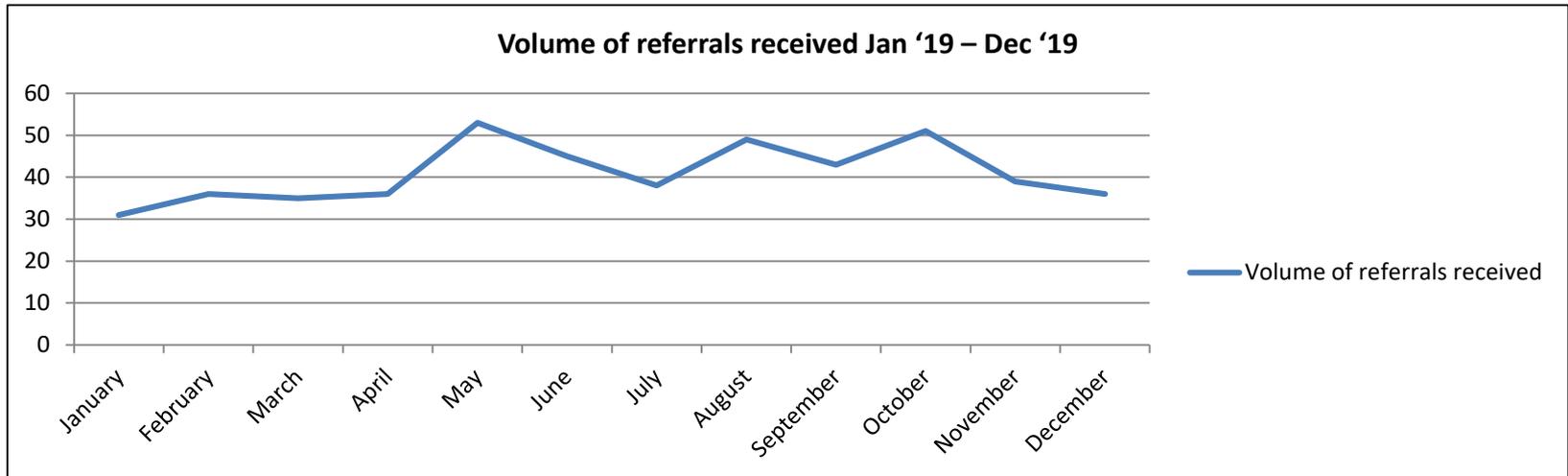


# SWCU Annual Report England

**January 2019 – December 2019**

**Data Highlights**

# Referrals Received

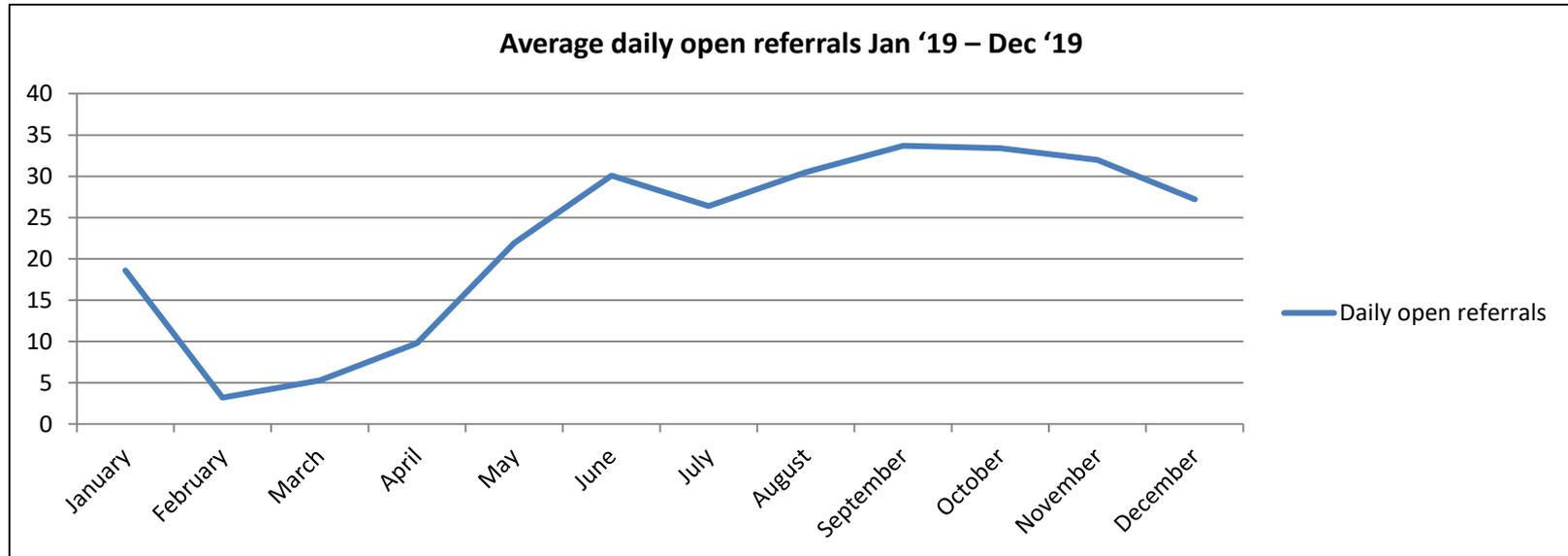


**The volume of referrals received from English local authorities increased slightly during the latter half of the year and the unit received over 50 referrals each month during May and October.**

The overall volume of referrals for the year increased from the previous year by 21 referrals; with the unit receiving a total of 492 referrals during 2019. During 2018 the unit identified a decrease in the volume of referrals received from 2017, however, data suggests a change to this trend with an increase during 2019.

The unit is unable to identify any specific trends in the data referred over the three year period, however, October was a higher referring month during 2018 and 2019, with May a higher referring month during 2017 and 2019.

# Open Referrals

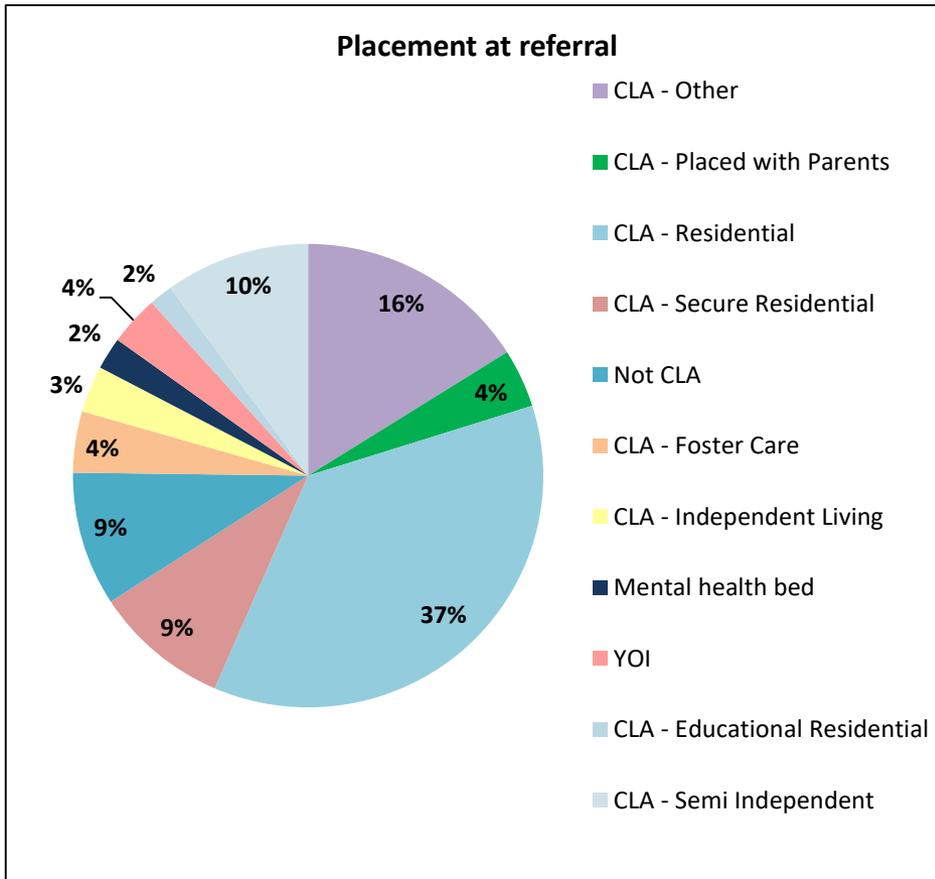


**The unit identified a variance during the beginning of 2019.**

From the end of January the unit identified an increase in the volume of declared beds, with ten beds being declared on one occasion. The supply of beds then met the demand of referrals, with the unit having no referrals open on three occasions during February. As the volume of declared beds decreased from the middle of April, the volume of open referrals increased; eight open referrals on 17 April to 26 open referrals on 17 May.

The volume of daily open referrals then remained consistently high for the latter end of the year. During October the unit peaked at 41 open referrals, which is the highest since data has been collected by the unit from May 2016 and four higher than the peak in 2018.

# Placement at Point of Referral

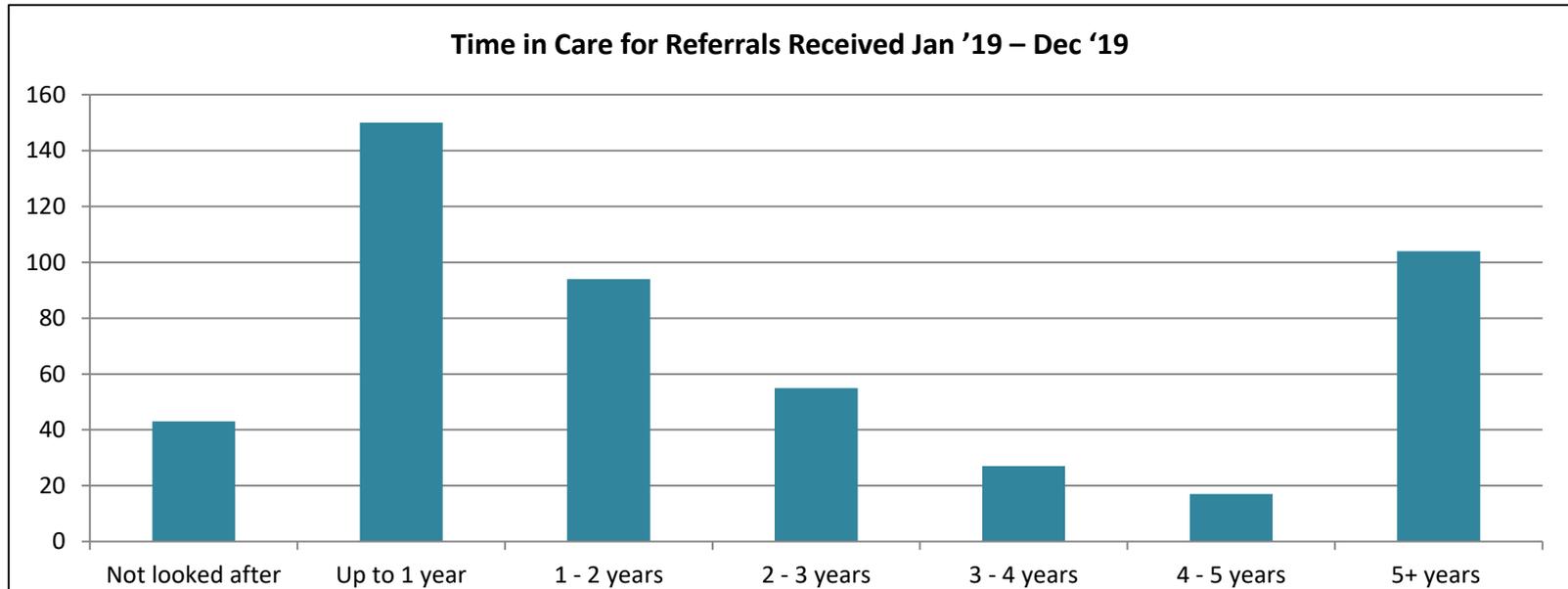


**Between January and December 2019, CLA residential placements were the highest recorded placement at point of referral.**

CLA residential placements have been the most common placement at point of referral for English referrals since May 2016, however, there was a decrease, from 2017 and 2018, by 14%.

The unit changed its referral form in April, where 'CLA – Semi Independent' was added as a placement option. A high volume of placements are recorded as 'CLA – Other' examples are; held by police, unregulated placements, holiday lets and rented houses with staff.

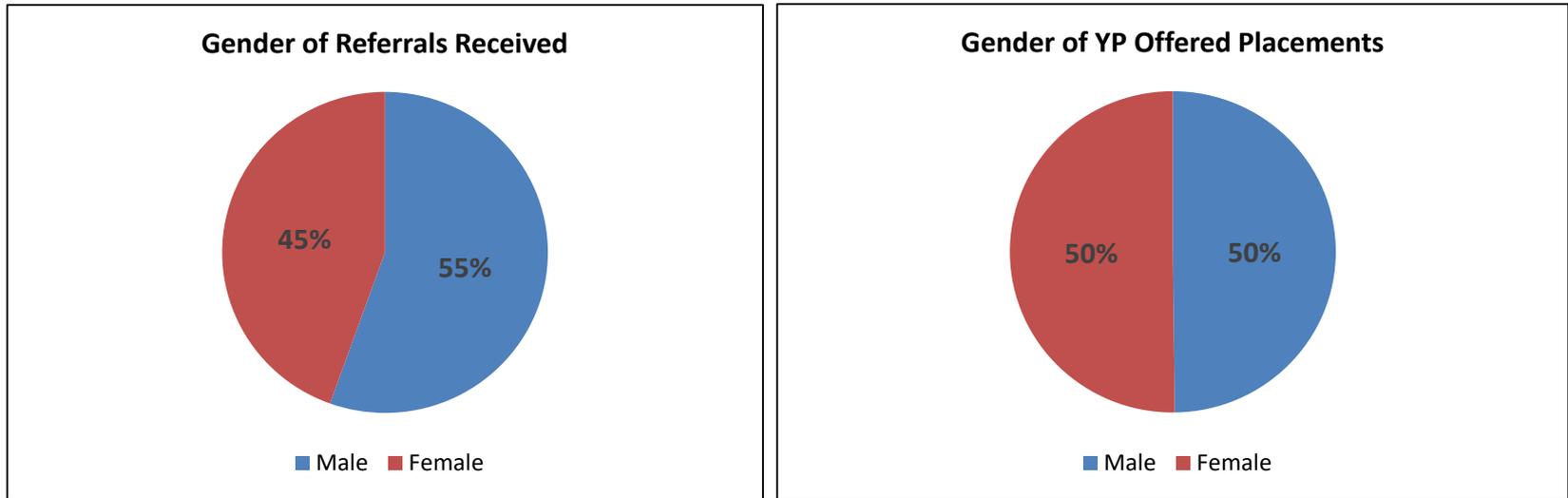
# Time in Care Before Referral



**The length of time young people spent in care before being referred to the secure welfare estate, between January and December, was relatively consistent month by month, with an increase during one quarter for length in care being for '1 – 2 years'.**

The data highlights the length in care being relatively consistent with the previous two years with the exception of 'Not looked after' where the unit has identified an increase from 1.1% during 2017 to 8.7% during 2019. Of the young people 'Not looked after' the unit has identified the male referrals are predominantly gang affiliated and have criminal exploitation and the females have been predominantly sexually or criminally exploited.

# Placements Offered by Gender

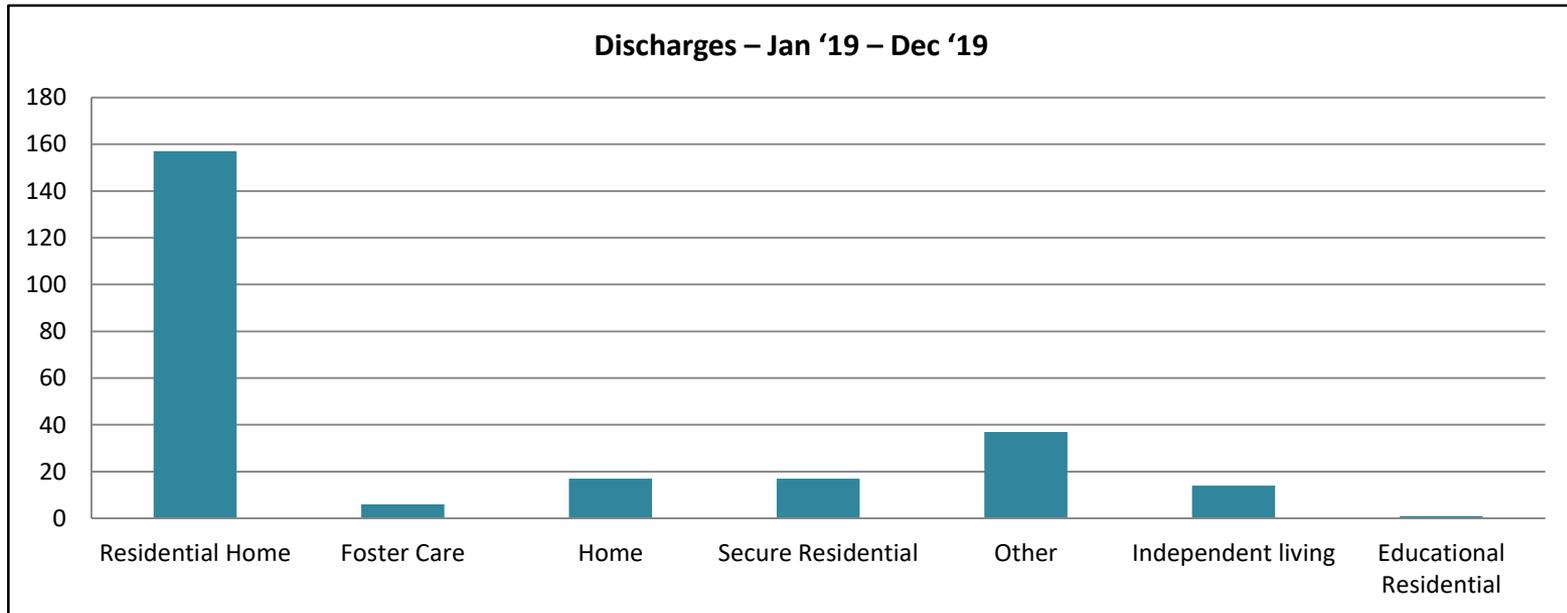


**During January to December, the overall volume of male referrals received was marginally higher than female referrals.**

The volume of male referrals has increased slightly from previous years; 53% during 2017 and 52% during 2018 to 55% during 2019. The unit has identified a slightly different trend during 2019 where there was only one month where the volume of female referrals was higher than male referrals, whereas in the previous two years there was a fluctuation throughout the year between the volume of female and male referrals received being higher or equitable.

There was an equitable volume of male to female beds offered during the year, this differs from 2018 where more female beds were offered. Not all offered placements resulted in the young person residing in a SCH, predominantly due to; the young person being settled in their current placement, a court order not being granted, or the young person no longer meeting the secure threshold.

# Discharges



**During January to December, 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 May 2016 has found that English young people are most commonly discharged to a residential provision. The second highest discharge destination was ‘Other’, examples of these were; Mental Health hospital, hostel, semi independent living and YOI.