

Children in Care Profile and Forecasts to March 2024

End March 2023 data source, created 13/4/23, version 1



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Key Points

- From **1124** CiC at end March 23 (excluding UASC), an increase to **1132** is forecast for March 2024, with lower confidence limit of **1104** and upper **1160**.
- The projected increase is largely due to the younger age groups which are forecast to increase by 2%
- The UASC total is at **104** currently, with the 0.1% threshold level for UASC being 173 for the county, so there is the potential to gain another 69 UASC before that threshold is reached.
- The majority of UASC in 2022/23 are in supported accommodation placements (78%) and 20% in foster placements so it's worth noting that they will add to the demand for those placement types.
- The forecasts in this presentation use a **1 year data trend**, assume no other actions are taken to reduce the care population and all exclude UASC (see "tool accuracy" slides for notes on forecasting with or without UASC)
- When forecasting the March 2023 figures using 2022 data, the total forecast non-UASC care figure was relatively close to the actual (1130 projected v 1124 actual). The harder to forecast elements of how the ages and placement types would be split varied in success, with aged 16+ projected to be much lower than actual and 10-15's predicted to be higher than they were.



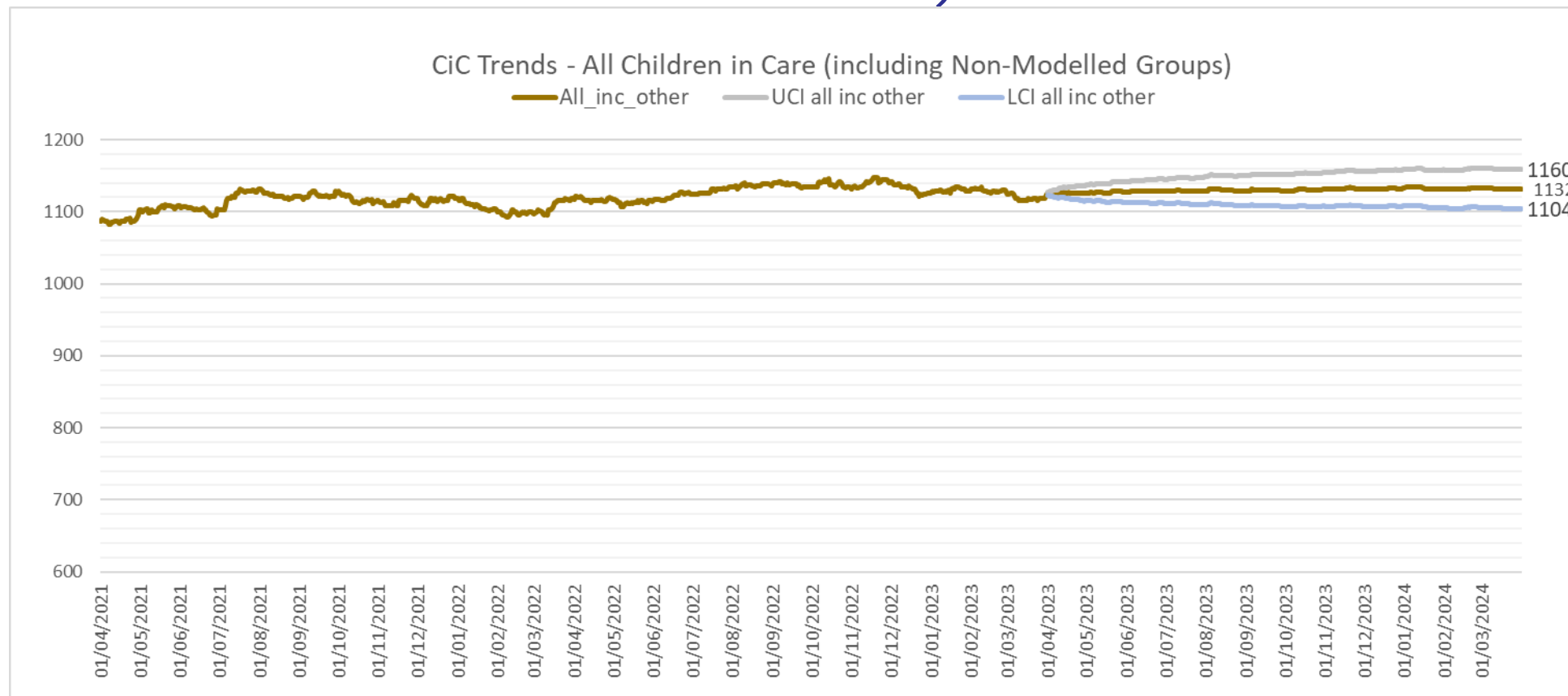
Summary Figures – Excluding UASC

Exc UASC	Total inc Unmodelled	total (Fos, Res, Supp)	Fos	Res	Supp	Age 0	Age 1_4	Age 5_9	Age 10_15	Age 16_18
Actual 31/03/2022	1118	995	823	134	38	57	114	207	436	181
Actual 31/3/2023	1124	996	799	137	60	45	124	205	398	224
Base Forecast 31/03/2024	1132	1004	795	141	68	41	135	201	382	245
Base LCI	1104	976	771	131	59	32	124	190	367	231
Base UCI	1160	1032	819	151	77	50	146	212	397	259
% Change from current to 31/03/24	0.7%	0.8%	-0.5%	2.9%	13.3%	-8.9%	8.9%	-2.0%	-4.0%	9.4%

Projections by age include only the modelled groups. The 'All-Total' include all children in care.



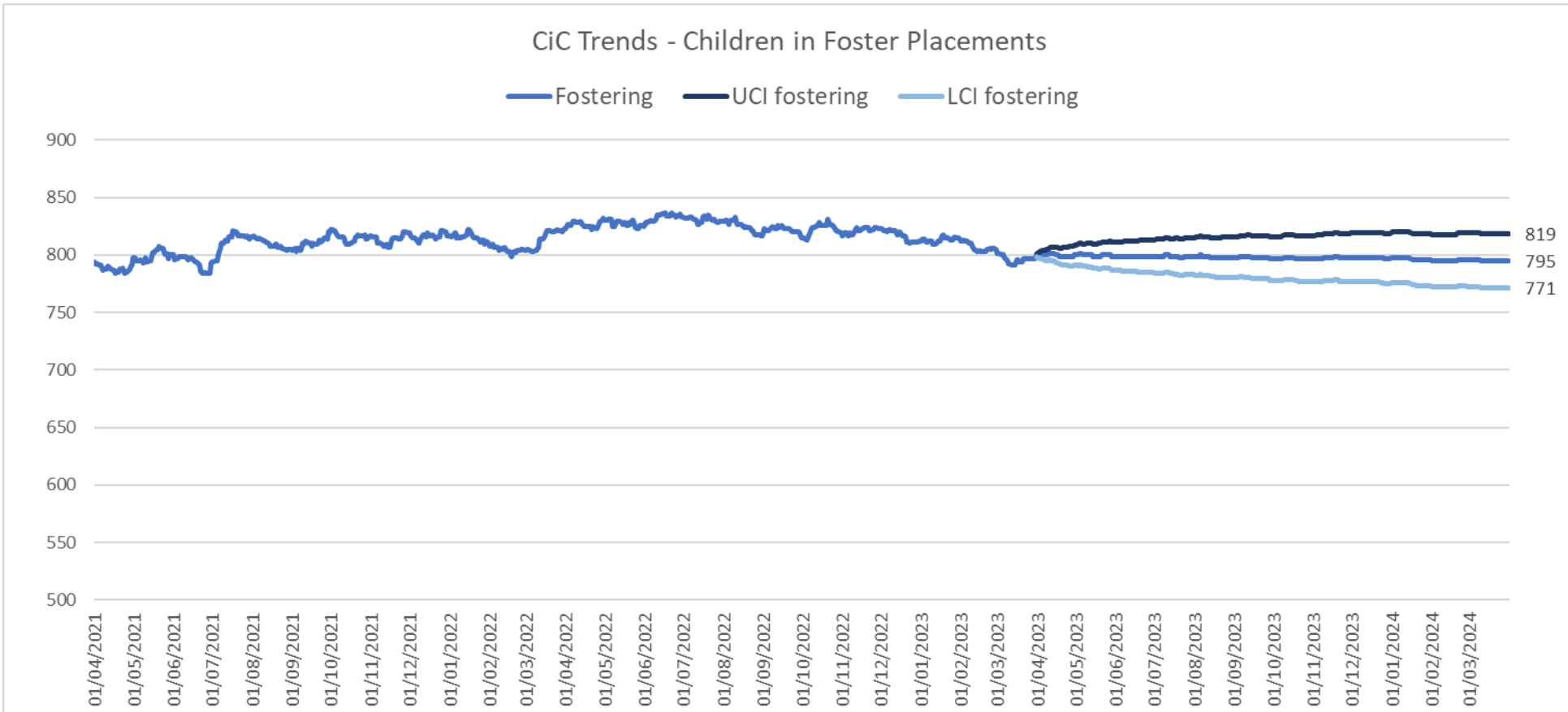
Trend- All Children in Care, Exc UASC



The care population (excluding UASC) has increased **1%** from **1118** at the end of March 2022 to **1124** at the end of March 2023. An increase of **1%** up to **1132** is forecast to March 2024.



Foster Placements

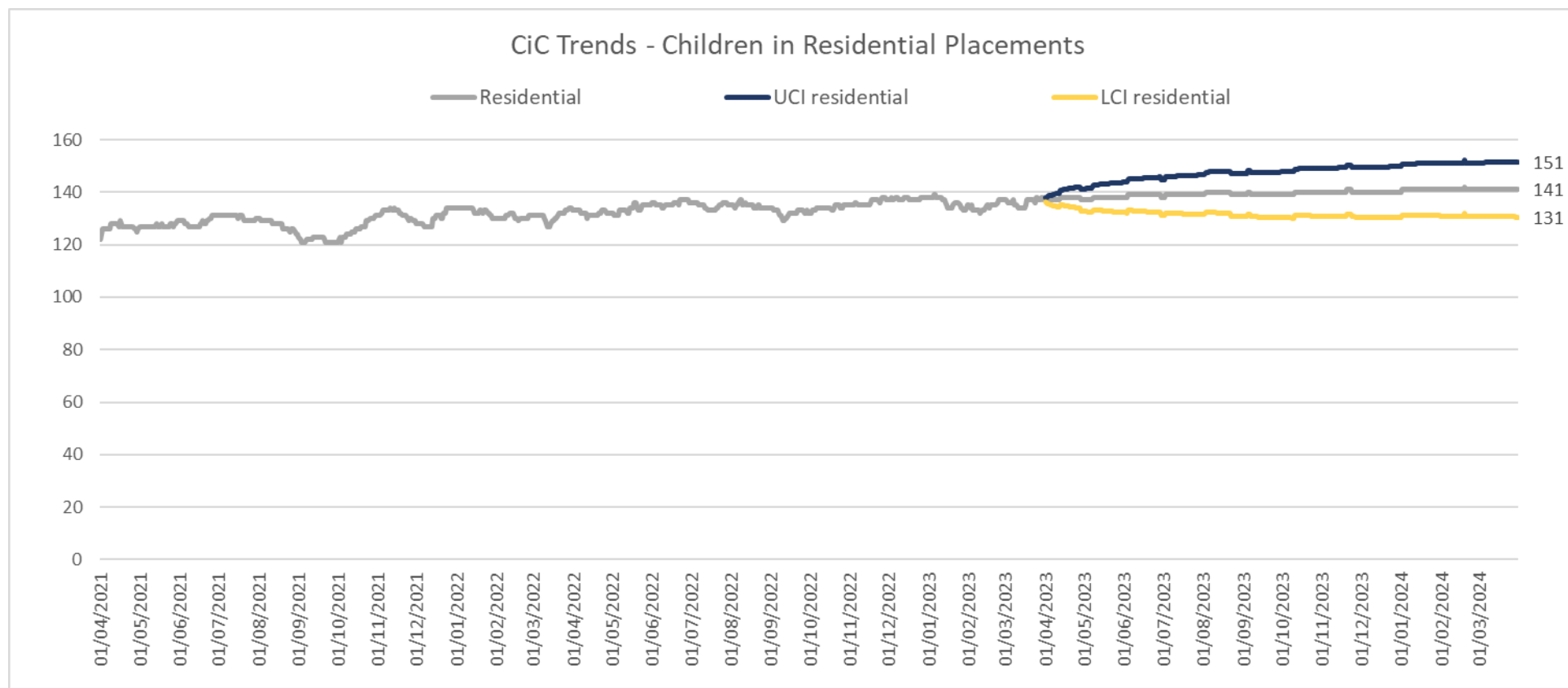


Foster placements (which includes placements with a connected person) decreased **3%** from **823** children in March 2022, to **799** March 2023. A **0.5%** decrease to **795** is forecast at the end of March 2024.



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Residential Placements

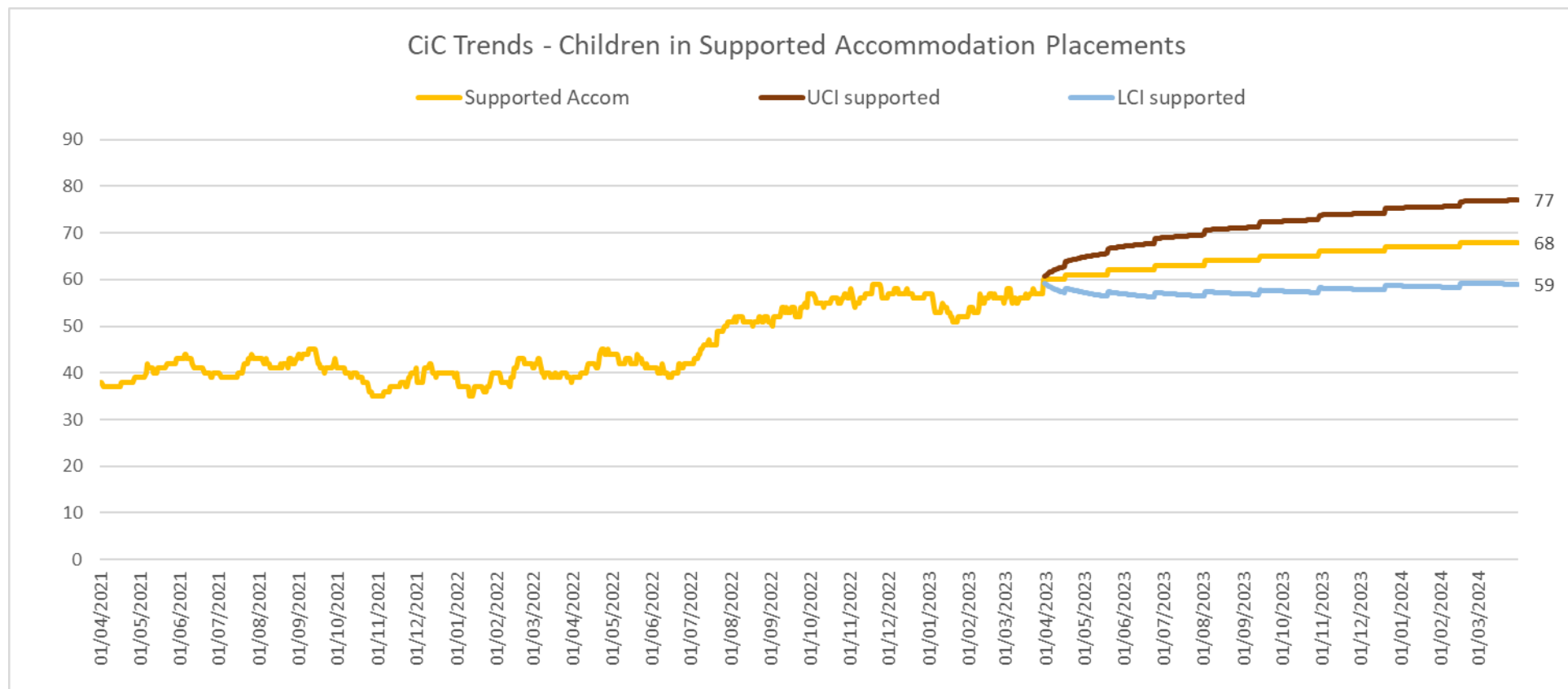


Residential placements was at **134** children at end March 23, and remained relatively consistent at **137** end March 23. This is forecast to increase by 3% at the end of March 2024, to **141**.



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Supported Accommodation Placements

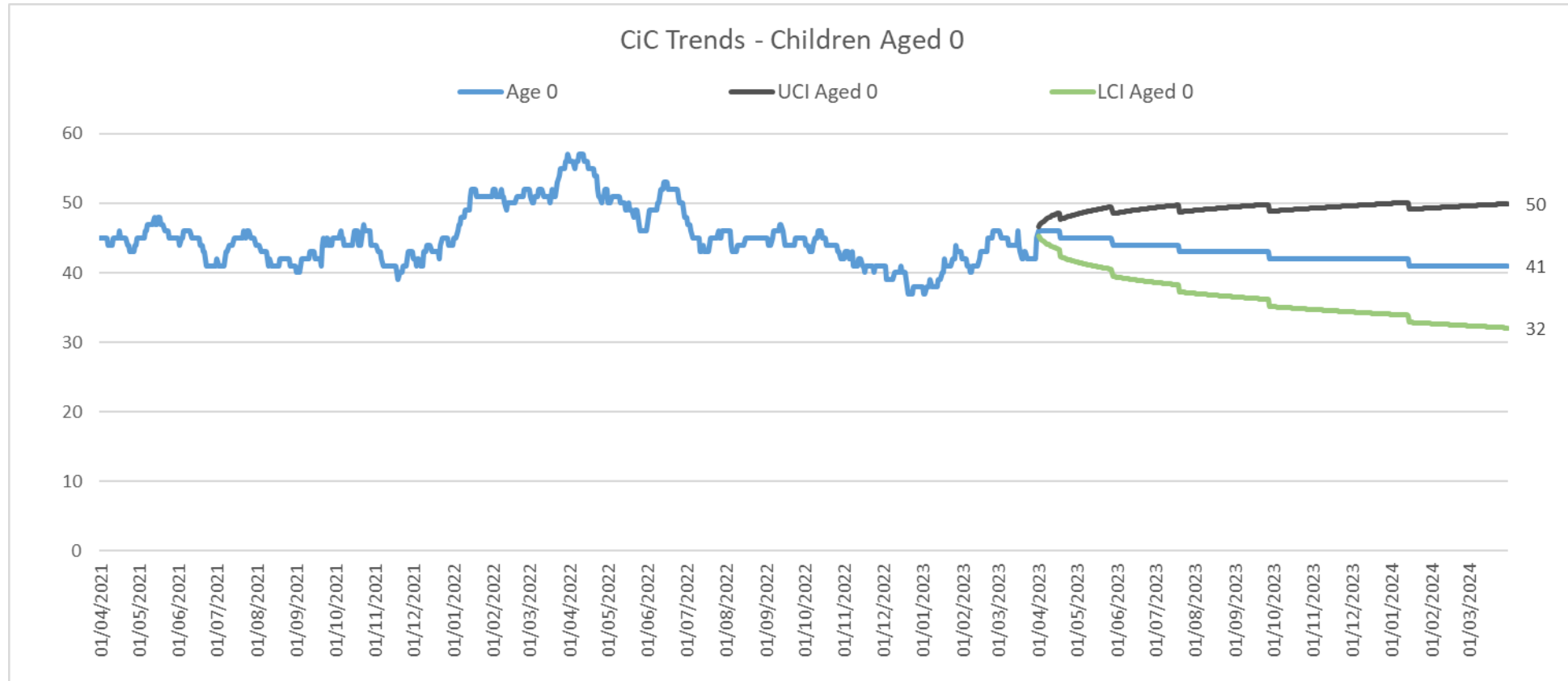


Supported Accommodation placements increased **58%** from **38** children in March 22, to **60** in March 23. A 13% increase to **68** is forecast at the end of March 2024.



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Age Under 1

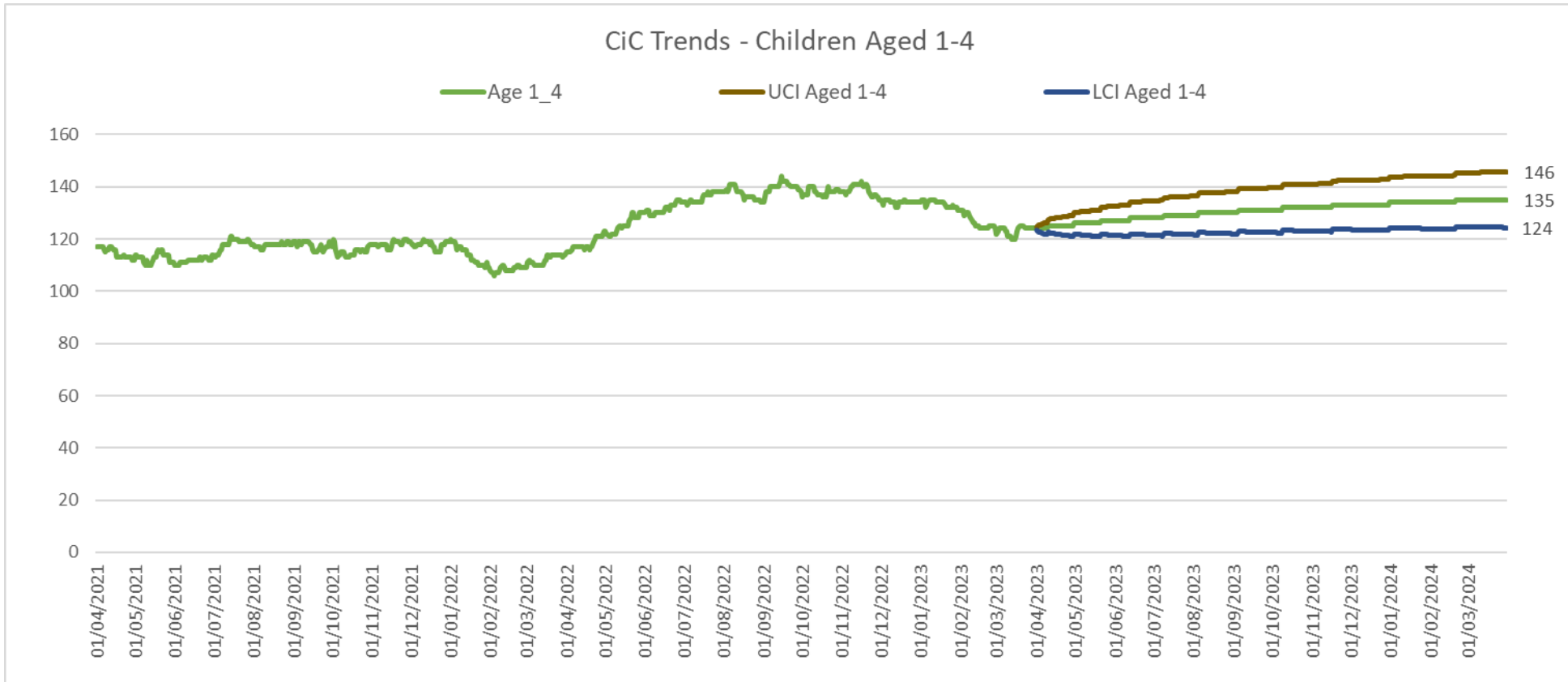


Children in care aged under 1 has decreased **21%** from **57** in March 22 to **45** in March 23. A 9% decrease is forecast to **41** by March 2024.



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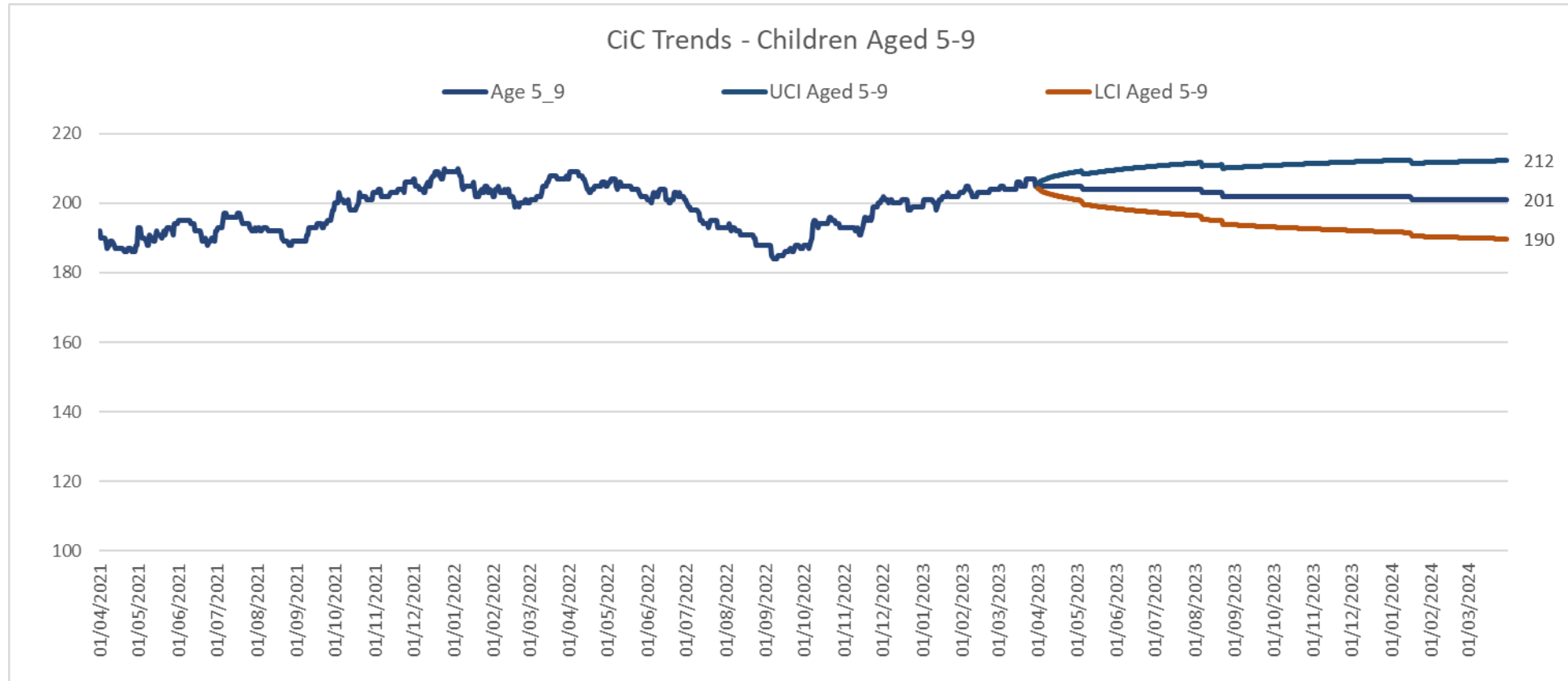
Age 1-4



Children in care aged 1-4 has increased **9%** from **114** on 31/3/22 to **124** on 31/3/23. An increase of **9%** is forecast to **135** by March 2024.



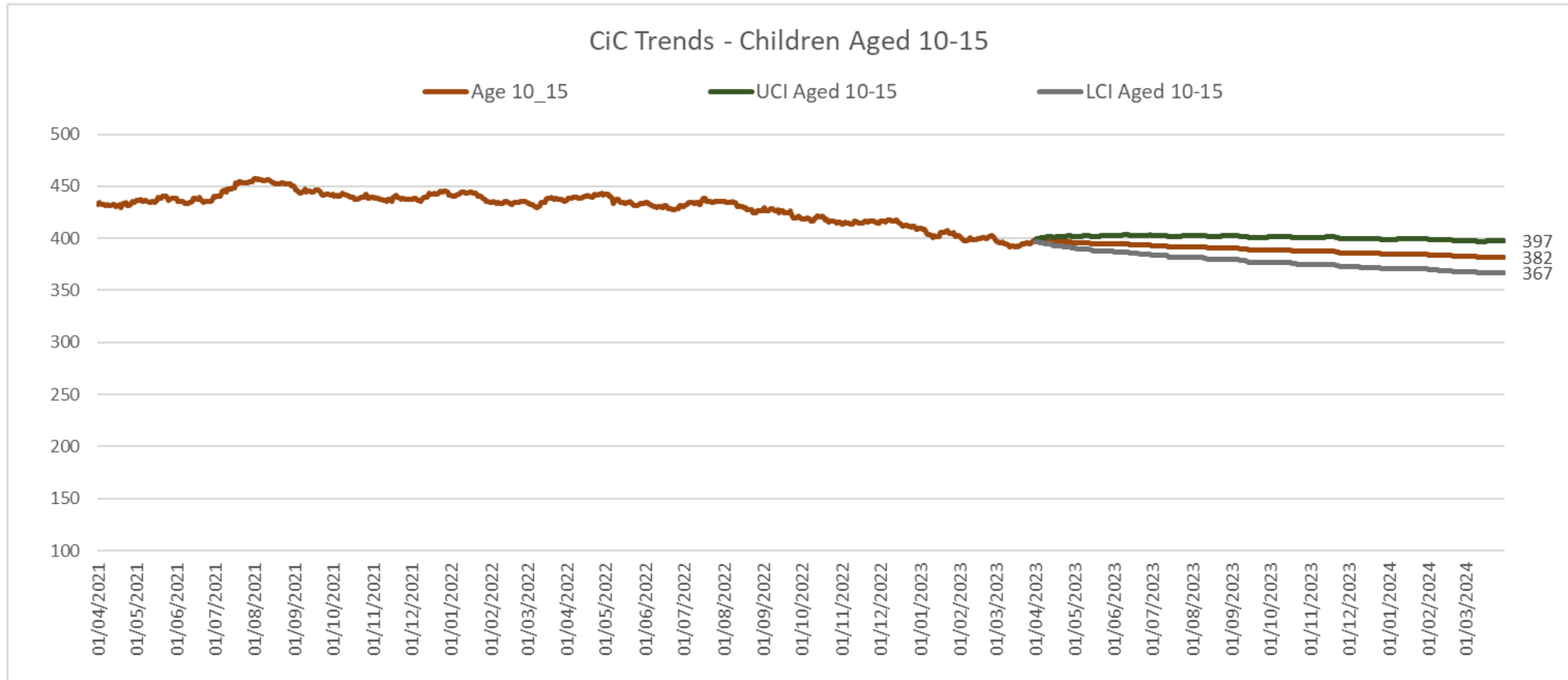
Age 5-9



Children in care aged 5-9 has decreased **1%** from **207** on 31/3/22 to **205** on 31/3/23. There is a **2%** decrease forecast to **201** by March 2024.



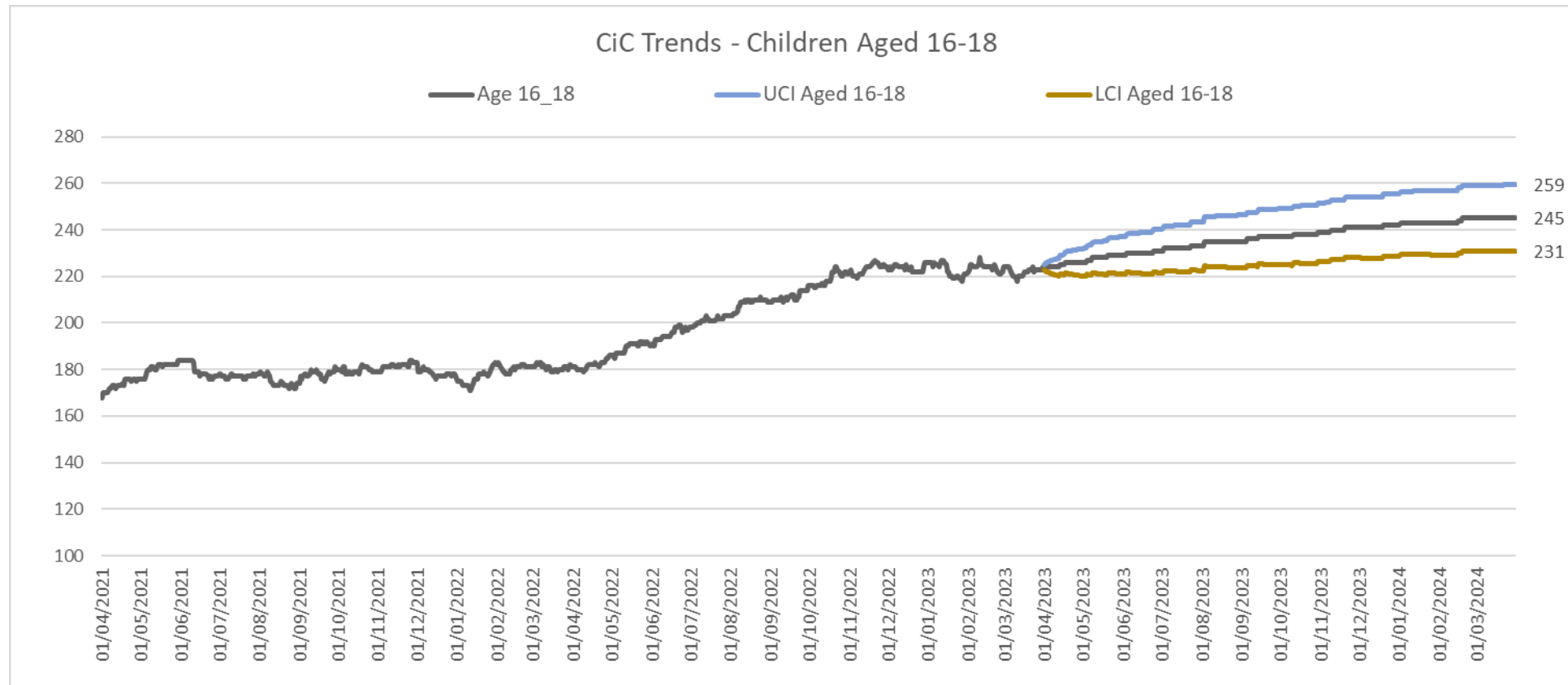
Age 10-15



Children in care aged 10-15 has decreased **11%** from **436** on 31/3/22 to **398** on 31/3/23. There is a 4% decrease forecast to **382** by March 2024.



Age 16-18

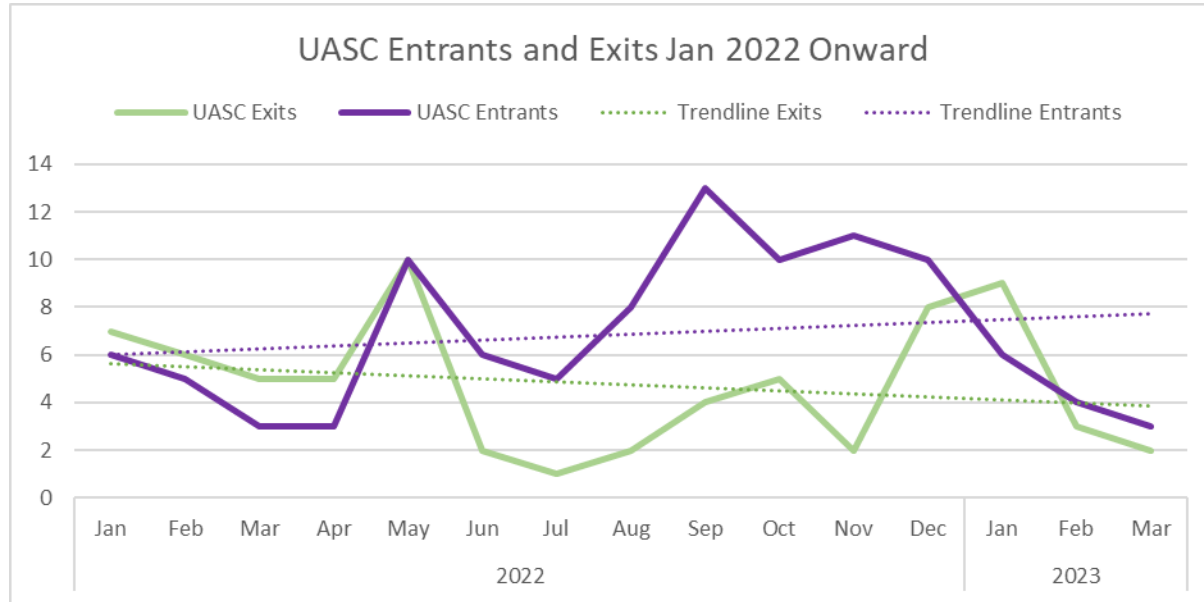


Children in care aged 16-18 has increased **24%** from **181** on 31/3/22 to **224** on 31/3/23 with a 9% increase forecast to **245** by March 2024.



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UASC exits/entrants



2022/23	UASC Entrants	UASC Exits	Net change
Apr	3	5	-2
May	10	10	0
Jun	6	2	4
Jul	5	1	4
Aug	8	2	6
Sep	13	4	9
Oct	10	5	5
Nov	11	2	9
Dec	10	8	2
Jan 23	6	9	-3
Feb	4	3	1
Mar	3	2	1
Total	89	53	36

UASC entering care since Jan 2022 year up until May 2022 kept a relatively even pace to those exiting care, with 27 entering and 33 exiting, but from June, entrants were significantly higher than those leaving. The last 3 months have seen the UASC numbers stabilise again.

