

Children in Care

Sufficiency statement

April 2022-Mar 2023

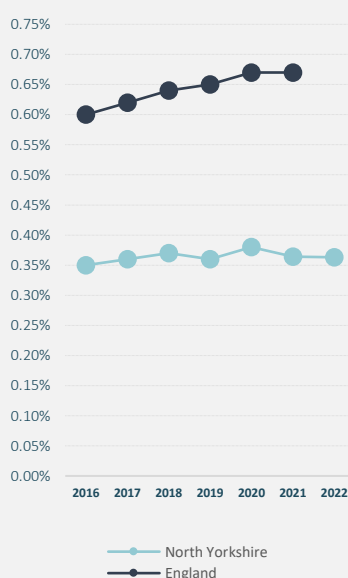
Summary

Key information

- The population of Children in Care has decreased by 2.3% over the last 5 years, from 437 in 2018 to 427 in 2022. Over the same period, the number of Children in Care nationally has increased by 7.3% (between 2018 and 2021).
- 427 children were looked after at March 31 2022 – 44.3% of them were female. 10.8% were of mixed, Asian, Black and other ethnic origin.
- 85.4% of Children in Care were placed within the LA boundary at 31 March 2022.
- 75% of children live with foster carers, while 7% were in residential settings. 11% of Children live in a Placed with Parents arrangement and a further 5% live independently. 2% live in 'other' placements, such as secure placements or Health-focused placements.
- The population of Children in Care is expected remain relatively stable over 2022/23 and 2023/24, with a potential increase coming into 2024/25. This predication, however, may change as the cost of living crisis begins to take hold.

Please note: Whilst this Sufficiency Strategy draws on data from a single point in time, the sufficiency picture is fluid. As such, our services are constantly responding to a changing dynamic.

Children in Care at March 31 as a share of total population of children



Population of Children in Care – forecasts over 2022-2025



Key Challenges

- Continuing to offer sufficient numbers of in-house Foster Placements against a context of uncertainty arising from the COVID pandemic and the cost of living pressures.
- Increasing duration of care proceedings, driven by factors outside of the LAs control are leading to children remaining in care for longer.
- Continuing to support placement stability for a vulnerable cohort with complex needs. Engaging with the wider Network (as per our practice model) will be central to this.
- Providing placements for a small number of complex teenagers that we do struggle to find places for.
- Continuing to maximise the use of in-house provision. Supporting children to remain within their communities, schools and retain connections.
- Meeting the consistently rising demand for UASC placements as pressures mount in the National Transfer Scheme. This includes providing support as UASCs transition to Leaving Care.

Difficulties in meeting the demand for homes of Children in Care	Currently		Over the next 1-3 years	
	Council	England	Council	England
Meet demand for homes	Green	Red	Green	Amber
Meet demand for foster care	Green	Amber	Amber	Amber
Meet demand for residential care	Green	Red	Amber	Amber

Table of Contents

1. Vision & Principles.....	3
2. Local Context.....	4
3. Overview.....	5
4. Demand for homes for Children in Care.....	6
4.1 Population of Children in Care	6
4.2 Needs of Children in Care	8
4.3 Care leavers	11
5. Supply of homes for Children in Care	13
5.1 Provision of homes.....	13
5.2 Location of homes.....	17
5.3 Cost of homes for Children in Care	16
5.4 Challenges in providing homes and related services	19
5.5 Fostering Marketing & Recruitment	21
5.6 Special Guardianship Orders	22
6. Projections on demand for homes.....	23
7. No Wrong Door	25
8. Appendix 1.....	26
A1. Population of Children in Care	26
A2. Supply of placements.....	28
A4. Placement Shortfall.....	28
9. Appendix 2 – NWD Core Offer	29
10. Appendix 3 – NWD 10 Distinguishers	30

1. Vision & Principles

North Yorkshire is committed to provide the safety, stability and support which will help children in our care flourish and thrive. Homes are key to this. The right home will provide children and young people with the foundations that they need to grow, develop and achieve - effectively supporting long-term outcomes as well as providing safety and stability in the short-term. As an authority, we are able to provide a wide range of options of where children can live, reflective of the wide ranging of needs of children and young people in our care, allowing us to work with the young person to find a home that suits them. This could be with a family or friend, a foster family, in supported accommodation, etc. The type of accommodation and the support that will be provided will be directed by the needs and wishes of the child and directly informed by the permanency plan for the child. Our Permanency Strategy outlines North Yorkshire's approach to permanency. The purpose of this strategy is to outline how we will provide sufficiency of homes, drawing on current and future needs and building on the recent trends amongst our Children in Care population.

In line with the principles of the Children Act, we are committed to ensuring that children and young people are able to remain within their family network where it is safe to do so. Where possible and appropriate, our Model of Practice supports the engagement of the wider family to support the child. Family Group Conferencing (FGC) and Restorative Approaches offered by our Stronger Foundations Team enables families to build on their own strengths and develop their own plans to support sustainable change. Family Finding is used within all frontline teams to identify and build upon family networks. Where it is not safe for a child to remain at home, where suitable we will look to support the child to remain within the family network, enabling the ever-important relationships and connections to be maintained throughout childhood and into adult life. When it is not possible for a child to remain within their family network, we have a child-focused, outcomes based approach to care planning, relying on a system-wide approach to placements and support.

In North Yorkshire, we are committed to using a family finding model. We do recognise, however, that children will have to enter care. When a child does come into our care, we seek to make support long-term, sustainable outcomes for the child and family. Our approach to providing placements supports this. Where appropriate, we will look to place a child with either family & friends foster carers or NYCC approved foster carers. Where a child's needs cannot be met by a foster carer, or the child wishes not to be placed with a foster family, we will look at alternative options, including supported accommodation and North Yorkshire's innovative No Wrong Door. All options are focused on providing the safety and stability that will support long-term outcomes.

A key set of principles underpin our approach to homes. Any home for a Child in Care should:

- Be near to home or within North Yorkshire where appropriate
- Minimise disruption to education or training and help continuation of friendships and community links
- Allow siblings to live together
- Meet the needs of disabled children and young people
- Meet the needs of children from an ethnic minority background.

The Sufficiency Duty

Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meet the needs of children that the local authority are looking after, and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority's area ('the Sufficiency Duty').

Specifically, the duty identifies that Local Authorities will:

- Be active in managing the market, for instance developing new provision in response to emerging trends
- Facilitate access to limited, surplus provision or planned standby accommodation to accommodate emergency placements

2. Local Context



- Largest Authority in England (geographically), covering a total of 8,053 km²
- 117,670 Children aged 0-17 in North Yorkshire (60,605 Boys / 57,065 Girls)
- 28.2% of children live in the Harrogate District, 16.5% live in Scarborough District and 16% live in Selby District.
- 14.7% of Children live in low-income families, ranging from 22.4% in Scarborough to 10.6% in Harrogate
 - Approximately 4,500 referrals received by Children's Social Care in 2021/22
 - 37 children per 10,000 are subject to a Child Protection Plan
 - 36 children per 10,000 are Looked After by North Yorkshire
- During 2021/22, 19 Children left care through a Special Guardianship Order. Equivalent to 14% of the number of children leaving care, up from 7.5% during 2020/21.

3. Overview

Executive Summary:

- North Yorkshire's Practice Model ensures sufficiency of homes for Children in Care through ensuring that all parts of the system work effectively together to prevent unnecessary admission to care and providing effective, timely and appropriate responses to children's needs
- North Yorkshire continues to oppose a national trend that has seen a consistent increase in the number of Children in Care. Whilst the proportion of Children in Care nationally continues to climb (increasing by over 7% in the past 5 years), over the same period, the number of Children in Care in North Yorkshire has reduced by 2.3%.
- Although there looks to have been a slight increase in the number of Children in Care over the past year, this is primarily linked to an increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs). Excluding UASCs, the number of Children in Care has reduced by 6 (1.4%) from 411 to 405. Reflective of this, we are continuing to further develop our provision of placements for UASCs.
- Reflective of North Yorkshire's commitment to support Children in Care to live close to home, a vast majority (85.4%) of Children live within North Yorkshire. 66% of Children in Care live within 20 miles of their home, a high figure given the geography of North Yorkshire.
- As North Yorkshire continues to minimise the use of new IFA homes through effective management of resources, over the past 5 years the expenditure on IFA homes has fallen by 69%.
- As we move forwards, there are three key challenges that face us:
 - The first is continuing our pandemic recovery, including working with partners to ensure that all children's health and well-being needs are being met.
 - The second is ensuring that we are able to maintain sufficiency should the number of Children in Care and the complexity of their needs increase as the cost of living crisis takes hold.
 - The third is ensure a robust implementation of the Public Law reforms. These include:
 - Reduction in children living in Placed with Parent arrangements
 - Changes in the use of alternative orders (such as Child Arrangement Orders and Supervision Orders).
 - Consideration of no orders for some children, i.e. the use of Child in Need Plans
 - Smoother process for SGO applications

4. Demand for homes for Children in Care

4.1 Population of Children in Care

Over the course of 2021/22, the number of Children in Care in North Yorkshire has remained broadly stable – increasing slightly from 422 in March 2021 to 427 in March 2022. This increase comes as a direct result of an increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), increasing from 11 in March 2021 to 22 in March 2022. Excluding UASCs, the number of Children in Care has reduced from 411 to 405 (-6 (-1.4%)). By comparison the number of Children in Care nationally has seen an upwards trajectory over recent year, and one that is likely to continue.

When viewed as a rate per 10,000 0-17 year olds, the rate of Children in Care in North Yorkshire (36 per 10k) remains notably lower than the latest national rate (67 per 10k).

Figure 1. Children in Care at 31 March as a share of total population of children

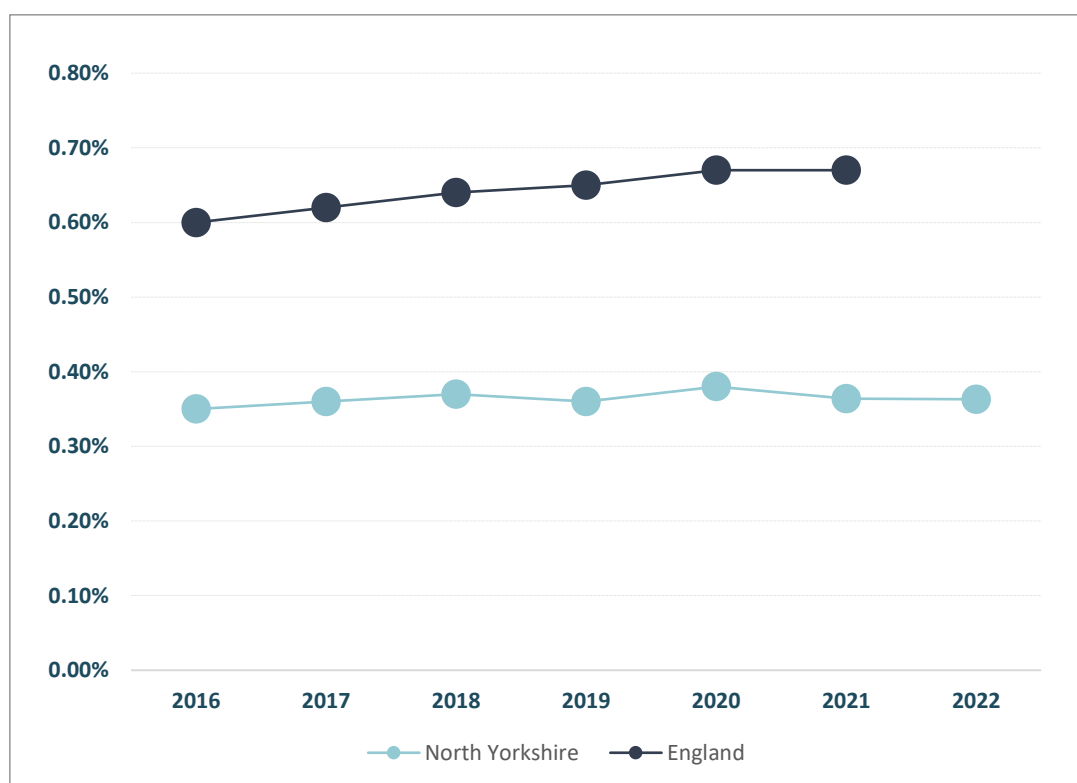
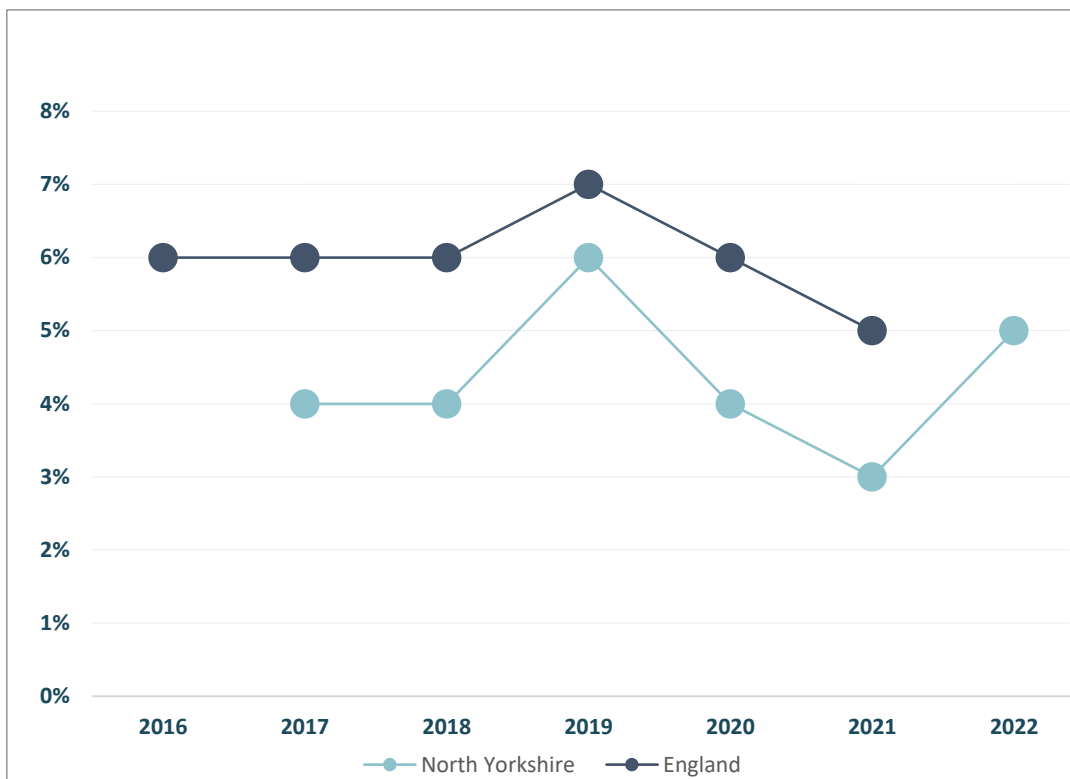


Figure 2. Children in Care who were Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers as a share of the total CLA population



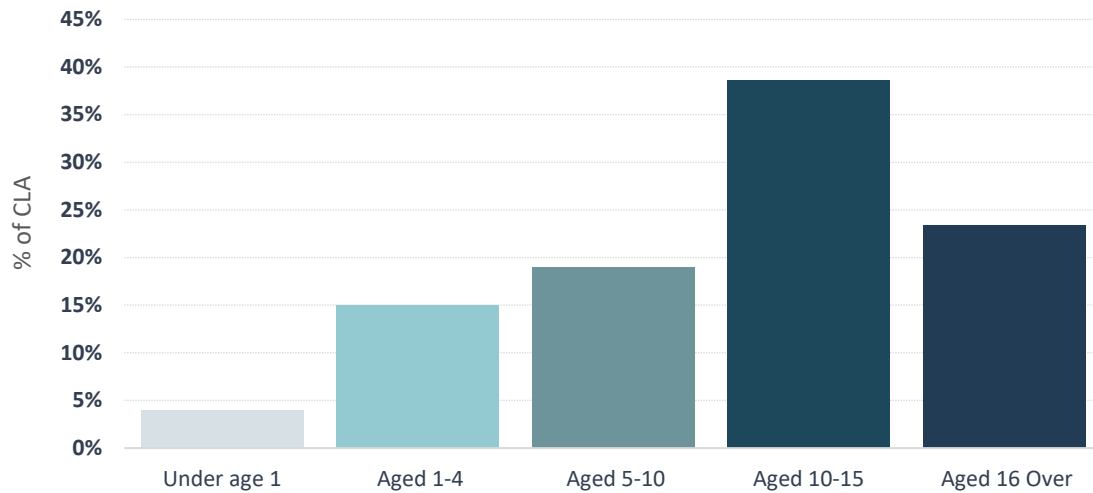
Note: The figure includes the number of Children in Care at March 31, 2022 who were unaccompanied asylum seekers.

As of 31st March 2022, 44.3% of Children in Care in North Yorkshire were female and 55.7% were male. This continues to reflect the on-going trend in North Yorkshire, with males being marginally more likely to be in care.

In regards to the Age Profile of Children in Care, we continue to see a notable peak in Children in Care aged between 10 and 15 years old. This being said, over the past 2 years, we have seen the proportion of Children in Care aged 10 to 15 reduce, from 39% in 2021 to 35%. The proportion of 16+ Young People in Care has also reduced, dropping to 23% from 26% in 2020. This represents a slight 'flattening' of the age profile of Children in Care. Whilst this is likely to have a positive bearing on our ability to provide foster placements, it is possible that there will be an impact on increasing our reunification efforts to ensure the higher proportion of younger children are not living away from their family for longer than is necessary.

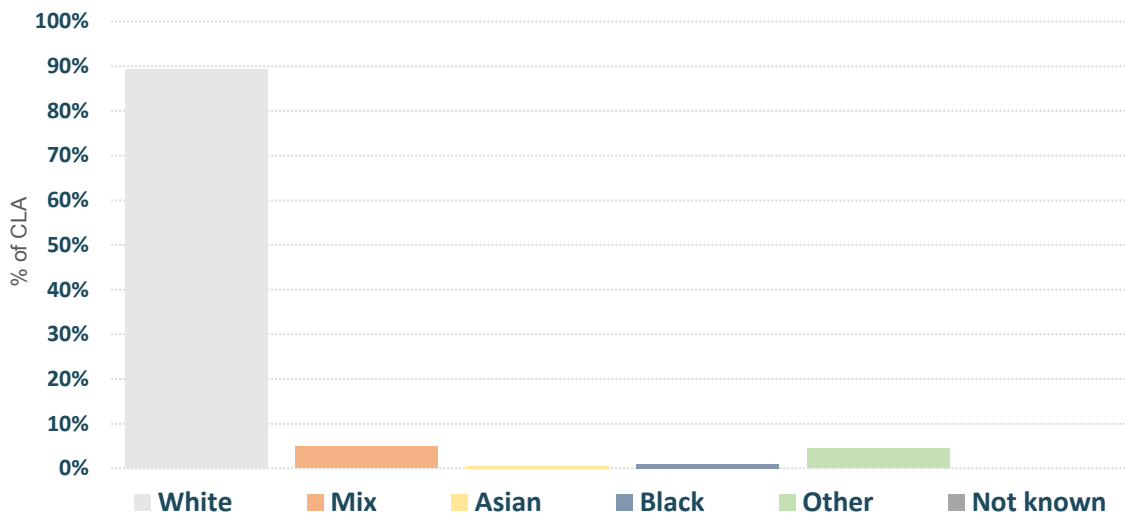
In terms of the Ethnicity of children in care, this broadly aligns with the wider population of North Yorkshire. A considerable majority of Children in Care are White British, although this has decreased slightly over recent years, linked to the increasing number of UASCs.

Figure 3. Children in Care by age group (as a share of total LAC population), 2022



Note: The figure includes the number of Children in Care at March 31, 2022.

Figure 4. Children in Care by ethnic background (as a share of total CiC population), 2022



Note: The figure includes the number of Children in Care at March 31, 2022.

4.2 Needs of Children in Care

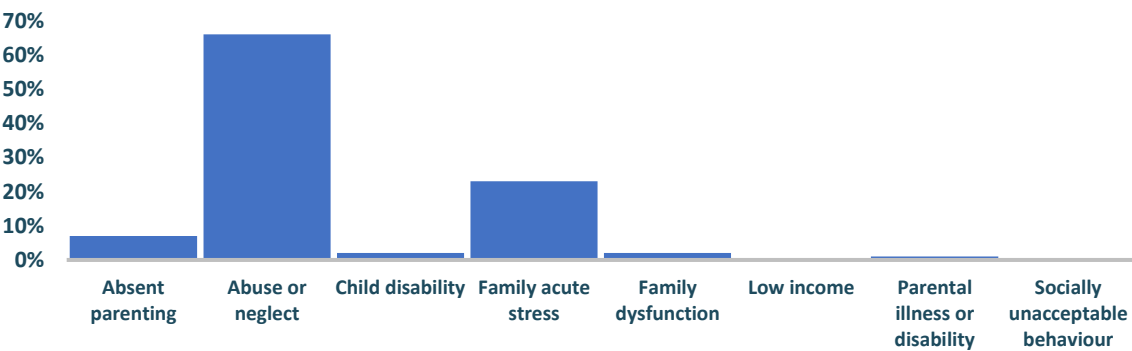
2022 has seen an increase in the variety of reasons that children enter care in North Yorkshire. Historically, in 2020 for example, 76% became cared for due to Abuse or Neglect and 17% became cared for due to 'Family in Acute Stress'. Following the Pandemic, we have seen a reduction in the rate of admission for 'Abuse or Neglect' (down to 66%), but a considerable increase 'Family in Acute Stress' (up to 23%). We have also seen increases in the number of children becoming cared for due to Family Dysfunction (up from 0% to 2%) and Absent Parenting (up from 0% to 7%). The increase in 'Absent Parenting' is attributable to the increase in UASCs, however the wider shift from Abuse & Neglect to 'Family in Acute Stress' or 'Family Dysfunction' are likely to be reflective of the impact of

the pandemic. Moving forwards, as the escalating cost of living starts to bite, it is expected that we may see a further increase in the proportion of admission due to ‘Family in Acute Stress’ or ‘Dysfunction’ and/or Neglect linked to deprivation as the stresses of restricted household budgets start to bite.

Whilst, barring any considerable sudden shock to the system, North Yorkshire is generally in a very strong position in regards to placement sufficiency across the spectrum, one area of pressure is in relation to placements for Disabled Children and Young People. Locally, regionally and nationally, this is a saturated market in terms of externally provided placements leading to pressures building elsewhere in the system as alternative options are sought where placements for children with complex disabilities either are not available or breakdown.

As the table below shows, compared to the general picture nationally, North Yorkshire remains in a very strong position.

Figure 5. Children who started to be looked after during 2020 by primary need category



Note: The figure shows the proportion of children who started to be looked after during the year ending March 31 by need category

Table 1.

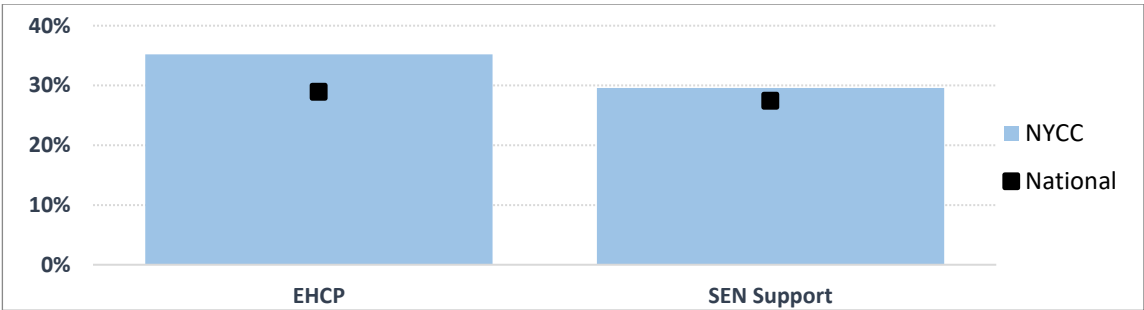
Difficulties in providing placements for children across primary need categories	Currently		Over the next 1-3 years	
	Council	England	Council	England
Abuse or neglect	Green	Amber	Green	Amber
Child's disability	Green	Red	Amber	Red
Parent's illness or disability	Green	Green	Green	Green
Family in acute stress	Green	Amber	Green	Amber
Family dysfunction	Green	Amber	Green	Amber
Socially unacceptable behaviour	Green	Red	Green	Red
Low income	Green	Green	Green	Amber
Absent parenting	Green	Amber	Green	Amber

Notes: Red indicates that the council expects that they will face difficulties meeting demand through existing suppliers and/or needs to produce services at high costs; Amber indicates that the council expects that they will mostly meet demand through existing providers at reasonable costs, but there are cases where that is not true; Green indicates that the council expects they will meet demand through existing supply at reasonable cost. The national average is calculated based on the responses provided by the 34 councils that responded to the survey.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are seeing a considerable increase in the proportion of Children and Young People with a raised SDQ score. Over the past year, the proportion of Children with an SDQ score deemed to be ‘cause of concern’ has increased, from 38% in March 2020 (i.e. pre-pandemic) to 61.1% in March 2022. It is worth noting that the proportion of ‘borderline’ cases has also reduced from 18% to 8.6%, indicative that a considerable number of these ‘borderline’ cases have been experienced a deterioration in their wellbeing throughout the Pandemic. This is reflective of the impact that the pandemic has had on the emotional health and wellbeing on the population as a whole. Extensive work is currently underway with partner agencies and our Psychologically Informed Partnership Approaches Clinicians to ensure that Children in Care are receiving the help they need.

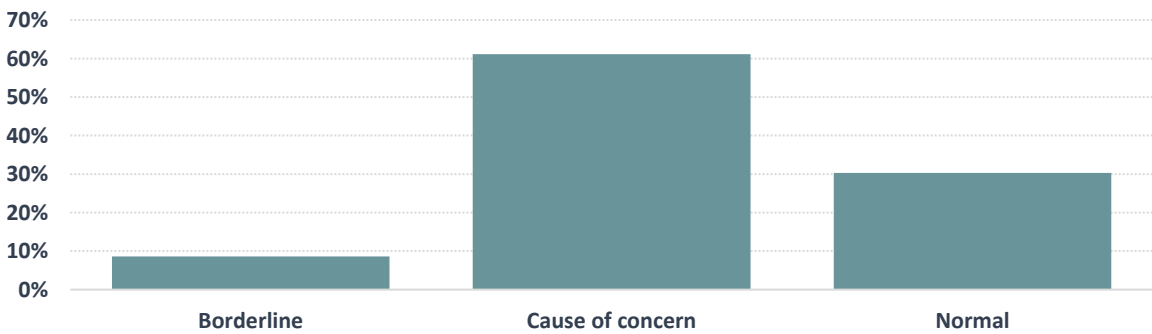
The proportion of Children in Care in North Yorkshire with a Special Education Need or Disability (SEND) is notably higher (64.8% (EHCP: 35.2% // SEN Support: 29.6%)) than the national average (56.3% (EHCP: 28.9% // SEN Support: 27.4%)). In part, the higher prevalence of SEND is reflective of the efforts taken to support children outside of the care system, leading to the Children in Care generally having more complex levels of need.

Figure 6. Children in Care with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (as a share of total CLA population), 2021



Note: The figure includes the proportion of Children in Care at March 31, 2021 and data from School Census January 2021.

Figure 7. Proportion of Children in Care by SDQ score (as a share of total CLA population), 2022



Note: The figure includes the proportion of Children in Care whose SDQ score was normal, borderline, and cause of concern

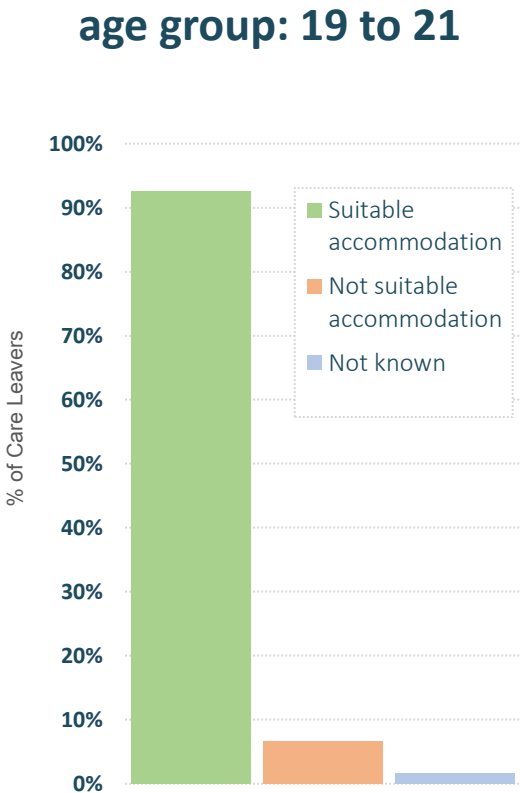
4.3 Care leavers

As of 31st March 2022, there were 261 Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 in North Yorkshire, with further 96 over the age of 21.

North Yorkshire continues to perform very strongly in terms of the proportion of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation, with 92.6% recorded as being in suitable accommodation, compared to 88% nationally. Our performance in relation to Care Leavers in ETE is also high, at 66.1% of 19, 20 and 21 year olds in ETE, compared to 52% nationally. It is worth noting that 12% of the total cohort (or 1 in 3 NEET Care Leavers) are NEET due to either disability or health needs or due to pregnancy/parenting.

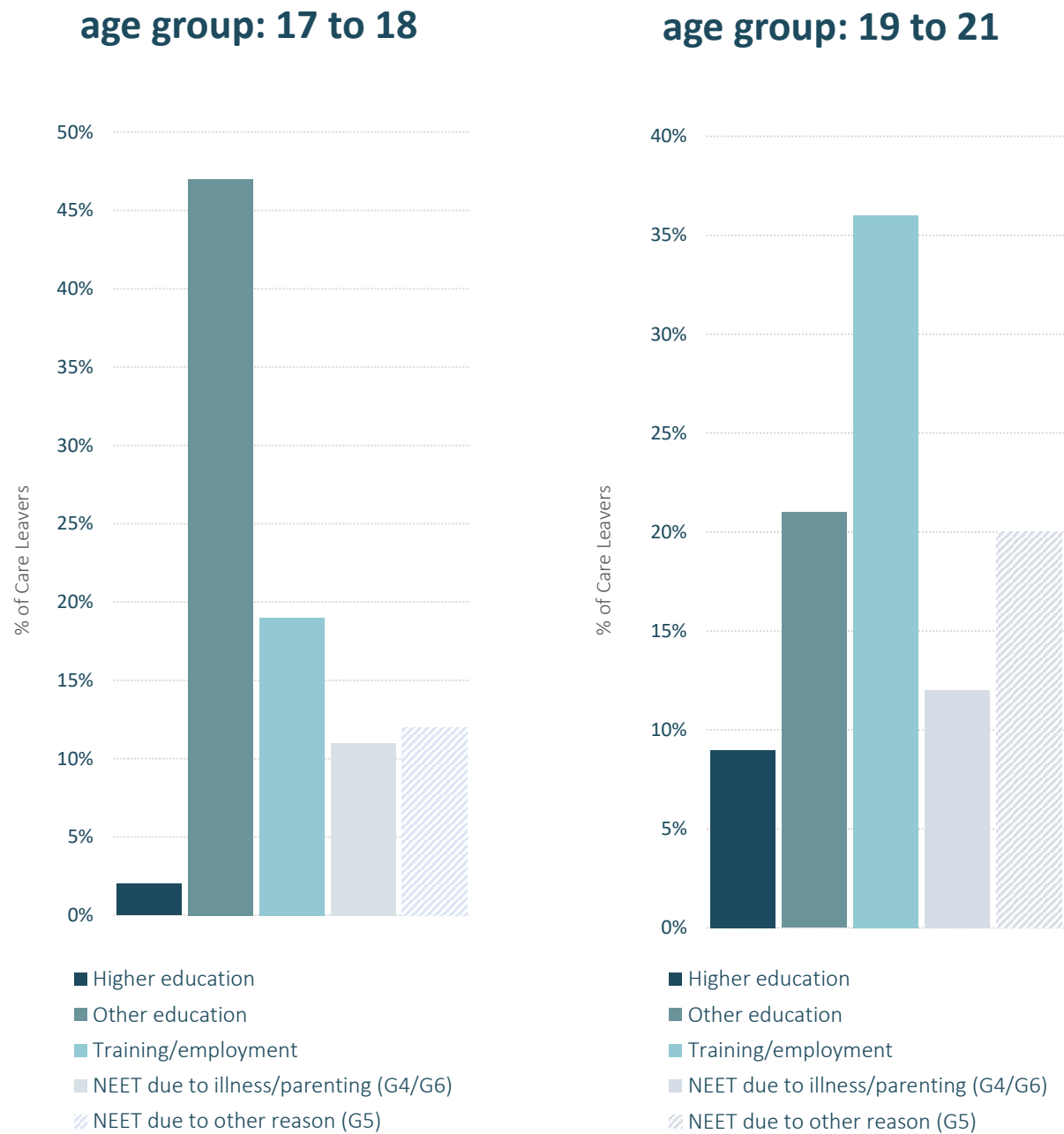
As of the end of March 2022, over 1 in 5 (21%) of Care Leavers aged between 18 and 21 were living in Staying Put arrangements. Whilst this is promising in terms of supporting young people to maintain a support network that will enable better long-term outcomes, the high use of Staying Put placements does potentially place an additional burden on the sufficiency of Fostering placements.

Figure 8. Care leavers by suitability of accommodation (as a share of total population of care leavers requiring support), 2022



Note: The figure includes care leavers in the year ending March 31, 2020 aged 17 and 18 and 19 to 21 who were in care for a total of at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday including some time after their 16th birthday

Figure 9. Care leavers by type of activity (as a share of the total population of care leavers), 2022



Note: The figure includes care leavers in the year ending March 31, 2020 aged 17 and 18 and 19 to 21 who were in care for a total of at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday including some time after their 16th birthday. The figure does not include care leavers for whom the activity is not known.

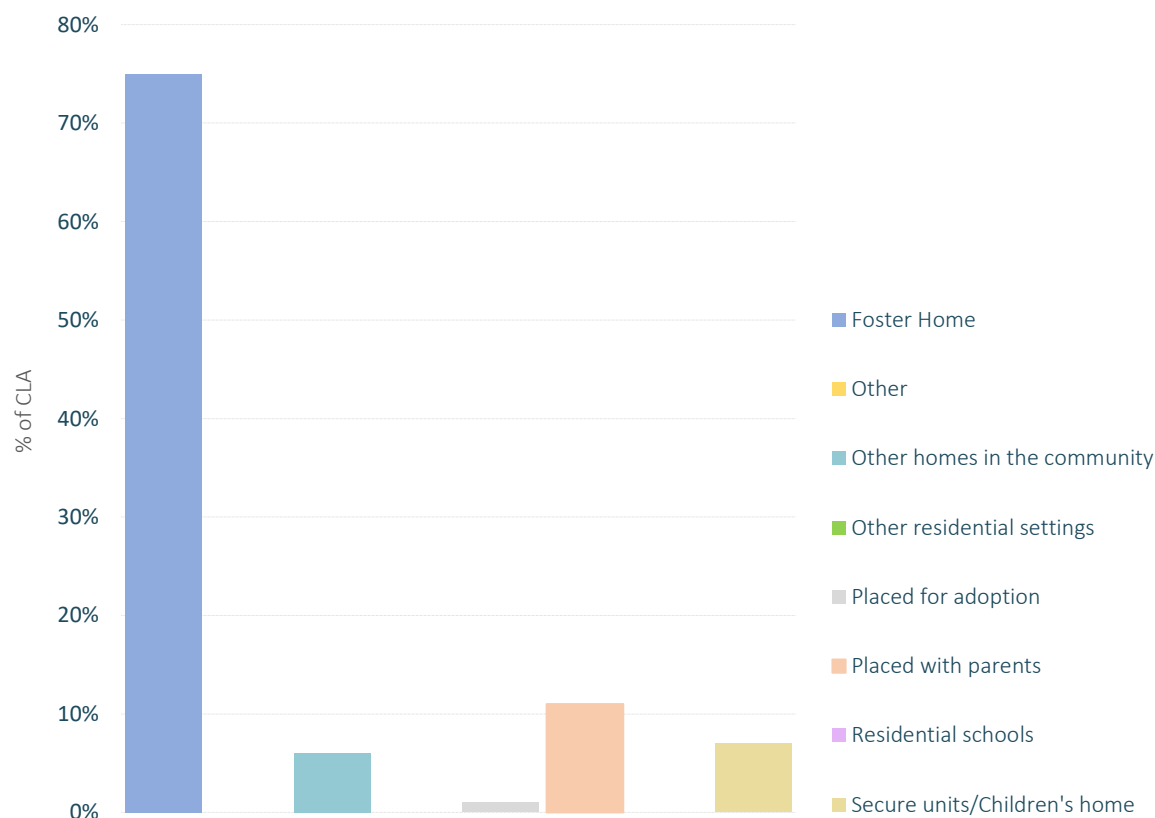
5. Supply of homes for Children in Care

5.1 Provision of homes

We continue to see a considerable majority of Children in Care in North Yorkshire living with foster carers. As at 31st March 2022, 75% of the 427 children in North Yorkshire’s Care were living with a Foster Carer. Of these 99.1% of children were living with an NYCC registered Foster Carers. North Yorkshire’s robust approach to in-house fostering provision and effective resource management results North Yorkshire currently have just a small handful of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements, at a time when the picture nationally is one of increasing reliance on the private sector to provide placements for Children in Care. In North Yorkshire, just 0.7% of Children in Care are living in an IFA placement, compared to over 1 in 4 (26.4%) nationally.

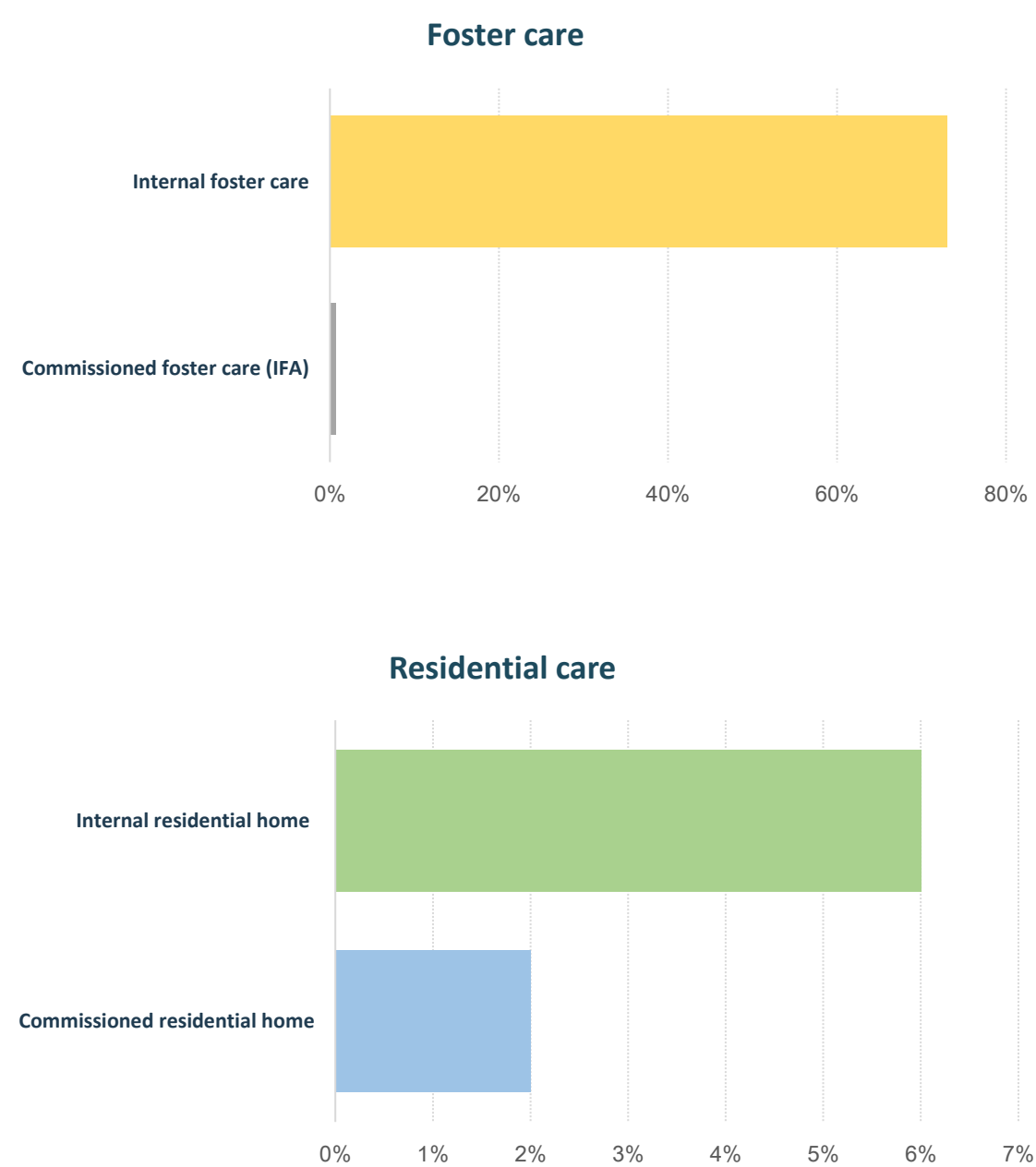
The trend in low use of externally commissioned homes continues across our residential sector. Currently, just 8% of children in care are living in some form of Residential Children’s Home. 6% of Children in Care live in NYCC provided Residential Care settings – primarily through No Wrong Door, whilst 2% are in Commissioned Residential homes, including a range of specialist out of county provision to meet the child or young person’s complex needs.

Figure 10. Children in Care by type of placement (as a share of the total CiC population), 2022



Note: The figure includes the proportion of Children in Care at March 31, 2022

Figure 11. Children in Care by Home provider (as a share of the total CiC population), 2022



Note: the figures include the proportion of Children in Care at March 31, 2022, by type of home.

2022 has seen the proportion of children in care for at least 12 months reduced slightly, down from 73.1% in 2020 and 73.7% in 2021 to 71.4% in 2022. This is, in part, reflective of the changing age profile of Children in Care, as mentioned above.

2022 has also seen an increase in the proportion of children experiencing 3 or more placements over the previous 12 months (up to 10.7% from 7% in 2021), although this is still an improvement on the 12% reported in 2020 and is up slightly on the latest national average of 9% in 2021, but an improvement on the 2020 national average (11%).

The proportion of Children in Care looked after for 2.5 years or more and living in the same placement for at least 2 years has also dropped from 80% in 2021 to 70.2% in 2022, although has improved from 68% in 2020. Current performance falls very much in line with the latest national average of 70%.

Table 2. Stability of placements for children looked after	2020
% children looked after for at least 12 months	51
% of children looked after with three or more placements during the year	11
% of children looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years aged under 16 who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years	68

Note: This table shows numbers of Children in Care at March 31, 2022.

As of Autumn 2021 (the latest published data available), 16 of the 22 Children's Homes in North Yorkshire are judged as being either Good or Outstanding in the 'overall experiences and progress of children and young people'. The same number are just as Good or Outstanding in regards to 'how well children & young people are helped and protected'.

It is worth noting only 4 of the 22 Children's Homes in North Yorkshire are operated by North Yorkshire County Council. As is reflected in the above, North Yorkshire does not use externally provided residential children's homes unless it is for a child's specific health/well-being needs.

Table 3. Quality of placements based on Ofsted inspections, 2020				
	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement to be good	Inadequate
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people				
Independent Fostering Agencies	0	0	0	0
Children's homes	7	11	4	0
How well children & young people are helped and protected				
Independent Fostering Agencies	0	0	0	0
Children's homes	4	14	4	0
Effectiveness of leaders & managers				
Independent Fostering Agencies	0	0	0	0
Children's home	8	9	4	1

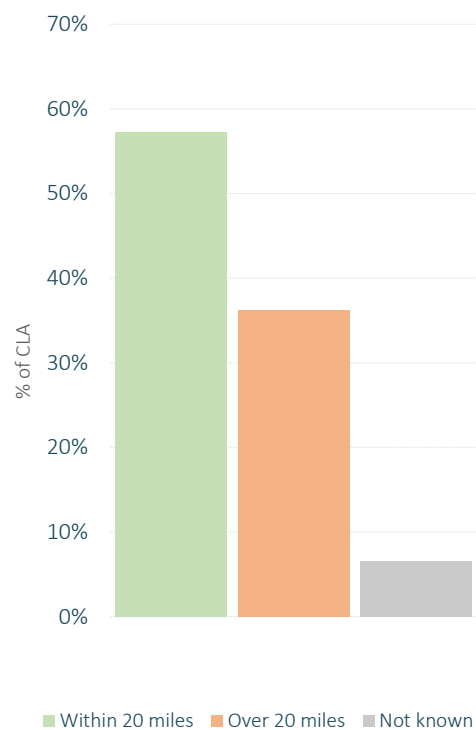
Note: The table includes outcomes from Ofsted inspections of IFAs and children's homes (both internal and external). Numbers of IFAs and children's homes are presented by inspection outcomes. Information on Ofsted inspection outcomes for residential schools and secure home is not shown here, as they represent a small proportion of available residential settings.

5.2 Location of homes

Reflective of North Yorkshire’s commitment to supporting Children and Young People to live as close to their birth family as possible in North Yorkshire provided homes where possible, over 85% of Children in Care live within the NYCC County Boundary. Many of those who live outside of North Yorkshire are either living with Family & Friends through Family & Friend Foster Care arrangements or provision commissioned to meet a specific health/well-being needs (including Special Education Needs and Disabilities).

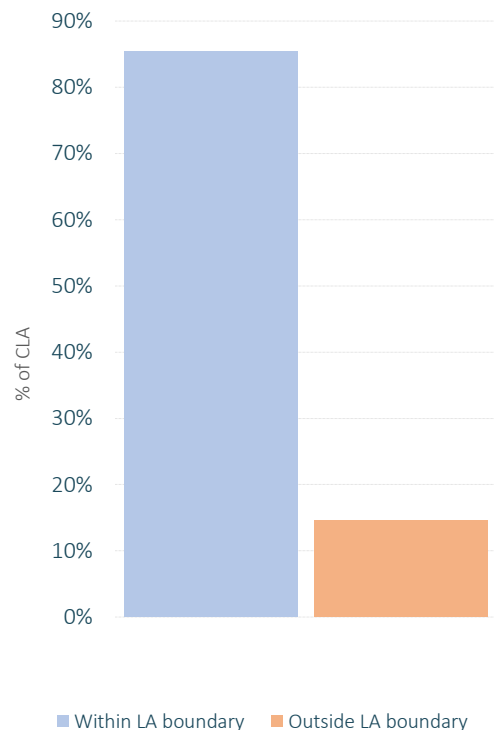
Whilst a vast majority of children live within the county boundary, reflective of the sheer size of North Yorkshire, a lower proportion of children live within 20 miles of their family home. In part this will be due to the fact that many of North Yorkshire’s larger conurbations are more than 20 miles apart.

Figure 12. Children in Care by the distance between the placement and home (as a share of total population of CiC), 2022



Note: The figure includes numbers of Children in Care at March 31, 2022.

Figure 13. Children in Care placed within and outside the LA boundary, (as a share of total population of CiC), 2022

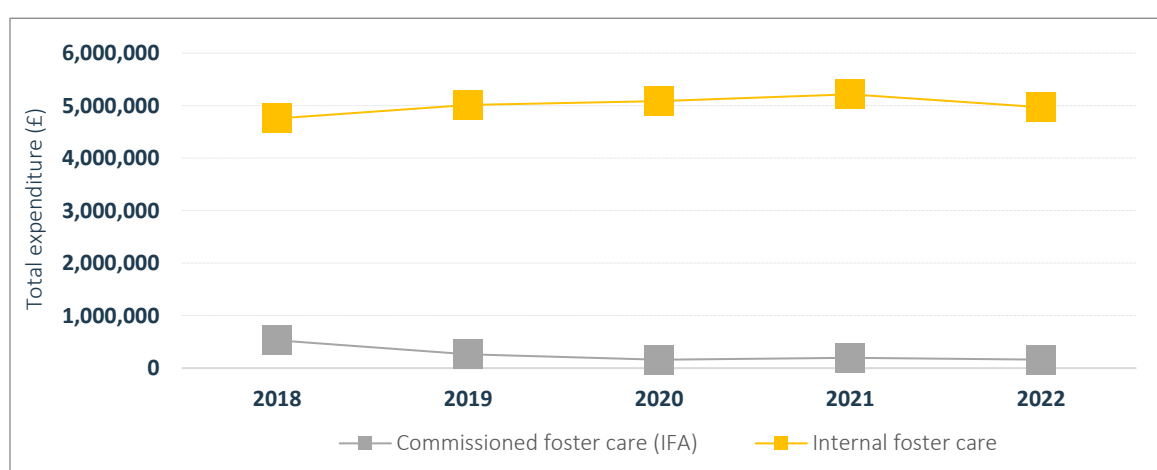


Note: the figure includes numbers of Children in Care at March 31, 2022.

5.3 Cost of homes for Children in Care

With the consistently low and reducing use of IFA placements in North Yorkshire, the total expenditure on IFA homes continues to reduce, dropping from approx. £0.5 million in 2018 to just £161,858. Whilst North Yorkshire's expenditure over the period from 2018 to 2021 saw an increase, this increase has now started to reverse in 2021/22. Moving forwards, it is likely that we will see the expenditure grow as there is the possibility of an increase in the number of children in care as the cost of living crisis puts families under additional strain.

Figure 14. Total expenditure in foster care during the year ending March 31



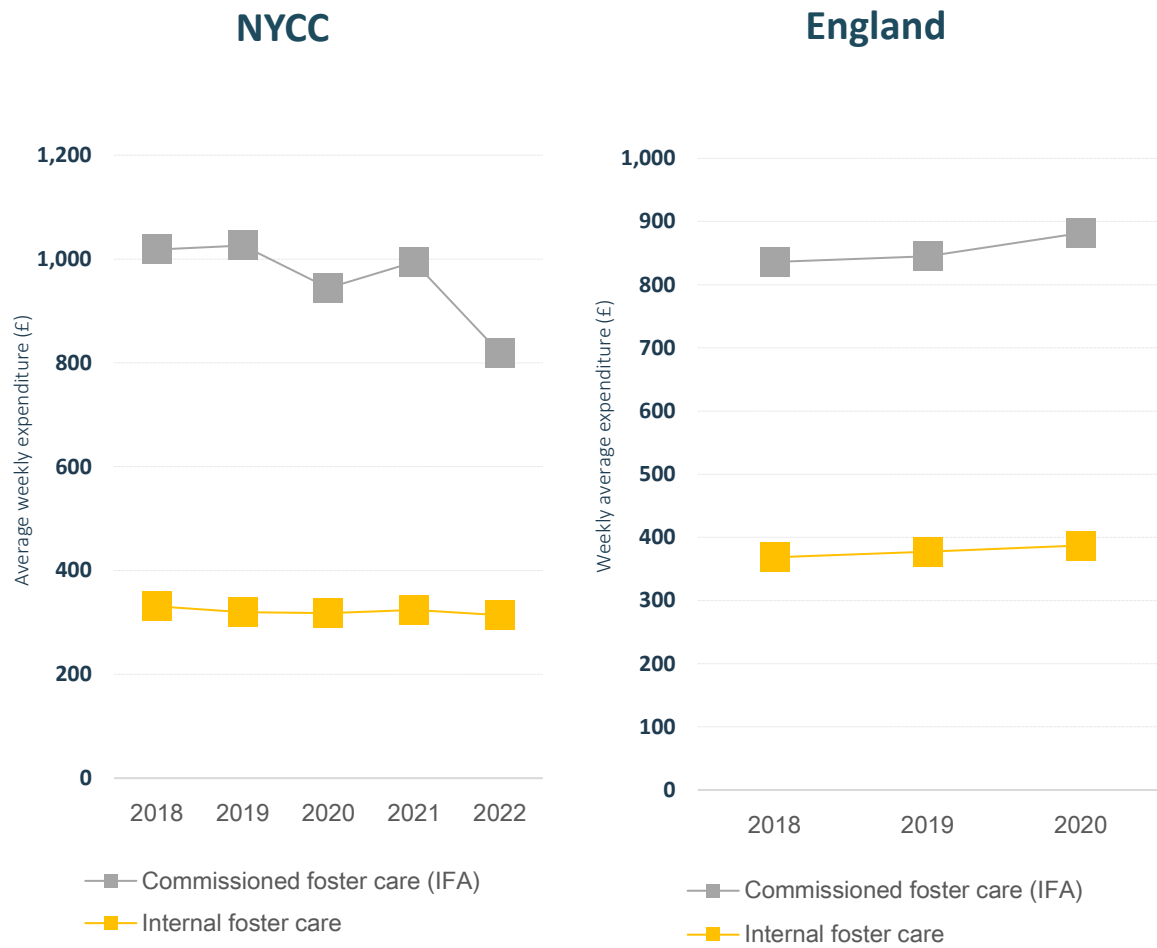
Note. Council figures do not include management & other internal costs while expenditure on commissioned services includes overhead costs.

As the table below shows, the weekly expenditure on an IFA home continues to decline in North Yorkshire falling by £200 from £1,018 in 2018 to £819 in 2022. Historically, the cost of IFA homes in North Yorkshire has been consistently higher than the national average (£882 in 2020). In 2022, following a reduction in some of our existing IFA arrangements, we have seen the average weekly expenditure on an IFA placement drop below the latest national average.

Moving to Internal Fostering, North Yorkshire's average weekly expenditure remains lower than the national average (£387 in 2020), and has seen a slight reduction from £324 in 2020/21 to £314 in 2021/22. Combined with our considerably higher use of Internal Placements combined with the lower cost is directly contributing to our sustained considerably lower than national average expenditure on Children in Care.

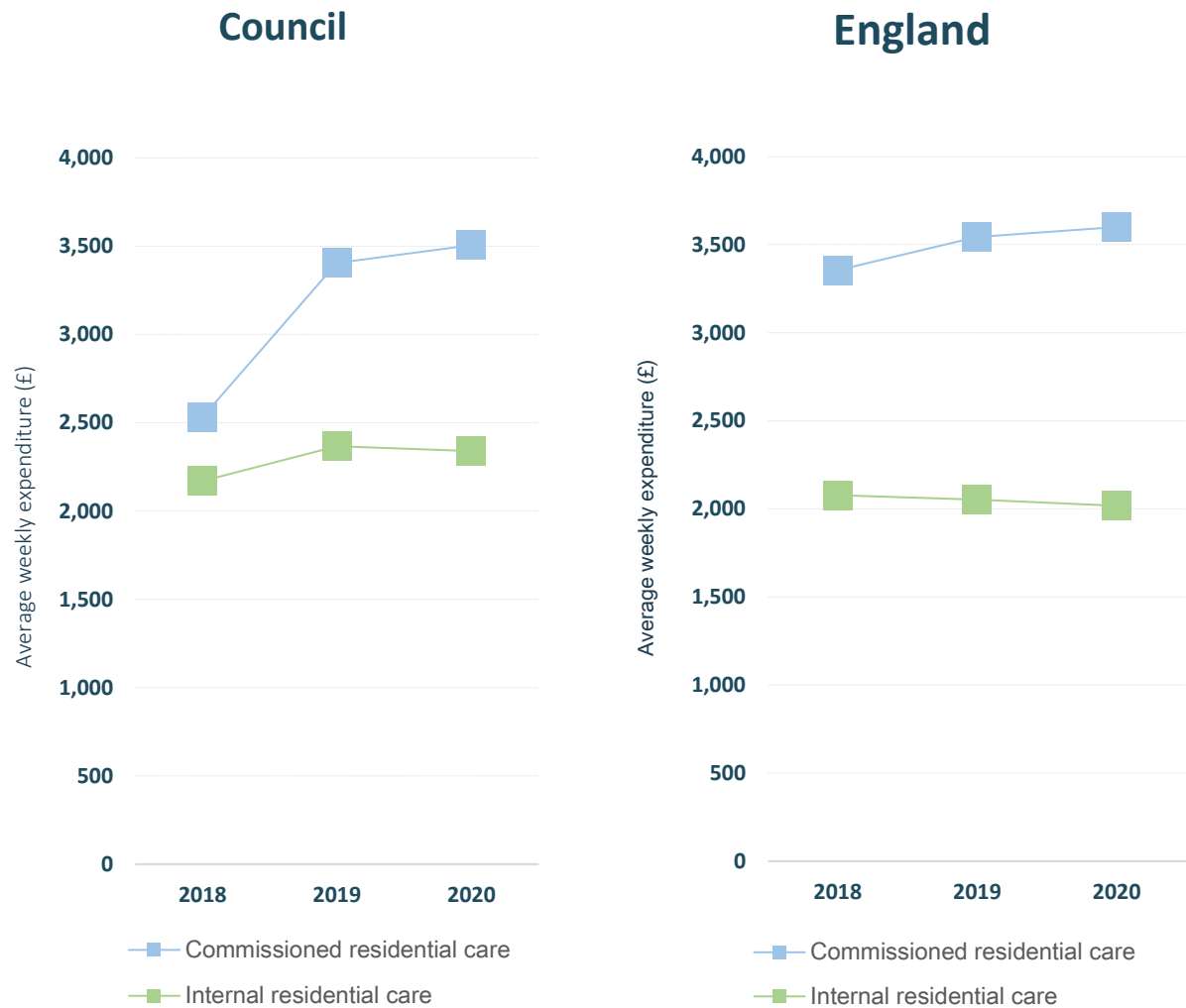
Overall, the consistently low use of IFAs and high use of Internal Foster Placements ensure North Yorkshire's costs remain relatively low. Primarily this is due to many other authorities having to pay increased rates to IFAs to cover management costs and considerable overheads.

Figure 15. Average weekly expenditure (per child) in foster care during the year ending March 31



Notes. Council figures do not include management & other internal costs while expenditure on commissioned services includes overhead costs. The national average is calculated based on the responses provided by the 34 councils that responded to the survey.

Figure 16. Average weekly expenditure (per child) in residential care during the year ending March 31



Notes. The figure only includes expenditure in residential placements (management & other internal costs are not taken under consideration). The national average is calculated based on the responses provided by the 34 councils that responded to the survey.

5.4 Challenges in providing homes and related services

At the time of writing the trend for Children in Care remains broadly stable, and our ability to provide safe, suitable placements that effectively meet the needs of children and young people. This being said, we are on currently on a downward slope into what is expected to be the worst cost of living crisis in over 30 years. Depending how this develops, there is a chance that the ratings in the below will change as the situation unfolds. We know that financial pressures and deprivation are closely linked to families requiring support from statutory safeguarding services, so this may have a bearing on the number of Children in Care over time. Looking forwards, North Yorkshire remains in a relatively positive and stable position in regards to placement sufficiency.

Table 4.

Difficulties in meeting the demand for placement of looked after children	Currently		Over the next 1-3 years	
	Council	England	Council	England
Meet demand for placements	Green	Red	Green	Amber
Meet demand for foster care	Green	Amber	Amber	Amber
Meet demand for residential care	Green	Red	Amber	Amber

Notes: Red indicates that the council expects that they will face difficulties meeting demand through existing suppliers and/or needs to produce services at high costs; Amber indicates that the council expects that they will mostly meet demand through existing providers at reasonable costs, but there are cases where that is not true; Green indicates that the council expects they will meet demand through existing supply at reasonable cost. The national average is calculated based on the responses provided by the 34 councils that responded to the survey.

North Yorkshire has a number of clearly defined pathways for specific key services. This, along with close working relationships with a number of key partners is effectively ensuring that we are able to meet demand for Key Services through a variety of joined-up approaches.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we have experienced some challenges in relation to healthcare services as health partners are continuing to experience considerable pressures. There are plans in place to ease this, and as we return towards an increasing sense of 'normality' we should see these challenges reduce.

Whilst nationally the current and future situation in regards to emotional support for Children and Young People, North Yorkshire's Psychologically Informed Partnership Approach ensures that Children in Care, Care Leavers and those supported through Children's Social Care have direct access to mental health support without the need for referrals to other agencies.

Healthcare services are undergoing some challenges in terms of recruitment to posts, which may continue to pose challenges in terms of providing services for Children in Care until these posts are filled. Alongside this, the current move from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to an Integrated Care Board (ICB). This transition period may pose some challenges.

Table 5.

Difficulties in meeting demand for key services	Currently		Over the next 1-3 years	
	Council	England	Council	England
Healthcare services (immunisations, teeth checks, health assessments)	Amber	Amber	Green	Green
Development assessments	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
Interventions for substance misuse	Green	Green	Green	Green
Support for children with emotional and behavioural needs/mental health problems	Green	Red	Green	Amber
Specialist provision for children with CSE/HSB	Green	Amber	Green	Amber
Sibling group who require a fostering placement together	Green	Amber	Green	Amber

Notes: Red indicates that the council expects that they will face difficulties meeting demand through existing suppliers and/or needs to produce services at high costs; Amber indicates that the council expects that they will mostly meet demand through existing providers at reasonable costs, but there are cases where that is not true; Green indicates that the council expects they will meet demand through existing supply at reasonable cost. The national average is calculated based on the responses provided by the 34 councils that responded to the survey.

5.5 Fostering Marketing & Recruitment

The Fostering Marketing and Communications plan demonstrates how we can use communications and marketing activity to support the overall aims of service to maintain local capacity.

Within North Yorkshire, the strategy focuses around four areas:

- Creating constant noise and will involve regular and consistent messaging across platforms such as social media, radio and internal communications. This is to drip feed potential foster carers across our audiences with information.
- Developing our online presence whilst using digital SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) to ensure that the site is at top of results. The new Fostering pages have just gone live and SEO and Google Ads will begin the coming weeks.
- Developing a library of case studies – having a prepared library that includes videos and personal stories from a variety of families.
- Maximising the reach of our material.

The plan has a focus on using digital advertising/ SEO. This includes boosting posts across both Fostering North Yorkshire and the overall NYCC page to ensure posts are seen outside of the pages to increase reach and to target specific audiences. We have developed relationships with district communications team in order to be able to use their channels to further boost posts and also access closed groups for specific campaigns, helping to maximise reach.

Fostering roles are added to the NYCC job vacancies page and treated as other vacant posts for the authority, including support on our LinkedIn page as appropriate and continued marketing as though it were a salaried position. This, again, helps to maximise reach.

Internal channels are a key communications channel. With over 15,000 staff across NYCC (including teaching staff) and a potential reach of intranet stories of approximately 8,000, we can share stories with colleagues as potential Foster Carers but also use them as advocates of Fostering. Developing relationships with district colleagues also gives us access to a wider internal audience. This will be able to be further utilised under the new council in order to increase reach further.

This activity supports wider Fostering events, which are held both virtually and in person. Attendance at appropriate, externally organised community events and individual drop in sessions enable the team to engage with potential foster carers. These events will service as awareness raising as individuals will always do more research following an initial encounter. Social media is used to boost awareness of presence at these events.

In the 2021 – 2022, we had a reach of over 5million across digital platforms. This was supported by off line activity giving us a reach of just under 6 million. The use of digital advertising is allowing us to evaluate and adapt based on evidence-based decisions on what works.

5.6 Special Guardianship Orders

As outlined above, North Yorkshire has a focus on providing permanency in loving homes at the earliest opportunity. In many cases this is with the child’s birth family. Where this is not possible or not in the best interest of the child, we will consider our options for finding permanency for the child. This may involve a Special Guardianship Order which has the potential to provide better permanency sooner for some children.

During 2021/22, 19 children left care through a Special Guardianship Order. Equivalent to 14% of children leaving North Yorkshire’s care in 2021/22, this is a considerable increase from 7.5% in 2020/21.

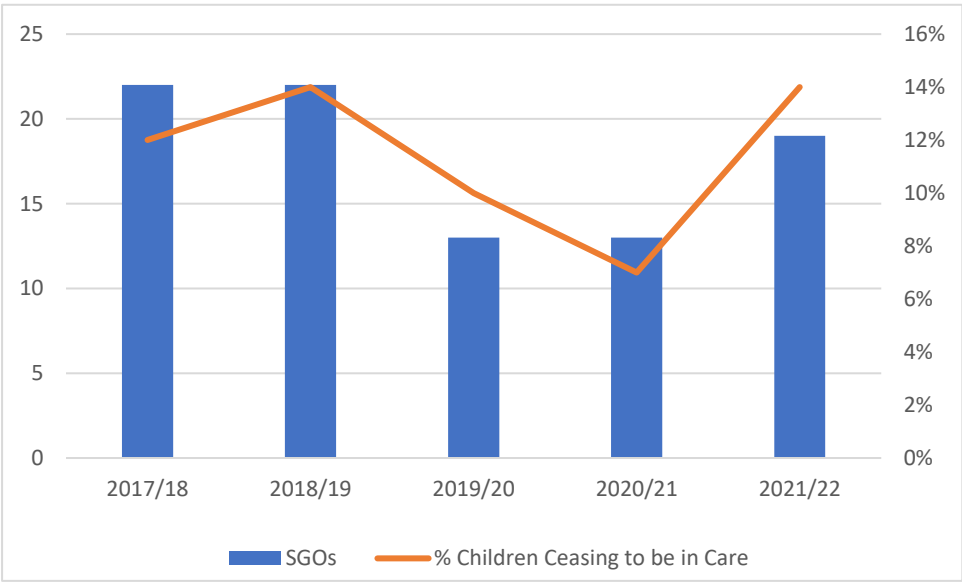


Figure 17. Number and Percentage of Children leaving care through Special Guardianship Order

6. Projections on demand for homes

Current projections for the number of children in care, based on the average number of admissions over the past 4 years and average pre-18 discharges over the past 4 years along with those turning 18 over the coming 3 years indicate that the number of Children in Care is likely to remain broadly stable at between 430 and 440, with a possible upturn to in the region of 440 to 450 in 2025. As mentioned above, this is based on the cost of living crisis not having a considerable impact on the number of Children in Care. This remains a ‘known unknown’ and the service will plan for the eventuality that we will see the number of Children in Care increase. An additional variable is the impact of public law reforms with the direction of travel to reduce the numbers of children who are subject to care orders but live with their parents. In North Yorkshire we currently have 46 children placed with parents and would expect to see this number reduce in the next few years.

We are likely to see an increase in the number of Children living in Foster Care assuming the current trend of ~75% of Children in Care living with a Foster Care but may also see an increase in the number of Children living in Residential Care, linked in part to the increasingly complex needs of children with disabilities.

The forecast for Internally Provided placements is that demand will continue to increase whilst private and voluntary sector provided placements are likely to remain stable. A robust marketing plan is currently seeing some impact in that numbers of enquiries are beginning to increase despite the impact of pandemic and cost of living crisis causing potential carers to re-evaluate their priorities

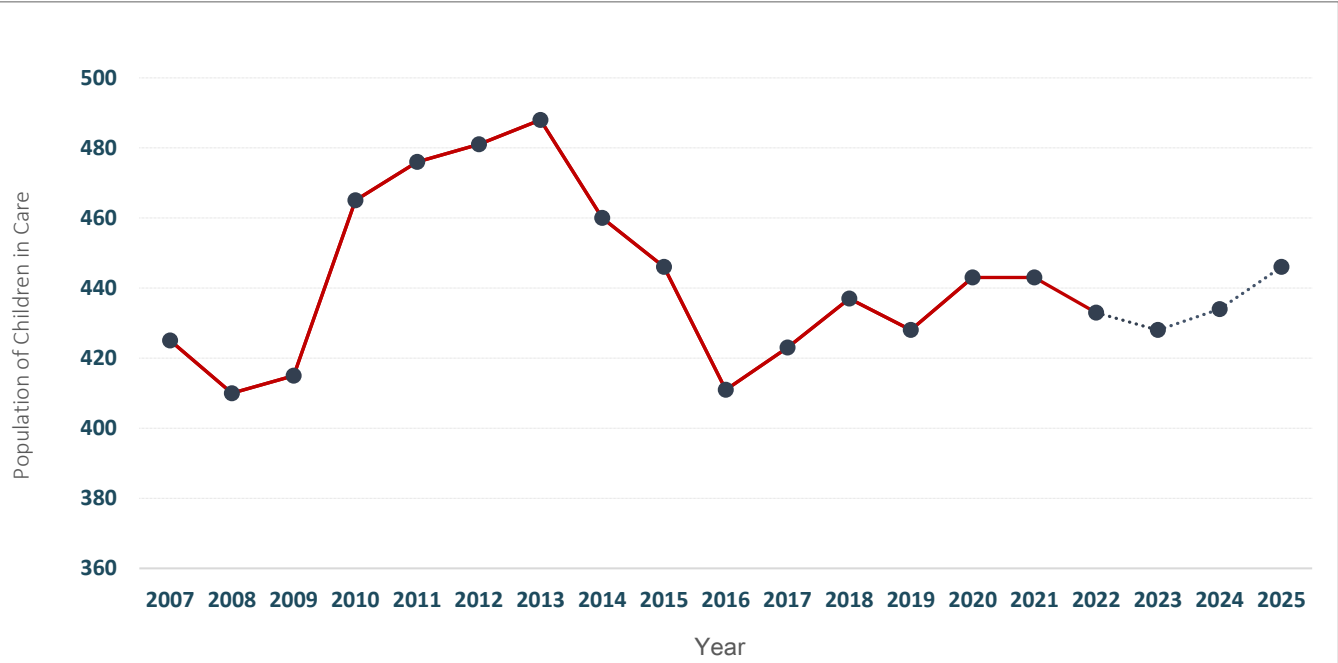


Figure 18. Population of Children in Care – forecasts over 2022-2025

Note: Forecasts are produced using historical data on numbers of Children in Care at March 31 of each year.

Figure 19. Children in Care in foster and residential homes

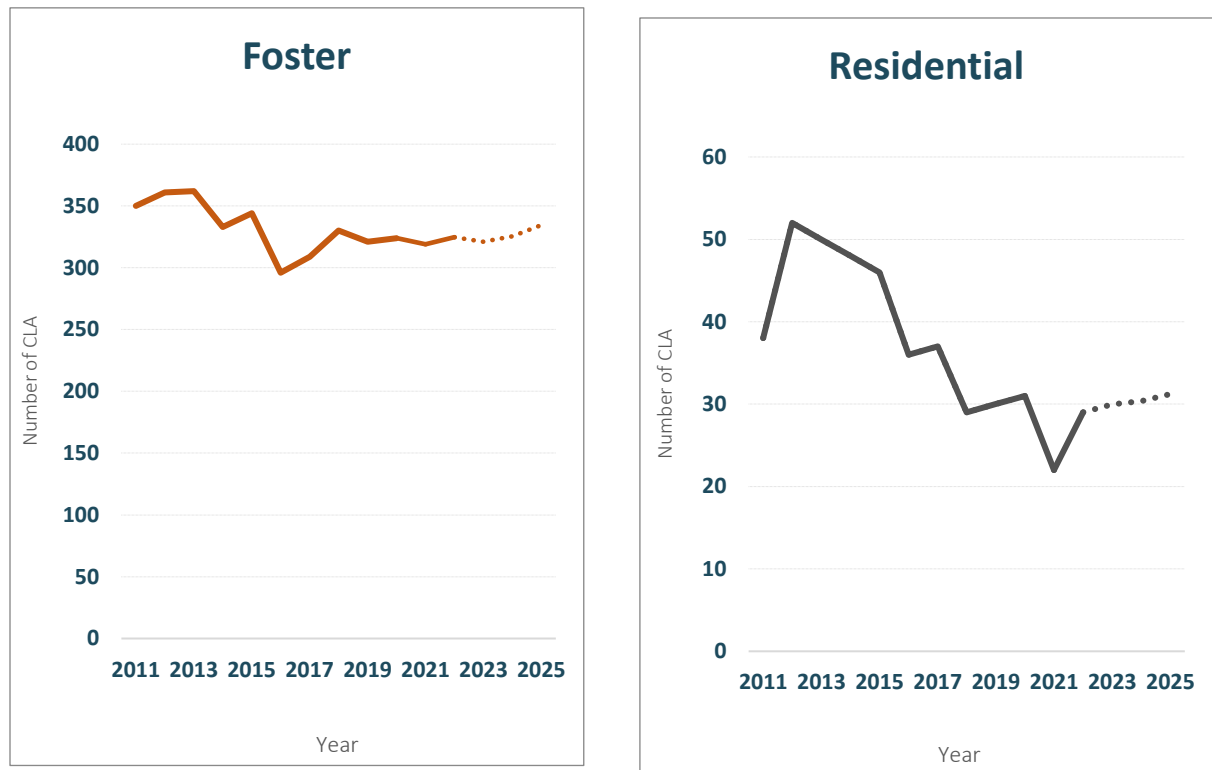
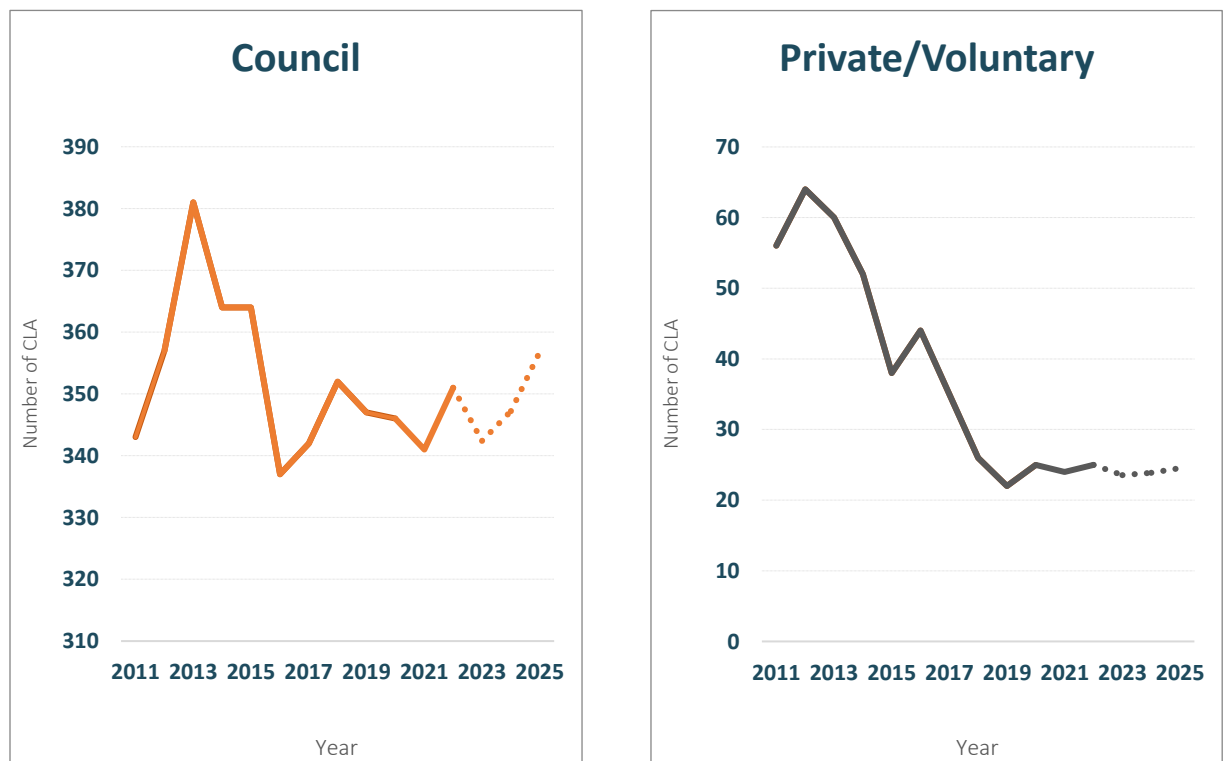


Figure 20. Children in Care by type of provider

Note: Forecasts are produced using historical data on numbers of Children in Care at March 31 of each year. Residential homes include secure units, children's homes, semi-independent living accommodation, residential schools and other residential settings.



7. No Wrong Door

North Yorkshire has two No Wrong Door hubs; West Hub in Harrogate with six beds for a mixture of short and medium term placements with an additional two-bed semi-independent flat nearby; East Hub in Scarborough with six beds for a mixture of short and medium term placements with an additional three-bed semi-independent flat nearby.

To complement the provision in No Wrong Door and respond to need, a number of additional resources have been created and brought into the team:

- NWD Hub Community Family (HCF) Carers – Foster Carers specifically recruited to work within the NWD culture and interventions practice model. They are part of the NWD Team and have access to the same resources to support placements. At the time of their fostering assessment, they are also recruited to become relief team members of the residential home. This is so they can work with young people and build up relationships first. There are four households in total – two per hub.
- NWD High Needs Supported Lodgings (HNSL) Hosts – a supported lodging host for 16+ young people. Similar to the HCF they are specifically recruited to work within the NWD culture and interventions practice model. They are part of the NWD team and have access to the same resources to support placement. At the time of their assessment they are also recruited to become relief team members of the residential home. This is so they can work with young people and build up relationships first. There are four in total – two per hub.
- In order to provide flex in the service, NWD also has the ability to deliver a small number of ‘bespoke’ arrangement. This is part of the homes’ statement of purposes and allows the service to hire a property for up to 28 days. During this period a young person is supported there by members of the NWD team but maintains a bed if required within the residential home. This allows for young people’s needs to be support more creatively and creates time for good planning that is not adversely influenced by a crisis.

For the No Wrong Door ‘Core Offer’ and full detail of the NWD 10 ‘distinguishers’ and 8 ‘non-negotiables’, please see Appendices 2 and 3 respectively.

It is worth noting that recruitment for NWD foster carers and supported lodgings is challenging and reflects the national pressures in recruiting families for children with the most complex needs.

8. Appendix 1

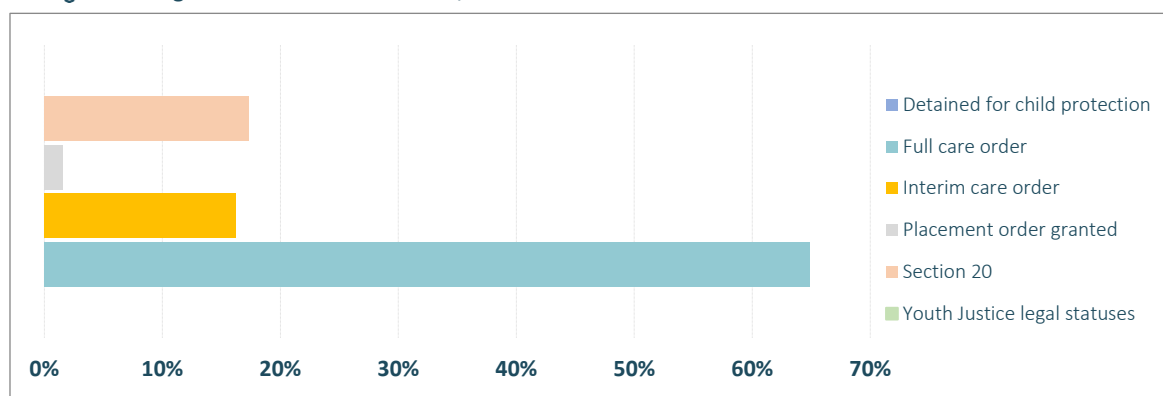
This appendix provides some background information in relation to Children in Care and Placement provision, including an overview of more historic figures.

A1. Population of Children in Care

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

	2018	2019	2020
Children looked after	437	430	443
Children who started to be looked after	193	146	144
Children who ceased to be looked after	186	156	136

Figure 21. Legal status of Children in Care, 2020



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

Figure 22. Outcomes of Children in Care, 2022



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

A2. Supply of placements

Table A2. Number of fostering households, 2020

	2018	2019	2020
Number of fostering households (internal)	310	309	317
Number of fostering households (IFAs)	9	4	3

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

Table A3. Number of residential places and number of beds, 2020

	Council	Private / Third sector	N. beds
Children's home	5	17	107
Secure homes	0	0	0
Residential schools	0	1	23

Note. The table includes the number of children's home, secure homes, and residential schools owned by the council (including both those owned by the Local Authority and the Health Authority) and privately owned (including those owned by the third sector).

A4. Placement Shortfall

Table A4a. Shortfall by Area

2021-22

East	3
West	0
North	1
Selby	0
Total Shortfall	4

Table A4b. Shortfall by Type

	East	West	North	Selby
Accredited	0	0	0	1
Specialist	0	0	0	0
Advanced	0	0	0	0
Total Shortfall	0	0	0	1

Note. Tables A4a shows the placement shortfall by area, i.e. where a child was not able to be placed in the area initially requested, showing 4 children were placed away from the initial requested area. Table A4b shows the shortfall by type – where 1 placement request was not met in the requested placement type.

9. Appendix 2 – NWD Core Offer

Our 'Core Offer' is to:

- 1 Reduce high risk behaviour
- 2 Empower young people to build and restore relationships
- 3 Maximise opportunity for planned transitions
- 4 Support achievement
- 5 Develop self-esteem, self-worth and resilience
- 6 Ensure young people in crisis receive well organised and appropriate support

10. Appendix 3 – NWD 10 Distinguishers

Distinguisher	Practice	Indicators and data	Stage of development
1 Always 'progressing to permanence' within a family or community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong work with the birth family Supported transition to independence Managed transitions Hub Community Families and High Needs Supported Lodgings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask young people Ask LC & CSWs Asking key-workers Care and progression plans 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
2 High 'stickability' of the key worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care leavers can 'stay close' and access support Same key worker across accommodation moves Low staffing turnover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask young people Tracker Staffing structure Care and progression plans Young person's file 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
3 'Fewer referrals, less stigma'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech and Language specialist in team Clinical Psychologist in team NWD Police Officers in team Portfolio Leads on 'Core Offer' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care and progression plans Case studies Quick wins In house screening and assessments 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
4 Robust training strategy same/or similar to restorative practice and therapeutic support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal training for Restorative Practice Universal training for TCI and SOS Whole staff training approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Plan Learning Zone Mandatory supervision question on training impact 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
5 'No heads on beds' culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Happy if the home is empty Supporting young people where they need to be/in a hub not a placement Plan for permanence Fluid/dynamic and responsive placements giving options and flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview of NWD RM Statement of Purpose Review of case history Weekly case list Housing Referrals 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
6 'No Appointment' assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling assessment/Care and Progression Plan More time with/input from young person Timeliness in assessment Universal use of Signs of Safety Well recorded goals and progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask young people Interviews with staff Care and Progression Plans Yellow Brick Road 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
7 A 'Core Offer' to all young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk management, rebuilding relationships, life stage transitions, education, activities, emotional wellbeing NWD training plan NWD Culture & Interventions Practice Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask young people Ask Portfolio Leads Tracker Staff structure meets needs Team day presentations/minutes 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
8 Multi-agency intelligence led approach to reduce risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist roles in post Central Police intelligence Analyst post Embed Culture & Practice events Development of effective data sharing resources and documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAISE meetings in place Effective multi-agency risk assessments and management Qualitative and quantitative data Remain in local community 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
9 Close partnership working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Police and NHS commitment Effective Strategic/Operational Boards with all partners Sponsorship from DCS and elected members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial commitments Invest to Save Evidence Based Practice Strategic Project Board Future joint funding 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning
10 Young People's aspirations drive practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify innovative opportunities to develop young people's self-esteem and resilience Bespoke packages supporting education and achievement Engaging with community and businesses to promote social capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial commitments Evidence of community and business networks Innovative opportunities ready for young people Engagement in Education, Training and Employment 	Self-developing Improving Establishing Beginning

