

Looked After Children: Initial Health Assessments

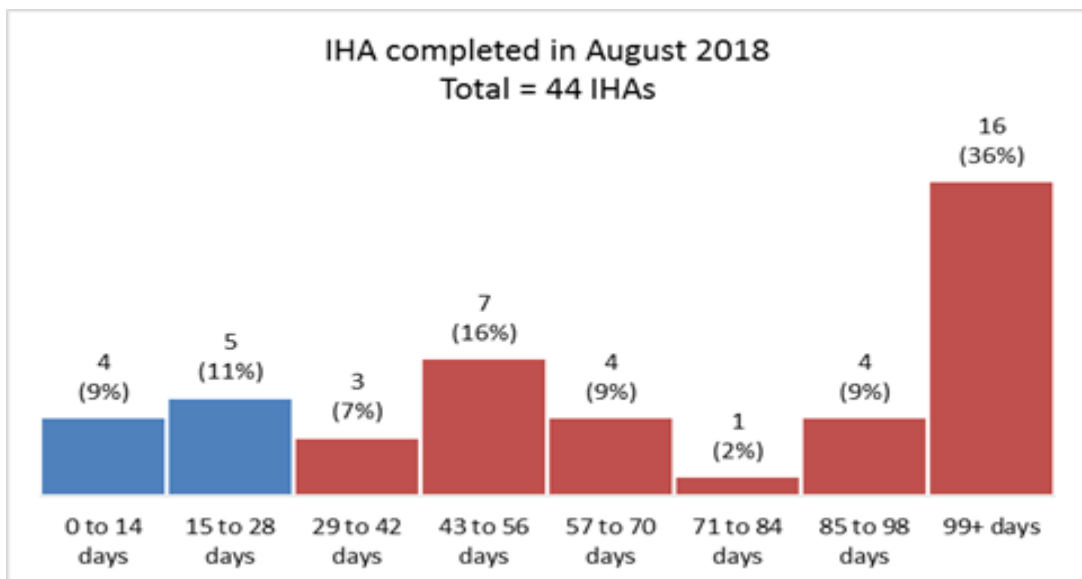
Surrey County Council

October 2018

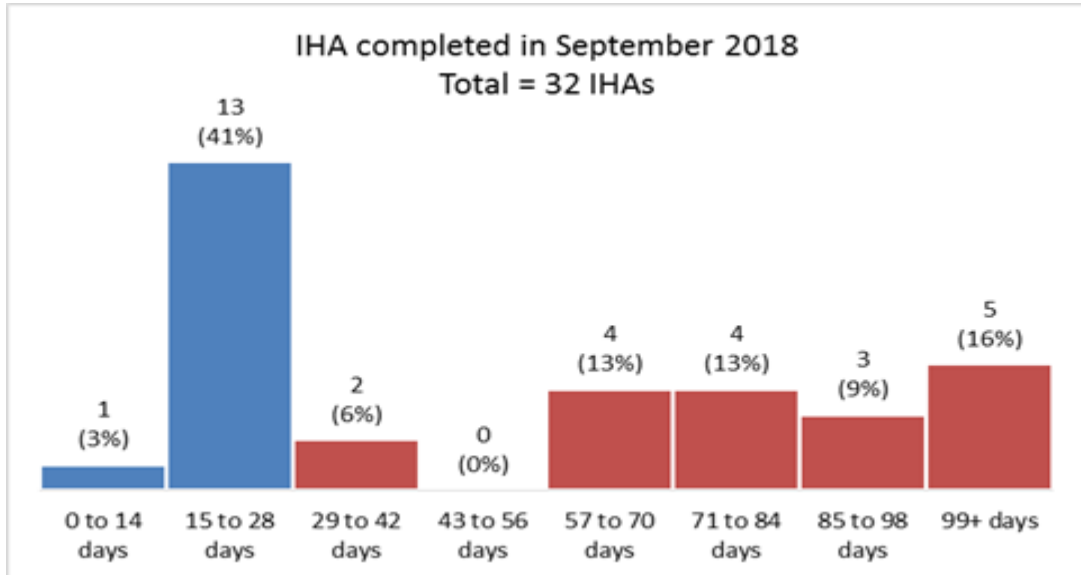
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Date: 7th November 2018

Summary of IHA performance

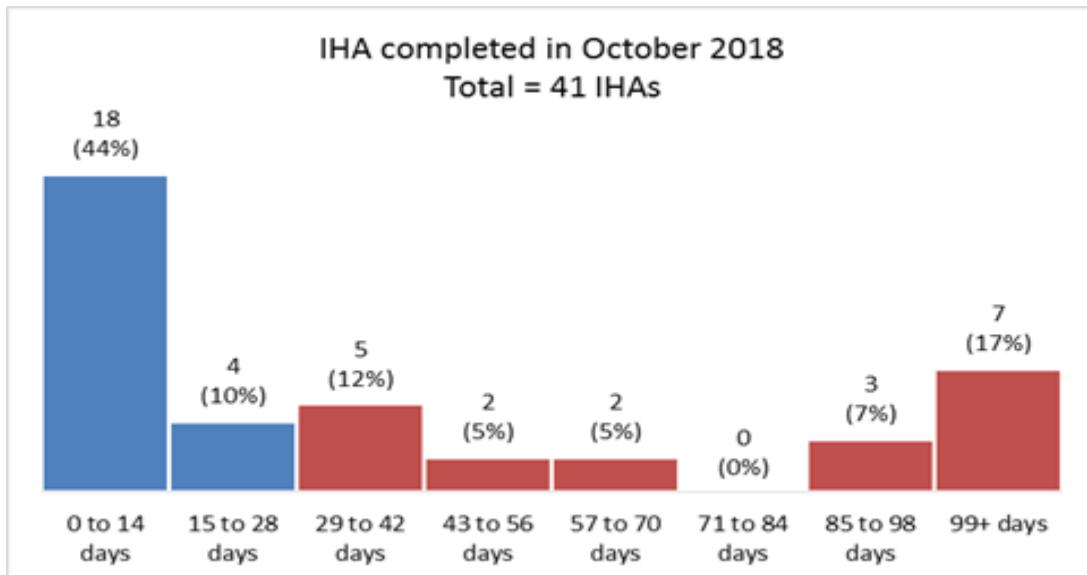
1. The current target is for a looked after child to have an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) completed within 20 working days of entering care.
2. The Ofsted report highlighted that there is a requirement to significantly improve performance around the timeliness of IHAs in Surrey.
3. A significant amount of work has been undertaken over the summer to improve access to information between Children’s Service and our commissioned health provider for IHAs.
4. This has enabled us to better understand the reasons for delay and by sharing information on a weekly basis, evidence improvements in the timeliness of IHAs taking place for the most vulnerable children.
5. There is an overall emerging trend of performance improving for the timeliness of IHA taking place in a timely manner.
6. The ‘Manhattan Skyline’ reports below highlight that in the last three months there has been a positive shift in timeliness.
7. In August, 36% of children whose assessment was completed had been in care for 99 days or more when it took place. Only 20% of children had an assessment within timescale.



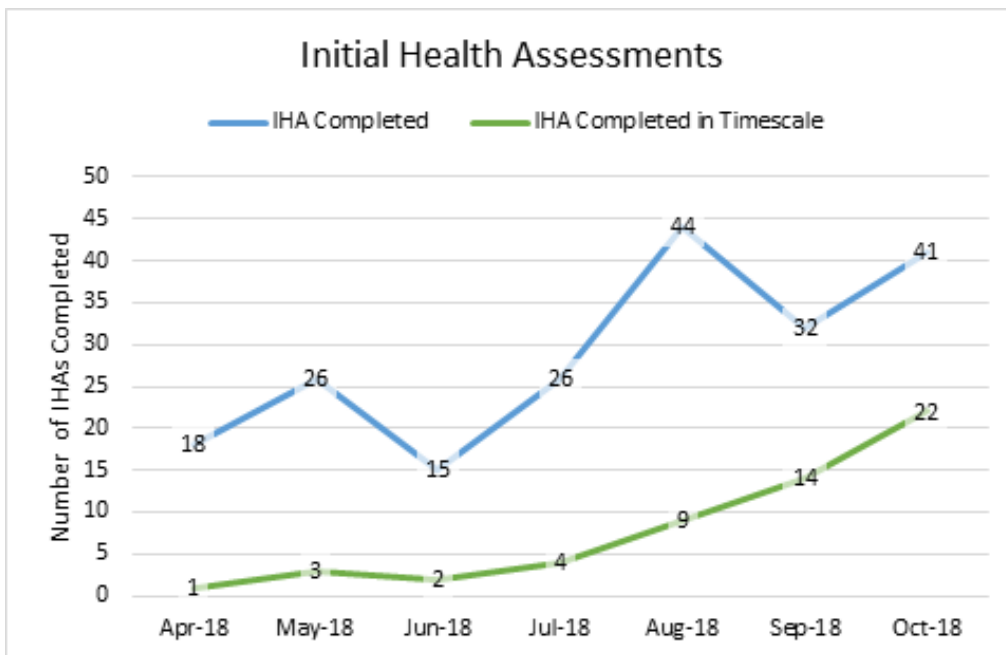
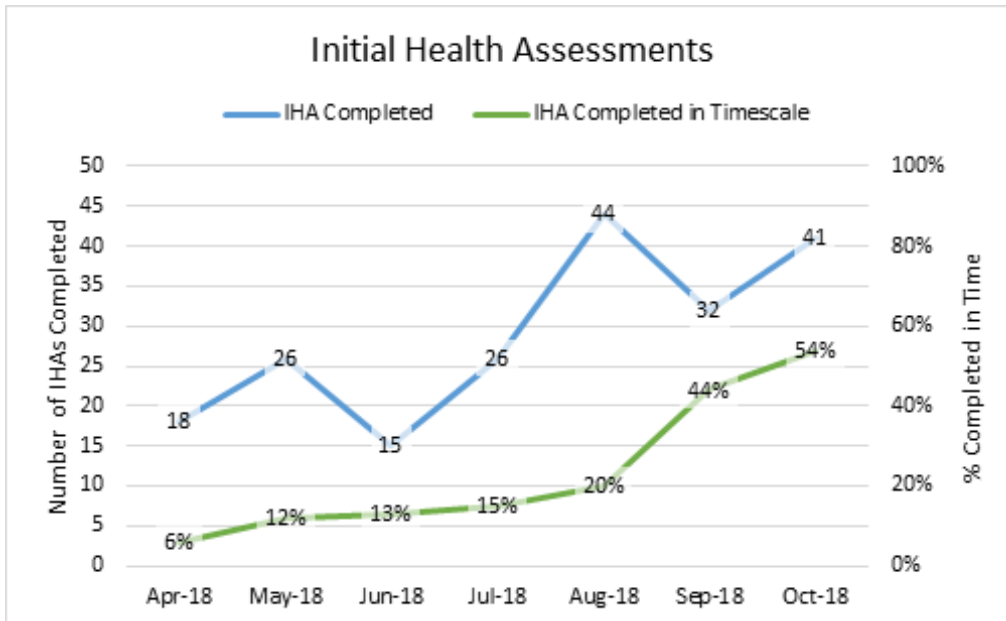
8. In September, 16% of children whose assessment was completed had been in care for 99 days or more when it took place and 44% of children had an assessment within timescale.



9. In October, 17% of children whose assessment was completed had been in care for 99 days or more when it took place and 54% of children had an assessment within timescale.



10. This upward trend in timeliness and volume of completed assessments can be seen in the graph below:



11. Although there is more work to be undertaken to ensure that all children entering care receive a timely IHA, this performance report highlights that regular communication between the council and the health provider, combined with weekly performance monitoring is improving timeliness.

12. The internal audit report has a clear action plan which describes the activity required to further improve the timeliness of IHAs.