

Corporate Parenting Summary Report

March 2013 – External Version

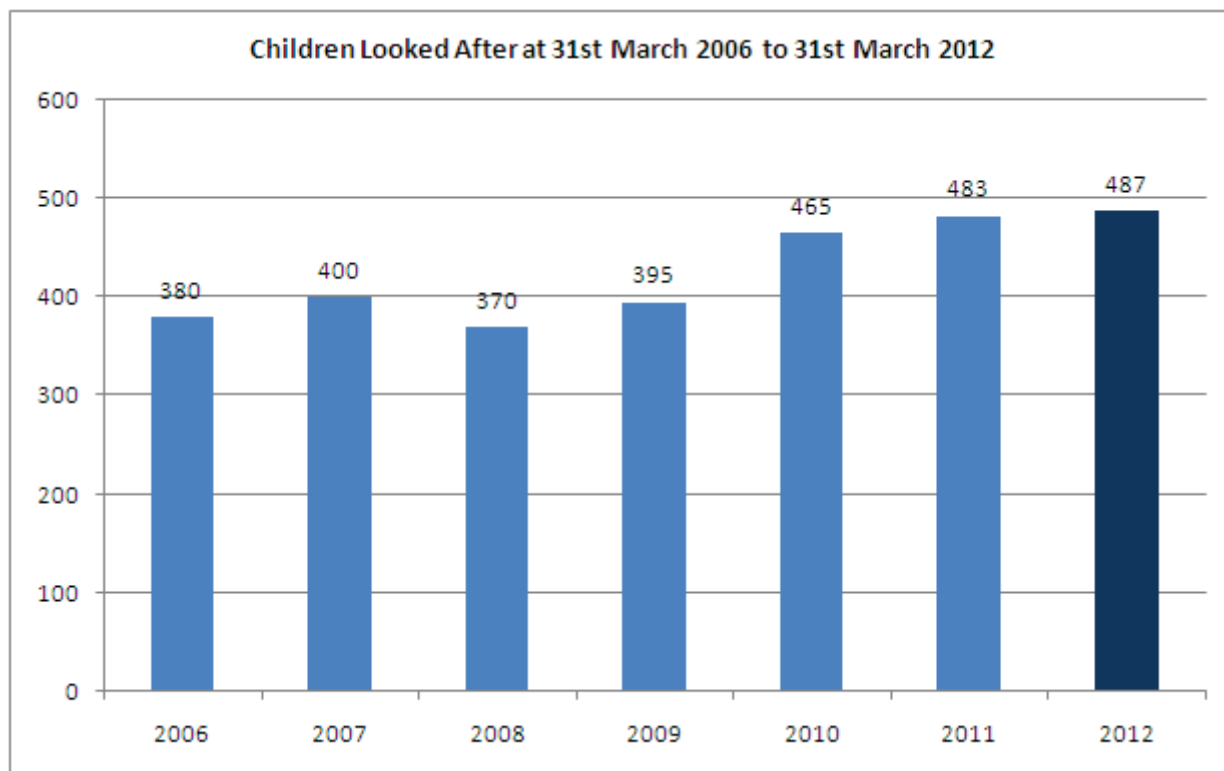
The purpose of this report is to highlight key performance activity relating to Children in Care and to identify key performance issues and the direction of travel for the key indicators.

Contents

	RAG Rating	Direction of Travel	Section
			<u>Children Looked After Numbers</u>
2	Red	Worse	Looked After Children (Excluding Respite) as at 31 st March 2012
3-4	Red	Better	Children Looked After at 31st March 2010 to 2012. Rates per 10,000 Children aged under 18 years
5	Red	Better	Children Looked After last 12 months
6	Red	Better	Children and Families in Care Proceedings
			<u>Profile of Children Looked After Year Ending 31st March 2011</u>
7-8	N/A	N/A	Children Looked After by Age Band
9	N/A	N/A	Children Looked After by Age and Gender
10	N/A	N/A	Children Looked After by Legal Status
11	N/A	N/A	Children Looked After by Ethnicity
12	N/A	N/A	Children Looked After by Placement Type
13	Green	Slightly Worse	Children looked after at 31 March by distance between home and placement by Local Authority
14	N/A	N/A	Children who started to be looked after during the year
			<u>Health of Children Looked After</u>
15	Amber	Slightly Better	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children
16	Amber	Slightly Worse	Health and Dental Checks for Children Looked After
			<u>Improving Educational Outcomes</u>
17	Amber	Better	Percentage of School Age LAC with a PEP in the last 6 months
18	Green	Better	Percentage of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months with at least one fixed exclusion 2010
			<u>Increasing the number of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation'</u>
19	Green	Better	Care leavers at 19 - Suitable accommodation
20-21	Amber	Worse	Care leavers at 19 - in education, employment and training
			<u>Corporate Parenting Processes</u>
22	Amber	Worse	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales
23	Green	Better	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements
24	Amber	Better	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement
25	Green	Better	Adoption and Special Guardianship Order

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

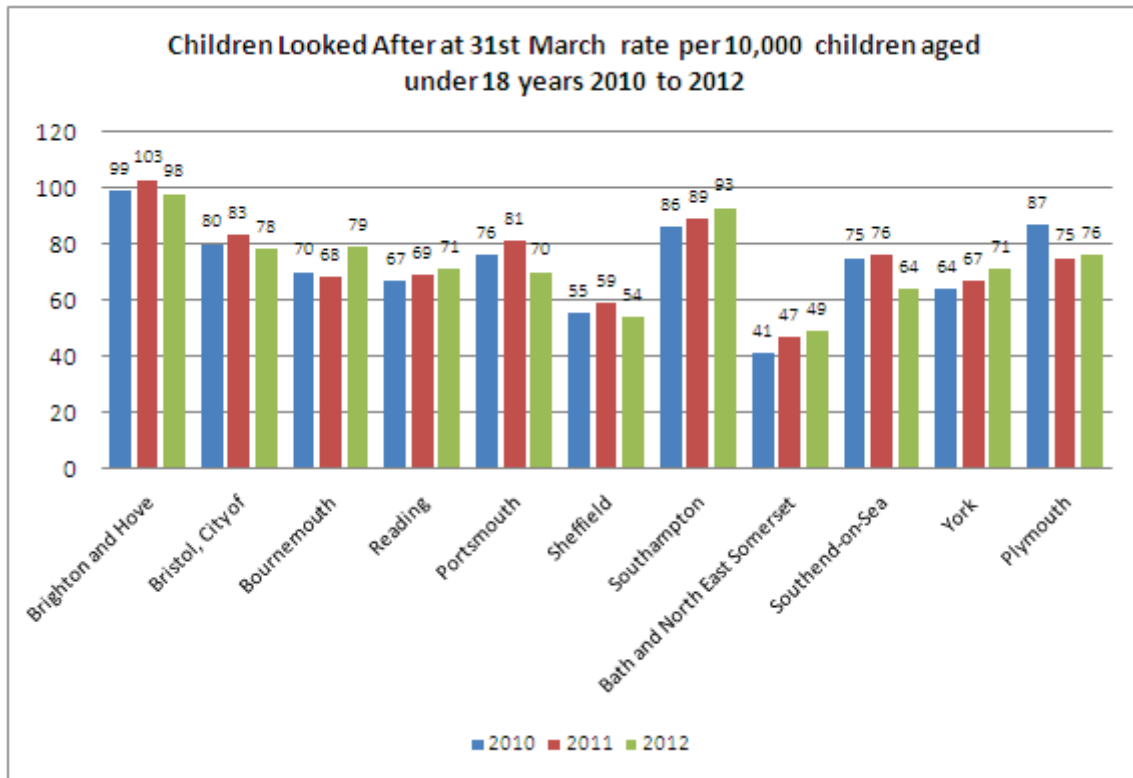
Figure 1: Number of Looked After Children (excluding Respite) at 31st March 2006 to 2012



Source: SSDA903

The number of Looked after Children at 31st March 2012 is 487, a 1% increase from 2011 compared to a 2% increase nationally, and a 32% increase from 2008 compared to a 13% increase nationally.

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



Source: SSDA903

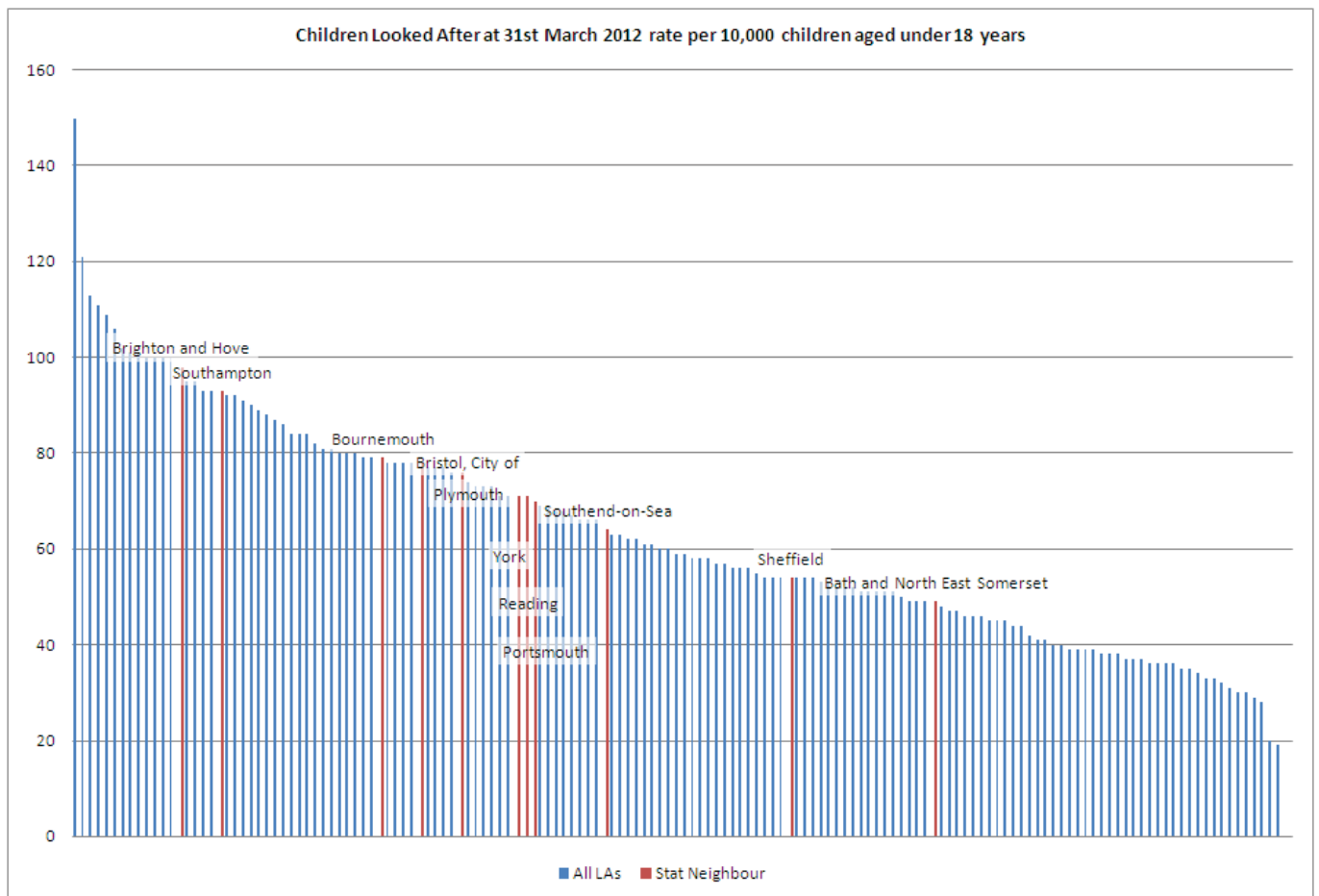
The rate of children looked after per 10,000 children aged under 18 has fallen from 103 as at 31 March 2011 to 98 as at March 2012. The reason that our rate per 10,000 has fallen despite the number of children looked after increasing is because the mid-year 2011 projection for children aged 0-17 based on 2011 Census is 49,900 and the 2010 mid-year projection was 46,900.

The rate for 2012 is higher than the 2011 national average (59 per 10,000) and the average for our statistical neighbours² (70.5 per 10,000). Brighton and Hove's LAC number would need to fall to 352 to be in-line with the statistical neighbour average and 295 to be in-line with the national average. Our closest statistical neighbours in terms of demographics are Bristol and Bournemouth and our LAC number would need to fall to 390 and 392 respectively to be in-line with our closest neighbours.

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.

² 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 - Mar 2013 Final Version - EXTERNAL

Figure 2b: Children looked after at 31st March 2012. Rates per 10,000 Children aged under 18 years³

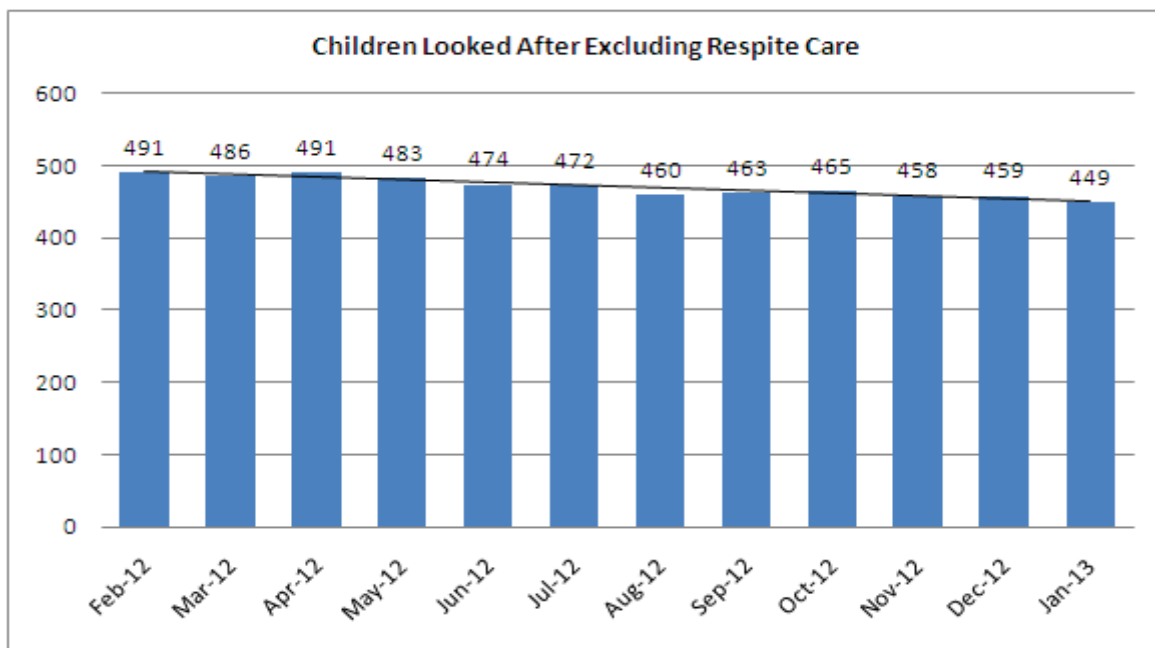


Source: SSDA903

Figure 2b reveals that the 2011/12 LAC Rate per 10,000 for Brighton and Hove Children is ranked 14th highest out of 152 Local Authorities in England. The LAC rate as at 31st January 2013 per 10,000 is 90 which would place Brighton and Hove 22nd highest based on the 2012 position.

³ 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 31st January 2013

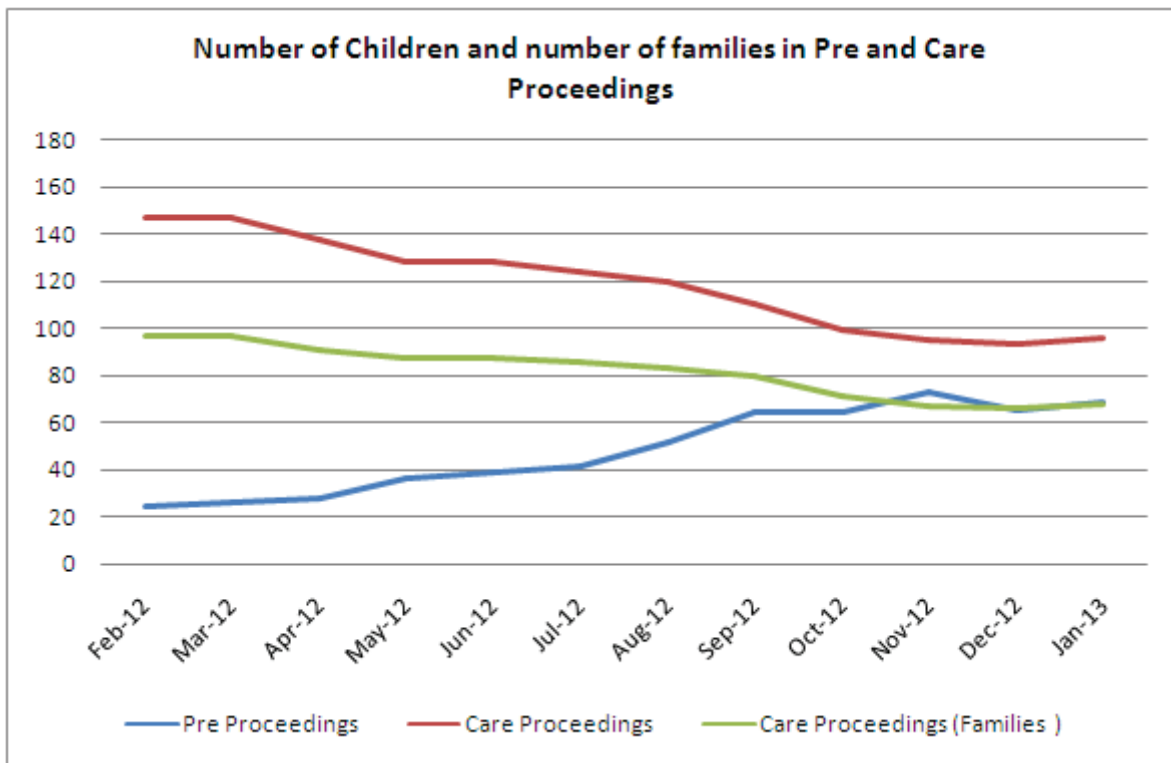


Source: Monthly Monitoring January 2013

The number of Looked After Children fell from 459 at the end of December 2012 to 449. Furthermore, the number of Looked After Children has fallen from 514 in November 2011 – a 12.6% reduction. Based on the Finance Report for Month 9, the placement numbers which includes children who are placed with relatives, residence and special guardianship orders is 631.26 FTE, down from 633.75 in the previous month. The budget is 670.91 FTE so we are under spending against the budget.

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. The CIN Team has set up a Care Planning Forum to manage discussions around taking children into care. It is hoped that in the current year this will maintain a downward trend in LAC numbers.

Figure 4: Number of Children and number of families in Pre and Care Proceedings



Source: Monthly Monitoring January 2013

Pre-proceedings are now being calculated from the Public Law Outline document and reveals that there are currently 69 children in pre-proceedings. There were 96 children in care proceedings as at 31st January 2013, down from 147 in February 2012. The number of families in care proceedings has also fallen from 97 as at February 2012 to 68. 23 children started care proceedings in the last 3 months compared to 21 in the previous 3 months. 15 families started care proceedings in the last 3 months compared to 18 in the previous 3 months.

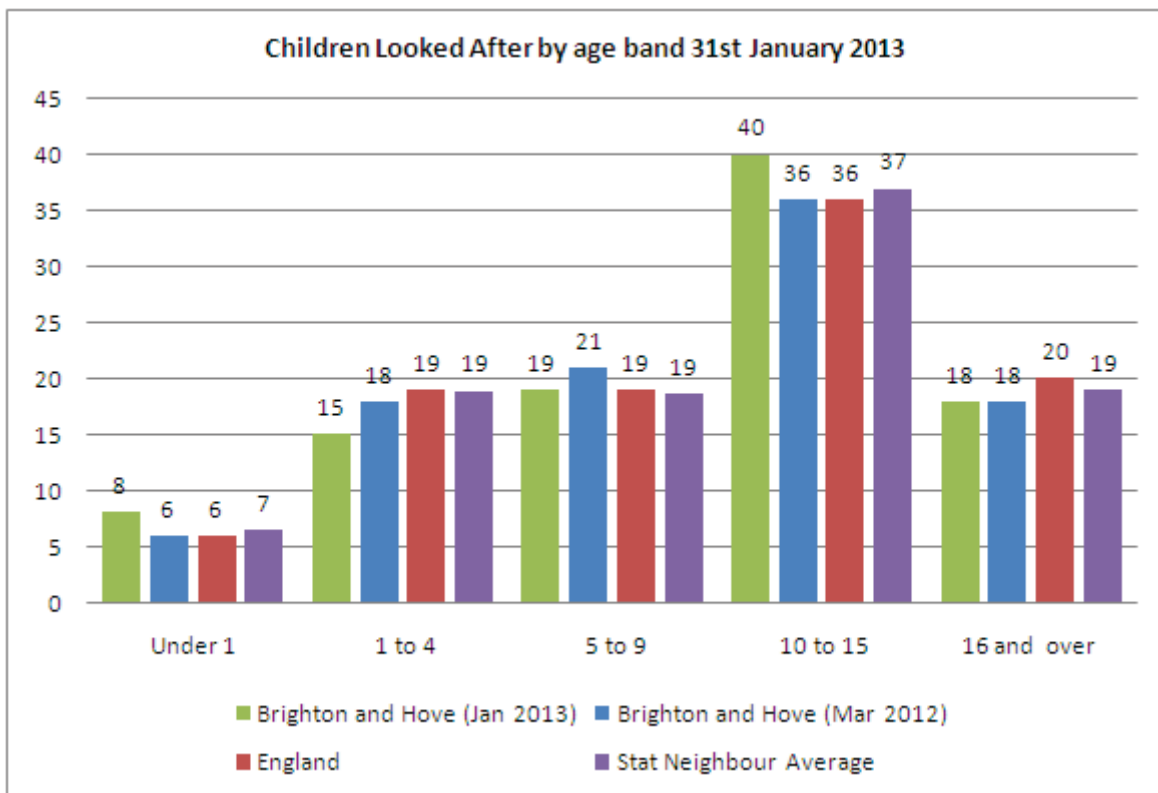
Children Looked After Year Ending 31 January 2013

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 2012, 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. Figures for Brighton and Hove for the year ending 31st January 2013 have also been provided.

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 Neighbour 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

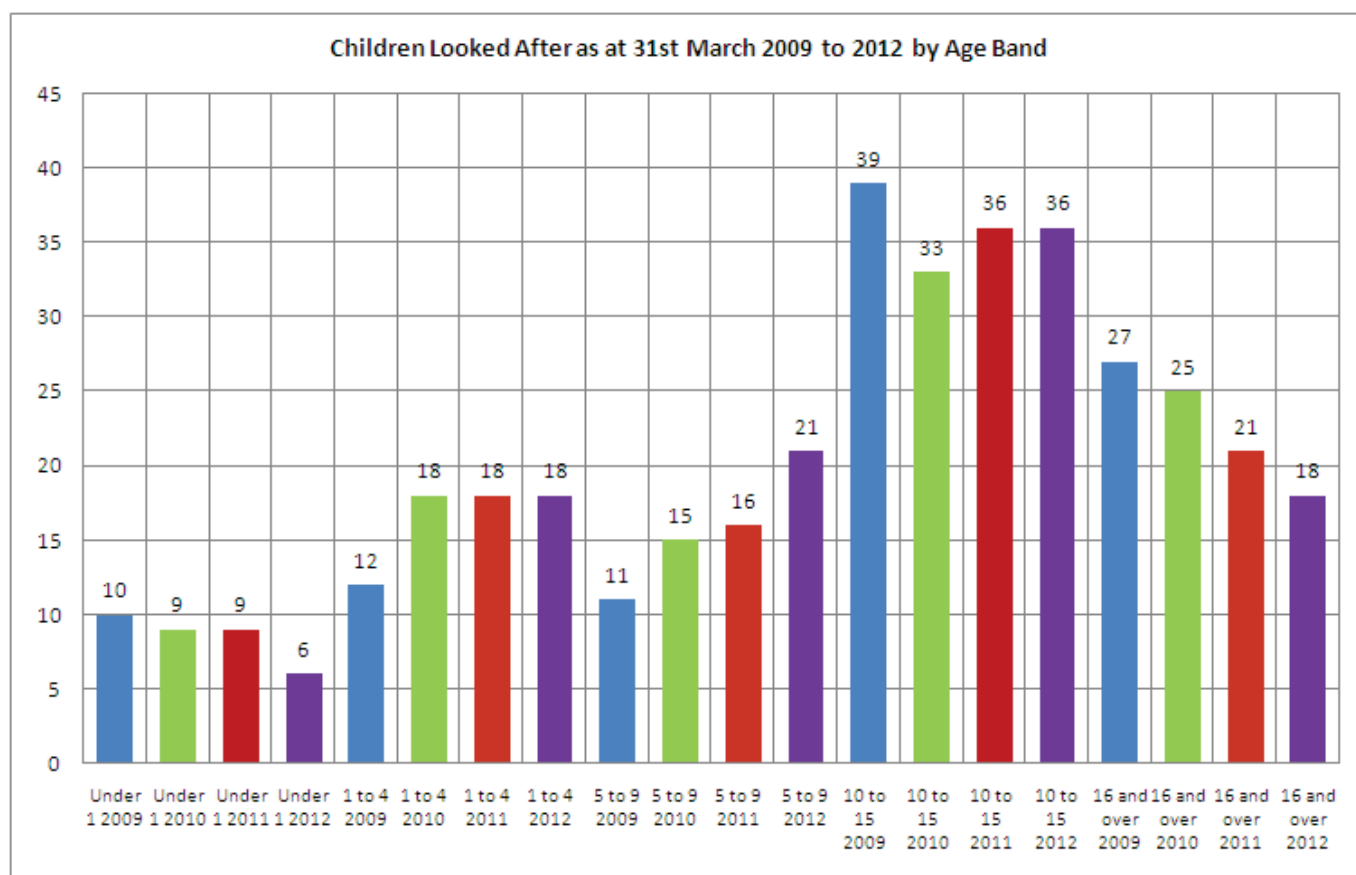
Figure 5 compares the percentage of children looked after by age band as at 31st January 2013. There are 38 children looked after aged under 1 which represents 8% of the cohort (6% nationally), an increase from 30 in March 2012 when 6% of the cohort were aged under 1. There are 82 children aged 16 and over which represents 18% of the LAC cohort (20% nationally), a decrease from 86 in March 2012 when 18% of the cohort were aged 16 and over.

Table 1: Children Looked After at 31st March 2012 and 31st January 2013 by Age Band (Numbers)

Age Band	Mar-12	Jan-13
Under 1	30	38
1 to 4	90	67
5 to 9	104	84
10 to 15	177	178
16 and over	86	82
Total	487	449

Source: SSDA903 and Monthly Monitoring January 2013

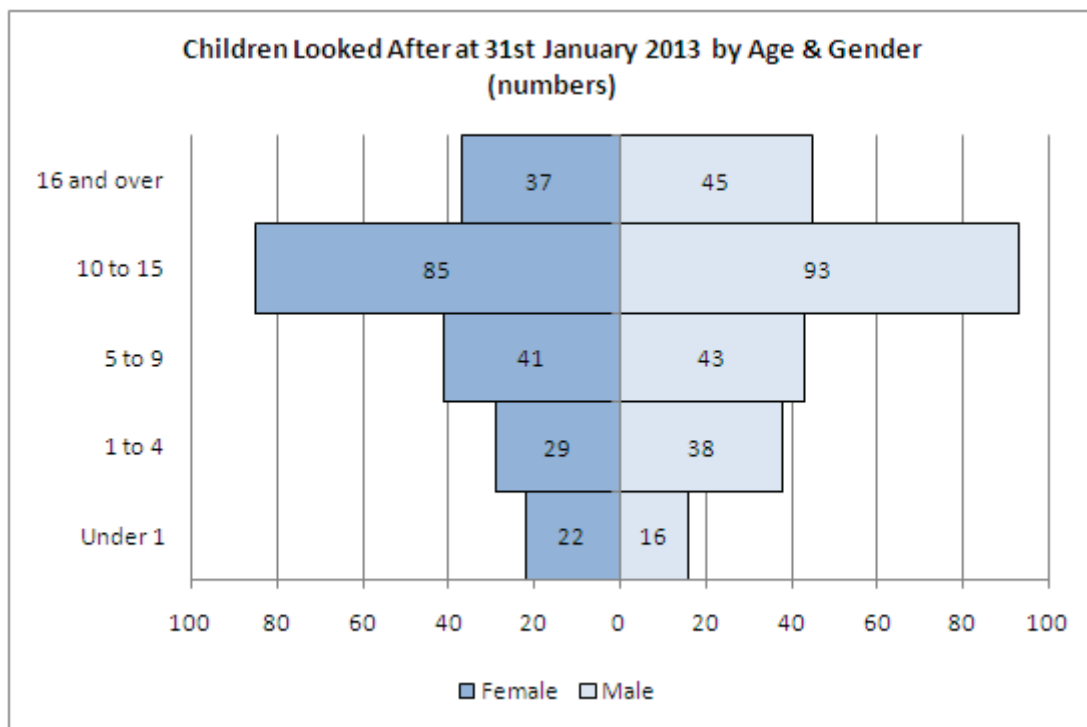
Figure 6: Children Looked After as at 31st March 2009 to 2012 by Age Band



Source: SSDA903

Figure 6 illustrates the percentage of children looked after by Brighton and Hove as at 31st March from 2009 to 2012 and reveals that the percentage of children aged 16 and over has fallen year-on-year from 27% in 2009 to 18% in 2012 whereas the percentage of children aged 5 to 9 has risen from 11% in 2009 to 21% in 2012. 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.

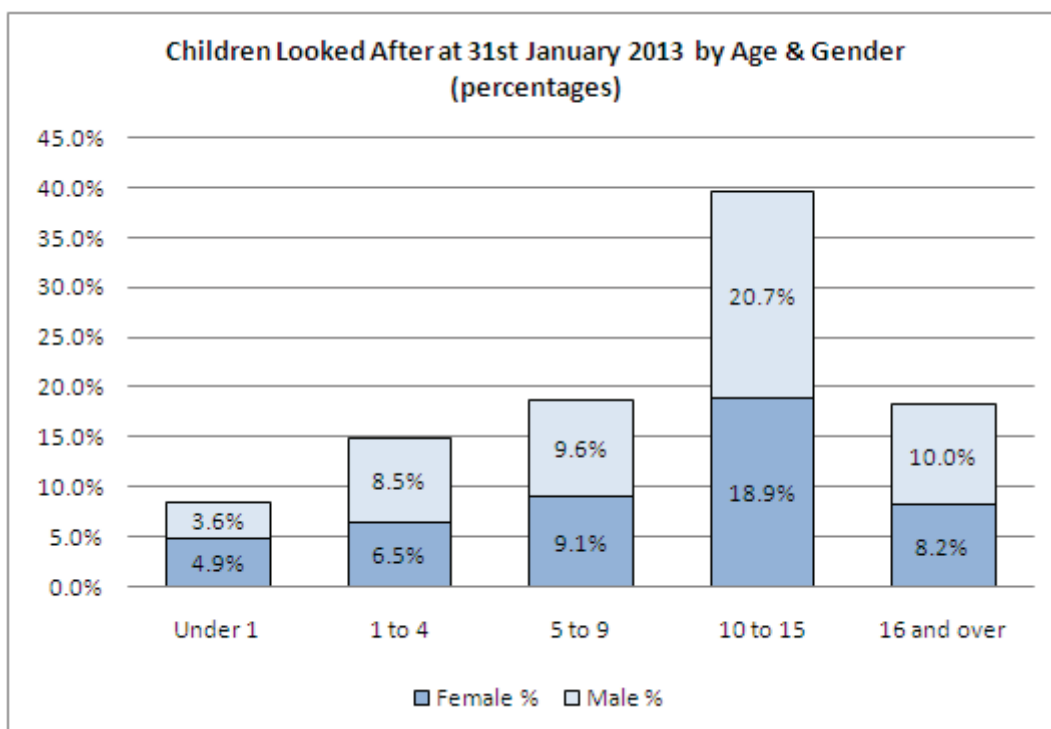
Figure 7a: Children Looked After at 31st January 2013 by Age & Gender (Numbers)



Source: Monthly Monitoring January 2013

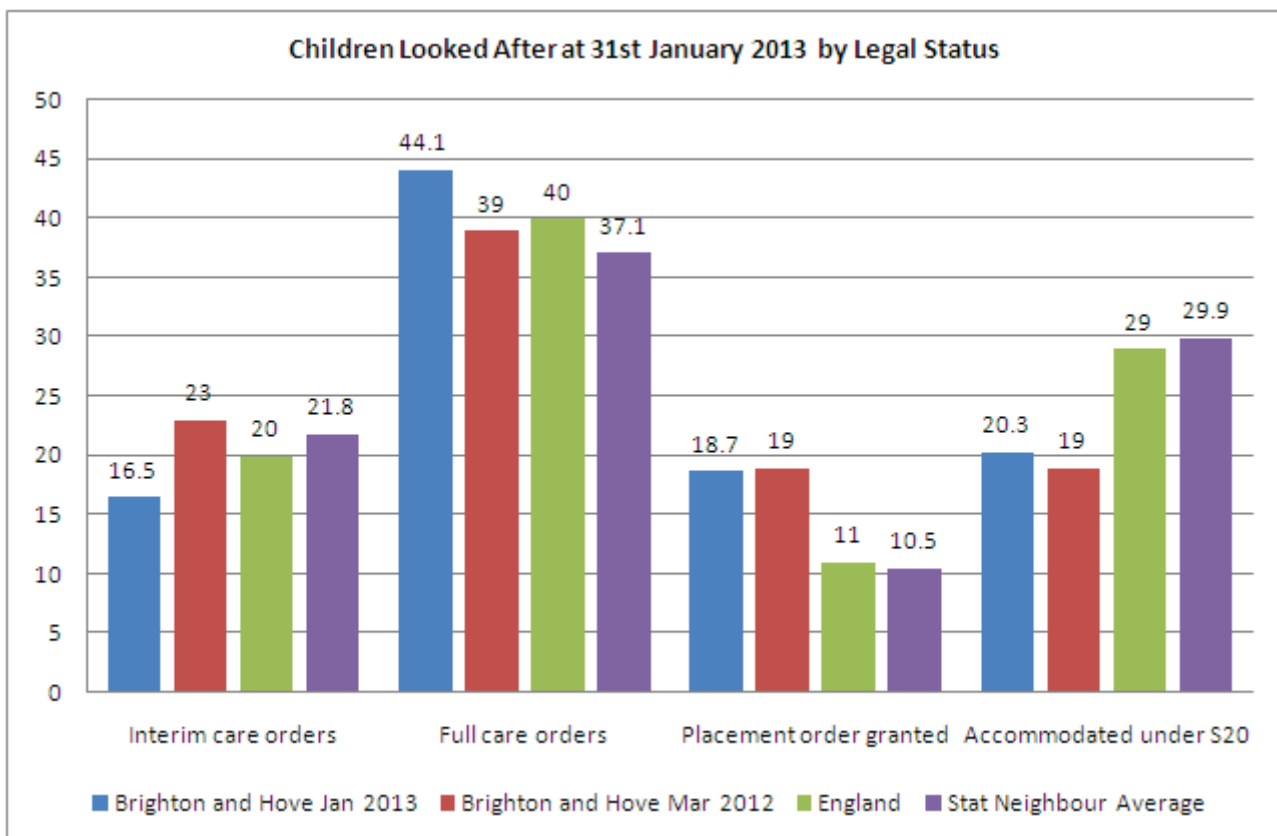
There are 235 male children (52.3%) and 214 female children (47.7%). Nationally, 56% of Looked after children are male. There are more male children in all of the age bands except for children aged under 1 with the biggest differences in the 10 to 15 and 1 to 4 age bands.

Figure 7b: Children Looked After at 31st January 2013 by Age & Gender (Percentages)



Source: Monthly Monitoring January 2013

Figure 8: Children Looked After at 31st January 2013 by Legal Status (Percentages)

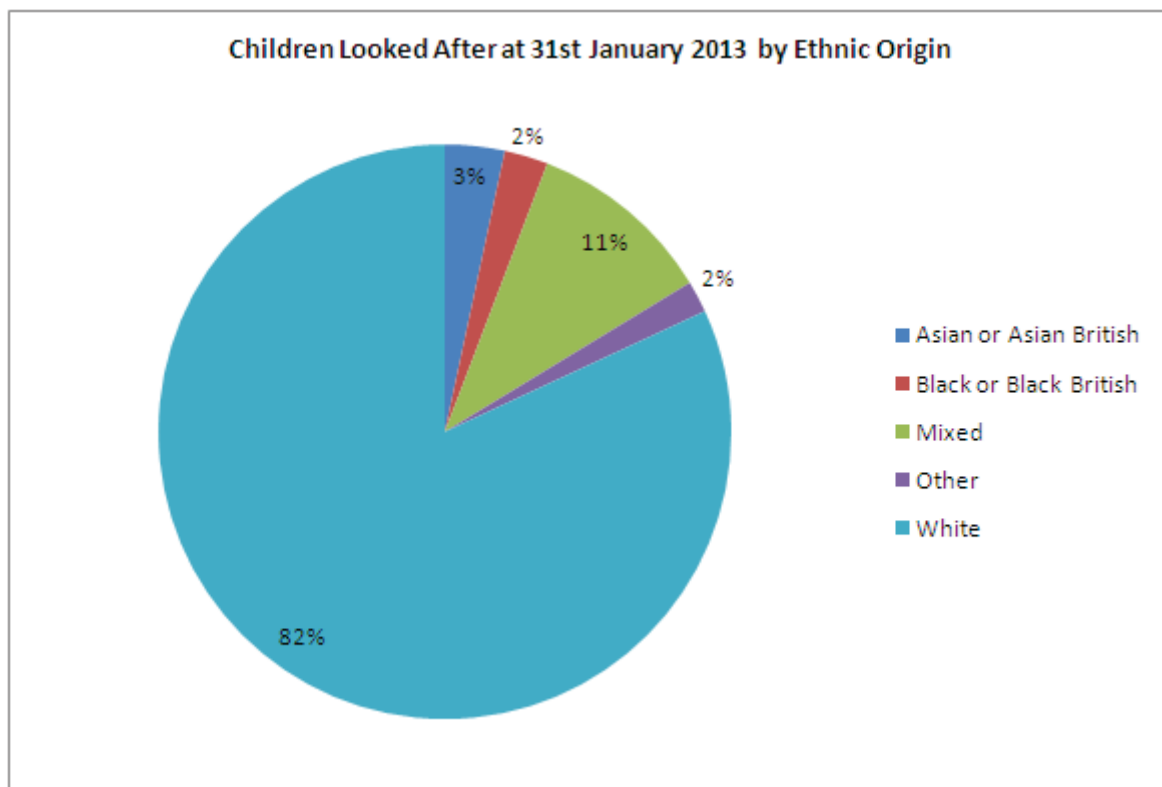


Sources: SSDA903

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 January 2013 by legal status and reveals that the percentage of children on a Placement Order is 18.7%, above the England Average of 11% and 10.5% for our statistical neighbours. The percentage of children looked after on Section 20 is 20.3% as at 31st January 2013, below the England Average (29%) and statistical neighbour average (29.9%). The percentage of children on Interim Care Orders has fallen from 23% as at 31st March 2012 to 16.5% while the percentage of children on Full Care Orders has risen from 39% to 44.1% over the same period.

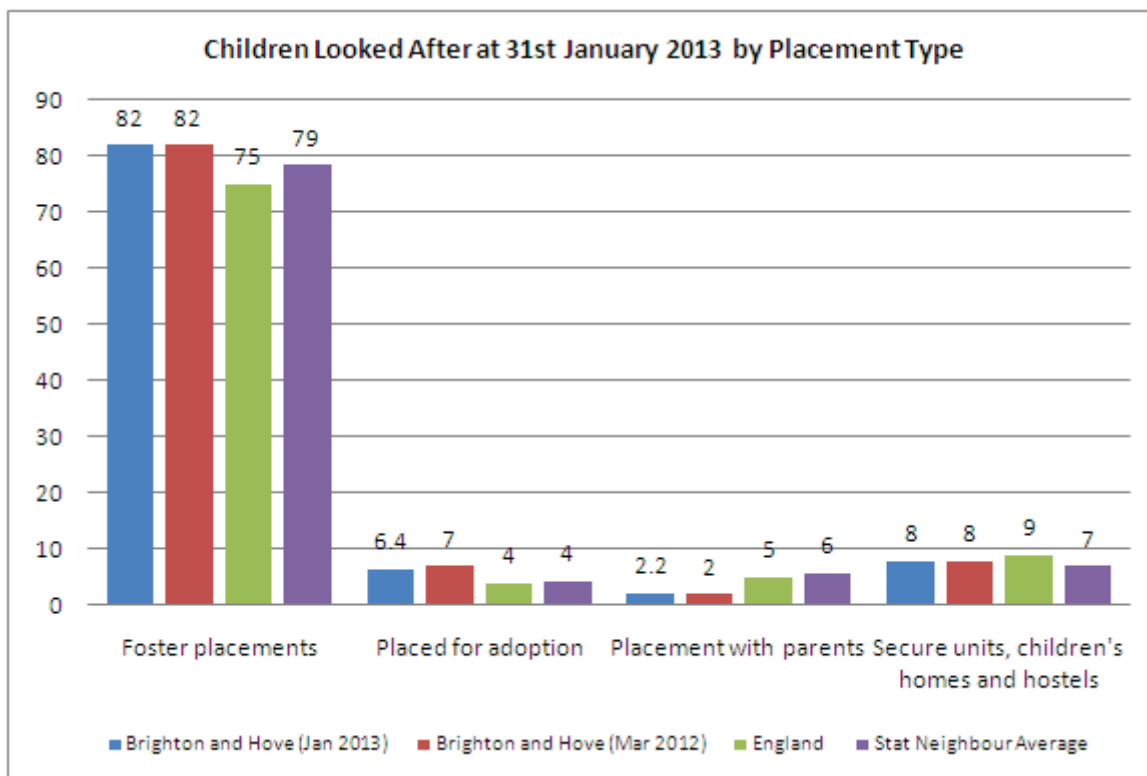
Figure 9: Children Looked After at 31st January 2013 by Ethnic Origin



Source: Monthly Monitoring January 2013

82% of Looked After Children in Brighton and Hove have a recorded ethnicity in the White Ethnic Origin category compared to 78% nationally, with 11% under Mixed (9% nationally), 3% under Asian or Asian British (4% nationally), 2% under Black or Black British (7% nationally) and 2% under Other (2% nationally).

Figure 10: Children Looked After as at 31st January 2013 by Placement Type

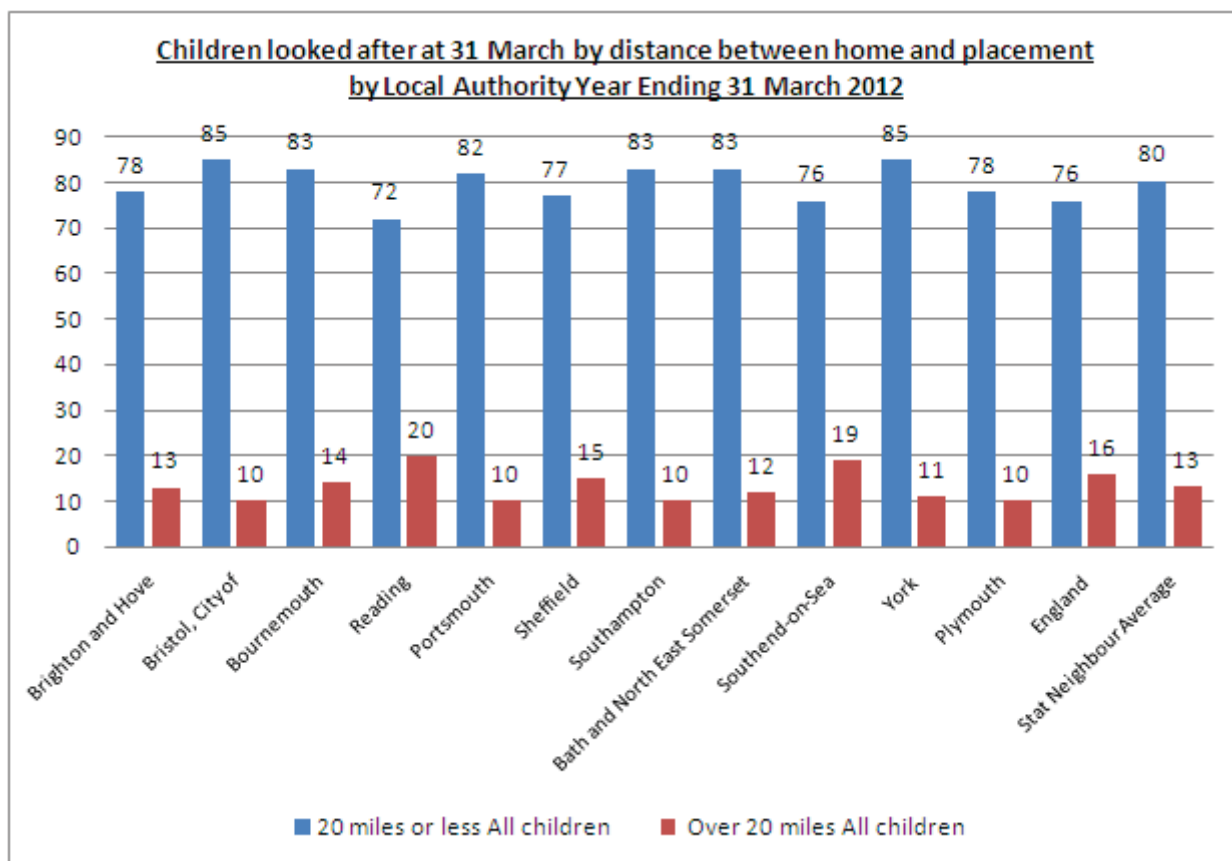


Sources: SSDA903

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 82% of children looked after in Brighton were placed in foster placements as at 31st January 2013 compared to 75% nationally and 79% for our statistical neighbours. Of the total LAC cohort, 145 (32%) were placed with in house carers, 188 (42%) were placed with agency carers and 52 (7.8%) were placed with relatives or friends. 6.4% of children were placed for adoption as at 31st January 2013, 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 2012



Source: SSDA903

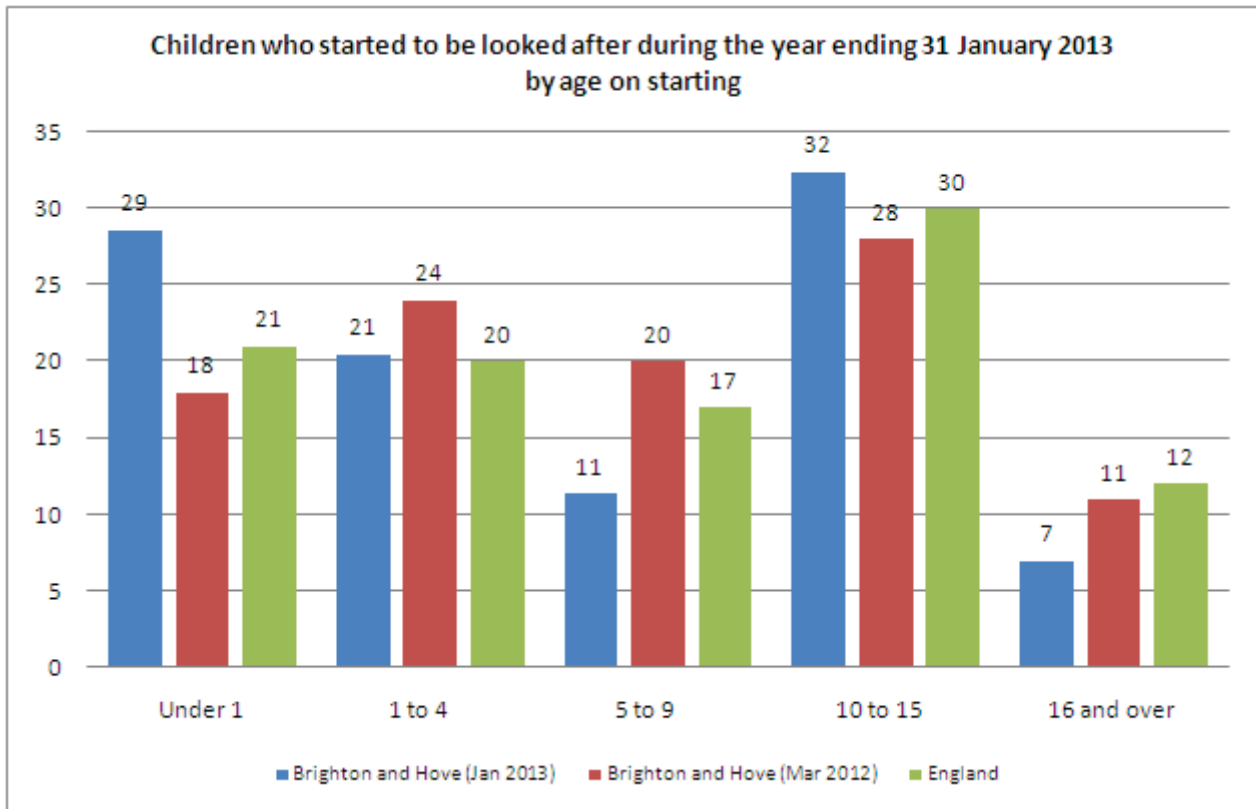
Figure 11 reveals that 78% of children looked after in Brighton and Hove at 31st March 2012 were placed 20 miles or less from their home address, down from 81% last year, with 13% placed over 20 miles (2% were not known and 7% were not recorded). The percentage of children looked after placed within 20 miles remains higher than the 2011/12 England Average (76%) but is slightly below the average for our statistical neighbours (80%). 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, 34% of children were placed inside the local authority boundary and 57% were placed outside of the boundary. Nationally, 59% of children were placed inside the local authority boundary and 34% were placed outside with 4% not known and 4% not recorded. The percentages for Brighton and Hove are likely to be skewed given the size of the geographical area. The 3 year average (2010 to 2012) for children placed over 20 miles is 13% compared to 12% nationally and ranks Brighton and Hove 74th out of 152 Local Authorities.

"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 ending 31st January 2013 (percentages)



Source: SSDA903

Figure 12 compares the percentage of children starting to be looked after during the year ending 31st January 2013 by their age on starting⁴ with the national average. The data reveals that the percentage of children starting to be looked after during the year aged under 1 has risen from 18% in March 2012 to 29% in January 2013, above the national average of 21%. The percentage of children starting to be looked after aged 16 and over has fallen from 11% in March 2012 to 7% in January 2013, below the national average (12%).

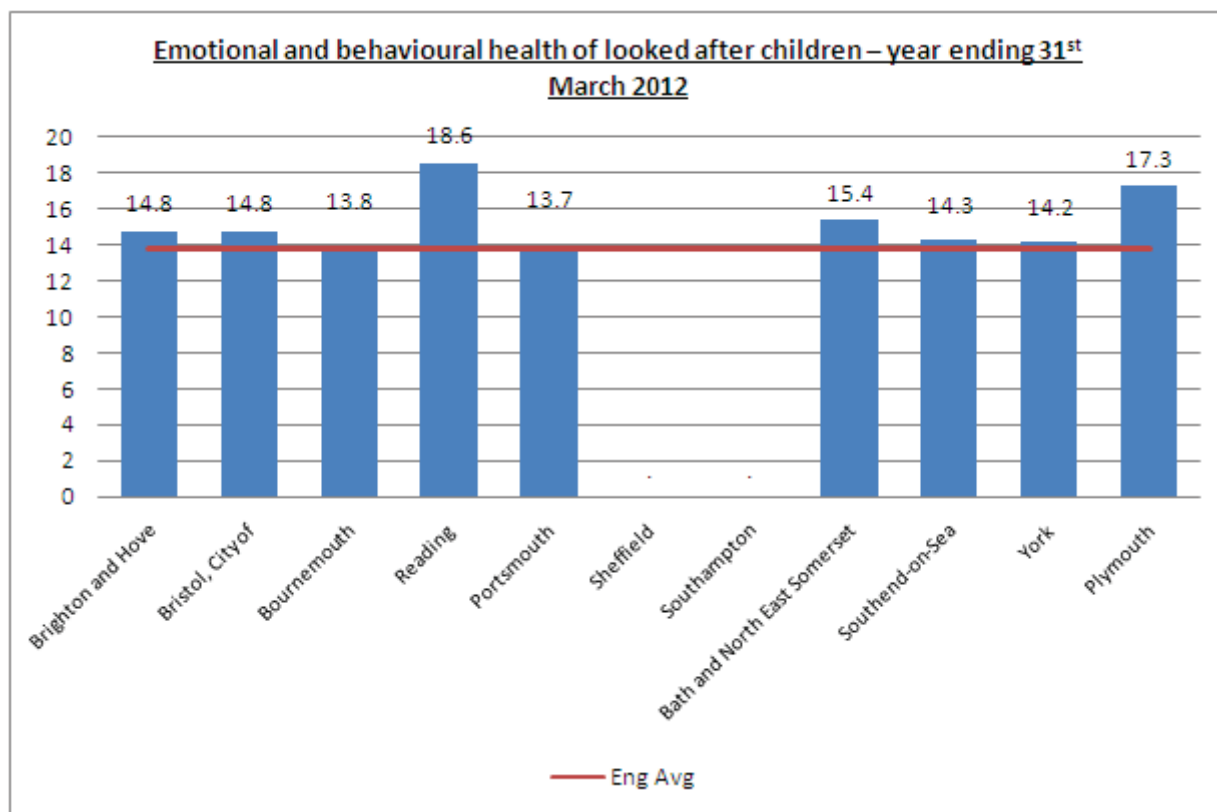
⁴ Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

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 13: Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children – year ending 31st March 2012.



Source: SSDA903

Summary

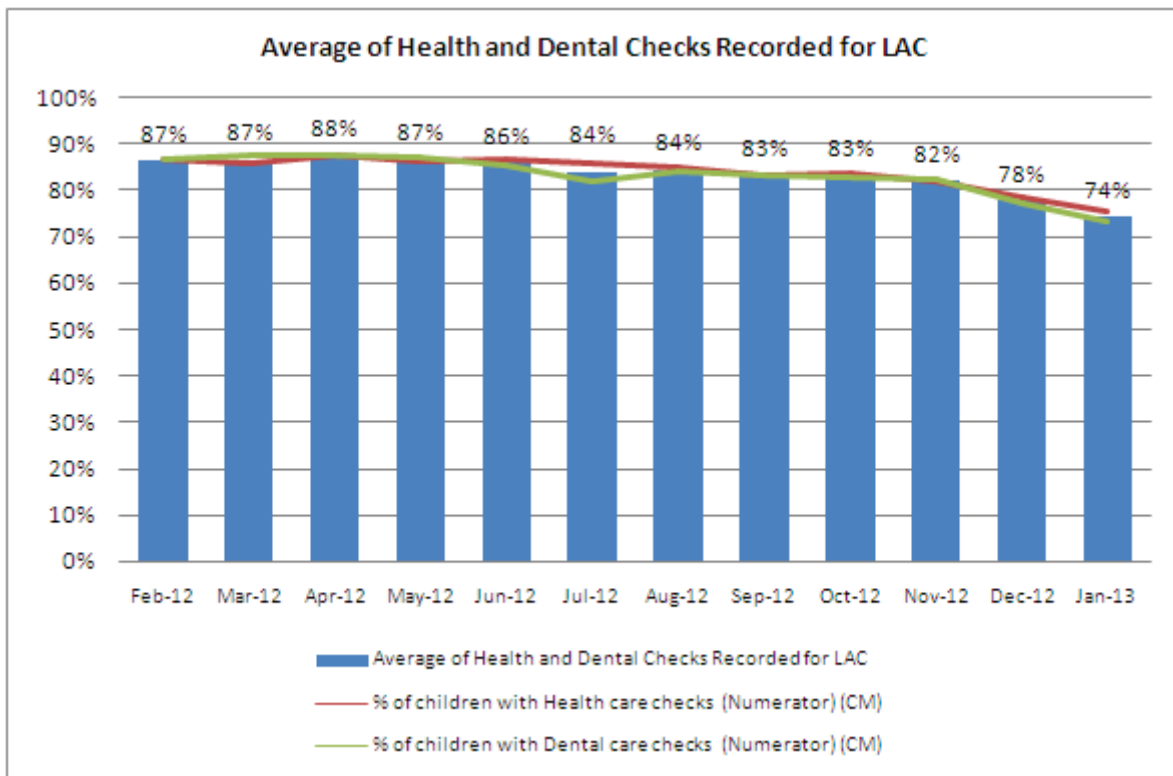
In Brighton & Hove, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire is administered by the LAC Health team and an 84% return was achieved for 2011/12, compared to a national average of 70%. Children with Disability can be excluded and so we would not expect to achieve 100% return.

The average score gained by Brighton and Hove children and young people in care for 2011/12 is 14.8, an improvement from 15.5 last year but worse than the national average of 13.8. 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. 46% of eligible children with an SDQ score were considered 'normal' (51% nationally) 10% were considered 'borderline' (13% nationally) and 43% were considered as 'concern' (36% nationally).

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 14: Average of Health and Dental Checks Recorded for LAC



Source: Monthly Monitoring Social Care Data January 2013

Summary

Timely health and dental checks recorded for LAC is 74% as at January 2013, down from 88% in April 2012, with the Children in Care Team at 75%, the Children in Need Team at 83% and the Post 16 Support Team at 62%. The indicator is an average of health and dental checks with health checks at 75% and dental checks at 73%. Current performance remains below the national average of 84.3% for the year ending 31st March 2012. This needs to be the subject of urgent management action and the Service Manager for the CIC service will report back next month on actions to improve this percentage.

Performance Issues

The majority of outstanding assessments are for children placed outside of Brighton & Hove. There are very few children who have not had their assessment completed on time by our Brighton & Hove health professionals. 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. It should be noted that the Post 16 Support Team and Young People’s Asylum Service do not have an Information Officer to assist with recording of health and dental checks.

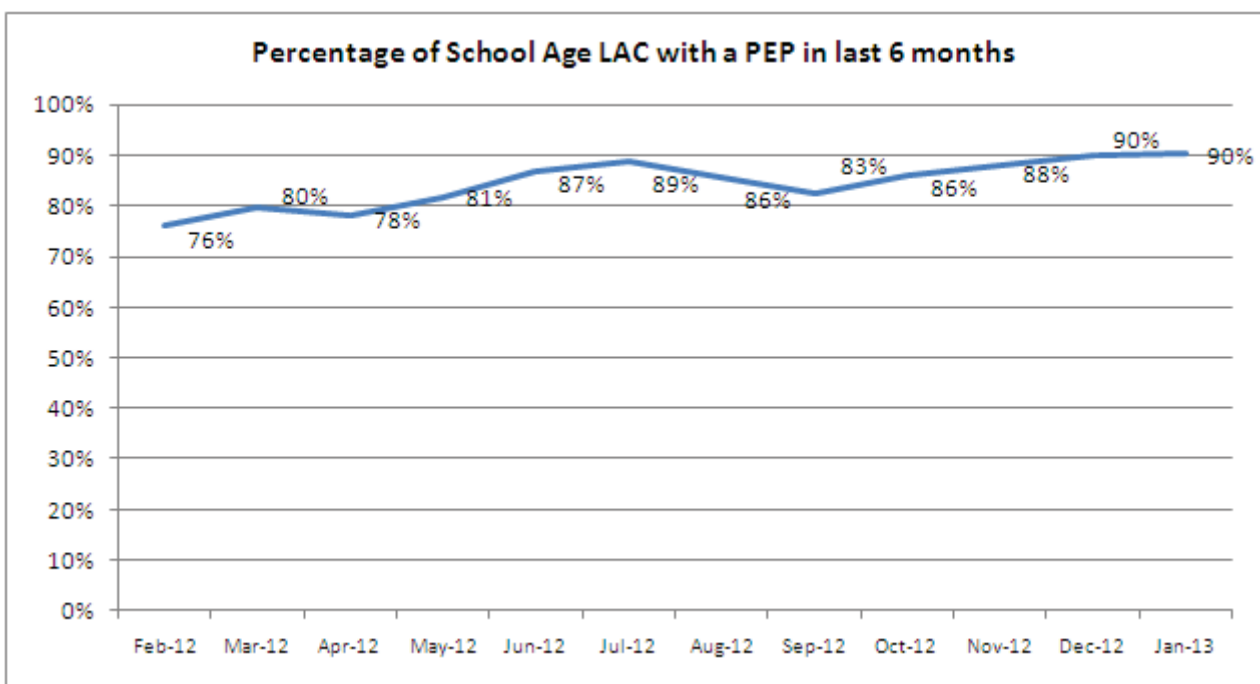
Improving Educational Outcomes

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.

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.

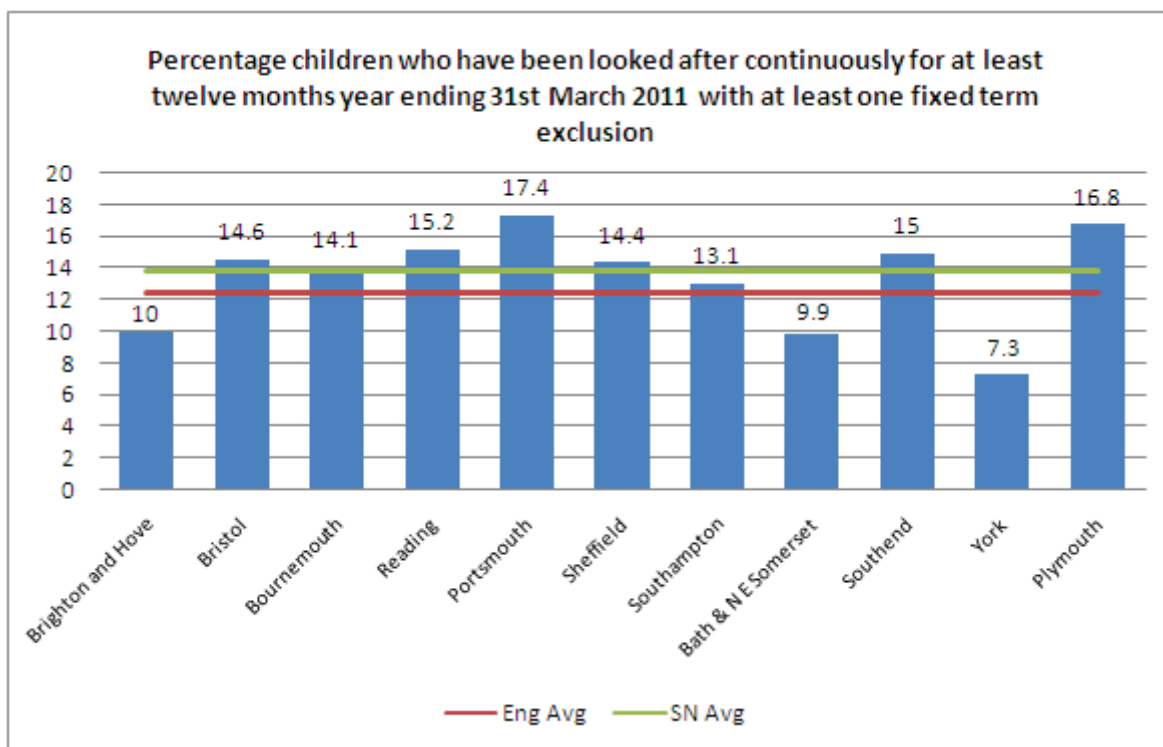
Figure 16: Percentage of School Age LAC with a PEP in the last 6 months



There were 267 children looked after as at 31st January who were of school age and had been looked after for 28 days or more. Of this cohort, 241 (90%) had a PEP Activity dated within the last 6 months recorded on Carefirst, an improvement from 76% as at February 2012.

The Children in Care team have an information officer in post who has taken on responsibility for reviewing the status of PEPs. In the instance of a PEP being due, or out of date, the information officer emails the individual social worker and their manager. The Virtual School continues to provide individual support and team training opportunities to social work colleagues. This is easier now they are co-located. Any social work colleagues experiencing on-going difficulties in meeting PEP deadlines will have this addressed through supervision. The PEP is live on Carefirst, which will make it easier to ensure that social care meet statutory requirements for the initiation and completion of the PEP report. The Virtual School team will continue to authorise PEPs for all children in care. The reporting and auditing of the quality of PEPs will also benefit from being on Carefirst – a work plan for this has been developed.

Figure 17: Percentage of children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months with at least one fixed exclusion 2011⁵



Sources: CLA-NPD matched data for March 2011

Figure 17 reveals that 10% children who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31st March 2011 received at least one fixed exclusion, an improvement from 17.6% in 2010 and below the national average of 12.4% and 13.8% for our statistical neighbours.

⁵ 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.

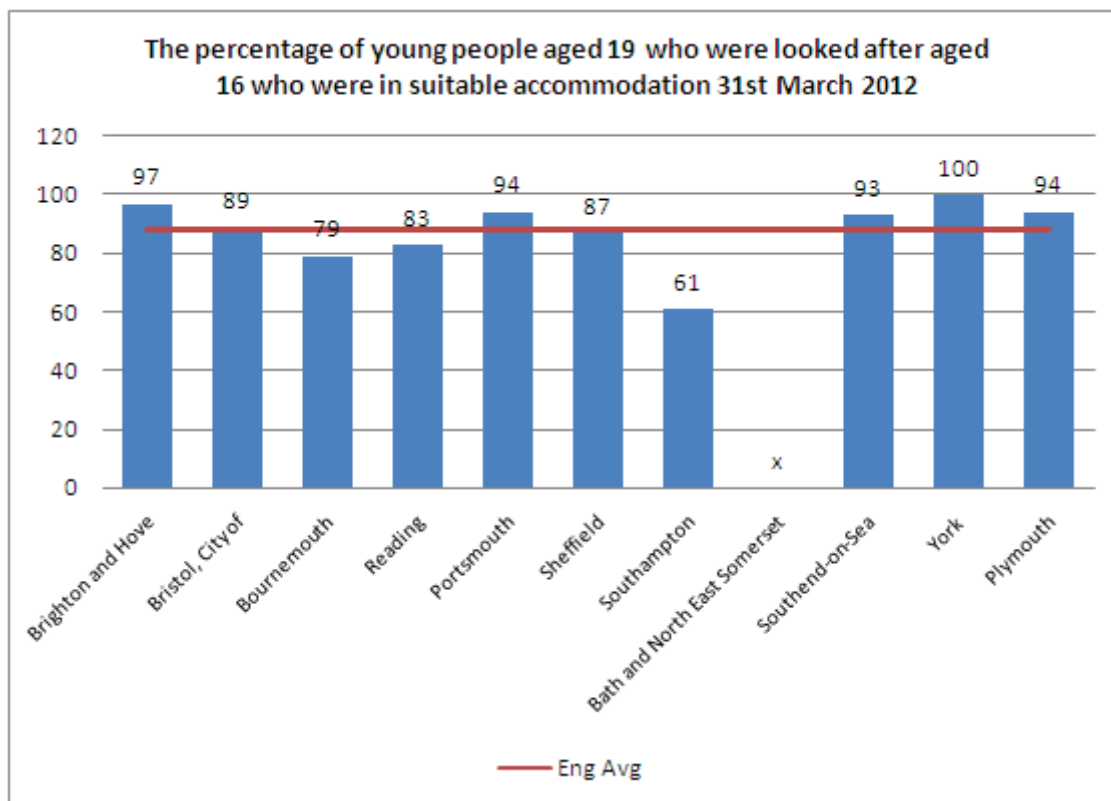
Increasing the number of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation'

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 17: 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

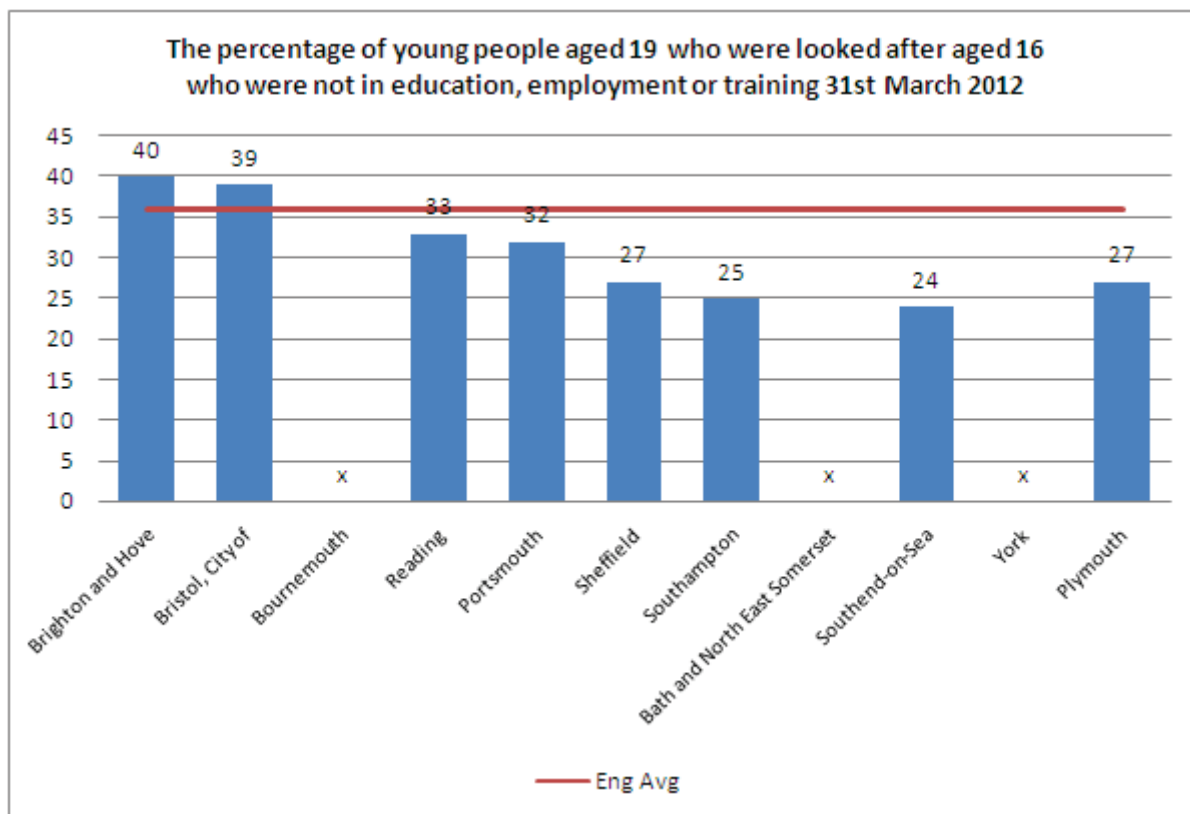
The outturn figure for 2011/12 is 96.6% which is an improvement from 93.8% in 2010/11 and above the 2011/12 England average (88%). The 3 year average (2010 to 2012) for this indicator is 91% which ranks Brighton and Hove 75th out of 152 LAs.

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 not in education, employment or training.

Summary

Figure 18: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year, who were not in education employment or training.



Source: SSDA903

Summary

The outturn figure for 2011/12 is 39.7%, a fall from 29.2% last year and worse than the 2012 national average of 36%. The 3 year average (2010 to 2012) for this indicator is 32%, better than the national average of 34% and ranks Brighton and Hove 63rd out of 152 Local Authorities.

Performance Issues

23 out of a cohort of 58 (39.7%) were not in Education, Employment and Training in 2011/12 compared to 29.2% of care leavers 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”

Improvement Activity

- Identifying employability opportunities across B&HCC and its partners as part of the Corporate Parenting responsibilities and strategy
- The appointment of an Employment & Training Personal Adviser to provide intensive support to 16/17 young people in care and care leavers. This is a development area of the Ofsted Inspection Action Plan
- The appointment of Apprenticeship Co-ordinator based in Human Resources to develop work placements and apprenticeships across the council
- The creation of city-wide single apprenticeships scheme managed by the B&H Strategic Partnership with full involvement of the Education Business Partnership
- Implementation of the ‘Youth Contract’ by the Youth Employability Service which has additionally attached to it re support for care leavers who are NEET
- Positive action initiatives by other local authorities re employability for care leavers being followed up by Corporate Parenting Team Manager.

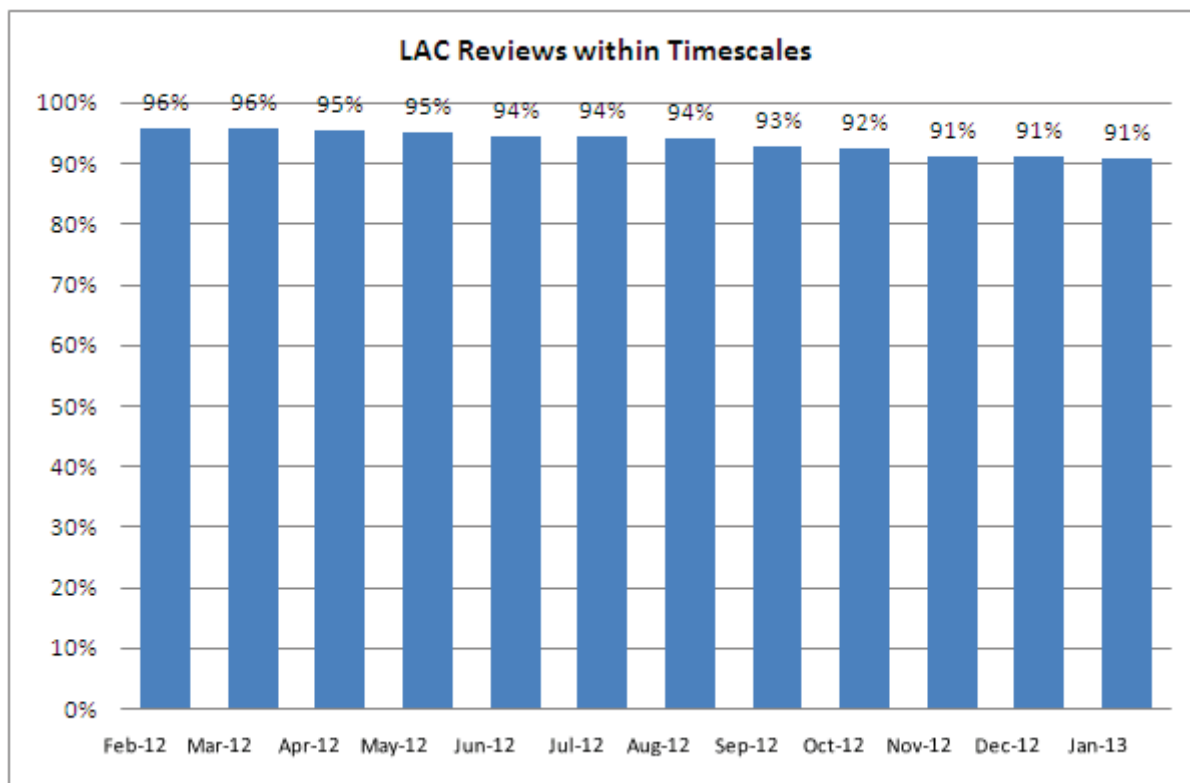
Corporate Parenting Processes

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 19: 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 January 2013

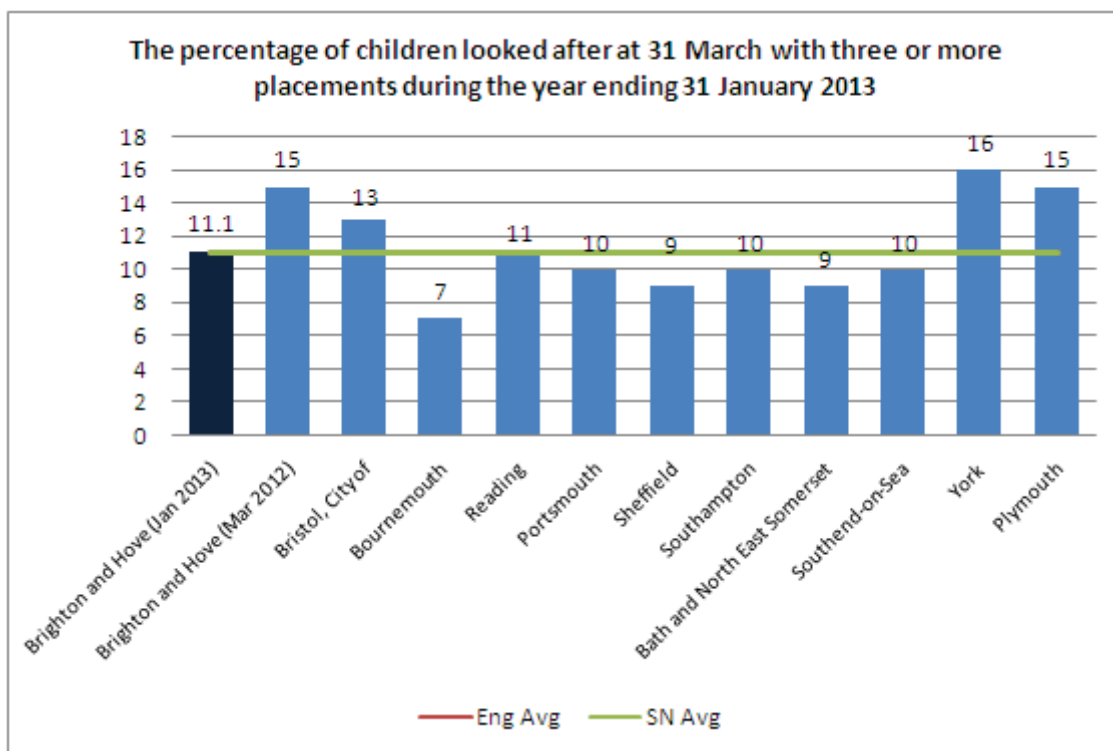
The percentage of LAC Reviews in the last year completed within timescales has fallen from 96% in February 2012 to 91%. The IRO team are looking at this issue as it would appear that only one review is actually out of date and the recording and data issue needs to be resolved. Some of the reviews currently showing out of timescale are reviews that have been held early so should not show as late.

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



Sources: SSDA903

The percentage of children placed three or more times during the year has improved from 13.8% in February 2012 to 11.1% in January, which is slightly worse than the national and statistical neighbour average of 11%. Commentary from the Children in Care Team Manager states that the performance has improved as a result of having a dedicated CiC Service which can focus more on placement stability. In addition, there are fewer children coming into care and more new foster carers coming on stream which means that there can be improved matching, and this will lead to fewer children needing to move placements.

Improvement Activity

A new joint West Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council framework contract with independent providers of children's residential and foster care services has been set to ensure the framework continues to deliver competitive unit costs and VFM. Improved quality of placements should result in improved placement stability

Placement stability meetings are held in all instances where there are placement issues with the child or young person.

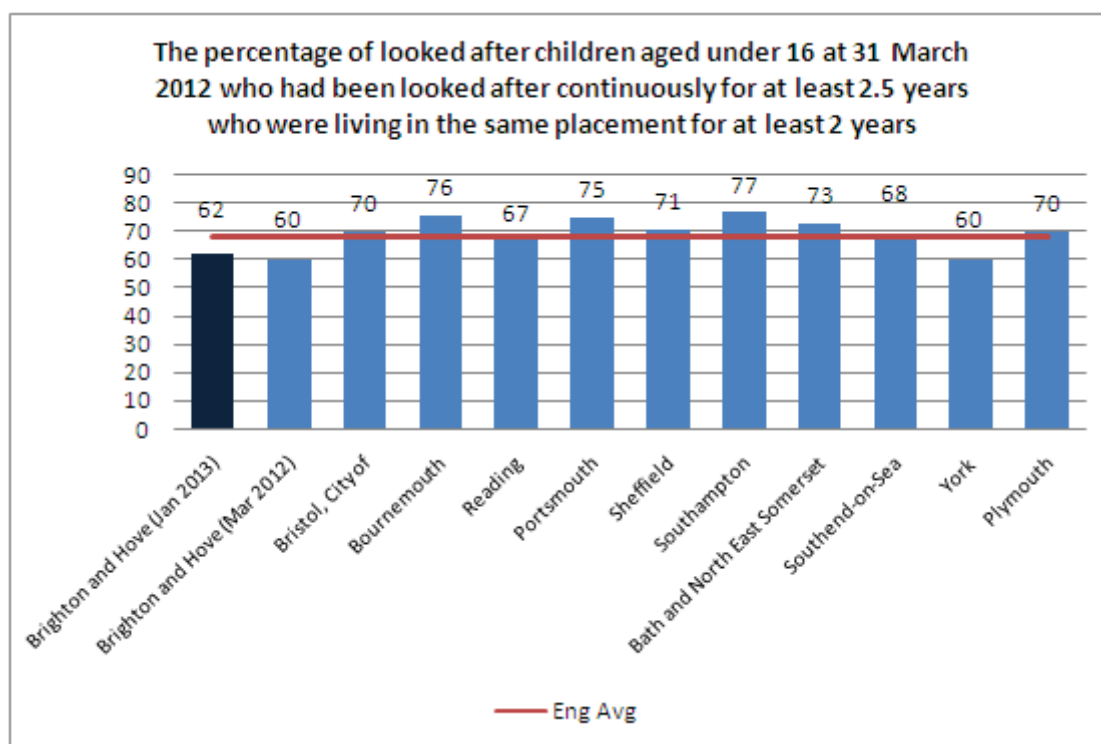
The CiC and CIN teams are receiving reports identifying children who may be at risk of placement instability.

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 21: Stability of placements of looked after children



Source: SSDA903

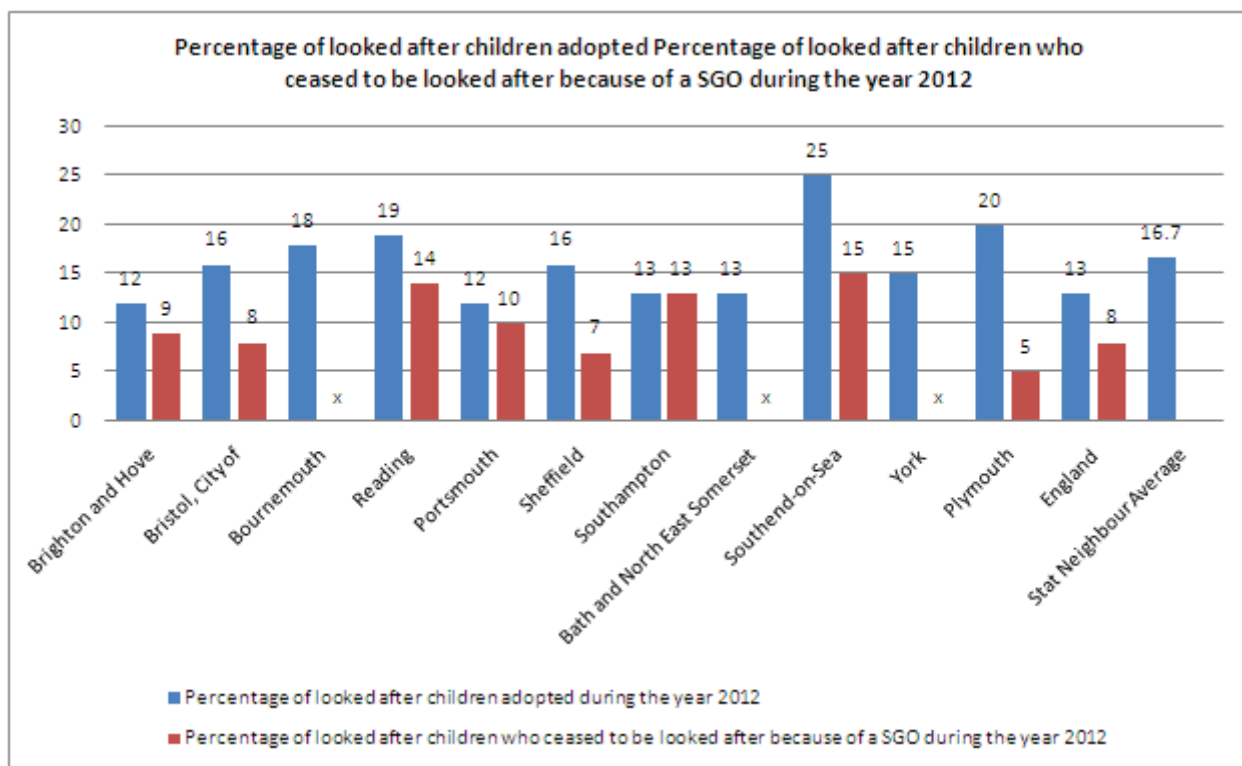
Of the 143 children looked after for two and a half years aged under 16, 88 (62%) had been in the same placement for 2 years, below the England average of 68% as at 31st March 2012.

Performance Issues

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.

Adoption and Special Guardianship Order

Figure 22: Percentage of looked after children adopted Percentage of looked after children who ceased to be looked after because of a SGO during the year 2012



Source: SSDA903

12% of children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31st March 2012 were adopted, slightly below the national average of 13%. However, the percentage has improved to 19% for the year ending 31st January 2013. The 3 year average (2010 to 2012) is 14%, compared to 12% nationally, and ranks Brighton and Hove 49th out of 152 Local Authorities.

9% of children who ceased to be looked after because of a Special Guardianship Order during the year ending 31st March 2012, above the national average of 8%. The percentage has improved to 11.1% for the year ending 31st January 2013. The 3 year average (2010 to 2012) is 7%, level with the national average of 7%, and ranks Brighton and Hove 58th out of 152 Local Authorities.

The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted is 556 days (3 year average 2010 to 2012), better than the national average of 636 days and statistical neighbour average of 580 days. This ranks Brighton and Hove 36th out of 152 Local Authorities.

The average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family is 206 days (3 year average 2010 to 2012), worse than the national average of 195 days and the statistical neighbour average of 162 days. This ranks Brighton and Hove 90th out of 152 Local Authorities.

The percentage of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family is 63% (3 year average 2010 to 2012), better than the national average of 56% but slightly below the statistical neighbour average of 64%. This ranks Brighton and Hove 41st out of 152 Local Authorities.

Glossary of Terms

Carefirst

The social care client record database used by keyworkers to record the majority of their work with children including Child Protection and LAC activity, social work case notes , assessments etc.

Statistical Neighbours

The introduction of statistical neighbours is linked to the Annual Performance Assessment 2007 and replaces the previous IPF (Institute of Public Finance) comparator authorities. The Statistical Neighbours for Brighton and Hove are:

Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, York

DfE

Department for Education

Monthly Monitoring

Monthly Monitoring is a large Excel spreadsheet containing data from Carefirst on all key indicators and performance measures relating to social care services for children

OFSTED

Ofsted is the inspectorate for children and learners in England. OFSTED deliver a comprehensive system of inspection and regulation covering childcare, schools, colleges, children's services, teacher training and youth work and work closely with CSCI and other inspectorate bodies

Statistical Returns

The primary statistical return for this service area is called the SSDA903 Return - this is submitted to DFE each Summer and provides detailed information from every local authority on Children Looked After, Care Leavers and Adoption. National and comparator data used in this report is extrapolated from published data on this return and from OFSTED published data.

Personal Education Plans

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.

Health Care Plan

A Health Care Plan is produced annually on the basis of a health care assessment undertaken by a health care professional. This is normally a health visitor or school nurse but where there are significant health issues this is normally undertaken by a paediatrician.

Substance Misuse

The term 'drug' is used to refer to any psychotropic substance, including illegal drugs, illicit use of prescription drugs and volatile substances. Young people's drug taking is often inextricably linked with

the consumption of alcohol. Therefore the term 'substance' refers to both drugs and alcohol but not tobacco. Substance misuse is defined as 'intoxication by – or regular excessive consumption or and/ or dependence on – psychoactive substances, leading to social, psychological, physical or legal problems'. It includes problematic use of both legal and illegal drugs (including alcohol when used in combination with other substances).

Missing from Placement

All unauthorised absences of more than 24 hours must be recorded. The 24 hours are counted from the time a child left his or her normal placement or was seen by a responsible adult. Therefore, a child went out for the evening at 7 pm, would not be recorded as missing until 7 pm the next day, whilst a child who left for school at 8 am, would not be recorded as missing if he/she returned before 8 am the following morning. If that child actually attended school and left at the usual time (say 4 pm), he/she would not be considered to have absconded until 4 pm the following day. For this purpose, a responsible adult is either the child's carer, or a professional directly associated with the child's welfare or education (e.g. doctor, school teacher, social worker etc.). A child cannot be considered to have returned from absconding unless he or she completes a period of 24 hours of being looked after, before absconding again.

Adoption

A child is adopted when a court grants an adoption order. This must follow a period of being 'placed for adoption' for at least 13 weeks with the prospective adopter(s). As soon as an adoption order is granted the child ceases to be looked after. The effect of the adoption order is that the birth parents no longer have any parental rights and responsibilities for their child. Those rights and responsibilities are given to the adoptive parents.

Special Guardianship Order

Special guardianship is an order made by the court that places a child or a young person to live with someone permanently and gives legal status for non parents who are or wish to care for that child or young person in a long term secure placement. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 introduced special guardianship and special guardianship orders.

