



Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

In previous years, we have used PK Performs to chart our performance against key performance indicators across the reporting period. However, the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 and the pandemic response makes the analysis of our performance trend more difficult to accurately capture. While this information will still be showcased in the charts below, given the disruption to service delivery and operation, a direct comparison to previous years is often not an appropriate method of gauging performance. When available, a direct comparison to the Scottish Average is a more effective gauge of our performance across the last year.

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Percentage of children meeting expected developmental milestones when entering primary school

What this indicator is about

In Early Learning and Childcare settings, children's progress is tracked over time using the PKC Developmental Milestone tracker. This information is collated and shared with staff in advance of entry to Primary school. The tracker details developmental milestones, including speech and language, motor skills, social and emotional development and behaviour.

Why we measure it

Children's experiences and development in the early years of their lives have a significant effect on their learning through their lives. Early detection of developmental problems provides the best opportunity to support children and families to improve outcomes.

What can affect performance

Poverty and factors recognised as adverse childhood experiences can impact on some children's achievement of some developmental milestones. There may also be individual experiences that interrupt development such as home learning experiences, limited parental support or additional support needs. Due to the lockdown, children were last seen in ELC settings in March and therefore professional judgement around development will have been for a part and not full-year. This year's figures should be seen as unique and not necessarily part of the series of data collected since 2016.

Comment on performance

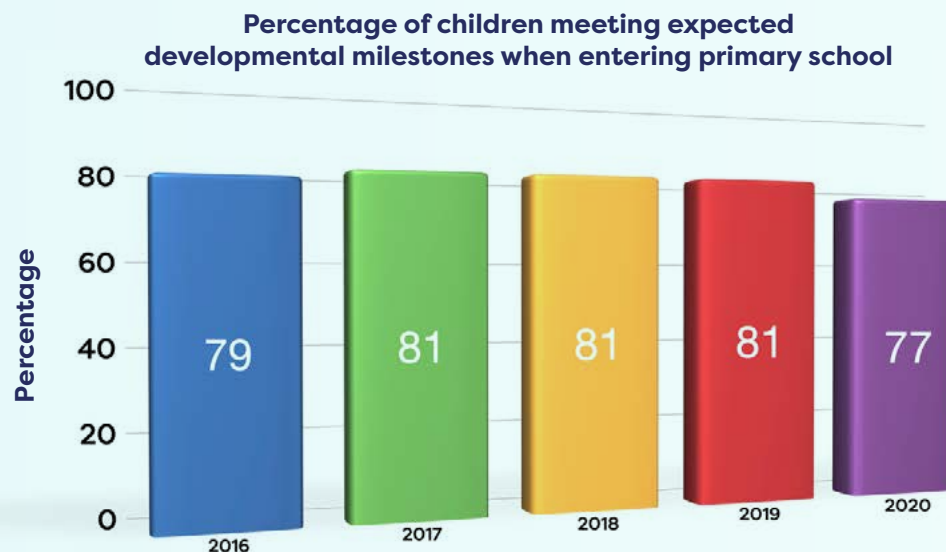
Whilst we are below target overall, the target of 85% is being met in the least deprived cohorts. However, there is still work to do, by all partners, in supporting children and families experiencing more deprivation, where one or more milestones are not being met.

How our performance compares to others

National data has only recently started being published and is calculated on a slightly different basis than the figures collected to date in Perth and Kinross. However, the published rate for Scotland is 71%.

Actions we are taking for continuous improvement

A new electronic tracking and monitoring tool (using developmental milestones and Curriculum for Excellence early level benchmarks) will be used by all ELC settings. We are developing communication and Language in Children will be a focus for staff development, with input from Speech and Language Therapy. 20 FTE Early Years Family Learning practitioners will work with children and families across ELC communities. Early Childhood Practitioners will be deployed to Primary 1 to support learning through play and developing communication and language.



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Percentage of registrations to the Child Protection Register that are re-registrations within 18 months

What this indicator is about

This measure is drawn from the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, and reports the proportion of children placed on the Child Protection Register in a year who were previously registered within the last 18 months.

Why we measure it

Re-registration rates could suggest that the decision to remove children from the Register was premature and requires careful monitoring to ensure that decision-making is robust and that necessary safeguards have been put in place.

What can affect performance

Child Protection is a complex area of service, and the individual circumstances for children and young people can change. Rates are easily affected by the small numbers involved, and particularly by family groupings.

Comment on performance

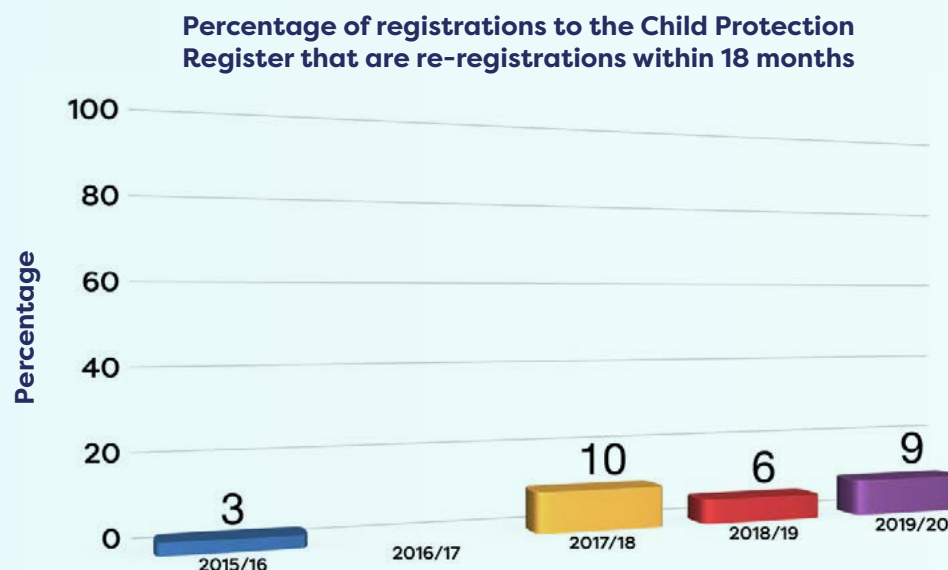
Performance has risen slightly to 9, however results in this area are very variable, and represent very small numbers of individuals, so should be treated with a great deal of caution. As such no trendline or target are stated.

How our performance compares to others

Due to the small numbers involved, comparisons are difficult. This is compounded by family groups of children which impact on the percentage variation. However, the national average is consistently around 7%.

Actions we are taking for continuous improvement

The Child Protection Committee closely monitors re-registrations as part of its quality assurance reviews and drives improvement activity.



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Percentage of children being Looked-After in community placements rather than residential placements

What this indicator is about

This measure is drawn from the Local Government Benchmarking Framework and reports the proportion of looked after children who are being looked after in the community, as opposed to residential placements such as residential care or residential school.

Why we measure it

The Review and Remodelling of Residential Care Transformation Project highlighted the need to reduce reliance on external residential placements to avoid escalating costs and to better meet increasingly complex and often unexpected demands. Outcomes for children and young people who are Looked-After or on the edge of care are among the poorest both locally and nationally, and research shows that they are likely to perform significantly better in a community or family-based placement.

What can affect performance

The individual needs of children and young people are the primary consideration when arranging placements.

Comment on performance

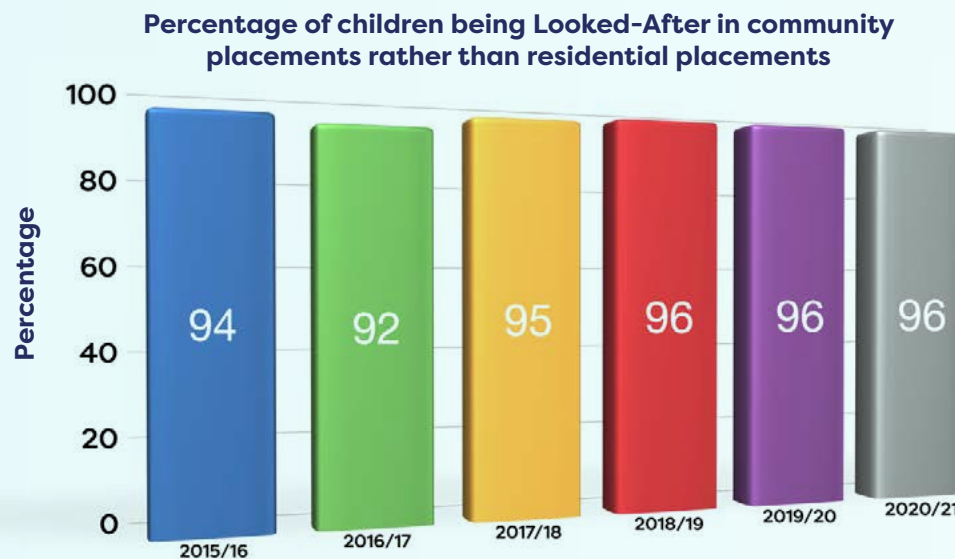
The performance trend has been stable over the last few years.

How our performance compares to others

The latest results place us second out of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities, and well above the national average of 90%.

Actions we are taking for continuous improvement

The multidisciplinary REACH Team offer intensive and flexible support to young people and families across Perth and Kinross to improve outcomes for young people who are looked-after or who are at risk of being accommodated and are therefore “on the edge of care”. REACH provides individualised support to help young people to remain in their families, schools and communities and prevent the need to move into care. This has also been enhanced by the recruitment of additional foster carers within Perth and Kinross.



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Percentage of Looked-After school-leavers attaining Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Level 4

What this indicator is about

This measure is drawn from the national senior phase benchmarking tool *Insight* and reports the proportion of young people leaving school who are, or have been, looked-after, and who attain SCQF qualifications at Level 4 in both Literacy and Numeracy subject areas.

Why we measure it

Measurement of this indicator supports comparison with the attainment of the overall school-leavers cohort, and forms part of the information that is gathered and used to assess and plan supports for young people in vulnerable groups.

What can affect performance

The number of looked after school leavers in each year is small, and can vary greatly. For this reason a three-year average is used to try to minimise large variations from year to year.

Comment on performance

The trends in attainment of Looked After young people are generally in line with the virtual comparator, which is the attainment of the general pupil population from a similar SIMD background, gender and stage of leaving school, although Level 4 literacy is consistently lower.

How our performance compares to others

Performance for this indicator has dropped below the Virtual Comparator (69%). However, these figures need to be viewed with some caution as they represent a very small group of young people of less than 20 each year. As such there can be substantial swings in reported performance.

Actions we are taking for continuous improvement

Improvement in the attainment levels of Looked-After Children/Care-Experienced Young People continues to be a focus in the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the annual Education Plan.

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