



Department
for Education

Vulnerable Children and Young People Survey

Summary of returns Waves 1 to 17

February 2021

Contents

Headline facts and figures	3
Background	4
Survey	4
Summary of data	5
Total number of children supported by local authority Children's Social Care	5
Contact with children supported by local authority Children's Social Care	5
Children's Social Care Workforce	7
Referrals to Children's Social Care services	9
Children who have started to be looked after	11
Key themes from open question responses	13
Working with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the future	13
Working with schools and other safeguarding partners	14
Case Complexity	14
Placement Sufficiency	15
Annex A: survey questions and time periods	16
Annex B: response rates	18

Headline facts and figures

Headline figures for Wave 17 of the survey:

Number of children (11 – 13 January)	The total number of children looked after (CLA) was 6% higher than the same time in 2018-19 and the total number of children on a child protection plan (CPP) was around the same as 2018-19.
Contact in the last four weeks (14 December – 10 January)	A large proportion of CLA, children on a CPP and other children in need (CIN) have been in contact with a social worker in the last four weeks (65%, 94% and 59% respectively).
Social worker and residential care worker availability (11 – 13 January)	<p>The proportion of social workers not working due to coronavirus (COVID-19) has increased, with 6% of local authorities reporting over 10% of social workers unavailable due to coronavirus (COVID-19) in Wave 17. This is compared to a low of 1% reported in Wave 16 (14 – 16 December) but remains lower than the peak of 13% in May.</p> <p>The proportion of local authorities reporting over 10% of their residential care staff unable to work due to coronavirus (COVID-19) has also increased to 19% in Wave 17, compared to 11% in Wave 16 (14 - 16 December). Note that some local authorities have small residential care workforces and therefore a small change in the number of staff available may result in a large change in the proportion unavailable.</p>
Referrals (28 December – 03 January)	The total number of referrals during Wave 17 was 7% higher than the usual number at that time of year, however this comparison must be treated with caution due to the timing of the holidays from year to year.
Looked after children	The total number of children who started to be looked after reported in Waves 1 to 17 of the survey was 7,130. This is around 28% lower than the same period in 2016-19.

Background

Survey

The Department for Education (DfE) established a survey of local authorities in England to help understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on Children's Social Care. Local authorities are asked to report to DfE every two weeks with the exception of four weeks between Waves 7 and 8 and Waves 16 and 17. Each fortnightly survey return is referred to as a 'wave' in this publication, the dates that each wave refer to and the questions asked can be found in Annex A. Details on the number of local authorities that responded can be found in Annex B. Local authorities were asked to report on the following areas:

- Contact with children supported by the local authority Children's Social Care
- Children's Social Care workforce
- System pressures

Previous publications from the survey¹ contain analysis of questions that have been removed from the survey and open text questions that is not repeated here.

¹ [Vulnerable children and young people survey](#)

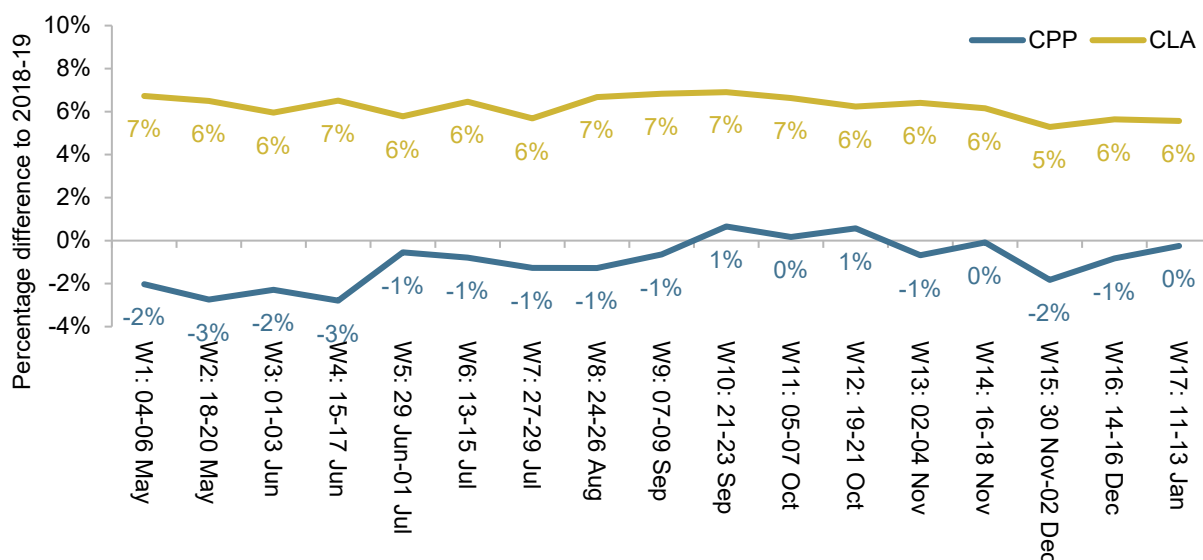
Summary of data

Total number of children supported by local authority Children’s Social Care

Local authorities were asked to report the total number of Children Looked After (CLA), children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and other Children in Need (CIN). The number of other CIN has not been included in this report due to data quality issues.

In Wave 17 the total number of CLA was 6% higher than the same time in 2018-19 and this has remained stable since the survey began. In Wave 17, the total number of children on a CPP was similar to the same time in 2018-19, and this has increased slightly since Wave 4 when it was 3% lower.

Figure 1: Difference in the total number of CLA and children on a CPP compared to the same time in 2018-19



Notes:

‘W1’ refers to Wave 1 and so on.

Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

See Annex B for the number of local authorities that responded to the question per wave.

Contact with children supported by local authority Children’s Social Care

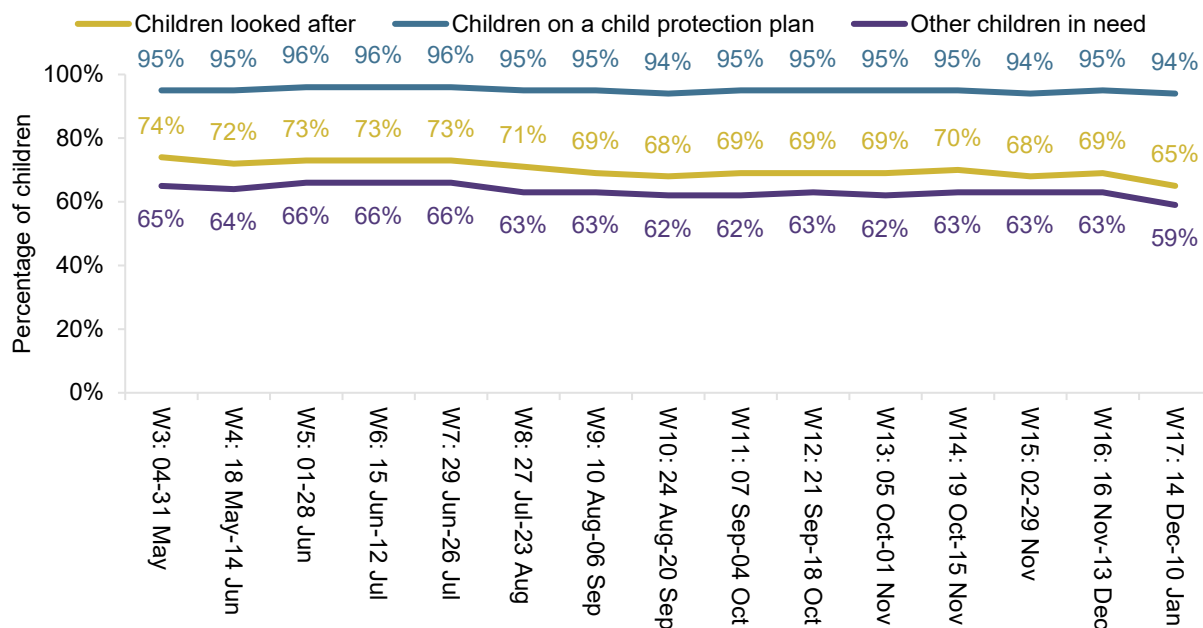
From Wave 3 of the survey, a new question was added which asks how many of CLA, children on a CPP and other CIN have been seen or contacted by their social worker in the last four weeks.

Contact is defined as communication that has taken place with the child/young person, including both face to face visits and remote communication, such as telephone calls or other types of messaging.

Local authorities were previously asked how many cases had been reviewed and how many children had been contacted by their social worker in the last two weeks. These questions were removed from the survey from Wave 10 because findings remained stable, face to face visits were resuming and carried out within statutory timescales, and to reduce the burden on local authorities. A summary of responses from these questions can be found in previous publications¹.

In Wave 17, 65% of CLA, 94% of children on a CPP and 59% of other CIN had been contacted by their social worker in the last four weeks (14 December – 10 January). The slight decrease in these proportions in Wave 17 is likely due to less contact over the Christmas period. At the start of the pandemic, many local authorities reported in the open text question that they were contacting children more frequently than their plan. Over time, as restrictions were lifted and face to face contact resumed, many local authorities told us that they were returning to business as usual and contacting children within statutory timescales. During the latest period of restrictions local authorities are reporting a similar situation in their open text question (as discussed on page 7). The Children Act 1989 contains guidelines that differ widely for different groups of children, and indicates that the frequency of visits should be determined on a case by case basis. Therefore it is not expected that all children should be contacted every four weeks.

Figure 2: Contact with social workers in the last four weeks



Notes:

‘W3’ refers to Wave 3 and so on.

Guidance to local authorities on the correct methodology to calculate other CIN was improved at Wave 3. Local authorities were prompted again at Wave 6. This may explain decreases in percentages for this group over time.

See Annex B for the number of local authorities that responded to the question per wave.

Analysis of the open text questions in the earlier survey waves (1-4; May - June) described the local authority activities to safeguard children that they were not in contact

with. These comprised of: risk assessing and RAG rating cases, working with other agencies to manage risk and working with schools to ensure that welfare checks and contact were taking place with vulnerable children not attending school.

Across subsequent survey waves (5-12; July - October) many local authorities reported having further adapted their approach with more face to face contact resuming. From Wave 5, some local authorities reported activities that were focusing on hidden harms and early help to identify children who may be at risk. Some local authorities were developing new ways to manage risk and monitor contact, for example through new reporting tools, to safeguard the children that they were not in contact with.

In later survey waves (13-17; November onwards) local authorities reported reviewing their contact arrangements in light of the local and national restrictions introduced in November and January. Despite these restrictions, the majority of local authorities that responded to the open text question indicated that they are trying to continue with face to face visits as much as possible, *“there is an expectation that visits will now be face to face in person unless Covid restrictions prevent this (eg. Positive Covid test in the household, self-isolating).”* Some local authorities told us that they are also considering factors such as assessed risk, case types and the local incidence of transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19) virus when deciding on frequency and modality of visits.

Where virtual visits are used in place of face to face visits, some local authorities told us that they are building in checks for these arrangements. One local authority explained, *“for those that have not been seen in person, the arrangements are reviewed by managers on a monthly basis”*. Another commented, *“we will ensure any child not contacted in the last 4 weeks has a follow up check made by a manager to ensure this is in keeping with their own plan”*. A few local authorities also told us that they are using virtual methods of contact to supplement face to face contact. For example, *“we have been undertaking family time virtually to supplement direct family time”* and *“shorter visits are taking place for some children, followed up by discussions with children and parents using technology such as WhatsApp”*.

Children’s Social Care Workforce

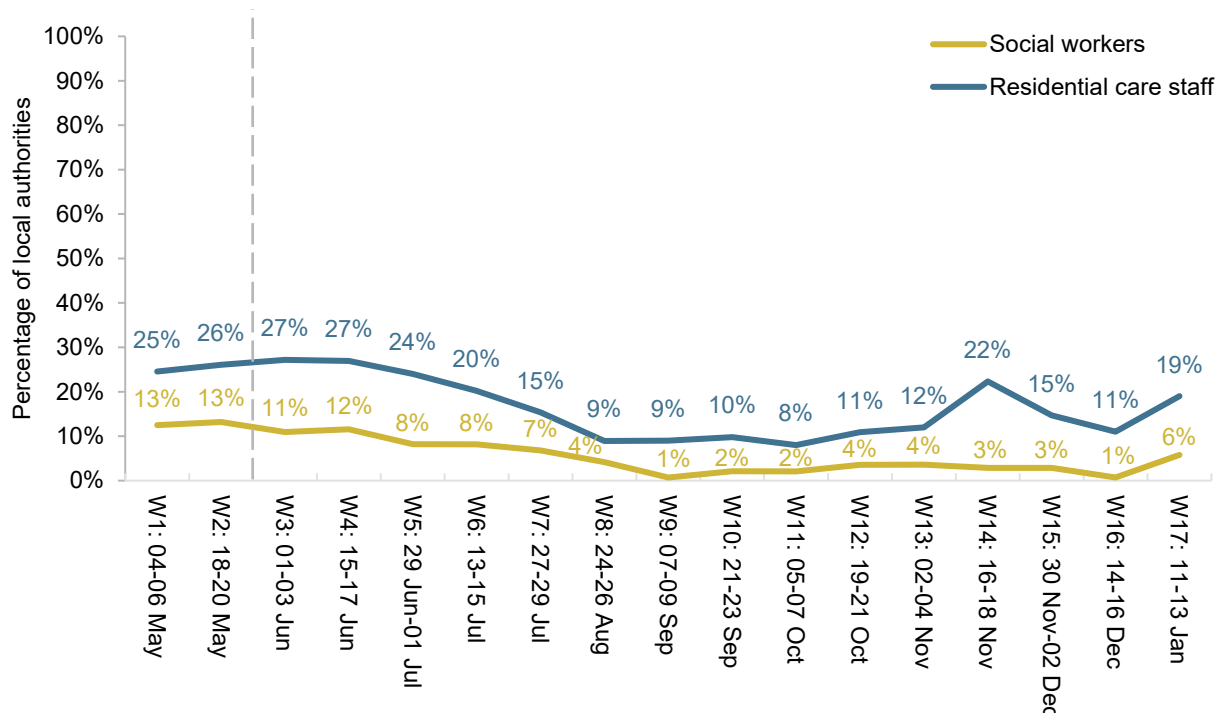
Local authorities were asked about the availability of their staff during coronavirus (COVID-19); both the social worker workforce and residential care staff. A new question was added to Wave 3 of the survey which asks whether the local authority directly employs residential care staff. Note that local authorities were previously reporting 0% if they do not directly employ residential care staff. As such the sample consisted of fewer local authorities from Wave 3, and the figures from Wave 3 onwards are not directly comparable to Waves 1 and 2.

The proportion of social workers unavailable to work due to coronavirus (COVID-19) has increased in the latest wave; 6% of local authorities reported more than 10% of their

workforce unavailable in Wave 17 compared to 1% in Wave 16. It remains lower than the peak of 13% in May.

The proportion of residential care staff unavailable to work due to coronavirus (COVID-19) has also increased in the latest wave, with 19% of local authorities reporting over 10% of staff unavailable in Wave 17, compared to 11% in Wave 16 and a peak of 27% in June. It should be noted that some local authorities have small residential care workforces and therefore a small change in staff availability may result in large changes in the proportion of staff unavailable to work due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Figure 3. Proportion of local authorities that reported over 10% of staff not working due to coronavirus (COVID-19)



Notes:

‘W1’ refers to Wave 1 and so on.

The figures from Wave 3 onwards are not directly comparable to Waves 1 and 2.

See Annex B for the number of local authorities that responded to the question per wave.

In the open text responses, local authorities told us in earlier waves of the survey (1-4; May – June) that workforce availability linked to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was not as problematic as they originally expected at the outset. Some local authorities voiced concerns about the demands on frontline staff and staff isolation with the advent of staff working from home. Some local authorities provided examples where staff had been re-deployed, and training was provided on the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on practice. In later survey waves (5-11; July - October), no common themes about the workforce were reported in the open text response. In later survey waves (12-16; October - December) a handful of local authorities told us that they were experiencing some workforce unavailability and described how they were monitoring and mitigating against this. In the latest survey wave (17; January) compared with past survey waves, more

local authorities said that they have an increased number of staff that are either off sick, self-isolating or shielding but workforce unavailability was only mentioned in a minority of the open text responses. Local authorities, when referring to the workforce, more frequently told us about general tiredness and some anxiety about the new strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst their workforce.

Referrals to Children’s Social Care services

In Waves 1 and 2, local authorities were asked to report the number of referrals to children’s social care services they received in the last week. From Wave 3, local authorities were asked for the number of referrals to children’s social care services the week before last to account for the lag in reporting that affected Waves 1 and 2. As such, the figures from Wave 3 onwards are not directly comparable to Waves 1 and 2.

From Wave 3 onwards local authorities were also asked to report the sources of their referrals.

In Wave 17 (28 December – 03 January), the total number of referrals was 7% higher than a 3 year average of the same week across 2016 to 2019; this is compared to 7% lower during Wave 16. Since the survey began, the only time referrals were higher than usual levels was during school holidays; these comparisons should be treated with caution due to the timing of the holidays from year to year.

The total number of referrals to children’s social care services reported in Waves 1 to 17 of the survey was 176,120, this is around 9% lower than an average of the same weeks during 2016-19.

Table 1: Number of referrals received in the survey compared to the same weeks in 2016-19

Wave	Total number of referrals	Average referrals 2016-19
W1: 27 Apr-03 May	9,340	11,410
W2: 11-17 May	8,960	12,760
W3: 18-24 May	9,870	13,160
W4: 01-07 Jun	10,670	12,510
W5: 15-21 Jun	11,090	13,460
W6: 29 Jun–05 Jul	11,510	12,740
W7: 13-19 Jul	10,910	12,380
W8: 10-16 Aug*	10,540	9,560
W9: 24-30 Aug*	9,080	8,130
W10: 07-13 Sep	11,040	11,650
W11: 21-27 Sep	12,070	12,530
W12: 05-11 Oct	11,710	12,480
W13: 19-25 Oct*	11,100	10,310

W14: 02-08 Nov	10,500	11,920
W15: 16-22 Nov	11,650	12,300
W16: 30 Nov-06 Dec	11,050	11,840
W17: 28 Dec-03 Jan*	5,030	4,690

Notes:

'W1' refers to Wave 1 and so on.

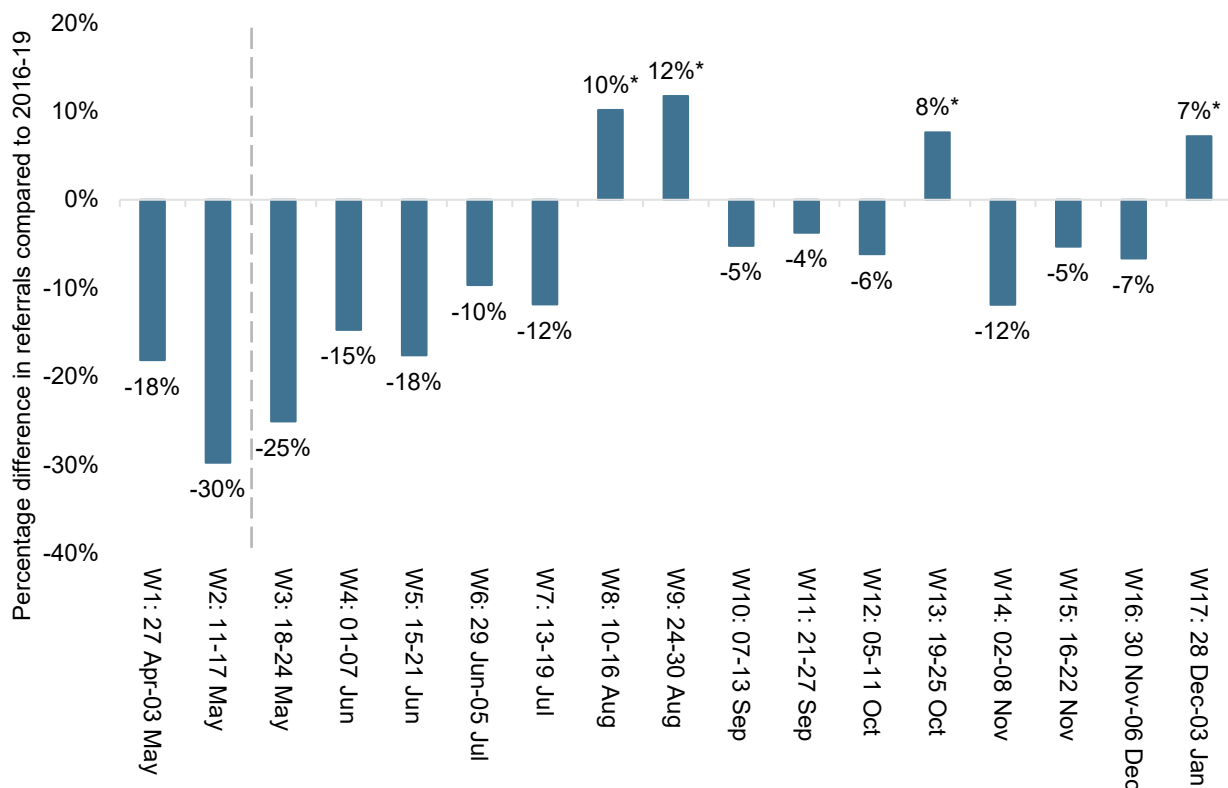
The figures from Wave 3 onwards are not directly comparable to Waves 1 and 2.

*Waves should be treated with caution due to the timing of school holidays from year to year.

Survey data for some local authorities was removed due to known data quality issues. Comparator data for these LAs was also removed.

See Annex B for the number of local authorities that responded to the question per wave.

Figure 4: Difference in the total number of referrals compared to the 3 year average of the same week across 2016 to 2019



Notes:

'W1' refers to Wave 1 and so on.

The figures from Wave 3 onwards are not directly comparable to Waves 1 and 2.

*These comparisons should be treated with caution due to the timing of school holidays from year to year.

Survey data for some local authorities was removed due to known data quality issues. Comparator data for these LAs was also removed.

See Annex B for the number of local authorities that responded to the question per wave.

Due to the Christmas period there were relatively low numbers of referrals from all sources in Wave 17 (28 December - 03 January), which mirrors the pattern we usually see at that time of year. Therefore comparisons to usual levels are based on relatively small numbers and should be treated with caution. Referrals from schools was the only

source to be lower than usual in Wave 17 (-59%), whereas referrals from individuals were 24% higher and referrals from police were 13% higher than 2018-19.

Table 2: Number of referrals received from each source over Waves 3-17 compared to the same weeks in 2018-19

Wave	Referral source: Individuals	Referral source: Schools	Referral source: Health services	Referral source: Police	Referral source: Other sources
W3: 18-24 May	-16%	-82%	-20%	11%	-4%
W4: 01-07 Jun	-1%	-72%	-3%	7%	1%
W5: 15-21 Jun	-9%	-65%	-8%	12%	-4%
W6: 29 Jun–05 Jul	-2%	-60%	5%	10%	-3%
W7: 13-19 Jul	7%	-60%	-1%	13%	-11%
W8: 10-16 Aug*	18%	-29%	5%	23%	-2%
W9: 24-30 Aug*	17%	-21%	14%	13%	22%
W10: 07-13 Sep	-4%	-12%	6%	8%	-5%
W11: 21-27 Sep	5%	-11%	0%	8%	3%
W12: 05-11 Oct	-7%	-1%	-9%	-1%	-4%
W13: 19-25 Oct*	1%	60%	-7%	-3%	9%
W14: 02-08 Nov	-4%	-14%	3%	-7%	-3%
W15: 16-22 Nov	-11%	-1%	0%	5%	3%
W16: 30 Nov-06 Dec	-15%	-14%	6%	6%	-5%
W17: 28 Dec-03 Jan*	24%	-59%	2%	13%	5%

Notes:

'W3' refers to Wave 3 and so on.

*Waves should be treated with caution due to the timing of school holidays from year to year.

Other sources include local authority services, legal agencies and children's centres.

See Annex B for the number of local authorities that responded to the question per wave.

The open text responses across all of the survey waves show very mixed experiences in the numbers of referrals received across local authorities. Some local authorities reported that the number of referrals has increased and are now at levels higher than average. Whilst others report that referrals remain lower than average or as expected at this time of year.

Children who have started to be looked after

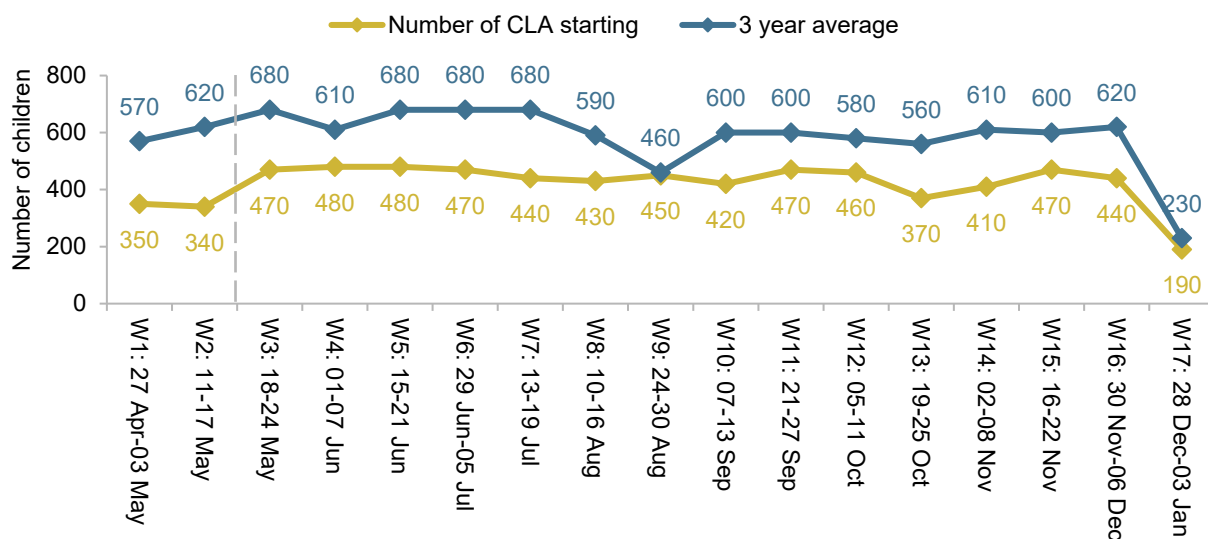
In Waves 1 and 2, local authorities were asked to report the number of children that started to be looked after in the last week. From Wave 3 local authorities were asked for the number of looked after children starting the week before last to account for the lag in reporting that affected Waves 1 and 2. As such, the figures from Wave 3 onwards are not directly comparable to Waves 1 and 2.

The total number of CLA starting in 140 local authorities during Wave 17 (28 December – 03 January) was 190 compared to 230, an average of the same weeks during 2016-19 (-18%). These low numbers follow the trend that is usually seen over the Christmas period. The total number of children who have started to be looked after reported in Waves 1 to

17 of the survey was 7,130, this is around 28% lower than an average of the same weeks during 2016-19. There has been a downward trend in the number of children starting to be looked after in recent years², therefore we may expect the numbers returned in this survey to be lower than the same period in 2016-19.

For the majority of local authorities there has been a difference of up to 5 children compared to the 3 year average of the same week across 2016 to 2019.

Figure 5: Total number of children looked after starting per week and 3-year average of the same week across 2016 to 2019



Notes:

‘W1’ refers to Wave 1 and so on.

The figures from Wave 3 onwards are not directly comparable to Waves 1 and 2.

See Annex B for the number of local authorities that responded to the question per wave.

In the open text questions from July onwards a small but growing number of local authorities report that they are experiencing an increase in the stock of looked after children. The reasons they cite are both a lack of direct work with families and services in support of reunifications and delays in court hearings. This means that planned permanency moves are not happening. One local authority explains “...at the same time issues with the Courts and problems progressing permanency plans mean there is a huge rise in our overall number of children in care. There is no increase in children entering care but there is a significant reduction in children leaving care or achieving permanency.”

² [Children looked after in England including adoption: 2019 to 2020](#)

Key themes from open question responses

These findings are derived from the open text questions in the survey. One of the questions asked about the 'steps local authorities have been taking to safeguard children that they are not in contact with' and the other asks about any 'trends, challenges and good practice'. The phrasing of this question was changed, we previously asked local authorities to tell us about any trends, challenges and best practice and from Wave 9 we asked local authorities to tell us about any changes in the demand for children's social care services that they are seeing.

Not all local authorities responded to the questions, and those that did so provided views reflecting the unique circumstances and challenges in their area. This may not be comprehensive of all issues, nor reflective of views and practices of all local authorities. A note of caution should therefore be exercised when reading these findings.

Previous publications from the survey¹ contain some analysis of the open text questions that is not repeated here.

Working with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the future

In the early waves of the survey (1-4; May - June), local authorities told us how they were adapting their working arrangements in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and about their recovery plans. Local authorities risk assessed and RAG rated their cases and at that time these informed the scheduling and mode of social work visits (carried out virtually and face to face where possible). To stay in touch, alternative forms of communication, for example telephone calls and WhatsApp were used and some local authorities provided children and families with new technology to enable this. Early recovery plans focused on incremental approaches to direct work, gradual reopening of offices and requests for government guidance to assist them with these.

In the following waves of the survey (5-10; July - September), the working arrangements and recovery plans that local authorities described involved moving from a crisis response towards a 'business as usual - living with coronavirus (COVID-19)' approach. Local authorities were reverting to their usual assessment and planning processes, they continued to assess the required frequency of contact with cases and took a "blended" approach to visits which comprised of both virtual and face to face contact. In the later survey waves, many local authorities reported that visits were taking place face to face unless there were ongoing health concerns of staff or family. Local authorities updated their safety procedures and made adjustments to buildings and some told us about their contingency plans in preparing for an increase in demand.

In later survey waves (11-17; October - January) local authorities reported reviewing and readjusting their practice in light of which coronavirus (COVID-19) local and national restrictions are in place, as discussed on page 7. Local authorities reported using the same arrangements as earlier in the pandemic to manage risk and protect children, "*The*

infrastructure and arrangements we put into place in April and May 2020 (including pre visit risk assessments, guidance to staff, arrangements for PPE and increased management oversight) continue to serve us well with only small adjustments required when guidance changes”.

Working with schools and other safeguarding partners

Across all survey waves, local authorities provide examples of joint working between local authorities, schools and other safeguarding partners on issues associated with the pandemic (see earlier publication for examples).

Over the summer, local authorities carried out activities to encourage attendance in preparation for schools reopening and some told us that they provided support to vulnerable children during this time.

In later survey waves (9-16; September - December), local authorities resumed close working with schools to track the attendance of vulnerable children and children isolating due to coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks. Responses to the open text questions suggest that processes for sharing information with schools have become more embedded over time.

In the most recent survey wave (17; January), local authorities told us that with the closure of schools they have *“reinstated the same working arrangements as in the first lockdown, with schools contact children known to be vulnerable; and with all partners alerting children’s services to contact vulnerable”* among efforts to ensure all vulnerable children are attending school.

Case Complexity

Across all the survey waves some local authorities described the types of cases that they are seeing. A common and consistent theme has been an increase in cases involving suspected domestic abuse. In later survey waves (9-17; September - January) a growing number of local authorities also describe an increase in the complexity of the cases that they are seeing.

The examples of increased case complexity included in the open text responses vary but include cases involving: elevated mental health issues amongst parents and children, neglect and emotional abuse, parental issues relating to alcohol and mental health, cases involving non-accidental injury, increases in the number of new-born children that are being presented in care proceedings, increases in cases involving young people self-harming, referrals where the family are in acute crisis and escalations of risks in cases that are already open to children’s social care. Some LAs told us that case complexity is evidenced through the increase in the contact to referral and referral to assessment conversation rates that some local authorities are experiencing.

In the open text responses, some local authorities described how the presenting issues and case complexity are related to the pressures arising from the (COVID-19) pandemic. For example, one local authority explained *“the referrals that we are receiving do appear to be a crisis point for example: Lack of face to face interventions and support from other services; An increase in demand on Substance/DV/MH services which has led to longer wait times for services; Children not being in school/having periods of self-isolation and demands on parents; Financial pressures due to parents losing their jobs or being furlough; Families general anxieties about COVID and restrictions on family support which have led to crisis. There appears to have been an increase in young people on the edge of care with parents appearing to not be able to manage and situations reaching crisis which again could be due to impact of COVID”*.

Placement Sufficiency

When we issued Wave 17 of the survey (January) in a covering email we asked LAs to tell us in their open text responses about any current pressures related to the (COVID-19) pandemic (e.g placement capacity, working with partners etc). A small number of local authorities told us that they are experiencing some placement sufficiency issues. The following quotes exemplify some of the challenges, one local authority said *“based on the previous lockdowns, we are expecting an increase in placement instability which will further impact the already saturated placement market with the likelihood that placement costs will escalate further. It will also affect our ability to find suitable placements for our looked after children”* and another told us *“placement sufficiency remains a concern, which has been exacerbated in covid. We are seeing a rise in children becoming looked after and potential placements due to family breakdown, mainly for adolescents and those children with autism/learning difficulties. Due to the needs/age of these children, we currently have more placed in residential type accommodation... foster placements are experiencing instability”*. The placement sufficiency issues noted in the open text responses appear to be more related to the elevated numbers of children in care (in part linked to court delays) and the instability of some placements rather than a shortage of placements due to foster carers and residential care staff being unavailable.

Annex A: survey questions and time periods

The questions asked in the survey are shown below. All local authorities were asked to complete the form.

Question 1

How many children do you have in the following groups?

- a) Children looked after, children on a protection plan and other children in need
- b) Children looked after, children on a protection plan and other children in need that have been seen or contacted by their social worker in the last 4 weeks
- c) What steps are you taking to safeguard those children that you are not in contact with?

Question 2

How many of the following staff are employed by your local authority and approximately what proportion of them are not working at the moment due to coronavirus (COVID-19) (FTE)? Choose from: 0-10%, 11-20%, 21%-30%, 31-40%, 41-50%, 51-60%, 61-70%, 71-80%, 81-90%, 91-100%.

- a) Social workers - permanent or agency
- b) Residential care staff

Question 3

How many referrals to children's social care services you received in the week before last?

Question 4

Please tell us about the source of referrals received in the week before last:

- a) Individual
- b) Schools
- c) Health services
- d) Police
- e) Other

Question 5

How many children started to be looked-after in the week before last?

Question 6

Can you please tell us if you are seeing any changes in the demand for children's social care services (e.g. increases in referrals, changes in case complexity or the profile of children being supported) and the impact of these changes.

Question 7

Use this space if you would like to tell us how you have calculated any of these data items and any assumptions that you have made.

Table A1: Time periods referred to in questions

Wave	Questions referring to collection dates	Questions referring to last 2 weeks	Questions referring to last 4 weeks	Questions referring to last week	Questions referring to week before last
Wave 1	04 - 06 May	20 April - 03 May	-	27 April - 03 May	-
Wave 2	18 - 20 May	04 - 17 May	-	11 - 17 May	-
Wave 3	01 - 03 June	18 - 31 May	04 - 31 May	25 - 31 May	18 - 24 May
Wave 4	15 - 17 June	01 - 14 June	18 May - 14 June	08 - 14 June	01 - 07 June
Wave 5	29 June - 01 July	15 - 28 June	01 - 28 June	22 - 28 June	15 - 21 June
Wave 6	13-15 July	29 June - 12 July	15 June - 12 July	6 - 12 July	29 June - 05 July
Wave 7	27 - 29 July	13 - 26 July	29 June - 26 July	20 - 26 July	13 - 19 July
Wave 8	24 - 26 August	10 - 23 August	27 July - 23 August	17 - 23 August	10 - 16 August
Wave 9	07 – 09 September	24 August – 06 September	10 August – 06 September	31 August – 06 September	24 – 30 August
Wave 10	21 – 23 September	-	24 August – 20 September	-	07 – 13 September
Wave 11	05 – 07 October	-	07 September – 04 October	-	21 – 27 September
Wave 12	19 – 21 October	-	21 September – 18 October	-	05 – 11 October
Wave 13	02 – 04 November	-	05 October – 01 November	-	19 – 25 October
Wave 14	16 – 18 November	-	19 October – 15 November	-	02 – 08 November
Wave 15	30 November – 02 December	-	02 – 29 November	-	16 – 22 November
Wave 16	14 – 16 December	-	16 November – 13 December	-	30 November – 06 December
Wave 17	11 – 13 January	-	14 December – 10 January	-	28 December – 03 January

Annex B: response rates

Table B1: overall survey response rates

	Number of local authorities	Percentage of local authorities
Wave 1	145	96%
Wave 2	147	97%
Wave 3	149	99%
Wave 4	149	99%
Wave 5	149	99%
Wave 6	149	99%
Wave 7	149	99%
Wave 8	148	98%
Wave 9	146	97%
Wave 10	146	97%
Wave 11	147	97%
Wave 12	145	96%
Wave 13	144	95%
Wave 14	146	97%
Wave 15	144	95%
Wave 16	141	93%
Wave 17	140	93%

Table B2: Number of local authorities that responded to Question 1

	Total number of children			Seen or contacted a social worker in the last four weeks		
	Children looked after	Children on a child protection plan	Other children in need	Children looked after	Children on a child protection plan	Other children in need
Wave 1	145	145	144	-	-	-
Wave 2	147	147	147	-	-	-
Wave 3	149	149	148	138	138	138
Wave 4	149	149	149	139	140	139
Wave 5	149	149	149	142	142	141
Wave 6	149	149	149	146	146	144
Wave 7	149	149	149	147	147	145
Wave 8	148	148	148	146	146	144
Wave 9	146	146	146	145	145	143
Wave 10	146	146	146	145	145	143
Wave 11	147	147	146	146	146	143
Wave 12	145	145	144	143	143	140
Wave 13	144	144	144	143	143	141
Wave 14	146	146	146	144	144	142
Wave 15	143	143	143	141	141	139
Wave 16	141	141	141	140	140	138

Wave 17	140	140	140	139	138	137
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Note: The question asking how many children were seen or contacted by a social worker in the last 4 weeks was added from Wave 3.

Table B3: Number of local authorities that responded to Questions 2 - 5

	Proportion not working due to coronavirus (COVID-19)		Number and source of referrals to children's social care	Children starting to be looked after
	Social workers	Residential care workers		
Wave 1	136	110	143	145
Wave 2	144	115	145	147
Wave 3	146	103	147	149
Wave 4	147	104	147	149
Wave 5	146	104	147	149
Wave 6	147	104	147	149
Wave 7	147	104	147	149
Wave 8	144	101	146	148
Wave 9	142	100	144	146
Wave 10	142	102	144	146
Wave 11	143	100	145	147
Wave 12	141	101	143	145
Wave 13	139	100	142	144
Wave 14	140	103	144	146
Wave 15	139	102	142	144
Wave 16	138	100	139	141
Wave 17	138	100	138	140



Department
for Education

© Crown copyright 2021

This publication (not including logos) is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

enquiries www.education.gov.uk/contactus

download www.gov.uk/government/publications

Reference: DfE-00018-2021



Follow us on Twitter:
[@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/educationgovuk