HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES CABINET PANEL
THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018 AT 10.00AM**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT Q3 2017/18

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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Executive Member: Teresa Heritage, Children's Services

1.   Purpose of report

1.1   To present the Panel with a summary of performance during Quarter 3 2017/18 (Q3).

2.   Summary

2.1   This report summarises Children's Services performance for the Q3 period of September to December 2017. It draws upon the conclusions from performance management reporting arrangements within Children's Services.

3.   Recommendation

3.1   The Children's Services Cabinet Panel is asked to scrutinise current performance and comment on any areas for improvement and/or interest.

4.   Background and Context

4.1   These indicators are summarised according to the following headings which relate to the main work streams for Children's Services:

   - Targeted Services and Early Help;
   - Contact, Referral and Assessment (Safeguarding);
   - Child Protection; and
   - Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

4.2   Figures are based on in-year monthly snapshot information. Some indicators will be subject to change as part of the preparation of the annual statutory returns to the Department for Education and final figures will be reflected in future performance reports. Where possible data is compared against national data with the top quartile being the top 25% nationally.

4.3   We have developed a new Outcomes Framework in Children's Services in collaboration with our partners – **The Outcome Bees**. The new framework aims to ensure that there is a shared vision and objectives for children, young

people and their families in Hertfordshire. Where appropriate performance measures have been aligned to the Outcome Bees.

5. Highlights – Comparing Q3 2017/18 with Q2 2017/18

A rate per 10,000 of the 0-18 population is used throughout this document in order to allow direct comparison with the national picture and our statistical neighbours (those defined to have a similar demography to Hertfordshire).

Underlined indicates performance better than target.

Hertfordshire has 10 statistical neighbours defined by the Department for Education (DfE) as having a similar demography to Hertfordshire, these are; Bracknell Forest, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Trafford, Warwickshire, West Berkshire and West Sussex.

Improved Performance   Declining Performance   Declining Performance (within 5% margin of error)

Ref para in report:	Indicator	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18	2017/18 Target	Latest Statistical Neighbour Average	Quartile	Direction of travel (compared to previous quarter)	Polarity
6.2	No. of Families First Assessments Finalised	278	262	N/A	N/A	N/A	⬇	N/A
6.3	First Time Entrants to Youth Justice System[1]	Q1 = 65	Q2 = 63	Reduction	N/A	N/A	⬆	Low is good
6.4	16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	5.23% (969 out of 18,525)	3.18% (1,115 out of 35,095)	N/A	3.5%	Top	⬆	Low is good

[1] Data is always one quarter in arrears.

Ref para in report:	Indicator	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18	2017/18 Target	Latest Statistical Neighbour Average	Quartile	Direction of travel (compared to previous quarter)	Polarity
7.2	**Referrals accepted into Children's Social Care (rate per 10,000) – rolling year**	228.6 (6104)	230.8 (6,163)	260	551	**Top**	↔	**Low is good**
7.3	**Re-referrals to Children's Social Care – rolling year**	15% (917 out of 6104)	14.3% (883 out of 6,163)	16%	25%	**Top**	↑	**Low is good**
7.4	**Child & Family Assessments Approved within 45 days**	91.4% (394 out of 431)	93.9% (445 out of 474)	91%	86%	**Top**	↑	**High is good**
8.1	**Initial Child Protection Conferences within 15 days of S47 investigation**	76.7% (33 out of 43)	91.4% (32 out of 35)	80%	79%	**Top**	↑	**High is good**
8.2	**Number of children subject to a child protection plan (rate per 10,000)**	23.9 (637)	22.5 (601)	23	38	**Top**	↑	**Low is good**
8.3	**Percentage of Children subject to a child protection plan for a 2nd or subsequent time**	18.2% (134 out of 736)	18.6% (142 out of 763)	16%	19.9%	**Third**	↔	**Low is good**

Ref para in report:	Indicator	Q2 2017/18	Q3 2017/18	2017/18 Target	Latest Statistical Neighbour Average	Quartile	Direction of travel (compared to previous quarter)	Polarity
9.1	**Number of Children Looked After (CLA) (rate per 10,000) (including UASC)**	35.2 (939 inc 90 UASC)	34.4 (919 inc 87 UASC)	N/A	44.5	**Top**	⬆	**Low is good**
9.2	**% of Children Looked After with 3+ placements**	10.8% (101 out 939)	12.4% (114 out of 919)	10.0%	10.2%	**Third**	⬇	**Low is good**
9.6	**% of Children Looked After who leave care through adoption or Special Guardianship Orders**	17.7% (105 out of 595)	13% (77 out of 593)	23.6%	23.6%	**Third (Adoption)**	⬇	**High is good**
9.8	**Percentage of CLA and care leavers who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) aged 16-18**	22.3%	18.97%	Reduction	N/A	**N/A**	⬆	**Low is good**
9.9	**% of Care Leavers aged 17-21 who are in Education, Employment and Training**	58.2% (408 out of 701)	58.3% (402 out of 689)	N/A	49.8%	**Second**	⬆	**High is good**

6. Targeted Services and Early Help

6.1 Early Help services, as part of the Families First programme, play a key role in catching emerging problems early and therefore reducing the demand for, and high cost of, safeguarding and children looked after services. Effective early intervention, for example through Children's Centres, Targeted Youth Support (TYS) and Troubled Families Phase 2, plays a key role in improving outcomes and reducing costs of statutory services.

6.2 🐝 *Be Safe:* This quarter there were 262 Family First assessments started (per family excluding TYS) in Q3 2017/18 compared to 278 (revised) in the previous quarter.

	Q3 16/17	Q4 16/17	Q1 17/18	Q2 17/18	Q3 17/18
Families First assessments started	404	403	358	278	262
Families First assessments completed by TYS (per young person)			92	107	94
Family First assessments finalised			228	291	265

Figure 1: Family First summary data

6.3 🐝 *Be Safe*: There were 63 young people who were first time entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system in Q2 2017/18, a slight reduction on 65 in Q1 and a considerable improvement on 85 (Q4 2016/17) and 83 (Q3 2016/17).

6.4 🐝 *Be Ambitious*: The proportion of all young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) aged 16-18 has reduced this quarter to 3.18% (1,115/35,095) from 5.23% (969/18,525) in September. This is top quartile performance. Of the 1,115 young people in the NEET group, 846 were available and 269 unavailable.

6.5 🐝 *Be Ambitious*: The percentage of Statements of Special Educational Needs transferred to Education Health & Care Plans is 99% (3,293 plans).

7. Contact, Referral and Assessment (Safeguarding)

7.1 A referral is defined as *'a request for services to be provided by local authority children's social care'* via the assessment process outlined in the Working Together guidance.

7.2 🐝 *Be Safe:* The rolling year rate per 10,000 of referrals accepted into children's social care in December 2017 has increased to 230.8 from 228.6 at Q2 2017/18. This remains within top quartile. The actual number of referrals in December was 394 compared with 404 in September 2017 and is 6.9% lower than in December 2016 (423).

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 Q1-Q3
Average referrals per month	597	555	529	489

Figure 2: Referrals data

7.3 🐝 ***Be Safe:*** The rolling year rate of re-referrals to social care has reduced to 14.3% (883 out of 6,163) in December from 15% in September. This is within the 16% target and remains top quartile indicating that the right interventions are being delivered at the right time to prevent repeat referrals and repeat assessments. The actual number of re-referrals in December was 64 compared to 56 in September.

7.4 🐝 ***Be Safe***: The percentage of Child and Family Assessments approved within 45 days has improved in December to 93.9% (445 out of 474) from 91.4% (394 out of 431) in September and performance remains within **top quartile**.

8.   Child Protection

8.1 🐝 Be Safe: The percentage of children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) who had their ICPC held within 15 working days was 91.4% (32/35) in December compared with 76.7% (33/43) in September. This is top quartile performance, however it will need to be maintained for the rest of the year to improve end of year performance. Second quartile performance is between 79% and 88%.
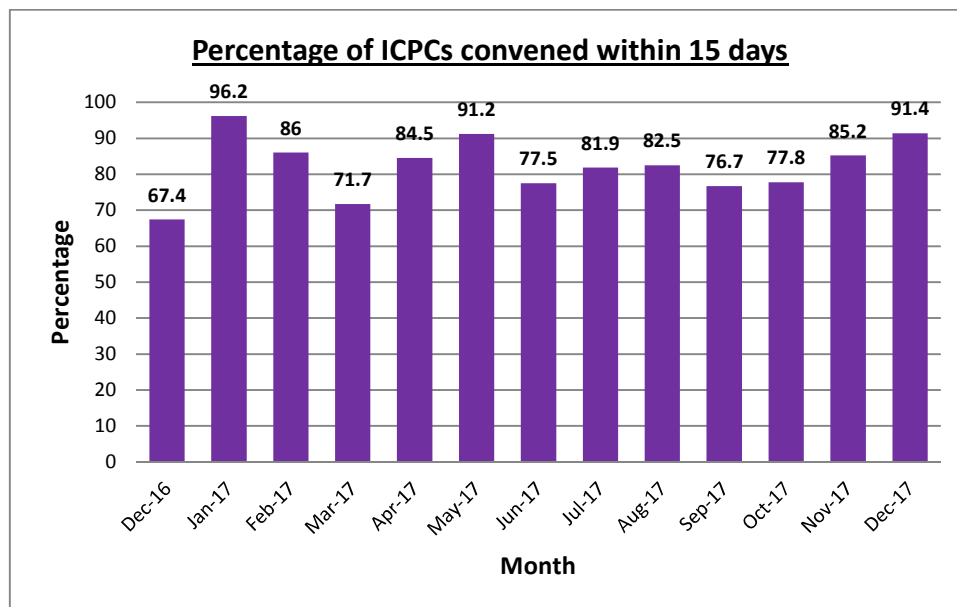

Figure 3: ICPCs convened within 15 days

8.2 🐝 ***Be Safe***: The number of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) has reduced for four consecutive months and is now 601 at the end of Q3.
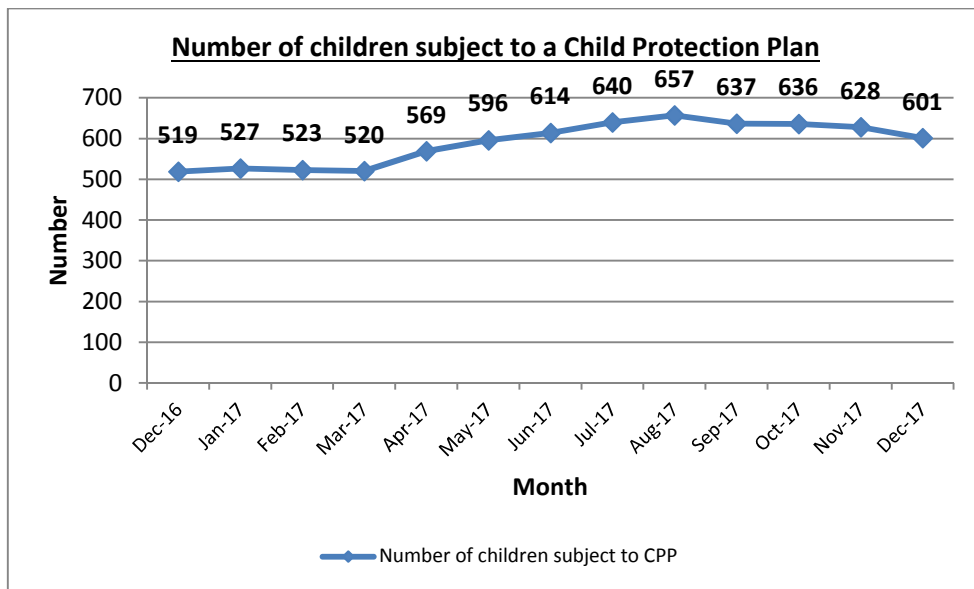
Figure 4: Number of children subject to a CPP

8.2.1 The rate per 10,000 (0-18 population) for end of Q3 was 22.5 compared to 23.9 in Q2. We remain in the top quartile nationally. This is a slight increase compared to the rate of 20.0 at 31 March 2017 but less than half of the national rate of 43.3 per 10,000.
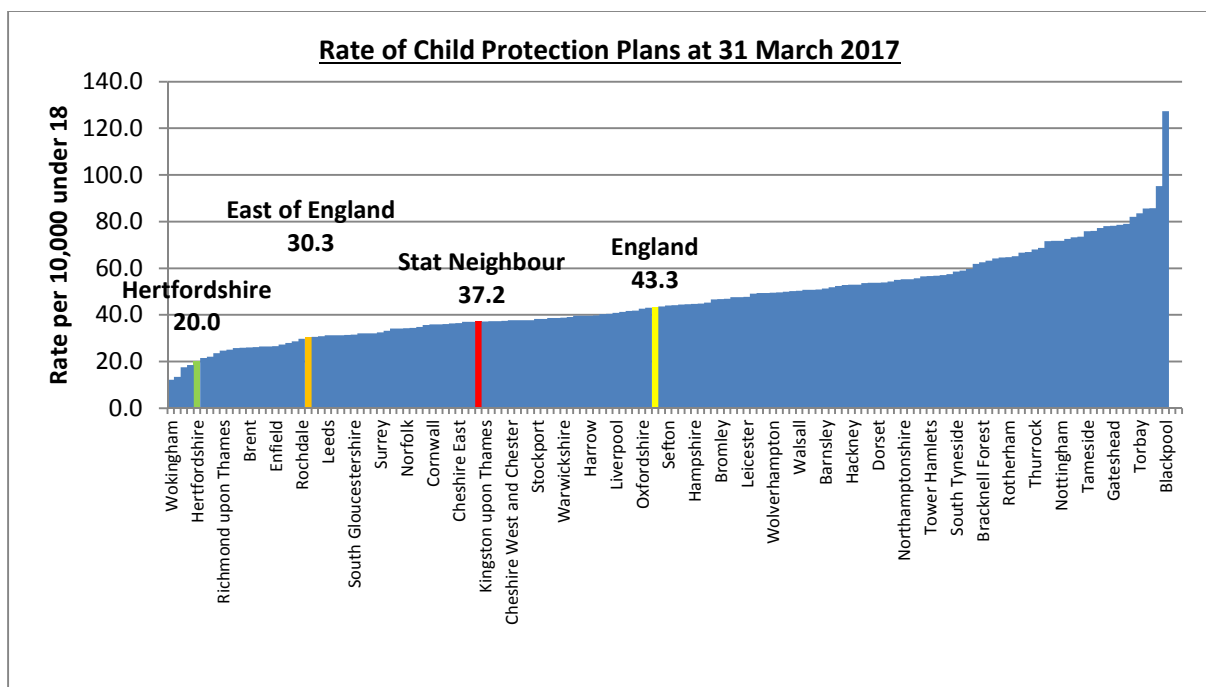

Figure 5: Rate of Child Protection Plans at 31/3/17

8.3 🐝 **Be Safe:** The percentage of children with a child protection plan (CPP) for a second or subsequent time has increased this quarter to 18.6% (142 out of 763 children) from 18.2% (134 out of 736 children) at the end of Q2 2017/18. We remain in the 3rd quartile nationally.

8.4 🐝 **Be Safe:** The percentage of children returning within two years of the previous child protection plan (CPP) has reduced for the fourth consecutive month to 8.1% (reduced to 62 children from 67 in Q2). This is the best performance since April 2017 (7.3%).
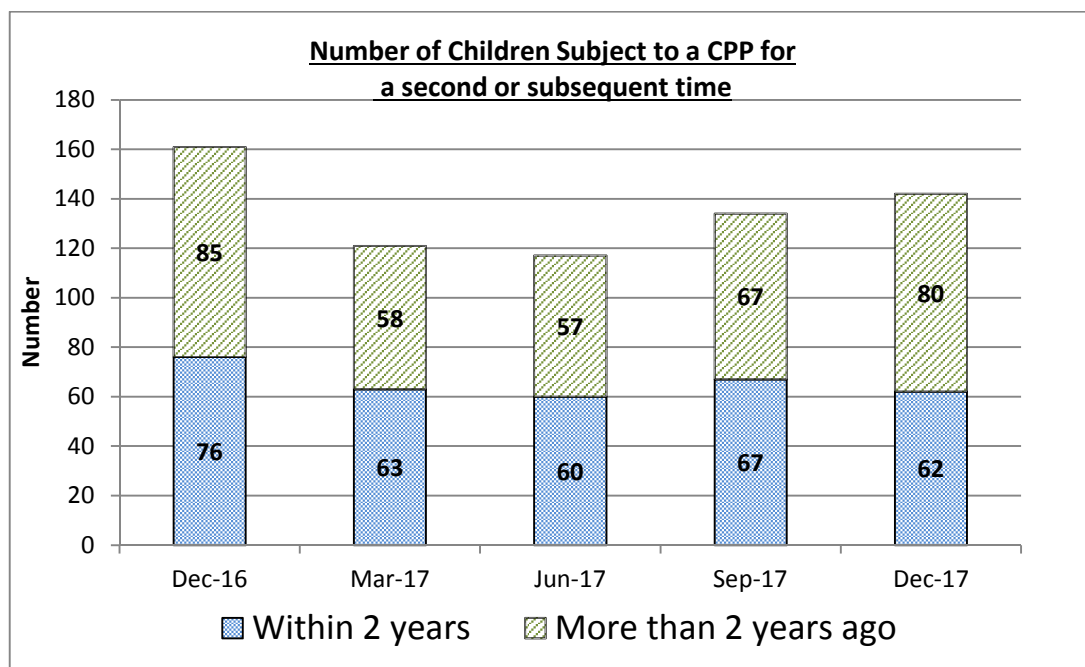
Number of Children Subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time

	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17
More than 2 years ago	85	58	57	67	80
Within 2 years	76	63	60	67	62

Figure 6: Number of Children Subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time

9. Children Looked After

9.1 🐝 **Be Safe:** The number of children looked after (CLA) excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) has reduced to 832 at the end of Q3 from 849 at the end of Q2. Performance in this area is positive and illustrates success of strategies to support children to remain with their families where it is safe to do so.

9.2 There were 87 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in Q3, a reduction from 90 in Q2. This equates to 0.03% of the Hertfordshire under 18 population and 9.5% of the children look after population.
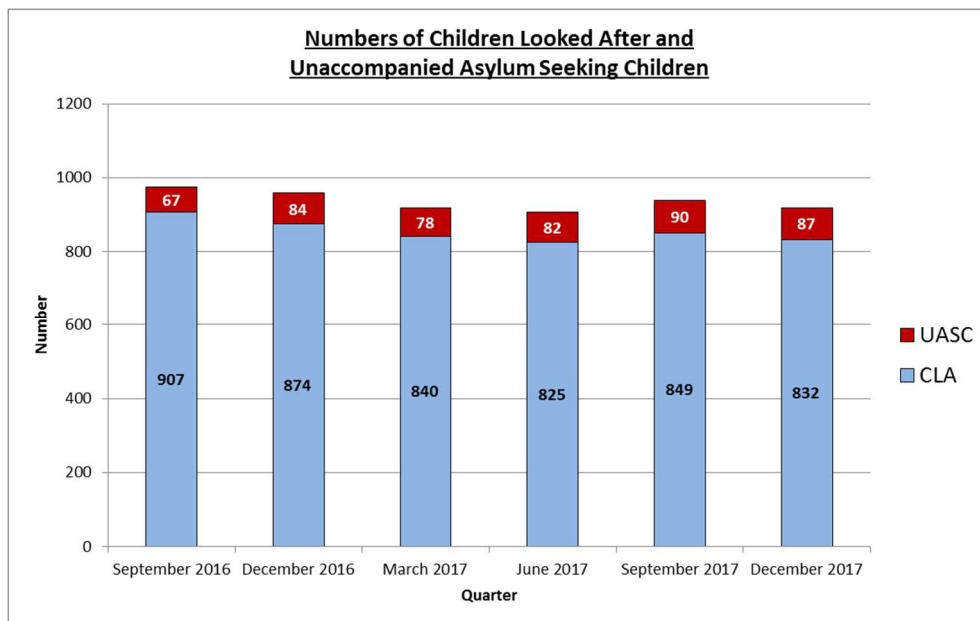
Figure 7: Numbers of Children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children

9.3 🐝 **Be Happy:** The percentage of children looked after with three or more placements has increased for the fourth consecutive month to 12.4% and with Hertfordshire remaining in the 3rd quartile nationally. Our best performance was in August 2017 at 10.5%. 88 children have had 3+ placements so far this financial year compared with 75 at the same point last year. In order to hit target based on the current CLA population, we would need to have approximately 17% less children with 3+ placements at year end. This threshold has already been hit, so achieving target will not be possible. A renewed focus of the stability group in the final quarter will seek to identify what is impacting on current performance to identify how performance can be improved going forward.

9.3.1 Of the 88 CLA with 3 or more placements this financial year;

- 75 (85.2%) were aged 11+ compared with 67.8% of all CLA. This indicates older children are more likely to experience 3 or more moves.

- 39.8% had been in care for 12 months or less compared with 30.4% for all CLA. This shows those who have come into care in the last 12 months are over represented in this cohort.

- 40.9% were in a foster placement (including friends & family) compared with 73.3% of all CLA.

- Of the remaining 52 who are <u>not</u> currently in a foster placement, 31 (60%) were placed in fostering at the start of their current period of care:
  - o 11 of which are now in independent living
  - o 10 are in K2 – Homes and Hostels
  - o 4 placed with parents or others with parental responsibility
  - o 3 in hostels & other supportive residentials
  - o 2 are in K1 – Secure Unit
  - o 1 in NHS / Health Trust or other establishment.

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9.4 🐝 **Be Happy:** Long Term Stability *(children who have been looked after for 2.5 years or more and remained in the same placement for the last two years)* has reduced to its lowest point in the last 12 months at 67.8%. This is below our target of 72% (top quartile) and keeps us in the 2nd quartile nationally.

9.5 🐝 **Be Happy**: A snapshot of the 2017/18 mid-year position for average duration of time in care for Children Looked After (excluding Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) shows time in care reduced by 4% between September 2016 and September 2017 from 3.18 years to 3.05 years.
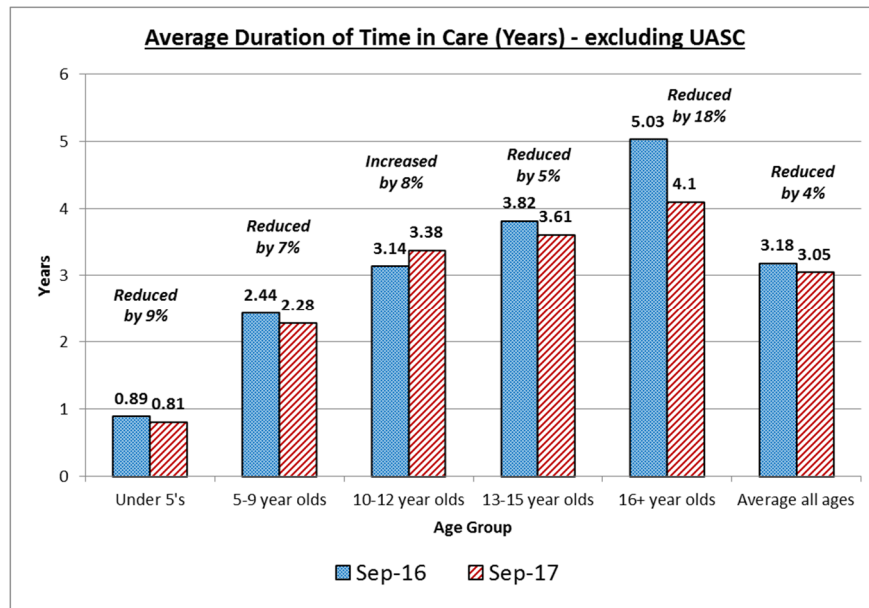

Figure 8: Average duration of time in care

9.5.1 The average length of time in care has reduced across most age groups, with the exception of 10-12 year olds which has increased by 8% from 3.14 years to 3.38 years.

9.5.2 The largest reduction is in the 16+ age group where on average young people are spending 18% less time in care, a reduction from 5.03 years to 4.1 years, a reduction of almost a year. When looking only at those who entered care aged 16+ the average length of time in care has reduced from 7.6 months in September 2016 to 6.6 months in September 2017.

9.5.3 The under 5 age group are spending 9% less time in care, on average spending 0.81 years in care as at September 2017 compared to 0.89 years the previous year (September 2016).

9.6 🐝 **Be Happy**: The changes in the number of CLA (excluding UASC) in each age group follows a similar pattern as the length of time CLA spend in care.
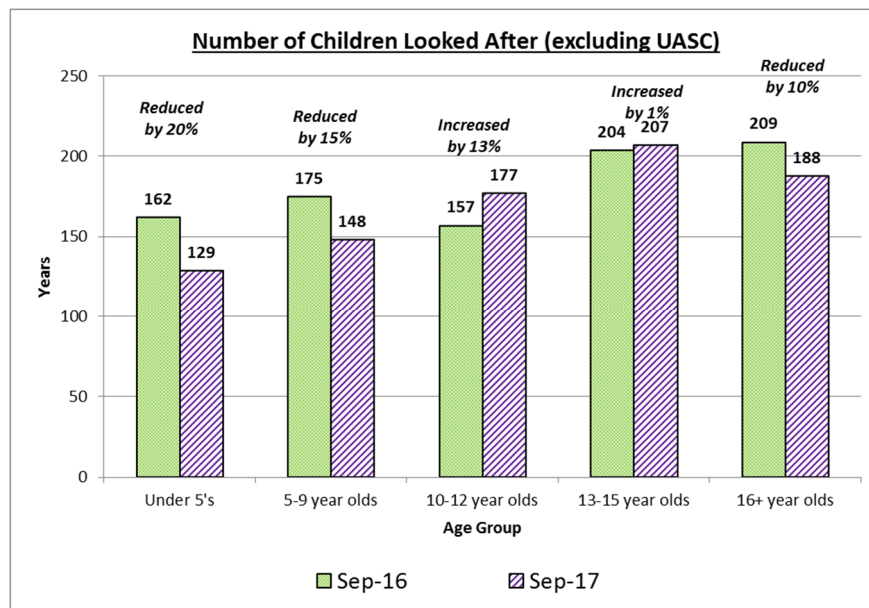
Number of Children Looked After (excluding UASC)

Figure 9: Number of CLA excluding UASC

9.6.1 There are generally decreases across most age groups with the largest decrease of 20% in the under 5 group.

9.6.2 The number of CLA in the 10-12 age group has increased by 13% (20 children) from 157 in September 2016 to 177 in September 2017. This is the age group who are spending longer in care now than a year ago.

9.6.3 There was a small increase of 1% (3 young people) in the 13-15 age group from September 2016 to September 2017.

9.7 🐝 *Be Happy*: The percentage of children exiting care through adoptions or Special Guardianship Orders (SGO) continues to reduce for the seventh consecutive month and now stands at 13% (77/593) compared to 17.7% (105/595) in Q2. This is partly a result of the changing age profile of the CLA population and very strong performance in 2016/17. There has been a 22% reduction in the under 5 CLA population (who make up the majority of Adoptions/SGOs) since December 2016, however only a 1% reduction in over 5s in the same period.

9.8 🐝 *Be Happy*: The percentage of CLA adopted within 12 months of the decision continues to increase for the fourth consecutive month and is now 81.4% (48 out of 59 children). This is the best performance in recent history and a considerable improvement on 53.2% in December 2016.
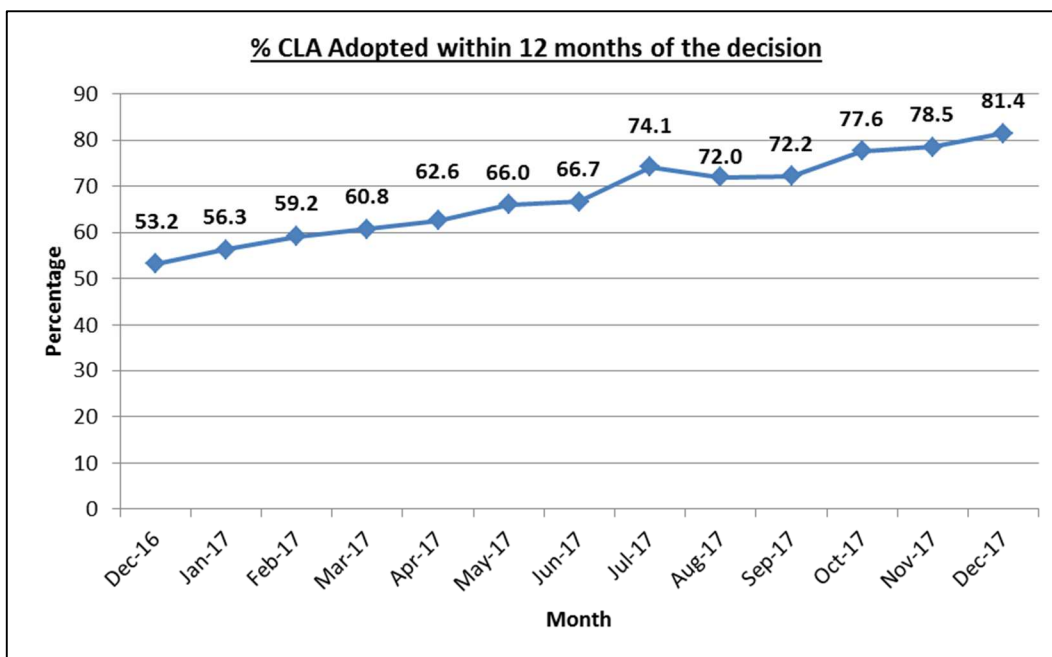
Figure 10: CLA adopted within 12 months of the decision

9.9 🐝 **Be Ambitious**: The percentage of CLA and care leavers who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) aged 16-18 has reduced to 18.97% (59 young people / out of 311) at the end of Q3 compared with 22.3% (68 young people /out of 305) (revised figures) at the end of Q2. December 2016 - 25.54% (83 young people out of 325) School and college lists have now been validated resulting in more robust data.

9.9.1 The proportion of CLA and care leavers who are NEET for six months or more has reduced to 7.4% (23 young people /out of 311) compared with 9.18% in September (28 young people / out of 305) (revised figures), this is also a reduction on December 2016 (8.31%) (27 young people /out of 325) .

9.10 🐝 **Be Ambitious**: The percentage of Care Leavers aged 17-21 who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 58.3% (402/689) at the end of Q3 a slight improvement on 58.2% (408/701) in September 2017. This is higher than our statistical neighbour average (49.8%) and the national average (52.3%).

10. Financial Implications

10.1 The challenge to improve outcomes for children and young people in Hertfordshire at a lower overall cost requires a high degree of interdependence across Children's Services. Children's Services spends just over £181m providing the following services:

- £74m is spent on Education related services;
    - the highest proportion of this (£24m) is spent on Services for Young People (which includes a range of early interventions and some statutory Children Looked After, Youth Justice and Care Leaver functions);

- In addition, just over £107m is spent on Social Care related services including:
  - £47m on Services for Children Looked After and Leaving Care;
  - £21m on Safeguarding Operations;
  - £12m spent on Disabled Children's Services;
  - £9m on Adoption Services.

10.2 Demography is putting pressure on the Children Looked After budgets and in particular the increased numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers.

10.3 In addition to demography, there is a further pressure on budgets related to Children Looked After placements, due to more complex cases of children and young people who require residential placements.

11. Equality Implications

11.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.

11.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.

11.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

11.4 As shown in Figure 8 below, black and minority ethnic groups (BME) account for around 17.2% of the total under 18 population in Hertfordshire and 20.4% of the school aged population (a 0.9 percentage point increase on 2016). They also account for:

- 25.7% of referrals to social care (a slight decrease on 2015/16);
- 25% of Children in Need (1.4 percentage points higher than in March 2016);
- 24.6% of children subject to child protection plans (3.8 percentage points higher than March 2016); and
- 28.1% of Children Looked After (2.1 percentage points higher than in 2016).
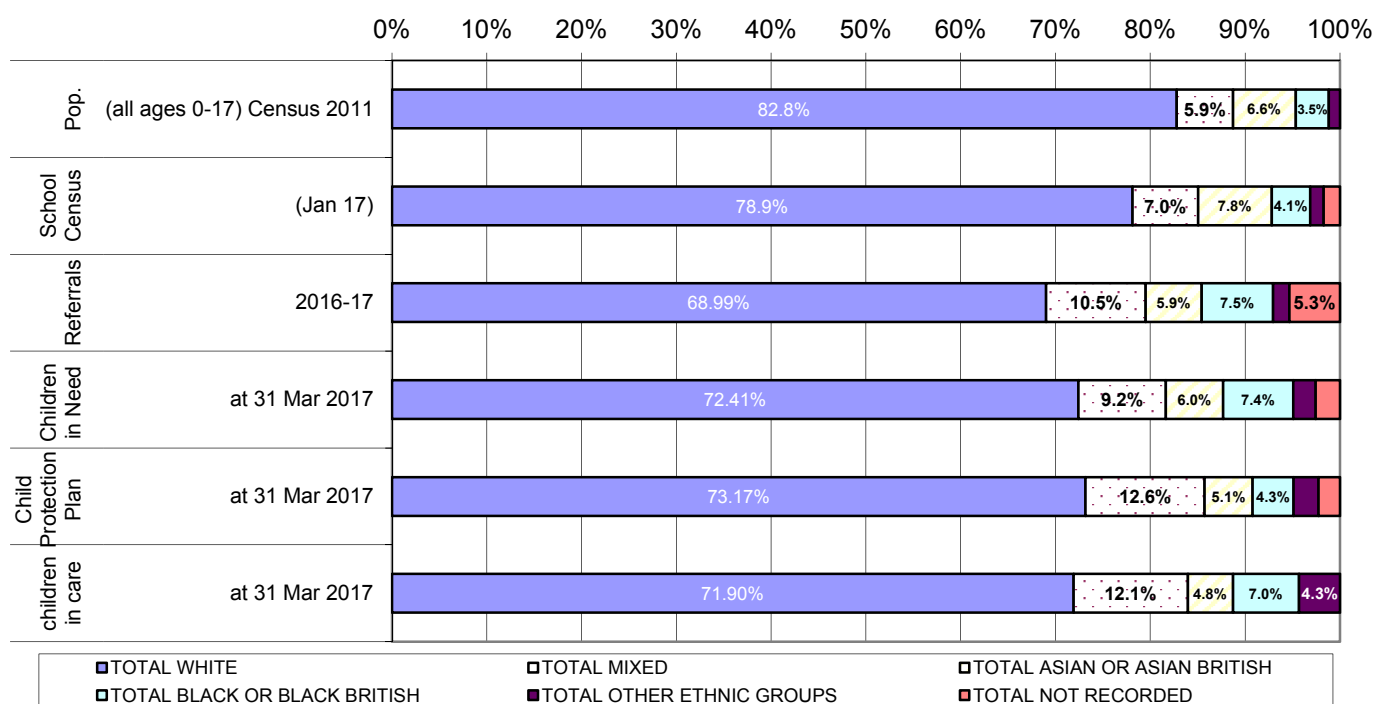
Figure 8: The ethnic profile of Hertfordshire children and young people March 2017

	Pop. (all ages 0-17) Census 2011	School Census (Jan 17)	Referrals 2016-17	Children in Need at 31 Mar 2017	Child Protection Plan at 31 Mar 2017	children in care at 31 Mar 2017
TOTAL WHITE (see figure 9 for breakdown)	82.8%	78.9%	69.0%	72.4%	73.2%	71.9%
TOTAL MIXED	5.9%	7.0%	10.5%	9.2%	12.6%	12.1%
TOTAL ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH	6.6%	7.8%	5.9%	6.0%	5.1%	4.8%
TOTAL BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH	3.5%	4.1%	7.5%	7.4%	4.3%	7.0%
TOTAL OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS[2]	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%	2.4%	2.6%	4.3%
TOTAL NOT RECORDED	0.0%	1.7%	5.3%	2.5%	2.3%	0.0%

Figure 9: The ethnic profile of Hertfordshire children and young people March 2017

White - any other White background[3]	4.03%	7.85%	5.71%	5.30%	5.07%	3.65%
White - British	77.97%	70.06%	60.77%	65.60%	63.60%	67.37%
White - Gypsy/Roma	0.00%	0.15%	0.72%	0.27%	3.38%	0.66%
White - Irish	0.60%	0.67%	0.79%	0.86%	0.94%	0.11%
White - Traveller of Irish Heritage	0.18%	0.14%	1.01%	0.38%	0.19%	0.11%

Figure 10: Breakdown on the total white category from Figures 7 and 8.

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[2] This includes Chinese, south east Asian, and middle east ethnicities.
[3] This includes Eastern & Western European nationalities, full breakdown on Department for Education ethnicity codes is available from this link (appendix 4)

11.5 The total white category (Figures 7 & 8 above) includes those recorded as 'white other'[3] which according to the 2011 census accounts for 4% of the 0-17 population. They also account for;

- 7.85% of the school age population in the 2017 school census. A greater proportion than any of the other BME groups and 0.8 percentage point increase on 2016.
- 5.7% of referrals to social care (a 0.35 percentage point reduction on 2015/16).
- 5.3% of children in need (a 0.35 percentage point reduction on 2016).
- 5.1% of those subject to a child protection plan (a 2.5 percentage point increase).
- A further 3.4% of children subject to a child protection plan were from a white Gypsy/Roma background (a 2.7 percentage point increase).
- 3.65% of children looked after (a 0.2 percentage point increase)

11.6 More detailed information about the diversity profile of Hertfordshire is available through our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Profiles which can be found at www.hertslis.org.

11.7 No EqIA was undertaken for this report because the Hertfordshire County Council Quarterly Performance Report only provides historic performance information for the last quarter (Q3 2017/18). The report does not impact on equalities or affect any of the protected characteristics which would require an EqIA to be completed.

12. Conclusion

- The rolling year rate per 10,000 of referrals to children's social care increased slightly in Q3 but performance remains top quartile.

- The numbers of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) have reduced for four consecutive months to 601.

- Children Looked After numbers (excluding UASC) decreased this quarter to 832.

- The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) has reduced to 87.

- The percentage of children looked after with three or more placements has increased for the fourth consecutive month to 12.4%.

- The average length of time in care has reduced across most age groups, with the exception of the 10-12 year old age group.

- The percentage of CLA adopted within 12 months is the best performance in recent history.

- The percentage of children looked after and care leavers aged 17-21 in education, employment and training has increased slightly this quarter.

13. Background papers

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Profiles - www.hertslis.org.