

# Children's Scrutiny September 2021

## Children's Social Care Performance Update

CS/21/09



# Referrals - overview

Monthly breakdown of the Number of Referrals in the last 18 months



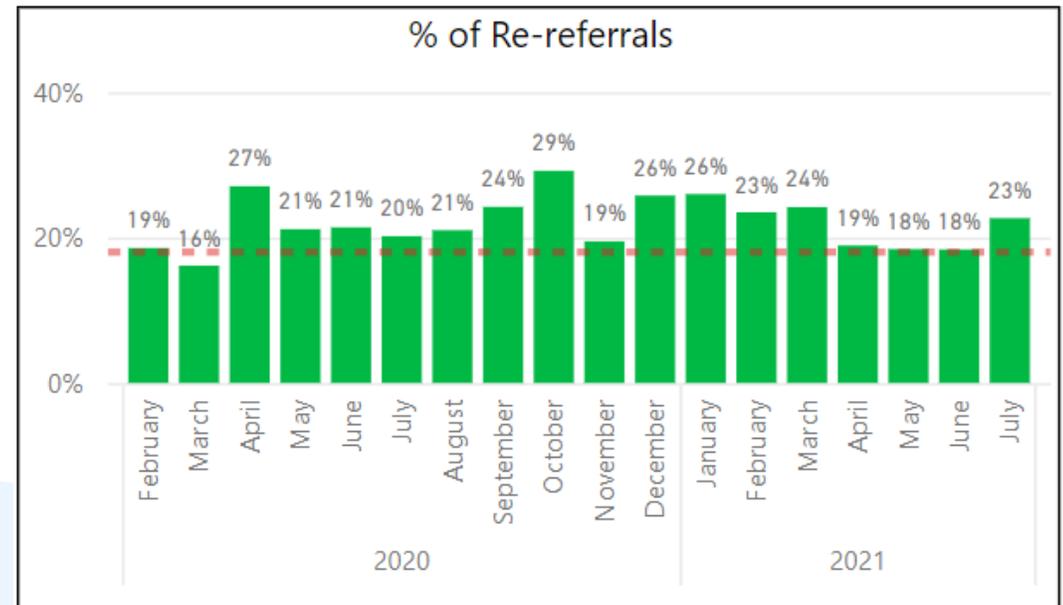
- Significant increase in children and families referred for help and protection
- Significant impact on MASH, additional resources have been needed to ensure timely and appropriate response
- 13% lead to response from early help, 77% to children's social care, 10% NFA/information only - currently reviewing our decision making in MASH and early help offer to ensure families get the right response.
- 21% of referrals are re-referrals which are scrutinised by managers to ensure interventions are effective and consider previous history

## Re-referrals:

Devon = 21%

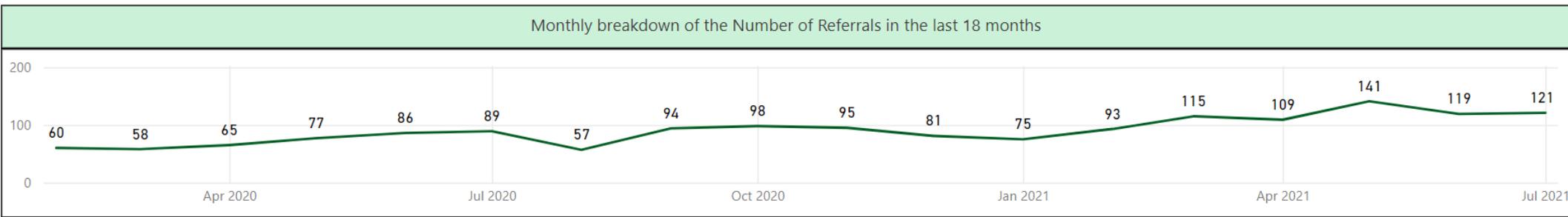
Good LAs = 19.4%

% of Re-referrals

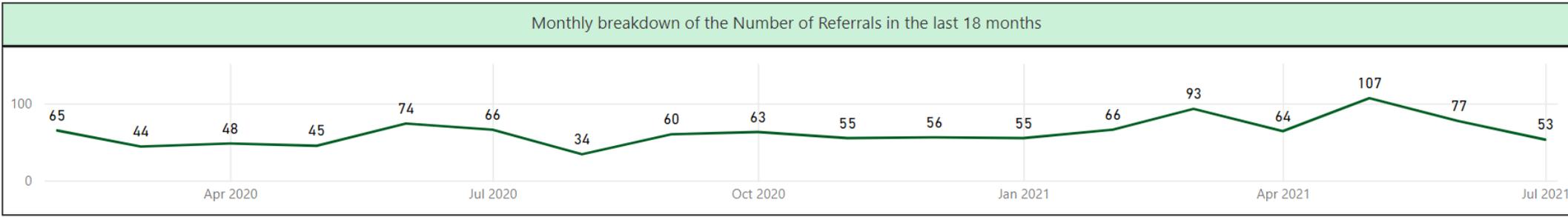


# Referrals – by locality

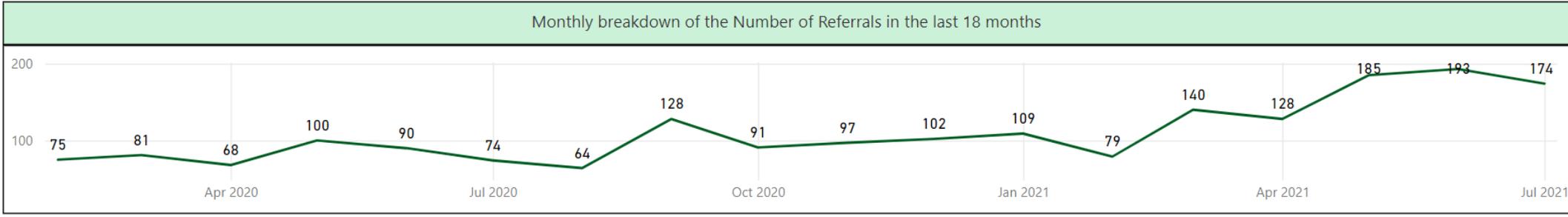
North Locality



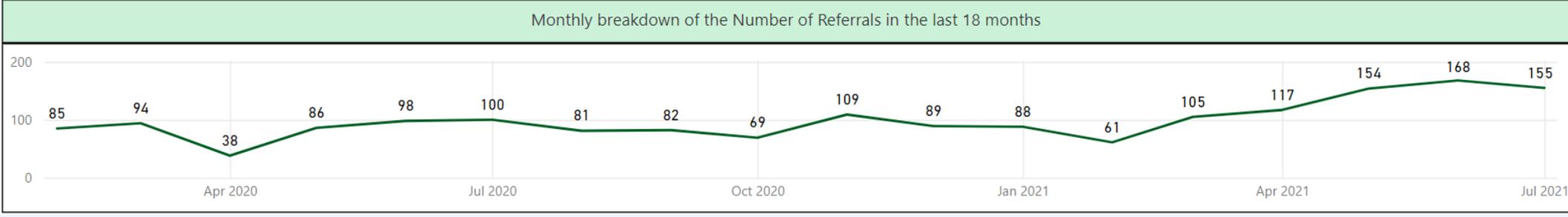
Exeter Locality



Mid and East Locality

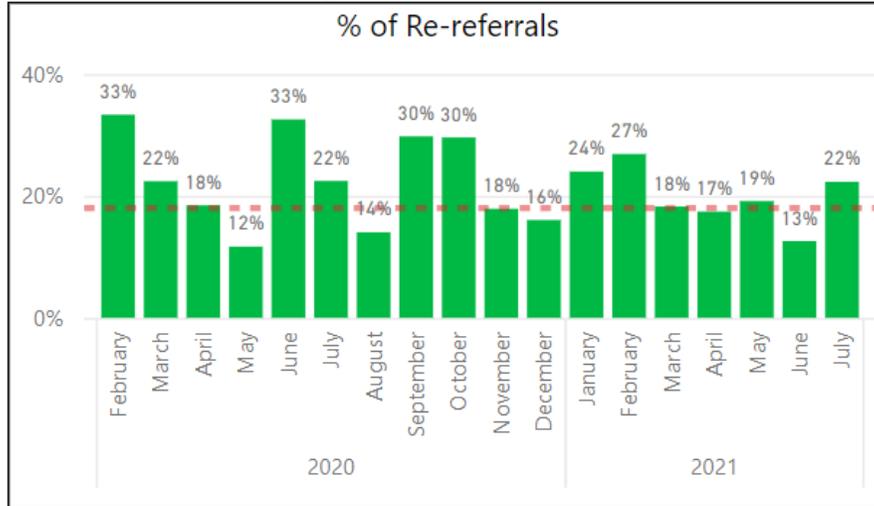


South Locality

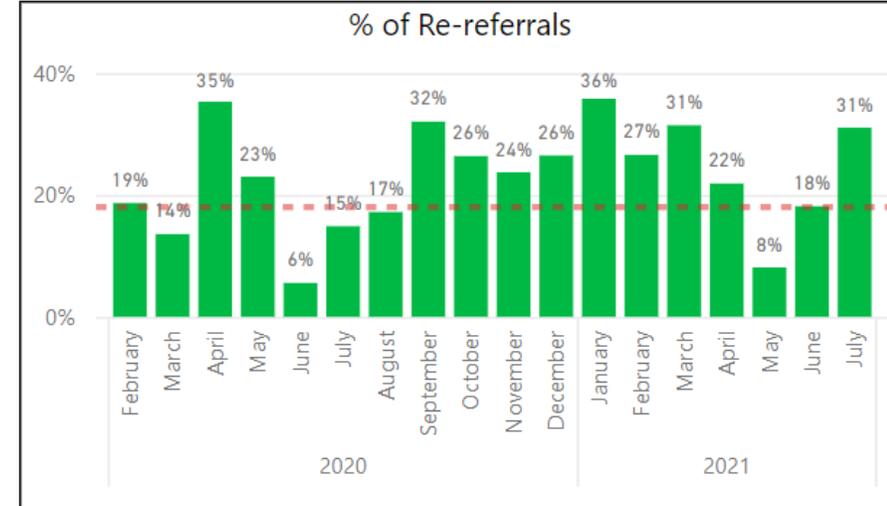


# Re-referrals by locality

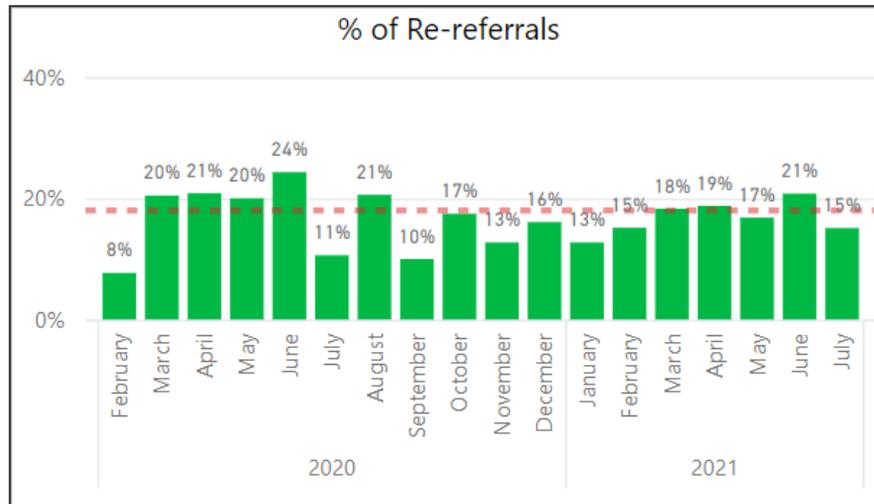
## North Locality



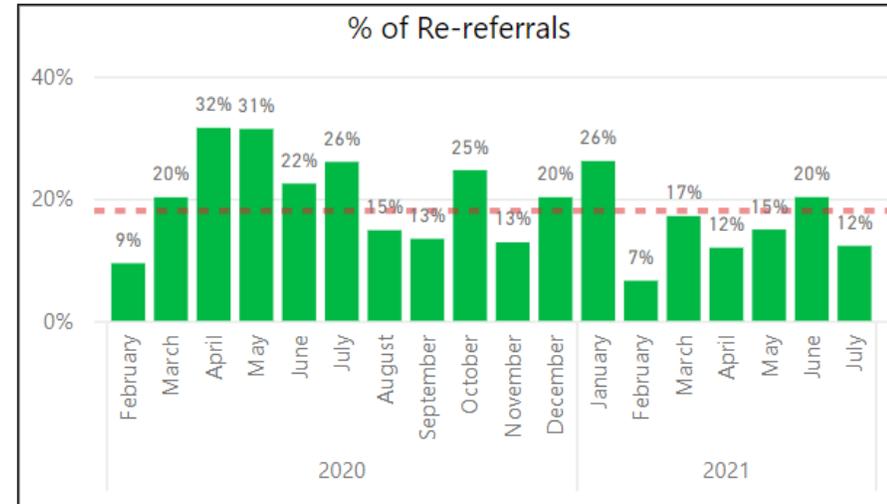
## Mid and East Locality



## Exeter Locality



## South Locality



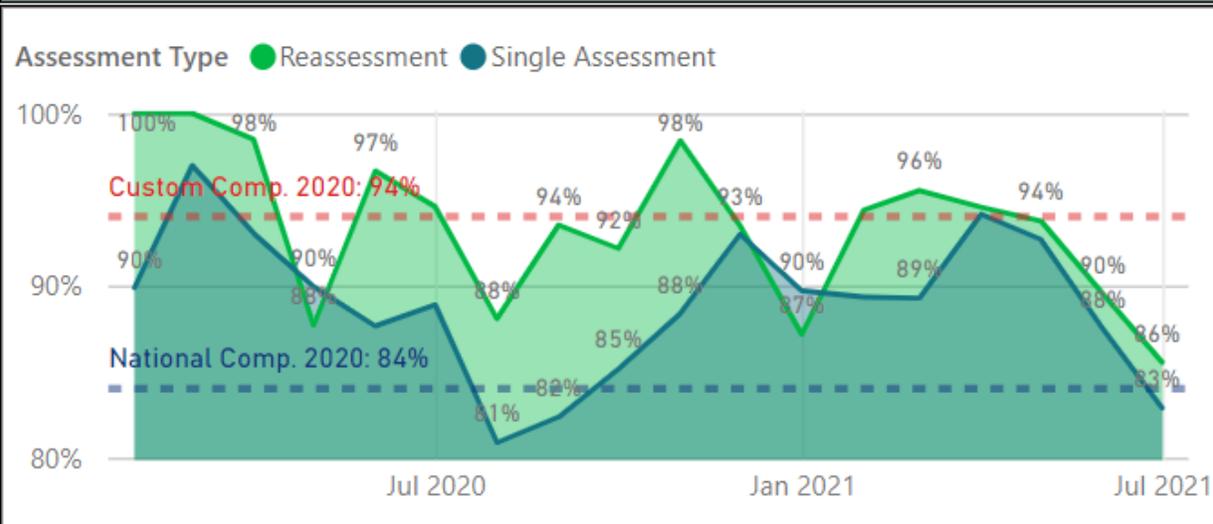
## Timeliness of assessments;

- Devon = 83%
- Good LAs = 94%

Outcome of Single Assessments completed in the last month

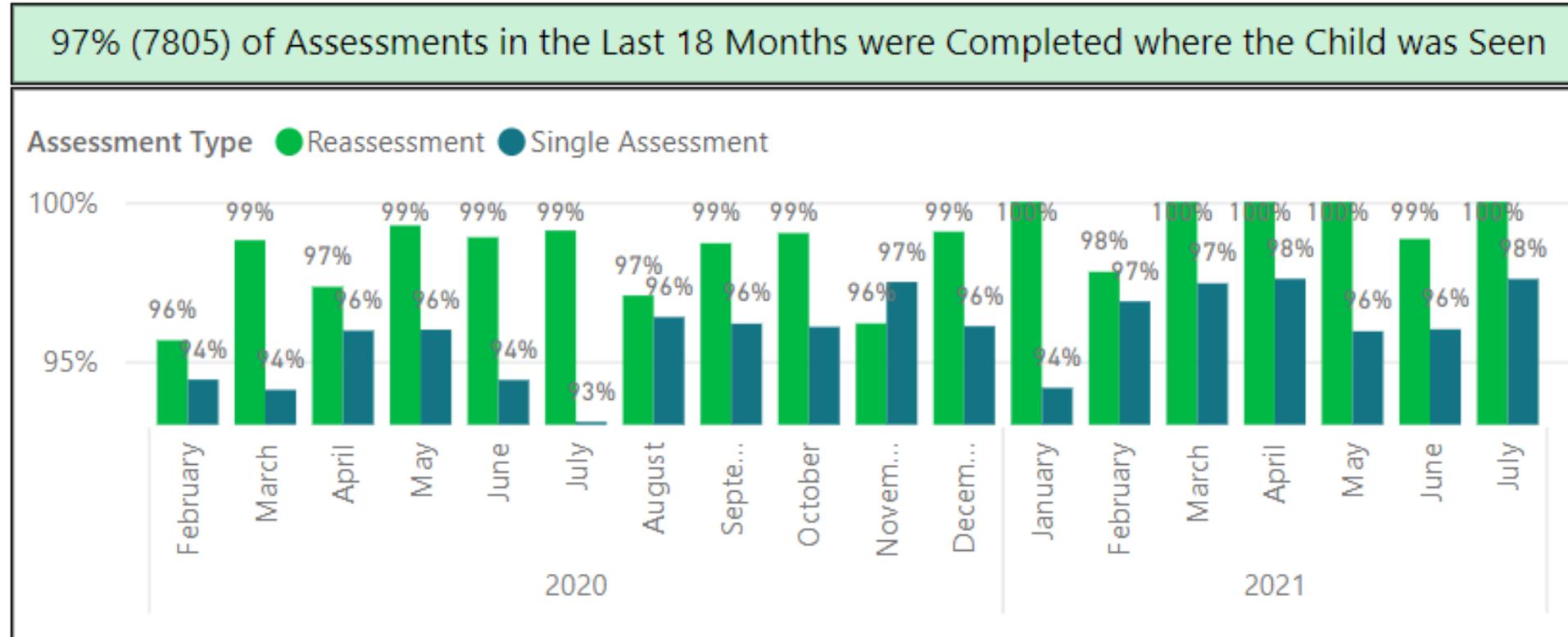


89% (7027) of Assessments in the Last 18 Months were Authorised in 45 days



- Timeliness impacted by increased demand, higher caseloads and staff turnover.
- Ofsted commented that assessments lacked curiosity
- Principle of the Devon Children and Families Partnership; **To ensure children and families receive the right support, at the right time, and in the right place.**
- Currently outcomes of assessments indicates that too many families are subject to an assessment by a social worker that doesn't lead to ongoing statutory support.
- Indicates that more families could receive an effective early help offer and further exploration is being undertaken.

# Children seen as part of assessments - overall



- Small number of children not seen as part of assessments completed by social workers, usually where they are unborn but occasionally adolescents who don't want to engage.

# Numbers of children in need overall

Breakdown of the Number of **Open** CIN Plans in the last 18 months



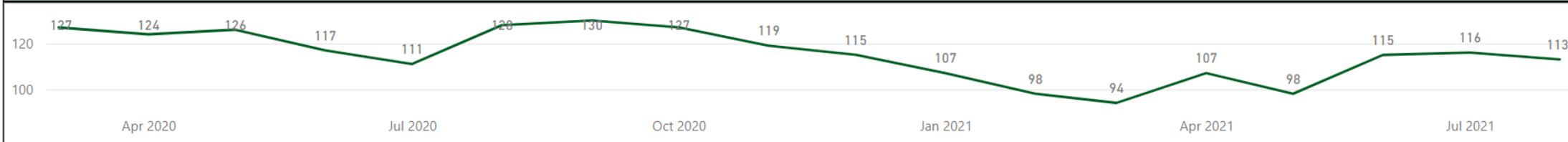
- Increasing numbers of children and families receiving support as children in need (S17 Children Act - where their health or development is likely to be impaired without the provision of service)
- Includes high proportion of children and young people experiencing neglect
- Increased likelihood of changes being made with families when problems first emerge
- Refocusing family group conferencing service to build resilience in families to support change needed

# Children in Need – by locality

Breakdown of the Number of **Open** CIN Plans in the last 18 months



Breakdown of the Number of **Open** CIN Plans in the last 18 months



Breakdown of the Number of **Open** CIN Plans in the last 18 months



Breakdown of the Number of **Open** CIN Plans in the last 18 months

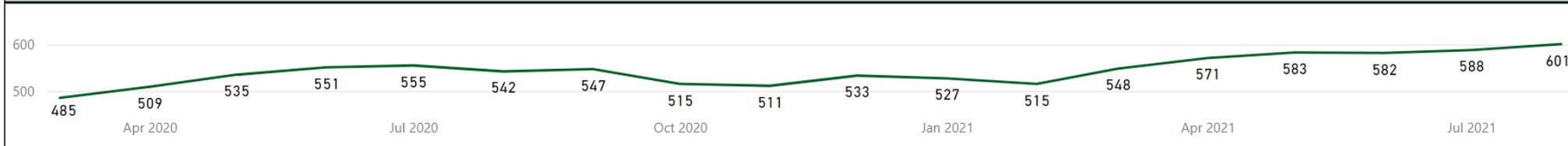


# Children subject to child protection plans overall

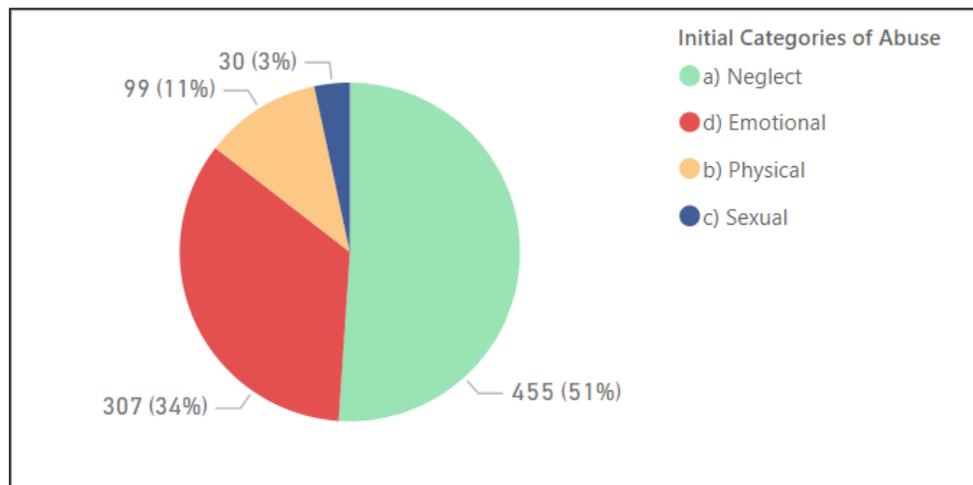
Monthly breakdown of the Number of S47s started in the last 18 months



Monthly breakdown of the Number of **Open** CP Plans in the last 18 months



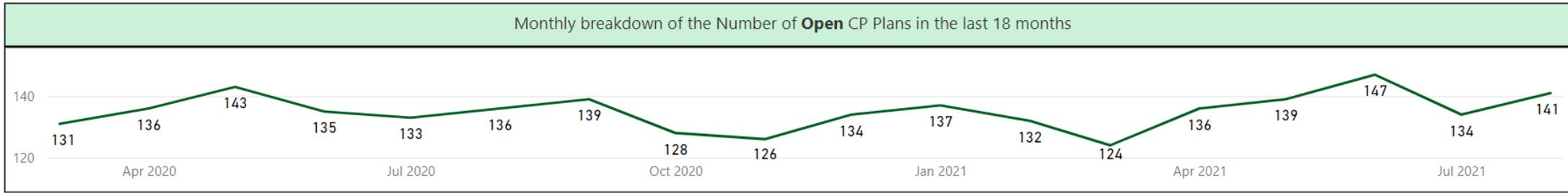
**Rate of CPPs;**  
Devon = 38/10000  
Good LAs = 42/10000



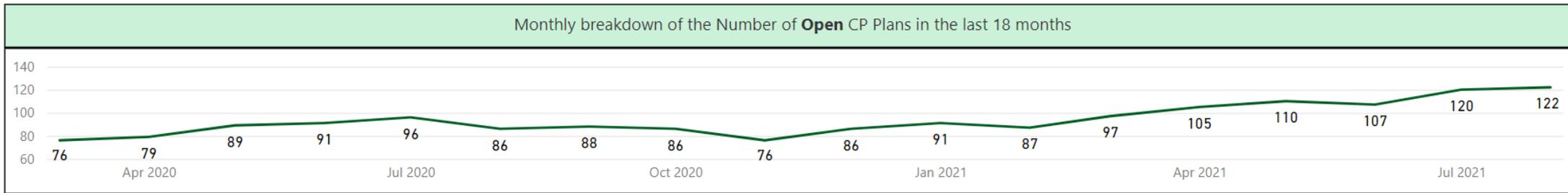
- 51% children are subject to CPPs for neglect; impact of mental health, substance misuse and learning disability
- 34% for emotional abuse; frequently the impact of domestic violence
- 1% in place more than two years
- Improvement work with CP Chairs to ensure CP Plans are outcome focused and support the family to make the changes needed

# Numbers on CPPs by locality

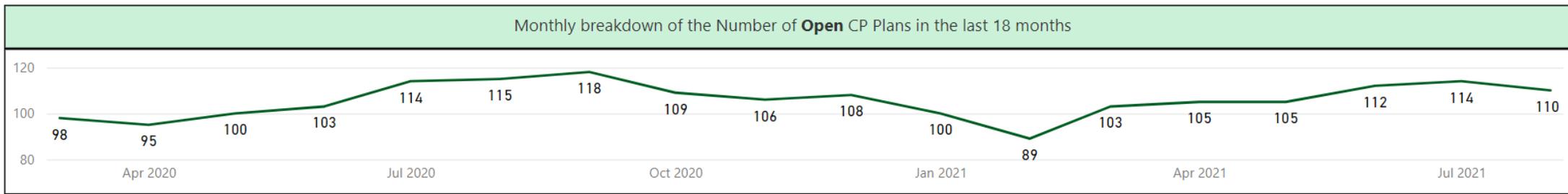
## North Locality



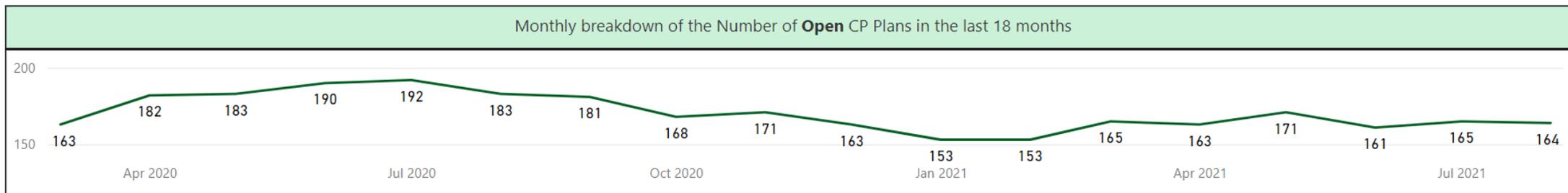
## Exeter Locality



## Mid and East Locality

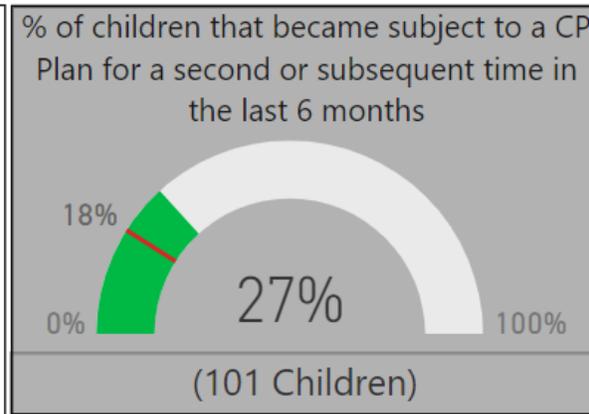
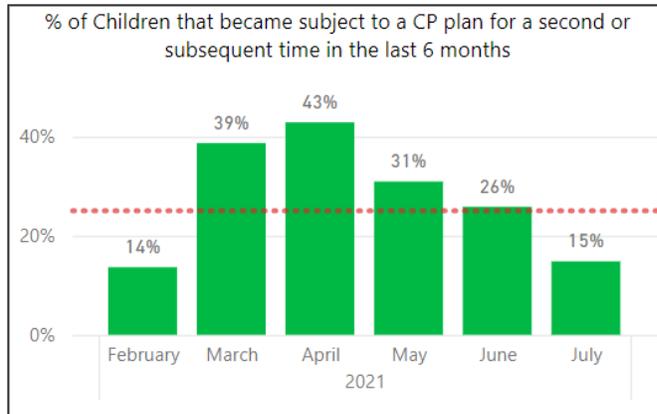


## South Locality

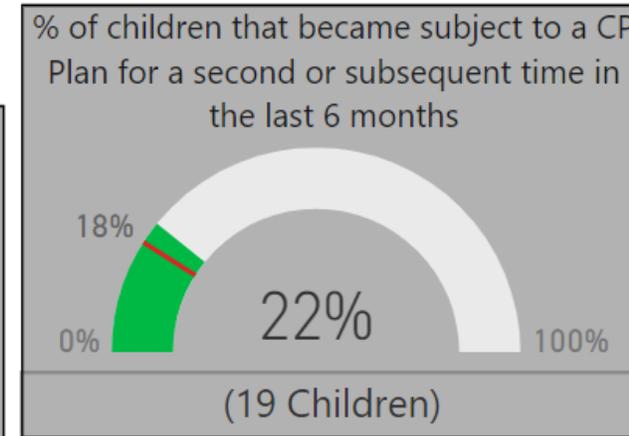


# Repeat Child Protection Plans

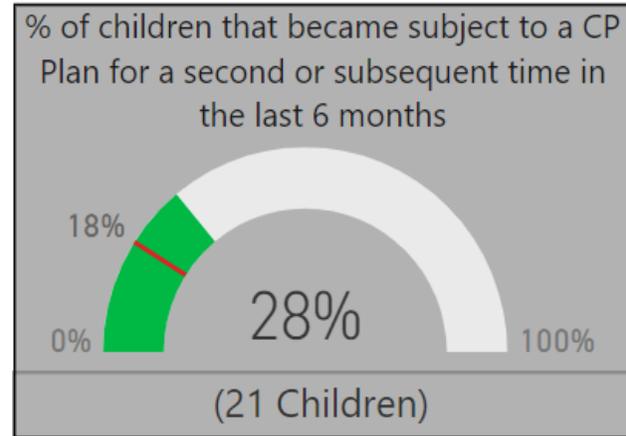
## Overall



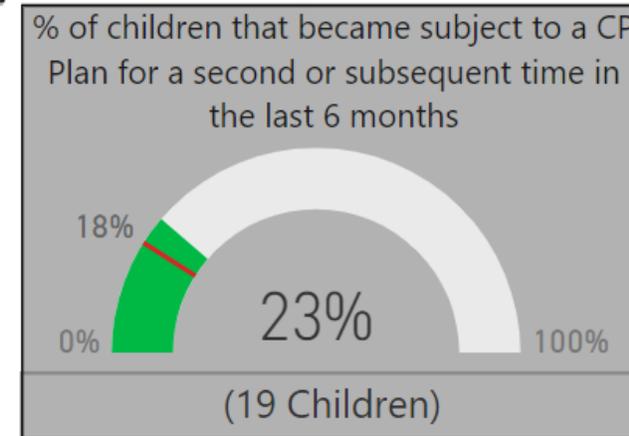
## North Locality



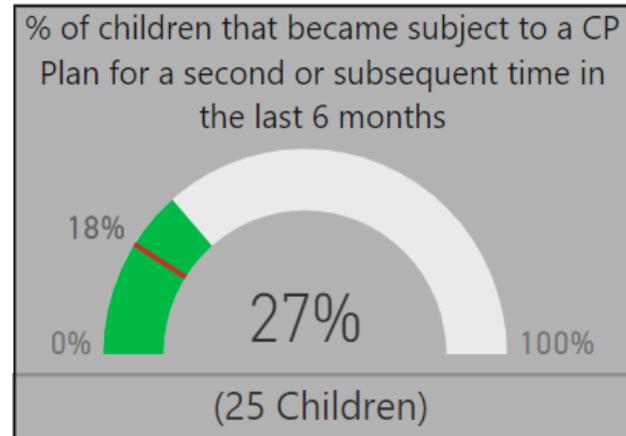
## Mid and East Locality



## Exeter Locality



## South Locality



- Review of all second time child protection plans to ensure the previous intervention was effective
- Oversight of plans ending at 3-6m
- Improved oversight of assessments by TMs to ensure history is considered
- Work with CP Chairs to ensure plans are SMART and outcome focused and progress is reviewed effectively

Devon = 27%

Good LAs = 18%

# Care proceedings (PLO)

## Pre-proceedings in July - numbers show families (children)

Locality	Exeter	Mid & East	North	South	DCS	Total
Up to 12 wks	12 (15)	9 (14)	5 (8)	9 (17)	3 (4)	35 (58)
12 – 16 wks	1 (1)	2 (5)	0	3 (11)	0	6 (18)
16 weeks +	3 (5)	3 (3)	4 (7)	7 (12)	0	17 (27)
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 (21)</b>	<b>14 (22)</b>	<b>9 (14)</b>	<b>18 (40)</b>	<b>3 (4)</b>	<b>58 (101)</b>

## Proceedings in July - numbers show families (children)

Locality	Exeter	Mid & East	North	South	DCS	P & T	Total
<b>Total No. families (children) in court</b>	23 (40)	36 (59)	40 (70)	31 (62)	6 (12)	0 (0)	136 (243)
<b>Number of families (children) issued on in July</b>	2(2)	4(7)	3(5)	3(4)	0(0)	0(0)	12(18)

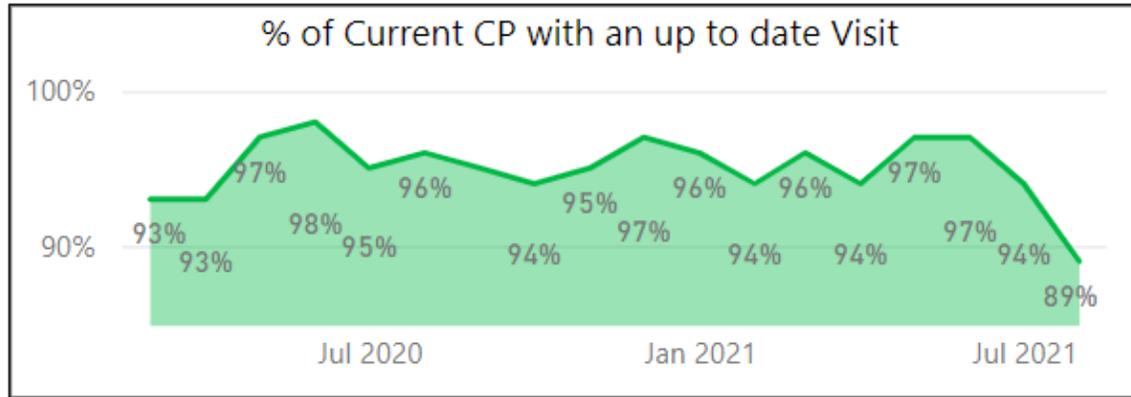
## Total issued proceedings over time - numbers show families (children)

	February	March	April	May	June	July
<b>Issued on</b>	15 (19)	19 (23)	10 (15)	10 (17)	12 (25)	12 (18)
<b>Total</b>	<b>163 (295)</b>	<b>159 (280)</b>	<b>145 (254)</b>	<b>145 (255)</b>	<b>141 (246)</b>	<b>136 (243)</b>

- Target of 12 weeks for pre-proceedings and 26 weeks for proceedings
- 46% of issued cases currently over 26 weeks
- Delays caused by court listings and completion of SW and expert assessments (including family engagement)
- Developing positive relationship with CAFCASS and judiciary
- Ofsted positive about progress
- Improvement supported by two Case Progression Managers
- 16 Families (20 children) concluded by the end of July with 100% success rate for the outcome sought

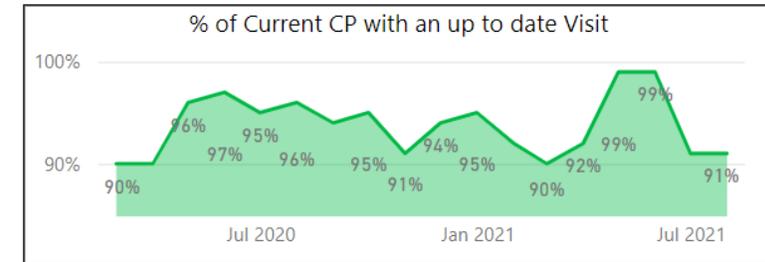
# Visits to children on child protection plans

## Overall



- Managers monitor visits closely using the SW dashboard
- Delays currently experienced in recording visits due to higher caseloads
- Improvement focus on ensuring visits are purposeful and enable the plan to progress.

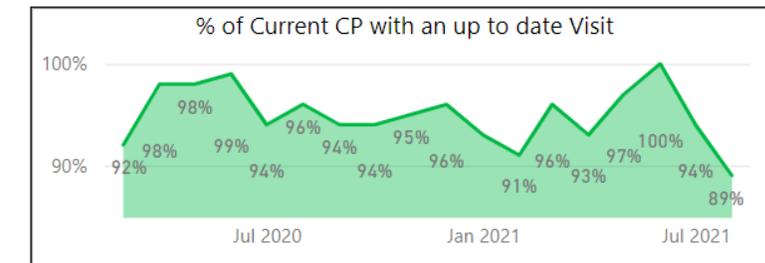
## North Locality



## Exeter Locality



## Mid and East Locality

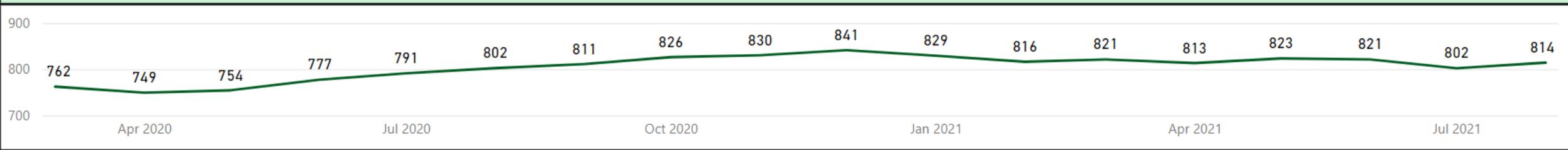


## South Locality

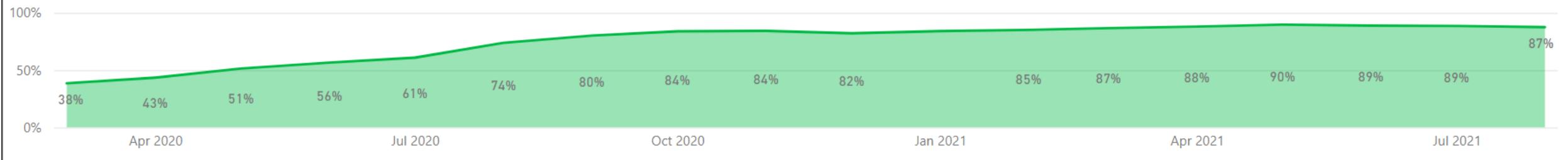


# Numbers of children in care

Monthly breakdown of the Number of **Open** CiC in the last 18 months



% of CiC with a Permanency Plan in the last 18 months



- 'Bridges' working effectively to support adolescents to remain safely at home
- However, increase in number of children entering care and complexity of need
- Particular increase in children with ASD and complex emotional/behavioural needs
- Challenges finding family placements
- Increase in number placed in residential care at high cost
- Six children currently placed in unregistered arrangements
- Outcomes not yet good
- Improving picture on children with permanence plans

# Placement stability for children in care

August 2021

Long Term Placement Stability - Placement Duration of 2 + Years (%)



Number of Children in a Long Term Placement	151
Number of Children in Care for more than 2.5 years	242
<b>62%</b>	

Short Term Placement Stability - 2 + Placement Moves (%)

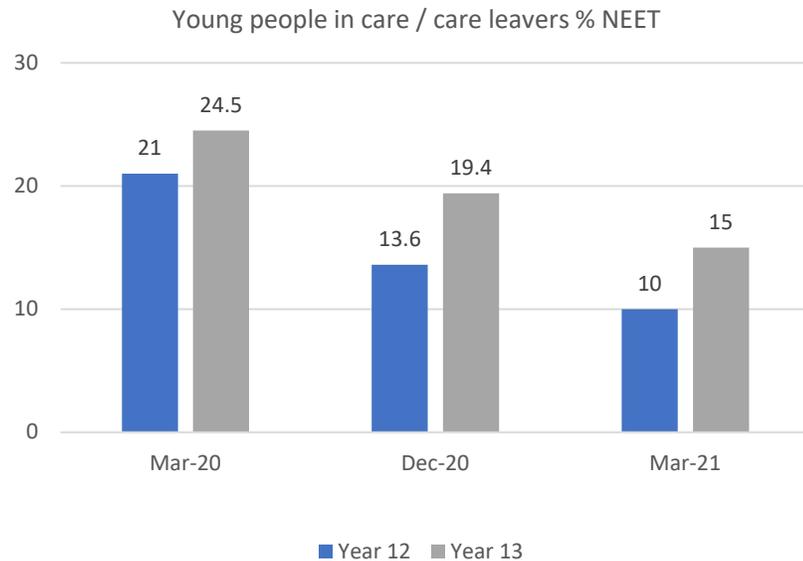


Number of Children in a Short Term Placement	93
Number of Children in Care	814
<b>11%</b>	

- Impact of workforce turnover on relationships with children
- Challenges finding family placements
- Increase in number placed in residential care at high cost
- Six children currently placed in unregistered arrangements
- Outcomes not yet good
- Improving picture on children with permanence plans

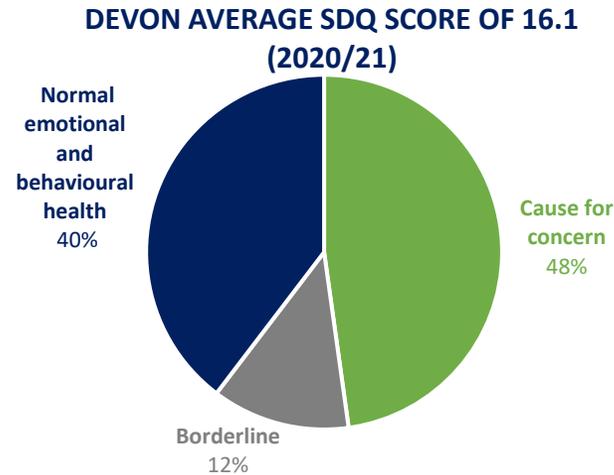
**% of children in care with 3+ placements in past 12m;**  
Devon = 11.1%  
Good LAs = 10.5%

## Not in education, employment and training



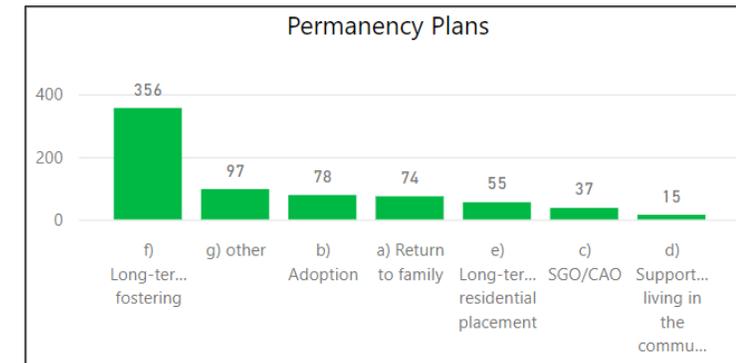
The numbers of care-experienced young people (in years 12-13), who are NEET, has reduced significantly in the last 12 months. While there is more to do to ensure this is consistent, it represents positive progress in ensuring our care-experienced young people in Devon are set up in the best way possible for adult life

## Emotional wellbeing

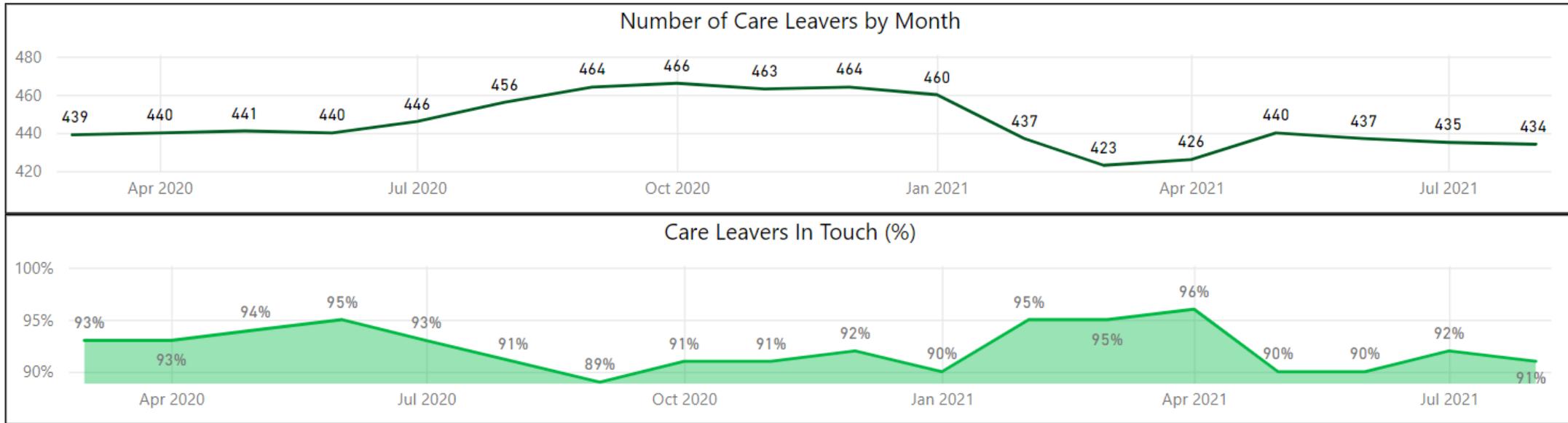


249 children in care are open to CAMHS as of February 2021, with all children entering care being screened by a mental health professional.

## Permanence



Ensuring children have a long term care plan that provides security and stability.



19-21 year olds;

Completion of Pathway Plans;



	Visits	Pathway plans
North	83%	89%
Mid & East	83%	91%
Exeter	80%	87%
South	77%	77%

- Closely monitoring young people in unsuitable accommodation
- Focus on ensuring all young people have up to date Pathway Plans that set out clear outcomes to support them to progress to adulthood
- Working closely with partners to ensure effective planning for care leavers with more complex needs and risk taking behaviour.

- Proposed recruitment and retention measures progressing to Cabinet on 08/09/2021 given challenges in qualified SW workforce
- Additional temporary teams extended for a further six months given vacant posts unfilled by agency workers. Additional funding also agreed for Admin and Family Practitioners to address SW shortages.
- Improved oversight of recruitment, including agency staff, being reported weekly.
- Implementation of career progression grade for SWs and recruitment underway for 24 new Adv SW roles across teams. 11 in post + 2 permanent Advanced Social Workers appointed in July.
- Frontline Units on track for starting in August – 8 participants
- 12 ASYEs appointed this year.
- Leeds Relational Practice Centre to commence management development in July
- Numbers of children allocated to front-line workers in localities have risen - with exceptional pressure in the Mid & East locality.
- Across localities this has impacted negatively on staff retention. Manageable work-loads are a key feature of establishing an effective restorative and relational approach to social work and represents a risk to improvement work having the required impact.

## SW Caseloads

Average 20

### Staff leaving July 2021

Practitioners	1
Managers	3
Grand Total	4

### Permanent/ Agency rates in frontline teams

	FTE Est	Perm Employees	Agency	Vacancies
TM	32	20 (63%)	8	2
ATM	14	8 (57%)	4	2
SW	195	97 (50%)	55	33
PA	34	29 (85%)	0	5
TOTALS	275	154 (56%)	67	36