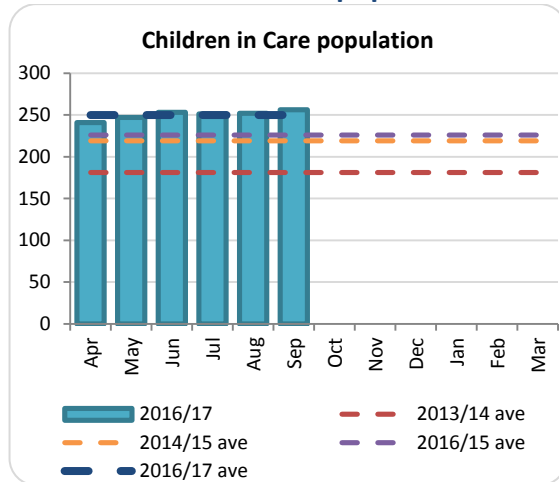


1. Children in Care

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 the number of children in care has been gradually rising year on year when compared with previous years averages.

There are a total of 256 children in care at the end of September 2016.

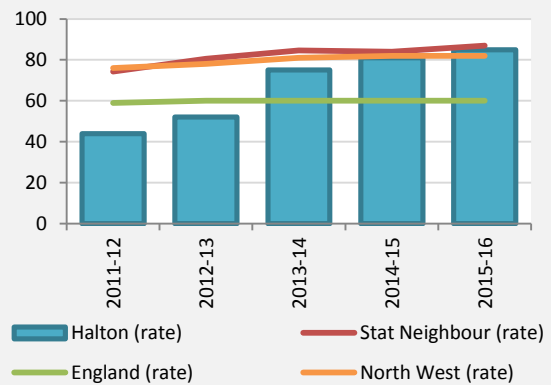
Rate per 10,000 of the Halton CYP population is 85.9.

Comparator data: Child in Care rate

Halton has previously reported low levels of children in care in comparison with statistical neighbours, however the rate has been increased and now Halton is in line with the comparator average as it appears that comparators have also seen an increase in 2015/16.

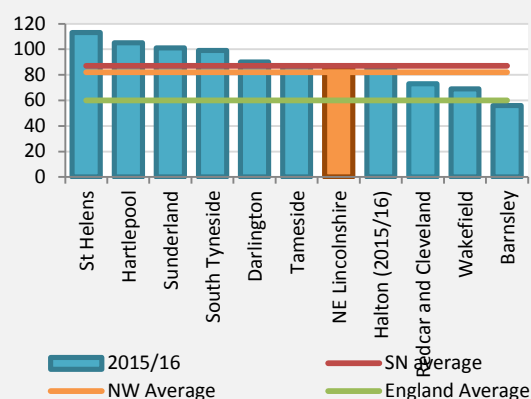
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Halton	44.0	52.0	75.0	81.0	85.0
SN average	74.3	80.6	84.6	84.0	87.0
England average	59.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
NW average	76.0	78.0	81.0	82.0	82.0

Rate of children in care at 31 March



The rates of statistical neighbour authorities vary significantly from 113 per 10,000 in St Helens, to 56 per 10,000 in Barnsley.

Rate of children in care at 31 March 2016



1.2 Profile of Children in Care

Gender	
Male	128
Female	124
Age Groups	
0-4 years	64
5-11 years	82
12-15 years	61
15+ years	45

Ethnicity	
White British	239
White & Asian	2
White other	5
Any other ethnic group	1
Any other mixed background	2
Other Asian background	3

Disability	
No disability	219
Behaviour	16
Hearing	2
Incontinence	3
Vision	2
Mobility	1
Communication	2
Learning	14
Diagnosed with Autism or Asperger Syndrome	3
Other DDA	4

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

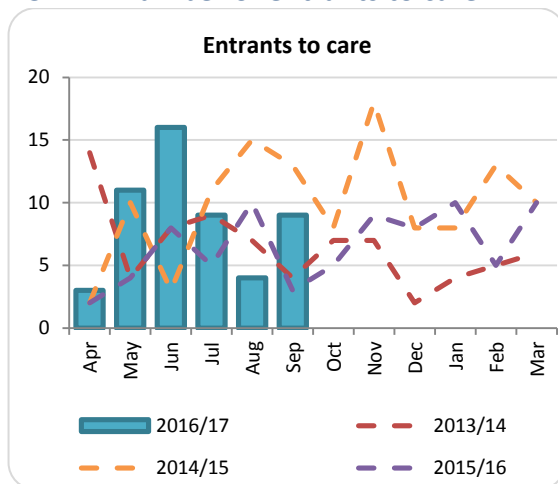
1.3 Placement type at the end of the quarter

Placement Type	
Adoption	8
Children's home outside boundary	1
Foster care	156
Friend or relative	5
Homes and hostels	40
Independent Living	5
Other Placement	10
Parent or Relative	25
Secure Unit	2

1.4 Legal status at the end of the quarter

Legal Status	
Accommodated under section 20	37
Full Care Order	150
Interim Care Order	37
Placement Order	28

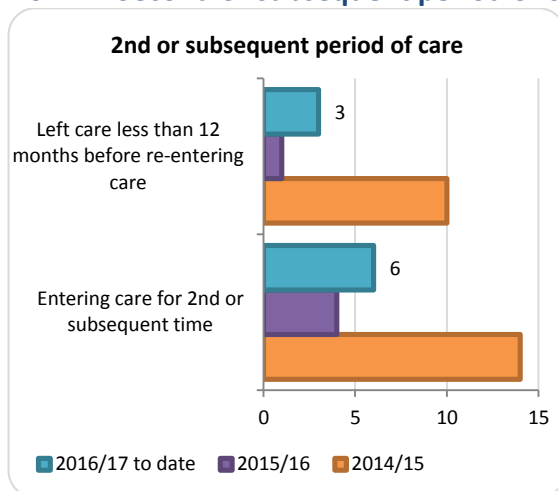
1.5 Number of entrants to care



This chart shows that the numbers of children has been brought into care by month. There were 30 entrants in Q1 2016/17 and 22 entrants in Q2.

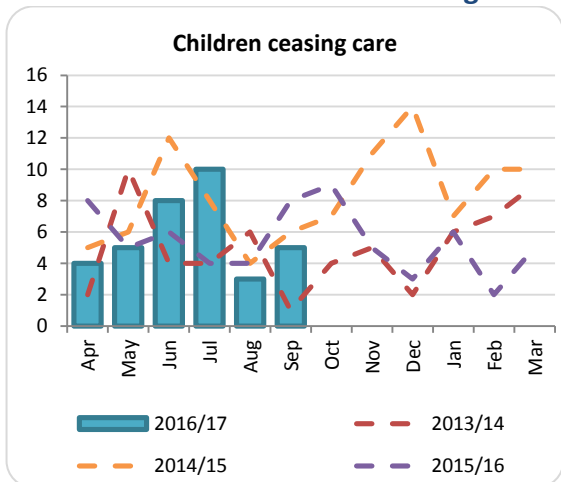
The cross reference with the previous years shows that there is no seasonal trend to when children come into care.

1.6 Second or subsequent period of care



Of the 52 children entering care within quarter 1 and quarter 2, 6 had previously been in care, and 3 of these had returned to care after a period of less than 12 months.

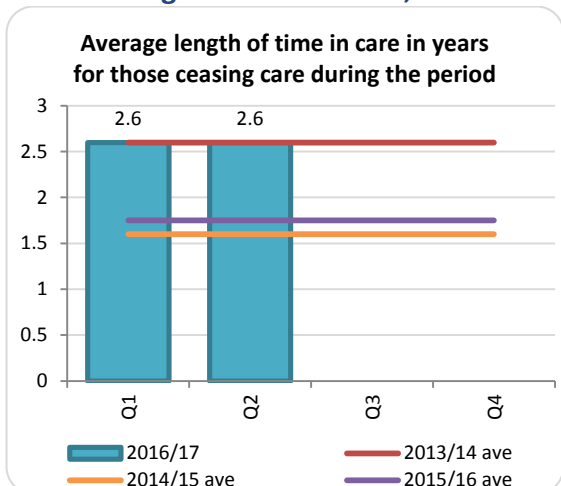
1.7 Number of children ceasing care



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.

Since April 2016, 35 children have entered care. This has led to a net gain of 17 in the number of children in care.

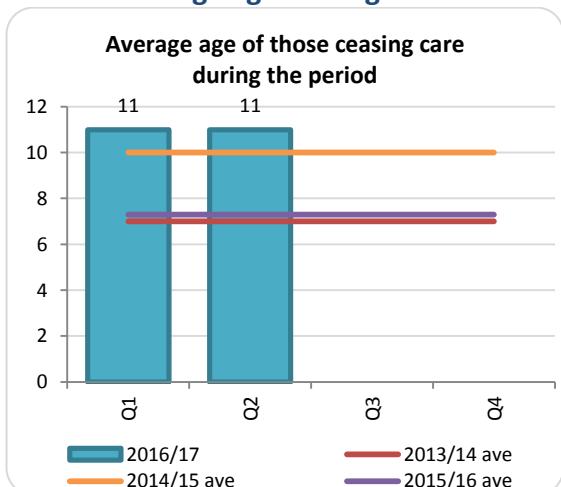
1.8 Length of time in care, for those ceasing



This graph shows the average length of time in care for those children & young people who ceased care in the year 2016/17 by quarter and comparisons to previous years.

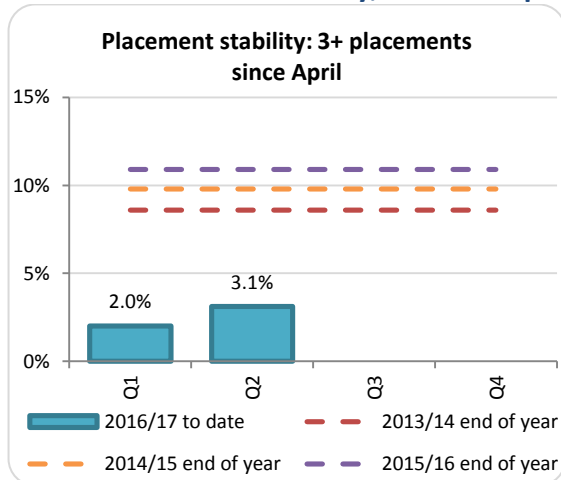
During Q1 and Q2 the length of time children had been in care, 2.6 years, for those ceasing, increased compared to the previous years average of 1.75 years.

1.9 Average age leaving care



The average age of those leaving care for Q1 and Q2 2016-17 was 11 years old, which is above the previous three years averages.

1.10 Placement stability, 3 or more placements

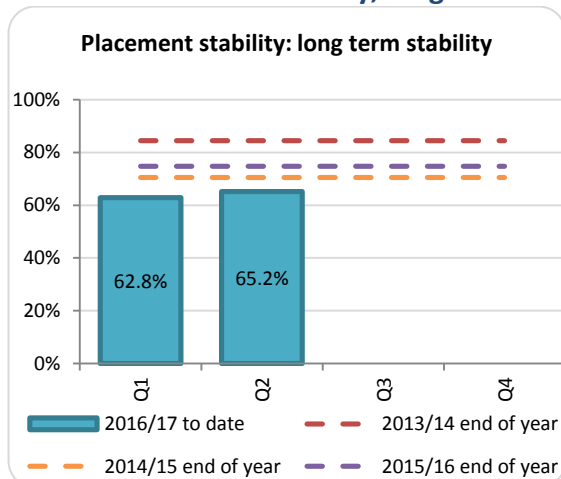


Placement stability reports on the number of placements (3+) in the reporting year.

Eight children in care have had three or more placements since the beginning of April, resulting in the 3.1% performance shown to the left.

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

1.11 Placement stability, long term stability



NI63 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 2016/17 too with 65.2%.

This is also monitored monthly through the IMPACT Report to Senior Leadership team. Performance is cumulative during the year and decreases toward the end of the reporting year.

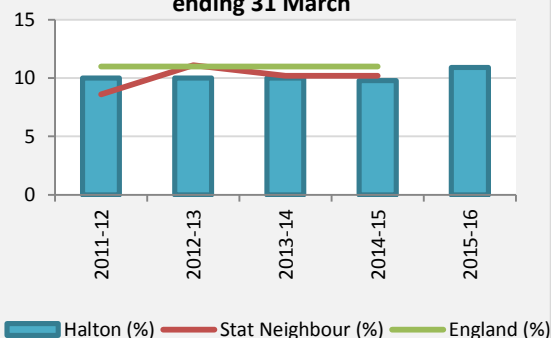
Comparator data: Children in Care placement stability measures

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. For 2015/16 there is a slight rise.

	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Halton	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.8	
SN average	8.6	11.1	10.2	10.2	
England average	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	

Updated data expected December 2016

Percentage of children in care with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March

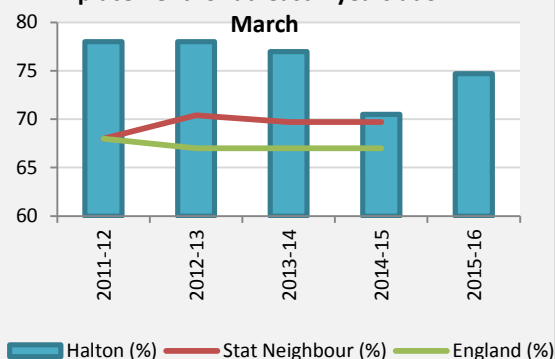


This chart shows that Halton's performance apart from last reporting year, for 2015/16 is in line with previous years

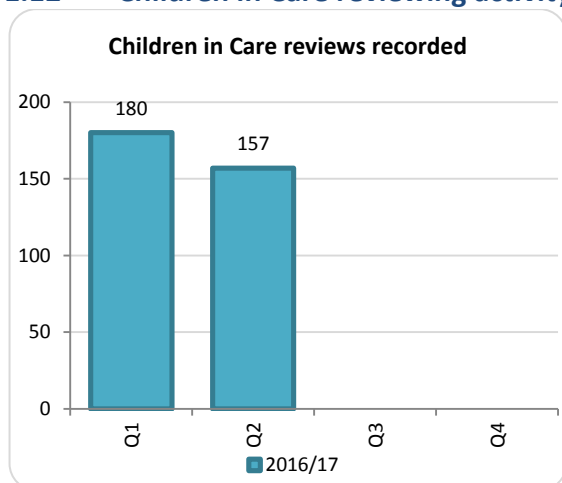
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Halton	78.0	78.0	77.0	70.5	74.7
SN average	68.0	70.4	69.7	69.7	
England average		68.0	67.0	67.0	

Updated data expected December 2016

Percentage of children in care in same placement for at least 2 years at 31 March



1.12 Children in Care reviewing activity

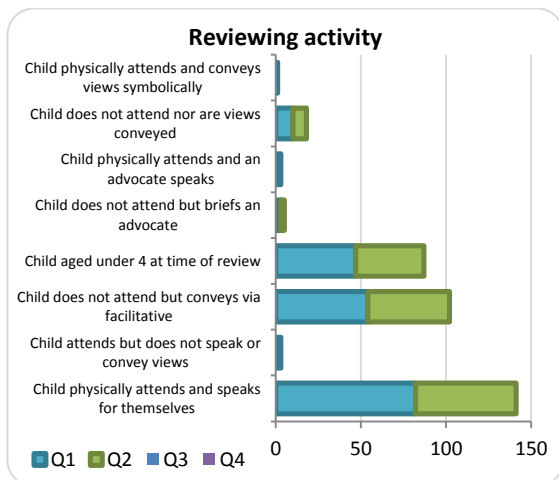


This chart details the reviewing activity for Children in Care.

During the last QA of statutory reviews conducted on 30 September 2016, 97.9% of the reviews were completed within timescale since 1st April 2016.

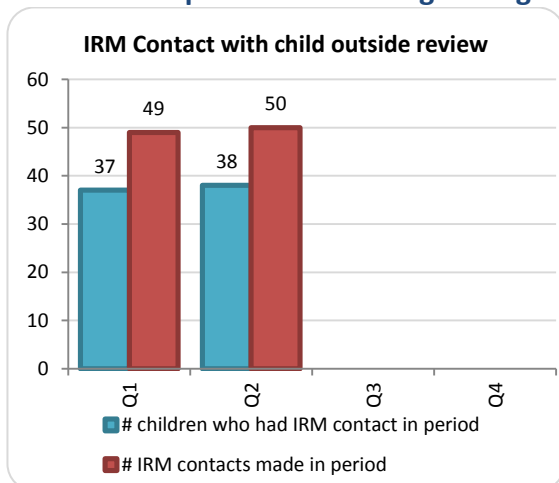
Participation with other professionals and involvement with child	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% consultation documents received from Education	56% (79)	51% (53)		
% consultation documents received from Health	49% (97)	88% (15)		
% 3 & 4 yr. olds accessing Early Years provision	87.5% (14)	51% (79)		
% CIC aged 4+ participating in their reviews	94% (148)	95% (149)		

NB: where N/A is indicated this is taken from the total to give percentage



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

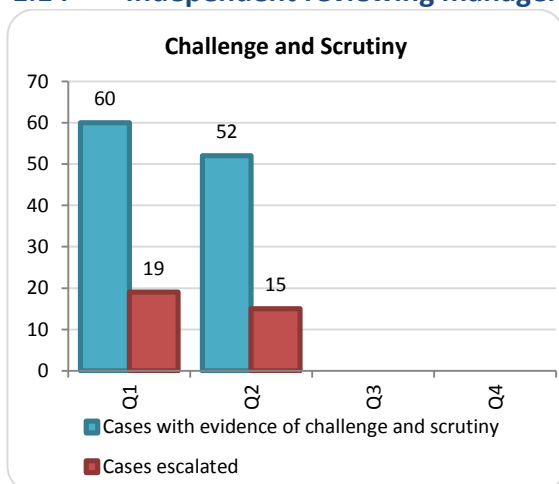
1.13 Independent reviewing manager contact with child outside of review



A new process for recording contacts that IRM make with children outside of the statutory review process was introduced during the past 18 months.

During Q1 2016/17, 37 children had a contact with an Independent Reviewing Manager outside of the statutory review process. During Q2 38 children had a contact with an IRM outside of the statutory review process. This is approximately 15% of the children in care population.

1.14 Independent reviewing manager challenge, scrutiny and escalations



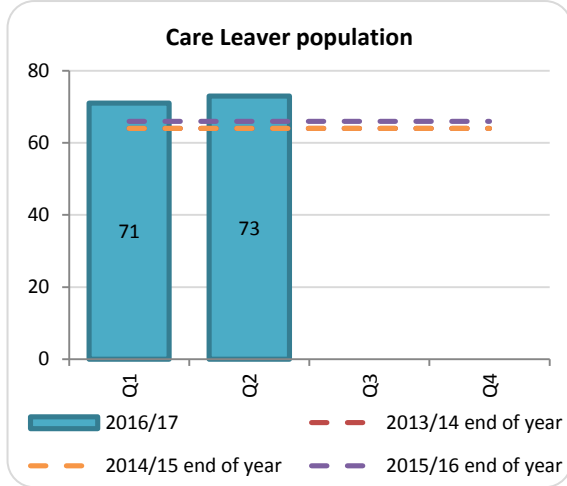
The observation recording process is being used to show on the child's record where the IRM has challenged and scrutinised the plan for the child. During Q1 2016/17 60 records have this information recorded on them, and during Q2 there were 52 records with this information was recorded.

Additionally where the IRM has escalated the case this is recorded on CareFirst as an observation. In total 19 cases are recorded as having been escalated during Q1 and 15 cases were escalated during Q2.

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

2. Care Leavers

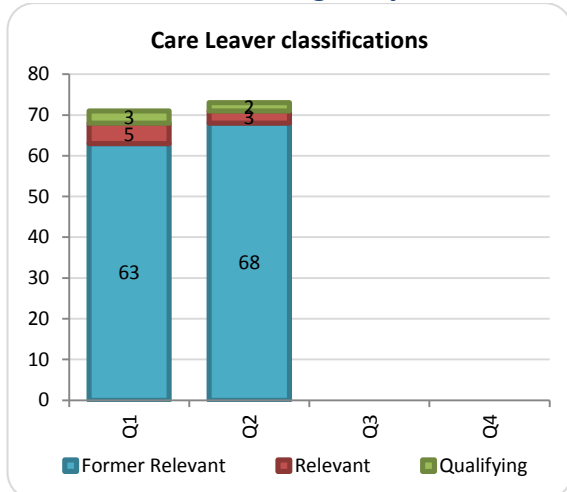
2.1 Care Leaver population



There are 73 Care leavers at 30th September 2016. This is a significant increase on the previous year and was expected given the number of children who reached 18 who were in care.

There are an additional 39 young people in care classed as eligible care leavers suggesting that there will be an increase in the number for future quarters when these reach care leaver age of 18.

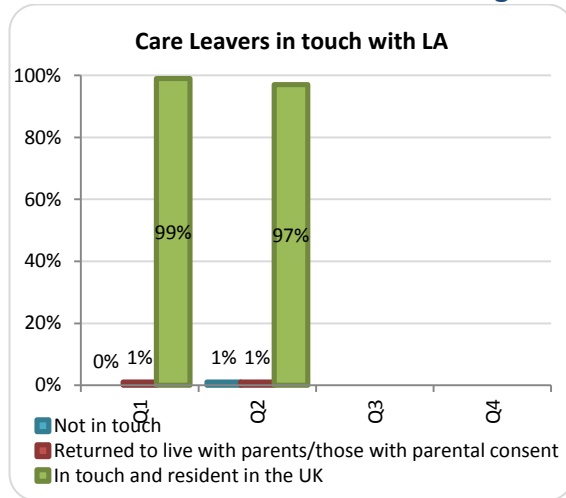
2.2 Care Leaver eligibility classifications



The majority of care leavers are classed as Former Relevant, with a small number of Relevant and Qualifying making the remainder of the cohort.

These classifications are to identify how long these young people have been in care, levels of finance available and Personal Advisor allocation.

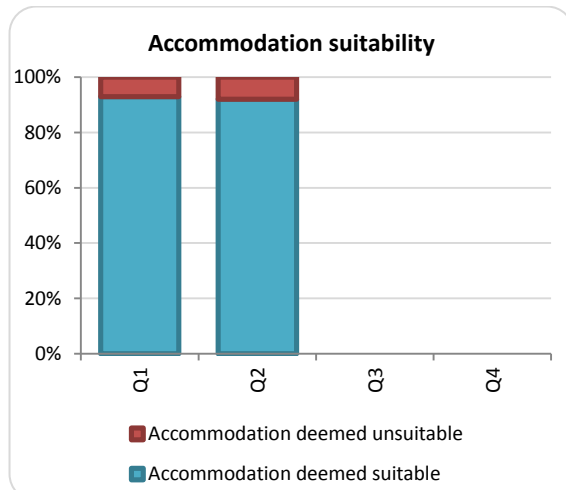
2.3 Care leaver outcome tracking



All care leavers are recorded as In Touch and resident in the UK.

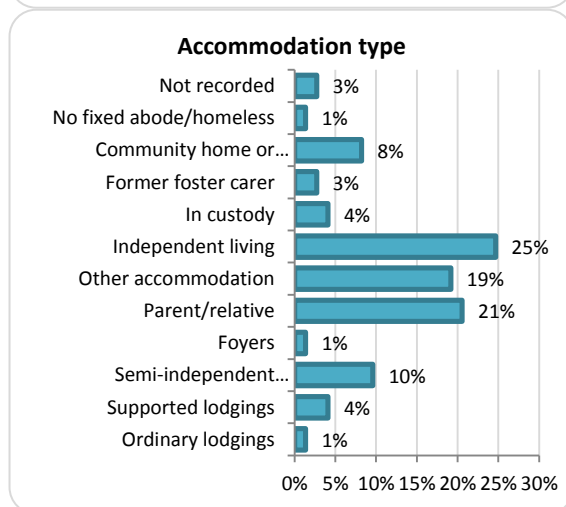
There is one care leaver for whom this information is not recorded and therefore not able to confirm that the local authority is in touch with the young person.

2.4 Care leaver accommodation



Of the young people with accommodation suitability recorded 92% are in accommodation deemed suitable which equates to 68 young people.

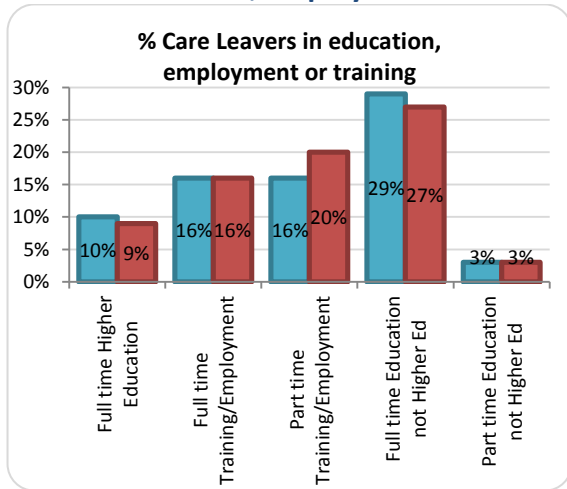
This suggests that eight people living in accommodation not deemed suitable. Please note that custody, no fixed abode and unknown residence are considered unsuitable. Three are recorded as unsuitable are in custody and one as homeless/no fixed abode. See the chart below.



This chart shows the breakdown of the type of accommodation for care leavers in Halton.

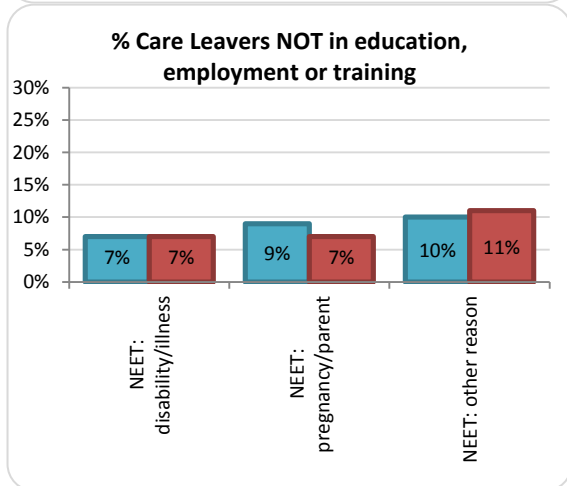
Independent living is the highest group with 25%, closely followed by living with parent or relative at 21%.

2.5 Education, Employment or Training outcomes



There has been an increase overall of the Care leavers in education, employment and training in the previous reporting year (62% - 75%). This is specifically seen in the number in full time training/Employment.

75% of Care leavers are recorded as in EET at 30th September 2016.

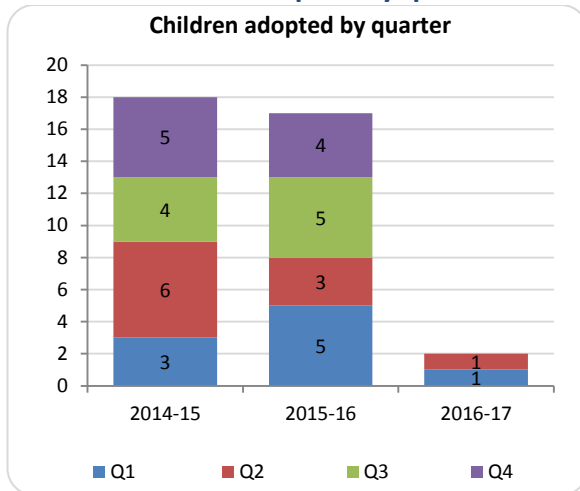


There are 25% NOT in education employment or training at 30th September 2016, of which 8 young people are NEET for a reason other than disability, illness or pregnancy/parenting.

3. Adoption

This chapter has been redeveloped to reflect the measures now used by the Adoption Leadership Board and the Department for Education in relation to the Adoption Scorecard.

3.1 Children adopted by quarter

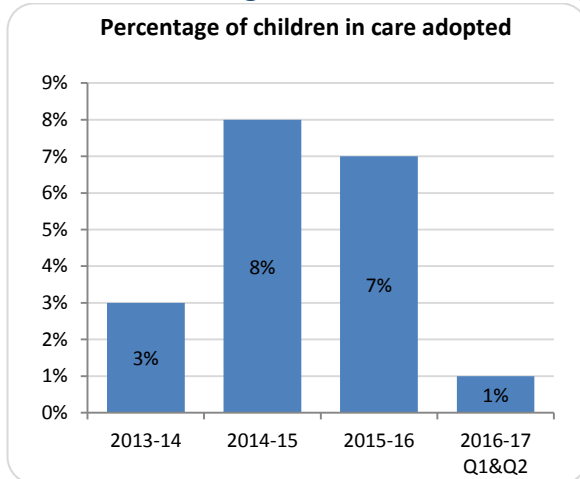


The number of children adopted varies significantly from quarter to quarter. Due to small numbers, this presents issues around performance for all measures, as each child represents a significant proportion for each measure.

The chart opposite shows the number of children adopted during each quarter.

Two children have been adopted since April 2016 to September 2016. This is a lower number than at this point in previous years.

3.2 Percentage of children in care adopted

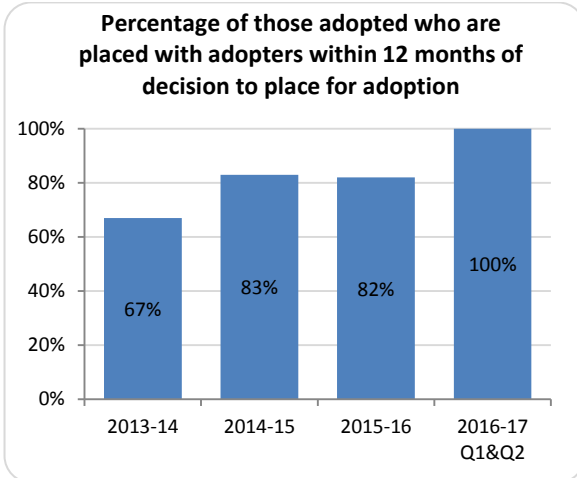


The performance around the population of Children in Care being adopted has been variable over the past three years. This may be in relation to the age of children entering the care system and increasing number of children brought into care.

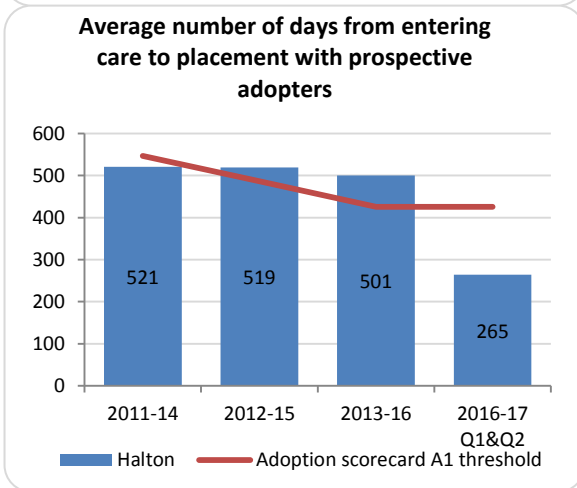
There is also increasing emphasis within care planning and the Court system on identifying alternative family members wherever possible and a resultant increase in Special Guardianship Orders.

As only two children have been adopted during the year to date and the population of children in care is increasing, the percentage is only 1%.

3.3 Adoption timescales

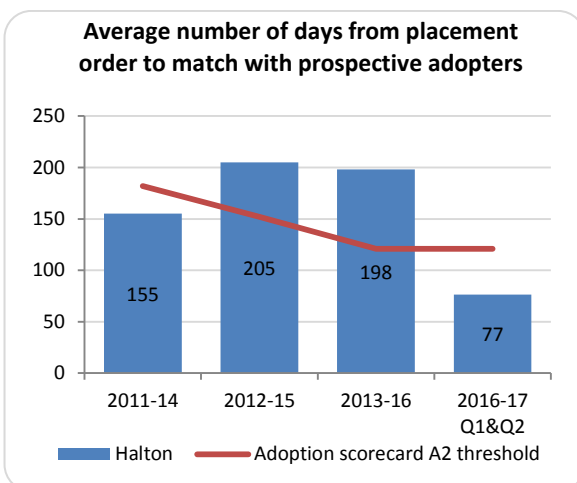


The child adopted in quarter one was placed with the prospective adopters within 12 months of the decision that the child should be adopted. This is good practice.



The first of the threshold measures for the Adoption Scorecard shows the average number of days taken from entering care to being placed with the prospective adopters. The scorecard covers a three year rolling period. Halton have been above the threshold for this measure for 2012-15 and it is forecast the same for the period 2013-16 (scorecard to be published in March 2017).

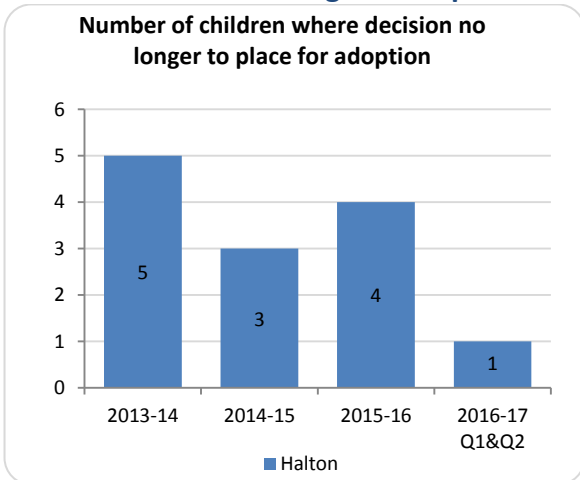
Both children adopted in 2016-17 were placed with their prospective adopters within the threshold period of 426 days. This is good practice.



The second of the threshold measures for the Adoption Scorecard shows the average number of days from placement order to match with the prospective adopters. As with the previous measure, this is based on a three year rolling period. Halton were above the threshold for 2012-15 and it is forecast the same for the period 2013-16 (scorecard to be published in March 2017).

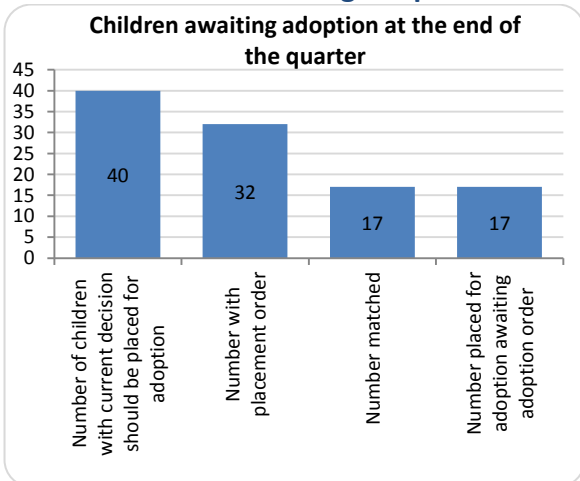
Both of the children adopted were matched within the threshold of 121 days of the placement order being granted. This is good practice.

3.4 Children no longer to be placed for adoption



During the past few years a number of children have had the decision made that they should no longer be placed for adoption. There has been one child in the six months where this decision has been made.

3.5 Children awaiting adoption at the end of the quarter



At the 30th September 2016 there were 40 children for whom there was an agreed Agency Decision Maker decision that the child should be placed for adoption. Of these, 32 have subsequent placement orders granted.

Of the 32 with placement orders, 17 have been matched and all of these have been placed with their prospective adopters and are awaiting an adoption order. There is an additional child who has been placed in a fostering for adoption placement.

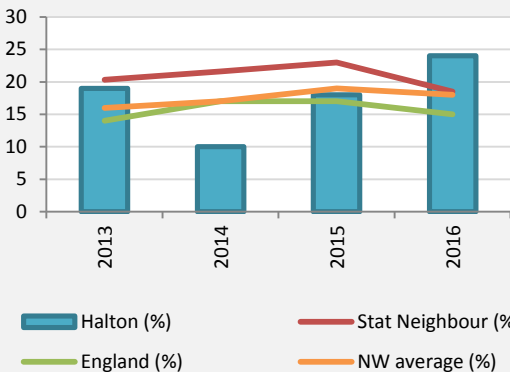
Comparator data: Adoption

Halton is consistently below the statistical neighbour average, and has fallen below the England average on this measure since 2013-14.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Halton	19	10	18	24
SN average	20.3	21.6	23	18.5
England average	14	17	17	15
NW average	16	17	19	18

Published data expected in Quarter 2 2016-17.

Percentage of children in care adopted during the year



Year	Halton (%)	Stat Neighbour (%)	England (%)	NW average (%)
2013	19	20.3	14	16
2014	10	21.6	17	17
2015	18	23	17	19
2016	24	18.5	15	18