

# Children's Services Performance Quarter Two 2023/2024

Stuart Ashley, Director Children's Services

# C&F Headlines

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- Demand continues to rise across social care and early help although there was a slight seasonal reduction in Q2 over the summer holidays as we would expect.
- Recruitment and retention in Children Assessment and Support Teams (CAST) and the Children in Care (CIC) team was more difficult over the summer holidays but has improved again since.
- An increase in the market supplement to those teams and development of senior social workers in CAST has made a difference to retention in these teams.

# C&F Headlines

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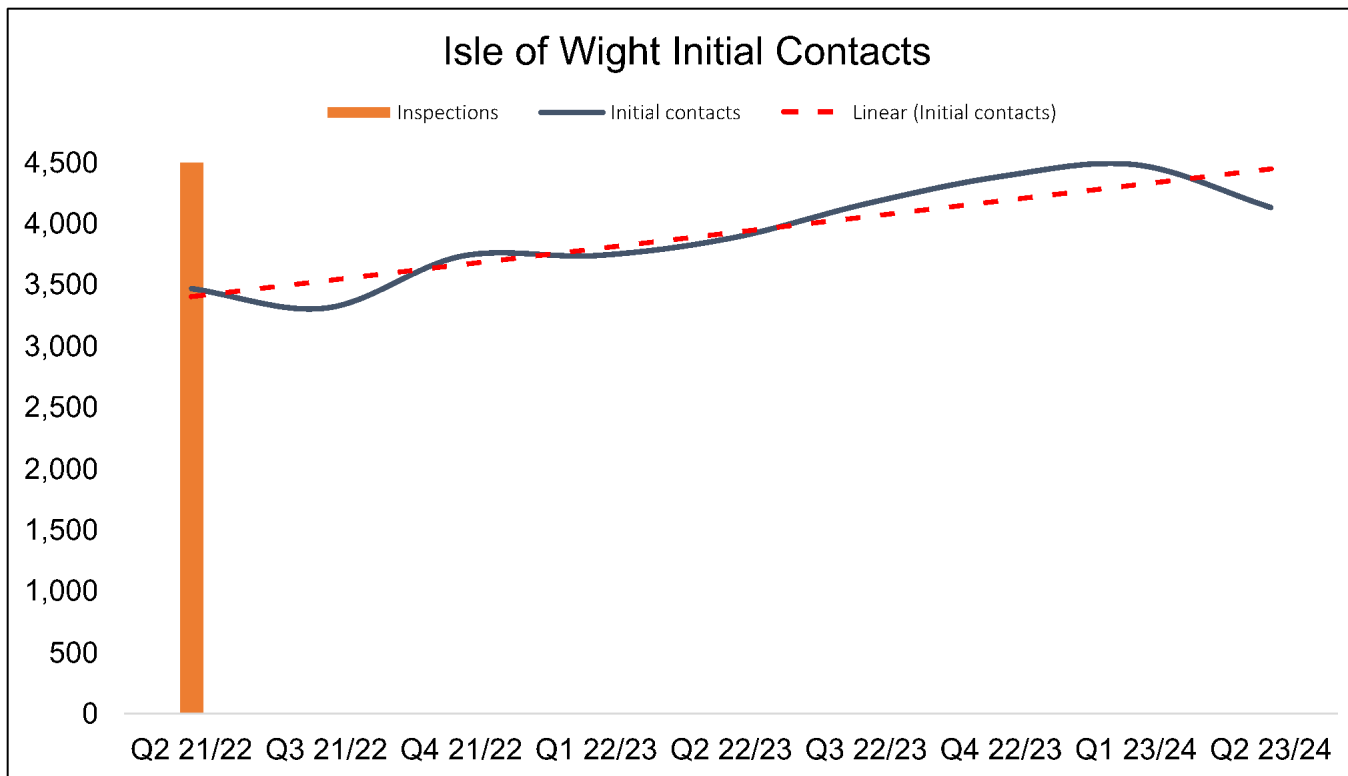
- We have converted two of our agency workers onto permanent contracts.
- We began to implement the Care Review starting with the introduction of Family Practitioners in March 23.
- These new members of our team are case holding children in need in CAST and are working to a high standard.
- Eight of our eleven Family Practitioners across CWD and CAST are currently completing a Social Work Apprenticeship with the University of Winchester

# Performance

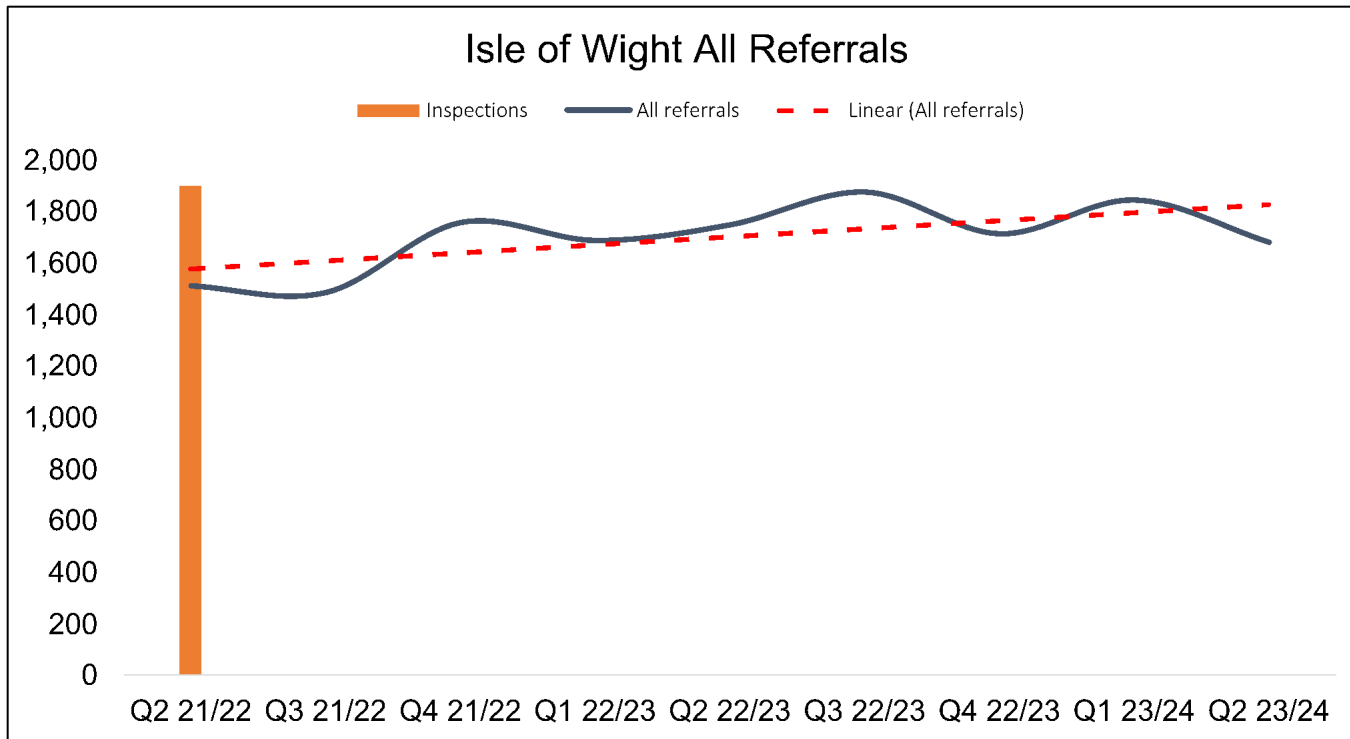
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- Slides 5-10 show the performance and numbers of children we are working with.
- We have seen a gradual increase in referrals whilst there have been peaks and dips including in Q2 due to slightly lower referrals during the summer holiday.
- Performance in terms of timeliness of response has remained strong despite the overall increase in referrals.
- We have seen children in need (CIN) and children looked after (CLA) gradually increase in line with the increase of referrals.

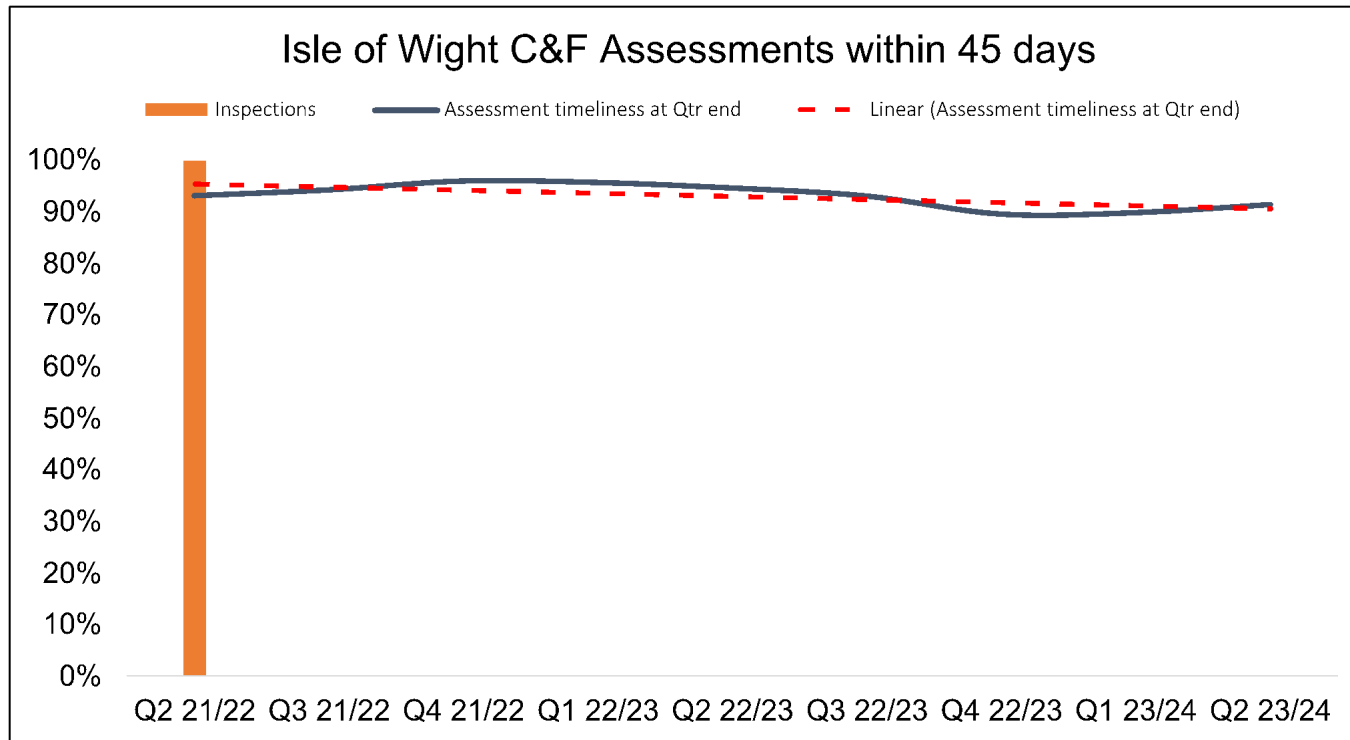
# Performance – Contacts



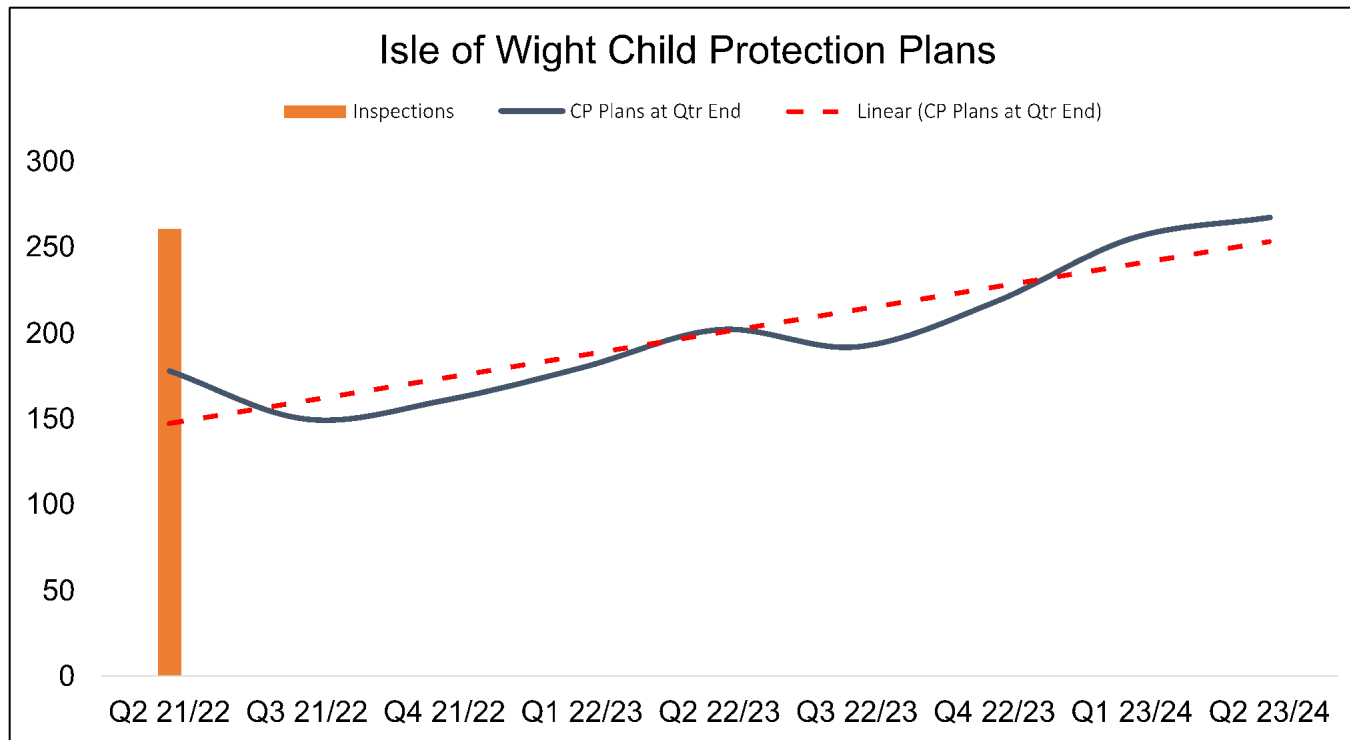
# Performance - Referrals



# Performance- timely response

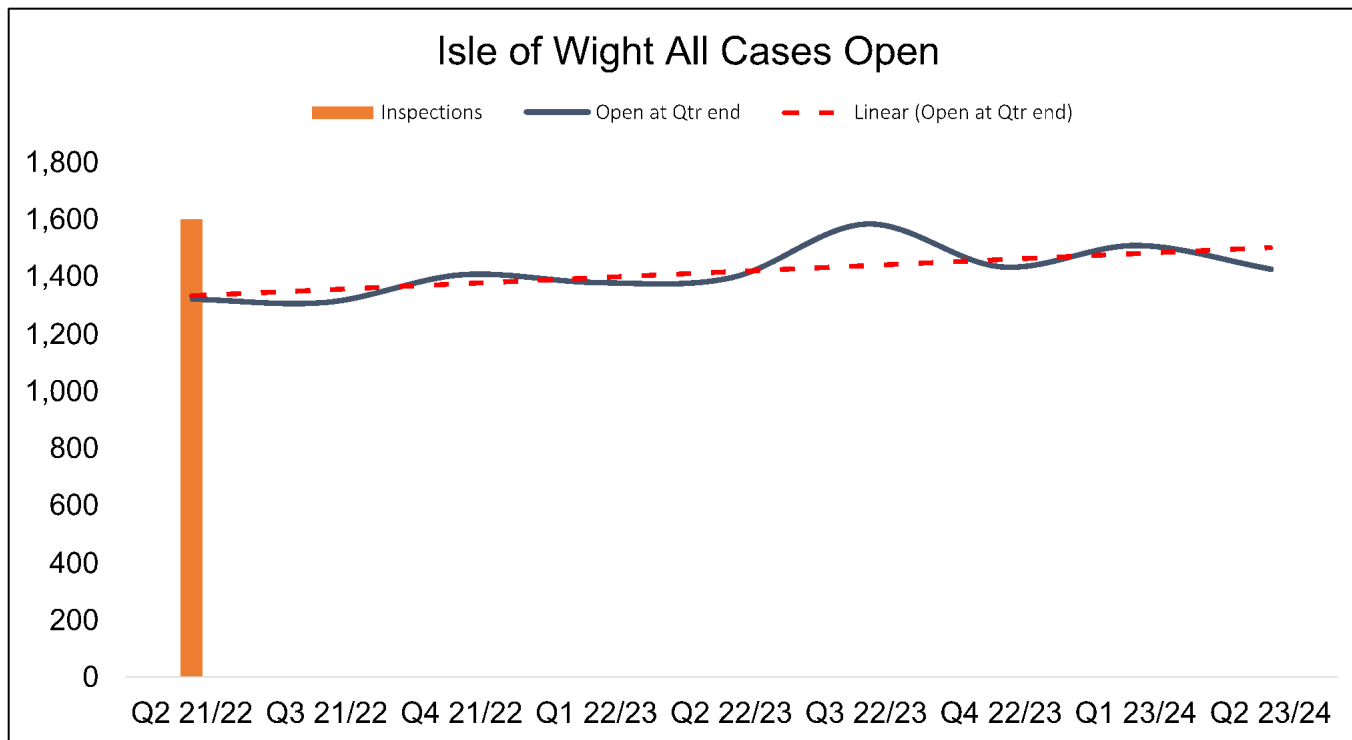


# Children subject to child protection planning

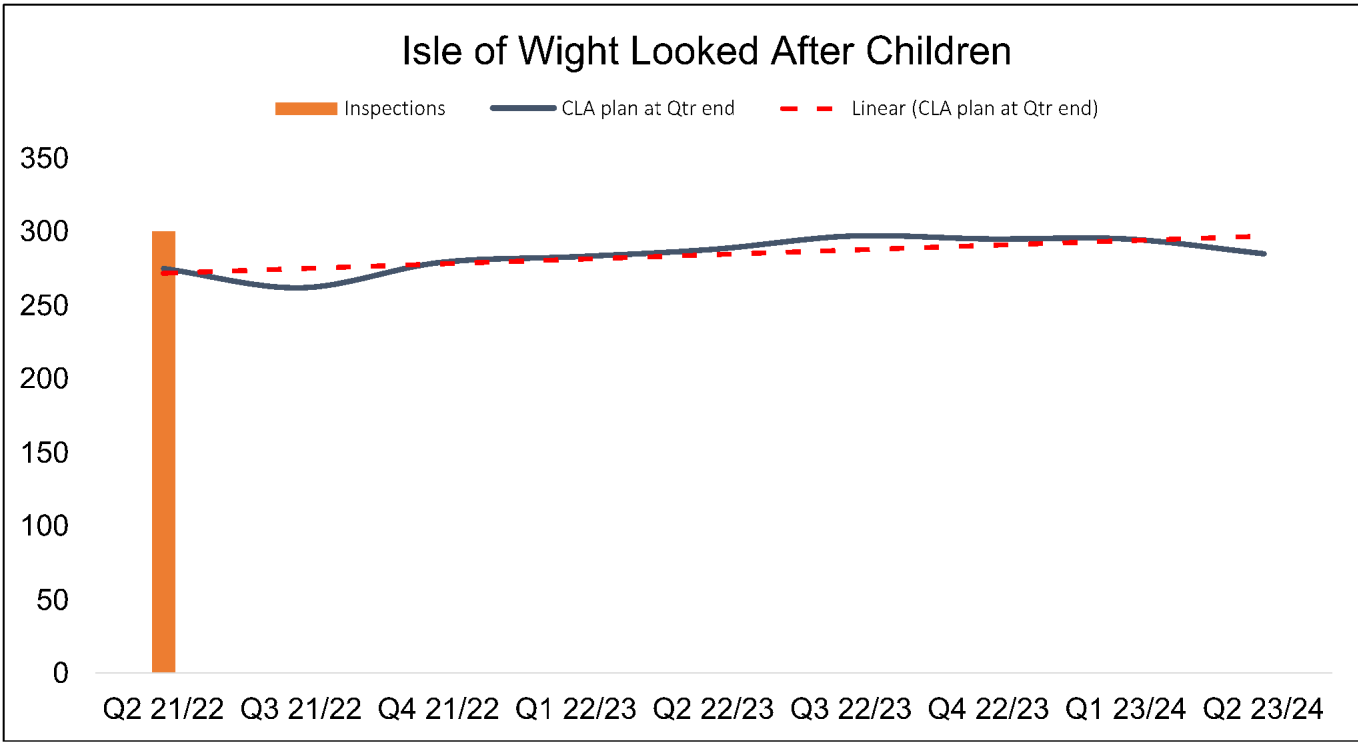




# Children in need



# Children Looked After (CLA)



# Increase in Child Protection Plans

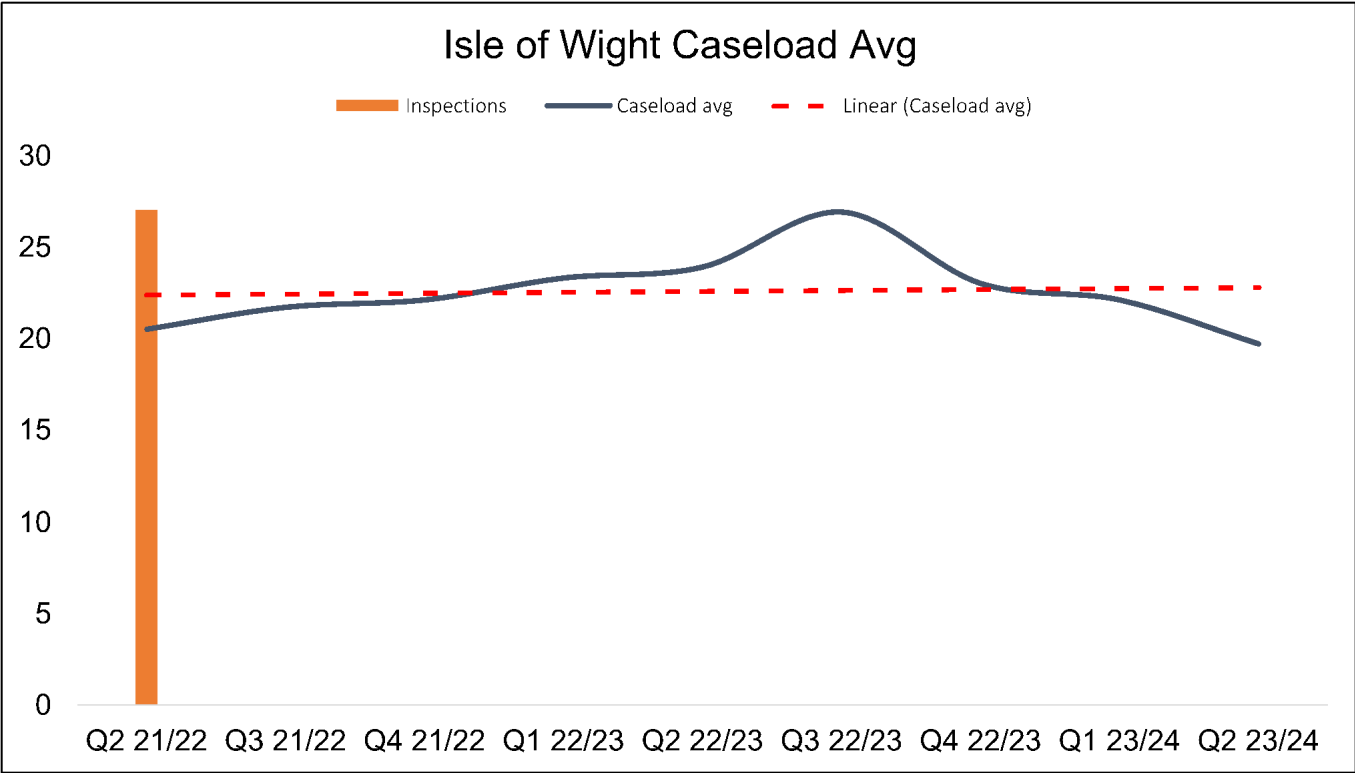
- We have seen the numbers of children subject to child protection planning, increase at a higher rate particularly since January 23.
- Our analysis shows that this as a result of a slight increase on children going on to plans in line with increased demand and children being on plans longer.
- Children going onto a CP plan who have been on a plan before has decreased and the numbers of children in care is not increasing at a higher rate. This indicates that whilst it is taking longer our Child protection work is effective.

# Caseloads

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- We have worked hard to recruit staff and manage caseloads enabling us to meet timescales and improve performance with families in this area.
- We temporarily disbanded CAST 1 due to the higher level of vacancies in this team over the summer whilst we recruited to the team.
- We re-established CAST 1 in October when staff had been recruited to make the team as resilient as the other three teams.

# Caseloads



# Quality Assurance

- Case file auditing undertaken every month by ATMs and TMs.
- In quarter two, 35 case audits were undertaken
- Evidence of practitioner analysis which influences decision making in 97% of cases.
- Evidence that the assessment has informed the intervention/plan in 97% and evidence of positive outcomes for the child/young person in 97% of cases.
- Evidence of multi-agency engagement in planning in 94% of cases, with evidence that this has improved outcomes for the child in 97% of cases.
- Up to date case summaries reflect progress and positive changes for the child/young person in line with the assessment and plan in 96% of cases.
- There is evidence of management decisions in 97% of cases, with decisions evidencing appropriate direction in the case to protect and improve outcomes for the child/young person 97%.
- Evidence of supervision as per policy in 76% of cases.

# Children in Care

- Children in care numbers decreased from Q1 to Q2. There were 285 children in the care of the Isle of Wight local authority at end of Q2, a reduction of ten from 295 at the end of Q1.
- Despite the challenges in finding placements for children the number of children with three or more moves has remained below target.
- Good understanding of placement movements and the needs of children and skills of carers and providers means that good matches can be made which reduces the need for placement moves. There is good work between the placement team, fostering and children's teams to enable matches to be strong.
- Children in care and care experienced adults are consulted with on a regular basis about the service they receive, and feedback is generally good.

# Placement Sufficiency

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- The Isle of Wight Council have recruited six new general foster carers so far this year with three resignations, one of these was a retiring foster carer and the other two do not wish to continue fostering.
- We have 3 additional foster care assessments in progress for general carers.
- We have worked with independent placement providers to increase the provision on the island and our current children's home provider on the island is opening a new four bedded home and are in the process of obtaining their registration.
- Work is underway to propose the necessary changes to improve support to foster carer in order to increase numbers of in house foster carers in the Modernising Placements Programme (MPP)



# Placement Cost

## **Financial cost is significant.**

Residential and Secure Placement Forecast Outturn = £6.1M

Purchased Fostering (IFA) = £2M

Supported Accommodation = £1.8M

Total = £9.9M

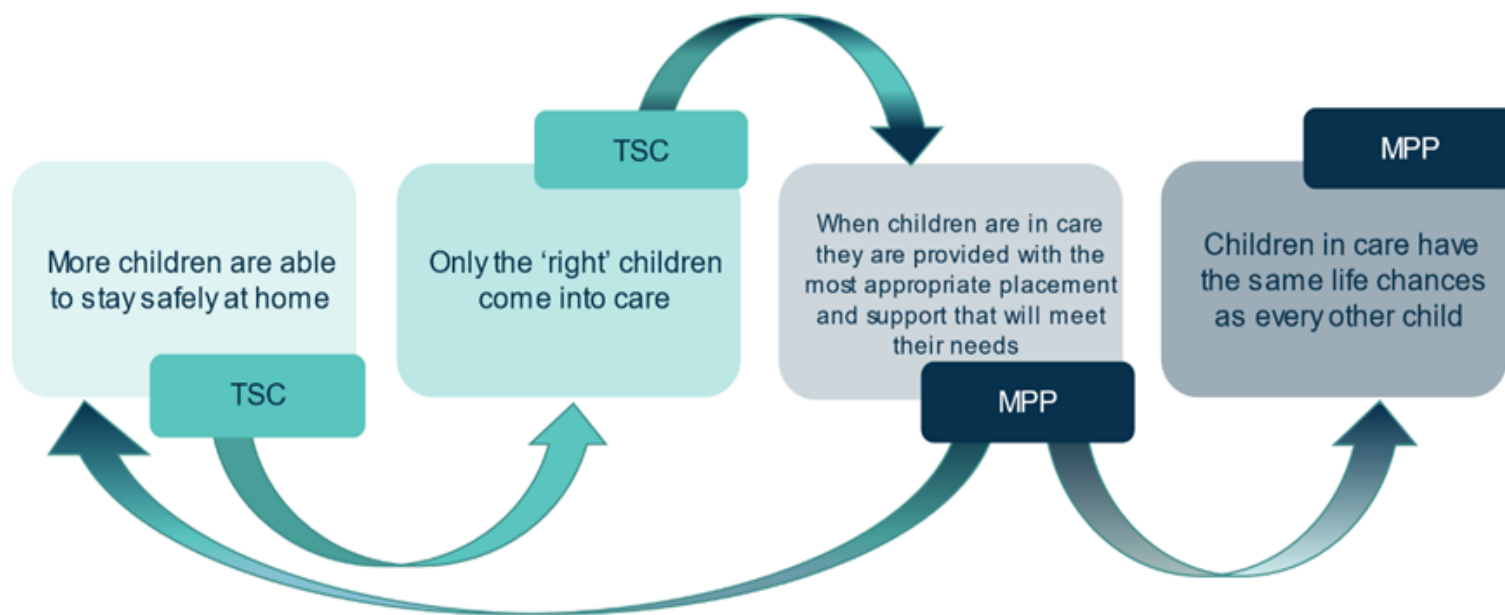
At the end of the period IOW have 18 children aged 16/17 years old in supported accommodation all these providers are in the process of being registered by Ofsted.

17 of these are on the Isle of Wight and with contracted providers who have provided evidence of their eligibility as part of the tender process.

Due diligence checks and risk assessments are carried out for all unregulated placements.

# Modernising Placements Programme

MPP is a transformational programme within Children's Services, part of which is to increase the number, choice and quality of homes for children in care to live. The Isle of Wight is benefiting from the experience of Hampshire who are delivering MPP for the Isle of Wight and work is being undertaken and planned for the IW to take forwards.



# Education and Inclusion Headlines

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- The September guarantee was 98.3% compared to national average of 94.6%. This is the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds given an offer of education, employment and training.
- 78.9% of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) were produced within 20 weeks for the last quarter. National average is just under 60%.

# Education and Inclusion Headlines

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- Proportion of schools graded good or better by Ofsted is 73% for all phases.
- Number of children being electively home educated was 619.
- Proportion of families that electively home educate that have engaged with the Local Authority during 2022/23 is 93%.

# Education and Inclusion Headlines

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Data published by the DfE shows:

- Number of permanent exclusions in 2021/22 is 7 (10 in total in 2020/21).
- Number of suspensions in 2021/22 is 1265 (1105 in total in 2020/21).
- Final attainment data for 2023 is published in January 2024 and will be brought to Policy and Scrutiny Committee next term in a full attainment report.

# Education and Inclusion Headlines

Attendance statistics have been produced for the Autumn Term 2022/23

- Isle of Wight attendance rate in **Primary** was 92.4% (compared to 93.7% nationally)
- Isle of Wight attendance rate in **Secondary** was 89.2% (compared to 91.2% nationally)
- Isle of Wight attendance rate in **Special** was 88.9% (compared to 86.6% nationally)
- Isle of Wight % of **persistent absence** was **32.8%** (compared to 24.2% nationally)
- Isle of Wight % of **severe absence** was **2.1%** (compared to 1.7% nationally)



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