



updates

Chris Freestone March 2023

Current situation-C19

- At present data is on a slightly more downward trend in England
- Strep A outbreak levelling
- 'Flu numbers evened out at the moment
- Current C19 vaccination offer ended 28.2.23
- ONS survey now being paused- concern that this will leave no consistent reporting context or variant tracking. Services need to keep an eye on local data.

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What has been published?

- Initial response to the Independent Care Review final report
- This includes acceptance of all of the CMA final report recommendations and some consideration of the murders of Arthur and Starr.
- Initial two year plan only with six initial “missions” :



The missions identified:

- Mission 1: By 2027, every care-experienced child and young person will feel they have strong, loving relationships in place.
- Mission 2: By 2027, we will see an increase of high-quality, stable and loving homes available for every child in care, local to where they are from.
- Mission 3: By 2027, we will strengthen and extend corporate parenting responsibilities towards children in care and care leavers across the public sector.

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The missions continued:

- Mission 4: By 2027, we will see an improvement in the education, employment and training outcomes of children in care and care leavers.
- Mission 5: By 2027, we will see an increase in the number of care leavers in safe, suitable accommodation and a reduction in care leaver homelessness.
- Mission 6: We will work closely with health partners to reduce the disparities in long-term mental and physical health outcomes and improve wellbeing for care-experienced people.



Response continued

- The strategy also includes the roll-out of a pilot scheme for two regional care co-operatives encompassing between 10 and 12 local authorities –in a bid to create “a more co-ordinated commissioning” model for both foster and residential care.
- The plan is to work with local authorities to co-design and co-create regional care co-operatives (RCCs) in two areas with a view to rolling out after testing and evaluating the best approach in conjunction with the sector. While RCCs will signal a radical shift in the care system, they will need to build on the measures laid out at a local and sector level in order to boost sufficiency and ensure children can be matched to homes more effectively.

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Response continued:

- Other:
 1. New CP practitioner lead for Local Authorities
 2. 500 child and SW apprenticeships
 3. Three consultations ongoing –all to close on 11.5.23
- DfE has launched a [consultation on proposals around the use of agency social workers by local authorities](#).
- The consultation will run alongside two others including one [seeking views plans to implement a new Children's Social Care National Framework and Dashboard](#) designed to “set out clear outcomes that should be achieved across all local authorities to improve the lives of children and families, raising the quality of practice across the country”.
- A third is being held [over views on the strategy as a whole](#).

Response continued:

- A new early help model for families, trialed across 12 local authorities and backed by £45m, will be evaluated over two years before being rolled-out more widely.
- A lot of the response is set against a two-year trial / pilot / roll out period.
- No change to presence of R44 and IRO.
- Any thoughts ?



Other research and updates

- <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/research-report/lgbtq-young-peoples-experiences-of-residential-social-care-in-england/>
- Small scale study , likely follow up. Main themes:
The findings highlighted the six following themes:
 - 1.Experiencing multiple and unstable placements
 - 2.Persistent discrimination and marginalisation
 - 3.Regulation of gender binary norms
 - 4.Significant mental health challenges
 - 5.Importance of positive professional relationships
 - 6.Resilience and resourcefulness of young people

Other research and updates-

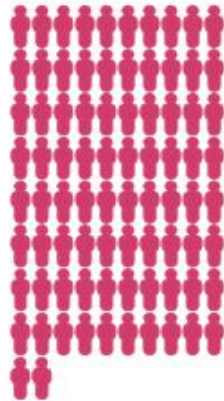
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-questionnaires-2022-what-children-and-young-people-told-ofsted/childrens-social-care-questionnaires-2022>
- Useful to review- some key reflections



Ofsted survey results-



There are **12 million** children aged between 0 and 17 years in England.



82,170 are children looked after.



This year, **5,749** children told us about the place where they live or stay, such as their children's home, residential special school or foster carers. Not all children are children looked after.



70% of children looked after live with foster carers.

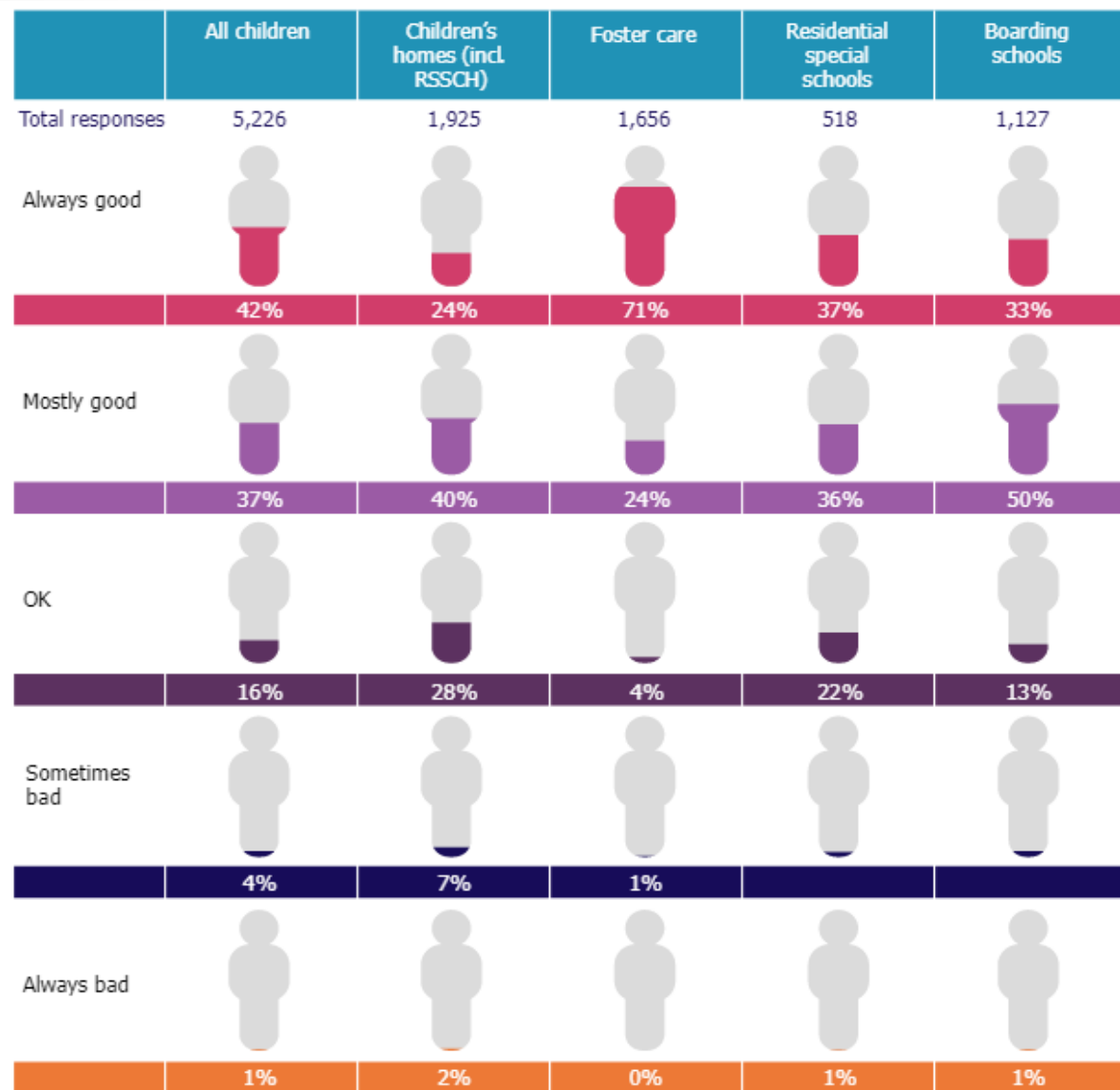


Pause for thought....

- How well do you get on with the other children where you live or stay?
- We asked children to tell us how they got on with the other children where they lived or stayed or, if they were in foster care, how they got on with their foster family. Seventy-nine percent of all children said that how they got on with others where they live or stay was 'always good' or 'mostly good'.



Pause for thought

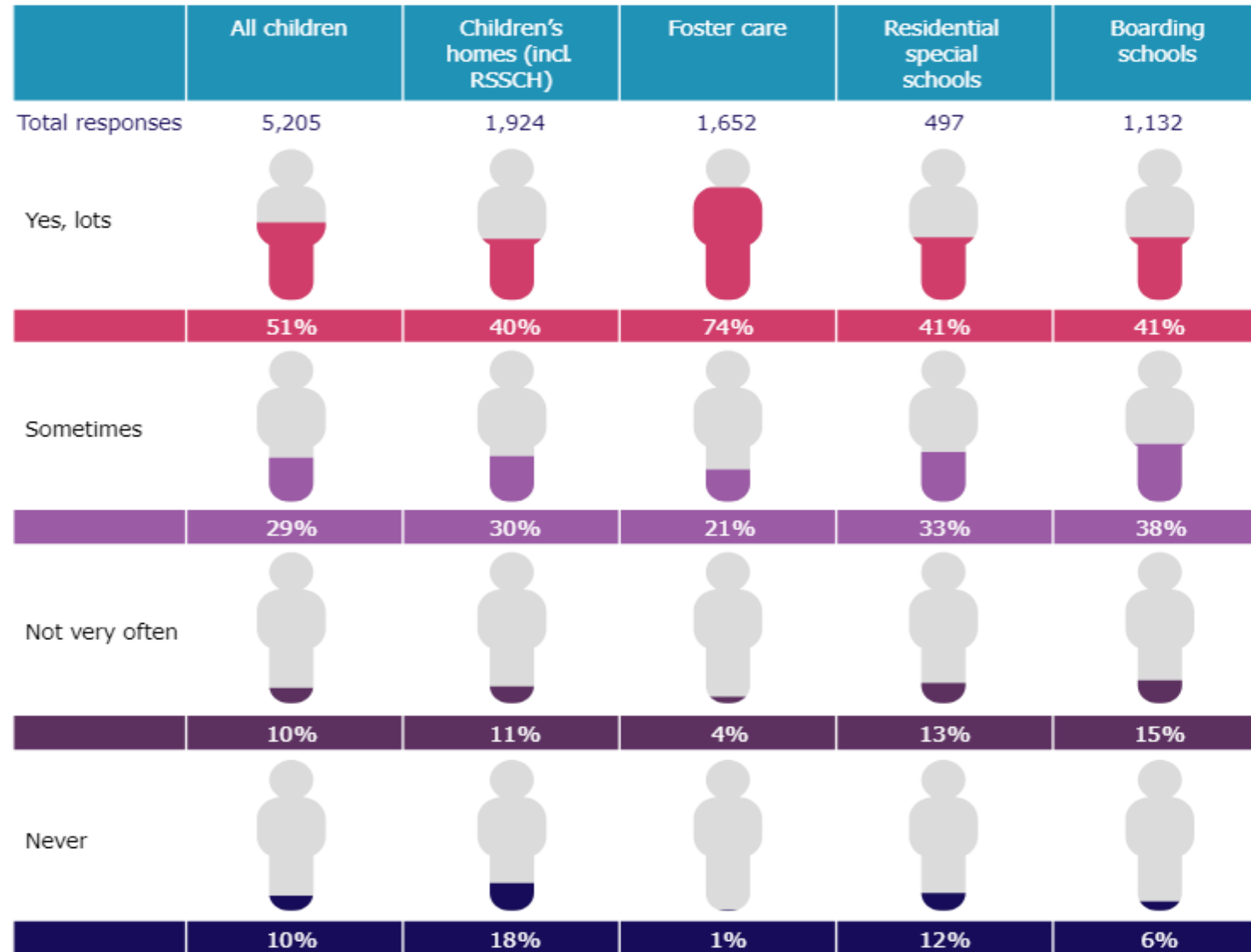


Pause for thought.....

- In the last week, did you do something fun?
- This year, for the first time, we asked children whether they had done something fun with their friends away from where they lived or stayed.
- Ninety-five percent of children living in foster care said that they had done something fun 'lots' or 'sometimes'. However, for children living elsewhere, this proportion was not as high.



Pause for thought.....

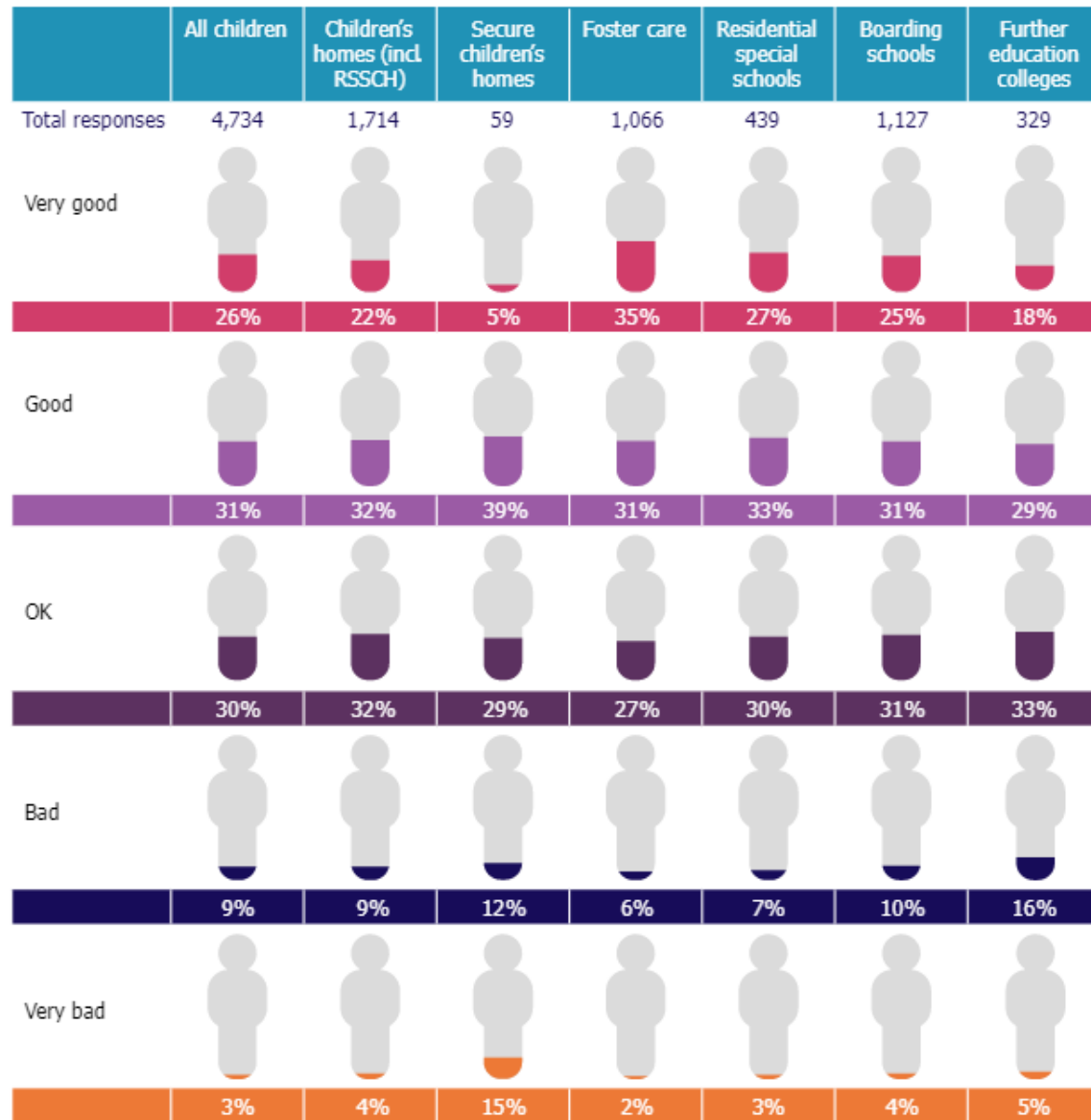


First time this question has been asked

- We asked children to tell us how they rated their mental health and physical health
- This was the first time we have asked this question. Eighty-seven percent of all children rated their mental health as either 'very good', 'good' or 'OK'. However, in secure children's homes, over a quarter of children rated their mental health as 'bad' or 'very bad'.



Pause for thought....



Inspections

- Records- detail and consistency. Being child centred
- Homely environments
- R40 not being submitted in timescales
- Fire drills – new staff. PEEPs not up to date
- Practice not wholly reflecting the SoP / workforce development plan
- Anything else you have picked up ?
- Chris
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