

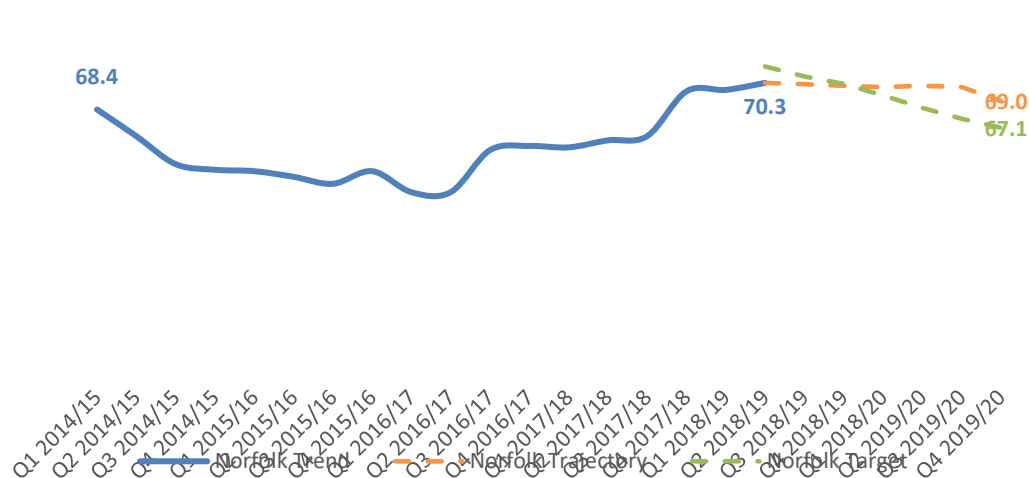
Rate of Looked-After Children per 10,000 of the overall 0-17 population

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. This should be viewed in the context of increases in LAC numbers across England leading to record numbers of LAC nationally.
- While LAC numbers increased rapidly between December 2017 & February 2018, the numbers have since stabilised.
- 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.

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 (around 53 as at March 2015 and recent trends have shown that LAC rates among similar authorities are rising, from around 48 in 2013).

- Work is being undertaken to fully understand the makeup of the population of Looked After Children this will help to target activity to best effect.

Responsible Officers

Lead: Phil Watson Data: Andy Goff