









Demand Analysis

Introduction

Children's Services in Cardiff are experiencing ongoing high demand for services combined with an increase in the complexity of cases. The impact of this on our capacity to manage demand is becoming more evident as we experience the longer term impact of COVID-19 harms. This report sets out the increase in demand that has been experienced across the child's journey and some of the effects this is having on our services and consequently on our children and young people. This analysis has been used to inform the development of the new Children's Services Strategy and our plans for how we will shape our services going forward - in the context of significant budget pressures and the current cost of living crisis.

A brief overview of the increase in demand from 2019/20 to 2021/22 is summarised below, with further detail provided throughout this report.

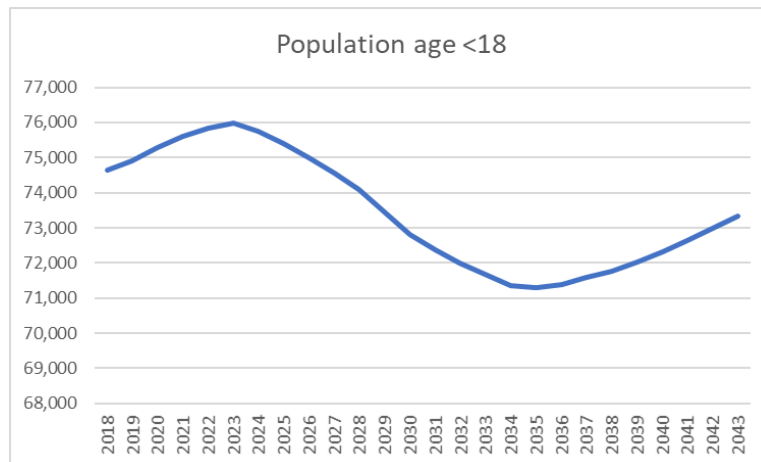
Contacts	Referrals	Well-being assessments completed	Strategy discussions	Section 47 enquiries	Initial child protection conferences	Added to Child Protection Register	Started to be looked after
							
47,424	5,108	2,509	5,338	4,171	689	612	306
↑ 51%	↑ 115%	↑ 13%	↑ 62%	↑ 58%	↑ 49%	↑ 46%	↑ 20%
31,323 (2019/20)	2,373 (2019/20)	2,218 (2019/20)	3,293 (2019/20)	2,645 (2019/20)	462 (2019/20)	419 (2019/20)	255 (2019/20)

Our Children's Services Strategy for the next 3 years sets out our vision and gives an overview of the work that we are doing to enable us to manage and respond to the demand that we are experiencing. We are working to future proof our services, ensuring that the right services are provided by the right people and at the right time, and that we have the right resource and capacity to meet our statutory duties. This approach dovetails and delivers on the Welsh Government policy to safely reduce the number of children looked after and ensures that we maintain the lowest safe level of intervention with children and families. We are also mindful of the Welsh Government commitment to eliminate private profit from the care of children looked after and this intention is woven into all of our strategies and plans which focus on increasing our in house provision for children looked after in Cardiff.

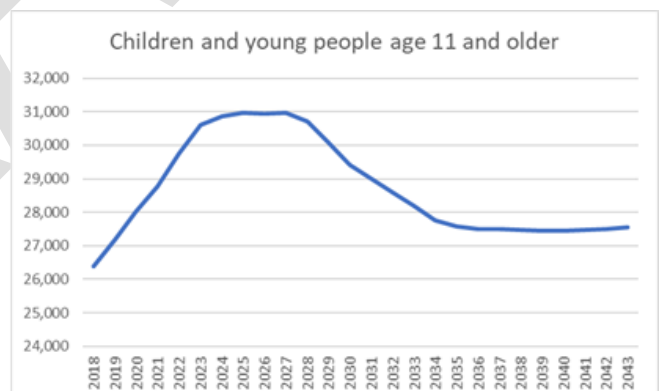
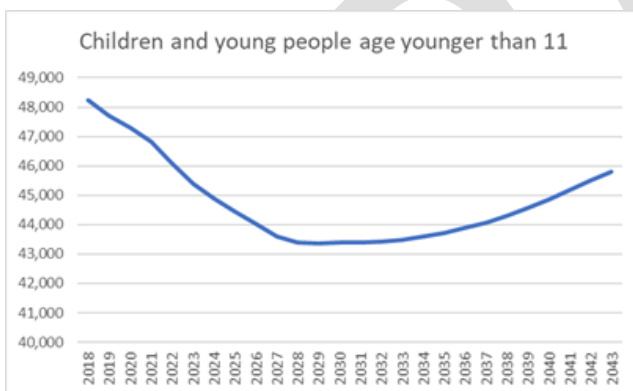


Cardiff 0-18 Population

Welsh Government projections suggest that the number of children aged 0-18 in Cardiff will peak in 2023 at 75,980. There is a projected decrease to 71,295 by 2035 followed by an increase to 73,345 by 2043 (based on 2018 population projections).



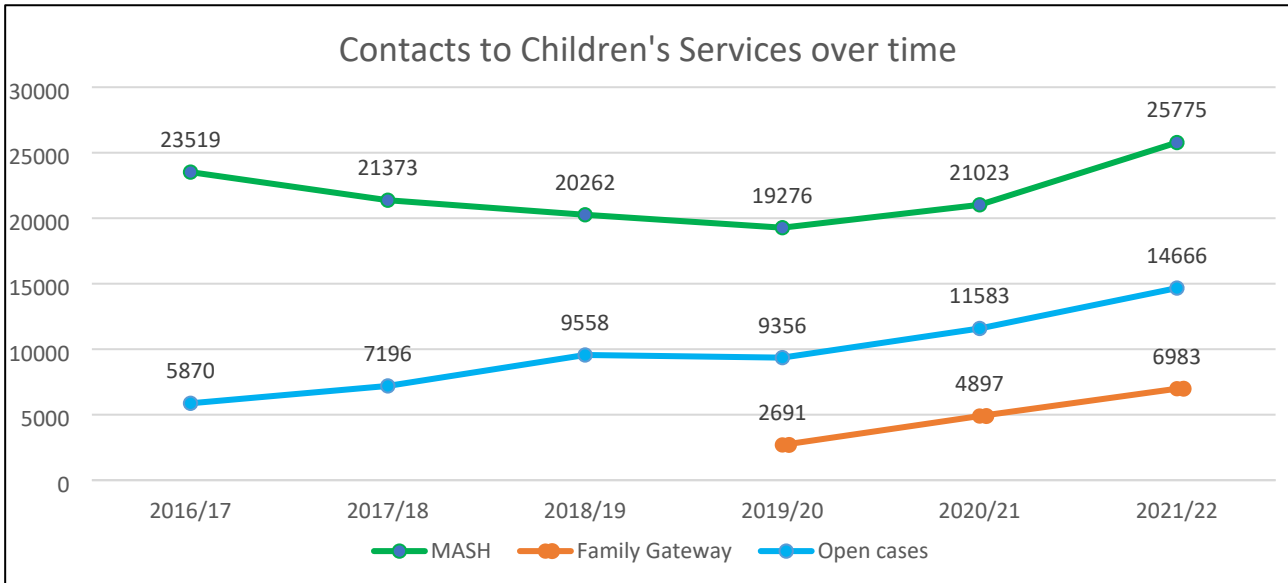
However, it should be noted that there is variation within the age bands which make up the population of children and young people. The charts below show that whilst the population of primary school aged children is likely to decrease in the coming decade, the population of secondary school aged children and young people is likely to increase and is likely to peak in 2028.



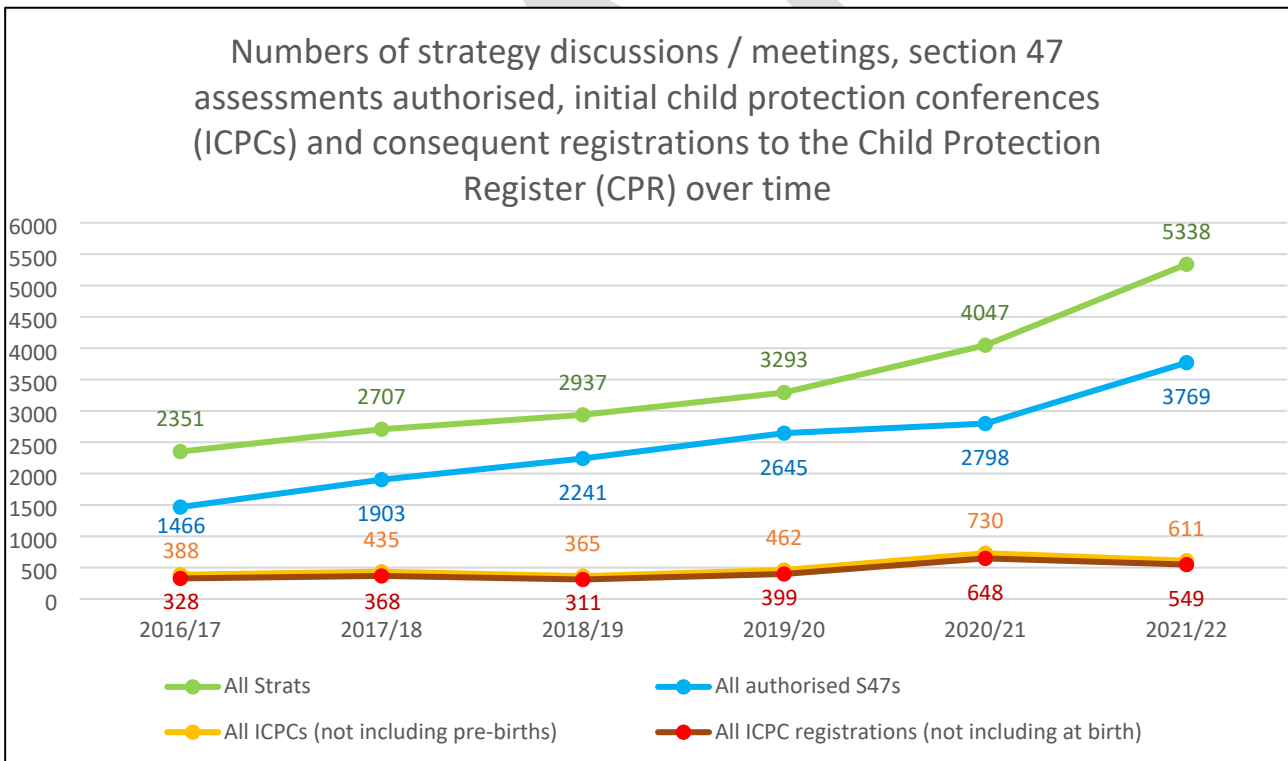
The projections do not take into account the as yet unknown impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. The figures may therefore be subject to further revision as those events are incorporated into population trends over time.



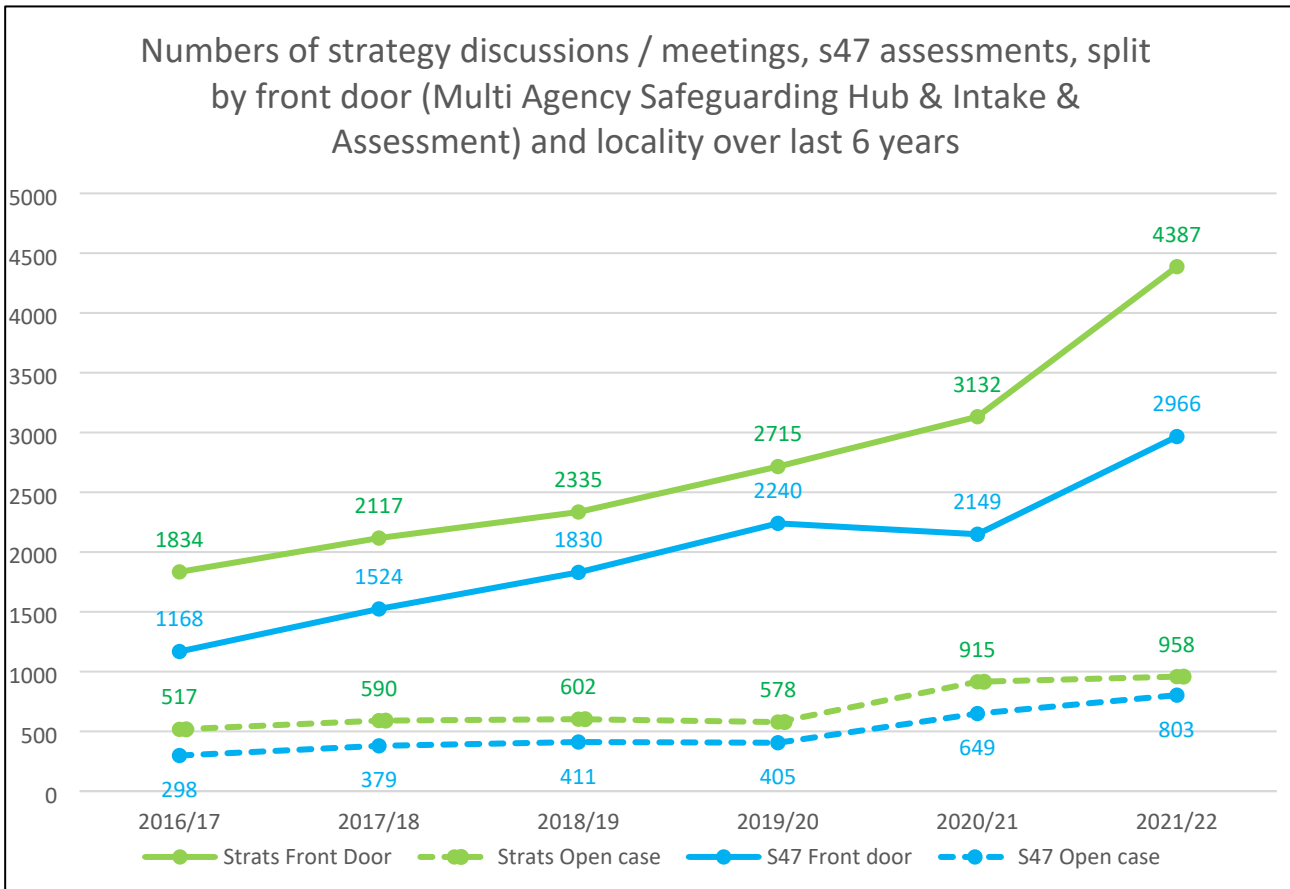
Contacts, Assessments and Child Protection Process



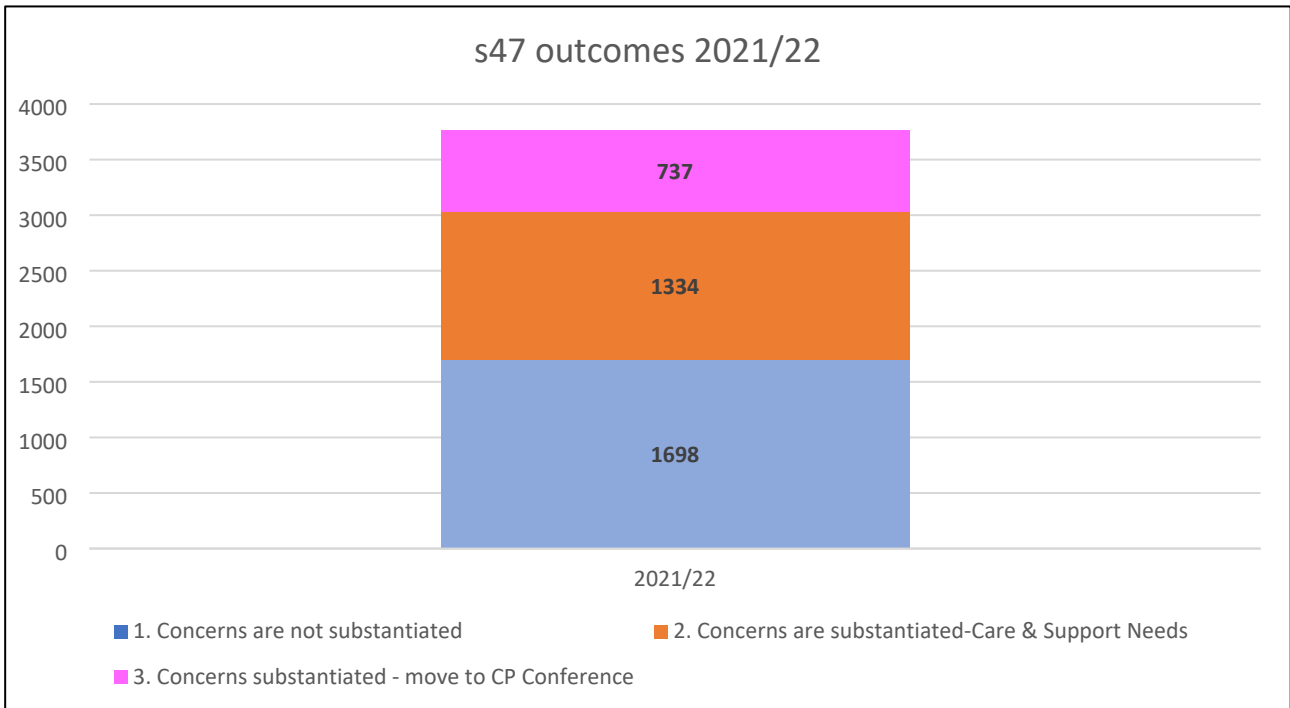
The graph above shows the increase in contacts to Children's Services and the front door over the last 6 years – with a 34% increase in contacts to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



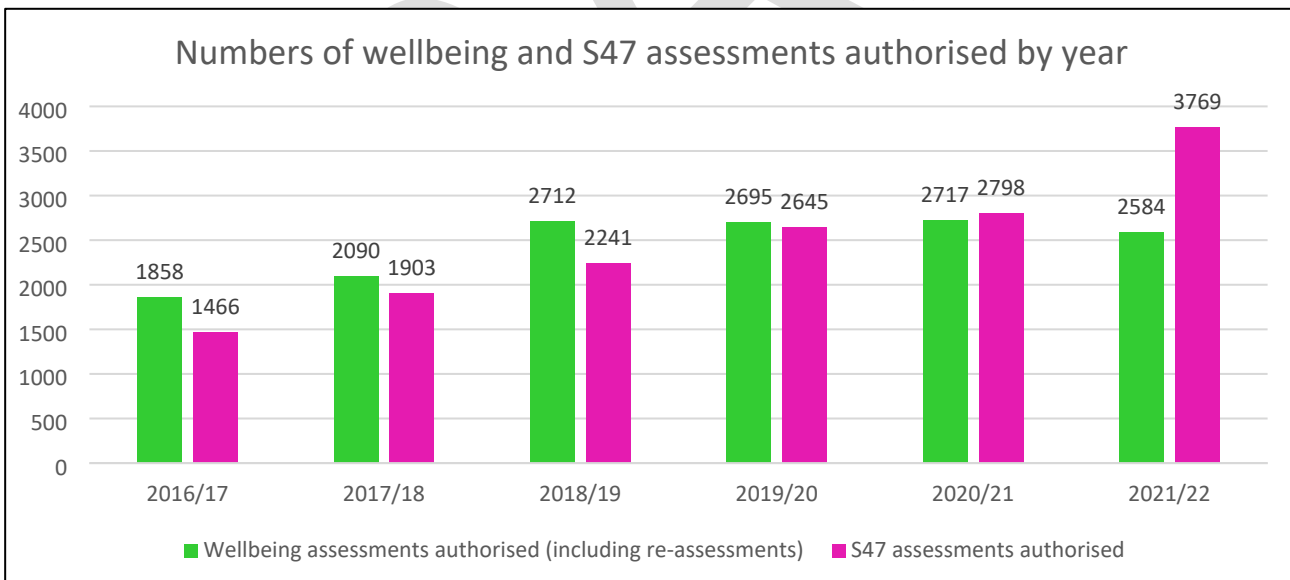
This graph shows the steady increase in the numbers of strategy discussions taking place over time with the significant 32% leap during 2020/21. This increase is reflected in the number of s47s, ICPCs and registrations until 2020/21, except for the year 2018/19 which showed a reduction in numbers going to ICPC and being registered. Results for 2021/22 show a further increase in strategy discussions and s47s but a reduction in ICPCs and registrations from 2020/21. Please note children often have more than one strategy discussions or s47 during the year.



This graph shows the number of strategy discussions and s47 assessments completed at the front door and separately those completed on open cases. There has been a noticeable increase in strategy discussions both at the front door and on open cases over the last two years.



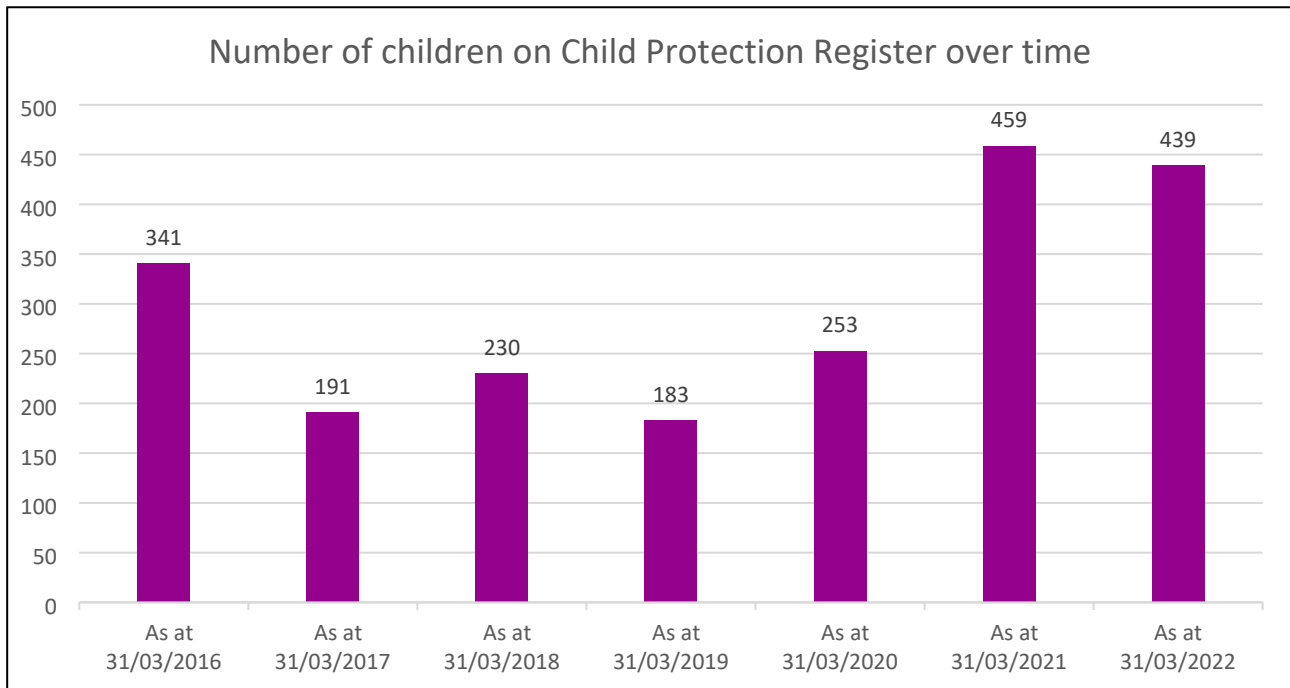
This graph shows the breakdown of s47 outcomes over 2021/22. 737 (19.6%) went to ICPC. 1,334 (35.4%) had the outcome of care and support needs whilst for 1,698 (45.1%) the concerns were not substantiated.



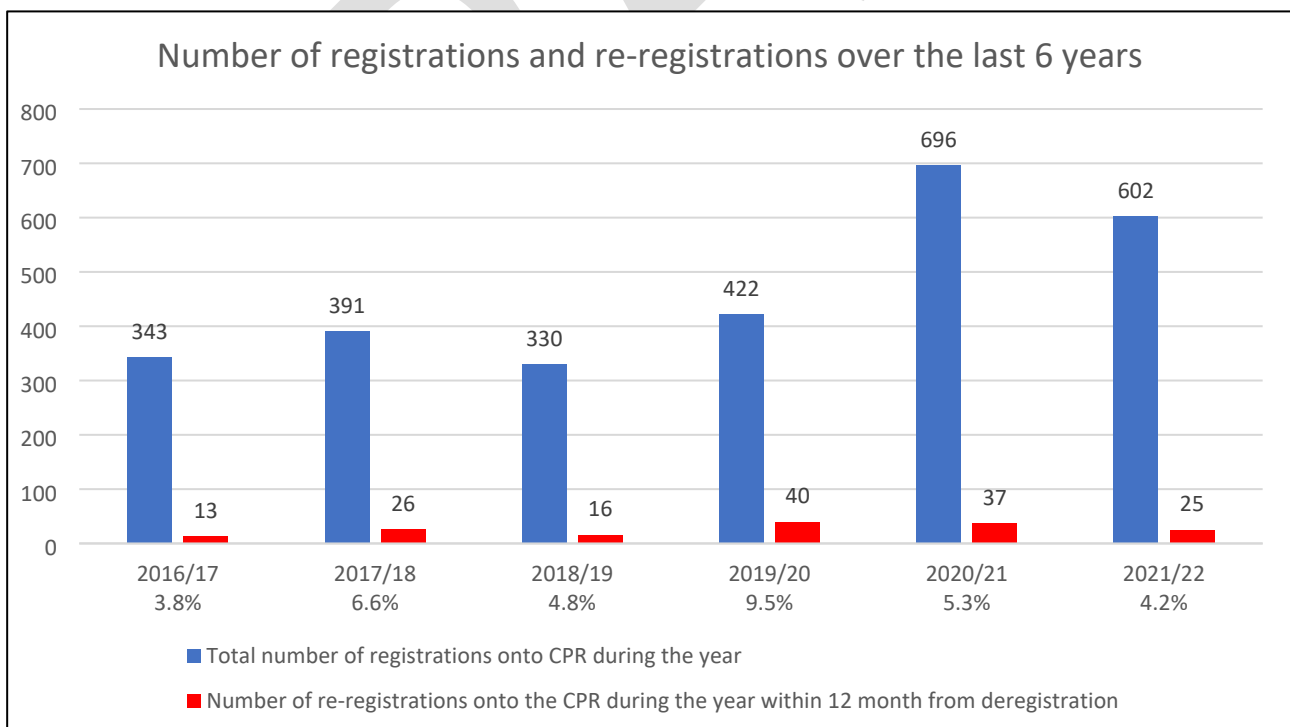
Graph showing the increase of wellbeing assessments undertaken and authorised from 2016/17 to 2018/19 and then how the number has remained fairly constant around 2,700 authorised per year. However, we need to take the increase in the number of s47 assessments into account alongside these figures – demonstrating the increase in complexity of cases coming through the front door.



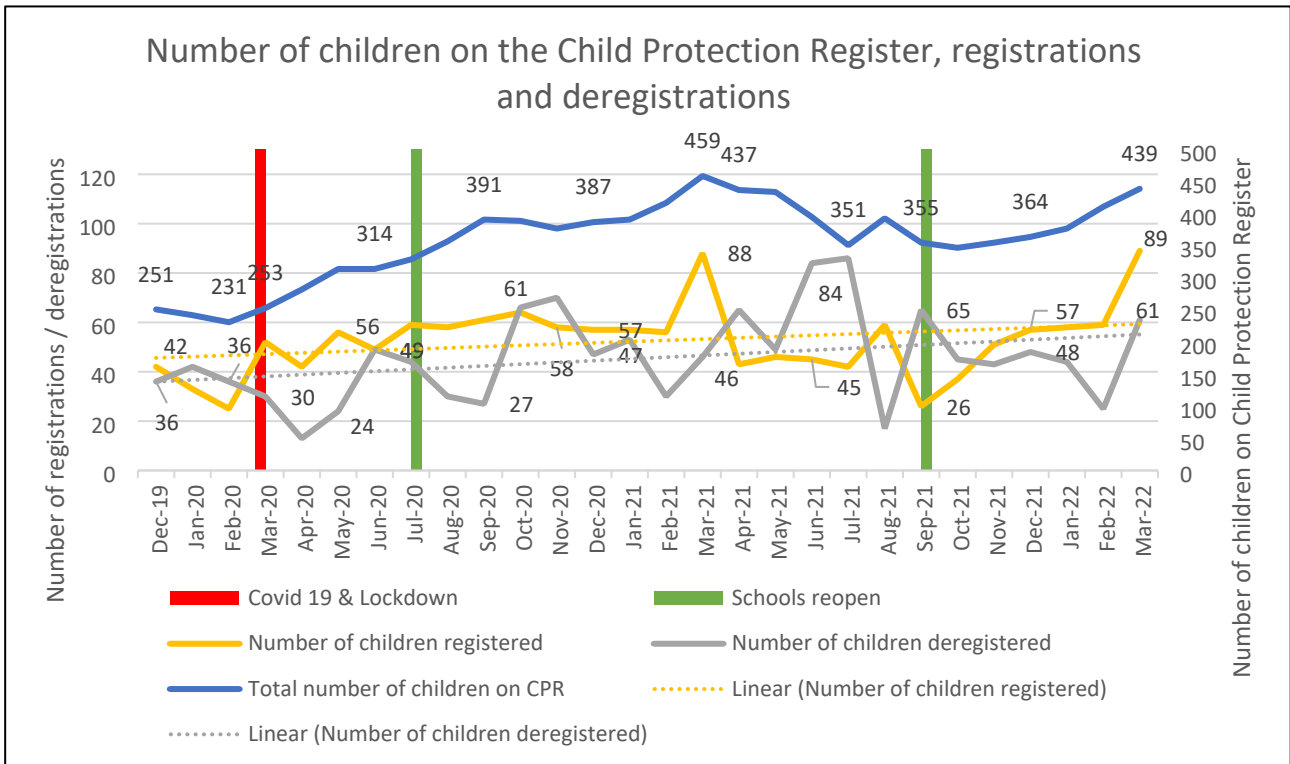
Child Protection Register (CPR)



Graph showing the numbers of children on the CPR in Cardiff as at 31st March over the last six years. There was a 151% increase in numbers from March 2019 to March 2021. During 2021/22 the number of children decreased over the first 6 months but then increased back to 439.

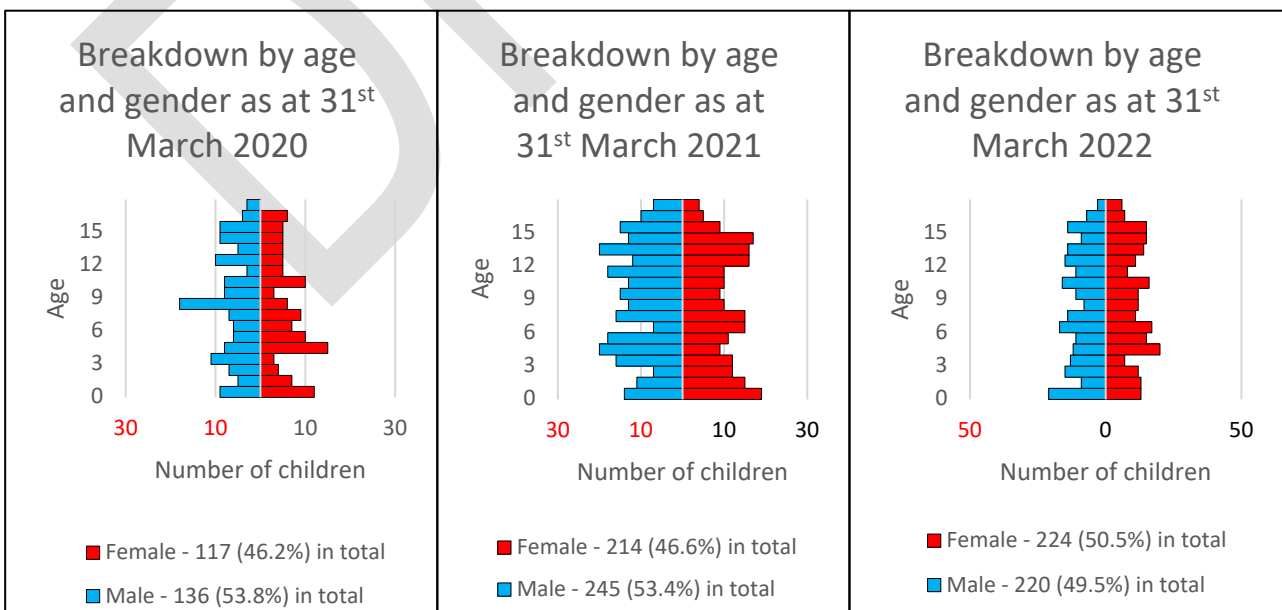


Graph showing the re-registrations within 12 months of a de-registration. The rate was low for both 2020/21 and 2021/22, showing that children aren't being de-registered too soon.

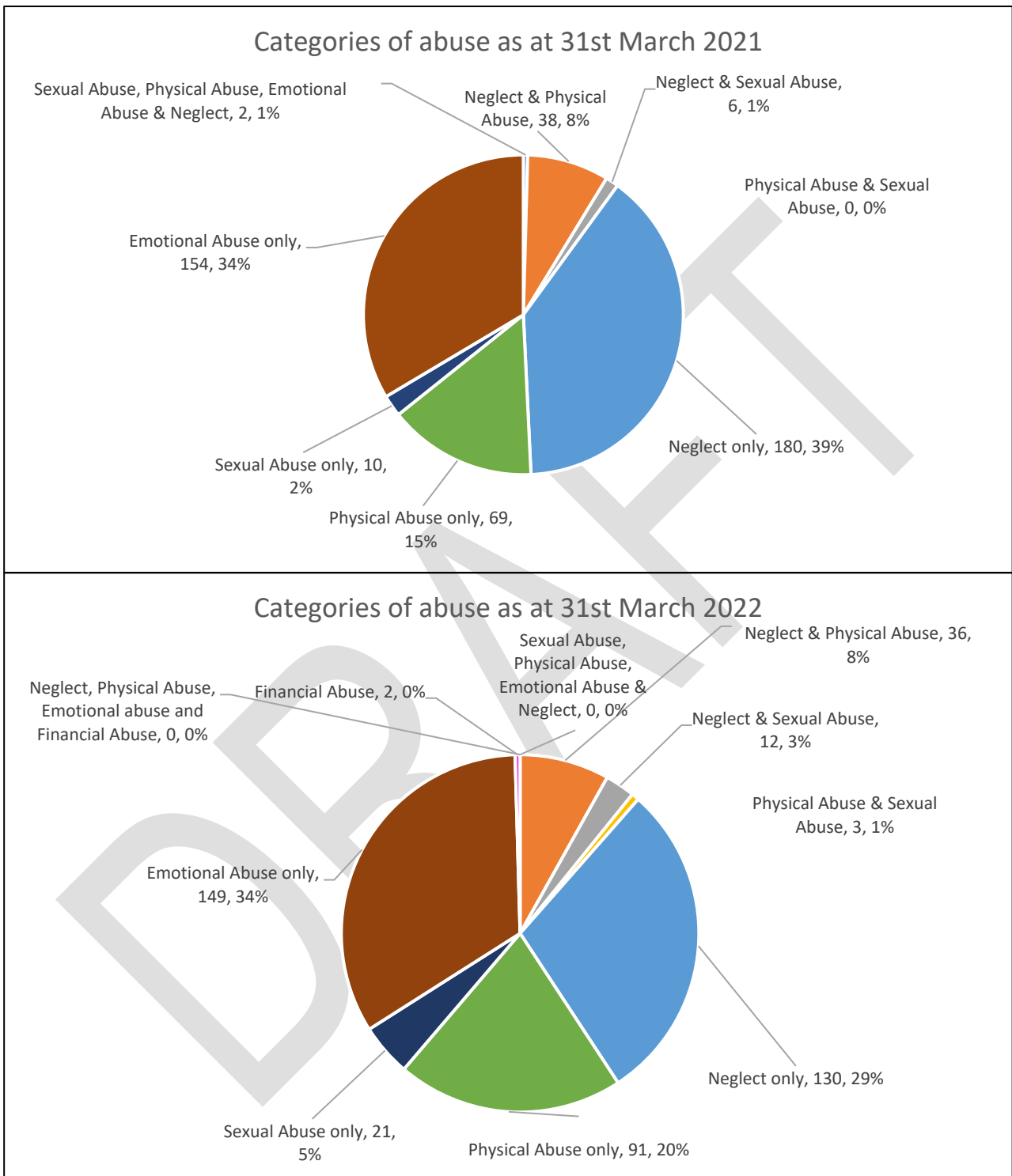


Graph showing the steady increase of numbers of children on the CPR up until the 31st March 2021, when there were 459 children on the register. The number of children fell to 351, although later increased back to 444. In 2021/22 there was an average of 45 registrations a month compared to 59 a month over 2020/21. The registrations trend line has flattened whilst the trend line for the number of de-registrations shows a more marked increase over the whole period as there are on average 52 deregistrations a month since April 2021 compared to 42 a month last year.

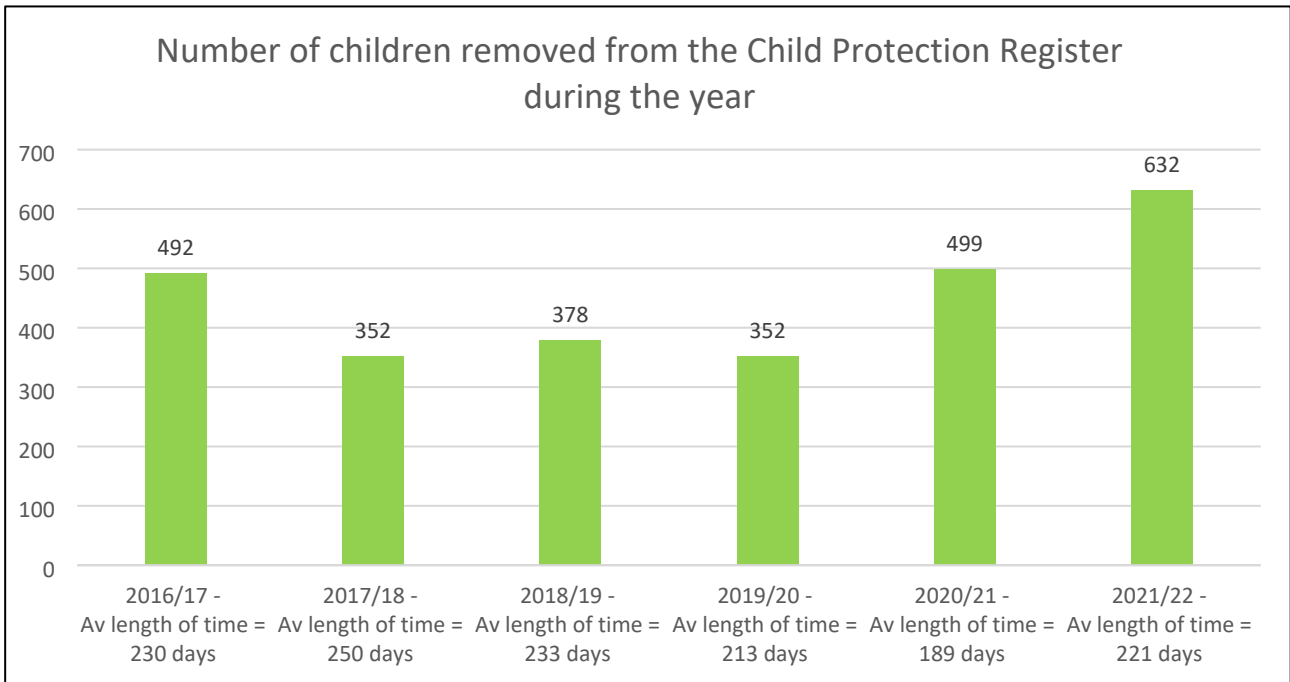
Breakdowns of Children on the CPR by Age and Gender Over Time



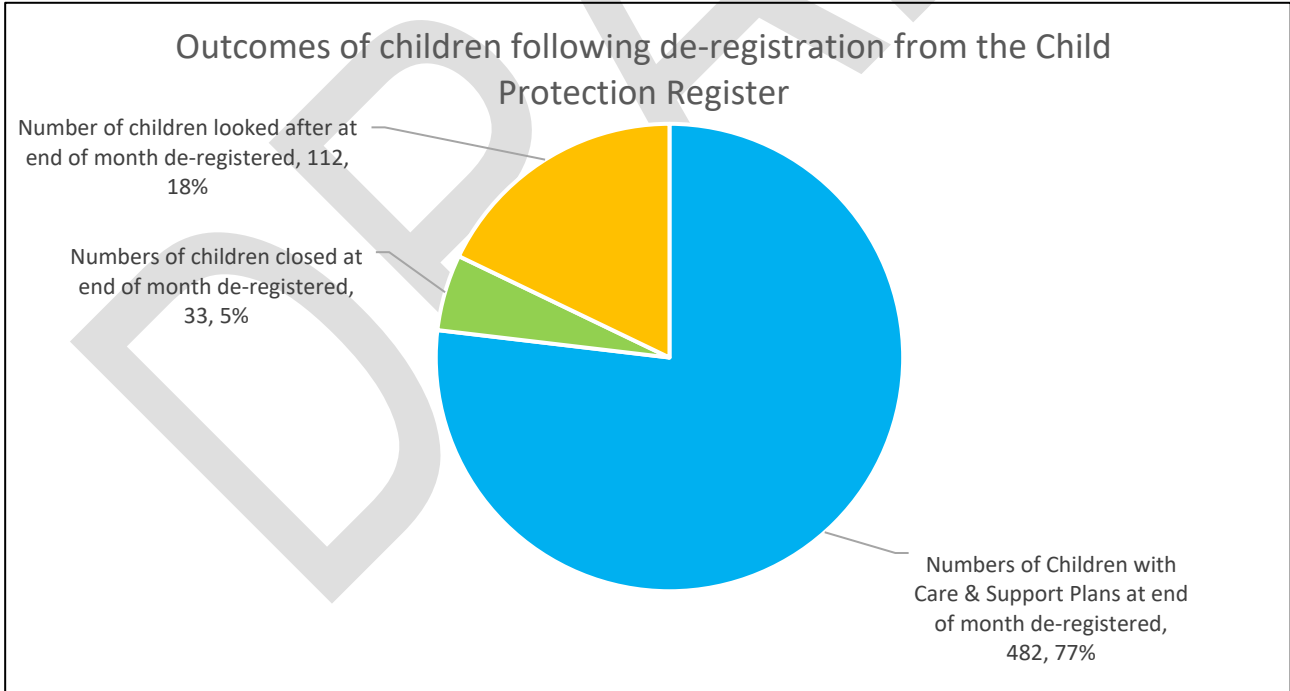
Categories of Abuse Over Time



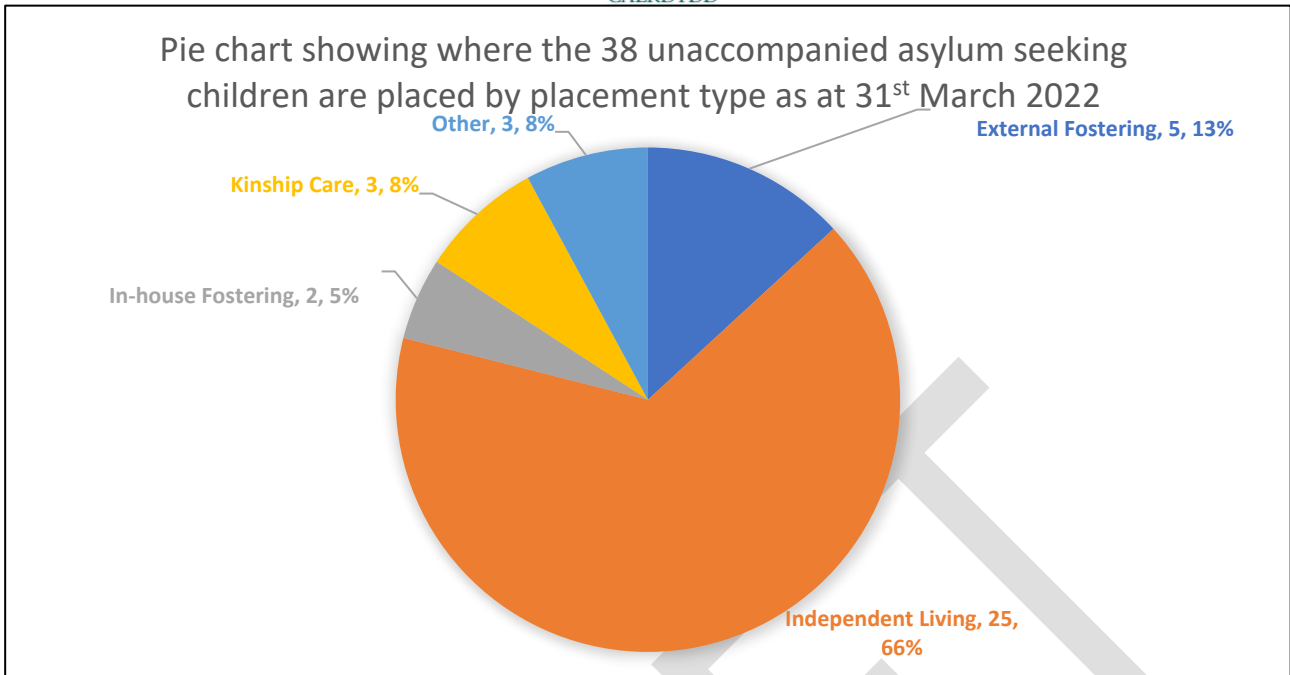
The pie charts above show that the primary change of the last 2 years has been a decrease in the percentage of children registered against Neglect only and an increase in the percentage of children registered against physical abuse only. There has also been a small increase in the percentage of children registered against a category including Sexual Abuse.



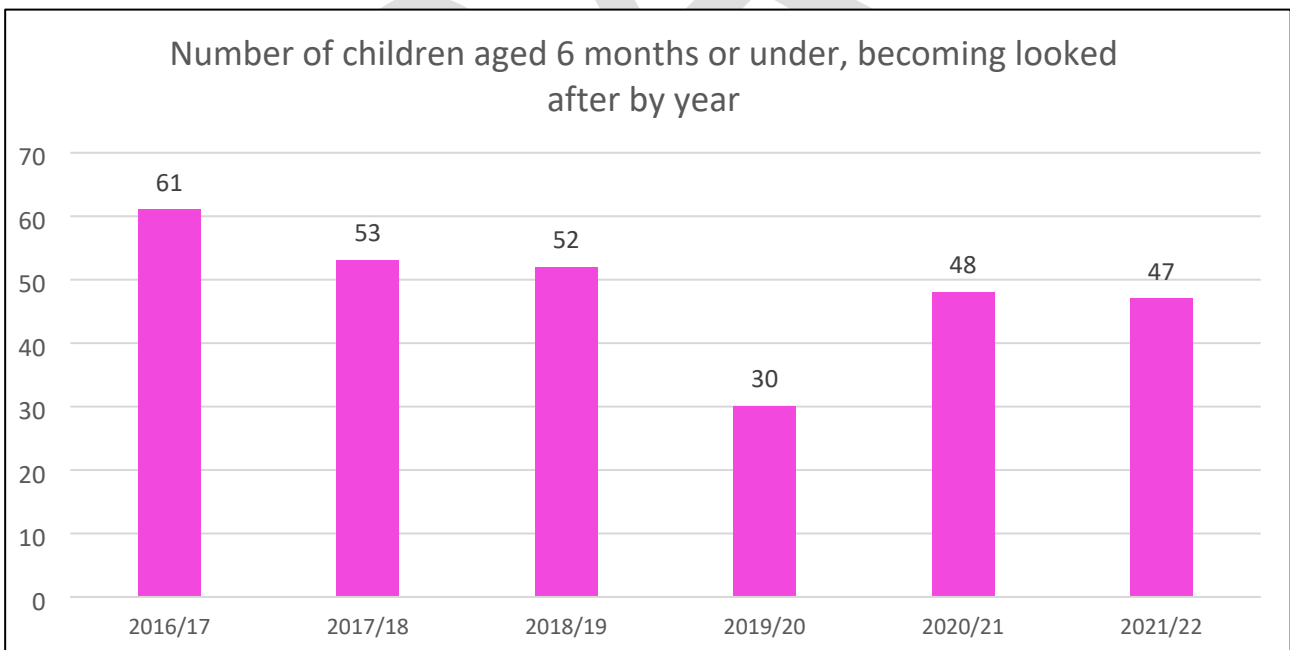
This graph shows the number of deregistrations per year in Cardiff and the average length of time on the register at the point of deregistration. It demonstrates the increase in activity over the last 2 years.



The pie chart for 2021/22, shows the vast majority (515 / 627) or 82.1% were stepped down following de-registration from the Child Protection Register, whilst 112 or 17.9% then became looked after. Of the 112 who became looked after, 32 or 28.6% were under 6 months of age.

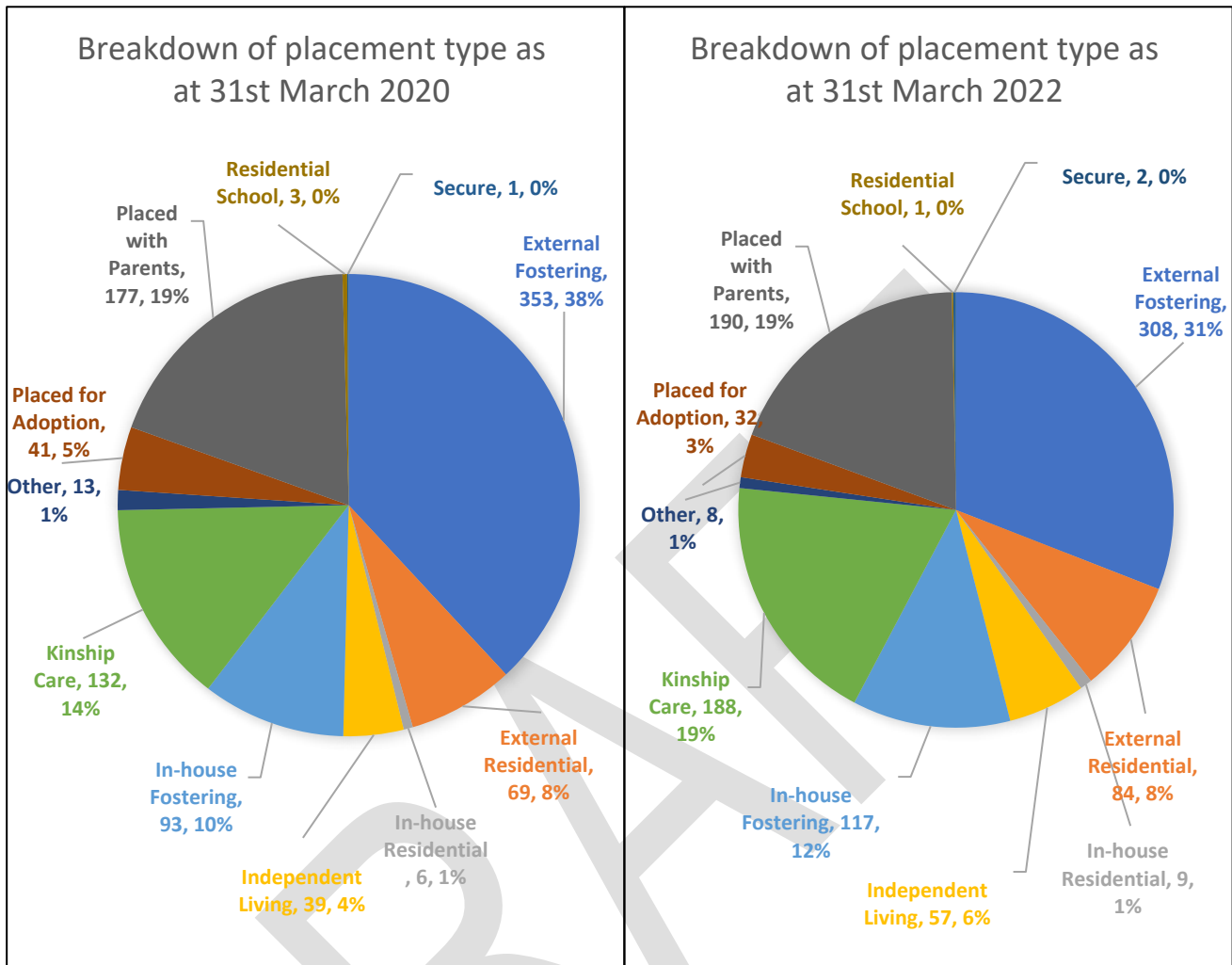


This graph shows where our 38 unaccompanied asylum seeking children were placed as at the 31st March 2022. The youngest 4 are 15 years of age and they are placed in 1 kinship placement, 1 in house foster placement and 2 external fostering placements. The other 34 are 16 and 17 years old and are living in the remainder of placements shown above.



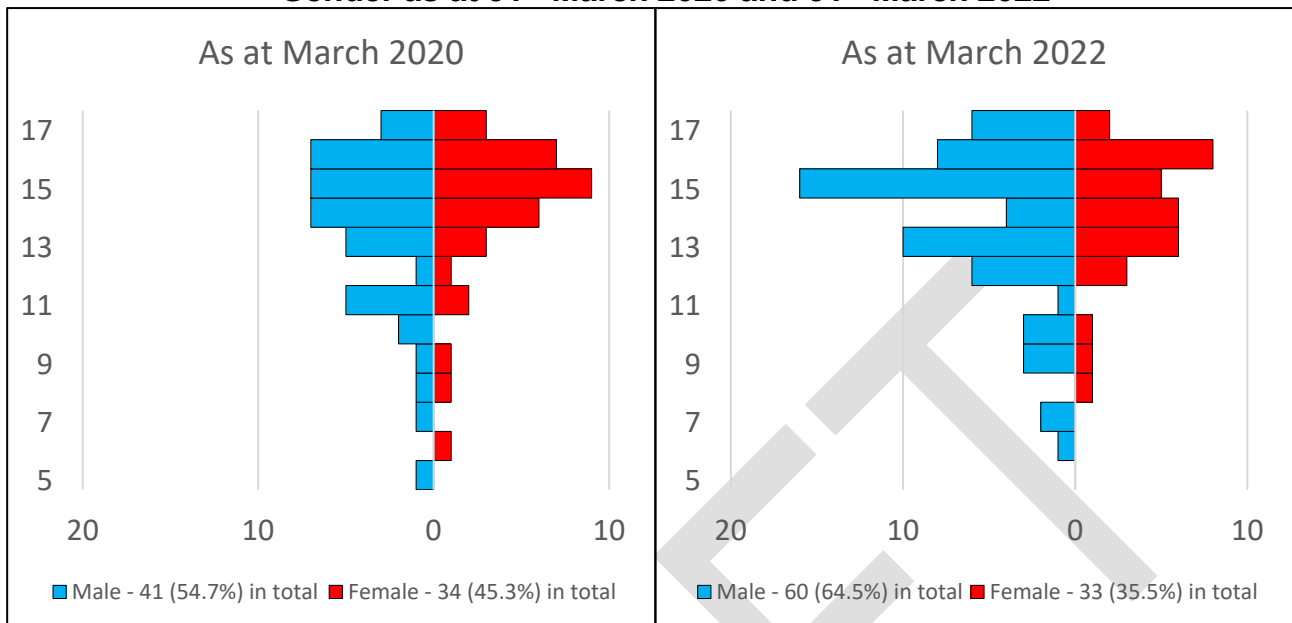
This graph shows the number of children aged 6 months or under who became looked after each year. During 2021/22 there were 47 children who were 6 months old or less at the start of being looked after evidencing a recent increase in demand for placements for babies, including parent and baby placements.

Breakdown of Where Children Are Placed Over Time



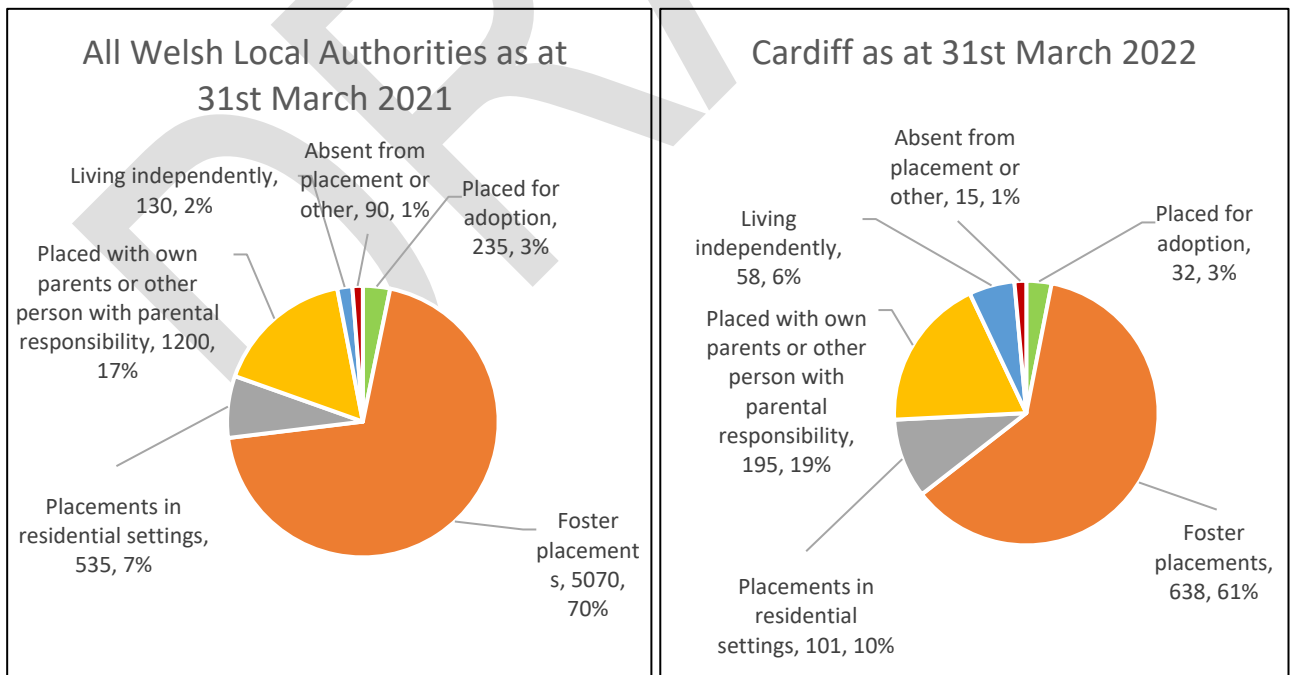
The pie charts above show the increase in demand for residential placements and the increasing number of children and young people in kinship and in house foster care. It also shows the ongoing increase in the number of children who are on a Care Order, but placed with their parents. The number of young people in Independent Living placements has increased from 39 to 57.

Graphs Showing the Number of Children in Residential Placements by Age and Gender as at 31st March 2020 and 31st March 2022

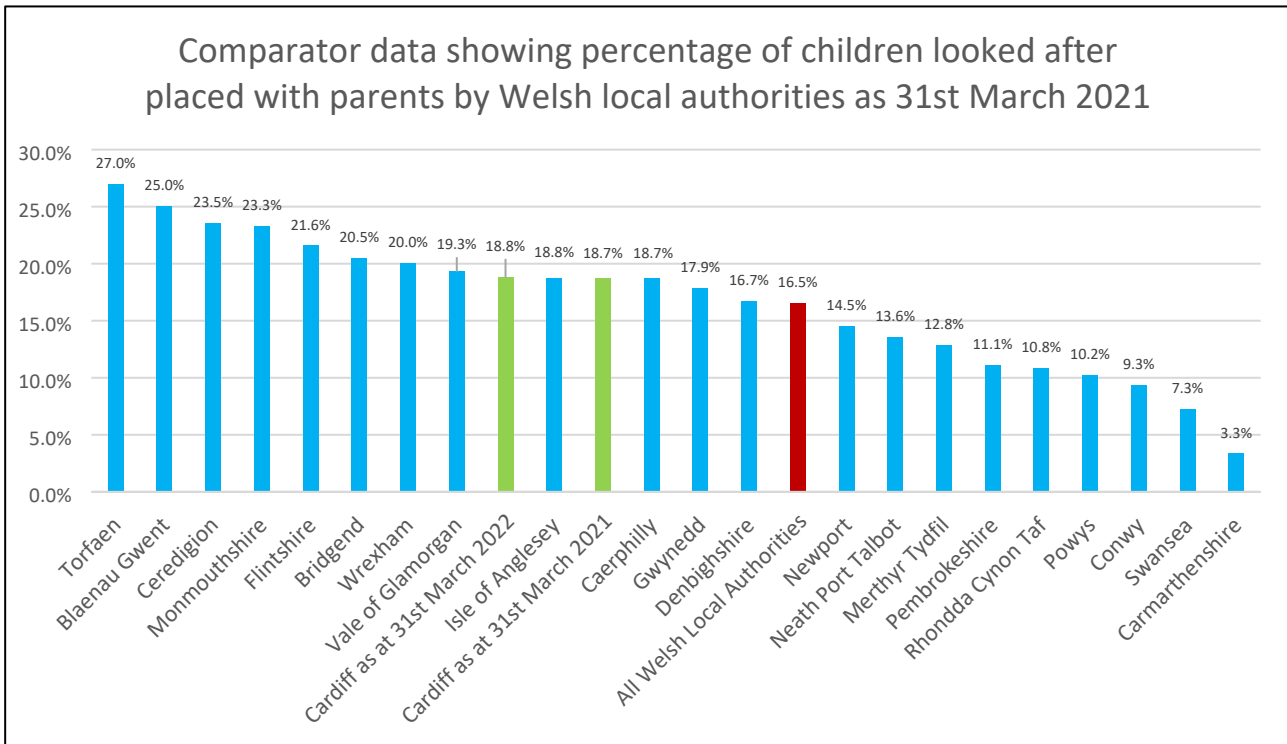


The charts above set out the increase in demand for residential placements for older teenage boys. Looking at the age structure of children looked after, together with the population projections for 11-18 year olds, the data suggests that the peak in demand for looked after placements, based on population size alone, might not be reached until 2023 and extend until 2028.

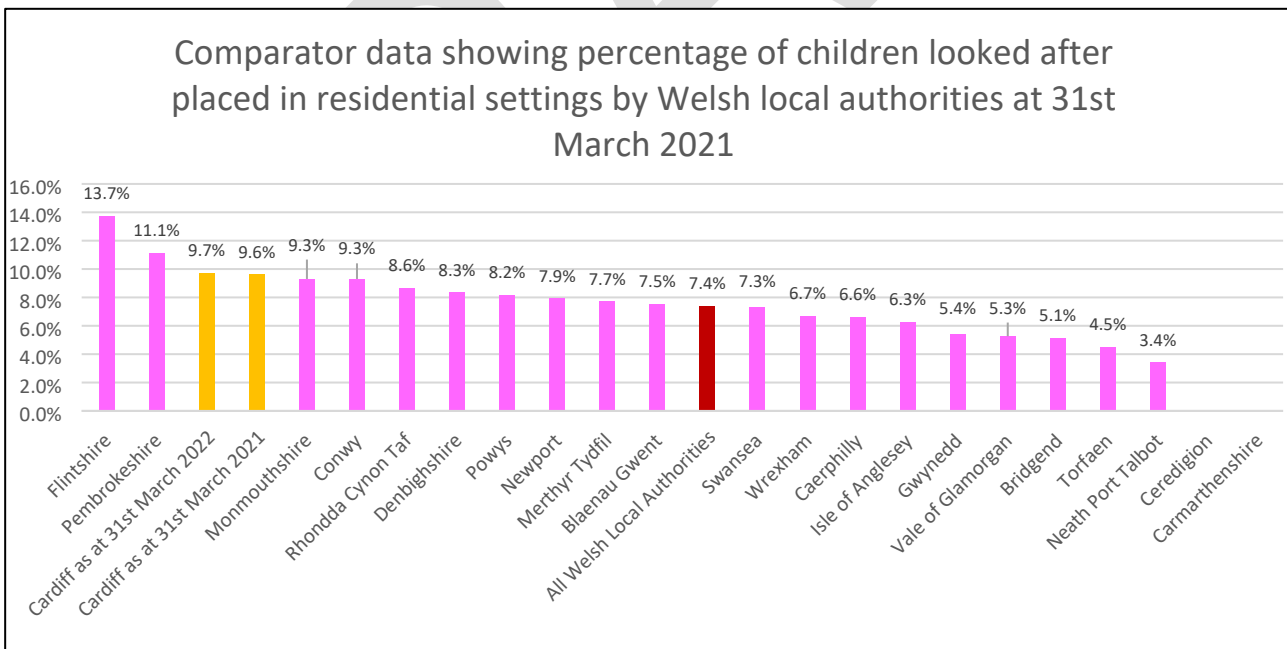
Comparison of Breakdown by Type of Placement for Children Looked After



These pie charts show what type of placements children are placed in by All Wales Local Authorities compared to Cardiff's children looked after, 9% more children are placed in foster placements by All Welsh LA's compared to Cardiff, Cardiff have 3% more residential placements, 2% more placed with parents and 4% more independent living placements.

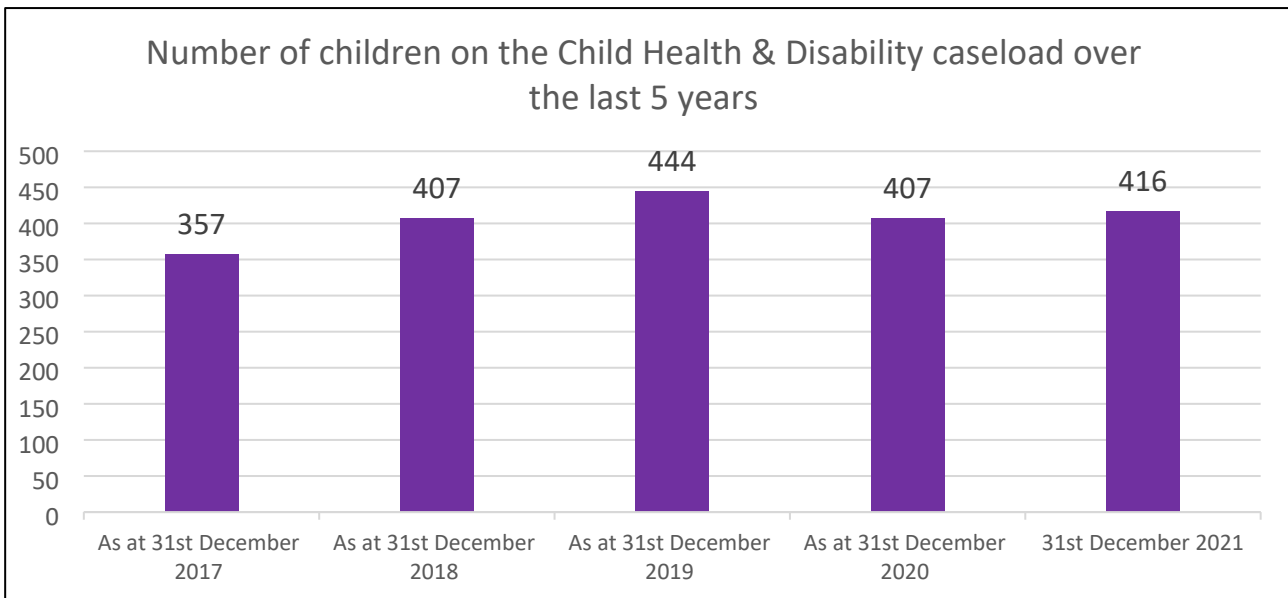


This graph shows the percentage of children looked after placed with their parents or other person with parental responsibility by Welsh LAs as at the 31st March 2021. The All Wales average is 16.5% placed with parents, Cardiff is not an outlier at 18.7% increasing slightly to 18.8% as at 31st March 2022.



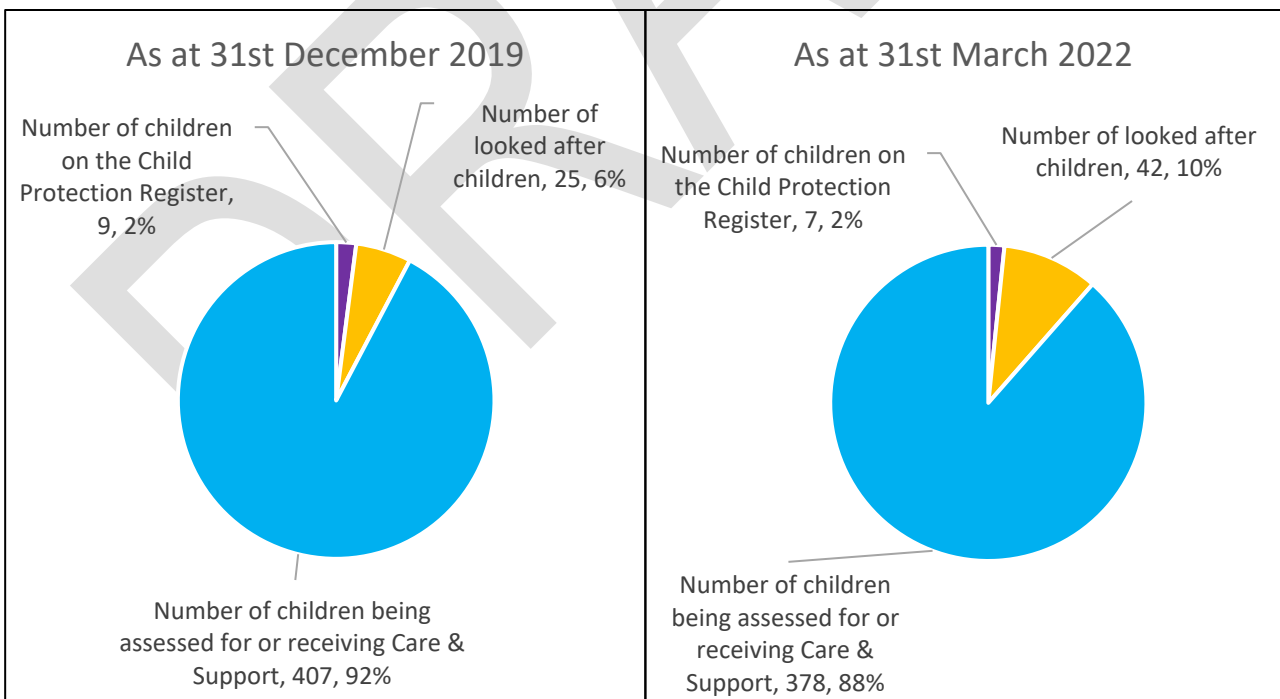
This graph shows the percentage of children looked after placed in residential settings by Welsh LAs as at the 31st March 2021. Cardiff currently has 9.7% of our children looked after in residential placements, compared to the All Wales average of 7.4% placed in residential settings. Only two other LAs in Wales have higher rates of residential placements.

Children With Disabilities



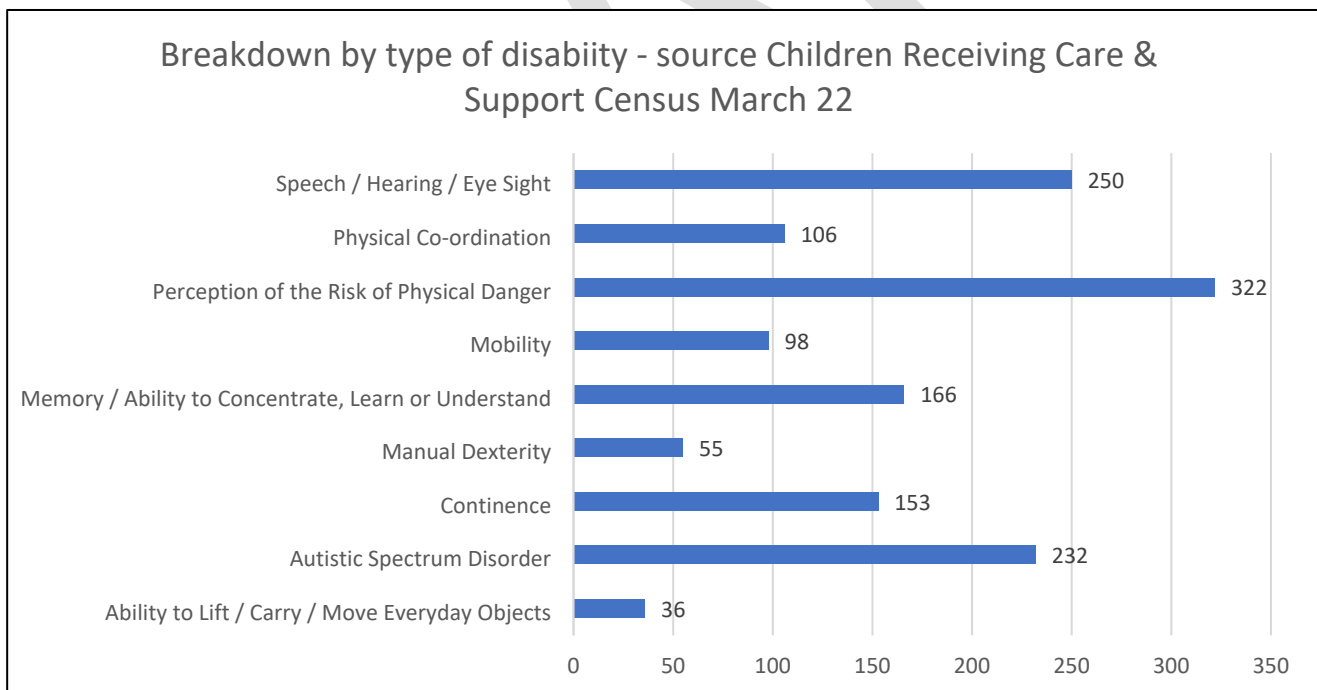
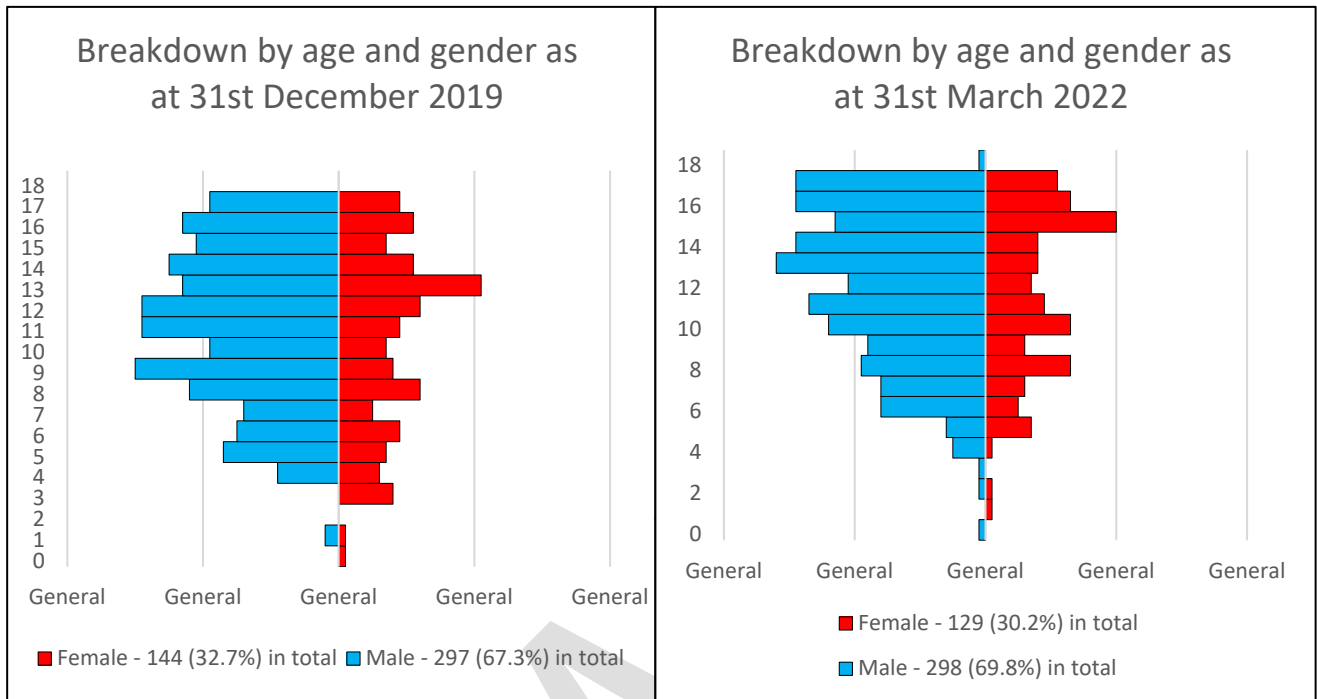
The number of children on the Child Health & Disability Service caseload has since increased to 427 as at 31st March 2022.

Breakdown of Child Health & Disability Caseload by Whether on the Child Protection Register, Looked After or Being Assessed / Receiving Care and Support

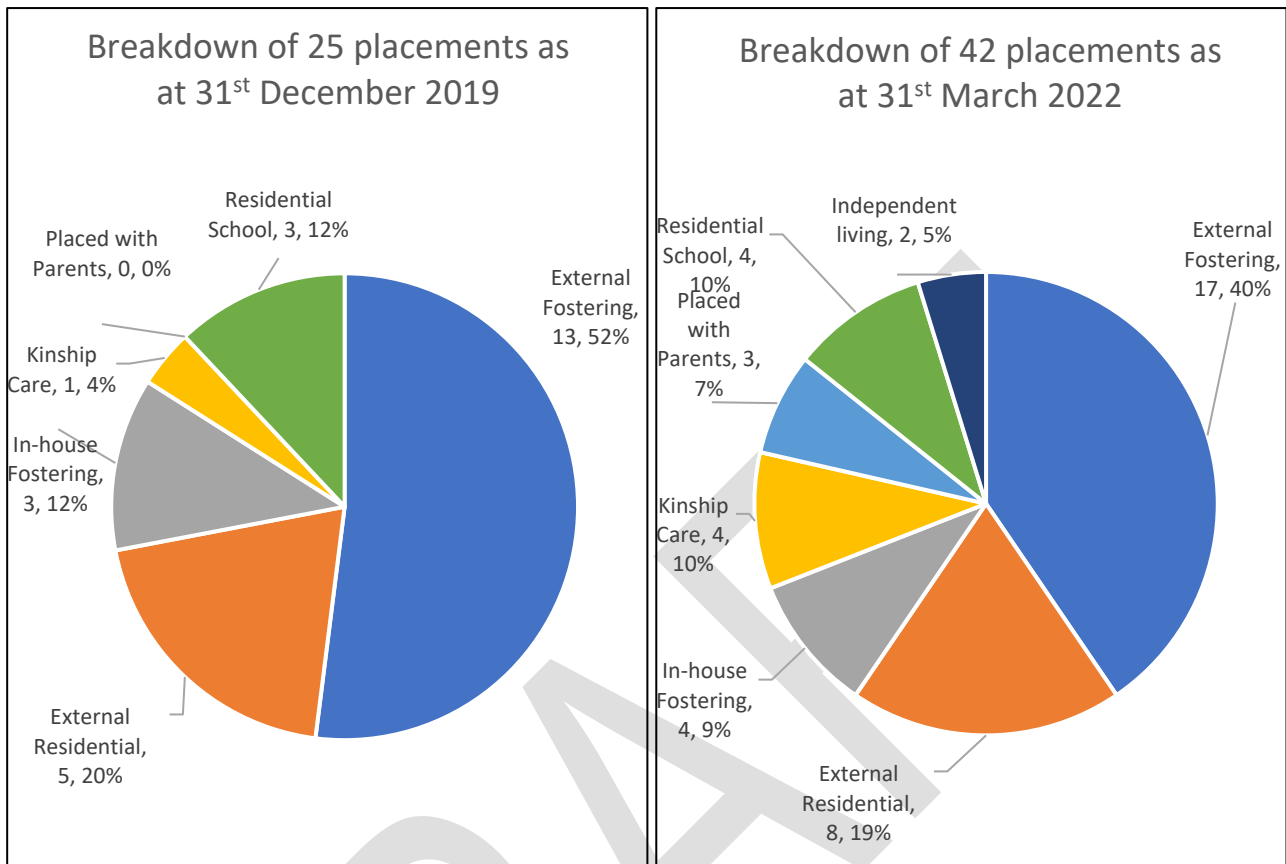


The number of children looked after on the Child Health & Disability caseload has increased from 25 to 42, 6% to 10% of the caseload, over the last two years. This equates to a 68% increase in children looked after.

Breakdown of Children on the Child Health & Disability Caseload by Age and Gender Over Time

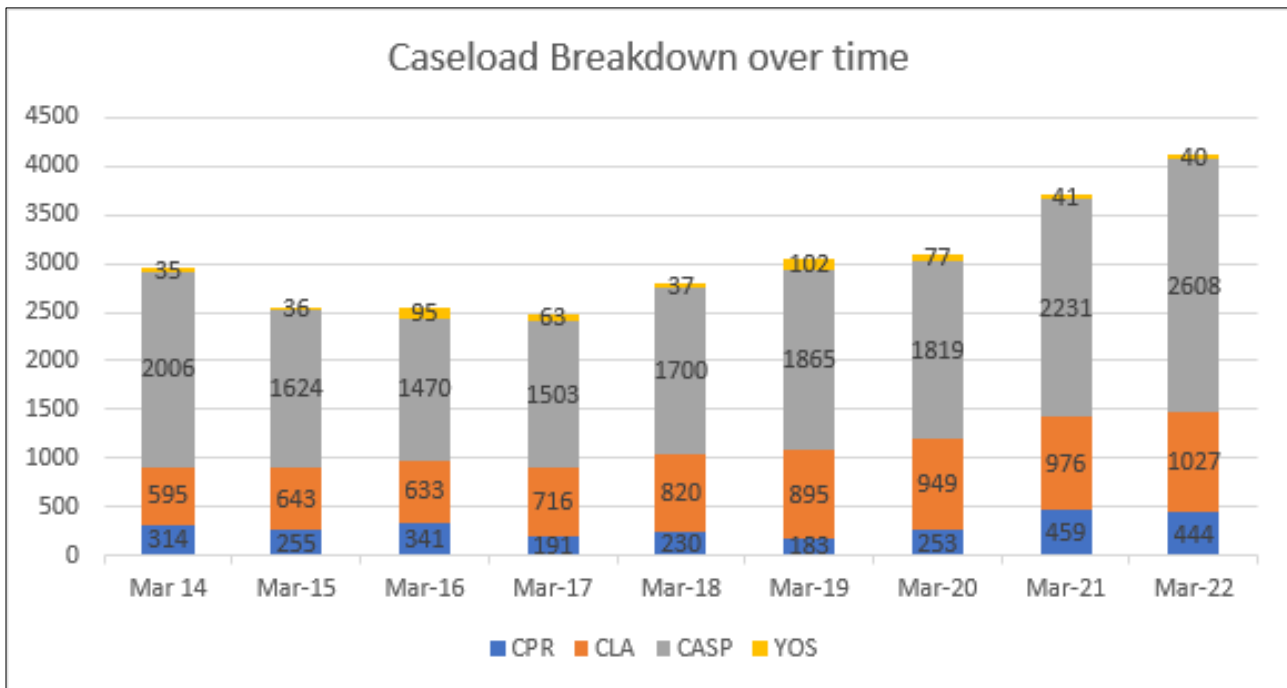


Child Health & Disability Children Looked After Placements



These pie charts show the type of placements where children looked after in the Child Health & Disability Service are living and the change in type over the last two years.

Caseload Overview



The graph above shows the gradual increase in the number of cases open to Children's Services over time.

Conclusion

The data clearly shows the increasing demand and pressure on Children's Services in Cardiff. It is evident that we need to future proof our services to ensure we can continue to manage and respond to the continuing demand.

Our Children's Services Strategy sets out how we planning to deliver progressive change by shifting the balance in relation to:

- Ensuring a range of support in the community and a variety of homes for children are available in Cardiff - **place**.
- Supporting a permanent workforce – **people**.
- Developing our **practice** and procedures.