

Cafcass Demand & Performance Report

March 2019 Summary



Summary

Public Law

- Cafcass has received a total of **13,536** new Public Law Care applications during 2018/19 (Apr-2018 to Mar-2019), this is a decrease of **4.8%** (685 applications) compared to the same period last year and a decrease of **7.3%** (1,063 applications) compared to demand received in 2016/17.
- On average Cafcass received **1,128** new Care applications per month during 2018-19.
- During 2018-19, the demand for non-care public law increased by **3%** (150 cases). When compared to 2016/17, it is an increase of 14.3% (648 cases).
- Care and supervision (s31) application duration increased to **33** weeks in Q3 18/19, duration in the previous 3 quarters has been 32 weeks. (Please note that Q4 data for all closed cases is not yet available).
- **44.5%** of Care and Supervision applications were completed within 26 weeks in Q3 18/19; this is a decrease from 49.2% in the previous quarter.
- As at the end of March 2019 the stock of open Care cases decreased by **2.2%** (227 cases) compared to March 2018.

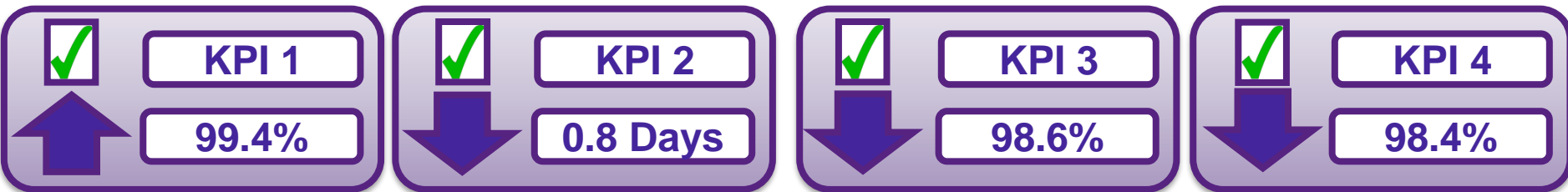
Private Law

- Cafcass received a total of **44,141** new Private Law cases during 2018/19 (Apr-2018 to Mar-2019), this is an increase of **5.6%** (2,359 cases) on 2017/18 and an increase of **8.9%** (3,605 cases) compared 2016/17.
- On average Cafcass received **3,678** new Private Law cases per month during 2018/19.
- As at the end of March 2019 the stock of open Private Law cases increased by **18.0%** (3,484 cases) compared to March 2018.
- Cafcass' involvement in Private Law took an average of **19 weeks** (Q3 2018/19), this is in-line with the previous 3 quarters.

Other

- KPI performance remains strong with all measures in Green during 2018/19. Full KPI data can be viewed in Appendix 1.
- The average active caseloads of our social work staff have increased to **22.2 cases** (April 2019) from 21.4 (February 2019). Further detail on caseloads can be found in Appendix 5.
- As at March 2019 there was a full time equivalent (FTE) of 1,376.4 employed Social Work staff, this is 3.5% more than in March 2018.
- At the end of Q3 2018-19, the MoJ forecasted reduction of 0.9% for public law and an increase of 5.9% for private law for 2019-20. Cafcass' own forecast based on historic trend show an overall increase of 3% for the total demand in 2019-20 (+4.7% for private law and -1.1% for public law).

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) – 2018/19 (YTD)



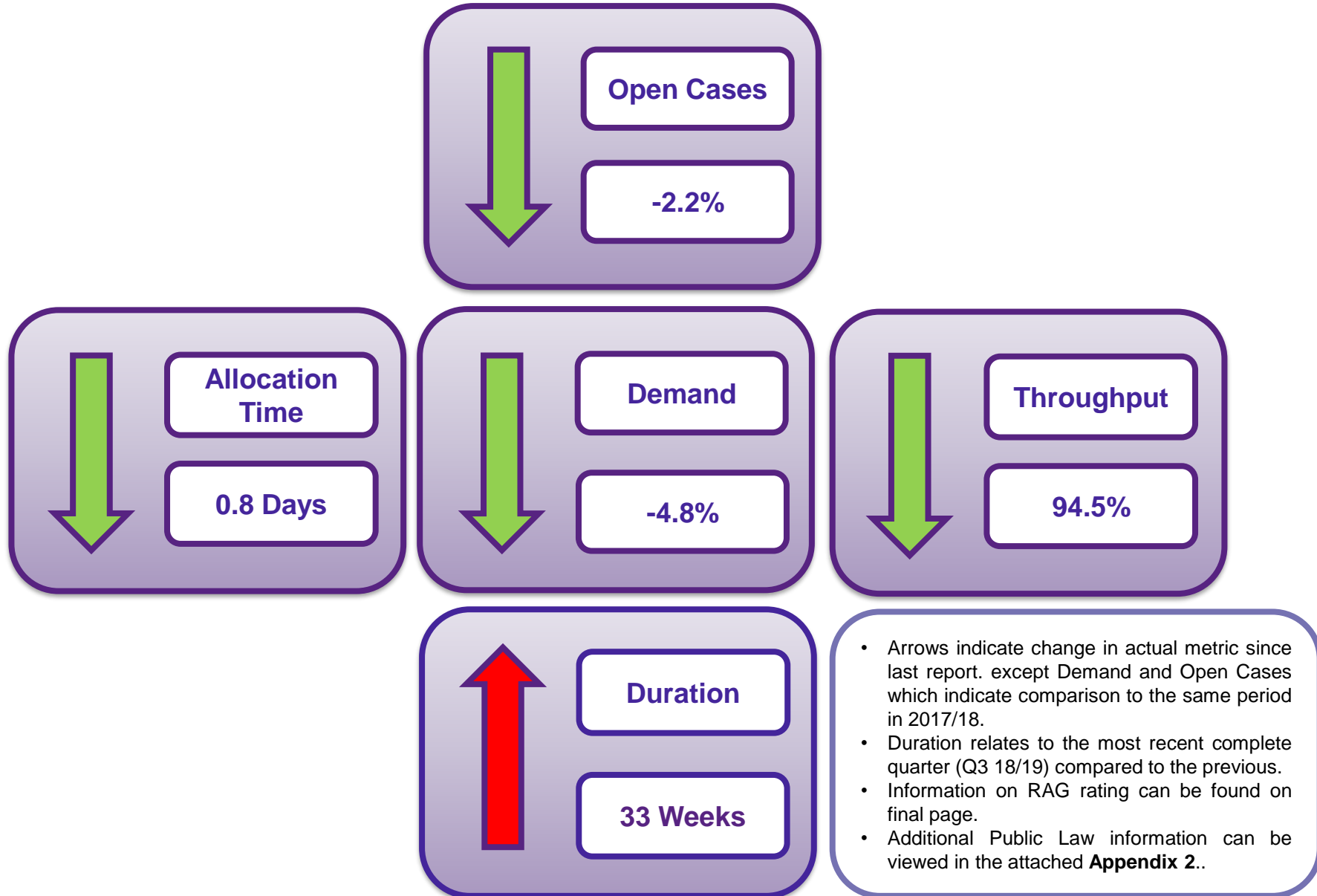
Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Target
1: Public care cases allocated to Children’s Guardian at month end	97%
2: Average working days to allocate Children’s Guardian to care case	<3 working days
3: Private law cases allocated to Family Court Adviser at month end	97%
4: Private law section 7 reports filed by agreed date	97%

Additional KPI performance information can be viewed in the attached **Appendix 1**.

- All 2018/19 KPIs have exceeded target (April 2018 – March 2019).
- The average number of weeks to file Section 7 reports has slightly increased from 9.9 weeks in 2017/18 (Apr-Mar) to 10.5 weeks in 2018-19. Section 7 report demand has increased in 2018/19 by 9.8% (1,740 reports) compared to the last financial year.
- KPI 2 performance is 0.8 working days to allocate a Children’s Guardian, a decrease from 1.0 days for the same period in 2017/18.
- **Definition of the national Key Performance Measures (KPMs) monitored by the Family Justice Board are provided below for information.**

Key Performance Measure (KPM)	Ambition for 2018/19
KPM1 – Average (mean) duration of section 31 care or supervision cases (From date of application to first full order i.e. not interim order)	26 weeks (averaged over the year)
KPM2 – Proportion of section 31 care or supervision cases completing within 26 weeks.	65-75%
KPM3 – Average (mean) number of hearings per section 31 care or supervision case	Average of 5 (or fewer) hearings be held per new section 31 care or supervision case
KPM4 – Timeliness of progression of section 8 cases in court	
a) Proportion of section 8 cases where the FHDRA or urgent first hearing takes place within six weeks.	70% - 80% of FHDRA hearings take place within 6 weeks of the application
b) Average time from application to final order for section 8 cases	Continuous improvement
5: Take-up and initial effectiveness of publicly-funded family mediation:	
5a: Number of couples attending a MIAM where one or both parties are publicly-funded	6,000 couples a quarter attending a MIAM
5b: Number of publicly-funded family mediations reaching full/partial agreement on the issues in dispute	2,400 publicly funded mediation agreements a quarter reaching full/partial agreement on the issues in disagreement
5c: Proportion of MIAMs converted to Mediations Starts.	No specific level of ambition set

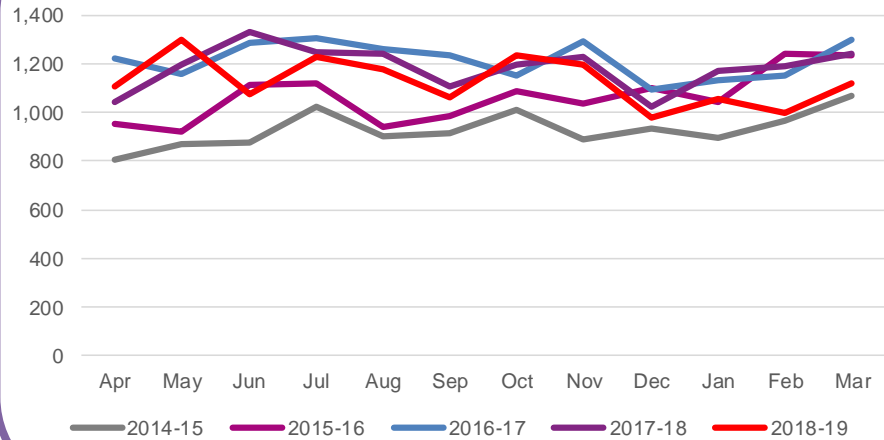
Public Law (Care) 2018/19 YTD



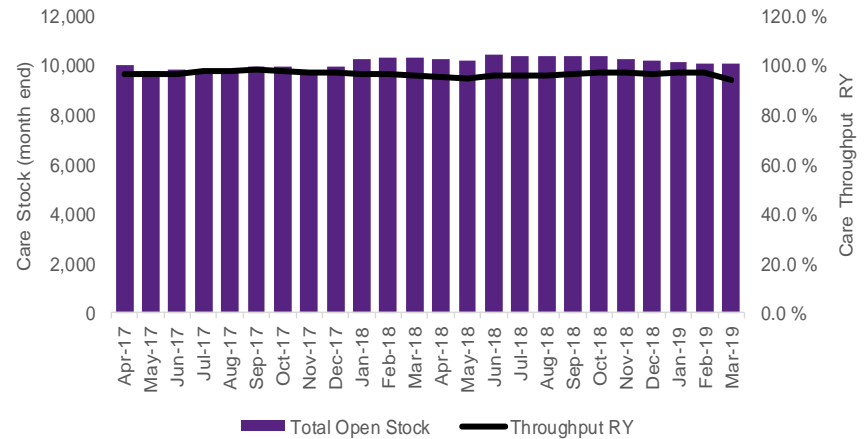
Public Law (Care)



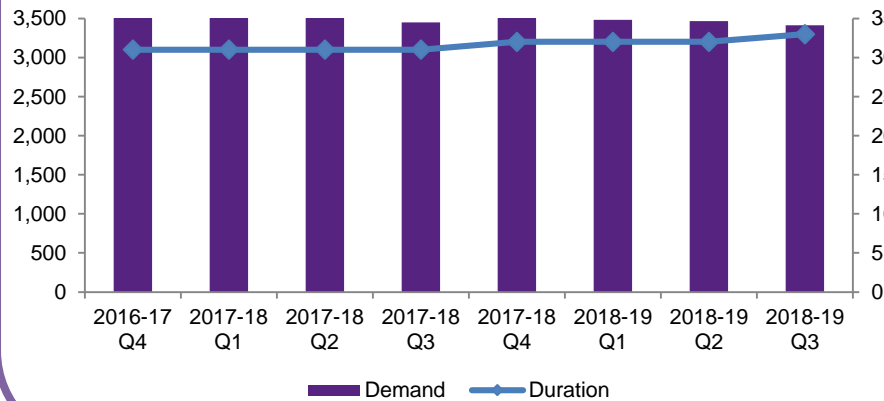
Cafcass Care Application Demand



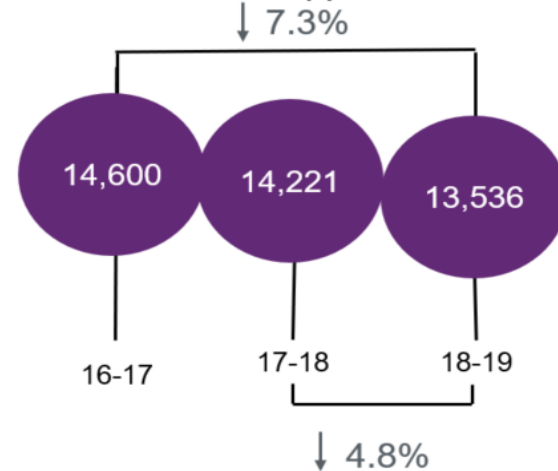
Care Throughput - Rolling Year vs Open Care Stock



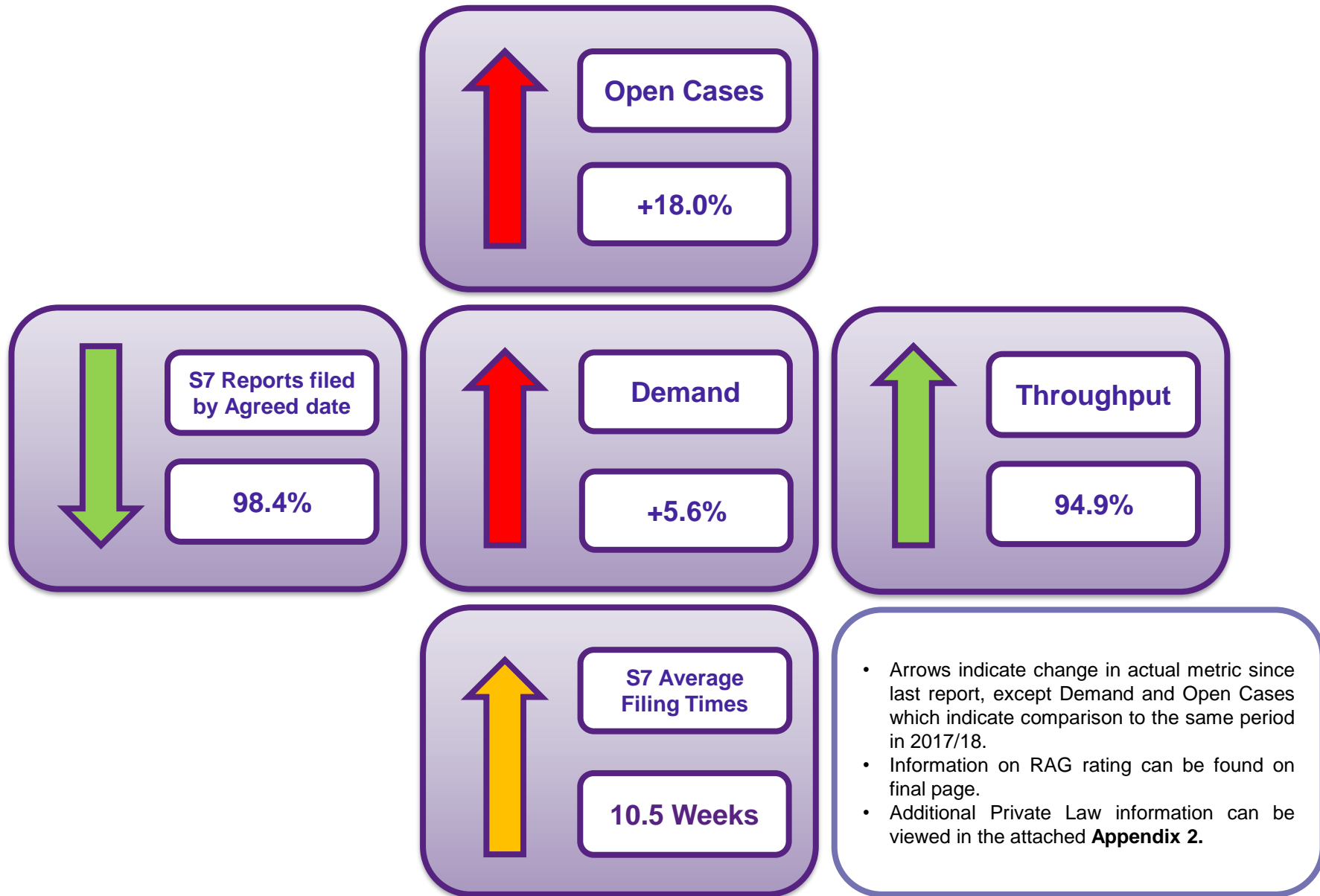
Public Law Care Application Demand and Duration



YTD Care Applications



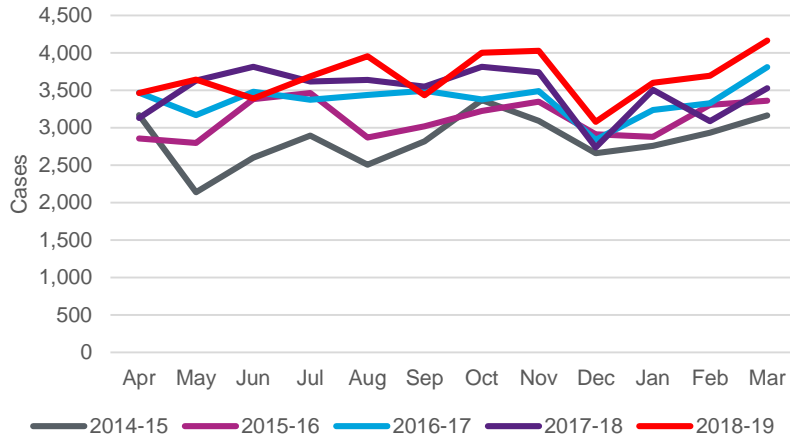
Private Law 2018/19 YTD



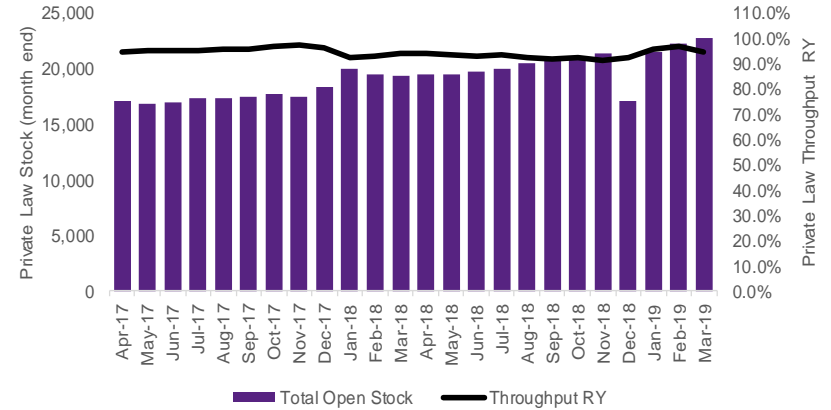
Private Law



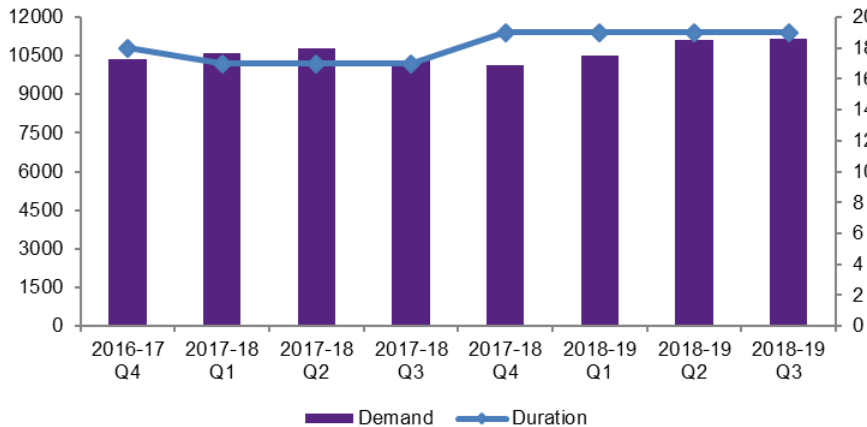
Private Law Case Demand



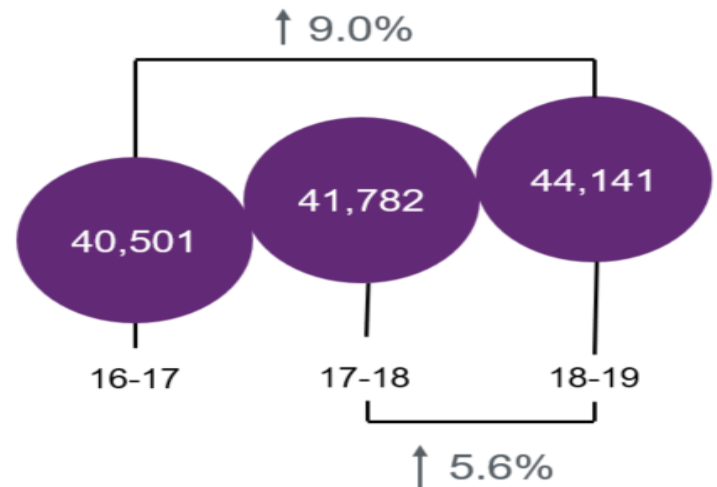
Private Throughput - Rolling Year vs Open Private Stock



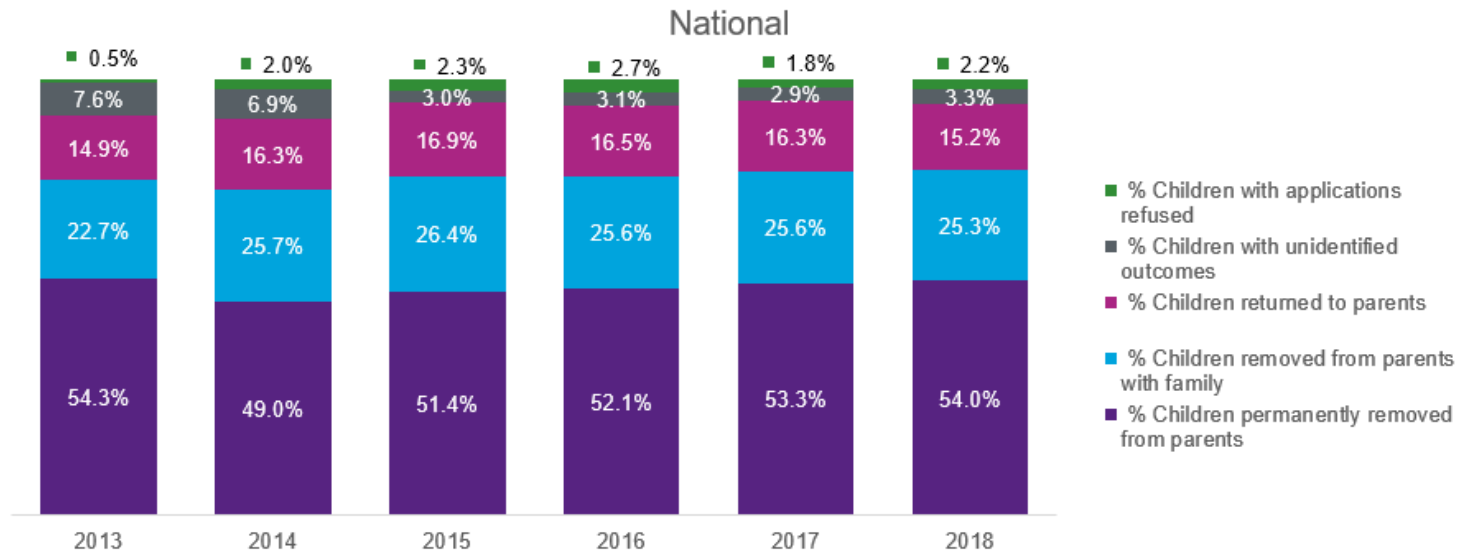
Private Law Case Demand and Duration



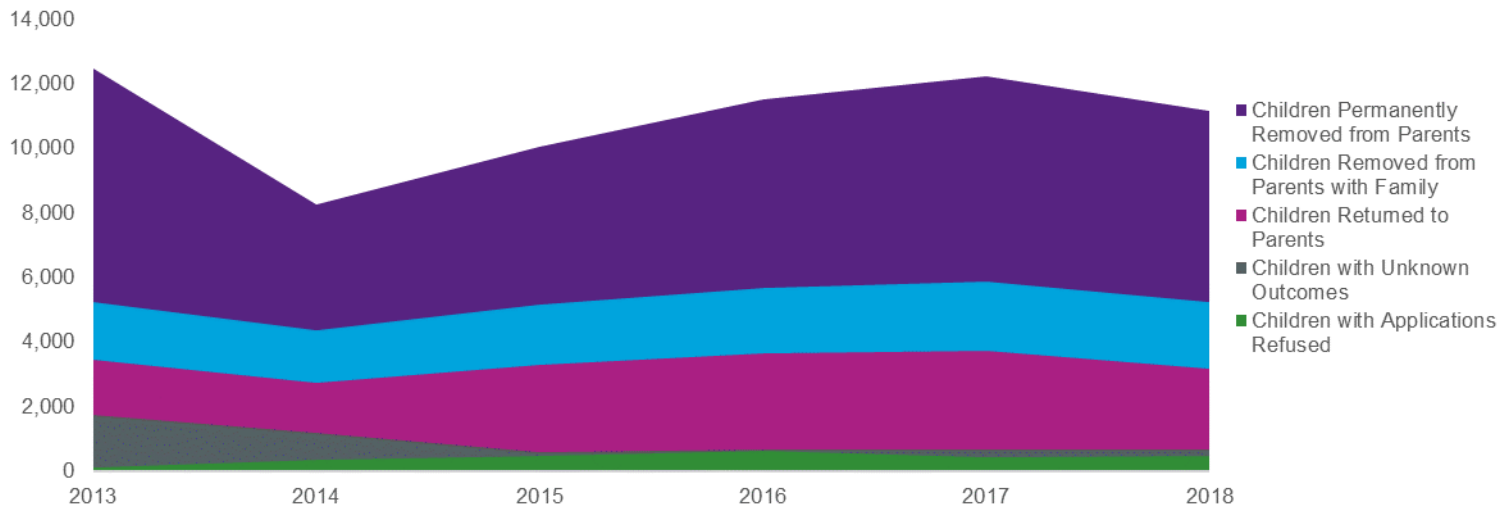
YTD Private New Law Case



Outcome Combinations on S31 Applications by Calendar Year (January 2013- December 2018)



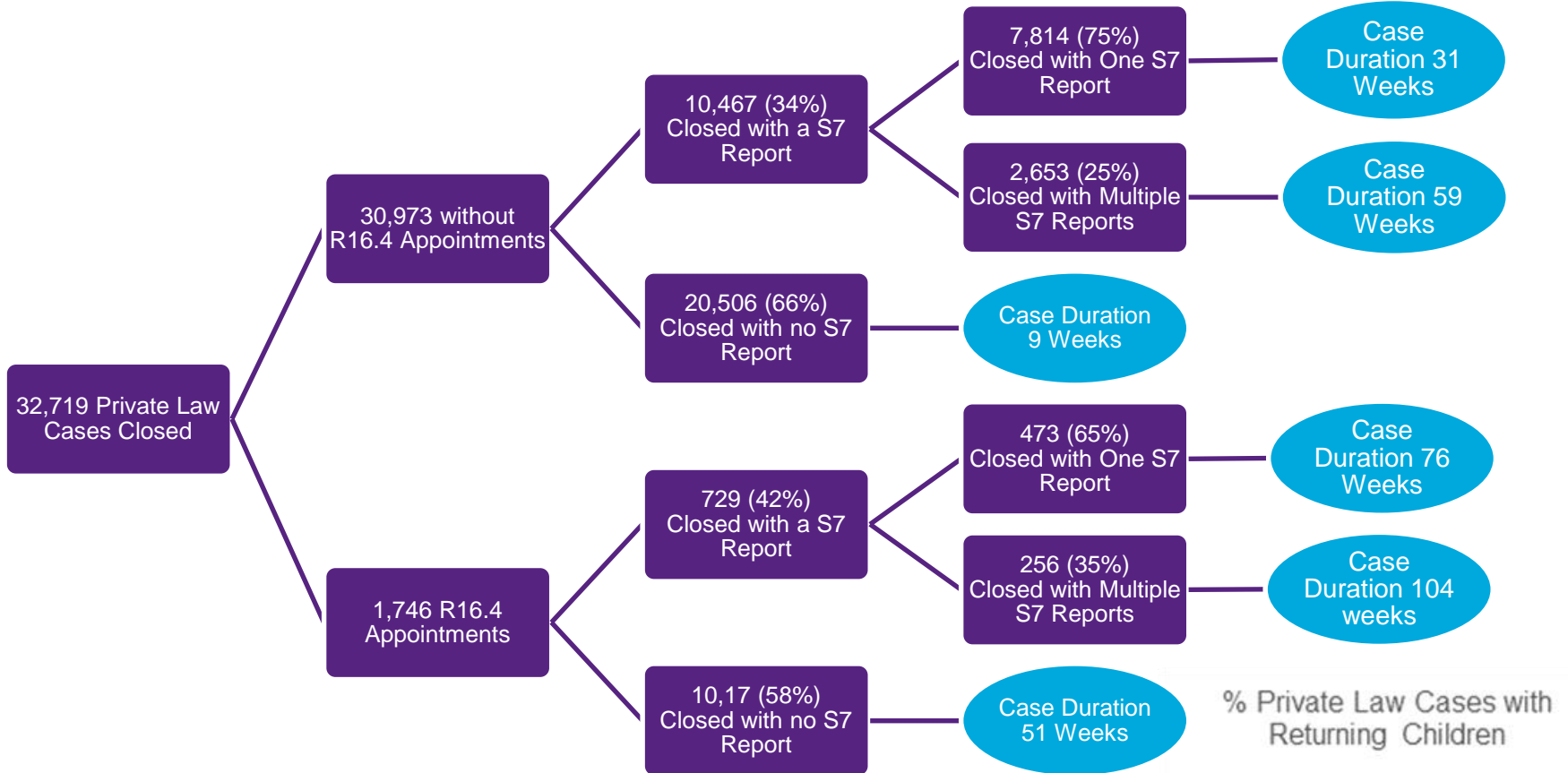
Children with Legal Outcomes per Calendar Year



Additional information on the grouping can be viewed in the attached **Appendix 2**.

Private Law – Year to Date

Closed Cases (April 2018 to March 2019)



% Private Law Cases with Returning Children

34.50%

35.10%

With relation to new Private Law cases year to date (April 2018 to March 2019) there has been:

- A **8.7% increase** in Section 7 reports demand (21,101 in the period compared to 19,409 for the same period in 2017-18);
- A **13.6% increase** in Rule 16.4 Appointments (2,555 in the period compared to 2,250 for the same period in 2017-18).

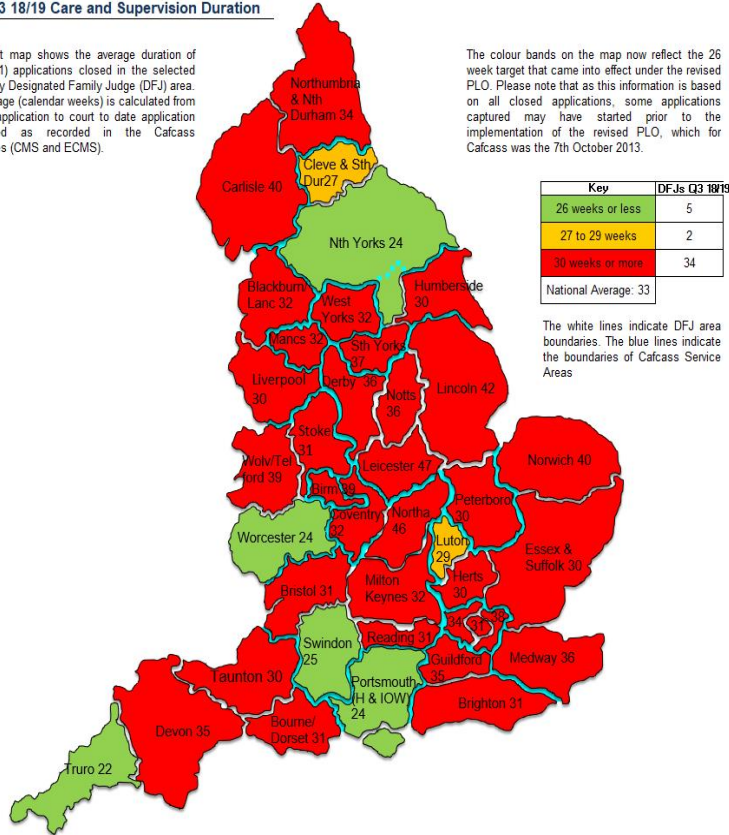
Public Law Care & Supervision Duration (s31) Heat Map (by DFJ Area)

Latest Quarter (Q3 2018/19)

DFJ Q3 18/19 Care and Supervision Duration

This heat map shows the average duration of care (s31) applications closed in the selected quarter by Designated Family Judge (DFJ) area. The average (calendar weeks) is calculated from date of application to court to date application completed as recorded in the Cafcass databases (CMS and ECMS).

The colour bands on the map now reflect the 26 week target that came into effect under the revised PLO. Please note that as this information is based on all closed applications, some applications captured may have started prior to the implementation of the revised PLO, which for Cafcass was the 7th October 2013.

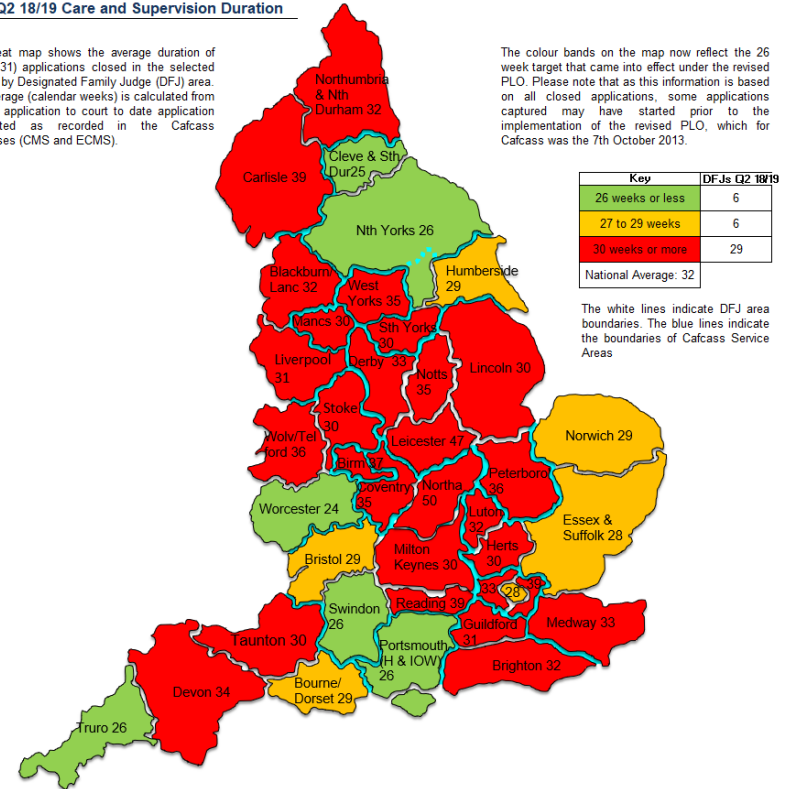


Previous Quarter (Q2 2018/19)

DFJ Q2 18/19 Care and Supervision Duration

This heat map shows the average duration of care (s31) applications closed in the selected quarter by Designated Family Judge (DFJ) area. The average (calendar weeks) is calculated from date of application to court to date application completed as recorded in the Cafcass databases (CMS and ECMS).

The colour bands on the map now reflect the 26 week target that came into effect under the revised PLO. Please note that as this information is based on all closed applications, some applications captured may have started prior to the implementation of the revised PLO, which for Cafcass was the 7th October 2013.

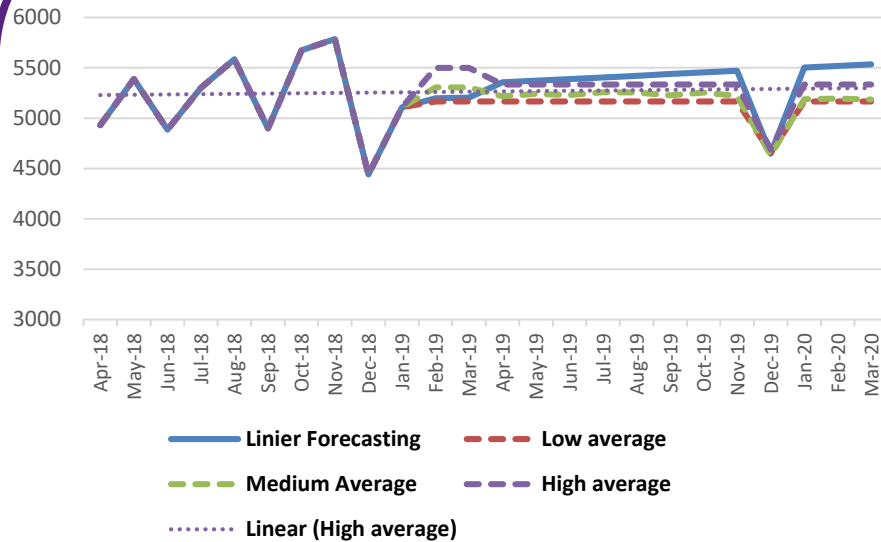


A full breakdown by DFJ can be accessed in the attached **Appendix 3**.

Demand Forecast

Demand Forecast

Total Demand Forecasting



- At the end of Q3 2018-19, MoJ forecasted 0.9% decrease for public law and a 5.9% increase for private law for the year 2019-20. These are reviewed and updated biannually.
- An overall forecast for total demand based on [historical Cafcass data](#) returns **an overall increase of 3%** for total demand in 2019-20. (+4.7% for private law and -1.1% for public law)

Annex 1: Cafcass Office Map



Demand

New public law applications and private law cases

Demand has reduced by more than 2% on the previous year

Demand levels are within 2% of last year's total.

Demand has increased in excess of 2% on last year.

Throughput

Cases or applications opened / cases or applications closed in rolling 12 month period (turnover)

Throughput (cases open/cases closed) exceed 95%

Throughput is below 95% but exceeds 90%

Throughput is lower than 90%

Open Cases

New public law care cases and private law cases

The stock of open cases has reduced by more than 2% on the previous year

The stock of open cases is within 2% of last year.

The stock of open cases has increased by more than 2% on last year.

Duration

The Cafcass duration of care and supervision applications

Cafcass duration is 26 weeks or below

Cafcass duration is 27 weeks or above and below 30 weeks

Cafcass duration is in excess of 30 weeks

Allocation Time

The time to allocate a children's guardian to a care case

The time to allocation is between 0 and 2.9 days

The time to allocation is between 3 and 4.9 days

The time to allocation is 5 days or above

S7 Reports filed by Agreed date

Proportion of section 7 reports filed by the agreed date with the court in the private law cases

S7 Reports filed to agreed filing times are between 97% and 100%

S7 Reports filed to agreed filing times are between 90% and 96%

S7 Reports filed to agreed filing times are below 90%

S7 Average Filing Times

The average duration (in weeks) to file a section 7 report in private law cases

S7 average filing times are below 10 weeks

S7 average filing times are between 10 and 12 weeks

S7 average filing times are above 12 weeks