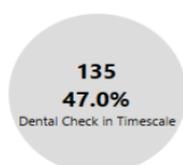
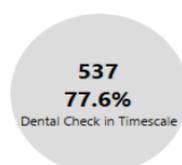


**Response to action: A21/21 (2 September 2021 - Informal Board)****Briefing re performance on Looked after Children dental care (as at 09/11/21)**

We measure performance for children who have been looked after under and over one year. These two groups have different challenges and you would expect the performance for those looked after for more than a year to be significantly better. A number of children who come into care are not registered with a dentist or are placed too far from home to access it. The other key issue is that a number of older children who come into care and who have not regularly attended a dentist refuse to do so. Whilst we would never accept this position, it does take time to build a relationship and influence young people's thinking.

Extract from Compendium to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

	Target	Last Month	Latest	Direction	RAG	
<b>7.9 Dental Checks for Looked After Children</b> Dental checks for all Looked After Children aged over 2 years old as at 08 November 2021.	CLA Under 1 Year	80%	54%	47%	↓	R
	CLA Over 1 Year	90%	79%	78%	↓	R

**Current Looked After for Under 1 Year****Current Looked After for Over 1 Year**

The current data indicates that performance is not improving at pace for those looked after for less than 1 year. However during September we received 31 unaccompanied asylum seeker children into care. The impact of the large number of UASC arrivals does need to be considered, taking SE out of the data (as this is where the key team is located) for those looked after for less than 1 year, there are 54% in time. The other quadrants are between 57% and 63% in time which is between a 20% - 30% increase on the position from August 2021. Additionally, the number of planned appointments has increased.

We have experienced some difficulties in registering all these children with dentists. This has been escalated within the LAC health team and we expect this to be resolved. Any additional delay might then be the ability to secure interpreters for the assigned appointment times but the teams are working hard on trying to resolve this issue.

To address the delays, the Looked After Service Managers are asked to liaise with their peers in Assessment, Family Safeguarding and Safeguarding Adolescents regularly to ensure completion of dental checks for those looked after for less than one year. Practice Challenge Meetings take place in each quadrant and since dental surgeries have reopened, managers are reminded about the need to ensure that dental appointments are booked. Where there has been an issue with dental registration, staff are asked to escalate to Linda Cunningham, Surrey wide CCG Designated Nurse for Looked After Children & Deputy Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, who has been able to liaise with local dental practices and where necessary, escalate to NHS England where issues with registration have been encountered.

Tableau now enables reporting on planned dental appointments to be captured. This enables focus on the dental appointments which have not yet been made. Business Support are also assisting with the follow up on checks being put onto LCS every month.

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