

Children and Families Monthly Report - September 2015

Summary

September saw the start of the Autumn term in schools, which has likely affected certain performance figures, such as numbers of referrals, numbers of Section 47 enquiries started and numbers of Initial and Review Child Protection conferences held.

When looking at the qualitative measures, we see that the percentage of re-referrals of Children In Need within one year, the percentage of new Child Protection Plans where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time in their lifetime, the percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 14 calendar days, and the percentage of Looked after Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan all showed negative changes when compared to the previous month, the same period in the previous year, or both.

Positive changes include the percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where the time from when the referral was received to completion was one working day or less, and the percentage of children leaving care for permanence (where end reason was Special Guardianship or adoption).

This month, the percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences resulting in a Child Protection Plan represents an exceptional figure at 100%. This appears to indicate that the right threshold has been met for the children who were brought into an ICPC.

Other notable changes in September include the percentage of IFA placements, which, although not a significant change, has for the first time been recorded at under 30% since the recording began in June 2014.

N.B. The number of Review Child Protection Conferences in the month has not been included in this analysis – this measure has only been reported on since April 2015, so comparative figures for the full year are not available, and although there is a notable change when compared to the previous month, it is assumed to be purely circumstantial (due to school holidays).

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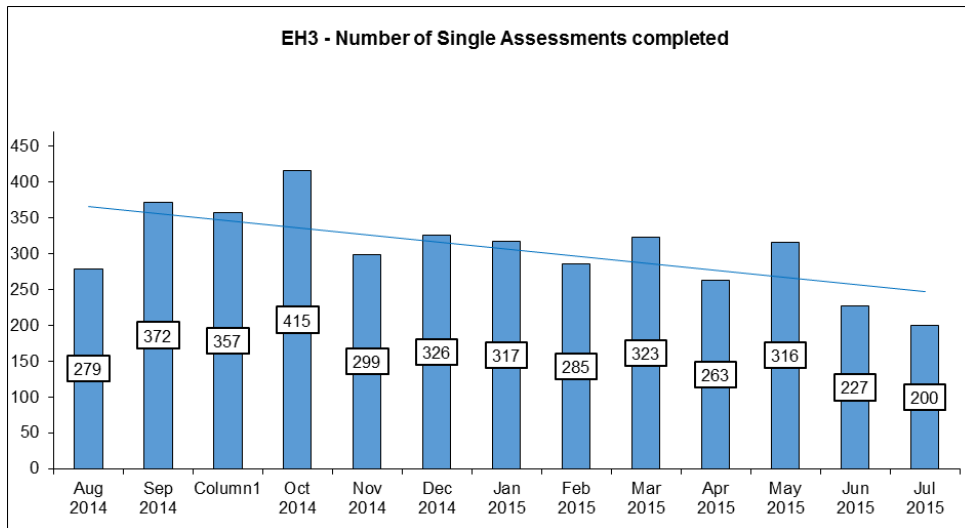
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Quantitative measures: significant changes (+/-10%)

Assessments

EH3 - Number of Single Assessments completed

The number of Single Assessments completed has decreased by 12% compared to the previous month, and 28% compared to the same period in the previous year. There is a continuing downward trend on this figure and this month's figure is, at 200, 35% below the 12-month average of 308.

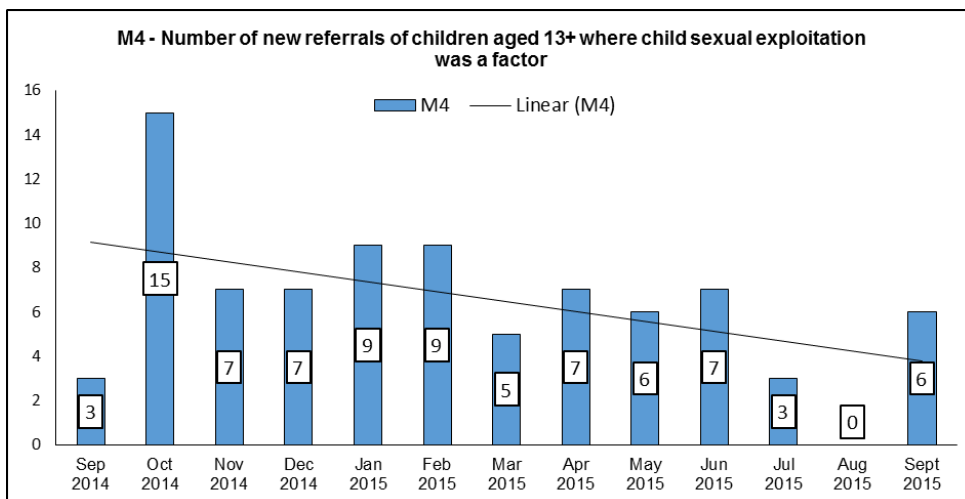


MASH and Children in Need (CiN)

M4 - Number of new referrals of children aged 13+ where child sexual exploitation was a factor

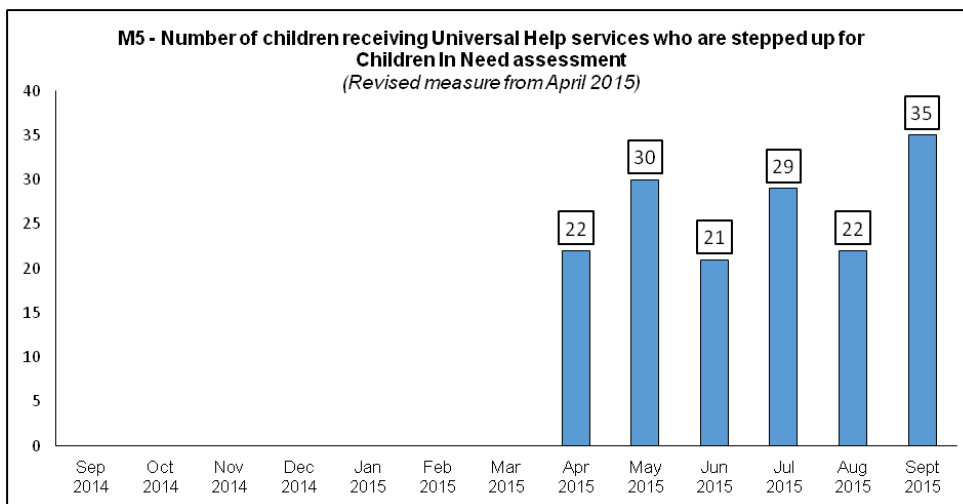
There has been an increase of 100% in this figure compared to the same period last year, but it should be noted that child sexual exploitation is recorded either as 'at risk', 'vulnerable to' and 'subject to', and the graph below presents the total of all three categories.

This has been noted to be an area where further development is required in all three areas: Practice, recording and reporting.



M5 - Number of children receiving Universal Help services who are stepped up for Children In Need (CiN) assessment

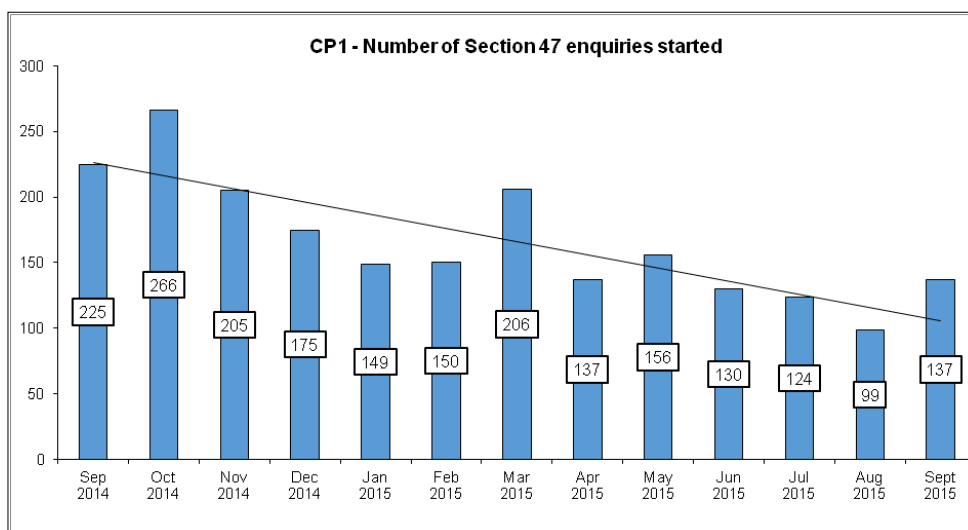
This indicator has only been monitored since April 2015; therefore, trend analysis is currently not viable. There have, however, been substantial changes month on month – a 59% increase compared to the previous month, and a 67% increase compared to June 2015, which at 21 currently represents the lowest value within the last six months.



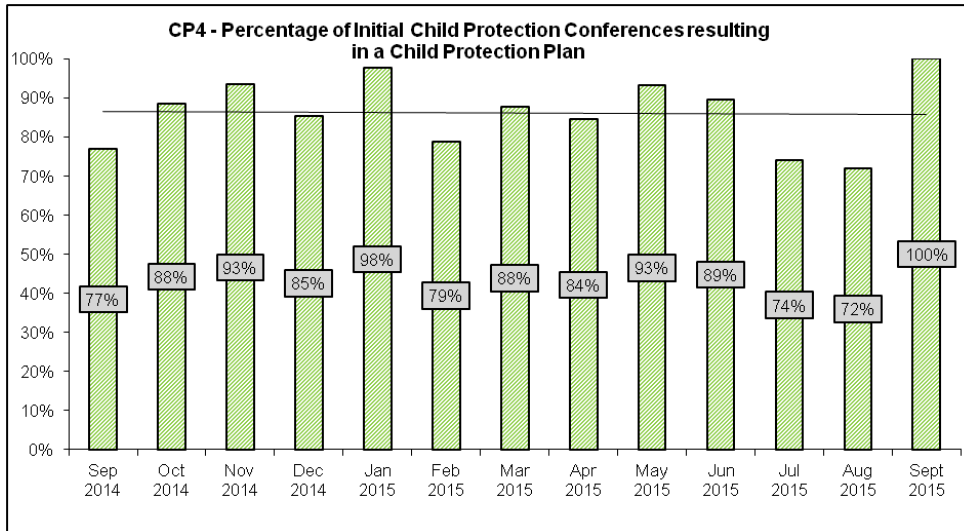
Child Protection (CP)

CP1- Number of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started

The number of Section 47 enquiries started has decreased month on month since May 2015, but has peaked slightly in September, after an exceptionally low figure in August. Compared to the same period last year, the number has gone down by 39%. There is expected to be an even larger percentage change next month, as the comparative figure of October 2014 is, at 266, currently the highest value within the last 12 month.

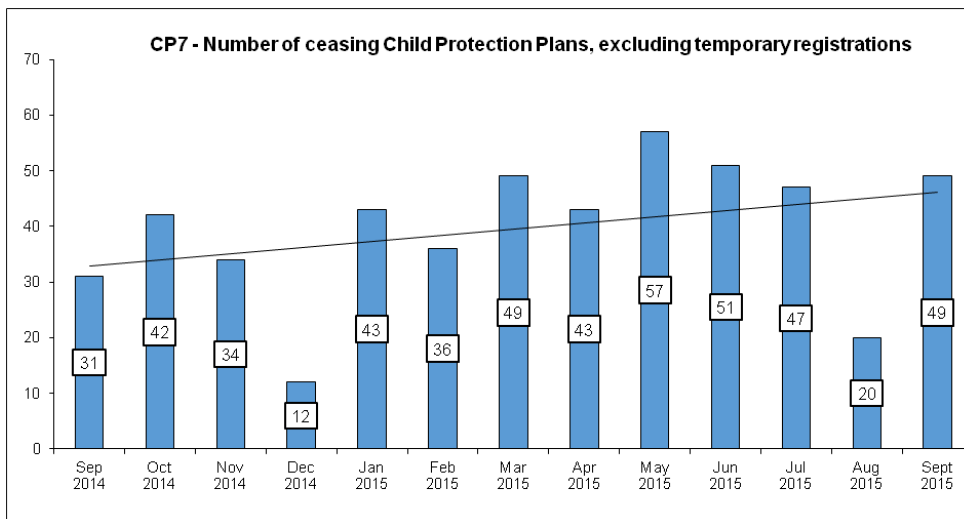


CP4 - Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan
 In September, all ICPCs held resulted in a Child Protection plan – a first time in two years or more, although January 2015 was close at 98%. A high percentage is an indication that relevant children are brought into an ICPC when the result of it is that they are put on a Child Protection plan. Looking back, this is generally one of the best performing figures in all performance areas and shows that the process is well established and functions as intended.



CP7 - Number of ceasing Child Protection Plans (CPP), excluding temporary registrations

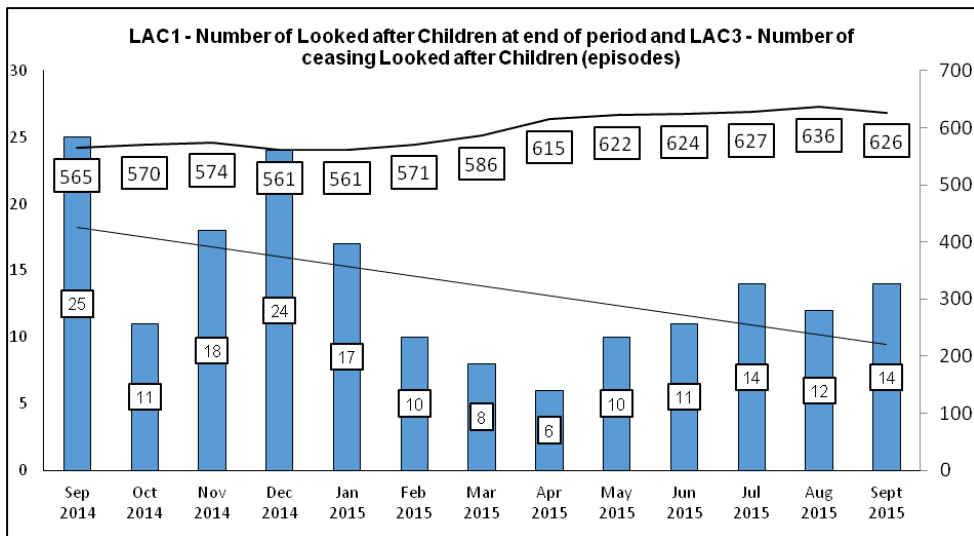
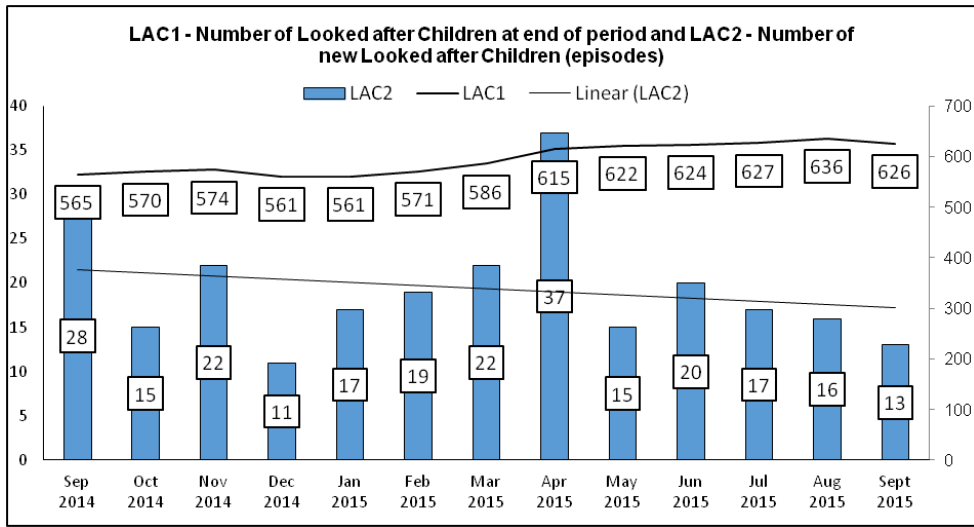
The number of ceasing CPPs has increased by 58%, from 31 in the same period previous year to 49 in September 2015. The number is currently 23% above the 12-month average of 40, and despite the drop in August, there is a clear upward trend on this figure.



Looked after Children (LAC)

LAC2 - Number of new Looked after Children (episodes)

This indicator has decreased by 19% compared to August, and 54% compared to the same period last year. Numbers of Looked after Children are shown below in two graphs – which also show that the numbers of new and ceasing Looked after Children are not accurately reflected in the total number of Looked after Children, for which reason, it may be assumed that episode of new and ceasing LAC are at times recorded subsequently, which then in turn affects the accuracy of all three measures (LAC1, LAC2 and LAC3).



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

Positive change – **Negative change**

MASH and Children in Need (CiN)

M6 - Percentage of referrals of Children In Need (CiN) which are re-referrals within one year

At 20%, the percentage of CiN referrals which are re-referrals has gone up by 19% compared to the previous month, and 78% compared to the lowest percentage (11%) in May 2015. This is after a positive decrease of 20% in August, when comparing to July 2015.

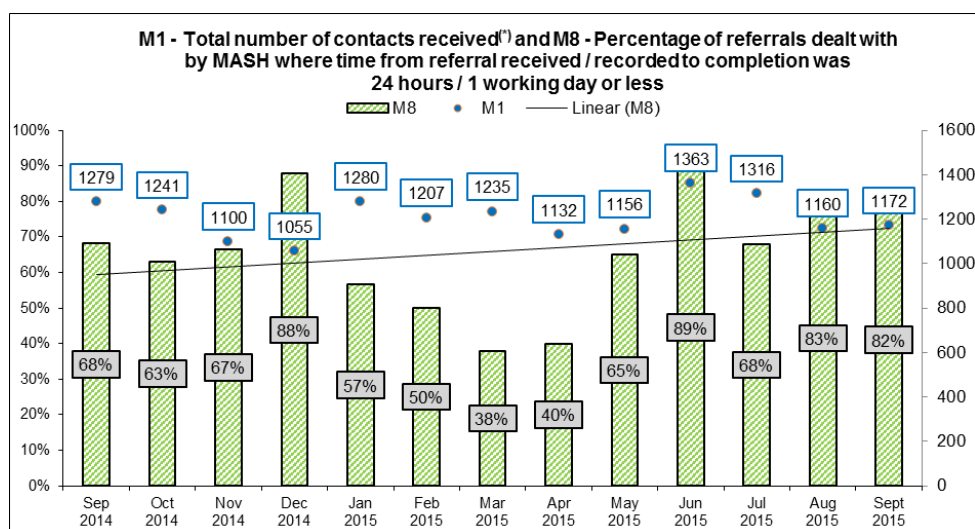
There were 69 children in September who were re-referrals to Children in Need within one year. This appears to indicate the children / families did not receive the level of support they needed at the time, and there is a risk that without that support, their problems could escalate further.

With this figure, it is useful to look at both of the percentage, and the actual numbers of children that have returned within one year. The largest number of children subject to re-referrals was 76 (in July 2015).

M8 - Percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where time from referral received / recorded to completion by MASH was 24 hours / 1 working day or less

There has been a 20% increase in this percentage compared to the same period last year, and the figure is now 24% above the 12-month average of 66%.

The graph below shows the indicator together with the total number of contacts received (M1), and it may be useful to consider what factors affect this percentage, as when looking at the total number of contacts it can be seen that the fluctuations do not occur in unison. As noted in the previous month's analysis, reasons for changes in this figure should be investigated to see what can be done to improve consistency of performance.

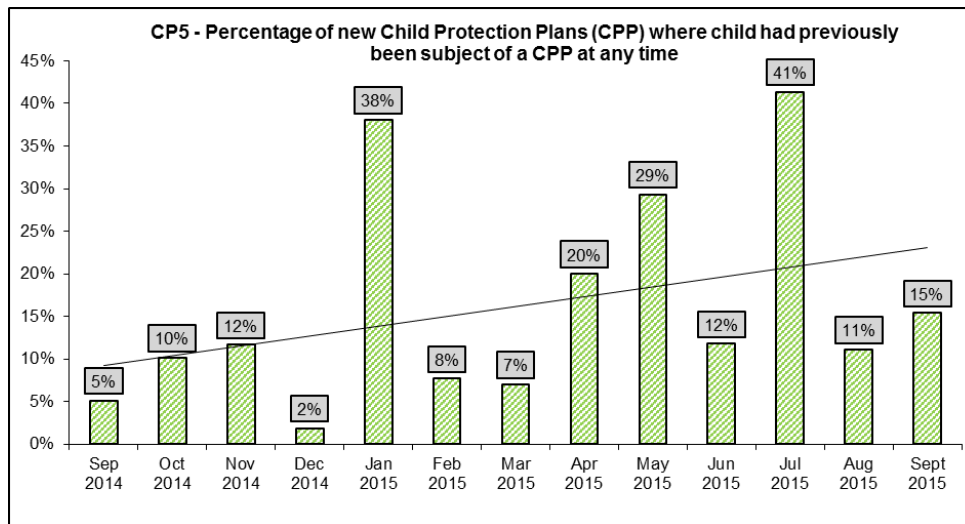


Child Protection (CP)

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

There has been an increase in the percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where the child has previously been subject of a plan compared to both the previous month (38%) and the same period last year (200%). The numbers of repeat CP plans are low – under five in September – for which reason, any change in the number will affect the percentage significantly. We also know that none of the repeat CP plans were recent occurrences – the initial episodes took place three to four years ago

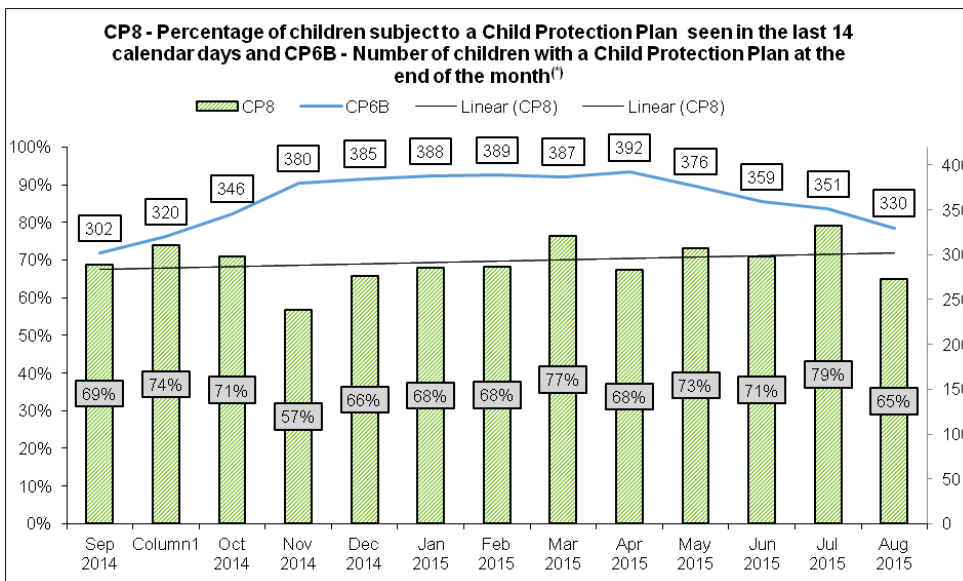
Details of these children have been forwarded to the relevant Principal Officer, for further investigation of their individual circumstances and reasons for their re-referrals.



CP8 - Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 14 calendar days

This figure has decreased by 18% compared to August 2015, when the percentage, at 79%, was at its highest within the last 12 months. At 215, the actual figure is also lower than in the previous month (278).

It could be expected that the number of statutory and other duties to be completed each month increases when the total number of children on CP plans is higher, but the graph below clearly shows that the percentage of children seen in the last 14 calendar days is not affected by the total number. Factors which have a negative effect on this performance indicator, and which are within our control, should be investigated and eliminated where possible, to ensure that children who are subject to Child Protection plans are visited within timescales, and the visits are recorded in a timely manner.

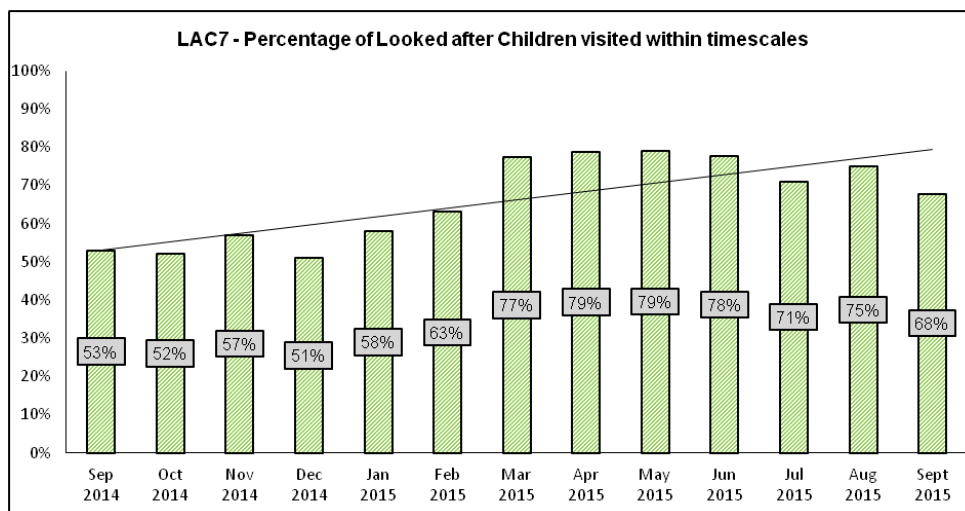


Looked After Children (LAC)

LAC7 - Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales

This figure has decreased by 10% from the previous month, but has seen a positive increase of 28% when comparing to the same period last year. In numbers, 424 out of 626 children were visited within timescales.

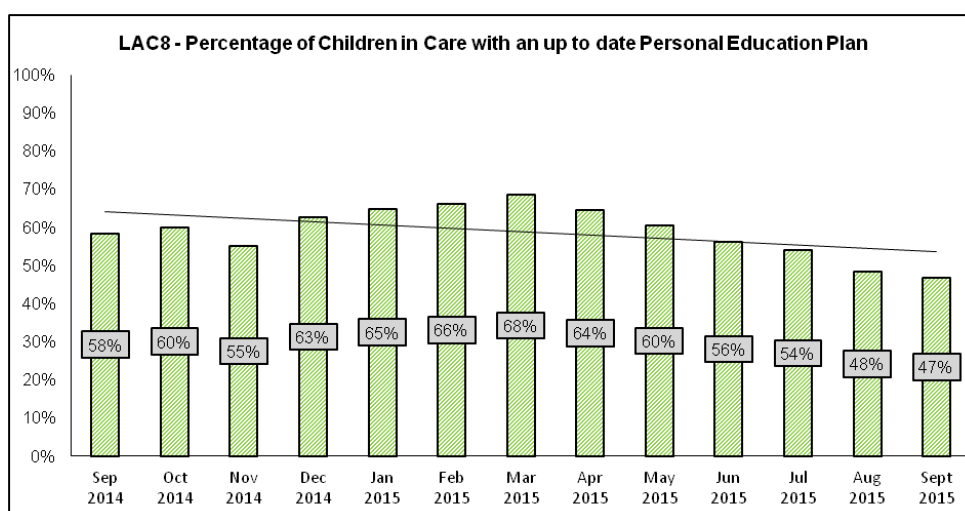
There continues to be a steep upward trend on this figure, thanks to the improved performance levels from March 2015 onwards. The figure is still just above the 12-month average of 67%, and currently 33% above the lowest level (51%) seen in December 2014.



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

The percentage of Looked after Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan has decreased month on month since March 2015, and is now 21% below the 12 month average of 59%, and also at its lowest in the last 12 months. To improve future performance, it may be useful to investigate practice in March 2015 to see what positive factors contributed to the high performance level.

In numbers, 236 out of 506 (school-aged) Looked after Children had an up to date Personal Education Plan in September. This is compared to 247 out of 511 children in August and 273 out of 506 children in July.



LAC4, **LAC5** and LAC6 - Number and percentage of children leaving care for permanence (where end reason was Special Guardianship Order (SGO) (E43, E44) or adoption (E11, E12)), and LAC6 – Number of adoptions

The number of children whose LAC episodes ended for permanence (either SGO or adoption) in September was six (of which three were adoptions) – this represents 43% of all ending LAC episodes. The percentage has decreased by 36% when compared to the previous month, but increased by 34% compared to the same period in the previous year, for which reason it is marked above as a positive change.

The second graph below shows that generally, a large proportion of children leaving care for permanence are adopted.

