

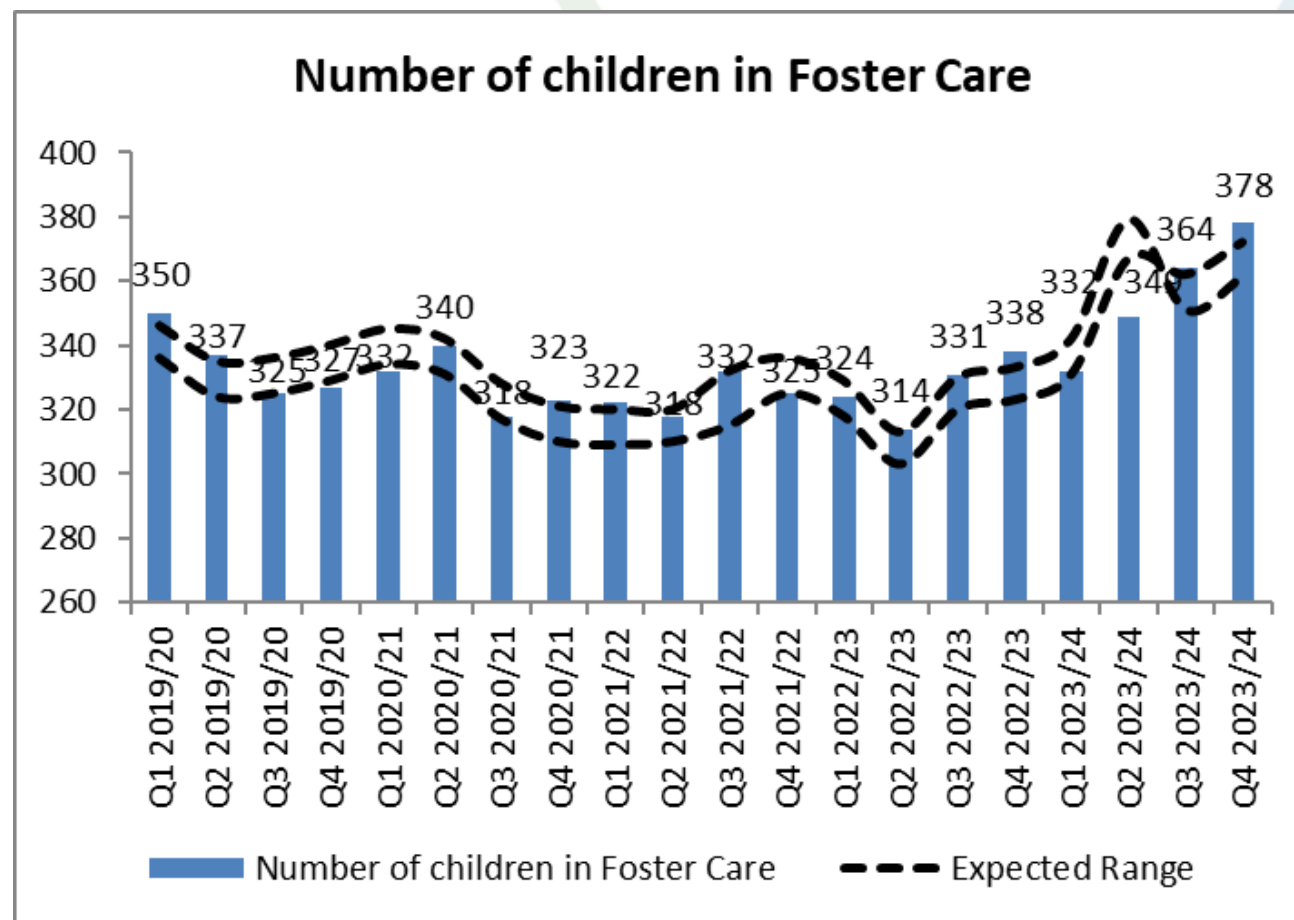


# Fostering North Yorkshire

CYPS Scrutiny Committee Update – June 2024

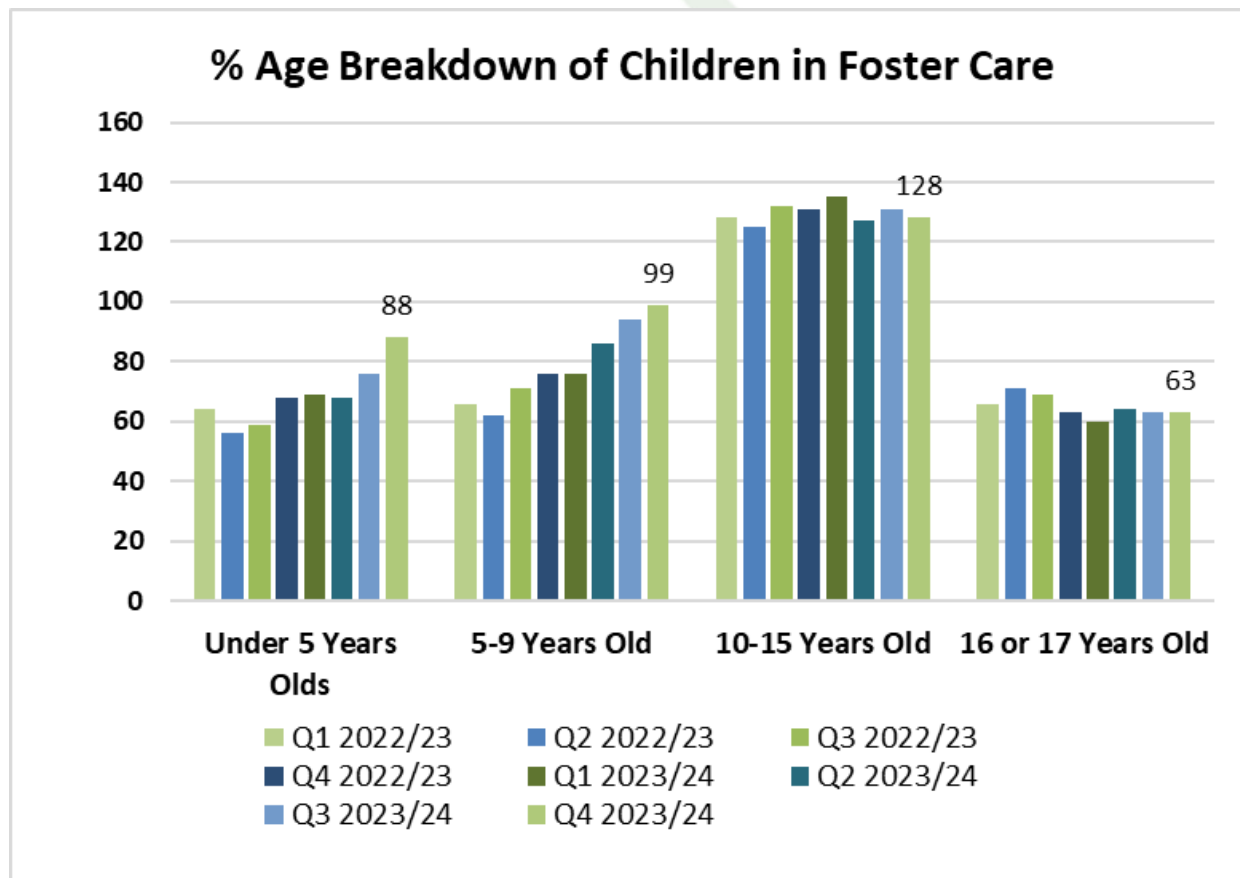
# Children living in foster care

- There are more children living in foster care now than we have seen over the last decade (76% of all children in care)
- 7 living in IFA (Independent Fostering Agency) fostering arrangements. Thus, 371 (98.1%) are living in North Yorkshire foster homes
- Overall, more children in a lower number of Fostering Households – so more multi occupied households etc.



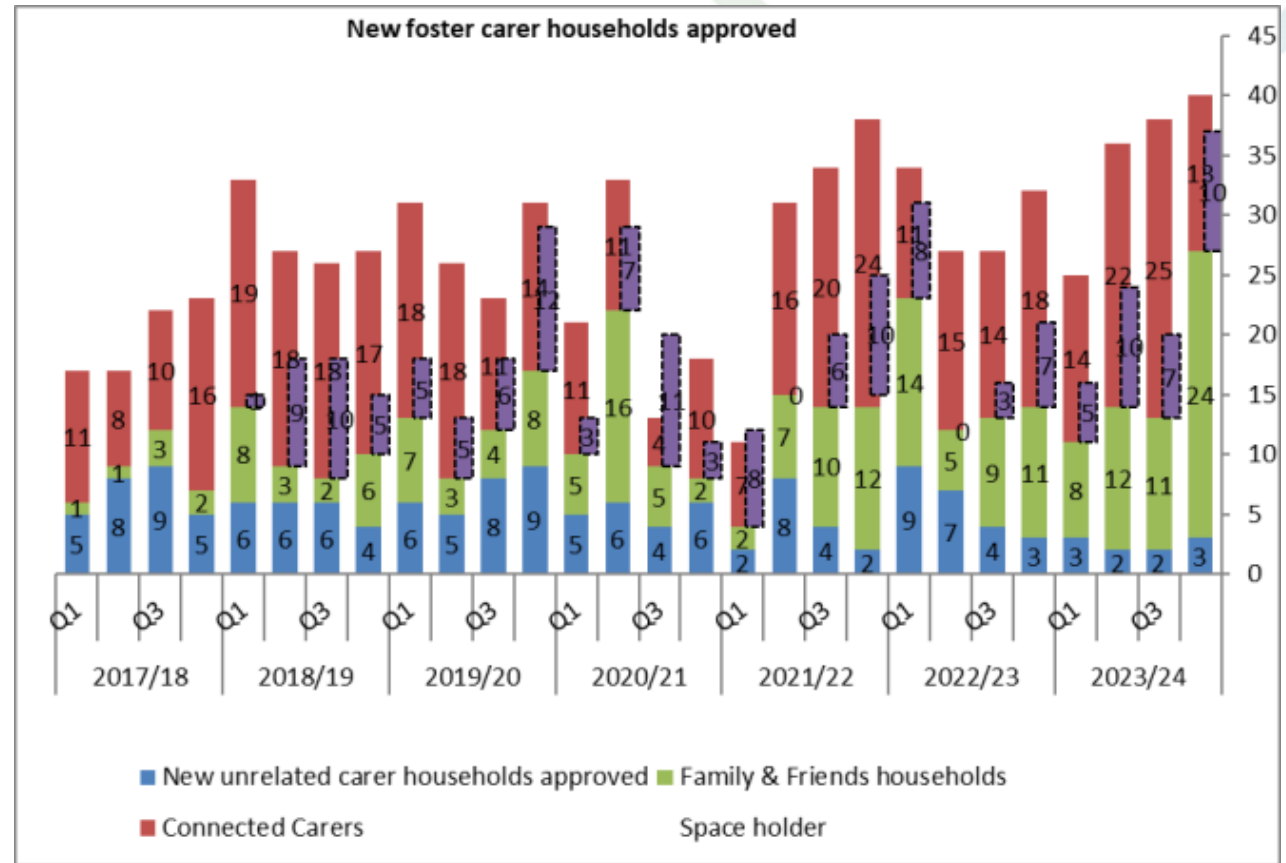
# Age profile of children living in foster care

- 10+ relatively stable
- Increases in under 5s and 5-9 year olds



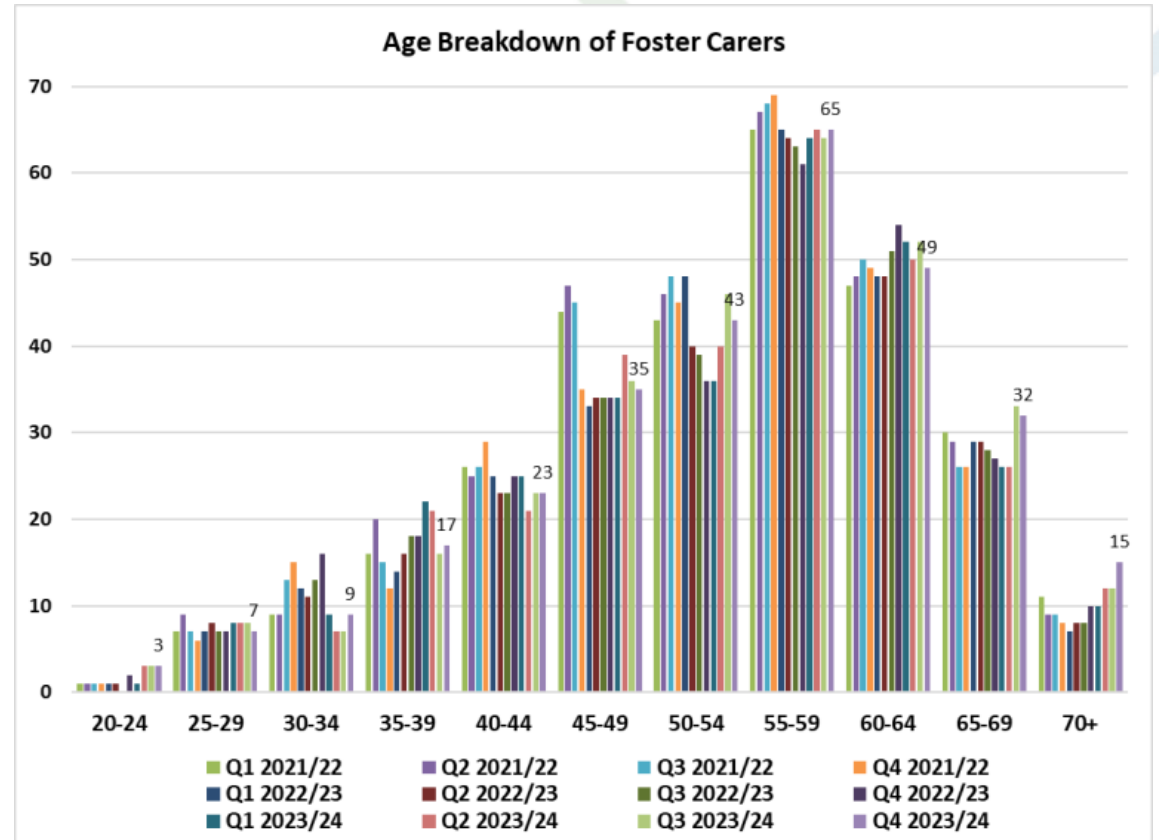
# New foster carer approvals

- We have seen a decreasing number of new unrelated carer approvals since the pandemic
- However, more children are living with their families under connected carers temporary approvals and then becoming family and friend foster carers at full approval
- This is in line with our practice model



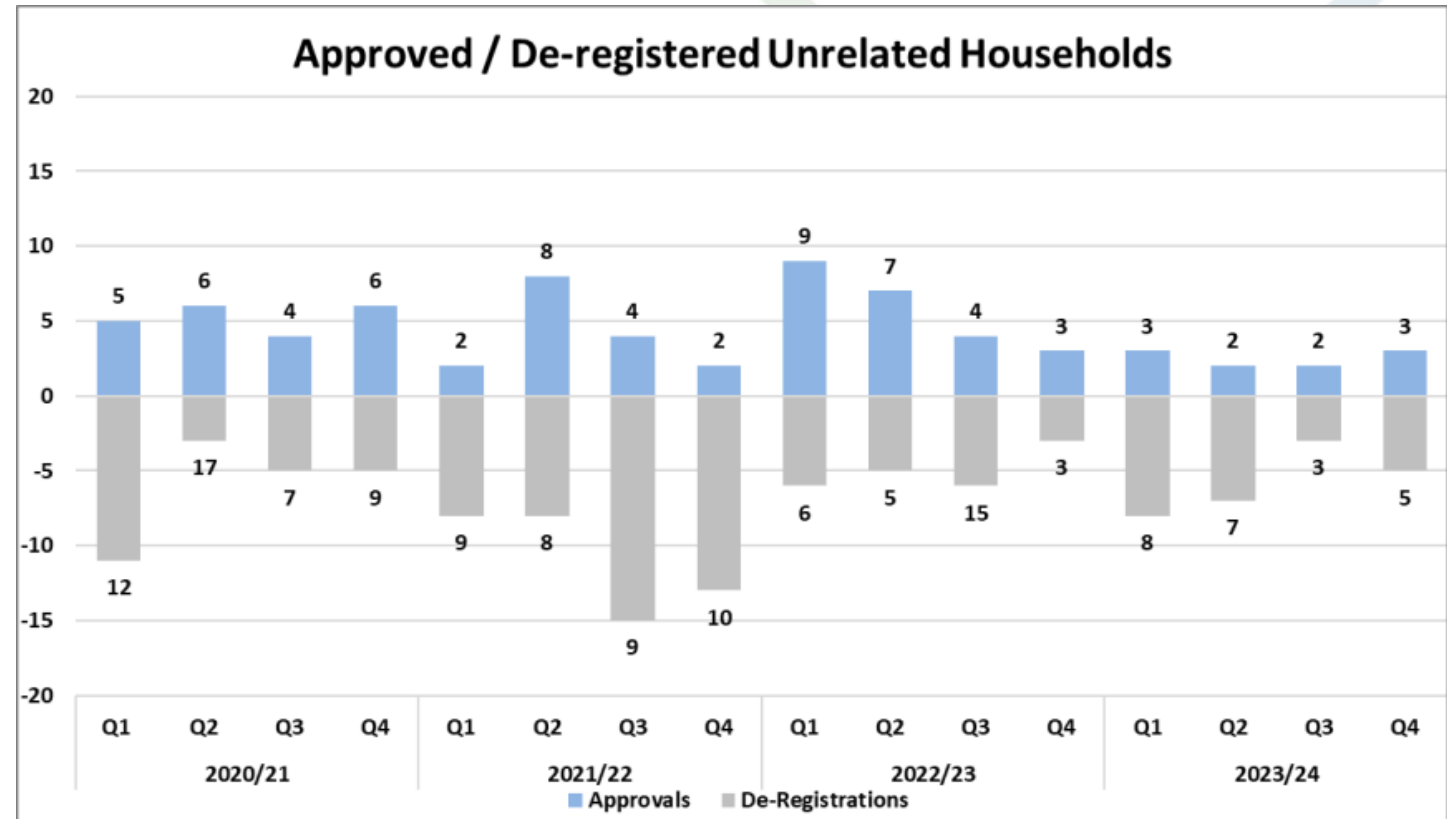
# Age profile of foster carers

- The graph shows all foster carers (i.e. family and friend foster carers and unrelated foster carers)
- 55-59 has always been the largest cohort for both unrelated and family friend carers
- New recruitment needs to drive and increase the numbers of the 45-49 and 50-54 age range to ensure there is enough capacity as the older cohorts retire



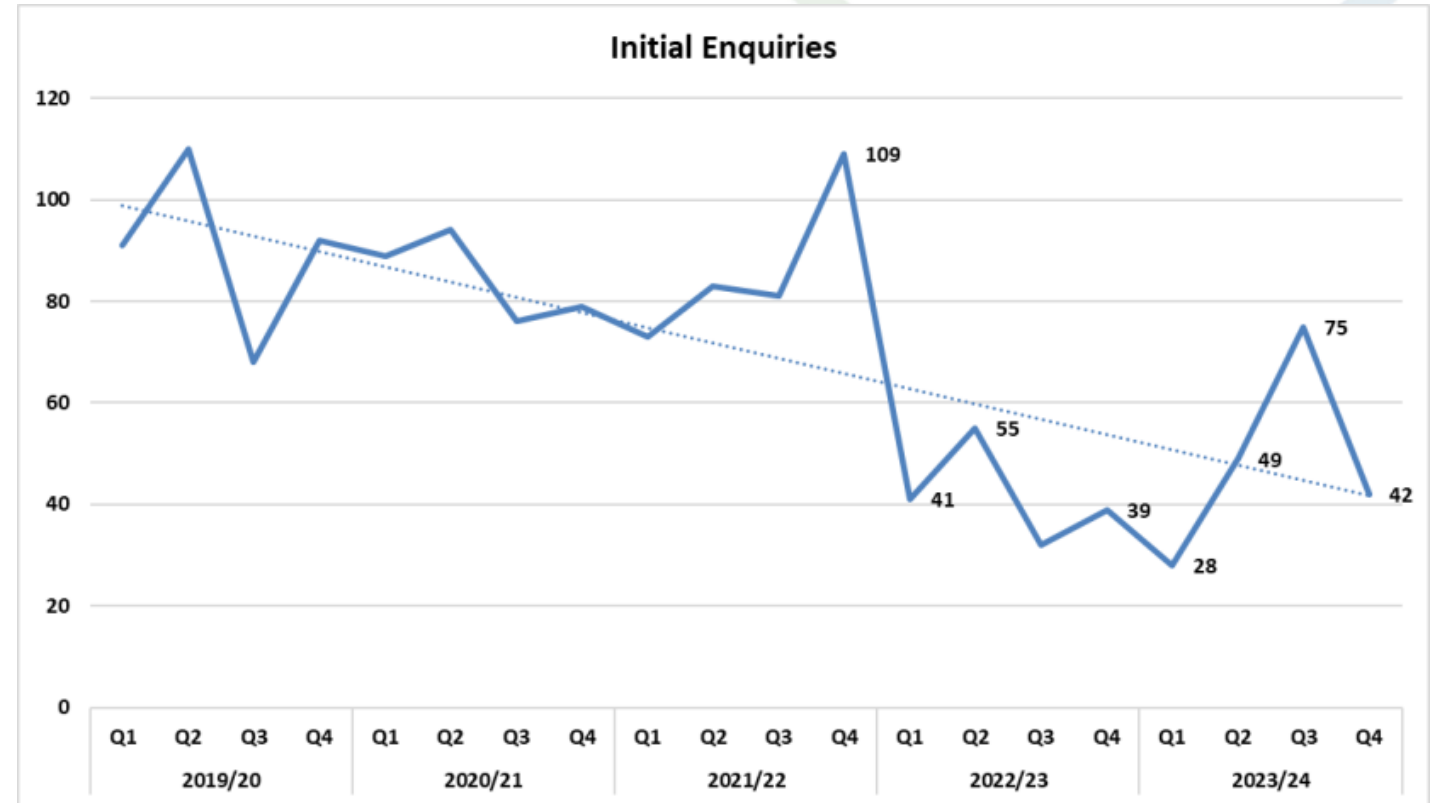
# Unrelated de registrations

- There is often more de registrations of unrelated foster carers than new approvals coming through yr on yr, this is seen nationally. Often related to changes in families circumstances.
- NY are continuously driving recruitment to increase newly approved carers i.e. golden hello £500 and recommend a friend
- There is a high priority to continue to find foster homes for new children coming into our care who do not have a safe family network



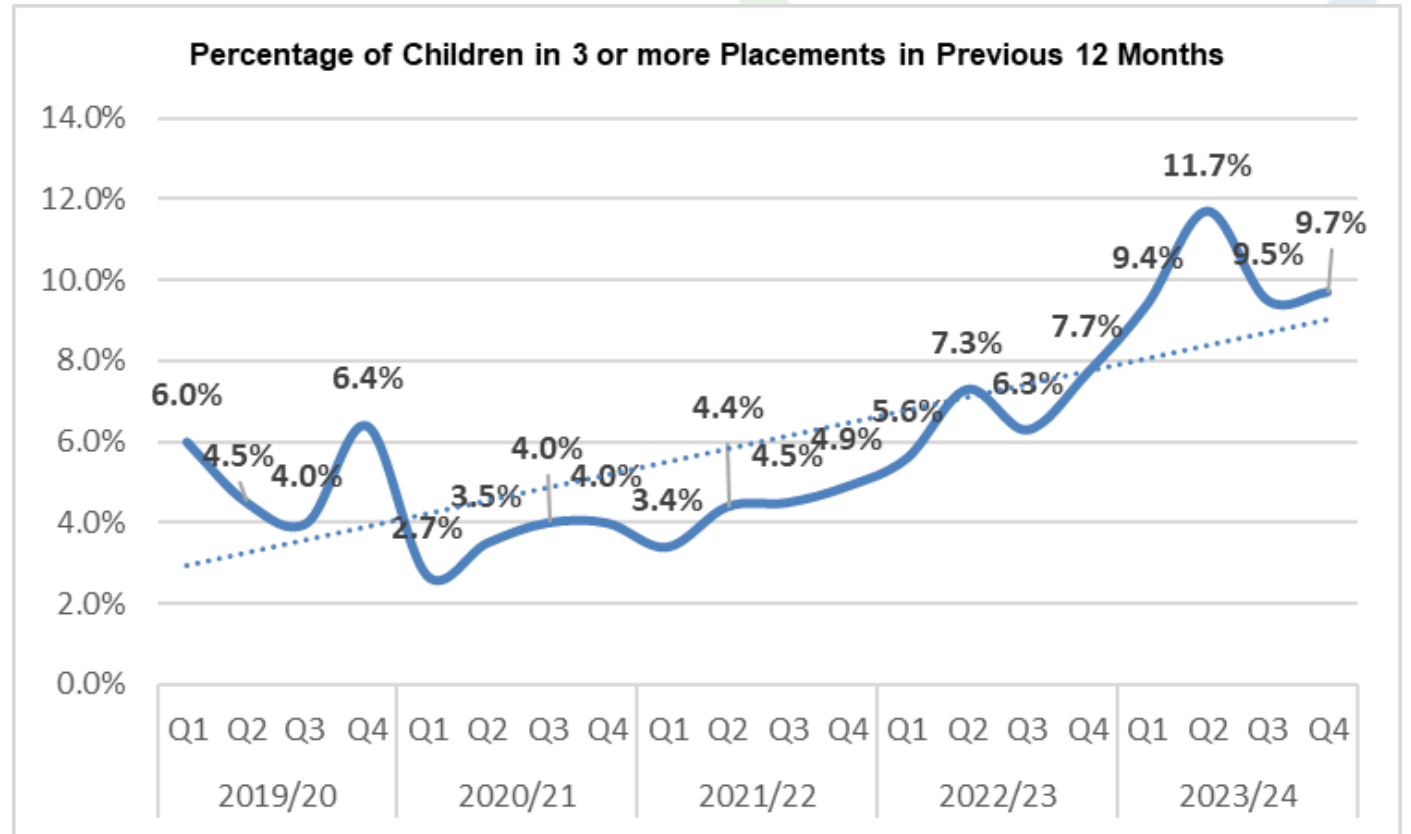
# New unrelated enquiries

- Pre pandemic there were approx. 10-15 enquiries a week
- These numbers reduced during the pandemic to approx. 10 a week
- The ongoing recruitment drive via Social Media ensured work continued
- We saw recovery in Q4 2021/2022 however, numbers plummeted when Russia invaded Ukraine
- HfU families influx gives a boost at the end of 2023 due to dedicated recruitment to those who had been Homes for Ukraine hosts
- Enquiries continue to fluctuate between 0-6 a week



# Increasing short term instability

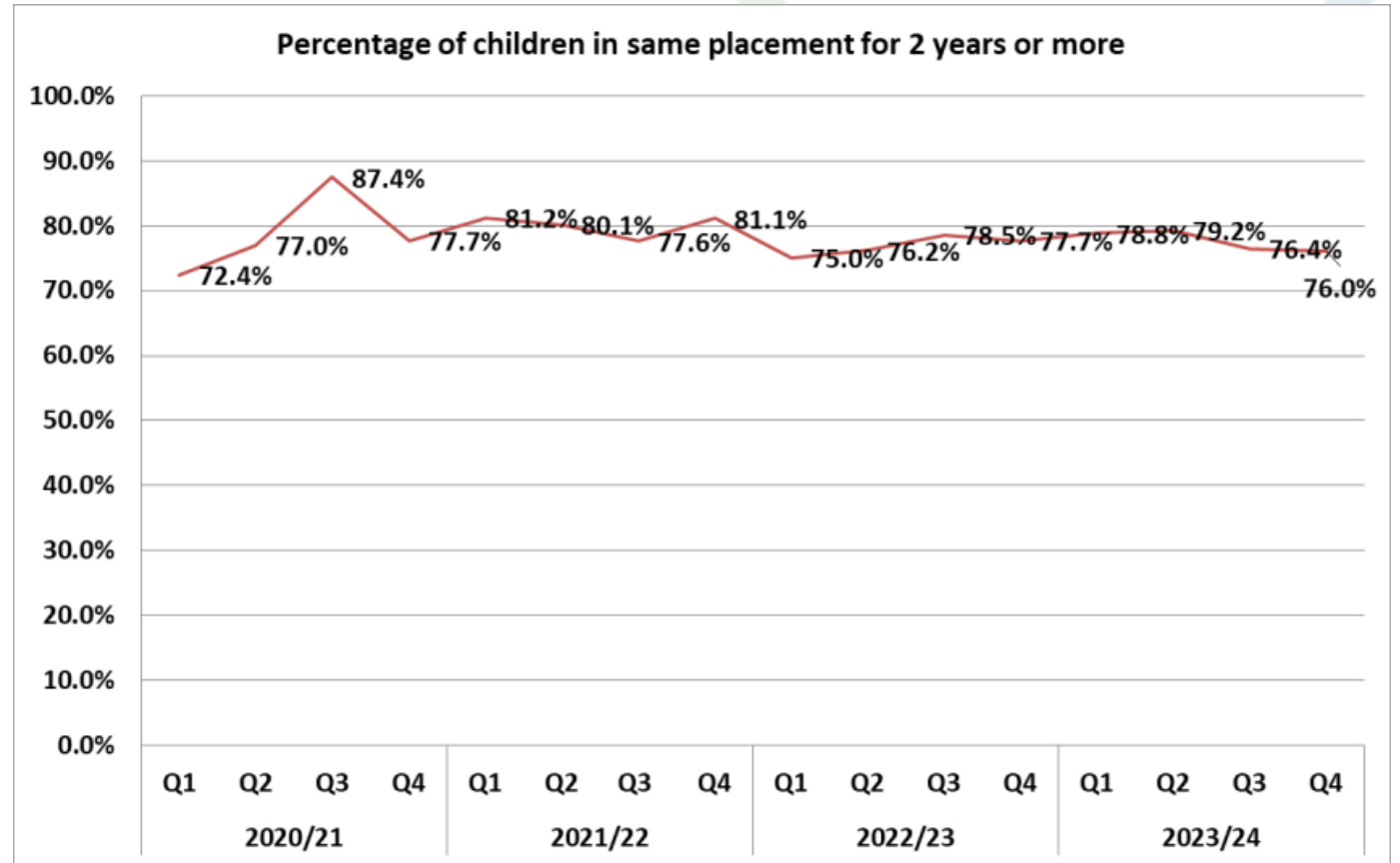
- New admissions into unrelated care can sometimes only be offered a sequence of short term arrangements initially
- There was always a cohort of children for whom it was difficult to find a foster home match – over the last four years this cohort has increased from approx. 10 to 40 (an increase of approx. 3% to 10% of the children living in foster care) – we know children have faced adversity and needs have increased significantly i.e. pandemic





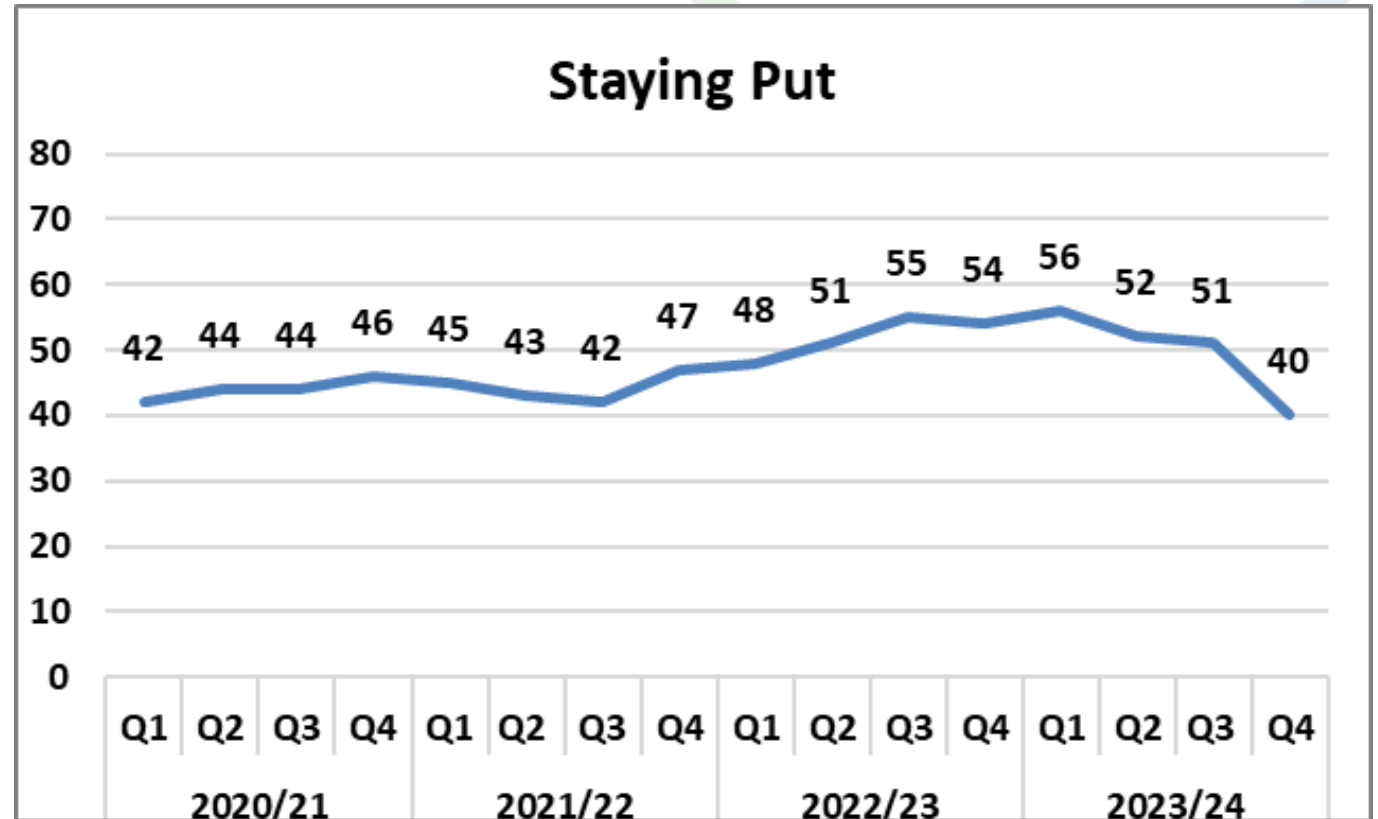
# Stable long term stability

- Long term stability improved during the pandemic and has now reverted back to pre pandemic rates
- This means that over 75% of children living in foster homes are in stable long term arrangements which is very positive



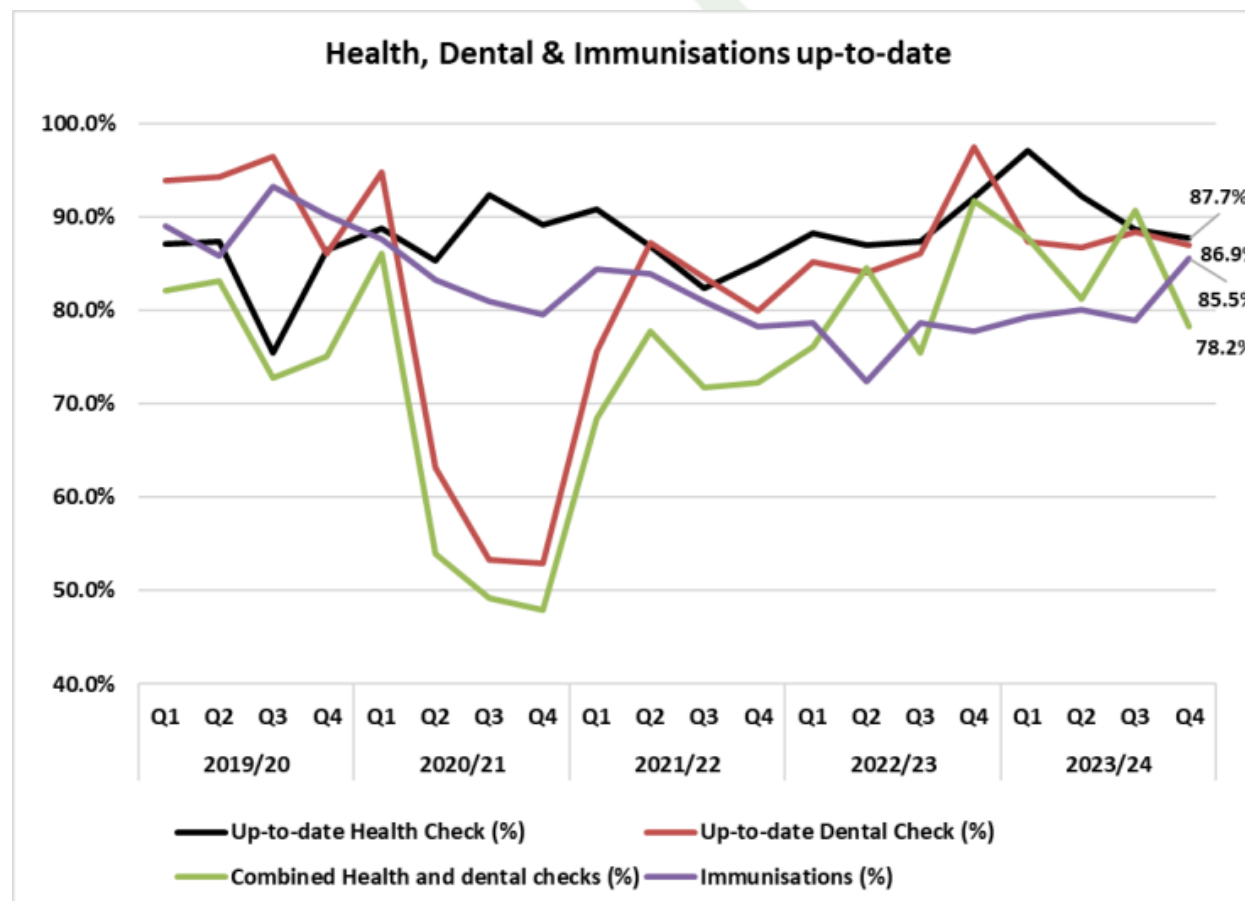
# Staying put

- Staying put is when a child in care who has become 18 remains living with their former foster carer – it is a great outcome and supports several young adults studying at University or going on into training or employment
- This can reduce the fostering capacity for those families for new children becoming looked after



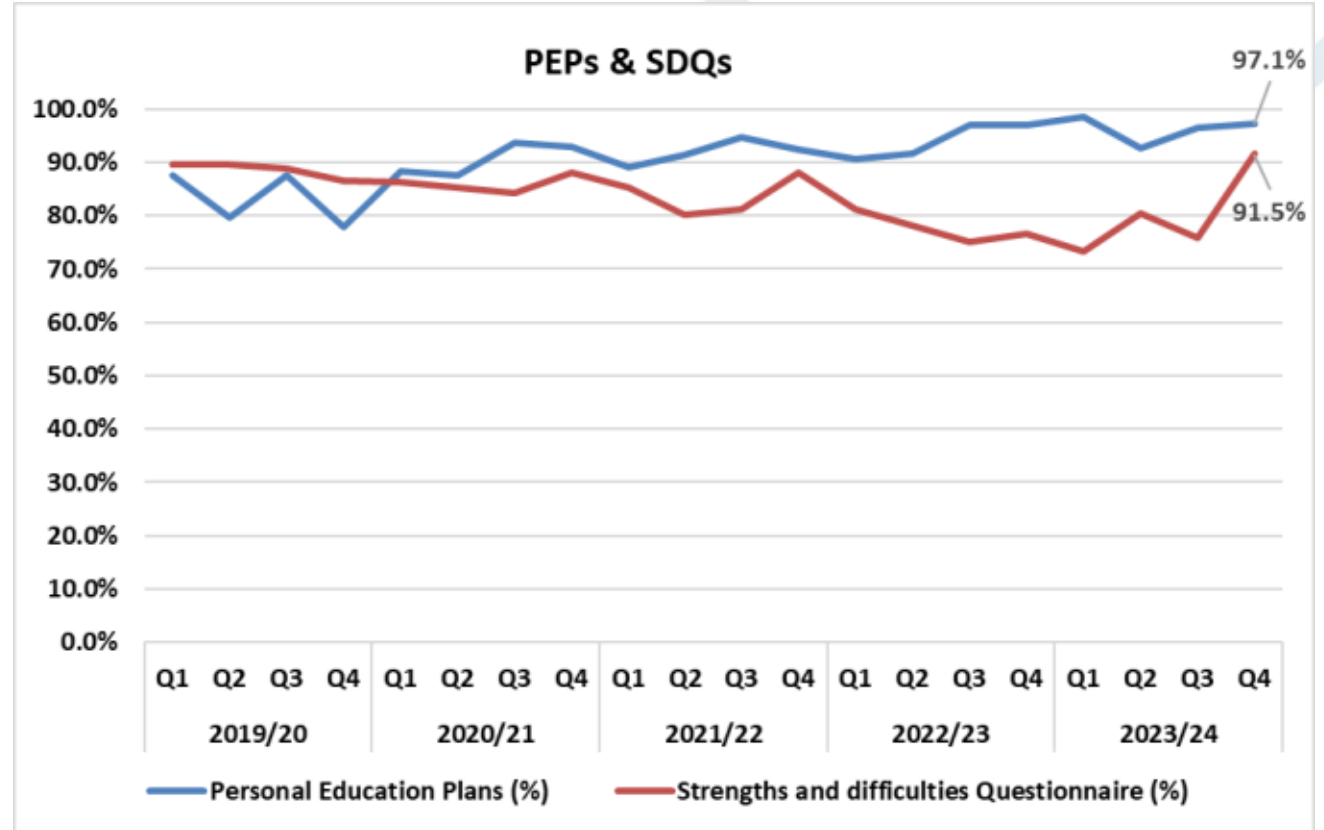
# Strong performance re Health and Dental

- This strong performance is good news for children in care. This is a shared responsibility by the fostering service, children's social work teams and health colleagues.
- The large dip in performance was during the Lockdowns for the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Also strong performance re SDQs and PEPs

- SDQs is ‘Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires’ and is a means by which the mental health of children is monitored – the actual questionnaire is completed by the foster carer
- PEPs is ‘Personal Education Plans’ and this strong performance is very much about the hard work of the virtual school, children’s social work team and schools



# Current foster carer payments - Allowances per child

Age	Weekly Fostering Allowance Standard
0-4	£189.38
5-10	£215.77
11-15	£268.44
16+	£326.58



# Current foster carer payments

## - Accredited Foster Carer Premium per child

Age	Weekly Fostering Premium Standard
0-4	£68.16
5-10	£84.69
11-15	£101.99
16+	£119.26




# Current foster carer payments - Advanced and Specialist Foster Carer Fees (per household)

	Amount
Advanced	£265.10
Specialist	£607.19







# New logo and colours in 2023



"I was at a low point and struggling at school, but my foster family is helping me to feel good about myself - I've now been offered a place at college" **Abi, 16**

Could you change the life of a young person in North Yorkshire by opening your home to them?


Contact us now:  
[www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering)  
[www.facebook.com/fosteringnorthyorkshire](https://www.facebook.com/fosteringnorthyorkshire)  
email: [fostering@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@northyorks.gov.uk)  
phone: 01609 534654



"Having autism means I need routines, my foster carer helps me with these and also to share my feelings - she is very patient with me" **Josh, 13**

Could you open your home and heart to a young person with additional needs?

Contact us now:  
[www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering)  
[www.facebook.com/fosteringnorthyorkshire](https://www.facebook.com/fosteringnorthyorkshire)  
email: [fostering@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@northyorks.gov.uk)  
phone: 01609 534654





# New financial measures in 2023

- More mileage paid (carers can now claim the first 100 miles)
- A bridging payment for when a carer doesn't have a child for three weeks
- Foster carers can sign up to the Council's employee benefits scheme which includes discounts at supermarkets and leisure activities
- Recommend a friend payment of £500
- Golden hello payment for newly approved carers of £500 extended to December 2024
- April 2024 payment uplift returned to the usual formula of the rate of CPI the previous December (i.e. December 2023) and this year was 4%



**£500**  
**'golden hello'**  
**for newly approved**  
**foster carers**

We have children and young people in need of safe and loving homes in North Yorkshire right now.

For support and guidance or to find out more about fostering please visit:  
[www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering)



**Fostering**  
North  
Yorkshire



# How you can help us

- Actively promote and talk about fostering within your communities and networks
- Share the social media adverts
- If you are a business share recruitment material – let us come and talk to the group through open evenings, chats with staff or information on newsletters
- We have young people who have grown up in foster homes who are happy to speak to staff, pupils or both
- Promote fostering in exhibitions
- Open to any new suggestions – our key aim is to get our message out there that we need foster carers in North Yorkshire right now

