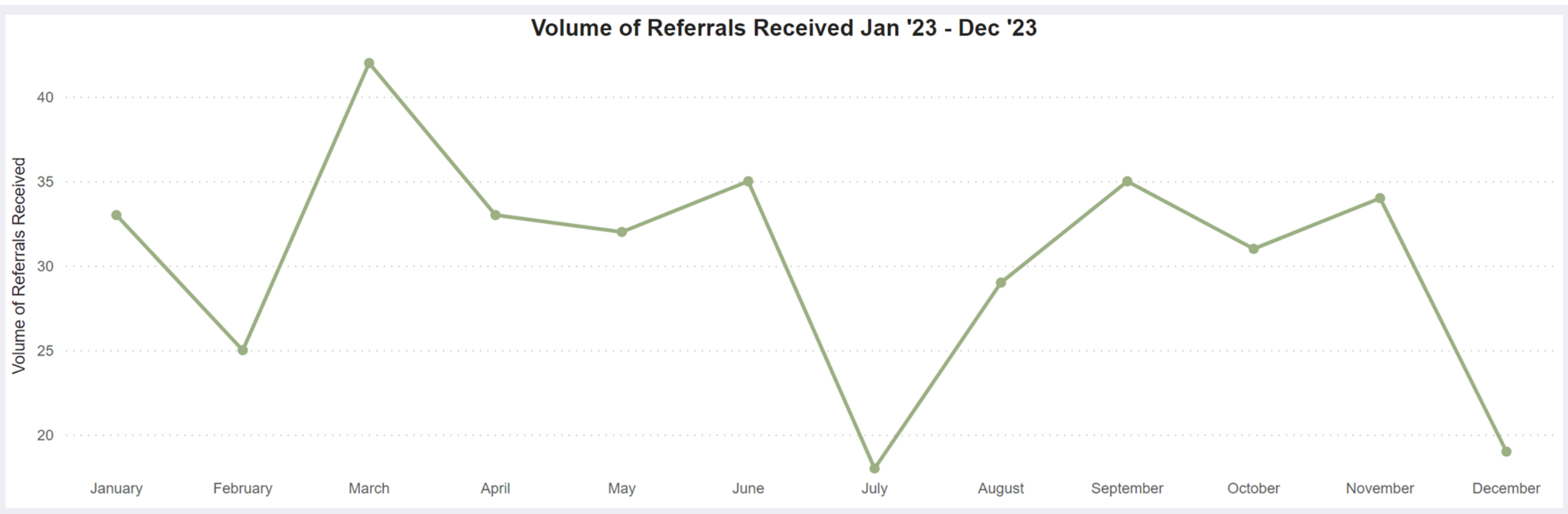


SWCU Annual Report England

January 2023 – December 2023
Data highlights



Referrals Received



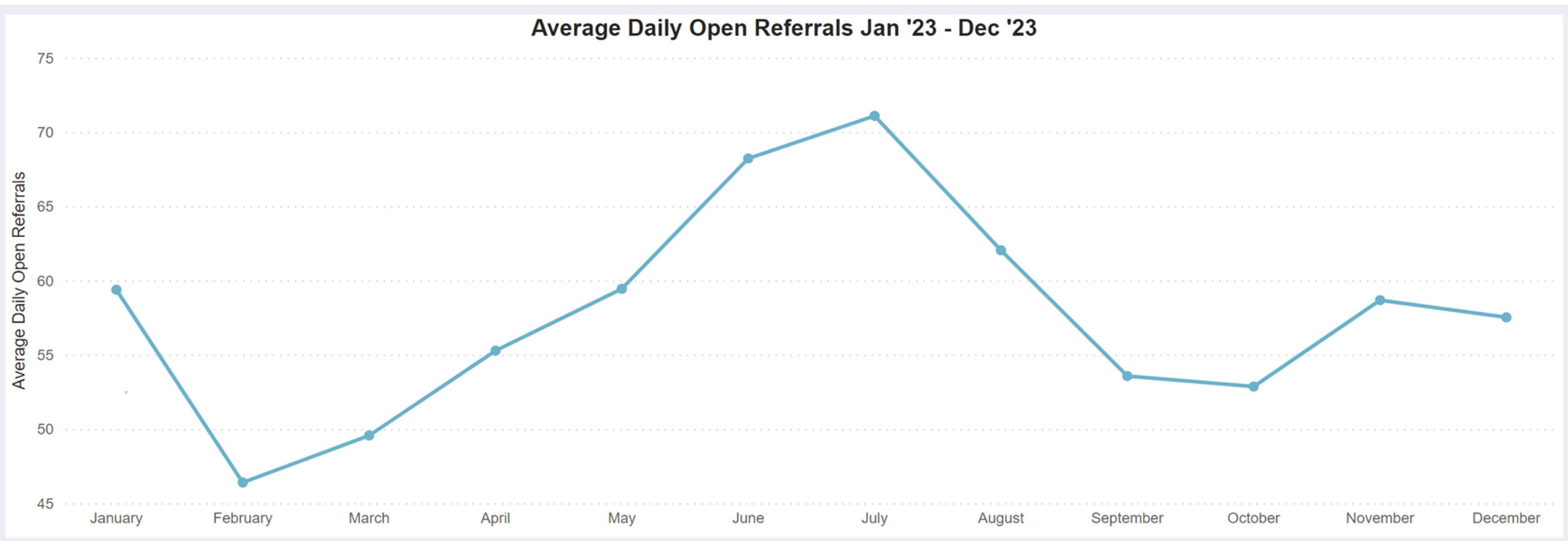
The volume of referrals received from English local authorities fluctuated significantly throughout the year.

There was a decrease in the volume of referrals received during 2023 in comparison to previous years, with the unit receiving 401 during 2022, 419 in 2021 and 366 during 2023.

The unit identified several months during the year where the number of referrals received rose or fell. The trends differed from those identified during the previous year, with a low number of referrals being received during February and July, which had been high referring months during 2022. However, data suggests that the pattern of referrals received across the year follows the trends identified across previous years. A peak in the number of referrals received has frequently been identified between January to March, June to July and again between October to November.



Open Referrals



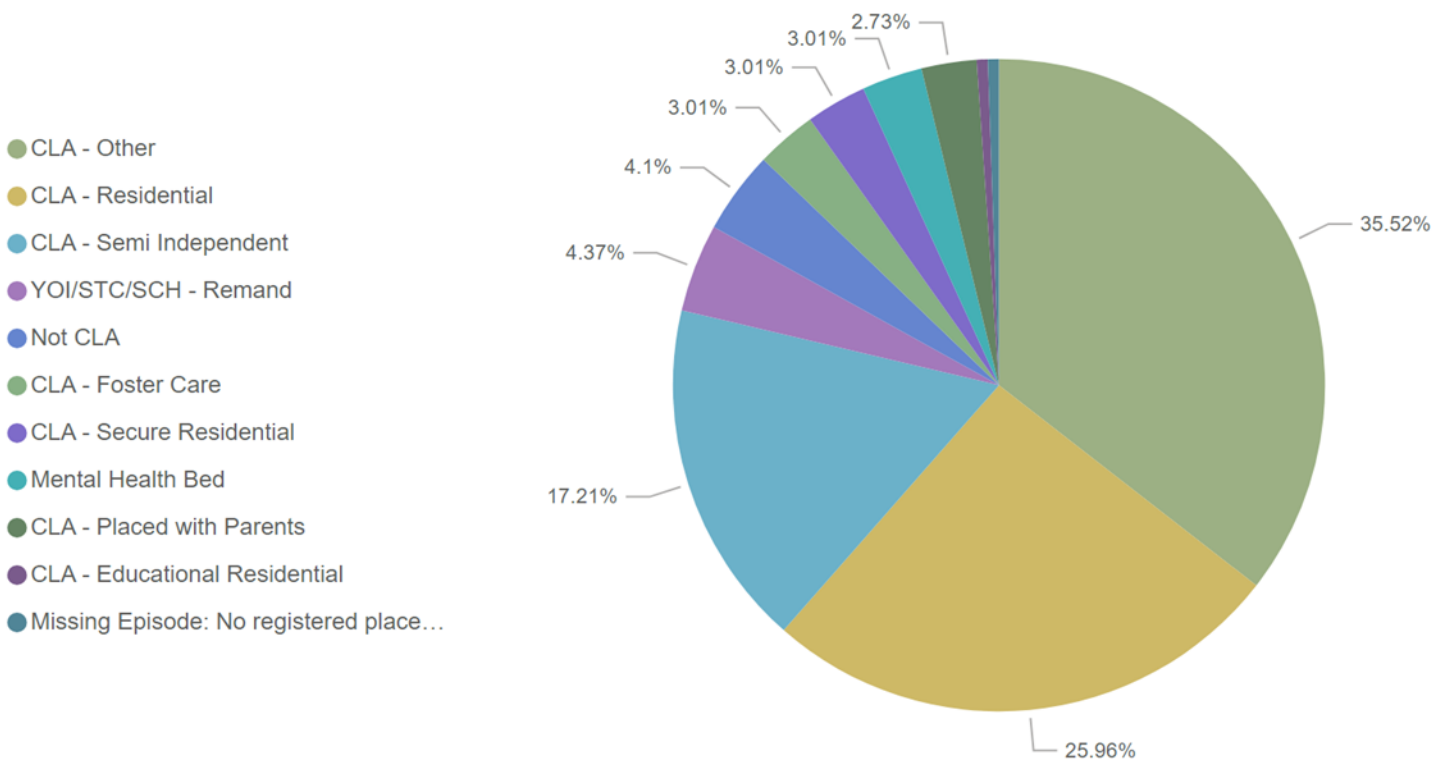
The volume of open referrals has remained consistently high throughout the year, with the data in February highlighting 44 open referrals being the lowest for the year, and the highest peaking at 77 during July. This is an increase from figures identified during 2022 when 38 open referrals was the lowest identified.

On average during 2023 there were 58 referrals open daily, this is a slight increase from 51 during 2022.



Placement at Point of Referral

Placement at Point of Referral



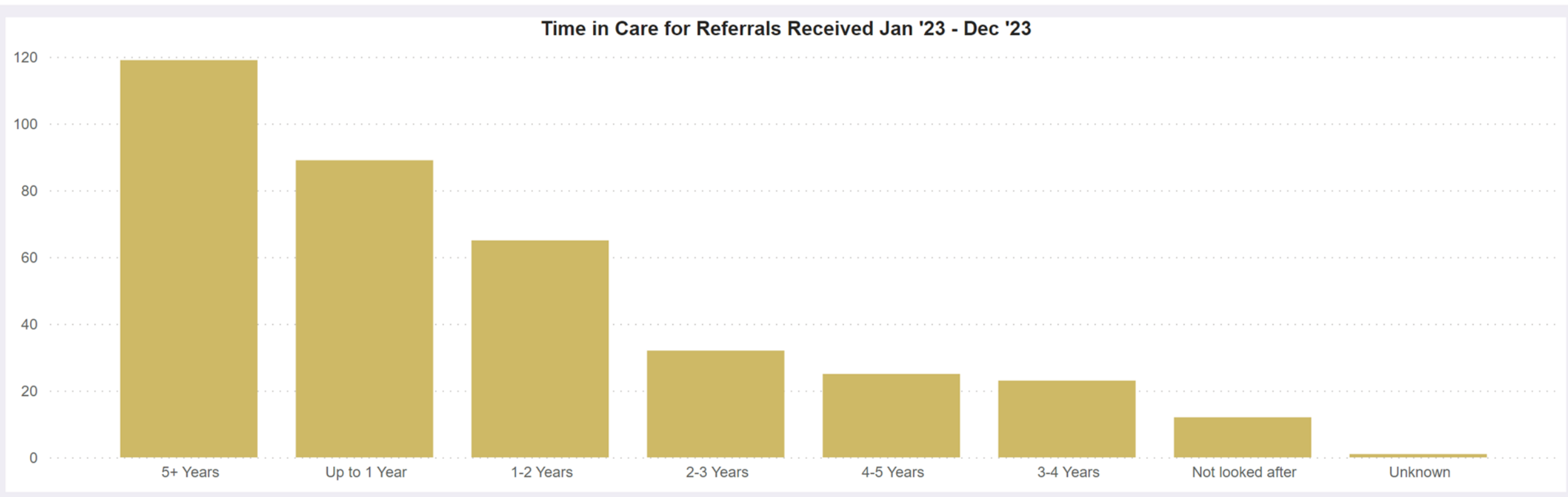
During 2023, the unit identified 'CLA - Other' placements as the highest recorded placement at the point of referral. This is consistent with the data recorded during 2022, when the unit identified a change from 'CLA - residential' placements no longer being the most frequently recorded placement at point of referral.

A high volume of 'CLA - Other' placements consisted of unregulated (as recorded by the referring local authority) or unregistered placements, where local authorities were creating bespoke placements.

As was also the case in 2022 a high volume of young people were placed in 'CLA - Semi Independent' placements at the point of referral, however it is recognised that many of the young people residing in these provisions are requiring higher staffing levels or 24/7 care to support the placement.



Time in Care Before Referral



The data highlights that the majority of young people referred for a secure placement had been in care for over five years, this follows the trend identified during 2022.

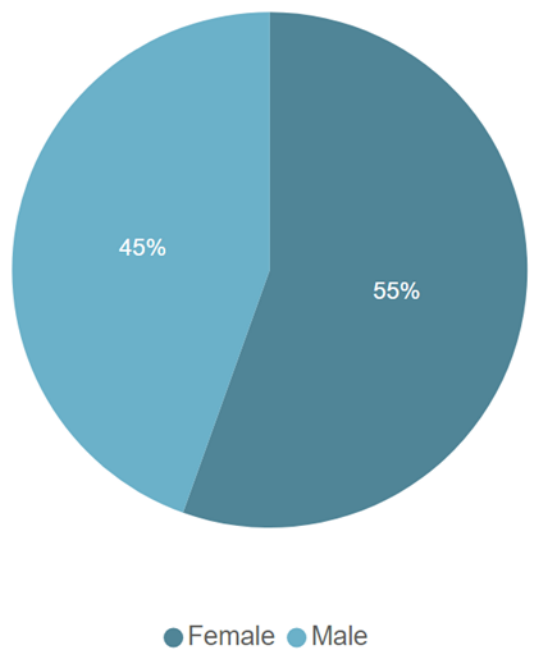
As was the case in 2022, the unit continues to identify a decrease in the number of young people referred that were 'Not looked after' from 3.7% to 3.2%.

The unit identified some young people as having had over 35 placement moves at point of a secure welfare referral being submitted.

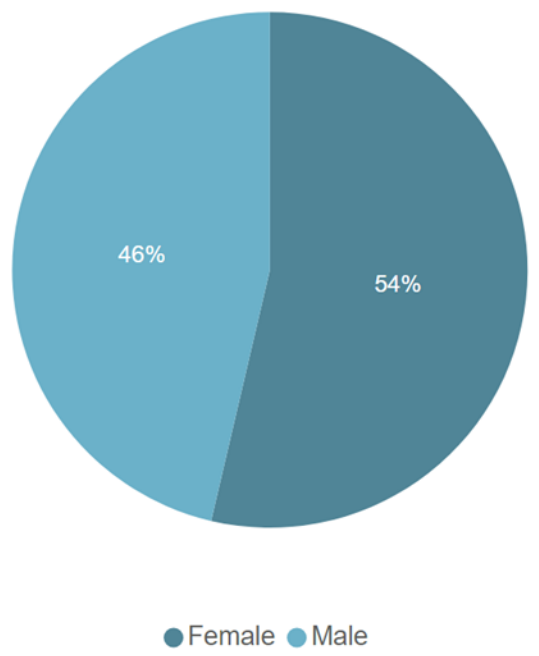


Placements Offered by Gender

Gender of Referrals Received



Gender of Young People Offered Placements



During 2023 the overall volume of female referrals received was higher than male referrals. The volume of female referrals has increased from 47% during 2022 to 55% during 2023.

Throughout the year the volume of female referrals has consistently been higher than those for males, this differs from the previous year when the unit identified a fluctuation month on month with the number of male and female referrals varying.

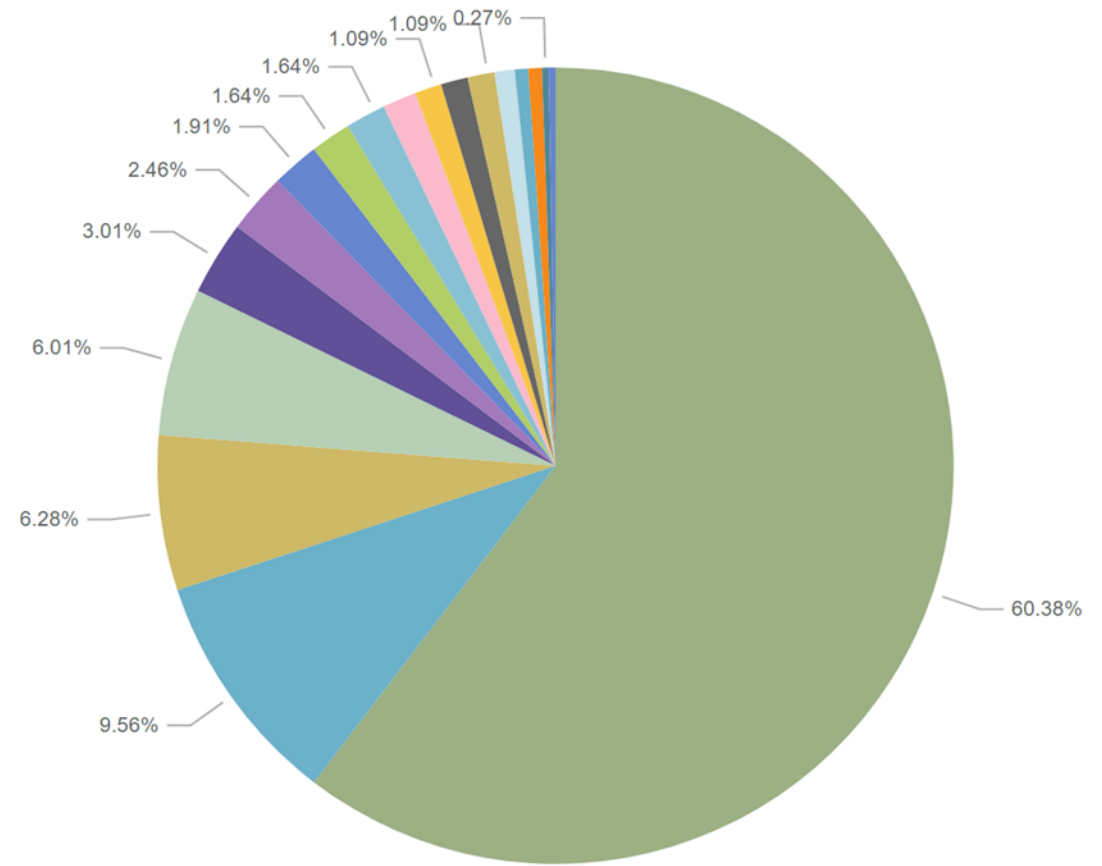
The gender of the placements offered correlates with the referrals received. Not all offered placements resulted in a young person residing in a secure children's home, predominantly due to the young person settling in their current placement or no longer meeting threshold.



Ethnicity of Young People Referred

Ethnicity of Young People Referred

- White - British
- White and Black Caribbean
- Black - British
- Any Other White Background
- Any Other Mixed Background
- White and Black African
- Black - Caribbean
- Black - African
- Pakistani
- White and Asian
- Any Other Asian Background
- Any Other Black Background
- Traveller of Irish Heritage
- Gypsy/Roma
- Bangladeshi
- Indian
- Any Other Ethnic Group
- White - Irish



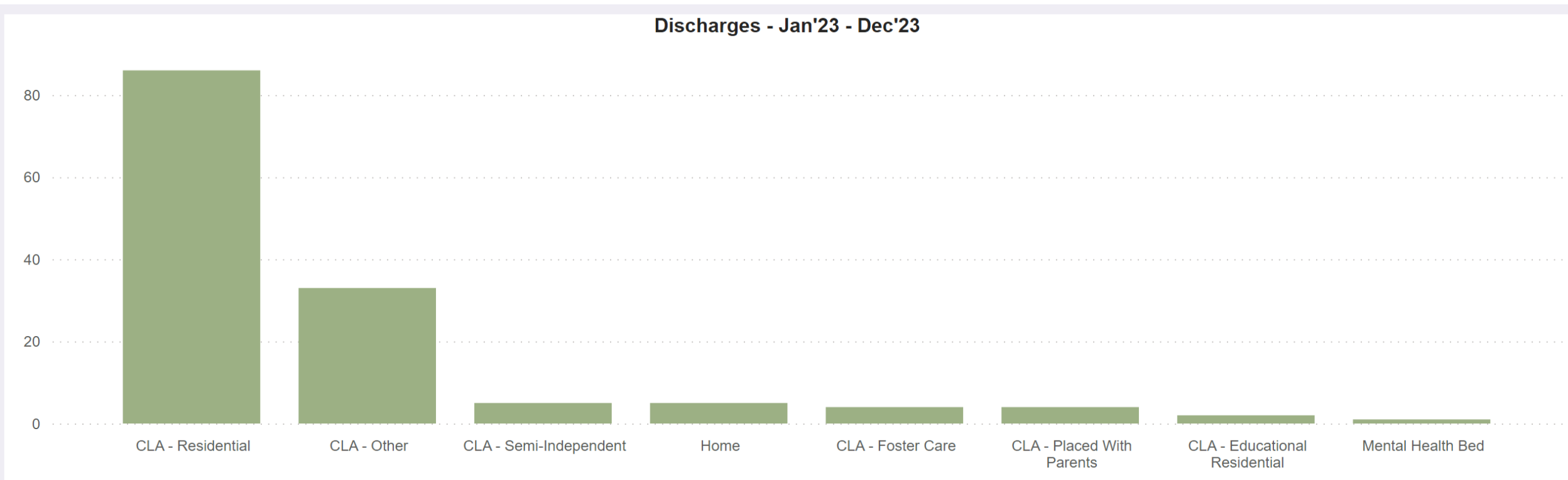
Throughout the year the majority of referrals received were for 'White British' young people, identified as 60% of the referrals, this is consistent with 2022.

The second most frequently recorded ethnicity was 'White and Black Caribbean', this differs from 2022 when 'Black British' was recorded.

Of the 'White British' young people referred 41% were male and 59% female. Of the further ethnicity referrals received 49% were female and 51% male.



Discharges



During 2023, the majority of English young people discharged from a secure children's home were placed within a residential setting. Data collected by the unit since 2017 has identified that young people are most commonly discharged from a secure placement to a residential provision. The second highest discharge placement was recorded as 'Other', examples of these were unregistered placements, hospital and family members.

The unit identified an increase this year in the number of young people discharged from secure placements, in comparison to 2022

