

Corporate Parenting Panel Supplementary Agenda



**7. Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People
(Pages 3 - 10)**

This report provides an overview of support for Care Experienced young people.

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REPORT TO:	Corporate Parenting Panel 16 th March 2022
SUBJECT:	Care Experienced Young People
LEAD OFFICER:	Róisín Madden; Director Children’s Social Care
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Alisa Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
WARDS:	All
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides an overview of support for Care Experienced young people i.e. those who are statutory Care Leavers.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2020-2024

This report identifies how our practice, systems and services are in line with the Council’s priority of

We will focus on providing the best quality core service we can afford. First and foremost, providing social care services that keep our most vulnerable residents safe and healthy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial implications of this report

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1 – The Panel endorses the areas of focus for 2022-23

Focus for 2022:

- Ensure caseloads remain manageable to enable the best support for an increasing number of Care Experienced young people.
- Further develop peer support and a ‘Care Experienced Club’ to focus on the needs of young people entering work and becoming independent.
- Understand better the support needs and risks for our Care Experienced young people, particularly for our asylum-seeking population.
- Expand training opportunities and learn from young people’s experiences.
- Improve the accommodation offer for young people to ensure the right help is available to enable young people to achieve independence with a stable support network

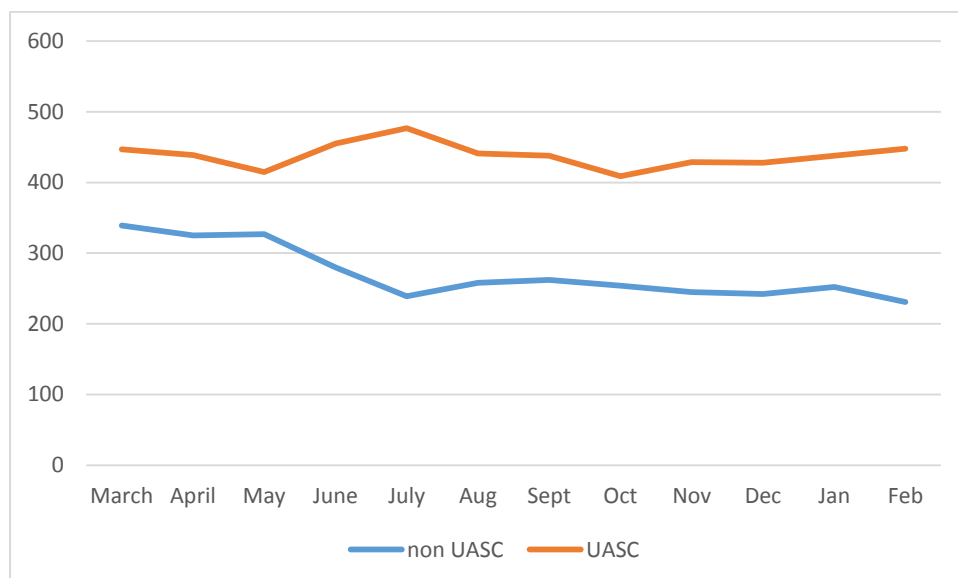
1. DETAIL OF YOUR REPORT

Leaving Care Overview

This report outlines the profile and key elements of support for Care Leavers during the period 1/3/2021- 28/2/2022. Data is sourced from monthly performance reports and from the 'Data to insight' children's services analysis tool (Feb 2022). During this period the service restructured to provide support based upon age. Care experienced young people are now supported by the 'Over 16' service, this has integrated the Leaving Care and the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children service so that all young people experience continuity of support.

Profile

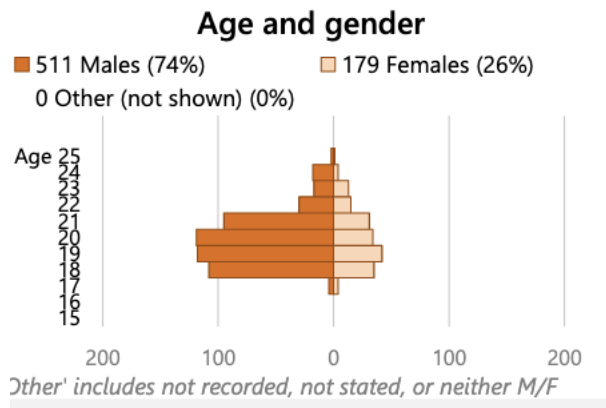
As of the 28th February 2022, there were 679 Care Experienced young people, aged 18-25, and eligible for support via a pathway plan. The majority of these young people (66%) have been unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.



During 2022/23 we can expect a further 123 current children looked after to become care leavers and approximately 20 current care leavers to become 25, we can therefore expect an overall increase in the number of care leavers during 2022/23.

Age & Gender:

Croydon’s care experienced population continues to be disproportionately identified as male. This is due to the overwhelming number of unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the UK being male. The majority of these care leavers are aged 18-21.



Ethnicity:

61% of care experienced children are identified as Asian or Asian British, or Black or Black British.

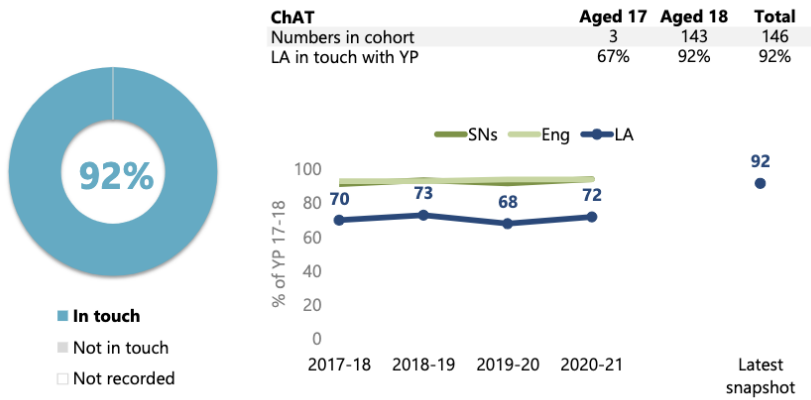
Ethnic background	
White	30%
Mixed	6%
Asian or Asian British	29%
Black or black British	32%
Other ethnic group	4%
Not stated	0%
Not recorded	0%

This profile roughly mirrors that of our looked after population, aside from ‘Asian or Asian British’ young people. This group has a 13% higher representation as care leavers and is accounted for by our UASC.

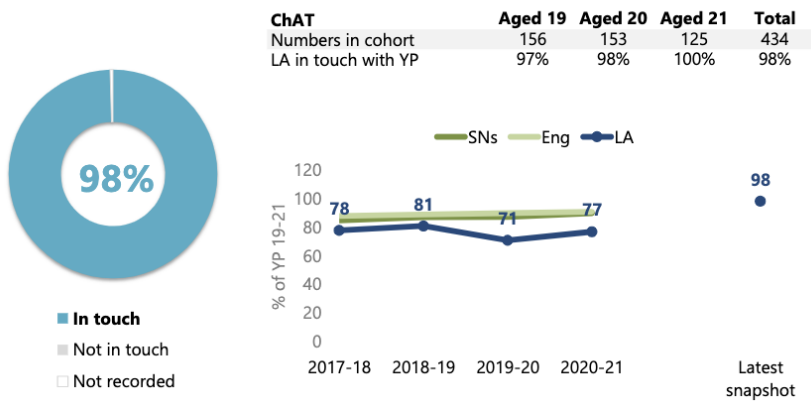
Non-Executive Template

Keeping in Touch:

LA in touch with 17-18 year olds

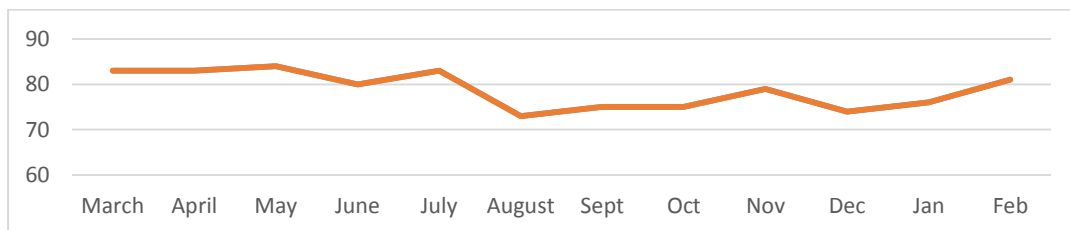


LA in touch with 19-21 year olds



Personal Advisers are required to visit/ keep in touch every two months for this indicator. This important indicator has improved during 2021 and is essential in ensuring that young people experience and receive support.

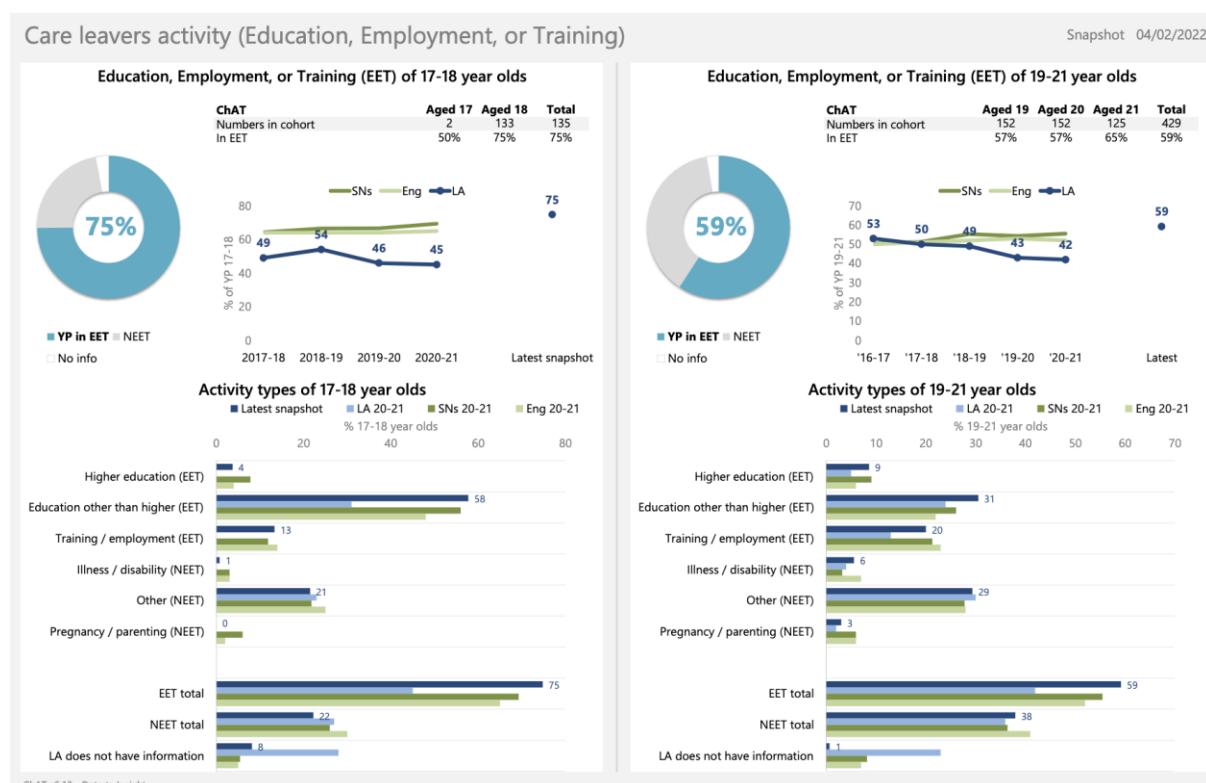
Pathway Plans:



Non-Executive Template

Pathway plans are required to be updated, at least, every six months. Within Croydon our aim is to achieve this for at least 85% of young people. Performance dropped in this year, particularly as we came out of lockdown. Tighter performance monitoring arrangements are now in place and a gradual improvement can be seen.

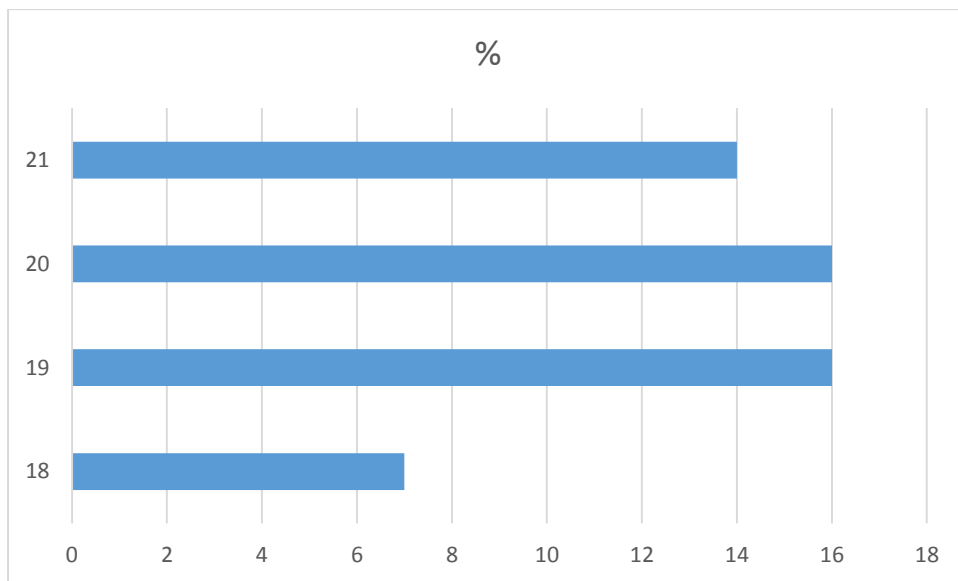
Education, Employment & Training



As at the end of February 2022 the percentage of care experienced young people who are in Education, Employment or Training is now comparable with local and national statistics, this is an improvement on 20/21. This still means that 40% of those aged 19-21 and nearly 25% of those aged 17-18 are not in education, employment or training. Some of these young people have unresolved immigration matters which prevents them progressing to Education, Employment or Training (38 young people- 6%).

For some young people there are other factors that can prevent them being able to access EET (e.g., Custody; Parent to under-five; immigration status). When these factors are taken in to account the % that are NEET by age are:

Non-Executive Template



This is below the national average reported figures.

Some first-hand examples of the challenges and support provided to improve this vital aspect of young people's lives are provided in the quotes below:

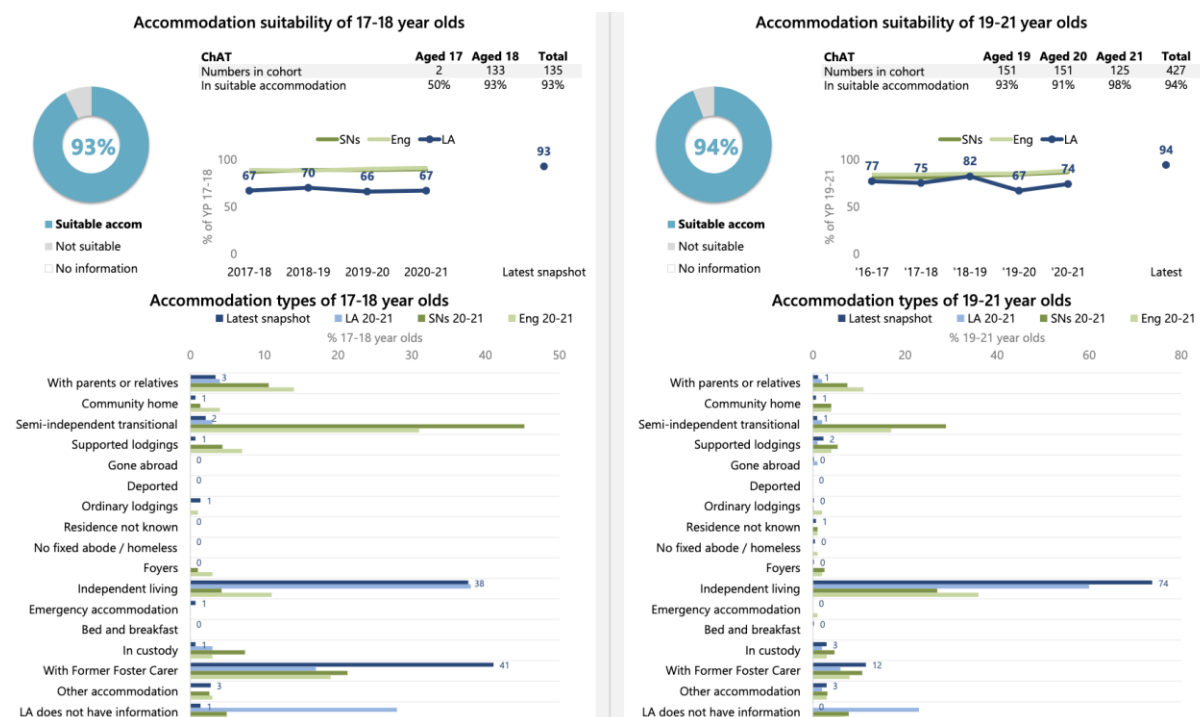
I'm really proud of what this young person has achieved... they've removed themselves from involvement in crime; got their first job and are studying to go to ...

University wasn't for them, and they have now successfully gained employment in Croydon.

Despite issues with health and housinggraduating with a 2-1 in Law!

They were going to walk out after a week; however, we worked together, found alternative work and obtained a good reference... 3 months on and doing well!

Accommodation



The work to ensure that more young people can stay with their carers is something we are proud of. Independent Living is higher than other local authorities and we are working hard to ensure that for our vulnerable young people the quality of this accommodation is suitable as well. There are currently 15 priority Croydon tenancies per annum for us to make use of, we would like this to increase.

Our Focus for 2022:

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2 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

3 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

N/A

4 EQUALITIES IMPACT

N/A

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

N/A

6 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

N/A

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

NO

8 Approved by: Róisín Madden Director Children's Social Care

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