Families r First Programme
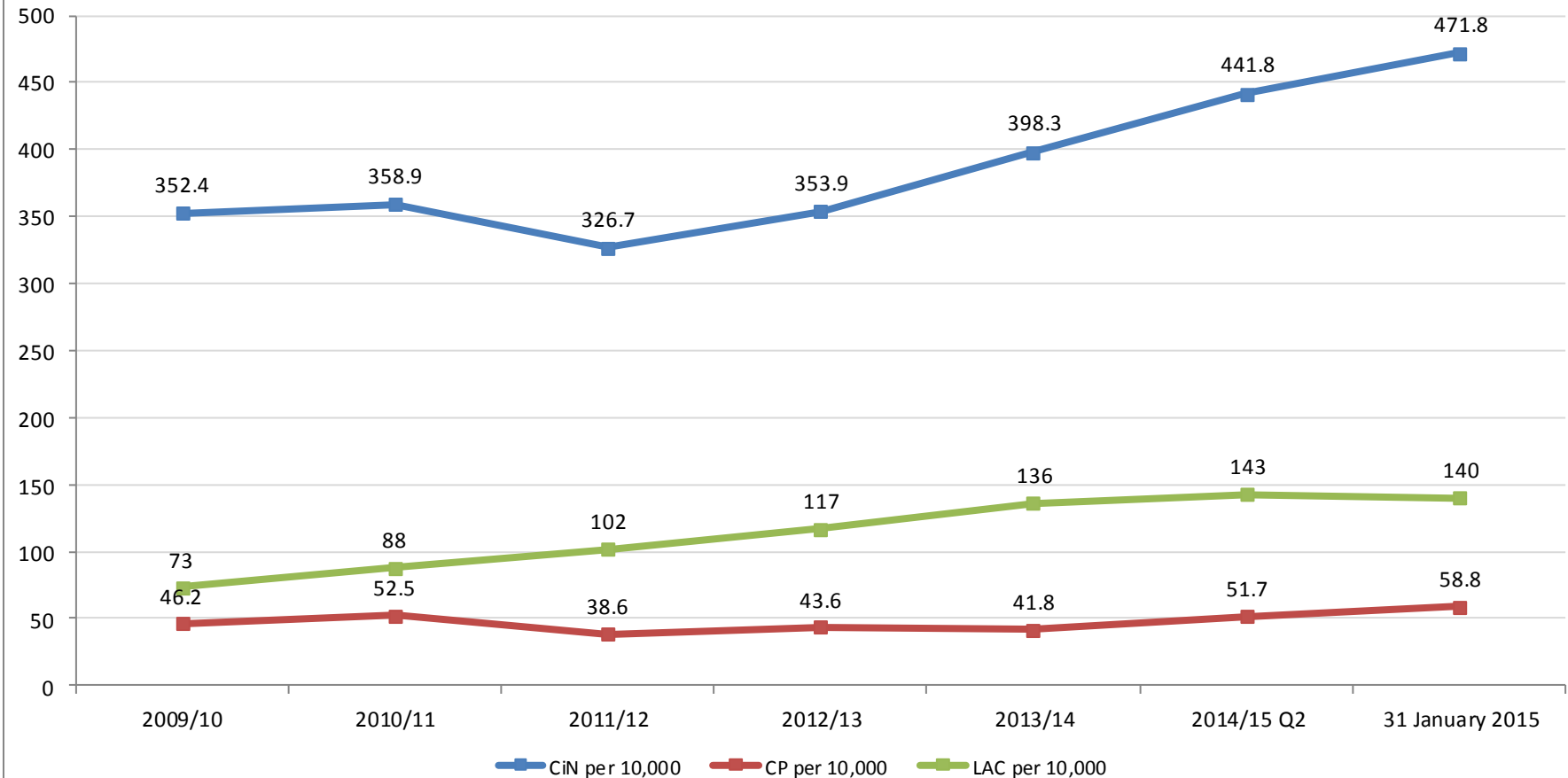## *The Current Picture*

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Coverage of this presentation
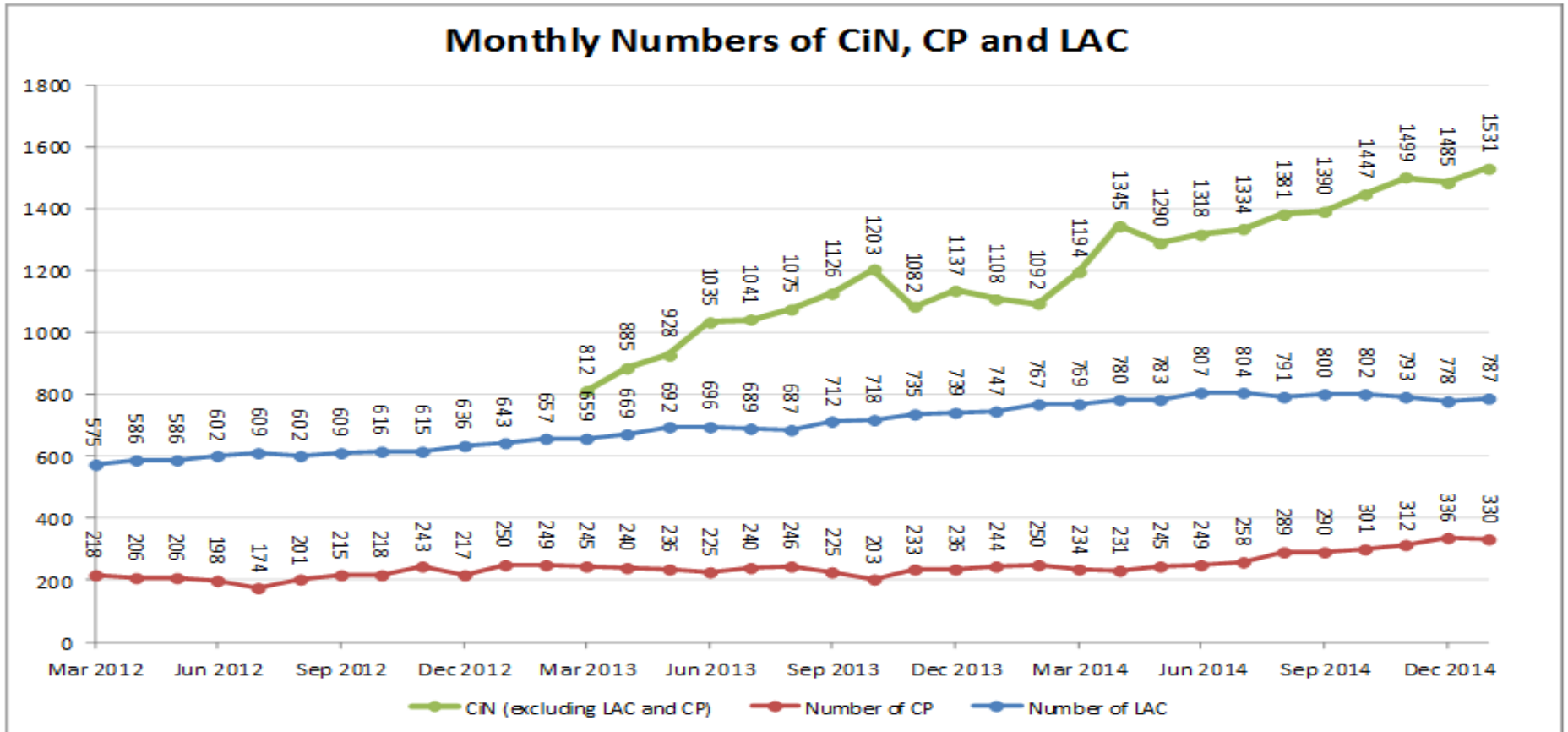
- LAC: the current position
- Understanding our Looked After Children
- Success within the programme work streams
- Future direction

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CHILDREN'S SOLIAL CARE

CiN, CP and LAC numbers per 10,000 population

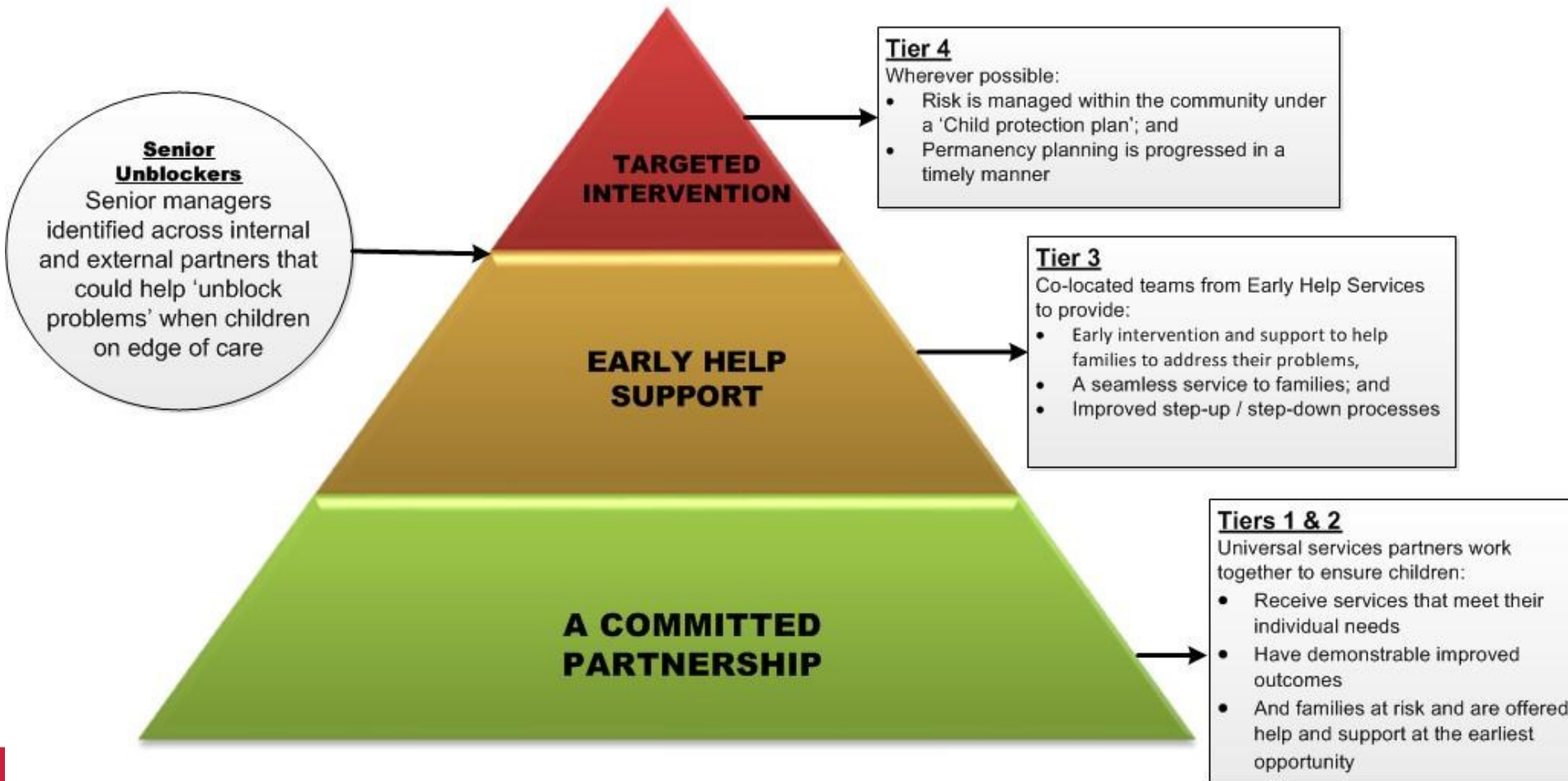|	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 Q2	31 January 2015
CiN per 10,000	352.4	358.9	326.7	353.9	398.3	441.8	471.8
CP per 10,000	46.2	52.5	38.6	43.6	41.8	51.7	58.8
LAC per 10,000	73	88	102	117	136	143	140

2014/15 Data

Monthly Numbers of CiN, CP and LAC

LAC: Current position

- Growth in LAC numbers (benchmarked as rates per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17) for latest available financial year for which we have comparators (13/14 FY):

  Wolverhampton: **136** per 10,000 vs 60 per 10,000 (England), 73 per 10,000 (West Midlands), 102 per 10,000 (Comparator Average)

- LAC rates fluctuate, but most recent quarter (Q3 14/15 FY), the rate was **139** per 10,000 0-17 year olds
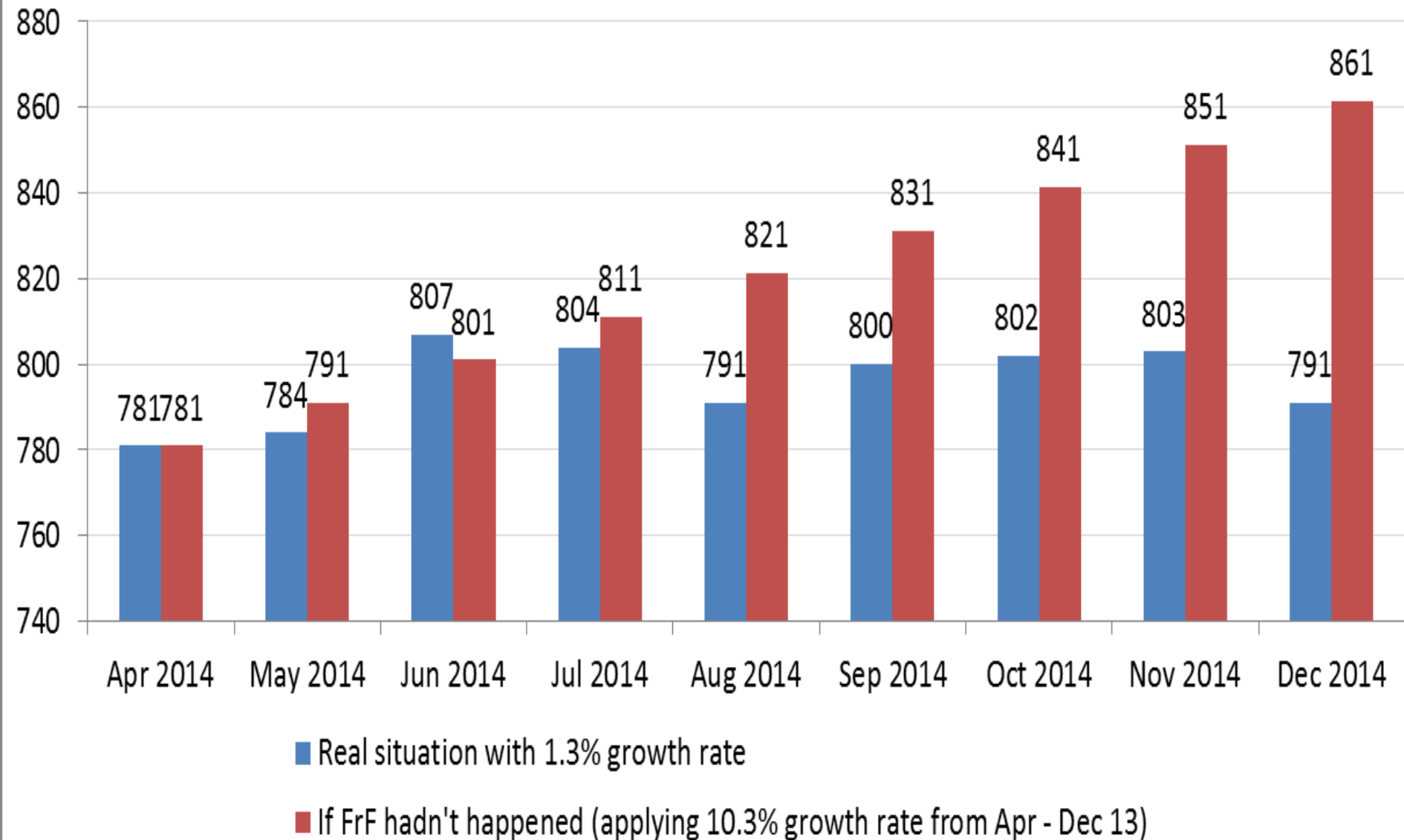
FAMILIES 'R' FIRST PROGRAMME

Senior Unblockers
Senior managers identified across internal and external partners that could help 'unblock problems' when children on edge of care

TARGETED INTERVENTION

EARLY HELP SUPPORT

A COMMITTED PARTNERSHIP

Tier 4
Wherever possible:
- Risk is managed within the community under a 'Child protection plan'; and
- Permanency planning is progressed in a timely manner

Tier 3
Co-located teams from Early Help Services to provide:
- Early intervention and support to help families to address their problems,
- A seamless service to families; and
- Improved step-up / step-down processes

Tiers 1 & 2
Universal services partners work together to ensure children:
- Receive services that meet their individual needs
- Have demonstrable improved outcomes
- And families at risk and are offered help and support at the earliest opportunity

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The impact of Families r First

- Despite the LAC numbers not yet falling against projections, the numbers have at least begun to stabilise

- The rate of increase between April and December 2014 was 1.3%; for the same time period in 2013, it was 10.3%

- From April 2014 to December 2014, there was a net gain of 10 children in care, but if the rate increase of 10.3% from the same time in 2013 applied, the net gain would have been 80 children in care

- Therefore, the reduction in the rate of increase meant 70 fewer children in care than if FrF hadn't happened

Impact of FrF on LAC numbers by month
(based on growth rates)

Real situation with 1.3% growth rate

If FrF hadn't happened (applying 10.3% growth rate from Apr - Dec 13)

The intelligence programme

To reach the position we want to, we need a nuanced understanding of who the LAC cohort are exactly…

- **Pathways into and out of LAC**

- **Overall demography of the LAC cohort**

- **Characteristics / circumstantial risk factors**

- **Partnerships and systems of reporting**

Reporting cycles on FrF

- **Regular reporting at the start of each month for the starts and ends in the preceding 3 months, which gives an indication how many children come and go, why they are admitted to care, and why they leave, along with demographic information.**

- **In the report from 2nd March, the trends for the preceding 3 months were as follows:**

Month	Starts	Ends	Net Churn (S minus E)
December	17	31	-14
January	22	13	9
February	12	18	-6
Grand Total	51	62	-11

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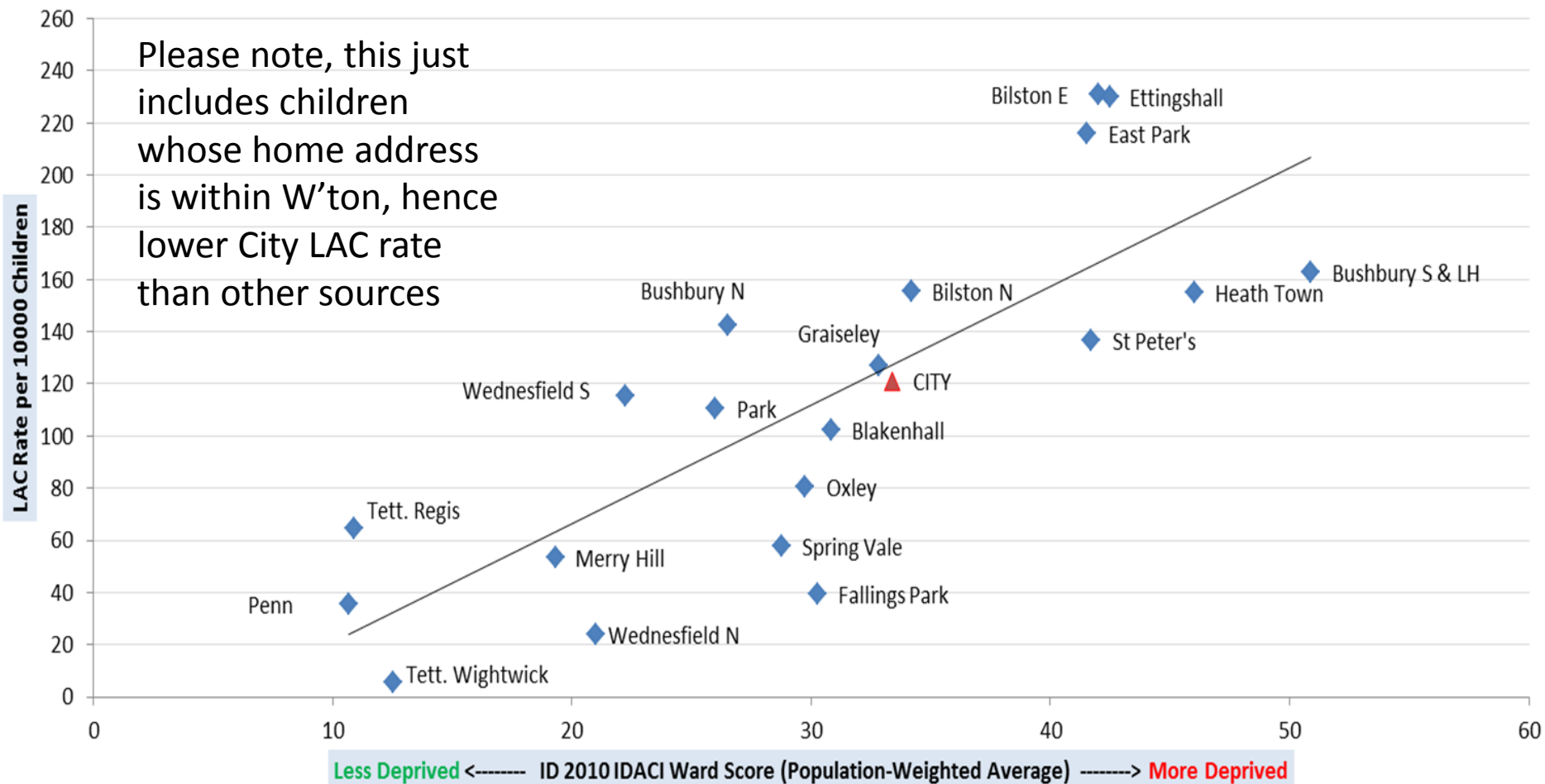# Characteristics of LAC cohort - 02/03/15

- 781 LAC as of 02/03/15

- 272 children and young people looked after but in placements with no or minimal placement cost (defined as between £0 - £100 per week).

- 48 young people in residential care (children's home inside or outside the local authority boundary)

- 87 on an interim care order ("in proceedings")

- 478 on a full care order

- 113 on a placement order

- 100 are accommodated as an s20

Specialist research around LAC

- **Strong correspondence between a ward having a lot of income-deprived children and a high LAC rate**

Correlations - LAC Rates & Child Deprivation (2nd March 2015)

$y = 4.5554x - 24.793$
$R^2 = 0.6274$

Please note, this just includes children whose home address is within W'ton, hence lower City LAC rate than other sources

LAC Rate per 10000 Children

Less Deprived <-------- ID 2010 IDACI Ward Score (Population-Weighted Average) --------> More Deprived

Labelled points: Bilston E, Ettingshall, East Park, Bushbury S & LH, Bushbury N, Bilston N, Heath Town, Graiseley, St Peter's, CITY, Wednesfield S, Park, Blakenhall, Oxley, Tett. Regis, Merry Hill, Spring Vale, Penn, Fallings Park, Wednesfield N, Tett. Wightwick

Demography of LAC cohort - 23/02/15

- **Of the 784 LAC as of 23/02/15, 780 had parental data containing their parents' date of birth, allowing analysis of age of parent when children first became LAC**

- **27.1% of LAC had at least 1 parent aged under 25; 15.6% of LAC had all known parents aged under 25**

Parents	Number of LAC	%age of 780 LAC children	% of LAC known beforehand: Journey Into Care (either CiN or CP)
0 of 1 known parents under 25	177	22.7	76.3
0 of 2 known parents under 25	392	50.3	73.0
1 of 1 known parents under 25	69	8.8	65.2
1 of 2 known parents under 25	89	11.4	73.0
2 of 2 known parents under 25	53	6.8	79.2
Grand Total	**780**	**100.0**	**73.5**

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Risk factors of LAC cohort - 23/02/15 (1)

- **Category of need can be used to see if some admissions types are more common with young parents**

- **Category of need percentages for the 3 biggest groups (abuse or neglect, family dysfunction, and family in acute stress) are similar regardless of parental age**

Category of Need	LAC	% group	Children with all known parents aged 25+	% group	Child with at least 1 parent under 25	% group
Absent Parenting	12	1.5	8	1.4	4	1.9
Abuse or Neglect	586	75.1	428	75.2	158	74.9
Disability	6	0.8	6	1.1	0	0.0
Family Dysfunction	93	11.9	68	12.0	25	11.8
Family in Acute Stress	60	7.7	40	7.0	20	9.4
Parental Illness or Disability	10	1.3	7	1.2	3	1.4
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	13	1.7	12	2.1	1	0.5
Grand Total	**780**	**100.0**	**569**	**100.0**	**211**	**100.0**

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Risk factors of LAC cohort - 23/02/15 (2)

- **Although the categories of need for LAC do not differ markedly based on parental age, there are other differences**

- **The table below demonstrates that, for the 780 LAC where parental age was available, on average younger parents have a much shorter time between birth of their child and the child being taken into care**

Parents	Average days between birth & coming into care	Year, Months, Days
0 of 1 known parents under 25	2539	6 years 11 months and 19 days
0 of 2 known parents under 25	2521	6 years 11 months and 1 days
1 of 1 known parents under 25	1924	5 years 3 months and 9 days
1 of 2 known parents under 25	891	2 years 5 months and 11 days
2 of 2 known parents under 25	830	2 years 3 months and 10 days
Grand Total	**2172**	**5 years 11 months and 17 days**

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Work Stream 1:
A Committed Partnership

- **Pathway To Support:**
  - Successful in obtaining £789,000 Transformational Challenge Funds
  - Multi-agency project focussing on early triggers to identify child's needs from the Adult Sector provision.
  - Identify single points of contact to unblock problems for families.

- **Vulnerable woman:**
  - LARC (long acting reversible contraception) and counselling for woman repeatedly having children removed from their care. Health funded project

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Work Stream 1:
A Committed Partnership

- **Joint Agency Workshops:**
  - Workshops with the police and social workers to develop partnerships and collaboration in decision making

- **Triage model of contact:**
  - Learning from neighbours models of multi-agency front doors

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Work Stream 2: Early Help Support

- **Co-location and collaborative working**
  - Staff in place and working together
  - Better understanding of thresholds
  - Shared skills development on-going

- **Early Help Assessments**
  - Increasingly used as a tool to deliver a model of working which keeps the child at the centre of a multi-agency team

- **Supporting kinship carers where substance misuse is an issue:** Joint working with Aquarius

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Work Stream 3: Targeted Intervention

- **Stabilisation of LAC numbers**
  - Cohorts of LAC and review panels
  - Tracking individual and groups of children

- **Admission to Care**
  - Clear plans and outcomes for children
  - Appropriate legal intervention

- **Intensive Family Support**
  - Intensive Family Support for 0-5
  - Supporting Adolescents in Families (SAIF)

- **Business intelligence**
  - Understanding our LAC children

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Work Stream 3 continued

- **Placement Sufficiency**
    - Reviewing the cost of placements
    - Commissioning strategy
    - Value for money
    - Realistic expectations

- **Review of Family Support**
    - Emphasis on early help
    - Providing a crisis service

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Next Steps

- **Reviewing 'Whole system' and in particular effectiveness of Early Help**

- **Audit of new LAC**

- **Continued monitoring and tracking of all LAC**

- **Driving forward projects**

QUESTIONS?

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