

# PCP report 2020

Overview of placement activity

## PCT stats | Referral figures Period: 1<sup>st</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

The PCT received a total of 2,001 referrals for the year 2020 (up to December 22<sup>nd</sup>). A break down of the referrals by month are provided in the below table, showing the number of referrals from the Children & Families department and the Special Educational Needs department. The total C&F referrals were 1,595.

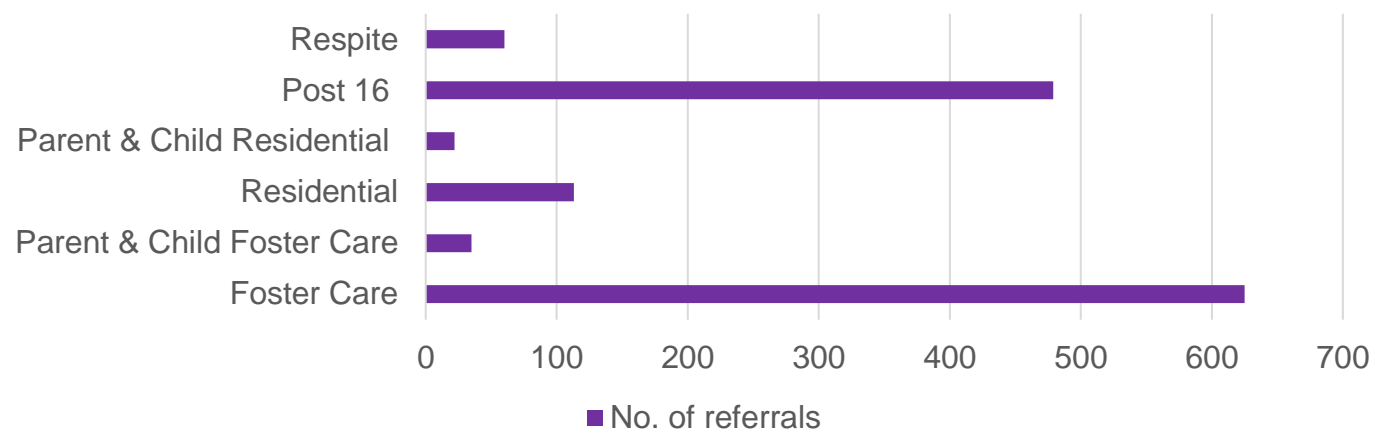
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
C&F	141	141	150	118	151	134	136	126	156	131	121	90
SEN	19	27	30	18	33	63	31	17	33	39	36	26
Total	160	168	180	136	184	202	196	143	189	170	157	116

The highest referring months were June, July and September with SEN increasing the referral figures for June in particular. This is due to the school term timetables and the need to identify new school placements in line with start of new school year.

The chart to the right provides an overview of those referrals received from C&F based on type of placement requested at point of referral.

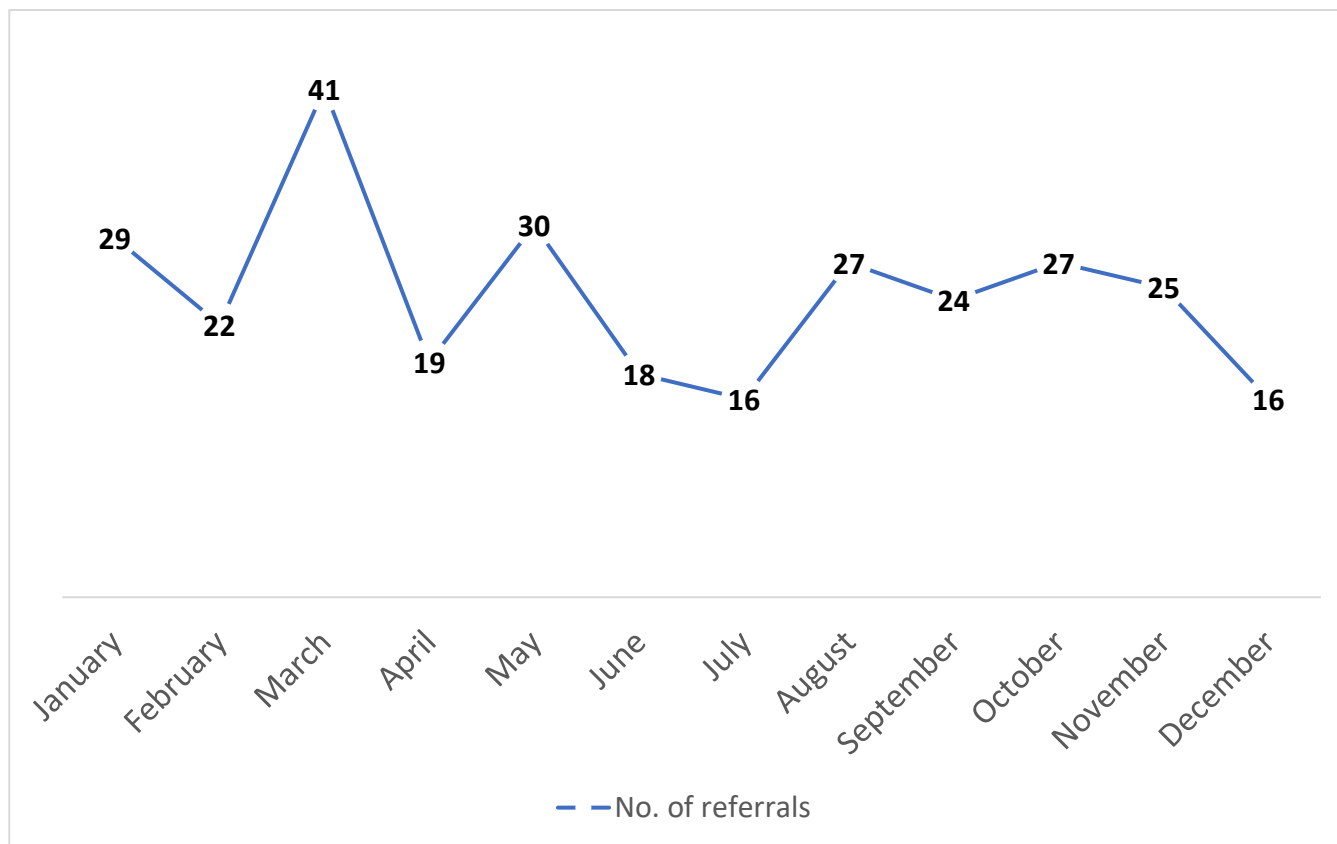
- The highest type of placement referred for is foster care, this is for children and young people from being unborn with plan of removal, to 17 years of age.
- Post 16 was the second highest type of placement requested, which includes young people aged 16 up to 21 years of age (care leavers).
- The respite figure is inclusive of those referred for Specialist Respite Care, Overnight Respite and those who are in a placement currently and require respite for a specific reason.

Referral figures for C&F referrals for the year 2020



## PCT stats | Referral figures Period: 1st January – 22nd December 2020

As part of the referral document in to PCT the referrer is required to outline why the referral is being made, such as a placement break down or a change in care plan. The below chart outlines those referrals received for the year whereby the reason selected on the referral was due to a placement break down.



The chart captures all types of placement break downs, these are:

- In-house foster care break down
- Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) foster care break down
- In-house residential care break down
- Non County Placements (NCP) care break down
- Post 16 break down

The highest month for placement break downs was March. This is around the time that the pandemic was more widely known and can therefore link to the concerns raised in respect of young people absconding and/or the resilience of the carer(s) to support young people during a time of uncertainty and restrictions.

Whilst the referral reason is due to placement break down, there were still a number of young people who remained in placement due to the support and/or change in behaviour/circumstances that resulted in the break down of the placement.

In particular there has been an introduction of Placement Stability Workers with in-house fostering that has enabled work to take place with the foster carers to try and salvage the placement where that is in the best interest and appropriate to do so.

Where an agency is issuing notice, PCP ensure that this is inline with the contracted terms and conditions thus enabling a planned move to be secured.

## PCT stats | Referral figures Period: 1<sup>st</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

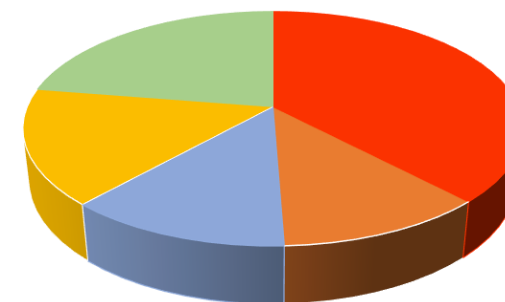
The below table outlines the timescale of placement required at point of referral. The timescale is broken down into the below categories on the handover and will then influence the allocation and prioritisation of work loads for the placement officers.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Same day	53	63	63	42	60	42	57	40	68	47	38	31	604
1-2 Days	19	13	18	16	15	17	13	16	18	15	16	7	183
3-5 Days	18	16	10	19	16	20	15	18	18	15	16	14	195
6-14 Days	29	19	23	15	24	28	14	26	19	19	26	11	253
15+ Days	23	29	34	26	33	27	37	29	33	36	24	27	358

Of those referred, 38% required a same day placement as per timescale on the referral form. A further 12% required a placement the 1-2 days which includes those referred out of office hours for the following day, therefore it is fair to include these figures as a same day need due to the time available to complete a placement search. This therefore equates to 50% of those referred during 2020 from C&F requiring a placement urgently.

The timescale to secure a placement does impact the prioritisation of work loads within the PCT. In order to manage this alongside the planned placement need, PCT have restructured the allocation of referrals to ensure there are placement officers searching for those urgent cases and those planned daily. Previously the placement officers were allocated referrals by districts. This has been a relatively new change, having implemented this in November 2020.

Timescale to identify placement from point of referral for year 2020

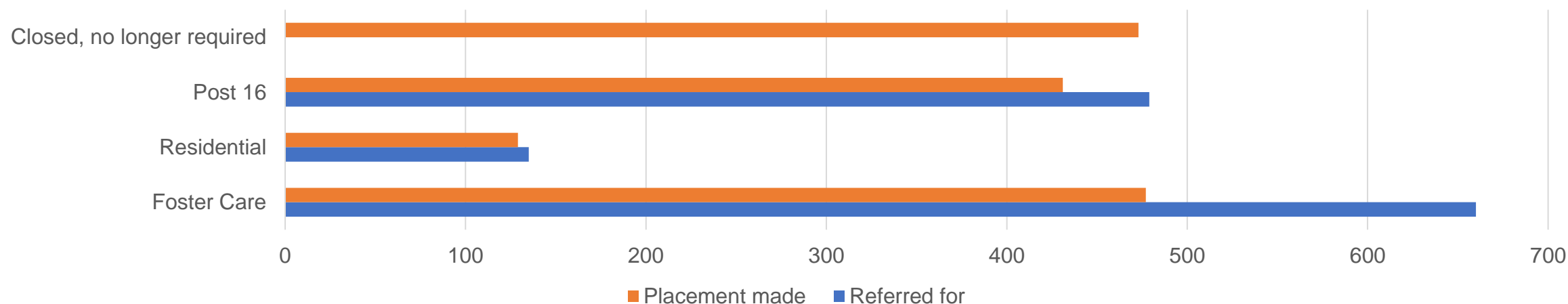


■ Same day ■ 1-2 days ■ 3-5 days ■ 6-14 days ■ 15+ days

## PCT stats | Referral figures Period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

The below chart outlines the outcomes of the referrals received from C&F department, for those referred for foster care, residential, post 16 and respite (not including specialist respite care or overnight respite). This is in comparison to the type of placement requested at point of referral. The parent and child referrals have been included in the type of placement either under foster care or residential.

Type of placement requested at point of referral vs. placement made








Of those referred for a placement, the main outcome was a placement identified with foster carers. This is to be expected when noting the highest type of placement requested was foster care. The outcomes mirror those types of placements requested. However 30% of those referred to PCT for a placement were closed no longer required. This can be due to a number of reasons such as a return home or to remain in their current placement.

## Step Down Period: 1st January – 22nd December 2020

Placement Commissioning Team (PCT) and Outcomes Based Placements (OBP) team have been working together to secure foster care placements for children that are currently in a residential setting and are ready to move on to a family environment. This has been an ongoing piece of work, with the need to raise the profile of this type of need being high on the agenda.

There have been a total of 17 children identified and referred to PCT that are ready to move on to an appropriate foster care placement. Of those 17:

-  Two have been placed with in-house carers
-  Three have been placed with IFA's
-  Two have IFA placements identified with transition work underway
-  Four have in-house carers identified, of which two have transition work underway
-  Six referrals remain open with active placement searches.

In order to improve the response from our foster carers and IFA's, work has gone into promoting this need. In particular:

- A leaflet outlining what "step down" means and answering any queries/concerns from the outset has been produced and shared with in-house fostering
- Meetings have taken place and are ongoing with our IFA's
- Attendance at Hampshire Fostering Network (HFN) meeting to discuss this type of placement and promote the leaflet
- Attendance at Hampshire foster carer support groups

## Outcomes Based Placements Period: 1st January- 22nd December 2020

OBP creates a link between Social Work teams and Commissioning and Procurement to enable continuous centralised monitoring and progression of placements within children and young peoples care planning.

- Focus on child's right to a family life and preparation for independence.
- Ensure that placement progression is enabled via commissioned placements.
- Liaison with providers to ensure placement progression is achieved:
  - Residential to Post 16
  - Post 16 to independence
  - Preparation towards planned reunification
- Rightsizing the packages in place for children and young people via direct negotiations with providers.

### Developing and utilising the Support Needs Assessment (SNA)

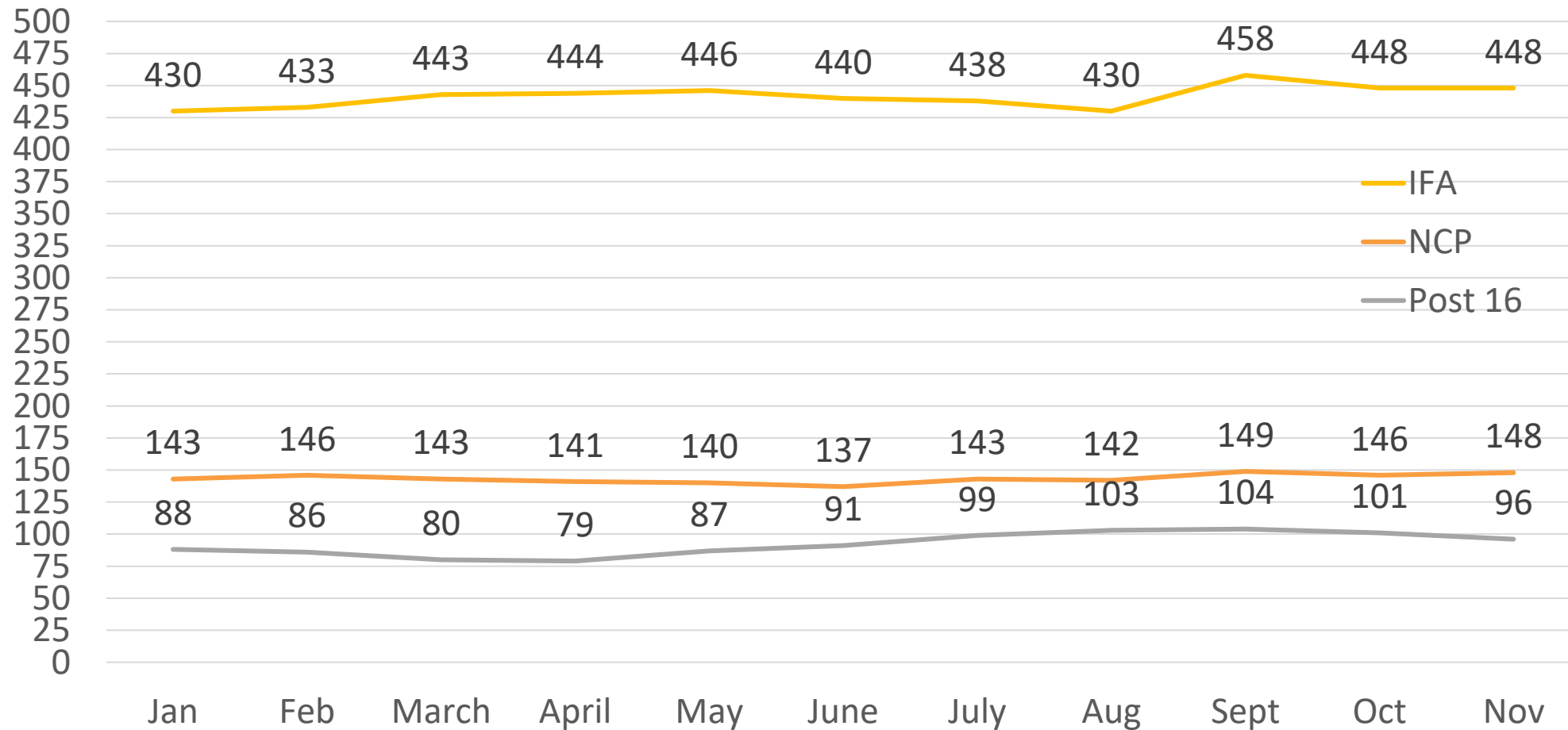
*An assessment and outcome planning tool to ensure appropriate placements are sourced and matched against the required needs of individual children.*

*Through outcome planning, packages are refined and amended as progress is made against agreed goals, which enables providers/carers to ensure they are doing the right thing for children, and enables social workers to 'hold providers to account' in respect of a child's progress.*

Positive outcomes and cost avoidance achieved via:

- Move on placements including residential to foster care and residential to post 16.
- Reunification
- Rightsizing within all placements.

# Total placements for CLA in NCP, IFA, Post 16 Period: 1<sup>st</sup> January- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020



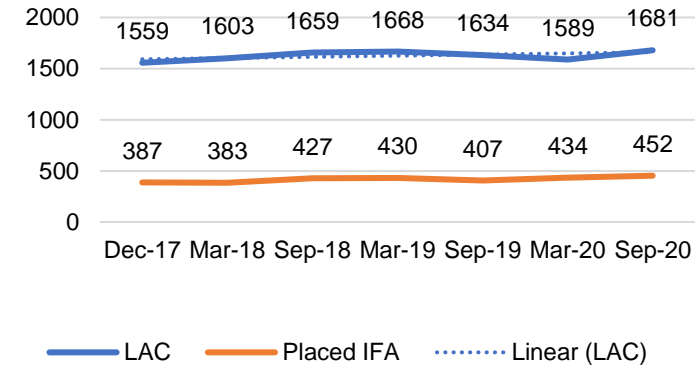


**Looked After Children (LAC) and IFA vs. In House Split:**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 a total of 939 looked after children were a in foster placements (excluding connected carers). This is an increase of 33 children on the previous period when 906 were in foster placements.

A percentage split of 52% in house and 48% IFA has remained the same this period.

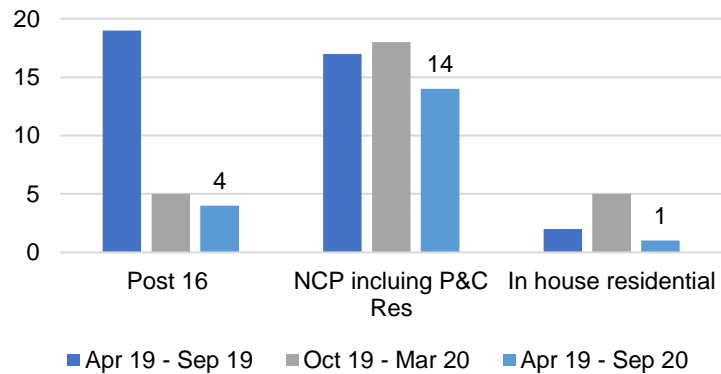
**Hampshire LAC and children in IFA placements**



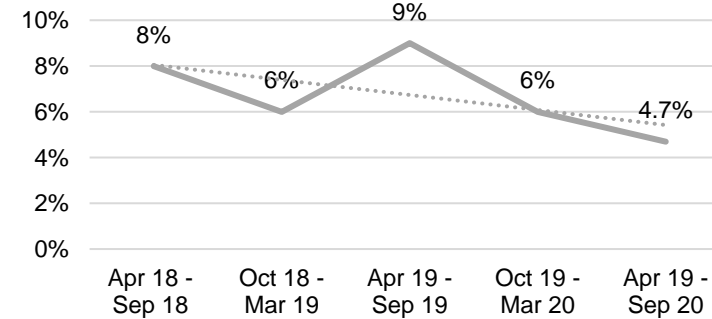
**Placements made not in line with the original foster care request**

Of the total number of referrals received for foster care only 19 placements were made not in line with the original request. It is positive that this is continuing to reduce each period as this means the majority of placements are being made in line with what the social workers felt would best fit the young persons needs.

**Placements Made**

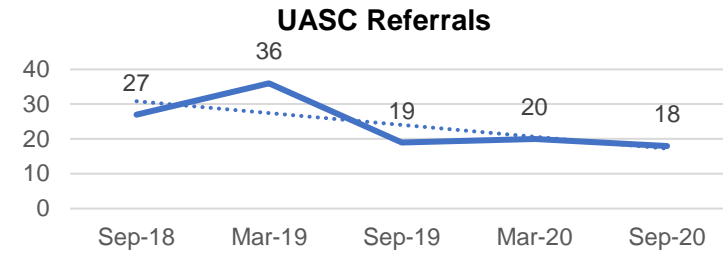


**% of placements made not in line with original request**



**UASC Referrals**

19 referrals received for UASC foster care placements. These referral statistics are intended to show new UASC entering the care of Hampshire County Council.

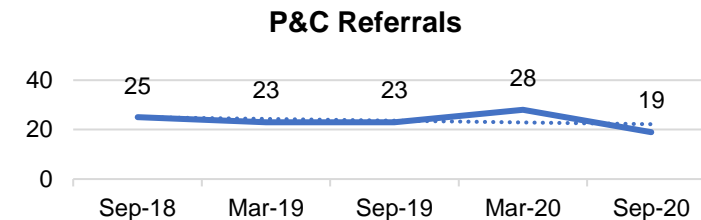


**UASC Situation in Kent**

In September 2020, Kent advised that due to the numbers of people arriving into the Dover port they were unable to support with these people. Hampshire County Council offered to take the next 10 arrivals that were children. Placements were identified and reserved for these children without knowing where they have come from or when they were even going to arrive. The placements were all made with one provider and they provided all the placement details upfront so that the duty social workers on the day could call the carers directly to say that it was needed that day and they were on their way to the placement. This joined up communication worked really well in the urgent situation.

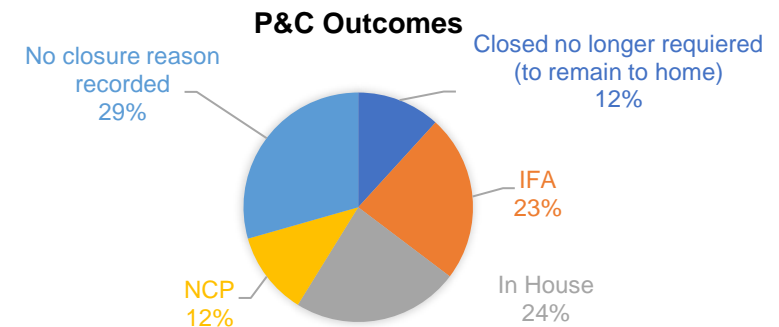
**Lot 2 Parent & Child Referrals**

Only 19 referrals were received requesting a parent and child foster placement. This equates to only 4% being for parent and child.



**Placements**

There is a relatively even split between IFA and In House placements being made. Only two placements were made not in line with the original request for parent and child foster care as they were placed in NCP Parent and Child Residential units.



## IFA – Contracted vs. Off Contract Placements Period: 1st April – 30th September 2020

	On contract	Off contract
Total placements	276	107

## IFA – Specialist Frameworks Period: 1st April – 30th September 2020

### Lot 1 Complex/Challenging Behaviour

Only two placements were made in this period under this framework:

### Lot 2 Children with Severe Disabilities and Complex Health Needs

No placements were made in this period under this framework.

### Lot 3 Reunification

There continues to be no placements made under this framework. It is not concerning as social work teams are looking at stepping down, right sizing and reunification where appropriate. This work is being supported by tools such as SNA's and the outcomes based placement officers.

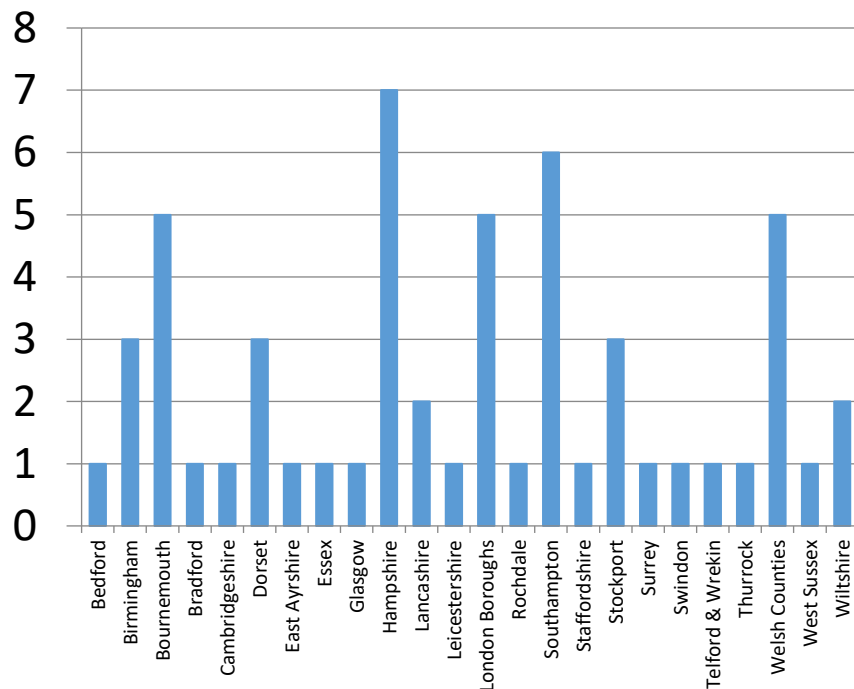
Part of the planning for the new framework involves the embedding of this lot across into all the other lots. The expectation from all providers that if the child's care plan is to be reunified they are expected to support with this. Therefore there is no longer a need for this as a separate lot.

### Placements

- There were 55 new Residential placements made during the period, for 48 separate children (8 more than the previous six months and one more than in the same six month period). Seven young people had two residential placements within this six month window.
- Of the 55 new residential placements, 17 were within homes on the residential framework (31%) and 38 were with off contract homes.

A breakdown of the locations for the placements is provided below.

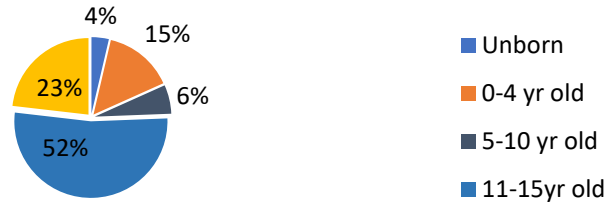
### NCP Placement Locations



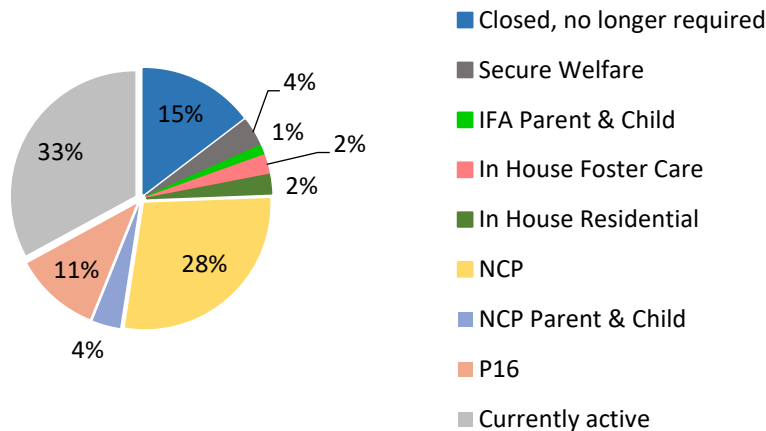
### Key Points:

- 13% of the placements made were in Hampshire, the same percentage as reported in the previous 6 months.
- Placements in the framework region accounted for 56% of the placements made, however of the 31 placements, only 17 were made within contracted homes (55%)
- Placements outside the framework region were 44% of the placements made (a slight increase of 4% from the previous six months).
- This figure of placements made out of the contracted region is effected by parent and child residential placements made outside of the framework region.
- When analysing the data it does suggest young people with more challenging behaviour tend to have an increased chance of being placed outside of the framework region. Highlighting the need to build resilience within providers on our framework.

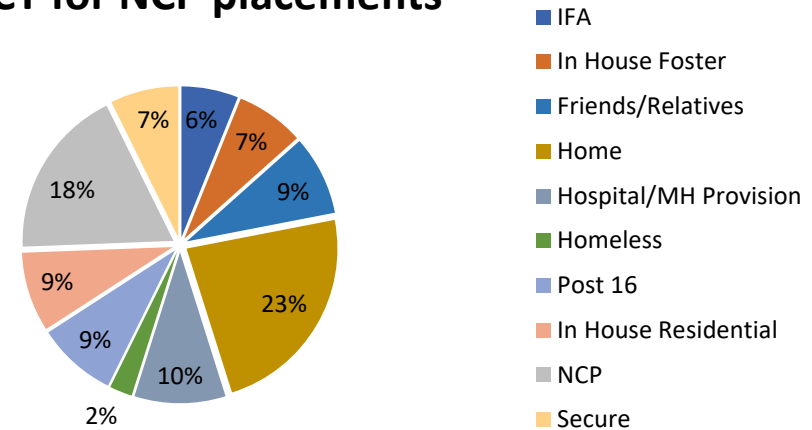
**Ages of children referred to PCT for NCP and NCP P&C**



**Outcome of NCP referrals to PCT**



**Current placements of children referred to PCT for NCP placements**



- 62% of no longer required referrals resulted in the child returning to home or their existing placement. This is a 30% increase from the last period.
- Currently 13% of all residential referrals result in a placement with IFA / Post 16 / In House carer, an increase of 36% from the previous period and 3% from the same time period last year.

### 26 Providers on the residential Framework

Providers have displayed a willingness to look towards partnership working and market development to try to increase the number of homes in Hampshire and the surrounding areas.

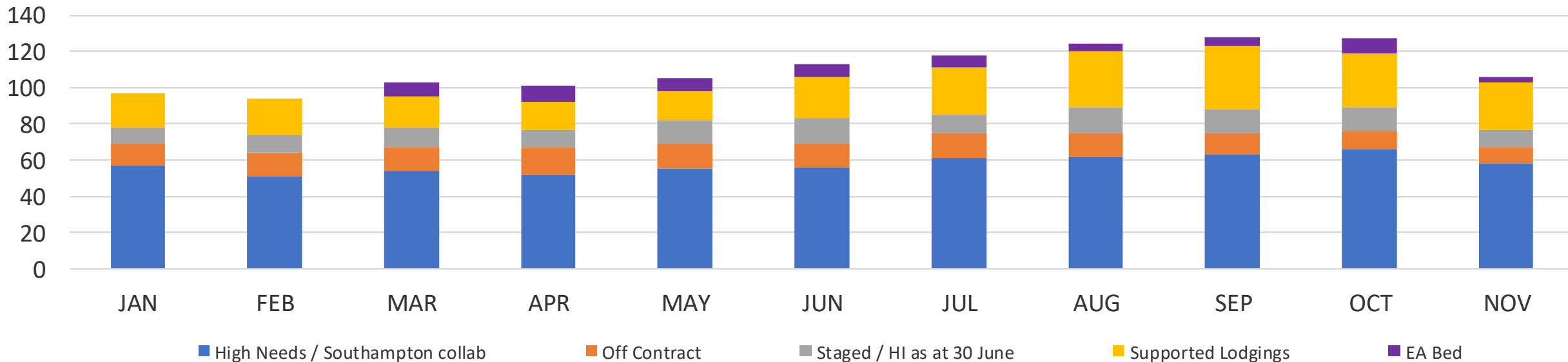
Ten new homes joined the Residential Framework in the July 2020 window.

41% of Framework placements were in Hampshire, 24% in Bournemouth, 18% in Dorset, 12% in Wiltshire and a further 6% in Surrey.

Providers are asked to explain any the placement breakdowns as part of quarterly monitoring. The info collated on 3 breakdowns was as follows.

Category of placement ending	No.	Reason for placement ending	No.
Placement Breakdown	3	Safeguarding issue caused by young person assaulting others within the home.	2
		Young person was arrested by police and had to move due to bail conditions	1

Two of these placements broke down due to safeguarding issues, in both cases the placement did not end immediately and therefore allowed for a notice period and some form of a transition to the young person's next placement.



PCP are proposing to re-tender the Post 16 High Support Needs Framework early next year.