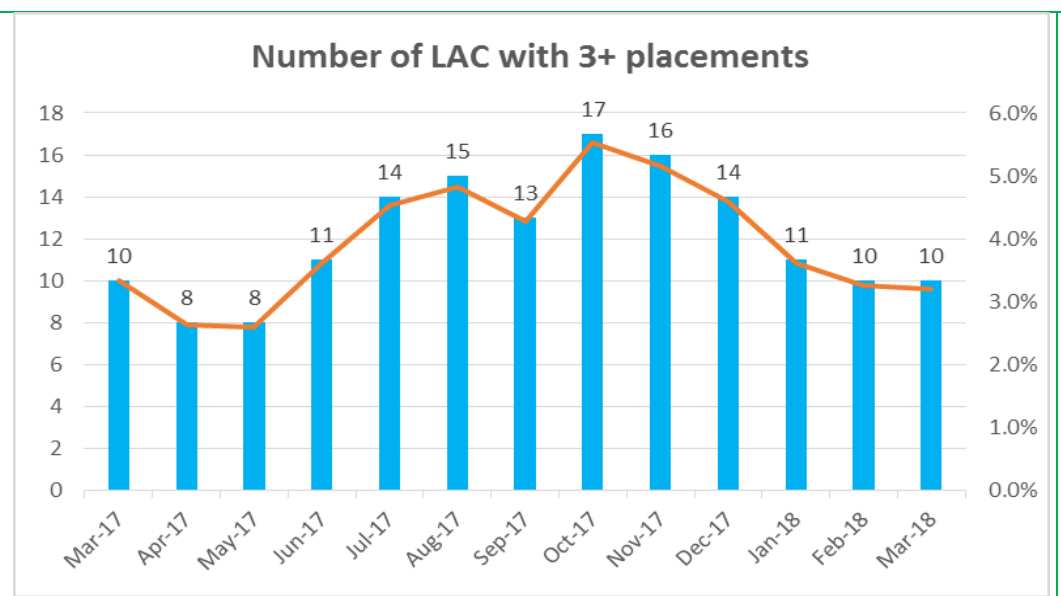
**Female Genital Mutilation:** As in the previous period, there have been no children identified within the quarter at risk of FGM.

## Looked After Children



**LAC Numbers:** As at the end of March, the number of LAC children stood at 313. This number has remained relatively static for the past 12 months now. Comparisons with statistical neighbours, English averages and authorities rated by Ofsted as good/outstanding shows that Herefordshire's rate of LAC is high.

**New LAC in Period:** During the final quarter of 17/18, there were 39 children taken in to care. Compared to the previous quarter, there have been far more younger children taken in to care. 54% of new LAC children were female, consistent with numbers reported in quarter 3.



**Number of LACs with 3 or more placements:** As at the end of Q4 period, there were 9 children currently LAC that had 3 or more placement moves, representing 3% of the looked after cohort.

**LACs in the same placement for 2.5+ years:** Following a significant growth over the past 12 months, the number of under 16 year old LAC children in one placement for 2.5 years or more has remained fairly static over the past 6 months.

**Current LAC Placements:** Proportionately, placements remains relatively consistent with those identified in the last quarter.



## Care Leavers

	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
<b>Cohort</b>	28	28	14	70
<b>LA in Touch</b>	96%	93%	71%	90%
<b>In Education, Employment or Training</b>	75%	68%	36%	65%
<b>In Suitable Accommodation</b>	93%	93%	57%	86%

The information shows the proportion of Care Leavers, between 19 and 21, that are in touch, in EET or in suitable accommodation, as at their most recent birthday.

Mosaic is in the process of being updated, so that we can capture and up to date status for all care leavers, not just at the last birthday (as per the national statutory reporting requirements)

Work is ongoing to assist with the reporting of this data in respect of this cohort as part of our improvement work.

## Fostering & Adoption

### Fostering

	Q1 16/17	Q2 16/17	Q3 16/17	Q4 16/17	Q1 17/18	Q2 17/18	Q3 17/18	Q4 17/18
General foster carers	102	101	107	104	105	109	107	104
Kinship foster carers	32	34	34	32	33	34	41	37
HIPSS carers	8	6	7	7	7	6	7	5
Supported lodgings providers	19	17	19	22	22	22	21	20
Overnight short breaks carers	3	5	5	5	5	5	8	8
Regulation 24 carers	5	3	2	3	5	5	2	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>179</b>

### Adoption

	Q1 16/17	Q2 16/17	Q3 16/17	Q4 16/17	Q1 17/18	Q2 17/18	Q3 17/18	Q4 17/18
Should be adopted decisions	6	4	7	11	5	5	8	
Placement orders granted	10	5	3	7	4	3	2	
Placed for adoption	2	4	6	6	10	2	2	
Adoption orders granted	5	3	1	7	4	2	13	
Children in adoptive placements awaiting adoption order	5	6	9	10	16	16	6	
Children with a placement order not yet placed	9	13	8	10 (+2 to be revoked)	4 (+2 to be revoked)	4 (+1 to be revoked)	5 (+1 to be revoked)	

One of the key performance indicators for the adoption service is the timescale for children being placed for adoption measured from the date they became looked after. The data for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 reports that Herefordshire achieved an average of 531 days which is 105 days above the target and compares with a national average of 558 days. Herefordshire's performance has reduced since 2015 however this is due to success in placing older children for adoption.

Another key performance indicator for the adoption service is the 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. Herefordshire's three year average was 251 days which is 130 days above the target and compares with a national average of 226 days. Again this figure has been affected by success in placing older children for adoption.