

# PLACEMENT SUFFICIENCY: CARED FOR CHILDREN & CARE LEAVERS

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A multi-variant analysis of existing trends and future needs

Telford & Wrekin Council 2024 - 2029



# Executive Summary

This executive summary provides a snapshot of the report's comprehensive analysis, addressing key factors influencing the well-being and care needs of children and young people in Telford & Wrekin. The findings aim to inform the Telford & Wrekin Council Children and Young People's Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy 2024-2029.

## MACRO DEMAND:

- Telford & Wrekin has a growing population.
- Cared for Children (CFC) numbers in Telford & Wrekin have seen a notable increase since 2008 as the CFC Turnover Rate shows a historical net growth, with concerns raised about the increasing turnover rate of older-aged children entering care.
- Adjusting for socioeconomic indicators, including income deprivation, suggests that the Local Authority (LA) has exaggerated numbers of Children & Young People (CYP) in care. Some of which can be attributed to recent increases in children living in low-income families.
- The age profile of Telford & Wrekin's children is shifting, with a current emphasis on the 10-15 age group following a spike in 10-15-year-olds entering care in 2022/23.
- A forecast suggests a reduction in CFC, influenced by factors such as population changes and social work practices. However, this prediction may be compromised should the United Kingdom enter a recessionary period and/or anomalous circumstances that led to greater numbers of older CYP coming into care in recent years continue.

## LOCAL, REGIONAL & NATIONAL SUFFICIENCY:

- The Cared for Children Sufficiency Score Index shows Telford & Wrekin's position compared to the national and regional context.
- The Sufficiency Index Score ranges from <0.1 to 1.0, with Telford & Wrekin scoring 0.64, with no metrics falling into the bottom 10% nationally,

indicating a relative balance of strengths and challenges. However, concerns exist regarding the perceived ability to make new foster care placements.

- Capacity to Place with Parents is highlighted as an opportunity for Telford & Wrekin, as the region is in the lowest 10% nationally for this type of placement. This suggests a potential managed strategy for reunification of CFC, offering a unique opportunity compared to other parts of the country.

## FORECAST OF PLACEMENT TYPES:

- This investigation delves into the dynamics of Child and Family Care placements in Telford & Wrekin, exploring the regional and national landscape of placement propensity, types, and their utilization. Key findings include:
  - **Placement Propensity Analysis:** The investigation uses "Placement Propensity" to assess the correlation between the rate of CFC and the preference for various placement types across local authorities and regions. Telford & Wrekin's approach to placement types is examined, indicating a relatively stable ability to match CFC appropriately. The case study reveals a recent increase in Semi-Independent Living arrangements, aligning with demographic shifts and legislative changes.
  - **Foster Care Supply Challenges:** The investigation identifies a national decline in approved Foster Care places and a concerning trend of reduced conversion from enquiries to approved households. Economic conditions and applicant withdrawal contribute to this decline. Telford & Wrekin's local data presents a contrasting scenario with an increase in approved Foster Care places. The data suggests effective recruitment efforts but raises questions about the reasons behind applicant withdrawals.
  - **Foster Carer Demographics:** the aging Foster Care-force nationally poses challenges to future supply. Telford & Wrekin's local demographics indicate less favorable conditions for recruitment compared to other regions.
  - **Kinship Considerations:** Insights from a 2022 report emphasize the importance of kinship care, with children often entering kinship foster

care at a younger age. The report suggests a shift toward kinship care as an early and preferred option for children in need.

- **Residential & Semi-Independent Living Challenges:** Telford & Wrekin faces challenges in the high utilization of Residential and Semi-Independent Living placements, exceeding the national average. The sustainability of this trend is questioned, considering the region's high rate of CFC.
- **Placement Types Utilization Forecast** attempts to forecast the utilization of different placement types in Telford & Wrekin from 2024 to 2028, anticipating a reduction in demand and potential changes in placement dynamics.

## CONCLUSION:

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of macro demand, sufficiency, placement forecasts, and macroenvironmental factors influencing the care of children in Telford & Wrekin. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for strategic planning and resource allocation to meet the evolving needs of vulnerable children and families in the area. The findings underscore the importance of considering demographic changes, socioeconomic factors, and regional variations in developing effective policies and services.

*\*Note: The information is based on available data, and decisions should be made in the context of the current state of the area and updated knowledge of micro/macro-environmental forces*

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# Introduction

This document provides information regarding demand and supply of different types of services relating to Cared for Children & Care Leavers and how they impact on Telford & Wrekin Children's Services ability to ensure each child is placed in the most appropriate provision.

The information contained within this report has been used to inform the Telford & Wrekin Council Children and Young People's Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy 2024 - 2029 and, as such, can be used to explain some of the strategies identified by Telford & Wrekin Children's Services to meet the needs of vulnerable Children & Families within the area.

All data and information within should be considered in the understanding that it is based on the best available data at the time the document was last updated, and, although the process of collating and interpreting data has been thorough, it doesn't guarantee its accuracy, nor its ability to predict future trends exactly. With this in mind, the author(s) have - where appropriate - considered as many objective scenarios when making predictions as considered reasonable. Furthermore, any decisions based on the projections within this document should be made within the context of the current state of the area and with up-to-date knowledge of any micro/macro-environmental forces.

# Methodology

All data in this document are sourced from; Local Authority records and publicly available data via DFE, OFSTED, ONS, Nomis and The National Archives. Attempts have been made to cross-reference data from different data sources and investigate any data anomalies, although this doesn't guarantee accuracy. For example, there can often be a discrepancy between ONS Population Estimates and Children & Young People (CYP) numbers as quoted in DFE 903 Returns. Therefore, numbers contained within shouldn't ever be taken verbatim. In this example, both datasets have been used where relevant but special effort has been made not to cross-contaminate information. Furthermore, advice has been sought from statistics professionals to ensure that future predictions are as realistic as possible, and forecasting is considerate of the multitude of impacting factors. For example, rather than consider the growth/decline in Cared for Children (CFC) as a linear trend (which it can often appear), attempts have been made to forecast whilst factoring in factors such as population changes, changes in Social Work Practice, the age profile of the area and levels of deprivation, to name a handful.

In respect to the CFC Sufficiency Score Index, the upper and lower limits used as a reference point for comparing authorities are based on the maximum and minimum values within the base data, reported by all LAs.

The section on **Kinship Considerations** contains extracts from the 2022 report: *Understanding Formal Kinship Care Arrangements in England: Analysis of Administrative Data* by What Works for Children's Social Care. The original report provides descriptive analysis of the experiences of children who have been in a formal kinship care placement. This report focuses exclusively on two forms of formal kinship arrangements: kinship foster care & kinship special guardianship. The analysis used individual-level, national data from the Children Looked After Dataset (SSDA903, CLA Dataset), linked with extracts of the National Pupil Database (NPD) between 1998/99 and 2019/20.



# Findings

## Chapter 1: Macro Demand

### TELFORD & WREKIN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POPULATION PROFILE

Population estimates state that there are approximately 43,091 children and young people aged 0-18 residing in the borough - a number that is likely to keep on rising given the recent influx in population and continued home building within the area.

Approximately 20.5% of children and young people are from a minority ethnic background, which has increased further since the review of data in 2019.

Households with dependent children (30.0%) - of which 7.8% are lone parent households - and the conception rate of under 18-year-olds (16.8 per 1,000) are both close to the national rate. 21.4% of children live in income deprived households and 925 young people aged 16-24 were claiming unemployment benefits as at 31 March 2022, at a rate of 9.8%, compared to a West Midlands rate of 8.1% and England rate of 7.3%.

Educational attainment in primary schools remains at a good level. 64.5% of pupils achieved a “good level of development” (Early Years Foundation Stage). At Key Stage One, 53.7% of children achieved the expected standards in reading, writing and maths. At Key Stage Two, attainment in reading, writing and maths was 51.3% and the Progress score in reading was -0.13, Writing, -0.13 and maths, -1.05. The Attainment Gap at KS2 between disadvantaged and other pupils was 19.6% points. At Key Stage 4 the Average Attainment 8 score per pupil was 47.2% (England 44.70). The Average Progress 8 score at key stage 4 was 0.29%. The Attainment Gap average 8 score between Disadvantaged pupils and others - 17.4%.



Approximately 14.4% of children receive Special Education Needs (SEN) support at school and, of those, 3.8% of pupils (all schools) have a statement of SEN or an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

## HOW MANY CFC CAN TELFORD & WREKIN EXPECT TO HAVE?

The rate of CYP in care in Telford & Wrekin for many years roughly tracked the national average, however, from around 2008, it grew at a significantly faster rate: like many other LAs in the North, it was disproportionately affected by austerity measures imposed following The Great Recession. As **Figure A** depicts, the proportion of Telford & Wrekin's children in care has been at its highest in recent years, following a sharper than expected increase around 2016/17 due to a change in assessment practice following an inadequate OFSTED judgement regarding safeguarding contributing to high profile issues affecting the area.

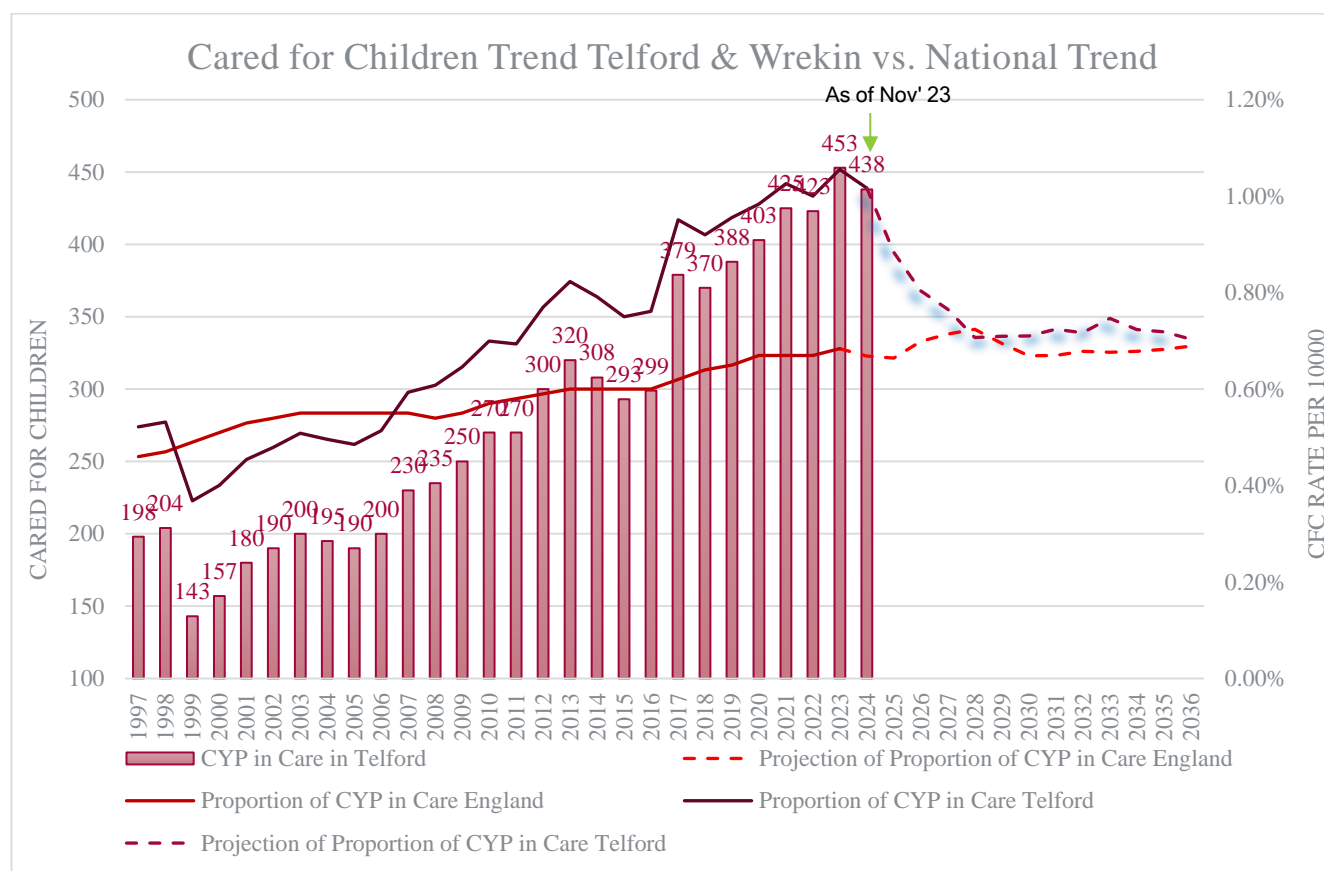


Figure A - Trend of CFC in Telford & Wrekin compared to National Average

In recent months, leading economists have begun to predict a further recession in 2024 following a long period of low/stagnant economic growth and high inflation, which could place greater demand on services for vulnerable families than depicted in **Figure A** which indicates a reduction in CFC numbers, reflecting expected changes in CYP demographics and current practice.

**Table A**, below, details the forecasted numbers of CFC in Telford & Wrekin based upon several models - all data has population change factored in and all data except Scenario E has age profile changes already factored in:

	2024*	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Scenario A:</b> Telford & Wrekin Forecasted CFC based on Long-term trend in turnover of CFC	438	381	347	330	304
<b>Scenario B (Data to Insight Prediction Model):</b> Telford & Wrekin Forecasted CFC based on Short-term trend (2017/18-now) in turnover of CFC	438	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
<b>Scenario C (Data to Insight Prediction Model):</b> Telford & Wrekin Forecasted CFC based on continuation of trend in 2022/23	438	481	-	-	-
<b>Scenario D (IDACI Trend):</b> Telford & Wrekin Forecasted CFC based on trend and relationship to key deprivation data	438	-	-	458	-
<b>*Based on November 2023 figures</b>					

*Table A - Projected CFC population change in Telford & Wrekin based upon different macroenvironmental factors*

Long-term trend data concerning the rates of CYP entering and ceasing care (**Scenario A**), indicates that they'll be a significant decrease in CFC over the next 5 years.

**Scenario C** demonstrates what levels of CFC would look like should the 2022/23 trend of an uptick in CFC numbers have continued, however, at the time of writing, this has not come to fruition and the current trend appears much closer to **Scenarios A**.

Finally, **Scenario D** - based on trends in relation to key deprivation data - shows a very slight increase in demand for CFC places over the next 4 years.

From this point on, all predictions will be made with **Scenario A** in mind as it potentially best reflects expectations based on current practice, particularly considering improvements that have been made regarding assessing need.

## CFC TURNOVER RATES

The CFC Turnover Rate is calculated by deducting the number of CFC exiting care from the number of CYP entering care:

*A rate of >0 means there will be an increase in Total CFC numbers and a rate of <0 signifies a decrease*

As **Figure B** demonstrates, the Average CFC Turnover Rate for all CYP aged 0-17 (**red line**) has remained in a slight uptrend since 2009. Once adjusting for CFC that have exited care at age 18, this demonstrates a consistent net growth in recent years, which in 2022/23 saw a peak in historic levels of CFC. However, it should be noted that this uptrend only presents as such because of the large spike in CYP entering care in that year - a trend that has since started to reverse - and, if figures from 2022/23 are removed, the trend would have remained neutral, if not pointing down.

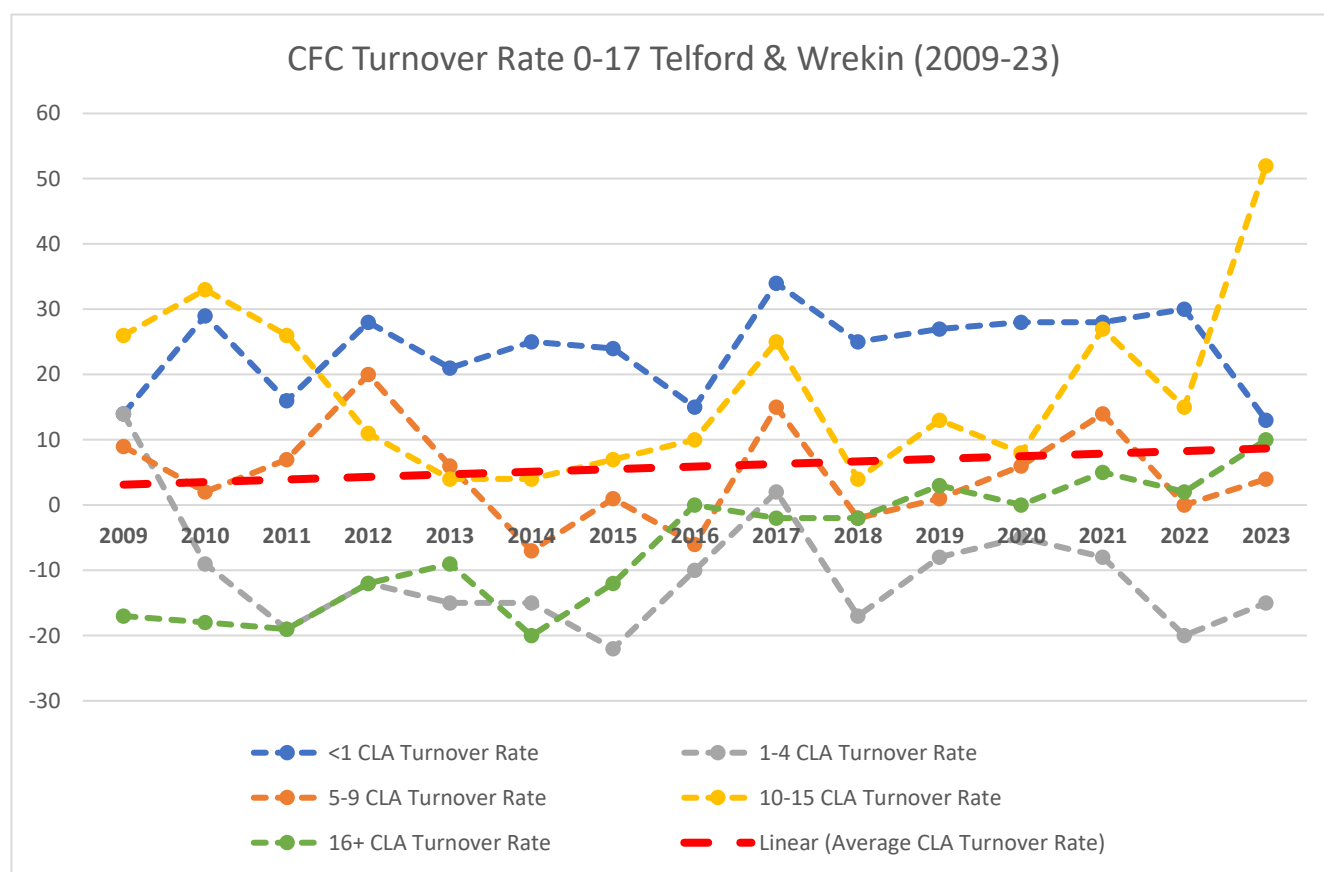


Figure B - CFC Turnover Rate 0-17 Years Old (Telford & Wrekin 2009-2023)

The main growth age categories have varied over the years but it's typical to see a higher number of CYP under the age of 1 entering care than leaving as the probability that babies turn 1 years old (and are recorded in the next age group) whilst the assessment period concludes is high. And, for Telford, this has generally been offset by low/negative turnover rates for younger aged children (grey line & orange line) meaning these children often return to live with family, connected carers, or are adopted.

One slightly worrying factor is the increase in turnover rate of older aged children over the last few years (yellow line & green line), especially as this cohort is typically the most difficult for whom to find appropriate placements. Historically, Telford saw greater numbers of 10-15 years-old CYP entering care than now, but this was offset by them leaving care shortly after, or at least before aging-out at 18. The recent shift in trend is likely to be the culmination of 3 significant changes; 1) a growing number of older-aged CYP in the population, 2) over the years, the scrutiny and responsibility of LAs (at least perceptively) around providing care for older-aged CYP has increased and is now recognized from a more regulatory standpoint, and, 3) an increase in demand following the COVID-19 pandemic - since 2020 the numbers of CYP aged 10-15 entering care has exploded compared to those exiting. Furthermore, CYP aged 16+ are - for the first time - entering care at a consistently greater rate than those exiting with many not transitioning on to alternative arrangements until 18+. Should this trend of older-aged children entering care continue, the predictions above in **Table A** are likely to be exceeded, however, this statistic could - and is potentially already proving to - be an anomaly.

## MACROENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

### INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (IMD)

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) by The Office of National Statistics (ONS) combines information from seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. The domains are **Income; Employment; Education; Skills and Training; Health and Disability; Crime; Barriers to Housing Services; Living Environment** and therefore can be used to understand better CFC rates.

In May 2021, ONS released a report titled **Exploring local income deprivation: A detailed picture of disparities within English local authorities to a neighbourhood level** which explained that:

*Economic inequalities are not just regional but can occur between neighbourhoods too.*

*In Telford and Wrekin, 15.6% of the population was income-deprived in 2019. Of the 316 local authorities in England, Telford and Wrekin is ranked 60th most income deprived.*

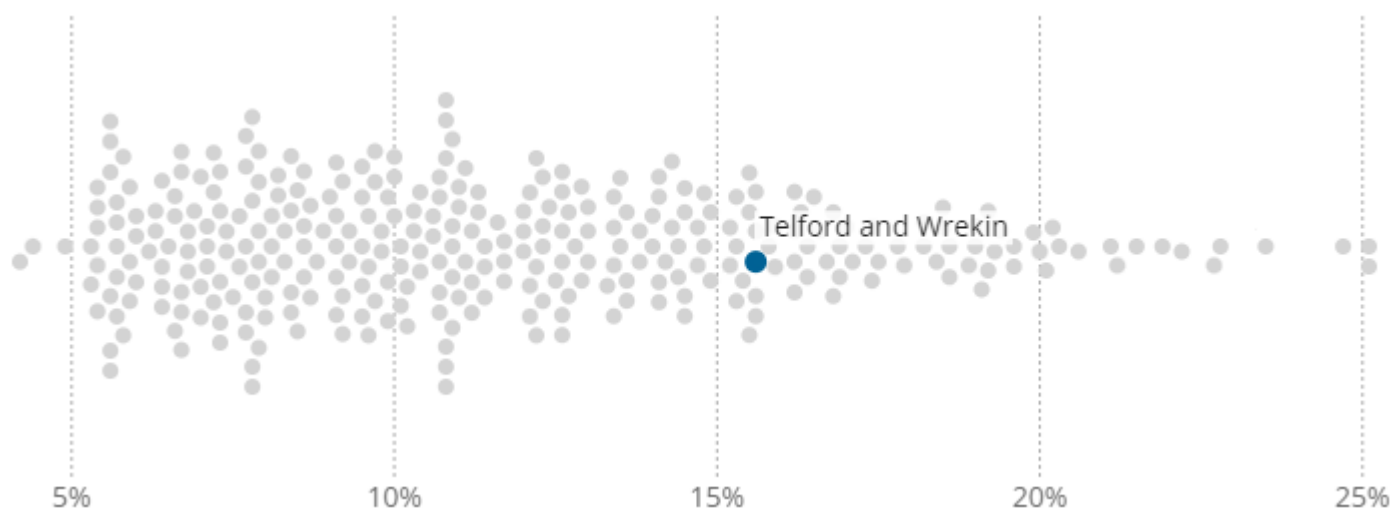


Figure C - English local authorities by percentage of people in income deprivation, 2019

*Of the 108 neighbourhoods in Telford & Wrekin, 29 were among the 20 percent most income-deprived in England. This is shown in the first two bars in the chart in the top right of **Figure D** in **dark red**.*

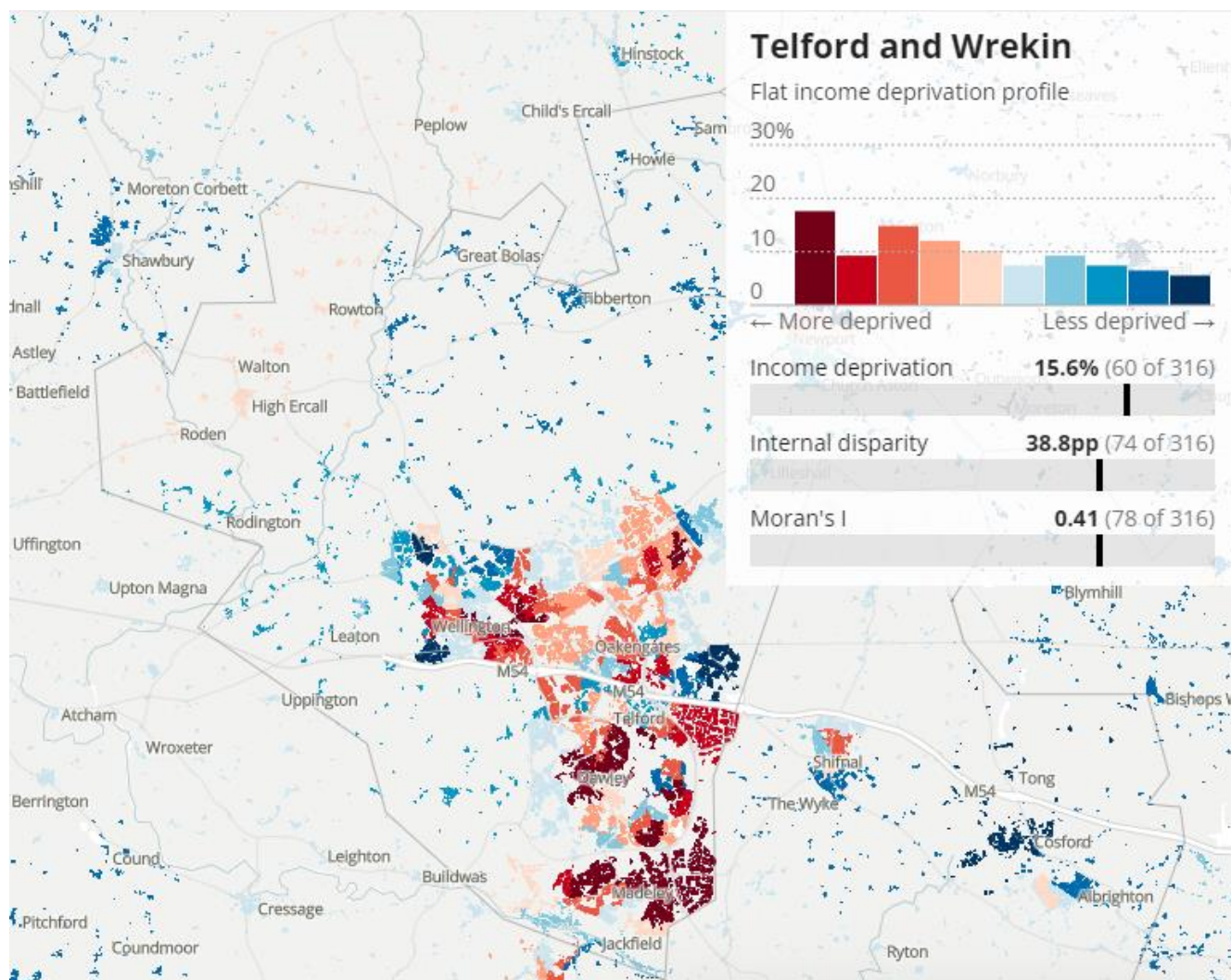


Figure D - Telford & Wrekin income deprivation profile, 2019

## Local Extremes

*In the least deprived neighbourhood in Telford and Wrekin, 2.9% of people are estimated to be income deprived. In the most deprived neighbourhood, 41.7% of people are estimated to be income deprived. The gap between these two, which we will call internal disparity, is 38.8 percentage points in Telford and Wrekin.*

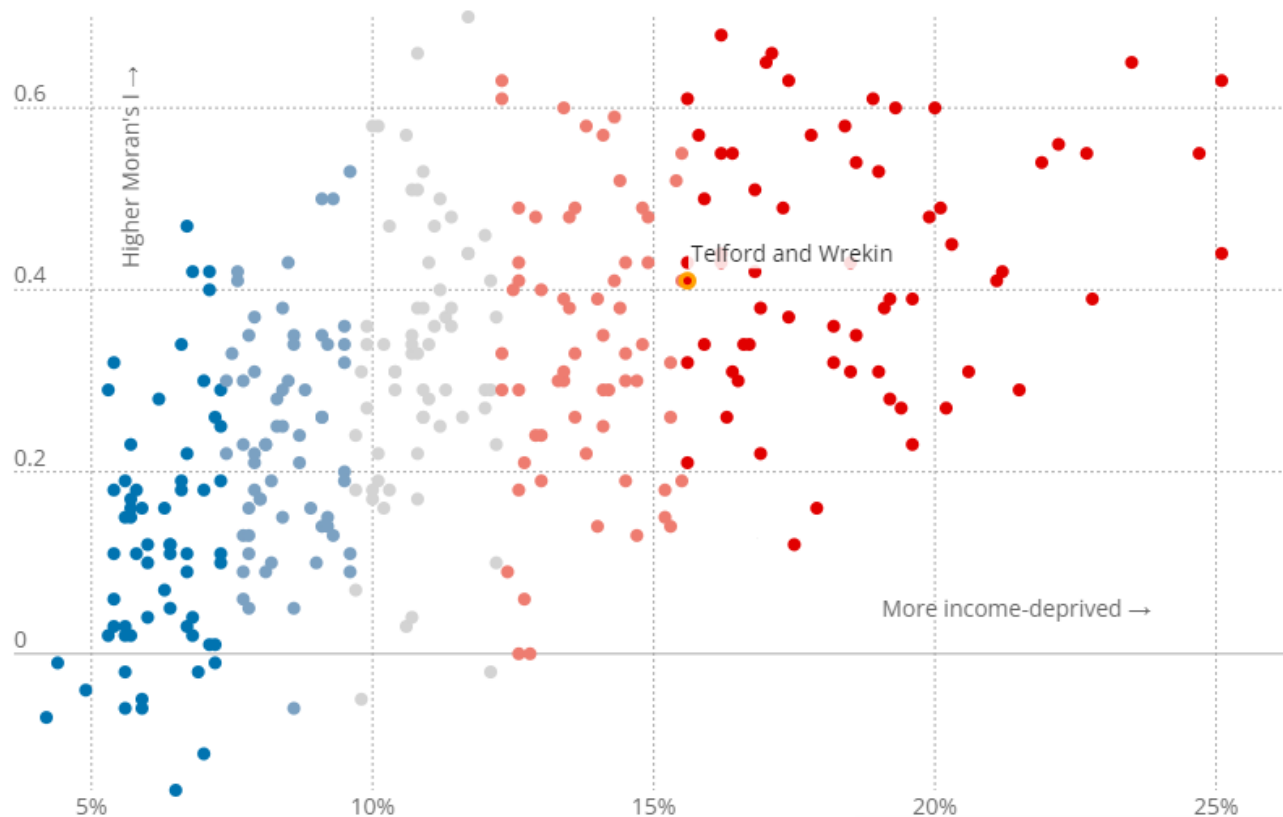
*An alternative way of looking at inequality in an area is to measure how inter-mixed the most and least deprived neighbourhoods are. We can see the extent to which neighbourhoods of the same income level are clustered together using*



*an index called Moran's I. Moran's I is measured from -1 to +1, where +1 is highly clustered, and -1 is like a chessboard, with a completely uniform mix of high and low deprivation neighbourhoods. [It shows us] how mixed together neighbourhoods of different deprivation levels are within a local authority area – and how that relates to the overall percentage of people in that area that are income-deprived. Areas with higher overall levels of income deprivation tend to have higher Moran's I, with neighbourhoods of similar deprivation clustered together.*

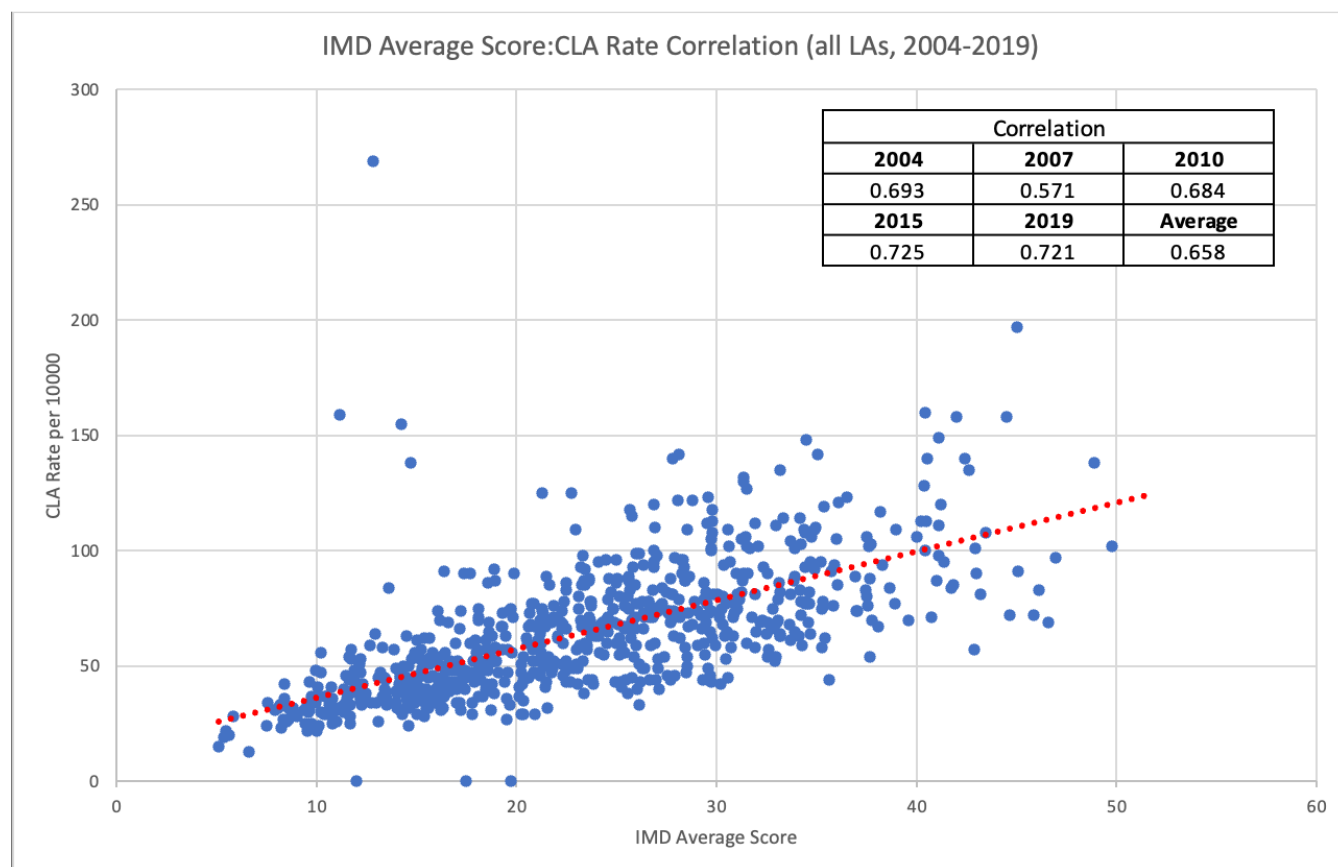
Telford & Wrekin has a Moran's I score of 0.41, which represents some clustering of income deprivation, particularly in the south of the local authority in Oakengates, then more severely in and around the towns of Dawley and Madeley.

**Figure E** depicts how Telford & Wrekin compares nationally.



**Figure E - Income deprivation by Moran's I, English local authorities, 2019**

Historically, there has been a relatively strong correlation between IMD average scores and rates of CFC; 2004-2019 saw an average positive correlation of ~0.66 nationally - see **Figure F** - with correlation being particularly strong since 2015 (>0.72).



*Figure F - Index of Multiple Deprivation Score vs CFC Rate per 10000 (2004-2019)*

Although correlation is not equal to causation, it is plain to see that Local Authorities with the highest levels of deprivation see a considerably higher rate of CFC. Roughly speaking, from 2004 to 2019, every 1-point increase in the Average IMD Score of a Local Authority has signified approximately an extra 2-3 CYP in care per 10000 CYP - In the West Midlands, this figure is >3.5. Therefore, in Telford & Wrekin, a 1-point change in the Average IMD Score could imply a change in CFC population figures of approximately 20 CYP.

IMD data is only captured every 3-4 years and the most recent dataset doesn't include several current factors that will likely contribute to increased levels of recorded deprivation.

## INCOME DEPRIVATION AFFECTING CHILDREN INDEX (IDACI)

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a relatively new key performance indicator that is captured along with the broader IMD statistics. Despite being a newer indicator, it shows similar levels of correlation between the average score of a Local Authority and its rate of CFC. Furthermore, unlike IMD releases, the IDACI can be compared across years, therefore, potentially used in forecasting models.

To contextualize the above information, *Figure G* uses IMD & IDACI Average Scores to indicate how Telford & Wrekin is performing amongst the other LAs in West Midlands and nationally:

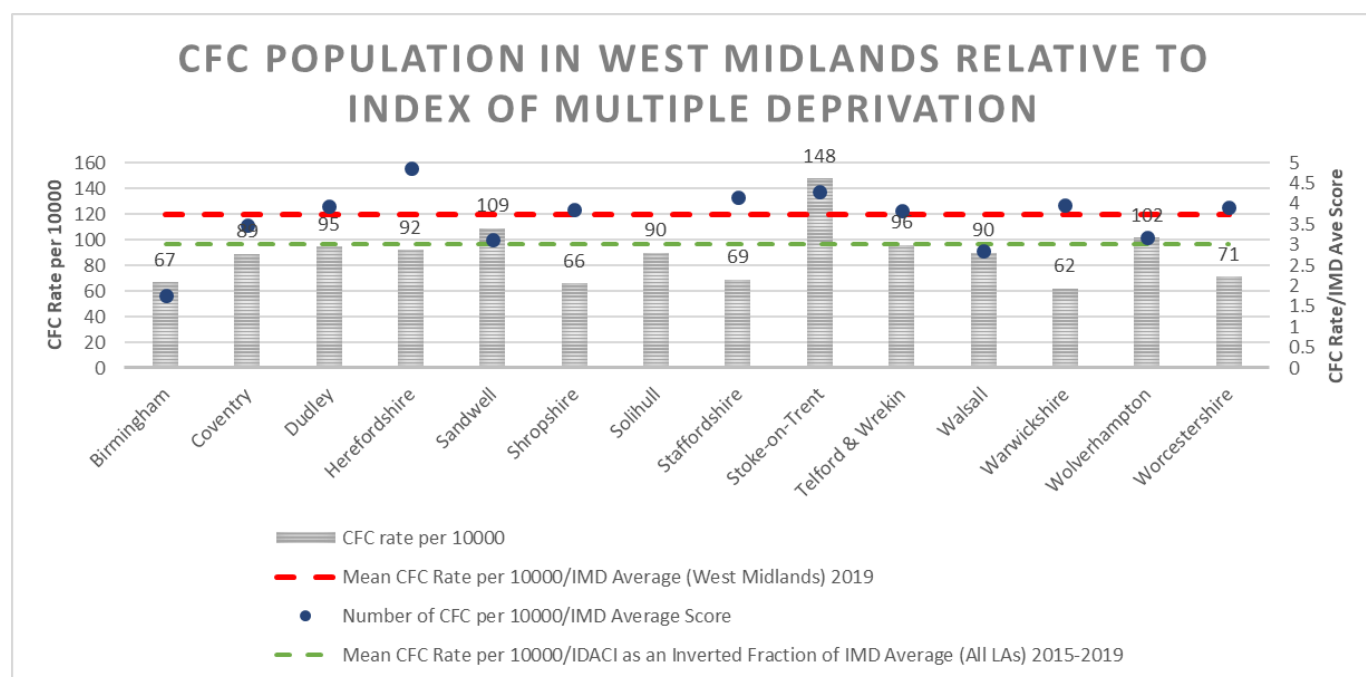
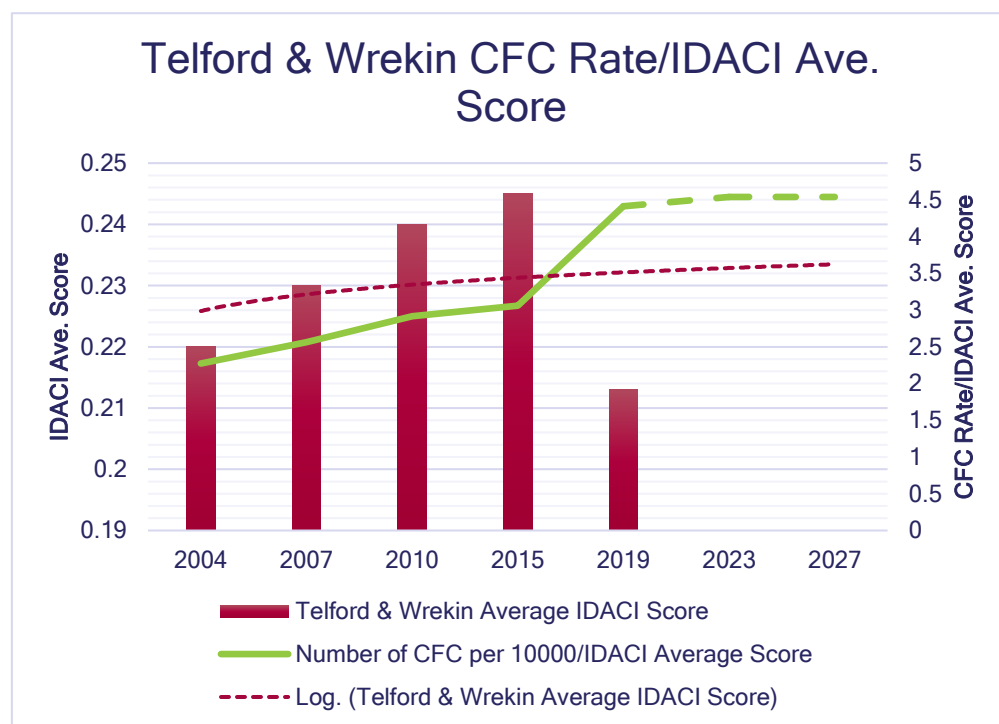


Figure G - CFC Population of West Midlands LAs relative to levels of deprivation (2019)

Seemingly, when considering numbers of CFC and deprivation within the West Midlands (**red line**), Telford & Wrekin has had roughly an appropriate number of CFC relative to deprivation levels, when compared regionally. However, when using Average National IDACI data from 2015 and 2019 and displaying it as an inverted fraction compared to relative IMD Average Scores (**green line**), it's possible to see that Telford & Wrekin has had an excess of CFC relative to deprivation levels. Furthermore, since 2019, Telford & Wrekin CYP in care per 10000 CYP has increased by ~7, leading to an extra ~50 CFC which -

everything remaining equal - would now mean the levels of CFC adjusted for deprivation (CFC Rate/IMD Average Score of ~4.0) are above what we'd expect to see regionally and even higher than the national average. Some of this could be explained by increased occurrence of deprivation following continued population growth concentrating in densely populated areas and/or by continued trends in practice within the local authority and wider region that has generally seen greater numbers of CFC enter care; Birmingham being the only LA to have bucked the trend.

The **plum trendline** in *Figure H*, below, projects the trend of average IDACI scores locally and the **green trendline** depicts the relationship between this indicator and the rate of CYP in care. According to this trend, the numbers of CYP in care compared to deprivation grew most between 2015 and 2019 and is forecasted to stay high for the foreseeable future. Based upon the forecasted increase in population, this would result in slightly higher levels of CFC by 2027 (see *Table A*). However, this doesn't consider any changes in the demographics of that population nor unforeseen macroeconomic changes.

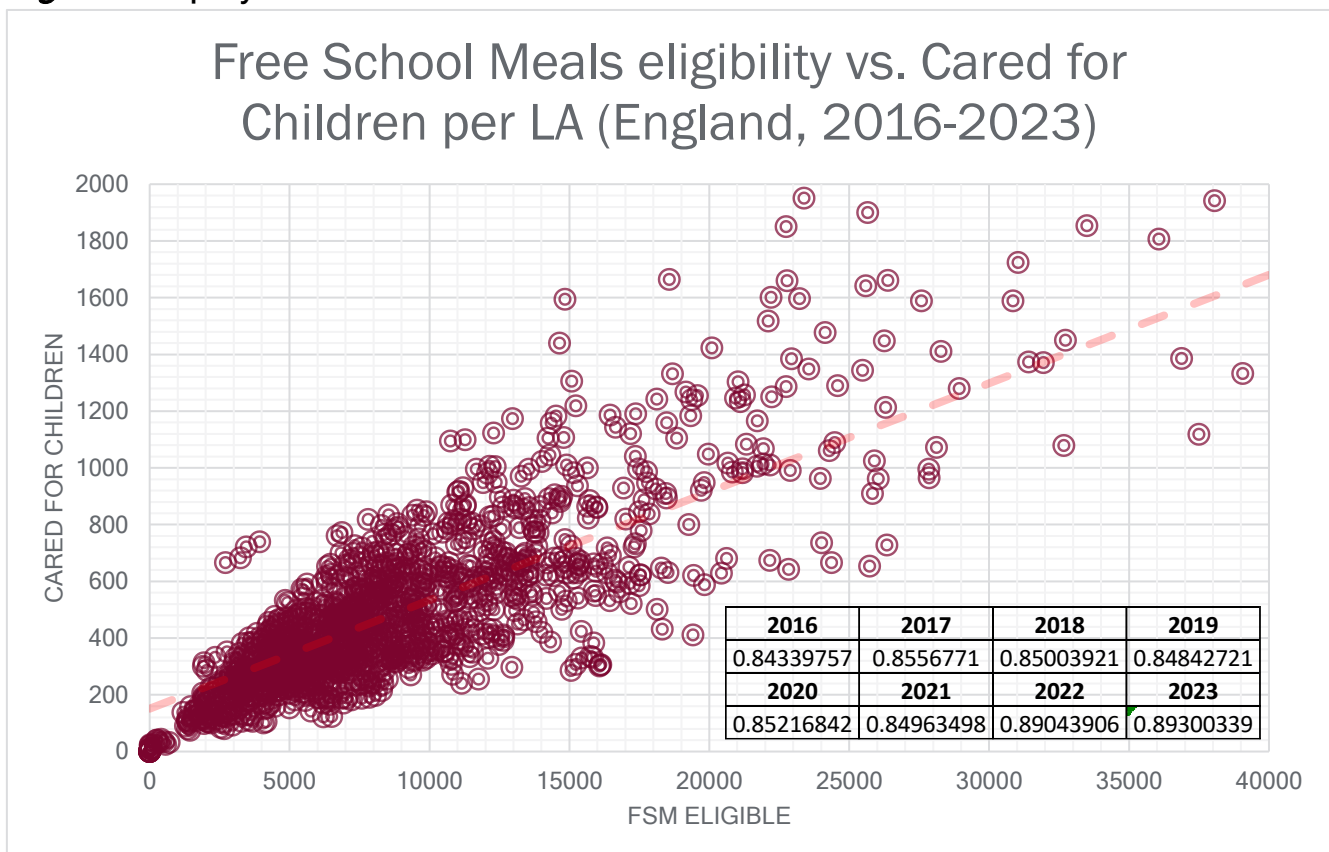


*Figure H - Telford & Wrekin CFC Rate/IDACI Ave. Score Trend (2004-onwards)*

An investigation into IDACI figures shows that since 2014/15 there has been a marked increase in the levels of children living in low-income families (CiLIF) within Telford & Wrekin, comparative with that seen nationally, and it is estimated that there are approximately 8,034 children in relative low-income families (as of 2021), equating to 21.4% of all CYP. This indicates that although average income levels affecting deprivation in families have remained relatively constant (*Figure H*), disparity between the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’ has seen a sharp increase in over the past decade resulting in higher levels of CFC and a likely continuation of high demand. This data compares with Free School Meals data in the next section of the report.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY & CFC POPULATION

When considering metrics that indicate the number of expected CFC, the most recent 8-year period of published Free School Meals Eligibility data per English LA shows a stronger correlation than IMD or IDACI data displayed above, highlighting income deprivation as potentially the most significant factor impacting the care of CYP. With an increasing correlation of >0.89 in 2023, *Figure i* displays this trend.



*Figure i - Free School Meals Eligibility vs CLA Numbers per LA (England, 2016-2023)*

In 2023, Telford & Wrekin recorded 8249 CYP eligible for Free School Meals (*Figure J*), which usually indicates a CFC population of around 355-505. Telford & Wrekin registered 438 CFC in November 2023, which is roughly in the middle of the expected range. This further emphasizes the evidence above that Telford & Wrekin have around the numbers of CFC expected when contextualized by need, however, there is scope to further reduce numbers of CFC (at least from a statistical perspective) when considering regional and national averages.

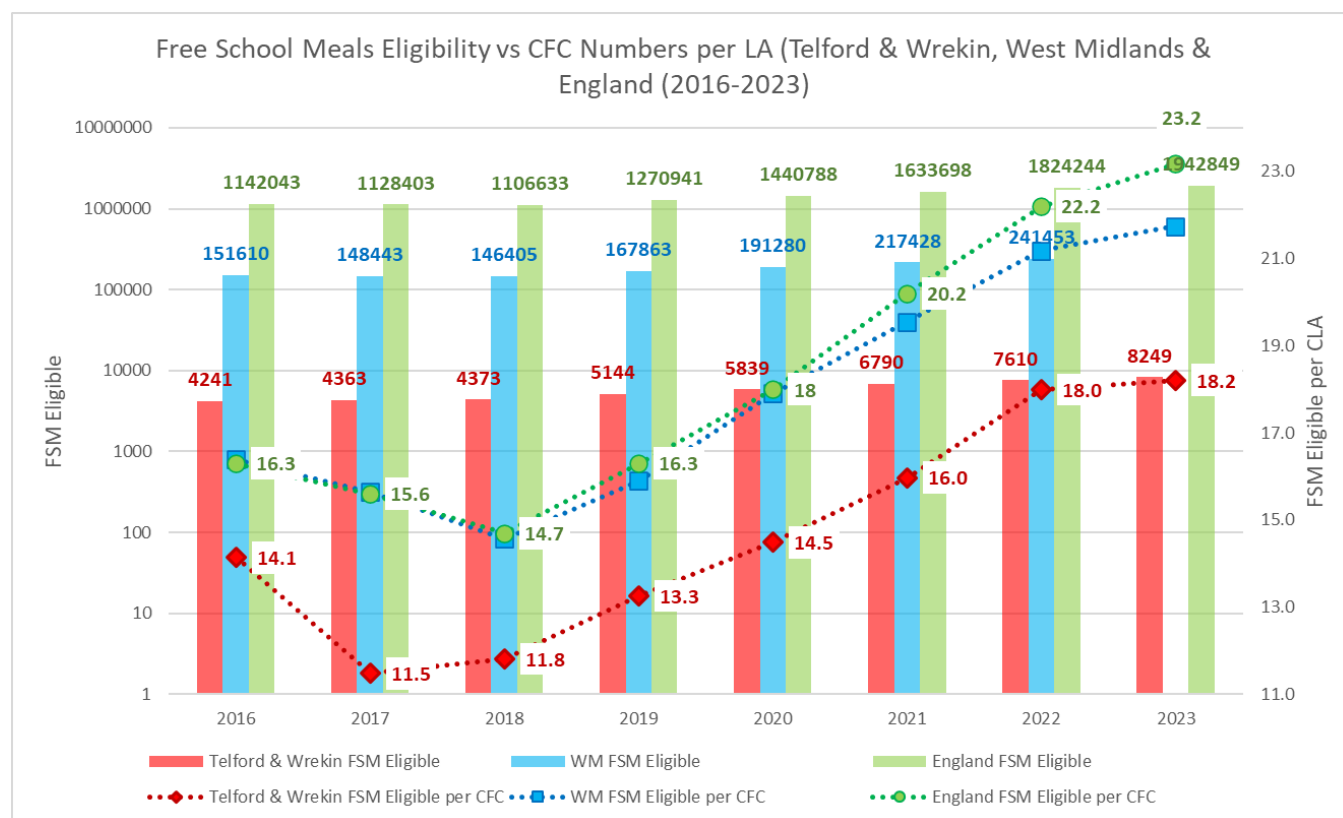


Figure J - Free School Meals Eligibility vs CFC Numbers per LA (Telford & Wrekin, West Midlands & England, 2016-2023)

## CARED FOR CHILDREN AGE PROFILE PROJECTION

Much like the wider population, the profile of Telford & Wrekin's children is ageing, however, with the recent influx of new families, the children population has grown rapidly and is expected to remain high for a while. **Figure K** demonstrates how the estimated CYP age profile of Telford & Wrekin has changed over the last two decades, how it's likely to change going forward, and how this impacts the numbers and profile of Cared for Children:

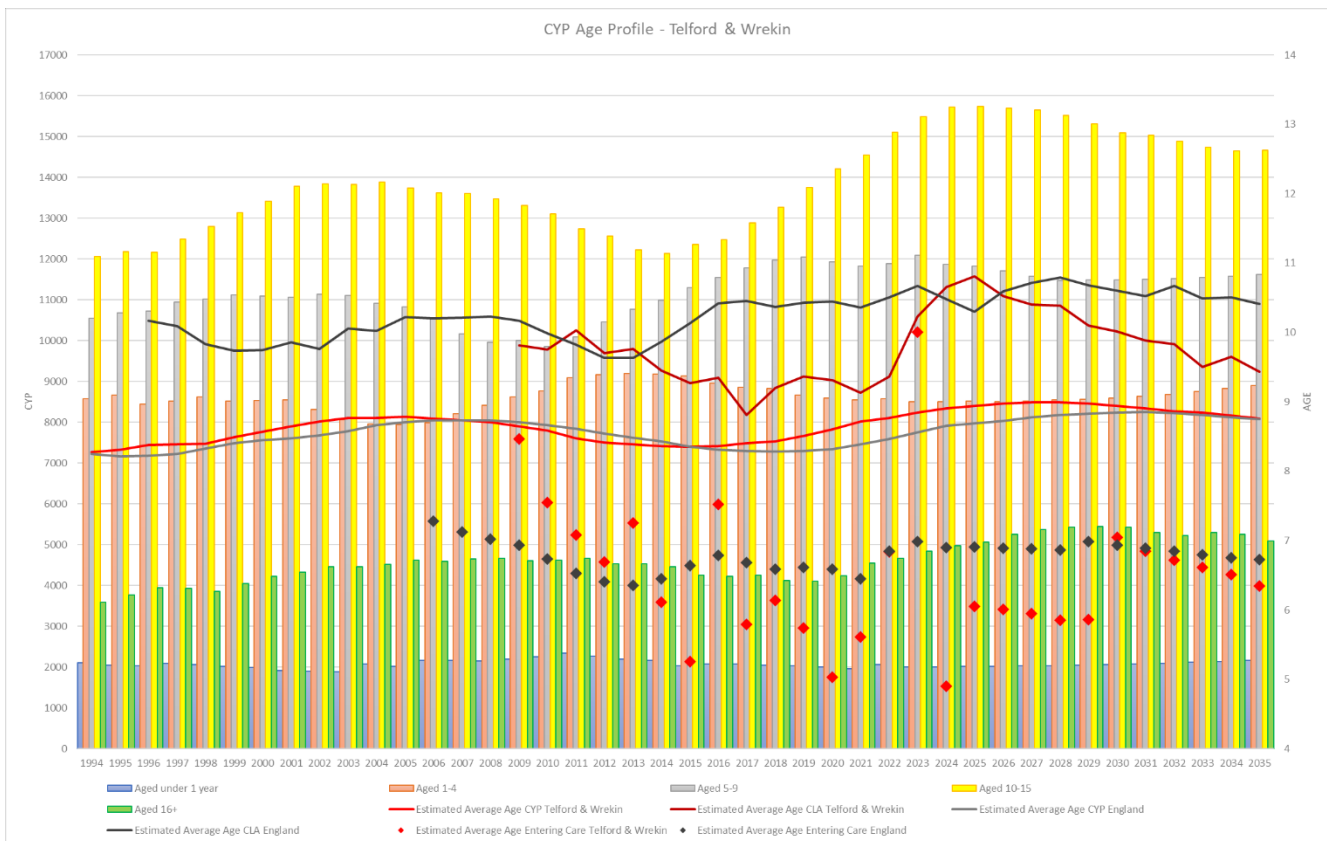


Figure K - Telford & Wrekin Estimated Age Profile (CYP & CFC), compared with National averages over time

As **Figure K** depicts, currently, Telford & Wrekin is in the middle of an estimated growth of children aged 10-15 (yellow bars), which would inevitably mean a larger cohort of 16+ CYP (green bars) in the not-so-distant future.

As the grey line shows, the estimated average age of CYP in England has stayed relatively constant (as to be expected), with the estimated average age of CYP in Telford & Wrekin (red line) mirroring that trend. The black line and dark red line depict the estimated average age of CFC in England and Telford & Wrekin. It's possible to witness similarities in the trend of both cohorts, albeit with more fluctuation when looking at the CFC profile of Telford & Wrekin: The



increasing Average Turnover Rate which has contributed to an increased number of CYP has meant Telford CFC have been remaining in care until older than before and, combined with a spike in 10-15 year-olds entering care in 2022/23 (red dots), this has led to the average age of CFC in Telford & Wrekin spiking to the point where it is projected to be higher than the national rate in 2025 before dropping back below the mean as the majority of CFC age out, not be replaced at the same rate as the average age of CFC entering care in Telford & Wrekin has generally been decreasing and is expected to stay generally stay under/around the national average. Therefore, the model assumes data from 2022/23 anomalous, but if it does represent a more significant change in trend, it would likely signify a need for more provision that can accommodate older aged CFC.

## Chapter 2: Local, Regional & National Sufficiency

### CARED FOR CHILDREN SUFFICIENCY SCORE INDEX

The ability to understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats per single Local Authority is significantly distorted by the fact that every LA is completely different. Different in size, geography, population, governance, with regards to its relationship to other LAs, socio-economic factors, etc. Therefore, when considering a LA's ability to sufficiently meet demand for looked-after provision, standard means of comparing different authorities are ineffectual and yield little when a single LA is considering how it might replicate perceived successes in other parts of the country.

The **CFC Sufficiency Score Index** goes some way towards being able to view LAs on a level playing field by adjusting data for population and area size. Sufficiency Scores are based on a weighted collection of indices that consider a range of factors that affect a LA's ability to meet any increase in demand for CFC provision. Each LA is judged against the LA that was perceived to have the highest level of risk for each metric, measured in perceived concentration of provision according to population and area size, at the time of data collection. There are 12 indices that contribute to the weighted Sufficiency Score. These are:

**Rate of CFC per 10000 CYP Index:** Considers the LA's ability to meet any potential increase in demand for CFC placements based on current rate of CFC per 10000 CYP and area size.

**Availability of Foster Care Provision Index:** Considers the LA's ability to meet any potential increase in demand for Foster Care Provision based on current rate of CFC in Foster Care per 10000 CYP, relative to population.

**Availability of Residential Provision Index:** Considers the LA's ability to meet any potential increase in demand for Residential Provision based on current rate of CFC in Residential Care per 10000 CYP, relative to population.

**Availability of CFC Provision in LA Index:** Considers the likelihood of LA continuing to be able to make placements within Own LA based on total amount

of placements by both LA and Other LAs in the LA, relative to population and area size.

**Availability of Suitably Located Local CFC Provision Index:** Considers the likelihood of continuing to be able to make placements close to CFC home address based on total amount of LA's placements made within 20 miles of home address, relative to population and area size.

**Reliance on Non-Local OoLA Placements Index:** Considers the total amount of LA's placements made out-of-LA and more than 20 miles from home address, relative to population.

**Potential Utilisation of In-House Provision Index:** Considers the likely availability of in-house provision/potential for expansion of in-house provision, relative to population and area size.

**Private CFC Provision Risk Index:** Considers the LA's exposure to CFC placements made with Private Providers, relative to population.

**Potential Utilisation of Voluntary Sector Provision Index:** Considers the likely availability of Voluntary Sector provision/potential for expansion of Voluntary Sector provision, relative to population and area size.

**Capacity to Place With Parents Index:** Considers the likelihood of continuing to make similar amounts of/increasing 'Placed With Parents' placements, compared to national maximum.

**Risk of Increase in UASC Index:** Considers the likelihood of LA accommodating an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children without adding unmet pressure to local provision, relative to population and area size.

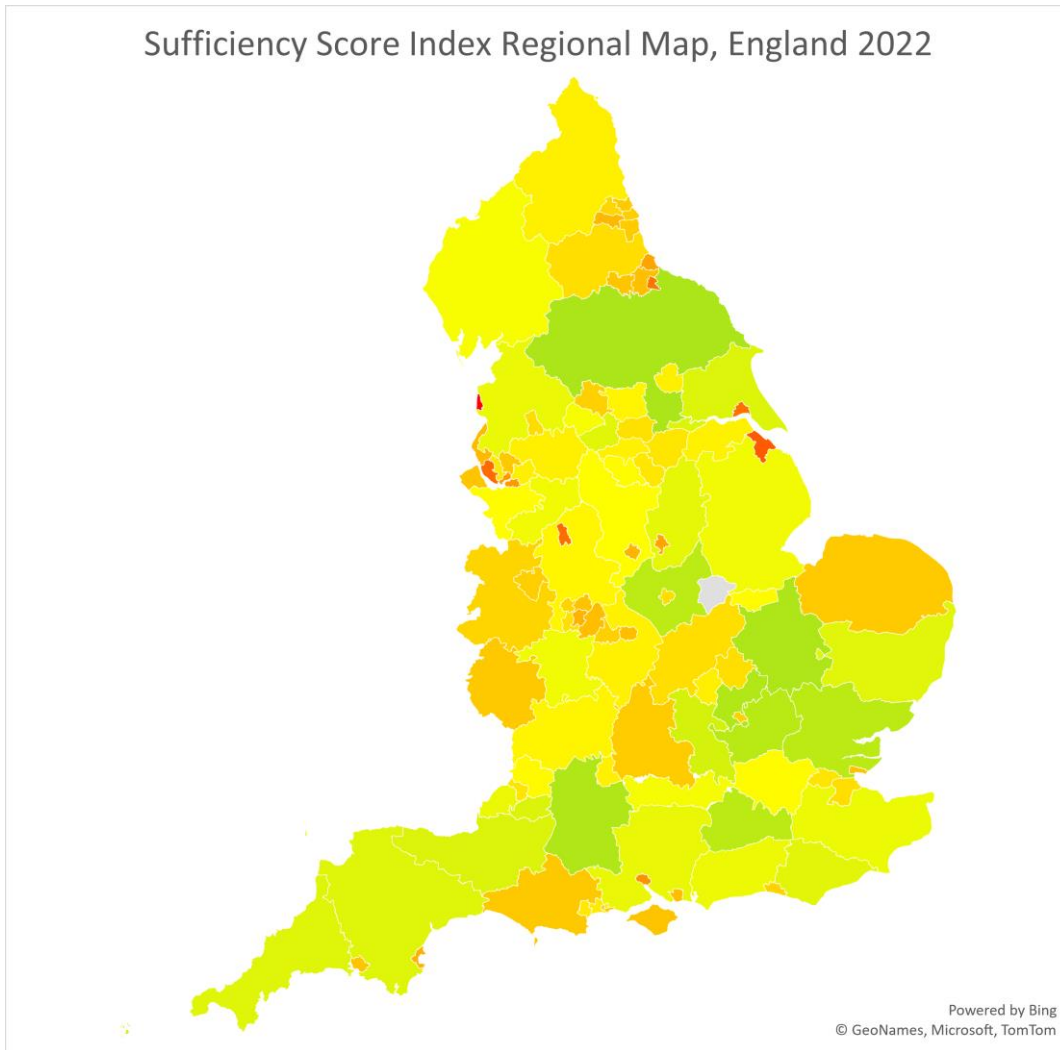
**Placement Stability Index:** Considers the LA's recent ability in maintaining stable placements based on proportion of CFC living in the same placement for at least 2 years and number of CFC with 3 or more placements in the last year.

The maximum Sufficiency Index Score is 1.0, whilst the minimum is <0.1. Some information for a small number of authorities is missing which is reflected in a

compromised score for those LAs but this is not something that significantly affects Telford & Wrekin's Sufficiency Index Score of **0.64**. The highest scoring LAs (or ones with the lowest perceived risk) have a current score of **0.83**, whilst the lowest scored is Blackpool with a score of **0.17**.

## NATIONAL PICTURE

**Figure L** depicts the current picture in England, based on the most recent data available - it displays the perceived sufficiency risks regionally. Regions displayed in **red** are the most likely to be at risk from any increase in need when considering the twelve metrics. Regions displayed in **green** are arguably best placed to overcome any additional sufficiency pressures.



*Figure L -  
Sufficiency Score  
Index Regional  
Map, England 2022*

As expected, Northeast and Northwest regions currently face the greatest systemic risk should there be any increase in demand, based on a variety of factors. Furthermore, the risk in densely populated regions is exacerbated by being densely populated and largely coastal which signifies increased difficulties when considering level of demand and availability of resources. For example, local authorities in the Northeast are often in competition for provision, staff, etc whilst having the highest rates of CFC.

## LOCAL & REGIONAL PICTURE

When looking at the different factors that make up the Sufficiency Score Index for the West Midlands region (*Appendix A*), we can begin to identify potential risks and opportunities relating to LAs within the region. Cells highlighted **red** indicate where an LA is in the bottom 10% nationally for perceived ability to respond to any increased risk regarding that metric and cells highlighted **green** represent being in the top 10% relative to risk.

As the graphic displays, the West Midlands would be at risk of systemic failure should there be any increase in demand for CFC provision and/or reduction in regional supply, with a number of LAs already falling into the bottom 10% nationally for perceived ability to make further Foster Care and/or Children's Home placements.

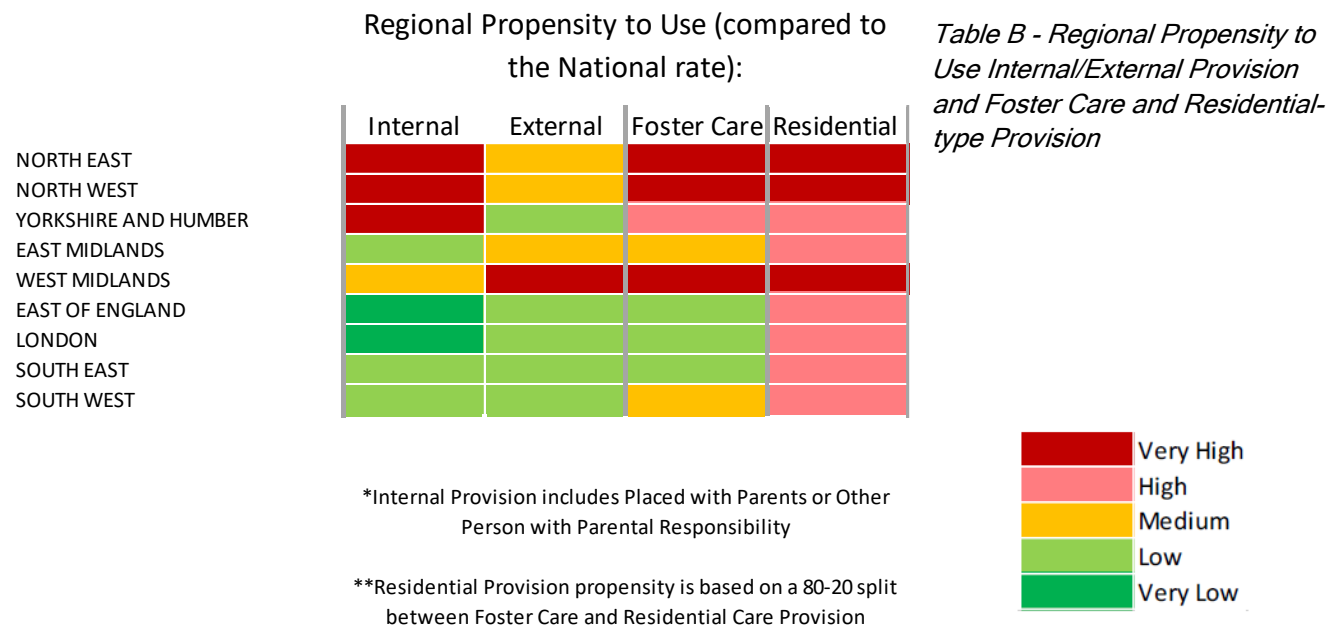
Telford & Wrekin demonstrated relative balanced scores with no metrics falling into the bottom 10% nationally, although a score of 0.46 regarding perceived ability to make new Foster Care placements could be considered a worry and general ability to make new placements will be impacted by pressures in surrounding areas. One potential opportunity to further meet needs of CFC is **Capacity to Place with Parents** as Telford & Wrekin is in the lowest 10% nationally for quantity of these types of placements and, although it shouldn't be adopted as part of the strategy for reunification of CFC inorganically, it does suggest this might be more of an option than in other parts of the country.

## Chapter 3: Forecast of Placement Types

### PLACEMENT PROPENSITY: PLACEMENT TYPES UTILISATION REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY

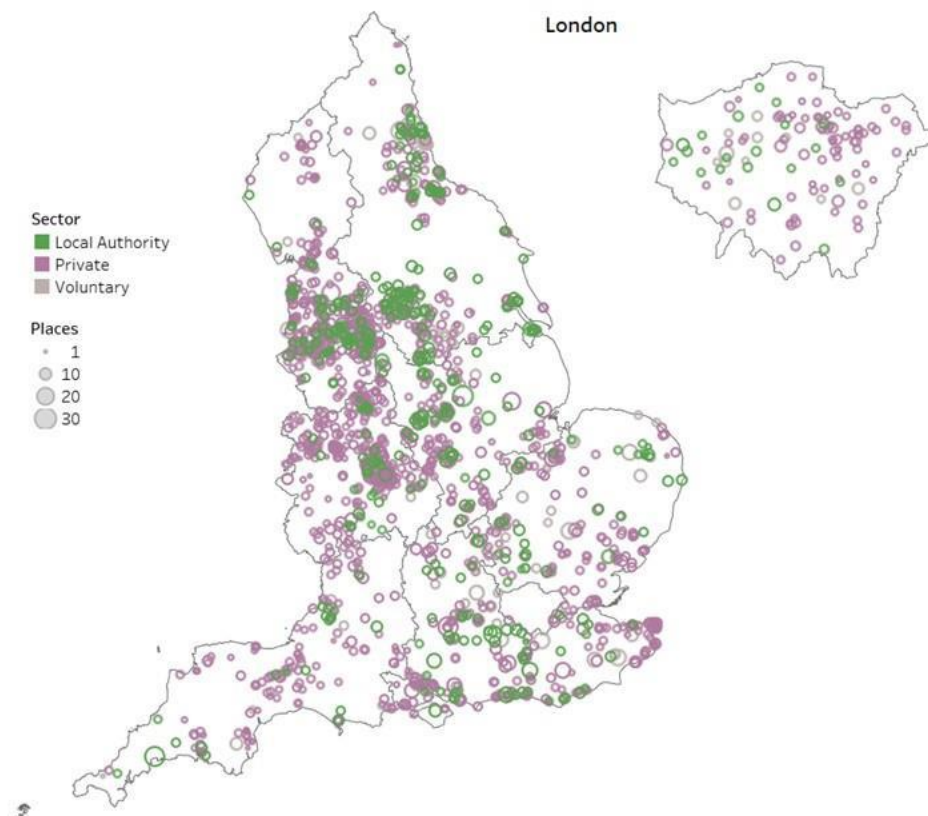
For this investigation, 'Placement Propensity' will be used to define the relationship between the rate/quantity of CFC and the proclivity towards procuring different placement types across Local Authorities and - more broadly - across regions. On a national level, it provides a representation of where different types of provision is most in demand. Regionally, it displays which local authorities have the most exposure to different types of provision, and - theoretically - the most exposure to that market.

Following on from the *Sufficiency Score Index* displayed in *Chapter 2: Local, Regional & National Sufficiency* which considered a range of factors that affect a LA's ability to meet any increase in demand for CFC provision, *Table B*, based on recent SFR data, shows the concentrated utilisation of Internal versus External (Private providers, Voluntary Sector, Other LAs, etc.) provision and which regions use the greatest proportion of Foster Care (including Kinship Care) and Residential Care (Children's Homes, Secure Provision, Semi-Independent Living). The graphic indicates differing usage across types of provision according to geography:



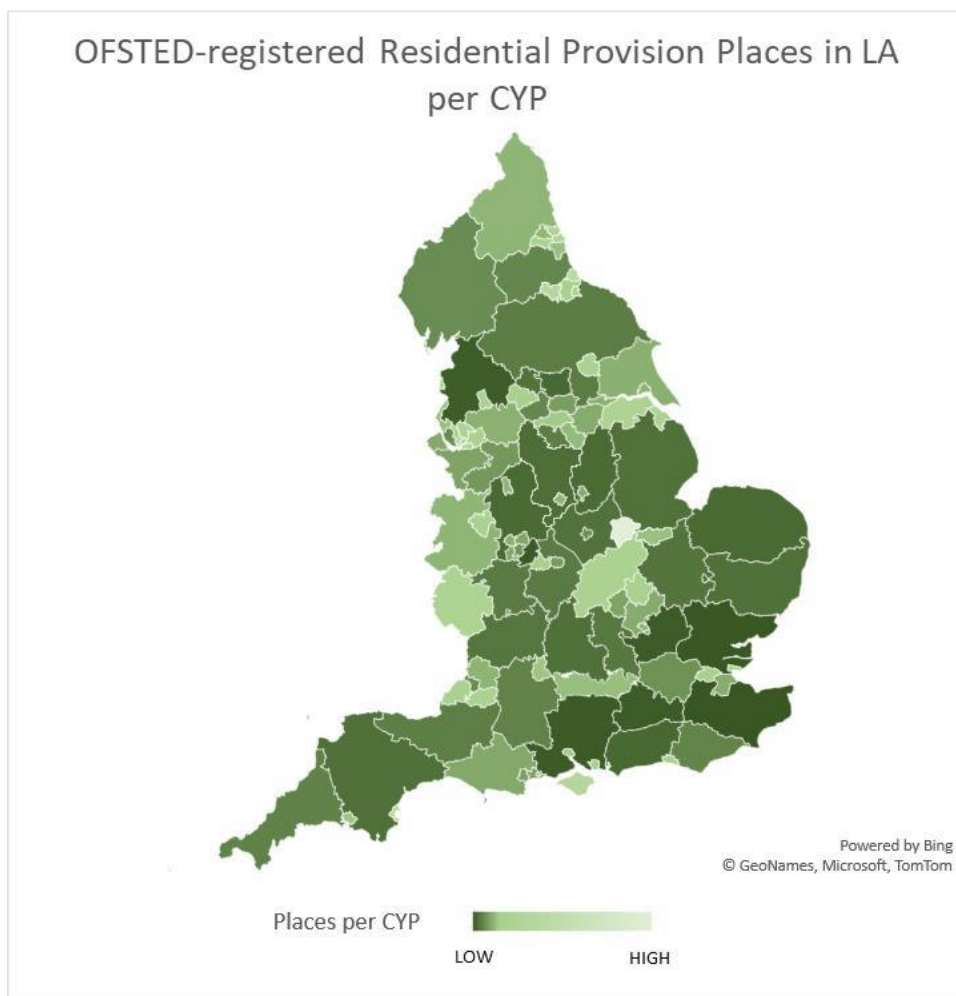


**Table B** shows that geography can play a large part in determining which type of provision is likely to be used. We can expect that, in general, Northern regions use care provision at a greater proclivity than the rest of the country - principally due to greater population density and need - and these regions may experience increasing issues if they're not able to increase their supply of provision with the national trend towards an increasing rate of CFC. Northeast and Northwest regions have the highest concentration of provision usage across Internal and External sectors and some of the greatest propensity for Foster Care and Residential provision. Furthermore, Northern LAs - excluding those in the Midlands - are more likely to choose Internal provision over External provision and vice-versa is true for Southern councils. This provides an explanation to what many professionals know to be anecdotally true; that Southern LAs reliance on External provision, primarily the Private Sector, has led to enormous matching difficulties for already under-pressure Northern LAs as there's a disproportionately greater number of providers in the North. This is demonstrated by **Figure M** which gives an example of the distribution of OFSTED-registered residential children's home places in England in recent years.



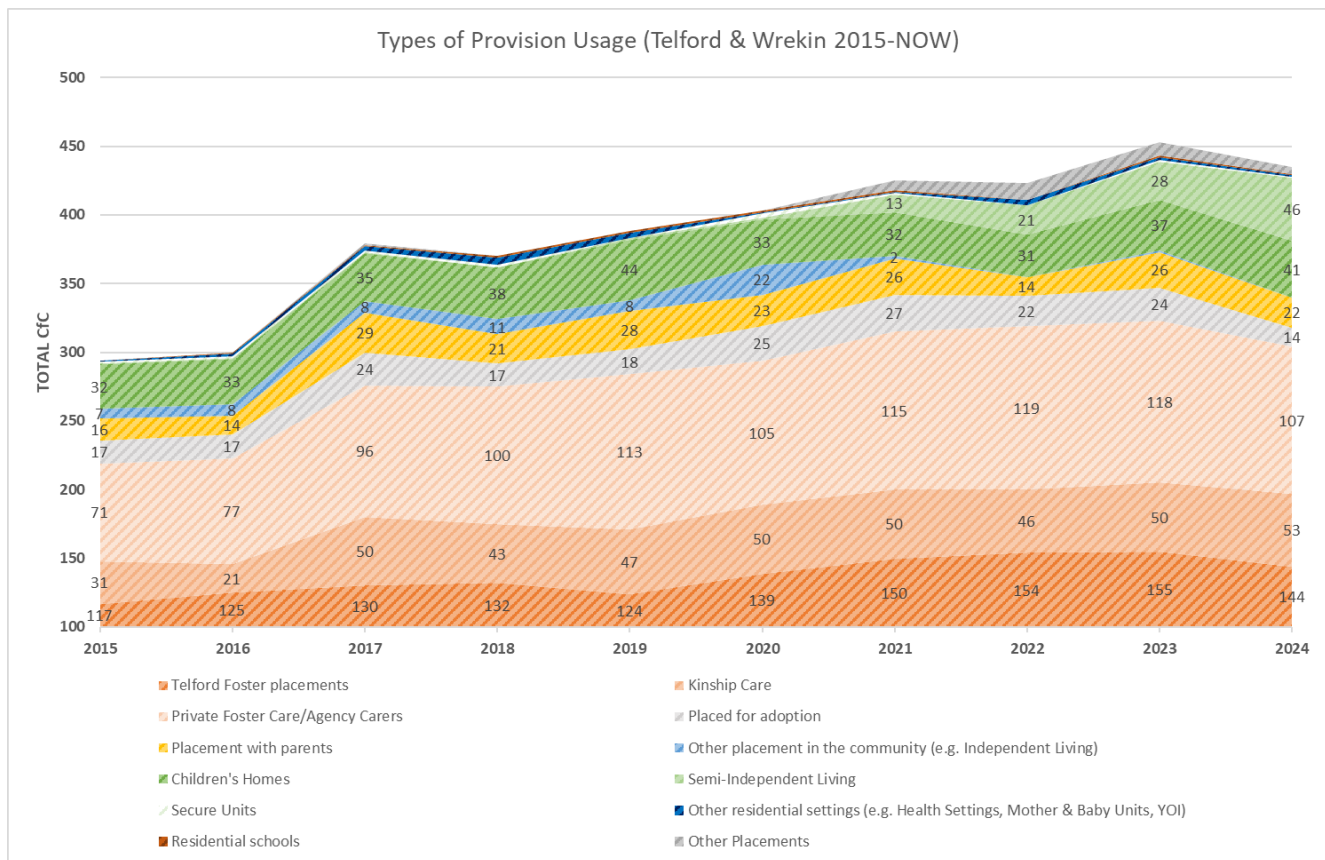
*Figure M - Location and sector of active children's homes, 2018*

The picture in **Figure M** is further illustrated in **Figure N**, below, which shows the number of all OFSTED-registered Residential places (including Residential Schools) per CYP, region by region. It's clear to see that many large regions, particularly those in the Southeast have far fewer OFSTED-registered places per resident child which is likely exacerbating issues related to distorted demand relative to supply across the country. This is concerning from both a national sufficiency perspective and a regulatory standpoint as it could indicate a higher likelihood of using unregulated provision in those areas with greater disparity between population levels and supply. However, on a positive note, **Table B**, **Figure M** and **Figure N** combined suggest that there may be an opportunity for development of both Internal and External Care sectors in certain parts of the country.



*Figure N - OFSTED-registered Residential Provision in LA per CYP, 2022*

**Figure O** depicts that Telford & Wrekin Children's Social Care has generally been able to scale its use of different placement types accordingly even as the overall numbers of CFC have increased, with few exceptions. This bucks the national trend as, over the past decade, LAs, particularly those with high placement demands have seen a drop-off in their ability to recruit sufficient Foster Carers and instead have increasingly used Children's Home provision to meet gaps in need. This demonstrates that, the Council has been more likely to have been appropriately matching CYP when compared to other LAs.



**Figure O - Types of Provision Usage, Telford & Wrekin (2015 - NOW)**

There are some recent trend changes, such as, since 2020, a large increase in the number of CFC in Semi-Independent Living arrangements but this is appropriate for the ageing demographic of CYP in Telford & Wrekin and the legislative changes that has seen almost all cases of Independent Living for CFC come to an end. As stated, earlier in the report, Telford & Wrekin is in the lowest 10% nationally for quantity of Placements with Parents and the LA has had a similarly low number of Kinship Fostering arrangements - in many other LAs, one third of their Foster Care placements are with carers connected to the CYP.

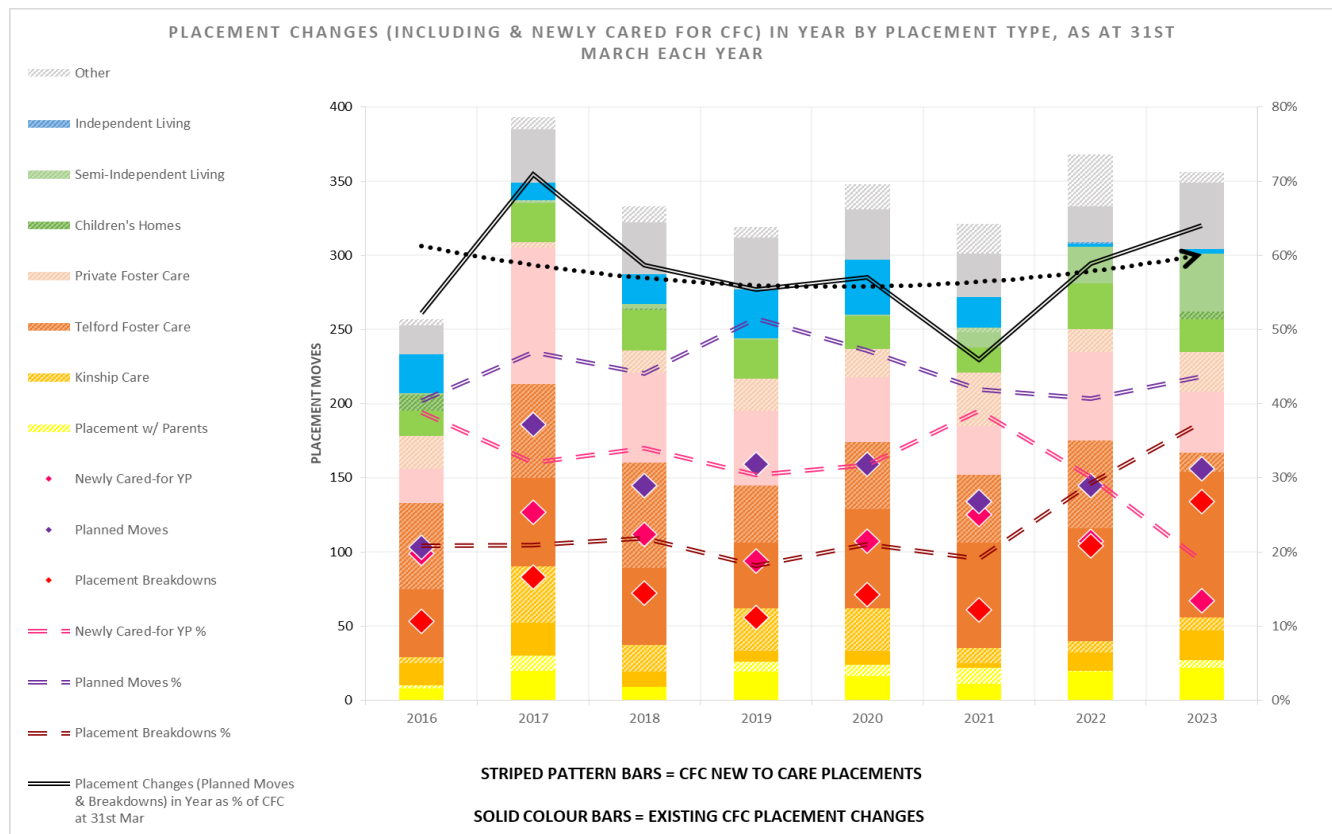
## THE QUASI-CONTINUUM OF CARE

The distribution of CFC across different types of care is no accident. It is no secret that a LAs response to the needs of a CFC is influenced by best practice guidance; Local and/or Family-based care, where possible, and less-convincingly, by financial and governance parameters. For example, LAs preferring to recruit their own Foster Carers and create their own in-house Children's Homes motivated by the belief that internal services can be run more cost-effectively than the private market. In many cases, this creates a **Quasi-continuum of Care** (*Figure P*) where certain placement types are (rightly or wrongly) preferred to others:



*Figure P - Example of a Quasi-continuum of Care*

This is demonstrated more obviously in *Figure Q*.



*Figure Q - Placement Moves in Year by Placement Type, as at 31st March each Year (Telford & Wrekin, 2016-2023)*

Starting with the **black trendline** towards the top of the chart, it's clear to see that the Total Placement Changes in Year as a Percentage of CFC Placements as of 31st March has remained relatively constant since 2016, demonstrating consistent levels of placement stability.

The numbers above the coloured bars - and size of the bars - shows that the number of Placement Changes per year overall remains similar to historic levels following a peak in 2016/17. This is supported by having a consistent number of CFC entering care between 2016-17 and 2021/22 and evidenced by the **pink diamonds** which show the levels of Newly-Cared-For CFC Placements. The **purple diamonds** showing Planned Moves also depict consistency, however, there has been a slight uptick in Placement Breakdowns^ (**red diamonds**). Although not all Placement Breakdowns can be avoided, this means there has potentially been a trend towards less optimal placement matches as a result of supply squeezes concluding more recently.

*^For the purpose of this investigation, Placement Breakdowns have been categorized as any physical placement move as a result of the following: Allegation, Approval Removed, Carer Requests Placement to End, Child Requests Placement to End, Resignation/Closure of Provision, Responsible Authority Requests Placement to End, Standards of Care Concerns.*

Furthermore, it is important to consider how increases in numbers of CFC have been absorbed by different stages of the **Quasi-continuum of Care**:

**Placement within Family/with Relatives:** The **yellow bars** indicate the number of CFC Placed With Parents and the **orange bars** reflect Kinship Foster Care. The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 explicitly mandated authorities to consider living arrangements with kin as a “first option” for children in care, strengthening the duty from the Children Act 1989, however, when compared to other Local Authorities, the rates of familial arrangements are relatively low. Over time, the use of these types of arrangements for existing CFC have gradually started to be preferred, but it still represents a proportionately small number of placements when compared to other LAs and, conversely, Newly-Cared-For CYP are now being matched with Connected Carers at a lower rate than previously.

**Foster Care (dark orange bars):** according to the data, Telford's ability to absorb placement requests within its own cohort of Foster Carers has remained consistent - this is in part to the strong recruitment efforts, explained in the next

section. However, during 2022/23, there was a very small number of Newly-Cared-For CYP placed with Telford Foster Carers with some of these CFC potentially being placed in Children's Homes. The usage of Independent Fostering Agencies has remained steady, which is what you 'd expect given the Internal numbers.

**Children's Homes (green bars):** Telford & Wrekin's placements into Children's Homes have remained relatively consistent but fewer older-aged children moving on, as was shown in *Chapter 1: Macro Demand* means that options have become limited and lead to usage of alternative provision.

**Alternative Forms of Provision:** until recent years, Semi-Independent Living Provision was hardly ever used but there has been an increasing need to place CFC in this type of placement (light green bars), partially because of increased number of older age children in care but also, as a result of legislative changes which discourages the usage of fully Independent Provision (blue bars). It should also be noted that provision for 16+ CFC and Care Leavers can seemingly be more volatile than other types of placements as there tends to be more placement changes given the nature of the needs associated with this age group.



## FOSTER CARE SUPPLY

One of the main factors underpinning the pressures in placement matching in Foster Care nationally is the reduction in approved Foster Carers/Fostering Households, displayed as **black diamonds** in *Figure R* below. Moreover, when viewed as the total number of Approved Foster Care Places, it's possible to see that in recent years, there was a peak in number of approved households and total number of approved places in 2017 and, since then, there has been a gradual reduction, culminating in a reduction of >10,000 approved places in 5 years. This equates to an >13% reduction and highlights a trend towards Fostering Households also being approved for fewer children. This pressure is exacerbated when considering that there's also been a trend towards a slight reduction in the percentage of filled places (**red dotted line**), indicating that some Foster Carers that are approved to accommodate children are either choosing not to fill all their available places consistently or it has become less feasible for them to do so, potentially as a result of matching difficulties.

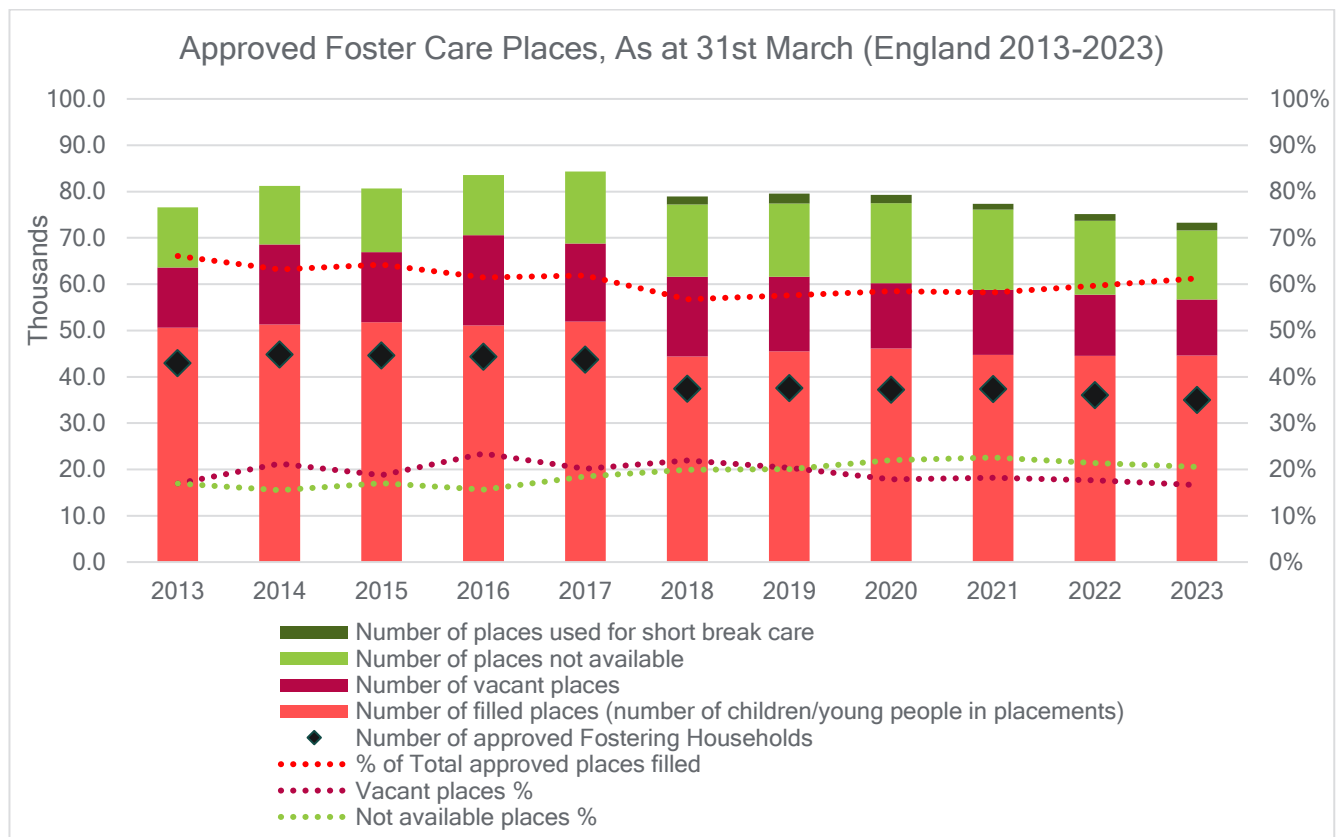


Figure R - Approved Foster Care Places England (2013 - 2023)



Unfortunately, as **Figure S** below shows, when considering national Foster Care Enquiry and Application data for the past decade, the trend of a reducing Foster Carer cohort is likely set to continue and even worsen. Despite the quantity of people enquiring about becoming a Foster Carer increasing slightly over recent years, it is becoming less likely that these enquiries culminate in a newly approved Fostering Household.

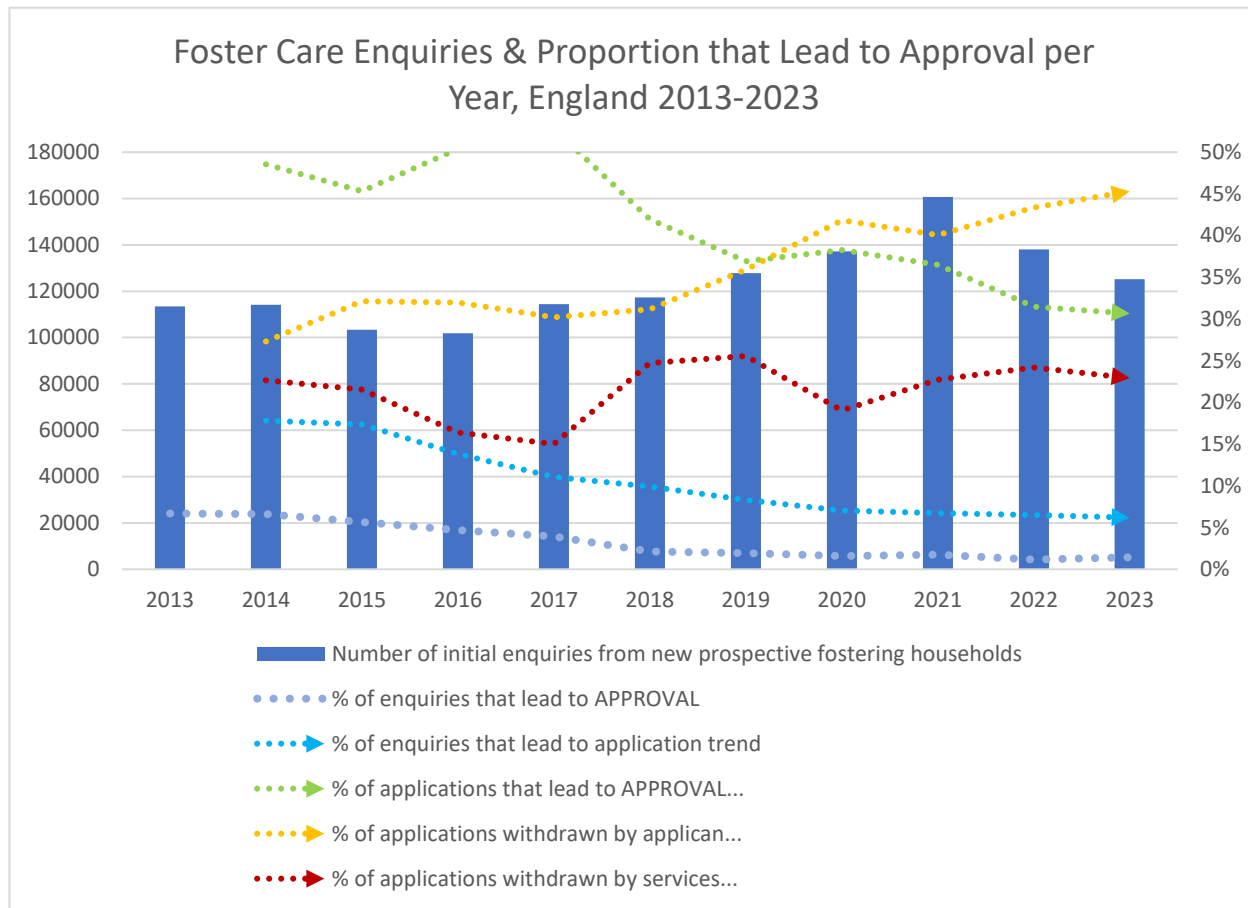


Figure S - Foster Care Enquiries & Approvals, England (2013 - 2023)

As the **purple dotted line** indicates, the number of enquiries that have led to an approved Foster Care Household reduced from 7% in 2013 to 1% in 2022.

Worryingly, this appears to be because of two factors:

- 1) Fewer enquiries are progressing to formal applications (**light blue dotted line**) and,
- 2) Even more worryingly, the number of applications being withdrawn by the applicant (**yellow dotted line**) has been on the rise since 2013. Now, almost half of all Foster Carer applications are withdrawn by the applicant.

Some of the discrepancy in data over time could be related to the way enquiries are registered and the increased ease of one potential Foster Carer making multiple enquiries, however, this wouldn't necessarily explain that large reduction in numbers of enquiries that led to an approved Foster Care Household and, if it did, would demonstrate an even more alarming drop-off in interest.

Further investigation needs to take place to understand the nuances of why interest in the vocation likely waning is, but anecdotal information suggests that the current economic conditions are a significant factor.

## LOCAL FOSTER CARE SUPPLY

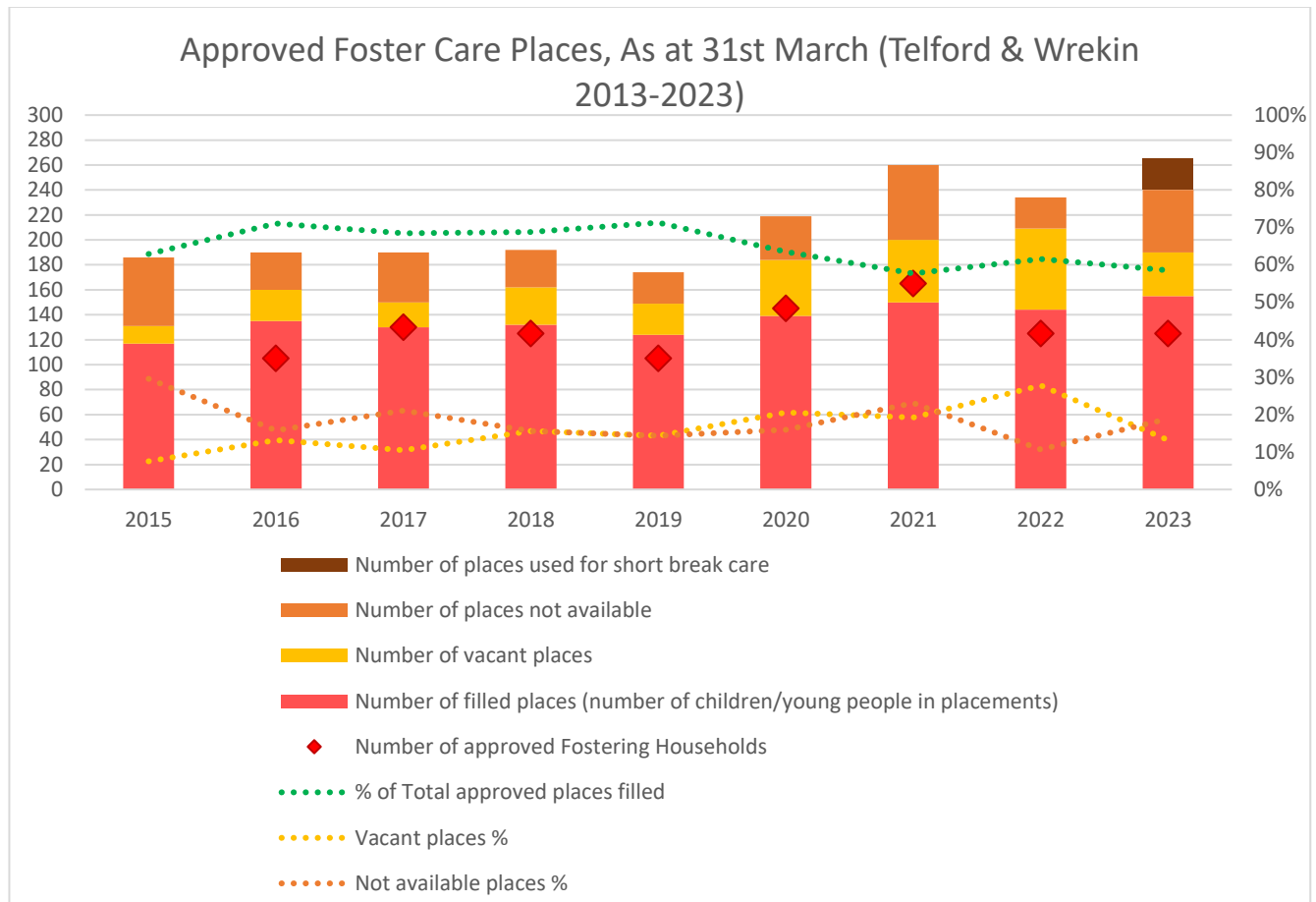
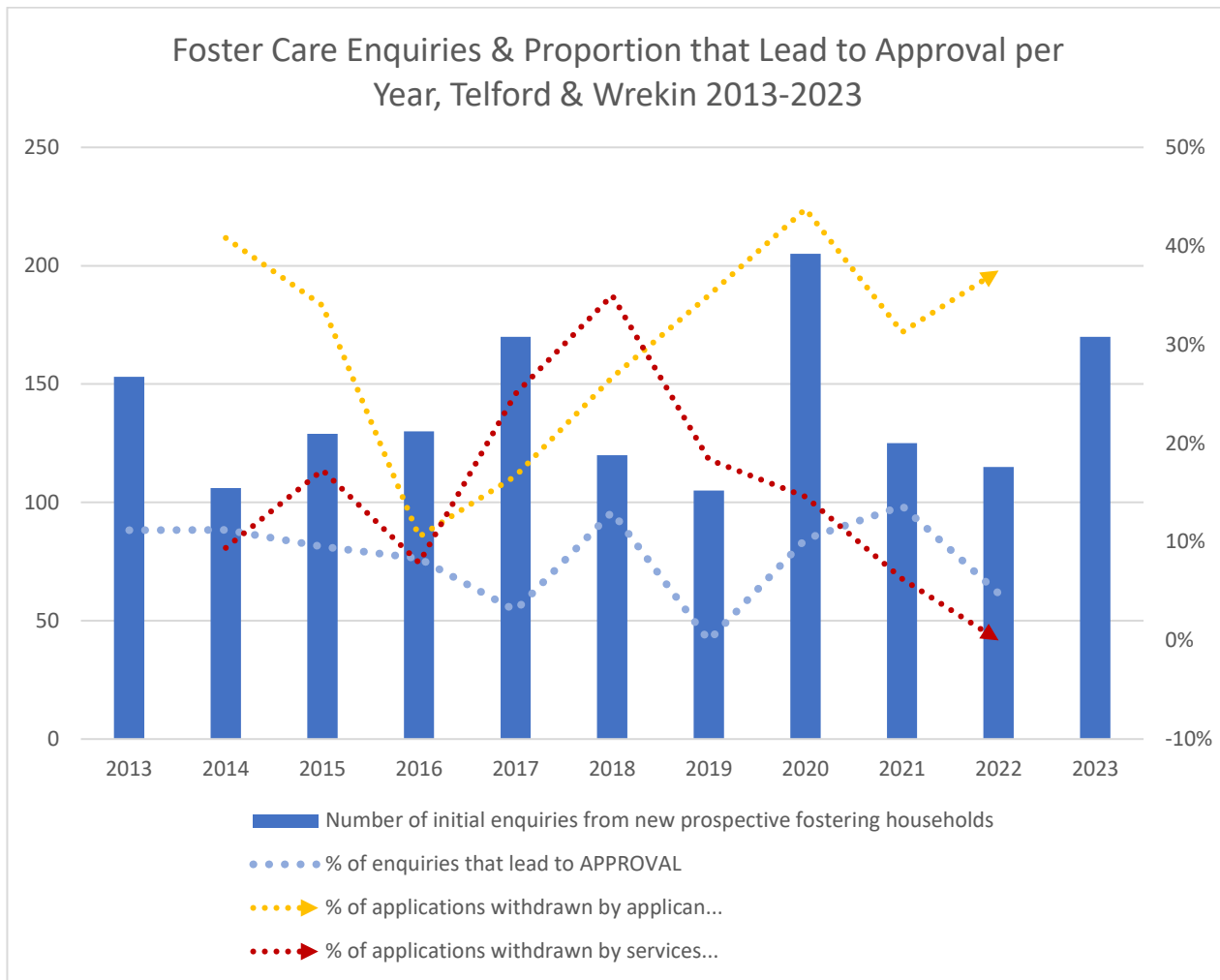


Figure T - Approved Foster Care Places Telford & Wrekin (2015 - 2023)

Recording of data regarding local Foster Care supply can be inconsistent which makes it hard to draw comparisons between LAs, however, its useful to see what trends are occurring locally. Ignoring some data missing in some years relating to places reserved for short breaks, **Figure T** demonstrates an opposing trend to that previously depicted in **Figure R**, regarding the total Approved Foster Places nationally. As the coloured bars depict, Telford & Wrekin have increased their total Foster Carer base in recent years. This is partly due to a recruitment spike in 2020 & 2021 that has since waned slightly (suggested in **Figure U** below). Following this spike, the LA hasn't had to be as successful at using as great of a proportion of carers as it had to be when total number of Approved Foster Places was low.



*Figure U - Foster Care Enquiries & Applications, Telford & Wrekin (2013 - 2023)*

**Figure U** shows that Telford & Wrekin have maintained relatively consistent levels of enquiries and, more importantly, when looking at the [purple dotted line](#), the LA's Fostering Service has consistently been able to convert enquiries into approval at a rate that's approximately tenfold the current national average. It seems that generally speaking, the service does a good job at working with prospective Foster Carers throughout the process as there's a trend of few rejected applications, however, there's still a large number of applicants choosing to withdraw ([yellow line](#)) - this statistic should be investigated in more detail to understand whether the offer can/should be amended to further increase the number of successful applicants.

When looking at **Table D**, we can see that until recently Telford & Wrekin has consistently had fewer approved places available on average per household when compared nationally but has generally had an equal or lower supply of Foster Care Households per Fostered CYP. This potentially explains why the LA has been able to maintain a consistent Foster Carer base as it's probable that having fewer Foster Care Places per Household and more Households per the size of the CYP population in the area when compared nationally would increase the chances for more appropriate matching, thus reducing the likelihood of inappropriate pairing of CFC and/or Foster Carer burnout.

	Foster Care Places per Household		FC Households per Fostered CYP	
	T&W Internal FC	England - All FC	T&W Internal FC	England - All FC
<b>2023</b>	2.1	2.1	0.8	0.8
<b>2022</b>	1.9	2.1	0.9	0.8
<b>2021</b>	1.6	2.1	1.1	0.8
<b>2020</b>	1.5	2.1	1.0	0.8
<b>2019</b>	1.7	2.1	0.8	0.8
<b>2018</b>	1.5	2.1	0.9	0.8
<b>2017</b>	1.5	1.9	1.0	0.8
<b>2016</b>	1.8	1.9	0.8	0.9

*Table D - Foster Care Places per Approved Fostering Household & Approved Fostering Households per Fostered CYP, 2016-2023*

## FOSTER CARER DEMOGRAPHICS

One further consideration and potential contributing factor to the supply and demand issues in the Foster Care market is the age of the Foster Care-force. Data on Foster Carer demographics is limited, but we can see from *Figure V* below, which assumes a standard retirement age of 70, that the total number of fostering years remaining in England (**green bars**) is diminishing, predominantly as the median age of Foster Carers in England is increasing (**green diamonds**). This is especially evident once the number of places is factored in (**white and green bars**). The median age of a Foster Care Household in England is ~55 and ~48 for Newly Approved Foster Carers (**dark green circles**).

During years 2019/20 and 2020/21, Telford & Wrekin Council recruited large numbers of carers (85 and 75), compared to the quantity of new carers in the last two years (50 in total). This led to a significant increase in Total Fostering Years Remaining (**red bars**) before a meaningful drop off as some of those new carers left. This situation could be potentially explained by a cultural shift instigated by the COVID-19 pandemic providing many people with the opportunity to explore new/alternative vocations. 2021/22 was an anomalous year for recruitment locally as the median age of Newly Approved Foster Carers jumped to 58 (**red and white diamonds**) as there was an influx of new older-aged carers, sufficient to see an uptick in the median age of Telford's Foster Carers (**red diamonds**) but it shouldn't provide cause for concern as this metric is still healthy when comparing it with the national median.

As of 2020, the median age of Telford & Wrekin's population was 39 (**red square**), which is just under the national average and slightly on the 'young' side when considering the optimal demographic for attracting prospective Foster Carers, however, this should improve in years to come. This notion is reinforced when considering Telford & Wrekin's access to 'Foster Care Compatible Adults' in *Figure W*.

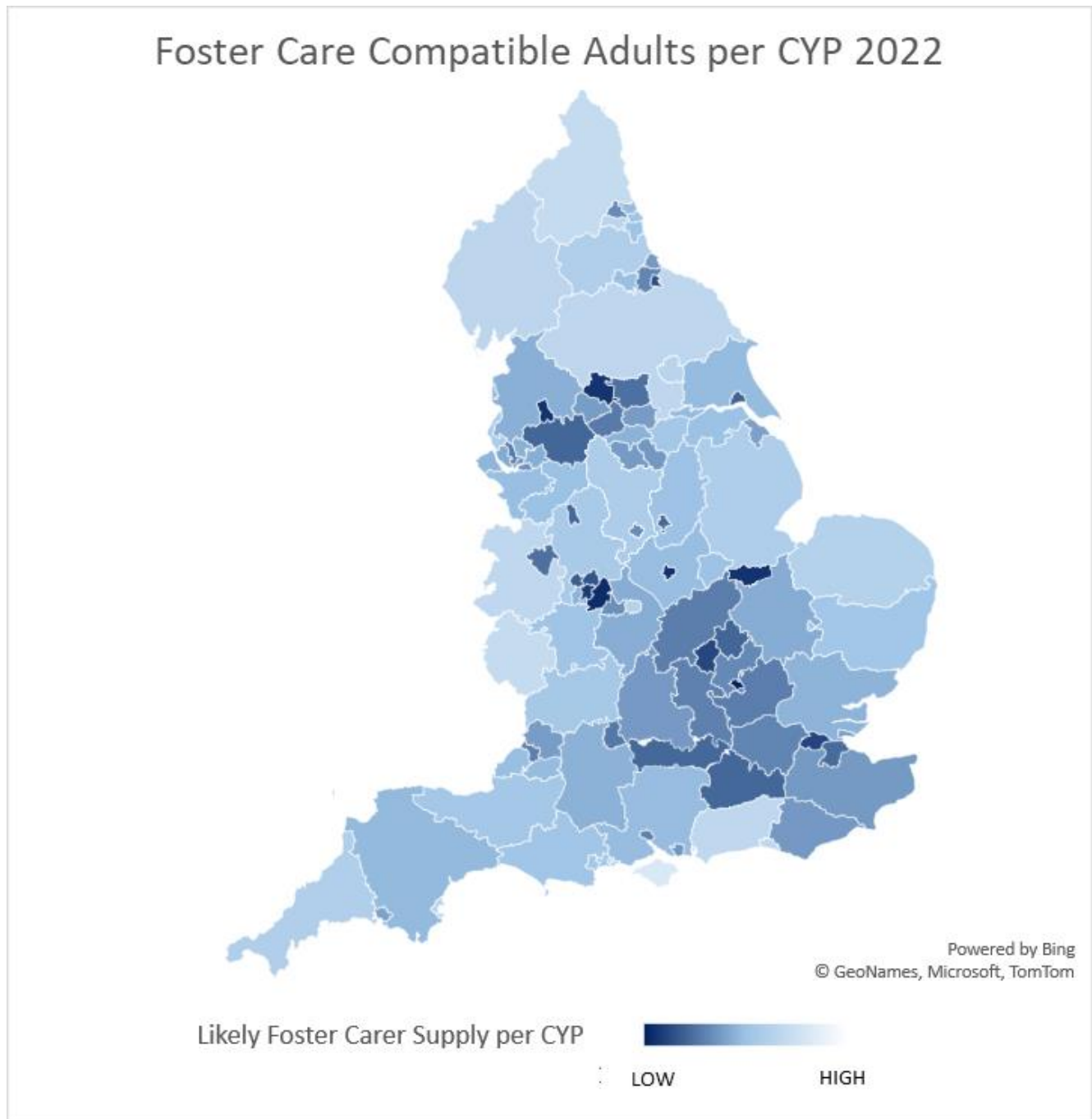
## Foster Carer Sufficiency, Telford & Wrekin and England 2020-2023



Figure V - Foster Carer Sufficiency, Telford & Wrekin and England (2020 - 2023)

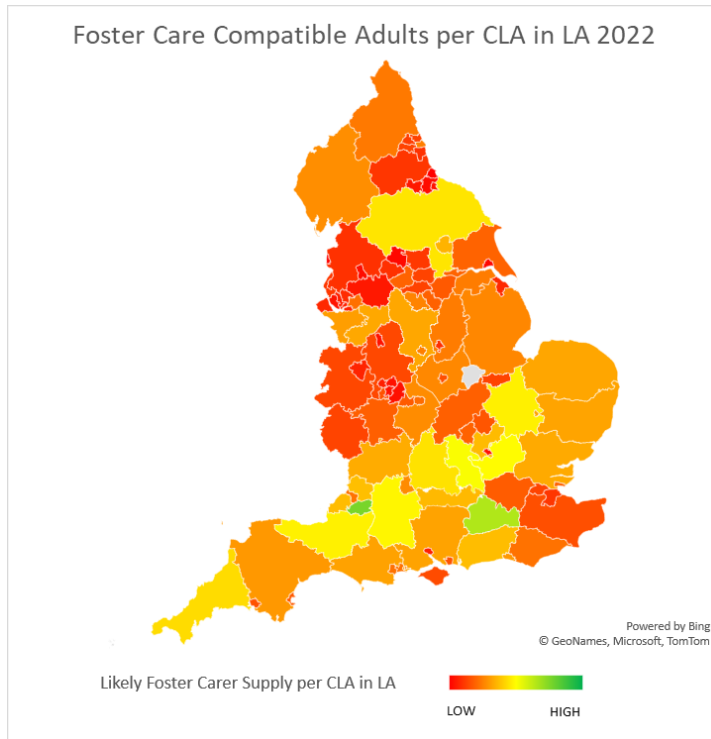
Moreover, **Figure W** below builds on the sufficiency theme in **Chapter 2: Local, Regional & National Sufficiency**, depicting which areas of England are likely/unlikely to be able to recruit local Foster Carers based on the size and age of the adult population and how many spare rooms they recorded in the most recent census.





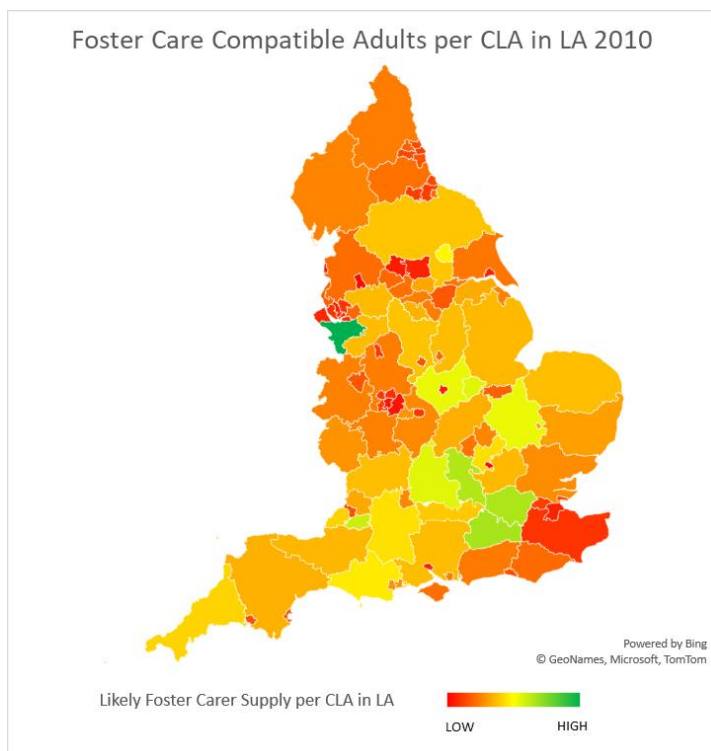
*Figure W - Foster Care Compatible Adults per CYP per LA (England 2022)*

It's clear to see that compared to other parts of the country, Telford & Wrekin demonstrates relatively unfavourable conditions for Foster Carer recruitment. Furthermore, when looking in more detail at sizes of the CFC population per area (*Figure X*), Telford appears to be one of the areas least likely to be able to recruit sufficient Foster Carers for the number of CFC based within the region.



*Figure X - Foster Care Compatible Adults per CLA per LA (England 2022)*

**Figure Y** gives an indication of how sufficiency has changed over approximately the last decade as regions that were historically at low risk of insufficient Foster Care supply have experienced an increase in demand that has had repercussions on other parts of the country.



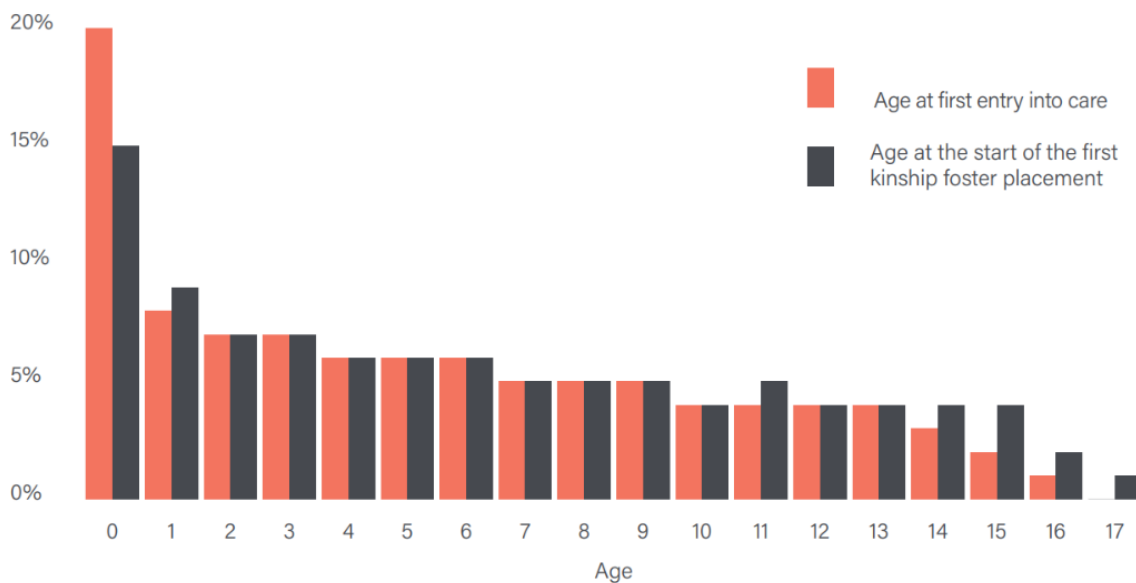
*Figure Y - Foster Care Compatible Adults per CLA per LA (England 2010)*

## KINSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

This section contains excerpts from the 2022 report: *Understanding Formal Kinship Care Arrangements in England: Analysis of Administrative Data* by What Works for Children's Social Care.

*[In England,] children in kinship foster care enter care for the first time, on average, nearly two years younger than children in the overall care population. On average, children who were in kinship foster care in 2019/20 entered care for the first time aged 5.5 years, compared to 7.1 years among all children who were in care in 2019/20. The average age of children entering their first kinship foster placement is only slightly higher (6.2 years), suggesting that children typically enter their first kinship foster care placement shortly after entering care. See, Figure 10.*

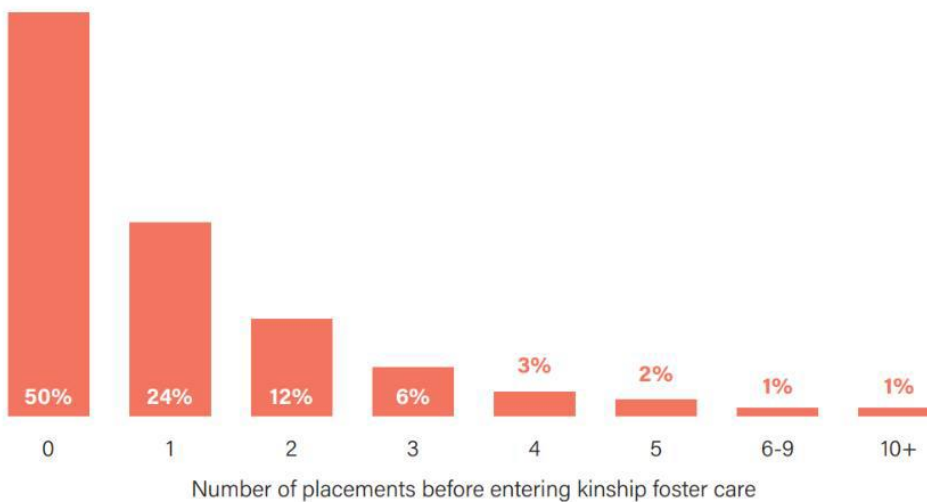
**Figure 10: Age distribution of the age at first entry to care and age at first entry to kinship foster care for all children who were in kinship foster placements in 2019/20**



*[Furthermore,] children who left care in 2019/20 to a kinship special guardian were on average much younger when they first entered care (3.6 years) compared to children who left care in 2019/20 by different mechanisms (9.3 years at entry to care on average). Children who leave care to a kinship special guardian also do so at a young age, leaving care on average aged 5.3 years; children who ever leave care to a kinship special guardian therefore live in care, on average, for 1.7 years.*

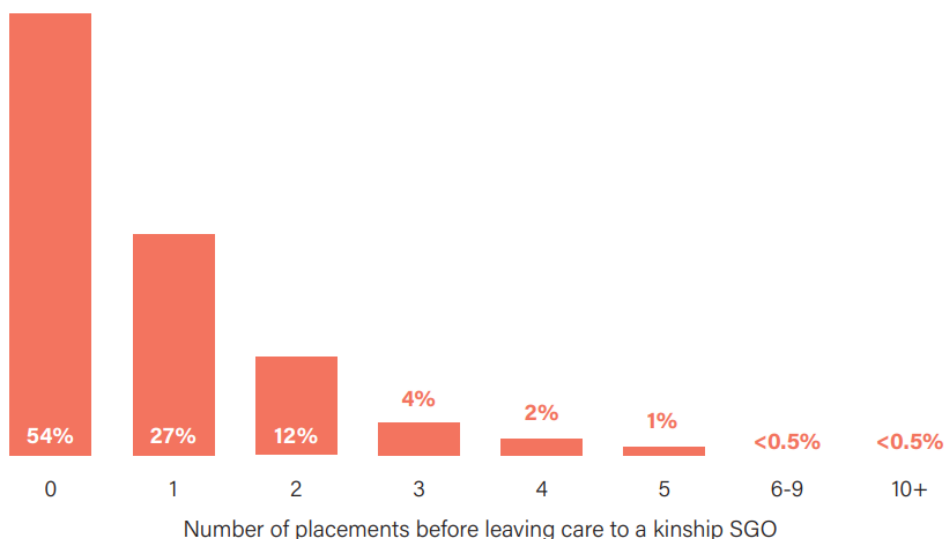
*For the vast majority of children, where a kinship foster care placement will ever be the most suitable care option for a child, it is realised very soon into their care history. Half of the children (50%) who were in a kinship foster placement in 2019/20 entered kinship foster care immediately upon entering care, and only one quarter of children (26%) have been in more than one care placement before entering kinship foster care. On average, children experience 1.1 placements prior to their first kinship foster care placement. The finding that half of children enter kinship foster care immediately is likely influenced by the legal requirement of LAs to consider care placements with kin before any other kind (s. 17(1)(b) and s.22C(6)(a) of the Children Act 1989). See, **Figure 15**.*

**Figure 15: The percentage of children placed in kinship foster care placements in 2019/20 based on the number of placements before they entered kinship care**



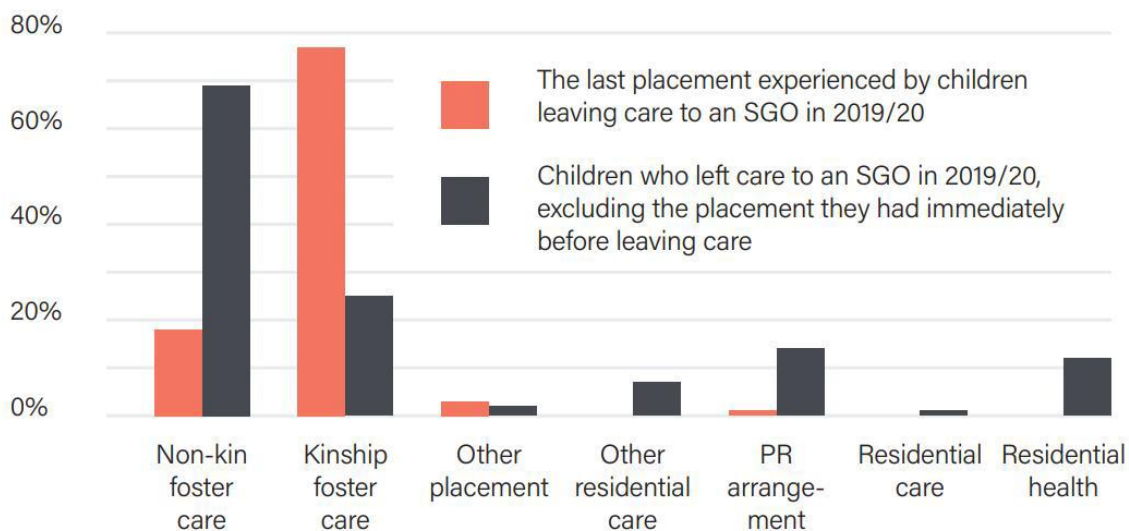
*Over 80% of children who left care to a kinship special guardian in 2019/20 experienced no more than one placement move before the SGO was granted; more than half of children (54%) had only been in a single placement. For the vast majority of children, where a kinship care placement will ever be the most suitable care option for a child, it is realised very soon into a child's care history. See, **Figure 17**.*

Figure 17: The percentage of children who left care through an SGO in 2019/20 based on the number of placements, excluding their final care placement



*Figure 18 focuses on the sample of children who left care to a kinship special guardian in 2019/20. It shows the breakdown of placements experienced up to but excluding a child's final placement before leaving care (subsample of  $n=1,769$  who had at least two care placements before leaving care to a kinship special guardian) and the final placement experienced by children immediately before leaving care to a kinship special guardian.*

Figure 18: Placement types experienced immediately before leaving care to a kinship special guardian in 2019/20 and excluding the last placement before leaving care, broken down by type of placement



## RESIDENTIAL & SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING SUPPLY & DEMAND PRESSURES

In recent years, Telford & Wrekin has had relatively high numbers of CFC in Residential and Semi-Independent Living Placements (~20% of total CFC) - higher than the national average (17%). When considering all authority data for the 2010-22 period (*Figure Y*), it's possible to see a clear trend:

*the lower the rate of CFC, the more likely a child may be placed in Residential type Accommodation*

This suggests authorities with higher numbers of CFC struggle with making sufficient Residential and/or Semi-Independent Living placements and may often have to find suitable, or *unsuitable*, alternatives.

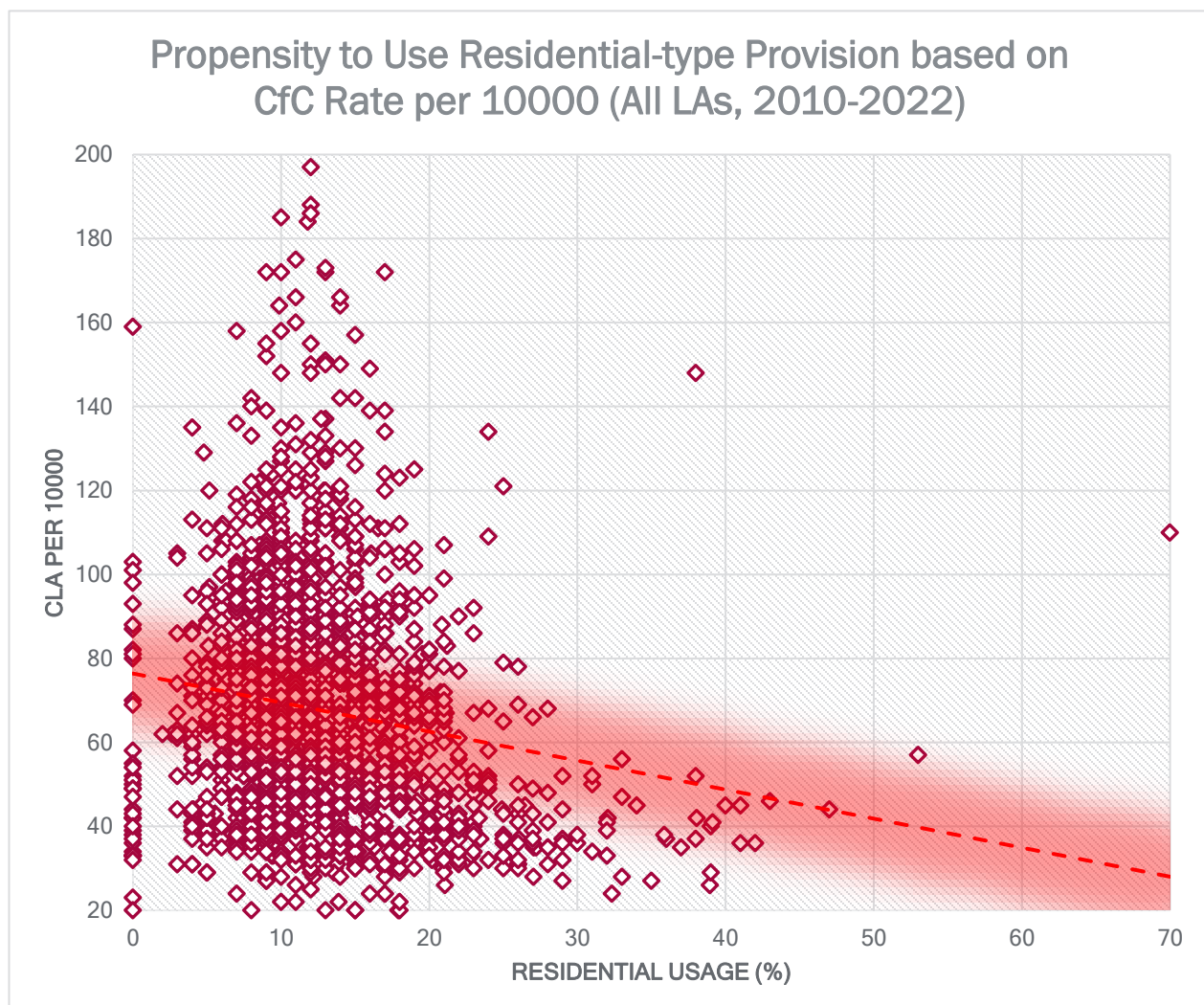
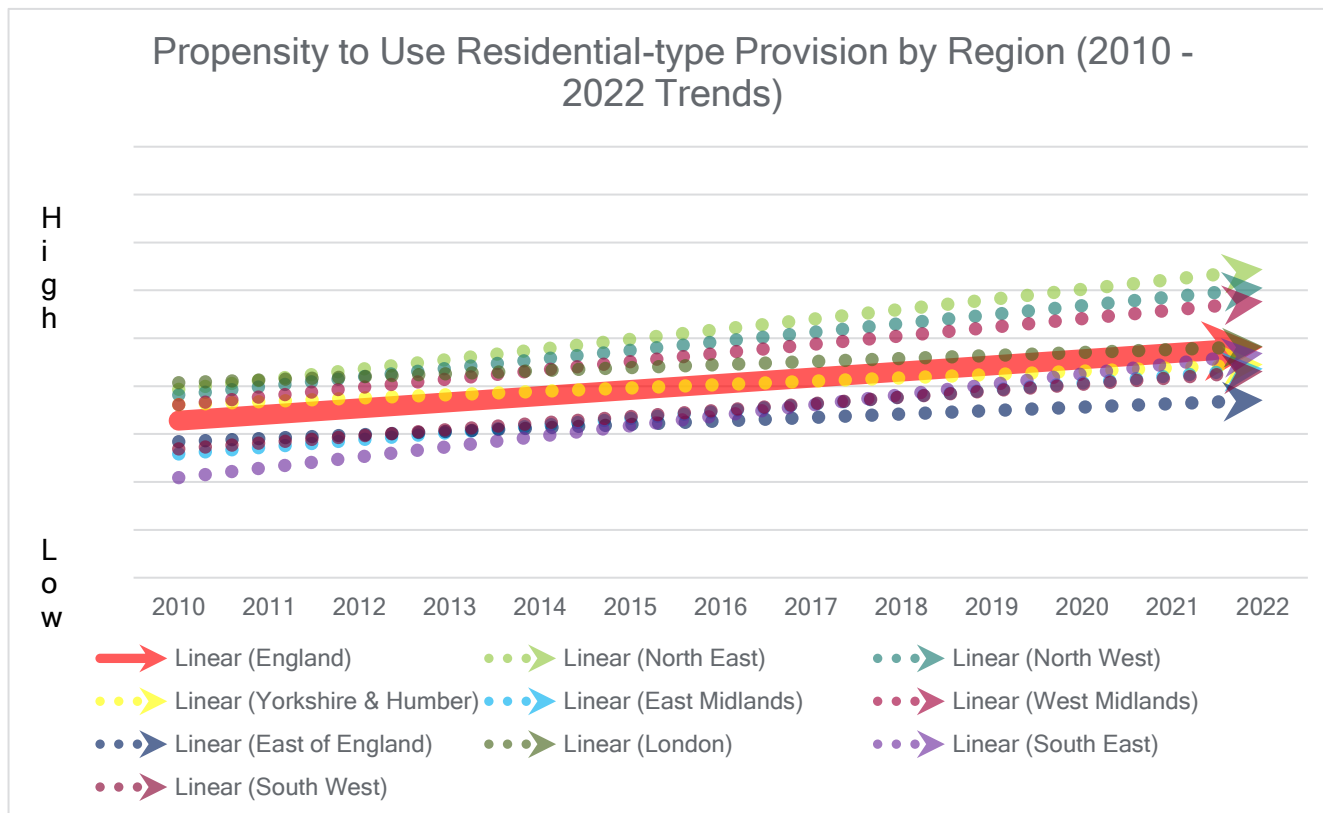


Figure Z - Propensity to Use Residential-type Provision Nationally (2010 - 2022)

**Figure Z** suggests that, utilising such provision at such a high propensity is highly unsustainable, especially when factoring in the already high rate of CFC. When compared nationally, these metrics are contributing to unfavourable market conditions. To maintain a sustainable rate of Residential and/or Semi-Independent Living provision usage, Telford & Wrekin would need to reduce both its rate of CFC per 10000 CYP to closer to the national rate - similar to that forecasted in **Chapter 1: Macro Demand** - and its use of these types of interventions.

The continuation of such a high propensity towards Residential-type provision in the region will be extremely challenging over the coming years. Moreover, as **Figure AA** shows, the propensity towards Residential usage has generally been trending up both regionally and nationally for more than the past decade, increasing at an even more rapid rate in the region (plum line). This indicates that the use of Residential-type provision in the West Midlands will continue to grow.



**Figure AA - Propensity to Use Residential-type Provision by Region (2010-2022 Trends)**



Unless there's a significant shift in CSC response to this crisis - *(if that's even possible!)*, Telford & Wrekin - along with other LAs in the region - will need to find more and more creative solutions for CFC requiring high levels of support or run the risk of needing to utilise 'riskier and riskier' provision, which includes unregulated Children's Homes and/or prematurely Independent Living solutions.

## PLACEMENT TYPES UTILISATION FORECAST

When considering the above, it is not possible to make an accurate prediction around utilisation rates of placement types due to lack of data granularity. However, **Table E** attempts to forecast what can be anticipated in the coming years. Based on **Scenario A** in **Chapter 1: Macro Demand**, the model reflects expected trend data and reveals how the usage dynamics across different types of care are likely to develop. It should be noted that these figures **do not** take into consideration the potential continuation of a trend for greater number of older-aged CYP entering care compared to those ceasing to be looked-after that has been present since 2019/20 and was especially apparent during 2022/23. If that statistic turns out to be more than an anomaly, it is safe to consider that Children's Homes and Semi-Independent Living solutions will be required at a greater proportion than demonstrated below.

	2024*	2025	2026	2027	2028
T&W Foster placements	144	138	130	124	116
Kinship Care	53	44	41	39	36
Private Foster Care	107	114	102	95	86
Placed for adoption	14	12	13	13	13
Placement with parents	22	22	20	19	17
Semi-Independent Living	46	37	34	40	41
Children's Homes	41	36	30	28	25
*Based on November 2023 figures					

Table E - Telford & Wrekin Predicted Provision Usage by Type (2024-2028)

As **Table E** demonstrates, A reduction in demand for all CFC placements will mean Telford & Wrekin Children's Social Care will have more wiggle room when matching and should see the usage of different placement types scale appropriately. Placed For Adoption and Placement With Parents arrangements are likely needed at similar quantities. The usage of Semi-Independent Living is also likely to persist given the age demography of the area. Other than that, over the next 5 years, the model predicts a reduction in the usage of all forms of Foster Care and Children's Homes as fewer CYP enter care in comparison to those 'ageing-out' or finding permanence.

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# Appendix

# Appendix A – Sufficiency Score Index, West Midlands 2022 (Detailed)

SUFFICIENCY SCORING INDEX													WEIGHTED SUFFICIENCY SCORE
LOCAL AUTHORITY	RATE OF CLA PER 10000 CYP INDEX	AVAILABILITY OF FOSTER CARE PROVISION INDEX	AVAILABILITY OF RESIDENTIAL PROVISION INDEX	AVAILABILITY OF CLA PROVISION IN LA INDEX	AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLY LOCATED LOCAL CLA PROVISION INDEX	RELiance ON NON-LOCAL OoLA PLACEMENTS INDEX	POTENTIAL UTILISATION OF IN-HOUSE PROVISION INDEX	PRIVATE CLA PROVISION RISK INDEX	POTENTIAL UTILISATION OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR PROVISION INDEX	CAPACITY TO PLACE WITH PARENTS INDEX	RISK OF INCREASE IN UASC INDEX	PLACEMENT STABILITY INDEX	
* = missing data (will impact score/result in a redacted score)	Considers the LA's ability to meet any potential increase in demand for CLA placements based on current rate of CLA per 10000 CYP and area size (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the LA's ability to meet any potential increase in demand for Foster Care Provision based on current rate of CLA in Foster Care per 10000 CYP, relative to CYP population (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the LA's ability to meet any potential increase in demand for Residential Provision based on current rate of CLA in Residential Care per 10000 CYP, relative to CYP population (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the likelihood of LA continuing to be able to make placements within Own LA based on total amount of placements by both LA and Other LAs in the LA, relative to CYP population and area size (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the likelihood of continuing to be able to make placements close to CLA home address based on total amount of LA's placements made within 20 miles of home address, relative to CYP population and area size (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the total amount of LA's placements made Out of LA and more than 20 miles from home address, relative to CYP population (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the likely availability of In-house provision/potential for expansion of in-house provision, relative to CYP population and area size (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the LA's exposure to CLA placements made with Private Providers, relative to CYP population size (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the likely availability of Voluntary Sector provision/potential for expansion of Voluntary Sector provision, relative to CYP population and area size (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the likelihood of continuing to make similar amounts of/increasing 'Placed with Parents' placements, compared to national maximum (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the likelihood of LA accommodating an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children without adding pressure to local provision, relative to CYP population and area size (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the LA's recent ability in maintaining stable placements based on proportion of CLA living in the same placement for at least 2 years and number of CLA with 3 or more placements in the last year (Score out of 1.00)	Considers the relative significance of each Sufficiency Score Index to calculate overall relative strength of LA in the context of meeting future CLA demand. Score out of (1.00)
	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Birmingham*	0.68	0.65	0.01	0.48	0.63	0.79	x	0.67	x	0.58	0.86	0.77	0.58
Coventry	0.64	0.51	0.85	0.54	0.61	0.67	0.57	0.65	0.90	0.74	0.82	0.61	0.62
Dudley	0.69	0.54	0.70	0.53	0.63	0.75	0.69	0.64	0.87	0.58	0.92	0.84	0.68
Herefordshire, County of	0.74	0.42	0.82	0.63	0.76	0.53	0.75	0.53	0.96	0.58	0.90	0.53	0.64
Sandwell*	0.59	0.49	0.64	0.47	0.48	0.78	x	0.56	x	0.37	0.94	1.00	0.58
Shropshire	0.76	0.49	0.67	0.63	0.80	0.46	0.75	0.65	0.93	0.53	0.86	0.57	0.66
Solihull	0.68	0.41	0.45	0.69	0.67	0.51	0.75	0.47	0.84	0.58	0.69	0.80	0.64
Staffordshire	0.81	0.62	0.49	0.65	0.83	0.70	0.83	0.66	0.98	0.63	0.92	0.68	0.73
Telford and Wrekin*	0.74	0.46	0.70	0.65	0.73	0.51	0.74	0.60	x	0.84	0.90	0.59	0.64
Walsall	0.65	0.49	0.44	0.47	0.60	0.67	0.69	0.55	0.83	0.63	0.94	0.69	0.61
Warwickshire	0.83	0.68	0.60	0.79	0.86	0.51	0.86	0.71	0.93	0.53	0.79	0.49	0.72
Wolverhampton*	0.66	0.56	0.54	0.46	0.60	0.73	0.55	0.77	0.83	0.58	x	0.87	0.64
Worcestershire	0.82	0.62	0.68	0.72	0.82	0.63	1.00	0.67	x	0.74	0.93	0.79	0.77