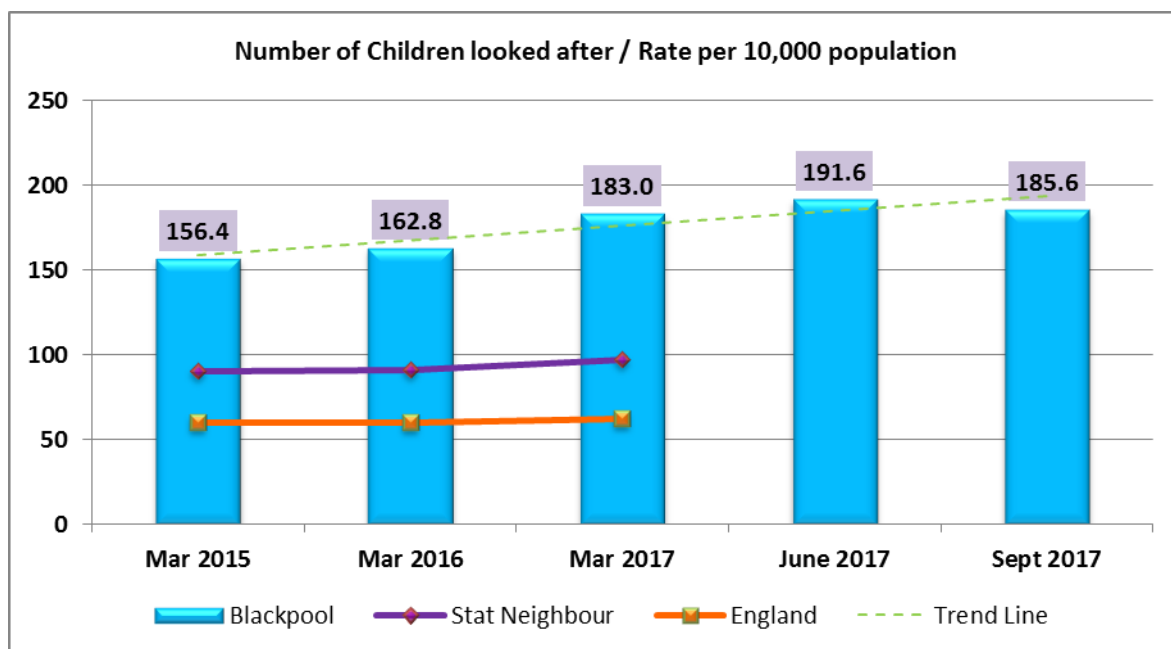


CABINET SECRETARY FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES & CHILDRENS

Indicator Description	Better to be?
Number/Rate of children looked after per 10,000	Low

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18				Target
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
No. (Rate)	469 (162.8)	525 (183.0)	548 (191.6)	531 (185.6)			No Target Set

There are no targets set for this KPI, so the comparisons used instead are the general trend of performance, plus comparisons against our statistical neighbours and the all-England figure. The rate of Looked After Children has increased consistently since 2015 at a higher rate than the two comparator groups. However, the rate at Q2 of 2017/18 has decreased slightly compared to Q1.



Service Response:

As part of the Children’s Services improvement plan we have clear actions to reduce the number of children looked after. The plan includes examining thresholds for entering care, providing services for those children and young people on the edge of care to safely remain at home and reviewing existing plans in place for looked after children and again where it is safe to do so and in the child/young person’s best interest looking at permanence options and alternatives to remaining in care. For the first time in a number of years the number entering care has remained stable at 15 per month for this quarter. In the same quarter the number ceasing to be looked after has been greater than the number entering care.

The total at 30 September 2017 is 531 and this number has continued to fall. As outlined above there is a clear plan to reduce the numbers of LAC and this includes the discharge plan in respect to CYP adopted, who could progress to SGO and 21 young people will turn 18 before the end of March 2018.

The present cohort of LAC by age is as follows:

Under 1: 39 1-4 yrs: 71 5-9 yrs: 127 10 – 15 yrs: 199 16 and over: 89

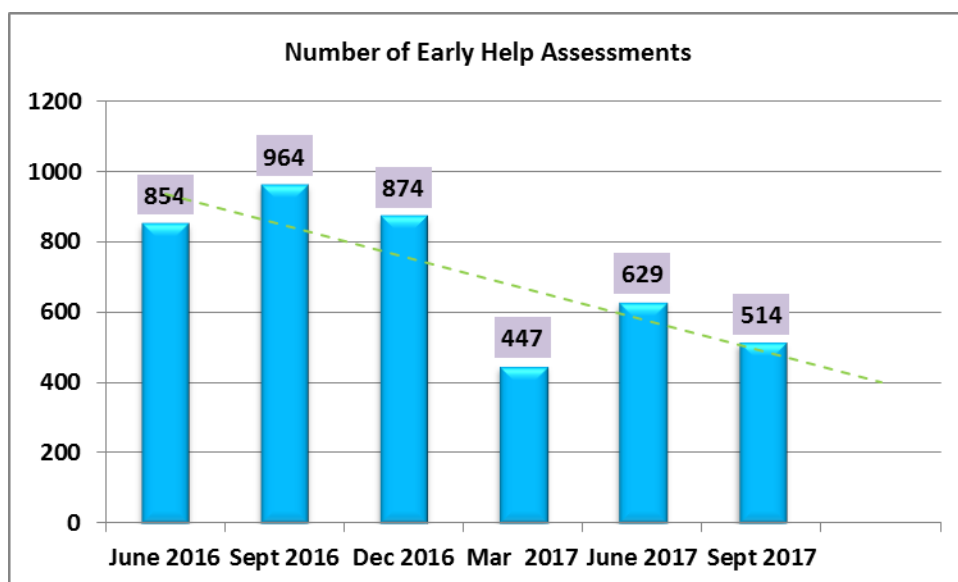
The younger age group should represent the opportunity to achieve permanence via adoption or SGO and this forms part of our discharge plan

Appendix 6(b) - Exception Reports (Q2 2017/18)

Indicator Description	Better to be?
Number of early help assessments	High

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18				Target
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
New PI	3139	629	514			No Target Set

The trend is for the number of assessments being undertaken to have dropped over the last 12 months. Year-on-year comparisons for both June and September show a significantly lower number in 2017 compared to the previous year:



Service Response:

Data collection continues to be a challenge as there is currently no robust system in place to gather partnership wide Early Help activity meaning this only represents a snapshot of Early Help Activities

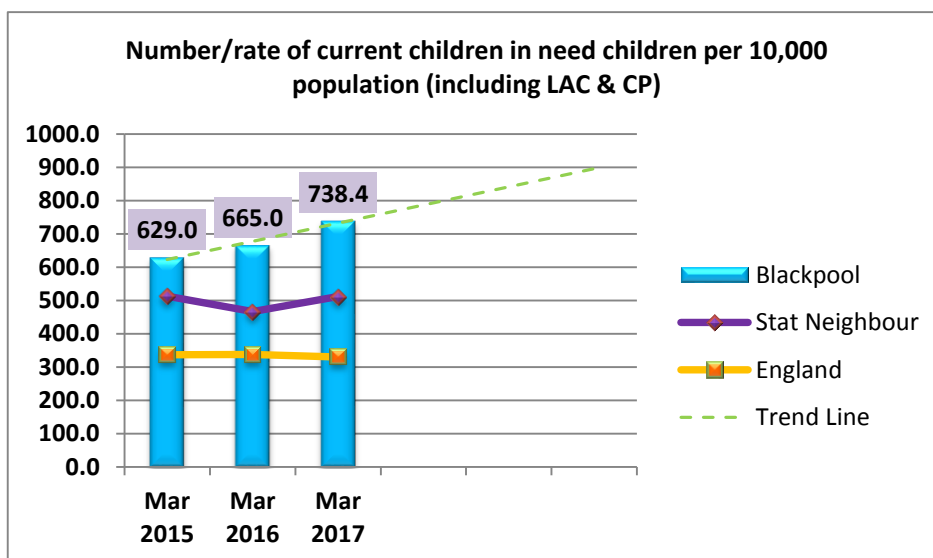
The development of the Early Help Hub (as part of the Improvement Plan) will see a more robust system developed.

Appendix 6(b) - Exception Reports (Q2 2017/18)

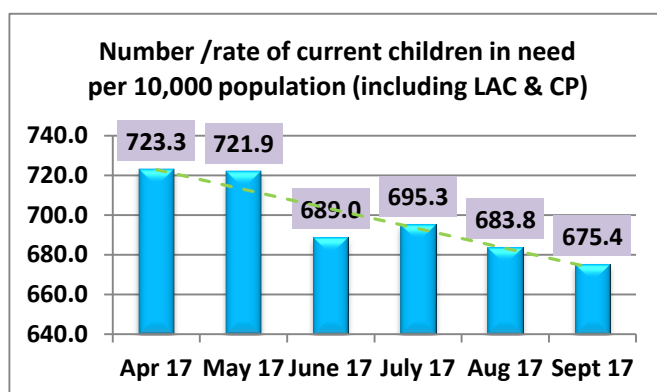
Indicator Description	Better to be?
Number/ rate of current children in need per 10,000 population (including LAC & CP)	Low

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18				Target
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
No.1916 Rate 665.0	No. 2118 Rate 738.4	No. 1971 Rate 689.0	No.1932 Rate 675.4			No Target Set

When comparing figures from March over three previous years against those of our statistical neighbours and England, Blackpool's numbers are high and increasing more rapidly:



However, when looking at the figures calculated after changes that were implemented in April 2017, the figures show a substantial decrease over the 6 months, with a slight increase in July 2017 compensated for by a further reduction in August. If the trend were to continue at this rate, the Blackpool figure would be down to the average of our statistical neighbours by Q3 of 2018/19:



Appendix 6(b) - Exception Reports (Q2 2017/18)

Service Response:

The Children's Services Improvement and Demand Management plans have clear plans/actions in place to address demand and ensure robust monitoring and review of existing plans is in place for children and young people looked after, subject to child protection plans and receiving statutory Sec 17 Child in Need services. As outlined above there has been success in the reduction of LAC as a result of the measures taken e.g. examining thresholds for entering care, edge of care services to support children and young people in their home, reviewing and taking action where children and young people can safely cease remaining in care.

The Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board has also launched the new agreed thresholds and continuum of need documents with partner agencies which provides greater clarity on which services should meet particular needs and the appropriate management of risk. In addition to this we have robustly reviewed children and young people who are subject to child protection plans ensuring the criteria continues to be met for a child to remain on a child protection plan as well as undertaking robust assessments at the front door to ensure in line with the continuum of need that children and young people are signposted to the right service to meet their needs. This has led to a reduction in child protection plans.