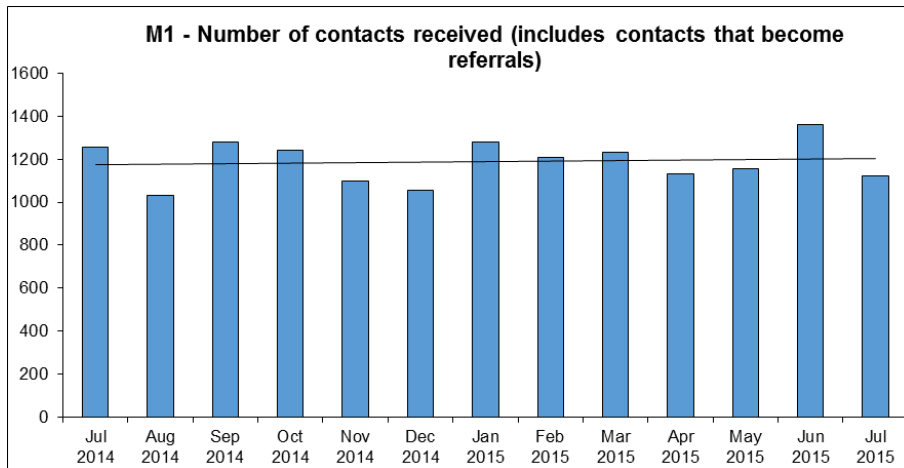


Children and Families Monthly Report – July

Quantitative measures: significant changes (+/-10%)

M1 - Number of contacts received (includes contacts that become referrals)

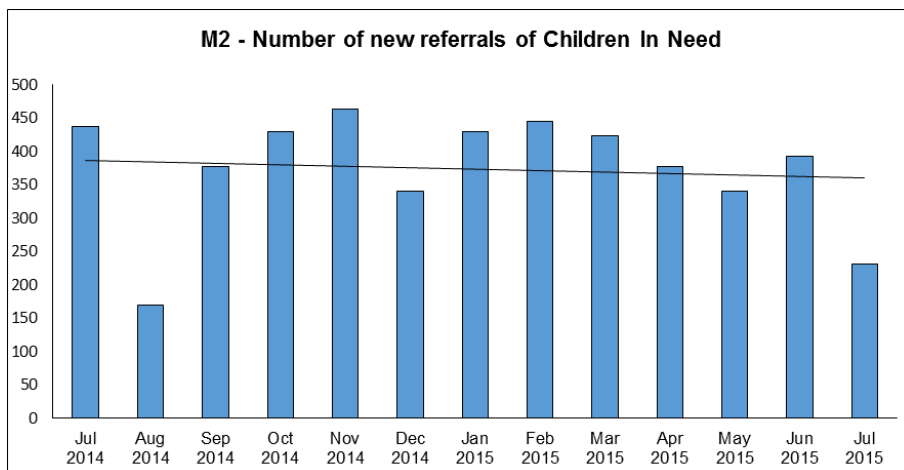
The number of contacts received decreased by 11% compared to the same period last year, and also by 13% compared to the previous month, when the figure was at its highest at 1,363.



M2 - Number of new referrals of Children In Need and M3 - Percentage of all contacts that become new referrals of Children In Need

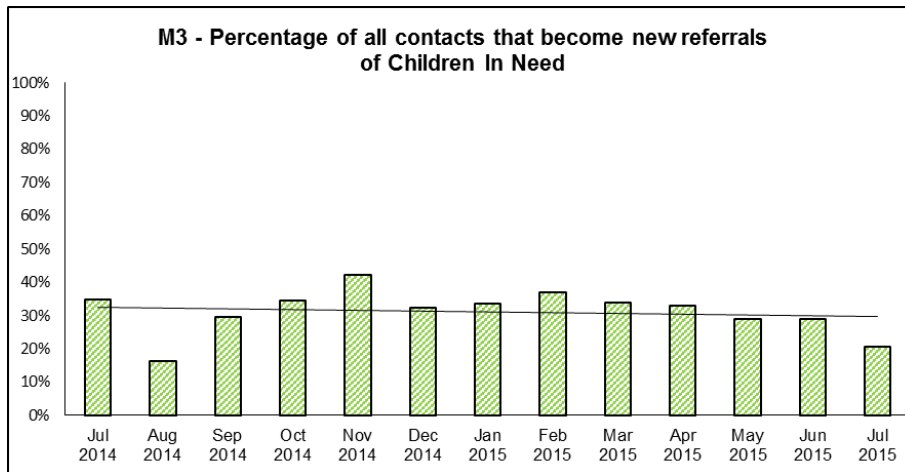
Children in Need (CiN) referrals as an absolute number, and as a percentage of all contacts, are significantly down compared to the same period last year and to the previous month.

The number of new CiN referrals is down by 47% compared to the same period last year, and also 37% lower than the 12 month average of 368.



The percentage of all contacts that became new referrals in Children In Need was down by 41% compared to the same period last year and 34% below the 12 month average. This measure, together with referral sources for July seem to indicate that a large proportion of contacts that become new referrals of Children in Need may come from schools – hence the decrease during the summer holiday season - but this is open to speculation as not enough data has been collected to make reliable comparisons.

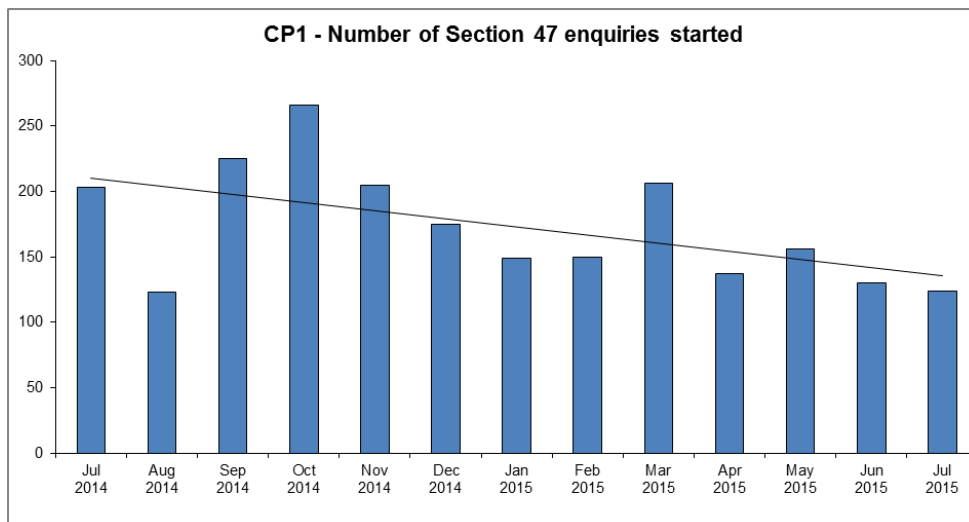
The percentage conversion rate is low, which would suggest a lack of understanding of thresholds by partner agencies. Further training may be an appropriate way of clarifying the referral criteria and thus improving the process.



CP1 - Number of Section 47 enquiries started

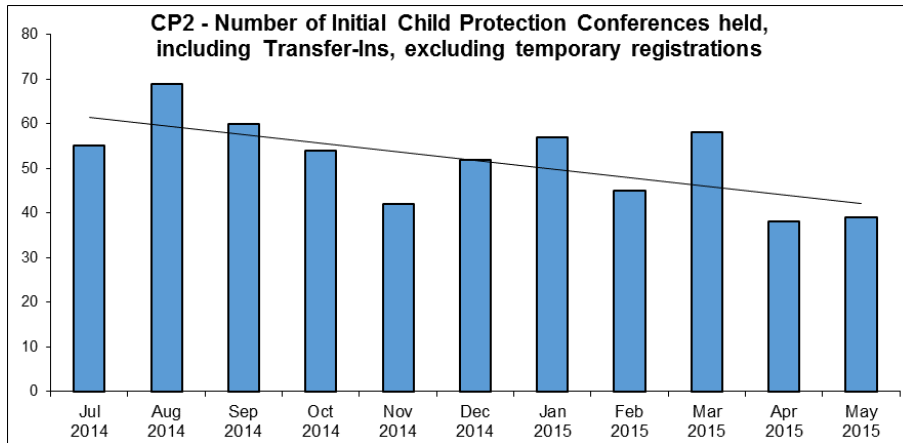
The number of Section 47 enquiries started in July has gone down by 39% compared to the same period last year, and is 27% below the 12 month average of 171. There has been a continued downward trend over the last 13 months.

According to MASH, there was a low number of referrals from schools during the summer period prior to the end of the school term. This may have contributed to the decrease in the numbers of Section 47 enquiries started.



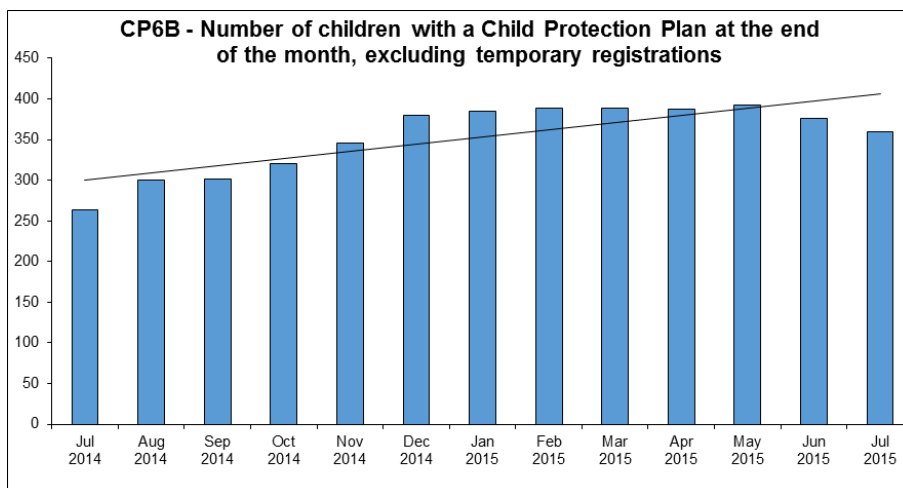
CP2 - Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences held, including Transfer-Ins, excluding temporary registrations

The number of ICPCs held has decreased by 37% compared to the same period last year. Despite some variation over the last 12 months, there has been a continuing downward trend in this figure.



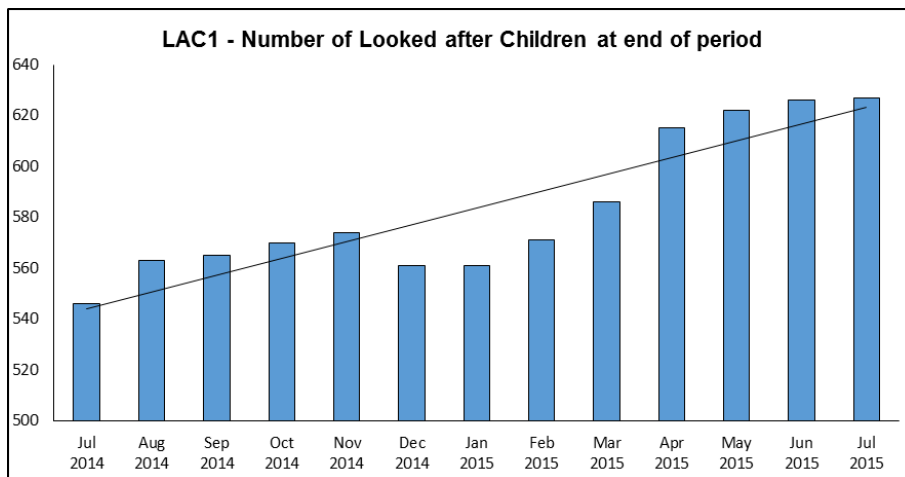
CP6B - Number of children with a Child Protection Plan at the end of the month, excluding temporary registrations

Although there was a 5% decrease since the previous month, there has been a continued and significant upward trend in this figure over the last 12 months, such that the number of children with a CP plan at the end of the July is 37% more than at the end of July last year. This is because of many of the children who were placed on a plan in the second quarter last year are still on a plan as well as those in the peak months of January and March

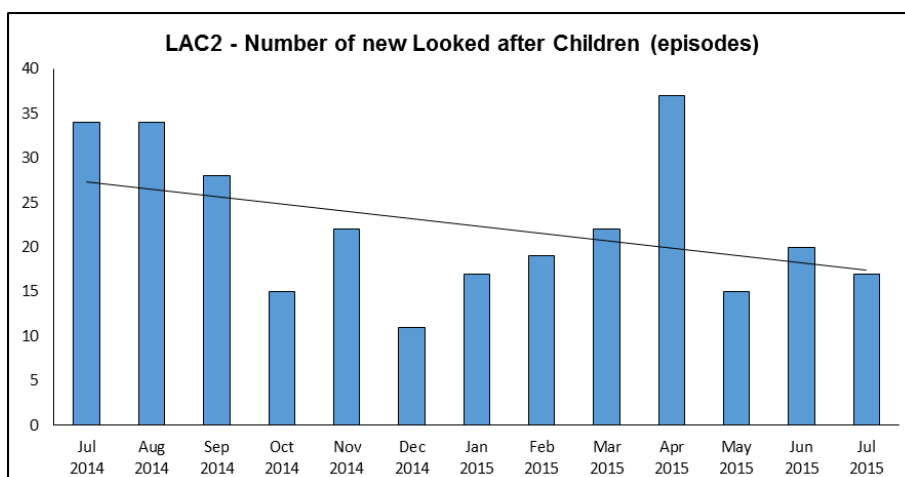


LAC1 - Number of Looked after Children at end of period and LAC2 - Number of new Looked after Children (episodes) and LAC3 - Number of ceasing Looked after Children (episodes)

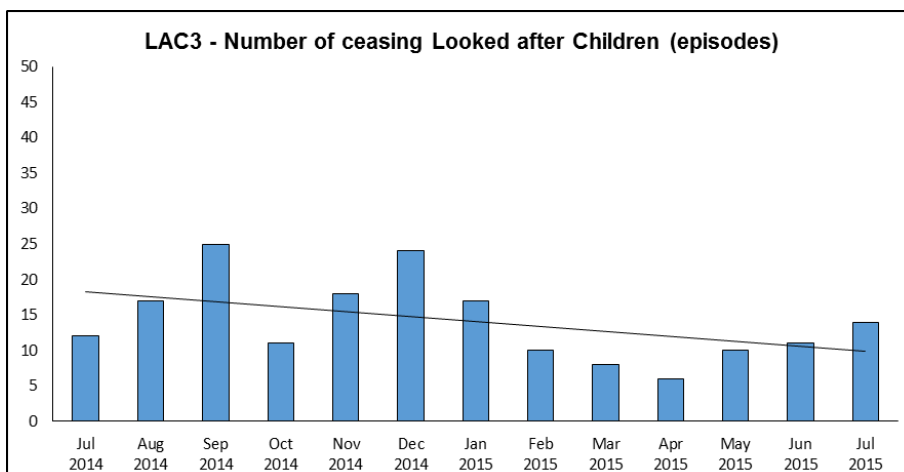
Although July saw the number of Looked after Children increase to 627 compared to 546 for the same period last year - a 15% increase – the number of children becoming looked after has started to slow down.



The number of new Looked after Children (LAC) remains below the 12 month average, and more ceasing LAC episodes were recorded than in any month since January, which is part of an overall downward trend over the last 12 months.

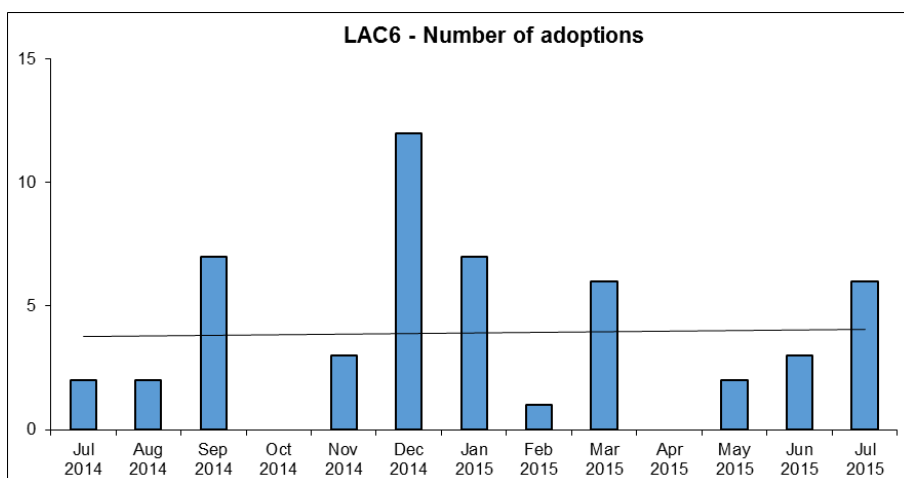


The number of ceasing Looked after Children has increased since the previous month, with the current number now the same as the 12 month average.



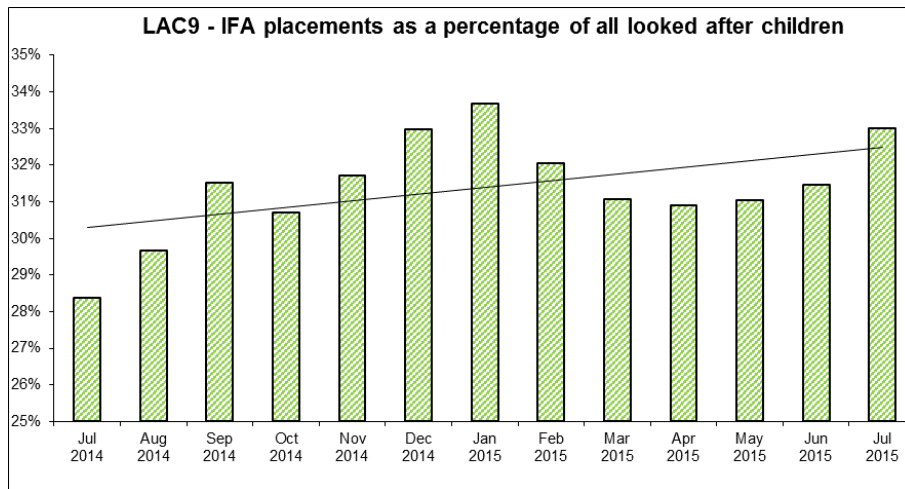
LAC6 - Number of adoptions

In July, six children were adopted, compared to two in the same period last year. There has been notable variation in this measure over the last 12 months, with the average number of adoptions being four, and the highest number of adoptions being 12 in December 2014.



LAC9 - IFA placements as a percentage of all looked after children

There was an increase of 16% in the percentage of looked after children being placed through an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA), compared to the same period last year – but overall, there has not been significant variation in this figure over the last 12 months, with the average figure being 32% and highest value 34%. There does however continue to be an upward trend in the use of IFA's



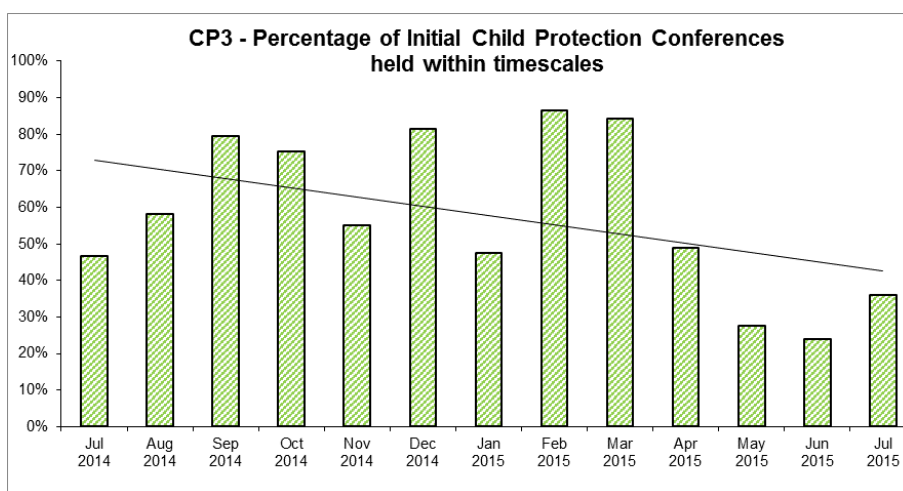
Qualitative measures: significant changes (+/-10%)

Positive change – **negative change**

CP3 - Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales

There was a 23% decrease on this measure compared to the same period last year, when 47% of ICPCs were held within timescales. Compared to the previous month, however, there has been a 50% increase in conferences held within timescales, whilst the total number of ICPCs remains similar (38 in June and 39 in July 2015).

This figure is currently 39% below the 12 month average of 59% and there has been a significant downward trend over the last 12 months. The low figure may at least partially be due to issues in ICPC recording timeliness.

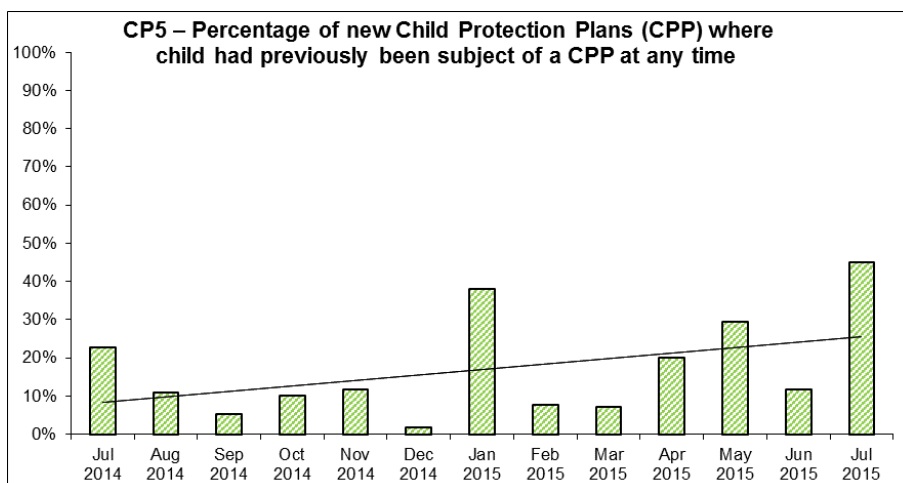


A breakdown by worker/ team has been provided to senior managers to support an examination of processes and ensure improved practice.

CP5 – Percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time

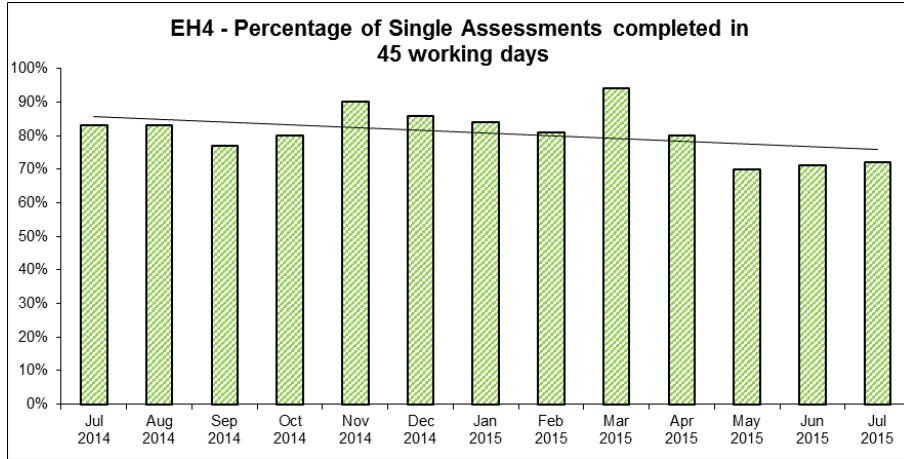
Although the percentage of repeat Child Protection plans in July has significantly increased compared to the same period last year the previous month of this year, this increase is in part due to 4 of the 13 children who had repeat CP Plans coming from one family. The previous times when the other nine children were subject to CP plans were two or more years ago.

There has however been an upward trend on this measure over the last 12 months.



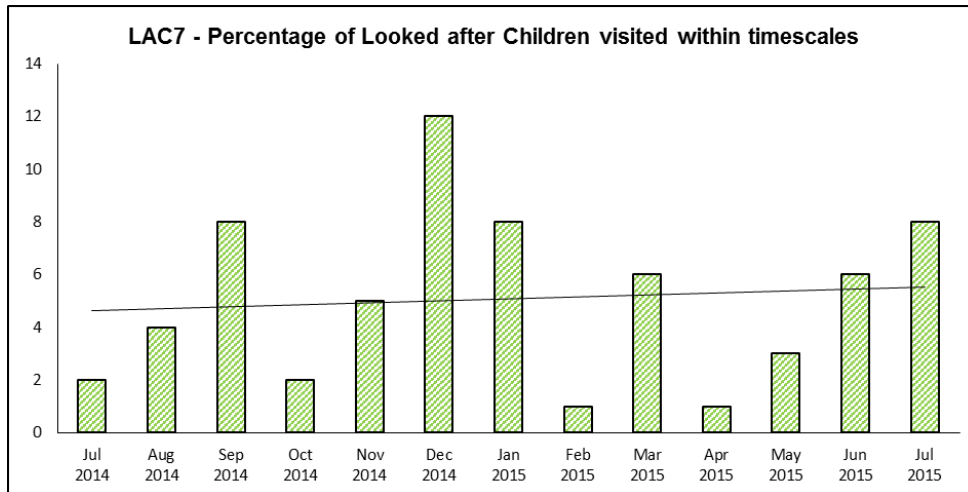
EH4 - Percentage of Single Assessments completed in 45 working days

Although this figure remains similar to the previous month – despite the fact there was an increase in the number of Single Assessments received - it is 13% lower than the same period last year, and below the 12 month average of 81%. Regular reports of child-level data are planned to enable close monitoring of this figure, which is expected to improve timeliness of completion.



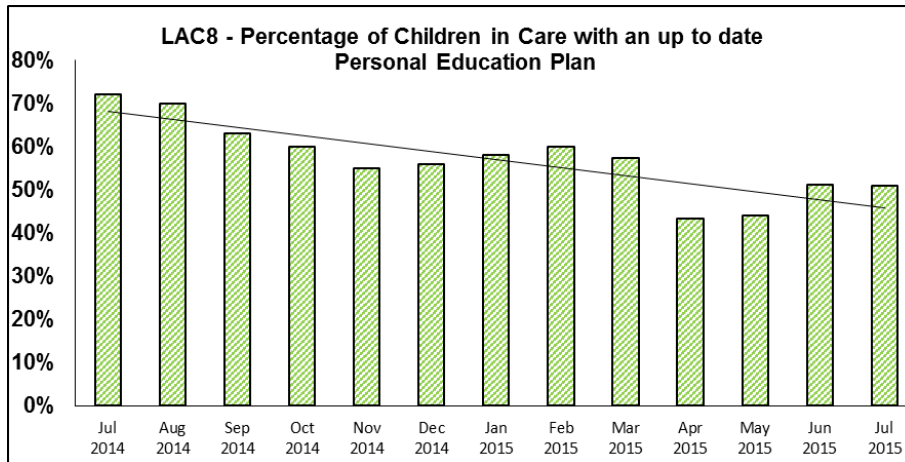
LAC7 - Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales

There has been an increase of 15% in this measure, from 62% in the same period last year to 71% in July 2015. This figure continues to be above the 12 month average.



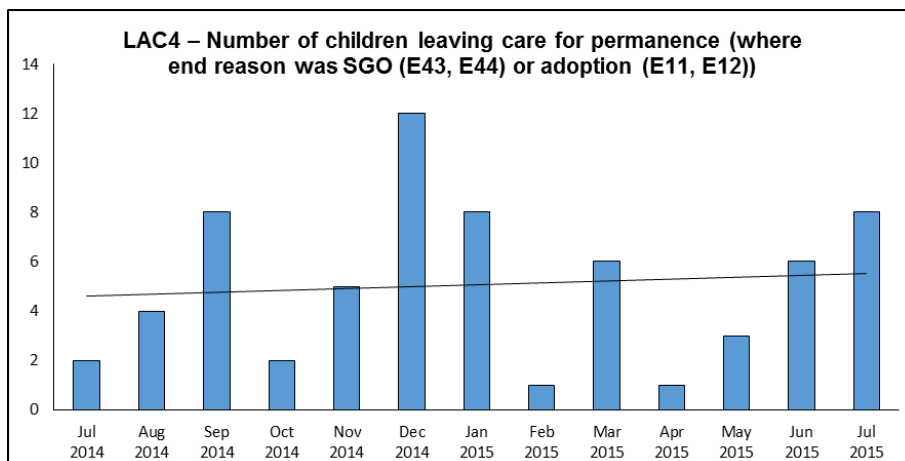
LAC8 - Percentage of Looked after Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan

This figure has decreased by 29% compared to the same period last year. There has been a significant downward trend in this figure over the last 12 months, with July's figure 9% below the 12 month average of 56%.



LAC4 – Number of children leaving care for permanence (where end reason was SGO (E43, E44) or adoption (E11, E12)) and LAC5 – Percentage of children leaving care for permanence (where end reason was SGO (E43, E44) or adoption (E11, E12))

In July, eight children left care for permanence, compared to two in the same period last year, which represents a 300% increase in the measure. There has been a lot of variation in the percentage measure over the last 12 months, which is due to the very low volumes reported; the 12 month average for the number of children leaving care is 5.



In terms of the percentage change, there has been a 242% increase compared to the same period last year, with the figure now 54% above the 12 month average of 37%:

