



Cheshire and Merseyside

Children & Young People Commissioned Health Services Update

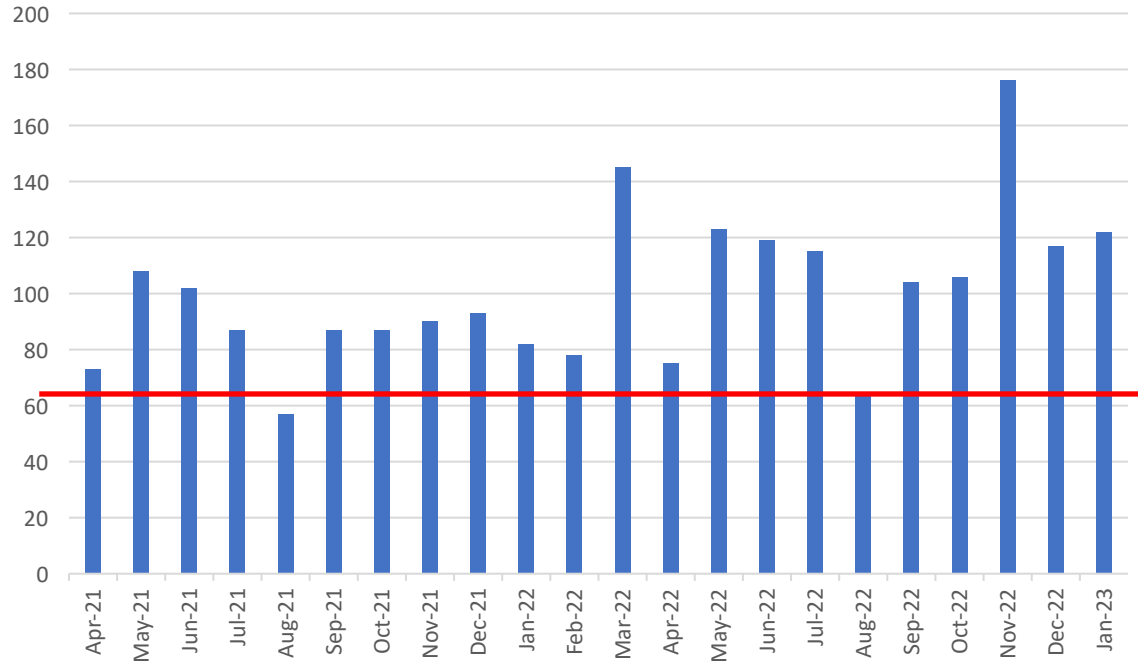
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

6th March 2023

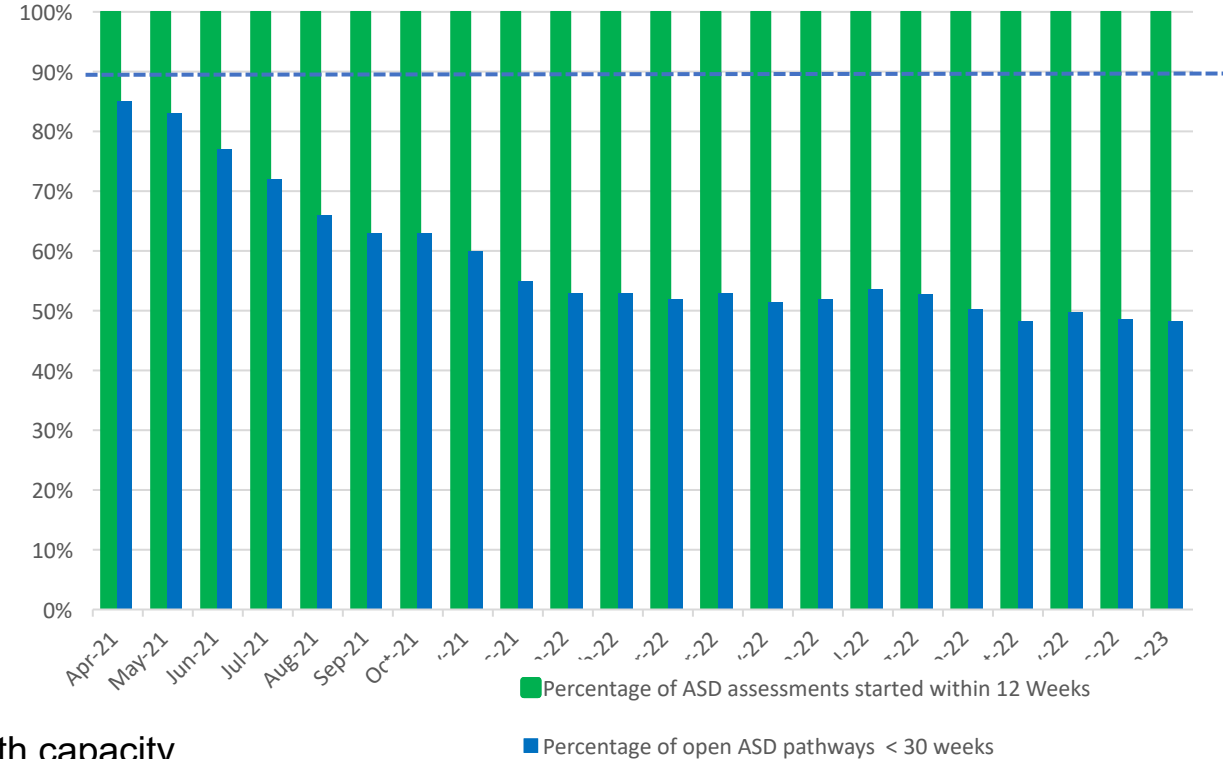


Children & Young People: Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

New ASD Assessment Referrals (Commissioned level 77)



ASD Assessments

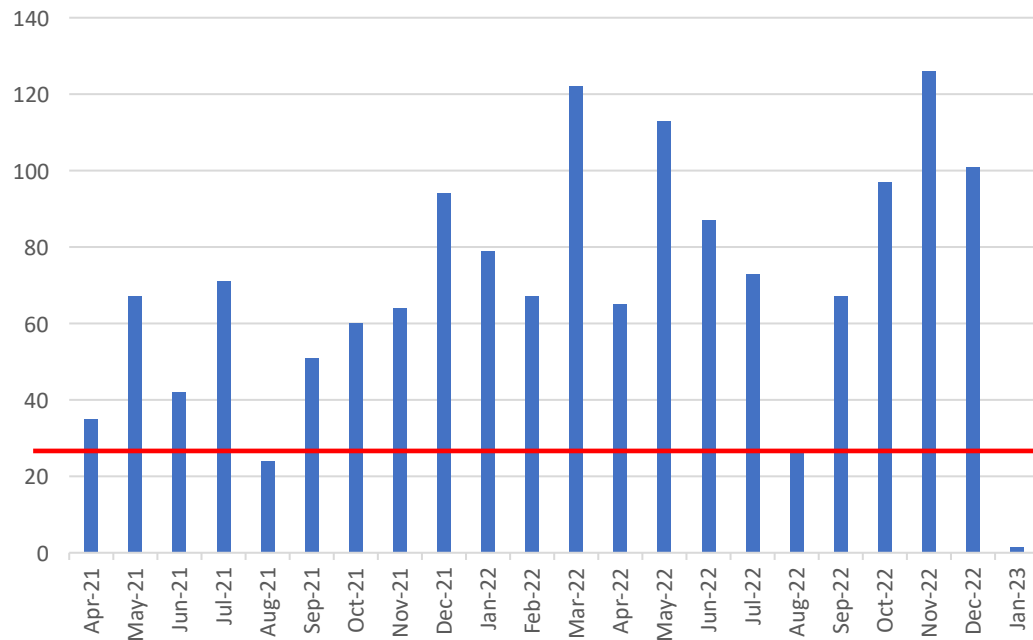


Actions/Assurance

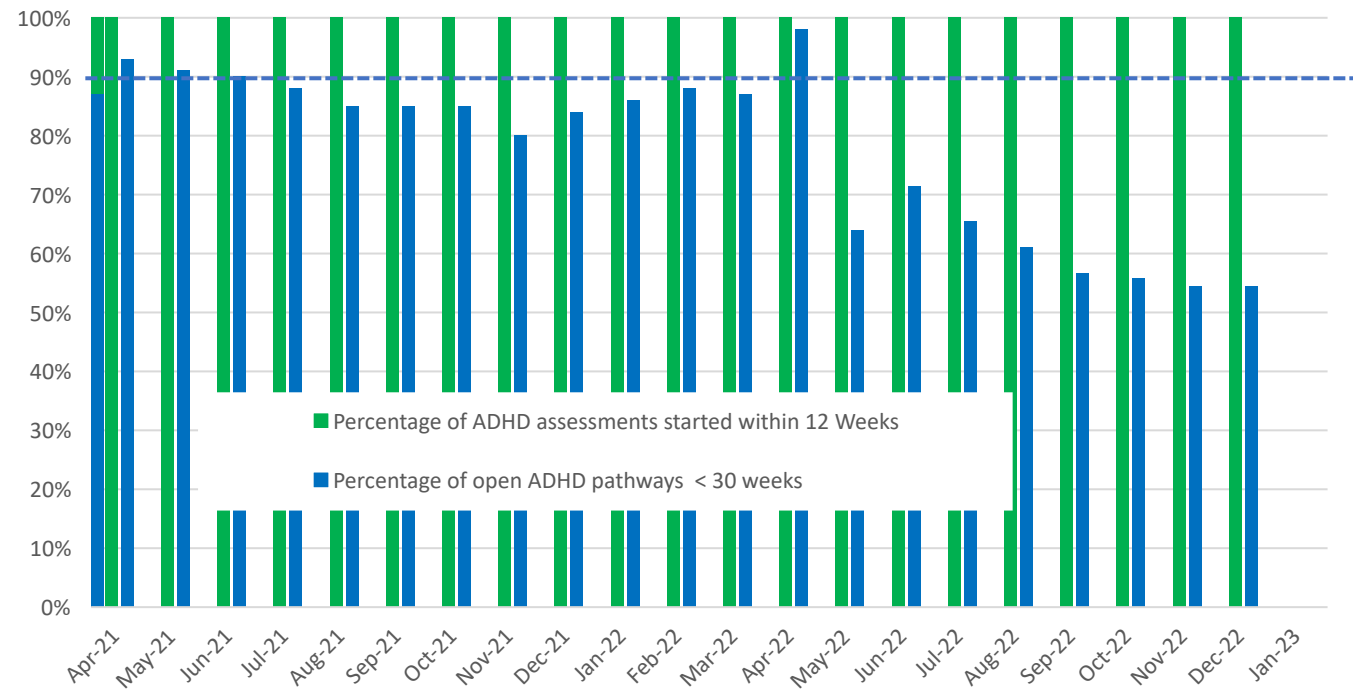
- Utilising alternative roles, such as assistant psychologists, to support with capacity.
- The service has prioritised all assessments required for the longest waiters in February and March 2023 to conclude all children waiting greater than 2 years. Following review of referral patterns, a proposed new approach to the referral process has been agreed which supports the collection of more detailed and appropriate information, provision of early help when needed and additional support and training to education through Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) and community mental health teams.
- The Trust has launched a new ASD/ADHD digital referral platform which is being piloted with education.
- Sefton Place and Alder Hey Children's Hospital (AHCH) have highlighted the need for a system wide response to this demand to achieve the commissioned KPIs, including the development of a system wide ASD/ADHD pathway.
- In line with national COVID recovery targets performance are planned to fully recover by September 2024.

Children & Young People: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

New ADHD Assessment Referrals (Commissioned level 38)

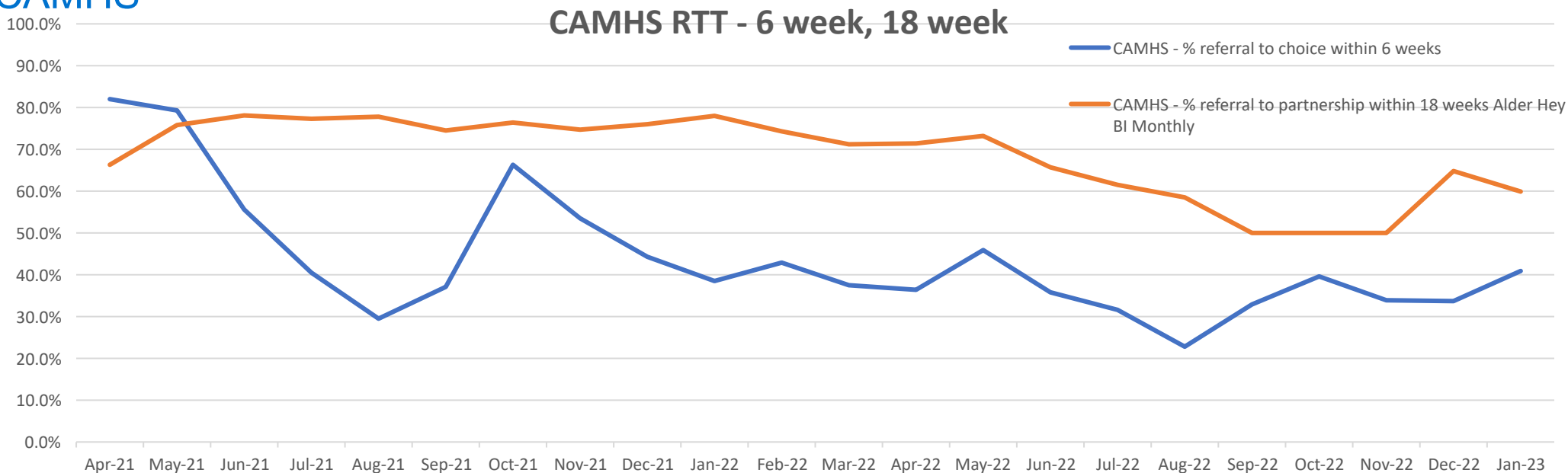


ADHD Assessments



Actions/Assurance

- The service has struggled with capacity particularly due to vacancies in the nursing team which will impact on appointment availability over the next couple of months, however the services has recently recruited eight new nurses into the team which will improve waiting times on their commencement in post.
- Discussions remain ongoing with wider partners to identify actions to support the education and health sectors in providing the required information. Clinics have now been set up in special schools.
- The Trust has launched a new ASD/ADHD digital referral platform which is being piloted with education.
- Sefton Place and Alder Hey Children's Hospital (AHCH) have highlighted the need for a system wide response to this demand to achieve the commissioned KPIs, including the development of a system wide ASD/ADHD pathway.
- In line with national COVID recovery targets performance are planned to fully recover by September 2024.

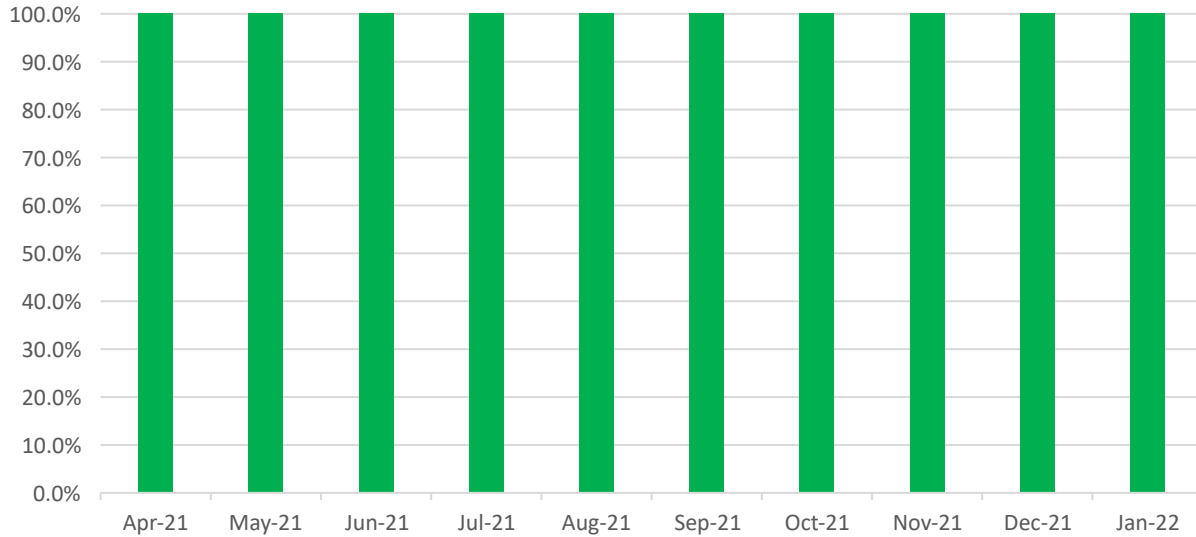


Actions/Assurance

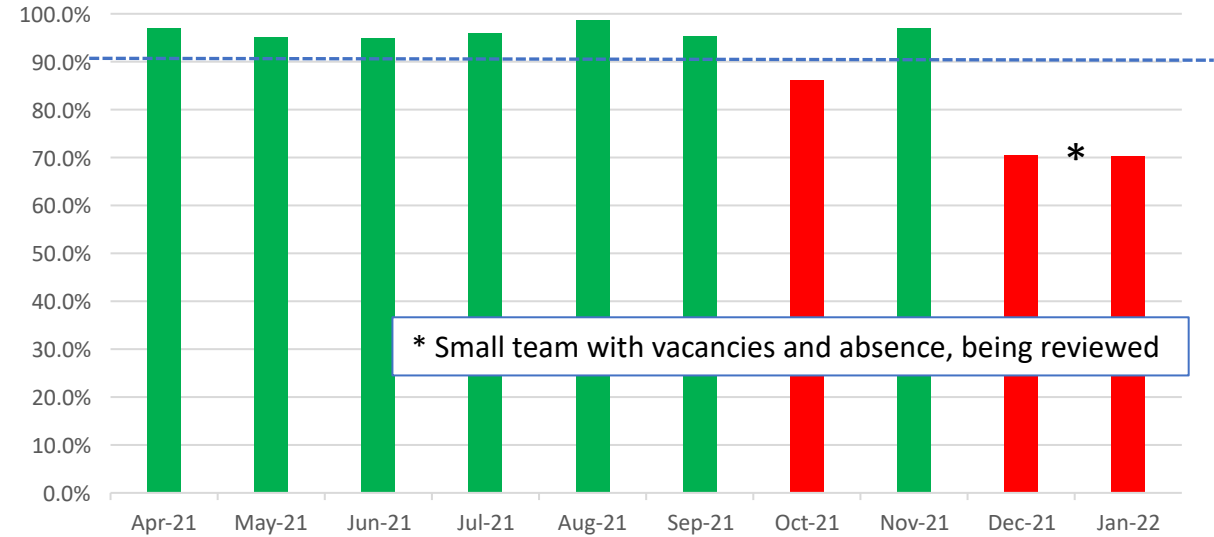
- Workforce capacity continues to be challenged (including movement), recruitment is ongoing for the service with 10.7 WTE new appointments made in recent months. The service has appointed a number of qualified CYWPs to continue a low intensity offer with a further three trainees commencing in January.
- Additional choice appointments through overtime continues to take place to support reduction of the backlog.
- There is an offer provided to children and young people whilst they are on the waiting list, including a number of group interventions and check in calls made by practitioners in the service. Some young people also receive support from a psychiatrist prior to receiving their partnership appointment.
- There continues to be an increase in the number of urgent cases referred to the service and capacity continues to be flexed to meet requirement for urgent assessment and/or treatment, which is increasing routine waiting times – a higher number of urgent appointments were required in December.
- The service continues to monitor urgent and routine referral rates and aims to use capacity flexibly as needed to provide first assessments as soon as possible.
- All children and young people who have been waiting over 18 weeks for a partnership appointment are regularly contacted to undertake an up-to-date risk assessment and review of clinical urgency, enabling the team to expedite an earlier appointment, if clinically indicated.
- The service will be piloting a WNB predictor tool to help identify those CYP who may need additional support to attend appointments.
- Across the Sefton Emotional Health Partnership there has been a general increase in mental health provision and support for low level mental health support needs in response to the pandemic. This includes the renewed contract for the online counselling platform Kooth, the roll out of mental health training to schools, the introduction of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing toolkit and the implementation of two Mental Health Support Teams in 40 schools across Sefton and the phased implementation of the third team from January 2023.

Therapies

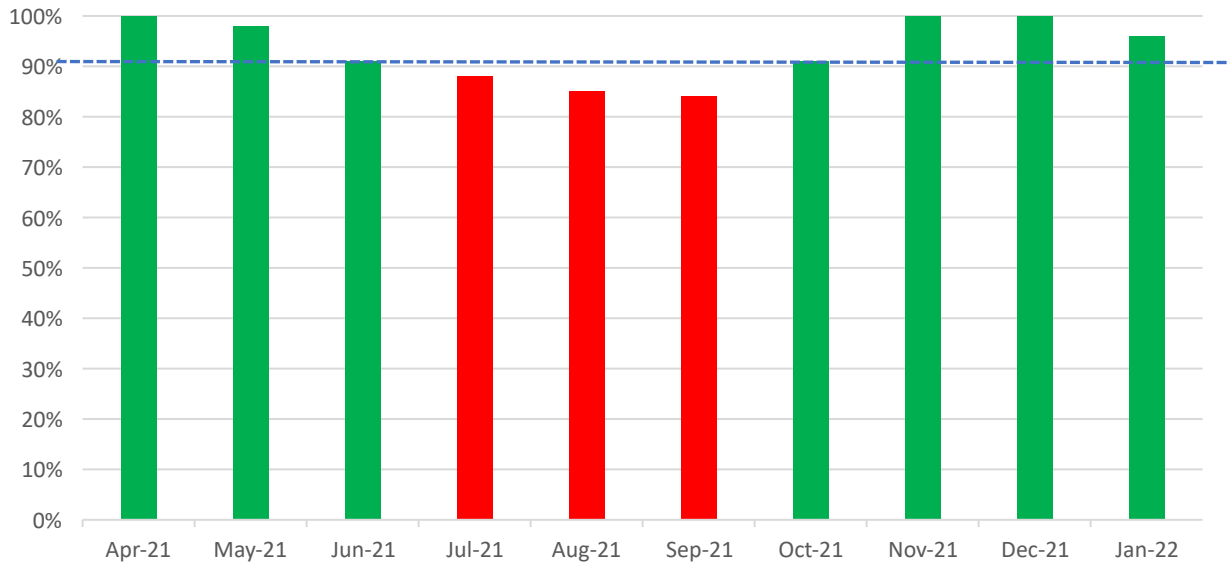
Continance: RTT Open pathways % waiting 18 wks



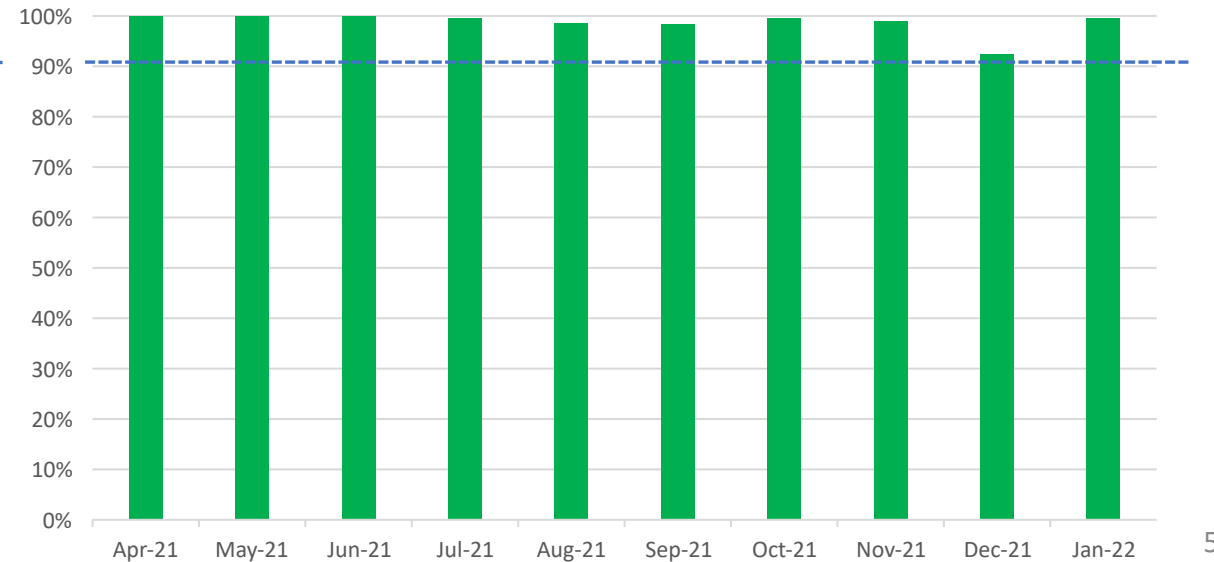
Dietetics RTT Open pathways % waiting within 18 wks

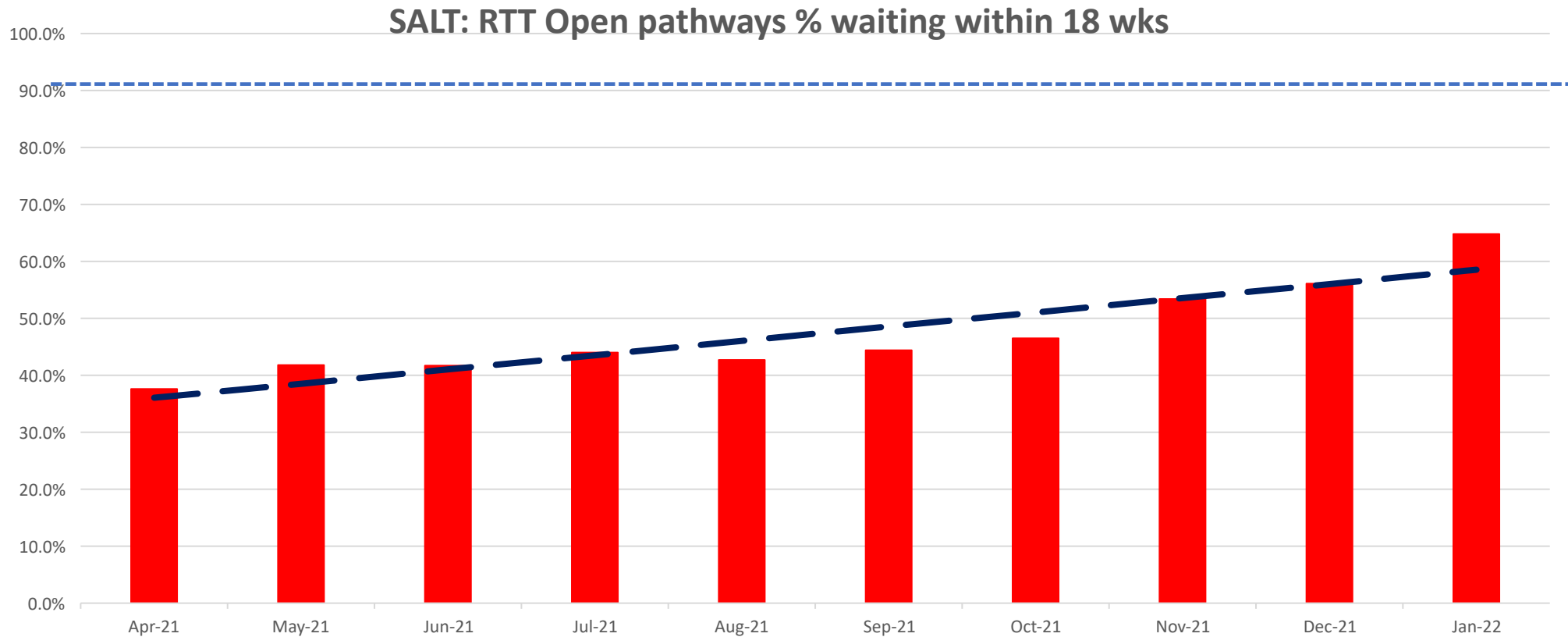


Physiotherapy: RTT Open pathways % waiting within 18 wks



Occupational Therapy: RTT Open pathways % waiting within 18 wks





Actions/Assurance

- SALT is implementing a service improvement plan which anticipates achieving the 18 week waiting time target by end of September 2023. SALT performance continues to improve with a reduction in the longest waiters and average waiting time from referral to 1st contact.
- A workforce review to increase the number of assistant SLTs and recruitment to speech and language therapy vacancies is also continuing.
- In the meantime, the position is being closely managed by the service and all referrals continue to be clinically triaged at the point of receipt and prioritised according to need. Families sent information on how to access resources including those on the service web page whilst waiting to be seen.
- Work continues with the early years services to support early intervention and reduce need for specialist SALT support. Reinforcing the need for a whole system response.