

# Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Children & Families Service

## Sufficiency Statement for Children in our Care and Care Leavers 2021 - 2024



## Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

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# 1. The Purpose of the Strategy

This Sufficiency Statement for Children in our Care and Care Leavers 2021 – 2024 sets out how Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council as Corporate Parent, meets its statutory Sufficiency Duty as laid down in Section 22G of the Children Act 1989. The strategy draws on statutory guidance on Securing Sufficient Accommodation for Looked After Children (DfE 2010), the Children Act 2004, the Children Leaving Care Act 2000 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The strategy describes how Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council will meet the current and future placement needs of Children in our Care (CiOC) and care leavers. It builds on existing duties in law to promote and safeguard the welfare and well-being of children and high-quality care planning. The strategy provides an update on progress in delivering the Children in our Care and Care Leavers Placement Sufficient Strategy 2019 and details current and planned actions to meet placement sufficiency over the next four years in line with the demographic profile of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council population.

## 2. Our Aspirations and Values

For most children and young people, the best place to live and grow up is with their birth family. For many reasons, this is not possible for some children, and they need to be looked after by the local authority. In our role as Corporate Parent, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council are fully committed to ensuring that Children in our Care and Young People are not only safeguarded from harm but have a good experience in care that promotes better outcomes in all aspects of their lives. Our aspiration is for every Child in Our Care and Care Leaver of Redcar and Cleveland to:

- Experience high quality care and stable relationships.
- Be nurtured and grow up with a sense of identity and belonging.
- Feel their needs are given the highest priority and that they are valued and cared about not just cared for.
- Be provided with opportunities and support to achieve their full potential.
- Achieve a successful transition to adulthood.

Securing the right placement, in the right place, at the right time is key to achieving better outcomes for our children and young people. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council therefore need to do all that we can to ensure that children of the Borough have access to sufficient high quality and varied placements available to meet their needs. Our Aspirations link to our Values for Children and Families Service and remain at the heart of all we do.



# Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council Children and Families Service

## Our Vision

Thriving children,  
fulfilling their dreams.

## Our Mission

To work in partnership to  
deliver excellence for  
children and families.

## Our Values

### Child-Centred



Offering the compassion and patience we would expect for our own child; supporting them to flourish and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

Encouraging and empowering children to share their voice; listening and respecting their thoughts, feelings and opinions.

Sticking with children, especially when things are most worrying.

### Respectful



Valuing, trusting and supporting each other to achieve the best for our children and families.

Embracing our diversity and differences, not only in our children and families but across our relationships with colleagues and partners.

Communicating openly and honestly so that everything we do is fair, transparent and understood.

### Creative



Being bold and ambitious, embracing change and looking for better ways to deliver our services.

Building and sharing new skills to create services that suit the needs of each child and family.

Striving for excellence and not just doing what we've always done if it isn't getting the results our children deserve.



Thriving children, fulfilling their dreams.

### 3. Scope of the Strategy

This strategy covers the full breadth of placements that the council either provides or commissions for Children in our Care and Care Leavers aged 0 to 25. It also covers our Staying Put arrangements which allow our young people the opportunity to remain with their foster carers in a nurturing family environment post 18.

### 4. Current Placements for Redcar and Cleveland Children

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council will in the 2021/22 financial year spend some £12,000,000 on placements for children and young people who are in our care. There are a range of placement types, and this is necessary to ensure sufficiency and range to meet the needs of our children.

#### **Redcar and Cleveland Fostering Service**

The Redcar and Cleveland Fostering Service provides a range of placements for Children in our Care and Care Leavers. Where placements are made outside of the Local Authority area, support and resources are provided to maintain children within their local school, support children to participate in leisure activities and socialise with their friends, when it is in the best interests of the child.

The types of placements that are offered by our in-house team include:

- Short term placements offering temporary care for children and young people. This can last from a few weeks to, possibly, many months. Children may be returned home, move on to a long-term placement, including adoption or into independent living.
- Long-term fostering placements for children and young people for whom the decision has been made that they will not return to live with their own families. Long term fostering is an alternative where adoption or special guardianship is not appropriate. Foster carers will commit to care for and support children and young people on a long-term basis until they are ready to move to independence.
- Support Care for families at times of stress so their parents and young people can have 'time out' from the pressures at home. Support carers work closely with parents and young people to help them resolve the difficulties they are experiencing. Support care can be offered for day-care, weekends, or overnights during the week, but this is flexible and is tailored around the needs of the young person and their family.
- Short-Break Care for families with children and young people who have a disability. Children are given opportunities to become more independent and to have new

experiences. It gives them the chance to form new friendships outside of their family and, at the same time, their families get a break from caring and a chance to recharge their batteries.

- Family and Friends (Connected Persons) Care – the provision of care by a relative other than a birth parent, or by a friend or other person connected to the child. Family and Friends Care provides stability, continuity of experience, shared culture, and maintenance of relationships, providing a sense of emotional security to young people when they cannot live with their birth parents.

### **Independent Fostering Agencies**

Where the needs of a child or young person cannot be met within our own in-house fostering service, or where we lack the capacity, we will commission placements from Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA).

Over recent years there had been a steady increase in the number of IFA placements purchased, this has now reduced. Due to the high cost and often the IFA placements being out of Borough, our aim was to reverse the use of IFA by implementing targeted recruitment campaigns for in-house foster carers that can meet a variety of need. We now rely less on IFA placements following the successful recruitment of new in-house foster carers.

The Current Tees Valley Fostering Consortium, comprising five local authorities, is responsible for the commissioning of independent provision of placements within the Tees Valley region. Placements may therefore be made within any of the Tees Valley authority areas or indeed outside these areas if the placement is suitable and identified as being in the best interests of the child. IFA providers are expected to ensure that, as with in-house providers, children are enabled and supported to access their local schools and maintain their social networks.

Redcar and Cleveland Council are working as Lead Council with Newcastle, in collaboration with the 12 Northeast councils, to procure a new regional solution from July 2022 for IFA providers.

### **Residential Placements**

In 2011, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council ceased to offer internally run residential care. Since then, our residential placements have been commissioned from the independent sector. These placements are only commissioned after extensive multi-agency collaboration, and it is agreed that no suitable cost-effective internal provision is available. We have found that as a provider led market there are gaps in provision and price has continued to rise disproportionately across placements made. In 2022 we are to offer our own residential placements through our No Wrong Door (NWD) project

With other Tees Valley authorities, we have commissioned a framework of providers and we are actively supporting the market to increase local capacity. In 2022 the Council will develop a new regional solution which will include Children's Residential Placements, this framework is in collaboration with the other 11 local authorities and health counterparts within the Northeast to work jointly with providers to develop the market and increase sufficiency.

However, for those children who require residential care and education, there is very low density of provision within the Northeast, especially for young people with complex needs. Some local authorities are entering into partnership with independent providers to commission residential care with education and Redcar & Cleveland will capitalise on any opportunity this may offer. Currently the local authority commissions placements in residential schools on a need basis agreed with partners through the Commissioned Placements Panel.

Placements are first advertised through the NE12 Framework which includes, as part of the framework, Special Educational Needs placements. Once a child or young person has been matched with the most appropriate provision an individual award is made to the provider. This approach ensures that individual children's needs are at the forefront of the commissioning process. The framework will also allow for parental preference to be considered. Where no match can be found through the framework, the Council must then look at spot purchase arrangements with providers outside of the NE12 Framework.

The authority works collaboratively with providers to maximise any cost and volume opportunities, but only when completely satisfied about the quality of the provision. Consequently, the authority has a small number of preferred providers of residential education and care, however, these establishments are at some distance from Redcar & Cleveland.

## **5. The Need for Placements for Redcar and Cleveland Children**

To understand whether we have sufficient placements to meet local need, we undertook a needs analysis in April 2021 that has helped us to forecast demand and identify commissioning priorities for the future. The needs analysis considered a broad range of data, including:

- Numbers and profile of Children in our Care
- Types of placements
- Reasons for becoming Looked After
- Placement breakdowns
- Current provision

This analysis highlighted several strategic issues that we need to address when planning, delivering, and commissioning services for children who are in our care, and those with additional emotional and behavioural needs.

The results identified through the Leaving Care Needs Analysis as of April 2021;

	<b>Young Persons Current Age and year Leaving care</b>				<b>Total</b>
	<b>14 (Leaving Care in 2024)</b>	<b>15 (Leaving Care in 2023)</b>	<b>16 (Leaving Care in 2022)</b>	<b>17 (Leaving Care in 2021)</b>	
<b>Anticipated Post 16 Pathway</b>					
Independent Living (Tenancy)	1		6	5	12
Independent living with transitional outreach support	6	12	15	12	45
Staying Put (with Foster Carers)	9	14	11	6	40
Supported Lodgings		2		4	6
Adults' Service – Specialist Adult Provision.	1	1	1		3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>106</b>

Gaps identified in current provision include availability of Independent Living, availability of Staying Put (and the possible reduction of available Foster Carers as a result); and Semi-Independent Living arrangements to meet the above cohort of Children in our Care.

### **Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children**

Despite placement sufficiency challenges we are fully committed to supporting the National Transfer Scheme with the resettlement of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) referred to in this document as unaccompanied young people.

We are prone to the spontaneous arrival of unaccompanied young people into our Borough not least because Teesport is situated within our geographical boundary. We must be able to respond and discharge our statutory duties to bring these children and young people and provide accommodation and support services, as appropriate. There are several challenges for resettlement in terms of care planning due to the unplanned arrivals which means the identification of appropriate accommodation can be difficult to achieve. The impact of the arrivals of unaccompanied young people into the Borough, be it through the National Transfer Scheme or by another means, has a significantly impact on an already overstretched demand for foster placement, supported lodgings hosts or



supported tenancies. It is difficult to plan with accuracy future placement needs but what we can be sure of is that the demand for all types of accommodation is likely to increase. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council are leading on a project across the Northeast on behalf of the regional Directors of Children's Services to help understand the regional picture (and ours) in relation to services for unaccompanied young people and to help shape regional collaborative commissioning solutions.

## 6. Commissioning Priorities

Through our needs analysis we have systematically reviewed current placements for Children in our Care as well as carried out analysis of current and future demand to identify strengths and potential gaps in provision. This in turn has enabled us to identify 5 commissioning priorities that we need to focus on to ensure that we secure sufficient accommodation options to meet the needs of and to improve outcomes for Children in our Care and care leavers. These are:

1. Development of preventative and early interventions to stop young people needing to come into care through the Introduction of the No Wrong Door approach within the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland.
2. Continued development and growth of our own Fostering Service to increase the volume and range of in-house fostering placements available; and to ensure sufficient Independent Foster Agencies where we are not able to offer a suitable placement match in-house.
3. Market shaping to increase the quality and range of placements available outside of our own Fostering and Accommodation services. We will develop a Strategic Market Development Plan, so we fully understand placement demand. We need to ensure we commission high quality care to meet the difficulties of our increasing child in care population. To do this we will work with providers and the 12 Northeast local authorities to deliver sufficient quality placements for Specialist Education, Residential Homes and Short Breaks provision.
4. Development of an In-House support team and accommodation with support in our local area for Unaccompanied Young People.
5. Ensure support continues for Care Leavers to become independent adults through the transition process and developing a clear Accommodation Pathway with a choice of good quality provision.

## Priority 1:

### Development of preventative and early interventions to stop young people needing to come into care through the Introduction of the No Wrong Door (NWD) approach within the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland

#### Why this is important

Wherever possible, we want to support families to stay together. NWD is a multi-disciplinary approach to providing support to young people who are on the edge of care or within the care system. The model, developed initially by North Yorkshire, replaces the traditional approach to residential care through “hubs” which provide specialist and relational support to both young people living in the hub, young people in foster care and at home. This support is provided through a team including key workers, speech and language therapist, police liaison officer, clinical psychologist and hub foster carers. These workers stick with the young person, ensuring they can access the right services at the right time and in the right place to meet their needs.

This includes a strengthened edge of care offer drawing on the expertise of a range of professionals and the use of bespoke placements to support families to remain together and to stabilise placements.

#### What we will Deliver

- A 21-member specialist team formed as part of the No Wrong Door (NWD) project designed to radically improve the lives of young people with complex needs.
- A new multi-agency approach to support youngsters, many of whom have experienced long-term neglect and trauma and are close to the care system.
- Young people will be supported at the NWD hub near Redcar and the team will start working with the young people directly next month.
- A programme, which was devised by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), has already improved the life chances of young people elsewhere and our council successfully applied to take on the innovative programme.
- A team of experts coming together as a single multi-agency team all providing intensive, wide-ranging support, including a life coach (clinical psychologist), a communication support worker (speech language therapist) and a police intelligence specialist working alongside other key workers who will all support young people at the hub.
- Replication of results from North Yorkshire where a vast majority of young people referred to No Wrong Door remain out of the care system and the use of residential placements has fallen by half. Most of the young people also remain in education, employment or training and levels of criminal activity have reduced by almost 40 per cent.
- Each young person is given one key worker who sticks with them through thick and thin to access the right services at the right time and in the right place to meet their need. It's a tough love approach for those who have had a lifetime of experiencing rejection and failure.
- A refurbished centre has specialist facilities which include six en-suite rooms. It will also house the specialist staff team, be a centre for links to other care and support providers including within the NHS. Focus on maintaining placement stability to ensure the following is considered within the planning process:

Permanency and stability to be reached at the earliest opportunity

Children are involved in the decision-making process in relation to their care  
Placement moves to be kept to a minimum  
Attachment to carers is important to support the child's emotional health and wellbeing.

### **How we will measure success**

- An increase in the number of children and families accessing Edge of Care services.
- An increase in the number of Children, Young People and their carers accessing Therapeutic Services which meets their individual needs.
- A reduction in the numbers of children in our care.
- Providing accommodation both planned and in crisis to children and young people on the Edge of care or who are homeless.
- Our NWD Homes are OFSTED rated as "Good", or "Outstanding".
- Good outcomes for children with complex and challenging behaviour  
Reduction in the required length of stay in Residential accommodation.

### **Priority 2:**

**Continued development and growth of our own Fostering Service to increase the volume and range of in-house fostering placements available and to ensure sufficient Independent Foster Agencies where we are not able to offer an individual a suitable placement match in house**

### **Why this is important**

By placing children and young people within the Borough, we can ensure that Children in our Care are cared for within or close to their community and have continuity of education, health care and relationships with family and friends. The Redcar and Cleveland Fostering Service recruits and supports local foster carers to meet the needs of Children in our Care, and if we can continue to increase the number of in-house foster carers, we can care for more children and young people within the boundaries of the Borough. Our fall back where we have no placement match is to develop an Independent Foster Carer market to meet additional sufficiency needs and to meet the desired outcomes for the young person.

### **What we will do**

Recruit and retain more in-house foster carers:

- Use our needs analysis to inform marketing and recruitment campaigns.
- Deliver targeted recruitment campaign to increase placement choice, particularly for older children, children with disabilities and siblings.
- Ensure every foster carer has a personal development plan.
- Ensure that all appropriate options for kinship care are explored for children coming into care.

Develop, working with the 12 Northeast LA's a new Independent Fostering solution which will support both our sufficiency requirements and the desired outcomes for our young people.

### **How we will measure success**

- An increase in the % of fostered children placed with in house carers.
- A reduction in the % of fostered children in an IFA placement.
- An increase in the % of disabled children receiving short breaks with in-house carers as opposed to residential/out of Borough placements.
- An increase in our Staying Put availability

## **Priority 3:**

### **Market shaping to increase the quality and range of placements available outside of our own Fostering and Accommodation services**

#### **Why this is important**

Although we want our in-house fostering service and developing accommodation solutions to be the placement of choice, there will always be circumstances where alternative placements are more suitable, for example because of specialist needs (Including Diversity and Ethnicity for example unaccompanied children), or where it is not consistent with the child's welfare to be placed within the local area.

It is important therefore that alternative provision, whether in or out of Borough, specialist residential or independent fostering placements, are of high quality and meet need.

#### **What we will do**

We will undertake a needs analysis so we fully understand placement demand. We need to ensure we commission high quality care to meet the difficulties of our increasing child in care population. To do this we will work with providers and the 12 North-East local authorities to deliver quality placements. This will be in relation to Specialist Education Placements, Residential Homes, Supported Accommodation and Short Breaks provision.

Alternative solutions are only commissioned following extensive multi-agency assessment and after it has been agreed that all other options have been exhausted. Key activities include:

- Working with existing and potential providers to ensure quality of care through stringent compliance and quality improvement.
- Working with local partners, including neighbouring local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to secure value for money and sufficiency.

- Ensuring a robust process will explore all alternatives.
- Commissioning of placements through collaboration with the 12 NE LA's Residential & IFA frameworks and working with providers on the framework to shape the market and increase sufficiency for hard to place groups such as solo placements for young people with complex needs.
- Working collaboratively with all councils and IFA, Residential and Education providers to explore a regional solution to increase sufficiency in the marketplace.
- We will continue to commission Independent Fostering Agency placements only when it is agreed that needs cannot be met through internal, local provision.
- Where placements are out of borough, every effort will be made to support the child to maintain links with home networks.

### **How we will measure success**

- An % increase in the number and diversity of providers available to cater for the range of needs.
- A % reduction of the number of children placed in out of Borough placements.
- An % increase in the number of children placed with in-Borough placements
- An % increase in the sufficiency of placements for hard to place groups to find a match within reduced timescales.
- Achieving better outcomes for our young people – Via Feedback from young people

## **Priority 4:**

### **Development of In-House support team and accommodation with support in our local area for Unaccompanied Young People (UASC).**

#### **Why is this important**

We have a duty to accommodate unaccompanied young people, and this currently takes place using accommodation with a range of support providers in the area who have experience of looking after this vulnerable group. These young people often have a range of complex needs, including language barriers and trauma, and need support to access provision to meet their cultural needs. They have been supported in family environments as well as semi-independent homes. A consideration into matching with other young people is an important factor for homes for our unaccompanied young people.

It is almost impossible to understand the demand for homes for our unaccompanied young people as arrivals into the UK are spontaneous and unpredictable.

#### **What we will do**

- We will develop a specialist social work team to support unaccompanied young people
- We will develop a reception centre for new arrivals
- We will ensure documents are translated into appropriate languages

- We will develop specific accommodation for unaccompanied young people
- We will support their cultural needs
- We will support through to leaving Care

#### **How we will measure success**

- All unaccompanied young people living in suitable accommodation
- A % increase for unaccompanied children in EET
- More unaccompanied children telling us they feel safe and supported.

### **Priority 5:**

## **Ensure support continues for Care Leavers to become independent adults**

### **Why this is a priority**

Unlike their peers who normally remain in the family home, care leavers will often choose to live independently. Locally thorough our Care Leavers Research findings, evidence tells us that the quality of support care leavers receive is patchy and that their journey through the early adult life is often disrupted, unstable and troubled. They often struggle to cope, and this can lead to social exclusion, long term unemployment or involvement in crime (The Housing Needs of Care Leavers in Redcar & Cleveland May 2021). Furthermore, it is likely that care leavers who are living independently will be particularly affected by Welfare Reform.

We need to ensure that care leavers have access to the support they need to successfully transition into adulthood and improve their life chances. Stability in their home environment is key to achieving this and we need to ensure that we have adequate choice of high-quality accommodation available for young people. This applies equally to young people living in the Borough, as well as those living in out of Borough placements who may have developed strong links with the area in which they have been placed. Where this is the case, we have developed partnerships within other local authority areas to ensure that they have a choice over where they live.

This Priority links to our Corporate Parenting PRIORITY 6: TRANSITIONS

### **What we will do**

- Develop a comprehensive offer as part of a Care Leaver Covenant that incorporates support from across the Council and our wider partnerships.
- Support young people through pathway plans with the transition into adulthood and independent living for them to reach their full potential.

- Every care Leaver will have a Personal Adviser and receive Housing related Support to maintain a tenancy where appropriate.
- Develop Joint Protocols with Housing Providers.
- Through Staying Put arrangements, give more young people the opportunity to remain with their foster carers in a nurturing family environment post 18.
- Develop the market for Supported Lodgings and alternative accommodation with private landlords to secure range and volume of housing provision required.
- Provide housing related support to care leavers who choose to enter into a tenancy agreement for housing of their own choice with private landlords.
- Offer a comprehensive support package for care leavers going to university.
- Ensure the roll out of universal credit has minimal or no impact on Care leavers claiming benefits and support care leavers to access all relevant benefits.
- Develop a post-16 Personal Education Plan for all young people in our care and care leavers.
- Offer ring-fenced apprenticeships for young people in our care and care leavers.
- Provide independent living skills preparation groups.
- Increase our own Supported Lodgings placements by recruiting and assessing appropriate supported lodgings hosts who can provide accommodation and support to care leavers who do not have the opportunity to stay put and are not ready for independence.

### **How we will measure success**

- An increase in the number of young people who are accessing staying put and supported lodgings arrangements.
- A reduction in the number of young people becoming intentionally homeless.
- Monthly EET / NEET monitoring meetings – Tracking 16 – 25-year-old EET progress.
- Review NEET/EET data monthly to reduce the number of Care Leavers that are NEET.
- An increase in the number of foster carers in Borough and in house to cope with capacity for staying put.
- An increase in the availability of single person accommodation for care leavers.
- All care leavers are in suitable accommodation of their choosing

## **7. Conclusion**

Providing sufficient placements for Children in our Care and Care Leavers is a challenge for many local authorities. We recognise the need to increase the range of fostering and residential placements available in the Borough and to develop in-house arrangements. We also aim to ensure high quality services with a variety of specialist skills that meet the diverse needs of Children in our Care in our Borough. The local authority is committed to investing in Early Help/Edge of Care services to prevent the need for children and young people to come into our care. There is an understanding within departments that we must work together to achieve our vision for more effective early intervention and prevention services leading to a decrease in children coming into care.

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council is working collaboratively with neighbouring councils to increase capacity and improve quality within the Tees Valley area and for fostering placements and residential care provision using preferred provider frameworks. We are striving to increase the number of in-house foster carers and we are working towards children and young people being placed as close to their home as possible. The stability of a placement is critical to a child or young person achieving positive outcomes.

We will work with local providers to meet our sufficiency requirements to deliver a range of quality accommodation with fully supported, semi supported and independent living options for young people leaving care.



## 8. Appendix; Placement Sufficiency Data

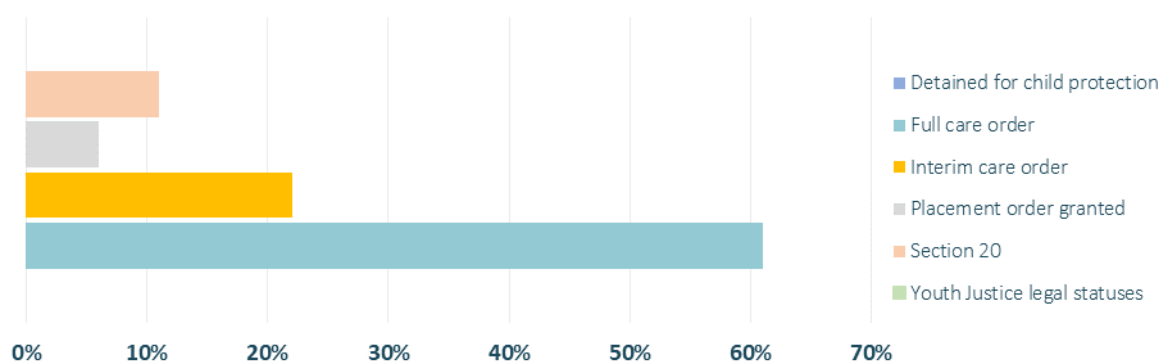
To understand whether we have sufficient placements to meet local need, we have undertaken a comprehensive needs analysis which has helped us to forecast demand and identify commissioning priorities for the future.

### A1. Population of looked after children

**Table A1. Population of looked after children during the year ending March 31**

	2019	2020	2021
Children in our Care	297	348	317
Children who started to be in our care	120	152	126
Children who ceased to be in our care	112	104	155

Whilst there have been peaks and troughs, the number of children in care in Redcar & Cleveland has risen steadily over recent years. At the end of March 2016 there were 199 Children in our Care compared with 317 at the end of March 2021.



### Legal status of looked after children, 2021

Note. The figure includes information on the legal status of children looked after on March 31 in the year of interest.

Figure A1. **Outcomes of looked after children, 2021**



**Note.** The figures include information on outcomes of children looked after on March 31 of the year of interest.

## A2. Supply of Fostering placements

**Note.** The table includes the number of fostering households (internal) and the number of fostering households (IFA) on March 31 of each year.

Table A2. **Number of fostering households, 2021**

	2019	2020	2021
Number of fostering households (internal)	107	127	152
Number of fostering households (IFAs)	72	61	62

### A3. Children placed outside the council boundary

**Table A3a. Looked after children placed in other councils, 2021**

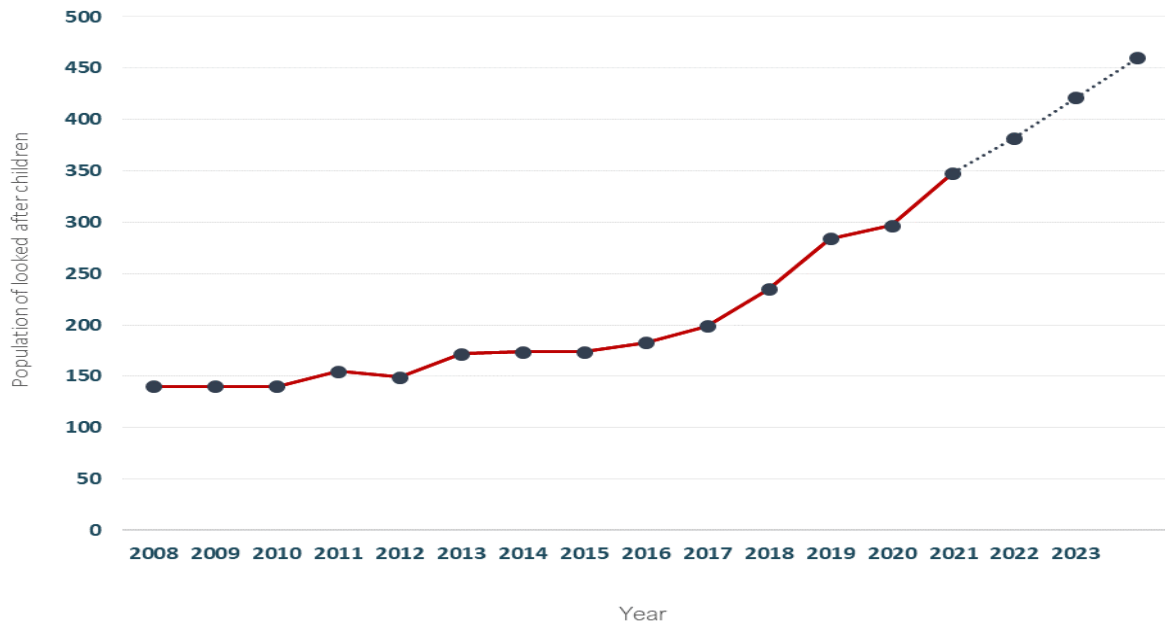
	Foster care
Co. Durham	<5
Darlington	17
Derby	<5
Hartlepool	5
Middlesbrough	21
Newcastle	<5
Northumberland	<5
North Yorkshire	<5
Stockton	20

**Table A3b. Looked after children placed in other councils, 2021**

	Residential care
Co. Durham	6
Cumbria	<5
Darlington	<5
Doncaster	<5
East Ayrshire	<5
Edinburgh	<5
Hartlepool	<5
Manchester	<5
Middlesbrough	<5
Newcastle	<5
Stockton	<5

# A4 Projections on demand for placements

Figure 1. Population of looked after children – forecasts over 2020-2023



Note: Forecasts are produced using historical data on numbers of looked after children on March 31 of each year.

Figure 2. children in our care foster and residential placements

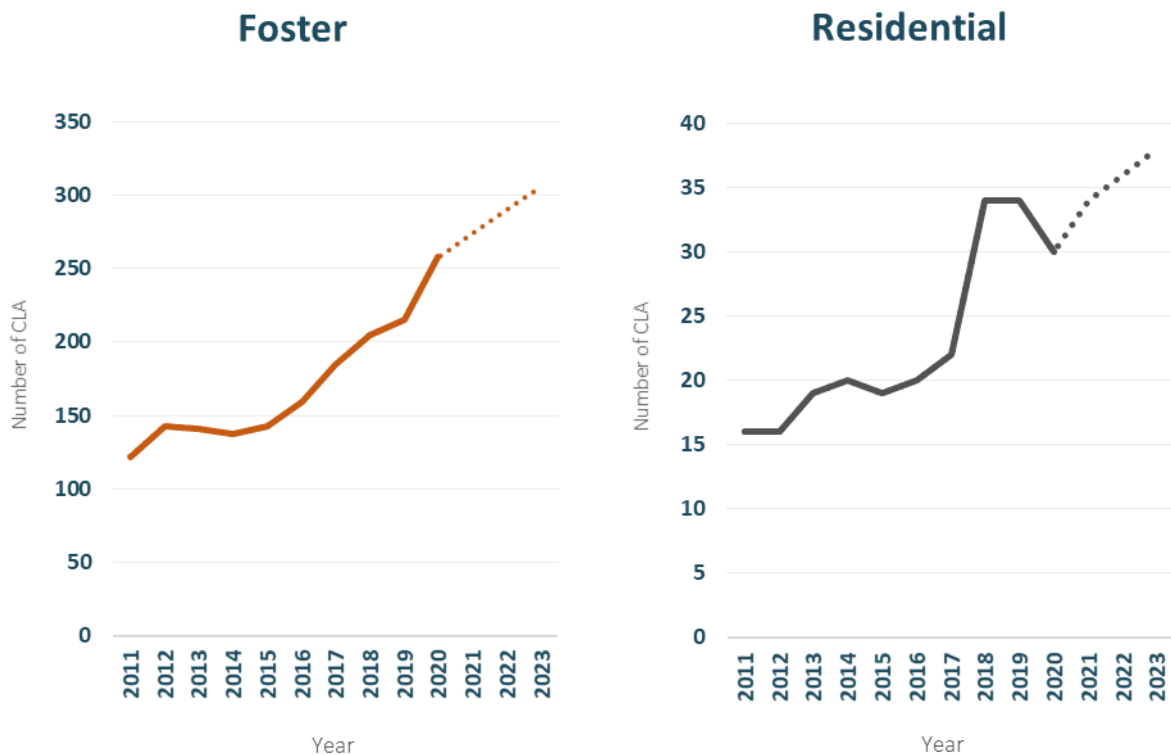
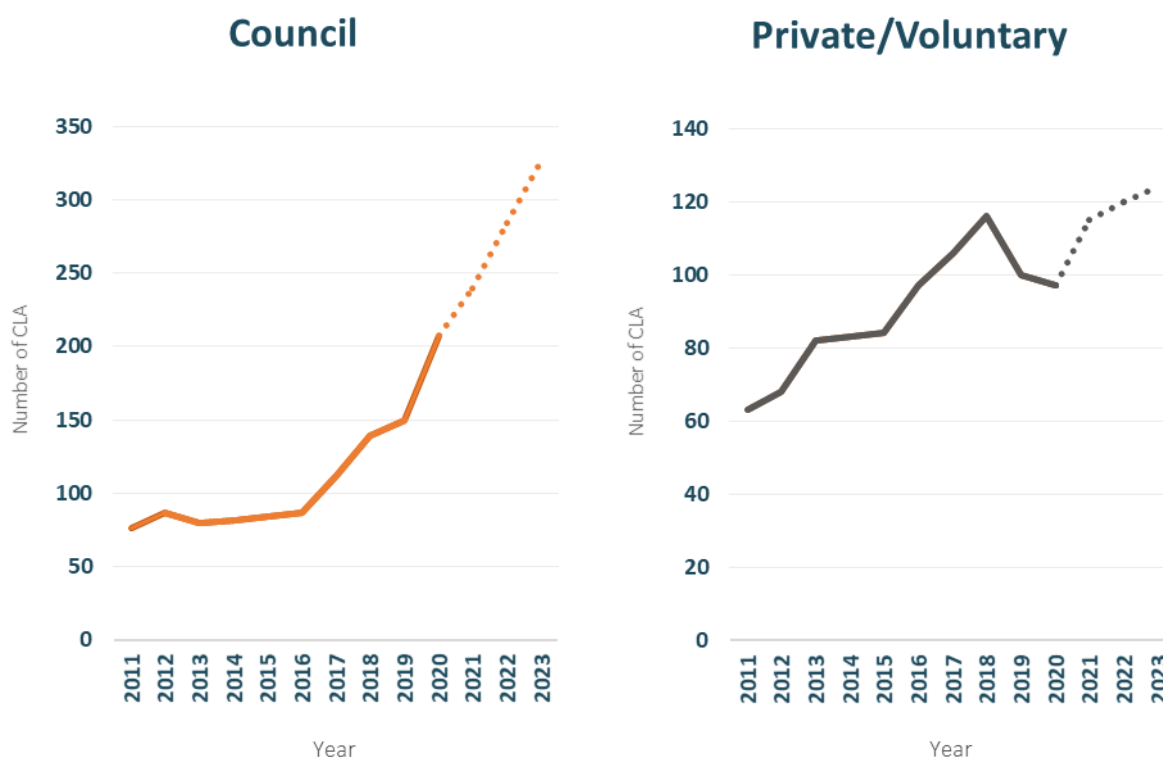


Figure 3. Looked after children by type of provider



The increase in the numbers of children looked after in Redcar & Cleveland reflects an overall increase in demand for social care services. An increasing demand for children’s social care services, including children coming into care is not unique to Redcar and Cleveland. It is consistent with the rising trend being seen across the country. This has been attributed to a range of factors that include increased awareness of the needs of vulnerable children, the pressures on families associated with poverty and earlier identification of need because of better assessment and more families being supported through early help.

## A5 Age and gender of Children in our Care

Breakdown for 01/04/20 to 31/03/21:

Table A5A	Female	% Of Gender	Male	% Of Gender	Total	%
Under 1	15	25.9%	17	24.3%	32	25.0%
1 - 4	10	17.2%	14	20.0%	24	18.8%
5 - 9	13	22.4%	14	20.0%	27	21.1%
10 - 15	13	22.4%	16	22.9%	29	22.7%
16+	7	12.1%	9	12.9%	16	12.5%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## **A5b Ethnicity of Children in our Care**

14.1% of children becoming looked after in Redcar and Cleveland in 20/21 to date are from a Black or Ethnic Minority background.

## **A5c Children in our Care with a disability**

Of the 128 children that became looked after in Redcar and Cleveland in 20/21, 2% were recorded to have a disability or health need. (3 children in terms of numbers)

# **A6 Placement Types**

## **A6.1 Placement Types**

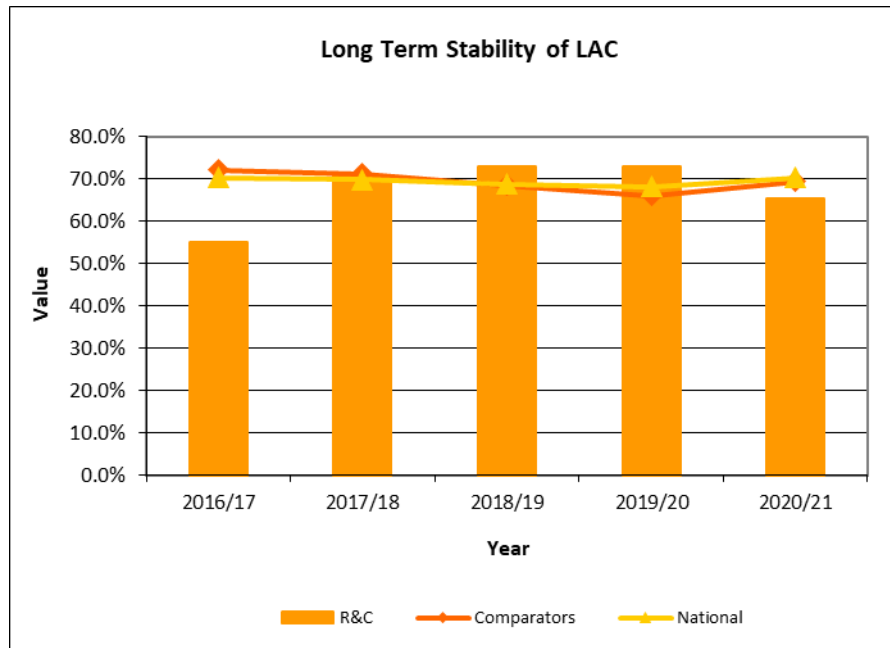
**The following are recorded as placement types in Redcar & Cleveland.**

- Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer
- Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer
- Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer
- Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer
- Residential accommodation
- Secure unit
- Homes and Hostels
- Placed with own parents
- Independent living
- Residential employment
- Foster placement with relative or friend
- Placement with another foster carer
- Residential care home
- NHS/Health Trust
- Family centre or mother and baby unit
- Young Offender Institution or prison
- All Residential schools

## **A6.2 Placement Stability**

Placement Stability is the key to achieving better outcomes for Children in our Care. Some planned placement changes may be made in a child's best interests, but placements break down because they are not sufficiently well-matched to children's needs, or of sufficient quality, or because they are not well supported. Placement breakdown has a significant impact on children's wellbeing and their friendships, as well as disrupting their education and the continuity of access to other key services.

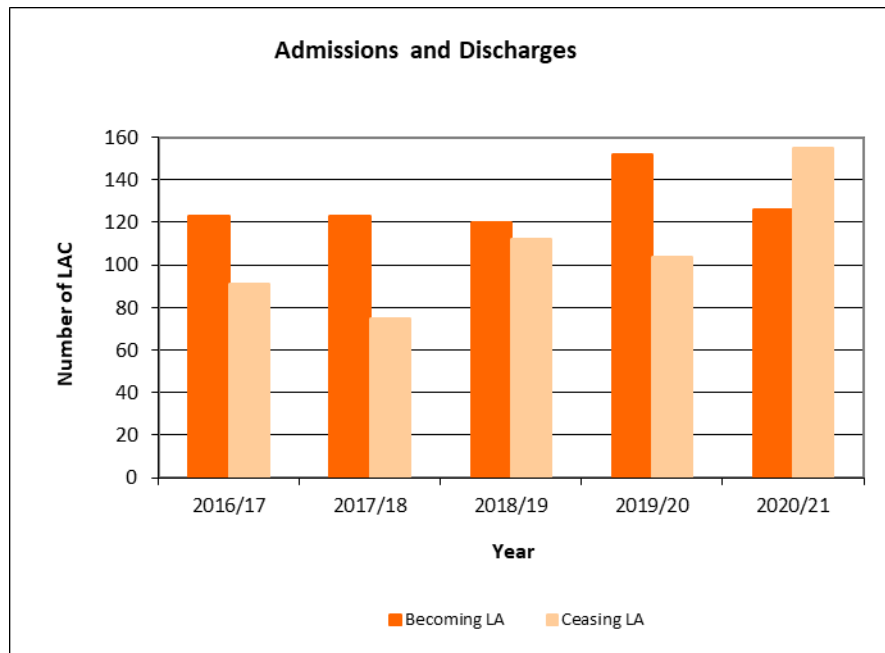
The placement stability measure is of the percentage of Children in our Care aged under 16 who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years or are placed for adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement together last for at least 2 years. In Redcar and Cleveland, placement stability is significantly lower than in our comparator authorities, and the national average. However, we are improving steadily.



## A7 Children entering and leaving care

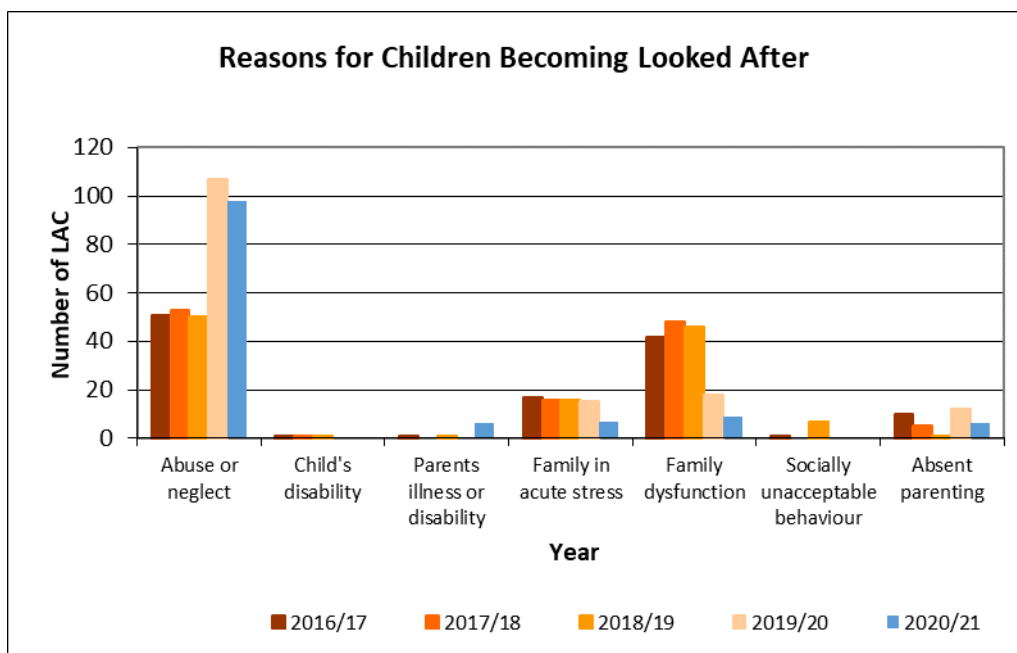
### A7.1 Admissions and discharges from care

Despite the overall rise in numbers of children looked after, the number of children who *become* looked after fluctuates. In 2018/19 to date, a total of 53 children became looked after compared with 75 children in at the same time in 2013/14



### A7.2 Reasons for becoming Looked After

Previously, family dysfunction has been the primary reason why children have become looked after followed by family in acute stress and abuse and neglect. In 2020/21, 7.14% of children came into care under the category of family dysfunction; 77.78% abuse and neglect; 5.56% family in acute distress; and 4.76% absent parent. When taken in the context of the age profile detailed below, with 28% of children becoming looked after being aged between 0 and 2 years, this highlights the vulnerability of this very young age group and their need for care and protection.





### **A7.3 Profile of Children Becoming Looked After**

In 2019/20 32% of the children who become looked after were aged 0-2 years with those under the age of 1 being the highest proportion at 22.6%. The need to become looked after at the younger end of the age range reflects the increase in the numbers of children subject to child protection plans and care proceedings in the past year. The high demand for looked after placements for the younger age group is met effectively - generally within in-house fostering provision although external placements may also be used.

There has been an increase in the proportion of children in the age range 1-4 becoming looked after. Of those in the 11-14 age range, a high proportion are placed with Independent Fostering Agencies. We have a small number of teenage placements in-house and are actively recruiting to increase this number by enhancing our fostering fee for those who take teenage placement. Placements for this age group are also provided by the independent sector, be that fostering or residential care.