

1. Summary

1.1. This report analyses the impact of the Harbour Project from December 2020 to July 2021. Within the limits of a short time frame and the service not being fully operational, it provides encouraging emerging evidence of improved outcomes for young people in the target cohort for the service. These include:

- Improved performance against a range of KPIs for the target cohort during this period
- Strong evidence from a range of case studies of the success of individual interventions
- An estimate of cost avoidance

1.2. Future work will take place to develop the longitudinal tracking of outcomes for young people involved with the Harbour, and, alongside a more developed benefits model, to capture actual spending reductions.

2. **Our Approach**

2.1. The Harbour provides a multi-agency approach to support our most vulnerable young people, recognising that these vulnerabilities cut across and impact on all agencies within the public sector.

2.2. Our approach aims to :

- Reduce Risk – including criminal activity, self-harm, child exploitation, missing from home incidents and drug and alcohol misuse
- Build and restore relationships
- Plan transitions and accommodation
- Education and Training
- Develop self-esteem and resilience through a diverse offer of activities
- Mental health and wellbeing

2.3. The Harbour operates as one team with two components.

- **Residential** –The range of residential options available to young people include a 5 bedroomed home and a 3 bedroomed short-term home in Weymouth and a number of single occupancy homes. All accommodation operates on the principle that any young person placed there is being prepared and supported to return to foster care or family care. Harbour specialist foster carers provide placements as part of a supported move out of residential care and into foster care. The carers also undertake sessional work in the residential homes, building relationships with young people prior to young people moving to their care.

- **Outreach** – The Harbour youth practitioners provide outreach to young people and their families to work with young people within either, their family home, or their foster placement, to provide intensive support to both the young person and either their parents or carers. The outreach service started to formalise in October 2020 and further development was embedded in April 2021 with the embedded police roles joining the team.
- **Portfolio Leads** – The Harbour Senior Youth Practitioners champion one of six areas: reduce risk; build and restore relationships; planned transitions and accommodation; education and training; develop self-esteem and resilience through a range of activities; and mental health and wellbeing.
- **Wider Team** – Beyond the Residential and Outreach elements, there are embedded roles to provide specialist support to any young people receiving a service. Embedded police support, and a police researcher are in post and recruitment is underway for speech and language therapist, and clinical psychologist.

2.4. As part of the development work for the Harbour, work has been undertaken to identify the specific knowledge and skills required for The Harbour Team. Our partnership with The Mulberry Bush, an Outstanding Provider, will see The Harbour Team strengthened by an accredited workforce development programme which includes the option to continue to Level 5 Foundation Degree.

3. Impact and Outcomes

3.1. The Harbour Team has grown steadily since embedding in April 2021 under consistent and committed leadership of the Head of Service for Children in Care and Leaving Care and the Responsible Individual. Work has been undertaken to ensure that the right people are in the right roles and within a relatively short period of time it is possible to see that progress is being made towards meeting the intended outcomes. In total 56 young people have been supported by The Harbour between December 2020 – August 2021, 53 supported by Outreach and 3 in the care of The Harbour (residential and foster care). The duration and intensity of support has varied according to the needs of young people.

4. Placement stability

4.1. There is evidence that The Harbour is contributing to supporting young people to remain safely at home. This can be seen in in Fig 1 New CIC 13+ which shows the number of young people age 13yrs and above entering care compared with the total number of new entrants. The graph shows a decreasing trajectory of new entrants age 13+ and it is positive to see that the variance month on month is relatively steady.

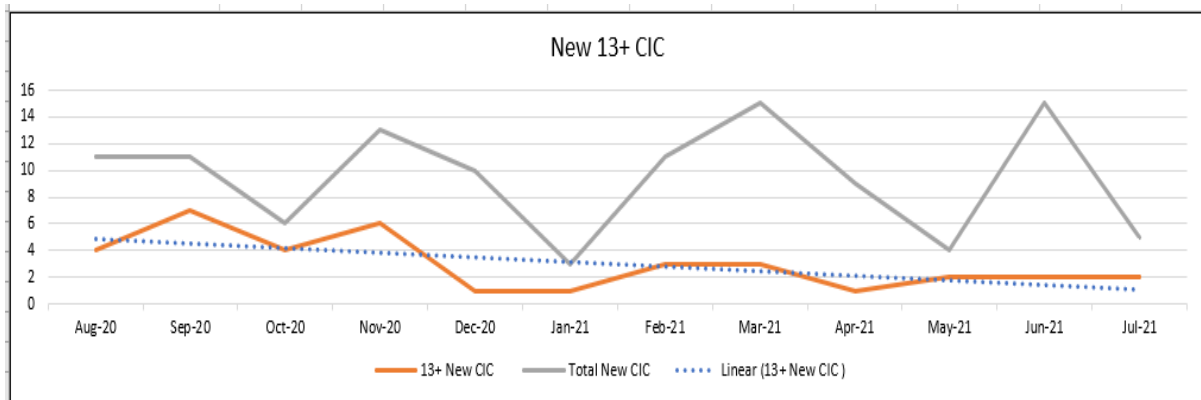


Fig 1

4.2. Fig 2 New 13+CPP which shows the number of children age 13+ who are subject to a child protection plan. As above the graph shows a downward trajectory with steady variance which indicates that where we are seeing a reduction in the number of children age 13+ entering care we are not seeing an increase in child protection plans for this age group which supports the statement that more children in this age group are being supported to remain safely at home.

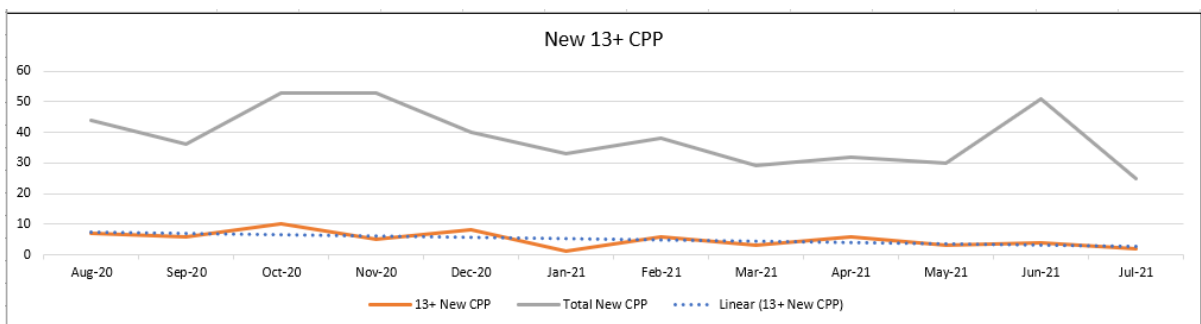


Fig2

4.3. Outreach has been effective in supporting placement stability, reducing the need for placement moves. In Dorset, there has been a decrease in the number of children experiencing placement moves since the Harbour commenced. In December 2020 40 children had experienced 3+ placement moves, 8.4% of the total number of children in care. As of the 31st August 2021 this has reduced to 30 children, 6.8%.

4.4. The Harbour Specialist Foster Carer role has been developed to support children to be cared for in stable family-based care and to build a strong foundation for next steps e.g. a move to independence or return home. The role is embedded in the team, has access to 24/7 support and The Harbour workforce development program.

4.5. AB who is currently living with a Harbour carer, moved there at the beginning of the year having experienced 7 placement moves in the previous 3 months. She was reported missing on 6 occasions in one month, had fractured relationships with her sibling, parents, wider family, and friends and was at

the point of exclusion from school. The carer has focused on providing a secure home for AB from which to strengthen relationships with people who are important and provide the support that she needs to regulate her emotions. Activities have been provided for self-defined success, building her self-esteem and strengthening her emotional wellbeing. Over the last 8 months, missing episodes have significantly reduced month on month with the carer supported by Harbour on call and building relationships with family and friends who in turn have engaged proactively to build a network of support. On the first day back to school, AB stuck with it when she would previously have walked away.

4.6. As we continue to move forward with the opening 45 Dorchester Road we anticipate that we will see an increase in the number of children being supported by The Harbour cease being in care and further reduce the number of placement moves children experience. The 3 bed-roomed short-term home provides an option for young people to take a break from their family or foster home to prevent breakdown and for the team to work with the young person before they then return to either the family home or their substantive foster placement.

5. Education, Employment and Training

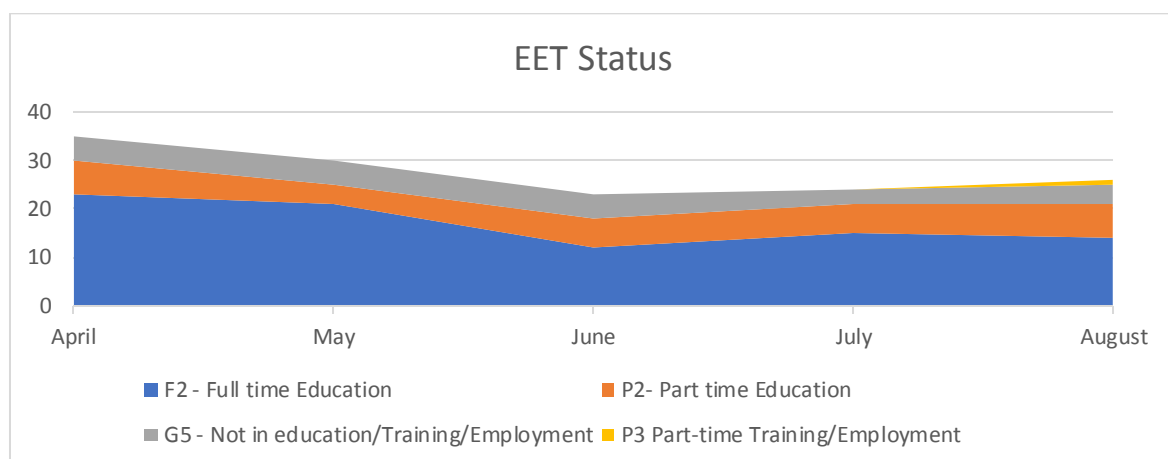


Fig 3

5.1. Fig 3 EET status provides an overview of the education status of young people who are receiving a service from the Harbour.

5.2. Data shows that children who are already in full time education at the time they are referred to The Harbour remain in full time education. Of the children who were not in Education Employment of Training and remain in receipt of a Harbour service in August, 4 out of 5 have a confirmed education placement for September 2021. 2 of these young people have an education health and care plan. Progress is being made towards securing an education placement to commence in the Autumn Term for the remaining child, with engagement from the Locality SEN Service, Virtual School and education providers.

5.3. Data also evidences that there has been a reduction in fixed term exclusion from 2 in April 2021 to 0 in July 2021.

5.4. Progress for children who are in receipt of a part time timetable to a full-time timetable is not as well evidenced in this period. We know that if children are not in school there is an increased likelihood of low education attainment, poor emotional wellbeing, exploitation and involvement in youth justice. We have been successful in recruiting a senior portfolio lead for Education and Training who joined the team in June 2021. Going forward this role will strengthen oversight of the education and training needs for children receiving a service from The Harbour which will be enhanced further once the Speech and Language Therapist and Clinical Psychologist are in post.

6. Reducing Risk

6.1. The latest national data, relating to the 12 months to December 2019, shows a combined pan-Dorset rate of 251 per 100,000 10-17 year olds entering the justice system for the first time. This compares with a figure of 344 per 100,000 10-17 year olds in the year to December 2018. Local data for the year to December 2020 shows further reductions in the first-time entrant's rate in the Dorset Council area.

6.2. Local re-offending rate has for the most part remained below the national rate the rates of custodial sentences, are below the regional and national averages. In Dorset no children were sentenced to custody in the year April 2020 to March 2021.

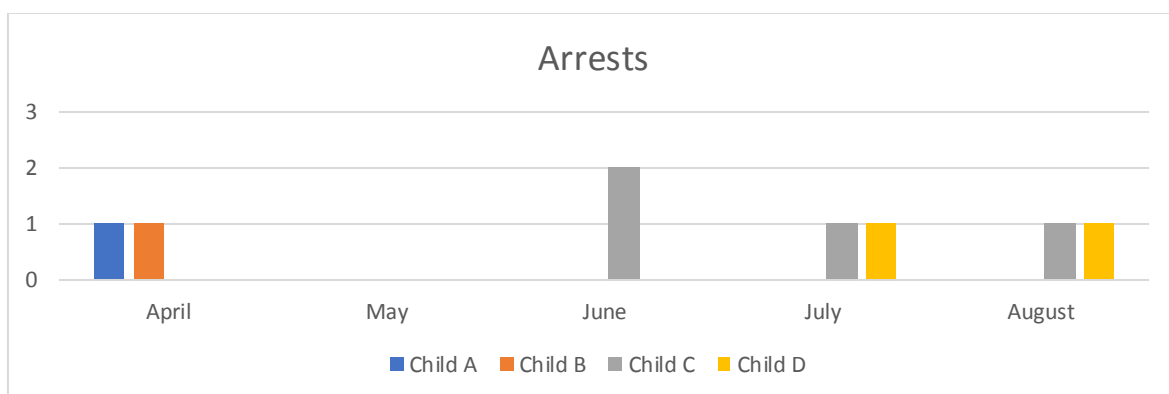


Fig 4

6.3. Fig 4 shows that other than in May 2021 when there are no records of children who are open to the Harbour being arrested, the number of arrests month on month has remained consistent at 2/month although the number of episodes per month has reduced for one young person, Child A who was referred to The Harbour in June 2021. In Dorset LPA showed a gradual increase in the number of arrests for young people age 12 – 25, peaking at 80 in July 2021. This decreased to 61 in August 2021 which evidences an alternative route to arrest being undertaken as one would anticipate an increase in August as the population can double in the summer months in the coastal areas of Dorset.

- 6.4. In comparison the number of charges has remained at 0 other than in April 2021 where a charge resulted in a youth restorative disposal.
- 6.5. We have received positive feedback from custody regarding the Harbour embedded police role, strengthening sharing of information and working better together in providing timely responses and better outcomes.
- 6.6. Between April 2021 – August 2021 we have seen a decrease in the number of young people using substances in the first 3 months followed by an increase in July and August which may be influenced by the easing of Covid restrictions. The most common used substance that is reported is cannabis and the most frequently consumed alcohol is spirits, particularly Vodka. In August 2021 we have seen more young people report a decrease in use than in previous months.
- 6.7. The Harbour team are working with 8 young people who are identified as being at significant risk of exploitation. The PRIDE (Prevention, Risk Identification, Disruption and Evaluation) process has been effectively used with 3 young people to ensure there is an evidence based approach to reduce risk and disrupt activity alongside the offer of something better for young people to engage with. The embedded police roles have been instrumental in the effective sharing of information across local authority borders and engaging with parents and carers acting as a conduit for gathering intelligence and offering re-assurance.

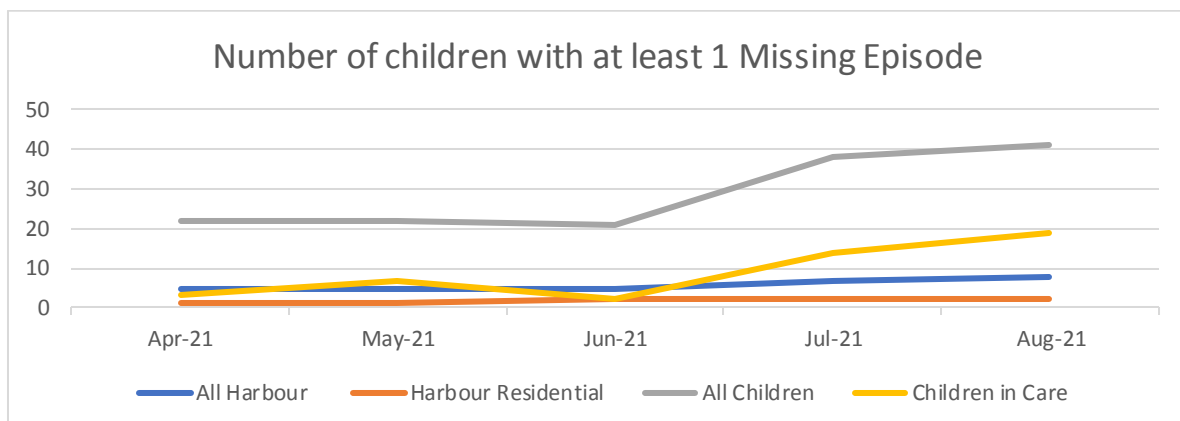


Fig 5

- 6.8. Fig 5 compares children receiving a service from The Harbour with all children with at least 1 missing episode highlighting children in care and children in The Harbour residential care/foster care. June 2021 saw an increase in the number of children with 1 missing episode and the trend was similar for both all children and children in care. Children receiving a service from The Harbour either through outreach or Harbour residential/foster care did not follow the same trend.

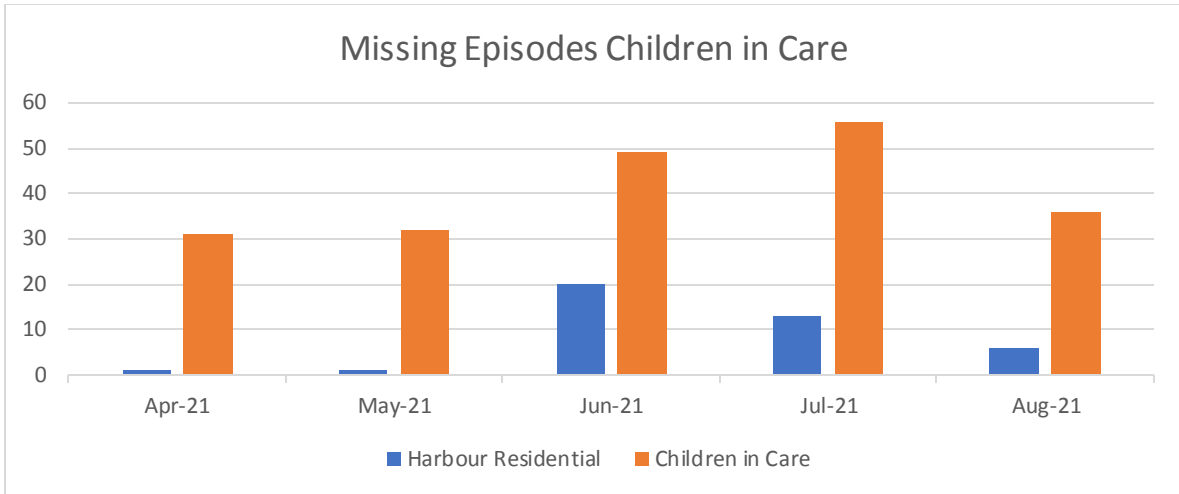


Fig 6

6.9. Fig 6 compares missing episodes for all children in care with those children in Harbour Residential/foster care. Involvement from the embedded police and youth practitioners working alongside providing opportunities to engage in other activities have had an impact on reducing the number of missing episodes.

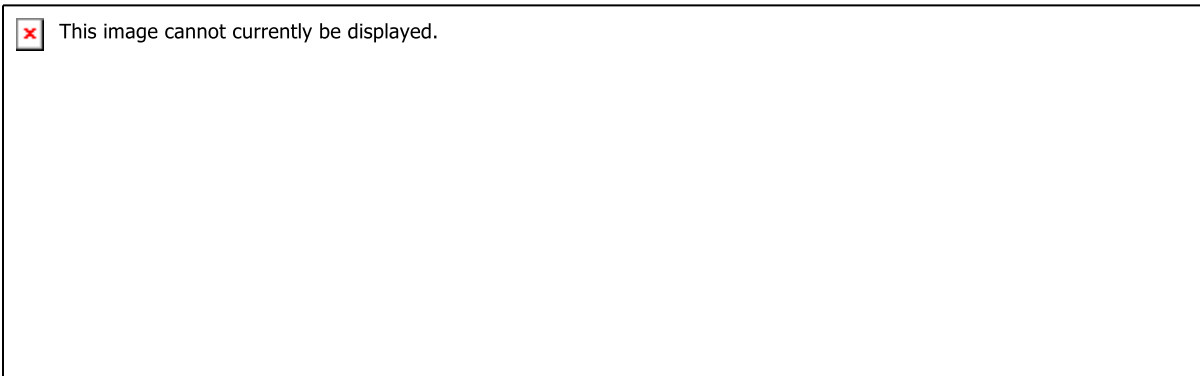


Fig7 Child A Missing Episodes

6.10As shown above in Fig 7 one young person who was referred to The Harbour in June 2021 has been supported to find employment which as seen below has significantly reduced the number of missing episodes.

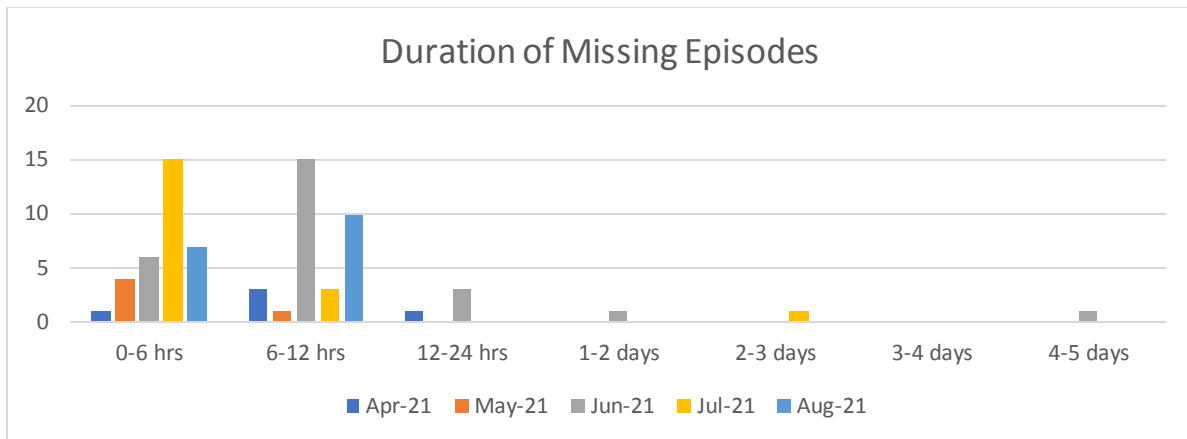


Fig 8

6.10 Fig 8 evidences that alongside seeing a decrease in the number of missing episodes for children receiving a service from The Harbour we are also seeing a change in the duration of episode with a noticeable reduction in duration being seen in August 2021.

7. Relationships

7.1. Appendix 1 includes 5 case studies that have been written by youth practitioners and the embedded police colleagues within The Harbour. The case studies provide examples of how practitioners have developed authentic relationships with young people, their carers, their family, and schools to enable conversations of high support and high challenge and improve outcomes.

8. Transitions from care

8.1. There are good examples of focused work taking place e.g. Case Study 4 to support better transitions from care. What is evident is that it will be better when transition to independence commences at an earlier point with Pathway plans driving progress. Steady and Settled Pathway is in place and further embedding will be led by the Senior Portfolio Lead for Transition.

9. Emotional Wellbeing

9.1. The Harbour Team offer a wide range of activities from art activities to extreme sports providing the opportunity for young people to have new experiences and strengthen emotional wellbeing. The impact of this is yet to be captured consistently through SDQ scores although where reported there is evidence that following involvement with the Harbour emotional wellbeing is improved.

9.2. Initial SDQ scores have been recorded for 7 children in care who are receiving a service from The Harbour (4 in Feb/Mar 2021 and 3 in June/July 2021). 4 young people show scores above 20 with the remaining 3 between 14 and 17. Scores over 20 are very high and found only in 5% of the

population. 3 young people have been offered a service from CAMHS with 2 young people attending.

9.3. We know that some young people find it difficult to engage with a CAMHS mental health service. Having an embedded clinical psychologist and speech and language therapist who will be able to assess without an appointment will ensure that the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of young people are better met.

10. Cost Avoidance

The Harbour - Placement Cost Avoidance Tracker 2021/22						
Update as at		31/07/2021				
2021/22	Harbour Referrals	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions	Harbour Interventions
	Total Number of Young People Referred	Current Young People Receiving Interventions	Forecast Cost Avoidance of Ongoing Interventions	Young People With Ceased Interventions	Forecast Cost Avoidance of Ceased Interventions	Total Forecast Cost Avoidance for 2021/22
	December 2020 July 2021	As at 31 July 2021	1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022	As at 31 July 2021	1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022	1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022
28 Day Pathway	0	0	£0	0	£0	£0
Harbour Residential	0	0	£0	0	£0	£0
Edge of Care	29	13	£499,659	16	£895,187	£1,394,846
Placement Stability	19	12	£214,536	7	£129,056	£343,592
Reunification	7	2	£89,250	5	£51,829	£141,079
2021/22 Total	55	27	£803,445	28	£1,076,072	£1,879,517

10.1. The Harbour has worked with a total of 55 young people as at the end of July 2021 and the cost avoidance for these young people is currently forecast to be £1,879,517 for 2021/22.

10.2. There were 27 young people with open interventions and the cost avoidance, assuming that the young people continue to receive interventions or do not require care services during the financial year is forecast to be £803,445 for 2021/22.

10.3. There were 28 young people no longer receiving an intervention from The Harbour and the ongoing cost avoidance for this group of young people is forecast to be £1,076,072. This assumes that no further interventions are required for the remainder of the financial year and that there is no change in care plan.

10.4. An average weekly cost of all children in care has been used to calculate the cost avoidance for young people on the Edge of Care. Costs avoided from Placement Stability are calculated using the current placement cost

and an assumption of the cost of an alternative placement. Costs avoided from Reunification are calculated using the current placement cost. Cost avoidance for young people turning 18 during the financial year 2021/22 ceases on their 18th birthday.

11. Feedback and audit

- 11.1. Feedback is invited from family, social worker/early help practitioner and young person at the point at which the intervention with the Harbour is concluded.
- 11.2. This will be better when this is undertaken consistently and when relationships are so well developed that there are a greater number of responses.
- 11.3. To date The Harbour was graded as excellent by 46% of young people and 79% of parents by those who have responded. There were no responses that described the Harbour as unsatisfactory.
- 11.4. Going forward audit activity will be strengthened now the deputy manager for outreach is in post. This role will provide oversight to ensure that audit activity is completed each month and quality assurance activity is firmly embedded in The Harbour.

Louise Drury
5 September 2021