

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES CABINET PANEL  
WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2018 AT 9.30AM**

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT Q4 2017/18**

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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Executive Member: Teresa Heritage, Children, Young People and Families

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To present the Panel with a summary of performance during Quarter 4 2017/18 (Q4).

**2. Summary**

2.1 This report summarises Children's Services performance for the Q4 period of January to March 2018. It draws upon the conclusions from performance management reporting arrangements within Children's Services.

2.2 As Q1 data will not be presented until Children, Young People & Families Cabinet Panel on 7 September 2018, April's data has also been included in this report.

**3. Recommendation**

3.1 The Children, Young People and Families 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 Q4 2017/18 with Q3 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.



Ref para in report:	Indicator	Q3 2017/18	Q4 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	268 (revised)	134	N/A	N/A	N/A	Q4 data may be subject to revision	N/A
6.3	First Time Entrants to Youth Justice System <sup>1</sup>	Q2 =63	Q3=65	Reduction	N/A	N/A		Low is good
6.4	16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	3.18%  (1,115 out of 35,095)	3.08%  (1,088 out of 35,275)	N/A	3.5%	Top		Low is good


<sup>1</sup> Data is always one quarter in arrears.

Ref para in report:	Indicator	Q3 2017/18	Q4 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	230.8 (6,163)	224 (5,974)	260	551	Top		Low is good
7.3	Re-referrals to Children's Social Care – rolling year	14.3% (883 out of 6,163)	13.8% (826 out of 5,974)	16%	25%	Top		Low is good
7.4	Child & Family Assessments Approved within 45 days	93.9% (445 out of 474)	94.9% (485 out of 510)	91%	86%	Top		High is good
8.1	Initial Child Protection Conferences within 15 days of S47 investigation	91.4% (32 out of 35)	88.1% (37 out of 42)	80%	79%	Second		High is good
8.2	Number of children subject to a child protection plan (rate per 10,000)	22.5 (601)	19.9 (533)	23	38	Top		Low is good
8.3	Percentage of Children subject to a child protection plan for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent time	18.6% (142 out of 763)	19.7% (144 out of 732)	16%	19.9%	Third		Low is good

Ref para in report:	Indicator	Q3 2017/18	Q4 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 (rate per 10,000) (including UASC)	34.4 (919 inc 87 UASC)	34 (903 inc 88 UASC)	N/A	44.5	Top		Low is good
9.4	% of Children Looked After with 3+ placements	12.4% (114 out of 919)	12% (108/901)	10.0%	10.2%	Third		Low is good
9.6	% of Children Looked After who leave care through adoption or Special Guardianship Orders	13% (77 out of 593)	12.5% Adoption (52/413)  13.5% SGO	23.6%	23.6%	Third (Adoption)		High is good
9.8	Percentage of CLA and care leavers who are <u>not</u> in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) aged 16-18	18.97%	22.12%	Reduction	N/A	N/A		Low is good
9.9	% of Care Leavers aged 17-21 who are in Education, Employment and Training	58.3% (402 out of 689)	56.1% (395 out of 704)	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 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 230 **Family First assessments started** (per family excluding TYS) in Q4 2017/18 compared to 289 (revised) in the previous quarter. There is a time lag for non TYS data resulting in an under-reporting for Q4 and it is anticipated that Q4 figures will increase in line with the revised Q3 figures over the next couple of months.


	Q4 16/17	Q1 17/18 (revised)	Q2 17/18 (revised)	Q3 17/18 (revised)	Q4 17/18
<b>Families First assessments started</b>	403	374	305	289	230
<b>Families First assessments completed by TYS (per young person)</b>		92	107	94	112
<b>Family First assessments finalised</b>		396	272	268	134

Figure 1: Family First summary data


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

Improved since 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 3.08% (1,088/35,275) from 3.18% (1,115/35,095) in December. This is top quartile performance. Of the 1,088 young people in the NEET group, 797 were available and 291 unavailable.

Improved since 2016/17 


- The rate at March 2017 was 3.26%
- April 2018 = 3.04%


6.5  **Be Ambitious:** The percentage of Statements of Special Educational Needs transferred to Education Health & Care Plans is now 100% (3,306 plans). Hertfordshire must have transferred all children and young people with statements of SEN to the new SEN and disability system who meet criteria for an EHC plan by April 2018.

Improved since 2016/17 

## 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.


Improved since 2016/17 


7.2  **Be Safe:** The rolling year rate per 10,000 (0-18 population) for referrals accepted into children's social care in March 2018 has decreased to 224 from 230.8 in December 2017. This remains within top quartile.

- The rate at March 2017 was 238.2 (National 548.2 and Statistical Neighbours 551.01).
- *April 2018 = 228.8*


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Rate of Referrals per 10,000 0-18 population	262	254	238.2	224


Figure 2: Referrals data

Improved since 2016/17 

7.3  **Be Safe:** The rolling year rate of re-referrals to social care has reduced to 13.8% in March from 14.3% in December. 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 rate at Q4 2016/17 was 15.5%.
- *April 2018 = 13.8*


Improved since 2016/17 

7.4  **Be Safe:** The percentage of Child and Family Assessments approved within 45 days has improved in March to 94.9% from 93.9% in December and performance remains within top quartile.

- Performance at Q4 2016/17 was 92.4%.
- *April 2018 = 94.6%*

## 8. Child Protection

Improved since 2016/17 

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 88.1% in March compared with 91.4% in December. End of year performance is 82%, just within second quartile (between 82% and 90%). This is an improvement on 76.6% for 2016/17 and the best end of year performance to date.

- *April 2018 = 80.6%*

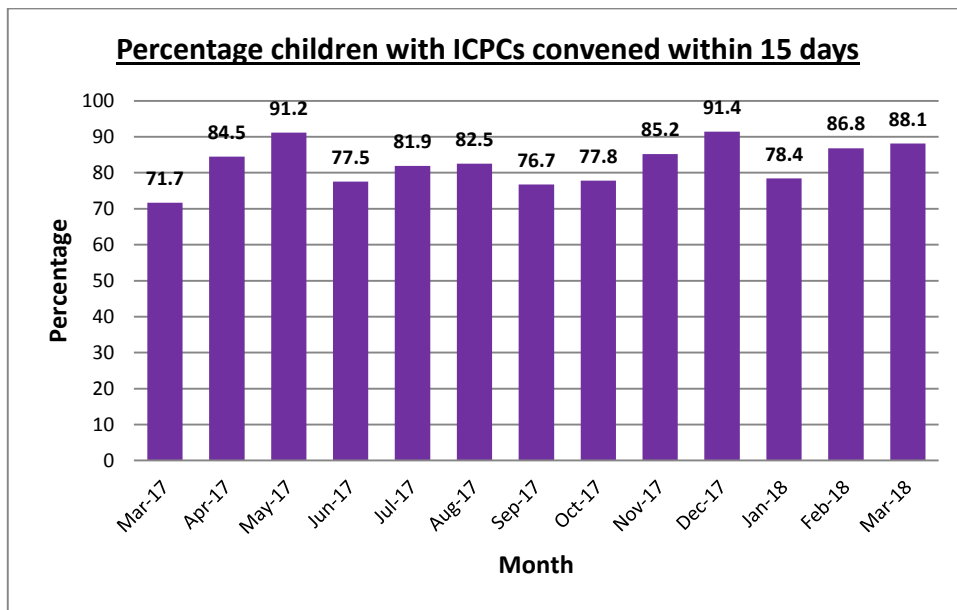



Figure 3: ICPCs convened within 15 days

8.2  **Be Safe:** The number of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP)

Declined  
Since 2016/17



has reduced for seven consecutive months and is 533 at the end of Q4. There are seasonal variations in child protection referrals with numbers reaching their highest approaching the end of the school year. This is slightly higher than end of March (2.5% increase). However this is not statistically significant and considerably below 736 in March 2016 and 896 in March 2015. An audit of thresholds was undertaken during May 2018 and all cases reviewed were appropriately escalated to child protection plans. Managers will continue to ensure that only cases that cannot be worked with under a child in need plan are escalated to child protection status.

- There were 520 children on a CP plan at March 2017.
- April 2018 = 540

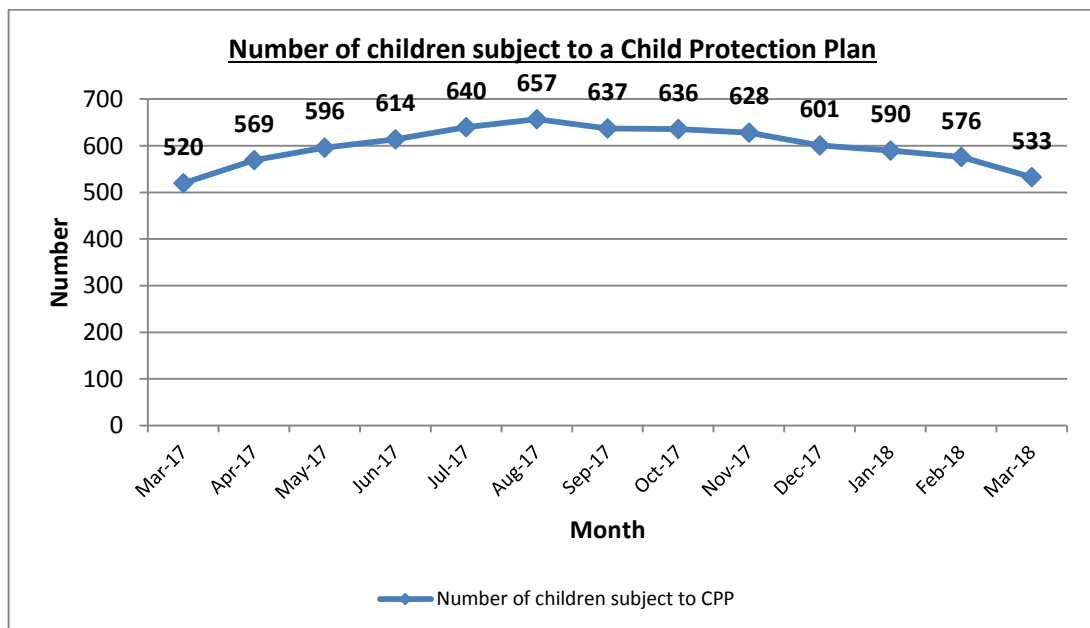


Figure 4: Number of children subject to a CPP



The rate per 10,000 (0-18 population) for end of Q4 was 19.9 compared to 22.5 in Q3 (20.0 per 10,000 for 2016/17 and the England average was 43.3). We remain in the top quartile nationally.

- *April 2018 = 20.2*

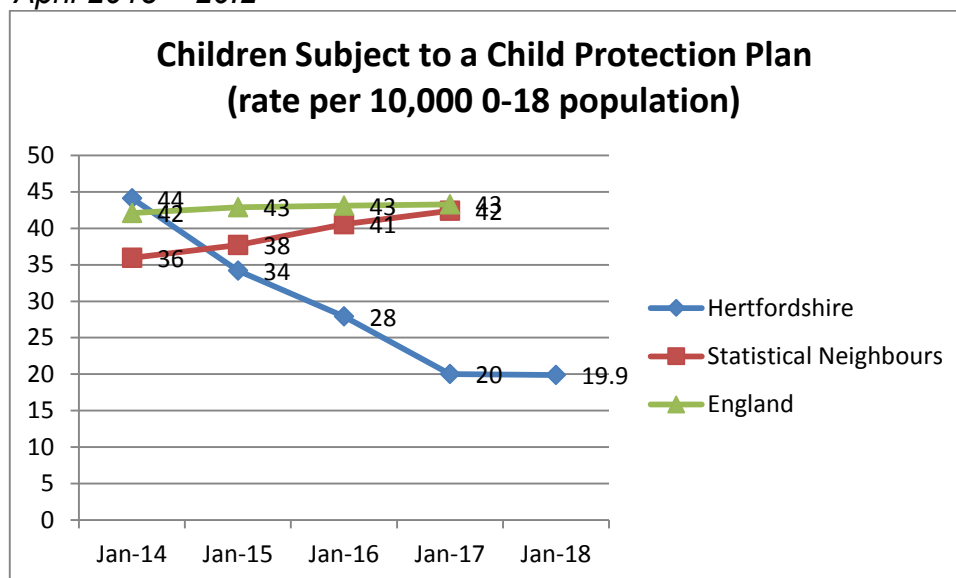




Figure 5: Rate per 10,000 children subject to a CPP

**8.3  *Be Safe:*** The percentage of children with a child protection plan (CPP) for a second or subsequent time has increased again this quarter to 19.7% from 18.6% (142 children) at the end of Q3 2017/18 and is almost 4 percentage points above our performance in April 2017 (15.9%). This takes us above the national average for 2016/17 of 18.7% but slightly below our statistical neighbours (20.18%). We are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile nationally. Analysis has ascertained that in nearly 50% of all repeat CPPs, the previous CPP was three years or more ago (at a time when CPPs number were very high and before the implementation of Family Safeguarding). Audit work has also identified that in the majority of cases a change of circumstance led to the requirement for a repeat CPP. Further analysis is required to ascertain what level of intervention was in place in the period between child protection plans.

Declined  
Since 2016/17



- The percentage for 2016/17 was 17.1%.
- *April 2018 = 20.5%*

**8.4  *Be Safe:*** The percentage of children returning within two years of the previous CPP has decreased to 7.7% at Q4 from 8.1% at Q3 (reduced to 56 children from 62 children in Q3). The best performance since April 2017 (7.3%) was in February 2018 (7.6%) and shows that the work of the various teams is becoming more effective at ensuring that any CP plans that are ended are not returning within 2 years.

Improved  
since 2016/17



- Performance at March 2017 was 9.1%.
- *April 2018 = 8.3%*

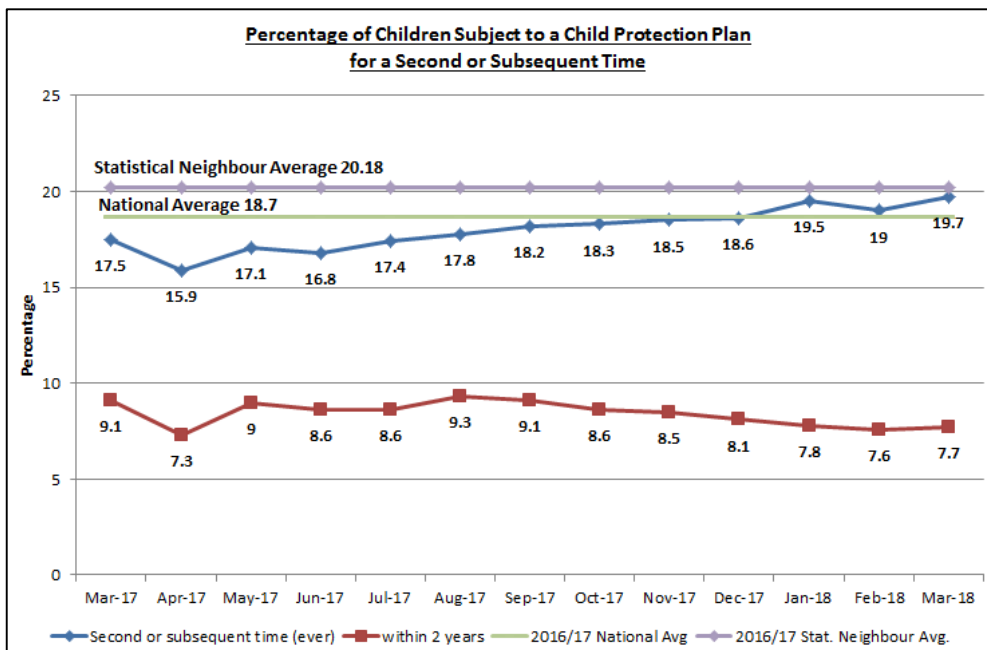



Figure 6: Percentage of Children Subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time

## 9. Children Looked After

9.1  **Be Safe:** The number of CLA excluding UASC has reduced to 815 at the end of Q4 from 832 at the end of Q3.

- There were 840 CLA excluding UASC at March 2017.
- *April 2018 = 821*

Improved since 2016/17 

9.2 The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) aged under 18 was 88 at the end of Q4 (87 at the end of Q3). This equates to 0.03% of the Hertfordshire under 18 population and 9.7% of the children looked after population.

- *April 2018 = 86*

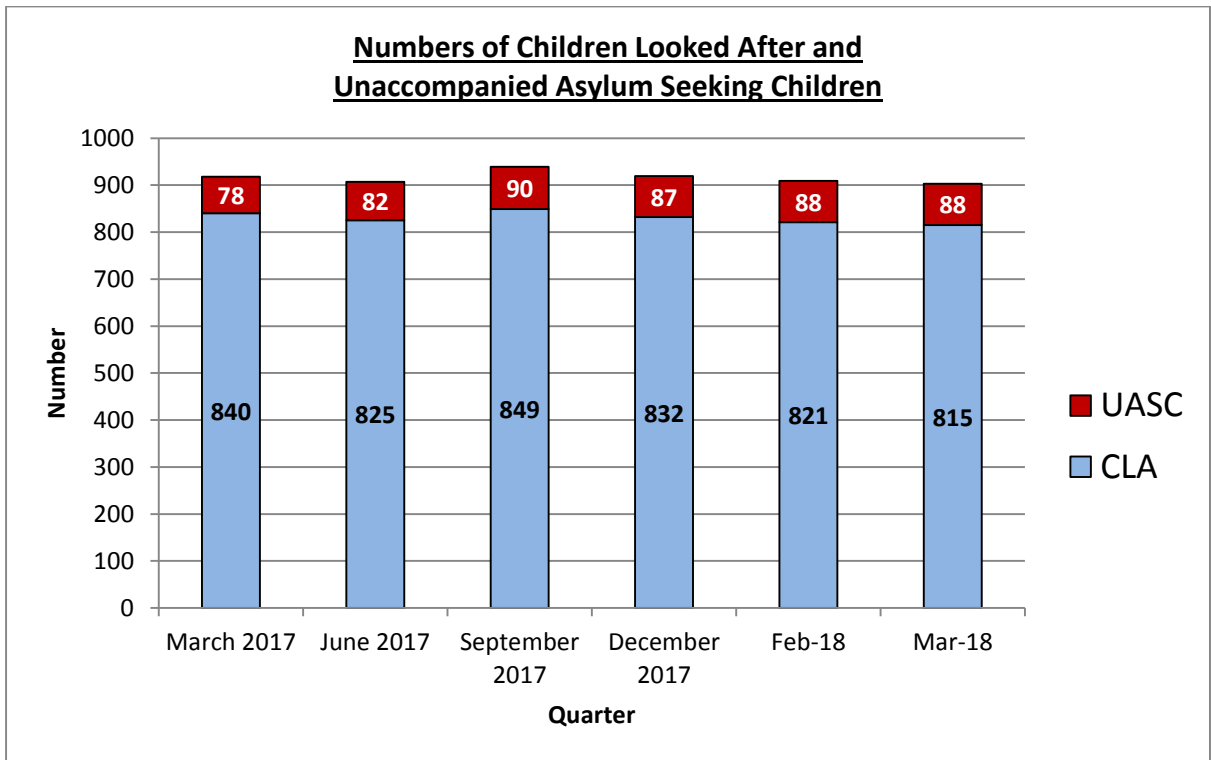



Figure 7: Numbers of Children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children

9.2.1 We continue to commission specialist UASC provision to ensure we have sufficient and appropriate placements to meet the needs of these young people.

9.3  **Be Happy:** For non-UASC children looked there have been decreases across most age groups with the exception of the 12-15 age range which has increased by 23 young people. This age group often has the most complex needs.

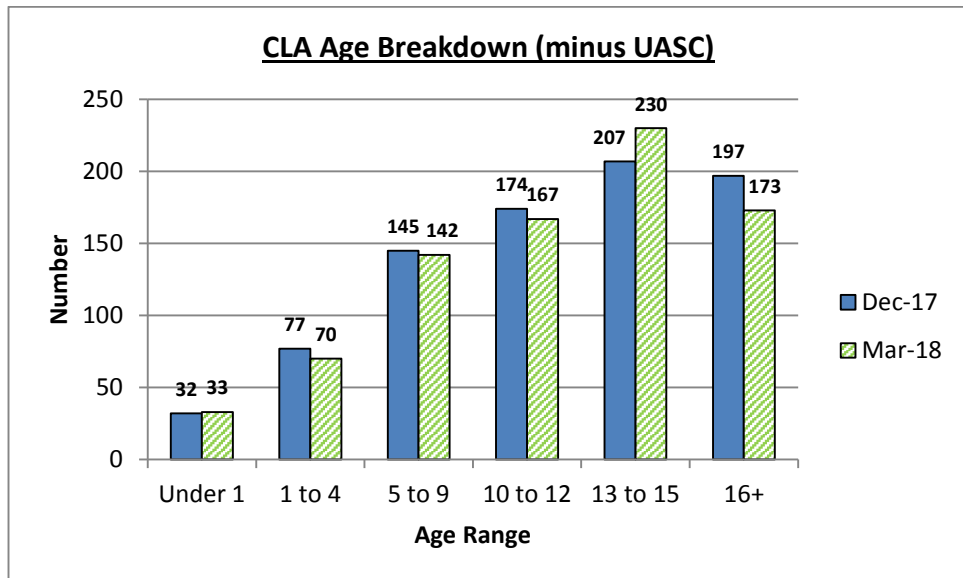






Figure 7: Number of CLA excluding UASC

9.4  **Be Happy:** The percentage of children looked after with three or more placements rose to 13% in January but has decreased to 12% at Q4 (3<sup>rd</sup> quartile nationally) compared to our target for 2017/18 of 9.8%. This equates to 108 children, compared with 106 in 2016/17. Performance has been strong in the last three months with only an additional 20 children entering a third placement compared with 31 in the same period in 2017. Whilst change has now taken place in relation to operational activity to reduce the likelihood of a placement move this has not yet fully impacted upon the performance indicator due to poorer performance earlier in the year. A full review of all improvement activity is currently underway to ascertain which interventions have the most impact and where further changes are required.

Declined Since 2016/17 


- Performance at March 2017 was 11.6%.
- April 2018 = 12.6%

9.5  **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 since Q3 and is now at its lowest point in the last 12 months at 67.2%. This is below our target of 72% and moves us to the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** nationally.


Declined Since 2016/17 


9.5.1 The decline includes some young people who are moving onto planned new arrangements such as independent living. The arrangements for matching children long term to help develop a sense of permanence, continue to work well alongside a comprehensive programme of support available for foster carers, which has been further strengthened in 17/18 through the bespoke ARC offer for foster carers.

- Performance for 2016/17 was 68.2%.
- April 2018 = 65.5%


9.6  **Be Happy:** The percentage of children exiting care through adoptions is 12% (12.7% at Q3) and Special Guardianship Orders (SGO) is 13.5% (12.2% at Q3). The performance for children adopted or subject to SGO in 17/18 reflects the age profile change in the CLA population, and a corresponding drop in numbers of children with a placement order or a plan to exit care through a SGO.


- April 2018 = Adoption 12.6%, SGO 14.1%

9.7  **Be Happy:** The percentage of CLA adopted within 12 months of the decision is now 81.8%.

Improved since 2016/17 


- Performance at March 2017 was 60.8%.
- April 2018 = 80.4%

9.8  **Be Ambitious:** The percentage of CLA and care leavers who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) aged 16-18 at end of Q4 2018 was 22.12% (69 young people) compared to 18.97% at end of Q3 (59 young people / out of 311).

Improved since 2016/17 


- Performance at March 2017 was 27.2%.
- April 2018 = 20.9%

9.9 The percentage of CLA and Care Leavers NEET for 6 months plus is 9.62% (30 young people). This is a considerable improvement on March 2017.

Improved since 2016/17 

- March 2017 was 14.8% (48 young people).
- April 2018 = 10.93%

9.9.1 The number of young people in the total Hertfordshire cohort of NEET for 6 months plus was 471 at the end of March 2018, making CLA and Care Leavers 6.37% of this group.

9.10  **Be Ambitious:** The percentage of Care Leavers aged 17-21 who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 56.1% (395/704) at the end of Q4 compared with 56.2% in 2016/17. Performance remains higher than our statistical neighbour average (49.8%) and the national average (52.3%).

- 2016/17 was 56.2%
- April 2018 = 55.7%

## 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 £175m providing the following services:
- £68m 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:
    - £52m on Services for Children Looked After and Leaving Care;
    - £22m on Safeguarding Operations;
    - £12m spent on Disabled Children's Services;
    - £10m 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).

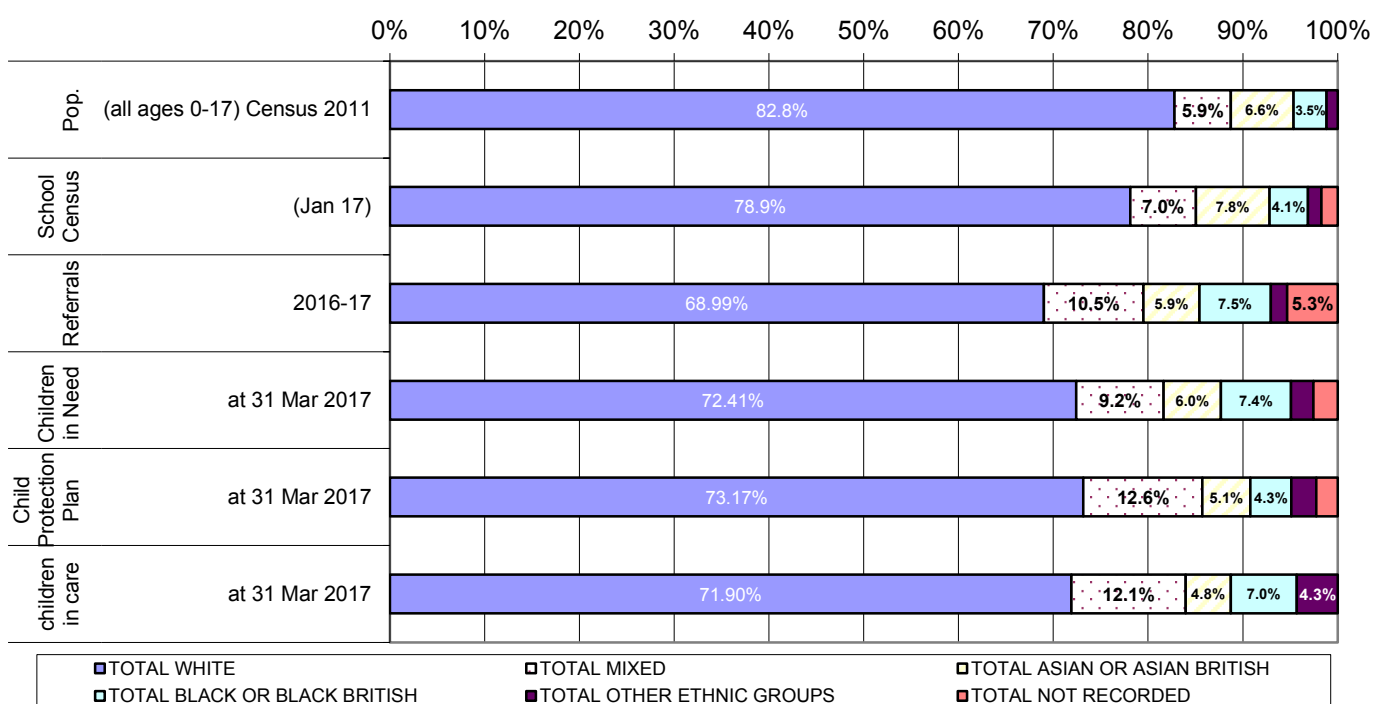


Figure 8: The ethnic profile of Hertfordshire children and young people March 2017

	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
<b>TOTAL WHITE (see figure 9 for breakdown)</b>	<b>82.8%</b>	<b>78.9%</b>	<b>69.0%</b>	<b>72.4%</b>	<b>73.2%</b>	<b>71.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL MIXED</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
<b>TOTAL ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL NOT RECORDED</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

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

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

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

11.5 The total white category (Figures 7 & 8 above) includes those recorded as 'white other'<sup>3</sup> 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)
- Equalities data for 2017/18 will be updated in August 2018.

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.hertsllis.org](http://www.hertsllis.org).

11.7 No EqIA was undertaken in relation to this report.

<sup>2</sup> This includes Chinese, south east Asian, and middle east ethnicities.

<sup>3</sup> This includes Eastern & Western European nationalities, full breakdown on Department for Education ethnicity codes is available from [this link](#) (appendix 4)

## 12. Conclusion

- The rolling year rate per 10,000 of referrals to children's social care continues on a downward trend and performance remains top quartile.
- The numbers of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) have reduced for seven consecutive months to 533. This is slightly above 520 in March 2017, however considerably below 736 in March 2016 and 896 in March 2015. Performance remains top quartile.
- The percentage of children with a CPP for a second or subsequent time ever has increased again and is almost 4 percentage points above our performance in April 2017.
- However, the percentage of children returning within two years of the previous CPP is decreasing.
- Children Looked After numbers (excluding UASC) decreased this quarter to 815.
- The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) has increased to 88.
- The percentage of children looked after with three or more placements is still higher than our target at 12% at Q4 in line with performance in 2016/17
- The percentage of children looked after and care leavers aged 17-21 in education, employment and training remains above the national average and in line with 2016/17.

## Background papers

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Profiles - [www.hertslis.org](http://www.hertslis.org).