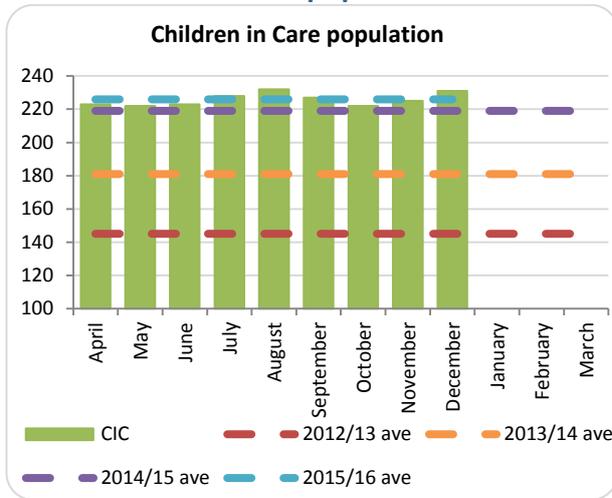


# 1. Children in Care

## 1.1 Children in Care population



This chart details the children in care population in Halton for each month compared against the averages for the previous years.

This shows although the number of children in care has not grown significantly, it is above the average seen for the previous year and all other comparator years.

**There are a total of 231 children in care at the end of December 2015.**

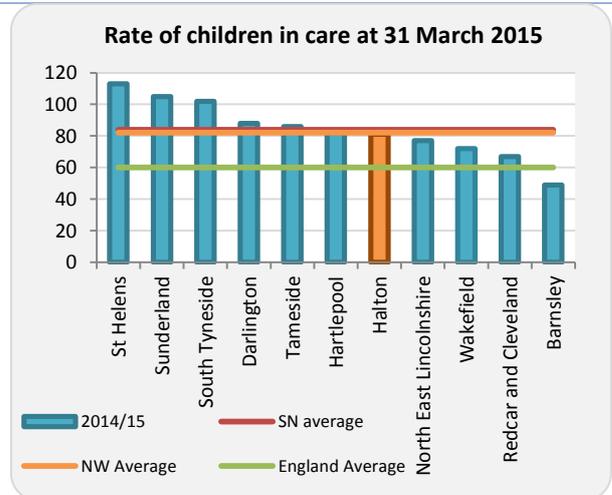
### Comparator data: Children in Care rate

Halton has previously reported low levels of children in care in comparison with statistical neighbours, however the rate has been increasing over the past two years.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Halton	44.0	52.0	75.0	81.0
SN average	74.3	80.6	84.6	84.0
England average	59.0	60.0	60.0	60.0

To meet the England average Halton would need to have 175 children in care, and to meet the statistical neighbour average, 240.

The rates of statistical neighbour authorities vary significantly from 113 per 10,000 in St Helens, to 49 per 10,000 in Barnsley.



## 1.2 Profile of Children in Care

Gender	
Male	122
Female	109
Age Groups	
0-4 years	58
5-11 years	75
12-15 years	56
15+ years	42

Ethnicity	
White British	214
White & Asian	2
White other	6
Any other ethnic group	1
Any other mixed background	2
Other Asian background	2
Information not yet obtained	4

Disability	
No disability	200
Behaviour	13
Hearing	3
Incontinence	2
Vision	2
Mobility	1
Communication	2
Learning	12
Diagnosed with Autism or Asperger Syndrome	2
Other DDA	3

Please note that a child may have more than one disability and be included in more than one count.

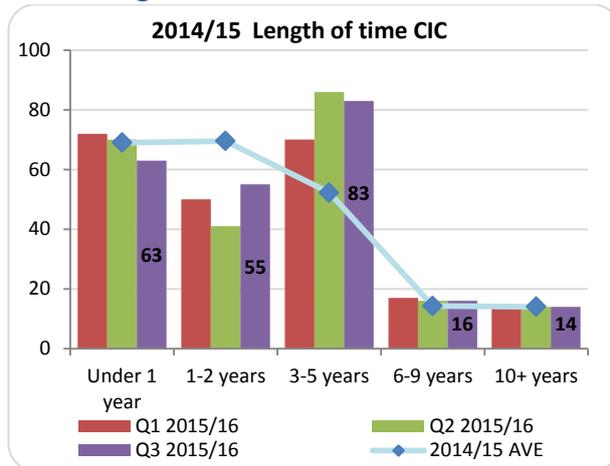
## 1.3 Placement type at the end of the quarter

Placement Type	
Adoption	7
Foster care	143
Friend or relative	6
Homes and hostels	33
Independent Living	7
Other Placement	13
Parent or Relative	21
Secure Unit	1

## 1.4 Legal status at the end of the quarter

Legal Status	
Accommodated under section 20	35
Full Care Order	131
Interim Care Order	44
Placement Order	21
Under Police Protection in LA accommodation	0

## 1.5 Length of time in care



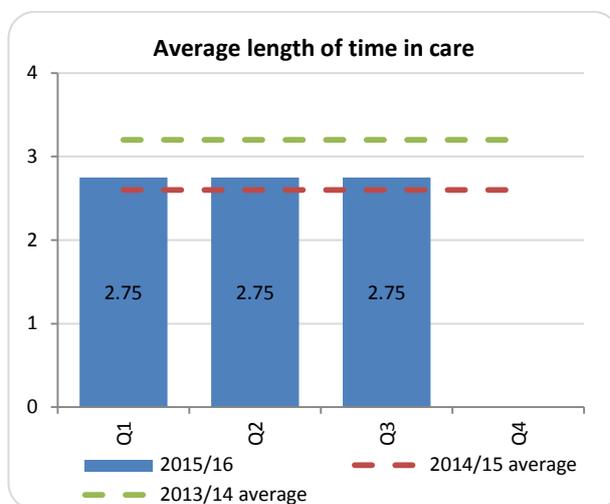
This graph illustrates the number of children and young people in care by how long they have been in care.

**As at 31 December 2015 51% of the Children in Care have been in care for under three years.** There was an increase in the proportion of cases which had been open for 1 to 2 years during this quarter from 41 to 55.

As the figures are a snapshot at the end of each quarter, this is a guide only and consideration should be made that the same child may be counted in each quarter.

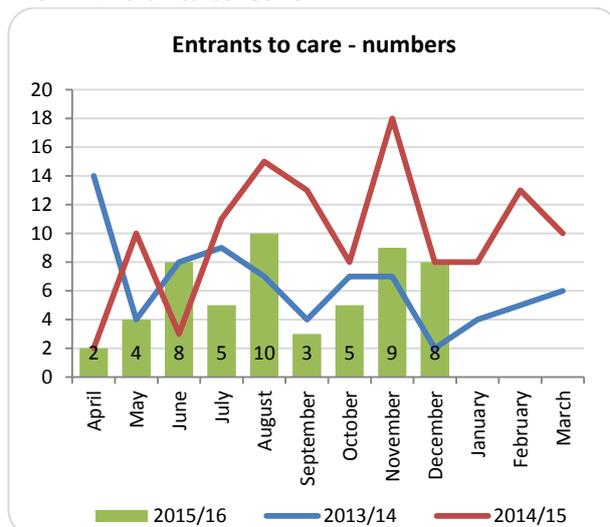
**For children and young people at 31 December 2015, the average length of time they have been in care was 2 years and 9 months.**

The average length of time in care for the previous year 2014/15 is 2.6 years and the year before 3.2 years. As expected, those in the older age groups have a longer time in care, than those in the younger groups.



Age group	Average length of time in care
0-4 years old	58 months
5-11 years old	75 months
12-15 years old	56 months
16+ years old	42 months

## 1.6 Entrants to Care

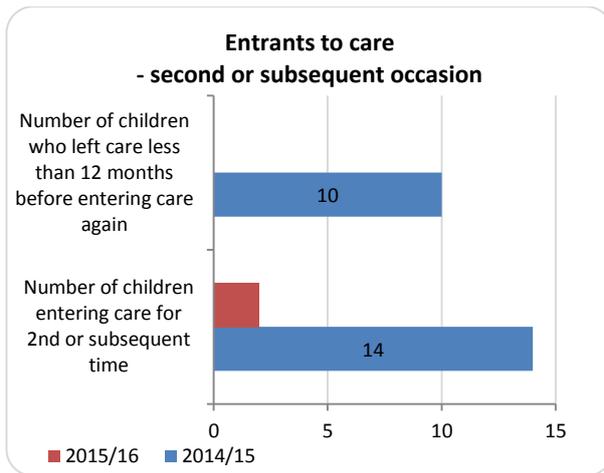


This chart shows that the numbers of children have been brought into care by month.

The cross reference with the previous years shows that there is no seasonal trend to when children come into care.

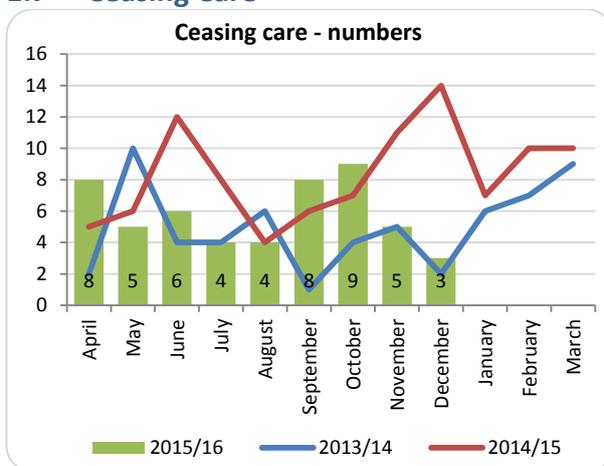
	0-4	5-11	12-15	16+
Q1 2015/16	9	2	2	1
Q2 2015/16	6	7	4	0
Q3 2015/16	13	4	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>
% 2015/16	52%	24%	18%	0%
% 2014/15	47%	29%	18%	6%
% 2013/15	30%	32%	20%	18%

There is a correlation in the trend for this quarter in comparison with previous years.

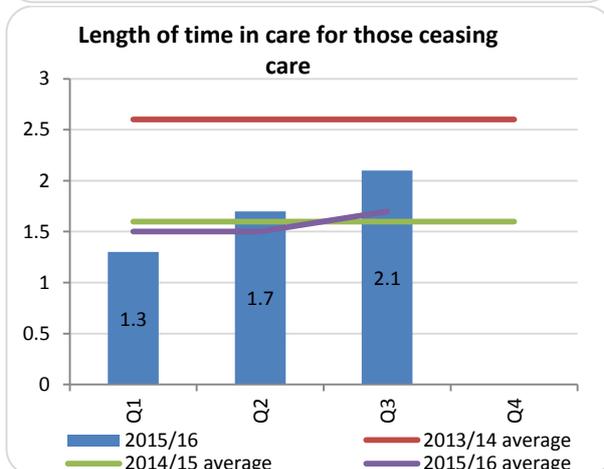


Of the children and young people entering care since 1 April 2015, two had previously been in care and returned home.

## 1.7 Ceasing Care

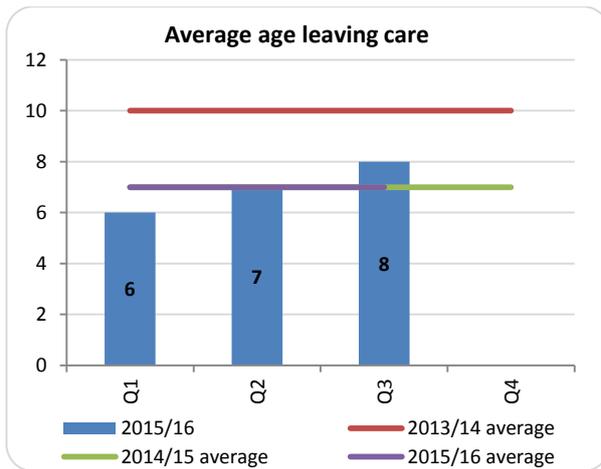


This graph illustrates a ceasing care month by month with the comparison to the previous two years which shows that there are no seasonal trends to when children cease care.



This graph shows the average length of time in care for those children & young people who ceased care in the year 2014/15 by quarter and comparisons to previous years.

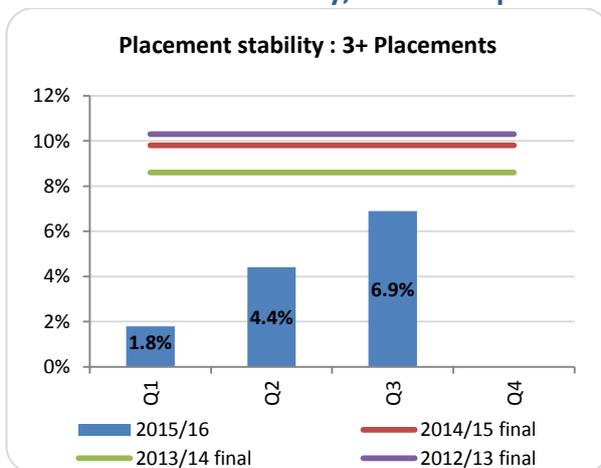
**During Q3 the length of time children had been in care, for those ceasing, increased, however the average for the year to date is slightly higher than previous year average.**



The average age of those leaving care for Q3 was **8 years old**, which is slightly above the previous year average.

The average for the year to date however is in line with the previous year's average. Although the trend is rising.

### 1.8 Placement stability, 3 or more placements



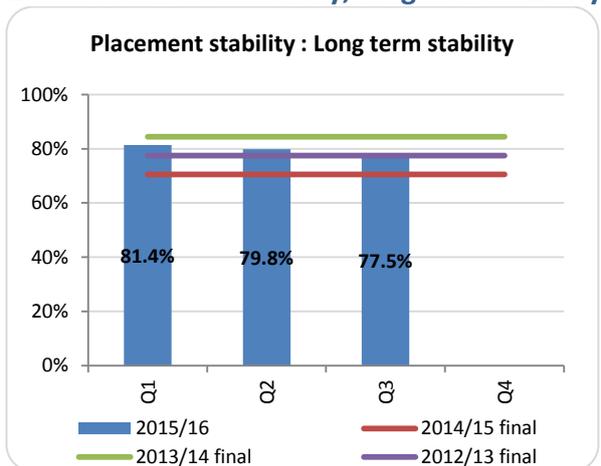
Placement stability reports on the number of placements (3+) in the reporting year.

Four children in care have had three or more placements since the beginning of April, resulting in the **6.9%** performance shown to the left.

Performance is cumulative during the year and therefore rises toward the end of the reporting year.

It is worth noting there are a high number of children in care who have had two placements at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

### 1.9 Placement stability, long term stability



N163 The number of children & young people who have been in care for 2.5 years and in the same placement 2+ years.

According to this graph this cohort historically appear stable in Halton. Although falling very slightly, this appears to be the case for 2015-16 too.

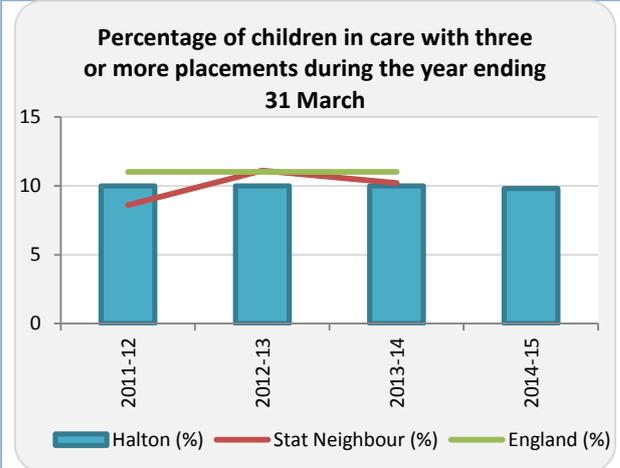
Performance is cumulative during the year and therefore rises toward the end of the reporting year.

### Comparator data: Children in Care placement stability measures

Halton has reported stable percentage of children in care with 3 or more placements for the past four years and is in line with comparator data.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Halton</b>	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.8
<b>SN average</b>	8.6	11.1	10.2	
<b>England average</b>	11.0	11.0	11.0	

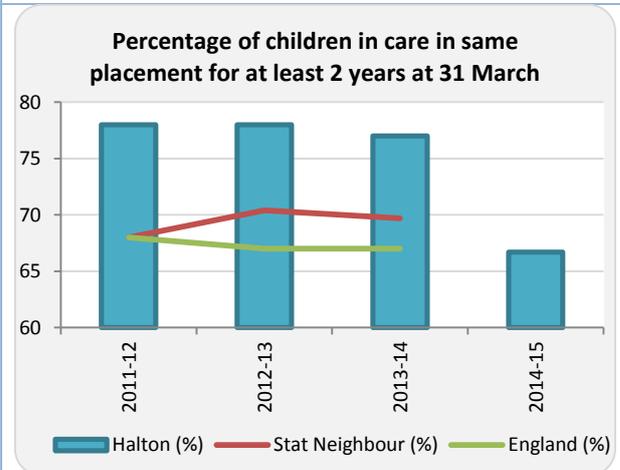
Comparator data awaited for 2014/15.



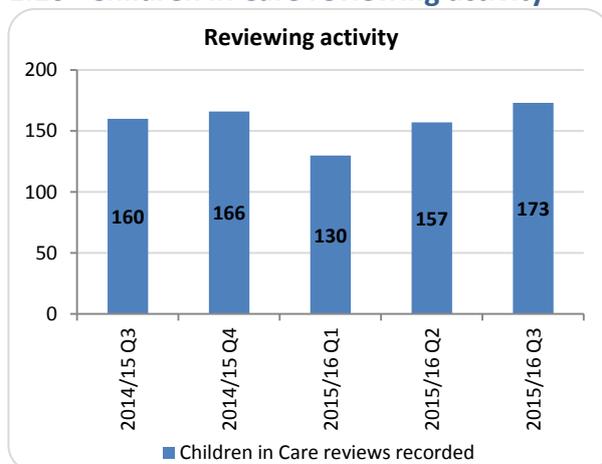
This chart shows that Halton's performance for 2014/15 is in line with the statistical neighbours and England average reported in the previous year. This is the first time Halton has not performed significantly above the comparator averages and was expected in line with the change in population of children in care over the past few years.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Halton</b>	78.0	78.0	77.0	66.7
<b>SN average</b>	68.0	70.4	69.7	
<b>England average</b>		68.0	67.0	

Comparator data awaited for 2014/15.



### 1.10 Children in Care reviewing activity

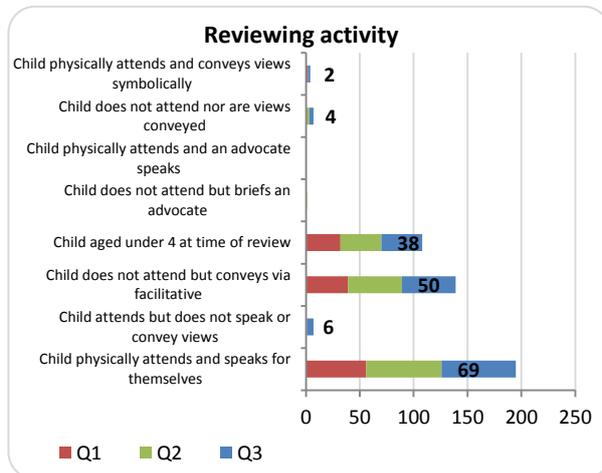


This chart details the reviewing activity for Children in Care.

During the last QA of statutory reviews conducted in November 2015, **99.5% of the reviews were completed within timescale**. There were two reviews out of timescale since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, both with legitimate reasons.

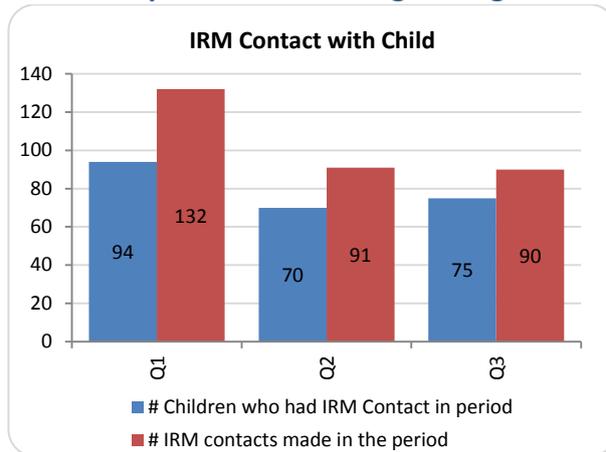
### 1.11 Participation with other professionals and engagement with children and young people in quarter

Participation with other professionals and involvement with child	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% consultation documents received from Education	31%	38%	46%	
% consultation documents received from Health	59%	38%	29%	
% 3 & 4 yr. olds accessing Early Years provision	91%	100%	94%	
% CIC aged 4+ participating in their reviews	100%	98%	97%	



This chart details the breakdown of the different types of participation for Children in Care Statutory reviews over the year.

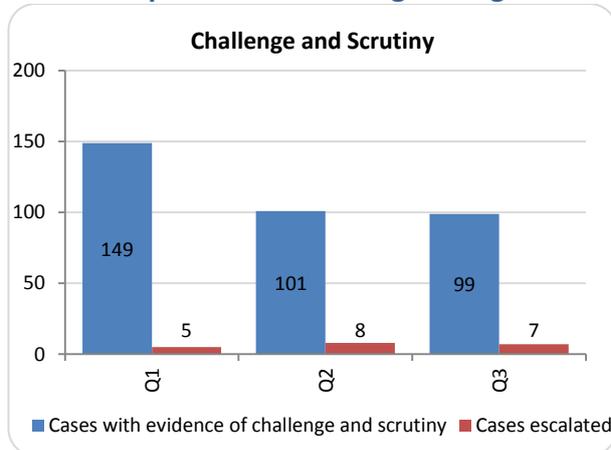
### 1.12 Independent Reviewing Manager Contact with child outside of review



A new process for recording contacts that IRM make with children outside of the statutory review process was introduced during the past 15 months.

**During Quarter 3, 75 children had a contact with an Independent Reviewing Manager outside of the statutory review process.**

### 1.13 Independent Reviewing Manager Challenge, Scrutiny and Escalations



The observation recording process is being used to show on the child's record where the IRM has challenged and scrutinised the plan for the child.

**During Quarter 3 99 records have this information recorded on them.**

Additionally where the IRM has escalated the case this is recorded on CareFirst as an observation. **In total seven cases are recorded as having been escalated during the quarter.**

Outcomes of these escalations are not currently available for reporting however the process is being developed to enable future reporting.