



Dorset
Council

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

March 2026

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present the **Corporate Parenting Board** with a comprehensive overview of performance metrics. The indicators are organised by relevant categories to facilitate analysis and understanding. We will continue collaborating with managers to establish clear targets for improvement and accountability.

Overview of Performance

The report presents key indicators and evaluates performance against these metrics over the past six months. It assesses the available data as of the end of the last month, utilising snapshots for analysis. Where applicable, specific targets have been established to promote high performance and drive improvement, accompanied by a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating for each indicator. These targets are aligned with national benchmarks and the averages of statistical neighbours, and relevant information is included in the report where available, in collaboration with Service Managers.

RAG Rating

Where a target has been set, indicators are RAG rated in the 'Status' field using the criteria below:

Green : Performance is good and in line with or exceeding target: consistent with the National/Statistical Neighbour average.

Amber : Performance is below target; inconsistent with National/Statistical Neighbour average; action is in place with likelihood of improvement.

Red : Performance is poor; well below expected levels nationally; improvement is required.

Performance Direction

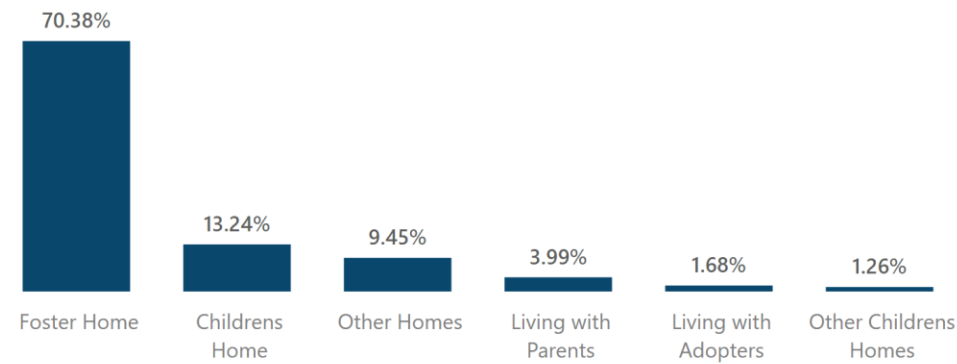
The latest performance is compared to the previous month, with icons indicating the direction of performance, based solely on whether the figures have increased or decreased. It is important to note that the '**Direction of Performance**' field is not related to the established targets; rather, it serves to highlight changes in performance trends. To assess the overall status of each measure, please refer to the RAG ratings in the '**Status**' field, which indicate how the latest month's performance aligns with the set targets.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

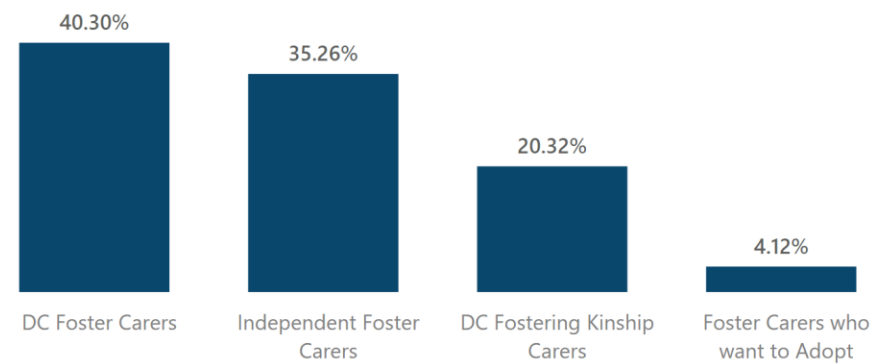
Summary

March 2026

Where Children Live



Types of Foster Homes



Summary

Children's living arrangements - March 2026

There has been a positive increase in the number of children living in fostering families, reflecting a strong commitment to ensuring more of our children grow up in stable, safe family environments.

Foster care provides children with greater opportunities, secure attachments, consistency and better long term outcomes.

Overall, this reflects how we are working to prioritise safe, nurturing and relationship based care which is fundamental to improving outcomes for Dorset's children and young people.

> Children in our Care

We have **475** children in care (rate of **71** per 10,000), **43** of which are unaccompanied children.

Last month we had **472** , (**70**) and **43** respectively.

> Adoption and Special Guardianship

In the last 6 months **10** % of children moved to live with adopters and **16** % became settled through Special Guardianship Orders (SGO).

Last month this was **10** % and **13** % respectively.

> Distance from Family Home

45 % of our children in care live over 20 miles away from home (excluding our unaccompanied children).

Last month it was **44** %.

> Safe and Stable Home

Of our children in care who have been in care for 2.5 years (aged 16 or under) **71** % have been in their home for 2 years or more.

Last month it was **75** %.

We have **15** % of our children in care who have had 3 or more homes in the previous 12 months.

Last month it was **15** %.

> Health

Of our children who have been in care for at least 12 months (aged 4-16), **50** % have had a strengths & difficulties questionnaire completed. Last month this was **47** %.

Of our new children in care last month, **38** % had their initial health assessment within 20 days. In the month prior to that it was **6** %.

> Education

The average attendance for this academic year for our children in care is **88** %, (**88** % up to last month). **94** % (up to March 2026) of our children in care have had their termly personal education plan completed on time.

> Adoption

16 children were adopted in the last 12 months, compared to **19** children in the previous 12 months. The average number of days from the date of the 'Placement Order' to the date the child was matched to prospective adopters was **161** (**166** last month).

The average number of days between entering care and moving in with adopted family (adjusted for foster carer adoptions) was **334** (**336** last month).

> Care Leavers

We had **0** care leaver(s) (active, aged 16-25 yrs) in B&B accommodation. In the previous month we had **0** . **98** % of our care leavers are living in safe, secure & affordable accommodation (active, 19-21 yrs). Last month this was **98** %. **69** % of our care leavers are in employment, education or training (active, 19-21 yrs). Last month this was **67** %.

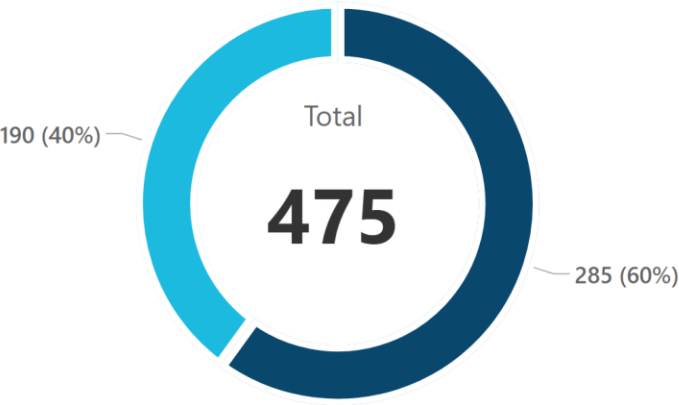
97 % of our care leavers with an up to date Pathway Plan at end of month (active, 17-25 yrs). Last month this was **95** %. **94** % of our care leavers are in touch with us (active, 19-21 yrs). Last month this was at **93** %.

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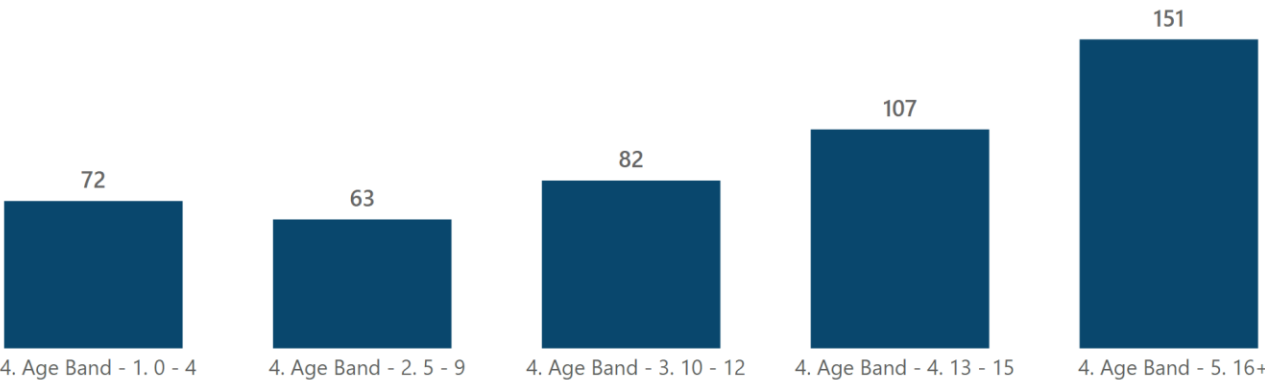
Profile

March 2026

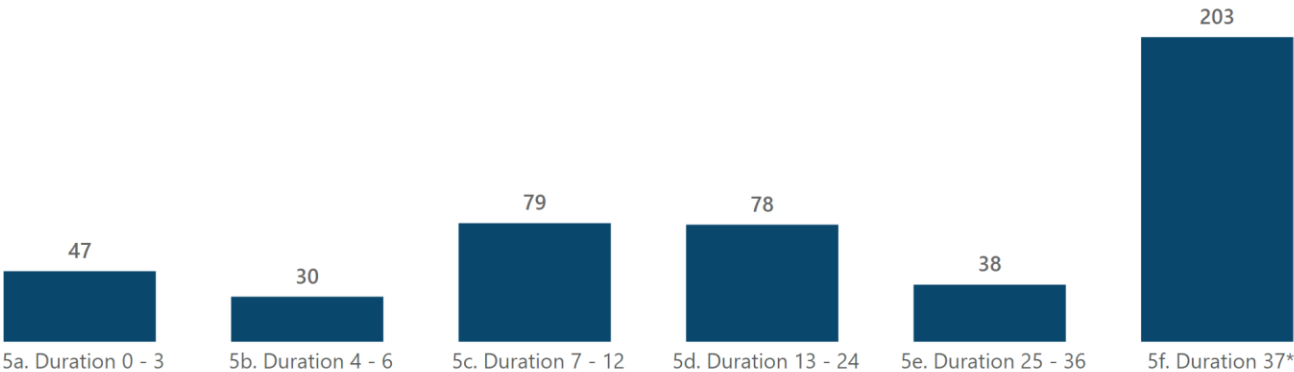
Children in Care



Children in Care (Age)



Children in Care (in Months)

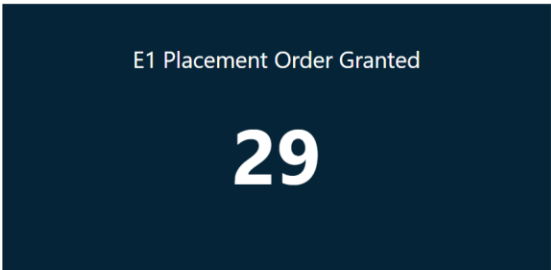


> **557** Number of Care Leavers
> **319** are Receiving a Service

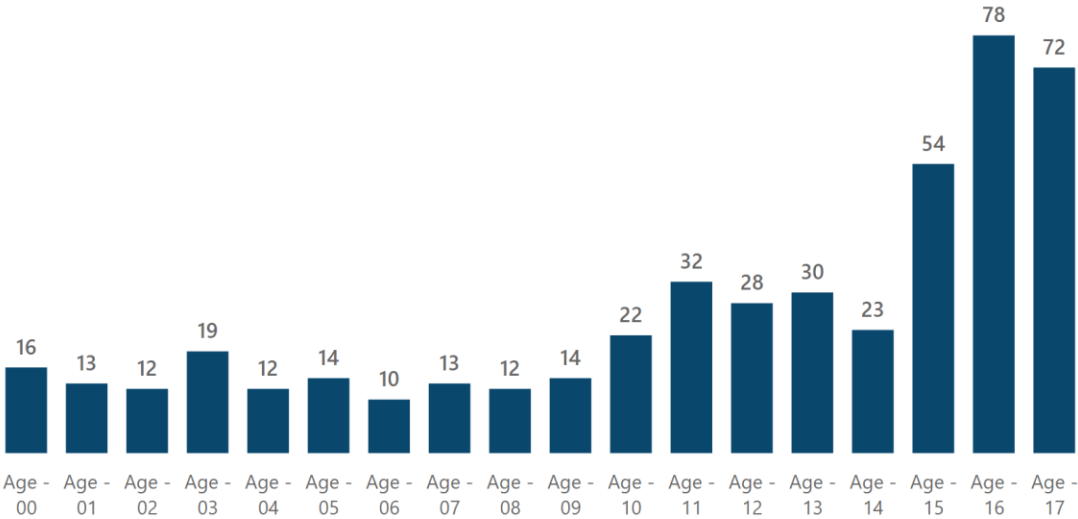
Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Profile

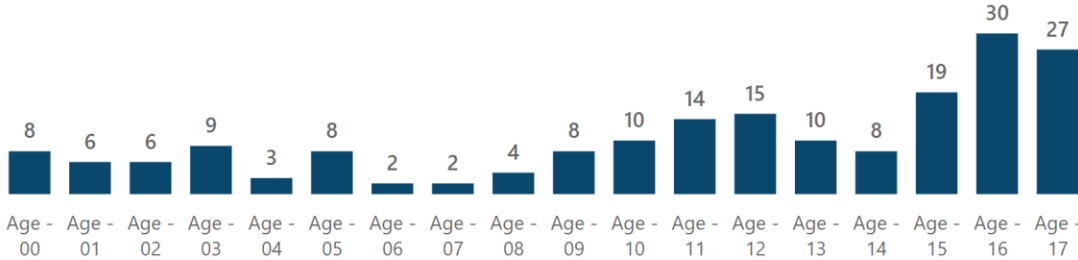
March 2026



Children in Care by Gender & Age (Male)



Children in Care by Gender & Age (Female)

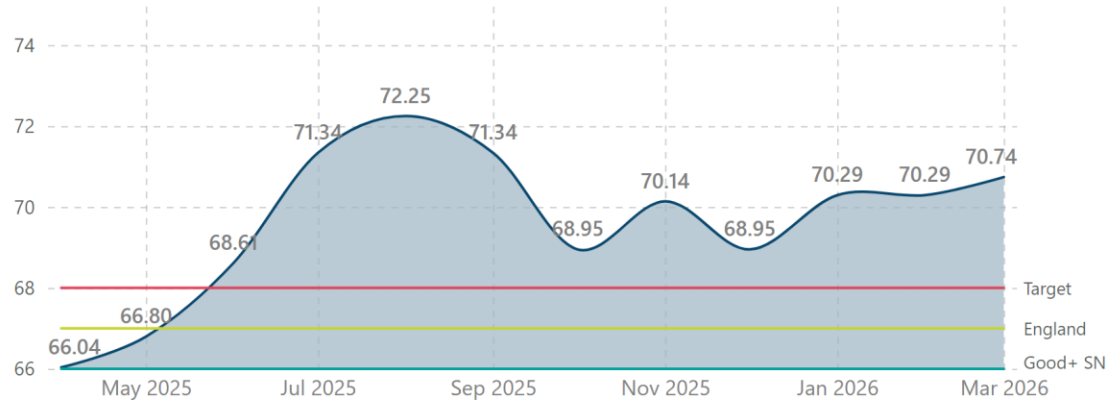


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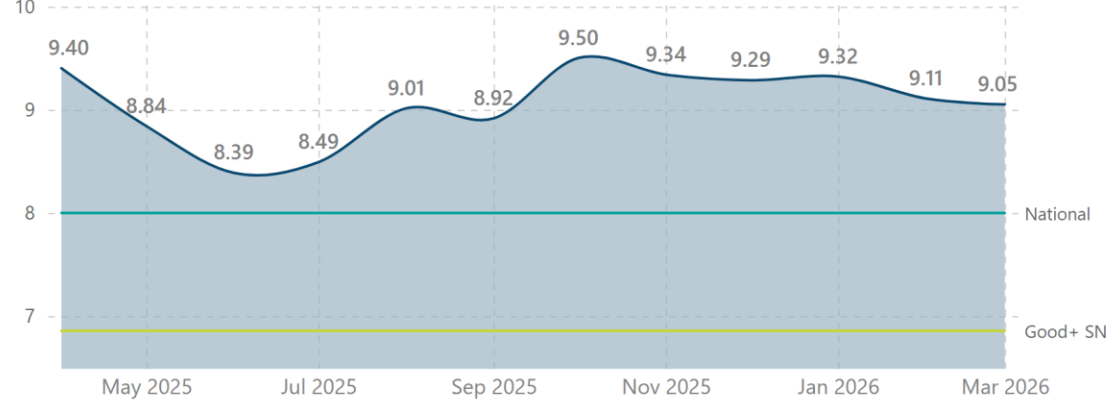
Children and Young People

March 2026

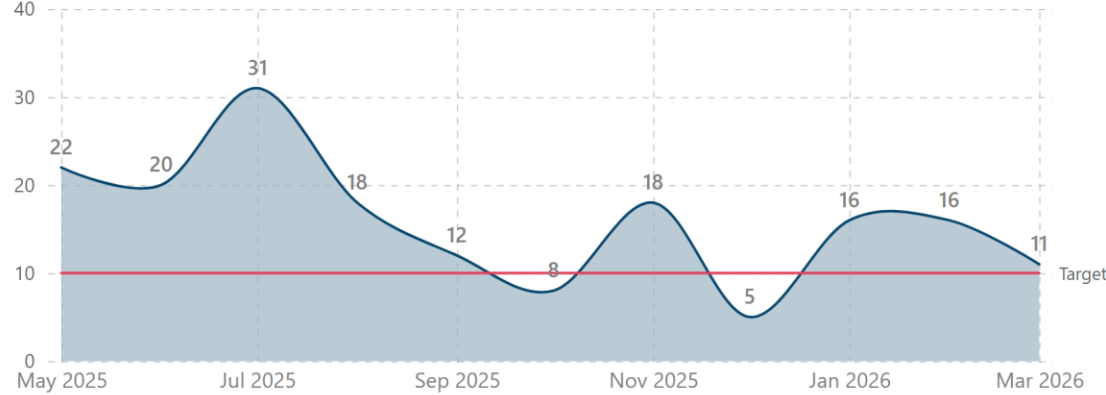
Rate of Children in Care at Month-End



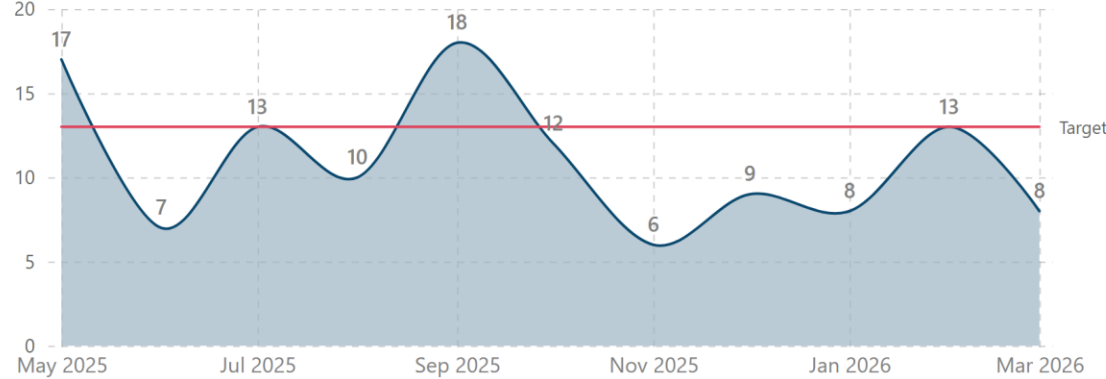
Percentage of Children in Care who are Unaccompanied Children



Number of Children who became Children in Care



Number of Children who ceased to be Children in Care



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Children and Young People

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Became CiC (Excl. UC)	Low			10.00	13.00	15.00	10.00	✓ Improving
Became CiC (Month)	Low			10.00	16.00	16.00	11.00	✓ Improving
Ceased to be CiC (Month)	High			13.00	8.00	13.00	8.00	✗ Worsening
CiC at Month End	Low			420.00	472.00	472.00	475.00	✗ Worsening
CiC Rate at Month End	Low	66.00	67.00	68.00	70.29	70.29	70.74	✗ Worsening
CiC Rate at Month End (Excl. UC)	Low	61.14	61.76		63.74	63.89	64.33	✗ Worsening
UC at Month End	-				44.00	43.00	43.00	
UC Share of CiC	-	6.86	8.00		9.32	9.11	9.05	

Children and Young People

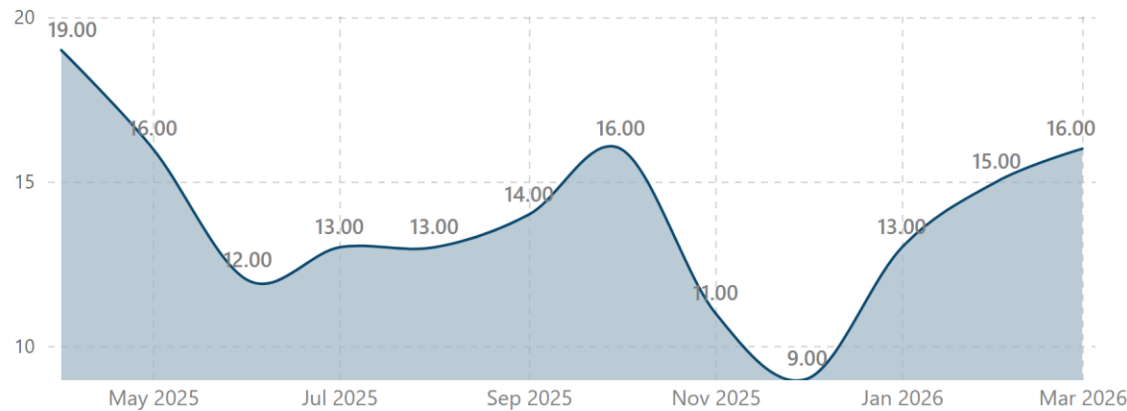
In the past year, there has been an increase in the number of children coming into care with an increase from 435 in March 2025 to 475 in March 2026. Primarily the large increase occurred in Q.1 and Q.2 between April 26 and August 26 with some fluctuations in the second part of the year. We have had more children enter than exit care over this period. This reflects levels of complexity and need within families. Significant effort continues to be directed toward prevention, including Edge of Care support, intensive family interventions, and our Safeguarding Families Together offer. While not all care entries can be avoided, these approaches have supported children to remain safely at home wherever possible and ensured that care is used where it is clearly in a child's best interests. We have invested in valuing care over the last year to support our understanding of children's needs and identify further opportunities for reunification with parents and permanence through special guardianship which will support children to exit our care. Further work is being undertaken over the next year to fully embed the valuing care tool and progress these opportunities.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

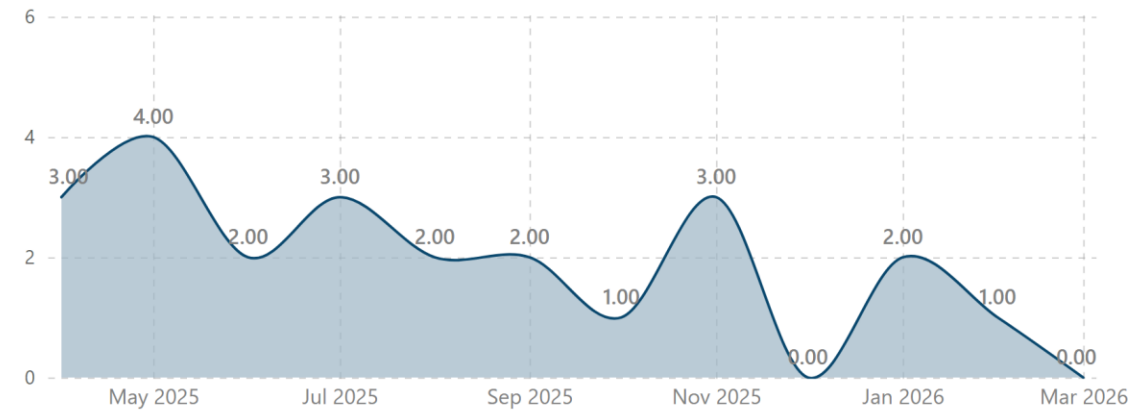
Adoption

March 2026

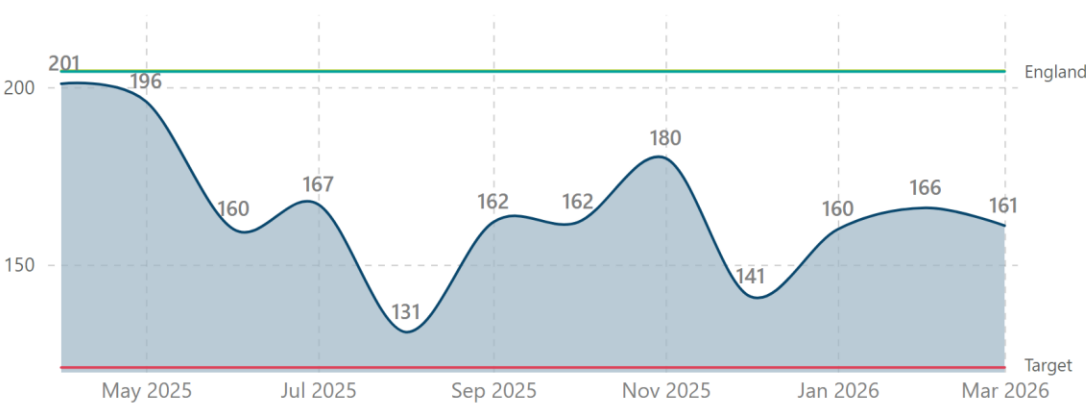
Children adopted in last 12 months



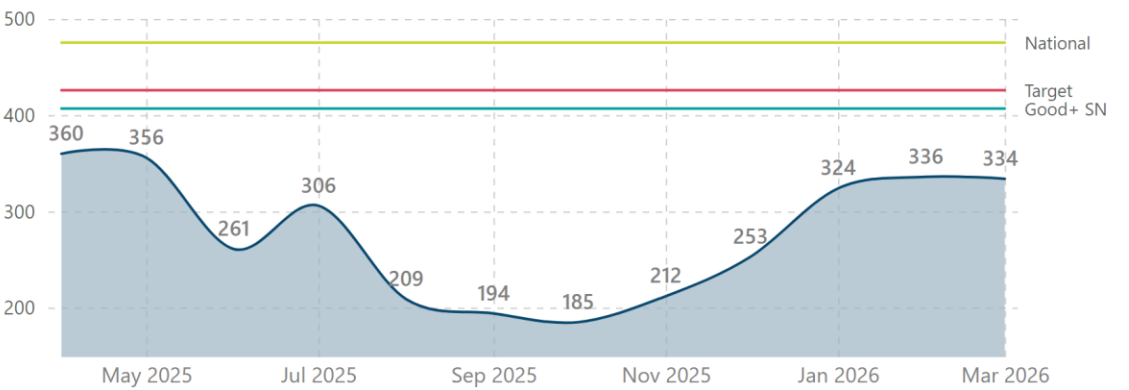
Number of adoptive families approved (ADM)



Average Days to match from placement order



Average days to move in with adoptive family



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Adoption

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Adopted (Last 12m)	High				13.00	15.00	16.00	✔ Improving
Adoptive Families Approved (ADM)	High				2.00	1.00	0.00	✘ Worsening
Adoptive Families in Assessment	High				9.00	12.00	15.00	✔ Improving
Days: Enter Care → Move-In (Adjusted) (Avg)	Low	406.85	475.48	426.00	324.00	336.00	334.00	✔ Improving
Days: Placement Order → Match (Avg)	Low	204.46	204.68	121.00	160.00	166.00	161.00	✔ Improving
Placement Order Revocations (Last 12m) - Low Number					3.00	5.00	5.00	⚠ Same

Adoption

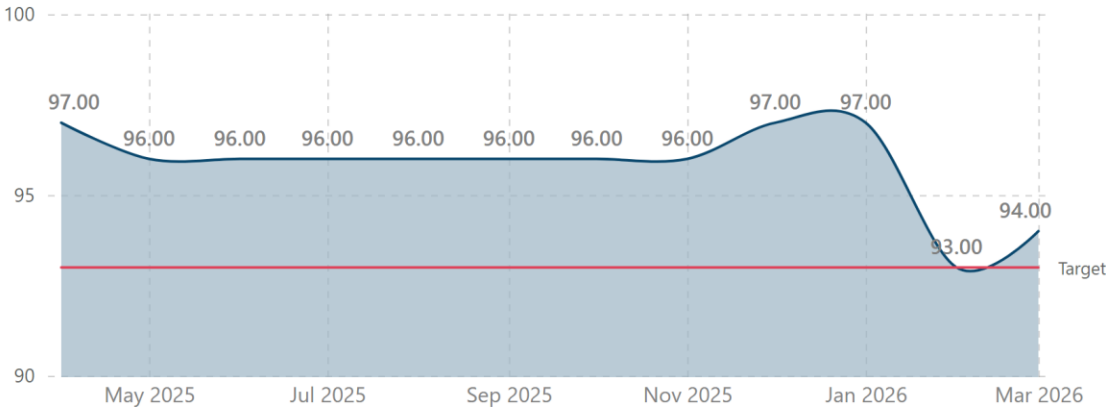
The percentage of children who have been adopted has slightly reduced this year. This is as a direct result of local and national shortages of adopters, particularly for older children and sibling groups. Q4 adoption performance has shown positive progress across key indicators, reflecting sustained focus on achieving timely and stable permanence for children. There has also been an increase in the number of adoption orders granted during this period, demonstrating improved momentum in progressing children through the final stages of the adoption pathway. This reflects stronger case progression, effective court engagement, and improved system oversight to reduce delay for children with adoption plans. Recruitment activity continues to strengthen, with an increase in enquiries and approvals of adopters over the last quarter. Targeted recruitment efforts and improved engagement with prospective adopters have begun to translate into a broader and more diverse adopter pool, supporting better matching and choice for children. While progress is positive, continued attention will be given to sustaining recruitment momentum, improving matching timeliness for children with more complex needs, and ensuring early permanency options are consistently explored wherever appropriate. Collectively, these achievements demonstrate Aspire Adoption Agency's commitment to improve permanence experiences and outcomes for children, ensuring adoption is achieved and sustained.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

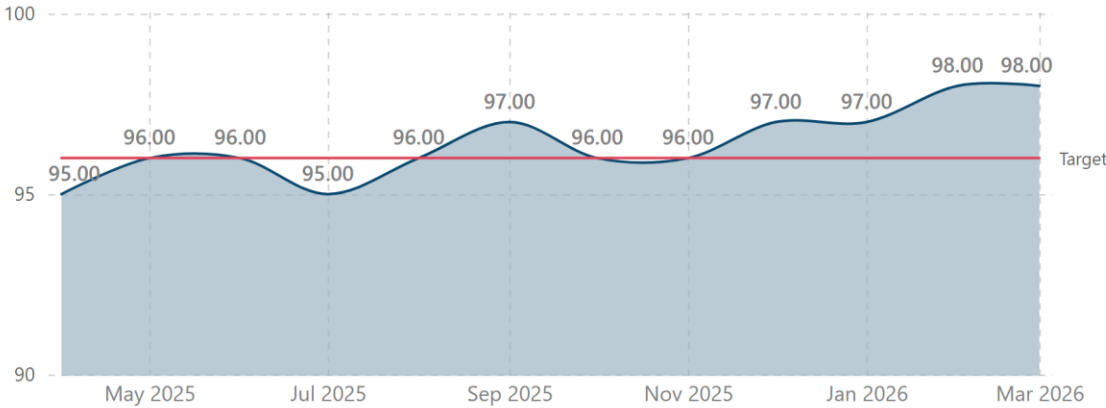
Care Leavers

March 2026

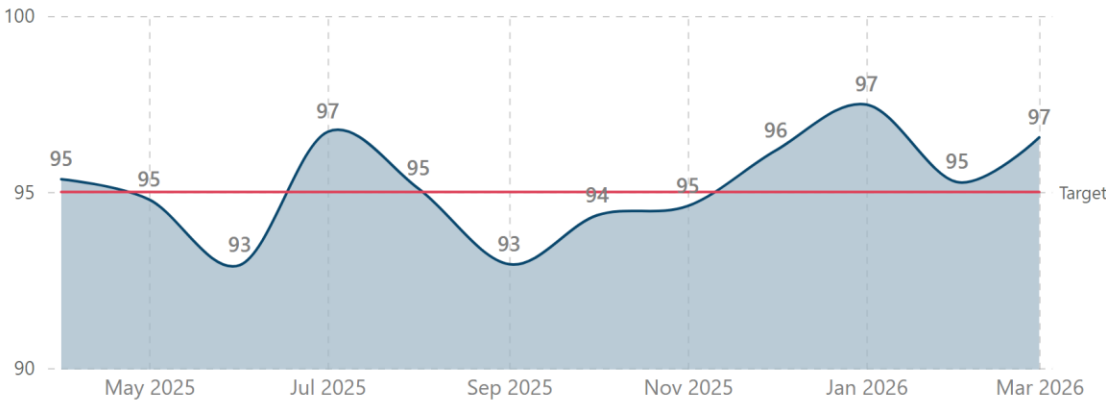
Percentage of Care Leavers in touch with Dorset Council (Active aged 19-21)



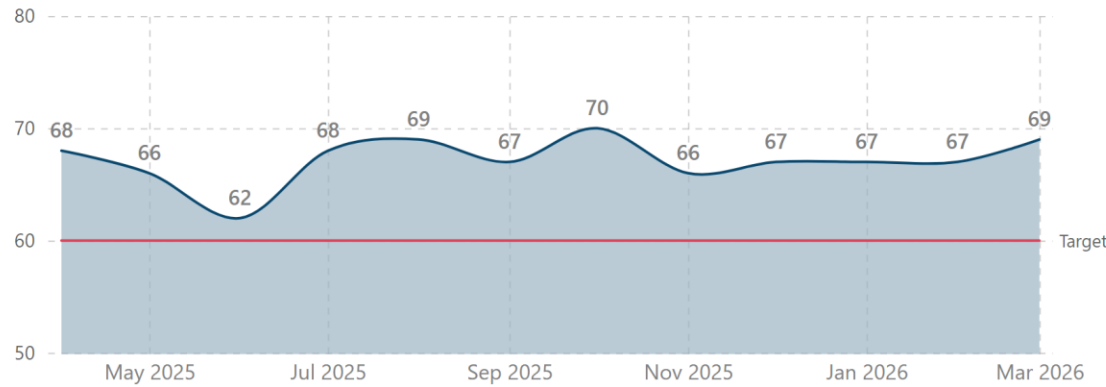
Percentage of Care Leavers who are living in suitable accommodation (Active aged 19-21)



Percentage of Care Leavers with an up-to-date pathway plan at month-end (Active aged 17-25)



Percentage of Care Leavers who in education, employment or training (Active aged 19-21)



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Care Leavers

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Bed & Breakfast – Number (Active 17–25)	Low			0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	⚠ Same
EET – Percentage (Active 19–21)	High			60.00	67.00	67.00	69.00	✅ Improving
EET – Percentage (Active 17–18)	High			60.00	59.00	62.00	59.00	❌ Worsening
EET (19–21) – Percentage (OC3)	High	54.00	54.00				58.80	❌ Worsening
Health Passports Completed – Number (2m Arrears)	-				6.00	10.00		
Health Passports Due – Number (2m Arrears)	-				6.00	10.00		
In Touch – Active (19–21)	High			93.00	97.00	93.00	94.00	✅ Improving
Pathway Plan Up-to-Date – (Active 17–25)	High			95.00	97.48	95.28	96.55	✅ Improving
Suitable Accommodation – (19–21)	High			96.00	97.00	98.00	98.00	⚠ Same
Unsuitable Accommodation – Number (Active 17–25)	Low			11.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	❌ Worsening

Care Leavers

All young people are allocated a personal adviser at the age of 16 to provide a smooth transition and support young people with the skills they need as they move into adulthood. We have continued our focus to ensure that all young people have a current Pathway Plan which is ambitious and supports our young people to move towards increased independence. At the end of March 2026 97% of young people had a current Pathway Plan compared to 93% in March 2025. More young people are remaining in Staying Put arrangements with 36 young people remaining with their foster carer after turning 18. Young people are encouraged to develop their own networks and keep in touch with significant people in their lives. This is supported through our staying close and mentoring programmes. Care leavers have continued to make steady and encouraging progress across key outcome areas, supported by consistent personal adviser engagement and strengthened multi-agency working. As of end of March 2026, we were actively working with 319 care leavers compared to 300 last year. There has been a continued improvement in EET participation, with more young people sustaining education, training, or employment and fewer experiencing periods of NEET. This reflects earlier identification of risk, improved transition planning, and targeted support at key points of change. 98% of care leavers remain in suitable and stable accommodation, with a reduced number facing homelessness through our proactive and collaborative working with housing partners. Support to prevent tenancy breakdown has been effective, particularly for young people transitioning into independence. Engagement with personal advisers has remained strong, with regular contact supporting timely intervention and relationship-based practice. Care leavers' voices continue to inform service development through feedback forums and individual pathway planning. Overall, performance over the last year demonstrates continued improvement and a strong commitment to corporate parenting responsibilities, with outcomes moving in the right direction.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Education

March 2026

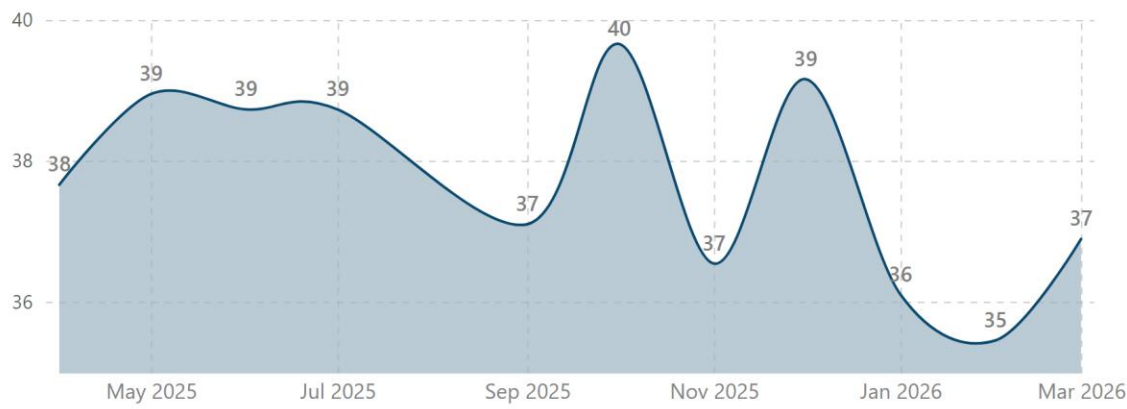
Percentage of Children in Care with a termly PEP completed on time



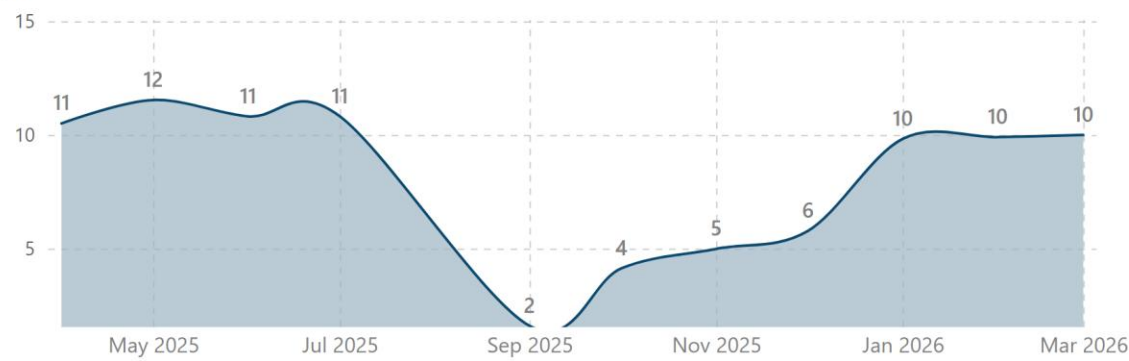
Average percentage attendance for school-aged Children in Care (Academic year-to-date)



Percentage of Children in Care with Education, Health, and Care Plan



Percentage of school-aged Children in Care who have had at least one suspension in the academic year



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Education

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Average Attendance – AYTD – % (School-Aged CiC)	High			95.00	88.28	88.20	87.84	✗ Worsening
CiC with EHCP – %	-				36.10	35.45	36.89	
EET – % (CiC & Care Leavers, 16–18; Y12–Y13)	High			72.00	76.40	76.40	76.25	✗ Worsening
NEET – % (CiC & Care Leavers, 16–18; Y12–Y13)	Low			28.00	23.60	23.60	23.75	✗ Worsening
PEP Within 20 Days of Entering Care – %	High			100.00			100.00	✓ Improving
Suspended ≥1 (AYTD) – % (School-Aged CiC)	Low				9.83	9.90	10.00	✗ Worsening
Termly PEP Completed on Time – %	High			96.00			94.00	✓ Improving

Education

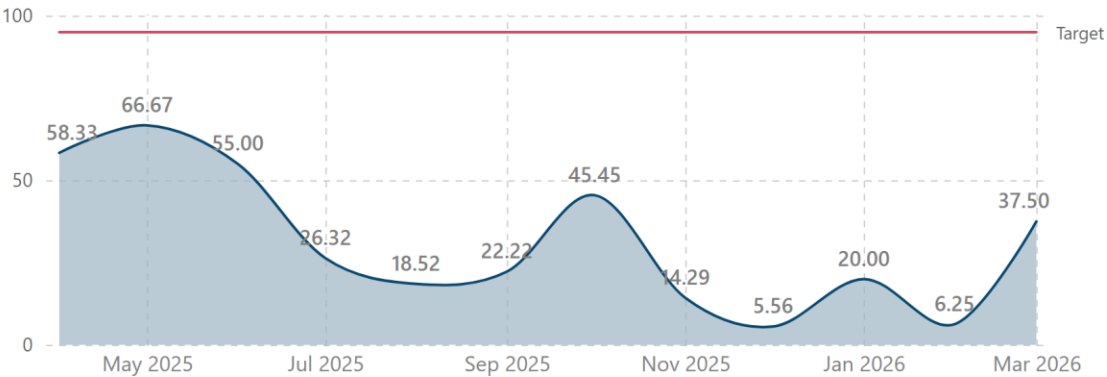
Dorset Virtual School continue to work hard to support our Children in Care and Care Leavers with their education. Dorset Virtual School continues to develop creative approaches to supporting children both educationally and in wider enrichment opportunities to raise aspiration and ambition. The Virtual School extends its reach beyond education settings to support the wider development of children and young people through arts participation, sport, cultural and leisure activities that enable children and young people to develop skills and interests beyond formal education. The Spring Term saw an improvement in the timeliness of PEP completion with 100% of initial PEPs and 94% of all PEPs completed and quality assured within the 20 day timeframes ensuring that all of our children were supported educationally with robust monitoring in place where there are concerns. The remaining PEPs were all completed within 26 days of the PEP date. PEP quality remained consistently high with 99% of Spring PEPs graded as good or better (double the number of golds from Autumn term 2025). 459 PEPs were completed and quality assured during the Spring Term with an increase in attendance at PEPs for children, social workers, Personal Advisors and Designated Teachers compared to Autumn 2025. Attendance for the cohort stands at 88% year to date. Attendance for all year groups is over 90% apart from year 9 (83%), year 10 (81%) and year 11 (81%). All children with below 50% attendance are monitored on the inclusion monitoring board and any child with a suspension is focused on during the monthly student progress meeting. Currently, 76% of our post-16 young people are in education, employment or training. All children who are NEET are monitored fortnightly on the Inclusion Monitoring Board to ensure that support is in place to re-engage with learning. 33 children have had at least one suspension in this academic year and 18 of these children have a SEN need or EHCP. All Virtual School Leads attend reintegration meetings for children who are suspended. The Virtual School Service Manager or Specialist Teachers will lean in to support any child that has had more than one suspension. Any child with a suspension in the month is discussed at the next monthly Pupil Progress meeting. The Virtual School has a planned event in place for our children and young people during May half-term, working with a literacy charity around developing a love for oracy and literacy and have offered a music collaboration project for young people during the Easter holidays. The Virtual School is also finalising its plans for the annual Virtual School Awards to be held in July to celebrate our children and young people who have achieved this year, both in education and the wider community.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

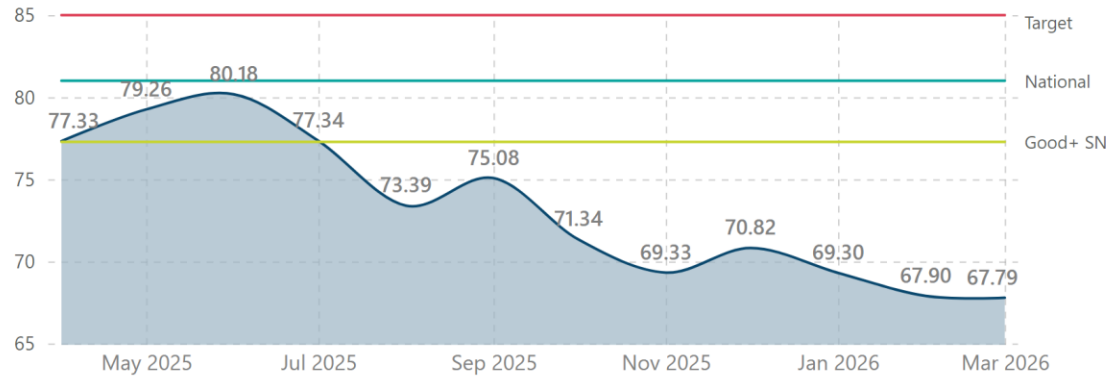
Health and Emotional Wellbeing

March 2026

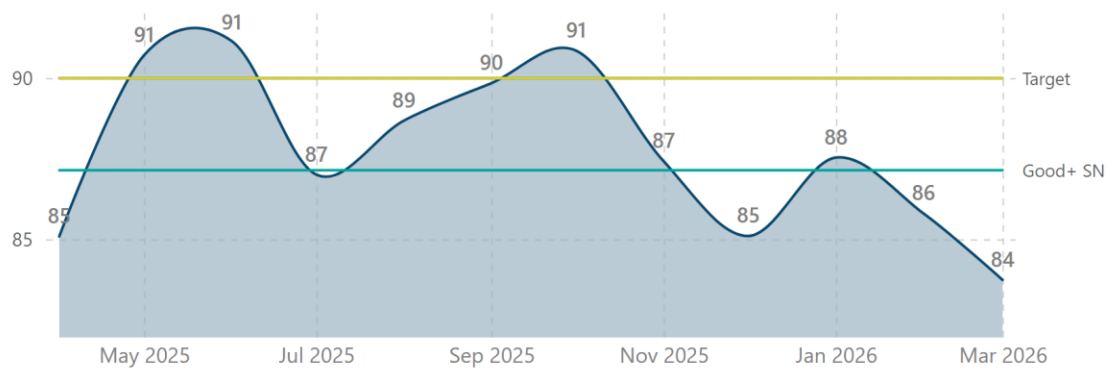
Percentage of new Children in Care (in the previous month) who received their initial health assessment within twenty days



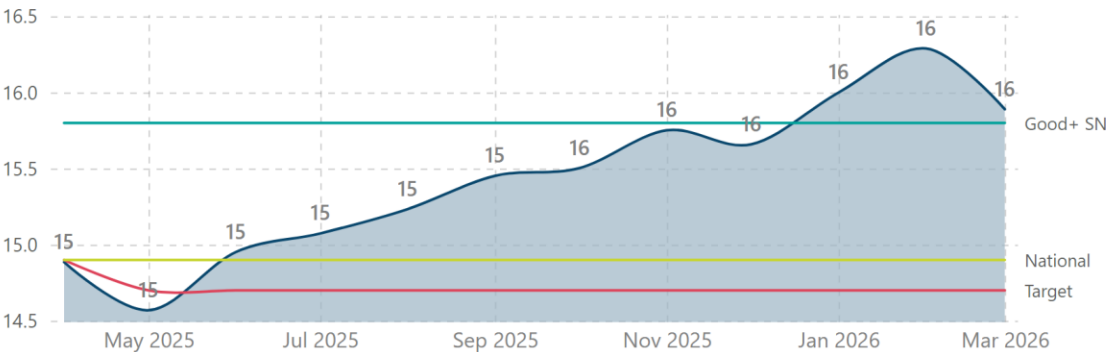
Percentage of Children in Care for twelve months or more who have had a dental check within in the last twelve months



Percentage of Children in Care for twelve months or more with an annual health assessment completed on time



Average Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) score for Children in Care for more than twelve months (Aged 4-16 years)



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Health and Social Wellbeing

March 2026

Peformance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
CiC 12m+ Average SDQ Score (Age 4–16)	Low	15.80	14.90	14.70	16.00	16.29	15.89	✔ Improving
CiC 12m+ SDQ Completed (Age 4–16)	High	80.14	78.00	75.00	52.05	47.42	50.34	✔ Improving
CiC 12m+ with Annual Health Assessment On Time	High	87.14	90.00	90.00	87.54	85.80	83.74	✘ Worsening
CiC 12m+ with Dental Check ≤12 Months	High	77.29	81.00	85.00	69.30	67.90	67.79	✘ Worsening
CiC 12m+ with Up-to-Date Immunisations	High	87.14	84.00	90.00	88.75	87.65	85.28	✘ Worsening
New CiC IHA ≤20 Days (Prev. Month)	High			95.00	20.00	6.25	37.50	✔ Improving

Health and Emotional Wellbeing

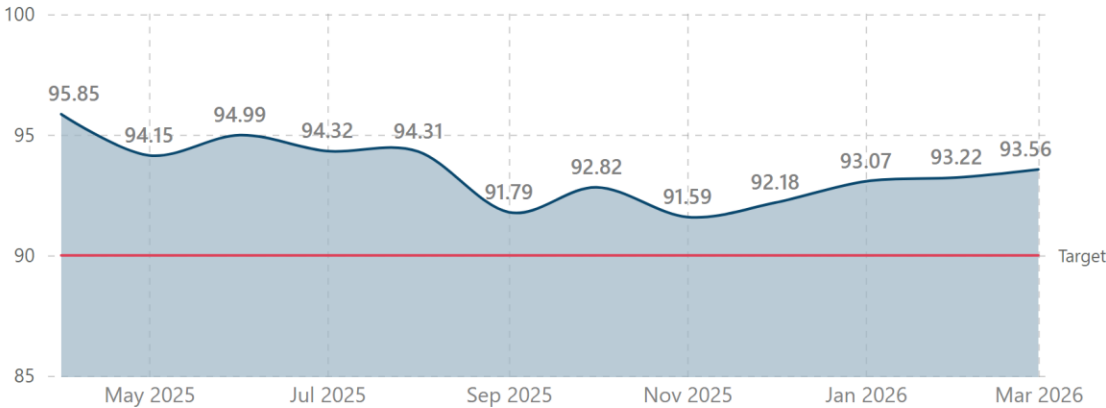
When comparing data in March 2025 to that in March 2026 we have seen a decrease in Dental, Immunisations and Annual Health Assessments, but continue to remain better than national average. Performance regarding initial health assessments continues to be variable throughout the year with the most significant impact on completion timeliness being associated with children living outside of Dorset. We work closely with our health partners to support completion of health assessments and ensure our children’s health needs are known, understood and appropriate support provided. The % of children who have completed a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire continues to be an area of challenge. While this performance indicator is a requirement for the DFE, children continue to have a low opinion of the questionnaire and question how the data is used and where the information goes. We are working with our youth network to explore alternative ways of reporting and understanding the emotional and health needs of our children and young people in care.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

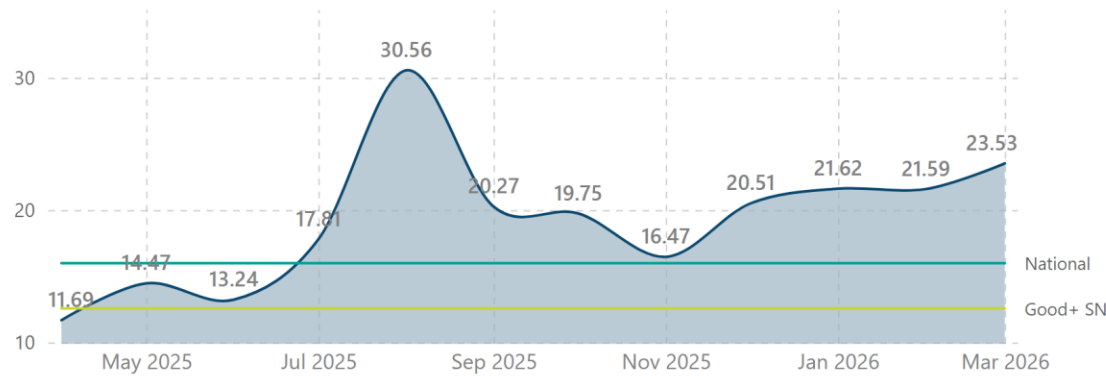
Settled at Home

March 2026

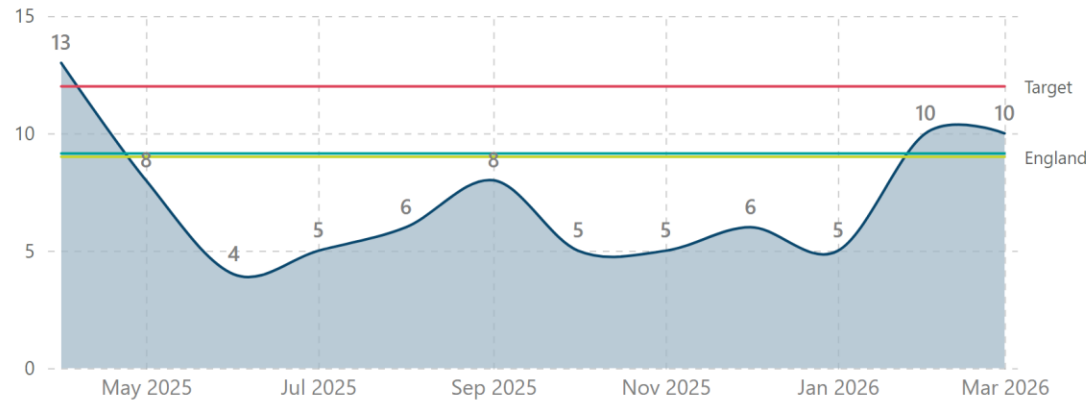
Percentage of Children in Care for four months or more with a completed permanence plan



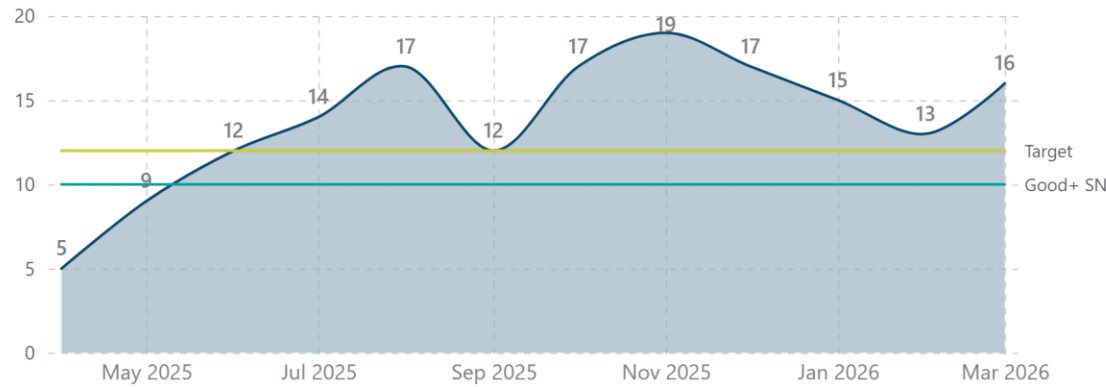
Percentage of children who achieved permanence by returning home to live with parents or relatives (with parental responsibility) (rolling six months)



Percentage of children achieved permanence adoption (rolling six months)



Percentage of children achieved permanence special guardianship order (Rolling six months)



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Settled at Home

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Achieved Permanence – Adoption (Rolling 6m)	High	9.14	9.00	12.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	⚠ Same
Achieved Permanence – SGO (Rolling 6m)	High	10.00	12.00	12.00	15.00	13.00	16.00	✅ Improving
Achieved Permanence by Return Home (Rolling 6m)	High	12.57	16.00		21.62	21.59	23.53	✅ Improving
CiC 4+ Months with Permanence Plan Completed	High			90.00	93.07	93.22	93.56	✅ Improving
LT Fostering Plan & Permanence Achieved (Excl. UC)	High				58.95	59.21	61.47	✅ Improving
LT Fostering Plan & Permanence Achieved (Month End)	High				53.52	54.12	55.98	✅ Improving

Settled at Home

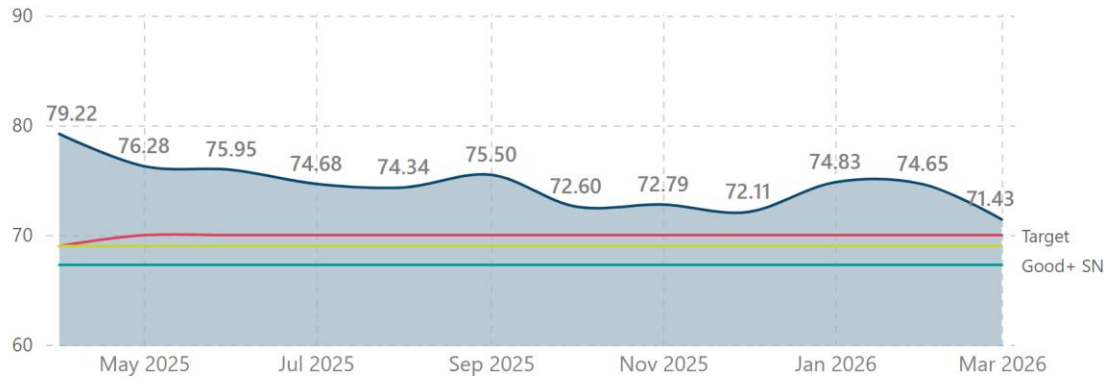
We have seen an increase in the % of children achieving a settled home by returning to the care of their parents or relative with parental responsibility. At the end of March 2026, 24% children achieved permanence by returning to live with their parents’ following reunification compared to 16% in March 2025. This is higher than Good+ statistical neighbours and national average. There has been steady progress made over the year in progressing long term matching for children with their foster carers, increasing from 54% in March 25 to 56% in March 26, which represents greater stability and permanence for those who have a plan for long term fostering. A positive impact of our approach to family group decision making and our in house kinship service is the increase in special guardianship orders, with 16% of children leaving care in previous 6 months subject to SGO in March 26, compared to 5% in March 25. We are continuing to develop our Kinship care offer to support carers to consider SGO in achieving permanence for our children. Focus remains on consistency of visiting, clear permanence planning, and timely escalation where needed.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Homes for Children

March 2026

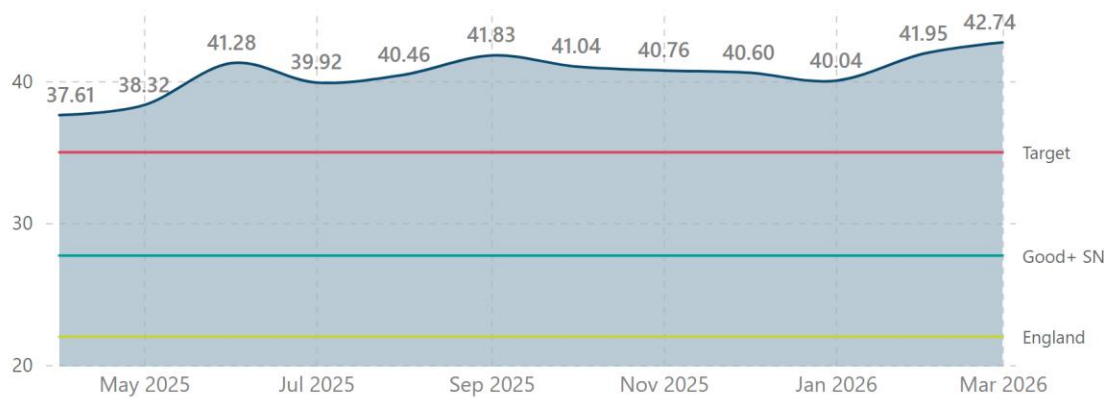
Percentage of Children in Care for two and half years or more, aged under sixteen, who have been in the same home for two or more years



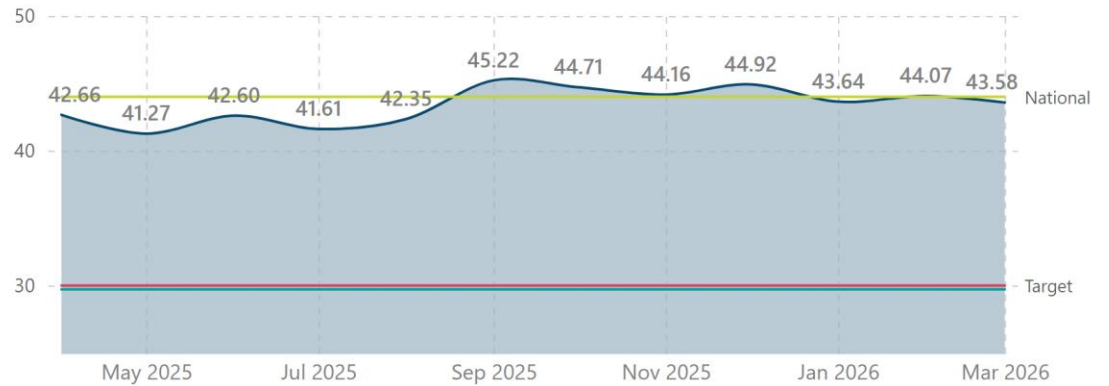
Percentage of Children in Care at month-end with three or more placement moves in the previous twelve months



Percentage of Children in Care placed more than twenty miles from home



Percentage of Children in Care living outside Dorset



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Homes for Children

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
3+ Moves in Last 12 Months (Month-End)	Low	12.14	10.00	10.00	13.98	14.83	15.16	✗ Worsening
In Foster Home – Percentage	High	55.71	67.00	71.00	69.92	70.55	70.53	✗ Worsening
In Private Provision – Percentage	Low	33.43	40.00		41.53	43.22	42.95	✓ Improving
In Private Provision – Percentage (Excl. UC)	Low				36.21	37.76	37.50	✓ Improving
Living Outside Dorset – Percentage	Low	29.71	44.00	30.00	43.64	44.07	43.58	✓ Improving
Living Outside Dorset – Percentage (Excl. UC)	Low			30.00	39.25	39.39	38.89	✓ Improving
Over 20 Miles from Home (Excl. UC)	Low			35.00	42.29	43.82	44.68	✗ Worsening
Placed with Parents	-				22.00	19.00	19.00	
Under 16, 2.5 Years in Care, Same Home ≥2 Years	High	67.29	69.00	70.00	74.83	74.65	71.43	✗ Worsening
Unregulated Placements (P2/R1/H5 pre-Nov-2023)	Low			10.00				
Unregulated Placements (P2/R1/H5 pre-Nov-2023, Excl. UC)	Low				0.00	0.00	0.00	⚠ Same

Homes for Children

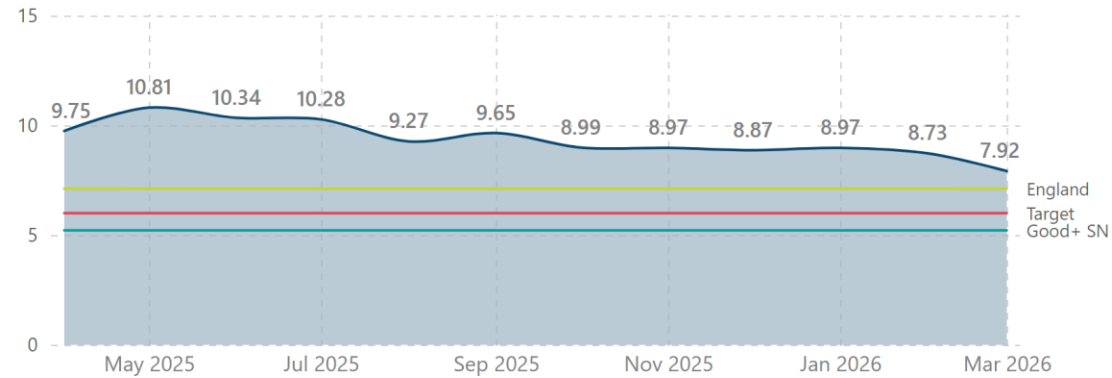
Stability of homes for children has remained a key strength across this period, with most children remaining settled in their homes. It is positive to note the increase in the % of children living in foster care. This is reflected in an increase in both the number of children living in mainstream (133) and kinship foster care (73). The % of children who have been in care over 2.5 years and are settled being with the same carer for 2 years or more remains above national average and good +stat neighbours. However, we have seen an increase in the number of children who experienced three or more moves within 12 months, this is primarily linked to sufficiency of foster carers to provide longer term care, with a small number of children experiencing multiple moves in a short space of time while we identify a suitable longer term home. Quality assurance arrangements continue to provide strong oversight of practice within homes. Regular monitoring visits, management oversight, and reflective practice forums have supported consistent standards of care, with a clear focus on children's emotional wellbeing, safety, and development. Feedback from children and independent visitors indicates that children generally feel safe, supported, and listened to within their homes.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

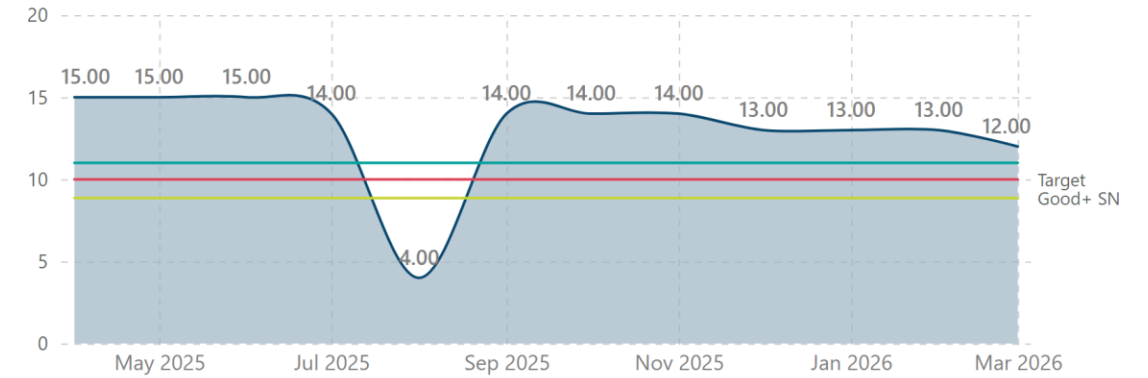
Safety

March 2026

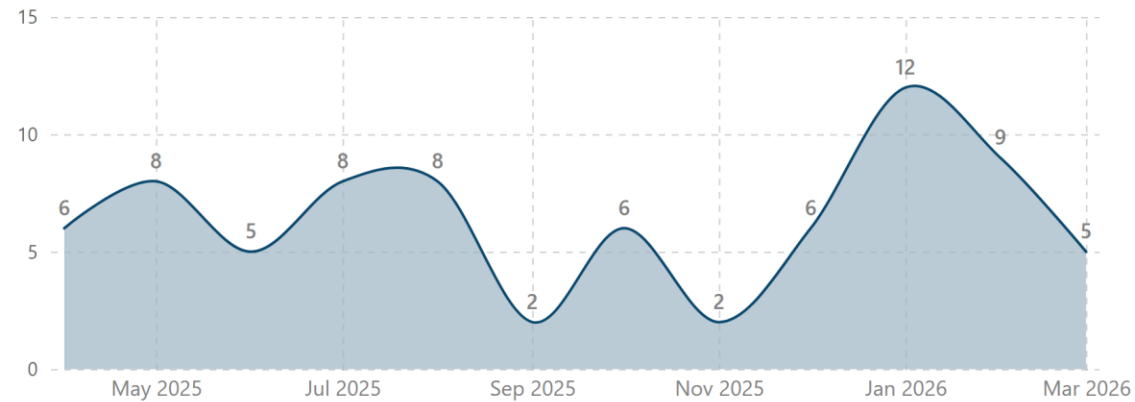
Percentage of Children in Care (at any point in the last 6 months) who have had more than one episode of missing (Annex A)



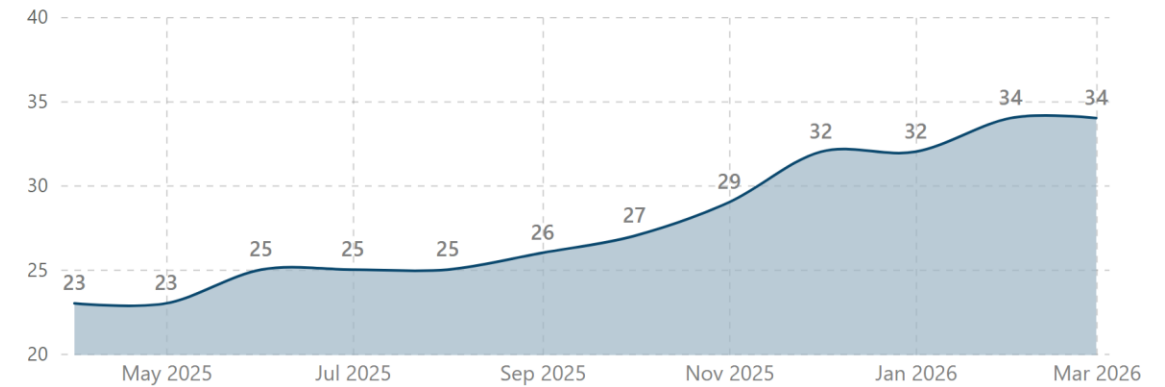
Percentage of Children in Care (at any point in the last six months) with a least one missing episode in the last 12 months (Annex A)



Number of formal independent reviewing officer (IRO) escalations



Total number of allegations made against Dorset Foster Carers in the last twelve months



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Safety

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
CiC with >1 Missing Episode (Any point last 6m) – (Annex A)	Low	5.22	7.11	6.00	8.97	8.73	7.92	✓ Improving
CiC with ≥1 Missing Episode in last 12m – (Annex A)	Low	8.86	11.00	10.00	13.00	13.00	12.00	✓ Improving
IRO Escalations – Closed – Number	-				20.00	19.00	20.00	
IRO Escalations – Formal – Number	High				12.00	9.00	5.00	✗ Worsening
IRO Escalations – Informal – Number	High				2.00	7.00	4.00	✗ Worsening

Safety

Children in care benefit from strong multi-agency working with health, education, police, and youth work. This supports timely responses to concerns such as exploitation, missing episodes, or emotional wellbeing needs.

Information-sharing and joint planning help ensure children are protected across all aspects of their lives. Children's voices are central to safeguarding. We have seen a reduction in children in care who are reported missing from 10% over the previous 6 months in March 25 to 7.92% in March 26 which is slightly above national average of 7.11%. Feedback from children, advocates, and participation activities informs service improvement and helps strengthen safety arrangements. The Coram Voice survey for children in care identified that 92% of children reported that they always felt safe in the home they live in now & all children 4-11 years old and all but 1 12-17-year-old trusted the adults they lived with. Where children raise concerns, these are taken seriously and acted upon swiftly. Foster carers and residential staff receive ongoing training in safeguarding, trauma-informed care, and managing risk, supported by regular supervision. This ensures carers feel confident and equipped to keep children safe while providing nurturing and consistent care. IROs use pre escalations to informally challenge and strengthen practice, often this doesn't lead to a formal escalation where it is resolved. IROs will use formal escalations to progress more complex issues, over the year this has varied but has seen an increase over Q.4. Escalations are encouraged as our IRO's provide challenge and support with addressing any issues in a timely way for our children.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

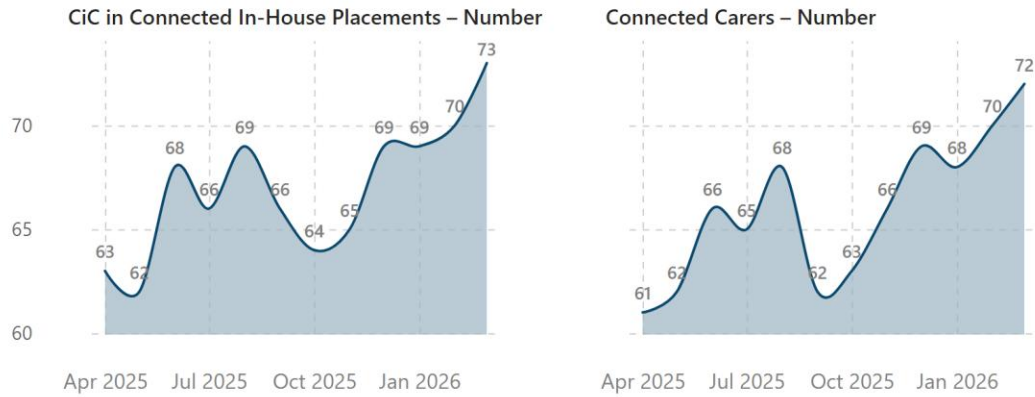
Sufficiency

March 2026

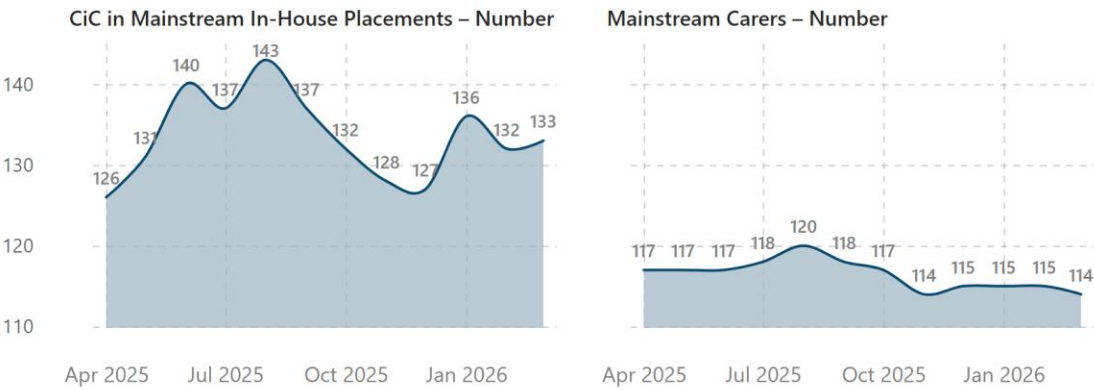
Total number of new households recruited



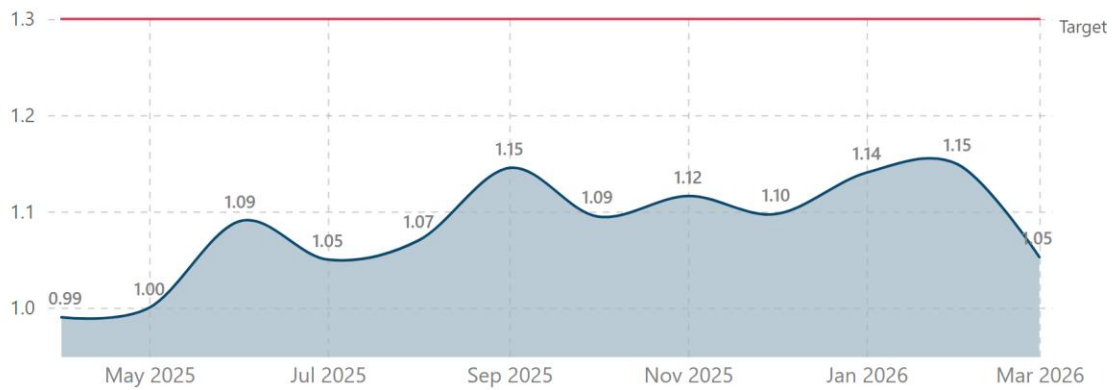
In house connected carers



In house mainstream foster carers



Mainstream fostering utilisation rate



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Sufficiency

March 2026

Performance Measures & Metrics

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Applicants in Assessment – Connected Person	High				23.00			
Applicants in Assessment – Mainstream	High				10.00			
CiC in Connected In-House Placements – Number	-				69.00	70.00	73.00	
CiC in Mainstream In-House Placements – Number	High				136.00	132.00	133.00	✓ Improving
Connected Carers – Number	High				68.00	70.00	72.00	✓ Improving
Foster Carer Visits Up to Date (Excl. FTA) – %	High			85.00	84.86	76.60	74.21	✗ Worsening
Foster Carers – Month End	High			200.00	187.00	188.00	190.00	✓ Improving
Fostering Utilisation – Mainstream	High			1.30	1.14	1.15	1.05	✗ Worsening
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Connected Carers	Low				3.00	1.00	1.00	! Same
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Foster to Adopt	Low				0.00	2.00	0.00	✓ Improving
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Mainstream	Low			1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	✗ Worsening
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Temporary	Low				0.00	0.00	0.00	! Same
Mainstream Carers – Number	High			138.00	115.00	115.00	114.00	✗ Worsening
New Households Recruited – Connected Person	High				0.00	0.00	0.00	! Same
New Households Recruited – Foster to Adopt	High				0.00	0.00	0.00	! Same
New Households Recruited – Mainstream	High			2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	! Same
New Households Recruited – Temporary	High				1.00	3.00	4.00	✓ Improving

Sufficiency

There has been a continued increase in the number of approved foster carers, although primarily this increase relates to connected carers. There has been continued focus on marketing and recruitment to fostering, and we have positively seen an increase in initial enquiries in Q4. Dorset currently supports 206 children within fostering arrangements, demonstrating the central role fostering continues to play within the wider placement sufficiency strategy. There has been a continuing increase in kinship arrangements, strengthening the overall sufficiency offer. More children are being supported to remain within their family networks where it is safe and appropriate to do so, promoting stability, identity, and emotional wellbeing. The growth in kinship care has also contributed positively to placement sufficiency by reducing reliance on external provision. The Harbour multi-disciplinary team has grown steadily under consistent and committed leadership. The Harbour offers a combination of outreach, fostering and residential children's homes. All children's homes have been inspected and are graded as Good or Outstanding. The % of children living outside Dorset, has remained the same compared between March 2025 and March 2026 and is similar to national average, although above good+ stat neighbours. The % of children, excluding unaccompanied children, living more than 20 miles away from home has increased from 41% in March 2024 to 44% in March 2025. We know there are still too many children who live too far away from their home and continue to work with determination to increase the number of local foster carers so that our children are able to maintain their links with friends, education and their local community more easily. Overall, performance over Q4 demonstrates positive progress in fostering sufficiency, with a clearer alignment between capacity, demand, and quality of care for children in Dorset.



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Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Appendix

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

March 2026

Appendix A

This appendix summarises six months of Corporate Parenting KPIs, including targets, 'Good+' benchmarks and England averages to enable robust comparison. It also captures each indicator's latest direction of travel and provides totals for trend categories and RAG ratings to give a concise performance overview.

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Achieved Permanence by Return Home (Rolling 6m)	High	12.57	16.00		21.62	21.59	23.53	🟢 Improving
Allocated Children (Open >4 Weeks) with Supervision in 8 Weeks	High			90.00	90.52	93.36	88.35	🔴 Worsening
Became CiC (Excl. UC)	Low			10.00	13.00	15.00	10.00	🟢 Improving
Became CiC (Month)	Low			10.00	16.00	16.00	11.00	🟢 Improving
Ceased to be CiC (Month)	High			13.00	8.00	13.00	8.00	🔴 Worsening
Children & Young People Supported by Advocate (CP)	-				11.00	29.00	21.00	
CiC 4+ Months with Permanence Plan Completed	High			90.00	93.07	93.22	93.56	🟢 Improving
CiC at Month End	Low			420.00	472.00	472.00	475.00	🔴 Worsening
CiC Rate at Month End	Low	66.00	67.00	68.00	70.29	70.29	70.74	🔴 Worsening
LT Fostering Plan & Permanence Achieved (Excl. UC)	High				58.95	59.21	61.47	🟢 Improving
LT Fostering Plan & Permanence Achieved (Month End)	High				53.52	54.12	55.98	🟢 Improving
Placed with Parents	-				22.00	19.00	19.00	
UC at Month End	-				44.00	43.00	43.00	
UC Share of CiC	-	6.86	8.00		9.32	9.11	9.05	

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

March 2026

Appendix B

This appendix summarises six months of Corporate Parenting KPIs, including targets, 'Good+' benchmarks and England averages to enable robust comparison. It also captures each indicator's latest direction of travel and provides totals for trend categories and RAG ratings to give a concise performance overview.

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
3+ Moves in Last 12 Months (Month-End)	Low	12.14	10.00	10.00	13.98	14.83	15.16	✗ Worsening
CiC (40 WD in Care) with Valid Passport at Last Review	High				40.00	40.00	38.94	✗ Worsening
CiC 12m+ Average SDQ Score (Age 4–16)	Low	15.80	14.90	14.70	16.00	16.29	15.89	✓ Improving
CiC 12m+ SDQ Completed (Age 4–16)	High	80.14	78.00	75.00	52.05	47.42	50.34	✓ Improving
CiC 12m+ with Up-to-Date Immunisations	High	87.14	84.00	90.00	88.75	87.65	85.28	✗ Worsening
EET – % (CiC & Care Leavers, 16–18; Y12–Y13)	High			72.00	76.40	76.40	76.25	✗ Worsening
In Foster Home – Percentage	High	55.71	67.00	71.00	69.92	70.55	70.53	✗ Worsening
In Private Provision – Percentage	Low	33.43	40.00		41.53	43.22	42.95	✓ Improving
In Private Provision – Percentage (Excl. UC)	Low				36.21	37.76	37.50	✓ Improving
New CiC IHA ≤20 Days (Prev. Month)	High			95.00	20.00	6.25	37.50	✓ Improving
Over 20 Miles from Home (Excl. UC)	Low			35.00	42.29	43.82	44.68	✗ Worsening
Valid Passport at Last Review (Excl. UASC)	High				44.44	44.26	43.20	✗ Worsening

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

Appendix C

March 2026

This appendix summarises six months of Corporate Parenting KPIs, including targets, 'Good+' benchmarks and England averages to enable robust comparison. It also captures each indicator's latest direction of travel and provides totals for trend categories and RAG ratings to give a concise performance overview.

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Bed & Breakfast – Number (Active 17–25)	Low			0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	! Same
CiC 12m+ with Annual Health Assessment On Time	High	87.14	90.00	90.00	87.54	85.80	83.74	✗ Worsening
CiC 12m+ with Dental Check ≤12 Months	High	77.29	81.00	85.00	69.30	67.90	67.79	✗ Worsening
CiC with >1 Missing Episode (Any point last 6m) – (Annex A)	Low	5.22	7.11	6.00	8.97	8.73	7.92	✓ Improving
Days: Enter Care → Move-In (Adjusted) (Avg)	Low	406.85	475.48	426.00	324.00	336.00	334.00	✓ Improving
Days: Placement Order → Match (Avg)	Low	204.46	204.68	121.00	160.00	166.00	161.00	✓ Improving
EET (19–21) – Percentage (OC3)	High	54.00	54.00				58.80	✗ Worsening
Foster Carers – Month End	High			200.00	187.00	188.00	190.00	✓ Improving
Health Passports Completed – Number (2m Arrears)	-				6.00	10.00		
Health Passports Due – Number (2m Arrears)	-				6.00	10.00		
Living Outside Dorset – Percentage	Low	29.71	44.00	30.00	43.64	44.07	43.58	✓ Improving
Living Outside Dorset – Percentage (Excl. UC)	Low			30.00	39.25	39.39	38.89	✓ Improving
Unregulated Placements (P2/R1/H5 pre-Nov-2023)	Low			10.00				
Unregulated Placements (P2/R1/H5 pre-Nov-2023, Excl. UC)	Low				0.00	0.00	0.00	! Same
Unsuitable Accommodation – Number (Active 17–25)	Low			11.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	✗ Worsening

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

March 2026

Appendix D

This appendix summarises six months of Corporate Parenting KPIs, including targets, 'Good+' benchmarks and England averages to enable robust comparison. It also captures each indicator's latest direction of travel and provides totals for trend categories and RAG ratings to give a concise performance overview.

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Achieved Permanence – Adoption (Rolling 6m)	High	9.14	9.00	12.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	⚠ Same
Achieved Permanence – SGO (Rolling 6m)	High	10.00	12.00	12.00	15.00	13.00	16.00	✅ Improving
Adopted (Last 12m)	High				13.00	15.00	16.00	✅ Improving
Adoptive Families Approved (ADM)	High				2.00	1.00	0.00	❌ Worsening
Adoptive Families in Assessment	High				9.00	12.00	15.00	✅ Improving
CiC in Mainstream In-House Placements – Number	High				136.00	132.00	133.00	✅ Improving
CiC with ≥1 Missing Episode in last 12m – (Annex A)	Low	8.86	11.00	10.00	13.00	13.00	12.00	✅ Improving
Connected Carers – Number	High				68.00	70.00	72.00	✅ Improving
EET – Percentage (Active 19–21)	High			60.00	67.00	67.00	69.00	✅ Improving
Foster Carer Visits Up to Date (Excl. FTA) – %	High			85.00	84.86	76.60	74.21	❌ Worsening
In Touch – Active (19–21)	High			93.00	97.00	93.00	94.00	✅ Improving
Mainstream Carers – Number	High			138.00	115.00	115.00	114.00	❌ Worsening
NEET – % (CiC & Care Leavers, 16–18; Y12–Y13)	Low			28.00	23.60	23.60	23.75	❌ Worsening
Pathway Plan Up-to-Date – (Active 17–25)	High			95.00	97.48	95.28	96.55	✅ Improving
PEP Within 20 Days of Entering Care – %	High			100.00			100.00	✅ Improving
Placement Order Revocations (Last 12m) - Number	Low				3.00	5.00	5.00	⚠ Same
Suitable Accommodation – (19–21)	High			96.00	97.00	98.00	98.00	⚠ Same
Termly PEP Completed on Time – %	High			96.00			94.00	✅ Improving

Appendix E

This appendix summarises six months of Corporate Parenting KPIs, including targets, 'Good+' benchmarks and England averages to enable robust comparison. It also captures each indicator's latest direction of travel and provides totals for trend categories and RAG ratings to give a concise performance overview.

Indicator	Good Is	Good + SN	Eng. Avg	Target	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	D.O.T
Applicants in Assessment – Connected Person	High				23.00			
Applicants in Assessment – Mainstream	High				10.00			
Average Attendance – AYTD – % (School-Aged CiC)	High			95.00	88.28	88.20	87.84	✗ Worsening
CiC in Connected In-House Placements – Number	-				69.00	70.00	73.00	
CiC with EHCP – %	-				36.10	35.45	36.89	
Fostering Utilisation – Mainstream	High			1.30	1.14	1.15	1.05	✗ Worsening
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Connected Carers	Low				3.00	1.00	1.00	⚠ Same
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Foster to Adopt	Low				0.00	2.00	0.00	✓ Improving
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Mainstream	Low			1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	✗ Worsening
Households Deregistered/Resigned – Temporary	Low				0.00	0.00	0.00	⚠ Same
IRO Escalations – Closed – Number	-				20.00	19.00	20.00	
IRO Escalations – Formal – Number	High				12.00	9.00	5.00	✗ Worsening
IRO Escalations – Informal – Number	High				2.00	7.00	4.00	✗ Worsening
New Households Recruited – Connected Person	High				0.00	0.00	0.00	⚠ Same
New Households Recruited – Foster to Adopt	High				0.00	0.00	0.00	⚠ Same
New Households Recruited – Mainstream	High			2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	⚠ Same
New Households Recruited – Temporary	High				1.00	3.00	4.00	✓ Improving
Suspended ≥1 (AYTD) – % (School-Aged CiC)	Low				9.83	9.90	10.00	✗ Worsening



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