

REPORT OF: HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE (1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010)

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with performance information relating to Children Looked After (CLA) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010, with a particular focus on the end of the period. It also gives a detailed breakdown of the Children Looked After performance indicators via a Performance Grid.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 The work of Children's Services Social Care in Sunderland is of critical importance to achieving good outcomes for the authority's CLA; to ensure that each and every child looked after is able to achieve their full potential.

2.2 Whilst the National Indicator Set for local authorities has now been removed, continued use of the indicators for the immediate future, provides a means by which Sunderland can (a) measure performance for its CLA, (b) compare performance to previous periods, and (c) flag areas for improvement.

2.3 The former National Indicator Set on which this report is based covers Placements, Placement Stability, Reviews, Care Leavers, Missing Children, Adoptions, Offending, Emotional and Behavioural Health, and Ethnicity.

**3.0 Context**

3.1 Final performance information is submitted to the DfE annually in June, and thereafter follows a period of validation. The data provided in this report and in the Performance Grid is therefore subject to finalisation and validation, which can cause changes to the outcome.

**4.0 Methodology**

4.1 This report and Performance Grid provides data on a cumulative basis from 01/04/10 where feasible, although some data is represented on a snapshot or rolling basis. The 'measure' is made explicit in each case, via the Performance Grid, to aid interpretation.

4.2 Colour-coding is used throughout the Performance Grid to indicate whether a target has been met or to indicate the direction of performance travel from the previous month. When colour-coding direction of travel, an interpretation has been made as to whether the move is positive, negative or neutral – the interpretation is entirely subjective and is open to further discussion. Green is positive, red is negative and grey is neutral.

**5.0 Summary of Key Points**

5.1 By the end of November 2010:

- 387 children were looked after (68.0 per 10,000 children in the local population) – following a peak of 400 in July 2010.
- 75.19% (291 of 387) of all CLA were placed in foster care, and of those, 72.85% (212 of 291) were placed within the local authority boundary.
- 82.52% (118 of 143) of CLA aged 10-15 were in a family placement, increasing to 99.41% (169 of 170) for the under-10's.
- 58.91% (228 of 387) of all CLA were male, and 41.09% (159 of 387) were female.

- 91.99% (356 of 387) of CLA were experiencing a stable placement (less than 3 placements) - the first improvement in three-months.
- 66.92% (87 of 130) of long-term CLA were retaining a stable long-term placement – more than in any other month of the financial year.
- 100% of CLA had participated in their reviews.
- 97.71% (341 of 349) of all CLA cases that should have been reviewed, were reviewed on time.
- 68.29% (56 of 82) of all Foster Carer cases that should have been reviewed, were reviewed on time.
- 90% (27 of 30) of care leavers were in suitable accommodation – the first time this financial year that the target was both met and exceeded.
- 50% (15 of 30) of care leavers were in suitable Education, Training or Employment.
- The self-assessment for children missing from home/care remained at 12 with further work being needed across a number of areas. However, the number of children going missing reduced, as did the number of times they went missing.
- 47.62% (10 of 21) of children adopted were adopted within 12-months of the best interest decision. Those not adopted in timescale were either aged 5 and over or had complex needs.
- 7.67% (25 of 326) of children looked after for over six-months had an Adoption Order or Guardianship Order.
- 1.15 CLA offended for every one 10-17-year-old offender in the general population (April to September period).
- 13.3 (low mental health concerns) was the average mental health score for children aged between 4 and 16 who had their mental health needs assessed (by the end of September, 2010).
- 4.91% (19 of 387) of CLA belonged to an ethnic minority population.
- 0.52% (2 of 387) of CLA were unaccompanied asylum seekers.

## 6.0 Children Looked After (CLA) Performance

6.1 CLA levels are down 3.25% from the peak in July, standing at 387 by the end of November (68.0 per 10,000 children in the local population). The gradual reduction over the last few months could be said to reflect the effectiveness of safeguarding gatekeeping processes in keeping children appropriately out of local authority care.

*\*It is important to note that these figures reflect a snapshot in time and are subject to change on a daily basis.*

6.2 Foster care remains the most common placement for CLA, with 75.19% (291 of 387) in this type of placement at the end of November 2010 (remaining comparative to the preceding months). At the end of the same period 72.85% (212 of 291) of foster care placements were within the LA boundary, rising to 75.63% (180 of 238) for LA provided foster care - these percentages are marginally higher than the previous two-months.

6.2.1 As historically experienced, children in agency provided foster care are less likely to be placed in the boundary. From levels of 25% in the summer, the levels of agency-provided foster care provided in the LA boundary have been steadily increasing to a level of 48.39% by the end of November. The increase in agency-provided foster care placed in the boundary is thought to be as a result of closer working relationships with providers in relation to costing and better clarity on available placement locations.

6.3 After foster care, the next most common placement is residential care, with between 11.11% and 12.05% (43 to 48 children) typically placed in this setting. Latest data shows that at the end of November, 11.63% (45 of 387) were placed residentially.

6.4 The remaining children not placed in foster care or residentially, are either placed with parents or placed for adoption.

6.4.1 Overall, the numbers placed with parents has fallen from May's peak of 4.60% (18 of 391) to 3.36% (13 of 387) by the end of November.

6.4.2 The percentage of children placed for adoption, generally decreased on a monthly basis from April, but an extra five children placed for adoption between September and October increased the percentage from 7.79% (31 of 398) in September to 9.11% (36 of 395) in

October. At the end of November however, the outturn was at an average level of 8.27% (32 of 387). Of the 32 placed for adoption at the end of November, over half were aged-5 and over, and it is this age group are that traditionally harder to place within 12-months – thereby directly impacting on the future performance of NI61 (see below).

- 6.5 The above figures reflect that at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 86.82% (336 of 387) of CLA were in a family placement. Breaking this down across the age-groups however, gives more insight into family placements, where more younger children are placed in this type of setting than older children:
- 6.5.1 Up until October, as has been the case for the last 2-years, all (100%) of the under-10's retained a family placement. During October however, one child aged-8 was placed in a Children's Home outside of the authority's boundary due to their exceptionally complex needs. The child continued to retain that placement during November which took the percentage to 99.41% (169 of 170).
- 6.5.2 At the end of November three children under-12 did not hold a family placement. This includes the 8-year-old highlighted above. This equated to 98.47% (193 of 196) of under-12's in a family placement, under the 100% target. For those three children, it is the exception rather than the norm that they are placed residentially, given that Sunderland's Children's Homes are registered to accommodate only children aged-12 and over.
- 6.5.3 As expected, the proportion of 10-15 year olds in family settings decreases further, with November's outturn at 82.52% (118 of 143) and under the 84% target for the second consecutive month.
- 6.6 Throughout the financial year, males have accounted for more than half of all CLA and females less than half. At the end of November, 58.91% (228 of 387) were male and 41.09% (159 of 387) were female. These ratios are not significantly different to any other month.
- 6.7 (NI 62) 8.01% (31 of 387) of all CLA were experiencing an unstable placement at the end of November, where they had had three or more placements. This also means that 91.99% (356 of 387) of all CLA were experiencing a stable placement (less than three placements) - the first improvement since July 2010. Latest performance remains within target.  
*\*Note that previous figures have been amended following the identification of a corruption in the data extract report. Amendments have equated to up to 2.5 percentage points reduction, but have followed a very similar trend throughout the year.*
- 6.8 (NI 63) For those children in long-term placements, 66.92% (87 of 130) were retaining a stable long-term placement at the end of November. Despite remaining under the 75% target, the latest outturn is the highest this financial year i.e. compared to May's outturn of 62.59%.
- 6.8.1 The target for this indicator is 75%. It is this target which appears difficult to achieve across the whole of Tyne and Wear, with only one of the authorities' reaching the target at 75.70% by the end of October. Looking back to 2009/2010, the same is true for Sunderland's Statistical Neighbours where the average outturn was 68.1%, compared to Sunderland's 69.6% - both therefore under the current target. In Sunderland, a decision to move a child is taken on a case-by-case basis, and is made in line with the child's best interests (i.e. to bring siblings together) – such positive moves however do have a negative impact on this particular indicator, making it one of the most challenging indicators in the set.
- 6.8.2 A suggestion has been raised to develop a local indicator which could provide a better understanding of placement quality and which could lend to better explain performance changes across NI63 - the Performance and Information Team are investigating this suggestion.
- 6.9 Throughout the financial year, no child has changed school as a result of a placement move.  
*\*This measure excludes those that moved as a result of an adoption placement.*
- 6.10 CLA participation in reviews continues at 100% (620 of 620), for those eligible to participate. Since April (figures include participation at each review that takes place, regardless of how many reviews a child has in the period):
- 52.26% (324 of 620) physically attended and spoke for themselves

- 1.77% (11 of 620) physically attended and had an advocate speak on their behalf
  - 0.32% (2 of 620) physically attended and conveyed their views symbolically (non-verbally).
  - 41.61% (258 of 620) did not attend physically but briefed an advocate to speak on their behalf
  - 4.03% (25 of 620) did not attend physically but conveyed their feelings to the review by a facilitative medium.
- 6.11 (NI 66) The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March 2011 that have been reviewed on time, has increased for another consecutive month to 97.71% (341 of 349) for the April to November period, against a 100% target.
- 6.12 A new measure has been incorporated into the Performance Grid relating to the timeliness of Foster Carer Reviews. This shows that 68.29% (56 of 82) of Foster Carer reviews were completed on time between April and November (at least once every 12-months). Of those 26 that were outside of timescale, 15 were completed within three months and 11 were awaiting completion/recording at the time of data extraction (none of the latter were more than seven-months overdue).
- 6.13 The percentage of care leavers in suitable Accommodation has increased substantially during November compared to previous months at 90% (27 of 30). Conversely, the percentage of care leavers in suitable Education, Training or Employment (EET) decreased from a high of 70% in May to 50% (15 of 30) by the end of November. November was the first time this financial year that the proportions in suitable accommodation have both met and exceeded the 86% target, although those in suitable EET remain under the 67% target. The difficulties of engaging care leavers in this cohort are well known, with several refusing contact and more unwilling to engage.
- 6.13.1 Preceding November, both measures were performing under target which led to the Acting Team Manager for Leaving Care undertaking a validation exercise. The validation exercise highlighted that some of the figures were being negatively affected by under-recording – this has now been resolved and has led to an increase of those in suitable accommodation. Also, the Manager has researched the practices of other local authorities to determine how they make achievements in this area - the outcome of this research is to be fed back to the Head of Safeguarding, with a view to identifying service improvement measures.  
*\* In assessing the performance of care leavers in suitable Accommodation or EET, it should be noted that the indicators relate to a very small cohort, meaning just 1 or 2 children can affect the overall percentage.*
- 6.14 The self-assessment at the end of November 2010 remains at 12 from a possible 15, in relation to the missing children protocols. To raise the rating, further work is needed in the areas of (i) Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways, (ii) Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals and (iii) Local procedures including effective needs assessment protocols. To aid performance management in this area, further detail on those missing from home or care has been provided, as has detail on those missing for over 24-hours  
*\*Note that the DfE are reviewing this performance measure and therefore did not require a Quarter 2 submission.*
- 6.14.1 As can be seen from the chart included in the Performance Grid, the number of missing episodes has been steadily reducing since August – from 68 in August to 37 in November. The number of *children* going missing in the period has also reduced from 38 to 27 – with more going missing from home than from care during November. 73% (27 of 37) of all missing episodes in November were for less than 24-hours.  
*\*Note that this data is derived from Northumbria Police and is according to their definition of 'missing'.*
- 6.15 Since April, 21 children have been adopted. 11 of those children were adopted outside the 12-month best interest decision, equating to 47.62% adopted within timescale against an 82% target. Ten of those not adopted in timescale were aged-5 and over at the time of the adoption plan (and of those ten, seven were aged seven and over) - an age group which is traditionally harder to place within 12-months.
- 6.15.1 All ten aged over-5 that were adopted out of timescale, were adopted with external agency families and required extensive family finding which took longer than a year.

- 6.15.2 The remaining child not adopted in timescale was aged under-5 – the child was adopted outside of 12-months by a matter of days. This was a child with considerable disabilities who required extensive family finding via 'Be My Parent' and was adopted in another agency's adoptive family.
- 6.15.3 With more than half of all children currently placed for adoption aged-5 and over, a continued performance under target could be experienced. However, it is predicated that more children aged under-one will enter the cohort before the end of the financial year.
- 6.16 Against a 9% target, Adoption/Guardianship orders as a percentage of CLA for 6-months has been improving monthly to 7.67% (25 of 326) by the end of November 2010.  
*\*Note that previous figures have been amended following the identification of a corruption in the data extract report. Amendments have equated to less than 1-percentage point per month.*
- 6.17 At the end of the period April to September there were 200 CLA for 12months+, of which 13 of them were offenders. This gives a cumulative offending rate of 6.50% for CLA, compared to 5.66% for the general 10-17 population in Northumbria. Thus, there were 1.15 CLA Offenders for every one 10-17-year-old offender at the end of the Quarter 2, compared to 1.21 the previous quarter. Figures are based on a probable cohort, which won't be finalised until March 2011. At the time of publication, Quarter 3 data is awaited.
- 6.18 It has been found that looked after children experience significantly worse mental health than the general child population. Nationally, an estimated 45% of looked after children aged 5 to 17 have mental health problems, over four times higher than for the general child population. Sunderland's CLA for 12month+ have their emotional and behavioural health assessed through a screening questionnaire that produces a score 0-40 and covers Emotions, Conduct, Hyperactivity, Peer Problems and Pro-social Behaviour. A score above 16 indicates the beginning of mental health concerns).
- 6.18.1 All relevant children aged 4-16 (inclusive) looked after for 12months+ were assessed in Quarter 2 – their average score remained at 13.3 (against a target of <16) indicating low mental health concerns (on average) for the second-consecutive quarter. Breaking the measure down further however, 64% had low mental health needs, 13% had borderline mental health needs and 24% had higher than average mental health needs.
- 6.19 A small number of children belonging to an ethnic monitoring have entered the looked after system since September, taking the percentage at the end of November to 4.91% (19 of 387). Of the 19 ethnic minority children:
- 1 was Asian or Asian British (any other Asian)
  - 1 was Asian or Asian British (Indian)
  - 1 was Black or Black British (any other Black)
  - 4 were Mixed ethnicity
  - 6 were mixed White and Asian
  - 4 were Other Ethnic Group (Chinese)
  - 2 were Other.
- 6.20 New reporting measures introduced during October show that of the 387 children looked after at the end of November, 2 (0.52%) were unaccompanied asylum seekers.

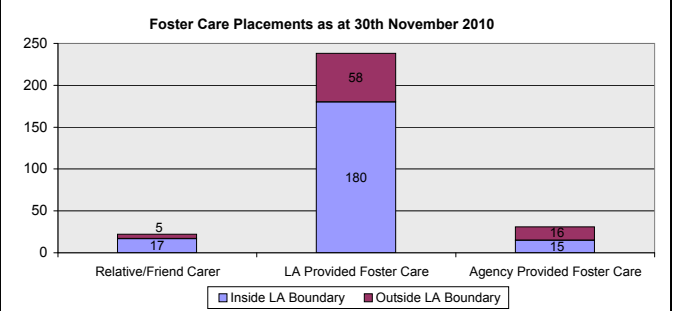
## **7.0 Performance Grid**

- 7.1 See attached - separated by Placements, Placement Stability, Reviews, Care Leavers, Missing Children, Adoptions, Offending, Emotional and Behavioural Health, and Ethnicity.

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Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
<b>CLA Overview</b>														
□	CLA per 10,000 under 18 population	Snapshot	Data Data	Data Data	67.7	69.5	68.8	69.9	69.4	68.0	□	□	□	CLA levels are down 3.25% from the peak in July, standing at 387 by the end of November (68.0 per 10,000 children in the local population). The gradual reduction over the last few months could be said to reflect the effectiveness of safeguarding gatekeeping processes in keeping children appropriately out of local authority care. <i>It is important to note that these figures reflect a snapshot in time and are subject to change on a daily basis.</i>
□	Numbers of CLA....	Snapshot			390	400	396	398	395	387				
<b>Placements</b>														
□	...Placed with Parent	Snapshot	Data Data	Data Data	13/390	11/400	13/396	13/398	11/395	13/387	□	□	□	Overall, the numbers placed with parents has fallen from May's peak of 4.60% (18 of 391) to 3.36% (13 of 387) by the end of November.
					3.33%	2.75%	3.28%	3.27%	2.79%	3.36%				
□	...Placed in Residential Care	Snapshot	Data Data	Data Data	47/390	48/400	46/396	46/398	46/395	45/387	□	□	□	Between 11.11% and 12.05% (43 to 48 children) are typically placed in a residential setting. Latest data at the end of November shows that 11.63% (45 of 387) were placed residentially.
					12.05%	12%	12%	11.56%	11.65%	11.63%				
□	...Placed for Adoption	Snapshot	Data Data	Data Data	32/390	32/400	33/396	31/398	36/395	32/387	□	□	↓	The percentage of children placed for adoption, has generally decreased on a monthly basis from April, but an extra five children placed for adoption between September and October increased the percentage from 7.79% (31 of 398) in September to 9.11% (36 of 395) in October. At the end of November however, the outturn was at an average level of 8.27% (32 of 387). Of the 32 placed for adoption at the end of November, over half were aged-5 and over, and it is this age group are that traditionally harder to place within 12-months – thereby directly impacting on the future performance of NI61 (see below).
					8.21%	8%	8.33%	7.79%	9.11%	8.27%				
□	...Placed in Foster Care	Snapshot	Data Data	Data Data	291/390	302/400	297/396	302/398	296/395	291/387	□	□	□	<p>As at the end of November 2010, 291 of 387 children were placed in foster care, which represents 75.19% of the total CLA population. Averaging at three-quarters of all CLA, this outturn does not deviate significantly from any of the preceding months. The table below shows those placed in and out of the area, according to placement provider.</p> <p>As historically experienced, children in agency provided foster care are less likely to be placed in the boundary. From levels of 25% in the summer, the levels of agency-provided foster care provided in the LA boundary have been steadily increasing to a level of 48.39% by the end of November. The increase in agency-provided foster care placed in the boundary is thought to be as a result of closer working relationships with providers in relation to costing and better clarity on available placement locations.</p>
					74.6%	75.50%	75.00%	75.88%	74.94%	75.19%				



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Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
□	...Female	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	160/390	166/400	163/396	163/398	163/395	159/387	□	□	□	Throughout the financial year, females have accounted for less than half of all CLA, to a percentage of 41.09% at the end of November. This outturn does not deviate significantly to any of the preceding months.
					41.03%	41.50%	41.16%	40.95%	41.27%	41.09%				
□	...Male	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	230/390	234/400	233/396	235/398	232/395	228/387	□	□	□	Throughout the financial year, males have accounted for more than half of all CLA, to a percentage of 58.91% at the end of November. This outturn does not deviate significantly to any of the preceding months.
					58.97%	58.50%	58.84%	59.05%	58.73%	58.91%				
□	Family Placements: Under 10's	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	162/162	166/166	170/170	173/173	173/174	169/170	100%	✘	↓	Up until October, as has been the case for the last 2-years, all (100%) of the under-10's retained a family placement. During October however, one child aged-8 was placed in a Children's Home outside of the authority's boundary due to their exceptionally complex needs. The child continued to retain that placement during November which took the percentage to 99.41% (169 of 170).
					100%	100%	100%	100%	99.43%	99.41%				
□	Family Placements: Under 12 (excluding those placed with parents)	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	203/204	196/198	196/198	200/202	201/204	193/196	100%	✘	↓	At the age of 10 and 11, there is a small proportion of children who do not secure family placements. At the end of November three children under-12 did not hold a family placement (this includes the 8-year-old highlighted above), equating to 98.47% (193 of 196) of under-12's in a family placement. For those three children, it is the exception rather than the norm that they are placed residentially, given that Sunderland's Children's Homes are registered to accommodate only children aged-12 and over.
					99.51%	98.99%	98.99%	99.01%	98.53%	98.47%				
□	Family Placements: 10-15 inclusive	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	122/143	127/150	123/145	123/146	120/146	118/143	84%	✘	↑	Older children are typically harder to place in a family placement, which is reflected in the 10-15 year-old's outturn. Of those in this age-group, 82.52% (118 of 143) were in a family placement at the end of November.
					85.32%	84.67%	84.83%	84.25%	82.19%	82.52%				
□	School age CLA with a PEP	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	100%	✘	→	Figures cannot be validated at this time due to lack of recording on ICS. However, work commenced during October to begin recording this data on ICS, meaning that data should be available in the near future.

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Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative																																														
<b>Placement Stability</b>																																																												
NI62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements 3+	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	31/390	29/401	29/396	31/398	33/395	31/387		<10%	✓ (green)	↓ (green)	<p>(NI 62) 8.01% (31 of 387) of all CLA were experiencing an unstable placement at the end of November, where they had had three or more placements. This also means that 91.99% (356 of 387) of all CLA were experiencing stable placements (less than three placements) - the first improvement since July 2010. The tables below show the improved placement stability, and uncovers the activity across admissions and discharges that is currently masked in the figures.</p>																																													
					7.95%	7.23%	7.32%	7.79%	8.35%	8.01%					<p><b>Percentage of children experiencing less than 3 placements</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of children experiencing less than 3 placements</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr-10</td><td>92.25%</td></tr> <tr><td>May-10</td><td>93.08%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-10</td><td>92.05%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-10</td><td>92.77%</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-10</td><td>92.68%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-10</td><td>92.21%</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-10</td><td>91.65%</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-10</td><td>91.99%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Monthly Admissions and Discharges</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Monthly Admissions and Discharges</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Admissions</th> <th>Discharges</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr-10</td><td>12</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>May-10</td><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-10</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-10</td><td>20</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-10</td><td>11</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-10</td><td>17</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-10</td><td>17</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-10</td><td>9</td><td>17</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Percentage	Apr-10	92.25%	May-10	93.08%	Jun-10	92.05%	Jul-10	92.77%	Aug-10	92.68%	Sep-10	92.21%	Oct-10	91.65%	Nov-10	91.99%	Month	Admissions	Discharges	Apr-10	12	17	May-10	8	6	Jun-10	10	11	Jul-10	20	8	Aug-10	11	18	Sep-10	17	14	Oct-10	17	19	Nov-10	9	17
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Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10 May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
NI63	The percentage of looked after children aged under 16, who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years	Snapshot	Data suppressed	92/141	91/140	88/139	86/136	86/132	87/130	75%	✘ (red)	↑ (green)	<p>For those children in long-term placements, 66.92% (87 of 130) were retaining a stable long-term placement at the end of November. Despite remaining under the 75% target, the latest outturn is the highest this financial year i.e. compared to May's outturn of 62.59%. In Sunderland, a decision to move a child is taken on a case-by-case basis, and is made in line with the child's best interests (i.e. to bring siblings together) – such positive moves however do have a negative impact on this particular indicator, making it one of the most challenging indicators in the set. Sunderland is not alone with performance under 75% - all but one Tyne and Wear authority were also performing under the target at the end of October, and the 2009/2010 Statistical Neighbour average was also under the target at 68.1%.</p> <p>A suggestion has been raised to develop a local indicator which could provide a better understanding of placement quality, which could lend to better explain performance changes across NI63 - the Performance and Information Team are investigating this suggestion.</p>
			Data suppressed	65.25%	65%	63.31%	63.24%	65.15%	66.92%				
□	School moves as a result of a placement	Cumulative		0	0	0	0	0	0	□	→ (green)	Throughout the financial year, no child has changed school as a result of a placement move. This measure excludes those that moved as a result of an adoption placement.	
<b>Reviews</b>													
PAF C63	Participation of CLA in Reviews (excluding those aged under 4)	Cumulative	Data suppressed	100%	100%	100%	100%	540/540	620/620	100%	✓ (green)	→ (green)	<p>CLA participation in reviews continues at 100%, for those eligible to participate. The chart below shows a further breakdown, demonstrating that 54% (335) attended their review in the period (figures include participation at each review that takes place, regardless of how many reviews a child has in the period).</p>
			Data suppressed	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%				

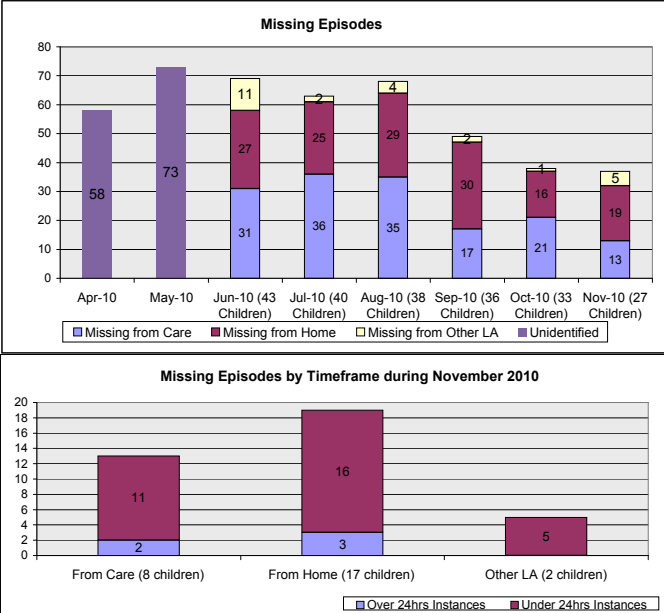
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			Data suppressed	Data suppressed										
NI66	The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March 2011 that were reviewed on time during the year.	Cumulative			199/346	262/354	285/354	334/355	325/345	341/349	100%	✗ (red)	↑ (green)	The percentage of children looked after cases which should were reviewed during the year ending 31 March 2011 that have been reviewed on time, has increased for another consecutive month to 97.71% (341 of 349) for the April to November period, against a 100% target. <i>*As the is a cumulative measure, performance should improve monthly as more cases come into the denominator, which has been the case so far with performance currently at its highest of 97.71%.</i>
					57.51%	74.01%	80.51%	93.52%	94.20%	97.71%				
□	Percentage of foster carer reviews that were completed within timescale	Cumulative			25/42	29/48	32/52	44/69	46/73	56/82	100%	✗ (red)	↑ (green)	A new measure has been incorporated into the Performance Grid relating to the timeliness of Foster Carer Reviews. This shows that 68.29% (56 of 82) of Foster Carer reviews were completed in time between April and November (at least once every 12-months). Of those that were outside of timescale, 15 were completed within three months and 11 were awaiting completion/recording at the time of data extraction (none of the latter were more than seven-months overdue).
					59.52%	60.42%	61.54%	63.77%	63.01%	68.29%				
<b>Care Leavers</b>														
NI147	Former care leavers aged 19 in suitable accommodation	Rolling			9/13	11/18	15/21	15/22	23/27	27/30	86%	✓ (green)	↑ (green)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable Accommodation has increased substantially during November compared to previous months at 90% (27 of 30) - the first time this financial year that the proportions in suitable accommodation have both met and exceeded the 86% target. Previous under-performance was tackled with a validation exercise which led to improvements in data recording and with research into the practices of other local authorities in order to identify areas of service improvement in Sunderland (the results of which are to be feedback to the Head of Safeguarding). <i>* In assessing the performance of care leavers in suitable Accommodation, it should be noted that the indicators relate to a very small cohort, meaning just 1 or 2 children can affect the overall percentage.</i>
					69.23%	61.11%	71.43%	68.18%	85.19%	90.00%				
NI148	Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training at the age of 19	Rolling			6/13	8/18	11/21	11/22	13/27	15/30	67%	✗ (red)	↑ (green)	The percentage of care leavers in suitable Education, Training or Employment (EET) decreased from a high of 70% in May to 50% (15 of 30) by the end of November. Performance therefore remains under the 67% target. Under-performance was tackled with a validation exercise which led to improvements in data recording and with research into the practices of other Council's in order to identify areas of service improvement in Sunderland (the results of which are to be feedback to the Head of Safeguarding). However, the difficulties of engaging care leavers in this cohort are well known, with several refusing contact and more unwilling to engage. <i>* In assessing the performance of care leavers in suitable EET, it should be noted that the indicators relate to a very small cohort, meaning just 1 or 2 children can affect the overall percentage.</i>
					46.15%	44.44%	52.38%	50%	48.15%	50.00%				

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<b>Missing CLA</b>														
NI71	CLA missing from home/care	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	12	12	12	12	12	12	15	x (red)	→ (red)	<p>The self-assessment at the end of November 2010 remains at 12 from a possible 15. To raise the rating, further work is needed in the areas of (i) Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways, (ii) Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals, and (iii) Local procedures including effective needs assessment protocols. Work is ongoing to track those missing in order to offer them services - and the following chart shows missing activity as defined by Northumbria Police during November.</p> 
<b>Adoptions</b>														
NI61	Percentage of children adopted who were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision being made	Cumulative	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	2/5	3/6	4/7	10/16	10/17	10/21	82%	x (red)	↓ (red)	<p>Since April, 21 children have been adopted. 11 of those children were adopted outside the 12-month best interest decision, equating to 47.62% adopted within timescale against a 82% target. Ten of those not adopted in timescale were aged-5 and over at the time of the adoption plan (and of those ten, seven were aged seven and over) - an age group which is traditionally harder to place within 12-months. Notes (1) All ten aged over-5 not adopted in timescale, were adopted with external agency families and required extensive family finding which took longer than a year; (2) The remaining child not adopted in timescale was aged under-5 – the child was adopted outside 12-months by a matter of days. This was a child with considerable disabilities who required extensive family finding via 'Be My Parent' and was adopted in another agency's adoptive family; (3) With more than half of all children currently placed for adoption aged-5 and over, a continued performance under target could be experienced. However, it is predicated that more children aged under-one will enter the cohort before the end of the financial year.</p>

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PAF C23	Annual No. of Adoptions/Guardianship Orders as a percentage of CLA continuously for 6 months	Cumulative		8/338 2.37%	9/337 2.67%	12/333 3.60%	16/336 4.76%	20/329 6.08%	25/326 7.67%	9%	x	↑ (green)	Against a 9% target, Adoption/Guardianship orders as a percentage of CLA for 6-months has been improving monthly to 7.67% (25 of 326) by the end of November 2010. *As this is a cumulative indicator, performance will and has been, increasing month-by-month.
<b>Offending</b>													
PAF C18	Offending whilst looked after	Cumulative	Data suppressed Data suppressed	9.28% (S'land) / 7.68% (N'bria) 1.21	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	6.50% (S'Land) / 5.66% (N'bria) 1.15	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	<2.4	✓ (green)	↓ (green)	At the end of the period April to September there were 200 CLA for 12months+, of which 13 of them were offenders. This gives a cumulative offending rate of 6.50% for CLA, compared to 5.66% for the general 10-17 population in Northumbria. Thus, there were 1.15 CLA Offenders for every one 10-17-year-old offender at the end of the Quarter 2, compared to 1.21 the previous quarter. Figures are based on a probable cohort, which won't be finalised until March 2011. At the time of publication, Quarter 3 data is awaited.
<b>Emotional and Behavioural Health</b>													
NI58	Emotional and Behavioural Health of CLA	Rolling	Data suppressed Data suppressed	13.3 (revised outturn)	n/a	n/a	13.3	n/a	n/a	<16	✓ (green)	→	Performance at the end of Quarter 2 remains stable at 13.3, indicating low mental health needs of CLA on average (64% had low mental health needs, 13% had borderline mental health needs and 24% had higher than average mental health needs). Those scoring 17- (borderline mental health needs) are offered a mental health appointment. <i>The score is derived from an average of completed questionnaires, each containing 25 questions rated relating to Emotions, Conduct, Hyperactivity, Peer Problems and Pro-social Behaviour – the total of which gives a score of 0-40. A score above 16 indicates the beginning of mental health concerns).</i>
<b>Disabilities</b>													
□	□	□	Data Data	□ □	□ □	□ □	□ □	□ □	□ □	tbc	tbc	tbc	Outcome indicators are currently being sought and developed for children with disabilities.
<b>Ethnicity</b>													
□	Unaccompanied asylum seekers	Snapshot		□	□	□	□	2 0.51%	2 0.52%	□	□	→	New reporting measures introduced during October show that of the 387 children looked after at the end of November, 2 (0.52%) were unaccompanied asylum seekers.
□	Ethnic origin other than White British or White Irish	Snapshot	Data suppressed Data suppressed	14/390 3.59%	20/400 5%	16/396 4.04%	20/398 5.03%	19/395 4.81%	19/387 4.91%	□	□	↑	A small number of children belonging to an ethnic monitoring have entered the looked after system since September, taking the percentage at the end of November to 4.91% (19 of 387). The split of ethnic origin is represented below: 