

Placement Sufficiency Strategy

Supporting Data

2025 to 2030

Placement Sufficiency

The council has a legal duty under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for children looked after that meets their needs, and that as far as is reasonably practicable is within the local authority area.

Placement Sufficiency Strategic Aims

- To invest and strengthen our edge of care offer to support children to continue living with their families**
- To support stability for our children and young people, by providing timely options to achieve permanence**
- To increase our recruitment and retention of mainstream and more specialist foster carers**
- To reduce our use of out of area children's homes and IFA's and increase our inhouse residential homes**
- To commission smarter to reduce costs, assure quality establishing stronger commissioning practices**
- To expand our provision of high quality semi-independent and independent accommodation working**

Full details of our plans are shown in the Placement Sufficiency Strategic Delivery Plan, 2025 to 2030.

Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

Number of Children Looked After has remained relatively stable

597 Children Looked After and 305 Care Leavers (18-21) March 2025

Number of Children Looked After per 10,000 is below the national average

Majority of children looked after live locally in the City or 20 mile radius

Average length of time that children remain looked after 2024 – 2025 is 31 months

Ethnicity of children looked after remains relatively stable

Ratio of Children from Abroad Seeking Safety increased but below national average

Gender ratio of male children looked after has increased slightly (CASS Impact)

Number of children with EHCP has increased

What Our Young People Tell Us – Leicester Asks Survey

Total completing the survey



34%

Live with Foster Carers

28%

Live in a Residential Home

22%

Other

11%

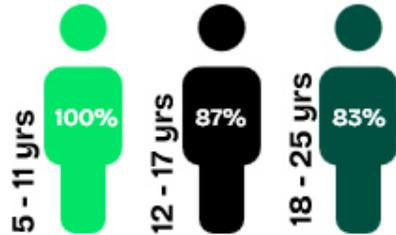
Live with Family or Friends

4%

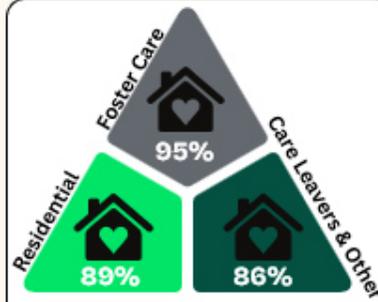
Prefer not to Say



Like where they are living based on:



Their age



Where they live



Like their bedroom

Differences between age groups



5 - 7yrs



8 - 11yrs



12 - 17yrs

AMAZING

My support worker is very kind and listens to me and has helped me a lot

Trust the process - it'll work out in the end. Don't be afraid to make changes for yourself.

 The majority have carers that notice how they feel

92.5%

 The majority of responders have been in long-term care of 3+ years.

71%

 The majority like where they live.

 The majority have their bedroom how they like

 The majority trust their carers

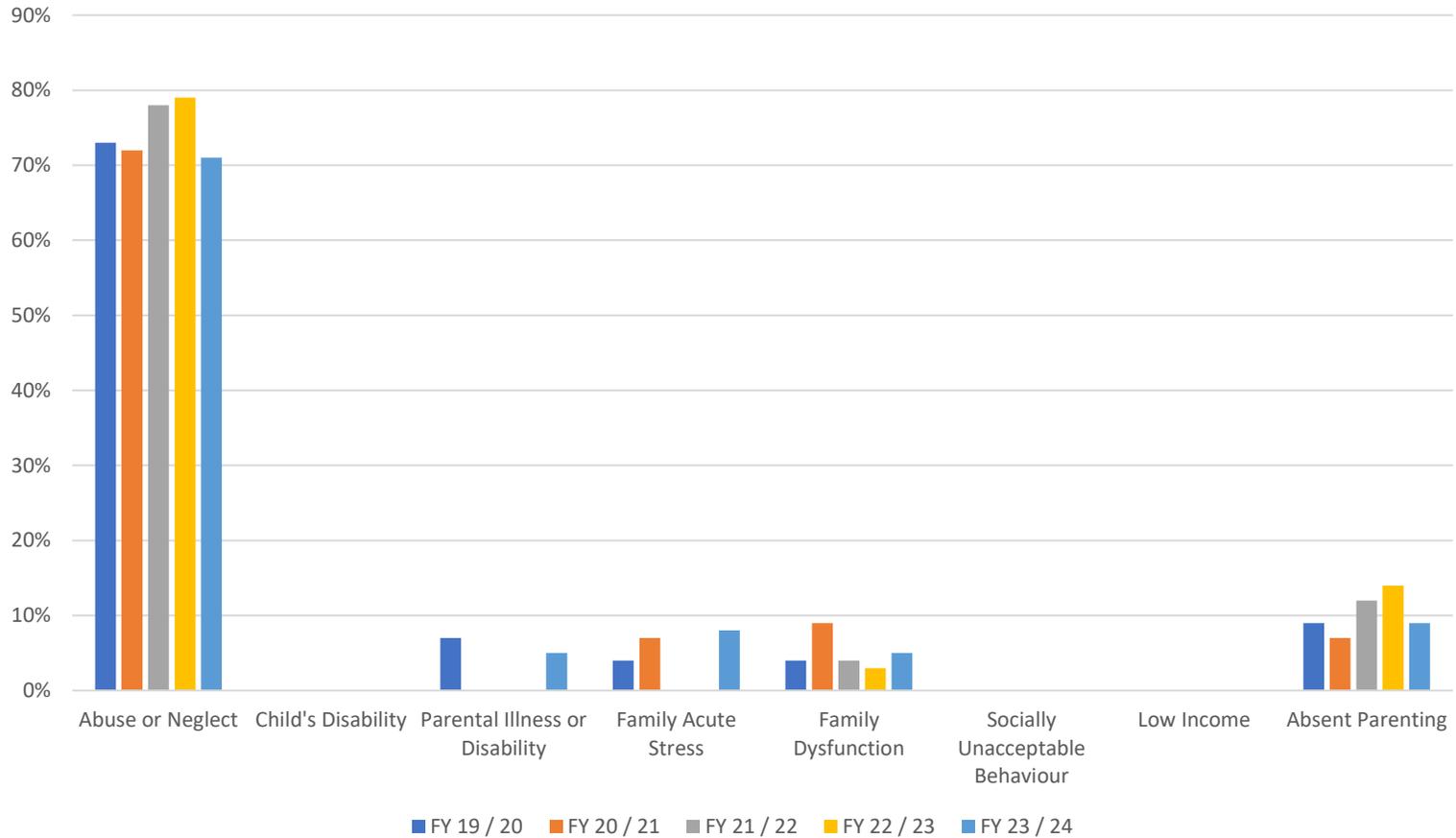
95%

 The majority feel safe.



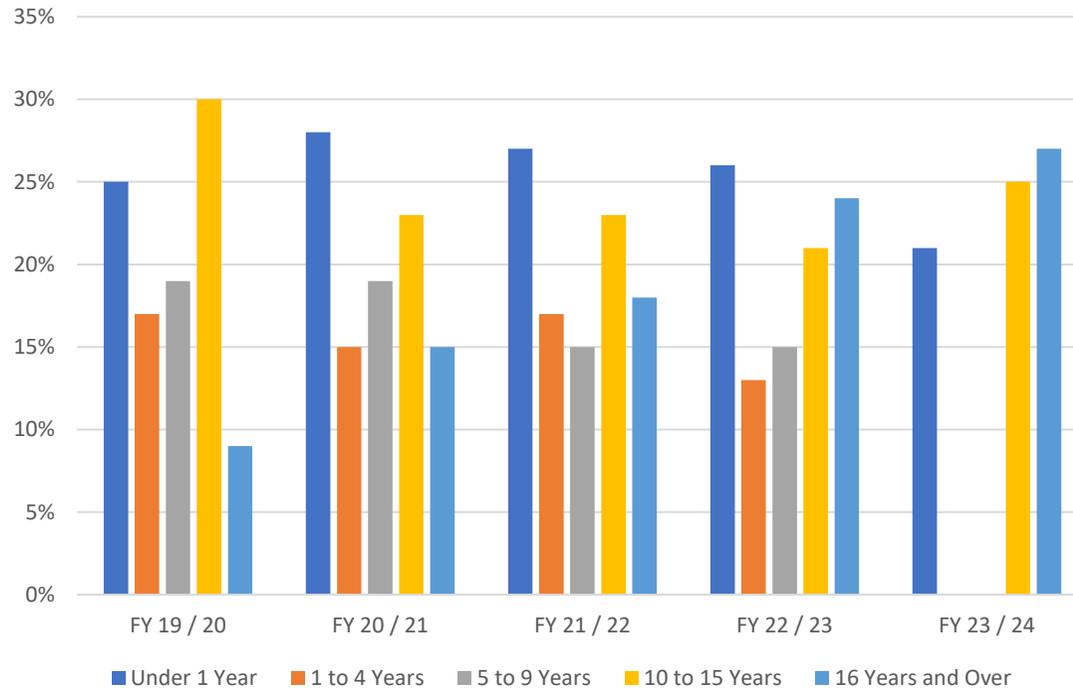
Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

Reasons Children become Looked After



Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

Entrants to care by Age



Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

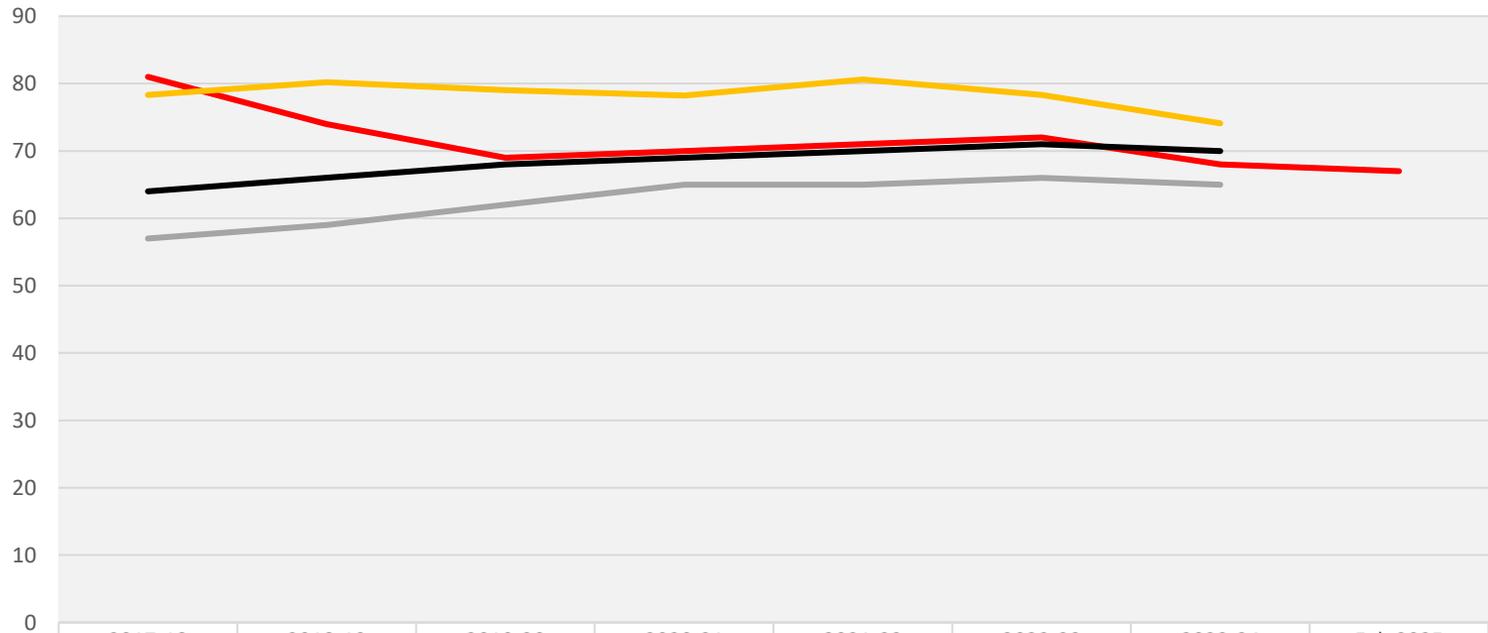
Where our children looked after live



Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

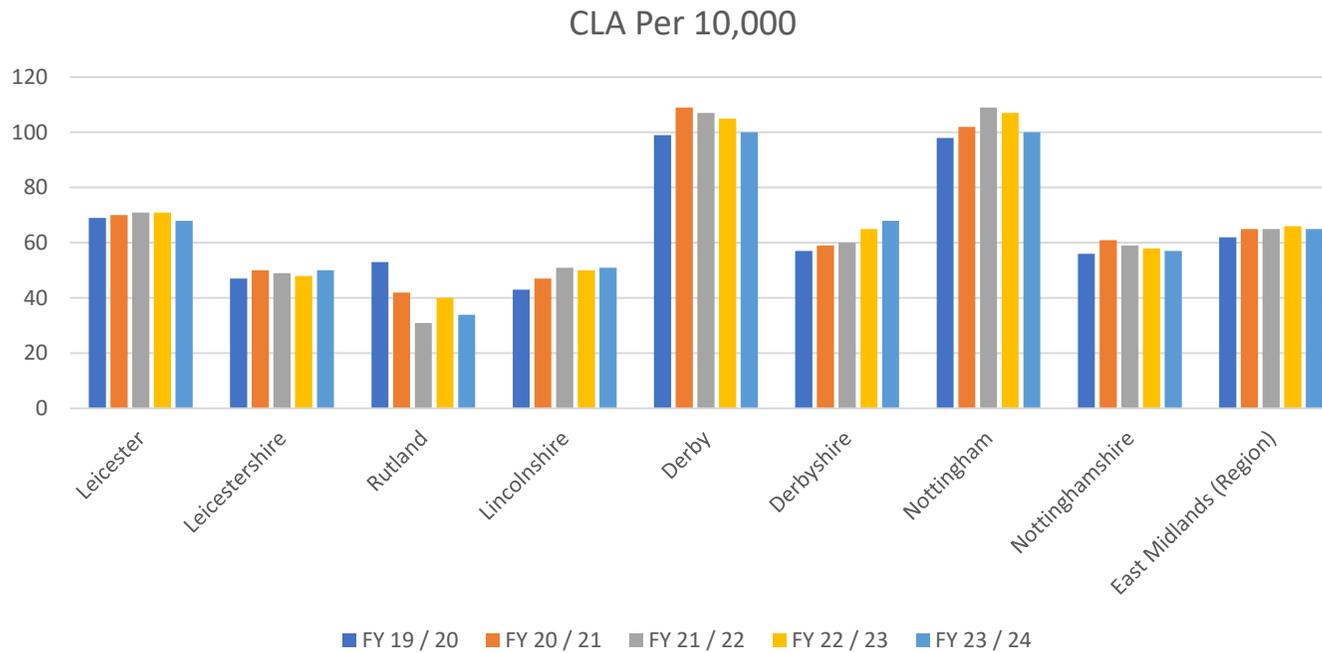
Rate of children looked after per 10,000 is below national average

Rate CLA per 10,000



	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Feb 2025
Leicester	81	74	69	70	71	72	68	67
England	64	66	68	69	70	71	70	
East Midlands	57	59	62	65	65	66	65	
Statistical Neighbours	78.3	80.2	79	78.2	80.6	78.3	74.1	

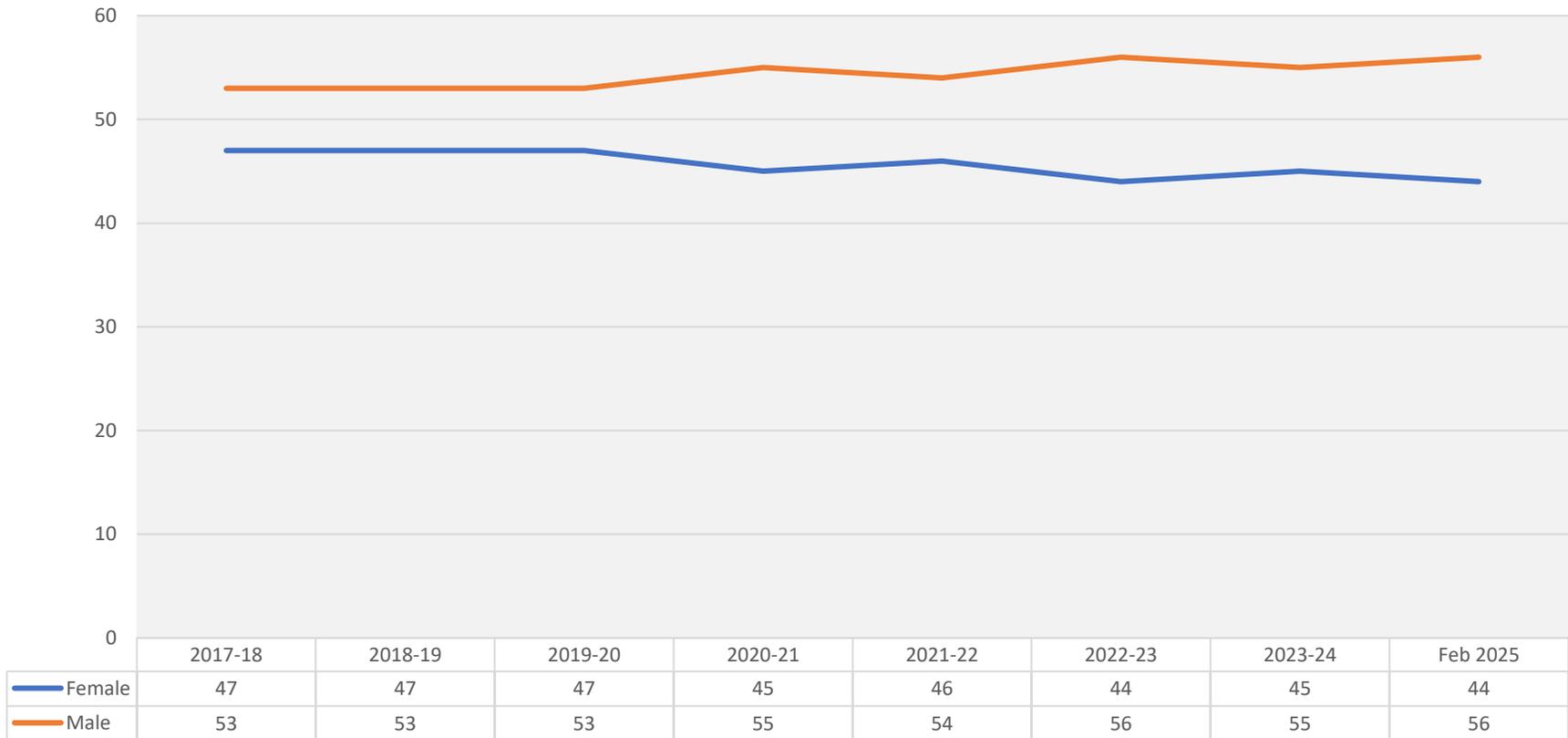
Numbers of Children Looked After per 10,000 Lower than East Midlands Unitary Averages



Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

Ratio of male children has increased slightly (children from abroad seeking safety)

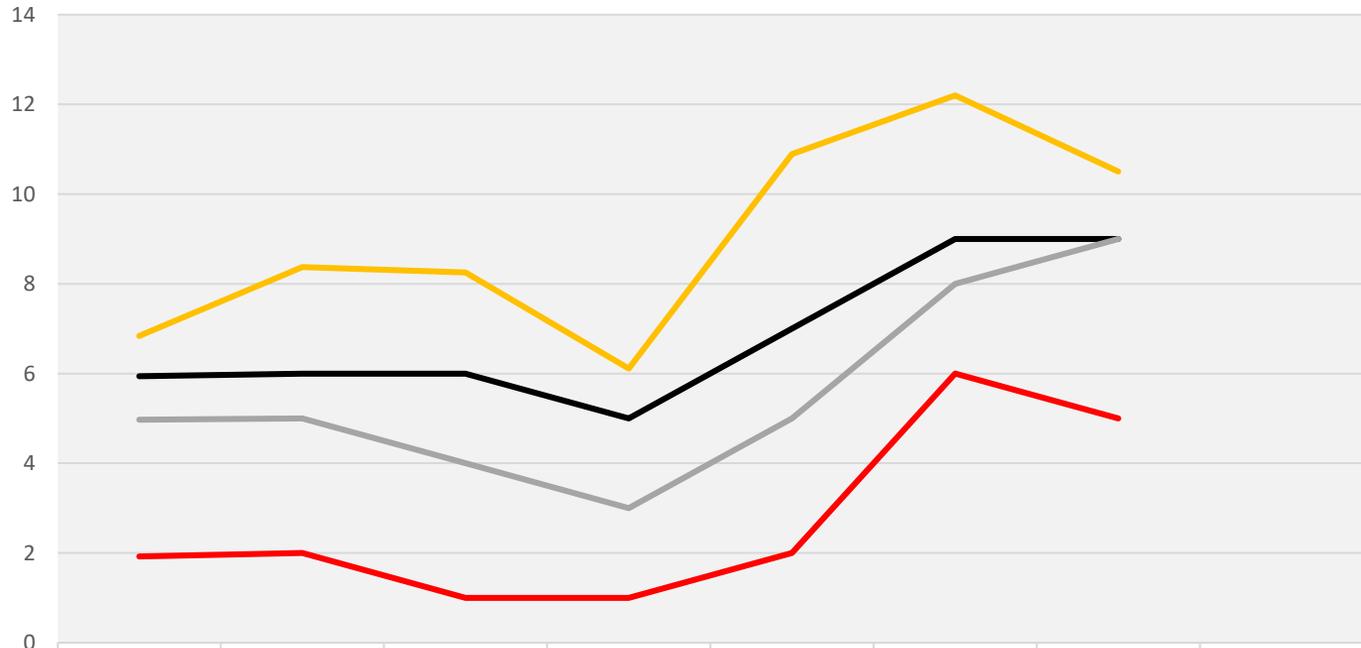
Leicester CLA by Gender



Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

Ratio of Children from Abroad Seeking Safety has increased but remains below comparators

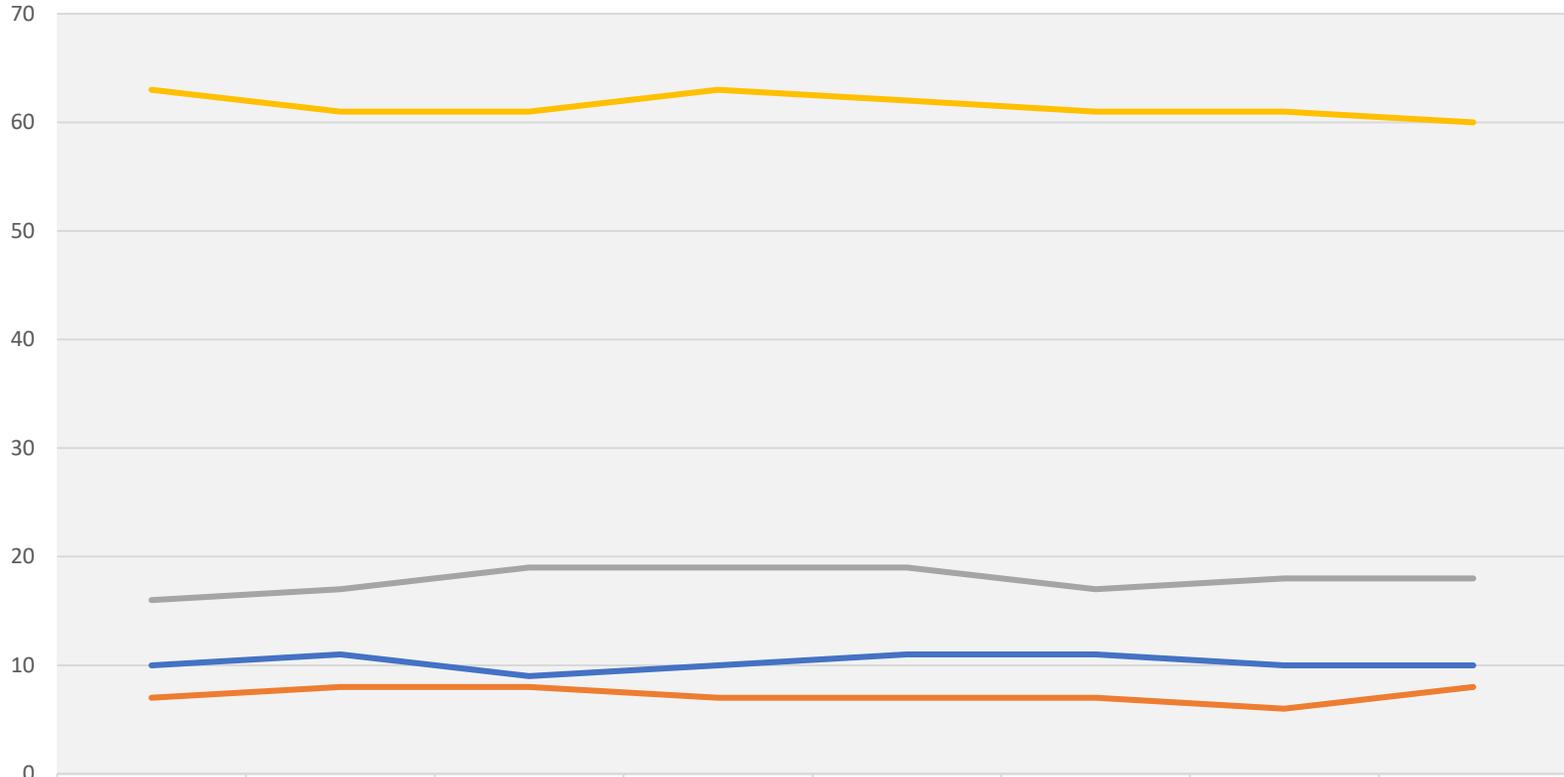
% CLA being Children from Abroad Seeking Safety



	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Feb 2025
— Leicester	1.9	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	6.0	5.0	
— England	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.0	7.0	9.0	9.0	
— East Midlands	5.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	5.0	8.0	9.0	
— Statistical Neighbours	6.8	8.4	8.3	6.1	10.9	12.2	10.5	

Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

Ethnicity of population group largely stable



	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Feb 2025
Asian	10	11	9	10	11	11	10	10
Black	7	8	8	7	7	7	6	8
Mixed	16	17	19	19	19	17	18	18
White	63	61	61	63	62	61	61	60

Children Looked After Needs Analysis - Residential Care

Ratio of Leicester children living in residential care is below the national average

Number of our children placed in internal & external residential care has increased

Number of our children placed in internal residential care is above national average

Number of children placed in specialist residential care has increased

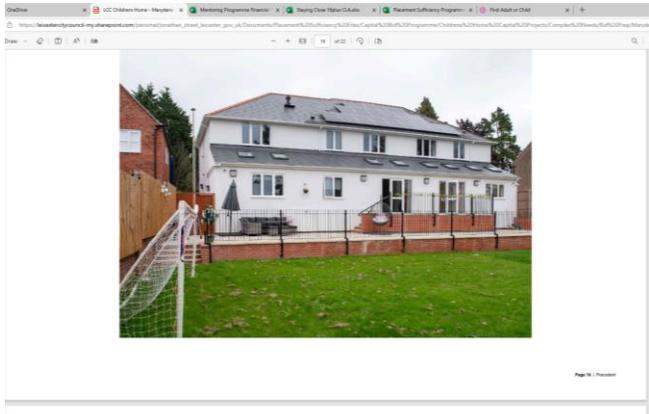
Average cost of residential placement has increased though below national average

Average cost of an internal residential placement is £4627 per week

Average cost of an external residential placement is £5414 per week

Average cost of specialist residential placement has increased

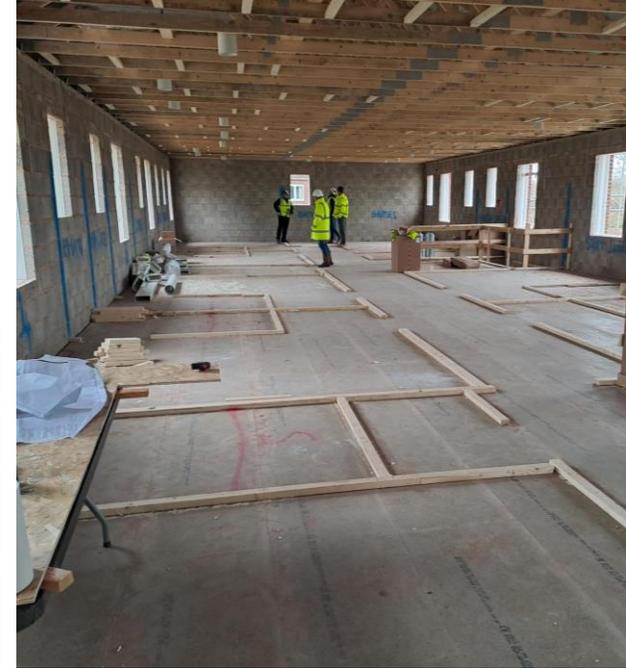
Number of children placed in unregistered placements is lower than average



Holly House



Hillview – Construction In Progress



Children Looked After Needs Analysis - Fostering

Most of our Children Looked After Live in Foster Care Households

Ratio of Leicester children living in Foster Care is above the national average

Majority of our Children in Foster Care are looked after by our own internal carers

Number of our children placed with internal carers is above average

Average cost of internal foster care household placement £340 per week

A smaller number of children cared for by Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs)

Number of children living in Independent Fostering Agencies has increased

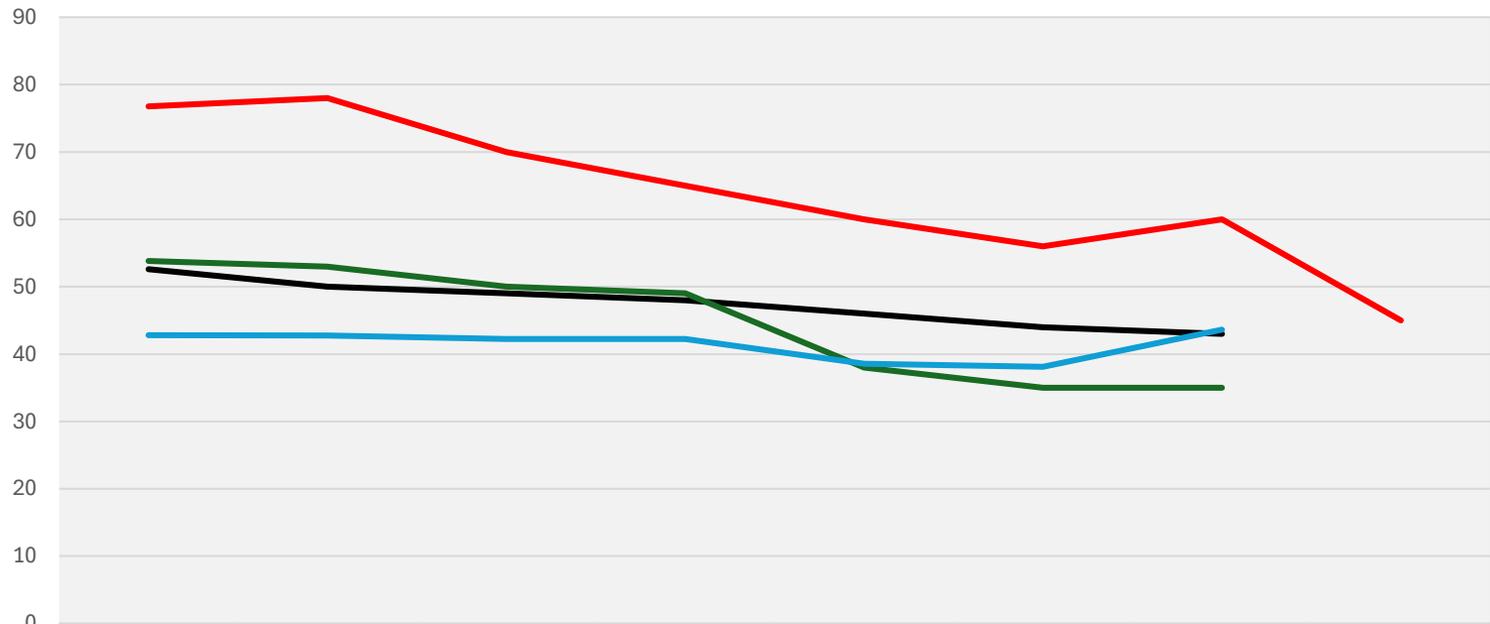
Number of children placed with IFA is still below the national average

Average cost of Independent Fostering Agency Placement £981 per week

Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

Majority of children in foster care looked after by our own internal carers is reducing but remains above the average

% CLA placed with internal carers

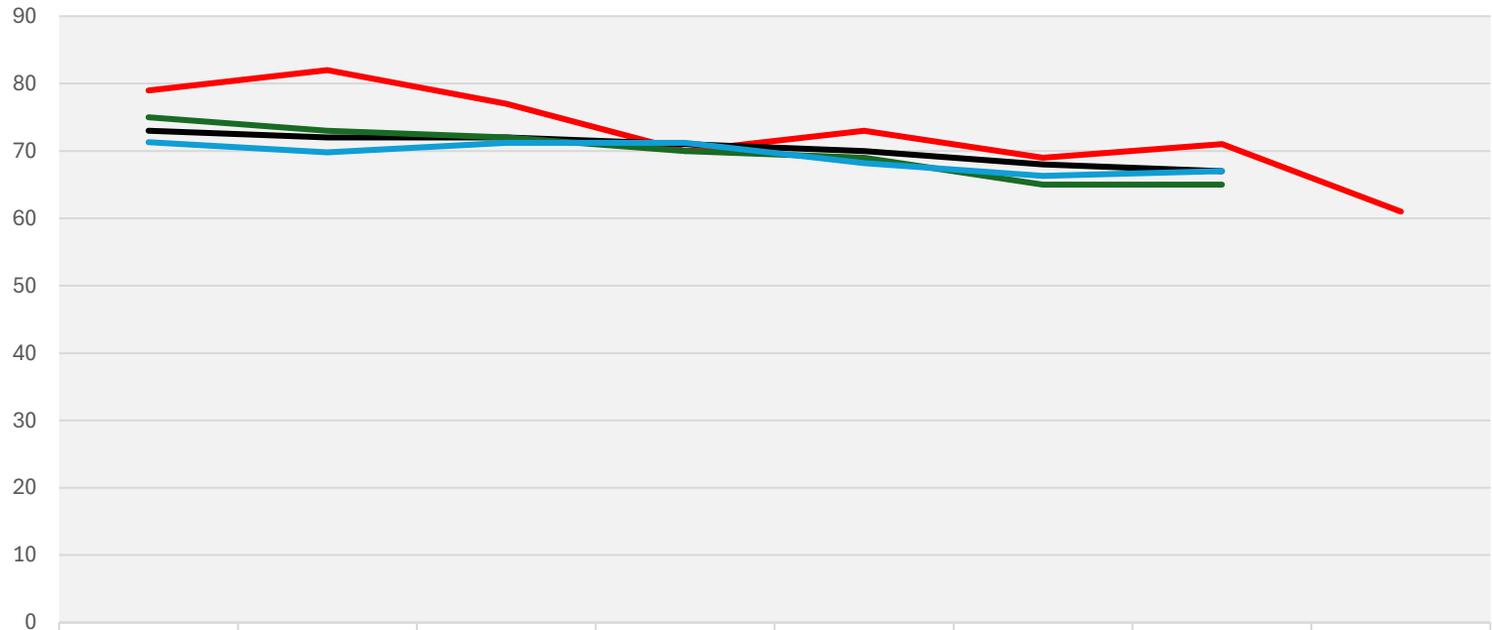


	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Feb 2025
Leicester	77	78	70	65	60	56	60	45
England	53	50	49	48	46	44	43	
East Midlands	54	53	50	49	38	35	35	
Statistical Neighbours	43	43	42	42	39	38	44	

Children Looked After Population Needs Analysis

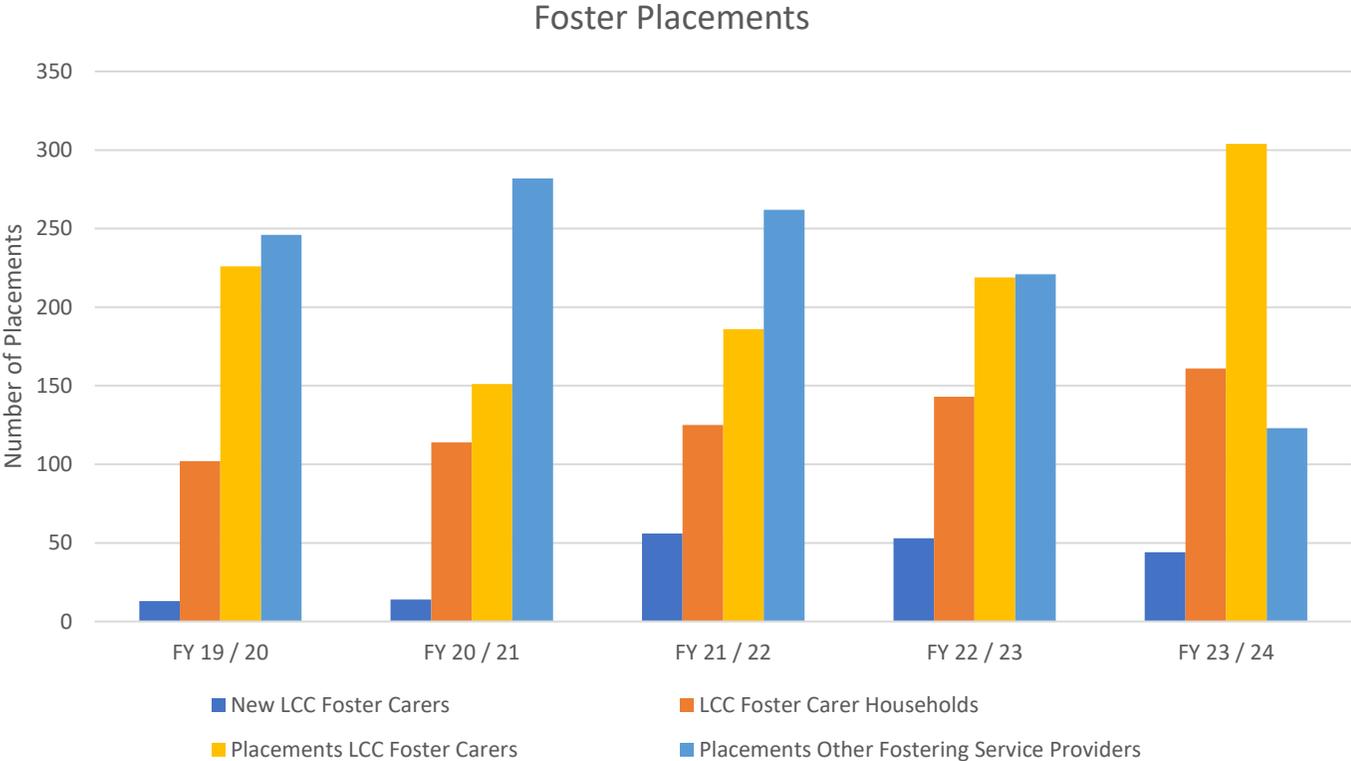
Ratio of children living in foster care is down though above national average

% CLA placed in Foster Placements



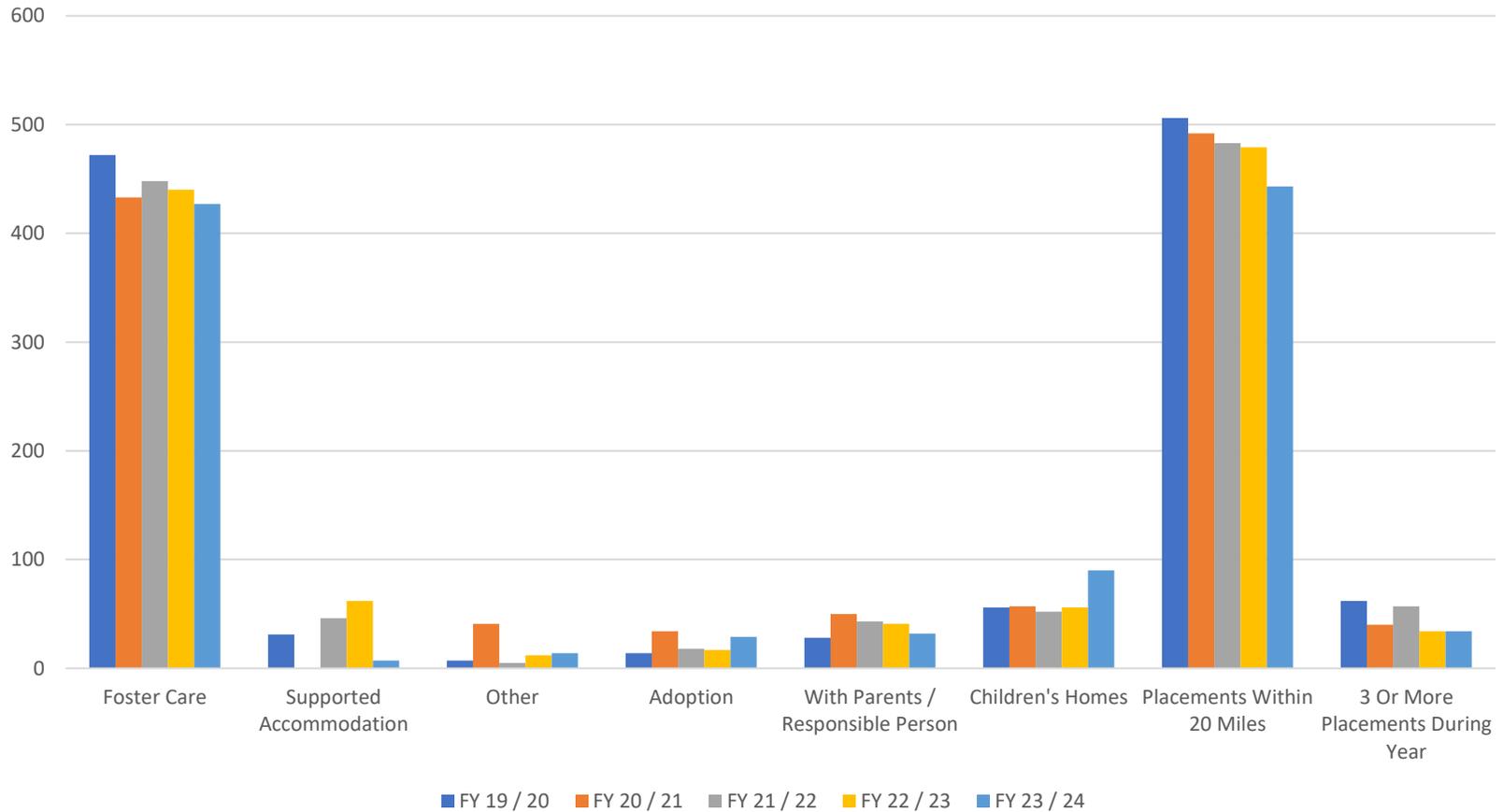
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Feb 2025
Leicester	79	82	77	70	73	69	71	61
England	73	72	72	71	70	68	67	
East Midlands	75	73	72	70	69	65	65	
Statistical Neighbours	71.3	69.8	71.2	71.2	68.2	66.3	67	

Reducing our use of Independent Fostering Agencies



Enabling children to live locally in family households

Types of households



Recruitment & Retention of Foster Carers

	FOSTER CARE				
	FY 19 / 20	FY 20 / 21	FY 21 / 22	FY 22 / 23	FY 23 / 24
LCC Foster Carers at Start of Year	154	167	229	214	202
New LCC Foster Carers	13	14	56	53	44
LCC Foster Carers at End of Year	167	186	244	226	209
LCC Foster Care Households	102	114	125	143	161
Average Age of Foster Carers	56.5	55.6	54.9	53.8	53.1
Foster Placements	472	433	448	440	427
Foster Placements, LCC Carers	226	151	186	219	304
Foster Placements, Other Providers	246	282	262	221	123