

Children Looked After Demand Overview – November 2022

Care entrants, exits and proceedings

On 30th October 2022 554 were in the care of Southampton City Council.

Compared to the same point in 2021, we have increased the number of Children Looked After (CLA) by 14 children.

The trend in the last twelve months: November 2021: 540 children in care, peak in April 2022 to 566 and steady reduction to 549 in September with 554 in October 2022.

The number of children coming into care is falling, with 30% less children coming into care April- September 22 compared with Oct 21 – March 22

The number of children leaving care is increasing, but slowly. 38% more children left care April- September 22 compared with Oct 21 – March 22

This year (2022) there have been 6 families (13 children) who have concluded care proceedings. The average duration of these proceedings is 29 weeks. On average in 2021 it took 34 weeks to conclude proceedings.

The overall trend of care proceedings is downwards in terms of demand.

Rate of children in care

Across our statistical neighbour group there has been an increasing trend in the number and rate of children looked after.

As of 30th October 2022, our statistical neighbours rate was 100 per 10,000 children. In Southampton the rate was 106 per 10,000 children.

Reunification/discharge of care order

As of 8th November 2022, 18 children have been identified with a permanency plan agreed for reunification back to their parents' care.

20 children have a plan for discharge of care order.