

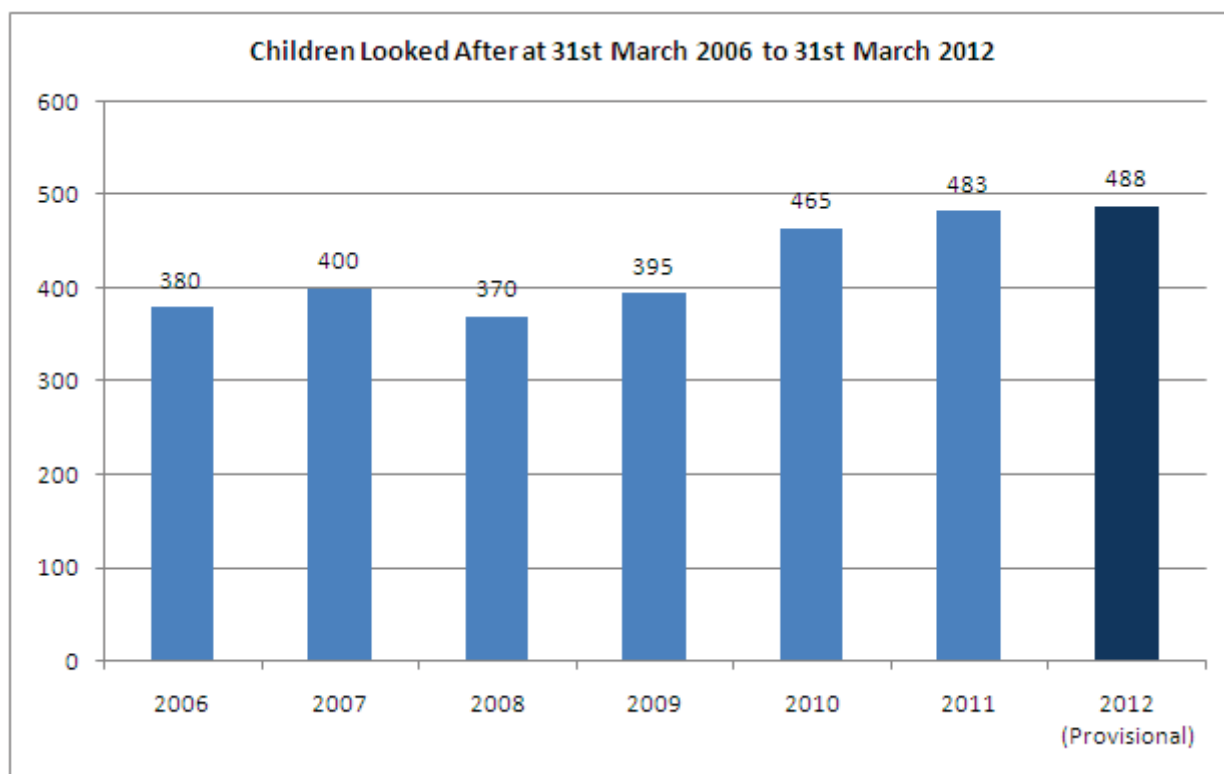
Corporate Parenting Summary Report

June 2012 – Internal Version

Please note that this report contains individual child level data and is for internal use only.

Looked After Children (Excluding Respite) as at 31st March 2012

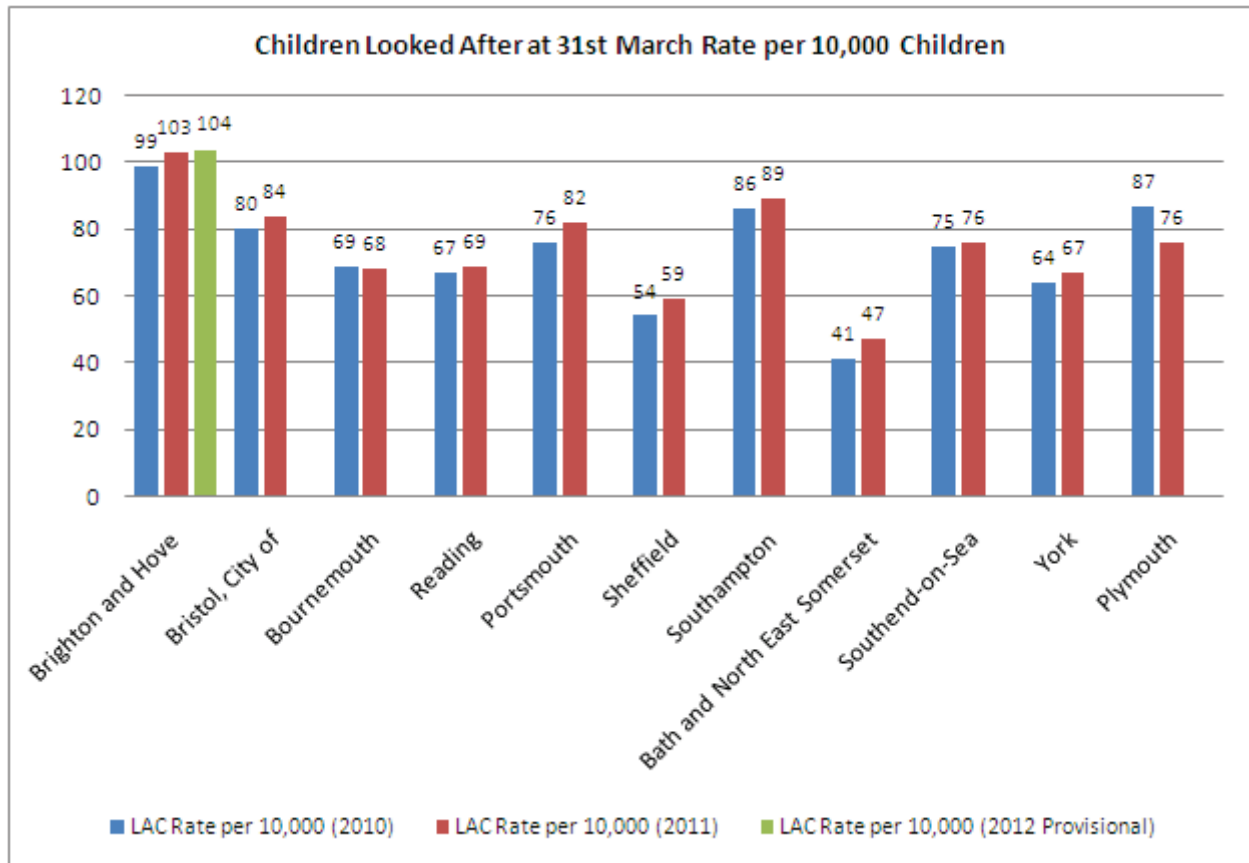
Figure 1: Number of Looked After Children (excluding Respite) at 31st March 2006 to 2012



Sources: SSDA903 years 2006 to 2011 and Monthly Monitoring for year 2012

The number of Looked after Children at 31st March 2012 is 488, a 1% increase from 2011 and a 22% increase from 2007. Please note that the 2012 figures are provisional and may differ to the final figures published by DfE.

Figure 2a: Children looked after at 31st March 2010 to 2012. Rates per 10,000 Children aged under 18 years¹



Sources: SSDA903 for years 2010 to 2011 and Monthly Monitoring for 2012

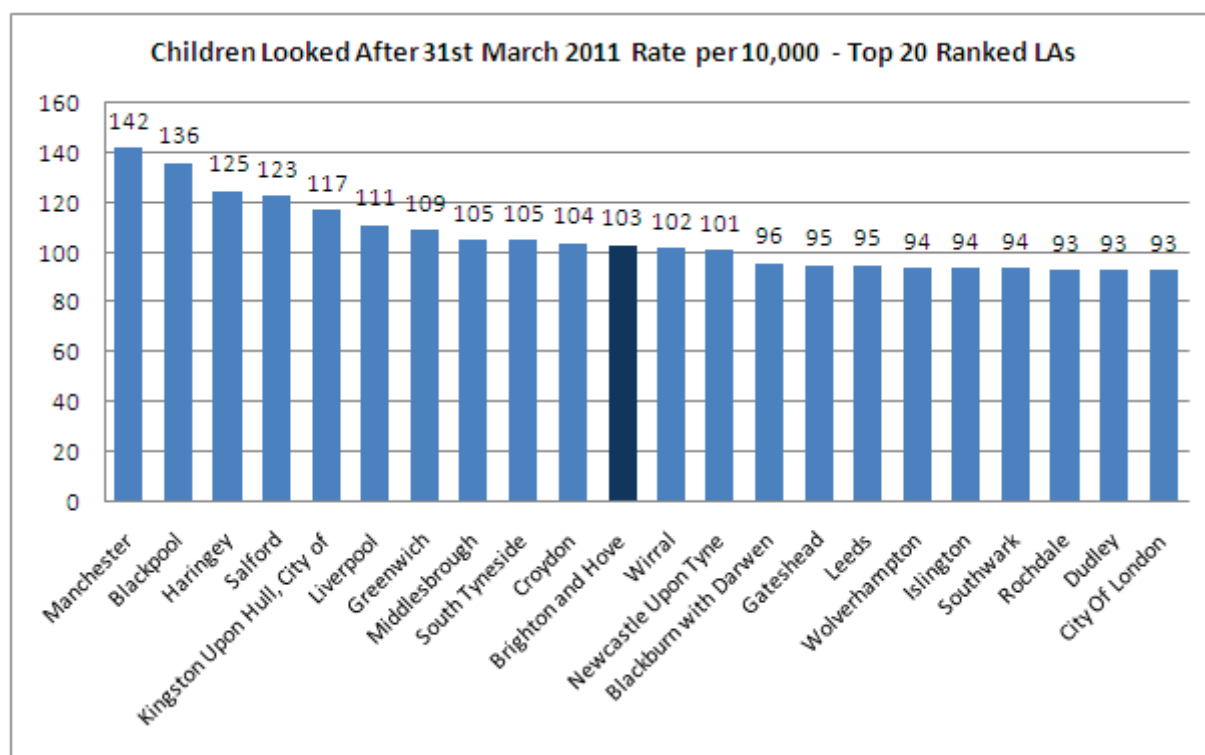
The rate of children looked after per 10,000 children aged under 18 has increased from 103 as at 31 March 2011 to 104 as at March 2012. The rate for 2012 is higher than the 2011 national average (59 per 10,000) and the average for our statistical neighbours (71.7 per 10,000).

¹ The rates per 10,000 children under 18 years have been derived using the mid-year population estimates for 2009 provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Table 1: Percentage Change in LAC Rate 31st March 2010 to 31st March 2012

Local Authority	LAC at 31 March 2010	LAC Rate per 10,000 (2010)	LAC at 31 March 2011	LAC Rate per 10,000 (2011)	% change LAC Rate 2010 to 2011	LAC Rate per 10,000 (2012 Provisional)	% change LAC Rate 2011 to 2012
Brighton and Hove	465	99	485	103	3.9%	104	1.0%
Bristol, City of	645	80	680	84	4.8%		
Bournemouth	205	69	200	68	-1.5%		
Reading	205	67	215	69	2.9%		
Portsmouth	290	76	315	82	7.3%		
Sheffield	580	54	625	59	8.5%		
Southampton	375	86	385	89	3.4%		
Bath and North East Somerset	140	41	160	47	12.8%		
Southend-on-Sea	265	75	270	76	1.3%		
York	225	64	235	67	4.5%		
Plymouth	435	87	375	76	-14.5%		
ENGLAND	64410	58	65520	59	1.7%		

Figure 2b: Children looked after at 31st March 2011. Rates per 10,000 Children aged under 18 years²

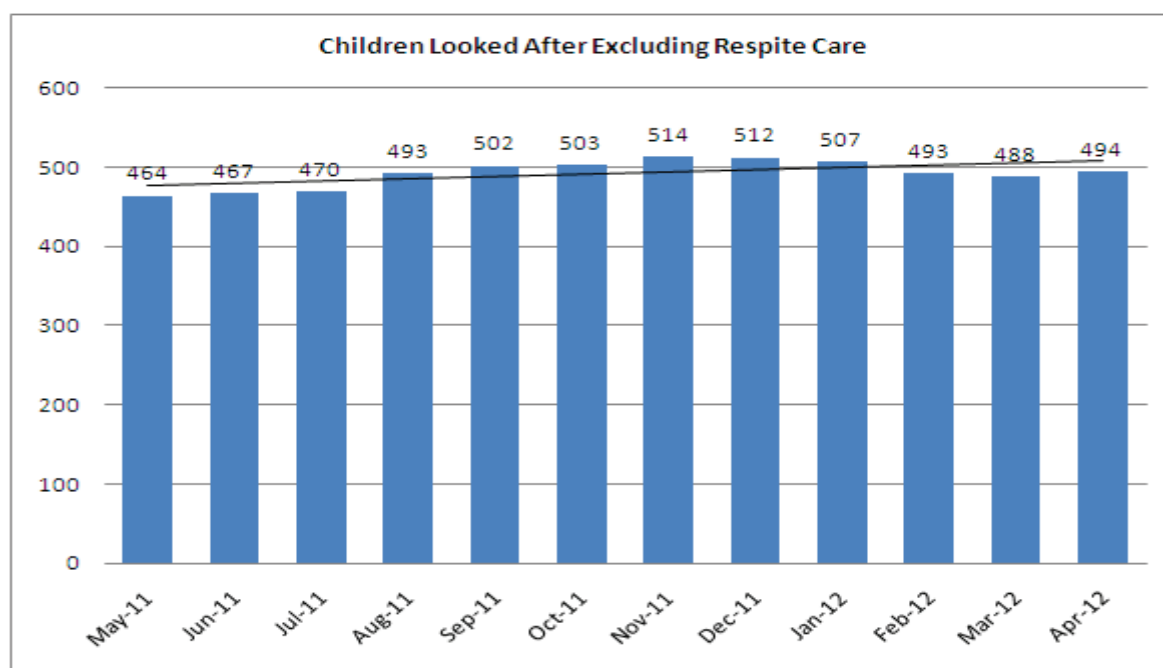


Source: SSDA903

Figure 2b reveals that the 2010/11 LAC Rate per 10,000 for Brighton and Hove Children is ranked 11th highest out of 152 Local Authorities in England. The LAC rate as at 30th April 2012 is per 10,000 is 105 which would place Brighton and Hove joint 8^h highest with Middlesbrough and South Tyneside.

² The rates per 10,000 children under 18 years have been derived using the mid-year population estimates for 2009 provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Figure 3: Children looked after year ending 30th April 2012



Source: Monthly Monitoring April 2012

The number of Looked after Children (excluding respite) has risen slightly from 488 last month to 494 as at 30th April 2012. The tables below provide a breakdown of children who started to be looked after by legal status at the LAC episode start and children who ceased to be looked after by legal status at the LAC episode end in April by age band. There are 28 children looked after aged under 1 as at 30th April 2012 which represents 6% of the cohort (6% nationally) and 87 children aged 16 and over as at which represents 18% of the LAC cohort (21% nationally). Of the 3 LAC starters aged 16 and over in April, 2 were Southwark cases.

Table 2: LAC Starters by Legal Status at LAC Episode Start

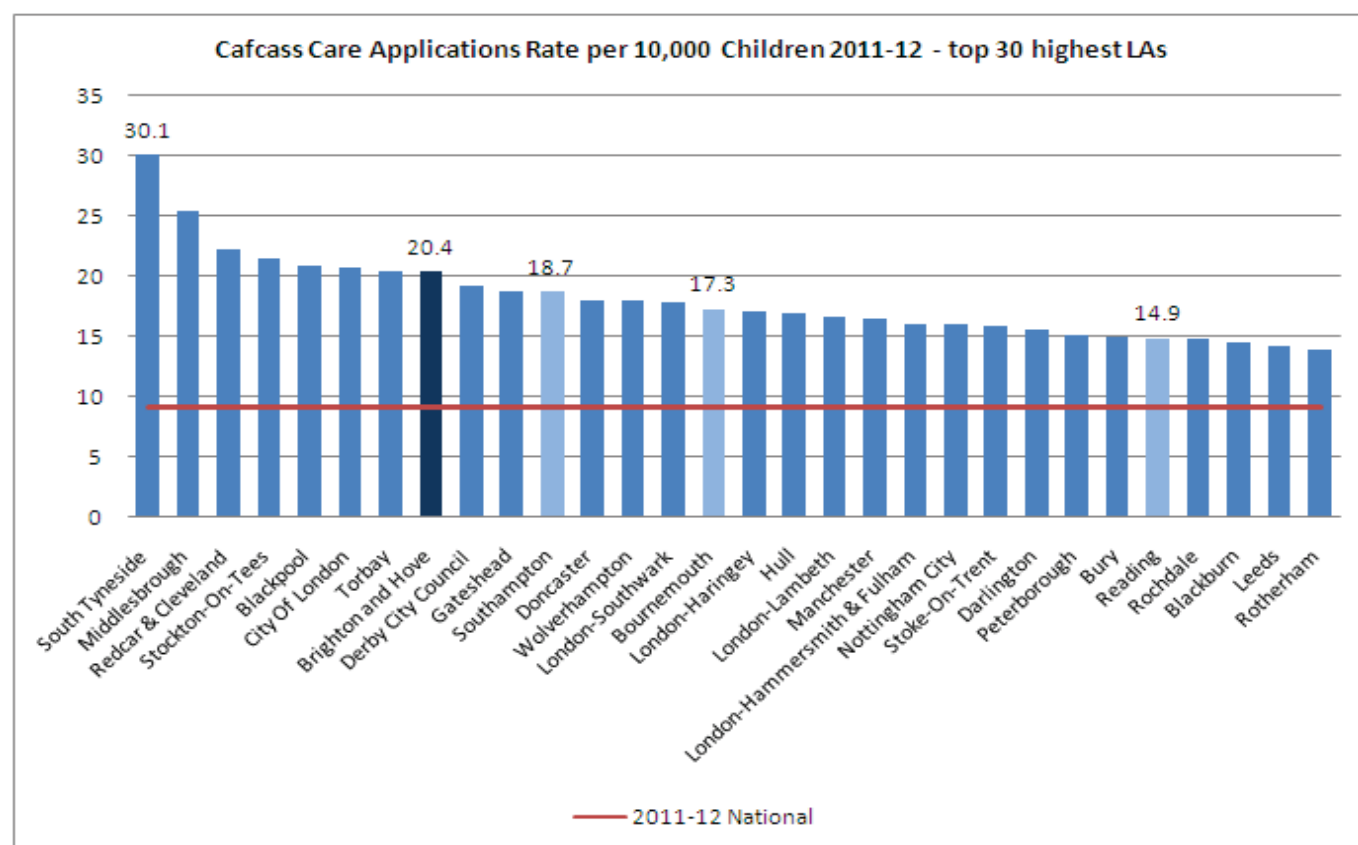
LAC Starters by Legal Status at LAC Episode Start						
Legal Status	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 and over	Total
Accomm under S20 (single period of accommodation)	2	1	2	6	3	14
Interim Care Order	1					1
Under police protection in LA accommodation	2	2	1			5
In LA on remand or committed for trial/sentence				1		1
Total	5	3	3	7	3	21

Table 3: LAC Leavers by Legal Status at LAC Episode End

LAC Leavers by Legal Status at LAC Episode End						
Legal Status	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 and over	Total
Full Care Order					1	1
Accomm under S20 (single period of accommodation)	1			1	4	6
Interim Care Order	3	1			1	5
Under police protection in LA accommodation	1	1	1			3
Total	5	2	1	1	6	15

The Children in Need Team is in place from 17th January and one of the primary objectives is to reduce the number of LAC and keep children safe in their families. Processes have been developed in the CIN Team to discuss cases for children on the edge of care in both Team Manager's supervision and CIN management meetings.

Figure 4: Cafcass Care Applications Rate per 10,000 Children 2011-12 - top 30 highest LAs



Source: Cafcass

Please note that the unit of measurement is a Care application, upon its receipt by Cafcass from the Court and its entry into CMS. An application can involve multiple children.

Cafcass has recently published local authority level data on the number of Care Applications received in the years 2007-08 to 2011-12. Figure 4 illustrates the number of care applications received in 2011-12 as a rate per 10,000 children for the top 30 highest local authorities in England and reveals that Brighton and Hove is ranked 8th highest out of 152 local authorities in England. The rate for Brighton and Hove for 2011-12 is 20.4, above the national average of 9.2 and 12.3 for our statistical neighbours. Our statistical neighbours who are among the top 30 highest LAs have been shaded in light blue.

Table 4: Cafcass Care Applications 2007-08 to 2011-12

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Total care applications received (England)	6,323	6,488	8,832	9,204	10,218
Care applications received from Brighton & Hove	46	55	110	105	96
% increase from 2007-08 base (England)	-	2.6%	39.7%	45.6%	61.6%
% increase from 2007-08 base (Brighton and Hove)	-	20%	139%	128%	109%
% increase from previous year (England)	-	2.6%	36.1%	4.2%	11.0%
% increase from previous year (Brighton and Hove)	-	19.6%	100.0%	-4.5%	-8.6%
Rate of care applications per 10,000 children (England)	5.8	5.9	8	8.3	9.2
Rate of care applications per 10,000 children (Brighton and Hove)	10.0	11.9	23.5	22.4	20.4

Source: Cafcass

The data in Table 4 reveals that Brighton and Hove has experienced a 109% increase in 2011-12 from the 2007-08 base compared to a 61.6% increase nationally. However, the number of care applications has fallen in 2010-11 and 2011-12 in Brighton and Hove whereas the number of care applications has continued to rise nationally.

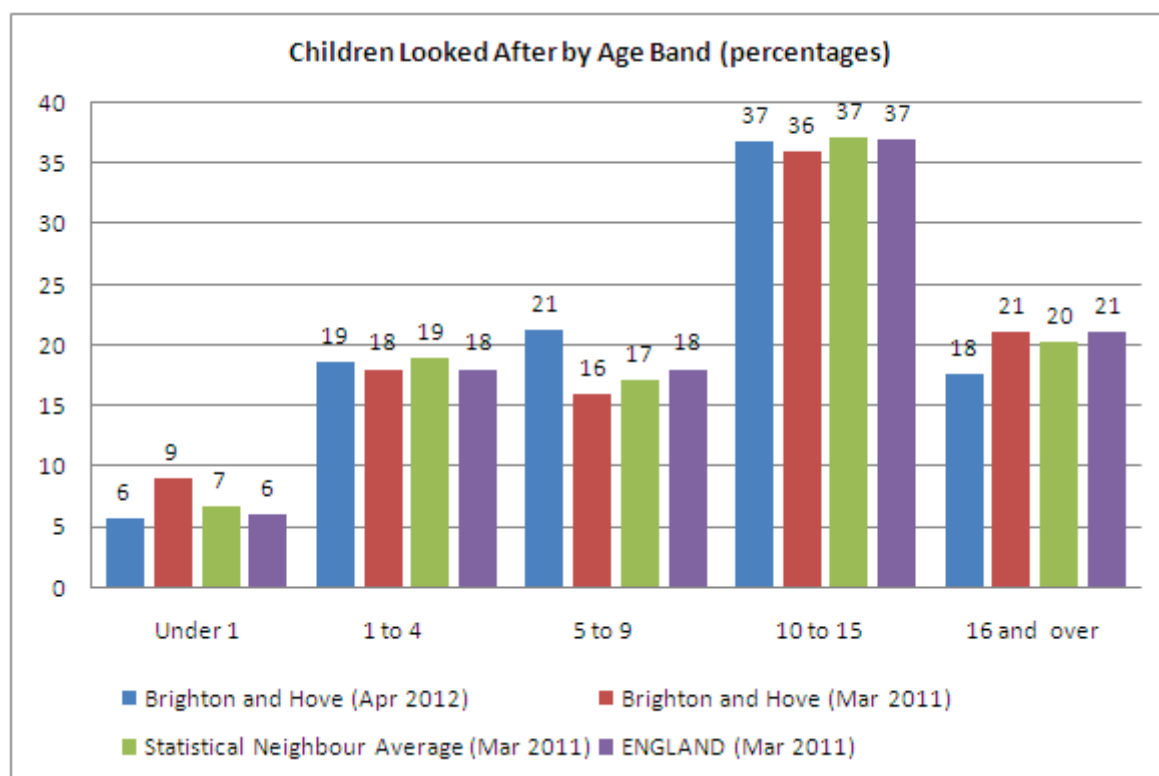
Children Looked After Year Ending 31 March 2011

An analysis of the Children Looked After Statistical First Release (SFR), which provides information about looked after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2011, has been provided in this section of the report to illustrate how the profile of Looked After Children in Brighton and Hove compares with the national average and our statistical neighbours. The figures are based on data from the SSDA903 return collected from all local authorities.

Please note that:

- Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5
- Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
- Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
- The Statistical Neighbour³ Average (SN Average) has been calculated by averaging the percentages for the 10 local authorities in our statistical neighbour group.

Figure 5: Children Looked After by Age Band (Percentages)



Source: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring for April 2012 figures

Figure 5 compares the percentage of children looked after by age band as at 30th April 2012 with the percentages as at 31st March 2011. The percentage of children aged under 1 has fallen from 9% in March 2011 to 6% in April 2012 and is now in line with the England and Statistical Neighbour averages. The percentage of children aged between 5 and 9 has risen from 16% in March 2011 to 21% in April 2012 and is now above the England and Statistical Neighbour Average.

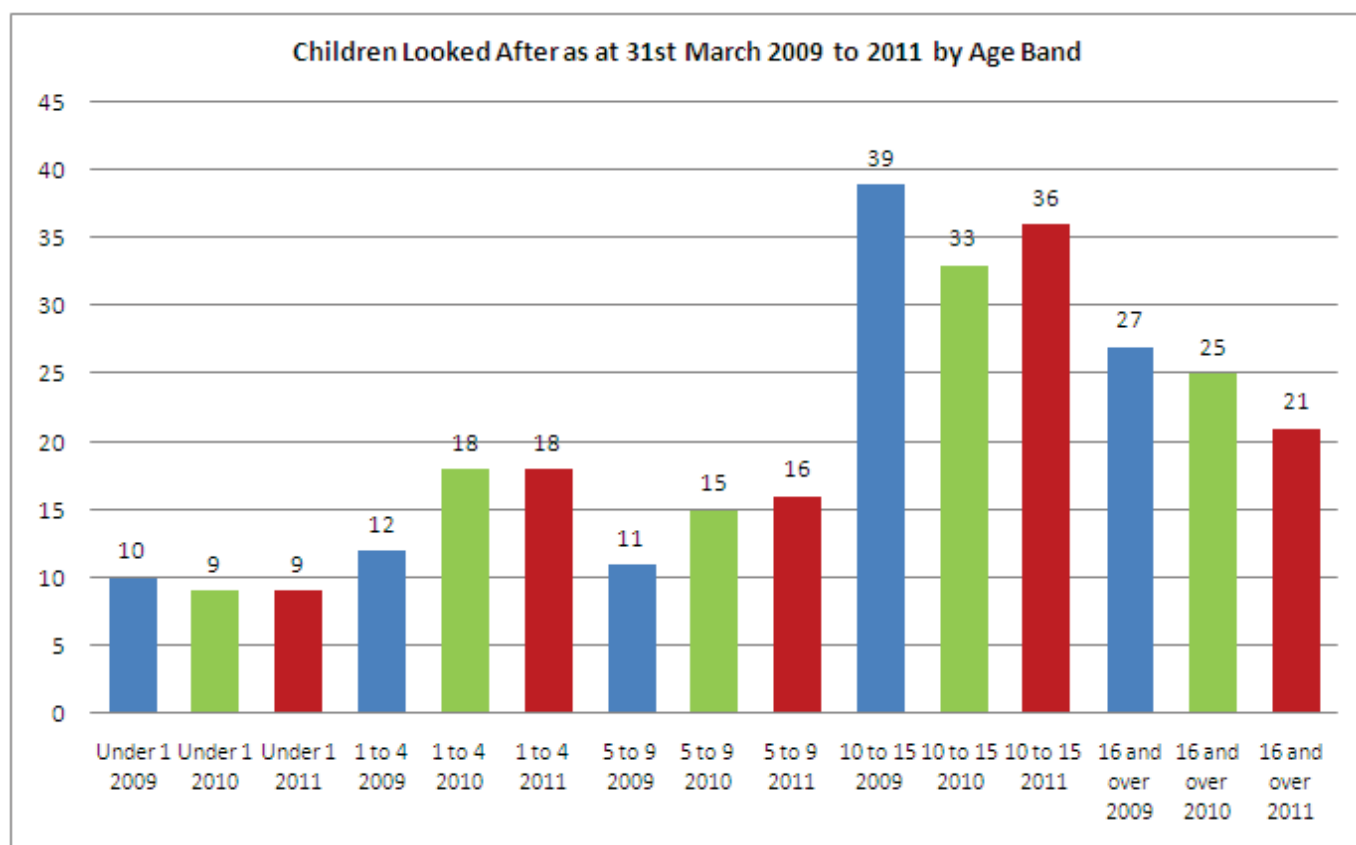
³ Statistical Neighbours (SN) are ranked in order of statistical closeness, with the top SN being closest: Bristol, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Bath and North East Somerset, Southend-on-Sea, York and Plymouth
Corporate Parenting Summary Report - Jun 2012 v2

Table 5: Children Looked After at 31st March 2011 and 30th April 2012 by Age Band (Numbers)

Age Band	Mar-11	Apr-12
Under 1	43	28
1 to 4	85	92
5 to 9	77	105
10 to 15	176	182
16 and over	102	87
Total	483	494

Source: Monthly Monitoring April 2012

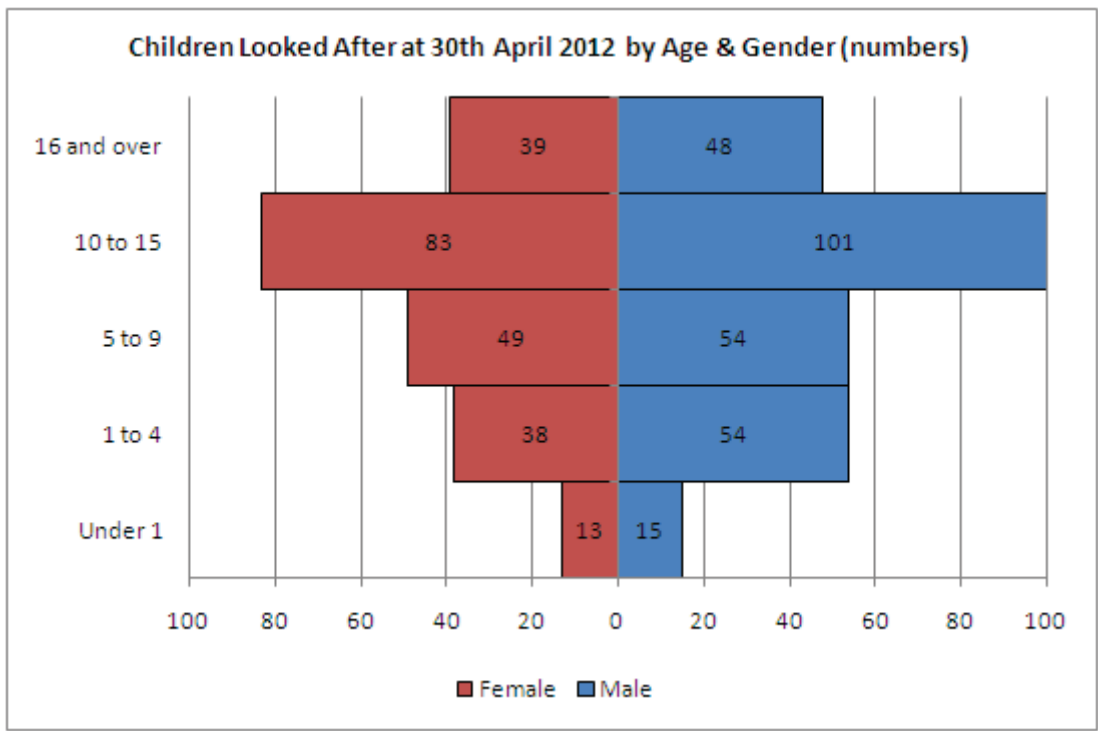
Figure 6 Children Looked After as at 31st March 2009 to 2011 by Age Band



Source: SSDA903

Figure 6 illustrates the percentage of children looked after by Brighton and Hove as at 31st March from 2009 to 2011 and reveals that the percentage of children aged 16 and over has fallen year-on-year from 27% in 2009 to 21% in 2011 whereas the percentage of children aged 5 to 9 has risen from 11% in 2009 to 16% in 2011. The decrease in the number of children looked after aged 16 and over is due in part to a fall in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children which is a trend shared both nationally and with our statistical neighbours.

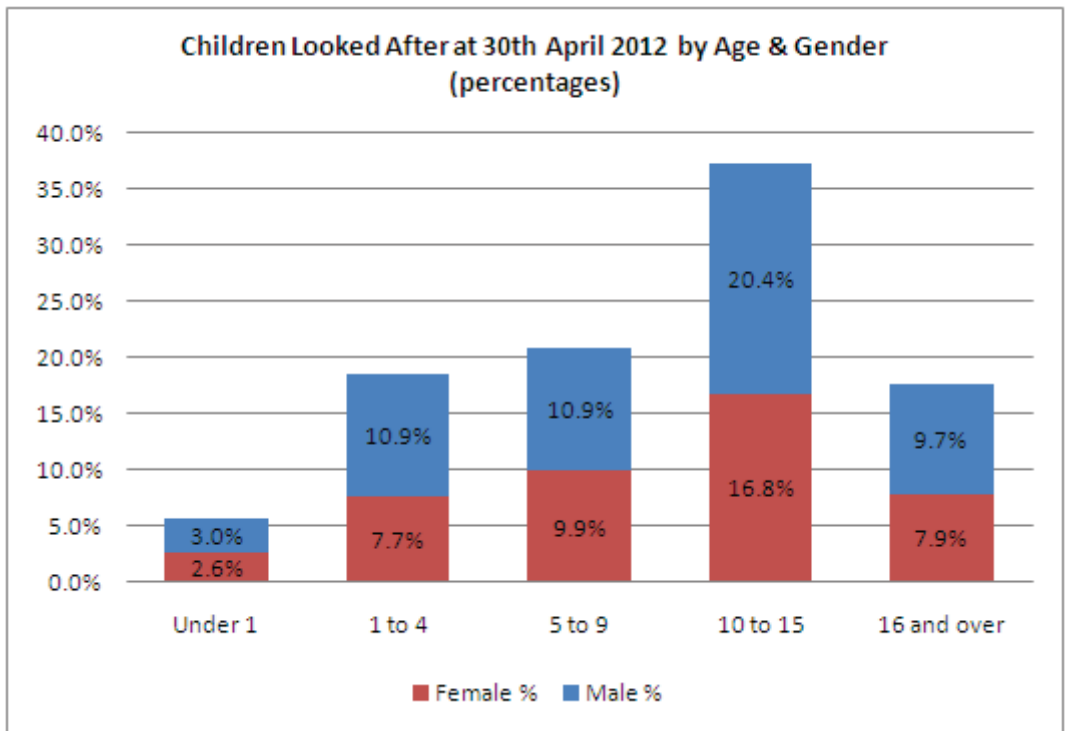
Figure 7a: Children Looked After at 30th April 2012 by Age & Gender (Numbers)



Source: Monthly Monitoring April 2012

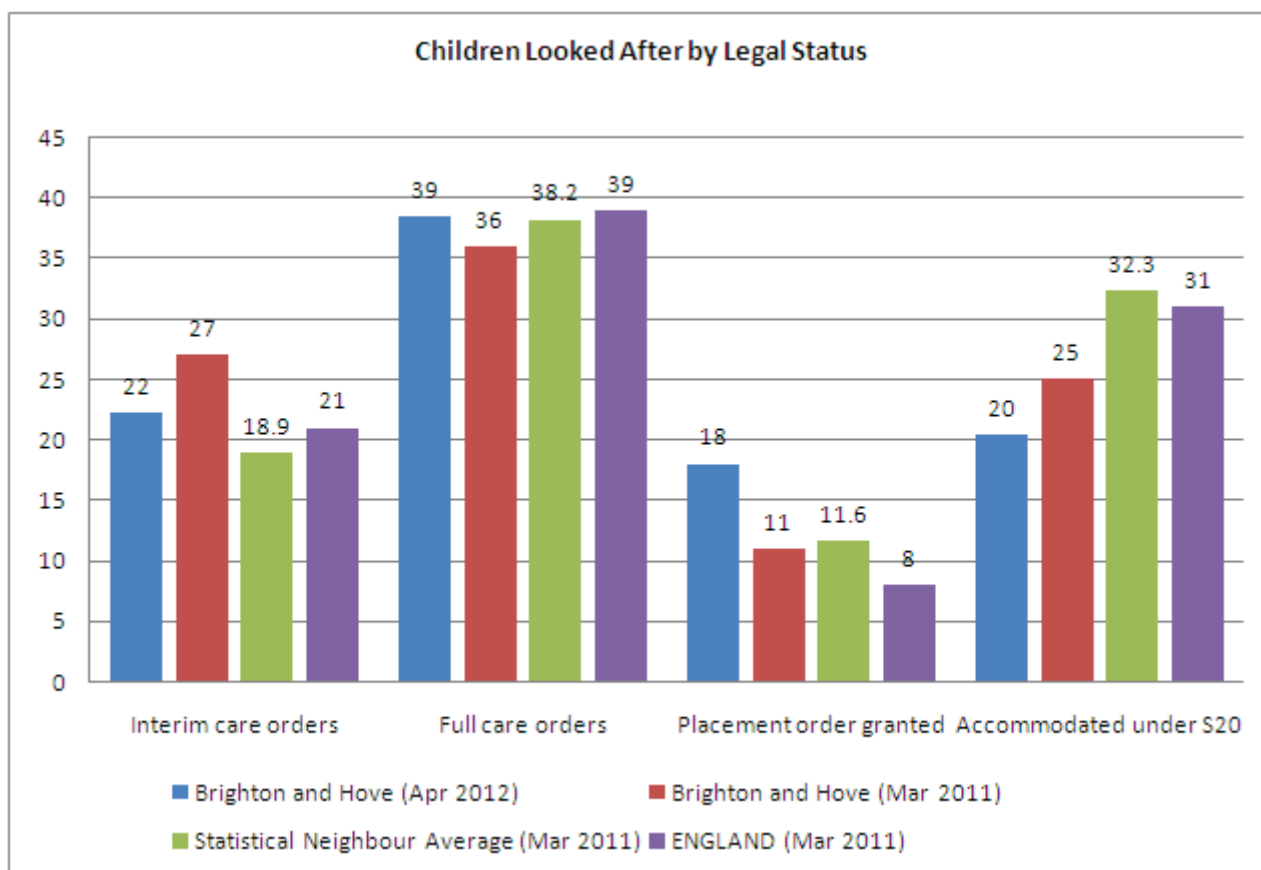
There are 272 male children (55%) and 222 female children (45%). Nationally, 56% of Looked after children are male. There are more male children in all of the age bands with the biggest differences in the 10 to 15 and 1 to 4 age bands.

Figure 7b: Children Looked After at 30th April 2012 by Age & Gender (Percentages)



Source: Monthly Monitoring April 2012

Figure 8: Children Looked After at 30th April 2012 by Legal Status (Percentages)



Sources: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring for April 2012 figures

Please note that other legal statuses have not been included in Figure 8 as the data has been suppressed for many local authorities due to the low numbers involved.

Figure 8 compares the percentage of children looked after at 31st March 2011 and 30th April 2012 by legal status and reveals that the percentage of children on a Placement Order has increased from 11% in March to 18% in April, above the England Average of 8% and 11.6% for our statistical neighbours. The number of children on a placement order has increased from 59 in May 2011 to 89 in April 2012. This is an area that is being looked at as part of the Value for Money Programme, with two additional workers being recruited to reduce both the timescales and the numbers of children on a placement order. Although the percentage of children on an Interim Care Order has fallen slightly from 27% in March to 22% in April, the percentage remains above the England Average (21%) and statistical neighbour average (18.9%). The percentage of children looked after on Section 20 has fallen from 25% in March to 20% in April, below the England Average (31%) and statistical neighbour average (32.3%)

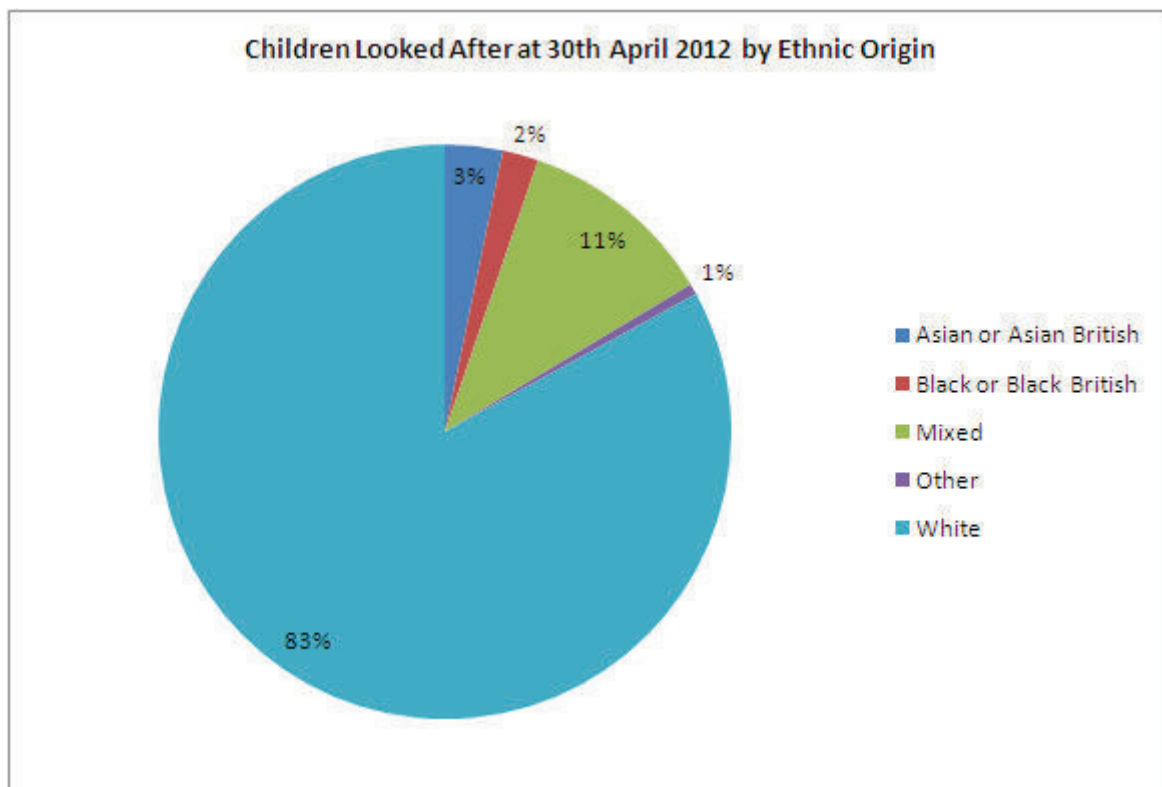
Table 6: Figure 8: Children Looked After at 30th April 2012 by Legal Status for Statistical Neighbours (Percentages)

	All children looked after at 31 March 2011	Interim care orders	Full care orders	Placement order granted	Accommodated under S20
Brighton and Hove (Apr 2012)	494	22	39	18	20
Brighton and Hove (Mar 2011)	485	27	36	11	25
Bristol, City of	680	16	46	11	27
Bournemouth	200	10	26	x	56
Reading	215	26	37	12	26
Portsmouth	315	24	40	x	30
Sheffield	625	23	37	13	23
Southampton	385	25	23	10	42
Bath and North East Somerset	160	11	43	8	39
Southend-on-Sea	270	15	42	12	31
York	235	20	47	x	25
Plymouth	375	19	41	15	24
Statistical Neighbour Avg (Mar 2011)	346.0	18.9	38.2	11.6	32.3
ENGLAND (Mar 2011)	65520	21	39	8	31

Sources: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring for April 2012 figures
X figures suppressed to protect confidentiality

Table 6 provides a breakdown of the children looked after by legal status for our statistical neighbours as at 31st March 2011 and reveals that Brighton and Hove has the highest percentage of children on a placement order and the lowest percentage of children accommodated under section 20 in our statistical neighbour group.

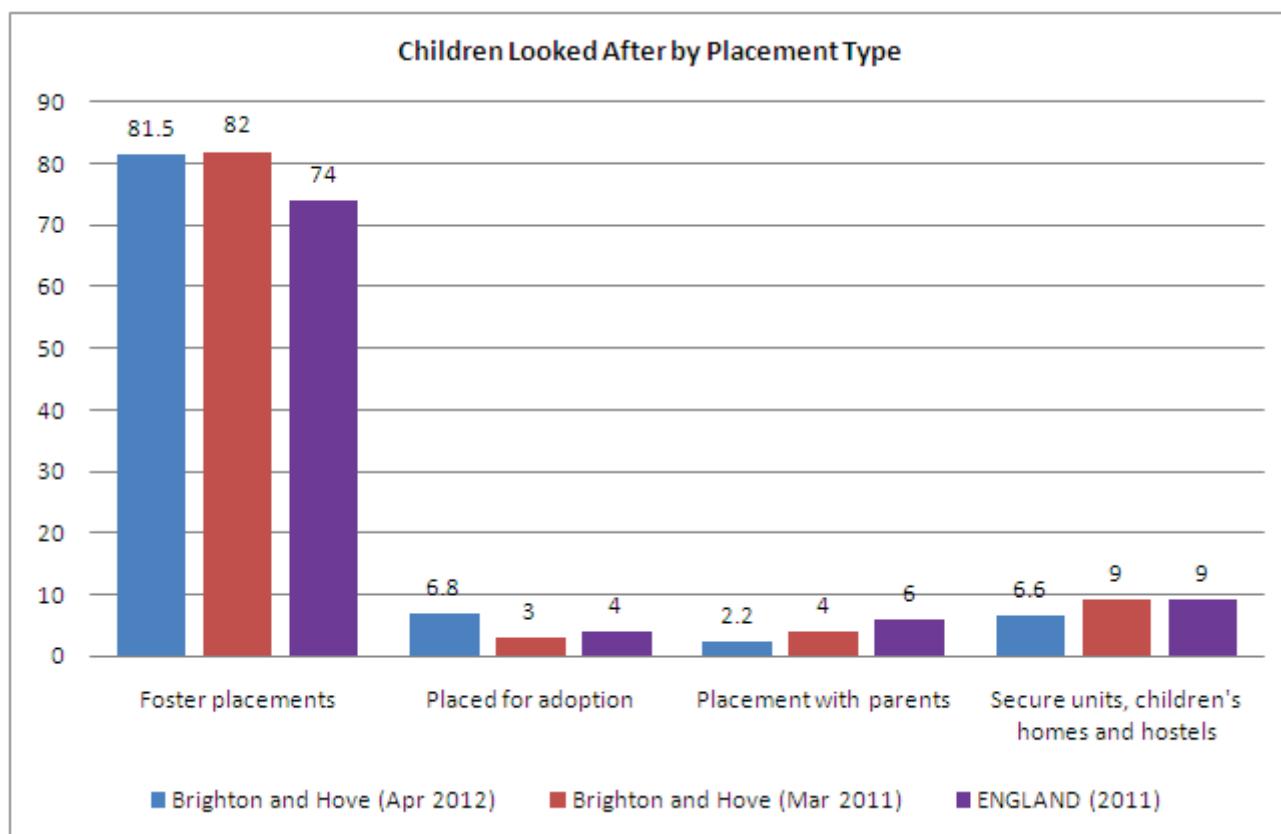
Figure 9: Children Looked After at 30th April 2012 by Ethnic Origin



Source: Monthly Monitoring April 2012

83% of Looked After Children in Brighton and Hove have a recorded ethnicity in the White Ethnic Origin category compared to 77% nationally, with 11% under Mixed (9% nationally), 3% under Asian or Asian British (5% nationally) and 2% under Black or Black British (7% nationally).

Figure 10: Children Looked After at by Placement Type

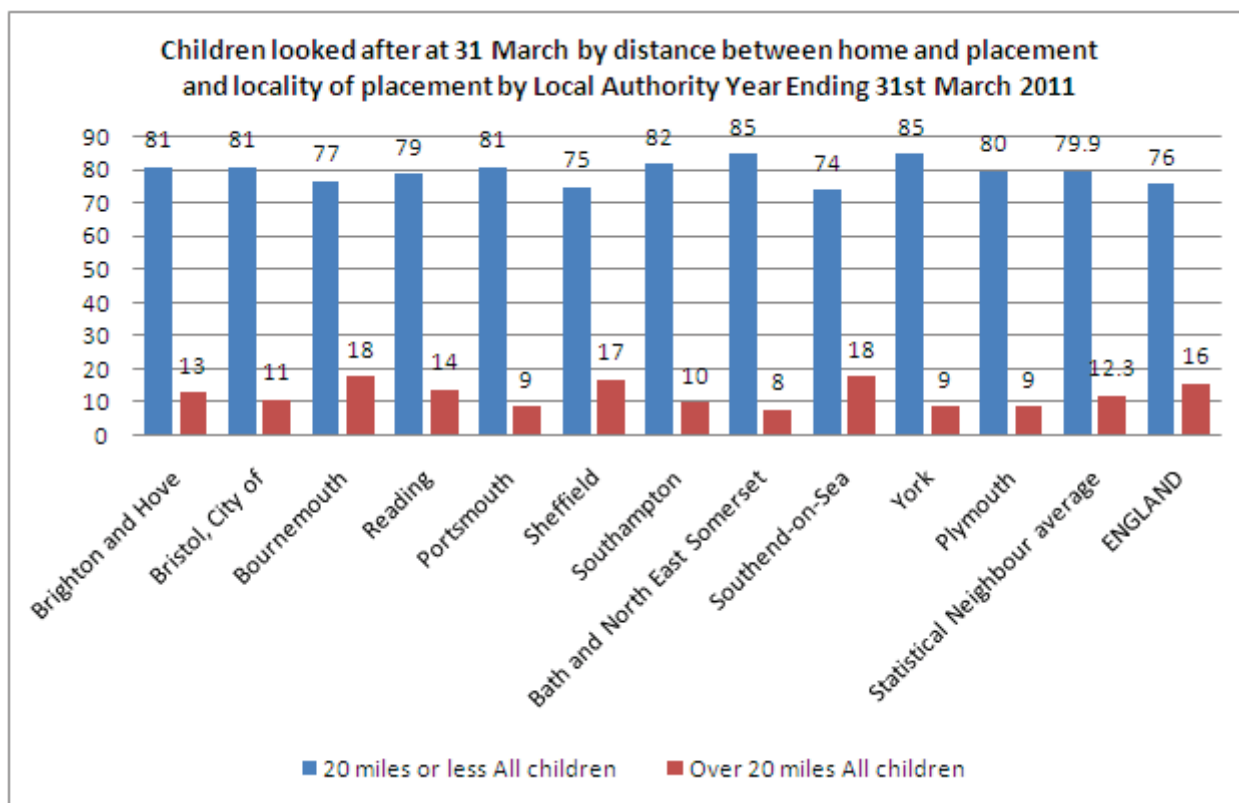


Sources: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring for April 2012 figures

Please note that other placement types have not been included in Figure 10 as the data has been suppressed for many local authorities due to the low numbers involved.

Figure 10 illustrates that 81.5% of children looked after in Brighton were placed in foster placements as at 30th April 2012 compared to 74% nationally. Of the 408 children placed in foster care, 149 (29.7% of the LAC cohort) are placed with in house carers, 203 (40.5% of the LAC cohort) are placed with agency carers and 56 (11.2% of the LAC cohort) are placed with relatives or friends. Nearly 7% of children were placed for adoption as at 30th April 2012, up from 3% in March 2011 and above the national average of 4%.

Figure 11: Children looked after at 31 March by distance between home and placement by Local Authority Year Ending 31 March 2011



Source: SSDA903

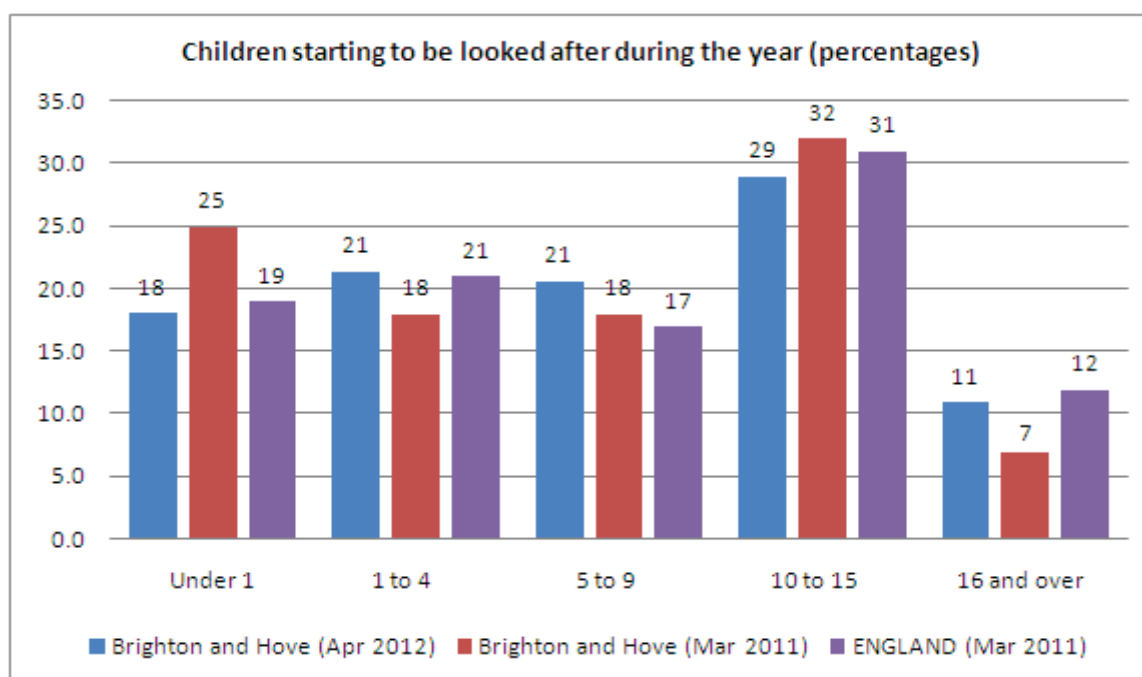
Figure 11 reveals that 81% of children looked after in Brighton and Hove at 31st March 2011 were placed 20 miles or less from their home address, an improvement from 76% last year, with 13% placed over 20 miles (3% were not known and 3% were not recorded). The percentage of children looked after placed within 20 miles is higher than the England Average (76%) and the average for our statistical neighbours (79.9%). Many of the placements that are more than 20 miles from home are appropriate and can be positive for the child or young person. In Brighton and Hove, 39% of children were placed inside the local authority boundary and 55% were placed outside of the boundary. Nationally, 59% of children were placed inside the local authority boundary and 33% were placed outside with 5% not known and 4% not recorded. The percentages for Brighton and Hove are likely to be skewed given the size of the geographical area.

"Home" address unknown or unavailable may occur with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children or children missing from main placement.

For reasons of confidentiality distance is not recorded for children who were placed for adoption.

Placement locality denotes whether or not the placement at 31 March is within the geographical boundary of the responsible local authority.

Figure 12: Children who started to be looked after during the year (percentages)



Sources: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring for April 2012 figures

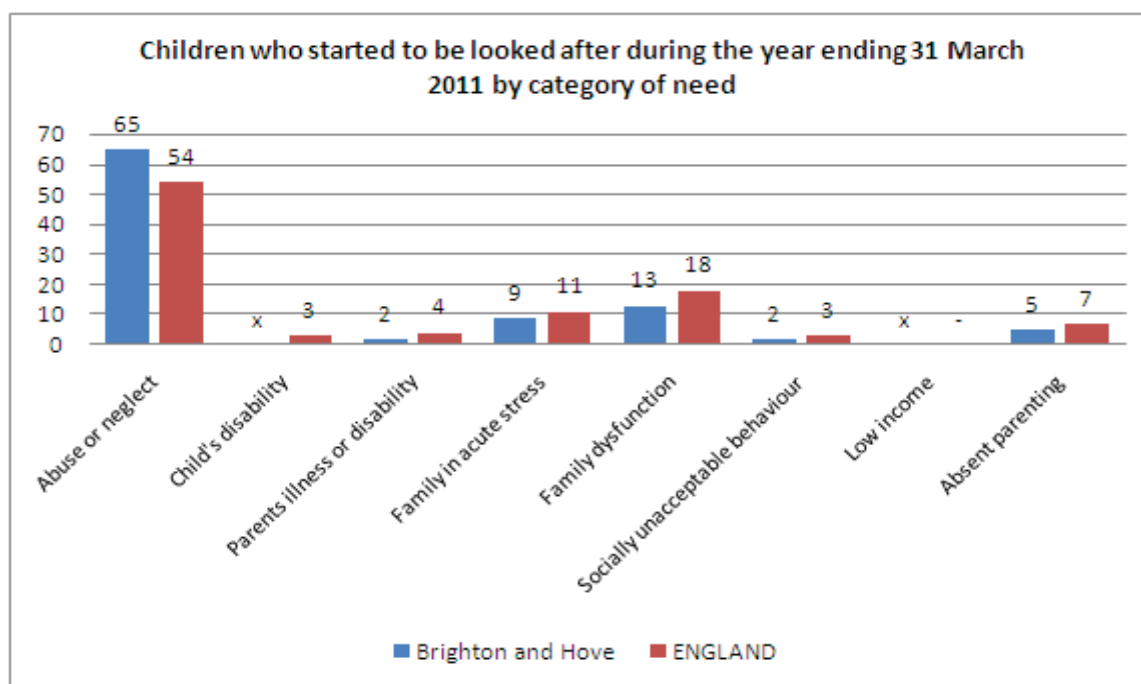
Figure 12 compares the percentage of children starting to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2011 and the year ending 30th April 2012 by their age on starting⁴. The data reveals that the percentage of children starting to be looked after during the year aged under 1 has fallen from 25% in March 2011 to 18% in April 2012, bringing the percentage below the 2011 national average of 19%. The percentage of children aged 16 and over has increased from 7% in March to 11% in April and is broadly in-line with the national average (12%). It is not possible to calculate a statistical neighbour average as the percentages for some local authorities have been suppressed due to the small numbers involved but a breakdown of our statistical neighbours has been provided in table 6 below.

Table 7: Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2011 (percentages)

Local Authority	All Children who started to be looked after	Male	Female	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 and over
Brighton and Hove	220	53	47	25	18	18	32	7
Bristol, City of	270	51	49	19	17	16	29	19
Bournemouth	100	42	58	28	26	22	17	7
Reading	100	56	44	25	29	15	22	9
Portsmouth	165	57	43	19	32	16	28	5
Sheffield	260	56	44	24	24	16	28	8
Southampton	175	58	42	26	27	13	29	4
Bath and North East Somerset	55	55	45	14	13	18	36	20
Southend-on-Sea	90	48	52	21	33	x	24	x
York	80	50	50	19	25	16	26	14
Plymouth	165	56	44	20	20	12	22	25
ENGLAND	27310	53	47	19	21	17	31	12
East Sussex	225	50	50	24	24	22	29	x
West Sussex	330	53	47	19	18	16	30	17

⁴ Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

Figure 13: Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2011 by Category of Need (Percentages)



Source: SSSA903

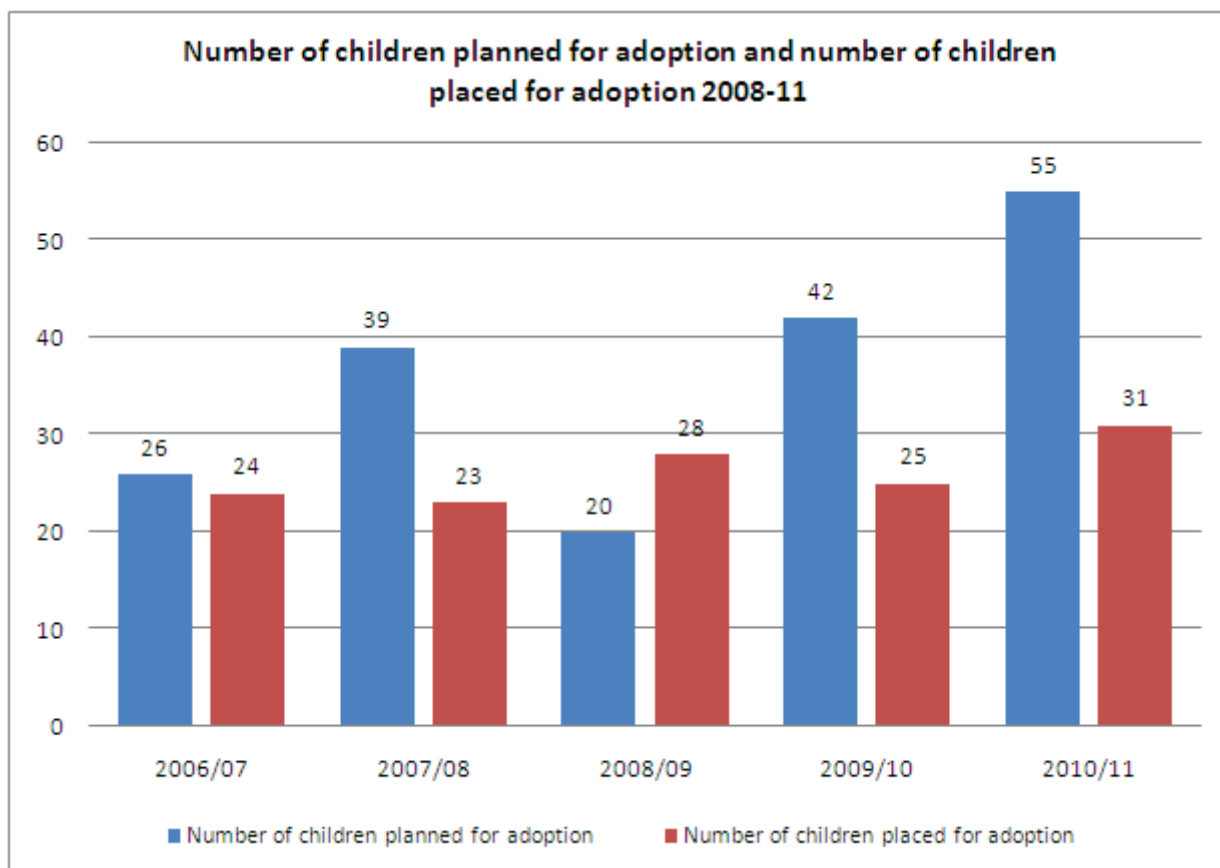
Figure 13 provides an analysis of the Category of Need for children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2011. Category of Need codes ‘record the main reason why a child is being provided with services’ and ‘provides a further insight as to why a particular child is being looked after’.⁵ The data shows that 65% of children who started to be looked after in Brighton and Hove had a Category of Need code of Abuse or Neglect, compared to 54% nationally. However, this data should be viewed with caution as there is anecdotal evidence of data quality and reliability of recording issues associated with Category of Need codes.

Table 8: Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2011 by Category of Need (Percentages)

Local Authority	Abuse or neglect	Child's disability	Parents illness or disability	Family in acute stress	Family dysfunction	Socially unacceptable behaviour	Low income	Absent parenting
Brighton and Hove	65	x	2	9	13	2	x	5
Bristol, City of	53	x	4	4	25	6	x	3
Bournemouth	52	7	x	9	19	x	0	x
Reading	75	x	x	x	9	x	0	7
Portsmouth	62	x	x	7	15	4	0	9
Sheffield	48	3	x	13	26	4	x	3
Southampton	65	x	5	13	11	x	0	5
Bath and North East Somerset	20	x	9	16	45	x	0	x
Southend-on-Sea	84	0	0	x	8	x	0	x
York	59	x	x	15	18	x	0	0
Plymouth	42	x	18	4	9	x	16	4
Statistical Neighbour average	56.0	3.3	7.2	10.1	18.5	4.7	2.0	4.4
ENGLAND	54	3	4	11	18	3	-	7
East Sussex	50	4	x	13	22	5	0	x
West Sussex	52	x	x	11	14	4	0	17

⁵<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/g/guidance%20notes%20for%20the%20completion%20of%20ssda903%20records%202010-11.pdf> p33

Figure 14: Number of children planned for adoption and number of children placed for adoption 2008-11



Source: Fostering and Adoption Service

Adoption activity has continued to rise in Brighton & Hove in line with the rise in numbers of children in care and reflects the high number of children under 5 in the care system. In Brighton and Hove, the percentage of children who ceased to be looked after during 2010/11 who were adopted is 13% compared to the England average of 11%. Figure 15 provides information on the numbers of children with plans for adoption and children that have been matched with adopters from 2006/07 to 2010/11.

Of the 55 children planned for adoption in 2010/11, 48% were aged 0 to 2, 39% were aged 2 to 5 and 13% were aged 5 and over. The 55 children planned for adoption included 8 sibling groups of two or more children. Of the 31 children placed for adoption, 55% were aged 0 to 2, 29% were aged 2 to 5 and 16% were aged 5 and over. The 31 children placed for adoption included five sibling groups of two children.

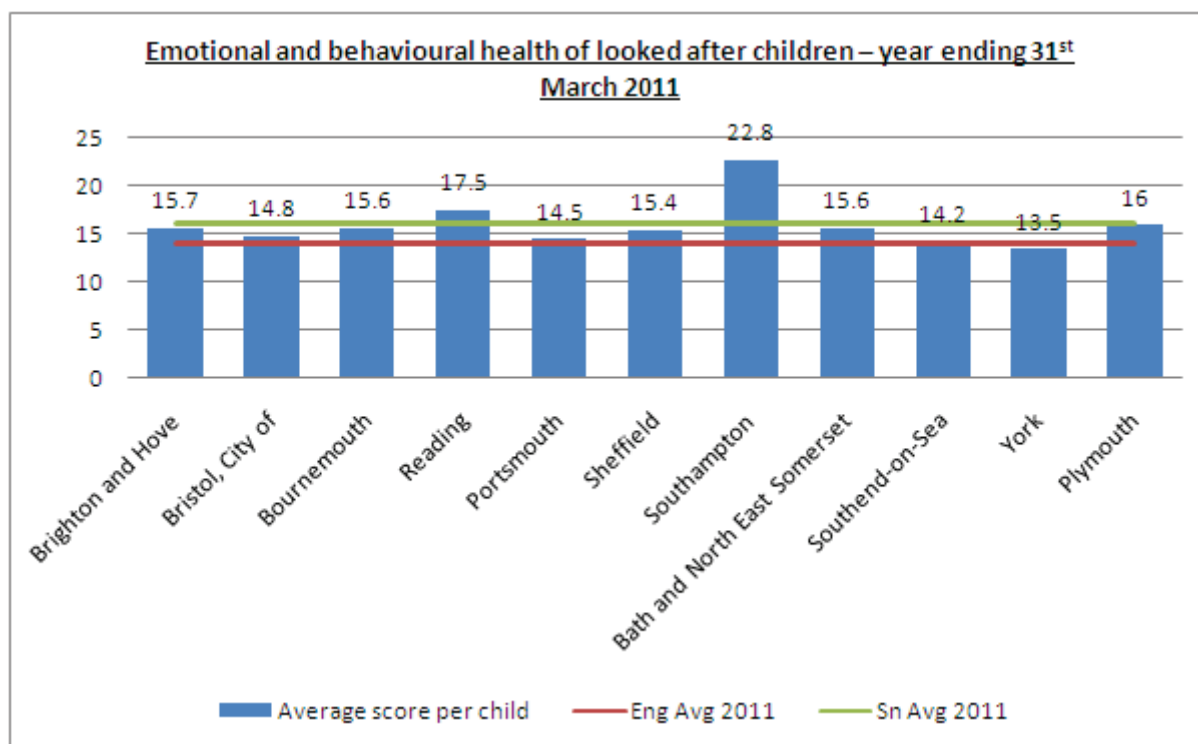
Of the 87 children currently on a placement order, 61% are aged under 4, 37% are aged 5 to 9 and 2% are aged 10 to 15.

Health of Children Looked After

Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children

Definition: Since 2008, central government have required each local authority to ask carers to complete a 'Strength & Difficulties' Questionnaire for every child looked after at 31st March who has been in care continuously for one year or more and who is aged 4-16 years. The questionnaire produces a score from 10 (no indicators of difficulty or stress) to 40 (extremely high indicators of stress & difficulty) and good performance is indicated by a low number.

Figure 15: Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children – year ending 31st March 2011.



Source: SSDA903

Summary

Please note that provisional figures for this indicator for 2012 are not available.

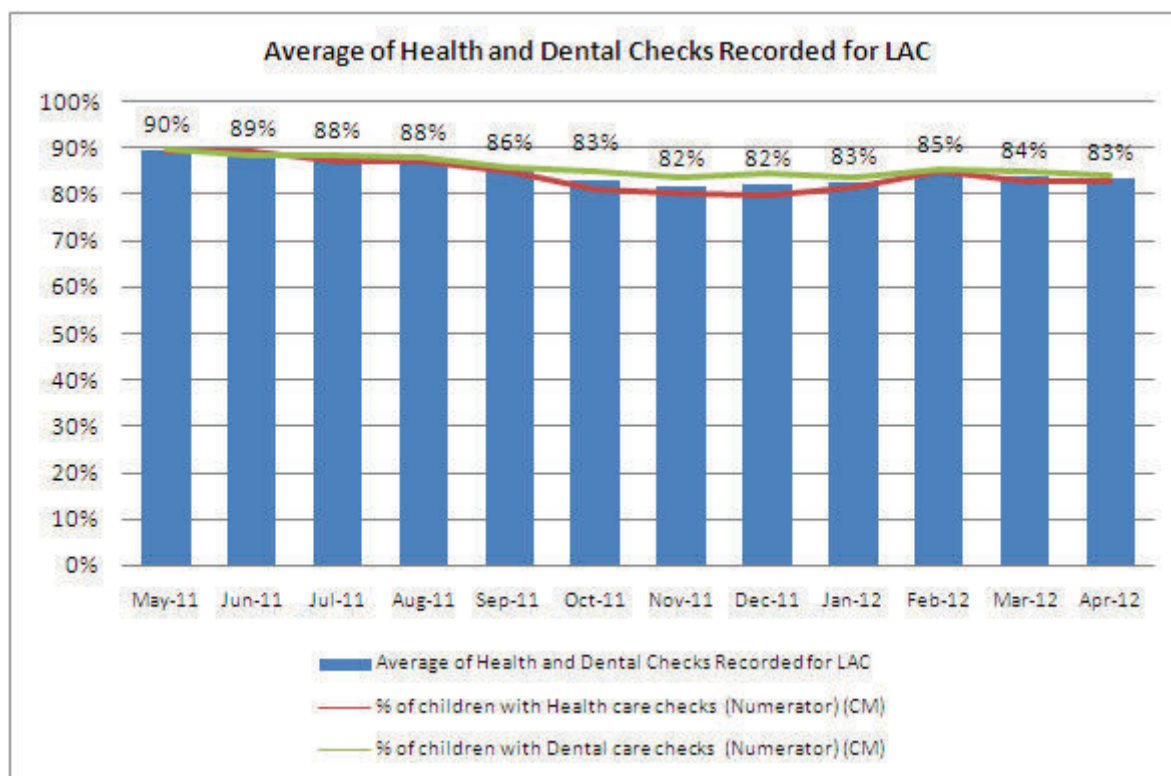
In Brighton & Hove, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire is administered by the LAC Health team and a 79% return was achieved for 2010/11, compared to a national average of 65.7%. Children with Disability can be excluded and so we would not expect to achieve 100% return.

The average score gained by Brighton and Hove children and young people in care for 2010/11 is 15.7. This is a slight increase from 15.5 last year and above the national average for 2010/11 (13.9), although this is below our statistical neighbour average of 16. Furthermore, there are multiple factors involved in the emotional state of children and the cohort of children from year to year is not exactly the same, and these factors should be considered when making year-on-year comparisons.

The LAC Health Team follow all high scores up with carers, young people, the Virtual School for Children in Care and Social Workers to ensure that they are receiving the right support. If the child or young person is not receiving the right level of support, the LAC Health would make or suggest a new referral to CAMHS or other agency.

Health and Dental Checks for Children Looked After

Figure 16: Average of Health and Dental Checks Recorded for LAC



Source: Monthly Monitoring Social Care Data April 2012

Summary

Timely health and dental checks recorded for LAC is 83% as at April 2012, down from 90% in May 2011, with the Children in Care Team at 90%, and the Children in Need Team at 93%. The Post 16 Support Team is currently at 57% and the Children in Care Service Manager will scrutinise the health and dental data for the Post 16 Support team. The indicator is an average of health and dental with health checks at 83% and dental checks at 84%. The Children in Care Team and the LAC Health Team have had a drive to increase the number of health and dental checks recorded and current performance is now in-line with the national average of 83.3% for the year ending 31st March 2011.

Performance Issues

The Children in Care Team and the LAC Health Team have had a drive to increase the number of health and dental checks recorded and current performance is now in-line with the national average of 83.3% for the year ending 31st March 2011. The capacity of the health team has been under pressure due to the increase in the number of children looked after which is taking up most of the LAC Health Team's resources. There is a statutory requirement to assess all children newly looked after which is not reflected in the performance indicator as it is not reported to DfE. The majority of outstanding assessments are for children placed outside of Brighton & Hove, and this has been affected by the difficulties with other providers as the funding the LAC Health team received to help with this has ceased. There are very few children who have not had their assessment completed on time by our Brighton & Hove health professionals. There has also been a period of sick leave which has affected performance in the Post 16 Support and YPAS teams. There have also been a number of 16 & 17 year old young people who despite much encouragement have refused to have their health and dental checks.

Sexual Health and Substance Misuse

Sexual Health Definition Young women engaged in the service will be screened for vulnerability to conception using the 'you and sex' tool annually

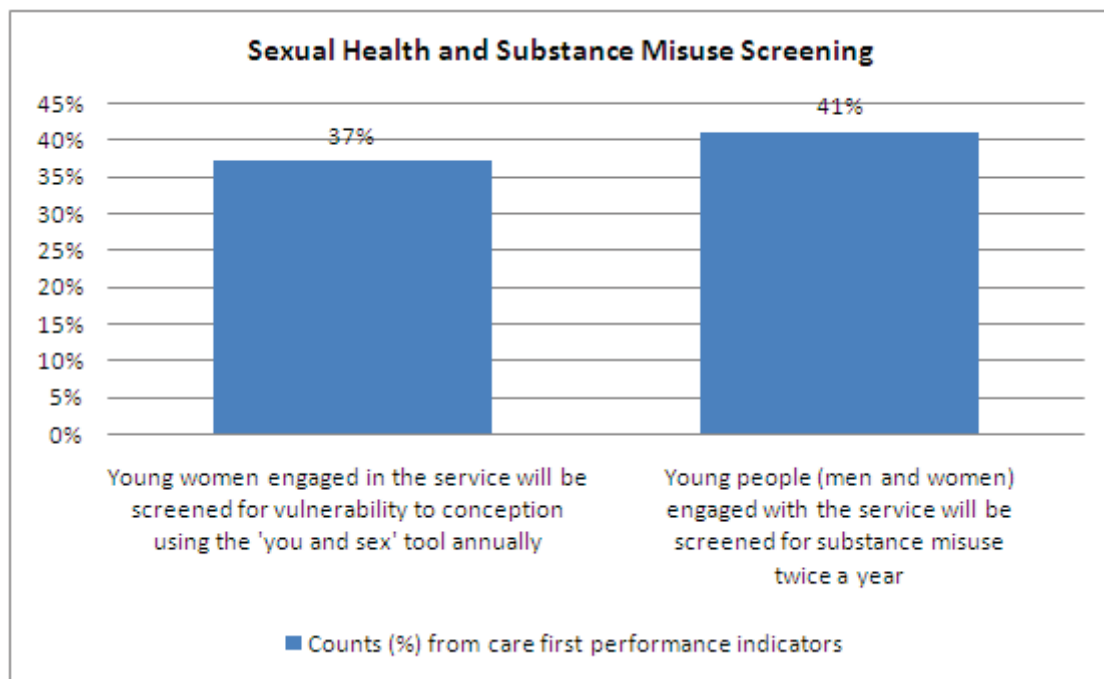
Target: –100% of young women on the caseload

Substance Misuse Definition: Young people (men and women) engaged with the service will be screened for substance misuse twice a year

Target: 100% of young men and women on the caseload

In the social care teams there are 86 young women aged 13-17 years and 182 young people aged 13-17 years.

Figure 17: Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Screening



Source: Snap shot of screening activity levels taken April 2012 from Care first

Overall: 37% of young women engaged in the service were screened for vulnerability to conception and of these 75% received an intervention and 9% were referred. 32% of young people were identified as not having a substance misuse problem; 41% of young people were screened for substance misuse and 38% (6) of these who were in need of information or brief interventions received this while the remaining 63% (10) refused. Sexual health screening levels continue to vary by team as follows: 34% for 16 Plus/Asylum, 44% for Children in Care and 29% for Children in Need. Substance misuse screening levels also vary by team as follows: 47% for 16 Plus/Asylum, 42% for Children in Care team and 17% for Children in Need.

Comparing screening levels in October-December 2011 to January-March 2012 shows a large reduction in activity. It is felt that this is due to data entry issues rather than a real reduction in the number of screens being carried out. This is being explored by the Information Officer. Team managers also have a plan in place to automatically flag up screening need with social workers as young people turn 13, and to continue to follow-up cases where a screen has not occurred with those who are eligible.

Improving Educational Outcomes

This data in this report has yet to be validated against the National Indicators (as reported by the DfE in Jan 2012). This report should therefore be considered as an update. While we are confident that some indicators will not change considerably once all the information has been collated, it is important to note that the indicators have yet to be fully verified.

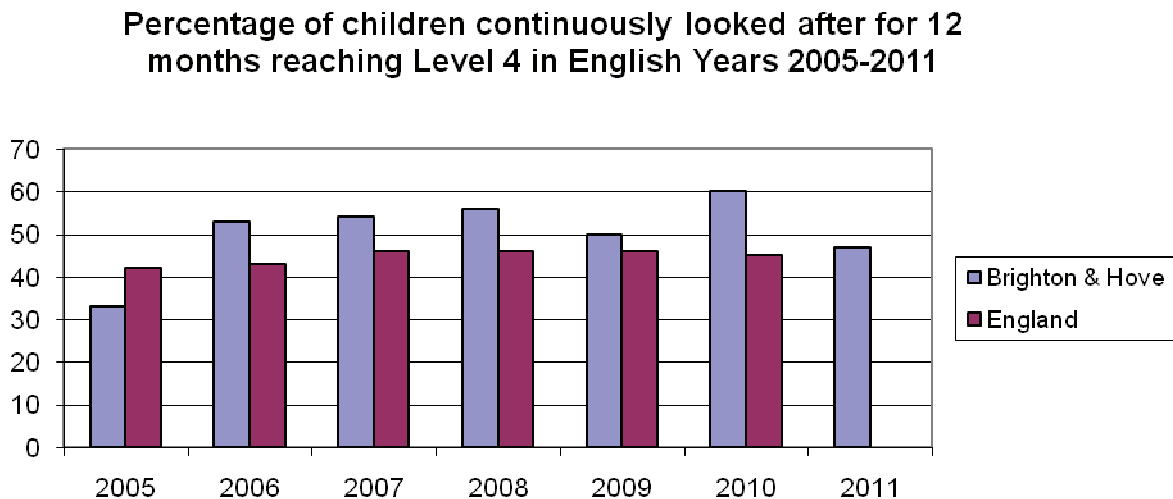
It must be noted that with comparatively small cohorts in Brighton & Hove, individual pupil outcomes will have a demonstrably bigger impact on the overall indicators, particularly for Ni099, Ni100 & Ni101

Percentage of Children in Care reaching level 4 English at Key Stage 2

Definition: – Children are expected to make two levels of progress between Key Stage 1 and 2. Nationally 81% of all children will achieve this bench mark and for children in care this figure is 50%.

Summary

Figure 18: Percentage of Children continuously looked after for 12 months reaching Level 4 in English Years 2005-2011



There were 18 year 6 pupils in care this year, 12 boys and 6 girls. Of these three were not entered for SAT tests due to their special educational needs. Of the remaining 15 pupils, 7 (47%) reached level four in English.

This figure is slightly below the 2011 national average of 50% achieving level 4 in English and is down on the previous year's figure for Brighton and Hove.

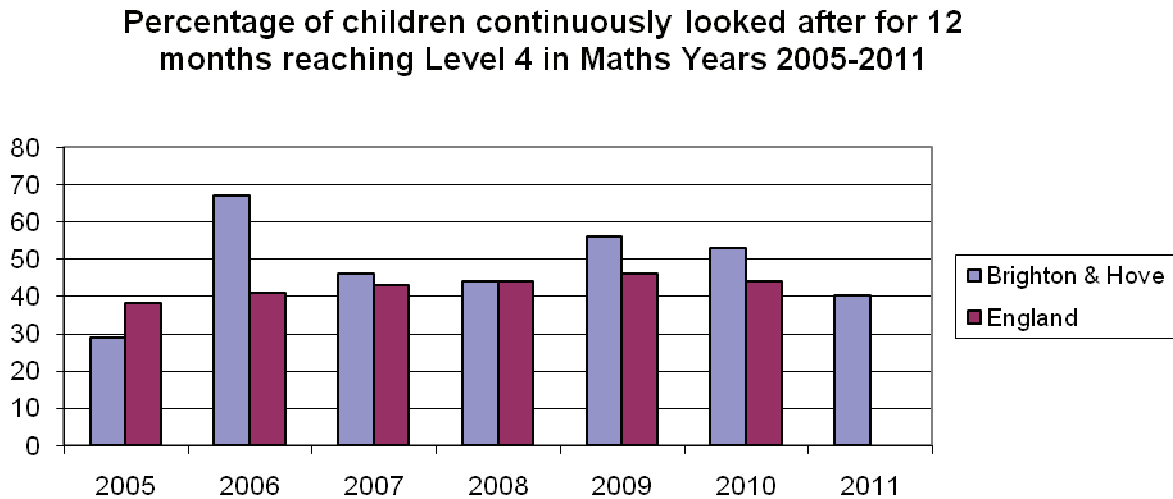
The prior attainment information for the children in this cohort did indicate that a dip in performance in Key Stage 2 English was to be anticipated.

Percentage of Children in Care reaching level 4 Maths at Key Stage 2

Definition: Children are expected to make two levels of progress between Key Stage 1 and 2. Nationally 80% of all children will achieve this bench mark and for children in care this figure is 48%.

Summary

Figure 19: Percentage of children continuously looked after for 12 months reaching level 4 in Maths Years 2005-2011



There were 18 year 6 pupils in care this year, 12 boys and 6 girls. Of these 3 pupils were not entered for SAT tests due to their special educational needs. Of the remaining 15 pupils, 6 (40%) reached level four in English.

This figure is below the national average for children in care when compared against last year's data which showed 48% of children in care reaching this level. It is also below on the previous year's figure for Brighton and Hove.

The prior attainment information for the children in this cohort did indicate that a dip in performance in Key Stage 2 Maths was to be anticipated.

Performance improvement activity

The Virtual School runs a summer catch up programme with the aim of supporting transition to secondary school for all year 6 pupils working below expected national curriculum levels (in both English & Maths). This summer 11 pupils joined the programme. As a proportion of the cohort in year 6, this is the highest number of pupils who have engaged in this programme and we are extending the support available to them until the October half term.

The Virtual School prioritises year 6 pupils for additional support including 1-2-1 support. We would like to introduce this earlier, in year 5 and are reviewing our resources and working with school colleagues to consider how this could be achieved.

The letter box club will continue to run next year. This scheme by the Book Trust provides monthly packages that are delivered between May and October to year 3 and year 5 children in care. Each package contains age appropriate reading materials and Maths activities to support children to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

Percentage of Children in Care achieving 5 A* - C GCSE at KS4 including English & Maths.

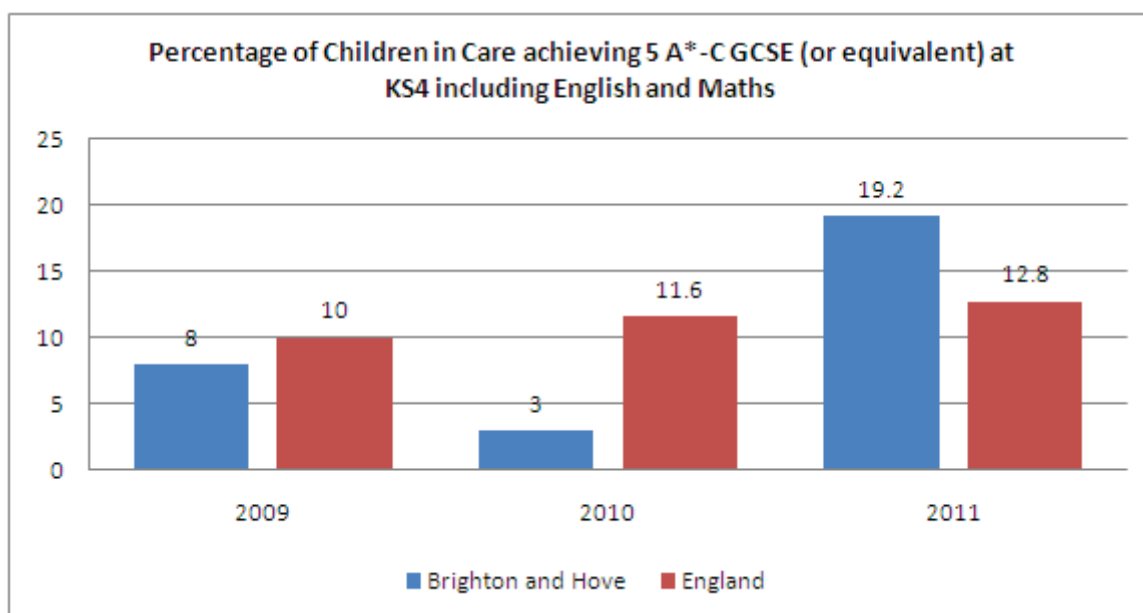
Definition: The number of looked after children who were in care for at least one year who were in year 11 and achieved the equivalent of at least 5 A*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics (or equivalent) as a percentage of the total number of looked after children who were in care for at least one year who were in year 11.

Summary

Of the 42 Year 11 pupils in the Virtual School at the end of the last academic year, 26 will be formally reported on to the DfE with regard to their GCSE or equivalent results. These children have been in the care of Brighton and Hove continuously for a year on the 31st March 2011.

Nationally 53.4% of children achieved five good GCSEs including English and Maths, for children in care this was just 12.8% (2011).

Figure 20: Percentage of Children in Care achieving 5 A*-C GCSE (or equivalent) at KS4 including English and Maths



In Brighton & Hove 5 pupils achieved five A*- C GCSEs including English and Maths – this equates to 19.2%. This demonstrates notable improvement when compared to last year's validated figures and is above the 2011 national average of 12.8%.

1 student has had their English Language GCSE remarked from a D to a C and 1 student re-sat their Maths exam, taking their grade from a D to a C. 1 student missed this target by one grade in Maths by a very slim margin. Opportunities available to these students have dramatically improved by achieving this bench mark of five good GCSEs including both Maths and English.

These figures demonstrate a notable improvement against last year's figures, which once validated showed that only 3% (1 student) achieved this bench mark. In terms of the overall number of GCSEs achieved in all subjects, grade C and above the improvement was significant.

2011 - 26 pupils achieved 57 GCSE passes, grade C and above

2010 - 36 pupils achieved 27 GCSE passes, grade C and above

We do not expect the outstanding data to significantly impact on the figures in the table above; however it may impact on the indicators below. We are awaiting confirmation of results for six students. Of the 26 students 7 (27%) achieved 5A* - C at GCSE. (This is currently below the national average of 31.2%)

Of the 26 students 15 (58%) achieved 5 A* - G at GCSE. (This is currently higher than the national average of 50.6%)

Of the 26 students, 19 (70%), achieved 1 A* - G at GCSE. (This is currently lower than the national average of 73%)

12 students (46%) within the cohort of 26 have special educational needs. Of these 12 students, 8 were educated in special school provision.

Performance improvement activity

- Encourage a greater number of pupils to take up the offer of individual tuition at an earlier point in Key Stage 4

Local indicator – Percentage of Children in Care with an up-to date Personal Education Plan (PEP)

Definition: Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are a statutory requirement for all school age children in care. A PEP is a personalised plan for each child that records any specific learning needs and identifies strategies and support to enable them to make progress in line with their peers. The PEP meeting also provides the opportunity to identify successes in all aspects relating to school performance as well as any other areas that may be causing concern. They are reviewed every six months. There are no national indicators for this target; however other LAs do use this indicator, including some of our statistical neighbours.

Summary and Issues

65% of children on the register of the Virtual school have an up to date PEP in place as at March 2012, a fall from 83% in May 2011. It is likely that the change in regulations will have had an impact upon this performance indicator. Up until this year the initial PEP had to be completed within 20 days of a child coming into care. Under the new regulations the time frame has been reduced to 10 days.

Ensuring an up-to-date PEPs is in place is a priority for the Virtual School Team who undertake a audit three times a year in September, January and May. The team prioritises attendance at PEP meetings where a child is new into care, has had a change of placement or has been allocated a new social worker.

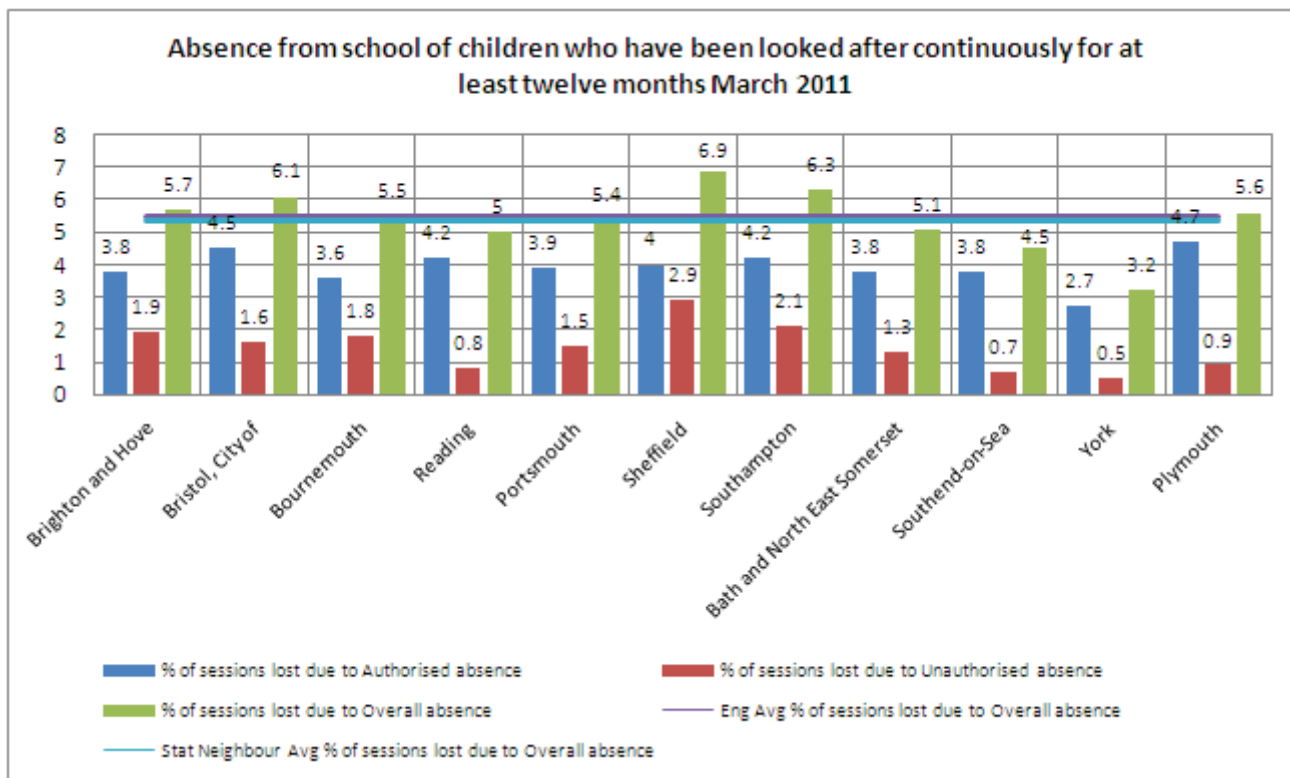
Performance improvement activity

Where the PEP audit identifies missing or out of date PEPs, the Virtual School team contacts the child's social worker to advise them of this and prompt them to schedule a meeting.

A detailed audit is being undertaken this year to review the quality of the PEPs with a particular focus on ensuring agreed actions are carried out within the recorded time frames.

Continue to deliver training and support to develop the knowledge and skills of social workers to enable them to coordinate/manage PEPs that are of high quality.

Figure 21: Absence from school of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months March 2011⁶



Source: CLA-NPD matched data

Figure 21 illustrates absence for children looked after continuously for at least 12 months as at 31st March 2011 and reveals that 5.7% of sessions were lost due to overall absence⁷ in Brighton and Hove (3.8% authorised, 1.9% unauthorised), slightly above the national average of 5.5% (4% authorised, 1.5% unauthorised) and 5.4% for our statistical neighbours. The 2011 figure is an improvement from 6.7% in 2010 where 5% of sessions were lost due to authorised absence and 1.7% lost due to unauthorised absence.

5% of children looked after in Brighton and Hove were classed as persistent absentees under the old definition (64 or more sessions of absence authorised and unauthorised during the year, around 20 per cent overall absence rate) which is above the national average of 4.2%. However, 5.5% of children looked after in Brighton and Hove were classed as persistent absentees using the new definition (overall absence rate of 15%) which is below the England average of 6.7%. Future publications will only use the new definition.

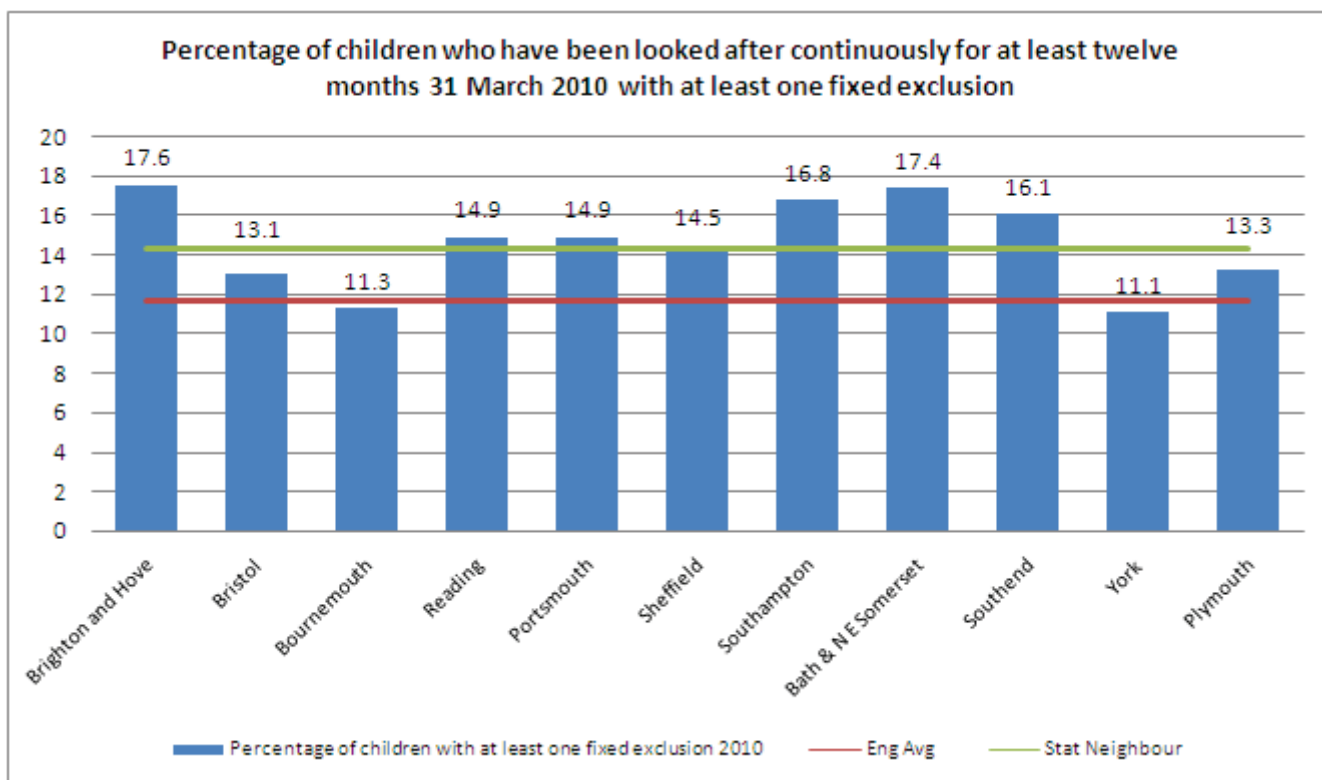
⁶ Includes children looked after who attend primary, secondary and special schools. Includes pupils attending CTCs or academies. Absence information is collected from primary and secondary schools, CTCs and academies, maintained and non-maintained special schools. This is then matched via the NPD.

All children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March 2011 regardless of age, including those for whom it was not possible to match school census data.

The number of children aged 5 to 15 looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March 2011, including those for whom it was not possible to match school census data.

⁷ Absence percentages are based on the number of sessions lost out of all possible sessions, rather than the number of children looked after.

Figure 22: Percentage of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months with at least one fixed exclusion 2010⁸



Source: CLA-NPD matched data

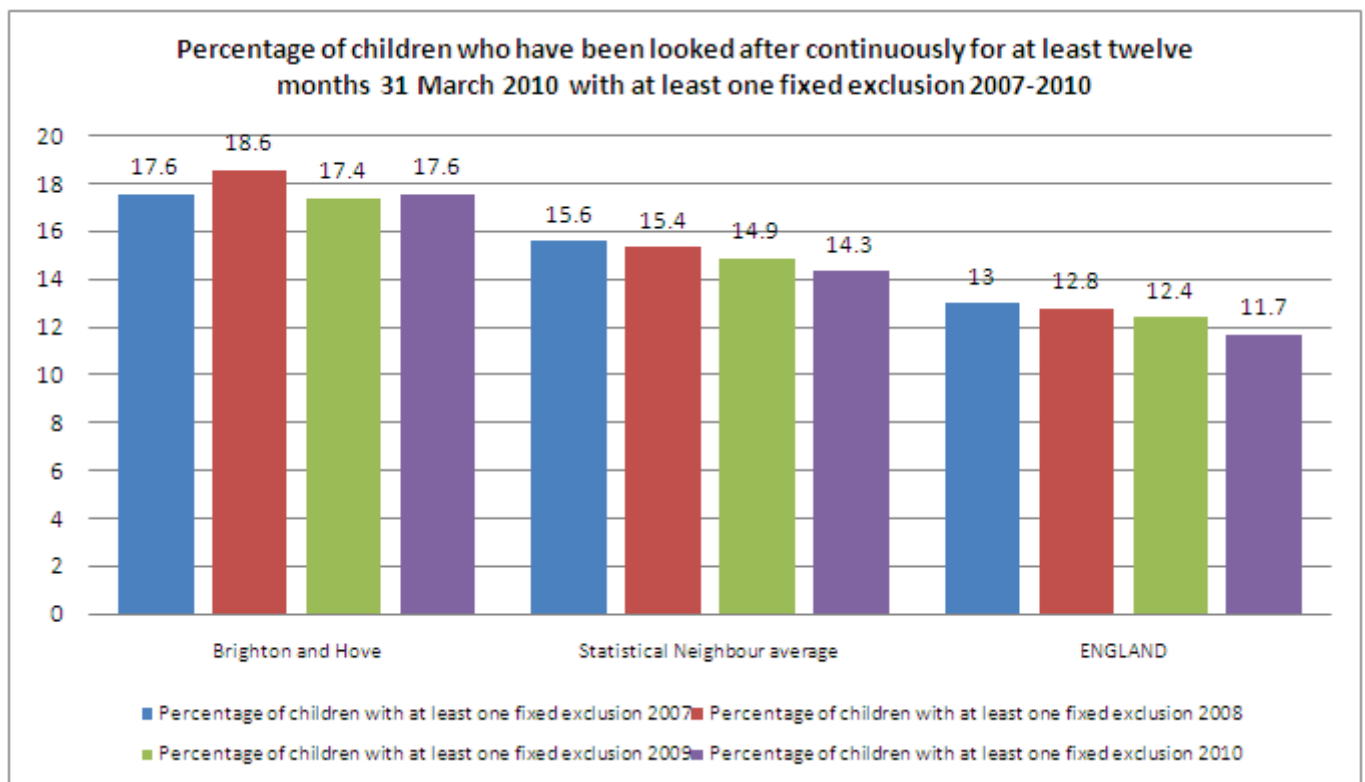
Figure 22 illustrates the percentage of children who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31st March 2010 who had received at least one fixed exclusion and shows that 17.6% of children looked after in Brighton and Hove received at least one fixed exclusion, above the national average of 11.7% and 14.3% for our statistical neighbours. Furthermore, the percentage for Brighton and Hove is highest among its statistical neighbours, followed by Bath and North East Somerset with 17.4%. It should be noted that the rate of exclusions for all children in Brighton and Hove is high compared to our statistical neighbours.

⁸ Exclusion information is collected from primary and secondary schools, CTCs and academies, maintained and non-maintained special schools.

The total number of children looked after continuously for at least twelve months as at 31 March regardless of age, including those for whom it was not possible to match school census data.

The number of children looked after continuously for at least twelve months as at 31 March aged between 5 and 15, including those for whom it was not possible to match school census data.

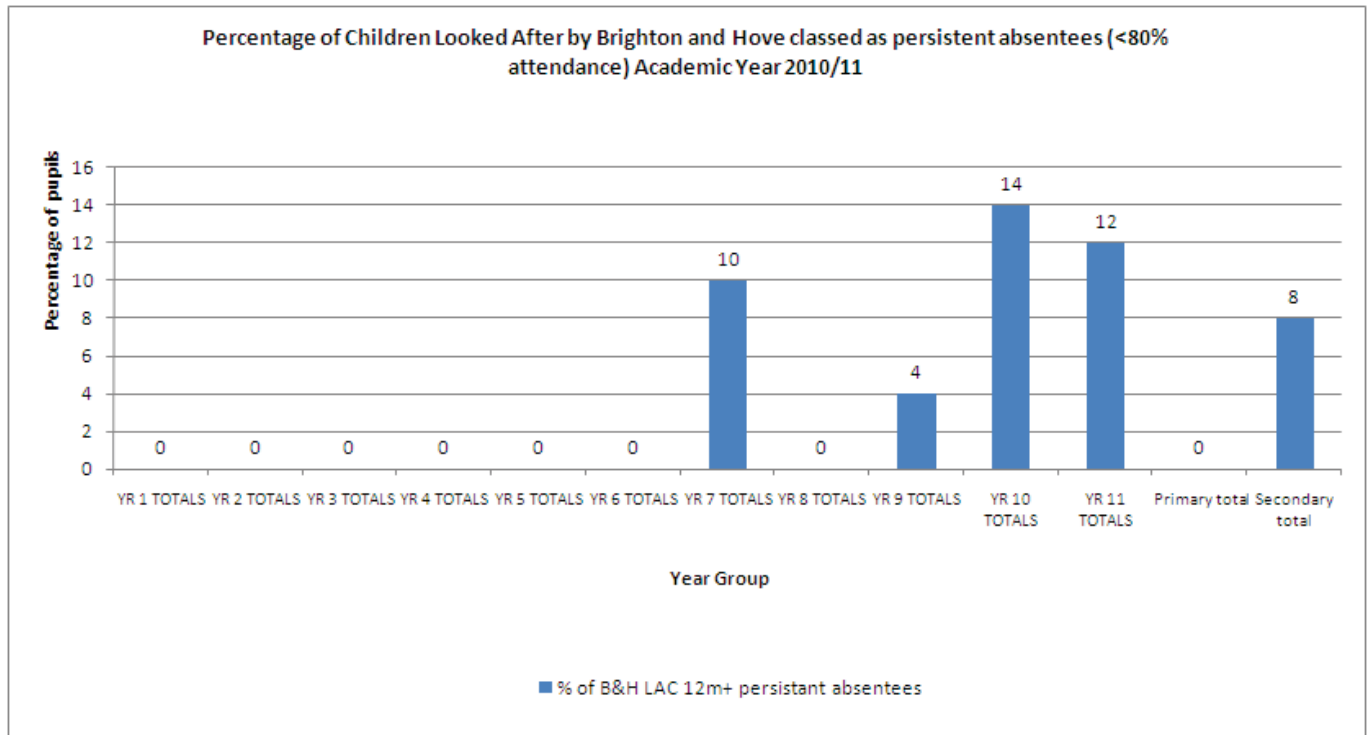
Figure 23: Percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion 2007-2010



Source: CLA-NPD matched data

Figure 23 provides the exclusion data for children looked after for 2007 to 2010 and reveals that the percentage of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months has been consistently above the national and statistical neighbour averages. It is interesting to note that whilst the national and statistical neighbour averages have fallen year-on-year since 2007, the percentage of children looked after receiving at least one fixed exclusion has remained high.

Figure 24: Percentage of Children Looked After by Brighton and Hove classed as persistent absentees (<80% attendance) Academic Year 2010/11



Source: Virtual School

Persistent absence refers to below 80% attendance

Figure 24 provides a breakdown percent of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months by Brighton and Hove were classed as persistent absentees (less than 80% attendance) during the academic year 2010/11 by school year and reveals that 14% of children in year 10, 12% of children in year 11 and 10% of children in year 7 were persistent absentees.

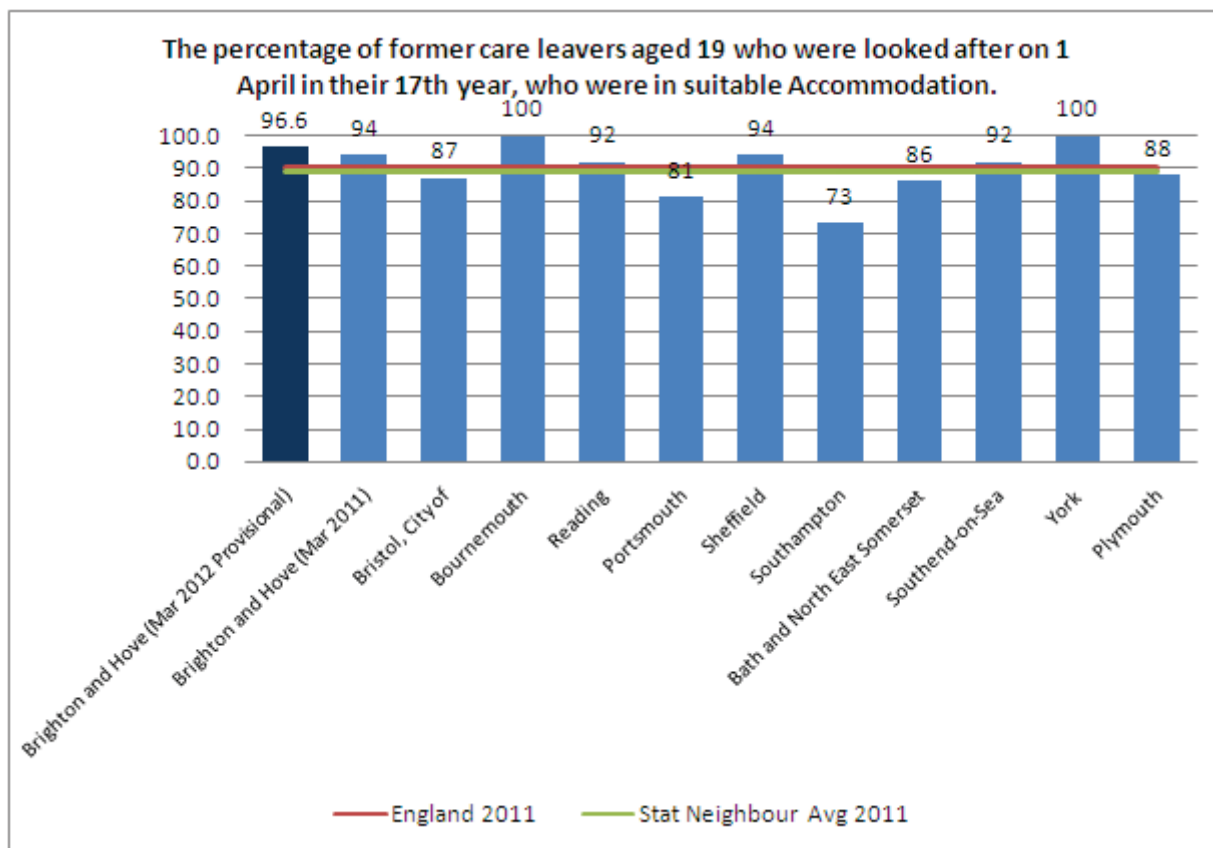
Increasing the number of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation'

Care leavers at 19 - Suitable accommodation

Definition: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after under any legal status (other than V3 or V4) on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in suitable accommodation.

Summary

Figure 25: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in suitable Accommodation.



Source: SSDA903

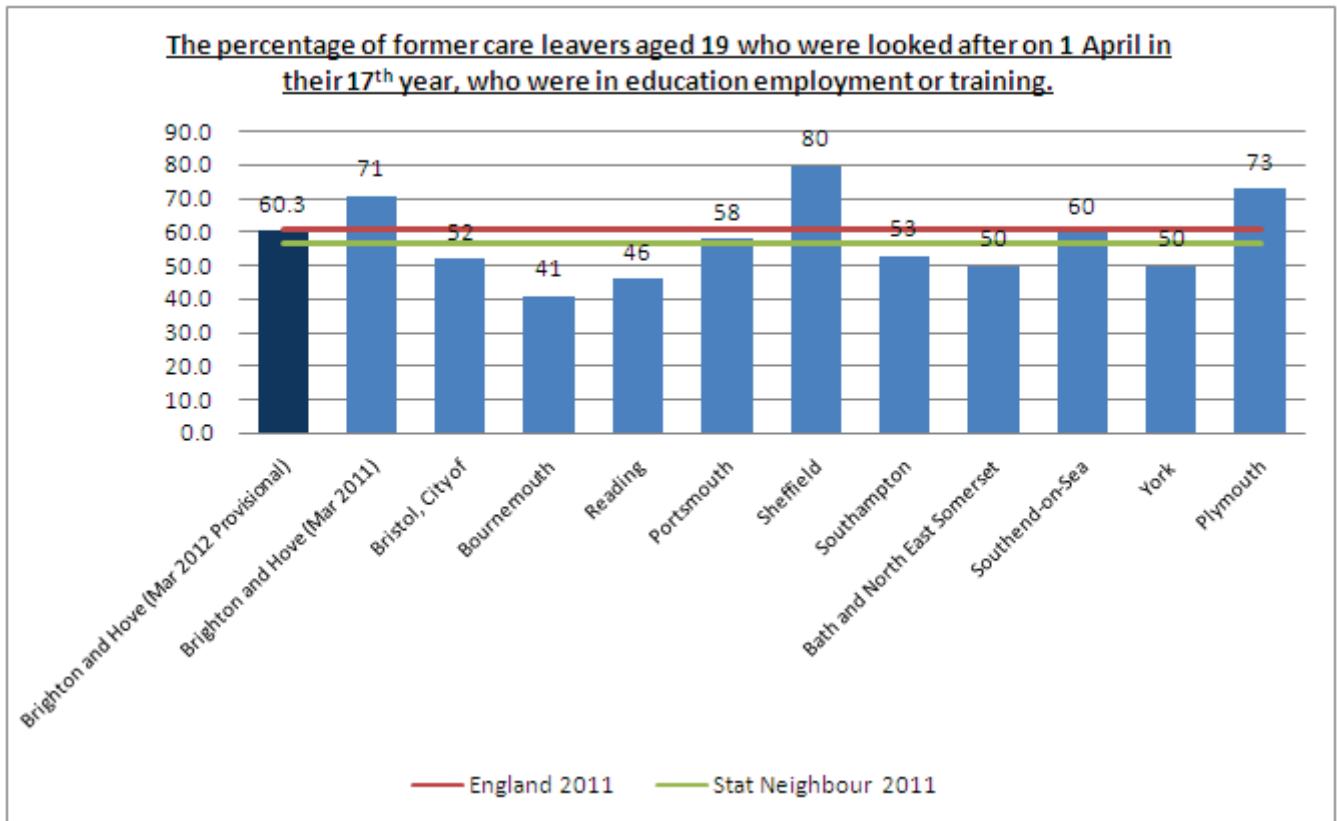
The provisional outturn figure for 2011/12 is 96.6% which is an improvement from 93.8% in 2010/11; and above the 2010/11 England average (90%) and statistical neighbour average (89.3%). The 3 year average (2009, to 2011) for this indicator is 91% which ranks Brighton and Hove joint 80th out of 152 LAs. Of the 2 (3.5%) in 'unsuitable accommodation', 1 was in custody and 1 in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

Care leavers at 19 - in education, employment and training

Definition: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after under any legal status on 1 April in their 17th year (other than V3 or V4), who were in education, employment or training.

Summary

Figure 26: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in education employment or training.



Source: SSDA903

Summary

The provisional outturn figure for 2011/12 is 60.3%, a fall from 70.8% last year and slightly below the 2011 national average of 61%. The 3 year average (2009 to 2011) for this indicator is 91% which ranks Brighton and Hove joint 52nd out of 152 LAs.

Performance Issues

23 out of a cohort of 58 were NEET in 2011/12 where 66.6% care leavers were in Education Employment and Training in 2010/11. Information from the Brighton & Hove Youth Employability Service shows that of the 377 young people aged 19 years on its database, 213 (56.5%) are in Education, Training & Employment and 164 (43.5%) are NEET. There are several factors which have affected the increase of NEET young people for this period:

- Vacancies listed at B&H Job Centres have reduced by 300 compared to same period last year
- current notified vacancies (March '12) at 1,109 and total claimants over 6000

- within this cohort, the number of 16–24 year olds currently claiming JSA (March '12) are Brighton (1397) and Hove (635), a ratio of 6 people for every job vacancy
- Job Centres are also struggling to find work experience placements for 16–24 year olds particularly in the retail sector due to major employers in the city refusing to offer these opportunities after negative press reports”

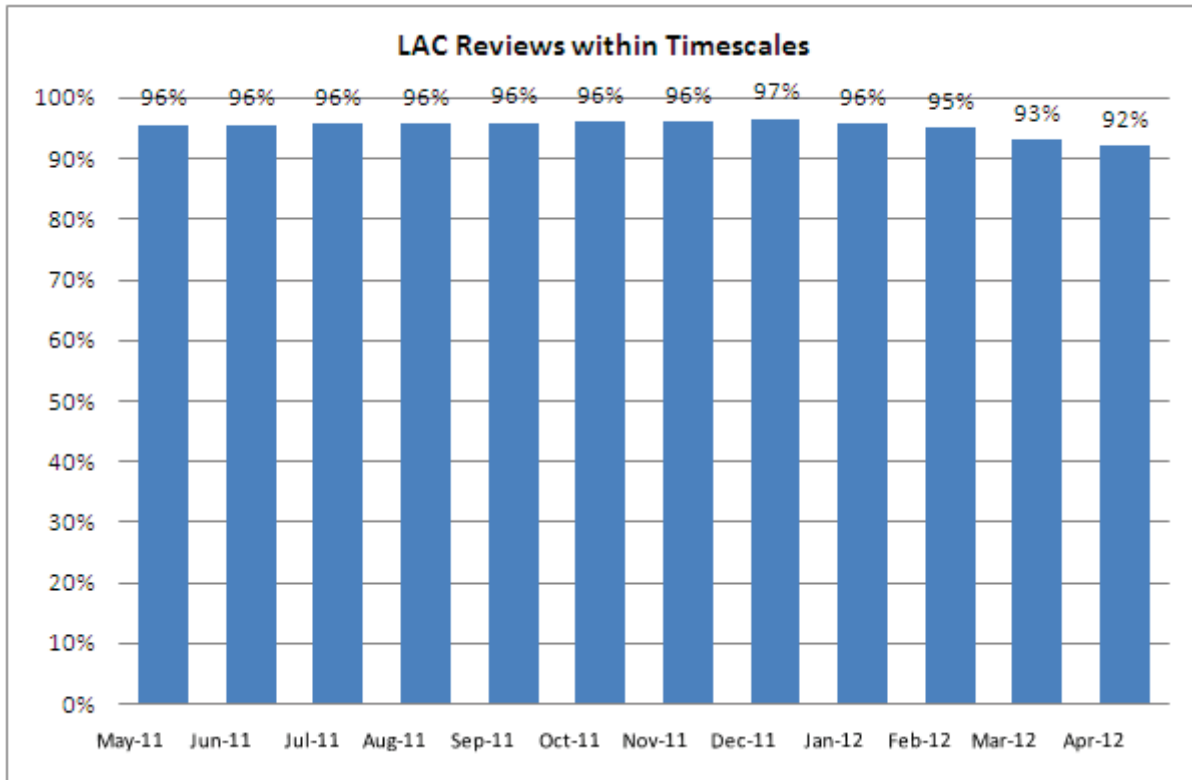
Corporate Parenting Processes

Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales (%)

Definition: The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time during the year.

Summary

Figure 27: The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed on time during the year



Source: Monthly Monitoring April 2012

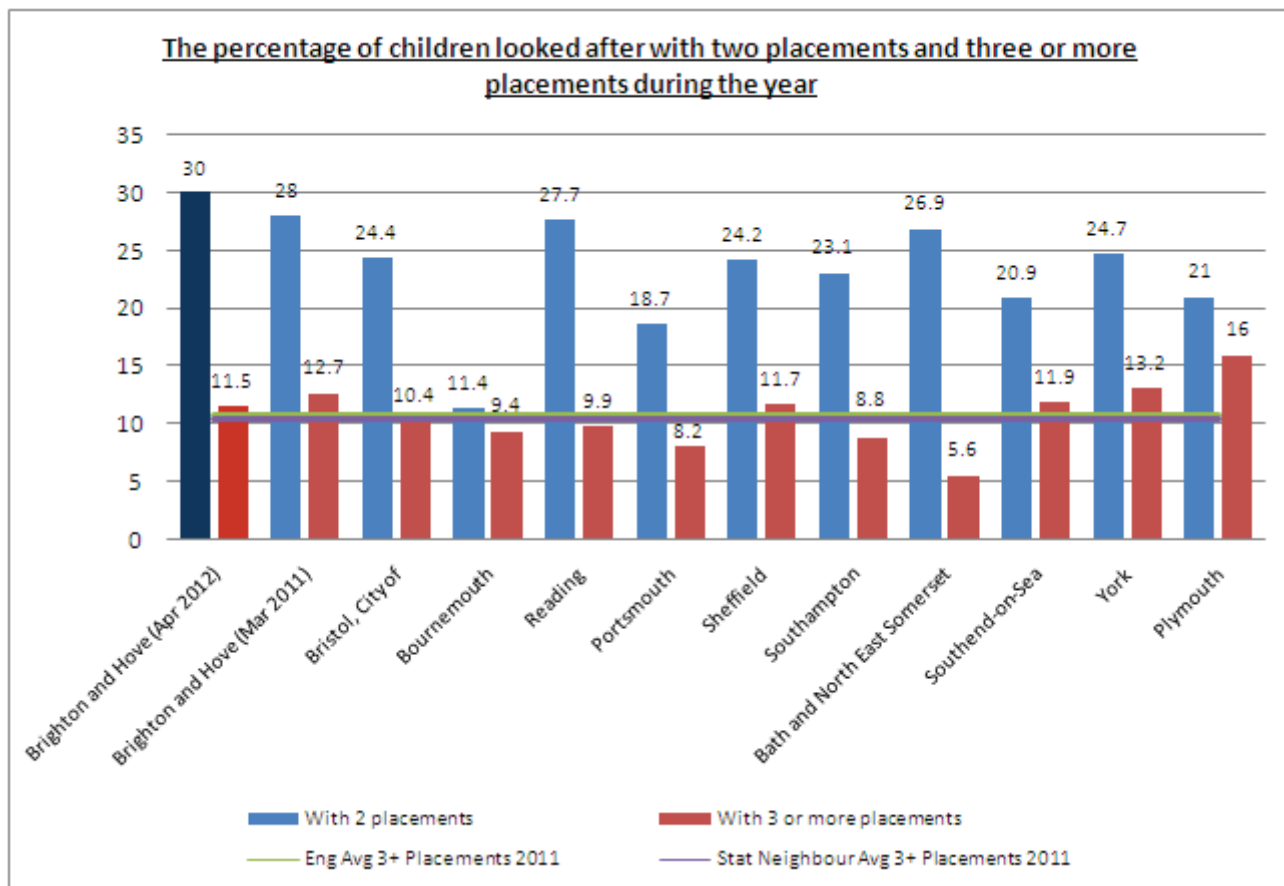
The percentage of Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales has been consistently good over the last 12 months with 92% of reviews completed within timescales as at April 2012, above the 2009/10 national average (90.5%) and statistical neighbour average of 87%. Please note that the national figures for 2010/11 have not been published by DfE.

Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements

Definition: The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year.

Summary

Figure 28: The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March



Sources: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring for April 2012 figures

The percentage of children placed three or more times during the year has improved from 13.9% in September to 11.5% in April. However, performance remains above the national average for 2010/11 (10.7%) and 10.5% for our statistical neighbours. 30% of children have been placed 2 times as at April, above the national average of 22% as at 31st March 2011.

Performance Issues

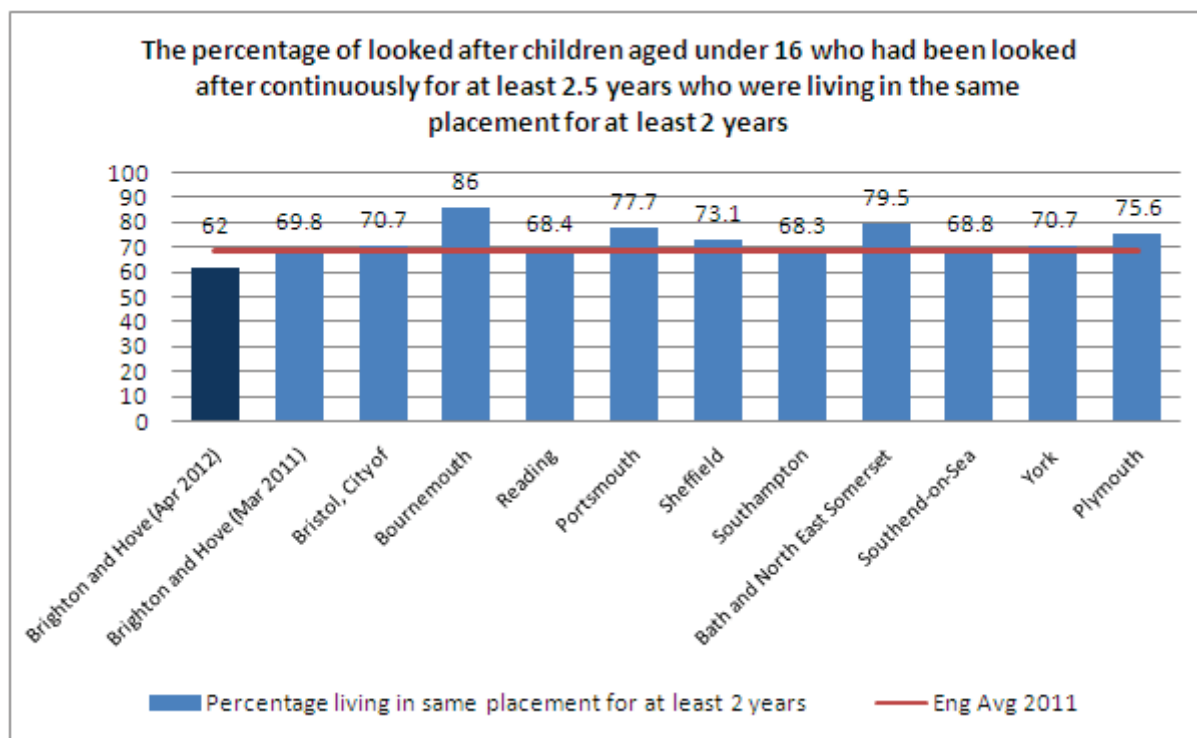
Commentary from the Children in Care Service Manager states that the majority of the cohort are children held in the CIN service and the placement moves were associated with unresolved care planning, such as parent and baby placements, failed rehabs, failed Family and Friends placements and emergency placements. There were a number of young people absconding but returning to the same placement and a relatively small number of difficult to place teenagers moving round the system. Two children were in permanent placements (placed for adoption) including 1 concurrency placement where the placement had not changed but the status had.

Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement.

Definition: The percentage of looked after children aged under 16 at 31 March 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.

Summary

Figure 29: Stability of placements of looked after children



Sources: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring for April 2012 figures

Performance has fallen from 67% in September 2011 to 62%, which is below the England average of 68.6% as at 31st March 2011.

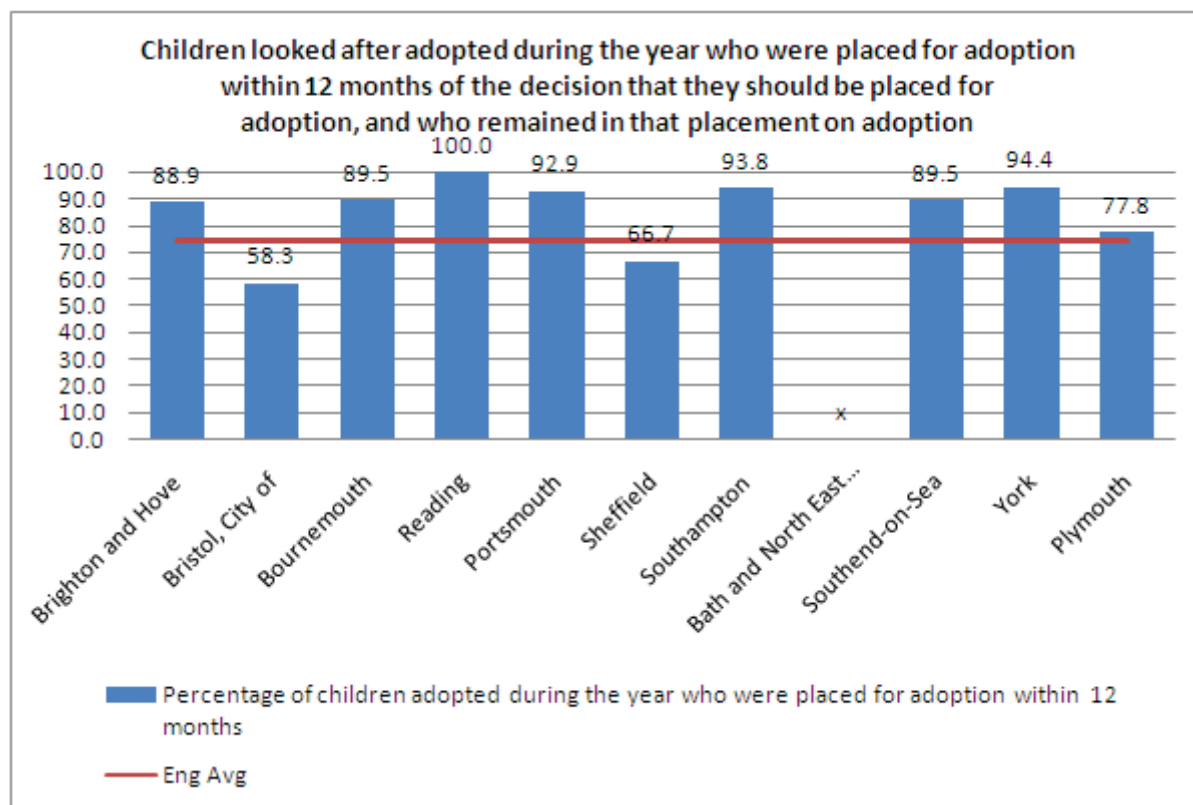
There has been further consideration of the children that are not included in the numerator group to provide some additional information behind this performance indicator. Children that are permanently placed with foster carers but may have moved house with their carer. For example, if the carers move to another local authority (i.e. from Brighton to East Sussex) this would count as a placement move. However if the carers had moved house but remained within Brighton & Hove this would not count as a placement move. There are other anomalies that need to be highlighted as many of the children in the group are now settled with permanent foster carers but have not been in that placement for the last 2 years or they may have moved to permanent family and friends foster carers with a care plan of special guardianship or moved to foster carers that are being assessed as adoptive parents. This indicator is also affected by children in hospital placements as this will be counted as a placement move. An analysis of the cohort of children who have not been in the same placement for two years by the Children in Care Service Manager revealed that this included 2 children who were in a long term placement whose carers had relocated out of the area. The majority of the children were in stable placements but had not been in the placement for 2 years and there were a small minority of children whose situation was unstable; not all were teenagers.

The percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision

Definition: Children looked after adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption

Summary

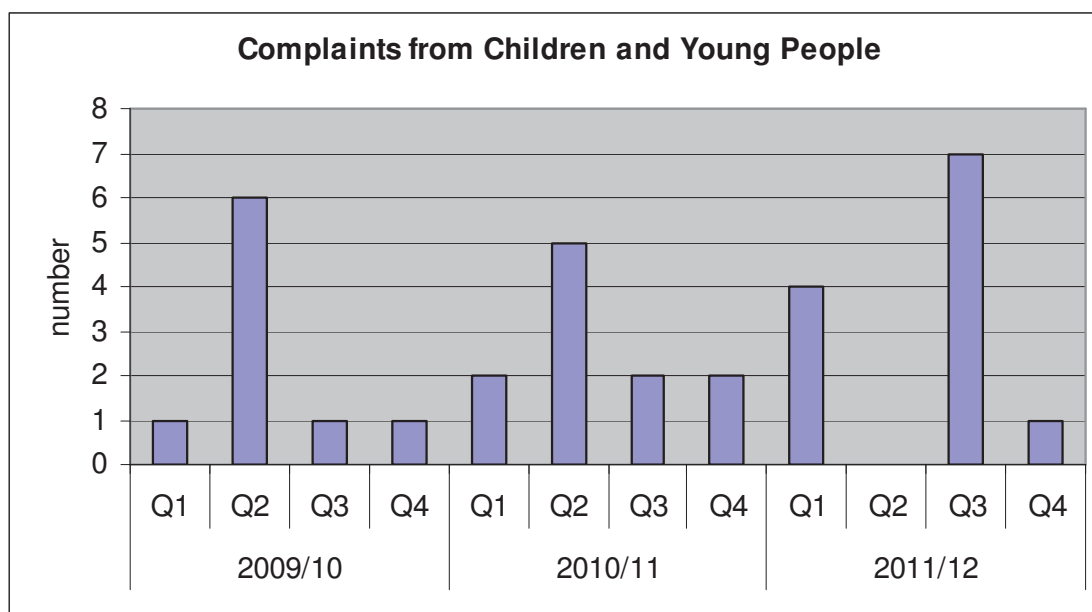
Figure 30: Children looked after adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption



Source: SSDA903

88.9% of children adopted during the year in Brighton and Hove were placed for adoption within 12 months, above the national average of 74%. The 3 year average for this indicator (2009-2011) is 88%, which ranks Brighton and Hove joint 15th out of 152 Local Authorities.

Figure 31: Number of Formal Complaints made by Looked After Children and Young People



Source: Standards and Complaints Manager

The number of looked after children and young people who raise a formal complaint under the Children Act averages out to about one per calendar month. Nearly all complaints receive support from an advocate from YAP.

The reason there are so few formal complaints from Young People are reasonably well understood. In the main young people simply want to get the issue sorted and do not want to engage in formal processes. We are aware that the advocates in YAP do much good work to help young people to make representations and have those issues either resolved or provide explanations why they cannot be.

However, it is essential that Looked After Children are fully aware they can make formal complaints and that they understand how they can do so. Social Workers and IROs can play a significant role in ensuring children and young people and their carers know what options are available if they are unhappy with the services they are provided.

Some of the key issues raised by Looked after Children are related to Access to Records, Confidentiality, Contact Arrangements, and Placement Decisions.

During the period recorded four complaints were the subject of Stage Two Investigations. None of these progressed to Stage Three Review Panel. The Ombudsman has carried investigations into complaints on behalf of four looked after children.