

Education and Children's Social Care O&S Committee – 30 November 2022

Birmingham Children's Update 2022/23 –
Supporting Slides

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Criminal exploitation of young people

Mental health and the Trust

Placement cost and complexity



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Criminal exploitation of young people

How are the Council and partners working together to reduce the risks of criminal exploitation of young people?



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Definition and Local Profile

The West Midlands regional definition of exploitation, either criminal and/or sexual is:

‘An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult and exploits them:

- through violence or the threat of violence, and/or*
- for financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or*
- in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.*
- The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual due to his /her specific situation. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology, e.g. as the result of a grooming process which takes place during conversations in chat rooms, or through the use of social media.’*



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A Birmingham Snapshot

We know for a city this size with the issues we have related to this agenda the numbers of children known to be at risk are far too low.

- As at November 14 2022 there were 500 children in Birmingham deemed either vulnerable to or being exploited either sexually, criminally or both.
- Of these 500, 197 were females and 304 males.
- Of these 500, 360 were impacted by criminal exploitation, predominantly black and ethnic minority males.
- Of these 500, little disparity in terms area of residence with a marginally higher presence in the NWC area of the city when looking at exploitation in general; however, criminal exploitation features predominantly but not exclusively in the NWC area with significant county lines activity.
- In terms of ethnicity and gender the city is identifying predominantly boys from the black and ethnic minority community as criminally exploited and white girls as sexually exploited.

It is important to note that children criminally exploited can also be sexually exploited and that children can be exploited to commit harm toward other peers.



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Working Together to reduce the risks of criminal exploitation for children

Birmingham Children Trust EMPOWER U Multi Agency Hub

Triages /screen all children who go missing, tackles CE /CSE and partnership plans of disruption

EMPOWER U Information sharing and Intelligence Hub

Violence Board Operational and Strategic – supported by Community Safety Partnership ,Probation and Youth Offending Services and West Midlands Police

Consequence management meetings now includes Birmingham Childrens Trust as well as Youth Services , VRP and CSP.



Community Safety Partnerships (whole partnership approach) Housing, Licensing , Safer travel , Parks, Neighbourhood Police, Fire Service, Probation , Birmingham Childrens Trust , Youth Offending Services to work in partnership with EMPOWER U Hub to tackle places , spaces, locations and people

Engagement with the community(community forums)

Ward meetings(Ward Plans) these could be more joined up given that exploitation is happening across the wards.

Support with funding local initiatives/streams to prevent /reduce exploitation and violence

Partnership working with Safer travel to target specific areas /locations and awareness raising on public transport

Partnership working with licensing premises disrupting premises

Targeted work in specific areas of Birmingham to disrupt

Reciprocal housing arrangements (process /pathway in process with Councils)



Impact

Relocation of families

Disruption and arrests of adult perpetrators

Safety features such as lighting and CCTV

Sharing of information and intelligence able to safeguard children and families

Working with parents and carers (able to support parents and carers with strategies to gather intelligence to disrupt)

WMP have stated that the most recent working together in partnership with them and EMPOWER U Hub has no doubt prevented death

Partnership work with British Transport Police (staff raising awareness with British Rails Staff and National Express) , Safer Travel awareness raising with Hospitality staff has supported the partnership to identify , intervene and support with children exploited and disrupt adult perpetrators

There is much more to dothere is still continuous work to do across all services around understanding and responding to exploitation.



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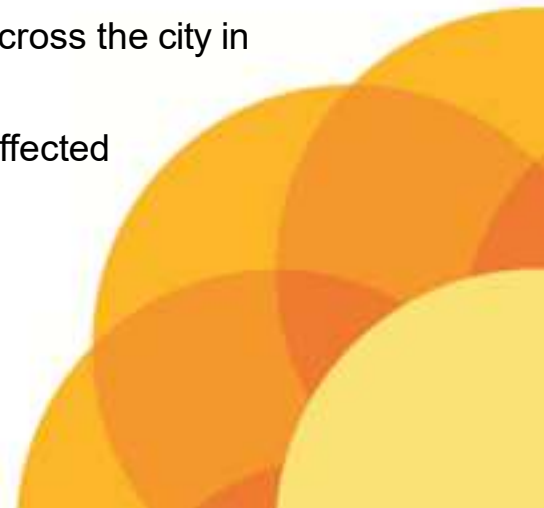
Priorities/ Next Steps

Draft Exploitation Strategy to be presented for ratification at the December Contextual Safeguarding Board with a focus on:

- Continued awareness raising to identify and report both victims and perpetrators in order to safeguard victims and disrupt and prosecute offenders.
- Continued workforce development across the partnership to better recognise, understand and respond to victims of exploitation.
- Development of a robust victim, location, perpetrator problem profile to enable better targeting and commissioning of resources in accordance with need and demand.
- Maximise operational solutions with local, regional, and national partners to disrupt all types of exploitation and associated serious youth violence including county lines targeting perpetrators and bring them to justice using modern day slavery and trafficking legislation “making Birmingham and unattractive city for organised criminality”
- Maximise the potential of the additional SOCEX investment via full integration with existing delivery model in EMPOWER U.
- Partnership working to promote early intervention and prevention including SAFE and the AP taskforce in educational settings.
- Continued work with partners including the community to identify, assess and respond to vulnerable locations across the city in line with the localism agenda.
- Continued development of an extra familial practice model within EMPOWER U to identify strategies for those affected by exploitation to exit and withdraw safely.



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Mental Health and the Trust

The Trust is not responsible for children's mental health in the city but a number of services have been developed alongside the partnership to support this agenda. They include:

Therapeutic Emotional Support Service (TESS)

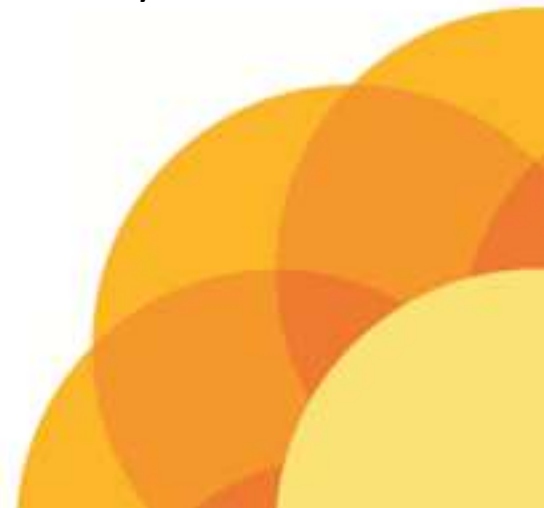
- Working exclusively with children in care and care leavers up to 25, providing direct therapeutic support.
- Working with circa 200 children each year.
- Key contributor to the better than national average performance in relation to the stability of children's care.

Intensive Residential and Outreach Care (IROC)

- Delivered by Forward Thinking Birmingham in development with the Trust.
- Dedicated therapeutic response for young people looked after in residential care to enable stability.
- Targeted service for the most complex and dysregulated.



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Mental health and the Trust

As part of the Early Help Offer and embedded across the 10 districts the following services have been developed alongside Forward Thinking Birmingham:

Screening, Training, Intervention, Consultation and Knowledge service (STICK)

- Assessment and screening across 450+ schools and professional settings to promote early intervention.
- Providing specialist training to professionals working with CYP to upskill and equip them to provide low level interventions.
- Therapeutic menu of interventions for CYP who traditionally would not have met thresholds for CAMHS services.

Kooth

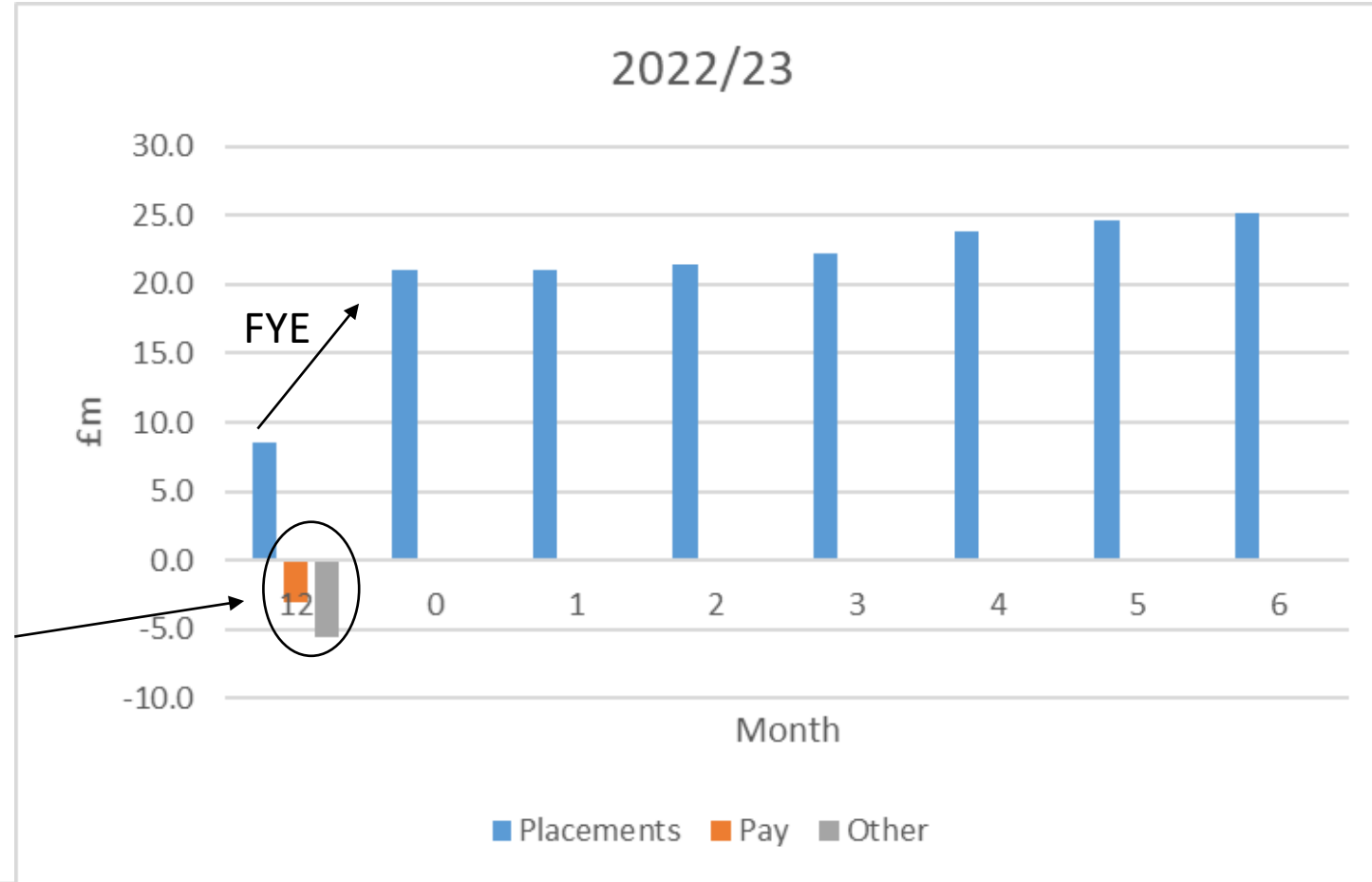
- Online crisis support for children in emotional distress.
- Commissioned in 2019 during the height of the pandemic and lockdown.
- Access for over 250,000 11-15 year olds.



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Placement cost and complexity - Placement cost variance



Offset by one-off savings and income (£m):

Pay underspend 3.0

Income:

Covid grant 1.6

TF/SF grant 1.5

HSF grant 2.1

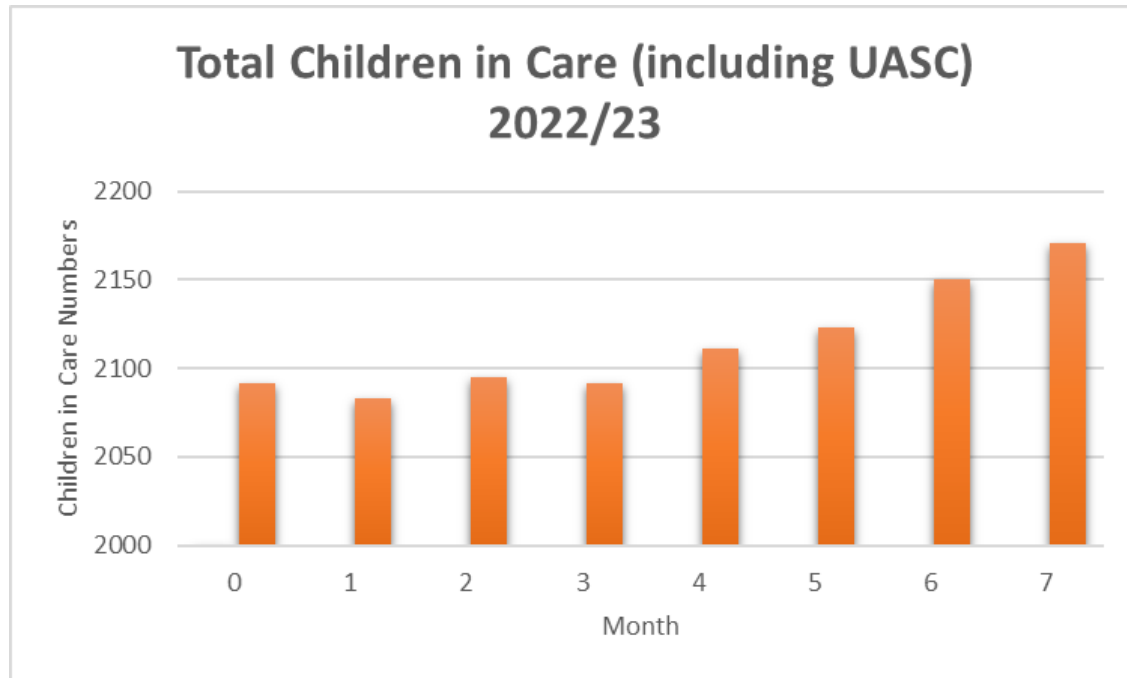
BCC contract 1.8

Other 0.2



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Children in care population



- Actual trend is following the 3.7% forecast and costing £3.6m per annum
- Complexity of need 27 to 77 children costing £11.0m per annum

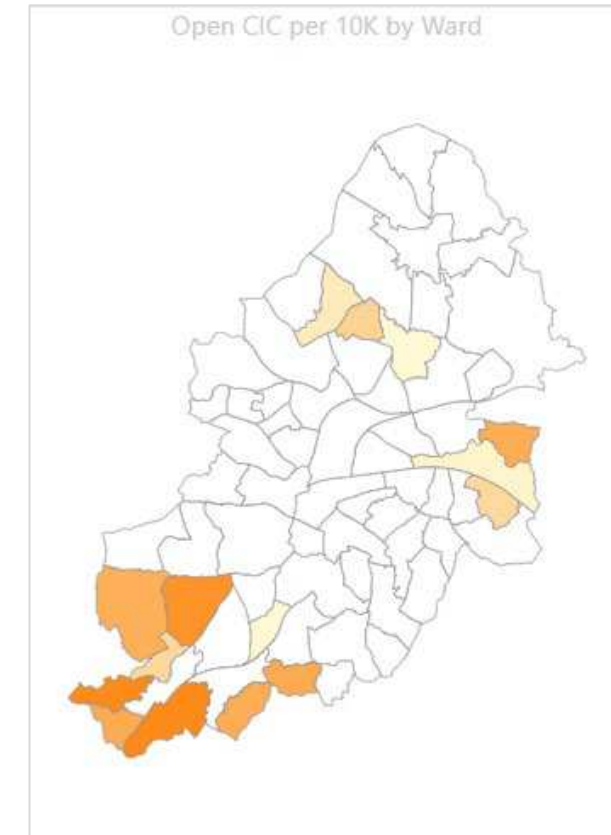
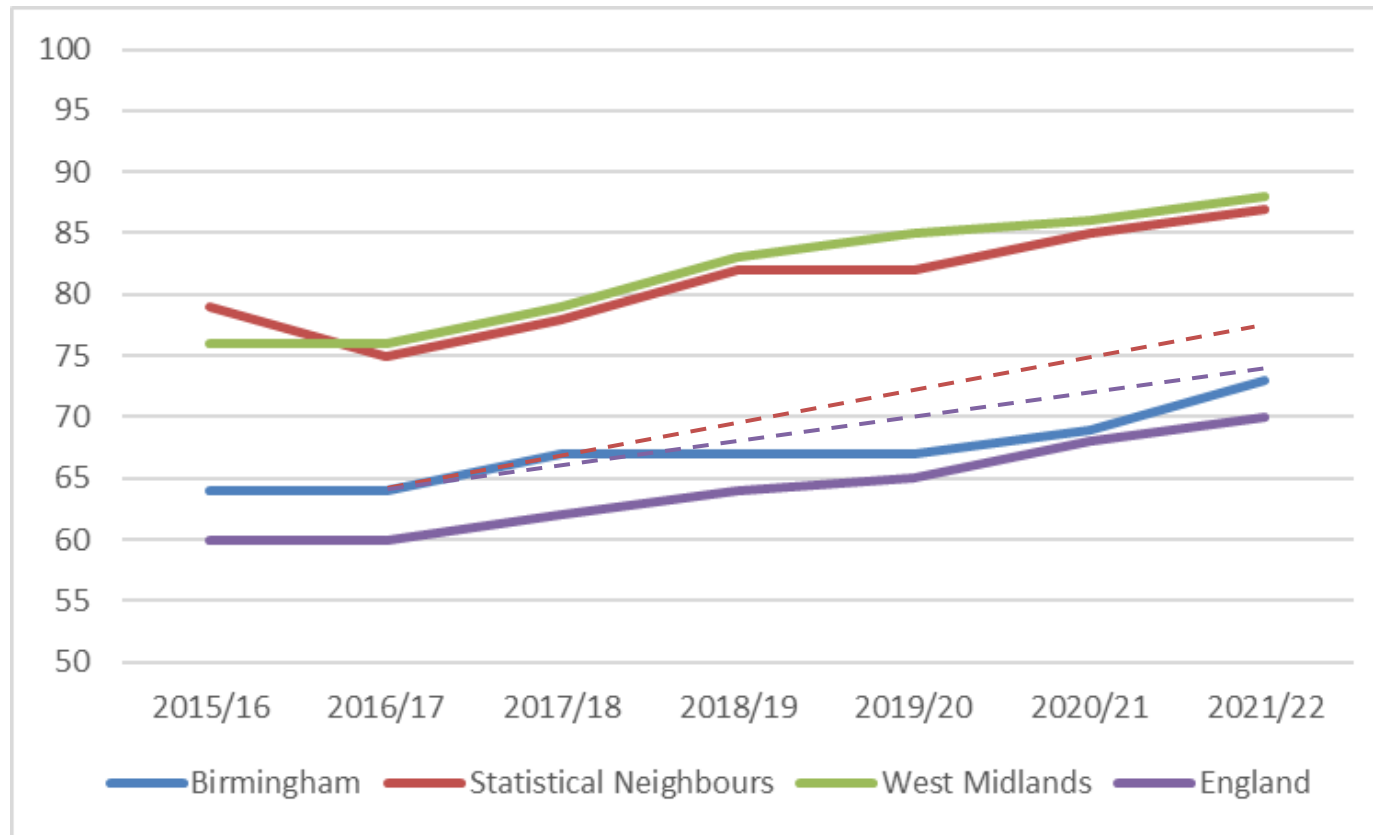
BUT

- Cost of care is increasing at 19% (more than 3.8% inflation assumption)
- Sufficiency remains a key challenge
- Combined impact of market failure is c. £7.4m per annum



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Children in care population (per 10k)



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Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Demographic Profile

UASC Referred to Trust	(f)	Aged	(f)	Gender	%
Since Oct 2021	127	Under 16	22	M	98
Since Sept 2022	45	Aged 16-17	105	F	2
		Total	127		

Hertitage	(f)	Hertitage	(f)
Afganistan	30	Albania	2
Eriteria	17	Chad	2
Iran	28	Egypt	2
Sudan	23	Iraq	3
Vitenam (trafficked)	10	Kuwait	1
Syria	6	Pakistan	1
		Somalia	2

Additional Resourcing			
Staffing	(F)	Full Year (£)	Total (£)
Agency SW	3	56,000	168,000
Agency PA	3	38,000	114,000
Agency IRO	1	67,000	67,000
		Total	349,000

Accommodation & Allowance	Full Year	Total (£)
Under 18	118	27,000
Over 18	118	14,500

Nature of Referral to BCT

UASC CiC Tracker Oct 22 to Date	Nature of Referrals						Outcome	
	Trafficking	Legal Challenges From Hotels in the Main	NTS	Spontaneous	Other	Total	Accommodated	Age Assessments Considered
Total	8	67	23	27	1	127	112	50
%	6	53	18	21	1	100	88	39



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Placement Market – Context

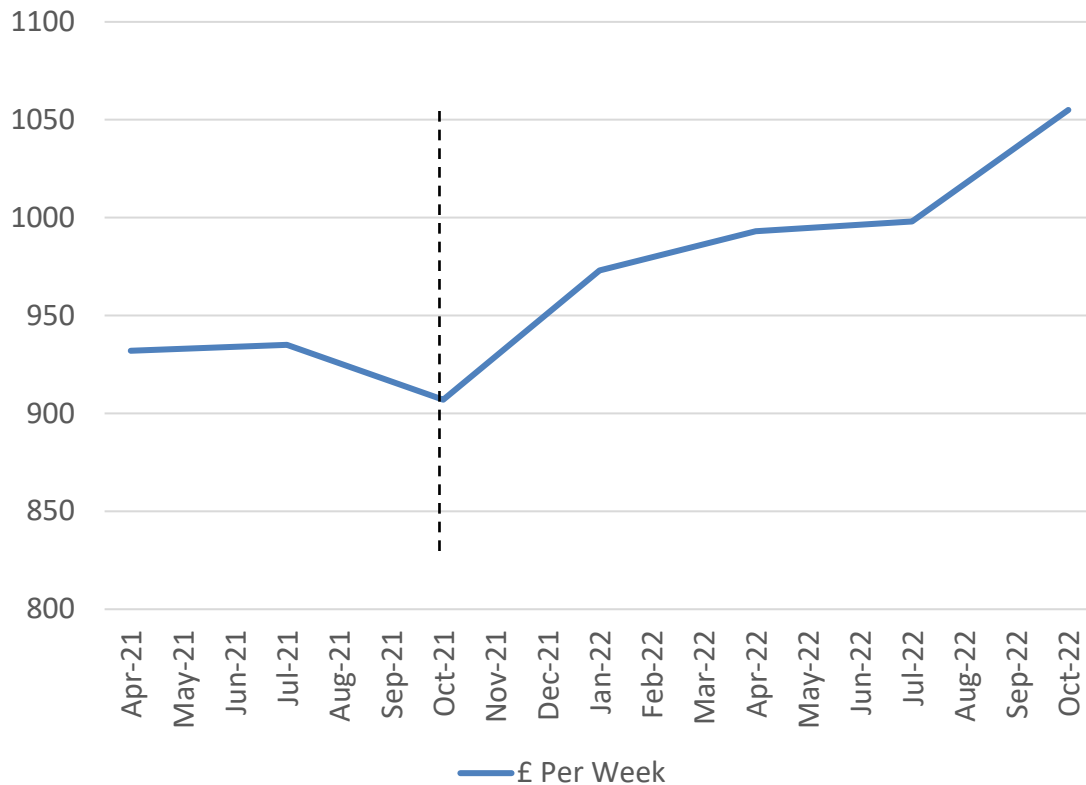
- Legislative changes driving demand towards regulated provision
- Post-Covid Staffing shortages across the sector
- Ofsted regulation creating risk aversion throughout the market
- Local planning constraints stifling growth
- Inflation and cost of living driving prices
- Nationally commissioned secure market sees circa 50 children vying for each bed
- Tier 4 bed shortages putting pressure on residential beds



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Cost of Care



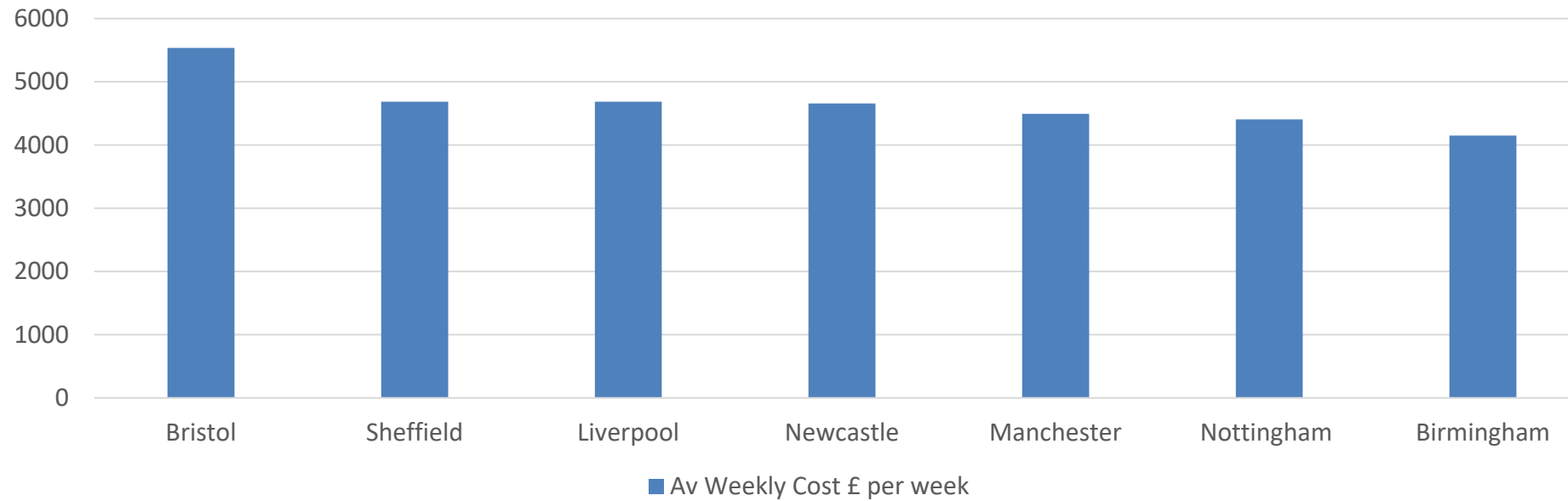
Increases coincide with changes to legislation in Sept 2021 -

- 16% increase in overall Av cost of care
- 11% increase in residential care
- Costs substantially driven by unregulated supported accommodation, 67% increase in last 12 months.



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Core City Comparisons – Cost of Residential Care



* Last full comparison Dec 21



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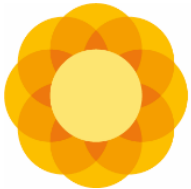


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