

2019

Getting it Right for Every Child in South Lanarkshire Children's Services Dashboard

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South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership

3/31/2019

‘Children and young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.’

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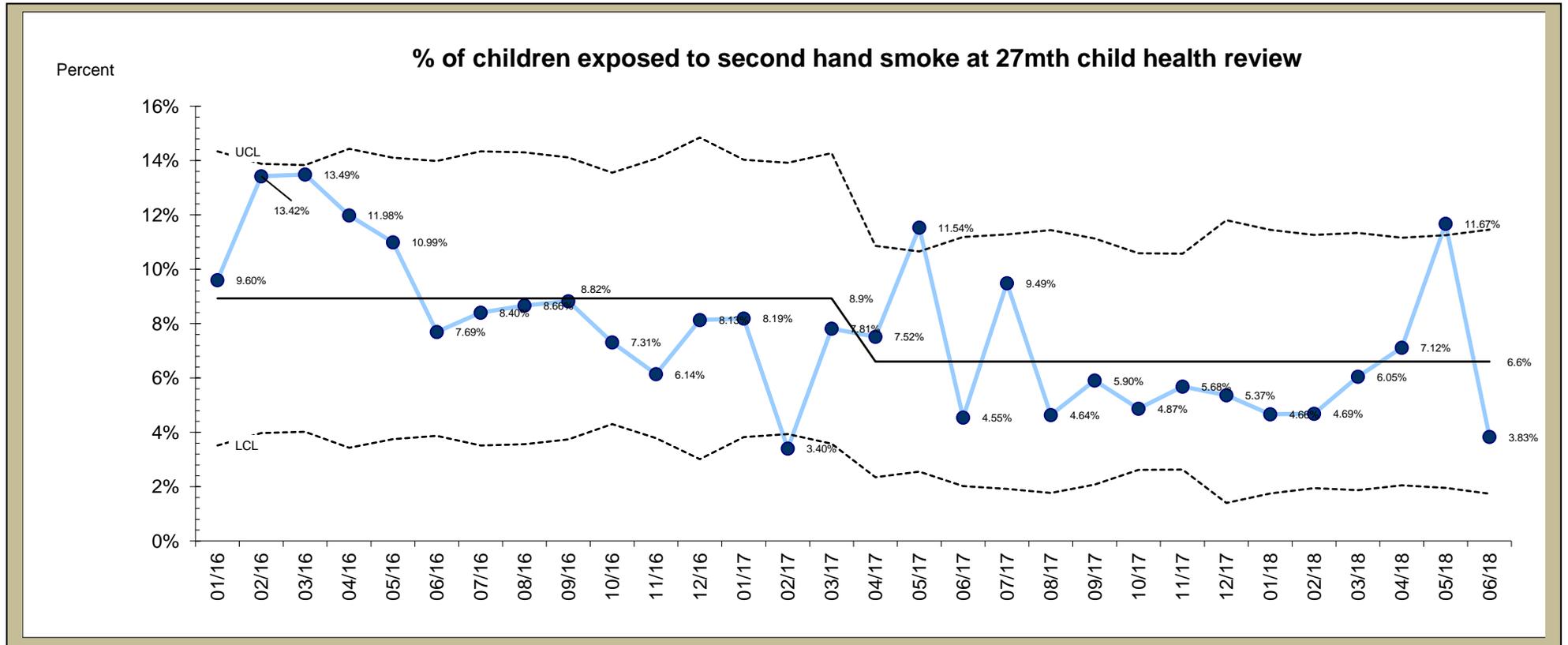
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*Prevention and
Early Support*

*Children have the best start in life
and are supported to realise their
potential*

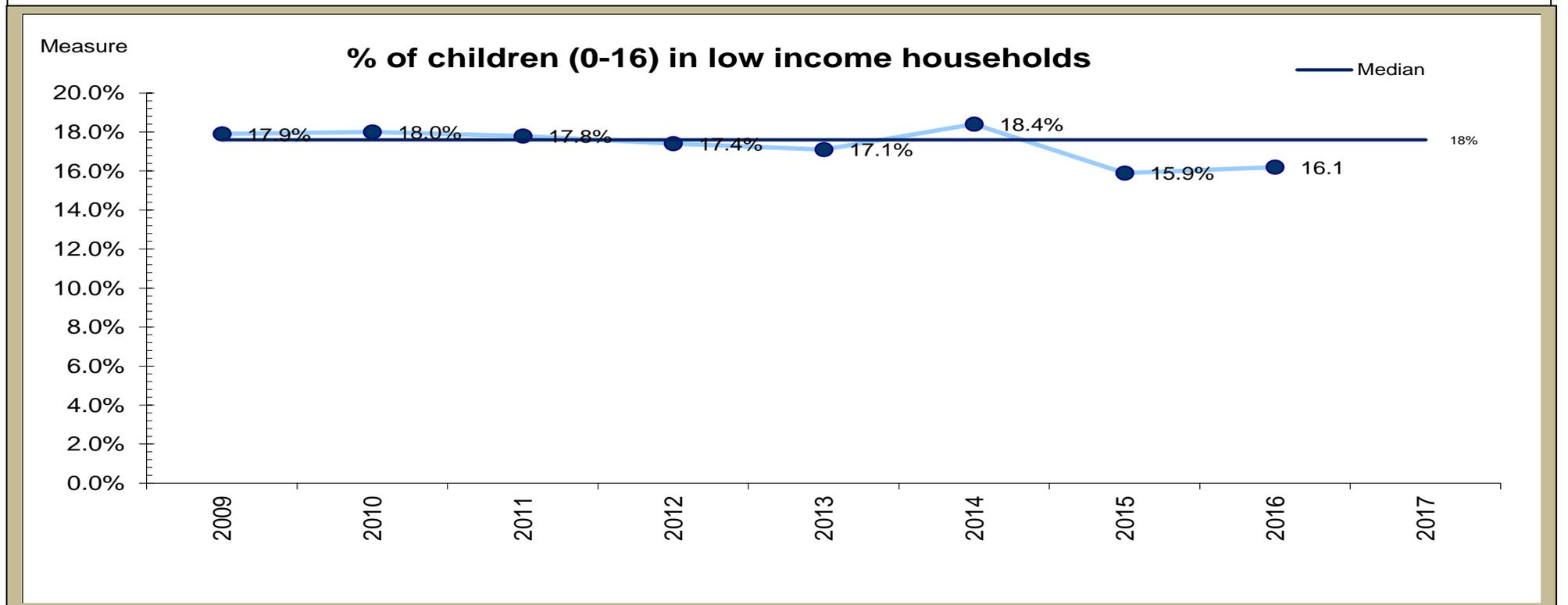
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Title:	Measure 1.1 Percentage of children exposed to second hand smoke at 27-30 child health months (Source ISD).		
Why is this measure important?	‘The protection of children’s health, tackling inequalities and reducing the prevalence of smoking in South Lanarkshire was identified as priority in 2017. Data has evidenced tobacco and exposure to second hand smoke (ESHS) use as higher amongst the most deprived communities of South Lanarkshire and contributes to the cycle of deprivation which can have an effect on the health and wellbeing of infants and children’. Smoke-free Lanarkshire – For you, for children, forever: Lanarkshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2017-2022		
Narrative :	Self-reported exposure to second hand smoke has shown a positive downward trend and the latest figures for South Lanarkshire for children at their 27/30 month child review is 6.6 % as at June 18. Improvement activity commenced in March 17 and continues with spread and scale to all 10 Health visiting teams.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	10.9%	6.6%	Maintain at 7% (revised from 8%)
			Improving trend , goal achieved no action



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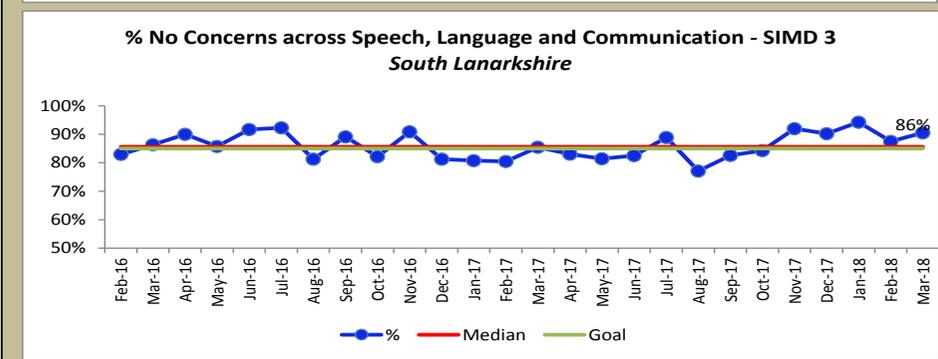
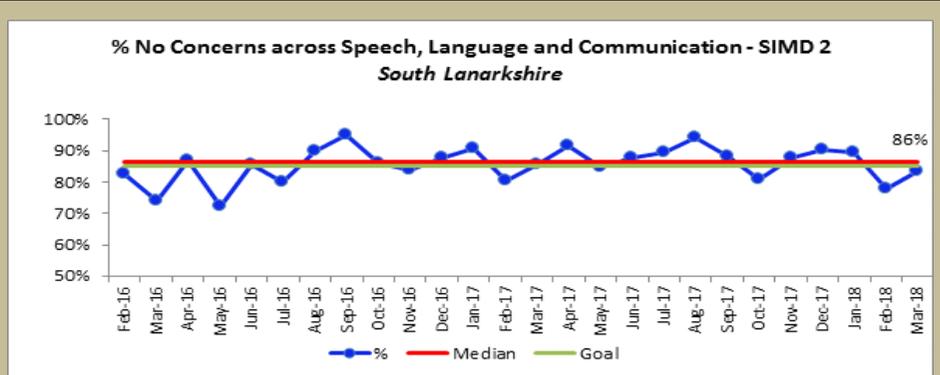
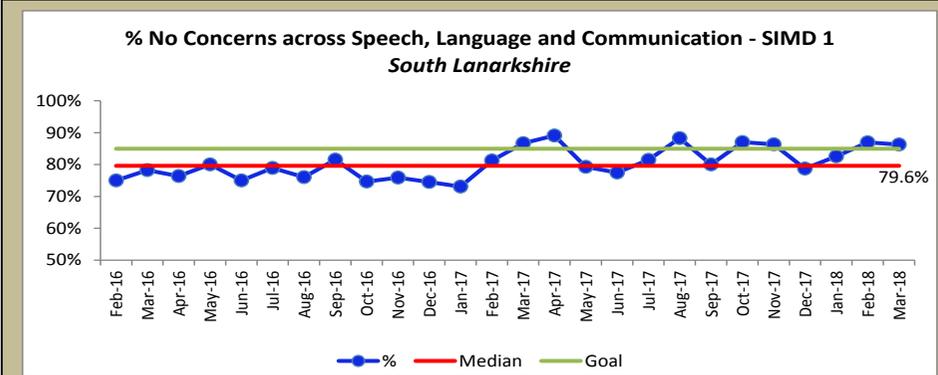
Title:	Measure 1.2 Percentage of all children living in low income households (Source DWP/HMRC)		
Why is this measure important?	In low-income households, food represents by far the largest proportion of spending on children. Children have been defined as ‘poor’ on the basis of lacking three or more ‘necessities’, and ‘severely poor’ on the basis of going without five or more ‘necessities’. Items identified in this context included a warm coat, properly fitted shoes, three meals a day and money to allow a child to participate in a school trip. These circumstances clearly constitute exclusion from the customary consumption activities of a family with children, and imply considerable deprivation across the whole household. In 2017, the Scottish Government combined the indicators for Low income and not being able to afford basic necessities producing a new indicator of limited resources after housing costs.		
Narrative :	The latest figures are 16.1% of families were identified as low income, this is a decrease from the baseline figure. Stepped change within the South Lanarkshire Local Child Poverty Action Report will have a positive impact on children living in low income households.*lack of regular data.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	18.4%(2014)	16.1% (2016)	17.1%
			Goal achieved



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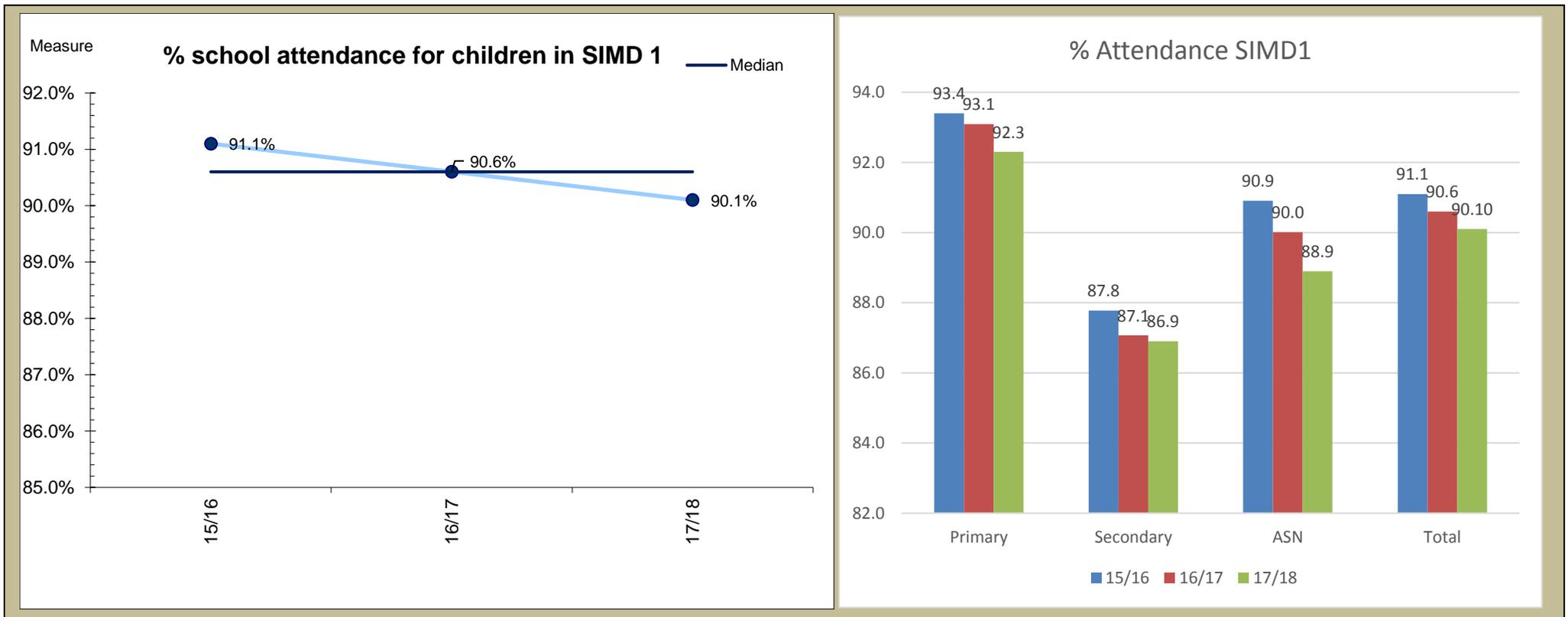
Title:	Measure 1.3 Percentage of children within each SIMD quintile reaching their speech , language and communication developmental milestones at 27-30month child health review (Source ISD, Discovery)
Why is this measure important?	Achieving 85% of no concerns across all developmental domains and SIMD areas at the 27month child health review is a national children and young people’s improvement collaborative (CYPIC) outcome aim. Across South Lanarkshire Speech language and communication needs (SLCN) have been identified as the most predominant developmental concern affecting children at 27 months of age. The consequences reach into the classroom, justice system, mental health services and work place. Language underpins all learning, without it children struggle to express emotions, develop a sense of personal identity, learn, become literate and connect with the world around them. If SLCN’s are allowed to persist, the outcome for children and future generations is damaging.
Narrative :	Improvement activity in 2017 aimed to reduce SLCN inequalities at the 27/30 month child health review and indicated the need to focus improvements on SIMD Quintiles 1, 2, 3 and 4. The latest figures evidence that three out of four SIMD areas have achieved and some exceeded the national goal of 85%. We have seen upward trend in SIMD 1, 3 and an impressive improvement of 6.6% in SIMD 1. However partnership work will continue to close the gap in SIMD 1 and aim to reach the target of 85%.

Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020	Increasing trend, goal achieved in SIMD 2-5 goal not achieved in SIMD1 action required
SIMD1 73%,SIMD2 77.5%,SIMD3 76.4% ,SIMD 4 81.5%, SIMD 5 85.7%(2016)	SIMD 1 79.6%,SIMD 2 86%, SIMD3 86% SIMD 4 88 and SIMD5 92.1(March 2018)	National 85 %– Goal 77% SIMD 1 and SIMD 2&3 81%	



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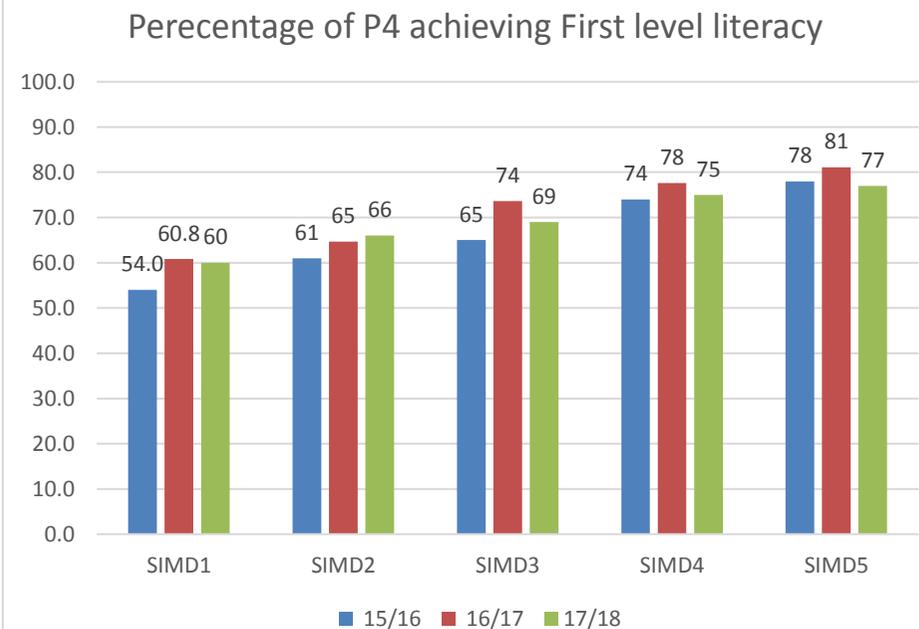
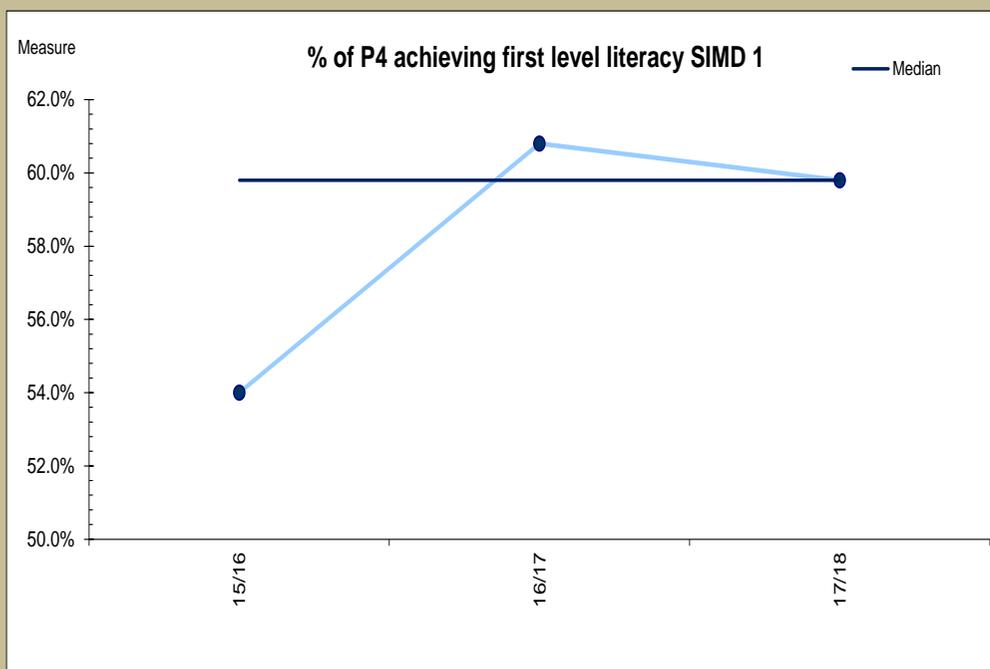
Title:	Measure 1.4 Percentage school attendance for children and young people in SIMD 1 (Source : AAE data 2017-18, file from SEEMIS with SIMD added)			
Why is this measure important?	Attendance at school is linked directly with attainment and an increased likelihood of securing employment. In South Lanarkshire following our data analysis we identified the need to target children in SIMD 1 due to the persistent higher levels of low attendance in comparison to other SIMD areas.			
Narrative :	Current data combines primary, (92.3%) secondary (86.9 %) and ASN (88.9%) data demonstrating a total figure of 90.1%. The chart shows no evidence of improvement as yet therefore, work needs to continue to achieve the 92% goal, specifically with secondary schools where attendance has been more challenging.			
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020	Static trend , revised goal, action required
	Revised 91.1	90.1% (17/18)	92% (73%)	



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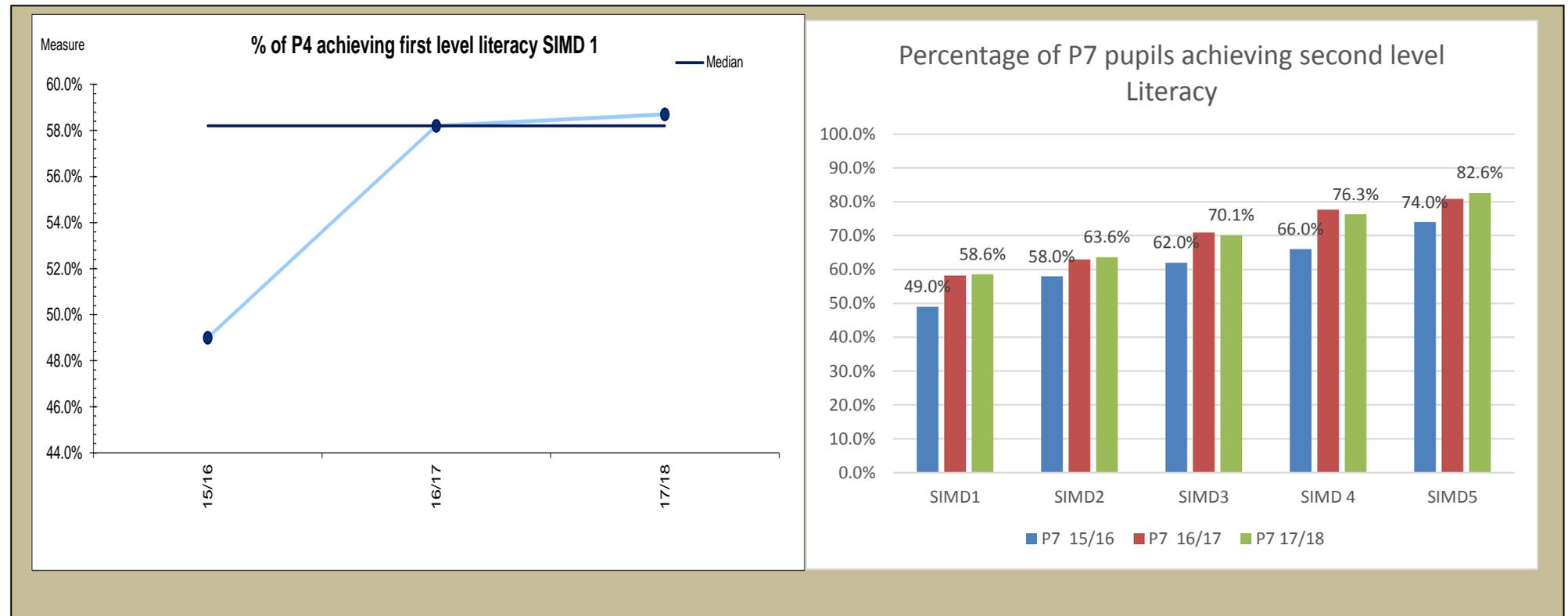
Title:	Measure 1.5 Percentage of P4 pupils achieving First Level Literacy By SIMD 1(Source :CfE data 2016/17, 2017/18 Pupils who have achieved all 3 organisers at appropriate level, SIMD Q1
Why is this measure important?	There is clear evidence of a persistent gap in attainment between pupils from the least and most deprived households in Scotland. This gap starts in preschool years and continues throughout primary and secondary school. In most cases, it widens as pupils progress through the school years. Most importantly, the poverty attainment gap has a direct impact on school-leaver destinations and thus the potential to determine income levels in adulthood.(This is also a Scottish Government Children and Young People’s Improvement Collaborative(CYPIC) Outcome Aim)
Narrative :	The current figure is 60% a 6% increase from our baseline. The gap has reduced from 24 % to 17% between SIMD 1 and 5.

Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020	Static trend, achieved goal, no action
SIMD 1 54%	SIMD1 60%	57% (70%) *	



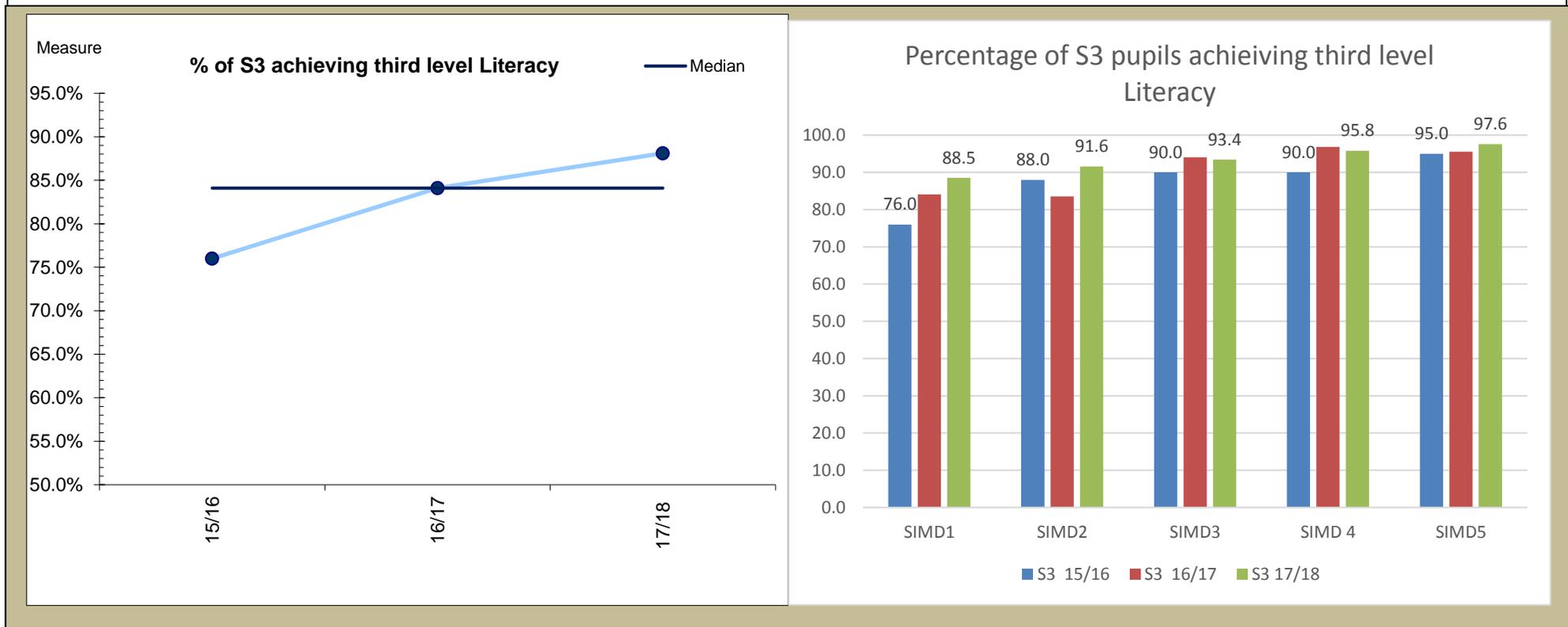
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Title:	Measure 1.5 Percentage of P7 pupils achieving Second Level By SIMD 1 Source: CfE data 2016/17, 2017/18 Pupils who have achieved all 3 organisers at appropriate level, SIMD Q1		
Why is this measure important?	There is clear evidence of a persistent gap in attainment between pupils from the most and least deprived in South Lanarkshire. This gap starts in preschool years and continues throughout primary and secondary school. In most cases, it widens as pupils progress through the school years. Most importantly, the poverty attainment gap has a direct impact on school-leaver destinations and thus the potential to determine income levels in adulthood.(This is a Scottish Government CYPIC Outcome Aim)		
Narrative :	The current figure is 58.6% a 9.6% increase with the gap reducing 1 % from 25-24% between SIMD 1 and 5.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	SIMD 1 49%	SIMD1 58.6%	60% (revised from 52%)
	Improving trend, goal not achieved, action required		



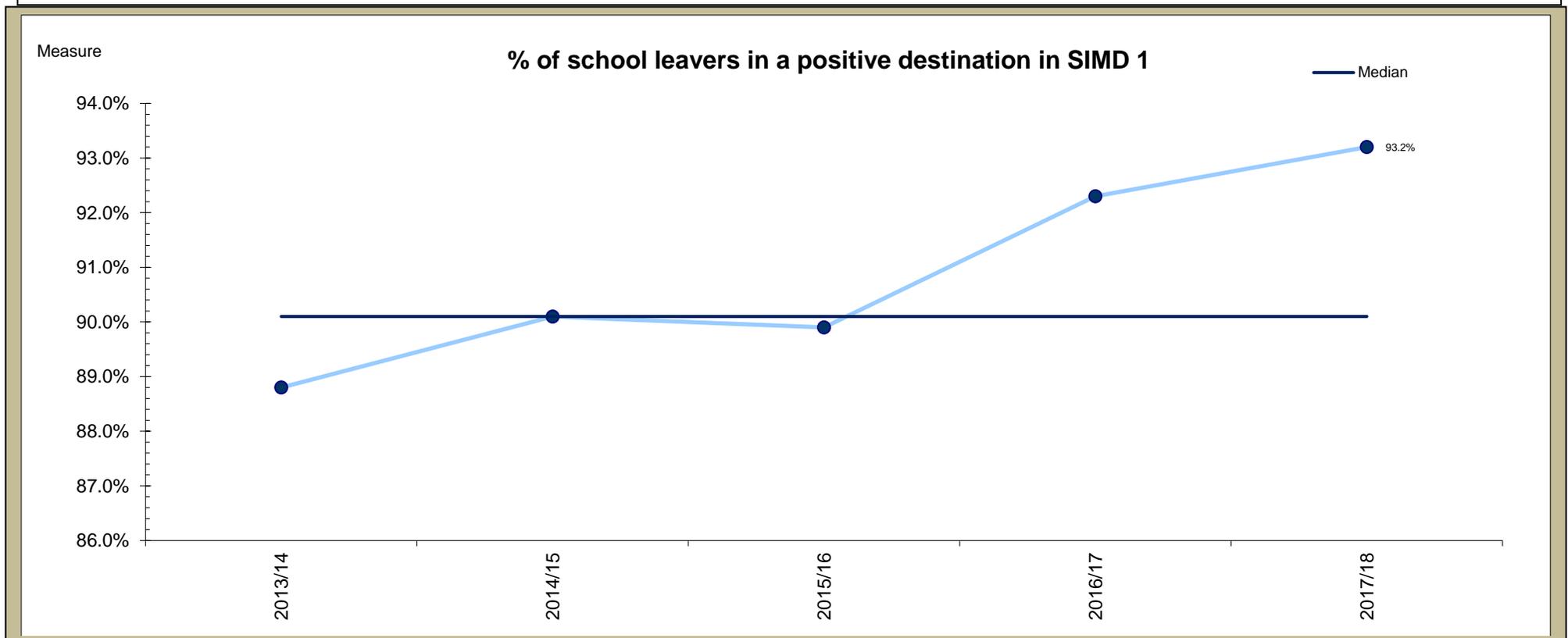
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Title:	Measure 1.5 Percentage of S3 pupils achieving Third Level SIMD1 (Source SEEMIS) Source: CFE data 2016/17, 2017/18 Pupils who have achieved all 3 organisers at appropriate level, SIMD Q1		
Why is this measure important?	There is clear evidence of a persistent gap in attainment between pupils from the richest and poorest households in Scotland. This gap starts in preschool years and continues throughout primary and secondary school. In most cases, it widens as pupils progress through the school years. Most importantly, the poverty attainment gap has a direct impact on school-leaver destinations and thus the potential to determine income levels in adulthood.(This is also a Scottish Government CYPIC Outcome Aim)		
Narrative :	Our current figure is 88.5% up 12.5% on the previous year’s figures. The gap has reduced from 19% to 9.1% between SIMD 1 and 5.		
	Baseline 2017 SIMD 1 76%	Latest Figures 2019 SIMD1 88.5%	Goal 2020 85% (revised from 79%)
	Improving trend, goal achieved , no action required		



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Title:	Measure 1.6 Percentage of young people within each SIMD quintile participating in employment ,education or training (Education Insight) goal 93% and 95% (* to be revised for 18/19 to compare bottom 20%/SIMD 1 with top 20% SIMD 5)		
Why is this measure important?	Youth employment is crucial to the future life chances of young people. In particular the transition from school to the world of work is a critical time to intervene and ensure young people sustain a positive post school destination and more importantly achieve their full potential. (This is a Scottish Government CYPIC outcome aim).		
Narrative :	The South Lanarkshire figure of positive destinations achieved by the young people in SIMD 1 is 93.2%. (18/19) This is the highest figure recorded since figures became available and it is above the national average of 90.4%. Exceeding the National CYPIC goal of 85% across each quintile. The gap between SIMD 1 (93.2%) and 5 (97.8%) is 4.6% below both the national and comparator figures of 6.9% and 7.3%.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	89.9% (15/16)	93.2%	93%
	Improving trend, goal achieved, no action		



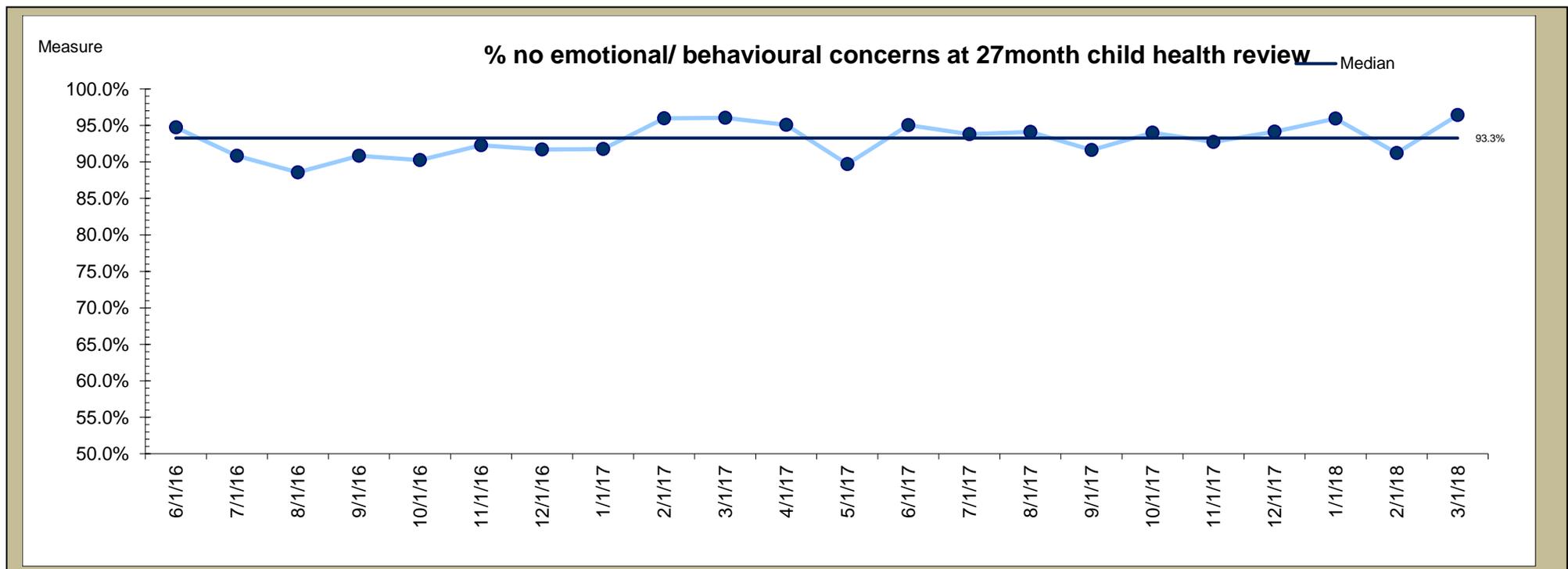
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Health and Wellbeing

*The health and wellbeing of
children, young people and families
is improved*

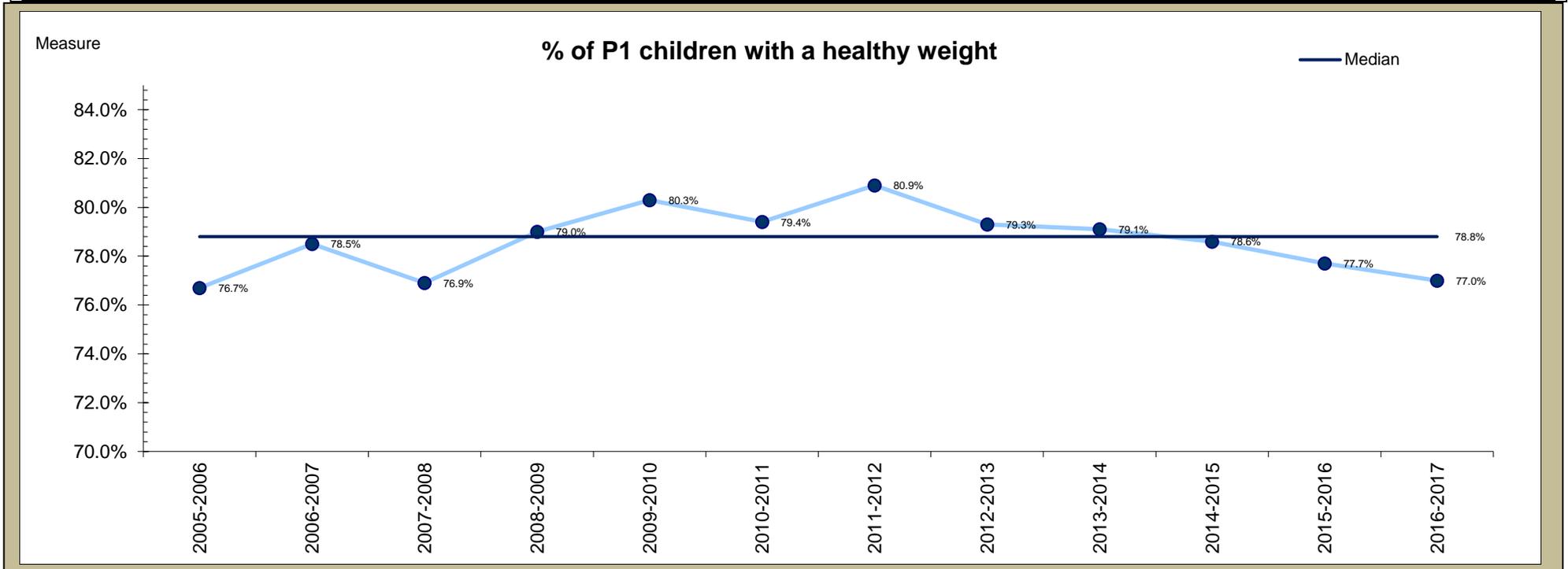
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Title:	Measure 2.1 Percentage of children with no emotional and behavioural developmental concerns at 27-30months (ISD)		
Why is this measure important?	National studies have highlighted the growing prevalence of mental health concerns amongst Scotland’s young people as well as the wider population. The Mental Health Strategy in Scotland recognises the importance of focusing on early intervention and prevention for infants, children and young people. Addressing concerns as early as possible develops a child’s skills and supports readiness for school.		
Narrative :	Currently our change packages are concentrating <i>on identification, future actions and follow up</i> , with one intervention working with parents to improve behaviour through the attendance on the national Incredible years programme post 27/30 month Child Health Review . The latest figure evidences 93.3% of children with no emotional/behavioural concern at 27 months a 3.3% increase.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	Revised ISD combined 90%	93.3%	94%
	Static trend, goal not achieved, action required		



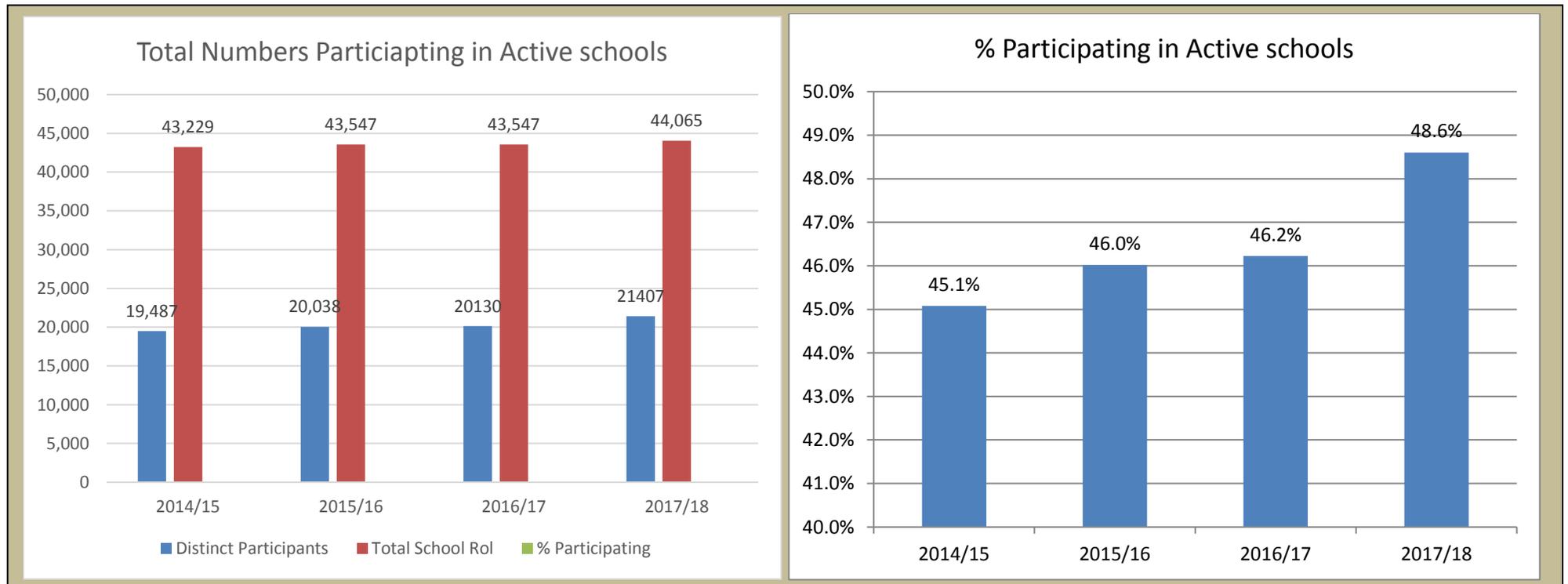
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Title:	Measure 2.2a Percentage of P1 children with a healthy weight (ISD epidemiological)		
Why is this measure important?	Overweight and obesity levels in P1 children are increasing, impacting on health and wellbeing now and in future years by increasing risk of chronic conditions such as Type 2 diabetes and mental health problems such as low self-esteem		
Narrative :	The current figure is 77% and remains below the target of 88%. Partners are planning on testing a change package this year to improve identification and response at 27 months of age to improve the number of P1 children with a healthy weight.		
	Baseline 2017 77.7%(2015/16)	Latest Figures 2019 77% (17/18)	Goal 2020 80% (revised from 88%*)
	Decreasing trend, goal not achieved, action required		



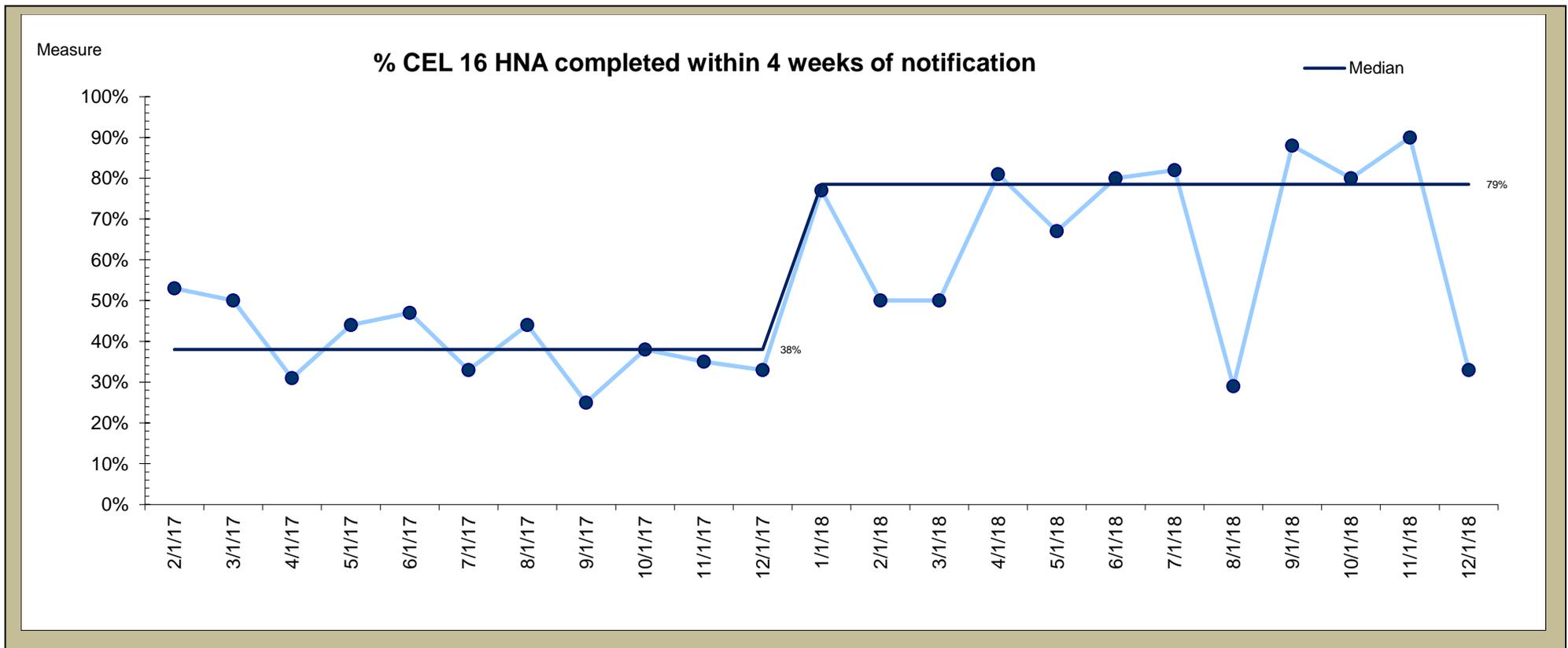
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Title:	Measure 2.2b Percentage of school roll participating in Active Schools Programme(Source :South Lanarkshire leisure and culture)		
Why is this measure important?	While South Lanarkshire meets its Physical Education (PE) in schools targets (two hours/periods per week), around a fifth (20.3%) of children in South Lanarkshire are overweight or obese. Obesity increases with age, so earlier interventions to support healthy weight, behaviour change and emotional wellbeing across the age groups is vital.		
Narrative :	The Active Schools programme provides a positive and increasing range of sport and leisure opportunities. In 2017/18, 21,407 pupils participated (48.6% of the school roll) - a 2.6% increase and exceeding our goal.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	46%(2015/16)	48.6%(2017/18)	48%
	Improving trend, goal achieved, no action required		



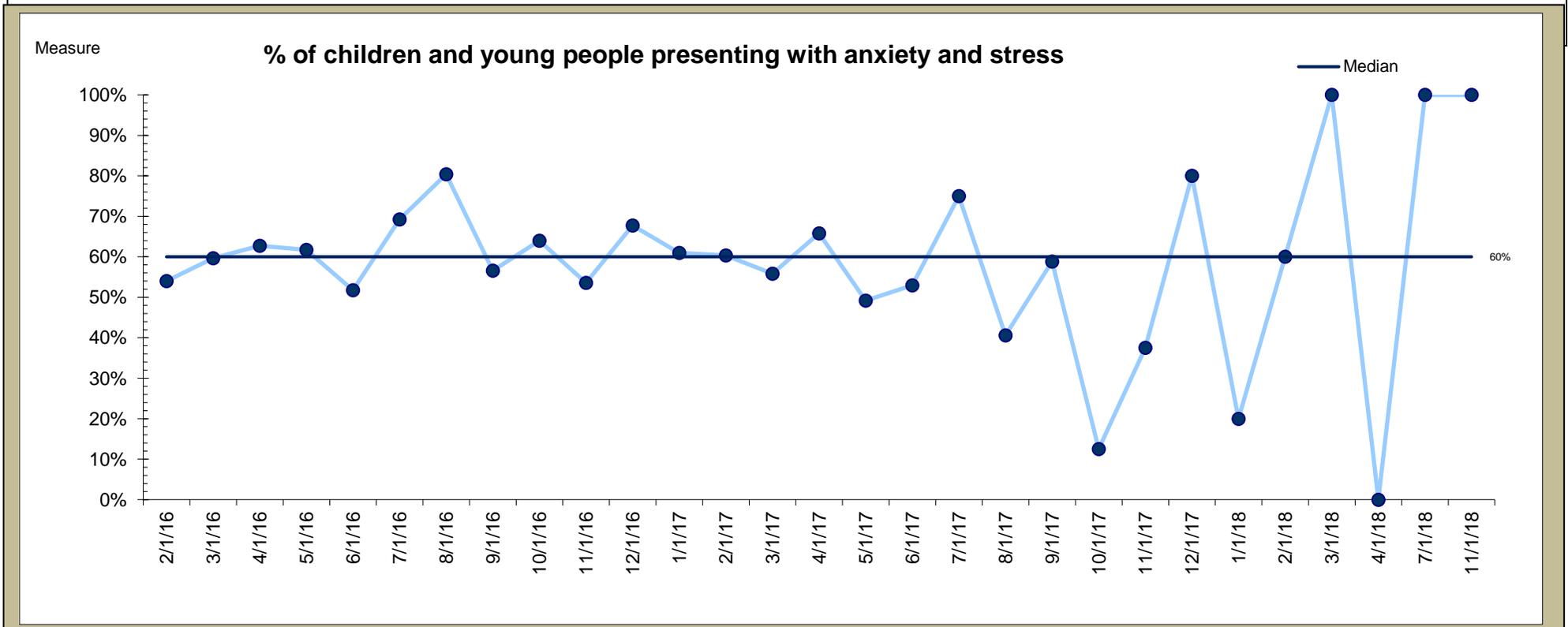
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Title:	Measure 2.3 Percentage of all looked after children and young people health needs assessments completed within 4 weeks (Source: CQ NHS)		
Why is this measure important?	On the basis of available evidence, poorer health outcomes are more likely for care experienced children and young people than other groups of children and young people, particularly with respect to mental health. To address the health needs of care experienced children and young people to identify concerns early and respond with interventions or specialist support a health needs assessment is offered to all CYP within 4 weeks of becoming accommodated.		
Narrative :	We have achieved 79% reliability of completion of children in both age groups having a health needs assessment carried out by 4 weeks. Lower percentages are evident in school age children during term time holidays periods.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2018	Goal 2020
	59%	79%	85%
	Improving trend, goal not achieved, action required		



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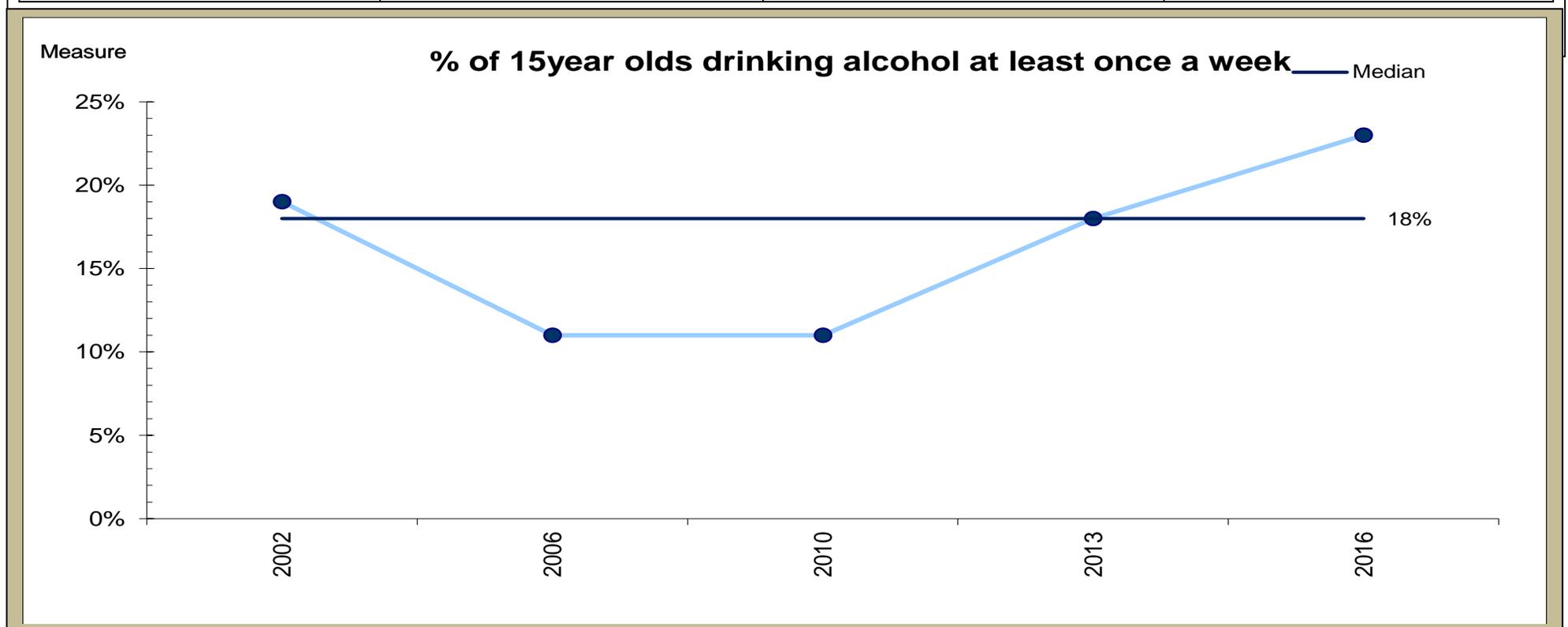
Title:	Measure 2.4 Percentage of young people accessing school counselling service presenting with anxiety (Source CAMHS/ADP) *		
Why is this measure important?	National studies have highlighted the growing prevalence of mental health concerns amongst Scotland’s young people as well as the wider population. The Mental Health Strategy in Scotland recognises the importance of focusing on early intervention and prevention for children and young people. Within South Lanarkshire our Realigning children’s service health and wellbeing data evidenced the need to address stress and anxiety.		
Narrative :	As a partnership we are working on a change theme to improve engagement of young people with tier one interventions to improve mental wellbeing and reduce presentations of anxiety and stress. Once we identify appropriate interventions evidencing improvement we expect to see a reduction in the need for young people requiring escalation to tier two service - counselling in schools. The current figures are 60 %, a 2.1% reduction. (However, the recent figures due to low numbers being entered into the system has impacted on the data reliability over the last year.)		
Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020	Variable trend, goal not achieved , action required
62.1(2016)	60%	56% (70%)	



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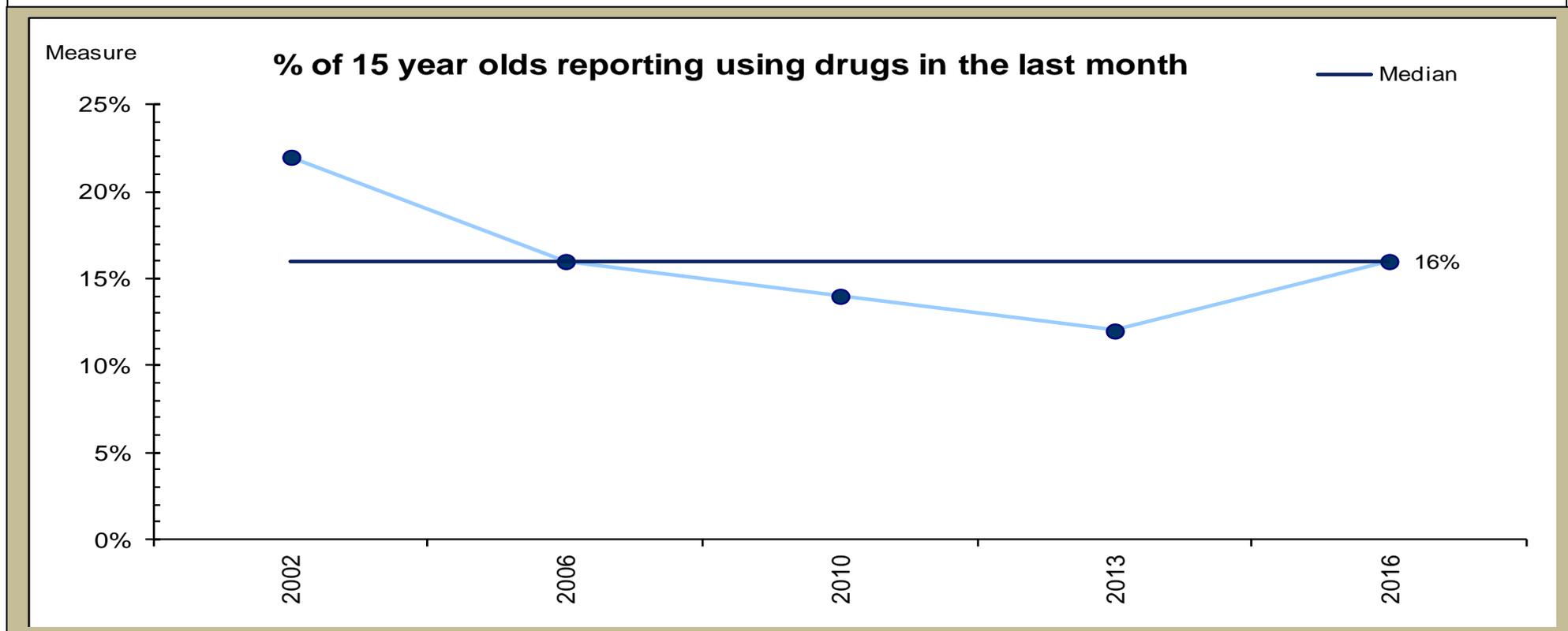
Title:	Measure 2.5 Percentage of 15 year olds drinking alcohol at least once a week (SALSUS/RCS)
Why is this measure important?	Children and young people are a quarter of our population but 100% of our future. Our responsibility to promote children and young people’s health is clear within UK law and in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our Realigning children services data in 2016 evidenced that around a third of S1-S4 pupils in South Lanarkshire indicated they had ever had an alcoholic drink (9% in S1 rising to 23% in S4)
Narrative :	The latest RCS (2016) figures show 23% of S4 pupils said they had drank alcohol at least once per week with a median of 18%. Due to a different data source from baseline, this data will formally be reported later when the next SALSUS or Census data is available.

Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020	Increasing trend , goal not achieved, action required
16.2%(2013)	23% (2016)	15%	



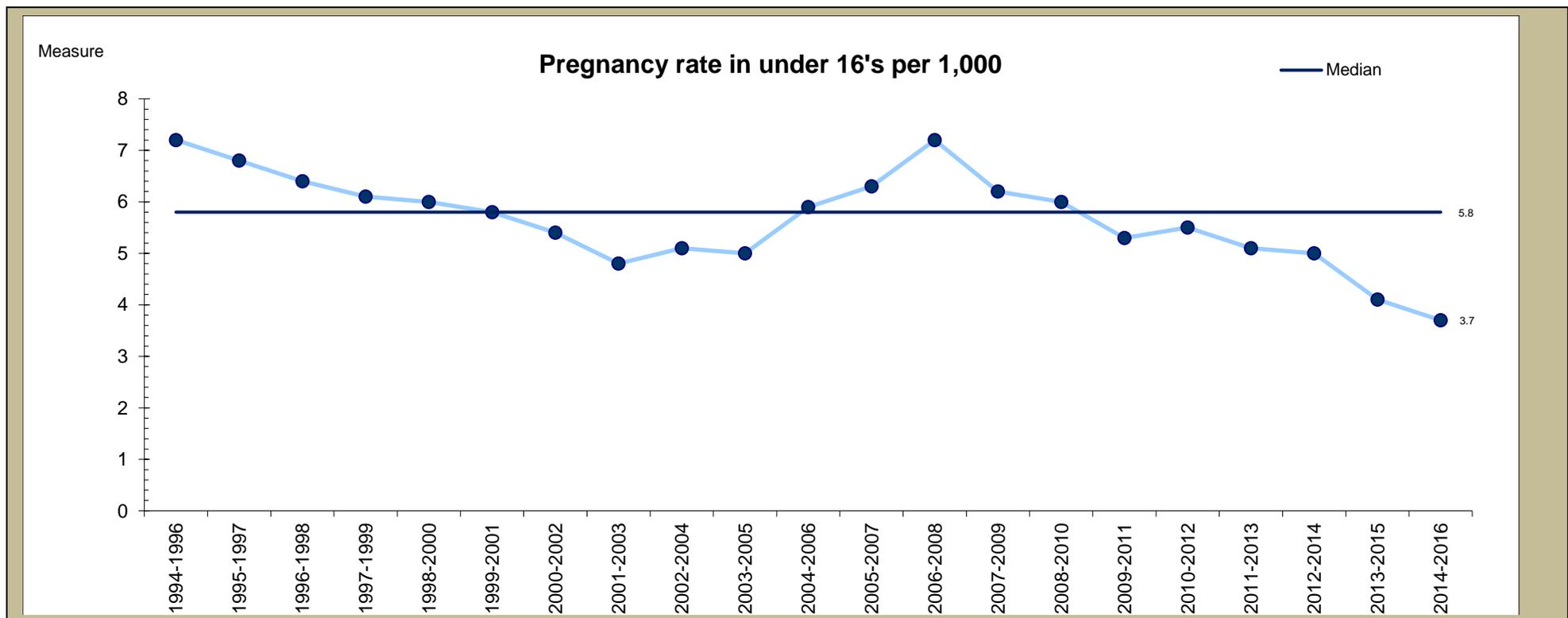
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Title:	Measure 2.5b Percentage of 15 year olds reporting using drugs in the last month (Source SALSUS/RCS)		
Why is this measure important?	The latest data shows drug use among young people has reduced over the past 10 years. Yet there are still significant numbers of young people using and misusing substances, and some of these are at risk of developing severe and enduring substance misuse problems that continue into adulthood. Health inequalities relating to substance misuse are evident, with vulnerable groups (such as those excluded from school, young offenders and care leavers) far more likely to experience substance misuse problems.		
Narrative :	Overall 8% of South Lanarkshire pupils indicated they had ever taken illegal drugs. The figure increased with age from 2% in S1 to 16% in S4. Due to a different data source from baseline, this data will formally be reported later when SALSUS releases there next figures.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2018	Goal 2020
	12%(2013)	16%	10%
	Decreasing trend ,goal not achieved, action required		



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Title:	Measure 2.6 Pregnancy rate in under 16 per 1,000 (Source ISD)		
Why is this measure important?	Teenage pregnancy (defined as under-20 conceptions including those leading to live births and terminations) Although 18 and under 20 conceptions are measured, the partnership prioritised under 16's as early parenthood is widely recognised to be associated with poorer health outcomes and social exclusion for mother and child. Having children at an early age can affect young women's health and wellbeing and can limit their education, career and economic prospects. It also contributes to a cycle of deprivation and exclusion.		
Narrative :	Rates of teenage pregnancy in South Lanarkshire have followed the national trend and have reduced over time. The teenage pregnancy rate for those under 16 is currently 3.7 per 1000 13-15 year olds a reduction of 1.4 in the rate from previous figures.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	5.0 Per 1,000(2014)	3.7 per 1,000 (2014/16)	4.0 per 1000
	Decreasing trend, goal achieved, no action required		



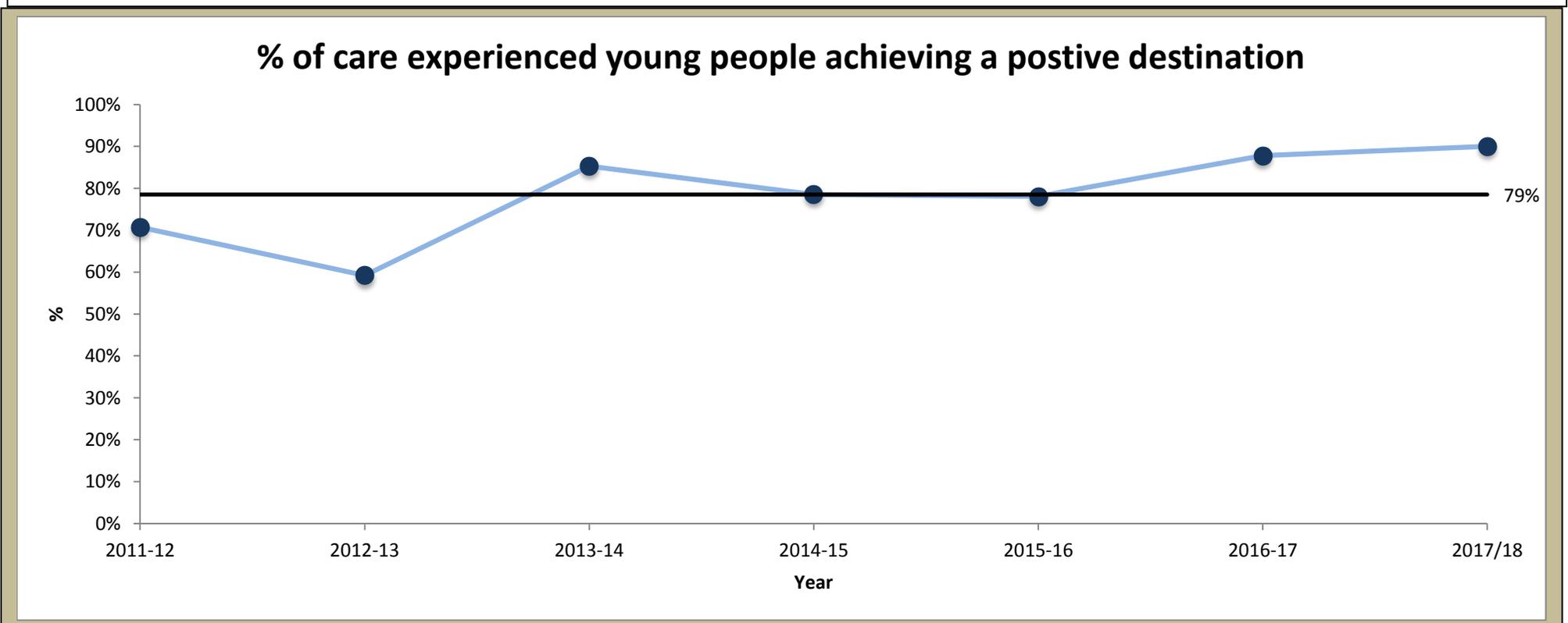
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*Supporting
vulnerable groups
and keeping
Children safe*

**The life chances of our children with
additional support needs and our
most vulnerable children and young
people are improved**

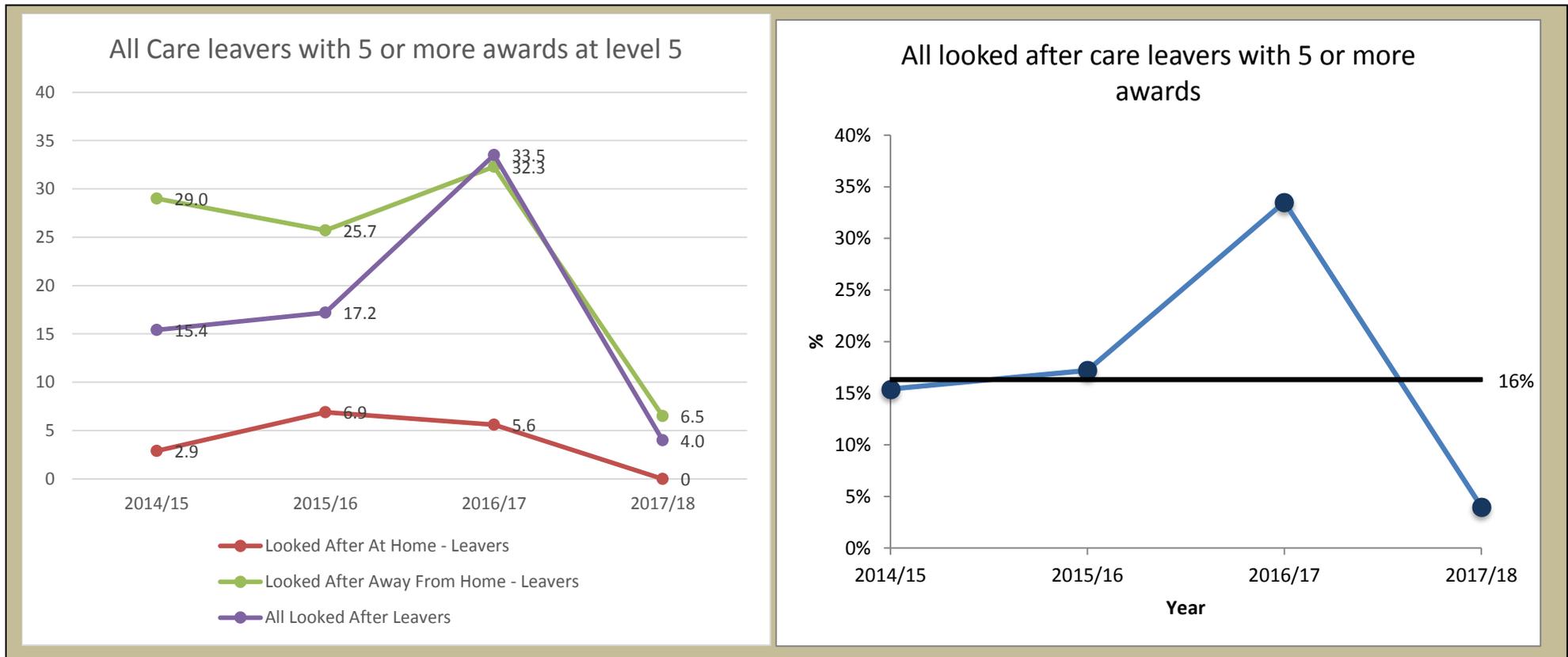
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Title:	Measure 3.1 Percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination 9 months after leaving school Goal 85% (Source: SDS/Insight)		
Why is this measure important?	Youth employment is crucial to the future life chances of young people. In particular the transition from school to the world of work is a critical time to intervene and ensure young people sustain a positive post school destination and more importantly achieve their full potential. The Scottish Care Leavers Covenant supports Scotland’s corporate parents and parents/carers in fulfilling their duties, to improve the life chances of all of Scotland’s care leavers. Care leavers often struggle on their journey into adulthood, for many the leap from care to independence is too great, and too many continue to experience problems that lead to poorer outcomes than the general population.		
Narrative :	In 2017-2018, the South Lanarkshire figure of positive destinations achieved by care experienced young people has improved to 90%, evidencing an upward trend. Stratifying the data into Looked after at home – 78.95%, Looked after away from home – 96.77 % Numbers in the cohort are small 50 in total (19 looked after at home, 31 away from home).		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	78.1%(2015/16)	17/18 90%	85% revised to 90%
	Increasing trend, goal achieved, no action		



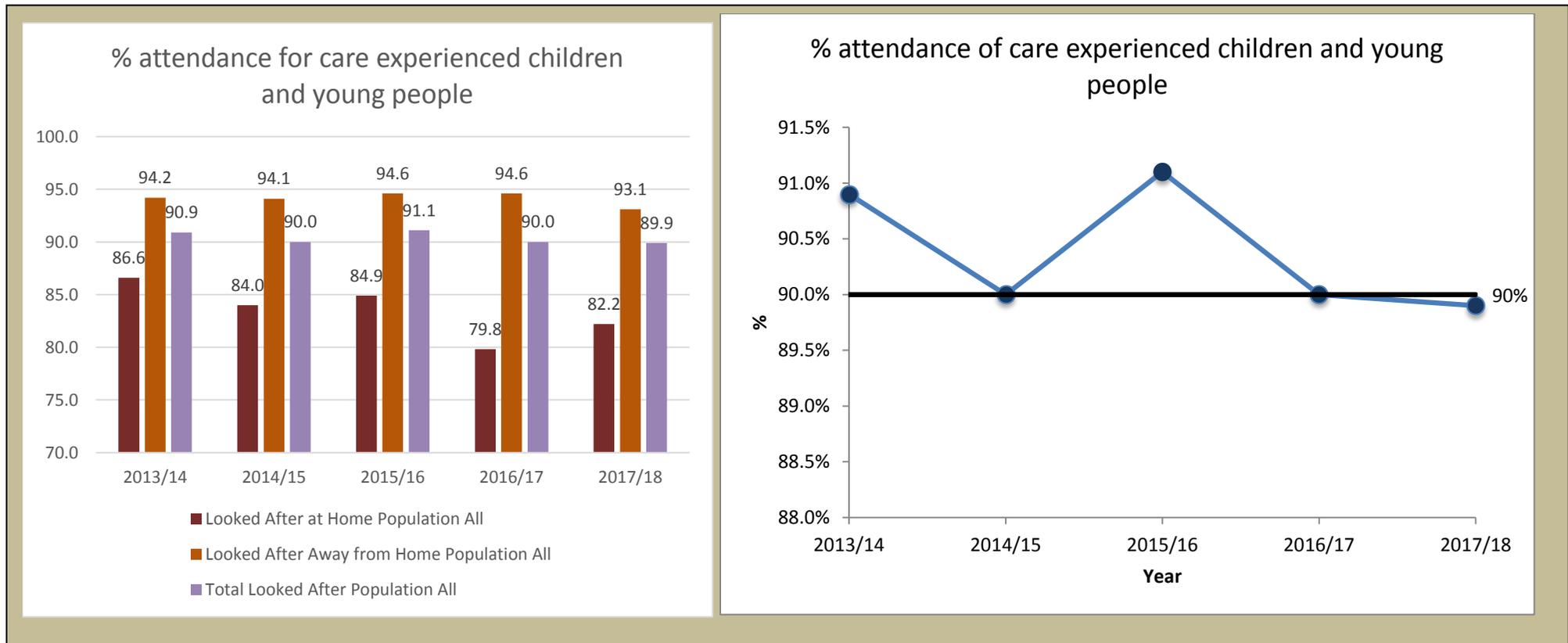
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Title:	Measure 3.2 Percentage of care experienced young people obtaining 5 or more awards at level 5 (Source Insight)		
Why is this measure important?	South Lanarkshire are committed to ensuring that all care experienced children and young people receive the vital support they need, to improve their life experiences and their educational outcomes. In particular we have reviewed our data and recognised that care experienced young people have poorer educational outcomes than the rest of the school population.		
Narrative :	In 2017/18 the figures for care experienced young people for 5 or more awards at level 5 was 4% (50 pupils (19 @ home, 31 away) a 29.5% decrease from last year. The attainment gap is still evident with all school leavers in the same year achieving 63.79 %. Our analysis prompts us to explore individual achievements in other aspects of a positive outcome for example level four achievement or positive destinations.		
	Baseline 2017 17.2%(15/16)	Latest Figures 2019 4% 17/18	Goal 2020 23%*
	Decreasing trend, goal not achieved, action required		



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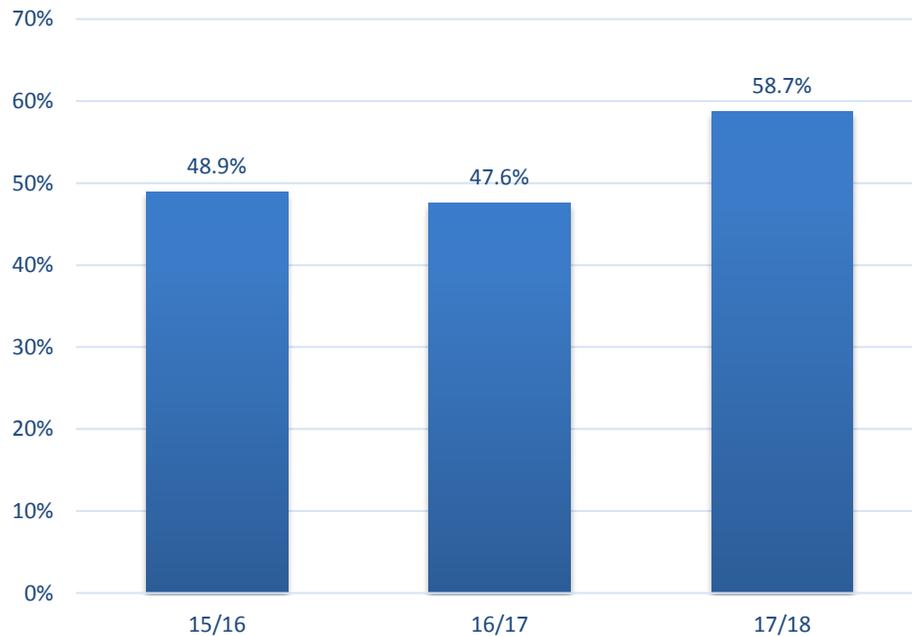
Title:	Measure 3.3 Percentage attendance of care experienced children and young people (Source: SEEMIS)		
Why is this measure important?	Attendance at school is linked directly with attainment and an increased likelihood of securing employment. Care experienced pupils who are absent from school have an increased likelihood of falling behind increasing the risk of becoming involved behaviours, such as alcohol and drug use and possibly offending behaviours.		
Narrative :	Our current data for all care experienced children and young people is 89.9% attendance. There is almost no variation and the data has become static. However it compares well with the total population of all children and young people 92.8%, but the gap remains with our children looked after at home		
	Baseline 2016	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	91.1%(15/16)	89.9%(2017/18)	87%
	Trend Variable, achieved goal, no action required(unless LAC@home)		



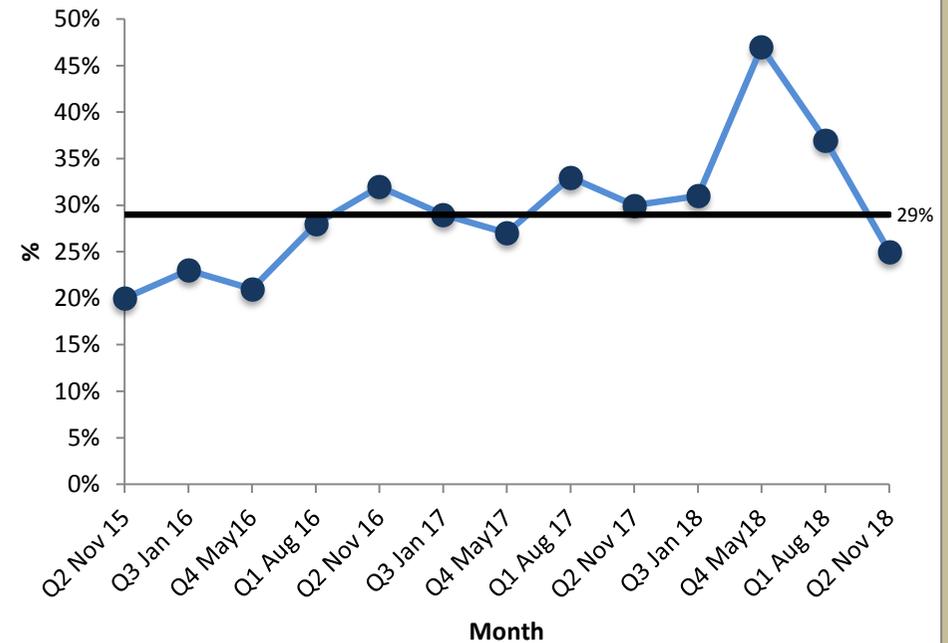
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Title:	Measure 3.4a Percentage of repeat referrals to Reporter on offence grounds (Source SCRA)* Children with >1 offence referral in year		
Why is this measure important?	Since August 2015 there has been an increasing trend in the numbers of children referred to the reporter on offence grounds. The proven reoffending rate for young people has, remained high across all age groups, to address this as a partnership we have reviewed our early intervention approaches and in the process of implementing the whole systems approach to youth offending.		
Narrative :	The percentage of children and young people with > 1 offence referral is 58.7% in 17/18 .An increase of 8% from last year. This sits within the context of an increased referral count of 167 young people contributing to 917 referrals).		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	48.9%(15/16)	58.7(2017/18)	25% revise
	Trend increasing , goal not achieved, action required		

Percentage of children/ Young people with >1 offence referral

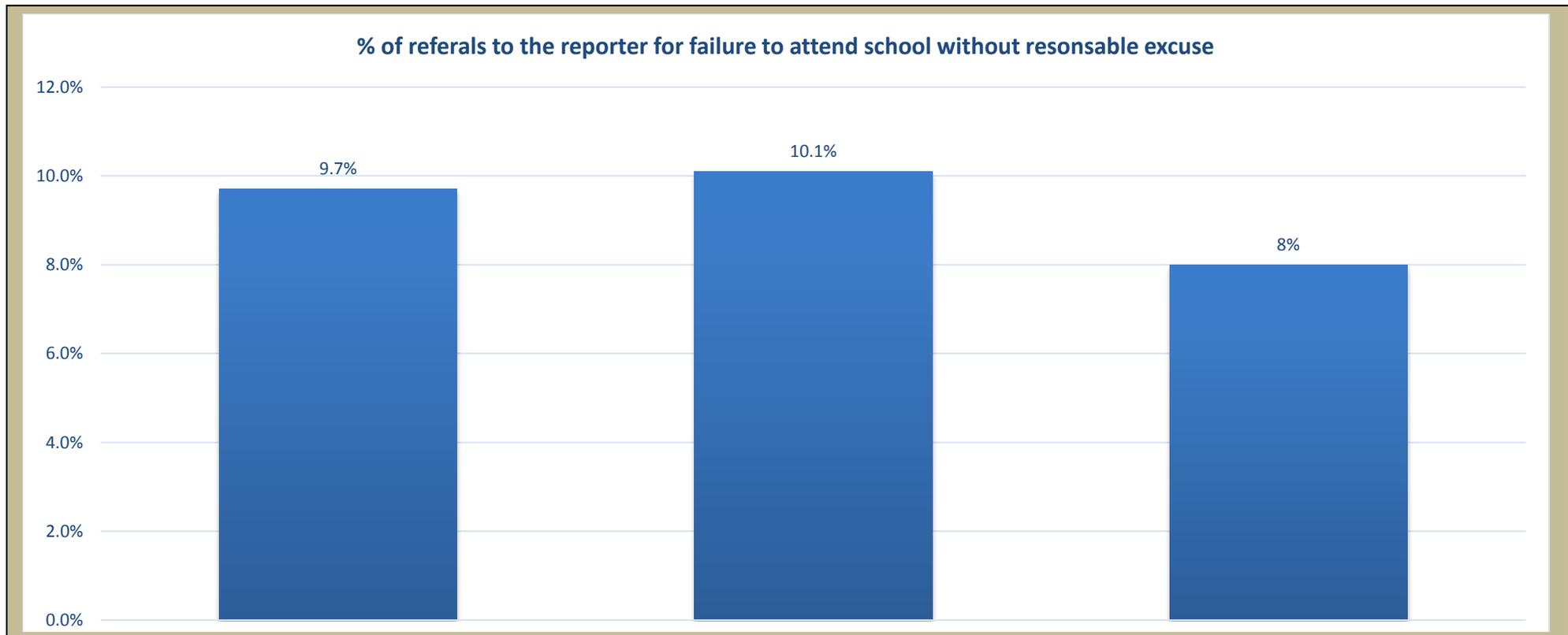


% of children and young people referred to the childrens reporter on offence grounds



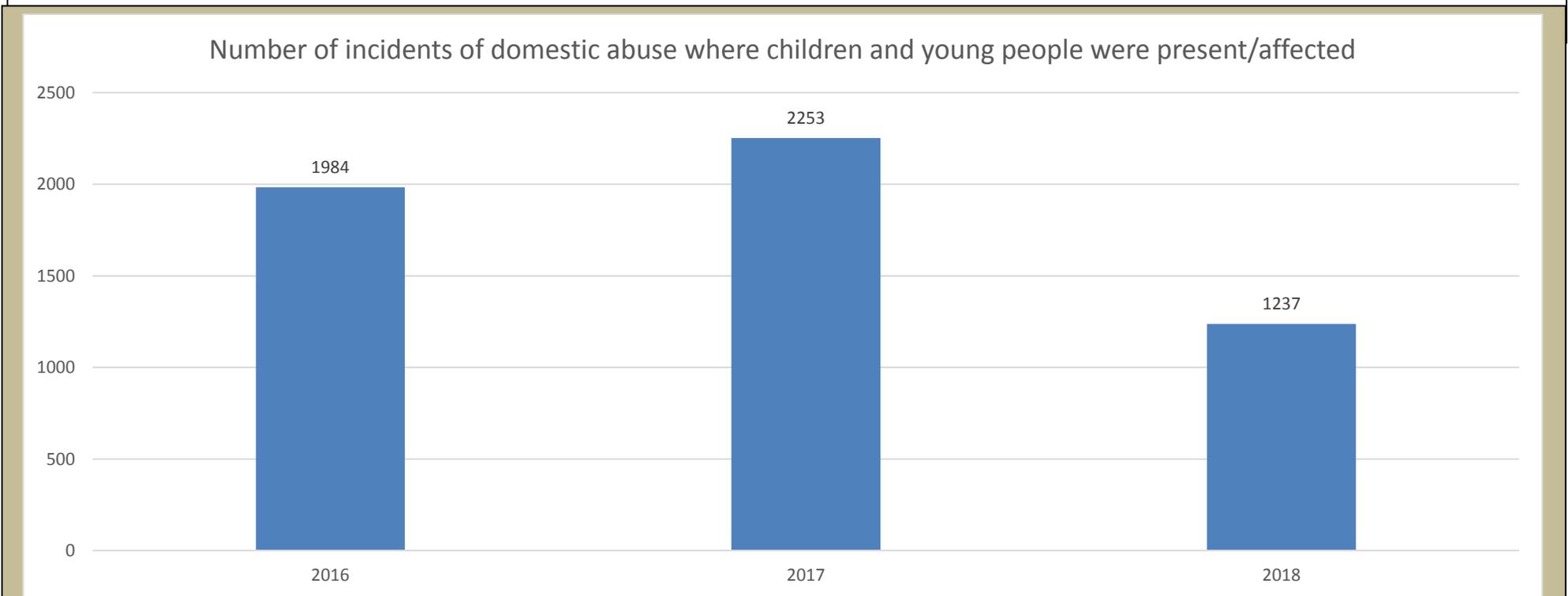
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Title:	Measure 3.4b Percentage of referrals to reporter for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse (Source SCRA)		
Why is this measure important?	Vulnerable Young people who disengage with school are known to become involved in risk taking behaviours sometimes leading onto youth offending.		
Narrative :	The latest figures 17/18 show 8% of children and young were referred to the reporter on the grounds of failure to attend school without reasonable excuse a decrease from the previous year within the wider context of increased referrals (148 of 1,855 referrals). Positive changes have included Head Teachers receiving data in a way that enables them to analyse their attendance trends and patterns of all pupils and in vulnerable populations.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2018	Goal 2020
	9.3%(15/16)	8% (2017/18)	7.5%
	Decreasing trend, goal not achieved, ? action required		



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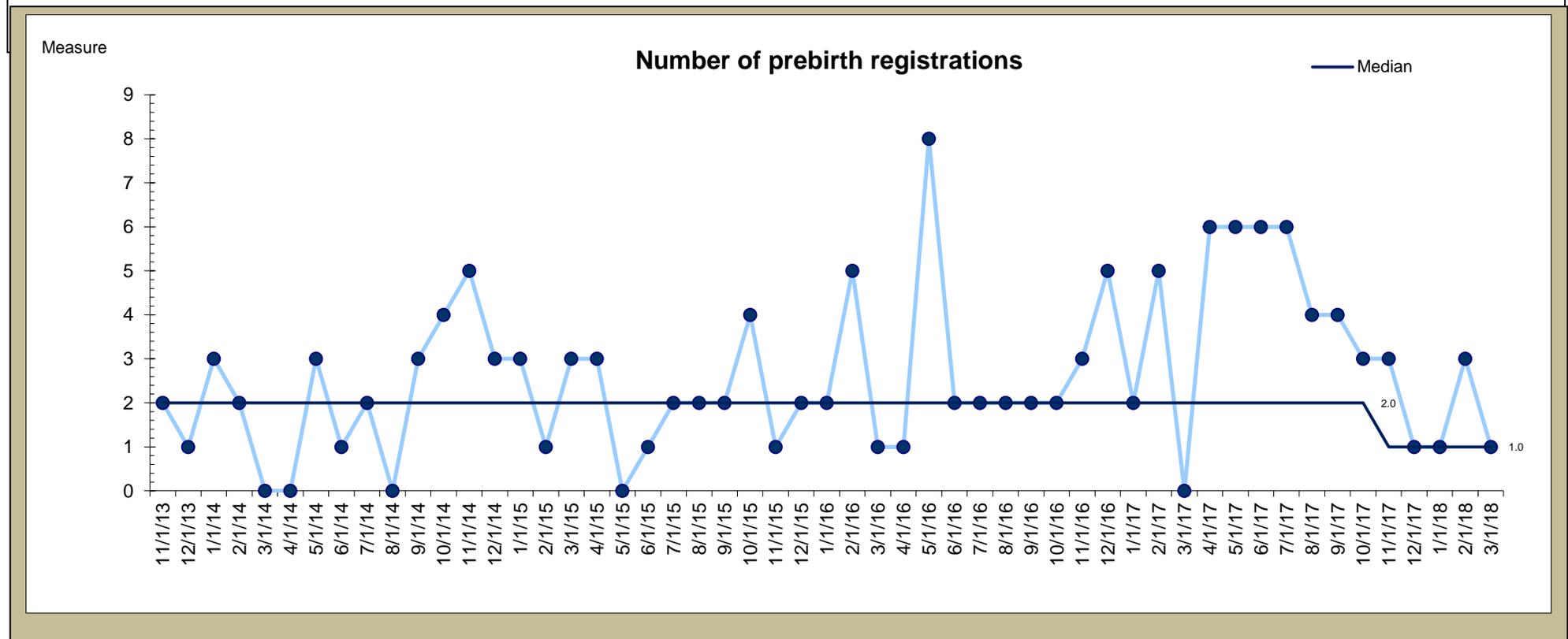
Title:	Measure 3.5 Number of incidents of domestic abuse where children were affected that were referred to social work (Source Police Hub).		
Why is this measure important?	Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on children and young people that can last into adulthood and is defined as an adverse childhood event (ACE) Children can experience both short and long term cognitive, behavioural and emotional effects as a result of witnessing domestic abuse. However, we are aware that each child will respond differently to trauma and some may be resilient and not exhibit any negative effects.		
Narrative :	Over the last few years domestic abuse incidents have increased as a whole. However South Lanarkshire still remains below the Scottish figure of 108.1 per 1000,000. Within the last year the incidences of domestic abuse where children were present/affected has decreased. Partners are working together to better understand the story behind the data, including support provided for children and the proportion of repeat referrals. (2018 data focuses on incidents where a child was present/parents with children 2017* data provided previously included domestic incidents related to adults only)		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2018	Goal 2020
	1984(2016)	1237 (2018)	1,820
	Decreasing trend, goal achieved, ?action required		



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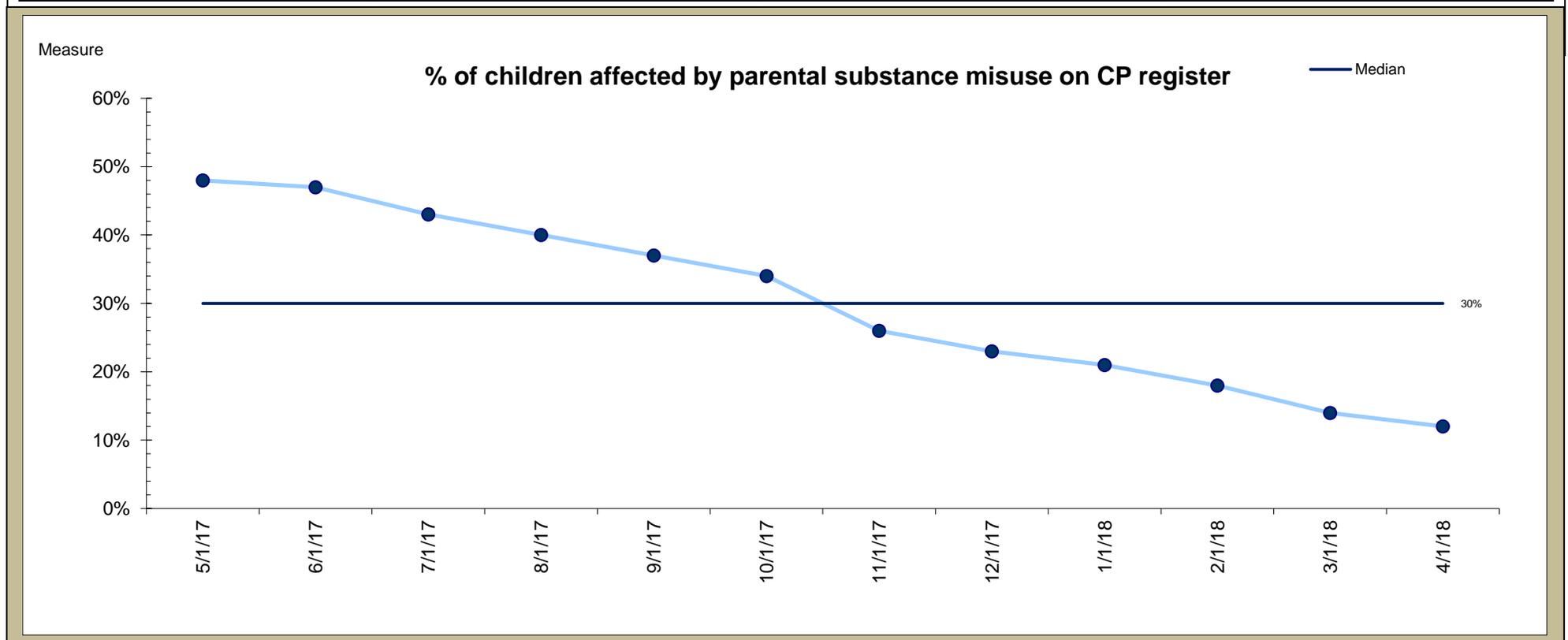
Title:	Measure 3.6a Number of pre-birth registrations for babies affected by substance misuse (Source :Social Work)
Why is this measure important?	Pre-birth involvement forms a small but increasing part of child protection work in Scotland 2. Social workers have the task of protecting the unborn baby from current risk and making a plan for predicted risks, at the same time as making good working relationships with expectant parent’s .Various models of good practice exist and further opportunities for shared learning from these would be positive to support social workers.
Narrative :	The number of pre-birth registrations are decreasing over time ranging from 1-6 per month. However the annual figure has increased from 34-44 in 17/18.

Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020	Decreasing trend, goal not achieved, action required
35(2017)	44 (2018)	32	



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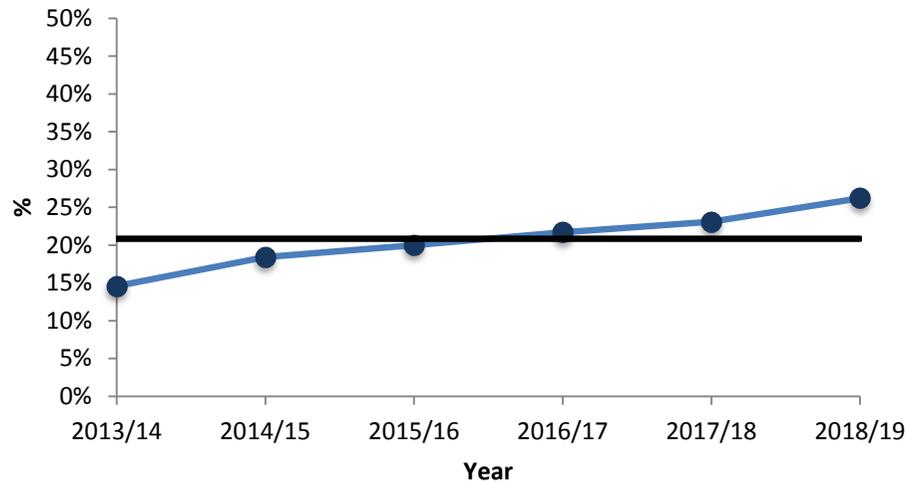
Title:	Measure 3.6b Percentage of children affected by parental substance misuse on the child protection register (Source SW Improve)		
Why is this measure important?	Similar to domestic abuse and parents with mental health problems, parental substance misuse features in a large number of cases open to children's social care and children placed in fostering and adoption. It is clear this substance misuse can have an impact on the health and development of children, from before the baby is born all the way through to when they are an adult themselves.		
Narrative :	Over the last reporting period May 17-April 18 there has been a decrease on the children registered on the child protection register affected by substance misuse, with a year on year reduction of 4%, this trend will be monitored to see if this becomes a sustained improvement. Although the annual figure has decreased by 13, the decrease in relation to the categorisation of issue requires further scrutiny.		
	Baseline 2017	Latest Figures 2018	Goal 2020
	34% (2017)	30% (2018)	31%
	Decreasing trend, goal achieved, no action required		



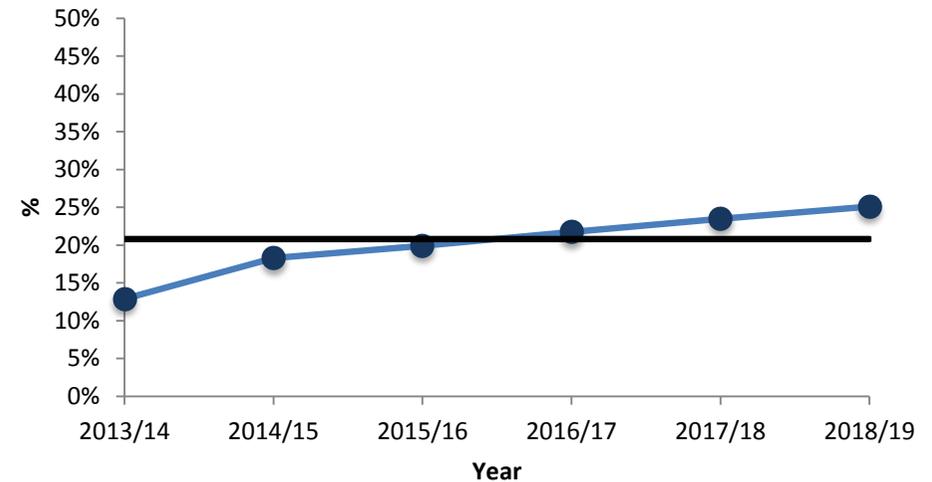
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Title:	Measure 3.7 Percentage of pupils with ASN within primary and secondary establishments (Source: Education /Insight)		
Why is this measure important?	All children should be provided with an education that enables them to achieve the best educational outcomes. It is important that we have arrangements in place to support all children’s individual needs including those children and young people with additional support needs.		
Narrative :	The rate of pupils identified with ASN in mainstream establishments appears to have increased substantially since the 2013 baseline. The current figures illustrate 26.2% in primary school and 25.1% of pupils in secondary school. This is most likely to be a result of more successful identification of ASN needs and a better understanding of support required. The expected rate is circa 20% 1:5 across South Lanarkshire.		
	Baseline 2013	Latest Figures 2019	Goal 2020
	13.7%(PS) 14% (SS)	26.2% (PS) 25.1%(SS)	23.1%(PS) Revised 23.5%(SS) Revised
	Increasing trend, goal not achieved , action required		

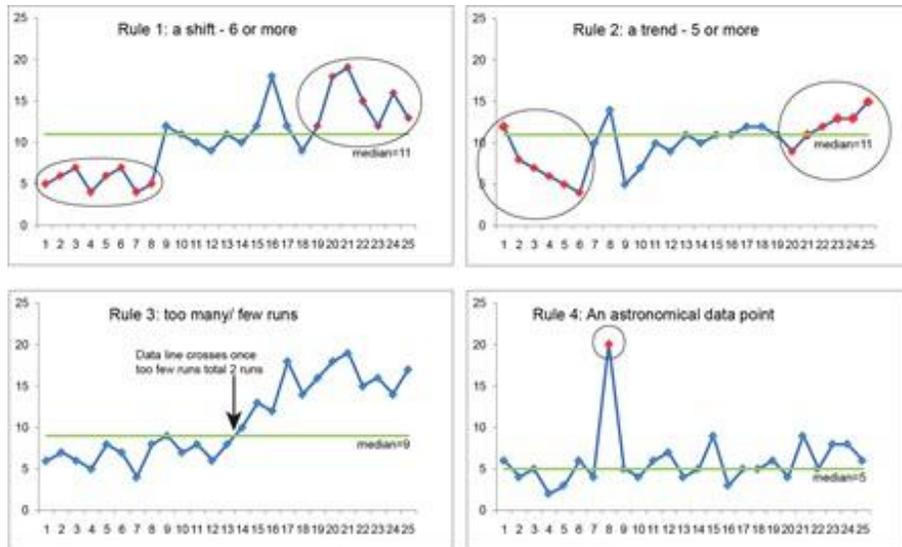
% Pupils with ASN in Primary School



% Pupils with ASN in Secondary School



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Run Chart Rules

Data points will go up and down but we need to have some way of knowing whether this is just random chance or as a result of a real change. There are four rules that you can apply to run charts to help you identify what's happening after you've made a change and therefore to determine whether this has resulted in real improvement.

If there are at least 10-12 data points or more, run charts can be used to distinguish between random and non-random variation using these four simple rules:

- **Rule 1: Shift** – 6 or more consecutive points above or below the median
- **Rule 2: Trend** – 5 or more consecutively increasing or decreasing points
- **Rule 3: Number of Runs** – Too many or too few runs. Note: A run is a sequence of consecutive points which all lie on the same side of the median - Ignore points exactly on the median. (See Reference table)
- **Rule 4: Astronomical Data Point** – a dramatically different value