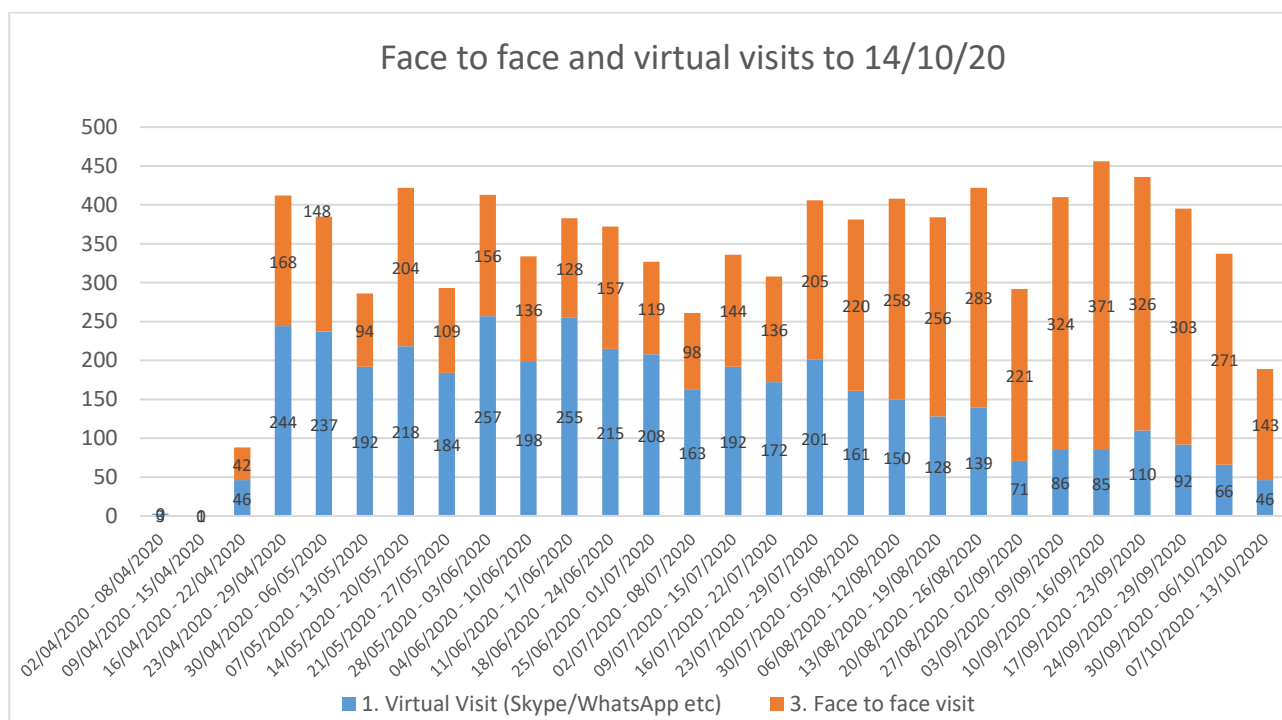


**Update for Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee November 2020**

**Updates to Children's Services Operating Model / structure**

- From 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, statutory visits to children on the Child Protection Register and children looked after have been face to face as per business as usual requirements.
- Home visits continue to be undertaken remotely where it is practicable to do so. All staff are currently undertaking their own visits and prioritising them. Visits are prioritised and responded to on a case by case basis.
- Arrangements for covering required face to face visits for staff who are concerned about visiting due to underlying health conditions are considered on a case by case basis.
- The graph below demonstrates the increasing proportion of face to face visits over time.

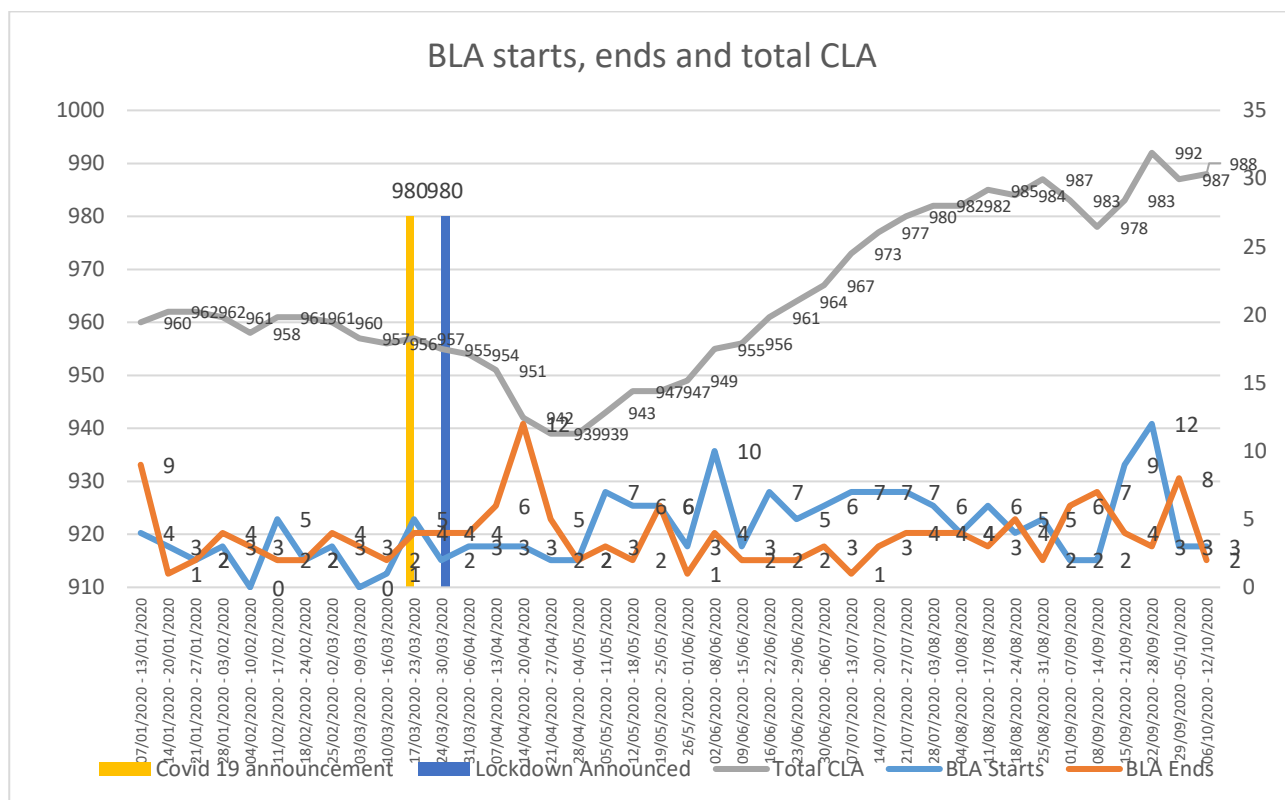


- The temporary arrangement for one OM is continuing during the COVID-19 and recovery period to provide support to localities.
- The temporary arrangement for a 4<sup>th</sup> Intake and Assessment Team has been made permanent and a Team Manager has been appointed.
- The phased exit of the Managed Team is ongoing. Gradual transfer of cases into the locality teams is being undertaken, alongside arrangements to transfer case holding workers from the 11+ team into the locality teams. Consultation in relation to the latter change is currently being undertaken. Consideration is also being given to establishing a 4<sup>th</sup> team in each of the localities.
- A Care and Support Team, staffed with temporary support workers has been set up to manage care and support cases. Consideration is being given to whether a Care and Support Team should be established on a permanent basis, and how this would best support service delivery.

- The restructure of the Fostering Service is underway – consultation with staff has been undertaken – and a proposal is being developed to separate kinship from Fostering.
- 2.5 posts specialising in supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children have been and are due to be advertised shortly.
- Agreement to proceed with the restructure of the Youth Justice Service has been received.

### Children Being Looked After

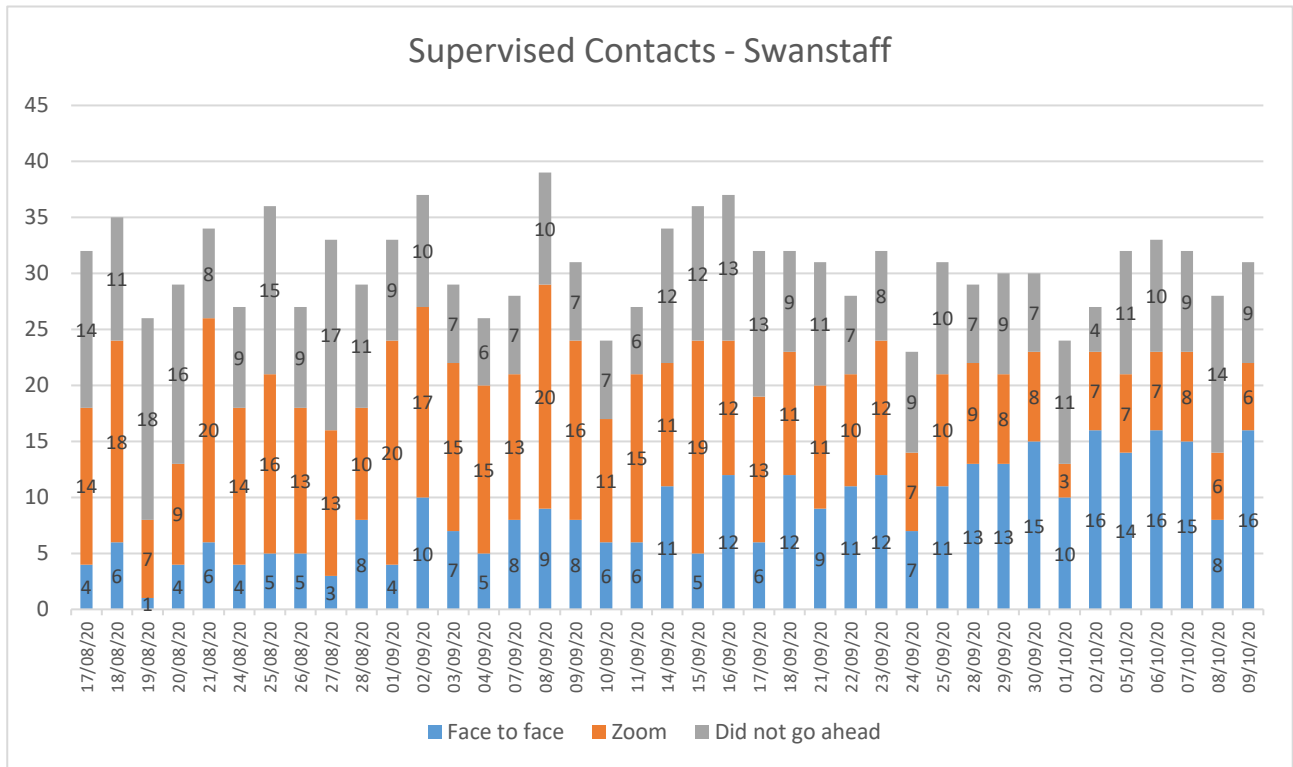
After a decrease in the number of children looked after in the early days of lockdown, a recent increase in new admissions has led to a gradual increase in recent weeks from 939 at 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 988 at 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. This recent increase appears to have slowed, but is being closely monitored. 60 of the 149 children who started being looked after during the year to date were placed with parents on a Care Order, with family / friends or in parent and baby placements.



### Contact

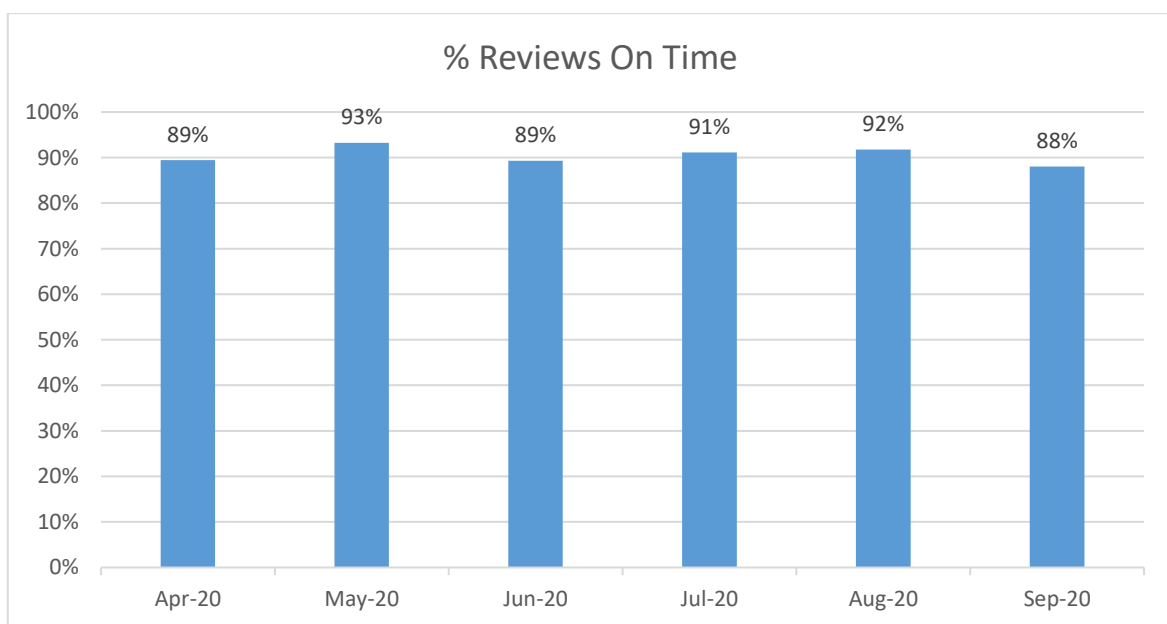
Our supervised contact provider commenced face to face services during w/c 10th August 2020. Risk assessments are required - without a risk assessment the contacts will remain virtual. All parents, professionals and children over the age of 11 have to wear face coverings when attending supervised contact. In response to the local lockdowns in South Wales and subsequent Fire Break, supervised contact is to be managed via family bubbles with no additional family members being added to bubbles for the time being. Guardians, Independent Social Workers and extended family members are asked to join direct contact virtually. Supervised contacts undertaken in the community are being reviewed to determine if any could safely and appropriately be supported by families – to reduce the demand on provider premises as we move into winter. Continuation of face to face contact will be reviewed weekly on an individual basis. The provider will offer weekend

contact sessions over the school holidays in order to respond to the increase in demand during this period. Foster carers are provided with PPE if required to facilitate contact. The graph below demonstrates the increasing number of face to face contacts over time.



### CLA Reviews

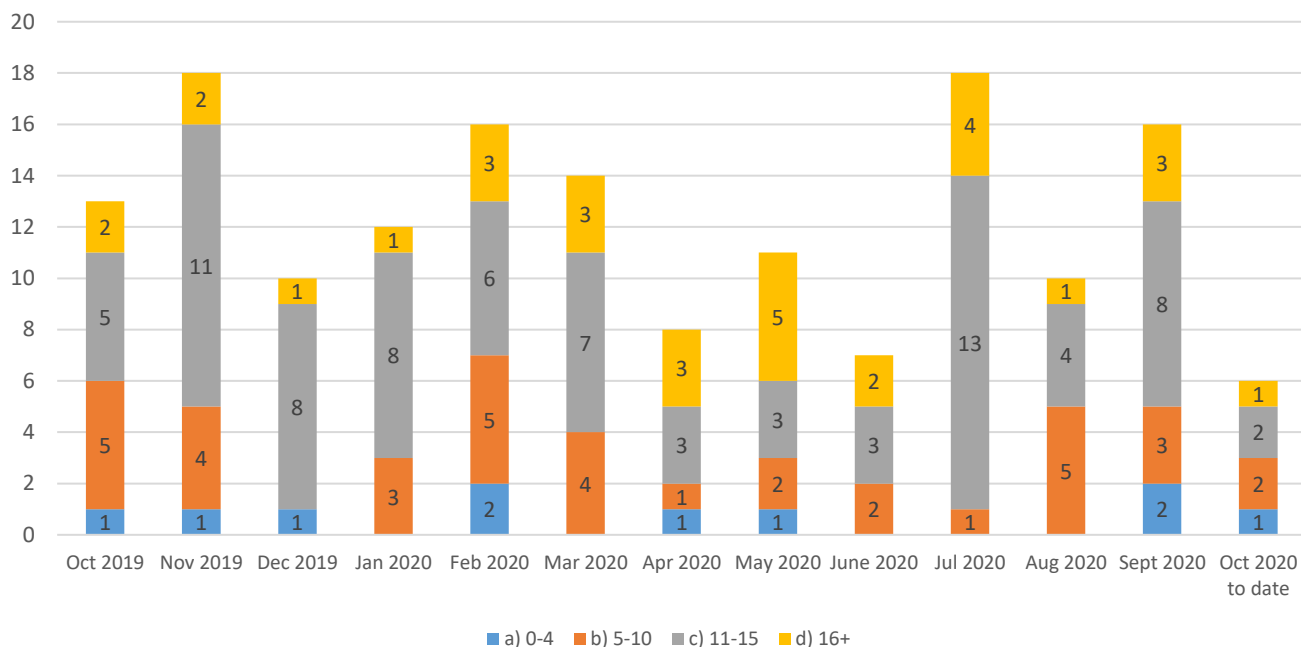
The process for children who are looked after continues as indicated in previous briefings, and a hybrid model is being developed going forward to build on the positive elements of virtual working identified during the COVID-19 crisis. Independent Reviewing Officers continue to actively speak to all parties, with children being spoken to separately before reviews to ascertain their views and wishes. Provisional figures on children looked after reviews show that the majority of reviews are taking place on time:



## Placements - Unplanned Placement Moves

After an increase in the number of unplanned placement move requests in the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19 announcement, the situation stabilised during Quarter 1. However, we saw an increase during Quarter 2 with the majority of unplanned placement move requests (57%) being for 11-15 year olds.

Unplanned Placement Move Requests by Age



## Providers

We are continuing to closely monitoring placements to ensure we are aware of those that are at risk of breaking down and we are working with the 4Cs to determine what support they might be able to provide to these placements. Decision making in relation to placements continues to be undertaken by the Children’s Management Team so all OMs have oversight of placement arrangements and arising issues.

An emergency residential provision for 11-18 years “Oakway” is in the process of being set up and work is progressing for submission of a registration application, including the development of a Statement of Purpose. An Edge of Care task and finish group is being established to model work in this area going forward.

A further building has been identified for an Assessment Centre and the purchase of this property is currently being taken forward. The Deputy Manager is in post and recruitment to other posts is ongoing.

Mechanisms have been developed to track supply and demand of residential placements in Cardiff to support placement planning for young people, and also to identify children who are going through the PLO process who will potentially require placements.

A mechanism is in place to monitor future demand for Gateway provision / plans for young people aged 15.5+. We currently have 10 young people in agency fostering and residential placements who are waiting for a Gateway placement or tenancy, costing in excess of £19.5k per week. We are working with Housing to increase accommodation options for the young people via the Young People’s Housing Gateway and a deep dive

exercise to better understand the needs of these young people to inform the development of provision is currently being undertaken.

The pie charts below show the growth in proportion of children placed with parents on a Care Order or in kinship arrangements with family members in recent years:

