



RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11 OCTOBER 2022 (Minute Item 109).

From: F Reid, Hereford

To: Chairperson of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Please advise for 2021-22 under the auspices of Herefordshire Council:

- The number of new-born babies that were taken into care?
- The number of placement orders (court order that a child should be put up for adoption)?
- The rate of placement orders per 10,000 children?

Please advise the above for 2021-22 and 2020-21:

- “Statistical Neighbours” (average)
- All ten (10) “Statistical Neighbours” e.g. Cornwall, Devon
- West Midlands
- England

Response:

The number of new-born babies that were taken into care?

- 19 children taken into care within 10 days of date of birth
- 24 children under 1 year old taken into care
- The number of placement orders (court order that a child should be put up for adoption)?
 - 10 placement orders in the year
- The rate of placement orders per 10,000 children?
 - Rate = 2.78

Please advise the above for 2021-22 and 2020-21:

- “Statistical Neighbours” (average)
- All ten (10) “Statistical Neighbours” eg Cornwall, Devon
- West Midlands
- England.

LA	(Age 0-17) Population Mid Year Estimates - 2020	2020-21		2021-22		2020-21		2021-22 * **	
		Number of PO Granted	Rate	Number of PO Granted	Rate	Number of Children Under 1 Taken into Care	Rate	Number of Children Under 1 Taken into Care	Rate
Herefordshire	36029			10	2.8			24	6.7
England	12093288	2910	2.4	2860	2.4	5610	4.6		
West Midlands	1306330	390	3.0	450	3.4	720	5.5		
Stat Neighbours Average	114957	32.1	2.8	29.9	2.6	52	4.5		
Shropshire	60293	15	2.5	21	3.5	39	6.5		
Devon	148076	45	3.0	51	3.4	77	5.2		
Cornwall	108954	31	2.8	16	1.5	48	4.4		
Somerset	111293	38	3.4	33	3.0	44	4.0		
Dorest	67698	24	3.5	11	1.6	25	3.7		
Wiltshire	106274	16	1.5	8	0.8	30	2.8		
Suffolk	152863	38	2.5	38	2.5	76	5.0		
Norfolk	172182	36	2.1	44	2.6	66	3.8		
Gloucestershire	129562	29	2.2	39	3.0	63	4.9		
Cumbria	92373	49	5.3	38	4.1	52	5.6		

[Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

[Coram-i - Local Level ASGLB Data Q4 2020/21](#)

[Children looked after in England including adoptions, Reporting Year 2021 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

* 2021-2022 comparator data not yet published

** Comparator data not available for children taken into care within 10 days of date of birth.

Supplementary question for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on 11/10/2022 From: F Reid, Hereford

Were 43 babies taken into care during 2021-22 ie 19 + 24?

Please insert data for Herefordshire in the table about POs and babies taken into care.

I am interested the rates of babies taken into care within weeks of birth and/or mothers leaving hospital without their newborns, provide for 2020-21:

- Numbers and rates for Herefordshire
- Any metric(s) that compares Herefordshire with the other areas (in the table) with source(s)

In view of the comparatively high PO rate (and for children in care and care proceedings) in Herefordshire, how and by when will support and reunification be improved to reduce:

- Care proceedings
- Babies and children in care
- Placement orders?
- How much did Herefordshire Council receive in 2020-21 and 2021-22 for children who were adopted subsequent to the council obtaining a PO?

Response

Care Orders 2020/21

During 2020/2021, 13 children under the age of one were taken into our care. This equates to a rate (per 10,000) of 3.6. This was lower when compared with the rate (per 10,000 children) for England (4.6) and the West Midlands (5.5). The rate (per 10,000 children) of children under the age of 1 taken into care for our statistical neighbours for 2020/21 ranged from 2.8 (Wiltshire) to 6.5 (Shropshire). The average rate of children under the age of 1 for our statistical neighbours for 2021/2022 was 4.5.

Of the 13 children under the age of 1 taken into care during 2020/21 by Herefordshire, 10 were taken into care within 21 days of birth. Comparative data for England, the West Midlands or our statistical neighbours in respect of this is neither published, nor available to us.

Care Orders 2021/22

During 2021/2022, 24 children under the age of one were taken into our care. This equates to a rate (per 10,000 children) of 6.7.

Comparative data for England, West Midlands and Statistical Neighbours is not yet publically available for the year 2021/22. Data in respect of this will be published by the [Government](#) and [Coram I](#); the links will take you to the information in respect of 2020/21. Please refer to the respective organisations for publication dates of the 2021/2022 data.

Of the 24 children taken into care under the age of 1 in 2021/22, 9 were taken into care within 21 days of birth. Comparative data for England, the West Midlands or our statistical neighbours in respect of this is neither published, nor available to us.

Placement Orders

A Placement Order was granted for 10 children during 2020/2021. This equates to a rate (per 10,000 children) of 3.9. This was higher than the rate (per 10,000 children) for England (2.4) or for the West Midlands (3.0). The rate (per 10,000 children) of Placement Orders granted for our statistical neighbours for that year ranged from 1.5 for Wiltshire to 5.3 for Cumbria. The average rate of Placement Orders for our statistical neighbours for 2021/2022 was 2.8.

The rate of Placement Orders granted fluctuates from year by year. To illustrate. For the following year - 2021/2022, the rate of Placement Orders granted for Herefordshire was 2.8 (per 10,000 children). Whilst this is higher than the rate of Placement Orders for England (2.4) it was lower than the rate for the West Midlands (3.4) and broadly in line with our statistical neighbours (2.6).

Permanency Planning / Funding

For each individual child we will seek to ensure that the permanency plan is the most appropriate and proportionate. It would not be appropriate to set targets as each case will have to be considered with the child at the centre of the decision making. Due to this individual approach is not possible to specify how and by when support will be provided or when rehabilitation is considered as you requested.

We do not receive payment for children who are adopted. Previously, Local Authorities could receive an Inter-Agency Adoption Fee when adopters were recruited and supported by one Local Authority but where a child from another Local Authority was placed. Since the introduction of Regional Adoption Agencies the Inter-Agency Adoption Fees (if applicable) are payable to the Regional Adoption Agency rather than the Local Authority. For more information in respect of Inter Agency Adoption Fees please refer to the relevant page on the CoramBAAF website linked [here](#).

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Hereford	36029	14	3.9	10	2.8	13	3.6	24	6.7	10	2.8
England	12093288	2910	2.4	2860	2.4	5610	4.6	Data not published		Benchmarking not available	
West Midlands	1306330	390	3.0	450	3.4	720	5.5	Data not published		Benchmarking not available	
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