



Corporate Parenting Board

25th September 2013

Report Title	Wolverhampton LAC Transitions Team Annual Report April 2012-March 2013	
Classification	Public	
Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Families	
Wards Affected	All	
Accountable Strategic Director	Sarah Norman, Community	
Originating service	Children, Young People and Families/Looked After Children	
Accountable officer(s)	Sharon Green Tel Email	Team Manager 01902 553001 Sharon.green@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note and receive the LAC Transitions Team Annual report for 2012-2013.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To enable the Corporate Parenting Panel to have a clear understanding of the work undertaken by the LAC Transitions Team.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The remit of Aftercare Services has broadened during the period of this Annual Report with the Leaving Care Service being restructured to form the LAC Transitions Team in July 2013. The report details these changes and evidences the progress made during this period in respect of:

- (a) The implementation of the new team

- (b) The performance of the team and
- (c) Outcomes for young people. It also highlights plans for further development.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 The approved budget for 2012/13 for the Leaving Care Service/LAC Transitions Team was £972,160.
- 3.3 Any costs that may arise as a result of this report will be funded from within the approved budget for 2013/14 for the service.

[NM/11092013/A]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The legal requirements in relation to Care Leavers are contained in Regulation 17 the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations 2001 and Children and Young Persons Act 2008.

[FD/16092013/F]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 The work of the LAC Transitions Team helps support the outcomes of some of the most disadvantaged and deprived children and young people within the city. There is a clear expectation that Wolverhampton City Council will significantly contribute towards improving and enhancing the life changes of LAC, and Care Leavers.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no identified environmental implications.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no identified Human resources implications

PUBLIC
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

LAC TRANSITION TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2012 TO MARCH 2013

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This has been an exciting and busy year for the team with team members enthusiastically and successfully managing the transition from the Leaving Care Service to the LAC Transitions Team whilst still providing a comprehensive service to the young people on their caseloads.

1.2 This transition began implementation in May when two Social Workers and a Practice Manager joined the Leaving Care Service and gained momentum in June when the Team Manager, Senior Housing Worker and a third Social Worker began work. June was also the month when we said goodbye and wished good luck to the former Leaving Care Service manager, Len Kruczek. On 1st July the LAC Transitions Team went live.

1.3 This report details the vision of the LAC Transitions Team, provides some insights into the reasons behind the changes made, details the services we have provided and comments on future goals.

2 LAC TRANSITIONS TEAMS VISION

2.1 The team's vision is informed by legislation, statutory guidance and departmental policy and guidance including The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Young Person's Act 2008, Wolverhampton's Children and Young People's plan 2011 – 2014 and the Corporate Parenting Action Plan.

2.2 Our vision is to improve outcomes for Looked After young people aged 14 – 18 years and Care Leavers in all areas of the Every Child Matters agenda.

We aim to provide a service which:

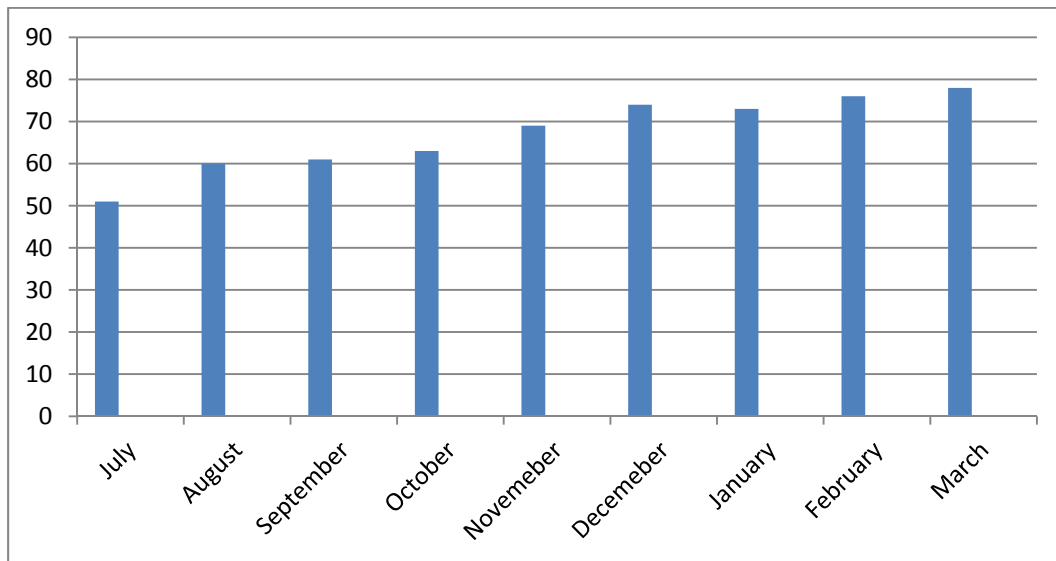
- Is accessible to young people
- Is child focussed
- Encourages young people to reach their potential
- Encourages young people to participate in the development of the service
- Uses resources effectively and efficiently
- Helps young people to prepare for and achieve independence
- Helps young people to avoid crisis and help them to identify and to respond to difficulties as they emerge
- Ensure young people know where to go for help and support
- Ensure young people are well supported by the team and our partner agencies
- Narrow the gaps between Looked After Children and Care Leavers and their peers in the community in all areas where these exist.
- Celebrates the success of young people

Our team plan details how we intend to achieve this.

3 Services Provided

3.1 We are a multi-disciplinary team comprising of qualified Social Workers, Personal Advisors, a Senior Housing Worker and an Education, Employment and Training Coordinator. (See appendix 1 for Staffing Structure chart)

3.2 We provided services for 79+ Looked After Children and Young People aged 14 to 18 and 195 care Leavers during 2012-2013. With Social Workers having to 'hit the ground running' as 51 LAC were transferred to the team in the first month.



3.3 The above table illustrates the number of Looked After Children receiving a service from the team. Unfortunately data on Looked After Children ceasing to be Looked After during this period is not available to the author at the time of writing the report hence the 79+ figure given in 3.2 above.

3.4 The Social Workers are responsible for assessing the needs of LAC and for planning how these needs will be met. The Social Workers are also responsible for leading their 'hub' which are central to facilitating collaborative working between themselves and the Personal Advisors.

3.5 Personal Advisors are responsible for developing and implementing a Care Leavers 'pathway' to adult life. The Pathway Plan being informed by the assessment of need completed by the Social Worker by the time the child/young person is 16 years and 3 months old. Each young person is required by statute to have a Pathway Plan by the time they are 16 years and 6 months old. Personal Advisors must also visit Care Leavers, at a minimum of every 8 weeks

3.6 Personal Advisors have worked throughout the year with an average caseload of 27, assuming primary worker responsibility for young people aged 18-25 years and co-working with Social workers for Looked After Children from the age of 15 years and 9 months. This includes co-working with Social Workers from other teams as not all 14+ Looked After Children are transferred

to the LAC Transitions Team e.g. where a LAC has younger siblings it is often best practice for the Social Worker on the LAC team to retain case responsibility for the whole sibling group.

3.7 The Employment, Education and Training (EET) Co-ordinator and Senior Housing Worker provided specialist advice and guidance to the Social Workers and Personal Advisors and undertake direct work with young people. The work of the team in the area of EET and accommodation is further detailed below

3.8 All assessment and planning completed with the team is child centred and involves their family and friends, where appropriate, their carers' and other key professionals (see partnership section below).

4 Improving Outcomes for LAC and Care Leavers

4.1 One of the significant motivations for this restructure was the recognition that outcomes for Care Leavers could be improved significantly through earlier and better structured preparation for adult life. "A successful transition to independence is inevitably linked both to the quality of the care experience in general and the specific support directed at the transition itself". (Rebecca Faith, Di Hart and Lisa Payne 2012). Previously with Social Workers and Personal Advisors working in separate teams referrals for Aftercare Services were regularly received late with the young person having received none or limited specific preparation for independence.

4.2 The multi-disciplinary nature of the LAC Transitions team redresses this. Our Social Workers and Personal Advisors work closely together in "Hubs" (See appendix 1) to ensure that planning for independence begins early, is collaborative, involves the young people, their carers' and others who support them and allows time for contingency planning when arrangements break down.

4.3 The "hub" arrangements also provides better continuity for the young people we work with as there is an expectation that all of the workers in the hub will have some knowledge about the young people in their hub and the young person will have some knowledge of the workers.

4.4 The restructure also ensures that pathway plans are overseen and authorised by a qualified Social Work Practitioner.

5 Partnership work

5.1 Practitioners continue to involve all key agencies from private, statutory and third sector organisations in assessing the needs of children and young people and planning how these needs will be met.

5.2 We have also worked strategically with internal and external partners including Adult Services, Human Resources, Residential Services,

Connexions, Wolverhampton Homes and other accommodation providers, NCAS, the Education and Business Partnership and Base 25 to improve service provision and have provided training for partners.

5.3 A number of 'exchange' and joint training sessions have been undertaken with adult services to ensure that practitioners have a good understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities, to identify and overcome challenges in the transition process and to generally improve working relationships between the teams. The outcome of this has improved the transitional experience for young people. Young people with additional needs who may need support from Adults' Services are identified and referred at 16 with co-working between the two services commencing by the time the young person is 17 ½ years old.

5.4 Team members facilitated briefing sessions for staff within the Residential Service and foster carers to improve the quality and timeliness of the usage of the Get Ready for Adults Life (GRAL) pack.

5.5 Our work with the Youth Offending Team, Wolverhampton Homes and the Duty and Assessment team has seen the development and implementation of working practice in respect of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

5.6 We have worked with National Care Advisory Service members, regionally and nationally to keep up to date with changes in leaving care and benchmark practice so we can improve practice and influence policy makers.

5.7 With a view to develop their knowledge and contacts, each practitioner has chosen a specialist area to promote partnership work. This enables us to provide a team with a vast and diverse bank of knowledge which can be shared with colleagues.

5.8 The team are also represented at a number of forums including CFUG, the Missing and Compromised Group and Wolverhampton's Young Peoples' Accommodation Forum.

5.9 The work with Human Resources, Base 25, Connexions, the Education and Business Partnership and other housing providers is detailed in the education and accommodation sections below.

6 Providing education, employment and training opportunities for Care Leavers.

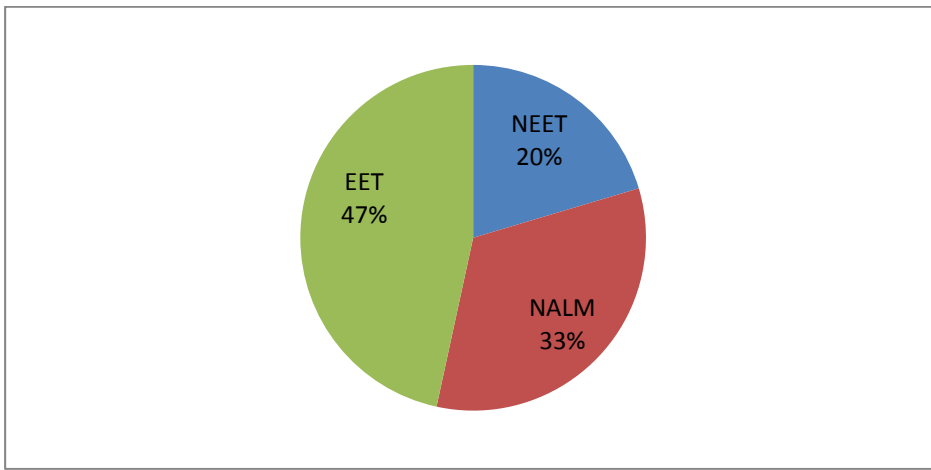
6.1 This has been a challenging area for the team. The current economic climate and the vacant Employment, Education and Training Co-ordinator (EET) post has impacted on the outcomes of this service.

Recruitment to the EET Co-ordinators post was delayed pending the completion of a review of the Looked After Children's Education Service.

6.2 Even with constraints against us we have progressed in this area, as follows:

- Reviewing the joint working protocol between LAC Transitions Team, LACE service and Connexions has ensured that collaborative working between the teams is encouraged and fragmentation and duplication is avoided.
- Monthly meetings between LACE, LAC Transitions and Connexions have been maintained to identify those at risk of becoming NEET and have planned the response to this.
- Representatives from the EBP and Connexions contract have attended team meetings to promote work experience placements and their mentoring service.
- Work has been undertaken with Human Resources which achieved agreement to allow Care Leavers to apply for entry level internal job vacancies.
- We have worked closely with the EBD to ensure that Care Leavers take advantage of Wolverhampton apprenticeships and the agreement in place which guarantees them an interview.

6.3 Data in respect of EET for NI148 cohort 2012 – 2013.



This pie chart represents the EET/NEET/NALM data averaged over the year in respect of NI 148 cohort. This sample of 23, 19 year old Care Leavers is not necessarily representative of the EET/NEET/NALM situation of all Care Leavers. Data on the EET status of the total care leaver population was collected manually in 2011 – 12. This data is not available for 2012 – 13 as these systems have not been maintained but work has been undertaken to develop the collection of this data from Care First which will allow reliable data to be reported in the 2013 – 2014 Annual Report.

7. Providing accommodation options for Care Leavers

7.1 Due to the diverse needs of Care Leavers, the LAC Transitions Team has access to a range of semi-independent and independent accommodation options. These are:

- Supported Lodgings
- Supported Accommodation
- Semi-independent Accommodation
- Independent Living in the Social or Private Rented sector, with flexible floating support as needed
- Enabling a young person to remain in the accommodation in which they lived by being looked after, i.e.: Staying Put

Through effective planning and by working in a multi-agency setting, the Housing Service works with the Social Worker and Young Persons Advisor to ensure that there is a planned move towards independence for each Care Leaver and that the accommodation is most suitable towards their individual needs.

7.2 Supported Lodgings: The YMCA Open Door provides a contracted service to the LAC Transitions Team, with the provision of 5 supported lodgings placements for Care Leavers up to 30th November 2012, and this increasing to 8 with effect from 1st December 2012.

As at 31st March 2013, there were three Care Leavers, aged 16-18 years in stable supported lodgings placement, , and a further two currently going through the matching process. There were also three Care Leavers, aged 19, in Supported Lodgings placements, claiming Housing Benefit.

Regular meetings are held between the LAC Transitions Team and YMCA Supported Lodgings management to ensure that the terms of the contract are being complied with. The Senior Housing Worker also attends the quarterly Supported Lodgings Steering Group and sits on the Supported Lodgings Host Approval Panel.

7.3 Night-stop:

Through effective partnership working with YMCA Black County, a Service Level Agreement was entered into in September 2012 to provide a Night -stop Provision to Care Leavers. This has eliminated the need to use Bed and Breakfast as an emergency provision. Since the introduction of the Night stop Service to the LAC Transitions Team, 6 Care Leavers have been placed in temporary Night-stop placements, one of which subsequently converted into a permanent Support Lodgings Placement.

7.4 Supported (Semi-independent) Accommodation

Semi-independent accommodation offers Young People an opportunity to live more independently whilst still having other people around and receiving support to develop independent living skills and work towards their goals in education, training employment and other areas of life. The move into Semi-

Independent accommodation from a care placement is planned by the Social Worker/Young Persons Advisor through the appropriate statutory meetings and in discussion with the Young Person. Once it has been agreed that the Young Person is ready a referral will be made to the Wolverhampton Young Person's Accommodation Forum (WYPAF) in accordance with Wolverhampton City Council's Homeless Young People and Care Leavers Housing Protocol.

WYPAF is a multi-agency response to the housing and support needs of Young People, including Care leavers and the membership of the forum comprises of representatives of providers of supported accommodation, move on accommodation and agencies offering specialist support to Young People. The Forum is compliant with the Supporting People Framework.

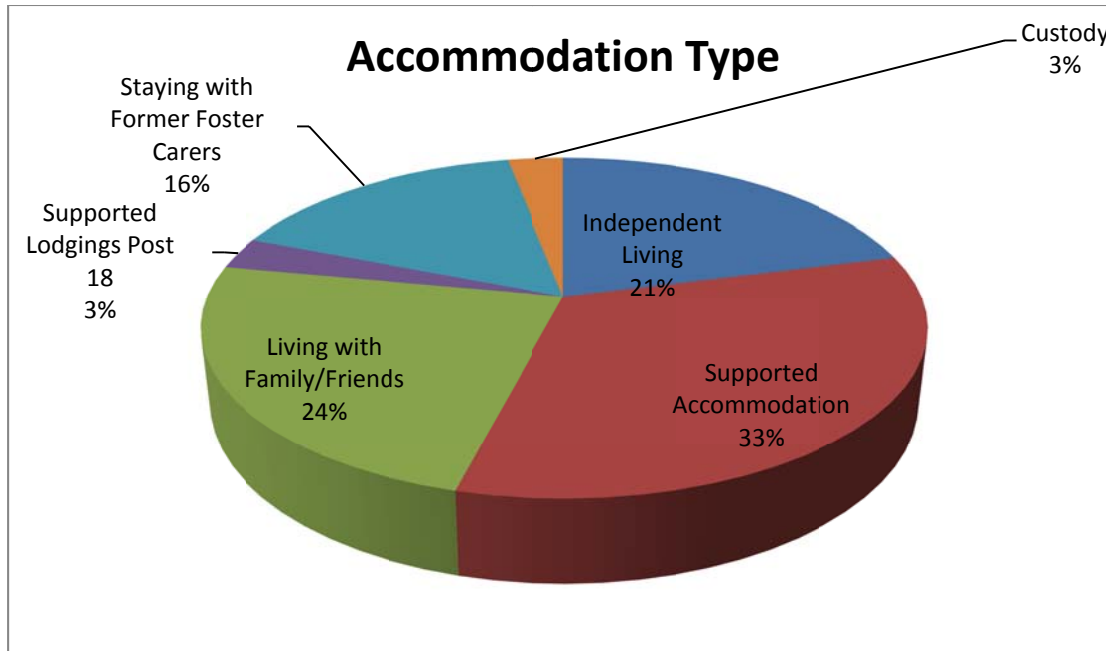
The Senior Housing Worker presents the Young Person's referral at the forum and a majority decision will be made by representatives based on the needs in matching accommodation and support requirements on where the most suitable accommodation will be. 21 Care Leavers have been referred through to WYPAF for supported accommodation as part of the transition into Independence.

7.6 Move on into Independent Living

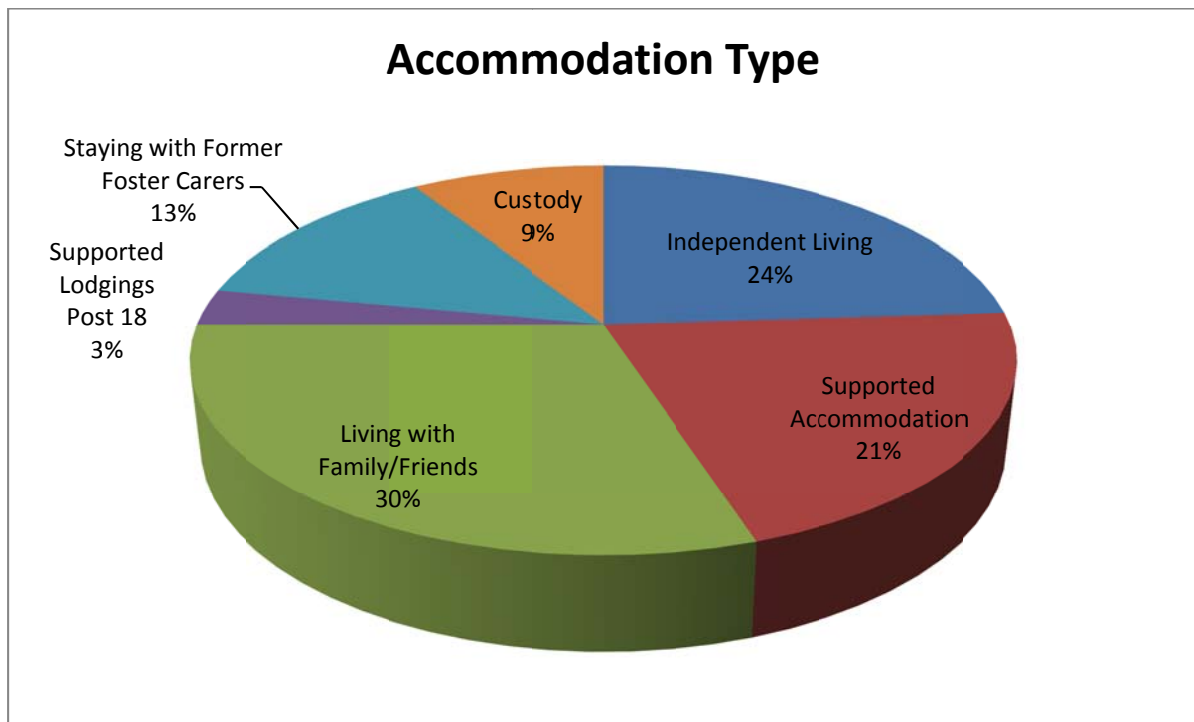
The move into independent living is planned and demonstrated in the Care Leaver's Pathway Plan. A Move On application is made and presented at the WYPAF meetings by the Senior Housing Worker. The application is supported by documentary evidence that the Young Person is ready to move on and ensures that all the necessary steps have been taken to enable the young person to take up an introductory tenancy with Wolverhampton Homes. Where appropriate, tenancy support is offered through the Tenancy Sustainment Team.

Applications accepted for Move on are referred to Wolverhampton Homes Housing Inclusion Team and processed onto Homes in the City by Wolverhampton Homes or other accommodation providers. As a Care Leaver, the Young Person's application is moved into Band 1.

7.7 Accommodation situation of Young People who have left care in the last 12 months:

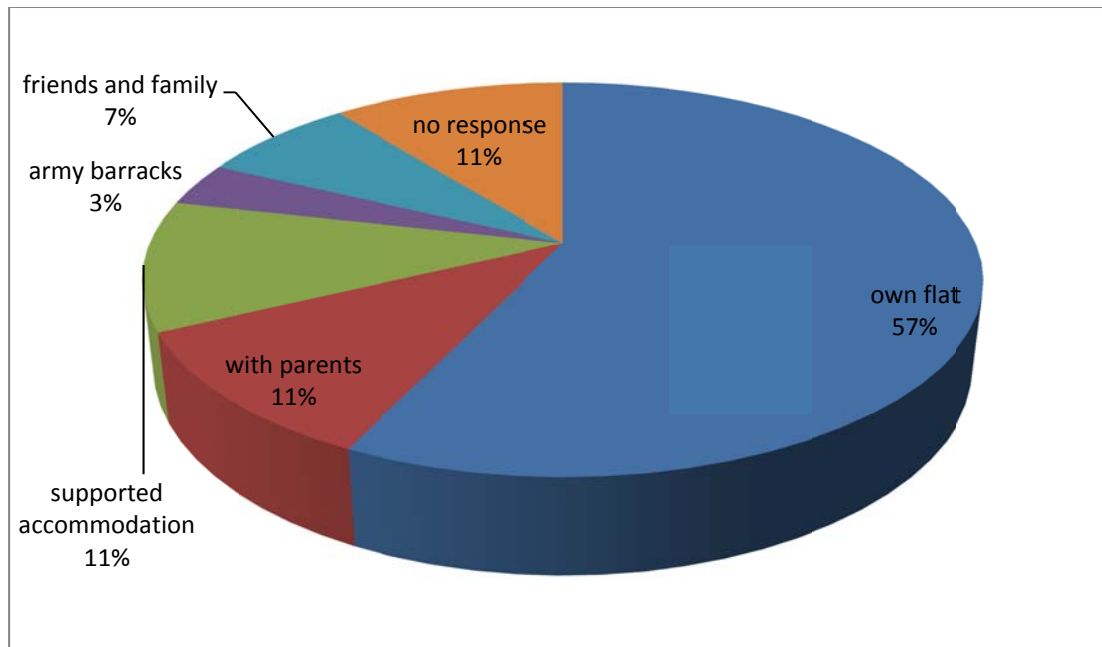


Accommodation situation of same young people, 6 months after they have left care



The charts above reflect the accommodation situation of the 33 young people who left care in 2012-2013. Most (20) young people left care aged 18. With 7 leaving aged 17 and 6 aged 16.

The chart below shows the accommodation situation of the 29 Care Leavers who completed the exit questionnaire in 2012-2013 aged 21



This illustrates how over the period of three years the majority of Care Leavers mature sufficiently to live independently.

8 Participation of Young People

8.1 The children and young people we work with are encouraged to participate in the assessment, planning and review processes which inform the care that they receive.

8.2 We also want to encourage Children and Young People to participate more broadly to ensure that their views influence how the service develops. With this in mind we held a consultation event this year with the aim of establishing a steering group and task focussed subgroups. 7 young people attended this event and it became clear during the discussion that we should start this exercise by developing some task focussed sub groups to help young people better understand the model of participation being proposed. The young people prioritised three task focussed sub groups:-

1. Planning and implementing the refurbishment of a room at Beldray which was child/young people friendly where young people could access the internet to make benefit claims, undertake job searches etc. This was prioritised as it was recognised that the existing provisions at Beldray were of a poor quality which could increase the young person's

anxiety particularly when approaching the team for a service at a point of crisis.

2. Improving how we communicate with young people as the young people at the meeting argued that traditional communication methods e.g. letters and newsletters were ineffective and often disregarded as “junk” mail. It was agreed that we should explore the usage of social media to communicate more effectively. This culminated in a Facebook page being set up. The site is used to post information about events, jobs, apprenticeships etc. and to privately contact young people to remind them of appointments and to generally stay in touch.
3. The third sub group involved young people working with the Senior housing worker to develop the policies and procedures, forms and information for young people about the ‘in-house’ supported accommodation provision which will commence on 1st April 2013.

All of these task sub-groups have completed the work agreed. Members will feedback to the broader group, which hopefully will eventually become the steering group, in the new financial year.

8.3. 29 of the 33 Care Leavers leaving the service aged 21 years have completed an exit questionnaire. The analysis of the information they provided is available in a separate report.

8.4 We involved young people in every recruitment campaign.

9 **Plans for the future**

9.1 The Housing Related Support Service contracted to NACRO will be brought back into the remit of the LAC Transitions Team in April 2013.

9.2 An apprentice Participation post will be developed

9.3 The steering group will be fully established

9.4 More comprehensive Management Information will be available

9.5 We will explore ways to raise the aspirations of Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

10 **Conclusion**

The transition from the Leaving Care service to the LAC Transitions Team progressed smoothly thanks to the positive attitude of team members and their recognition that the aim of the proposed changes was to improve outcomes for the young people we work with, something that they are committed to. We anticipate having the opportunity in the forthcoming year to complete some of the service implementation tasks which have eluded us this

year e.g. to achieve a full staff complement. Albeit with the welcome addition of the Housing Support Workers in April we do risk running out of office space. Not that desk sharing is a problem with the introduction this year of agile working. We are keen to recruit to both the EET Co-ordinators and recently established, Social Care Officer posts as we believe the absence of these posts have hindered our achievements this year.

We also look forward to making progress to establishing a LAC Transitions steering group which we believe will be central to ensuring that Looked After Children and Care Leavers are in a position to influence service development and to the development of more comprehensive management information which should provide better information both about the performance of staff and the outcomes for young people. Although our key goal in 2013-2014 is to raise the aspirations of our young people as benchmarking information highlights this as one of the areas in which we compare poorly especially if you consider statistics about how many of our Care Leavers go to university. We look forward to addressing this issue with the support of our colleagues in the Corporate Parenting Team.

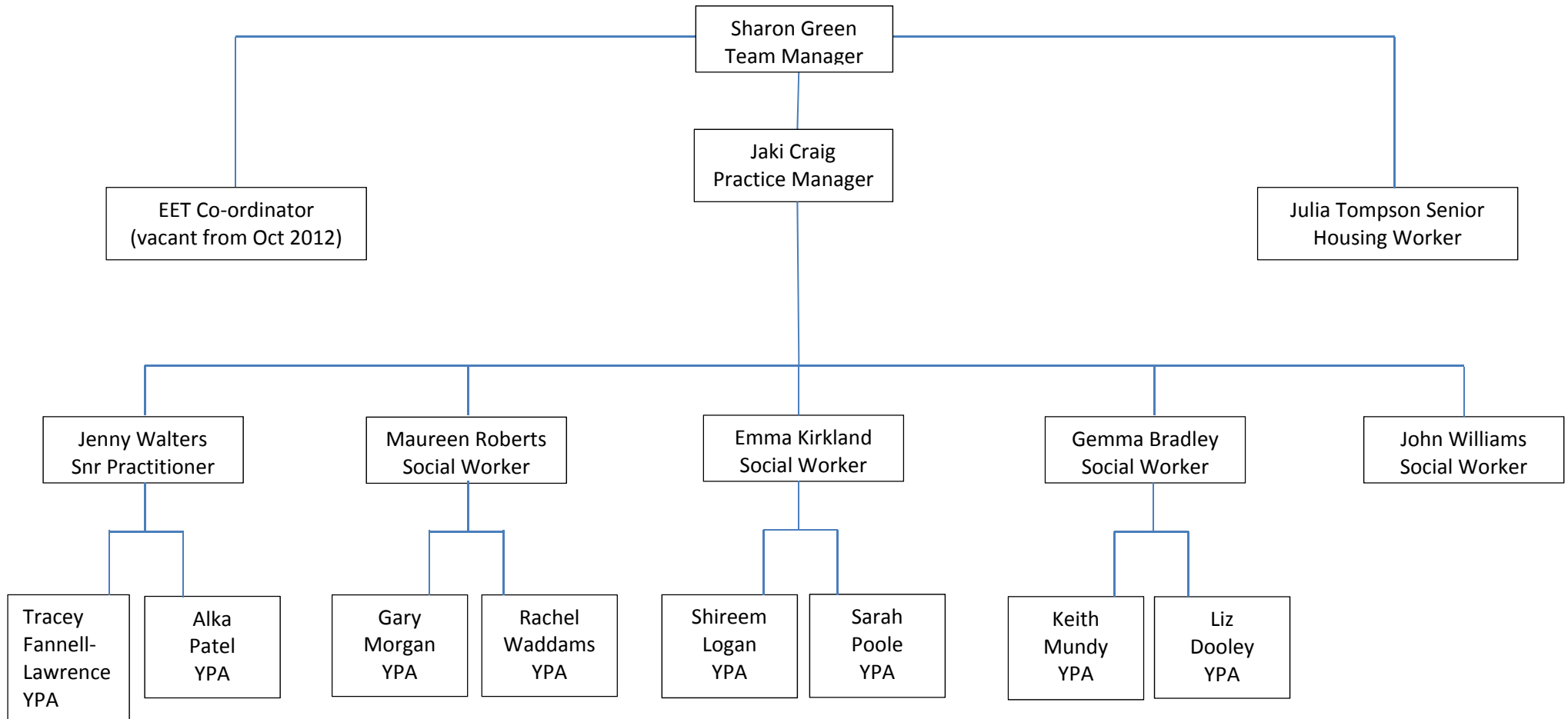
Appendices

Appendix 1

Staffing structure chart of LAC Transitions Team

Appendix 1

STAFFING OF LAC TRANSITIONS TEAM.



**Analysis of Care
Leavers exit
Questionnaire
2012-2013**

2012 / 13 Exit Questionnaire Analysis

Of the 33 people leaving care between April 2012-March 2013 29, 14 females and 15 males, completed an exit questionnaire. This questionnaire is usually completed in an interview with their Personal Advisor. It provides qualitative and quantitative feedback from the Care Leaver about the service they received from the Leaving Care Service/LAC Transitions Team.

Question 1: How do you feel about moving on from the Wolverhampton Leaving Care Service/LAC Transitions Team?

There was quite a mixed response to this question. 15 young people reported that they were happy or felt good about leaving the service with four of these giving the reason that they were ready to move on and or they were enjoying independence. 10 young people reported that they felt were concerned about moving on because they would receive less support or because they would miss the support. One of these young people reported that he didn't feel that he was ready to move on and seven reported that they felt sad, concerned or that they didn't want the service to stop.

Comments included:

"I feel I have had good support getting settled. Good advice. Not ready to be left alone though"

"ok but I reckon I still need help"

"I feel confident in leaving the service"

"I feel a little sad as I have enjoyed that connection and the safety net if I need it"

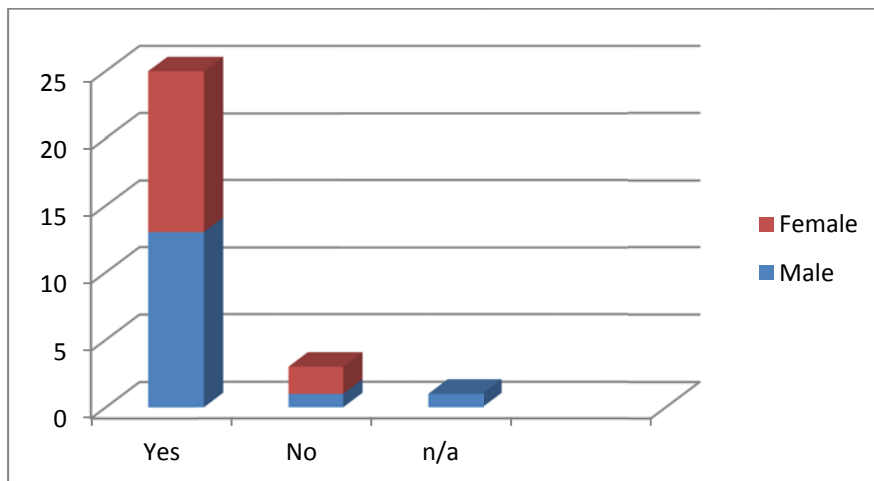
"feel good-stand on your own two feet-no one looking over me"

"fine, don't really need anything now- didn't really get on with leaving care"

"will miss help and support"

"happy to move on. I feel ready to live without support"

Question 2: Do you feel that you have been supported well enough to manage independently now?



There is a not applicable response to this question as one of the respondents is in receipt of support from adults services

Question 3. Could you explain why you answered yes or No to Q2?

Of the 23 young people responding yes to question 2 four did not answer this question. The remaining 19 responses overwhelmingly responded that they had been given enough support from their YPA and/or had enough experience of living independently to be confident that they could manage without support.

Comments included:-

"because I was helped with problems regarding budgeting and independence skill"

"Been living independently for 5 years with limited support"

"Had help and support when required from PA. PA always available when needed"

"living on my own with no problems for a year and a half now"

"got my own accommodation, nearly fully furnished, benefits sorted"

"I have been living independently since my 18th birthday and I am 22 this year"

"I have a flat of my own"

"received a lot of financial and emotional support through my university course"

" have already lived independently for 3 years"

"helped get on council list, setting up home grant and interviews for housing"

"lots of support and advise"

The four young people answering no to question 2 commented:-

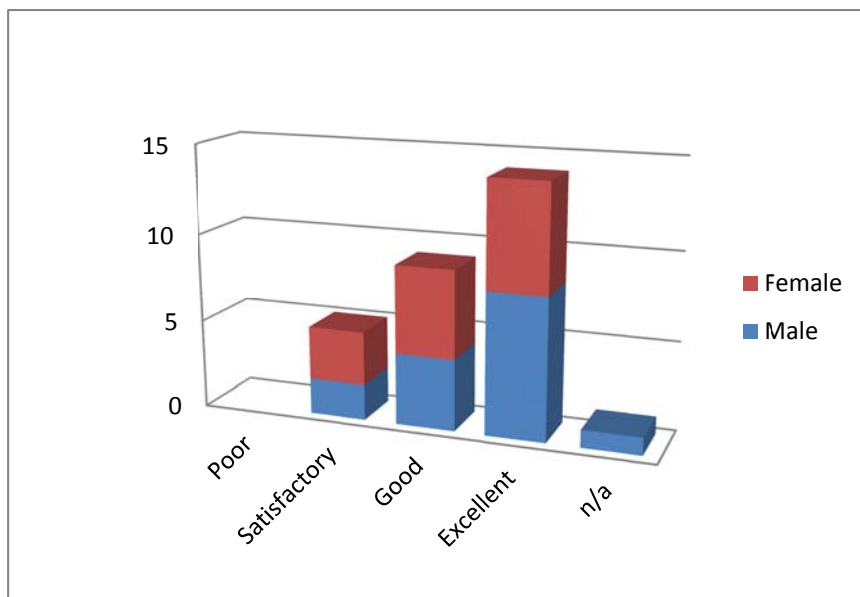
"need weekly/daily timetable to remind me of appointments, suffers memory loss, drink alcohol every day."

"I have been left to make myself independent. I feel that I could have been offered more support. Because I was already independent I have been left to manage"

"I still struggle to manage to cook, clean, budget and manage my friendships" (this young person was in receipt of support from adult services)

"because I don't think I can cope without them"

Question 4: On a scale of 1 to 4 could you mark us on the service you received?



Question 5: When a young person joins the service what information should they be given about the organisation?

12 young people responding to this question made comments about needing information about the service.

Their comments include:-

- “what support they will receive”
- “information about the service”
- “information about leaving care service we offer”
- “what they will be supported with and how. Information about leaving care”
- “what the service can offers, what they do”

Three respondents felt that it was important that information was given about the length of time the service would be available

Two further respondents felt it important to receive information about the role of the PA

Others would like to see information provided about other specific services including:-

- Counselling
- Volunteer services
- Finance
- Housing
- Independent skills

One comment "I would have liked more information about services near to where I live" highlighted the challenge faced by the team when providing services to young people in other areas of the country.

Question 6: Was there anything you achieved while working with Wolverhampton Leaving Care Services/LAC Transitions Team?

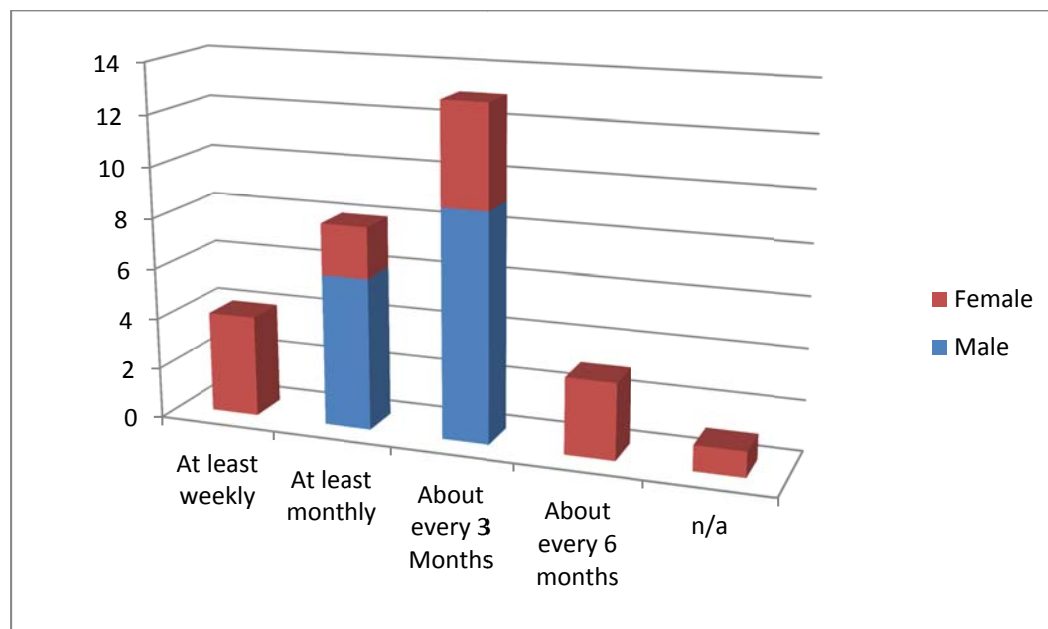
9 respondents were proud to have achieved living independently
10 were proud of their achievements in education, employment and training
2 were proud of obtaining a driving qualification
2 were proud of their children

Other comments made include:

"ability to be more outspoken"
"cooking sessions"
" I got off hard drugs and I feel I have turned my life around"
"my chair"

Unfortunately 7 people didn't feel that they has achieved anything
3 people didn't respond to this question

Question 7: How much contact did you have with the service?



This response provides evidence that most young people where being seen at least within the statutory minimum period required.

Question 8: Do you have any regrets on things you did not follow through with?

14 young people reported having no regrets
7 reported regretting that they had not continued with their education/employment
3 young people reported regretting not taking better advantage of the advice and support available
1 regretted not complaining when they had a poor PA.
2 regretted not following up their contact with their siblings/child
2 young people made no response.

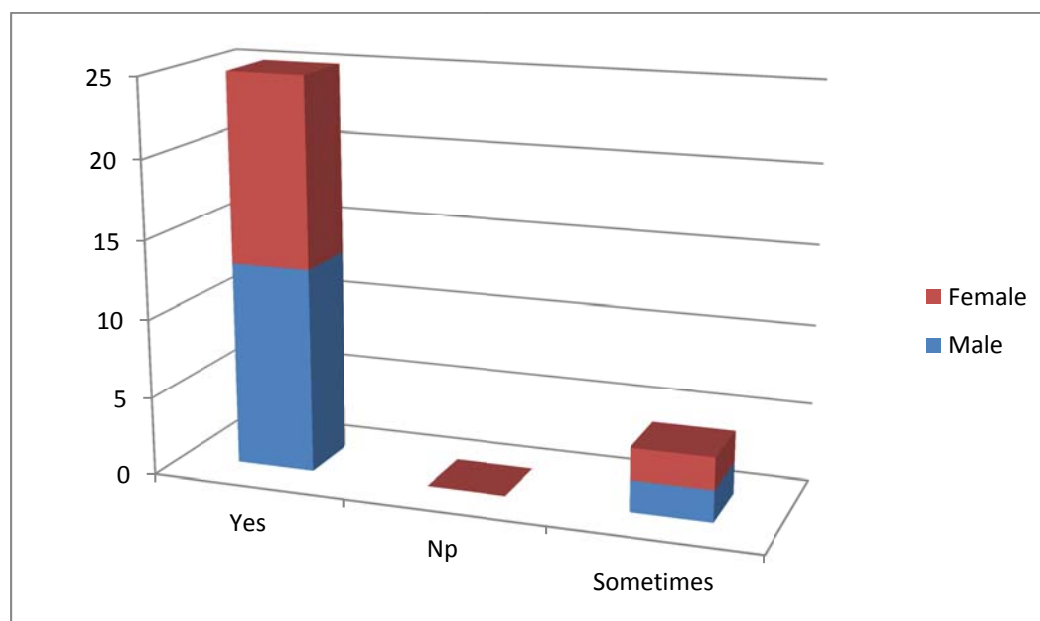
Question 9: Can you tell me who or what helped you most while you had this service?

24 respondents reported that their Personal Advisor had helped them most
3 respondents reported that they had been helped most by a manager in the service, 3 by the financial support they had been given and 4 reported the support with housing /accommodation to have helped them most.

Other comments include:-

"Everyone who worked with me"
"having someone to talk to"
"foster carer"
"the people who helped me most was subs"

Question 10: Did you feel that you could go to your YPA for help and support?



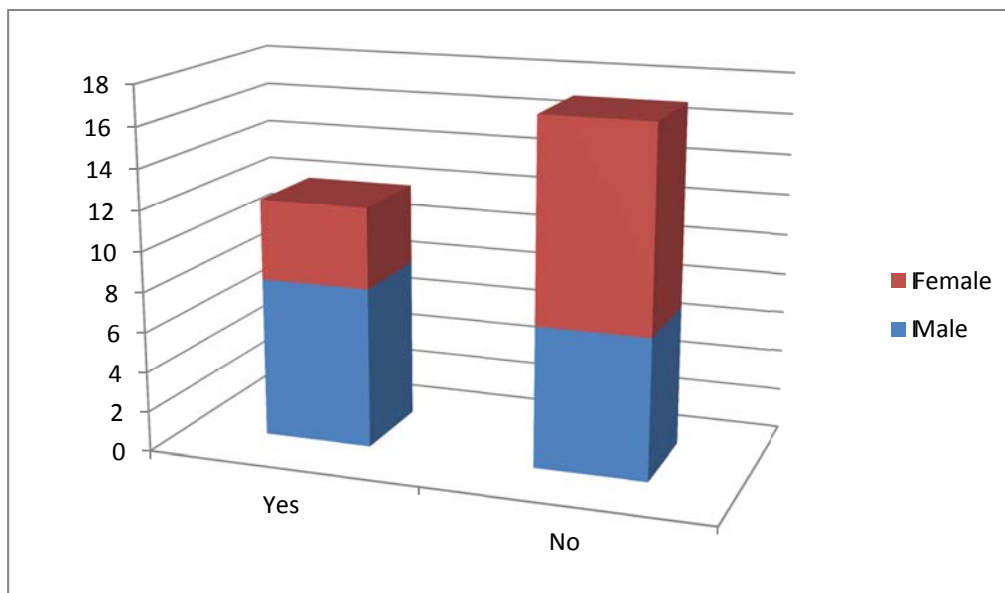
Question 11: Can you give me examples when your YPA helped or supported you?

23 respondents reported getting help with accommodation, 19 with finance/benefits, 14 reported being supported to obtain education, employment or training, 6 commented on receiving help around parenting issues including managing meetings when there have been some concerns about their parenting and 9 reported that they were helped by their PA being available/listening to them/giving advice and support.

Question 12: What are your future goals?

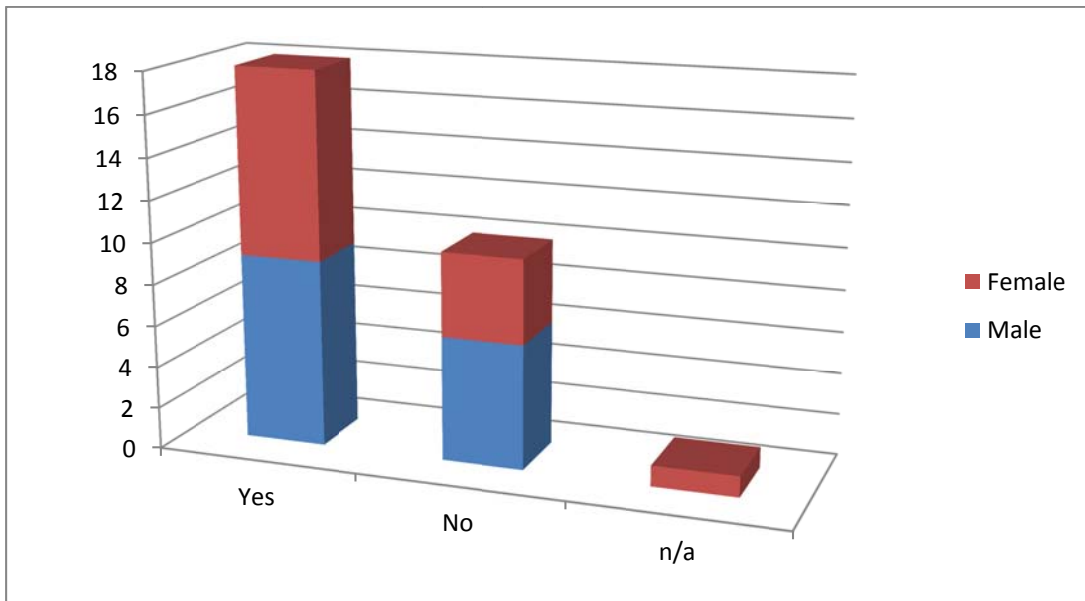
17 responded had goals around employment. They wanted to get a job or where they were in work to get a better job. 8 young people were aiming to return to education and 15 had aspiration around relationships. They reported wanting to get married, wanting to start a family or have more children, wanting to rebuild their family relationships and wanting to keep away from poor friends. 4 young people reported having aspirations to travel and 9 had aspirations about where they lived. Some reported that they wanted to own their own home, others that they wanted to move home. Three respondents reported that they just wanted to enjoy life/be happy and three reported not having any goals or to be just taking life a day at a time. One young person wants to publish a book and another to secure funding to own their own Care Home.

Question 13: Are you currently in Employment, Training or Education?

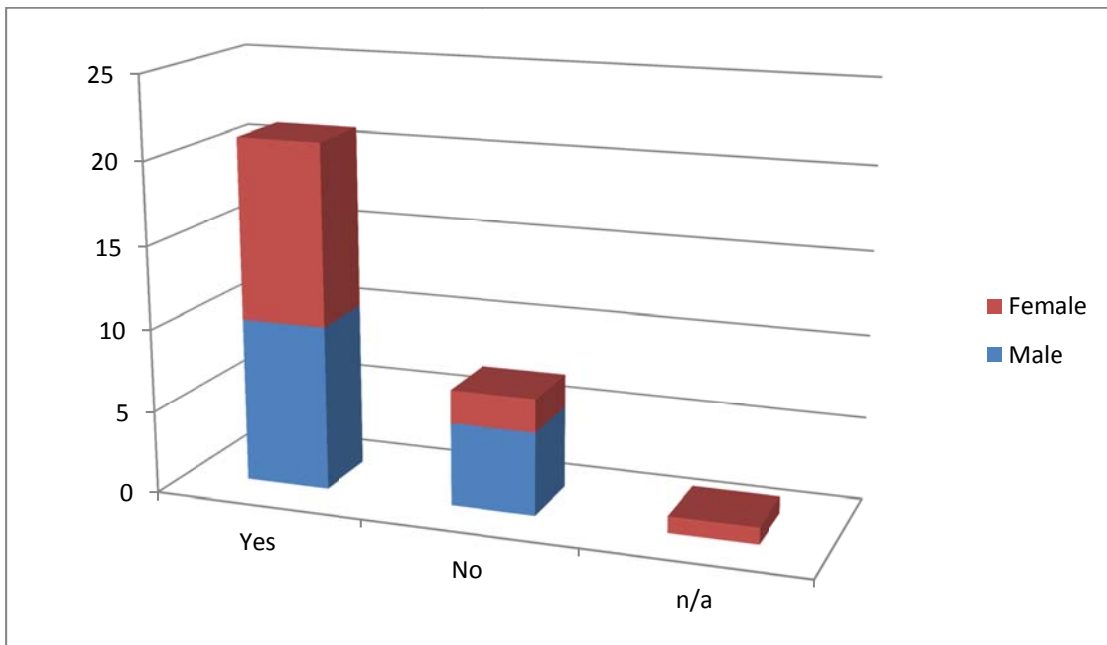


This is a concerning response and one which indicates that further work is needed in this area. It is however a challenging area to influence as research highlights Care Leavers attitudes about education, employment and training are strongly influenced by their pre-care experiences.

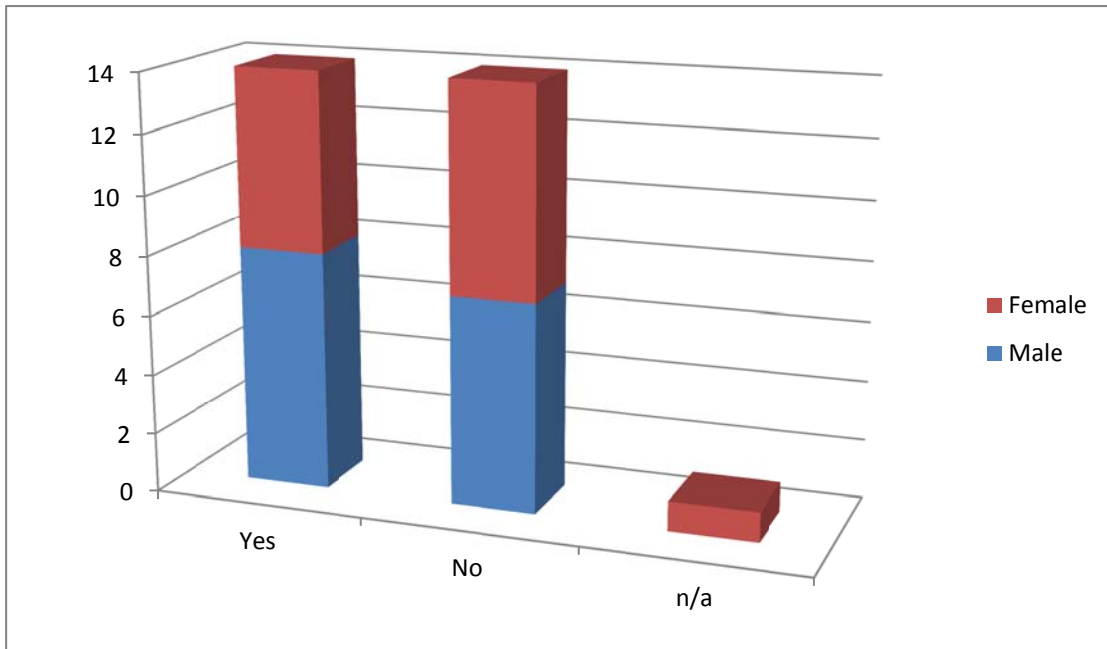
Question 14a: Are you currently in contact with one or both of your parents?



Question 14b: Are you currently in contact with one or all of your brothers and sisters?



Question 14c: Are you currently in contact with anyone else in your family?



Question 15: Do you think you are currently living in suitable accommodation?

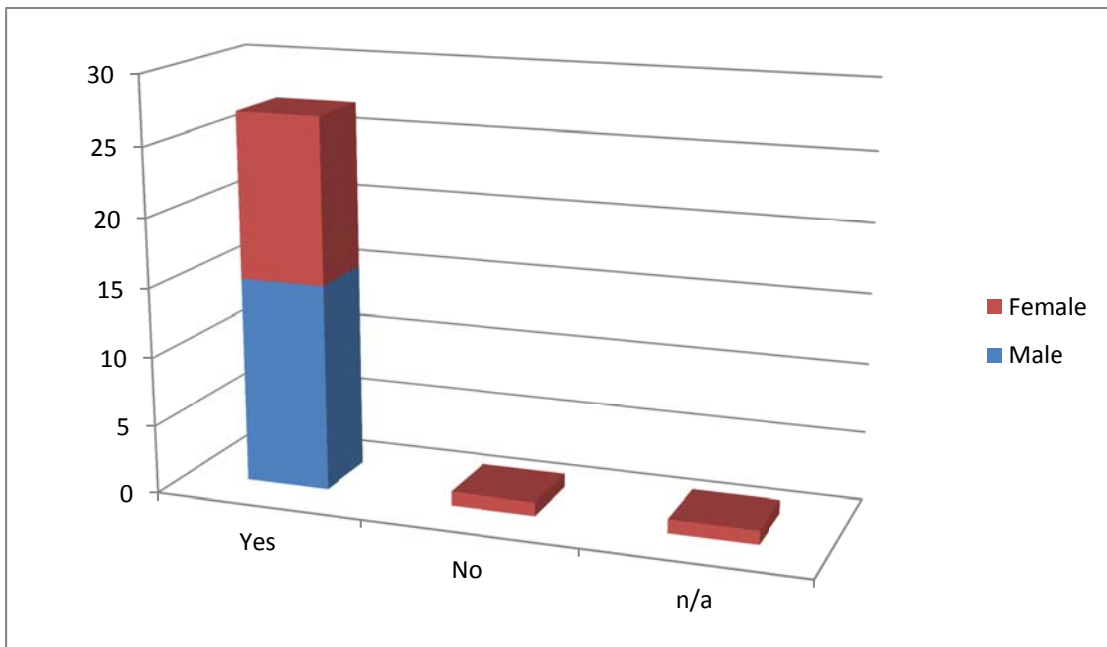
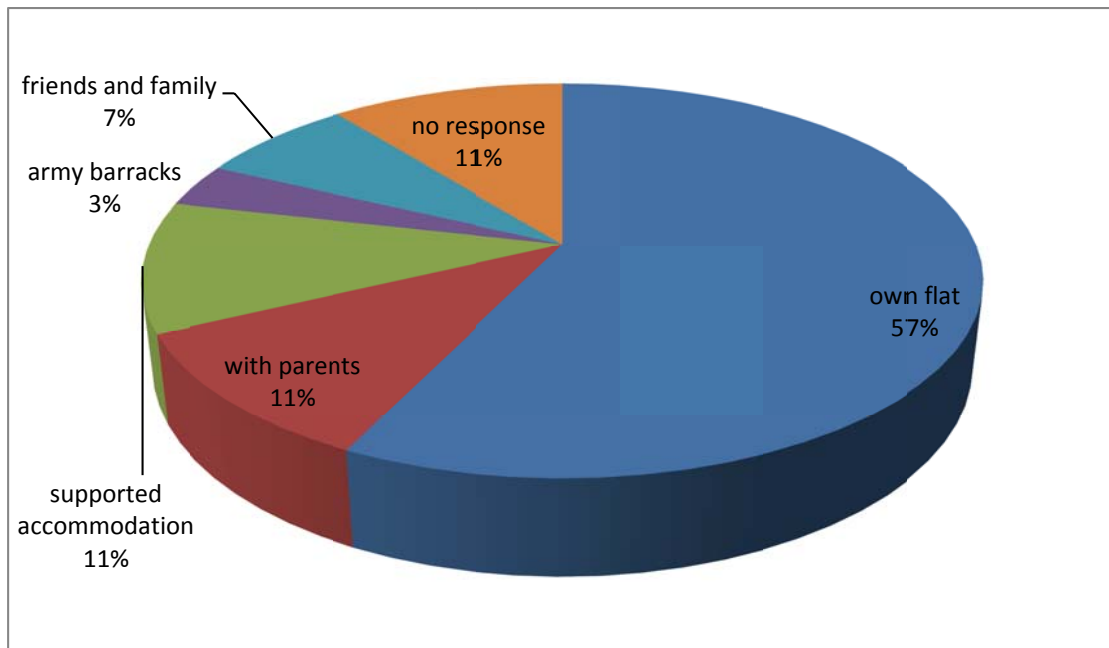


Chart show where respondents reported they were living:



Question 16: Is there anything else you would like to share about your time with us?

Comments made include:

" I feel that most of my support came from subs who helped me at a very traumatic time. They supported me through court case. I did not have support from Leaving Care"

"Thank Leaving care for help and support"

"I enjoyed it"

"I would like access to records"

"I really enjoyed my time with leaving care it's a really good service for young people like me"

"it has been good. In the future PA's to do more with Yong people"

"Thank you"

"appreciate the help and support I received. Couldn't have coped without your help"

"had highs and lows but enjoyed my time"

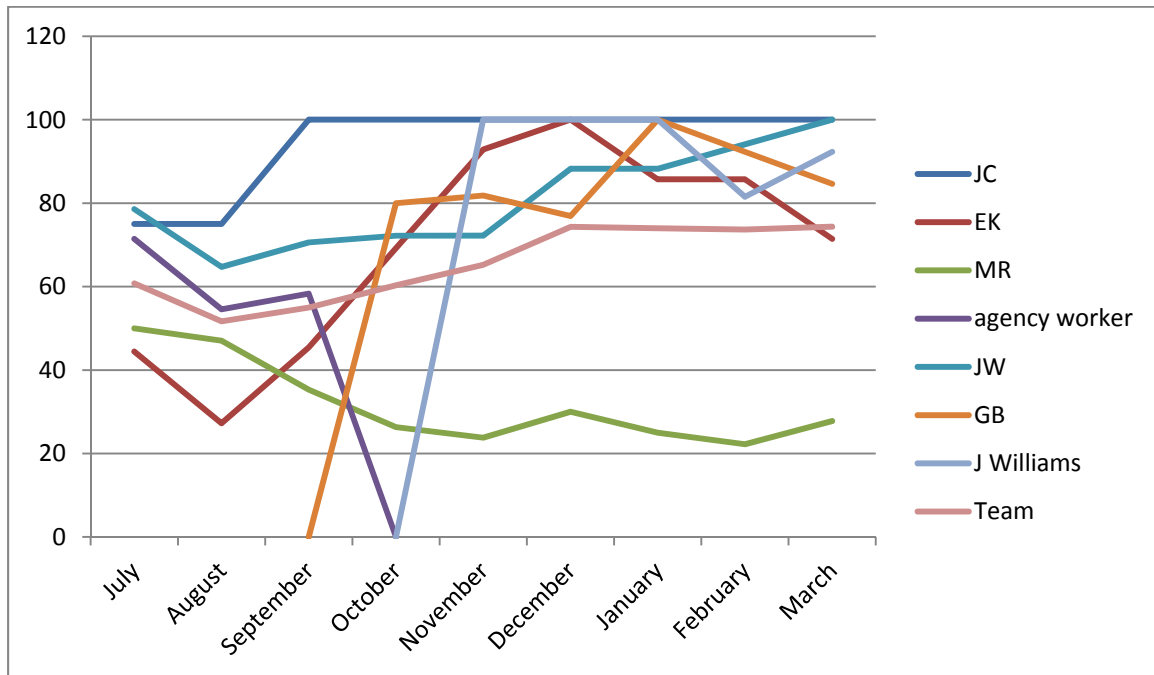
"Thank the service for help and support during the last 5 years"

"I'm happy and o.k."

"I want to know if my case will be re-opened and if I will receive support when returning to uni"

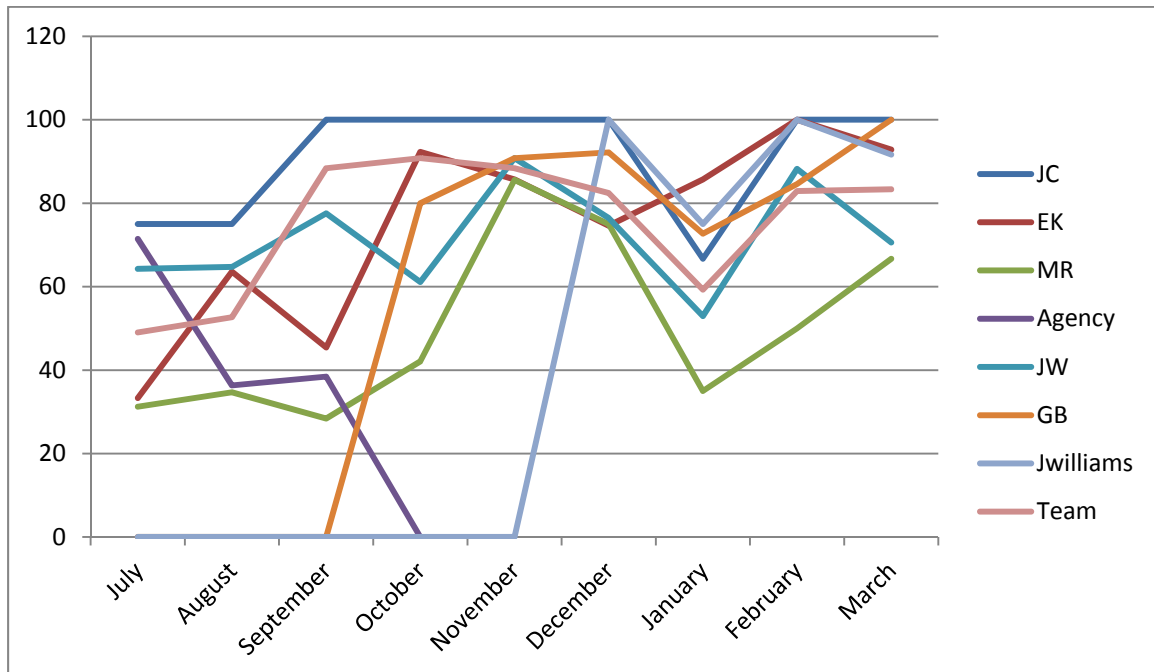
**Management
Information
report
LAC Transitions
Team
July 2012-March
2013**

Graph 1: Current LAC with status of latest Care Plan



This table does demonstrate some incremental improvement but we are clearly far from achieving the 100% target required. We are taking action to address this.

Graph 2 Current LAC Visit



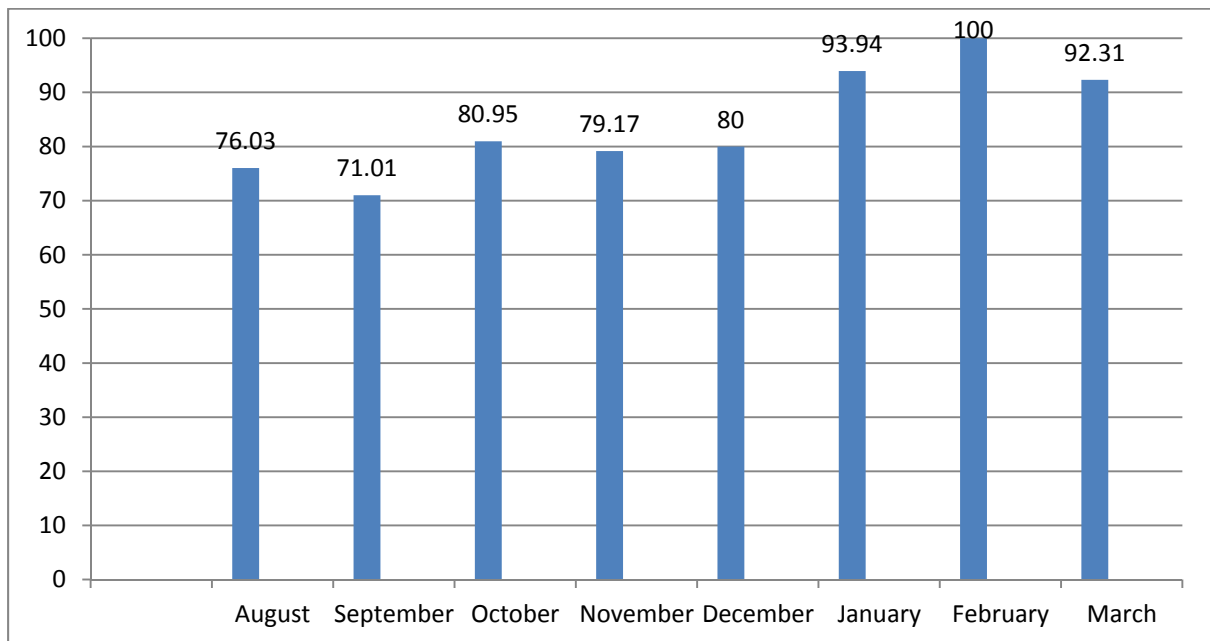
A number of factors led to the initial poor recording of statutory visits including:

- Young People transferring without a current statutory visit having been recorded.
- Social Workers being unfamiliar with recording systems as they were either NQSW's or had been out of front line practice for some time.
- Social Workers were prioritising getting to know the young people on their caseloads, and responding to their needs which is challenging when receiving so many new transfers at one time.
- Social Workers had to read the Children's files to understand their background.

I am confident that the children and young people were being visited within statutory timescales during this period but equally accept that lack of recording is not an acceptable excuse for poor performance in this area.

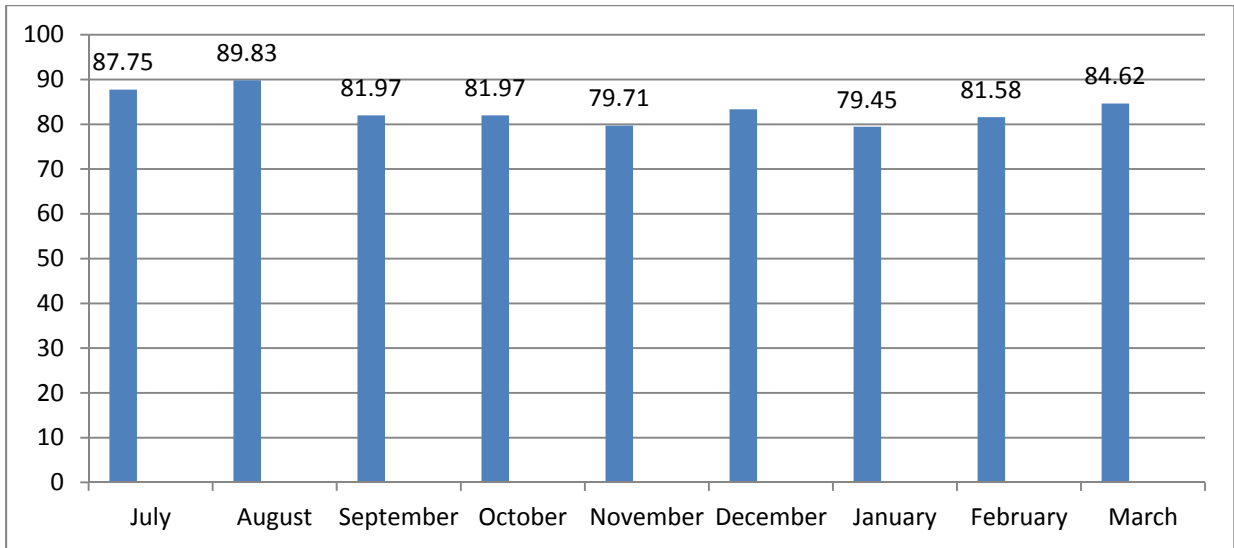
The Social Workers are generally responding to the message that improvement is needed in this area. Unfortunately with such a small team of workers a drop in performance by one worker has a significant impact upon the overall team performance.

Graph 3: Personal Education Plans (PEPS)



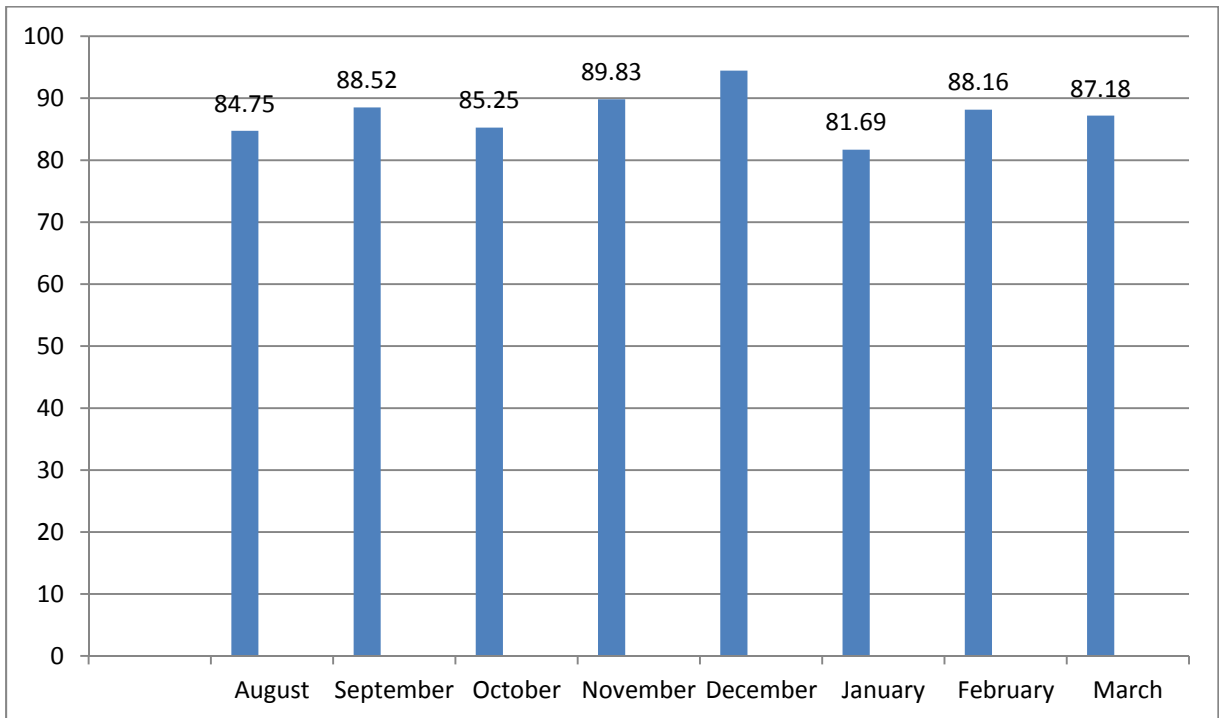
Health Data:

Graph 4: LAC with dental checks completed in timescales.



Performance in this area has remained fairly consistent over the year. Given the age of the young people we are working with some, particularly the 16+ 17 year olds are resistant or refuse to attend the dentists

Graph 5: LAC With Health Assessments completed in timescales.



There are some challenges to completing all health assessments in timescales. These include:-

- Some young people refuse to attend their health assessment appointments
- Where young people are placed out of city there are often delays in the paperwork being sent back and therefore delays in recording that the health assessment has taken place which can make it appear for some time that the Health assessment is out of timescale even when it has been completed within their timescales.
- Where young people are in custody it can be difficult to identify who is responsible for undertaking the health assessment.

Progress made in respect of collecting a broader range of management information.

Work is being undertaken to collect and collate data from Care First to show that Personal Advisors are completing their visits and pathway plans in accordance with the minimum statutory requirements. This should be available in the next financial year.

We have also added classifications to record:

- The leaving care status of the young person
- Their EET status
- Whether or not the team remain in touch with them
- The type of accommodation Care Leavers are living in
- Whether or not the Care Leaver's accommodation is suitable

The leaving care status and in touch classification will be added on or around the young person's 16th birthday. The accommodation and suitability of accommodation classification when they move into non-regulated accommodation e.g. supported accommodation and the EET classification as they start year 12.