

Date of Meeting: 9 December 2019

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education and Early Help

Director: Sarah Parker, Executive Director of People - Children

### **Executive Summary:**

This report provides data and intelligence about children in care and care leavers up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. It includes information on key performance indicators that are part of a nationally collected data set reported to government.

The format of this report was agreed by the corporate parenting board on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 and the same data set is presented at each meeting of the board to enable progress tracking.

Included in this report is:

1. An overview of the 451 children in care and key performance indicators relating to their care, which includes:
  - Timeliness of reviews (100% on time), an increase from 97% in the previous period
  - 80% of children in care were seen in the last 6 weeks, an increase from 77% in the previous reporting period
  - There were 86 new children coming into care in the last 6 months, 2 more than in the previous reporting period
  - 57 children left our care, which is lower than the previous 6 months and contributing to the overall increase in numbers of children in care
  - The proportion of children in foster placements has remained the same, at 68%
  - Placement stability has remained the same, with 7% of children with 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months and 70% of children in long term placements being in the same placement for more than 2 years
  - 17% of children in care have been reported missing in the last 12 months, with 67% offered a return home interview. This is a slight drop in performance from the previous reporting period.
2. An overview of the 230 care leavers and key performance indicators relating to their support, which includes:
  - There has been an increase in the number of care leavers supported by the council (217 in the previous reporting period)

- 87% of care leavers aged 17 to 18 years are in suitable accommodation, which is the same as in the previous reporting period
- 91% of care leavers aged 19 to 21 are in suitable accommodation, a slight reduction than previously (93%)
- 47% of 17 and 18-year-old care leavers are in education, employment or training (an increase of 10% since the last report)
- 55% of 19 to 21-year olds care leavers are in education, employment or training (a slight increase from the previous reporting period)

3. Direction of travel on all key performance indicators from the previous reporting period is indicated in the body of the report.

**Equalities Impact Assessment:**

There are no EqIA implications arising from this report

**Budget:**

n/a

**Risk Assessment:**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk LOW

**Climate implications:**

n/a

**Other Implications:**

n/a

**Recommendation:**

Members of the corporate parenting board are asked to note the information in this report.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

Members of the corporate parenting board should receive regular progress reports to keep them informed about the children in the council's care, and care leavers.

**Appendices:**

**Background Papers:**

n/a

**Officer Contact:**

Name: Claire Shiels

Tel: 01305 224682

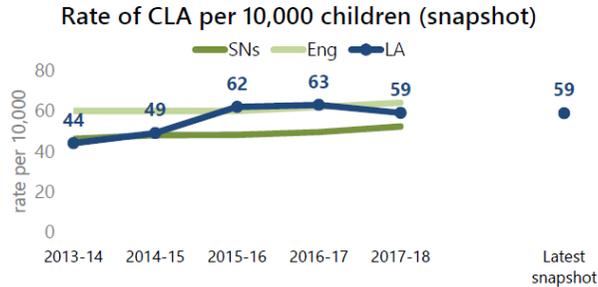
Email: [claire.shiels@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:claire.shiels@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)



# Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care

Snapshot 31/10/2019

## 451 Children Looked After (CLA) with an open episode of care

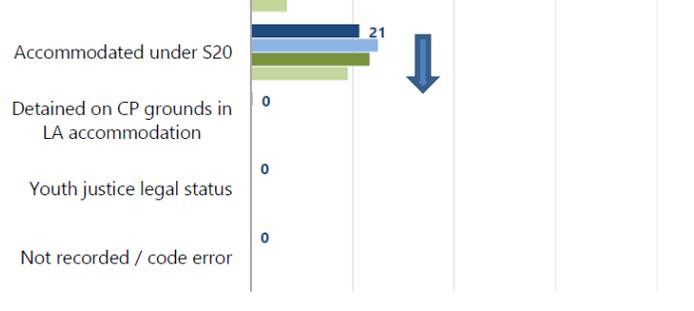
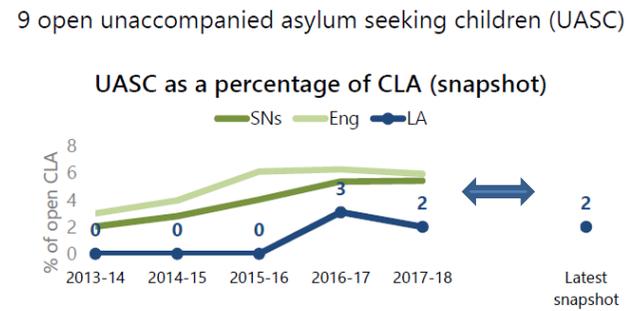
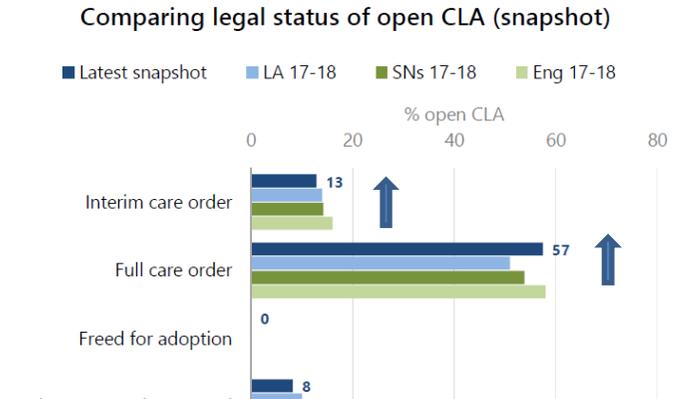
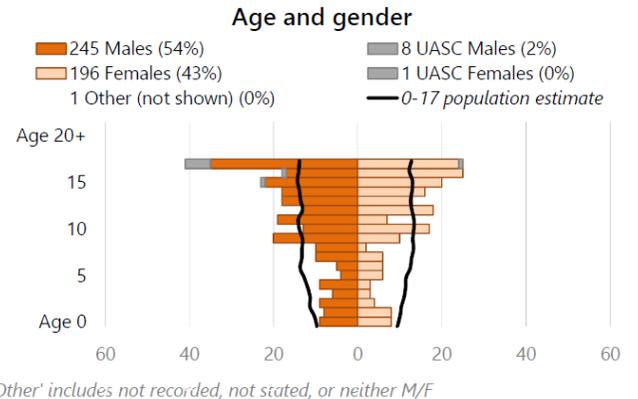


### Ethnic background

	All CLA	Not UASC	UASC
White	91%	93%	0%
Mixed	6%	6%	11%
Asian or Asian British	1%	0%	11%
Black or black British	1%	0%	44%
Other ethnic group	1%	1%	33%
Not stated	0%	0%	0%
Not recorded	0%	0%	0%

See page 20 for comparisons

41 children (9%) with a disability



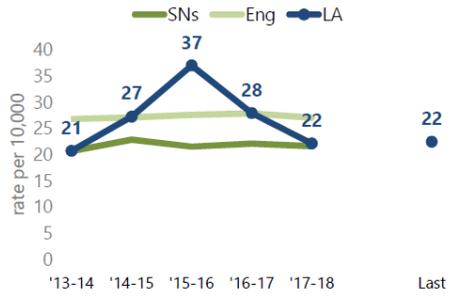
# Children Looked After (CLA) started and ceased in the last 6 months

from 01/05/2019  
to 31/10/2019

## 86 CLA started in the last 6 months

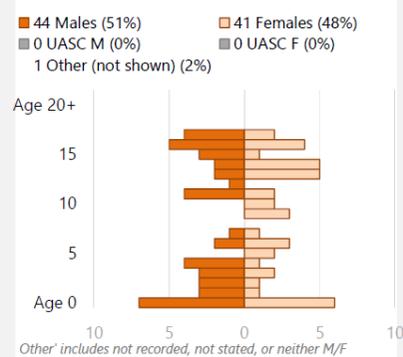


Rate of CLA started per 10,000 children



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

Age and gender

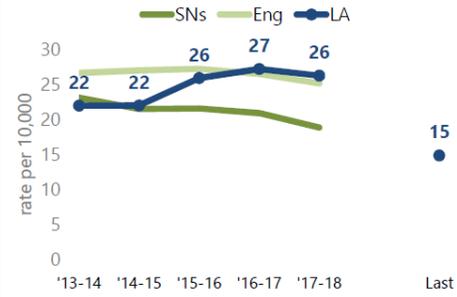


Other\* includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

## 57 CLA ceased in the last 6 months

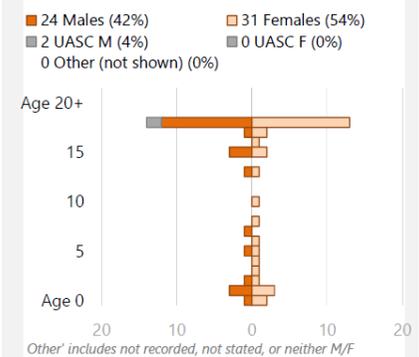


Rate of CLA ceased per 10,000 children



\*Annualised rate for comparison purposes

Age and gender



Other\* includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

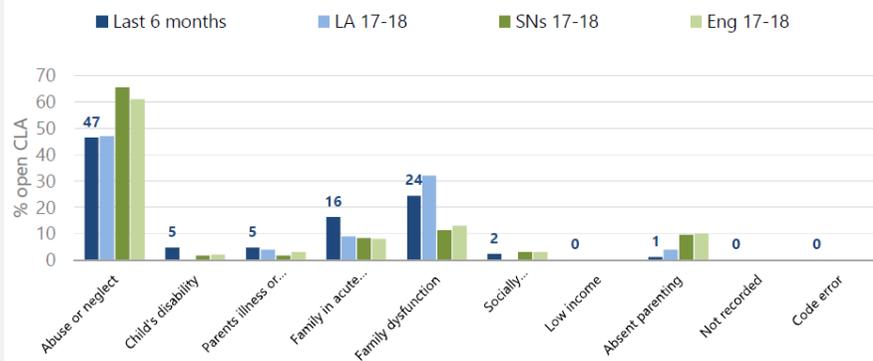
0%

0 of the 86 CLA starters were unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)

7%

6 of the 86 CLA starters have previously been looked after

Comparing the primary need of CLA starters



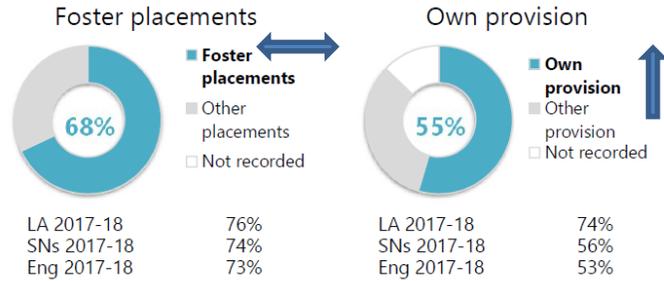
Reason episode of care ceased



# Children Looked After (CLA) placements

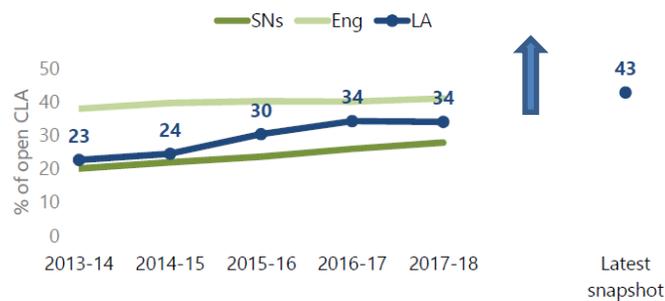
Snapshot 31/10/2019

## CLA placements by type and provision

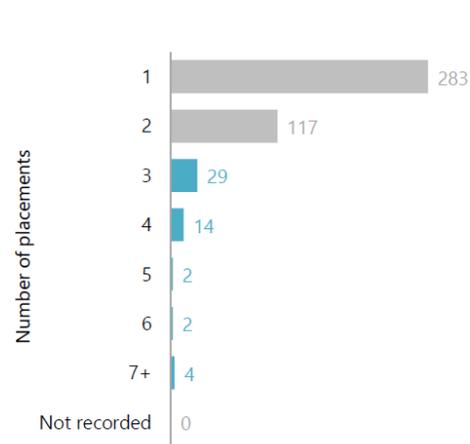


Placement type (open CLA)	Own LA	Private	Other	Total
Foster placement	203	94	10	307
Placed for adoption	0	0	18	18
Placed with parents	21	0	0	21
Independent living	14	1	11	26
Residential employment	0	0	0	0
Residential accommodation	4	13	14	31
Secure Children's Homes	0	1	1	2
Children's Homes	0	0	0	0
Residential Care Home	1	33	4	38
NHS/Health Trust	2	1	0	3
Family Centre	1	1	0	2
Young Offender Institution	0	0	0	0
Residential school	0	2	0	2
Other placements	0	0	1	1
Temporary placement	0	0	0	0
<b>Total placements</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>451</b>

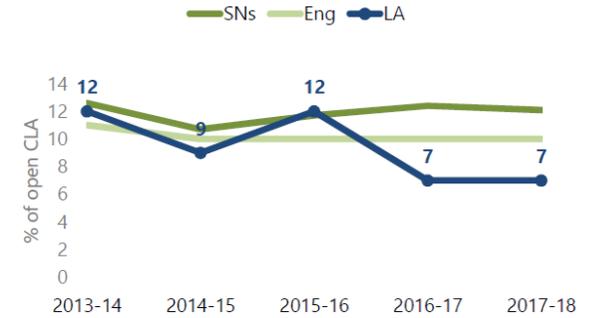
## CLA placements out of borough



## Number of placements in the last 12 months



## Comparing short term placement stability



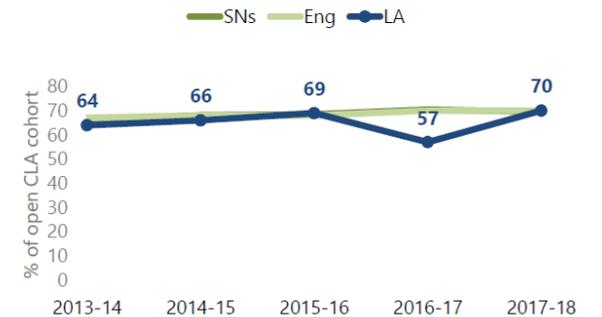
Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present short-term stability alongside published statistics

## Duration of placements

Duration of latest placement for each current CLA aged under 16 who have been looked after for 2½ years or more



## Comparing long term placement stability



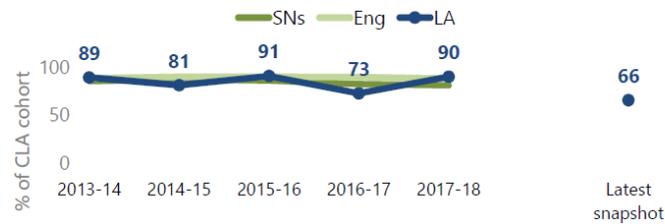
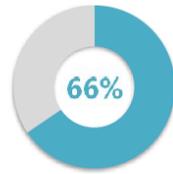
Due to limited data in the Annex A dataset, ChAT does not present long-term stability alongside published statistics

### Health

311 current open CLA looked after for at least 12 months

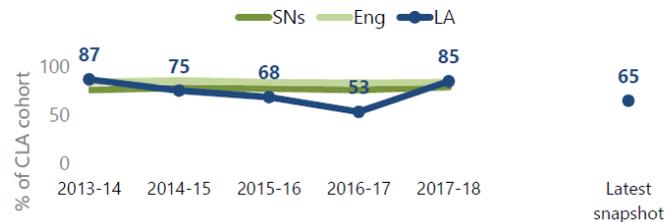
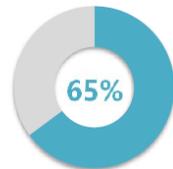
#### Health assessments

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months with an up to date health assessment (in the last 6 months for CLA aged under 5, and in the last 12 months for CLA aged 5-plus)



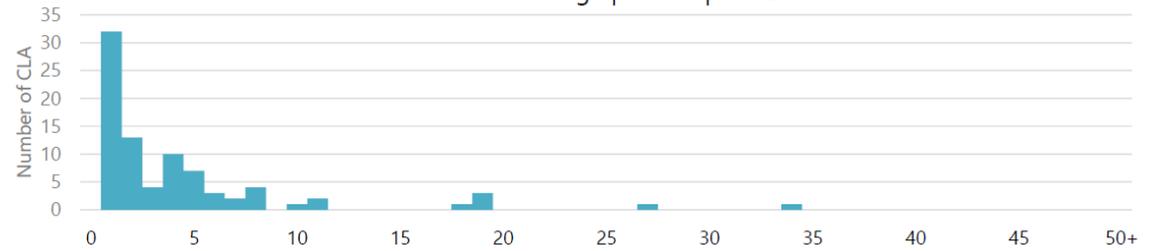
#### Dental checks

Current open CLA who have been looked after for at least 12 months who have had a dental check in the last 12 months.



### Missing from placement

Number of missing episodes per CLA



84 of 508 looked after children had a missing incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 17-18	SNs 17-18	Eng 17-18
Number of all CLA with a missing incident	84 of 508	73		
Percentage of all CLA with a missing incident	17%	11%	10%	11%
Total number of missing incidents for all CLA	377	319		
Average number of incidents per CLA who went missing	4.5	4.4	5.0	6.1

#### Missing incidents - return home interviews

	Latest data	
Missing children offered return interview	56 of 84	67%
Missing children not offered return interview	7 of 84	8%
Missing children return interview offer not recorded	21 of 84	25%
Missing children where return interview was n/a	0 of 84	0%



	Latest data	
Missing children accepted return interview	34 of 56	61%
Missing children not accepted return interview	22 of 56	39%
Missing children return interview acceptance not recorded	0 of 56	0%

### Absent from placement

6 of 508 looked after children had an absent incident in the last 12 months

	Latest data	LA 17-18	SNs 17-18	Eng 17-18
Number of all CLA with an absent incident	6 of 508	x		
Percentage of all CLA with an absent incident	1%	-	1%	4%
Total number of absent incidents for all CLA	6	x		
Average number of incidents per CLA who were absent	1.0	1.3	1.4	4.0

# Care leavers currently in receipt of leaving care services

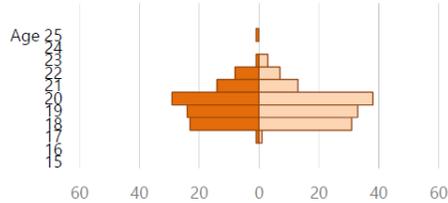
Snapshot 31/10/2019

## 230 care leavers



### Age and gender

101 Males (44%) 126 Females (55%)  
3 Other (not shown) (1%)



Other' includes not recorded, not stated, or neither M/F

### Ethnic background

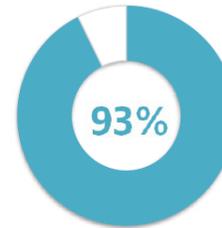
White	89%
Mixed	1%
Asian or Asian British	3%
Black or black British	3%
Other ethnic group	3%
Not stated	2%
Not recorded	0%

See page 20 for comparisons

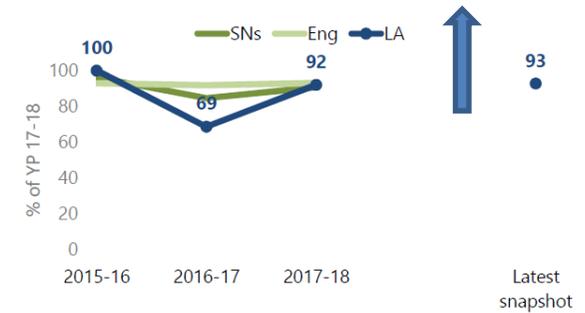
28 (12%) care leavers with a disability

### LA in touch with 17-18 year olds

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	2	53	55
LA in touch with YP	100%	92%	93%

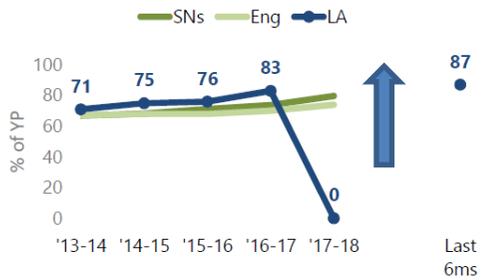


In touch  
Not in touch  
Not recorded



### Remained in care until aged 18

YP who ceased to be looked after aged 16-plus who were looked after until their 18th birthday



### Eligibility category

Relevant	2
Former relevant	219
Qualifying	9
Other	0
Not recorded	0

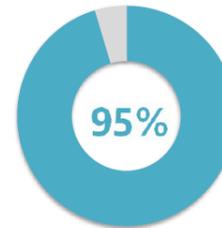
Relevant = YP aged 16-17 no longer looked after and eligible for leaving care services.

Former relevant = YP aged 18-25 eligible for leaving care services.

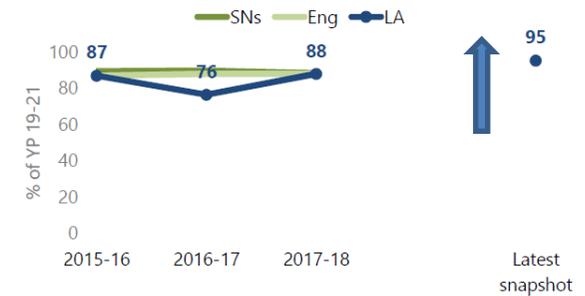
Qualifying = YP aged 18-25 in receipt of support but not eligible for full leaving care services.

### LA in touch with 19-21 year olds

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	57	67	27	151
LA in touch with YP	95%	96%	96%	95%

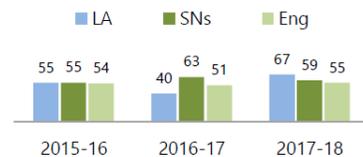


In touch  
Not in touch  
Not recorded

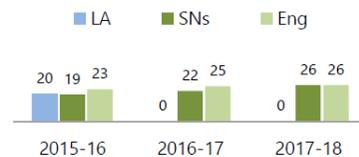


### Remain with former foster carer

#### Aged 18



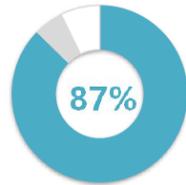
#### Aged 19-20



# Care leavers accommodation suitability and type

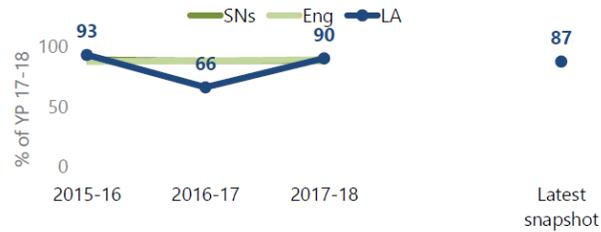
Snapshot 31/10/2019

## Accommodation suitability of 17-18 year olds

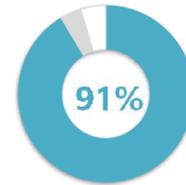


■ Suitable accom  
■ Not suitable  
□ No information

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	2	53	55
In suitable accommodation	50%	89%	87%

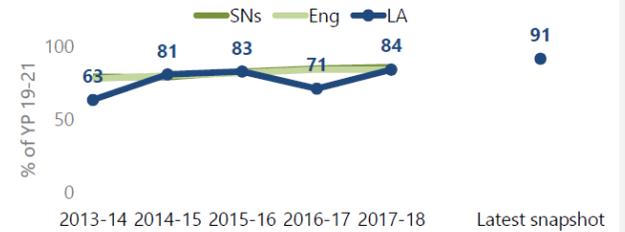


## Accommodation suitability of 19-21 year olds

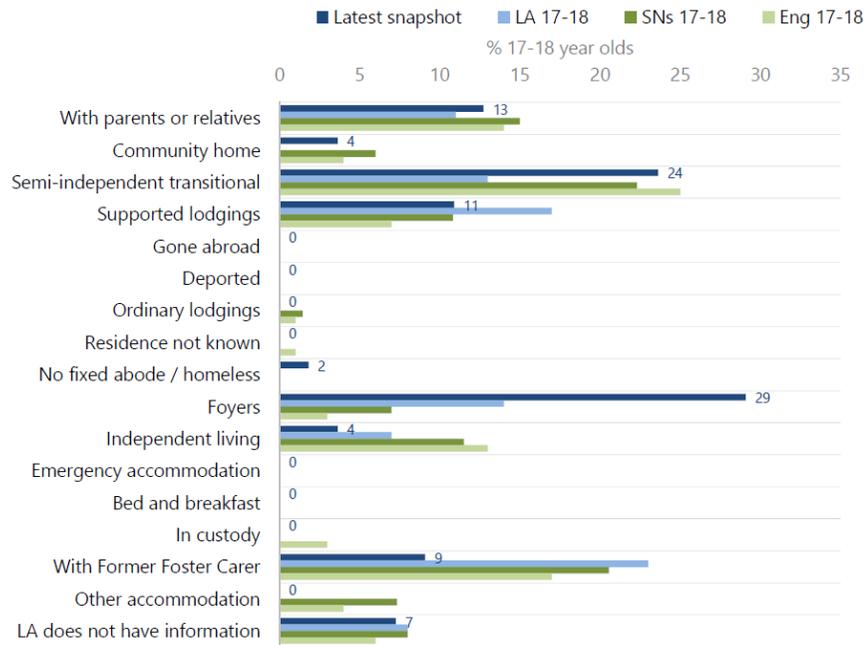


■ Suitable accom  
■ Not suitable  
□ No information

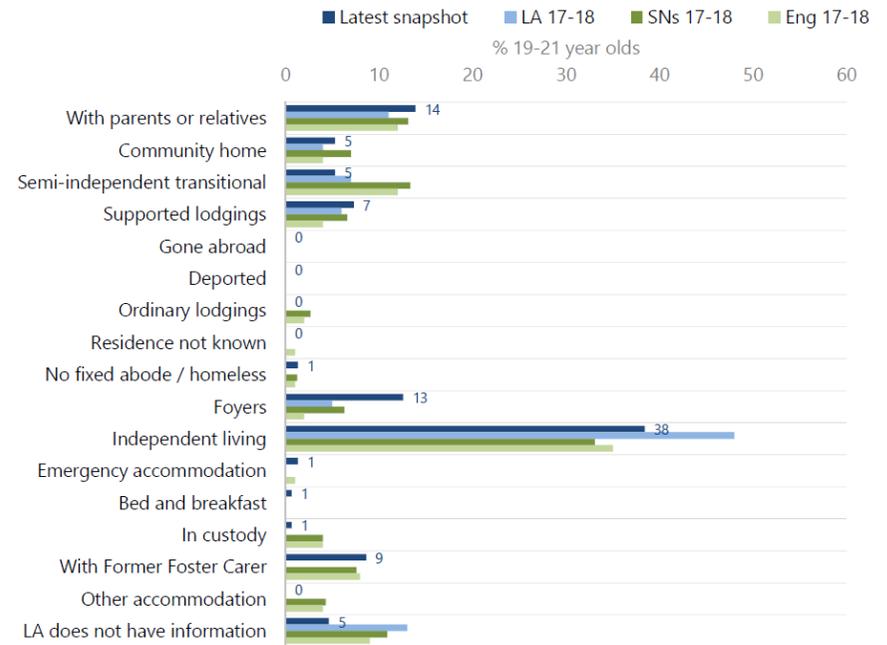
ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	57	67	27	151
In suitable accommodation	91%	91%	93%	91%



## Accommodation types of 17-18 year olds



## Accommodation types of 19-21 year olds

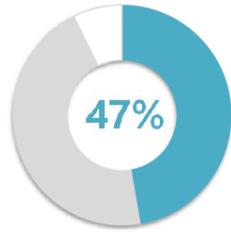


# Care leavers activity (Education, Employment, or Training)

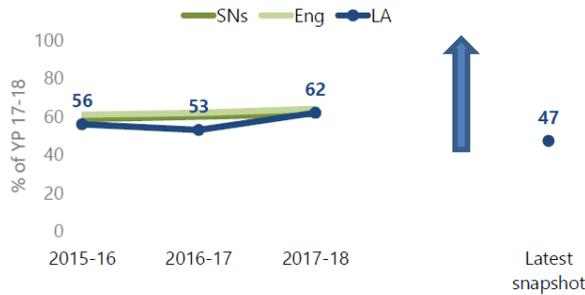
Snapshot 31/10/2019

## Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 17-18 year olds

ChAT	Aged 17	Aged 18	Total
Numbers in cohort	2	53	55
In EET	50%	47%	47%

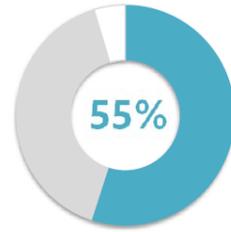


■ YP in EET ■ NEET  
□ No info

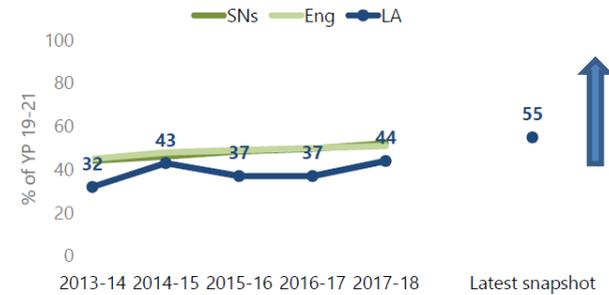


## Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 19-21 year olds

ChAT	Aged 19	Aged 20	Aged 21	Total
Numbers in cohort	57	67	27	151
In EET	63%	49%	52%	55%

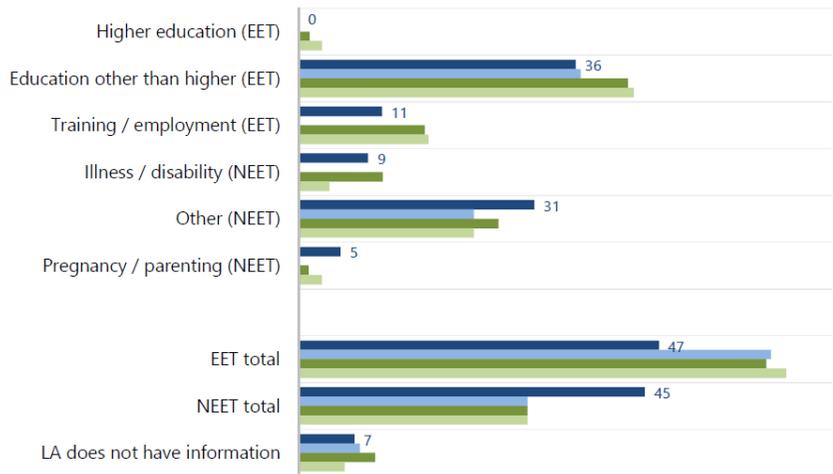


■ YP in EET ■ NEET  
□ No info



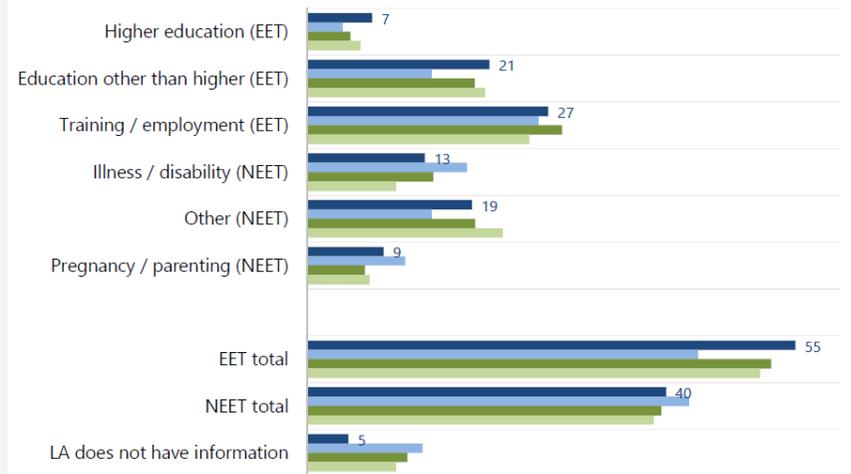
## Activity types of 17-18 year olds

■ Latest snapshot ■ LA 17-18 ■ SNs 17-18 ■ Eng 17-18  
% 17-18 year olds



## Activity types of 19-21 year olds

■ Latest snapshot ■ LA 19-21 ■ SNs 19-21 ■ Eng 19-21  
% 19-21 year olds



## **Service Development focus: Care Leavers**

The statutory responsibilities of councils are set out in the Children Act 1989, including through amendments made by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Families Act 2014. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 made additional provisions for care leavers, and outlined in law for the first time what it means for a local authority to be a good corporate parent. Councils have responsibilities towards care leavers until they are 21, or 25 if they are still in education or training, are disabled or if the care leaver requests continued support.

Mark Riddell, National Implementation Advisor for Care Leavers, published his first annual report in 2018 and highlighted the importance of a strong Corporate Parenting Board role in supporting care leavers identifying 5 key outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Better prepared and supported to live independently
- Outcome 2: Improved access to education, training and employment
- Outcome 3: Experiencing stability and feeling safe and secure
- Outcome 4: Improved Access to Health Support
- Outcome 5: Achieving Financial Stability

He considers that Corporate Parenting Boards play a key role in supporting the development of opportunities for care leavers and support them to successfully transition into adulthood through effective multi agency planning and commitment and engagement from their corporate parent

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/764710/National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers Annual Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764710/National_Implementation_Adviser_for_Care_Leavers_Annual_Report.pdf)

Currently, the Leaving Care Service is actively supporting 241 care leavers with a further 120 that are not currently receiving support but may request this at any point up to then reaching the age of 25. Projections over the next 3 years confirm that this number will increase by 70 over 2020 and 30 each year in 2021 and 2022 (caution needs to be applied to the 2021/ 22 figure as this is based on young people in care as of 21.11.19)

It is clear therefore that demand will continue to increase as will the level of complexity of need within this cohort.

## **Housing:**

Currently the majority of our care leavers are in suitable housing however the range of housing types can be limited by geographic availability and suitability. The creation of the new Dorset Council presents an opportunity for strengthening of the Council as Corporate Parent for our care leavers by prioritisation within local housing planning, enabling young adults to remain within their current communities and networks.

Additional housing opportunities could be provided through the development and prioritisation of “Staying Put” opportunities within strategic planning for Fostering provision thereby enabling young people to remain with their foster carers beyond 18 if appropriate.

“Staying Close” is another option. This is a variant of staying put for young people leaving residential care which enables them to live close to their residential provision, whether independent or semi supported, and continue to receive support from key workers with whom they have established relationships and promote their sense of security and being supported. This could be provided either through local housing or as part of the development of a range of residential options.

All of these require the engagement and commitment from housing services to recognise and prioritise care leavers housing needs promoted by the Corporate Parenting Board.

## **Education, employment and training:**

Our figures for care leavers who are in Education, employment or training (EET) is 47% of 17/18 year olds and 55% of 19-21 year olds. This is broadly in line with national performance however Mark Riddell proposes that Corporate Parenting Boards should set themselves a target of achieving between 70 and 80% of care leavers being EET.

In addition to ensuring that SEN provision actively addresses and prioritises the needs of care leavers with EHCPs, a number of authorities have adopted the principle of being the “family firm” for care leavers through commitment to actively promoting and developing apprenticeship opportunities.

Further employment or training opportunities could be explored and developed through the local Chamber of Commerce and the Council's community engagement activity with local partners/businesses. This could provide a range of opportunities for care leavers to develop work skills or test out areas of work they may be interested in through to full apprenticeship opportunities. It would also bring the community into the "corporate family" for a care leaver, strengthening a feeling of being supported and valued