

2022

Placement Sufficiency Statement

Derbyshire County Council



CHILDREN'S STRATEGY
2022 – 2025

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Demand for Placements	3
Children in Care Population: Total and Proportional Trends	3
Children in Care by Age Group: As a proportion of total Children in Care Population	4
Children in Care by Ethnicity:.....	4
Children in Care by Legal Status:.....	5
Children in Care by Category of Need:	5
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children:.....	6
Children in Care with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:	7
Children in Care’s Strengths and Difficulties:.....	7
Reasons for Child Protection Plans:	8
Care Leavers:.....	8
Demographics of Admissions into Care	11
Admissions into Care by Age Group.....	11
Admissions into Care by Legal Status	12
Admissions into Care by Category of Need.....	12
Admissions of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children	13
Supply of Placements.....	14
Provision of Placements:.....	14
Children in Care by Type of Placements:.....	14
Children in Care by Placement Provider:.....	15
Length of Placements:	15
Location of Placements:	16
Quality of Placements:.....	17
Cost of Placements:	18
Total Cost of Placements:.....	18
Challenges in Providing Placements and Related Services:.....	19
Projections on Demand for Placements:.....	22
Projections on demand by Placement Type:.....	222
Projections on demand by Placement Provider:	233
Appendix:.....	244

Executive Summary

Key Information:

On March 31 2022, Derbyshire had 909 Children in Care.

- The population of Children in Care has increased by 44% over the last 5 years
- 44% of Children in Care were female while 13% were of mixed, Asian, Black and other ethnic origins
- 56% of Children in Care were placed within the LA boundary on 31 March 2022
- 68% of children were placed in foster households while 14% were in residential placements
- The population of Children in Care is expected to increase by 242 over the next 3 years

Derbyshire aspires to only have the right Children in Care (CiC) for the right length of time and to be creative in its care and support planning. Derbyshire's vision for its child in care population is to provide sufficient high-quality placements for children, young people and care leavers, which enable them to achieve their potential. For care leavers, our objective is to ensure sufficient quality homes, provided or commissioned by Derbyshire or other suitable provision.

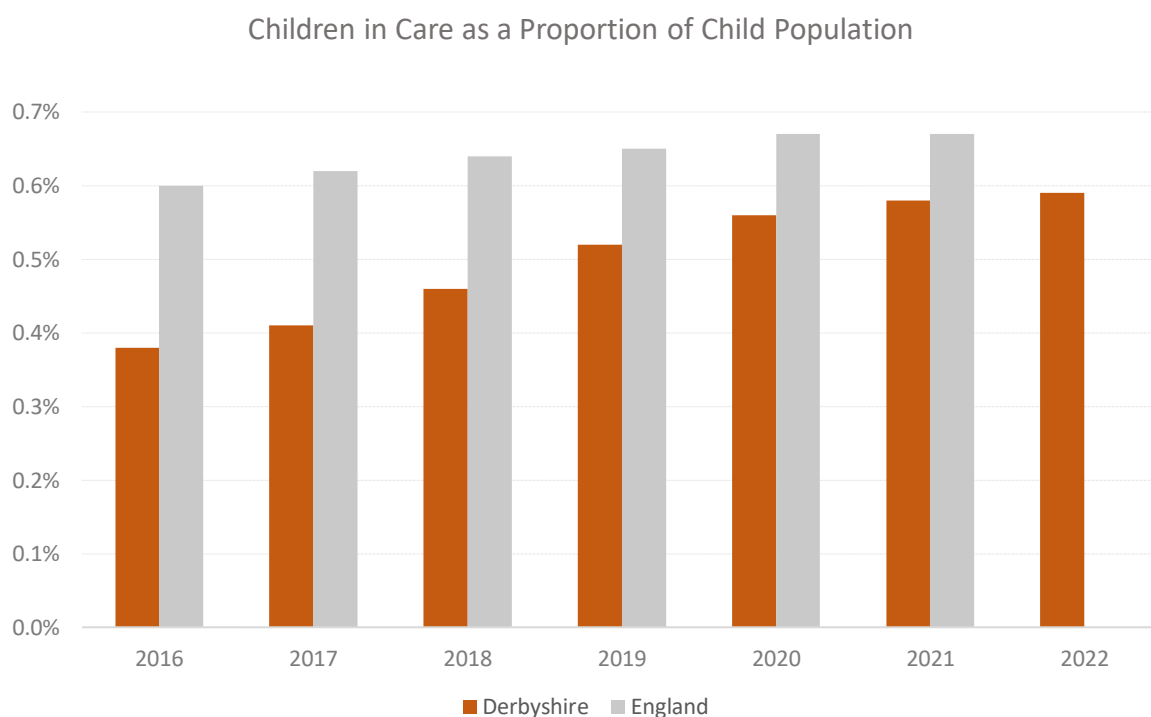
When assessing sufficiency Derbyshire County Council has considered the condition of the local market, supply and demand within the context of the current resource and overall budget priorities of the Council.

Demand for Placements

Children in Care Population: Total and Proportional Trends

As of 31st March 2022, there were 909 Children in Care. This is an increase of 1.1% from the same point in 2021 (899). From the 31st of March 2017 to the 31st of March 2022, there has been a 44.3% increase to the Children in Care population.

44% of Derbyshire's Children in care are female, with males representing 56%.

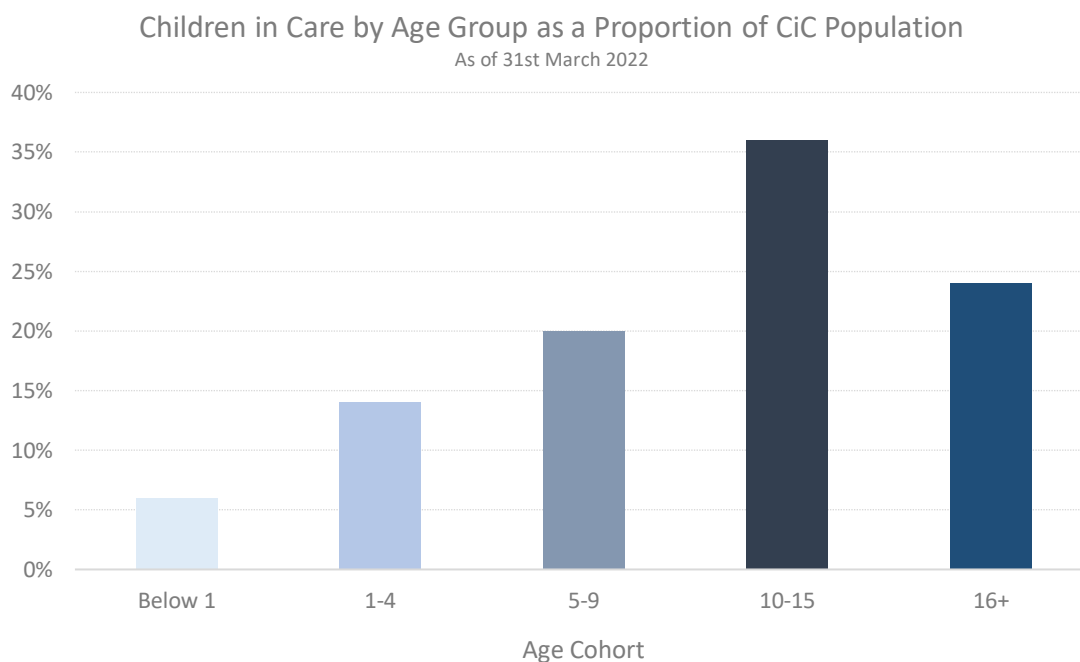


There has been a steady but substantial increase to the proportion of children in care as a proportion of the total child population. Children in Care as a proportion of child population has risen by 55.3% from 2016 (0.38%) to 2022 (0.59%). Derbyshire's proportion of Children in Care has consistently remained below the national average, however the difference between the two has increasingly narrowed.

Children in Care by Age Group:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

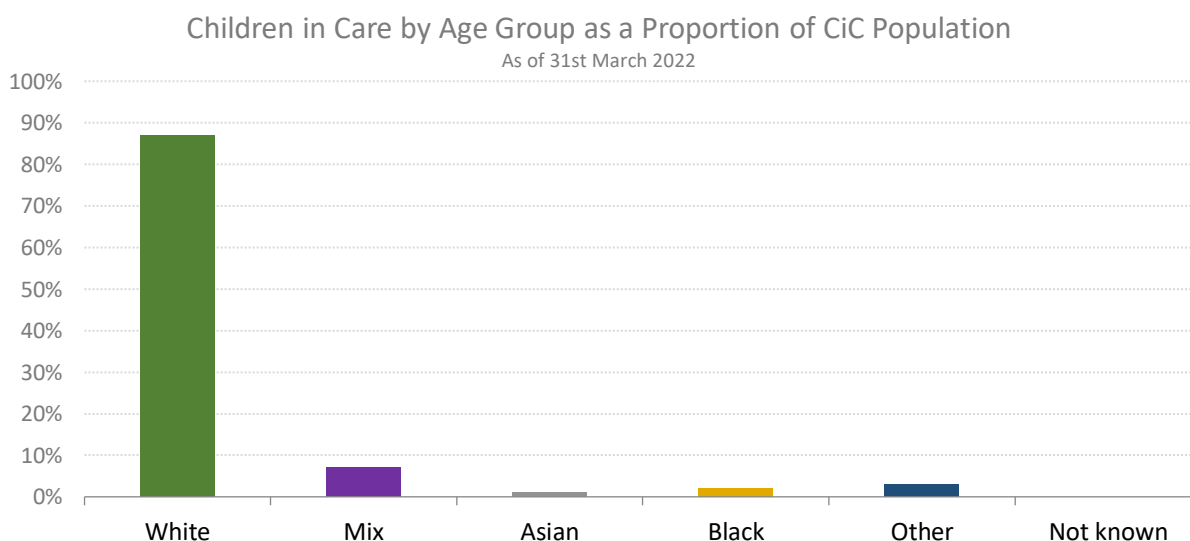
The largest age cohort of Children in Care are 10 – 15-year-olds, with 36% of all of Children in Care being within these ages. There are more 10 – 15-year-olds in care than there are 1 – 9-year-olds.



Children in Care by Ethnicity:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

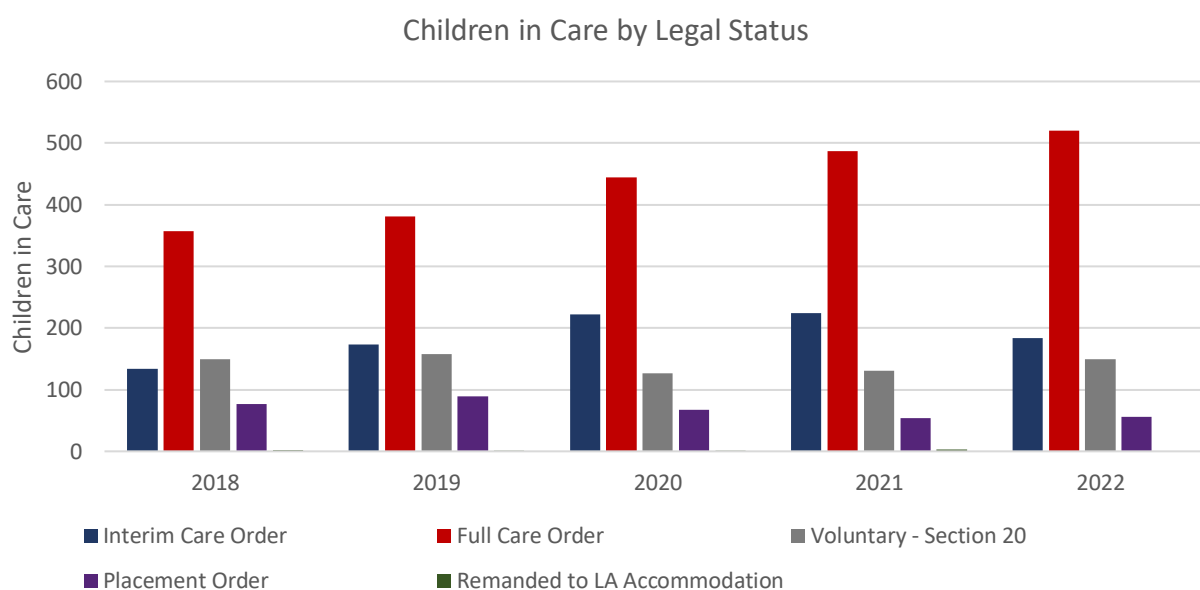
Children in Care in Derbyshire are mainly from white backgrounds (87%). This figure has remained constant for the last 3 years. Across Derbyshire's total adult and child population, 96% are white,



demonstrating that ethnic minority children in Derbyshire are more likely to enter care than white children.

Children in Care by Legal Status:

Being on a Full Care Order has consistently been the most common legal status of Children in Care in Derbyshire. Of the 2022 Children in Care population, 57.9% had Full Care Orders.



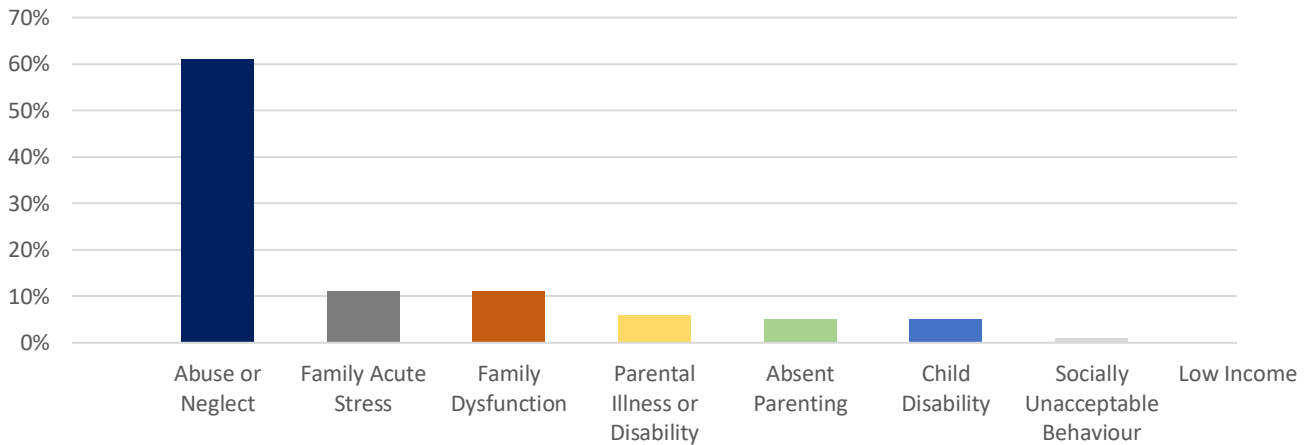
From 31st March 2020 to 31st March 2022, Interim Care Orders as a proportion of admissions have decreased by 10%, however, they continue to represent a significant proportion of our Children in Care Population (20% in 2022).

Children in Care by Category of Need:

As a proportion of Children admitted to care after 2020

The main primary category of need children who started to be looked after in 2022 was Abuse or Neglect (53%), with the next two most common categories being Family in Acute Distress and Family Dysfunction representing 11% each.

Children in Care by Category of Need As of 31st March 2022



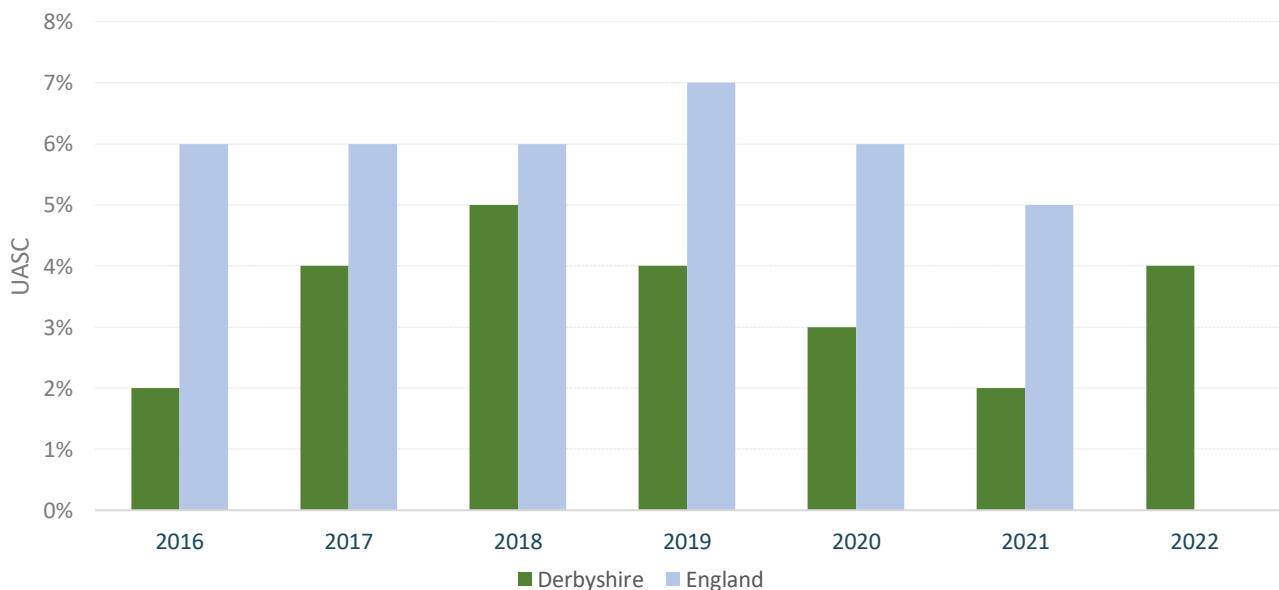
This demonstrates that the majority of children in care are not being admitted primarily due to their own behaviours or actions, but instead are admitted due to their parental and familial situation.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

UASC as a proportion of the total Children in Care population in Derbyshire has both risen and fallen in recent years. In Derbyshire, UASC as a proportion of Children in Care fell consistently from 2018-2021, however, doubled from 2021 to 2022 rising from 2% to 4%.

UASC as a Proportion of Total CiC Population

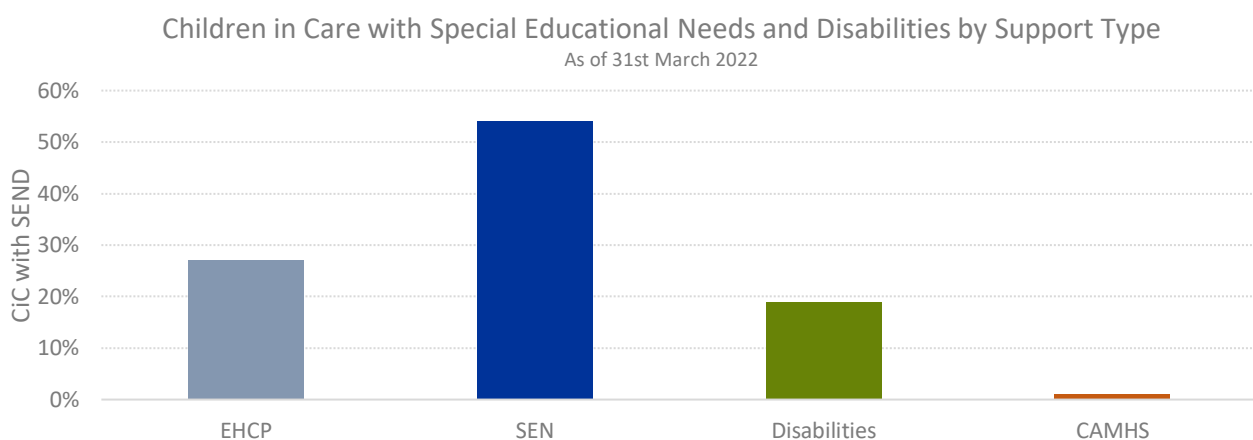


Derbyshire has consistently maintained a lower UASC population as a share of the total Children in Care population than the national average.

Children in Care with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

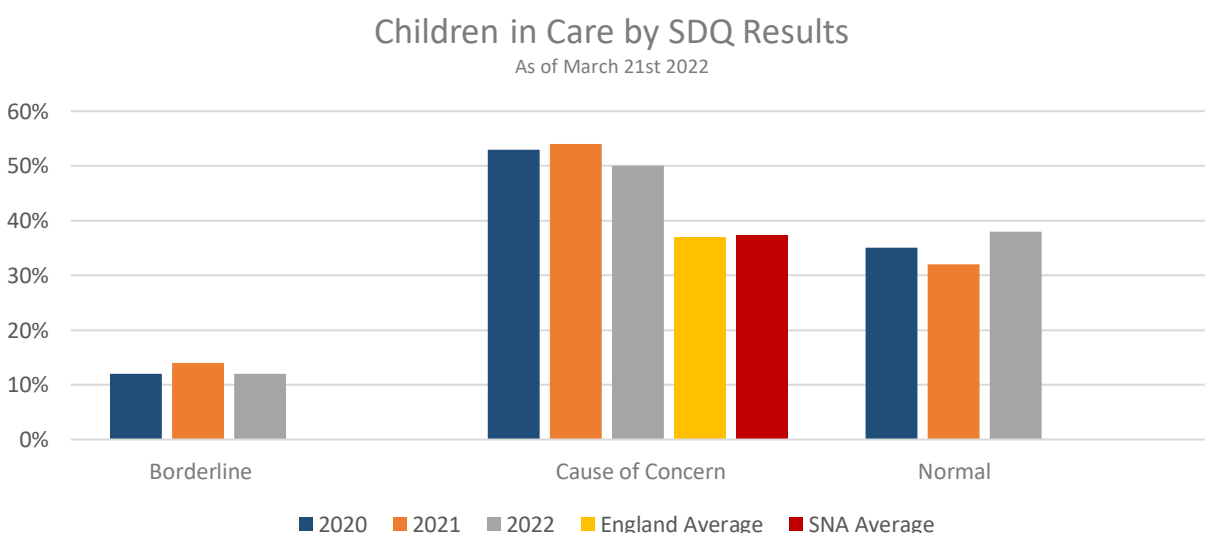
Of Children in Care that receive additional support, Special Education Needs (SEN) represent 54%, with Disabilities at 19%, those who qualify for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan at 27% and those who receive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services at 1%.



Children in Care’s Strengths and Difficulties:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

Every year Children in Care in Derbyshire complete a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

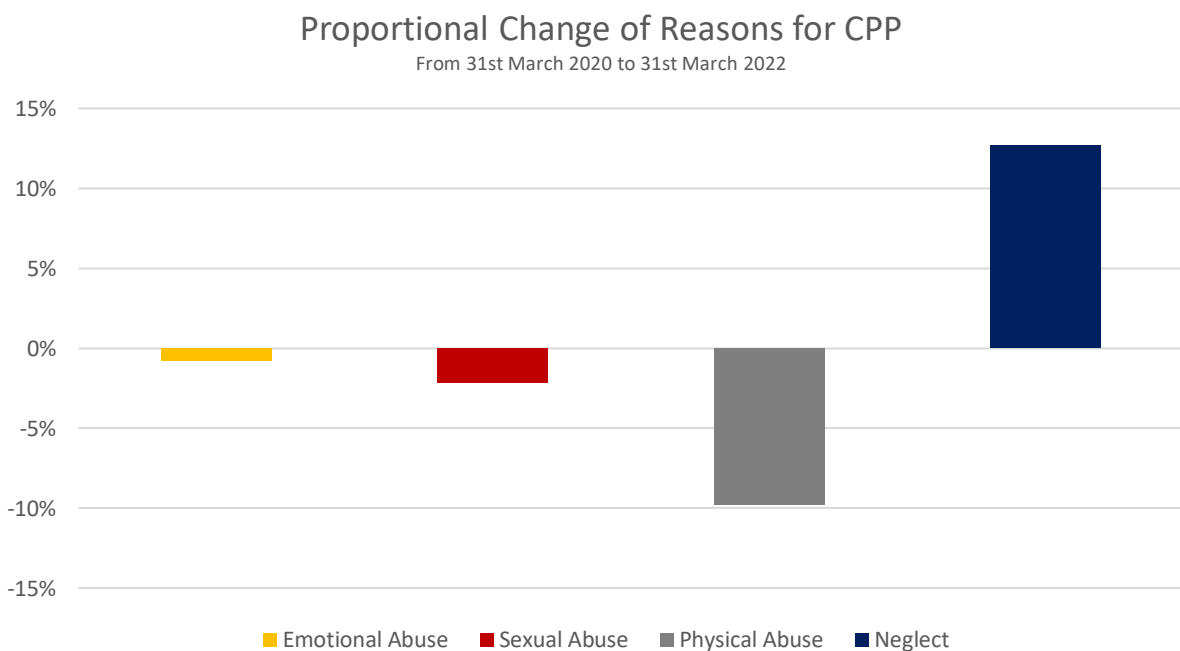


50% of the children who completed the SDQ resulted in scores that were a cause for concern, with 38% having a score in the normal range and 12% borderline.

In comparison the statistical neighbour average for SDQ scores that were a cause for concern is 37.4% and the England average is 37%, placing Derbyshire with a relative, approximate 13% more children that are a cause for concern than average.

Reasons for Child Protection Plans:

Between July 2020 and July 2022, increases in reasons for a Child Protection Plan (CPP) were only seen for Neglect (12.69% increase), contrasting a 2.6% decrease nationally between July 2020 and July 2021.



Whilst there was a 4.2% decrease in Child Protection Plan's average length between July 2021 to July 2022, between July 2020 and July 2022 there was an overall increase of 3.2%.

Care Leavers:

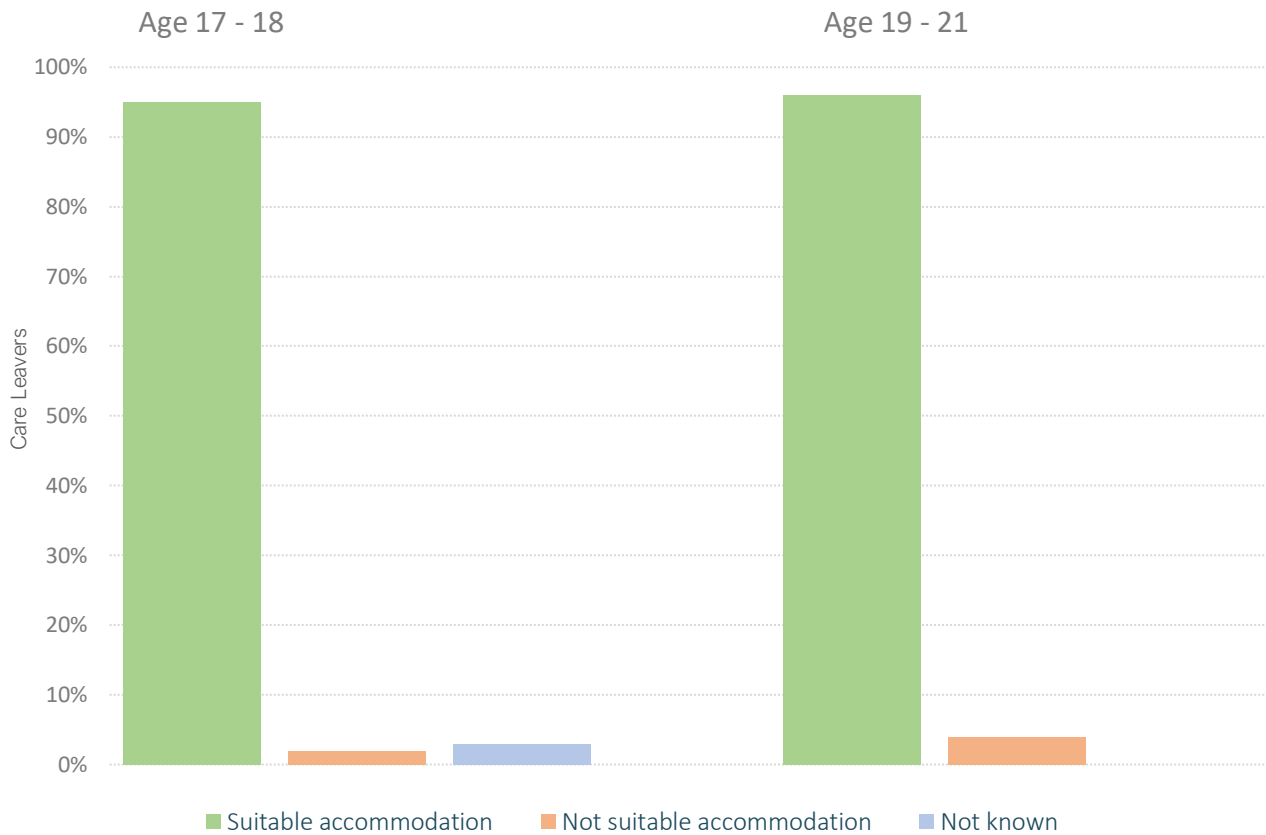
As a proportion of total population of care leavers

The total number of care leavers as of 31st March 2022 was 366, 6% (22) of which are aged 16 – 18 and 94% (344) aged 19 – 21.

Note: Both figures below include care leavers in the year ending March 31, 2022 aged 17 and 18 and 19 to 21 who were looked after for a total of at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday including some time after their 16th birthday. The figure does not include care leavers for whom the activity is not known.

Care Leaver Accommodation by Age Group

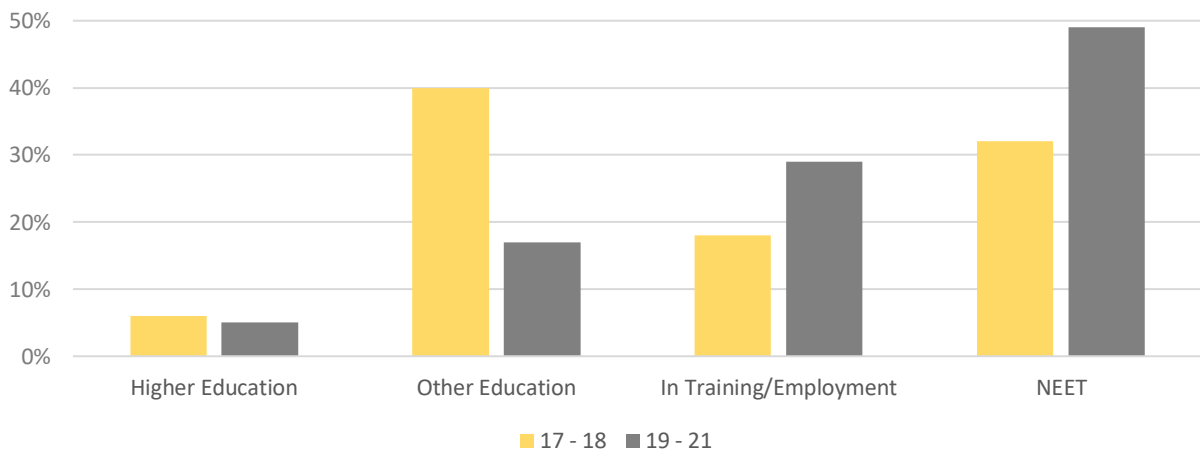
As of 31st March 2022



95% of care leavers aged 17 to 18 were in suitable accommodation with 2% in not suitable and 3% unknown. 96% of care leavers aged 19 to 21 were in suitable accommodation with 4% in unsuitable accommodation.

Care Leavers by Type of Activity

As of 31st March 2022



The Derbyshire Leaving Care service continue to work with our commissioned providers and the 8 district and borough councils to ensure there is sufficiency of placements for care leavers to transition to as they reach adulthood.

68% of care leavers aged 17 to 18 are in Employment, Education or Training. This figure reduces to 51% for care leavers aged 19 to 21.

Demographics of Admissions into Care

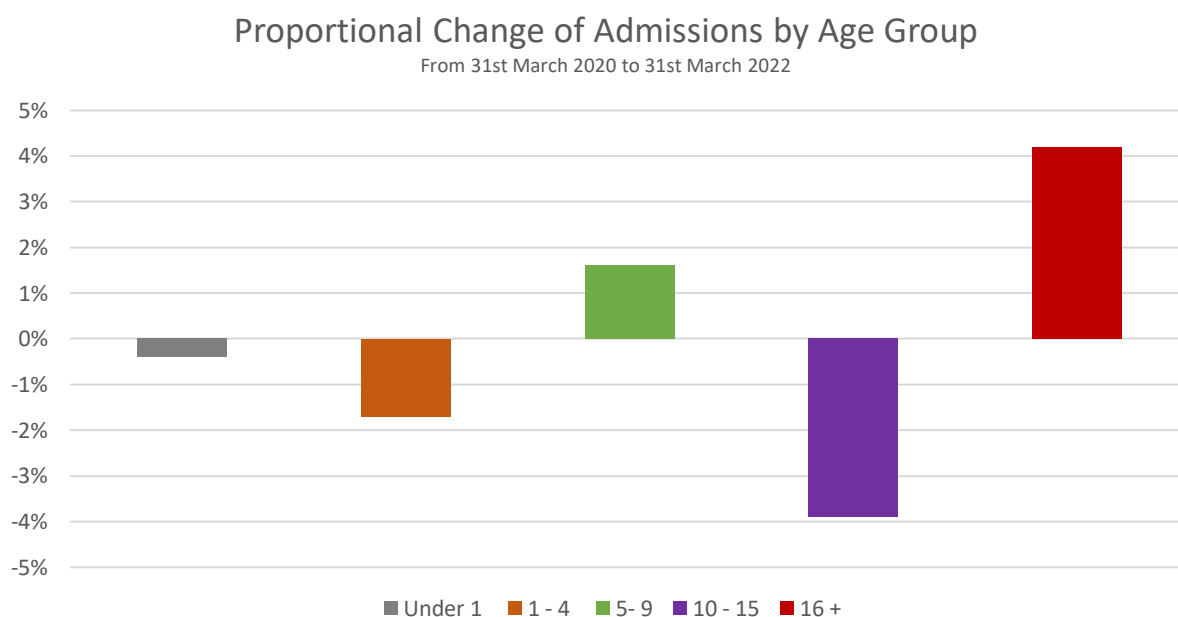
Derbyshire’s population is predicted to increase by 8% (2016 to 2041), with numbers of children (0–18 year-olds) in Derbyshire being predicted to rise to a similar extent. However, the proportion of the Derbyshire population falling within the 0–18-year-old age range is predicted to fall overall.

As of March 2022, there were 909 Children in Care in Derbyshire, a 1.3% rise from 899 in March 2021, and a 5.5% rise from 2020. Between 2017 and 2022, Derbyshire’s Children in Care population has risen an average of 8% per year.

Derbyshire’s total Child in Care population per 10,000 of population is 60, substantially below the England average of 70 per 10,000 and 71 per 10,000 for Derbyshire’s statistical neighbours.

Admissions into Care by Age Group

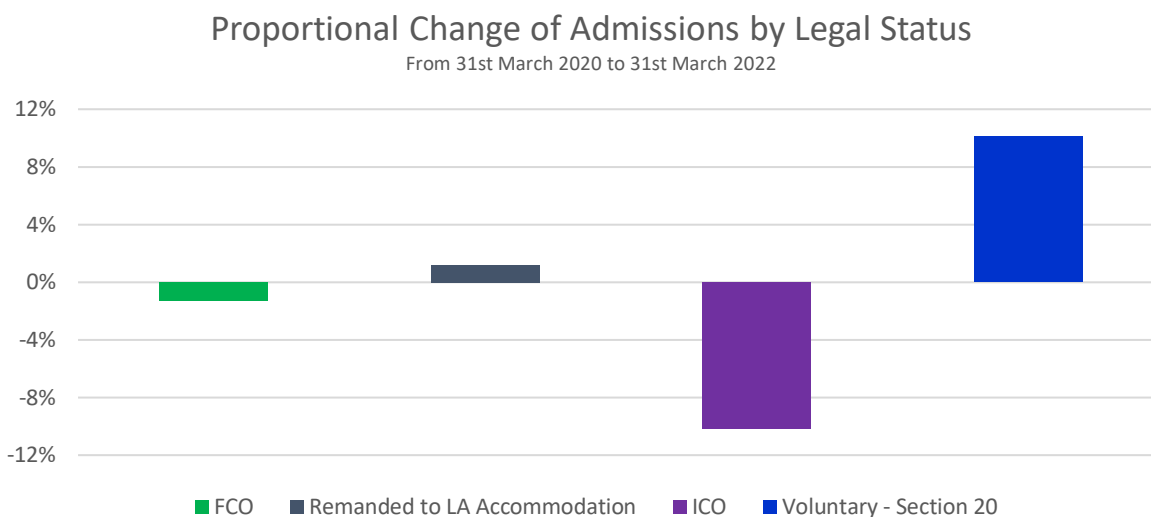
Our Child in Care population is growing fastest amongst children above age 16.



Between 2020 and 2022 children aged under 10 amounted to a 0.2% decrease compared to an increase of 0.8% amongst children aged 10 to 18.

Admissions into Care by Legal Status

Growing complexity of need is also a driver for increased placement demand. Between March 2020 and 2022, whilst interim care orders (ICOs) continue to represent a significant proportion of admissions, there was a 10.2% decrease of ICOs as a proportion of all admissions (43.6% in 2020, 33.4% in 2022).



The only significant increase of any legal status at admission was a 10.1% increase where children have been placed under Section 20 - Voluntary Care Entry.

This suggests a significant proportion of entries into care are due to safety and welfare concerns.

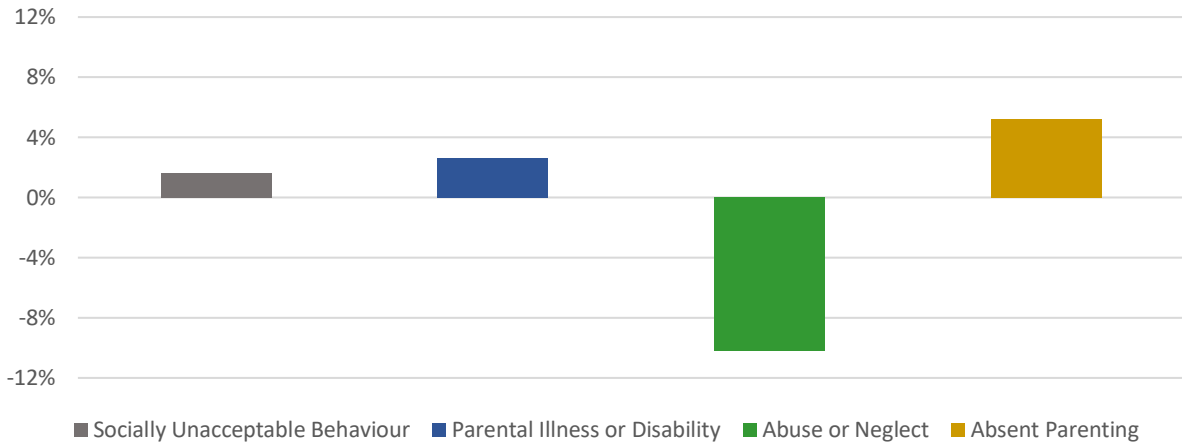
Admissions into Care by Category of Need

The chart below represents the four categories of need that have had the largest changes as a proportion of admissions into care, as the other four combined only amount to a proportional change of 2.2%.

Abuse or Neglect is the only category of need that has decreased significantly (10.2%)

Proportional Change of Admissions by Category of Need

From 31st March 2020 to 31st March 2022

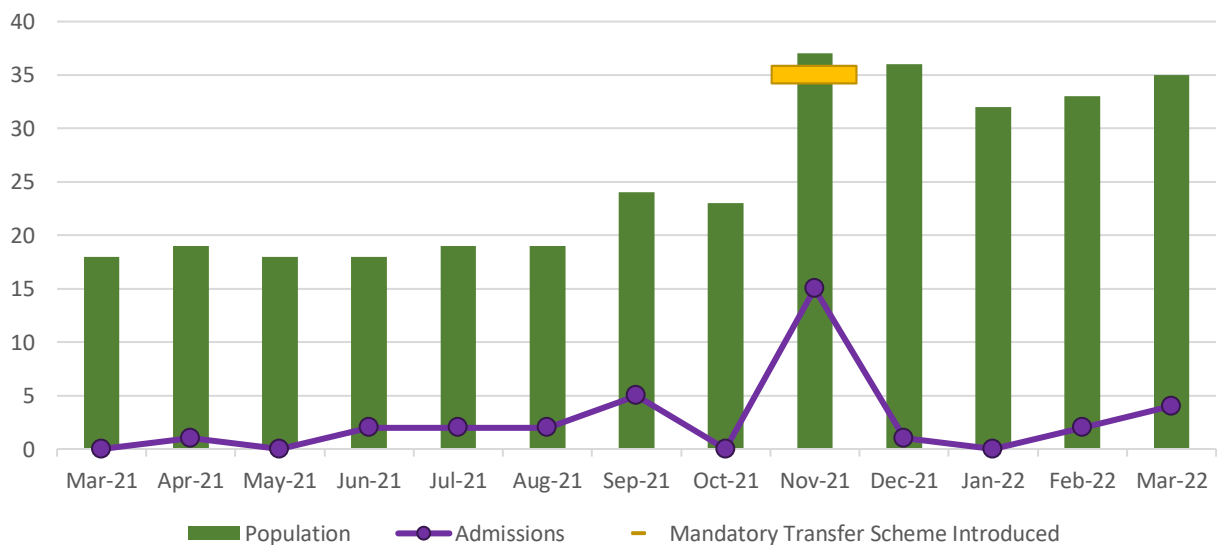


Low Income remained constant between March 2020 and 2022 at 0.0%, however, it is likely it is a contributory factor to other categories of need.

Admissions of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

At March 2022 Derbyshire cared for 35 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) compared to 24 at March 2020. UASC form 3.8% of all Children in Care at March 2022. This is lower than the latest national average (March 2021) of 5%.

UASC Population versus Admissions



Supply of Placements

Provision of Placements:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

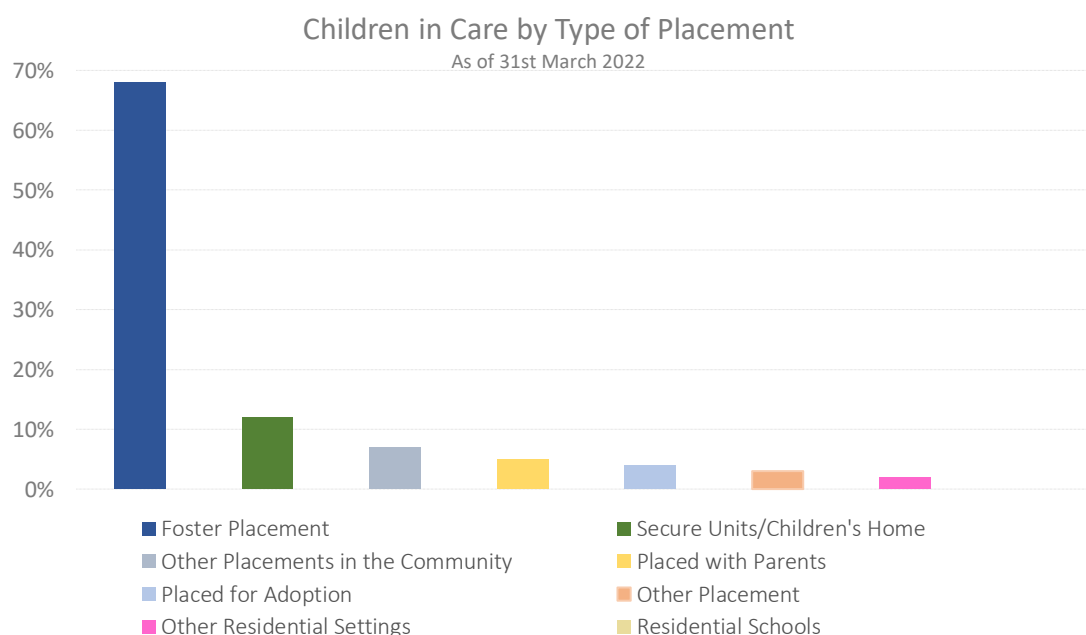
Derbyshire is making good progress towards delivering the approaches that will impact on quality, stability and choice of placement. It provides an 'end to end' in-house fostering service across a range of placement types. It has increased investment in recruitment, retention, training and support to ensure good quality local placements are available. Derbyshire has grown its specialist provision to provide more choice, and quality care for children with higher levels of need. Contract Carers offer homes to complex children and are additionally supported by regular reflective practice facilitated by a psychologist.

If we do not have sufficiency within our internal provision, Derbyshire have collaborated with three local authorities, Derby City, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County councils to procure a framework for fostering and residential placements, the D2N2 Framework.

As demonstrated below, the majority of Children in Care in Derbyshire are in a foster care placement (68% as of 31 March 2022) with 12% in residential homes.

Children in Care by Type of Placements:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

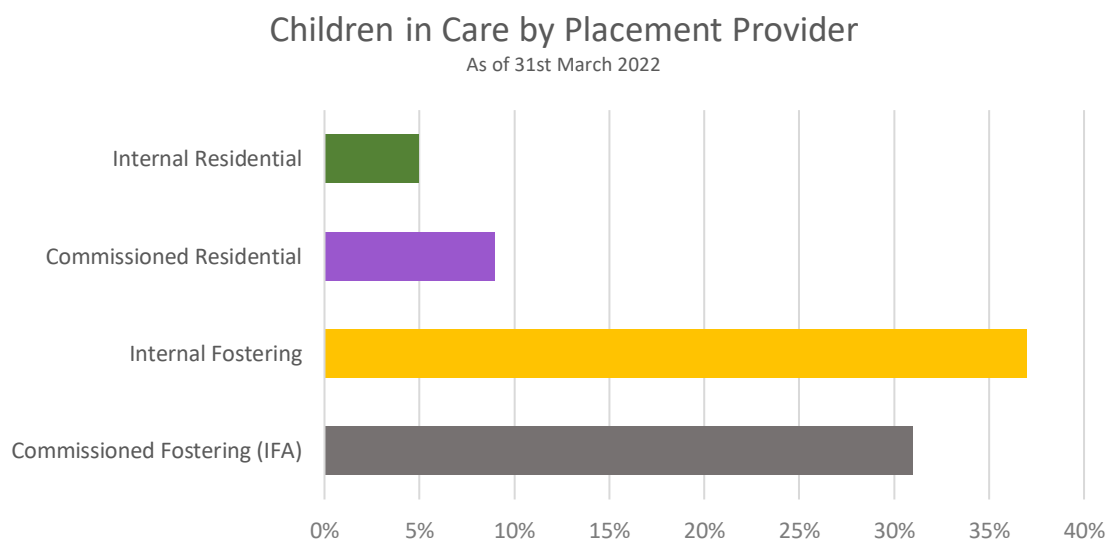


The vast majority of Derbyshire’s Children in Care population are in foster care, with 613 children (68% of total Children in Care population) in foster placements. The next most common type of placement is residential, which represents 125 children (12%).

Children in Care by Placement Provider:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

The split between children in internal Derbyshire foster placements and external independent fostering agency placements as at 31 March 2022 is 38% to 31% respectively as a proportion of all Children in Care as shown in Figure 11.



The split for residential care is 5% in internal residential care homes and 9% in commissioned residential care home placements.

Length of Placements:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

The percentage of children being looked after for at least 12 months is increasing. It has increased from 45% to 71%, a 26% increase in the last 2 years. However, the increase over the last 12 months, from 2021 to 2022, was smaller at just 4%.

The share of Children in Care with three or more placement increased last year after a small reduction from 2020 to 2021. During last year 12% of children in our care had 3 or more placements.

Stability of Placements for Children Looked After As of 31 st March 2022	2020	2021	2022
Children looked after for at least 12 months	45%	67%	71%
Children looked after with three or more placements during the year	10%	9%	12%
Children looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years aged under 16 who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years	62%	57%	59%

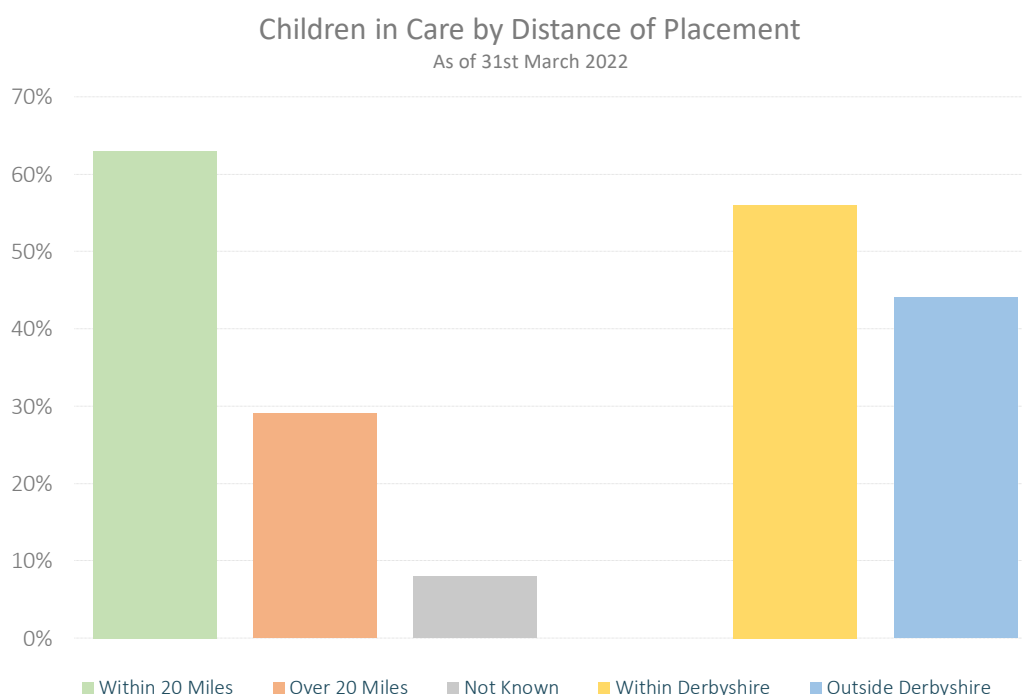
There was a slight increase in the number of children who have been living in the same placement for at least 2 years (for children that have been in care continuously for at least 2½ years) from 57% to 59%

Location of Placements:

As a proportion of total Children in Care Population

56% of Children in Care are placed within Derbyshire.

63% of Children in Care are placed within 20 miles of their home, a decrease from 2021, when 72% were placed within 20 miles of their homes as shown below.



Whilst every effort is made to place children close to their homes, 29% of children are placed more than 20 miles from their homes. The majority of these are placed within the D2N2 boundary.

Quality of Placements:

As seen below, of Derbyshire's Children in Care that are in residential placements, the majority are in placements that are good or outstanding, as per Ofsted's inspections. There is only one children's home which is rated inadequate, where improvements are currently being implemented.

Quality of Placements based on Ofsted Inspections, 2022	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement to be good	Inadequate
Overall Experiences and Progress of Children and Young People				
Independent Fostering Agencies	1	1	0	0
Children's homes	9	20	7	0
How Well Children & Young People are Helped and Protected				
Independent Fostering Agencies	0	2	0	0
Children's homes	11	17	8	0
Effectiveness of Leaders & Managers				
Independent Fostering Agencies	1	1	0	0
Children's home	11	17	7	1
<p>Note: The table includes outcomes from Ofsted inspections of IFAs and children's homes (both internal and external). Numbers of IFAs and children's homes are presented by inspection outcomes. Information on Ofsted inspection outcomes for residential schools and secure home is not shown here, as they represent a small proportion of available residential settings.</p>				

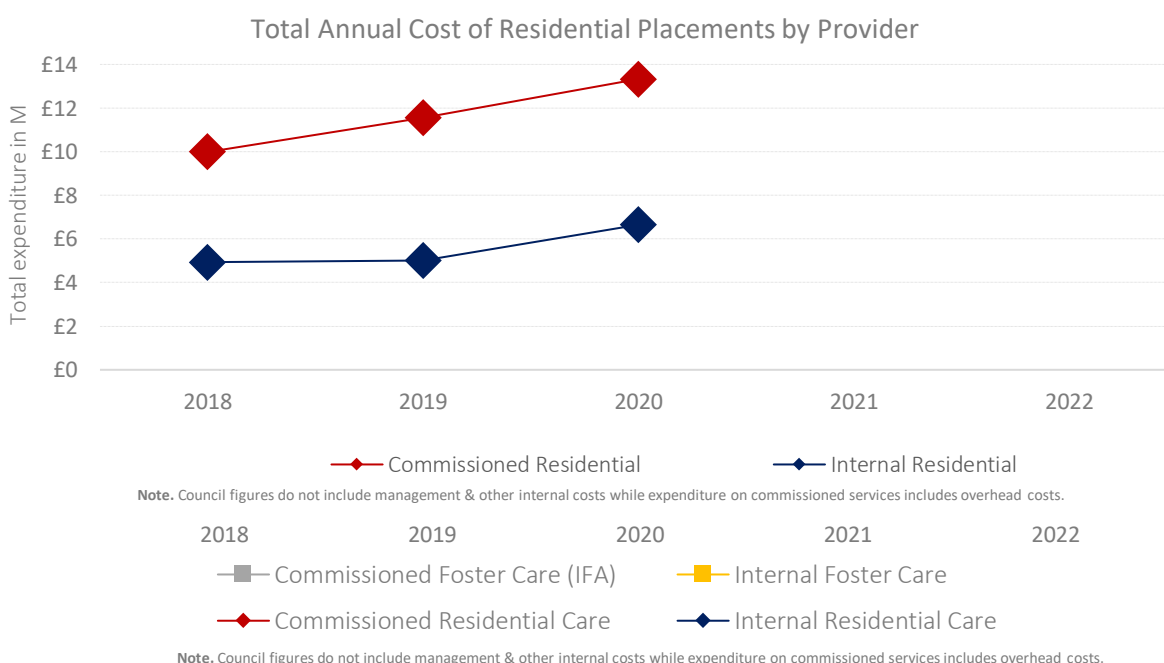
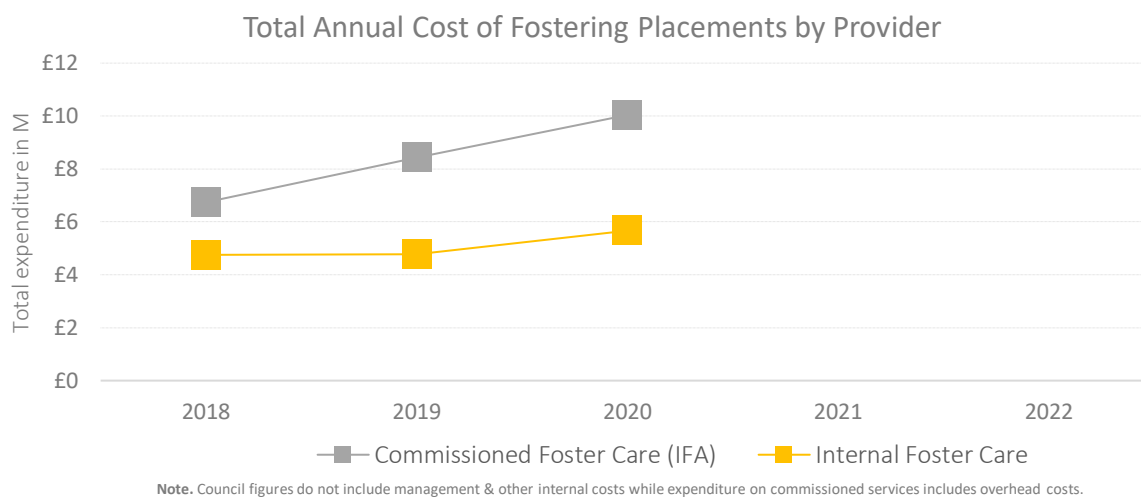
Cost of Placements:

Total Cost of Placements:

Annual costs of both fostering and residential placements have continued to rise. Overall, between 2018 – 2020, the cost of Fostering and Residential placements has increased by 45%, an increase of £9,266,753.

From 2018 – 2020 the cost of Fostering placements has risen by 37%, an increase of £4,209,377.

From 2018 – 2020 the cost of Residential placements has risen by 34%, an increase of £5,057,376.



Note. Council figures do not include management & other internal costs while expenditure on commissioned services includes overhead costs.

Challenges in Providing Placements and Related Services:

Derbyshire’s Children in Care in population has been rising for the past six years, with the rate of increase being slightly above the national profile. The numbers of children placed with independent providers is also continuing to see an increase in trend, and Derbyshire has higher numbers of children placed at a distance than our average statistical neighbour and England average.

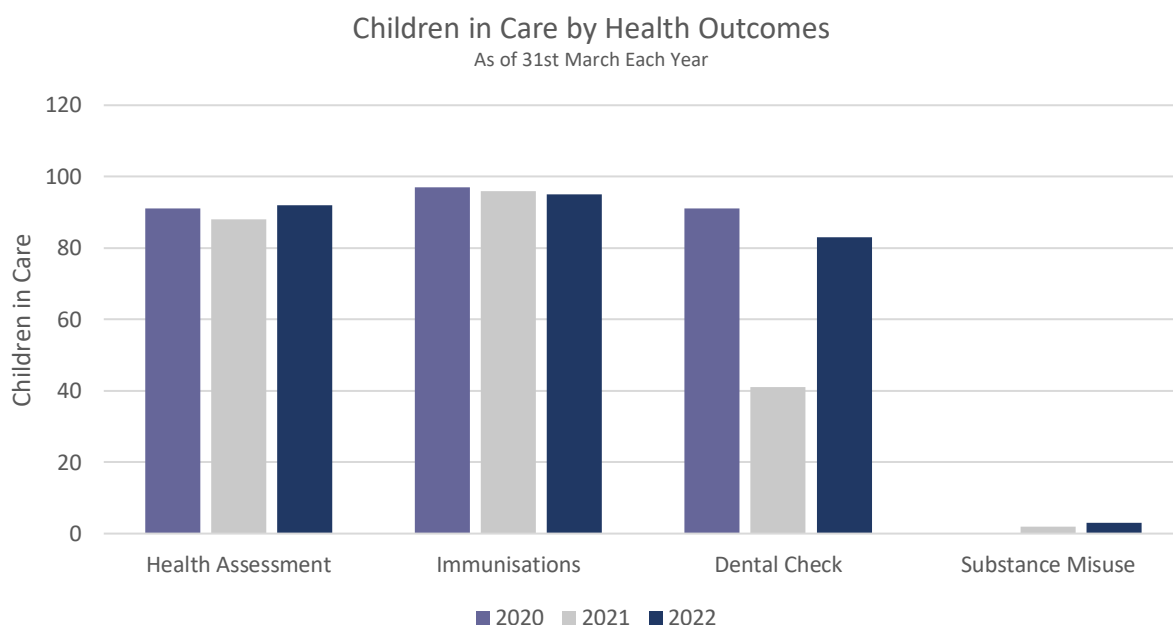
When comparing the utilisation rate of Derbyshire provision, we can see negligible change in the use of DCC residential care, which runs at capacity for the majority of the time, and whilst there has been an increase in the Child in Care population, the increase in care numbers pertain mostly in the 5-9 and particularly in the 16+ age groups which provides evidence of a need for more alternative local provision such as family placements and semi-independent provision for example. The utilisation of Derbyshire foster care placements has seen a continued reduction and there is a nationally recognised challenge relating to the recruitment and retention of foster carers. Derbyshire’s trend of increased access to commissioned provision is similar to the national trend of increased commissioned provision.

Appropriately placing children with complex needs is a key challenge for Derbyshire. There are not enough suitable homes, or staff with multidisciplinary skills, to care for children who may be a danger to themselves or others, or who are being exploited. Many registered children’s homes are reluctant to accommodate these children as they believed it could have a negative impact on their Ofsted rating.

Difficulties in Meeting the Demand for Placement of Children in Care	Currently		Over the Next 1-3 Years	
	Derbyshire	England	Derbyshire	England
Demand for Placements	Red	Red	Red	Amber
Demand for Foster Care	Red	Amber	Red	Amber
Demand for Residential Care	Red	Red	Red	Amber

Notes: Red indicates that the council expects that they will face difficulties meeting demand through existing suppliers and/or needs to produce services at high costs; Amber indicates that the council expects that they will mostly meet demand through existing providers at reasonable costs, but there are cases where that is not true; Green indicates that the council expects they will meet demand through existing supply at reasonable cost. The national average is calculated based on the responses provided by the 34 councils that responded to the survey.

Although there has been a focus on health outcomes for Children in Care, the COVID-19 pandemic did have an impact on meeting demand in this area. However, post COVID-19 the proportion of Children in Care with an initial health assessment, up to date health assessment and dental check and eye test have all remained at a consistently high rate.



Support for children with emotional/behavioural needs and mental health problems is an ongoing concern. Derbyshire has commissioned an emotional health and wellbeing service to support children with their mental health, however, with CAMHS waiting lists of up to 12 months there is further improvement required in this area to strengthen support for mental wellbeing.

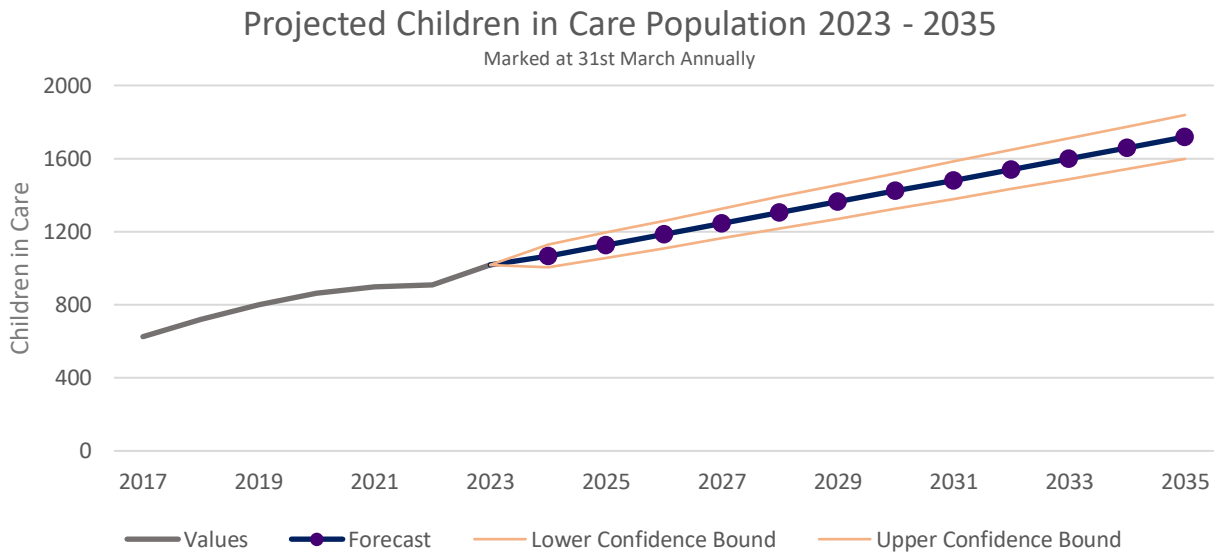
Difficulties in Meeting Demand for Key Services	Currently		Over the Next 1-3 years	
	Derbyshire	England	Derbyshire	England
Health Outcomes	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green
Development Assessments	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
Interventions for Substance Misuse	Amber	Green	Amber	Green
Support for Children with Emotional and Behavioural Needs/Mental Health Problems	Amber	Red	Amber	Amber
Specialist Provision for Children with CSE/HSB	Red	Amber	Red	Amber
Sibling Group who Require a Fostering Placement Together	Red	Amber	Red	Amber

Certain categories of need provide greater difficulty when trying to find suitable placements than others. Whilst Abuse or Neglect, Family in Acute Stress and Family Dysfunction represent the most common primary categories of need for admissions into care, they are not the most difficult to source suitable placements for as shown in table 6. Children with disabilities as well as those demonstrating socially unacceptable behaviour are the most difficult to provide placements for in Derbyshire due to these children often having complex needs. However, this difficulty is mirrored across England.

Difficulties in Providing Placements for Children Across Primary Need Categories	Currently		Over the Next 1-3 Years	
	Derbyshire	England	Derbyshire	England
Abuse or Neglect	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
Child's Disability	Red	Red	Red	Red
Parent's Illness or Disability	Amber	Green	Amber	Green
Family in Acute Stress	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
Family Dysfunction	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	Red	Red	Red	Red
Low Income	Amber	Green	Amber	Amber
Absent parenting	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber

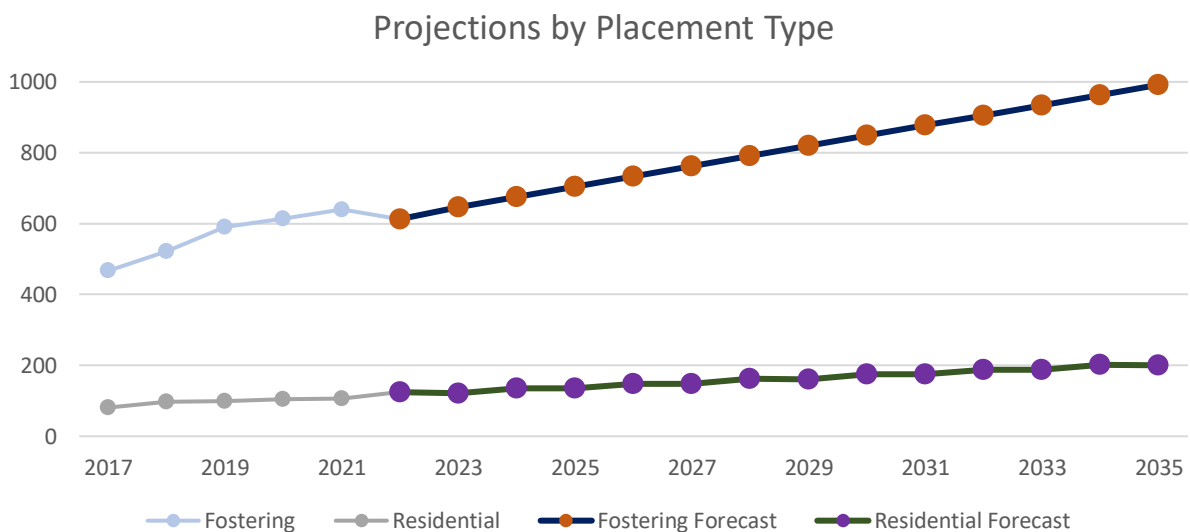
Projections on Demand for Placements:

This section includes forecasts on demand for placements over 2023 – 2035, calculated using average increases from historical data to the Children in Care population in recent years.



This projection allows for a 5% variation to the forecast, as Derbyshire’s Children in Care population can unpredictably increase or decrease due both local and national policy and legislative changes.

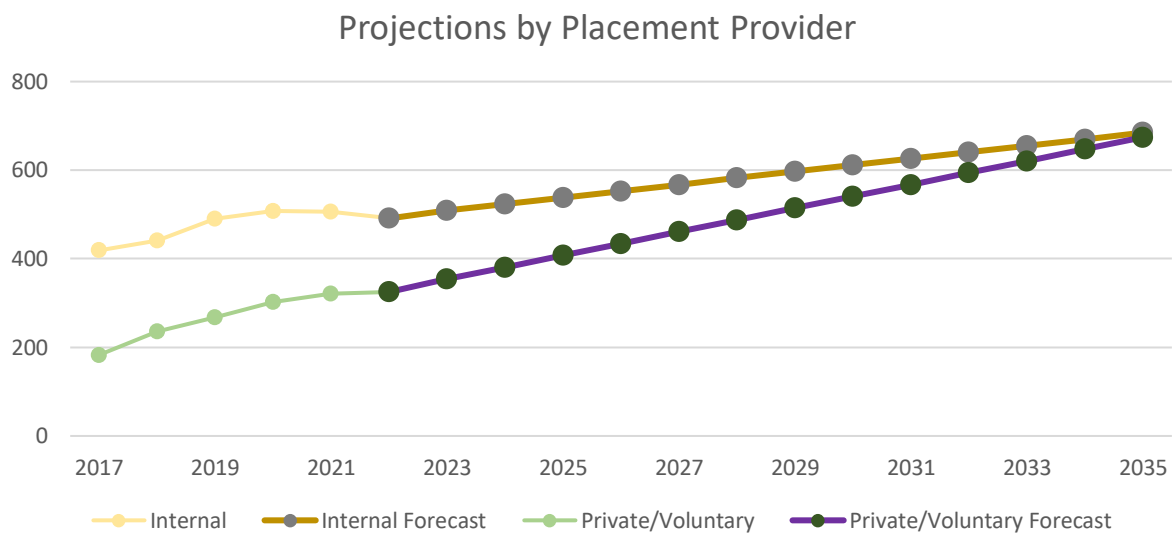
Projections on demand by Placement Type:



Fostering and Residential Placements are forecast to continue to increase significantly, with both placement types expected to rise by approximately 60% by 2035.

Projections on demand by Placement Provider:

Whilst the Children in Care population is projected to rise overall, this rise is particularly driven by an increase in Children in Care in placements procured through the private and voluntary sector.



Private/Voluntary sector placements are set to increase 368% by 2035, whereas Internal placements are set to increase by 163%.

Appendix:

Population of Children in Care during the year ending March 31	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children in Care	709	801	862	899	909
Children who Started to be Looked After	338	369	399	378	345
Children who Ceased to be Looked After	265	283	339	341	336

