

Annex 1

Lead Member Report

Corporate Parenting in 2016



SURREY

INTRODUCTION

1. As Members, one of the primary responsibilities we have is to ensure that those children who are growing up in the care of Surrey County Council, as our looked after children and care leavers, are provided with the best possible opportunities and support to achieve to their full potential.
2. All Members of Surrey County Council have responsibility as corporate parents to ensure the wellbeing of our children in care, with additional responsibilities for those who are members of the Social Care Services Board to be informed through understanding and scrutiny of services.
3. This annual report is my report on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Board to outline the progress we have made this year and to highlight specific areas of work and development. It includes:
 - Summary position statement (p1)
 - Background (p2)
 - Updates on key areas of work (p5)
 - Looking forward to 2017 (p9)
 - Appendices (p12)
 - Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Board membership
 - Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-18
 - Appendix 3 - Performance data 2015/16

SUMMARY POSITION STATEMENT

4. Overall there has been some **positive progress in 2016**, with evidence of improvements in the priority areas for action identified for the year including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and missing children, and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). More children have remained with their carer for at least two years, more care leavers are living in suitable accommodation, and more young people over 18 are being supported to “stay put” with their foster carers in stable, supportive homes.
5. There has also been excellent evidence of **practitioners knowing the children they support well** and using the [Safer Surrey](#) practice tools to ensure their voice is heard. Safer Surrey is our overarching framework for ensuring child-focused and strength-based practice is developed across the whole Children’s, Schools and Families directorate and with partners.
6. Meanwhile, key strengths such as our **good residential homes** and **effective engagement through the Care Council** and other groups have been consolidated.
7. However, **there is much more to do**. For example, despite efforts to date there remain too many children placed out of the county. There have been some improvements in health care services but further actions are required, including ensuring care leavers have easier access to their full health histories.
8. Audit and quality assurance activities, including Ofsted monitoring visits, show there are still **inconsistencies in practice quality that need to be addressed**. In particular, we need recording to always reflect good practice that is taking place and bring the child’s experience to life, and we need supervision that consistently ensures the actions in a child’s plan have been carried out and have had a positive impact for them.

9. More generally, we can't lose sight of the fact that despite some positive trends **we are still not supporting children in care to do as well as their peers** on a range of measures.
10. Importantly, the wider improvement made in Children's Services and across the partnership arena through our Children's Improvement Plan mean **we are now better equipped to drive the improvements required next for children**. There is stronger leadership in place in Children's Schools and Families, improved partnership working, increased staff morale, reducing case-loads, and better retention of staff. We also have the Safer Surrey approach in place and improved quality assurance and performance management arrangements, underpinned by a stronger understanding of what "good" looks like.
11. The increasingly **challenging context in which we provide services** can't be ignored. Demands for services continue to increase and at the same time financial constraints tighten. The Council will face some difficult budget and policy decisions over coming months. It is critical we find ways to ensure we can provide sustainable services that continue to fulfil our duties to children effectively.
12. As Lead Member I have been relentless in pursuing improvements for looked after children. I would like to put on the record **my appreciation for the commitment that is shown by the staff, colleagues in partner agencies, and all those who work day-in day-out to support children in care and care leavers**. I am confident that colleagues will continue to build on improvements and address the areas for development I have identified, so all our looked after children and care leavers are provided with the best possible opportunities and support to achieve to their full potential.

BACKGROUND

Lead Member of Children's Services (LMCS) Role

13. The Lead Member has a statutory role that was established in the Children Act 2004. The Lead Member has political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of Children's Services. The LMCS is responsible for ensuring that the needs of all children and young people, including the disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers, are addressed.
14. The LMCS is not drawn into day-to-day operational management of Children's Services and Education but has to provide strategic leadership, support and challenge to both the Director of Children's Services and the senior management team, as appropriate. It is a requirement for the Lead Member to provide an annual update to Members on how we are meeting our Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

Corporate Parenting Board

15. Growing up in care can be a positive experience for children and young people, provided we make sure that our services work effectively to improve outcomes. It is one of the most significant responsibilities we have as Members to make sure that we continue to do the best we can, in line with national and local expectations, to ensure that their care is provided to a high standard, as if they were our own children.
16. In order to achieve this, we have a Corporate Parenting Framework in place, headed by the Corporate Parenting Board, to oversee our services for our looked after children and care leavers and to monitor their impact. The Board is a multi-agency partnership, with representatives from Members, council officers and partner agencies, who meet bi-monthly to progress this work (see Appendix 1 for full membership list).

17. This annual report is my report on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Board to outline the progress we have made during the past year and to highlight specific areas of work and development.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

18. The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-18 continued to guide our work in 2016. The strategy sets out the key priorities to ensure that work to improve outcomes for our children is co-ordinated and effective. The Strategy was developed in consultation with children and young people, carers and staff from both the County Council and from partner agencies (see Appendix 2 for the summary Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015-18).

Our Pledge

19. As corporate parents we have a duty to ensure that **all the children in our care and those leaving care have the same life chances and outcomes that all good parents want for their own children**. An important part of our responsibilities is our pledge which outlines our promises and is based on consultation with children and young people. It is part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and can be found in full in Appendix 2.

Participation and engagement

20. I am pleased at the efforts made to ensure our **looked after children and care leavers have a voice** and opportunity to tell us what they think of our services.
21. The **2016 BIG Report** collated the views of 168 children and young people, both in care and care leavers. The majority of the children and young people who responded to the survey said they were happy in their placement. It is also encouraging to see that the work invested in improving healthy living outcomes for children in care is having a positive impact as the majority of children and young people surveyed said that they are confident about their health. This is an improvement to the 2013/14 survey where health was a real concern.
22. One key follow up from this year's survey was **further research into emotional wellbeing and appropriate support**. This was prompted by the fact that over half of those surveyed reported experiencing bullying.
23. There are a range of ways that looked after children and care leavers can share their views and have an impact on changing practice and services. **Care Council is a group of care experienced young people aged 13-24** who meet monthly to talk about what is important to looked after children and care leavers. They come up with ideas about what they would like to stop, start or change about the care system in Surrey. Care Council members and our Children's Rights Apprentices attend Corporate Parenting Board for alternate meetings, providing a welcome space to hear directly from each other and to feedback from all about progress in making changes and improvements.
24. Representation from the Care Council, Care Council Juniors and "CCXtra" **spans across the age ranges, gender and includes unaccompanied asylum seeking young people**. There are plans in place to work more closely with the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) and Special Educational Needs team to engage more young people in care, or leaving care, with disabilities.
25. We continue to receive very positive feedback regarding our participation team and engagement activities. This work is critical because **it tells us what children think of their care and how we are doing as corporate parents – what is working and what could be better**. Over the last year they have shared some very important feedback with us about what we should improve. For example:

- Stop changing my social worker all the time
- Needing to see my social worker more often
- Knowing and understanding my plans
- Give me support to deal with bullying

26. This important feedback will continue to guide our work over the next year.

Key numbers

As of December 2016 there were:

- 903 looked after children, up from 779 in 2015 and 793 in 2014
- 479 care leavers who were entitled to ongoing support until the age of 21, or 25 when in higher education.

Of the 903 children looked after, there were:

- 153 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, up from 124 in 2015 and 113 in 2014
- 122 with a Special Educational Need or Disability (13.5% of the total)

Of the 479 care leavers there were:

- 159 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

UPDATES ON KEY AREAS OF WORK

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and children who go missing

27. We, with our partners, have been on a long journey to improve our response to CSE since the 2014 Ofsted inspection. Through 2016 this response gained much needed momentum. The leadership across the partnership has changed significantly over the last 12 months and strong governance is now in place with a clear strategy and plan. There is a much greater sense of cohesion and integration across the partnership and this has been recognised by HMIC and Ofsted in recent inspection visits to the county.
28. Most importantly these changes are starting to translate into improvements in practice to safeguard children. This has been aided by a better analysis of CSE in Surrey, improved procedures for responding to CSE cases, training and support for staff in front line teams, improved multiagency arrangements for overseeing CSE planning, and more disruption activity against perpetrators.
29. Looked after Children are one of the key vulnerable groups who are likely to be affected by CSE and the further examination of our understanding and approach to managing CSE has been a priority area of focus. Two key issues identified were how to address the under-representation of both asylum seeking children and boys in our list of children at risk. This work on vulnerable groups feeds into ongoing activity to match data from MAECCs (Missing and Exploited Children Conferences) with that for missing children, and those missing from education to better understand who the most vulnerable children are.
30. For the year covered by this report a total of 153 looked after children had been reported missing to the police. Many children are missing for less than 24 hours, though there were 130 (18%) episodes where children have been missing for longer periods of time from a day to many months for several unaccompanied asylum seeking children. For all children there

are set processes with the police to consider the risks and the efforts to locate them following a missing incident.

31. An independent Return Home Interview service is in place for those children who go missing and are reported to the police, whether they are living in or out of county. All return interview outcomes are collated to look for themes. Indications from interviews completed are that the majority of the young people say they decided, usually on the spur of the moment, that they wanted to be back in their home area and to spend time with their friends.
32. A common theme that arises from the interviews is that once they have taken the decision to go out without telling their carer, then feelings of fear, or embarrassment, or worry mean that children report that they don't know how to end the episode. The episode therefore extends to longer than perhaps they originally intended.
33. A small number ran away from school. This links to the wider theme of young people who run away from care testing boundaries that had not applied when they had been at home. Of particular concern is the fact that very few of the young people describe being afraid of the consequences of being missing and tend to think they were safe and nothing could happen to them.
34. Work will be ongoing to address all these issues and to reduce the numbers of incidents where children go missing and to ensure that risks of CSE are appropriately identified and addressed. There will also be specific actions taken to ensure the timeliness and quality of the Return Home Interviews.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

35. Surrey's services to unaccompanied asylum seeking children have always been well-regarded but increasing scrutiny and expectations of practice - particularly in respect of trafficking / modern slavery, health provision, and CSE - mean our services need to continue to improve. With the third highest caseload in the country it is reasonable to expect a high standard and level of expertise in responding to the needs of unaccompanied children.
36. Over the last year the Corporate Parenting Board has continued to champion a clearer focus upon the particular needs of these children and young people. We have developed a Welcome Centre at Guildford YMCA to ensure safe and appropriate support to children who spontaneously arrive in Surrey and plans are well advanced for a reception centre (for one or two night maximum stay) as a safety net in the event that large numbers of children arrive in one go and cannot be appropriately placed
37. Developing the Welcome Centre and associated plans to ensure appropriate moving on within Surrey will be important to ensuring we can continue to meet the needs of these children. Looking ahead, changes in legislation and ongoing financial pressures mean that we will need to make some important decisions about what type of support we provide when and for how long to UASC. This will need careful consideration over the next year.

Placements and Placement Stability

38. One of our key pledges to children in our care is that "we will do the best we can to make sure where you live is right for you". Our focus has been to reduce the number of placement moves that children have to make, to support them to become securely attached to their carers, and to achieve to the best of their ability.
39. It is encouraging that there has been an increasing number of children remaining with their carers long-term with 70% of children in the same placement for at least two years, up from 67.1% in 2015. However, the proportion of children with three or more placements

increased from 8% in 2015 to 11% in 2016. This partly reflects the numbers of teenagers who were assessed to be at risk of CSE or who have challenging behaviour, where specialist placements out of the Surrey area have been made.

40. Overall there are still too many of our children (around 22%) placed outside of the Surrey area, either because of specialist need or because we do not have enough foster carers locally. This will remain a priority for 2017.
41. The number of adoptions and Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) fell in the year, in line with the national trend, to a total of 92 (down from 102 in 2014/15). There was a corresponding fall in the percentages of children leaving care due a permanency order, with adoption at 12.7% (down from 13.4% in 2014/15) and SGO at 10.2% (down from 14% in 2014/15) of the total of children leaving care in the year.
42. As Lead Member I continue to be very concerned that we are not able to provide sufficient foster placements within Surrey and am continuing work through our Corporate Parenting Board to ensure that all necessary steps are being taken to address and improve this area of our care. This includes continuing to recruit more foster carers and using communications campaigns to explain the rewards of [fostering in Surrey](#).

Health Care

43. Over the last year there has been positive partnership working, with co-location of looked after children health teams in council offices and an improved information sharing pathway. There have been some positive trends - Health Development Checks completed increased for the fourth year and reached 100%, and Dental Checks completed improved from 90% to 95%. However, there are a number of areas that require close ongoing attention.
44. Action is required to ensure easy access to full and good quality health histories. The need for a stronger response to this was flagged by Ofsted in their January 2017 monitoring visit. Also, looking at data trends in 2016, Health Assessments completed fell from 80% to 78%, and the percentage of children with substance misuse rose from 4.9% to 6%. Drilling down into these numbers shows that we are still not sufficiently meeting the health needs of all children that are placed out of county.
45. I am pleased that health partners have committed to drive continued improvements and the relatively newly commissioned Looked after Children Health Service should improve performance across all these areas over the next year. The Corporate Parenting Board will continue to monitor these areas closely.
46. Another significant area of work with health partners in 2016 was responding to the significant increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). To meet their particular health care needs the Council and health partners developed some targeted provision. For example:
 - Established stronger arrangements for completing Initial Health Assessments for children placed out of county
 - Recruited two senior staff nurses to work specifically with children and young people placed out of county, particularly UASC
 - Funded a mental health practitioner for UASC

Educational achievements

47. In my report last year I described the introduction of the e-Pep. An electronic format is now in place to support timely completion and progress and all pupils are incorporated on to the portal. This has ensured the PEP (Personal Education Plan) has now become a fully live

document making it a much more powerful tool in ensuring the best possible outcomes for each child. This development has also supported efforts to integrate the work of the Virtual School – which oversees the educational arrangements for all our looked after children - with social care and school settings. As at January 2016/17, 81.2% of looked after children had an up to date PEP.

48. I am pleased to report there have been no permanent exclusions since 2009/10. There have been 69 pupils who received 139 fixed term exclusions and the Virtual School provides close support in tracking the progress and plans for these children to improve this number.
49. The change to national threshold measures for performance are in place following significant changes to the curriculum, assessments and examinations and this means we are not able to make direct comparisons with measures from previous years. This year's key stage 1 tests in Maths and English are the first to reflect the new primary curriculum. 61% of our looked after pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, 52% achieved the expected standard in writing and 56% achieved the expected standard in mathematics.
50. Provisional data for key stage 2 shows 27% of our pupils achieved the new expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics compared with 53% nationally for all children. Provisional results for key stage 4 show 15.5% of pupils achieved the A*-C in English and mathematics measures.
51. Whilst children in care do not as a whole cohort achieve in line with their peers, research has shown that those who are in care for longer periods of time have the highest achievement levels and this would appear to be the case with our own children. The challenge we have is to improve results across the board for all vulnerable children, including those who enter care in their teenage years. We also need to be mindful that 27% of this cohort had statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN).
52. In comparison to the previous three years, there has been an increase in absence, this includes a significant number of days lost to 'not on roll'. Illness is a key factor here and is significant for our looked after children with SEN.
53. We must continue to strive to close the gaps in educational outcomes for looked after children compared to their peers. This will remain a key priority for 2017.

Offending

54. Our restorative approach has continued to be successful and for the seventh year in a row there has been a reduction in the number of looked after children coming to the attention of the criminal justice system. In 2016, 3.2% of all looked after children offended, down from 5.4% in 2015 and 9.7% in 2011. It is notable that looked after children placed out of county are more likely to offend (4.2%) compared to those in county (2%).
55. The ongoing improvements in this area reflects the strong partnership between the council and Surrey Police and a range of activities across services and the partnership to address youth offending. In May 2016 [Lord Laming completed a review](#) into keeping children in care out of trouble and cited Surrey's work as an example of best practice.

Bursary Fund

56. As corporate parents we know the importance of encouraging and supporting our children to achieve and Members have continued to donate generously to our bursary award scheme to acknowledge and reward achievements by our children. In 2016 it was used to support budding sports, drama and music stars growing up in our care. It also funded celebration parties and events such as SkillsFest.

Care Leavers

57. It has long been recognised that young people who have grown up in care have significant problems to overcome as they grow into adulthood. Statistics show that care leavers can have poor educational attainment and experience high levels of unemployment. They are also over represented in the prison population, amongst those who are homeless, and amongst those with both physical and mental health problems, including substance misuse¹.
58. The council has continued responsibilities for care leavers, helping to promote their independence and stability and keeping in contact until they are 21 (or up to 25 if they are in full-time education). Support for any young adult during these particular years is crucial in enabling self-confidence and independence.
59. As corporate parents it is essential we hold the same aspirations as a good parent would have for their own child as they grow into adulthood. We strive to provide stability and support to our care leavers to help them access new opportunities and experiences to inspire them to set their own goals.
60. It is crucially important that care leavers have a stable and safe place to live. Over the last year there have been some positive improvements in the numbers of care-leavers who are living in suitable accommodation (up from 81.8% for 19-21 year olds in 2015 to 93.1% for 18-21 year olds in 2016) and we will continue to work closely with district and borough council colleagues to improve this further. Another positive is that through the “staying put” initiative we have enabled 80 young people to stay in stable, supportive homes after their 18th birthday.
61. The proportion of care leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training has improved again this year at 60.1% (up from 54.9% in 2015) and 32 young people are currently at university. There is more to do to bring achievements in line with peer groups but these are encouraging trends.
62. Pathway planning is an important part of the support we provide and following a recent pilot of a new format designed with young people, we will be rolling out an improved pathway plan in 2017.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017

63. The progress made in 2016 sets a **strong platform for further improvement in 2017**. Through the Corporate Parenting Board I have identified a number of specific issues from within the overall work programme that will require focused attention in 2017.
64. Firstly, raising the quality of all practice with children will remain a top priority, specifically tackling inconsistencies in the **quality and impact of care plans and pathway plans**. This work forms part of the overall Children’s Improvement Plan and in 2017 we will be **building on our overall Safer Surrey approach to develop consistently child-focused and strength-based practice**. To fully embed the Safer Surrey principles into all our day-to-day safeguarding work we will be implementing a training programme and set of tools known as “Signs of Safety” - this will further develop the voice of the child, with the child and family being at the centre of care and safety planning.
65. Linked to this, over the next year we will be taking forward the excellent “life story” work that has been developed by colleagues. **Life story work is a process of direct work with**

¹ Couldn’t Care less (2007) – The Centre for Social Justice

children and young people which can help them reflect on and gain a more balanced picture of their lives. It can help them to make sense of their past, gain a clearer understanding of their present and, as an ongoing process, plan for a healthy and stable future. It is a valuable process in enabling children and young people to develop a healthy self-image and to feel connected with significant people and places, their family of origin and their heritage. I'm delighted that **more of our social workers will be trained and equipped to use this kind of practice** in our work with children in care.

66. There are some **specific improvements needed in relation to health care** and I am pleased that health partners have committed to drive continued improvements in health assessments and to work together to make it easier for care leavers to access their health histories.
67. Schools have a crucial role, particularly in relation to **looked after children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**. We will work across the system and in partnership with schools to ensure looked after children with SEND have appropriate Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) in place.
68. The Virtual School will continue to play a pivotal role in **driving further improvements in education and skills outcomes**, co-ordinating and supporting different agencies and colleagues to achieve this – for example, by delivering training for Designated Teachers and Social Workers on the importance of Personal Education Plans (PEPs). We will also need to continue to identify and monitor the workforce needed for the Virtual School to manage additional responsibilities for post-16 and early years.
69. Children who are at **risk of sexual exploitation and children who go missing will continue to be at the forefront of our work programme**. We will be working with the police and other partners to translate stronger strategic arrangements and better awareness of risks into consistently improved safeguarding practices on the ground – this will include continuing to increase disruption activity against CSE perpetrators.
70. Global events mean we will continue to focus on the **increasing number of young unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)** who are in our care and who may have additional barriers of language and culture in accessing the right support. In 2017 we will need to carefully consider what resources Surrey has available to meet these particular needs effectively, and the evolving national legislation which underpins our work with these children.
71. Nationally there is a concern around the **number of teenagers coming into care** and this is particularly pronounced in Surrey where children aged 12+ made up 49% of our entrants to care in 2015/16. We will be **developing our Early Help offer alongside targeted support for adolescents and families** to address this. We know the importance of immediate response at times of crisis and services like Extended Hope (initially funded through national social innovation grant) are able to make a difference at times of emotional wellbeing / mental health crisis. Where children do need to come in to care we will be looking at further ways to **enable them to remain in the county where appropriate**.
72. There can be **no complacency about the further improvements needed for children**. And we must recognise the significant added challenge of increased demands and constrained resources. But, as I stated in my opening position statement, I believe the changes made over the last year across Children's, Schools and Families, within Children's Services, and across our wider partnership mean **we are now better equipped to drive the improvements required next**.
73. The **Corporate Parenting Board itself will need to continue to strengthen its effectiveness and impact for children in 2017**. The County Council elections in May 2017

will result in some changes to membership and this will provide a natural opportunity to refresh the workings of the Board and ensure all Members are fully trained and briefed to fulfil what is a critical corporate parenting role. This will include making sure all Members of the new Council complete our excellent Total Respect training.

74. Finally, throughout all of the challenges ahead we must continue to ensure that we **celebrate our children's successes** and make sure they continue to grow in confidence and security in our care.

*Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement
March 2017*

Appendix 1 - Corporate Parenting Board Membership

Councillor Linda Kemeny (Chair)	Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement, SCC (Surrey County Council)
Councillor Clare Curran	Cabinet Member for Children and Families Wellbeing, SCC
Councillor Mary Lewis	Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families, SCC
Councillor Peter Hickman	SCC
Councillor John Orrick	SCC
Cheryl Kimber	Chair, Fostering Executive
David McNulty	Chief Executive, SCC
Julie Fisher	Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families
Sarah Parker	Director of Children's Commissioning (Surreywide), NHS Guildford & Waverley CCG
Vicky Stobbart	Executive Nurse, Director of Quality & Safeguarding, NHS Guildford & Waverley CCG
Helen Collins	Chief Constable, Surrey Police
Sam Bushby	Assistant Director, Children's Services, SCC
Garath Symonds	Assistant Director, Commissioning and Prevention, SCC
Liz Mills	Assistant Director, Schools and Learning, SCC
Belinda Newth	Head of Quality and Experience, SCC
Ben Byrne	Head of Early Help, SCC
Sheila Jones	Head of Countywide Services, Children's Services, SCC
Dr Christine Arnold	Designated Doctor for Looked After Children
Sue Barham	Districts and Boroughs Representative, Woking Borough Council
Maria O'Shaughnessy	Head of Virtual School, Schools and Learning, SCC
Abid Dar	Senior Equality, Inclusion and Wellbeing Manager, SCC
Steve Owen-Hughes	Assistant Chief Fire Officer Operations Support

SURREY'S CHILDREN

Our care. Your future

Our pledge, to our children and young people.

1. Placements

We will do the best we can to make sure where you live is right for you.



2. Contact

We will help you keep in touch safely with the important people in your life.

3. Choices

We will tell you about options and involve you fully in making plans about your life.

4. Skills for life

We will support you with your education and help you grow up with good skills for life.

5. Safe

To keep you safe and ensure that you feel safe.

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on tape or in another language please contact us on:

Email: csfcommunications@surreycc.gov.uk
 Tel: 03456 009 009
 Minicom: 0208 541 9698
 SMS: 07527 182861



SURREY'S CHILDREN

Our care. Your future

Confident in care. Confident in my future.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015 - 2018

Purpose

We are the corporate parents to our children and young people in care. We seek to ensure that the young people we look after grow up with the same opportunities as other young people and go on to live successful and fulfilling lives.

Vision

As corporate parents we want every child to feel safe and confident about their future.

Values

We are committed to:

- Listening to our young people and involving them fully in plans about their lives.
- Being responsible for looking after our young people and doing what we promise in our pledge.
- Building trust in our young people and our staff.
- Respecting the needs and wishes of our young people.

Context

In Surrey, there are around 750-780 children and young people who are living in our care at any one time, and 420 careleavers who are moving to become more independent. There are around 120 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in care (UASC) who have often had a traumatic journey into care.

The majority of our young people are placed in foster care and the remaining children are in residential homes, or placed for adoption or in independent living.

Where we live, who we live with and how safe and happy we feel are important factors which contribute to everyone's wellbeing. We agree with young people who tell us that if you can't live in the home you'd choose, it is especially important to get the next best option right.

We know we don't have enough placement choice, not enough foster carers who live in Surrey and that too many children have to live elsewhere.

Therefore our focus in 2015/2016 is placement choice and stability: Young people know who they will live with and experience stable placements. They will have good relationships with those involved in their care. See our summary Being in Care (2015) for more information.

Our goal is that Surrey children and young people...

are happy where they live

Young people know who they will live with and experience stable placements. They have good relationships with those involved in their care.

↓ Fewer children have to move places three or more times a year.

We know that:

We have made good improvements in placement stability but a small number of young people have to move places three or more times a year. Too many changes make it hard for young people to feel they belong. We don't have enough foster carers who live in Surrey and too many young people have to live elsewhere.

In 2015/16 we will:

- reduce the impact of change between placements, ensuring children are informed and involved in any changes to their placement
- train carers and staff in social pedagogy to offer children emotional support with practical hands-on action
- recruit more foster carers, particularly for teenagers or for children with disabilities appropriate.

are healthy and aware of their choices

Young people are supported to have improved health and wellbeing.

↑ More children in care will have up to date health checks that include a wellbeing health check.

We know that:

Young people would like more choice about where and when to have their health assessments. Some young people would like more support with their healthcare if English is not their first language. Others have said they would like more advice and guidance about healthy eating and keeping active.

In 2015/16 we will:

- ensure we deliver an effective health check service that includes health promotion and emotional wellbeing
- ensure there are opportunities for young people to participate in fun activities including: the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, clubs, music lessons, sport and leisure, and physical activity
- help young people understand events and feelings through life story work.

are and feel safe

Young people are safe and feel safe. If they go missing they are listened to, trusted and given a say when they return.

↓ Fewer children in care go missing

We know that:

Sometimes children go missing from their placement because they're not happy with their plans or because they're missing friends and family. Being missing means that they're at risk and not safe. It is really important that young people living independently feel safe at home.

In 2015/16 we will:

- actively work with young people to understand why they go missing, including having return interviews, and to support prevention
- offer a restorative approach to children in care who offend
- ensure children feel safe from bullying.

are making progress

Young people have the confidence and skills to live successful and fulfilling lives.

↑ Children in care achieve more, especially at Key Stages 1 and 2 results.

We know that:

Young people feel supported in education by those around them such as their carers, social workers and school staff. It is important that young people have the right support, including financial support, to do the best they can. We need to make sure young people and their carers are aware of opportunities available to them.

In 2015/16 we will:

- manage change between school settings and make timely decisions on personal education plans
- provide extra support for children in Key Stage 2
- ensure that our youngest children have access to early years opportunities
- increase the number of apprenticeships available for young people who are not in education, training or employment.

feel confident about becoming an adult

Young people are equipped for a successful and fulfilling future.

↓ Fewer care leavers are living in unsuitable accommodation

We know that:

Only a small number of young people live in unsuitable accommodation. Some young people require more support to live independently. Having a job, somewhere good to live and strong relationships are key to confidence.

In 2015/16 we will:

- strengthen the choices of accommodation we have for young people as they move into independence at 18
- offer every young person aged 14-21 a work sponsor to help them get ready for work
- work to improve young people's experiences when moving into independent living, including providing good information about the choices they have and their support network.



Appendix 3 – Performance data

This Appendix is based on the **annual national DfE SSDA 903 Statutory Return for Looked After Children by Surrey for the year 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016**.

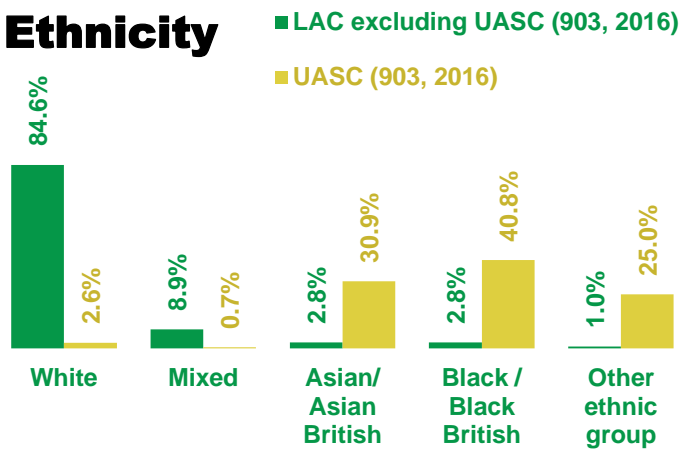
In the charts the majority of figures for 2015/16 are provisional, due to delays in the DfE providing their annual performance summaries (and hence in some instances the latest information available from the DfE relates to 2014/15).

Note that more recent monthly reporting figures are regularly reported internally and to scrutiny, but for this particular annual report the yearly position from the statutory “903” return is presented to **show the year-on-year trend against nationally published benchmarks**.

872 Looked After Children

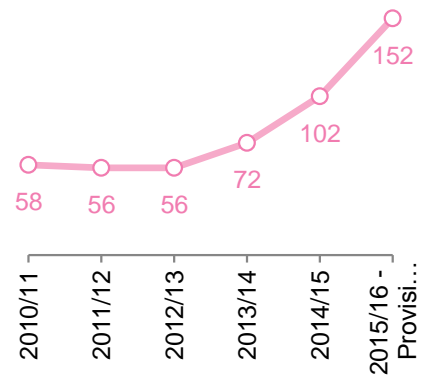
(as at 31 March 2016)

Ethnicity

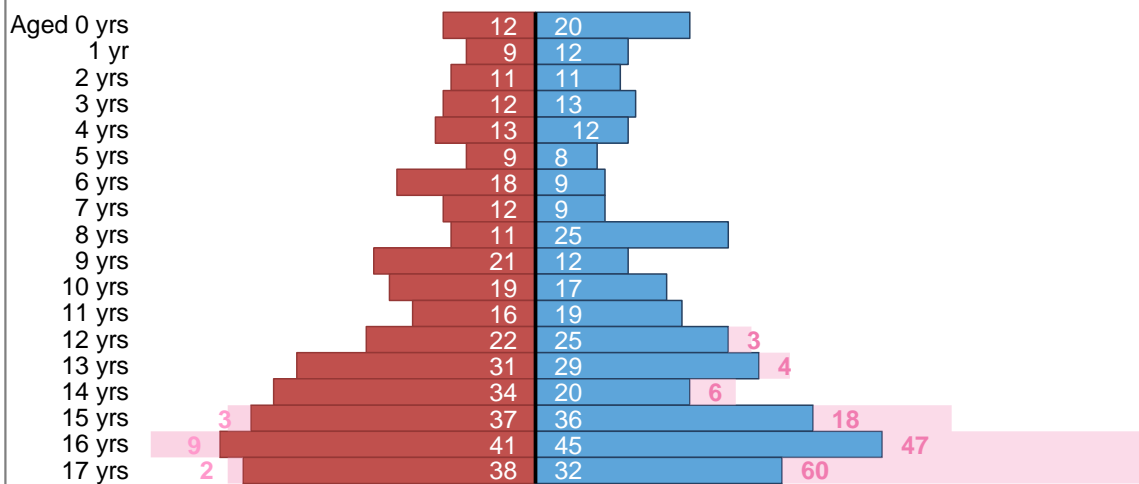


UASC

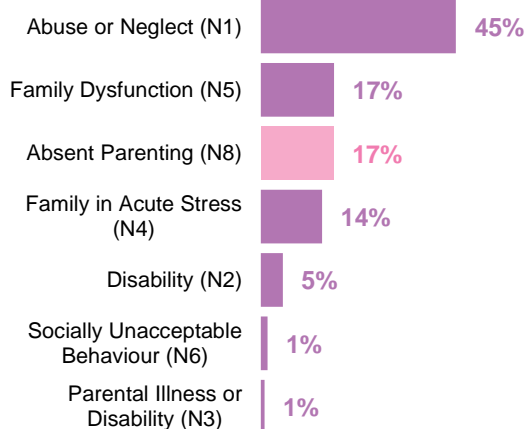
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children



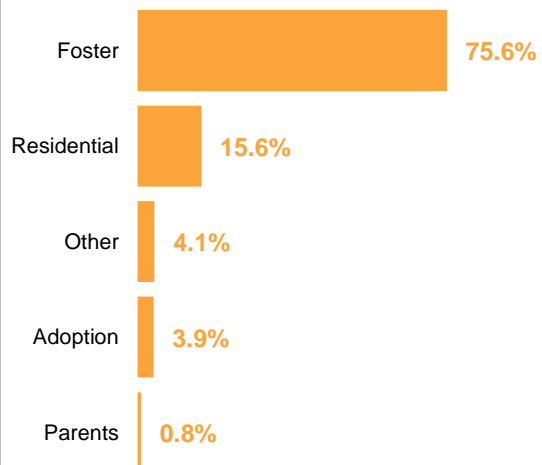
Age and gender



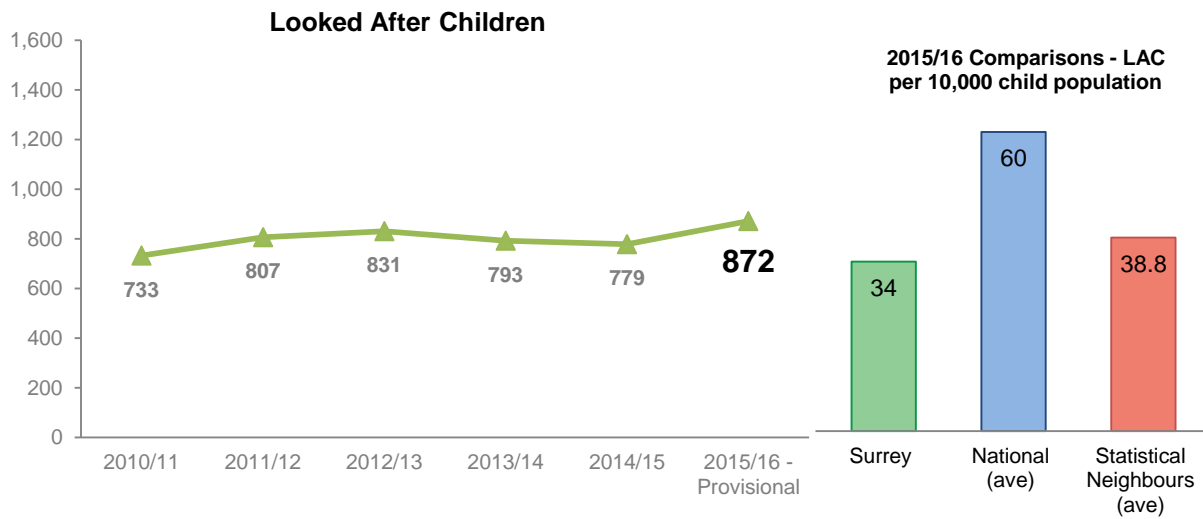
Category of Need at Entry



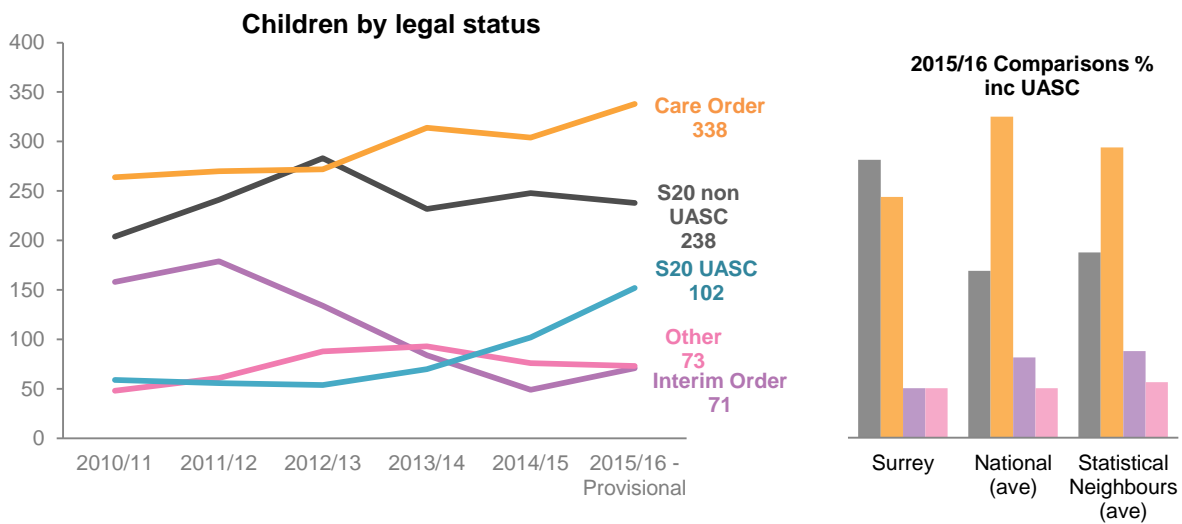
Placement Type



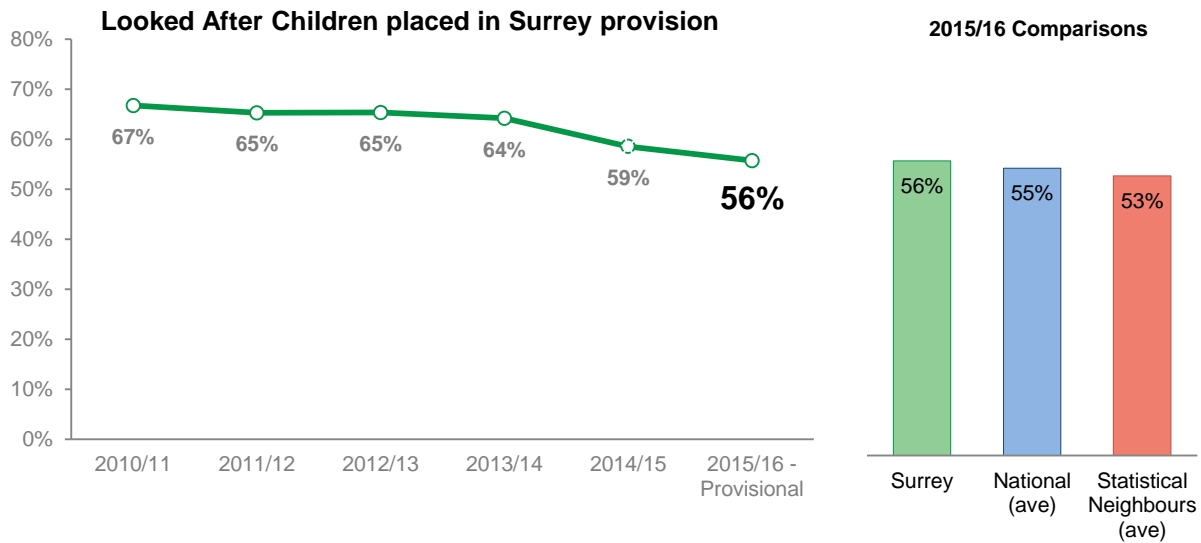
Number of Looked After Children at 31 March



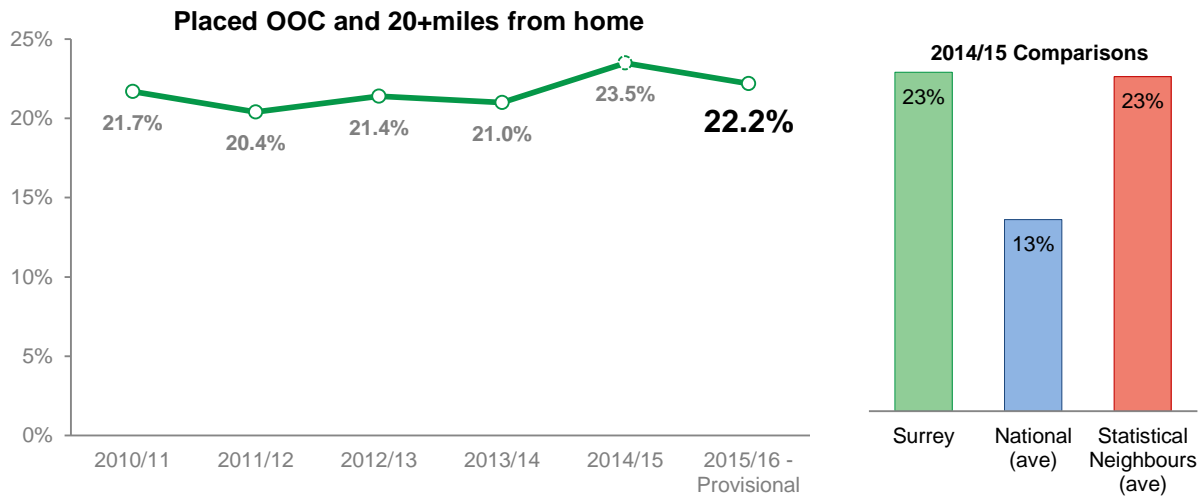
Number of Looked After Children by legal status



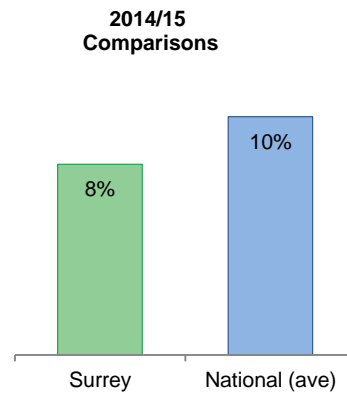
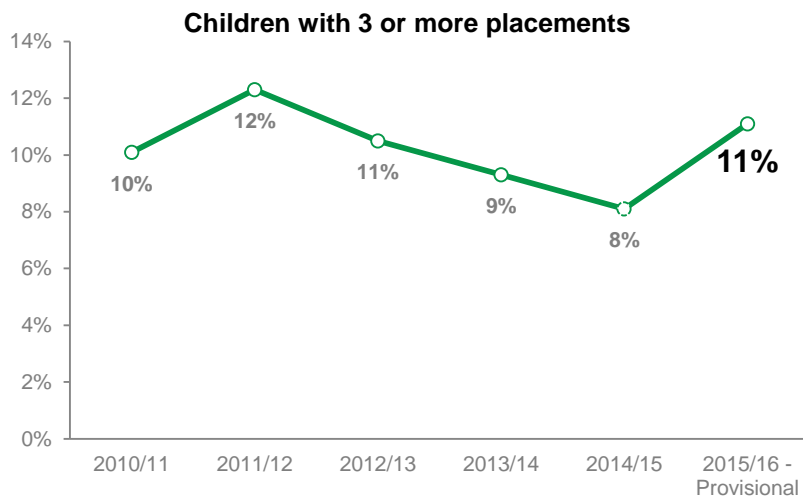
Percentage of Children placed in a Surrey in-house provision



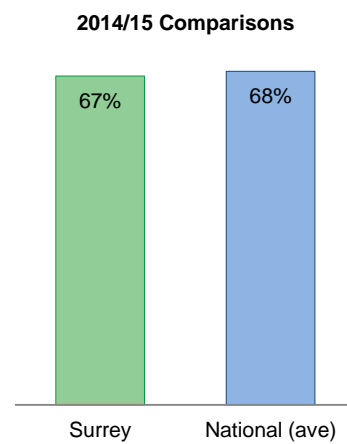
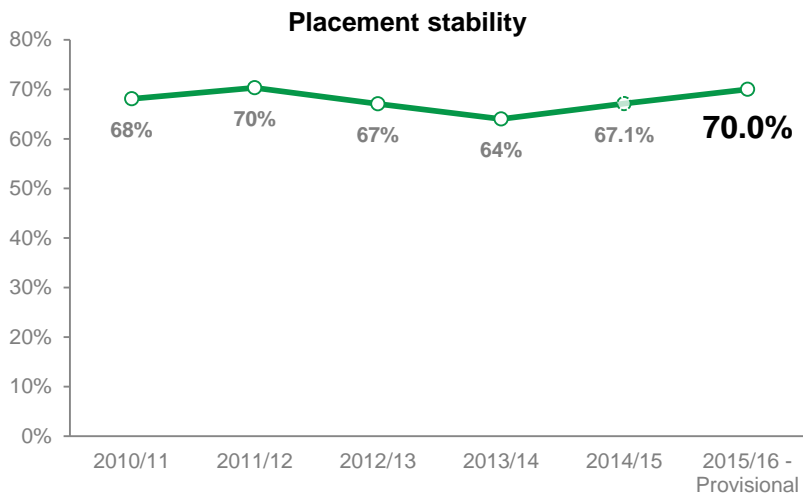
Percentage of Looked After Children who are placed out of county and 20 or more miles from home



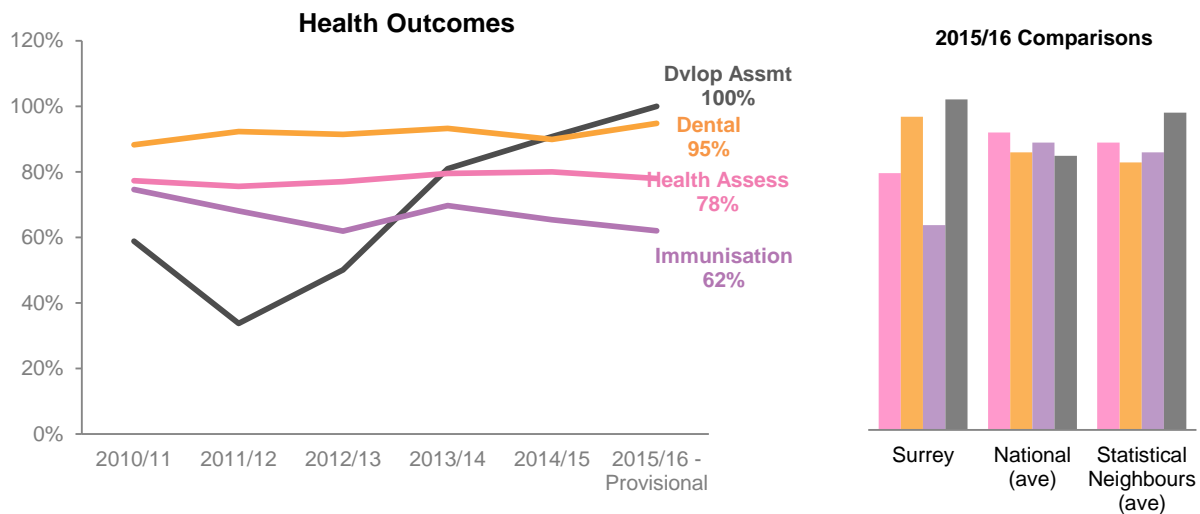
Percentage of Looked After Children with 3 or more placements



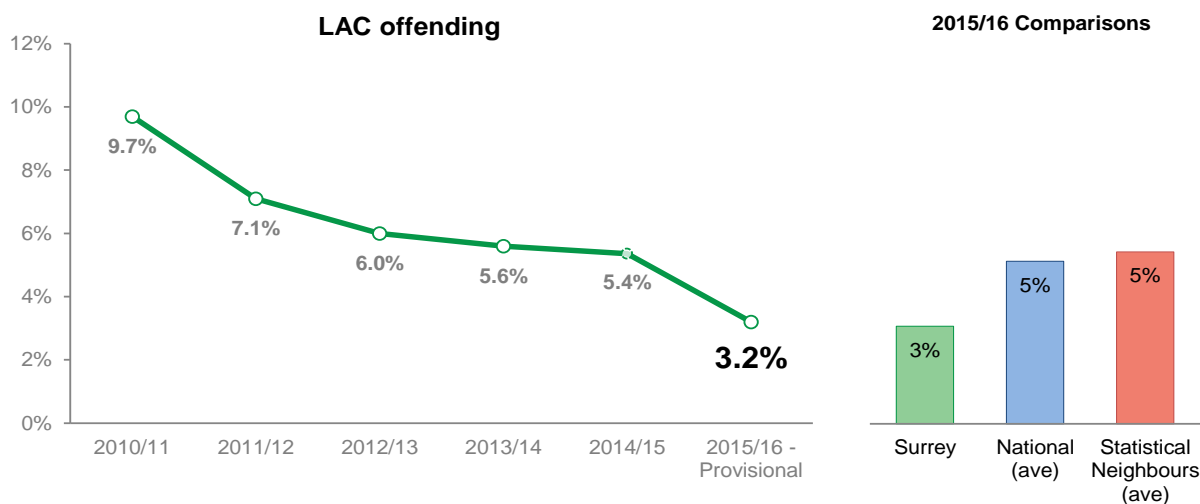
Percentage of children who have been looked after for 2 ½ years who have been in the same placement for at least 2 years



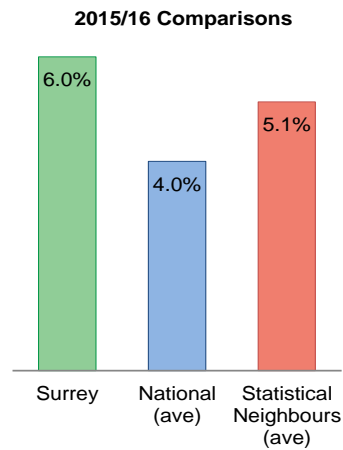
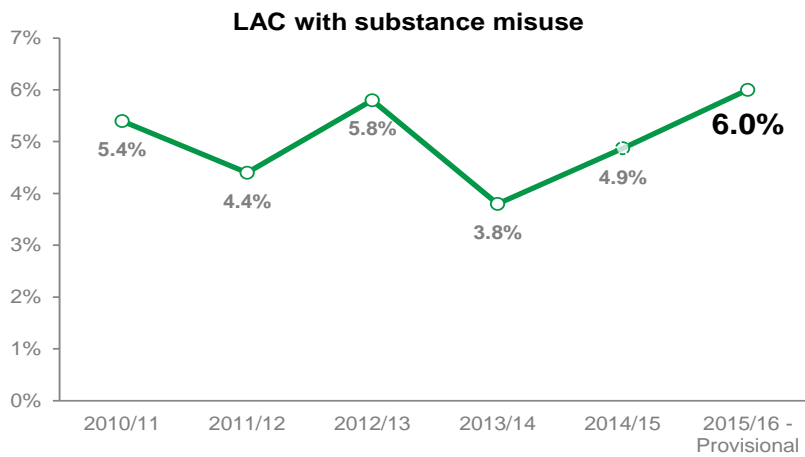
Percentage of children who have had a health developmental check, health assessment, dental check, and immunisations



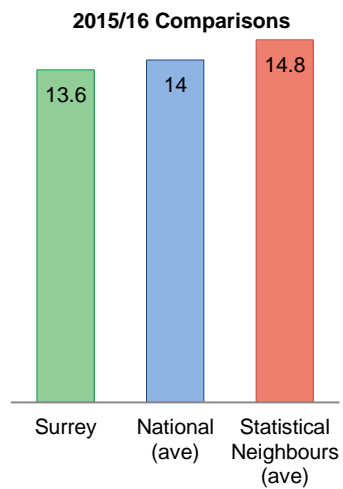
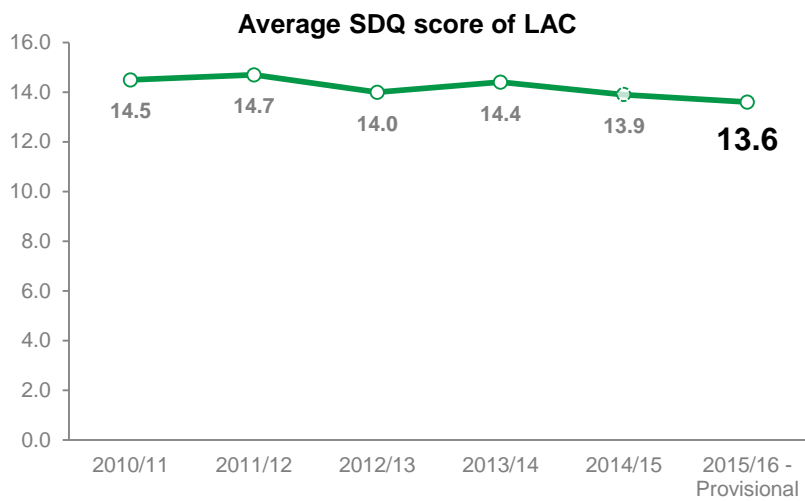
Percentage of Looked After Children (aged 10+) who have been subject to a conviction, final warning or reprimand in the year



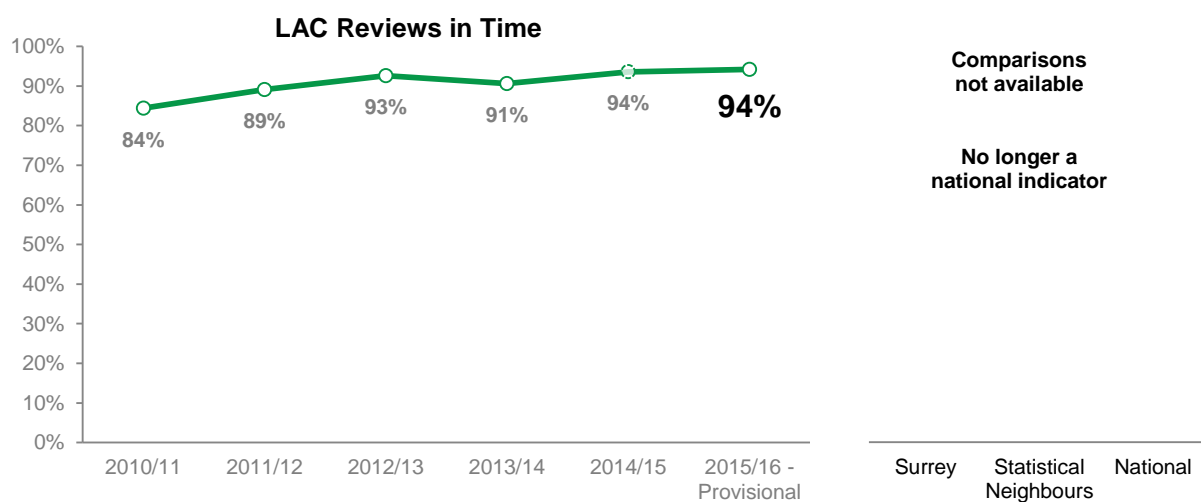
Percentage of Looked After Children with substance misuse



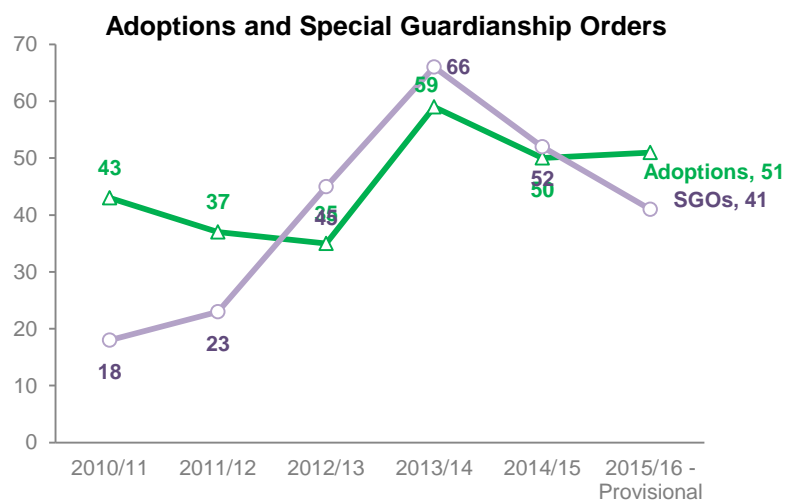
Average Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) Questionnaire score of Looked After Children



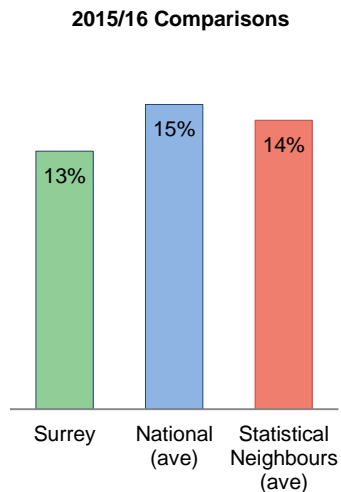
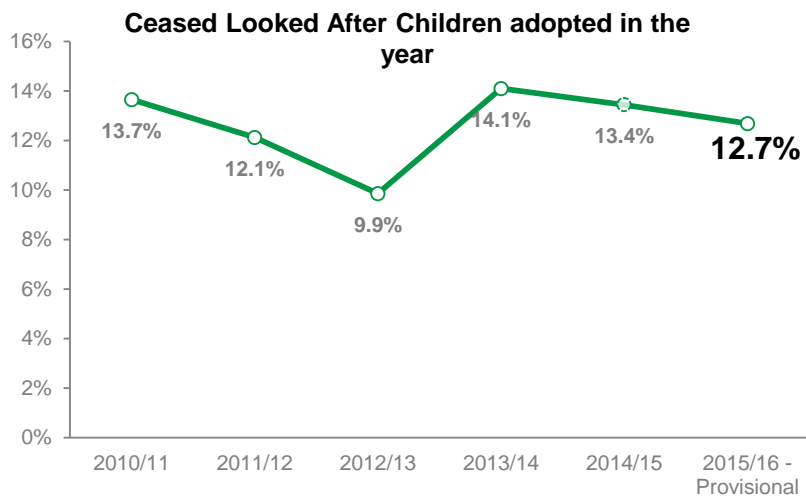
Percentage of Looked After Children who had their reviews in time



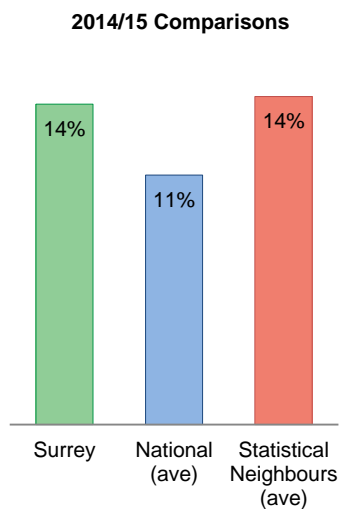
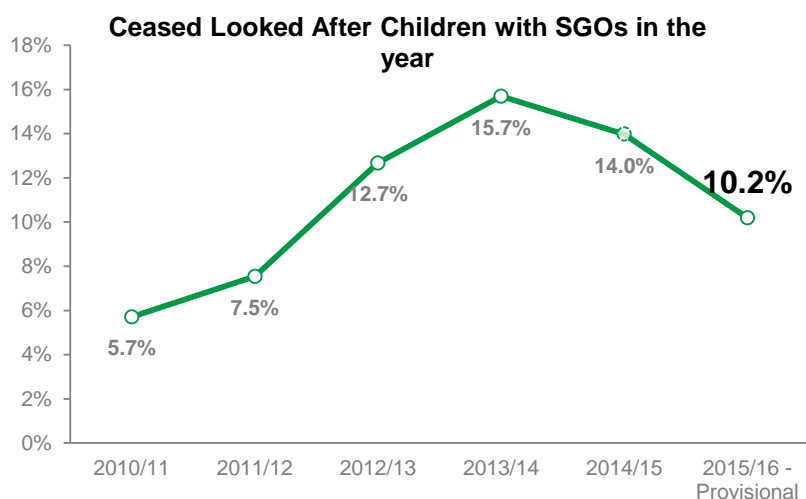
Number of Adoptions and Special Guardianship Orders



Adoptions in year compared to number of children leaving care

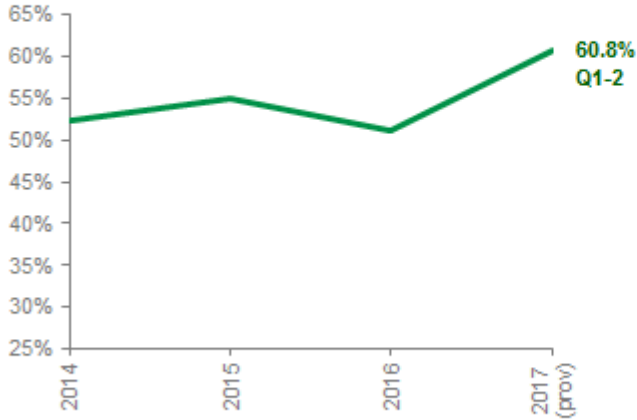


Special Guardianship Orders in year compared to the number of children leaving care

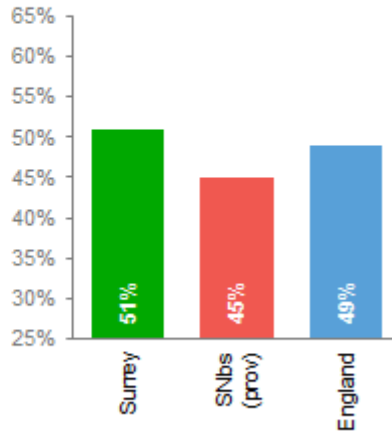


Percentage of careleavers in education, training or employment around their birthday (19-21 yo only, 903 return)

Percentage of careleavers who are PETE

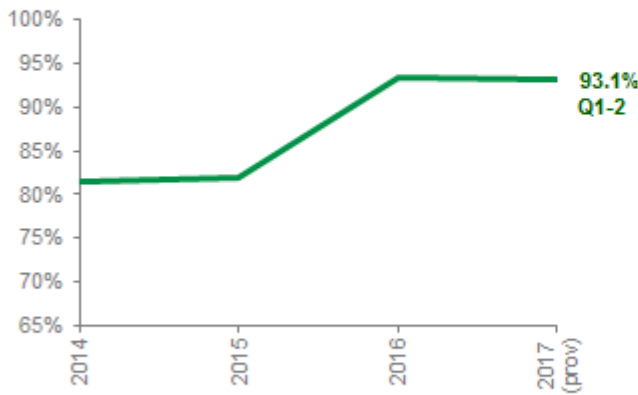


Benchmarking (31 March 2016)



Percentage of careleavers in suitable accommodation around their birthday (19-21 yo only, 903 return)

Percentage of careleavers in suitable accommodation



Benchmarking (31 March 2016)

