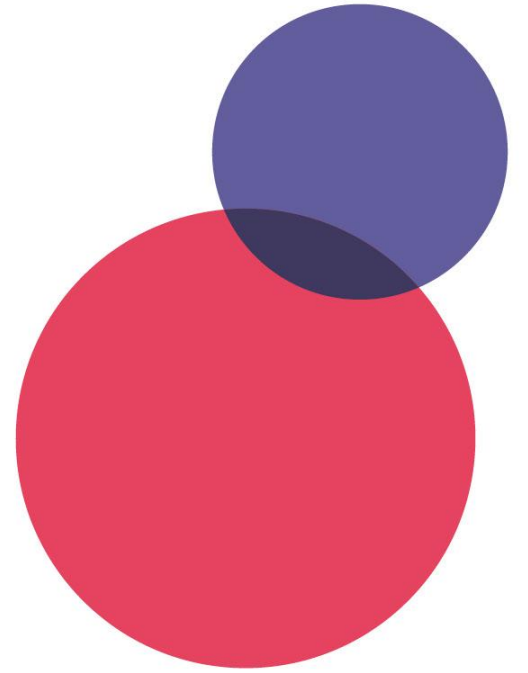# Focus

**Safeguarding**

Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

**Key Criteria for Section 42 Enquires**:
The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)

- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect

- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

# Six Principles of Safeguarding

### 1. Empowerment
People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent

### 2. Prevention
It is better to take action before harm occurs.

### 3. Proportionality
The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

### 4. Protection
Support and representation for those in greatest need.

### 5. Partnership
Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

### 6. Accountability
Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

# Key Principles of Making Safeguarding Personal:

**Person-Centered**: The adult is the expert in their own life; their views and wishes are sought early and always considered.

**Outcome-Focused**: Focuses on what matters to the person and achieving meaningful improvements, not just a process or conclusion.

**Strengths-Based**: Identifies and builds on an individual's strengths and capabilities.

**Choice & Control**: Enhances the person's involvement, choice, and control in decisions affecting them.

**Collaborative**: Involves working with people, families, and communities, using social work skills, not just following a rigid process.

Empowering individuals to live independent lives

# Interpreting data
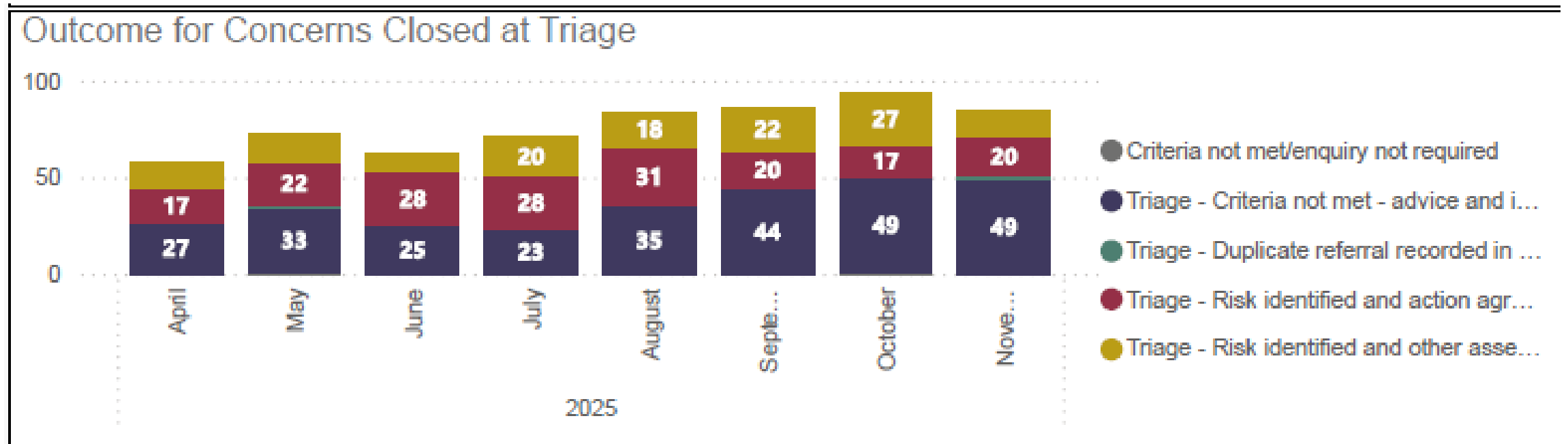
# Enquiries and Pathways

The top red line is the total number of whole service concerns we receive throughout the year. The red line is a sum of the green and orange lines. The green line shows those cases that are dealt with in our triage function and are not eligible as s42 enquires or are being managed more appropriately elsewhere. The orange line is those cases that translate into s42 enquiries.

Nr Cases (Concerns) Created, Nr Closed at Triage & Nr Progressed to Enquiry

● Nr Created  ● Nr Closed at Duty  ● Nr Progressed to Enquiry

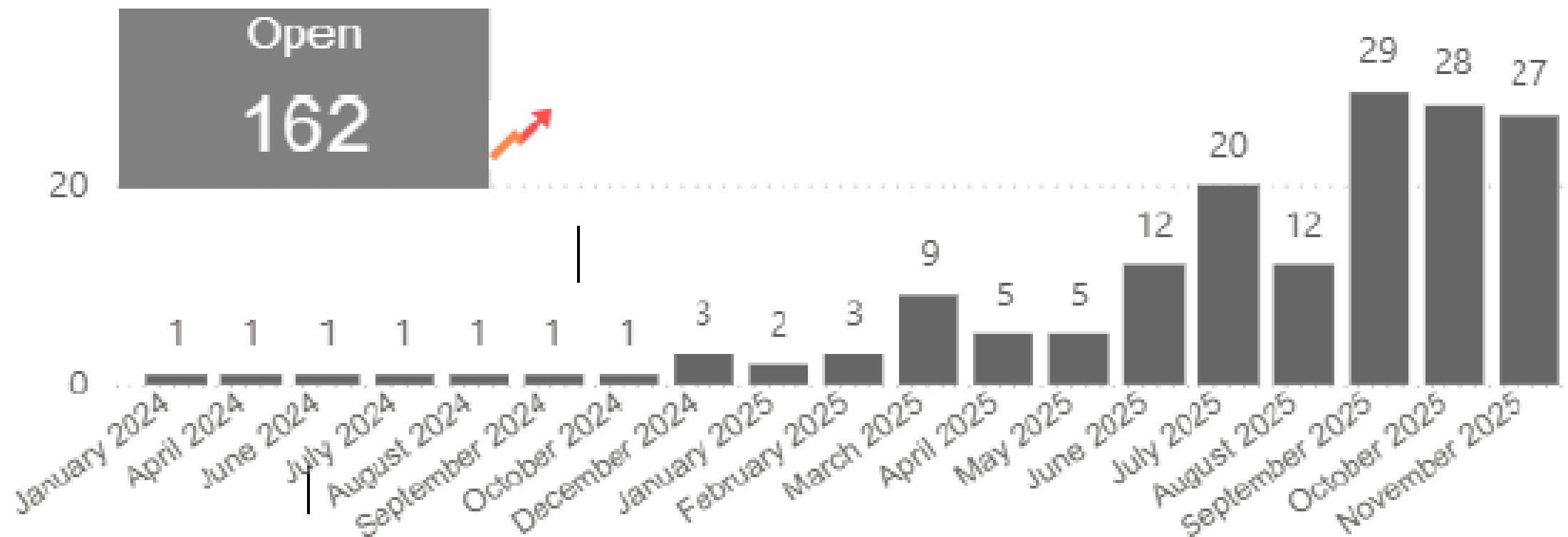| Month | Nr Created | Nr Closed at Duty | Nr Progressed to Enquiry |
|---|---|---|---|
| April | 106 | 58 | 37 |
| May | 105 | 73 | 38 |
| June | 93 | 62 | 31 |
| July | 115 | 71 | 39 |
| August | 109 | 84 | 25 |
| September | 130 | 86 | 41 |
| October | 126 | 94 | 34 |
| November | 116 | 85 | 34 |

2025

# Decision making at Triage

The graph below demonstrates the decision-making function of the triage process. For example, the dark blue on the graph each month denotes 'criteria not met advice and information given'. This outcome is indicated in the legend on the right.



Outcome for Concerns Closed at Triage

Legend:
- Criteria not met/enquiry not required
- Triage - Criteria not met - advice and i...
- Triage - Duplicate referral recorded in ...
- Triage - Risk identified and action agr...
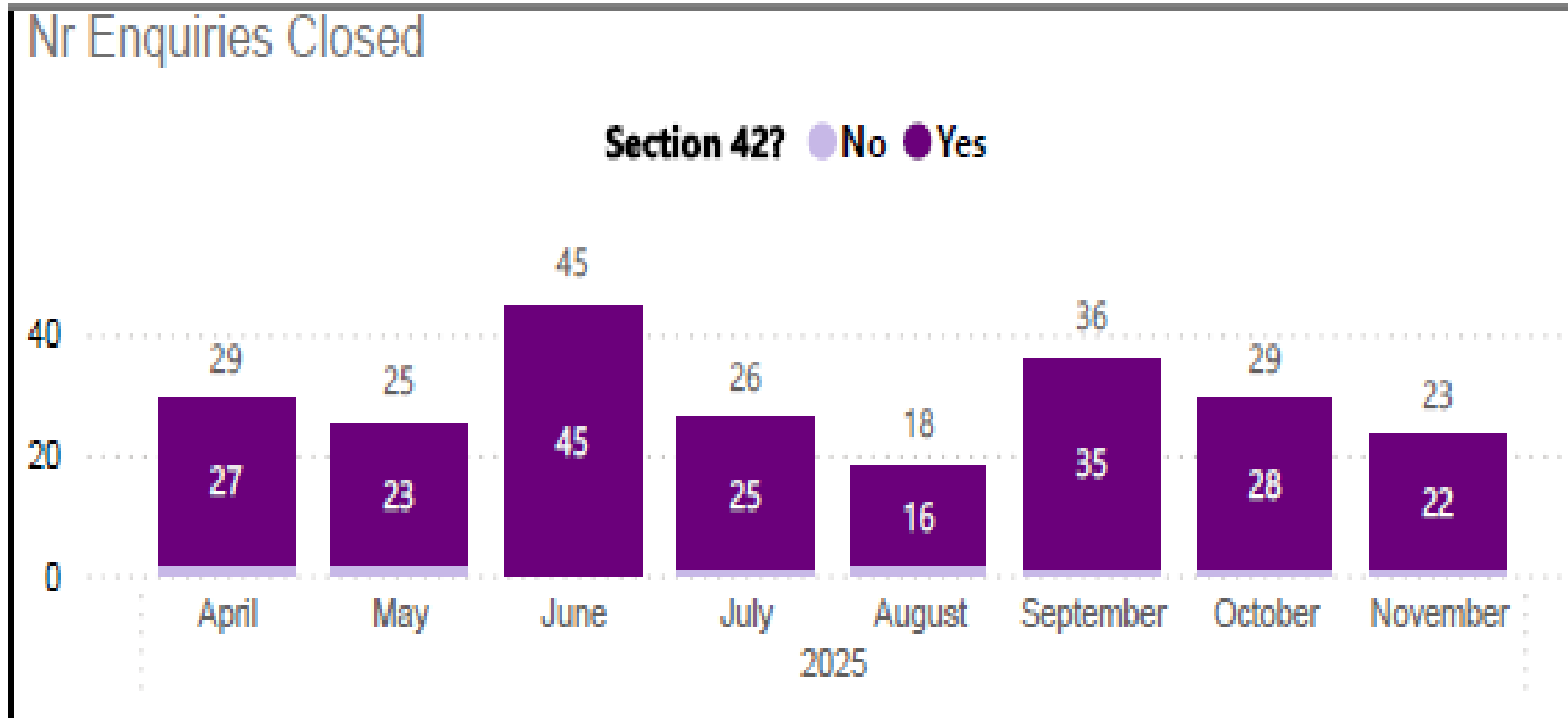- Triage - Risk identified and other asse...

# Open Cases

This graph is a snapshot in November of the number of s42 cases currently open in the safeguarding team and the time scales that they have been open for.

# S42 cases closed each month

Most cases are s42 but a few cases are investigated that are non-statutory because an enquiry was considered necessary. These are denoted by the lighter purple colour.



Nr Enquiries Closed

Section 42?  ● No  ● Yes

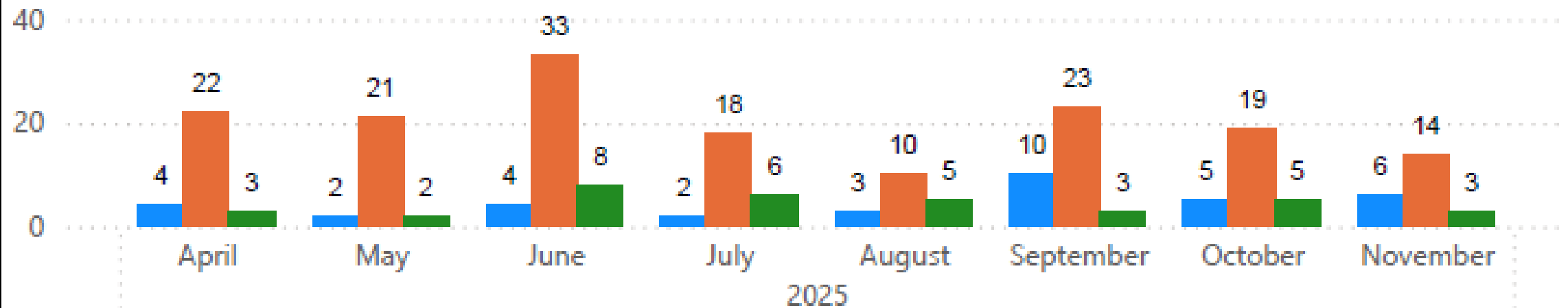| Month | No | Yes | Total |
|-------|-----|-----|-------|
| April | | 27 | 29 |
| May | | 23 | 25 |
| June | | 45 | 45 |
| July | | 25 | 26 |
| August | | 16 | 18 |
| September | | 35 | 36 |
| October | | 28 | 29 |
| November | | 22 | 23 |

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# Risk evaluation

Each case closed is subject to a risk evaluation. Below we report monthly on the three risk outcomes. There is a 4th outcome which is 'risk remains' and this is reported to the Adult Safeguarding Board quarterly.
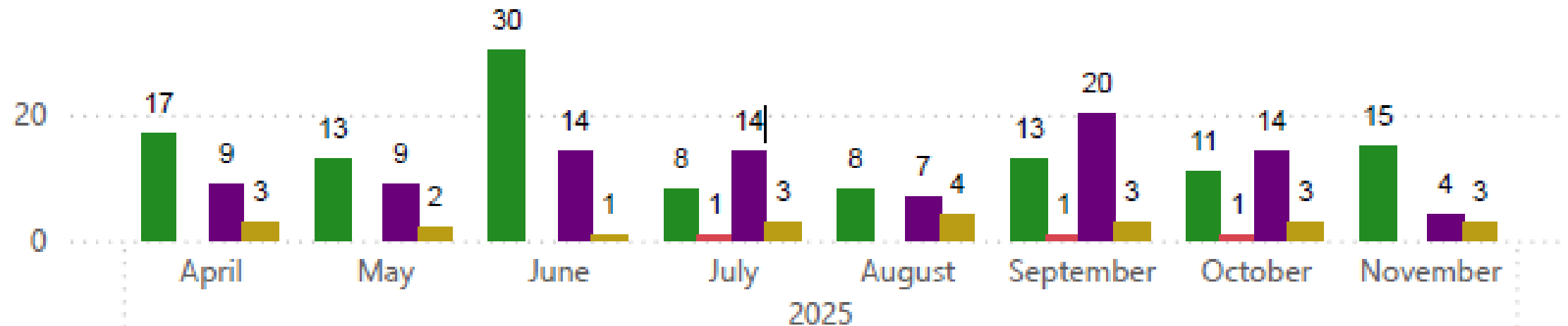
# Desired outcomes of s42 enquiries

This is about making safeguarding personal. What can be deduced is that every case is individual, and you can never predict the outcomes each month.



Nr Closed by Year, Month and Desired Outcomes

● Fully Achieved ● Not Achieved ● Not Known ● Partially Achieved