

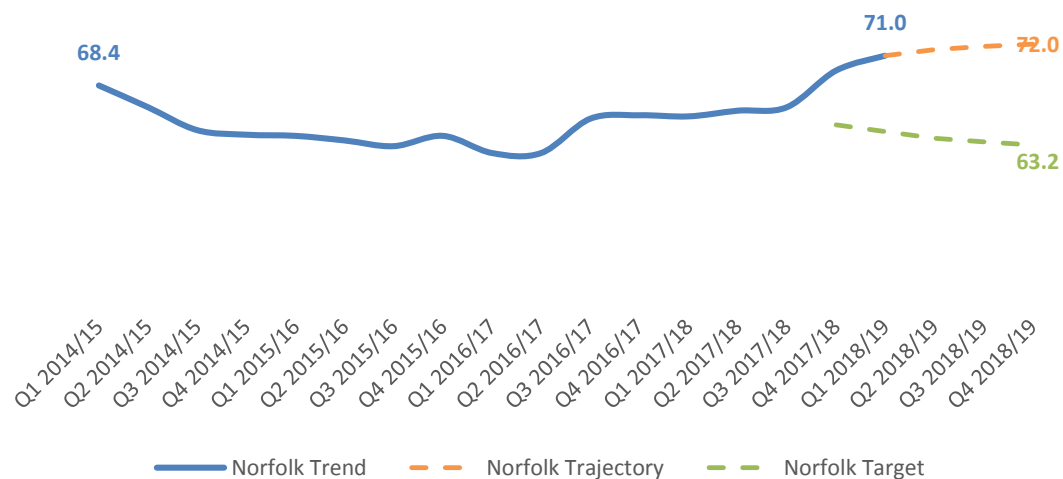
## Rate of Looked-After Children per 10,000 of the overall 0-17 population

### Why is this important?

Norfolk has many more LAC than its statistical neighbours and we have implemented a strategy to reduce the levels of LAC. LAC rate per 10k is a key indicator in assessing the success of that investment. The LAC rate also provides an indication of the success of the wider children's system.

### Performance

#### Rate of Looked-After Children per 10,000 of the overall 0-17 population



### What is the background to current performance?

- Historically Norfolk has had a high rate of LAC, and while numbers reduced between 2014 & 2016, increases have been seen over the past two years, to their current peak in March. Whilst there have been increases in LAC numbers across England leading to record numbers of LAC nationally. Closer examination of performance information would suggest that whilst our numbers of children coming in to care is not necessarily higher than other local authorities, our children seem to stay in care for longer – sometimes until they attain care leaving age.
- The number of Looked After Children at the end of at end of July was 1201. Norfolk's rise in rate per 10k population of under 18s is higher than that seen on a national & statistical neighbour level (62 per 10k to 65 per 10k in the same period and now 71.1) and is higher than our statistical neighbours (53.4). Through detailed analysis we know that over the past year there have been very few months where LAC cease numbers are close to or exceed the number of starts.
- Understanding and addressing our Looked After Children numbers remains a priority and a key element of our Transformation programme.

### Action required

- Continue to strengthen Norfolk's Early Help offer to ensure families receive help as soon as it is required, working to enhance their strengths & overcome issues so they can remain together.
- Where appropriate and desired, work with current LAC and their families to enable them to have the skills & understanding to live together again.
- Where appropriate and in the best interests of the child, promote adoption and special guardianship as a means of securing permanence for children.
- For children who cannot be safely reunited with their families to ensure that they are properly matched with their long- term care givers and that this means of permanence is tested to ensure it is enduring.
- Continue with the monthly analysis of our LAC cohorts.

### What will success look like?

- The rate of Looked-After Children per 10k 0-17s is in line with rates in other similar local authorities within England and our statistical neighbours.

- To have oversight of plans for young people to return home

Responsible Officers

Lead: Phil Watson    Data: Andy Goff